

INTERVIEW LOG SHEET

PIRSA Oral History Programme –State Library reference no. for Somerville Collection OH 675/3.

An interview conducted by Bernard O'Neil with Mr Lex Walker of Mitcham in regards to the history of the Department of Agriculture in South Australia. [The first interview (tapes 1 and 2) was conducted on 30 September 2003; the second (tapes 3 and 4) on 14 January 2004.]

Time	Subject	Proper names
	Tape 1, Side A	
0:30	Personal background (born 1916); family farm; education; Great Depression; John Ridley Scholarship to Roseworthy; employment on control of Cape Tulip weed; war service	Clare; White Hut Primary School; Clare High School; Roseworthy College; Adelaide University; Waite Institute
4:10	Family farm (mixed cereal and sheep); desire to teach or work in agriculture; return to work after war service; joining Department of Agriculture	Waite Institute
8:05	Waite Institute work; links with Roseworthy College	Waite Institute; CSIRO; Roseworthy College
10:55	Moving to the Department, 1950; soil conservation; soldier settlement; experimental work; based in Adelaide	Dr Callaghan; Kangaroo Island; [Ted] Carter; Kybybolite; Minnipa
17:10	Size and nature of the Department in 1950s; cadetships; reorganisation of animal husbandry area	Callaghan
20:00	Structure of the Department; relocating the Department	Stock and Brands Department; Education Building; Colin Scott; [W.J.] Spafford; Simpson Building; Gawler Place
22:40	New head of the Department; War Service Land Settlement Scheme; role of the Department in research	Callaghan; Tom Playford; Roseworthy College; Lands Department; Kangaroo Island; South East
26:40	Research role and demonstration farms; supervising research and administrative work; research officers	Minnipa; Kybybolite; Turretfield; Kangaroo Island; Ted Higgs; Ted Carter
	Tape 1, Side B	
0:05	Supervising research officers and staff; Commonwealth Extension Services Grant; funding from industry	
4:30	Need to improve primary production; impact of activity on the land; land clearance; Soils Branch work – erosion, salinity	Murray Mallee; Upper South East; Eyre Peninsula; Yorke Peninsula; South East
9:25	Promoted to head extension and research work	Newton Tiver; Waite Institute; Len Cook
13:00	Research work – weed and pest control, fertilisers; success; extension programs – windrowing of barley, using legumes	Kangaroo Island; Carter; Callaghan; Tiver; South East
19:55	Chief of the Division of Plant Industries; the three divisions; contact with staff and directors; work trips; politicians on trips	Callaghan; Marshall Irving; Bob Herriot; Roseworthy College; Minnipa; Wheat Industry Research Council; Canberra; Glen Pearson; Gabe Bywaters; David Brookman; Eyre Peninsula; Kybybolite
26:45	Contact with the Director; locust plague, 1955	[Geoff] Strickland; Callaghan; Irving; Northern Territory
	Tape 2, Side A	
0:20	Extending South Australian knowledge and markets overseas	Libya; Barley Board
2:55	Australian Barley Board role in SA and Victoria; chairman of the Board; retirement in 1977	Spafford; Strickland; Jim McColl
8:55	Applied to be Director of Agriculture; relations with the Ministers	McColl; Tom Casey; [Brian] Chatterton; Ross Storey; Ted Chapman
12:45	Framing legislation; administering and enforcing Acts and policy; committee work (e.g. deep sea ports)	<i>Agricultural Chemicals Act; Weeds Act; Administration of Agricultural Chemicals Act</i> ; Department of Chemistry; Point Giles; Harbours Board; Eyre Peninsula; Ardrossan; Wallaroo; Port Pirie

	Tape 3, Side A	
0:30	Build-up in research after 1950; recruiting graduates; need to increase the value of primary production	
3:00	Regionalisation; overseas trip to observe situation elsewhere and implementation in SA	Adelaide; Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry; South Africa; Holland; Great Britain; US; Canada; Casey; Callaghan; Tasmania; Port Lincoln; South East
11:00	Monarto episode; existing research and laboratories	Northfield
17:00	Department's external relationships; Agricultural Bureau movement; involved in the location of bulk ports	Farmers Federation; Tom [Miller]; Barley Board
22:35	Royal Show – own judging of agricultural produce, other input to the Show, public relations role	[Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society] Council; Irving
26:40	Rural shows and field days; public relations role	
30:00	Relationships with other departments and agencies	Lands Department; War Service Land Settlement Scheme; Callaghan; Pastoral Board; Port Augusta
	Tape 3, Side B	
0:05	Relationships with other departments and agencies	Mines Department
2:25	Change in support for and understanding of agriculture; Callaghan Report	Bob Bakewell; Don Dunstan; Playford
6:40	Status of the Ministers	Bywaters; Chatterton; McColl; Barley Board; Potato Board
9:50	Law enforcement role	Department of Chemistry; <i>Agricultural Chemicals Act</i> ; <i>Weeds Act</i>
13:45	<i>Soil Conservation Act</i>	Adelaide
14:35	Environmental issues – salinity, Soil Conservation Board, grasshopper plague, fruit fly control, quarantine, land clearing; land improvement	[Miller]; Goyder's Line
18:50	Opportunities to travel – conferences, study trips; local conferences – departmental and industry; Standing Committee on Agriculture; Agricultural Council	Waite Institute; McColl
23:00	Working conditions, facilities and buildings	Simpson Building; Education Building; Stock and Brands Department; Pirie Street; Flinders Street; Blackwood Orchard; Turretfield; Grenfell Street
27:15	Professional organisations; management principles; publications and reports	Public Service Association; Australian Institute of Agricultural Science; Mt Eliza; John Potter; <i>South Australian Journal of Agriculture</i> ; Chatterton
	Tape 4, Side A	
0:15	Publications, reports and conference proceedings; Editorial Committee; publicity brochures; annual report	Reg French; Albert [Engel]; [Peter] Trumble
6:05	Extension Services – studying the community of farmers, business planning; Economic Section	Herriot; America; Jamestown; McColl
12:55	The Directors; Artificial Breeding Board; Policy and Technical Committees	McColl; Trumble; Irving; Callaghan; Strickland; Bill Rose; Herriot
26:40	Wheat quotas in South Australia	
29:30	Retired Officers Group – luncheons and excursions	Miller