

VICTOR HARBOR ORAL HISTORY PROJECT, 'Beside the Seaside'.

Interview with Pat Upill on 27th November 2013.

Interviewer: Rob Linn.

Well, Pat you were born in 1943 in Victor Harbor into a family with very strong roots here. I wonder if you could just tell us a little bit about the background to your family.

So you were a Mayfield?

PU: Yes. I can tell you about the Mayfields. They came in 1839, lived in Adelaide just a short time. Their next stop was Currency Creek. From there they went to Port Elliot, and one stayed there. Then my great-great grandfather went to what is still called the Bald Hills between Inman Valley and Yankalilla and set up farms there. His two younger sons stayed on two adjoining farms there, and it's from the youngest son that my father, and myself of course, have come. So we had connections to the Bald Hills up until about 1940s I think, when I think eventually—no, that's not quite accurate. I still have a cousin who has some of the original land out in Inman Valley. That's the connection with the Mayfield side.

The Jagger side is also very interesting because my great-great grandparents, Matthew and Mary Jagger, came out in 1839 with the Rev Ridgway William Newland. He was brought out as a shepherd. He had worked as a shepherd in Yorkshire and so it was for those skills that he was included in that party. He eventually started acquiring land, very slowly. First of all right on Bay Road in Encounter Bay, and then out towards Yankalilla, and then up past The Bluff, and then out to (*sounds like, increased*) Yankalilla, out to Back Valley, out to Inman Valley, and very big holdings out in Waitpinga. So he established himself extremely well as a farmer.

Was he a general farmer or was it just grazing? Do you know?

PU: Definitely cattle. Obviously a little bit of grain as feed. We don't know whether he ever actually sold grain. I've never come across those sorts of references. Eventually the Jaggers were strictly sheep farmers, so he would've grazed sheep as well.

So that's a little bit of the background to the families.

What did your father do, and what was his name?

PU: My father was Horace Edward Mayfield. In the late 20s my grandfather didn't have enough land to set him up. Late 20s he went to what was then called the School of Mines on North Terrace, trained as a wool classer, did a lot of work out on stations and also went

over to Melbourne during the depression. Eventually he got himself enough money and bought a property in Hindmarsh Tiers, which is between Victor and Myponga. Even after I was born in 1943 he was still going off wool classing while he got this farm established because part of it had to be cleared. In 1931 it was still total scrub. When he bought it in 1937 part was cleared but he still had a lot of work to go. So, yes, he set himself up as a farmer.

And when you were born was he still farming? Was he farming then?

PU: In 1943, yes.

He was but he was still going away doing classing?

PU: Yes. He had a few dairy cattle at that stage, and got rid of the dairy cattle as quickly as he could because he was more of a grazing man—sheep. Then eventually he went into beef cattle as well as the sheep.

He must've studied wool classing under Mr Jeffries at the School of Mines I reckon.

PU: Well, late 20s. In fact I've got his certificate on the wall in there. So, yes, I'm not sure.

He would've been very well trained.

PU: Oh, yes, I'm sure. He kept his skills going on the farm.

What was his character like, Pat? What sort of person was he?

PU: You know it's funny, you don't often stop to think.

PU: Quite outgoing. Very much a community man. He was president of quite a lot of things down here, including the golf club. He was chairperson of the council for some time and when they amalgamated he went as deputy mayor. The reason he didn't go as mayor is interesting, because my mother was very shy and she couldn't face being lady mayoress. So that tells you something about her. She had a great social life but quite shy underneath. But my father was more outgoing.

What was her Christian name, Pat?

PU: Well, her Christian name was Ellen. She's not here now to growl at me. And Ellen actually dated back two centuries. There was an Ellen every generation for two centuries.

Right back pretty well into the mid 1700s there was an Ellen on the Jagger side of the family. So she got the name and hated it, and insisted on being called Nell, which of course is a derivation.

Yes. (*Laughs*)

PU: And her second name was Suze(?), which was after an aunt—my grandfather's sister—who was Susan but was always called Suze. And she hated that as well. (*Laughs*) Nobody can understand why, because to us they are quite lovely names. And just before she died I think—we told her that Ellen had come back in popularity and I think she started thinking well, perhaps it's not quite so bad. (*Laughs*)

And you said that although she had a good social life she was quite a shy person.

PU: Yes.

So did your parents prefer to live out of Victor and not right in the heart of it, so to speak?

PU: Because they were farmers and because that's where their farm was. Well, she grew up on a farm, and he grew up on a farm, so it was just a natural thing for them. We did come to Victor frequently because my grandparents were here. And we did go to Yankalilla in the very early days because my grandparents were there.

Would you know when your parents were married? What year?

PU: Yes. They were married in 1940 at Victor.

And do you have any siblings?

PU: I've got a sister, yes. She is here in Victor, too.

Gosh!

So you are born in Victor Harbor?

PU: Yes. At the hospital.

That was my next question.

PU: I was very lucky to come out of that hospital actually. You know, in those days they used to cosset people who had just given birth and they'd keep them in hospital for a couple of weeks, and then she had to go to my grandparents for another couple of weeks. The doctor rang and said, 'I would just like to warn you that the other little baby'—who was

a friend's little boy—'has just died from diphtheria. I just want to warn you to look out for these particular signs in your little baby'. But no signs, and here I am.

Gosh, that would've been a big thing then because of the nature of diphtheria.

PU: Yes, of course, because it's a very infectious thing, isn't it?

Okay. So this is '43.

PU: Yes.

What would your earliest memories be, Pat? Of the farm, or what?

PU: I always believed, and I think I still believe, that my very earliest memory—I started to doubt it because I could only have been two and a bit at the time and I started to doubt whether I could've remembered. But to me, my earliest memory was my aunt's wedding in 1946 in St Augustine's Church down here.

Really?

PU: Yes. After that I doubt it because can a child really remember that young?

Yes.

PU: But I always thought that I had. Apparently I was very, very naughty and talked the whole time, and the minister of the time actually had a little write-up in the church paper about bringing your children to church more often so that they would get used to it and wouldn't talk non-stop. (*Laughs*)

So your parents didn't go to church often?

PU: We did actually. We used to go to Myponga because a family friend was the Rector in Yankalilla, and the Myponga church was still open, and because some of our good friends were also church goers there. We went to Myponga for some years as good church goers but when our focus changed more to Victor we didn't. Well, my mother made sure we went to Sunday School because it was good for us. That's the only reason she could tell us. (*Laughs*)

But anyway you appear to have been an acute embarrassment to your parents in your earliest memory.

PU: Well, yes.

Anyway, embarrassed the priest by the sounds.

PU: Yes, apparently.

So what comes after that in terms of memory? Is it home and the farm?

PU: Definitely the farm, yes.

And what do you recall?

PU: I had the most wonderful childhood because in those days Hindmarsh Tiers was largely scrub. My parents allowed me just to wander. Right through our lives, my sister and I were just allowed to go off. They didn't know where we were for hours. They didn't seem to worry except when I didn't come home, because often I'd be by myself and I'd get carried—you know how you've got to see around the next corner?

Yes.

PU: And being only very, very young I'd go way too far, and of course I didn't turn up. One afternoon it became very late and I still hadn't arrived home and they started to get quite frantic. You'd remember those old sheep dips—the races?

Yes, I do.

PU: They actually got the plunger and dragged the sheep dip for my body. And of course we had creeks. I turned up of course totally oblivious of any concern that I'd caused them. They didn't stop me as a result of that. And we were near the Hindmarsh waterfalls.

Were you?

PU: When we were slightly older we used to go there and we would climb the rock faces like this, and my mother died never knowing what we had been up to. We didn't ever tell her. We'd climb down the face of the waterfalls. I think it was the freedom that they let us have that was great. We just got to know the area.

My father knew all about flowers and birds, because I think his father in turn had taught him. Rather than taught him, it was just a general process of absorption. So that was passed on to us. We knew all the orchards and plants and birds. He wasn't quite so good at birds but he used to have long conversations with them nevertheless.

And we had a potato grower. That was one of my favourites. To this day it's still a very favourite thing, is to dig potatoes. Apparently I used to come home with my shirt, or dress probably, held up with this great heap of potatoes. That would be miles away and I'd walk home with this great heap of potatoes, carried in my dress. Yes, we just had a really exciting time.

And there were horses because that's what you did. And all sorts of invented games. We'd get an old 44-gallon drum on the top of a hill—not a steep hill—and try and roll it down with us standing on it, and roll it down with our feet. Those simple things.

So did you learn to ride a horse early?

PU: Yes. We had a little Shetland pony that I learnt to ride on.

Was that your main form of transport as you grew up?

PU: No. Walking was my form of transport. We did have a reasonable walk to get to the school bus but it was only up the road and it wouldn't have been worth riding. It was much easier to walk.

So did you assist your mother around the place, too, on the farm?

PU: Not in the house, no. She in turn was the same. She did not like the inside. Her father at one stage—there were four sisters—realised that the middle two, my mother and my aunt, were getting away with doing absolutely no housework and spending their entire time on the farm. So he drew up a roster whereby they had to spend a week in the house in turn. I said, 'What happened? You wouldn't have liked that'. She said that it soon fell apart and she was out with my aunt riding, off to Waitpinga and collecting sheep and bringing them halfway back and putting them in paddocks that they owned, and then collecting them next day and bringing them right through for shearing, or whatever. She did ride a lot. My father rode a lot. I can still ride because it's one of those things you don't forget I think.

I remember falling off a lot.

PU: Yes. I had some nice crashes. (*Laughs*)

Pat, it seems like the time on your parents' farm was just very memorable.

PU: Oh, yes, it was.

So what would your earliest memories of the township of Victor Harbor be?

PU: My earliest memories of Victor must be very early because we came to visit my grandparents very frequently.

What happened was that we attended Myponga Primary School and at the end of my Year 5 they brought a school bus from Victor right past our front gate. My mother in her

wisdom—and she was very sensible to do it, and obviously it was easier—thought that a bigger school would be better for us. I then had two years at Victor Primary School. Now what was the question? How has Victor changed.

(Couldn't decipher word/s) another township as you first knew it.

PU: Our focus at that point changed to Victor so that would've been when I was about ten. My father then played sport here and so we'd come here every Saturday. The main street I was very familiar with because we had friends in the Banks in the main street, and of course in those days you lived above your Bank. So I was familiar with the main street. Granite Island. All the playground area and the hurdy-gurdy rides that were on—is it Grosvenor Gardens? Opposite Victor Hotel and the Crown. Is that Grosvenor Gardens? No, Grosvenor Gardens is the one down near the old primary school.

So these are the parks that run down to the foreshore?

PU: Yes. Where the horse tram starts. The big lawn there. It will come to me eventually. Yes, there used to be a hurdy-gurdy and a high-flying thing that we weren't allowed on until we got older.

This is playground gear you mean?

PU: And playground gear. I remember the playground very, very well. All the equipment has been taken away now. To us, it was great and we just loved it. But that equipment has gone because it was apparently dangerous. It has been replaced with other equipment.

And we all survived.

PU: Yes, we all survived.

But, no, it can be dangerous.

PU: I know it can be. Yes, I was lucky. And of course those lawns. What I do remember really well is the beautiful, beautiful gardens along the front by the lawns, and also through the gardens—the name still hasn't come to me. It was named after the district clerk.

Warland.

PU: Warland Reserve, yes. Beautiful gardens through there. And the flowers. They'd plant annuals every single year and so you got to watch them grow, and the colour of them. That's a big memory.

Another really good memory I have—is this the sort of thing you want?—

Yes.

PU: - is the steam trains coming in. I had a friend who lived in Inverary, which is the bottom end of Ocean Street. It doesn't look like a nice old guest home but the actual base of the house is still there. My friend's elder brother was Kim Bird who wrote some books on steam trains in the local area, and he would go out and jot down every train that came into town. And so, yes, I remember those steam trains. They were quite fascinating.

Now I've just got to get this in my memory. Some of them would've been very large trains as well.

PU: Oh, yes. I think even when I was young that stock would—no, I'm not sure. Would stock have still been transported? I would think so.

Livestock was. Oh, yes.

PU: In the trains, yes.

In fact there would've been yards not that far from the turntable. Have I got that right?

PU: Yes, that's right. That is correct.

I'm just trying to think of the map of the town.

PU: They were right by the turntable there.

No, you would've had to have seen the livestock there because they were shipping sheep out in those years.

PU: Yes. So to get them there you would drive your sheep through the main road. My father, in his early days, didn't have a shearing shed and my grandfather here in Encounter Bay did have a shearing shed. On one occasion at least he drove his sheep right from the farm right through the middle of Victor to my grandfather's shearing shed. You know, that was just a regular thing to have a flock of sheep going through the town I believe.

That's a lovely memory.

PU: Yes. Then he converted his dairy into a shearing shed. But that's off the subject of Victor Harbor as it was then.

Coming into town, once you came over Kleinig Hill—Kleinig Hill just had Kleinig's depot, which was a depot for fuel, and I seem to think we used to call in there for chook feeds and

things like that. I can remember that depot quite well. It had a little wooden platform. Pretty much where that service station is now. That's where the Kleinig's depot was. Once you passed Kleinig's depot and came down the hill towards the bridge there were only a couple of houses up in what's now, for want of a better word, the McCracken face there. Only a couple of houses there, and along the lower side, facing out to sea, there were probably only two or three houses there in that prime land there that looks straight out to sea. There were only two or three houses there then, too.

This is in the early 50s. And you would have seen Adare.

PU: Yes.

And Mount Breckan in the distance probably.

PU: Oh, yes.

They would've been the standouts, wouldn't they?

PU: Yes. Because they didn't have anything around them.

From my memory, the building on that side of the bridge started down in front of Adare. We had a friend who had a house there in the fairly early days. I'm thinking that the building started there and gradually progressed up. So they started on that flatter area and then tackled the hillside.

Nearer down to the river?

PU: Yes. Of course that area, Riverview Drive, none of that was built on at all. I can remember my father saying, quite clearly, how mad they were because of the floods that they used to get. Of course these days they haven't had that type of flood for years because I think it's a lot better controlled. The Hindmarsh Tiers where all the Hindmarsh water comes from doesn't seem to be getting the rainfall that it used to get when we lived out there. My father kept a very, very good record. We had massive, massive rains. I know the people who bought our farm are always complaining about the lack of rain they have out there. So the floods didn't ever occur and that area was built on, and so far no disasters.

So on the coast side of that road coming in, there would've been the railway -

PU: Yes, the railway. And between the railway and the road, which of course was only a little two-laned bitumen small road—bitumen went in in the 1920s—there probably were

two or three houses. I know that one has been knocked down but I suspect that there are at least two or three there that were there in the 1950s.

And on the other side of the train line, would it have been sand hills of some sort?

PU: Yes. It's interesting that you ask because I just took a photo this morning to show my neighbour. We always walk down there in the mornings and I wanted to show her where the mouth of the river used to be. No doubt people have told you how the mouth of the Hindmarsh has shifted dramatically. And this year it's had a real change in pattern. It's moved right towards the town of Victor.

So this is in your memory even, Pat?

PU: Oh, yes.

Just describe that for us.

PU: Well, the photo I took to show my friend, the mouth was much—from where it reached this year, which is the furthest towards Victor I've ever seen it—it came almost to the Groins. You know, the two groins that stick out?

Yes.

PU: Almost that far. From that point, which is the furthest to Victor I've ever seen it, to the other point which shows the mouth in this photo. It would have to be probably at least between three and four hundred metres difference in where it was entering the sea.

That's a lot.

PU: Yes. And where it used to enter back in the 50s there is still a lagoon there. But probably fairly stagnant because it doesn't get the flush out that it would've had when it was part of the system.

Well, as you came down that main road and you hit the river in the 1950s, what was on your right and on your left, if you like, away from seaward side, and then on the seaward side?

PU: After you cross the bridge, or before?

Just after you cross the bridge. There's a road on each side I guess. Is that right? After you've crossed the bridge would there have been a road going down to the front, on your left?

PU: There was. They had a very bad accident there and they closed it in the 60s maybe.

On the other side, would there have been a road going up along the river?

PU: Yes. The road is still there, and I think you can still enter that road. I'm actually not really sure.

I don't come in that way very often.

PU: No. I'm not certain because I don't use it.

Was there a caravan park on that corner in your earliest memory?

PU: I don't remember it but I do believe there was a caravan park there. I do remember the little kiosk that belonged to Pearce's(?). And I do remember the row of boats that they used to hire out for people to row up the river. I don't remember the caravan park.

So that's just up to there. But whereabouts did your grandparents live when you visited them? So maybe we could talk about that little part of Victor Harbor where they came to.

PU: They lived on—just above The Bluff. It's called Jagger Road after them. If you go up Jagger Road to the top of the hill, and then you go down what used to be to us a very steep little pinch of hill—it's still reasonably steep.

It's still pretty steep.

PU: You know as a child that things are a bit exaggerated in your mind somehow.

I think it's still steep.

PU: Yes. As you come down there, on the right, is what we call the shearing shed. That's a beautiful old bluestone shed that they used as a family house. My mother and all her sisters and one brother were born there. Then in 1924 they built another bluestone house on top of the hill overlooking the bay. Those two houses still exist.

When they built the house on the top of the hill and moved the family up there they then turned the bluestone building at the bottom into a shearing shed, and that's where we played as children. A visit to your grandparents, you quickly said hullo and escaped outside very, very rapidly. I had four cousins who lived just around the corner in yet another bluestone house that was built for them in 1933.

So this is right down on the front almost?

PU: Their land went right down to the front, including what's now Whalers—I'm not sure of their latest name.

I know where you mean.

PU: That little block was part of that whole section. They had a windmill and my grandfather grew his vegetable patch right along the bottom, just directly opposite the boat ramp. There's a tiny section of flat ground. And there was, and probably still is if you like to bore down, a very good freshwater supply because it soaked down from the hills and you only had to drill a little way. So he would grow his vegetables along that little flat patch. So they owned that section that went right back.

It was a big section, not the regular 80 acres. It was 150 or 60 I think. Quite a big section that went right back. And it included the Whalers, but Whalers was cut off by the road. It's still got the same alignment today. My grandfather didn't like that because there was no water across there. He offered it to my eldest aunt and she said, 'No. What would I want that for?' *(Laughs)* You can imagine! My cousins are regretting that.

I bet they are.

PU: So they turned it into a shearing shed. It has now reverted to a house. One of my cousins bought it.

Is that right?

PU: Yes.

That bluestone, that isn't a local bluestone, is it?

PU: Yes, it is.

So where was that from? Which quarry?

PU: They would just go and dig a hole in a paddock.

Oh, okay. It is a very dark bluestone.

PU: Yes. I've looked for the holes. I've found little things. I only had one male cousin and he farmed the land after he left school, and he said there was one reasonable sized quarry on that particular section. On the other sections you can see little hollows where they just dug and got their bluestone.

So that's one set of grandparents. What about the Mayfields? Where were they?

PU: My father was born out here at—I think it's called Mount Terrible.

Yes, that makes sense to me.

PU: Born there, but soon after he was born—my grandfather moved around a little bit. Couldn't settle, I think you'd say. They moved to a property right in the Bald Hills, which was just opposite a reasonably old family of four aunts. Two of them married as older ladies. So that was the Bald Hills. And yes, my father grew up there, and then they moved to Bungala, which is in Yankalilla.

Yes, I know Bungala well. Pearce's used to live there. Do they still live there?

PU: They are just about to put it on the market. They moved there in 1925 and ran it as a boarding house. Probably my grandmother and my eldest aunt did the running. They had 80 acres and I think my grandfather just played around with sheep a little bit. My grandmother had died by the time I was born, but my earliest memories were of Bungala, and my grandfather there. They didn't leave there until '45 or '46.

That's a lovely place—Bungala.

PU: Oh, beautiful. And the Pearce's I think have looked after it really well. They've done it up as best they can.

Let's come back to Victor again. We got up to the river.

PU: Yes, we got to the river.

Now from that point on was it a bit more densely housed, if that's the way of putting it?

PU: Yes, it was. There's a lot that's still similar. You know, it's quite obvious which are the newer buildings but, yes, there were three at least guest homes just in that stretch as far as Seaview Road. There was Seymour on that corner and there was another single storey guesthouse just where the paint shop is. Then there was the other one that's now been turned in to modern flats. A lot of those houses were there. You can tell by—they went through the 30s with the gables.

Tudor gables.

PU: There's a few of those Tudor gable houses through that section.

There are.

Was there much back up the hill towards Mount Breckan? Or very little?

PU: There was some. Because, again, I remember going to visit friends in one of those roads, but again I think they tended to stick to the flatter area and just move up the hill. But yes, definitely there were houses as far up as Mount Breckan, I do remember.

And your primary school was a bit further on?

PU: Yes. Between Seaview Road and the primary school there were those two lovely old buildings there with wrought iron. A family connection had a guest home opposite Carrickalinga, and then opposite that there was a family connection—the Trewins(?)—ran a guest home there. And then those two lovely old homes. And then the school, which when I attended had the bluestone building and it had the brick building, which also date right back to my mother's day. She said that the brick building was used as a higher primary school. But then they had also a number of old—well, not so old, some of them still stand—the old portable wooden buildings. They had some of those.

You probably experienced them in your teaching career.

PU: Oh, yes. In fact I was at the high school yesterday and they, unfortunately, still have a few to get rid of, which hopefully they will be able to do.

I think it was one of the first uses of plantation forestry timber from the south east was making those.

PU: Is that right?

Yes.

PU: And then of course right next to the primary school, and opposite, was another guest house, and right next was another guest house. Opposite that, and right next to CWA, I had yet another great grandparent who arrived here in 1860 from Scotland. His surname was McDougall. He was the librarian here until he died in about 1921. He only retired a bit before he died. So, yes, I had another ancestor here in Victor there.

So Pat, what you're describing to me seems to indicate that even in your earliest memory it was very much a town for people to come—tourists if you like.

PU: Yes.

But I guess for their annual holidays or relaxation or refreshment.

PU: When they first started coming about early 1870s I don't think it ever paused or lost its impetus as a holiday town. I'm sure you can see why. Because it's beautiful.

Oh, yes.

PU: As a child I didn't appreciate that. I didn't understand why people were forever saying how beautiful it was from Kleinig's Hill. Now as an adult I can certainly understand what all the fuss was about. And I certainly understand why people come here, because the beaches are good in spite of the reefs that do come right in. As a child they were great for playing. You just found somewhere else if you wanted to do proper swimming.

There are an awful lot of photographs taken from that hill looking down over the town, aren't there?

PU: Yes.

And that from the late 19th century.

PU: Yes.

So was it a vital place for you as a young person? When you came into school were there things happening? Was there a dynamic?

PU: I guess the vitality depends on your friends to a large degree. Would that be correct?

Yes, I think so.

PU: And because I had friends who lived right in the centre of the town, yes, to me it was the most exciting place to come. And once my father played golf here we came every Saturday. We would go and visit friends, and then we would play on the beach. Then we would take my father to golf. Then we would drive to my grandparents. And we would go back and pick him up from golf and take him to the Grosvenor, and we would wait for six o'clock closing. (*Laughs*) And then off home to the farm. Yes, it was an exciting place as a child. There was just so much to do as much as we loved the farm.

Was the golf course where it is now?

PU: Not the clubhouse. The clubhouse then was down near the Encounter Bay oval. I'm not sure whether it was tin, but a little building, and the first hole was there. My father was part of the new building up on top of -

Were there scrapes not greens? Do you remember?

PU: I think they had greens in my memory, but whether they had scrapes early on I really don't know. That's an interesting idea.

Did your father ever play bowls as well?

PU: No. Because he was a good sportsman, I don't know why. I think because he played golf until he was eighty-ish and died in '83, so I guess that didn't really leave much of a space for him to play bowls.

I was just thinking of the foreshore where the bowling club was a feature, and the tennis courts on either side of it.

PU: Yes. That's another interesting development. When I was a child it was all tennis courts, and gradually people have lost interest in tennis courts and probably only two or three survive, and they've turned one into a volleyball court. And they've had a go at petanque(?) to try and vary that space a bit.

Tennis will make a comeback.

PU: I'm sure it will.

I hope so.

PU: There are very vital tennis clubs down here. I know because my niece and her children play.

So Pat, your earliest memories of Victor—well, your earliest is of that wedding in St Augustine's Church. And I suppose in terms of churches, Newland would've been there by then when you were born?

PU: Oh, yes. That was 1924.

Yes. And the town would've been quite a bustling place when you attended primary school, I'm sure.

PU: Yes. To prove that, when I was in year 7 we had two classes, one for boys and one for girls. In my girls' class there were a bit over forty. I don't know whether it quite made forty-five. So that gives you an idea that there were somewhere between 80 and 90 just in year 7, and that was 1955. That gives you an idea of the population.

My word!

PU: At that stage they were closing the little schools. Middle Inman closed I think right in that era. Waitpinga probably. I'm not sure exactly when they closed. Yes, it was quite a big town. Lots of banks, too.

That would be absolutely correct because it was the centre of commerce as well.

PU: Yes.

I just wonder for a minute whether we could move out from the town of Victor nearer to where your Jagger family are.

PU: Encounter Bay area.

So Encounter Bay at that time would not have had much at all, would there?

PU: No.

The mill would've been there I guess as a ruin.

PU: Yes, it was. Definitely it was in my time that it was made into a house. Or added to I suppose.

But the only houses were a few holiday houses. Very few. But the others were just a few limestone buildings along the seafront. A couple may be back. Of course the little church.

Yes.

PU: We didn't ever get back behind to see because we came up Tabernacle Road, along the seafront, and then up Jagger Road.

So the Barker family house probably would've been the two-storey one.

PU: Yes. It's interesting because the foundations, if you look at the Barker house, they've got bluestone around the base and that apparently came from my grandfather's farm. My great great grandfather must've established quite an extensive fruit orchard, and then because he was a Yorkshire man he knew about building stone walls. They had an extensive stone wall, and that stone wall around the fruit orchard went to help build up the foreshore, and it also was used in Barker's foundations apparently.

So moving to the west, down along the coast, I suppose the original Fountain Inn would've been there then.

PU: Yes.

And some of the Rumbelow houses.

PU: Yes.

But getting back to Yilki, very little at all.

PU: I think that there might even have been a store in those days.

At Yilki?

PU: Yes.

That's possible, too. But sparsely populated, Pat, from what you're saying.

PU: Yes. I guess it would have to be only, say, twenty-odd houses.

Now, what decided your parents to send you to boarding school?

PU: I honestly have to say that it was possibly because my mother was sent to boarding school. Whether they thought that the opportunities would've been better for me in Adelaide, I don't know. I've never really stopped to think, or even asked them why.

So where did you go to school?

PU: My sister and I went to what was then called Girton, which then became Pembroke when it joined up with Kings.

That's out on the eastern side of Adelaide?

PU: Yes, eastern suburbs.

That's an interesting choice. Did your mother go there, too?

PU: No. It was forced upon us. Even at birth in those days they booked you in, and they had booked us in at St Peter's Girls' School, which was then opposite the Cathedral by the Children's Hospital there. The year before I was due to go there as a boarder they closed it and moved out to Stonyfell and my parents had to frantically search around for somewhere else, and Girton was the choice. I couldn't get in as a boarder in my first year but my very much beloved aunts—my father's two sisters—looked after me for a year.

So where did they live? Which suburb?

PU: They lived out at Malvern.

Oh, that's a trek.

PU: So I had to go into town and out to the east and back again every day.

That is a trek.

PU: Yes.

So how did you find Girton after Victor Primary?

PU: The thing that hit me most was that you actually had to do your homework. There was no choice. (*Laughs*) That's what really hit me first. I took my first lot of homework home and I thought that I don't think I like the look of this so I won't do it. Well! When

you got back next day, 'Where's your homework?' And I didn't have any. It just wasn't acceptable.

And the other really interesting thing I remember is that you didn't have inkwells and a pen and nib. I had to get my parents to quickly get me a fountain pen.

Oh, that would've been expensive.

PU: Yes. You hadn't sort of thought of that.

It's a very different environment.

PU: Oh, yes. I don't think I suffered very much. My main suffering I think was because my best friend had gone from Victor but she had gone straight to the boarding house. So I spent a little bit of time waiting around for her to come out of boarding lunch. That's probably the main way I suffered, but apart from that I don't think I suffered a great deal.

What was the experience like for you at Girton? Was it four years there, or five?

PU: Four years I guess. In those days you didn't very often go on to do Leaving Honours.

No.

PU: So it would've been four years. A Headmistress who was absolutely and totally a devout Anglican ran it. Even though the school itself was not an Anglican school, it was strictly an independent school, she made sure that we had an enormous amount of religion. Our Sundays were totally filled with it. We made our own fun but to this day a lot of people don't remember her with a great deal of joy. Some people I think suffered more than me.

Scholastically, did you enjoy the learning experience?

PU: It was very, very distorted(?). The English mistress would come in and she would just sit on a chair and read out of a book and she would just tell you what you had to notice in a poem. Nevertheless they must've got through something because it did instil in me a huge love of history. I was lucky enough to have a wonderful botany teacher. Those two things have lived with me as two of my main interests my whole life. I had a great maths teacher, and I loved maths. I'm guessing that while that English teacher stays in my mind I must've had some very good teachers because of the interests that stayed with me. And I'm so indebted to this day that I was taught history because that's been a big part of my life since I retired.

Pat, just thinking back to that time when you were in boarding school, and I guess you had exams all through the year -

PU: Yes.

- and when you were staying with your aunts there would've been a bit of toing-and-froing.

PU: Yes.

Were there any changes as such to Victor in those years or was it pretty much a constant?

PU: I think that I just came to accept Victor. Like I said, I didn't appreciate how beautiful it was, and I don't think I particularly noticed a great deal because I doubt that during the 50s a lot of that building really started.

There was such a shortage of building materials for most of it.

PU: I know. We built a new house in 1953 and it had to be to a certain standard because they were still short of stuff from the war years.

Was this at the Tiers?

PU: Yes.

So from Girton you go straight to Wattle Park Teachers' College?

PU: Yes, I did.

That would've been three years there?

PU: No, only two. I still to this day cannot believe how it all happened. I just went there without thinking about being a teacher.

Oh, really?

PU: Yes.

That's a good one!

PU: My cousin, who was a year ahead of me there at Wattle Park, said to me, 'You should come here. You get paid'.

Bonded students.

PU: Yes. Two years before you actually left school you actually got this little cheque coming in. I didn't know what to do with it. The Headmistress couldn't cope with that at

all—this little cheque coming in to me. We used to line up in these huge long lines to collect our money. I think it was in cash in those days at Wattle Park. Or collect it and cash it immediately perhaps. 'Yes', she said, 'come. You get paid'. Oh, okay. My botany teacher had a daughter there already and she took me up for a visiting day. Okay, alright, we'll do this. The only thought I gave to it was that I thought if I go to uni I'm limited to doing an arts course. I'm going to finish up as a teacher anyway so let's just simply go to Wattle Park and graduate as a primary school teacher. And as much as I gave no thought whatsoever to it, and it's still amazes me, it actually suited me really well. It was the right thing for me.

Were you thrown in to practical teaching virtually from the beginning?

PU: I think that we did start quite quickly, yes. I think I was still fairly shy in those days and didn't know how to project myself at all. I passed but I don't think I made a huge impression.

So did you start there in '60 or '61?

PU: '61 and '62 I'm guessing. No, it must've been '60 and '61. And I went out teaching perhaps in '62.

We talked earlier, off the recording, about Colin Thiele and a number of others there at the time that were pretty dynamic people.

PU: They were.

Colin became a renowned author. But it was a very active place and -

PU: The art teacher, too, became quite a well-known artist—Brian Seidel.

Yes, Brian Seidel of course. I'd forgotten that.

PU: But he was fighting a losing battle with me because it's my biggest failing in life.

(Laughs)

So what were you being prepared for teaching-wise?

PU: Year 3 to Year 7. In fact my first year I went to Uraidla and halfway through that year we got a call last on/first off, and as I was the last employed at Uraidla, therefore I was the one to go. They were desperate down at Elizabeth West. Boatloads by boatloads were coming in and they didn't have any teachers. Yes, I was called down to Elizabeth West. That was halfway through my very first year in teaching. I was fortunate, I was

next to a girl who was just one year ahead of me but she was a brilliant teacher and I learnt so much from her.

This is at Elizabeth West?

PU: Yes. The second year I went up to Year 6, and then they asked me to go to Year 7. I basically stayed with Year 7 for the rest of my teaching career because I liked the older children.

So Pat, from Elizabeth West, how long did you last there?

PU: I stayed three and a half years and the Principal said that I really shouldn't stay there any longer, to get out and experience some different type of teaching, which I think was probably good advice. In those days it was tough but it was not how I imagine it would be now.

Tough!

PU: Yes. Very, very, very.

Seriously tough.

PU: Seriously. They changed the name of Elizabeth West because of the connotations of toughness. Yes, I had a year home, living on the farm and teaching at Myponga, which was vastly different.

So what did you think of that?

PU: Oh, absolutely loved it. It was like going home to my old school. Yes, I just loved it.

Let's just stop for a minute with the teaching and think that about that time Main South Road would've been cut through Darlington I reckon. Mid 60s. Early 60s.

PU: When you say cut through Darlington?

The new road would've been put through from Main South Road Darlington up into Old Reynella, Old Noarlunga.

PU: It would have to have been the 60s. Is that what you said?

Yes, that's what I'm saying.

PU: Yes, it would have to have been the 60s.

And that may have been bringing more people down to Victor.

PU: Yes, no doubt. The easier it gets –

But when you were teaching at Myponga, Myponga still would've been a dairy area, wouldn't it?

PU: Yes.

With the factory going?

PU: Oh, yes. And still making the most beautiful cheese. We dream of it to this very day. Had a Danish cheesemaker.

I was going to say, was it the Edam?

PU: No. The Danish cheesemaker made a beautiful blue vein at Myponga. And mature.

I'm trying to remember his name and I can't remember. I knew his name.

PU: And I taught his son.

He was a very clever bloke.

PU: A Mr Hanson was the manager.

That's right. It's funny how these things come back. You've just reminded me that Myponga was actually very famous for its cheese.

PU: Yes. Wonderful cheeses.

So there you are, back at the Tiers, teaching at Myponga. Was Victor Harbor still a centre for you for shopping and such like?

PU: Yes. We changed pretty much when we went to school at Victor. Before our emphasis had been on Myponga because my father played cricket there and we went to church there. We just transferred to Victor. Absolutely equal distance to both.

In terms of shopping in those days—sorry to bounce around like this—were there grocer shops and greengrocer shops and that type of thing, or was there a supermarket by that point?

PU: No. There were two grocer shops in the main street. One was the one we went to and that is where there is currently a surf shop. It's still the same building. A man called Jim Bone ran it. Surprisingly, his son has come back and is running the drycleaner down here. He was another person who obviously loved the area. To me, it was a big grocer shop with a big counter across the back, and you'd go to the back and give your order. My mother would bring in eggs and sell them to him.

Then there was another grocer further down the street. I think it was Sal Eddy who ran a grocer's shop. They were the two grocer shops.

There was a Miss Battye's dress shop. Two bakeries. One is in that building by the other surf shop.

That's the Wheatsheaf.

PU: Yes, but we dealt at the other one, which I think they called Bastian's.

Yes, that's right.

PU: That fascinated me because it was set back, two shops on an angle. They had this glass container with little figures that you stuck on top of cakes, and while my mother was buying bread I spent all my time just gazing at these little figures. There was a little bride and groom. As a child, that was just wonderful. I think they baked on the spot there.

Wasn't there a bakehouse out the back?

PU: Yes. I'm sure there was a bakehouse at the back.

Oh, a shoe shop. We went to the shoe shop a lot. He was between the Crown and the rather old shabby building that hopefully will get done up eventually that originally belonged to Battye's. There was a two-storey shoe shop in there belonging to a man called Alan (*couldn't decipher name*), and they were great friends of ours. He had a shoe shop at the front, and then you went down a little alleyway and they lived on the bottom, and then above the shoe shop.

And next to that was Elders, and we were also friendly with them. And they lived above in what I described as the shabby building that formerly had belonged to Battye's. That went through a period as Elders.

Goldsbrough Mort was down on the other side of the Post Office. And that's where my father dealt. I guess he probably went to Elders a bit but mainly he dealt with Goldsbrough Mort. So they were the two land agents.

What else could we have had? The pubs were exactly as they are now. Bells of course. That's where everybody shopped.

That's on the corner. That was the department store, wasn't it?

PU: Yes.

I think they still had the place in Strathalbyn then, too. That was where they began. Victor Harbor was their big shop though.

PU: Yes, that's right.

And then there was Mr Redman's men's wear. That was a little shop on the Grosvenor/Crown side of the street. And of course, Brian Lalor. There were two chemists.

Yes, that's right.

PU: Brian Lalor's, and next to him was the dental surgery, where I spent an awful lot of time counting the bricks on the Commercial Bank. I think it eventually became the Commonwealth Bank. Dental surgery, Brian Lalor's pharmacy, and on the corner opposite the Grosvenor was Mr Goldsack's pharmacy.

I'd forgotten Brian Lalor as being there, funnily enough. That's a name that came back out of nowhere. He knew my father and grandfather and I can never remember—but anyway.

PU: Lovely people.

Yes.

PU: He was Mayor I think for some time.

Was he? Yes, that would be right.

PU: And his wife only died quite recently, within the last year or so.

So at that time, when you were teaching at Myponga—so you'd be in your early twenties by then, Pat?

PU: Because of only doing two years I would've gone out teaching at the grand age of nineteen. Probably turned twenty in my first year I think.

So at that time were there new houses appearing in Victor Harbor? I'm thinking up around the Mount Breckan area.

PU: Around the Mount Breckan area I know there were some houses already because I remember going to a birthday party almost directly opposite Mount Breckan, in a little cottage. Not a cottage, a little 30s house. When I say 30s, I don't think it would've been. May be 40s. So yes, there must have been a few that had gone that far up the hill by that time.

We'll come back to this in a minute.

After Myponga, was it then you went to Balaklava?

PU: No. From Myponga I went to Christies Beach. I wanted to have a promotion before I went any further. So I went to Christies Beach in a position they called Chief Assistant in those days. I just had one year there. That was back amongst the English people.

I was going to say here we go! Back to the English and Scots.

PU: Yes, I enjoyed that year. At the end of that year I was married and went to Balaklava. I stayed there until our girls were born. I had five years off and then went back until I retired. I did actually retire at fifty.

So where did you meet your husband, Pat?

PU: (*Laughs*) Well, I met my husband on the verandah of my grandparents' home when he was about five and I was about—no, may be I was about five and he was about seven, or something like that. Family friendship. His aunt had gone to school with my mother and the family had stayed friendly.

So he was from Balaklava?

PU: Always from Balaklava, yes. In the hills to the east of Balaklava.

Now there's a lovely area.

PU: It's beautiful. And where we had our farm is even more beautiful because it was right on the River Wakefield amongst the red gums.

So this is getting back up towards Auburn, would it have been?

PU: Yes.

That is lovely country.

PU: It was.

So when did you marry?

PU: End of 1968.

And moved up there immediately?

PU: Yes. And got a job.

And on to the farm, too?

PU: Yes. I had a twenty-kilometre drive to and fro.

You would've been busy, Pat.

PU: I suppose I was always fairly organised.

It was interesting marrying into that family because I came from a family of two girls and it was accepted that you could and would and did and wanted to do farm work. And when I went there they were a family of three boys, and females just didn't do farm work. I thought this is fine for a while. (*Laughs*) Eventually I went back to doing farm work. You know, when I could. Yes, just a different way of looking at things.

You were relegated to the house. Was that the idea? (*Laughs*)

PU: Yes, exactly.

That sounds like my grandmother's dictum that it's all very well to do farm work, unless it's in the milking shed. (*Laughs*)

PU: Yes. Unless you're winding the separator.

Yes. Her view was that you did everything, and the housework, and forgot about the dairy.

So there you are as a young woman living up in Balaklava. Are you making regular visits still back to Victor?

PU: At that stage, yes, because my parents didn't ever move away from here. When they sold the farm in the early 1970s—or mid 1970s—they moved here into Victor. So yes, Victor was always the focus.

Now when did you start noticing a difference with Victor in terms of it becoming a bit more built up? Have you got any memories of that?

PU: Look, I am not the most observant of people, and that gets back to my lack of art skills. I don't observe things terribly well. I'm trying to be a bird watcher and I find it quite interesting that I can't remember details like that because I don't have those skills. I remember going and visiting an aunt and uncle up on the hill that they now call McCracken when there was only one or two houses, plus the big white house down at the bottom, which the Goldsacks lived in. That was always there in my memory. And it's still there. There were only a couple of houses stuck up on the hill, probably a couple along the road. Now when that all filled in, I'm thinking it must've been into the 60s—mid 60s. My parents moved into that area in the mid 70s and they moved into a new house. And that was right in that area, sort of looking down over the sea. So I'm thinking that it was the 60s and the 70s that a lot of those typical brick houses were built. McCracken of course has been a lot more recent. McCracken itself. They filled up the sea side of the hill before they developed McCracken.

Yes.

PU: But you're probably interested in Encounter Bay as to when the flat and then the hills started filling up, too.

Yes, I am.

PU: I think that was a fairly gradual process, probably starting at around that same time and just gradually, gradually filling up. Starting at the front and then moving back further at much the same way.

What about the public amenities? I think I'm right in saying that there was a caravan park on the other side of the river at Encounter Bay. Not in Encounter Bay but on the Victor Harbor esplanade area. At the end of—is it Bay Road there? No, the road as you come out past Newland Memorial. There is a service station on the end of it.

PU: Yes. That caravan park is still there.

That was there I think in that era.

PU: Yes.

But I'm not sure that the one that's behind the Council Chambers was there. I can't remember.

PU: I'm trying to remember. Jagger's actually owned that. Or they were given that in exchange for roads at one stage.

Not a bad(?) deal.

PU: Yes. (*Laughs*) Very swampy. Couldn't do much with it. When did they decide that they could do something with the swamp? I think the caravan park came before the second Council Chambers (*sounds like, in the*) 1960s. I think that that caravan park came before that.

Right.

And out beyond that, and behind it, we're still talking farms.

PU: Yes. One of my father's uncles, old Harold Mayfield, lived there, pretty much opposite the hospital. He was still running all that land as farming land.

So Pat, you have your children up at Balaklava. So how many children did you have?

PU: Two girls. Very female family up until this most recent generation. About three generations with very much girls.

So your daughters are now married as well?

PU: Only the younger one.

She has male children, does she?

PU: She has boys, yes.

We'll think about that. (*Laughter*)

PU: I always liked boys when I was teaching.

Very good.

PU: I find it interesting. Very, very interesting.

So what makes you decide, eventually, to leave Balaklava?

PU: Right from the time that there were no more children, and that they were both girls, we knew from that time that we would be leaving eventually. They could've come on the farm but—they love the farm as much as I love the farm but have never showed any interest in being farmers. And they had long gone. We had a neighbour who made us an offer. We'd always thought that when my husband was in his early 60s that would be about the time. And via Elders, we had a neighbour approach us. They were desperate. Their house was falling down around their ears. They were stud merino farmers and desperate for more land because they, unlike us, were very much a boy family. They just wanted more land and made us an offer. And so we sold in 2003.

And are you going to ask me about the regrets? (*Laughs*)

I was wondering, are there any?

PU: No, there weren't because I felt that I had made the very best of that farm. I had walked every inch of it. I knew everything about it. I'd written a history of it. You know, I'd patted the gum trees a hundred thousand times, and I just felt that I had done my very best and had loved it to the best of my ability, and so, no. And my sister said, 'I'm coming up when you leave just to see you cry'. And we drove out of the front gate with our sheepdog in the back, and my sister in the back, and she was so disappointed. We just drove away. (*Laughs*) But no, we've never regretted it because we just loved it.

I think there's a big difference between the culture of the mid north and the community atmosphere in Victor Harbor.

PU: Yes.

What made you decide to come down here?

PU: Well, we briefly looked—and when I say briefly, it was a matter of five minutes at the most—at going to Adelaide, and I thought that this is definitely not what we can do. So we came to Victor. We looked at inner Victor and we thought sheepdog. And this block of land came up and we never looked backwards—until we are about eighty, hopefully.

Although you did say that the building experience was more than interesting.

PU: It was fine. We had the best builder possible. Again, my sister found him for us. Best builder possible. Did a wonderful job. No problems whatsoever. Victor is a great place to build in actually because there's so much local. You can go to tile shops. You can go to curtain shops, and blind shops. It's a great place for that. As much as I didn't enjoy building, it wasn't a bad experience.

Oh, that's good.

PU: It was a good experience as far as the builders. And my mother was still alive, too.

I didn't know that. She was living in Victor proper then?

PU: She was, yes. My father wasn't. So it was very fortunate. She lived to ninety-eight. It would've been hard to leave all that to my sister. I would've felt very bad. So it all worked out really well. And we don't regret it one second. We just love living down here.

These are what I think are the harder questions now. (*Laughs*)

PU: Okay, the harder questions.

I don't think they'll be terribly hard though, Pat.

You said that you became fascinated with history at Wattle Park.

PU: Probably earlier than that I think. At school I always chose the history course.

And obviously at Balaklava you got even more interested in pursuing some of the local stories and the history of the property.

PU: When I retired from teaching I was only fifty, and I thought what am I going to do? I think I'll write a family history. And away I went. I've actually got five books and on my sixth one now. Two family histories. I did a district history. That's not what you asked me, is it?

No, that's alright. This is all pertinent.

PU: Did a history on Hindmarsh Tiers just to see whether I could do it, and by way of a change. Did a children's book for my little grandsons and found that to be extraordinarily difficult to write a story. Just wasn't me at all.

I talked to Mem Fox about that once.

PU: Did you?

Yes. The hardest of all, she thinks, is to write a children's book.

PU: I would absolutely agree with that.

She spends years agonising over them. But we're talking about you Pat, not Mem.

So you've got this great interest and you've been producing these books but you come to Victor, which was the point. Do you join the National Trust quite early on?

PU: Almost as soon as I was here, yes.

And what did you find?

PU: I'd have to say that National Trust is struggling because it just can't get younger people. I'm young.

So that was even when you arrived ten years ago?

PU: When I arrived I was young, yes. They just can't get anybody to help out. It's just such a struggle. Yes, that's what I found, a lot of old people. And when I say old people, very bright intelligent people though.

But elderly in years.

PU: Elderly in years. But it must be something in National Trust that leads a person with something in their brains into it. Yes, I really enjoyed their company because they had so much to offer. Now they are another ten years older and are still going. Very few of them have died.

What did you begin discovering about the district you grew up in, even more, do you think?

PU: When I came back here?

Yes.

PU: Well, I discovered here. I didn't know that this beautiful little valley was tucked away. I knew the hill because we used to drive from Yankalilla to Victor a lot. I knew the hill from the other side but I discovered this absolutely beautiful little valley that runs into the Inman. That's one thing I discovered.

What else did I discover?

Actually your interest in changes to Victor reminded me of the drive into Victor. That's changed very dramatically. In my day it was just a couple of quite nice substantial houses and the butter factory, which is now the Lutheran centre.

The Amscol one, yes.

PU: I don't think, apart from a couple of residential houses and the butter factory, that there was anything along that road until you met the Port Elliot turn-off. And even then there was nothing until you got to Kleinig's depot. So that's one area that has changed and has turned into quite an industrial—perhaps not so much an industrial area but an outlet for all sorts of things along there. And of course Waterport Road has become the industrial centre. That's changed, too. Used to go along there quite a lot.

That certainly has changed.

PU: You asked me about changes. Did you -

I was thinking, too, about what you actually began to learn about the place, and I was thinking through the National Trust that you start to discover new things.

PU: I think what I really discovered that's excited me most was their photograph collection.

Tell us about that, Pat.

PU: It's well over 2,000 photos in size. It's similar to the collection in the Adelaide Library. Help me out.

The State Library.

PU: Yes, the State Library. Similar to that collection. And growing all the time. People do donate. Yes, I guess that was one of my big discoveries, and learning what Victor used to look like. I've spent hours and hours with that collection. I just love it.

So that side of working with the National Trust. What has been the main impetus of the Trust? What do they try to achieve at Victor?

PU: I guess what they're trying to achieve right now is just simply stay with their heads above water. But financially they are doing well still because we get enough people coming through. We do open every day. I think it is the only National Trust in the state that does open every day of the week. Only for three hours but that's as much as they can possibly manage. We have one old lady, who is ninety-six, and still comes on duty and doesn't use a walking frame or walking stick. Amazing old lady. So that just gives you an idea of how old some of the people are who do go on duty between one and four pm. I guess at the moment their main aim is—but we are progressing a lot. We've got solar panels in the last year or so to try and get the electricity bill down. Got a lovely garden around it. You know, a type of cottage garden because of the old house that we have there—the old Customs house that is part of the centre.

So to get back to your question, remind me of what your question was.

The question was about what the National Trust hope to achieve at this time. As you said, it's keeping its head above water but it's also to provide the public with-

PU: It's to provide the public, yes, with access to the—the first building has the history of Victor Harbor starting from the Aborigines going through to the encounter, and then through to the first settlers, and then through to Victor as a port, and then through to Victor as a resort town. That's been set up professionally and is very, very good. The other building—the old Customs house—has been set up in rooms. Two of them are set up as old guest house rooms with a dining room and a sitting room. There is a bedroom. And a display centre where the display is changed every six months to a year. This year we got out a lot of our costumes and had a beautiful costume display. We do work in with History SA. In history week, we always put on something for history week. Last year it was the costume display. We had a lot of people come to see that. We encourage schools. Strangely enough, as much as we've got four local schools, it's the primary school that really supports us. They come and see us every single year because they do a unit on the local history. And those children know the history very well.

That's encouraging.

PU: I'm very happy about that.

Pat, how did you then in turn from the National Trust become involved with the local government in their heritage advisory side of things?

PU: That was through National Trust. I went to heritage advisory committee as the National Trust representative, and still am.

So what does that involve for you?

PU: It's one of my favourite jobs. The committee looks at naming parks and streets, which I find very interesting because I'm always trying to push my history aspect and trying to get some people—for instance, the guy who built the beautiful stone wall at Cut Hill, nothing was named after him. I suddenly realised and so I've been able to get a beautiful new park over in the Kirby's development—(*sounds like, Kirbys were the farmers*). I've been able to get a beautiful park there named after him. Grimble Park. His descendants are thrilled with that.

I thought Grimble had a plaque at the top of Cut Hill.

PU: He might have a plaque there but there is nothing actually named after him, and he was actually on the council as well.

I'm just trying to think of his Christian name.

PU: Jabez. We do have a little bit of money, about \$12,000 from the council to subsidise people doing local heritage. Not state heritage. So we look at applications, and almost inevitably they can get up to half of the cost to do up some of the local heritage buildings. That's another thing we do. And my very, very favourite task is—at the moment we're doing plaques to put on the centre of town older buildings.

That's a great thing.

PU: State and local heritage buildings. You've probably seen them around. We've gone the same model as Robe and North Adelaide, the oval shaped blue background.

Yes. I bit like the English ones.

PU: Oh, are they?

Yes. There are circular ones in England, too.

PU: They decided to go blue eventually to stay with what has happened here in the state already. I'm on my third batch now. We've got just over twenty already done and ready to go. We are just doing the last of the third batch, and then there will only be a few to do. Where we go after that I'm not sure. Yes, I love doing that. And I've learnt a huge amount about Victor Harbor.

I bet you have.

PU: An enormous amount.

So what are the resources you use to try and find out about Victor?

PU: Photos, of course. They did a survey in the late 90s called—no, I don't remember what it was called. Anyway, they are readily available down in the library. Architects did that survey. A few mistakes. They have to be careful but that's been very useful. I found also that Trove is invaluable. For instance, the Police Station number three—they're now on number four—I had no idea when it was built. I was able to find that out on Trove. Just go in, as you'd know.

It's terrific.

PU: I know. And that's filled in all sorts of little details. Anthony Laube from the State Library is a good friend of mine so he proof reads for content, and helps me with content. So I've got a pretty big range of sources.

Just thinking about Anthony, he was probably one of the first locals who began to publish books.

PU: Yes. I'm sure he would have been.

I ring people and ask people. Just last night I emailed the grandson of the original proprietor of the *Times* office down here and because he's also into history he sent me back details of the *Times* office.

Fantastic.

PU: So that's how I've gone about getting my information. And lots of little books of course. I've got all the publications that have been written about Victor.

Pat, so in the last decade since you've been living here and becoming actively involved in the heritage side of things and National Trust, there have been some enormous changes to the actual fabric of what was a tiny town once.

PU: Yes.

So could you reflect on some of those for a while?

PU: Are you referring specifically to buildings being knocked over and being replaced?

Some buildings have been knocked over, and then there are other developments that have gone ahead.

PU: Yes. I do have an opinion and it's probably not a popular opinion, but I'm happy to say it here. I think that Victor is the main centre. It's the largest centre south of, I guess,

Colonnades. They do need central areas to build the infrastructure that you need for—it's a city.

I know there's a lot of fuss about guest homes but a lot of those guest homes that have been put down, so to speak, were excessively ugly, excessively bad repair, and would have cost millions to do up. Had someone come along and said we'll do this up, what then are they going to do with it? What can you do with forty, fifty, sixty, seventy or eighty odd rooms? And so I don't feel so bad about those buildings having gone. Some of them were beautiful buildings. Yes, that's a great pity. My great grandfather's little cottage went but it was only a cottage that had no specific beauty about it. You know, you do have to progress. People would hate to use that word but it is a growing centre and it does have to cater with a huge influx of visitors. And the people living here do have to make a living.

Is it adapting to all those different pressures? Do you think there's a need to adapt?

PU: I would say, probably yes. If you talk to my younger neighbours they would probably say no because they want huge things put in. You know, they want the Hotel Crown to go multi-storey and things like that because they're young and they're in business and they think it would be good for the town. No, I would not like to see the general character of Victor change. I've just been up to Noosa and because they haven't gone high up—you shouldn't make a comparison.

Although it's very interesting because I know people at Noosa who are actively involved in that community, and the reason they've succeeded is because they haven't gone like that.

PU: Yes. And that's the way I'd like to see Victor stay. Three storeys maybe, at the most. Can we adapt to that? I think we can. I think we're missing some things. We desperately need good accommodation. I don't think we've got that at all. Whalers may be. Yes, there's just no higher quality accommodation at all, and I think we desperately need that. But we've got space at this stage. I think we can do it without going high-rise.

The big changes in Victor would probably be that—not quite the old central business area but back where the supermarket development is.

PU: Yes, the complex.

Around the primary school.

PU: Which has, of course, had a dramatic effect on the main street.

Yes.

PU: I don't know the answer. Don't know the answer to that one.

Unless you can make the main street a focus of heritage and different types of –

PU: Yes, and yet there are not really a lot of attractive heritage buildings in the main street.

No. It would take a lot of money, too, I think.

PU: Yes, that's right. It all gets back to money.

So Pat, where do you see Victor going in the future then? Do you have any views on that?

PU: I imagine possibly that we'll get a lot more younger people living down here because it's so much easier to live and because we've got some very good schools offering down here. And because of the recreation that's offering. I would think maybe we will get more younger people. And I'm sure it will continue to be an old person's place.

As a retirement place, do you mean?

PU: Oh, yes. Because it is really a lot cheaper to retire to than Adelaide because the housing for a start is so much more readily available and accessible to people.

I'm not sure if it's affordable or not.

PU: Well, more so than if you're looking at buying in a lot of areas in Adelaide I think.

Now just trying to tie everything up together. Do you have sort of an overview of Victor Harbor over all the years that you've known it, Pat, that you can say, well, it's come from this to this. Have you got a sense of that?

PU: That's a very hard one. An overview. I guess it has come from a country town in my lifetime that serviced basically a farming population to now, seventy years later, a town with a—I think the one thing that hasn't changed is visitors and people coming for holidays. And even daily visitors, just day-trippers, coming. I think that is one thing that hasn't changed. I guess the town has changed from servicing farmers mainly, and pretty much stopping almost at Hindmarsh bridge and from there very little until you got right to Port Elliot. Now it goes right through.

It's non-stop.

PU: Yes. Obviously it's grown a great deal to a town that is a retirement place. And farming, it's still happening but there are a lot of hobby farmers now. Farms have been cut

up. What they produce out there has changed a lot. I mean there were no vineyards when I was a child and now you don't have to go very far to find one. Not very far at all in fact, just up the road. Yes, I think it has changed, but I don't see that as a bad thing. I'm perfectly happy living here now the way it is because you can't stop things. You can't keep it as a little country town.

One of the things I found fascinating talking to you is because of your tie up with the Mayfields and the Jaggers. You're one of the ongoing parts of Victor's heritage, if you like.

PU: Yes, that's right. I'm only fifth generation of the Jaggers. We are the only ones of the original Newland party who have survived here at Victor with each generation living here. I was talking to a Jagger who still lives out at Waitpinga on some of their original land and he told me that his children are very anxious for him to keep his piece of land. So I was very happy to hear that.

Yes.

PU: But if it sells, that's that. It doesn't matter. It's just a piece of land. His words are, 'I've only borrowed this piece of land. I'm looking after it'. (*Laughs*) But we are now into our seventh generation actually living here because my niece came here so that made six and seven.

Goodness me!

PU: Yes, it's great.

So Pat, is there anything else that you'd like to add at all?

PU: No, probably not. I suppose because it's fresh in my memory, I do still have a little bit of contact with kids. Not as much as I'd like but that's because of time. I do go down to the high school once a year to do some assessments of a project that mainly Year 10s do. That's also one of my very favourite jobs. I just love it. Getting back and talking to kids and hearing what they're about. Come away with great respect for teachers and the high school.

Well, Pat, thank you so much for being willing to contribute your time to the project. And your memories, more importantly. It's been very lovely.

PU: Thank you very much for making the trip down. It's a pleasure for me to have it recorded because one day we'll write it down.

Indeed.

PU: At least now it's verbally done. Some of it.

You've got it.

Thank you.