



Oral History Collection - transcript

Annette Clifton "Thornlie Community"

You know we all looked after each other somebody had a wheel barrow you lent it and then you borrowed their ladder. Whatever happened we helped each other put the fences up. After a limited amount of time we had to put picket fences up, well that's what they had in those days, they didn't have all the stuff they've got now. But we all put our picket fence up to qualify for the rules and everybody helped everybody else.

We did have very good friends, the neighbours were all good friends. So you know we socialised with each other and anybody [who needed] to [be] looked after, the girl over the road used to take us down to Charlie Carters to do our grocery shopping once a week 'cause she had a car. We had the baker come down, the butcher come down, the green grocer and the dairy all came down and delivered food down here so we didn't have to worry about that part of it so much. And a lot of us saved up to get a refrigerator, not everyone had one when they came but it was the first thing we saved up for (laughs).

Fay Stephen - Going to Gosnells movies

When it got to Wednesday nights – they put the lights in at Gosnells oval – they had movies on every Wednesday night. Where the croquet club is now there was an old...it was a boat shed years ago and they bought it up from Fremantle or somewhere. And it became our local hall and we had movies there every Wednesday night. So as soon as hockey training was over we'd all hop on our bikes in the dark and ride down to the movies and meet all the boys there and see the latest movie that was on in the Gosnells shed.

Oh we had a little porch where you came in and paid your fare. And it was a fairly big old hall and the seats were all moveable, of course, because they had dances there as well. In fact anything that was on in Gosnells was in there. And you had two full movies. Everyone would troop outside at half time and buy ice-creams and drinks at the shop next door, and then back in for the second movie. And it was really good entertainment, very good.

Harold Hardman - family shop in Maddington

The reason they went to Maddington was they went into business, took over the local store. There was a house behind the shop. It was all one building, the house and shop. Mother worked in the shop, she more or less ran the shop, and Dad spent most of his time out on the road with the trucks. That was in 1937 I believe. It was one of those general stores, they sold everything from food to vegetables, hardware, stock foods, in the early days, petrol and oil, there were a couple of petrol bowsers before the war, fertilisers. Anything anyone wanted, they could get. It was a really rural scene. It wasn't big but it was all there. Supposedly, anything that anyone wanted, and he would also provide building materials. There was quite a bit of building going on.

Marion Robb - playing in the bush

We used to just take a few sandwiches and go off to the bush for the day and wander through the bush. Of course all that is not bush now, its lots and lots of houses and of course there was no bridge across the river at Fremantle Road so we used to wade



across the river and we'd go for miles and think we were explorers. That was our main means of playing because we didn't have many games, we just used to walk through the bush and pretend and look at the wildflowers, even in those days we loved the wildflowers and the trees and we never saw any snakes; we were barefoot. We had a dog, the dog used to come with us and mum used to say 'make sure you're home by five (5) o'clock you've got to get the kindling in and milk the cow and bring the horse up'. So of course we'd say 'alright mum', 'and don't forget to get 4 that kindling in to light the fire or dad will growl at you'.

Reginald Lewis - river and Albany Highway

The Canning River was a beautiful river when I was a kid. The pool was deep. There were swimming pools all the way along and deep water. We had one at the bottom of our far block; those six (6) acres. There was a beautiful pool down there we used to call Johnnie's Pool after the people across the river called Johnson. That was a deep pool perhaps one hundred (100) yards long. Then we had a billabong, you know, turned around like that (indicates a reverse flow of the river bend almost), at our place down there.

My first memories of Albany Highway, my first memory was when it was a gravel road. I can remember the road down from us being bituminized, I must have been about five (5) then I suppose, about 1929 or something. Perhaps it was a bit earlier but I remember the steam rollers and that sort of thing that fascinated me.