

TAPE 31A Mick Morris Part 1 of 1 Recorded 12th October 1978	
	Jack is talking to Mick, a barber, while getting his hair cut.
	His father's name was James William from Alexander Street, Minmi. He was a butcher who took meat from Minmi to Raymond Terrace across on a boat. He worked at Aberdare pit when they first put in the machines. He was involved in an accident which amputated some of his fingers and he lay in hospital for 16 weeks. He came to Cessnock in 1914.
	Mick was born in Cessnock. Other siblings were Harry, Esme, Clyde, Ray, Tom and then himself. An elder sister, Olive married Tom Hanson, a pit man from Aberdare.
	His dad, Clyde, Tom and Ray all worked at Bellbird.
	Mother came from Durham. Thomas Chapman Morris was his paternal grandfather. His maternal grandfather was a Tech teacher in Durham. His mother's name was Mary Ann Chapman and her family had a sawmill at Mandalong. Also there were the Tophers who were timber getters and his wife was a Chapman.
	Mick's wife was also Mary Ann and she was related to Harold Dodds.
3:37	Mary's father was Wal McDonald. The McDonalds, the McGarveys and the Dodds were all related. Wal came from Ayr near Edinburgh. He was a baker in Scotland and became a miner at Aberdare in Australia. Mary's mother was a Gibson (Boxer Gibson).
	When Mick's dad first came to Cessnock they lived in Gallagher Street.
5:58	Mick could remember when all the streets of Aberdare were made of red chitter – red ash from the boilers. It had big wide streets.
	Mick first came to the house next door to Gallagher's house 46 years ago. Ernie King was related to the Kings of Mt View. He used to grow tobacco on a farm.
7:33	Ernie used to walk down the footpath with a tobacco leaf stuffed in his pipe like an old rag.
	In the early days many people had a drying room in their houses for their tobacco. Jim Carroll told him that they used to wash their clothes in Lavender Creek where the bridge is near the Cessnock Hotel.
8:19	The old Maitland Road used to run down Anzac Avenue. There was a steam laundry run by Olsen near Cecil Bedfords.
	Caspar Gehrig – he was a bridge and road builder. Mick had cut his hair and shaved him many a time.
9:38	Mick talks about the early barbers in Cessnock. Sams may have been the first. David Gallagher was an early blacksmith for George Brown. Higgins – blacksmith.
	Coroner Brown (George Brown) – Mick remembers him and that he was killed opposite Slack's Cordial Factory.
12:25	Alec Shedden – saw mill contractor from West End who was involved putting down Aberdare South and Central – he may even have had the mining lease. Mrs Watson who had the paper shop at West End was a Shedden. Mrs Lovatt and Mrs Watson were both Sheddens.
	The home Mick's family in Alexander Street had previously been a nursing home belonging to Miss Ashton who used to drive a horse and sulky. It had 3 bedrooms.
	Mick tells that they paid £250 for the house and "you couldn't put a fence around it

	for that much today!”
	Thomas built the new paper shop beside Harold Johns. Scotty Ingram.
	Early method of washing the coal at Extended - it used to run down the creek – the smell was shocking.
15:35	Mick never worked in the mines. Always a barber – Galloway had the shop and Billy (Huck – Huck a Billy-) Davey before him.
	Old motor bike track round Bellbird round the top of the mountain and down Mt View Rd.
	Bill Penman’s house. George “Old Pop” Fernance and George Read both had a 25/26 red Buick.
17:41	There was Sheddens on the corner where the doctor’s house was, then Matheson’s house, then Penman and the rest of the people who lived in that street. Jimmy Jarvie’s mother and Old Tom Jackson, then a little shop. Tommy Crawford lived near there.
	In 1929/30 there was a sand pipe that they used to water the road to keep the dust down. The bullock trains used to travel along there and the kids used to catch a ride down the West End to school.
	Lazarus had the wine shop advertising the wine as the nectar of the gods. Paddy O’Neill built it. Lazarus had a Bugatti.
21:24	Mick’s dad was toasting a loaf of bread in front of an outside fire to put on his beer. He used to spread the yeast on the toast and float it on top of the beer. All the “filth” would come in to the toast and made home brew. It might take an hour. Lazarus came along this night and collected Harry and took him down to Abermain and shaved a bloke and when he came back, Mick’s dad was still there toasting.
	Mick can remember Ted Skinner from Bellbird with his 16 horse team carting the pit timber – he also had a bullock team.
	Bullocky tales – brown snake and frog story -
	Roger Gilmore
25:23	Mick’s dad used to kill a pig for Bill Drayton – Mick’s job was to rub the hair off with hoop pine. Rosenberg winery – past Marrowbone Road – Happy Valley the house with a shingle roof.
28:11	Tallow lamps – Mick had to melt the tallow between two house bricks and then add the kerosene. The men used to carry the oil in a container on their belt.
	Neath pub – oil lamps.
	Fetching the pit ponies up for the weekend. Jacky Barrett.
	Harold Dodds. (Unlike his family).
	Jimmy Duffin. His children, Sadie and Bill.
35:06	The old characters in Cessnock – Jimmy was a wild man that many didn’t like – he was straight – the truth hurts.
35:46	Healey’s Cordial factory had just closed when Mick came – Charley Levy used to work there, he had a solid tyre old Ford. There was a bottling place behind Anstey’s pub near the scout hall. Yorkie Ward used to use 5 cases of lemons a week to make his squashes. The tape finishes at this point because it is so damaged.
36:60	End (Tape 31/Side A) Part 1 of 1