

The Institution of Engineers, Australia: Sydney Division
Engineering Heritage Committee

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEWEE: John B. Ashby.

TAPE NUMBERS:

IEA SYD: RR 116 - 117

INTERVIEWER: Richard Raxworthy

DATE: 22/4/97

NUMBER OF TAPES: 2

RESTRICTION ON USE: None

TAPE LOG

TIME Mins. Secs.	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
Tape IEA SYD RR 116A		
00.00 - 01.20	Leader and identification	
01.21 - 03.49	Born Leichhardt, Christian Brothers Rozelle School St Francis School, Paddington Father a Mental Hospital Nurse at	Leichhardt Rozelle Christian Bros St Francis Paddington Callan Park
03.50 - 0	Apprentice Draftsman at Cockatoo Docks and Engineering " and studying to become a worked under worked with and	Cockatoo Dock & Eng. Naval Architect Jack Coleman Allan Payne Warwick Hood
05.09 - 12.29	Finished 5 Year Apprenticeship - Cockatoo Island worked in Boiler Shop built there converted to Q Class Submarine refit - crawling into A Tanks Machinery - Working life - lunch hours Unions - Superintendent	Cockatoo Dockyard HMAS Voyager HMAS Vampire HMAS Queenborough HMAS Quiberon Submarines Ron Jocelyn
12.30 - 16.29	Studied Civil Engineering - not enough work for Naval Architects University of NSW - became Technical Officer in Concrete Tech Concrete yacht	Sydney Tech. UNSW Helsal
16.30 - 20.14	UNSW - Lab Assistant then Technical Officer for lecturers Getting work ready for classes and designing equipment and research for the lecturers - student	Geoff Welsh Dr. Patten Ken Day Peter Ellen Dave Pilgrim Arvo Tinny

Getting equipment ready testing of concrete

20.15 - 24.00	Unisearch - work for clients through - did a Diploma and Degree Two years on Concrete Technology - plus Post Graduate work Concrete design	Unisearch Concrete Technology
24.01 - 25.21	Lightweight aggregates	Lightweight Aggregates
25.22 - 29.30	Ready Mixed Concrete - moved to as Laboratory Engineer responsible for quality control including materials Concrete sold on 28 day cure basis - testing unchanged	Ready Mixed Concrete Laboratory Engineer
John B. Ashby 2. Tape 116B.		
00.00 - 01.13	Leader and identification	
01.14 - 11.38	Ready Mixed Concrete - Area Manager - complaints - outside more Problems - Cracking - Dusting - Shortages - formwork deflection - waterproofing materials overdose story concrete not setting - cat fell in on the following day lift shaft not set in 3 days - waterproofing overdose Sugar in concrete - Ragus A - worked in clay in hot weather	Area Manager
11.39 - 16.39	Technical Manager over all Area Managers As Laboratory Engineer - developed the use of Fly Ash Reduce cement content by using fly ash	Technical Manager Fly Ash in Concrete
16.40 - 16.37	Pre-stressed and Pre-cast Concrete plant Manager	Pre-stressed Concrete Pre-cast Concrete
19.38 - 20.17	Opera House visit to Ove Arup's Engineers	Opera House Ove Arup Engineers
20.18 -	Australia Square - Lightweight Aggregate Monier expanded clay plant closed down Civil & Civic started own expanded shale plant Consultant Architect Engineer	Australia Square Lightweight Aggregate Monier Civil & Civic John Stichter Harry Seidler Pier Luigi Nervi
23.17 - 25.09	Airport Tunnel - General Holmes Drive - used Mixer Truck as mixer - General Manager	Sydney Airport Tunnel Peter Turpin
25.10 - 26.11	Hilton Hotel - lift shaft slipformed - 22 sets of traffic lights between the Concrete Yard in Alexandria	Hilton Hotel Sydney Alexandria
26.12 - 29.50	BMI - Ready Mixed - Overseas - Indonesia - baskets of concrete Bag Cement used at first had to give workers cement bags	Indonesia

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00.00 - 01.30	Leader and identification	
01.31 - 02.48	BMI Ready Mixed - Indonesia	Indonesia

02.49 - 06.38	Ready Mixed - Malaysia - British Standards Kuala Lumpur - local cement - previous ready mixed Co. building quiet at the time	Malaysia Kuala Lumpur
06.39 - 12.19	BMI - appointed General Manager of Fly Ash Division 1980 President - Marketing - Oil Well Cement - Road Stabilisation Cincinnati	BMI Fly-Ash Divn. Cincinnati, USA Fiji
12.20 - 12.59	Returned to Australia for family reasons	
13.00 - 17.19	Monier - Chief Materials Engineer - Chemical Admixtures Non-shrink grouts - topping mixes - pre-mixed bags Antarctic - special design - controlled materials & mix	Monier Antarctic
17.20 - 21.02	NATA - National Association of Testing Associations Senior Scientific Officer - Assessor of Testing Labs 17 Laboratories in 7 days - British Standards	NATA Hong Kong
21.03 - 27.32	Taywood Engineering - Concrete Consultant - had to get own work Boss from WA Overall Manager Pacific Concrete problems - durability - Cremorne Wharf	Taywood Engineering Peter Trinder Frank Papworth Cremorne Wharf
27.33 - 29.49	Centralime Ltd. and Gold Mine - became General Manager Lachlan Valley Gold Mine Ltd. - "	Centralime Ltd. Lachlan Valley Gold
John B. Ashby 4. Tape IEA SYD RR 117B.		
00.00 - 0	Leader and identification	
01.25 - 05.17	Centralime Ltd - Reconditioning of cement plant to make dolomite fertiliser Reconditioning of a ceramic tile plant at Quarry at - getting permits	Centralime Ltd. Lithgow Kandos
05.18 - 12.19	EUCO - Chemical Admixture Company	EUCO Ltd.
12.20 -	Australian Steel Mill Services - selling blast furnace slag Company takes molten slag and remove the iron and sell it back to BHP sold as aggregate - had to prove it	Aust Steel Mill Services
13.10 - 14.49	Quality Assurance - too much paper, not enough control	Quality Assurance
14.50 - 18.01	Concrete Institute of Australia - current President Give papers - gave one in Tasmania on Standards	Concrete Institute Aust
18.02 - 20.03	Concrete Recycling - use of slag and fly-ash	Recycling
20.04 - 21.50	The future in concrete - more technical people needed	