

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

INTERVIEWEE	Bryan Besly	TAPE NUMBERS	IEA SYD FJ 8 FJ 9
INTERVIEWER	Frank Jackson	NUMBER OF TAPES	2
DATE	6th July 1998		
RESTRICTIONS ON USE	NIL		
LOG PREPARATION	This Log was prepared on a Sony TCM-5000 EV Cassette-Corder		

Tape: IEA SYD FJ 8 Side A

TAPE LOG

TAPE COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
0 - 19	Introduction – born Greenslopes, Brisbane QLD. 8:01:1934 father Owen John, b.1900 ; mother Irene Eleanor, nee Mallett, b. 1904.	Brian John Hilton Besly
20 – 44	Primary schooling, Holland Park State School. 1947 awarded Scholarship to C. of E. Grammar School East Brisbane. Junior 1944; Senior 1951. Studied Art with Carolyn Baker in City; required subject for Matriculation for Architecture, a career he considered at this time, However, he finally opted for Civil Engineering on father's advice. Parents and relatives influenced early development Liked teachers and thought Roberts a good headmaster	Holland Park State School C of E Grammar School, E.Brisbane Art teacher Carolyn Baker Headmaster Roberts
45 – 53	Best subjects at school were Arithmetic, Algebra, and Geometry at which he excelled. He also found a facility for Geometrical and Perspective drawing, a great advantage in later University studies.	
54 - 73	Had adequate performance in Univ. subjects. Required to undertake National Service – 3 months – at end of 1 st yr. Trained at Wacol, west Brisb. Altho. Uni students in the one Coy., the training – and performance – little different to other trainees. Army did not give any partic. recognition to B.B.'s service as Lieutenant in school Cadet Corps.	National Service Wacol W. Brisb.

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	Tape FJ 8 Side A continued	
74 – 100	Useful skills developed in Army, later applied to engineering career – people management and practical survey work— hand held compass and distance measurement by pacing – helpful in professional survey work as Civil Engineer	
101 – 132	In 1956 joined Macdonald Wagner & Priddle. Was advised by Prof. Lavery of Civil Eng, Dept., for whom he had great admiration and respect, to see Charlie Tranberg, Brisbane Mgr. of that Coy., and thus began a life-long association of M W & P,	Professor Lavery Macdonald Wagner & Priddle Charlie Tranberg
133 – 147	Observations on Registration of Engineers in QLD – doubted its effectiveness, or necessity, in raising standards of professional practice	Registration of Engineers in Queensland
148 – 166	Observations on aesthetics as factor in engineering design	
167 – 182	Practical aspects of structural steel fabrication and erection – noise and risks	
183 – 210	Considerations of advantages of overseas experience – believed a greater variety of work was likely to be obtained in Australia, rather than narrow specialization, a feature of large engineering organizations.	
211 – 233	Early assignment was the survey set-out for the Bundaberg Bulk Sugar Terminal. Use of basic survey techniques – theodolite and plumbob, chains with temperature correction - a job done by Civil Engineers,	Bundaberg Bulk Sugar Terminal
234 – 265	Engineer at Townsville Bulk Sugar Terminal. – three months work with Franki piling. At first, under direction of the Senior Mechanical Engineer resident at Lucinda Point, nr, Ingham later appointed Resident Engineer, working in conjunction with the Resident Mech. & Elec, Engr. Project completed in 1959	Townsville Bulk Sugar Terminal
266 – 280	Appointed Resident Engineer at Mourilyan Bulk Sugar Terminal, nr. Innisfail in 1959-60. Extremely high rainfall area. Married Jocelyn Tait, a Physiotherapist, in Brisbane in 1959	Mourilyan B.S. Terminal Marriage to Jocelyn Tait 1959
281 – 330	Installation of Frankipiles and their shortcomings	Frankipiles
331 – 373	Appointed Senior Engineer in Brisbane Office in 1961. First job coal loading facility at Gladstone. Working association with co-graduate Reg. Tanner, of Dept. Harbours & Marine	Sen. Engr. Brisbane 1961. Coal loading facility Gladstone
374 – 405	Conversion of stud cattle property nr. Mackay to cane farming. Survey, roadworks, clearing, railway line.	Civil works Mackay

TAPE COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
	Tape FJ 8 Side B	
0 – 27	Introduction -- management of a design office – importance of communication between staff members at all levels balancing staff & office costs vs income. - contract drafting usually an effective means of meeting troughs and peaks in work level.	
28 – 56	Marine civil works undertaken included breakwater extensions at Mackay Harbour . Design of dredging for Bundaberg -- major aspect was consideration of effect of dredging on river flow pattern.	Marine Civil Works
57 – 68	Environmental aspects of Kolan Dam; considerations affecting downstream neighbours	Kolan Dam
69 – 124	1966 went to Melbourne to manage M.W.P.'s office – a new venture.— at age 32, an Associate of the Coy. Sydney partners supportive in getting established . Industrial field was the main area of Coy. expertise – not so much the structural steel work associated with buildings. Problems breaking into market but had business associations in Melb that brought in work. Landed a good job with Esso - - design of an L.P.G loading facility for tankers at Westernport Bay the Long Island Point Liquids Pier site. Was the principal consultant with full range of work up to supervision of survey set out.	Manager Melbourne Office of M.W.P. Esso Long Island Point Liquids Pier
125 – 130	Use of ,Australian Standard Conditions of Contract -- modified to suit any special requirements of clients	Aust. Gen. Conditions of Contract
131 – 137	Long Island Point Liquids Pier project earned Coy. first Award of Excellence Award granted by Association of Consulting Engineers in 1969 – a great achievement for a small Office.	1969 Award of Excellence
138 – 182	Describes a range of the Civil Works undertaken by the Melbourne Office in this period problems of short term storage of flour prior to shipment – heavy machine foundations, and rail sidings for Simsmetal, scrap metals processors	Simsmetal Project
183 – 200	Problems of design of heavy duty pavements for container terminals – involvement with Seatainer terminal in the 1970's .	Seatainer container terminal
201 -- 250	Overseas projects – cane plantation and sugar mill in Nigeria – before this, in 1972 to 74, Coy. had achieved a contract in Indonesia, sponsored by World Bank, for the rehabilitation of three sugar factories – interesting but difficult project	Nigeria 1972 – 74 Indonesia

TAPE COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDSS
	Tape FJ 8 Side B continued	
251 – 286	More on Indonesian project – good results can be achieved by primitive methods – corruption not an issue on this project.	
287 – 409	Aust. Aid project – first, in 1979 a study, The Philippines Coal Logistics Project, examined coal reserves – object to replace use of expensive oil, by coal, in cement production and power generation industries. Assoc. with W.D. Scott, management consultants. Doherty, and Occal, marine consultants, engaged for shipping studies. Lengthy project, Problems of cultural differences.—but good relations on the whole.	1979 The Philippines Coal Logistics Project W.D. Scott Doherty Occal
	Tape FJ 9 Side A	
0 -- 45	Discusses career in management -- 1965 Charlie Tranberg informed B.B. of appointment to Associateship of the Company. 1980 appt Director on board of 12. Staff of 6-700 in all cap. cities and some overseas Remained a director after merger with Connells. It was considered that practices of consulting engineers had to become large diversified organizations or be small, highly specialized coy. It was considered that ideal staff size for former was about 1000. There was considerable merger activity in progress at this time	Career in management 1965 to retirement in 1991
46 – 217	Relinquished directorship in 1990 prior to retirement in 1991. From 1987 to retirement two major projects – design of onshore facilities for Aust. Submarine Corporation, and aircraft maintenance hangars at Dhaka, Bangladesh. Describes details of both these projects. Essentially, major responsibility ceased with completion of design phase – c.f., earlier days when the consultant had major responsibility thru to end of project. Discussed the primitive methods used on site, in Bangladesh, making the point that a high quality job could still be achieved, at a similar cost to that in the West.	Submarine Assembly Facility Port Adelaide Design Maintenance Hangars at Zia Internat. Airport, Dhaka, Bangladesh
218 – 250		
251 – 291	1991 retired, but continued working part-time for Connel Wagner, until he formed own Company, Bryan Besly Pty Ltd. when he was engaged by C.W. to implement a Quality Assurance programme Comments on Quality Assurance	Retirement from Connel Wagner; formation of Bryan Besly Pty Ltd

TAPE COUNTER	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
	Tape FJ 9 side A continued	
292 – 359	Considerations of Architecture as a career – Engineering gave similar scope for creativity, aesthetic judgements and innovative problem solving. Working in a large engineering consultancy, rather than in the Public Service, gave greater satisfactions	Engineering as career
360 – 377	Dependency on Engineering for the development of the modern society.	
378 -- 413	Speaks of his children – two boys and a girl – and their careers..	Closing thoughts