

Institution of Engineers. John B Chester Tape 55 27.9.93

010 Introduction

014 Mr John B Chester, born at Stockport 29.1.1918, England. Father died when Mr Chester aged three years. Mother's brother in Australia. Came to Australia, arrived 1927. School in England different in Australia. School at Homebush Primary. Mother worked on farm at Bogan Gate as housekeeper. Arrival described. Two classes at Bogan Gate School. Summer Hill Intermediate High, stayed with aunt - concentrated on mathematics. Mother bought mixed business, Auburn. Looked for work - wrote to electrical firms - junior process worker for two weeks - kept on for 33 years.

107 Aftermath of Depression - apprentices a problem. Heard about "Tech" - enrolled at Tech. College - radio mechanics course - report went to employer. Advised by foreman to change to Electrical Fitting Course - decided by firm to apprentice him (12/6 per week) (3rd year 25/-). Finished term (5 years) 1934. Had won scholarship to higher grade. Transferred to Drawing Office. Won scholarship to Electrical Engineering Diploma Course - did Diploma Entrance Course.

208 Work in Factory. Press, drilling machine, milling machine Work on turnstiles - then drawing office. Chief Engineer, John Tibby(?) Joined Institution of Engineers as junior member.

254 War years: call up of seniors affected his position - learned very rapidly - continuing Diploma Course - joined Institution, proposed by Tibby.

292 Ultimo - Sydney Tech. Alan Plowman, Head of School. Set exercises. Industrial Electronics. Third year, Fourth Year - radio - Aylsa Dow(?), Lecturer. Contemporaries. Won College Medal - Electrical Engineering 1947.

407 End of Tape Side A

John Tibby(?) Alan Plowman|PF1.

Side B

006 Introduction

009 1950 Aust. General Electric - six months' trip overseas, England, America. Already married with daughter aged 3. Flight described. Sydney, Darwin, Singapore etc - 4 days to London. Three months in England, Manchester, Rugby. America. The Queen Elizabeth to America and Canada.

080 USA and Canada: Base - 6 weeks - Industrial Electronics - Difficulties with American drawings.

114 Other Plants. Boston, Fort Wayne(?) George Shute, Detroit. Ford's Plant - welding equipment. Canada: Train to Vancouver.

139 Application of electronic principles to power. Holden manufacture.

167 Timber industry. Photo electric sensors - comparison with today. Electronic valve control. Imported equipment - difficulties.

286 Change. A.G.E. decided to build factory in Brisbane to make transformers. Three months in Melbourne to learn transformers. 1958 Brisbane: prior to this control factory. Manager, Auburn. Australian Electrical Industries. Seven years Brisbane - Management. 1958 - transistors not commercially available.

388 End of Tape Side B.

George Shute|PF1.

John B Chester 3. Tape 56 Side A 27.9.93

010 Introduction

013 Brisbane: Management of a factory 1958-65, job satisfaction. Previous experience at Auburn.

071 Brisbane experience: change to Australian Electrical Industries break with A.G.E. British took over - shut down of small factories. Three different divisions of A.E.I. Major General Sir Jack Stevens, Chairman of A.E.I. Australia.

144 Expansion - better production line - Orders from NSW. One major change - power and distribution transformers. Bill Tyree(?) - steel for transformers.

197 Human relations - Unions - Jack Edgerton - award for welders. Industrial health and safety. Relationship with Harry Harwood - Manager, English Electric.

272 Melbourne - A.E.I. financial difficulties - more importation. Three divisions set up - Chief Engineer and Asst. General Manager, Transformer Division. Sam Burgess, Manager, Auburn - trouble in Motor Division, Chairman, Ron Rains; John Butters, Managing Director - asked to be General Manager, Motor Division.

353 End of Tape Side A

559 End of Tape, Side A.

Bill Tyree Jack Edgerton Harry Harwood Sam Burgess Ron Rains
John Butters|PF1.

Side B

157 Introduction

159 Move to Motor Division. Decisions made previously by Board - 33 years of service concluded. Called meeting when difficulties evident - fired two days after long week-end.

211 Bill Tyree(?) suggestion re America. Went to America, Westinghouse, 4-5 weeks - stayed on after Bill Tyree left, 4 weeks. Description of Bill Tyree's plans. Finally Westinghouse brought out his show. Joined Westinghouse sales staff - travelling into Asia. Wife's health.

266 Prospect Electricity suggested by friend. Sub Station Design Engineer - 9 years. Retirement Age 65.

283 Dutch outfit suggested. Retired 9 months before 65, Westinghouse. Joined Holec(?) 8 years.

298 Liked job at Prospect. Boss Les. King. Alan Moore, Chief Engineer. Description of work at Prospect - job satisfaction.

365 Holec(?) 100% owned by Dutch - importing gear - good products. Financial difficulties in Holland. Keith Bainbridge, Manager, walked out - Orders for dry type transformers. New Managing Director, David Harris. Decision to work three days per week - handled whole of contract. White Industries - finished contract.

451 Involvement with Institution of Engineers - Secretary, Chairman. Interviewing for new members.

478 Standards Association. Kroner(?) - telecommunication terminals, switch gear. Low voltage switch gear - tests.

515 Review of C.V. No regrets - self assessment. Written papers. Fluorescent lamps.

596 End of Tape. Side B.

Bill Tyree(?) Les King Alan Moore Keith Bainbridge David Harris|PF1.