

INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS - TAPE NO. 51 - SIDE A -
NEVILLE D. CHIDGEY INTERVIEWED BY RICHARD RAXWORTHY - 24/8/93

012 Was born 1924 in Longueville. Moved to Hunters Hill when ten. Went to school at Lane Cove and then Sydney Boys' High. School a great influence.

025 Left school 1941 - very interested in yachts, etc. Became involved in naval architecture. Won a scholarship to Cockatoo Docks and Engineering Co. P/L. Probably the happiest occupation throughout my life.

038 Worked with great tradesmen who had come from Scotland.

045 Mentors - recall D. Carmint(?), Cec Bowden - particularly the shipwright foremen. One was Mitchell.

056 Worked in the mould loft. Describes. Talks of Bob ? who worked there; played Liszt in the evening. Had a super intellect.

066 John Jeremy last Managing Director of Cockatoo - he's writing the history. INTERESTING COMMENT RE COCKATOO.

076 Fought the dockyard to join air force. Should have stayed. War effort at Cockatoo would have been greater. Learned to fly at Narrandera.

086 Were reserve trainees for Battle of Britain. Were not needed. Flew Catalinas to the islands from Rathmines.

100 Discharged in 1945. Had an engineering background - went into my own business for 18 months.

116 Was offered a traineeship at Sydney University - graduated in Civil Engineering in 1949. Wanted to travel, become interested in big things - bridges, etc.

130 Lovely people at University - Scots provided the basis - Prof. Miller - marvellous man. Dealt with 362 students.

156 School was in main campus - Blakett building - equipment there back to 1860's. Describes course.

168 Was involved in the wind tunnel/aeronautical engineering. INTERESTING COMMENT RE AIRCRAFT ENGINES.

188 My principal project was design of a fixed arch bridge.

208 Prof. Miller spent a lifetime developing a system to resolve "17 simultaneous equations". DETAIL DESCRIBED.

238 Comment about Dr Bradfield's design - re concrete fixed arches. They weren't used. Stuckey's name mentioned. Also Frank Litchfield.

D. CARMINT(?), CEC BOWDEN, JOHN JEREMY, DR. BRADFIELD, PROF. MILLER
STUCKEY|PF1.

274 Did factory design during 3rd and 4th year in my practice. Economic necessity. Was first Associate Member of NSW Association of Consulting Structural Engineers. Think I still hold that singular position.

287 Married and went to England. Aim to get into post-war reconstruction. Appointed Senior Executive Engineer to Cameroons' Development Scheme.

314 Description of work in the Cameroons. Built roads and bridges. Not much design!

INTERESTING DESCRIPTION

372 Raising of funds was principal problem. DESCRIBES FUNDING.

401 Spent five years in Africa on that scheme and both my wife and I loved it.

INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS

TAPE NO. 51 - SIDE B - NEVILLE CHIDGEY INTERVIEWED BY RICHARD RAXWORTHY - 24/8/93

012 Wondered how we could fund scheme - collected money for it from eleven countries - Marshall Aid plan helped us tremendously. Not a commercial operation - war reparation.

026 Banana plantations - tremendous boost to the Cameroons. Introduced large companies to the area. Still works well today.

048 Took project to an advanced stage. INTERESTING COMMENT.

063 Got on well with the French. Road signals with left and right hand drive.

086 Left in 1955 - returned to Australia. Interested in question of raising funds. Worked with Utah Construction Co.

099 In 1963 met Bede Callaghan who was General Manager of Commonwealth Development Bank. I became Chief Engineer to the Commonwealth Bank.

123 First project was the Bougainville Copper deposits in P.N.G. Bank of America talked with the Reserve Bank who suggested Commonwealth Bank be involved. INTERESTING.

160 This led to many other financings of a similar kind - iron ore in W.A., coal in Qld. etc. Engineering advice became critical to the Bank.

171 Funny story re Mt Isa Mines.

204 Although now retired I still consult to the Commonwealth Bank. Was appointed by the Bank for an overview on the construction of the M4.

DR BRADFIELD, FRANK LITCHFIELD, BEDE CALLAGHAN|PF1.

238 Bank is involved with the M5 - I have not been involved in the financing of that.

277 Have trained other engineers in consultation with financial institutions. Mentions Warwick Stafford - my successor.

296 Involvement with Hambros Grantham. Describes management investment companies - MIC's. Describes project.

340 That programme was eventually tapered off. Subsequently we have developed the first MIC Ltd.

370 Talks about successes - first company - called Portable Computer.

TAPE CONCLUDES

INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS - TAPE NO. 52 - SIDE A - NEVILLE CHIDGEY
INTERVIEWED BY RICHARD RAXWORTHY - 24/8/1993

012 Discusses Hambros Grantham in a general way.

035 Raxworthy comments on Public Works Department competition with likes of Hambros.

042 Chidgey expounds.

068 Was invited to be a member of new technologies panel at Pacific Power. INTERESTING.

086 Very familiar with Jack Beale's project for hydro-power stations in dams that don't have them. Commonwealth Bank was taken into the American market in that area.

102 My role at Pacific Power is really a learning curve - listen to the intellectuals and academics who are leaders in Australia involved in energy generation from alternative sources.

113 Am a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers.

130 Never passed the exams. for the Institute of Bankers - was invited to be an Associate member - the projects I become involved in in the banking sphere are very large.

148 Am an Associate of the American Institution of Mining Engineers.

160 Since 1963 I have always been consultant to the principal banker - my job is to ensure that work is quality and on track.

173 Am Chairman of Macro-Engineering Council - recently formed into a limited company. Describes.

WARWICK STAFFORD, HAMBROS GRANTHAM, JACK BEALE | PF1.

