

TAPE NO.
1EAPT3

THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS - ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

PAUL TINSLAY INTERVIEWING CLEM COLLIS ON WEDNESDAY 17th APRIL 1996
AT McQUOIN PARK HOSTEL, WAITARA.

SIDE A.

- 000 - 046 BIRTH DETAILS (6th MARCH 1905) AND SCHOOL EDUCATION
047 - 082 TRADE CERTIFICATE AS APPRENTICE ELECTRICAL FITTER AND
TERTIARY EDUCATION AT SYDNEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE.
083 - 118 APPOINTED AS JUNIOR ENGINEER. FIRST TECHNICAL JOB AT
BUNNERONG POWER STATION TO ASSIST IN RUNNING OF
STATION WHICH HAD JUST BEEN PUT INTO SERVICE. APPOINTED
AS EFFICIENCY ENGINEER TO INVESTIGATE MAINTENANCE AND
OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES TO IMPROVE COST EFFICIENCY.
DISCUSSION OF PLANT.
119 - 176 SITUATION AT BEGINNING OF THE WAR. MANPOWER.
APPRENTICESHIP MOSTLY IN REPAIR OF HIRED ELECTRIC
MOTORS.
177 - 198 SECOND PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER TO BE EMPLOYED IN A
POWER GENERATION SECTION IN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF
SYDNEY.
198 - 231 BUNNERONG 'A' POWER STATION. CHANGES IN CONCEPTS OF
GENERATION OF POWER DUE TO TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN
AMERICA AND EUROPE.
232 - 254 DEPRESSION.
253 - 275 EXTENSION OF PLANT AT BUNNERONG INVOLVED CHANGE
FROM GRATE FIRED BOILERS TO PULVERISED FUEL.
BUNNERONG 'B' START OF NEW CONCEPT OF POWER
GENERATION - USE OF PEOPLE SKILLED IN THE NEW
TECHNOLOGY.
276 - 307 WORLD WAR II. AIR RAID PRECAUTION OPERATIONS.
RECOLLECTION OF JAPANESE ATTACK ON SYDNEY HARBOUR.
308 - 330 AFTER WAR WORKED AT PYRMONT 'B'. SHORTAGES OF
EQUIPMENT.
331 - 358 FORMATION OF SYDNEY COUNTY COUNCIL AND
INTERCONNECTION OF INDIVIDUAL POWER PLANTS TO FORM
ONE GRID CONTROLLED CENTRALLY. STOP GAP APPROACH TO
DEALING WITH SHORTAGE OF EQUIPMENT BY UTILISING 5 MW
PACKAGE UNITS.
359 - 393 APPOINTED TO ASSIST GENERATION ENGINEER MR NOLEN WHO
WAS FIRST OPERATING ENGINEER WHO HAD CONTROL OF THE
WHOLE SYSTEM SATISFYING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE
WHOLE OF N.S.W. ALSO WORKED WITH ANOTHER ENGINEER
HARRY DUNCAN. DEVELOPMENT OF PLANT AT PYRMONT 'B'.

- 394 - 433 MR COLLIS TRAVELLED OVERSEAS TO INVESTIGATE DEVELOPMENT OF POWER STATIONS WORLD WIDE. AMERICA CONSIDERED LEADERS OF POWER GENERATION. VISITED AMERICA, ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, FRANCE AND GERMANY.
- 434 - 485 AFTER OVERSEAS TRIP IT WAS DECIDED TO RE- BUILD PYRMONT. TURNING POINT ON TECHNOLOGICAL SIDE AS USE WAS TO BE MADE OF COMPUTERISED EQUIPMENT. CONTROL SYSTEM CHANGED FROM USE OF FIREMEN, LEADING HANDS TO USE OF OPERATORS RESULTING IN LESS STAFF.

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

- 000 - 043 APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT OF PYRMONT 'B' FOR START UP OF STATION. THEN ELEVATED TO POSITION OF BEING IN CHARGE OF ALL POWER STATIONS IN N.S.W. CONTINUOUS BATTLE TO PROVIDE FOR ELECTRICAL GENERATION WHILST KEEPING COSTS DOWN AND ACQUIRING PLANT.
- 044 - 139 UNIONS. DEVELOPED NEW GRADE OF OPERATOR. THIS INVOLVED EDUCATION OF STAFF AND RESULTED IN CUTS IN MANNING SCALE. MOST TRAINING INVOLVED ELECTRICAL AREAS AS ASH AND COAL HANDLING PLANT BECAME MORE MECHANISED AND REQUIRED LESS SKILL.
- 140 - 183 USE OF OPERATORS SPREAD TO OTHER STATIONS WITH SOME STATIONS SHUTTING DOWN. SOME PROBLEMS WITH STRIKES.
- 184 - 209 PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH COAL SUPPLY.
- 210 - 286 DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER NEW POWER STATIONS. VALES POINT. POWER STATIONS BUILT CLOSE TO COAL FIELDS. LONG LEAD TIME REQUIRED FOR NEW POWER STATIONS DEVELOPMENTS.
- 287 - 336 COAL REQUIREMENTS. DEVELOPED WITH MANUFACTURERS. MR COLLIS TRAVELLED OVERSEAS THREE MORE TIMES DEVELOPING NEW IDEAS. WAS APPOINTED VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION.
- 237 - 245 ATOMIC POWER.
- 258 - 284 PROJECTS DIVISION - BEST RESULTS ACHIEVED BY COMBINATION OF OPERATING STAFF AND DESIGN STAFF WORKING TOGETHER.

END OF SIDE B.