

This is an interview with Dave and Neen Pendergast by Klaus Hueneker on the 22 October 1981. The interview is being conducted in Jindabyne, the home of Dave Pendergast. Dave's wife Neen, her maiden name was Kidman, so she and Dave both came from large Monaro families been here for generations and both of which have been involved with high country grazing and I think Dave especially will know a lot about the southern parts of the mountains and Neen might know some of the history of Kidman's hut and some of that area.

KH: I hope you can forget about this machine. If you can - it takes a while to get used to the whole situation, I find it really hard to make notes or make notes as quickly as people talk. Having a tape recorder is really valuable.

NP: Dave's brother used to go out there to where Tommy Taylor was. He used to spend the summer out there with - where was it - at Currango wasn't it?

DP: He used to have the *Barrs's* sheep run.

NP: They lived out at *Moombah* and they used to take the big mobs of sheep from out here to Currango for the summer and Dave's brother used to go out with them and look after them.

KH: Which brother was that?

DP: Jack.

KH: Is he still alive?

DP: Oh yes.

KH: There's four brothers?

DP: Five.

KH: I get rather confused with the Pendergasts and the Golbys and all these other names, who was your father, which Pendergast was that?

DP: Tom, Tom Pepper.

NP: There were always so many Pendergasts around, they kind of called them nick names and he was 'Pepper', Tom Pepper and his brother was 'Cuffley' and another brother was 'Swampy'.

KH: Who was 'Straighty' Pendergast?

DP: Straighty was a cousin.

NP: He was a first cousin to your father.

KH: I've heard people referring to Straighty, he was quite a character.

NP: And Jim Dudley, he was a brother to Straighty - 'Toag' they used to call him. He was Jim Pendergast but he was also Jim Dudley, they always called him Jim Dudley or Toag and they reckon he was the

best rider ever been around here don't they!

KH: None of that generation is alive any more?

NP: No not that generation.

DP: Bill would be the oldest.

NP: Bill would be the next generation though, he's Straighty's son.

KH: Where does he live?

DP: Berridale.

NP: He'd be a wealth of information - old times and hard times in the bush.

DP: It might take him a long time to tell you but ...

KH: So are you the oldest of the five?

DP: No.

NP: Mick is the eldest brother, then Jack, then Dave, Noel and Vaughn.

KH: One of them works at the Jindabyne Fitness ...

NP: That's Jack. That's the one that used to be at Currango with Tommy Taylor.

KH: At Coolamine - Tom's parents lived out there way back in 1908 or something like that so Tom especially, had a long association with the northern parts of the Park, but down south I haven't got as much information yet. You were just saying that you had something to do with Teddy's hut.

DP: We built it, me ^{& Teddy} and Noel, that was 1948.

KH: Was McGuffick involved in that?

DP: Teddy McGuffick yeah.

NP: He's dead now.

DP: The only other McGuffick that I know of in the mountains was at Thredbo, ^{Mc} below Friday Flats. The Snowy Mountains put the road right through it when they went in there.

KH: I never heard of that hut! Was it another slab hut?

DP: It was a slab hut yeah, and a bark roof I think. It was only a small hut but it was a McGuffick's hut.

NP: Who built it?

DP: I don't think I know whether it was me or Dave Spencer, I'm not sure.

KH: Teddy's hut is as recent as '48?

DP: Yeah.

KH: It would be one of the most recent, one of the last ones built.

DP: They built the Cascades hut since that, the one that's there now and then the ^{Ingeegoodbee} hut.

KH: When was the Cascade hut built?

DP: Well the first one was built in '35.

KH: ^{Elyne} Mitchell who wrote the Silver Brumby ...

DP: That's the Cascade hut.

KH: That's right, this is still when it had the bark roof on it.

DP: I've never been back there since they built that.

NP: That was the old one.

KH: Yes, but this is still standing.

DP: Is that one still there?

KH: Yes. As far as I know that is the Cascade hut. It's got horizontal slabs and I'm under the impression that in the '50s they replaced the bark with iron.

DP: But didn't they pull it down and replace the walls with weatherboards?

KH: No, it's still horizontal ... they've straightened ... it started to lean a bit, the corner posts rotted and I think they might have rebuilt the chimney at one stage. My impression is that that's still the same hut.

DP: It could be too. I've never been there since - I had my 21st birthday in that hut.

KH: Was this when this photo was taken?

DP: That was taken before that, in 1940. It was taken just before Dick went away

NP: Were you there when that was taken?

DP: No. Dick was there, then he got killed in Singapore.

KH: What was his name?

NP: Dick McGuffick

KH: That was built in '35?

DP: It was built in '35 yeah, I think that was '35.

KH: That would be about right.

DP: Victorian fellows built that.

KH: The ^{Nankervis} - were they alive then?

DP: ^{was} Nankervis had it built. I think old Harry Nankervis there when they built it - Leo Byatt and Jackie Weber - I don't know who the other two fellows was.

KH: There was four of them was there?

DP: There was four or five of them. I think old Harry might have been there.

NP: Harry Nankervis?
 DP: They went from - they were at Dead Horse and they built that before they done the muster in '35.
 KH: So they built it at the beginning of summer.
 DP: In the autumn before the muster.
 KH: Oh yes, that would be a quiet period I suppose.
 DP: Some time after Xmas they built it. ^{We were on the Big Boggy that year with sheep}
 KH: That was Nankervis' lease?
 DP: Yes, they owned right through there.
 KH: But they didn't have the lease where Teddy's hut is?
 DP: No, that was this side. Well, Taylor had that when we built the hut there.
 NP: George Taylor from Nimmitabel.
 DP: But McGuffick's had it for years and years before.
 KH: You've got a tent there, did you use tents very much?
 DP: I used to have to use a tent for the muster because there wasn't enough room in the huts. They always had them at Dead Horse too, in the Dead Horse hut, always had a tent for the muster.
 NP: We had a photo of the Dead Horse hut didn't we?
 DP: Same as ^{Ingegoodbe} Jack Freebody always had a tent outside for his musterers when they came in.
 KH: With stretcher beds and things.
 DP: Yeah. They had beds made out of tussocks.
 NP: Just tussocks on the ground?
 DP: No, ^{Ingegoodbe had it} up on sticks and rails.
 KH: What, they'd stuff a bag with grass or something?
 DP: Yeah just stuff them with tussocks in a chaff bag and that was the mattress on top of rails. ^{They} had some rough beds.
 KH: Who's photo is that one, is this one of your collection?
 DP: A bloke that comes from Sydney, he took it. He was wandering about the hills here for years and he took them.
 NP: Jack Carson.
 KH: He's in Sydney now is he?
 NP: Yes.
 KH: He's got quite a few photos has he.
 DP: He's got 100s of them, the trouble is he never wrote on them where they were taken and when they were taken.
 KH: I'd get people to identify them.
 NP: He'd be able to tell you.

KH: Was he a bushwalker or something?
 DP: No, he was a mad gold digger.
 NP: He came up here in 1932 and he was going into the mountains gold digging and there was a big flood and he got stuck on one side of the river, of the creek, couldn't get away. Norman McGuffick^e took him in tucker, he went in with a pack horse and they just became good friends and he's come up here ever since, hasn't he?
 KH: He sounds like a good person to see if he took a lot of photographs.
 DP: He's not in real good health - it would do him the world of good if you could go and see him. He was the first bloke that ever come here with a camera - a movie - the one you used to roll - that would be '48 or '49 that he was here.
 KH: Do you know what part of Sydney he's from?
 NP: I can find out his address.
 KH: Later on perhaps, but that's really ...
 NP: Edna ^{or Gretz} would know.
 DP: He's got 100s of photos - he'd know the people.
 NP: Even if he didn't know which hut it was he'd know the people that were there. Because you say you would probably recognise the huts.
 KH: Did he wander far and wide, like in the northern parts of the Park too?
 DP: No, in this part mainly, near the Fin Mines, Cascade and Dead Horse.
 NP: He always came up here to the McGuffick's ever since ⁱⁿ '35.
 KH: He might have taken photos of Rifeys' old hut. Although there are some old photos of that elsewhere that I've seen. On the whole there aren't many photographs.
 NP: Not many people had cameras and there's no way they'd carry them out there anyway.
 DP: I don't know of one of Teddy's hut. Ernie Bale reckoned he had one but he couldn't find it.
 NP: Haven't we got one of Dead Horse? When the kids were little we went up there one day and I thought we had one, but that would only be in the 50s of course.
 KH: I have seen a photo of Dead Horse Gap, ^{but} I can't remember where. I ^{am} interested in photos of huts, but also stockmen, rustling up brumbies, someone who has documented the different aspects of ^{stockmen's} life in the mountains. ^{On the whole it's very thin on the ground, there's not many around. There are the odd photo's of cattle around Blue Lake.}

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NP: There wouldn't be, they'd never take cameras in, none of them ever had them anyway.

DP: They wouldn't know ^{how} to take a photo, a lot of them, me for one.

KH: There was this Charles Kerry, the guy who took all the photographs of Kiandra and skiing ^{at} Kiandra, now if you had a guy like that, who say, wandered through the hills, well that would be great.

DP: Ken knows ...

NP: He's going to come up here in a moment, Ken Kidman - I didn't know anything about Kidman's hut, not really, because my father's been dead for 40 years and I asked Ken and he built it - he with my uncle ^{with Billy Napthali}

KH: That's good, marvellous.

NP: In 1932 they built it and he knows what it was built of and they took the iron in on a slide made out of a forky stick - I can imagine what it looked like - and they carted the iron in on that, with the horse. What was that story - three days and they ~~couldn't~~ ^{couldn't get out of bed}

DP: I don't know.

NP: It was rain, a real wet summer.

DP: I think it was a couple of days before they could get a fire alight, they could have a feed but they couldn't boil the billy because it was raining too much.

KH: This is when they were building the hut?

NP: Yes.

KH: Did you carry tents very much with you when you were out in the hills?

DP: Always had a tent. Nankervis' built the first huts. Them ~~Fin Mine~~ huts were never built until the war.

KH: Wasn't it middle 30s when they started the mine?

DP: They had camps then, I don't know rightly when they did build huts. There were tents there in the 36s, 37s. ^{they were in tents then} They hadn't built huts then, when they built them after, I don't know.

KH: When was the first time you went out there?

DP: I never went to the ~~Fin Mines~~ until after the war. I went to the ~~Fin Mines~~ in '48.

KH: Was the big workshed there when you went in?

DP: No there was nothing there when I went in there, not a thing.

KH: In '48, in the ~~Fin Mine!~~

DP: Not a ruddy thing ^{only old Carter} - oh, the huts were there.

KH: There would have been a big workshed, a big mess sort of thing, with alpine ash shingles?

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DP: That was Carter's hut, that's the one he lived in then.

KH: There was a little one next to it.

DP: Yes. There was three huts there, one had no roof on it, one was a good hut and one wasn't much good - there were four little huts there altogether. That was in '48.

KH: And Charlie was there then?

DP: Yes.

KH: How long had he been there since he got out of gaol, his exploits up north, when did he come back there, do you know?

DP: He came back in '32, I think, in the depression - '31-'32.

NP: Was he here before that?

DP: He was he before that, yeah.

KH: So the time he was here before would have been back in the 20s or something, when he was on the Ingeegobee? So by the time he died in '53 I think it was, he would have been a pretty old man, in his 80s or something.

NP: Yeah, I think he was meant to be in his 80s wasn't he?

DP: Oh yes, he was, I don't know what though.

NP: He was a character.

KH: Yes, so I believe, what do you know about him?

NP: I only know what ^{Dave} told me. When you went there what did he have on? A ~~poultice~~ ^{poultice} on his forehead because he had a sore toe.

DP: He'd have his cancer cure, you know. His horse would put his foot on his - his foot down - he treated it with blue stone, spirits of salts or something and it burnt out. So then he had this other poultice on his forehead to draw that out of his foot.

KH: Like a bandage.

NP: Yeah he had a bandage and he had it tied on with a Bushells Blue Label tea packet.

KH: He'd look like a modern day tennis player with a head band.

NP: When I went to school at Moonbah we used to see him ride by, he'd come in so many times a year for supplies and stuff. He'd come in with his pack horses and we, I suppose, would give him cheek. We went to a little bush school out there on the road at Moonbah and we'd see him ride by. He'd be coming into Jindabyne for his supplies. Three or four times a year he'd come, wouldn't he. He'd go back out there and let his horses go and they'd just live around there and they seemed to know when he'd want to catch them and that. They reckon they used to come back about the time he'd want to come in for his supplies.

KH: Did he grow anything out there?

DP: He used to grow his vegetables.

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KH: At the ~~Fin~~ Mines?
 DP: Yes.
 KH: What potatoes and turnips?
 DP: Yeah, potatoes and parsnips and carrots I suppose. He used to get a few rabbits for meat.
 KH: Did he sell skins too?
 DP: No he never used to get that many.
 NP: Would he get a pension?
 DP: Yes.
 KH: This is once he was 65 or so.
 DP: Yes. Before that I don't know what he lived on then. He did a lot of dog-trapping there for a while - he was on the Dingo Destruction Board there for a good many years.
 KH: He'd get so much per scalp?
 DP: He used to get so much per week and so much per dog then. He used to catch a few rabbits in the winter time and they used to be a good price.
 NP: It wouldn't cost him much to live of course. There would be just his food, he wouldn't have to pay for anything else and his horse - or used he ^{to} feed horses?
 DP: No, never fed his horse.
 NP: No, just his own bit of food and if he had those vegetables and a little bit of rabbit his food would ^{cost} much, he wouldn't ^{need} much to live on.
 KH: But he'd stay there all year wouldn't he?
 NP: All the time.
 KH: There'd be snow sometimes of course?
 DP: Oh yeah there'd be a lot of snow sometimes, big snow. His horse would always go back to ~~Ingego~~ ^{Ingego} ~~bee~~ for the winter - they'd go out of the snow, then they'd come back in the spring time. He used to salt them - he'd give 'em salt and they'd come back home to the yard.
 KH: When he died, the story is that he couldn't get his horses and he virtually was starved to death.
 DP: They reckoned that would have happened, yeah.

(Telephone interruption)

DP: That's what I don't know anything about, that country at all, I've only been in there once.
 KH: Up the Snowy Plain way?
 DP: Yeah.

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KH: You only went in there once did you?
 DP: Yes I went through to Grey Mare to Pretty Plain. We stopped there at Pretty Plain after a couple of nights and then went back in over the wire yards.
 KH: This would have been in the 40s.
 DP: Oh this is only just back in the 60s - 70s.
 KH: When it was already the National Park? When grazing had stopped?
 DP: Yes. We had cattle ^{old} ^{Drick} ^{Weston} Khancoban, went down and brought them back up through there.
 KH: Up Everards Spur or something?
 DP: No, we come up ^{Pugilistic} ^{Pugilistic} ^{track} no the other one, up the gully not up ^{Pugilistic} ^{Pugilistic} is down below the hut, the Pretty Plain hut.
 KH: Through Ryries Parlour, from back of Jargungal, back of the Big Bogong!
 DP: Yeah, I'm not sure.
 KH: Yes, then you'd head around via Strawberry Hill!
 So you stayed in the old Pretty Plain hut?
 DP: Yes, we stayed there every night. The old pack horse we had he went down ^{that way} ... he was going home, ^{Dick Power had had him in there} he knew which way he was coming home.
 KH: To go back to the Charlie Carter story, you were telling me about the story of him going to gaol. The story was, as far as you're concerned, that Charlie had shot the horse, it was just a ^{brown} ^a ^{Round} brumby and then the Freebody's tried to put on to him that he'd shot one of their horses!
 What intrigues me about that story is I'm starting to get the basic sort of facts of it and I'd really like to see an old piece of newspaper, because it would have been reported in the newspaper a long time ago. Different people tell different stories, I'm still trying to find out what the facts are.
 DP: Well that court case would be in Jindabyne, it was in Jindabyne. Who'd know!
 NP: Bob would know, wouldn't he? Bob Golby, I reckon he'd remember about that.
 DP: I don't know, I suppose he possibly would.
 KH: There's a number of Golbys isn't there. Somebody mentioned Snowy Golby and Hubert Golby.
 NP: Hubert would know.
 DP: I think that Bob has still got the book that Carter wrote on cancer cure.
 KH: I've seen it. In fact Tom Taylor gave me a copy.

KH: I've tried to read bits of his book, it's a bit heavy going.

NP: Is it?

KH: Well it goes on and on about his theories about solving the problems of the world.

DP: He was a well educated man.

NP: How did he ever come here in the first place?

DP: He came here brumby running I think.

NP: Where did he go or who did he come too?

DP: He went into it when he come here on his own.

KH: It seems he's always been a hermit even when ... well I don't know how old he was when he first came to the mountains, but he was probably in his 30s or 40s when he first came up to the Ingeegoodbee.

DP: Yeah, I suppose he would be. He had a sister in Melbourne somewhere. Hubert was his executor, Hubert Golby. He was the man who buried him, sold the few horses he got, sent the money to his sister.

KH: ^{Charlie had a sister} So there might be some descendents of the Carters!

DP: I think some relation. I think what bit of stuff he sold he sent to some relation of his anyhow. Nobody ever worried about that sort of history of anyone.

NP: It's a pity, because even that is almost lost.

KH: Well I think that story about Charlie Carter ^{is} fascinating, absolutely fascinating.

NP: I didn't know that he was in gaol up until this morning.

KH: People are very reluctant to tell me. I know I was in the Jindabyne pub one day, people just sort of went glum when I talked about Charlie Carter, that was the end of the world. But it's got all sorts of magnificent ingredients, it's got a hermit, a recluse, it's got the mountains, wild horses, it's got fueding, intrigue, gaol sentences, it's got everything. We'll leave the Charlie Carter story. If I ever ... I can see it's one that's very ticklish and you have to be very careful ...

NP: Because there are still people involved.

KH: Yes, there's still Freebody s around and you don't want to taint anybody's name, you don't want to create more hostility and so on. I see that there might be potential as the basis for a story, but you wouldn't use the names of those people involved, which is what a lot of writers do. They use human drama and change the names.

DP: Oh he was a character, there's no doubt about him.

NP: But weren't there a lot of characters in the bush. I think of Charlie Finn, you could just sit and listen to him, I mean half he said was right and probably half he said wasn't, but it sounded good. Like Dick Power, everything he tells you isn't right, but you can listen to it, it's all good listening.

KH: I'm particularly interested in the yarns that people tell. I've asked people whether they played any music, whether they said any poetry and it seems that the only entertainment they had around the camp fire at night or in the huts was telling each other yarns and so the yarns are part of the life of the mountains. I think it's good to get some of these things down.

DP: We went to Charlie Carter's hut up here, where he was living with Charlie Finn, me and my Uncle, ^{Leigh Doran(?)}. We were having dinner with Carter and Finn comes in - we're eating Carter's bread, his damper ... "Don't eat that bloody stuff it's got a bloody gall cure in it". He was putting something in it to cure the gall. I don't know what was in it, but there was nothing wrong with the bread, it never killed us, it must have been alright.

KH: It would make you a little bit suspicious wouldn't it!

DP: He used to poison his vegetables and the birds would eat them. He'd get a knife and stick a bit of ^{strychnine} - he knew which ones he did, but we bloody-well didn't - they couldn't eat them.

NP: No-one else could eat his vegetables.

KH: For his cures and so on, did he get things from in the bush or did he buy them at a chemist.

DP: Blue stones or spirits of salts, you could buy that anywhere.

NP: And you could ^{get strychnine} then, you could buy it at General Stores, in those early days, because people used it in the bush for poisoning things. There wasn't the controls on it then that there is now because there didn't have to be. They knew what they were handling, they knew how to look after it and what to do with it, it was readily available.

KH: Were you involved with bringing him out when he died?

DP: No. Pinky ^{Harris} was the fellow that brought him out ^{of there} ... police what's his name ... Bruce Lang, they brought him out.

(Enter Ken Kidman)

KK: You sound German, I've got German neighbours all around me down there.

KH: Have you, where do you live?

KK: Just down the street here, first block on this street, couple of hundred yards. I'm knocked up from doing housework this morning. I had to wash the floor and polish it.

NP: Should give that a miss.

KK: Can't give it a miss on Friday, that's Friday's job.

KH: I'm glad you could come up.

DP: He's got that bloody thing going.

NP: You didn't have to tell him Dave.

KK: I can hear it.

KH: I've just tried to get some information on the Charlie Carter story ...

KK: Dave would know all about that.

KH: Not on tape, I'll have to ask him later.

Well apparently according to Dick there was a bit of a poem made up about it.

NP: There's a song, Pinky made up a song didn't he?

KH: Along the lines of Lasseter's last ride, this became Carter's last ride.

DP: Bert wrote that, Pinky's father.

KH: Bert Harris! Is there a copy around?

DP: Pinky would know. He only just lives over the road here.

NP: Should I go and get Pinky? He'd know the Carter stories.

KH: Is he quite happy to talk about it do you think.

NP: I think so.

DP: He'd talk about anything.

KH: *I'm particularly* interested in the whole sort of folklore of the mountains.

NP: Pinky makes up the songs.

KH: Does he! Well that's good because I haven't found anyone yet who's been into writing songs or poetry.

NP: Oh Pinky, he'll sing for you, if you can listen.

DP: Play his guitar.

KH: He makes them up.

NP: Oh yeah. Probably to other tunes.

DP: He's likely to make one up on you while he's talking to you.

KK: Charlie Carter's court case would be in it.

NP: Ken Pate would still have them wouldn't he.

KK: Yeah, they'd be still in the files, how long ago would that be?

DP: He come back here in '32.

KH: So it was in the 20s! I don't think Cooma papers keep their papers that long.

KH: Sometimes there are locals who cut out all sorts of things, who keep a scrapbook.

DP: I've got a scrapbook but there's nothing like that in it.

NP: Deaths and stuff.

DP: I don't know what year it was - I was never very interested in when he left and when he come back.

KK: I don't know, where did he come back from.

DP: Up Queensland I think.

KH: I think he went to Queensland, people said he went to Queensland.

DP: When he came out of gaol, he went into Queensland somewhere.

KH: If he went to gaol it would have been Maitland or somewhere or Sydney.

DP: I don't know where he went.

NP: How long would he have been in gaol?

KH: Some people say 2, some say 3 years.

NP: What did he do?

DP: Turn that thing off.

.....

KH: Some information about Kidmans. You're Ken Kidman and you were involved in the building of Kidman's hut.

KK: Alec *Kidman*, my uncle ~~He~~ owned the lease there at that time and Billy Naphthali carted the iron and I think there was a bit of sawn timber for the rafters, I'm not sure about that.

KH: There's some round timber in the roof I remember.

KK: There is round timber, I think the end rafters might have been square timber he got out of the old Snowy Plain shed. He took that out there on a forky stick slide ^{with} an old draught horse - it's the wettest bloody camp I ever had. Alec and I camped there for four days in the tent and anyway on the third day I decided to build a bit of a galley, so I got four sheets of the iron and stuck them up on four forky sticks, that was the best shelter we ever had in the camp out there. Bill helped us build the hut and we cut all the timber there, just over the creek there from the hut, cut the posts and some of the rafters and uprights.

KH: Up towards Brassy Gap?

KK: Yeah towards the Brassy Gap from the hut.

KH: In 1932?

KK: It would be about March '32 because it was just before they

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mustered. We muster about April I suppose. That was the first time we more or less christened it.

KH: Who were the other people, you, Alec Kidman, Bill Napthali, anyone else?

KK: No.

KH: You were saying that old Bill Napthali was actually born at the old Snowy Plains house.

KK: Yeah they were all born there, all the Napthali family, Bill and Albert.

KH: Was it still going as a timber-getting place, as a bit of a saw mill?

KK: Not in my time, there was an old mill there, an old ... just below where the house was they had a race off Teddy's Creek and an old water-wheel mill there. Bits of it are still there in that trench, or there was the last time I was there. There was never any timber there, cut there in my time.

KH: Did it ever work, did the water wheel actually work?

KK: Oh yes, they cut a lot of timber there, they didn't have much use for it, they couldn't transport - they didn't have any transport to bring it out. I don't know how long it went, I've heard mum talking about it - how long it went for I wouldn't know. It was well and truly worn out in my time there - I suppose I was 5 year old - that would be as far back as I can remember. I remember I rode the old 'paddy' mare from ^{Pumpung} up there.

KH: This up via Kalki ^{te} Gap?

KK: Yeah up through the old town and up through Kalkite. That's the first time I more or less remember ^{being} up there. The old mill wasn't working then, it just had these logs across it and the remains of an old wheel, a bit of bark and rubbish. There was no race - they had a race - it had been turned off. They had a race there where they used to get water for the house and a well but there was no water running down the trench.

KH: The house was still quite substantial then?

KK: Oh yes, they were living there then. The house was one of the main mountain camps in that area up until 1950 I suppose, before it was pulled down.

KH: It was pulled down was it?

KK: Mary Fletcher pulled it down or had it pulled down.

KH: I thought it might have just fallen down!

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KK: It was getting a bit rickety of course but it was still liveable. She wasn't really very sociable with some of the mountain men, they used to use it for a camp and used the paddock - was the problem - had most of their cattle and sheep and one thing and another in there, and they were eating her grass, so she pulled the house down.

NP: So they couldn't use it for a hut.

KH: Who pulled it down?

KK: Mary Fletcher. She was a Napthali. She was married to Charlie Fletcher and she bought the place when all the other Fletchers run out and she bought the Fentonville homestead and also bought Snowy Plain - of course that's gone into the park now - she owned two little paddocks this side, over towards Davey's hut - Cunningham paddocks.

KH: Charlie Fletcher, is he a brother of Fred?

KK: No, he was his uncle. He has got a brother named Charlie, I don't know where he is, he isn't around here now. But she bought that and that is why she pulled the thing down, it was still quite a good hut, about 5 or 6 rooms.

KH: It was unusually big from what I could see on the ground.

KK: Yes, well it was more or less a house. They lived there until the time when they all got married and went away.

KH: It had a fire place at both ends didn't it?

KK: Yes, it had a fire place in what they called the front room, a big fire place in there and one of these chimneys with a ... it only had a back in it and what they called a hobb on one side and they had a bed in the corner on the other side. It was the full width of the house. Something like the ^{Horey} place out here - the full width of the room, about 14 feet I suppose. It had this bed in the corner - I slept on it lots of times - just a board/slab/couch sort of thing with a mattress on it.

KH: Apparently you could sit in the fire place!

KK: Oh yes, you could sit in this hobb as they called it. It was built half way up to the level of the wall and then half of it was just a seat on one side and on the other side was this couch thing - well you could sit in there or use it as a spare bed. It was quite a comfortable place to sleep, nice and close to the fire. The biggest problem around there was getting wood, they never had any wood.

DP: I've never seen one of those other than the old ^{Horey} place, that's the only fireplace I've seen like that you know.

KK: The hobb in this one was just a nice seat, a cushion on it, you could sit up to the fire. You could put a log as long as from here to the window in the fire. You didn't have to cut it short or anything, it was

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quite a wide fire place.

KH: Do you know of any photographs of that place?

KK: Well Maurice Fletcher would be about the only one that would probably have any. He lives just up the other side of Fred's. Well Laurie lives this side of Fred's and Maurice lives the other side, they all live together.

KH: I don't remember asking Fred about photographs.

KK: Fred probably wouldn't have any, if anyone had any it would be either Laurie or Maurice. Sure to have one at Maurice's. Apart from that, the next one that might have one would be Marie Fletcher, she lives in Cooma, she's Maurice's sister. She's probably got a painting of it, Mary probably painted it at some time.

KH: It often seems that it was the ladies who kept things like that. They kept the newspaper articles and the photos.

KK: Well Marie would be the likely one to have any of those sorts of things. She lives in Cromwell street, straight opposite the gate to the showground.

KH: Would she be in the phone book under Fletcher?

KK: Yes.

KH: Was she the one who had the hut pulled down?

KK: No, she's her daughter, her mother - her mother was Mary. Mary had the hut pulled down. It was one of the best huts around up there as far as stockmen went. They used to all congregate there. I've been there with about 14 or 15 of them camped there one night.

KH: Yes Dick Power was telling me, his first ride, he went across the mountains when he was fourteen and he slept on the billiard table.

KK: Yes, I don't know what become of it. I suppose ^{Mary} took it. It was quite a good billiard table - yes, I've seen different ones sleep on it. There was four main rooms in it and then there was a skillion along the back and I think two rooms in it. Then Bill had another building out - they used to call it Bill's room - out on the end, on the south side. It was about a 12' x 12' hut sort of thing. I thought it was Bill's room but Harvey's took it up into the Broken Dray.

KH: Harvey's hut or Broken Dray hut?

KK: Broken Dray hut.

KH: Yes, I know the site.

KK: Well it's still there isn't it?

KK: It burnt down a few years ago. Yes ^{Mould's} and Harvey's went

...

END SIDE ONE

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SIDE TWO

KK: Fred would be able to tell you all about it.

KH: Oh yes, I know the full story of Alpine.

KK: He really worked himself to death on that job, carting the stuff out.

KH: He's doing alright now. The sleds that he used dragging the material in are still there.

KK: They're still there about the foot of the Brassey aren't they?

KH: Yes, there's three of them along the way. There's one on the Brassey itself and there's one near Kidman's hut too.

KK: There was a couple there. I think we used one on a board.

KH: Did you ever go into the Alpine?

KK: Oh yes I've been there quite a few times.

KH: Skiing?

KK: Oh no, not skiing, I never went into that - silly game - you can get hurt without doing that. I was there just after they built it.

Moriarty bought that piece of ground off dad. Dad had 900 acres of freehold in there and Moriarty bought that 40 acres for the Alpine Hut off dad.

KH: Yes, I've talked to Oliver Moriarty too.

KK: Have you seen him of late?

KH: No, I haven't seen him for about 3 or 4 years. In fact I haven't heard about him.

KK: I was wondering what become of him, he used to be a regular visitor here up till about 3 years ago.

KH: He was stirring up all sorts of people.

KK: Yes, he was flat out on this park business, bumping his head on a stone wall but he was really mad with the park fellows. He used to call on me every time, trying to find a bit more information, every time he came up. I haven't heard of him for 3 years or more.

KH: What about Davey's hut, did you ever spend some time at Davey's hut, or you might have known it as Williamsons!

KK: I've been there when we were kids ... Con Bolton.

KH: Do you know who built that hut?

KK: No, I haven't got a clue on who built it, it was there ... it was something the same as old Snowy Plains. Con Bolton lived there and more or less brought his family up there until they were 10 years old I suppose. Rachel - she'd remember living there I guess.

KH: Rachel Bolton is it?

KK: Yes, she's Mrs Teddy McGuffick. Her and Jack, I can remember when they lived there as kids. I probably left there before the next one after Rachel ... Edna.

DP: Jack, Edna and Rachel and Leila.

KK: As far as I can remember there was only Jack and Rachael there when I was there as a boy. Then they moved down here to Kalkite.

KH: You can't remember very much about Constances?

KK: No, I was never down in that area very much.

KH: The old hut that you mentioned, I think it was Reids wasn't it?

KK: Yes, it was on the west side of Back River I think.

KH: Yes, well it's a ruin now, it's all flat on the ground. Constances is still there.

KK: It's when Florie Bottom or Bottoms had that lease the last time I was there. I have been up there fishing a couple of times since. It was getting a bit old looking then, it had a shingle roof on it.

KH: Yes, it was very delapidated about 5 or 6 years ago when they started to do some work on it. They repaired the roof, fixed the fire and put some new slabs in.

KK: I remember a lot of the shingles gone off it when I was there last. We used to go there fishing every so often through the summer, I remember the old hut was getting pretty delapidated then. I didn't know if it was even there still.

KH: You could see through the roof then I think.

KK: Yes you could see through the roof at one end. A dog died out there and camped there one night - it was a wet night. Jim Southern and Reg slept under the leaks. Did you go out with Gordon Bottom that night?

DP: No.

NP: Remember we went out there fishing one day, you were with us.

KK: I probably did, I've been there fishing a lot of times.

NP: You took us there to that hut, we come back through Island Bend.

(Interruption - visitor)

KK: ...Sparkes and Haslingden were the one that had the lease there and I think they built that hut. Some ski club or other would probably have a fair bit to do with it too. Laurie Adams carted the material out there on a bullock waggon - bullock dray. He used to go up through by Mawsons hut and down through there over Dicky Coopers swamp with his bullock cart. They'd have to come over the Kerries. He used to come along from Mawsons

Hut past the Tin Hut and then over to Kerry's Ridge there and down into Dicky Cooper's swamp. I don't know just exactly where he used to come up there but I know he used to cart supplies out to them on this old bullock cart - only a two wheel job - a dray I think they called it.

NP: Who was Dicky Cooper, I've heard about that ever since I heard of the mountains out there, everyone's talked about Dicky Cooper.

KK: I don't know, there's Dicky Cooper's peak and Dicky Cooper hut. Boobee hut I think they called it?

KH: There is a Boobee hut.

KK: I think Mc Phies might have built that, old Dave and Bob.

KH: You think the Mc Phies were involved with Boobee, because there was an old Boobee, today's Boobee was just a shed in the early days.

KK: I know Mr Phies had that run out there. They used to have cattle right in all that country.

KH: But they were out at the Grey Mare, too.

KK: Yes, they were at the Grey Mare and right through the back of Whites River there. I think they ran from Kosciusko to ^{Canberra} as far as I know. It was open range I think where they were.

KH: What about Tolbar, did you ever get down into Tolbar? There's a bark roof, slab hut down in there.

KK: There's two Tolbars. There's one Tolbar that I knew as Tolbar just down at the back of Harry Reid's hut, there's a Tolbar in there, is that the one you mean?

KH: Yes, that's right, that's what I mean - on the way to Boltons.

KK: Yes that's right.

KH: Between Constances and Boltons.

KK: Yeah, well Harry Bolton's hut, it was on Finn's River was it?

KH: Yes, do you know when that was built or not?

KK: No, it was built before my time out there, it was there ...

KH: I think there were two huts. There's a newer one, that's a slab hut which could have been built in '41 or so, but I've heard reference to an earlier hut which is probably the one you're mentioning.

NP: You would have been there before '41.

KH: Yes.

KK: Yes, well I was out there, well I was at the Back River back in the '20s as a kid. I used to go out there with dad when he had the country there but I was there quite a lot from 1932 onwards until about '47 I think.

NP: You were working for Alec when I went to school which was '44. I don't know how long you stayed there.

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KK: Well I stopped there until I went up here, to the top of the hill. I left there a bit before, I went out there and done some trapping, then I went from there to the top of the hill.

KH: Do you remember anything about the old Bolton's hut on the Finns?

KK: No, I don't know, I was only ever there once. I could tell you a fellow who could tell you about it, that's Ross Bolton, he lives in Berridale, he's Harry's son.

KH: There's a few huts that I don't know the whole story of yet, I don't know when they were built and so on. This is all towards preserving them.

NP: Do you think the park will let you?

KH: I think they'll only end up pulling down three or four. They've got it in for Ingegoobee ...

NP: Because of the buck runners or why?

KH: I don't know why, that one in particular, it's a very recent hut, it doesn't have any great historical significance in their eyes.

KK: Well the original Freebody hut was burnt.

KH: Was that actually Carter's first hut?

KK: I think it was Carter's hut, yes.

KH: Was that a slab hut?

KK: Log, I think.

KH: Most of the others I think we are going to be able to preserve. A lot of them they've decided they're historic sites.

DP: Is Kidman's hut still standing up?

KH: Yes. I was there a few months ago in the winter.

KK: Are the rats still there?

KH: No, no rats at the moment. The old wire bed is still there and the stools and a few other things.

(Interruption)

KK: Have you struck Lindsay Willis?

KH: Yes I interviewed him last year. He features in that book too, I Should Have Listened to Grandpa. He's crook is he?

NP: Yes.

KK: I should have listened to grandpa too.

NP: We never listened, we wouldn't listen to people once.

KK: You'd get sick of listening to them, hear the yarn over and over and over until you'd nearly scream - when you heard him tell someone else.

NP: Dave's mother used to talk to me about things, I never used to listen and Leo Barry - now I'm sorry.

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KK: You never listen at that age.

NP: You just wish they'd shut up, don't you.

KH: I'm particularly interested in the history of the huts, any stories to do with the huts, any yarns and any photographs - people in the mountains.

KK: I've got a photograph of the ^{cairn} on top of old Kossie, you'd have photos of that though.

KH: Yes, there's a few.

KK: Old Jack, and old Donald McGuffick, I forget the other one, there's three of them.

KH: I haven't got any photos of stockmen up there. I've got photos of that old observatory, you know ^{w/ragged} old weather station up there.

NP: That was the day we went back to the mountains [photo]. There's Ken, that's Lindsay and his brother Jack. We had to put them that far apart because they're bad friends.

KH: Is that right?

NP: I had to stop and travel with one, so they wouldn't have to get in the helicopter together. That's Norman Wallace, Greg Golby, that's his wife.

(Exit Ken Kidman)

KH: Well, that was an interesting couple of people, who else is going to roll in?

NP: Everyone's pleased we came to live at Jindabyne because it's a centre point for everyone.

KH: There's a lot of people back in here now.

NP: Everyone comes here to our place, I don't know why, but they just do. We just have people all the time, they just drop in, it seems to be somewhere for everyone to come - which is great - we've always been used to that. They're all 'bushy' people, because that's us.

KH: It sounds like Bob's got quite a lot of information. He sounds like he's kept track of things.

DP: Rose just said that she got part of Carter's life story - someone wrote up, she got the clipping out of the paper.

KH: Yes, that's what Bob was saying.

NP: Well that's his sister.

KH: I've just stumbled onto the Carter story.

NP: Well you've stumbled onto that even, because we didn't know that, just happened that Bob came in while you were here.

KH: I'm intrigued. I mean it's not the main aim of my exercise at

all, its just an interesting side. Well let's get back to some more factual information. You're mainly involved with the southern parts of the area, south of the Crackenback, Teddy's hut, Cascades, Tin Mines. Were you ever over the lower Snowy, in the ^{Byadbo} area?

DP: No, I was never in that.

KH: That's a different lot of people again isn't it.

DP: Ossie Wellsmore would be the man - he goes in that end.

KH: There's a few old huts in there too - Slaughter House ...

DP: No, from Dead Horse round is the only ... I've been in the limestone, through there. Freebodys had a hut on Quombat too at one stage of the game.

KH: So I heard, I've only seen the wreckage of a plane there.

DP: That's down the bottom end of that where the Quombat was and there was a road across the creek. ^{There was an old yard there.} It's been since '48 when I was there, there was an old yard there then.

KH: Are there any particular stories that you can recall, whether true or not that stand out particularly in your mind or any stories of stock getting snowed in?

DP: No, I never really had much to do with stock snowed in. There was a lot of stock snowed in - there was a heap of horses snowed in, 50^{to} 60, around Thredbo - brumbies - between Dead Horse and Thredbo Village - '46 I think was the year they were snowed in there - they all died there.

KH: That was well before the skiing days. While you're on that, do you know anything about Bullock's hut, the building of Bullock's hut?

DP: Yeah, old Straighty built that - not Straighty - Charlie Conway built it - he's dead.

KH: There was someone, I believe another Pendergast, a fellow over - Margaret Pendergast's uncle - Bill Pendergast, Dalgety.

DP: Yeah, Bill done that, Bill and Albert put the fence round it.

KH: Maybe put the shingles on?

DP: He split the shingles I think, Bill split the shingles. Charlie Conway built the hut - cement blocks - concrete - poured concrete walls.

KH: It's an incredibly solid place.

DP: Yes, that's what it is, poured concrete walls - I forget the names of the two blokes that were there with him, they come from away somewhere. They grubbed all them trees out, them other two blokes with a wallaby jack. It's got a big steel door on it.

KH: Bullocks! It's got a wooden door.

DP: He put a steel door on it when he built it, bars over the window.

KH: Yes, that's right, it's like a fortress.

DP: Yeah, a bloody kangaroo went down the chimney there.

KH: How did that happen?

DP: Straighty done that. It was blocked up so no-one could get in, they had the steel door on and the bars over the windows, but the chimney was open. Before Bullock came one Xmas, he used to come at Xmas time for his holidays, a bloody little kangaroo got down the chimney somehow and he was in the fireplace rotting. I think Straighty was the man who was behind that.

KH: He must have had a tall ladder because it would be hard to get up those walls.

DP: He got him up there somehow. They reckoned he must have jumped in there. Old Tissot was another fellow, he had a hut just on the Little River there - Alf Tissot - Little Thredbo. ^(hut) He was another old bushy, he came here as a stack builder.

KH: Was that an iron hut?

DP: No, he had a bloody old wooden ^{hut}. I think it was a round rail hut. They shifted him back into Crackenback and he died shortly after they brought him in there.

NP: He had cats didn't he? Didn't he have a lot of cats?

DP: Yes, he had a stack of ^(Thredbo) cats.

KH: Was his hut on the Little River - how far from Bullocks?

DP: It would be about half a mile. I suppose the old frame would still be there, I don't know.

KH: I've never had a look around there. Bullocks - they also built a kitchen and stables - there was three big buildings there.

DP: No, there was only Bullock's hut when I was there last, that's a long time ago now.

KH: Well there's a kitchen out the back that's just as solid and big shed and stables.

NP: Who owns it now?

KH: It's Park now.

NP: Well what will they do with that?

KH: Well I don't know, it's down to stay, it's going to stay.

DP: Is it fenced in yet?

KH: Yes, it's fenced around and there's all those deciduous trees that they've planted, ^{they're} hedges and all sorts of trees around.

NP: It's a wonder they don't get rid of them ...

KH: They are starting to accept some of the plantings because they

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are ^{associated} with former days that they're perhaps worth keeping. They've got that situation at Yarrangobilly Caves, there's enormous plantings. So *some* of those will stay I think.

NP: That's good.

DP: Rutledge's hut would be gone altogether would it?

KH: No, they've done up Rutledges, they've relined it inside.

NP: The Park?

KH: Yes. They've done a lot of work on Rutledges, sort of a roadside shelter now, it's in good condition.

DP: They blew that door, that's right, they blew that steel door, that's right.

KH: With gelignite?

DP: Yes.

NP: Who did it?

DP: I don't know, someone did it.

NP: Was it vandals?

DP: Yes, someone put ^{gelignite} ... it was a big steel door.

KH: Why were they so concerned about that, it's like a fortress it's incredible, it's the most solid building I've ever seen.

DP: They did blow it, someone told me they blew it.

KH: It's a wooden door now.

DP: It weighed near a ton I think when they bought it - Bill carted it in - Bill carted all the stuff in - Bill Pender.

KH: It was just a bridle track then wasn't it?

DP: They could get to Nugget's hut or Rose's hut or whatever they call it now.

KH: Oh yes, one of those places where you can buy ...

the little cottage on the left, it's got shutters on it now, it's a bit of a holiday cottage.

DP: Not this place, it's down to the right where you go down ^{off the gap}.

KH: Over the gap towards Thredbo.

DP: Yes, over the gap. I haven't been in there for a long time either.

Nugget Pender owns that hut or did, I suppose he'd still own it.

KH: Do you remember anything about the saw mill on the other side of Bullocks?

DP: Irwins used to own it - Irwin's Mill.

KH: There's still a bit of an old steam engine there.

DP: There was another one other there - McGregor's Mill, ^{the engine of its} out here in the park at Johnny Abbott's.

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KH: Going back to Teddys, you built those slabs and you would have got the slabs over to the south somewhere, down below Mt Leo?

DP: Down here on the Tuloon.

KH: How far away from Teddys?

DP: I suppose about 2-3 mile.

KH: One tree would just about do it wouldn't it?

DP: Yeah one tree is all we felled for that.

KH: And cut the slabs where you felled the tree.

DP: Yeah, then packed them out on pack horse - put them in bags and stood them up - three bushel bags. We only cut them 4 feet. Twelve slabs a horse we put on it - one horse bled very bad. It's pretty steep from where we got it and one bugger threw them three times before we got them there.

KH: The uprights and so on you would have cut there?

DP: We cut them there on the spot.

KH: Were you involved in the old brumby trap there as well?

DP: No, I didn't try to put horses in at all, ^{Kerry} did that. A fellow by the name of ^{Kerry Piere} built that.

KH: There seems to be one that's pretty recent, could have been built in the 60s. A fellow called ^{Kerry Piere} built one there originally.

DP: Yes.

KH: Do you know when that might have been built?

DP: About the 30s I think, no, before I mean - it was built before the ^X built the Dead Horse hut, back in the 20s - '28 I suppose.

KH: It's quite a big structure with the wings and all.

DP: It's a big yard, the one that's there now. I think Brian and Teddy built it up - Teddy McGufficke built it up again. Brian Pendergast and Teddy McGufficke.

KH: Teddy's hut is not in the very best of state at all any more except the roof and four corner posts.

DP: They reckon they were going to restore it, but whether they will or not.

KH: It depends on the park partly.

DP: There's a fair few slabs ... how long since I've been there ... four years I suppose ... few slabs left there then.

KH: There's a few lying on the ground. You could probably put up a wall or two again but you'd have to split some more.

NP: Who could split slabs now?

KH: We've had groups splitting slabs. Over at Wheelers we did some restoration work and made some new slabs for the verandah and so on. We

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got a collection of wedges and things.

NP: You must be keen.

KH: There are some very keen people around.

NP: Which is good.

KH: The huts play a big role in the ski touring and bush walking.

DP: You could split those slabs there if you had the tools there now.

The timber's good enough there ... use enough round stuff.

KH: Some of the big trees.

NP: They wouldn't let you cut them down would they?

KH: Well, over the phone they do, but in writing they don't.

DP: They wouldn't know, there's a lot of scrub there. If you took a little chain saw in there you could split them down in no time.

KH: How many people could you fit into Teddys then?

DP: I think we had eight bunks in there.

KH: The iron ...

DP: The iron was brought in by McGuffick's years and years ago - God only know when.

KH: To build a hut there?

DP: They were going to build a hut there and someone thieved half of them, they never got the hut built.

KH: Did the^y carry the sheets on either side of a horse?

DP: Yes, it was only four or five iron that's on that.

KH: Yes it was the length of the iron that determined the size of the hut it seems, the overhang is usually just the minimum. In some of the huts the overhang is so little that the snow blows in ^{under} in the winter time.

DP: I think ^{Jack} McGuffick^o carted that iron in there, but some bugger pinched it and took it over and built ... Merritt^t's hut.

KH: Do you know something about Merritt^t's hut do you?

DP: I don't know much about it, but the iron that's in it was taken from up there and put in Merritt^t's hut.

KH: Merritt^t's is right at the top, isn't it?

DP: Yes, right at the top of the spur there.

KH: Up where some of the chairlifts go now.

DP: Yes, Merritt's camp - the chairlift goes up there now.

KH: Did you ever go to Merritt^t's hut?

DP: I have years ago.

KH: It's just an iron hut ^{was} it?

DP: Yes.

KH: Used by the stockmen?

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DP: It was used from the other side - Kossie side. I never ever knew if that was right or not. I heard ~~it was~~.

KH: Well certainly iron and slabs wandered all over the hills. The miners were good at that, steam engines and all sorts of things went walkabout.

DP: That's what was supposed to have happened up here and I don't know who might have took it. I suppose old Merritt's hut would be gone now.

KH: I think so. I've never looked for it, but I haven't heard of a hut still up there.

DP: See that iron was laying up there in that scrub - it was planted I suppose - what they didn't take they carted away and planted and Teddy found it one day - ^{he} found it in the scrub.

NP: Then decided to build a hut.

DP: After they got talking about it and wondering how the iron got there, they found out that Jack McGuffick^e carted it there. In the later years I heard that's where it went, into Merritt^t's hut.

NP: What year did you build the hut?

DP: '48.

NP: Did you just suddenly decide to build it?

DP: Yes.

KH: It would be one of the last huts built!

DP: It is the last one.

NP: But you must have camped out there and mustered for years before

...

DP: Oh we had tents. Well that's where the slabs come from, down below the Tolon ^{under} under the green camp.

KH: I'll have to go and look

DP: Was you in there that other fellow that was here before ... he was in there one year, the horses were snowed in there in the green camp.

KH: No, I haven't been in there in the winter time. That was Craig. I was in there in the summer with him, when he was there.

DP: That must have been a couple of winters ago, they found horses snowed in there somewhere.

KH: There's certainly a lot of horses in that country now.

DP: There's not many ruddy foxes.

KH: I haven't seen a fox for a long time, usually see the foxes around Perisher, the resorts, where the food is.

NP: Do you ski?

KH: Yes. That's how I see a lot of the country, on skis because it's easier travelling.

NP: There would be still snow up there that you could travel on.

Charlottes

KH: Oh yes, you can ski from ^{Charlottes} Pass across to Kossie.
 What's your involvement with the family, you're related to the Kidmans?
 NP: Yes, my father and Ken's father were brothers.
 KH: Your father was Alexander?
 NP: No, Simon. Alexander was my uncle.
 KH: That's two generations!
 NP: He was my father's brother. My father and Alec and Ken's father were all brothers. My father used to go in there and shepherd Litchfields and Mc Phie's sheep in the summer.
 KH: That's up around the Tin hut.
 DP: That's where we used to camp at the Tin hut.
 NP: He had a paralysed arm, yet he could manage all the time on his own. They reckon he could pack a pack horse.
 KH: Did you ever hear about Wingy Wheeler? Did you ever meet him?
 DP: Yes, but I never met him.
 KH: That's a guy who's an intriguing character by the sound of it. He built Wheeler's Hut or he had it built. Do you know anything about Wheeler's Hut?
 DP: No I was never in that country at all, I know nothing about it.
 KH: Are there any descendants from the Wheelers from around here?
 DP: No, there's none here, he came from ^{Corryong} side. I think there was a Wheeler's Real Estate still there a while back. I don't know if there's any Wheelers left in it or not.
 KH: Do you remember any of the stories your father told you?
 NP: No, I was only 10 when my father died. I don't remember much. I can just remember him getting ready to go to the mountains, but I don't remember much about it at all. He did spend a lot of years there and I often think it must have been pretty hard for a man with one arm, it wouldn't have been a very easy life.
 DP: ^{Riley} Old Bill Pender, he'd remember Riley. He'd still remember old Jack.
 KH: Bill's older than you?
 DP: Oh yeah.
 NP: He's about 74 isn't he?
 DP: I don't know when ^{Riley} died.
 NP: They're just about finished - the mountain ^{men} - there's not many, well *no one goes there now.*
 KH: People up the Gungarlin, they're still carrying on the old ways, like Fred Fletcher and Dick and Ron Flanagan and so on. There aren't many.

NP: None of the young ones are doing it are they?
 KH: No, in fact it's the generation before that I would have liked to have interviewed, the generation of Norm McGufficke.
 NP: Did you ever meet him?
 KH: No I didn't.
 NP: Lindsay Willis is still that generation.
 KH: That's right, he started in the 20s.
 NP: He was in there with my father and Amos Blyton and Lindsay Willis - they were in the mountains together.
 KH: Lindsay was good, very happy to chat about it.
 NP: Yes, he loves it doesn't he. I asked him about who built Kidman's hut, before I asked Ken and he said he could tell you about it. But he's not very well at all, I'm quite worried about him at the moment.
 KH: I would have asked him about Kidmans. He certainly gave me the whole story about Mawsons hut because he was there when it was ^{being} built.
 NP: Well he said much the same as what Ken did about Kidmans. He said Billy Naphthali built it, he didn't mention Ken and Jim Kidman. He said about Billy Naphthali taking in the tin and that.
 KH: I've got good information on Kidmans now. One of the things I'd like to do is to get some of the people together and get some yarns down.
 NP: If they all started to talk together, now this is ... you know Dave's brother Jack would have some terrific mountain yarns, but there's no way he'd sit up here and tell you. If you gave him a couple of beers and get him talking to someone else, to Tommy Taylor or someone, that's when ...
 KH: That's difficult to arrange.
 NP: It is difficult to arrange.
 KH: I come into this country as an outsider I suppose, it takes a while to establish trust and that sort of thing. With Tom and Molly it's easy because I've seen them a lot of times now and that helps.
 NP: That's the sort of thing you'd like to get, something that isn't arranged, for them to be all just there together and doing their normal chatting.

(Interruption)

DP: ... I had that insured and the insurance agent come to here, Pat picked him up - Pat Freebody ... ride to Ingegoodbee on a ^{bloody old} hopping horse and he couldn't ride a horse. He got up to Pat's place and he decided that George was right, he'd pay it. So they paid the insurance.
 KH: On that hut, *on the Ingegoodbee?*
 DP: Yes, the hut was insured.
 NP: And because the horse was so rough and he couldn't ride ...

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DP: Well he had another 40 mile to go.

NP: So he thought he paid ...

KH: After it was destroyed, to get the insurance.

DP: Yes, he had to go and inspect it and Pat knew he would ^{not} make the distance - they put him on this old hopping horse and hopped him out to his place and he decided when he got there he would pay it.

KH: I wonder what it was insured for.

DP: Probably a hundred quid at that time.

NP: Was it really burnt down though?

DP: Oh yes.

KH: According to Bob, he thought it might have been logs - log cabin style.

DP: It was a log cabin partly and partly slab I think. The kitchen/dining room was log - Dick would know.

KH: No, Dick didn't ...

NP: He spent a lot of time with the Freebodys. He can tell some great yarns about them.

KH: He should be here now.

NP: If ever you come up here again I'll get him over, because once someone starts to talk about things and then that brings on something else.

DP: This yarn I think is pretty right too. Old Pat's boys here - anyhow after it got burnt down he said 'Dad reckoned it was smoking well last time he seen it'. But that's how they got the insurance.

KH: The Freebody's got that after the court case - that was the compensation or something, because it was Carter's. The story I got was there was initially 50 acres - I think it was Carter who bought it and after a certain time they could actually get more, a certain amount of leasehold around it which could also become his after a certain number of years. Then the Freebodys got the lot.

DP: He ploughed that - Carter had that - he had oats in there when they took it off him - an oat crop somewhere.

NP: He was a real bush lawyer this old Paddy Freebody, he really did know law, from just reading about it I suppose and he put it over everyone.

DP: The old hut that they built there then, I think part of it is in this one now, they packed it from Tin Mine, that was part of the Tin Mine, Jacky Freebody and Don Vincent.

KH: The old hut?

DP: That one that's there now. They built another tin hut along side where the old one burnt down.

KH: The latest one was just built a few years ago wasn't it.

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DP: Yes, it's further up, it's up where the old cattle yards was. I've never been there since they built it.

KH: I've never been there at all. I'd better get in there.

DP: Yes, you'd better go in and have a look.

NP: If you're going to start thinking about Charlie Carter.

KH: If I wrote it up I'd make very sure that I didn't put anybody's name in. I'd make it a fiction story or something like that, an adventure story, change all the names and a few other things.

DP: The old hut's over the river, on the other side of the Ingegoodbee river where the old hut was ..

KH: How far is the old hut site away from the new hut?

DP: I'd say it would be nearly a mile, I don't know ... I just don't know where the new hut is.

KH: How far is it from the Barry Way?

DP: Oh nine mile.

KH: You could walk in there in a day and out again probably.

END OF SIDE TWO