

INTERVIEW OF JOHN SCHAEFFER BY KLAUS HUENEKE, 3RD NOVEMBER, 1977.

KH: So when did you first start like you were telling me on the phone the history of Schaeffer's Mine actually goes back -

JS: Back to my grandfather.

KH: He was a doctor?

JS: Yes, he was a doctor.

KH: A doctor from Adaminaby.

JS: A doctor from Adaminaby. And his father was, as I say, was he was a skilled doctor from Germany, the old doctor, Josef, J-O-S-E-F, it's spelt, Josef Jacob Schaeffer.

KH: So that was your great-grandfather.

JS: Yes.

KH: He went to Adaminaby.

JS: When he landed here, he went straight down to Adaminaby.

KH: Would that have been as early as the 1840's?

JS: Yes, I think so, yes, the 1840's.

KH: He was almost a - in there with the first squatters.

JS: I'd say, he was there and I think it was the cold country down there, coming from the cold country of Germany and I think that was what enticed him into the cold country when he got out here.

KH: Right, so, and then, so he married, what, an Australian girl I suppose?

JS: No. He was married in Germany.

KH: Oh, he brought his wife with him.

JS: And brought his, not his wife, his wife had previously died in Germany and he came out with his children. When I say his children, he had one daughter, Susan, and my grandfather, Josef. And he brought them out here and they were reared down at Adaminaby.

KH: And then, Josef, your grandfather, he was at the goldrush in Kiandra.

JS: He was part of the goldrush at Kiandra. He married from, at Adaminaby. That's my grandfather.

KH: That's your grandfather. So, he was a miner on the goldfields in the 1860's?

JS: Yes. He was called to the goldfields. He was doctoring -

KH: He was a doctor, too?

JS: Yes. He was doctoring and mining, like in between times, yes. At one time he kept a hospital there for men with broken arms, broken legs, injuries, burns, particularly burns. He'd go to, like a heap of them around the old homestead there. On Frying Pan Creek at Adaminaby.

KH: So when - how did he get on to this site? At, er, where you ended up having the mine.

JS: He was called out there, was taken out there to see to someone. He was called out there, taken out to see some fellow, a Frenchman, Joe the Frenchman. Now I can't tell you the other name but he was known as Joe the Frenchman. And Joe the Frenchman out there and he died there. He came out here - those men, a lot of them come off ships and one thing and another and went out, and he took the old doc out to see the site.

KH: And then - so this Frenchman had already been mining there?

JS: He, yeah, he'd done prospecting on it, yes.

KH: So this was probably, what, the 1880's?

JS: Oh, before that, before. He was out there, from, I'd say, the 1870's.

KH: The Frenchman?

JS: Yes.

KH: Oh, I see. And did your grandfather actually do much work there?

JS: Oh, he stayed there and done work there in between his doctoring and that, yes.

KH: It was mainly alluvial work? Pick and shovel, sort of thing?

JS: Ah, it was hammer and drill work.

KH: And actually in a tunnel?

JS: They sunk the shafts, in the tunnel, the old original shafts were sunk by them, by the old original prospectors on it, my grandfather was there. They sunk a shaft drive, yes.

KH: And a drive? Do you know how far they went down?
 JS: Yes, they went down about, in the vicinity of forty-five feet.
 KH: And how far did they go horizontally?
 JS: Only, they caved, they stooped it out, they were stooping-out, and it never went very far then.
 KH: What's stooping-out?
 JS: It means, you know, when you start to break away underneath the start to tunnel. You widen, you widen at the bottom of the shaft, you widen, stoop it out, and then you start your tunnel.
 KH: Like a big cave?
 JS: Yes.
 KH: So, and they would have been in the old river gravels. In the old gold-bearing stuff?
 JS: Yes, you've gotta go down till you scrape the gravel. See, they were on the reef, they were on the reef there. The reef was very close to the surface. And they followed it down.
 KH: And did they actually, the shaft, did they drill it in hard rock?
 JS: No, it was quartz from the surface.
 KH: Quartz.
 JS: Oh, yes.
 KH: That was hard stuff. Hard work. Was that tunnel, that shaft still there when you started?
 JS: Yes, that shaft was still there. But we, the Mineral Hill shaft was situated about a hundred, oh, anything up to two hundred feet further, what I say, oh, east of the original shaft. The first shaft. They sank another shaft, the reef went across, they followed the quartz in the reef from where they sunk Mineral Hill mine. The later shaft was away from the original, the one the grandfather was on.
 KH: Oh, so there are actually two shafts?
 JS: Yes, there are two shafts, yes.
 KH: So, and your grandfather, this doctor guy, what was his name?
 JS: Josef Jacob -
 KH: The same? The same as your great-grandfather?
 JS: Yes. Josef Jacob.
 KH: It's very confusing, isn't it? How long did he live to?
 JS: He lived, oh, the doctor, the original old doctor, I'm not sure whether he died somewhere down the country, ask my father about him, and my grandfather he died in Sydney, oh, I can tell you, say, about fifty years ago.
 KH: 1927, say.
 JS: Yes, yes, about 1927, '28.
 KH: Before the Depression. And he actually, so, even though he was a doctor, he also did do some work, did some physical work.
 JS: Oh, yes.
 KH: Did he, would he have needed to have done this to get money?
 JS: Oh, the lure of the gold, of what they might find.
 KH: Did they find much?
 JS: Oh, see, Kiandra was mostly alluvial gold in the creek in Kiandra, that creek in Kiandra, around Kiandra's creek, that was mostly alluvial gold. Now the reef gold was not rich, no.
 KH: So your grandfather didn't actually get much gold?
 JS: No, no. But the alluvial gold was quite rich. They got to that very easy.
 KH: Because a lot of the diggings originally were alluvial gold.
 JS: That's right.
 KH: Washing.
 JS: That's right. Old Fred Bernhardt got a bit of a pocket hole, not much bigger than that cupboard, he took three thousand pounds over there in forty-eight hours.
 KH: Really?
 JS: Yes. ... No, he was a real German, you know. And, I'll have tea, yes. He was a real German and he couldn't stop. He went away up to Newcastle, he come down, got a suit of clothes for

himself in Cooma and he done a big hike(?) to Newcastle. It wasn't really, he was, the Reids - the Reids that you just mentioned, they turned around and missed old Fred, he'd gone away, and they said, "I wonder what, how he's going up there?" and they went up to where he was and they finished up taking out a few more thousand pounds out of it, that old Fred had left behind -
 KH: The Reids did?
 JS: Yeah, the Reids did, yes.
 KH: Now, this is Schaeffer, this one Bernhardt, is that what I would call Pig Gully?
 JS: Pig Gully? Yes. "Mine house," he used to say, "in Pig Gully".
 KH: And, 'cos the ruin, that Pig Gully Hut is still there. The roof's half gone now. But that's actually not the same place as where the Reid's later on had their own mine.
 JS: That's right.
 KH: Oh, that's good, I'm getting that together.
 JS: That was a different way coming up to where old Fred was got and simply going on and stopping, whether to go and, and what I say, getting what he could out of it. He couldn't resist the temptation of becoming a gentleman, "I'll be a gentleman", he used to say.
 KH: And he didn't go back there?
 JS: Yes, when he come back he nearly went off his head when he found the Reid's had taken out, taken gold out of his as he called it.
 KH: Were they allowed to?
 JS: Yes, he hadn't pegged it out.
 KH: Oh, he hadn't pegged it out.
 JS: No. Then Sutherland's had a mine, I forget the name of that mine, right down very close to the Three Mile Dam. What I say, you see the mullock all kicked up and worked up on the surface. Mineral Hill.
 KH: Was it on the peninsula that goes into Three Mile Dam?
 JS: Yes, yes.
 KH: In the middle of that peninsula somewhere. Well, that's all gone. I think the mullock's been taken away. Midsummer that's a picnic area.
 JS: Mineral Hill took up it. They took a lease on that mine I was told once. They had the lease on it. Gregory, the Mineral Hill mining syndicate, they had a lease on that and they, the mullock heaps they brought up to Mineral Hill and put through the batteries twice. That's how they come by that. George Doran that was there.
 KH: George Doran worked the Sutherland mine, did he?
 JS: He was there but he done the carting of the, of the blooming mullock up to Mineral Hill.
 KH: Oh. So your mine was called Mineral Hill?
 JS: That's right.
 KH: Over the rise, over the hill from Reid's?
 JS: Yes.
 KH: Down the other side?
 JS: That's right.
 KH: Well, I've got to get there but I'm pretty sure now that your battery, the three-stamper, has been taken down to New Chum. That must be, that must be the one.
 JS: I see.
 KH: That's really interesting..... Oh, that's fascinating. Well let's go back to your grandfather.
 JS: He was a dentist.
 KH: Oh, was he?
 JS: He was the dentist and all.
 KH: But he would've at some stage, he must've gone to Sydney to do his training, did he?
 JS: Yeah, he had training, he had reasonable schooling and training but he never went through the, really a medical school like his grandfather, my great-grandfather, he went through it in Germany. My grandfather was what he learnt and everything and through his father that he was taught. But he was everything. He was a great man, I believe, at fractures. And fractures and burns, you know, broken arms and things, that sort of thing. And my father told me that[interruption] My father told me, you see a chap coming in the distance on a horse and he'd be

carrying a billy-can of water, he'd be having a mouthful of water - toothache, bad toothache, and they reckon that the cold water helps to keep the pain down, settle the thing - and when he'd get there, old grandfather 'd sit him down and look at him. He'd say to him, "This one?" "No, that one." "Oh, but this one's got the hole in it." "No, it's this one, Joe." And the old grandfather'd pull out the one. Anyhow, away the bloke'd go, quite happy, and half an hour or so later you'd see him comin' back, it was the wrong one. It was the first one the old grandfather wanted to pull out that had the hole in it. And that sort of thing. But all the old people, of course there's the old people mostly have gone now, down there, and they all knew the old grandfather 'cos he was a great horseman.

KH: You knew him then, too.

JS: Oh, of course I knew him, yes, I knew him, my word, I knew him. Us kids. There were seven of us in the family and that, of course.

KH: Oh there were seven of you. How many children did he have? The grandfather.

JS: He had eleven.

KH: He had eleven? Wow! Gee, there must be Schaeffers everywhere down there.

JS: They were mostly girls. Charlie, who was at Mineral Hill when I went there, and Joe. Well, Joe, he died here about six years ago. He was the youngest, the last one and the youngest one to die. Charlie died about eight or nine year ago. My father died about twenty-eight years ago.

KH: So your grandfather sounds like quite a character.

JS: Oh yes. He was well-known on the racecourse. He was like quite a lad, known by everyone. He was, the blacksmith, everyone knew old Dr Joe. Oh yes, he was the doctor, the top hat and everything, and his papers with 'Dr Josef Jacob Schaeffer' on them, that's where I got the full names, oh yes, he was a bit of a lad, the old -

KH: Have you compiled your family history, the names and things?

JS: No, I haven't.

KH: But you've got it fairly well in your head, haven't you?

JS: Yes, I've got a few things but I'm very sorry it was all in the big Bible down at my old father's place but his sister got the Bible before he died and then she's died and her sons have got it, cousins of mine, they've got the Bible, well, I never see them and one thing and another. But everything was in that. My father was the oldest son and he had this Bible and everything you might say of any importance in it.

KH: So it would be still there somewhere?

JS: Somewhere, yes.

KH: I hope so. That would be valuable.

JS: And of course, when the Shanleys were up there, when that old Mick Shanley, when he lost his life out at Kiandra, when that er, went out after a sheep. See, in Kiandra - you must get everything out of there by the end of April. Everything must leave. Capital Everything's gotta go, sheep and everything. Of course there's - no more, thank you - by the end of April. One year, come a big fall of snow, and old Mick Shanley he went out after his sheep. Well, when they found him he was frozen. His horse, I don't know whether his horse was gone but his dog wasn't with him and they -

KH: He was frozen in the snow?

JS: In the snow, yes. And they issued a gold medal to all the men that went out and found him. The Shanley family. Yes.

KH: Is this where they found him over towards Lobb's Hole or something?

JS: I think it was.

KH: Because Bill talks about that, too.

JS: Yes. Bill was around at the time.

KH: I think Bill might've been on the search, I'm not sure. He talks about it anyway. Oh, so your father, so your grandfather was really, so he was instrumental in the shaft actually being put down?

JS: Yes, he was.

KH: Or was it the Frenchman?

JS: No, no, the Frenchman only took the old grandfather out to see, to get his opinion on what it

was. They come from everywhere for old Joe Schaeffer's, the doctor's opinion.

KH: Oh. Did the Frenchman work for your grandfather?

JS: Yes, oh, they worked together, one or two

KH: You don't have any photographs?

JS: No.

KH: Of the early days?

JS: No. There were photographs I could've shown you down at my old home but oh, my brother married again and one thing and another and I don't know what's become of them and I

KH: So I've got photographs now of the Lorna Doone.

JS: Oh. You got any of Kiandra?

KH: Yes, I'll show you in a minute.

JS: My father was the owner with old Bill Pattinson and, er, Julius Forstrum and one other - they first sold out Kiandra, er, Kyloe copper mine.

KH: Oh, that was your father?

JS: Yes, my father, yes. He was the one that got the others into it. Oh, me uncle Charlie. He was in it. There was four of 'em: Bill Pattinson, Julius Forstrum, and Charlie and my father.

KH: Is that the one that's flooded now?

JS: Yes, it would be flooded now.

KH: By the dam. Heard about it.

JS: There's a museum out from Cooma. Well, they've got Kyloe copper mine, all the information. It was very rich, not just but very rich. And during the World War One, my father was working in Bankstown and my mother come from Parramatta and she wanted to see down there, there was nothing there for us children And so a cousin of his got him a place out in Bankstown. And during World War One my father was put out of work, came from being German. But he come from this country during World War One. World War Two, nothing, made no difference what your bloody name was. But in World War One there'd be in government jobs, if there were any in government jobs, you were chucked out of work. There was no dole or anything in them times. You had to do whatever you could for yourself. Yeah, I'm telling you.

KH: And he was third-generation Australian.

JS: Yeah! That's right. Made no difference. They changed their names here wherever they could.

I believe it was pretty tough in England, too, you know. They changed their names over there.

Well, my old father, he went back to Kiandra, not Kiandra, to Kyloe during the war, World War One. And he got, was on the copper, and he got sufficient copper out of it, and sold through down to Wollongong and it kept us right through the war. Oh look, you were either interned in World War One or else if you were lucky, you only had to poke your nose [in] and you'd have been interned. no-body'd talk to you with a German name here, that's how it was. But World War Two, Christ, it wouldn't matter what you was.

KH: So, to go back, he put down the original shaft and this little cave area at Mineral Hill.

JS: Yes.

KH: And so he was active there, say, from the 1870's right through to what, to the 1900's?

JS: 1900's. Yes.

KH: Until - and then your father kind of -

JS: Me father went there and worked too.

KH: And when did they first take the battery down?

JS: They brought the battery in, I'm not quite sure when they first took it in but they brought it in, the one where I worked, from Bushy Hill in Cooma, they brought that in in 1933.

KH: Right, right.

JS: From Bushy Hill.

KH: It had been at another gold mine or something?

JS: Yes. It had been on another gold mine at this Bushy Hill Mine.

KH: Where was Bushy Hill Mine?

JS: Right in Cooma it was, or out at it, but only about three mile out of Cooma.

KH: They brought it up on bullock -

JS: George Doran brought it up.
 KH: Did he? With a bullock team?
 JS: No. He had an old truck. He had a truck in '33.
 KH: Oh. Was it a white truck?
 JS: Oh no, I think it was a green truck, yeah.
 KH: Did you ever know a bloke called Harry Burgess?
 JS: Yes.
 KH: 'Cos he talks about a white truck as having been used -
 JS: That's old George Burgess' son, I reckon that'd be, Harry Burgess.
 KH: Harry Burgess is now just retired. He worked as a cleaner in the Department of Forestry at the university where I worked. So he's a handy source of information. That could be the other Burgess's son.
 JS: He come from Adaminaby?
 KH: I'm not sure but Harry did work at the Elaine Mine for a while. At Kiandra. I think they lived at Kiandra, too.
 JS: He - old George Burgess I think is this chap's father. He was in Adaminaby. He was the gravedigger, he was everything in the town, was old George Burgess. And his sons, I'm sure there were two of them out there on the mines. We were there in '33 and they were with the woodcutters and fencers.
 KH: Yes, that's right. He was also rabbitting and he worked out at the Elaine about that time. So the stamper battery was brought there in 1933. So what, now, how did they crush the rock before then?
 JS: Oh, what the miners done before that, I think they used to have to send it away.
 KH: What, where to?
 JS: Down to Wollongong, to Port Kembla. Yes. They used to have to send it from Kyloe, from Adaminaby away.
 KH: Really?
 JS: Yeah.
 KH: You mean they didn't have stamper batteries there?
 JS: No.
 KH: Is that when they came out?
 JS: Well, to the best of my knowledge, yes. They had been out before that but way back in the 1800's there were very little stamper batteries. They had the smelting works and everything at Port Kembla. And they used to have to send it in to Cooma to be loaded by rail from Cooma.
 KH: So they took it out with a bullock dray? To Cooma? It was then railed to Port Kembla.
 JS: Yes. Railed to Port Kembla.
 KH: That would have to be more expensive than the gold they got out of it.
 JS: Yes. So you can see what a big job was ahead of them. It had to be good to be worthwhile.
 KH: Right, so when did you start - oh, no, go back to your father now. When did your father start working on Mineral Hill?
 JS: He was out, my father was out there in the early 1900's.
 KH: Right. And he was still active, what, drilling the shaft and things like that?
 JS: Oh yes.
 KH: That's what they did most of the time?
 JS: Yes, they were drilling and sinking the shaft.
 KH: And what sort of work did you do?
 JS: Oh, half the work. We were drilling and sinking the shaft and we were right on to the reef when I was there with the mine. We were, what, mining the reef out, the gold, the seam of gold right through down. Right along the seam.
 KH: By the time you started on it you had the battery, too. The battery, soon after you started, I suppose. You would have been a young bloke.
 JS: Yes, I was twenty-four. And we got the, they had the stamper battery and that was crushing the quartz. And as I said it was running over the tables, into the pockets, and there were so many ounces was taken out every day.

KH: And you got the water from that raceline from Eight Mile Dam?
 JS: into the dam, into a dam. We had to have a dam, for the water to be pumped up all the time. The pumps were going over the table.
 KH: So you had, so initially the water came from the Eight Mile raceline to your dam or to the -
 JS: To the mine, through the dam.
 KH: And then you had another dam below the tables and from there it was pumped back up?
 JS: Yeah.
 KH: You had a water pump did you?
 JS: Oh, yes. A water pump. Yeah, water used to go across the tables.
 KH: None of this - this only started in 1933?
 JS: 1933, yes.
 KH: And how did you get the quartz and the rock material to the top -?
 JS: Oh, we had a winch. We had a -
 KH: It was a very high one. It was about fifteen feet or more high.
 JS: Yeah. We had the steam, steam winches at Mineral Hill.
 KH: Steam winches.
 JS: Yeah. Driven by steam power.
 KH: You had a steam engine?
 JS: Yeah.
 KH: Oh, you had a steam engine? A little steam engine. Do you know if that was moved at all? That should still be there, perhaps.
 JS: No. It could still be there, it could still be there.
 KH: When did you leave?
 JS: I left in 1934.
 KH: So you were only there for about a year while the battery was there.
 JS: That's right.
 KH: Did it close down after that?
 JS: No. It was worked after that by - Murray worked it, a syndicate, another syndicate worked it after that.
 KH: Just Murray?
 JS: No, oh no, there was quite a few of them and they, they had government aid.
 KH: Oh right. Do you know any of the names of the people who followed after you?
 JS: Kellys was in it. The Kellys from Moss Vale. From Moss Vale. They were there. And, oh, Bill Murray and his son, young Bill.
 KH: Are you still in touch, or do you know where any of these people have gone to?
 JS: No. Old Bill's dead. I don't know where young Bill is [unintelligible]
 KH: But you're still here.
 JS: Yes, I'm still here.
 KH: Bill's still here.
 JS: Yes, but I lost my eyesight here six months ago. Otherwise I'm still here. Cataracts. I've had both my eyes done here six months ago, nearly twelve months now. Until then I was all right but - Getting back to the Murrays. They all got gold out of it but on today's price of gold I'd have thought they'd have - on what it was years ago, they'd've been doing all right.
 KH: Did they get much gold out of the Mineral Hill mine?
 JS: Yes, but you never got to hear. The mine manager never told you much.
 KH: Who was the manager then?
 JS: Gregory.
 KH: Oh, it wasn't your father anymore?
 JS: No. No, when I was there it come under a syndicate. The Mineral Hill Goldmining Syndicate.
 KH: Oh, when did that start?
 JS: That started in about 1932.
 KH: Oh. But up until then -
 JS: Up until then it'd been laying idle.

KH: Lying idle.
 JS: Yes.
 KH: Oh. So when did your father stop working on it?
 JS: Oh, he stopped working up there in, round about the 19 -, 1908.
 KH: And then it lay idle for over, for twenty years.
 JS: For twenty years, yes.
 KH: Until 1932.
 JS: Yes.
 KH: And, so, there would have been originally some huts there, too, would there?
 JS: Yes, there were huts, was huts there, original huts, bark huts. by the miners. See, you've got to understand it was the Depression that sent these mines re-opening, these mines, again.
 KH: 1932, right. Same as the Elaine. And the Lorna Doone. Yes. So, was there a more substantial hut there at all?
 JS: No. The two huts, the mine manager's hut and the hut outside for the mine bosses, and us men we were camped, oh, a couple of hundred yards further on, what I say, on the western side of the mine, near the water race. We were close to the water race.
 KH: So, you would've worked on the mine before you got the battery, too.
 JS: I was up there when the battery came, yes.
 KH: Yes. Did you do any work before then?
 JS: Oh yes. We had to prepare the mine. We had to timber the mine. There was timber-cutters, we had a bullock team. Tommy Yin, he was the bullock driver.
 KH: Tom Yan.
 JS: Yeah, Yan. Yes. From Kiandra. And he had the bullock team out at the mine.
 KH: Yes, I've been to see Tom Yan.
 JS: Have you?
 KH: He's going strong.
 JS: He's going strong.
 KH: He's down at Adelong.
 JS: Adelong, yes. He used to go down there in winter.
 KH: That's right. His son's got the cafe at Adelong.
 JS: Go on. Well I'll be damned.
 KH: I spoke to him early this year. And Ted Quinn?
 JS: Quinn? Yes.
 KH: Remember him? He's alive in Tumut, with his wife.
 JS: Oh. There's one other chap we used to call, er, George Crane, Cranes, Crane?
 KH: No, I don't know that one.
 JS: But the Reids and Dicky Cook and - oh, there used to be a mob of us meet down at the hotel there, Downey had the hotel when I was there. And we'd meet down, as I say, we'd have our tea at night. Then we'd start to walk back to the mine after tea and we'd have a bottle of beer or two, some biscuits, and we'd get back about nine o'clock at night, back to the camp -
 KH: Where were you, where was your father living then? Down at Adaminaby?
 JS: No, he was at Bankstown.
 KH: Oh, at Bankstown by then. Oh, they'd moved to Sydney. So you went, oh, you'd grown up at Adaminaby as a kid.
 JS: Yes.
 KH: And then you went to Sydney.
 JS: Yes.
 KH: For some years, did you?
 JS: Yes, that's right.
 KH: And then you went to work on the mine.
 JS: Then I went to work on the mine.
 KH: What, for a couple of years?
 JS: Yes.

KH: Well, almost every day for a couple of years?
 JS: Oh, no, I come away when we closed. For the first winter, we closed down in May. The next year we closed down again. The winters were very severe.
 KH: Oh, yes, I've skied through that country.
 JS: Yes, the winter's very severe. It was more the summer, the spring don't start till about November, December, up there. And you'd go right through till about April or May so it was really only about five or six months of the year you could do it.
 KH: So you worked on it for, what, two summers?
 JS: Two summers, yeah.
 KH: So one summer before the battery?
 JS: No. The battery, the same year as we got the battery, only a week or two before the battery come.
 KH: But you were preparing, you were doing things like timber -
 JS: Oh, we were timbering and working on the mine, getting everything all prepared for the boilers and one thing and another. Oh, we had a lot of work there preparing for the - and then we was a bit late getting the shelter, the sheds over the covering over the mine because the frost came and split all our pipes. The water pipes, yes. The steam pipes and, cripes, that put us back a fair while.
 KH: For the steam engine? Was that brought in?
 JS: Yes, that come in from -
 KH: With this company? Where this company was from?
 JS: Yes. They got the steamer in from the mine in at, where I just said, in at Cooma.
 KH: How did they hear about your, the Schaeffer's mine? This Gregory fellow?
 JS: Oh, yeah, they got him, he come, Gregory the mine manager, he come up from Moss Vale, I think, but he knew most mines about.
 KH: But who started it again? Who was the initiator?
 JS: I think Joe Schaeffer. Or Charlie.
 KH: Your father?
 JS: No. Me uncle.
 KH: Oh, your uncle. Brother of your father.
 JS: Yes. He started it

KH: Oh, I see, so he got a mine manager down?
 JS: Yeah, they formed a syndicate from Moss Vale.
 KH: And did they actually form a company and sell shares?
 JS: Had those shares, yes, they were shared out.
 KH: You don't have a prospectus any more?
 JS: No.
 KH: You don't have any documents from the mine?
 JS: No, I never got anything like that.
 KH: I see. And then, I suppose it was quite attractive for you to get down to the mountains again?
 JS: Oh, it was. I'll say it was. I enjoyed the two years I went down there, running. But oh, you looked so well, you lived rough but you look well on it, doing the work (?).
 KH: So, so this syndicate, a number of people got involved and they all contributed some money. With that they bought the steam engine and they bought the battery.
 JS: Yes, that's right.
 KH: So within a couple of weeks of you getting it going, all this was brought together -
 JS: Yes. Assembled.
 KH: And then, so, did you have to pump the shaft dry?
 JS: Yes. All the water in it, we had to pump it, the shaft dry.
 KH: You pumped that dry and then you did some more digging.
 JS: That's right. We had to start and escalate more of the dam for tables, for the water. See, the water runs over the tables all the time. And you must store that water otherwise it gets away from you.

KH: Yes. But did you, what did you do underground then? You kept on digging? You were still the shaft operator?

JS: We were still We sunk down to about fifty odd feet and then we was following the reef. You've gotta follow that -

KH: This is the new shaft?

JS: Yes, the new shaft.

KH: You didn't use the old one anymore?

JS: No. We never went into the old original grandfather's -

KH: That was just left in 1902, or whenever it was, 1908 I think you said.

JS: Yes, 1908, yes.

KH: That was then left. It wasn't touched again.

JS: That wasn't touched again.

KH: Oh, and then you sunk a new shaft. Not far away. Well how far away do you think?

JS: It'd be about, if I remember rightly, in the vicinity, oh, would've been two hundred feet.

KH: Yes. That one you took down about fifty feet?

JS: Yes.

KH: And did you get gold-bearing material all the way down?

JS: Oh yes. All the way down.

KH: How much would you, ounces would you have got, say, do you know any figures?

JS: I think they was getting in the vicinity of an ounce to the ton.

KH: An ounce to a ton.

JS: Yeah.

KH: How much would they dig in a day?

JS: Oh, we were shooting, shooting out there, we'd mine down, three, we were sinking at a rate of about three feet. And then, you gotta take the shaft down, you shoot out a lot of stuff that's not, what'll I say, you got gold in it.

KH: That's right.

JS: And, you're timbering all the time, you know.

KH: Yeah. Oh, you had to timber.

JS: Oh, we had to timber.

KH: The rock wasn't strong enough to - ?

JS: Oh, well, you'd go away from it, from the way you gotta follow the seam.

KH: It wasn't necessarily straight down? Oh, you were going down at an - you were waving about?

JS: We gotta go straight down with the shaft but we gotta keep where that, follow that seam down and we got to, like I say, shoot a lot of ground out that we wouldn't have to if it was a, went straight down.

KH: So sometimes you'd end up with a very big shaft that was very big.

JS: Yes, big shaft, yes. And that's where we'd start to stoop out.

KH: Oh, yes.

JS: The seam would start to go along, well then we'd start to tumble on that down below.

KH: So there were, so you'd go down straight and out.

JS: We went down, followed it down straight. But where the seam was, say, we was in the centre of it here, we'd finish up going straight but the seam's coming over to the side of it all the time.

KH: So you had to take the material between the seam and the shaft away as well.

JS: Yes, yes. As well.

KH: So you ended up with a fairly big hole down below.

JS: We got, we had a fairly big hole but you sent up a lot of quartz with nothing in it. You'd crush a lot of quartz. As I say, if you get an ounce of gold - and sometimes it barely went to an ounce only - er, oh, I forget the figures now. Er, to go through the battery, forget it, because a lot of quartz went up and down. We had to ... winch bucket up and down, up and down, loading it, pulling it up and there was two men on the top, doing nothing but hammering, smashing up the quartz, so it could go in the stamper.

KH: Oh, they had to smash it first.

JS: Oh, yes. We'd, down below we don't mess around you're sending up rocks the size of a table and half the size of a -

KH: How were they sent up?

JS: By the bucket.

KH: With a bucket?

JS: Yeah.

KH: So they had to fit in a - oh, a big bucket, big one like this.

JS: Oh yes. And it comes up and then they tip it out -

KH: With a winch? How did they get it up?

JS: Yeah, a winch, a winch.

KH: Steam powered?

JS: Steam power.

KH: Steam-powered winch.

JS: The woodcutters was on the, they had so many woodcutters on the contract all the time they were -

KH: Oh, because they've got to keep on fuelling the engine, the boiler.

JS: That's right, yeah, the boiler.

KH: They had a big boiler.

JS: Big boiler.

KH: They had a big boiler. Same set-up as the Elaine, that's right.

JS: Yes. And the woodcutters on the mine, they were there, the Russells, all the Russells I think were woodcutters out on the mine. They were two or three brothers. They were married to one of the - Clarrie Russell was the youngest. He was married to one of the Yan girls. Bush Yan girls or Yan girls.

KH: Oh, Tom Yan's sisters.

JS: Yes. Or cousin. He had a sister -

KH: There were a lot of Yans.

JS: Yeah. And they had three of them on there.

KH: Were they cutting snowgum or were they getting Alpine ash? Do you know?

JS: All the mine props, they were getting ash where they could.

KH: Do you know where they went to to get the Alpine ash?

JS: No. One day I was out with Tommy Yan - my uncle was there, and he sent me out to help him, to drag it up down to the gorges, we were bringing the mine props on to the surface to load 'em. And one thing and another. And I went out with these bullocks and I'm a long way behind them there and he's singin' out and runnin' up and down beside 'em, "They're not tryin', they're not tryin' ". And we crossed - When I come home, I said to my uncle, "If I have to go out with him again," I said, "I'll bury the bastard." Anyway, I never went out anymore.

KH: What, he couldn't get the bullocks to go?

JS: Oh, when they was loaded we were climbing mountains. Nearly perpendicular out there where that mountain ash grows is, what can I say? Grows in the steepest hills, in the gullies.

KH: Would that have been down from the mine, down towards the Tumut?

JS: Yes.

KH: In that region. You didn't go very far to get the Alpine ash?

JS: No. That's right.

KH: Because it grows down in there.

JS: Grows down in there, all right.

KH: But for the fuel for the steam engine you used Alpine ash. Local timbers.

JS: Local, yes. Long as it was straight enough to go inside the door of the -, that was in the contract I remember. Well, anything three feet, it's a job to get anything all straight enough to be able to fit in the boiler at three feet lengths.

KH: That's right. So that would have been cut nearby. Or around.

JS: You cut around, yes.

KH: The access, you had, the Kings Cross road was there then, wasn't it?

JS: Yeah, well they, the mine nearly made that road.
 KH: Oh yes, that's right, because that would've been the track. The track didn't go any further then, I suppose, in those days?
 JS: No. It went out to the Eight Mile.
 KH: Oh, yes.
 JS: It went out to the Eight Mile Dam.
 KH: That's nearly to Cabramurra, isn't it?
 JS: Yes. It's getting on. But anyhow the, what was I saying, the road to the Three Mile, well, old Donny Sheridan - do you know that name? Old Donny Sheridan?
 KH: No.
 JS: He was down at the Three Mile. Right at the Three Mile. I knew his brother Matt Sheridan.
 KH: I only know Sutherland.
 JS: Sutherland. Well, that was Sutherland's Mine that I just spoke to you about. Yes, yes.
 KH: Who were the Sheridans?
 JS: Well, they were right down that mine, right there, camped in there, but they were more or less doing, doing alluvial washing, camped in there. Old Donny Sheridan and Matt Sheridan, they were brothers.
 KH: The Sutherlands, that mine was also a shaft job, wasn't it?
 JS: Yes, oh my word it was. It had a lot of water in it.
 KH: Yes, it must've. Because you had the dam all around it.
 JS: Yes. That's right. Yes.
 KH: I think that's incredible. But he had a factory there, too, didn't he? He had it fairly early.
 JS: He had one of the earliest there, yes.
 KH: Cos I think he got some quartz from the Lorna Doone, for a trial crushing, to see if there was any gold in it. And was it still going when you left, the Sutherland?
 JS: No, no, it was all demolished and no sign of anything.
 KH: Really? In 1933?
 JS: In 1933.
 KH: So what, when would it have been going?
 JS: Oh, it was gone in the early days.the early 1900's.
 KH: Early 1900's. Oh, it dates back to that era. It wasn't going in the twenties.
 JS: No.
 KH: Oh, didn't get going again in the years of the Depression?
 JS: No. Never got going again. No.
 KH: Because what I'm particularly interested in at the moment are the ones that were active during the Depression.
 JS: Yeah. Well, it wasn't, it never got active at all to my knowledge, when I come away, at all, after, I say, Mineral Hill took up all that country. They had the right over the mine.
 KH: Oh, they had a miner's right.
 JS: Yes. They had a miner's right right over Sutherland's Mine.
 KH: What, right over Reid's as well?
 JS: Yes. I don't know about Reid's but where, where the Sutherland Mine is at the Three Mile. Because they took the mullock up there to, to put it through the battery.
 KH: Oh, the battery was still there?
 JS: Up at Mineral Hill. [They took] all the top slag and the muck from Sutherland's, yeah, up to Mineral Hill.
 KH: From Sutherland's. Oh, they went through it again. Oh, well, they hadn't, the stuff that hadn't been crushed before. Did they get anything out of that?
 JS: Yes.
 KH: That's interesting.
 JS: We never got to know how much or what it was. Old Gregory'd never allowed us around the tables at all.
 KH: Cos he'd be dead now, I suppose.
 JS: Oh yes. Gregory'd be dead.

KH: Did he have any children?
 JS: No. I wouldn't know. He came from Moss Vale and see, my uncle Joe, he come from Moss Vale and he was a pretty prominent man there. He only died a few years ago and, by Gee, he would've been able to supply you with a lot of information.
 KH: That's right. Oh well, you're helping me a lot. Right, now, to go back to, right, I think we've got most of the information on Sutherland's. I think I know a fair bit about him now. So, it's really not a Depression era mine. It's an older one.
 JS: Yes, yes.
 KH: The Reid's was a Depression era one.
 JS: Reid's was a Depression era.
 KH: Can you remember when that started?
 JS: No, I can't remember when it started but it was well going in, well it started, I'd have said it started in the thirties.
 KH: And the man was Jim Reid?
 JS: Yes. Yes.
 KH: That's right? Was it R-E-E-D? Or R-E-I-D?
 JS: R-E-I-D.
 KH: I believe that he came from Manly way.
 JS: Manly?
 KH: Is that right? You haven't followed him up at all?
 JS: No.
 KH: You don't know anything more?
 JS: No. I couldn't help you any more. He's, all I know, he was, like when he got that money out of old Fred Bernhardt's pocket. And that.
 KH: That was alluvial?
 JS: That was alluvial.
 KH: That was alluvial, was it? Because I believe Fred Bernhardt also sunk some shafts.
 JS: He worked on the mine with us at Mineral Hill.
 KH: Did he sink any shafts in Pig Gully? That you know of?
 JS: No. He was always alluvial mining and I, I - when he was on his own. Because he came to work on Mineral Hill and he was preparing the timber, he was a miner, and he was preparing the timber and sent it down to us from the surface.
 KH: To shore up the shaft.
 JS: Yes. To timber the shaft.
 KH: So, he was already an older man then, was he?
 JS: Yes, he was a man, oh, I'd have thought old Fred would have been - we called him Old Fred. Christ, I'd have said he was very close to his sixties.
 KH: Did he have any children?
 JS: No, he was never married.
 KH: Never married, no. I believe he went to Queanbeyan. Would that be right?
 JS: Yes. He could've done. He used to go down with Tommy - Yan - to Adelong every winter. They'd go down, they used to have the bullocks and pull out bloomin' briars and do some work down about Adelong.
 KH: Oh, he worked with Tom Yan, did he?
 JS: Yes, he worked with Tom Yan. Old Tom, he's a man who could fill you in.
 KH: Oh, he already has. But I want to go and see him again. But see, the more information I have, in my head, the more questions I can ask. You know, it all helps.
 JS: Yes. Oh, yes, Tommy Yan, he should know. If he hasn't forgotten. Tommy, he'd be what? He'd be nearly seventy, would he?
 KH: Yes. Seventy-two or something like that. I think I worked it out. That's right. He was five when they Now, Reid had some sons. Is that right?
 JS: I'd have said so. Yes.
 KH: Yes. But you only knew Jimmy Reid yourself.
 JS: That's right. I thought it was his brother. He had a brother there.

KH: Oh. They had some huts there, too.
 JS: Yes, they did.
 KH: Did they have shafts?
 JS: Yes. They had shafts.
 KH: Because the battery's still there?
 JS: Yes. Oh, yes.
 KH: It was a six-stamper, I think, or a five-stamper.
 JS: I never went over to their place. We used to meet, as I said, once a fortnight in Kiandra.
 KH: Oh, you never went over to their place?
 JS: No.
 KH: Really. It wasn't very far, was it? It was only half a mile wasn't it?
 JS: Oh, a bit more than that.
 KH: Bit more. A mile.
 JS: A mile or so, yes.
 KH: Is your mine actually on the creek?
 JS: It's very close to the creek. When I say close, er, from here to Penrith. Probably.
 KH: Yes. Oh, I see. On the Kings Cross side of the creek. Up the ridge, up the slope a bit.
 JS: [unintelligible]
 KH: Well, I must go there. I better get out there soon and see what's left. Do you remember any other names that were working with you at Mineral Hill? Cos what I'd really like to do -
 JS: Yeah, Dick Robinson. He was my mate, your workmates, old Dick Robinson.
 KH: Older than you?
 JS: Yes, he was older than me. An old miner, he come from, he was working, oh, I don't know if he come from Bushy Hill or not.
 KH: He was one of the Robinsons from, who worked at Three Mile Dam?
 JS: No. No. He was a Pommie bloke. A Cornwall miner, a Cornish bloke. And I thought he told me he came out from Bushy Hill. He was in there same time they closed the mine down, or something like that. Anyway, they bought thiseverything and George Doran carted it all out. George Doran knows a lot about the mine.
 KH: But is he still alive?
 JS: Yes. I didn't hear of him dying. He'd be oh, about, seventy-five.
 KH: Because he was a keen skier, too. Wasn't he? He used to participate in the Downhill Championships at Kiandra.
 JS: Yes, oh yes. Oh, he would've done.
 KH; But I haven't heard from anybody that he's - well, I haven't asked, I suppose. He could be still down in Tumut.
 JS: Old George Doran, he'd be - And some of those Burgesses. The Burgesses ...
 KH: Harry Burgess. Well, he worked in the Elaine. He told me about the Elaine and he knew
 [END OF SIDE ONE]

[BEGINNING SIDE TWO]

KH: Righto. See it strikes me as odd, that they had so much money available --
 JS: Can I just interrupt? There was a chap on the mine up there by the name of Poole, Dudley Poole.
 KH: Carrying wood at Mineral Hill?
 JS: Yes.....
 KH: Did he come from Kiandra?
 JS: Don't know(?) he knows a fair bit about it

KH: Still a young bloke?
 JS: No, he'd be my age. Seventy.
 KH: Now he would. Yes. Now. A young bloke then. Oh yes, well, yeah, well, see people who are in their sixties and seventies now, well, quite a few of them would still be alive.
 JS: Yeah. But, see, he knew quite a lot about

KH: Would he have continued on after you left?
 JS: Oh, yes, he'd have continued on.
 KH: Do you know, did you hear any more about it after you left?
 JS: Oh, I used to hear from me uncle that died, Charlie. About what was going on and about the following years when the other people took it on ,but Mineral Hill more or less closed down.
 KH: What year do you think?
 JS: That would have been about '35.
 KH: So it was going for about three summers.
 JS: Yes.
 KH: That's another season, another summer after you'd gone.
 JS: Yes.
 KH: That's about all.
 JS: That's right, yes. Some others took it on, as I say, with government help. And when the government help cut out, they stopped, too.
 KH: This was after '35?
 JS: Yes.
 KH: What, for a year maybe?
 JS: Yes, about that long.
 KH: So in '36 it just about folded up.
 JS: Just about folded up. I do believe they did sell - I - they was going to sell the batteries or something like that. Er, I thought I heard that from Charlie. As I say, we put up, the Mineral Hill spent a fair bit on, what I say, sheds and iron and things like that for the covering up of the machinery and everything.
 KH: Fred Bernhardt was still alive in '33, wasn't he?
 JS: Oh, yes, Fred was. Yes. Oh, geez, Fred was. He could carry a pack on his back as well, you'd want a really to carry it now. Yes, he used to pack himself up. He walked everywhere he went, you know. Never rode anywhere.
 KH: Right. Did you ride horses?
 JS: No. We used to walk in and out but I had a horse on the mine.
 KH: Did you?
 JS: Yes.
 KH: And you, what, did you walk the horse?
 JS: Oh, I drove the horse up from Bankstown, from Bankstown I drove out to, I thought it'd be handy -
 KH: You took it with you from?
 JS: Yeah, Bankstown.
 KH: How did you get it there?
 JS: Oh, by road.
 KH: What, in a trailer?
 JS: I had a sulky.
 KH: Oh, you drove it? You were on a sulky? Oh, wowie. How long did that take you?
 JS: Seven days it was.
 KH: Yeah, fantastic. And I've just come from -
 JS: I had the horse out there and I rode, I went in a couple of times with it. It was a rough track it used to be, getting out, in and out, the truck'd go and everything. The quartz was right to the surface, everywhere was quartz, you know.
 KH: Yes.
 JS: It's right to the surface everywhere, and of course, it used to be a pretty rough track. But we used to walk in once a fortnight, as I say, and Jimmy Pattinson, he used to bring everything out on the packhorses.
 KH: Oh, so, and then you brought the sulky and the horse back, I suppose.
 JS: Yes.
 KH: You rode it back at the end of the -
 JS: Drove it back when I went away, yes.

KH: In the autumn.
 JS: Yes.
 KH: And then you'd drive it down again the next year.
 JS: Yes. There were roads and horses everywhere in the Depression years.
 KH: Yes. The alternative was to get a train, I suppose.
 JS: That's right. Well then it was a, you had to get out there by train to Cooma, then get the bus out to Adaminaby and then you'd get a truck or bus or whatever you could out to the mine and then - cart your stuff, it was a pretty - The old blacksmith, when he come up, he come from Auburn, - old Tom Anderson, he's dead now for a couple of years - and they got him up for sharpening of the mining implements, the drills and everything. And a good blacksmith, he could make everything necessary, he could make, and, well, when he logged up there, by Christ, we had to get the bullock driver to bring his gear in, George Doran, he had his blacksmith boxes as long as this settee full of tools, that sort of thing.
 KH: What, the tools were brought back to Kiandra?
 JS: Yes. For his blacksmithing.
 KH: Oh, I see. Right. Did you ever know a guy named Barnett? He was involved with the mining.
 JS: Barnett. That rings a bit of a bell. There was aBarnes.
 KH: Barnes was a builder in Auburn, his son's name was Jack Barnes.I really should track them down some time.
 JS: Well, when we used to go in to pay old Bill Pattinson, you know, we'd go in and we'd cash our cheque and Arthur down there at the pub - he kept the pub there for years - and cash our cheque, get our dough. I think we were on about, between, round eight pound, nine and fourpence. And we'd go over and I'd say I might as well pay old Bill. "Oh, Bill, I'll square up with you now." "Oh, alright, just as you like, alright." Whatever it was. Two pounds or something. And, anyhow, the boss, he'd say, "Alright", leave the store, take us over to shout for us, see. Take us over, my mate, a couple of others, say, right, get over. And after a while, my mate, old Vic, used to say, "Well, Bill, I suppose I better pay for you." And away we'd go with old Bill. He'd have to take us over and shout for us again. Well, that would go on for the next hour or so, I'd say.
 KH: Did you save any money?
 JS: Oh, yes. Sent it home. We used to send money home every fortnight.
 KH: Did you?
 JS: Oh yes, we saved a few quid. And the Sunday we'd go out washing. Saturday, we was working the five days a week and, er, Saturday we used to be about the camp but Sunday we did our dishes and then we'd cut out to wash alluvial gold.
 KH: Oh, you did? So you got a bit on the side?
 JS: Oh, we got a little bit on the side, yes.
 KH: Where'd you go for that?
 JS: Down towards the Three Mile Dam.
 KH: Oh, I see, down past Reid's Mine. Down that creek.
 JS: Down the creek..
 KH: You'd walk, wouldn't you?
 JS: Walk, oh, yes, we used to walk everywhere.
 KH: Yes. There's been a lot of digging along that creek.
 JS: That was Sunday and that.
 KH: So you didn't go to church. ... And did the mine pay for itself?
 JS: At one period, from what I can understand, it did. What I did get out, but as I say, at one time, the supports, we were sent up, he said, "You can eat it", it was that rich. And later on years, something else and that but, er, at one period I think it was paying for itself. I think they got their money back, the shareholders got something back out of it.
 KH: You went down no more than fifty feet.
 JS: No

KH: So it was pretty wide by then.

JS: By then, yes.
 KH: It was a big hole.
 JS: Yes, more or less. We was tunnelling out in two directions.
 KH: Oh, I see. So how many people were working in that, in the tunnel?
 JS: There were six of us.
 KH: Six at once? Tunnelling the hole. And, what, another one feeding the steam?
 JS: Oh, on top? Oh, Christ, yes. There were six of us down below. There was two on the battery, that was eight. The winch driver, that was nine. About nine, I'd say.
 KH: Nine. Six below? Loading, er, blasting?
 JS: Blasting, yes. Mining.
 KH: Drill, and then all get out and then blast. Was that every day that you blasted?
 JS: Nearly every day.
 KH: Yeah, all get out and blast and then, when it's settled, you get out and dig it up.
 JS: Oh yes, we'd, another great lot of dust comes in quartz and we were up in the water, we had water under us all the time.
 KH: You were working in water?
 JS: Oh, not that deep, but, you know, the pumps were going all the time. There was a pump hole, there was a pump sump hole, we used to call it, with a pump in that, it was pumping all the time.
 KH: I suppose the shaft's fallen in now.
 JS: Oh, I should imagine it would. I imagine the timber and that would be -
 KH: It'd rot away. And fall in.
 JS: Yeah, that's right. The air and water, once air gets with the water all the time it rots it. The water won't rot it if there's no air getting to it.
 KH: I suppose if it was filled up with water it'd be all right, too.
 JS: Yes, if the pumps wasn't on it'd come right up.
 KH: To the top, yes. Oh, that's good. So there were nine people working on it. And did you have shifts?
 JS: Yeah, at one period we had shifts. We took the old blacksmith down below. I remember I took old Tom Anderson down below to do a shift. A chap called Tom Cook -
 KH: Is this the brother of the other Cook?
 JS: I think he was a cousin. But the old blacksmith, when he was down below and they were working it, that night shift there. But the sheds, the humpy, the mine manager's hut, and that, it should still be there, in good order. It was well-built.
 KH: Oh, they don't last long in that country.
 JS: Don't they?
 KH: No. All the Elaine ones are gone. The chimneys were still up a couple of years ago but they've fallen over now. The Lorna Doone ones are all gone. Reid's are down. The stamper battery's still at Reid's but the huts are down. There's still the chassis of an old Ford or something at Reid's.
 JS: I wonder if the rest houses - any rest houses about? There used to be some rest houses, you know, humpies put up there -
 KH: Oh, there's other huts. There's a hut at Four Mile which Bob Hughes built. Did you ever meet Bob Hughes?
 JS: Yes, I've met Bob Hughes.
 KH: Did you?
 JS: Yes, and he was living in, well, out from the town of Kiandra, over on the side of the hill when I was up there, old Bob Hughes.
 KH: In Kiandra itself?
 JS: Kiandra itself.
 KH: You didn't ever meet him out at Four Mile?
 JS: No.
 KH: What was he doing at the time?
 JS: He was retired when we were there, he was living

KH: He would have been still at Elaine's, I think, in the summertime. But he did later on, then. In the late thirties, about '37, he built a hut on Four Mile Creek, which is still there. We're going in next weekend, or the weekend after, to do some repairs on it. Because we've now got a Kosciusko Huts Association. All people, fishermen, bushwalkers, and ski tourers have got together, we look after the huts. You know, because there's huts still throughout the National Park. Coolamine Homestead and a whole lot of places which we look after.

JS: Yes. Well, Tommy Yan, he was out there with his bullock team. Because I had a horse yard built down below and he used my horse yard, oh, he'd dig around and find a buck here. He used to yoke his bullocks up. He'd stay out there when he come out with his bullock team.

KH: I'll just show you, I was going to show you some photographs - That's the Lorna Doone. But you never went down there, I don't think. I'll just show you the ones that are, oh, here's an old one of some people going skiing. That's Bill Hughes.

JS: Yes. I'll just put my glasses on so I can see. ...Is that old Bill here?

KH: In the middle there. This fellow here. That's Bill. You wouldn't recognise him.

JS: No.

KH: That's at the entrance to the Elaine Mine. ... Now there's a photograph, you might know that bloke. You knew Bob Hughes. You recognise him?

JS: Yeah. Yes, but I can recognise that hut.

KH: Oh, can you?

JS: That looks like the hut that he had. Yes, it is. By Crikes, it looks like his hut he did have. It's a long time since I saw old Bob. Now, that there, looking at that here it's like you're looking from Kiandra town, you'd be looking at that.

KH: Right. It is. Yep. That's up Pollock's Gully, it's up there.

JS: And old Bob was in a hut over on the side of that hill.

KH: Yes. Could be, could be the same one or it could have been a little bit further down, I'm not sure. But Yan's have a place ...

[INTERRUPTION BY A CB RADIO GOING OVER THE TAPE AT THE SAME TIME.
UNINTELLIGIBLE FOR ABOUT THREE MINUTES]

JS: Well, it's unfortunate these things happen. But they all respected her and well-liked her though she's been dead for some years now, for many years, because that was all back in my father's time and that, yes.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, this looks like old Bob Hughes's car, isn't it?

KH: Ah, that might've been Barnett's, I think. But, old Bob Hughes, yes, that's Bob Hughes Senior, Bill's father, yes.

JS: By Gee, that's an old-time Ford by the look of it, the old A-class Ford.

KH: Here's another shot of the Elaine mine... You never went down there did you?

JS: No. That's typical of the country, isn't it?

KH: Yes.

JS: They're rolling hills aren't they?

KH: Yeah.

JS: What's this down in here?

KH: Oh, well, this is looking, the road comes still the same way. Now it's looking from Pollock's Gully or Dunn's Hill or whatever that is up here, back into the town. Down the Main Street, down there.

JS: Yeah, that's right.

UV: That looks like the pub.

KH: Yes, it's one of those, either the hall or the pub.

JS: Yeah, that's right. Old Bill Pattinson was opposite him about there. He was right nearly opposite the pub. And he had the butcher shop. He'd kill once a week or once a fortnight.

KH: You don't know anybody who would still have some old photos, do you?

JS: No, no I don't.

KH: There's the Hughes'. Bob Senior and Bob and Bill.

JS: Yeah, yeah, they're old-timers aren't they?

KH: This is old Kiandra in the snow.

JS: Yeah, that's up the hill up the back of the town, isn't it? One side of it.

KH: This is looking across from the, this is looking across from the cemetery, across to the town. ... And there's one that you might recognise. That's about your era, isn't it?

JS: That's right.

KH: I think most of these were taken in the 1930s.

JS: [unintelligible because of CB radio]..... Tommy Yan. I keep getting mixed up with the Yins, the Yans, and the bush Yans. And that woman that does the pub now, old Mrs Matthews.

KH: Oh, nobody, because the pub's gone now.

JS: I don't mean the pub, I mean the Post Office.

KH: Oh, well, that's finished, too.

JS: Is the Post Office finished?

KH: Yes, it's a Department of Main Roads depot now. It's, everything's finished at Kiandra. And the Patericks moved down to Tumut. Bill Paterick died about four or five years ago. About 1972. I never met Bill Paterick. I don't know his wife, his wife might be still alive.

JS: I was up there with a bus tour the Post Office.

KH: Did you? Well, it was still going until, oh, gee, it's five or six years now. Might be more That's the hut that Bob Hughes built. The Four Mile. It's on Four Mile Creek. I don't know if you ever went out that way.

JS: Yeah, it's typical. Aren't those timbers typical of the snowgums and

KH: The Elaine Mine.

JS: Look at the mine timber around, the shaft timbers, gor blimey, I'll say.

KH: It's still there, those stacks of timber. They're still there. The huts have gone but the stacks of timber are still there. This is -

JS: I know my way down through this country but I can't live down there

KH: No. That's Bill and his father. At the Nine Mile. At the original home, the sort of family home. At Nine Mile. I think that's, these are all sort of other different ones but it's probably a - gives you a fairly good idea.

JS: Oh, it's very good. Yeah, old Fred Bernhardt used to say, "Mine house in Pig Gully"

KH: "My house ..."

JS: "...in Pig Gully". [unintelligible]

KH: Worked at your mine? Did he?

JS: Yeah, he worked out there with us But of course, this country was in a very bad state in the '30s you know. My word it was. For work.

KH: Well, who would you know that I could, you don't really know of anybody now who used to work down in the mines down there who's I'm trying to think of somebody else I can see who you know of

JS: I couldn't think who'd be alive today. I couldn't really tell you.

KH: There's only Bill Hughes really.

JS: Only Bill. Yeah. I'd like to meet him one day. Bill

KH: when you were working out in the front garden or something.

UV: Yeah, I was out the front here when I just picked up a bit of a conversation with him and then all of a sudden I mentioned I'd been to Kiandra a few years and it all came out(?).....

KH: Well, if you ever want to go down there again, I'd like to come with you. You know, if you wanted to go down to the old place where you - Mineral Hill or Reid's and so on.

JS: Where are you living now?

KH: I'm in Canberra.

JS: Canberra.

KH: Yes, I've only come down from Canberra this morning.

JS: This morning?

KH: Yes. So, I've, I came mainly to see Bill, but I've also got a sister near Liverpool where I'll be staying tonight. Then I'll go and do some more visiting tomorrow.

JS: Do you know who's ever, all I've really known that's good about any knowledge or anything, have passed on. But -

KH: Are there any in Adaminaby that you know of?

JS: Adaminaby. See, the Russells are people that we knew down there. Old Mrs Stewart kept the store. And one thing and another but they're all dead.

KH: Did you ever know Tom Taylor?

JS: Tom Taylor.

KH: From Currango? No, you mightn't necessarily.

JS: I knew the Shanleys. They kept a shed on Dry Plain.Dry Plain.

KH: Was he the one that's now at the motel?

JS: The Shanleys - a nephew to the chappie that died. That was lost in the snow. Shanley. His nephews are still down there on Dry Plain.

KH: Bill told a really good story about that Mick Shanley fellow. Yes, apparently they took him out on the lid of a box, when they got the body, and they had to take it down to Adaminaby. And it was in winter. And they were, they were pulling it like a sled on the snow. And they were coming down Alpine Hill, I think it was, and the coffin, the box with the body in it got away from them. Started to shoot down the hill on the snow by itself. And Bill reckoned that old Mick Shanley had never travelled faster in his life. It was a really good punchline.

JS: Yeah, he wouldn't have done neither. Yeah, well, that's the only reason I can say why our family come to go down there. See, they went into that snow country so early after, what'll I say, keeping away from Sydney. They were down there, the country was no sooner found than within a few years they were down there.

KH: That's right. That's amazing. And a doctor from Germany. To go down there. They were real bush, you know, it must've been very primitive.

JS: Yeah, of course.

KH: And he went down without a wife. Did he marry again or something?

JS: No. He never remarried.

KH: He reared the kids by himself, although they were a bit older.

JS: I think the grandfather and his sister were eight and ten years old.

KH: Just two of them.

JS: Yes, the two of them with him.

KH: That's fantastic. That is incredible.

JS: And, you know, there was no roads, there was no railway, there was, what shall I say, nothing. I used to go crook on my father, what the Christ did they go down there for, when they could've stopped somewhere closer around here. And that. And took up country - they all took up country down there. My father owned a fairly big selection down in Adaminaby on Frying Pan Creek. And that. Well, sheep wasn't worth much them times. Or anything. And then my mother wanted to come back, she come from Parramatta. That's how she finished up having her way. He had two or three houses in the town when he got out of Kyloe copper mine. He made a lot of, a fair amount of money out of Kyloe. It paid well, Kyloe copper mine.

KH: Right. ...Well, I better pack up my gear I think.

JS: I'm sorry I can't help you with pictures and photos and more on it but, like I say, it's a long while since I was there and of course, most of the people I know are gone. Things get away when things get away from you.

KH: But I can go and see the Barnetts because they're in Auburn, you know Jack and Ernie, who used to be on Elaine Mine. That's another one I can follow up.

[END SIDE TWO]