The Institution of Engineers, Australia: Tasmania Division

Engineering Heritage Australia

National Engineering Oral History Program

INTERVIEW TAPE LOG

Interviewee: Mr. J. Richard Gumley **Tape Numbers: IEA.EHA: vdM1 & 2**

Interviewer: JL van der Molen **Number of Tapes: 2**

place of Interview: Residence of Mr. Gumley, Kettering

Date of Interview: 6 November 2002

Restrictions on Use: None

Log prepared using: Sony Stereo Cassette Recorder TC-158SD

Tape: IEA EHA: vdM1, Side A		
Time/ Counter	**Subject**	**Proper Names & Keywords**
0 - 10	Introduction, born Hobart, 17.01.33	Introduction
10 - 74	Secondary Education, first 4-year course, choice of PMG between Hydro-Electric Comm. of Tas. Went to PMG	Secondary Education
74 - 91	Joined PMG as Technician-in-Training, 5 year course, compl. 1949, Senior Technician, age 23.	PMG Dept., Technician training
91 - 102	Work in country telephone exchanges, finishing in Hobart on the old central telephone exchange, installed in 1929	PMG Work
102 - 125	Technician Training School, Technical Instructor training new intakes. Became aware of Trainee Engineer Scheme	Technical Instructor
125 - 174	Joined trainee Engineers Scheme, qualifying as engineer. Interesting thoughts on juxtaposition of technician and engineer.	Trainee Engineer
174 - 103	Radio communications engineer, radio links in Tasmania, Tasmania-Flinders Island-Wilson's Prom., King Island	Radio Communications in Tasmania
103 - 228	Closure of Abt Railway, necessitating radio link Queenstown-Strachan. Problems in direction finding.	Radio link, Queenstown-Strachan
228 - 262	Discussion on engineering training schemes. Mr. Gumley was not a bonded Cadet. Later High School intakes were.	Engineering training schemes
262 - 289	Discussion on influence of parents. Father was overseas serving in AIF. Mother had no influence on career choice.	Parents
289 - 320	PMG District Engineer, Burnie. Return to Hobart, 1966. Bushfires in South Tasmania, Restoration work	PMG District Engineer, Burnie and Hobart. Bushfires
320 - 330	Underground cable: 80 miles in 6 weeks. Equipment from mainland, includes modular telephone exchanges	Restoration work after bushfires
330 - 353	Discussion on productivity in relation to long working hours. JRG observations with cable laying crews.	Observation on productivity and working hours

353 - 370	JRG observation regarding movement of personnel. "Smart ones leave first"	Observations on personnel management
370 – 465	JRG develops remote testing procedure for use with crossbar exchanges, with encouragement and assistance of PMG	Development of remote line testing equipment
465 - 500	Discussion on research philosophy, in relation to decision to join Hydro-Electric Commission	Research philosophy. Hydro-Electric Commission
500 - 514	Change of emphasis from telecom engineer in telecom organisation to telecom service engineer in civil construction	Comments on changing from PMG to Hydro
End Side A, Tape vdM1		

Tape: IEA EHA: vdM1, Side B		
Time/ Counter	**Subject**	**Proper Names & Keywords**
012 - 063	JRG explains the beginning of his involvement in lightning protection as a result of lightning setting of an explosive charge in the Gordon diversion tunnel	Lightning protection
063 - 092	Explanation of summer and winter lighting. Start of development of lightning warning equipment, sensing of field build-up	Development of lightning protection equipment
092 - 116	Development proved to be successful leaving door open for commercialisation, forms Company for the purpose.	Formation of Company
116 - 166	Explanation of progress and connection between being technician, engineer, development of lightning protection and solid-state equipment. International work on IntelSat stations in SE Asia	Philosophy of technical progress. International work
166 - 264	Stories about work in Indonesia on Sat stations, correcting circuitry and earthing arrangements to avoid lightning damage.	Work in Indonesia and Far East
264 - 284	1979, leaves Hydo. to take up consultancy reporting on ideas for development. Nick Evers, Head of Industrial Development.	Leaves Hydro to lead Company development full-time. Nick Evers
284 - 309	Development of mini-hydro schemes and associated equipment with son Steve (Rhodes Scholar). Discontinued because of foreign competition in finance terms	Mini Hydro scheme, with Steve Gumley
309 - 367	Travel stories about work in Hindu Cush and Karakuram	Travel on NW Frontier, Pakistan
367 - 414	Build-up of lightning protection Company to 120 staff. 6-Point technical plan: Capture lightning, location of earthing conductors, earthing system, telephone and power lines. Discussion	Further development of Company
414 - 473	General discussion on making use of opportunity. Philosophy of technical development. Hand-over and sale of Company.	Using opportunity
473 - 489	Technicalities of sale of Company. R & D Staff and technical development centre stayed in Hobart	Sale of Company
489 - 507	Awards, connection with University of Tasmania	University of Tasmania
End Side B, Tape vdM1		

Tape: IEA EHA: vdM2, Side A		
Time/ Counter	**Subject**	**Proper Names & Keywords**
015 - 092	Continuation of narrative on Awards. Discussion on manufacturing excellence, robotics.	Received awards.
092 - 152	Retirement. Working "during sleep". Subconscious. Floating marina in Kettering. Pilots license.	Using subconscious to develop ideas
152 - 228	Tourist complex Strachan. Huon pine exploitation based on old logs. Fish farm.	Work in Strachan
228 - 249	Present hobbies, flying, yachting, fish farm	Hobbies
249 - 297	Research team together with NASA, work in New Mexico, Prediction techniques for lighting strike. Dr. Franco D'Alexandro of Erico. Discussion of R&D and the function of personnel involved	Work with NASA on lightning conductor installations
297 - 361	Reinvestment of capital. Company: people working together. Personnel selection. Assessment through small community and University of Tasmania	Philosophy of developing a Company
361 - 380	Ideal size of Company. Company at upper end (120)	Company size
380 - 422	Personnel policy, overtime.	Personnel policy
End Side A, Tape IEA EHA vdM2		

Side B of Tape vdM2 is blank.