

TOPICS for Fred Byrne 7/11/97 - Labourer raising Cotter Dam Wall and guard at Corin Dam

TOPICS	TIMELINE (END)
SIDE 1	
Raising Cotter wall - labourer 1949 - diverting water to Paddy's River	2:44
clearing for cableway - chainsaws, axes - 4 months work - operation of cableway -	6:15
Wind on mountain - riding the bucket - dogman	7:53
Accidents riding cableway - 3 people killed - saw one accident -	9:53
Jack hammering old concrete - before scaffolding	11:11
Good money - enjoyed the different work - great experience -	11:55
Other people - Alan Belchambers (sp?) - Sandy Grant (supervisor) - 10-20 labourers - total 80 men - half "new Australians" - visiting family in Bonegilla fortnightly - Ruben - scaffolding work	13:57
Talks of various nicknames of fellow workers - drinking on the job - more descriptions of fellow workers - there was a single Aboriginal guy on job - rodeo rider	16:47
Migrants and nationalities - Italians on concrete - English language problems	18:09
Women on job	18:20
Events - card playing - gambling	19:01
Working conditions - pay - generally satisfied	20:12
Strikes? - unions would come and check with inspectors from government - more discussion on <u>deaths</u>	21:42
More on names/friends - just co-workers - social events - Sunday night - local bands - piano accordions were popular	23:38
Huts and tents descriptions - lighting in camp - mess hut - caterers' names - meals	27:31
Weekends in town - Hotels Kingston, Wellington, Canberra - only BYO at camp - hard drinkers - happy camp - no ethnic conflicts - many practical jokes	30:47
SIDE TWO	
Transport - many workers had own cars - but others rode with the truckies into town - it was a rough road - 1 1/4 hours' drive - this <u>ends Cotter job</u>	2:01
<u>Corin Dam</u> - security job - MSS - machinery sabotage sugar in tanks (Thiess contractor) - night shifts - perpetrator eventually caught. He was a disgruntled ex worker.	4:42
Commuting to site - driving at night on job site - only "tracks" really - 4WD use at night & snow - very frightening - one guy quit because could not handle the stress	6:38
Description of the camp and the wet canteen. There were prostitutes from Sydney. He worked in disguise once. The men were pushing him towards the prostitutes who were girls working from caravans (vehicles).	8:57
Troubles on whole site - there were some strikes - Fred gives a description of top & bottom camps and mechanics working on shifts. Tunnelers also worked in shifts.	11:07
Everything was laid on - grog, food, women were allowed and they good buildings.	11:47
Boxing - he trained some people - he had done some sparring with Rex Harris and trained men for bouts in Queanbeyan & Northbourne Oval and the old Drill Hall.	13:02
There were terrible flies. Men would wear wide brim hats with corks which was the only way to get any work done. There were many black snakes which terrified the new Australians.	15:02