

# ACT Heritage Library Manuscript Collection

## Interview with Bob Box - Timed Summary

BOB BOX - TOPICS	TIMELINE (END)
Introduction – born 1924 Caulfield, Victoria – apprentice at Powerhouse – especially from 1946 – helped build radios for electrical - other apprentices in the same intake -	6:18
Description of machine hall – comments on expansion of economiser room and chimney (1949) -	9:34
Humour - NSW power and peak meter readings – ways in which they would manage the load on system to minimise charges from NSW -	12:37
More on description of machine hall – description of noise – dust and dirt –rattles -	15:29
Work on switchboard – description of switches for each suburb – work space behind board -	17:58
Accidents and incidents – Bill Mitchell supervisor tested if switch was isolated by throwing a file across the contacts – it was live and the file was blown to pieces	18:49
Ash disposal – ash pits were used – some trucked out of Canberra – unaware of details	20:50
Relation with NSW Electricity Council – control was up to Kingston not NSW – arguments about what peak power really was – mention of power recordings of each suburb's consumption -	24:12
Reference to Tom Trevillian – very self-important – very keen to minimise costs – talks of other Trevillian brothers that he went to school with – other names that he worked with while there -	30:29
Accidents and incidents – cleaner did not appreciate the need to avoid live power cables – Bert Hickling – had to be rescued from top of transformer where he had climbed	31:55
Testing bus bars – no recollection	33:02
Whistle – not sure of which story is true – describes air compressor and the way in which whistle was made and blown -	37:45

<b>BOB BOX - TOPICS</b>	<b>TIMELINE (END)</b>
Accidents and incidents – Alf Farrer – NOT first hand account – some steam scalds – pretty safe really -	40:34
Industrial disputes – nothing serious – all related to working conditions and pay -	42:16
Social life – Kingston Hotel – Trades and Labour Day picnics at Cotter	44:24
Closing of Powerhouse during floods – truck in background noise – drifts onto standby diesel and its noise -	46:47
Humour - Air raid sirens in Canberra – testing of sirens – coupled five together and put on time clock as joke -	48:29
Incidents – phone line at Cotter Pumping being hit by lightning while in use	50:36
Warm water in discharge area of Molonglo R – nothing – mention of second dam downstream of Powerhouse -	53:56
Status of Powerhouse – not recognised by community – talks of some Westlake residents -	56:27
Change in Powerhouse after WWII – nothing noticed	57:20
Comments on sale of contents of Powerhouse – shame the equipment was sold off – talks of other lost icons of Canberra -	62:30