

# ACT Heritage Library Manuscript Collection

## Interview with Frank Dunshea - Timed Summary

FRANK DUNSHAE - TOPICS	TIMELINE (END)
Introduction – why he chose electrical apprenticeship – first as electrical mechanic then fitter -	2:05
General impressions of powerhouse – describes various rooms in Powerhouse – conveyor belts – remembers boiler room as hot and dirty -	5:36
Coal - Stealing coal to keep warm in unheated workshop – stockpiles – bunker for off-loaded coal -	7:44
Generator (alternator) Hall – description – some units owned by NSW – routine maintenance – division of labour between electrical and mechanical trades – damage to slip rings from shift engineer trying to slow machinery down – had to repair damage frequently -	12:50
Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station – 11 KV power to supply – hear keying of morse code from station – low impedance transformers -	16:08
Generator Hall - fairly quiet -	16:47
Chimney – various heights – unaware of details -	17:43
Switchboard – slate and marble panels – need for insulation -	20:19
Ash disposal – unaware of details	21:00
Relation to NSW power grid – description of power connections to NSW – need for extra power to supplement in 1950s -	23:08
Cotter Pumping Station – describes 11KV transformers used for the pumping station – largest bulk load – used as load balancing for rest of system -	25:36
Brickworks – minor consumers of power -	27:06
Relation to Goulburn NSW authority – metering and maintenance required	29:18
Smell of place – coal dust – hiss of steam -	29:58

<b>FRANK DUNSHAE - TOPICS</b>	<b>TIMELINE (END)</b>
Staff hierarchy – shifts personalities – Tom Trevillian – George Saint (not very popular very authoritarian) -	35:33
Safety and accidents – early 1950s Alf Farrer resuscitated by Mick Gallagher after coming in contact with overhead wires – Harold (?)Melluish was electrocuted at Belconnen Naval Station -	40:42
Testing bus bars for overheating with candles –	42:13
Repair of cables under alternators –rush to bowling club before six o’clock closing while still wearing work clothes -	44:07
Social life -Normally drank at Kingston Hotel – many workers lived in immediate area – in 1960s had parties on Powerhouse once equipment was removed -	47:15
Felt it was a shame that the equipment was sold off – thinks now it was a gem worthy of retention -	48:43
Industrial disputes – recalls one but no details – never any strike – no amenity room	51:26
Water from Molonglo – no recollection –did see people swimming there in the offtake pondage -	52:42
Migrants – Mick Ozerskis remembered -	53:39
Status of Powerhouse in community – not particularly influential – mention of a few migrants working there	54:05
Description of accident - Harry Charleton – walked between two rail wagons – Mick Ozerskis was using winch to move some wagons – Harry was crushed between two cars – Dunshae came to his aid but Harry died from injuries in hospital	56:44
Pranks as apprentices -	57:54
Technical description of sorting problems with transformers – installation of syncroscope in early 1950s-	62:19