

ACT Heritage Library Manuscript Collection

Interview with Harry Scheele - Timed Summary

HARRY SCHEELE - TOPICS	TIMELINE (END)
Introduction – born 1933 Queanbeyan – apprenticeship began at powerhouse 1949 – 1954 – electrical fitter – story of how he changed from electrical mechanic to electrical fitter	2:58
Jobs at Powerhouse – 3 months rotation with Johnny Carson – worked on NSW generators – story of making key parts for them – description of lifting with gantry crane with hand ropes -	6:32
Description of economisers – design and function	8:15
Boiler Room – noise and heat -	10:25
Coal loading – description of hoppers – coal gang for unloading manually –from ordinary rail trucks -	12 13
Accidents – crossing rail line – got crushed and killed – description of accident	13:49
Machine room – fairly noisy – but very clean -	15:32
Diesel generators – coal strikes – coal stockpiles	17:44
Impressions of powerhouse – did not mind ‘old’ machinery -	18:44
People – descriptions – Tom Trevillian – Harry Trevillian -	21:24
Chimney – curiosity of learning things about Powerhouse – back in 1958 – 1963	23:39
Other accidents and incidents – none he could think of – one instance of slipping from a platform – Alf Farrer got burned on the back – showed it to Harry -	26:50
Industrial disputes – none – shift work – none – description of number of workers at various sites -	30:20
Whistle – description – mentions of volume better when steam powered -	31:16
Description of pay scales – need for parents help – marriage -	33:14
Social life – Hotel Kingston and Hotel Wellington -	34:58

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Distinguishing features of job – nothing really – somewhat disjointed o- mention of Cotter Pumping station noise and heat -	36:41
Other stories – funny? – none worth mentioning – everyone was pretty happy – very few complaints	37:21
Status of Powerhouse – some status – everyone knew of importance – ‘working under the whistle” -	38:37
Talks of father – Charlie Scheele – timber merchant – mention of popular term “the Federal” for Federal Capital Territory	40:52
Closure of powerhouse – Marrs construction – Ned Stevens took charge of demolition – felled the old steel chimney -	43:35
More on whistle compressor – origin of whistle – not known -	45:30
Social activities inside Powerhouse – can’t recall details -	48:00