



Fitzroy History Society Oral History Project 2015-2017

Transcript of interview with Dorothy McInroy

(Interviewed by Hilary McPhee from the Fitzroy History Society at Fitzroy on 25 June 2015)

Dorothy McInroy's mother left an unhappy marriage in the country and moved with her six children into Argyle Street, Fitzroy when Dot was eleven. She tells of her family, her schooldays and her working and social life, and of the local characters she met during her long and happy marriage to Mac – and the tragedy that exploded into all their lives in 1962.



START OF TRANSCRIPT

- Facilitator: This is an interview by Hilary McPhee with Dorothy McInroy of 25 Greeves Street, Fitzroy on 25 June 2015. Dorothy, we're going to talk about your childhood today and then next week talk about other things from, I think, when you got married. We'll see if we can cover all of that. You first arrived in Fitzroy in 1940?
- Dorothy: Two.
- Facilitator: 1942, tell me about that. How old were you?
- Dorothy: I was 11 when we got here but I did have my 12th birthday in that year. Yeah, we came from Geelong, but we moved to Collingwood[0:37] first and we lived in Cromwell Street and Victoria Parade and then we came to Fitzroy.
- Facilitator: You came from the country, or was it Geelong, near Geelong?
- Dorothy: No, no came from a little hamlet called Breamlea... between Barwon Heads and Torquay. In fact in those days it was called Bream Creek, not Breamlea. Beautiful place, still is. It's on the ocean beach, two miles long and half a mile wide.
- Facilitator: So coming to Fitzroy after that must've been quite difficult.
- Dorothy: Didn't want to come. I hated it.
- Facilitator: Oh, but your mum moved the whole family up?
- Dorothy: Yes. Six of us. My father was always missing because...
- Facilitator: This was during the war.
- Dorothy: Yes.
- Facilitator: Was he in the war?
- Dorothy: He was in the Air Force but he never went overseas, though, he can't claim that. But I don't know, mum said he was a decent bloke, but not to me.
- Facilitator: No, but you were the eldest daughter? [1:42]
- Dorothy: I'm the eldest daughter, I'm the second eldest.
- Facilitator: Right, so you had an older brother.



- Dorothy McInroy: Yes, there was Ronnie, me, Malcolm, Billy, Lillian and Colin. We call them the three big ones and the three little ones because there was a break between the three big ones and the three little ones. The three little ones have a different opinion of what happened than the three big ones.
- Facilitator: Yes, and what happened, do you think?
- Dorothy McInroy: Dad was violent.
- Facilitator: Yes, oh right, yes.
- Dorothy McInroy: Fully convinced that's one of the reasons mum left Geelong.
- Facilitator: Right, and moved up to Collingwood and Fitzroy because? Did she know people up there?
- Dorothy McInroy: No, no it was the only place she could afford. She had six kids, all young, and I was what, 11, 12 and she's got four under me. She got in with the church and the church was our salvation.
- Facilitator: Which church was it?
- Dorothy McInroy: The Sisters of the Community of the Holy Name, it was an Anglican mission.
- Facilitator: Right, an Anglican mission. In Fitzroy?
- Dorothy McInroy: No, it was in Spring Street. How she got onto them I don't know.
- Facilitator: They must've helped her.
- Dorothy McInroy: Oh, did they ever. She remained with them all her life, worked for them, worked for the church, all her life, and then the church was good for us, it really was. The church was good for a lot of kids in Fitzroy.
- Facilitator: Yes, I bet. Yes, there were a lot of missions in that area.
- Dorothy McInroy: Oh, yeah. [3:11]
- Facilitator: Yes, yeah and Dot, did you go to school locally? Where did you go?
- Dorothy McInroy: I wouldn't.
- Facilitator: Why?



- Dorothy McInroy: I hate to say this. Well, I was told...
- Facilitator: You were living in Collingwood at this point?
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, now we've come - I went to Cromwell Street School and now I'm ready to - it would've been the last year, I think, of state school when we came to Fitzroy, but I wasn't going to go to George Street.
- Facilitator: Why, what was wrong with George Street?
- Dorothy McInroy: Because I knew it was the dud school.
- Facilitator: The dud school.
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, no that's what they was told, you're not sending me there. Anyhow, mum let me stay at Cromwell Street. I had to go and walk all the way down there and then I went to Vere Street Girls School because I wouldn't go to Bell Street, because Bell Street had a bad name.
- Facilitator: Right, and you heard these bad names from other kids.
- Dorothy McInroy: I don't know where I heard them from but I'd heard them and I wasn't going. I loved school, I really did, and he wasn't sending me to a dud school, simple as that.
- Facilitator: So you were doing well at school.
- Dorothy McInroy: I was doing well at school, but unfortunately born in a family who had no money and you never went any further, but you don't know that at the time.
- Facilitator: No, so you thought you might go on.
- Dorothy McInroy: I did, I wanted to stay at school. I cried when I left, had to leave.
- Facilitator: How old were you?
- Dorothy McInroy: 14. [14:36]
- Facilitator: Yeah, and you went straight to work.
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, in the boot factory like most people in Fitzroy did.
- Facilitator: Where was the boot factory?



- Dorothy McInroy: It was in - the first one was in [Stacey] something in Hoddle Street. I was in the office doing shoe designing.
- Facilitator: Designing shoes.
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, designing shoes, drawing them on the thingo, and learning to do it of course, and office works. How dad became part of this equation I don't know, I can't remember, because he wasn't living there.
- Facilitator: So he wasn't living with you, with the family, but...
- Dorothy McInroy: No, but he used to pop in. He was a strange man. He'd pop in - you'd love him.
- Facilitator: So he had the gift of the gab.
- Dorothy McInroy: Oh, did he ever. Good looking, the gift of the gab, did he ever. He found a job for me at the [Rob Roy] shoe factory for an extra five shillings a week and I went to cementing shoes.
- Facilitator: So he knew that you were bringing in money for the family, was that part of it?
- Dorothy McInroy: Fully convinced it was.
- Facilitator: Right, and was he supporting you as well?
- Dorothy McInroy: No, I don't ever remembering him supporting us. That's why I've got no time for him.
- Facilitator: Yeah, so your mother was really keeping the show on the road... with the help of you...
- Dorothy McInroy: Oh, yes.
- Facilitator: ...and your eldest brother? Your older brother? [6:05]
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah.
- Facilitator: Yeah, he was at work where?
- Dorothy McInroy: Oh, he went to the British United Shoe company, then he went to the Rob Roy, we all worked at the Rob Roy shoe company at one stage. That was a good place to work at, fun. I had a dispute there over money.
- Facilitator: When you were 14 or...



Dorothy McInroy: Oh no, I was about 15, 16. Had a dispute over money, I was doing - I was a beader, do you know what a beader is? You know like that, but you turn it over it's got to be skived, or shaved, then cemented and then beaded down. Well I was a hand beader, a better hand beader than I was a machinist, too. But I was apparently quick at what I did and I also did the perforation and I loved doing the cementing. I reckon I was high on the gas and didn't know it. I really do.

Facilitator: Do you? Yeah. So you were all working in one big space?

Dorothy McInroy: Yeah. Not at the one time.... not at the one time, though Ronnie and I worked in the boot factory at the same time. Anyhow, I was doing four different jobs for the same amount of money and being a junior I wanted full money.

Facilitator: Yeah, so what did you do?

[7:41]

Dorothy McInroy: I left. He promised it to me, the [unclear], and I stayed for another two months and it still never came through so I left. I went down to Budd Street, opposite the Collingwood Tech, what's the name of the place? I can't think. It was right on the corner of Sackville Street, a [unclear]...

Facilitator: The family were living where by then?

Dorothy McInroy: We were living in Argyle Street. 149 Argyle Street. ...we were the last house, there was a lane, and then all the houses from Napier Street and it was called 'Nappear' Street back in those days, not Napier. Actually when we came there a little boy that lived in the corner of Napier Street and Argyle Street on the other side, [Albert Budd], he's still my friend. He rings me up on my birthday. Yeah, that's how I know - I have my birthday in there because he's the same age as I am but...

Facilitator: That was a house your mum moved you all into.

Dorothy McInroy: Yeah. ...A rented house. [8:48]

Facilitator: Yes, and there were all six of you living in that house. Can you describe the house?

Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, I can. It had two rooms upstairs, two front rooms and a kitchen. The back passage was made into a bedroom and a couple of run down sheds were made into bedrooms, and the two upstairs bedrooms we were all in it the first time - oh, I'll never forget this as long as I live - we all woke up and we'd be scratching and



didn't know and yeah, to cut a long story short we discovered there were little things crawling around and...

Facilitator: On the wall, you could see them?

Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, on the wall, so we squashed - have you ever smelt a bug?

Facilitator: I have, they're disgusting.

Dorothy McInroy: Oh, I can still smell that smell. I'll never forget as long as I lived.

Facilitator: They were biting you?

Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, they were biting us kids. Anyhow, mum brought in an exterminator and I remember he brought it up the stairs and we were sleeping under the kitchen table for a week while he did it.

Facilitator: While the fumes were...

Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, and it cost mum I can't remember, but my mum was a very resourceful woman. When he finished mum said do it again to make certain, she says do it again.

Facilitator: Yeah, so he did all the bedrooms, [unclear].

[10:12]

Dorothy McInroy: He was the one who told us that in houses like this, like a wall like that, you can get rid of them. Plug up, as long as there's no holes. Weatherboard they go at the back of the board and all the fumigating in the world will never get all of them. Get some of them but then they'll come out...

Facilitator: Yeah, but then they'll come back.

Dorothy McInroy: ...they hide, so weatherboards are very hard. But a bug, oh, just the thought of it makes me sick. Yeah, but we never had a key to the house, front door was always open, back door was always open, never robbed.

Facilitator: Yeah, so you had good neighbours.

Dorothy McInroy: Oh, funny no, no.

Facilitator: Tell us about the neighbours.



- Dorothy McInroy: Oh no, that's a bit rude.
- Facilitator: No, tell.
- Dorothy McInroy: George, his name was, and I was young, I didn't know about sex or anything like that and Madge was her name, strange lady and she had rotten teeth, because I had to look up at her then. George was a fat bloke and I didn't know he was the boarder, Clive was the husband but he was away at the war and Madge and George were on together. Clive came home one day and caught them and George killed him.
- Facilitator: In the house? Killed him how?
- Dorothy McInroy: Had a fight - didn't mean to - had a fight and banged his head like that, caught his head on the edge of the gas stove. But the worst part of it, that fellow - I don't know, look I was young, very young, I can't even tell you the year, but he didn't seem to be missing for that long, he came back and lived in the house...[11:57]
- Facilitator: I'm sorry, the husband's dead, right.
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, and George, he lived in the house and still cooked on the same stove. I always found...
- Facilitator: So he wasn't charged with...
- Dorothy McInroy: He was charged, but how he got...
- Facilitator: He was charged, but he got off.
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, he must've got off on circumstances and whatever, I don't know. Because deep down I suppose it was an accident and all the rest of it.
- Facilitator: Yeah, so back he came and stayed living there and cooking on the same stove.
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, that always - I always found that odd. I'd have got rid of the stove. But that's the only drama I can think of.
- Facilitator: Yeah, but the other people in the street were - looked after you kids presumably, all of that?
- Dorothy McInroy: No, no they didn't actually, we looked after ourselves. Mum made certain that her jobs - which she found jobs in the dye caster, cleaning and whatever - that she was there for us first thing in the morning, she was there when we got home and



she made certain that Monday and Tuesday we went to Girl Guides, Thursday bible study after school that we weren't roaming the streets.

Facilitator: But you had things to do after school.... Yeah, so you'd go straight from school to the respective... [13:14]

Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, and we all had work to do.

Facilitator: Yeah, what sort of work.

Dorothy McInroy: Oh, God, I still hate ironing. I'm the eldest girl, cooking and ironing, and I'm still a shocking cook and I did...

Facilitator: So you'd come home from school, you'd go to bible study or whatever and then you'd do ironing for your mum after school?

Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, you had to - it was a wood fire stove and one of those irons, had to look after the kids clothes being the eldest girl. Didn't think, being the eldest girl in a family's not a good position.

Facilitator: It's not, I know, I'm that too.

Dorothy McInroy: It's not a good position.

Facilitator: Hard, you do a lot.

Dorothy McInroy: My sister got away with murder.

Facilitator: Did the boys, what sort of things did the boys have to do?

Dorothy McInroy: I can't remember, you know. Ronnie...

Facilitator: Cut the kindling I suppose for the stove and stuff.

Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, well - never anything inside, never. They did the messages...

Facilitator: So outdoor chores, you had a back yard.

Dorothy McInroy: We were very lucky, our place had a very small back yard on account of where the toilet was, the back yard was here and the toilet was there, there was a little shed there and a shed there and then the bathroom, [unclear] and the kitchen. So it was only a bit like this, but at the back of us - actually, there's been a house built on it since and mum used to rent that.



- Facilitator: She rented the vacant block.? Why? [14:43]
- Dorothy McInroy: Only because being a - it was separate - I'm not too sure about this - but either it belonged to the house but was separate or they separated it later. Because next door's back gate was there, go down the lane, in here, through his back gate. Our back gate was here and mum had her clothesline in there and Malcolm had his shed in there that he did a lot of repairs for. Now it's a separate house, [unclear] and I went to the auction and it sold for \$800,000 and you've got to go down a lane to get to it.
- Facilitator: Yeah, but it's very smart now that bit. Yeah, right off Brunswick Street. Did she grow veggies there?
- Dorothy McInroy: No.
- Facilitator: So where did you shop, Brunswick Street?
- Dorothy McInroy: Brunswick Street, Smith Street. Oh, Smith Street on a Friday night was beautiful. It would be open until nine o'clock and oh yeah...
- Facilitator: Everything was open?
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, nine o'clock and that was good, late Friday night shopping. But Brunswick Street, but everything closed at one o'clock Saturday, you could shoot a cannon down there on a Sunday without hitting anybody.
- Facilitator: Yeah, and the footy was on of course, when it was on...
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, mum, we shopped at O'Brien's on the corner and the fish shop, [Colin's] fish shop a couple of doors down. Oh, I tell[16:12] you, best fish and chips. People came for miles.
- Facilitator: Colin the Greek.
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, and I tell you she used to sit there with her dirty apron on and if there was a blowfly then she'd go whack it with the paper.
- Facilitator: The fat would kill all that stuff, that's alright.
- Dorothy McInroy: Nobody got sick and it was beautiful fish and chips. Nobody got sick, people are too precious today.



- Facilitator: They sure are, yeah. So all your shopping was local, you didn't go to Vic Markets, or did you?
- Dorothy McInroy: No, we went [spec diving] there a couple of times, didn't mind that. That was fun, but no we didn't go to Vic Market much.
- Facilitator: So Fitzroy really was where you were working, Fitzroy and Collingwood was where you were working and where you shopped, where you did everything.
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah.
- Facilitator: Yeah, and did the family follow the footy?
- Dorothy McInroy: No, no only me. Yeah, only me. Ronnie barracked for Richmond, I barracked for Fitzroy, Malcolm barracked for Collingwood, Billy barracked for Carlton, Lily would barrack for whoever took her out and Colin barracked for Carlton. Mum threatened to leave home every Saturday.
- Facilitator: Because she couldn't stand the fights.
- Dorothy McInroy: No, no, and none of us barracked for Geelong but we all called Geelong home.
- Facilitator: Did you go back?
- Dorothy McInroy: Every holiday.
- Facilitator: You had holidays at Breamlea. [17:45]
- Dorothy McInroy: Family still lives there. My grandfather was the first white man to put a hut up there and it was only a fishing shack. Oh no, we were very fortunate, very fortunate. We never roamed the streets of Fitzroy, mum saw to that. No, every holiday, it was twice a year we went back.
- Facilitator: Where you could roam.
- Dorothy McInroy: Oh yes, and this is a good story. There was a shop in - because you realise that for some reason I don't know what happened to other families or what happened [unclear] near us, we never crossed over Johnson Street to do much, and we never crossed over Brunswick Street, you kept in your same area. Like I married a bloke from 77. ... Argyle Street... and yet I'd been here since 1942 and I didn't know him until I was 17, I'd never seen him.
- Facilitator: Now why was that? Because he was heading in another direction?



- Dorothy McInroy: Well I don't know, you just didn't - I don't know why, I can't tell you.
- Facilitator: So tell me again, you were living in Argyle Street, which is very close to Brunswick Street where you were and you didn't go past...
- Dorothy McInroy: No, not to socialise. We went up to go to church, but not to socialise.
- Facilitator: Yeah, to go to work and so on, but your social life was...[19:04]
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, you never went out that way. Oh, you went in town to the pictures and stuff like that, but no, you didn't do that.
- Facilitator: Yes, and did you have neighbours in, did you have...
- Dorothy McInroy: Oh yeah, I remember we were the first to get TV, I remember that. People would come in...
- [Over speaking 19:20]
- Facilitator: That's a lot later.
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, that's a lot later.
- Facilitator: Yeah, so your house was open, back door, front door open, everyone knew you were there, you had friends in the street, and did you play with kids in the street?
- Dorothy McInroy: Oh yeah.
- Facilitator: Tell me about that.
- Dorothy McInroy: We had a tennis court painted.
- Facilitator: Oh, a tennis court painted in Argyle Street.
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, and we used to run up and down, we played an Olympic Games running up - only we didn't know it was Olympic Games. Played chasey and whatever, bike races. Because Napier Street was a pretty wide street and no traffic and no, we played...
- Dorothy McInroy: No, who had cars?
- Facilitator: Yes, no traffic at all. It would only be delivery vans I suppose.



- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, they used to play footy up and down Napier Street. The tennis court was in Argyle Street. [20:04]
- Facilitator: It was permanently painted on?
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, it was purple, like a dark blue.
- Facilitator: Oh, did you have a net?
- Dorothy McInroy: No, who actually could afford a net?
- Facilitator: No, that's right. But you had some kind of racquets, what did you use?
- Dorothy McInroy: No, not real [tennis racquets], they were wooden. More like a...
- Facilitator: Like table tennis.
- Dorothy McInroy: ...and we played cricket a lot. Yeah, and we used to go to the Baths a lot.
- Facilitator: The Baths would be, talking about going to the Baths, that would be wonderful. You could hang out at the Baths with your friends.
- Dorothy McInroy: Oh yes, yeah. All day, you did actually, and right next door to the Baths if I remember correctly was a place, before it became an old men's home, it used to be like a clinic that if you had fleas in your head they sent you there to get rid.
- Facilitator: Yeah, and near the Baths, next door. [21:01]
- Dorothy McInroy: Right next door it was, somewhere there, and the swamp - you've heard about the swamp?
- Facilitator: Near the Baths, yes.
- Dorothy McInroy: We used to call it the swamp.
- Facilitator: Because it's very soggy now still, I go there with the dog, yeah.
- Dorothy McInroy: Called the swamp, and the boys used to go down there and football. Oh, I spent a lot of time down at the swamp, a lot of time.
- Facilitator: Was it the same sort of size as it is now?
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah. Because it's a long time since I've been there now, and I'm sure it was a whole [unclear]?



- Facilitator: Yeah, it's big.
- Dorothy McInroy: It's big.
- Facilitator: Yeah, so they've kept that.
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, the swamp. It was called the swamp for - I thought it was still called the swamp, what's it now called?
- Facilitator: Something reserve I think, I don't know. It's been given the name of a councillor probably.
- Dorothy McInroy: The Fitzroy Baths has gone a little bit safety net. The diving board's gone.
- Facilitator: There was a big diving board, I remember that too, yes. [21:55]
- Dorothy McInroy: It's sad.
- Facilitator: Yes, it's all about safety now.
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah. The boys used to have a lot of fun, nobody got killed. A few had a...
- Facilitator: No, they'd be bombing and doing all that good stuff. Yeah, but spending all day baking there.
- Dorothy McInroy: We used to sit and watch the show ponies come out, jump up and down if nobody's watching them they'd go back and wait, and they'd come out and then we'd say oh, fall off.
- Facilitator: You'd shout at them.
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah, fall off you fool. We used to have a lot of fun.
- Facilitator: That's when you were at school.
- Dorothy McInroy: Yeah.
- Facilitator: Yeah, and when you were working, of course, you couldn't do that stuff.
- Dorothy McInroy: No.
- Facilitator: Except that you weren't working at the weekends, so did you go?



- Dorothy McInroy: No, no I sort of stopped and I don't really know why. Probably had other things to do.
- Facilitator: Yeah, and you were a teenager... going off to work, which was kind of a big deal I suppose...
- Dorothy McInroy: Oh yeah.
- Facilitator: ...having your own money.
- Dorothy McInroy: Yes, I got 12/6 a week for my first job.
- Facilitator: What did you do with it? [22:54]
- Dorothy McInroy: I gave mum 10 shillings and I had 2/6 for the week. But mum kept me, clothed me, that was plenty. But she - mum...
- Facilitator: So, she went on clothing you after you went to work.
- Dorothy McInroy: For a while mum did, yeah. All our clothes, mum used to go to the mission to go to mother's club, whatever.
- Facilitator: The mission was where?
- Dorothy McInroy: It was in Spring Street, then it moved to the corner of Fitzroy Street and just down from Gertrude Street, it was there for many, many years. The Sisters of the Charity of the Holy Name, yeah, lovely sisters. Anyhow, once a month mum used to take a case up and she used to come home with it full of clothes, that's how we clothed - but she'd always come home with a little gift and God, we used to love that. But my best dresses cost mum a penny, that's why I swore black and blue when I started work I would never, ever wear anything second hand again.
- Facilitator: Because everything was second hand.
- Dorothy McInroy: Yes, but you had nothing, you couldn't afford it.
- Facilitator: No, how could she possibly with six kids and...
- Dorothy McInroy: She couldn't afford it. Mum did a great job, she wasted her life on us kids and we didn't know it. You know it now.
- Facilitator: What do you mean she wasted her life?



- Dorothy McInroy: Well she was an attractive woman, I don't remember her going out...
- Facilitator: But she stayed married to your dad, she didn't, they didn't divorce.
- Dorothy McInroy: No, the church got her a divorce later on. I was a teenager because I had to go to court. [24:38]
- Facilitator: Oh, tell me about that.
- Dorothy: Oh yeah, I had to go to court because I was the only one that could remember how long dad had been gone for.
- Facilitator: Right. Oh, he disappeared on you in the end.
- Dorothy: Yeah, and how long they hadn't been living together. You had to have proof in those days and I was the only one that could remember for mum to get some sort of substance.
- Facilitator: Yes. So, she got a divorce and then got a single pension...
- Dorothy: She got some sort of - not a pension. Whatever, it wasn't much but it was something that could help, and I was...
- Facilitator: Yeah, and the church helped to get that.
- Dorothy: Yeah, mum - they suggested to do this and I look back now and I think here is an attractive woman, six kids, and never complained. Could've, but I don't remember, and I can remember I had a Great Aunt Jane...
- Facilitator: Was she your mum's sister?
- Dorothy: No, nanna's sister. Nanna was the eldest and Great Aunt Jane...
- Facilitator: Were they down at Breamlea or...
- Dorothy: No, no, good heavens no.
- Facilitator: So right, this is the other side of the family.
- Dorothy: Yes, no. No you had to call her Great Aunt Jane, too. The others don't remember her, she never came very often and we were living in Collingwood at the time and I was playing out the front and I fell over and I hurt my leg, I don't know, and I was crying. [26:09]



Mum was attending to me and Great Aunt Jane was saying oh, pick yourself up, dust yourself off type of thing, blah, blah, blah. Mum turned around and said to her Great Aunt Jane - or Aunt Jane, she called her Aunt Jane - Aunt Jane, she said, this is Dorothy, she said, I don't care about the others at the moment, this is Dorothy's hurt and I will attend to Dorothy's hurt. I've never forgotten that.

- Facilitator: Wonderful, yeah. So she was there for you.
- Dorothy: Yeah, and it's a saying in the family now, this is my hurt not your hurt.
- Facilitator: [Laughs] That's good, it's gone right down...
- Dorothy: They lived in Box Hill somewhere.
- Facilitator: Right, and they'd come and visit every now and then.
- Dorothy: Once every so often.
- Facilitator: Right, to check on you?
- Dorothy: No, no.
- Facilitator: No? To help you?
- Dorothy: I don't know, I think to lord over us to tell you...
- Facilitator: But they didn't bring things for you...
- [Over speaking]
- Dorothy: No, no I do not ever remember them coming with anything. I can remember, though, sitting at the table and it was Sunday night's tea and here's Malcolm, we'd finish, [unclear] and here's [27:24] Malcolm eating and going [pause] and mum's gone behave yourself. In the end he couldn't stand it.
- Facilitator: He got the giggles.
- Dorothy: No, he was eating something he didn't like, and what it was the fruit salad he had, for some reason he put mayonnaise on it thinking it was cream.
- Facilitator: [Laughs] How disgusting.
- Dorothy: Oh, exactly.



- Facilitator: Yeah, so he managed to spit it out?
- Dorothy: In the end, he couldn't stand it, much to Great Aunt Jane's delight. What was her husband's name? Strange name, [toffee], it'll come to me in a minute.
- Facilitator: Did they come to you at Christmas or anything like that?
- Dorothy: Oh, Christmas time? No. No.
- Facilitator: Yeah, tell us about that.
- Dorothy: Oh, best time of all. Have you heard of Dr Singleton's? Right, well Dr Singleton's used to have - at the back of Dr Singleton's was this Methodist place, church, and to get to it - they used to have a free breakfast every Sunday and we used to go to the free breakfast. But we had to go to our own church as well, so we went to church twice that day. But if you didn't go to the free breakfast you couldn't go to their Christmas party so we went to the free breakfast and the Christmas party. Do you know what, people...
- Facilitator: In the hall, the Methodist hall. [28:49]
- Dorothy: Yes, in the hall at the back of Dr Singleton's. People would line up looking at it in through the window so you could only go by invitation, because yeah. You'd go and you'd sit down and you'd have doors closed and your kids had to sit in there with anticipation and often there'd be [knocks on table]...
- Facilitator: This is on Christmas day?
- Dorothy: Yeah, yeah. No, no I think it was before Christmas Day, I'm not too sure on that.
- Facilitator: Yeah, might've been Christmas Eve or something, yeah. Anyway, I've interrupted you, go on.
- Dorothy: Yeah, then you'd hear [knocks on table] and then all of a sudden the doors would open and this magnificent Christmas tree would be there and you could hear the ahh. Father Christmas would be there and every one of us kids got a present. Everyone got a present.
- Facilitator: Yeah, no wonder you all wanted to go.
- Dorothy: Oh, yes.
- Facilitator: You were all kids there, it was just for children.



Dorothy: Oh, yes.

Facilitator: A children's Christmas party, fantastic, yeah.

Dorothy: That happened before we got to Fitzroy. I don't remember going back after we got to Fitzroy somehow.

Facilitator: There wasn't a Fitzroy version of that?

Dorothy: No. That was magic, absolutely magic.

Facilitator: Was the tree lit up with lights... and candles?

[30:03]

Dorothy: Yes, God yes. Best tree I've ever seen in my life, yeah. I mean everybody was poor in that day but there was a lot of fun things, so you didn't know you were poor.

Facilitator: No, no. You didn't talk about having a hard time.

Dorothy: No. No, after dad left I never got belted again. Life was good...

Facilitator: He used to belt you?

Dorothy: Oh yeah.

Facilitator: Yeah, and he'd belt your mum presumably, did he?

Dorothy: Well...

Facilitator: You don't know, I suppose.

Dorothy: I only remember one fight that I woke up and I heard - he had a very quick temper. Look, he could've been quite a successful businessman if he wasn't so devious. He never went back to Geelong - I don't know how true stories are, but he was a womaniser and...

Facilitator: Yeah, and you knew this? Did you know this as a young...

Dorothy: Not as a youngster, but on reflection yeah, on reflection. I'll tell you a funny story that happened after we were married, I was married and the old man used to come and visit. I didn't mind him then because I had the upper hand, I wasn't a kid, and you'd like him for five or 10 minutes, great conversationalist. Mac liked



talking to him, but he knew what he was, but I said you can come but don't ever bring a woman with you.

Anyhow, we lived in Argyle Street and there was a bottle yard around, the old man worked in there, and this particular day I went to the butcher shop - where Marios is now used to be a butcher shop - and I just put my head in and I said I'll be back in a minute, but I want 14 snags, or whatever. When I got back he was talking to his mate and you know how you know someone's talking about you? I knew exactly what they [32:05]

were talking about and I looked at it and they'd go [laughs]. I said, do you know who that bloke is? They went, yeah. I said, no you don't. I said that man happens to be my father, and you should've seen the look on their faces. They thought I was one of his bloody women. He was seen up at my back fence. So I went and told mum, I was telling mum the story.

Facilitator: She was not living there by then, she was...

Dorothy: Oh no, no mum - I was married, yeah - and mum said to me if you dislike him so much, Dorothy, why did you acknowledge him? I said well, I'd sooner be known as his ratbag daughter than one of his bloody women, and I would too, but that's getting away from it. He's a strange man.

Facilitator: So when you were a teenager he just wasn't around.

Dorothy: No.

Facilitator: No, probably good.

Dorothy: No, and when we were in Geelong, I've got that scar through him... and I could show you my arm, I don't know whether you can see my arm. He was quick with his fists, the old man. Can you see the shape of that? He did that.

Facilitator: So he busted your elbow.

Dorothy: Yeah.

Facilitator: Yeah, God. [33:25]

Dorothy: Ronnie, my eldest brother - it's only us three big ones that know - the old man used to sit at the table like this, and you didn't speak at the table, and I don't



know what Ronnie did. The old man just leaned back like that, there was the razor strop.

Facilitator: Behind him at the table.

Dorothy: Yeah, he'd lean back in his chair and went [swish sound] and the buckle end caught Ronnie here and Ronnie had that scar to the day he died.

Facilitator: Yeah, could've taken his eye out.

Dorothy: Strange man. I can remember Ronnie when the old man came to visit one day and I happened to be in the back yard, I happened to hear it. Ronnie walked in and for some reason the old man must've been at the door, and Ronnie said just remember, I'm not a bloody kid any longer, and I can still see him.

Facilitator: Well no wonder he cleared off, because the family didn't...

Dorothy: Strange man. Never mind, we had a good mother.

Facilitator: You did have a good mother and you always, and you had good friends? You had good pals? Did you start having boyfriends quite early? What was the...

Dorothy: No. Because the old man - I was very...

Facilitator: Innocent?

Dorothy: Not innocent, no. I had no confidence, because we were now living in Argyle Street...

Facilitator: You were going to work?

Dorothy: No, no I was still at school. I was walking down the stairs as the old man walked in, he'd walk in as though he owned the bloody joint, strangely, because the house was never locked, he didn't have [35:11] to ring a bell. I'm walking down the stairs and he looked up at me and he says, you know what? I cannot believe you're my daughter. He said, you're not pretty enough.

Facilitator: Oh, yeah. [A brute, a brute you might say]].

Dorothy: I never got over it, because he was a good looking bloke. Anyhow, that's - I never had any confidence after that, it took me a long time to get over that. Actually I don't think I ever got over it.



- Facilitator: No, you don't. You don't get over that sort of stuff. Your father saying things like that. No, of course you don't.
- Dorothy: I don't think I ever... I really don't. Like, I...
- Facilitator: Was your mother a good looking woman like you are?
- Dorothy: I'm not good looking.
- Facilitator: You are Dot, you are, you are. You certainly are, you're the most striking looking woman, marvellous looking. Your mum? What did she look like?
- Dorothy: Me.
- Facilitator: She looked like you, well there you go.
- Dorothy: I look like mum.
- Facilitator: Yeah, so he'd be getting at you through...
- Dorothy: But see I had prominent teeth and I'm fully convinced it was my teeth.
- Facilitator: That he was really talking about?
- Dorothy: No, that made me ugly...
- Facilitator: That made you...
- Dorothy: ...it made me ugly. So the minute I was 16 I had them out. [36:23]
- Facilitator: You had them out? Where'd you go to have them out?
- Dorothy: [Unclear] down there. I can still, when I come home...
- Facilitator: A dental hospital or...
- Dorothy: No, they wouldn't do it. I talked him into it, I said if you don't somebody else will, I'll go to a backyard place. He took the first four out, I came home with no teeth. Mum was on the floor doing something on the floor, she sat down and she said oh, Dorothy what have you done? Best move I ever made.
- Facilitator: Because you felt confident?
- Dorothy: Yes.



- Facilitator: You got good looking false teeth immediately, or what?
- Dorothy: No, oh no.
- Facilitator: You came home with a great bleeding gap.
- Dorothy: Yeah, four teeth missing, the four prominent ones. Not a decayed tooth in my head. No, I don't regret... I don't regret it.
- Facilitator: So perfect teeth were taken out? Did kids not have bands in your...
- [Over speaking]
- Dorothy: No, everyone's got - I'm the only one that had prominent teeth.
- Facilitator: Yeah, but in Fitzroy did kids get bands in those days?
- Dorothy: No, who could afford them?
- Facilitator: Because they cost money. Yeah, of course. [37:22]
- Dorothy: Who could afford them?
- Facilitator: The middle class got bands, but not you guys, yeah.
- Dorothy: I mean I've been talking to people since where they can have them cut - the teeth weren't prominent, no, it was my gums are prominent. The teeth were perfect. Anyhow I got four first and then when I got the four [unclear] they told me I've got a long gum, short lip and no suction. I said oh, bloody lovely. Put them in, never had a problem. So but the...
- Facilitator: So you don't regret it at all.
- Dorothy: No, wire around here rotted the other ones, that's when I had the whole lot taken out and I, no, no I can't...
- Facilitator: Yeah, so you went off to work with teeth that you were pleased with. Yeah, and gradually got more confidence?
- Dorothy: Yeah.
- Facilitator: We're getting around to boyfriends, did you have boyfriends then?
- Dorothy: Yeah, a couple, a couple. I didn't like - like, I was funny, and of course...



- Facilitator: Meaning you were choosy?
- Dorothy: Yeah, very. But I had a brother, Ronnie, that used to tell me things.
- Facilitator: What, he'd tell you about boys that there were things you can...
- Dorothy: Yeah, what to do, what not to do.
- Facilitator: Right, so he was looking after you.
- Dorothy: Yeah, I can remember - actually, this is a good story - I won't mention his name because he's well known. I got off the tram and he got off the bus and - one or the other - we both - I knew who he was, used to see him down the Baths - and we got to chatting. As we turned into Argyle Street just [unclear] he pushes me up against the [39:11] wall. Ronnie always said, you look like being in trouble Dorothy you back up as though you're going to be in it and just raise your right leg.
- Facilitator: Raise your right leg, yes.
- Dorothy: Did that, so I got away, nothing happened to me so that was fine. Many, many, many, many years later I was at a function, because as I said he's well known, his name came up. I said, I'll tell you a story about him, and this person looked at me and she went oh, Dorothy, oh I wish that had've been me.
- Facilitator: [Laughs] No accounting for taste.
- Dorothy: Yeah.
- Facilitator: Tell me a story of that date you were on, that you told Mike and Noelene. That was really funny, when you went to look down on Argyle Street from the flats that had been built. Do you remember that?
- Dorothy: Yeah.
- Facilitator: Told a story about going out with a boy you quite liked and you...
- Dorothy: That was him, I didn't like him, but that was him.
- Facilitator: Okay, well I've got the story wrong.
- Dorothy: Well, it was another one. Let me...



- Facilitator: That was another one where you were having a cuddle I think and he...
- [Over speaking]
- Dorothy: Oh, no, no that was...
- Facilitator: That story, that's a terrific story.
- Dorothy: That was Mac.
- Facilitator: That was Mac? That was the man you married.
- Dorothy: Yeah. [40:31]
- Facilitator: Okay, tell me that story, that's a good way to end this. Because we're going to end with you and Mac for now.
- Dorothy: Oh, yeah. We went to the Adelphi Theatre and we're coming home...
- Facilitator: What was on, do you remember?
- Dorothy: Oh, bugged if I'd know. It would be something, it would be an MGM show. We only went...
- Facilitator: He took you out for a date.
- Dorothy: Yeah, and we're coming home and just having a chat and the door opens and oh...
- Facilitator: You were leaning against the door and it opened, at night, yes.
- Dorothy: Yeah, yeah a door opened, we go through and there was like this bench and it had things where the chairs are. It was a small factory and they had things lining up like that.... Oh, like that, and it had a balloon over it. I thought what in hell? They were French letters.
- Facilitator: So it was a condom factory. A Fitzroy condom factory.
- Dorothy: Yeah, and Mac said, I think we better go [laughs].
- Facilitator: He didn't tell you what they were?
- Dorothy: Not then, not then. Yeah, I'll never forget. Yeah, I'd never seen them.
- Facilitator: No. So you went home and told your mum?



- Dorothy: Yeah, yeah and mum had a chat to Mac later, I believe. [41:52]
- Facilitator: So how old were you then, Dot?
- Dorothy: Oh, 17. I married him at 19.
- Facilitator: Yeah, and you started going out with him when you were 17.
- Dorothy: Yeah.
- Facilitator: He was a local boy?
- Dorothy: He lived in 77 Argyle Street, I lived in 149 and...
- Facilitator: Yeah, and you'd never met. He was...
- Dorothy: No, my bedroom was upstairs. I read a lot, I used to love to read, and - but Malcolm had a motorbike and Malcolm used to fix things, and Mac had a motorbike and they all used to - because we had a lane and Malcolm had his shed to fix things. They all used to come, there'd be a dozen blokes, they were all bikies, and nice blokes. Malcolm had a Triumph, Mac had a BM, B, BSA, BS-something, a gold flash.
- I used to listen to them, I'd hear them and I'd think, oh. But I said to mum one day, I said do you know mum, out of all of Malcolm's friends there's only one decent bloke, it's that Max - I thought his name was Max, I didn't know it was Bill, his name was Bill, yeah, Macca - and one day I was on a tram...
- Facilitator: Why did you think he was decent? Because of the way he talked to the other boys. You'd hear them through your bedroom where you were reading a book.
- Dorothy: Yeah, I could hear them. He never spoke dirty and all the rest of it, even when the others did. He just didn't join into that or anything, and not that he was a goody two shoes, but there was something about him, there really was.
- Facilitator: Did your brother bring him home, is that how you got to talk to him?
- [43:40]
- Dorothy: No, [unclear] and I got on the tram to come home and I'd been in town for some reason, it was day time. Next thing I know he's sitting next to me, he'd seen me, he was on the tram too. We got talking and he said look, would you like to come out one night and I thought, why not? But then I got the shock of my life when I



found out who his sister was. Well, she had a bad name. Not as a player or anything like that, just as a - she was a drunk and a bully and she used to belt his - I didn't know it at the time - but she used to belt her mother and Mac used to many a time have to stop that fight.

Facilitator: Yes, and was this a mother living on her own as well...

[Over speaking]

Dorothy: No, no he comes from a family, strange family too, there. But Mac was - I always said Mac was the only decent one in that family - and I'd been out with him and - well you know you wore gloves in those days, and I must've taken my gloves off for some reason - and I wanted to go to church the next day and I've got no gloves. So mum said, you'll just have to go get them and so I did, and she answered the door. I came home and I said mum, you'll never guess who his sister is, I said I'll never go out with him again. She said well, who's his sister? I said that Jeanie from the buses and... Yeah, she was a conductor, conductress. Mum said oh, really? She said well, he's always been very nice, Dorothy, you shouldn't judge him by his sister, you know. I thought oh, took me awhile. I went to her funeral, and we were - this is many, many years later - and we were sitting there and we were listening and Mac looks at me, I looked at him, he said are we in the right place?

Facilitator: [Laughs] It didn't sound like her at all?

Dorothy: No, no we were in the right place. [45:54]

[End of tape 1. Start of tape 2]

Dorothy: There was a shop in Johnson Street, just around the corner from Napier Street on this side, that we used to go in there and there'd be half a dozen kids who'd be talking, the bloke behind the counter didn't mind. It was like a little clubhouse type of thing. It was the lolly shop.... Ice cream and stuff like that. We'd just come back from being down Geelong at the creek and we were all talking, did you have a good time, and my sister came in. They said, did you go down to the creek too, Lillian, and she said no, I went to Tasmania. They said oh, lovely, how'd you go, by boat or by plane? She said, I went by train. She used to handle the truth rather carelessly, Lillian, and she just wanted to prove she was different. Yeah, she went by train.

Facilitator: Better than the rest of you, yeah.



Dorothy: Oh, was she, yeah. Yeah, it cracked everybody up and she couldn't understand why at the time. I said Lillian, it's an island.

Facilitator: She'd hate you for that, I would think.

Dorothy: Oh, she did.

[1:09]

[End of tape 2. Start of tape 3]

Facilitator: Right, he came from Werribee.

Dorothy: He's not - I don't know, actually, I know that she came from Werribee. How they met, I don't know. I don't know, I didn't know the family even though they lived in 77 Argyle Street, we lived in 149. I didn't know them, because as a kid...

Facilitator: I remember you said last time that you hadn't met him during, while you were growing up.

Dorothy: No, I'd never met him. I didn't go to school in Fitzroy... and he did. He grew up, he was born in Fitzroy and died in Fitzroy. Anyhow, my brother Malcolm - he was the second, he's younger than I am by 12 months - Malcolm had a motorbike and Mac had a motorbike. There was about five of them mates in Fitzroy and they all met down our lane and my bedroom was upstairs above the lane and I used to be up there reading a book, I read a lot and I used to - you couldn't help but hear them.

One day I said to mum, there's only one decent bloke amongst all of Malcolm's mates and that's that one called Mac. Anyhow, that was fine. I didn't know that he liked me, I found out later that apparently he waited over two boyfriends for me, but that could've been just him talking.

I was coming home from the city one day and he was on the same tram and he came up and sat next to me and we got talking. Got off the tram and of course walking down Brunswick Street to Argyle Street and he said look, can I - would you come to the pictures with me? I'd always thought he was a decent bloke so I said yeah.

Facilitator: Where were the pictures? Where was the theatre then?

Dorothy: The Regent.

[1:53]



- Dorothy: The one - it used to be the [unclear] theatre at one stage and now it's all offices. But oh, The Regent Theatre was a great [centre of everything.] Oh, was it ever. It was a really good theatre - took me to the pictures and it just developed. But I did get a shock when I found out who his sister was. Yeah, Jeanie. When I - I had to go up, I took my gloves off for something and he must've put them in his pocket and I needed them to go to church this Sunday and mum said well, you'll have to go up and ask for them. So I did and I came - and she answered the door. I nearly fell over. Anyhow, mum - so I went back and I said, you'll never know who his sister was, is, and mum said who? I said, that Jeanie on the buses, mum said oh, well. Dorothy, he's a nice bloke.
- Facilitator: Yeah, so she could pick it.
- Dorothy: Yeah, she said he's a nice bloke. But the problem we had, Mac's Roman Catholic. I'm Church of England.
- Facilitator: Yes, yes, and you were going to St Mark's up here were...
- Dorothy: No, not up there, no. We considered Mark's was a low church, we were high. We were high. [We went to] St Mary's up here in Fitzroy Street, or St Peter's, one or the other. But I said to Mac, we were pretty serious by now, I said well, I'm the churchgoer in this relationship, if we get married it'll be in my church and if we have kids they'll be Church of England, the end of discussion. Not a problem. Mac and I had many fights, but not one on religion. Not one. [3:47]
- Facilitator: No, so you were able to bring the kids up in the way you wanted to and, yeah. Where did you get married? Tell me about that. Tell me about getting married.
- Dorothy: St Mary's. It was a nice wedding, two bridesmaids and...
- Facilitator: Who were your bridesmaids, friends or family?
- Dorothy: My sister, she was Matron of Honour, and two nieces, Claudia and Judith. Judith had a very bad accident up in the Dandenong's, she's still in care, and Claudia, no-one knows where Claudia is now. That's a long time ago.
- Facilitator: Did you get married in the full works?
- Dorothy: Oh yeah.



- Facilitator: Right, tell me about that. Who made your dress and...
- Dorothy: It was bought, bought in town at a small place in Little Collins Street. The girls wore blue and - I'll show you a photograph - and we had a nice reception. Oh, we had the reception home, because that's all you could afford, but mum did a good job on that. It was a nice wedding.
- Facilitator: So she did all the cooking and...
- Dorothy: Yeah, oh yeah, and family brought stuff, whatever. Such a long time ago, it was a good day. [It was] 1949. We went up to Bendigo for the honeymoon, went up on the train, and stayed at the Shamrock Hotel. Thought I was Queen Mary.... Just walked around the city. We weren't party kids, because we didn't know any better, and we were too young when you think about it.
- Facilitator: How old were you when you married? [5:31]
- Dorothy: 19.
- Facilitator: Yes, that's very young, and how old was Mac?
- Dorothy: Just on 20.
- Facilitator: Gee, he was young too.
- Dorothy: No, he's nine months younger than I am. Yeah, but it was a [unclear] - because he said to me, marry me, one day you've got to take George, I knew that. ...George, Georgie, was his nephew. He was a product of his sister and an American soldier. It couldn't happen today but [Cathy] was only about, I believe - from what I was told, I wasn't there at the time - 16 when she had George and...
- Facilitator: Yeah, and the family brought him up?
- Dorothy: Yeah, and Mrs Mac and Mac brought him home from hospital, which you couldn't do today, but they did.
- Facilitator: Where was she?
- Dorothy: I have no idea.
- Facilitator: No, so the mother didn't want him.



Dorothy: No. She couldn't cope, and there was no support and parents hid the so-called shame in those days, and...

Facilitator: So they said it wasn't the daughter's baby, it was... Whose baby did they say George was.

[6:54]

Dorothy: Oh, they always knew. Oh yeah, [they were] open about that. But Mac, Mrs Mac said to Mac that you have to always look after Georgie and when Georgie died that's why Mac took it so hard, is the fact that he always felt he'd let his mother's promise down. It was a terrible tragedy, and I always knew that - but I didn't know I was going to get him so soon.

Facilitator: So when did you get him?

Dorothy: Oh, when he was five, about five. Well he was a lovely little kid, and anyhow I was married four years before Georgie, when Colin came along and I honestly thought we'd have trouble with Georgie. His name was John, not Georgie, I don't know where Georgie came from, I never ever found out. ... there's nine years difference between them, he was nine when Colin was born. But I had him, I knew of him from since he was five. I get confused with dates with Georgie, to be honest. Anyhow, I...

Facilitator: So you didn't see a lot of him when he was very little. But when he was five he came...

Dorothy: No, when he - we were courting I didn't see a lot of Georgie. It was only when we sort of got serious that I knew. He was a good kid, and I thought are we going to have trouble. From the word go he idolised Colin, he really did. There used to be a shops two doors on the corner of Argyle and Brunswick Street, used to sell toys and Georgie used to save up his pocket money and buy a toy and bring it home and give it to Colin.

Facilitator: Yeah, so he loved the baby.

Dorothy: Oh yeah, absolutely, and I'd come home from work when Georgie was getting a bit older and he'd say I've cleaned your windows, [8:49] - oh, I'll tell you that story, too. So is that worth 10 bob? I'd say yeah, yeah that's all - whatever.

Facilitator: Was this the house you're now in?



- Dorothy: No, no 77. If you walked out my back gate and keep going to Argyle Street walk in the front door.
- Yeah, Georgie came to me one day and he said to me Aunty - he used to call me Aunty Dot - and he said Aunty Dot, he said, you're actually like my mother, aren't you? I said, actually I am Georgie. He said yeah, he said, can I call you mum from now on? I said I'd love that.
- Facilitator: Yeah, and he was how old when he said that?
- Dorothy: No, I don't know. I'd say 12, 13, something like that. Then a couple of years later than that he came to me and he said, why is it that I'm not allowed to go to such and such - I can't remember what it was. I said, well Georgie, it's a Church of England thing and you're Roman Catholic.
- Facilitator: Oh he was, right of course.
- Dorothy: He was christened Roman Catholic. He said, well I want to be the same as you and Colin. I said, well it's not that easy George, not that easy. He said what do you mean? I said, well you've got to go to lessons. Okay, so he did, and Georgie died a Church of England boy.
- Facilitator: Did he? Yeah.
- Dorothy: Hated church.
- Facilitator: Yeah, but he wanted to be part of your family.
- Dorothy: He wanted to be part of Colin and me.
- Facilitator: Yeah, and Mac too. [10:19]
- Dorothy: No, Mac stayed Roman Catholic.
- Facilitator: What did he look like?
- Dorothy: I'll show you a photograph.
- Facilitator: Yeah, I'd love to see a photo of him. He was at the local school?
- Dorothy: Oh yes. George Street. He wasn't well educated, Mac, a very good bloke, very honest bloke. I remember he worked on the wharf and my brother worked on the wharf, too.



Facilitator: This is Mac you're talking about now.

Dorothy: Malcolm worked on - both of them worked on the wharf and my brother used to come home with some stuff, knocked off, you know? This particular day he came home with a lovely fur coat that Maureen had and I said to Mac, how come you never bring me home anything like that? He said, I've got a wife and kid to look after, he said I can't do anything else. He said, I'm not losing my job. Mac was honest, one of the few wharfies in those days that was honest I think, but Mac was honest.

Facilitator: Dot, were you working at the time? You must've been working...

Dorothy: Yes, I've always worked. Yeah, I worked in the boot trade after I left school.

Facilitator: Yeah, and then after you got married you kept going in the same job?

Dorothy: No, I stayed there for a while and then I left and then I - it was after Georgie's death, no, before Georgie's death. I'm trying to think because Georgie's death ruined a lot of things for us, lots of [11:57] things. My sister-in-law worked in the dry cleaning business and she said oh, I took a - I remember now, I took time, gave away the boot trade and I took time off and I was looking for another job.

My sister-in-law said, why don't you do this? I said, handle other people's dirty clothes? Not on your nelly. No, and anyhow, to cut a long story short, I got talked into it and I found I went to it like a duck to water, I really did.

Anyhow, and then after Georgie's death I [unclear] and I was - I went to a bingo game for some reason, it was in the city, and I won and there was a place that sold men's hats just near Flinders Street Station and with the winnings I went and got Mac a hat, a cap, he used to wear caps, so I went and bought Mac a cap. Took it home, and guess what? It was too, it wasn't the right size so he took it back.

There was a dry cleaners next door to it and he went past and he recognised the woman in there so he went in there to chat and she's, what's Dot doing? He said, she's doing nothing, and she said oh, and anyhow, that was fine, we got talking and anyhow then I get a phone call just after Christmas and it was her husband. He rang up and he said look, Dot, he said Daphne has had a heart attack, she's in hospital. She's got to start work today and there's no way - it was after the holidays - there's no way we can get in contact. She said, do us a favour, can you go and open up the shop. So I said, yes.



So I said well, how will I get in? I haven't got a key. He said no, well go - told me where to go - stand outside, the driver's [unclear], he'll let you in and then we'll take it from there. He said there's nothing else I can do, he couldn't contact the owner, blah - so I did that and fiddled around and worked out everything. When - because the driver then has gone back and told his boss and next thing he's out and he said, who are you? I said, I don't want to be rude, but who are you?

[14:17]

He told me his name was Mr Power, and I said well, my name's Dot McInroy, blah, blah, blah and he said, I've heard about you and I stayed there for about another 10 years. But I moved around because I didn't want to - I moved from there to - I hated Elizabeth Street, until I went to Carlton. Oh, I loved it in Carlton. I worked there until I was oh, 58, something like that. But it's a good job in that, good job for a woman.

Facilitator: Yeah, so you were working and you had two boys that you were looking after and you moved to this house about that time, or when?

Dorothy: We moved here after Georgie's - well...

Facilitator: Yeah, go back to when George first started living with you and then he was going to school by then?

Dorothy: Yes, and then went to the technical school, he was doing well.

Facilitator: Yeah, what was he doing? What sort of technical stuff?

Dorothy: Oh, learning technical stuff, he wasn't academic. He was working part time in a garage and then this particular night in...

Facilitator: When he was how old, Dot?

Dorothy: 16. He'd left school, he was going to - what was he going to do? I had a breakdown here. He went - he was working at this garage. Anyhow, this particular night, it was a Saturday night, he went to this Police Boy's Club.

Facilitator: Whereabouts was that?

Dorothy: In Collingwood, in Hoddle Street. Anyhow, now it's - we were in bed, about 11 o'clock - and Mac said to me, it's about time that little bugger was home, isn't it?



Facilitator: How old was he? 16, yeah. [16:14]

Dorothy: Just on 16, 16. I said oh, give him a go, it's Saturday night. Then all of a sudden there was a light went across the house, a torchlight, and then there's [knocks] very quiet knock, chilled you to the bone, it really did, but two policemen. Georgie had - was walking home. Georgie - look I'll tell you the whole thing.

I bought Georgie a suit and Georgie hated wearing suits. So we lived in 77, mum lived in 149. Georgie used to leave home in the suit, go to mum's place, take the jacket off and go on. On the way home, pick up the jacket. He used to always, everybody will tell you. Right, so Georgie's got a dark pair of pants on and a white shirt. He gets to the corner of Hoddle Street and Johnston Street and his mate's going the other way and Georgie can't find his fare home for some reason, he just couldn't find it, and so he walked. Had he found his - his fare was in the corner of his hanky, because we found it later, or the police said. As he was walking up Johnston Street, this fellow... Yeah, corner of Johnston and Wellington Street, he was walking up. This fellow, Yugoslav he was, across the road from the Collingwood Tech was a milk bar and apparently during the day this couple of Australian kids and this Yugoslav, altercation, blah, blah, blah. It'd had been going on for hours, apparently, from what we found out later. Then...

Facilitator: They'd been hyping him up.

Dorothy: Yeah, so anyway he goes home and comes back with a knife, apparently. They don't know he's got a knife but they - and apparently this time the Australian pushed the Yugoslav until he fell on the ground and out. He went up Johnston Street to Smith Street, along Smith Street to Otter Street and down Otter Street when he heard George scream. [18:35]

George was coming up Johnston Street, he's hiding in the corner, sees somebody in a white shirt and dark pants and take it to be the other kid and came out and stabbed him eight times.

Facilitator: Oh Dot, Jesus.

Dorothy: Case of complete mistaken - and that was proven, I can show you - complete [Mistaken identity, yeah.]

Facilitator: Yeah, oh. So there he was in Johnston Street and you were - the cops came and found you.



- Dorothy: Yeah, by then he was taken to the hospital. We all went up to the hospital and the surgeon came out and said, he should be dead, he said I don't know why he isn't. He said, but he's got youth on his side and he said now, I'm telling you now we had to - he said to go home, he said you can't stay here. See times were different in those days.
- Facilitator: Yeah, is this St Vincent's you're talking about?
- Dorothy: Yeah, St Vincent's, and we no sooner got home - and nobody had a telephone - and the next thing we know O'Brien's on the corner. We were just sitting there... O'Brien's used to be a mixed business.
- Facilitator: Right, so they'd take phone calls if it...
- Dorothy: Yeah, [he's off the phone]. He came up, Georgie was dead. I can still see Pop, standing over George - Pop was old - he said, it should've, why isn't it me? I've had my life. But it ruined - Colin was never the same, Mac was never the same.
- Facilitator: No, no how could he be? How could you all be? [20:18]
- Dorothy: No, and you just - and we got no support off anybody. None. I found out later, because I had a go at a couple of my relatives about it, and do you know what one said to me? Nobody was worried about you, Dorothy, you're always so capable.
- Facilitator: So they were worried about who, Mac?
- Dorothy: Nobody. Nobody, I'd fix the family because I'm capable. That's not an excuse.
- Facilitator: No. So the hospital offered you absolutely no support.
- Dorothy: No, not really.
- Facilitator: Nothing, no. What about the church?
- Dorothy: The church, yes. Well Colin went from a - this is another story I'll never forget. Colin was - it was in '62,
- Dorothy: Anyhow, Colin turned from - he went from a sweet little boy to an, oh he'd kick you and, you know. Anyhow, mum suggested I take him up to see Sister, so I did. She said to me Dorothy, I don't want you to interfere in anything, just sit there. Well, she started talking about Roy Rogers, Hopalong Cassidy, I thought what a load of rubbish. She was trying to work out whether he knew the difference



between fair dinkum people and imaginary people, they shoot one another and it's not fair dinkum and all that rubbish.

Then she said to him - I can't remember everything that was said, but I do remember this. Colin was sitting on a little stool, he was a little kid... [22:11]

[Eight or nine.] Yeah, and she said now, you've got to remember Colin that the man that killed Georgie didn't hate Georgie, because he didn't know Georgie, so he didn't hate him. God is not like that, God's there to love you and help you all the time. All of a sudden Colin stood up and looked at her and he said Sister, if God loves everybody where was he when my brother needed help, and walked out. Never went to church again. How could you?

Facilitator: Yeah, no. No, and did you walk out too?

Dorothy: Yes, I went after him, lost all my faith and I suppose I could've gone to them, asked for help, but I told them to stuff it.

Facilitator: Yeah, yeah. What about the school?

Dorothy: Colin never was the same. No, no help. They just let you get on with it. People were too frightened to approach you, they were too frightened to do anything. Whether they were touched with the stigma of a murder, I don't know. I've often wondered about it.

Facilitator: So friends in the street?

Dorothy: We had a few, a couple of the friends - my couple of decent friends were there but they didn't know what to do, they couldn't help. Mac was never - Mac went through hell and he went violent. Oh yeah, yeah.

Facilitator: Mainly because he wanted to go and find the bloke and kill him?

Dorothy: He was caught outside there with a shotgun.

Facilitator: Really, yeah. Not surprising that he'd feel like that.

[24:20]

Dorothy: Yeah, so oh no, Mac would've killed him if he got near him, he'd have got shot - I don't know where he got the shotgun from.

Facilitator: Was the - the guy was caught and charged? What happened?



Dorothy: They found the guy the following - it was a Saturday night, they knew where to - they knew him. That fellow was a - oh, what do you call it? A - people knew of him up and down Smith Street apparently, I've never known him. He was in and out of institutes in Yugoslavia, so how do you get into the flaming country in the first place? I don't know.

While he was here he was in and out of - he escaped from the Ararat Mental institution, but apparently back in those days if you escaped and stayed at large for three months you were automatically discharged. That's not the law today, but that was the law then. Because they thought that if they're capable of looking after themselves and so on they're fine. That's probably how the police knew of him. They knew where to find him, and they found him up in this café up in Gertrude Street.

Facilitator: Gertrude, yeah the Yugoslav café's up there, I remember them.

Dorothy: Yeah, and anyhow he couldn't go to trial because he was declared insane. The police have still got all Georgie's clothes. Yeah, I've never got them back, that's why I will never give shoes - I bought Georgie a new pair of shoes not long before and I will never give shoes as a present, buy a pair of shoes for a loved one and one will walk away from the other. But anyhow, about five years after Georgie's death we got a notification he'd been declared sane and he had to stand trial. So up to the Supreme Court we go. Yeah, and we're standing there and we were...

[26:23]

Facilitator: What, did they want you to give evidence?

Dorothy: I don't know what they wanted us to do to be honest with you. We were standing there and oh, I tell you, there was a lot of women there that reminded me, they were all standing there - we were all in this like a corridor thing, waiting for something, I don't know - and anyhow they remind me of a scene in a movie of the French Revolution when they're all sitting there knitting watching the guillotine. That's what they reminded me of for some reason.

Then all of a sudden I froze. I saw, over there, this little weed of a bloke standing between two big fellows and I said to Mac, that's him. Mac said, how do you know? I said - I don't know how I knew - I said, that's him. Anyhow the police, they were two police with him, little weedy little bloke, and they walked him past.



We were waiting outside, the next thing we knew the judge had declared that he'd flipped his lid again. That's the words they used, not mine.

A detective came out and said sorry, Mrs McInroy, but he's flipped his lid again and I've heard no more. Not another word have we heard. As far as I know I've still got a murder trial hanging over my head. Because we've heard nothing.

Colin couldn't get on with his life, Colin died an alcoholic. Mac was never the same.

Facilitator: What happened to - was Georgie buried here? Was he buried at the church or where?

Dorothy: No Georgie's buried in Fawkner.

Facilitator: Right, so you went through all that, a funeral...

Dorothy: Yeah, actually Georgie had a very good funeral, good funeral. It was a big funeral up at, by this time I was up at St Mark's. Mac went missing...[28:18]

Facilitator: Was your mother alive?

Dorothy: Yes.

Facilitator: Yes, terrible for everyone...

Dorothy: Mum died in '82. Mac, I remember on the day, I turned up at the - I was working at the Hotel Australia, I was a waitress then. I forgot about that, I enjoyed waitressing, too. I must've liked people I think. Mac disappeared for about oh, an hour or so, and I don't know where. So he realised all these kids couldn't go to the cemetery so he went and hired a bus.

Facilitator: Did he? Oh, and took them.

Dorothy: Yeah, and they went. But no, and... Georgie, where Georgie's buried - so there's here, there's a path here and Mac bought this block here, but so we also bought this block, the one opposite because he couldn't buy the next one because there was a path there. I wouldn't do it today, but if Georgie hadn't have died - Georgie was buried there so when my pop died he's buried there, Mac and Colin's buried opposite. I call it McInroy's corner, and I'm going there too. But Georgie had a big funeral.



- Facilitator: Yes, but then later you said it was very hard around the street with people wouldn't talk to you.
- Dorothy: People - the only - people that should've known better. They probably wouldn't have, in hindsight and thinking back they probably didn't know what to say, so rather than not say - when I needed comfort, and all I could see - so no-one wanted to talk to me.
- Facilitator: They'd see you coming and avoid...
- Dorothy: That's right, because they didn't know what to do. [30:14] I can understand it now, but not then I couldn't. No, not then I couldn't. It was, as I said later when I told this relative of mine they said none of us worried about you Dorothy, we knew you were capable. But I needed...
- Facilitator: Yes, of course you did, and Colin, he went straight to school or what happened?
- Dorothy: No, we sent him away, away from [unclear]. We should have tried to - I sent him up... Yeah, I sent Colin to a boy's camp, a Scout camp, up in the Dandenongs, I forget the name of the place there. Then when - so that he wouldn't be there, but that was a bad move, Colin needed to be there but I didn't know that. Then my mother took him, had him, and this particular day I said to Mac, I think we better go and get that little fellow. Funny, it was lunchtime at school, I said I'm going to get him now, I need to have him home now. So I went off to the school, I couldn't find him.
- I went in to the teacher, they said he's out in the playground somewhere. I found him in the corner of a - I think it's that little side street between Johnston Street and the school there's a little, I think it's Chatham Street, I'm not sure. I went there and he was up in the corner, crying, and do you know what he said to me? He said, mummy, Georgie's gone, do I have to go too? I'll never forget that as long as I live.
- Facilitator: So you brought him home.
- Dorothy: Yeah, and you should've seen him. Mum had him in Raymond's clothes; clean but too big for him. He looked, talk about [32:32] looking like Orphan Annie. Yeah, Georgie's gone mummy, do I have to go too? But he was never the same. Never the same, Colin.
- Facilitator: No. Did he talk about it or did he clam up, too?



Dorothy: That's why - see we were told that you don't talk about these things, and both of those blokes needed to talk about it and so did I, actually.

But I was better - I had a few friends that I did open up, but I must tell you this though. So this is true. When I was in Hotel Australia they have like the - she was a travel agent in the office over there, up on the mezzanine floor or something and we had to give her her cup of tea. Somewhere along the line I inherited her. So I'm one of these people oh well, I've got her, serve her and get it over and done with, right? I must've been taking up her cup of tea to her - she was silver service, you might add, Hotel Australia - for about 18 months prior.

After the accident they took up a collection for me. One of the girls went in and asked her, do you know what she said? "I didn't know her very well". Anyhow when I go back, I went back to work and - I was off three months, I asked could I have any holiday pay or something like that and I was told that you've been paid for the whole time so that was very nice - and I went to get this woman's tea and this other waitress, I'm going to tell you something Dorothy. I said what? She said, that's what she said. I said, She can get her own bloody tea.

Yeah, "I didn't know her very well" and that was the action of a lot of people. Maybe not those words, but the action, because they couldn't handle it. By word that one should've known better.

Facilitator: Yep, God a terrible, terrible, terrible time.

Dorothy: I've still got the newspapers of the time.

Facilitator: I was going to ask you, the papers would be full of it of course.

Dorothy: Yeah, and actually - and this reporter, one reporter was very hard to hear all the time, about a brawl on the corner, involving a [35:24] brawl blah, blah, blah. Anyhow, Owen, one of the nephews that was staying with us, he went into 3AW - I think it was 3AW, or 3W, I thought it was 3AW - and told them that what they're saying didn't happen, it wasn't, blah, blah, with the rest of it and how distressing it was and they made an apology.

Facilitator: The least they could do.

Dorothy: Yeah, they made an apology but yeah, something I wouldn't want to live through again. I don't think I could to be honest with you, I really don't, because it ruined - people don't understand they've got sympathy for these killers, they don't just kill



a person, here's a whole family. Pop was never the same, he was devastated. Mac was never the same man. Colin, well Colin ended up in - Georgie's gone, but Colin ended up one of the true victims, his life was finished.

Facilitator: What happened to Colin?

Dorothy: Well he just couldn't handle anything and died an alcoholic.

Facilitator: Oh, Dot. Stayed at school, left school?

Dorothy: Yeah, Colin really was a smart kid, I'm not just saying that. Colin was a good kid, but gave up. Crosswords Colin can do them like that, if there was a test on that, but one of my nephews who had a transport business and they used to have a table like this one I think. They'd have these crosswords and they weren't allowed to be thrown out and people would come in, the hard ones, and they'd do them from - and they thought Colin was a fool because he was always drunk. They just didn't know anything about Colin, they took him to be a complete fool. [37:23]

This day Colin came down, went down, and Keith wasn't there, he was out somewhere and Colin just sat down and nothing to do so he went [tap, tap, tap]. This blokes looking at him, they thought he was being smart, but then they said don't do that, you'll ruin it. Colin said no, and he... did the lot. They couldn't believe it, and I...

Facilitator: How did he become an alcoholic? Was it easy to get grog?

Dorothy: Do you know what?

[Over speaking]

Dorothy: I never saw Colin drink home, he never, he went out. Whether he couldn't come home, I don't know, whether he decided that - him and Robert went their separate ways when they were about 16.

Facilitator: Tell me about Robert. Shall we stop for a minute and I'll make another cup of tea?

[End of tape 3. Start of tape 4]

Facilitator: This is a continuation of [unclear]. So, you're now - tell me about Robert.

Dorothy: Well Robert and Colin went to the same school. Robert, his mother lived in Fitzroy, his grandfather lived in Napier Street for years, and they lived up at the



Fleet Street flats, they lived in a dozen different places actually. Anyhow, Robert and Colin got on extremely well.

Facilitator: They were in the same grade at school.

Dorothy: Same grade at school. Anyhow, and this particular day Robert came home with Colin and the next day he came home with Colin and

[0:45]

the next day he came home with Colin. Every time I turned around, there was Robert. Anyhow he was in and out of our lives, he started living with us when he was 16, then he left - I actually told him to go, that's another story. I blamed him - I'd just found out Colin was drinking and Mac and I - I'll give Robert his due here.

Facilitator: Robert knew that Colin was drinking, is that what you're saying?

Dorothy: Yeah, he never told us. He heard us talking in the kitchen and he came out and confronted us. I thought Robert was an instigator of Colin drinking and one thing led to another and Robert left. He always told me, you threw me out. I said, well it was either you or Colin [laughs]. Anyhow, but he kept coming back. He actually idolised Mac, Mac was the first adult that ever sort of took notice of Robert. Oh, Robert had a dreadful upbringing, that's Robert's story to tell, not mine.

Facilitator: Right yes, of course, but he came to you because that was a household that he wanted to be part of.

Dorothy: That's right, and any issues that we had Robert never saw. Funny thing about the way we grew up, we could be having a blue but if somebody knocked on the front door you'd never know about it. You'd come in, have a cup of tea and the fight would go on after you left, not while you were there and Robert never saw any of it. Anyhow, Robert then would go away and come back, stay for a while, go away and come back.

But he was always there and he was always there to pick up Colin, a great friend to Colin and a great friend to Mac in the end. He started out being Colin's best friend, then he ended up being Mac's best friend, and would you believe he's now my best friend.

Facilitator: Yeah, that's wonderful, that's great.



Dorothy: He lives there, he comes in every day, you've seen him. Every day to see that I'm alright. [3:04]

Because apparently - he didn't find his grandma - apparently his grandmother and he idol-, he talks about his grandparents a lot, Robert, they were the only stability he had in his childhood early was his grandparents. But he preferred to come to us, strange that, maybe we were younger, I don't know, and...

Facilitator: Having Colin, too, like brothers...

Dorothy: Yeah, and his grandmother was on the floor for three days apparently, she had collapsed and nobody - because the father had - I don't know how it happened - and nobody saw her. So I'm not going to be on the floor for three days.

Facilitator: No, he'll make sure you're not.

Dorothy: Yeah, like he walked in today and it started raining and I'd done some washing and I put the - I thought well I won't hang them on the line, I'll put them in the dryer. He said to me, did you check that there was no dust in there, the filter, did you look at the filter? I cleaned it when I took it out. So in he goes, pulls the filter out and he says, look, this can cause a fire, and he cleaned it all out, just automatic, he does - and actually...

Facilitator: It's fantastic that you've got him, really.

Dorothy: Oh, when I was sick as you know, he was there. No, he's a great friend. Yeah, poor Robert.

Facilitator: So Dot when did you move into the house you're now living in? Greeves Street. Was that after Georgie died?

Dorothy: Oh yes, yes. Yeah, got to the stage I couldn't live in that house and it was either that or - so Mac bought this, best move. Got away from everything.

Facilitator: Mm, and you had your own house. You bought it, you...

Dorothy: Yeah. [5:13]

Facilitator: What year was that when you came to Greeves Street?

Dorothy: When we came to Greeves Street, late '60s, early '70s, yeah. Anyone will tell you, it was a great street back then. It was like a little village.



- Facilitator: Yes, everyone knew each other and, yeah.
- Dorothy: Oh yeah. Anyone ever told you about George [Rouse]?
- Facilitator: Yes, I knew a bit about George Rouse.
- Dorothy: Oh God, he lived next door. What a character.
- Facilitator: Yeah, there were characters in every house I would think.
- Dorothy: Yeah, there was Mary, Mary Donaldson, she was the only one that could watch the front and the back at the same time and the kids hated her. Then the Royles next door and then there was us and then the Rouses, then Vi Abrahams and then in that other one there was an English lady that lived there.
- Next to Peter, Mac did a lot of work for - she fancied Mac. Not in a bad way, but she really did fancy Mac and did a lot of - she had a home in Kew. She invited us out there, real nice home. She - what was her name? Strange lady. Then there was Madge who lived in Peter's house, she was a strange character. Craig's always lived over there and then there was oh, two lots of people before what's his name, [de Laroux]. But more this side, oh the Potters, oh God the Potters were strange.
- Facilitator: Yes, and the Brunswick Street, this end of Brunswick Street was full of pretty interesting families too, [Mark Goss]...
- Dorothy: Oh, [unclear] there was nothing there. You could shoot a cannon on a Sunday. You wouldn't hit anybody, everything closed.
- [7:13]
- Saturday at one o'clock, bang. The Italians and the Greeks, they did a lot for Australia.
- Facilitator: Yes, they sure did, and for this area.
- Dorothy: Yeah, they did.
- Facilitator: Very much, yeah, and they'd been moving in in the '60s, '50s, '60s. So there were a lot of Italian and Greek families around here.

[End of tape 4. Start of tape 5]



- Facilitator: Fitzroy's generally been good to you, hasn't it? [0:03]
- Dorothy: Fitzroy's been very good for me. I have four brothers and a sister, every one of them moved away bar me and I was the only one that didn't want to come here in the first place. But no, easy, I like Fitzroy.
- Facilitator: Moving from Argyle Street to here was a big move, really, wasn't it?
- Dorothy: It was. I couldn't get out of there quick enough.... I could not get out of there quick enough.
- Facilitator: They're like little villages, the areas of Fitzroy.
- Dorothy: Yeah, actually where you were, you didn't have neighbours. We had a Greek family next door, there, and they had - oh, I reckon they had shifts in the bed, one would get out, somebody else would get in. But there was a factory next to us and factories across the road. There was houses in Fitzroy Street but next to us, we were nothing. We were on our own. Maybe that had something to do...
- Facilitator: That might've had something to do with your feeling very isolated.
- Dorothy: Yeah, come to think. I never thought about it until now. That probably had a lot to do with it.
- Facilitator: When you moved here, where was your mother living? When you were...
- Dorothy: 149 Argyle Street. Yeah, she stayed there until she went into - no, she came to me. She lived with me for five years before she moved into a nursing home, and Colin got out of his bed for my mum.
- [1:37]
- Dorothy: We put a shed in the back yard. But then mum needed to go to a nursing home, that caused a lot of trouble.
- Facilitator: Was that a local nursing home? Near... Just up the road, or...
- Dorothy: Yeah, in - [Whitlam] opened it. It was on the corner of - there's a church on the corner, what's the - I should know the name, I was there every day. What was the name of it? It'll come to me, getting old. My birthday Saturday.
- Facilitator: Is Saturday or you've had it.



Dorothy: Not, this.....Saturday.

Facilitator: Next Saturday.

Dorothy: 85. Yeah, I gave mum an extra five years of quality life. She hated it when she first got there, within [unclear] she was running the place. Mum was a good organiser, yeah. Nearly had the name of the place then. Isn't that shocking? I've been there every day for so long, mum dying there, every time I pass it going up Nicholson Street I say a Hail Mary and the name escapes me.

Facilitator: Was it the Catholic nursing home?

Dorothy: No, it was a Methodist I think, a Methodist. It was just built, it was at the time. I think it's closed down now for some reason. It was like a little village, but it was very good. Mum was very happy there in the end before she - she died of Parkinson's, got it bad, which is sad. You'd have liked my mum.

Facilitator: Yes, I'm sure I would. She's - I'm sure there's a lot of you in her, there's a lot of her in you. [3:35]

Dorothy: Well I always said, if I could be one tenth - if I could be like my mother I'd be happy, but I'm not even one tenth. But I think, funny thing - is that off?

END OF TRANSCRIPT