

**INTERVIEW WITH BEV MAUNSELL**

**21 June 2000**

**Timecode refers to tape 50\_BC\_SP**

**Topics in Bold**

I = Interviewer

R = Respondent

**I This is tape 50, Channels of History. It's still DAT tape 18. This is the third interview tape with Bev Maunsell and it's 21 June 2000 and the DAT is on 1 hour 1 minute 44 seconds. 50\_BC\_SP**

So Bev, what was it that brought you and Graham back to Windorah, or back to the Channel Country, and what year was it?

**R Windorah Security**

02:01:02:16 1971 was the year, Trish. It was ummm a combination of all things. All things, including all things about living in this area, and missing the west. I think perhaps ummm freedom for the children was most ... I mean as in safety issues or, you know, freedom to play wherever and virtually, you know, have that ummm the safety issue. I honestly don't believe that I had ever had to ummm remove keys from a vehicle before. I was quite spoilt by that or ummm lock a house at night. Ummm not, the small things, I guess, that you enjoy but you don't miss until you don't have, like walking alone through the streets at night. I never ever felt safe, even going down to the local shop. I knew that I was safe. In hindsight I know that but it was just that coming from living on properties and then out in a place like Windorah where everybody was safe and you could, you know, you could break down on the road, change a tyre. You wouldn't worry about the oncoming car, if there was one, if you were fortunate enough to see a car coming. It would never enter your head to think, 'Oh, I mightn't know this person' because it doesn't matter if you don't, they will still hop out and give you a hand and whatever. A lot of those things I found hard to deal with. The fact that ...

**TAPE 1 – SIDE B**

**R Women/Land**

02:03:06:21 ... and if they happened to stop, perhaps, you know, and this

was just my feeling. I'm not insulting anybody in the city, that's for sure, because it probably, my opinion probably sounds ridiculous to people who've lived there all of their life, but I did miss that feeling of safeness if I was home alone with the children at night – that feeling of, I didn't like to lock up and plus I think that financially for us it was much harder living down there than it had been. Of course we had three children. We didn't, we were married with children, we weren't as single people in Windorah either. But most of all, it was homesickness.

I So was it your decision to come back that Graham then went along with?

R 02:03:47:22 No. It wasn't actually. It was a mutual decision. We ... in those days there were telegrams and we received a telegram from my parents telling ... Graham did, telling him that he could start work in Windorah the following week so that was about all we needed. But they were aware that we did want to come back out to the west and I should imagine my mother mentioned that to Ron McCullough, and hence the telegram. But we certainly packed in a hurry and made arrangements and everything and made that working day.

I So it was 1971? What work did your husband come back to and what life did you come back to in Windorah?

R 02:04:34:00 Well, ummm Graham came back to working on the roadworks there, that western road when they were putting that bitumen down, and ummm I actually lived in my parents' home because it was vacant. I lived there with the children. He would go out to work, as most of the men that worked on that road, Mac's Roadworks, the ones that came from Windorah, did. They would go out to work and sort of come in during the night or whatever. So everything changed for us, I guess. We were back in the west and Graham wasn't home every day and every night but he would be going off to work and coming back in with the manager in the week or whatever and on weekends. Ummm I think possibly I appreciated mostly the things that I just mentioned that I wasn't comfortable with. I also often joked, and yet there was a sense of truthness there, about I'd rather pay perhaps two or

three dollars for a loaf of bread ummm than to have to lock the whole house up and go down and unlock the car and re-do all of that ummm to pay ninety cents for a loaf of bread, so I mean, I made reference to those sort of things quite a bit I guess.

I And you could live on just his wage back out here?

R 02:06:06:18 Much more easily then. Yes, I think that perhaps coming, going from Windorah to Brisbane and ummm there was certainly a lot more spending during those years because of what was available that we hadn't had access to, even going out. I mean, we were young and I think that was another thing. With the people connected with the racing world were very social people so we felt that we were keeping up with the Joneses. We were all very much the young married couple from Windorah, I'm sure, but yeah, we probably had quite a busy social life ummm and a very different social life too, but I enjoyed that just the same, but I think that it was a lot easier for us to live in Windorah and there's always something to do. You know, the lady might get you to work at the shop for a little while, or whatever, you know. You sort of ... it's not that I didn't work ummm I often did something when we came back out here, yeah.

I And you were also doing all the family stuff, cooking and cleaning?

R 02:07:45:02 Yes, yes, Trish, and on the properties, like when we were at Currawilla, I mean, you ummm often the manager and his wife were away and you're doing the cooking so you're working, you know, and they would quite often get you over there to do whatever so I mean, things are shared around and you're kept. I mean, you don't pay for gas and electricity and groceries and things like that ummm you may earn a lower wage but you're not paying out every day either.

I What took you to Currawilla?

R 02:08:20:02 Probably the yearning to go back to station life. That's probably a strong ... and is still with me today, that yearning. Ummm I think that's as strong as ummm the need to move back to the west if you move

away. I think people change, though. I ... people do change and circumstances change and, you know, I could probably say well yes, I talk about coming back to the west but then I wouldn't know whether I might move away from the west at some time either, you know.

I      What did you love about station life?      C.BARS      02:09:14      –  
02:10:59