

REGINA BOLLINGER

OPEN FOUNDATION HISTORY

THURSDAY 10-12 noon

LOCAL HISTORY ESSAY AND SUMMARY

TOPIC: THE SALVATION ARMY

DUE DATE: THURSDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 1988

"If there's a man here who hasn't had a square meal today let him come home to tea with me" 1 were the words spoken to the assembly by John Gore at the first meeting of the Salvation Army in Adelaide in 1800. 2 The drumbeat was sounded and the Salvation Army's message was heard in Australia. 3 Three years later Captain Sutherland was sent to Newcastle to launch the Army and to set up headquarters. The Salvation Army began its campaign in Newcastle at a meeting in premises temporarily leased at the Junction of Perkin and King Streets on the 12th May 1883. 4 "The hall was inordinately crowded - filled in fact to suffocation - whilst outside and around crowds of curiosity mongers and larrikins improved the shining hour by hoots, catcalls, etc, varied at intervals with a sarcastic "Amen" or "Glory Hallelujah" .. 5 At this first meeting, in addition to praise and prayer Captain Sutherland gave a lengthy address explaining the object of their mission. 6 These dedicated people could now put into practice in Newcastle the words of their founder William Booth, "While little children go hungry.. I'll fight; while men go to prison, in and out .. I'll fight; while there yet remains one dark soul without the light of God, I'll fight; I'll fight to the very end"... 7

For some time The White Ribbon Army formed to oppose the Salvationists marched in opposition to the detachments of General Booth. Persecution and opposition greeted the Army as they made their customary march down Hunter Street towards the Victoria Theatre. Nearly 2000 people assembled and persecution was rife. Not even the women were spared from the grossly offensive behaviour of hoodlums who seemed determined to put an end to the activities of the Army. 8

1. Newcastle Sun, 11 February 1980
2. Barbara Bolton, Booth's Drum, Rydalmere, 1980, p7.
3. Newcastle Morning Herald, 14 May 1883.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Lawrence Fellows, A Gentle War, New York, 1979, p.23.
7. Newcastle Morning Herald, 22 October 1883.

The early evangelists were a fiery lot who looked for the sensational to attract attention and converts. Between 1881 and 1907 more than 100 Australian Salvationists were góaled or fined for street marching or for holding open-air meetings. Publicans alarmed that the "Sallys" were converting their best customers paid prowling hooligans to cause trouble. 8 Growing public acceptance forced the authorities to take action to protect the members of the Army from insults and brutality.

Music played a vital part of worship and lifestyle to The Salvation Army and brought considerable pleasure to the Salvationists. The main aim of the music was to attract attention and draw people to the Army's street meetings and halls where they would hear the gospel preached. Arthur Arnott the son of wealthy biscuit manufacturers in Newcastle was an officer of The Salvation Army and spent the greater part of his career collecting money to support the Army's work. He had a great love of music and people and all his life wrote songs for people that appealed to their emotions and were easy to sing. 9 Throughout the years many converts were made and the Army grew from strength to strength. Eventually the opposition was worn out and the missionaries were free to carry out their work without interference.

The local council was greatly alarmed at the disturbances caused by these exponents of soup soap and salvation. In 1914 a resolution was passed limiting The Salvation Army to 20 minutes for an open-air meeting. The Army refused to observe it and the council did not pursue them. 10

8. Newcastle Morning Herald, 10 July 1965.
9. Bolton, Booth's Drum..... p.169.
10. Newcastle Morning Herald, 31 March 1914.

In 1897 Orders came that a poor man's shelter and rescue home for women were needed. By July a home for "fallen women" had been opened at Islington. A Workmen's Hotel was opened in Scott Street in 1900 to provide relief for the homeless, poverty stricken wayfarer. The home was for those with little means and also provided wholesome meals at a cheap rate. Bread, soup, tea or coffee cost a halfpenny and beds could be obtained for threepenny. No man would be turned away and those who could not afford to pay were allowed to earn their keep by doing some sort of work at the home. 11

The Depression hit The Salvation Army and their work as badly as anyone else and funds were not as readily available. This was due to a drop in public donation caused by the unemployment. The Army in Newcastle was perhaps more fortunate than most as it was sponsored heavily by the B.H.P. as well as receiving a donation of £1,000 a year from an anonymous donor. The assistance provided by the BHP enabled The Salvation Army in Newcastle to give docketts for food and clothing in families who had been on the Company's Pay Roll and to other needy people. 12

During the 1920's The Salvation Army opened soup kitchens in Newcastle and Carrington to provide food for the unemployed, as well as women and children. By 1932 the Army was caring for 3000 unemployed. 13

In 1925 The Newcastle Sun reported ~~Now~~ many families only ate one meal a day and survived on the bread and soup provided by The Salvation Army. 14

11. Newcastle Morning Herald, 16 March 1900.
12. Sheilah Gray, Newcastle in the Great Depression, Newcastle, 1984, p.68.
13. Newcastle Morning Herald, 30 April 1932.
14. J.C. Doherty, Newcastle, The Making of an Australian City. Sydney, 1983, p.71,

The Salvation Army in 1988 does much practical work, visiting the poor, helping and consoling, caring for the sick and dying, distributing food and clothing to the needy, providing emergency accommodation and meals to young people as well as many other vital services.

A crucial part of The Salvation Army's work is provided by the S.O.S. centre in Gibson Street. This youth counselling and crisis support service has been operating for 10 months, together with a 24 hour counselling and emergency service. Major Hindle from the centre heads a foot patrol which seeks out the homeless and destitute youth. Every Friday and Saturday night as well as every night there can be at least 30 homeless youth to be found, living on the streets of Newcastle.¹⁵ They will be found in abandoned Buildings, Railway Stations, Toilets and Beaches. These young people can be readily persuaded to return to the S.O.S. Centre as the centre provides beds, hot showers and two meals per day free of charge. Only recently the Army helped a 14 year old girl who had been living in Toilets for the last 12 months. For the last three of those weeks she had lived in the toilets with a 12 year old and 13 year old. ¹⁶

Although the centre has only been open since November 1987 3500 Meals have been provided to the homeless. In three months alone 250 beds have been occupied by girls and boys up to the age of 16. Up to 80% of these children come from single parent families and most of the young girls have been sexually assaulted or abused in some way. Alcohol and Drugs are a major problem and contribute greatly to the problem. ¹⁷

15. Interview Major Hindle 30 August 1988
16. Interview Major Hindle 30 August 1988
17. Interview Major Hindle 30 August 1988

The musical power which the Salvation Army has developed is one of the most striking facts in history. The Founder quickly sensed ~~sensed~~ the value of music to the propagation of the Gospel Message and was determined that music should be the very "Spirit" of The Salvation Army itself expressed in melody. The Salvation Army can be called Christianity with its sleeves rolled up. Through every strata of the human race The Salvation Army is always ready to help any man, woman or child in need or those who have lost their right relationship with God. The Salvation Army has been of service to the people of Newcastle for over 100 years and those words spoken by John Gore to the first assembly in Adelaide in 1880 are still appropriate today. A destitute person must only ask for food, shelter and assistance and it shall be given to him. " Thank God for the Sallies", For without them many thousands of poor, sick, hungry and destitute people would not have survived.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bolton, B., Booths Drum, Rydalmere, 1980.
Doherty J.C., Newcastle, The Making of an Australian City, Sydney, 1983.
Fellows, L., A Gentle War, New York, 1979.
Gray, S., Newcastle in the Great Depression, Newcastle, 1984.

NEWSPAPERS

- Newcastle Morning Herald, 14 May 1883.
Newcastle Morning Herald, 22 October 1883.
Newcastle Morning Herald, 16 March 1900.
Newcastle Morning Herald, 31 March 1914.
Newcastle Morning Herald, 30 April 1932.
Newcastle Morning Herald, 10 July 1965.
Newcastle Sun, 11 February 1980

Interview Major Hindle, 30 August 1988

TRANSCRIPT 1988 REGINA BOLLINGER INTERVIEWER
MRS PHYLLIS FOSTER INTERVIEWEE
SALVATION ARMY IN NEWCASTLE

INTERVIEWER: Q. Can you tell me how long have you been with the Salvation Army?

MRS FOSTER: A. Well I can't remember it, but I was carried to the Primary upstairs, where the SOS Centre is now, and I was carried up those stairs by a neighbour. But I have connections with the Army back as far as my mother was concerned, and my grandmother, but not fully uniformed Salvationists just sort of connected with them.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Can you tell me what your first memories are of the Salvation Army?

MRS FOSTER: A. Yes, I was, I came to Cooks Hill I suppose when I would be about four or five years of age, and I've got four brothers and they would feel this too, I can remember the Salvation Army coming down the street and the band playing and all that, having open air meetings. And I can remember the children marching behind it, I wouldn't say that I had anything to do with it, but the boys particularly singing 'Salvation Army free from sin, go to heaven in a sardine tin', and that's the first memory I should think.

INTERVIEWER: Q. How important a role have women played within the Salvation Army?

MRS FOSTER: A. Well right from the Founders' day when General Booth, when the Salvation Army first started the women have always had a prominent part. If I'm not mistaken it was General Booth's wife that put the flag together, the Salvation Army flag. Now the Blood and Fire they call it, the red stands for the blood of Jesus Christ, the blue stands for the purity of the soul and the yellow cross stands for the fire of the Holy Spirit. And that is the symbol of the Salvation Army and you can see the crest up there too, the Army Crest. That symbolises the shot that's fired, you know like a shot if you, if a person feels that they, as the message is given or as someone speaks that they are sort of convicted, the shot stands around it and the crown stands for the crown that we will receive, one day, if we're true.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Music plays a very vital part in the Salvation Army?

MRS FOSTER: A. Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Especially in the early days it was a vital part of worship and lifestyle, would you say that that would be still true today?

MRS FOSTER: A. Well I would, in as much that even though this Corps has changed, and this is my Corps, and the bands sort of, the Bandsmen I should say, have moved out for working purposes been transferred, I've missed them and I think the band, I'm not fussed about a band being over-technical, but I love a band that can play soul saving music and we have

such bands as that and I think the band, and the songsters, and the timbals they inspire you when you feel the fire coming through and when you haven't got them you miss them, and the enthusiasm doesn't seem to be the same, you know what I mean, the inspiration to uplift you, can I put it like that, it's not. Well don't you remember in the Bible, Miriam, when they came back from the war Miriam danced and sang in front of them and played the tymbal, and it's biblical you see.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Arthur Arnott I think was a famous Salvationist, I think it was back in 1897?

MRS FOSTER: A. Arthur Arnott, now a funny thing I've just done part of a project on him, because I not only made mine the bi-centennial part of it but I made it local history, I can't show you the book because they've taken it up to Port Macquarie to show it off to them up there. But William Arnott came from East Maitland and he was sort of so much in debt because he'd faced three floods up there and he came here and he opened his factory, I think if I'm not mistaken, I've written this in my book but Union Street years ago used to be called Melville Street, and where the W.E.A is and those flats alongside of it, that's where he lived when he came from East Maitland and his factory's where those flats were, I've got pictures of it you can see them at the library and I've got them in my book. And William Arnott was married twice. After his first wife died he had a family and Arthur Arnott was one of the sons of the second family and he became Lieutenant Colonel Arnott of the Salvation Army. Now if you see an Arnotts biscuit truck look at the number plate and you'll find it starts with SA, that's Salvation Army and you take a SAO biscuit and that stands for Salvation Army Officer and, I knew this even before I went to the library because you sort of grow up with it.

INTERVIEWER: Q. During the Depression the Salvation Army opened soup kitchens in Newcastle. Can you recall those soup kitchens?

MRS FOSTER: A. Well vaguely, but I was speaking to my brother before I came out and Fred sort of made me remember more. But you know Parry Street and the No 1 Sports Ground?

INTERVIEWER: Yes I do.

MRS FOSTER: A. Well if you go down Parry Street to the side gate of No 1 Sports Ground opposite there was a Council yard, my brother said that they kept their horses there, I can't remember that, but they used it as a base and that's where the, that big sort of obelisk thing is there, now what is that now, I think it was a car, it was at one time a garage for cars, you know that they used to mend them and that sort of thing, but that's where the soup kitchen was. Now I can only remember as a child, or a very young teenager that they used to have big coppers out in the grounds and

in the building they had long trestle tables and it was mostly men that they served, that I can remember, I can't ever remember women being there, only the women that came to serve, and I believe they used to get their vegetables and that donated from Steel Street markets, I was led to believe this, I can't be authentic on that, and they used to stir these great big coppers, you know those old copper, you never see any of them now, and they used to have that full of soup and the men used to come in, and bread, we had bread and we served the soup in basins, but that, did you say 1930 that you found out, did you mention to me----

INTERVIEWER: Q. It was during the 1920's, I'm not quite sure of the year, but it was during the 1920's, late 1920's and I think my research showed me that in about 1932 they were feeding about 3,000 unemployed, they had 3,000 unemployed.

MRS FOSTER: A. Yes that's where it was there down in the Council yard.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Do you recall how long the soup kitchens were going for?

MRS FOSTER: A. No, but like when you're young like that it, a short time would seem a long time. But I don't know whether it's got anything here in the Corpshistory book about that.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Yes it was very interesting actually especially with my research I also found that a lot of people didn't accept any other sort of help from anyone except the Salvation Army, the Salvation Army were the only people they would accept help from.

MRS FOSTER: A. Yes well I can't honestly remember if anybody else was offering help at the time, and this was my first sort of observation of the Army doing things like this although if you go back in early history this is how the Army started. General Booth said "Go for souls and go for the worst and if you pick the drunks up out of the gutters, took them home and fed them and you can't preach salvation to a person on an empty stomach."

INTERVIEWER: Q. No, General Booth certainly said that didn't he?

MRS FOSTER: A. Yes he did.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Yes feed them first and ----

MRS FOSTER: A. Then deal with them after. Now I don't know what year this started.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Do you think that the importance of religion to the Army has changed over the years?

MRS FOSTER: A. I think that possibly we've branched out more but the foundation is the same. You look after a person and you put them on their feet and you talk to them and you don't preach or push it down but if you are Christ inspired it will show and I think that what we've got, I can see you've got a lovely face too, I can sort of sometimes read faces, but if you've got it it will radiate and even the worst respond, and as I mentioned to you on the phone, Poll Cott, she came out here, she was deported, came out as a convict, later she married Mr Cott, she was only a teenager, went to live at East Maitland and then her baby son died at three years of age. She went beserk, the Doctor gave it a dose of medicine and she went out of her mind and said that it was the medicine that killed and she went and abused the Doctor and all this sort of thing, you know, and this is, she was the worst, sort of thing and was down that low that she couldn't get any lower and she was walking along the street and Captain Rundle, she looked up and saw this Captain Rundle, did you read this somewhere?

INTERVIEWER: A. No.

MRS FOSTER: Captain Rundle and she thought it was a Policeman, in fact she was stealing within a shop and she looked up and saw this uniformed person with a helmet on and a navy blue coat and she was going to do something about it because she fought the Police and realised when she saw the red guernsey underneath that it was a Salvation Army Officer. He spoke with her and he took her home and he offered his arm and she walked with him along the street. She used to carry a stocking and in that stocking was a whiskey bottle or a bottle and this is what she used to do. Well she became a token of grace. So you see, the Police were frightened of her and it would take about six to arrest her, that's how powerful she was and how angry and that sort of thing and they sort of could hardly believe that this sort of thing could happen and it did and she died when she, I think she was seventy years of age when she became a Salvationist, it may have been even before that, and she was wonderful and she wouldn't hear anything said about anybody that wasn't to their credit.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Actually I've read that the early evangelists were a very fiery lot who looked upon the sensational to attract attention and converts. In 1988 how do you think the Army attracts attention and converts?

MRSFOSTER: A. Well there are open air meetings still in the suburbs where there are big bands and they march and the Army's called upon a lot, you know Anzac Day and things like that but Major Hindle, he's the Director of the Emergency Services here, now he goes around the hotels, he's allowed in clubs and he walks the street at night and he's gone out seeking the lost and it's amazing the young girls and the young boys and I find in my own thinking that most of it comes from separated parents. I really think this is the foundation of our young people today and he has walked the streets of

Newcastle and I've heard him say in a meeting that he's been in Civic Park and there have been young girls sleeping there and up in the certain buildings up the town there have been different ones and you can see them coming to the Centre sometimes, elderly men. Somebody that you would cross over to pass them by and they're there and the folk around, we treat them nicely, I treat them just like we were and help where I could and I don't feel as if , like that. Because this is the whole purpose, these people have a need and the Army's there with the need.

INTERVIEWER: Q. I often think too that sometimes those people are there through no fault of their own?

MRS FOSTER: A. That's it too.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Quite often, and if you don't know how long they haven't eaten for and it might be just that little bit of kindness from one person that might just put them back you know someone does care about me, it will put them back on the right track?

MRS FOSTER: A. Well that's true. And you can't physically lift them up but if your actions show that you care and then when you've got them sometimes like this where you can get their attention that is the time to say 'You know it isn't only we folk that care about you but you know that the Lord died for you' or something like that you know.

INTERVIEWER: Q. So is the main aim to help these people or to convert them or perhaps a little bit of both?

MRS FOSTER: A. Well I think the main thing is to put them on their feet or help to put them on them, give them a reason for living and if they see it in you they'll want it and they'll go for it. I look at some of the Officers and see what they're doing and see how they're loving and kind and even people that are not Officers and I think gee I wish I could be like you, see what I mean. And I think that's the reason.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Major Hindle's an amazing man?

MRS FOSTER: A. Yes he is.

INTERVIEWER: Q. I was talking to him the other day and he was telling me he works a hundred and twenty hours a week?

MRS FOSTER: A. Well that's true. We have to put in a form, a report every quarter and the hours that go in are never anywhere near what he really does.

INTERVIEWER: Q. What sort of changes have you experienced within the Salvation Army over the years, you mentioned that you have been with the Army for a very long time?

MRS FOSTER: A. Well as far as uniforms are concerned there is a change there. They used to have hats that were bigger, you know, and a bonnet, you can see the pictures of the bonnet.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Yes I watched a Major Barbara a couple of weeks ago on television.

MRS FOSTER: A. Yes, well that long string. Well mostly they don't wear the high necks now they have the suit effect and the ladies wear a hat but at particular meetings they have to wear their dress uniform and that's their bonnet and their high collar and they are still in the Army but not worn as consistently. Your winter uniform that is. Now I wear a costume with the high collar and I also wear a smaller bonnet and, but mostly that is for special work, like as far as Officers they wear the other one as well looking quite nice and smart and the insignias are still the same and in the summer time I can remember when I was about thirteen I think I was, I think fifteen when I first donned the Army uniform and you'd wear that same uniform summer and winter, you know and if you were financial enough you'd have one made in silk. But that's been a big change.

INTERVIEWER: Q. What about the social work of it, do you think there are more destitute people out there today than there were say----

MRS FOSTER: A. If I can remember the soup kitchen and the need there I'd say that they would be as desperate but they're more, what shall I say, antagonistic.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Today?

MRS FOSTER: A. Today. In as much now the young people I felt that sometimes they feel it's their right, do you know what I mean by that?

INTERVIEWER: Q. They're not grateful?

MRS FOSTER: A. Yes. Well they come in and say 'Give me this and give me that' but I think it's because they haven't had the home life and you know yourself even possibly when you were a child you put your hands on the table or, "When you say please or thank you you'll get that, and meanwhile get your hands off the table", see what I mean. They're lacking discipline, they haven't had the disciplines in the home so therefore they don't get it because they've never seen it and I think that's got a lot to do with it.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Major Hindle was telling me that the Salvation Army recently picked up a girl who'd been living in the toilets for twelve months. I mean it's just unbelievable?

MRS FOSTER: A. Well that's it, see they go out during the day somewhere probably, that might have been the occasion in Civic Park there. That would be true. And you'd be amazed

at the immorality that goes with young people. Somebody quoted, or said quite recently that 'The world's going to end in any case so what's the use' and that was a young person, they never said it to me but I heard it quoted and I think 'what's the good' this is what they say to themselves, 'what's the good'.

INTERVIEWER: Q. They've got nothing to live for, no ambition?

MRS FOSTER: A. No there's no job or anything, these kids wouldn't know how to work if they had it. I don't think they'd know. And you can't blame them to an extent and so you just counsel them the best you can and do the best you can.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Do you work as a Counsellor with the Salvation Army?

MRS FOSTER: A. No I go in there, like I'm the Corps Secretary I look after the, what shall I say, the banking, the financial side, you know what a Secretary does, upstairs. But I'm in and out all the time and the kids know me and what do they call me "Super Nan". Now I die laughing at that because I've never ever had any children, I haven't been that fortunate you know but Super Nan they call me, and when they get a bit nasty they sometimes you know.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Do they get nasty?

MRS FOSTER: A. Oh well some of them are a little bit bombastic. Not all of them but I understand them and if anybody yells, or not yells, speaks loudly to you and looks at you, you know that sort of thing it's amazing what a soft answer will do and a smile. But they're good kids, I couldn't say that there is one up there that I haven't felt something for. I can realise what they are, and what they're doing and even they have some little thing that's nice.

INTERVIEWER: Q. How many children would be in the Centre today?

MRS FOSTER: A. Well they come and go. Just before you came I came down about half past one and just before you came I think there was about five or six lads, some of them could have done with a good bath. And there was, there weren't any girls, only one girl came in and she was the daughter of somebody that worked there, but she went. And they left just before you came and there was one in particular who never speaks softly, he's always sort of a little bit bombastic, but he's got a nice smile and I suppose it's the way he is, you know what I mean.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Would the boys be alcoholics, a lot of the boys?

MRS FOSTER: A. I think so. Not exactly completely alcoholic but I'd say they'd have a drink and some of them drugs.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Major Hindle was telling me that with all the girls, he said that most of the girls that come in have been either sexually abused or abused in some way?

MRS FOSTER: A. They have too. Kids of fourteen, fifteen. In fact I came across one that I'd had connection with as far as the guards were concerned and she could have taught me a lot. But you'll find that it's a girl that's in a broken home or pushed around from pillar to post or one that's just not completely.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Would they be sexually abused by a member of their family?

MRS FOSTER: A. Well this I wouldn't know, no I don't think so, I think that maybe they've gone out with somebody or other but by the same token there are girls there too that come in that are of that, that walk the streets.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Do any of them ever end up going back home?

MRS FOSTER: A. Well there was one, if I'm not mistaken, went back home. In fact, ^{I think} that Major, and Mrs Hindle mind you, she goes every step of the way, she works like a little trooper and there's nothing that she won't do, and she's a wonderful person, and I believe there are those that have gone back home, she gets so excited and she'll say "You know Phil" she said to me on several occasions "They're not all bad. Now what do you think of this, so and so went to a meeting, or so and so said he'd have to do better" and they get so excited because the mind has worked and made them think of higher things, and this happens as I said.

INTERVIEWER: Q. When you first started out with the Salvation Army who were the people that needed the most help, were they the unemployed men?

MRS FOSTER: A. Yes well I never ever heard, yes I'd say it would be the unemployed men because it's only in the last thirty years or twenty years that wives have gone out to work you see and the women have been on an equal footing, I'd say it would be these last thirty years wouldn't it that that has happened and therefore it would be the men because the women were in the homes and mostly abused by the drunkards.

INTERVIEWER: Q. I believe they had a home for fallen women but from my research yes it was mostly the men, they had the working men's hostel and for wayfarers.

MRS FOSTER: A. Although in these recent years, I used to have a business out at Mayfield East, that was about six years ago I'd say, it might be seven, six, seven. And they opened a cottage two streets up from where I was and that cottage was mostly for women who'd had to leave their husband with their children. It's still there, it's still going and I'd say that would, that would possibly have been there well over ten years, it might even be more.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Because the Salvation Army, yes they do still run the women's refuge?

MRS FOSTER: A. Yes they do. Yes well this is a kind of a refuge. We have a lassie Officer in charge of that and now if you'll remember the Carrington Hotel is known as Clulow Court and there's an Officer in charge of that and the girls that have no homes or anything they put them up there. And just recently Major Hindle he'll be opening a place in Dawson Street, has he told you about this?

INTERVIEWER: No he didn't.

MRS FOSTER: Where a chappie will be in charge of it and that will be for families that are in need. And then the old quarters here there is a Salvationist going into those and that will be I should imagine for possibly young lads.

INTERVIEWER: Q. So do you find that the general public of Newcastle are digging deeper into their pockets?

MRS FOSTER: A. Well I think they're absolutely wonderful, I really and truly do. But even in the Salvation Army, like we sort of give, you know, not only time and support but money and we pledge ourselves to give so much, yes and even you'd be amazed when the Red Shield, the Salvation Army appeal comes around within the Corps of the Soldiers of the Corps we give and you'd be astounded .

INTERVIEWER: At how much---

MRS FOSTER: A. They put aside each week and what they give.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Because they don't, from what I'm led to believe they don't get paid a great deal in the first place?

MRS FOSTER: A. No the wage is less than the basic wage but they do have a residence and, but they pay a certain amount of that themselves, their own telephone or part of and that.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Do you think the general public in Newcastle are really and truly aware of what the Salvation Army do because I know that I wasn't aware until I started doing this research and I have always been interested in welfare but I was amazed at the things that you actually do?

MRS FOSTER: A. Yes well I think now because the Government realises that there's all this need and they're becoming more observant and they're bringing it more to the fore and the consequences are we never realised but now it's being done you see. Now the Methodist Mission down there too, they do a certain amount and there are other places but I've

always been a Sally and that's my backbone. and the consequences are I know they're doing it but I'm so concerned in doing my share here that I don't realise what extent--

INTERVIEWER: Q. You mentioned to me your family were in the Salvation Army?

MRS FOSTER: A. Not, they were, attended it shall I put it that way, and but my Mum, like they never wore the uniform or they weren't committed, they weren't sworn in as Soldiers in the Army but I believe they attended.

INTERVIEWER: Q. And were they born in Newcastle?

MRS FOSTER: No. If I'm not mistaken, although my Mum's dead, she was born in Queanbeyan, if I'm not mistaken, and my grandmother came from England and my Dad was born in New Zealand and I don't know where his parents came from but I think his mother had a bit of French, I haven't found that out I've never gone back into the family tree, but he came from Mt Eden, that's in Auckland, New Zealand, he was a Chemist, and of course he too has gone. My mother married ten years, again after my father died my mother remarried and she died in Taree. But of, knew of the Army but were never Salvationists, attended as a church.

INTERVIEWER: Q. What was your inspiration, your calling?

MRS FOSTER: A. Well when, I think I was at the age of thirteen and my Dad had just died and I came here again, even though I knew of it, you know and I'd been carried there in the primary and I just got up and came forward and here I've been ever since, but I was, I think I was thirteen years of age when I committed myself and I've been here ever since. I had three months up in Queensland, up at the Palace up there but came back.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Do ladies become Majors in the Salvation Army?

MRS FOSTER: A. Oh definitely. The ladies they go to college and they do the two years in college and they come out for three months out training at a Corps the first year. The second year they do their social training at the institutions and that and at the end of two years, because they've got to be called you know and they go through tests, exams and things like that. At the end of two years they are made Lieutenants and sent to a Corps but they still do exams for I think it's a couple of years, something like that.

INTERVIEWER: Q. And do they need to move around, I believe the Majors constantly----

MRS FOSTER: A. Well Territorial Headquarters do that. They get appointed. Now Major, he was at Hamilton, he's been a Major since he was here, he became a Major. But he was at Hamilton Corps before he came here but he's just as likely to end up up in Queensland somewhere or over in Tasmania or just within the bounds of New South Wales.

likely to end up up in Queensland somewhere or over in Tasmania or just within the bounds of New South Wales.

INTERVIEWER: Q. Was he involved in the Windale controversy?

MRS FOSTER: A. I don't know, what, I did hear something about that.

INTERVIEWER: Q. I'll have to ask him about that?

MRS FOSTER: A. Yes I couldn't really, I don't really know about that. But just what was this Windale, it was something to do with.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

I have been fortunate enough to be able to meet with and interview a lady called Phillis Foster, who has been Core Secretary with The Salvation Army for the last 20 years. Mrs Foster has been involved with The Army since she was 13 years old and it was her uncle's involvement which encouraged her to go along to their meetings. The reason Mrs Foster joined up with The Army was because she felt that there was more to life and needed to commit herself.

Mrs Foster can recall her first memories of The Army at Cooks Hill when she was just 4 years old. The band would march down the street playing as the children marched behind. The boys in particular would be singing. " Salvation Army free from Sin- Go to Heaven in a Sardine Tin."

Women have always played a very important role within the ranks of The Army. Mrs Foster has held every local officers position available and is currently Core Secretary. She mentioned to me that it was General Booth's wife who designed The Salvation Army Flag.

As a child Mrs Foster can remember the Soup Kitchens which were set up during The Depression to feed the unemployed. They were situated on Parry Street opposite the side gate of the No 1 Sports Centre. Big Coppers were used to cook the soup outside in the grounds and the vegetables were donated by the Steel Street Markets. Inside the building long tables and tressles were set up to seat the men. The soup was served in basins together with a piece of bread and Mrs Foster can recall that mostly men were served. Although the main aim of The Army was to save the souls of the people they were feeding, they also felt that you can't preach salvation to a person with a hungry stomach.

The biggest change The Army has encountered over the years is perhaps the type of person they are now helping. The need is still as great as it has always been in the past. However it is today's youth who seem to have the greatest need.

Major Hindle is the Director of Emergency Services at the SOS Centre. The centre provides the homeless youth with a place to eat and sleep as well as providing counselling. Mrs. Foster feels that many of these young people are ungrateful for the help they receive and believe it to be their God given right. She also feels that this attitude has been created within the youth by their upbringing as many come from broken homes and lack discipline and love.

Phillis Foster has devoted her entire life to The Salvation Army. She has always felt a great desire and need to help other people. Without people like Major Hindle and Mrs Foster in our community I am sure that many of our destitute and needy people would perhaps not have survived.