

MICHAEL WILLIAMS

OPEN FOUNDATION

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

Transcript of taped interview

Interviewer - Michael Williams

Interviewee - Hilma Maybury

Throughout this transcript the interviewer Michael Williams and the interviewee Hilma Maybury will be represented by their initials M.W. and H.M.

M.W. My name is Michael Williams and this interview is for the local history of the Australian History course of the Open Foundation and I will be interviewing Mrs. Hilma Maybury, who is my grandmother and this is being recorded on 2nd September, 1988 at 14 Hansen Place, Shortland.

Ma Ma what is your full name?

H.M. Hilma Mary Maybury, nee Hancock.

M.W. Where were you born?

H.M. At Islington on the 29th February, 1912.

M.W. Oh, 29th February, so it means you've really only had nineteen birthdays.

H.M. That's right.

M.W. So we'll have a big celebration for your 21st?

H.M. If I'm still alive, I'll be 84 then.

M.W. Right, when did your family come to the Newcastle area?

H.M. My great great grandparents came out here in 1832, my great great grandfather Thomas Hancock and his wife Mary Ann Hancock and he was in charge of the convicts. When they arrived here he was stationed at Paterson as lock-up keeper.

M.W. Okay, what about your great grandparents?

H.M. My great grandfather, he fathered twenty-one children and he lived in the Gresford area.

M.W. That's on one side, that's the paternal side, how far does your maternal side date back into the Hunter Valley area as well?

H.M. Well, my grandfather on my maternal side, he came from Scotland. He

was only fourteen years old when he came out as a seaman and he jumped ship in Newcastle. He married my grandmother, Ellen Balfour and they had five children, one was my mother. They settled in the Singleton area, and in the late 1800's they came to live in Newcastle. My grandfather was a bricklayer and he helped with the building of the Hamilton and the Wickham schools.

M.W. Oh! And your great grandfather and your grandfather on your paternal side both had unusual endings to their lives, didn't they?

H.M. That's right. My great grandfather was walking from Paterson to Maitland to see his girlfriend. He was ninety-one years old. He was offered a lift on a baker's cart, which he accepted and he fell off and was killed. My grandfather was in a woodchop contest at Warner's Bay and he won the contest and he was thrown in the air as a rejoicing gesture, and he died of a heart attack.

M.W. So what were your parents names and where were they born?

H.M. My father was James Wyatt Hancock, and he was born at Clarencetown, he was always known as 'Wiley'. My mother was Ellen Balfour and she was born at Singleton.

M.W. Right, and what year was it when she was born at Singleton?

H.M. My mother was born in 1883, and my father was born in 1884.

M.W. Can you remember your parents/^{or your grandparents}describing the early days to you, you know, the typical

H.M. Yes, in those days, I can remember mother saying that they wore long frocks and they all had to be starched and ironed with a flat iron. Their washing was done in a boiler in the back yard, or a kerosene tin. Things were very hard. There were no linoes or carpets/^{or anything}on the floors in those days. Everything was scrubbed, and I can remember them talking about the 1893 floods when they lived in Singleton, and they lived in a two storey house and they had to live in the top storey. They were there until the flood went away.

M.W. Right, and that flood was worse than the 1955 flood that we know went through Maitland and district.

H.M. So I believe.

M.W. How many brothers and sisters did you have?

H.M. I had three brothers, one died in infancy and one sister.

M.W. And why did your family decide to come to Newcastle?

H.M. I think for work. My father started work at the B.H.P. in 1915. He worked there all his life practically, until he retired. He was about 74 when he retired.

M.W. Right. He was a woodchopper too wasn't he?

H.M. Yes.

M.W. A champion woodchopper?

H.M. He was a woodchopper and a bike rider. He won lots of ribbons for woodchopping.

M.W. So, where did you live as a child, and a teenager?

H.M. I was two years old when we went to live at Tighes Hill. I lived there all my life till I got married.

M.W. Can you describe the house and the surroundings where you lived in Tighes Hill?

H.M. We lived at No. 12 Hewison Street, Tighes Hill. It was a very spacious house, built on a double block and it was built by my father and my grandfather, of concrete. The house is still standing today, a very beautiful home, and we had a very spacious back yard with all the fruit/^{trees} you could name plus grape vines, passionfruit vines. We had all the unusual fruit like loquats and guavas, as well as the wellknown fruits. We also had lots of animals. We had a horse. We had dogs, cats and various kinds of birds. We had rosellas, canaries, finches and pigeons. We had talking magpies. We had a pet goose, we had possums which were pets. When we'd go out in the car they used to sit on my father's shoulder, a part of the family. It was really a beautiful old home. My father always kept it nice, kept the lawns well cut and he had nice rose gardens.

M.W. What family leisure activities took place, while you were growing up?

H.M. We had lots of picnics and we'd follow my father to the woodchops at all the different places, bike races. I learned to dance when I was a teenager, went dancing quite a lot. We played cards, we had singsongs around the piano. We had a really good life growing up, a good family life.

M.W. Whereabouts were the dances held that you used to go to?

H.M. There were two dance halls in Tighes Hill. There was one at the Rosedale Hall in Maitland Road and we had another hall, Buffalo Hall, in one of the back streets. They had dances in those once a week, and we'd go to other dances in other suburbs.

M.W. And you used to go the Palais Royale?

H.M. Oh, yes we used to go to the Palais to the Dawn Dance, from 12 o'clock to 4 o'clock in the morning. My girlfriend and I used to walk home at 4 o'clock in the morning through Islington Park across the footbridge, never any thought of being molested. Nobody thought of doing those things in those days.

M.W. There wasn't the drunken behaviour like we have of today or anything like that?

H.M. No. None of our group ever drank.

M.W. So if you were thirsty, what did you drink?

H.M. Milkshakes.

M.W. Oh! So how would you compare family relationships then, when you were growing up to those of today?

H.M. They were marvellous in those days. Family life, your grandparents, your aunties and uncles, cousins always came to visit. Christmas time we had the house full of people for Christmas dinner. We had a really good life.

M.W. What were your family's political attitudes, that you can remember while you were growing up?

H.M. Well, they were strong Labour people and they talked a lot about Jack Lang, all the good things he was doing for the country, such as he brought in widows' pensions and child endowment and things like that.

M.W. Things for the working class people?

H.M. That's right, yes.

M.W. How would you describe Tighes Hill before the Depression when you were growing up? The transport system, shops and things like that?

H.M. Well, when I was a child we had steam trams running through Tighes Hill and I remember travelling on the steam trams down to my auntie's shop where she made pies. She was left a widow with three children and there was no pension in those days, she had to make pies on a fuel stove to rear her three children.

M.W. They were nice pies too, weren't they?

H.M. They were beautiful pies, I used to go down there and help her in the little shop she had.

M.W. So what schools did you attend?

H.M. Tighes Hill School right through to Sixth Class it was then. Then I went to Cooks Hill Intermediate High School, which was a co-ed. school.

M.W. What years did you attend that school?

H.M. I was there 1925 and '26.

M.W. So why did you leave school?

H.M. Well, my mother had a baby when she was forty-three. I was fourteen and ten months, and I left school when she got very sick, she was in hospital for seven weeks. I left school to look after my baby sister, and to look after the house.

M.W. In 1929 the Depression was well under way and what effect did this have on your family?

H.M. It had a great effect on our family. My father had a very good job. He was a contractor with the Steelworks for the Gas Coke ovens, and he lost his job. We had to sell our billiard table. We had to sell our beautiful Lincoln car for £35. He sold two blocks of land at Norde's Wharf, one was the best block there, for £40. He had to do all this just to pay the rates so that we could keep our house. There was no dole in those days. I remember standing in the queues to get my ration tickets for food.

M.W. What types of food would that get?

H.M. Well we'd get tickets for bread, for milk, for meat and for fruit, and that had to last till the next dole day.

M.W. In 1930, Lysaghts imported twenty-four skilled British ironworkers, to staff extensions to their works. One of these was a twenty-two year old by the name of Richard Maybury, from Newport in Wales where Lysaghts also had a steel manufacturing industry there. How did you meet Richard Maybury?

H.M. I met him through a cousin that was working with him. We married in 1932. I had five children.

M.W. Could you just tell me a little bit about your five children?

H.M. Well I had two girls first. One became a school teacher, the other one became a nursing sister. Three boys - two of them are in business the other one just worked at different jobs.

M.W. Right, what was expected of you as a housewife and mother?

H.M. Well, in those days, women didn't go to work. The husband was the breadwinner and that was all that was expected of him. The women had to raise the children, do the housework.

M.W. Which included maintenance of the house and ...

H.M. That's right sometimes we'd have to do gardening and painting and all those chores.

M.W. Right. How long did Richard work at Lysaghts for?

H.M. About fourteen years.

M.W. Right, so in 1938 there was a strike at Lysaghts which lasted for five months.

H.M. That's right.

M.W. How did this effect you and your family?

H.M. Well, there was no dole in those days, and I had to take my family to live with my mother, and I sub-let the house that we were renting to people that didn't pay all the rent, and, of course, when we went back to live in the house when the strike finished we had to catch up the payments, pay their back rent back.

M.W. So you weren't living in the house, but you may as well have been because you had to pay the rent anyway?

H.M. That's right. We also had a car in those days and for the £13 owing on the car it was repossessed.

M.W. And no compensation?

H.M. Nothing.

M.W. Right. So what work did Richard do after leaving Lysaghts, in 1944.

H.M. He went to work for the City Mission. The work there entailed interviewing and helping poor people. He had a Boys' Club and a Girls' Club and various entertainment for the young people, such as picnics and outings. He had Sunday School and Church Services.

M.W. Right. He also wanted to go off to the war, but being a man in charge at Lysaghts ...

H.M. They wouldn't free him to go, because they said he was a key man, and had to be there to work for products for the war.

M.W. So, in 1947, you decided to do a bit of work and started doing catering for the Wool Stores, in Wickham and Carrington. How did you get started

into this?

H.M. Well, I saw them building a little teashop as I thought, and I made enquiries about it and they said that it was going to be a morning tea room for the woolbuyers. I made further enquiries and they asked me to put in a tender for what I would give them for morning tea and what I would charge. Well, I used to do the cooking at home then, it wasn't far from where I lived - across the road - and I used to make pikelets, scones, sandwiches, and supply them with jam and honey and I got 2/6d. each for those morning teas.

M.W. That's about 25 cents today?

H.M. Yes, 25 cents.

M.W. Right, in the same year, 1947, you also started work with the Child Welfare Department doing escort duty. What did that involve?

H.M. That involved taking children from the court or from the shelters to various institutions in Sydney mainly. I also had to travel sometimes to other towns. I've been up as far as Byron Bay, down as far as Albury, to bring various children up to Sydney.

M.W. It must have been hard at times, taking the children away from their parents.

H.M. It was, very distressing at times, yes.

M.W. What did you and your husband do after you left the City Mission in 1953?

H.M. We went to the Newcastle Golf Club. I was the caterer and he was the caretaker/steward there. We stayed there for about eighteen months, and decided then that we'd go overseas to see his family. They wanted us to go back to the Golf Club but it was very hard work, very tiring work, so they gave us a big farewell party then.

M.W. And you were still running the catering through the Wool Stores?

H.M. Yes, I was still doing the Wool Stores.

M.W. Which had quite grown from the one morning tea room had grown into quite a business for you. You were in charge of quite a few people.

H.M. Yes, I had about twenty-four women working for me at one stage, at different stores.

M.W. And, then in 1961, you built a shop in Hannel Street, in between Harrison Street and Throsby Creek there, and that was the same type of thing as the catering?

H.M. Yes, it was a morning tea, it was a lunch shop really.

M.W. So, at this stage you were running the shop in Hannel Street, running the canteens at the Wool Stores and still doing the escort work for the Child Welfare Department, as well as looking after and running the house as well. How did you manage doing all that?

H.M. I managed, I worked a lot at night in the house.

M.W. And to top it off what did you start doing in 1967 as well?

H.M. I started driving a taxi.

M.W. Yes.

H.M. Yes, I got my taxi licence, driving casual for nine years.

M.W. So looking back, what do you think has been the most important changes over the time?

H.M. In the way of life, do you mean?

M.W. Yes, style of lifestyle.

H.M. Well I think when I was growing up people were happier, we seemed to have more to do than the young people today. We found pleasure in lots of things, simple things in those days, and I think that the young people of today they are very selfish, they don't think of other people like we did. I can remember doing things for my grandparents that a lot of young people today don't even think about.

M.W. Right, is there anything else that you would like to add?

H.M. What, about when I was, in 1918, when the war ended?

M.W. Yes, or anything.

H.M. Well, I can remember, I was only six years old at the time, and I can remember a big welcome home party going on next door to where I lived for the boys that came home from the war. And, also a procession down Hunter Street after they burned the Kaiser, they had a big effigy of the Kaiser up in the top end of Hunter Street, Pacific Street, and they set fire to him, and then they had this procession down Hunter Street. And I remember our sulky was decorated, and I sat on the horse's back in the procession.

M.W. So, you've lived in Newcastle all your life?

H.M. That's right.

M.W. And wouldn't have lived anywhere else?

H.M. No way.

M.W. A proud Novacastrian?

H.M. That's right, for sure.

M.W. Okay, well thanks very much for this interview.

H.M. You're welcome Michael.

M.W. Okay.

H.M. It's a pleasure.

M.W. Okay, thank you.

OPEN FOUNDATION

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

MICHAEL WILLIAMS

Tuesday - 1.00 p.m.

Essay - The Early Years of Hilma Maybury - nee
Hancock and the history of her ancestors' arrival
in Australia.

Hilma Mary Maybury nee Hancock was born on the 29th February, 1912 in the Newcastle suburb of Islington. It was here, around Maryville, Mayfield and Tighes Hill, Hilma lived for the following fifty seven years. Though times were hard, Hilma lived a very happy and content life. Hilma grew up at Tighes Hill, married a Welsh immigrant and became a housewife and mother, before starting out in 1947, catering for the wool stores in Wickham and working for the Child Welfare Department.

Hilma's paternal great great grandparents, Thomas and Mary Ann Hancock and their children left England amidst the Industrial Revolution in 1832 to seek a better life for themselves in the colony of New South Wales. Thomas Hancock was an army pensioner, who worked as a convict guard aboard the ship to earn his and his family's passage to the strange and distant land of Australia. Thomas and his family lived in Parramatta until Thomas received a position at Paterson in May, 1833. 1

"His Excellency, the Governor, has been pleased to approve of the following alterations in the Police of the Colony, viz. Paterson, Hunter's River - Thomas Hancock, free, to be watch-house keeper, in the room of James Browne, dismissed for neglect of duty and drunkenness." 2

Mary Ann and the children did not go with him to Paterson immediately, but waited until he had become established there. Thomas was appointed keeper of the animal pound as well as the lock up keeper, but was later to become the proprietor of a wine shop and hostelry just out of the township of Paterson on the road to Vacy and Gresford. Thomas Hancock died after a 'short and painful illness' on 13th February, 1852 at the age of seventy years. His wife Mary Ann survived her husband by twenty one years, and died from old age. Thomas and Mary Ann Hancock were buried in the churchyard of St. Mary-on-Allyn, Allynbrook.

Thomas and Mary Ann's children were only young when they made the voyage from England with their parents. Jane was thirteen years, Elizabeth ten years, George eight years and the youngest child, Robert was only seven years old. Robert Hancock was Hilma's great grandfather. Robert Hancock moved to the Gresford/Allynbrook area in the 1840's where he was at various times, farmer, sawyer, hotel keeper and gold miner. In 1851 Robert married Sarah Bonn. By 1873, Sarah had given Robert ten

1. G.L. Parkinson B.A. A Memoir of Thomas and Mary Hancock Newcastle, 1982, p.2
2. G.L. Parkinson B.A. Ibid p.2

children. The second child, christened Robert William was born on the 22nd September, 1852 and was Hilma's grandfather.³ Robert married Julieanna Kemp, whose parents were free immigrants from Germany. Robert and Julieanna Hancock lived at Clarencetown when James Wyatt Hancock was born in 1884. James was one of six children and was Hilma's father.⁴

Hilma's maternal grandfather, James Balfour, was born in Scotland in 1849 and came to Newcastle as a seaman aboard a ship in 1863. At the age of only fourteen years he jumped ship and found his way up to Singleton where, later he met and married Ellen Nowlan who was born the daughter of a farmer in 1847. James and Ellen Balfour had four children who were all born and raised in Singleton where James was a farm worker. The youngest daughter, also named Ellen, was born in 1883 and was Hilma's mother.⁵

James and Ellen Hancock came to Newcastle to find work shortly after the turn of the century. They lived in Islington, next door to the police station. This is where Hilma Hancock was born on the 29th February, 1912. This birthdate was a bit of a laugh with the family because it meant she only had a birthday every four years. Hilma jokes about it today and claims she has only had nineteen birthdays so far. In 1914, James Hancock and his father-in-law, James Balfour, built a large concrete house at 12 Hewison Street, Tighes Hill, for James and Ellen Hancock and their family. The Hancock family lived in the house for fifty years and even today the house is in immaculate condition, a testimony of the quality of workmanship and materials used then.

"The arrival of many skilled men and their families during 1915 was the basis for a boom in suburban cottage building despite high wartime costs and shortages of building materials."⁶

James Hancock started work in the coal coke ovens of the B.H.P. steelworks in 1915 and stayed until he retired at the age of seventy four - 1958. James Hancock was a champion woodchopper like his father Robert, as well as a competitive bicycle racer.

Hilma Hancock was two years old when her family moved into the house her father built. It was a large four bedroom house built on a large double block. There was a fruit and vegetable garden, a wide range of assorted fruit trees including guavas and paw paws and a menagerie of

3. G.L. Parkinson B.A. A Memoir of Thomas and Mary Hancock
Newcastle, 1982, pp.1-10
4. Amanda Williams Family Tree Newcastle, 1985
5. Amanda Williams Ibid
6. J.C. Docherty Newcastle The Making of an Australian City
Sydney, 1983, p.61

animals including two possums which Hilma's father, James, carried around on his shoulders. James owned a seven seater Lincoln motor car, one of only two motor cars in Tighes Hill. He used to take his family and half the street on picnics and to woodchopping contests and bicycle races on the weekends.

Hilma started school in 1917 at the age of five years and attended Tighes Hill Primary School up until 1924. In 1925 Hilma attended Cooks Hill Intermediate Co-educational High School. At the end of 1926, at fourteen years of age, Hilma left school to take care of her sister, because her mother, Ellen, was ill. Hilma tended the house and with the Depression making life difficult, Hilma had to stand in the queues to obtain rationed food coupons, in order to feed the family. All the luxuries, such as the motor car, the pool table and the gramophone had to be sold so that the rates could be paid and the house kept. Life for the Hancock family, which consisted of James and Ellen, Hilma, her sister, Valda, and her two brothers Wallace and Robert was quite fortunate, compared to the majority of Tighes Hill residents during the Depression. The majority of residents lived in rented houses and with no money to pay the rent, evictions were the order of the day. One house at 30 Clara Street was selected by the Anti-Eviction Committee for a full scale protest. "The protest appeared to have been well publicised, there were notices chalked on pavements and walls, and about a thousand people were in Clara Street on the 14th June, 1932 when Police Inspector Asprey arrived to serve the order."⁷ A riot broke out between the picketers and police. "In the end thirty men were arrested, fourteen of whom were treated in hospital. Two police were hospitalised with concussion, and five were treated by a doctor for minor injuries. The community reacted angrily."⁸

"In 1930 Lysaghts Works Pty. Ltd. imported 24 skilled metal workers from their steelworks in Newport Wales" to staff extensions to their works.⁹ One of these metal workers was a twenty two year old, Richard Maybury, whom Hilma married in 1932. Richard was fortunate as part of the arrangement with Lysaghts was that he was guaranteed at least three days work every week.

Hilma was a housewife, as was expected then. The man went to work and the wife had children and stayed home doing the house work. Monday

7. Sheilah Gray Newcastle in the Great Depression
Newcastle, 1984, p.42
8. Sheilah Gray Ibid. p.42
9. Lysaght's Works Pty. Ltd. Lysaghts Silver Jubilee
Sydney, 1946, pp.46-48

was washing day, "all day", using a fuel heated copper and scrubbing board. Tuesday was ironing day. Wednesday Hilma walked with her children to Mayfield from Maryville, to attend the Baby Health Centre. Thursday and Friday were house cleaning days, using such equipment as: a straw broom, a feather duster, a scrubbing brush, caustic soda, polish and, for the carpet, wet tea leaves, which were swept up with a broom. Saturday was cooking day, making pies, biscuits, pikelets, scones and cakes. Sunday involved getting the children ready for Sunday School and preparing a baked dinner, which was a ritual on Sundays. Hilma and Richard had five children: Olwyn, born in 1932, Robyn born in 1937, Richard born in 1938, Phillip born in 1944, and David born in 1947. Shopping involved waiting for the service carts to call around. There was the coal man, the milko, the grocer, the fruito, the rabbito who sold a pair of rabbits for one shilling and sixpence (fifteen cents), the fisho and the baker. The only trips that had to be made for shopping were to the local butcher for meat, or corner store for odds and ends or for larger household items to the Co-operative Store in Hunter Street, Newcastle.

Looking back to these good old days, Hilma had a very enjoyable life where you made your own fun, singing around the piano, playing cards, or attending various dances and activities organised for the community. There was more respect than today, families were closer and immoral social behaviour was virtually non-existent. Hilma was born and spent her whole life in Newcastle where she is happy to admit that "she is a proud Novacastrian who wouldn't live anywhere else, no way!"¹⁰

10. Hilma Hancock Taped Interview, Shortland, 2nd September, 1988.

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

OPEN FOUNDATION COURSE

1988

I, Hilma Baylunz give my
permission to Michael Williams

to use this interview, or part of this interview, for
research, publication and/or broadcasting (delete one of
these if required) and for copies to be lodged in
the.....

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Signed Hilma Baylunz

Date 2nd September 1988

Interviewer Michael Williams

OPEN FOUNDATION

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

MICHAEL WILLIAMS

Tuesday 1.00 P.M.

Summary of taped interview

Hilma Mary Maybury was interviewed by Michael Williams on the 2nd of September 1988 at her home: 14 Hansen place Shortland.

Hilma Mary Hancock was born in the Newcastle Suburb of Islington on the 29th of February 1912.

Hilma's ancestors came to the Hunter Valley area as free settlers, soldiers, and one particular seaman who at the age of 14 jumped ship in Newcastle. They came from England, Scotland, and Germany in the early 1800's.

Hilma talks about some of her ancestors and events that took place that are worth remembering or unusual. She talks about her mother describing the early days to her, how the women wore their clothes and the cleaning and maintaining procedures involved and how the bare floors had to be scrubbed. Hilma also talks about her mother describing what it was like to be trapped by flood waters in the notorious 1893 flood which swept through Singleton.

Hilma's parents:- James and Ellen Hancock came to Newcastle in search of work. James was born at Clarence town in 1884 Ellen was born Ellen Balfour at Singleton in 1883. James started work at the B.H.P. steel works in 1915 and worked there till he retired at the age of 74 in 1958. James and his father in law built a house at 12 Hewison St Tighes Hill where the Hancock family lived from 1914 until 1963. James was a champion wood chopper and bicycle racer.

Hilma describes the house and surroundings at 12 Hewison St Tighes Hill where she lived as a child and up until she married. She talks about the gardens and fruit trees and all the animals and how neat and clean it was kept. Hilma talks about the picnics where all the family and half the street would go on, and how they would go to the wood chopping contests and bike races to watch their father, who was a keen competitor. She talks about other leisure activities such as dancing, singing and playing cards. Hilma comments on how families were closer in those days. Hilma tells about her family's political attitudes.

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Hilma describes Triggs Hill before the depression and tells which schools she went to and when and why she left school.

Hilma talks about the depression and the effects it had on her family.

In 1930 Lysaghts imported 24 skilled British iron workers to staff extensions to their works in Newcastle. One of these iron workers was a twenty two year old Richard Maybury from Newport in Wales. Richard met Hilma and in 1932 they were married.

Hilma talks about what was expected from a housewife and mother and how the man of the house did his work at work.

Richard worked at Lysaghts for fourteen years. When the second world war started, Lysaghts refused to release him as he was a skilled key man needed to stay and manufacture steel products for the war. In 1938 there was a strike at Lysaghts which lasted for 5 months. Hilma talks about how they managed and how another family took advantage of their hardships. In 1944 Richard became city missionary a job which he held until 1953 when he was offered a job as caretaker, steward at Newcastle Golf Club at Fern Bay.

Hilma talks about how she started a catering business catering for the wool stores in Wickham and Margville in 1947 and built the business up to employ over 20 workers. In the same year Hilma started work with the Child Welfare Department as an escort, escorting children from broken homes and courts to childrens homes and institutions. Hilma also did the catering at Newcastle Golf Club while her husband Richard was the caretaker. In 1961 Hilma had a lunch shop built in Hannell St Margville in between Harrison St and Throsby Creek.

At that particular time in the 1960's Hilma was running a shop, a catering business and working for the welfare Department all at the same time and looking after the house as well. To top it off in 1967 at the age of fifty five Hilma obtained her taxi driver's license a job she held for nine years. Hilma talks of the most important changes over time and states that she is a proud newcastrian and wouldn't live anywhere else.