Anne Louise Austin Open Foundation Course Wednesday Night

HISTORY OF SEAHAM AND FAMILY CONNECTION

The community of Seaham enjoys an idyllic life on the banks of the Williams River. Decades have passed since the peace of the river has been disturbed by the sounds of timber cutters, steamers and new arrivals to a strange land. Today Seaham is enjoying a new popularity as a residential area with only water skiers and occasional motor boats to disrupt the river's flow.

Yet long before the European settlement of Seaham and the surrounding areas, the land had been occupied by the Garewagal tribe of Aborigines. The Garewagal people were a clan of the Worimi tribe and the language spoken by the Garewagal aborigines was Kattang. They lived a happy life with the land and waters providing plentiful supplies of wildfowl and fish. Little else is known about these people as European settlement of the Williams River area heralded their demise. There is no recorded history of violence against them, yet by the time Seaham had celebrated its Centenary in 1938 not one full-blooded Garegwagal was alive to tell of their history. (2)

The origins of European settlement of Seaham as well as other settlements in the Port Stephens area can, in some respects, lay claim that they owe their existence to Captain Cook. It was in

⁽¹⁾ Cecily Joan Mitchell, <u>Hunter's River</u>, Maitland Mercury 1973, p.72

⁽²⁾ W J Enright t, B.A., F.R.A.I., The Life And Habits Of Natives, 'Seaham Before The White Man's Coming' Maitland Mercury, 6.10.1938.

Cook's log that the area of Port Stephens and the possibilities of what might lay beyond was first made reference to:

I conjectured that there must be sufficient depth of water for shipping in the bay. We saw several smokes a little way in the Country upon the flat land; by this I did suppose that there was lagoons which afforded subsistance for the natives, such as shellfish etc., for as yet known nothing else they have to live upon. (3)

In 1795, nearly twenty years after Capital Cook sighted the area, Captain Paterson, the then acting Lieutenant-Governor, formed the opinion from Cook's log of the possibility of a settlement at Port Stephens. With this hope in mind, he despatched the Surveyor-General of that time Mr Charles Grime, to investigate the possibilities of the area. Grimes' opinion however was most disappointing as he deemed the expedition a failure and saw no reason to return to the area a second time.

Yet a second survey expendition was sent in 1801 by Governor King who ordered Captain William Paterson and a party on board the H.M.S. Lady Nelson to explore the area. In July of 1801 the party was first able to describe possibilities of the Williams River with its rich fertile soil and timber wealth along its banks. Yet it was King's decision to establish a convict settlement on a site which later became known as Newcastle to develop the coal mining interests of the area. This decision effectively closed the river valleys to free settlers and the areas were left to escaped convicts, explorers, timber cutters and other select few. (5)

⁽³⁾ Professor Ernest Scott, Australia Discovery By Sea, Volume One, New York, 1966, p.155

⁽⁴⁾ Sir Edward Parry, Early Days of Port Stephens, 'Extracts from Sir Edward Parry', "Chronicle" Print Dungog p.3

⁽⁵⁾ Cynthia Hunter, Raymond Terrace And District Historical Society Bulletin, 'Clarencetown' Vol. 2 No. 3, p.30

The timbers cutters by the 1820's had cleared the Williams River mouth of its cedar, and had progressed nearly 70 miles up the river. Richard Harris, a timber cutter who worked along the River wrote a description in the late 1820's of the river as it had been before settlement:

It is now well settled, but at the time we were there, spoiling it of its cedar, only here and there amidst the loney wilderness were to be a settler's farm or stockman's hut. The blacks were occasionally, but not often troublesome Tree after tree went crashing down before our labourer's axe, and breaking a broad opening to the sky around its 'stump' ... (6)

The 1820's saw the Hunter Valley open up and with Newcastle being declared a free town in 1824 the settlers quickly moved to settle the rich lands around Maitland. (7) Settlement along the Williams followed that of the Hunter and Paterson, with its wide river and fertile soil dismissing its problems of remoteness from other free settlements, the convict settlement of Port Macquarie being in close proximity. With the growth of settlement in the area the land was soon surveyed and officially named. (8)

Henry Dangar made the first official survey of the land between the Hunter River and Williams River. Dangar marked the land into geographic parishes breaking the land into 640 acre blocks.

(7) J.C. Docherty, Newcastle The Making of an Australian City, Sydney, 1983, p.1

⁽⁶⁾ J.H.M. Abott, <u>The Newcastle Packets and the Hunter Valley</u>, Sydney 1942, p.29

⁽⁸⁾ Cynthia Hunter, Raymond Terrace And District Historical Society Journal, The Centenary Celebrations of the Village of Seaham 1938', Vol.9 No. 2, August 1986, p.2

Also within each of these parishes he allotted land for Government use. At Seaham the Government made use of these Reserves by building a Military Station. It was here the Commandant of Newcastle would muster the convicts from surrounding estates to hear compliants regarding their conduct.

The settlement of Seaham continued to grow with many fine estates and settlers all urging the Government to release its reserved land. With the increase of settlers and the need for churches, shops, and other etablishments the Government responded by proclaiming in the Government Gazette of July 26 1838 the existence of the village of Seaham. (10)

Seaham had not only become a prosperous farming community producing some of the area's first wine, but also a crossroad for land and river traffic. The punt, operated by George Mossman was used by travellers and settlers travelling between Maitland and Morpeth, and Port Stephens or Raymond Terrace.

There was river traffic moving up and down from Clarencetown and traffic from Stroud and Dungog travelling to Raymond Terrace for steamers. Mail deliveries passed through Seaham as well. (11)

It was to this busy little village that William and Martha

Sweeney my great-great-grandparents newly arrived from Ireland,

came to start their new life. A bleak picture is painted in

⁽⁹⁾ Raymond Terrace And District, p.2

⁽¹⁰⁾ Ibid

⁽¹¹⁾ Ibid

letters from family left behind in Ramelton, a village in County Donegal, Ireland between the early 1860's and early 1920's:

All your Mothers Peoapl is all Dead the ar non of them about Ramelton all the old Natives is Dead and away and the young Peoapl at coud get away lef so a New Generation in this town as times was very Bad in this country the have Destroyed It with 2 Parliment in it ... (12)

So along with many other young people from Ireland they came to Australia with the hope of a better life.

Settling at Seaham, William Sweeney made a living by rowing up and down the Williams River selling goods. A description of Seaham in 1867 listed William Sweeney as a storekeeper, one of three in the town at that time. It is not known in the family records the exact date of Williams' death, but it is known that he died at a relatively young age, leaving Martha who died at the age of 83 in a house fire at Seaham in 1915.

William and Martha had eight children and most of the them settled around the valley, but it is through their daughter Mary that the Seaham connection remained. Mary married Thomas McDonald in 1885 and moved to Maitland to operate the Alma Hotel. (13) From Maitland the family moved to Sydney and from there to Gunnedah before finally moving back to Seaham in 1897 so that their daughters could attend School.

⁽¹²⁾ Letters written by James O'Brien to William and Martha Sweeney

⁽¹³⁾ John Turner Who Was Who In The Hunter Valley Towns in 1888, Newcastle 1984, p.84

Thomas and Mary established a wine shop which they built onto the front of Martha Sweeney's house in Dixon Street, Seaham. Thomas ran this profitable business selling colonial wine and accommodation to the travellers passing through Seaham. After purchasing some land opposite the original business Thomas and Mary applied for a licence to erect a new building as a public house. In 1903 the Seaham Hotel was built and ran as a successful business until the advert of the railways and motor cars. (14) The family sold the Hotel in 1920 and retired to their son Cyril's property 'Parkside'.

My Grandfather, Lex McDonald, grew up watching Seaham change from a busy town on an important river to a sleepy farming community. With the advent of the railway and motor car the village ceased in its importance and the population steadily decreased after the 1920's. (15) My Grandfather continued to live at Seaham running a large property called Eskdale which had once belonged to the Scott family. After 42 years on the land he retired to Bolwarra but other decendents of William and Martha Sweeney still reside at Seaham.

The story of Seaham is little different from other country towns in Australia. The railway and motor transport replaced the river traffic and Seaham ceased playing host to passing travellers. Yet even though Seaham is a quiet little town today, over hundred and fifty years ago it was the place where many people like William and Martha came with hope for a better future.

(15) Hunter's, p.2

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⁽¹⁴⁾ Raymond Terrace And District, p.33

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My grandfather, Lex McDonald lived for most of his life in Seaham in an era which heralded so many dramatic events and changes. From the family's arrival in Morpeth in 1859, the Seaham connection has not been broken. His grandmother, Martha told him many stories of the village as it had been, which sadly due to his nervousness and my lack of experience as an interviewer do not appear on the tape.

During his youth, my grandfather witnessed the death of the vineyards from the Seaham area, an industry which has never again been attempted at Seaham. Also the disappearance of the big ships which had once frequented the Williams River carrying their cargo of timber destined for the shores of New Zealand. Both of these early industries have now been replaced by dairying and beef pursuits in the area.

The Seaham Hotel which Thomas and Mary McDonald ran with the help of my grandfather and his brother and sisters was built in the year of his birth, 1903 at a cost of sixteen hundred pounds. The hotel was destroyed in the 1939 bushfire but had long ceased trading, only standing as a reminder of former times. But during the family's occupation of the Hotel, the business was a busy and profitable business with accommodation for twelve and a dining room capable of serving sixty to seventy people. The river and road traffic brought many commerical travellers, tourist from river boat excursions and even ran away sailors to the hotel. No special events were ever held at the

Hotel, the School of Arts which had been built around 1906 catered for all such occasions. The family sold the Hotel in the early 1920's and retired to their son property of 'Parkside'.

After various occupations, including a couple of years working at the steelworks at Newcastle, my grandfather returned to SEaham and leased the poperty of Eskdale. This was remain his home until his retirement at the age of sixty five. During his time on the land he experienced the moderisation of the agricultural industry where he went from horse and plough to tractor. The property consisted of 2,900 acres which at first was run with the co-operation of his two brothers, as a dairy and beef property. Eskdale was one of the few properties to remain intact after the 1939 bushfire which destroyed so much of Seaham's hitory.

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P.S. My taped interview with my grandfather, I would have to admit is not a great piece of oral history, yet the pleasure of talking to him and about his life is something I really enjoyed doing. I'm afraid that most of his history was told when the tape recorder was turned off but I considered the time we both spent doing the interview a wonderful time. So at least this assignment has given me the opportunity of learning about his life.

TAPED INTERVIEW WITH ALEXANDER WILLIAM MCDONALD

My name is Anne Louise Austin. I am interviewing my grandfather Alexander William McDonald, born in Seaham in 1903. This is in conjunctio with my essay 'The History of Seaham and the Family Connection.'

QUESTION: Would you like to talk about the arrival of your family in Seaham?

ANSWER: Grandmother and Grandfather arrived in Seaham in the 1860's. Built a house out of the local timbers of slab and shingle, then proceeded to trade on the river between Seaham and Newcastle carrying produce and farm requirements back to the river people.

QUESTION: At that stage that William was operating up and down the river the traffic was quite busy?

ANSWER: Not so much, until later when the sailing ships used to go to Clarencetown and load piles for New Zealand, turpentine piles, wood for Sydney, blockwood for Sydney, also blocks for the streets.

QUESTION: What do you mean blocks for the streets?

ANSWER: Iron bark blocks they used to cut for the streets.

Stand them on end to make the streets.

QUESTION: What do you mean? Where they hammered into the ground?

ANSWER: Stood them on end and the traffic used to go over them. Wood cut for fires, block wood, from the mill at Seham later on at Clarencetown.

QUESTION: So the river traffic did not build up until your

lifetime?

ANSWER: Later on the river boat built at Clarencetown, down

one day and up the next for produce or anything that

needed carrying.

QUESTION: Wiliam died at a relatively early age?

ANSWER: Grandfather died at an early age. Grandmother reared

a family of eight.

QUESTION: Did she always live at Seaham after her arrival in

Australia?

ANSWER: No she left Seaham and lived at Maitland, in Mt

Pleasant for a while but did not like it and the sons built a house for her a Seaham where she lived till

the end of her life in 1915.

QUESTION: You mother was Mary?

ANSWER: Sweeney, after marriage they moved to Maitland.

QUESTION: Who did she marry?

ANSWER: Thomas Joseph McDonald. From Maitland to Sydney,

from Sydney to Gunnedah and then Gunnedah, built the

store and wine shop in Seaham.

QUESTION: Where was that at?

ANSWER: Next door to grandparent's place.

QUESTION: And where did he get his produce from?

ANSWER: All by boat from Newcastle.

QUESTION: Did you get any wine from locals?

ANSWER: Wine from the local vineyard.

QUESTION: Which vineyard was that?

ANSWER: Carmichaels. Built the hotel in 1903, two storey,

double brick, cost him sixteen hundred pounds.
Bricks were brought by bullock team from Maitland.

QUESTION: What were the facilities at the hotel? Was there

accommodation?

ANSWER: Accommodation for about twelve?

QUESTION: Was there a dining room?

ANSWER: A big dining room, seating about sixty to seventy.

Catered for the river excursions in summer.

QUESTION: Where did the river excursions come from?

ANSWER: Newcastle. Three course meal 1/6 beef, turkey.

QUESTION: Your mother kept turkeys?

ANSWER: We kept turkeys for the purpose.

QUESTION: Where did the other sources of food come from?

ANSWER: All our own preserves, fruit preserves.

QUESTION: Where did your father get his supply of wine?

ANSWER: Regular supplies of 18 gallon kegs came from

Newcastle by boat.

QUESTION: Did you get wine from Carmichaels?

ANSWER: Wine from Carmichaels.

QUESTION: The hotel at this time was still popular with the

amount of traffic?

ANSWER: Oh yes, very popular.

QUESTION: What were the types of people?

ANSWER: Nearly all commercial travellers travelling through

and the rail ... Dungog railway was finished about, I can just remember the drays coming back from the rail

head at Dungog.

QUESTION: Was that a big day in Seaham?

ANSWER: Oh no, just the odd drays going through with the

families.

QUESTION: Were there many people employed in running the hotel,

or was it just a family concern?

ANSWER: There was always a yardman and a girl employed in the

house. Picnic days there would be an extra one put

on.

QUESTION: Did you sisters help in the kitchen with your mother?

ANSWER: Yes they always waited on tables.

QUESTION: And what was Cyril's job?

ANSWER: Cyril collecting as they went out the door.

QUESTION: You collected the money after the meal?

ANSWER: Yes, as much as you could eat, double up if you wanted to. Preserved fruit and cream. Plum puddings.

QUESTION: Did any important visitors stay at the hotel?

ANSWER: Very often Callan, shipbuilders from Stockton used to come up and spend the weekend there.

QUESTION: What about Professor Edgeworth David?

ANSWER: Yes, Professor David he stopped there for sometime and fossicked around and found the historical quarry which has been dedicated for all time.

QUESTION: But the bulk of the people who stayed there were commercial travellers?

ANSWER: The bulk of the people were commerical travellers.

At that time nearly all horse and sulky travelling through from town to town. Very often runaway sailors passing, would pass through in the morning, come through from Newcastle.

QUESTION: Can you remember any important events being held at the hotel?

ANSWER: No, the School of Arts was built in about 1906, I think it was, then along came the 1914 war and every eligible man in Seaham enlisted, including the owner of the vineyard. He gave orders for the vineyards to be pulled out, ploughed out. During the war, grandmother was burnt alive in 1915.

QUESTION: Was there any other income besides the hotel for your parents? Was the business profitable enough to keep the family?

ANSWER: Yes, we used to sell a lot of beer.

QUESTION: When was the hotel sold, can you remember?

ANSWER: In the 1920's in 23?

QUESTION: Had most of the river traffic on the Williams River

disappeared at that stage?

ANSWER: No there was a fair amount of it. Down on Mondays up

on Tuesdays, carried all the produce what was wanted

along the river.

QUESTION: Was there still timber along the river bank?

ANSWER: That was carried out to New Zealand, piles, wharves

and things like that, iron bark and turpentine.

QUESTION: You were telling me how they used a sling to pull it

on to the boats?

ANSWER: Then there was a lot of wood cut for fires, firewood,

also for the blocks for city streets. Jones Mill at

Seaham, later went to Clarencetown and carried on for

a lot of number of years.

QUESTION: Can you give me a general discription of Seaham when

you were growing up? Were there shops?

ANSWER: There was two vineshops, two stores.

QUESTION: No butcher to speak of?

ANSWER: There was two butchers in Seaham, Burgess used to

kill at Parkside, and another butcher shop, killing

place on the river bank.

QUESTION: But no actual shops to speak of?

ANSWER: No Jack used to bring the meat around in carts.

Later on supplied from Raymond Terrace by butchers,

also bread from Raymond Terrace.

QUESTION: There was no type of general store there?

ANSWER: Yes, Dad had a general store and wineshop and Midlin

had a general store.

QUESTION: Were there any markets in the town? The local

farmers, did they sell produce through shops?

ANSWER: Local farmers used to take their produce to the sale

at Raymond Terrace every Thursday. Fowls, fruit, vegetables to be sold at auction. Along came the war

and every eligible man in Seaham elisted, (I said

that before, repeating myself!)

QUESTION: Did that leave just older people, women and children

in the village?

ANSWER: Yest, they formed up a knitting circle to knit

garments for the soldiers, held race meetings.

QUESTIONS: Where did they hold the race meetings?

ANSWER: Over at Parkside.

QUESTIONS: That was your brother Cyril's property?

ANSWER: Yes, to raise money for the troops.

QUESTIONS: Was that an official racecourse.

ANSWER: A picnic race we used to call it. In those days every farmer had a horse he thought could gallop, scrubbers and whatever?

QUESTIONS: So with most of the men away at the war what agriculture was still grown in the area?

ANSWER: Everything seemed to go downhill from there until recently.

QUESTIONS: Were there any annual events that you can remember?

ANSWER: In the early days in my time they used to have foot races, handicapped foot races, gaslights along the tracks in the night time. There would be two or three hundred people there. A big event. Course the event of the year would be May Day, 24th May, school picnic, foot races, three legged races and what have you and the rest of it.

QUESTION: Was there a registered racecourse at Seaham?

ANSWER: You would get a permit for the day for the races.

QUESTION: You would have bookmakers?

ANSWER: I have seen fourteen bookmakers there, and a bar.

QUESTION: Tell me about the change in Seaham as you were growing up.

ANSWER: The changes seemed to go more into the diary as well as a sideline of growing vegetables for the Union.

There was dairying sprung up all along the river.

Cream was selected first, later on milk, by road and river, for Bowthorne and Raymond Terrace.

QUESTION: At what age did you leave school?

ANSWER: Seventeen. My first job was cutting millet. From

there onto Prophyry dairy for one pound a week and my keep. From there two years on the pipeline, finished that job and went to the Steelworks, seven days out

of work in my life.

QUESTION: How long were you at the steelworks?

ANSWER: Just over two years. From there onto the land at

Eskdale.

QUESTION: How many acres was Eskdale?

ANSWER: 2900 acres in conjuction with the two brothers.

QUESTION: Was it a dairy property, beef?

ANSWER: Beef and milk.

QUESTION: Did you have many hands to help you run the property?

ANSWER: I employed up to sometimes four boys. I left there

in 1965.

QUESTION: But at Eskdale you can remember, electricity coming

to the house?

ANSWER: First we got was a bus past the gate, then we got

electricity.

QUESTION: It was a convict built place?

ANSWER: Originally built by convicts.

QUESTION: Can you remember the change in farming equipment?

ANSWER: Later on we purchased the property.

QUESTION: Did you grow any of your own hay or lucerne?

ANSWER: We used to grow our own fodder, first by hand plough,

then by disc plough and then by tractor. Used to milk by hand, and one of the first to buy milking

machines the only two on the river.

QUESTION: Who was the other?

ANSWER: Grahames at Woodville.

QUESTION: How many bail dairy?

ANSWER: Six bails.

QUESTION: How many head were milked?

ANSWER: Our highest number was 170, later on as we

intensified things got down to eighty. Sold out in

1965.

QUESTION: Eskdale was one of the few properties that remained

unscathed after the 1939 fires?

ANSWER: Yes, the big fire came through Seaham and destroyed

lots of properties, caused havoc. Many droughts and

floods. Later the flats of Eskdale were drained.

QUESTION: Was it originally built on swamp?

ANSWER: Originally it held a lot of swamp country in front,

between the house and Williams River with millions of

ducks and swans.

QUESTION: When you were on the property at Eskdale, Seaham was a very sleepy farming community changed from when you were growing up there as a child?

ANSWER: Yes it seemed to revive later on, with the transition from timber to farming all along the river dairies sprung up.

QUESTION: There was no second attempt by anybody to start a vineyard?

ANSWER: No

QUESTION: To follow like Carmichael and Warren?

ANSWER: Carmichael got killed in the war. Property went to godson, Toby Ralston now it produces beef cattle.

QUESTION: It was one of the first properties in the area to produce wine, its strange that no one else ever attempted to grow wine at Seaham?

ANSWER: No ... Storks at Glen Oak used to produce wine. Glen Oak - a lot of german settlers were up there, first class immigrants.

QUESTION: Were ther lots of Irish settlers or families in Seaham?

William and Martha came out with a party of seven from the village.

ANSWER: I don't know about that. Brookfield was a catholic community.

QUESTION: Where was Brookfield?

ANSWER: Between Clarencetown and Dungog. Welshmans Creek, a lot of welshmen up Welshmens Creek, they congregated in little communities like. They carved homes out of the virgin bush, biggest part of them.

QUESTION: What is the biggest change in Seaham that in the time that you have seen in the time you lived there?

ANSWER: Well I think after recovery from war, building blocks at Seaham were very cheap from five pound to ten pound a block, a building block, now the present time there, \$25,000.00.

QUESTION: So it is rejuevnating as a residential area?

ANSWER: And since the advent of the motor car, Seaham has gone ahead in leaps and bounds. They now have a school with five or six teachers, over a hundred children and still growing. Land values have gone up like a skyrocket. Good roads, black roads now instead of gravel, coaches, electricity all amenities they want.

QUESTION: Not like in your day?

ANSWER: Yes, it was all wood stoves, bush refrigerator type, a frame with shelves in it. Bag round each side with a big dish on top with a bog keeping the things cool.

QUESTION: Is that what your mother used in the hotel?

ANSWER: No refrigeration.

QUESTION: How did your father keep the beer cool?

ANSWER:

Put the three casks on the stand, in the hot weather, close the bar up, hose the floor, put wet bags over the casks to keep them damp. Under the bar there was a big cellar that could never be used because it was half full of water, it was supplied by a spring. The spring was about 150 yards across the yard from the hotel and in the drought they dug it out to get water for the cattle and the cellar went dry after that.

We used to have a pump on it to pump water onto the garden, a hand pump.

QUESTION: Did you have your own orchard?

ANSWER: Yes, a big orchard, all fruits. Mother used to

preserve all sorts of fruits, jams, grapes, pears, apples, peaches, plums, a big orchard. To supply the

table, big bottles, sealed bottles.

QUESTION: So the business was a good thriving business?

ANSWER: Oh yes, summertime yes, keep you hopping.

QUESTION: You all had assigned jobs, Laura and Ada in the

kitchen?

ANSWER: Oh we all had to do what was necessary, clean the

stables out, dig the garden, manure the gardens, do

what was ever wanted. Plenty to do.

QUESTION: Was there a doctor in Seaham?

ANSWER: No doctor, Morpeth was the closest doctor.

QUESTION: So any babies born were by midwife?

ANSWER: All midwife.

QUESTION: Were there any local identifies or colourful characters.

ANSWER: Plenty of them. Living in the hotel and seeing the poor old alcoholics, which is a disease I always thought, I made my mind up when I was seven or eight years old never to drink alcohol or spirits. None of the family every drank. I used to pity the poor old devils.

QUESTION: Were these old times?

ANSWER: Old times, terrible sights I've seen. One man nearly eaten alive with meat ants things like that. I only had to worry about one thing, the first one, if I didn't take the first one I didn't have to worry about the second one. I never ever touched it. Not that I've got anything against it taken in moderation.

QUESTION: The hotel was a meeting place for the locals?

ANSWER: Yest, the big event of the year was Old Years Night.

None of your gates were safe, none of your carts were safe, the boys would get round and pinch them and take them away and you would have to go and find them the next morning.

QUESTION: What was that to celebrate?

ANSWER: Just for something to do or the devilment in them.

They pushed a bullock wagon onto the wharf and the boat couldn't get in to collect the passengers for new years day execursion until the bullock wagon was removed.

QUESTION: Was it quite a popular tourist spot?

ANSWER: The locals in those days before the 1914 war used to play marbles of a Sunday, and then later on we got a tennis court at the hotel, and they came down there, but when they all joined up we couldn't get ... we

used it as a fowl yard.

QUESTION: With tennis, marbles, foot races, running ...?

ANSWER: The footraces were in the early days, earlier than

that. Course things were cheap then, you know a big

glass of beer was 3d. a loaf of bread was 3d.

QUESTION: But the wages weren't very high either?

ANSWER: Corn beef 3d a lb. pair of working boots 6/6.

QUESTION: Do you think we have given a good enough description

of Seaham?

ANSWER: Pretty good.

* * * * * * * * * *

This is the end of my tape.

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE OPEN FOUNDATION COURSE

1988

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