

Leonie Milgate.

500 word summary of interview.

Mrs Story did not wish to answer any questions concerning her upbringing, and several other personal questions. She quite simply explained, and apologised for this, saying that due to being in the public eye for so many years, very little of her life remained private, and certain aspects of it she wished to keep so. This is quite easy to understand.

For Twink, as everybody knows her, her life really began when she met her late husband Mr Jim Story. Her deep love for her husband is quite obvious as she speaks of him throughout the tape. She gives him credit for so much of her success, taking little credit for herself.

From an early age she had a deep love for music. She dedicated her life to it, taking little time for anything else. As radio became popular, she felt she'd enjoy to participate in the industry. She has known no other way of life, her first ^{job} was as a music teacher at sixteen. School offered her nothing, her heart belonged to music, and until she was totally prisoner (of love!), to it, she wasn't satisfied.

Twink discovered that she enjoyed being in the public eye from an early age also, which seemed to carry into her future dream of being on radio. Her musical talents had her involved with various radio stations in Newcastle and Sydney, years before she began working full time with 2HD.

She explains how, despite owing her husband so much credit for her knowledge about absolutely everything to do with life, her position and climb to success, within 2HD, was achieved completely on her own merits, having to prove herself every step of the way. When asked about the demands on her as a mother

and a career woman, she felt that her 'want' to succeed made everything function quite happily, both at home and at work. Twink made her life at ZHD seem quite simple, reflecting upon it as nothing but a happy life. Because of her love for the industry, her music and mostly her husband, nothing seems to have darkened her memory of her association with ZHD or her career in general.

Despite trying her hand at television, she returned to radio, remaining there until her retirement.

Her experience as the host of Swap Shop, her most successful programme, also brings nothing but pleasant memories. Feedback from her viewers, of the enjoyment she gave them, even today she is remembered, seems to be extremely rewarding to her.

Not only did she gain recognition from her many years on radio, but her work for charity, mainly in the Maitland area, also gained her great respect from the community.

Again, when asked about her charity work and then of her acclaimed recognitions, she replies modestly. She again speaks of her husband's part in her successes.

She sees radio-style recently returning to the easy broadcasting manner of yesteryear when she first began.

For Twink, her whole career has been memorable, unable to pinpoint any one memorable aspect of it.

[Retirement is an obscene word. I don't know who would miss who the most if she did retire, her or her community.

As an afterthought, Twink adds the tributes of her association with The Gilbert and Sullivan Society and her Palm-Court Ensemble. Reflecting with pride, she speaks of the students whom she assisted by the scholarships Gilbert and Sullivan have provided over the years.

In conclusion, Twink again sheds herself of any credit. Believing that success for one, is a tribute to many, and that to help others is a pleasure, especially if you gain enjoyment from helping.

This is Leonie Milgate interviewing Twink Story, about her life as a radio personality from 1945 through to the mid 1970's. The interview was conducted on the 1 October 1988.

What is your full name?

Twink Edwina Story.

And your maiden name?

Ford.

Ford, where were you born, were you born in Newcastle?

Yes in Newcastle?

Do you have fond childhood memories?

Well, I suppose every child does, my memories are of my beginnings in music. That seemed to be the most exciting thing that happened because I always wanted to do that sort of thing.

What schools did you attend?

Various schools in Newcastle and surrounding districts because we moved around because of my parents occupation, we moved around quite a lot.

How far did you go with your schooling?

To intermediate level, I was much too interested in music to continue with schooling. In those days they didn't have music study in school, so I left school

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to give my full time and effort to my music.

What subjects did you enjoy at school?

Well I suppose I gave as much effort as I could to most of the subjects, I can't say that I really enjoyed any school subjects to the detriment of my interest in music. It all comes back to that. But still I qualified quite reasonably.

Your love for your music, when and how do you first recall your interest in it?

Well my parents discovered that I had an interest in music when I was about 8, because I could play, they bought a piano and they found I could play, by ear. I was 9 when I began studies on the piano.

So your parents were supportive.

Most supportive yes, especially my dad, you know he was very interested in my progress.

So your first instrument was obviously the piano?

Yes and that's remained my first love, I've played other instruments in the meantime, piano-organ, harp but it always comes back to the piano and singing.

And singing? How old were you?

Singing, elocution, piano and then later on, embraced acting, so I've done the full round, full orbit of those subjects.

Can you remember your first music teacher?

Yes I can remember her very well, her name was Miss Braggett.

Were you fond of her?

Oh yes, I think one always has fond memories of the first person who sets your interest to work, especially when you're as keen as I was.

So your keenness really outweighed the hardness of studying and everything else you had to put into music do you think?

Yes I just felt that it was, well, par for the course if you like, you have to study to get anywhere, whatever your chosen career and I used to put in 6 hours practice a day and it was a joy, and it still is.

Did you have much leisure time with all the music study and practicing?

I don't think I looked for leisure time. I suppose I sound like a strange person but I just had that one interest, I enjoyed having friends of course but I didn't have time to go and play or to do the things that normal, young, teenagers do, didn't want to either. My time was mostly taken up with concerts and eisteddfod's, examinations and study and lessons, that was my life.

What was your first job?

Teaching.

Teaching, music of course?

Yes, Yes. When I was 16 I began.

So, you worked for yourself, were you still living at home at this stage of your life?

Yes, Yes.

Did you have any ambitions as a young adult, what you really wanted to do with your life?

Well, yes I wanted to be a good teacher and then of course there was the beginning of the talk about radio, or rather radio was already in but it was a new medium and I think the seed was sown then, when I was quite a young adult, that I would like to take ^{some} part in radio, some time, some day.

Was it just your love for music that influenced these thoughts or.?

No I think I was interested in the medium itself because I liked talking to people and I enjoyed the exposure, if you like, of public life.

So you've been in the public eye for quite some time now?

Yes, it appears to me looking back, that I've been in the public life ever since I first began music, because my teacher found that I enjoyed public performance, so I was into concerts and that sort of thing and I really loved that, I loved the stage. I would liked to have taken up stage work,

professionally but my parents were rather mid-Victorian in their attitude about stage and so as far as I got was the concert platform. I did do some stage productions in my early twenties which I enjoyed very much.

At what stage of your life did you meet your husband?

Well I wish I'd met him ten years before I actually met him, but he was the person who actually helped me realise my dream of radio, going into radio, and I just took to it like a duck to water if you could like to put it that way, I just enjoyed it so much. It's a wonderful median ^{ium} in that you don't really know how many friends you have, and those unseen friends, often pop up in your life as time goes by. For instance, I've been retired now for some years but I'm still meeting people who tell me that they used to listen to me all the time and how much they enjoyed the programme and sometimes what an important part it played in their life. That's a very satisfying reflection to be able to make on a career.

It must be very rewarding having that sort of comment made to you.?

Most rewarding, most rewarding, especially when you meet somebody who's talking about her children and she was one of my little tiny tot listeners, that's all very interesting.

You have children, how many do you have?

There are 3 in the family.

Three, and they have children, you have grandchildren?

Yes I have grandchildren.

Did you work as they were growing up?

Yes I did, and that was quite easy really, because I had my old nanny living at home and we managed to cope with everything quite happy, they were never left alone and I was very close by any how.

Do you remember any attitudes that were associated with your working, sort of from people who you were close to, as even working these days is still frowned upon by?

Well if there were any attitudes I didn't, I wasn't conscious of them because I seemed to enjoy the respect of everybody, and the approval.

Do any of your children share your love of music?

Yes the eldest girl is very musical and has had stage and radio and she's in radio now.

It must have been very demanding on you as a mother and as a woman seeking a career?

Well, yes, but again, if you're very keen on something as I was keen on my work, my music, which was associated with radio, and you're learning all the time and my husband was a wonderful teacher, he was my guide and

mentor in the whole thing. No it wasn't a problem at all, it was just a life of happiness really.

Your husband, Mr Jim Story, he was the General Manager, of Newcastle's oldest and Australia's second oldest, radio station 2HD upon its reopening in 1945. Do you feel it was your husband's involvement in the industry that sparked the desire in yourself to succeed within it, or was there something previous to this, do you think?

Oh no, I give him full credit for everything I have learnt about radio, in fact about life and people, since I met and married him but my interest in radio came as I think I said earlier in the interview, when radio was in its infancy, and I had this inborn desire to be part of it and I had many many auditions for a show, to compete or take part in radio shows, long long before I met him. I used to do regular programmes at the recitals on the ABC and some on 2KO and some on Sydney stations long long before I actually went in, as a permanent worker into radio.

Right, how hard do you think it was to prove your worth in such a male dominated industry and when did you get your first position?

Well I was immediately in a position when I joined 2HD because I went in as the organiser for the childrens programme and concert organiser, eisteddfods I took the radio eisteddfods into that work with me, so I went straight into that position but then I became musical director after a while when my ability was proved and when I gained a little more knowledge. But it wasn't terribly hard, I mean I know there is still that approach that we still have this male domination in industry but I think we worked along

very happily, now and again you'd find, as I assumed more responsibility you find somebody, some male, might have some slightly resentful thoughts about a woman boss, but generally speaking it was a very happy time for me.

So you don't feel that you received any special treatment from the workers due to your husband's position?

Oh no, heavens no, and oh no, and when I say we had a happy association, I really had to be very determined in what I wanted to do and I didn't receive any help or assistance, any privileges shall I say, because I was the boss's wife, I had to prove myself every step of the way.

When do you feel that respect, you obviously had a lot of respect from male and female colleagues, when do you feel that this first respect started from your workers?

Well it's hard to pinpoint that particular time in my career but obviously as I look back there were some people who gained some benefit from working with me and I gained from them. I gained from the experience of having the responsibility of handling staff, so I think the respect just sort of grew probably.

It must have come as everything you seemed to touch seemed to spell ratings for ZHD, everyone remembers your children's programmes, and then there was the ZHD Radio Eisteddfods ^{which you became director of and} which won a state award for local broadcasting talent. How do you feel when that award was won?

Well that was most stimulating and very pleasing, and from the radio eisteddfods several people became or were able to achieve the first step on the rung of the ladder of success. A dancer named Jeffrey Kovell, he ^{won one of our Radio Eisteddfods} was taken by a talent scout to Covent Garden in England and immediately into the Royal Ballet and there's been others, many others, quite a number of students who competed in the eisteddfods who also achieved that type of fame.

And was that new to radio in Newcastle?

Yes, yes ours was the first ever Radio Eisteddfod.

Right, when you first began your radio career, radio was the most popular family entertainment. How did those involved in radio feel when television first became the main media form?

Well some people, perhaps had apprehensive thoughts about television but it didn't, it wasn't evident in our particular business in 2HD. My husband like myself and possibly I've gained this feeling from him, we just felt that we were doing our job and we would continue to do it. I did think it would be nice to dabble in television but I'm camera-shy, and I did the first childrens programme but I felt that my place was really in radio so I stayed with it and I'm happy that I did that.

Even though they were two separate media forms, radio and television, do you feel that a new approach had to be taken, because I mean plays on air and that type of thing must have changed in the programming.

Oh yes, the drama side of radio was no longer a viable thing. It was alright for night radio, there are a lot of people who suffer from insomnia or folk on shiftwork and that sort of thing, who listen to all night radio. So you could still have your stories, sometimes, on that part of your programme, but really we had to go for all music, and then eventually we went for talkback radio. Ours was the first to try that, and that was most successful.

And who was involved in the first talkback radio?

On our station?

Yes.

Oh we had Peter Bradley, Tom Delaney, and now and again you'd get a relay, we'd have John Laws and all the voices, a lot of the voices, we're still hearing.

Still hearing yes.

Your most successful programme on radio was Swap Shop, did you enjoy the one-on-one contact with your listeners?

I think saying it was my most successful is probably an understatement, it was not only successful but it was a joy, it was a laugh programme, you know, people say funny things, I do, you do, everybody does, and when you hear it back it's sometimes rather hilarious. And I made lots of lovely friends, just voices, that I loved to talk to on Swap Shop. It was really a most stimulating and happy time when I conducted that programme.

And how long did you actually do the programme?

That one was about four or five years. I'm not actually sure of the time.

Apart from your radio success you have done much more for your community in the way of charity work and of course beginning Maitlands Gilbert and Sullivan Society, you must get real pleasure in entertaining and helping the people of Newcastle and also knowing that they do appreciate the work you have done.

Well, there is another side of the career of course. That means that you're giving the benefit of your experience with music and dealing with the public, your passing that on to other people, especially younger people, yes I enjoy that. I was doing charity work as well when I was on radio too. I used to be able to cope with those things in my work time, but since I've retired from radio I've probably given more time to it, now the wheel has turned full cycle and its back to music, all music again, with Gilbert and Sullivan and providing concerts and programmes for various other organisations.

Right you've received honours locally and nationally for your contribution to the music industry, you were honoured in the production 'Choice Ladies' in 1982, you won a Medal of the Order of Australia in 1986, and then again in 1987 you won a Citation as an outstanding citizen in the city of Maitland. It must make you feel very proud also having actual recognition of your work?

Ah yes well, I guess you can say I'm proud, actually I just feel that, all reflects on the loving guidance and help my husband gave me, because without his stimulation, without his encouragement I wouldn't have done half the things I've been able to do. I'm very grateful for those honours and I hope the children enjoy the fact that I've been given them, and I'm very grateful to the people who thought I was worthy of being

nominated for them.

What do you feel are the most memorable moments of your career?

It's very difficult to pinpoint any one particular highlight, because there were so many, I think it's ^{just} all been simply wonderful.

The greatest changes in the Newcastle radio industry since its humble beginnings, what do you feel those have been, the change from radio to television or...?

Ah well as far as listeners are concerned certainly both mediums have an equal part in people's lives these days. Talk-back radio is probably stronger than ever it was. Night time listening is still very important as far as radio's concerned you still have the people who have insomnia and shift work and those who just simply like to listen to all night radio. But television is a very important part in everybody's lives too. I always, my husband used to say, that of the two mediums the radio is more instant, in that if something happens you immediately hear about it, it doesn't have to be produced and put on, it happens immediately and people know about it. But I think in fairness we have to say that both mediums, definitely, play an important part in people's lives and I think they will always continue to do that. I do think ^{that} radio has changed tremendously since the days when I first joined radio, when it was more a family thing, it was more ^{easy going and} family directed. Probably what I'm saying is that it's more sophisticated these days, on the other hand I have noticed a drift back to the more easy listening, so I suppose everything changes backwards and forwards as time goes on.

Surely you have fulfilled all of your dreams and maybe more in your life?

I guess so. I would have liked to have dabbled in, I became very interested in cooking and entertaining and I would have liked to dabbled in that side of life, perhaps gone into a restaurant or something like that, but time moved on and as a friend once said 'Musics your thing, why don't you stick to it,' and I guess that's what's happened.

Will you ever retire from your musical commitments, or will you just keep on going as you have done for so many years, bringing enjoyment and pleasure to the people of the Hunter Valley?

Heavens, the word retirement is a horrible, horrible word and no, I don't plan to retire. I'll fade away gracefully when the time comes I hope, but not retire, not yet.

A Post Script :

I spoke earlier about the various people who had achieved success through our early Radio Eisteddfod but I think I should also mention that through the Gilbert and Sullivan Society, and our productions, we have been able to afford, to provide scholarships each year for promising Hunter Valley students, and that has been a very rewarding thing for me, not only for me but for the society, because several of the students have gained tremendous honours. One girl became a Bachelor of music, one flautist has been given an Australiasian recognition and there's been others who have enjoyed the scholarship and gone onto teaching, one is in the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. So that's a very pleasant side of my career and musical interests to

reflect upon. I also have an ensemble, a palm-court ensemble and we play for many organisations, raising money and that money goes to help so many people. So its not just a matter of me enjoying my music, and I don't do these things alone, I don't take credit for all this personally, I know that success only comes because other people help you and I've had a lot of help. People I work with in Gilbert and Sullivan and in the ensemble, they're all lovely musicians who just love working together, so we do all things together don't we, we're really just a cog in every wheel I think.

I don't think you give yourself enough credit actually!

Oh well, I get so much out of it that its not a matter of taking credit, its a matter of knowing that what you're doing is doing good. In enjoying what you're doing you're doing some good with it as well.

Leonie Milgate.

Term 3 Research Project.

Essay Content -

The history of Radio Station
2HD Newcastle. The programmes
that featured from 1925 to 1975,
incorporating research interview
with Mrs Twink Story.

Due Date - First Week of Term 3.

Date Handed in: Wednesday ~~20~~ 26 October
Extension granted, due to interviewees
unavailability by hand-in-date.

Open Foundation Course

Australian History

Wednesday Evening Class.

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Radio began in Newcastle in 1925, with Mr Harry Douglas. Mr Douglas was a hard radio buff, and entertained those lucky enough to own a crystal set. The programmes which featured from the 1920's to the 1970's changed considerably, always being what the listeners wanted at a particular time. From the days of Community Singing and Serials, to the Beatles and finally to the station's music of today, Beautiful Music, 2HD has enjoyed many years of entertaining the people of Newcastle and surrounding districts. Oddly enough, little can be found on the history of radio in Newcastle, despite the important role it played in the community. Newspapers reported on various aspects of the industry but such information forms an incomplete picture and cannot be used as a reliable source. Except in backing up information passed on from those involved in the industry.

Radio was established in Newcastle on 27 January 1925. Mr Harry Douglas broadcasted amateur services from his Tyre Retread Service at Hamilton. Listeners enjoyed waltzes, ballads, operas, old favourites like 'My Grandfather's Clock', Community Singing, and interviews. "Two Edison turntables and a dozen or so Edison diamond records - quarter inch thick - comprised the station's total musical resources." "Mr Douglas' initials, H.D. became the station's official name; 2HD. The Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners Advocate, reported that 2HD's next owner was Mr A. Dixon. Who moved the studio to Sandgate and started the station as a commercial one.² Contradictory to this, a long time associate of 2HD, Mrs Twink Story, claims that Harry Douglas in fact sold his licence to the Jehovah Witness Organisation. Despite the controversy that was to follow, the

1, R.R. Walker, The Magic Spark, The Story of The First Fifty Years of Radio in Australia, 1973 Melbourne Australia, p 24

2, Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners Advocate
10 January 1941.

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Jehovah Witness organisation did do a lot for the reputation of the station during its ownership. In May of 1932, the studios were opened at the present site at Sandgate. The owners received compliments from the Australian Wireless Association, which rated it among the best in the State.^{3/} Middle of the road music was featured; ballads, opera, Gilbert and Sullivan music and favourites from the 1920's. Interviews were introduced into the programming. One of 2HD's most popular segments in the 1930's was the women's programme; 'The Sunshine Club'. This was based on letters received from Newcastle women, writing in with various topics for discussion, as well as featuring women's serials. 'The Sunshine Club' became an important part in many women's daily lives. The 'Joy Club' brought great enjoyment to many Newcastle children.

The owners were obviously very enthusiastic about the success of the station, for in 1934, only two years after moving to Sandgate, the station premises were remodelled once again. The building itself resembled a large double-gable house. A visitor to Newcastle Mr L. R. McGregor, the Australian Trade Commissioner to Canada, reported upon visiting the construction site, that he had not seen anything equal to the new studios of 2HD in Canada or the United States.^{4/} The studios were officially opened on 23 April 1934 by the Managing Director of Amalgamated Wireless Limited Mr E. T. Fisk, who ^{made the ceremony} broadcast from his home. The manager of 2HD, Mr E. A. Wood, . . . received compliments on the advancement and enterprise of the station by Prime Minister Lyons, the Director-General of Postal Services Mr Brown, and the Mayor of Newcastle Alderman Kilgour. The equipment was the most modern of its kind. Mr Fisk announced that 2HD was a worthy representative for B Class Radio stations in Australia. Mr Rufus Morris the designer, received praise for his unique design. Mr Douglas also attended.^{5/}

^{3/} ibid . 12 May 1932

^{4/} ibid . 10 April 1934

^{5/} ibid 24 April 1934

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Despite the station's success, and the several thousand pounds spent on further improvements to efficiency in 1940, the station came to an unexpected halt on 9 January 1941. The management was advised by the Newcastle Postal Services, that the station was to immediately close. Without explanation, the station finished its news presentation and then faded off the air. The management was shocked by the order and denied allegations that they were sponsored by the sect known as Jehovah Witnesses. They did admit that several workers were followers.⁶ Another three commercial stations had received the same order. Stations 4AT Atherton, 5KA Adelaide and 5AU Port Augusta. Despite the station's denial of being in any way involved with Jehovah Witnesses, it was this supposed connection that caused all four stations to suffer the same devastating fate. It was believed that 2HD had been caught sending messages to the enemy through broadcasts. Whether because of carelessness or of intention the information was passed on air. The stations involved, were breaching the War Law, which applied to all radio stations in Australia. Almost immediately after 2HD's licence had been cancelled, the Post Master General's Office began receiving applications to take over the station's assets. In February of 1941 some fifty applications had been received.⁷ A major contender for the licence was the Returned Soldiers' League of Newcastle. They wished to distribute the profits made from the station amongst their sub-branches throughout Newcastle. They also believed that Newcastle should have a Newcastle owned radio station. The government refused to make a decision before they had completed their investigations. The ALP and Trades Union Movement were also contending for the licence. For the four years of 2HD's closure the other major Newcastle radio station

⁶ ibid. 9 January 1941

⁷ ibid. 10 February 1941

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2KO, was enjoying the competition-free years of broadcasting. In December 1944 it was announced that the ALP and Trades Union Movement were the official new owners of 2KD and it would reopen in January 1945.

The official reopening took place on the 15 January 1945. The General Manager of the Station was an experienced Radio Man, Mr O.J. Story. Mr Story had worked in the radio industry for many years. The ALP and Trades Union Movement promised the people of Newcastle, a station for the people. It was not easy for the management to find advertisers, the make or break for commercial stations, when it reopened. The public was still very wary of the station because of the controversy in 1941, believing that the Jehovah Witnesses were still connected with the station. The management had a monstrous task; they had to win back an audience, an audience that had listened religiously only four years previously. [As well as being the Children's Programme co-ordinator, Mrs Twink Story also was given the task of finding out what music, and programmes the people of Newcastle wanted to hear. Opera was taken off the air and wartime music introduced. A popular segment was Community Singing. A truck from the station travelled around the district and conducted Community Singing for air. The station travelled as far as Gloucester, Musellbrook and Wylong as well as local centres such as Wallsend. This was extremely popular because the listeners were being involved. Talent Quests were also conducted on these occasions. [The children's programmes conducted by Mrs Story were a great success. At first the children were invited to the studio to participate in the programme but the response was so overwhelming, with busloads of children turning up with their mothers after school, that the format had to be changed. The children became the listeners, being treated with serials; 'Batman,' & 'Search of The Golden Boomerang'. [The new format remained successful for many years. Of a night,

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adult listeners were also treated with Serials; 'Scotland Yard', 'Man in The Iron Mask' and of course 'Dad and Dave.' Serials were being heard on all Stations in the forties. 2HD introduced Carols by Candlelight to Newcastle people in 1945. The Colgate Shows were also popular. These were programmes relayed from Sydney (which 2HD also introduced to Newcastle). Quiz segments hosted by the famous compere Jack Davey, Pick A Box with Bob Dyer, and musical segments featured. On occasions the programme travelled to Newcastle for broadcasts, sometimes from Newcastle Stadium, featuring the boxing and wrestling. 2HD introduced the Radio Eisteddfods to Newcastle, helping many a young artists on her way to success. Mr Story held the air to broadcast a Request Segment. Listeners would write to the station and request a favourite song to be played.

The fifties saw Women's Programmes become very important to Newcastle women. However, most serials were dropped, with only one ^{in the} ~~of an~~ evening and music taking the centre stage. Serials faded away completely with the introduction of the television. 2HD turned at this stage to all music. 2HD also introduced Talk Back Radio to Newcastle, continued with Community Involvement Programmes and of course featured importantly was advertising. For a brief period in the 1960's 2HD turned to Pop music, featuring importantly in the Beattie Era. The management then decided to turn to 'Beautiful Music'. The public's response was phenomenal, obviously a great number of people had been missing the 'beautiful music'. 2HD stayed with Beautiful Music, leaving Pop music to the other commercial stations. The late sixties saw the popular Snap Shop begin. Starting as a half an hour programme once a week and eventually becoming a one hour programme, aired daily as part of Mike Jeffries Open Line Segment. In January of 1975, 2HD celebrated fifty years of broadcasting to the people of Newcastle and the Hunter Valley. Definatly, a time for all involved in 2HD's history to be more than proud of.

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To learn that Newcastle is the home of Australia's second oldest B Class radio station, is quite impressive. To explore the history of the station and learn of the people who made it what it is today, is more than impressive. The people involved in 2HD, Harry Douglas, The Jehovah Witness Organisation and Jim and Twink Story, were all totally dedicated people, devoting much of their lives to the station. The motto of 2HD was 'First in Newcastle' this inspired those involved to always try to do that, be first in Newcastle. The Station succeeded in doing so on many occasions. Sixty three years later 2HD is still enjoying large audiences. Certainly a great achievement from its humble beginnings above the Tyre Retread business of Mr Harry Douglas in 1925.

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Most information contained in this essay was kindly given to me by Mrs Twink Story, who worked at 2HD for nearly thirty years before her retirement in 1974. Her knowledge of the stations functionings and programmes over its fifty year history, (from 1925 to 1975) are attributed to her position with 2HD as Program Manager.