

Timed Summary

Interview with Patrick J. "Paddy" Greenfield

OH: NTRS 226

Interviewer: Megg Kelham

Date: 2.2.2006

Note: Key words shown in bold.

START TIME	SUMMARY
0.00	Patrick Joseph Greenfield born in Port Augusta on 16.1.1934. He was deserted by his mother and raised by his grandmother until he was 14 years old. Her name was Winifred Virginia Greenfield (nee Bothwell) .
0.34	Paddy speaks about always being in the care of the Welfare and got vouchers for food and clothing. A shopkeeper called him an 'illegitimate bastard' and he swore at her and his grandmother refused to accept any more vouchers. She taught him how to play the piano. He also played violin and mandolin. He left school at 14 and got a job at Bull's Bakery . Welfare said they would get him a job in the Commonwealth Railways .
3.49	He was to be sent to Goodwood Boys Tech to be trained as a fitter and turner but he refused to go as he wanted to be a welder. He became a kitchen boy at the Glandore West Boys Home and learned a lot from the cooks and cooked for the staff and boys on weekends. Welfare sent him to the Grosvenor Hotel to work as a chef but he discovered it was only washing dishes so he rebelled and left. He returned to the Boys Home. He was allowed to smoke, although he was only 14 years old.
8.21	He went to Wilmington to do a four-year improver-ship as a baker and pastry chef. He met his future wife there.
9.33	Paddy did his national service when he was 21. He volunteered to be with the Royal car on the Royal Tour but missed out and was in the Royal car as a sweets cook. He met the Duke of Edinburgh . National service was compulsory for three years, then five years part-time. He did part-time when he was 17 years and full-time for three years from 1954-74. He started as a cook, and later was in charge of the Q-store and did some administration. He received an Efficiency Medal.
13.51	He worked in the Wilmington Bakery at Port Augusta; he also had his own business as a wholesale bakery. The Army contacted him to go full-time in the CMF (Citizen Military Forces) . He went back part-time in 1968.
16.31	Paddy speaks about his business. He explains that he made too many lines and tried to undercut the opposition and went broke. He then applied for a job in the Railways as a cook. He applied to Mr Conole who told him he couldn't get a job unless he worked in Pt Pirie . He later applied when he was in Army uniform and got the job.
20.52	He recalls that he and his wife had to leave their house in Pt Augusta and move to Pt Pirie. They rented a house which they later bought. In the Army he got about \$100 a week which was considered good pay. He assumed his pay would drop as an employee in the Railways but he cleared over \$200 in his first fortnight.
23.26	Paddy's first trip on the Ghan was to Alice Springs and on the first morning he woke to the beautiful sight of the Macdonnell Ranges . It was an old train and he had to work hard but it was a wonderful trip; the dining car was a 40-seater.

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25.11	On the Ghan menu there was cooked turkey, beef, lamb, pork for main meals, steak, beef, fish for entrees, and chops, sausages and eggs for breakfast. The menu changed every six months. He describes the recipe for baked snapper and Spanish beef; there was always a roast dinner and a large choice of vegetables. He was more creative for the crew and was more experimental.
33.27	Paddy describes New Year's Eve which was an enjoyable time with the passengers. He played the piano and accompany passengers who sang. Dr. Don Williams , the Managing Director, was on board once and came to the kitchen to introduce himself. They got on very well and Dr Williams offered his help if Paddy had any trouble with his bosses.
37.19	There was often food left over and it would be thrown out and he followed the tradition of other cooks and gave it to the Aboriginal people when they stopped at Finke . One of the Aborigines always gave him artefacts that he had made.
39.41	Paddy tells the story of Bob the Bikie who got on in Alice Springs. He was a rough mean looking man. Other bikies got on at Oodnadatta but did not have any money for meals so he looked after them and gave them food.
43.15	He was on the last trip on the Ghan. It left Pt Pirie with a full compliment of passengers, including a special VIP car for eight, including Mr and Mrs Smith. Some passengers were only going to Alice Springs, others were doing the whole trip. Ron Till was paid to play the piano for the trip and he was a very good musician; one of the crew, Jerry O'Brien played the spoons. Everyone sang old favourite songs (he names several songs). The piano was not well tuned so when they got to Alice Springs he tuned it himself with a shifting spanner. While tea was cooking that night he lay down for a rest and thought it would be nice if they had a last Ghan song .
49.04	He thought of the words to the song in about 10 minutes and sang it to the tune of <i>Three Little Fishes</i> . He wrote out a few copies and sang it to some of his friends, and they liked it and wrote out more copies.
53.04	He sings the whole song onto the tape. He feels that he was very fortunate to work on the Ghan and he met some wonderful passengers, some of whom are still good friends. He worked with some wonderful people in the hierarchy of Australia National . He considers he had a very fortunate life. The three great women in his life were his grandmother, Mrs Edwards who took him from the home and his wife of 50 years.
	End.