

Well good afternoon Bill and thank you very much for agreeing to be interviewed by us today.

This is an interview with Bill Frangos being conducted on the 30th of September 2013 at his home in Port Pirie. The interviewer is Joanna Tsalikis and the interview is being conducted as part of the Greek Migrant Experience Oral Histories Project. This is an OEEGA initiative funded by the Australian Government's "Your Community Heritage Program Sharing Community Heritage stories".

Bill can we start first of all by asking you to state your full name, and where and when were you born?

My name is Bill Frangos. I was born 9th of April 1932 in Monokambi, Greece, Ikaria.

What sort of early memories do you have of your childhood, because you migrated quite young didn't you?

Yes I did migrate young but I have still, it's marvellous there's a lot of things that I can't remember today what I've done yesterday, but I can still remember and I can still picture my hometown where I was born even though I was only seven years of age. Why I don't know, but, as a picture, I can still see it in front of me.

Do you have any recollection of particular experiences?

Where?

When you were born in Ikaria, what particular memories perhaps stand out apart from the visual?

I remember the places where we used to go fishing with my dad, there was a place called Amplaka, that was like a small beach I remember, now I can't remember the name of the church but I remember this particular church, it had a pine tree growing on top of the roof, because back then our homes and so forth they were with slates and this pine tree --- and yet it's marvellous it is still there, they tell me and I ask people that come out here and they reckon it's still there and it has never gone above the --- it has a bell on top of the roof and you know they built this bell into the - like a [steeple] - and it's never grown above that but that pine tree is still growing, you can even see the roots of the thing, following it like in the ceiling.

It is a remarkable image. What were your parents doing at that time? What was your father's profession?

Well in Greece there wasn't very much they can do, like on the island bar grow their own vegetables, their own things and they used to go out in different islands, exactly what islands I don't know, when they used to make coal and they used to sell the coal.

You know, that's what a lot of the Ikarians were doing, because as I said there wasn't any factories there, they had to sort of survive --- they used to go out as workers, like if you wanted a worker to do your garden or something like that and that is how they more or less, they survived.

It is a very rocky island isn't it. How would you describe Ikaria?

So they say, they say that, a very hilly place but I don't know much about it, the only place I know is the --- I can slightly remember the place that I was born, like Monokambi, I can picture our town that we used to go, because then the boat did not go right into that - it didn't have a jetty - you had to go out with the little boat to catch the ship or the ferries to go away from the island. Yeah that is about all I can remember of Greece.

So your community was basically a farming community?

Yes and my dad when he came to Australia, when we all came to Australia, he got his first job, was working with the Chinese, they had, there was a bit family of Chinese here and they had market gardening.

Can I just take you back a little bit, when did he choose to come to Australia and why did he choose to make that decision?

Well I think that my grandfather Mr Carapetis he --- well see my mother was a Carapetis, and he wanted his family near him and he thought that it might be more future here in Australia than what was back in Greece at that time or back in our island at that time.

When did your grandfather migrate here, approximately?

I think it was 1926 and he arrived and exactly what job his first job was, I don't know but when he settled down he had a vegetable shop. They were going to Adelaide, bringing their vegetables up to Port Pirie. There was quite a few Greeks at that time that had shops in Port Pirie like that.

And most of those people would have had farming experience or background?

Some of them, some of them.

Let's go back to your father now, so obviously he would have followed his family out, when was that when did he come here?

My father, we all came here in 1938.

And you came out as a family?

As a family yes.

The Chinese connection is very interesting as well, when you migrated where did you go, how did that happen?

We were staying at my uncle's place, it was a big house he had and we were staying there. My dad was working for these Chinese, because Port Pirie then wasn't as big as what we are now. Just further down the road where I live here now they had about 20 acres of land it might have been even more ---

The Chinese community?

The Chinese yeah, but that was a big family of them, and my dad, that was his first job here when he first came to Australia.

That's very interesting because I don't think a lot people would be aware that there was a Chinese community starting up in Port Pirie.

There was yeah. There was, I don't know how many of them there was, but I know there was a great big family of them.

And is that connection still here now?

No, no

So they have moved elsewhere?

Yes they have moved.

When you migrated at the age of seven or eight, did you say? ---

Approximately seven yeah

What was your impressions when you came out, how did you feel as a --- if you have any recollections?

It was strange because we couldn't speak a word of English, my cousins were around my age and of course when we all --- getting together they would talk in English and it was a little bit hard. I will never forget when I first went to school they sat us at a table and I was waiting to see when they would bring the food to us. (laughter) Yeah, and the very first word that I spoke in English was, I remember it, was 'ella' because I had a cousin of mine and her name is 'Ella' and the other kids were calling here 'Ella Ella' and that was easy.

A bit of confusion.

Yes it was but you get used to the language quick.

And where did you go to school here?

I first started I went to Coorie West school and then when my dad --- I changed three schools, I went to the Pirie Block school and then when dad bought our garden, I went to the Napperby school.

So dad was perhaps one of the first market gardeners here in the community? Or had the community been established?

Well he wouldn't be the first one, no he was not the first one, there were quite a few. In those years there was, we started that in 1940, we bought our block of land and it was funny then because my grandfather he helped us, because we could not buy any land. In those years, it's different now, people can buy land out here and they don't even know where Australia is, but when we first came to Australia you had to be in Australia for five years, you had to be naturalised before you could have anything in your name. This is how we got ours, under my grandfather's name and then when my dad got naturalised they changed the deeds into ---

So you had to establish yourself in other words before you could ---

It was very, very hard then, of course our kitchen table was a banana crate and our chairs were just ordinary boxes what we used to put the tomatoes in. Yes we only had one double bed and the whole five of us were sleeping on it. That was our very, very beginning. It was very hard, because there was no electricity; yes we had water but no electricity at all. We lived eight miles out of the town, no shop near; we had to come to [Port] Pirie into the town eight miles to do our shopping.

So you learnt to become very self sufficient in other words.

Our drinking water, we had drinking bags to cool it down yeah, it was pretty hard, but we got through it and they were hard years but they were good years.

How would you describe your childhood at this point growing up in [Port] Pirie? It would have been a culture shock as we said at the beginning; you obviously have quite happy memories of that time even though there were challenges.

Oh yes, there was soccer, there was football, you get involved with different teams and things like that, you get into committees. At that time that's the only way --- well that's the way we used to be involved, there was nothing else in Port Pirie. They had two or

three playgrounds but yeah if you got involved, I am talking about when you are 16, 17 years of age you got involved with the footy clubs or the soccer clubs you get to know people and things like that.

So it became a very tight knit community and the socialising would have been the thing that kept most of the entertainment happening.

Even now you walk into the town and there is not too many people you don't know. There is some but that's different altogether. All my cousins and so forth they all shifted to the city, to Adelaide, and done very, very well, yeah. I chose to, my dad and all my family were sort of here and I got used to it and I didn't want to shift. It is all so close to me.

So the family basically chose this kind of lifestyle as opposed to going to the big city and living in an urban environment, you obviously felt much more comfortable with perhaps a country existence.

Yeah, yeah that is right.

Now the market gardening, you yourself went into that area as well. I would like you to talk to us a little bit about the market gardening community, what sort of things were grown, how did you come to become involved and what memories you have of that early time of establishing your career.

When we first started off in the garden we had horses and we used to do our ploughing, turn the ground over with the horses. I used to plough up to about 12 - 15 acres of land with the horses, three times a year before we planted anything. We used to grow tomatoes and peas, [they] were our main crops and then on the, what you call a 'side line' we used to grow summer stuff which is watermelons, cucumbers. But our main income was from tomatoes and peas because this was a --- it's different now, see Adelaide at that time, they weren't growing outside tomatoes very much, I mean now they've got a lot of gardening down there but in those years Port Pirie would have been the first --- see we were very early here in Port Pirie, our tomatoes used to come --- and this is why we survived because of the prices, we used to get good prices because we were early and there wasn't a lot of stuff into the markets at that time and when everybody else would come in like Adelaide and Melbourne and Western Australia, when they came onto the market we were almost finished here. Because in Adelaide it's a lot colder, the climate was a lot colder than what it is in Port Pirie and we never used to get frost as much as what other places and that's why this was a good growing. But then as time went on we got out of that industry here in Port Pirie because it was very,

very hard to --- because we couldn't sell all --- no way we could sell all that gear into Port Pirie. We had to send it to the market in Adelaide and yeah ---

So you were selling directly initially from [Port] Pirie but then you began to sell through to the market is that right?

Yes that is right, all our products here was, most of it 90% of all the growers that were here would send their tomatoes to Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney and our peas were the same. We had a fruit growing thing here in Port Pirie and we had a big --- they used to call it 'The Growers', and they used to have fridges and things like that where they used to keep the tomatoes and things like that before they sent them away and the peas because there was a --- those years there would have been semi-trailer loads of peas go out of Port Pirie everyday to the markets. It was amazing you'd go from here to as far as Baroota which would be roughly about 25 km away from here and they were all growing peas and you'd drive along there and you would see about 40 or 50 and 60 people in the paddocks, women and children, the pickers picking peas.

And those people came from all around, from Adelaide?

There was a lot of new Australians and when they arrived, the migrants then, they were coming out in boatloads.

The first boat people!

Yeah, nearly as bad. Well not as bad.

A lot of people don't realise, do they, that there were boat people much earlier than what we talk about today.

That's right. They were brought into Australia and they were landed in a place like Bonegilla or something.

Bonegilla.

Where that is I don't know ---

It's in Victoria.

In Victoria and it was like a camp and they would land them there, just like the boaties are now, they were landing in these camps and most of the migrants that came out like that, they all got into these paddocks and picking peas and fruit and all over Australia.

One advantage I think about places like Bonegilla, was the people had the freedom to move, they were tough times for those people but they weren't detention centres like they are today.

No they weren't, they done everything they could do for them, I mean they had a home, somewhere to sleep, and from there they all went to these fruit blocks and gardens and things like, but in Port Pirie we used to have up to 100 outside pickers.

Do you remember some of the nationalities of those people?

The ones that I sort of met would be 90% of them would have been Greeks, and they were in families, there were families of them the groups. They done very, very well but they had to work hard, and the conditions weren't very nice because each gardener couldn't put all of them up and a lot of those people were living in sheds, especially the ones that were used to grow peas, they used to have sheds and they used to live in shed while the picking was going on. The whole family used to live in the --- but they got on because they were good workers, the whole family, it's different now one trying to keep the family, then five or six helping you see. That's how they got along and they've done well.

You actually took the business of market gardening over from your father as such, you ran the business?

Yeah we worked together until we finished, we had two blocks of land.

How would you describe your mother at this point, how she was assisting with the business?

Oh yeah we all had to. There was my sisters, myself, we worked as a family altogether at that time that's how we got --- there was one boss and that was the head of the thing, we all followed and we all worked together. That's the only way you could have got on.

So the whole family was engaged in the business, it wasn't just --- even after your father retired you still worked with your whole family.

Yes, yes.

What memories outside of the business do you have of [Port] Pirie at that time, a lot of us urban Greek-Australians tend to see it as being a very out of the way place but it is in fact a very interesting community and I am wondering what stories, what can you recollect at that time when you were establishing your own business.

Well, we used to, we never ever locked our houses up, everyone --- different people, I don't know what it is. What's making us like this, we never --- what goes on now like killings all this and that --- you get the paper every day and there is someone murdered or someone has broken in or something like that, that wasn't going --- we all had a hard time but we enjoyed it because when we finished work we all got together, you'd have

your shower, I'd be at your place, the next night we all --- and the other pals would go to somebody else's place and you were always with a group of people. Well that's how we were out at Napperby like where we were working on our gardens.

Napperby was where the garden was established?

Yes that is exactly right because as I said they were hard times but they were good times, we made the good times because when you are all happy, you forget the hard work, and all that caper, and we enjoyed it. It was hard but it was good.

I want to go back now, backwards a little bit to your early twenties. How did you come to marry and establish a family? Did you want to get marry fairly early or that wasn't part of your immediate agenda. Did you want to get yourself established first with work, how did that happen?

I got married in 1957. I had five children and unfortunate my marriage didn't last, it lasted ten years.

How did you come to meet your wife?

I met my wife through προξενιό [arrangement].

Ok traditional introduction?

Yes, yes I did not know my wife before I met her.

And who organised that, the προξενιό [arrangement].

My uncle in Adelaide.

Did you have a choice, did you consider it, take as a serious ---

My choice was I was in love with another girl before I got --- and through their relations and things like that, that broke up and ---

The relatives of this other girl broke up the relationship. Why was that do you think?

I think at that time she was out here, this girl was out here, she was a Cyprian, she was out here and she was looking after her sister's kids and they wanted to keep her as long as possible and from there it broke up and because I was going to get married, I said I wanted to get married in May and they said no you can't be in May you have to be in November, that made me mad so, and that's why we broke up with the first one and --- I thought the world of her but I wanted to even run away with her but then she sort of thought that "what's my parents going to say when they hear of this?" and so forth and I said --- I knew then deep down she couldn't have loved me as much as I loved her so I

said well I told her "if you don't come with me" I said "I'll be married, I don't know no one but I'll be married by that date" and I was.

So you gave her an ultimatum.

And I was married with this --- I was told about this girl and ---

So it seems that even though you weren't in the city in this smaller community, there was a lot of societal pressure to conform to what your families and your parents wanted of you. Was that as strong here as it would have been in Greece?

Well I don't know, it's hard to say, I don't know.

Conforming to what the family wanted of you.

Yeah yes, we tried to keep --- well I always tried to keep my tradition up and like follow the Greek tradition, of course I could see a lot of other people, their traditions and I sort of liked that and I am proud to be a Greek and follow their way of thinking, the way they were the older people.

So you married now and you had your children, in addition to sustaining the business what other interests did you have outside the business?

In 1960 I gave up the gardening and I started working in the Commonwealth Railways. I gave up gardening, I gave up my business.

That's a different career.

Yeah, and I started as a labourer in the Commonwealth Railways and I worked there until 19 --- I had an accident in 1968 and I was very lucky to be alive.

Can you talk to us about that, can you talk to us about the accident?

Yes I had a motor drop down on my head from twelve foot and it weighed 42 pound in weight and it cracked my head open like a watermelon, but I was very, very lucky I didn't have anything --- I am suffering through it now but --- yes I worked until 1984.

That is remarkable that you didn't die, you must have had a very hard head Bill.

Well it split my head.

And you were in hospital for a certain period of time?

No, no I went into hospital, they sewed me up and I went back to work to pick my belongings so I could come home and the other person had a look and he fainted and I said "what's wrong with him?" and they said, there was another crack on the other side

they did not see that when I went into hospital and I had to go back again into hospital and they sewed the other one up, within an hour.

And they didn't keep you in the hospital?

No they didn't keep me in hospital and this is why I am suffering today, because what it done, it pushed the vertebrae down and now the vertebrae is that close together on the bone there and it's --- I am suffering, but that's life.

It also suggests that you must have had a fairly high level of fitness because a lot of people wouldn't have survived that. So you must have been a relatively fit young man.

I was, I was, until two years ago I had a little sideline here that I had 60 homes that I was cutting their lawns and pruning their trees. These palms trees that you see outside here I used to climb right up the top here and clean them every year, but now my knee went on me and I had an operation on my knee and I had to --- yeah I can't climb the ladder any more.

That's remarkable Bill. Well we are glad that you are still with us. Now some people have an opportunity at a second chance of happiness in a relationship. Now you did form a new partnership with another lady can you tell us how you met that lady?

I met Mavis in 1966, she was working at the railways and that is how I met her and we lived together, although we weren't married and yet we lived from 1966 until she died last [year] in June on me.

That tends to suggest too that the community is progressed and people have become a bit more broad minded about families and relationships and so on. It is lovely that you had that second chance.

We had a good life together.

Now your children what professions, did any of them follow into the farming or the ---

No they are all in Adelaide. Exactly where they are I don't know.

You don't always keep in touch with them?

No. The reason why I haven't is because of the --- my first wife and I can't blame only her, I blame her people her parents, they broke us up and --- I couldn't go to my kids because if I had gone there I know --- she'd go berserk and this is why I kept away. I thought that when the kids grow up that they'll --- because when they were down there as kids they poisoned them against me but they've never made an attempt now that they are grown up to say "oh well I'll go and see what it's like, is he as bad as they say he

is?" I am disappointed and yet with this other women that I lived with, she had two children of her own and she was divorced when I met her, there's some of her kids there, those photos (pointing to photographs on the wall) and they treat me like a father.

And you've got grandchildren as well, you haven't seen them either?

I have got grandchildren and the grandchildren I've never ever seen.

That is very sad Bill.

It is very sad.

Well sometimes things change --- we hope that that can happen.

Yes, yes

You've got a lot of other hobbies and interests as well I believe. You must have a green thumb because I believe you've been involved with the District Orchid club and you've made a bit of an impact it seems with your orchids, can you talk to us how you came to be involved with that?

I got involved with Mavis, there was one fellow that used to grow them here and I thought I'll try and we tried two or three of them and they died on us and we never had the conditions, I never had a shade house and I thought they'd grow like tomatoes, but they don't, you have to be little bit --- you know different conditions and then I got into them and from one or two plants I finished off I had just over 300 orchids. I had three or four shade houses down the bottom and I used to grow quite a few flowers.

That is very exciting and I believe one of them was a grand champion.

Yes it was.

How do they determine how a plant becomes a grand champion? What do you take into consideration?

This plant that I got the grand champion, it had twelve spikes on it and each spike had 49 flowers on it, so can you image what it was like and I got photos there (pointing to the photograph) I got it inside and I think there is one over here too. Now I haven't got a lot now and that plant that got me the grand champion, I split it the other day, I don't know if you know what that means, to break up because it got too big in the pot and I've got eight plants and I gave away three plants and I got about twenty back bulbs of it. So that shows you how big it was.

Spectacular!

And I've got birds and that's what's keeping me alive today.

And do you breed the birds as well?

Yes

And when you breed them are these sold to individuals or to the bird people, pet shops and so on?

Yeah, to the bird people yeah. Yes it's an interest. I like it because I go at the back there, sit down under the shade and watch them, and it's breeding time now. And that's what kills my time.

Now I believe also that in 2010 that you were fundraiser of the year, what was this for?

Yes the football club, Solomon Town football club. I've been in it for 30 years without a break, in the committee for 30 years. Yeah I've done a bit of collecting, fundraising yeah. But it is good, that is why I say Port Pirie is --- it's a small town but it's a very, very nice town.

There are things to be proud of Bill.

Oh yeah there is.

Now you've obviously seen the growth of the community from perhaps a very small town into something much bigger and I believe also that the first Greek Orthodox Church was established in Port Pirie, before the city in Adelaide.

Yes it was.

Can you tell us how that happened?

Well. The full story of that I don't know but yeah there was --- when we first came to Australia I knew there was that one that you are talking about and they used it as a school too, because those times there was quite a few families living in Port Pirie, a lot of families, we were a big community here and they all had their children and there were grownups too and we had a teacher, we had a school every night, after school. A lot of them were taught Greek. The kids that were in my age at that time they all knew how to write and read in Greek too, they were a very proud community in Port Pirie. Unfortunate kids grow up, they get married, they go to Adelaide they do to Melbourne they go everywhere for employment or better and then of course dad and mum follows and now, in Port Pirie there is not very many families left in Port Pirie.

I was going to ask, are there many young people here, is there much of a community?

No there is not. That's the sad part of it, there is not a lot of young Greek kids living in Port Pirie, there still are a few but not as many, nowhere near what we used to be. We used to go to a hall at a night time and you used to pack it, now it's --- because most of the people --- well I know with just my own personal thing, I had seven cousins and not one of them live in Port Pirie, now all those cousins are all married and they all have got families and they are all in Adelaide, Broken Hill, you know all over the place.

Very dispersed.

Yes but that's the sad part about it because we had only one factory in Port Pirie, well we had several small ones, but the main one is the smelters and I think that's keeping a lot of other industry out of this town for some reason or other, I don't know why but --- that used to have round about 2000 people working in there and I believe now there is only about 600.

Do you think that some people would feel uncomfortable because they see it as an environmental problem having the smelters?

I don't know, it's hard to pinpoint why we can't get another industry here in Port Pirie. We lost two or three big ones --- that was one of our big ones, the wharf was another one, and of course we lost that, why I don't know and then we --- the railways, there was just over 2000 people between the Commonwealth and the State Railways in Port Pirie on the payroll. Now just five people working I think in Port Pirie.

There's almost a suggestion here that the town in a way is dying in a sense in terms of its industry and it's community would that be fair to say, or do you think it can pick up, what's your view on that?

Well it can, and I hope it does. If we had one good industry here in Port Pirie it'd make --- the town itself would come alive again. I don't think that I'll have that pleasure in seeing it but they need one good industry in Port Pirie, one more beside the smelters and this town could come alive, but unfortunate --- why and that I don't know.

From what you're saying, it's a very different place today from what it might have been when your family first came here.

Yes oh yeah. The town itself is beautiful, it's beautiful, they are hitting it because of lead and things like that, but there's other cities that have got more lead than what [Port] Pirie has.

Do you think it's the way it's been promoted that there has been confusion in the media about this?

Yeah. I think there is a lot in the media that's given the town a bad name. You know there's lead, lead --- Look I'm 82 years of age, there's older people too, lead's done nothing to me. I mean, there's places in Adelaide that I can name that's got more lead than Port Pirie.

Have there been any health problems that have been related back.

They tried. The smelters have done a lot and is trying to do more, and they are talking about getting a loan from --- the government helping them to redesign it, whether they will get there I don't know. They are in the process, at this stage, and I hope they do, for the township's sake.

Communities change all the time don't they Bill and this is probably a problem that we've seen in a lot of other country towns not just South Australia but in Australia in general that people might go to that particular town or community because of its industries and its work opportunities. When that starts to diminish the town loses in a sense its character but you don't feel that that's happened to [Port] Pirie really do you?

No, no. At this stage I don't reckon it is. There've been two or three different things that they reckon that were going to come to Port Pirie and they missed out, why, governments, or the people that are supposed to be looking after us don't care, because they can get in parliament --- they know that they are not going to lose their seat. All these sort of things help, if you had say, the voting part was close with the opposition, I think they'd fight a little bit harder for the town. We're not getting the proper support from the government or the blokes that --- "I'm getting my yearly pay" and so forth, they are ok --- think about the town a little bit too, do something for the town. I've been here since 1938 we had Coles, we had Woolworths as our main big things in Port Pirie, now we got Kmart, Woolworths is still here and Coles is still here but they got bigger, a lot bigger to what they were in my time. That's about the only industries that's ever come to Port Pirie. We got a lot of --- they have gone crazy about bringing food outlets, fast food outlets, they seem to have gone mad on them but you've got to have people.

You've got to have people to buy the products.

Yeah We've got one going up now they reckon, but where are you going to find all these people to go into these shops and eat, you've got to have the industry, if these people fought a little bit harder to bring just one little industry in the town I'd say, it would be nice. I'd hate to see it get to a million people here in Pirie, which it never will, because it will take the shine out of Port Pirie.

Do you know what the population is, has it reduced?

No we used to have a lot more people here before.

So the population has diminished?

Oh yes, yes. Because most of our kids won't stay in Port Pirie, and I don't blame them, because where are they going to get a job? If they got a good education, they're going to go elsewhere to work because there's nothing in Port Pirie to keep them here. They might love to live in Port Pirie but they have to look for their future too.,

How would you describe the market gardens at the moment as an industry?

In Port Pirie no, you can't make a go of it. That's why there's no to me. I go for a drive sometimes --- I cry when I drive along Napperby Road, because that was like paradise, people used to drive from Port Pirie and they used to go along the top --- on Sundays and Saturdays because it was so good to look at, because there were fruit trees, there were --- and you go along there and it's ---

Dry and empty.

Yeah. A lot of homes, new homes and things like that but it's no --- there's no fruit trees there is nothing there. You think it's a goat's track.

It's very sad.

It is. It is. Because it was very, very nice, everyone was proud of their place up there, up the foothills. They made it look nice, but now oh my God, it's a lot different now.

Bill, have you ever returned to Greece to Ikaria?

No, no

You've never been back.

I have never been back.

Have your family members, children, grandchildren perhaps?

No.

I am thinking your brothers or your sisters, your siblings?

My sister went over with my brother-in-law, yes they went over. My young sister and myself? no, we haven't been over.

You still keep in contact with your siblings, your brother?

Yeah, yeah but I would've loved to go other there, but I don't know. Now with my leg, I had an operation on my leg and that. I don't know if I would be any good walking up those hills.

People go for all sorts of reasons.

Yeah I know.

If you've got relatives there as well ---

Yeah I've still got cousins over there.

And do you keep in touch with them at all?

Oh yeah, yeah. See I got a lot of cousins over there. My nephews and that, they've been over, they liked it over there. They were born here in Pirie.

So the nieces or nephews they live in Pirie?

Some.

So some have stayed here?

Yeah I got two of them they've built a house up, just nine miles up the school Weroona Island and it's beautiful up there, it's very nice, it's quiet.

Bill it's been a very interesting story. Is there anything you would like to leave us with before we finish up? Any last thought, that you would like to share with us?

No not really. When we built that other church, but I can't remember the year it was opened, St George, we were involved in that, well my sister and my dad. It's quite nice and it still is nice but we are finding it a bit hard now to keep it going properly because it's not that many and they find it hard to find committees to run it and things like that.

This is people of Greek background?

Yeah, yeah.

So a lot of the Greek community have moved away?

Oh yes. It is a shame.

Well Bill thank you very much for sharing your life with us today, there's been some very happy moments and some sad moments as well but that's what our life consists of. It's been a great pleasure. Thank you very much

Thank you dear.