

BMC – Leyland Australia Heritage Group

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEWEE : Carmel Madden.

TAPE NUMBERS :

INTERVIEWER : Jennifer Cornwall.

BMCLA JC 23.

INTERVIEW DATE : 7th September 2002.

NUMBER OF TAPES : 1

RESTRICTION ON USE : (as stated in Release Form)

INTERVIEW TAPE LOG

This interview took place at Carmel Madden's home at Mascot, NSW
on 7th September 2002.

This log was prepared using a Sony Cassette-Corder TC 146A recorder by Norman Prescott.

This interview is part of the Oral History Project of the BMC – Leyland Australia Heritage Group.

Tape Log Carmel Madden.

Tape : BMCLA : JC 23, Side A.		
COUNT	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
0 50	(Tape incorrectly introduced as JC 20 by interviewer.) Born 6 April 1924, Queenstown, Tasmania. Father had hotel. 1942-1946 Nurse training at Royal Hobart Hospital. Then worked in hospitals in Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia before joining BMC in 1954.	Tasmania. Nurse training.
100 150	First experience in industrial nursing at BMC. Describes respect for her role as a “Registered Nurse” and title as Sister Madden. Initially was sole nurse – previous nurse died of heart attack. Work primarily first aid but with need for tact and capability in work environment of older males. Otherwise was similar to her hospital experience. Describes Plant and her work location; also G.A.Lloyd office in heritage race-course buildings.	Industrial nurse. First-aid. G.A.Lloyd.
200 250 300	Refers to growth of Plant with Unit Plant and Press-Shop. Staff increased and each Plant had a Registered Nurse with Madden in charge. Also a part-time Doctor. Madden became involved in welfare work. Workers Compensation required visits to homes and hospitals. Also became involved with worker’s general problems and well-being. Growth of job with afternoon shifts and, later, 24 hour work. Describes range of work, links to South Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital. Gives account of one death due to production-line accident in her 21 years service. Describes Company’s social policy and her travels to assist workers with problems. Company was safety conscious with low level of serious injuries – mostly sprains and burns.	Registered Nurses. Doctor. Welfare work. South Sydney Hospital Sydney Eye Hospital Fatal accident. Safety.
350 400 450	Describes initial ethnic mix of workers as northern Europeans with many ex UK brought out by Company due to shortage of skills. Company provided assistance with housing. Describes problem for women in workforce obtaining loans, using her own example. Need for Guarantors. Outlines Company welfare program for disabled people – interviews and placements. Included deaf mutes, paraplegics, spastics, and mongoloids. Refers to Ossie Parker, a spastic. Program was started by Personnel Manager, Ken Marsden. Plant foremen welcomed involvement in deciding placements. This company policy became well-known to Welfare Organisations. Female workers also benefited, mainly in the Trim-shop. None were rejected, except for epileptics due to safety risk. Epileptics found already employed were moved if considered unsafe.	Ethnic mix. Housing – loan problem for women. Disabled workers. Ossie Parker. Ken Marsden. Female workers. Epileptics.
500 510	Describes further program with ex-prison term servers. Often from country with limited education – describes experiences and assistance provided. The Prisoner program was very successful. Provides account of a migrant refugee from communist north China/Russia border having difficulty with work as a cleaner. He had been a Professor of History and later gained a post as a consultant at a University.	Ex-Prisoners. Refugee migrant.
	End of Tape JC 23, Side A. (continued on JC 23, Side B.)	

Tape : BMCLA : JC 23, Side B.		
COUNT	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
0 50 100 150 200 250	(continued from Tape JC 23, Side A.) Continues reference to refugee workers and their success in effort to settle. Madden's work did not involve socialising with workers. Her interest was golf. Describes development training of nurses in industrial work – job placement, safety, and workers compensation. Importance of assessing injuries and finding suitable work. Back injuries prominent; also placement of female workers. Industrial nursing was learnt from the workshop floor. Madden was involved with the BMC Credit Union which helped workers. Company provided good conditions – further illustrated by her work on welfare. Produced many long-serving employees. BMC was a happy place to work. Many kept in touch after closure. Mentions Norman Jones and wife from Personnel Dept. Describes feelings of fear in final days. Saw it coming. Felt concern for workers with large amounts of cash from Pay Office on leaving.	Training in Industrial nursing. BMC Credit Union. Welfare work. Long-serving employees. Norman Jones. Closure drama.
300 350	Madden transferred to the Enfield Plant in same job. Small number of disabled workers also transferred. The welfare policy continued. Also covered the Revesby Bus Plant. Safety responsibility also carried over with her job. Describes her feelings of unhappiness at end of BMC Zetland. Work at Enfield and later at Revesby was a minor role and she became bored. Retired in 1986 but continued as a part-time Consultant for a further 6 years (1992). Benefit of experience was used in employee training, problem solving, compensation claims, medical assessments, and dealing with Insurance Companies.	Enfield Plant. Revesby Bus. Personal feelings. Consultancy. Long experience benefits.
400 450 460	Makes further review of her work at Zetland. Refers to lesser problems of alcoholism and drug abuse. Helping with worker's financial problems was recalled. Trust was important to her work. Refers again to refugees and recounts experience in early years with Chinese illegal migrant worker picked up by the Immigration Dept. and taken to Long Bay Jail. He appealed for help. Madden took to management but was told nothing could be done. Always regretted – felt she should have helped. Mentions attendances at Annual Reunions on first Friday each December. Emphasises her enjoyment in having worked at BMC and never being held down in her endeavours. Comments on high number of long-serving employees – example – Quality Control inspector, Spiro Aretoulis. Something must have held them.	Work review. Alcohol/Drugs. Feelings for refugees. Illegal migrant arrest. Annual Reunion. Sums up feelings.
	End of Tape JC 23, Side B. / End of Interview	