



City of Subiaco

Subiaco Museum Oral History Collection
Oral History Transcript

George Oswald 'Ossie' Edwards

Summary: Born in England in 1916, George Oswald 'Ossie' Edwards would come to Australia as a child and would be brought up in the southwest of Western Australia. He talks of his education and early career including his experiences of his time of employment in the Kalgoorlie council prior to coming to work for the City of Subiaco in 1961. Ossie, would be employed as the Town Clerk of the City, a position that he held until 1966. The interview focuses on his experiences of working for the City of Subiaco as town clerk and he looks at some of the many changes that he has seen over the years, some that he has been responsible for implementing. His first duty as town clerk was to clean up Shenton Park Lake – Jualbup Lake – which at the time was a fenced off area of swampland. He talks of the process of how he changed the lake from a rubbish tip into its current state. Ossie speaks at length of his extensive involvement in the changes taking place in the City of Subiaco between 1961-1966 and includes his recollections of the changes made to Kitchener Park, the Subiaco Football Oval and Rosalie Park. He recalls the council and looks at the working of the 'team' and the sense of community that he experienced in the council and the city during his time. He recalls the conditions that he faced on his arrival to the City of Subiaco and talks of the maintenance of roads and the alterations to sporting facilities in the community that he undertook. He looks at the city as he sees it today and what it was like at the time of his leaving to work for the City of Perth in 1966.

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Interviewer: John Bannister

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Note: The content of oral history interviews is personal, experiential, and interpretive because, by its nature, it relies on the memories, perceptions, and opinions of individuals. They may also contain words, terms or descriptions that are culturally sensitive and/or considered inappropriate today but reflect the period in which the interviewee lived. While all reasonable attempts are made to avoid inaccuracy, interviews should not be understood as statements of fact or opinion endorsed by the City of Subiaco or the Subiaco Museum.

John Bannister: This is the first taped interview with Ozzie Edwards, in his home in Perth, Western Australia on the 1st of January 2008, for the City of Subiaco oral history project, and the interviewer is John Bannister. Ozzie, I must say it is a great pleasure to finally get to speak to you. You're a busy man. Could we please begin the interview by you telling us your full name, and where and when you were born?

George Edwards: Yes. George Oswald Edwards, and I was born on the 13th of October 1916, in Shrewsbury, in the county of Shropshire, England. Towards - - the beginning - - my parents were on a farm, about 5 miles out of Shrewsbury, and we had assistance in the house, and on the farm. At the beginning of 1923, we left England on board the P&O liner Orvieto, arriving at Fremantle on the 8th of March. After a few days in the immigration centre in Fremantle, we were moved to group 54 at Wellard, and our accommodation was a couple of tents, a tin shed and a community stove out in the open.

JB: Tell us why Australia. Why did your family choose to come to Australia?

GE: Well, that's a mystery and I'm sorry that I didn't ask my parents why they came - - left England, to come to Australia. I don't really know, and I regret very much that I didn't ask them for an explanation.

JB: Let's talk about your early recollections of group 54, just briefly before we move on.

GE: Yes. Well, I remember attending the one-room school at Wellard, and then my people were allocated a farm, the eastern boundary was Telephone Lane, and the Northern boundary was the main road between Rockingham and Mundijong, it was 112 acres, and it was fairly good soil. But it was in its native condition, natural condition. That was the standard 4 roomed cottage, group settlers house, this was our first house in Australia. In 1924, I went to the Baldivis school, because that was closer than one that Wellard, and it likewise was a one-room school. In 1927 I went to group 81 school. That likewise was a one-room school on the eastern side of Dog Hill. And of course in 1930, I reached the age of 14, and couldn't go any higher. I'd reached 6th standard and that was the end of my education.

JB: All right. So you're leaving school, did you have any idea what you wanted to do at the age of 14?

GE: Not really. We were on the edge of a depression and things were pretty hard, work was hard to find. I gained employment on a farm about a mile away from home, and it was 10 shillings a week and keep, which was batching, and it was predominantly clearing, and milking cows and fighting bushfires and all the things of that nature. And then it would have been about 1933, somehow or other I got a job in Perth with the Ayrshire dairy washing milk drums, and just a roustabout around the depot, which was located in Lord Street at the junction with Walcott Street, and I progressed from washing drums and being a general hand into delivering milk in the city to the various milk bars and shops and restaurants, and I recall delivering milk to the Boans, to the railway refreshment rooms in Roe Street, and a number of milk bars and restaurants throughout the city, and then after that, I was promoted I suppose, to driving a truck, a Diamond-T truck, carting milk from around Dog Hill nearly as far south as Carnup and through the duck pond to Mundijong, and then back into city, about a 90 mile round trip, 7 days a week.

JB: Did you have any reason to visit the Subiaco area on that trip, or in your working life, or on the weekend possibly?

GE: No. Never.

JB: No impressions of that time?

GE: No.

JB: Because this interview obviously is going to be focused around your time on council, or in council in the '60s, we should focus on Subiaco if we can.

GE: Yes.

JB: But before we do, I just want to get a little bit more information about your experience leading up to coming to Subiaco.

GE: Yes.

JB: I understand that you had been in Kalgoorlie for a time.

GE: Yes.

JB: How did you get to Kalgoorlie, and what was your job there?

GE: Yes. Okay. Well, despite working in an industry that operates 7 days a week, I enrolled with the Hemingway Robertson Institute for an accounts and secretarial course and I was making slow but steady progress with that. On the 4th of November 1936, whilst the manager of the depot, milk depot, working on the refrigeration plant, together with a refrigeration engineer, something radically wrong occurred, and one of the ammonia cylinders exploded and, Jules Zanetti, he survived for a matter of hours. The refrigeration engineer, he survived for 2 or 3 days, and I occupied a room under the main roof of the depot, and that's where I was sleeping, and protected I was I think by a double brick wall. And according to the newspapers, I was found in Lord Street, and taken either with the ambulance or the police to Royal Perth Hospital, and that's where I woke up, and I've got no idea of just what happened, other than what I read in the newspaper. Trying to improve or recover, I spent the next few months at home on the farm at Mundijong, and I continued studying until I got a certificate of proficiency in bookkeeping, and friends of ours came down, friends who were associated with us at Wellard on group 54, and had left and gone to Kalgoorlie, they came down on holidays and they suggested that perhaps my health might improve if I was to go back to Kalgoorlie with them, where it was a drier climate. Well, having nothing to lose, I thought well, I'd give it a go, so I went back with them, and after a short period of a few weeks, just looking around Kalgoorlie and doing nothing, I thought well I'd try and get a job, so I tried one or two accountants offices with no success and I finished up at the Kalgoorlie Town Hall in the Treasury Department and inquired there, and it so happened that they were sending the staff away on annual leave and they agreed to give me a start and I started in the Treasurer's office in a live-in capacity on the 10th of December 1937, and they kept giving me more jobs and more jobs, and there was no indication that were going to put me off, so I kept studying and studying and passed my intermediate and kept studying, and then the war came, and I enlisted at the Cheetham

Street Drill Hall and I went away and had 4 years in the army, and I continued studying, because I was posted to the orderly room, and finished up in charge of the orderly room, of a new unit that had been formed, so I had access to an office that I could use as a - - access to a tent that I could use as an office.

JB: Whereabouts did you serve?

GE: Well, I served in - - spent quite a bit of time up in the tip of Cape Yorke, and over to Dutch New Guinea. They were predominantly the places I spent most of my time, and I recall getting my call up, after I had enlisted. I had enlisted in 1941, but it wasn't until 1942, and it was the first week in April of '42, and I was booked to sit for 6 - - the full final of the accountants exam. There were 6 papers, 6 nights so I contacted the army department, and they agreed to set my call up back a week so I could at least take the exams I'd studied hard and long for, and I passed in 5 of the 6 subjects, so I had one more to take and 6 months later I was still in a very floating situation in the army, and revision work was impossible. But a little bit beyond that, I was allocated to a unit, and became involved in the - - with administrative experience, became involved in the administration of the unit, and so I then sat for this one paper and I passed that. By now we were up in Cape Yorke, and I started on the secretarial course - -

JB: I'd love to be able to talk and spend more time talking about your war service, but obviously, you mentioned New Guinea.

GE: Yes.

JB: An important location - -

GE: Yes.

JB: - - associated with the Japanese invasion potential.

GE: Yes, but I think we didn't have a great deal of contact, and I'll tell you for why, because of the Coral Sea and the Japanese getting a belting there, it was thought that they were going to come down on the west side. Well the terrain was pretty bloody diabolical and they didn't get down as far as we were in Moroki. So really, most of our activities, or the units comprised of the headquarters and 4 sections, and the sections were sent out to - - it was a medical unit, a field hospital and the sections were sent out to units that hadn't got medical facilities, so they were active all the time, in the islands around there, and I was with headquarters in charge of the unit's administration, so I was probably stationary, and you know, we'd get flights coming through with injured or wounded soldiers on board, we'd take them off, look after them, might be overnight, before they were transported on to - - down into Australia and so - - but real clashes with the Japanese didn't occur. It was more like a staging spot.

JB: We do hear stories of obviously the Coral Sea and the Kokoda track, and things like that. Obviously talking about New Guinea and your role there.

GE: Yes.

JB: As I say I would love to be able to talk more about your war service record in relation to your

service career. What was the unit?

GE: Fifth Australian Light Field Ambulance AIF.

JB: Let's talk about your strongest images that you take from the war period, before we move on.

GE: The strongest? Well I suppose from a personal point of view it would be qualifying, because whilst I was in the tip of Cape Yorke and New Guinea, I continued studying the secretarial course. I remained on duty every night and, and I studied, because someone's got to be on duty, and I remained on duty every night, I didn't go to the canteen or any picture shows or any distractions, I stayed and I studied, and I studied and I sat for the examination in Dutch New Guinea. Because I was a qualified accountant, I only had 3 papers to pass, and I passed those first up, so I was a qualified accountant and qualified secretary. So, yes, and I remember with a Tilly's lamp, the bloody perspiration trickling down my arms, and I had paper under my elbows soaking up the perspiration, and I was just about yellow with Atabrine, which was to fight off malaria.

JB: Some people talk about Atabrine not really doing much to guard you against malaria. Were you one of the lucky ones that didn't - -

GE: Yes, I didn't get malaria. No, I didn't get malaria. Despite the heat and the humidity, I have always been a physical fitness fanatic and you know, I never smoked and might have the odd glass of beer, but no. You know, having - - surviving that explosion, it's sort of made you appreciate that there is no substitute for good health. No substitute at all. You can be lucky.

JB: You're looking pretty good for your age.

GE: 91. 91.

JB: That's for sure.

GE: Yes, I don't go very far without my puffer. I have to. If I'm left alone and I'm not put under any stress, I'm all right. I'm all right.

JB: Yes. Well, we can talk about your experience in relation to your post war employment, leading up to the time that you came to the City of Subiaco in 1961. Let's discuss that.

GE: Yes. Okay. We'll go back a little bit. Because I started off in Kalgoorlie. Up in Kalgoorlie for health reasons, got a job there, they kept me on. In order of seniority I was fourth, 3 guys with the council in the treasurer's office, senior to me in seniority. But when the town treasurer decided to retire, and they advertised, they specifically wanted someone who was qualified, and I knew, they were my personal friends, the others, we played tennis together, and we were all good friends, it was a good happy centre, and I knew that none of them would get the job because they weren't qualified, and I applied, and of course I got the job. But there was no animosity, you know, things didn't change. They respected me as town treasurer and got on with their work. It was wonderful. And then there was one thing that worried me. I got the qualifications, but I hadn't got the experience, and a job came up as accountant to the engineering service company. This ultimately became Worman International, Charlie Worman was the engineer, and he was a consulting engineer, they used to do quite a bit of work on the mines, and there were 2 other businesspeople,

but I'd only been there about 6 months when the treasurer decided to retire. The salary group was much greater, and I suppose I had a bit of an inkling for local government, and community service and I applied, and of course I got there as town treasurer. And one of the jobs that went with the position of town treasurer was secretary of the Kalgoorlie Cemetery board, and the trustees were the ministers of religion, not the councillors. Once again, I had a pretty free rein, and looking at some of the headstones in the Kalgoorlie Cemetery, some of the people that died, there are a lot of people that were no older than me, you know, I thought, this is bloody tragic. These guys, young people, they come here searching for gold. Well they wanted water, gold, the shade of a tree, so what I did I got some 4 gallon drums from a rubbish heap. By then I was town treasurer of Kalgoorlie, and I had a bit of authority, and I got the rubbish heap to give me some of these 4 gallon drums from the rubbish tip, filled them up with soil, got some seedlings from the forestry department and put them in, and when they were about half a metre tall, I took them out in the back - - took the back seat out of my car, put them out there and planted them. And there is one avenue of trees in the Kalgoorlie Cemetery today, and they were established, it would have been over 50 years ago, I was treasurer from 19- - when did I become town clerk? Be '47, 1947 until 1952, in those 5 years. There's one avenue on trees in the Kalgoorlie cemetery today. And that's how they got there. And in those days you had to be up early to get the new water because at the end of the line the pipes were well and truly corroded but - - yes. And then - - do you want me to lead on?

JB: I'd like you, if you could, to lead on to how you came to be at Subiaco in '61.

GE: '61. Okay. Well, I - - after being town treasurer I became a town clerk in - - of Kalgoorlie, in 19 - - be 1952, until 1961, I was the town clerk up there. You don't want me to go into any of that service.

JB: We can possibly touch on it as we're talking about your time as town clerk, in 1961 in Subiaco if you like. How did you get the job? What was the reason for you coming back to Subiaco?

GE: Coming back? Well, I don't know. I'd had 9 years as town clerk of Perth, and I gathered that I was very - - one of the very, very few people in local government with commercial qualifications. And I'd had extensive experience in Kalgoorlie because it would probably be the best training ground going, because we were an independent body, we generated and reticulated the electricity, we had our own pressing plant, our own bitumen plant, we ran everything except the water up there. I handled 2 ore drillers² in '54 and '58, we got rid of the pan service, we put in sewerage right through there, so I believe that I was on the road to promotion, if some came along, and I applied. I was invited down for an interview, and I got the job. And I started in August 1961. Yes. I remember driving down on a Friday from Kalgoorlie, and I booked into the Shenton Park Hotel. On the Saturday morning I met with members of the works committee at the western end of this soak, riddled with weeds and rubbish as at Shenton Park, and we tried to find some water, but we couldn't find any water and I think that the council was glad to see something happening, or some movement.

JB: Maurice, you're talking about Shenton Park lake, and that would be your first job.

GE: Yes.

JB: Let's talk about your initial impressions of Subiaco, in 1961, when you came down.

GE: Well, I think it was a bit of a - - it was all right. It had nothing sparkling about it, I didn't think. I thought it was a - - perhaps a bit of on the sleepy side, you know, but nothing wrong with it. Nothing wrong at all, and I took over from Tony Bower. Tony had been town clerk for a number of years, and he was an accountant, he'd been with RP North ...(indistinct)... As could be expected, the books and finances were spot on, you know, spot on, but Tony hadn't had local government experience and the need to provide the services, so it was really tailor made for someone who had had experience in that field and I happened to be lucky when I came in. And getting onto Shenton Park lake, okay, it was in with the bulldozers and trucks, and a large unauthorised sand pit had been allowed to develop on the north east corner of Rosalie Park, bounded by Onslow Road and Thomas street. This was a terrific hole, and it was almost reaching the playing fields, and I think probably the first job I did was fence it off and prohibit people taking sand out of there. It was open to everyone. And rubbish was being carted there, it was untidy and my first introduction to a rat was in there, the first time I'd seen a rat was in this bloody sandpit. So it was nice and handy for the trucks to just cart the stuff from Shenton Park lake, and - - or what became Shenton Park Lake, and dump it in this hole, and strangely enough, at the same time, the earthmoving contractors Archibald Thorpe, were doing the excavations for the basement of Council House at 27-29 St Georges Terrace and the stuff they were taking out there was a grey pug. It useless, but it was clean, and it was ideal for use for filling. So we just had an arrangement with Archibald Thorpe you can bring it here, and dump it here, we'll take it, and they were delighted. So we gradually got all the reeds and the rubbish out of this soak in Shenton Park, and we enlarged it and created an island in the centre, and it looked quite tidy and in those days there was quite a drop of water about and it was - - it was really the turning point of that section of the new ...(indistinct)... of Subiaco.

JB: Well, we do hear stories about the Shenton Park Lake, obviously we're talking about Jeralbup lake at the moment. We hear stories of this swamp, this place where people used to dump their rubbish, was out of bounds for local children, because it was actually probably quite a dangerous place to be.

GE: Yes.

JB: Swimming was, you know, not recommended.

GE: Yes.

JB: But it was a place I understand, quite an adventure for those children that did go there.

GE: Well, yes, if they liked to run in and out of reeds and what not yes, it could be, you know, hide and seek, yes. It could be. Yes. I wouldn't - - but I didn't see any of that because my first job was getting rid of it.

JB: Well you mention too an interesting story about Don Serventy.

GE: Yes.

JB: Tell us about what you know of Don Serventy and his opinions at the time of the lake, and what you were doing to it.

GE: Yes. Well, I've never met the man. I don't know him, but he lived somewhere handy, or had an

interest in the Shenton Park area and he criticised the work that was taking place, going on, that we were going to destroy the bird life down there. But he went to the press before the job was finished, and to his credit, he congratulated the work that had taken place when the job was finished, yes. He agreed with it.

JB: I've got a piece here from page 313 of Ken Spillman's "Identity Prized", it says in April '63 Dominic Serventy wrote to the council pointing out that Shenton Park Lake is one of the most attractive waterfowl havens within the metropolitan area, and is a place to which we invariably take overseas visitors interested in birds.

GE: Yes.

JB: What sort of interest or concern did you have for the local inhabitants, as it were? The fauna in that part of the world?

GE: Yes. Well, we cleaned it up and we made sure that the birds could walk - - we didn't put the - - in my time, those walls weren't put there. I didn't - - I wouldn't agree with those. I think it was - - ought to be kept in its natural shape and so the birds could walk in and out. We created an island and we planted shrubs and trees there to protect birds, for sure it did become a haven for birds, and today, you'd be battling to buy a place there under 2 million dollars.

JB: Is it fair to say that there was a specific design? Who thought of the idea of an island? Who thought of well, what we need to do is to grab all this stuff and do this, that and the other? And there was a fence around part of it I understand?

GE: Well, there was no fencing when we'd finished with it. Well, I suppose it was mine, because coming from Kalgoorlie, water meant a lot. Water, you know, was something really attractive, and the birdlife was important too. After all, they were here before we were, and for God's sake we don't have to push them away and destroy them, we have to accommodate them. So the - - you know, I wanted the island, and I wanted it to be possible for birds to walk in and out of the water. I wanted people to come down to the edge of the water and see, and I wanted an integration, you know. So easy, so simple. Doesn't have to be complicated. And it turned out, look, it was, there's no doubt about it, it was a superb spot because we tidied it up, we put a couple of bores down, we grassed the area around there, and people went on picnics there, and it was used. From an area where you'd go to dump your rubbish, you go to have a picnic. And kids enjoy themselves. Yes. But I remember - - there was no problem. Mr Serventy, you know, he admitted that the work in the end was an improvement. But I remember a big government building opposite the entrance to Kings Park, they were wanting to excavate there for the basement and I wanted the sand, because we wanted sand to level things off, and the more sand I could get for nothing, well the better because we weren't spending a lot of money there, we were getting what we could, as much as we could for nothing, and I got in touch with the contractors and they said well, look, we've got to work on Sunday. This sand's got to come out on Sunday. And we'll be getting rid of it at 5 o'clock Sunday morning, and I thought, Jesus, there's 2 of the councillors, Wally Flynn and Colin Anderson live in Lake Avenue, and I thought, oh well, we'll give it a go, so okay, so right. Your trucks start arriving 5 o'clock on the Sunday morning, and I was down there, because I wanted them to dump it where it didn't need much pushing around with a grader. It was dumped - - I wanted it dumped where it was needed. And about 6 o'clock in the morning, a guy comes from the flats on the corner of I think it's Heytesbury Road and the one that runs on the eastern side of Shenton Park Lake, I forget the name

of the street. And he was in his pyjamas, bleary-eyed eyes, I don't mind you working here early in the morning, but for Christ's sake on a Sunday, can't we have a bit of bloody peace? I said, yeah, look, I'm terribly sorry, but I explained that I a once only chance of getting this sand and it was important. So away he went. But the councillors didn't complain, they put up with it, perhaps they didn't like it either, but they didn't complain. But that was the only complaint. No, it went like clockwork.

JB: Well, I'm wanting to discuss your other activities within the council. And there are a number of parks that you were associated with, and we can talk about those, but when you first came to the City of Subiaco, when you came for your interview, what were you being told? Who talked to you?

GE: The full council. The mayor and full council, yes. It was an evening interview, and - - well, actually I think I'd set it out in my application, you know, fairly concisely, what I'd done and what my qualifications were and experience and what not, and it was a matter of - - so really they saw me I suppose well, what would I do, had I shown any leadership? What would I do for Subiaco? And I don't think the interview went very long, about half an hour I suppose. They all had a bit of a chip in about something or other, and I was staying at the Shenton Park hotel, and Joe Abrahams, the mayor said well look, they had some others to interview, and he said look we'll call you at the hotel and let you know the outcome, and I said okay, so I went go back to the hotel, and it only took about a half hour, and the phone rang, and said I'm pleased to announce that you've been appointed town clerk of the City of Subiaco. And I said, well, thank you very much. And I said to him, look, could you please withhold making an announcement until I let the Mayor of Kalgoorlie know, because I had a very good working relationship with the mayor and councillors in Kalgoorlie, Sir Richard Moore, he was mayor for 29 years up there, and a wonderful fellow. And they said yes, that's okay. And so I went back and resigned from Kalgoorlie and then towards the end of August I drove down and stayed at the Shenton Park Hotel, on the first Saturday morning back with the work's continue at this soak in Shenton Park.

JB: Things began to happen almost immediately. What were your impressions of Abraham?

GE: My initial ones, yeah, he was quite good. Yeah. But do you mean - -

JB: ...(indistinct)... tell us about him.

GE: Well, he was the principal of the Hollywood High School and I got along very well with him. He was, you know, a pretty considerate fellow. I don't know that I can say too much about him. He wasn't an ego hunter or anything like that, no, he was down to earth. I found him as chairman of the committees, or council, very fair, very reasonable. There was - - and by and large it was - - I don't think it had been a progressive council, it hadn't been a negative one, but it hadn't been excessively progressive and there was one councillor, what the hell was his name? Alf Buggins. There was a - - they had a procedure that when the mayor came into the council, attended a council meeting, all the councillors would stand, but not Alf. Alf wouldn't stand. Alf was a staunch Labor supporter, and he wouldn't stand. But the remarkable thing came over. Look, I hadn't been there more than about 3 or 4 months, then the mayor came in and Alf stands, Alf stands, and there was nothing wrong with him, he was a - - he was quite a good bloke, he was - - had a hardware business in Rokeby Road and he was a one-eyed Subi football supporter, and he used to take me down to East Fremantle to the matches between Subi and East Fremantle in his car, and we got along very well, and he could see, I'm sure, the benefits that were taking place. He was no longer

going to be on the outside, he was going to be part of the team, and he did, he was a good councillor, he was a good councillor. And the other one was Ted Turner. Ted was a trimmer at Winterbottoms, and Ted was no resiler for criticising outside workers. There was always 3 or 4 blokes doing the work of one, or they were taking too long for lunchtime, there was always something wrong with them, so they had a policy that councillors would become chairmen of committees, you know, they'd be - - so I organised for Ted Turner - - and the - - prior to the meeting, the town clerk would take the chairman of the works committee out to see the various jobs and the progress that had been made. So okay, I organised for Ted to be chairman of the works committee, and so we would go out and see, so instead of Ted criticising, Ted had to support them, and he turned out all right, because he was - - he was just against things. He was like Alf Buggins, he was against things. But they were all right. All they needed was just being taken on side of it, and given a positive role, a positive role, so Ted Turner, he had to answer to the council for anything that was wrong on the work side. He couldn't help but make bloody sure there was nothing wrong, and it cut out this snarling that was going on, you know. But the other good thing that happened, Wally Friday was the works supervisor, and Wally retired, or Wally had a pretty free hand because Tony Bowers hadn't had experience in the outside operation of a local authority, so he was mainly at - - Tony was that one - - you know, he had to accept what Wally said. Well, I had a very good works supervisor in Kalgoorlie, Syd Patterson, and when Wally retired, I contacted Syd and asked him if he'd be coming down - - he was interested in coming down, he said sure, because I had a good working relationship with him, and he was a mad fisherman. He liked to get near the coast, and so there was - - we called applications, and of course he got the job on my recommendation, and he turned out first-class. His ability to handle men, his ability to operate machinery. He'd been a grader driver himself on the way up, so he knew all the tricks, he could take levels and what not, and it made my job much easier, and you know, we would talk about a project, and I could forget about it and hand over to him.

JB: Well, you mentioned to me when we were speaking off air that the council was very efficient, and you were basically given a free rein to do what you liked.

GE: Yes, I was, because after a matter of a few months, I would ring them up between meetings and seek approval to get on and do the next job, and they said to me look, don't take time ringing up, get on and do it, and tell us what you've done. That was like giving me an open cheque, and that was fantastic. So I did. But you know, it put some additional responsibility, you made sure you didn't put one foot wrong, and nothing went wrong in Subiaco, nothing.

JB: All right. Well, that's great. It's good to hear. I'm particularly interested because we hear lots of stories about the inefficiencies of councils these days.

GE: Well - -

JB: And the infighting and the egos and all the things that you mentioned.

GE: Yes. Well, I worked for 4. The worst one was only 5 months, was Northam. The second worst one was the City of Perth, and the 2 best were City of Subiaco and Kalgoorlie.

JB: All right. Well, Perth had come after Subiaco I understand.

GE: Yes.

JB: And that's another story, which we may not get around to.

GE: No, that's another story.

JB: But I had again, from page 283 from "Identity Prized", a little comment about Mayor Abrahams, and I just wanted to get you to give us your opinions of that comment. I have here Mayor Abrahams was not by any means a charismatic man, as for example Harry Down had been, and there was little of the visionary about him. He was a school master, and in the business of local government he strove, fairly successfully, for neatness, efficiency, and getting the sums right. Do you think that's a fair comment?

GE: Yes, I think that would be fair, because he lived in Subiaco, he knew Subiaco, he had Tony Bowers as the town clerk for I think about 10 years, so there was nothing sort of adventurous about the place, and he controlled the meetings well, and I think that would probably be right. Yes.

JB: Okay. Well, it goes on to say that one of his remarks was that the council's role was little different than that of a housekeeper.

GE: Council's role - - well, I wouldn't have put it in those terms. I would have put it more in the terms - - well, as my years, that the council was satisfied with the administration and left it at that, you know. They didn't buy into the administration, they weren't afraid to ask questions of the administration, but they were satisfied and backed the administration. Yes. In my time.

GE: He also would then go on, frequently assuring ratepayers that he would continue to see that our community's housekeeping money will be wisely applied. And you mention obviously that you only had to sit and do your job and - -

GE: Yes.

JB: - -not put a foot wrong.

GE: Yes. Well, that would have been right as far as Tony Bowers was concerned, because Tony was an accountant, RP North, had a ...(indistinct)... of his, and he had the books in tip-top order, there's no doubt about that. You know, I was fortunate. If I had run into a local authority that was overhead in loan debts and a bad bank balance, well I couldn't have done the things I did do, but the place - - look, the place was set up for me, really set up, because there was so much work to do in areas in which I've had experience, the funds were available, loans were available, you know, and the council had sufficient confidence, and only Alf Buggins, who wouldn't stand up, and Ted Turner, he used to pick - - well, I've got them on side. You know, there's nothing succeeds like success. It's as simple as that.

JB: Well, your coming to the council at a time when I understand eyes are on Perth, there's a mining boom happening in the north, you've got the coming of the Commonwealth Games in '62, and there's a sort of buzz and a hum around Perth.

GE: Yes.

JB: Things are going up.

GE: Yes.

JB: In Subiaco we've got - -

GE: Yes.

JB: - - those high rise buildings, units going up all over the place.

GE: Yes. Well, Wandana was already there, and yes, there were a few units, but I don't really think that it changed the streetscape that much in the 5 years that I was there. I suppose after - -well, you do a series of jobs, you just don't do one job, you do a series of jobs, and Shenton Park Lake, then fixing up Kitchener Park, that was a nightmare, just putting fire through there every summer.

JB: Well, tell us the story you had of Kitchener Park, and what was happening there, prior to you fixing it up.

GE: Yes. Well, I had a relative that used to live on the street on the northern side of Kitchener Park, and coming down on Christmas holidays, I noticed this was black, burned out, and it surprised me, so when I came down and I had a couple of bores sunk there, and the area reticulated and grassed, and so we converted, in the summer time, when you want some shade, and you want some open space where people can congregate, have a picnic or a party or walk, and that was very much appreciated. But that was something that really didn't take much effort. It was something - - and it didn't cost a lot of money, but it's something that had to be done. I think the next job was the municipal depot was on - - just over the Haydn Bunton Street drive, just over west of the Subi oval, and it was really a cluster of skillion roofed - - rusty skillion roofed sheds. It was a - - it was diabolical. And council used to make their own footpath slabs in competition with Humes, who were in the council's industrial area, only less than a kilometre away, and somehow or other they seemed to think that they were competitive and could produce them more cheaply. Well, I didn't do the sums, but I struck a deal. When we shifted the depot, from that location to, I think it's Bishop street where it is now, and it had modern facilities for servicing the vehicles and whatever Burt Hill was our foreman mechanic wanted, I made sure he got, because he was going to have to look after things, and it didn't include a slab making thing, facility. I came to an arrangement with the management of Humes that - - well, they'd give us a bit of a special deal on slabs, and that worked quite well.

JB: You were involved too in the football oval.

GE: Yes, the Subiaco football oval, yes. The turf wickets were on the oval, and because the Subi oval was used for the finals, it meant that the football was played well into October, and it meant that by the time the oval - - the football finals were over and the wickets were adequately prepared to play A grade cricket, well, the footballers were back again. So - - for training, so I was successful in getting the council and the cricket association to shift the wickets from the oval to Rosalie Park, where we put up a new pavilion for the cricketers, and new turf wickets there, and we also built new change rooms at Subi, at the western end of the oval for the Subiaco football club, the facilities they had were diabolical too. Very run down, yes. So it was a bit of a lift for the Subiaco football club. The Subiaco cricket club didn't really suffer because they had new facilities and new change

rooms down in Rosalie Park, a new practice wicket down there, so they were self contained.

JB: You mentioned the surrounding suburbs, and you mentioned a couple of cricketers, Alderman and Hughes among others, lived outside of Subiaco, but having Rosalie Park set up for the main cricket oval, how did the other suburbs sort of fit in with all of that?

GE: Well - -

JB: Describe the situation to us.

GE: Yes. I think how this came about, I don't know that it affected the other suburbs, but how this came about was that the Floreat Cricket club could only go to - - they had fourth, third and second grade in the WACA competition, whereas the Subiaco cricket club had the first, second, they had A grade and second, third and fourth. But they were always short of players, juniors, because it was an older population, and they were relying on imports to sort of keep them going, so it made sense that there ought to be an amalgamation between the Subiaco cricket club that had A grade status, and the - -

(Telephone rings)

GE: Yes. So it made sense that there ought to be an amalgamation between the Subiaco Floreat and the - - between the Floreat cricket club and the Subiaco cricket club, because then they would have A grade and second, third and fourth grades, and the Floreat club had a host of young cricketers coming on, with nowhere to go, so it made sense, and it rejuvenated the Subiaco cricket club by having this wealth of young talent in the club.

JB: Well, I'm very interested to discuss the importance of places like Rosalie Park. We obviously see the football oval as a big iconic building today.

GE: Yes.

JB: In the '60s, there's some question about what's going to happen with it, in the '60s what was its position in Subiaco? How important was it to the community?

GE: Yes. Well, yes, it would have been important to the economy because of the matches that were held in Subiaco, both the ordinary league matches and the semi-finals and the interstate matches, they were all held in Subi, and it did - - there's one thing that troubled me, and this is to create additional seating accommodation, we had what was known as Stumpy's Stand, and Stumpy, he had the right to establish stands using tubular steel and pieces of timber for people to sit on. Fortunately they were well braced and they were sitting on timber inserted into the ground, but I was never happy about them because I thought well when people get excited at football matches, it only needs a bit of active movement and there could be a tragedy, but the things stood up all right, so obviously they'd done their homework and they were - - they provided additional accommodation to meet the need, but they were pretty crude.

JB: How important was the place do you think for the community, as a sort of central point?

GE: Yes. It was probably - - the football match - - football stadium was probably the main thing for

putting Subiaco on the map. The fact that the finals, the international, interstate matches were played at Subi, yes. People would know Subi because of the oval, yes. It would have been the - - probably the number one element promoting Subi, you know. After all the shopping in Rokeby Road and surrounding, the residential area, and the city hall and all those things were relevant to the locals, but on a state or an international scene, people would know Subiaco by Subi oval it was important, yes.

JB: What was your sense of the community in 1961 to '66? What was your impression of Subiaco community?

GE: Well, actually I think it was a working class community. You know, I don't think that we had any outstanding people. Hugh Guthrie I think lived there, he was the member for parliament. A few doctors, Tommy Dadour, but I think by and large it was a working community, a pretty good community too. I don't recollect having a cross word with anyone, other than to my 2 councillor friends, that I was arguing with them over ...(indistinct)...

JB: But the impression I get is that people talk of the good old days and oh, people were sort of more community minded then.

GE: Yes.

JB: You know, there was a sense of I live in Subiaco, and therefore I give to Subiaco. Was that something that you sensed during the '60s?

GE: Not really. I think - - you know, there was less - - people weren't as mobile in those days as they are today, so you relied more on your neighbours and your community, much more than you do today. If you don't like the people you live with, you can motor off somewhere else, whereas you know, that wasn't quite so easy in those days, but no, I didn't seem to think it was much different to any other place, like for instance Kalgoorlie. That was a place, a fairly close-knit community because people relied on it for everything, for their social life, because we were an isolated community, 375 miles from Perth, you know. We had to rely on one another.

JB: It hadn't been that long before you came down, the trams had stopped in Perth, and the last one ran down in the late '50s through Subiaco. And you were involved with the maintenance of roads and that sort of thing.

GE: Yes.

JB: What was your impression when you came to Subiaco, of the sort of transport facilities as it were, of the area?

GE: Well, I don't know that I can comment on that. I haven't - - I didn't have to use private transport and we weren't, as a council, weren't involved with the transport side of the situation. So - - but you know, I think it was adequate, and with the buses and the trains that used to go through there. Yes.

JB: You were mentioning obviously your experience of roads.

GE: Yes.

JB: What were the conditions of the roads in Subiaco when you came?

GE: Well, they were well and truly weathered. They had - -were lacking attention, they were cracking and a few potholes were occurring, and they were no longer black, they were grey as a result of - - I wouldn't say neglect, but they'd reached the stage where they did in fact need some urgent attention. And - -

END OF PART ONE

JB: This is the second taped interview with Ozzie Edwards in his home in Perth, Western Australia, on the 2nd of January 2008, for the City of Subiaco oral history project and the interviewer is John Bannister. Ozzie, you were obviously talking about the condition of the roads, and you were saying that they were very weathered. Let's continue with that, and what was to be done.

GE: Yes. Okay, well, we had a pretty good system in Kalgoorlie, and we used it down in Subiaco. It was a matter of cleaning the street first, either sweeping it or washing it with a spray behind a - - attached to a tank on a truck, and patching up any potholes, and then it was a matter of having a tanker either with hot bitumen or cold fax - - cold fix, which was cold bitumen, emulsion and what would happen is that the tanker would go along and spray the bitumen on the surface and then we would have a truck that was a tip truck, that was loaded with either quarter or eighth metal, and it had to be screened to make sure there was no dust on it, otherwise it wouldn't adhere to the bitumen, and it would back - - it would have a cockle spreader on the back of the truck, and the cockle spreader would deliver the metal onto the bitumen surface and we'd have an operator on either side with a shovel. Wherever there was a little bit of space, say against the kerb where perhaps it wasn't quite close enough to put some there, and this truck would back so that it meant that the metal was on the bitumen surface before the wheels got there, and it wasn't a matter of just doing one section of a street, we would do practically the whole length of the street, but after sort of one day sweeping it or washing it, we would then first thing next morning, we would put out signs, no parking, detours and things like that, so we had a clear run through, and following the truck putting the metal on would be the roller that would come along so you had the tanker, you had the truck and you had the roller just going like that, and they'd do one strip and do another strip, and people would go to work in the morning and see an old street, they'd come home at night time and here was the street completely rejuvenated. And I really think this had a tremendous effect on the popularity of the council, the fact so much would happen, so quickly, so efficiently and effectively with a minimum of inconvenience to the ratepayers.

JB: I do want you to comment if you could about how you see the direction of Subiaco today, given some of those changes, and obviously we see Rokeby Road today, quite different, but still maintaining the sort of village-y atmosphere.

GE: Yes.

JB: What do you recall of Rokeby Road in the '60s? What are your strongest impressions of the place in the '60s?

GE: Well, it was - - it was just an ordinary shopping street. It had nothing - - it had some buildings there that had some character, some vintage, but there was nothing there to attract the crowds other than this shopping, you know, there was nothing, and there was - - I don't recall any functions being held Rokeby Road, I think if there were functions held, they were held more in the gardens around the civic centre, yes, the city hall.

JB: Well, that's another area that I want to talk to you about shortly, the gardens at the city hall. But there were places like the Regal theatre.

GE: Yes.

JB: There were the hotels that we have, Subiaco hotel.

GE: Yes.

JB: What was - - lovely shops, bakery, those sorts of things all the way down.

GE: Yes. That's right, there was that there.

JB: What do you recall of some of the characters possibly associated with some of those places?

GE: Well, I recall the Regal theatre, I recall the 2 hotels in Subiaco, or the one in Rokeby Road, and the other in Hay Street, and the old Shenton Park Hotel in Shenton Park. I stayed there and you know, that was quite a comfortable place, a family place, and - -but - -

JB: You had a discussion too with me off air about parking facilities in the area, and I wanted you to talk to us about the parking that you mentioned to me.

GE: Yes. Well, Subi was getting busier, and more vehicles were coming in and parking was becoming a problem. And there was this block of land, the last block in Park Street on the northern side that had a condemned house on it and I was able to negotiate with the public trustee that, well, we would take it over, demolish the house, and we would pay the water rates and they were the only debts, so we acquired that block of land, and we demolished the old house and paved it, and that was the first off-street parking in the City of Subiaco.

JB: There is some problem I understand with its initial development and people were hoping that there would be - - it would be open by Christmas time and that didn't quite happen. What do you remember of that experience?

GE: What was that opening? Opening a - -

JB: The opening of the use of the parking.

GE: The which one?

JB: Just finding, again, from "Identity Prized" by Ken Spillman, 290 - - we're talking about this parking. The council also pursued a policy of purchasing land for conversion into off-street parking. We're talking after 1960. In 1961 several properties in a similar position on the north side of Barker Road were also acquired, and you mentioned there was some problem possibly with them opening at a different time.

GE: Christmas time. Yes. Well, I can't remember the sequence of events there, but after the one in Park street, we bought some properties on the western side of Rokeby Road, and established a car park there, and gradually enlarged that so that - - and we enlarged the one on the east side of Rokeby Road by Park - - off Park Street.

JB: Well, I have here, it was expected that this new parking area would be ready in time for pre-Christmas shopping, but several delays, one over the demolition of a storage shed, and another over drainage postponed its opening until well into 1962, so there we have - -

GE: Yes. And I can't recall that. I don't recollect any hold up.

JB: Okay. Well, you did want to talk about the gardens and obviously we have the beautiful gardens.

GE: Yes.

JB: Which we associated with Subiaco. Let's talk about what you recall of the municipal gardens.

GE: Yes. Well, are they - - well, the municipal gardens, are they the ones around the council chambers, or the ones around the city hall? Which ones are you referring to?

JB: At the moment we're talking about the corner of Hamersley - - the clock, and the gardens associated with that.

GE: Yes.

JB: But I need to talk about some of the other gardens too. What do you remember of those particular gardens?

GE: Yes. Well, they were fairly popular, and they were reasonably well established, both at the - - by the clock, which included the area round the council chambers, or to the council chambers, and then there were the ones that were perhaps more popular, and they were the ones around city hall, and once again, they were well developed, and seemed to meet with public approval and public use, yes. The Rotary club was fairly popular and active in Subi, and they established a water fountain in front of the city hall and it was a type where you could change the colour of the water by inserting a coin, and this was a means of raising funds, but somewhere along the line it didn't function very well, and it was constantly giving trouble, and ultimately I think it was closed down. I don't think it exists now, but the concept was good, and it didn't - - just didn't work.

JB: Well, Abrahams also would talk about the lungs of the city, and we do see these lovely open spaces.

GE: Yes.

JB: These beautiful gardens in the middle of Subiaco.

GE: Yes.

JB: Just across the road from Kings Park, one of the biggest gardens in the world as it were. In relation to the importance of these places to Subiaco, what was the council's attitude towards this open space?

GE: Yes, well, they supported it, and Subiaco is really well endowed right throughout the area with pockets of open space, greenery, and each year it becomes more valuable. You know, you've only got to look to the Darglish area, another good example there where they've got small parks, appreciated, open space, yes. And each year becomes more valuable. The - - going back to the Subi, and this happened after I left, I think if I'd have been in charge of Subiaco when they built those

council chambers, they would have had a 2 storey building, they'd have had the library, and the council chambers and offices under one roof, because the most important thing in Subiaco was land. Now they've used space, ground, for a library, and used space for offices. I'd have had them under one roof, because that was my belief.

JB: We see also at the moment the sort of prime real estate of the markets at the end Rokeby Road.

GE: Yes.

JB: That location obviously changing its use.

GE: Yes.

JB: What are your views about that change?

GE: Well, we're talking about the one in Station street are we? Just - -yes. Well, it's badly run down. It's really a cluster of old skillion roofed sheds with bitumen floors, it's got - -it's got nothing to really recommend it, but I do think, and having been there as a customer, there is a need. I would like to have seen it done up in a more modern style, a cleaner style, so that it would probably work more efficiently than it does now, but I think there is a need. You don't have to close these things down simply because people want to build multi-storey dwellings or things like that, you know. People have got to go somewhere to do their shopping, and if they can walk there, it's so much better. I found it a place too where you would meet people, you know, run into people, just doing their shopping, and I think it's a pity. I'd like to see it - - I'm not quite sure whether you'd regard it as part of the history of Subiaco, but it's a bit of a landmark that it will be a pity to see it go. Particularly if it's being developed just for more town houses.

JB: We see these areas that have been developed, the sinking of the railway, the shops and the housing that has taken place of what would have been warehouses and factory sheds and things like that.

GE: Yes.

JB: What are your views of that particular site?

GE: Yes. Well, I think we're talking about what used to be known as the Subiaco industrial area, and you had like Humes, Metters, CIG, a host of quite big industrial, Brisbane Wunderlich, big industrial establishments there. Well, with the passing of time, it was logical that these had to be moved further out and residential development take place on these and, yes, I support that, but I think it was something that was coming. I recall some of the leases by those industrial areas, industrial organisations, they would have a term of about 20 years at a rental that was quite almost equivalent to petty cash, but that was the way things - - because they were then considered on the outer, whereas now of course they're well and truly in the prime. When you look at that area that was in fact the Subiaco industrial area, you see the development and some of the high quality residential stuff through there, it's - - you know fortunately we've got Bunnings and we've got the big display place there, they're all essential I think to a good residential area, people have to go and buy these things.

JB: Well, we see the markets on the corner of Rokeby Road also being moved and once upon a time, there were markets around near where the library is, and I wanted to discuss with you this. Market square. Where's market square? ...(indistinct)... market square?

GE: ...(indistinct)... market square is just immediately west of the Subiaco oval. There's Haydn Bunton Drive, and that goes over the Axon Street Bridge, and market square was -- well, immediately with the old council depot, and market square was next to that. Now what the hell's there now? Is there an open space there? There used to be a fig tree there. Is that still there?

JB: They've got a park there now, and some modern housing I understand.

GE: Well, yes, if that -- and that would be on the western side of -- what's that street that runs north on -- east and west? Not -- Subiaco Road? No, where does Subiaco Road run?

JB: ...(indistinct)... Just clarifying we're talking about Market Square, which is on the western side of Hadyn Bunton Drive, and I'll also be interested in discussing with you the Station Street markets, and the Subiaco pavilion, which is on the corner of Roberts Road and Rokeby Road.

GE: Roberts Road, yes.

JB: You were talking about the station, obviously, and that industrial area associated with the station, what would have been shunting yards and all sorts of other things going on there at one point, you believe it was a sensible thing that had been undertaken --

GE: Yes.

JB: -- to sink the railway?

GE: Yes, sink the railway, because it is a physical barrier in anyone's language. It is a physical barrier. Sink it, and build over the top, yes. Use the air rights. It's as simple as that.

JB: So when you look at Subiaco, today, and how it's developed, what do you say?

GE: Having regard to its location to the City of Perth, I think yes, people are gradually moving out, they're gradually wanting to live in perhaps townhouses or units, rather than a quarter acre block and that's okay.

JB: There is quite a strong heritage --

GE: Yes.

JB: -- group in Subiaco, and we see walks through Subiaco, looking at the old buildings, and the old houses that were once workmen cottages, things like that.

GE: Well, it -- and there are a number of streets that are quite narrow, and the blocks are relatively small, so they don't lend themselves to redevelopment, but it creates quite an attractive residential atmosphere, because the street trees meet over the street. It's like a green avenue, and from a residential point of view, I think that's good, because it gives you a bit of greenery, a bit of relax from the bricks and mortar, and it seemed to put people more in close with the earth than living up

in multi-storey.

JB: There is also some question about boundaries of Subiaco and in '61, I think there was a question about Nedlands talking they should give up the boundary. What was your understanding of boundaries associated with Subiaco during your time?

GE: Well, it never got very far, and I would have always defended Subi's boundaries, but my main objective was to do what I had in mind when I moved down there, and that was to make Subiaco the best local authority in the state, and I was well on the way to achieving that, and as far as the neighbours were concerned, keep your bloody hands off us, and if you want to know how to get on, keep your eye on us. And we did. We showed the way, and I don't know to what extent that had a bearing on my becoming town clerk of the City of Perth, the fact that - -well, people only had to look over the boundary, see what was happening. There was no fights, no quarrels, we didn't make headlines, we just got on and worked. You know, you can't do more than that.

JB: Well, Ozzie, I'd like to thank you very much for giving me your time, Happy New Year.

GE: Thank you.

JB: And we might come back and talk to you some time about your experience in Perth.

GE: Yes. Well, that'll be a 5 year episode. I don't know whether I mentioned to you how I came there.

JB: Quickly.

GE: I didn't - - I didn't intend to apply for the job, because I hadn't finished Subiaco, but on the Saturday morning preceding the closing of applications, there was an advert in the paper, the West Australian, display ad for a committee minute clerk, display advert, and a single column one for town clerk. And I thought Jesus, there must be somebody, there's no one in WA good enough, so I rattled off an application. On the Monday morning I took it to a secretary in Rokeby Road, she typed it for me, 11 o'clock I had it in the receiver in the front of council house door, because they closed at 12 noon, and I put it in there, came out in the Daily News paper that there were 15 applicants for the position of town clerk. It came out next morning there were in fact 16. I was still - - must have been still in the door, when the first ...(indistinct)... and you know, there was a lot of to-ing and fro-ing going on, all sorts of bloody nonsense being talked, and I really wasn't interested until one - -about 6 o'clock one night I got a call from Alan Green, and he said look, you've just been appointed town clerk, and the councillors would like you to come in and have a drink with them. I thought, Jesus, now my problems have started. That was the beginning of 16 years as town clerk, until I retired.

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Open cheque

Inefficient councils – worst council Northam and the City of Perth

00:42.00 *Reading about Mayor Abrahams – Identity Prized*

Recollections of Joe and his abilities
Councils roles as house keeper – administration of council
Community's house keeping money
Bower and North
The place was set up for Edward's personal skill
Getting councillors on side
Eyes are on Perth – coming of commonwealth games
Wandana flats – atmosphere of Subiaco changing in 1961-65
Fixing up Kitchener Park
Stories and recollections of
Burning of the park
Municipal depot – Subi Oval

00:48.10 the changes to the football oval and Rosalie park
Cricketers play on – new change rooms
Cricketers from the surrounding suburbs – Alderman and Hughes
WACA competition

Amalgamation of Floreat and Subiaco club
Rejuvenation of the Subiaco cricket club
The football oval today and the 1960s
00:52.00 Stumpy's stand and the seating in the ground
A place for the community
Football putting Subiaco on the map
Sense of the community during the 1960s
Working class community – Hugh Guthrie
The good old days and the community spirit
Relying on neighbours then and now
Compared to community etc
Transport and maintenance of roads in Subiaco

CD Two

00:00.00 Road maintenance – operations and memories associated with
Machinery used
Popularity if the council in the 60s
Looking at the direction of Subiaco
Rokeby road in the 1960s
Shopping and the functions
Locations in the city
Parking in Park Street and the negotiations for site
Off street parking – *Identity Prized pg 290*
Barker road site – parking

00:08.07 The municipal Gardens – Hamersley road
Council Chambers - Rotary Club in Subiaco – pond
Abrahams and the 'lungs of the city'
Council's attitude to open space

00:13.13 View of the current chambers and location and space
Prime real estate
Station street markets and other sites – views associated with
Dwellings and shopping sites
A place to meet people – town houses
The industrial area of Subiaco
Recollections of the industrial area of Subiaco
Market square – location and old depot
Subiaco pavilion and Roberts road
The old station – sinking the railway
Looking at Subiaco today
Heritage group
The look of the city – relaxing from bricks and Mortar
Boundaries associated with Subiaco in the 1960s
Making local council the best in the state
Subiaco showing the other councils

Off to the city of Perth – a fiery episode