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The University of Tasmania

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IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE:

FILE NO

IF TELEPHONING OR CALLING

ASK FOR

CENTENARY HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY

Taped Interviews

The primary aim of this project in oral history is to obtain material which may be of value to the official historian. Until the history is completed and published, access to the tapes will be restricted to the official historian, the University Archivist, and members of the Working Party. Should any application be made for other research purposes in this period, the Working Party will discuss the matter with the individuals concerned.

Thereafter the tapes will become part of the University Archives, and as such will be available for general research, unless directed otherwise in writing at the time of interview by the person interviewed.

Michael Roe (Professor)
Chairman, History of the
University Working Party

8 April 1982

Agreed.
for [unclear]
14/4/82

- 002 Came to University at end of war. Had been in Aust. since 1939 in Army. Came out of Army and took job with Post War Reconstruction
- 010 Remembers clearly the remarkable old professors whose history went back many years. Professor Dunbabin and his reminiscences of Oxford. Link between great universities and the small university of Tasmania. Professors King, Taylor, Triebel, Morris Miller.
- 040 1946 Science faculties moved to musset huts on Sandy Bay site
- 056 Commonwealth programme of post-war reconstruction altered whole aspect of university education.
Two streams of students - older students who had been at war and "children from school"
- 067 Decision to move to Sandy Bay unfortunately divided campus into 2 parts and division lasted much longer than ever intended. Created a social division amongst staff which played a part in troubles of the fifties.
- 080 Distinct change on entering next decade (1950's) Decline in student nos. for several years. Staff restless. University's revenue entirely from State Government and the Tasmanian University operating on salary levels lower than mainland universities.
- 092 Formation of Staff Association which began to agitate. Slow progress of building programme also caused unrest.
Chancellor Sir John Morris and new Vice Chancellor Hytten bore brunt of the attacks
- 100 State Government had allocated most of its revenue to Hydro-electric development and post-war housing. University building programme a long way back.
- 112 Hytten was the Chancellor's creation. Staff inclined to say that he was Chancellor's stooge
- 116 Sir John Morris's successful career. Made many enemies. Rather arrogant. Irrascible through illness. Clashed with professorial staff
- 136 In 1955 non-professorial junior staff, now critical of some of the older professors pushed for a Royal Commission.
Attorney General Roy Fagan key man
- 152 Sydney Orr one of the leaders of staff agitation
- 161 Broadly speaking a division between Domain and Sandy Bay. Most active ones at Domain
- 176 A tragic situation which led to the break-up of the existing university. Death of Sir John MORRIS. Hytten virtually finished.
- 184 A number of new young professors. A new start.
Aftermath was the Orr case
- 193 University and even individual departments bitterly divided by the Royal Commission and the Orr case.
- 212 New staff who wanted to make a new image of the university found themselves frustrated by the past. Some staff left.

- 225 Following Murray report Commonwealth government addressed itself to the needs of Australian universities. Funds greatly increased. Buildings grew visibly. Prof. Carey overseeing in his tin hat.
- 249 Students remarkably apathetic about 1950's turmoil
- 259 Prof. King retired 1955. History Department divided in two. History and Political Science. Controversial appointment of Townsley to Chair of Pol. Sci.
- 278 First yr. class in Pol.Sci. in 1956 a total of 60. In 1975 it was 330
- 284 Professor K.S.Isles Vice-Chancellor on Hytten's retirement. Problems of building programme.
Trouble in Law School
- 294 Attempt to fill Philosophy chair in late 1950's by getting Professor C. Hardie, Professor of Education, to accept Philosophy chair. More intransigent professors in Faculty of Arts blocked it.
- 311 1960's. Still rapid increase in staffing. Student unrest a distinctive feature. World-wide. Recalls a monster demonstration one summer night with 4 distinguished speakers including Professor John Elliott.
- 335 Town and gown becoming closer
- 343 1960's the most exciting decade. Marked contrast to the apathies of 1950's
- 348 Medical school. Dr Douglas Parker pushed for it on Council. Medical school has helped to make University a true university, but at tremendous cost
- 368 Trials and tribulations of K.S.Isles, whose health also suffered
- 376 Appointment of Sir George Cartland, a non-academic, as Vice-Chancellor. An administrator in the British colonial service. Peace, order and good government were 1st, 2nd and 3rd with Sir George.
- 396 Retirement in 1975.
- 421 Political Science Department was then largest in the University. Staff diverse in outlook and nationality. Department aimed to avoid indoctrination
446. Some brilliant students
- 471 Over last 20 years, in Arts faculty and particularly in Political Science the standard of intelligence higher in women than in men. Possibly because better female matriculants came to Arts, and better male matriculants went to Science