

TAPE 443B	ALEC ORR Recorded on 27th July 1992 PART 1/1
00:20	Began work at Maitland Main age 16, 1946
00:30	Recalls pit using steam haulage
00:40	Mechanisation occurred between 1962-3.
1:08	Recalls working as a "sidler" down below in 2 East section. Workings split west.
1:30	Recalls boundaries of Paxton workings. John Brennan (father-in-law) – Alec's wife Elsie is related to Kenny, Nappie. Elsie's father worked at Paxton as one of the first miners. Wife has eight brothers 7 out of the 8 worked in the one pit. James Orr (uncle). John Orr (father)
3:30	Tom Taylor friend of Alec's father.
3:45	Recalls working as a sidler "on the coal" and wheeling
4:24	Angus McKay, ? Clarke – set riders.
5:03	Worked as contract miner at age 20 – he married at 21. How big were the bords there? 12 ft. wide, full height to the seam. Pillars were 44 ft square.
6:05	Bill Jordan, surveyor – contract working with one ton skips.
6:26	Capacity of skips, Paxton. 2 500.
6:45	Joe Orr (uncle)
6:55	Recalls water problem in West Tunnels bucketed out by a water bailer. No underground sump. Water was
8:10	Neil Slack – road layer would have a lot of information.
9:40	Recollection of bathhouse, Paxton – a concrete brick building. Built by Dick Howard. Travelling tunnel was on left hand side as you looked down the pit, about 50 yards, about same size as haulage.
9:37	Recollection of pit horses. Paxton mine had a lot of horses and were more valuable than the men. He collected his horse at the pit top stables and took him down with him and returned at the end of the shift. Direct haulage was used. Driver knew when to stop, ring the bell with hack saw blade.
11:42	Hilton Prosper, an engine driver, bell ringer to indicate on pit top and change the points to reverse the journey. Number of miners (30 – 40 pairs), Paxton. Left working at Paxton during mechanisation – he was "cabled" out.
12:42	Bobby Parsons - he drove the Le Norse miner. The workings of the bath house.
14:46	Description of "Joy" continuous miner
14:27	Andy Robertson. Miners did no timbering. One skip track (6ft rails), sleepers would be laid, pillar extraction. Haulage ropes.
16:53	Jack Thompson, winch driver – horses, filling skips, contract wheeling, day wages, "you'll do" the money given by miners to contractors for helping them. Describes the use of horses in mining. Often the money given was named 'you'll do'.
23:37	Arthur Miller, good manager. Recalls living at Greta Main. Pearl Wilson, Nan Wilson, Jean Wilson – daughters of Jimmy Wilson. Elsie described the Wilson woman.
27:07	Sam Tennant – married one of Kraft sisters (Joyce). Owen Kraft went "on

	the coal”.
27:45	Alec went to Appin first, then to Rhondda (Miller’s pit) and then Pelton and then to Munmorah when it first opened up. Pits where Alec Orr has worked.
29:30	Father worked at Millfield on arrival to Australia. Millfield started just before the Lock Out in 1929.
30:15	Union membership- ‘scabs’ - one pit was off for 7 weeks
31:10	Beau Stephenson (engineer) – he passes to the cars. Arthur Devlin (engineer) – drowned at Awaba
31:45	Recollection of the lamp cabin – recharging the batteries.
32:51	Bob Pagan, check weigh man and “powder monkey” – the many uses of the “powder boxes”.
34:01	The lamp cabin and the bath house, described dimensions. Returning the lamp at the end of the shift and going straight to the bath house. Cec Davey was the lamp recharger. The lamps were numbered and Cec would take out the battery and recharge it overnight.
35:50	Bobby Parsons - he started the continuous miner. He worked on pit top before he went below.
36:04	Jack Evans, winding driver. Hilton Prosper was on day shift. Neil Slack was road layer.
37:00	Millfield closed c.1955
37:11	Jimmy Packer – shift man (putting the props and the cross timber up) who worked all his life at Millfield. "Pluggy" Jackson – a hard character who was Jimmy P’s friend.
38:32	Recollection of fall-ins at Munmorah and a fire that went right back to the cabin.
39:10	Recalls using hessian brattice for ventilation at Maitland Main. It was used extensively everywhere. Bag houses. Interviewer talks about personal tragedy of losing family members due to mining accidents.
41:20	Bob Cram – union rep. Alec used to leave home at 4am to go straight to Appin pit. Office hours 8 – 4pm.
42:27	Harry Porter, Bob Clark (chief clerks), Arthur Burgess. Aub Wells who worked on Sth Maitland.
42:27	Alec Buchanan- worked Pelton. Always men working at mine, very few women. Describes a woman that worked at Pelton. Alec Woodrow.
44:40	Noel Angwin, Arthur Burwood (Arthur shot himself and Noel hung himself.)
45:56	Tape duration

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