

KWAZULU-NATAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH PAT MCKENZIE, CONDUCTED BY
PAT MERRETT ON 22 AUGUST 1996
(SECOND TAPE)

(‘P’ SHALL INDICATE THE INTERVIEWEE AND ‘M’ THE INTERVIEWER).

M: This is the third side of the Pat McKenzie tape. Pat we were talking about the Coloured community in Johannesburg.

P: What I was saying is that a lot of the what one could call the upper income group Coloured had White relations of some connection in the White community, their relations with them would vary. Some of them would have absolutely nothing to do with them, and others got on quite well, but the Whites would only visit the Coloureds. The Coloureds would never go and visit the Whites because - if they lived in a White suburb - because being visited by a Coloured in a White suburb might put them away. Also there is an economic basis for this because you could get a better job if you were White. I mean there was one very attractive girl - her mother actually was Portuguese and this woman said that, you know, they grew up next to Coloureds and so she had married a Coloured and her mother was Portuguese and the daughter was quite striking, she had pitch black hair and very white skin and she just ? and worked as a White in Johannesburg because she got better pay, always a fear that if they had known she lived in Coronation or wherever they came from. So then there was that aspect, and this girl actually had quite a difficult time because she married a chap who was a Coloured who you know, if you'd met him occasionally you would have thought he was an Indian and she was - virtually looked, I mean she just looked White and he was you know very dark Indian and sometimes - it was most extraordinary - there was one family room, there were five children and four were - they were Indian type looking Coloureds and the one child had blond hair and freckles and you used to get all sorts of combinations. I mean the one family they had - their daughter had married what the Coloureds would call a - describe

1 as a Waare Boer, true, and I don't know how they did it - they must have forged an ID card
2 or something like that but he used to come to all the weddings and funerals and all the rest
3 of it and the rector's wife used to laugh because she said, as the wife of the rector of the
4 parish, she once said to the grandmother 'a lot of the children like ...' normally asking a
5 general question and the grandmother said 'oh, fortunately all blond and blue-eyed' So it
6 really dug these things in? Culturally, you see Coloureds weren't very much liked - like
7 Whites in a sense - their eating habits slightly, a bit different. Most of the Coloured in
8 Johannesburg originally came from Kimberley? you know - when the mines opened they'd
9 move from Kimberley as jobs decreased I suppose and went to work in - and there was talks
10 of Kimberley - the older one with sort of nostalgia. On the one hand there was the Malay
11 component of the Coloureds, a small, there were some Indian Muslim members of the
12 Coloured community who some of them inter married with the Muslims - you know there
13 was a patch of them. The fact that St Albans Church was in Marshalltown which at one stage
14 used to be called the Malay camp and the church had a mine font - they had a - what would
15 you call it - like a open large area to ? to water so " got baptised, they could be taken and
16 washed because they were actually made an lot of conversions among the Malays in the
17 Malay camp in its early days so it was quite a dramatic change in peoples' lives so that they
18 actually had total immersion - actually just talking about just generally living in the Coloured
19 community.

20 M: You didn't consider joining the Church formally in those two years?

21 P: I did, I toyed with the idea but it didn't really - got all way there - considering it seriously
22 but not toying with the idea.

23 M: So apart from running this conference center were there any other activities you were
24 involved in in those two years.

25 P: Well part of that - I wasn't in the conference centre - I didn't last all that long because we ran
26 into all sorts of trouble with - complications with the Group Areas Act and the Dioceses so
27 I decided that it just wouldn't be feasible to continue running it so what I did is that I then
28 got a job with the Institute of Race Relations as the regional secretary of the Southern
29 Transvaal region, but I continued to live at Sophiatown, and so then I suppose, I can't

1 remember how many months - I only worked at the conference centre I think for about four
2 months I suppose - in the next sixteen months or so I was - I worked for Race Relations..

3 M: So that whole year '64...

4 P: Ja, when I went in in '63, until the end of '64, so I went there early in '63 and I left late in
5 '64, so I was there for nearly two years - so I continued to live in Sophiatown. And you see
6 by the time I left Sophiatown they were starting to build - the National Housing Commission
7 was trying to build houses and they were renaming it Triumph. But to go back to
8 Sophiatown, you know the Church of Christ the King, there were some people who still came
9 from Soweto the Church of Christ the King there - not many - but there were still some who
10 came from Soweto, not many there and they were - one young chap who sort of ran the choir,
11 used to - they had an enormous blackboard and it showed - it really indicated what Polly got
12 close - I remember they all the hymns up in all - the hymn numbers in the English hymn
13 book, the Hymns, Ancient and Modern and then in those Zulu/Xhosa or whatever language -
14 that was sort of like a thing you could find your hymn number and you sang it in - you know
15 ...then next door to Sophiatown was a home called St Joseph's Home which was for
16 Coloured children and it was run by Anglican nuns - it was on the edge of on the edge of
17 Sophiatown and it still existed there and I mean they had terrible stories about - There were
18 stories like - the panty sometimes - Coloured looking children born of White parents were
19 sort of virtually dumped on them and one old nun who worked - Annette - a sort of very
20 tough, wily sort of English woman once said to me 'well, whatever the inhabitants of
21 Sophiatown did to each other, they would never have any trouble' - you know in the days of -
22 before it was moved - you know -she said she could walk through with her girls at any time
23 of the day or night and be perfectly safe - it was you know quite an interesting comment.
24 Then going back to social life in the Coloured community was the - for instance, every week
25 I used to go with the - because there were all these chapelries - used to go to the St Albans
26 main church and count the church money - well the collection from Sunday and then after
27 we had counted we used to go to a pub and have a drink and I was the only White in the pub
28 - look it was a Coloured pub, on - where was the pub? It was in Fordsberg, that's right and
29 nobody ever sort of fussed me or anything but I mean I was - but what - the colour of my skin

1 didn't give me away so much, but my accent. And Coloureds thought I was English and one
2 Coloured wouldn't accept that I was South African born because I was drinking in a
3 Coloured pub. You know he thought no South African would ever do that and one day I was
4 in a group of Coloureds and I suddenly thought 'that chap sounds quite different, and he's
5 Coloured, then I discovered he had a Durban accent, because of course they all had very
6 strong sort of Afrikaans type accents, you know, so this is what really, I mean you could pass
7 for a Coloured from the colour of your skin, because there were odd Coloured several white,
8 hut as soon as you opened your mouth ...One occasion they took me to one of the municipal
9 baths which had been opened in one of the Coloured townships and they put cocoa on my
10 face - nowadays it seemed a bit ridiculous, so I wouldn't be thrown out. But going back to
11 sort of social life in Durban, one of the things that I forgot to mention is that my aunt used to
12 teach at Indian Girls' High and one of the people she taught was Ela Gandhi who became Ela
13 Ramgobin, but has now gone back to calling herself Ela Gandhi, she is a granddaughter of
14 the Mahatma, so on a number of occasions we went out to lunch - they invited us out to
15 lunch at Phoenix and I met Susula Gandhi - you know that was Mahatma's - old Gandhi's
16 widow - who was as deaf as a post, we only - I once sort of - it was difficult to have a
17 conversation because she was so deaf, but the one conversation I had with her was about the
18 Mahatma and she told me once she lived in one of his Ashrams and she said they were
19 allowed no condiments at all - not even salt and that was just too much for her - you could
20 tell, then I've jumped back...?

21 M: At that stage was the Phoenix community still functioning?

22 P: Oh yes, the Gandhi family lived, the Gandhi family lived in a sort of a large rambling house
23 you know and then they had this - they had opened a small museum, the Gandhi family were
24 actually living there - that was when Ela was a school girl.

25 M: To get back to Jo'burg, weren't these Coloured people involved in any sort of politics at that
26 time?

27 P: There would have been odd exceptions, but generally speaking the Coloured community
28 were pretty apolitical because I think they always felt rather threatened and it's a fairly small
29 community in a sense. You know a lot of the - apart from the teachers, a lot of the men

- 1 would have been employed in the trades - you know - but on the whole I wasn't really very
2 conscious of - you know - conscious of you know of their political activities.
- 3 M: Did you join the Liberal Party up in ..?
- 4 P: Well, I was still - you know I was still a member ? of the Liberal party but at that stage I had
5 virtually nothing to do with it and that only arose later.
- 6 M: Is there anything else you would like...? Oh, the Institute of Race Relations. can you
7 remember the people who were actively involved.
- 8 P: Well when I went to Race Relations, the director was Quinton White, who was a Scotsman,
9 and incidentally had been at St Andrews with my aunt and his wife had also been at St
10 Andrews, his wife had also been at St Andrews with my aunt. And ...
- 11 M: Certainly connections went on...
- 12 P: Ja, it's - he was - you know, I mean he was a very organised man and he kept the Institute
13 going through you know very difficult times really, and was always able to raise sufficient
14 funds to keep it going and it played a very valid - I mean - I'm now no longer a member of
15 the Institute of Race Relations - I don't really agree with Kane Berman's approach? but it
16 played a very different role in those days, it really was a meeting point, you know and
17 provided a - apart from the sort of - sort of useful things like running bursary funds, which
18 it was doing then, and I mean it was a place where people could come to for advice or for
19 help and that sort of thing.
- 20 M: So, apart from the administration of the region were you involved in any of those sort of
21 activities- like giving it ?
- 22 P: Yes, one - what I used to get is a lot of people coming with problems, you know, I can
23 remember trying to help people get passes, and things like that - I got quite involved with
24 Anne Welsh, who ran - who was sort of like the founder - not the founder, but the first
25 person to run SACHED in Durban, in Jo'burg, which had been really started by Trevor
26 Huddleston - or you know the idea of - because Blacks would have to go to tribal colleges
27 so you must try to get them to universities overseas. But people would come with - you
28 know - it was sort of an amorphous job - you did all sorts of funny things - we had fund-
29 raising functions and that type of thing.

- 1 M: Did you ever liaise with the Black Sash's Advice Office on these sort of problems?
- 2 P: Yes, well I would refer people to whoever, you know, but I can - sometimes you know, I
3 mean I can remember going down to the Bantu Affairs Department to try and get people -
4 once I pretended I was an employer, so I applied for somebody who could you call somebody
5 for a job because of the influx control and the influx control was at its worst in those days
6 and trying to help people round influx control to get jobs and permits and that sort of thing -
7 so then one of the sad things I can remember is - I don't know whether you knew of Nat
8 Nicassa who was a - it has always stuck in my mind because he was trying to get a passport
9 and in those days for a Black to get a passport was quite awful because you know your
10 passport application I think went to Pretoria and then it had to go to the police and then it had
11 to go to the non-European Affairs Department - it had to go the rounds, so one of the jobs
12 I had was I used to phone up all the various departments to find out - to try and track where
13 the passport application had got to - and I can remember Nat Nicassa coming after I had
14 phoned and I did this for quite a number of people and then eventually the Department in
15 Pretoria said they weren't prepared to talk to me on the phone any more - but the sad thing
16 was that Nat Nicassa left on an exit permit and then you know he committed suicide in New
17 York and I always sort of very conscious of the fact that if he had gone on a passport and had
18 felt he could come back here - that - I know - you think - that wouldn't have happened. One
19 of the things we - that the regional thing - I did this - we used to get books sent from Britain,
20 by the English-speaking ? Lady Ann ? or something - we used to distribute those to schools
21 and that type of thing..
- 22 M: And did you do the administration of the bursaries?
- 23 P: No, I wasn't - that was run quite separately - I was sort of Southern Transvaal region, you
24 know, just general - it was sort of - my office really was - virtually like a sort of an advice
25 office-cum-other things. We used to have, you know a monthly meeting, I once did a report -
26 got involved in - I mean I can remember once doing a report on the unrest in Black schools -
27 nothing new - you know - that type of thing.
- 28 M: Now, if you hadn't had this call to take over as National Secretary of the Liberal party, in
29 'Maritzburg - would you have stayed on do you think in this Institute job?

1 P: No, it wouldn't have been the sort of job that you could make a career of - you know I
2 couldn't have - what actually - how I came to 'Maritzburg was that Peter Brown phoned me
3 one day and said could I go and meet him because he was up there - at a National Committee
4 meeting I think it was and that had its problems because the chap where we were going - the
5 house where I was meant to meet - I think that chap got raided, soso they had to move
6 the venue. Anyway what he said to me was would I prepared to come to 'Maritzburg to run
7 the National Office of the Liberal Party which was here - so I said 'well, er, ah, um, I would
8 a..' I can't remember whether I said yes or no, but I think I more or less said 'well, when the
9 time comes, I'll...' Well, anyway, round about that time - I mean it was a terrible period
10 really because you know, I mean the regime was at its most oppressive and it also coincided
11 with the - I mean I can remember seeing John Harris a few days before - having chatted to
12 him in the street a few days before he you know put the bomb in the station, you know
13 because I knew him from - you know - the Liberal party from conferences...and I - you know
14 - and I remember Hugh Lwein coming to see me and he was behaving in a really rough -
15 rather a hard way - he was one of the people who got nine years I think when he blew up
16 something in ARM. But we had one day - I saw that you know somebody had been arrested
17 in Cape Town and then I saw John le Redo had been arrested I Port Elizabeth and I saw John,
18 or detained, that David Evans had been detained in Durban. And one of the things which had
19 happened when John le Redo to join ARM in Durban, I thought the whole ting had died. Not
20 long after that - I mean I knew that he and David had gone up to Johannesburg and not long
21 after that I had actually boarded with them for a short while before I left for Johannesburg,
22 with the le Redos; and we got raided by the police and David Evans got raided another chap
23 who'd run the Race Relations office he got raided, and but then nothing else happened and
24 I thought well the whole thing had died, but when I was with Race Relations, Mary Draper
25 was working there as a researcher and she continued this tradition of having picnics and we
26 used to go out to Meer's farm, which was an Indian owned farm between Johannesburg and
27 Pretoria - it was - so you know it was - it would have been - it was an easy place for Whites
28 and Blacks and Coloureds to mix. And it was quite interesting once the one chap that - she
29 took a photograph of everybody there and this one chap didn't want his photograph taken and

1 I realised later why - it was because he was arrested during the ARM things and I think that
2 was why and he was called as a witness when David Evans and John le Redo - they were
3 eventually tried. So then -subsequent to that I saw Peter Brown being banned so I knew that
4 my - my fate was sealed..

5 M: That was July 1964 he was banned?

6 P: No. it was, it was - wasn't it September? Or was it July? Anyway....

7 M: It's the 22nd of June, we're continuing the interview with Pat McKenzie. Is it true Pat that it
8 was Jack Unterhalter who asked you to take over once Peter Brown was banned.

9 P: I had a phone call from Jack Unterhalter and he asked me to go and see him - I actually met
10 him in his chambers and as far as I can remember it was over a weekend and he really just
11 repeated what Peter Brown had previously asked me, you know whether I would be prepared
12 to come to 'Maritzburg.

13 M: Was Jack a lawyer?

14 P: No. he was an advocate..

15 M: In Johannesburg?

16 P: In Johannesburg, ja..he was one of the leading what would you call him? he defended a lot
17 of political cases in the same way as Ernie Wentzel did, but he was older than Ernie Wentzel
18 and not quite as flamboyant I suppose you'd say.

19 M: Do you know him quite well?

20 P: From, you know, from meetings and from attending party conferences and things like that
21 ..talking of Jack Unterhalter reminds me of an occasion when he came to 'Maritzburg when
22 I was working here - to speak at a public meeting and it was in the Supper Room at the City
23 Hall and he said that all the policies of other parties were based on fear - and he included the
24 Progressive Party in this and Pam Reid was at the meeting and I can remember she - those
25 hard wooden seats were sort of slow - I remember the sear slamming up and she stamped out
26 of the Supper Room and when we taped it later - when we listened to the tape of the thing
27 later - you could hear the chair slamming and her stamping out of the hall. Anyway that's
28 really by the by.

29 M: How soon after that talk with Jack did you actually come down to 'Maritzburg?

- 1 P: My recollection is that I came down in October - from the 1st - probably would have aimed
2 to get here at the beginning of October.
- 3 M: And what did you find when you arrived at the offices in 'Maritzburg? Where were the
4 offices in town?
- 5 P: The 'Maritzburg - the offices were in 268 Longmarket Street, in the building which is now
6 called the Lambert Wilson Building which is owned by the Natal Society and was owned at
7 that time was still owned - earlier I explained how the building had been donated to the Natal
8 Society by Lambert Wilson - who was also a member of the Liberal Party. When I arrived
9 there, Mamie Corrigan was working in the office, which she did voluntarily, you asked - you
10 asked whether she was an office holder - she must have been on various committees, but she
11 just worked voluntarily in the office and the other person in the office was a clerk - Wilsack
12 Nyanisa, who had worked there for some years.
- 13 M: And who was the Chairperson - was it Edgar Brookes at that time?
- 14 P: Edgar Brookes was National Chairman, he took over from Peter Brown and Alan Paton was
15 the National President.
- 16 M: And Secretary - when you came down?
- 17 P: I became National Secretary - ja, I became National Secretary
- 18 M: No, I meant Treasurer..
- 19 P: Ja, National Treasurer was I think Elliot Mngadi. I think - I think yes, Elliot Mngadi was
20 National Treasurer. You know these are things I haven't been able to look up in the papers
21 but that was my recollection.
- 22 M: Can you say anything about Mamie Corrigan? Do you have any recollections about Mamie -
23 what were her particular political affiliations, or personality?
- 24 P: Well, it was common knowledge that Mamie had been a member of the Communist Party
25 pre-War, and had resigned. I believe Harry Gwala sent this report refuted to have said that
26 you learnt about politics he learnt from Mamie Corrigan - I think that's probably been told
27 to you by somebody else... Mamie had obviously left the Communist party - I have no idea
28 why she left - she never discussed, gave me a reason, although in conversations I had with
29 her she -on occasions mentioned that she felt socialism removed the initiative from people -

1 or something like that - I'm using my words but I mean I can remember her criticizing
2 socialism - but quite mildly, I mean it wasn't a sort of a - it wasn't something that she
3 brought up often - it was just that she had on a couple of occasions mentioned that. Mamie
4 was a person of extraordinary integrity, very diligent, and how can I explain it - although she
5 was I suppose in a sense radical, she was very correct in her behaviour - she behaved, she
6 was a - if you met her casually you would be surprised, you wouldn't believe that she'd ever
7 been a member of the Communist Party, 'cause she looked just like a very correct middle-
8 class woman but you couldn't say she was a typical housewife or something like that and
9 very straight, and also outspoken, she said what she thought - she didn't - well a dissembler
10 -

11 M: Very principled?

12 P: Very principled and very direct I think she used to -possibly - I always got on well with her -
13 she was also a very methodical, ritualised person. I used to - in later years I used to go and
14 have a drink with her once a week and I used to have two brandies and if I only had one
15 she'd say 'but you always have two brandies..' and you always had to sit in the same chair -
16 you know that - you're expected to..

17 M: Do you remember having debates with her about Liberal Party policy?

18 P: Not really, no - we just got on - got on with things.

19 M: What was her attitude to the qualified franchise.

20 P: Never, never discussed it with her - at that stage it was in the past - it never really came up
21 at that stage - except - it would only come up if you were discussion with people who were
22 Progressive Party or people who were questioning what Liberal stood for..

23 M: Can you remember who else was involved in the Liberal Party in 'Maritzburg in those days -
24 any other names come to your mind?

25 P: Well, there was Heather Morkel and Iris Friday who'd both been members of the Federal
26 Party I think - I think before - I gathered that they also used to be involved in what was called
27 Freedom radio - or what was it called - it wasn't Freedom Radio but there was a clandestine
28 radio - sort of a jingo one..

29 M: In 'Maritzburg?

- 1 P: Well, I gather that Iris was involved in it - I never discussed it with her personally, most - Iris
2 was involved in moving it around I think, but has Peter not mentioned this - or anybody else?
3 It was a sort of a jingo ting - it wasn't a Liberal Party thing at all.
- 4 M: When you say jingo what exactly do you mean.
- 5 P: I mean a British, you know non- it would have been sort of Federal Party type people, you
6 know who would have supported it..
- 7 M: And you say it moved around in 'Maritzburg'?
- 8 P: Yes, it was sort of a - it - you know the trouble is - you know one's memory is so faulty,
9 some people were charged in Durban with operating it...there was an eccentric old woman -
10 I can remember as always called Miss Lee - always carrying placards, I've got a feeling she
11 was involved, but anyway the worthy sort of British Imperial jingo type people who operated
12 this radio thing and I gather that Iris and Heather were involved in that.
- 13 M: I remember Miss Lee - she used to ? in 'Maritzburg, and ?
- 14 P: Ja, she used to do it in Durban as well, but I've got a feeling she was - ja - but look don't -
15 I'm not sure about that without the radio.
- 16 M: Do you have any memories of Heather Morkel. Because she was banned eventually, wasn't
17 she?
- 18 P: Yes, she was banned eventually, I think largely because she used to be so rude to the Special
19 Branch, she - left no - lost no opportunities of being rude to them if they attended meetings
20 and she once wrote a letter to the paper saying she hated them - or something like that - I
21 know hate came into the letter - it was not long after that she got banned. And then Iris
22 Friday was warned, but she was never banned, she told the magistrate who issued the
23 warning - he said 'what would a middle-aged spinster like her - what threat could a middle-
24 aged spinster like her be to the state?' I can remember her saying that..to me afterwards, Iris
25 and Heather were both - you know worked in a plumbing business - Iris was actually a
26 partner in the plumbing business - Alex Campbell? and Heather actually worked in the office
27 and Iris was also a very principled person and a very good businesswoman I think and very
28 competent.
- 29 M: She was also a member of the Black Sash.

- 1 P: Oh, yes. And Heather would have been as well. The other people - of course were Ruth
2 Lundie and Sally Lundie, the Gardners - Colin and Mary Gardner, Marie Dyer, ...
- 3 M: Did you find it was an active group to work with?
- 4 P: Oh yes, we were - you know for a short while we were quite active and we had - at one stage
5 we even had a fete in Heatharn - in - sorry - in Heather and Iris' garden - I remember we did
6 things like that ...
- 7 M: This is after you'd taken over the ?
- 8 P: Taken over - no it would be - and I mean look apart from having a number of public
9 meetings shortly after I came we had a - the National Conference was held in actually in
10 Sophiatown - that would have been - it wasn't long after I had started - in fact it was a month
11 after I'd started - it must have been October - we had the National Conference and that's
12 where we discussed the position of the ARM people - whether they should be expelled from
13 the Party or whether they shouldn't be - and that's really where my memory is faulty - I can't
14 remember whether they were officially expelled or not - I can remember Dr Brookes saying
15 we should rub salt into their wounds - I shouldn't have imagined they would have cared less -
16 sitting in jail - whether they were expelled from the Party or not.
- 17 M: had they all been picked up by then?
- 18 P: Yes, by that stage, they'd - by that stage they'd all been picked up, ja.
- 19 M: Well, quite a few people had been banned by 1964, how did you feel about taking over?
- 20 P: I mean naturally one was nervous about it, one felt sort of slightly hunted always because
21 when ever we had meetings, the Special Branch were always there and at that time we had
22 a number of branches in what were known as the Black Spot Areas. That's in Northern
23 Natal, you know in the sort of Bergville - Winterton area where we had branches at Rookdale
24 and Hambrook and Acton homes? those were - and we always used to go to meetings at
25 Stepmoore, which is near Underberg/Himeville area and at a place called Ukukhanya? Where
26 there's a mission there - it's an African Independent Church Mission called the Eberderes?
27 And we had meetings there and whenever you went to these meetings in those areas, the
28 Special Branch were either there before us or arrived after us and we used to go to elaborate
29 lengths to try and organise these meetings without them knowing, but they always, somehow

- 1 or another knew.
- 2 M: And how large the membership groups in those communities?
- 3 P: They weren't all that large 'cause they were in the sort of freehold, African freehold areas
4 because those were the areas we could move into really.
- 5 M: I mean would they have been a group of ten, or?
- 6 P: No, sometimes we'd get ten or twenty people at meetings and groups - there were sort of
7 volunteers would go up; we used to have them frequently. Iris would go, no not, yes, Iris
8 would go sometimes, Heather Morkel, I can remember even Sue Judd from the Natal Society
9 Library once; Colin Gardner, my wife Jennifer, Ruth Lundie, Angela Norman, John
10 Aitchison, Stephen Hayes, we used to go up quite frequently, and as I say we were always
11 hounded by the Special Branch, or we had an organiser up in that area - Mike Ndlovu - who
12 lived at Rookdale - that's an area which is now - that area has now been flattened because
13 the people were moved from that area. And then Chris Shabalala, who was subsequently was
14 banned was an organiser we had. Selby Msimang would have gone sometimes and old
15 Professor McQuarrie would go with us occasionally. You know Marie Dyer, we all used to
16 take turns in going up.
- 17 M: Quite an active group really.
- 18 P: Yes, no we were kept quite busy, I can't remember how often we went.
- 19 M: Now you say the Special Branch were always at your meetings in 'Maritzburg, were these
20 committee meetings or general meetings?
- 21 P: No they were general meetings. But I mean I can remember once Marie was having a
22 meeting in the house and somebody opened the door and there was a chap crouching - back
23 door - I think there was a chap crouching down outside the window. The - but they followed
24 us to all these branch meetings in the country and then they'd always get into the halls, or
25 they weren't really halls, they were usually in huts or you know - they were usually in small
26 areas. No they weren't big meetings.
- 27 M: So how did you enjoy this particular job?
- 28 P: We were actually - the thing is that it was quite exciting in a way, although one felt slightly
29 haunted by it and you see they used to do the most extraordinary things the Special Branch.

1 Sort of quite a number of - they once - the people who lived at Stepmoore. I think it was
2 Stepmoore, asked us if we could bring clothes to sell - because obviously it was a community
3 where they didn't - so we had a jumble sale right out in the bush there and my wife Jennifer
4 and a number of other people were actually threatened with being charged for selling clothes
5 without a licence. Jennifer said she was in the lab' somewhere at the University here when
6 a policeman arrived. John Aitchison gave, no who was it - how did this work? Ken Hill in
7 Durhan gave John Aitchison an old Volkswagen. I can't remember whether John - anyway,
8 or how - I think my recollection is the old Volkswagen came from Ken Hill for the use of
9 Mike Ndlovu, who was our organiser at Rookdale and he woke up one night to find
10 somebody had thrown a petrol bomb through the window - well through the windscreen -
11 they'd ..

12 M: Up in Northern Natal?

13 P: Ja, Northern Natal, and the other thing which happened was that spurious leaflets used to be
14 distributed in these areas which were obviously done by the Special Branch. Interestingly
15 enough they were sort of used to - they were purported to come from us you know - a lot of
16 spurious stuff in them. I can remember Doctor Brookes going to see the head of the Special
17 Branch about it - which of course wouldn't have made any difference at all - but what else
18 can I tell you about it? The trouble is that you know I don't - I can't remember it in great
19 detail..

20 M: If you were married in 1967, that instance where Jennifer got charged would have been after
21 you'd resigned as National Secretary.

22 P: Yes, that's right, ja.

23 M: And just before the Party actually closed.

24 P: Yes, ja. No one of the first people I met when I came to 'Maritzburg was Jennifer and Ruth
25 Lundie - outside the office - that's how we met - through the Liberal party. When I had to -
26 well as soon as I arrived I had to start organising for this conference in Johannesburg and I
27 can remember having to organise for Doctor Hugo and Miss Lundie - who were going up by
28 train, to be fetched the other end and I wondered who - I impasse imagined that Dr Hugo was
29 some old bag - anyway.

- 1 M: And how active was Ruth Lundie in those days?
- 2 P: No Ruth was pretty active - she used to go to these meetings.
- 3 M: Where was she working then?
- 4 P: She was working in the University Library.
- 5 M: Do you have any particular recollections of Selby Msimang?
- 6 P: I've got very clear recollections of him because I saw a lot of him and continued to see him,
7 quite often after he was banned and when his ban was lifted and really saw quite a lot of him
8 up until the time he died. Well probably less towards the end of his life, but Selby was - how
9 can you describe somebody of great age who retained all his faculties up to over ninety and
10 he was a - when I first knew him, of course, knew of him of course - before he was a member
11 of the ANC and the Liberal Party - you know it was - there were some people who held what
12 was dual membership. In the same way there was even actually dual membership on odd
13 occasions where people were members of the Congress of Democrats and the Liberal Party.
14 I think a cousin of Jonathon Paton's called Jill Ditchburn was at Ritchburn, Ditchburn, she
15 was a member of the Communists then and the Liberal Party - and that's how I can remember
16 meeting - I think I met early meeting Ronnie Casrils through her. Selby - sorry you asked
17 me about Selby. Selby, as you probably know, came from a missionary family - they had
18 come down - they were sort of convert Christians and that's how they came to Edendale - so
19 you called them amagholwa? - believers - and how can you describe him? He was a very
20 sensible, wise, measured person, not flamboyant, not a rabble rouser or a radical - a - sort
21 of rather old fashioned in his way - sort of 'he gentlemanly' and also full of anecdotes about
22 the past - I can remember him telling me - that - he lived in Bloemfontein round about 1980,
23 1990 and he was involved there where - over passes for women. Where they tried to
24 introduce them then - I think it was passes for women - that's where my memory plays me -
25 probably plays me false. But one of the stories he told me was that he and his wife had no
26 children and they were approached by the local - well a local DRC Domince to adopt a child
27 born of a White mother and a Black father and that was their - the person they brought up as
28 their eldest child. The other anecdote which I can remember telling you is - it's not an
29 anecdote really - he - I was driving through the Free State with him and we drove through

1 Brandfort and he said 'Ah Brandfort,' he said, Dr Verwoerd's father had a bookshop here.
2 He had a great eye for African women - as he got older - with 'a no fine..?' You know I often
3 think that that really explained Dr Verwoerd. Every now and then he'd say 'Oh so and so -
4 he had a ...' great eye for African women. The - I once went to Cape Town and back with
5 him and on the way back, Jean van Riet, one of our - our - we had about three members in
6 the free State - three White members in the Free State and he's a Free State farmer called
7 Jean van Riet and Jean van Riet told jokes all the way up in the car and Selby never saw one
8 of them - he took them all literally. He'd say 'Is that true? Did that really happen?' They
9 weren't very good jokes, but Jean van Riet was one of those people who always told jokes.
10 The - sorry I'm really just telling you terribly peripheral things about Selby..

11 M: Did Selby ever act as a link between the local Liberal Party and the ANC?

12 P: By that stage of course the ANC was banned - I'm talking about the time when he was - you
13 know - before the ANC was banned he was actually a member of both...oh - which I - you
14 see there was this small group of people younger than I which included John Aitchison and
15 a chap called Stephen Hayes and a girl called Isabel Dick - who - they were University
16 students all of them and I think they probably thought I was about fuddy duddy I think. John
17 Aitchison and Stephen Hayes - I used to cross swords with them slightly because they used
18 to turn some of the Party meetings into religious meetings - particularly Stephen Hayes -
19 because they were both Ordinands.

20 M: Did they want to start with prayers or something?

21 P: No, no not starting with prayers - but I can't remember in detail but I can just remember
22 while I was a church going person myself I felt it really wasn't on to - to sort of turn them
23 into - I mean they used to quote from - I just felt they were a bit too - their approach was too
24 religious. It should have been political, you know. But that was - you know - my - but they
25 were very active of course and that's really why - one of the reasons why John Aitchison got
26 banned.

27 M: In what activities was he involved?

28 P: Well, he was active - he was very - you know a good speaker and a fluent speaker and ...
29

1 End of First Side.

2

3 Second Side

4 Q: This (is) side four - how did you find it working with Edgar Brookes?

5 R: I found Edgar Brookes an easy person to work with and I got on well with him, he had taken
6 over the National Chairmanship of the Liberal Party on the banning of Peter Brown, and I
7 think this is something he accepted as a challenge. And I think he quite enjoyed it, because -
8 actually what I can't remember is whether he'd actually - I've got a feeling he had actually
9 retired - or else I think he certainly retired as Professor; he may have been teaching, I really
10 can't remember. But he took an active interest in the activities. I think that quite a lot of
11 people thought he'd just be a figurehead, but he wasn't by any means - he wasn't that sort
12 of person, he was a - on the one hand an - I was going to say an opinionated person - I mean
13 he knew his own mind. The other person that I worked with was Alan Paton, because he was
14 National President, and those - I could contrast them a little - from an instance that happened
15 once in Natal. I used to go down to Durban about once a week to the Liberal Party Office
16 in Durban and on the way, I would often call on Alan Paton. And - particularly if he wanted
17 to see me or if there was a question of issuing a statement - we often issued statements to the
18 press. That's my recollection and Alan would often discuss the statement with me when he
19 was drafting it and ask my opinion, which I thought was rather - very nice of him. Even
20 sometimes asking my opinion on grammar. Not really on grammar, but on the wording
21 which - you know - was quite flattering, but I think quite unnecessary. One contrast with
22 Edgar Brookes is that on one occasion I took back a statement to him, which he had written,
23 with a comment from somebody else who suggested it could be worded in a different way -
24 and he was certainly jolly irritated, in fact he was very cross. Virtually saying 'well what I
25 have written, I have written.' Edgar Brookes was obviously a very intelligent man and he
26 displayed his ability to read quickly - he had the capacity to be able to read things very
27 quickly and take them in. On one occasion I gave him a typed foolscap sheet and I handed
28 it to him to read and he just glanced at it and gave it back to me. I showed some surprise -
29 must have shown some surprise because as he gave it back to me he said 'I read very

- 1 quickly.' But he did have this ability to actually to read a book or read a document and sort
2 of digest it.
- 3 M: And could he remember it clearly?
- 4 P: Ja. and - ja - remember it - he was a very bright chap. He and Alan Paton were different in
5 the sense that Alan Paton was much more a man of the world. In a sense he was a sort of
6 partying man, and I suppose sort of a bon vivant? in a way.
- 7 M: They were both religious weren't they?
- 8 P: Yes, they were both religious - whereas Edgar was much more like a sort of missionary
9 person. He had taught at Adam's College earlier - if you went to dinner there you'd get a -
10 you'd get a glass of wine with your dinner - but I'm just saying - they lived in a much more
11 sort of austere way to the Patons really. But I suppose the Patons were - the Patons were
12 better off of course and Mrs Brookes came from a Swiss missionary family, her name was
13 Bourquin - I don't know how you pronounce it, some of her relations had given it up - given
14 up the battle and just called themselves Balkwin.
- 15 M: Was there a lighter side to this personality.
- 16 P: Oh yes, Dr Brookes could be very witty if you got to - oh, he can be witty - I can remember
17 one occasion having dinner at his flat and travelling down in the lift afterwards, and in the
18 lift there was a sign saying 'Europeans only.' 'Abalungu kopela.' And there were Black
19 domestic servants in the lift with us and he said 'These people belong to the Abalungu kopela
20 tribe.' He had that type of wit. I saw - but he was a man of courage and of great principle.
21 In his early days he had actually - he supported segregation, he was a great admirer of the
22 older Hertzog and - but then he'd - in those days actually he was still teaching at the
23 University of Pretoria and then later on of course he changed his - changed his thinking
24 change - where he came round to realising this was wrong and he had the courage to admit
25 that he'd believed in that and that he'd changed.
- 26 M: Can you remember what his attitude was, say to the ANC?
- 27 P: Of course the ANC was banned, I can't ever remember that sort of coming up really.
- 28 M: What about Alan Paton - how did you find the Patons? There was one ...
- 29 P: Yes, Alan Paton I knew, I knew quite - well, better in a way because when I was living in

1 Durban, the Paton's house was sort of open house to any members, or any friends really who
2 would have in those days been largely members of the Liberal party, or sympathisers, and
3 you could arrive there at any time over the weekend. Not for a meal, but for a tea and you
4 were - one was always received hospitably, in fact I probably developed a closer friendship
5 at that time with Dorrie Paton than with Alan Paton, and I can remember when I got engaged,
6 getting a letter from Dorrie Paton which she had virtually wrote from her deathbed - she
7 wrote it in pencil. She was always concerned about the fact that I wasn't married and would
8 urge - was trying to find me a suitable wife - so that was very nice. So I got this very nice
9 letter - I got this very nice letter from her which was written from her hospital bed, I've sort
10 of kept - well my relationship, or association with Alan Paton it's been sort of - well was
11 continuous up until his death because every year - well, since 1974, I've been up to the - to
12 a berg farm which Peter Brown owns, we go in December every year. Peter Brown invites
13 myself, Sam Chetty, Colin Gardner, John Mitchell from King's School at Nottingham Road,
14 and Alan Paton used to always come. This was something Peter Brown started before he was
15 banned and then he continued while he was banned - the same group continued to go up - it
16 was always on what we continued to call 'Dingaan's Day' - weekend and I've been up since
17 1974 and Alan Paton always came and he was great fun, I mean he's a - he was a marvellous
18 raconteur - more irascible than Edgar Brookes, and could go off pop, sort of thing which
19 Edgar Brookes wouldn't do. Edgar might get cross, but it would be in a very controlled way
20 - whereas Alan Paton could go off pop. Not that he did that most weekends - but I've seen
21 him on other occasions, but - he was a very warm person. And his great love of - sort of -
22 a great interest in people. He always took people in - you know if he met somebody, he'd
23 take you - he took people in and his great interest in the beauty of the country - the natural
24 beauty and the fauna and flora. He was particularly interested in birds - if you drove
25 anywhere with him he would often point out a - you know features like the names of
26 mountains or the names of hills, or trees, that type of thing. On one occasion I drove to
27 Grahamstown with him and I kept on talking about the Kaffir Wars and he eventually
28 stopped me and said 'I wish you'd stop saying that.' And I said 'well what do you call
29 them?' And he told me 'Frontier Wars.' Which is an indication of how well I was taught

- 1 history - because I'd never heard them referred to as the frontier wars. What else can I say
2 about Alan?
- 3 M: Did you find him very supportive in your world?
- 4 P: Oh, yes, no he was always - and always very approachable and easy to get on with - with any
5 - and I think that's really about all I can say about Alan, really.
- 6 M: You mentioned Sam Chetty who used to go with you to the 'berg?
- 7 P: Yes, yes, Sam Chetty comes from an old 'Maritzburg family and his family run a bus service
8 which - from Edendale that went out into the country areas. They served - yes, I think the
9 municipal buses you know went as far as Imbali virtually and then after that the Chetty buses
10 took over and they were eventually expropriated. You know - there was quite a - the
11 municipal buses took over and KwaZulu Transport took over their routes and they suffered
12 quite a - you know - went through quite a tough time as a result of that. But they were
13 eventually moved from Edendale because of the Group Areas Act. The house which they
14 lived in still stands, it's near the little mosque on the flats in Edendale - on the Edendale
15 road as you approach towards town..
- 16 M: What business did they take up after that?
- 17 P: Well, various members of the family went there - quite a number of them were involved in
18 the business. Sam Chetty in fact was the mechanic - he kept the buses on the road. I think
19 his one brother still runs this one bus round town but the - he actually helps a brother in a
20 tearoom, and they were highly regarded by the African commuters as offering a reliable bus
21 service. In fact he says that often old Africans, who knew them from the bus days, you
22 know, come into the tearoom.
- 23 M: And he's still alive today?
- 24 P: No, he's still alive today, ja.
- 25 M: Any ideas or any comments on Jane Lundie?
- 26 P: Jane Lundie I suppose you could call her as a stalwart of the Liberal Party and after the
27 Liberal Party was disbanded she continued for many years to be involved with the running
28 of, well the production of 'Reality'. Together with Mamie Corrigan, they both were actively
29 involved in keeping that on the road.

- 1 M: How, was Jane Lundie working in Shooters Bookshop when you knew her?
- 2 P: Yes, that's right, yes.
- 3 M: Now I remember her...
- 4 P: She worked there - I've forgotten, I suppose she retired in about 1970 I suppose.
- 5 M: Was she a very politicised person?
- 6 P: Well, I would say that people like Jane Lundie really became politicised just because they
7 just realised how awful apartheid was - you know - I don't think in normal society they
8 would probably have got the vote, but I don't think they would have — but on the other hand
9 she was a very well read person and I think that any well read person comes to the conclusion
10 that apartheid sort of - was anathema really.
- 11 M: Anything about Jean Hill? She was always banned.
- 12 P: Oh, yes, Jean Hill was a - well of course I knew Jean Hill from Durban days. Jean Hill was
13 a sort of - I don't know what you call them, but she was a great member of the
14 Congregational Church and was a lay preacher - I think you call it in the Congregational
15 Church, whereas old Ken, her husband was a mathematician, I think, as far as I know he was
16 an agnostic. I know at one stage Jean Hill would never have a drink in the house, that's one
17 thing I remember about her - she was also a woman of great principle and dedication and also
18 with what I would call a sort of missionary approach to life. Absolutely no dress sense at all,
19 you know - would come out wearing something which obviously - with no regard to fashion.
20 She'd come out with a dress which was twenty years out of date without even giving it a
21 thought I think, but worked indefatigably, she's never had a paid job but worked for good
22 causes. You know, all her - you know, hard, for all her life. When I first knew her, she was
23 still kept going in Durban what were called - what were they called? The Joint - Joint
24 Council, you know, which was really almost a forerunner of the Institute of Race Relations -
25 but there was still a Joint Council group going in Durban when I first knew her. But also a
26 woman of - ja, integrity, courage, and if you can take the missionary approach to life, or the
27 sort of rather puritanical approach to life, she was a - that's about all I can say about Jean.
- 28 M: Was she banned eventually?
- 29 P: Yes, I think both of them got hanned eventually both of them got banned, ja. But I mean it's

- 1 interesting that she's never actually had a - had a paid job to my knowledge, in the time that
2 I've known her, but has worked indefatigably. I mean even now, she and her husband are
3 incredibly generous in the support of charity.
- 4 M: Are they still living in Durban?
- 5 P: They still live in Durban, ja.
- 6 M: Were they South African born?
- 7 P: As far as I know, yes, both of them were.
- 8 M: David Craighead ..
- 9 P: I only knew David from sort of things like National Conferences and National Committee
10 meetings. You know I can remember him quite well, but I didn't know him sort of really,
11 very well.
- 12 M: He was Deputy Chairperson, and based whereabouts?
- 13 P: Yes, he lived in Johannesburg, lived in Johannesburg. The other person I think you asked
14 about was Anne Tobias, who was banned. On one occasion I went down to Cape Town with
15 Selby Msimang and Mike Ndlovu and we went to a - I think it was a National Committee
16 meeting, but Anne Tobias had been banned and basically what was happening was that she
17 was running the Liberal Party Office behind the scenes and this caused all sorts of
18 nervousness and problems, and also, in those days, 'Liberal Opinion', which was published
19 in 'NC Contact' - it was a paper published in Cape Town. I can remember going down and
20 Mrs Ballinger really sorting out all the - we had a public meeting - a committee meeting - we
21 sorted out all the problems but I actually realised in retrospect that I didn't really know all
22 the subterranean things going on in the party about Anne Tobias's position in it, but I really
23 went down there to sort out the problems but I can't really remember it in detail. And - ja,
24 it was a National Committee meeting as well and the - people I can remember from there was
25 a chap called Barney Sachon?, who also got banned, ...
- 26 M: He was Chairman of the Cape..?
- 27 P: Ja, and then Peter Hule, who got banned, who was banned, and of course, Mrs Ballinger..
- 28 M: Are you saying Mrs Ballinger was b...?
- 29 P: No, no, not Mrs Ballinger being banned, but I mean I can remember her - remember her you

- 1 know quite well..
- 2 M: So, towards the end of '65, a large proportion of the Liberal Party members were in fact
3 banned.
- 4 P: Yes, well this became more and more difficult as the organisers got banned - you know - by
5 the time we'd finished, like Max Thomas, in Umtata got banned, I think Selby had been
6 banned.
- 7 M: And your Northern Natal organisers - are they banned?
- 8 P: Ja, Mike Ndlovu got banned, there was an old chap, Nguni, up at Steppemoore...
- 9 M: Enoch Nguni?
- 10 P: Enoch Nguni, he was banned.
- 11 M: So, presumably it was very difficult then to work..
- 12 P: It was actually, ja, and that's really - towards the end of the year I was under a sort of family
13 pressure, my mother was widowed and I virtually was put in the position by one of my
14 relations who said I should really make better provision for her - because my mother lived
15 with her and also I didn't really want to get banned, because I thought firstly that I didn't
16 have the financial resources to survive a banniug and also I didn't know whether I would
17 cope with it - so - you know - is one of the reasons why I resigned - was partly for family
18 reasons as well and ...
- 19 M: Were you engaged by then?
- 20 P: No, I wasn't, no I wasn't. That's really when I had a career change. I tried to get a job in
21 Jo'burg after that and then. Miss Judd, who was the Chief Librarian in the Natal Society
22 Library offered me a job because I was - she wanted someone to handle the finances of the
23 Library. So I went there - as I said, as an Administrative Assistant. I was the first White
24 male to work there for many years, it was like really going to work in a girls' boarding
25 school.
- 26 M: And you'll be resigning in October this year?
- 27 P: At the end of August this year, ja, ja.
- 28 M: Do you want to return?
- 29 P: Well, it doesn't matter, ja.

1 M: Did you suffer any particular attentions at the hands of the SB?

2 P: Only sort of irritating things, the - I can remember Monica, I don't know whether I covered
3 the period when I - Monica - when I flew down to Cape Town, to sort out problems in the
4 National Office there - sorry in the Cape Town Office. When I arrived in the airport I was
5 called to the information desk for a - to the 'phone - and I went to answer the 'phone and
6 there was nobody there - well, one can only assume that this was the sort of Special Branch
7 making you feel uneasy sort of thing. They liked doing. On one occasion when I lived in
8 Durban I got a phone call from a chap who arranged to meet me somewhere and then in the
9 course of the conversation he concocted some idea - you know asked me lots of questions
10 and then asked me did I know Nelson and things like that. He had obviously - all one of
11 those things to make you feel slightly uneasy. The Special Branch that knew you in
12 'Maritzburg, the Special Branch chap from 'Maritzburg, at that time was a bloke called van
13 Rensburg, so you kept on bumping into him in the street, apart from meeting him in - apart
14 from meeting him in - seeing him at meetings and people like Mamie Corrigan, of course
15 were marvellous with dealing with people like van Rensburg. I can remember some tourists
16 were killed at the Vic - shot at the Victoria Falls or something and Sir van Rensburg started
17 discussing it with Mamie Corrigan and Mamie Corrigan said 'Mr van Rensburg I've never
18 had a conversation with you and I'm certainly not going to start having one with you now.
19 that's the sort of way - the way she would treat people. But it was really being followed
20 around that you were very conscious of - you know, you'd go to meetings and there were
21 always Special Branch there and one chap - actually - I still greet him in the street. The other
22 day I stopped and asked him if he was still in the Police and he said he was. He was quite
23 a nice bloke - you know Dotty Ernam, I remember saying that - he seemed quite a nice chap
24 and he always greets me - he always greets me very courteously in the street. On one
25 occasion when I had a meeting at Ukukanya - that's's way past Stepmoore, and he asked me
26 if he could drive in front because he was looking for snakes on the road, but people like
27 Heather Morkel just used to be terribly rude to them whereas I actually just used to - my
28 approach was just actually to ignore them, rather than to go out of my way to be rude to
29 them.

- 1 M: Did you find their presence quite menacing though? Or just irritating?
- 2 P: Well, it was irritating - it wasn't pleasant really, but ja, it was - after a while you got - they
3 were so familiar to you that you sort of - sort of got used to them. I can remember one
4 member of the Party at a meeting where we were squashed together on a bench at the back -
5 but - sort of Black members of the Special Branch and the White members of the Special
6 Branch you know all squashed together once and he - you know - he sort of gave them a
7 good example of how non-racial the country could become....at any rate....
- 8 M: After you resigned from the Liberal Party in December '65, what became your political
9 home?
- 10 P: I've never joined a political party since then. I would say I'm a sort of ANC sort of fellow-
11 traveller, sympathiser, hut I haven't actually joined a party, but before the ANC was
12 unbanned I've never actually considered joining the Progs or the DP, it's - I just felt I
13 wouldn't feel at home there...
- 14 M: Did you go vote?
- 15 P: Yes, I did, I did vote - actually, despite everything I always did go and vote. There was this
16 argument that you - you know - people like Mamie Corrigan felt you know you were just -
17 getting yourself into the system - but what - but oh - into the system. I mean it was such a
18 bad system, you shouldn't vote, whereas I, I just sort of felt I was going to vote against the
19 Nats so - that's ready - so I did always go - I have always gone to vote.
- 20 M: Do you have some more reminiscences of Mamie Corrigan?
- 21 P: Ja, Mamie Corrigan was a very strong personality and she had very firm, clear ideas of what
22 she stood for - even if one didn't necessarily understand her oneself. What amused me about
23 her was - a thing which amused me once was an incident which took place. I was - we were
24 driving somewhere and Jennifer, my wife, was in the car as well, and in the course of
25 discussing something, Jennifer said 'well of course, men are much better cooks than women.'
26 And Mamie was most put out because she felt this was sort of a non-feminist thing to say.
27 But what I found funny about her was that Mamie couldn't even boil an egg, well in fact she
28 could barely boil an egg, she could make tea and toast and she always had a cook, and you
29 always had very well prepared meals. How on earth - how she trained them I don't know,

- 1 but she did.
- 2 M: Do you think they knew how to cook and they were committed communists?'
- 3 P: Oh, I'm sure they must have - you see her father - her husband came from a Ladysmith
4 family - they were - I think they had a shop - a sort of a successful business in Ladysmith
5 which included undertakers, I think and so Mamie - I think as she got older, with inflation,
6 she got poorer - but she - you know - I think she had to be careful as she got older, but she
7 never really had wanted, you know- financially. But as I say.... was - the other thing is that,
8 oh she definitely became a - she was a feminist - because I know she started addressing all
9 women as 'Ms' ja - you know - when she sent out notices, she put 'ms' because I know that
10 my wife, whose - objected to it. So then she got all her figures checked and addressed to
11 'Dr', she wasn't going to put 'Mrs' on it. It was the very first - the 'Ms' started, you know;
12 I can remember Jennifer being irritated at being called Ms, I don't think she'd mind now, but
13 at that time..
- 14 M: Was that in your Liberal Party days, or the ..
- 15 P: This would have been a bit later, but I'm used to - I kept up with Mamie right until the time
16 she died and I think earlier on I told you I went through quite a long patch when I had to - I
17 had a drink with her once a week, if I couldn't go, I virtually had to get a medical certificate
18 to say I wasn't able to go because I was expected, you know. And she was a great ritualist.
19 She liked, she liked, you see she was marvellous in the sense that she read the paper in the
20 morning, let's say, saw that you'd done something, she would immediately write a letter of
21 congratulation to you and she'd take up a issues straight away, you know.
- 22 M: Now you said you only knew her - that she believed socialism took peoples' initiative away,
23 and yet she had been a communist earlier in her life so presumably she'd made quite a strong
24 political shift?
- 25 P: Yes, I - she must have, but I must say I never really discussed, I mean - she referred in
26 passing to the fact that she had been a communist but never really discussed why she'd left,
27 why she'd left the Communist Party and it's a bit stupid of me - it would have been a very
28 interesting to have asked her but I know that when her son became a communist - and I don't
29 know whether he became a Marxist or a Trotskyite, but whatever. She said 'His father would

1 have been very proud of him.' So there was that about her.

2 M: Well, socialism links up with her objection to advice offices within the Black Sash - so
3 there's some ?

4 P: Yes, no, anyway, so this thing of these ritual evenings I used to have with her - she liked
5 them always to take the same pattern and I can remember she always liked to sit in the same
6 chair - that type of thing. And I don't know if I told you earlier...

7 M: She was quite elderly by then though?

8 P: Oh yes, that's right. She was not all that old - she was just like in her early seventies, she
9 was a dedicated smoker - probably what finished her off, I don't know what she would have
10 thought of the sort of - the present smoking regime - you know this present attitude towards
11 smoking, because it hadn't really got entrenched by then. But I can remember when she was
12 ill and obviously affected by smoking, the doctor sort of said to her you know 'this is caused
13 by your smoking..' and so she said to the doctor 'and where was the medical profession.?'
14 Well, you know, at the time when she started smoking I

15 M: Do you have any memories of Gatsha Buthelezi in those early days?

16 P: I do, but you know, I mean I've met him on a number of occasions and I suppose I could sort
17 of say that I know him, well, in a very limited way, my first sort of awareness of Gatsha
18 would have been in the late fifties, early sixties, at that stage there was - I think it was at that
19 stage there was a dispute over his chieftainship of the Buthelezi tribe and there was the
20 suggestion that the opposition candidate was a government-backed one, anyway he was
21 eventually instated as the chief of the Buthelezi tribe. I can remember him being around at
22 that time - I think earlier I discussed with you - there's a - I can remember Chief Buthelezi
23 being around at the time of - I'm really repeating myself here - the laet fifties, early sixties
24 and I can remember particularly at the time when I was involved in the production of
25 uMkumbaan, which was the play I mentioned in the earlier part of my interview which was
26 the play written by Alan Paton and that was put on at the time of the Emergency. I can
27 remember Bill Bhengu, who was a member of the Liberal Party in Durban drinking a toast
28 and saying 'to our, to our Chief.' And you know at that stage he was regarded as the White
29 Hope. The other thing I can remember about him - it's always struck me that Buthelezi has

1 always had an adviser, you know, in those days there was a chap who run a trading store in
2 Zululand, called Mr Henderson and old Buthelezi used to always go to Mr Henderson for
3 advice. That's my impression - this is where I can remember Mary Draper from Race
4 Relations saying...Otherwise, you know, I've met Buthelezi over the years because Alan
5 Paton used to have a birthday party every January and Buthelezi used to always be invited
6 to that and he used to always have a ritualised joke about- when we went into dinner - about
7 Chief Buthelezi first then ladies and gentlemen, or something like that - I can't quite recall
8 how ... and then at one stage - he and Buthelezi fell out, because Paton wrote something or
9 was quoted in the press as saying something which Buthelezi took offence to - but they sort
10 of made it up again. He's one of those people who's got a royal memory in the sense that -
11 my impression is that if he's ever met you - he remembers you and you know I only met him
12 periodically, but whenever I've re-met him, he always remembered my name and I can
13 remember - I don't know how this happened, but I can remember driving him to - he was
14 Neil Alcock's best man when Neil Alcock got married for the second time. I can remember
15 driving him to the church. I don't quite know how I landed up doing that... and I can
16 remember also - I think I drove him to the church - and we'd be driving - ja, and I can
17 remember driving him away from - I can remember him at one of Selby Msimang's
18 daughters got married and things like that. But in the early days - earlier on - when I
19 mentioned about the spurious documents which were dished out by the Special branch - they
20 were also - they were ones which were - would be denigrating - which would be denigrating
21 to Buthelezi and to the Liberal Party - they were having a crack at both the Liberal Party and
22 Buthelezi. I can't remember the content of the things but there were a number of occasions -
23 we had these spurious documents which were obviously churned out by the Special Branch.
24 Roneo machine.

25 M: And how did Buthelezi strike you as a personality?

26 P: Well, the only - you know up until the time when he emerged as the rather sort of cranky
27 figure he is now, the one occasion when I - when he got cross with me, and this was a long
28 time after the Liberal Party days - this is in 1973, we'd been to stay at Alan's at the Federal
29 Seminary - we actually went to stay with Ruth Lundie in the Federal Seminary had just been

1 expropriated, and we would have gone down in December, so in January, I went to Alan
2 Paton's birthday party and Buthelezi was there and he was on the Council of the Federal
3 Seminary. And it was something which had concerned our whole holiday had centred around
4 all the talk that went on - because we actually arrived there the day that the place had been
5 expropriated and the - I went to Buthelezi and I said - you know I said 'This is a terrible thing
6 about the Seminary - can't you do something about it?' And he took this as actually criticism
7 that he wasn't doing anything about it and he got cross, and walked off, making a motion
8 with his hand, like a fish under the water and he said 'I work like this.' But he actually got
9 cross and I was quite taken aback because I had never really thought - I wasn't thinking in
10 terms of criticism. Because - he took it that I - he must have taken it that I felt he was doing
11 nothing - I don't know. The other occasion when I was quite taken aback was by Buthelezi -
12 or when I first saw Buthelezi operating in his present colours, as it were, was we were
13 invited, well, I was invited to the unveiling of Selby Msimang's tombstone at the
14 Georgetown Cemetery and I took two of my children with me because I thought it would be
15 an education for them and it was at the time of the UDF, Inkatha rivalry, and when we got
16 there there was this sort of Impi, whatever you'd like to call it, who came chanting down the
17 road to the seminary, and then sang, chanted backwards and forwards, and then at this
18 ceremony there were people - there were sort of White Liberals like Peter Brown and Lesley
19 Weinburg and the - we were ushered into - ushered into seats and I mean he then greeted -
20 you know welcomed us by name - you know I'm just giving you an example of that sort of
21 thing and then the whole unveiling ceremony centred around Buthelezi saying how the ANC
22 had taken the wrong path and that the true path had been set by his uncle - whose it - Sebie? -
23 I think it's Sebie, and you know that was - the right path; that's my interpretation of what he
24 said and it was also one of these things where an aide went round handing out this long
25 speech so - you know that sort of thing. But you know, going to back to Mr Henderson, it
26 always seemed that Buthelezi has had some weird adviser - like I mean Walter Felgate, for
27 instance was a member of the Liberal Party. I can remember him in Durban..

28 M: Really?

29 P: Ja, as being a rather an odd bod -I sometimes wonder whether he wasn't a plant, but I don't

1 know. But I mean I can remember Walter Velgate and now he's got -this Ambrossini - he's
2 always had somebody odd like that lurking in the background.

3 M: That's interesting.

4 P: The other thing - you know - this is jumping back to Liberal Party days is that one of the sort
5 of characters in the Liberal Party at the time was a chap called Raj Naidoo, who had - one
6 of the things he organised, unbeknown to me - I discovered afterwards is that - it was
7 probably in 1965, the Royal Show decided to have segregated days for Indians and anyway
8 the Indians, Raj was one of the people who organised for the Indian community to boycott
9 the Royal Show and that was the last time they tried it and what Rajan did was he roneoed
10 the - I know that he roneoed the sort of leaflets telling people to boycott it on the Liberal
11 Party Roneo machine.

12 M: And it was a success?

13 P: ...a success because they never tried it again - I mean because I mean they relied on the Indian
14 community for the gate - ja it to have segregated - separate days for Indians - ja it just shows
15 you how - I mean this is really what - you know when you think about the fallen again non0-
16 racist around, when you tink of places like the Royal Show trying that on it just shows you -
17 of course it shows you how intimidated people were by the Nats I think - I think they were
18 prepared to do anything to keep on their right side.

19 M: Just to conclude Pat, how would you describe your role at the Natal Society Library?

20 P: When I first went to the Natal Society Library it ran a segregated library service, it's quite
21 interesting looking back to realise that the libraries could have actually legally opened to all
22 races, but I think that people were so petrified of the government and they thought that
23 whatever they did would be breaking the law of course, non-racial. But the Natal Society had
24 no provision for Blacks at all up until 1958, and prior to that what had happened is that Sue
25 Judd, who'd come out from England was horrified to discover that the Natal Society was a
26 Whites only library because she had come to South Africa, having previously worked for the
27 British Council and she'd worked in Jamaica and in Nigeria and so one of the things she
28 started agitating for was to provide a library services for Blacks - or for non-Whites - it's
29 very difficult to know what terms you should use and the thing which - how can I put it - she

1 started fund-raising towards it and people who helped her of course were people like Jane
2 Lundie, Ruth Lundie and all sorts of people - they ran - they'd sell - you know they had
3 jumble sales and sold secondhand books and one thing and another and then Lambert
4 Wilson, who I mentioned earlier on, who had run an international club from - at 268
5 Longmarket Street, one day approached Ms Judd and said 'I'll give you the building for a
6 library for non-Whites - that was the term that was used in - at the time - when you may -
7 because he subsequently made a donation - he donated the building to the Natal Society and
8 he'd been running the - he tried to run this international club there and it had failed - well it
9 had been closed down really because of this government legislation. I don't think it had ever
10 really had a chance to take off anyway. And Ms Judd went to the Natal Society Council, I
11 recounting what she told me and they thought the chap was nuts. Anyway, he met her again
12 and repeated it so then they took him seriously so he then donated the building to the Natal
13 Society on condition that they provide a library service for non -Whites and they got all sorts
14 of legal opinions and they tried to get a permit to allow Blacks to use the library - but I think
15 they never got one - but Blacks were - I mean - Africans - because I mean the legal position
16 would have been different from Africans, but as far as I know a permit was never got and I
17 think they worked out that it was all right, but the Natal Society was harassed a bit from
18 when it opened it because the - periodically were complaints and the Group Areas inspectors
19 once called and they - you know - it wasn't entirely plain sailing. But anyway that's really
20 the story of how the - that Library started and it was called the Market Square Branch; it's
21 now called the Lambert Wilson Library - after Lambert Wilson who gave the property and
22 Lambert Wilson had inherited the property and when he gave it to the Natal Society it had
23 a bond on it which they you know were eventually able to pay off and the City Council
24 agreed to subsidise the use - subsidise the library facility. They made the condition thought
25 that no money from the main library should be used on it - anyway later on what happened
26 is that in - when the present building that the library is in - but before the Natal Society
27 moved into it what had happened is that the City Council agreed to - in 1967 - to provide a
28 free library service for anybody who lived or worked in the borough and one of the
29 conditions was that the Natal Society would give the building they were in in Longmarket

1 Street - which is now the PADCA building to the City Council and in return the City Council
2 would build a library for the Natal Society to rent. It's a slightly unusual arrangement but it
3 sort to - in a sense for the Natal Society a sort of quango - and this is something up for debate
4 at the moment, you know the relationship between the current TLC. Anyway, before the
5 Natal Society moved into that - Mrs Evelyn Wright, who was on the Library Council said
6 'when we move into that building it must be open to all races...'

7

8 End of second side of second tape of interview with Pat McKenzie.