

TRC 3948



ORAL HISTORY SECTION

Chinese Australian Oral History Partnership Project

Recorded interview with :
STANLEY and DORATHY HOY
b.1926 and 1928

Interviewer: Diana Giese
Date of interview: 24 November 1999

Conditions of Access

Open for research use and public use

NOTE TO READER

Readers of this interview transcript should bear in mind that this is a verbatim transcript of the spoken word and reflects the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The National Library of Australia is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views therein.

Some editing of the transcript, including additional material in the form of footnotes and endnotes, may have occurred at the request of the person interviewed.

Please note that the printed word can never convey all the meaning of speech, and may lead to misinterpretation. It is strongly recommended that readers listen to the sound recording whilst reading the transcript, at least in part, or for critical sections.

**Stanley and Dorathy Hoy
Interviewed by Diana Giese**

Diana Giese: The Yau/Hoy's family journey into their history has taken them from grave sites in Hong Kong to Sydney's Ultimo, from Darwin's vanished Chinatown to Canada and the United States. Of Hakka ancestry, they have lived in Australia for six generations, since 1878. Family members are now found in the Sydney/Wollongong area and Queensland, as well as Hong Kong, Canada and the US.

Mr Hoy's grandfather, Hew Cheng Gun, arrived in Darwin, then called Palmerston, in 1878. He was known in the town as Ah Hoy, and ran a baker's shop. In 1884, he received his naturalisation papers, and so was able to buy two more properties, one used as a pharmacy. He, and his wife Leung Wai Ching, had eight children. Mr Hoy is the son of his third son, William Hoy, or Poy Fook, who married Ida Young from the Loong Do clan.

Mr Hoy started work as a fitter and turner, then worked as a salesman in the city markets. He gardened to earn money to attend theological college, and was appointed to the Waverley Methodist Mission under the Reverend Alan Walker. There he met and married Dorathy James, in 1954. Mr Hoy was the first Chinese this century trained as a Methodist minister in New South Wales, to work with a non-Chinese congregation.

The family moved to postings around the state, as their children were born, and Mrs Hoy worked as a teacher. In 1967, they settled in Birchgrove in Sydney. Mr Hoy began to study part-time for a university degree, and was elected as an alderman on Leichhardt Council. Mrs Hoy worked as a teacher librarian, rising to Regional Consultant. Mr Hoy moved on to work in administration at the University of New South Wales, graduated with Honours, and became Assistant to the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. Later he taught business courses with the Department of Technical Education, now TAFE, rising to the position of Senior Head Teacher.

One of the projects that has occupied the Hoy's busy retirement has been researching and creating an impressive family and community history CD-ROM. They have collaborated on this with their children Carolyn and Malcolm Whan and Gregory Hoy. The CD-ROM was premiered at the Museum of Sydney in June 1998, in one of the most well attended presentations ever of the *Reclaiming the Past* series. It has since been successfully shown at venues including the Asian Identities conference at the Australian National University.

Now, Stan and Dot, on behalf of the Director General at the National Library, I would like to thank you for agreeing to participate in this programme. Do you understand that copyright is shared by you and the Library?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes.

Diana Giese: That being so, may we have your permission to make a transcript of this recording?

Dorothy Hoy: No problem.

Diana Giese: Okay. We hope you will speak as frankly as possible, knowing that neither the tapes nor any transcripts produced from them will be released without your authority. This interview is taking place on 24 November 1999 in Sydney and it is made possible by donations to the Chinese Australian Oral History Partnership. Now, a lot of families are interested in their ancestors and their own personal histories, aren't they? But very few actually get to the point where they engage with the very large task of doing all the research and getting it together for public presentation. How do you think you moved to the crucial point where you decided that you were going to start doing this in a serious way?

Dorothy Hoy: I think retirement gave us the time - and you do need time. Well, it was on retirement that we sort of gathered together the first hand-written draft of a family tree and we then visited China to try and gather further facts.

Diana Giese: Where did you go in China?

Dorathy Hoy: Well, we actually did most of China. We started at the north, came down inland right to the south and back for a full month but when we came home, Stan's mother had passed away and - during that period, and then shortly afterwards he had a major stroke, so things were slowed up for a period.

Diana Giese: What trail were you following in China?

Dorathy Hoy: First of all it was just to get an over-all framework of China - a background. But when we came through Hong Kong on the final leg home, there we met up with Auntie Cissie who was one of Stan's aunts. She would have been, what, in her eighties in those stages and we gathered all the Hong Kong family, or those that we could collect, together and had a dinner. But it was quite amazing because at that dinner, Auntie Cissie revealed facts of the family history that even the Hong Kong members knew nothing about.

Diana Giese: So what had you known when this quest started? Stan, I want to hear from you. What facts had you known about the family up until [then]?

Stanley Hoy: We only knew that we had relatives in Hong Kong and a few relatives in Sydney and ...

Diana Giese: Were you in touch with them?

Stanley Hoy: I had never written, I don't think, to anyone in Hong Kong. I think Mum wrote to them and when we got to Hong Kong on our trip in China in 1987, that was when we met them for the first time and that's when we found the differences in terms of surnames and things like that.

Diana Giese: So what were those differences?

Stanley Hoy: Well, mainly the differences were in the surnames. When I was growing up, I was told my surname was 'Hew' and my auntie, who lived in Sydney, suggested 'Don't say "Hew", say "Yau"', which was the Cantonese pronunciation of the Chinese word - of the Hakka word. And when we got to Hong Kong, we found that they were all called Yau, but the funny thing was that we were not called Yau in Australia. We were known as Hoy - and that was the cause of some concern. How our name became Hoy and their name was Yau, even though the Chinese name was Yau.

Diana Giese: So it was to do with language and transcription, was it?

Stanley Hoy: Well, partly, yes.

Diana Giese: And does this give you some clues as to why the family had not been in closer touch, do you think?

Dorothy Hoy: I think that was mainly because Stan and I were living in country areas and we didn't have as much close contact with the Sydney family. And the Sydney family did go overseas a number of times and Stan's mother was a prolific letter writer and did keep contact with her side of the family as well as her husband's side of the family. So it was just that we two were lacking. We were the branch that hadn't kept the contact.

Stanley Hoy: I think that in - before 1980s, most of the children on our side of the family weren't well enough off to be able to go to China and it was only one section of the family that ever made trips overseas to China, apart from Mum and the older ones going over. But the younger ones never went over.

Diana Giese: What about - as well as brief facts about the family history - what about stories? Were there stories in the family that were told when you were a kid?

Stanley Hoy: There were only little glimmerings, little pinpoints. Most of the stuff started to come together when we thought, 'Well, we'll make a family tree to see how everyone was related'. And then we discovered things about old parts of the family that we never knew and that's when we made the first hand-written chart and after that this caused us then to decide on having a family reunion. And from the family reunion and buying a computer, then we started to gather pace.

Diana Giese: Tell me about the family reunion.

Stanley Hoy: Where was it held, Dot?

Dorothy Hoy: Cabarita Park.

Stanley Hoy: Yes, we held it at Cabarita Park and there were mainly only Sydney, Wollongong and a couple of people who were from Queensland, who were living in Sydney at that time, but no-one - we didn't get the people to come down from Queensland towards it all. I don't know how many were there. There were probably about oh, I don't know how many ...

Dorothy Hoy: Seventy.

Stanley Hoy: Seventy.

Dorothy Hoy: Yes.

Diana Giese: So it was just an afternoon function, was it? Or a weekend?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes, you know, a picnic in the park business, yes, barbecue and so on.

Diana Giese: And did that give you an extra impetus to start the work?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes - well, we'd worked with young Susan Quay on that ...

Diana Giese: What relation is she to you?

Dorathy Hoy: She is the daughter of Stan's cousin. They were Quay and Susan and Val had kept fairly close contact with the Hong Kong lot, so they were more au fait. And Val has a little bit of Cantonese speaking and so it just went from there, you know.

Diana Giese: Okay, well let's talk about going to the various places that you started to go to, like Darwin and Hong Kong, looking for the documents of the family history. In 1996 with your younger daughter, Sandra Vella, you actually went to Hong Kong at Qing Ming, didn't you, to visit the grave of your grandfather. Stan, tell us about that.

Stanley Hoy: Well, I had never thought much about going to cemeteries and things and so Dot decided we'd go over to the Qing Ming, which is where you went to the grave site. So we went to see his grave and we had always been told - we had seen pictures of his gravestone - we'd always been told that he died in 1928. And when we went over there, we stayed with - we met some of the relatives and we went with one person, who had a car, with two others, my cousin and I think a son of a cousin, and we went to the grave and the other people who had never been there except some of the cousins who really had to find the place in the bush, as it were. And when we found it, we, as was traditional regarding the Qing Ming festival, we cleaned up the grave and did the traditional things about it.

Diana Giese: So nobody else from the family over there -

Stanley Hoy: No.

Diana Giese: - had been doing this all these years?

Stanley Hoy: Only one person. Only one person knew.

Diana Giese: How did you know where it was? One person who had been trying to – yes?

Dorothy Hoy: They were Cantonese-speaking and writing and they translated the headstone to say that he died at Chin Garn, and they assumed that because the date on the grave was 1928, they thought he died in 1928, and that governed everything they interpreted. And the other thing we've found since is that they probably couldn't read the old Chinese. They had been brought up, I think, on the newer script and so that may be one of the reasons why they translated it the way they did.

Diana Giese: So what really happened that you found out subsequently?

Stanley Hoy: Well, having found that, we came home and then we, later on, we decided to go to Darwin, not so much to find out if he died there but to find out where the baker shop was. Because we had spoken to a number of Chinese who came from Darwin and they all said - or a lot of them said – 'They owned a baker shop'. And we said 'Was that our grandfather's baker shop?' and they said 'Oh, no, no'. So we had to go to Darwin to find out where the baker shop was and who owned it. And that's when we discovered that he was born - he died in Darwin, not in Hong Kong.

Diana Giese: You've also now discovered where the baker shop was.

Stanley Hoy: We found the street. We don't know the exact location.

Diana Giese: So why were these difficulties there in the first place?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, we think it was because although he was connected with the Chinese community, his baker shop was not in the Chinese area. I think the Chinese in Darwin mainly lived in, and worked in Cavenagh Street - and he was in Mitchell Street which was, what? a block away. But it might have been a fair way away from the Chinese community and ...

Diana Giese: Definitely known as the 'white part of town', I'd say.

Stanley Hoy: Probably his customers were the white people plus Aborigines, we found, later on.

Diana Giese: It was quite near Government House - where Government House is now, wasn't it?

Stanley Hoy: Well, we don't know exactly where. It probably was but we don't know where, exactly. We still ...

Diana Giese: So these are stories that you got verbally, where you found where this was?

Dorothy Hoy: Well some of it we got out of the newspaper. Old copies of [the] newspaper showed it was in Mitchell Street, and it told how he sold it to - or not so much he but his wife when he died - sold it to a fellow named 'Edwards' and it appeared in the papers as such.

Diana Giese: You found those papers when you went on that trip to Darwin, didn't you? by then? You've acted as a teacher librarian, worked as a teacher librarian, so you know how to do this sort of research -

Dorothy Hoy: Yes.

Diana Giese: - and by the time you went to Darwin, you had links with a number of different organisations there, didn't you? Tell us about that.

Dorothy Hoy: Yes. Well we wrote ahead to the library and the archives and so on, and I think it was the newspapers that really gave us the breakthrough. We received tremendous help from Michael Loos in the Darwin Library [NT Library] and he was

very encouraging in the way that he sort of led us to different areas where we found the jewels (laughs). The library resounded several times with shouts of joy.

Diana Giese: What were some of those `jewels'? Just tell me some of the discoveries that really gave you a sense that this story was coming out?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, it was finding the baker shop which had been one of the focuses of our attention, and then finding all the snippets of grandfather's forays into the Court over different matters. And we were able to piece together some of their life.

Diana Giese: Tell us about the forays into the Court.

Dorothy Hoy: Oh well – well, the most dramatic one was when he had a go at V.V. Brown, that they were both trying to get the same tin mine. He didn't succeed in that case but there were a lot of little things, you know. You saw who were his friends. We found also the name mentioned in Pine Creek in the sports venues and different activities there, and we've yet to follow that one through. We're quite fascinated with the Number One son and my next step forward is to start searching the records, if possible, of the old cattle stations where he went.

Diana Giese: When you were in Darwin, you also made contact with the local Chinese community there that has been very interested in rediscovering its own family histories. Were they helpful?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes, I thought the Chung Wah Society were wonderful - that they had a special night, invited us to their headquarters, showed us their display. And later we went to the Sweet and Sour one [exhibition at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory] as well.

Diana Giese: So these are two displays from within that community that had -

Dorothy Hoy: Yes.
E: AUS 20/1/03

Diana Giese: - been got together by that Darwin Chinese community, about their ancestry in these families that have been there for four or five generations.

Stanley Hoy: But one of the amazing things about their museum: it gave family histories, but our family didn't occur there at all.

Diana Giese: Because you were out of Chinatown, possibly?

Stanley Hoy: We don't know. No-one knew about our family at all, and there was only one member of the family who stayed there. All the others moved out and he wasn't actually in Darwin. He was probably out in the cattle station and he came down to Melbourne during the War, or just before the War, and so we had no contact with them for, what, fifty years?

Diana Giese: Mrs Yau/Hoy, in fact, sold the bakery and moved back to China round about 1913, didn't she, you discovered?

Stanley Hoy: Well, we're not sure. She moved back to Hong Kong just after -

Diana Giese: And she's now buried in Aberdeen Cemetery over there, isn't she?

Stanley Hoy: Yes, and she died in 1932, I think.

Diana Giese: And what happened to the bakery shop after that?

Stanley Hoy: Well, it was sold - Mrs Hoy sold it to N. Edwards, who had that baker shop. But we don't know what happened after that.

Diana Giese: You didn't follow that through in the newspapers?

Stanley Hoy: No, we didn't, because there was no indication, anything anywhere, about where it actually was. It was probably pulled down at some stage, you know.

Diana Giese: It seems Mrs Yau/Hoy actually ran it between 1905 when Ah Hoy died until round about 1913. Is that right?

Stanley Hoy: I think she probably ran it, possibly from 1905 to 1927, I suppose.

Diana Giese: Okay, so she didn't go back until then, you've found.

Stanley Hoy: Well, that's when his body was transported to Hong Kong, so I suppose she went -

Diana Giese: So the bones were dug up and taken back in the traditional way?

Stanley Hoy: Unless she did it from Hong Kong, but I would imagine that she should have done it from Darwin because the girls were - the third eldest girl was married in Australia and she went to live at Townsville, wasn't it?

Dorothy Hoy: Rockhampton.

Stanley Hoy: Rockhampton.

Diana Giese: So in fact the family scattered after that, didn't it?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes.

Diana Giese: Tell us about your own father. What happened to him? Of the eight children, what did he do? When did he leave Darwin?

Stanley Hoy: Well, we don't know when he came down from Darwin. The first indication we had about him was that he'd worked in Carrington Road. Bo Liu, who you know from other -

Diana Giese: Who has also been interviewed for the library [see TRC 3153].

Stanley Hoy: - research you've done, said that he used to talk about the shop in Carrington Road as 'Billy Hoy's shop' - but I don't think he owned it. I think he was probably working for one of his sisters or something. And then the next thing we knew, he'd bought a shop in Forest Road, Hurstville and we presumed that he went broke in the Depression and we moved to Ultimo which was then a very run-down 'razor-gang' sort of area.

And I later found out, probably twenty years after he went there, that we were paying 12 and six a week, so it may have been cheaper than 12 and six when he moved in there. And when he got to Ultimo, he used to work on the roads for a while, labouring, and then he got contact with the people in city markets and he used to go down and he used to buy things or get things, bananas from other agents there. And he would sell them and they would then give him some money for selling them, and then they would tell the growers, after taking their cut, how much they got for it.

And so, in a sense they were, in effect, defrauding the growers, in a sense. But ... they were also helping to sell the goods, because it was only when they had too much stuff they couldn't move. And so they might have got less money, you know, with a glut of bananas and so they were probably better off in that sense. But forestalling was illegal for a while. And then when he, later on, moved to another part of the markets, he became an agent. Although he didn't have growers, they changed the rules so that an agent didn't have to have growers, and so he still bought from the other agents. But it was quite legal by then.

Diana Giese: What sort of things was he buying?

Stanley Hoy: Well, he'd only buy - he only sold bananas. For a short time, when I was working for him while I was studying, he was buying apples and pears and all sorts of things, and we might have made twenty cents or forty cents a case. But that was to help pay for us, I suppose.

Diana Giese: And you joined him in the markets later on, didn't you?

Stanley Hoy: Yes - well, he was selling mainly bananas, but he knew the prices of other things, and we were selling the apples and pears and so on by buying them off other agents and selling them. So it was the same process.

Diana Giese: What other people can you remember at the markets in those times?

Stanley Hoy: Well, next door was Lionel Lock and across the passage-way was E. W. Parker. They were vegetable people, and the island which he had his stand was half - just on the edge of the fruit section, and so he was opposite the vegetable part and the other part that I remember Boa Liu and Henry - can't think of his other name now - had Sydney Banana Company. And he dealt a lot with them. And who else was there? Oh, there were other people. I can't remember their name now.

Diana Giese: Can you tell us about your house where you lived at that time?

Stanley Hoy: In Ultimo?

Diana Giese: Yes.

Stanley Hoy: Well, it wasn't a house. It was a shop, a disused shop and we followed that through Sands Directory and we discovered who owned it and so on and so on. And the shop that we lived in was two doors from my grandfather, who had a fish shop. The shop was, in effect, one large room which my father divided by putting a division across so it made two rooms. And one room was sort of a play room, junk room - the first room and the second room was the sort of dining room.

Then there - straight through there was a little lounge room with a little fireplace and then out there, follow that through, it was the kitchen and like - although it was a shop, it was built like a terrace and so there was a side door out and you went out in the back yard and there was a toilet and the bathroom and the laundry. And the laundry and copper were all in the open and right at the back of it was a junk room which the owners had and there was a little passage-way out into the back lane. And eventually we cleared out the junk room and we cemented it over and my sister had a dog - which became the dog's room.

Diana Giese: How many of you were living in that house?

Stanley Hoy: Ah, well, at the latest there were five children, two adults. There was an upstairs section which - the front room was the bedroom for my parents, and I don't remember ever going in there, but I suppose I did. And the next room at the top of the stairs was our room [in] which we had two three-quarter beds. And so the four boys used to sleep two in each bed and the back room was a sort of - again - a junk room. I don't know where my sister slept. I suppose she was fairly young, in the first place, so she probably stayed with my parents in the front room.

Diana Giese: Where did you shop for food?

Stanley Hoy: Sorry?

Diana Giese: Where did you shop for food?

Stanley Hoy: Oh well, just down the street there was a general purpose store -

Diana Giese: Chinese owned?

Stanley Hoy: - and in those days, things like butter came in what? about 15 inch cube, and when you wanted butter, in effect, the person used to get two wooden sticks and

take it out and put it into a jar or whatever it was that they gave you - so that things were sold to the retailers in sort of bulk form. Same as, I think, sugar - and that came in bulk form and they dispensed it out and the milk used to come by a milkman who would have a special little container which he poured into your jug or something. And we had - in those days they didn't have any refrigerators, so we used to have an ice chest, and when it used to be delivered by the ice man - I think, I'm not sure - whether we put a bag around it or paper to make it last longer.

Diana Giese: Who owned those shops?

Stanley Hoy: I'm not quite sure of that, but next door to us was a delicatessen and in our research with Sands Directory we found that they once had the place that we were in as their shop. And so it must have been a bigger room, bigger shop, that they moved into next door.

Diana Giese: What is on the site of this today?

Stanley Hoy: Well, the person - it became a newspaper agency, and then it was taken over by an electrical contractor who has bought not only that but the place next door and he's trying to sell them as three units, eventually, so upstairs next door he's made into a flat and so upstairs in our place was a flat, too, and downstairs is the electrical contractor and the funny thing is that I've become the secretary of the Apple MacIntosh Users Group and amongst them I found out that there was a chap in - we lived in 471, and there was a chap in 469 which was next door to where we lived and he runs a little computer place in the downstairs section. That's how we got the information about that.

Diana Giese: So the accommodation is very much as it was - it hasn't been high-rised or anything, as a lot of that area of town has?

Stanley Hoy: Oh well, it hasn't been high-rised - but they've altered it substantially. In the back, for instance, all the back part has been cut, changed. And where we used to have to get out of our yard, we had to climb up to the stairs to go into a passage-way.

The person who has come through has filled all that in so that they can drive their car straight in off the road, off the lane. Yes.

Diana Giese: So unlike the Darwin search for your grandfather's property, there is at least some physical infrastructure, in this case?

Stanley Hoy: Yes.

Diana Giese: Yes. Okay, well let's - so this is part of the video, part of the CD-ROM, isn't it? that you wanted to [pass on] to the later generations. Let's actually go back to the time in Darwin when you were looking at your grandfather's infrastructure and history and talk about some of the documentation that you were able to find as well as the newspapers. Dot?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, we did it in a very organised way, seeing as there were three of us. One would do the library, one would do the archives, one might do the births, deaths and marriage records, and then we'd sort of get together for lunch and then plan our strategies from there, and go off again. And even in the library we were, the three of us, working on different jobs.

Diana Giese: What kind of jobs?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, Carolyn might be going through all the pictures and checking those; I might be in the indexes; Stan might perhaps be looking at the newspapers. It was just - it wasn't a set thing - we would move on as we discovered something. We'd fan off into another direction and there is only one main machine for viewing the newspapers which were very difficult anyway, because they're so, such small print.

Diana Giese: It's on microfilm.

Dorothy Hoy: Yes, so - but the newspapers were absolutely fascinating because it gave a very detailed description of grandfather's death and of the elders daughter's

marriage and it is these snippets, or trivia knowledge, that makes the whole story come alive. You can feel the people, you know, and -

Diana Giese: So what were some of those details, then?

Dorothy Hoy: Oh well, Auntie Lily, the Number One daughter, was married to a Townsville - no, he actually had a store, but I think he came across from Townsville, Hakka, and we were able to trace his journey into Darwin. And we were able to find out where he stayed, where they were married and what they looked like and that - I'm still not sure of this because I'm slightly amazed - the men went off to the men's party afterwards and the women all retired to the family home for their celebrations.

Diana Giese: What about the wedding? Tell us about the wedding.

Dorothy Hoy: Well, I assumed that it was - did it say that she got married in Western clothes? I can't remember now but I assume that she probably got married in Chinese clothes because they -

Diana Giese: - didn't describe this -

Stanley Hoy: I think it said she was married in Chinese clothes -

Dorothy Hoy: Clothes, yes -

Stanley Hoy: - but it was a Western marriage.

Dorothy Hoy: Yes.

Stanley Hoy: It was held in the Methodist parsonage and it mentions the name of the person who conducted the wedding. And then we found out some other snippets when we looked at - where is it? Rockhampton you said they went to?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes, we were able to trace their journey back to Rockhampton, yes.

Stanley Hoy: We found that when they were in Rockhampton, when they got to Rockhampton, there was a telegram, or cable, sent to Darwin to say, 'was the wife - that was, my auntie - was she born in Darwin?' Because the White Australia Policy was - or not the White Australia Policy but the beginning of it - was held so that if she had come from China there might have been some difficulty. But because they got confirmation that she had boarded in Darwin, it was easier for her to get in then.

Diana Giese: Okay, so this [research] trip to Darwin was quite short, wasn't it? Was it a week?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes.

Stanley Hoy: About a week, yes.

Diana Giese: You went back. What did you have in your hands that you could actually then transfer to the history archive as it stood at this stage, when you got back?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, lots of photocopies -

Diana Giese: Photocopies of the newspapers. What else?

Dorothy Hoy: - of the newspapers and of archival material.

Diana Giese: What other kind of archival material?

Dorothy Hoy: I think that when you're venturing into these fields and you're not quite sure where you're going, you tend to photocopy anything that you feel might have some bearing. And I must mention here that it was the Historical, or Genealogical Society in Darwin that is, really, made the job so much easier. Because when we got there, Vern

O'Brien had already done a mini-search so that we had several pages of what you might call 'hits' on the records that sort of led us further on. And that was invaluable.

And, of course, we never throw any bits of paper away. We keep them - and it was only just in recent days that checking back through that initial list, I decided to follow one of the leads that was possibly a member of the family. And sure enough, it was Lily, who at birth, had been given a different name than later - and that was great. Every time you get any fact, it sort of opens another doorway.

Diana Giese: You had the same problem with the names again, didn't you? You found that Mrs Ah Hoy was, in fact, given six different names.

Dorothy Hoy: Yes, yes.

Stanley Hoy: One of the archival documents we got was from the Births, Deaths and Marriages but one of the problems was that we didn't know what their names were and so we got the three sons but we didn't get the daughters. I presume that they were registered but we don't know what name they were registered under and that's what Dot found, that Aunty Lily - her name was something else. Her daughter in Sydney had a Birth Certificate and her name was shown as Lily there, but it was in a special column. The column was called 'Name Given After Birth Registration'.

Diana Giese: So all this shows how valuable the verbal stories are, doesn't it, in fact? Because you can't piece together just using the documents, because the documents are incomplete.

Dorothy Hoy: No, well, when I married Stan in 1954 - you were talking earlier about family stories, the one that they - the family used to regale me with, with great joy, was there had been a title in the family but it only went for three generations and they used to make fun that it missed Stan, because it petered out with his father. And they used to joke about that quite a lot, so that -

Diana Giese: What was that title?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, we didn't discover until we met Aunty Cissie in Hong Kong in 1987 that she'd ever revealed to the whole family that her father - no? Grandfather? - anyhow, had been a Mandarin. But we still have many more tales to follow. We would hope that we could find the village in Mei Xian, which we believe we know in Northern China - not Northern China, North Guangdong and perhaps find out more there.

Diana Giese: Are you planning on doing that sometime soon?

Dorothy Hoy: We hope so, health permitting, yes.

Diana Giese: Okay, you came back to Sydney, you had all the documentation, then you got into computers, didn't you? Now how did that come about? You tell us, Stan.

Stanley Hoy: I think that the problem was that Dot wanted to get into computers and we bought a Sinclair. And around about that time we got into going to computer clubs, and we bought a Macintosh SI and I think - no, what happened, I think we went to a computer show and we won a copy of WordPerfect.

Diana Giese: How did you win that?

Stanley Hoy: Just, you know -

Dorothy Hoy: Just answering questions, you know.

Stanley Hoy: Answering questions and the WordPerfect, I think, worked on a Macintosh - and that's probably why we bought a Macintosh. And then later on we also, going to clubs again, we won a copy of Excel and it was about that time we started to write the family tree on a sheet of paper. And that's when I decided that I would use Excel to make a family tree of it. And it was crude, but it still worked. And then later

on we found out about - there were computer programs and so we heard about the PAF, and so we went out and bought that ...

Diana Giese: What's the PAF?

Stanley Hoy: Oh, Personal Ancestry File.

Diana Giese: So this is a whole lot of different family history software that you can get?

Stanley Hoy: Well, yeah, but that one - there's not as much in the Macintosh but at least in that one we got that and we transferred the information to that. And since then we found out about Reunion, which was a better program still. And then we transferred the information onto that and since then, we've updated to the current model of Reunion.

Diana Giese: So what kind of possibilities were these opening up? Apart from being able to do a basic family tree, what else could you do?

Dorothy Hoy: What Stan - I'll just backtrack here a little bit. What Stan didn't mention earlier was that though I'd been dabbling through library training in computers - more the old style and so on - it was really before the advent of PCs. Our children were already using Macintoshes and really they pushed that we become compatible with them, so we could sort of move things between the three of us. But what was the question a moment ago? (laughs)

Diana Giese: Well, I guess I'm looking at how you decided to upgrade to various kinds of family history software. How did you move from one to the other and what kinds of things, what kinds of possibilities were you trying to open up for yourselves, beyond just a basic family tree?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, a lot of it had to do with the children who were, by then, moving ahead of us because they're younger and more capable in technology. And Carolyn, our Number One child, who is an artist, of course, it opened up great visions for her to use in computers. But whereas the Excel program, which is a spreadsheet program, allowed you to tabulate everything, as you well know, lists are important but it is the stories behind - and, of course, having children - Greg is a video maker and Carolyn is an artist and Malcolm, her husband - with the capabilities of doing the technical side, they kept moving us forward.

We looked at a program where it was like a library card system and then we could see - Quicktime had come out by then, which allowed you to put movies and allowed you to put more artwork in and so on. And, really, I give credit to the children who had a greater vision as to where it could go and still, today, have further vision to take it even further so that the next copy will incorporate so many more multi-media features.

Diana Giese: So what do you want to put in that you haven't been able to, so far?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, apart from updating the information about the individual people, whereas the first one we'd done in colour for the Lane Cove Genealogical Group had been just one on a small Classic computer in a small loop which sort of basically ran through some of the key people, we then, the second one containing more artwork filled in further segments of the story. But the third one will allow the main story to go on, but allow the user to go off into tangents should they want to investigate different members of the family - their individual stories, which are too much to contain in a linear fashion.

Diana Giese: So what other kinds of tangents? Maps and things like this, as well?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes, there are maps and we hope now that we can incorporate some videos as well - because we've found some old videos.

Diana Giese: What are the videos of?
E: AUS 20/1/03

Dorothy Hoy: Well, they were originally 8 mm black and white. I think there are a few in colour but mainly of the children when they were small. So that then Stan's generation, his brothers and sisters, would be there in their younger days, too. And it's a valuable resource, really, to show as they were.

Diana Giese: How did those come to be taken, Stan?

Stanley Hoy: Hmm?

Diana Giese: Those videos? You had to get them treated, didn't you? So presumably they were earlier films?

Stanley Hoy: Well, this is a bit dicey from the point of the view of the family - because I took all the movies over to a friend of ours who said he would project the pictures onto a wall, and he'd use a movie camera to take the picture. And he kept it for probably a couple of years. Hadn't done anything. And then one day I was walking through a place in Broadway and I saw that they would take old movies and put them onto a video, and I thought 'Well, maybe there's a new technique', so I went in and priced it with him and I decided probably I'd go ahead.

So, I rang my friend up and I said, 'Look, I know you haven't done it, but can I take them back? This fellow can do it. And he said, 'Oh, would you jog my memory?' and all this. So he decided to do it and so he printed it. It's just there and -

Diana Giese: So what were these of, these old movies? What were they of?

Stanley Hoy: Just the movies that my brother had taken over the years with the kids and so on.

Diana Giese: So what stage of your family history?

Stanley Hoy: Probably -

Diana Giese: When you were all grown up?

Stanley Hoy: No. When the kids were about - when they were born, and up to about six or seven.

Diana Giese: So this is going on to the next generation?

Dorathy Hoy: In 1950s, 60s, 70s, that sort of range, isn't it? ...

Diana Giese: Okay, now while you were doing all this work, you've also found out quite a lot about your own Hakka people, haven't you? And one of the things I like about the CD-ROM is there is this kind of thread through it that tells you what kind of a community the Hakka community was, and is today.

Stanley Hoy: Yeah - well, we're still on that search. We haven't done very much, but we've got a few leads. But forgetting the Hakka for a minute, let's go back to the next important discovery we found. We went to the Australian Archives and there we stumbled on the files of my grandmother and one of my uncles.

Dorothy Hoy: Your maternal grandmother.

Stanley Hoy: Yes, maternal grandmother, and within that particular file, it showed a picture of my mother when she was younger, a hand print, and a few different pictures of my maternal grandmother. But also we found out that the eldest son, my uncle, was not born in Darwin, as we had been told, and as we had recorded. In the Exemption Certificates which people had to do -

Diana Giese: Exemption from the Dictation Test.

Stanley Hoy: Yes, that's right. He indicated in a couple that he had, that he was born in Hong Kong. And then we looked at the birth certificate which we had which was given us from Darwin and it was, what? five years after he was born that the certificate was made. So there must have been some fiddling around with the details there. We also found that it said that he had been in various places and we found that those various places were cattle stations. Also, the fact that one of his grandsons had said to us he couldn't understand why his grandfather never came back to Hong Kong - and he said that he thought of himself as a 'cowboy'. So he probably worked on the cattle stations, maybe as a cook, maybe as one of the drovers.

Diana Giese: Could be a cook for the stock camps, perhaps?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes, one record shows that he had gone with some government official, with this government official visiting cattle stations, even over into the Western Australian area. So that's another fascinating story. In fact, it doesn't seem to end.

Diana Giese: I can see you've got quite a lot of work to do. Can we get back to my question about the Hakka? Now tell me about what sort of people they are. Characterise the Hakka people.

Stanley Hoy: I can't.
E: AUS 20/1/03

Diana Giese: They're gypsies - come on.

Stanley Hoy: The only thing we've found out is that we had joined the Hakka Club in Sydney and during that time Mr Koo had come in and given us a talk about the Hakkas, and another person there was very keen on Hakka language but we don't know a lot about it. We also found that when we went to the Asian Identities conference, that the girl that we'd corresponded with regarding that conference, her name was Khoo. When she saw our video and saw the Chinese character for our surname, she said that's her surname, too.

And her pronunciation comes from the fact that they are Hokkien people and so the language is different and the word is the same, the character is the same, but the pronunciation of it is different, in a different dialect. So that's where our main information about Hakkas came from, which led us to go to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* to find out bits and pieces which led us to talk to the people in the Chinese travel section and to get pamphlets. And those pamphlets told us about the Hakkas, as well.

Diana Giese: What about when you were in Hong Kong? Did you make contact with any Hakka people there?

Stanley Hoy: Well, when we were there last, we would have liked to have gone to a Hakka village in the New Territories, but they told us that it was being done up for tourists and so we couldn't see it. But since that time, we've also found out that the translation on grandfather's grave, it talks about - what's the name of the place?

Dorathy Hoy: Oh, Mei Xian.

Stanley Hoy: That he came from the area of Mei Xian.

Diana Giese: Where is that?
E: AUS 20/1/03

Stanley Hoy: Which is north of Guangdong province, a fair way away from where we were. And so the only way you could go there was to go into what was then China, from a British territory. And then you had to travel up to this place which is supposed to be a centre for Hakkas. But the trouble is, you need to be able to speak the dialect, and so you need to go with someone who can speak to be able to get any information. But if we did go there, in the temples they have the record of, background of, all the people. So we could get parts to grandfather then, in history. But until then, we're stuck with him.

Diana Giese: Is that on the cards, do you think, making a trip like that?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes, hmm.

Diana Giese: When do you think you might do that?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, it's a matter of finding somebody -

Diana Giese: - suitable.

Stanley Hoy: - to go with us. We'll be corresponding with the girl in Queensland, and her father has videos and perhaps he - we might talk him into it, or - but we'll be trying to find other Hakkas living in Australia who are sufficiently interested to return and who will be able to translate accurately.

Diana Giese: So you've been using your CD-ROM as a networking tool?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes, truly. Yes.

Diana Giese: And is that what's going to happen to it in the future, do you think? You're constantly working on it, updating, adding new facts. Do you think that that's

what you would like to do? Take it around with you to conferences, to meetings, to other countries and show it to more people?

Dorathy Hoy: Well, it's a possibility - because we were quite amazed that - to see how these things unfold, just by chance, almost. And in this last semester at university [University of Technology, Sydney], I did a case study on Stan ['A biographical study of a bicultural identity in an Australian Chinese context, for BEd (Hons) (Adult Education), November 2000] and the university would like me to go on with it further which gives me an opportunity to concentrate on it and have academic input, too.

Diana Giese: When you say case study - a kind of biography, was it?

Dorathy Hoy: It was a sort of biography but looking at it from the point of view of an Asian identity and Australian/Asian identity, or the other way around, they now say Asian Australian, who would have made some contribution to the Australian community.

Diana Giese: In fact, you could say that your family is an advertisement for multiculturalism, couldn't you? Because you've leapt racial, religious and geographical barriers and you now have relatives of Aboriginal, Indian, Japanese, Norwegian, Maltese and British origin - which must be something of a record in one family. How do you think these different cultural traditions - what do you think they bring to a family that started off just as Chinese? Dot first.

Dorathy Hoy: Well, these days you don't have the same tensions that you had when we married in 1954.

Diana Giese: Tell us about those tensions.

Dorathy Hoy: Well, there were tensions on both sides. I could imagine my parents being against it, but I -

Diana Giese: When you say you can imagine, were they actually against it?

Dorothy Hoy: Oh yes, very much so.

Diana Giese: What did they try to do - talk you out of it?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, in a sort of a way - but they were quite aghast, you know.

Diana Giese: Was this because of other people's reactions?

Dorothy Hoy: I think so. I'd been brought up in a very Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-Celtic, whatever you like to call it, background.

Diana Giese: What is your ethnic background?

Dorothy Hoy: Which?

Diana Giese: What is your ethnic background?

Dorothy Hoy: Anglo-Celtic really yes, English/Irish/Scottish.

Stanley Hoy: But while it was Anglo-Celtic, it was really just Australian. Just that if you go back far enough, you could find it was Anglo-Celtic, but from the point of view of everything she did, it was just Australian.

Diana Giese: What did your family think of all this?

Stanley Hoy: Well, I think our family was adjusting to it because father and mother both were capable in English reading and writing, but they kept their links with the Chinese community. When we were growing up, until about 1948, apart from a few visitors from - because of the parents' links, apart from them, we had no contact basically with the Chinese community. But by that time I'd left home. But after that the

boys started to go to Chinese functions like the Dragon Ball and so on, and began to mix more with Chinese people - but we didn't, well, Dot and I didn't, because we were out of that area.

Diana Giese: So who were your friends? Who, as a group, were your friends at that period - because this was when you were both under the Reverend Alan Walker, wasn't it? So in a Methodist kind of milieu. I suppose it was members of the Church, was it?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes - and I'd been to Sydney High, which was the local Eastern Suburbs high school and most of us - because the Church was the centre, it was your community centre before they came into vogue. And of course all my school friends went there. So you'd go where your friends go.

Diana Giese: And along came Stan.

Dorothy Hoy: No - actually I'd gone to New Zealand for a year to teach over there, and came home, and there was Stan - yes.

Diana Giese: How did you get together?

Dorothy Hoy: Mainly working on the Mission to the Nation ...

Stanley Hoy: I was trapped.

Dorothy Hoy: No, [Reverend] Alan Walker had his Mission to the Nation thing and we're both a bit artistic, so we were working on these giant posters and billboards that we actually hand-painted in those days.

Diana Giese: And then what? How did it develop, Stan?

Dorothy Hoy: He gave me a ride on his motorbike.

Diana Giese: Go on.

Dorothy Hoy: Well, we married when he was - then he was third man to Alan Walker and he was to move to another appointment and he was given Portland, which had a parsonage attached. So we married. We had a house there.

Diana Giese: What about the family opposition by this stage? Had it muted?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, it did surprise me to learn that the Chinese were as against a mixed marriage as the white Australians were, but -

Diana Giese: What reasons did they actually give? Or was this all just emotional reaction and quite irrational?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, from my parents' point of view - and they'd still say the same, particularly as our family has become more multicultural - it's for the sake of the children that you don't like to see them hurt, to be called names at school and so on.

Diana Giese: Did this ever happen to your children?

Dorothy Hoy: It did happen to the children, yes.

Stanley Hoy: But no worse than it did to other people growing up. But the fact that they thought about it too much, they develop a chip on their shoulder about it. But the trouble is that when people don't know you, you stand out in a crowd. And when people get to know you, they forget what you are. And the story we keep repeating is that when I was at the Central Methodist Mission in the youth group there, people used to come from other places to functions we used to have after Church. And one person said to one of my friends, 'Who's the Chinese boy?'. And she said she had to stop and think. She never thought of me as Chinese; she just thought I was Stan, you know. And that's what happens so often, that when people get to know you, they forget about your race.

And Carolyn, down south in Milton, I'm sure a lot of people who know her don't think of her as Chinese at all.

Diana Giese: This is your daughter, Carolyn, who lives in Milton on the South Coast now?

Stanley Hoy: Yes.

Diana Giese: What about when you were growing up, Stan - did you encounter much racism then?

Stanley Hoy: I don't remember much about it, any discrimination, except we had a few people who, kids, who would call you 'Ching Chong Chinaman'. But apart from that, nothing. In fact, the people who we are friends with never thought of us as Chinese.

Diana Giese: So how have you noticed these perceptions of other people change over the years? Do you think it's because pioneers [of mixed marriages] like you have shown them that it is possible and that you can, in fact, enjoy life like this and thrive on it?

Stanley Hoy: I don't know whether that's the answer to it. I don't think - you see, what's implied in what you said, or could have inferred in what you said, was that I'm a role model. But I'm not a role model.

Diana Giese: You don't see yourself as a role model? But you are, aren't you, both of you?

Dorothy Hoy: No, he doesn't see that.

Diana Giese: But you actually married at a time when this was uncommon, so, like it or not, you're the first, you're the pioneers. So in that sense you *are* a role model.

Stanley Hoy: Well, we're a pioneer with some groups. But if you think about it, there were - Chinese married Australians long before us.

Diana Giese: Not too many before the 30s -

Stanley Hoy: In Darwin.

Diana Giese: A couple in the 30s and a couple in the 40s - but very few.

Stanley Hoy: Yes. You see, even Quong Tart married a non-Chinese, didn't he? And that was a long time before us.

Diana Giese: He was very unusual. But there were examples - yes, you're right. What about when the family started to become very multicultural, when all these other groups started to come in? Can you remember whether that made a big difference to the way you were perceived?

Dorothy Hoy: No, I think they just thought that was them, us.

Diana Giese: And this was presumably about the 60s, when this sort of thing became far more acceptable, didn't it?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes, yes. Carolyn was always popular at school and she was a prefect and holds her own and, of course, she married Malcolm, who was across the fence at Sydney Boys'. And Greg went through many liaisons and I'm just thrilled with who they've ended up with.

Diana Giese: So what have they ended up with - what backgrounds?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, Greg's wife, another Sandra, is a very clever girl, and they have two gorgeous boys. Expecting a third.

Diana Giese: What's her background?

Dorothy Hoy: She's got a degree from Brisbane University [University of Queensland], or one of them in Brisbane, and she has taught in Sydney and in Brisbane in the universities. I assume that it's mainly in Aboriginal Studies, of course.

Diana Giese: She's of Aboriginal background?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes. She's a Murri from Gaynder in Western Queensland. And Sandra has married a Maltese - and I love the exuberance of the Maltese people.

Stanley Hoy: The funny thing is that she has learnt to speak some phrases in Maltese - which amazes their family, that she can speak some things in Maltese.

Diana Giese: Isn't that what Australia is all about, learning cultural traditions from other people? The other thread that comes through in your family history and your personal history is the educational one. You've had a lifelong education, both of you. In fact, Dot, you're still doing a university degree. And, in fact, you could see the CD ROM as self-education in working with new technology - with perhaps old facts, new technology.

Stanley Hoy: Yes, I suppose that's true. Just looking at my point of view, which is a bit different to Dot's, I left school at Intermediate, and then I started after a while to study for the Matriculation or Leaving Certificate, and after that I went into college and there we did a Diploma of Theology with Melbourne University and also did special courses in the College, and with what was called the United Faculty in Sydney University. And after that, you went out in the bush and you had to do studies to finish what you called the Probationer's Examinations. And that's when I started to do some courses with New England University and had to cut out some of it because I couldn't go to their summer schools, because the Church was a bit tight in letting you use the car to go up to university from Portland, which was a bit awkward by public transport. And

then when I went to Mullumbimby, I thought I would then be able to continue the rest of my degree.

And things were so busy there, you didn't have time to - so when I came to Nyngan, I wasn't doing anything except preparing the sermons and so on. And at Caringbah eventually I enrolled in the University of New South Wales part-time.

Diana Giese: This is Tape 2 of an interview with Stan and Dot Hoy. Diana Giese is the interviewer. Now, Stan, you were telling us about your part-time university studies while you were with the Church.

Stanley Hoy: I started in 1966, I think, to do a part-time degree course and I thought, well, I needed that if I was going to get ahead.

Diana Giese: Where do you think you got this idea that you needed all this education to get ahead? Was there some kind of educational tradition in your family? Were your parents supportive?

Stanley Hoy: I think it's within the Church. Unless you've got a degree or something, you tend to take one of the back seats in terms of appointments and things like that.

Diana Giese: Can we back-track even further? Where did you take that step into the Church? How did you come to that, that you wanted to do that?

Stanley Hoy: I think we'd better not talk about that. It's too complicated a thing.

Diana Giese: Not even a little summary?

Stanley Hoy: No, no.

Diana Giese: Okay, all right. Well let's go on. You had to - to get on in the Church by taking extra courses.

Stanley Hoy: Well, not only that, but if you came out of the Church, you'd need a degree to get anywhere, unless you were younger and then you could come through the ranks, as it were. And so when I came out of the Church, took leave for a couple of years, I continued with the degree and finished it part-time by working at Precision Golf Forging and also at the university. And when that came that I finished the degree, then

opportunities started to occur within the universities and other places. And it's mainly in government instrumentalities that degrees are important.

Diana Giese: What about your drive to education, Dot?

Dorothy Hoy: I have a tremendous drive towards education. I love teaching and when I retired I did a number of courses through Wesley Seniors for the oldies and through the University of the Third Age. And I've done a couple of TAFE courses in between, and I was also working at supervising TAFE exams and so on. But somehow it just wasn't challenging enough. I just felt I had to go further than that. And that's why I went to university this last year, because it just pushes you that much further and really makes you think, you know, and you feel as if you're achieving something - whereas these other courses, they are more informal, they don't have a testing of your knowledge at the end of it to sort of - I don't know, it's not just proving that you can do it, I suppose you're proving it to yourself. I've got this drive to prove to myself all the time I can do it.

Diana Giese: It's interesting that you've married family history interest with the educational, intellectual interests.

Dorothy Hoy: Yes.

Diana Giese: Why do you think that is?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, I find Stan fascinating and I find his family fascinating and I'm particularly intrigued with his Hakka element and I think that -

Diana Giese: What intrigues you about that?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, they're a very unique clan. This business of harking back to the early centuries where really we believe and a lot of Hakkas believe, others may not, that

they were the basis with their language and so on of the original Han people. Would you agree with that?

Stanley Hoy: Yes.

Dorothy Hoy: But they are unique and in the way that they stood out, you know, the women didn't bind their feet as was the custom with many of the others and I see this great strength of character and their buildings standing even today are quite fascinating, their doughnut buildings. They just have so much more, and as you read the history of China and you see so many outstanding events, who's leading them? Hakkas. So I'll be searching further, you know.

Diana Giese: So you think the family history could extend more into the community history in the future?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes, it's starting to blend more and more into the social history. And I'm hooked.

Diana Giese: And how do you think that work is going to develop, Stan?

Stanley Hoy: I don't know, but I'll just go back a bit. I think when I was growing up there weren't many Hakkas in Australia, not many in Sydney, not many in Darwin and I think that the Hakkas were thought of as inferior. I think when we were in Darwin, some of the Chung Wah society men said that they can remember their mothers or their grandmothers saying, 'We don't care who you marry, as long as you don't marry a Hakka'. And the other thing is that when I was growing up, I used to be told that my name was Hew, and my auntie kept saying, 'No, you should say Yau' - and maybe because she felt that people looked down on Hakkas and, in fact, some people may probably have looked down on Hakkas in the past. I'm not so sure today.

Diana Giese: So when you say people, you mean other clans? What other clans?

Stanley Hoy: Other Chinese.

Dorothy Hoy: Sze Yap clans - and these sorts of people?

Stanley Hoy: Because the main clan in Sydney and Darwin is not Hakkas.

Diana Giese: It's Sze Yap.

Stanley Hoy: Sze Yap, yes.

Diana Giese: I remember some of the people in Darwin saying to me - who were Hakkas - that they were regarded as the 'country bumpkins'. They tended to have farms on the outskirts of the city, and to be seen as the people who provided the crops for the people who ran the shops, the merchants who ran the shops, who were slightly upper class, in the centre of Chinatown.

Dorothy Hoy: Well, the women dressed distinctively and, as you say, they work on the farms with their husbands too - so, yes.

Diana Giese: And where do you hope that this research will take your children and you? Because you've actually been brought together, haven't you, quite a lot as a family by this work? What do you think it's meant to the children?

Stanley Hoy: You mean our own family?

Diana Giese: Your nuclear family, as distinct from your extended family.

Stanley Hoy: Well, mainly that the person who's brought it together with us is Carolyn. Gregory hasn't been around.

Diana Giese: He lives in Singapore, though.

Stanley Hoy: Yes, well, at the moment he's in Singapore - but I don't think Sandra is interested.

Diana Giese: She came with you to Hong Kong that time, though, didn't she?

Stanley Hoy: Yes, yes, but with - what we were trying to do, or what I was trying to do, was leave a bit of history if you like, so that they could do what they liked with it. And actually I've got little bits on the computer which is random thoughts or my history. And one day they might be able to use the stuff and maybe write a story or something.

Diana Giese: And your grandson, Tarun, actually appears on the CD-ROM doesn't he?

Stanley Hoy: Yes. I don't know if he's interested in that yet. He's too young.

Diana Giese: How old is he now?

Stanley Hoy: About 13, is he?

Diana Giese: But he has been involved at some level in the making of it?

Stanley Hoy: Well only in the fact that he was told to say these things.

Diana Giese: Okay, what about the family reunion - because that's where all this started, that actual coming together physically of members of the family at the first showing, the first public showing of the CD-ROM? In fact many of your family members came to the Museum of Sydney. What about other family reunions since then?

Stanley Hoy: We get together generally when something's on. For instance, there was a wedding the other day and most of the aunts and uncles came, but none of the children, like our children's age. I don't know whether that was because of funding

problems, but the funny thing is that my sister has three children and one of them married last weekend, married a non-Chinese and the other two are going around with non-Chinese, so I don't know what's going to happen there.

Diana Giese: And what about your parents, Dot? I see your parents quite often at the house with you and Stan, so obviously they have reconciled and come to the family reunion, as it were.

Dorothy Hoy: Not so much now that they're - I mean, they're 92 this year, and they're withdrawing, because they're physically not as active. But they some years back used to join in the various Chinese gatherings - but not so much lately. I think as you become older, you become a bit more self-centred.

Diana Giese: And also perhaps mellow a bit.

Dorothy Hoy: No, they haven't really mellowed. They've accepted Stan, but there's no overwhelming warmth - put it that way.

Stanley Hoy: The only thing they've been to is the 70th anniversary, 70th birthday, 60th birthday.

Dorothy Hoy: No, in earlier years we had family dos and they used to come, when your mother was alive.

Stanley Hoy: Yes, but they only came because they - it was regarding you, nothing to do with our family.

Diana Giese: So do you think this whole idea of the extended family getting together and reflecting on its ancestry is a very Chinese thing still?

Stanley Hoy: I think in most families it would be. I don't know if it is in our family. There's a lot of talk about ancestor worship, but I don't think in our family we've

thought about that. Our family, apart from going to church, hasn't been a very religious family from the traditional Chinese aspect, you know. So that ancestor worship as such doesn't come in our family, although we may think more of our parents because of that, you know - but because of emotional ties, nothing to do with family ancestor worship.

Diana Giese: What would you say to other people embarking on their family history research, Dot?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, as we said, we did this for us for ourselves and that's what it was. In effect, I suppose, if you wanted to look at it psychologically, we were just trying to find out who we were, where we'd come from. And we all, even the children - though I don't know whether Stan recognises it - have a strong sense of history and they do care and some are more involved than others. But certainly I'd say to others that you should start. It is a never-ending journey, but it's exciting, you know, and never ceases to be exciting, because each new fact unearths something else.

Stanley Hoy: You see, one of the things we found is that our family particularly - maybe it happens in other families - never talked about the past very much. It may have been because of the scare about White Australia and all this sort of thing, but they never talked about it. One of the things we did say to people is, 'Start getting information now before people die off and their information dies with them.' But little things that Chinese did - and I presume it's characterised by, I think Mum told some lies to the Departments. I don't know what they were, and I'm sure that other Chinese tell lies to the Departments so that - to overcome the problems with what was then the White Australia Policy.

Diana Giese: Moving to and fro between here and China, and here and Hong Kong?

Stanley Hoy: Well, yes - and even I think there's something about dates of birth or something, and one of my aunties who has since died, we can never work out what her date of birth was.

Diana Giese: And what about family secrets, revealing family secrets? Do you think sometimes there's a sense that people don't want that to happen?

Stanley Hoy: Well, we found out things. For instance, we found out that my mother was adopted and we didn't say anything about it. We had to wait until we got confirmation from another source that that was true, and so we wrote a little 'a' beside my mother's name in one of the things, and we didn't think anything else about it. And then my sister got upset about it because that's the first she'd heard about it, and we hadn't told anyone about it.

Diana Giese: She wanted it kept a secret, did she?

Stanley Hoy: No, she said that she couldn't understand why her mother would not tell her that she was adopted - and she was a bit upset about it. That was sort of a family skeleton, but it upset her.

Diana Giese: It's a pretty mild skeleton.

Stanley Hoy: Yes, I know - but it upset her.

Diana Giese: Were there other secrets you found that you [discovered] people were sensitive about?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, there were other secrets we've found, but we haven't always revealed them to others, after this initial upset about the adoption.

Diana Giese: So how do you make that judgement?

Stanley Hoy: Well, we keep the record of it - but we don't necessarily tell them.

Diana Giese: And what will happen to that record?

Dorothy Hoy: It will be kept and eventually -

Stanley Hoy: - it will come out.

Dorothy Hoy: In future generations it will be revealed.

Stanley Hoy: The people might have died by then that might have got upset. I don't think there's any other -

Dorothy Hoy: Because the further you're removed from the sore point, you're not as worried. And I would assume that our grandchildren and great-grandchildren won't be fussed if they hear this skeleton, you know, out of the cupboard.

Diana Giese: What other things have you learned?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, they're not ones concerning us. It's of other branches of the family.

Diana Giese: Not just secrets - but what other things have you learned about how to do this sort of work, as you've been doing it?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, to be relentless and keep on keeping on - and that's what it amounts to. Keeping on keeping on can be very difficult because -

Diana Giese: What has been the most discouraging moment, do you think, through this work?

Dorothy Hoy: When you spend hours and hours - and literally hours - sitting at a microfiche reader and you don't have any what I call 'hits'. But then you can go, as I say, to the archives and you open a very musty, dusty folder and there are treasures, you know.

Diana Giese: So finding the treasures has made it all worthwhile for you?

Dorothy Hoy: It does - and this is why Stan keeps saying - he's a very positive thinker - really, that the White Australia Policy has this positive side, that it gives us clues to the Chinese movements in and out of Australia that we would never have found in any other way.

Diana Giese: Because the documentation is so meticulous and thorough?

Dorothy Hoy: That's right. It is very meticulous.

Diana Giese: Have you found any other upsides of the White Australia Policy?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, that's the most positive one, I think. And I think that - I personally believe Australia's on the right pathway.

Diana Giese: Having changed around completely from that policy?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes, I think that the new policy out now, stressing harmony, perhaps will work in the right direction - but so much depends on our politicians.

Diana Giese: What do you think has been the most pleasurable moment for you in the whole thing, Stan, unearthing the family history?

Stanley Hoy: Nothing particularly, except finding out things. That's all - nothing in particular.

Diana Giese: The thrill of the chase?

Stanley Hoy: Yes, the thrill of the chase, although the thrill of the chase has gone into a lull. Nothing much has happened, apart from that original burst about six months ago. But apart from that, we haven't had time to do any others.

Diana Giese: Who else would you like to see the CD-ROM now? What are your preferred audiences for the next couple of months?

Stanley Hoy: Well, what we're hoping is that eventually we'll make a PC version and a Macintosh version, so that people can look at it and learn from our mistakes and learn what to do when you do it, you know. And, apart from that, it will be an interesting story, we hope. But I don't know what the market is for our CD-ROM.

Diana Giese: Do you see it as a market, or do you see it as doing something else, sharing generously what you have discovered?

Stanley Hoy: Yes, but if you make it, you've got to pay for the making of it. And the two programs that we use for Macintosh and PCs are about \$1800 each.

Diana Giese: So you'd like to recover some of the cost before you go on?

Stanley Hoy: I think so - not counting the trip we've made and all that sort of thing. But - so there's not much of a market in that sense, so that -

Diana Giese: It's your investment in history?

Stanley Hoy: Yeah.

Diana Giese: Yes. Now, can I ask you, Dot, about your involvement with the historical sub-committee of the Chinese Women's Association, because some of the skills that you in fact learned on the family community history CD-ROM are going to be passed on to those people who are looking at the fifty-year history of the Chinese Women's Association. Will you talk a bit about that?

Dorothy Hoy: I see the possibilities of it, and you were just asking Stan about where he sees our project going. What I suppose what I'm envisaging, I'm leaping ahead and

thinking that more and more of this historical social history material that we gather should be used more electronically now. I mean, we've leapt forward so much with the Internet that, really and truly, they're going to have to look at theses, I believe, in universities as being presented in an electronic form. I think that family histories, more and more, must move that way because it's just another way to preserving the documents.

Diana Giese: But they're not just documents, as we've discussed.

Dorothy Hoy: Yes.

Diana Giese: They're in fact films, aren't they. or photographs or whatever?

Dorothy Hoy: That's it.

Diana Giese: Which of course are presented more accessibly electronically?

Dorothy Hoy: That's right. What I've discovered in making the two first CD-ROMs was that you can only encapsulate so much. I'm still searching in my mind as to how you can capture more. Multimedia can do it, but it means that it goes into a very lengthy - not document, but product. And when we're talking about product, we're thinking more of asking for a donation towards the cost, rather than selling it commercially, just to recoup some of the outlay. But certainly I haven't yet worked out how we can put all that we've found into one place, and I don't know if that's possible.

Diana Giese: Is it desirable?

Dorothy Hoy: Well, from our point of view - if you're looking at it from our point of view and doing it for ourselves, we also are not thinking of it for other people so much - but how do we encompass it all, [so] that we don't lose any facts? Because, as I said earlier, it's the - often a tiny snippet of information that is a key that unlocks another box. And how do you keep it all together, that you don't lose that link?

Diana Giese: You'd also like the Chinese Women's product to be along these lines, wouldn't you?

Dorathy Hoy: I would.

Diana Giese: All the information brought together in one place -

Dorathy Hoy: Yes, actually.

Diana Giese: - not in a book, but in an electronic product?

Dorathy Hoy: Yes. I think most people prefer a book. It's more portable. It suits most people. Not everybody has the equipment for the other, but I do see that the electronic method is the ultimate - but I'm sure that they will probably work towards a book.

Diana Giese: But it has oral history, it has pictures; it has other things that could also be made into something electronic?

Dorathy Hoy: Yes.

Stanley Hoy: One of the problems about a book or what Dot was talking about, you tend to follow a line and you can't go off at a tangent too far in a book, because you lose the theme. And that, I think, when they do do it on electronics, they're going to do it basically on a theme through. They can't go off on tangents, and to go off on tangents, which you can do in electronics, they don't have the skills to do that. They'd have to get someone else to come in to show that you get to such a such a point, and then you can go off on that tangent, you know.

Diana Giese: So maybe a book is seen as having more control over your own material?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes, they probably feel that way.

Diana Giese: It's also a generational thing.

Dorothy Hoy: Yes, it is.

Diana Giese: This Association is mainly made up of older women. Perhaps if there was a younger group, they'd be more interested in it?

Dorothy Hoy: Yes.

Diana Giese: Anyway, I'm sure, Dot, that you will lead them in this direction - and we'll see what happens.

Stanley Hoy: But, you see, you might talk about what so-and-so's remembered about it, but they might remember it because of that long theme of what happened to them. And you're never going to get that unless they get someone in to deal with it.

Diana Giese: Stan and Dot Hoy, thanks very much indeed.

INTERVIEW CONCLUDED

Copies of the Yau/Hoy CD-ROM can be obtained from the Hoys at 10 Dock Road, Birchgrove NSW 2041