



TOWN OF
VICTORIA PARK



Interview with Leon Walkemeyer

*Interviewed by Heather Campbell
June 2020*

Victoria Park Voices

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Interview with Leon Walkemeyer

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The Oral History Collection of Victoria Park Library



Leon Walkemeyer, June 2020

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INTRODUCTION

Leon Walkemeyer was born in 1929 in Claremont, the eldest child of Bernard Julius George Walkemeyer and his wife Louise Eloise Zeck. The couple had two more children, Tanya, born three years after Leon, and Otto, the youngest.

Leon's grandfather, Adolf Bernhardt Walkemeyer, a master baker, was born in Germany in 1869 and came to Australia in 1893. After short periods in Adelaide and Melbourne, he settled in Western Australia, with his wife Therese Schnefuhs. A B Walkemeyer had bakeries in West Perth and South Fremantle, before purchasing the Terminus Bakery in East Victoria Park in 1925. On his death in 1934, the Terminus Bakery was taken over by Leon's father Bernard Walkemeyer and his family moved from Claremont to a house on the bakery premises. They remained there until c. 1952/53 when the house was sold to Ampol, the site becoming possibly the first Ampol service station in WA. The family moved to Cannington and Bernard Walkemeyer continued to run the Terminus Bakery in East Victoria Park until 1962, when it was sold to Brennan's Bakery.

Leon Walkemeyer lived in East Victoria Park from 1934 to 1946 encompassing his childhood and early teenage years. He was educated at East Victoria Park Primary School and Kent Street High School. On leaving school he completed an apprenticeship as a ladies' hairdresser, subsequently running his own salons, including Zeck and Leon in Perth, from 1946-1962. He went on to have a varied career in many fields, including real estate.

In the interview Mr Walkemeyer details his family background and the family's association with bakeries. Memories of his very early years in Claremont, where Leon Road was named after him, are recalled.

The years at the Terminus Bakery are covered in some depth and include detailed descriptions of the family home, the bakehouse and the bakery premises. Family life living adjacent to the bakery is covered, as is the involvement of family members in the undertaking, including the management role of Bernard Walkemeyer, Leon's father, who was not a qualified baker. From early teenage Leon Walkemeyer undertook bread deliveries, principally by horse and cart, a process that is covered in detail. This includes modes of payment, horse vs motorised deliveries, interaction with customers and centralisation of rounds under war regulations. There is also commentary on management, work routine, staff employed and their roles, and working hours and conditions.

Mr Walkemeyer describes a happy childhood in which he was free to roam, taking long cycling trips and visiting the river to fish and bathe. Memories of East Victoria Park Primary School include varied school activities and also members of staff, particularly Miss Hannant, a much-revered teacher. He recalls Kent Street High School in its very

early years, including sisters Agneta and Chrystal Halliday, teachers there, remembered for their teaching ability.

Becoming a ladies' hairdresser is covered as is Mr Walkemeyer's subsequent varied career, particularly that of real estate, and his retirement years. Looking back he feels he '...had a very fortunate childhood, a very fortunate life'.

The interview, which took place in June 2020, is contained in 2 hrs 45 mins of recording.

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TRANSCRIPT

This is the first interview session with Leon Walkemeyer, for the Victoria Park Library, held at his home in Bicton, on Wednesday 3 June 2020. The interviewer is Heather Campbell.

Could you start off with your full name and your date and place of birth, Leon, please?

WALKEMEYER: Yes. Adolf Leon Walkemeyer, born 28 January 1929 at Claremont, Western Australia.

HC And there's something about a road being named after you.

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes. There was Walter Road and Walker and apparently people were getting confused with the two, so they decided to change the name of Walker Road and they named it after the first baby born in the area, which was myself¹. They now call it Leon Road, because I don't use my first name, Adolf, because it was during the rise of Hitler, so I had to keep my first name under cover.

HC Did you actually live in Leon Road?

WALKEMEYER: Yes.

HC To start with I'd like to cover some of the family background. We do have some details about your paternal grandfather, which I will attach to the transcript², but tell me about him.

WALKEMEYER: His name was Adolf Bernhardt Walkemeyer. He was born in a town called Braunschweig, which in English is Brunswick, Germany, in 1869. At fourteen years of age he became an apprentice baker. Then about four years later he decided to hop on a ship and be the baker on the ship. That's what he was. The first shipping company he was with was with a ship that came from Hamburg, in Germany, to New York, USA. For some reason or other he must have been able to get a berth on a ship that later on came from Hamburg and came to Australia. He got off the ship in Adelaide and stayed there for very short time, then he went to Melbourne. That's where he met his future wife, Therese Schnefuhs, which in English is 'snow foot'. That was in the gold rush period

HC Do you know why he came to Western Australia?

WALKEMEYER: I don't know the reasons for that.

HC He became a baker in WA; he had several bakeries didn't he?

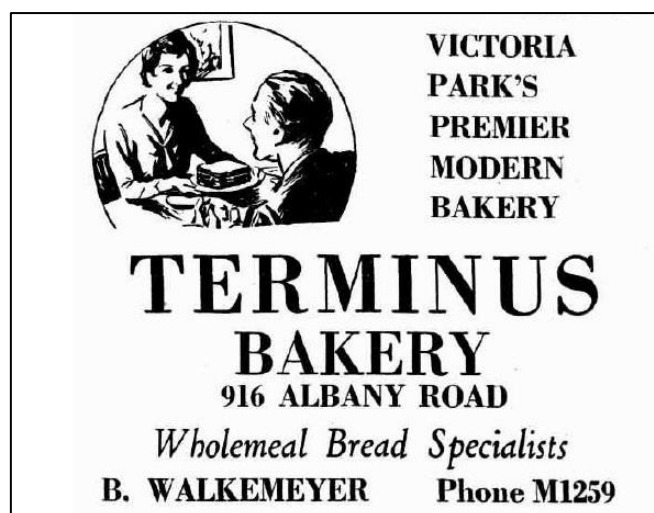
¹ See also *Claremont-Nedlands Observer*, Vol 20, No 7, 17 July 1974, p 1.

² See Attachment One

WALKEMEYER: Yes he did. He had a bakery up in West Perth, which from the photographs seems as though it was a very big bakery business³. I don't know very much about that. My father didn't talk about it very much and of course my grandfather died when I was four years old, so I don't know that much about it. But he had that bakery and then he had a bakery in South Fremantle, on the corner of Mandurah Road and Commercial Road. That little bakery I believe is still operating after all these years⁴. Then afterwards in 1925 he apparently bought the bakery in East Victoria Park. The bakery was already called the Terminus Bakery, so he didn't make the name Terminus Bakery, it was made by the previous people that owned it. It was called Terminus Bakery because it was at a tram terminus.



Advertisement for the bakery on the corner of Mandurah Road and Commercial Road, South Fremantle from *The Golden Gate*, 17 May 1912, p. 2



Advertisement for the Terminus Bakery in Victoria Park, from *Daily News*, 19 November 1937, p. 4

³ See extract from Local History News, City of Vincent, The News Quarterly, January-March 2017, Vol 7 No 1, pages 7-9, at Attachment Two.

⁴ In recent years the premises has been occupied by two different bakers, Wild Bakery, which then moved to larger premises at 346 South Terrace and at the time of the interview the premises was occupied by Little Loaf Bakery. When Wild Bakery took over the shop, a new entrance to the premises was made on the Commercial Street face of the building.

HC When he went to the Terminus Bakery in Vic Park, did he relinquish the bakery at Fremantle?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, yes.

HC I know you were only a little chap when he died, but have you any memories of him at all, what sort of person he was?

WALKEMEYER: No, I can only remember seeing him once sick in bed. That's all I can remember of him. Of course my grandmother on the Walkemeyer side, I never knew because she died before I was born, that's Therese.

HC What about your maternal grandparents?

WALKEMEYER: My maternal grandparents also came from Europe. My grandmother came from a little place called Wolfertswil which is near St Gallen in Switzerland and my grandfather came from Isny which is in Bavaria, southern Germany. My grandfather followed his brother out here. The brother came out and came to Kalgoorlie and, of course the gold rush was on and the brother wrote back and said, "Look Karl, you've got come out to Australia , it's the land of opportunity." He was already engaged, Eliza Agatha Rueg, was her name. His name was Karl Zech, spelt Z E C H, which later on confused people here in Australia, so he had it changed to Z E C K. He was a barber. He came out and he opened a barber's shop up at Kalgoorlie. He was doing so well, he wrote back to Switzerland and said to his fiancée, "You've got to come out here to Australia. This is where we'll live." She came out steerage on a ship that came into Fremantle in January. So she'd left Switzerland in the winter! They were married the next day and went up to Kalgoorlie and lived in a little corrugated iron house in Piccadilly Street in Kalgoorlie⁵ and that little old house is still there, it's survived all that time. That was their side.

HC Your dad's name?

WALKEMEYER: Bernard Julius George Walkemeyer, that's a real mouthful!

HC What sort of man was he?

WALKEMEYER: He was a person a little bit like myself from the point of view that he belonged to different organisations etc., and would always finish up, usually the president. He didn't really take to the baking; he was never a baker. When his father died there were two children left. I should say that in his family there were originally four children, but the first-born Emilie Walkemeyer, died at nine months and is buried at the East Perth Cemetery⁶. Another of their children – a son - was climbing through

⁵ *Wise's West Australian Post Office Directory* 1906, lists Zech living at 2 Piccadilly Street, and Zech Brothers, hairdressers and tobacconists at 99 Maritana Street, Kalgoorlie.

⁶ Emilie Walkemeyer died on 9 July 1899 and was buried at East Perth Cemetery on 11 July 1899: grave number 656, location Church of England..

a fence at South Beach and was electrocuted⁷. So there were just the two children left when my father's father died. I don't know the break-up of the assets, but it appears that Theresa [father's sister] was offered half the estate and my father half the estate. My father, for some reason or other decided he'd run the bakery so he had to find the money for his sister. That was a bit of a rope around the neck of the bakery business really, at that stage, because all this was during the Depression when things were pretty tough. Theresa had married the bakery foreman, a chappie by the name of Gustav Karlson, who was a Swede. Because they knew the bakery business they opened a bakery in Wembley, right out near the border to Floreat Park. So that was their background. So my father had given up a good job down at Burns Philp in Fremantle and was going to run the bakery, but of course he was just dependent always on staff. He did the office work and things like that.

HC What sort of work did he do for Burns Philp?

WALKEMEYER: I believe he was in charge of the wine and spirits.

HC But he never actually became a master baker himself, did he?

WALKEMEYER: No, no, oh no! He never worked in the bakehouse at all, not even much delivery of bread. He was a club man. Just in a management role all the time, that's right. When I say he was a club man, I am not a club person, so when I said we were a bit the same, it was for different reasons.

HC And your mum?

WALKEMEYER: Louise Eloise Zeck.

HC Tell me about her.

WALKEMEYER: She was just a real home person, looked after the family, but she also looked after the business, with the staff and with the bakery, because when my father was out she had to attend to things. In the period of 1939 to 1945 we had a lot of servicemen come here in Fremantle, a lot of Americans, Dutch; they had a base here. My father would often just ring up home and say, "Look I am bringing two Americans home for dinner," or something like that. Oh there were a lot of British sailors too. So Mother always had to have something there to feed an extra couple of people.

HC When they went over to the Terminus Bakery and your dad was managing it, what sort of role did your mum have in the bakery?

WALKEMEYER: Oh I wouldn't say that she was much more than just a housewife because there were two children by that stage and then the third one came along while we were there, and that was still in the thirties. The Depression years were very difficult years. I can remember people coming around, or men coming around saying they'd

⁷ In December 1915. See *Western Mail*, 17 December 1915, p 33. The report states that Carl Walkemeyer was 'about nine years of age'.

like to chop some wood if they could get a meal. And of course, the Aboriginals were often walking along the street saying, "Prop-oh, prop-oh!" It was a clothes prop for the old clothes line.

HC Did she have help in the house?

WALKEMEYER: Yes she did. It's funny how parents really never open up to their children about things. I was always told that my mother had a weak heart and whether that was the reason or not, but already back in about 1936, I suppose – it might have been when my brother was born – they decided they wanted a maid in the house and it was a live-in maid. The live-in maid finished up marrying the foreman of the bakery. Then we had another live-in maid after that and of course that was okay up until the war. By that time manpower was short, you couldn't have a live-in maid any more, my mother had to do more.

HC There were three children in the family, you were oldest – and who else was there?

WALKEMEYER: My sister, three years younger than me.

HC And her name?

WALKEMEYER: That's Tanya. Then there was my brother Otto. He came another three years later. So there were just the three of us. My sister used to hear my grandmother's stories of Switzerland and she decided she'd go to Switzerland on a working holiday. She was given the address of one of the chappies we had working in the bakery business. He said, "You'll have to go and see my parents, they'll give you a meal." Of course she did that and finished up marrying the other brother. So she stayed in Switzerland then. My brother Otto, the youngest, he endeavoured to work along with my father in bakery business for a while and he married Maureen Harvey. He's always lived in the area, Lathlain and Victoria Park.

HC Did he become a qualified baker?

WALKEMEYER: No. A pity, a great pity. He didn't learn any trade; he just sort of fiddled around more with the bread deliveries etc. The fact that none of the family were a master baker, or worked in the bakery business, really led to the downfall of the bakery and the only alternative was to sell out. It was at a time after war when machinery started to come into the bakery business and you needed quite a bit of capital because that was the time when they had what they called travelling ovens.

HC What's a travelling oven Leon?

WALKEMEYER: Well I haven't seen one, so I can't tell you⁸. [Laughter] The whole way of the bakery business changed at that particular time. Because I wasn't there or saw another bakery business, I was already at arms' length from the bakery.

HC Let's just go back a step. Have you any memories of your early years in Leon Road?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, yes.

HC Tell me about the house for a start.

WALKEMEYER: Well the house was probably a new home, but like new homes that were built, shall we say, in the late 1920s it was just ordinary house with a sleepout on the back. It was a brick and tile – or brick and iron – it might have been a brick and iron, an iron roof. I was great friends with the other little chap next door, whose name was David Anderson. David was born two weeks after me, otherwise it would have been David Road and not Leon Road. He went on to become a family court justice – and he still lives in Leon Road. It wasn't a big house, it would have been two bedrooms and a sleepout, so it wasn't a big flash home. The homes that were along in that area at the time were just all very modest houses. It was convenient for my father seeing he was working in Fremantle for Burns Philp.

HC What about garden?

WALKEMEYER: Oh they were quarter-acre blocks, we didn't have much garden. Well the back yard I think was a tennis court.

HC What memories have you got of being there?

⁸ A bakers' oven in which the baking surfaces, which form an endless band, move during the baking process. Dough moves through the oven gradually baking until exiting, facilitating continuous baking.



Leon Walkemeyer in the front yard of 49 Leon Street, c. 1932

WALKEMEYER: Well there used to be a tram went from Waratah Avenue up to Claremont Station and I can remember I used to be allowed to... I was three years old. My mother must have taken me down to the tram – but I was allowed to go up front with the tram driver. I can remember that. I went to kindergarten down there too, before we went to Victoria Park.

At that time it meant my parents had to move from Claremont to Victoria Park when my grandfather died, for my father to be there to look after the bakery and do what had to be done.

HC Have you any memories of the kindergarten?

WALKEMEYER: Only slightly.

HC What memories have you got of the kindy?

WALKEMEYER: Well I was only a little chap, four years old. I can remember a couple of the boys that were there, one was Ross Viner and another boy's name was something Munro. Then of course, David Anderson, the boy next door. I used to play a lot with him. We were very close to the river there.

HC How did you feel about moving to Vic Park?

WALKEMEYER: Well of course children just do what their parents tell them to do – in those days anyway, children were to be seen and not heard.

HC So you moved there after your grandfather died and your father took over being manager.

WALKEMEYER: Yes, that's right.

HC How did your life change?

WALKEMEYER: Oh well, it was an entirely different environment, going from Claremont to Victoria Park. Victoria Park was built up of a lot of these War Settlement homes. It was a sort of a low economic area. Going to school there I was one of the few that had a pair of sandals to wear to school, really all the other boys came barefoot. A lot of them were from very big families too. Some of them that we delivered bread to, were ten and twelve children.

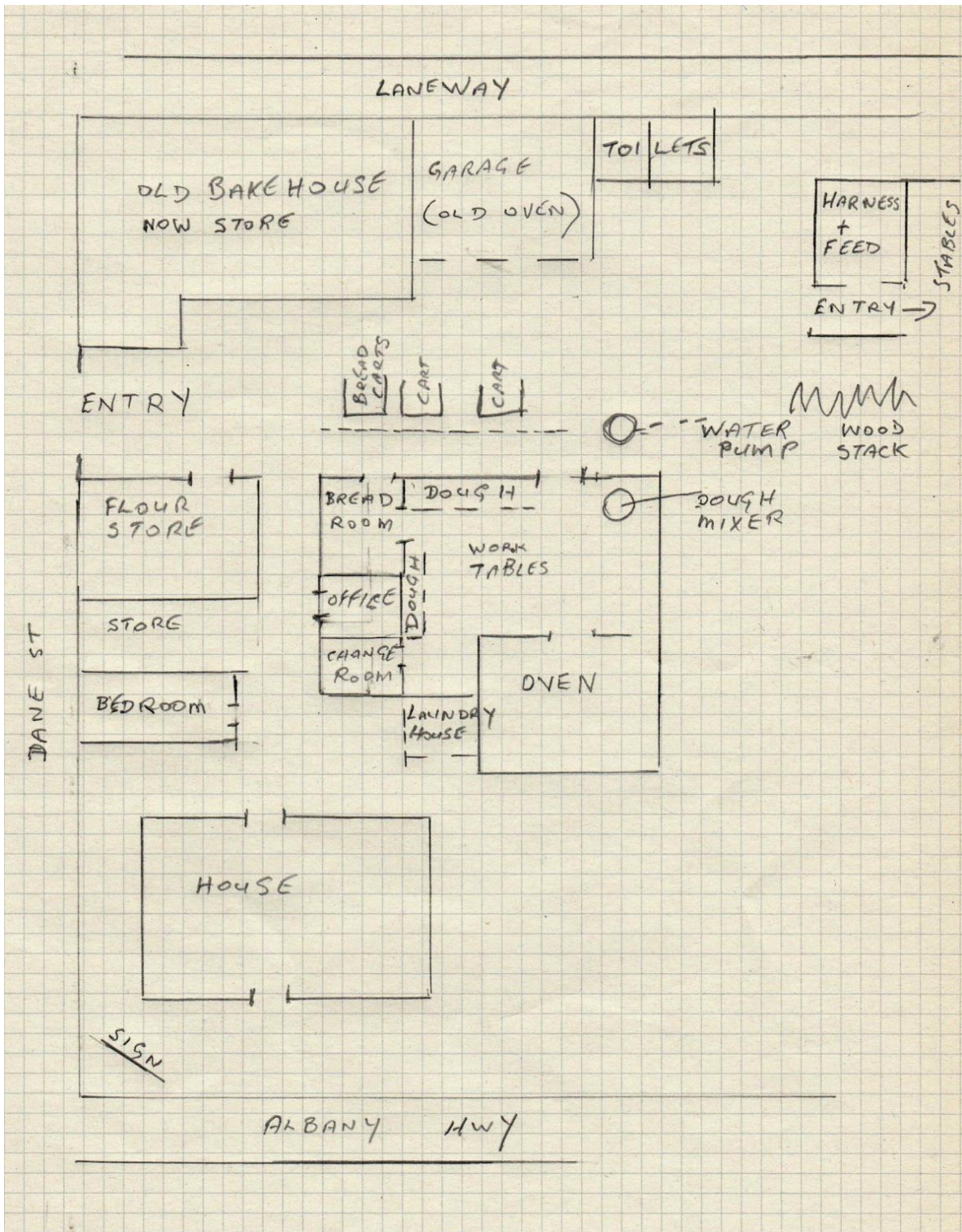
HC Tell me about the premises, what sort of house you lived in.

WALKEMEYER: Oh it was a weatherboard house. The white ants had got to some of it of course, and the floors were never flat. You couldn't play marbles on the floor for sure – they all run to the edge or somewhere, where the stumps had given way. They'd renovated the house up a bit and of course it was built right on the corner with the bakery up behind it, straight up behind it. Then to the side of the bakery was where the stables were and we had a generous-sized horse paddock there, for the horses; we usually had three horses. The house was weatherboard and iron.



Terminus Bakery, c. 1937, with its loaf of bread sign

TERMINUS BAKERY, PLAN OF BAKERY PREMISES, EARLY 1940s
 Prepared by Leon Walkemeyer, June 2020.



NB: The horse paddock is not shown, but was to the right of the premises and adjacent to the stables. The room marked 'bedroom' just above and to the left of the house, was Mr Walkemeyer's bedroom. Prior to that it had been a toolroom.

HC The bakery, were the bakery premises totally separate to the house?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, yes. When you say separate, I mean there were no adjoining buildings or anything like that. That building was apparently built about 1926 because they were calling for tenders for plans that were drawn up in 1925 when my grandfather actually bought that particular bakery. Then up behind that again was what we called the old bakehouse. That was the original bakehouse that was built on the site.

HC So your grandfather took over a working bakery.

WALKEMEYER: It was working bakery and it was already then called Terminus Bakery.

HC And did he make improvements to it?

WALKEMEYER: Oh it was an entirely different bakery altogether. He obviously had thought about it. While it wasn't a very big bakehouse it was very efficient.

HC Let's just finish with the house. If you walked in the front door of the house, by the bakery, where you lived – if you were walking through the house what you would see.

WALKEMEYER: Well if you walked in the front door, which we hardly ever used, you would just walk straight up a passage with two rooms on each side. Then you'd come out into an area where there was a kitchen and a living room. My father had another side verandah built on and enclosed it, so that made a bit more space for it.

HC Bathroom?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, bathroom. Of course the toilet was right up on the lane. They used to have a horse-drawn wagon, or otherwise it would be a truck. We used to say, 'What had 46 cylinders, four wheels and flies all around'. [Laughter] That was the dunny cart.

HC Presumably you had electricity?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, we had electricity, yes, but we weren't on sewerage, that all came later, at a later date.

HC Did your mum have a wood stove or a gas stove?

WALKEMEYER: An old early Kooka⁹ gas stove.

HC Laundry?

⁹ Produced by Metters.

WALKEMEYER: Oh that was out separate, just with a wood copper. No washing machine.

HC Did the house have a garden at all?

WALKEMEYER: Not much garden, no. We had a side garden, but then during the Second World War I had vegetable garden on the block next door. I used to grow some beans and peas and root vegetables and strawberries and potatoes and a few things like that. That all supplemented the vegetables.

HC Tell me about the bakery building, what was that like?

WALKEMEYER: The bakery building. First of all the type of oven we had, we had the original Scotch sort of oven¹⁰, which had fire tiles on the floor and fire bricks all around and then on top of the fire bricks, up top, there was about twelve to eighteen inches of sand across. That sand worked as an insulation to keep the heat in the oven, because you had to keep the heat in because otherwise the ovens would cool off very quickly. One of the interesting jobs that had to be done every few years would be that over the public holiday, when there was no bread baked, we'd have to cool the oven right down and there'd be two chaps, they'd come along, crawl into the hot oven and replace all the floor tiles that had worn away. Otherwise it would deform the loaf of bread that rested on the tile. Most of the bread that was baked was what we called a Devon loaf, which rested on the tiles, no tin, the tin was on top and it was just flat on the hot bricks. It was woodfired, all wood. It was fired up from the side and we used to get big loads of three-foot long jarrah billets which still had to be split up afterwards. We also used some underground water in our breadmaking. Whether that contributed to the fact that we won a few prizes at the Royal Agricultural Show, or not, I don't know, but apparently we had quite a big bore where we used to pump the water out.

HC Did you use that in the house, that bore water?

WALKEMEYER: No, no.

HC I should have asked you when we talked about the garden, did you keep chooks?

WALKEMEYER: No, no chooks, no. We had a dog and at one stage we had two dogs. At one stage we had 22 cats.

HC How come?

WALKEMEYER: Well all the flour and rats and mice. Normally we kept around about fourteen, twelve to fourteen cats, but of course they'd have kittens wouldn't they? It used to be Leon's job often, to put kittens in a bag with a brick and put them in a... and drown. We were getting too many cats all the time. When I think back I think

¹⁰ A Scotch oven is a traditional woodfired commercial bakers' oven. It has an arched ceiling, a fire box on one side of the main chamber and a flue on the opposite side. <http://www.redbeardbakery.com.au/history.html>

well what a rotten job! Today you'd be taken to court for cruelty to animals. I mean how far back can they go back? Can they go back 85 years or so?

HC No, I don't think so, I think you're quite safe. [Laughter] So there was just one big oven, or several?

WALKEMEYER: Oh no, only one big oven that fired on the side.

HC What was the process of lighting it, what was the routine?

WALKEMEYER: The oven was kept hot all the time. It was never cool except when we had to get the repairers in.

HC So was the fire kept up 24 hours a day?

WALKEMEYER: No, not the fire. That would die out and then it would just be relit again, with a bit of smaller wood. The jarrah that we burnt was very dry and caught very easily. With the oven, it's kept hot all the time. We did all our roast dinners up in the oven. At Christmas time we'd have people come and say can they cook their hams in the oven.

HC Did you charge them for that?

WALKEMEYER: I don't know, not much, as long as they bought some of our bread that's all that mattered.

HC If you walked in the door of the bakery, what would you see?

WALKEMEYER: Well there were two doors, one at each end. On the left hand, on the eastern end, that was where the dough-making machine was. The foreman would use that doorway to cart the water in and out and to cart the flour in and out. That's why that door would be used. The other door was where the bread, after it had come out of the oven, was brought along and put in racks - partially separated from the main bakery building, or the main bakehouse, would be the bread room. A men's change room was the other room that was part of the actual bakehouse. The bakery itself was really like one big room.

HC Was there any retail outlet there, did you sell from there?

WALKEMEYER: We sold bread from there, oh yes, but only just straight from the bakehouse. There was no shop there or anything like that. People would come down and knock on our house door and say, "I want to buy some bread." So then we'd just walk up the yard to the bakery and... That's if there's bread left. There was never a lot left over or anything like that. Because the customer base was reasonable small, rather than large, we could make the amount of bread that we really needed pretty well down to the last ten loaves or so, so there was never a lot left over.

HC Most of it would have been pre-ordered then?

WALKEMEYER: No, never pre-ordered, never pre-ordered. Although there might be ten or twenty loaves left the next day, we had customers that preferred to get the stale bread to the fresh bread because they had ten or twelve children.

HC Was it cheaper then?

WALKEMEYER: Well you can cut it thinner; it goes further. It was the same price.

HC When you went on a round did you take a guesstimate of how much bread you'd need?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, yes. You always knew just about how much you needed, how many square Devon loaves you needed and how many upright halves, how many Viennas, how many wholemeal. You'd know pretty well.

HC Did you do things like bread rolls as well?

WALKEMEYER: They were special orders; they weren't just baked every day.

HC Was it purely bread Leon or did you do cakes and things like that?

WALKEMEYER: No, there was no pastry, nothing like that. The only one we did was the fruit loaf and that was only done on Saturdays. We didn't make any rye because you couldn't get rye flour. My father tried a few times to find somewhere to get a reasonable supply of rye flour, but he was unsuccessful. It was only after the war where they started to bring some rye flour into Australia, that we could get it. Wholemeal, well we made a nice wholemeal; it was real wholemeal. Bread was bread in those days, not like now. There were no preservatives in it.

HC Where did you get the flour and the yeast from?

WALKEMEYER: Well I can tell you the yeast came from Nycander. Nycander was a firm here in Perth. That had to be kept in the refrigerator. That meant that early in the piece we were one of the first people in the area there to get a refrigerator because we needed it to keep the yeast in and we were a primary industry, or an essential industry. The flour, well it came from Dingo Flour Mill, Western Star... Oh there were about four flour milling companies, all vying to get your business. You used to have the representatives always coming around for these things. But wholemeal, that had molasses in it as well.

HC What sort of form was the yeast in?

WALKEMEYER: Oh just in a block like a pound of butter. It was what they called compressed yeast.

HC So you'd just cut off however much you needed and leave the rest in the fridge.

WALKEMEYER: Yes, that's right, that's right.

HC How was the flour stored?

WALKEMEYER: Oh well we had a flour room, a special building, which was the flour room. There'd be a couple of long sleepers along the floor because the bags weren't allowed to rest on the floor, they rested on the sleepers. I can't tell you the weight of the flour bags, but they were pretty heavy.

HC What was the building made of, the bakery building?

WALKEMEYER: The bakery building was all solid brick, but then the flour room that was corrugated iron and timber. All iron-roofed; all iron-roofed.

HC You mentioned the old bakery.

WALKEMEYER: That was used as a store room. When the new bakery had been built they knocked the side of the old oven out and that became our double garage. So that shows you the size – the bakery oven, the size of a double garage. That building was brick too. It burnt down¹¹. That was much later on. My father was only using it for storage.

HC I think we could probably go on to the stables now. That was the next bit down, the stables.

WALKEMEYER: It was really the next bit up because you had to go up a slight hill to where the stables were. You had your long bakery building, with a door either end and there was a wide pathway from one to the other, of that wide building. Then in front of that was where you parked your bread cart. So you'd have three bread carts lined up along that. Then from where those bread carts were parked there was just a small incline up to the horse stables. So the horses just came straight down out of the stables and then into the carts.

HC What I should have asked was about the changeroom for the bakers. Was there any facilities for them to wash their hands and things like that?

WALKEMEYER: Well... I don't think there was. I mean there was no shower or anything like that. No, I think they washed their hands outside where they got the water from for the bread. That's all I can recall taking place. There was a changeroom but no shower or anything. Of course there was the outside toilet along the lane.

HC Did they use the same toilet as the family did?

WALKEMEYER: Well there were two, one for the staff and one for family.

¹¹ The old bakery was destroyed by fire in July 1964. See *West Australian* 27 July 1964. Attachment Three The Terminus Bakery – the final days, includes photographs of the property after the fire, with Otto Walkemeyer, Leon Walkemeyer's brother and Bernard Walkemeyer, his father, examining the ruins.

HC Tell me about the stables, what were they like?

WALKEMEYER: They were corrugated iron stables again. That's with four horse stalls and a feed room. The horses got chaff and they also got bran and pollard. Attached to it was an opening in the side wall where, when you swept the stables out, you shovelled the manure straight into this big manure bin, which was emptied about every couple of months. Used to go to a market garden out at Balcatta.

HC Were there loose boxes or stalls, were the horses tied up?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, the horses were tied up in the stalls, but then when they'd eaten they were let out into the paddock. So they were outside all the time except when they came in to get their feed.

HC How often would you feed them?

WALKEMEYER: Probably twice a day, yes.

HC And what would you give them?

WALKEMEYER: Chaff, pollard and bran, a mixture.

HC Hay?

WALKEMEYER: No, no, we never had any hay.

HC Oats?

WALKEMEYER: No, no. There was quite sufficient in the mix of the chaff, the chaff after all is the hay just cut up.

HC And when they were out in the paddock, was it a paddock that was well-worn and without much grass?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes. No, you couldn't get much grass growing there because horses just churn up the ground too much. They had a full quarter-acre to run around in.

HC How many did you have?

WALKEMEYER: Just three. The ones that I can remember that were there for a long time, were Dick, Nellie and Nobby. Old Dick was the one that I used to have on my cart when I was delivering bread. He was a quiet old fellow. He was a silver grey.

HC And how big?

WALKEMEYER: Oh he was a reasonable sized horse.

HC More a draught type of horse?

WALKEMEYER: Oh no, no, but still a fairly heavy horse. The carts that we used were the ones with the big iron wheels and you couldn't have had a light horse to try and pull the carts.

HC So you had one mare and a couple of geldings.

WALKEMEYER: Oh Dick and Nellie, they were quiet old horses. Nobby you just had to watch him sometimes, he could just be a little bit frisky sometimes.

HC What did he do?

WALKEMEYER: Well he'd just play up a bit getting into the cart, that way. He didn't get used quite as much as the other two. When you are delivering bread... because during the war we had what we called zoning. To save manpower, according to the number of customers and the amount of bread you were distributing, when the war started, you were cut up and given that same amount but in a solid block, so that you didn't need the manpower to deliver bread from Victoria Park over to Carlisle and then South Perth and out to Cannington or anything like that, it was done in blocks. It used to make it very easy because you'd just fill your basket with bread, what you knew you'd need for the customers. The horse would just follow you along the street and he would know to stop, which stop to stop at, so that you were going to replenish your basket of bread. There was no sliced bread or wrapped bread, or anything like that; your bread was just in an open basket with a handle. If it was raining you used a flour bag just to put over the top of the basket. I don't think anybody died from bread poisoning. [Laughs]

HC Was there a tack room up in the stable to keep the harness and things?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, yes. That was actually all kept in the feed room. Talking about the bread and delivering it in the basket. It was like the milkman in those days, you put your money in the bottom of the billy and put your billy out on the verandah. The milkman came along, he took the money out of the bottom of the billy and ladled the milk into the billy. We didn't get any milk poisoning either!

HC What happened to the bread if nobody was home; you couldn't leave the bread out?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, oh yes. You left it either in a tin or on the front doorstep. A lot of people had bread tins out, but if there weren't bread tins, there were always arrangements with the people – you knew just where to put the bread and what to do.

HC And where the money was?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, yes. Where the money was was interesting because when bread was fourpence halfpenny a loaf, which it was at one stage, that was just before in the early 1920s, people that only had half a loaf a day wouldn't give you tuppence

halfpenny, they'd wait and pay you the second day, so that it was fourpence halfpenny. That was all done to save a halfpenny. That's how precious money was in those days.

HC Did you carry change with you on the round?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, we had change. But also had bread tickets which you sold. Largely bread was about sixpence a loaf most of the time I was delivering bread. You sold the customer a dozen tickets, but they got a discount on the bread tickets that they bought. So they'd just leave the tickets out each day, whether they wanted one loaf or one and a half, but the tickets were all perforated up so that you could just take off one or a half or whatever. They usually bought tickets by the dozen.

HC Did most customers use the tickets?

WALKEMEYER: Not a lot, no. I'd say probably 40-45%.

HC Getting back to horses were they shod?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, yes. They had to go down to the blacksmith that was in Albany Road, just down near the Causeway. They had to be taken down there to be shod and brought back home. How they were taken down there was usually... they had to be on a cart; nobody rode the horses; they weren't riding horses.

HC So you never climbed on their backs or anything?

WALKEMEYER: No, no, no.

HC You told us the colour of Dick, but what was the colour of the other two?

WALKEMEYER: Oh chestnut.

HC A similar type of horse?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, yes, what I'd call an ordinary bread carthorse. The milko, they had lighter horses. They had floats, with just ordinary car wheels. Those floats came into the bread industry a little bit later on because they were lighter and easier for the horses to pull along. It meant that you could have a lighter horse, so the milkmen often had old trotters or old racehorses and things like that.

HC Tell me about a bread cart. For someone that hasn't seen a bread cart, what does it look like?

WALKEMEYER: Well it's just a box on wheels, with some seats on the top, a little box. But the wheels were... I've got to think about it now – about a metre in diameter I suppose they would have been, an iron wheel – iron, an iron tyre around the wooden wheel. They were spoked and it was a two-wheeled cart. So it meant the shafts were

up fairly high then, for the horse. Also on the top you usually had a canvas tent piece where there was more space for more bread.

HC Was that waterproof?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, that was canvas, waterproof canvas.

HC Did it have the bakery name on it?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, yes. The bakery name, or the dairy name was always on the side of the carts.

HC How did you access the bread?

WALKEMEYER: Oh always the door in at the back. Also where you sat there was room for two people to sit, but you seldom ever had two people sitting on the cart. Where the second person would sit there used to be a trapdoor, so you could also reach down into the box. On Saturdays the bread carters usually had what they called a jockey. A jockey was a boy that wanted to earn a little bit of pocket money and he'd help to deliver the bread, but as a rule he never sat up on the seat, he always sat on the edge of the shaft, up just behind the horse.

HC Was that because Saturday was a busier day?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, well of course there was no bread on Sunday, so they were delivering more bread.

HC Leon, did most people get fresh loaf of bread every day?

WALKEMEYER: Most people got fresh bread every day, always delivered.

HC That sounds perfect! [Laughs] So when you're loading the carts, before you put the horse in the shafts the carts would be leaning down, wouldn't they?

WALKEMEYER: No, they were propped up, so that they were straight. They had a box under the back and the cart rested on the box and that was the right height so you could load the cart.

HC And then you just backed the horse in and took the box away.

WALKEMEYER: That's right. You'll be able to deliver bread by the time we've finished. [Laughter]

HC And the bread never moved from side to side or...

WALKEMEYER: No, no, it was always fairly stable. See the bread was always hot or quite warm as a rule. Although we put it out on the racks to cool, it would still be squashable.

HC Let's talk about the daily routine of the bakery. When would the bakers turn up?

WALKEMEYER: Well the key to the whole business is your foreman. Your foreman comes down in the afternoon about five o'clock and he makes the dough and it goes into big long wooden troughs. It's left there to what we called 'prove'. It rises up and then the foreman comes back about three o'clock in the morning and the first thing he does is knocks the doughs down and then while he's getting other things ready, the dough will rise up again. At this stage the assistant baker, or an apprentice would come along and they'd be getting the dough out of the troughs then and weighing it out, putting it in the tins, where it was still proving to a certain extent before it was put in the oven. Saturday morning the bread always had to be ready by six o'clock in the morning so it meant an earlier start on Friday night for the bakers. The start time on the other days I just don't remember what it was now; it might have been eight o'clock when the bread carters then came along. I think that's right because I think the bread started coming out of the ovens about six o'clock and it still had to cool off.

HC How many batches would get done in the oven, could you do it all in one?

WALKEMEYER: Oh no, oh no, no. It just depended on how big an order you had. See if you had a long weekend you're making bread for three days.

HC How many bakers were employed?

WALKEMEYER: The foreman and an apprentice, that's all we had, just the two.

HC So your dad had a foreman, even though he was managing the bakery.

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, yes. The foreman didn't do any office work, just worked with the bread.

HC So what was your dad's role then?

WALKEMEYER: Well just manager. What you had to do, when the bread deliveries were over, the bread carters come back and they have to book in. By booking in you had to... my father had the big ledgers, you'd have the people's names and how much bread they took that day and whether it was cash or whether it was ticketed bread, because what's in the cash bag has got to balance up with the amount of bread the chappie took out on the cart.

HC Did it usually?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, it was always pretty good.

HC So then when the bakers had finished at eight o'clock or whatever time it was, six o'clock on Saturdays and they'd cleaned up, could they then go home?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes. They could go home, they went home.

HC Did they get any days off in the week?

WALKEMEYER: Sunday, just Sunday. Well the Sunday, the foreman really didn't get the day off because he had to make the dough on Sunday afternoon ready for Monday. His longest spell would be when he knocked off on Saturday and he'd be off duty until about five o'clock on Sunday when he'd come in to make the dough.

HC Not an easy job.

WALKEMEYER: No.

HC Was there a big turnover of staff?

WALKEMEYER: No not really. Staff were very loyal. No, there wasn't a big turnover. I think my father was a little bit fortunate from what I see. He didn't put on a no-hoper. Whether he was a good at his interviewing and picking out the right people or not I don't know. During the war when it was much harder to get staff we had one bread carter and he only had one arm. His name was Sandy Bray. He had been working down at the cement works down on the Swan River, near the Causeway, when it used to be there. Unfortunately, his arm got caught in a belt and got pulled off. Sandy used to come to work sometimes and he was unshaven. He would say, "I am sorry Boss, my arm got in the way!" The one that had been pulled off.... How shall I put it?

HC Phantom pains?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, phantom. These days they can pick it out on kirlian photography, that you can still see where the arm was. This arm that wasn't there used to get in the way for Sandy, he couldn't shave. Just an interesting little story. I've heard other people that have problems like that, saying, "Oh no, it can still be there, it gets in the way."

HC Was Sandy the main bread carter?

WALKEMEYER: No, no.

HC Who were the others?

WALKEMEYER: Well the one that was there when I was a kid and his name was mentioned, went to my grandfather's funeral, was Fred Schultz. Fred was there, oh for years. He was still there after the war. Well to me he was an old man – I was only a kid. I don't know, I think somewhere in the background there was a bit of a tie-up from my grandfather to Fred Schultz and that's why he stayed there for so long. But Fred Schultz bucked the system. He wouldn't be like the others, having to book up the same way and have his money counted. Fred Schultz, he would book up and then my father would tell him how much – how many tickets and how much cash for that amount of bread and Fred would just pay him out of his bag, whereas the others it was more an

audit every day, with the amount of bread and tickets and cash, which you needed to see that there's no funny business going on.

HC So there was Fred and Sandy, any other bread carters?

WALKEMEYER: Oh they came and went. George Pike was there for a long time and Jack Conduit, a star Vic Park soccer champion. They were just solid old good Australian workers.

HC Mostly live in Vic Park?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, they usually always lived in Vic Park.

HC And what about the bakers?

WALKEMEYER: The bakers. My father bought a house about 100 metres away from the bakery business and that's where the foreman lived with his family. Of course the foreman had married my mother's helper in the house. Her name was May.

HC Did she cease helping in the house after she married the foreman?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, she must have initially, yes.

HC What was his name?

WALKEMEYER: Ren, Ren Conduit. He was a cousin, I think, of Jack Conduit, the soccer player there in that photo I showed you¹². He was a nice fellow.

HC And did they have a family in the house down the road?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, they had a family, yes. They lived up on the first corner, up Dane Street¹³

HC And what was the name of the apprentice, or the helper, that came in?

WALKEMEYER: Well they changed of course. Once they'd finished being an apprentice they'd often then go off and do things. One was John Egan; he was there when war was declared. I know he went and joined the forces, so he had to be replaced. I am trying to think of others. After the war, that's when this chappie, Helmer Hoefliger came out and he was already a baker and pasty cook, etc. and he worked with us. He was the one that said to my sister, when you go to Switzerland go and see my family. He worked there for a while, but he was already a trained baker.

¹² The photo is of the Victoria Park Soccer Club 1937 which was on a Christmas card sent out by MLA Member for Victoria Park, Geoff Gallop. Leon's father, B Walkemeyer is also in the photo. A copy of the Christmas card was copied for the Victoria Park Library.

¹³ *Wise's WA Post Office Directory* of 1945 lists R Conduit at 13 Dane Street, Victoria Park.

HC What happened if the bread carters couldn't come? You mentioned that I think your dad did the carting occasionally and you did too.

WALKEMEYER: That's a bit of a catastrophe really because... Prior to the war if that happened... see your customers were all over the place. Before zoning came in I remember that the chappie that did the round from Victoria Park over to South Perth etc., that was Jack Conduit, he said, "I want to go on a holiday, I do need a holiday." He was driving a van; we already had a motor van then. I had to go around with him for a week to see where all the customers were. I must have been only twelve I suppose, at the time. Ren Conduit, the baker, he was going to drive the van for me. Anyway I made a bit of a mess of it because I couldn't remember where all these people were. I mean you only had one or two houses in a street, here and over there. It was a nightmare. I came back and I said, "I've just messed it up." We had to get Jack to come back off his holidays to do the rest.

HC When would it have been when the bakery changed from horses to motorised deliveries?

WALKEMEYER: It would have been around 1940.

HC Just at the beginning of the war.

WALKEMEYER: I was just trying to think if there were other bread vans around. There might have been some bread vans around in about 1936 I suppose – the ones that were perhaps delivering around in a city or something like that.

HC They don't sound like they would be quite as convenient as the horses that knew where to stop and...

WALKEMEYER: Oh when we had zoning the horses were ideal. With a van, to stop and start a van all the time, only doing one or two houses in this street and then you're going down near Canning Bridge and doing one or two and just getting out of the van and stopping it and starting it all the time, it wouldn't have been economical.

HC Did the van have Terminus Bakery written all over it?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, it did, yes, yes.

HC You used to go and do the bread carting with the horses.

WALKEMEYER: I'd ride with the horses, well that's what I did.

HC Tell me about the customers – did you ever meet any customers that were interesting or different?

WALKEMEYER: No. You didn't really have anything to do with them. You'd be going into a place whether it's a back door or a front door place, you knew which one you had to go to. If they didn't have tins out or anything, you just had the basket of

bread on your arm and you'd yell out, "Bake-oh!" or "Baker!" Then they'd come to the door and you'd only just complete what they wanted; it wasn't socialising. You didn't have time for that, you had more deliveries to do.

HC You didn't get to know any of them?

WALKEMEYER: No, not really. You only knew some of them, with their big orders, that they had ten or twelve children. That was common in Victoria Park in those days.

HC It sounds like the sort of job that would make it very hard for your mum and dad to have had a social life?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, well you had to attend to the bakery every day of the week except Sunday and then Sunday you had to have the order ready for the foreman to know what doughs to make for Monday. It's like a lot of things, you don't realise it's really seven days a week until you get into it.

HC Otto worked in the bakery when he was a bit older didn't he?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, but he did work, but he didn't work in the bakehouse, he only delivered bread, only delivered. So he became an offsider for my father that way, until my father sold the business and when that happened a condition of the sale was that Otto should be a bread carter for him for a while.

HC It was sold to Brennan's¹⁴.

WALKEMEYER: Brennan's, that's right.

HC So Otto's contribution was really as a bread carter.

WALKEMEYER: As a bread carter, that's all, yes.

HC Before we started recording, you mentioned the Miss Byfields, tell me about them.

WALKEMEYER: Well of course people used to come into the bakery to buy bread. One of the characters that came in were the two Miss Byfields. They lived somewhere out near Armadale. So they 'd come in in their horse and buggy, or their horse and trap, and buy their bread and then trot out again. That was one of the nice things that happened, but otherwise we had regulars that used to come there and you became quite friendly with them. The Miss Byfields obviously had to come into the city or do something that brought them into Victoria Park or Perth at the time; they always stopped and got bread.

HC Was there ever any leftover bread?

¹⁴ The Terminus Bakery was sold to Brennan's Bakery on 4 January 1962. See Attachment Three.

WALKEMEYER: Well there was leftover bread from the day before, but the next day there used to be customers that had wanted the stale bread, as I mentioned.

HC So you got rid of most of it that way, there wasn't any...

WALKEMEYER: But sometimes, you see, you mightn't have made quite enough bread and you'd be short. So then we would be ringing up Lewis's Bakery¹⁵, which was further down Victoria Park, or some other bakery, "Have you got any bread left?" We always used to work in with each other that way. They'd do the same with us.

HC You mentioned the van and in a break in recording I asked what happened to the horses when you got the van but you mentioned that you actually worked the two in conjunction, you only had one van.

WALKEMEYER: Yes, we did. That's right, we only ever had one van.

HC Just tell me the comparison of the efficiency of working with horses and the van.

WALKEMEYER: Oh with the van there'd be a lot of stop-starting, with the van, but admittedly with the van you could load it up more. You could put far more bread into a small van than you could into a bread cart. It must have been cheaper to feed the horses than buy your petrol.

HC Who groomed the horses?

WALKEMEYER: Oh just the carters.

HC We might as well cover what happened to the Terminus Bakery in the end. It remained in the family until after the war and when things were becoming a bit mechanised. Why did your dad sell it to Brennan's?

WALKEMEYER: I've left out one little bit there. My father had a visit from a couple of the business men and they said to him, "We want to buy that piece of land you've got next door." That was the piece the horses were on. My father was sort of open to the suggestion and it turned out that these two chappies were representatives of Ampol, the oil company. Ampol wanted to open a service station in Perth and as far as I know, it was Ampol's first service station in WA. So during the negotiations for that bit of land off the horse paddock my father had the idea and he said to them, "Well what about the corner block where the house is? Would you want that?" You can imagine service station people, they just jumped at the idea. So that's when my father sold the house and the house was demolished for an Ampol service station and my father went and bought a house out at Cannington and we moved out there. That would have been about 1952 or '53.

¹⁵ Lewis and Sons, 57 McMaster Street, Victoria Park.

HC So the Ampol service station was built on the house block, but what happened to the rest of it?

WALKEMEYER: Well they got the whole lot, the whole strip along Albany Highway there.

HC So which bit did Brennan's take over from your dad?

WALKEMEYER: What was behind. It had to be subdivided. So all the blocks went one way and had to be cut that way. The block for Ampol faced Albany Highway. Behind was the bakery, so the bakery was left all intact and the stables at the back and there was still enough room for the horses.

HC That all happened about the same time?

WALKEMEYER: No, that happened all later, selling to Brennan's

HC So your dad managed the bakery from living at Cannington.

WALKEMEYER: Yes, that's right. As far as I know that Ampol service station was the first one in Western Australia. Now all the Caltex stations – I don't know whether you know – are now going to all be labelled Ampol again.

HC That must have been quite difficult, not living on the premises, for your dad, having to travel to the bakery. Did he still have Ren Conduit as the foreman?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, he still had his good foreman, yes. That all went okay.

HC I should have asked you; did you have a telephone?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, yes. We had a telephone right from the word go when we moved out to the bakery. M1259.

HC Did your dad have a sort of office set up in the house?

WALKEMEYER: No, it was attached to the bakery building; it was built into the bakery building when the new building was done. There was a completely separate small office.

HC Was there a telephone up there as well as at the house?

WALKEMEYER: Yes.

HC Was that an extension?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, it was all on the one line.

HC That's where he kept all the books and the...

WALKEMEYER: That's right.

HC I haven't got anything else to ask you today Leon, have you got anything else you'd like to add about the bakery?

[Note to Reader]

Leon Walkemeyer showed the interviewer a general record book kept in bakehouses and used by the Terminus Bakery and other bakers. This particular book was purchased from stationers E S Wigg and Son Ltd. Pages are divided into columns across the page to enable the recording of the date and details such as number of flour bags opened and the current bakehouse tally. Also across the page is provision for recording the daily loads of up to six bread carts. This is facilitated by having the names of individual types of loaves listed down the page allowing the number taken to be recorded under a particular cart.

Mr Walkemeyer has kindly donated the book to the Victoria Park Library. Those wishing to peruse it should consult the Local History Officer.

Though belonging to the Terminus Bakery, this book was not used for its original bakery purpose. It has however been very slightly used by Leon Walkemeyer, for keeping some records relating to his stamp collection. He explains:

WALKEMEYER: I had used this one particular book for my stamp collecting. I must have been fifteen- might have been sixteen, just after the war, 1945. I wrote off to various newspapers in different countries asking them if they'd put a little line in their newspapers to say that I was a stamp collector and I wanted to swap stamps with other countries etc. I did that and I got quite a lot of replies back and these names [in the book] are names of people that I wrote to and what the stamps were, that I sent. When I was cleaning out I found the book with all my addresses in. Because one of my good friends at the moment is Maltese I happened to see all these addresses in Malta so I am going to ask him if he ever knew any of these people because he is the same age as me. All the different addresses, I've got - Malta and Jamaica - I wrote all over the world.

END OF INTERVIEW SESSION ONE

INTERVIEW SESSION TWO

This is the second interview session with Leon Walkemeyer for the Victoria Park Library, held at his home in Bicton on Monday 8 June, 2020. The interviewer is Heather Campbell.

Leon, you've thought of a couple more things about the bakery. Some rather nice things happened to them in 1937 and 1939.

WALKEMEYER: Yes. In 1937 we won first prize at the Royal Agricultural Show for our bread and in 1939 also we won first prize for our bread. So that was a nice booster for the bakery. Of course in those days bread was bread, not this fly-away stuff that we have these days. There were no preservatives put into it or anything like that; it was just good solid old-fashioned bread. We were fortunate. There was a lot of competition for it.

HC What happened in 1938, the year in between?

WALKEMEYER: Oh we only got second prize! [Laughter]

HC Still that was very good.

You've just given me a lead pencil, which I will take to the Victoria Park Library, tell me the story behind that pencil, because the bakery name and contact details are on it.

WALKEMEYER: Yes. This was back in the thirties when quite a lot of businesses put pencils out with the name of the business etc. on pencils. It was a part of their advertising and good PR work. My father had some yellow pencils with black writing on them, for B Walkemeyer, for the Terminus Bakery.

HC Who did he hand them out to?

WALKEMEYER: Oh they were handed out to all sorts of customers; it was just a PR exercise.

HC Anything else like that in PR vein?

WALKEMEYER: No, no, not really, no.

HC Pencils were a very practical thing to hand out.

WALKEMEYER: They were, they were – there were no biros in those days.

HC One thing I wondered about from last time, about Albany Highway, that stretch of road that the bakery was on. If you went out the front from your house, in the forties, and you looked up and down the street, what would you see – what was it like?

WALKEMEYER: Well in those days Shepperton Road didn't go through. The two roads came from the east and the west, but they didn't meet, there was housing in the middle. Those houses all had to be resumed to make Shepperton Road go through. So Albany Highway took all of the traffic, all the traffic. You'd often get log trucks or the White Rock Quarry trucks coming through – all heavy trucks – the government buses that went through. Then the buses that went out to places like Armadale and further out. Any interstate trucks that were around in those days all came past our place. So it was a very busy road. You could often see a horse and cart, just a general horse and cart; it didn't have to be a baker, or milkman, or anything like that. There was only the one single tram track in front of our place, so you always had to be very careful crossing the road. You couldn't often see past the trams.

HC And mostly residential or commercial?

WALKEMEYER: The commercial was just a strip up Albany Road; the commercial didn't go in on either side anywhere really.

HC Were there any trees along the street?

WALKEMEYER: No, no; there were little or no trees along the street. I think that part of Victoria Park was largely built up of War Service Homes, after the First World War, so the houses were all very ordinary, the area was very sandy.

HC You hear some amazing things that happen with people getting stuck in tramlines, did anything ever happen like that?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, for me it did once, coming home with the bread cart, with old Dick, who knew he was going home. Suddenly the iron wheels of the bread cart stuck in the tramline and Dick was bolting for home and here was me – I must have been about, oh, about fourteen or fifteen – trying to hang on the reins and hold Dick, with the cart swaying all over the tramlines etc., till we got to the bakery. He immediately slowed down and just walked into the place as though nothing had happened.

HC Did the bread cart wheels just come out of the tramlines then?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, they do. They don't actually go right into the groove of the tramline, but because of the surface of the tramline, they just seem to catch. I'll never forget that one.

HC Any others?

WALKEMEYER: No. That was all.

HC Let's talk about being a little boy in Vic Park. You mentioned that you had to clean the horses' stables out, did you have any other chores as a little chap?

WALKEMEYER: Well there were always chores to be done around the place because it was a bread factory and there were always things that, at the time, needed attention. We weren't overworked or anything like that and we also had things to help our mother. I did mention previously, I think, about the maid. That we had a maid? Yes. During the Second World War, of course, there was a slogan, 'Dig for Victory' and of course, the dig for victory meant to have a veggie garden, so I had quite a veggie garden. I think that was also mentioned previously.

HC As you've mentioned the war, did you have any sense of fear as a little boy?

WALKEMEYER: No, no. No sense of fear, even when we had the mock air raids to get into the trenches at school, there was never any fear that way.

HC With the war on did that change Vic Park at all; there would have been less men perhaps?

WALKEMEYER: They were more or less over, what you'd call the conscription age, which was probably about 40. My father was manpowered because of the bakery, but also because he was too short. They did have rules and regulations for the size of people for the Army.

HC How tall was he?

WALKEMEYER: Oh just to the top of my shoulders. His father was only to the top of his shoulder.

HC And you are quite tall.

WALKEMEYER: So you'd wonder where it comes from.

HC Tell me, if there was an air raid warning at school, what would happen; would there be a noise?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, the sirens would go. We had sirens just the same as they did in London and all these other cities that were affected by the war. When the sirens went, the teachers would be opening the doors straight away and the kids all had to rush down to the trenches where they were.

HC Did you take anything with you?

WALKEMEYER: No, we didn't; I don't recall that we had to take anything. I mean there was no such things as water bottles in those days and all those things that we take for granted now - we didn't have them.

HC So you'd climb into the trench.

WALKEMEYER: Climb into the trench, yes. We had bags that we put over our heads, wheat bags, so that we were camouflaged in the trenches.

HC And that was the only accessory you had?

WALKEMEYER: Yes it was.

HC What would happen – you'd stay there for a while?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, stay there for a while and then they'd sound the all-clear. But of course the Japanese never got down to Perth so we never had any real action or anything like that.

HC How often would you have air raid practice?

WALKEMEYER: I don't recall how often – it was probably every fortnight anyway.

HC What sort of things did you do at weekends?

WALKEMEYER: Well even during the week, after school - there wasn't any homework, when I was at East Victoria Park School - we often played cricket in the back yard. We had scooters and on the weekends often, I with a couple of friends of mine, we'd hop on our scooters and we'd ride out to Cannington and out at Cannington at the time there were a lot of irrigation, or drainage channels and along the drainage channels they used to have arum lilies growing wild. We'd ride our scooters out there, pick a few arum lilies to take home to Mum. That was common, to go for a ride on our scooters after school.

HC Was that with Otto and your sister?

WALKEMEYER: No, no, they were too young. I am talking about kids my own age.

HC Tell me about your friends.

WALKEMEYER: Oh there was Bryce Irvine, Harry Bromley, Don Sutherland. There were three or four of us who would always go out on our scooters. It was safe. We had to ride a lot on the roads, but the drivers... Of course the vehicles in those days didn't go as fast as they go now.

HC Did you have to tell your mum where you were going?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, of course.

HC And be back at a certain time?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes.

HC What about evenings, what did you do in the evening?

WALKEMEYER: Well there was no television of course. We had a radio and certainly we used to listen to serials – *Dad and Dave* and *Martin's Corner*¹⁶, that was our little bit of luxury that way. Otherwise we had to make our own fun – do your own thing, whether you played other board games or did some sort of craft work.

HC Reading?

WALKEMEYER: I wasn't a reader in those days.

HC Did Mum and Dad read stories to you before bedtime?

WALKEMEYER: No, I don't think they did, no, as a little kid. I know there were a few little children's reading books around, but I don't remember them specifically reading to us. My father often wasn't there in the evenings, he was out at meetings and things of that nature, so we didn't have as much to do with him as with Mother.

HC What about sport?

WALKEMEYER: Sport really was more just for the school as such. There wasn't any outside football or cricket. This was only up to twelve years old, at East Victoria Park School, so we were only little kids. Nothing organised very much. But what we did have, we used to have physical education at school. That's something that I think should be done even now. It meant that it didn't matter whether it was rain, hail or shine, you stripped off your shirt and you'd do all these calisthenics. We used to go over to what we called the rec – recreation ground, just next to the school. That's where you had to get down and lie on the grass and kick your legs in the air and do all these other things.

HC Was there a phys. ed. teacher?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, yes. There was always a phys. ed. teacher there.

HC Well as we've got onto East Victoria Park Primary School, you were there from 1935 till the early forties I think.

WALKEMEYER: Yes, six years.

HC Do you remember your first day?

WALKEMEYER: No.

HC How did you get to school?

¹⁶ *Dad and Dave* was a radio drama, centred on two Australian families living at a place called Snake Gully. It was based on the *On Our Selection* stories by Steel Rudd and ran from c. 1937-1953, over 2,276 episodes. *Martin's Corner* ran for c. 1,500 episodes from c. 1939-1955 and comprised of human interest stories set in a typical suburban grocery shop.

WALKEMEYER: Walked. Very fortunately it wasn't a long walk, but we always walked.

HC Did your mum take you?

WALKEMEYER: Oh no, no. There was no worries about child molestation or anything in those days. I was probably one of the fortunate ones because I always had a pair of sandals, but 90% of the children were in bare feet, no shoes. Things were pretty tough because that was during the Depression years.

HC What about uniform?

WALKEMEYER: No, no, there were no school uniforms.

HC What did you wear then, to school?

WALKEMEYER: Oh just a pair of shorts and a shirt and in winter, a jumper on.

HC What happened when you got to school, what was the routine like?

WALKEMEYER: Well I always used to get to school a bit early because we boys, we used to like to have a game of cricket. There was always a couple of trees that served as wickets. Had a game of cricket. There used to be a couple of trees in the grounds, but the grounds, of course, were only gravel. There was no lawn, as such, or asphalt areas; it was still a bit primitive that way. So we used to play cricket, or football in winter.

HC And then what happened?

WALKEMEYER: Oh well, then the bell would ring and you'd be into your classroom.

HC Was there a school assembly, of the whole school, at all?

WALKEMEYER: Not always. I think the assembly was just one day a week. That's something that I'm not clear in my mind about.

HC What happened at the assembly?

WALKEMEYER: Well the headmaster would always address the crowd on some particular issue that was dominant at that time. Even in those days we used to have a soup kitchen at the school. I also remember there was some special lunches, health lunches, that they wanted to serve to the children¹⁷. That's going back a long time, to think that at that school they were trying to bring in healthy eating and good food. Of

¹⁷ Oslo lunches. A combination of cheese and salad sandwich on wholemeal bread, accompanied by milk and fruit, invented by Norwegian Professor Schiotz. It was claimed that children who ate this combination were shown to be healthier after six months. <https://australianfoodtimeline.com.au/oslo-lunch/>

course that was helping those kids who were in a very poor environment that didn't get a decent meal.

HC Did you have any singing or prayers or anything like that at the assembly?

WALKEMEYER: No prayers. There was a religious education went on through the school. There was always one morning during the week where a minister of your particular religion would come along; each different religion met in different classroom.

HC With the assemblies, did you have a special assembly for something like Anzac Day?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, Anzac Day, or Arbor Day. Arbor Day was quite a dominant issue. Otherwise I think the assemblies were probably only once a week or so.

HC What would happen when it was Anzac Day for example?

WALKEMEYER: Oh you'd have an Anzac Day service. Thinking back we would have been all out in... The school was built around, almost in a U-shape. In the area in the middle, that's where you would have a service with all the classes. Somebody would come along and tell you what Anzac Day was all about. It was the same with Arbor Day they'd do the same sort of thing.

HC On Arbor Day would you actually plant tree as well?

WALKEMEYER: Yes we did. Not many – there'd be only be one or two because we had nowhere to plant them much.

HC So you'd plant with in the school grounds?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, yes.

HC And the lessons, which lessons were your favourite subjects?

WALKEMEYER: Oh I was always good at maths. I enjoyed maths and geography.

HC And your least favourite?

WALKEMEYER: It was history and English – English and composition, I struggled with.

HC Did you have the same teacher the whole time, for each lesson, whatever the subject (apart from phys. ed.).

WALKEMEYER: Yes. Your one teacher taught you maths as well as your geography and your history, the whole lot. The only time we had another teacher was for religious instruction and phys. ed.

HC Let's talk about the teachers. There is the renowned Miss Hannant. Tell me about her.

WALKEMEYER: She was a very gentle lady. To me, now, it's just hard to say... You always think of a headmaster or headmistress as being very authoritarian. But she was never that way, never that way. She wasn't really authoritarian. She was more like a mother to the children.

HC What did she look like, Leon?

WALKEMEYER: Well she was tall and looked very Victorian; wore long frocks. Didn't seem to dress for the times that we were in. I think she made a lasting impression on all the children that went through the school that way¹⁸. She was a very kind lady.

HC We were talking before we started recording about her artistic talent. Tell me about the fretwork.

WALKEMEYER: Yes. She used to trace animals onto three ply – zebras, elephants – I can't think of the others. Then there'd be myself and another boy, which she took a bit of a shine to. We must have shown our ability to use a fretwork saw. She'd often just call us out of class and say, "Look I want a few animals cut." So there was this spot where the verandah was about a metre high and we could just stand there and do our fretwork and cut these animals out for her. Then she'd paint them all. Course later then she'd sell them at her fetes or fairs, to raise money for different things.

HC How often would you have interaction with Miss Hannant?

WALKEMEYER: She didn't take classes, she was just a headmistress. Mind you I suppose she must have stepped in the days when teachers were too unwell to come to teach.

HC Were children sent to her if they misbehaved?

WALKEMEYER: Oh they would have been, yes, most definitely. But I don't think any of them would have been frightened of her. [Laughs]

HC Did you ever have to go?

WALKEMEYER: No, no. I was always a good boy. I don't think I know anything really more about her because she led a very private life otherwise.

HC What about some of the other teachers, Miss Phillips?

¹⁸ This is confirmed by Bill Bickerton who attended East Victoria Park Primary School from 1943-1950, who was interviewed by Heather Campbell for the Victoria Park Library in January 2020. The transcript of Mr Bickerton's interview carries attachments detailing Miss Hannant's career and interests.

WALKEMEYER: I don't remember them so much as individuals, but I remember the names and I can remember the classrooms etc.

HC What were the classrooms like then, tell me about those?

WALKEMEYER: The classrooms didn't have any heating in them or cooling in those days. They were just bare schoolrooms and the teachers themselves would have the children do pictures etc. which they'd probably pin up around the walls for a while.

HC Maps and things like that?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, maps. Yes, especially for geography. Mind you this is only for the three years of infant classes because at the East Victoria Park School there was what you called the 'top' school and the 'bottom' school. The top school was the primary school - you only had three years there and then you went to the bottom school and then you had three years there.

HC So Miss Hannant was at the...

WALKEMEYER: She was at the top school. It was called that because you had to walk up a slight incline to where the school was. But the two buildings were completely separate buildings.

HC So one was a junior primary and one was a primary and Miss Hannant was in the junior section. How did you feel when you went to the primary school then?

WALKEMEYER: Oh you felt good, you were growing up, you were going to the big school.

HC How was that different to being at the little school.

WALKEMEYER: Well straight away they had a headmaster there. A headmaster who was strict – entirely different to Miss Hannant.

HC Was it like two separate schools almost?

WALKEMEYER: Yes it was. Oh definitely, yes.

HC And Miss Hannant was in charge of the younger children.

WALKEMEYER: Top school. Yes, that's right, her school.

HC And the headmaster was in charge of the other one.

WALKEMEYER: That's right. The school was divided into two and the buildings were separate.

HC What about playtime?

WALKEMEYER: Playtime. The top school [i.e. the younger children], they had their own area for playing etc. Then the other section had their own area for playing. You didn't mix in your playing area. They were exactly like two separate schools.

HC Well thinking about either school, what teachers do you remember?

WALKEMEYER: I remember Miss Woods. I remember even her Christian name for some reason – Violet Woods. I think that's because she signed her reports Violet Woods.¹⁹ I had nice teachers all the way through. Of course the grades of the students were always graded into 'A', 'B' and 'C'. You tend to always just mix with your own classroom of students; you didn't mix a lot with the 'B's and 'C's. There was a certain amount of mixing, but it wasn't very common.

HC The boys you used to go scooting with, were they in the same class as you?

WALKEMEYER: They were in the same class as me, yes.

HC You did mention a couple of teachers last time, Mr Ockerby and Miss McDowell. Tell me about them.

WALKEMEYER: Oh Miss McDowell. She was known because she had a little baby Austin. She used to be, I think, the only teacher that had a motor car. The same Miss McDowell, she had a reputation of... Well these days you'd be prosecuted for hitting a child with a bamboo or a hockey stick or something like that. Ockerby would probably be the same. Admittedly she had the lowest class, the 'C's, who were probably a little bit more difficult to deal than the 'B's or the 'A's.

HC Did she have a cane then?

WALKEMEYER: Oh she'd have a bamboo that she'd just reach across and hit somebody down the middle of the class or somewhere because they were talking to someone else or passing a note. Ockerby, for his punishment he used to say, "Now come out here. Stand. Bend down and touch your toes". Then would come up behind you and with some sort of bat give you a good whack on the backside, usually with some sort of bat.

HC So it wasn't necessary to send you to the headmaster for the cane.

WALKEMEYER: Oh no. Oh they did their own punishment. You only went to the headmaster if it was something more serious. Then the headmaster would give you the cane. That was one step up as punishment, to get the cane.

¹⁹At the time of the interview Mr Walkemeyer still had his school reports from East Victoria Park Primary School and said that he would allow Victoria Park Library to make copies of them.

HC Did you have lines; did you have to write lines at all?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, yes, yes. 'I must not talk in school.' Write that out 30 times or 40 times; things of that nature. I think that was pretty common everywhere.

HC Thinking about that, how did Mum and Dad discipline you at home?

WALKEMEYER: Dad had a cane, used to whack you around the legs. I had strict parents.

HC What about your mum?

WALKEMEYER: Oh no, she never did any of the caning that way. It would just be a case of 'Just wait until your father comes home'.

HC You have some lovely pictures of you as the Prince of Westralia.

WALKEMEYER: Yes. See that was another thing of Miss Hannant's doing, that concert was in 1937. I would have been in either the second or third year with Miss Hannant's group. That's where she was very involved with drama.

HC I will put the photo in the transcript, but I believe that your grandmother made the costume and the wig for the play.



Leon Walkemeyer as the Prince of Westralia, 1937

HC Tell me all about that. How did you get the part for a start?

WALKEMEYER: I don't know. The teachers decided who was going to be who in the play and I was going to be Prince of Westralia. Fortunately, my grandmother, who made a lot of fancy costumes, she had no trouble in rustling up what she thought was the right gear and I seemed to have no inhibitions as a young child, doing the part and being dressed up and lip-sticked and powdered.

HC I believe it was based on Cinderella, is that...?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, yes it was.

HC So in effect were you Prince Charming?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, that's right, that's right. But for some reason they changed that to Prince of Westralia.

HC What about learning lines?

WALKEMEYER: Well apparently I had no trouble. It was at Anzac House. Of course Anzac House, had a reasonable sized auditorium in those days. I know they had no trouble selling tickets and that sort of thing.

HC So it was open to the public, the presentation?

WALKEMEYER: It was. You had to buy your tickets and if I remember rightly I think the tickets were seven shillings and sixpence, which was a lot of money in those days.²⁰

HC Did you have rehearsals at school?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, we must have, oh we must have. I mean there were other items on at the concert as well because they had the first-graders as well as the second-graders. I must have been in the third-graders I think.

HC So the whole concert was a school presentation?

WALKEMEYER: It was a school presentation just for, what we called the Infants' School.

HC Were you nervous Leon?

WALKEMEYER: I don't think so. As I say as a child often you don't... you just take these things.

HC Did Mum and Dad and Grannie go along?

²⁰ See Attachment Four for programme of the event.

WALKEMEYER: Oh certainly Mum and Dad did and I suppose my grandmother was there too.

HC I think she deserved to be after she made the costume. [Laughter] Have you any memories of that night?

WALKEMEYER: No, not really. I can visualise at the Anzac House, inside. That was all. But you asked me before about things I did after school etc. What I mentioned was the very first ones when I was fairly young. Later on, when I got to Kent Street School, of course things changed completely. But then the things that I did in my own time and weekends and that changed, these three or four friends of mine and myself, we used to go out bike riding and we used to ride as far as Canning Dam, up in the hills; it was a long way to go. I can remember one summer, a friend of mine and myself, we rode down to Mandurah on our bikes and spent the night under the bridge at Mandurah. So we went quite big distances. We'd ride to City Beach to go swimming.

HC And that was okay as long as you told your mum where you were going?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, yes. As long as you told her where you were going.

HC Did you go to the river much because you weren't terribly far from the river?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, yes. Went down to the Causeway. We used to go crabbing down there and fishing. They had reclaimed the islands at the Causeway and at the time it took a long time for anything to grow, or anything to happen on the islands. The islands would be just like all mud and of course, we loved riding our bikes in all the mud.

HC Did you take the crabs home and cook them, or did you cook them down there and eat them?

WALKEMEYER: Oh we never caught a lot really; didn't catch a lot. Of course even the fish down there, they weren't really very edible – trumpeters and that sort of thing.

HC Could you swim?

WALKEMEYER: Well we did swimming classes at school. It was enough to keep you afloat. That's all I could swim and that's all I can swim now.

HC Did you actually swim in the river?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes. Well for family outings we often went down to Mosman Bay and we'd take a picnic and swim in the river at Mosman. That was a favourite spot and also Matilda Bay.

HC Did you go to the cinema at all?

WALKEMEYER: Occasionally, occasionally. It used to be, I think, sixpence, on Saturdays, to go to the pictures. When I went to the cinema it was always just a Saturday afternoon show.

HC Any other outings as a family like you did to Mosman Bay?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes. A favourite used to be we used to go up to the nut country. Well may you ask where the nut country is. The nut country was you went through Armadale and then you turned. Instead of going down to the South West Highway, you turned to the left and up in the hills there were a lot of banksia tree and they would often be fallen down etc. We had an open fire for our lounge room. So we used to gather all these banksia nuts. We had flour bags we'd fill up with banksia nuts and take them home. But that was always a family outing.

HC And do they burn well?

WALKEMEYER: Oh they do. See banksia doesn't spark, but jarrah, if you use jarrah, jarrah will spark and of course, often cause house fires or people would get their carpet burnt. But banksia, there was no sparking and the banksia nuts just go down to a grey ash. They were slow burning. So we did a lot of that sort of thing.

HC Thinking back to school, with the phys. ed. teacher, did you have cricket and football? I think you had your sport on the Kent Street Recreation Ground didn't you?

WALKEMEYER: Yes that's right. No, we only had calisthenics, that's all we had.

HC Even when you got to the big school?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes. The cricket was just our own doing, with a group of boys who would form up a team or play each other.

HC When the time came to go to Kent Street, how did you feel about leaving the little school?

WALKEMEYER: Oh just accepted it as part of life. You were growing up and you were going to learn more. Kent Street, they hadn't completely finished the school. For the first, oh, about four months, we had to go down to what we called the bottom school – the Victoria Park School, down near the Causeway. We had to go down there for four months before we then went up to Kent Street. We did find that at Kent Street they had one of the Miss Hallidays doing seventh grade. She was a brilliant teacher, as I said before. We found that by being four months down at that bottom school, we were way behind the rest of the class, so we had quite a bit of catching up to do.

HC You did mention the Miss Hallidays, but I don't think we had the recorder on then, tell me about them.

WALKEMEYER: The Miss Hallidays are probably the two best teachers I had in later grades. They really put the knowledge into you. They were two sisters and I can only say that they lived for their education too, like Miss Hannant²¹.

HC Did they take you for particular subjects?

WALKEMEYER: Oh they took you for pretty well everything that you were doing in that particular year, whether it was geography, physiography, history or maths; they did the lot.

HC When you went to Kent Street, were you starting to think about a future career?

WALKEMEYER: No. None of us did. I think I can say that quite safely. I don't think any of us thought about what we were going to do. I think in those times a lot of us just felt we'd follow on from our parents. If your father was a plumber, well I'll probably be a plumber. If my father was a baker, I'd probably be a baker – although I didn't think that way! I didn't know.

HC Just give me a visual description of Kent Street, with the temporary classrooms; what did it look like when you first went there?

WALKEMEYER: Oh well they were still all brick buildings, but they just hadn't finished all the brick buildings. I think the school actually opened the year before I got there²², with a number of classrooms that had been finished. Then with the follow on when we came along, they were still busy finishing off the other rooms. But they were only just, at that stage, planting grass and trees and things like that.

HC Did you cycle to school?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, to Kent Street I did.

HC Was it pretty much the same kids you were at Vic Park with?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, yes, pretty well the same. Then we had other people filtered in from the Kensington area.

HC And you would have had more formal sport?

WALKEMEYER: Yes. They at least had a football team, but they didn't have a cricket team really. A football team was about all they had and we used to play other

²¹ Agnesta Halliday [1891-1962] was at Victoria Park I School, 1938-1940 and at Kent Street 1942-1944 and 1946-1948. Her sister Chrystal Halliday [1890-1965] was at Kent Street 1940-1945. Their father Stewart Halliday had been Mining Registrar at Coolgardie followed by Clerk of the Courts at Midland Junction. He died in 1929. [*The Education Circular*, Western Australia, WA State Schoolteachers 1900-1980 and *Queenslander*, 28 November 1929, page 22]

²² The first students were admitted to the newly built Kent Street High School in 1940. Susannah Thompson, *Beyond Matta Gerup: a history of Victoria Park*, Town of Victoria Park, 2012, p. 150.

schools. One thing with Kent Street, where the school was built, just going down from that into Kensington, there was a little bit of a valley and that used to be the sanitary dump. Past the school entrance and a track – there was a track that went in – we used to have all the dunny carts come past the school. Of course just depending which way the wind was blowing it used to get a bit smelly at school at times.

HC An unusual place to put a school then?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes. Well it was. It must have been about half a kilometre, or it might have been a kilometre away, where it was. That's where we always said about the... what has four wheels, forty cylinders, and flies all around! That was the dunny cart that used to come past all the time.

HC The same ones that came to the bakery.

WALKEMEYER: Yes, that's right.

HC Any other memories of any other teachers, or any other memories of Kent Street?

WALKEMEYER: Yes. Calderwood. So I really only had three teachers there, the two Hallidays and Calderwood. Calderwood was exactly the opposite of the two Hallidays. He wasn't as strict and his teaching methods weren't as good either²³. I was old enough at that time to see the difference in the quality of the teachers. The individual teachers didn't hand out any physical punishment, you went up for the cane. The only punishment you'd get from your teachers then was writing things out. Lines. Same sort of thing.

HC After Kent Street you went on to Modern School for a while, how did that come about?

WALKEMEYER: Well I must have decided, in my last year at Kent Street, that I wanted to be an industrial chemist. And of course Kent Street didn't teach any chemistry. I thought well I'll have to do some chemistry, so I went to night school and did three years of chemistry in one year. To get into the science class at Modern School you had to have chemistry. It was pretty difficult doing this night school class and I got 47%. I remember my mother going with me to Modern School and seeing the headmaster. We explained it all and he said, "All right, we'll put you into Science IV". So I went into Science IV at Modern School. but I was just too far behind; couldn't really catch up properly. That was really one of the functions that got to me to say to my parents, "I want to leave school." I couldn't keep up with the work.

HC What was your parents' reaction when you said you wanted to leave school?

²³ Egerton Calderwood (1900-1979) was at Kent Street from 1942-1964. [*The Education Circular*, Western Australia, WA State Schoolteachers 1900-1980.]

WALKEMEYER: Okay.

HC Then what happened?

WALKEMEYER: Well I left school. "What are you going to do?" "Well you better come into the bakehouse." So I thought fair enough, I'll go and learn to be a baker. That was the beginning of my experience of working in the bakery.

HC So you would have been about sixteen?

WALKEMEYER: Yes. I went in to learn to be a baker, everything. That sort of thing.

HC So you were working in the bakehouse as opposed to doing deliveries.

WALKEMEYER: That's right. That was quite different. Of course I'd seen all along what the others did, how they made the bread and what their work was, what their hours were, so I knew what I was going in to. But then once I got in there I reached a point of – no, I can't do this for the rest of my life, I want to get out.

HC Did you have to keep the very early hours as well?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, oh yes.

HC Did you draw pay?

WALKEMEYER: Oh well apprentices' wages in those days were a pittance.

HC So it was a formal apprenticeship?

WALKEMEYER: No, I hadn't signed the apprentice papers. No papers, I was just learning.

HC So how did you tell your parents that you didn't want to be a baker?

WALKEMEYER: I just told them. "What are you going to do now?" That's when I looked at what my grandparents were doing; they were ladies' hairdressers. I could see that every couple of years they went off to Europe and they lived in a nice big house; they lived well, etc. I thought, well I won't be poor. So that's when I went in to be an apprentice ladies' hairdresser.

HC With your grandparents?

WALKEMEYER: Oh my grandparents were out of the business at the time, during the war. My grandfather was still running the business, but then he died of pneumonia in, it must have been 1942. At that stage there'd been personal problems in the family regarding an uncle of mine who was in the Army. He came back from a stint in Africa and found that his wife had been playing up with the Americans. He got custody of

the children, but then he was posted up to New Guinea, so my grandmother took over looking after three children. That was after. I should have put it into a better order. It was 1942 that my grandfather died of pneumonia, that's right. Then this other happened. Then my uncle was killed in New Guinea. So that's when the business was put into the hands of trustees. Trustees can never look after a business like a proper family-owned business. So eventually they decided the only thing to do was to put the business on the market and sell it. At that time I was apprenticed to that business. They sold the business to the manageress, which I think shows that she wasn't doing her job in the first place. Of course, she didn't want any family there, so I had to go and find another place to finish my apprenticeship.

HC What was the name of the business that your grandmother and grandfather had, the one where you started?

WALKEMEYER: Zecks, Zecks. Z E C K S²⁴.

HC Where did you go?

WALKEMEYER: My mother found a real up-market hairdressing salon in Melbourne. So at seventeen I went to Melbourne, to live on an apprentice's wage. I shared a room in the YMCA.

HC How did you take to hairdressing; did you enjoy it?

WALKEMEYER: Oh well initially it was learning a job. I found it all a bit of a struggle. I wasn't naturally... I didn't have an natural affinity for it, let's put it that way. But the salon I went to had such a good name. We had Harold Holt's wife, Zara, Lady Angus and Lady Beaurepaire; these were all the sorts of people that came into the salon there. So I did learn something and I eventually got my certificate.

HC How many years did it take, Leon?

WALKEMEYER: Oh it was a four-year qualification; there were no short cuts for it.

HC Did you go to anywhere like Tech as well, or was it all on the job training?

WALKEMEYER: Here, in Perth, you had to go to the Tech one day a week; in Melbourne you didn't.

HC And what did you do after you qualified?

WALKEMEYER: Oh that's when I went to Sydney for twelve months because two people up there – two chaps, who were in partnership – they hadn't had a holiday for a few years. My father happened to meet them and said, "Oh my son might come up and give you a break." So when I finished my apprenticeship I went up to Sydney for

²⁴ *Wise's Western Australian Post Office Directory* lists Zecks Ladies' Toilet Parlors at 618 Hay Street, Perth.

twelve months, so that both of them could go away on a holiday. They went away separately and had a holiday. Once again that was sort of an up-market salon as well. Of course then I came back here and I went into partnership with my uncle. So we had a salon here and once again his clients were more the up-market people and we had quite a successful business in Gledden Buildings. I went into partnership with him and it was Zeck and Leon, so he was the Zeck part.

HC Did you go back to Vic Park, did you live in Vic Park?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, yes.

HC And had you found it changed since you'd been away to the Big Smoke?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, well it was just changing all the time – Vic Park has done that – mind you the change is all along Albany Highway. Of course once they put the road through, Shepperton Road, and got that through, it took a lot of the traffic all off Albany Highway.

HC And had the bakery changed in that time?

WALKEMEYER: Not a lot, not a lot. No, it was still the same smaller bakery.

HC And when you went to Melbourne to do the apprenticeship, was that your first time out of the State?

WALKEMEYER: Yes – and I went by ship. In those days that was about the only way people went anywhere.

HC Was that a little bit of a culture shock, because Melbourne would have been a lot more sophisticated?

WALKEMEYER: Well it was entirely different, entirely different. It helped me to grow up.

HC So you stayed at Zeck and Leon a long time?

WALKEMEYER: I came back here when I was about 22 in 1951/52, back to Perth and stayed in Victoria Park. That's when my father then sold the place and moved out to Cannington and I moved out to Cannington for a while, stayed there. Then that was in 1953, that I met my wife and in 1954, got married.

HC Was she Perth girl?

WALKEMEYER: A farmer's girl, from Cunderdin. Oh, we were one of the fortunate ones. Her father gave a guarantee and we had a house in Wembley, a little house, a starter.

HC You mentioned before we started recording that she was a teacher. Tell me about the process of 'buying your wife'.

WALKEMEYER: Yes. Well of course in those days the Education Department didn't want any married schoolteachers, so I had to pay £64 for my wife and the government gave me the opportunity of paying it off at £4 a month.

HC Is that what you did?

WALKEMEYER: That's what I did, until I'd paid it all off.

HC And did you spend all your hairdressing career in Zeck and Leon?

WALKEMEYER: When I came back, yes. Once again I reached a stage I thought Perth's too slow and at that stage we had two children. I said to my uncle, "Look, I don't want to stay here, I want to go where there is some action happening." That's when we upped our diggings and went to Melbourne.

HC How long were you over there for?

WALKEMEYER: Four years altogether. That was 1957 we went to Melbourne and came back in 1961. Going to Melbourne I found a little run-down ladies hairdressing salon in Glenferrie Road in Malvern, bought that, did it all up and got quite a successful business going there, until I thought I can't do this for the rest of my life. So the chappie that sold my business said, "What are you going to do now?" I said, "Well I haven't any qualification. I'm on a mortgage, I've got two children. I must do something." He said, "Well I know somebody who wants a salesman in real estate, would you be interested?" I said, "Yes sure, I'll give it a go."

HC In fact, Leon, you sent me list of all the jobs you had after you left hairdressing, and real estate was only just the start of the very varied career, wasn't it? You've been in a restaurant cafeteria, life assurance, importing and retailing of light fittings and business manager of a university residential college, promotions officer at the WATC (the Turf Club) and a real estate agent in Wembley. So you changed jobs fairly often.

WALKEMEYER: Well, like I changed my houses I guess!²⁵ Everything was a challenge and when I'd conquered the challenge, I wanted the next one.

HC When did you come back to WA then?

WALKEMEYER: 1961.

HC And which job were you on at that time?

²⁵ See Attachment Five, which lists the career and working life of Leon Walkemeyer chronologically, and also Attachment Six which details the places where he has lived.

WALKEMEYER: Well at that time a friend of mine had just come back from Melbourne – he had been in the Post Office and he wanted to get out of it. So he had been looking for a business and I had been looking for some sort of business. He said to me one day, he said, "I've found something, but it's a bit too much for me. Would you have a look at it and see what you think?" It was a cafeteria in Murray Street, Perth. I had a look at it and that sort of thing. He wanted to go into partnership, so I said, "Yes, we'll give it a crack." And that's what we did. That's when we came back to WA and went into the restaurant.

HC So of all of those jobs that you did after you finished hairdressing, do any of them stand out in your mind particularly?

WALKEMEYER: Oh I reached the point where I just liked real estate. Real estate was a big challenge. Life assurance was selling the intangible, where real estate was selling the tangible. You were meeting people, you were solving people's greatest need, so it was very interesting. I worked for somebody else first of all. I worked for L J Wearne in Subiaco. Then I started my own business and just called it L Walkemeyer, as simple as that.

HC And where were you located?

WALKEMEYER: In Wembley. I moved office once. My first office was 131 Cambridge Street, the second office at 284 Cambridge Street. So I was a north of the river man, selling around Floreat Park, Wembley and all that area.

HC You told me about buying and selling and your wife's reaction – tell me about that.

WALKEMEYER: Oh that's when I was working for L J Wearne in Subiaco. I used to buy houses and I used to renovate them up and resell them. But sometimes somebody wanted a house that I'd already bought and they wanted it the way it was still, so as long as I made profit I sold them. Of course I had rental properties in Subiaco as well, so I knew Subiaco like the back of my hand.

HC Did you and your wife move or did you still stay in the same place?

WALKEMEYER: Oh no, we didn't move – we lived in two places in Floreat Park, but they weren't places that were bought and sold.

HC You told me that sometimes you'd come home and say to her...

WALKEMEYER: Yes, "We bought a house today." She'd be interested enough to know all about it. Well of course I'd automatically tell her what we'd done. I'll always remember one time when I came home I said, "Oh we bought a house today." She said, "Oh that's nice, where is it?" I said, "We've sold it already!" [Laughs]

HC So did you find it was fairly lucrative as well?

WALKEMEYER: Yes, yes, it was. It was where I made my bit of money.

HC Do you wish you'd done real estate earlier, from the word go?

WALKEMEYER: No, no, not really because you learn from everything. My period in Melbourne as an apprentice – that was a hard slog, it really was, because I had nothing to live on. I had nowhere to cook or make a meal, so it meant that I always went to a restaurant or something like that. I'd always look down the prices on the menu first of all and where I could see something I could afford I'd look across to see what it was. It was always baked beans on toast! [Laughter]

HC So you got fairly used to baked beans on toast. You retired, I think, in the early 1980s.

WALKEMEYER: 1982.

HC What made you decide to retire?

WALKEMEYER: I just felt I'd reached the challenge of real estate and I'd just see what else life had to offer for me. At that particular time somebody came to me and said, "Leon, I'd like you to come and work for me." I said, "Work for you?" This was a good friend of mine; he was the CEO of the WA Turf Club. He said, "I want to you to come and get groups to the races and be in charge of the boxes – the luxury boxes." I said, "Oh well I'll give it a go, but I don't follow horse-racing; I've never been a horse-racing person. Never a betting person or anything like that." So I gave that a go and that was up until 1987 and at that stage that was when my wife was diagnosed with cancer. So I retired from that particular job. We were still living in Floreat Park. We decided to sell up there and we bought a 36 acres down at Serpentine and built a house on it and we were hobby farmers.

HC Since you've retired I think you've had as many voluntary activities as you've had paid activities because you gave me a great list of voluntary activities that you've been involved in and I will attach that to the transcript.²⁶ I wondered which one of all those voluntary activities that you did, was your main passion.

WALKEMEYER: Well I was quite involved with Rotary. Now I've been involved with Probus, which of course is, in a sense, like retired Rotarians., but it's not a fundraising organisation.

HC Which of all those activities you've done since you retired gives you the most satisfaction?

WALKEMEYER: I suppose Rotary.

HC What is it about Rotary and Probus that...?

²⁶ See Attachment Seven, Service to the Community.

WALKEMEYER: Once again with Rotary you were involved to some extent with the public. You were fundraising for what you call good causes. The year I was president of our Floreat Rotary Club, we bought a surf lifesaving boat for City Beach.

HC I'd just like to have a bit an overview now, of the bakery and of Vic Park. In the time that you were associated with Vic Park were there any town personalities or any characters about the place that stand out in your mind?

WALKEMEYER: No, I don't think so. Naturally, you knew other tradies in the area and because of delivering the bread you certainly got to know more about people and we were supplying some shops with bread as well, so you got to know those people better too.

HC Any stand out in your mind?

WALKEMEYER: Well of those people, the Litis Brothers²⁷ probably. They had a fruit and veggie shop right opposite what's now the main shopping centre and was the primary school. I remember them largely because they were good business men and they finished up with other businesses around the area as well. I certainly remember them. Ray Read, the pharmacist, down the bottom of Victoria Park, he was a councillor and I think he might have also been a Member of Parliament²⁸.

HC So you'd deliver your bread to both those places, would you?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, I have done so, yes. Well one person who stands out in my mind – he initially was our local doctor, that was Thomas Meagher. His surgery was right next to the primary school. He also became Lord Mayor of Perth²⁹.

HC What sort of man was he?

WALKEMEYER: Well of course I was only a little kid and to me he was an old man. He was the doctor.

HC Can you identify what have been the major changes in Vic Park over the years.

WALKEMEYER: Just before we get onto that. There's one thing that I meant to mention to you. When I said our bike rides out into the country and that, once we got a bit bigger, around fourteen, we used to venture out on our bikes and used to ride all the way up to Canning Dam from home. I'll always remember one time there were three or four of us, we'd ridden up to Canning Dam and we were coming back and it

²⁷ Litis Brothers, mixed business, 415 Albany Highway, Victoria Park. Listed in *Wise's Western Australian Post Office Directory*, 1949.

²⁸ W R Read, Councillor for Victoria Park 1926-1965 and Member for Victoria Park as an Independent 1945-1953. Listed in *Wise's Western Australian Post Office Directory* of 1942-1943 as a chemist at 249 Albany Road.

²⁹ Dr T W Meagher, medical practitioner is listed in *Wise's Post Office Directory*, 1946, at 787 Albany Highway, Victoria Park. See also interview with Bill Bickerton for the Victoria Park Library, conducted by Heather Campbell in January 2020.

was an awfully wet day and the chain on my bike broke. Well with a broken chain on a Sunday and I had to get home. But we used to really go out and adventure that way.

HC What did you do?

WALKEMEYER: Oh! The others would come up behind me and give me a good shove and at least we got down quite a long way because we were up in the hills, so at least we had to come downhill. If you had to go uphill, or otherwise, you walked.

HC It must have been exciting coming down something like Lesmurdie Hill.

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, They were really good old days, had very good school days. Your question then was?

HC Are there any major ways that you can identify that Vic Park has changed over the years?

WALKEMEYER: Well certainly John Hughes wasn't there. Instead that was all Oliver W Strang³⁰, who after the war bought Army disposals and made a fortune out of them. His daughter, Beryl Strang was in my class.

HC When you look at Vic Park these days, what do you think of it?

WALKEMEYER: It certainly doesn't appeal the way it used to. All along Albany Highway, it's all a bit like an ants' nest think. All the different food shops, restaurants. To me it's sort of overdone.

HC What was the appeal about it when you were a child then?

WALKEMEYER: Well of course there weren't as many cars on the road and the population wasn't as dense in Victoria Park, I guess. What I do like to see at the moment is the way that so many of the old houses have all been done up; they look better now than when they built. So that's all very pleasing.

HC How do you look back on your childhood; was it a happy time?

WALKEMEYER: Oh yes, yes. I never wanted really, even though I went through certain hardships, things of that nature, never really wanted. Never went hungry, always had clothes and shoes on my feet. I had a very fortunate childhood, a very fortunate life.

HC If you could say something to that little boy in Vic Park that lived at the bakery, if you could say something to him what would you say?

³⁰ Advertised in *Wise's Western Australian Post Office Directory* of 1945 as Oliver Strang Motors, Exchange and ABC Car Agency, 161/5 and 166 Albany Highway, Victoria Park, Tel: M1078.

WALKEMEYER: You don't know what you're in for! [Laughter]

HC That's lovely Leon, that's a beautiful comment. That's about all I've got to ask you, unless you can think of something else.

WALKEMEYER: No, I don't think so.

HC Okay. Thank you for a most interesting interview.

END OF SESSION TWO

END OF INTERVIEW

ATTACHMENT ONE

Adolf Bernhardt Walkemeyer, 8 September 1869 – 7 September 1934

Adolf Bernhardt Walkemeyer was born on 8th September 1869 in the Hanseatic Duchy of Braunschweig –Luneberg (Brunswick) Germany.

He arrived in Australia on 13th January 1893 on the ship "SS Barmen" at the port of Adelaide, South Australia. He lived for 4 weeks in Adelaide, for 2 years in Melbourne and then 10 years in Perth and then a year and a half in Fremantle. At age 39 after thirteen and a half years in Australia, submitted an Aliens Memorial for naturalization from 50 Mandurah Road , Fremantle Western Australia on the 8th August 1906, attested to by George Saurman, Justice of the Peace in Fremantle. He was married in 1898 in Perth Western Australia and by 1906 they had 3 children.

His wife was Therese Magdalene Schnefuhs (Snowfoot) and she was also naturalized with him in 1906 in Fremantle. She had arrived in Australia with her whole family on 20th February 1883 on the ship "SS Procida" at the port of Melbourne Victoria and lived the next 12 years in Melbourne before moving to Western Australia. She was born in Schwerin in the Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin on the 19th April 1874 and emigrated a a child with her family.

ATTACHMENT TWO



City of Vincent

The News Quarterly

January– March

2017 >> Vol.7 No.1, pages 7-9 (follows)

Subdivision 18, Lot 110 - West Perth

It seems that in 2016, our Local History Collection has been a magnet for memorabilia of the lost businesses of Charles Street, which ended up under the Mitchell Freeway, thus ensuring that they will not go forgotten.

Going south along Charles Street from Newcastle Street, on the right hand side we have original documents from the Club Hotel- later known as the Tower Hotel (see following article in this newsletter), which was on the north corner of Duke Street, plus the foundation stone of the Charles Street Markets on the south side of Duke Street (see previous newsletter). Following further down the street was Bunnings Wood Yard and then at the end of Charles, where it met at a 'V' junction with Roe, Sutherland and Dyer streets prior to the railway line, was the bakery of Bernhard Walkemeyer from 1900 to 1902. His grandson, Otto, has supplied us with some wonderful photographs.

The bakery was the first building located on Subdivision 18, Lot 110, the address of which at the time, was 4-6 Dyer Street (renamed Railway Parade from 1916). Our research has revealed a variety of businesses located there prior to the Freeway going through, with frequent changes in numbering.

In 1893 it was most likely part of *William Goldings Dairy*, with cows grazing there.

Jervis Vidal and Daniel Domenech, who operated a bakery in Howick Street (now Hay Street) between Pier and Barrack streets prior to 1894, purchased the land in Dyer Street in 1896 and built the West Perth Bread Factory and bakery. (Bernhard Walkemeyer lived in Howick Street, near Pier Street in 1897 and so would likely have known these bakers.)

When Bernhard Walkemeyer purchased the bakery on 10 September 1900, the announcement stated that he bought it from King and Co., who had owned the business briefly during that year. They were Produce Merchants from Melbourne, who opened up a business in Murray Street, Perth, then Pakenham Street, Fremantle in 1892. They bought into various businesses around this time, including the oldest bakery in Claremont from E Massey.



*West Perth Bakery and Bread Factory buildings, 1902
Bernhardt Walkemeyer is second from the left, in the bowler hat.*

The Perth rate books show that Domenech remained the owner of the property when Walkemeyer purchased the *West Perth Bakery* business.



Adolf Bernhard Walkemeyer, (1869-1934) had been apprenticed as a baker in Germany at the age of 14. He arrived in Adelaide in 1893 and came to Perth a few years later. In the intervening years he owned a bakery in Summers Street, East Perth.

He traded as the West Perth Bakery for a few years before selling up to Hugh McSorely and taking his family to Germany for a year. On his return to Australia he set up business in Fremantle, where he remained for twenty years before moving on to Victoria Park.

McSorely retained the bakery until 1904, when he moved to 145 Fitzgerald Street. This was the last year that the factory premises was filled with the scent of freshly baked bread. It was replaced with the scent of sawdust and polish as the premises was turned into a furniture factory for the next twenty five years. Domenech continued to own the premises until the mid-1930s.

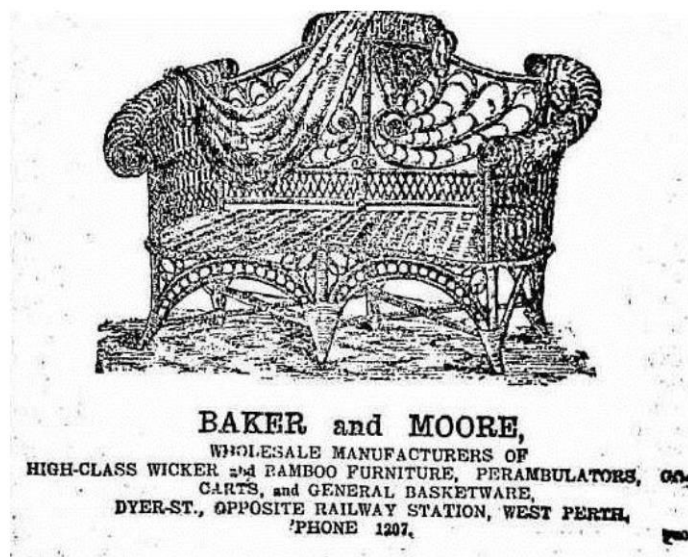
The early furniture manufacturers in the factory were groups of Chinese men who traded under the business names of *See Wah & Co* and *Wah Hing & Co*.

The official street address for this premises changed from Dyer to Railway Parade in 1916, although their advertising generally stated 'opposite station', referring to the West Perth Railway Station.

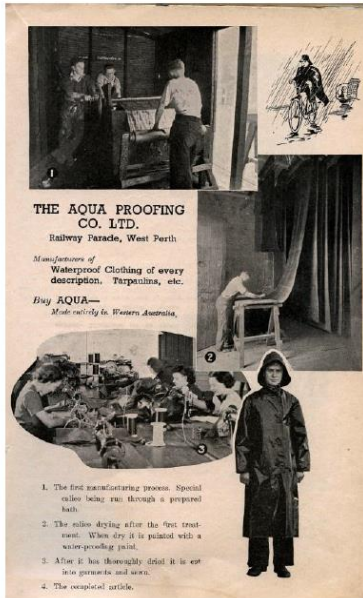
Other furniture factories were constructed on Lot 110. In 1908 George Baker and William Henry Moore established *Baker and Moore's* wicker works.

By 1923 William H Moore was running the business by himself.

WH Moore ceased to manufacture wicker furniture, perambulators and baskets from 1939 and all of the plant was auctioned off on 13 December 1939.



Daily News, 8 September 1906, p.2



In 1915 Edward Cooper opened a furniture factory between the other two factories. He traded there for many years, until 1930, when an advertisement appeared in the West Australian for an auction for all of his machinery following a court case. His his name remained in the rate books as an occupier.

From 1934 he is registered at that address owning *The Aqua Proofing Co Ltd*. The company manufactured men's and women's waterproof garments of every description and supplied Commonwealth Government departments in Western Australia and the Eastern States.

Cooper bought the property from Daniel Domenech in 1937 and remained the owner until 1943-44, when *Aqua Proofing* ceased to trade there.

The new tennant was the *Golden West Macaroni Company*.

Something completely different moved into Moore's premises: *David Gray and Co*, Produce Merchants. The company manufactured 60 different products for agricultural and home use at their West Perth and Subiaco premises. Included amongst these were pest control products and various types of stock feed.

A promotion for DDT declared that,

"Sprays are made in two strengths; indoor and outdoor..and one single spray done according to the simple directions on the label, will remain EFFECTIVE FOR MONTHS."

A large fire in the grain drying section in 1954 caused an estimated 15,000 pounds of damage. Luckily the fire was contained and none of the rooms containing dangerous chemicals were affected.

David Gray & Co Ltd continues on three generations later as a Western Australian family owned business. Over 75 years after it began in West Perth it is a leading supplier of agricultural chemicals products to the WA farming community. It continues to manufacture and supply leading brands of household pest management products.

The business is now based in O'Connor, Western Australia.

**Absolutely
no connection with
any other firm!**

The introduction of D.D.T. Sprays and Dust to Western Australia was pioneered by David Gray & Co. Ltd., of Perth. These D.D.T. Sprays and Dust revolutionised insect pest control and did everything that was claimed for them.

It has now become necessary to state that the firm of David Gray & Co. Ltd. has absolutely no connection with any other firm. David Gray's is an entirely West Australian business and all its products are prepared to David Gray formulas and carry the David Gray labels. Any D.D.T. product NOT bearing a David Gray label is definitely NOT David Gray's, and must NOT be sold as such.

In your own interests insist on having the GENUINE David Gray D.D.T. preparations.

David Gray's

D.D.T.

PREPARATIONS

MANUFACTURED IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA BY
DAVID GRAY AND COMPANY LIMITED
 2-6 RAILWAY PARADE WEST PERTH

Western Mail, 7 November 1946

ATTACHMENT THREE – The Terminus Bakery: the final days

THE TERMINUS BAKERY 1924-1964

Otto Walkemeyer's grandfather, A.B. Walkemeyer, bought the property at 916 Albany Road in 1924 and established the Terminus Bakery. A.B. Walkemeyer died in 1934 and the Terminus Bakery was taken over by his son Bernie who was joined by his son Otto in 1949.

The Terminus Bakery continued to trade at 916 Albany Highway until sold on the 4th January 1962 to Brennan's Bakery. It was sold, because like other smaller bakeries it was no longer financially viable as the large companies were taking over. In July 1964 the premises that were then being used as a storage facility were gutted by fire. Very little remained of the old Terminus bakery.



The Terminus Bakery 916 Albany Highway corner of Dane St c1940s



The Bakery premises 1962, looking from Dane Street corner



The premises at 916 Albany Highway after the fire 1964



Otto Walkemeyer examining the remains of the storehouse after the fire 1964



TRALIAN, MONDAY, JULY 27, 1964.

Store Guttled

Mr Otto Walkemeyer examines two of the few articles not damaged when his father's Victoria Park storehouse was destroyed by fire in the weekend—a horse shoe and the chair on which it was hanging.

The building, near the corner of Albany-highway and Dane-street, was packed with Army surplus stores. Damage is estimated at £2,000.

Firemen took about three hours to bring the blaze under control after it had been started by an electrical fault on Saturday night.

The building, which is insured, is owned by Mr B. Walkemeyer, of Cannington.



Inside the old bakery after the fire 1964



Bernie Walkemeyer inside the remains of the old bakery after the fire 1964





After the fire at the old Terminus Bakery July 1964



After the fire at the old Terminus Bakery July 1964

ATTACHMENT FOUR

East Victoria Park Infants' School; Grand Concert, 1937

**EAST VICTORIA PARK
INFANTS' SCHOOL**

Grand Concert, 1937.

Under Vice-regal Patronage

PROGRAMME

Teddy Bear's Picnic
Infants' Classes

Little Black Sambo

A Dramatised Story by Preparatory 1st.

—: CHARACTERS :—

BLACK SAMBO	PETER FISHER.
BLACK MUMBO	VALERIE JOHNSTON.
BLACK JUMBO	TREVOR TOWERS.
FIRST TIGER	KEVEN JONES.
SECOND TIGER	JOE RUSSELL.
THIRD TIGER	BOY HELLARD.

Phone M 1184

"EDWEENA"
Toilet Salon
Miss E. MCINTIRE—
—PROPRIETRESS

TAKE 10th 11th TRAM to MILLER ST.

658 Albany Rd., VICTORIA PARK.

Patricia, Coote
DRESSMAKER & DESIGNER
HAND-MADE BABYGOODS TO
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Dayday and Attention
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Few doors from Savoy Theatre's opp.
Hastings St.



He will fill many a stocking with
USEFUL GIFTS from his Pharmacy
such as—SOAPS, PERFUMES,
COMBS, BRUSHES and OTHER
GIVEABLE GIFTS are best
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J. C. CORNISH
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845 Albany Rd., Opp. Savoy Theatre.

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LIGHT MEALS, SOUP, CAKES,
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SPRINT CYCLES
Corner Gresham St., and
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ATTACHMENT FIVE

Career and Working Life of Leon Walkemeyer

Early teenage Bread deliveries by horse and breadcart for family bakery

c. 1946 – 1962 Hairdressing apprenticeship
Hairdressing career
Zeck and Leon

1962 – early 1980s Restaurant/cafeteria

Life assurance

Importing and retailing of light fittings

Business manager at a university residential college

Promotions officer at the WATA Turf Club

Real Estate Agent, Wembley

Retired early 1980s

ATTACHMENT SIX

LISTING OF PLACES OF RESIDENCE OF A L WALKEMEYER

DATE	PLACE	YEARS OF RESIDENCE
1929-1934	49 Leon Road, Dalkeith	5
1934-1946	916 Albany Highway, East Victoria Park	12
1946-1950	YMCA, Melbourne, and boarding houses	4
1950-1952	Camperdown, Sydney	2
1952-1954	916 Albany Highway and Cannington	2
married		
1954-1958	145 Harborne Street, Wembley	4
1958-1959	Anderson Road, Hawthorn East, Melbourne	1
1959-1962	3 Flame Street, Mt Waverley, Victoria	3
1962-1963	Field Street, Mt Lawley, WA	1
1963-1971	6 Donegal Street, Floreat	8
1971-1972	27 Morgan Street, Shenton Park	1
1972-1982	18 Kincardine Crescent, Floreat	10
1982-1985	Gull Road, Serpentine	3
1985-1992	Unit 81/60 Terrace Road, Perth	7
1992-1995	O'Connor Road, Mahogany Creek	3
Dec 1995-1998	Unit 81/60 Terrace Road, Perth	3
1998-Jan 2000	9 Barlee Road, Mundaring	2½
2000-	57 Milne Street, Bicton	

ATTACHMENT SEVEN

A L WALKEMEYER – VOLUNTARY SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND TO ORGANISATIONS

President - Young Luther League (Church)

Claremont Baptist Building Committee (Church)

Organiser - Universal Awareness

Councillor - Kingswood College

President - West Perth Young Liberals

President - Young Liberal Movement of WA

Member - State Executive of WA Liberal Party

Committee - Master Ladies Hairdressers Association

Inaugural Chairman of the Hair Fashion Council of WA

Real Estate Institute of WA - Membership Committee

Past President Rotary Club of Floreat

Rotary International Foundation Scholarships – District Committee

Rotary Exchange Student Committee – District Committee

Floreat Primary School - President P & C

Floreat Boy Scouts – President with Special Service Award

Voluntary Task Force - Committee

Birthright – Committee

WA Philatelic Society – Auditor

Red Cross

Probus – Past President

ATTACHMENT EIGHT

ARTICLES FROM TROVE ON THE WALKEMEYER FAMILY AND THE TERMINUS BAKERY 1908-1951

Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931), Saturday 8 August 1908, page 3

FREMANTLE FANTASIES.

HARE AND HOUNDS. Just two interesting side-lights from the Port on the bakers' bother. For some months one Aberle has been secretary of the local branch of the Operatives' Union. He was an ardent unionist, and a good secretary. Last Saturday he signed a cheque on behalf of the union and an hour later had joined the enemy, gone over to the masters. It is now advertised that he is working manager for J. A. J. Saylor, the Port's biggest baker. His comrades are rightly much annoyed at his mean and despicable defection. Then one Walkemeyer, a master baker of Mandurah road, sided with the men, and decided to work his bakery on the day labor principle. He is still doing so, but it is freely alleged that while doing this he is himself working at night to assist another master baker named McKenzie. Hunting with the hare and running with the hounds

Golden Gate (Fremantle, WA : 1911 - 1912), Friday 3 May 1912, page 4

Local and General.

The enterprising firm of B. Walkemeyer, bakers and pastry cooks, corner of Mandurah Road and Commercial Road, South Fremantle, has just installed machinery of the latest pattern for the manufacture of bread of the highest quality, being absolutely the cleanest possible process, and at the same time the most up-to-date yet installed in Fremantle. The firm announces in our advertising columns, that it is prepared to deliver bread to all parts of Fremantle.

Golden Gate (Fremantle, WA : 1911 - 1912), Friday 9 August 1912, page 7

Walkemeyer, Baker
and
Pastrycook.

Cr. Mandurah rd. & Commercial rd., S. Fremantle

**This enterprising firm has now installed MACHINERY of the LATEST PAT-
TERN for the Manufacture of BREAD of the Highest Quality. From a Sanitary
point of view it is absolutely the cleanest process and most up-to-date.**

**BREAD DELIVERED TO ALL PARTS OF FREMANTLE
YOUR PATRONAGE RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED.**

***West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 23 September 1913, page 10**

Baker wanted, must be first class and small, by letter. Walker [sic], Terminus Bakery, Victoria Park

***West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 23 September 1913, page 2**

Wanted, Baker's Delivery Horse, must be sound and cheap. A L Weber, Terminus Bakery, Victoria Park.

***West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 1 November 1913, page 1**

Strayed, Dark Bay Gelding, 15.2, 6 years, scarred knees. Reward A L Walker, Terminus Bakery, Victoria Park.

***Fremantle Herald* (WA : 1913 - 1915, 1919 - 1921), Friday 22 May 1914, page 2**

SCHOOL NOTES.

.... The Research work on the Timber Industry of Western Australia was productive of a large number of capital papers. As in the wheat industry, Bernard Walkemeyer again topped the poll, his work, a whole exercise book full, being replete with well organised matter, including some excellent maps, diagrams, pictures, and graphical representations. The marks were as follows : — B. Walkemeyer, 96 per cent. J. Bowker, 88; W. Svenson, 88; A. Cameron, 87; F. Bone, 87; F. Brown, 85; J. Fraser, 85; D. McDonald, 84; D. Engeler, 83; f1. Melson, 80; A. Reid, 80; O. Duffield, 80; J. McGuinness, 80- G. Tux-Worth, 80 ; R. Knight, 78 ; S. France, 77 ; S. Boardman, 77 ; D. Leithhead, 76; G. Edinger, 75; W. Tjllrich, 75; J. Hamilton, 75; J. Bradley, 72; F. Sims, 72; J. Bryan, 71; J. Johnstone, 70; Edgar Lamperd, 70; F. Tomb, 70 ; R. Wilson, 68 ; D. Thorn, 68 ; D. Byers, 66; E. Price, 62; A. Parkinson, 62; L. Raymond, 60; J. Wheeler, 60; T. Prior, 60; and A. Barrett, 60.

***Westralian Worker* 26 June 1914, p 11**

NOTES FROM FREMANTLE.

We are glad to know that things junior are going merrily as the proverbial marriage bells at the Port. The boys at the Central School are dead keen on research work and reckon to learn all their Australian geography by this means. Frank Brown, Bernard Walkemeyer, Alec Cameron, Geoff Tuxworth and a few more think nothing of preparing a thirty page paper on a given topic and from what we have seen it is pretty good material too.

***Eastern Districts Chronicle* (York, WA : 1877 - 1927), Friday 9 March 1917, page 2**

KILLED IN ACTION,

WASHER.—On February 5th, 1917, killed in action somewhere in France, Harry Izod, dearly loved brother of Mrs. and Mr. A L. Walker, Terminus Bakery, Victoria Park, much loved uncle of Allan, Harry, Gladys ; aged 23 years 7 months. His duty nobly done.

***West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 26 September 1919, page 2**

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP. Notice is hereby given that the PARTNERSHIP hitherto existing between Philip Edrick Abbott and Albert Hartman, carrying on business as Bakers, at Victoria Park, in the State of Western Australia, under the firm name of Abbott and Co., 'Terminus Bakery', Victoria Park, has been DISSOLVED by mutual consent, as from the 25th day of September, 1919. All Debts due to the firm will be paid to the James Commission Agency, No. 6 Ground Floor, Brookman's Buildings, Barrack-street, City, who are duly authorised to

collect same. Dated this 25th day of September, 1919. PHILIP EDRICK ABBOTT, ALBERT HARTHAN. W. A. JAMES, Agent for P. E. Abbott and A. Hartman

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 3 June 1921, page 1

STRAYED from Victoria Park, Chestnut Gelding, small built, strong limbed animal, slight disfigurement near side eye, no distinct brand. Reward. Terminus Bakery.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 2 March 1923, page 12

For sale, good IT Sulky, £6 10s, Terminus Bakery, Albany Highway, Victoria Park

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 29 August 1925, page 14

ALTERATIONS and Tenders are invited until 2 pm Friday September 4th re ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO BAKERY, for Mr B Walkemeyer, Victoria Park. Plans and specifications available at 33 Barrack Street, third floor (room No 6) and at Terminus Bakery c/o Albany Road, and Dane Street, Victoria Park.

Sunday Times 20 November 1927, p 37

WALKEMEYER-ZECK.

Stately arum lilies, gladioli and roses were in profusion at the Lutheran Church, North Perth, on November 5 in honor of Lucy, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zeck, of Inglewood, who was wedded by Pastor Graebner to Bernhardt, son of Mr. B. Walkemeyer, of Victoria Park. Carrying a sheaf of Madonna lilies, the bride presented a stately figure as she accompanied her father to the altar. Her gown, following classic lines, was of silver and gold cloth, softened with the beautiful lustre of pearls. A long train was golden lined and pearl embroidered and an exquisite Parisian lace veil caught with a dainty filet of silver beads and clusters of orange blossom completed a charming toilette. The Misses Therese Walkemeyer and Roma Fimister attended as bridesmaids. Their bouffant frocks were of leaf green taffeta with golden lace inlets. Picture hats in the same toning were worn and each carried a shaded golden posy. The bridegroom was supported by Mr. L. Langley and Mr. Chas. Zeck, junior. After the ceremony the wedding group and relatives partook of an excellent breakfast in the Piccadilly ballroom, a reception being held later in the evening for numerous friends. Mrs. Zeck received in a smart little gown of black lace with deep cream embroideries and a French hat of black crinoline straw with ospreys. Her posy was of the dainty blue lace flower and Adiantum ferns. Miss B. Spigl's orchestra rendered selections, and vocal and musical items were given by Mrs. Hemingway, Miss Mollie O'Dea, Miss F. Nowotony and Messrs. Hemingway and Reeg. Amidst the happiest of felicitations the bridal pair left for a motor tour of the southern districts, Mrs. Walkemeyer being gowned in fawn and blue crepe de chine with hat and furs en suite.

Truth, Saturday 3 December 1927, p 12

The Jottings of a Lady About Town

...Adorned by a beautiful gown of silver and gold cloth, softened by the milkiness of trimmings of pearls, Miss Lucy Zeck was married in the Lutheran Church to Mr. B. Walkemeyer, of Victoria Park. Mother and father of the-bride, of Inglewood did the honors in no uncertain fashion afterwards at the Piccadilly, and the bridesmaids, in soft green taffetas, Miss Shepherd and Miss Rita McGerr, formed striking accompaniment to the handsome bride, who carried a beautiful sheaf of Madonna lilies, and wore an exquisite lace veil. The bridegroom was

attended by - Mr. L. Langley and Mr. Chas. Zeck. Mrs. Walkemeyer left for the honeymoon clad in fawn and blue crepe de chine, with handsome furs.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 2 November 1928, page 5

HORSES, 2 Light Delivery, must be sold, cheap. Terminus Bakery, 996 Albany Road, Victoria Park.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 29 January 1929, page 1

BIRTHS. WALKEMEYER (nee Lucy Zeck). — On January 28, at their residence, Walter road, Claremont, to Mr. and Mrs. B. Walkemeyer — a son (Adolph Leon). Both well. No visitors till February 6.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 9 April 1929, page 15

SMART Boy required as apprentice to baking trade, one with bakehouse experience preferred. Apply after 11 a.m. to Terminus Bakery. 990 Albany-rd., Victoria Park.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 10 December 1929, page 13

HORSE, light delivery, sound, for Sale. Terminus Bakery. 996 Albany-rd. Victoria Park.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 1 March 1930, page 24

PIG Food, bakehouse sweepings. Apply Terminus. Bakery, 996 Albany-rd., Victoria Park.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 11 October 1930, page 1

LOST, Wallet containing notes and bread tickets; reward. Terminus Bakery, Dane-st and Albany-rd., Victoria Park.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 21 January 1931, page 11

Horse wanted for baker's cart Must be young. Trial required. Terminus Bakery, 996 Albany-rd.. Victoria Park.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 27 November 1931, page 1

BIRTHS. WALKEMEYER. — On November 26, 1931, at 37 Second-avenue, Mount Lawley, to Mr. and Mrs. B. Walkemeyer, of 49 Leon-road, Claremont — a daughter (Tanya Louise). No visitors until December 1.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 22 November 1932, page 2

PIG Food, bakehouse sweepings. A good supply for sale. Apply Terminus Bakery, 916 Albany-rd, Victoria Park

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 27 June 1934, page 18

Price: wanted for 20 or 30 tons Bakers' Wood, in 2ft. 6in. lengths, Ready split for oven. Terminus Bakery, 916 Albany-rd., Victoria Park.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 11 September 1934, page 13

FUNERAL.

The Late Mr. A. B. Walkemeyer.

The late Mr. Adolf Bernhard Walkemeyer, master baker, of 816 Albany-road, Victoria Park, passed away after a painful illness on Saturday last. The funeral took place yesterday afternoon,

when the remains were interred in the Lutheran portion of the Fremantle Cemetery. The Rev. K. M. Graebner officiated at the graveside in the presence of a large gathering. Mr. Graebner, in the course of an address, referred to the sterling qualities of the deceased and the fact that he was, although small of stature, big in his sympathies, and held in high esteem by a wide circle of friends. Mr. Walkemeyer's friendly smile and contagious optimism would linger with his friends as a memory to be cherished. During his prolonged illness he displayed remarkable courage and still more remarkable optimism. Mr. Walkemeyer was born at Brunswick, Germany, in 1869, and at the age of 14 was apprenticed to the baking trade, at which he gained experience in many parts of Germany. At the age of 21 years he went to sea as ship's baker, in which capacity he served for three years. In 1893 he came to Australia, landing at Adelaide. After a short period there and later at Melbourne Mr. Walkemeyer was attracted to the West Australian goldfields. He tramped from Southern Cross to Coolgardie — no mean undertaking in those days of waterless stretches. He did not remain long on the fields, however, but came to Perth and commenced business as a baker. In 1899 he purchased the bakery business of King and Co. in Dyer-Street, West Perth, and on disposing of that business went for a twelve months' holiday to Germany with his wife and son. On his return he commenced business in Fremantle and his association with the port extended over a period of 20 years. He then went to Victoria Park, where he carried on business for 11 years up to the time of his death. His wife predeceased him in 1926. The chief mourners were Messrs. B. Walkemeyer (son), G. Karlson (son-in-law), J. Walkemeyer (brother) and A. and C. Snowfoot (brothers-in-law). The pallbearers were Messrs. D. Dingwall (president). W. Robinson and T. C. Ferguson (Master Bakers' Association), F. Kelm and H. Griesbach (Verein Germania), J. Brooks (Board of Control W.A. Soccer Association). W. Padbury (president, Mill Owners' Association), J. Milner, M. Kribben, and P. A. Fox. Among those present were the Consul for Germany (Mr. H. C. Ittershagen), Messrs. H. A. Rose (City Flour Milliner Co.1, W. Leunijr (Perth Roller Flour Mills), D. M. Campbell (York Milling Co.), C. Maitland (Peerless Roller Flour Mills Ltd.). L. D. Corse (F. A. Henrique. Ltd. and Xycander Yeast Co.), O. W. Edmonds (secretary. W.A. Master Baker*' Association), E. Hodges (Operative Bakers' Union), R. J. Stoddart (secretary, Scotch College Old Boys' Association), N. J. Lewis (Lewis and Sans), G. R. Ibbotson, R. Kronberjter, P. Buckholz, N. V. Treacy, A. Kanther. H. Groselie. G. Rhodes, T. Spencer, P. O. Teske. F. Carr. W. A. Kohler. J. T Mitchell, W. Wilson, R. Sayers. C. and E Zeck. H. T. Miller. E. Ahola. P. V. Carr, O Brandt, H. Fischer, C. Snowfoot. jr., B. Wntson, C. A. Lane-ley. F. Edmonds. H. W. Millbirch. H. Unverdnrben. J. Scliuliert C. Wiirry. W. Ullrich. J. Effan. G. Bryant, H. Sublet jl Repan. H. Baker, V. R. Bryant. C. Albreclil. A. J. Tassi. H. A. Allsop. J. Luff and H Edel: Mr. ind Mrs. J. Wiedmer. Mr. and Mrs. P. Mover. Mr. and Mrs. Schaefer. Mr. and Mrs M. Gimm; Mesdames T. Wilson. W. Wilson jr. A. M. Masey. A. Bull, and Miss O. Hoffman Numerous floral tributes were placed on the grave, and widespread expressions of sympathy have been extended to the bereaved relatives The funeral arrangements were carried out by Arthur E. Davies and Co.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 12 September 1934, page 13

The Late Mr. A. B. Walkemeyer.

In the report, in yesterday's issue of the funeral of the late Mr. Adolf Bernhard Walkemeyer, of Victoria Park, who was buried in the Fremantle Cemetery, it was not mentioned that the coffin was borne to the grave by members of the staff of the Terminus Bakery, comprising Messrs. F. Schulz, G. Pike, G. MacKenzie and L. Gunner.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 11 March 1935, page 1

BIRTHS. WALKEMEYER.— On March 9, 1935, at Park-view Private Hospital, Thomas-street, Subiaco, to Mr. and Mrs. B. Walkemeyer, of Terminus Bakery, Victoria Park, formerly of Leon-road, Claremont —a son.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 30 March 1935, page 12

HORSE Manure, good, clean manure, regular supplies available. Terminus Bakery, 916 Albany-rd., Victoria Park.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 26 July 1937, page 18

REFINED young Girl, 15 or 16 years, assist light duties, fond of children, must sleep in. Apply Terminus Bakery, Albany-rd., cor. Dane-st, Victoria Park.

Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 19 November 1937, page 14



**VICTORIA
PARK'S
PREMIER
MODERN
BAKERY**

**TERMINUS
BAKERY**
916 ALBANY ROAD

Wholemeal Bread Specialists

B. WALKEMEYER Phone M1259

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 19 July 1939, page 1

Reward. COLLIE Dog strayed from Terminus Bakery. - 916 Albany-rd, Victoria Park. Last seen near Gresham-st., Monday. Phone M1259 or communicate with above address.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 23 January 1940, page 14

Smart, Strong Youth wanted to learn the baking trade. Apply Terminus Bakery. 916 Albany-rd.. Victoria Park.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 2 October 1945, page 1
LOST, strayed. Sunday young Irish Terrier. red collar, chain attached, licence disc No 2541, from Terminus Bakery. 916 Albany-rd. Victoria Park. Anyone finding same please return above address or ring M1259. Reward.

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 30 October 1948, page 26
BREADCARTER required for Terminus Bakery. 916 Albany-hwy, Victoria Park. M1259

West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 27 February 1951, page 21
BREAD Carter required by Terminus Bakery. 916 Albany-hwy., corner Dane-st.. Victoria Park. Phone M1259. Easy job, good hours

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See also Attachment Eight this transcript:

Articles from Trove on the Walkemeyer family and the Terminus Bakery 1908-1951