

GDK: This is field tape 23. We're sitting at Tara Community. This is the 5th of July, 1990 and we're sitting with, ah, Peter, and we're going to hear some stories about early times.

Field tape 23 5/7/90 Peter Horsetailer at Tara Community

White man steals Aboriginal wife (Harry Henty)

PH: Yeah, that old man, bin waitin' for his oldgumin. Longa that camp near that spring, you know. On west side. Him bin waitin' there. That old fella, him bin waitin' a bit too long. And he never turn up that day. And I think him go morning time. He take stone knife with him. This fella, one of them man from, well, he livin' longa that Barrow Creek, and him bin come out and try to gubit some ration with him. And this old fella said, "Ah, you bin keepin' bout my wife. Why don't send him back for me?" And this white fella now go on, "Nah, I can't send him back. He- he can work for me. I don't- he not work for you and you bin campin' with my wife." And this old fella bin get wild and grab him with the knife- with the stone knife. Cut him longa leg.

And that old fella he get caught on policeman, take him to- he bin walkin' from Barrow Creek right up. They bin drivin' those horses, you know? No car. And that old fella go to what's name? Kamba () right longa Bullocky Soak, you know and he go from there to camp longa another bore. Another bore- well. And he go from there right up to Ryan's Well, old Ryan's Well () and he go from there right longa Coniston Well. And from there the Bird? Bird Plain- old well bin there. He still here today. He go camp half way this side from Alice Springs. On () longa that hill. And they take'em him down longa Alice Spring and that old fella bin have a court and that old fella bin beat that court because that's not his fault; because him bin take 'em my wife longa him. That's why he bin use that knife to cut 'em leg. But he didn't kill him dead. But he might just bin cut him, that's all. But whitefella, he lie. Him bin talk, well that's it. Because I bin worryin' bout my old wife. He shouldn't take him away from me. See. Well I think that old fella bin beat him and he come back. He bin still hang around there longa Barrow Creek. He's a big tall fella. Proper really big fella. That old fella, I seen him. Mmm. Because he bin get 'em ration there. And that's one of the old people bin tellin' me story for Barrow Creek, you know? Yeah.

GDK: What skin that old fella?

HP: He Tjupurrula. Tjulama. And he bin take 'em Apenangke girl belonga him. That girl.

HJK: Do you know the name of that whitefella?

HP: I don't know that whitefella but he just bin tellin' me bout, that's all. I don't know whitefella. He might have been- they bin fightin' bout before me anyway. (I () Yeah. I still bin catch up that old fella before he bin pass away.

but he tell me all that story longa Barrow Creek. When they bin gettin' that ration.

GDK: How long ago do you think that that happened?

HP: This one might be- after, when they bin havin' that new building then. That new- that post office. They bin carryin' all that sheet of iron on the camel, you know?

GDK: Oh yeah.

HP: They bin put up that cement. I think, after that. It bin happen. That's only all the Barrow Creek mob, that's the problem bin goin' doing about aboriginal woman, you know? That's all. But they never tryin' to fight for nothing. You know? Yeah.

Rules about marital fidelity

GDK: When white- when aboriginal man take 'nother aboriginal man's wife, what do they do? What kind of thing do they do?

HP: Well if another fella bin takin' way wife from aboriginal fella, you know, might be- one of them might be girl bin love 'em another man, you know?

Well, he'll have to fight for that. Because he bin fight for that. Because that not- that's his wife, you know? But he's all right for single woman. That's the way aboriginal bin doin'. You know? But he not allowed to take 'em away married woman, you know, because he's really married for that woman, you know? That's where aborigine bin sit down, you know? Because if he bin take that woman from 'nother man- from aborigine- well he bin fight or I think he bin kill 'em dead that 'nother man you see because he not allowed to take 'em my wife belonga him. Because some people are- some people bin bad people, like, aborigine, you know? Because he bin worry for his wife. Because he can't come round longa his camp lookin' round for girl, you know? But he got to fight with that man. He not allowed to come round lookin' for girl. But this way he can take 'em single woman. He right, that one, plenty 'llowed for him.

GDK: But what if he takes wrong skin single woman?

HP: Well he- they bin still fight for that one. For wrong skin because he not 'llowed to take 'em anybody's wrong woman, you know? But he gotta be aboriginal one properly, you know. Other people keep him, that's might be, You know, give him right way marriage. Not just camp anyway, no. He gotta be married proper way.

Marriage rules

GDK: Proper one.

HP: Yeah, proper one, you know? That's why they bin have 'em aboriginal way. He gotta married proper really so the people will know him. And people gotta see him. How he bin gettin' married because all his family gotta see 'em

belonga that man and that belonga that girl. They gotta gibit married proper way.

GDK: Married proper way.

HP: Yeah. Proper way they get married. Aborigine get married, they gotta have everything tucker now. Bush fruit, anything. Might be meat. Wild life. Because he bin -bin married. Same one twofella bin have 'em- might be kid bin born belonga twofella. Well everybody gotta () them up. And they gotta have 'em everything tucker- bush tucker and wild life, anything. They gotta have a big party for that little kid bin born, you know. Yeah, because he bin born longa -oh, longa right place, you know. Might be longa right country. Longa father and mother's country. Well they bin have 'em plenty feed, you know. They bin have 'em big party for that little boy or might be little girl, something like that. That's why the aborigine bin sit down early day. But we don't know now because a bit stirred up today. But we still understand today. We know how they married, you know? Because he can't get married with somebody's people but he gotta get 'em from his family, you know. Like me and him- this my wife here because mefella family, mefella bin gettin married. See. Yeah. The same my son he bin gettin married his family again. From family. From *Ewarreltyewe* family. Yeah. And me bin married longa my family again- *Aynerre* family. Yeah.

GDK: When baby bin born, does father give a gift to mother?

HP: Yeah. Mm. Well we like family- *Tjarre Tjarre* and *Aynerre* and *Ewerritewe*. Well that's all we can get- people can get married. We can't get married anyway, like might be *Karne*, might be *Kalkarenge*, *Ewalapenpe* because the *Karne* people he gotta get that girl. He gotta get married longa *Kalkarenge* people. Akemarre, kapetye gotta get 'em akemarre. Knwarreye gotta get 'em thangele. Well that's why they bin sit down 'bout all them people, like *Ewalapenpe*, *Karne*, *Kalkarenge*. Like all the family, and *Warlekarienge*. All them country.

GDK: And *Warlekarienge*.

HP: Yeah.

GDK: *Warlekarienge*- is that Kaytetye country? Or Warlpiri country?

HP: No, right up Kaytetye, like this. He come like that. (draws) That creek he runnin'. That Lander Creek. He come like this. This is Anmatyerre, this Kaytetye. Right up to here to where that Willowra- where that station is. That's Warlpiri this side. That creek comin' this way. It's Warlpiri here. Yeah this one come. This *Tyarre Tyarre*- he's inside on Kaytetye. But we usin' two word anyway. Two language, you know? Warlpiri and Kaytetye.

Harry Henty

GDK: That- we think about long time. That Harry Henty?

HP: Yeah, Harry Henty. He bin workin' there longa what's name? He bin have 'em big bough shed there. One of my big brothers bin workin' for him. Him bin pass

HJK: At Bullocky Soak?

HP: Yeah, Bullocky Soak. He bin have 'em across the creek near that point of that hill there. Bin have 'em 'bout big bough shed, you know? He live around there before he go - before him go longa Hatches Creek. But he go back to Hatches Creek. He live there. He had a station there. On the east side from them miners. Hatches Creek. Livin' round there. Oh long time him bin workin' there. He had a good lot of Wakaye people workin' for him. Hmm. And - and one half caste he got Jack, Daly Water Jack. He come from Daly Water again. Him bin there for long time workin' there longa that country but him bin livin' round through them country like Elkedra and all them country. They bin all workin' together. Bill Riley and Kennedy and all them. And Harry Henty. But this old fellow from Wakurlpu Ampetyane and he had a- think he bin have 'em one wife I think- two wife I think. Only one he bin have 'em. Bin pass away longa Wauchope. That one, yeah. And I think he bin doin' a little bit wrong for him, you know. Him bin havin' girlfriend all of the time. From that old fella. That's what that lady bin tellin' bout longa me when I bin start growin' up now. I bin man. In Wauchope. What bin happen there long Hatches Creek. And they bin go for mustering. They bin muster 'em round through to Hatches Creek. And this one young fellow- this old fella now, Billy Mack, he's run away from job, you know? And they bin there lookin' for him, and he ask that mob which way that Billy Mack, and this other mob bin tell 'em, 'No, him bin run away.' Oh yeah. And they keep followin' his track to that old- longa them mine country. They come. Had a few nannygoat but that not his property belonga that old man, but he might have bin just manager. Lookin' out- belonga old Dan Curry. That's his boss. Dan Curry. That his boss. Because he bin leavin' manager. That Dan Curry bin come from right longa Barrow Creek. You know that Dan Curry he's bin like- that his boy, you know, workin' man. Workin' for him, that old fella. Mmm. But him bin, Dan Curry bin tell him, 'All right. You look out in my place. I'm goin' to Barrow Creek. Pick up some tucker and some mail, you know. He come with wagon. He had no car, you know. And this bin come along and ask 'im him, "Where's that Billy Mack?" And this old fella say, 'Yeah I seen 'im that Billy Mack bin goin' this afternoon. He moved out. I seen him, he bin keep goin'. And he said, 'Oh no, don't tell 'em me about that. He still comin' down there.(?) But that old fella bin tell him good way, you know? But he bin tell 'im, 'Oh, no, you can't. You still got 'em there. He bin belongin' (?) that house there. And he never take long until he pulled the pistol, you know, and shoot 'em him. Fire him straight away. That old fella. But it- you know, he dodge 'im round, see. But they had a building like this, see? Like- like this. Like that. (square building with open entrance- draws) See. Like that. Well this one got the stone mix,

you know. And hand bit. And he's fire 'em through here. That old fellow get around on this thing in the room on the side, yeah, and he still bin have 'em longa with his hand. And he start push 'im with the foot. And he () that old fella bin catch 'im that way, I think, on

HJK: With a pistol.

GDK: Yeah. Right under jaw, yes, side. (right side)

HP: Well that old fella bin walk from here like that tree, I think. That Harry Henty. And he go back and sleep like that. That's what that old fella bin tell 'em. And keep watchin' that. And he go to sleep. And that's why that trouble, you know, from that twofella bin fight from that one aboriginal woman. Because him bin have 'em that when aboriginal woman him bin have 'em girlfriend for long long time. But that old fella bin know 'em. Bin takin' wife from him all the time. And that old fella- that old fella he can't say, you know? He say he know that man got he's little bit strange alonga head too, you know? He bin fright from- he might get shot, you know? Yeah. But Harry Henty bin go back and he know that man bin get killed, and I think that old fella bin get away. This time that Mr. Murray couldn't go there for that trouble after he bin killin' my people up along Hanson Creek. And another policeman bin go now called Johnson. Yeah. I don't know what his second name. But Hector was the tracker. That old Hector. When he was young fella. Him bin tracker. That same fella there bin goin' lookin for that old fella. And that hard to find that old fella. He bin round longa them big hill. They lookin' for him- might be after 2 year he go to that Woodgreen, you know. Old Curtis bin there. And he got () and talk it, 'All right, I bin gibit up. I can go to travel. That old fella. And after that old fella bin come round, this Curtis bin writin' letter, puttim long mail. Them they can have a look. That policeman bin come round. He bin wait for that policeman, ready, you know. And he go to Darwin and he go to court and his wife bin helpin' him too. 'Yeah, that man bin havin' me for a long long time because he's my boyfriend and he bin takin' away from this old fella - from me all the time. That's why twofella bin bad friend. That girl bin tell 'em- that husband belong him. Yeah. Well that old fella his wife bin come back, right back to that Singleton where I bin show bout that picture. (refers to picture of large date palms on Singleton HP showed GDK and HJK that day) Yeah. They bin pass away not too long. Well round to Wauchope. Yeah.

GDK: What skin?

HP: Nappurula and Apengarte. Wife longa him. And Ampetyane. That old fellow. Longa the Walkulpu. Yeah. He was big fella. Proper strong fella. But, yeah.

GDK: So he had to stand up in court and his wife stood up in court. Talk.

HP: Yeah, yeah, that wife bin helpin' him now. That old fella bin fight because twofella bin bad friend. That whitefella bin takin' my - takin' my long me

allatime. I bin never try to camp with this my old fella. But I bin go camp longa whitefella all the time. That's why he bin beat that court. Yeah.

Missionaries

GDK:Missionaries. Did you ever have any- did you ever talk with missionaries? Around Barrow Creek.

HP:Well when him missionary, bin only one fella bin come round from Hermannsburg.

GDK:Oh. What name?

HP: I don't know what his name. I forget what his name. I remember we had a church longa that ()- 'nother creek comin' from that way from 'nother one. On Neutral we bin have 'em church.

GDK:Oh yeah?

HP:Mmm. I know that man. And he was comin' round with the camel. That's was after- after everything bin do wrong, you know? After Harry Henty and all them and after these other people bin get killed. Mr. Crump. Mr. Crump bin come round there. He was bin comin' round from Hermannsburg. And he showed us everything, story bout longa the God. We bin mission(?) all the people, you know. He go round the right down(?) the Hanson River to that country. But that church from Hermannsburg, Mr. Crump, he bin only come past Neutral all the time. And he go round there. He go back to Barrow Creek and he go to Hanson Creek. Same round all them people. Go back longa that creek, you know, all way along. And go around long Coniston way. Mmm. He had a one aboriginal fellow workin' with him. They bin doin' for nearly 5-6 year, that job. More than 6 year I think they bin doin'. Because I bin start growin' up now but I know all of them because we had 'em. I know Mr. Crump and I seen 'em what sort of story he bin pass 'em on. Tellin' how people can become right and how people can believe this story church way, you know. And tell the people he not going to be wrong- not to steal money, not to kill anything, you know. Gotta be leave 'em and he gotta come right. That's what we bin listen to him, you know. Church bin still come round after. After everybody bin get kill. Same like, ah Miss Lock, you know that lady one?

GDK:Yeah, Mithalock?

HP:Yeah, Miss Lock, yeah.

GDK:She didn't stay for long time though? Just little bit?

HP:Yeah, little bit him bin stop there longa that -where them- from that Burns Bore, thataway. Just from race course. Like that. Him bin have 'em () one from highway, like that. Bin have 'em wagon and everything, mule and everything there. Might even just only stop for couple of months, you know? Mmm. But I know that Mr. Crump bin workin' for - come up here for nearly for 5-6 year. He bin still come when Muldoon bin there too. Yeah. Bin traveling around here all over. Walk around. Miss Lock () go down just east from

McLaren. He had a big mob Warrumungu people there. Teachin' all them fellas. But he bin teachin' that- Mr. Crump bin teachin' all these people, they have Kaytetye and some Warlpiri people, you know.

GDK:Did he talk Kaytetye?

HP: No, he never bin talkin' Kaytetye but he bin just learnin' English, you know? Tellin' all those people. And he had some Aranda people' young man, walkin' about with him, and I think that's why they bin know about anything. Tell everything right, but, ah, that's the time everything bin come.

Working experiences

Everything just all everything was start then. This mine bin start Wauchope. That's the time. And me and my father went back to Wauchope, see. I stop around there workin' for old Jim Whartle(?). My father bin workin' for him. Afterward my father bin workin' for Muldoon. Mmm. We go back there, work there for, oh, long time. And when I bin start growin' up I bin come back to work for old Billy Crook?. Old Billy Crook, him bin, he was bin come back after soldier bin fightin', you know? For sword, you know? With horses and sword. Yeah. He was bin no gun, you know? They bin (), they bin fightin' with sword. Yeah.

HJK:Where was he workin'? Billy Crook?

HP:Yeah. He bin havin' Singleton. But him bin just come back from where they bin longa army. Him bin workin' people there now. That's the time I bin start work for him.

And when I bin workin' there, I go back work longa mine again. My father and him. I work for old Reg(Rich?) Connell. He was my boss. I work for him. Mr. Connell and what's name- Jim Whartle(?). My father worked for Jim Whartle. I worked for Reg Connell.

HJK:At Wauchope.

HP:Yeah, Wauchope. Wolfram field. And Jim Sharpe bin there. And Bob- Bob Sling(?). And old Paddy Winn. Dick Turner himself.

GDK:Who was that whitefella that grew up Sandy? Knwarreye. He said a white big boss

HP:Well I don't know again. He might be now another place again. () Yeah, Dick Turner was () there. And old Andy Turner. Andy Turner bin round there again. He had a big mob horse anyway. And before he go back to Alice Springs, old Jim Clark. That many man they bin workin' there in that mine.

HJK:Jim Sharpe, eh?

HP:Yeah. Jim Sharpe. He had a muckin' around with an aboriginal woman again. And he had one son- one son belong him. Him might be round longa Darwin. One half-caste fella.

Aboriginal leaders around Barrow Creek

GDK:But round Barrow Creek- like long time ago- some important men- some important leader. Who were important people around Barrow Creek?

Aboriginal. Artweye.

HP:Yeah, well I don't know aboriginal bin there- important leaders.

HJK>Your father must be.

HP:Yeah, well, my father bin there for many years.

GDK:Yes. he was important one.

HP>Yeah. And old uncle again. Come from *Apwelkwe Thangale*. That way from *Wakulpu* bin east side.

GDK:Yeah, old Thangale from- okay.

HP:*Apwelkwe*.

GDK:They still do that business for Barrow Creek?

HP:Well because I know that business right and I seen him what they bin learn me. All them culture belonga Barrow Creek. All woman and all. And they bin using music for woman. When they want that young girl one love that man, you know!

GDK:Yeah, they told me about that. (Ilpintji)

HP>You play with that thing, you know, with that little stick. That music. That music. when they bin thinkin' that ilpintji. When that girl bin like 'em that man. Mm.

GDK:That girl bin singin' for that man.

HP:Singin'for that. Yeah. Yeah, this way that Barrow Creek now because he was in- everything like that. Well they bin show 'em us everything for old people bin show 'em. I don't know. I think oh coupla old fellas bin that important one. Old Tropery.

GDK:Yeah, old Tropery. He's Apengarte?

HP:Yeah, Apengarte. () Apengarte again might be old Sheepy? For Warlukurlangu. That's all the old people- like all the important one. Well all them people we still bin see alive.

Kaytetye people and telegraph poles

When they bin see them people bin see 'em early day that white fella bin come. New time. Well they bin still some old people bin still alive. And they tell 'em bout us bout the story when they bin dig 'em and pull 'em down and and chuck that tree with the wire and knock all the insulator down. You know, when they bin puttin' that telegraph?

HJK:Oh yeah. To get 'em that glass.

HP:Yeah. Chuck it away. To get that iron from bottom, you know. Olden time. Stick, you know? That's all old people. I seen 'em. And that's all the people what I seen 'em. I think one old fella from *Akwerrkapwentye*, he bin still alive. And he told me about this story.

He went along, try to go back to Akwerrkapwentye. That way. North. And he tryin' to go right to Akwerrkapwentye. And he reckon he bin seein' 'What's this one?' And he can hear 'em, you know? And he bin hear 'em, 'Ay, sugarbag, some one. Might be sugarbag here. And he can hear 'em- ah, yeah, sugarbag, all right.' But he don't know this man bin stand 'em up that stick, you know, that pole. But he never- he didn't know. And he bin turn around and use that axe like tommyhawk- stone axe- and cut 'em down. Knock 'em down. And he can see it's a wire. And he seen the two wires. And he didn't know what sort is this? Insulator, you know. To come that wire through. And he bin- soon he bin cut that- that pole and he start diggin' now. And he can find iron there. To all that thing() pull down, you know. Dig him out and chuckit away that stick and him bin take 'em away that iron. Tryin' to make a tommyhawk, you know?

And he go around again, that old fella, he told me about. Go back longa *Thangku*. And he go round and he find two whitefella there. Tryin' to make well there. They bin makin' well, right. And he sees that old fella bin reckon him and lookin' that, 'Hey, they usin' good axe here. Cuttin.' And that two whitefella, they bin have'em shotgun longa buggy all the time, you know? And go cut 'em timber all the time. And come long and come long, and then that old fella keep followin', you know? He had no clothes, you know? Yeah, him followin' that one and look around, oh thing- he got good thing to cut 'em. They get good axe, you know? Cut 'em. And when they bin tryin' to come back longa dinner now. And he put that axe in the back of the- in the truck, you know? Yeah. But there be handle a little bit stickin' out. And keep on- that two whitefella bin climb along- drivin' that buggy, you know, with the horses. And they had a coupla timber. And they walk along. And this old fella him bin turn around and run then. And this fella bin standin' that that shotgun bin alongside there. Standin' up. And that oldfella bin come around, him bin grab that axe and this whitefella bin there look, 'Hey?'. Why themfella bin take 'em away out them axe him take 'em away.' And this fella- this nother fella- this whitefella bin fire 'em him. Shoot 'em this side.