

MY INTERVIEW WITH MY Granddad

Harrison Street, where Nana and Granddad live, has changed a lot. It used to be called Winters Road, was shingle instead of bitumen, and had a creek running down one side, which was about 70cms wide and about 20cms deep. There were not many houses on the street, and they had wooden bridges over the creek, to get into their properties. My Granddad owned a Butchers shop on the left side, in the first block, up from the Oak Grove roundabout. When it was pulled down, he built a house on the section, and still lives there with Nana.

There have been a lot of changes in the Allenton Shopping Centre. On the left side, (looking west), Was an old church, which was made into a Grocers shop. Next to that, was a Chemist shop, which is still there. Then there was a Doctors surgery, which only had one Doctor. Next to that, a mens Barbers shop, and then a Bakery/Cake Kitchen. On the other side was only a Garage, which is still there. Around the corner from the garage, was the Post Office, which is now used as an office by an Architect.

The Mid-Canterbury area, was mostly made up of sheep and crop farms, but is now mostly large Dairy farms. My Granddad remembers there being no irrigation, to water the farms, but now most farms have very large irrigators to water, when there is not enough rain.

Most of the schools had their own swimming pools, which were used for class swimming lessons. They also each had Swimming Clubs, which would compete against each other in competitions, called Carnivals. Now, most of the pools have been filled in, and the land used for buildings and car parks at the school. The only pool left is the Hampstead School one.

Borough School had a very good pool, with high and low diving boards. My Nana remembers swimming in it, when she attended Borough in Form 1 and 2, (year 7 and 8)

The rivers in the country, had very good places for swimming, and were always environmentally safe, to swim in. Now a lot of them have been tested and found to have toxins, which make them unsafe for swimming, as people could get sick, if they swallowed some water.

Granddad said that he used to know most of the people, in the area where he lived, as people seemed to be more friendly towards each other, always knew their neighbours, and would help them with anything if they needed it.

That was a really interesting interview Savannah!

BY SAVANNAH 8/10/03