

## OH 800

### SILVER MOON

#### SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

CARD NO.	SUBJECTS
1 7.11.06	B. 1952 Valerie Smith, changed name to Silver Moon; born at Northern Community Hospital, youngest of 6 children – 4 brothers, 1 sister; mother Audrey Mau a pianist, born 1914; father mechanic at SA Railways, voted liberal; working class family, not a lot of money; grew up in Blair Athol; large garden and grew own vegetables; family holidays; suffered from respiratory problems and whooping cough; early passion for reading, educated at Blair Athol Primary School and Enfield High School.
2 21.11.06	School sport – hockey, cricket, volleyball – became politically aware; Sunday School teacher until age of 15 – inequality of male and female roles in church; extended family; 1956 flood; Queen's visit in 1960's – changed name of Irish Harp Road to Regency Road; high school had tough reputation, lots of migrant children; Vietnam War; importance of State Library for research – no books at home; Cold War; contributor to school newspaper and magazines; a rebel at school and disliked by teachers; Vietnam Moratoriums and marches; anti-apartheid demonstration at Norwood Oval; youngest brother conscripted to Vietnam.
3 19.11.06	Napalm in Rundle Street at pseudo Vietnam village; protest songs; Beatles visit to Adelaide; music and the influence of her mother; played guitar, drums and percussion as a teenager; writing music; left home at 17 and moved into share and communal houses; women's liberation meetings in 1970's at Lady Symon Building, University of Adelaide; women's Room; list of 7 demands; married in 1974 and divorced after 4 years; influenced by Betty Freidan ("The Feminine Mystique") and Germaine Greer ("Female Eunuch"); worked at Women's Liberation Centre and Rape Crisis Centre and Women's Studies Resource Centre; studies politics and Philosophy at Adelaide Uni; women in music.
4 8.2.07	Father rode motorcycle at Rowley Park; bought her first bike in 1974, a Honda; rode to Queensland; now has quad bike on farm; married in 1974; married Peter – smart, politically astute, understood personal politics; his parents didn't approve as she was working class; didn't realize she was a lesbian; worked in Public service; sacking of Whitlam; protesting against Kerr at Loxton; came out as lesbian at 28 at Melbourne conference "Women, Patriarchy and the Future"; telling family; abortion counselling at Women's Liberation Centre; being a lesbian and country life; raped by ex-boyfriend; abortion.
5 21.2.07	Abortion – the political situation in SA; 1969 Abortion Law Reform; having her abortion in the public health system was very good; social worker at Queen Victoria Hospital; Women's Health Centre at

	Hindmarsh, worked as volunteer 1979-83; Rape Crisis Centre; living in squats and share housing; “Don’t Do it Di” dance when Princess Diana was getting married, held at Burnside Town hall; women’s music – SA band Fruit; her doctor girlfriend bought her a ticket to fly to London for a short holiday – stayed 6 years.
6 3.5.07	Took \$200 to England; Thatcher elected 1979 – led to loss of human rights, increased homelessness, smashed unions, 84 Miners’ Strike, poll tax; women’s peace camp at Greenham; Star March; Greenham site for US nuclear missiles (previously British Military Base); became US base in December 1982; “Embrace the Base”; women living at the camp, several sites at different gates; building missile silos; police from Newbury; different definition of non-violent; missiles arrived December 1983; routine of living at camp – food, collecting wood, transport, continual attempts to evict; being arrested and attending court.
7 11.5.07	Providing own defense in court; friction between US and British forces; Ministry of Defense Police; Irish Regiment troops; musicians on both sides of fence; replaced with Scottish troops then Northern Ireland Regiment; visits from press and academics; children’s action to visit school in camp for US children; singing and writing songs; spirituality at camp.
8 17.5.07	Lived at Green Gate; actions – blockading vehicles; arrested hundreds of times; Halloween action to take down the fence – several thousand women turned up with bolt cutters; Blackbird action – US spy plane; “Embrace the Base” – 30,000 women turned up; 102 missiles installed, trucks and missiles left base on practice runs; class differences; Lady Caroline Blackwood; sent to prison 3 times; drug problems with US soldiers.
9 24.5.07	Soldiers stealing cakes for women; Cruise Watch set up all over central England; peace action in other countries; visit to peace camp in Denmark; visit to Faslane nuclear submarine base in Scotland; 84 Miners’ Strike; writing songs at Greenham;
10 15.6.07	Court cases and prison. Used the name Phoebe Duncan after her grandmothers; defended herself in the Magistrates Court in Newbury; got the opportunity in court to talk about her opposition to nuclear testing; given 28 days to pay the fines or go to gaol; never paid the fines; physical layout of court was very intimidating; the “Snowball Action”; she was arrested hundreds of times, but was not guilty if the witness didn’t turn up in court; at the Cheshire Court she decided not to pay the fine and go to prison; most sentences halved due to prison overcrowding; first sentence was at Holloway women’s prison in London, she served a week; there were many Greenham women there before her; strip searched but could wear her own clothes; many prisoners were forced to take tranquilisers; majority of women in women in prison were there because of crimes related to poverty; prison – the cell, food, work, TV, violence of women warders, lack of health care; refused to eat until she got vegan food; went in as anti-nuclear activist and came out as prison reformer; the prison economy; in Risley Prison shared a room with 22 women.

11 22.6.07	Feminist history of Holloway; Suffragists fasted until they got what they wanted. Prison had swimming pool but only used once when it was opened by Princess Anne; Risley in Cheshire is the worst women's prison; it had wings for men and women; men did the cooking; entertained other women with songs and story telling; sings "No, nay, never" to the tune of wild Rover; talks of IRA woman prisoner, assumed she was killed by warders; her fasting led to hallucinations; in Risley Prison for 2 weeks; warders were violent and twisted; importance of letters and visitors; follow up phone calls when released; violence and lying of police at Greenham; bicycle and roller-skate action down the runway.
12 25.6.07	Roller skate action; giving soldiers tin of biscuits; blue beret paratroopers – very highly trained, like machines; "Wave Action"; running workshops at gates; protestors from USA, France, Germany, Italy; increasing public awareness of nuclear issues; Dee, a woman with mental issues murdered; nuclear accident at Greenham – "Broken Arrow" exercise – all women had severe chest pains for several hours, all pregnant women miscarried or had babies with defects, skin got burnt, soldiers went crazy and violent; liaised with Electronic for Peace people; she had deep burns all over her body, continuing headaches and chest pains, hair started to fall out, instantly became dyslexic, couldn't digest food, heart problems, sensitized to any type of radiation, couldn't go out in the sun; she was seriously sick and couldn't live there anymore and went to London; all women were affected differently; she did extensive research on activities of Americans and Russians; returned to Australia in 1986 for women's Peace Camp in Canberra then returned to England; still suffering and unable to work until 1995, now able to work 3 days a week; all the other women affected are dead; she had a lot of trouble with her blood – it wouldn't coagulate and she was very anaemic.
13 13.7.07	Did extensive research on current government activities, on radio waves, microwaves and infrared; 1986 International Year of Peace so they decided to have a Women's Peace Bus from Britain to the Soviet Union – they had the women from Greenham and 2 women bus drivers; went through Poland, Germany to Moscow and Odessa; were in Russia for several weeks on a planned itinerary and accompanied by an InTourist guide; followed by KGB in Moscow; Russian ice-cream; being lesbian was illegal; abortion used as main form of contraception; went to ballet in Odessa –very low standard; east Berlin and Checkpoint Charlie; continued research on electromagnetic fields; became a living Geiger counter; went back to Australia in 1989 to try and get well through alternative medicine, especially acupuncture; last 2 years in Britain were near Dumfries in south west Scotland – this was after Chernobyl; major nuclear accident at Chapel Cross, a plutonium factory in 1970's.
14 17.07.07	Chernobyl happened April 1986 while she was in Scotland; fallout covered east and west Europe; government wouldn't let farmers sell sheep and cattle as it was too radioactive; bought radiation detector and found that food frozen before Chernobyl was affected with radiation because of Chapel Cross; chapel cross built 1959 for nuclear

	<p>testing, including in Australia, run by the British Nuclear Fuel; closed down in 2004; the partial meltdown in 1967 was still being measured in 1998; everyone bought New Zealand products; most of the local kids developed a cough; in 1987 government held manoeuvres called “Purple Warrior – the biggest manoeuvre since World War 2 – all the forces were involved; held in south west Scotland; there were navy accidents and planes went over 90 times a day at very low levels; at Greenham they got visits from Julie Christie, Joan Baez and Peggy Seeger; food was sent by Linda McCartney; felt safe when she returned to Australia; stayed with a friend but still felt very feral; continued research; impact of acupuncturist on her wellness; formed a group Women’s Environmental Action Group (WENAG) – protested at Port Adelaide against uranium from Roxby – thrown off truck by Star Force Police and dislocated her shoulder.</p>
15 19.7.07	<p>WENAG started in September 1988 when she returned to Australia – they set up a crockery bank; got members by advertising in liberation newsletter; set up telephone tree for Roxby protests, anti-war toys action at first Gulf War in 1990; CirKidz at Bowden – circus class for women; did telephone counseling on Lesbian Line collective; in 1990 set up LESY, a moneyless lesbian exchange system; “Lesbian Ethics” by Sarah Lucia Hoagland; lesbian Spirit Camp at Aldinga in 1990; 1991 was 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Greenham so she went back to England; the missiles were gone; set up camp at green Gate. All the equipment was gone. They went into the base and lit a fire on top of the missile silo; many women came for the celebration; the site now returned to common land.</p>
16 24.10.07	<p>Involved in lots of activities in 1991. IWD art exhibition – decided to put in an exhibition of preserves and gave them unusual names; April – Lesbian Spirit Camp at Aldinga, women came from all over Australia – arts, music, magic, plants, quiz night. National Lesbian Conference held in Sydney with a concert at the opera House; artists included Robyn Archer, a lesbian choir, opera and singers. In Adelaide a lesbian a cappella group formed called “<i>Read Our Lips</i>”. Transgender group took legal action to be included in lesbian events; lesbians wanted only those who were born female and raised as girls to be included; this led to lesbian conferences now being underground because they are illegal. Markets were held for women where they could sell anything; it ran for several years. In the country many young gays and lesbians are still in the closet; they are more accepted as older lesbians. Women’s Liberation newsletter started in 1970, she was one of the very early subscribers – number 6; cost 50 cents; took over being editor in 1991 and is still doing it; anyone can contribute to it; “Lesbian Times” started in 1991 and she was involved for a number of years, also did the finances; there were big fights on class issues – the middle class didn’t understand the issues of the working class.</p>
17 25.10.07	<p>Involved in the national lesbian newsletter “Lesbian Network”, a collective which issued 4 times a year. Did work at 5UV “No Frills” program and began doing the technical operation which continued for several years; also had on-air role, did interviews, music, women’s</p>

	<p>events and politics; show finished in 2002; they no longer have any women's programs; enrolled to do Diploma in Audio Engineering at SA International Technology College (then called School of Audio Engineering); she was the only woman in a class of 30; very sexist; needed to have her own business to have control over what was happening; had a developing relationship with the Conservatorium. Got job there as studio technician and ran the recording studios; at 5UV- Royal Commission into Hindmarsh Island Bridge Aboriginal women were accused of lying to men; case was covered by her and other reporters from "No Frills"; attended court proceedings, the rules and process determined by Commissioner; the Museum didn't provide information; there were about 12 legal teams; Betty Fisher's taped interviews on Women's Business were disregarded; the process was unfair from beginning to end; 5UV were threatened with contempt; she interviewed Doreen Kartinyeri; the Commissioner was Iris Stephens; later the women were proved correct and vindicated; a white man decorated the bridge in Aboriginal style; environmental devastation; Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs was Robert Tickner; the developers made several defamation actions and made a fortune; this led a change in the federal laws on defamation and is now more like that in USA; tapes of her 5UV shows were sent nationwide on community radio.</p>
18 15.11.07	<p>Lectured at TAFE Women's Studies, did the unit "Becoming Independent" about home maintenance – plumbing, electricity, lawn mowers, cars – women managing without men; it was a life changing experience for many women and gave them confidence; she taught other units including Women and Spirituality and worked at several TAFEs; was part of their pre-vocational system; began teaching about feminism and feminist thought; discusses types of feminism, consciousness-raising, eco-feminism; describes herself as an anarchist feminist and lesbian feminist. Left TAFE and began teaching at WEA teaching car maintenance for women in the basement of the Angas Street building, taught there for several years.</p>
19 23.11.07	<p>Taught percussion as part of Drumming and Percussion project funded by the Australia Council; member and teacher of the group the <i>Bangshees</i>; also went to Japanese drumming workshop; the group lasted for several years; also taught the group the <i>Rhythm Method</i>; wrote a musical piece about knitting; taught percussion for people with mental health problems at Port Adelaide Community Health Centre. At the Conservatorium did recordings of recitals, classical jazz and electronic; worked there 3 days a week, also did technical work and studio recordings and training; does a lot of recording of community music and poetry; has bought a lot of high quality recording equipment that is easy to transport; talks about the recording process; does recordings at Elder Hall; now works at the SLSA preserving the State's audio history, 2 days a week; state records do not have enough on women in the collection. Living on a farm with her partner Shirley since 1988, have been together 15 years; Shirley was originally from a dairy farm in Victoria and then became a high flying executive; she bought the farm at Finnis in 1997,</p>

	<p>mainly vines and Dorper sheep. Silver built a mix down studio on the farm; farming is a very physical life. They have Maremma dogs as livestock guardians, they were developed in Italy 1,000 years ago – they have developed a relationship with the sheep.</p> <p>Maremma dogs are used on their property; they are also used to look after native animals; she has done a lot of re-vegetation on the farm.</p>
20 4.12.07	<p>Native grasses – she is not allergic to them but is to wheat, rye and oats; got involved with Native Grasses Resource Group; member of Finniss Catchment Group – it covers 380 square km; Finniss River was second longest after Murray but there were too many dams and bores to sustain the river; invited John Hill, Minister for Environment to their meeting; on the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Board which provides government funding for environmental activities; she is now investigating changes in the local river on macroinvertebrates (yabbies and smaller); belongs to the River, Lakes and Coorong Action Group which focuses on the River, formed in response to the government threat to build a weir at Wellington across the top of Lake Alexandrina; most of the Coorong is now dead; the water around Hindmarsh Island is now saltier than the sea; in the future she wants to do more re-vegetation of the farm, tree planting; she will continue as an audio engineer, mainly in the city; “my work in the world is to be an activist.” Alice Walker said “activism is my rent for living on the planet.” She describes herself as an anarchist feminist lesbian activist.</p>
	FINISH