

Interviewee: Rodger McEwan
UoS Dates: 1968 - 2014
Role(s): Technician (Television), Dept of Education.
Latterly in Information Services.



Interview summary:

Summary of content; with time (min:secs)

Start 01:00 – RM had an interest in technical science from an early age. He went to school in Alloa. After school he applied for a job as a lab technician at St Andrews in their new science building. They allowed him to study at college in Dundee.

03:30 – RM saw an advertisement for a television engineer in the Education Department at Stirling, in microteaching which was in its early days. He helped to get it up and running. Jack Duthie was on the interview panel. Pathfoot was still being built when he had his interview, staff were situated in huts by the greenhouses. The Department had an outside broadcast van which was fully equipped.

06:00 – The head of the area RM worked in was called Ian MacDonald who was an ex television engineer from STV. He also worked for Jack Duthie, as RM's work was part of the Education Department. All training for RM's job was in house. He was able to repair electrical appliances that broke.

08:00 – Stirling was a socially interesting place in the first ten years due to the small number of people on site. There were dances and social events held with no barriers between departments. RM recalls there was a coffee trolley that came round the corridors and that staff would pile into someone's office to have a chat over coffee. RM interacted often with the students as he was similar ages to many of them. He often got the job of speaking to them about tricky subjects. He went to dances often with groups of students.

10:52 – Microteaching became a quite involved affair and became labour intensive as it grew. RM was given the task to create a fully automated system which took him a year. Then they moved to the Resources Centre at the front of Pathfoot, which may have been the Library. He recalls the process he developed for the recording of the students in microteaching

12:20 – He received a promotion for the system he created within the first ten years of his time in Stirling. Television was eventually split from teaching and went to a central unit with other areas under the head of Archie Young. RM still continued working with microteaching.

14:10 – RM wasn't present at the Queen's visit. They needed a pre-recorded micro session to present to the Queen and RM had to make sure it was set up. He heard about what happened. He personally believes it was hyped up and was made to sound worse than it was and it unfortunately stuck to the university for some time.

15:50 – For RM the first ten years were the best. Staff knew each other and communicated. His job had him mixing with everybody in the first ten years something which was lost later on. The Gannochy was a place of meeting where everyone went for lunch.

18:00 – Relations between staff and students in the earlier days at Stirling were far less restrictive than in other universities where they were far more structured. He was shocked when Tom Cottrell just appeared unannounced

from time to time. Lecturers and students would have lunch at one table.

19:30 – RM always felt that Stirling worked for him as it was flexible with holidays and late hours. It was a friendly place with a lovely campus.

[Ends 21:07]

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