

The Australian Women's Register

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Interview with Pat Jarrett, journalist [sound recording] / interviewer: Mark Cranfield

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Details

Jarrett speaks of her happy early years and her preference for country life, her love and early aptitude for sports, how she learnt to swim and her sports prizes giving her self-confidence, left school at 16, work at her uncle's film laboratory and her enduring love of photography, how her interest in writing about championship swimming lead to a job on the Herald as a sports journalist, her cadetship days under Keith Murdoch and Sidney Deemer, playing cricket herself on tour with women cricketers, how she became Women's Editor of the Sun, how she came to go overseas to the United States and met Dick Casey, Australian ambassador, in Los Angeles who offered her a job as his press agent, her life in Washington with the Casey family in 1940-1941, how America's entry into WWII finished Casey's Washington posting, her decision to return to Australia and become a war correspondent, requiring the rank of captain. Jarrett also speaks about her decision to rejoin the Caseys in Calcutta in 1944, how the Caseys handled the Indian unrest, how she organised for Ghandi to meet with Casey, her impressions of the Viceroy Wavell and wife as well as the Mountbattens, how she was sent to the Front to interview Generals Slim and Merserbe on the recapture of Mandalay before returning to Australia with the Casey children, how she got Rohan Rivett back to Australia, how they travelled together after Casey was decommissioned at the end of the War.

Author Details

Barbara Lemon

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