

ORAL HISTORY.

TIME TO REMEMBER.

Interviewee: His Honour Henry Callow, CBE.
Born 16 May 1926.

Retired Deemster. Awarded CBE in 1994.
Called to the Manx Bar in 1950.
High Bailiff and Coroner of Inquests.
Second Deemster 1988 – 1993.
Police Complaints Commissioner.
Chair: Gaelic Broadcasting Committee.
Member: Communications Commission.

Interviewed & recorded by: Mr. David Callister.

Date recorded: 2000.

Topic: Talks about professional career
musical interests and Freemasonry.

DC Right this is Henry Callow, Tape No. 1 of several hopefully, CBE, I didn't have the date you had the CBE, what date ...?

HH H Callow 1994.

DC 1994, right. Well let me, perhaps if I could start, Henry, with your family really, because I don't know if you remember your grandfather or certainly your father and I mean they were involved in building in the Isle of Man, weren't they?

HH H Callow Yes, my grandfather did quite a lot of building, he built a great deal of Palatine Road, Crosby Terrace, some of York Road, Hutchinson Square and he had four sons, the eldest was my father, another son went off to Canada, the third and fourth, one died at Gallipoli and the fourth he was gassed and died soon after the First War. And my father had gone, when the building became quiet I suppose, to South Africa, and he was there for nearly twenty years and he came back after the First War finished, because there were several houses only partly completed by my grandfather and my grandfather had died just before the end of the First World War. My father visited his stepmother who was a patient in Noble's Hospital and he fell in love with the nurse ...

DC Oh, right.

HH H Callow ... and that's how we came about.

DC Oh, yes. Now have you any recollections of your grandfather yourself?

HH H Callow Not that grandfather.

DC Not that grandfather?

HH H Callow No, my mother's father I can remember quite clearly.

DC Yes. Did your father then continue to do some building when he came back?

HH H Callow Yes, very much so. Yes, he built the lodge at Government House, he did work at the Manx Arms, probably the best known public building is St. Ninian's Church Hall. I, as a four year old, I remember climbing up on to the roof, I was friendly with the chap who was slating it and he helped me up and I helped to hammer in some of the nails, until my father found me and he gave me a hammering.

DC Yes, I don't think we'd get away with that sort of thing today but times were different!

HH H Callow Oh, very much, yes.

DC Yes, were you then looking towards this kind of career, I mean did you know what you wanted to do from an early age?

HH H Callow Mother knew what she wanted me to do, her cousin was Percy Cowley and she had ideas that I might be a lawyer too and she went along to him when I was at the High School, it was then the Boys' High School and she asked him how I should go about starting off in law and he said 'Well the first thing is you've got to go to King William's College'. So I had to sit for the scholarship and fortunately I got one, and that's how I came to go to that school. My father had died by that time so, as soon as I had the necessary qualifications, or educational qualifications, I had to leave College and become articled, in fact to Sydney Kneale, who was afterwards the Attorney General.

DC So the idea then of a legal career did appeal to you from the start?

HH H Callow Yes, I think it did. In those days children very often did as they were told and my mother was quite a strong character, a lovely lady.

DC Your first school was a convent school, wasn't it?

HH H Callow Yes, St. Joseph's Convent in Finch Road, long since gone, and after that Murray's Road School, a very fine school, and then the Boy's High School and finally King William's.

DC And what memories have you got of College days?

HH H Callow I enjoyed swimming, I was always a slow swimmer and you had to pass a test called the GT, the Grand Test, before you were allowed to swim in the sea. Up to that time it had to be in the College baths and to qualify for the GT, you dived in from the board and you had to do a length underwater, if your heel broke water you were disqualified, so you had to be right down at the bottom, and then, in fact I took so long over that they thought I had drowned.

DC Did they?

HH H Callow But I was able to carry on and after the length underwater non-stop, you had to do three lengths on your back, then two lengths left side, two lengths right side and fourteen lengths freestyle and then tread water without using your hands for two minutes.

DC Really!

HH H Callow Yes, and if you got through that lot then three of you having the GT were allowed to go swimming in the sea.

DC That's extraordinary really, I would have thought that that would be difficult for a lot of youngsters today ...

HH H Callow Possibly.

DC ... I don't know if that test still exists.

HH H Callow Yes. One of the great advantages of King William's is that you do more sport than you did ...

DC Were you inclined towards sport or not?

HH H Callow No, I was never very strong physically, but I enjoyed it.

DC Did you have those tremendous runs?

HH H Callow Yes, the long distance running I liked because I could take my time over that, I never shone at it, but I enjoyed doing four or five miles over rough country.

DC But you took to the academic side then pretty well, did you?

HH H Callow Well, I just did what I could and just scraped through. I made many friends, one of them Derek Costain, who has just finished his year as President of the London Manx Society. He and I have often talked about the times we had together and he went on to become the Chairman of British Steel in India, he did very well.

DC So then, I mean it was hard work then, presumably, to get into this legal career, were you - did you then have to sort of take an interest in the kind of cases that were coming forward at that time or were you studying, apart from the books that you were studying, were you studying what was going on in the Island and elsewhere?

HH H Callow Yes, well you were expected to do all the reading you could and I was able to do a lot of that at night because in the daytime the man I was articled to, Mr. Kneale, afterwards Deemster Kneale, he was one of the, I think, five practising Advocates in the Isle of Man towards the end of the war: Sydney Kneale, Roy Eason, Bruce MacPherson, Robert

Cowell, the Clerk to the Justices, and Harry Cowin, that you may have heard of.

DC Yes.

HH H Callow They carried the whole weight of legal cases throughout that time. In addition Sydney Kneale was the commander of the Home Guard, so he didn't have an awful lot of time to spend on me. He was very good, he was very kind to me.

DC Well what kind of jobs did you get initially then?

HH H Callow I went into a Court, very often with Mr. MacPherson, because he was the type who could pass on information and tuition and I very often acted as a sort of a junior to him, his student, and apart from that the late Deemster Ramsey Johnson, he was also - he was High Bailiff at that time - and a very kind, good-hearted man. Even when I went into the army just before the end of the war he continued to send me the legal students' magazine called *Law Notes* wherever I was in England and overseas.

DC Yes. There was a huge amount of material to absorb, I mean today presumably lawyers specialise in various areas but you had to go across the whole field of knowledge, did you?

HH H Callow Yes, yes you did, yes. After I qualified, I returned from the Forces and I qualified two and a half years later and I stayed with the firm Kneale and Co. for the best part of twelve months and then Gordon Bell, who was a well-known Advocate in the north of the Island, he fell ill and it was known that he would be off for several months and there was nobody better to take his place so I was sent down and told to do what I could to keep the flag flying and I gained a great deal of experience there. I found that I was in the Court of Appeal in the second week that I was in Ramsey and I got a terrific amount of experience because Mr.

Bell was a very courteous man, I am sure that everybody who remembers him will have that memory of him, he was also a very able man, he built up a good practice. In fact one of the jobs I remember, I formed a company, two young men wanted to have their car business turned into a company and they called it Raymotors and I formed the company for them and Mr. Casement still carries that on and he made a wonderful success of it.

DC What other sort of cases were you handling in the early days then?

HH H Callow Well, when I came back from Ramsey, because I wanted to be in Douglas where my brother was, you remember my brother Fred ...

DC Of course, yes.

HH H Callow ... who was an accountant - he and I set up on our own at about the same time and he did the whole run of the accountancy world and I tried to do the whole run of the legal world. Very often it was simply matrimonial disputes and cases in the High Bailiff's Court or in the Court of General Gaol Delivery that the other lawyers didn't want and I was kept quite busy I remember.

DC I mean murder was virtually unknown in those days?

HH H Callow Yes, yes, there were very few murders.

DC Can you remember the first one that you came across, when would that be?

HH H Callow Well the earliest one I remember was when I was a student and it was a charge that a prisoner in the Ramsey Camp had murdered another prisoner, I think that one was pro-Nazi and the other anti-Nazi and I - as I say I was still a student - I remember seeing the very dapper figure of Roy Eason being involved in that and in fact he had the charge

reduced to manslaughter and you will remember how able he was, a wonderful Advocate.

DC Tell me a bit about the regalia of Advocates then, I mean we are talking about wigs and gowns and little tin boxes to keep them in and so on, I mean what's all that about?

HH H Callow Well, the box is very necessary because a wig costs a lot of money.

DC So that little box is to keep the wig in specifically?

HH H Callow Oh yes, that's purely the wig, and also the collars, stiff collar and the white bands, they all go in that, and I was lucky enough to get a tall box which meant that my wig wasn't crushed too much. The smaller boxes, well they did - the wigs looked awful when people put them on. The great exception that I remember to that is Miss Rose Heilbron who came over for the trial of three Americans who were charged in connection with the newly formed Casino and the Government Inspectors reckoned that not all the money was being put where it should have been put and the Americans, of course, they wanted to have the biggest and best of everything, including legal services, and so they had the top criminal lawyer in Britain at the time, Rose Heilbron. And she came and I was asked by the prosecutor, who was the late Mr. John Green, he was Government Advocate, I was asked if I would act as his Junior and I jumped at it because I wanted to see Miss Heilbron in action.

DC Working?

HH H Callow Yes, and she had two Juniors, one of them is better known as His Honour Deemster Corrin nowadays, and the other was Martin Moore, who is the head of Dickinson, Cruickshank & Co., but we were all very young at that time and I remember what a picture Miss Heilbron was because she was a good-looking lady, I am sure she still is, and

everything about her was absolute perfection. Her wig was as if it had just come out of Eden Ravenscroft, the people who supply wigs. Her gown, of course, was very much better than any of the gowns we were wearing, we just had old cotton black stuffed gowns, they were rammed into a bag at the end of each day. Hers was a beautiful silk gown because she was a Silk, a Queen's Counsel and her collar and bands were freshly pressed every morning and her voice, that was the thing that impressed me most of all, she had the voice of an actress. The trial took place in the Tynwald Court Chamber and you, from your experience, will know that that is not the best auditorium.

DC No.

HH H Callow Nowadays they have microphones ...

DC Absolutely.

HH H Callow ... in order to help, but then there were no microphones and the one person whose voice could be heard, even though she wasn't raising it, was Miss Heilbron's.

DC Yes, yes, and of course this is something that is probably important too, to the Advocate, isn't it, the ability to, as it were, hold an audience, not holding an audience as such, but to have that presence really, you've got to be a bit of an actor, haven't you?

HH H Callow Yes, yes, yes, the voice, obviously, is all-important because if you can't be heard then you might as well not be there, you are not doing your duty to your client. So you'll find that Advocates, and particularly Barristers, who are really Court specialists, they have voices that will carry and it could be embarrassing because sometimes things are heard that they don't intend to be heard.

DC Yes, do you think so that they can intimidate a jury in jury cases then?

HH H Callow Oh, they do their best.

DC They try.

HH H Callow Yes, try hard, that's what they're paid for.

DC And as far as the Manx Bar is concerned, I mean when you went in to it, as you say, there would be very few people, the growth of the legal profession here, the growth of the accountancy profession, has been quite amazing I suppose, I mean you could never have imagined that when you started out could you?

HH H Callow No, no, when I left Athol Street there were twenty-five Advocates in practice and in fact when Jack Corrin left about three or four years later there were still twenty-five practising Advocates, now there's certainly well over the hundred.

DC This name, Deemster, people have tried to define it, I think, haven't they, is there a precise definition?

HH H Callow I've not come across it, I've heard it being 'Doomster'...

DC The bringer of doom?

HH H Callow Yes, yes, it very often was in the old days, but I think it comes from the Scandinavian, I am sure that people like Dr. Brian Stowell, who I became very friendly with on the Gaelic Broadcasting Committee, I am sure he would have a good explanation of it, I must remember to ask him.

DC And exactly, then, what is a High Bailiff?

HH H Callow The High Bailiff is really the Stipendiary Magistrate of the Island, I think they call him the Sheriff in Scotland and the difference between him and the lay Magistrates is obviously that he is a trained lawyer and he has a wider jurisdiction sometimes than the lay Magistrates but apart from that they all get on very well.

DC The High Bailiff has a pretty heavy workload, doesn't he?

HH H Callow Yes, well when I started as High Bailiff I was the only High Bailiff and in fact within twelve months the Clerks to the Justices resigned, you remember there were two Clerks to the Justices, two well known men, two very engaging characters, and they resigned and I found that I was trying to cope with the Magistrates' work as well. Fortunately Peter Smith was appointed within two or three months and sanity prevailed. A few years after that cases had increased to such an extent that the Government decided that there should be a Deputy High Bailiff, that was in 1977, and I think that appointment has been fully justified.

DC Outside of your career then, I mean you have had a huge number of interests, but one of them, one of them in particular, is music, and I know that you play the organ and you are called on to play it in many places I think now, aren't you?

HH H Callow Well yes, I am very glad to help out, I'm not much of an organist, I must be honest, but if anybody is stuck then I feel it's my duty, and I enjoy going to play at other churches too.

DC How did you get started with the organ then?

HH H Callow Well as a child I was taught the violin and I was not a pianist, my sister is a very good pianist and organist. At any rate when I was getting near retirement I realised there was a much greater need for organists than there was for violinists and also it's a more companionable thing because as a violinist you are very much on your own. So my sister

took me in hand and she gave me tuition and I've – by dint of a lot of practice – I've gradually risen to the height of being deputy organist at Lezayre Church so that when the organist wants to go away on holiday they have to fall back on me and that in turn has led to other churches, if they are in difficulty, getting in touch with me and saying 'Can you manage next Sunday morning?' And in fact that happened shortly before Christmas last year, the Rev'd. David Green of Maughold has very kindly asked me on more than one occasion that he's been without an organist, and he asked me if I could manage the Sunday morning service the following weekend and I knew that he had had a new organ installed or it was in the process of being installed by Mr. Peter Jones of St. Johns, and so I said 'I'd like to borrow the key and go out and have a practice on it on Saturday morning before the Sunday service'. So he lent me the key and out I went the following Saturday and Maughold is quite exposed, as you probably know, and it was blowing a gale and there was rain coming down with it too, but anyway I managed to get up the stone steps outside the church and into the organ loft and I found to my delight that the organ console had been separated from the main organ and Mr. Jones had put it so that the organist could see what was going on at the altar, what the Vicar was doing and what the congregation was doing by looking down over the balcony. So I was playing and trying out the hymns and one or two voluntaries and then I became aware that somebody was coming into the church and I heard the door creaking below me and I heard footsteps. I carried on playing, I thought it was one of the locals coming in to prepare for the following morning's service and I was thinking of what to say to him because they're lovely Manx people out in Maughold and I was just about to say '*Moghrey mie, yessir*', and then I realised the man looking up at me, I thought I've seen his face before, and he's not a local. And then it suddenly dawned on me that it was on television that I'd seen him and I said 'You're the Archbishop of Canterbury.' So he agreed and I jumped off the organ bench and felt it was my duty to rush down to kiss hands or do whatever you do so when I got down I found that he was being accompanied by Mrs

Carey, and our Bishop and the Vicar of Maughold, David Green, and I was introduced and I said 'Well I must keep quiet while you study the Celtic Cross you have come to see'. At any rate Mrs Carey very kindly said 'No, please carry on, it makes a nice background'. So I went back and did as I was told and I can now proudly claim on my CV that I have played before the Archbishop of Canterbury!

DC And they will remember that organist at Maughold, won't they, as well?

HH H Callow Yes.

DC And of course you were a Church Warden at Lezayre for years, I think, weren't you?

HH H Callow For a little while, I am still on the PCC and I do what I can to help.

DC And I mean you have an interest in church life, you have an interest in choirs as well.

HH H Callow Yes I am President of the Ramsey Male Choir, and we join forces with the Ladies Cushag Choir, we are called the Ravens, and we have a lot of fun together.

DC So music is important to you, obviously?

HH H Callow Very much so. They are generally a lovely lot of people who are involved in music, Mavis Kelly and Marion Kenworthy, and in fact all the people that I have come across, the men and the ladies, they are the very best of company and they are doing something that they enjoy doing, singing together.

DC Do you have favourite music yourself, favourite pieces, I mean where do you look for enjoyment in music, classical music, organ music, where do you go for that?

HH H Callow Well, I think you could say that I have a catholic taste, it ranges from good classical music, instrumental, orchestral music, good singers of course, and at the other end of the scale, and which I enjoy probably even more, is some good Fats Waller and plenty of jazz.

DC That's a bit of your late brother's influence there?

HH H Callow Oh yes, yes, he was a very fine organist, I remember he was practising on the Victoria Street Methodist Church organ, which was one of the best in the Island, and he thought he was on his own too, but when the Minister came in and caught him playing some of Fats Waller's tunes he wasn't very happy about it.

DC Have you been tempted to have a go at the Fats Waller stuff on the organ?

HH H Callow Oh yes, I try now and again when my Vicar isn't there!

DC What other occupations have you had outside of work I mean apart from music and singing and so on, are you a walker, do you get around the Island?

HH H Callow Yes, I was, and in fact still am a Freemason, I know that people have different views about that but in my experience they have done a tremendous amount of good in the Island, in fact they have given some of our young men the confidence to stand for local authorities, some of our leading members of the House of Keys are keen Freemasons, and they're all the better for it because they learn how to speak, because they have to speak after the evening meal at the Masonic Lodge and I followed Roy Eason, he was Provincial Grand Master and he got me to

be his successor, and I was Provincial Grand Master for I think ten or eleven years and that gave me a tremendous insight into what happens, not only in the Island, the friends I made, whether they are lawyers, whether they are fishermen, whether they are Steam Packet skippers, the men who work at Ronaldsway, of course going right across the whole spectrum, men in the tourist trade. But also off the Island, I had to go to represent the Island at various meetings, both in Blackpool and in London, and I had the honour of meeting the Duke of Kent on more than one occasion, and also what you would call the top brass in Freemasonry. It's always a lovely experience.

DC People though, I mean outside of Freemasonry, and particularly the media, tend to ridicule the ritual of Freemasonry, don't they?

HH H Callow Yes, I've often wondered why because there are many other organisations, the one that springs to mind straight away is the Buffs. Now the Buffs is again, I would say, every bit as good as Freemasonry, but for some reason it's known as the poor man's Freemasonry and I don't hear them being criticised in the same way as Freemasons.

DC There is, I suppose, the view that you've got secret societies, I suppose they are feared to some extent, aren't they?

HH H Callow I suppose that's it, yes, but there's very little that's secret about it. Anybody can buy the book of the rituals, just as they can buy the Book of Common Prayer, they can see what that's all about. The only secrets I suppose are the ones that, in any organisation, you would want to keep secret. In a golf club the committee don't want all their goings on made public, and very often it's better that things should be done in private, even in politics, as you will know much better than I. There are certain things that are done in committee in order that people can be more open amongst themselves, and have a much wider ranging discussion than having somebody peering over their shoulder with a long lens camera or with a reporter's notebook. I had a lovely man as

my deputy Provincial Grand Master, the late Inspector Hilary Curphey, he will be well remembered, particularly in the south of the Island where he was Inspector, and he lived in Glen Vine too. And when he died, it was about the time that the criticism was at its height, and he'd expressed the wish, and we honoured his wish, that there should be a fund in his memory, it is now known as the Hilary Curphey Fund, where Freemasons are able to contribute, and they do very generously, and that can only be given to Manx charities, people who are doing good in the Island.

DC And done quietly though?

HH H Callow Oh yes, yes. Now and again you will see a photo in the paper, maybe the Glenfaba, or as the Manx will say the Glenfaba [Manx dialect pronunciation] Lodge, presenting the local representative of the blind, or the lifeboat, very often.

DC But you will have found, I mean you have been involved in so many organisations and societies, you probably have had little time for your own hobbies I suppose, have you?

HH H Callow Yes, I've been able to mix the two together very often because soon after I became Provincial Grand Master we had our centenary of the Masons in the Isle of Man, that was 1986 and we were thinking of various ways of raising money and I had, not long before that, been told by Bob Dowty, I met on a walk at Maughold in fact, he said 'why don't you try the coastal footpaths, the *Raad Ny Foillan*, and so I and several other friends of mine, Freemasons, we split it into something like nineteen different sectors, and each weekend we had a car at each end and we would do say a five mile stint, starting off from the Point of Ayre and coming down to Ramsey, and carried on all the way round the south of the Island, up the west coast and back and I got all the Freemasons in the Island to sponsor me for this walk because they never thought I'd make it, it was 95 miles. At any rate that raised

£1000 and I insisted that a good proportion of that went to local charities.

DC Do you have a favourite place in the Island?

HH H Callow A place that I'm very fond of is the Sulby Glen area because - you see that painting, that is of the Irish Cottages by one of our foremost Manx artists, Nancy Corkish - and my mother was born at Crammag, which is now in ruins, but she was born there. And then when she was only one year old her father also took a twenty-one year lease of Druidale, just across what's now the Reservoir, but then it was a valley, and that's where she grew up.

DC So what do you remember of being there, do you remember Crammag and Druidale?

HH H Callow Well, I remember Crammag slowly falling into a ruinous state. My grandparents, after they left Druidale, they moved over to a small farm called the Creggans which is up the hill from the Tholt-y-Will hotel and we used to go out and visit my grandparents every Sunday. The car would be parked alongside the keill in the top field and we would play there to our heart's content. And I remember my grandmother, I have a happy memory of her, she had a room which she kept as a dairy and the milk would be allowed to settle and the cream rise and she'd get hold of us one at a time, with a big spoon she'd cream off the cream and cover it liberally with sugar, and feed us a spoonful of this and that was our treat.

DC I think probably the Summerland Enquiry and when you were Coroner of Inquests has been well covered and it's something maybe that we wouldn't necessarily want to talk about today, but I mean as Coroner, Coroner of Inquests, that in itself would be a difficult kind of work I should imagine?

HH H Callow Yes, like everybody's work at first it's very difficult, after a while you get, well I suppose hardened to it. The Coroner is expected to view the body to see if there are marks on it, and so on and I found that after a while you take it as part of the job and it was, I think, mainly due to the help that I had from the people who were working with me, the police, they collected all the statements and made the arrangements, my clerk, you may remember the late Miss Vera Quayle, she was a wonderful help, and at any rate after that the whole thing seemed to go fairly smoothly. There were difficulties at times, but the important thing was to bring out all the facts so that the public were aware of what was happening and if a claim might arise afterwards, a civil claim, then at least they had something to work on. It was only fair to the family that that should be done.

DC When you then moved from High Bailiff to Second Deemster, what kind of change did that represent for you?

HH H Callow I did principally two parts of the Deemsters' work, Deemster Corrin and I were able to each have our own departments. He was doing the most important Civil cases and the Chancery cases and I was doing the Criminal side, General Gaol, which of course has increased tremendously over the years, and also the matrimonial work which again has increased very much, divorces and more particularly the work that follows divorces such as the custody and access of children and the division of the matrimonial assets.

DC So you hit some pretty complex cases then, did you?

HH H Callow Yes, well you expect to, that's all part of the job ...

DC Yes.

HH H Callow ... but you try and - well you must apply the law, you also try and apply a little bit of humanity and there the social workers were a great help.

DC Yes, but you do in most cases in the end have to make a judgement, don't you?

HH H Callow Yes.

DC Now it seems to me that the judges sit and laboriously, or did, laboriously write the information they were hearing on a piece of paper in front of them with a pen, and I think things have probably changed considerably since that time but you presumably found that was a satisfactory way of working?

HH H Callow I tried relying on tape recording, I tried that quite early on, in fact I made a tour of a number of the English Courts, the Home Office were very good to arrange which Courts I should visit, the more modern Courts, and then I gave a trial to a tape recording and I found that it certainly is accurate, there is no question of that, but it took much longer if there was an Appeal for the papers to be prepared for the Appeal Court, it could take a week, possibly a fortnight for the evidence to be typed out, corrected and then fair-copied, where if the Advocate wished to get on with it more quickly than that, and in fairness to Advocates they're not quite as dilatory as people sometimes make out, often it's through faults outside their control. But any rate I found that the Advocate would generally prefer to have a photocopy of the minutes that I'd written down.

DC If you had difficult decisions, if you were not entirely sure how to move on, I mean would you take advice from the First Deemster, from others?

HH H Callow No, no, it's I think an important principle that you should not be persuaded by anyone other than the written judgements of the past that - you study as many of the similar cases that have gone on in the Isle of Man, in the English Courts, and, nowadays, that have gone on in Australian Courts, and even more widely afield than that - and you have to, in the end, make your own decision.

DC So when you were looking for precedents then would you go to English law for that?

HH H Callow Yes, well, when I was a Deemster, or up to a short time before I retired from the Bench, it was English cases that were published and in book form, but a great improvement was when the Manx Law Reports came into being and Deemster Cain, who was then Attorney General, he was the one who initiated that and it's done a very great service to the Bar and to the public.

DC The new Court House is something that perhaps you missed, did you, or you just took a few cases there?

HH H Callow I helped in the early stages of the planning of it, in fact I went on a tour of Courts in England with Malcolm Watson, who was then the Planning Officer, and George Kissack, who was the Chief Registrar and we spent several days looking at Courts from the Old Bailey - I remember there was a very modern new Court at a place called Snaresbrook on the fringe of London, going towards Essex - and we reported on what we had seen and gave our ideas and it was some time after that that gradually there was a political decision to start a new Court House. The biggest improvement, from what I've seen, is that where we were limited to two Courts in the Athol Street Court House, and there was a fight going on all the time between First Deemster, Second Deemster, High Bailiff, Deputy High Bailiff, Magistrates, to see who could have the use of the Court, and of course the Deemsters

pulled rank and they won the day very often although I managed to establish a booking system which they generally honoured.

DC How bad was that Court House at the end then, the one in Athol Street?

HH H Callow Well the small Court, a lovely little Court where I often sat, now and again it was letting water in so that you had to be prepared to face that. The big Court was a nice Courtroom but nowadays of course with the new Court House you have four Courts of varying sizes so that you can have the large criminal trials or you can have the much smaller Hearings very often in private with juvenile cases, and I think it's very well designed although I think at times they're finding that they are short of Court space too.

DC Right. Of course there was something of an argument wasn't there about where the Court House should be and it was always claimed that anyone working in Athol Street wouldn't want to walk more than a hundred yards to go to the Court House, you couldn't put it at Tromode, you couldn't put it at St. Ninian's.

HH H Callow Well I'm sure the Braddan Commissioners are very happy that it wasn't decided to put it in Braddan. It's got to be fairly near to the centre of action, obviously, and both from the police point of view, the prison officers' point of view and the lawyers' point of view, it's more convenient to have it in a central position. Although I must say that I was always very happy with the Courts in Ramsey and Peel and I often tried to have trials there which the other Deemster, Deemster Corrin, was happy with because it meant that he then had a free run in the Douglas Court.

DC Right. Let me take you, Deemster, finally to one of your appointments that I thought was quite interesting, I pictured you with a fork or a

spade in your hand as the President of the Douglas Allotments Association, but it may not have extended to that, did it?

HH H Callow No, on the practical side I was never very good, but they are a nice lot of people who run the Allotments Association. The present secretary is Hazel Murphy, who is the mother of the well-known Advocate, Dawn Jones, and the committee, a very happy lot to work with. They put on an annual show nowadays in the Freemasons' Hall in Douglas, and it's well arranged and well supported and I enjoyed the time that I was President, something over ten years and more recently have been supporting Deemster William Cain, who has taken over as President.

DC So you are telling me you have never grown a row of lettuce nor planted some carrots or anything like that?

HH H Callow I tried, but my wife said they were much better, [those] that I could buy in the shops.

DC Yes.