



ORAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

INTERVIEWEE: Slim Dusty (self-recorded)

DATE: 02/02/01

PLACE: ?

TRANSCRIPT

- 0.00 SD: Slim Dusty here and my recollection of Andy Ellis goes such as long, long way back. I'd say that Andy made clothes for me for over thirty years and what a gentleman he was. I'd be out on the road – he had measurements of the shirts, coats and trousers and jackets and you know if there was something big coming up when you got back into town from the bush, which was pretty seldom in those days, but we had a few things building up in the early, you know, at the start for a show at the Opera House and a few things like that, and I could send a rushed order into Andy and his team and they'd go to town and do it.
- 1.03 Now, the point is that he did such a – he was such a famous man in his own right for the Sydney Tonight Show [television program]; clothes for Tommy Tycho [bandmaster] and the staff - there was Col Joye and Johnny O'Keefe and all those blokes and of course people in the show arena. He made so many jackets and so forth and of course Ross [Ellis] was carrying on in fine style. But over thirty years I've been with the Ellis establishment and very proud of it too and even people come up today, after many years, and they say "you always seem to have those certain sort of trousers or those certain jackets and they always fit so well". Well, with a queer made bloke like me, Andy did a good job.
- 1.51 And when he was very, very ill near the end of his tragic sickness, I went out to the hospital to visit Andy. Something must have told me to go, somebody told me from above, told me to go and I went out and visited Andy and he was so excited. He was a little bit sick that day but he said, "Get a camera, get a camera, we've got the famous Slim Dusty here", the way he used to carry on. And he'd – "I need a photograph with my old mate, Slim Dusty", and he really had a great time for a couple of hours and a lot of other people

gathered 'round and, you know, about a week later or something like that Ross let me know that Andy had passed away. So, I was just so – uh, just a bit overcoming but I was just – I was just so grateful that I was able to go and gave him such pleasure and because he was such a good man.

2.39 So, anyway, we need more Andy Ellises and Ross, as I say, is carrying on in great style and it's a great – I think it's a great privilege, it's only right that Andy Ellis Pty Limited should be remembered as one of the early, very early and long established businesses right in the heart of Sydney. And I'm still wearing Andy's style of clothes made by Ross and I'm very proud of it to.

3.14 So, wherever Andy is, I think he's in the right place. He's up there in that grandest homestead of all and I just say to Andy up there that, well, "Many happy campfires up there, Andy, and I hope they've got some machines and some thread and that you're making a few outfits for the blokes flying around up there".

3.39 But anyway, I hope this fills you in fairly well, Richard [Raxworthy, oral historian], but I think as you can gather I was very fond of Andy and all the team and of course I'm very fond of Ross and his family too. They do a great job and I think this is richly deserved to have Andy Ellis Pty Limited recognised. So, that's about it from Slim Dusty. Thank you, Richard. I hope you can get something out of all that babble but I mean every word of it, believe you me. So, that's it, over and out and I wish you many happy campfires anyway and come and say g'day if you ever see us somewhere and we'll have a bit of a yarn. O.K, over and out.

Ends