

SHALE OIL STUDY

Interview with Mr. AH.

Born: 1913, Winchburgh.

Address: Roman Camp, West Lothian.

MH = Mrs. H

AH = Mr AH

SR = Sara Randall

SR Were you born in Roman Camp?

AH No, no, I was born in Winchburgh. The shale mining was there. I was born in 1913. I'm 72 years old now.

SR And how long did you live in Winchburgh?

AH Up till I was about 11 I was still in Winchburgh. We moved out to [??]. I was born in the rows in Winchburgh. And my father worked in the works. He was actually a farmer's son. That's my father there. That's his mother and my granny [portraits]. Anyway he was a farmer and he was the last one in the family... Winchburgh works was just starting up at the time and so he came and started there.

SR So he worked in the oil works?

AH He worked in the oil works. And I was born in Winchburgh in 1913. And, we were from the rows. I grew up there in a house. My father was promoted to manager up at one of the other works. Niddrie Works. Hopetoun Works actually. And we moved up there. The company bought a cottage for him up Faucheldean. I was there till I was 14, then we moved up here in 1927. I've been in this house since 1927.

SR First of all it was your father's house and then he died and you took it over?

AH Aye, he was a tenant actually. I finished up, when the company closed these houses were all for sale to the occupiers. I was still in this house so I bought it.

SR When you lived in Winchburgh, what sort of houses did you live in there?
The first house.

AH Just a room and kitchen actually and a scullery and an outside toilet, attached to the house of course.

SR With water?

AH Water. And we had a boiler in the scullery-cum-kitchenette and all the rest of it, sink and that.

SR How many of you lived there?

AH Just mainly my mother, my father, myself and a cat and a dog. My sister was 12 year older than me and she was out in service and only came periodically.

SR So there were just two of you.

AH Just two. Well there were three of us really. My mother, father and myself, but just two of a family yes.

SR And your house had water. Did it have electricity?

AH Only thing we had was we had paraffin lamps. Electricity was in the street outside with tall wooden poles and they had these carbon rods things. And that just came together as I grew up. High intensity light and general illumination up and down the middle of the rows. That was all.

SR So it was quite a good quality house?

AH A good quality house. They were new houses actually.

SR When were the Winchburgh houses built then?

AH Must have been about 1901 I think. 'Cos I think the works was there for 60 years and it shut down in 1961. It was one of the last to shut down.

SR And did you leave school at 14?

AH Left school at 14.

SR And went to work?

AH Well I came up here at 14, and I started serving my time as an engineer.

SR In Roman Camp oil works?

AH Roman Camp oil works I did 6 months and I been doing at Broxburn, what was left of the refinery down there, I went down there and do there four and a half years. And I finished my time doing there and came back to Roman Camp

for a period. My father was still living and my father died in 1933. You see we were alone there. And I moved from there up to Pumpherston Refinery for about, er, under a year. And then there was work up at Addiewell putting the new power station, new boiler panels and all the rest of it, and I was sent up there, and I spent four year up at Addiewell. I came back down here as [] engineer in 1939, during 1939, and I was undermanager. When the manager was on holiday and that I was responsible, both for my own engineering job and his job. That's exactly what my father did before. When my father came up here he was undermanager up here up from the other place. And I took over his job plus the engineer's job so I was doing two jobs at once. And I was here till 1950. And then I went to Grangemouth. There was a big expansion taking place in Grangemouth, at the refinery. So I went to Grangemouth refinery in 1950. This place shut down about 1956 I think it was, round about then anyway.

SR And when you worked in all these different places you still lived here and you just travelled to work?

AH Still lived here, just travelled up and down. Somedays I'd a push bike and went to Addiewell. 10 miles up and 10 miles back. You know.

SR And when you first moved into this house did it have water and electricity and toilets and so on.

AH This was one of the only two houses that had electric light inside. Was this house and the electrical engineer who stayed up in the middle. This was actually the foreman's block. One end was the foreman engineer and you had the foreman of electricity in the middle and my father, he and the previous man, he'd been a miner, the mining foreman in here, like the man was a miner in this house before. We were the second tenant in this house. These houses were designed in 1908 I think it was and they were built by 1910. This particular one was built in 1910 I think. Roughly.

SR And you had water?

AH We had water and everything, yes.

SR And did all the other houses in Roman Camp have water?

AH No. There was still existing wells outside actually.

SR Those sort of pump things?

AH Those previous to us they had dry lavatories outside actually. And for

water they got it in from, what we'd call a stand pipe, there were four of them spaced in the rows. But when we came in here we'd water in here.

SR But the other houses were not..

AH And then we had baths fitted in here in 1933, we'd baths fitted in here actually. Previous to that you managed in the washhouse over there in a tub or else a tub with boiled water. We'd old fashioned grates here; an arrangement with an oven and two hobs here. You heated up your water, filled the tub and bathed in the room.

SR And when you first started work what sort of hours did you work? Was it very long?

AH Well. It was twenty past six in the morning till 4.00 at night I think. I know that time because we'd down at Broxburn for night school and that.

SR Did you? That was so you could get promoted up? It was part of your training?

AH Well actually it was part of being an apprentice. Well anyway,... with night school and then after so long there I went to Heriot Watt day classes. I had Saturday classes in the Heriot Watt. Instead of going to the football matches and that there was a lot, there was myself, Fife, the Borders and all that. It was in Chambers St. then of course. A technical college. We'd spend the Saturday afternoon from about 2.00 till about 7.00. We'd 5 hours on a Saturday afternoon down at the classes. Technical drawing, laboratory work and all this. It was general engineering stuff. And then, because I got good marks for that, they must have brought it up with the company, but anyway I got two summer release terms from serving my time, in the Heriot Watt. (inaudible) paid my wages such as they were. ... And then of course my father died just after that, as far as further education, you got to go by the normal route then... I didn't go beyond the National Certificate. I took both electrical and mechanical engineering mind. I was a mechanical engineer but I had a certificate in electrical, because they're both, you know, related.

SR When did you get married?

AH 1959.

SR So quite late.

AH Well my mother died in '54 and I lived by myself for 5 years. My sister who was married, she'd come over the weekends and she'd give me a Sunday lunch and did my washing and all this sort of stuff. Actually my father's brother, that's my uncle, was married to her (his wife's) mother's sister. Her aunt

had married my uncle, so we were related through marriage before, years before. We just strung together, and just, after 2 years' courting decided to get married. So we got married in 1959.

SR What was Roman Camp like?... was it a very closed community with people who'd help each other and talk to each other.

AH Well, you could go away and leave your door open anytime. If you decided to go into town you'd go without locking your door, you'd know everything was safe. Because, the neighbours and that, if your mother was sick or there was something other, they'd go in and help the neighbours out; right neighbourly place to stay in, you ken. Normal squabbles you'd get anywhere you know, there's always the odd one out who'd squabble with anybodies. But no, you would think we were a big family. Some of the houses there - a room and a kitchen, there'd maybe be 12 of a family, 10 or 11 of a family, and then mother and father, and sometimes uncles too, and shift rotas and changing beds. There were never any, as I say at that time, counting back a while ago, you could count about 80 young people in this place at one time. You'd go down to the bottom end of the block there in the summer time, you could pick up two football teams, no bother at all. In fact there were a football field down beyond the carbon factory; its a carbon factory now, but it was a bone mill at one time. There was a field where football people, we played there, actually. We played the whole summer night for the village working out. Big tackety boots which were worn in these days. Yes we played football up till 10, the back of 10, and then we'd go for a walk, Armadale, East Calder, and after 11 we'd get back.

SR Was there an Institute here?

AH It was the only place there wasn't one. It wasn't a village as such, because every other village had a wee shop. Well there was a shop. This house across the road, the lady selled sweeties and that, cigarettes and that. But there wasnae a village as such. All the rest, Winchburgh and that, they had 2 houses knocked into one, and a billiard room, reading room combined, well mostly all the Scottish Oils, it was eventually Scottish Oils, they were independent oil companies, Pumpherston, Oakbank Oil Company, they all amalgamated in the early 1900's, well they all had these Institutes and bowling greens. Well we'd nothing up here except the football field.

SR So you had to make all your own entertainment or go somewhere else.

AH Our own entertainment. Until the wireless came in, and then of course that.

SR Was there a lot of poverty here?

AH Well I wouldn't say, you weren't aware of it, I wasn't aware of it actually. There's bound to have been hardship, but there weren't exactly, a poverty that appeared to people, they talk about modern vandalism and all this sort of stuff; you've big families brought up here, were brought up with the minimum. Well most of these big families, their fathers worked on what we call shift, 7 days a week, you know, a week on day shift, 6 in the morning till 2, back shift 2 till 10, and they'd all turn over at the weekend. And some stay on night shift, 10 o'clock at night till 6.00 in the morning. The men would do 7 days work when the weather was fair. But these families, most of them Irish - the big families, the fathers and the mothers could afford to go away for, at least the fathers, not so much mothers with them (inaudible)

SR They were all Irish were they?

AH Well the bigger families, yes. They weren't all Irish, because, as I said, the biggest families actually were of Irish descent.

SR Was there a lot of drinking?

AH There was a wee bit on Saturday. But that was all. Never through the week. On a Saturday a man drank one or two, a wee bit over the thingmy. It was nothing.

SR But there was no pub in the village.

AH No pub. You'd to walk down to Uphall, Broxburn. Even Pumpherston had no public house at all. They'd to go up to East Calder, Mid Calder or Uphall, or often down to Broxburn. And all we had first was a picture house in Broxburn. Then we had two in Broxburn and one in Uphall too actually. So that was all the entertainment we had on a Saturday night, too, as far as we were concerned, we had had the pictures on a Saturday walk down there, and stop on the way home.

SR Was this village even bigger than it is now?

AH No.

SR It's always been 34 houses.

AH It's always been this, 34 houses actually. Except insofar as, what was the office up there, was turned into 2 houses, and the contractor, William Walton's son came in here, his son's there now, they took, when it was shut down, they took over. What was the works baths they turned into a piggery shed, and what was the workshops they used for storing and repairing their lorries. One of the sons and his daughter staying in the office which has been made into two houses.

SR How about when you were living in Winchburgh, when you were a boy. Was that very different from Roman Camp?

AH No, just similar actually. We'd the same thing, we just had, in the wintertime, all the different seasons all the different things. We were playing marbles, or boules as we called them. All the different games; ... and all this, kick the kirkrag, always rattling on people's doors and running. All these sort of boys' things and that.

SR And there was not a lot of poverty there?

AH Well there was a certain amount, but it wasn't noticeable. You know what I mean.

SR Everyone was the same were they?

AH Everybody was the same. I used to run about with pads on me trousers and that. Most of us used to have bare feet, by choice, all summer, even when the harvesting was done, some of us would run through the stubble fields with our bare feet after the workmen had finished cutting the harvest. You'd go round the field and that, actual standing crop was getting less and less, and of course the rabbits were getting - were ending up - 'cos we were all standing, practically the whole village was out and a couple of us lads would start [inaudible] with sticks. And of course as soon as there was a weekend we weren't at school, worked at the tattie howking and that, setting stakes; used to go out with potatoes. They were all over the fields in what we call stegs..... I seen us working all Saturday for a, we'd only get a tanner....

SR This was before you left school?

AH Before I left school. Once my mother said "Did you bring any potatoes home yet?" I says yes, one in one pocket one in the other". ... about gathering potatoes - not v. clear... a tanner for the whole Saturday's work.

SR In Roman Camp was there a lot of smoke and dirt coming out of the oil works? Was it very smoky and dirty and polluting to the air, or was it quite clear.

AH Oh, a certain amount of pollution. But most of it was carried overhead from the boilers, the main boilers, the chimney was 260 feet high and it carried most of the stuff further afield, into the farmers fields. A certain amount of dust came off the works. It was always a dusty place. As far as the spent shale was concerned and that, of course we were [...inaudible...] and you'd suddenly get, depend which way the wind was blowing, and with dust

getting blown back from the tip to you.

SR But you didn't feel it was really dirty all the time?

AH We used to - looking back on it they wouldn't do nowadays, but we thought nothing of it, because it was our life and it was our, - it was our daily bread, the works. But looking back on it now, it was a pretty dirty job.

SR What about your actual work. Was your work dirty?

AH It was mainly, well it was all, well actually once I came out of the training it was during maintenance work on machinery and all this sort of stuff. When I served my time, it was all these machines [listed] all this general work down in Broxburn refinery we did all the overhauls for the locomotives and the surrounding works and as far as turning tyres on wheels, on wagon wheels and locomotive wheels and all this sort. General repairs and other such things. I was doing a man's work when I was a boy down there, 'cos I was only, the time that I was down there most of the place was shut down and there was only an acid work running, candle house and all the maintenance of these locomotives, and there was only another tradesman and myself, as an apprentice, and I was left to do a man's work and maybe two of my neighbours helped me to do certain repairs and work on the locomotives and that. So we'd a very good, thorough training.

SR Did you choose to go in as an engineer's apprentice?

AH Yes.

SR Was that easy? Did you have to do exams to be able to get in at that level rather than go in just as a workman?

AH The school certificate. When you go to the school and you left at fourteen you had the general [??]'s certificate. I forget what they call it. We had that anyway and that was...[inaudible].

SR And all children who left school had that did they? or only ones who'd reached a certain standard.

AH No you see, ..., all children didn't get the certificate. But independent of that... Yes the certificate was a help when I went to serve my time.

SR And of course once you got in there then you got a slightly better wage than

everybody else all the way up, even when you were 14.

AH When I started serving my time, I think it was eleven shillings per week we got, I got. The second year, one or two shillings - it didn't go very far anyway. And when my time was finished I was, actually, got what they called a journeyman's wage. I was back at Roman Camp - when my time was out I came back to Roman Camp, I had labourers working to me who were earning more than what I was doing serving as a tradesman just because I was a journeyman. It wasn't till I moved to Pumpherstons that I got up to the full wage. At the beginning of the war the tradesman's wage was only up to three guineas.

SR And while you were living at home did you always give your wage to your mother?

AH Yes.

SR Until she died.

AH Yes.

SR And then she'd give it back to buy your clothes?

AH Oh yes. Well, mother bought most of my clothes when I was in the house still. I didn't smoke in these days. I didn't start smoking till I was 21, before I start smoking at all.

SR You carried on giving your wage to your mother until you were...

AH Was living every [long pause] somewhere about 40... [inaudible-about housekeeping]

SR And you never thought of leaving home and going and living separately.

AH No, well I couldn't actually. I was the mainstay. And my sister helped her a lot. She was in service. She helped her considerably actually as far as housework and all that sort of stuff. My mother had only the old age pension, ten shillings in these days. So I couldn't get up and go. But I hadn't the notion anyway, because my interest was in my work... [inaudible].

SR No I was just wondering whether old people got enough money in those days to be able to live on their own, or whether they were very dependent on their children for support?

AH ... But what I was meaning to say previously was that... well lots of people hadn't the place, they didn't all get the chance to work in the works - the

boys and that. A terrible lot of them had to go away and work in MacVities biscuit factory and all the rest of this. A tremendous lot of youths and that..

SR Where is the biscuit factory?

AH Edinburgh. It was in Edinburgh that they travelled - the Broxburn guard - they'd have a weekly ticket, get it cheaply, and working there for the week in these biscuit factories. Taking the biscuits off the trays coming out of the ovens and all this sort of work. These are the sort of jobs they had to do. They had to travel a lot.

SR So there wasn't enough work at the oil works?

AH There wasn't enough work for the families. No there weren't actually, no, because as I say, they'd big families some of them, and just following on a year behind one another all the time. And there was a mixture of sexes too, the girls had to travel various places too to get jobs and that. And of course the works could only absorb a certain amount of persons, dependent on other people retiring and all the rest of that, and wastage, general wastage taking place.

SR What about mines? Did a lot of people who lived in Roman Camp work in the mines as well?

AH There was only about 4 actually working in the mines... [inaudible] the other fellows worked in the works.

SR Because there were mines round here weren't there? There were mines in Roman Camp weren't there?

AH There were 7 altogether. There were 2 when the works finished. But there were 7 mines altogether. Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

SR But where did the people who worked in the mines come from then? If they weren't living here.

AH Broxburn. Used to walk from Broxburn up here, or cycle up. Winchburgh and that - there were some lads used to walk over from Edinburgh, do a hard day-shift's work and walk back into Edinburgh again.

SR So there were people who lived in Edinburgh who worked in the shale mines.

AH And Winchburgh.

SR I didn't realise that. I thought it was very localised.

AH Oh no, some of them came from different bits you know. There was one thing about the works. I only wish I'd taken more note - you'd a great class of different personalities. You had the Irishmen, the orangemen, you'd painters, plumbers, shopkeepers, [inaudible] ploughmen, all these different things and they're all skilled at different things and that. And they'd all good stories and that. I only wish that at the time I'd taken note of it, they were really, looking back on it - they were really .. and some of these big families you'd think they'd be hard brought up in big families and that, well I've seen some of the families, or most of them, not only was there nae trouble from vandalism or anything like that, the families [... inaudible] themselves, schoolteachers, priests - Catholics some of 'em - all this sort of thing, they all done well for themselves. Most of them are running about in their own cars nowadays, you'd hardly believe after the upbringing they had in these, you'd say, poor conditions. They weren't really poor. They were families. They had something else there that you can't count financially, you know. They've all done very well for themselves.

SR Was your father a Winchburgh man? Was he born there?

AH My father was born in [inaudible] near Dalkeith.

SR He went to Winchburgh to work did he?

AH His father was a farmer's son from the West Calder area. And he married a farmer's daughter from Bellsquarry, and they moved to a home[?] farm down in [inaudible]. My grandma was married in the home[?] farm down there on the road to Edinburgh there... well she was married from there, and her and my grandfather took up farming at Netherhall[?] - near Dalkeith – near Danderhall.

SR How about your mother, where was she from?

AH Her father was in the army, was in the Royal Artillery and she was born through in Glasgow when he was stationed at [...] barracks for a while there. And there were about 5 daughters I think, including my mother, and one son... [inaudible] and when they were out in India, there was another 4 sons who died out there. My mother used to tell great tales about India and all the

rest of it...[stories]

SR You were a very unusual family were you, in just being two children?

AH Well I was 14 pound when I was born and that took my mother as far as...
She had her internals taken away...

SR I see, so your mother couldn't have any more children.

AH Couldn't have any more.
[Discussion of birth weight - and photos of babies]

SR In the oil works, not for you, but for other people, what were the working conditions like? Were they good, or was there a lot of long hours, poor conditions and poor pay - for most of the men, most of the labourers.

AH In what respects?

SR Well, did they have to work in very dusty, gassy conditions, very long hours.

AH Yes. Well we didn't think they were long hours. I mean, as I say, from 20 past six in the morning till 4.00 at night. Shift work was only on a straight 8 hours. You'd have a break at breakfast time, when you'd go off for half an hour, and a break at lunchtime, well dinnertime we'd call it actually, from 1.00 to half past one, and then you'd stop at 4.00.

SR What about dusty conditions and oily conditions and gassy conditions? Was there a lot of...

AH Looking back on it, the way we were [inaudible] when I was there I was out for the count for 2 years one time, for gas and [inaudible], and of course we worked among a lot - being engineers and that - we worked among a lot of asbestos and that, winding around steam pipes, insulation on steam pipes. That was all asbestos.

SR There was a lot of asbestos was there?

AH Oh a lot of asbestos in these days. You never thought nothing about it. It's only recently there's a scare about the thing. We worked about it a lot. It's the same in Grangemouth you're working down there among in chlorine gas, sulphur dioxide and all these things, [..inaudible...]. Even there in a modern boiler plant, all the asbestos there too, and of course you come over [..inaudible..] superintendent, and part of their job was to inspect the boilers and that [..inaudible..] through the asbestos laden atmosphere, so that all the dust, and all the chemicals out of the mineral oil, you know what I mean, the gas is not pure [..inaudible], which affect the health too, swallowing, and dust. You never thought anything

about it. It's only when you hear folk complaining and that.

SR Was there asbestos there all the time? or was it brought in more recently?

AH Oh no, asbestos was there along with what they call rock wool. [inaudible about asbestos mixture] just spun like wool... [inaudible]. Before all these, some of the lagging was just asbestos mixed with [inaudible...]. Although it was mainly white asbestos which is not so bad. [Description of how was blue asbestos in some of the packing in the steam trains] But you never thought anything about it.

SR What about holidays? Did you get any holidays? - paid holidays.

AH No. We'd New Year's Day off, but we didn't get paid for it. We didn't even get Christmas. Only got New Year's Day but we didn't get paid for it. It was a holiday but we didn't get paid.

SR When did you start getting paid holidays.

AH I started getting paid holidays when I was promoted to the staff in 1939. That's June 1939. [inaudible] what they call [? ?] wages, for the staff, whether I was off sick or not, I got my wages. As far as I was concerned, I lost in the thing, because sometimes I be out three days, and as many nights out at the works in wintertime, and I would have been in bed, you know what I mean, and it was unpaid overtime too... There again it was the same thing, you sometimes had men out, working or labouring, earning far more than you were... It was just the same during the run up to the war and during the war, the men that were left here, there were less men here - most of them called to the services.

SR Was it not an industry where the men got exempted from being called up?

AH Certain ones, but other ones didn't actually.

SR How did it work? Was it to do with age?

AH Well I was exempted, with being an engineer, so I'd to stay on. You were selected by job actually.

SR And did they bring in prisoners of war at any stage, to work?

AH Oh no, never in here. I've been in the Lothians during the first world war, likes of some of the reservoirs in the Bathgate hills there were built by Germans, at least one was built by German prisoners of war in the first world war. There was never any in the works as far as I know, any of the works. Although some of them were in camps over there at the Totley Wells, the other side of Winchburgh, but I don't think any of them worked - they worked in the farms and that, I think.

SR When did Roman Camp oil works close? That was in 1950 something was it?

AH That was 1956 or 7, I'm not quite sure of the exact date.

SR It was just at the back here was it?

AH Just at the back there. I've got a photograph - I've got a photograph in 1935.. that was taken from my front door... [description of photos]

SR Do you remember much about the strike in 1926

AH We stayed in Faucheldean then. My father, he was undermanager at Hopetoun works, or Niddrie works, that's just how they say it in Winchburgh, the difference between Winchburgh and Broxburn. He was transferred down at Grangemouth and all the managers and undermanagers went down to keep Grangemouth moving at that time.

SR And they closed all the oil works?

AH All the oil works were closed. Of course that was the time when, they were told at the time that they couldn't pay higher wages; it was due to the inflow of oil from America when they started the oil wells and that. Before, in Broxburn they used to make candles and all the rest of it. Some of it was exported to America. It was the same stuff as their products. That was before it started coming this way, and of course it couldn't compete here and that. And anyone with any understanding of the costs of running a crude oil works and that, they'd understand that they couldn't pay higher wages, and of course they were told at the time if the works shut they'd never open. Some of the managing directors told the strikers that, and, Broxburn refinery never opened, Oakbank never opened, Addiewell never opened again. We only finished up left with Pumpherston Refinery.

SR Did Pumpherston keep going throughout the strike? Or did it stop and then re-open again?

AH It was the only one that restarted I think actually. 'Cos all the rest was shut down after the oil works was - well they weren't closed but they were reduced a bit, to a certain extent. But Pumpherston took Addiewell products and that, and refined them. You see when I was serving my time in Broxburn, the same with th'acid works. We mixed up sulphuric acid, you know that was used in their own refineries for the refining process, sulphuric acid was used there. And, the candle works were gone. We made candles well, we made candles for about a dozen or so different manufacturers: [inaudible], Price's candles and so on and so forth, they were all made in Broxburn, and even some of the shopkeepers and that, they had to have a certain kind of

candles. The name [? ?] a bloke in Aberdeen, we'd get the candles from Aberdeen, but Broxburn and Aberdeen [inaudible] Aberdeen got them from Broxburn.

[talking about his candles and candlesticks]

They used to make all the fancy ones too... they made piano candles and they made great big candles, with fancy transfers and all the special candles and that for all the different things and that. Others were just plain candles, just wrapped up, you know, bundles of them.

SR When did the candle house close in Broxburn. Was it when the industry stopped?

AH No it was still going when I served my time, well that was up till 19—.. it was still going at the beginning of the war, it was still going, the candle house was still going, it must have been sometime after 1940 the candle house was shut down in Broxburn. Unless it was shut down at the time as it was all shut down completely.

[bit about a book by a minister at Strathbrock]

SR What do all the people who live in Roman Camp do now. Where do they work now that there's no oil works.

AH None of them, myself and a couple of old women up at the top end, we're the only, there's no one's left here. Actually, their father was employed in the works. I'm the only one in the place who was actually employed here. Everybody else is, every house has been sold and resold over and over again here, they're all complete strangers, I'm the only one out now.

MH They commute.

SR But what happened - when the industry first closed down in 1962, where did people go and work then?

AH Grangemouth actually. They employed them there as - well some of the tradesmen got jobs down there, some of the other ones, labourers and that got jobs, and they were there until they retired actually. It was the same as I retired in 1971.

SR Did you used to go by bus to Grangemouth?

AH They run special buses from Broxburn to Grangemouth.

[discussion with Mrs H, also tea time]

SR So you're not from this area...

MH My mother was a country school teacher - Perthshire mainly and I've got roots

everywhere.

[studied at Moray House before 2nd ww. Describes how got her first job - working for 17 yrs (till 1959) then got married and stopped work]

SR Do you have any children?

MH No. 'Cos I was 41 and he was 46. So that was it. And here we always meant to move and go somewhere, but they modernised it a bit and we were 25 years here last September.

[going to get a council flat. Talk about their house and then about crime in Livingston and Roman Camp and when they were burgled]

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