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A1

SB Bathgate Chemical Works.

JA Well, it was, they used, it was just the same as the Broxburn, the Chemical Works at Broxburn too, and they were just the same. And as far as I understand there was a boat load of this pyrites ore, I think this is the right spelling. Pyrites, it's for all the world, just like heavy road metal, you know, that's the quinn stone that they put on the roads.

SB Yes.

JA And it was very heavy. And they burnt that in the furnaces, and six hundred weight, was in the barrel that this chap held. Cause the barrel was special made and all the weight was on the wheel, and that six hundred weight lasted for about twenty-four hours. Now I might be wrong in saying there was three sets of furnaces, at Bathgate, and I think there were about 22 fire for each furnace and he laid down that six hundred weight at each furnace, and the men was in it, cause we went and put it in. Well, the gas that came off that, it burnt itself, it was self, they kenneled the fire to start with and then this stuff just burnt. There were no flames, it was just a glowing ember, and the gas off of that was extracted, and went through these chambers, and then was cooled, and then it was turned into vitriol, which they used for treating the oil at the likes of, well, eventually the only refinery that was left was Pumpherston. And they used that for washing the oil, and purifying it and then of course they washed the oil again with water and that, for to take the, and after they were finished with the ore, it was loaded into wagons and I think it was sent somewhere through to Glasgow. And it's copper ore.

As far as I understand, the oil company only got a loan of this to extract the acid out. I mean, it was no use to the copper works until this acid was extracted out. So there used to be wagon loads come in, no, boat load, and it was stored in, and there were about, oh if you put a shovel in, you could hardly lift it. This man at Brodie was his name, was the man that was on the barrel, and he had thick lensed glasses, I can remember him. Oh, and he was, his arms were, oh to me, it wasn't muscle, it was, they were pulled outer shape with the weight. I tried it once and if the barrel was going over, you just had to let it go, because you could have done yourself an injury trying to, there was 6 cwt in the barrel and that was, the, as I said, he put that down each fire and then there was furnacemen in each furnace. Eh! cause there was, to rake out you know, you had to keep it clean.

SB Clean it, yes.

JA And then it had the ore to take out and then put in, that was how they extracted it.

SB And how were you involved in the Bathgate Chemical Works?

JA Well, as I said it was a small work, and it didn't want an electrician there all the time, there were only about 30, 40 men employed there altogether. And we only went along when we were needed. You see, it was all lead covered wiring, the lighting was as I said and we were sent along maybe. I remember when ever they put in a new motor in a fan, anything like that, and then maybe went once a year to go round the plant and make sure the motors were all properly greased and that the switches were all working. There was maybe up to half a dozen plumbers worked there, because it was all lead. All the chambers and the towers and everything

were all lead, and it was a lot of this lead burning. Just like welding the lead together, and there was a joiner and a blacksmith, the last manager that I know in there would be from around there, was a Jimmy McHalt. He belonged to East Calder. And eh, that was the story of the Bathgate Acid Works. In fact, they were built on the place, the same place as James Young had his first oil well. So, so I think that was Bathgate Chemical Works, Addiewell, Burngrange and what else, Broxburn.. Well Broxburn was just, they had a candlework down there too.

SB Now where, where was the candlework actually situated in Broxburn?

JA Ah, it's hard to tell, now, it was just.....

SB If you came from Broxburn and you're going to, up, to in Greendykes Road.

3rd voice in the room. You mean Winchburgh.

JA Up Greendykes Road.

SB Aye!

JA Well, it was on the left hand side.

SB I see.

JA You know going up Winchburgh way, by the canals at.....

SB The scrap heap, there's a scrapheap there.

JA Is there a scrap. I haven't been down there for ages. Eh, it was on the left hand side was the candleworks, and they had an acid works there too, and (3rd voice in the background again, unable to make out speech) then of course Grangemouth that was eh nothing to do with the shale. I mean, it was, but it was Scottish Oils at that time, and we were down there at Pumpherston refinery. Well, Pumpherston refinery it was a cracking plant, a different type of cracking plant from

the former. Of course it was.... there were four cracking plants there. And. Then you've got the wax extraction plant there and, did you get anything in that, down there.

SB No, not really. I can assume that sort of thing, it's mostly Westwood and that sort of area.

JA Well the wax extraction plant was the oil, I just can't go through it all but the oil, as it was taken from maybe Addiewell and Roman Camp and Winchburgh and these places, was all taken to Pumpherston eventually at the end and it was taken there, and then it went through the stills. Stills, which were just big, you know.....

SB Yes, like a pound.

JA Aye, and there was a fire underneath it, and of course the oil was heated, and the gases were all taken off it and of course the lighter gases went up and so-on, the lighter-gases were petroleum and mostly like gases were paraffin or kerogene, as they liked to call it, and lubricating oil, diesel oil, so on and then there was eventually the wax. What colour were they now? The green sheds I think, but anyway, they had these presses and they had a filter cloth, it was canvas you know, just like only it was thick stuff and they put these in, on trays and then they had the hydraulic press. No, they passed the oil through, and of course the oil went through and left the scale in the pressers on the filter cloth. Then they would take the hydraulic pressure up.

SB Now, the oil was cold then!

JA The oil was cold, and went through the freezers, you see. They had the compressors for the freezers, ammonia compressors. So what the men done after that, they released the pressure off them, and they wore clogs to protect their clothing

but it was a very bad job because an awful lot of men took paraffin cancer. (3rd person in conversation again) They had scrapers you see and it went down into a worm. The worm took it down into this big tank, and then of course it was heated again, and it was pumped across to the wax sheds and it went through this stuff which had fullers earth because of it. (3rd voice again) Aye, she kens as much as me about it. And then of course, they filled it into barrels and put it into cakes and sacks and they either sent it to Pumpherston or maybe send some of it abroad, or so on. (3rd voice again) And then there was the Sulphate of Ammonia. Did they tell you about that? That was extracted much the same way. Then they washed it with water, and all these different other things. Then the whizzers would go around drying it. Well, in Pumpherston they used to keep that.

SB How many whizzers did they had in Pumpherston, can you remember?

JA For the Sulphate Ammonia!

SB Aye.

JA Eh, I don't think they had any then, it was down at the crude works.

SB Oh I see. I know the Westwood have some. I remember Mr Brash telling me how he was working on them.

JA Aye, of course he was an engineer you see.

SB That's when he fell into one of them in an accident.

JA Oh aye. Oh I didn't know that, and eh, you see Jim and I are quite friendly.

SB Well tell him next time, I mentioned that. Tell him, ask him about the accident he had on a whizzer.

JA Aye, with the Sulphate Ammonia!

- SB Yes.
- JA Aye, I know they had them right enough. It was just that they.... I don't think they needed them at the refinery because I think they extracted the Sulphate Ammonia.....
- SB Oh, on the first stage, yes!
- JA On the first stage you see.
- SB Yes because it came out as a liquor.
- JA It was Addiewell that I saw them first.
- SB So how many did they have in Addiewell?
- JA Two.
- SB Two, and Westwood?
- JA Can't remember, I don't think they'd be anymore than two. I'll ask Jim.
- SB Aye do that. 3rd Voice in conversation again.
- JA Ah, was there anything else in Pumpherston?
- SB Now you had a pipeline. There was a pipeline in Pumpherston. Now where did that pipeline, it went right through Winchburgh, and I think it went to Grangemouth, did it not?
- JA Aye, that was from Uphall works. It went to. That was when Uphall Works was going and it was a foreign oil works. Pumped foreign crude up. And I think there was another stage pump at Philpstoun too.
- SB So that must have been before Grangemouth. Now Grangemouth was built in when, 1919?
- JA 1925 or 19... I don't think it was built in 1919.
- SB When it came into operation, 1923!
- JA 1925, 23 round about that.
- SB Yes.
- JA I think Uphall would be. Must have been about the same time, and I don't know why they made Uphall into a foreign

Oil Works.

SB No, because you had Pumpherston there, and this is what amazes me.

JA And of course Uphall used to be, retorts and Shale Oil too you see, because that's where all the, the oil came from the Hopetoun Oil Works up to Young's. You see it was all Young's territory.

SB Yes.

JA You see, that was Young's territory. Pumpherston was up here and Tarbrax and then, I don't know who Addiewell. I don't know how Young's got away down there.

SB Well Young's, Addiewell started in. Young's started in Addiewell you see.

JA That's correct, when they run out of that coal down there, it started in Addiewell. And Addiewell..... 3rd Voice in background again.

SB Well, tell me about Pumpherston & Grangemouth and Uphall.

JA Eh, well Uphall used to be. Before it was a foreign oil works, it was a shale, and they got their shale from, oh I mind the breaker right enough now you mention it. You see there was what we termed the short cut down the line to Uphall, and we used to walk through Uphall Works, pass through it, through the footbridge and eh the breaker was down at the bottom end, just before you came on to this, down the side of the railway, and you could hear the clank of the shale going through it.

SB So where were the works situated as you go down into Uphall, was it Uphall Station?

JA Uphall Station. You know where Wimpy's is now?

SB No.

JA Well, Wimpy's is built on the site of Uphall Works.

SB That's right it was, oh well, I'll have to look next time I go down.

JA That's the. When you're on the M8. You know where the bings were.

SB There were two bings, one's away now.

JA Aye, well. The work was just to the right.

SB Ah, I see. I see where you are now.

JA The bings. Oh aye there is a bing there yet. Well the work was there.

SB Aye.

JA Just between the M8 and eh.....

SB Middleton Hall.

JA And the work, and that then Middleton Hall. That's right.

SB Yes, I know where you are now. 3rd voice in background. Oh now there's an interesting thing, the miners in Baads, although they were coal, who were they trained by, who paid them?

JA Eh, Young's.

SB Scottish Oils.

JA Scottish Oils, Young's.

SB So were the trained in the shale mine or in the coal mine?

JA In the coal.

SB In the coal!

JA Oh yes of course, the training in they days are not like now, I mean, say that I was left school, when I left school, instead of being an electrician, I maybe got a job down the mine while you got a job as a boy, then you maybe worked your way up and you got into the face, and you maybe became a drawer, that was a you had a faceman and the drawer. You know what the drawer was!!

SB Yes, filling up the hutches.

JA He filled, he filled the hutches and took them out. Well when you thought that you were eligible to take the faceman's job, well you looked for them, you see it was just like that. But now in the coal. In the mining they had training schemes they have trained men for training them and so on. But not in they days, you just.....
3rd voice again.

SB Now, do you all know the story of the clash me down farm?

JA No, no.

SB You never heard that story. About the bings from Addiewell.

JA Aye, aye. There's a farm in there....

SB There used to be a farm... That's right. Well that's because of it's coal. It's called "Clash me down".

JA Clash me down.

SB Because I grant it wasn't (?). They kept extending, extending or rather decreasing his garden and apparently the farmer that was in say's you're gonna clash me down. And ever since, that is the name. 3rd voice again.

JA And of course you know that eh, when Addiewell bings, before they started taking it away, it used to push that road out. And the pug line went from Westwood and No 26 up by there, well we had a cable that went from Westwood up to Addiewell, and then there was a cable went from Addiewell up to Baads Colliery. This is when they built the power station at Addiewell in 1935. And then you had a cable that went from Westwood, eh from Addiewell to Burngrange and eventually. I was away from it by this time, there was a cable I think went from Westwood, Burngrange to Hermand, a loop line, so that if one broke down it could switch on you see. So there was one. I was still at Middleton by this time. I'd to

come out one Sunday, the weight of the bing had pushed the road over, pushed our end over and the cable was pulled out of the joint box. So I had to come out this Sunday and put in a loop of cable, and, was there somebody giving me assistance? I met two (?) boys, we had to put in a loop of cable so that it would take up any strain again you see. And all I had. They went to test the cable this day and they got an infinity test all over, and continuity and everything and oh what's wrong where, and the power getting through the cable was pulled away, pulled apart. (3rd voice in background - What about ---- What about Jeff Simpson. And where's all these wee men?)

JA The only thing I can think that maybe Bert McCalley, he used to work in the shale right enough, and of course... but he was just in Burngrange. And wee David McKie he worked in the coal. Ah, but he'll give you all New Zealand. He must have bags of money because he always going (voices muffled ?) And when they sunk Burngrange, I wasn't married at the time. In fact this Friday night I got onto the usual bus after leaving Uphall to come up. And I'd been down to see May that night. That was my night for going down. It was a Friday night, so I got into the bus and this chap say's "Are you lucky" I said "How" oh he says "Up with the car he says to Middleton to see Eric Coleman. That's him in that line. He says he was standing in this corner, that's ken where we used to stand. He says "away you go there's something wrong up Addiewell". So my father, he was living at the time, and he was backshift over at No 6 mine. The Camps? So, I got home and say's to my mother "Was there anybody at the door for me?" "No". I says "That's funny, they're telling me there's something wrong up at Addiewell and there collecting all the electricians they can get". So, I go on "let me get to my bed". So I just, this was always what I took. Two Rich Tea biscuits and a drink of milk before I got into bed, got in. And of course my father in these days, you know, he slept through in the room. No houses like these. So next, oh aye, a knock at the front door. I can always mind my father never even got out of bed he says "Aye, there's someone here for you now". It was the Ambulance driver from Middleton. They didn't know

the emergency. (3rd voice) So, I just lifted the window "Is that you Joe". "Aye well come on you've to get ready and come down to Middleton with me and get your joinery tools" and he says to go up to Burngrange. Any idea where Roy Banks stays. That's the name. Oh he says " I've been up at the house and he's not in" Oh I say's "Oh he'll likely be with his girlfriend" Bessy Taggart is her name, and she had an uncle stayed in Middleton and I say's "They'll likely be down there" "Oh, I've just left there, I've never even seen him" "Oh" I say's "he may have even walked up the back roads" I say's "come on now anyway". It was midnight by this time on the Friday night. So, away we went down and couldn't get however. So Willie Bowie, his father was the head baker in Middleton, and he happened to be in the garage or something just having a blether. "Oh" he say's "Willie, he's away up the back road". So away we went up to Pumpherston really just time it. Willie had just left Bessy and he was coming. "Oh Willie come on" I says. And of course he let out a mouthful. So away we went down to Middleton and got our tools and went away up. Had nothing to eat or anything. So, I was pushed along with Willie. There was a fault in the cable, so I forget how many joints there was, five joints and that, and I mind we were in this one, it was the month of April. I can remember because early in the morning the birds were singing their hearts away. But we weren't. We had a railway hat up over us, you know, and oh we're trying to locate this fault and of course we had to open up each joint box and test between each length of cable. So Willie say's "Have you any cigarettes?". Well of course at that time I did smoke cigarettes. "Aye, I've got seven Willie". I said,"Now mind just 2 or 3 puffs, and then you put it out". (3rd voice in background) So, either the fault was between the last joint, and Burngrange. And what had happened was they were erecting a the new fence at the pit and you know they put in what we term as a Bulling Iron into the ground to make way for the stops. You see. Well, it struck the cable but you couldn't see it outwardly.

SB There was nothing he could do except the (?)

JA Aye, but of course this was where the earth leekage came into. They couldn't get the switch in, this was what was wrong at Addiewell. So we tested it in fact,

McKlellan was up most of the night, Jock Hud was up and they sent for eh B.L.P. Russell. He was the representative of Johnson and Philips, the cable makers and he brought out his instruments to try and detect the exact spot where the fault was you see. I don't know, did they get within a certain range and then we had to cut the cable, and when we got down.... You see the cable was that hessian on the outside and then a double wire armour between that and then there was hessian again with tar in it, and then there was the lead sheet and then your cores were inside that lead. And of course it was 3,300 volt cable which was quite high, and the least wee pressure and it carbonises.

SB And of course the lead would melt as well, aye.

JA No, it just made a, you could just see the slightest impression on the lead. It just showed you that one of the cores, there were, the paper, it was paper insulated. Course it was special paper and it was treated with the resin oil etc for insulation. And it was one of them, was it twelve feet or twelve yards? Twelve feet I'd say. Was as black as anything. Carbonised. And of course it was earthing onto the lead and the lead, it is earthed at the, through the joints and into the main switch and of course whenever the (?) it was just, see.

SB (?)

JA So we, had to cut out that, I can't remember the exact length, but we had to go away down to Uphall Work at that time Uphall Work was stopped, but they had a big store room down there where they kept spare motors and spare pumps and spare cable. So, this was about early Saturday morning, and all we'd been feeding on was cold pies and lemonade.

END OF TAPE/SIDE ONE

JA So eh, during later years when I've been repairing cables, I've seen cables with core practically (?) straight through and the switch taking that wee while longer to trip. I've seen others that you've just seen the least wee bit burn on it. It was this (?). So I, on the whole though there were very, very few accidents through electricians. So, we had a chief who made you very particular, because if there was anything out of place, I remember once he came up to me. It wasn't my fault, cause I was only using the gear I had been given to work with. He say's "Are you wanting your name in Mr. Horsley's books?" Well that was the chief inspector for mines. A government man. There always threatened that you've got to get your name in Mr. Horsley's books or you had to be very, very particular. And it was good for your name because it, I used to say that eh, anybody that served, their time in the Scottish Oils needn't be afraid to go anywhere, because they really give you a good training. I mean I had training in mining, I had training in the oil works, I had training in light. You may as well say I had general training, could have taken me anywhere. Only now it's more sophisticated.

SB Yes, it's a specialised job.

JA Yes, you've electronics comes into it. Well that's a different story and you've got to be a specialist now. So I was at 26 until it closed. That was 26 at Polbeth, and there were a pump that I put in, when I went up there first. There was a new pump put in and I was at the taking back out again. And Herman, well Herman, was stopped for a while. Well that made me sort of spare and mobile. And I was sent across to Breich to give the electrician a hand over there. Well Breich pit, they had a coal cutter and a conveyor and so we used to have to move in the gate-end boxes for the coal cutter and of course the tradesman done that themselves over at Breich. Our pits used to get oncost to do it for you. Then I was taken maybe from Breich up to the Fraser pit if their electrician was off there, and I was at Westwood work giving them assistance there and then I used to stay in Mossend for the first

eight years of my marriage. I got a house in Mossend after we were married and I think they were glad to get me up there because when I was single, well the first bus was mines away home. And when I said, I was getting married, I got the choice of three houses. So that I'd be at hand if they could get me. So they used to send across the field for me at night, for Westwood work. A call in breakdown was the contactor panel for operating the spent shale up the bing. It was all done automatically. I mean there was none of this pulling a lever and taking the spent shale from the hopper into the boggle. It was all done, the engine men done it and he was never out of his place of work.

SB Do you think that's the reason why the Westwood bings look more like the coal bings than shale mining?

JA Yes, definitely, that's correct, because it's the same system. (3rd voice in background again)

JA So anyway that was the reason that the Westwood Shale bings were more like a coal bing because it was on counter lever style of the emptying of the boggles and if, so I mean if they wanted to empty the left hand side, well they put the lever on the trip, on that side. So what they done for to move, go forward, or right hand side and he controlled it all. Well, small control that he operated were just energising the contacts in the contactor, or they would sometimes stick on, get burned on and of course if they're burnt on, then you couldn't get your switch in. Switched trip. So, I would have to come across the field in the dark of night and free this and put new contacts on. Because the electricians stayed several miles away and it wasn't convenient, it was easier to get me. So then, it's only eh. I was sent up to Baads colliery. It maybe sounds funny talking about an oil work as oil museum but this Baads Colliery belonged to the Scottish Oils and supplied all the works with coal, it was a very good steamed coal, but there was a high percentage of Sulphate, and of course the Scottish Oils had the furnaces, the boilers, the grades modified to accept that coal. (FROM HERE ON, THIS TAPE IS USELESS, AS THE VOICES ARE HARD TO DETECT) So, I was sent up there and it was supposed to be

temporary, and then during that time I was brought back down again when they needed anybody at any other of the shale mines, and in 1947 I was down at the Burngrange disaster and it was I think it was January 10th 1947 and I think there were sixteen lives lost there.

SB Fifteen!

JA Fifteen, well I was close with sixteen. No matter. So I was there and oh assist in any way we could. One of the jobs that I had was putting in a fan to try and blow the smoke by. Then I was sent back up to the Fraser pit, took over there. Then a while after it, when nationalisation came on, I was brought back down to Burngrange, I was supposed to be finished with the coal mine, and there was about a fortnight there, and the section that the disaster happened in, they closed it and I had the job of going in and withdrawing the electrical equipment out of it. But I just made sure I had a good new blade in my hacksaw and just cut the cable out and just left it for the oncost men to take out. But there was one gate end-box that I put in, and I remember putting it in the September before the disaster and it was as good as the day I put it in, when I took it out. The inside of that section was, not a thing, it was just the main road, and it was all collapsed.

SB Were you worried going down there?

JA Well, you had it running through your mind but when you got down, it was just like maybe when the chaps went to war or anything like that, you forgot all about it. I mean, the job in hand....

SB You were busy in the mines!

JA Aye, and then you knew that these men were in there and nothing you could do to get you into that. And I remember that Saturday night that I was down, I was out on the Saturday after it from six o'clock in the morning and I didn't come home till about ten o'clock at night. And that was the day we put in a fan to try and blow the smoke back. I came out the level road and of course they had released the dam

up above for to try and get the water, to try and put the fire out. It even eh, was it three pumps from the AFS or NFS, but it was the fire not the rescue brigade or the mines, it was the, the....

SB National Fire Brigade, Yes...

JA They were down and had hoses run out. So, there was a bit where the water had collected and we had to get a piggy back out to the main haulage to get up and I remember that night I came out, Mr. Crichton the general manager, he came up with in the cage that night. So eh, then on the Sunday, our chief was up, Mr. McKlellan, and he said he didn't bother coming up on Saturday because he knew there was nothing he could do, and also that if he was required they knew where he was. So he went away on the Sunday round some of the pits in Fife and got pumps and pipes and these were bought in and it didn't matter whether you were an electrician, engineer or office boy you were working underneath the pithead giving them a hand to unload these and get them down the pit. So, then of course the next day, I was sent up to the Eraser pit, took over up there and was back down and then I was sent back to the colliery. Then of course, nationalisation took over and I was sent, I had to go back to the coal mines. So I mean it wasn't the Scottish Oils, I didn't leave them, they left me.

SB No, they left you, of course.

JA And eh, it wasn't that long after it that I met my old foreman, Mr. Hogg. I met him on the bus one day, asked how I was getting on, told him if he could do with me back ken, what to do. Who's he wanted us for. Oh he say's "They're wanting electricians down in Grangemouth". So I say's well, I've got settled in up there now, I say's. But I think that's about it.

SB And how does the electricity in the coal mine compare with the electricity in the shale mine, is it the same?

JA Oh just the same, oh yes, oh aye, they've the same regulations and everything to comply. Oh yes. The same things.

SB And, the machinery!

JA More or less the same, except eh, well, of course there's no shale mines going now but the coal, eh the coal mines are more sophisticated now, I mean, they've shearers and different methods of extracting the coal. Of course the coals are much softer and easier to get out than the shale. The shale was hard, and I don't know how the shearers or anything like that would have done in the shale. Oh no, it's different two methods, and the height was different and everything you see. And the coal, well in the coal mine up at Baads we were lucky, it was five foot ceiling, but, I mean you had a dirt, two dirt bands incorporated in that. But when the coal was extracted you had maybe an average of four - five feet high, so that's quite good for working in compared to maybe fifteen inches or that. I can't think if there's anything else I can.....

SB Now, another thing I want to ask you, you mentioned putting electricity in to the Dedridge houses, Philpstoun, what about Middleton Hall, was that electrified?

JA That was done. There were no houses. They houses weren't built till maybe 25, 1925. These were new houses.

SB And electricity was put into them.

JA The electricity was put into it when it was built. So, eh they were all, this was eh, these Addiewell houses and that, they would be about oh about seventy - eighty years old, you know, at the time they were over one hundred years old. Now but most of them are demolished, except Dedridge, they're still there. They were nice houses too, and there's old mine cottages. Because that was Oakmine Oil Company you see.

SB Now what about the bosses house (?) Mr. Crichton.

JA Oh that was down at Castle Park.

SB Did they have electricity there?

JA Yes, they had the electricity from, I don't know whether it was in when it was built or not. I can't answer that right enough. But, I mean, I was down working at it maybe doing repairs, but the switches were different. The likes of in these days, you didn't get a surface switch as that is, but you see. It was just an ordinary tumbler switch, and a wooden block on the wall. The cables could have been sunk into the wall, but the switch was still sticking out. Because many's a time and even down at Breiston Hill, where Mr. Willie Caldwell stayed, many's a time I've been up, they were getting a room re-decorated. He came up and dug out a hole and put this switch in, this surface switch. Aye, he was a great boy old Willie.

SB Uh, uh. (3rd voice in background)

JA So eh, this was another thing I forgot to mention, the time they were sinking No 6 mine at the camps, it was an awful wet night. That would be 1937 somewhere round about that time.

SB Round about that time, uh, uh

JA And eh, oh we were repeatedly out at it, putting in pumps and that. So, they had a cross cut between the two drifts about a 1,000 feet down and they had a sunk there for to collect the water coming from the face. They had two drysdale snore-off pumps at each face pumping up the air. And then there was two larger pumps there, pumped to the surface. So here they decided that they'd put in a bigger pump. So the pump with Uphall work, being closed by this time. They didn't need the pump that they used for pumping the oil from Grangemouth up to Uphall like. So they brought in that pump. And eh, of course it was a turbine. Can't remember whether it was a turbine or a (?) but eh, went out this night to change over. Well the biggest job was, I had to take the old switch gear for the old pump out, and put in the switch gear for this one. So, then the engineers finally got it coupled up (?). So it pumped alright for a minute or two and then the pressure just

dropped. So there was no indication, outwardly, the pump whether it was running in the right direction or not. So I asked, I say's "Is the pump going in the right direction?" "Oh, bound to be running in the right direction or it wouldn't pump". This was the under manager you see. Well I say's "I think it'll be worth a try" I say's "I've only to take two wires off and cross them to reverse the direction". So oh its bound to be pumping, it wouldn't pump. So I tried and tried and tried and I emptied the outline in the end away it went and finally, and then it just cut out again. No, its no use, the under manager, it's not use. The engineer, we had to start and undo all the work and put in the old pump again. By this time it was about seven or eight o'clock in the morning,. So, generally I went down to headquarters in Middleton and reported in. So this morning I just walked across the field and got my breakfast at my mothers, I wasn't married then of course. And it was just across the fields, about a mile at Uphall Station. And I went back. So here when I went back, my boss was standing waiting. He say's "I was just wondering why you didn't come down this morning Joe and report in" "Aye" I say's "No after being here". I say's "You're lucky to see me now" I say's "then I'll not come back again". So ,eh he got in touch with Mr. McKlellan, so of course he asked, Mr McKlennan asked which way the pump was running. So I told him and he says "Just what I thought" he says. "It's running the wrong road". Of course he had went up to the drawing office and seen the particulars of the pump and found out the direction it should have run. So, the under-manager says "Oh but Mr. McKlennan, I didn't, a pump will not pump running down a hole". "Aye", he says " it'll pump, but he says "it'll not give you the head". What I mean is, I mean, if it's got an incline like that, you know, you see.

SB It can go up.

JA It'll go up, maybe through there, and then it'll lose pressure and

SB Block it.

JA Aye, you see. Because your impellers are doing that when it's pumping, well, if it was running that way you see.

SB It's going back.

JA Aye, you see. So he say's "You'll need to go down and change it" "Oh" I says " Here we go again". So we had to go all the way back down again. The engineer and the drawer and undo all the nights work again and put this in. So eh.....

SB Now you, you suspected it was running the wrong way?

JA Well, I didn't suspect it was running the wrong way. But for all the time it would have taken for to change over two wires, I was wanting to try it. Aye, but they were adamant. "Oh, but it was running the right way" you see. They wouldn't. I wasn't saying it was running the wrong way or I didn't say it was running the right way, but, I mean, about a quarter of an hours work would have been worth it. So I went down and we got it changed over. So it wasn't only putting the water right up, it was bursting some of the pipes, in the finish there was two there. So, eventually, okay. it must have been about three o'clock in the afternoon and we came out of the mine. So, we literally crawled out. So I ran into Mr. Caldwell. Everybody seemed to just disappear. And I had went into sub stations when we were checking our meters to see how the pumps were bonded in there. So this was Mr. Willie Caldwell, he was chief in the mining department, so he says "What are we going to do now laddie" "Oh" I says, I don't know about going down", but I say's "All the pumps are on anyway" I say's "I've just been in checking up the, this right. "Mind, there could be a thousand pipes down there" he say's "and it still couldn't be going down". What do they call you". I say's "Anderson". "What Anderson are you?" I say's "My father's I.J. Anderson" "You don't tell me, ken, I'm fine". So after that, I mean everything went all right ken I was to put the cable down No 6 mine at the Camps there to couple it up. But I mean, all that just lets you seem all the work that could have been left if they'd just let me change

SB (?)

JA And eh, So I mean I didn't know well. I knew Mr. Caldwell at that time, but he didn't know me. And even when they came up to Burngrange, up to Mossend, well, the

scullery's were built out like the pavement. You see, they'd been added on and of course that was the main road for Mr. Caldwell to go down with his car to Bristonhill. And we had a dog at the time and I used to go away down that road, in the rain. I had to stop going down. It was embarrassing. He was standing at the gate one day "Where are you going Joe?" I looked and turned around and thought, "Just hold on and I'm going a bit down on myself". He used to be waiting on me. Well I wasn't wanting to be seen with....

SB The boss.

JA So anyway, I mind our coal houses were out on the pavement, and I took the coal (?). My sister, she served with his sister at Pumpherston in the bungalow. I don't know whether you know where the bungalow .. It's made into two houses now right enough. Issac White lives in one of them. I don't know whether you've interviewed Issac White or not.

SB No.

JA He was in the electrics. I don't know whether he's there still, or not. 3rd voice in background.

JA Oh aye, I slept there. Where did I put that wee book. Oh here it is. Eh, he was a foreman. Issac White. 212, wait a minute. Oh that'll maybe not his address now.

SB No

JA Because you see the bungalow was one house and they made it into two, and that was where Miss Caldwell at that time, and my sister, she served with her. That was Willie Caldwell's sister. So I don't know whether Issac and that still live at that same address or not.

SB Well, try, try this address and see if he is there.

JA I don't know. He's older than me right enough, and ok.

there's lots of names there. There's Jackie Thompson, who will have upset two (?). But he's down in (?). He was the winder in the rock. He done all the amateur winding.

SB Oh yes.

JA And he's down in Grangemouth right enough. In fact, Andy, my nephew, was just talking about him. Oh aye, there's lots of addresses here that maybe would have been any use to you. Well have a look at (?) if you like, and well, I think.

SB I tell you what I wanted, the bings. Did you light up the bings?

JA Well no. I never was at that job. I mean that was done by the electricians that were resident at the works.

SB I see, Uh uh.

JA You see, we were just brought in. The time was in Middleton, you were the sort of emergency squad, and then if you were needed, you were sent out to be needed. But when I was transferred up here of course, we had eh, well, the likes, aye, at the pit you had bings there. Maybe if there was too much shale, if they were getting too much shale well, they used to put in the bing. Which was handy, because during the New Year well, when no shale, they threw off the bings you see.

SB They had the stores.

JA Filled at the bing. There was temporary lights put out there. I done the likes of that. But the bings at the works, well the residents works engineer electrician, he looked after it.

SB Yes, now the mines. Did each mine have an electrician?

JA Oh yes.

SB Every mine?

JA Well, there was, there was, I had two to look after. Because 26 didn't want an electrician to sit I mean, and eh Herman, I mean, we weren't. Herman wasn't eh,oh, wasn't far enough.

SB Gone.

JA Mmm. Advances. Aye. They were only moving then.

SB Yes, they were driving in.

JA And then, 26 was practically wiped out, and there wasn't, there was only maybe two or three electric motors and some lights and that, and signal systems to look after there. So, that, most of, in fact eh, some of them maybe needed two electricians. All depending on the amount of gear that was there.

SB Yes, now the, in Burngrange, there was a big fan, the Sirocco fan, yes.

JA Mmm, of course there's a fan at every mine. There's got to be. There was a fan at 26, we used to have trouble with that motor. It was a bod type of motor, and it kept dripping. See, drove the fan, and you had, it drew the foul air out and of course the fresh air went down the shaft. You had the two shafts you see, intake and eh.

SB Upcast.

JA Upcast, you see. That was why when you were standing the intake, you felt the air going down but, they had it with this screen cloth and that, that circled round all the workings and then came up. That day of the Burngrange fire, the explosion. It was coming out of the upcast just black, black smoke.

SB Pure smoke.

JA Oh it was really. So I mean the men that was in there under, they must have been, just like that.

SB It must have been quite a fire because there was a lot of smoke down below.

JA Uh, Uh, oh yes, oh aye, aye that's right. And it was in that section, I mean, we were standing and we knew that they were in there. Well, they weren't in there, they weren't in the fire, you see they were in the inside.

SB In the inside, yes.

JA And they couldn't get out and of course when the men knew this eh, eh, fall had taken place, you couldn't get through it. In fact, there was, that Saturday we put this fan in.....

Transcript JA

Industrial Broxburn was just the same.

Information They had chemical works there too. I understand there was this boatload of pyrites ore. They burnt it in the furnace. Six hundred weight was in the barrel, this lasted for twenty four hours. There were three sets of furnaces, with twenty two fires in each furnace.

The Gas The gas that came off was extracted and went through these chambers and then it was cooled and turned into vitriol, which is used for treating the oil at the Refinery.

Vitriol They used the vitriol for washing and purefying the oil and then they washed the oil with water. I understand the Oil Company only got a loan of this to extract the acid out of it.

Electrician Bathgate Chemical Works was small and didn't warrant an electrician there all the time, so I was moved around to Addiewell, Burngrange.

Pumpherstn Refinery Scottish Oils at that time were down at Pumpherstn Refinery. There were three

different cracking plants
there, for the foreign oils
and there was the wax extraction plant.

Wax Extraction Plant I just can't go through it
all, but the oil as it was
taken from maybe Addiewell,
Roman Camps and Winchburgh,
was all taken to Pumpherston
at the end. It was then put
through the stills, which were
big tanks. There was a fire
lit underneath and the oil
was heated and the gases
taken off. The lighter gases
were petroleum and the not
so light gases were paraffin,
or Kerosene, as they liked to
call it, and the lube oil,
diesel oil and so on and then
there was eventually the wax,
the green shale.

Presses They had these presses and a
filter cloth which was canvas
and you put these in trays,
and then they had hydraulic
presses which they passed the
oil through, and of course
the oil went through and left
the scale in the presses on
the filter cloth. They then
took the Hydraulic press and
pressed it up.

Freezers The oil was cold, and it went
through freezers. They had
ammonia compressors for the
freezers. So what the men
did after that, they released
the pressure off them, and
they wore clogs and protective

clothing, because a lot of men took, paraffin cancer. They then went on scrappers you see, and it went down into a worm, and the worm took it down into this big tank where it was heated again. It was then pumped across to the wax sheds where it went through Fullers Earth, it was then filled into barrels. These were sent up to Pumpherston and sent abroad.

Pipeline There was a pipeline from the Uphall Works, and it was a foreign oilwork that pumped the foreign crude up and there was another stage pump at Philpstoun.

Uphall Uphall used to be retorts and shale oil too, because that is where the oil came from, the Hopetoun Oil Works, it was all Young's territory. I don't know how he got away down here.

Addiewell When Young ran out of paraffin coal in Uphall he started up in Addiewell.

My Training When I left the school I got a job down the mines where you worked your way up and maybe became a drawer. You had a drawer and a faceman. The drawer filled the hutches and took them out.

Faceman When you thought you were eligible to take the faceman's

job you looked for them.
There was not training in
those days like today, you
Just worked.

Bing From Addiewell Have you heard the story about
the bing from Addiewell? There
used to be a farm called 'Clash
me doon', apparently it was the
farmer that was there that
said your going to 'clash me
doon'. We got the spades out
and started digging for treasure.
Of course Addiewell Bing,
before they took it away, a
pug line went from Westwood
and Twenty Six.

Cable From Addiewell To
Baads Colliery We had a cable that went from
Addiewell up to Baads Colliery.
This is when they built the
power station at Addiewell in
1935. They had a cable from
Westwood and Addiewell to
Burngrange, and eventually
there was a cable from West-
wood and Burngrange to Hermand,
It was a loop line so that
if one broke down, this one
would switch on. I had to
come out one Sunday, because
the weight of the bing had
pushed the road over, as well
as the cable being pulled out
of the ground box. So I had
to put in a loop cable. They
went to test the cable this
day and they got an infinity
test done all over.

Accident at Addiewell I got home this day, and there
was someone at the door for me,
to tell me that there was
something wrong at Addiewell,
and they were collecting all
the electricians they could
get. We were trying to locate

the fault, and we had to open this joint box and test between these lengths of cable. What had happened they were erecting a new fence at the pit. Well it had struck the cable, and they couldn't get it switched in. They sent up B.L.P. Russell who was the representatives of Johnson and Philips, who were the cable manufacturers. We were lucky we didn't get a shock.

Repairing Cables

During the later years, when I was repairing cables, I have seen cables with the core practically blown straight through. The switch taking a bit longer to trip, and I've seen others that you just saw a wee bit of burning. On the whole there were very few accidents through\ electrocution. We had a chief who was particular because if anything was out of place we got into trouble. It was good for you then, because as I said, that anyone who served their time in Scottish Oils, they need not be afraid to work anywhere, because we had really good training. I had training in Oilworks, and lighting.

Twenty Six Pit

There was a new pump I put in when I was at Twenty Six Pit, which I had to take out when it closed.

Breich Pit

I was then sent across to Breich Pit to give the

electricians a hand. I was also sent to Fraser Pit if the electrician was off there. They used to come across the field for me at night from Westwood Works.

Common Breakdown A common breakdown was the contractors panel, for operating the spent shale bing. It is done automatically, there was none of this pulling a lever and taking the spent shale from the hopper into a bogey. The engineman did it and he was never out of his place of work.

Baads Colliery From there I was sent up to Baads Colliery. This colliery belonged to the Scottish Oils and supplied all the Works with coal, and the Scottish Oils had their furnaces and boilers modified to accept

TAPE NO LONGER AUDIBLE ON THIS SUBJECT

Domestic Information I stayed at Mossend for the first eight years of my marriage.
Housing I think they were glad to get me up there because, when I was single, the first bus home was at nine o'clock. But when I was married I got the choice of three houses, so that I could be at hand if they needed me.