

JM - SIDE ONE

SB When did you start?

JM July, 1907!

SB And how old were you then?

JM Fourteen!

SB Fourteen? And what made you go to Deans?

JM Well, actually I had an uncle worked in there, I was brought up there by an uncle and an auntie you see, and he was working there, so he got me a job there, ken, as a laddie, eight shillings a week!

SB Eight shillings a week! And what was your first job then?

JM Aye.....I can't explain it very well, it was on the retorts, pulling up.....you know, all the dirt out of the retorts.....and putting it back on again! I was working with an old boy, his name was John Roy, then I was in the sulphate house, stamping bags, you see, the sulphate of ammonia, and then I got on to the oil tanks, filling oil! That was the travelling tanks, like! And emptying acid tanks, you know, sulphuric acid!

SB That must have been a nasty job!

JM Och, you thought nothing of it in these days!

SB No? Didn't you get burned or anything like that?

JM Pardon?

SB Did you get burned?

JM No!

SB No?

JM No! And then I got on to the boilers, cleaning them and then I got on to the fire duty, and then leading man! And then when the Deans shut down, I was sent up to Westwood to take the boilers up there, but I wouldn't take them!

SB Why?

JM Well, it was three shifts you see! And I was fed up with the three shifts, I was wanting dayshift, so they put me back on to the cleaning up there, so I was quite happy! And then the wife died in 1956, and I was working right up till two months off my sixty eighth birthday, and they wouldn't let me away!

SB No?

JM No, when it came to the holidays, oh, I'll stay on till the holidays, in fact, and when it came to the New Year, stay on after the New Year! I just carried on! Well, the last year that they worked.....shut down, the Manager came to me and says 'I don't want to make you redundant!' So he says, 'I'll let you away!' So I finished up on St. Patrick's Day, 1961, a Friday, 17th March.....1961!

SB That's when it shut down, that's when you finished?

JM Aye, it was just about a year after that it shut down.....Westwood.. The Deans was already shut down, you see!

SB When did the Deans shut?

JM Well, it would be about Nineteen.....Fifty Six or something.....

SB No.....how different was the Deans Work from Westwood?

JM Well, they were both the same, they were just making crude oil, you see! There weren't any Refineries or anything like that, crude oil or naphtha! Sulphate of ammonia! I've been retired since 1961, and I'm ninety one years of age!

SB Ninety One! By joves, you're doing well!

JM That's five generations taken in 1980!

SB Very good!

JM That wee boy there is running about, four years old now! That one there!

SB Is that your great-grandchild?

JM Great-great!

SB Great-great grandchild?

JM Five generations!

SB My God! You're doing well then!

JM I've fourteen grandchildren! Twenty six great grandchildren! And three great-great grandchildren!

SB And have you lived all your life in Livingston Station?

JM Well I was born.....I wasn't born there, I was born in Northern Ireland, I came over here in 1901! We stayed in Wester Dechmont when I started in the Deans and we flitted over here in 1913. I'd five of a family, and they were all born in the house, not in Bangour, they were all born in the house!

SB Yes!

JM Five of a family! I've a daughter up in Deanswood Park, there, and my son up in Burnsknowe, and I've a daughter in Whitburn and a son in Grangemouth, and the oldest daughter, she went to Australia, and she died there in 1973. She only had one of a family! She was over there, last year, for my ninetieth birthday! My grand-daughter and my great-grand-daughter from Australia!

SB Have you ever been to Australia?

JM No! I should have went!

SB Would you like to have gone?

JM I should have went years ago!

SB Well, you could still go!

JM The daughter is just back this year, her in Whitburn, she came back on the 19th April, she brought me that plaque there with Sydney Harbour and the Opera House!

SB Oh yes, that's pretty that, yes! And so, your family came from Ireland, did you say?

JM I came from Ireland! My family were all born here!

SB No, I mean your father and mother!

JM Aye! Oh aye!

SB They were Irish?

JM Aye!

SB And what did your father.....what work did your father do?

JM He was a weaver!

SB A weaver? In Ireland?

JM Aye, linen! Irish linen! Do you mind the old loom?

SB That's right!

JM Well, that was all the go in Ireland when I was young!

SB And what did he do, when they came across here?

JM He worked in the Deans! And he finished up in the Deans! My father!

SB He finished up in the Deans! And how did he get that job? In the Deans, because you know, a weaver to an oilworker.....is a vast.....

JM There was no bother getting a job in these days! In fact, there were a lot of the Irish folk came over, and worked their holidays and went back again, and brought in their own crops, on their wee farms, you see!

SB And who was the Manager of the Deans when you started?

JM Pardon?

SB Who was the boss of the Deans?

JM Mr. Roberts! Ned Roberts! He stayed in one of those big houses down there! You know, that's the two Managers' houses down there! One for the Mines and one for the Works!

SB I see! Can you remember who the Mine Manager was?

JM Och, there were two or three Managers! Johnny Johnstone was one..... and Tripney and.....Jock Stein.....och, there was umpteen..... there was umpteen Managers in the Deans too! There was John Smith.....and Andy Wishart.....and Tripney..... I forgot him.....aye, Spittal!

SB Spittal! And what was the village like when you first started?

JM There was only about two hundred houses here! There was just the Main Street, and Glen Road and.....Dean Street, North Street, South Street, they're all knocked down! I stayed in 23 Main Street, when I came here at first, I was married in 1915 and we got a house in North Street, then I swapped with a mate of mine, into Main Street, and we then shifted from there to Broomyknowe Drive, No. 6 and from there to 47 Glen Road, and then down here! I came down here in 1972!

SB And what was the village like?

JM Och, you knew everybody, you could keep your door open at night! You just walked in and out, nobody to bother you! You can't do that now! Half the housing in this place, it's badly laid out, bad planning!

SB Now, can you remember the 1925 strike!

JM '26 Strike!

SB Oh.....'26.....'25?

JM Aye, I mind of it!

SB What can you remember about it? You tell me about it?

JM I only lost one day!

SB Did you?

JM The Oilworkers all came out on strike, but I was a safety man, you see, in the boilers, and I only lost one day! I was going out to my work though, when I was turned back with one of the Union officials! So I had to go back the next day to my work! I only lost one day!

SB What was the cause of the strike?

JM They were wanting more money! There was low wages then! I was only making about thirty bob a week when I got married!

SB So, when was that?

JM 1915! Different times altogether then!

SB Better times?

JM Well, I wouldn't say that they were better times! We had more fun in those days!

SB Did you play bowls?

JM No!

SB Quoits?

JM No!

SB No? How did you pass your time?

JM Cycling! I was always cycling! I used to go into Edinburgh nearly every Saturday, cycling!

SB So, where did you go in Edinburgh, what did you see? Why did you go to Edinburgh on a Saturday?

JM Well, I had friends there, you see, the wife had friends there!

SB Can you remember how many people worked in the Works? In the Deans Works?

JM Oh, I don't think that..... there would be about no more than a hundred and fifty or two hundred! There wouldn't be that many! There was only an Oilworks there wasn't a Refinery! Not like Grangemouth! That son of mine, he finished his time in Grangemouth, having been there!

SB Now, you said before that you worked with the sulphur..... the sulphuric acid?

JM Aye, I just emptied them, aye, just emptied the tanks!

SB Were there any fumes coming from it, or anything like that?

JM No!

SB No!

JM Not really! You were doing it all outside! You were outside! You were just going to open the tank up and start your wee pump, and pumping it all into a big tank up the stairs! And just (inaudible) fill it with crude oil there, in one of the refining tanks, just pipe it, open up the oil and put it up! Fill your tank up and just keep your eye on it! That was all!

SB And what about the sulphate of ammonia? What did you do there?

JM I stamped the bags! Put the stamp on the bags! There were some funny stamps, they were nearly all Japanese!

SB Were they?

JM Some big stamps? Just.....you know, you had a template.....and all the things cut out, you see, and just lamp black.

SB (Inaudible) yes! And what about Westwood? When you went to Westwood?

JM Well, I took.....cleaning the boilers, I wouldn't take the fire duty!
So, I was up there for fourteen years!

SB Who was the boss then?

JM There were three in my time! There was Spittall, Henry Wood, John Smith, and one.....Balloch, he was the last Manager when I left!
There were four Managers there in the time that I was up!

SB What about Crichton? Robert Crichton?

JM Westwood was more modernised than what the Deans was, you see! That was just..... just when the War was starting they were building it you see! Of course, I mind listening to that Lord Haw Haw, you know, the time that the War was on! He said that Westwood was ready for making oil, but that we would flatten it! And another night, I heard him saying that you get a great pint of beer in Livingston Village, at the Livingston Inn! He knew all about this district! Lord Haw Haw!

SB How do you think that he knew all about that?

JM He told us one night that the town clock in Dundee was two minutes slow!

SB How could he know that?

JM That let you see how many spies were going about! Then he was talking about the King and Queen, you know, George VI and Queen Elizabeth....

Stuttering Geordie and Giggling Lizzie.....you know! Aye! I used to listen to him..... that was William Joyce! He belonged to this district! I think that he had a sister in Bathgate! William Joyce. I believe that they hanged him! They either hanged him or shot him, I don't know! Lord Haw Haw!

SB You would remember the First World War?

JM Och aye, I was married in the first War, 1915, because we were exempt from Army service. I joined up in the Army Reserve right enough! I got my two and ninepence, that was soldiers pay for a day, and ration money! But you could only be called up in an emergency, the likes of an invasion or something like that! We wore armbands right enough! That sounds like the something coming in the letter box!

SB Letterbox aye! Now, can you remember the 1921 strike?

JM Aye, I mind of them all! Aye!

SB What can you tell me about that?

JM Oh, I can't tell you much about that! Because it never bothered me you see!

SB Oh, you were never affected at all?.....No?

JM It never bothered me at all! Either the '21 or the '26, or even this one the now!

SB And what about the nineteen thirties? Can you remember when you had three weeks on and the week off?

JM No, I always enjoyed it!

SB And how much dole did you receive then?

JM Oh, I couldn't tell you, I got dole money right enough, but I couldn't

tell you how much, and it never seemed to bother me!

SB You just took it as it came?

JM There was no family allowance or anything like that! Nothing at all!
and yet we all came through it no bother!

SB When you lived in your house, what kind of house did you have, a
Scottish Oils house?

JM Aye!

SB Was it two rooms or three rooms?

JM Just the one room!

SB Just the one room?

JM You had two bedrooms and your kitchen, too, ken, wooden recesses!
And the same with your bedroom! Aye! It was alright!

SB Are there many old miners left round here?

JM Och, aye, there should be a few, of course, they are slipping away
there! An old pal of mine, I think that he was getting cremated the
day! He used to work along with me! Jim (inaudible) Och aye, there's
a few of them! I don't know about miners! But I worked in the Oil-
works all my days and I had fifty three years and eight service,
altogether! I was two months off my sixty eighth birthday!

SB Did you receive a watch?

JM Aye, I got a watch too aye! In fact, I've got two, I've one from
Grangemouth, and one from London, but the both of them's coming from
Harlow.....I used to get a cheque from Grangemouth but it stopped

this year! Stopped in April there, so, it all comes from Harlow now!
But I've got two pensions, one is a Works pension, the other one is
for my services to the Company!

SB And what about the Provident scheme! Were you in that!

JM Aye! But it didn't cost us anything! You only had long service,
you started on ten per cent of your wages went into that scheme,
well, I started at ten per cent, it only started in 1950, you know,
then you had to work another two years before you were on it! I
started at ten per cent, but laddies starting at that time, they
would only start at two and a half per cent! But I started at ten
per cent, and then when I retired I got a cheque and a pension every
week after that! This one from London, it only started in 1979, in
July. I was surprised to get it! In fact, there's a boy coming to
see me next Monday, that looks after the pensioners for B.P.

SB Oh, very good!

JM From Bo'ness!

SB Yes?

JM Wullie Grant! Just as you go over there! He was here last year too!
And what do you cry him.....he's a pensioner too, you see! He used
to work in the Refinery! But he looks after this district I think,
and Uphall and Broxburn. So he's coming to see me on Monday! He
was here last year too!

SB Was he? Does he come here every year to see you?

JM Well, he came here last year, and he gave me a bottle of rum for my
ninetieth birthday, from B.P.....

SB That's good!

JM They're a good firm, B.P.

SB And what about Scottish Oils?

JM Scottish Oils, aye! It was Scottish Oils when I was working with it at the Deans, but it belongs to B.P. you see, but at that time, it wasn't B.P. it was the Anglo Iranian Oil Company! That's what it was then!

SB Can you remember William Fraser? The Director, Managing Director of Scottish Oils? Lord Strathalmond?

JM Och aye! Then there was that one that stays down at Philpstoun, what do you call him again?

SB Crichton?

JM Aye, Crichton! I mind of him!

SB Robert Crichton! And then you had Keddie!

JM Bryson!

SB Bryson?

JM From Pumpherston!

SB What was Lord Strathalmond like? What was he like as a man?

JM Oh, I couldn't tell you!

SB You never had any dealings with him?

JM No! I saw Crichton often enough, and Bryson!

SB You can remember Crichton! What was he like?

JM Oh, he was a nice man.....He used to come through the Work regular!
He stayed down in Philpstoun and then there was Bryson, he was
Pumpherstoun Oil Company!

SB And what about Stein.....Jock Stein?

JM He was with the Mines again!

SB The Mines?

JM Aye!

SB And Keddie?

JM Who?

SB Keddie? He was the Mines as well, was he?

JM Keddie?

SB Aye! I can remember Jock Stein.....and there was.....Caldwell!

JM Caldwell aye! Johnny Johnstone used to be the Manager of the mines
over there! Johnny Johnstone.....and there was another man! Och,
there was that many of them! That's away back a long time!

SB Have you ever been down a mine?

JM No!

SB Would you like to go?

JM No, there was none of my family down the pits! That son up there in Burnsknowe, he's the janitor of the school over there, the Deans Primary School, he retired a couple of years ago! And my.....my son in Grangemouth, he was an engineer foreman down there before he retired.

SB So, you've had a long life?

JM It doesn't seem that long, like! No!

SB Can you remember any special people in the Works.....any.....?
Any funny people?

JM They were all the same just, really! The workmen down at the Deans there, were a different class of workmen from over there at Westwood!

SB In what way?

JM They were willing to help each other! And you knew everybody! No bother! Then there.....at the most there, there's forty houses in the Main Street, and you knew everybody from one end of the block to the other. The same in Glen Road! You knew everybody! But today! That woman next door there, she was three years beside us, before I knew her name!

SB It's not the same any more, is it?

JM No!

SB Can you remember some amusing stories from the Works?

JM No!

SB Or what other things have happened in the Village? You know, you've always got someone.....characterssomebody who.....?

JM Oh, there's plenty of characters running about! I was one of those kind of people that kept myself to myself! You never got me standing up at the corner there!

SB No! Is that what they used to do? Stand up at the corner there?

JM They were standing up at the corner up there!

SB Why? Just (inaudible) away?

JM Or up at the Bowling Green, or up in the Hall! Not me, I was always in the house! Either working in the garden or (inaudible) or something!

SB So, you just kept yourself to yourself?

JM And then I had my own family circle you see! I didn't need to bother anybody at all!

SB Now, when you came from Ireland.....was it just your father and mother, or was it.....?

JM No, it was an auntie and uncle that brought me up! My mother died when I was about three and a half years of age! I can mind of a big crowd in the house, when she was getting buried and.....I can mind of a crowd in the house, and I had a sister, she was younger than me and I can mind of rocking that, with her in it! I haven't seen her!She went to England there, I don't know if she's living or not! I haven't heard from her! I've never heard from her, since my father died in 1944, I think that was!

SB So, in your prime, you have seen Queen Victoria?

JM Aye, I can mind of.....

SB And King Edward?

JM I can mind of the Belfast Telegraph..... the full..... the full big page, the photo of Queen Victoria when she died.....I can mind of that! Oh, aye! Oh aye, I know that! Old William Booth of the Salvation Army, you know the big white chief! I've seen him umpteen times! In Belfast! I've been at his meetings there! I was about seven years old when I came over here, in 1901, and I can mind of that, it was a rough night, coming across that Irish Sea! Everything had to be strapped down, you weren't allowed up on deck, everything was strapped down, and everybody was going about going (moaning). Everybody was sick! I can mind, coming over, that we were in the steerage, the steerage part of the (inaudible) and there was a fire in the tender, and I can mind of boiling the milk for a cousin of mine, and that was Meredith Briggs, he stayed down in Dechmonti, he died there last year, a cousin of mine, and I mind of boiling his milk in a wee saucepan! And everyone was sick as a dog, not me! I've been across in Ireland a few times, the last time I was over in 1968, just before the trouble started there, there were five of us over there, with the car, and we were sixteen days over there! Of course, we went over for a wedding I had a grandson who's a Custom's officer on the Irish Border.....he was getting married on the 14th September. So we toured all over Ireland, Belfast, Armagh, Portadown, Donegal, Londonderry, (inaudible) Sligo.....

SB And where did you come from?

JM County Armagh!

SB County Armagh?

JM Aye, and I mind of Limerick, Tralee, I was even up on the top of Blarney Castle, and the daughter kissed the Blarney Stone! Aye! And County Limerick, Tipperaray, Killarney, Cork and we went to Guinness

Brewery in Dublin, Newry, Ballymena, we were all over! Sixteen days over there! I was in ten different beds, and it was a great holiday! Then in 1961 I was at Bangor for a fortnight, the daughter and I, the son-in-law and I! I've been four or five times over there, but that was the last time, 1968, just before the trouble started! It was brewing then, you could see it brewing! But it's a lovely country, for a holiday!

SB Yes!

JM It was really good!

SB And what made you come across here, not so much you, but your family?

JM Well, you see.....Ireland was.....you know, the Irish were emigrating to America and my auntie's.....folk, they emigrated to America, in fact, her father died on the road to America. There was famine over there! But that's away before my time!

SB Oh.....with the potato famine?

JM Aye!

SB Why did you come across here.....to this area.....why.....?

JM Plenty of work!

SB Now, was the fact advertised? Did they know about it, or was it pure random?

JM No.....one or two would come over and then they would send word home, that there was plenty of work over here, and you were making so much! You know, you were making good money, well, they thought it was good money! As.....over in Ireland, if you're working on a farm there, you were only getting a shilling a day!

SB So that was.....you'll have heard of Paddy.....what was it.....
Paddy Mulligan.....Mulligan works.....is it Pumpherston.....?

JM Oh.....I don't think so!

SB He used to be.....used to be the Shaleminers..... the Shale.....the
Oilworkers Union Rep!

JM That was Mick.....oh, I forget his name again.....but it wasn't
Mulligan, and then there was that other boy from Bathgate, what did
you call him?

SB Joe Heaney?

JM No!

SB No! Walter Nellies!

JM Aye, that's it! He's from Bathgate! But there was one before him
though, he was an Irishman! Mick something.....I don't think that
it was Mulligan! I can't mind!

SB O'Haggan?

JM No! But that Walter Nellies, he was the last one, I think, you know,
the Union! The Oilworkers Union! Of course, that broke up when I
worked at Deans you see!

SB What about Heaney? Joe Heaney?

JM I think that he was the Miners.....

SB The Miners representative?

JM Aye, I think so!

SB And have you got good memories of the Works?

JM Oh aye, I've got good memories of the Works that I was doing! I was on it for.....I was on the boilers from 1913 to 1961! Of course there was different type of boilers down at Deans there, compared with up at Westwood! There was Stirling Boilers down there! Whereas they were dark and Chaplin up at Westwood!

SB And what did you do.....clean them?

JM Aye.....when a boiler came off maybe say every.....every three months, it took you all that time to have it ready there for going on! Up at Westwood!

SB And how did you clean them?

JM Well, you had to turbine the tubes, you know, the tubes. You had to turbine them. You know, the hose and that! You'd have seen that it was dribbling with water, you see! And the fuel dust to take away! And it was shoved away in the barrow and outside.....

END OF TAPE

JM - SIDE TWO

JM Well, I haven't got a memory the same as my son up in Burnsknowe there, he was going through the War, he says, and he could tell you everything that he saw in France. He was over there on D-Day and I

keep him in mind of it, you know, on the telly.....it was on there last week! D-Day! He could tell you everything! The other son, he was in the Navy.....a Petty Officer! He was in Singapore when it fell! To the Japs.....he'd just.....he'd just disembarked off his ship, when they ordered them back on again! You see.....the Japs were you know.....advancing on them.....he'd just got away with the skin of his teeth! He was back there at the surrender!

SB Was he?

JM When the Japanese surrendered! He was on H.M.S. Nelson! He was a Petty Officer! And the other son-in-law, he was on the Duke of York, when they sunk the battleship, the (inaudible) and after the war finished, he joined the Australian Navy, and went through the Korean War.

SB Now, you yourself were exempted? Exempted.....were you?

JM Aye, the First War! But I was a special constable in the Second War, from 1938 and I just resigned.....in 864, 1964! I was on duty the night that the two bombs were dropped over there, where the football club is!

SB What bombs were those?

JM Two bombs! Two German bombs! And I was on duty, the night, you know, that they blitzed Clydebank! Ken, they were going over that night! Even.....I was working at the Deans, that night that Hess went over there.....you know that.....! The lights were on, but they knew it was a Messersmicht, they thought that it couldn't go the journey, but he had double tanks on.....you know, extra tanks on, petrol tanks ... and after he passed all the lights went out! After he passed! You know, he landed at Lord Hamilton's property! I can mind of that night!

SB You talked about two bombs exploding?

JM Aye, there were two dropped just over the road there! Just where the

Social Club.....you know the Football Social Club.....

SB Do you think that they were meant for the Work?

JM No.....he was getting hunted! And he just dropped them! And then there was.....a load of bombs dropped in Howden.....I went down that night too, when they were dropped! There was a grandmother and a grandson killed there! At Howden!

SB And why do you think that they chose Howden? Or was it a mistake? Because there's nothing in Howden!

JM Well, it would be the Works that they were after!

SB Oh.....the Deans Works?

JM Aye! I mind of.....the searchlights used to be down there at the station, the Low Station down there, and then there were searchlights up at West Calder. But this night they were shining on a hundred and eleven.....a German plane! I could make out the numbers quite clear! And then all the searchlights went out like that! The Works were never touched, but they got many's an alert right enough! But there was darkness for hours on end!

SB And how did you work in darkness?

JM Oh very (inaudible) Terrible, you hadn't to have your steam up too high, blowing off or anything like that, no noise or anything! You had to keep your steam down low! You were running short of water, and you were running up and down with your hand lamp! Looking there, up the stairs, down the stairs, oh, it was murder!

SB Oh yes, it must have been! It must have been dangerous too!

JM It would aye! Of course, there was sandbags inside the boiler-house In case of danger, you see! Whenever the bombs dropped!

SB And what about the naphtha plant? How were they protected?

JM Who?

SB The naphtha plant! The naphtha?

JM Oh, they weren't protected! They just.....just semi-darkness all the time you see!

SB Because if a bomb had fallen on that.....

JM You know.....when they knew that there was a raid coming on, you see, you got a warning, put your lights out! The power station got the warning, you see! The siren went! And you knew that everything had to be quiet!

SB And what about the bing? How did they deal with the bing? Because the bings must have been glowing!

JM Aye, well.....I mind of one night that I was on duty, there was word came from the observation post in Galashiels that the Deans tip was on fire, and it was on fire too! You know, the burnt shale..... the half burnt.....and then ashes maybe on top of that again, but there was water up there for to put it out, and then you went round all the rows there, and you would see a peep in the windows and you were chapping the door, and you got nothing but dog's abuse!

SB Was it difficult during the War?

JM Pardon?

SB Was it difficult?

JM No! (Inaudible) You never thought about any danger at all.

SB What about rations?

JM Pardon?

SB Ration books! How did you get on with them?

JM Oh not bad! Of course, I never bothered with them, it was the wife that looked after them. As long as you had enough rations to keep you alive! And then if you had a plot potatoes..... tatties..... the South African War was on when I was born!

SB Aye, it would be!

JM I mind of an uncle that.....he lived next door to me, he was a bandsman in the Royal Irish Fusiliers, and I had an uncle in the Armagh Barracks, he was a twenty one years man! I used to spend my holidays with him, 1913, I went through there, and we knew the War was brewing then! I was in the barracks of the Royal Irish Fusiliers.

SB Of your ninety years, the ninety year span of your life, which, if any, would you say were the best?

JM Och, I don't know.....I think.....bringing up a family was I would say about the best, infact, I mind bringing them up! You see, today, the trouble they have now bringing them up! There was no family allowance in these days! Of course, things were a lot cheaper! Your rent of your house was only about four and twopence a week!

SB That was a lot of money! Because.....how much did you earn?

JM Oh.....you earned about thirty bob a week! Well, your rent was off your pay, your twopence for your Hall, twopence for the Doctor, twopence for the ambulance, I think, everything was all off your pay,

and you had no bother! And if you were off or ill, they didn't take any rent off you, they just took a.....when you started work again! They just took a half off! No bother at all!

SB And what kind of treatment did you receive from the Doctor? If you were ill.....?

JM Oh, just the same as you get now!

SB What kind of medicines did you have? You didn't have the same medicines then, as you have now?

JM Well, I don't know! The wife had asthma and she was getting treated all the time! She had one of those inhalers! The.....in fact..... I just had the Doctor in this year, on the 27th of January, etc.

The tape continues on Mr. Morrison's present state of health.

END OF TAPE

Transcript	JM
Industrial Information	I started work in July, 1907 when I was fourteen years old.
Deans	I started work in Deans because my uncle worked there. I was pulling all the dirt out of the retorts and putting it back again.
Boilers at Deans	I then got on to cleaning the boilers at Deans and I was also on the fire duty. Then I was made leading man.
Westwood	When Deans shut down I was sent up to Westwood to take charge of the boilers there.
Shifts	There were three shifts at Westwood

and I was fed up with this because I wanted day shift, so they put me back onto cleaning the retorts again. Westwood was a more modernised plant than Deans because it was built just as the war was starting.

Scottish Oils

It was Scottish Oils when I was working at Deans and the Managing Director was Lord Strathalmond.

Boilers

I was on the boilers down at Deans from 1915 to 1961. There was different types of boilers down at Deans compared with Westwood.

Cleaning Boilers

I had to turbine the tubes of the boilers with a hose and water and I have seen it dribbling with water. I then had to take the fuel dust away in a barrow.

Wages

The wages were low at that time and I was only making about thirty bob a week.

Provident Scheme

Ten per cent of your wages went into that scheme in 1950, but laddies starting at that time would start with two and a half per cent.

Strikes

The oilworkers all came out on strike but I was a safety man in the boilers and I only lost one day. I was going out to my work when I was turned back with one of the Union officials, so I had to go back to work the next day so I only lost the one day.

Cause of the Strike	They were wanting more money.
Unions	I belonged to the Shale Miners Union but I broke away from them when I worked in Deans.
Dole	During the strike I got dole money right enough but I couldn't tell you how much it was because it didn't seem to bother me.
War	I was a special constable in the Second World War and I was on duty the night that two bombs were dropped where the football club is. I knew that it was a Messersmicht that had dropped the bombs.
Retirement	I worked in the Oilworks all my days and I had fifty three years service.
Presentation	I got presented with a watch. In fact I got two. I've one from Grangemouth and one from London but, in fact, both of them came from Harlows.
Cheque	I used to get a cheque from Grangemouth but it stopped this year.
Pensions	I've got two pensions. One is a works pension and the other one is for my services to the Company.
Domestic Life	I stayed in 25 Main Street when I came here first.
Housing	
Marriage	I was married in 1915 and we got a house in North Street, then I swapped with a mate of mine into Main Street. We then went to Broomyknowe Drive No. 6 and from there to 47 Glen Road.

	<p>The Scottish Oils house we stayed in we had two bedrooms and the kitchen. The bedrooms were more like a wooden recess.</p>
Village Life	<p>You could leave your door open at night. You could just walk in and out and nobody to bother you.</p>
Rent	<p>The house rent was about four and twopence a week.</p>
Family	<p>I had five of a family. A daughter up in Deanswood Park and a son in Grangemouth. My eldest daughter went to Australia where she died in 1975.</p>
Holidays	<p>When it came to holidays, when I got a break at New Year I would have liked to stay on holiday.</p> <p>I can mind I once had a holiday in Limerick, Tralee and I was even on top of Blarney Castle. My daughter kissed the Blarney Stone.</p> <p>I was in ten different beds in Limerick. In 1961 I was in Bangor for a fortnight. My daughter, son-in-law and myself went together. I've been back four or five times since then and the last time was in 1968 just before the trouble started.</p>
Doctor	<p>Twopence was taken off my pay for the doctor and twopence for the ambulance.</p>
Asthma	<p>My wife had asthma and she was getting treated all the time. She had one of those inhalers.</p>
Social Life Bowling Green	<p>We had a bowling green but I did not play.</p>

Quoits	There was quoits at the Institute Hall but I didn't play that either.
Cycling	I always used to go cycling to Edinburgh nearly every Saturday to see friends.
Gardening	I used to do quite a lot of work in our garden in my spare time.

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