

Date; 12 November 1984

Main Street, Dalmeny.

L Mr. L (b 1912)

ML Mrs. L (b 1915)

S Sara Randall

S Were you brought up in Dalmeny?

L I was born down in the miners' rows in Old Dalmeny, yes. That's in 1912, I was born. And I was brought up in Dalmeny and I went to Dalmeny School. And than, when I left school, I waited about a year to get a job. Just like this now, in my younger days, with unemployment, aye. And I started in Duddingston Mine, that's up near the Newton villagelies sort of to the South of the Newton village.

S Yes.

L And I started on what they termed the pit head, taking the tokens off the hutches. Every man has a token with his number on it, and that's ... when his hutch comes in, it's weighed, and the number is on a book. And the check weighman - what they term the check weighman - who was paid by the miners, and the pit head man, they weigh the hutch, and the weight goes opposite that man's name.

S I see. And then they got paid by weight?

L By weight. By tonnage, oh yes. Just very, very few were on Company's time, unless you went into a bad place, that's where the shale was difficult to get.....er, a place had to be started away, and you got a lot of, maybe a lot of glaze.....a place where you didn't get the same.....

S You get different kinds of rock?

L No. Yes! And you didn't get the same amount of oil out per ton as what you'd get out the shale - the right shale. And then a man was on what they termed company's time then, the Company paid him a set wage.

S To get through that bit?

L Yes, they paid him a set wage at that time. And I went from the pit head down to, down the mine..

S At Duddingston?

L At Duddingston, when I was about eighteen year old. And you got a job with the Company, sending the hutches up - what they termed it, you were put on the hanging-on, you put a chain on an overhead tow-rope and that rope was up on what that termed mushrooms. You had beams across and two mushrooms - just like round plates, and the rope came in one side and out, and the hutch came up....you put the chain round and hooked it into a gabby and sent it up to the pit head. And after a wee while on that, and you thought you were fit for the drawing, you went on to the drawing} and you drew off a faceman, that's the man that employed you. And....

S And you did that as well?

L Yes. And you had to make wages for two; it was all piece work, and you made wages for two men. Youit all depends on the height o' your place, you maybe go into a place that was maybe ten feet high, or you'd go into a place that was five feet high. Well, when you went into a place that was five feet high, naturally you only got the shale level with the top of the hutch. And you had to try and get more hutches then, to try and make up a wage, because

you were only running about, er, twelve, thirteen hundredweight, and...

S Oh, otherwise you'd sort of pile the hutch up....?

L Oh yes, you'd put up high shale on the sides when you were in a higher place, and put it up, and when you'd got a bigger hutch you'd maybe get eighteen hundredweight in it. And if you were in a close, what they termed a close place, that was just a solid face and two solid sides in front of you, you were paid - the faceman was paid - two-and-fourpence a ton, then. And if you were in what they termed stooping, that was when you were bringing it back out with an open side, and it was easier to get, you went down to two-and-twopence a ton.

S And this was about 1930, was it?

L Yes. That was 1930. Aye, then, aye. Only you were paid in.....

S In old shillings.

L Aye, instead of p.h.d. L. S. D.

S I can still remember that, just!

L Oh yes. And then, the faceman had his explosives off of that; perhaps if he was in a, what they termed a close place, he would maybe have a can of gelignite and about three pound of powder.....

S And he'd have to pay for that himself?

L Oh yes, aye.....and a hank of fuse, and detonators. And that came off the wages, and therefore you had to go at it to make a wage for two of you.

S So the two-and-ten pence or the two-and-eightpence a ton, that was between the two of you?

L Oh yes! It was two-and-fourpence a ton.

S Two-and-fourpence a ton. But that was between you and the faceman?

L Yes. But....I didn't get the same as the faceman, because he had his, what they termed , he had all his graith, that's his, that's you know, that's your old rickety machine and the drills and pick and shovels to buy. So you had, the drawer had a set wage.

ML You could make about two pounds a week.

L Aye. And at that time, when I first went onto the drawing, I had eight shillings and threepence a day. And then we got an increase and it went to eight and ninepence a day, that's when I finished up. Nineteen thirty thirty five, I think, or thirty six I finished up with that. Yes.

S And then what did you do?

L Oh, I had an accident to my back in the mine. I was working in a place maybe higher than this, this roof, and the when I was bent filling my hutch one night a fall of shale came away from the roof, and hit me; some nasty bits hit me on the back, and I was off for

ML Thirteen months.

S Aye, thirteen months I was off. So after that I got a job on the surface with them. That's when men come up too near the surface with their place, and they take the wood away, the roof collapses and sometimes it brings the field in, part of the field down with it,

S Yes.

L So I got a job then, restoring the land again for the farmer. Because the farmer was, well, compensated for it, and you had to put it back,

and I think after that he was still compensated for that piece of ground.

S So it was still quite heavy work?

L Aye, it was quite heavy work. But nothing to what it was down the mine. Down in Duddingston it was just white slavery.

S Really?

L Yes, oh yes. They were talking about going to open up the shale mines again, but they've never, they'd never get young people to do what we'd do then. When you went in, you just went in with a singlet on, a small singlet, and a wee lamp on your head because in the shale you've very little gas; so therefore most - very near every place worked with a naked light, and you'd your carbide lamp on your head; and when you went into a place that was five feet high and away in, you would go in after you had your break at ten o'clock - you got half an hour break - and when you went in there, you'd go in and the faceman, he'd fired up powder shot, gelignite down below, the gelignite comes in and it's fired from the bottom, and the powder after they take it away like this..... they leave a bit coming out like this.....about this depth..... so it blows a hole in here to bring that bit down from the roof..

S I see, yes.

L And that was fired with powder. When you went in at half past ten, after having your half hour break, you'd sometimes get your faceman standing with a shovel or a or his blue flannel shirt he had on, or hanging on a nail, going like this, for you to get air so's you would see him.

S Was that because of the dust, or gas, or.....?

- L No, it was just sometimes I think how it was run too far away off the main air-course, and every so far up you had what they termed screw-cloth hanging to try and draw the air up to you from the main air-course. The fans on the top, on the surface, you see, taking the powder air up and putting the fresh air down to you. And sometimes you were just unfortunate, you were too far off it to.....
- S And then what was it like, was it very stuffy, or was it just sort of difficult to breathe?
- L Oh yes, oh it was hot! Yes, very hot. You just.....the sweat was running off you the whole day. And it was worse when you took a drink of water, that was just more sweat to come out on you. Oh, yes, it was just slavery, for eight-and-threepence a day, in those days; and you'd to make a wage for two of yours. It wouldna go on now. Oh, the young lads would be up in arms about it, they would never do it. No, oh no.
- S And how long was a shift?
- L Eight hours.
- S Eight hours.
- L Yes. You started in the morning at half past six, and you had a half an hour break, and you finished at half past two in the day. And then the other shift started at half past two, to half past ten at night. Two shifts.
- S There was no night shift?
- L No,' no night shift. Just day shift and back shift.
- S And did you work six days a week, or five?
- L Six. Saturday, you went out on a Saturday at twelve o'clock until

half past six at night. And when we started here, the company put on a bus, and you ran up in the bus; and then, eventually, years after, they took the bus off and you had to get an old bicycle, because you couldn't afford cars in those days.....

S How far is it from here to Duddingston, about?

L Oh, three and a half miles. And you left, when you were cycling, you left the house at half past five in the morning. Because you couldn't afford to lose a shift, in those days. And if the snow was too deep in the winter, if the snow was lying too deep...

S You had to walk.

L You walked it and carried your bicycle on your shoulder, or pushed it, because you knew by the time you'd come home in the afternoon, the buses would be from Bo'ness down, and leave you a track to cycle.

S Oh, I see.

L Yes, ah-ha. Oh, it was.....it was slavery.

S Did you get any holiday?

ML No

L New Year's Day!

ML One day!

L One day a year. No holidays with pay. No.

S But you could take holiday without pay. But you couldn't afford to?

L Oh, you couldn't afford to take a holiday in those days, oh no, no. When I started on the pit head I'd twelve shillings and a penny a

week. That was when I started as a boy.. And the Royal Infirmary was kept up then with public - with work subscriptions, and I'd twopence a week off me for the Infirmary, and threepence a week for a doctor.

ML What about the Dr. Barnardo's Home?

L Oh aye, and then the Dr. Barnardo's Home; they wanted a penny a week, I think, for Dr. Barnardo's Homes.

S And when you were hurt, when you were off for your thirteen months, did you get compensation?

L Yes. What they done then, was, they based your wages out of..... on the year's earnings, and you got a percentage of that. Well, at that time the other shale mine along at White Quarries, that's away along on the Bo'ness road, that had closed, and the miners from Bridgend and Philipstoun were put into Duddingston to work. And that made a spread-over, and you worked three weeks and you were on the dole a week.

S Oh yes, I heard about that.

L Yes, you went onto the dole for one week, and your wages were based out on that for the year. And by this time we were married, and...

ML In 1935

L We got married in 1935. And we got twenty-two and ninepence a week , and.....

S This was your compensation?

L And the houses that were down there, in Dalmeny, we were in a one-apartment, then, and the rent at that time - it was a Company's house - was three shillings and twopence. And that left us with

nineteen shillings and sevenpence a week , to keep the two of us.
And there were no parish handouts for you in those days. That
nineteen and sevenpence had to keep you.

ML But we lived all right then.

L Oh yes!

ML Because he never drank in his life, and he never smoked in his
life, so we lived all right; nineteen and

S So it was only that little when you were sick; when you were working
it was a bit more, was it?

L Oh, yes.

ML Two poundsten.

L Eh.....You could make about two pounds ten shillings a week on the
drawing, ah-ha.

S But so, suddenly when you were ill, you had to suddenly make
do with your housekeeping with half the amount?

L Oh yes!

ML half the amount.

L There were no.....

S So what did you do? What did you cut out on?

ML Well, you see, you never - we never went to the pictures

L No, no entertainment here

MLor going anywhere, and you didn't get any clothes, and..... you just lived!

L You just lived.

ML It just went on foodstuffs, because that was the rent paid; they said well, you can leave your rent and pay it in at the end, and we says you're as well just to pay it, and

L We paid the rent, ah-ha.

ML And I think we lived all right.

L Yes! We never - when we.....

ML We never owed a thing.

L When I started to work again, we never owed a penny o' debt.

ML We never owed a penny.

L We just - that was nineteen and sevenpence, and my wife kept the house on that, because you just had to cut out

ML And you always got the odd rabbit.....

L Oh yes, and that.....in those days, oh aye! Oh, mining villages had plenty of poachers in those days!

S Did you go poaching?

L Och!

ML Oh, he poached.

L Oh, yes.

S It's okay, I won't tell anyone!

L Eh? Oh, aye! Ah, but the gamekeepers know!

ML they chase them these days.

S Did you have an allotment?

L Yes, we have a garden there.... We had a garden, and you could plant your potatoes and your cabbage, and a few leeks; and then you always could get your pot of soup.

S When you were ill, were you able to still do your garden, or were you just completely flat on your back? Unable to move?

L Oh, I wasny able to do much then, because I was cut right across... I had about twenty-one stitches put in my back, and then I had to go in a long time for electric heat. And then they discovered that my spine - oh, this was months after it, when they discovered that my spine was needin' manipulated back into position, and they done that for me. And then I got the job on what they termed the labouring squad, that was up on the top, on the restoration of the fields again.

S How long did you do that for?

L I done that for - oh, well, I think..... I was rejected from the forces, when I went for my medical, owing to the accident in my back, I didn't pass. So I thought, things were beginning to go up in price, and on my job I'd just a set wage then on the labouring squad, and there were no chance o' overtime, and things were beginning to get a wee bit beyond my wage; and we'd two of a family - Jim and Ann was born then, aye - so I packed it and I got a job down in Port Edgar, in the dockyard. Where I could get a wee bit of overtime.....

S That was loading, or?

L No, nothing like that, just I was in the wire stores in Port Edgar, sending out wire, rolls o' wire, to the ships. Because I got a bit of overtime there. And then I left that, and I went up to what used to be a gun-site at Topley Wells, that's near to Winchburgh, and the Department of Health had taken it over, put stores in it, and I went in there, where they could fix up a field hospital in emergency if they needed it; everything was in it, and I got a job in there for a few years. And we started the village shop here.

S You started it? Well, both of you?

ML We took it over.

L We took it over after the old woman retired that was in it. And this was the village shop for twenty-seven years.

S Oh? This front room?

L Yes. In my day - in our day, you see, you didn't need all this planning permission before you could do anything.

ML We just had to get permission - we're tenants of Lord Roseberry, you see, so.....

L And this is Lord Roseberry's property. But down in the old rows, when I was a laddie, there were a wee shop in each row. And only a two-apartment house, mind you, and.....

ML And the shop was in a place where there was two beds; you know, the set-in beds? Well, the beds were there and the shop was here, and the people sometimes if they were ill there was somebody lying in the bed, and they had their meals and everything; and they used to

just sort of stand at the shop....

L Aye. And you didn't have a..... nowadays you have a sanitary inspector coming to see if you've running water and whatnot, and there were no

S No controls?

L There were no illnesses, you know, just ordinary flu and....

ML And we went to school and we only had a jam piece the whole day, and we went in our bare feet.

S Really?

ML And there was outside toilets with dry toilets, and no running water in the house or anything.

L No. You see, in those days everybody was hard up. You see, the day if your mother had a wee drop of sugar to give to a neighbour, the next night your mother was maybe needing a some dry tea to do her over to the next day. Everybody was the same in those days.

S You just lived off your week's wages? You never saved anything, and you never had any reserves?

L No, no.

ML You never saved.

L No, you couldn't. You hadn't My father was a - they term them mine deputies now, but my father was a fireman. He went and inspected the places in the morning, before the men went into them, for gas. He used to walk from Dalmeny up to Duddingston about three o'clock in the morning, and had miles to walk then when he was down the mine,

before the miners came down at half past six. To see if their places were safe. And he would come in - that's when I was at school - after doing six days, he'd come in and hand my mother about two pound ten shillings a week. And that was to keep ten of yourself

S Ten of you?

L Yes. There were all big families in those days.

S Eight children and two adults?

L Oh, yes, eight or nine a family. And, mind you, that was maybe six shillings more than our next-door neighbour, who wasn't a fireman, he would maybe have two pounds four shillings or two pound two shillings. And they had the same family, they would have seven or eight family. They were all the same in those days, ah-ha. And a tramp would come to your door, and he never went away without his cup o' tea. Well, they'd bring their drum, because they'd say a cup of tea was never missed out the tea-pot. And the tramps came to anybody's door, whoever was there, and they either got a bowl o' soup - because there was always soup being made in some house - or he got a drum o' tea away with him.

S When you were a boy, when there were ten of you, how big was your house?

L Two apartment. No running water.

S Where was the water?

L Oh, the well was outside.-You know, you go through some old-fashioned villages yet, and you see the

ML The well.....

S A proper well with a bucket? With a pump?

ML No pump, no. An iron well.

L You see, you'll go through some wee villages yet and you'll see an iron well sittin'well, you went there, and you'd got your mother's two buckets o' water. You went up to the well for it, and on frosty mornings you took up newspapers to thaw the well. And before you went to school, you put the bricks outside, set the bricks and the washing-pot on it for your mother. No wash-house.

S No wash-house?

L Oh, no!

M A fire underneath the bricks.

S Outside?

ML Outside. There was no room for it inside, the wash was too big.

L And you had a big wooden chair, and your mother brought the tub outside, and put it on it, and you carried the buckets o' water before you went to school, and filled that for her.

S And she did the washing outside even in winter?

L Oh, you'd no other option.

ML I never did that, but my mother did.

L Aye, oh yes. Mind you, it was washing in those days - big flannel shirts and moleskin trousers See now, young ones, they don't know they're living now, with the washing machines and.....

ML You never thought anything about that, you see, everybody did it.

L And no buses, you walked..... That's Chapel Gate away along there, well, you walked from Chapel Gate away down to opposite where the oil tanks are built now , and through there, that was the miners' rows in through there, and you got off the bus at Chapel Gate, or your mother would get off the bus at Chapel Gate, if she went to Edinburgh for messages, and walk that distance home. Nobody ever bothered you in those days. Summer and winter. Nobody ever bothered you.

S And in the house where you were a child, was there a toilet, or ...?

L No. Outside.... .. dry toilets, down the bottom of your garden.

S Was there one for each house, or did you share it?

L No, one for each house.

S And when you washed or had a bath, you had that in front of the fire?

L You went through into the scullery and just had a tin bath.

ML Everybody had a tin bath.

S So you had two rooms and a scullery?

L No. Two apartment and a scullery. Aye.

ML But some of the sculleries were very small.

L Ah yes, just wee box things. And no electric light. Paraffin oil. And you had your radio, and you took your battery to Queensferry; you had to have two batteries, one you put on and one in Queensferry getting charged.

ML In these days you didn't even have radio. That was further on, you didn't have radio away back when you were in school.

L Oh no, not when I was at school, no.

ML You were the lucky ones, you had a big gramophone with the big horn on it.

L That's right, you had the gramophone with the old records.

S And how did you sleep in this house? Was it the parents in one room and the children in another, or were the boys in one room and the girls in another?

ML No. No, just sometimes we were four in a bed. Maybe two at the top, two at the bottom, maybe three at the top.....

L They were big beds!

S What happened when someone was sick?

L Oh, they just had to be sick.

S And you still shared four to a bed, with one sick and three well?

L Aye, just try and make something up, yes.

S And if it was an infectious thing like measles or scarlet fever?

ML Well, for scarlet fever they would take them away in a horse-dray. You're talking about away in the nineteen-twenties; we never had that. But that was the early nineteen-twenties that the horse-ambulance came.

L Aye. There were a fever hospital down at Queensferry.

S Were you ever there?

L No! No, there's very few

ML We never had anybody..... There was very rarely anybody got taken

L Now they've got all the fancy names for illnesses and what-not

ML Well, that's how we lived, and we only lived on soup and bread and that and we were never ill.

L Aye, soup and potatoes and cabbage and turnips

ML I cannae remember ever being ill, except I remember having measles, but that was the only thing.

S And you were brought up in Dalmeny, too?

ML I was brought up in Bridgend, a mining village up there.

S A shale-mining village?

ML Yes.

S So was your father a miner?

ML Yes.

S And your brothers?

ML My brothers were miners, because he died her father when I was only four, and I had a young brother of fourteen months, and then another of six; so he, her elder brother, had to be exempted from the school, he had to get away from school when he was twelve and go down the mineto help. I remember my mother had ten shillings a week from the parish, to keep us, plus the wages that my eldest brothers could make in the mine work, maybe about fourteen or sixteen shillings a week. There was eight of us to keep off of that ten shillings, and my eldest sister, she had to get exempted from the school when she was twelve and go into service.

S But you stayed on till you were fourteen?

ML Well, you see, by that time things had changed. I stayed on till I was fourteen.

S And you lived in what sort of house?

ML Just the same. Although at Bridgend we had a boiler in the scullery; the sculleries were bigger than what they was in Dalmeny, and my mother did her washing in a boiler inside.

S But did you have water inside, or ...?

ML No, you went to the well.

S And the houses that you lived in, are they still here now?

L No, they're demolished. Is there some of the houses left in Bridgend? There's some in Winchburgh.

ML There might be one row, but then they've been re-conditioned, you wouldnae recognise them now.

L All the houses down here are flattened long ago.....just waste ground.

S Were they given water before they were flattened?

L One row. The council took over the one, what they termed the Railway Row, that ran up in front of the railway, and.....

ML I can tell you the year that happened.; in 1936, they were still going to the well for water. Because that's when we were married first and we were housed in there, and it was in 1936 they built the new houses there. But we were still left, because we didn't get one, and we still had to go to the well for water.

L And the council took them over and renovated them, and made - there used to be eighteen houses, and they made two of them into wash-houses, and put sixteen dwelling-houses. And it was well on before we got electricityin the Railway Row - remember when I went to Winchburgh? Even when we were in the shop, they still had paraffin down there, and I remember the women coming up to the shop at night. And I went to Winchburgh one night, and waited on Tam Dalyell, the M.P. to get

S The father of the current one?

ML No. Him!

L Aye. And I waited to see him about trying to force the electricity into the Railway Row, although I'd nothing to do with it at that time. and they eventually got the electricity put in. But up until then it was all paraffin.

ML We had to put our electricity in here.

L This was paraffin when we came in here in 1951.

S '51 it was still paraffin?

L In here, oh yes.

ML Lord Roseberry wouldny put electric light in for you; he wouldny do anything for you.

S He was not a good landlord, then?

ML Oh, no! He just does nothing.

L We put our electric light in here.

S Is he still your landlord?

L Aye, but when we came in it was his father. It's the young one now.

S Is he better?

ML No!

L They're none o' them any good. No, none o them.

ML This place is - I don't know whether you smelt it - damp!
We haven't even got an air course, and whenever you open this door
it's overpowering, the smell of damp. But it's the same in every
one o' them because we had the rent officer here - he keeps
increasing the rent, you see, Lord Roseberry, and the rent officer
always comes and looks. And I said to him 'can you smell the damp? '
and he says 'I've smelt it in every house'.

L Aye. They'll do nothing for you, all they want is the rent money.

ML We just put up with it.

L We just put up with it now, for our time.

S Was your father a shale miner?

L My father was a fireman.

S Oh, yes, yes And your brothers, what did they do?

L They were miners.

S All of them?

L Yes.

S How many was that?

L One, two, three, four I had one was in when the shale
mine was here, my oldest brother, when the shale mine was in Dalmeny,
and the First World War broke out, and he joined up in the first
World War, just as a young lad about seventeen or so. And he got killed

on the Armistice morning, in north Russia..... And then my second oldest brother was a miner, and he took 'flu and pneumonia; he had the 'flu and went to a dance and pneumonia set in. Then my other brother was a miner, and he joined up the Army, and come home for the shale miners was exempt during this war

S During the Second War?

L Yes, ah-ha. And they got him out, and he only stuck it about, what.. five or six weeks, and went away back to the war. And then he was down in England. And my other brother - we were all miners.

S And what did your sisters do?

L In the distillery.

S The one in Queensferry?

L Queensferry. The one that's closing now. That's the only thing that was here for them.

S And they went there when they were fourteen, when they left school?

L Yes. Wasn't that when you got started, fourteen in the distillery?

ML Yes.

S And did women work until they got married, or did they work after they got married?

L No. Very few worked after they got married.

ML Very few. They usually left the job.

L That was them finished, aye. The simple man had to keep them.

S So your mother never worked?

L No. Oh, no, that was never heard of your mother going out to work.

- S Not even your mother, when your father was ?
- ML No. I never knew a woman doing that..... that was when I was at school , and I'm sixty-nine now, but when I was at school there was never any women went out to work.
- L Oh, no. None o' your neighbours ever - not a married woman ever worked. No.
- ML Too much work to do inside, what with your range to black , and you had to wash outside with the long time that took. Then you'd the clothes to mend and patch, they knitted their socks, everybody knitted their socks, and they even knitted these long underpants for the men, and long stockings for the girls going to school, long black stockings hand-knitted..... they didn't have time for anything.....
- L And different shifts, you see. You had maybe two coming in at three o'clock in the afternoon, and another two was away out to start at half-past, and they were coming in at eleven at night.
- ML They always had their dinner at that time, their dinner had to be ready for them.
- S And did the daughters help the mother? Would your sisters help your mother? With the cooking and the knitting and the sewing?
- ML Oh, they had to.
- L They had to do something, oh aye, at that time, to help.
- S Did the boys help with the cooking as well?
- L Oh, no, I don't think so.
- ML No. And then, especially in your kitchen, or living-room as it's called now, it was bare boards that had to be scrubbed. And they made their rugs, the rag rugs, and they had a rag rug at the fireplace, and it was bare boards; your table was bare boards and had to be scrubbed, and the chairs for sitting on, the kitchen chairs, were white wood

and we'd to scrub these. And you'd all your big meat covers and candlesticks, the brasses had to be done, and there was a lot of work.

S Did you go out to work at all when you left school?

ML I worked across in the Manse here. I went into service. I worked as a maid.

S Until you got married?

L Yes.

S And when you got married did you find a house to live in straight away?

L Yes, we had a two-apartment from the Company, Scottish Oils. That was the one that we paid three and twopence a week for.

ML A one-apartment!

L Yes, a one-apartment.

S And if you hadn't been able to find a house, would you have waited to get married, or would you have got married anyway and lived with one of your parents?

L Oh, they hadny room.

S So young couples who couldn't find a house couldn't get married?

ML No, that's right. But there were always a house somewhere.

L Oh, aye, somebody flitting away, or.....

ML But you would never have lived wi' anybody.

L Oh, no, they hadny room.

S Did you ever take in lodgers? Or did your parents?

L No. no. Oh. some o-them in Dalmeny had lodgers, and they came in off the night shift and they went tae the bed that the man went outae!

S I've heard that that happened.

ML That's right, yes. The bed was never empty.

L That's right, oh yes. Some o- them had lodgers that had no big families, and the bed never was empty.

ML It could only have been in a two-apartment, there could only have been three beds. Because there were two set-in beds, you know, I think that was what they were called; and there was these two in the kitchen, where the cooking was done. and then in your room there was only room for one bed. So nobody could have had more than three beds.

S So if you had eight children then you had three or four to a bed. And when you were teenagers, were you separated girls from boys, or ..?

L Oh, yes. you had to. You had to make the best of it then, now, you see, they get married and they're wondering where they can buy their house!

ML I don't think it was as bad in these days, I don't think well, of course, everything's changed now, but, well, everybody was decent, more or less.

L Oh, aye. You see, you could walk , women could walk from Dalmeny to Queensferry in the winter time there, and not a person bothered them. They were no' molesting anybody in those days.

ML We were strictly brought up. My mother never swore in her life; we would never have dared, we never thought to swear, but she never ever swore in her life.

L If the policeman was coming into the place, you were shaking, you was wondering who was going to We had a village policeman then, and you just wondered, what house was he going to now

S Do you have any children?

ML I have a son and a daughter.

S And did your son go into the shale mines?

L Oh no, no, I would have rather see him going out ...ing turnips, or something which was just as bad, as go into the shale mine. No! When he left school, left Academy, he started in Rosyth Dockyard, and he's now a supervisor of shipwrights in Rosyth Dockyard. And our daughter's married, and stays up in Kirkliston.

S Is she married to a shale miner?

L No, oh no.

ML He was a manager with Menzies.

L He used to be with Menzies, and he's a now, what would you term him now? A choreographer?

ML Well, he's in the distillery.

S So if your son had wanted to go into the shale mines, you'd have done all you could to stop him?

L Oh aye, I wouldny have thought o- letting himjust pure slavery, that's all.

S Was it slavery because of the hard work, or the conditions, or?

L Well, everything went, the conditions you were in, and the hard work. And the poor pay. What you got for it then.

S But when you were looking for a job, that was the only thing?

L Oh, if you left school, that was the - if your father was in the mine, that was your only hope of getting a job. You just took odd jobs wherever youmaybe on the farms when the travelling mills came, and it was all travelling mills in those days, and you got a week at the travelling mill until you got your constant job in the mine. That was all there was for you in those days.

S So were you pleased when you were able to get out of the mines, even though you hurt your back?

L Yes, oh aye. It was it was you know, I hear the coal miners there shoutin' odds about their wantin' to keep jobs for their sons and their grandsons God, I don't know, why? And yet, mind you, it was a good life. It was hard, dirty and hard, but

ML We thought it was a good life.

L There were more friendliness in it than now - all cut-throat and that. But not in the mines in those days, oh no. And I think - well, we've got a good neighbour here, Mrs. Watson.....

S I'm going to see her to interview her next week, I think.

L Even when we were down in the rows, your mother would get a knock any hour of the morning, somebody was ill, and one thing, my mother was very handy at that, and she would go and make a bread-poultice; hours didn't matter in the morning, you just got a knock that

somebody was ill. And your mother was there to help.

ML We did think it was a good life, though. I mean, when you had about two pound ten a week; but we lived well. We lived well.

L Oh, aye. As a matter of fact there were one family could go a holiday, a man and wife. and two sons. Because they'd two sisters in service, and whether they helped or not I don't know, but this man and wife and two sons could take a week, without pay, out the mine, and by Jove you thought, they must be well off.

S So when did you have your first holiday?

L Well, holidays with pay didn't start until 1939.

S So that was when you were repairing the fields?

L Yes.

ML But we never went on holiday.

L No. But 1939 was the first time that a week's holidays with pay started, in our industries.

S And did you have gala days?

L Oh, yes!

ML Oh, that was a red-letter day, the gala day! That was the only thing we had!

L The gala day you had your rubbers and your tinnie wi' a tape on it, oh yes....

ML A new print frock and rubbers - well, plimsolls is the name of them now -

L Oh, we looked forward to the gala day!

S And what happened on the gala day?

L Well, you had your bag ..

ML Your bag of buns ..

L Yes, your bag of buns, and your tinnie of tea, and then you had racin', and five-a-side football, and then you had another break for a bag, later on in the day, and more racin', and then it finished up at night with a dance. Up in the school there. Put old-time dancing, right dancing, not this ...!

ML And I can remember, once a week, it was a Sunday, you only got bacon and egg once a week, and you never got a whole egg, you got a half an egg, and if there was a fruit, we always got a quarter of an apple, We never got a whole one.

S But on the gala day, who provided the buns and everything?

L Oh, well on the gala days what you done, you went round the doors ..

S This was children?

L No, men. They formed a committee, and they went round the doors, and collected - somebody would give two shillings, or ... And then they went to South Queensferry to the shops, the public houses and the shops that your mother had to deal with then, and they depended on them. And then, they wouldny get much from them along here, but there was an admiral down there, Admiral Whitehead, and then there was a solicitor - his daughter's still there - and that's where you depended getting your money. And of course a bag then was what? About fourpence, you see, and then you got maybe a shilling, two shillings, for your race. Oh aye, oh it was a great day, the gala day. And it went on to, what, five o'clock at night. From ten in the morning till five at night.

S And did the men get a day off?

L It was always on a Saturday, and the men who were on backshift just took the day off for the sake of the management committee, and most of the men took a day off that day. It was a big day for the place then, when it was the gala day.

S And each village had its own gala day?

L Yes.

S So yours was just Dalmeny?

L Just Dalmeny, and the parish, you take in the estate, and the farm cottages, that was away behind the big wood there, Craigie Wood, you took in that. And Dungarse, away along the road here. Just your parish.

S And at Bridgend it was just Bridgend Rows?

ML It was Bridgend and Kingscavil and Philpstoun , and the gala day was always held at Philpstoun. So we had to march behind a pipe band for about two miles. Between two and three miles we had to march. And it always seemed to be a good day, you always seemed to have sunshine.

L You looked forward to the gala day. But now, they have a gala day every day now.

S And when you were kids, did you play just with shale-mining kids, or did you play with the farm kids, and ..?

L Everybody together.

S There was not a sort of separate shale community? -

L No, no. Not in a wee village.

ML And we played wi' things that we got for nothing, we played peevers and skipping ropes, and we played wi' old bits o' china, and things like that. And at Christmas time, we never got any toys at Christmas time. I were twelve year old before I got anything at Christmas time, and then it was an apple, an orange and a threepenny wrapped up in newspaper! Because you couldny afford to have anything at Christmas. I used to wonder - there were very few folk got toys at Christmas - I'm talking about early nineteen-twenty - the few that maybe just had one or two, they got something, but then it was only a pencil-case, one thing, and we got nothing; and I used to wonder how did Santa Claus went down that chimney but missed yours?

L And your neighbour was no different from you; they was just as hard up as you. You didn't see that film on the television last night with the coal-miners? Just the same as what we're talking about now - you see the woman at her neighbour's door, getting a cup o' sugar. Just the very same as what went on in our day.

S And you'd go round to anybody, or would you just go to your relatives? If you needed something?

L Oh, you just went to your neighbour .. it doesn't matter.

ML Well, you would go to somebody that you were friendly with, you know?

L Oh yes, it was all the same..

ML That doesn't happen now, you don't go borrowing things now, but it was the custom then.

S And do you remember, in the 1926 strike..

ML Yes!

L Just about the soup kitchen....

ML There was soup, and we used to go to the old mine place and dig for coal.

S Who provided the soup? The parish?

ML I don't know where that soup came from. It was the village folk that made it. I think a butcher gave them a bone, and then the folk had leeks and things in their garden; I think a butcher gave them a bone and a bit of meat to make a big boiler o' soup, and then we took our jugs and went ..

S And all the children went?

ML Yes.

L That's just when1926 I think that's just when our shale mines closed here, about 1927.

S Did they close as a result of the strike, or ..?

L No, they were beginning to ...

ML I thought it was earlier than that. Was that when it was? Because I was born in 1915, and I can remember going across to the old works,

and we took our wee spades and things, and we got coal, it was shaly coal. But everybody was there, digging for coal. I must have been about eight or nine, something like that.

L Aye, but when this here closed, when Rose Hill closed, it must have been about 1927.

S The coal mine or the shale mine?

L Shale. It went down under the Forth, and the hutches came up on the surface, you'll see the embankments down the field there, and the hutches came up onto the surface there, and they came under the road there, there's a tunnel between our house and our neighbour's house there, and the hutches came up and then through and out the back and down into the oil works; and the shale went into the retorts, where the crude oil was taken out, and then it was taken in the big railway tankers from there to Pumpherston.

ML Our's in these days was Emmanuel Shinwell.

L That's him that's celebrated his hundredth

S Were the oil works really dirty, did they give off lots of smoke, or did you just not notice them?

L No, you never noticed them. They were smelly at times, they were smelly, but they never give off any smoke, they had the big chimneys up, and that went well away.

S So you weren't aware of any pollution?

L No, no.

ML No. It didn't do us any harm, anyway.

S And what about the bings? Were they very dusty?

L Ah well, after the shale lies it cakes, and goes into ..

ML We used to go up to pick wild strawberries, there were wild strawberries
grew on top of the bings....

L Yes!

ML The great day in these times was the day you got your store divvy,
the store dividend, we got it twice a year. It only amounted to a
few pounds, but you could go and get new coats, new shoes, and everything.

L It was three and six in the pound, then And they paid it out
In May and November, was it?

S So it was a way of saving?

L Oh, yes.

S And where did you go to get your coats and things? Did you get
them in the village, or did you go into Edinburgh?

ML Oh, you had to go to Edinburgh.

S So it was a real outing?

ML It was once in a blue moon you got to Edinburgh, we didn't go every
week to Edinburgh. It was a red-letter day.

L Then you got into Edinburgh for ninepence, a return. In the bus, that was an old charabanc, and the conductor came out and walked along the step of the bus and got in the next door and took your ticket, and came out and walked along and got in the next door.

S So when were your children born?

L We were married in 1935, and Jim was born in 37, and Ann was born in 1942.

S And did you go into hospital to have them , or did you have them at home?

ML Well, I was in hospital the first time, but I was at home the second time.

S And did a midwife come and help you, or a doctor?

ML A doctor and a midwife.

S And when - you won't remember this because your father died so young, but when you had younger brothers and sisters born, did your mother have the midwife, or?

L Yes. The midwife stayed down the bottom of the row

S Was she trained, or was she just an old woman who'd come and

ML No, we never had trained

L You didn't get trained in those days! No, no. She just must ha' picked it up, and she was the midwife.

ML Every village had an old woman like that.

S And when the midwife came to you, was that an old woman, or was that later on, when people were trained?

ML Oh well, it was later on, it was a nurse.

L It was the district nurse.

ML She was a trained nurse, because that was in 1942.

S When you were sick, did the doctor come to the house, or ..?

L Yes, oh yes. And there were no clinics in those days, when you had to go to the doctor you had to go to Queensferry . and - that's latterly - and you lined along the wall outside his house, summer or winter. If you hadn't the flu when you went you had it before you left! But when I was a boy, we had an old doctor from Kirkliston, Dr. Stewart, and, oh, he was a right old He never was married, and he left the poor alone, you know. He never - I don't think he ever put a bill in for men that weren't working, and had to go to their house; I don't think he ever put an account in to them.

S But the people that worked for the shale companies

L It was taken off ye.

ML Sixpence a week, wasn't it?

L Aye. It went to sixpence a week. But when I started first as a boy, it was threepence a week. And twopence for the Royal Infirmary.

S And that covered everything?

L Yes, oh aye.

S And it covered your wife and your children?

L It covered the house, oh yes.

S And in the period in the 1930's when you worked three weeks on and a week off, you were still covered for the whole time, were you?

L Oh yes, that covered you the whole time. You got your dole money, I think it was about seventeen and six for a single man, and twenty two shillings or twenty three shillings for a couple, in those days.

S And when they instituted the three week month, did people complain, or ?

ML Oh yes.

S There were no strikes, though.

L Oh there were no strikes.

ML But people complained, though.

L Ah, but you'd no strikes, once we were going to have a strike ..

ML The people here complained, I remember that, because my brothers worked in the other mine, and of course it was them that were being brought into Duddingston, so therefore the Dalmeny folk were mad at this. I remember that.

L Once we were going to have a strike, for a bigger wage. This was during the war. And - what was it we wanted? We wanted an increase of four shillings a day. I think it was. And it was a Mr. Crichton was the general manager, from Philpstoun, and he came round the mines, you see, and he threatened all the young lads of a military age that if they didn't accept a shilling they would go to the army. So .. however there were a ballot for it and it was counted in Winchburgh office, with the union man, Crichton and the clerks. And it was supposed to come out in favour that the men would accept a shilling.

S So you believe that?

- L Oh, well ...! Our union man was getting wheeled about in Mr. Crichton's car at the time from one mine to the other. Oh, no! They're all - hey just get their own whack out of it. Och, no. nobody believed it. But you just had to accept it, you see, accept the shilling a day. Aye. And that's - things were beginning to get a wee bit beyond our purse again at that time, and that's what they done with us. One shilling we got.
- S Did your father come from Dalmeny? Was he born in Dalmeny?
- L No. My father came from Cambuslang. In Glasgow.
- S Did he come here to work in the shale mines?
- L Yes. Oh, aye, he was in Dalmenyfifty -before he died he was in Dalmeny fifty eight years.....
- S So he got his first job in Dalmeny, or did he work in Glasgow before coming?
- L Oh, he must have worked in Glasgow before, because he would come here at twenty he'd come here as a young man in his twenties. And because he was in the shale -mines here before he went to Duddingston. he was a fireman here. There were two shale mines here at different times; we had one away where the oil tanks are now, and then we had Rose Hill, that went right down under the Forth there, and that was the last one that closed. Then they were transferred to Duddingston to work.
- S And was your mother from Dalmeny?
- L No. She was from Glasgow.
- S Oh. So they came together?
- L Yes.

S And how about you? Were your parents from Bridgend, or ... ?

ML No. Hopetoun Estate.

S They were both from Hopetoun Estate?

ML Yes.

L It was I think you just had to go where there were a job for you. And then, his job of course, you had to go into Heriot-Watts and sit your exam for the fireman, you know, for the percentage o' according to the light gas/that was in your Glenny lamp, to see the percentage o' gas that was in a place.

S And when did they study for those exams? During work hours or in the evening?

L Oh, I think it's something you must just pick up. And your own knowledge, and then you go and sit your test when you think you know about it. To see if you know when a place is safe. And the main thing is to know about black damp; that's when you've no air.

ML We used to play down the mine, when we were kids.

S You used to play?

ML Play down the mine! We used to go down to the first manhole. It was dark! And then we used to be brave, and go to the second manhole in the pitch dark.

S And this was a mine that was still working?

ML Well, it was on the Sunday when it was closed. We used to go down the mine on a Sunday, and we used to run and get to the first manhole, and there was just a glimmer o'light, you could see just a glimmer o'light comin' in, we used to creep down and go to the second manhole, but we never went down any further.

S Did anyone ever catch you?

ML No, I think they knew that we went down the mine.

S Did you use to play on the bings as well?

ML Mmm.

L Oh aye.

ML We used to play on the hutches and everything.

L Here, when it was all unemployment in the 1930's, the men used to sledge in the winter-time, down the bing. With a sledge! By Jove, mind you, they travelled!

S Did you do it?

L No, oh no, no. But I could sit, when I was at school, I could sit and watch them, out the classroom up there, them coming.

ML That's another thing; about schools. We were terrified for the head-master, terrified for our teachers.

S Really?

ML Oh, terrible!

S Did you have to work very hard?

ML Yes, we had a terrible head-master, he just had to look at me and I melted! I was terrified, absolutely terrified.

L You see, that's another thing that's changing, you see this girl through there, at - Hamilton, is it? - that hit the teacher, last week, at the Academy. By Jove, you wouldny have hit the teacher in

our day. Of course your parents wouldny even have allowed you to do that, to a teacher, you would ha' got whacked when you went home. Aye, but it seems her parents are sticking up for her.....

ML I think, I was quite in with the belt, I got the belt often, but I don't think it did us any harm.

S Did you get homework?

L Oh yes, oh aye, you got homework!

S And you had to come home and do it in the house that was full of people?

ML Yes, and just an oil-lamp. Sometimes a lot o' folk just had candles. If they couldn't afford to buy paraffin they just had candles. And I've seen women sitting just in candle-light, darning and things like that. Must have strained their eyes. And yet it didn't seem to.

S Was it difficult, though, to do homework with lots of other children running around and or did your parents insist that you sat down and worked?

ML Oh, no, you just had to get into a comer and and do the best you could! You never thought about getting peace and quiet, you were just used to it.

L You just had to get on with it the best you could. There was no preference given to you because you had homework to do, oh no.

S And how many children were there in the school here, when you were there?

ML Big classes. Over forty sometimes.

L Six, seven classes up there, and over forty in each class.

S And did everybody leave school at fourteen, or did one or two stay on?

L No. You got your qualifying, and then you went to Queensferry; but there were no High School in Queensferry in those days, there's a new High School built there now.

ML Very few could afford to stay on and go to University, very few.

I mean they were waiting on reaching fourteen so they could leave and get work to help, you see.

* * *

ML I mean in those days you wore the same things every day, but you had something separate for a Sunday. You see now, you just couldn't go and change, you had one thing to wear, but on Sunday you always had something. And when you came in at night on a Sunday that was it, it was taken off and it was put away until the next Sunday.

S But what about the miners? They presumably had clothes for work and clothes for home?

L Oh, yes. And about every night in the summer-time, we had a dance down at the end o' the houses. And a lad played a melodeon in those days, and on a Friday they went round with a hat for him. And he was an unemployed lad, and you put in twopence or threepence, or a penny, whatever, and that kept him going in Woodbine. And Woodbine then was twopence a packet.

ML I don't know if you've read any of Molly Wear's books, but she has one *Shoes Were For Sunday*, and that gives you just a perfect example, because it's exactly like how we lived. *Shoes Were For Sunday*, and that's right.

S Did you not wear shoes in the week?

ML No. If you had shoes, they were for Sunday. And she belonged to .. through in Glasgow, and her book, it's worth reading because it's exactly she tells you the truth about how she was brought up, and it's exactly the same as how we were brought up.

S And so did you go barefoot?

ML Oh yes.

S In the winter, too?

L No, in the summer time.

ML Well, not in the winter, I had boots, for the winter-time.

L Aye, but from April right through to October you never had anything on your feet. Oh, no. We even played football with our bare feet.

S That was because you couldn't afford to have any?

L You couldny afford them.

S So slightly wealthier families, maybe children of farmers, would have had?

ML They wore shoes, well mostly boots it was in those days, even the girls wore boots.

S But adults wore shoes? The parents?

L Oh yes. Oh aye, because you would have went through them, you see, in your six weeks holidays, and you couldny afford that.

ML You never wore them , the whole of your six weeks holidays, you never wore your boots.

L Oh no, no, you had your bare feet the whole time. Up to school wi' your bare feet.

S But you'd wear your shoes for school, would you? Take them with you?

L No!

ML You went to school with your bare feet.

L You sat in the school in your bare feet. Oh no, there was no fancy dresses in those days! And going home you gathered all the leaves with your feet like this, and you put a big brick in them.

ML And coming home from the school, you burst the tar blisters on the road with your bare feet. The heat brought the blisters up in the tar, and you used to burst them with your bare feet.

L You cast your shoes off in April, and that was you till October.

ML You never had shoes, usually boots. I had boots the whole time. Big heavy boots, so they would last. Tackety boots.

S So you wore the same clothes all week, but presumably you'd have a different set for next week, so you could have that lot washed?

L Oh, no, a jersey and trousers, that's all you had.

S So when were they washed?

ML Well, they were washed on the Sunday, when you had the things you'd got for Sunday on. You went to Sunday school like that, you had something to wear different,

L You had a different jersey, and then they came off you , and your..

ML And then your mother would wash them like she did the miners', she

washed them on a Sunday.

S And they were dried in front of the fire?

ML Well, if it was bad weather they had to be dried in front of the fire. And the cooking was done on the fire, the drying and the pan went into the fire, everything was done on the fire. Because you didn't have stoves or ranges, or anything like that, it was an open fire.

L No gas or electricity, no stoves, no; just an open coal fire.

ML ?

S And when people worked down the mines, did their clothes get wet?

L Oh yes.

ML That had to be dried in front of the fire.

L One place I worked in, I worked with an oil-skin coat on, for the water coming through the roof on me.

ML And mind you, in these days, coal was eleven pence a bag.

L Aye, a hundredweight. A dozen eggs was about a shilling.

ML But we always had a fire, didn't we?

S Was that to dry the clothes?

ML Yes, would be.

S So the children couldn't sit round the fire, because there were always clothes there?

ML No, no. And the steam used to rise off them. But they had to be dried for the morning.

L Oh yes, your damp shirt and singlet, that all had to be dried for morning. And that was you up again at five o'clock in the morning, to get ready and away.

S And you had, what? Did you have one big meal a day?

ML Just one meal a day.

L One right meal, yes.

ML You got your dinner. The rest of it was just tea, and bread sandwiches. Jam. I mean, we didn't have jam mostly, we had treacle; and you had a dinner, and you had nothing, no supper or anything like that, just maybe a bit o' toast and things.

L Piece and jam.

S So you'd take a piece down the mine with you, would you?

L Yes, piece and jam, that's what you had away to your work.

ML And the piece-box, it was shaped like the plain loaf, it was rounded at the top and square, and the slices fitted in. It used to take about eight slices or something, didn't it?

S Did you bake all your own bread, or?

ML No, no.

L No, the vans

ML We made scones, we baked scones, and dumplings, when it was somebody's birthday you always had a big dumpling. It was made in the boiler

S In the boiler that you put the clothes in as well?

ML Yes. But it was a big, it was a galvanised boiler, and it was clean. And your dumpling was made in a cloth.

L Aye, a clouty dumpling.

ML A clouty dumpling. And you always had one when it was your birthday.

S So you celebrated birthdays. Did you have presents?

ML Oh, no. But there was a dumpling, that was a present.

L If you'd had presents, you'd ha' wondered where they'd got the money! If the bank hadn't have been broken into, if you had a present for your birthday.

ML No, birthday presents were never ever heard of.

L No, and Easter cards, and!

ML Oh no, nothing! We had eggs, we always got an egg at Easter, but a boiled egg, coloured; boiled with dye in.

L And you rolled it down some o' the, down the bank.

ML You went to the hill, we used to go to Binny Craig, the big hill way up

S And you'd roll it, and then at the bottom you d eat it?

ML We rolled it down the hill, and if it broke we'd eat it.

S But by the time your children were growing up, and they were young, sort of eight, nine, did you have more money that you could buy Christmas presents and things?

L Oh yes, aye,

ML Oh we got presents for them!

S Was that because you had a shop, or was that everybody was different?

ML No, that was Jim would be at the Academy and Ann would be twelve before we started the shop. No, they got everything, they had

bikes and everything, I mean before we ever took on the shop

S But that was everybody, I mean that wasn't just because you were more wealthy, all the shale miners had more money by that stage?

ML Yes, everybody was like that then. I mean they got - I never had a doll in my life, and I like dolls, I'd still like a nice big doll!

But Ann, she had, and I liked the dolls better than what she did, you know? And then they had bikes, and she had a big pram, things I'd never ever dreamed of ...

S So when did things start to change? Was it with the war?

ML Well, it was before the war it startedWell, it was the war that changed it, yes.

L Aye, really. Because you were getting a wee bit o' overtime, on the different jobs, you see?

ML That's right, it was after the war, in the middle 1940's.

S When things for everyone got better?

L You see, now, you pass a door now, and very near every door has a car standing at it. Well, in our day you'd never see a car at a working man's door. And nobody had a phone. Nothing like that. You'd an old bicycle lying and hoping it was all right for morning for your work. Now, really, I believe people around are better off. Of course there are more hand-outs. When you leave school now and you haveny a job, you've twenty three pounds sent to you!

S Could you get any dole, in between you leaving school and you getting a job you had a year, when you couldn't get a job?

L Oh, you got nothing.

S You got nothing at all? You could only get dole if you'd worked?

L That's right, you had to have so many stamps. You got nothing for the first year. You see, they introduced a means test. And if your father was - I'm talking about anyone that was idle - if a father and a brother was working in the house, then the other two got nothing. Or, you may go down to the dole office, and they allowed you one-and-six, or two shillings, it all depends on what income was coming into your house. That was what they termed the means test.

S And did you ever do part-time jobs, when you were at school, like going and working in the fields for the farmers, or ...?

L No, there were none o' that. here, because in those days the farmers had maybe seven men, and they were just the same as us - they had big families, and they'd maybe two sons working and a daughter working on the farm, and they didny need anybody like that.

ML You didny get any labour taken on at all.

L No, nothing like that here; there were no paper rounds or anything like that, not in a village. Not in Dalmeny village, anyway. There wasn't any way you could make money when you were at school.

L Oh no, no. You just carried on and managed. A lot o' places had, you know, where boys could pick up side jobs, but not here. Not in many miners' villages.

S And you never got sort of part-time jobs down the mine, before you left school?

L No. You left school and you went about and you watched for any odd

job that was coming up for a day or two days, you got that. You got a job at the mill at one-and-six a day.

S And you did that, did you?

L Oh, yes, oh aye, one-and-six a day. Well, you see, if you were three days at the mill that was four-and-six.

S And did you give that to your parents, or did you keep it?

L Oh yes. Oh no, you couldn't afford to keep it.

ML You could get a lot o' messages for four-and-six.

L Aye, you had to hand that over. In fact you wouldn't ha' dreamt o' trying to keep it. See 'em now, a lot o' them keep their family allowance, they think it's theirs, but in our day you wouldn't ha' dreamt o' trying to keep that for you. You wouldn't ha' been allowed to, anyway, but you would never ha' thought on it. You just come home and handed over whatever you'd earned.

S And once you started working full time, did you hand everything over to your mother?

L Yes! Oh, I handed my twelve and a penny I handed over my eleven shillings and eightpence.

S And you kept how much for yourself?

L Oh, I didn't keep anything!

ML He got eightpence back.

S You didn't keep anything?

L I got it given to me. I handed over my pay packet, eleven shillings

and eightpence; and I handed over my pay packet till the last day I started working, to my wife,

ML I always got the pay packet! Some o' the men used to open their pay packets.

L Because I thought, well, if you've a house to keep, it's needed in the house, and I never once opened my pay packet to give so much to a bookie, or

ML No! We would have had a lean time if you had!

S Did lots of the miners drink a lot and smoke a lot?

L Oh yes, well a lot of them liked their pint in a Saturday night.

ML I don't think they went drinking during the week, they wouldn't be able to ...

L Oh, no, they hadn't the money to go, just the Saturday night.

S Did you go with them even though you didn't drink?

L Oh no, your father wouldny have taken you.....no, you wouldny have went into the same pub

ML In fact, I don't think you how many pubs have you ever been in?

L I've never been in a pub.

ML He's never been in a pub!

S Haven't you?

L No. No. But Young men, you know, twenty year old, wouldny ha' went into the same pub as their father on a Saturday night.

Oh, they would ha' been ordered out. Their father wouldny have them in.

ML And women never went into pubs then.

S Did women go out much at all?

ML Oh, no. Never.

L They never had anything to go out

ML During, as I say, when things got a wee bit better, we used to go to the pictures in the Ferry once, maybe on a Saturday night.

S Was that after the war?

ML After the war.

L And the pictures then was a shilling? Or ninepence or something.

ML Well, it wasny very much. Ninepence, I think. But there wasny things, clubs and things like that, bingo and that they go to now.

S Was there an Institute here?

ML No, there's nothing here.

L Nothing.

ML This is a great place, we don't have bother with vandals or anything here. It's just as quiet as can be. It's great to live here.

S It must be difficult for the young people now, to see everybody else though.....

ML There's nothing for them, they've just got to go away. There's nothing here. Nothing at all.

L No, nothing. And there's very little in Queensferry.

ML Nothing in the Ferry.

L But public houses, that's all that's in Queensferry. No entertainment.

ML Occasionally, very occasionally, there's a whist drive, in the school,
but that's only about twice a year.

S So when you were young, it was very much living in your family and
just living? There was

ML Aye, we never thought of going anywhere.

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