

LJ SIDE ONE

GC When did you leave the school?

LJ I left the school when I was fourteen! I had no option! Sort of style.....I had to work.....in the 1930's, the first job that I got was on a farm up the high road up there at Ochiltree, feeding hens and things like that, and all the odd jobs and I decided that I needed a wee bit more money so I went and got a job in the pits, and I was on the pony driving.....I looked after a haulage actually first!

GC Can you remember what year that was?

LJ That would be in 1937. Aye, about '37, I believe it was about '37. Round about that anyway!

GC And how did you get that job?

LJ I went down and seen the Manager of the Mine and.....

GC What was his name?

LJ Mr. Sneddon, John Sneddon, and he says, aye, start on Monday! So I started on the Monday, and I went down the mine, and they put me on a job looking after the haulage.

GC And which mine was that?

LJ Thirty Five Pit! And after I began to get bored, there wasn't (much) attached to it, and just a sort of watchman job, watching the haulage, to see that the hutches were moving and.....I got a job on the pony after that, the boy that was on the pony, he went away and got a job drawing. So, as I say, I was about a year on the ponies, and after that.....

GC And how did you get on with the ponies?

LJ Oh, I was alright with the ponies, I liked the ponies as a matter of fact, it was a good job, there wasn't much attached to it either!

GC And did you remember their names? How many were there?

LJ One was Joey, and the other one was Jimmy! The white horse was Jimmy, and the wee brown was Joey, and while I was on that, that was the year..... 1939, I got word..... the word came to me that I had to go to Winchburgh, and there was something at Winchburgh for me, so I went along to Winchburgh Work, Glendevon Mine, it was, you know, before you go into Winchburgh.

GC And when you were handling the ponies, there was an award for your pony, was there?

LJ That's right, that was the certificate that I got, and I think that it was fifty fags at that time, you know, but that was a lot of fags at that time, you know! I didn't smoke, but I took them just the same!

GC And that was your prize?

LJ That was my prize!

GC And what was the prize that your horse won?

LJ Well, he got a first on the.....I think that it was (inaudible), I'm not sure, at the Show.....I mind of, there was an old man up at Ecclesmachan, Tom Blackball, they called him, he done all the horses up, and took the horses up the mine, and he went over to a farm just across from the mine, polished it, washed it, and decorated it up, and I took it down.....

GC Had you to walk it to Linlithgow?

- LJ I had to walk it to Linlithgow! And on the road back, I'll never forget, I sat on it's back! All the road back, you know! Of course, there wasn't much traffic, you know, at that time! You know, not as much as there is today like! And when I got up to the Red Rows, that's what they called the wee row of houses at Threemiletown, before you went down the Mines. On a Saturday night, I had to get off, all the women were out with crusts for the pony, right down the Row, I think that he stopped at every door, I think, going down. I took it right through, after that, down to the farm and that was the end of it that day. I don't know what happened after that, you know, as regards to the prize money, it wouldn't go to me, it would go to the Mine, you know what I mean, something like that! We got praise for it, of course,
- GC And did the Management recognise this? Did you get it.....?
- LJ Oh aye, they were fair away with it, you know, they were fair away with it!
- GC What kind of competition did your horse have? How many pits or mines.?
- LJ Oh, there was a lot of pits.....nearly all the pits round about, was at it! There was one from each Mine in! All the different sizes.... you know, pit ponies were all different sizes, then, you know what I mean, big ones and wee ones, hefty ones, aye, och aye, it was quite good.
- GC And did you enjoy working with them?
- LJ I enjoyed working with the pit ponies, I know that. And then the gaffer came round one day and said "How would you like a job on the drawing?" So I went on the drawing but I didn't like it that much, it was hard work on the drawing and me being young it wasn't..... you know what I mean...!
- GC Can you remember your faceman's name?
- LJ Aye! Bob Nicol! Bob Nicol was the faceman! Bob was a great man, a good man, and he was a dog man, I think! You know, the boys running

the dogs at Powderhall and these places!

GC Greyhounds?

LJ Greyhounds! And eh.....ach, I got fed up, and I just packed it in, I packed it in, I thought that I wasn't fit for it at that time! So I got called up to the Air Force.....I went to the Air Force and I was away in the Air Force, about ten years.....and I came back..... and there was nothing else for it, but to go back in the Mines, so I went down and I got a job in No. 1, and I was drawing there again!

GC That was Whitequarries?

LJ Whitequarries! Down at.....away down.....Hopetoun, near Queensferry! And there was a bit fell on my leg there, and I was taken to Bangour of course, it was a fractured tibia, you know, the wee bone down the side of your.....it was fractured.....it wasn't a bad thing, but I got two or three cuts here, and on the back!

GC On your face?

LJ Aye! It was a bit that fell down, the way that it fell, and I fell with it, and they just couldn't save me! I fell with it, if I had stood, I'd have got the full blast of it! And.....

GC And how do you think that that happened?

LJ Well, that happened.....we were stooping, we had all the wood up, everything was perfect, and.....in fact, it was my last hutch, that day, it was my last 'bl...y' hutch, and I had it full, ready to come away with it, when this bit came down, it just.....splayed it down on us, It rolled.....it rolled in fact, you know, on to the top of us! And it caught me on the back of the leg and knocked me over.

GC Can you remember what year that was?

LJ Oh, it would be about 1950 or something.....

GC It doesn't matter!

LJ It was the Fifties sometime, you know, the early Fifties!

GC Early Fifties?

LJ Fifty three.....or Fifty two.....or Fifty three, round about then!

GC Fine!

LJ So, I was off for about six months at least, round about that! I was fed up doing nothing.....so I went.....

GC Did you get any compensation?

LJ Aye, I got compensation!

GC Can you remember how much it was?

LJ Well.....it wasn't a great lot, at that time! When I went back, the gaffer down there, Richard 'Dick' Neilson, we called him, came up, and he said, 'I've got a job on the face for you!', he says, 'There's three bits, away down and send your drawer down!' So I was on the face... and I was on the face for about three years, or something like that, and in 1960, I went away out and got a job in Germany! And that was it!

GC So, when you were on the face, how long did you work on the face, did you say?

LJ Oh, I would say about three years!

GC Three years?

LJ Three years! Something like that!

GC And had you any experiences with working at the face?

LJ Oh aye! You got.....well, when I was on the drawing, I sort of learned it off the faceman there, you know what I mean, because when he was not stemming or tamping shot, we always showed how to do it, you know!

GC He was prepared to do that?

LJ Aye, you picked it up that way!

GC And what were the things that you had to watch for when you were on the face?

LJ Well, you had to watch for your shots, you couldn't fire them all at once, you know, sort of style, you had to.....you were only allowed three at a time, if you did any more and the fireman came in, and saw you, you were up the lum!

GC Was he quite strict with you?

LJ Aye! He had to be! Down a mine.....don't you? Of course, down there, you could smoke, there was no ban on smoking down there! In the shale mine!

GC There was no gas?

LJ Not down our way! I don't think that it was that deep, you know what I mean, it wasn't that deep! The likes of Thirty Five Pit, I think that they banned the smoking down there, after a while!

GC And what kind of drill did you operate? When you were at the face?

LJ Oh, it was just the hand borer.....no.....

GC A ratchet.....?

LJ An electric one.....

GC Oh, an electric one, and do you work an electric.....did you work an electric and a hand borer?

LJ No, I didn't have a hand borer!

GC You never ever.....?

LJ That was out of date then! We had thrown them away! They had the old bits of borers down there.....new ones, new type! You took them up and got them sharpened every night! Ready for the next morning! And you took them down again, and started over again!

GC Who sharpened your bits?

LJ Oh, the blacksmith!

GC At the heat?

LJ Of course.....he.....that was his job! That was his job at the time! He sharpened the picks and the bits and whatever you got, you know.....and done your saws for you and all that!

GC Had you to pay for that happening?

LJ Oh aye.....well, you didn't have to pay, but you gave him a bit half crown, at that time, that was a lot of money, at that time, you know, a half crown, for his work!

GC And how did you operate with your.....who was your drawer then?

LJ Walter.....Walter McLeod was my drawer at that time! Of course.... there.....

GC And how did you get on with him?

LJ Oh, I got on alright with Wattie! Aye, Wattle.....I'll never forget the day the

gaffer came on the scene.....and he says to Wattie..... he says, 'Well, lad, how many can you draw out of this place?' He says, 'One more than I'm able for!' The gaffer.....he told the gaffer.....'One more than I'm able for!'

GC So, he must have been feeling it hard work, the same as you did?

LJ Hard work! You pulled about twelve hutches a trip, you know, it was a lot..... about twelve tons anyway.....in them.....a ton in a hutch if we could get it in!

GC You had a special system?

LJ There were special hutches for it! They were big hutches! And then you set hutches up.....the wee'er ones, you set them up, at the side, and then pulled them up, to let you get more weight!

GC Would you think that you would be termed as a greedy miner? Trying to get the most out..... that you could possibly do?

LJ Well.....you had to be greedy.....do you know what I mean? It was your livelihood! The more that you got out, the better it was for yourself! Do you know what I mean..... that way!

GC And what arrangement did you have with your drawer? Payment wise?

LJ Oh well.....I just paid.....he got his wages and I got mine! I tried to halve the difference!

GC It was a fifty-fifty.....?

LJ He.....paid half..... the likes of.....if there was any graith to be.....in.....he helped to pay it, like buying a new shovel or things like that, we went fifty-fifty and that was it!

GC So, after you left the mine, what did you do?

LJ I went to Germany, and I was working on the building sites, and a bar

was in a bar over there.....!

GC That would be a big difference for you?

LJ Aye! Oh aye!

GC What made you go to Germany? Whatever gave you that idea?

LJ My wife's from Germany, you see!

GC Is that right?

LJ It wasn't my fault, I had to go!

GC And where did you meet your wife?

LJ In Hamburg!

GC So, did you go back to Hamburg and get married?

LJ No! I was married before I was out the Air Force! That was after the War of course! We couldn't marry before then!

GC Can you remember anything about your wages? When you started in the shale mines or pits?

LJ Well.....I'll tell you, when I started I was getting three and..... three and eleven pence a farthing an hour, or something, that was your wage! For an eight hour shift! That was on the driving, the pony driving! Then, on the drawing, if you came home with about eight pounds, you'd a good wage! Seven or eight pounds was a good wage, and up until about the time that I left, ten pounds was a good wage, do you know what I mean, in the sixties, about the beginning of the Sixties! Fifty nine.....Sixty, that was a good wage! Ten pounds! Of course, you always tried to get more! You know, get more stuff!

GC But you felt that it was hard work?

LJ Oh.....it was hard work! There's no doubt about it! It was hard work!

GC But.....you.....would you say that it was dangerous work?

LJ Not.....not if you watched what you were doing! If you were.....had a good faceman, putting up his wedge, it wasn't what you would call dangerous, it was carelessness if anything happened, sort of style!

GC You felt that, if anything was going to happen, that it was careless?

LJ Carelessness! I always thought.....should it have happened? Do you know what do you know what I mean, looking at it that way! I always looked at the other side of the.....the faulty side!

GC Did you ever see anybody doing things that they shouldn't have been doing, that might have caused an accident?

LJ No! I wouldn't say that! You see, you were in different places, you couldn't see what other folk were doing! But..... there were times when you had to take a chance, you know, likes of maybe your last shot, you maybe had four shots to fire, and you only had three, you shoved another one in, to make you four or something like that! That was what I called carelessness! Something that you were not supposed to do, you were supposed to wait until the smoke came out, and you were supposed to go in and fire the other one!

GC But that would be considered a waste of time?

LJ Well, looking at it that way, well.....you were loused, you were ready to go, go home! You had four shots.....and you only fired three, the other faceman that came over would wonder what the other shot was not fired for or something!

GC Would you leave a shot that wasn't fired for somebody else coming in?

LJ No! You couldn't do that! You couldn't do that! If you had a miss-shot, you had to get the fireman out, he'd tell you what to do! You had to go with his instructions! You usually bored a hole down the side of it, and fired another shot and brought them all down! It was worse when you were using the black powder! The gelignite wasn't so bad! The black powder, it went off with a spark, it went off with a spark, and the gelignite, it took the detonator! Gelignite.....and oh..... there were all the different nites.....different.....new types of.....brought in.....

GC So, if it was powder, there would be a risk if you were drilling down the side of it? And maybe a spark set it off!

LJ Aye, you had to watch.....well, in fact, they used to have a thing with the brass thing on the end of it, that brought your..... a stemmer, we called it, they made you take it off at the end, we thought that that could have caused an accident.....the metal.....so we had to draw them off, and just use ordinary wood, like a brush shaft, but a big long one.....and that was another thing, you had to measure your holes, you know what I mean, not fire a shot off along with the other ones! You could do that easy, because you knew the lengths of your strum. The strum was fuse.....fuse wire like!

GC And you knew how long that would take to go off?

LJ Aye!

GC With the length of the strum?

LJ Well, you got a wee bit of strum like that, and you cut it, slits in it, you lit it, and when it came to that one that.....at the place where you lit your first one, and when it came to the next one, you lit the next one, and when it came to the next one, you lit the next one, and then you threw the strum away and got out! And away it went!

GC How far away had you to go? Away from the face?

LJ Oh.....we had to get, as I say, round the corner.....and keep shouting that you were firing and one thing.....and let other folk know that you were.....and maybe send your drawer out one way, and you went the other! And keep shouting 'Fire!' until they were all off! Count them, and keep counting them, and mind count them!

GC This must have been quite a common thing then? Shouting?

LJ Oh aye.....well.....you shouted! Well, it was only natural, for there were folk working next to you and you know.....and another face next to you and you had to let them know that you were firing! Oh aye, I was.....that was about all there was to it!

GC The houses.....did you ever stay in miner's rows?

LJ Well.....not as a miner! Philpstoun.....Philpstoun, right enough! When I came back from the Army, I got a house in the miners rows, in Philpstoun, but they were knocked down and then we got a house up here.

GC And what can you remember about.....was it just a.....was it two rooms?

LJ Aye, a room and a kitchen sort of style! Living room and a bedroom, that was the (inaudible) of it, and a scullery, an old scullery beside it!

GC Had you running water?

LJ We had running water in Philpstoun! Not hot water!

GC And what did you do for washing? Had you a bath.....a tin bath or a wooden bath or.....?

LJ We had a bath when I came up here, there was a bath down in Philpstoun, but we never used it, it had.....it was a funny looking thing, you know, it was cold water.....cold water!

GC And how did you heat the water for the bath?

LJ Oh, the boiler.....we had a boiler there..... that you could heat the water in the boiler but..... they began to deteriorate as well, when the Council took over and that you know!

GC And they rebuilt them?

LJ The likes of when the Company had the houses, they looked after them for you! You know.....when they belonged to the Company!

GC Can you remember what you paid for rent?

LJ Seven and six, wasn't it? Seven and six! Seven and six was the rent!

GC And did you have electric lighting?

LJ Electric lighting! And did you get electric bulbs.....we never got electric bulbs in Philpstoun, they came from the Company, didn't they? I think the Company paid the electricians, because it was coming from their Works! You know, there was a Work in Philpstoun.....

GC They generated their.....electricity..... their own electricity!

LJ Aye! We were looked after down there! The likes of up here, they had nothing, they had oil lamps! Till they were knocked down!

GC At Bridgend?

LJ Aye! At Bridgend Rows! They had oil lamps! They had no electricity then! You had to go outside for your water! You had one of these big wells, outside, a big metal thing!

GC So, you were better off at Philpstoun?

LJ Oh aye, you were better off at Philpstoun! You had water running in the house, straight! Some of the houses in Bridgend hadn't the sculleries either, ken, they were just a room and kitchen! And them that thought that they were better, with the sculleries, sort of style!

GC Were you a member of a Union when you worked?

LJ Aye, I was in the Shale Miners Union!

GC Can you remember any of the official's names?

LJ Aye! Johnny Mallon was one of them!

GC And where did he come from?

LJ Winchburgh! That's the only.....blokes in the Union.....you know.. there..... they were sort of non-existent, if you know what I mean! You just..... let them do the work for you, you didn't..... there were no strikes or anything like that!

GC Did you ever have any occasion to approach the Union to.....for any grievance that you had?

LJ No, I hadn't!

GC Against the Company! No!

LJ Not that way, no! Of course, there were different rules in those days! You couldn't just pack in and run to the Union, that was out!

GC So, you would think that the Union didn't have the strength.....

LJ Of course, if you had any complaint, you could go to the Union! They

would take up your case for you! If there was a case worth taking up, like!

GC Did you know of anybody that had to go to the Union?

LJ No! I can't say that I did! You see, down in the shale, they could pay you what they wanted. Do you know what I mean! The minimum wagebut them that were on their own would get a bit extra two bob for.....you know, jobs, wee jobs round about, and get away with it! It all went on! At one time, the faceman got the pay and the faceman paid the drawer, but there was none of that when I went back to Whitequarries. You got your own pay packet then! You all got your own packets then! (Inaudible).

GC And did you arrange things at the Pay Office....what your drawer had to get or.....?

LJ You could do that! If you wanted! Yes! As long as you were satisfied that..... you could let him go half, it was only right, wasn't it, to let him get half of it!

GC Did ever the Company have a difference between what you were.....maybeor what any other faceman was paying a drawer?

LJ Oh.....I think that it went on! There was a lot of that went on, some facemen would give you an extra dollar or something like that! Of course, if you had been us, you would probably have done that! You had to watch what you were doing!

GC When you were working in the shale industry, did you have any hobbies or pastimes? What did you do in your leisure hours?

LJ I just played football or anything like that!

GC Were you a football player?

LJ I wasn't much good at it! But I played! (Whispering in background)

GC Your wife is saying that you had quite a big family?

LJ Aye! Oh aye! Nine! Nine of a family!

GC Well, that would keep you busy!

LJ Aye! That was when there was no telly! Okay! No panic about telly!

GC Did any of your family go into the mines or the pits?

LJ No, no! They had more sense than to go to underground!

GC Your wife is saying that they were all soldiers!

LJ Aye! I've got three in the Army the now! Aye, there's three in the Army, and my lassie married a boy that was in the Army, too, but he's back out again though! He can't get now! That's it, he would have been better staying in the Army!

GC Had you any influence on the family not to go into the shale mining?

LJ I let them do what they wanted, because there was no shale mine..... then..... they were finished! They were finished by the time that they were grown up!

GC When did they shut down?

LJ They shut in the Sixties, didn't they, most of them! In fact, they shut about a year after they left!

GC And when did you leave them? What year?

LJ Nineteen Sixty! The end of Nineteen fifty nine. Sixty, something like that, round about then! I mean, we seen it coming, it was getting worse all the time, down the mine! And then the Government was against us in the end, they wanted them shut down, and that was it!

GC Can you remember any of your workmates at that time? When you were

down the mines?

LJ Oh aye! Oh aye! I mind of them all, there were a lot of wags and that down the mine you know! It was a cheery place to work, down the mine!

GC You felt that it was a happy place?

LJ It was a happy place to work!

GC Was that because of the kind of workmen that..... the kind of work-mates?

LJ They were all jovial types..... they all joked with one another you know.

GC They liked a joke.....can you remember any of them that.....what they did or.....?

LJ There was.....I mind of a boy that worked with me, he was a faceman as well, he was out of the Army as well, and he.....instead of stripping taking his coat off.....his jacket.....his waistcoat off, he took them all off as one, and hung them on the thingummy, and when he moved to another place, he just took that tree out with the nails in it, and put it up again, and put his coat on it, and he was one of the wags that was in there!

GC So, his coat hook followed him wherever he went to work. He must have had a wee feeling about that!

LJ I don't know what happened, but that's how it was!

GC Good! Is there anything else that you can remember, when you were working in the mines?

LJ Not exactly!

GC Anything interesting?

LJ There were things.....

GC Was it electric lamps, that you had in your helmet?

LJ Well, you had a carbide lamp! I had a carbide lamp in the pony driving, and things like that, (inaudible) but getting into the face, you had electric light, some of the drawers had carbide lamps as well, but I think that all that was stopped in the end! You know, they had to...

GC They couldn't use them if there was any danger of gas?

LJ Oh no! I mean, it was pretty airy.....I mean, down Whitequarries, it was pretty airy, I mean there was the likes of smoke, off the shots... you ken, it moved away quick.

GC Cleared away?

LJ Aye! Like this! It wasn't far from the surface!

GC Were you ever troubled by any water coming in?

LJ Aye, you got damp places now and again! But you always thought..... you didn't bother much about that! You see, the way the seam was running, it was running on a hill, and it ran to the bottom, and there were boys at the bottom of it, clearing all the water away.

GC Were there pumps that lifted it to the surface?

LJ There were pumps to take it away! They were sort of.....a gutten... they called it, the river, a wee stream that ran alongside the road..

GC Just like a burn?

LJ Something like that, a burn! It ran into a big sump, and the pump used to pump it up.

GC So, you never had to work in water?

LJ No! I never.....had to work in water! There were places with water in them right enough!

GC Oh well, that's fine!

END OF TAPE

Transcript	LJ
Industrial Information	I left school when I was fourteen. In 1930 the first job I got was on a farm at Ochiltree.
Thirty-Five Pit	I then went down to see the Manager of Thirty-Five pit, Mr. Sneddon. He gave me a job on the haulage, just watching to see that the hutches were moving. After a while I got bored.
Ponies	Then I got a job on the ponies after the boy who was there went to the drawing. I liked the ponies, there wasn't much attached to this job, but it was a good job. their names were Joey and Jimmy.
Pony Award	I got a certificate, and fifty fags. I didn't smoke, but I took them just the same. I got praise from the management for winning the prize.
Drawing	The gaffer came to see me one day and said 'How would you like a job on the drawing?' I took the

job, but I didn't like it much.
It was hard work, and me being
young it didn't suit me. Bob
Nicol was my faceman. I packed
in my job on the drawing.

Air Force I was then called up to the Air
Force, where I was for about ten years.

Whitequarries When I returned from the Air
Force, there were no other jobs,
so I went back on the drawing at
Whitequarries.

Accident I wasn't at Whitequarries very
long when I had an accident. A
bit of Shale fell on my leg, and I
was taken to Bangour Hospital with
a fractured tibia. I was off work
for about six months after the
accident.

Compensation I got compensation, but it wasn't
a lot at that time.

Face Worker When I had recovered from my
accident I went back to the mine, and
the gaffer, Richard 'Dick' Neilson
came to me to say he had a job
for me on the face. When I was on
the drawing, I learnt the face
work from the faceman. In this
job you had to watch your shots,
you couldn't fire them all at the
same time. You were only allowed
to fire three shots at a time. If you fired
any more and the fireman came in and
saw you, you were up the lum.

Drills The drills we used at the face
were the ratchet type. The hand
borers were out of date then.
They had old bits from borers,

which we took up to the surface to be sharpened every night, ready for the next morning.

Blacksmith

The blacksmith sharpened the drills and picks. We didn't have to pay him, but we gave him a bit half crown. That was a lot of money at that time.

Special Hutches

It was hard work at the face. You pulled about twelve special hutches a trip weighing about twelve tons. That was about a ton in a hutch, if we could get it in I had an arrangement with the drawer. I got my wages and he got his.

Wages

We just went fifty - fifty. When I started in the mines I was getting three and eleven pence farthing an hour for an eight hour shift as a pony driver. On the drawing, if I came home with about eight pounds, that was a good wage. Up until I left in the sixties ten pounds was a good wage.

Conditions

This wasn't dangerous work if you watched what you were doing. If you were a good faceman putting in your wedges in case anything happened. If you missed a shot, you got the fireman out, and he would tell you what to do. You usually bored another hole down the side of it, and fired another shot and brought them all down. It was worse when you were using black powder, because it went with a spark. You had to watch if you were drilling down the side of it. They used to

have a thing called a stemmer.
We had to draw them off, just
using ordinary wood like a brush
shaft. You had to measure your holes.

Strum
You got a wee bit of a strum and
you cut slits in it. At the place
where you lit your first one, then
the next one and so on. Then you
threw the strum away and got out.
You had to keep shouting that you
were firing to let other people know.

Underground Lamps
I had a carbide lamp in the pony
driving, but on the face I had an
electric lamp, but some of the drawers
had carbide lamps as well, but that
was stopped because of the gas.

Water
You got damp places now and again.
The way the seams were running
uphill, and the water ran to the
bottom. There were boys at the
bottom clearing the water away,
and the pumps lifted it to the
surface. It then ran into a big
sump. I never had to work in
water. There was places with
water right enough.

Unions
I was a member of the Shale Miners
Union, Johnny Mallon was one of
the officials. In the shale mines
they could pay you what they wanted.

Strikes
I can't remember of any strikes
when I was in the shale mines.

Domestic Life
Housing
I got a house in a miners row.
It was a room and kitchen sort of
style. We had a bath, but we never
used it. It was a funny looking thing.
It was cold water we used at first.

Rent was seven and six.

Boiler	We could heat water in the boiler, but they began to deteriorate as well.
Lighting	We had electric light which came from the Company works. In the miners rows we had oil lamps.
Family Size	There was my wife and myself and seven of a family. The laddies all went to the army, and my lassie married a boy that was in the army too. I let them do what they wanted because the shale mines were finished then. They shut down in the sixties.
Leisure Life	I play football, but I wasn't much good at it.
Germany	When the shale mines closed down in the nineteen sixties I went to Germany where i was working on the building sites, and a bar. My wife was from Germany, and that is what gave me the idea to go over there.

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