

SR Oh it had no denomination?

LK The education authority didn't recognise Catholic schools until about 1920, and until that time the congregation kept the Catholic priests, Catholic teachers, but however I was educated at the public school in Addiewell, and about. Well I was born ... and in 1914 I was 12. Addiewell Catholic school was opened just along the road, and then we moved in there for the time being. But the older ones in the district went to West Calder school, there was a good few who went, but there was never any bigotry. There was no bigotry, there was no, the Protestants went in at 9 am and got ½ hour's education, religious training, and we went in at 9.30 am, you see. But we got our Sunday school you see, and we used to get to hold it in the hall, and at first when the priest held Mass, he held it in the hall. And you see the oil works, you see there was oil works in Addiewell, the shale mine was more in West Calder, but the oil works actually started in Bathgate. Durhamtown, and they came up, there wasn't enough space there, and they came to Addiewell. That was Young's and then there was Oil Company started up too. Well my father was the builder you know, and, but before that, before he came to Addiewell, when my father lived in Blackburn, he used to walk from Blackburn to Hermand ...

SR Oh, that one right over there?

LK Yes, you know where Blackburn is? Yes, well he walked from Blackburn to Hermand, when they were building some houses at Hermand, the old, old houses, I think some of them are down, I don't know, but anyway I know that he walked that way.

SR He moved from Blackburn to here before you were born?

LK Yes, oh aye, he moved to Addiewell in 1900.

SR And was he born in Blackburn?

LK He really, he belonged to Blackburn, he was born in Blackburn. And my grandfather was born in a house down on the Breich -Blackburn road, Southhill House, and they, my grandfather, my father, my grandfather, they all lived in Blackburn. My mother lived in Bathgate you see, and we moved, and we finished up, when he first got here he was a builder. And it was a primitive life like, there was no running water.

SR You were living in one of the small rows belonging to the Young's company?

LK The rows, I'll show you the rows.

SR Yes.

LK I have a map of Addiewell.

SR Do you?

LK It's a photo-type thing but it gives you all the streets, all the streets were named after, Dr David Livingstone, all these, the man that made the Lenny lamps, I have them all on the map there, but there was Bank Street, Cross Street, I was born in Bank Street. Bank Street, Cross Street and Watt Street and Davis Street and Stevenson Street were all called the High Rows, and Livingstone Street. And they thought themselves a wee bit high, and the Low Rows, the Low Rows were Graham Street, Simpson Street, Campbell Street, Baker Street, Simpson Street, Campbell Street, but Faraday Place that still stands that was the top area, you know. Well, we were in line with Faraday Place so we were considered in the High Row too, but there was no running water and there was no toilets.

SR And so where was the running water? Where did you get your water from?

LK You got your water from a well, we got it from a well in the next street. We walked up, you know there were sort of posts, a pen, we walked to the next street and got our water and carried the pailfuls, and we had just two rooms and a living room, two rooms and a kitchen. Just a room and a kitchen for there were no toilets and sculleries, nor anything, but in my time there was one wash house, it was built for an old woman, her man had been killed in the work. And the work built her a wash house, and gave her washing utensils, a washing board and the old fashioned mangle and we could get a day in the wash house. And we borrowed a day in the wash house, otherwise you had to wash in your living room or outside, if it was dry. You would just use a tub and a stool and a wringer, and it was the old fashioned way, there was no such a thing as persil or things like that. You got a soap powder in the cooperative, it was 2 ½ d, and you washed. And my mother used to buy these unbleached sheets, cotton, there were unbleached, yellow, in fact I've some slips like it now, I don't know where they came from, and I don't know how they came to be that colour. And we used to put them on the green, and water them with a watering can and sun dry them. And then my mother says, "Somebody go and water these sheets again", and that's how you dried and bleached then you know.

SR Oh I see, with the sun?

LK With the sun, the sun bleached them through time. But it took about 2-3 days in the week in good sunny weather, and got them bleached. They were long wearing you know, and then I mind these great big, long double blankets, but most people washed them, most people tramped on them, there were tubs you know.

SR With their feet?

- LK With their feet. They put them in tubs of water, and this boiler, it took, I can always remember it took about 9 - 10 pails of water, you know, and then you used to put, tubs, tramping, and then you put them through, there was a wringer, a mangle and then, that's how you did your washing.
- SR When you were a girl, did you as a girl help your mother? Or did your mother just do it all?
- LK Oh no, we helped, everybody helped. Well I had 5 sisters and 4 brothers, and we all, well my brothers would get coal in and things like that. I think I did I was a jack of all trades.
- SR Where were you in the family? Were you the eldest?
- LK I was the middle.
- SR The middle?
- LK Yes, I had 5 older and 5 younger. As the and tailor once said I was the flower of the flock. Anyhow we, that's how the washing was done, and there were big greens, but my mother was a keen gardener, and she got her garden, it went from the house right down to the hall wall, and the woman next door gave her her garden and she grew flowers and she grew vegetables, and my father built a hot house and we had, she took up everything, and she was a great cook and when the strikes were on, I mind, later on in life when there, when I started to work at 14 in Patrick Mason's in Edinburgh as a tailoress, and my Ma took a job. Dr Young came out and asked for my mother, and asked her if she would go and make the meals for the school children to come into school and be fed in West Calder.
- SR Was this in the strike?
- LK During the strike, yes. And she went in and made the meals, she had her two elder sisters helped her and all, another two women, and they made the meals and fed the strikers you know, fed the school children and I worked in PT's then. And I worked in PT's right up until I was getting married.
- SR That was in Edinburgh?
- LK In Edinburgh.
- SR Did you live in Edinburgh, or did you go out each day?

LK No I travelled by train a 7.45 am and came home at 7.00 pm at night. And there were no tea breaks. You only got your dinner at 1 pm.

SR And did you keep you wages or did you give that to your mother? Did you keep your wages or did you give it to you mother?

LK Oh, you gave you mother your wages you see. Well when there was a big family, when you started to work, automatically you thought, well hand over your wages. And you see entertainment was cheap. There was nothing in Addiewell actually, but we once had a picture house that came in for the winter, or two winters, and you got in for 2d. And my mother she didn't believe in the pictures unless it was something educative, but I was more interested although I was a Catholic - the Hallelujahs used to come round with a tent.

SR Were they the Salvation Amy?

LK The Hallelujahs, these Hallelujahs were preachers. They used to hold a tent, and used to love to go up and sneak in to the tent and sing all the hymns and, I was always fond of singing. And we sang all the hymns and when, only this time I was nearly finished, they gave a prize and I got a nice badge, "Jesus loves me", hidden in the inside of my coat so as they wouldn't see it. I never let on about the Hallelujahs and when I went home, mother said to me "Where have you been?" For I was dry, and here it had poured with rain, I didn't know that, and I was sort of stranded and I just said I was speaking to this girl in the wash house on my way home. I didn't say where I was. But she didn't allow us to go to the pictures unless it was something that she thought was missing, or or something like that you know. But there was cinematicar that came 2 or 3 times a year to the hall, and then she didn't believe in that either because she thought it wasn't safe, there wasn't enough fire escapes. And they used to stand with a big engine outside, just outside our doorway, and they used to stand with a big engine outside and it worked from inside. But we all, everybody, we went to church twice on a Sunday, went to Mass on a Sunday morning when the chapel opened, before that when you were younger you didn't go to West Calder chapel, the whole family went but the younger ones didn't go, but when the chapel came to Addiewell we went twice a day. We went in the morning and we went to the Benediction at night, and I joined the choir, and I was in the choir and I sang the solos in the choir until I was married. And I always loved the choir, but there was only, there was dancing in the hall about once a month, and sometimes you had to sneak out and sometimes you were allowed, but you, there wasn't anything else, you'd to go to West Calder, there was a dance hall in West Calder, but I don't think, I think I was only 2 or 3 times in it, but then I went to Stoneyburn. Stoneyburn, it was mostly Lithuanians that were, Poles, that came to Stoneyburn to live.

SR Was it?

LK And they worked in the coal mine.

SR And when did they come? Was this before the 2nd world war?

LK It was before the 2nd world war.

SR Oh yes.

LK They came and all Stoneyburn was manned by Poles, for I remember when the chapel was opened. You see there was only the one chapel and there was no chapel in Stoneyburn, and they all came to Addiewell chapel, and they came in droves to Addiewell. And the school at Addiewell, the Catholic school in Addiewell, I believe there were more Poles than there were Addiewell people.

SR This is while you were there or later? This is while you were there or later?
This is while you were at the school or later?

LK When I was at the school? Oh yes. I sat beside Poles, even friendly with them yet, and some of them even live in Stoneyburn. In fact I've got a son married to a, a son, a daughter, and I've got a sister-in-law, my brother was married to one. Oh they don't like to be called Poles, Lithuanians, but we just call them Poles, no difference. And they worked in pits in Stoneyburn and Loganlea, you see. Well this place here was actually a row of houses called "dykes" and men all worked in the pit up here, and that's why my mother, all Addiewell men worked up here.

SR In the Loganlea pit?

LK In this, the Loganlea pit. It was, oh there was hundreds of men working it, so that when the ground was cheap here, and you see it was slum clearance, and when my Ma was on the county council, she got this ground so that it was taking men nearer the pit, the result was everybody here were miners when we came up. There were very few men, well my husband, I'm 51 years in this house, and that was first tenant. But he didn't work in the pit, he worked in Addiewell oil works. But as I told you, the oil works started in Bathgate, and then Young didn't have enough ground, and he came up and he started the oil works in Addiewell. And he came up, you see there is a great bing as you come out opposite the cemetery, well it was almost twice as high and my husband worked up there until they closed the works.

SR He was tipping the

LK Up on the tip. They used to put the, you see they brought the shale from the mine and there was some process through the retorts and then the waste was put up this. And they used to go it out, the workroom, two's of ten, and then on a Saturday they worked from one right on to five o'clock on a Saturday morning, Sunday morning, that was when they changed their, over from day shift to back shift. But it was wild going right on the top of the tip.

SR I bet it was - yes.

LK But there was an awful lot of Irish people that came, it was the wee rows that they came from Ballamar and Ballameny and that, and all these Irish people, and they were the ones that were sort of, well I don't say they were looked down on but, other rows were mixed, sort of thought themselves superior. But there was no, you never heard any quarrelling. There was one man used to come up with a drink in him and we used to shout he was a Catholic. He used to shout for this football player, Johnnie Walker, and Johnnie Walker got him a suit of clothes for a present, and then another Irishman used to come and he used to be always going to fight everybody (re this)

SR Was your husband born in Addiewell?

LK No, he was born in Linlithgow.

SR And so he came here when he left school to get a job in the oil works?

LK No, he came here when he was young, the rest of his family were all born here, They were born in Graham Street, I was born in Bank Street. But he was born in Linlithgow, for after Addiewell was closed, I went to Linlithgow and lived and worked in Philpstoun oil works. And then when Philpstoun oil works was closed, although I was born in Addiewell I didn't want to come back but he came back and he got a job in the pit up here.

SR And that's when you moved into this house?

LK Moved back up here. I was just up a year when I got into this house.

SR So, let me just see. You lived here and your husband worked in Addiewell oil works, and then he worked in Philpstoun oil works, and then he became a miner in the colliery. I see.

LK Oh, he'd been a miner before. He had been a miner during the 1926 strike.

SR A coal miner or a shale miner?

LK Coal, a coal miner. He wasn't a shale miner. But my son worked in the coal mines for just a wee while, and then he got onto the railway and
One son worked at BMC, and one son was working in insurance.

SR How many children do you have?

LK I have 6, I had 7. But there are 6 alive. One died when she was young in Philpstoun, and well it was Kingscavil outside Linlithgow, and... But I have 3 daughters, one in Glenrothes, and one still here and one in Fauldhouse. And I've a son in and a son in Blackburn, and a son in Ratho Station.

SR So they are all quite close.

LK And they all visit me monthly.

SR What happened to the daughter that died?

LK Well, she took pneumonia, and she took inflammation of the lungs and then she took meningitis. She was 16 months when she died, and you know, all the years I was in Addiewell, only twice in our youth did we know people with TB. One family was wiped out by it, they were all wiped out here. And then another girl I know took TB. But you never heard of TB. And funnily enough too, there was an outbreak of diptheria, and West Calder was rife with diptheria, but the acids things come from the work and they seem to have an effect. All the doctors were waiting on it spreading, for you see we'd one wee doctor in Addiewell, he lived in 13 Faraday Place, and he had a bike, 2 surgery hours in the day, and his wages were 1d off every man that worked in the pits. Well you see he done Breich and Goodmuir, there was what was called the and he did Stoneyburn and Addiewell and the surrounding districts, and that was his wage and the bike. And most times he walked, and I can remember, I've a hearing aid, I don't hear through my ears, over from to Pumpherston, but I'd a hearing aid, but I'd a bad ear when I was at school and I used to go along everyday in my dinner hour, school dinner hour, not every day but every time I got my ears..... But he was always there, you always got him, no matter when you sent for him, I remember when I sent for him (re this).

SR When you had rheumatic fever , did you stay at home, or were you sent to hospital?

LK Well you were kept at home. I was 21 weeks in bed with rheumatic fever and I didn't get anything to eat or drink anything for except for water and powders for 21 days.

SR But where, there were 12 of you living In the house with 2 rooms, where did you stay? Was there room for you?

LK This is how it was. My mother and father, there were 2 beds in the living room, my mother and my father slept in the one bed, and my two wee brothers, young brothers slept in the other. And we'd two beds in this room and six females (inaudible) And in the other room, well my brother John, by the time Alec, the two youngest laddies were born, John had joined the army. But Dick and my grandfather, they came to stay with us, and they stayed in the other room, and grandfather died with us. He died in 1918. But we were all happy, we all sang you know you had no wirelesses, no, nothing to entertain, so everybody sang, and we used to sing I suppose as a choir of our own. We sang with a family at the end of the street, the Hardies, and they used to do the same, they sang, and they used to sing about, and I mind during the war (re anecdotes of a song and a friend, inaudible). But it was a quiet life too, you didn't, there was no, unless it was moonlight you didn't, there was no street lights, and there was no vandalism. Only there were, only two people that I know really, two boys, that were deformed. And you never, you see, down in Pumpherston at the store, there was the bakery, and there was a pub. There was no sitting rooms in the pub, and there was a licensed grocery, and you used to just go in and get a pint or whatever and you sat on the bank, the grass across the road and drank it.

SR Was there a lot of drinking, did people drink a lot?

LK No you never saw drunkards.

SR There was no problem with drinking? Men didn't beat their wives when they were drunk or anything like that?

LK No, no, no, you didn't get that. And another thing too, you didn't get, you didn't get the people, men going out with other men's wives. Only once in a blue moon did that happen, I don't remember anybody that did you know. Unless it took years you see, but now they are round to get their they get a house, they get it furnished for them and they get a house whether they are married or not. When we came up here, everybody in this, was all married and from the place, now they are from Glasgow. There are people here and all their family go and get houses, single people go to get a house of their own, and (inaudible)

SR But when you were young, nobody left home until they got married?

LK No, no-one left home. Well, you see there were a lot of people who went to service, you see like Johnnie's, like my husband's sisters, and the people who lived around here, that I travelled from here. Like I travelled to Edinburgh, but the people who went to service, they got paid monthly not very much, but they worked in houses and they only came home in the summer, for a fortnight, and they used to send their wages home. I mind one woman asked me to take home a parcel (re this). But most of the young people weren't going to service.

SR Did you choose not to go to service, or was it just that you got a job with the ...?

LK Well I'll tell the truth I was in Edinburgh, my mother and my father said, they used to often go to Edinburgh on a Saturday, and I went to, I was always fond of these making hats, I was more inclined to millinery stuff, and the girl that I was pally with, I had just got pally with her, she was going to Nelson's College, but there was a man wanted me to get my and my mother said "Well, when there is six of a family, we don't want to make one different from the rest you see". So, I, it didn't materialise, but I went to Edinburgh with my father and mother this day, I met Mr Gardener, he was the manager, of PT's, and he knew my mother, he came from Linlithgow, he had known my mother, just casually you know, so he spoke and he says (re job conversation). So I said to me mother that I'd like to work at Mr Gardener's, he was a nice man. So when she was in Edinburgh (re tailoring possibility and job). So I went in and started on the Monday. Geut's tailoring

SR That was when you were 14?

LK Yes.

SR And did you get a good salary there? Did you get a good salary, a good wage there?

LK Well funnily enough, the girl that was at Nelson's College started away at a job, Nelson's got her a job, as a clerkess, six months or so, and we travelled together, and we are still pals too, she lives in Currie, she never married, and I started on 37/- and that was a lot in these days, but our return ticket, a three monthly ticket cost £3.18.5d for three months. Now it takes £3 for one day to go. It was £3.18/- until you were 18, after that it was dearer, but I don't mind, I can't just mind, it might have been double that, I just can't mind. But I believe it was double £6 perhaps nearer £7. (inaudible). Well you made better wages for that, later on I was on piece work, you know, and you could make a good wage, because £4 was a good wage in these days you know. It did come to be that I've seen me with £4, it was sometimes as good a wage as any of my brothers had.

SR Did your mother give you pocket money back out of what you gave her?

LK Well she gave us pocket money back, whatever we wanted you know, we got money (Inaudible) so there wasn't a set sum. Then she bought our clothes.

SR How old were you when you got married?

LK I was just going on 20.

SR And then you stopped work did you?

LK I stopped work. I stopped working.

SR Did any married women work? Did any married women work?

LK No, married women didn't work. You wouldn't get a job if you were married.

SR Really?

LK No way, there was no married people, and the only thing married people did do was go wash for somebody, and they maybe just got 5/- or something like that. And there is one woman I know, she had had a wee boy and she wasn't married and she used to go round and note where we threw the water outside, slops, there was just a wee gradient in the ground, and there was bricks round it, and use to stub it with a big wheel brush to -keep it clean and she used to and, 2 or 3 women I know,' she has done that for them, she's got a halfcrown. But this woman, her man got burned to death in the works, and my Uncle Lawrie was foreman and he in Faraday Place, that was where the foreman lived, my father got the chance of a house there (inaudible) but my ma wouldn't take it (ie a murder) Well my Ma wouldn't take the house because it was just beside it, and she didn't like the idea. And my father took a job with the Scottish Oil Works all over Scotland, on contract, and he made good money, he made a lot of money. I've seen my mother between the wars, having £30 a week.

SR Really? So you didn't, you weren't, you didn't suffer from poverty?

LK On no.

SB Too much.

LK No, luckily. And that's what I say there were no toilets in Addiewell.

SB What did you use?

LK Well. The women had to use poles or palls you know, but the men went to these places outside, they were just dry toilets, and they went in, some of the women in the other rows use to sneak in when they weren't looking and every 2 or 3 days or 3 times a week, a man came, covered it all with and lime, and then scraped it all out and cleaned it away and took it away and that in a big cart. I often think of this man, you know how use to get into the big rubber boots to clean it all.

SB But the palls for the women, that was just in the house was it?

LK Just in the house.

SB Did you have a separate sort of, little, Closet?

LK No there was no closet. We got one, my father built one because the policeman got one, at the end of the street, so my father built one. He built two porches onto the rows and gave us a back door. And the result was, he built a toilet, and he got a pipe taken along the back and into the same pipe as the policeman's toilet.

SB This was a water closet was it?

LK Yes. And that was the only flush toilets in Addiewell. And later

SB When was that?

LK It would be about 1929, when Livingstone Street got water closets and and the top houses got water closets, so that was 1929.

SB When you got married, where did you go and live then?

LK I lived in Graham Street when I got married first, I lived with my mother-in-law's room.

SB So in her house, with her there?

LK With her.

SB That must have been tough.

LK It was tough.

SB There was just you and your husband and your mother-in-law, or what about other children as well?

LK No, no. She slept in the big bed, her man was dead and she slept in the big bed. And she had two sons young, 15 or 16 and they slept in the other bed. And we slept in the room.

SB How did you get on with her?

LK Well she was easy going and yet she was easy huffed you know. You see I was a long time before I realised that if you left the room door open, you see it was just like this (inaudible). And if you left the room door open, sometimes she'd say

(re window). But we never quarrelled, no, but sometimes there used to be a huff and I've seen me many times just staying out, just for the sake of staying out.

SB Did you cook separately, or did you all eat together?

LK No. We cooked separately. Well, sometimes I made a big pot of broth you know, things like that, she wasn't a great cook. She had worked on a farm before she was married, she wasn't a great cook. She was fond of the frying pan style. Well my mother was a great cook, and she, there used to be a flower show in Addiewell every year, and my Ma used to enter stuff, she was a great baker and so was I. She was a great baker and she could (re baking). But she baked good dinners for them in a way but it was, oh I couldn't eat the dinners.

SB So how long did you live with her?

LK Well I lived with her for about 2 years. And then I went to Linlithgow.

SB But you lived with her just because you couldn't get a house?

LK No, no houses.

SB What, because it was too expensive to get a house?

LK No, no, the rent was only 3/1d

SB So you could have afforded a house, but it was just there was nothing to get?

LK No, there were no houses you see. But, houses were very scarce. Some people were in rooms for years, they didn't get a house. And he put his name in for a house in Stoneyburn, and then he started to work up in this pit in 1926. After the 1926 strike, he started work up in the pit here, and he put his name in for a Stoneyburn house because they belonged to the pit. They were United Collieries there you see, pits weren't nationalised, and of course there were only so many houses allocated to Loganlea and Addiewell and the rest were allocated to Stoneyburn. So he put in for one and we were just. You see we wouldn't have got into Linlithgow either, houses were scarce there. But his uncle, his two uncles, were foremen in the work.

SB At Philpstoun?

LK At Philpstoun you see. And his two aunties worked to Mr Grind, he was the manager. So one day we got a telegram, come to Philpstoun at once. So he went down to Philpstoun and he got a job on the tip, the same as what was at the Addiewell tip, and he didn't get a house in Philpstoun but he got a house in Kingscavil, just a room and kitchen too. But there was

a dry toilet round the comer...

SB One for each house?

LK One for two houses, one for two houses, ...

SB And did you have water, a tap?

LK No, a well. You had to walk as far as from here up to the top here for water. And you'd to keep, you'd a wee green in front of your row and a hook on the wall and a pole for drying, and the washing tub in the living room stood out. And you washed outside, weather permitting, always winter and summer. But if it was too wild, you brought the tub and stool into the living room.

SB If it was really wet, where did you dry the clothes? Where did you dry the clothes when it was really wet?

LK On the green.

SB But when it was wet, when it was raining?

LK Oh we'd just a pulley.

SB Oh I see, on the ceiling.

LK On the ceiling. We'd a big long pulley, the whole length of the house. The house was longer than this one, a big long pulley. They were wooden pulleys, we'd 3 ropes, but I liked the long pulley and I was sorry to leave it. But he came back up here and he got a job, up at the pit at first, but he didn't stay long until he went to the works. And I was going to stay in Linlithgow, Linlithgow's lovely. Lovely.

SB And that was when you came to live in this house? When you came back?

LK I was, the first two years since I came back from Linlithgow, I was 51 years in this house since the 20 October. And that was the first tenant up here, the first of this lot.

SB But when you came here did this house have electricity? And running water?

LK It had electricity...

SB And water?

LK Yes, there was a tub and a sink, you know a tub with a board on the top of it then a wash hand basin. And there was a back to back grate with a boiler stashed in it, an urn, and there was a wee fire there which heated through the grate.

SB So this was really luxuries compared with Kingscavil and...

LK Oh we thought we were in heaven when we come here. In fact I still don't believe it, but how I managed was (end of side 1 of tape)

LK since she was born.

SB That's your second one?

LK No.

SB Third?

LK That was my fourth.

SB Fourth? Oh yes, there was the little girl who died.

LK See, I had Tom in Addiewell, and the wee one that died, she was born in Addiewell. Jean was born in Philpstoun, in Kingscavil. And Alex was born, actually in maternity, but I was living in Kingscavil. And when I came up here I had Cissy, I was only in and they got the month's rent, rent monthly. And the first day the man was in the rent was 19/5d a month, and now the rent for this house is £16 something now weekly. Well the first time the rent man came in I had had Cissy, and he said to me "Is this you overcrowded already?" And I says "Well, that's the first of the few", just like that, and 3 weeks after, his wife had triplets! So I got the laugh on him. (re this)

SB Did you have your children at home?

LK I only had Alex in the maternity.

SB Why was that? Were you ill or?

LK I was living in Linlithgow but I had taken in the kidneys, you know, poisoning in the kidneys. And I was in the maternity for 2 months before he was, so he was born in the maternity.

SB When you had your children at home, was there a midwife who came to help you?

LK There was a midwife just until the last one, that was the nurse.

SB Yes, and was the midwife trained or?

LK Well the head doctor in West Calder trained her. And he always used to say, she was very safe. When I think back on it.....

SB Why, what makes you think that?

LK When I look back, she - it was an honour to her for every one she had that she didn't call the doctor. And in the latter end, you'd to plead with her to get the doctor. I did have to get the doctor, and the doctor was really on here at the time, was angry because we booked her because, you see there was no nurse. The nurse was just newly here, and when she brought Fay into the world, she didn't like to pass her, when she was a friend. In fact she used to (re joke) live in Addiewell and she came up and to let you know too how people were more innocent in these days. My son was 14 on the November when I had my last girl, and the woman down the stairs says to me " You know he might resent you having one ." Young, like I was only 34 or something, and she says he might resent you having one late in life. She says "I know my man didn't look at his mother for months when she'd a wee girl", and this worried me. But that morning, he used to have to go down to Addiewell for the messages, to the store, and Alex was going on a trip to Gullane, Tom was going to a trip to Gullane, and I said to him before he went away (re Tom message to midwife) Nobody made more of Nora than Tom did. It's funny, and the wee boy down the stair who was born on the day that the dividend was paid, the cooperative dividend, and the laddie, he is in Bedford, he writes to me too, and he came up and he says to his mother, "Can I go up and see the wean?" And he came up, and he says to me "Where did you get her?" And I used to get my messages all from Lipton, they came round and took the order on a Monday, brought your messages on a Friday. And I liked it better than trailing away to Addiewell you see. Of course leaving, there were six at that time in the house, five, leaving five in the house and going away to Addiewell and standing for 2-3 hours, you couldn't do it. So I said to him, he said to me "So where did you get her?" I says "I got her from the dividend", and he never said anything, and he went away down and he says to his mother "You see you, mother, you sicken us, you're always with that store book, and running sending down to Addiewell for everything, and you couldn't get away " (inaudible). They were more innocent you know?

SB Yes. When your mother had children, when you were all living in this tiny house, what did she do with you when she was having younger ones? Did she send the older ones away for a day or two?

LK Oh, we used to go round to the hot house, I mind of it now. We went down to the

place for keeping your bucket full of water, so as you always had some in the house?

LK Well we used to have a table and you kept white enamelled pails on top of the table.

SB And were they covered? Were they covered, did they have a lid?

LK They were covered, well ours were, everybody's were but we all used to have this lace net with beads to keep them down. She used to bail with the water pails, but the women that used to go out and just lifted the pails and said we'll go for a pail of water, was. You see in these days you didn't go out, you'd go out to play, they all used to knit. And I knitted one sock, and I never knitted (re not being able to knit). I knitted for the wee ones right enough, but I made all their clothes, every stitch they wore ...

SB Oh yes, of course you were trained in tailoring.

LK Oh yes I done it, I made all their clothes, I made all their clothes.

SB Was that unusual, did most women buy all their clothes?

LK Well you see clothes weren't dear, you know, and I did honestly, there is a girl down the called she's married, and they weren't much better off, they weren't any poorer, but I believe the club was cheap, and I've seen me, I'd get so many yards material, and I'd go into Edinburgh, and so many yards material I make frocks for Cissy and Nora and Jean, I always made a frock for Mary. (re making clothes for people). And one time, this is true, I fell down and cracked my back on the stair, and I'd plaster on it, it was the bottom of my back, and they took that bit, cocyx, they took that away because there was fluid it it. I could lie and I could stand but I couldn't sit, and it was just the week the gala day was on and the woman who was up there, she's married now, she came in an ambulance with me. And I gave her the money and she went along to the, while I was in the infirmary she went along to the Silk Shop, and their stuff was only 1/11 per yard and she got me material. When I came home I cut the dresses out while I was standing and I lay in bed, and I made the three dresses and a blouse between Wednesday and Saturday.

SB For the gala day?

LK For the gala day. And I wanted pink. Well she couldn't get pink, and she brought me green, and I never was fond of green but they were green and I pleated the skirts in ruffled nets and they all went to the ..

SB When you were a child, were the gala days a great treat? When you were a child were the gala days a great treat?

LK Oh picnics were great and you see, funnily enough too there wasn't very many Protestants. There was a Free Kirk and the established church, the established church is still there, but the Free Kirk is in ruins. Well, it was built when I was just at school, the Free Kirk, but I mind when the Free Kirk took their picnic, when they came home it was raining and this minister, he lived down in and he, they were all under a golf umbrella, you know, they were all crushed under a golf umbrella. Well, the other kirk, their picnic, they were all in two hay carts, and they were all coming over and they were all singing and the wheel came off the cart just as they were up at the top. Buy when it was the Catholic picnic, you see Stoneyburn congregation come too to Addiewell, the result was, when the picnic was still leaving, Father Kenny and when it was still leaving the playground, and the chapel, the band was up Livingstone Street and down at Morton Street because there was so many. Because it took in Stoneyburn and Addiewell. It was a vast majority you see.

SB Did your father have any: holidays when you were a child? Or did he work all the time?

LK No, they just got idle time if they took it. Most men didn't take it at all. A day at West Calder sports was the most for them.

SB Was there a lot of poverty, was it hard?

LK Oh, a lot of poverty. I can mind, my mother was standing in the stair, they lived at the top of and I can mind of my mother, and we'd a great big message basket, and it had a lid and a handle and I can mind of my mother putting groceries of every kind, tea, sugar, and butter, all these things into it and she gave them to my two elder sisters and she said "Now take them up and open Finlay's door, and just put that in the door, close the door and come home." And I mind of another family, this man, and I've seen me sometime, my son is the chairman of the club down here, and sometimes he'll say to me when he's sitting in the house by ourselves, "There's a good sing song come down", just like this. He takes me down in the car and brings me up. (re sing song). There is one of these fellas, he always comes and says to me I mind when you were wee and coming to your house and all the rest of it, and I often think of it, his mother could take a drink, and but she belonged to West Calder, and I can mind of my Ma doing the same, filling this basket of stuff and (inaudible). My younger sister married and went up, and put it in the door, and didn't say anything, just left it. "These baskets", I says, "must be cheap". Many mornings she did that. Because my father had the big wages, and if she knew of anybody hungry. And when we did come up here, even, when, I wouldn't have said to her, when it was the electric light, I would never have said to her you know, anything about paying my light, when I was hard up. I know for a fact that different ones did, and she paid it for them.

SB Did you ever go to school barefoot?

LK No, but I knew them coming from, there is a wee farm down that road, and this was the Dykes row, down where they houses on the way up. There was just row, room and kitchens you know, and the most of them come even in the winter, they had barefeet.

SB And it was because you father was a builder that he had more money?

LK He had more money.

SB It was the oil workers and the miners that were much poorer?

LK Well the oil workers didn't have very much more. No, and they were thrifty too, the oil - workers really, I think must have had more.

SB More that your father? More that your father?

LK No, no. My father worked in the oil works, Addiewell oil works, he was a builder, but he had a good wage. When they went away on contract and that, he had big, big, money you know. What I mean is, when we were young he always had good money, and when, there was a woman that lived not far away, and I can mind her. And hardly ever had shoes or boots and I mind of her washing in this wash house, a shack thing that they built round the back, and just I don't know if they'd a boiler in it or not, but she used to wash in it. But I can mind of seeing her faithfully doing the washing but the next day she had a sump. And it wasn't summer, I don't say it was winter, but it wasn't summer. I can mind of that.

SB Tell me, was there any pollution from the oil works? Was there any pollution from the oil works? Were they very dirty?

LK No, see what I say, when that epidemic and diphtheria came out and West Calder was rife. Well Addiewell missed it. For they said the chemicals coming from the works had killed it, and disease and had killed the germs. And Addiewell was better off that way. Well there wasn't, I don't say there were a lot of ill health,

SB But was there, was the air smoky? Was there times when you put your washing out and it would get all sooty?

LK No, no. No, no, not from the oil works.

SB Was there dust coming off the bing?

LK No, not our bing. No, there was no dust of the bing, there was another bing, it wasn't in use, I don't know, it had been before. I think Addiewell. was actually built about 1884/5, school was built, the date was on it, it's off it now, but it was above it, 1888. And it was built then, that was the public school. The Catholic school wasn't built until, well I was 12, it would be 1916. That was the first Catholic school. It was the only Catholic school up until But it was, you see as I said a Catholic.

SB It wasn't dirty around here at all? The air wasn't dirty or anything?

LK No, no.

SB In the war, in the first world war, did women go and work on the bings and help with the shale?

LK No, there was some of the young women went and worked in the candle house, in the Birk, you know.

SB Only before they got married? Only before they got married?

LK Well there was maybe some, I believe there was 1 or 2 married women, their men were in the forces, and one or two went and worked. And I can mind the woman that went and cleaned the school, her man was in the forces, but very few married people worked at all.

SB And very few women worked in the oil works in the candle house?

LK Oh yes, just a few. I would say there were only about a dozen at the most that worked. And I mind one of them that left school, say a year before me, and she labelled boxes, they were leaving the candle house, to go.

SB When you were children did you go and play on the bings?

LK The old one, down toward Auchenhard. Auchenhard is a road, the last doctor said, "Auchenhard is the Breichburn". He .said "The Breichburn until they changed Midlothian to West Lothian, the Breichburn divided the Lothians and the Almond was in West Lothian, and the Breach divided, well the Breichburn is just down the brae here. Well, we used to go down the Breach, I've photos I'll show you, and the Breech, and the photos of the house, it is not a photo, I've photos of the houses, but I've also got this print of the village as it was. It's a sort of copy thing, and Dr McLean was very Interested in that. It so happened (re doctor and photos), (re Dr McLean and photos). I'm going to make a cup of tea for you.

SB Okay

INDEX

barefeet 17
bing 6,18
candlehouse 2
Catholic 1
childbirth 13,14
childhood - work 3
childhood - general 14
church 4
coal mines 5,6,11
coal & shale 6
death - child 7
doctor 7
drink 8
entertainment 4,7
family size 3
food 11
gala days 16
holidays 16
housing 2,11,12
illness 7
Irish 6
Lithuanians 5
marriage 9,10
midwife 13
migration 2,6,7,8,12
neighbours 14
oilworks 2
pollution
poverty 9-10, 16
religion 1,4
rent 11
school leaving 4
service 8
sleeping arrangements
strike 4
TB 7
toilets 10
travel to work 4

wages 4,9,17
war 2nd 5
washing 3,12,14

LK

PLACES

Addiewell 1,2,5
Bathgate 2
Blackburn 2
Glasgow 8
Hermand 2
Kingscavil 11
Linlithgow 6,11
Loganlea 5
Stoneyburn 5,11
West Calder 1

OILWORKS

Addiewell 5
Philpstoun 6,11

water 2-3,15

women - work 3,4,9,14,18

work - conditions 6

- shale 6,17

non shale 6,17