

Interviewees: Mr and Mrs C

Address: Dalmeny

Born: Mr C 1903 Mrs C 1913

Date: 22 November 1984

SR = Sara Randall

MC = Mr C

SC = Mrs C

SR So, you were born here in this house?

MC Yes.

SR And you've never left this house in you whole life?

MC No. But...

SR And when were you born?

SC 1903, 2nd of May 1903 (about MC)

SR You were? And when were you born? (To SC)

SC I was born on the 25th of June 1913. But not here.

SR Where were you born?

SC I was born in Perthshire.

SR And when did you come here?

SC I didn't come up here till 1939.

SR To get married?

SC I was married in 1935 and I came up here in 1939. I stayed down in Lord Roseberry's estate. My father worked there.

SR And so you were born here. Were you a shale miner? (To MC)

MC No I worked in the oil works

SR All your life, all your working life?

MC No after it closed down. I think that was 1926

SC I couldn't tell you, something like that.

MC Aye. something like that.

SR And then what did you do?

MC Och I was in different jobs and things.

SR But you never went down the shale mines?

MC No, no just in the oil works.

SR And did you ever go and work in coal mines?

MC No, no. It was all shale that was around here. It was. In fact, across in that side they say there is plenty of shale yet.

SR Towards Burntisland?

MC Yes.

SR So, what type of jobs did you do after you left the oil works?

MC Och, I went down to a place at the station, a Mr Payne. He used to make the likes of cythes for the routine and different thirds. It's a sawmill. And I come back and I was so many year in Craigie Quarry. I was in the navy stores in Queensferry. I was 13 years up in Kirkliston malthouse.

SR And then you retired?

MC Retired to Kirkliston.

SR When you worked in the oil works, what job were you doing?

MC I was serving my time as an engineer.

SR So you were training as an engineer. You weren't doing the still work and....

MC Just where the shale come up.

SC Looking after the plant there.

MC Only it was a big contact in that place. They used to make sulphur of ammonia. and crude oil they got out of there. Uphall and these places, they were making all the candles and all that. Oh, it was a busy place down there.

SC In fact just over there there was the miners. There was four rows of houses over there. It was the shale miners cottages.

SR And they were owned by the oil companies were they?

MC Aye, they were the oil company's. And it was all dry lavatories then . There were no flush lavatories then. They had to have a cart going round emptying them, every morning.

SR And this house, did you have a flush lavatory here? When you were a child.

SC No, no.

SR It was dry lavatories then was it?

MC Yes.

SR When you left the oil works, when it closed, did they offer to give you a, job somewhere else? Or did they just?

MC No, no. I had a job here. We used to have a dairy at one time.

SR Your father?

MC Yes.

SR For the village?

MC Yes and he'd go round the district. We'd to get up in the morning and leave here at 6 am. We'd go out with the milk van right round this district, right round Dalmeny, back in the Dalmeny Road. Then we went to go back and get

breakfast and go to the school.

SR You did that before you went to school? So you did that when you were a small boy?

MC When I was at school.

SR How old were you when you started doing that?

MC I say they are all lucky nowadays according to how we were brought up. We'd to work when we were young. They don't do that now.

SR Did your father pay you for it?

MC No, he kept me for it! These time you didn't get very much.

SR And when you left school, you went straight to the oil works?

MC Aye, I went into the oil works. I was in the oil works, and mind I wasn't very old then, it was after the school and I was doing my time. And I was put on nights, night shift one time, and I was ... it was oil tanks and there was something wrong with the pump and I went to it to sort it when the 1914 war finished. And I didn't know what was happening. (Memoirs)

SR When you worked there you carried on living with your parents? In this house all the time? And your wages, did you keep your wages or did you give them to your mother?

MC I gave them to my mother.

SR Everything?

MC Yes.

SR And did she give you some back to spend on yourself?

MC Oh we were always got something back. In fact I was in Craigie Quarry and she never kept a halfpenny off my pay, she got when I was working in the quarry.

SR Did you give him something back?

SC No, no. He just got it when he was needing it.

SR Do you smoke?

MC Yes.

SR So she gave you the money for your cigarettes?

MC I don't smoke that much.

SR And were you one of many children?

MC Eh there was ...

SC There was 9 of you.

MC Aye, there was 7 sons and 2 daughters.

SR And you all lived here in this house?

SC Yes, they did.

SR And where did you all sleep?

MC Well we had different things for sleeping in.

SR Did you each have your own bed?

MC Oh no, not in these days. You know they have that now, but not in these days. You cannot explain it really.

SR Can you tell me how it was. Who slept in here?

MC Oh well, there were a bed in here then. In these rows and they were all like a room and a kitchen, a kitchen and a room in it. And these were big families, there was Curran, Patsy and there was Mike Curran, Jeannie Curran, and I don't know how many they were. They were about 7, and each were in a house with a kitchen and a room.

SR So how did you sleep? Did you have the boys in one room and the girls in another? And your parents in another?

MC We'd different rooms of course.

SC We've got four rooms. So there was a bed just along there, and then of course ..

MC Different nowadays. You wonder how they

SC They just had to fit them in you know.

MC How the folk lived long ago, you wonder, how they lived and yet they could. bring up a family (Re comparisons) And you got nothing for working then. I forget what my wages were when I first started working but there was very little. In fact when I was working in Kirkliston Distillery I had very little pay, hadn't I?

SC Aye, you hadn't much pay.

MC I'd to try and work overtime to make it up a wee bit.

SR When you got married were you still working in the oil works or had you left by then?

MC Oh it was after they shut down.

SC It was 1935 when we got married.

SR And you have children do you?

SC Yes we have 5

SR So you brought up your 5 children in this house?

SC Practically yes. One was born down the estate right enough, but all the rest were here

SR And did any of them go and work in the shale mines?

SC No, no.

SR Would you have not wanted them to?

SC No, I don't think so.

MC They were they worked in the oil works. And my oldest brother he was a miner. A shale miner, he was right across at Rosyth.

SR And he worked there for most of his working life?

MC Oh I couldn't tell you, I can't remember that. I know he used to come up out

the night shift, up out the mine, and him and a Mr McPherson they were in the wrestling. The old fashioned, wrestling, no what you see on the TV now. But they used to walk right round the district, when they come out of the mine in the morning. That was their training. But they can't do that now. They can't get off their backsides. (Re comparisons)

SR Did your parents own this house or did they pay rent?

MC He built it.

SR He built it. And did he build the one next door as well?

MC I can't tell you. I know one of them, when you enter coming in here - that end was the railwayman's hut when they built the Forth Bridge. This ground in here was (? ?) when they were building the Forth Bridge, that is where they out their stuff. According to what we got when we applied for a house. You see, now, yesterday the shale bing there. That was always, shale. They took up them bogeys up to the top and there were two men up there and they picked up the bogeys and they put them on the wire rope again and they came down. And they pulled them up again. And they were going to do something here, so we applied for a house to see if we could get out of our house. Because this went from 8 am to 8 pm or after, every day, every day, when they built this thing round here for the North Sea Oil. So we applied for a house then and we were at the Councillor then about a house and he said "Oh you'll not get a house, you can't get a house", he says "You see that bing there that's an eye sore", but this is a bigger eye sore to us than the bing was. We could see from here across to Queensferry Road, going from Edinburgh to Queensferry. Now we canna see nothing. .
And we have two horses, there is a man who comes up here. And you know he says this "You know this is the coldest place in Britain", now he says "There's sun up there but when you come down here you're in a different country".

SR Yes, I can imagine.

MC But this thing is, it is coming along, right along the road like that and oh the wind. You want to be here when it's windy, an east wind.

SC Oh it's wicked.

SR I can imagine that.

SR When you were children did you have a tap outside or did you have water in the house?

SC Oh we'd a place out there. There was no water in the house then. We'd a wash-house , we could have ..

SR It had a tap in it did it?

SC We had a tap in there.

MC I had a man put this in, when we put the water in.

SR When was that? After the war?

MC Oh yes, oh no this war you mean?

SR Yes.

SC It would be after this war. Because I only came up here in 1939 and it was after that. It must have been after that we put it in.

MC And we had a big job with the water board and all.

SR What they didn't want to give you water?

MC (Re this problem)

SR When did you get electricity here?

SC Now

MC If you can tell me when that place over there was built - the grid was built, I'll tell you when it was put in,

SR It was after the war was it?

SC Oh yes.

SR That was built when? After the first was?

SC Second war. (Re possible date built)

SC '39, 45' - it would be after that we put that in.

SR And what did you used till then? Did you have gas or electricity?

SC Paraffin oil.

SR When you worked at the oil works, did you have free oil? Or did you have to buy it?

MC You had to buy it.

SR Did you get it cheap?

MC No, you didn't get it cheap, they didn't give you anything for cheap. You didn't get nothing in the oil works for cheap.

SC Aye, it was paraffin lamps.

SR And how did you heat your water? You had a fire in the wash house did you?

SC Well that was for washing and that. But the boiler was out there you see, and we just filled up the boiler and lit the fire underneath, and that heated the water.

SR And did you bathe in the wash house or did you bring in a bowl of water into here?

SC We bathed in the wash house.

SR But now you've had a bathroom put in have you?

SC I've got the bath and the kitchenette there. You see Mrs Laird hasn't got one, she didn't get a bath put in. Because it meant actually that she would have had to do a lot of renovation, to do that you see. But we were fortunate because this place here is what you'd call a

MC I'll let you see.....

SR I see(inaudible)

MC You see it was an old stone fireplace. And I says (Re renovations)

SR That was the dry toilet?

SC We did make it into a flush toilet outside. But now we've knocked that one down

and we've got one into the hut here.

SR I see.

SC Which is nearer hand.

SR So you still haven't got an inside toilet?

SC We haven't got an inside toilet, it's an outside toilet. But it's a flush toilet.

MC It's all this rigmaroll, you must get planning permission. It's ridiculous. Well, I'd a daughter and she went away to Australia last year..... (Re this) And it costs money to get a lawyer to do this and do that for you, you can't do it.

SC You are really supposed to get to bring a caravan in, you're supposed to get permission to bring that in. But we didn't apply to Roseberry for it, I mean he's not really very much interested in it. For the ground belongs to Roseberry you see.

SR The ground does?

SC The ground does.

SR But the house belongs to you?

SC The house is ours. But the ground belongs to Lord Roseberry. We pay a rent for it. This belongs to my youngest daughter, the caravan, and they stay in Kirkliston, and it belongs to her. (Re caravan). I mean he's a man who doesn't bother us, he doesn't come near hand to see what is what or nothing.

MC But you canna do nothing because the ground belongs to him. This one thinks that if I go away she can build a house in here. But they canna build a house they need to get permission from him. And the rent that he'll be wanting for this ground now is ridiculous. What we pay for the rent is nothing, nothing.

SC Oh no, I mean it's....

SR And when your father had his dairy, the land must have belonged to Lord Roseberry as well then. When you father had his dairy, the land must still have belonged to Lord Roseberry then?

SC Yes.

SR Did your father have the dairy all his life? Or did he start off ...?

MC He used to be a miner, when he built this I think.

SR A shale miner?

MC A shale miner.

SR He wasn't a miner once you were born?

MC No

SR Do you know why he gave it up? Why he stopped being a miner.

SC I don't think he really wanted to be a miner any longer. So he had some pigs, hens and some cows, and that. Oh the pits and that were here when I came up.

SR And when you came up here, were your parents-in-law still here? Did you have to share the house with them?

SC Oh I'd to stay here with them. I stayed with my own parents, down on Roseberry's and he stayed here, for the sake of his work you see, near hand.

SR So it wasn't much of a married life?

SC No it wasn't, not for a wee while, not until my mother died, and then of course left down at Roseberry's estate and went to stay with my younger brother you see. Because I just couldn't cope with it, I was running between the two places you see, Because after his father died he had a sister stay in the house, and there was a younger brother as well, and of course I'd to run between the two places which wasn't, too much really.

SR And you finally moved in here after your mother died? How many people were living here in this house?

SC One, two, there was a brother and a sister, that was all. Then I came in.

MC See, we used to have the dairy here (Re dairy and creaming) It was butter-milk. Well you could sell any amount down there on the road, that is what killed the

poison. When the men were down the mines, they used to come up and buy that. In their time off like. And there were a farm at the top of the road there, his wife took blood poisoning, mind Morrison? And they came down, to see if we could give them any butter milk. They took it to see if it could kill the blood poisoning.

SR Did it work?

MC It kept her going for a while anyway, but I think it was too far gone. But the miners use to do it, and we use to churn it up and there used to be a man come round here. And we'd eggs and we'd butter, and the miners wouldna buy it. The traders, they used to come up here, there were no so many rows then, the butcher used to come up from South Queensferry in a van, a horse and cart mind; he used to take the eggs fra us, take them down and sell them. He had so much a dozen off a' us. They wouldn't buy them off a' us.

SR Why?

MC I don't know - because they had to carry them down the road. You canna believe it, but it's true.

SC Aye, it's true enough.

MC Butter, the man used to come from Kirkliston (Re this shopkeeper)

SR Did you not use to mix very much with the people in the miners rows then?

MC Oh aye. We knew all the miners.

SC Well I didn't know many you see, with not staying here. I didn't know many.

SR Until after you came here in 1939?

SC After I came up here.

MC (inaudible)

SC It was nearly all finished by that time you see. I didna know many at all.

MC We'd only the one then.

SC There was only the one railway row.

MC And the family that was in there, they would still stay in rows and add a wee

bit to their house. Because it was the healthiest place out.

SR These houses?

MC These houses. They had even made a few houses into one.

SR So it was a bit bigger?

MC But they did, they made some of the houses, there were four houses, for the kitchen in one and the room in the other four houses. That was eight places they had down there for their washing. You wonder how the folk lived in here then.

SR So what did you used to do when someone was ill? When you were a child, and there were so many of you in this house, if someone was ill were they put into a separate room or what? Or did they just carry on, just lie in bed in the place that they were? If someone had measles or flu or?

MC Oh there was plenty room then.

SC Oh that was in the latter end we had more room then, I mean we could

SR When you were a child?

SC When we were children? What did you do then?

MC I was just here.

SR You never went to hospital or anything?

SC Oh no, we were never in hospital, that was one thing as far as I know they were never in hospital.

MC Never in the hospital.

SR And did you have people with TB?

SC No.

MC Three year ago, it will be four year come August

SR But not when you were a kid?

SC No, no.

SR Did the doctor ever come here?

MC (inaudible)

SC No, the doctor was very very seldom in here. I mean, when they were younger.

SR Did you have to pay for the doctor?

SC No, no.

MC When we had the doctor, when you came up here. (Re a time SC was sick) (Re a doctor) (Re Dr Wilson)

SR When you had your children, did you have them at home or did you go into the hospital?

SC At home. All at home.

SR All of them?

SC Yes.

SR And did the doctor come, or did you just have a midwife?

SC No I had a doctor and a midwife.

SR You never had any trouble, or problems?

SC No no trouble at all.

SR And did anybody you know have problems with childbirth?

SC No, there is not any of them. No.

SR And no children were very sick or?

SC No, no, they were all healthy.

SR And when you were a child were you the youngest in your family?

SC No

SR So, there were other children born after you. Did your mother have the children at home, or did she go into hospital?

MC No, they were all born at home. You never used to (not clear)

SR And what happened when she was being confined? Were you all thrown out of the house, or ...?

MC (not clear)

SC I suppose they would be!

MC These days are all altered now, you can't go back.

SR Well, I just wanted you to tell me about what you remembered.

MC This was the healthiest place round about and when the miners were in.

SC In fact they use to have a hall down there.

SR In the village?

MC No in the rows. You could have billiards and all that, and the miners

SR And that was provided by Scottish Oils?

MC It would be the miners that would build that.

SR And did you go down there?

MC I've been in the billiards room and that. Oh they had, they were good boys.

SB And you went to school in Dalmeny?

MC Aye.

SR And you left school when you were 14? Did many people stay on at school? Or did everybody leave?

MC We all left I think. We couldn't afford to keep any of them on. They had to go and get some money in. With a grown up family you know you need money. No like nowadays, they get money for old rope. You didn't get pensions or anything like that then.

SR No pensions?

SC No, they didn't get pensions or nothing. Or any allowance for their children or nothing in these days, oh no.

SR No you get anything for your children? Had it started by then?

SC Oh yes, yes.

MC We'd to pay it back though.

SR Did you?

MC Aye. You pay it one way and they take it back of the income tax the other way. So you don't get it. They take it off you.

SC Oh aye the income tax, oh yes.

MC Now they get an allowance for each child. We didn't get that.

SC But they are not allowed that on their income tax now you see. They don't get it you see.

MC You never got it when we... (Re tax)

SR Did you ever go hungry when you were a child?

SC Hungry? No.

SR So your father always had enough money to support you all?

MC He must have.

SR Did you always have shoes and - you never went barefoot?

SC No, not that I know of.

- SR People tell me that they went barefoot. Were you, because you had your own house, you didn't have to pay rent or anything, whereas everybody else was paying rent out of a small salary, so were you slightly wealthier? Your family, your father?
- MC Oh we'd to pay rates and the rent .
- SC But I mean the rates and that were nothing then compared to what they are now. I remember when I came up here, we were only paying about £13 in rates, a year. Now they are well over £100, nearly £150 now. It just shows how they have risen.
- SR When you first came here, was there, what did you think of all the shale mines and oil works and that? Did it strike you in a particular way?
- SC No really.
- SR You didn't think it was unhealthy with all the smoke and dust.
- SC No, no.
- MC Oh the miners then, some of the old folk that have left here we've visited them at times.
- SC This tank farm is worse than what it was when the shale mine was here.
- SR Because it takes all your view or what?
- SC It takes the view, but you still get the smell.
- MC You see, you're not supposed to smell it, but they can smell the gas.
- SC No, you're not supposed to smell it, but I can smell it.
- MC And there is a fishman, comes up one Thursday, and he was complaining about it.
- SC Aye, he was complaining about it. (Re the smell)
- SR When did they build the oil farm?
- MC Ten years.

SC Aye, it must be coming up ten year.

SR And that all comes in from Grangemouth does it?

SC That's right. Next year it will be ten year.

SR And is about the same time as they built the big road?

SC It must be, since they built the motorway?

MC Yes, it will be that anyway.

SC It must be round about that.

It was all going on round the same time as it were. (Re building the road and tank)

SR When you went to work at the oil works, what sort of hours did you work?
When you went to work in the oil works when you left school, what sort of hours did you work?

MC Eight to five.

SR Eight to five? So you didn't have shifts or anything?

MC Used to come home for my dinner. And if it was (?calers?), we used to cry it, if you didna take that, well you had to go back to your work without it, and many a time I went back without it. They'd say I didna like it.

SR Did you work five days a week, or six days a week?

MC Five.

SR And did you get any holidays?

MC No, there were no many holidays then. It was a long long time ago.

SR Were you, you were a sort of trainee, were you paid more than the rest of the boys ...?

MC We were very, very poorly paid. You worked for sweeties then.

SR And what sort of things were you doing?

MC Just to repair pumps and repair steam engines, to keep the plant going.

SR And were you trained? Did you have to follow lessons or anything? Or did you just learn by yourself?

MC Well, you see after that, after it closed down there were nothing here.

SR Then while you were working there you didn't have any evening classes or anything to help you train with?

MC No, there was nothing then.

SR About how many people worked there?

MC There was, three, on the hoppers, that's where they used to put the shale in to get burnt. It used to go in and feed out and get burnt. Well there was 3 shifts on that, 6 to 2, 2 to 10 and 10 to 6. Every day. That was on that shift, like there was 15 altogether.

SR On each shift?

MC No, that was for the 3 shifts. There was 2 men on the hoppers emptying the shale into these bogeys, and then they used to run it out into a pit, at the bottom pit, and there used to be a big rope go up, come round the wheel and come down again. Well they'd catch that on and it was taken away up the top again. There was 2 men in there.

SC At the top of the bing?

MC At the top of the bing. The you'd 3 gaffers then, 3 men looking after these men. And then there was another 3 men on, I forget the name of it, they were on a plant too. There were 3 shifts on that plant.

SR So, it didn't employ many people?

MC And there was (end side 1)

SR What, I'm sorry?

MC I used to have these

SR You used to? (Re jokes)

SR When the oil works closed did most people leave the shale industry altogether, or did lots of people go to work in other oil works?

MC No, there didn't very many leave the place. You see, when they did get the chance of a house in Queensferry, well they'd always the King George IV Whiskey. There was a bottling plant there then. They used to get in there, and they let the lassies get in there, into the bottling factory.

SR And what about the men?

MC Well, they never used to do very much in there. No the older men.

SR But the men who left the oil works, when you did. You left the oil works and then you went to the quarry? But what did the other men do when the oil works shut?

MC They just seemed to drift away.

SC They would just be looking for another job I guess.

MC Aye, and then if they got the chance of a house at Queensferry, they all went to Queensferry. Most of the Queensferry people are Dalmeny people of one kind. There're some people in Queensferry yet sons and daughters who were born in Dalmeny. There is one, Bonnie Green, and she is bound to be pushing 90. Now they moved from here down into Queensferry, and she used to be an outside worker on a farm.

SR Before she got married?

MC She didn't get married. But her father and mother left and went to Queensferry. That was when she worked on the farm, when she was up here.

SR Did you work at all after you got married?

SC No. no.

SR You were too busy looking after your children, or ..?

SC That's right.

SR You never even thought of working?

SC Oh no, no, no. Of course, when I came up here you see and he started to work in what we call Port Edgar, he worked in the Port Edgar. It was a case of, I had the cow to milk and the hens to feed, the pigs to feed. I had all that to do when he started to work elsewhere. I had all that to do so my time was fully occupied you see.

SR When your father came here to work in the house what was he doing?

SC He was the cattle man, down in Roseberry's.

SR And he'd been a cattle man before when you lived in Perthshire?

SC Yes.

SR And why did he want to leave Perthshire? Did he lose his job or was it better here?

SC No really, he just applied for another job and that was it. I mean, I was only 5 year old when we came down then to the estate.

SR So, you lived on the estate for most of your life, until you got married?

SC Oh yes, yes. I was only 5 year old when we came down to Lord Roseberry's estate.

MC You see Lord Roseberry's no one that will pay you. They're maybe forced to pay you now, but they were very rarely - that's how we - what's wrong with the estates this day. They are dying out and there's that much death duties to pay. But, when the workers, at the beginning, years and years ago, many workers on the farms and that - they had nothing. They were poorly paid,

SC You see both my brothers worked on the estate as well. I had two brothers, and they worked on the estate. They were cattle men as well.

SR You were given a house were you, to live in?

SC Oh we'd a house with Lord Roseberry, we'd a house.

SR Did you have to pay rent for that or ..?

SC No, no rent or, it was a free house.

SR Then as soon as your father lost his job, he would have lost the house as well?

SC Oh well, he went after my mother died, you see my mother died down there at the

home farm you see. Then you see there was nobody to look after my father you see and I was running between the two houses you see. So, we arranged that he would go and my younger brother would take him. So he stayed with my younger brother.

SR So did you go to school in Dalmeny?

SC Yes.

SR And so you mixed with all the people who lived in the village?

SC Oh I mixed with quite a lot of them.

MC Even when the rows were down there, you had 14 of them.

SC Oh yes, you had quite a few.

MC And they'd all come up here and that.

SC And we used to go to the dancing and that up in Dalmeny village. And then we'd the scout hall down here, and we used to have dances down there. Oh we mixed. Right enough.

SR Were these dances when you were a child or when you were a sort of teenager and..?

SC Well it was after I was married, it wasn't when, before I was married because it was too far to come at nights. It was too far really to come away up to Dalmeny and then get away home. Because transport was the same then as it is now.

SR And you walked!

SC And we had to walk really and it was so dark because you were walking in-between woods, trees and everything.

MC We walked from Lord Roseberry's estate and up Dalmeny School and we'd to walk from West Craigie, walked from Carlowrie to Dalmeny School . Now they can't walk this distance, they have to get a bus.

SC You see they all get transport now. Oh it was different then because we had to leave early in the morning to get to school for 9

SR As children of agricultural workers were you poorer than the miners children, or was it about the same? Were the wages about the same?

SC No I think we...

MC We were less I think.

SC We were poorer than the miners. Oh yes, we were poorer than the miners.

SR Did you always have shoes and things, or did you have ...?

SC Oh we'd always shoes. Oh yes.

SR And you parents, they had enough to feed you on and nothing extra?

SC Nothing extra. No. We'd nothing extra, no.

SR How many sets of clothes did you have?

SC Oh well it took us all our time really to maybe have, maybe three at least. But, sometimes we were lucky, it all depended, how we had to live of the money.

SR And did you ever have holidays and presents at Christmas or anything?

SC Oh well, we had occasionally presents, but I wouldn't say an awful lot you know.

SR And did you ever go on holiday?

SC Not now. We are never away now.

SR But did you go away on holiday when you were a child?

SC Well yes, I must admit we did.

SR What back up to Perthshire or what?

SC Well I, my mother's people and my father's were all up in Aberdeen. So we used to have maybe like a week up in Aberdeen, just for a wee break.

SR And you father did he always go with you, or did he stay?

SC Well he didn't go, my mother always did but not my father.

SR So it was a tough life being a ..

SC It really was,

SR And did he work 7 days a week did he?

SC Yes, 7 days. Oh it was always 7 days. Sometimes through the night as well.

SR And did you use the cooperative? And get a dividend?

SC Yes, that's right.

SR Is that how you got your clothes or ..?

SC No, not really out the dividend.

SR What did you use the dividend for?

SC Well, really necessities such as footwear and that you know.

MC Well you wonder how they lived along years and years ago. You wonder how they lived and yet they could bring up a family. Now they canna bring up a family and they get more money and allowances you wonder how it is. And they were healthier.

SR But there were people who were not healthy, who had TB and ...

SC That's right.

SR There were people who got dysentery, there were lots of children who died and... I don't know if there were any children who died in your families, but certainly in the 1920's there were a lot of young children dying who just don't die nowadays.

SC Yes.

SR Do you know of families where the children died?

SC No, no.

SR All you mother's children were all right?

SC Oh they were - yes. I mean things weren't so expensive then, living was a lot

less than what it is now. This is the result why they have to get big wages to keep the thing going. I mean, you take you groceries and that for instance. When we were young I mean they weren't a third of what they are now.

SR Did your mother shop in Dalmeny village or did she go into Edinburgh?

SC We used to go to Edinburgh, every Saturday we used to go into Edinburgh.

SR And what you'd have one big meal a day, or two big meals a day?

SC One.

SR Was that the same in your family?

MC What?

SR One big meal a day?

MC One.

SR One big meal a day?

MC (inaudible)

SR Which one, the middle of the day? Did you not eat anything in the evening?

SC Not a big meal, just a cup of tea or that, a sandwich or something like that. But just one decent meal a day.

SR With meat?

SC Yes.

SR And did you get your meat from the butcher's or straight from the farmer?

SC Butcher. There used to be a butcher's van go round, and a baker's van, and a grocer's van.

MC But they were very good. (Be butcher's)

SR When you were a boy and you went and delivered your father's milk and stuff round the village, did your brothers and sisters do that as well?

MC Yes. Brothers yes, but not the sisters. Just the brothers. On no we were all brought in as we came up.

SR But your sisters didn't have to do anything?

MC No they just, nobody said anything the worse.

SR What did you sisters do when they left school? Did they get jobs or ...?

MC No.

SR They just stayed at home?

MC Now I can mind ..

SC No, they never worked.

MC There was always plenty work.

SC There was still plenty to do here, to help the mother and that.

SR But you worked before you got married?

SC Oh yes.

SR In ..

SC In Edinburgh.

SR With a family or?

SC No, I was just a shop assistant in Edinburgh.

SR And you went in every day and came back home again?

SC Yes, yes.

SR And you did that from when you left school?

SC That's right.

SR Until you got married?

SC Married.

SR And what did you do with your wages? Did you keep them or?

SC Oh no, I had to hand them over.

MC No they weren't keeping the wages then!

SC No the wages we got really, it took as much for travelling expenses you know. Because I had to walk to the railway station at Barnton to get the train in to keep down expense.

SR What rather than going to Dalmeny?

SC Well it was nearer Barnton than what it was to come to Dalmeny I think. But the buses weren't so convenient really.

MC The trains were handier from Barnton for getting into

SC Oh yes.

MC Of course we used to be lucky here at one time. The main line is here, Edinburgh to Aberdeen. This, over here, the other side of that road there is a used to be a train run from Dalmeny station to Kirkliston, from Kirkliston to Ratho, from Ratho to Gogar, from Gogar into the town. And that was 4 times a day it used to run up and down.

SR Was it expensive, or could you afford to go on it quite easily?

MC Oh I don't think it was expensive then to go on the train.

SC Oh no it was a lot cheaper then. It was far cheaper than the buses. The train. That was really why, it was a long walk to Barnton right enough, but it was cheaper than the buses then.

MC You'd a mile to walk to get out the estate to get onto the road.

SR When you went out on holiday - to Aberdeen - you went by train?

SC Oh yes, yes.

- MC Oh aye, trains were cheaper than.
- SR Did many people in the village have cars? Before the war, before the war?
- SC No, no. I can't say there was many people had the cars, in the village.
- MC Nobody had cars in the village.
- SC No, it was very few had cars up in the village.
- MC No nobody had cars. No.
- SR Was there a lot of people who were very poor? Who were dependent on the parish?
(inaudible)
- SC Well there was a few in the rows depending on the parish. Oh yes, there was quite a few down in the miners cottages and that who had to depend on the parish.
- SR Was there many families whose husbands had been killed or died? Or were there also families with the husband and wife?
- SC Och, I couldn't tell you that. I mean I didn't know that very much about them. But I know for a fact that quite a few had to depend on the parish really. But I mean I don't know anything about their husbands and that, with me not staying here you see. With me being in Lord Roseberry's estate I didn't contact many you see till I did come up.
- SR When you did come up, did you know people well enough in the rows to go and borrow a cup of sugar or a cup of tea, or something like that? Or did you never really know anybody that well?
- SC Oh no, no. The only one that I did know well was my sister-in-law.
- SR She lived in the rows too, did she?
- SC Yes.
- SR This is your sister?
- SC That's his brother, I don't know if you've been to them or not.

SR I don't think so.

SC A Mrs C in Calowrie Avenue.

SR I wrote to them, but she didn't write back. I wrote her a letter, like the first letter I wrote to you, but she didn't write back. So maybe she didn't want to see me.

SC Oh. Well that was his brother, he was a miner. He worked beside Mr Laird. But she, his wife is still up there, but I think now that the daughter and her husband have bought that house, you see and she is staying with them. But, it is a wonder she didn't.

SR Yes, because I wrote her a letter, I wrote. Dr Wilson gave me the names of 6 people in Dalmeny. Aral there is you and the Livingstones and the Watsons, and Mrs Laird- and Mrs Shand, Mrs C. She was the only one who didn't write back. Because I wondered if I had made a mistake, because I noticed that there were two C's and I wondered whether. Because I was just given your husband's name as Mr C and her as Mrs C and I wondered if Dr Wilson had got it muddled up and she was...

SC As far as I know it was Mrs Laird that had given Dr Wilson. Because he didn't ask us anything about that but we had mentioned it but he had said he had been there. But I don't know whether he had or not, but Mr Livingstone, I was speaking to Mr Livingstone and he said that Dr Wilson hadn't been to him.

SR He just gave you the name over the telephone?

SC Mrs Laird must have given him Mr Livingstone's name you see. Because he said to me when I was speaking to him, he said that he hadn't seen Dr Wilson.

SR Well I just asked Dr Wilson if he knew of any people in the village who might be interested in talking to me and then I'd write to them and say that Dr Wilson had given me their name. And so I just thought, well if people didn't answer, like I sent a stamped addressed envelope so that it wasn't too much of an effort for people, and if they didn't want to, then I would just leave it and not bother very much.

SC It is a wonder she didn't, maybe ...
Maybe she didn't want to see you, that is the whole point! And I know she goes out quite a lot.

SR Is she younger than you, or older?

SC Oh she's in her 70's. She is in her 70's but I know that she does go out quite a lot. And she is away to Canada very often.

SR Canada?

SC Canada, yes. She has got a sister out there you see, and I mean since she lost her husband she is never really at home. Then she's got a son down in Coventry. So maybe this is the reason.

SR Maybe. Anyway, it doesn't matter, I've talked to lots of people, so. I've talked to everyone in Dalmeny now.

SC Have you?

SR Well all the people that Dr Wilson gave me the names of, and, oh no, there is Mrs Shand who I'm seeing next week. And then I'm going up to West Calder and Addiewell and I need to talk to people up there.

SC Oh well, they are all miners places actually, aren't they?

MC There used to be women working the shale mining,

SR Women working?

MC Women.

SR Doing what?

MC Down here in the shale works.

SC In the shale mining there used to be women working it.

SR When? Do you remember it?

MC Aye.

SR What what were they doing?

- MC Emptying shale.
- SR Was that in the war or?
- MC Just before the works shut down. It wasn't very long before that. They used to bring the shale from Ingleston, down that old railway in wagons, and it was shoved up on to the railway, up onto the works. They used to empty it into the big hoppers. They shoved it in the....
- SR Do you know any of the women that did that? Are there any in the village now that did that?
- MC There was one from Kirkliston who walked every morning from Kirkliston down here, and walked home again at night. There was Annie Hisland (?).
- SC She's dead.
- MC And there's two McFarlanes, Chrissie and someone else. I forget her name. There was a few of them. Who else was there?
- SR Were they married?
- MC There were more women then, (inaudible)they used to fill up the sulphate of ammonia for the farms, you know, they put it into bags, and they used to send it wagon loads away, sulphate of ammonia. Well they used to be the women that were there, used to be there that filled up these bags and sewed them up, and put them into the wagon that took them away. There was so many women in there. But I forget, there were more women then.
- SR Was there a factory for doing that here in Dalmeny? For sewing up the bags, there was a warehouse was there?
- MC Just a sulphur house they cried it where it, come down, they made the sulphur of ammonia.
- SR It was always the women that sewed up the bags?
- MC Aye. And an old man, Barry, they cried him.
- SC I remember him.

MC He used to take them along. There was a wee railway thing with a boggy, it was just like a railway line. They loaded up that and he got them all stacked up in the wagon. All these bags, 2 cwt bags it was. Oh aye there used to be a lot of that.

SR And the women who were working in tipping the hutches, were they married women or were they young women before they got married?

MC Oh a lot of young women and one or two married.

SR And was that just in the first World War, or was that outside the war as well? Did they do that just during the war? Because I had heard that the women had worked in the

MC No, it was when they got the shale in and that, when it came from a different works.

SR Yes, but, the time, the date, was it just during the first World War? The Great War?

MC It would be after that.

SR After that? Which pits fed to, came to Dalmeny? Just Ingliston and ...

MC And then there used to be Dalmeny and Rosehill. That used to be just about the station. Used to go right down from there, right through to very nearly the other side of Rosyth dockyard, that's where the miners

SR Did you ever go down the mine?

MC No I'd never go down the mine. I wouldn't go down the mines! I'm frightened of

SC Oh no, he didn't like the mine.

SR You never wanted to go and work as a miner?

MC No, no.

SR If you couldn't have got another job, would you have gone down?

MC No.

SR You would rather have been unemployed?

MC No, I wouldn't have gone down the mines. In fact up the road there, now where

would it be, inside, you know where that house is, the woven house there.

SC A woven fence.

MC Mrs Shearer, a woven fence, as you come ...

SR Along this road?

MC Aye, there used to be boilers there, big fire boilers. For firing the coal and that. Right across where that opening is and then there were a big thing like what they have in the coal, those big wheels that used to let them go down into an old mine. I mind of that. There used to be a big engine, it was very seldom used, but I have seen them go down, if they needed water. They were kind of scarce of water to try and get a pump down to try and get water up to supply the.....

SR And that was a mine that had been closed a long time ago?

SC Yes.

MC And mind there used to be the wee ponies, I've seen them coming out of the cage, that is what they cried that big thing that goes down. I've seen the wee ponies and they used to be in where, where () used to bide, that wee field, where the playground is now. The wee horses I mind used to be there. Just minding that.

SR Is it just your childhood memories?

MC And there used to be a horse if there were a mining accident, they used to have a horse and a worker, and he and it knew that there was an accident because they used to put the saddle on it. And they never needed to hold on to it, for just to steady themselves. And they used to go up for the doctor, he must have got used to it, he must have known what was wrong. You know.

SR So, instinct.

MC They say, that things are stupid that they are not, that there is not a thing stupid on this earth. I can certainly say that. We had pigs here, and there was a sow and the wee ones and if you put long straw, the straw used to be about that, bales or bunches, it would break all that straw up to about that length. You know what that was for? That was in case it would go round the wee ones necks and it would get hanged. That's true. (Re pigs)

SR Did lots of people round here have pigs then? What about the miners and..?

SC Oh, I don't say the miners had any. they didn't have any, no.

MC When the family was all here, we used to have Highland Games here.

SR What in Dalmeny? In your garden?

MC There was as many folk come up there. There used to be wrestling, throwing the hammer, putting the ball, pole vaulting and high jumping.

SR This is when you were here?

SC No I wasn't here, no.

MC That was my brothers.

SR That was your brothers?

SC That was before I came.

MC There was one, he was a wrestler (Re games)

SR No it has been really interesting, it has been great. For me it is really interesting to hear all about ... (Tape warped)

SC Oh it was very healthy I must admit. The only thing I thought was the dry toilets and that you know.

SR How did they work? Were they sort of bucket were they, the dry toilets?

MC Aye, they were a bucket, just a bucket, kind of galvanised things.

SR And they were emptied were they by the council?

SC No, was it no Orr that used to empty them?

MC It was the - em the, oil works, the oil folk they emptied them

SC The oil works.

SR And here you had a bucket as well, in this house? You had a bucket. Was that emptied by the oil works?

MC Oh aye.

SR How often were they emptied?

MC That was every morning.

SR Every morning they would come round?

MC Yes. The Roseberrys.

SR Where did they take it to?

MC They must have had a place to take it to. I forget where it went to.

SC I couldn't tell you where it went to.

MC But it was one Ore who used to do it.

SC I remember it was Ore who used to do it, right enough.

MC That was 4 rows of houses, and they had a washhouse each. When I was in the works, they had no water in there then.

SR Did you wash then at all?

MC No water in the houses, if you wanted water you had to go to the well, a round yun. Stood so high.

SR And it was a well with a rope and a bucket?

MC You had to go and - I think you had to press a button or some tiling. I canna mind, but it was a thing that stood about that height and that's, you had about 2 in each row, and then the water was lead into their washhouses. You had big washhouses .

SR To share between 7 houses?

MC For to do their washing in.

SC That's right.

- MC There was 1 or 2 they had all washhouses down there. But when they, the last one was in Dalmeny Row?'s' they put the water into the houses and they gave them a wee electric geyser for to get their hot water. But the daughter she's been in the rows and she said she wouldna went to Kirkliston. For they had built houses down in there because it was real private there was nobody interfered with them.
- SC They had sort of renovated them and put a bathroom in them, it would have been ideal.
- SR Yes.
- SC You know it would have been ideal. I mean the space of ground there, but it was the drainage and that they were looking at.
- MC But I don't see. They built houses. Well there is a bit there where there is all the four rows of houses, they couldn't have built houses there and made a pump and pumped it over to the sewage. Because they made it in Kirkliston and they built a new sewerage at Newbrldge. Well all the sewerage goes to there. It's pumped right across to Newbridge now. Where they could have done the same In there, and built houses in it.
- SC Oh I mean they were disappointed at having to leave the Row.
- SR Oh yes, I can imagine.
- MC And nobody ever bothered them.
- SC Because that new scheme that they built in Kirkliston, that
- MC That is a terrible scheme.
- SC It's
- SR Is that houses like there are at Livingstone, is it?
- SC Blocks of houses, yes. Well my youngest daughter, she was up there in that new scheme, well she's flitted. She has got an exchange, she has flitted up to Toadshill Road, the old scheme. And so has my son, my eldest son, he has flitted up to the old scheme. I have only got one daughter left in that new scheme up there.
- SR All your children have stayed in the area then?

SC Well the other boy, he's at Pumpherston, and then the oldest girl is in Linlithgow. And the other son and my two daughters are up at Kirkliston.

SR And they have never left the area at all then? They've always stayed here? Since they left home?

SC That's right.

MC You know that's the first scheme that's out because it was built, I forget the name of the folk. But she got a smell in the house (Re this smell) (Re son's house in Pumpherston).

SR Your son at Pumpherston, is he working there?

SC He works at Marshall's. You know D B Marshall's, at Newbridge, the chicken place?

SR Oh yes

SC And my son-in-law, he works there too. But he used to be on these big chicken moulters, but he got sent up, he's head of the transport now. That's my youngest daughter's husband. And then that son he works in D B Marshall's, he goes round farms and collects dead birds and that, then I've got another son, he is a driller and blaster, Stewart of Roseburn Street. Oh he's never had any other job. That is the only job that he has had.

SR And that is one of those who lives in Kirkliston is it?

SC Yes. The only job he has had since he left ..

MC left the school.

SC He left to go to Telford College in Portobello, down Portobello way. And he was there for a year, he got this job with Stewart and he has been there since.

SR Somebody told me that Dalmeny works opened up again. It closed in 1920 something and then it opened up again during the second World War, is that true?

MC It never opened up that I know of.

SC Oh it didn't open up, no, it didn't open up, no.

SR Once it closed, that was it?

MC Not that I know of.

SC Well I was up here during the second World War.

SR And you never saw it working?

SC No, no, it wasn't working then.

SR Yes, I think I read it in a book somewhere and I wasn't sure, and I wanted to check with someone.

SC No.

MC That was the old pit and Rosehill mine.

SR When did that close?

MC Rosehill closed the last. It must have been about 1926 was it?

SR During the strike?

MC 1926, I think it was.

SR Did you go on strike during the strike in 1926?

MC No, but I told them all, you seen Manny Shinwell well he was the first union man that I ever seen, and he'd no backside on his trousers. He went up to the office and he come back when we were having a meeting, there used to be gates as you used to come down. See where that woven fence is ? There's a, there used to be another cottage there, and the railway used to run across that way, across the road to go into the works. We had it down at that bit where the gates are, and the union man then was Manny Shinwell. And then he came back and he got onto the West Lothian, it was a Kidd, and then he got in and then it was Shinwell that got in here for West Lothian. Mind oh Manny Shinwell, all right, we'll have to make a fight for it.

SR And you went on strike did you? Did you go on strike?

MC What was the use of going on strike? There was no use of going on strike. And there are 2 or 3 things that I said that they didn't need to go on strike, if you're going on strike and they offer you a certain amount I say take that amount, and fight for another one. A fight never paid anybody. I say if you

want to go, back to stay, then we'll accept what you're giving us and then you can fight and fight because the longer you are on strike, the more money you are loosing but if you're working that time, you're gaining a wee bit aren't you? That is what is wrong today, they've got too much. Or they wouldn't have been back to strike.

SC Would you like a cup of tea?

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