

**MBL 005****Summary –Maisie Murray and John Murray born 1936 grew up in Morecambe and Overton. They now live in Arnside.**

00-1.00	Maisie Murray born in Morecambe lived on Scot Rd in West End. Hard times during war but happy. Attended West End Primary School. Morecambe a wonderful place to grow up in
1.00-	What did you do as a child? No fear, made your own fun, pass for baths and lived in swimming pool crowds of children. Promenade, tide, views.
2.00	Run along piers and sometimes find a ha'penny. All relatives used to come and stay. Lots of laughter.
2.57	WW2 RAF men billeted with Maisie's family. Father an air raid warden. Mother used to make it fun
3.35	Piers. Winter garden, 6-7 cinemas 4 ball rooms. Rationing few sweets. After war sweets off rationing all the sweet shops emptied.
4.49	Morecambe had its own council. Horrified when blue buses came along from Lancaster City Corporation - buses had always been cream and green.
5.27	Were there air raids in Morecambe? One bomb dropped in Heysham. Maisie's mother used to make it as a game. RAF men in Midland Hotel which was a RAF hospital. Stone Jetty had been a place to break up ships. Railway line went up stone jetty
7.22	Lots of visitors after war and as child Maisie would meet trains and take luggage to boarding houses, paid six pence. Walked donkeys on sands no pay. Tremendous atmosphere. Illuminations starting for first time after war, prom packed a firework went up and all lights went on a silence then...
9.04	Piers, each pier had own clientele Harry Howarth manager of West End Pier. Roller skating at end of pier. Central pier had summer show. Dancing every Saturday night "Let your feet dance with the elite" – Alvin Atkins. Flora Hall – flower pot.
11.05	Horse driven Landos. Bring people all the way to Overton, stop at the Ship Hotel feed horses and have a pint and go back. One called Seagull.
11.32	Little money as apprentice but we would go to Winter Gardens to see big bands. Regulars at Odeon. Maisie members of musical society, 4 in Morecambe. These shows filled in gaps in winter. Saturday morning cinema to children's club. Dan Dare, trip to Mars. Johnny McBrown. Tess Ritter. When courting went to Odeon.
14.10	Used to walk or run everywhere. John could run from central pier to Battery faster than bus.
14.38	John born in Penrith. WW2 John's dad became a security man at the refinery, Heysham. Buses would come in convoy to refinery employed 2000 people. It made aviation spirit. Also ICI (Trimpell). Tankers up to 22000 tonners to pier.
15.48	Moved to Overton close to Dad's work. Went to school in Heysham so at 7.30 would get bus. Farms on main street. Remember leading horses through village at hay time. Just past Ship Hotel was big farm. Now all gone. Globe always busy. Every Sunday took papers from Overton to Sunderland Point, tide or no tide. No fear of being harmed.
18.50	Overton goes to Basil Point used to swim in river - it was filthy made muddy banks to slide down. One boy drowned. Scout troop. Self-

	contained village didn't have much to do with Middleton. Children worked on farms. John worked on a farm until age of 16, given big horses to lead, came to Morecambe to deliver milk to hotels.
20.53	Remembers watching tides come and go. Woodhouse's boat yard. One of them Richard Braid (?) came back after the war with bananas all village kids got one. 3 brothers Ton, Richard and another. Tom Woodhouse was a deep sea diver when he came home after war he reopened the boat yard. John helped and went out with one of Braids fishing. Built big boats not just fishing boats. He was also undertaker as he built coffins.
23.46	John's family moved to a council house in Middleton. Overton had no electricity, no sanitary system, no heating, cooking on fire. Council house was wonderful had a garden
24.28	Smithy in Overton opposite Ship. George Jackson was Blacksmith, remember acrid smoke. Smithy raised to ground. Worked at Downy Field Farm given horse to take to George Jackson a mile and half, John was 15. Hourly bus came past and horse froze. John lived in Overton from age 7-12 during war and it was pitch black at night no lights. Steam engine came to do thrashing.
27.39	St Helens – a choir boy until 12. Middleton Sands used to have car racing and planes would take off, pleasure trips
28.48	Heysham, ferries to Ireland railway harbour. The Ulsterman would come from Euston to Heysham 3 1/4 hour trip.
30.42	Became a marine engineer, trained at Bolton tech. and then went away to sea. At this time Maisie worked at the Yorkshire Penny Bank on the prom. Every morning the junior person would collect the cheques and take them to the Midland Bank. Then she worked for Shell as a secretary. She would go to Captain Clark to find out where John's ship the Valutina (?) was in the world hoping it would be coming back. Kept in touch by letter. Maisie received ship telegrams when she gave birth.
35.01	John away for over a year went at 19 finished 26 then went to Heysham lived on Tremlow Parade. Sailed Irish sea every other night. Heysham operated 3 types of vessel the Duke steamers Argyll, Rothsay Lancaster. Ran every night with Irish mail. Take 7 hours to cross to Belfast. He was 2 <sup>nd</sup> engineer on the Duke of Rothsay and Lancaster. 2 <sup>nd</sup> class of boats Coal fired ships taking cargo and cattle every day. Railway also had ships. Railways first to build container ships and they ran from Heysham Ventura and Enterprise, John was chief engineer of one - diesel driven. Shipping activity 7 days a week. Also tugs and dredgers.
41.00	Connection to sea, now live in Arnside. In Heysham 2.5 years then moved to London – tells where they went after Heysham (not applicable)
43.14	Moved to Arnside, ran a B&B on Prom 24 bedrooms from 1976 called Grosvenor Hotel. (named after Dr Grosvenor first doctor in Arnside) talks of community activities.
45.00	John a member of Arnside coastguard, dangerous estuary what happened before coastguard. Boat yard became chief coastguard 10 members. Only coastguard station which operates own boat(?) Boat yard went in 80s. 1979, storms two years running used to be 8 or 10 yachts in quarry pulled up and tide so bad washed all boats off blocks within 18 months same thing happened and boat yard wrecked again. No boats now. Operated from concrete garage. In coastguard late 70s until early

	80s. In Winter he would deliver steam ships. Coastguard just wore a boiler suit and inflatable boat. 999 & siren. Someone sounds the siren for every incoming tide. Dangers of tide.
50.55 – 51.41	Maisie daunting to run b&b ran for 9 years. Evening meal 10 letting bedrooms very hard work.  Maisie and John had to go out at this point so interview finished
	Interviewed by Emma Aylett 23 August 2016 Summarised by Emma Aylett