



MORECAMBE BAY PARTNERSHIP
HEADLANDS TO HEADSPACE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
2015-2018

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TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY

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INTERVIEW NO: H2H2015.7
INTERVIEWEE NAME/S: Hilda Burrow
YEAR OF BIRTH: 1949
INTERVIEWER/S: Jenn Mattinson
DATE OF INTERVIEW: 18/09/15
LOCATION: Grange
SUMMARISER: Jenn Mattinson

Track 1	
0.00 – 2.30	Hilda's father was John Richard Dickinson Burrow, mother Eva Taylor. Grandmother and Grandfather Elizabeth (remarried and became a (ph.) Moore) and John Burrow. Born at Guides Farm, Cark Lane, Grange. Father was a fisherman and youngest ever appointed Guide over the Sands. Mother came from Durham and came to Grange age 15 and had several jobs, including the last railway crossing keeper at the crossing she was at.
2.30 – 9.00	Father (JRDB) was a character, liked his drink too much, good at history. Mum didn't suffer fools but was kind hearted, worked and saved hard. Grandmother Elizabeth was the matriarch of the family, a hard worker. She set up a bed and breakfast at Morecambe with her daughter Ellen (Hilda's auntie) but it closed within 12 months as Ellen's marriage broke down. She developed Alzheimer's in later life. Hilda spent her career as a policewoman.
9.00 – 15.50	Lived at Guides Farm for 12 months, and then moved into Chestnut cottage in Cark Lane up the road. Burrow family owned quite a bit of property in that area. Then Hilda moved in with her Auntie Ellen and Uncle Walter in Grange to flats at Westcliffe gardens. Father disliked local Headmaster of primary sch, the Auntie and Uncle moved to Carnforth and so Hilda moved with them aged 4 to about 11. Difficult family circumstances which are a bit unclear (interviewer's comments: possible child neglect/abuse?). Hilda spent 13 months in hospital with suspected TB. Father had emphysema. A hut was built at Chestnut cottage and it was agreed that Hilda could live in the cottage if the father lived in the hut outside.
15.50 – 18.25	Growing up – Her Auntie Ellen used to be quite strict and adopt physical punishment. No brothers and sisters. Returned to Chestnut cottage aged 11 with her Mum and Dad, went to Cartmel Priory school. Moved into Crossing Cottage on Cark Lane when her mother got the job at the crossing.
18.25 – 21.20	Hilda preferred being outside and going out fishing with her Dad, as oppose to

	domestic duties. She loved school, especially sports and history, receiving colours in hockey, rounders and athletics. Gym teacher noted 'a very promising tennis player' on one of her school reports – didn't see the point of netball, wished she could have played cricket instead.
21.20 – 24.00	Hilda only knew one younger person when she came back to Grange aged 11. Spent 8-9 hours on pedal cycles, taking a packed lunch and going out for the day. Weekends, fishing was a priority, Hilda used to go out on the sands with her Dad, especially when his health declined.
24.30 – 27.00	Went out with her Dad mostly at weekends, as and when the tide was in or out. Fondly remembers riding the tidal bore at night, seeing the prosperous from the bell, when they didn't have to row and were carried with the tide.
27.00 – 31.55	Family life 'Nothing was put on hold because the old man was out in Morecambe Bay somewhere'. Working life – Hilda worked at Grange Motors in the shop aged 16, she joined the police force aged 17. She initially wanted to be a Wren (Women of Royal Naval Service) but then found out they didn't go to sea. Joined police force, initially thinks it was a dig at her Dad, as he did a bit of poaching. Did 2 years training, she was a cadet at Ulverston and went to Lancaster every Thursday for training (e.g. learning to shoot a rifle – she was a very good shot).
31.55 – 34.00	First posting as a police officer was in Rossendale valley. Transferred to Barrow when father's health declined. Came back to Grange in 1992 on sudden death of Mum, but hasn't been out fishing on the bay. She met her partner Janet in Barrow but didn't want to talk about that.
Track 2	
0.00 – 1.50	Describes father as a 'rough diamond' and a 'well-read rogue'. Loved war books. A typical fella, pain in the backside.
1.50 – 4.15	All Burrow family were all farmers and fishermen, and Hilda suggested you shouldn't turn your back on any of them. Hilda's Grandfather John Burrow, his main occupation was to run Guides Farm and be the Guide to the sands, along with fishermen. There was also Gren, Dick and Ike Burrow. Ike was hard work, he used to chew black twist and spit it out, and it wasn't always down wind.
4.15 – 7.00	When Dick Burrow got his tractor, they would all go out on that and were joined by Butlers, Bensons, and McClure's. They had their tractor in the 70s, using it to get from A to B and bringing the catch back to land. Some of them would go shrimping with it. Burrows were mainly salmon fishing. Her grandfather had a horse (Jewel) and cart but many of the family couldn't drive. Walking out to shore and using the haaf net.
7.00 – 11.45	Burrow family did mainly salmon and fluke fishing. Explanation of how they fished, using a haaf net. A V shaped net with a pole attached. Mesh had to be a certain size. George Brown used to knit the nets for Hilda's father, and he had one arm (interviewer's comments: does she mean Ernie Nicholson? A huge coincidence if not).
11.45 – 15.05	Burrow family would mend their own nets. Catching flukes they would set the nets out on the beach, between the stakes that were set out with a buoy at each end (an odd salmon would be caught this way too).
15.05 – 18.30	In the 1930s and 40s fishing was from 6am Monday morning until 6am Saturday morning – no fishing at the weekend. This was apparently legislation from Edwardian times, partly introduced to prevent the foul language heard on the shore which was disapproved of. Presented with a netting needle (Hilda called it a shuttle?) to look at. The very fine ones were made out of bone.
18.30 – 21.15	'A lot of people like a bit of poached salmon don't they?' Alluding to the fact that the Burrow family did the odd undercover fishing. Presented with a green glass buoy.
21.15 – 23.50	Hilda describes herself as a bit of a Tom boy, but she was the only woman at the time that would go out into the water to fish with her father. 'I went because I wanted to go'
23.50 – 26.40	She wouldn't go out fishing with her father when all the other men were there because she didn't have a license, so she was doing it unofficially. Or she would help the others. But her on her own with her father in her teenage years, she would fish. She describes the feelings of being out in the water.
26.40 – 28.30	Hilda did a bit of fishing in her 20s, but after that the bay started to change

	(channels); she was working and her Dad's health deteriorated.
28.30 – 30.30	Hilda's Dad showed her how to fish. She remembers one year in the 1960s there being absolutely hundreds of salmon, filling the boats to the gunnels. They had to sell it off cheap to get rid of it.
30.30 – 35.00	Made enough to live on, but you won't find a rich Burrow. Salmon pricing would depend on the weight. Very few of them got caught (poaching). As a woman, Hilda going out fishing was frowned upon.
35.00 – 39.00	Hilda felt safe going out with her Dad. She remembers at one point salmon fishing was a free for all and then it became licensed. Occasional violence. Burrow family mainly fished together, and the other families would meet out in the channel.
39.00 – 41.00	Hilda says she was just a 14 year old girl out fishing with her Dad, wasn't making a statement, political or otherwise, or a point. Sex discrimination wasn't even in people's vocabularies until the 1970s.
Track 3	
0.00 – 2.20	Explanation of Guides to the Sands Role and how the Burrow family were involved, skills required. Hilda's father John Burrow was the youngest ever appointed Guide aged 17 under George VI.
2.20 -	Memory of one of the fishermen catching a huge salmon. He hurt himself during the catch and the day his wife cut the salmon up was the day he died.
- 5.05	Salmon was sold privately, the bed and breakfasts, hotels, individuals. It was sold on straight away.
5.05 – 6.30	Riding on the tidal boar
6.30 – 11.00	Hilda once saved a fisherman called George Burrow (no relation). She tells the story and it appeared in the local paper, and it got back to her Constable.
11.00 – 12.15	Areas of fishing
12.15 – 15.25	Opinions of fishermen and families towards each other – Flookburgh lot stayed down one end and the Burrow lot stayed at the other end, the only time they came together was on the shore or at funerals, weddings. There was some sharing but it was competitive. Funerals were basic and attended by all fishermen in the area.
15.25 – 17.10	Health conditions. Joke about 'salmonitis'. Her father's emphysema. Wet and cold would affect circulation. 'They'd be coughing and spluttering and spitting and the odd burping and farting...you put up with a lot really'.
17.10 – 19.10	Clothing
19.10 – 20.40	'You just knew what you were doing, you knew what you had to do and that was it...there wasn't a David Beckham of salmon fishing' – just the way the Burrow family were born, born into a tradition.
20.40 – 22.30	Taking dogs (Rex and Shaker) out fishing – salmon and one that used to paddle for flukes
22.30 – 23.55	Flookburgh twang (ways of saying). Partner Janet joins in.
23.55 – 27.40	Nicknames – Scutter Butler, Crabby Benson, Wagstaff, Chippy Dick from Arnside, thinks her father's nickname may have been Squeaky because of his high pitched breathlessness.
27.40 – 31.43	Reflections on Burrow family - Buff Burrow (Uncle Bill) was cantankerous, a 'sod'. Gren thought he was a ninger, Dick was alright, 'me Dad was me Dad'. Hilda was asked 'how would you like them to be remembered?' 'Just as they are really, you can't change them...they'll still be the same cantankerous, awkward, tobacco chewing, spitting, effing and jeffing Burrow family really'. Likened them to the American sitcom family 'The Clampetts'.
End	