



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

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TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

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FRONTSHEET

INTERVIEW NO: H2H2016.15
INTERVIEWEE NAME/S: Bob Parkinson
YEAR OF BIRTH: 1934
INTERVIEWER/S: Sarah Hymas
DATE OF INTERVIEW: 10/02/16
LOCATION: Cockerham
TRANSCRIBER: Sue Bradshaw

Summary of Interview:

No of Tracks: 1

(Interviewer begins by explaining how she used to volunteer at the Maritime Museum and she learnt about the oral histories project from there)

SH: So, Bob, if you could introduce (clock chimes in background, Bob chuckles) – that's a nice clock isn't it? Is that a small ..

BP: It is a grandmother.

It is a grandmother?

Yeah, mm.

So what's the difference between, I thought the grandmother had a round head, no. So what's the difference..

There is different [models] of them

Ahhh

And then there is a smaller one again which is a grandchild or something ..

Oh, is it? So is ...

But there it's straight up with a rounded top.

Ahhh, so a grandmother is just a smaller version is it?

The grandfather, grandmother and grandchild. We had a grandfather when we were at t'lighthouse (chuckles)

Did you? Ah, full size! Gosh.

And then we had nowhere to put it so it was in my bedroom at one place at the side

Yeah

(chuckles)

Oh my goodness!

It was too tall for it

Downstairs

And there wasn't really room in th'ouse, well it's a bit bigger now in't it, but see everything was in the room, the sink and everythin' was in that room

Yeah

And at the end the fireplace was t'kitchen range like and where the sink and that was there was a pump in the corner like for pumping the water up out of th'well. (chuckles)

Yes, amazing. It's amazing. And you did want to buy it when it came on the market or were you just settled here and happy enough?

Yeah, we wouldn't want to go back then like.

Yeah, it would be a bit strange, wouldn't it, I guess?

Well. I suppose so. We just spent the money on gettin' this how we liked it and then we would have to start again wouldn't we? (chuckles)

Yeah, yeah yeah

So it was after there was Jim Newsome they called him, went there.

That was the last lighthouse-keeper, was it?

Well, yes and no. He officially was the lighthouse-keeper but it had all gone automatic. You know, the bottom one was flashing with gas and the top one was automatic, [inaud] so he just lived there because he worked for the port commissioner and it wasn't [inaud]

Ahhh

And then when he went there was an agreement grown up when the lighthouses were built about 1848 in't it [inaud]

Yeah

The ... er they got the land to build the lighthouse off Dalton's estate and Dalton's put a clause on it that they if ever it was finished with as the lighthouse it went after them and anything as had been built on it, that went to them as well. So they claimed a lot back and they let it to err Nicholson err, you wouldn't be from round here then, Nicholson Martin's had electrical business in Lancaster.

Oh right

And 'e retired and 'e came there did the men, there was quite a lot of years him and another chap lived there for a while and then err, Dalton's put it up for sale after he went and err and then that's when John Gerrard (?) bought

Right. I just met .. every so often I meet people and they say, oh when that, I really wanted to buy that when that was for sale. I met somebody just on Sunday ...

I can't remember ...

She said it was ...

I think it was auctioned ...

Yeah she said it was in the 90's and it ended up being auctioned so

[inaud] it would be on sale quite a bit and never seemed to get anyone and then they auctioned it in the finish.

So it didn't sell up quickly then?

No, I think they wanted too much for it and I'm not sure whether, I can't remember the time now, but they said it didn't make more at the auction. {chuckles}

Oh really? Well it feels right that John Gerrard got it just as somebody who'd been there, the family's been there.

When our John was part of the (ph - running?) they was on the farm and Ralph, you know, they farmed all together then in them days before Ralph went to be a teacher. And then his son John got married, John's son, John, and them as died and, er, 'e got

the house going down towards Pilling and while this came for sale they wanted it to get nearer back to the farm, you see.

'Cos John was working at the farm at that point?

Yeah, yeah and so like he came back there and of course they got permission to build the other house at the thing so that's how it went on from there.

Which is quite a bit bigger, isn't it than the lighthouse cottage that house they got on the farm?

I haven't been in, yeah whether been in I think a couple of times.

Yeah yeah. Cos it's amazing really how many buildings they've got up at Crook Farm, so

Mmm, all them old buildin's, chuckles.

Yeah.

Cockersands

Gosh, yeah, I mean, yeah, there is up the old cottages, yeah, look like they have been there forever, so anyway, anyway anyway, we are here to talk about fishing. So what I need you to do, we must keep focussed. Umm, we can always come back. Umm, so, yeah, so I need you to just say your name and sort of who you are in relation to the area and then just what you can remember about any particular fishermen and I'll prompt you with a few questions but you just take it away, Bob, basically, so.

Right, er, me name is Robert Parkinson, er, I am 81 year old, 82 shortly (chuckles). Er, I have lived round the area all me life, I was born at the cottage about quarter of a mile away from the lighthouse and in 1946 me father got a job as lighthouse-keeper and

And what was his name?

Thomas Parkinson.

He was Thomas.

Yeah, and him and his two brothers used to fish, well actually the family ... you know the house was just up (pauses) towards the caravan site, you know, they did all the house up and they, past Cockersands. When they lived there since 1773

The Parkinson's have?

Yeah, hmm, so I think we must be fairly local (chuckles) and they had always been fishermen and then me father and three brothers was the last fishing family together they was. And then me father got the job as lighthouse-keeper so he couldn't put full-time in fishing with them so they split up and he went on his own, like. And of course he had the lighthouse job and, you know, if he fished with their haaf net for salmon in summer, they cockled and musseled in winter, but when the three brothers were, you know, fishing together, they used to fish for flounder or flukes on the sands.

So, what were the brothers names?

Er, well, Robert was the eldest and then John and then me father was the youngest like, Thomas he was.

So Robert and John carried on fishing as a pair then?

Yeah, till they retired, yeah.

And they were the ones with the haaf-nets.

Well they, erm, they fished, all the lot of them fished with haaf-nets. When me father, when they was all together, when there was the three brothers, two used to fish with the whammel board and their drift netters.

Tell me about that? How does that work, the whammel board, I have heard the name.

Yeah, Have you never ... they still do it a bit don't they.

They might do, I haven't seen, I don't know.

They come down the river and they can start at that buoy, you know, the Devon(?) buoy is (inaud) towards Sunderland Point, you know? Well, they are allowed to fish below there, so what they do when the tide gets down to a certain stage, they come, they throw the end o' the net out and it's about 300 yards long and row across the river paying it out all the time and it drifts down the river and, er every so often they'll pull it in and if they've got on like.

And what have they got in there then?

Salmon.

Salmon.

Yeah, salmon's the aim, they're there for salmon like.

Yeah, so and they're doing that on the ebb tide then?

Yes, hmm. They will drift out on a big tide, you know, it goes out a long way. If they get out as far as Lune Deeps they will before the, have to, before the tide comes like, and then they have ter come back up again.

And how many fish might they have caught in there?

Oh, well, they might go a week or two with nothing and they might catch twenty in a day (chuckles).

Right, wow. So that is quite heavy as well isn't it, twenty fish in a ...

Well, it's in the boat you see, they put the net in and drift down with the boat.

But how do they get the netting back into the boat?

The drift net normally has a big mesh and the fish swims into it and gets passed behind the gills and they try to get out. So they can't get out again, so they are pulled into the boat like that and then they just swing back and pull the net out. So, and you can, you know ... good seasons they'd get a lot and poor seasons they'd get, you know, very little. And now... it's a few years back now, I was talking to one of them and they said,

you know, the licence has gone up each year more or less and they said it wasn't worth it, it wasn't making their licence back. They weren't making any money with the licence and the nets, everything.

Just what they are catching now, you mean?

Yeah. I remember when I were at school, sometimes when I would come 'ome and me dad was haaf netting and we said take him a flask o' tea down, so I would go down and, you know, they was about twelve feet out in the river and goin' down at that side, that would be what it was so far. And then 'e would come and I would pour 'im a cup o' tea out o' flask and give it him like and 'er he would ... one day I was givin' 'im 'is cup o' tea and next he threw flask lid at me like that and turned the net over 'e had got a fish! (Laughs). So it were a mess that and 'e had to come [inaud]

Yeah!

And 'er I used to ... if they had any fish when I went down like that time I used to just take a sack with me and hang 'em up on me back, he appreciated that so it was less for him to carry up when he was coming.

And that was your dad ...

Yeah, and then I went one day and I think he had about six fish on 'is rope like and said can you carry that or [inaud] can't manage 'em. So I struggled with this fish and one of them was a big one and its tail was nearly on the floor like when it was over me shoulder, and I took them back and he said it's just a likely time, he says when you've done that when you've got 'em up will you come back. So I went back and took so many more, when tide eventually finished and 'e was coming up with his net, he couldn't carry the fish and his net, so 'e was waiting for the tide coming in to float his fish, and so I went back down to 'im again and er 'e ooked' 'em round the net, you know the beam of the net and between us we carried them up and that tide he had twenty-six fish.

Wow!

And at the other extreme he had gone two months and never caught a fish.

And then how dispiriting to go two months and not get a fish. Blimey. So then what would you do with the fish? Say you had got these twenty-six fish, what would you do with them?

In them days when it was more plentiful, the fishmonger would come round with his van and collect them but when there was only a few ... I, you know, I never wanted to be a fisherman so I er went to be a joiner and before I went to work he used to take the fish into the market at Lancaster like, to the shop and they didn't need to come out for them.

Right, so basically you ... and did you keep any for yourself or were they all for him?

Well, during the war time when they were all fishing together like,

The three brothers?

Yeah, they've come [inaud] trawl(?) all the fish in and everything, you know, they wanted every fish they could for food and that, and they'd also go to the retail shops. Well, me father and his two brothers, when they was fishing for flounder and that in the winter for the flukes, he could ... he went round ... he 'ad an old Austin car with the dickey seat and they would carry 'er on the back and 'is scales on the back near(?) to a round of flukes, to each area ... several areas a week 'e went to like, different days, and er they er they 'ad er umm, well it was oarlocks(?) and they had a carrier on the back and 'e would put a big fish box on there and then where the dickey seat was 'e 'ad a platform and 'is scales on there and 'e would weigh them off so they, you know, when 'e would take fish in with that as well if they had a lot, to the shop, but what I was saying was that, during the war, when they fished er, I'm getting lost now (chuckles)

Go on, it doesn't matter. I'm interested.

(chuckles) They 'ad the 'hawkers licence, you see, so they could sell fish. Well that still carried on during the war so they was the only fishermen this end o' the river as could sell fish directly to the public.

Oh really? What did you say that licence was called?

'Awkers.

Hawkers? (Transcriber's note - the word is Hawkers)

And they could sell er anything, their own produce, anywhere like. Go round hawking it as they say, like.

So *drawn* produce (transcriber's note – should be “their own produce”) would be fish, what about wildfowl? Could you ...

Yes, they could do that ...

And rabbits?

Yeah, they could sell garden produce, vegetables, things like that with that licence, but they didn't do like, they'd just sell fish. And er, as I say, during the war they 'ad to catch as many fish as they could like, for the government, and these fishmongers from various inland towns as well as Morecambe, “Will you sell us some fish” and you know, they say “well it's not fair to sell to you like, we 'ave our own retailers who we supply like”. And er in, you know, in salmon season somebody come and buy a salmon like, but I mean they couldn't sell in bulk like to the thing because their own ... them 'as took it regularly wanted it so, anyway they ... eventually a chap pestered them that much ... 'e was from St Helens and “oh, I 'ave been to Glasson Dock and all over and they can't sell us any fish, they say you are the only ones as can sell it”, and this is what they said like, they couldn't really sell it to them and let their own retailers down (clock chimes), so anyway they said, “well, it's not bad at the moment”, he said “we'll fish this weekend” and they had two sets o' nets out like, we'll fish this weekend and you can come Monday mornin', you can have what we've caught if you want it. “Grand” he says, so “How many do you want?”. “oh”, he said, “I'll take a ton if you have them”. So Monday morning came and they'd fish four tides and the fish was there. “How many 'ave yer got?”. “One ton two stone” (laughs) and he couldn't believe it (laughs).

Did he take the extra two stone as well? (laughs)

'E says it's alright don't worry, he said we have plenty more we can sell 'em to. 'He said,

I'd come for same amount tomorrow if I can. (laughs). He said, well whatever will you do with 'em? He said, there is other fishmongers in St Helen's. He said they'll all have some off me, he said, we'll sell them in no time. (laughs)

Wow, and that was fluke or was that all sorts?

Just fluke.

Just fluke,

and plaice, fluke and plaice.

And so then how would they catch the fluke and plaice then?

Well, they 'ad stake nets on the sands and they used to set 'em out in like a half moon shape.

So that would be nets with stakes basically, wooden stakes.

Yes, stakes about four feet high and er and then the net was passed all the way along the top of them, along the bottom every so far and then right in the centre of the round and run that back. Er, they 'ad what they called spars and they was fast to the net at the top and fast to the net at the bottom, but they weren't fast to the stakes, so when the tide came in it lift and the fish could pass straight through you see, and they used to set 'em where it was most water ebbed to the centre each time, and as it went back, say t'net dropped and the fish couldn't get back then, and as soon as the tide went clear of the ends, all those fish that 'ad run in there were trapped like.

So why is there different types of nets for the different types of fish?

Well, yes (laughs) salmon was regulated for size of mesh, I can't remember the exact sizes now, but the long nets 'ad to be, oh they was about five or six inches square so the fish could, you know, get fast in there. The haaf nets was two inch square so that you couldn't catch the small ones, you see, 'cos they wanted them to go down and come back to breed.

Yeah, so the haaf nets were also for the salmon weren't they?

Yeah, yeah

Or still are. And then, so is it just the way the fish swim or behave, why do they have these different types of nets, not just the sizes but the way they operate in the water, do you know?

You see, you couldn't catch a salmon really in a fluke boat because they are on the sands, on the flat sands and lay about, yer see. Whereas you 'ave to fish in the main part of the channel when it's ...

To catch the salmon

... when the tide is goin' out, you see. And they also had draw nets and that was similar to em like but you put the net on the end at one side and draw out right round in a half circle and landed the boat at that end again, so you'd like a big loop of thing and then you pulled it in from each end till they get all the fish in the centre, do yer see? But that wasn't really as commonly done down 'ere, it was, I don't think it was really as profitable for catching fish as the other methods like. That was a draw net.

And was that because of the tides or do you know why that wouldn't work so well down here?

No, no. Well (long pause) you see, with the haaf net you rely on the fish coming up or down, and with the whammel net you rely on 'em getting past and yer need a big net like ... it is coming up to this side, goin' down this side, coming back. Well, on the draw net you set that from one side o' the river and nearer to the other side and round in a half moon and back to the side again, so it has only got the fishes that were in that area, +you see. If fish was plentiful they did all care like, but it wasn't ... not many of 'em were heard doin' that but ... And then there is the fishing baulk, you know ..

Go on, I would be, ...

Yeah, by the lighthouse

go on, and that was a woven structure wasn't it? Tell me a bit about that.

Er, well, King John, Magna Carta King John, gave the monks of Cockersands Abbey the right to take salmon from a fishing baulk for all time and er of course the monks when they dissolutioned the abbeys that ... I don't know really, it went I think to Cockerham Manor and then it was sold, the rights were sold, and various people 'ad them like, but Cockerham church 'ad a tithe which was two tides a month to get there, you know, they 'ad the fish that was caught in them tides, you see, each month. Anyway, when things got bad the river authority decided they would close the baulk.

When was that then?

Yeah, before that they closed all the other fishing baulks for taking salmon so they had more or less all disappeared, but they couldn't close this one because it was given by Parliament and they would have had to have Act of Parliament to close it, so it never went, so they ... it was the chap that had it put it up for sale so they so they bought the rights.

So the Cockerham church, he sold it to the River Authority?

(This next section is really hard to understand. Im not at all sure even of the 'authorities')

No, 'e sold it to various owners after that and then the last private owner sold it to the River Authority and they thought, well, they paid that much for it, we'll fish it and get were money back because what they wanted to do was close it, because the [inaud] authorities said "oh it gets that many fish they couldn't get up for the [inaud]" you see to fish up the river. Well it was daft really because if [inaud] weren't catchin' any, they weren't [inaud] dependin' on't run o'fish they was catching a lot in the fishing baulk than a lot o' fish goin' up (laughs). They was no nearer, but anyway. They decided they would fish it and that until they got the money back, but they fished it about two or three years and made a loss every year, so they just closed it. See, the right still exists but they own the right, does the River Authority, so they won't do anything about it.

And how big was the baulk?

(sighs) be three or four hundred yards long. It started off near the lighthouse, run up

down the riverside, turned, come across and you know that point, Sunderland erm ...

The skeary bit?

Ploverill Point as they call it.

Oh, Plover Hill Point?

Yeah, it nearly came up to there, it did.

Right, you mean where the lighthouse is, that sort of skew where the lighthouse comes out on?

Yeah.

So it came ... so it came from pretty much where the lighthouse, the inside ... the inner, the higher light was?

No the outside ... the lower light.

The lower light? So it goes from the lower light and then where does it come up?

It went down the riverside so far and then turned round in like a loop like that and came back pointing towards Ploverill Point.

Right, right, gosh ... And how high was that?

Oh well, at the deepest part by the lighthouse it would be (sighs) eight feet high.

Yes, so then the idea is that when it is high water they can cross it.

Well, it heavy was the fluke box. It had a section in it which faced down river which was mesh woven stuff, you know, [inaud] twigs and ... and then they had a section above that which lifts like the fluke baulk did and then closed when the tide started goin' back like.

So was it hinged almost?

No, just with a rope like. It was, you know, they 'ad a stake like that, ropes across the

stakes like that and the net was fast to the top of the stake. It 'ad another stake thing fast to the top and fast to the net at the bottom but not the bottom, you see, not the bottom [inaud], so that nipped up, water went down and that went back and caught this closed bit.

So it was net, it wasn't all ... it wasn't all woven?

No, it was all woven really apart from this section of net y'see. It was woven with 'azel twigs and well it were ... I know they 'ad various timbers, mainly ... probably mainly 'hazel wood the stakes, and they was about in the deepest part they would be nine, ten feet high like.

And when did the River Authority buy it? Can you remember roughly what year that was?

Hmmm, it could be about 1946.

So you will remember it?

Yeah. Oh I used to go down fishin' with the Raby's fishin' boat and all that. He er, he fished til ... he fished the boat till he was 90.

Francis Raby? No, was it Francis?

No, Richard.

Richard Raby.

Yeah, and he, er, he didn't want to give up like and it got he only came when the daylight tides like and if the weather was likely for catchin' some fish, an hour off school like or school 'holidays. Feel like gettin' up at 2 o'clock in't mornin' and comin' with us like so 'he'd land down and we'd go down and get the fish you see, so (laughs).

And what fish would be in there?

Well, there was salmon, codling, whiting, flukes, a lot o' whitebait and sprats.

So it caught the big and the small, everything.

Yeah, mackerel and er and er I've seen them Moray(?) eels, as yer call them, them ones with the beak, yer know and, yeah, there was all sorts of everything there like.

And what would, erm, what would John Raby do with them then, was he ...

Well, they went, actually it was the same fishmonger as we supplied to and 'e used to come down for them with 'is van like.

So do you remember how they repaired the baulk, I mean did they take it out of the water? How did they look after it?

Down there by the lighthouse, you come across some quite ... it looks sandy, but underneath it's solid rock, and the monks of Cockerham Abbey drilled 'holes in that rock and the stakes stuck up in them. That must have been a heck of a task, you know with the stuff they'd 'ave in them days to drill about a 3 or four inch hole into the solid rock.

And how deep would those holes go down?

Well, they would 'ave to go down a couple of foot to support the thing, but they would be hundreds of 'em, these holes. Hundreds, there must 'o been, from the lighthouse they was every 2 foot 6 or so, they was, and then the (ph) fettles were woven in and out, so there must a been 'hundreds between the lighthouse and the end of it. I took someone round, well it was about a year ago now, must be tens, twenty years nearly ago now, a group wanted to look where it 'ad been, so I went down a day or two before and I found roughly the line of it and I stripped the sand away and found little bits o' wood still sticking up in the holes, you know, and kind o' traced where it went like for them. And so it'd still be there like. And there was stakes sticking up til umm ten year ago, odd ones still sticking up, and er, the caravan site they 'ad a club where they did this water skiing and all that, don't they? And er one day they 'ad a [inaud] it was, rung us up and Dennis Kellet(?) and me "can you get yerselves down 'ere right away" he said "they're cuttin' all't stakes off with chainsaw". So we dashed down, anyway they'd gone, but we knew where they was so we went to t'caravan site and told them like, it's an ancient monument that, you'd get in trouble for it, touching this like (laughs). Anyway it was too late, they 'ad done it like, but er, so we didn't take it any further or else we could 'ave

reported them really like.

And it was just ... it was just because it was in the way of ...

Yeah, as the tide were goin' down they was showin' you see and they'd catch them with their boats or their water skis, you see.

So how did they repair it, how did you ... how was it repaired, the baulk?

Well, if the uprights broke you'd 'ave to dig the wood out of the bottom, the hole was bigger than the stake, then it 'ad a few wood wedges to keep it in and then they would dig it out, put a new stake in and then well every so many years, they'd do a stretch each year, they'd put new 'hazel [inaud]

Right

... in them in the deepest part down by the lighthouse, that was where it used to need most repairing, and if there 'ad been a big gale or anything it used to wash it down at times and they'd 'ave it to repair like ... Yeah, there was three exits as you might say. They'll still be there under the sand. It's thrown round like that into a narrow channel and er there was timber guide down each side and a grid dropped in and they pulled that out and then everything. I'd go out 'cos they was only allowed to fish weekdays, they couldn't fish Saturdays and Sundays so they 'ad to take that out so 'as there was no fish caught.

Ahh, so it was just free flowing on a Saturday and Sunday.

And er and then they put them back on the ... for the next time like and they fished er ... they 'ad three out nets and then they 'ad a like a kept net as they call it with ... made out of a forked stick with a barrel(?) across the bottom and then a bag 'o net on it like that and they used to go round and catch the fish as were left in the ever-diminishing pool like, you see. And eventually when it were big tides you took a [inaud] out til it was dry, but if it wasn't ebbing out that fast on the other tides that they saw, there would always be so much water left in and they 'ad to catch them with this net like to get 'em out.

So you say that there were other baulks, was that not on this river or ...

Yeah, oh there was one at the other side of the lighthouse just comin' up river.

On the same ...

More or less up to it, not far away.

So up towards the farm, you mean?

Yeah, but only a 50 yards

Oh ok

... and then up by the farm there was two more, from that point there was two more (clock chimes) fishing boats there. You can see the remains o' them at times

Oh really

... when the tide

Oh I will have a look

(clock still chiming)

.. and have you ever seen that wreck the (ph) Salvin right opposite t'farm. That comes out sometimes and an odd sailing ship and there is quite a lot left under the sands there, there is.

And what's that one called, Sal ...

The Salvin (?), it's a Swedish boat.

Oh, I will have a look for that. And so, and then they wouldn't ... there was no more baulks further up river then, it was just mainly down near the mouth or ...

Yes, I think there was one towards Glasson Dock, hmm.

Right, right.

And er, yeah, the erm, it would be 1920ish I think when they closed them all, up there, near enough, but they closed them all because they wouldn't let 'em ... they could catch

flukes and things but they couldn't catch salmon, you see, so it wasn't worth their while then repairing them so they just let 'em go like.

So the reason for not catching salmon was because the stocks were dwindling?

No, they stopped ... the river authorities stopped them catching salmon in the fixed fishing baulks like, hmm.

Because ... because of the .. up river the fish were ...

Yeah, they wasn't goin' up rivers, but it'd ... I 'spose more of them there was the more were caught and less were goin' up, but when they did it with the last one ... it was a bit silly really because if there was plenty o' fish goin' up, there is plenty 'o fish up the river - if there were no fish goin' up they didn't catch 'em there, did they, so it didn't stop [inaud] (laughs).

So when your dad became the lighthouse-keeper, what were Robert and, was it John, you say? Yeah, what were they ... what did they go on to do?

Oh, they still whammeled(?) a bit at times and this ...

Around this area?

... Yeah, drift net down the river like and then they er they fished with haafs just with me dad like, all three together up that stretch between t'lighthouse and Crook and er they fished there and then in winter they still did a bit o' fluke fishin' with their nets and their fishin' boats ... I used to go out with 'em when I was a lad like, on't sands about five or six miles out (laughs).

Out .. in which ... out towards ...

Towards Knott End, Fleetwood way, hmm. Lune Deeps, yer know. And er during the war time they 'ad er practiced bombing on the sands and er ... there was .. yer know ... they all .. they send em all look out at the end haven't yer ... they used to be several o' them on each side like that did ... and they was manned by WRENS and they ... when they 'ad practiced bombing they'd ... with their binoculars, they'd book it down whether

they thought they 'ad hit the target or not, yer see. And er, anyway, later on in the war ... oh sorry ... when they did that they put a red flag up at the road end and nobody 'ad to go on the sands and they were all ... [inaud] if any o' them 'ad their nets out and all that so they used to go like on the sands, just the same.

And did it affect what fish ... how much fish they caught?

No no, it affected them though like (laughs). Yer know, I 'ave been out with them and I 'ave seen three targets they fired these 20 millimetre cannon shells and I 'ave seen 'em ricocheting on the sands. In fact, I picked one up once and it was still warm, so it 'adn't been that far away from us (laughs). But we worked on the assumption that they would see us and they would keep away (laughs), but yer see, Government regulations again contradicted each other, they 'adn't to go on the sands but they 'ad to catch every fish they could for the sake of' the food situation (laughs).

So anyway, we survived it and then later on in the war they decided they would practice night bombing and they dropped flares and, yer know, fired ... dropped the bomb on the target in the light o' the flare, yer see. Well, the flares were on parachutes and as they dropped down ... er when they 'it t'ground the flare was still burning like and then the net ... the parachute would drop down and it would set fire and burn if it was on the dry sand and if it crashed when tide was up it would put it out like and they washed away. But as lads we chased parachutes because, er, we could get one and sixpence for a parachute. All the ladies round about wanted ...

Wanted for their underwear (laughs)

(laughs) ... if yer could get a proper ... yet sometimes they were proper silk ones which was rejects from the ordinary parachutes and if yer get one o' them we got half a crown for that (laughs).

Excellent, excellent.

But I was only young and I wasn't allowed to go ser far out yer see and sometimes if we see a few comin' in't middle o't burn (?), me dad'd come and we could go farther out then (laughs).

So that lookout box by ... down by er you know by the ...

by the cows(?)

By the cows(?) yeah? So what ... was that just for the practice bombings or

Yeah

It was just for ...

Yeah

It was. 'Cos I have often wondered why it was there, so it was just practice bombings rather than ...

Yeah, well [inaud]over at broad fleet which comes out at Pilling near the church, yer know, that way. And the other river at Pilling mill I would think, they join under the salmon runs there, and there was three floating targets in that stream just out there and they had big square things they were with a pole up the middle and a big wicker basket on top, oh about eight foot diameter it would be. And they fired at this with their 20 millimetre cannons like, yer see. They weren't supposed to hit the target below or anything, they'd just to hit the wickerwork, yer see, 'cos that could be easily replaced and er and then later on in the war they started with like rocket things, they was ... well I don't know what they were, they were like long tubes and they ... for years there was ... they were about six foot long and for years they were sticking up in the sands they were (laughs) and er ...

Just left over ...

... and further up towards Cockerham way, up the river that way, there was a silhouette of a plane and they used to fire at that and further out again ... further bank end ... a bit further out than that, there was a brick conning tower of a submarine and they practiced on that as well like (laughs) and them didn't go til that many years ago ...

Oh really?

... and they blew them up did the army. Somebody told me that the silhouette was just

the shape of a plane, flat, it looked like a plane when yer saw it like, but it was flat yer see, and they just blew the base of it off and the local farmers, somebody said, had got it and he still has it but nobody'll say who like (laughs).

Excellent, excellent. So can you remember anything about the trips out with your uncles, out to Lune Deep in the fluke boats?

In the whammel boats?

In the whammel boats.

Yeah, yeah. I used to go down there.

Go on, what can you remember, what can you tell me about this?

Well I say, they put the net out just above the lighthouse at that byre/bar (sand bar?) there and let it drift and they'd to ... go down and as they set off o'course, they'd to row to come across the river so as the net was, yer know, from side to side and then of course it went faster in the middle where the flow was more, and it drifted as the ebb(?) was comin' in so they'd to pull it in and pay it out again, yer see, and yer'd get any fish as 'ad been caught in it like.

And what was your job in the boat?

Well, I was only young, but I'd help 'em pull them in and I 'd also do a bit o' rowing' sometimes (laughs), and then when they was right down the river and the tide was up, put the sail up and sail down like (laughs).

Oh nice? Yeah, with the full boat or not .

I had a boat down there. They had ...

What was their boat called? Can you remember?

Victoria.

Victoria. So what was your boat called?

And they 'ad one Victoria and one called Dora.

Dora.

And the Dora was an older one and they used that for musselling in winter. They used to get mussels you know up the ... down by the lighthouse and put them in the boat. If they 'ad only a few they'd carry 'em up on their backs like. Ter go several times it was a fair job carryin' ...

So how ... so when you saw it was only a few, how many would they carry on their backs?

Four or five bags like, they'd go for, but if they'd a big tide and they were gettin' a lot, what they also did, down by the lighthouse, there is a whopping' great hole in the river there, it's a big ... oh, at low water it'd be thirty feet deep or more.

On the river side ...

Yeah, just right up to the lighthouse there, a lot o' mussels grew there so they ... crowned as they call it and it was like a big rake, about that wide and big teeth comin' down and a bell comin' back. And then on that thing there was a net so they 'ad a long pole about twenty or odd feet long, put it over the side and drag it like this and then turn it over and the mussels went into the net part like and then they pulled it up and tipped it into the boat yer see. So it was, then they used the boat for musselling or if they 'ad 'ad a good do they'd bring the boat down and take the ... well they 'ad to take it down as the tide went out and fill it and then bring it back. And er they used to keep it right on the channel edge just straight opposite t'lighthouse there, the same place that they kept their whammel boat yer know, the Victoria. And then they'd go 'home, have a meal, come back when the tide was right up. They 'ad another small boat which was more bringing at shore at t'lighthouse and er they'd go out with that and take that boat out, swap the moorings, and bring other one in, and unload all the mussels. Go out again and swap the moorings, and bring other one back like.

(He's talking about mooring the Victoria then rowing in using a smaller boat that they would beach and get out of at the lighthouse, so ferrying the mussels in)

So what was ... so there was Victoria and Dora and what was the third boat called?

Mary.

Mary.

Yeah.

And were they all sort of specialist for the particular fish ...

Well, they 'ad typical boats on the river like, like many of 'em built at Overton or Glasson Dock shipyard. And er the one that I 'ad, me grandmother bought it for ... so as they could [inaud] and it 'ad been specially built for the vicar of Glasson Dock in 18 something it was er, because 'e used to have a regatta at Glasson Dock and er .. 'e 'ad this boat built which is on ... modelled on the pilot boats. They were a smaller boat and the pilots lived at Sunderland Point and they'd row out to big ships comin' up and ...

To guide them in.

... [inaud] to Glasson Dock yeah, and then they 'hauled the boat behind and sailed back down to Sunderland Point with ... well, this was built on that model and so they ... it came up for sale somewhere, I don't know where me grandmother bought it, so when they finished fishing ... well, it was when she died, she said, I'll leave it to you, but said they could use it as long as they fished like so (laughs) I finished up with that and I sold it to a chap at 'Alton, it was further up the river. I suppose it'll 'ave gone now like, it'd be a couple 'o year old now (laughs)

And so what did you use Dora for .. was it Dora?

Mary.

Mary for.

Er, sailing round a bit ...

Just pottering about

And er go across to Sunderland Point. Er, the old cotton tree which 'as gone now at Sunderland Point, there is a cottage near there and there was an old chap, retired fisherman like and 'e used to fish with me dad and then occasionally we'd go across and 'he'd go and have a natter with him like, he would yer see (laughs).

And how long would it take you to get across to Sunderland Point from the lighthouse?

Quarter of an 'our, twenty minutes (chuckles) depending on the tide (laughs).

Yeah. 'Cos how did it ... how did you work the tide, 'cos I mean were you not ... were you having to go at angle or something, 'cos

Yeah, you'd 'head up into it and it'd ...

OK

Gradually drift as you were goin' across or other way like comin' back.

So what where the differences between those three boats then, I mean were they specialised for particular jobs or were they just small, medium and large or

Well, they was two o' them the larger ones, they were roughly the same size, but it was an old ... Dora was an old one that 'ad been wrecked somewhere and washed up and it ... yer know, reported to the customs like this and 'e pulled up a wreck yer see, was reported to the customs and it was never found where it come from. And so the customs says yer can 'ave it for a small fee like, so they bought it and it just wanted a bit o' repairs and they did it, so they used that for musselling because it was a bit rougher on the boats was musselling than salmon fishin' yer see.

Because of the big sort of scraping what did you call it, a crammer?

Cram.

Cram

(spells it) C R A ... no K R A I mean I think it was.

K R A

If you look in the Maritime Museum they had one there (laughs) ... and you have seen that boat in the Maritime Museum, well that is the style of boat they would have, hmm.

Right, right. And did they all have sails as well or

Yeah

was it just the two larger ones

Yeah

No, you said the Mary had no sails

Oh, yeah the little one was I had that had sails (chuckles), hmm.

Yeah. Oh great ...

'Cos it was built for the vicar at Glasson Dock and

Yes, it was a sail

... and it made the [inaud] in the er ... in the regatta like ...

Yeah, yeah. That makes ...

'Cos the others 'd use their own fishing boats yer see ... (long pause)

And what about cockles and er ..

Yeah, they used to cockle ..

And shrimp, did they use to collect those as well?

The Overton fishermen and Glasson Dock, they used to shrimp.

But your uncles didn't?

No, no. They used to fluke fish you see on the sands at the same time as would be shrimping time ...

Ahhh

... and er then er ... well it started off salmon season was from April till September, September they'd start fluking' on the sands. Frosty weather and that come ... fish didn't come as far in and the fluking' was getting' poorer so they started mussellin' or cockling' and sometimes they'd do a bit o'both like.

And how would they cockle? What was the .. how was ...

Well, you'd go out on the sands quite a way out and, you know, they knew where to go and you could see the little marks on the sands where the cockles had (clock chimes) you know [inaud due to clock] they spurt water up and made a little

Little piles of

Yeah

Oh no, was it ... no it was not the piles, it's the little holes

They made a little hole and there was a pile like a ... like a little volcano (chuckles). And er (clock stops chiming) ... so they 'ad what they call a jumbo which was two planks about eight feet long fast together with 'handles on and they'd a rope went round the back o' the net and they stood on this jumbo with one foot and pulled it up with the 'handles like this and paddled until the sand went soft and quick-sandy and all the cockles came to the top, yer see, so. And then they 'ad like a little ... little craam, these are just raked up

Yeah, yeah

and put 'em on the basket. And musselling, they 'ad a forks tool like that as they just put behind and pulled the mussels off the rocks like, hmm.

So that would ... they would be doing that in the winter until what, until April again then, and then

Yeah, well they'd knock off about ooh ... end o' January, beginning' o' February and then they'd paint the boats and knit the nets for following' year like ...

Ready for April, right.

It was a year round job in them days like, but when I was old enough it was ... they'd all get a job in winter, it was only just fishin' in summer like, but I didn't want to be one anyway.

So yeah, why ... what was it that you didn't ... why didn't you want to be a fisherman?

Well, it wouldn't ... it wasn't a job, yer know, I mean it wasn't a full-time job like, you'd 'ave 'ad to look for something else like, yer know. I wanted to be a joiner so I went to serve me time to be a joiner and millwright (laughs) .. so I used to ... from I worked forward 22 mills made up of water mills and wood windmills and er up at Beetham there, there's a water mill still there and er when er ... it changed 'ands and the paper mill wanted the water rights, so they bought it and er ... they looked in the machinery was all wrecked, but all still inside so they decided they'd make it into a museum so, they got onto Pye's that I worked for and said "anybody as 'ad worked on them old water mills", because I 'ad so I went up and rebuilt it all and so it's now a working' museum like.

Oh wow. Excellent.

In fact I'm there tomorrow, I'm a director actually (chuckles) and we've a meetin'. I've got a million pound lottery grant two or three years ago so we've to go up tomorrow and meet some people and show 'em just what we've done with the million and what we intend to do in the years to come and how we can finance it to keep it goin'. But we put a turbine in a few years ago and supply electric t't national grid and so we 'ave a reasonable income comin' off that.

Excellent. And did you have anything to do with the mill at Pilling, is it Pilling?

No, no, no. Pye 'as never owned that one. They owned Preesall mill and they owned the mill ... as yer goin' through Stake Pool there's a ... it's Pilling' pet store now, you've probably seen that, 'ave you, that building? That was Pye's warehouse there like, but that stuff was made at other mills and take there for t'farmers to collect like. Oh, they'd twenty-two mills when I started like, all over.

Within what sort of area?

Well, Blackpool, Fleetwood, Preesall, Pilling', Garstang, Sandholme, ... Thurnham, erm, Bentham, Kirby Lonsdale, Sellet, Sedbergh, er, Beetham 'o course what we done up and Witherslack and Lindale up Lake District. Quite a big area we covered.

So when did the Thurnham mill come down?

Ohh, (sighs) ... I don't know when it was closed, Thurnham mill. I can't remember know. Er, quite a number o' years because they built the big new mills in Lancaster and they kept Thurnham on a while and used to get yer stuff there for farmers to collect ... transport was that much easier they used to ... they could all go to the mill and same as at Beetham, they used to drive about by 'horse and carts or 'horse and lorries to the surrounding' farms. Well, it only took 'em twenty-five minutes to come from Lancaster with a wagon load so they gradually closed 'em all down and Millness(?) was another mill from latter ones to go like. (long pause) Yeah, it's er ... all that sort o' thing's gone like now and it is ... I say Pye's built that mill just goin' down the quay there, they 'ad three mills on the quay and they built extension to that one comin' back up towards the bus station, yer know where you go up to Parksafe, up there, near the pub there.

The Mariners?

They sold that out ... yeah ...

Yeah

and they, er the Mariners was just behind the mill [inaud] and then they built bits on the end of it there and that got too small so they built the new one on Caton Road like, so that's where Carrs Billington is now like. (pause)

Yeah, a very different landscape. I guess that's what happens though, when you stay somewhere, is that everything changes, doesn't it, around you. Yeah. So er ... so, I am just trying to think ... so, where you part of any of the, like you where saying about the boat painting and the net mending, did you have to help with those or what?

Yeah, when I was around, yeah, when I was a lad I used to do like, but when I got to work I 'adn't as much time like, 'cos remember that were in't day when I was at work (chuckles). I remember 19 (pause) 46, we was up at the cottage in the fields until then, and er then ... and during the war we 'ad a couple of evacuees like, one from London and one from Manchester. And the one from Manchester er ... well we built a

In the lighthouse cottage?

No, this was in the other cottage.

Oh right, the one before.

And then we moved to the lighthouse in '46, and er 'e was about the same age as me and he'd finished school and 'e came for a week's holiday to stay with us like at the lighthouse, yer see. And er, they was painting' the boats and that on ... on the shore like and I was with me dad and them there, and 'e was in't 'house with me mother and 'e was sat on the chair, you know where I said the pump was, there. The lighthouse got struck b' lightning' and we had a aerial t't radio down from't lighthouse down t't (chuckles) down to the ... It blew t'window out, it blew the sink out into the middle o'the floor and it earthed itself' down the pump and we 'ad a sideboard with a mirror on at the other side and it 'ad blown all this brick dust and stone dust and it were just like it 'ad been sandblasted 'ad the mirror and the lad was ... me mother 'ad ... as yer know it's not a big 'house and shift stuff round and had to be cleanin' and that, and 'e was sat on the arm of a chair next to this so it blew 'im over onto the floor like.

He was lucky then, wasn't he?

Yeah, (chuckles). And er, so we was at the top, o'course we dashed back, but at the top yer see, we saw it do it, so we set off quick to come down to see what 'ad 'happened and me mother was comin' out like, so we went in and ... and er this lad were there and 'e said "you all right?", "yeah, I'm all right" 'e said, "but I thought I were dead when I stood up" (laughs).

And how old was he?

'E 'ad just left school, 'e would be 15. And it was in the 'holidays, we were both more or less the same age, so I 'ad a couple 'o weeks holiday before I started work like and that yer see, and er anyway the er ... it earthed itself' down the pump like and they was just putting' electric in at that time, so no it wouldn't be '46, it'd be '48. And they was putting' electric in and the cable was laid ... come round to Cockersands and went right to the Crook yer see, and it's only ... yer know they gated(?) the field just [inaud],

Yeah

just below the thing there, it just crosses there, does the cable. And er they had a hole there and a hole sort(?) of around towards Cockersands and another one just passed round ... with a length of cable yer see, and they left a hole out, after they'd filled(?) the cable in, with these ends for somebody to come and join. And they were joining' them up and this chap was in the hole goin' nearer Cockersands way, the lightning struck the lighthouse and this cable stuck up in that hole and it struck the cable there, run along the cable and this chap was jointing it and they used to 'ave a canvas put thing on ... over't top while they was workin', yer know to keep any wet or anything off, and er this went up in't air and 'e was down't 'ole like and 'e said 'e 'ad just put t'cable down and er 'e said it was full o' fire was this hole like and so, yer know 'is mates dragged 'im out and they brought 'im round t't 'house to see if me mother could help. 'E said to 'er, "E 'as just been struck by lightning 'an all" and [inaud] she say come on a lad here he'd been struck by it as well, 'he said 'e 'ad come in ... come in and looked and 'e says "oo, look" and 'e jumped up quick and ran back to tell the rest 'o 'is mates to come so 'he'd cured 'im (laughs)

Blimey. So that's ... that, yeah ...

'Cos they was a bit doubtful whether they'd 'ave to replace the cable, but anyway they tested it and it had stood the lightning (chuckles)

Right. So was it ... so was that just a freak bit of ... sudden storm?

Yeah, very freak, because we was paintin' the boats yer see at the top now ..

(Interrupts) Yeah, 'cos you wouldn't be doing that in the rain, would you?

And me uncle said I think you'd better knock off, there's a big black shadow/shower there, we 'ad better wait until that's gone. Anyway, we saw it comin' an' as it came we retreated into the hut like and the rain ... and yer could 'ear it thunderin' away away. Next thing, bang, it was there immediately, at us. Next one was miles away again (chuckles). Hmm. (chuckles)

Gosh. I bet he didn't forget that, well I bet neither of them would have forgot that.

And when it struck it, it was like a ... well, I don't whether a thunderbolt or what it was, but it struck the top of the lighthouse. The top of the lighthouse were just like a big ball o'fire and it kinda rolled off and down onto't shore, did that ball o'fire (chuckles). Hmm.

(long pause)

Wow. Huh.

When I was ... yer see, my father used to sell on't fish and he'd to knock off to do t'light'ouse so me mother said "If I can do it, I will go and see if I can get up that light" and that's when it watered(?) yer see, "If I can get up there" she says "I'll do it for you to stop .. so as you ..

(Interrupts) So you can carry on, yeah.

[inaud] So she used to do it like and when I was 11 year old I er ... before I went to school if tide were right I'd go down to the light ... the lower light with a couple o' gallon o' paraffin on me back, go up t'ladder an' put lights out, clean 'em, fill 'em and come back, go to school, come back, 'ave me tea and go down and light 'em again. And when it was middle of the day me mother did it. So that's how Pathe got hold of lady lighthouse keeper and made that film of it (chuckles).

Well, it's funny because somebody was telling me that Walney light had a lady lighthouse keeper as well.

Yeah, well the Walney light was the same lot as ... it belonged like a support commission did Walney light. They used ... when I was younger and off school and that ... th' 'olidays ... th'harbour master at Glasson Dock 'd say, "I'm goin' to Walney today,

der yer want to come with us”, so I'd go sometimes. And er, it was a manned light all the time was Walney light and er, the lighthouse ... th'official lighthouse keeper he'd two daughters, and so one o' the daughters took the job on as ... yer know, o'the lighthouse keeper so that's how ... that's how they got a lady lighthouse keeper at there, but her father - it was the same with us, me father was officially the lighthouse keeper and her father was officially

Yeah, yeah

but, and she actually carried on though after her father retired.

Right, right, oh ok.

And before was Janet Raby 'ad been t'light'ouse keeper, Did yer see in't t'Guardian ... picture in't t'Guardian?

What, just recently?

Last week.

Oh no! I didn't. What, that one of ... that lovely one of her smiling with the ... with all the ... the baskets?

(noises of moving around, followed by long silence, door creaking, lots of paper rustling)

(mutters) Right, it wan't in any o' them(?)

(more noises)

Oh yeah! Oh, I do like that picture. So what's this?

Er the ... the land shrimpers (long pause) on the sand used to(?) [inaud]

(interrupts) Oh, it's the nostalgia, yeah.

Used to be Morecambe fished like that for shrimps (long pause)

These were for... the baskets were for ... oh, these ... these push nets. Ahh.

They had a long fall(?) for the long pull across, the net passed along there and passed round this bowl(?) but all loose, you know what I mean, it could .. you know, about that much, three or four feet o' net goin' back from it and as you pushed it along with water goin' through it, yer see, it would... shrimps'd run into it and you'd pick them(?).

And this would have been after you've paddled ... oh no, that was ..

No no

that was the clams ... that was the cockles

No, yer just walked out, yer know, you'd simply put waders on, into the water there (mumbling), but er, yer just walk out, yer know, in the waders and pushed the net along.

And just so ... it's just the shrimp that are swimming rather than

Yeah

Oh ok

Well, the shrimps'd be on the bottom, yer see, and as the net come along it'd make them jump

(interrupts) Jump up

and then they went into the net

(interrupts) Yeah, they are quite good jumpers aren't they?

Like trawling(?) yer know (clock starts chiming). They trawl on the bottom and the fish on the bottom jumps up and goes inter the trammel net (clock still chiming)

Yeah, right. Oh, they're great. (long pause) So she was ... Janet Raby, was she .. did that work the same as your mother then, it was that ... it was ... she would technically wasn't the lighthouse-keeper.

'Er brother, Richard, has fished the baulk(?) ... see, their family had fished ... had been lighthouse keepers since it built and er

(interrupts) Yeah, 'cos we've got FR above the ... that fireplace.

Yeah, yeah. Er and er, they say their family had fished all that time ... er lighthouse kept all that time and Dick Raby fished the baulk(?) and he saw to the lower light and er and er, Janet, his sister, still lived in the house, 'cos he lived up at Thurnham, 'he did, Richard then. And er, so she sorted the other light for 'im yer see.

Ahhh! OK, ok. So he was, yeah, he was the sort of signed ...

I've got photographs somewhere of me and Janet stood in that doorway, out on the corner at the (light)house (chuckles)

Have you? What ... which doorway, the ... on the outside.

It's right onto the corner of the ...

Of the wall?

Of the road.

Yeah, I know.

Yer go up to the ...

Yeah, yeah. Oh, I'd like to see that sometime.

I think I'm in me army uniform,

(Interrupts) Oh really,

I'd just come home

(over-talking) You'd just come back.

She wanted to 'ave photograph taken with me in't uniform (chuckles)

Excellent, excellent. Oh, that's what I was going to ask, 'cos, did you ever used to eat um, bird, like the dunlin or ...

No

Or the shelduck or any of ... or any of the ...

Er, no. Er

Curlew. Because I have seen recipes for like curlew ...

Oh yeah, [inaud] I mean they was eaten round about. Me father and 'is brothers fish er shot and supplied game shops with, yer know, with ... yer know, they're was [inaud] Lancaster(?) market, they was ... they was [inaud] birds an' that, yer see, and they'd shoot for them like.

And would there be dunlin as people ... would ... would

(talking over each other) [inaud] so small

Er, er, they were mainly curlew and er, and then they shot geese, we 'ave 'ad geese and they'd shoot hares and rabbits and things. Hmm.

Yeah, yeah.

But that was in their younger(?) days before I knew 'em and they used to go and shoot occasionally like and they'd get something. We 'ad ... during the war they'd shoot rabbits like, we'd 'ave a rabbit like (chuckles)

Yeah, yeah. Although, we don't see many rabbits, it's hares really.

They were ... [inaud] went there for about an hour a day sunnin' itsel' on't garden 'ere (chuckles)

Well that's er ... that's just wonderful ... if there is nothing else that you can think of. I know that ... 'cos Forest(?) did tell me ... he told me this morning, I am afraid, which is all a bit late, that you had phoned, was it yesterday?

Yeah, yeah.

So I am sorry, I know that you ...

No, no it's all right. I er ... am goin' out at five o'clock. I thought you might 'ave finished.

But then, if not, yer know, [inaud] come any time and ..

Yeah well, yeah well I mean ... if there is nothing else now, then I would say that's great and then if there is more that you can remember, you can always give us a buzz or, yeah, or I can just come round and ... if you find that photo of you and Janet and have a look. 'Cos we looked at some .. we looked at first few albums but you had more .. you had slides I think, we hadn't looked at when I ...

In there at the moment in the front room, I am knee deep in slides

Are you? Are you sorting them out for a show.

No. Er, a friend o' mine who's a historian and he used to go and lecture and that and 'e died about 18 month ago and 'is wife were gettin' rid of all 'is things, she said there is hundreds 'o slides 'ere, can you do anything with 'em. I said, well. She said, I know nobody wants them now, 'cos they are all, yer know, out of date these slides like. And I said, well, interestin' ones folk'll put on

(Interrupts) Yeah, totally

[inaud] so, anyway, I er, I wish I 'adn't said yes. I said, I'll 'ave 'em and sort 'em. I say, they'll not be wasted if I can 'elp it, they'll go to somebody that'll be interested like. So I've got some for meself, and I started before Christmas and I keep 'avin' a do every now and again. There must be two thousand slides (chuckles).

Oh my goodness. Oh my goodness, what a job!

I must 'ave about a thousand slides o' me own (laughs).

And, but there are some interesting ones in there, are there?

(Recording ends)

Interviewer

Interviewee

[End of tape]