

MBL 007**Summary –Richard Lancaster (known as Rex) born 1927 in Grange**

	Reason he is known as Rex. Earliest memories of Grange of playing in duck pond, getting conga eels from pond and going into woods. Summer holidays in short pants and vests on the promenade rowing visitors out into the bay. 10- 15 boats at Grange station and more at end of Bailey Lane - all owned by Burrows family. Motorboat by baths which went over to Morecambe on outward tide and back on inward. Boat called the 'Silver Spray'. Rex rowed people out on the channel he was paid 6 pence for rowing.
2.50	Esplanade hasn't altered but he can remember Kents Bank and Risedale being built. Rex was 6 when swimming pool was completed he was in there all summer. Amazed it's still there. Gala nights and beauty queen before it moved to Morecambe.
4.05	What else did you do for entertainment? Rex had a pony so would ride it on the sands. Outdoors with dogs. 2 or 3 Jersey cows - all helped to make butter.
4.41	Did you travel outside of Grange often? Grandmother and maiden aunts would take Rex on holiday to places such as Bournemouth and Scotland. They had a Rover 14 1935 model Rex's aunt did all the driving and taught Rex how to drive. Pleasant life.
5.17	Family business butcher all worked there. Rex had a delivery bike delivering meat around Grange - scrubbing the floors. 'John Asplin' butchers in main street, opposite was Boots, and café, Spencers and electricity board, Johnson the Jewellers. Butchers is now a chocolate shop still has original tiles from 1933, installed by Sages of London. Butchers served Grange and district. Regular trade Grange, Flookburgh, Witherslack, Cartmel and Cartmel fell. Also served hotels in Barrow and Lakes. Hard work but everyone pleased to see you.
7.50	Difficulties with rivals. Bought cattle from Scotland. Brought from Perth to Carnforth on Train then walking them from Carnforth to Grange. Would bring 20, or so, Aberdeen Angus along the road – Rex on his bike. It would take about 3 hours. Would go up and buy cows directly. Eventually Rex had his own farm and bought from dealers. Talks about incident at furniture shop RH Law (now Lancaster shoes). Rex was bringing 10 cattle from Grange station when two animals walked into furniture shop. Walked through shop without any damage. Rex was standing outside hoping they would get through the shop.
12.50	Changes pre-packaging and butchers now sell cheese etc. Higginson was an apprentice of Rex. Rex can't recognise the meat joints now. Too lean now. Good meat had to have a good bit of fat.
15.05	(Past Higginsons on left, up to Grange Fell, field on right where library is once was a field going up to Hard Crag) was Rex's field and he would put Christmas beef in there. Talks about Beatrix Potter staying at Hardcrag. He thinks that Potter wrote Piggy Bland there (Pig Lane went up to Rex's slaughter house). Rex's family rented Hard Crag Hall. Potter's last character Lucy Carr was a friend of Rex – she left 8 farms in area.
1745	Talks about slaughter house which had a small paddock. Wonderful slaughter man, had been with family since 14 until he died.

19.20	Rex thinks that he is the only one (oldest?) who is born and bred in Grange living at moment.
20.15	Rex's mother and two aunts had the business and brought Rex into the firm as a partnership. Rex felt responsibility, eventually lone survivor. Rex's mother's father came from Ambleside, John her brother came to Grange. He died from gangrene at 42, so Rex's mother had to leave Cartmel school at 15 to take over business. Rex talks about his older brother who wanted to be a scientist. Talks of his brother.
23.25	Recollections of Grange during war? Sirens and cellars. Incendiaries and a few houses hit. Rex was in Home Guard. There was a look out on Hospice. Home Guard was fun. Rex had a welsh pony so he was dispatch rider. Pony could get up fell so he could take messages up. Rationing – slicing corned beef for meat ration. Money didn't come into it - business just had to keep going. Rex's mother did all the book-keeping.
26.10	Mother never accepted that Rex's brother had been killed in war. She had become an invalid. She was a wonderful worker, everyone thought the world of her. She could handle men. Rex was serving when mother went out to carry a side of beef, delivery men astonished
28.55	Rex retired in 1982. Morecambe used to be a great - saw Shirley Bassey, Squadronaires, all-in-wrestling on a Thursday night. Wrestling in the Winter Gardens. Also went dancing on the Pier. Used to go on train come back on the whip 12'oclock. Would go to Gilbert and Sullivan shows. Sinful what's happened to Morecambe. Used to go on fortnights holiday to Blackpool when he was a child.
30.32	Staff had Saturday afternoon off but Rex kept the shop open. Often on Sunday he would need to supply meat – but it had to be done. Hard work but he enjoyed it. He would do it again.
	Interviewed by Emma Aylett 16 Sept 2016 Summarised by Emma Aylett