

MBL 010

Edith Farrar and Freda Addison both live in Bare, both are retired (didn't give DOB)

Edith and Freda were local fundraisers and helpers for the Leeds Children Holiday

Home, Silverdale (which offered free holidays for deprived children from Leeds). The

Holiday Home was closing, after over 100 years, in the week after this interview.

Although their direct involvement with the holiday home only stretches over the last 13

years or so this oral history marks the disappearance of an important feature in

Silverdale. *Much of the meeting couldn't be shared on tape as the women were*

talking about their feelings about the parent charity and how the site had been sold off.

Freda Addison	Freda Addison has been associated with the Leeds Children's Home for 13 years. She was the treasurer. <i>(She regularly, with Edith, gave talks about the site and she shared a potted history below)</i> In 1904 wife of Lord Mayor of Leeds, Helen, wanted to do something for poor children of Leeds. She raised £161 and tried to find somewhere to take children on holiday. Originally used a bungalow in Hest Bank and field for tents but the year after found a farmer's field in far Arnside brought a hut for the land and thirty children came for a fortnights holiday. This continued until 1919. Hut burnt down by mistake. Contributions from police force. Rented another field. Helen died in 1936 - by this time 20,000 people had been to the camp. New building completed in 1952 and name changed to Leeds Children Holiday Camp. Then there was a dining room, kitchen, two dormitories, lounge, hall, pool tables and office. Talks about the facilities, up to current day. Local committee recently updated the pool. Talks of all of the improvements recently made.
8.20	Children come from Leeds sometimes recommended by head teachers or social services. The children come with nothing but what they stand up in. They provide clothes. Gives an example of boy turning up without a jacket so they provide him with one. Up to 2015 60,000 children have been to the home. Children coming are underprivileged, Freda talks about the children.
11.50	Freda got involved because of Edith Farrar - they have been lifelong friends. Freda had previously been superintendent of Sunday School at St Peters, Heysham for 25 years.
Edith Farrar 12.36	Edith Farrar born in Huddersfield, but lived in Leeds for 47 years. Leeds Children Holiday Camp was a well-known charity in the area. Children went from Leeds thanks to fundraising. Her boss was chairman of Leeds Operatic Society which he would take to the camp and put on a concert to raise money for the camp. When Edith retired she moved to Morecambe Bay, she was told to get herself on the local committee. She shortly became chairman of the local fundraising group. They had coffee morning, walks across the Bay etc. They raised enough to get going on projects to make camp safe for children. Annual dinner at golf club and restaurants, (break) talks about how to run a dinner to raise money, valuation afternoon at camp. Book fairs, Edith and Freda put together a talk about the history of the camp.
18.26	Lots of people locally didn't know the the camp was still running so talks were a good way of publicising. Some of the Silverdale people used to look after the children in the camps. Local participation dropped off after CRBs. Lot of money from coffee mornings in Morecambe and Heysham. Found people in Heysham just as enthusiastic in raising money

	as people from Silverdale. No previous experience of fund raising. They talk of their previous jobs.
21.03	Biggest fundraising event is annual Lancashire evening held in Heysham. Describes evening. Love of the children has kept them fund raising.
22.53	Also, organise daytrips for St Peters, Heysham – formed an association called 'Village Outings' for day trip and an annual Scottish holiday. Helpers for the charity come from this group. Talks of how people support the charity locally. Amazing how money kept coming in. Annual car boot brought in £600-700. Very hard to get new people on a committee. At the end down to 4 members.
26.00	Talks about meeting a psychologist at Slynedales (new charity they are supporting) who used to work in Leeds with deprived families and knew the positive effects of the visits to Silverdale on the children.
27.00	Talks about how much they raised in last day at Silverdale Coffee morning. Events make Morecambe Bay closer together.
28.25	Talks of children who came to camp - children often hadn't seen sheep or cows before. Talks about children's reaction to hen run at holiday camp. Lasting memory of barbeque, month before closing talks of a photo of children being taken. Remarks made by children. Sausage and mash consumed by children. Talks about how some of the children can't use knife or fork when they come and are unused to fresh food. Talks of Leeds psychologist explaining difference when children came back from camp. One past attendee brings his wife to see camp. They once ran an art class at the camp. Remarks made by child at the camp about mother about to die. Can't show their feelings about their situation to the children.
39.33	Role of camp (break) Talks about why camp was important for children age 7-11. They could come back three times to the camp during that period. Talks about some of the children they had met and their backgrounds. Talks of giving Easter egg to a child that had never had one before and children not wanting to go home. Children never allowed on the sands.
44.25	They had recently bought new iron gates for the holiday home. Leeds Children's Charity in the gate. Children never left camp although gates not locked.
	Interviewed by Emma Aylett 19 Oct 2016 Summarized by Emma Aylett