

**MBL 011****Gillian Asplin (nee Davy) born 1939 in Arnside moved to Grange as a child. Lived on Holme Island**

	<p>Wartime memories of Arnside - not allowed Christmas trees climbed on to Knott to take a Christmas Tree. Brother 6 years older who went to Earnseat School. Mother used to make vegetarian potted meat. Lard was prize thing to eat. Can remember seeing bombs falling on Barrow from Arnside. Father worked in Salisbury with links to American Forces who would come back on leave with father and bring chewing gum. Gillian remembers riding in father's side car on motor bike. Once motored down to Salisbury exciting adventure because she can remember American convoys throwing sweets. An evacuee, Ms Cavanagh sister of the radio comedian, lived 3 doors up - she taught her and brother elocution. Remembers rose hip collecting. Mother was an ambulance driver, taking patients to Connishead Priory. Mother and friends would go to Silverdale Hotel on bicycles for a night out. Gillian went to board in Windermere during the war. Friendly with Barnes from Earnseat School</p>
7.30	<p>Went to Seascale School as Boarder (at 8), before then moved to Grange. Father used to drive up behind people from the convalescent Home in Arnside and sound his horn - which Gillian thought was funny. Remembers knitted one piece swimsuits for swimming.</p>
9.30	<p>Moved to Grange to High Fell (just after war) Gillian was at Seascale, talks of code in letters to parents. Her brother was boarding in Scotland. Father had a business in Arnside before war. Father brought Mr and Mrs Tate to Arnside and Bob Tate became his foreman. Business at Sandside with coal waggons. Move to Grange business office (now Vets by Grange Station) Used to collect milk from around area. Then worked in conjunction with Libbys in Milnthorpe. Coal and milk deliveries, alongside renting a quarry and a peat bog in Witherslack.</p>
15.00	<p>He collected milk from local farms and took to Libbys, local farmer said that drivers were good because they would wait if the milk was too warm. Drivers would have a coffee with farmers and wait until it cooled so they could accept it. Father built offices and depot in Milnthorpe and employed lots of local people. Talks of past employees coming to brother's funeral 10 years ago.</p>
17.10	<p>Around 1948/50 they had a drought and couldn't get water to High fell for three weeks so father decided it was time to move. They went to stay at Grand Hotel and looked out at Holme Island and moved there. It was a wreck because it had been used through the war (men in Grand Hotel women on Holme Island), and had been used previously as a summer house. Lodge on island was lived in as was cottage on island. Mother's mother lived in one wing. No electricity had to generate their own. Talks of lights being turned off at night.</p>
20.15	<p>Didn't like it when she learnt to drive because it was difficult to get across the railroad from the Island because it was difficult to see the lights from approaching trains. Father had warehouses at Barrow. He was friendly with manager of docks. Father used to come home with ship rafts and many things were stored on island. One raft got away on high tide and</p>

	floated to Arnside point. They had to walk around with chains to try and secure the raft. They took a motor boat to tow it back.
23.45	Gillian had to learn to swim at 9 because of living on Island. Smugglers cave on the Island, about the size of a suitcase (thinks it was to avoid customs at Heversham). Salmon was only contraband when they were on Island - they were hidden on the island. There was also a fridge on the island – hole in ground covered by slate. Didn't go near it
26.00	It was a good place to be. There was a temple of Vesta with a painted ceiling on Island. It had a moat round it covered in brambles. Tells a story of her father setting light to brambles around moat.
27.40	Father didn't like Grange golf club because it was too flat. So he played at Silverdale. When he was at High Fell, with others he decided to bring old fell golf course back. With the Cavendishes, they built golf club. Gillian became an avid golfer playing all over the country. Father wanted Grange Fell to be the first golf course that women were equal to men. Got pro from Silverdale Club. On Sundays, all his drivers that wanted to come and played (membership was low) Table tennis in middle of club very friendly place. Mixture of people.
32.44	Father died when he was 54. Brother died when he was 60. After father died they let the members buy the golf course. Established golf club in 53
34.33	Golf club was a family affair. Gillian loved the feeling of community. Talks of local golf club alliance. Gillian's husband also became a golfer. Had lots of juniors. Father transported juniors around to junior competitions.
36.34	Quarry at Wither Slack. Had to get up high and bring stone down. Norman the foreman (also a clog dancer) used to climb up the scree with a pickaxe, turn it upside down, and slide on it which would bring scree down. Used to have corrugated mesh and put stones on top to graduate the size. Road from Lindale to Levens was built with this stone to stop road from sinking. Also, used the fine stone mixed with salt to de-ice the roads. Men standing on backs of waggons with shovels distributing on roads.
40.40	Talks about father, being a speculator, he was a horder of things otherwise thrown. He had warehouses in Barrow that were set on fire (children inspired to do this by a Dick Barton show) Became chairman of Warehouse Association. Went to London once a month using the direct train from Arnside to London returning on same day. <i>Talks of Sirdair wools (Yorkshire) run by Gillian's great aunt on mother's side and general family information. Gillian's father put on Board of Sirdair, found out that they were training him up to be Managing Director of Sirdair.</i>
46.36	Father traded under K Fell and Co and Davy and Company. They bought out Eversmith? Brother took over firm when father died
47.20	(Break) talking of people coming to Island. Author lived on the Island for a while. (Break) not easy to court on Island. Husband had been the person who installed electricity on Island. It was a lovely place to live, beautiful house. By the time, Mother was ready to leave she wanted to live somewhere smaller. ( Moved to Brock?) Couldn't find anyone to buy the Island 50 years ago, finally sold it mother regretted not giving it to the National Trust <i>Passage removed about next inhabitant of island</i>
51.45	Talks of Billiard room upstairs with full size snooker table. Lots of fun once a week snooker, drama rehearsals. Finishes with end of business
	Interview by Emma Aylett Summarised by Emma Aylett

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