

MBL 012

Oral History recording made with Mrs Eunice Sampson (born 1923), Jane Smith (born 1950) and Ann Johnson (1952). The conversation focuses on Canal Foot, Ulverston where Mrs Sampson has lived since 1953. Jane and Anne are sisters and were born close to Canal Foot, Ulverston in terraced housing (now demolished) off North Lonsdale Rd. Jane now lives at Canal Foot too. Adjacent to Canal Foot is Glaxo.

	Jane explains that we are recording in her house at Canal Foot, Ulverston. Eunice came to Canal Foot in 1953 when her husband got a job at Glaxo – they rented their house from Glaxo and then bought it. When they arrived people at pub invited them to a Coronation party. Talks of her children going to Sandside and school closing.
3.16	Jane and Ann were born in Iron Works Rd, part of North Lonsdale Rd, in a row of cottages linked to Dad job at Glaxo. Allotments were out back. Ann talks of celebrations and community parties and of different communities in each road. Cottage was compulsory purchased and knocked down.
6.07	Talks of Glaxo taking over Iron works. After war industry was encouraged into area. Houses once owned by Ironworks were transferred to Glaxo.
7.16	Jane's great grandparents had lived on North Lonsdale Rd next to Empress Pub. Originally from Ireland they worked in the ironworks. Their dad was one of first employees at Glaxo.
8.00	Talks about Glaxo, community and sports days. Alexander Fleming presented a sports prize to Jane's dad. Glaxo was a family orientated firm. Dr Wilkins, manager at Glaxo when Eunice moved there, knew the name of every child 'belonging' to the firm.
9.44	Glaxo's Triangle Trust provided grants - 'a bit elitist'. In 1968 unions wanted to come to Glaxo which meant strikes and divided the town. Glaxo has always been a non-union firm but unions got in. Talks of 'horrible things' going on.
11.30	Eunice talks of husband Andy coming home for lunch from Glaxo and children attending schools.
12.30	Jane talks of working in Glaxo in summer holidays and the work canteen.
13.15	Community - each area people came together and celebrated with street parties. Talks of yearly bonfire on pier. Discussion of people who lived in cottages on front, pub and guide's cottage, Hammerside house and cottage. Jane and Ann remember day of sale of Hammerside cottage. Hill behind is Hammerside Hill which is now owned by Jane. Community in Ulverston strong, horizons not wide in 50s. Talk of housing development since war.
	Break in recording
18.15	How has the canal been part of the community story? People learnt to swim in canal. Story of grandfather swimming next to an otter. When Eunice first came the lock gates were still in place. People dived off locks. Nets for swimming. 70s and 80s raft race which had to negotiate the bridge. Talk of listed rolling bridge on lock. Ann used to pretend she was a ballet dancer on bridge over canal.
21.14	Jane nearly fell into sewer on 'slag banks' and got stuck in the quarry. Eunice's husband rescued sheep from the quarry. They used to go to quarry to look for fossils.
22.41	Has Canal Foot always been a leisure area?

	<p>Talks about the Canal in the past and people coming to buy fish. Treading for flocks. Jane talks of father bringing home flocks. Going to Chapel Island was a day out. Ann at 13 walked to Chapel Island and without warning was covered by the tide. Jane lost a shoe in sinking sands. Originally the sport field was a salt marsh. As a sports field it now sometimes floods when it didn't before. Jane as child looked in rock pools and for sheep heads.</p>
26.11	<p>Always warned about Bay. Eunice talks about the past when monks crossed the Bay and George Fox. Jane always warned by mother not to go on sands. They used to go to Triddily? under the viaduct. They used to walk through a cow field to place where the tide wasn't as fast flowing. People used to picnic there. You used to be able to drive a car there but gate now locked. Jane won't go under the viaduct because mother had told her not to. Jane has never learnt to swim. Talk of the nets where people learnt to swim. Rose cottage was where Mrs Neves used to sell pots of tea for people to drink on the front (son still lives in cottage).</p>
30.50	<p>Lock gates closed in the 40s. Glaxo used to use the canal for water. Water used to come from Newlands. Anne used to fish in the feeder for sticklebacks. As children Jane and Anne knew many children who lived nearby and they would wander all around (Jane's son had a den by Plumpton). As a child Jane went as far as Greenod - 'No one stopped you.' Each street had their own group. Where roundabout at Glaxo is now was a railway line that went to priory. They used to walk through there to priory shore and walk to Bardsea - no fear. Eunice talks about children moving away. Son worked in steel works originally but then they closed.</p>
34.54	<p>Eunice moved to Canal Foot from Morecambe aged 30. Her father died when she was 10 and she moved to Morecambe (from Leeds) so her mother could earn a living and still be at home. She ran apartments. During the war Eunice worked in Morecambe for civil service. Civil servants relocated to hotels in Morecambe. She married someone from Heysham and they moved to Canal Foot because 'you went where the work was'. Before the war Morecambe was 'packed'. People used to come from Leeds on a half crown trip on a Saturday night for a show or dance. Talks of long queues from station waiting to get train. During war Morecambe also had the air force. Nothing in Morecambe after the War.</p>
41.13	<p>Everyone was welcoming when Eunice came to Canal foot. Mrs Edmonson at the pub had come from Morecambe too in 1953. Particularly friendly place to live. Examples</p>
43.18	<p>When Jane was a girl the lady who lived in her current house, Mrs Corner, used to ride bike with a poodle in bike basket. Jane wanted to live in her current house since a child. She has now lived there for 32 years.</p>
44.08	<p>Physical changes since 1953? Number of houses have increased. Cottage opposite Jane's was once lock keeper's cottage. John in cottage talked to everyone going by from a bench outside her house. Very high tides would flood the lock keeper's cottage through the drains and Glaxo would pump out the house. 2 sisters lived there before John. They told stories and everyone would chat to them. Sisters allowed pub's goats to be tethered outside. Talk of snow in 48. Talks of son coming down canal at night. Getting around without cars. Could always walk along canal and across railway line</p>

50.25	Has Glaxo changed much over time? There used to be two fermenter halls, fluff used to come out of chimneys and there was a steam engine. Effluent used to go straight out to sea. When they first moved there Jane didn't pay sewage rates because everything went out into bay (80s). Sewage pipe went along side of the pier. 90s saw mains sewage arrive. Eunice remembers sewage in Morecambe mussel beds.
53.20	Joyful, magic childhood for Jane. As children they helped out on farms. Milk was delivered by horse and cart. Extra milk was bought from Plumpton farm. Farmer with hook for hand carried his milk can on his hook. Fish and meat vans came. Grocer came to Canal Foot on a Wednesday - Mr Shuttleworth. He would also deliver cleaning, Christmas trees etc. The butcher came on Tuesdays and on Fridays he delivered the weekend joint. Jane remembers the ice cream man (d'Ganacy's?) who came on Sunday afternoon tea time. Used to be a pub at Sandhall which burnt down and Empress pub on North Lonsdale Rd. Bridge at Sandbanks and signal box.
57.15 1hr 06	Jane remembers going towards clay dubs (behind Priory) to watch the brick chimneys being blown up – late 50s. Pond near there was where swans nested. There was a lime kiln near Canal Foot. People used to picnic along rocks. There were also bathing huts. (concrete base still there. People used to swim in the cove at high tide. Some people in Ulverston still unaware this area is there. Talks about pub. Eunice's husband used to go to pub on Sunday to play dominos with John Wilson and Mr Halfpenny. Pubs had off-licenses. Talks about North Lonsdale Rd's shops and library. Glaxo have always provided a playground (where roundabout is now). They also built a memorial garden in memory of Dr Wilkins, Glaxo manager, who was killed in an air crash. Glaxo has renamed Morecambe Rd where they live above canal foot. Someone has lived in that part of Ulverston from Jane's family since 1880s.
	Interviewed by Emma Aylett 26 th Jan 2017 Summarized by Emma Aylett