

**MBL 013**

**Born 1937, Mrs Carrick (maiden name Obertelli) talks about being a member of the Aqualovlies a synchronised swimming troupe which performed at Morecambe's Super Swimming Stadium during the 1960's. Mrs Carrick first performed in 1960 (she continued performing in different venues until she was 42). Mrs Carrick's grandparents moved to Morecambe from Italy in the 1890s.**

	Started in aqua show in 1960 (at Morecambe's Super Swimming Stadium), she was engaged to her husband. She always wanted to go in the aqua show. She went to audition for the producer when she was 16. She swam and got the job, but dad forbade her to become an Aqualovley so she had to wait until later to join. Husband wasn't keen that she do it either but she joined anyway.
1.00	Morecambe's Super Swimming Stadium closed and show finished in 1967, so she went to Marine Land and the divers and escapologist came too. She had two girls and a son. She then went to Pontins at Southport, then Blackpool and then came back to Morecambe. She worked as a synchronised swimmer until she was 42.
2.11	At 42 she became a lifeguard at new Morecambe pool for a year but it bored her.
2.42	What happened at a show? Aqualovlies Had a few spots, quick changes, made patterns in the water, divers dived off 10 metre boards, Aqua loonies did silly things. Mrs Carrick also did a trampoline act with two men. Water was freezing.
3.53	In May Aqualovlies would rehearse on stage. They had different routines - one was Spanish, one was Greek. They would do a bit of dancing on pool side and then they would dive in for the synchronised swimming routine.
4.20	The bathing beauties competition was on a Wednesday. She met the stars who were judging. Aqualovlies did a swim routine before and after the contest. They saw the beauties without makeup and then they would look all glamorous. She met Adam Faith in gents changing rooms. He had an overcoat on and asked if they were going to go in the water. She met Hughie Green and Batchelors. Mrs Carrick went home after the shows and cooked the tea for her family. Talks of working at Pontins.
5.40	Who was in charge of you? Dorothy was the choreographer and there were also a few different producers. One was quite strict. On a rainy day, if they missed a show, they would go into the Parisian Bar opposite the pool. On one day because they had been drinking they couldn't get their stroke right and their money was suspended. Once taking their call after the show it was thundering and lightening and she ran off the stage but producer made her go back on. They had a lot of fun.
7.04	Why did you want to do it in the first place? She always loved swimming. When she was young she worked in a grocer's shop to which many of the swimmers came. Lots of B&Bs used the grocers which sold bacon and eggs. She didn't want to work in the grocers because she wanted to be a swimmer. She was determined to do it despite her father not wanting her to.
7.48	Not many Aqualovlies left but Mrs Carrick is still friends with two of them. Talks of people joining the aqua show from outside of the area. One

	woman had a baby and no husband and she just arrived so they fed her. Talks of it being like one big family, the men like brothers. Talks of a time when they came back to dressing room and all their underwear was missing. One of the divers had put it all up high on a flag pole. She had a lot of fun. Talks of working at Pontins and taking her children with her.
9.20	What did you do in the winter? She had three children but before then she would find work in winter although it was difficult as they knew she was going back to swimming in summer. She knew that she had work each year as the producer would ask her to go in after Christmas to model the bathing suits for him.
10.25	What were the audiences like? On a lovely day it was packed. On a bad day, there would be a few people in the café hiding from the rain, the swimmers hoped they wouldn't come in from the café as they would still have to do a show even if there was six in audience. She talks about the building of the new pool and why it didn't work. It was knocked down after 25 years. Lists Empire theatre, palace cinemas fabulous place. She was born in Morecambe - she is a sandgrounan.
12.20	Her family were Italian, her grandparents came in the late 1800s. They didn't speak English. They were told to learn English as soon as possible and the children weren't to speak Italian so language wasn't passed down. Grandparent made ice-cream and took it out with a donkey and cart. Taking it to Hest Bank, Poulton etc they had a café and they also bought Atkinson's chip shop. Her uncle Paul had the ghost train and the Savoy Hotel. Her father and Uncle Stephano bought a fish and chip shop on Springfield Street. Her uncle had the Astoria Café by West end pier. The family had anglicised names (her father was Leo but was actually Leonardo). She was outside the Winter Gardens and was talking to someone and told them that her grandfather had created the mosaic outside of the Winter Gardens as he was a stonemason. The woman pointed out that that the word Pavillion was spelt wrong!
15.31	Mrs Carrick talks about cousins visiting the Italian village where family came from. Do you feel Italian? Yes but is British to the core.
16.42	Do you know why your grandparents came to Morecambe? Grandfather came over first and went to Blackpool but didn't like it so then came to Morecambe. There may have had relatives in Blackpool. Just 300 Obertelli (Mrs Carrick's maiden name) in the world, all from Italian village of Morefasa? (on Austrian border). Family weren't interned during WW2. Mrs Carrick remembers one girl saying at school that she couldn't play with her anymore because she was Italian. She has never not felt British.
19.23	She left home at 21 and went to live at with friends. She went to Manchester and got a job but came home every weekend to see boyfriend. She went to live with a friend in Lancaster. Father wouldn't come to wedding because she wasn't marrying a Catholic. Uncle Giovanni gave them food. She got married and then joined the aqua show.
21.55	Used to hear music under water. Didn't have nose pegs on. Often got the giggles. 12 girls to start with which then went down to 9.
22.42	Were you treated as special people in Morecambe? People still recognise her now. Talks about someone asking her is she was the girl in

	the pink bikini. Talks about going to a funeral and old school mates talking about how pretty she had been.
25.10	She mentions the ice show in Morecambe (held where the polo tower is). There was a fairground at front and ice show at back. If you were shy how did you deal with performing? She didn't know but swimming was her thing.
26.14	How long did it take after you got the job to be able to do the routines? Not long – they started rehearsing in May. It was difficult to do the slow stroke. No jealousy between girls. Husband being interested in her gave her confidence as he was quite handsome. She was shy dancing at side of pool but not once she was in water. Talks of producer making her go in for beauty contest because they were short of numbers. She told him to never ask her again. Daily Mirror(?) wanted to take pictures of her on the Moby Dick (ship). She was tied to the mast and he took her hair down and pulled her suit up and she walked away and said not to be asked again. All she wanted to do was swim and go home because she was a 'homemaker'. She started to get more confidence at 30.
30.15	A few of the Aqualovlies had children. All helped each other.
	Talks about other possible jobs and the independence of travel.
32.30	<u>....break...referring to 1961 Morecambe Super Swimming Stadium</u> programme (included talks about people in programme and number of shows a day.
	Interviewed by Emma Aylett Summarised by Emma Aylett As part of Morecambe Bay Lives – Headlands to Headspace