

## **Interviews with Walter Benson & Brian Greaves**

Interviewees : Walter J Benson, born 1922 ('WB'), and  
Brian Greaves, born 27 April 1924 ('BG')

Interviewer : Barbara Copeland ('BC')

Location : Somewhere near Grange/Flookburgh/Cark we think

Date : October 1992

Recording duration : 92 mins 22 secs (total of 4 tracks)

Transcriber: Peter Roden, then checked/updated by Michael  
Redman and Jenn Mattinson

### **Introduction**

These interviews were originally recorded in 4 stages on a cassette. The digitised audio files have not been consolidated, and the timing notes in this transcript are for each track separately. The sequence of the tracks is as follows. Track 1 (25 mins 45 secs) is an interview with Brian Greaves whilst waiting for Walter Benson to arrive. Walter brought a copy of a short radio recording in which he featured, and this is track 2 (7 mins 14 secs). There then followed a joint interview which starts as track 3 (12 mins 44 secs) until side one of the cassette ran out, and continues as track 4 (46 mins 41 secs) until the second side of the cassette ran out.

Please note – there's a lot of surnames and shop names/place names

### **Track 1**

BC So what age were you when you started ? [BG : 16] 16. So were you at school 'till you were 16 ?

BG No, I was at school 'till I was 14. I worked at Sankey's Stores for 8 or 9 month, then they wanted a strong boy at Furness Supply across 'ere. So I applied for that job and got it. I was about 8 stone wet through. [BC laughs]

BC So what did you do at Sankey's Stores ? Where is Sankey's Stores?

BG Errand Boy. Well, it's I think this is Tom Poole's, an hairdresser, Harry Poole's hairdressers now.

BC Oh, in Grange, oh yes.

BG [inaud...Wally Carr or Wilson perhaps] [BC : Right] Harold Wilson was the boss. [BC : So you ...] And I went from there, to Charlie Ashcroft's across here, Furness Supply. And I left there when I was ... August 1940 I started [1 min] on t' Railway.

- BC And were you ... you had to travel to Barrow, didn't you ?
- BG Well I did do for six months, and then I went in lodgings. I was 17. Of course, they used to work shifts, like 4.26 at night or 2.40 in the morning, so yer couldn't travel, there was nothing to travel with. [BC : Right] So I had to go in lodgings. So I was lodging when I was 17, when I was 17. I used to come home at weekends.
- BC Was Barrow station a big station ?
- BG Barrow station was bombed in about '41 or '2. I think I was travelling home. They were bombing it then. We went under th' subway. [BC : Yes] Me and our Jack Satt[?], he was a fitter's mate, we went under th' subway when they were bombing Barrow. That's when they blew Coppernob there, that night. [BC : What's Coppernob ?] It was an old Furness railway engine, steam engine. It was [2 mins] in a glass case in Barrow station. [BC : Was it ?] Aye. I think it's at Horwich now. Or went to Horwich. It might be at York now, I don't know. But it went from Barrow to Horwich I think. They put ... there was shell, shell holes in it. .... [inaudible]and glass case, just outside the station there, well, on t' station approach it were.
- BC And how long would it take for a trip from Barrow to Flookburgh, Cark, in those days ?
- BG Well, that was about th' same time, half an hour, 55 minutes happen, with steam.
- BC Right. So not much shorter really than it takes now. [BG : No] Yea.
- BG Mind you, with steam, was steam in them days, there's more coaches on. They'd have more ... happen six coaches on an ordinary train, happen up to ten on with a, with a big Black Five, what we called the Black Five. [BC : What was that, goods ?] Passengers.<sup>1</sup>
- BC Oh that was all passengers, right. And were they usually full ? Oh, [3 mins] they must have been.
- BG Well aye, not so bad. There's used to be a workmen's train from Grange in 19' ... when t' war was on, in t' '40s ... '39 was it to '40s ... '45 ? There used to be another workmen's train from Ulverston, and one from Askham, one from Millom, [BC : All going to Barrow ?] right down to Barrow, right down to Barrow Island, they used to go in them days, over t' cradle bridge at Barrow. [BC : Yes] That's down now, they took that down, [BC : So these were early morning trains ?] by the shipyard junction. Now, they used to set off at ... oh we used to set from Barrow at 4.40 with a, go onto a goods train, then go to Silecroft and pick our stock up, coaches up at Silecroft, then work 6.15 out of Millom, into Barrow about 6.45 ... [4 mins] aye, about 6.45 or 6.55 say round th' shipyard. Then used to leave at 7.45 take th' night shift back. Then we used to work one back out of Millom about 9.45.
- BC And that was through the war, was that ? [BG : Aye] And these workmen's trains, they wouldn't have any classes would they ?

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<sup>1</sup> The Black Five was a commonly used name for a Stanier Class 5 steam locomotive.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LMS\\_Stancier\\_Class\\_5\\_4-6-0](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LMS_Stancier_Class_5_4-6-0)

BG No. They were no corridors. There weren't even corridor trains, just ordinary ... [BC : Yes, I know what you mean] There were no corridors in 'em. [BC : No] No toilets.

BC No. So ... but the other passenger trains were classes, and what ... just first ... [BG : First and third classes there was then] So why was there no second class ?

BG I don't know. They did away with them likely. [BC : Oh] I don't know whether they had 'em on t' Furness. There used to be a couple of Furness engines, or three Furness engines there when I started. There was one was on th' bank engine for a long time, 11103. [5 mins] And another one they called a slogger used to do all t' shunting in t' sidings at Barrow. Then there used to be one, 12510, that was a Furness engine. We used to go up ... that used to go on local road side up to Coniston, and there ... [BC : Yes] down to Lons..., down where t' Glaxo is now. [BC : Oh yes] There used to be ... go down there shunting. [BC : Yes] Used to be dye works down there, I think, down there.

BC And what sort of price was it on the train ?

BG Well I used to get a P.T., it was ... [BC : That privileged ticket] Aye, privileged ticket, 'cos I worked on t' railway. They used to say it was quarter fare, but I think it was just a bit over. It was one and tuppence ha'penny [1<sup>s</sup> 2½<sup>d</sup>] from Barrow to Cark in them days, in t' 40's. [BC : Yes] 1940 when I started. [BC : So if that was a quarter ticket, you'd multiply that by four to ...] Aye, I would say that's about three and six [3<sup>s</sup> 6<sup>d</sup>] on t' train to ... [6 mins] or maybe four bob [4<sup>s</sup>], I don't know. They used to have ... they used to get a workmen's ticket did workmen when they went to shipyard. There used to be a workmen's ticket.

BC So that was probably in between the price of privileged ticket and ...

BG Ah, don't know. Some used to get them monthly, or something like that, or a weekly they could get. [BC : Yes] Same from Millom. Price was same fare from Millom, from Millom to Barrow, Cark to Barrow, and Woodland to Barrow. Woodland's up the Coniston branch. [BC : Yes] And they shut that down. Beeching shut that down, and th' Lakeside branch.

BC Yes. And what was Flookburgh station like at this ... or Cark ?

BG Well, it was all verandas then. They've just knocked them down, this last year or two, haven't they ? [BC : Yes] Barrow was all veranda, big glass case in Barrow, like a big veranda was Barrow, all enclosed Barrow station until it got bombed. [BC : Yes] And [7 mins] Ulverston was th' same. I can remember Ulverston. [BC : Yeh I do] It hasn't altered much hasn't Ulverston. [BC : No.]

BC But there was a lot of goods, you said.

BG Oh aye, they used to fetch horses here for Cartmel races, and unload 'em, then take 'em up to Cartmel.

BC How would they take them up to Cartmel ? In vehicles, in trucks ?

BG Aye, horse boxes, or maybe, some of 'em, happen would walk up, and go in big lots. [BC : Yes] Horse boxes, they'd horse boxes, I think they used to keep some at Shorthorn Farm, up

there. [BC : Oh yes] Here's Walter comin' now. [BC : Oh is it ?] And old Jack Helm used to be in th' signal box there, him and Jonty [Jonathan] Benson, Heather Benson's father. [BC : Yes] Betty Benson's [8 mins] father. They were signalmen 'ere. An' old Jack used to ... when t' mail train went rushing through, he'd ... signal box was that near th' line, Jack used to jump out of t' box. It used to rock t' box. [BC : Gosh] Then there was sidings down there. Then used to be coal, and then there was a special siding for th' Furness and South Cumberland. And then there's a crane there. They used to load cockles 'ere. There used to be a wagon load of cockles go from 'ere nearly every day. [BC : Where to ?] Well, they used to go down to Lancashire, [BC : Yes] to sell in t' pubs and what not.

BC And market day, you used to get the fishermen coming with all the ...

BG Aye. Matt (ph) Cowp/Coop , and (ph) Clarty, Thomas Butler they used to say, and Clive ... there's one or two more, I can't think of ... They used to all congregate in t' pub after ... [BC : After they'd come back from ...] At George Naish's, adjacent to railway, [9 mins] Station Hotel. [BC : Station Hotel] That used to be a pub.

BC And what did they take them in, the cockles ? I mean, how many ... [BG : Bags] bags ?

BG Aye, there'd be hundredweight in them, wouldn't there, maybe ? I think they could have been hundredweight bags. They used to get 'em with th' jumbo, oh jumbo, check, makes sands ...

BC Yes. And did they take them in carts ?

BG Aye, they used to go on with carts. [BC : Did they ?] Walter'll tell yer about 'is cart, 'cos he lost a cart. Is 'ee comin' now ? [BC : Can't see him] I thought Hilda was talking to him. ....[?] He lost, he lost 'is horse and cart in t' quicksand's on t' sand, and Walter give 'em up for dead, and horse beat Walter home. [BC laughs] He'll tell yer about it.

BC [10 mins] Erm....what sort of shifts did you work ?

BG Well, as I was saying, there was one ... we used to have one at 2.40 in the morning. We used to have three engines, all sorts weather outside of Barrow shed. 'An then go to, happen go to Millom for th' workmens'. Take a ... hooked onto a goods train, then go to Millom for th' workmens' and back. And there used to be another, whatever it was, 4.26 at night. Oh so nights we used to work, and ...

BC Do you know what your wages were in those days ?

BG I started off at 26 shillings a week as a cleaner. And then when ... if I went out firing, that was a past(?) cleaner, used to go up to 39 shillings used to get. And then, if yer got 313 turns in, that's a year without Sundays, yer got to ... yer stuck on yer 39 bob a week, shillings a week, and then when yer got yer second lot of turns in, yer went up to 42. [11 mins] And then when yer got yer third lot in, yer jumped up to three pound twelve [£3/12<sup>s</sup>/-]. That was a top rate fireman. The top rate driver's wages were four pound ten, [£4/10<sup>s</sup>/-], four pound fifty [£4.50<sup>p</sup>] to you. [BC : Yes, a week] Aye. [BC : Right] Oh, it was a good job was a driver in them days. [BC : And ...] We used to go to Leeds and Carlisle and stop t' night. We used

to go to City Palace of Varieties at Leeds. [BC : Yes] And, what do they call t'others, they shut it down now, Empire, they shut that down. But City Palace of Varieties, enjoyed it, old time music hall, used to go there. [BC : Yes I know....] And we go to lodge at Leeds, at Carlisle. Lots at Leeds, and Carlisle were up a bit, used to [12 mins] lodge there. That, we used to go at night there, half past five at night you used to set off out of Barrow. Carlisle goods used to take ores. [BC : That's going up round the West coast is it ?] Ingots. [BC : Up through Millom and ...] Aye, used to go up through Maryport, and that way. [BC : Yes] Used to take ingots up there and ... [speaking intermittently whilst thinking aloud] ... eh, what d'y call it ... where they make the ... after they've made it more into ... ee, forget now ... Used to take about 40 or 50 wagons up at a time. [BC : Gosh] They weren't all fitted, they were all loose coupled trains in them days, and goods trains had a brake with a guard's van on t' back. [BC : Yes] Twenty ton guard's van. Used to work with th' guard. Guard [13 mins] used to put his brake on if they were going down a dip, to keep th' couplings stretched d'yer see. Sometimes, if yer didn't keep 'em stretched, they snapped and broke in two, then train was broke, broke in two them days. Now they're more or less all fitted, fully fitted, so th' guard's ... [BC : In other words, they've got their own brakes ?] Sometimes, there's no brakes on at all, just a fully fitted brake train like a passenger. [BC : Yes] It was a vacuum in them days, and they're more or less all air now, air brakes. [BC : Yes] Aye.

BC And what about when you were a child then, in Flookburgh, growing up. Whereabouts did you live ? Have you always lived in Market Street ?

BG I was born in Main Street, Flookburgh, opposite Walter Benson's. Near ... what do they call that shop with two dogs ... opposite Hodgson's shop, [BC : Oh yes] that shop down there, [BC : Yes] [14 mins] where these ... (ph) Armer's had it, somebody called Armer had it then. And of course it's been ... Walter Benson's uncle had it for a bit an' all. And then somebody called Alice had what's the Post Office now, somebody called David Alice's father and mother had that, [BC : Yes] when I was a lad.

BC So you lived up Main Street, did you, for a while ?

BG Till I was about 5 or 6 happen, and then we went down to Crown Cottage, 49 Market Street now, as it is. But was Crown property in them days, next to th' pub, Crown pub. Old Mrs Mackereth had th' pub in them days.

BC And all the houses were mainly rented in those days ?

BG Aye, oh aye. There was a blacksmith's shop where David Ireland's[?] shop is now. [BC : Yes] [15 mins] Peter and John Butler used to work that. Peter used to ring th' bells, did Peter. [BC : In church ?] He was th' main bell ringer was Peter. He used to do the stamping and timing for the bells. [BC : Yes] He used to ring th' little bell did Peter. He was a blacksmith, him and John. John was in the choir.

BC And has the pub changed much ?

BG No. Pub's hardly altered, well it has a little bit, but not a lot.

- BC That's the Crown, that's right. [BG : Aye] And how many other pubs were there in the village ? Can you remember ?
- BG Oh, well, there was th' Kings Arms, [BC : Yes] and then there was th' Fishermen's. [BC : Where was the Fishermen's ?] Where Tom Benson lives now. [BC : On the corner] On the corner. There used to be a, there used to be a sign up there : Kings Arms, 262½ miles to London, that's on the old roads. [BC : Across the sands ?] No, old main roads. [BC : Oh, right] 262½ to London used to be underneath it. And then, Bill [16 mins] Miller says where his grandfather lived, Ellen Dibble lives there now, old Pincher[?] like, next to ... what do they call that shop now ... you used to call it (ph) Hodgson's where t' Cocklers is ... [BC : Oh, the Cocklers, the Cackle] what they call the Cackle now, [BC : Yes] well, old Pincher Wright used to live there where Ellen Dibble lives at now, and Bill Miller told me that used to be called the Ship Inn. [BC : Oh, that's another inn] Aye. [BC : Gosh] And Walter Benson, he said there used to be one up town. [BC : There's the Hope and Anchor still there] Aye, th' Hope and Anchor's still there, aye. Well, in t' wartime, when t' war was on, they used to do soldiers in horse ... they've closed it up stable now. There used to be a stable there that's right at t' front. [BC : Yes] And they've altered th' way in an' all. Where way in is now, it used to be way right through to t' back, [BC : Right] right through to back. They used to play quoits in them days up back of [17 mins] there. [BC : Right] I remember playing quoits, on clay.
- BC And talking about soldiers, when they were stationed down at Cark, was there ... I mean, were there a lot down there ?
- BG Well, there was the Air Force, and t' soldiers. They used to pull a target behind 'em for practice with th' ack-ack. They used to shoot at this target, these did th' ack-ack fellas. [BC : What, they pulled it right down when ...] They used to ... aeroplane used pull a target behind it, and they used to ... [BC : Oh I see, when they were up in the air] Aye, and ack-ack used to shoot at it. God help the pilot, but it was a long way away. [BC : Were the Canadians down there as well ?] Oh, I don't remember them. [BC : Oh, I'd heard ...] They used to have a football team, the lads used to play football ag'en 'em.
- BC And did they come up into the village a lot ? [BG : Oh aye] So it would be quite busy, wouldn't it, in the war ?
- BG Oh aye. [BC: So it would be quite busy...]. They used to come off th' train, aye, they used to come off th' train. They used to be [18 mins] marching down to t' camp, aye.
- BC And how many blacksmiths would there have been around ?
- BG Well, there was, there was old Jim Shutt, where Bert Rollison finished up at. And next to him, as yer go up th' fields, through t' fields, to ... short cut to Cark is, the station, come out at station, come out at Dal....[?]. Well, when yer set off from there, the first house looking at yer, straight up, was Mr Jeffries. He was a shoe repair man, Mr Jeffries. And I think Alan had it after that, his son. And they packed it up because he had a bad heart or something. And to the left of that, there was a blacksmith. Old Jim Shuttleworth used to do it there when I was a lad, and then Bert Rollison carried on. He was apprenticed to old Shutt.

BC And this is the ... [19 mins] this is opposite the road that goes to Ravenstown now ? [BG : Aye, as yer go through the fields] Yes.

BG And then there was a Miss Hall, lived in that big house on the right, and further up, Mr Culley used to have a joiner's shop, [BC : Yes] on there ... just ... well I think they've been converted into a house now, it was a joiner's shop. [BC : And this is like ...] Mr Culley, when we were lads ... [BC : Yes, but this is like 1930s ?] Aye, and his wife used to teach the infants, Mrs Culley, [BC : Oh yes] she used to teach the infants.

BC So the infants school, was that the one just above the Chemist?

BG Aye. [BC : Yes] And there was a Miss Hales, she was the headmistress. [long pause thinking] Mrs Culley used to teach the little tots. [20 mins] I can't think ... [BC : What age were you there ?] Oh, yer went when yer were 5 there. [BC : You started when you were 5] Aye, then yer went to Holker school when yer were about 9, I think, 7 or 9, I forget now. [BC : Yes]

BC So you used to walk up to Holker school ?

BG Aye. Got t' stick first time I went there. Old Micky Downing gave us th' stick for being late. [BC : Downing ?] Micky Downing, aye. [BC : Yes] He lived at Trevenna, where Riley lives now, the tree surgeon. [BC : Oh yes] Lived there did Micky Downing. Used to come swinging 'is stick along. He was t' choir master, an organist at church like an' all. He was ... then he used to produce a bit of ... music director at opera, [BC : Yes] and he used to paint scenery an' all, that's when mi mother was a lass. [BC : Yes] Clever fella. And then Mr Howett[?] carried on after him. Well, [21 mins] he played the organ, so he was a choirmaster at t' churches then. He was th' headmaster at Holker school, and he carried on with choirmaster at church, yer see.

BC So how long's the opera been going ? Is that a ...

BG Well, this has been going just since 1950, '51, at Flookburgh, [BC : Right] but it would be going before t' war, they called it Lower Holker before th' war. [BC : Did they ?] Aye.

BC So it stopped for the war ? It stopped in the war years did it ?

BG Yes, oh aye. Then Grange started. Grange started in 1949. I started ... I joined Grange. [BC : Yes] Then Mrs O'Hara started at Flookburgh. I took Frederick. McCarry[?] was mi first at Grange. Then Mrs O'Hara started Flookburgh, and she said : and you will be my little Frederick, she said. [22 mins] So I did Frederick there. I was ... [BC : Which opera ?] Pirates of Penzance. [BC : Pirates] And then we did Merrie England, and a few more. I was Walter Raleigh in that. [BC : Yes] Marco in Gondoliers ... and we did a few. I used to take th' leads, 'til I was in mi 50s like, tenor parts.

BC And were there other things happening ? I mean, people joined the opera ...

BG Oh there was th' band. Old Tom Wilson was in t' band. He used to ... he lived till he was 90. He used, he used to walk bare foot up mile road, from t' sand, did old Tom. Teddy Wilson's father that's at ... o'er t' Bridge. 92 was old Tom. He packed up going to sand when he was

70, then he started being bad and they wondered what was up wi' 'im so they sent him back. He went back to t' sand again, and he was OK after that. [23 mins] [BC laughs]

BC So the band's been going a lot of years then ?

BG Oh aye. I don't know how long t' band went...Bill Dickinson will tell yer that. There was something in t' paper about it, wasn't there ? [BC : I don't know. So children could join the band ?] We started ... I think we started with all fishermen, with t' band like. [BC : Yes] Old Jack Wilson was in it from Sandgate. He went to Satterthwaite to live old Jack, brother to them lads at Sandgate, old Ted Wilson.

BC And what about doctors and district nurses ? Were there many ?

BG Well, there was Dr Charlton. I remember Dr Charlton and Dr Wilson at Cark. [BC : And did they have surgeries that you went to ?] I think it was a Dr Green in before Charlton. [24 mins] Aye, they had surgeries. They had it at ... Charlton had his at Cark. And Wilson, and Wilson lived down where Alison Taylor lives now. She married that Dutch lad. [BC : Yes] That's where Dr Wilson used to live, as yer go down th' station approach at Cark side. And then Wallers[?] had that shop there, just a little wooden shop at Cark down there. Paper fella.

BC Oh I remember that. And if you were ill, which hospital would you be taken to ? [BG : Ulverston Cottage] Ulverston Cottage. And did they have ambulances then ?

BG Yes, oh aye. [BC : There must have been ambulances around...] I remember Jim Butler, he got killed in t' war, Isabel's brother, he ... he went to get his appendix out by ambulance. I remember him going. [25 mins] [BC : That was 1930s ?] Aye, he was only a lad then.

BC And transport, I mean, was there local like buses, or ...

BG There was old George Golding, he used to have a solid wheel, solid tyre wagon, old George, solid tyres. He used to bring coal around 'ere, George Golding. He used to live up where McClure's live now, opposite Braithwaite Hall, where Les Butler used to live. [BC : Yes] Them houses there. [BC : Yes] Well, George Golding lived in one house, Edna's father, and old Shutt lived in ... [dog barks loudly and recording cuts out after 25 mins 45 secs]

## Track 2 (a copy of a radio recording)

Announcer ... Off the main tourist routes, but it's close to Holker Hall and Cartmel Priory, and with traffic to those places, and the busy local traffic, Flookburgh is certainly not a quiet backwater. It's livelihood used to depend on shrimping in Morecambe Bay, but times have changed, and that local industry has sadly declined. We'll hear more about the village now from Walter Benson, Ellen Manning<sup>2</sup> ('EM') and Madge McClure<sup>3</sup> ('MC'). But first, we hear from Marie Grayson ('MG'). [Note : Ladies not yet separately identified in the transcript]

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<sup>2</sup> Ellen Manning had married Harold J Manning in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr of 1929, and was born Ellen Butler on 28 Feb 1905.

<sup>3</sup> Madge is probably the nick-name for Lizzie McClure who had married Thomas K McClure in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr of 1928, and who was born Lizzie Benson on 3 Feb 1905.

MG If you want to know about the village, lets' get talking with some of the fishermen. 'Cos they're very knowledgeable, and they'll tell you something interesting. But as far as, you see, but, I spent most of my young life working, and then I was 30 years in the Post Office, but we didn't have time for anything. But there isn't really much yer can say. But as far as I can say it's changed, it hasn't changed very much at all. The fishermen are just the same. Well, there aren't as many fishermen here as there were. ...

WB Before the war, and even after the war, for quite a lot of years, it was still horses and carts for fishing in the bay. [1 min] And then this last, oooh, 20 or 20 odd years, we've gone onto tractors, tractors and trailers actually, trailers made out of an old car chassis. We fasten two nets at the back of the chassis, and they drag on the sand. And there's about 150 yards of rope between the tractor and the chassis, and out into the water it goes. And our type of fishing, shrimp fishing, it's always about four hours, or four and a half hours, after high water. So naturally, there are acres and acres, and scores of acres of dry sand. So we have to have some method of getting over the dry sand into the water. And that was the reason for the horses and carts down the centuries, and just latterly, our tractors and trailers.

??? You could hardly get up the village, everybody had a horse and cart standing outside. And they would be cleaning their nets and that, and [2 mins] ladies were mostly out talking, and the men would take ... when they came back from the sand, they used to take their horses down to pasture, carts on the roadside, and all the men used to stand. You'd see them all standing there, and they'd stand like this, talking to one another. Yer know, they'd all the time in the world in those days to do things. But at one time, cockling was very poor, and they could hardly make a living at all. And in this village, there'd be about 20 or 30, they used to go with their vans, selling fish, and what they grew, their vegetables. And on Cark station, used to be full in the morning. There used to be a special fish train came through for them, and everyone used to be off with their vans. And I don't think ... there's only 2 or 3 now that do that. Ben Brown ...[3 mins] And shrimping was the same, they used to, a lot of them ... would go with their baskets and sell them, because ... And most of the cockles, they would send them away to Manchester on commission. And sometimes they got a good price, and sometimes they got nothing for them. They were very poor in those days.

WB Well, they do sell them in the local markets, same as at Barrow, and at Kendal. And then we do have our own factory 'ere, about quarter of a mile out of the village, down on the moor as we call it. And they process them down there, mainly into 2 ounce pots with spices and butter, and tasty they are too. And most of them do go down there. But like I say, there are so few fellas following the job now that, it isn't easy to keep it going. But keep it going it does, and a good thing for the village it's been.

??? Well I've lived here all mi life and now I'm 84, [laughing] [4 mins] and mi husband was a fisherman. Mi father was a fisherman, mi brothers, and mi son's a fisherman. Nearly all the village was fishermen, but it's altered now. It's more sort of ... people coming to retire really. There's a lot of all the old characters have gone, I think. There'd be one or two older than me, I suppose, in the village, but not a lot. And ...we had two schools when I was younger. One at Flookburgh for the infants, and one at Holker for ... well we used to go up there when we were 7, I think.

???

I think a lot of these houses, and those two where Walter lives, a lot of the wood were put into them, yer know, at the old church, went into these houses. Mi dad said, there was ... [5 mins] there used to be a balcony and a back door in the church, and they used to sit on the balcony, and then rush down as soon as the service was over, and get out. And there was what we call ... we called it the chapel tree, a tree, but it was knocked down, the church, that was opened in 1900. And it's a lovely church. My husband used to say it's more like a little cathedral. [laughs] Yes, we're very proud of our church, only there's not as many people go now. It used to be full, whereas now, it's not so bad in the morning, at morning service, but when it comes to the evening, I think everybody's dropped out. [laughs]

WB

There are no young uns coming into the job. There are more comfortable jobs [6 mins] on shore. This last, oh, 20 plus years, I can safely say there are only three come into the job. And there's only ... well, one of them really following it as full time as anybody can follow it full time, because during the winter, there are no shrimps. They go down into the deep water, and we just can't get at 'em, and they're probably scattered out over too wide an area to make it worthwhile.

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There aren't many fishermen, but they're still...it's still a fishing industry, there's still one or two do it. But, I mean, most of them go off to Barrow shipyards and other places. The young men aren't staying. They're taking trades and ... well education's come in now, isn't it. There's not very ... it's not very interesting isn't fishing now. [traffic noise] They still make a little bit, yer see, but there's not enough money in it for the young people now.

[7 mins] [concluding music]

Announcer

Telling us about Flookburgh were Marie Grayson, Walter Benson, Ellen Manning and Madge McClure. Next week we're off to ... [recording fades at 7 mins 14 secs]

**Track 3** Background chatter for 1<sup>st</sup> 5 secs, then :

WB

Yeh, I was on about Peter taking from top of tower. [BG : Aye, well] [pause with some laughs] When we were ... when the local lads were in the choir, [BG : Aye] and if yer could get right side of old Peter Butler, he was chief bell ringer, [BG : Take thee right up top] he'd take yer up, choir lads, spiral steps there, top of church, and then you would come out into bell ... where they're pulling 'em, yer know, [BC : Yes] they don't call it chamber, but into there, [BG : Where big bell was] yer could see for miles... this is OK, there was that much noise, when they wanted to change different bells, signals from his foot, used to, yer know ... [BC : Oh yes] [BG : (inaud)...didn't he ?] he just turn that way a little bit. And then if he was in a really good mood, he would take yer up some more steps, up through where the bells were, .....[?] up there, they're swinging, I can see them now.

BC

Yes. How many bells were there then ?

BG

[1 min] There was 4 then, aren't there ? [WB : I think so] There's 6 now, i'n't there ? [WB : Wouldn't know Brian] They put 2 on. Used to be : come to church now, come to church now, didn' it, when I was a choir lad ? And now it's pom popa pom pom, pom popa pom

pom, or some thing like that now, i'n't it ? But we used to hear "come to church now, come to church now", four bells it used to be, [BC : Yes] there's six now I think.

WB And then from where't bells were actually ringing, then he would take yer further up again, it's like climbing to top of Eiffel Tower, but it's only Flookburgh church. And there's t' balcony round there, and, well, four foot of wall from memory, yer now, yer could walk round there, and yer wouldn't be so far off that dolphin as I was telling yer about. [BC : Yes] That ' flee-ak<sup>4</sup>. [BG : Flee-ak] Aye, [BG : Where the .....[?] future flee-ak] and a thousand things. Us lads would maybe be down nearly at Humphrey Head, like on a Sunday afternoon, having a walk, and then somebody : i'n't that bells, yer know, we depend on wind, is that bells, and then you would hear 'em. [2 mins] But we used to be fairly crafty and would listen. Ah, we're alright, it's only t' first bell, because they were different, yer know. [BC : Yes] It's seven bells at night.

BC And did you have to go to church ?

WB Well, yer didn't have to, we weren't forced to.

BG Well, t'headmaster was choirmaster in them days. Old Micky Downing, wasn't it ? [WB : Yea] Used to live at Trevenna.

WB If yer missed a thing ... we used to get four pence [4<sup>d</sup>] a month for being in the choir. [WB : Tough[?] lads] But if yer missed a do like, yer'd maybe get thre'pence or tuppence, or ... [BC : Yes] [BG : Aye, probationers used to get tuppence]. Probationers got tuppence, and most of trebles got four pence, [BG : Aye] and then there were about two six penny lads, or maybe four of 'em, some would say two. Then there was about two shilling [2 x 1<sup>s</sup>/-] lads.

BG They say, Micky used to be out of his own pocket though, didn't he. [WB : I don't know] Aye, they used to say, aye, it was all out of his own pocket. [BC : Was it ?] Then we used to go on a choir trip to Blackpool every year. [WB : Oh aye, that was a great .....[?], that was smashing, [3 mins] was that] Aye.

WB There wasn't much in them ... this is like in '30s yer know, there wasn't much them days. There was ... it was a terrific week was that. There was Cartmel races on the Monday, this is Whit week, [BC : Yes] choir trip on a Thursday. I might be getting' 'em a bit wrong here, but there were three things on. I think it was Flookburgh fair of Saturday. There was three things going, it was a terrific week. [BC : The Charter Fair ?] [BG : No, it was parade] Carnival, parade. [BC : Oh was there?] And it was a good un.

BG They used to have dancing, used to be up back ... back of church now, where church is now, didn't it, the dancing. [WB : Oh yes] [BC : Yes] Up there, before ... well, there used to be chestnut trees before them houses there. [BC : D'you mean the semi-detached houses ?] Aye, used to be a big field did that, didn't it ? Used to be Carnival field that, didn't it ?

WB Oh aye. They were built in late [4 mins] '50s. [BC : Right] [BG : Joe Williams] Joe Williams built them. [BG : £500 a piece or something, they said] They wouldn't be dear there, not in the

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<sup>4</sup> Local pronunciation of Fluke

- '30s. And there's these first lot, going from this Cark direction, and then there's a road going in, [BC : Yes] and that always went in, but immediately on the left hand side of that, overhanging onto the road, there was a chestnut tree, and then behind that, there was another chestnut tree. And when it come, yer know, this time of year, [BC : Conker time] the lads would be up there, shaking and banging, and some would be throwing sticks up.
- BG Aye, our Lewis(?) would be chasing us .....[?] would be .....[?] Then when they used to get all leaves together, and put a big stone in middle. Somebody would come and kick leaves ... kick their foot on stone. [laughs] ...up apple tree .....[?] [5 mins] [several comments in strong accent/dialect whilst laughing; not yet understood for transcript] story about someone climbing apple tree and someone shouting at them. Very difficult to pick up the accent
- BC And what about bonfire night ? Did you have bonfire night like we do ? [BG : Well, wasn't much really]
- WB Well, best bonfire there used to be round village, probably round district, [BG : Robinson's isn't there?] was behind that chemist's row at Flookburgh, that was .....[?], she's married now, she married Alan Dicky [(for Dickinson) [?]], [BG : Aye] but she still comes into village, I still see her. [BG : Aye] Her Mam still lives down at Peel/Humphrey .....head[?], and she always had a good bonfire. And ...
- BG Bonfire. They used to run t' Carnival for us, didn't they, Mrs Robinson and Aunt Lizzie, and Violet, didn't they ? [WB : Oh aye] .....[?] minstrels and all them things.
- WB It were kind of 'em. And in addition to Flookburgh bands, there were bands came in ... same as Ulverston band, [BG : Barrow steel works] That was same as [6 mins] Flookburgh, most of them .....[?]
- BG Steel works had best band round here then, hadn't they ? Them with trombones, and some blast it .....[?]
- BC Yes. So in those days, everyone had to go to school, didn't they ? [BG : Well, aye]
- WB If yer didn't go to school, [BG : And we could read and write] and yer looked up Main Street of Flookburgh, and yer saw Mr Farrar's ... what they call sports car today, it was like a low slung thing with a canvas top, and that was slung back, if you saw Mr Farrar's car up there, he was the attendance officer, you were terrified. [BC : Oh, yes] .....[?] ...
- BG Old Cannon used to come round after that, didn't he [WB : Aye] t'old policeman. He was a retired policeman, he used to come round
- BC So where was the ... was there a police station at Cark ? Was that the nearest one ?
- BG Yes, there was one at Cark, and there was ... there used to be two policemen around 'ere. [BC : Oh] Aye, sleepy Sam on his bike, and black out Joe.....
- WB Aye, [7 mins] there was two up to war. They needed 'em, mind, when all troops were down there. [BC : Yes]

- BG .....[?] all villagers were halos, weren't they ? We had halos round our ... [WB laughs]
- WB They had.....[?] with forces an' that, yer know, they were only down 'ere, on that bottom camp, that anti-aircraft camp, for about three weeks prior to going overseas. Well, yer know, they didn't care so much, an' .....[?] good hiding ...[?] black out Joe. He was a rum lad. Yer know, fishing horses, they weren't so good for farm jobs, same as mowing and that. But they were grand once yer got 'em used to fishing jobs, yer see. And this was ... well th' war must have started, but only just started, I hadn't even been called up, and we went into a field that we had called Tom Eyre's. Tom Eyre used to be fella, landlord of Engine Inn, [8 mins] donkeys years ago<sup>5</sup>. So usual thing, mi father said, we'll go in and open it up, so's that next time we went, we could go straight in, yer see, with machine and that. .... Well, we went in, and bit of a palaver like with horse, anyway, got going. And things went so sweetly and so smoothly, we just kept going, do yer see. And father said, I think we'll mow out, yer know, mow the lot out, which we did. But by this time, it'd be, yer know, ten o'clockish, half past, something like that. There was a full moon. Anyway, we were coming back up Flookburgh village an' all, this Tom Eyre's is up Green Lane, up behind the Crown, yer know, just over the bridge and then sharp right. And we were coming up, we got nearly on to the Square, and he must have heard this horse feet, black out Joe, and he popped out. And I was leading it, as much as it needed leading, it was quiet, father was walking up behind, no doubt .....[?] tail or something [9 mins] like that, and he just popped out. And he said : where's yer light ? [all laugh] I was a bit sharp, than anything I have today, I said : it's his horse ! [all laugh] I just stopped long enough 'cos father, he was always a bit lame, he come hobbling up side of horse, and he said : what's up with you ? He said : where's yer light ? He said : light, what the hell ... there's a full moon. Should have a light, and he booked him. [BC : Oh gosh] And by this time, I'd gone. [BG : Aye, with horse] No, I left the horse with it's owner. [BG laughs] Anyway, he got summons, and he had to go to Ulverston. In them days, it used to be about, for most things, yer know, if it had been a light or owt like that, five shilling [5<sup>s</sup>/-], and costs would be five shilling [5<sup>s</sup>/-], or seven and six [7<sup>s</sup>/6<sup>d</sup>] would be going a bit. [10 mins] Anyway, it came to Thursday, and mi father, he was a bit of a determined sort of a lad, yer know, he said, I'll fight 'em. So off he goes to Ulverston on Thursday, and to court. Hell, and he was late back. And anyway, when he did land back, he was drunk. And he come in, I remember we had moved down at Church Villas then, and he come in, he said : I beat 'em. I beat 'em he said. And mi mother looked at him, she said : how did yer beat 'em ? He said, I didn't get fined. He said : costs seven and six [7<sup>s</sup>/6<sup>d</sup>]. She said, what it's cost you Jim to get into a state like that, she said, you'd have been better staying at home. [both laugh] Aye, black out Joe.
- BG Well, he got black out Joe 'cos he did Mary ... Dorothy Nixon. He was knocking about with Dorothy Nixon, did her for black outs, didn't he ? [WB : He'd do anybody]
- BC That was in the war [11 mins] for not having yer black curtains ?

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<sup>5</sup> Thomas Eyre was the Innkeeper at the time of the 1911 census.

BG Aye. Black out Joe. Sleepy Sam they called t'other fellar, didn't they ? Rogerson<sup>6</sup>, they called him, t'other fella. [WB : Aye] He was alright, wasn't he ?

WB Oh aye, he was grand. But yer see, that bottom camp, where the caravan site is now, that was anti-aircraft, yer see, 'cos bay being, yer know ... it was grand. They could just sweep across bay with their guns. But they had arcs, so many degrees, and they'd let local fishermen know, we'll be on such and such an arc tomorrow. They could fish outside of that arc, yer know. And then at night time, obviously, they could go whenever they wanted. [BC : Yes] But a plane used to come up from Blackpool every morning, weather permitting, a little light plane. And then you would see him .. he'd start traversing, going across the bay, start feeding his target out, yer know, from the back of the plane, on a long thin wire, say 100 yards for a tail. The [11 mins] target would be about 4 foot high, and it was say 4 yards long. Used to be pink and red, and pink part was like perforated material and red part was closed. And sometimes, if they hit the wire with a shell, obviously target dropped, d'yer see. And then, if yer could find one of them on the sand, well you were alright for a bit of blackout material, with closed part of target. Or I think yer got a copper or two if yer took it in to bottom camp, yer see. [BC : Yes] And fishermen went down there, when they knew they were tightening up on the fishing, although they did fish all war time, but like I say, just within certain arcs, and they went down there for jobs, and ...

[recording cuts out at 12 mins 44 secs; i.e. end on side one of original cassette]

**Track 4** [2<sup>nd</sup> side of cassette starts during a conversation started during cassette changeover]

WB Tony Wilson & our Harold, they're only four members there is left down in that factory. There's one or two what I call fellas who aren't members, [BG : Aye, .....[?] factory] John Wilson, can't bring any other to mind but there will be some.

BG What about Jonathan Benson...Does he...part time lad...

WB No, he's a welder in shipyard is Brian.

BG Aye, but he goes to sand a bit, spare time like, doesn't he ?

BC So what are they bringing in now ?

WB Shrimps. [BC : Shrimps] Oh, they'll set fluke net. [BG : Aye] There's plenty of flukes about. And that job's a lot easier than it was, when I was fishing for flukes. [BG : Don't they put a baulk up now ?] Well, they couldn't, they would know what a baulk was. [BG : No] They have these nets, these mono filament nets, that they can't see meshes in water, neither can fish, tha' knows, and all this caper, and I think if they dragged one of them [1 min] across this bloody room, they'd get twenty or thirty pounds of flukes. [BG : Will yer ?] Aye, oh they're tremendous. And they can now just set them, and, it's a lot easier.

BG Oh, I'd bet on baulk. They used to, tell her what a baulk would do...with tide, didn't it ?

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<sup>6</sup> John W D Rogerson, born 18 Nov 1913, was the P.C. resident at Cark Police Station at the time of the 1939 Register.

WB Aye, well a baulk was ... [BG : A square finish] it was about 20 or 30 nets, about ... I don't know ... [BG : 30 yards long on .....[?]] say about 20 yards long, [BC : Yes] and they used to tie 'em together, and then where mesh is at each end of net, used to put a lacing down there, so in effect they were all tied together. Now they used to go and set the stakes, always smaller stakes with baulk than using for stream net, set the stakes. But they used to have to set the stakes in like nearly like a half moon, like a crescent, so that, when they put the [2 mins] net on ... then they used to put spars in, so that when the tide came, the spar was fastened to the top of the net, but fastened to the bottom, but the bottom could lift up. [BC : Oh right] It was swinging. Flukes could come up, they could come up under the net to feed, then when they went back and tide had turned, and it dropped in and they were trapped. Now that was the idea of having it set two ends like that, [BC : Yes] 'cos flukes going back, he's had 'is dinner, now as soon as he hits that net, he turns, as soon as he turns, he's coming back up again' the water, yer see. And if he goes that way, well that isn't natural for 'im, he wants to ... there's only one thing he knows that's going with the water. [BG : He'd 'ave had both] So he comes round, no, he thinks this is wrong, and he turns again, and he keeps going like that. And in the finish, when the tide leaves the baulk a dry, or nearly a dry, just depends if it's set through a dyke, yer flukes are there. Provided you've caught some, do yer see. When they are as easy as that. Yer've got to get to know yer tides and [3 mins] yer winds, and ... [BC : Yes] and one thing and another. [BC : And the way flukes were swimming as well] Well, they were always going up or down. [BG : They could even see 'em breathing in sand couldn't they, some of these old fishermen ?] Oh aye. [BG : They used to tread 'em, didn't they ?] Then at each end of yer baulk, it would go round, then it would come this way, go that way, go that way, so it will come round, in 'ere, round there, it would throw 'em back into the front of net again, do yer see. [BC : Yes] Same thing, another, they call that a turnpike. Come round, go round, and back again, and that's how they did it. And we set one just nicely behind Humphrey Head. It might not have been set for flukes, it might have been set for [BG : Salmon !] [both laugh] salmon. [BG : Aye] It actually ... [BG : Who said salmon !?] It stopped two porpoises. [BC : Gosh] Nets were only about that high, but they'd seen this thing in the water, and probably a bit of seaweed [4 mins] in the meshes, and they're going and they were stopped at it, and they would mess about, yer know, would you like a fluke, or do you ... hell, they were so high off sand. [BG : Aye] .....[?] and it stopped two porpoises.

BG D'y remember Carey(?) coming off with sturgeon ? [WB : Aye] Aye, big sturgeon. That had to go to queen hadn't it ?

WB Well, they always say that Queen has to be offered first, and then she ... she never accepts it, but it is a recognised thing. But when he brought that off, where Ellen Dibble lives now, I don't know whether yer know that, that's ... [BG : Where we said Ship ... next to ...] [BC : Yes] where the corner shop is, [BC : Yes] well keep that on yer left and yer going up the main street to Ravenstown, [BC : Yes] well it used to be a barn there, and a stable, and ... it's a house now, where Mrs Proctor actually lives, Mrs Proctor being Ellen, who, yer know, before she was married, and it used to be a big thoroughfare door, going through, usual thing,, there's [5 mins] still one or two in Flookburgh. And they had the table laid out, and they put the sturgeon on there. Oh, I remember it vividly. [BG : Aye, we were lads at school, weren't we ?] I think it would finish up at Broadbent's at Barrow. [BG : Aye, well he was fish fella,

wasn't he ?] And, oh, I don't know ... old Tom Wilson was ... well, I've seen a film ... [BG : That's 'im that used to walk up mile road in 'is bare feet, i'n't it ?] Aye, well, I'd said that in one of books. When it used to come St. Patrick's Day, 17<sup>th</sup> of March, it was old custom handed down, because, I can't remember it hardly, but they used to only have clogs before rubber boots were invented, and clogs were like, quite something. And they used to go to t'end of marsh, where it drops off a brad/t(?) like that, old marsh down mile road, and they used to leave their [6 mins] clogs under brad/t, d'yer see, and then go barefoot in summer. But anyway, every year at 17<sup>th</sup> of March on St. Patrick's Day, they went barefoot willy nilly. Didn't matter what weather was, if there was snow or a storm. And so, the thing was, that St. Patrick threw a stone in the water, on't 17<sup>th</sup> of March, and made it warmer. And so somebody says to Jack Stivison<sup>7</sup>, obviously 16<sup>th</sup> of March, said : well, it's Patrick's Day tomorrow Jack. And Jack said : so what ? He said : barefoot, we'll have to go barefoot, tomorrow's th'day when St. Patrick threw a stone in the water. Jack said : he'll have to throw something different to a bloody stone in before I go barefoot ! [all laugh] Aye, that struck me as being funny. [BG : Aye] He was quite funny was Jack, quite, th' yer know, quite witty. [BG : Aye, oh aye] But, oh there was some rum lads.

BC So when the [7 mins] shrimps or cockles or whatever was being caught was brought back, were brought back, what happened then, back at the house ?

WB Well, they have to be boiled, properly, or else they can't pick 'em or shell 'em, which is same, pick 'em as we'd say locally. And then, like Madge said on that other tape, there was quite a few used to go to ... mi mother used to go round Arnside, and old Mrs Dickinson who lived in the Main Street, she used to go round Silverdale. There was quite a few ...

BG Mi grandmother used to go to Carnforth. She'd go hersel'. In them days, she used to go hersel' and catch 'em, and then ... there's a photo of 'er somewhere, and then they used to go round Carnforth selling 'em they're sel's. That's ... like she'd be 100 odd now, wouldn't she ?

WB We took 'em ... in '30s, they obviously shrimped before then, but I left school in '36. And then, they were like as if they would sooner catch [8 mins] flukes, fishermen, even if there was ... sounds silly really, but even if they had to go hungry, they'd sooner catch flukes as catch shrimps an' anything, yer know. There was always flukes and cockles. [BG : Aye] And I can safely say, from 1936 up to t't' war starting, Bill Hodgson (?) from corner shop, he used to go, but not every day, [BG : That's Cockles now] and Matt Cowp/Coop(?) used to go, but not every day, Geordie Shaw would go, he would probably borrow t'orse off Smith over t' bridge, he'd come round, [BG : Did...used to go ?] He would when .....[?] since I can remember. [BG : No] I can safely say there wasn't a full time fisherman in Flookburgh, a full time shrimp fisherman in Flookburgh, when war started. [BG : ..... went about two or three times] [BC : Yes] Oh well, that was after t' war and that, and during [9 mins] war, yer see, I obviously don't know what happened, but yer uncle Will down at Lanes there...down at aerodrome, building aerodrome and that.

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<sup>7</sup> Sounds like Stivison, but probably referring to James Edward Stephenson, born 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr of 1891, who is recorded in Flookburgh in the 1911 census as a Flookburgh born Fisherman, then aged 20.

- BC So why, why did shrimps suddenly become popular ?
- WB Well, I don't know. And then they used to pick 'em, using muslin nets. Used to get 'em muslins off butcher, and wash 'em and that, and then put the shrimps in, then put 'em into hessian sacks, and then bring 'em on, and take 'em on to Cark station 'ere for first train. And most of 'em went to Chadwick at Manchester, Joseph Chadwick. And then yer see, after t' war Young's came round 'ere, [BC : Yes] [BG : I was going to say, when did Young's start up ?] They were a good thing for village and everybody else, and then after a few years, they kept dropping and dropping their price 'till ... well, we were nearly forced to start ... that's place down on t' moor there. And it's been going for thirty odd years now.
- BC And it's like a co-operative is it ?
- WB We started up as a co-operative. And then Young's came and they [10 mins] said : yer don't want owt with that. They said, get rid o' that, we'll take everything. And so we sold it. And then they just, yer know, they did it their way. [BG : Aye] They were smashing right at start were Young's. Yer know, for years they were grand, and then they gradually ... and so we were ... [BG : Used to sell 'em in London, up and down, and still do] We were more or less forced to start another one. We didn't call it a co-operative, although it is. We thought that sounded a bit, yer know, co-operative, and so they went and called it Flookburgh Fishermen Limited. And they had to start another company, d'y see, the first one had to be wound up. And it's been going ... ooh, we started doing building up 1958. And it started about 1959 trading.
- BG They'll happen not do so bad now with th' camp down there, will they, with shrimps, selling 'em like? Do they sell 'em loose ?
- WB No, Brian. [BG : Don't they ?] No not one. No, they nearly all go into 2 ounce pots, butter, and cayenne, and white [11 mins] pepper, and nutmeg and mace.
- BC Where do they go ? Where do they get sold ?
- WB Well, into the Midlands. And then some fairly local, yer know, like McClure's and they take 'em. [BG : Aye, Bill 'll take 'em, aye] But yer see, at one stage, there was 21 women working down there. Not full time I hasten to add. [BG : No] There was so many full timers, possibly 2 or 3, but others were part timers coming in on different days and different hours, d'yer see. But there was 21 different women working down there in a week. [BG : Was there ?] And yer see, now there's only ... like I say, there's only 4 members. And our Harold, he's cockling and different things, and has been for months, so he doesn't take any in. So there's only like Bob and Jack and Tony Wilson, they're t' only three members taking in. [BG : Aye] [12 mins] So ...
- BG Well, they used to, every house nearly used to be pickin' one time of day, didn't they, sitting around gossipin' away. [BC : Oh, I can remember pickin'] Then they had to start wearing these white hats, didn't they ?
- WB Oh aye. Everything's tightened up, and it's tightened up more now with these EEC regulations. [BG : Aye] But, I don't know what'll happen. Well, I do know what'll happen, in

- me heart, but ... [BG : They'll finish altogether one time] Well it has to do hasn't it, because ...
- BG Unless same as they get same as they are now, getting' that much out of work, they have to do summat haven't they ? They'll not have any idea, they'll have to be trained, or ...
- WB As I was saying, unless tha's fetched up in'tmjob and that like shrimping. It's a lot easier now than it was, just taking a tractor and a chassis and that, but ... [BG : Well, they have to be mechanics and all now, haven't they like?] Well, unless tha's following somebody who knows what they're on with. If it comes in foggy or dark or summat like that, it can be ...
- BG Well, that's how they used to go before, wasn't they ? And didn't they get a light on Humphrey Head or somewhere, [13 mins] to show them way back ?
- WB Well, there was a light on end of marsh there. [BG : Aye] And there's a light at Philipson's on that hill there. [BG : Aye, to guide 'em back] I was instrumental in getting' them done, but it was ironic really, because if tha' could see t' lights, it wasn't so foggy, yer know, if yer could see .....[?] [BC : Yes]
- BG Lot of 'em used to carry a compass about with 'em, didn't they ? [WB : Well, they did start with compasses] Didn't they say Gog got lost because he'd forgotten his compass ?
- WB Well, there was a lot of dos with compass, tha knows. They used to cut a ring round t' fore end as they called it on cart, where they used to sit and .....going across the front of the cart, they would cut a ring and put t' compass in there, tha see. And I don't know whether it was Herbert or 'is father, but it would be Herbert, might have been 'is father, he started cutting t' ring, and th' saw had brok [broke], he must 'ave left bottom half o' saw in or summat, and he were told it were down t' [14 mins] West somewhere. [both laugh] They were both reasonably fit to travel, but compass was goin.....[?]. It was a bit before they twigged it. But they were coming back from West dyke yon night, and Carey Robi'son like, Carey was nearly always th' leader, just for shrimping. And it must have been bad, and he was looking for a bit of help and a bit of inspiration off some of th' others, tha knows. And he says to 'is brother Maurice, that's Bill's ... [BG : Aye, Boxer] he said : what does thy compass say Maurice ? He was just doubting 'is own a bit. And Maurice said : North South East and West o'er yans. [laughs] He nearly got a good hiding [laughs] Aye. [BG : Aye he was sharp with .....[?], Carey, wasn't he ?] Aye he was. There's bin some ... My god, there's bin some ...
- BC Did they have fishing with boats, proper fishing boats ?
- WB Yes. Aye, mi father & them [15 mins] used to go from Sandgate, down to Piel Island at Barrow, musselling. [BC : Right] And that's when yer read about that accident. [BC : Yea] It were 19.. [BC : '14] '15, '14, around there, when Robinson lads were drowned. [BC : Yea] And it was really rough at yon side, and some of 'em decided to come home, and some said no, we'll tie up at yon side, yer see. It was really wild, and one boat came, I think it was Gardner's, and it got across this sandbank alright, and anyway, Robinson's didn't, and it floundered. Over they went, and strong swimmers, but they drowned.
- BC Would they be Cedric's family ? Not Cedric's family.

- WB No. They were Herbert Benson up village there. They were [BG : Su'ie's] his mother's brothers. [BG : Su'ie Robi'son's lot] Su'ie's brothers, and Mrs Willacy's brothers, Lily. [BG : Aye, Lily] [16 mins] But oh, it was terrible. I remember reading about it other day that, it was terrible, they said, int' village, yer know. They had collections all round t' district for 'em, and all things like that, for t' dependents. No, it wasn't that, it was another doo from Ulverston, where, it was a pleasure boat, and this pleasure boat owner, just 'n ordinary fella, he'd booked two parties at once. And they all turned up, and they all wanted to go fishing at once, down t' channel, down to Barrow direction. So there was quite a hoo-haa who was going to get in. And so he put about twice as many in as he should do. And they said, when they went down, it was smashing, but it didn't last like that, it soon changed did weather. And I think every man and chap was drowned, on there.
- BG Did they used to say there was a boat come to Cark Farm there ? [Oh yes,] to the Dickinson's ?
- WB Oh yes, definitely. Boats used to come up Cark Beck. [BG : Aye] Oh, [17 mins] that goes without ... [BG : Aye, where them chains were across]
- BC Well, the mill was there, wasn't it, so ... ? The old mill was there, the big mill.
- WB Well, th' mill was further up again. That...that I was just tellin' yer about, who had the railway hotel<sup>8</sup> there, at Eaabank House, it was a smashing , Cark Mill. Tremendous building. [BG : Oh aye, like a big castle, wasn't it, to look at ? There was ...] Oh tremendous.
- BC You can remember it then ?
- BG Aye. [WB : Oh aye, it burnt down] Tittle's[?] wife and 'em was on pumps, pumpin' with old fashioned pumps, weren't they, each side, pumpin'.
- WB Burnt down in 1935. And as we went to school, like I said, before I left in '36, as we went to school, up what we call Dickinson Hill, [BC : Yes] you could hardly stand there for heat comin' off it. Oh, it was terrific.
- BG They were pumping out of Cark Beck. Elsie McCartney was one, Tittle's[?]wife, pumpin'. I can see 'er now pumpin', helpin' to pump that ... old fashioned pump it was.
- WB The [18 mins] water that used to drive that mill, when it left that mill, well before it got into the mill, behind the Co-op as was, them houses at bottom of Dickinson Hill on yer left there, it went immediately below them houses, into the mill to drive it, then back down into the main beck. And I wouldn't swear as to whether it didn't come across the road, and under the road, from where Dr. Anderson's surgery used to be that was across the road. There is a tunnel under there now, where yer can ... it isn't a big tunnel, but yer can go under it, or I could, 'cos Dorothy Barker and them like, they're a lot younger than me, they've been through it an' all like that. And I think that must have been a water course there to drive that mill, because it used to go right back of t' Co-op and like that, right at back of Low Row houses, not front side like t' beck runs now, but behind them. And then it used to go under

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<sup>8</sup> Probably referring to the Engine Inn ?

- t' road at bottom of Dobbie Lane there, through rabbit pens as [19 mins] Jackie and them call 'em, still on yer right hand side going out towards Crook Wheel, and then as yer get there, yer come to a snitchy little bridge there. [BG : Aye, yer do, aye] That's where it used to come back, [BG : Back into main beck] through there and into th' main beck. But, it's all as dry as sticks now, yer know, is that.
- BG Oh aye. Well it's same as what used to work flour[?] flour is a bad guess mill, isn't it ?
- WB Well, if yer get to Rostead(?) there, just up 'ere at Holker, [BC : Yes, I know, yes] well if yer see that, yer can see where the main beck comes now, [BC : Yes] and that bridge, but a bit nearer the main road, yer'll see another bridge if yer walking. [BC : Yes] And yer can, you can see the course where the water used to go. But before yer get there, if yer looking from about Trevenna where Brian said, that's further into t' Green Lane part, yer can see t' course where t' beck went easy, at t' bottom of Dr Linklater's garden and there. It went along there into that little mill where it's houses now. And then they could either lift the board up and let it go into the mill, or shove it down, divert it back down, down a waterfall that's gone long since, [20 mins] and back into the main beck again, d'yer see. [BG : Aye, there's old waterfall there] There's two bridges there at Cark. There's main bridge now, and then about 5 yards further on, there's another bridge, and that's where it used to go under and then come down th' waterfall. [BG : We could go fishing under there, didn't we ?] Aye.
- BG They used to ground corn in there. There used to be two big stone wheels, didn't there. John ... was it John ? [WB : Aye, Johnny James. Aye I can see 'im now, big tall bloke] They used to slide it down onto what tow path is now, isn't it ? Out of top, used to slide bags down there, didn't they ?
- WB Oh Aye. Aye, down at bottom there. Aye, that's all gone. It's all built up, gone forever. [BG : Oh aye]
- BC And what about farms ? What sort of farms were there? Big farms were they, or small holdings ?
- WB Well, they'd be smaller in them days, [BG : Aye] because tendency is now to like, rip hedges out, [BG : Sell fields] and all that sort of thing, isn't it, and make them bigger [21 mins] and better.
- BG I'll tell yer who's got a lot of fields round 'ere – Dickinson's for their 'orses. They used to breed entire horses, didn't they ? [WB : Yes] They were millers and breeders. [BC : Where did they live ?] The Mount. [BC : Oh yes] Cark. Father George. They used to own t' mill. [BC : Is that John Dickinson who's died ?] It was his father. [BC : Yes] Bernard's still alive. [BC : Oh yes, I know Bernard] It was Bernard's father.
- WB Aye, well he was ... when we were in this local choir, he was in was John, [BG : John, aye] tall fella, and I saw 'im once at Cartmel at a sale, and he was sittin' out on a little low wall there, and I went and sat again' 'im, and he said hello there. I said 'ow do. He said, do I know you ? I said, well, yer don't know but yer used to do. And we got talkin', tha' knows. And then he said...d'y remember the night all the lights went out ? And I said, no I don't actually. And he said, the [22 mins] lights went out. And he said, they stayed out for a considerable length of

time. And I said yeh. And he said, anyway, they decided that we better be getting out and going down the vestry, yer know, couldn't see any books or anything. And he said, they went down. And he said, shortly after the lights came on again. And he said, we went up. And he said, there's old Sticky John still stood in his place with a book still in his hand... [both laugh] [BG : That's .....one of't blacksmith's] .....[?] Flookburgh blacksmith. [BG : Did he say Sticky John ?] Yea, aye John Dickinson.

BG He used to come and preach a bit. He was a professor, wasn't he, at Cambridge ?

WB Oh aye, I think he did well. I used to go, and all went back up, piled back up, and he said there's Sticky John. He...deserted him.

BG Peter used to be head bell ringer, Sticky John used to be in t' choir, didn't he ? [WB : Yea]

BC Well talking about lights, when would electricity have come into Flookburgh ?

BG Well, they used to ... there was [23 mins] oil lamps down there in church, wasn't there ?

WB There was electricity in Flookburgh before the war. [BC : Yes] But, same as anything as it is now, when we lived in the Main Street, there was three cottages there, just across from the off-licence in the Main Street, as opposed to the corner shop. We lived in the middle one, grandfather and them lived at that end and...lived at this end. And we only had an oil lamp, on a table, yer know, [BG : And battery lights] and then oil cloth as they called it on top of that, lino or call it what you will, apart from Sundays, and then a proper table cloth went on for Sunday tea or dinner...(inaud)...weather. But it was only an oil lamp, paraffin lamp, yer know.

BG Aye, on t' middle table they used to have 'em. Ganny said many time, news of world to me like this, look into a glass, you were ... her like spelling every letter out ... [sounds imitating spelling] and then ... 'till she got [24 mins] big/me to reading like.

WB I don't think we did. When I said ... we knocked that partition out down below those two small rooms into a bigger one. I don't know whether we got electric in then, because even when we got married in 1948, we moved into the cottage on the left hand side as you face the off-license there, yer going down Flookburgh Main Street, and come to the off-license, last cottage before yer come to Dr Woods car. We lived in that cottage. There was no electricity in there, only one wire trailing, and I don't know where it came from. And it was trailing in and it was just one light in that front room.

BG Well they used to ... what's Flookburgh Farm now, they used to call that power station. [WB : That's it.] Mr King used to be down there. Then John used to work for King, and old Nelson that's at [inaudible] now. And Eric Leck .....[?] [WB : That's were they used to make electricity] Electricity down there. And right as yer went in main entrance, it was [25 mins] Cumberland Farmers, wasn't it ? And then there was Jim Hudson's joinery shop on one. [WB : Cumberland, Westmorland] Aye, then there was Jim Hudson's joiner's shop. [BC : This is all down at Flookburgh Farm ?] Aye. [WB : That was in that top entrance] Was there summat else 'an all, wasn't there ?

- WB Well, just before the war had started, but Elsie would know more about this than me, because I think Elsie and them during th' war, like I was away, but I think they worked at Ulverston, didn't they, in the .....[?] [inaudible] factory ? [BG : They worked at Armstrong Siddeley's<sup>9</sup>] That's it. Well previous to that, I don't know whether it was Avis[?] that started, Avis[?] followed on after King, [BG : King, aye] down there, there was a factory down there, what they made, apart from a lot of noise when they turned out at dinner time, lasses, yer could hear 'em coming out yer know, and mi mother, like 50, 100 yards across, and mi mother would say, oh, th' factory dolls are out, and tha would hear 'em all getting out, [26 mins] and lassies would be coming out, but what they did I don't know.
- BG And on the ... down below, on the right where Cumberland farmers was, there used to be stables, didn't there, along there ? [WB : Aye, well that's ...] They had a fire one day, didn't they ?
- WB .....[?] No not them Brian ? [BG : Wasn't it ?] No. They're developing them now. [BC : Yes] Low Yard we called it. [BG : Aye, they used to keep horses in there, didn't they ?] There was old George Taylor from Ravenstown, he used to be th' window cleaner. There was Mr Pitham[?], he was paraffin oil selling, [BG : Aye, old fella] And then there was Tommy Stivison and there was Bill Robi'son. There was uncle Bill Hodgson. There was John Hodgson. I don't know whether I mentioned uncle Will. [BG : Uncle Will used to be in] There'd be Harry 'insley. There was about 8 stables. They're still there now. They haven't altered them yet, they will be doing. [BG : Movin' down] Uncle Bill's was about t' middle, and he had quite an arch over his like for doorways. They would likely be cowsheds and shippens an' that. [27 mins] [BG : They used to shove hay in back for 'em, didn't they ?] Then to water their 'orses, if they knew their 'orse like...and walk length of Low Yard, turn sharp left and go down to what we called Town Dyke. [BC : Yes] And that is running all the time, never known to be dry. [BG : Is that stone wall still round it?] Yes. [BG : Is it ?] Well, it's donkey's years since I've been down there. [BG : Aye] That'll be down there 'til eternity.
- BG They'll soon .....[?] [inaudible] Used to be carbon, bla things up with t' carbon, didn't they [inaudible]. [WB : Oh aye] Wood, carbon and then water, and then put lid on and then we used to run away, and bang, it just ...
- WB They'd let their 'orses go, and they would have a drink, and then they would come back up, and back up, and tie 'em up. And then, yer can see where the road went ... we're leaving Flookburgh Square we're going down to the Lakeland caravan site, well t' road goes straight through now, corner of a field, but that was field d'yer see before the mile road. Road went down left and turned round sharp like that. [BG : That was [28 mins] Edgar's field, wasn't it ?] Well, on that bottom bit that's still there, they call that rubbish tip. But fishermen used to have their ... wheel their muck out of stables onto there, and they each had a bit in on there, yer know, it's all gone long since. [BG : Well, it use to be town ...] Formerly, that wasn't there, because yer could come up from the mile road, comin' back up into Flookburgh, and

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<sup>9</sup> Armstrong Siddeley had an aircraft engine servicing business between 1940-1944 at Samuel Pollitt's Paper Mill, Middle Basin, Ulverston and a test-bed plant at Bardsey. <https://www.ulverstoncrg.co.uk/canal-and-history>

yer could actually go right up by the side of the town dyke that's on yer right, long before yer get to where they worked t' 'orses. But that was all filled in by the fishermen, funnily enough, when they carted a lot of the rubble and stones and all sorts of that from Flookburgh Square. Fishermen used to put it into their carts and take it down there and fill it up d'yer see. And now it's levelled right through. [BG : When they knocked old church down] Yea. Well, Bill Robi'son told me that, I can't remember that, but Bill did. [BG : No. Well, that's 100 year old is Flookburgh church isn't it now ?] Now then, the day come, they have to vacate those stables for some reason, so [29 mins] Avis[?] ... now coming out of the Low Yards, I started to explain to yer, we're coming out of the Low Yard as if we're going in the camp direction, [BC : Yes] and yer turn sharp left into a gateway. It's all full of stones and that now, it's a little compound. Now Avis[?] built some wooden stables in there, brand new, for t' fishermen d'yer see. It was same thing again, Will had one, uncle Bill had one, Bill Robi'son had one, [BC : So they rented them, did they ?] They rented them, brand new stables, all bar this top un nearest t' gate. That was t' wrong way round. Yer know yer walk into a stable and 'orse's there tha' knows to put yer thing on. Well this was th' wrong way round and I've always remembered that, 'orse was at this top 'un and yer had to walk past 'orse to get .....[?] [inaudible]. Anyway, further part of th' war, it caught fire. And uncle Bill 'odgson, who lived at t' corner, well they built it actually, 'im and aunt Annie, who lived at corner shop, 'is 'orse got burnt to death. Brian's [30 mins] uncle Will, [BG : Sam they called it] he got a certificate for releasing some of these 'orses, and saved 'em from, yer know, [BC : Yes] must have released 'em and we just say ...

BG I think we were down there when they were all afire, and they were putting 'em out, weren't they ?

WB I can't remember, Brian. but I was aware, I remember vividly ...

BG I think they called 'im Sam, big Sam. [WB : Oh aye, he had a horse called Sam] and then he got up to t' neck in sludge, tha' knows. [WB : That sludge] bottom of where you all at fell end .....[?] ends, where old Scot .....[?], tha knows. [WB : That's it, exactly] And it got up to neck. They pulled that out of there, aye.

WB .....[?] [inaudible] down there, and [inaudible] .....[?] Sam he'd gone in for a drink, got stuck, tumbled over yer know, well it was well stuck .....[?] up there, [BG : Yer could just see 'is ears, just see his ears.] both speaking indistinguishable] And I remember he was a sorry, now I remember Harry 'insley[?] and them were there, and they were getting buckets of water, and they soon washed 'im round, and that. [BG : Aye] He wouldn't be in there so long afore somebody had spotted 'im. [BG : Aye, old Sam]

BC So apart from [31 mins] horses, the other traffic would just be the odd car, would it ? Was there any buses ? I mean was there transport for people...

WB There was odd buses, must have bin, because we used to go to woodwork classes ... [BG : Old kipper box] on bus, [BG : We used to go in kipper box, didn't we ? Shortly ?] Previous to us going to Cartmel, they used to Haverthwaite. Mr Walker they called 'im. I never went to Haverthwaite, I used to go to Holker, [BG : Dickie Ball] Cartmel rather, sorry, from Holker. [BG : Mr Ball at Cartmel] Aye, he was a character.

BG Aye. Lasses used to go to t' Grammar School, what was.

WB Aye, they used to go for domestic science. [BC : Yes]

BG Aye. Was tha there that day we chucked Brussels sprouts at 'em, and old Dickie Ball took us all back to t' school. He was first off, he got th' lot. [both laugh] I'll be seeing you tykes, you tykes, come on you there come to the front he said.

WB Poor Robert Dixon as lived at Kirkby, [BG : Aye] he was a [32 mins] good lad with wood, yer know. He went on to be a joiner, I think. His father was a joiner. [BG : Aye] And he made some sort of knick-knack at home, yer know, and he was quite proud of it. And he took it to show Dickie Ball. Well, Dickie Ball was a bit, yer know, bit of a sarcastic fella, [BG : He'd one eye] very strict and that, very strict. And Robert showed 'im it, and he said, how have yer made it like ? And he said, well, I've made it at home, yer know. And did you draw a sketch of it, or anything like that ? No, no, no, he said, I made it all out of mi own head. He said, yes, and he said, you've enough bloody wood left to make another three, he said ! [all laugh] He didn't swear like, [BG : No, he'd one eye, hadn't he ?] but he said, you've enough wood left to make another three, he said. He like reduced Robert a bit. [BG : Aye] But he was a boyo wasn't he ? [BG : Aye, oh aye] Mind, when yer look back, he was a grand fella.

BG Oh aye. [33 mins] He used to have a limp didn't he, [WB : Yea] one eye I think, only one eye.

BC So where were these classes held then in Cartmel ?

WB Oh, Grammar School. [BC : Oh, at the old Grammar School]

BG Aye. And some used to go gardening up there, didn't they ? They used to have th' gardens at back an' all. [WB : Aye] I think Allithwaite lot used to go gardening, didn't they. [WB : Aye, I don't know. We used to go just once a week] Brian Liasby, Leveson and them and .....[?] Leveson and them, I think they used to. He was quite a good joiner. He used to be one of .....[?] [inaudible]. He used to ... Brian Leveson did this, and so he'll show yer, didn't he ? [WB : Aye]

BC And tell us about when yer ... about getting the grass seed.

BG Oh, we used to, one or two .....[?] to Greenodd with buckets on bikes. [WB : Aye, we used to go on bikes, on old bikes to Greenodd] Pick grass seeds.

WB And a rotten job it was an' all, because yer only went in t' back end, when t' grass was ripe, yer know, and obviously, when seeds were ripe. And yer had to pull yer hand up the grass, yer know, to get it into yer bucket. Well, hell, it used to cut into [34 mins] yer hand, yer had to pull it, yer know. [BG : 9 pence a pound, wasn't it ?] I can't remember. [BG : Sep used to weigh it .....[?], didn't he ? And Bob Hills there ?] But Thomas Butler and them, and fellas who used to go, they used to have a bogey, and it used to have revolving brushes on th' front. Well, yer see, if grass was high or low, they could just regulate the height of the brushes by lowering the handles and that, yer know. And that brushed it back into a box. Well, that was a lot better. [BC : Yes] But us fella, we just had to ...

- BG Bucket between .....[?] [inaudible] like that. ....[?] [inaudible] was a dab 'and at that one. 9 pence a pound I think.
- WB We used to have to bike all the way to Greenodd. [BG : Aye] And then we used to go to Meathop, used to get off at Grange station, and go to Meathop marsh, cutting sods. And I often think about it.
- BG ..... .....[?], [inaudible] school holidays, wasn't it. [WB : They'd be getting locked up today, wouldn't they Brian?] School holidays we used to do it, didn't we ?
- WB We'd walk from Grange station down to Meathop marsh, which was nothing, cross over t' railway lines onto t' marsh, [35 mins] and then, it'll still be there, I don't think it'll be Winstler, but there is a ... quite a sizable la'l [dialect - little] beck there, yer know. Well they had bogey lines for bogies to fetch th' sods off, yer see. And these bogey lines went across river. That went 2 or 3 yards and there wasn't a sleeper, yer know, to bind 'em together. And I was actually walking th' line. Well, locked up today.
- BG There used to be bogey were often going over to sands at Sandgate, weren't there ? Sit on lane[?] on 'em, and used to be down in t' bottom. Eh, don't tell Sep 'utton.
- WB Oh Seppy. When we were at Meathop, we weren't getting' much wages, yer know, and, he used to, if it come on raining, heavy, and we were shelterin' or 'out, he used to say, I'll quarter yer, off quarter of an hour. It wouldn't 'ave mattered if he'd knocked us bloody day off. I'll quarter yer, and we used to fall for it tha' knows and come out. And then we used to go to Carnforth marsh, and get off at Carnforth station, and walk down to Carnforth marsh. But they were a lot [36 mins] tougher, was th' marsh there, really fibrous roots. Now them at Meathop, they were really soft. [BG : Soft.aye]
- BC So you were selling these sods and grasses ?
- WB Aye, they were. [BG : They used to ... Arch, was it Arch ? Maxwell Arch?. [BG : Maxwell Arch] They're still doing it. [BG : Aye. They don't go on 'ere for sods now, do they ?] Oh, I don't know where they get 'em from. I only saw a load t'other day, that Brian Shaw does it. [BG : Does he ?] Oh aye.
- BG I thought it looked like your Doreen, not Doreen, aye, Doreen's lass, John's ... They've a Land Rover or summat, haven't they ?
- WB Aye, well that's Brian Shaw's. [BG : Is it ?] Yes, he's a double wheeled ... nearly a new turn out. [BG : Aye] And it all comes out in rolls. [BG : In rolls, aye] And I saw that machine on t' telly, and it just goes under it and it rolls 'em like a cart wheel. [BC : Yes] [BG : Well they used to get it ...]
- BC But they don't ... I mean, they don't get grass seeds now like they used to, do they ?
- BG Well they must do from somewhere, mustn't they, to get t' seed. [BC : No] Yer can buy grass seeds.

WB But when they say weed-free, it will [37 mins] be because I knows Billy Barlow well enough. Well Billy Barlow's head green keeper for Ulverston golf course. And Billy was telli' me, fairly recently, a couple of year back. He said ... he must have worked at Conishead Priory before he went on to t' greens and ... for golf club. [BG : Aye] And it was all sea-washed turf there at Conishead Priory, 'cos o' the lawns and that. And every really big high tide, which is every fortnight, to further yer education, every fortnight, there's high tides. And then they used to have a pump. And they used to have to water this sea-washed turf with sea water. And he said, one time they over did it, and it run off, and where it run among the rockeries and that, it killed every plant. [BG : Aye, it's salt] So it shows it will be weed free. [BG : Aye, salt] Now how they do it now, when they take it inland, I don't know how they do for, tha' knows ... they'll have it taped.

BG They've a way of putting it [38 mins] down now, haven't they to put it on ashes or summat. There's a way of putting' it down this sea-washed turf.

WB If you could have seen that machine, it was ... And when we used to go on the sods, we used to run a line down, a string line, [BG : All by hand, wasn't it ?] and then there was like a cutter, as they called it, with disc on, they used to push it along t' line, and then they moved it a foot, cut it again, and then go crossways again, and then get to lift with a lifting knife ... [BG : Dicki'son used to work on it, didn't he ?] with a knife. Well I mean, if yer dug in a bit too much that way this way, yer'd come out too thick or too thin, yer know.

BC And how much did yer get for that, an hour ?

WB Oh I can't remember, not so much. [BC : No] But I'll tell yer why I can remember it wasn't so much, because we used to go beating for Cavendish, up to Holker Hall and that, and that was terrific pay. And we used to get five shillings [5<sup>s</sup>/-] a day, 25<sup>p</sup> for a whole day .....[?]. Five shilling, fellas got t' same, and th' lads got same, yer know. But if yer could get three days beating in, well, you were a millionaire, fifteen shilling [15<sup>s</sup>/-] And then, [39 mins] d'yer see, we'll say Friday was third day, sometimes yer only got one day in, yer know, in the week. Sometimes two. Never more than three. Just for a limited period. And then, on't Friday, where Holker Estate's offices are now, yer know, yer go in, they're on 'ere, down the bottom there, there's a stone building, I think it's converted now into a dwelling, little dwelling, well that used to be the game house as the' called it. They used to hang all the pheasants up, in there. And then there was a lot ... there was three or four permanent game keepers in them days for Holker Estates. Anyway, it used to come to t' Friday night, and, yer know, yer quite keen to get yer money, and get it home, take it home to yer mother. And then yer would say, please Mr Brindle, he was th' head game keeper, can I have a rabbit ? And he used to look at yer. Oh aye, thou can have th'yan. Thou did as tha' was telt (told). Like them mad buggers from [40 mins] ...(inaudible) and there, that was out in the 'ills like, .....[?] [inaudible] used to come. 'Cos yer used to had to keep a straight line right through woods, with stick yer know, tappin' on t' trees and all that.

BC Which woods were these be?

WB Oh, all round Holker there, on Ellerside breast there, and out on Rousea, an' .....[?] on mosses, and round by Reake as they call it, and Pedder Wood, and all that ground up there.

And yer used to have to sweep through in a straight line, and then when yer got to the end of the woods, we never saw it, it had all been pre-arranged, they used to dig a trench, shove a stick or two in and then just put a string across, it would be like buntings, yer know, on bits of string, there'd be a fella in t' pit out of sight, as pheasants were comin' through. They would chiddle .....[?] away at that, and they would stop at this .....[?] yer know, the were pheasants, and then they would rise, and when they got out in open ground, they were waiting with the guns. And old Sep Bird from Cark, he was quite a character yer know. And he was getting' a bit old for beating, 'cos yer know, yer were rollocking about through [41 mins] woods all of t' day and that, apart from dinner time, and then Engine Inn people, who owned that, they used to make scouse. Yer've heard of scouse ? [BC : Oh yes] Well they used to send scouse out, and yer could have as much as ever yer wanted, and yer could drink as much pop as yer wanted. Well of course yer couldn't drink .....[?] [inaudible] used to get a bottle of beer. And then they used to send it out with Rogerson with t' milk float. And he used to bring it out, and at t' same time that was round about for pickin' pheasants up, d'y see. Anyway, Sep Bird, you know, he was gettin' a bit old for th' job, so they would give him what they called a bag carrier's job, that's for Colonel Porrit and them, yer know, toffs. They always had two guns, which they had one loaded yer know, they were loaded so they were .....[?] ready, and you'd hand that back and have a fully loaded gun yer see, once pheasants started comin'. [BC : Yes] Well, they would nearly always get a little tip d'yer see, in addition to their pay. And so ... but they had to flarch top a bit, [42 mins] yer know. Well Sep was last in world to flarch any one [laughs] .....[?] I think she's heard this, now haven't yer ? [BC : I have, but ?] [inaudible whilst other laugh]] Well, pheasants started comin' ... bang, bang. And he says to Sep, he said, did I wound that bird ? Seb said, wound it, he said, tha wasn't within a bloody mile of it, he says ! [laughs] That was 'im out, there was no more bag carrying.

BG .....[?] [WB : He was a card was Sep.] He'd been a poacher, jacketin'[?], rabbitin', and I think they found out he had a rabbit in it !

WB He said, .....[?] [inaudible] she went into t' hospital did th' Missus, and he said, I'd never taken that much notice of owt like. They all used to bake their own bread, yer know, everybody. Well, if yer didn't want to bake it, yer could take it down to Billy Hughes's, that's Pat Hughes', [43 mins] [BC : He put it in the oven, Pat's told me. .... [unclear comment[?]] Before they went to t' new bakery, but most times they baked their own. Anyway, [BG : Aye, he was down with ... where's it .....[?] Farm wasn't it, aye] Anyway, Sep said, I hadn't never took much notice like, he said, and me and our Scutch and them, he said, thee better get the' sel' round at Co-op and get some flour, and bit of salt, yer know, and some yeast, yer know what yer need. Anyway, he said that he fetched it. Well, he said, we hadn't a bloody clue like, he said, then, we never rose it up at t'front of t' fire with that, he said, we just, yer know, mixed it up, and he said we bunged it into oven, and he said it wasn't bloody lang he said before we could hear a bit of movement, and he said it busted bloody oven door clean off, [laughs] and he said it kept comin' out, and I said to Scutch, he said, we'd better be out of this bloody lot Scutch, [44 mins] and he said it kept comin' out and comin' out, and he said it filled the bloody room up with bread. And he said, .....[?] [inaudible] we had to cut our way back into it, he said it was for .....[?] weeks. [all laugh] Aye, well that was Sep Bird again.

BC Was he related to Les Bird ? [WB : Aye, his grandfather] [BG : His grandfather, aye, Scutch was his father] And George Bird. [WB : Aye] And Dick Bird was the father, that was Scutch. Aye, he said we had to cut our bloody way back into the house he said. He said it filled everything up with bread.

BG Well, old Bill Hughes used to go round with a bike, didn't he, when he first started ? [WB : Who ?] Old Bill Hughes. Used to go round with t' bike they say. [WB : He would do]

WB Well this is ... harking back to the war ... well we were going through Bradford, we didn't know where to 'cos all this careless talk costs lives and all this jazz yer know. And we set off, and we thought we were going to Penarth in South Wales. But we weren't, we finished up in Glasgow, so yer can tell how good they were at disguising. And [45 mins] we set off, we set off, and I had quite a good map wi' me. And there were no signs up yer know for t' German airmen if they'd landed. And I said to this woman, we'd been driving quite a bit, the convoy had stopped, I said well where are we ? And she said, don't tha know where's tha's happening at mi lad ? No, I said, no I don't. She said, tha's in Settle. And lookin' at mi map, I thought, we're not going to South Wales. And we kept goin', we went right past the Helmside there, Oxenholme, and I said to this fella that was with me, I said, mi father used to come round 'ere, with fish and fruit and veg and that, yer know. Anyway, we stopped on't th' New Road there at Kendal. And what I'm leading up to how few telephones there were then. If I could have phoned then, I could have phoned up and tell mi mother and them. [BC : Yes] But what ... I'd written to her t' night before and I said I think we'll finish up in South Wales, but I said ... but yer didn't know, I said if yer don't hear nowt for a week or two, you'll know we've been on to t' boat and that. And then posted mi letter. [46 mins] Anyway, I had a brain wave. Madge, who was on that tape, Mrs McClure, her father used to go to Kendal with flukes. That's how they were started actually. [BG : Our Jim, aye. I told yer that before didn't I ?] [BC : Yes] And he got going with th' flukes and that did Bill. Anyway, I just had this brain wave. I thought, oh Geordie(?) Shaw will be at th' market today. So me and our Tommy, and Jack Balfour, we had a walk up, up Stricklandgate or whatever, New Road up to top, up to t' market spot. I was half way and I could hear old Jim was coming down with 'is bogey, [BG : Bogey] Aye. [BG : Aye, it was all bogey's ...

[recording cuts out, at end of cassette, at 46 mins 41 secs]