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HEADLANDS TO HEADSPACE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
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TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

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FRONTSHEET

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Summary of Interview:

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My name is Jean Robinson, I was born Jean Butler in Flookburgh and I was born at ... er the cottage at Braithwaite Hall where we lived till I think I was 9 when we moved across the road into what had been my granny's old house where dad had always done his fishing from and his business from anyway. Erm I think one of my ... oh, my father was Harold Butler. His nickname was Tarro with ... I heard that it was because he tarred some pigeons, but whether this is true we are not sure (chuckles), but he always ... and even my erm ... our son gets called young Tarro, I think it was because of his footballing and Dan was a big footballer and erm so was ... is Neil. Err, but I didn't know till after Dad was dead and my cousin told me that Dad could have been ... could have played for ... I can't remember what er ... company or what team it was, but he could have played for erm a team? Too late when they've gone, isn't it, to find out? (chuckles)

I think one of my erm early memories is when we still lived over there ... was walking out of the yard and seeing Dad and Uncle Bill Butler and was the eldest of their family ... erm doing nets, knitting nets, fishing nets and it was ... it was quite amazing. In fact I rather think that we have one of the little things that they used to use, you know for the sizing, 'cos it had to be a special size, the nets. Err but seeing it grow was absolutely ... you know it was fantastic, fascinating when you're little (chuckles).

So, but then when we actually moved over into erm the other property, (ph) Wyndene erm, I can remember all the fishermen congregating in the yard, deciding where they were going to go to fish, you know, whether it was daytime tide or night-time tide, er and ... it was quite ... when you heard all the erm accents, the ... in fact when Roy was courting me and he came ... and he came in the house one time and he said "I can't understand a word they are saying" (chuckles). But it was the dialect (laughs) (speaks a dialect phrase meaning where are you going tonight) (laughs). But looking back at all erm ... all fishermen who were, you know, at that time, it was quite amazing. Starting off

with Uncle Jack Butler up the top of the hill; Jim Robinson half way down; Harold Butler, my dad, er and then Bill Butler, my uncle; and Les is his son; the McClure's, Jim McClure and Tommy McClure; er Uncle Harold Manning and Jack Manning; Tom Robinson; erm Herbert Benson; Harold Shaw; Harold Cowperthwaite (or maybe spelt Couperthwaite) , Matt Cowperthwaite; and that is only taking as far as the shop. It is quite amazing and know there is very very few who are shrimping now, are there? At all.

But it was ... it was a hard life and a dangerous life really. And another thing that I was told by a cousin of mine, that erm ... my father had fallen ... I don't know what happened, but it ... whether something had happened with the nets and he had got trapped between the you know when they used to go with horse and carts in those days, he had got trapped ... thrown off, and got trapped between the horse and the cart. And my cousin, Les Butler, had dived in to bring dad out and I think if he hadn't of done, I don't think dad would have been with us. So, and nowadays, if that happened nowadays Les would have got a medal, wouldn't he, an award or something ... yes. But er, no, I think ... I think it was a dangerous life as well as a hard one.

But not err, I think every ... nearly all the fishermen had other erm ... well I know my dad had a market garden. We had two massive greenhouses and er a big field where all vegetables were grown, but we also had animals, pigs and cows and ... we never 'ad sheep (chuckles). We had a horse which they needed for the shrimping. We had ducks and hens, all this sort of thing. So really, when you think about it, it was a very very busy life. Er, and 'e also went to the market, erm ... three, I am not sure if it was twice a week, Wednesdays and Saturdays to Barrow. But also after that he used to ... he would go hawking. I can remember going when I was a child, we used to go with him in the school holidays and we used to go up er Broughton in Furness and Coniston, erm, well all the way up ... I can remember, you know where Rusland Pool is now, there is a farm on the opposite side of the road and we used to call ... we used to stop on the side where the Rusland Pool Hotel is and the people from the farm would come

across and often they would have collected mushrooms and dad would erm, you know, they would buy them off him and (chuckles) we would do a trade (laughs).

Was that in a van? Would that have been ...

Er, yes, it was a van, but they were always adapted with shelves, you know, different shelves. In actual fact, at first they were like a flat ... flat back, it was like erm a cab and then a flat back, you know, with a canopy over and they had erm canvas sides. And then, of course, after that they went to Bedford vans and, you know, they were all made up as well, yeah.

But going back to the fishing, I remember he used to, depending on what ... whether it was night-time tide, daytime tide, er, the boiler always had to be lit and ready for them coming, you know, back, erm because they didn't like the erm shrimps to be out too long because if they died off they weren't very good to pick, it wasn't very good at all. So they used to like to get them straight into a hot boiler and they used to be ... if it was daytime they used to be big erm sacks laid out on the concrete at the back and then all the shrimps were put out to cool and if we were up and about we had to sort through and get all the dirt out and the crabs, erm, seaweed, everything like that. Erm, and then er ... we had ... we used to have people come to the house to pick. Erm ... and every child, I think, nearly every child in Flookburgh always had a way of earning money, 'cos you picked shrimps and you got paid for your, I think it was about sixpence a gill or something like that in them days (chuckles).

So, how many people would you have sat round the table?

Erm, probably six. And also they used to take them out to people as well, er, you know, it was pickers who would have them at their own home, erm but quite ... quite a lot came to the house. And mum always used to feed them when they did as well, she would put a big hotpot on or, you know, things like that (chuckles).

So did you have the same people coming to your house?

Yes, mainly, yes.

Can you remember who they were?

Er, I can remember Ada Brown, I can remember Mrs Dibble, I can remember erm my cousins ... quite a few, er Colleen and, you know, all the young ones used to come. I can remember erm, Rosie Anderton used to come, you know, from up the hill. Erm, Colin Parker ... can you remember ... no, you wouldn't remember Colin Parker. Erm ...

So men picked?

Oh yes! Yeah.

Would your dad have picked as well?

Dad picked, yeah. I can remember dad picking shrimps and, you know, he'd been up all night or what 'ave you and he'd be sat there and all of a sudden he'd be goin' off to sleep (laughs). So then he'd be, you know, he'd either go into a chair and 'have a sleep or 'he'd go ... go off to 'have a lie down, yeah.

So how did they know when the shrimps were ready to be picked? Did someone run out and say the shrimps are here and they're ready? 'Cos it would be different times of day sometimes?

Yes, it was different times of the day, yes. Well, I suppose if it was ... if they were late, they would deliver them the next morning, erm. I know after ... er, and then, you know, we would go out and collect them from people, weigh them, so that you knew what they ... what their ... they had picked, how much they had picked and pay them their money.

Erm, I think that ... the farthest ... we used to take them up to a farm up Holker, Biggins, erm Tommy Biggins and 'is family. They used to pick, and I remember we used to go up through er, not through the actual park, er you go up the hillside so if you were on the [inaud] ... it would take you up to Cartmel, you

know, up there, erm. That was [inaud] the farthest one we would take them out to but erm they were always good pickers, always fast, yeah. And I think we er ... I know we used to 'ave a competition. Christine ... oh, yes, (chuckles) I had a brother and a sister; Alastair and Christine and we always had competitions as to who could do the ... do them the fastest (chuckles). Who could do the most, yes.

So, did your dad catch any other fish?

Erm, well yes. They used to catch ... 'e used to go fluking as well, and cockling. Erm, which ... I mean all of those are hard ... well, the fluking isn't too bad but you've got your ... to set your nets anyway and then go and see if there is anything in them. But the cockling is hard work when ... and yet when you look back a lot of women used to cockle, didn't they? I know ... your great-grandmother and families they all ... they ... I know, they all used to go cockling, didn't they? Yeah ... so

And when they went to the sands, did they vary the route? Did they go Sandgate Hill or did they go down Mile Road?

Well, it ... they would ... that's why, you know, when they used to come and have a discussion, that's where they would decide shall we go, you know, up ... I've forgotten what the name of the places were now. I know one was called Lornter's(?) Hod(?), I don't know how ... and erm ... one of your relative's names

Cowper

Yes, yeah. And I can't bring it to mind at the moment, but er ... yeah, it was ... so it would be up Sandgate or down the Mile Road, you know, to

And I suppose that depended on the channel?

It did, yes, yeah. Erm, really I suppose ... and ... you know, when you think that they went out at night with no lights on. I mean, OK, they had a little lamp thing on the side of the cap, but that's the only thing that was showing where all of them were.

And they would go out in groups, they never went out singly?

No, I don't think they ever went on their own. They would always be ... and I tell you what was ... if you were in bed at night and it was night-time, you could 'ear all the clip clop, clip clop of the horse and carts goin' up the hill, you know, it was quite ... and you used to count what you could ... you know, you would try and count how many you thought were (chuckles) [inaud]. Quite amazing, really.

Did you ever go out to the sands?

Er, yes, but never to ... never to do any of the work really, no it was only if you were doing something easy, I suppose, yeah. I think they always ... well, I say I was ... cossetted too much because I had had TB when I was erm five or six and I was in Oubas House for ten months with it and I ... so whatever I wanted to do, it was "Oh, you can't do that, because you've ..." you know, and it became quite a pain (laughs), but anyway (laughs). So, I suppose they were only doing what they thought was for the best, isn't it? 'Cos you didn't know, you know, any different in those days, do you?

I was going to ask you about health and were your mum and dad ever ill or ...?

Yes, mum had er ... mum had erm rheumatic fever and erm it left her with a heart problem. She had erm angina for a ... after that. Erm and I know I had just started erm ... just left school and started work at er ... (ph) Marie's, Marie Robinson, in the shop and post office and I was learn ... Marie was learning me

the post office side and er, when I went home this particular day and I was asked ... said you'll have to go down and tell them that you can't come any more and I was really upset, I didn't want to ... want to know why. Erm and it was the fact that mum had erm ... I don't know why in them days, they kept them in bed when they had rheumatic fever. Probably because it was going to affect your heart. But she was in bed for nine months and so erm I went down to ... [inaud] say well I had to stay at home and look after the house and look after dad's business. Erm and Alastair at that time was in the ... erm in the forces for his, you know, 'ow you 'ad to do the two years, so 'e wasn't er available. Erm, so, the nurse used to come in every day at first to see to mum and, I mean, she was in an awful state. Terrible hands and her feet all really really badly, and I know erm somebody called Mrs Duncan used to come and put her hands in hot wax and erm I suppose in those days they didn't really have the same things as they 'ave now, did they?

No. And they wouldn't have thought of taking her to hospital then?

No, no. And I remember we ... erm, Alastair, Christine and I all got scarlet fever and erm ... Barbara ...

How old were you?

Barbara Barnet got scarlet fever and Alastair was courting her (chuckles), so he must have been, I would say, oh I'm not quite sure whether it was before he went in the army, I think it would be before he went in the army. Say 17, something like that. And he went down with scarlet fever and then I got it and then Christine. Because all three of us had it, we were allowed to stay at home. But because ... when Barbara had it she was sent to High Carley into isolation ... so, erm. All these things that ... dad had ... erm dad when he was in his 50's had three heart attacks, erm ... so, yeah, by the time he got to be OK, he didn't go ... didn't go fishing. That was virtually ... and he eventually went to um, Glaxo at Kendal and

worked for ten years there and eventually got a small pension which was quite good for 'im.

'Cos there was no pension in fishing?

No, none at all. Really when you think it was a very up and down er, you know, 'cos when the shrimps were there and it was very hard work, well you had the money coming in, but through winter it could be ... it could be quite erm hard, yeah. It could. And I know they used to erm ... I know we used to put eggs down in isinglass as a lot of people did, didn't they? I remember dad used ... they used to put shrimps in salt ... in barrels of salt. I can remember those being in the garage.

They'd no refrigeration?

No, eventually they did have. I can remember before when I was in ma teens, that we did get a really big refrigerator that was in the garage, but before that ... and then they used to put erm green runner beans in salt as well. I can ... you used to wonder what all these things were in the barrels, you know, in the ... (chuckles). I s'pose they 'ad to keep things, didn't they? Yeah. But the erm the shrimping and the picking I think that ... well, I think most people had quite enjoyed it actually.

It was like a community ...

Spirit, yes it was, yes.

And gossip and chatter and ... yeah.

Yes, and I think that erm, well you used to say ... you know, you would pick your shrimps, save your money and you'd 'have a day off to Blackpool (chuckles) or

somewhere (chuckles). Now we used to go down to my aunt lived in Liverpool and so we used to go down to Liverpool for a for a holiday. We always saved our money and then went down to Liverpool and it would be absolutely great going round the stores down there that you never had up here (chuckles). Buy our summer dresses or ... and erm my aunty Eleanor was a good sewer as well, so if we saw something we liked that was too expensive, we would get the material and she would make it, which was very good (chuckles).

What was your mum's maiden name?

Rawson.

And was she from Flookburgh?

No, mum was from Cartmel. Erm, er, grandad Rawson, Jack Rawson, they were builders and they lived at Park View, right up at the racecourse, yes, at Cartmel. Erm, and when mum first went to Flookburgh I think they used to er make fun of 'er because she was ... you ... she would never go out without 'er hair done or 'er lipstick on or 'er you know (chuckles). In fact, I don't know who it was, somebody christened 'er lady Betty, but I think it was only through erm ... you know, just being ... nasty in a way or jealous or something, I don't know.

Was the accent in Flookburgh different to the one in Cartmel?

Yes, probably. Yes. And ... because I know Barbara that when we were young we had ... everything had to be er ... you had to set the table right, you had to ... and if you ever you ... if you happened to say Be'ee or ,you know “cross your tee's” (laughs) all this, yes, you had to learn to speak properly (laughs). And it was ... yeah, and you had to ... yeah, I suppose it was a bit erm, yeah. Yes, really, mum and dad were too totally different characters in a way, 'cos er, yeah.

So, at meal times I presume with all the vegetables and the animals and the fish, that you probably ate reasonably well.

We did, we did. I think we were all very lucky. And also if you ... if at that time, if anybody killed a pig and of course there was no freezers or anything then, you ... everybody shared it, you know, everybody ... you would take pork and you would take, you know, things to other people and they would do the same ... erm, for you ... but of course at that ... they had to have a licence to ... somebody had to kill it for you 'cos it was still in the war years, wasn't it? And they had to come and er ... you know, it had to be done properly. But ... er it really you had a good life in a way.

So talking about the war years, how old would you have been then?

Oh, I would ... well, I was born in '38, 1938.

Oh, so you'd just ...

Yeah, so I'd ... I

You couldn't really remember ...

I can remember ... I can remember he ... when you used to hear planes going over, er being put under the stairs ... on erm, well on a mattress, I suppose and pillows and everything. We were put under the stairs until they thought all the dangers had gone. Err, but if you remember the ... like the ... Allithwaite, there was some of the houses were bombed, weren't they? Yeah.

So, would your dad have ... they still went out fishing did they on the sands when the ...

Oh yes, they did. Yeah, because they still had to earn a living, mmm. I can remember also going with dad erm ... very often when it came up towards Christmas, I can remember going on the train with him. He used to take baskets of cooked ... you know, shrimps, erm ... done in little bags and we would go to Lancaster and sell them at Lancaster. I never like doing that. I don't know why, but I didn't (laughs).

So would you sell them on the streets or go into the market or ...

Er, no, we were selling them on the streets, but really ...

Oh, so that's why you didn't ...

... that was why I didn't like it, because I think really you were supposed to have licences to do it and I used to be erm ... I didn't like it at all.

No, you knew it was sort of wrong (laughs).

I think it was the fact that ... I know Alastair used to go as well and he would ... 'e would take a big basket into the pubs erm, but of course with me erm ... I mean why dad took me I have no idea, whether 'e (laughs) ...

Maybe when you have got a little girl with you it is easier to ...

Maybe, maybe, I don't know. But Alastair would go in the pubs and he would .. he would sell 'is in no time at all you know, a big basket of them, yeah. But er ... (chuckles) when you look back, life's very ... when you look back at all your memories it's quite strange, isn't it.

And did you go to church regularly, were you a religious ...?

We did go to church. We went to Sunday school every Sunday and we did go to church on a regular basis. I think you did in those days ... I think that erm ... I mean you always 'ad religious instruction in school. I mean your first lesson at school in a morning was religious instruction, so yeah.

How old were you when you started school, can you remember?

I think I was about four and I ... you were ... I remember wanting to go to school and they said once you start you can't stop (chuckles). Yeah, I think ... yeah, I think I was four and of course we went to Flookburgh you know, the little school there and then when you were older, up to Holker, and ...

How old were you when you went to Holker?

Err, I think ... did we go at ... did you go at seven up to Holker ... up to Holker, I've forgotten now. I think it probably ... you weren't very old anyway, when you ... you know, you were in the infant's class, 'cos there was Miss Hill was the headmistress at Flookburgh then and Miss Downing was ... and ... and erm ... I'm trying to think the other one ... three. And you were in the ... the ... and ... they used to put us to sleep when we first went to school at Flookburgh. Shows you how young you were. They used to ... you used to have a ... after your lunch you used to have a rest and these little blanket things, you know, you used to lie on them, have a little rest, so it shows we were quite young. And then you moved up into Miss Downing's class and then into Miss Hill and then from Miss Hill up to Holker.

And you would walk up there and back?

Yeah, oh well, we used to bike 'cos we 'ad bikes, yeah. And I think I got my first bike when I was seven and so ...

Did you have your dinners at school or did you come home for your dinners?

Erm, I ... at first when we went up to Holker I think I had lunches and then I didn't like them so I used to cycle home ... cycle home and then back again, you know, after lunch, yeah.

Did you enjoy school?

Yes, I did, I loved it, absolutely loved school. Hmm. But I ... I used to suffer a lot every winter with erm bronchitis, erm probably going back to the problem of the TB, I don't know, but I did. I can remember being in bed nearly every Christmas (chuckles).

Did anyone else in your family have TB?

Er, no, they didn't. I think they ... they must have got me ... I think probably, you know, 'cos we 'ad cows and we used ... so we 'ad ... you had the milk ...

From(?) pasteurised?

Yeah, but whether erm ... I remember mum saying that I had pneumonia when I was a baby. Now that might ... maybe started my er weakness with the chest, I don't know.

Er, 'cos I know she said that they got fined because, you know, you 'ad to have blackouts at the windows, didn't you? Because she erm obviously I must have been poorly and she hadn't had time to to get the thing right and they got fined for having ... lights showing. Erm, yes, so whether I was a bit weak ... a bit weakling I don't know? I must have been maybe. But the others didn't ... didn't get it. But I think there were a few people from Flookburgh who did get TB. Erm, Marlene (ph) Nicholls, you wouldn't remember her, but she was related to Grace

and Faith. I remember Marlene being in erm Oubas House at the same time and she must have been there before me, because with me being only six and she would probably be nine or ten, and she sort of took erm ... you know, looked after me a little bit. And I think at ... I think Frank Lomas was in at one stage as well. But not for ... I don't think he was in for very long, but of course when you're little you don't really er ... I remember Marlene because, as I say she really did erm look after me, but after erm ... You got used to ... your parents couldn't come to visit, you know, only once a month. I think it was a Saturday a month and I ... actually you felt abandoned, 'cos you'd no idea why (chuckles) ...

Not at six.

No, (chuckles) that's a bit ... yeah. It wasn't very nice, I remember, no (chuckles). And it was a joy when I got told I could come out (chuckles).

So what age were you when you left school?

Erm, fifteen. Hmm. And I know that I ... and I was always erm ... I had liked school and I loved English and all that sort of thing and I was always top or near the top in the ... but I didn't erm apply for erm the grammar school, er and ... I don't know ... I don't know why.

So you had to personally apply, did you, for grammar school?

Well, yes. And evidently, and I didn't know this till quite a lot later, that the headmaster had gone down and asked mum and dad to erm, you know ...

For you to apply?

For me to ... and I didn't, but do you know, Barbara, I know people ... it's different now, but I think people used to think that you were well off, you know

because they were shrimping, because you were ... you had a market garden, because you had this. And yet, you know, people struggled and I think maybe it was the fact that ... you see Alastair ... Alastair, erm he was going to college at Barrow so they would have to pay, you know, pay for him and things for him. And I think probably it was the fact that, you know, uniforms would have to be bought and I don't know, I am only guessing at that. But I do think ...

It's funny you should say that because in the Allithwaite minute books I have seen the historical ones for Allithwaite school, in the 1930s they were asking people ... they were asking why people were applying for the 11 plus at the grammar school and it came back that people thought that it was too expensive because of the transport, the uniforms and having lunches at the school as well.

Yes.

So, yeah, you're probably right.

As I say, I don't know, but in ... I ... I get that feeling, that ... that, you know, 'cos it was always more for the boy to do things rather than ... wasn't it? Than the girls. And yet, after that our Christine who was three years younger than me, she actually did go to Lancaster to Storey's, I think quite a few did, you know, when things changed a bit and you could go to different schools, couldn't you? Yeah. And she went to Storey's at Lancaster. Hmm.

So after school you went to train in the post office and that's when you then had to look after your mum?

And then after mum got OK, erm I then ... I wanted money. I went to the carpet factory and we got ... once I was trained there, erm Terry (ph) McCofskey, can you remember Terry from Flookburgh(?) ... well she trained ... she was the one

that trained me. And erm ... you got good money there, yeah. That was hard work. You went at 7 in the morning and weren't back until 7 at night, but there was a coach that picked you up so it was quite ... quite good.

Going back to your childhood, when you were playing, what sort of games did you play and did you play with all the children around and about?

Oh, do you know, it was ... it was wonderful in those days because you didn't have any ... you had freedom. You know people erm weren't ... well I suppose there wasn't ... there weren't that many cars about, were they? You know, there weren't the same dangers or anything, but we could ... we could erm go off with a picnic, go to the shore for the day, and they never worried about you. 'Cos we ... I think we were all taught to swim, you know, early on. But well you ... you made ... with skipping, I remember doing skipping. I remember playing balls against a wall and we used to play erm ... well, we used to make things out of, you know, I can remember making ... out of ... oh treacle and syrup cans, you know, like stilts, you know with string through and you used to walk up and down (laughs) only(?) stupid things (laughs). Yeah, we had good fun. We did have good fun, and you could go off and erm ... I say, and they didn't worry about ... you know, you weren't worried about the same as they are now. You wouldn't dare let them go off for a day now, would you?

Not down to the shore.

No, you wouldn't. Though I do remember one time going down and erm ... I think, I think that Natalie erm ... you know, Natalie Butler, who's ... Natalie who's just died, erm I think she was the one that taught me to swim, 'cos her coming over from South Africa I think made ... you know, yeah. And then I remember erm Alastair and ... we used to go on(?) what were called the first beck and the second beck, I don't know if you can remember that at Flookburgh, can you not?

No.

Well, the second beck was always a lot deeper and I remember we were there this day and Alas ... I had gone with Alastair and we were stuck over at the second beck and the tide had ... was comin' in you see and we 'ad our little dog, a little terrier with us and I can remember Alastair saying to me "You'll have to swim it, you'll have to swim it. We have got the little dog ... at one side of you and I'm the other, you can do it and when we get back don't dare tell mum and dad!" (laughs).

And you did it.

And I did it (laughs).

Could you ... could your dad swim and his brothers?

Yes.

So there was never a problem if they got into trouble out ...

No, I don't think so. I think it is only if you got caught in the net or something like that, yeah. I think that erm ... yeah, I mean ... mum could swim as well, but quite surprising, you know, how many people didn't learn to swim. I know I had a friend and she ... she was terrified of water ... er, she was from Bardsea and she couldn't even have a shower because she couldn't bare the ... and it turned out that when she was young and they were learning to swim at the swimming pool with the school, somebody had held her under. And they had no idea how it frightens people, have they?

What about festivals and the er ... anything, you know, did you have festivals went on in Flookburgh?

Yeah, there was the erm ... well, they always had the erm carnival, well it wasn't really the carnival, was it, it was the charter queen. Yes, the charter queen. I remember erm being one of the attendants ... Anita Wilson, I think, was the queen that year. I remember our Christine being the queen one year, erm ...

Oh, I tell you what we did as well which I have read somewhere recently and I can't think where and when I was telling Ray about it, he said I can't believe all you Flookburgh people, I never even heard of it. At Easter we used to go round erm dressed as different characters. Err, and they used to call it "mumming", didn't they? Yes. And we used to dress up as different characters and you sang this song as you went round, you know, knocking on people's door and erm ... it ... I can't remember the song now, but when I ... when I saw it in the ... I thought well, I must cut that out and keep it and I didn't, but it ... this is really really really (laughs) ... the things that we did were ... I can remember we used to love to go down to Mackereth Clark's, you know, where they had the big orchard and had cherries and all things like that. But erm ... she would always ... she'd always done pace eggs and when we used to go and we would do our ... you know, we each had a part to play ... erm and they ... I can't remember the .. all the characters now as well, but it was good fun. And she would always give us all an egg each to, you know, for our (chuckles) ... I wish I could remember what the song was. Oh, I wish I'd kept the thing when I'd seen it in the ... yeah. Yeah, we did all thing ... kinds of things like that.

Did you go to the races at Cartmel?

We always went to the races, yeah. And that used to be a big thing, 'cos I suppose you'd(?) mother bein' a Cartmel person as well erm, the show ... Cartmel show and the races and I can remember she always used to cook a massive erm ham, roast a big ham in er ... you know, ready for the races for taking for the sandwiches or whatever and I can remember one time erm ...

somebody came to the door and mum was gettin' the ... gettin' this ham out of the oven and she said to me, you, you know, run to the door. Well, she must have dropped some of the ... er, a little bit of the fat and I skidded on the ... and my arm went into the erm pot with it and I ... went everywhere. So I was scalded down my arm and right down my leg and the person who had come to the door was this little lady from Ravenstow and, do you know, for the life of me I can't think of her name, but she was a character that erm, used to know all the herbs and the things for erm ... you know, if you had a problem

Like healing?

Yes, she would make her own soap and healing things, yeah. And I think she started coming when she heard about mum with her ... being having er rheumatic fever. Well, of course, she said ... she obviously didn't know this one because she says, "Oh, put butter on 'er" (laughs). Well (laughing) [inaudible] it was terrible (laughs). Well, of course when the doctor came 'e went bananas and er, but anyway, I mean nowadays they put you in cold water, don't they? Yeah. But she was a real little character this ... this erm la... and she had the most beautiful face and this perfect skin and she must have been in her eighties and yet looking at her skin, obviously what she did and the soaps she made kept her (laughs) in perfect condition (laughs).

Oh, I will have to try and find out who she is.

Yeah, I can't do, you know ...

I have never heard anyone ever mention her. So I will have to find out.

(talking over each other) She was ... she was ... she ... I mean whether she had had a husband or whether, I don't know, but certainly wasn't about when ... she was a real little character. Hmm. (long pause)

What about your dad and mum socialising?

Erm ...

I mean, there was the pub obviously.

Oh, well yes, they used to go the pub. They ... they used to like to go ... you know, when there was ... there was dances in the er Holker Hall or the village hall. Erm, concerts. 'Cos they ... they used to have quite you know they'd put ... put on quite regularly in those days weren't they? They used to, I know they used to like dancing and er I can remember them, you know, I can remember going to them in the village hall. And I can remember going to Holker as well. Erm ... and they used to go off to visit relatives at er erm different ... you know, I know we ... occasionally we would be ... you know, left with rela ... with good (inaud) ... (ph) Ganny next door or erm ... with aunts while they would go off to er ... er the other side of Lancaster, where we've got relatives, you 'ave as well. (chuckles)
Glasson Dock (laughs) Glasson Dock, yes.

And of course your great-aunt, your great-grandma lived opposite us, in the cottage opposite us and Aunt Jane, didn't she? Yeah. And she ... I can always remember Roy was courting ... courting me and it was dark nights and he ... he'd come to the front door of the house and he said all of a sudden this ... this black erm, you know, somebody appeared him all in black (chuckles) ... in front of him, shining a torch at him (laughs). And he says, he always remembers and he keeps saying ... she said to him (ph) "where's lads thou" (laughs loudly). Oh dear, ay, but do you know they were ... it was ... it was lovely in those days, 'cos everybody looked after everybody else. You know, there was always erm ... there was all these relatives, aunts and cousins and, you know, wasn't ... and everybody sort of lived nearer together then in, you know, in those days, didn't they? There wasn't the same ...

So (ph) Scutter Butler, Natalie's husband, what was his first name?

Les.

Oh that is Les?

Yes, that's Les. And then Frank. Frank was the eldest, but Frank er ... er worked erm at the nuclear power stations. But Les always went ... 'e stayed at home and went fishing and er hawking and ... with 'is, you know, like 'is dad.

Why was he called (ph) Scutter?

No idea. Do you know, everybody had nicknames in them ... those days. Like er, Uncle Harold Manning was called Hunter, that could be why that fishing one with the Hunter's Hod was ... was probably named. Er

So, is Jack Manning a cousin of yours?

Yes.

So, is that through his mum?

Er, yes aunty Nellie was dad's sister. Er, I mean, I ... I know 'er in the fact there was uncle Bill, uncle Jont ...

Yeah, that's Elsie's father.

Elsie's father, yeah. Uncle Bill, Uncle Jont, er ... there was Aunty Edith, she ... she lived at what ... they 'ad a farm at Walney. Er ... Aunty Agnes, Aunty Nellie ...

So who was Jack's mother again, sorry? Er, Jack Manning's mum?

Er, Aunty Nellie.

Oh, that was Nellie?

Yeah. Yeah ...

And that's Joan's mum as well.

That's Joan's mum as well, yeah. Er, where did I get to? Oh, Aunty Agnes was at erm Allithwaite. She was Connie's mother. ... Brother and sister there (is she pointing at something here?).

There is loads!

Aunty Lucy ... Colin ... Colin Jones and er ... and I am not quite sure where they come, I think she ... she was before Aunty Nellie. Oh and then Aunty Winnie was the ... was Aunty Winnie the youngest or Uncle Jack was the youngest. So there was ... there was Bill, Jont, Edith, Lucy, Agnes, Nellie, Harold ...

Got George?

... Winnie and Jack. So there was nine.

Oh, I haven't got Winnie.

Nine of them. Yeah.

So, Colin, Lucy Jones(?), that's not erm ...

Yes, that's Colin's.

Did he have a brother?

John Jones.

John! Who worked with my dad.

That's right, he did. Yes. They were good mates, weren't they? Bruce and er ...yeah. And Alastair worked with your dad as well. Yes, he did. Yes, it's a strange world, hmm. (chuckles)

So, is there anything else you would like me ... I am trying to think about (long pause).

Did you have to do any chores at home?

Yeah, we always had to, yeah. You always had ... erm ... I ... I suppose it puts you in good stead for when you ... for later on in life, doesn't it. But there was always jobs, you know, you could either go out and water the gardens, you could erm cut the lettuces as you got a bit older. But when we were at home, yes, you used to ... you would ... we were given the choice. You could go and do the bedrooms or you could bake, and in the ... so we used to take turns about, you know, so that you were ... you each got ... you weren't both doing, you know, doing the cleaning or both doing the ... the cooking. We used to do ... so I would do the er cooking ... the baking one weekend and then our Christine would do it the next weekend.

So did your mum teach you how to bake?

Yes, but also then we did learn at school, 'cos when ... you used to go up to the grammar school at Cartmel, you know, from Holker, and you had a day up there where you did baking and you did housewifery and you did ironing and all this sort of thing, and the boys used to do the woodwork. Yeah.

And was there a bus that took you up there?

Yes, mm. It was ... I used to enjoy those days as well (laughs). Good fun. (long silence)

Sorry, I am just going through ... Oh, the Flookburgh Band. Were any of your family ... well, they were, some of them were involved with Flookburgh ...

Well all ... I mean if you look at Uncle Harold Manning's family and Jack, I mean all their family ... I mean the biggest part of the band I would say, they are. Our Alastair went to erm learn and I think 'e was learning the trombone, but he didn't progress terribly well. Er ... and er I think 'e just gave it up, yeah. Erm ...

But it was a big part of social life ...

(interrupting) I tell you what that was ... that was an absolutely wonderful thing was ... was erm Flookburgh, and they came round every Christmas ... came ... you know, even after we were married, I mean, it's not that many years ago that they've stopped coming round, haven't they, you know.

Yeah, that's right, yes.

But you used to look forward to it and Aunty ... Aunty Mary used to dress up as Father Christmas [inaud] we didn't know it was Aunty Mary in those days (chuckles). But she would dress up and go round with, you know, with the band

and give you the ... you know, we'd get a bar of chocolate or something like that. You'd all be ready for bed when, you know, and ... and the band would always ask what your favourite carol was to play for you. Really, do you know, it was a lovely erm ... friendly, wasn't it? Really good, I mean, I know Flook ... they still play on Flookburgh square now, don't they, on the ... on the Christmas morning, yeah. But er we always used to look forward to ... to all that sort of thing, yes. Yeah. (long pause)

Erm, talking about going to church as well, this is a memory I'll never forget. The ... I don't know what ... whether mum was still ill in bed at the time or what but I can remember somebody coming and saying that one of dad's erm ... cows had ... 'cos he used to have them in the field, I think it's the one that's become the new graveyard ... near the church ... and somebody came and said that this cow had got into the church. So ... and of course I had to go and erm ... to the church (chuckles) and sort it out. I can remember ... and and erm chase the darn thing but of course what did it do, but poop all ... well, oh my god. So of course I had to go into the vestry and find a bucket and erm you know, all the rest of it, and I can remember (chuckles) ... I can remember this as plain as day, thinking well I am not going to get me skirt dirty, so I tucked me skirt in me knickers and am down cleaning all this lot up, when the vicar came in (laughs). Not a very nice memory, but I tell you what it sticks in your mind (laughs). Oh dear!

Fancy a cow getting' in a church!

I know! Yes. (chuckles) Well somebody must have left the ... the church doors open, you know. (chuckles). Oh dear.

Have you got any memories of your grandparents, any ...

Erm, my ... ganny

(interrupts) Did they live with you or ...

Ganny ... Ganny Butler lived next door to us. I don't know why we always called her Ganny, not granny? We all ... everybody always called her Ganny Butler and er ... yeah, she was ... I can remember her when they used to go to the market and I remember, when we were little, and so she ... we were taken to Ganny to look after us and I can remember always erm ... she used to wrap this big shawl, well it was like a massive white scarf, wrap it round you, cross it at the back and put a safety pin in (chuckles) so your chest was totally covered (laughs) and she would put us in the hen run (laughs) because we couldn't go anywhere (laughs) from there.

Well, she had loads of grandchildren, didn't she, I suppose?

(laughs) Yes. And I think this is why Joan is frightened of birds (laughs) now. Oh dear.

It's funny that.

Yeah, but I can remember she had a really ... it used to be a really big ... well, 'cos that's where we moved to live at ... over you know, and she moved in the cottage next door, but a big open fireplace and it had the ... you know, those things that hung out near ... hung your kettle and pushed it in and a massive rocking chair and if you weren't very well I can always ... you would be on her knee and she'd be rocking and singing to you (laughs). Very nice really.

So your grandad had died?

Grandad died when I think dad was about 17 or 18.

And he was a fisherman was he, as well?

Yes. Yeah. And the other grandparents, grandad Rawson

Oh at Flook... oh, at Cartmel?

At Cartmel, yeah. Well grandad ... they, urm ... nana and him split up, I don't really ... you know, in those days ...

It's unusual ...

It was in those days, everything was always hush hush. Nobody ever talked about ... about things. You never knew, you know, you never knew anything at all. Mind, I suppose we were only little, but even as you got older you didn't find anything out (laughs). Er, and ... so what had happened, what had happened I don't know. But I remember that erm when grandad came back from the war, er ... I know my mum said that 'e was ... 'e was ... I always found him a lovely grandad ... you know, really lovely and yet my mum said he was very strict ...erm ... and they did lose erm ... one of the ... well one of the brothers ... they ... I think there was only erm ... I don't know whether granddad was in the war then or not but they lived at Seven Acres. You know the ... through the park ... that derelict ... they lived there then and of course there was no water on tap and there was no electric, no nothing like that.

So it was candles and there was Aunty Ruth, mum's sister was the eldest then erm then it must have been mum and then Fred. And they had gone to bed with a candle and been hiding under the bed and the bed of course got on fire and er Fred got very very badly burnt. And er 'e ...er well 'e died in the hospital in Manchester. And I er ... I don't know but I think that grandad blamed Aunt Ruth and my mum a bit for ... for it you know. Quite sad ... I mean ... whether 'e would or ... I mean probably 'e would have been saved nowadays but in them days they ... they wouldn't would they? Yeah quite ... quite sad ... and I know it affected my mum all her life really. And definitely Aunt Ruth, 'er elder sister as well. Yeah.

So ... And whether ... whether that affected ... mind you, it wasn't until ... I mean, it must have been after mum got married that erm ... that they split 'cos I ... I mean we have got photographs of them all er when dad was courting' mum, you know and er ... outside, you know, the Park View on dad's motor bike and nana's stood on the steps and so obviously it must have been quite later on and so why, I don't know.

Very unusual.

Yeah. But, as I say, everything ... and she went down to erm Liverpool to live and Aunty Eleanor had moved down to Liverpool, mum's younger sister, and eventually she ended up living with Aunty Eleanor and died ... er, died there, but erm when we ... whenever we went down to Liverpool (chuckles), 'cos we always went there for our summer holiday, when we got back we were never allowed to tell grandad that we had seen Nana, it was a big secret (chuckles).

Maybe he didn't know she was there?

I don't know, no idea. But er ... no we weren't allowed to ... to say, and really at that ... it's a bit sad, int'it? Mmm, very sad really.

Yeah. A big contrast between being in Flookburgh with all the family there and the cousins and the aunts and ... and then your mum's side. Yeah.

That's right.

A bit of a real contrast.

Very contrast ... I think a lot of mum's ... well, mum ... quite a bit ... a few of mum's side were ... lived up in Windermere ... erm, Aunty Grace, dad's ... grandad's sister and erm 'is brother Sam, I think his brother Sam ran a pub in

Kendal, I think ... I am not sure if it was The Wheatsheaf or something like that. So they were a bit ... and I found after mum had died and I have her bible, I found a little cutting in one of the pages and it was the erm ... grandad's father, er 'is ... his death and he was actually from Sedbergh. Grandad's family, the (ph) Rawsons, were from Was... were from Yorkshire actually, so er I am goin' to 'ave to get Angela to look into it on the ancestry channel, yeah (chuckles).

Oh, a real mixture.

A real mixture, yeah. ... Oh, I tell you one thing as well. When mum and dad got married, they had their reception in the ... the gatehouse, you know above the arch.

In Cartmel?

In Cartmel, yeah. I don't think ... I think that the only people that 'ad 'ad the reception in there (chuckles). That must 'ave been quite strange, mustn't it?

That's interesting. I've never heard that before. Because normally it was in village halls, wasn't it?

Yes. And actually grandad built the village hall but it must have been after mum was married because I can see a ... it must have been [inaud] doing it because I ... we 'ave photographs somewhere of the opening of the village hall and there's er grandad Rawson, his father, mum and Alice with Alastair in 'er arms and mum's wearing a really big picture hat, yeah. And er ... but when you look at the photograph of grandad Rawson and great-grandad Rawson they are so alike it is unbelievable (chuckles).

I think it was built in [inaud] in 30s, but I can't remember what ...

(Interrupts) No, I can't remember when. ... Well Alastair was five years older than me ... was he? Five? Or was it eight? I've forgotten! (chuckles) I've forgotten. (laughs) I can remember him saying to me one time, you know, when you ... you do things ... mind you we always got on very well actually, but I can remember him saying to me one time "Well we used to have a wonderful time until you came along" (laughs). Oh dear, 'cos I suppose 'e used to go off with dad. I know 'e told us they used to go rabbiting. We used to go every weekend up to ... erm the Greenhurst Farm, Nixon's had the farm up there. We used to love it, going up there, and they used to go out with the cars and get the, you know, the rabbits in the headlights and ... yeah. I don't suppose that was ... that was legal really. Although I don't know ... or if it's their farmland maybe it was, yeah.

Yeah, I don't know when laws came in actually.

No, I don't either.

It's still ... I am ... we still see people lamping up round our area. [inaud] up our way. I don't know if it's legal?

No, I don't either (laughs). (long pause)

Well, I think ... I think we have just about covered everything. I just erm ... the only thing, towards the end, I have got, have you got any happy memories or stories that stand out, but I think you've actually covered that. And if there was anything else you wanted to add that we haven't covered but ...

Can you think of anything we haven't covered? (laughs)

I'm looking. ... No I think we have covered everything, yeah. Your dad never had a boat, did 'e?

Sorry?

Did your dad ever have a boat?

No, he didn't, no. Erm, I know, erm ... I mean dad ... dad had finished shrimping when ... you know, when the tractor and the ... 'cos he 'ad 'ad his heart attacks of course then and then, I mean it was after that that the ... they started with the tractors didn't they? Yeah. Which probably made life a lot ... but it was not as romantic as havin' a horse and cart was it? No, I mean I can ... I think one of the lovely memories is seeing all the carts ... horse and cart ... you know, all clo ... clopping up the ... up Sandgate Hill, yeah. And then you'd hear the first one come ... come back and, you know, "Is the boiler ready? They're on the way!" You know, you can hear them comin' back, yes. Yeah.

One other question about running water. Did you have running water growing up?

Yeah, we did, yeah. We always had a bathroom. We always had running water, yeah. Not everybody did, did they? But I think they were all ... I can remember at erm over at er Braithwaite Cottage where ... you know, next door ... uncle Bill, you 'ad to go through ... they'd always ... they always made the bathroom out of a bedroom, didn't they? And we used to 'ave to go through ... erm Christine [inaud] bedroom to get into the bathroom and it was the same at (ph) Wyndene, they made the bathroom out of a big bedroom [inaud] so we went through Alastair's bedroom to get to the bathroom.

And the places that your family lived in, were they owned or rented, do you know?

Erm, well, when we lived next to Uncle Bill, that was rented, but erm when we moved to ... er across the way to Ganny's place, dad bought that, yeah. But what ... when 'e actually bought ... I don't know if 'e bought it when we moved across or he just bought it ... er later as he could afford it, I don't know. I know that we erm ... mum didn't want to go across, I do know that, and grandad Rawson ... er put a bid in for where Billy Butler lives now, where George the electrician, George Bowker used to live. 'Cos that was up for sale and I remember grandad Rawson putting a bid in to buy that for us and I also remember that erm George Bowker got it and 'is bid had been less than what Grandad had put in. So I think there had been a bit of erm ... [inaud] yeah, yeah, probably. Er, I can't remember who lived opposite at that time but probably they didn't want a fisherman opposite. (chuckles) You don't know, do you? (chuckles)

So Braithwaite Hall, was that always part of the Butler family?

I don't know, because erm, well I ... I mean Uncle Bill erm obviously had it then, but I have no idea. I don't know. But erm, I think ...

'Cos it is quite grand with the er date stone on ...

Yes, well Bill, Bill Butler, has the photograph, you know it had the old windows, you know, like the ... the manor house at the bottom of ... yeah, it had those old windows. [inaud] erm it must have been changed before the law came in that they couldn't do that, but when I ... I know I said to Bill "could I have a photograph of that Bill at some time, can you do one for me?". I must remind him, 'cos he hasn't done it yet (chuckles). But it looked really er, it looked really grand ... grand, you know, as it should have been, like the Manor House at the bottom, with those ... those windows, yeah. But they obviously ... now whether it was changed before Uncle Bill got it, I have no idea. No idea at all, but it was only when I saw the photograph in Bill's place that I realised how it had looked, yeah. And I think really that erm ... the part we lived in I think er used to be part

... yeah I think it was all one big property at one time and, you know, they used to have like two staircases, didn't they? 'Cos Uncle Bill's their ... their staircase went sort of up the front door and ... but ours came ... went from the back and I think there used to be a ... yes, I think there used to be a joining door at the top of the landing that was blocked off.

Right, anything else you want to add?

I don't think so (laughs). Only the fact that we grew up er, I think it was a good time to grow up. I think that erm that we had fun, I am sure we had far more joy and things to do than a lot of them have now. I mean, I feel really sorry for grandchildren and everybody else who have to go to pubs and nightclubs and all the rest of it where we had hunt balls every week. We had, you know, I mean it was ... you know, you went to different erm ... village, you know, there was coach on and you would go to a different village every ... all the winter season on a Friday night, erm. I know we used to catch the train to the pictures and we had Morecambe, the Winter Gardens at Morecambe in those days as well. You know, different than ... yes, such a shame all these things have gone, isn't it? It is.

[inaud] (laughter)

Well, I hope that does you some good (laughter)

Well that's fantastic.

[End of tape]