

Interviewee: Winnie Johnstone (WJ)	Interviewer: Robert McQuistan (RM)
Date of Interview: 24 May 2012	Ref: DG2-3-1-1-T

RM: My name's Robert McQuistan and I'm talking tae Winnie Johnstone, and Winnie you were bought up in [ ? ] that's about right isn't it?

WJ: That's right, came there when I...in Nineteen forty-six.

RM: That's when yer faither came there?

WJ: That's when my father came there.

RM: Whaur did he come fae?

WJ: Barrhill. Barrhill in Ayrshire.

RM: He just moved there he just bought it?

WJ: Well, that was the story aye, he moved there he bought [?], and everybody said in those days, this wee man fae Ayrshire, is coming, wi'...I canny mind, six children maybe.

RM: He had six weans by that time?

WJ: I think so.

RM: I didny realise that.

WJ: George Jim Doug Ronnie...five.

RM: Are they a' born up at...

WJ: They were all born up in Barrhill in Ayrshire, aye.

RM: I didny realise that.

WJ: And when he came there, a lot o' people said Oh he'll never make it, wi' five weans and...

RM: Is that right? So he had a ferm up in Ayrshire a'ready?

WJ: Aye, he was in Barrhill Farm, just outside...Eldrick Farm.

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RM: Right, and he met yer Mither, she's Barrhill tae?

WJ: She was [Binwhirrie?], is that right Eric?

RM: [Binwhirrie?], right. So they met, got merried up there had five weans even before they come doon here?

WJ: Before they come doon here.

RM: So roughly what age would you be then?

WJ: I was four.

RM: You were four.

WJ: I was four.

RM: You were four.

WJ: And now I'm...

RM: Whatever.

WJ: Sixty-six.

RM: So, he come doon and just bought that farm...just off like that, I mean...was ony reason why they come doon here or onything?

WJ: I canny mind, well I was only four so I don't know, but he come doon here and he dairy farmed.

RM: That was the first thing he did?

WJ: Dairying, uh huh.

RM: And a lot o' coos?

WJ: Oh...ken Bobby I canny mind but...how many coos there would be...thirty?

EJ: Sixty.

WJ: Sixty, right.

RM: Sixty, that's a lot, three byres?

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WJ: Aye there was two byres. There was the big byre and the wee byre.

RM: But there wasny just coos, there was mair than that, 'cause it's a mixed ferm wasn't it?

WJ: Aye it was a mixed fairm.

RM: So what else did he hae?

WJ: Well he did a bit o' cereal, didn't he? He grew corn.

RM: And pigs?

WJ: Oh aye he'd pigs, aye.

RM: Ay had pigs.

WJ: Pigs, aye. I ken a' that I had to muck them oot.

RM: How, what did ye have tae dae?

WJ: Clean the pig-hooses oot!

RM: What did that involve?

WJ: Well Bobby you don't need that spelt oot tae ye! [laughs]

RM: Ok I'll take yer word for it...Hose it doon, hose it doon?

WJ: Oh aye, and shovel shite oot! [laughs]

RM: So he had pigs and sheep tae?

WJ: Aye he had sheep tae, aye.

RM: That's a lot mair than what they hae nooadays 'cause they're mair...

WJ: Absolutely.

RM: And it was a fairly hard life?

WJ: It was a very hard life, and he kept breeding...children. Tae we got tae the stage and there was nine o' us.

RM: That was a big faimily.

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WJ: It was a big faimily, aye. And they'd a' tae be kept, and fed and...

RM: Absolutely. And they'd a' hae tae work?

WJ: Oh well they had tae, tae survive.

RM: Nae choice.

WJ: Tae survive.

RM: So the boys...yer faither worked hard, he started early and feenished late?

WJ: Aye, he worked hard and he played hard, aye.

RM: Right.

WJ: And my mother had a hard life but she worked hard and played hard tae. They were a good combination, aye.

RM: Wha was the boss then?

WJ: Oh he was the boss, at the end o' the day.

RM: At the end o' the day he was the boss?

WJ: Aye.

RM: And were the weans...were you mair feart o' him or mair feart o' her?

WJ: Oh I was mair feart o' him, aye.

RM: Is that right?

WJ: I did...I did a lot at home, aye, I did a lot at home for the grown up I helped my mother oot.

RM: In the hoose?:

WJ: Och aye! And then I was oot milking the coos in the mornings.

RM: Really? So what time did ye start in the morning?

WJ: Well I would get up maybe aboot well in those days aboot I would say six o'clock, and I would be oot and have the milking done and back in, and some o' the boys were still lying in their bed and I used tae ca' them lazy buggers, ken.

00:04:28

RM: But there'd be mair than you daein' the milking o' they coos, yer faither would help?

WJ: Well, he eventually arrived oot and...ocht aye it was just a wey o' life.

RM: Ye never really questioned it, ye never thought...?

WJ: No, never. Never questioned it, no.

RM: And did you bring the coos in and put the...?

WJ: In the summertime aye, course the wintertime they were in a' the time.

RM: Aye. And so yer faither would come oot and help and get the milk intae the churns or what?

WJ: Oh aye that a' went intae the milk cans, aye ten gallon milk cans.

RM: And then they went away when?

WJ: Eight o' clock in the morning.

RM: Every morning?

WJ: Aye. Milk cairt came in then.

RM: Aye. And then efternoon it'd be the same thing?

WJ: Aye.

RM: The same thing again?

WJ: Aye the milk cairt didny come in then, the milk cans were filled, or half filled and put into the dairy, and then they bought them back oot and [filled] them up in them morning. And some o' them, of course they skimmed the cream off.

RM: Right, right. You kept that for yersel's?

WJ: Well ye [?] it for whoever.

RM: Whoever. And did ye make ocht oot o' the cream I mean d'you make...yer mother didny use it for ocht or just ye poured it?

WJ: No, no, I never hae mind o' making butter. Eric whose got now left the company, he remembers having tae...

00:05:53

RM: Churn the butter.

WJ: ...churn the butter, aye.

RM: So that's afore ye went tae school, what age would ye be when ye did the milking?

WJ: Oh no when I did the milking I'd be eight or nine...ten.

RM: So that's before...what I'm saying is...

WJ: Oh before I left the school?

RM: Aye.

WJ: Oh lang before I left the schule.

RM: So ye'd put in a couple o' hours o' work before...

WJ: Before I went tae the schule, and then I come back hame.

RM: They wouldny dae that nooadays.

WJ: They wouldny dae ocht noo!

*[laughter]*

RM: So then ye went tae schule and then ye came back after schule, and would ye dae ony...

WJ: Aye, and started working again, start tae help my mother in the house chores.

RM: Get away. And what...

WJ: Well the house chores was making the boys's beds and cleaning up in the hoose, and then I used tae stand, and quite honestly, without a word o' lie I would iron sixteen or seventeen shirts.

RM: Get away.

WJ: And they were all strung up on the pulley, tae air.

RM: And yer mother would expect ye tae dae this for the boys?

WJ: Oh aye, that was the way o' life, ye had to do it to help her oot. Aye.

00:06:55

RM: Now meanwhile the boys, what were they daein' when they came back at night?

WJ: Oh, bugging about and...! [*laughs*] What dae ye want tae hear me saying Bobby?

RM: I was thinking [ ? ]!

WJ: This is a great thing!

RM: Good! I was just thinking efter you'd done a' that work they micht hae done something?

WJ: They'd be looking for ladies, and I was looking for Eric Johnston coming down! [*laughs*]

RM: They were working tae though?

WJ: Well they were doing whatever, aye. And then it all turned intae the...it all redeveloped intae the holiday park bit.

RM: That was a cheynge, that was a big cheynge.

WJ: That was a big big change, aye.

RM: And that was George behind that.

WJ: Aye, oh aye.

RM: Did ye miss auld life?

WJ: Aye, we did. Aye I was quite pleased tae get married tae Eric Johnstone and come up here...



RM: Back tae the ferm?

WJ: ...Back to the farming bit, aye, 'cause that was in my blood.

RM: Exactly. The caravan thing wasny your...

WJ: No really. It served a purpose at the time but...no.

RM: It was farming that was the main thing.

WJ: Farming has always been in my blood aye.

00:08:03

RM: And hard work.

WJ: Eh?

RM: And hard work.

WJ: Och, hard work aye, but there ye go.

RM: And where did ye go tae schule was that in Carsluith?

WJ: I went tae Carsluith School, started school at Carsluith.

RM: What was that like, what was it like?

WJ: It was absolutely brilliant.

RM: You liked it?

WJ: Aye. Well you should ken.

RM: Well I never went.

WJ: Oh you were never at Carsluith?

RM: Never went.

WJ: Right. And then fae there I wasny clever enough tae gan tae the Douglas Ewart, so I went tae Creetown School, and that's where [I] met your parents. And your parents had a caravan by that time the caravan park was sort o' developing.

RM: Just beginning to talk about.

WJ: And they had a caravan, a towing caravan in [?].

RM: And that was just on the [brow] there wasn't it?

WJ: Oh aye.

RM: There was just two or three that was it.

WJ: I think there caravan was maybe...it must hae been extended a wee bit 'cause it was down below but. Those were the caravanning days.

RM: Early on.

00:08:58

WJ: Aye.

RM: But no the big, big...

WJ: Oh no, no what ye see noo.

RM: No what ye see noo.

WJ: Those was the caravanning days.

RM: But ye did...it wasny just the farming you did the bed and breakfast tae, yer mother was...

WJ: Oh my mother...

00:09:26