

Interviewee: Winnie Johnstone (WJ)	Interviewer: Robert McQuistan (RM)
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RM: So yer mother did bed and breakfast.

WJ: Mother did bed and breakfast and we had the farmhouse and there was six...well, converted after the cheese loft was converted intae three bedrooms.

RM: What was a cheese loft?

WJ: What was the cheese loft? Well it must hae been where they made the cheese at yin time.

RM: Right

WJ: And when they bought the farm, they converted the cheese loft intae three bedrooms.

RM: So how many did ye have, aye, how many of ye have [?]?

WJ: That made six bedrooms in the farm house.

RM: That's a lot.

WJ: Aye, and then she started up the bed and breakfast, and the boys...the girls were allowed to stay in the house in one room, during the summer period, and the other five rooms were let, no the other four rooms were let, there was one room for the parents.

RM: Uh huh.

WJ: And the boys were all chucked out intae what they called 'the bothy'.

RM: Get away, for the summer?

WJ: For the summer. So they made a lot o' lot o' friends with the bothy boys, [so-called].

[*Oven bell rings*]

WJ: (Just the roast wanting to come back oot the oven, we'll leave it there.) And there was a lot o' people stayed at [?] the bothy boys. But d'you know any o' them?

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RM: Na.

WJ: [?]

RM: Oh I micht o' I canny mind.

WJ: Oh god aye, the bothy, I mean there was beds everywhere. And I was sent up there every week to clean oot the bothy, for the boys, and there was stinking socks and dirty pants lying everywhere, but ye did thae things in thae days.

RM: That was above whaur they kept the tatties was it?

WJ: Above, above the tattie shed, aye.

RM: 'Cause ye had barn dances there at yin point?

WJ: No no, the barn dances were above the barn at the...just ootside the barn door.

RM: So whaur was the bothy, whaur aboots was it?

WJ: The bothy was ower at the other...

RM: At the right hand side?

WJ: ...At the right hand side.

RM: That was gey wee was it no'?

WJ: Oh it was it wee! But they a' piled in.

RM: Get away, right. So you all steyed in the hoose?

WJ: The girls...me and my sisters were allowed to stay in the house.

RM: In yin room?

WJ: In one room, and they had to move into my room and of course they were ten...

RM: That'd be Mary and Agnes?

WJ: ...Mary and Agnes and they were a guid bit younger as me, and they used to touch my stuff and I fell oot wi' them and fought wi' them and...

RM: Aye, quite right, quite right.

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WJ: And they used tae want tae wear my shoes and I wouldny let them!

RM: Quite right! So that left six rooms for the...?

WJ: Five...four rooms for guests, and then there was this big...

RM: That was a lot and did yer mother dae meals, or what?

WJ: She did bed breakfast and the evening meals...

RM: And kept the family going as well?

WJ: Aye, and me being the eldest o' the family I had to serve the tables, and at the same time we were taking the pony treks, so I had tae come in fae taking the pony treks before my sisters were old enough to do that, I had to come in and get mysel' washed and changed and serve the meals. And mind you, she did put up some great meals

RM: You were a teenager at that time aye?

WJ: Eh?

RM: You were a teenager at that time?

WJ: I was about fourteen.

RM: Aye. Efter schule, so efter your schule you got cheynged and then...what, the

pony treks or the...?

WJ: The pony treks and then...

RM: First, was that for the caravan folk?

WJ: Aye, and then the dinners were at seven o'clock at night.

RM: Were there many folk wanting pony treks?

WJ: Aye! It's amazing!

RM: Quite a few, fae the caravans?

WJ: Oh aye.

RM: So then ye started the meals that...yer mother'd be cooking for the family tae though?

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WJ: Oh aye, aye it was all one that...I mean there was two choices, take it or leave it! *[laughs]* Whatever she put on.

RM: So did the family eat at the same time as the bed and breakfast folk.

WJ: Oh well they would eat whenever she told them. Canny just remember that. Oh the bed and breakfast folk came first.

RM: They seven o'clock?

WJ: They came first?

RM: They were the important yins?

WJ: Oh I think actually they were maybe six o'clock I canny mind but, they were the important...they were the ones that was paying the money.

RM: It would be, but a bit earlier six o'clock?

WJ: And ye know I always remember there was...two families came, one o' them was the name o' Todd...Bruce Todd. You never mind o' Bruce Todd?

RM: Na, na.

WJ: Na, Bruce Todd came and he...his family, and another family, they all came together. And they came for two weeks, and my mother always said, 'God this is the worst two weeks o' my life,' because Bruce Todd's father was a doctor and they were all very particular, but she always said they were the most untidiest buggers in their bedrooms ever she seen! So anyway.

RM: So how many folk would that be?

WJ: Oh there was nine o' them.

RM: She was making meals for nine guests and she was making meals for nine...

WJ: Aye, nine o' a family.

RM: So she was making meals for about twenty folk?

WJ: Aye, twenty, oh aye.

RM: That's incredible. And what would she cook? It'd be yin meal, it'd be everybody ha'ein' the same thing?

WJ: Aye, she would cook...she would have a big roast, of whatever, and then she

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would hae...

RM: Tatties.

WJ: Aye, her main day would be tatties and mince, and everybody liked tatties and mince.

RM: But for the guests, they would want a cheyng the next night would they no?

WJ: Oh aye, it was a change every night but, how she did it...

RM: But the [whole] lot o' youse, the family and the guests a' got the same thing?

WJ: Oh the family had tae tak the same.

RM: Aye aye, there nae question about that.

WJ: You know Bobby, it was rough days, and it was tough days, mm hmm. My family don't know they're living now, compared wi' what my mother did, uh huh.

RM: She worked Twenty-four/seven?

WJ: Aye, mm hmm she did. She was a hardy bugger. No wonder she liked the brandy, and she did like a brandy!

RM: She retired a bit mair when the caravan site picked up, she got a bit more time to...I mean when youse [folks'd a'] left...

WJ: Aye by that time my father took a stroke, so...

RM: Aye, that was later on, and he wasny working so much efter that.

WJ: Na, na.

RM: And the caravan site had picked up, and that's...

WJ: But you know I always remember very clearly and I will remember about my family is, George may be what he was but he did get my mother out to Australia.

RM: Oh very good.

WJ: Twice over, to meet up wi' Wiley, when he lived out there, and I think that was wonderful for her. I'll never do that, but she did.

RM: You said it was tough days but, you seemed tae enjoy it at the same time?

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WJ: Oh aye, it was just life.

RM: It was never questioned it?

WJ: No, na.

RM: And she did a' that work for a' thae guests.

WJ: Aye.

RM: In the summertime.

WJ: Aye.

RM: She must o' started about six in the morning and...?

WJ: Aye, but she had me oot my bed tae and...ocht aye, I got on very well wi' my mother.

RM: Uh huh.

WJ: It was just...

RM: And then eventually she'd gie that up at a certain time, aye.

WJ: Oh she'd tae gie that up, aye. So ye wanted me tae ta'k about my ain life, and so...

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