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| Interviewee: Greta Hawthorne (GH) | Interviewer: Julia Muir Watt (JMW) |
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JMW: To start with can you just tell me about your family and where you were born?

GH: Yes, I was born at Claymoddie Farm. My grandfather and grandmother and my mother were there and they worked on the farm. My sister was born there as well, she was older than me. We just played about in the woods and gathered sticks in the summertime to keep the winter fuel going. Then we...the school, we walked to the school which was about three miles and in the winter time we had wur school bag, wur gasmask and we had another shopping bag and we brought two logs in it to keep the fires burning at the school.

JMW: Right.

GH: And if your clothes was wet they were put round the guard at the fire and the smell that came off them was something atrocious and yer shoes were put there to dry and you had sandshoes left in the school, to keep your feet dry.

JMW: Did every child bring fuel to the school?

GH: Not the town ones just the country ones.

JMW: Right, right.

GH: Because they were big log fires, they were put on at three o'clock in the morning, the janitor and his wife were there and they did the cleaning.

JMW: So how old were you when you were doing that? When you were walking in?

GH: Five.

JMW: Five.

GH: Five year old. We started the school at five, sometimes you could hang tae six but I think wi us being in the country we were ready for the school at five, to get company. My sister and I used tae walk and sometimes we used to get a cousin on the road but usually her mother took her on the back of the bike but we hadnae bikes in those days but we did eventually get old bikes and rigged them up and came to school that way. The teachers were very nice, we took a packed lunch, whit was a jeely piece, and we had friends in the town and we walked up to them and they gave us tea at lunchtime. There was hot cocoa if you wanted it but we just went and had wur tea and then we had a heat at the fire and then we got cold again on the way back down. We had...we got out the school at four o'clock but in the winter time we got out at three o'clock so that we were home before it was dark because there was double summer time and double winter time in those days.

JMW: Right.

GH: It was earlier dark for the people walking home.

JMW: So you were in a cottage at Claymoddie were you?

GH: We were in half of the...we were in the farmhouse in those days.

JMW: The farmhouse?

GH: Yes, we lived in the farmhouse.

JMW: Right.

GH: And the farmer was Mr John Nicolson which his grandson's in the farm still, at the moment, and we used to get benefits, that was added on to their pay. Their pay was never very big but they added on benefits. Ye got a ton of coal, and we had a huge big coal shed that was through from the kitchen, you went up three steps intae it. And we had a great big range wi' two huge ovens, which didnae work, but never mind. We dried the kindlin' off in there, they were warm enough jist tae dae that.

JMW: So, were you living with the family?

GH: Yes.

JMW: Right.

GH: We stayed with our grandparents.

JMW: Right.

GH: And my mother staid there as well. Then they got this benefit and you got coal, potatoes and every three months you got a sack with flour and oatmeal and the meal, that stayed in the kitchen.

JMW: Right.

GH: And that was into yer benefit, into your pay as well.

JMW: And so what kind of work did your parents do on the farm?

GH: Ploughing with horse and my grandmother worked out in the fields.

JMW: Right.

GH: Backweeding turnips, shawing turnips, shawing mangel, they worked the whole year round. And there were potato diggers came and...they came from Ireland and they stayed in which we called the bothies but they were just shed places but they were always cleaned out before they came. And they had [turnip?] boxes and they turned them different ways so that it made them into beds or wee drawers and they filled their sacks with straw or the chaff that came from when the mill was there, it was always saved for them. And they had the big range, there was always a cook there, and they used to put the turnips into the horse trough that had been cleaned out and they just swilled them round with a stick to get the skins off them because they were always just newly dug and we used to gaun and help them, making jellies and putting names on them. They always left a note of what they wanted for their dinner at night.

JMW: There's a row of cottages back there somewhere that I think's called the Beggars' Row, do you remember that?

GH: Yes, they're up at Glasserton Mains. Mrs [Mc?] used to live there when she was younger and there were three families up there and there used to be a lot of acorns, trees, and they used to go up and get them for Halloween time.

JWM: Right.

GH: Mrs Hall use to live at Glasserton Mains, itself, and Mrs Macaulay's parents worked there for a long time in a place that looks like a...you'd think it was like a churchy, cathedral place, they always called it something else and there were three families stayed there where Mrs Hall stayed. And the Admiral stayed in the big house at Glasserton and that was Mr Johnston Stewart's now, his grandfather, and it was a beautiful big house, it had terraces into the gardens and we used to have wur Sunday School picnics there. But when we came up from Claymoddie it was an old road and ye had to go round by the laundry but on a Sunday we were allowed to pass the big house and he used to be standing at the front door saying 'Girls, you come this way for to go to the Sunday School, you don't go round by the laundry, ye'll get your feet dirty', and this.

JMW: Oh, right.

GH: Yes, he was a very nice gentleman and the lords and ladies went to the church at Glasserton and they had their own special seats, they go up the outside and the Johnston Stewarts were at one side and the maids were at the other side, that went up the outside steps. And nearly all the people that were in the houses were at the church, there was a big congregation, it was Mr...John Scoular's father was there and he was gassed during the First World War and he had...his throat...but ye could still make him out and he was really an excellent minister. He was the minister that christened us and he came to the house to do that if you wanted.

JMW: Right, right. So there'd be a lot of employment in the big house or big houses?

GH: Oh, yes, there was a lot and then there was Physgill, it was...I cannae remember the lady that used to be there, but they had maids there as well, there was a lot of maids worked in Glasserton big house. Margaret Hutton's mother-in-law used to work there and my grandmother's nieces used to work there, there was lots of employment there.

JMW: Did they live in...did they have rooms in the attics or...?

GH: There was down below, near enough, you would maybe call it the cellars but they were nice places.

JHM: Do you remember ever going in there?

GH: Yes, we were allowed in when we got wur picnic and we had...if it was not a very nice day we had wur tea in there but they were always very nice to us. I was really sorry when they pulled down Glasserton big house.

JHW: Yes.

GH: Glasserton big house was...the sale of the furniture and everything that was in it was the day that Lorna Hall was born, Mrs Hall's daughter was born that day, and there was lots of people there buying it. They had baths which looked like chairs, that was the baths that they had and the lawns were beautiful kept, they had gardeners there was well, and there used to be a horse out at the side of the house and it kept going round and round and round and that was it pumping the water.

JWM: Oh, really.

GH: That was the way that the water was pumped, with this horse, a big Clydesdale horse. And in the wood there was the cold place where the...when they were out shooting they had the pheasants and rabbits and whatever they got, and they were kept in there outside.

JWM: And do you ever remember fox hunting?

GH: Yes, they did fox hunting after the pheasant shooting was finished but they had always pheasant shootings there.

JWM: I've seen a picture of the fox hunt coming through Whithorn, I don't know if you ever remember that?

GH: Yes, well I don't remember that but I've seen the picture, yes. And the ladies visit to go to St Ninian's... near enough St Ninian's cave but they went down by the Glasserton Hill, which ye went through the woods and come to Glasserton Hill and then along one of the fields, down the road, or sometimes they went along the cliffs and they come down the Ladies' Steps, they were called the Ladies' Steps, and the ladies always went down there to do their swimming. And there's two wrecks o' boats there, I don't know what they're like now for I havenae been down that way for a long, long time, maybe the sand has buried them but ye can still see the big hold and everything, there were two boats sunk over there. And the ladies used to come into the town on their horses and there's a double fence just past Cathie Christie's, on that side of the road going out, and it was my mother's uncle that used to cut that for the ladies and that was the way that the horses came to keep them off the main road till they come nearly to Longhill and then they had to have a wee detour and then it went on nearly down to New England. There used to be a wee house at New England and it was my step-grandfather and grandmother that were in there and they had a great garden, showed a lot at the flower shows and things.

JMW: You probably remember a lot of people lived in the countryside as compared with nowadays.

GH: Oh yes, all the farm cottages were all occupied and there was a lot of children went to Glasserton School, we went to Whithorn School, but there was a lot of them went tae Glasserton School. But when Glasserton School closed they put a bus on so I was the lucky one that was still at the school and we got the bus at the Glasserton Lodge and we got in, we had that. But other than that we had bikes at the finish up.

JMW: So what sort of year would Glasserton School close?

GH: Oh, I just couldnae tell you that. Mrs Myles used to work there, but a teacher there, and I saw an article in the Free Press this week and was that a hundred years ago or seventy-five years ago? It could have been seventy-five years ago because, well, I'm seventy-eight this year, so it could have been maybe...maybe seventy years ago, I just don't know, I couldnae just tell ye when it closed. And Mr Bride, when Glasserton and the Isle churches joined thigither they sold the manse and Mr and Mrs Bride bought it, well Mr Bride was the first person to radio SOS an he was on the Titanic. And he was saved and he saved a wealthy lady and that's why they bought Glasserton Manse and they had a son and a daughter and they had a big white Samoyed dog and they used to grow bird seed in the field at the road end at Claymoddie, you know on the road up to the gardens now? But they'd always plenty potatoes because they'd potato workers come over from Ireland, as I say, from June until August and they just did all the digging and Mr [Forry?] was their manager that came over from Ireland

with them and there used to be a couple stayed in The Grapes, from Fife, that ordered where the potatoes were to go to and the lorries went in and they made staging with sleepers in those days so that they could just reverse the lorry on and wheel them on tae the lorry, the bags of potatoes, new potatoes.

JMW: And apart from your family were there other people working on the farm?

GH: Oh, yes, there were more women than men. There was...we were in the big house and there wis the Dodds family, ye know Billy Dodds, PC Dodds' grandfather and grandmother. When Billy Dodds' father was born his mother died and that was just during...beginning o the war so the granny came out to look after the other two girls that were there and they were at the farm and there was Sally Martin's mother and father-in-law were there as well and Margaret [Furieux's?] father and mother were there down in the road, halfway down the road, they were in a wee cottage there. But all the farm cottages were filled, it was the same at Kildale, all the farm cottages there were filled.

JMW: So, in a way there's been a migration from the country into the town because a lot of these people I know are living in Whithorn now.

GH: So, they are. And they had head gardeners and head gamekeepers and, for the sawmill, they had a sawmill, there was the head man for the sawmill.

JWM: That was at Glasserton?

GH: At Glasserton.

JWM: So, in Whithorn, do you remember many shops?

GH: Shops? Yes, there was one at the top of the town, about four doors, well it would be south o The Calcutta, that was Miss [McElwee's?] and she sold everything. You could get a bottle of paraffin tae a loaf or whatever else ye wanted, it was a good wee shop. Mrs Stewart made up a poem about it. And where the Williams girl lives, across the road near enough, her mother and her granny had the front room, that was a wee shop. And that big store as ye went up to go to the windmill stump, that was Mrs Jolly's store and she had a cart and a wee horse and she used to go round the country selling dishes or pots and pans or clothes pegs or reels. And then down below that was...well, there was The Calcutta and The Kelvin Grove and the Miss Torrances were in The Calcutta and Mrs Clenaghan was in The Kelvin Grove Bar and the Miss Torrances were spinster sisters and had the...the barrel o beer just sat through in the hallway, the lobby, and they could gae in wi a jam jar and get a jam jar full wi this beer, it jist trickled oot, it wis jist like water and then it was frothy stuff at the top. Across the road fae that was Mrs..., a wee sweetie shop, I'll maybe remember her name, and across the road from that again, there was one, where Bill Jolly lives and Winifred, that was Miss Bee's and then it was Mrs McGoughie's and then it shut down after Miss McGoughie died, Miss McGoughie. Miss Bee was a relation to the McWilliams on the Isle that had the shop on the Isle. And then there wis what they called The Lodging House and it...you know where the brick wall is?

JMW: Mm.

GH: Well, there was steps up to that house up there, that's where Mrs Chapman was born, in that house, but they called it The Lodging House. What they called it that name for I don't know. And farther down there was a wee lady before you go through the [port's mouth?]

that Mrs Jones, she made paper roses and she used to sit at the door and sing 'Paper roses, paper roses' and she'd always them in a basket and the house where Sonny Marshall was, the one that's painted, that was a pub, that was The Star Inn.

JMW: Right.

GH: And down the street a wee bit was Mr John Dodds and his brother and they had a market garden and they did wreaths and bridal bouquets and things like that. There was a...we called it the Honeymoon Villa, was before that, there was four flats in there, they were only a room and kitchen, but they called it Honeymoon Villa and Mrs McGeough used to take the rent for that and it was a shilling a week. She got hers free because she collected the money, it belonged to the Alves' that used to have a jewellers shop here and Mrs McGeough used to work there. Down a wee bit where the ironmonger's shop was, that was an electrician's business and then Alec McGhee came into that, he used to have it there. Across the road where the Carnahans, Mrs Carnahan lives, that was a grocer's shop, the Miss Ross' had that shop. Coming back down the street again, just before you come go the chapel, Miss Milligan used to sell paint in that house and then it was Camblay's, Mr Campbell was the head teacher at the school here and Mrs Findlay was the doctor's wife and they had...they started it off as a wool shop, that's how there's that big window and that was Camblay's wool shop, Ethel Murray used to work in there. Then there was what's the charity shop now, the Miss Ross' moved down in there and they had a nephew that repaired watches, through the back, you went through the entry to get that. But before that, where the chapel's built now was J B Little's workshop and store and it was just corrugated iron that was on the front and they had a wee side door that ye went in there and that's where they did quite a lot of the work there and kept their stuff for the plumbing. The post office and school house, well you used to could go to the dentist there, there wis two dentist came there, Mr Reid and Mr Kerr and they came on a Wednesday, one, one Wednesday and one the other, so it depended...I went...used to go to the...and they came to The Grapes and had their lunch. The Clydesdale Bank and then, where Mrs Hall lives, that used to be a hairdressers, Mr McAlister's that's how there's a big window there and then, through the side entrance, there used to be a bookies which is Mrs Hall's wee scullery place now, that was a bookies at one time. And there was a Costley's, the grocers shop, and what's the Galloway Store now used to be the hairdressers and when we were wee we used look in the windows to see because the ladies were sitting in this great big...we thought they were gaun away tae the moon and there were great things that come hangin down, I don't know what, but it was a hairdressers. And then there was the garage and it was Mr [Coyde?] that had the butchers shop there, Charlie [Coyde?] and he had it there for years. And where Galloway Store is that was Mr Drape's great-grandfather's first shop, for ironmongery. Then there was your bookshop, that was the butchers, Frank Jolly had that.

JMW: Mm, okay.

GH: Then it was a hairdressers an a hairdressers an a hairdressers and it was the Oratory for the children to go in, in the mornings, and if it was very bad to go up to the Mains because they'd only the Church at the Mains, it was a brick building and they had that at the Mains, there was quite a lot o weddings up there. Paul Soriani's mother and father's were there. Mrs Muir...Mrs Murray's father and mother were in the shop where...next door tae the butchers.

JMW: Where the dig is?

GH: No, after they left the dig they were up here, and then Mrs Vance from [...park?] had the wee shoe shop where the hairdressers was at one time, where Dolly had her hairdressers, Mrs Vance had that as a shoe shop. And then the Montgomery's fae Wigtown, they had a bakery, and they came in with the bakery every morning, and it was the bakery and then Dolly got it when it was sold to Ruby. Your first house, it used tae be a pub, and the wee one next door was Mrs Potts and then Mr Whiteford bought it when he sold the big shop tae the dig and bought the stuff in there and it was a wee shop at one time, your second house. And then the dig was Mr Little's, J B Little's shop and workshop and then Joe Whiteford bought it and they lived up the stairs and then Cameron bought the house and it was a paper shop. David Doughty had the fish shop, very popular fish shop. Across the street again and there wis, where the two flats are opposite nearly the war memorial, that wis another ironmongers, Douglas Gibson and Willie Gibson were in there, two brothers, but the brother lived further up the street where the plants are on the outside and trees on the outside that was where the other brother stayed. That was...and they had a saddlers shop through the back and Molly Heron's father used to be the saddler through there and they mended horse, whatever you needed for horses or for the farms or that. Mr Alexander's was the rent office and the solicitors office and where Mr Lowe, that was Mr Davidson's house and they sold paint from the house in there and where Mrs Watson stays, that was Martin's the shoe shop, and through the back, what'll be her kitchen, I think, now or her bedroom, that was where they repaired shoes and if you ordered a pair of shoes, you needed a pair of shoes today, you would get them in the morning, they were really very good and they had a band that they used to have together. They played wi...in the Douglas Orchestra, that was another butcher. Then, where Mrs McLean lives, there was a lady there used tae have a wee tearoom, in that front room, it was a wee tearoom and where Marjory is, that was another wee shoe repair shop, that was...she was Italian and she had one finger getting like mine, it always stuck up but she could sew the shoes and everything, it was a great wee place. Then there was Kinnear's shop and next door to Kinnear's was where [...view?] House is, that was Willie, well ye used to take bones to him, if you were making soup, you brought the bones intae him and they crushed them down and you got a peanut, a salted peanut, that was what yer pay was, a salted peanut for thur bones, Wullie Farrell was his name and his wife used to make clove toffee, that was Sarah McGuire's mother and Nurse Maguire's granny.

JMW: Right.

GH: Then there was Mr Alexander's house, he was the solicitor, and where Dave Brown has his house and shop, that was Miss Hughes' shop, Cathy Hughes', and you always got lovely console cakes and Fyffe bananas and ye can hardly get a Fyffe banana nowadays. You could get anything in Miss Hughes', it was a lovely wee shop but it was piled up wi boxes, she never put boxes oot, she kept them for somebody flittin. Then there was Miss Muir, where Elizabeth Anderson is, and her bed was at the window and the hens were sittin on the bed and they used tae lay in the bed and she used to come to The Grapes for her lunch, so we had to get her to come for her lunch at half past eleven in the morning so that we could get the perfume away. Then there was Mr Hannay's the chemists and then it was a florists shop that didn't really work either, the folks at Castlewigg had it but it didnae work. And then there was Jack Kilpatrick, the electricians, which he could have got ye a house tae a motor car tae anything, that was my brother-in-law.

JMW: Oh, right.

GH: And then Miss Hughes was next door, that used to be a pub as well, and Miss Hughes had that big house there and she had the whole of the garden right down tae the school and there was byres at the end o it and her father had cows and that, and his daughter-in-law used tae go down tae the fields wi the cans and milk the cows, even in the fields, and ye could see her coming up wi two luggies and she would just lay it in the grund and her man didnae bother. Where the Priory Antiques is, well that was just...there was three ladies in there, three Miss Kerrs, they were old ladies, they yist tae have a farm out at Palmallet. One of them was a nurse and one of them had been the housekeeper at home and I cannae remember what the other yin did, but when they fell oot o bed they used to phone me and there was one night she had fell oot the bed and they were in that wee room that's jist, it's jist really for a single bed in it, but the two o them slept in there and she'd fell oot in behind the door and the other one said 'Well, she's behind the door and I don't know how you're...' so I was coming oot at Drape's door, wi ma nightie and ma slippers and ma dressin goon, when big Willie Adams which was the local policeman then 'An where are ye going?' Ah says 'I'm gaun away to the Miss Kerrs, and they've fell oot o bed and one o them's behind the door.' So he came in and he was big and strong that he could push the door and then he tried tae get her, so we got her intae bed eventually. Ah says 'Yer an arm o the law tonight' (Laughter). An then where Mrs [Stoffitt?] is, that was a drapers shop, it was Brown and Charters at one time but it's changed that many names and then the wee shop, the wee place where her mother lives now, that was...Mrs Potts had that as a wee tearoom, it was a wee tearoom but ye could go in and get a cup o tea and then it was hairdresser's, Mrs Mitchell had it and Dorothy Wilmot had it and then we had the bank, Petrucci's café, then where the new place is that Mrs [Stoffitt's?] now is, that was the British Legion Hall at one time.

JMW: Really.

GH: And Mrs Wylie, the late Mrs Wylie, in the summer time or in the autumn, ye gathered rosehips and we used to gather them round the fields and that at Claymoddie and bring them in and we'd sixpence for them and we used to put them in wee bags that the grass seed or something had come into the farms and put them in there and they made rosehip syrup wi that. And Mr Doughty used to take in blackberries when they were ready and send them away. Then it wis a drapers shop as well at one time. And Mrs Kane was the folk that were the other shoe repair in Marjory's place, Bobby and Mary Kane. Where Jill has got her wee house, that was the hairdressers, Johnny Stewart's hairdressers and then it was Miss Christie had the paper shop and then Mrs Huxtable had it and Dorothy Wilmot had it for a boutique and then I don't know wha bought it after Dorothy, I couldnae tall ye.

JMW: The Davidsons had it at one point.

GH: Ah, so they had, that's right.

JMW: I think there was...was there a gun shop in there, very briefly, Eric Baird had a gun shop or something?

GH: Oh, did he?

JMW: But it was brief, I think.

GH: Yes, aye. And then Willie Templeton had it for a wee while. Then we had The Grapes, of course, and next door was Auntie Mary Cook and she kept lodgers, boarders, anybody that was working and all the girls fae the shop went across to her house every, eleven o'clock and

three o'clock for their three o'clock tea and she had a great big black range and she always had the kettle sitting on the hob and they could come in and make their own tea if they wanted. And then we had Mr Catterson who had the coal yard, he lived at number four, I think it would be or maybe it was six. And then we had Dent's the bakers, well it was a great bakery, they made everything that you could...and their fruit loaves were about this size and about that high and they were one and ninepence and ma sister and I used to come in on a Saturday and they were queued up nearly to The Grapes to get them. We were at different parts o the queue so we got two. Then round the corner there, where the Gibsons live, that was Mr Douglas the butchers, Willie Douglas and he played the drums in the band and his wife played the piano and they were sometime in wi the Martins as well, the Douglas Orchestra they called it, and Margaret Heron use tae sing wi them.

JMW: Right.

GH: Hae we been tae...just tae Johnny Stewart's the hairdressers?

JMW: Mm.

GH: And we've been tae next door, well next door was Betty McDowell's mother, which was Mrs Brawl and she used to keep boarders, she kept policemen or bank people, tellers or bank managers that hadnae got houses, she kept them, that was where they stayed, in there. And her big dining room and then Dr Brown used tae come over from Port William and he had his couch there and he used to consult in there.

JMW: Oh, really?

GH: Dr Brown's, Dr. Brown now's, father he used to come in there and she had a big long kitchen and there was a jewellers in there, in where the chemist is now, that was a jewellers shop and Mr Drape's has always been an ironmongers as long as I can remember and where Sonny Keith is that was Miss Hannay's shop, wee sweetie shop, and she had books and she'd had them in a glass case and ye paid twopence for tae have them a week and you just signed yer name in a book but whatever book ye had and when ye'd got it and she used tae make paper pokes like ice cream cones. Then there were two sisters there and there was a wee room through the back that she used to give the troops their tea on a Saturday.

JMW: Right.

GH: Betty Stewart used tae work there wi her for a wee while. Then across the road, well there was the nurses' station was there and the health clinic and they used tae gaun in and weigh the babies where Isobel Dodds is, that would be sixty-one, St John Street, that was the Health Clinic and ye went in and got yer dried milk there and had a cup o' tea and ye met aw the mothers or expectant mothers. And then there was Mrs Baxter's house, well Mr Baxter had his chemist shop there to begin wi and then he bought which is the chemist now when Betty sold it to them and Mrs Baxter used tae have a dentist that came there, every Thursday he came, Mr Morton, that was where I got ma first lot o teeth out, the top ones, and then ye sat...it was, she called it the surgery, it was where the shop was and ye just sat in her sittin room until he came tae get ye. Well, there was the library but where Joe Whiteford used tae stay there wis a girl had a hairdressers business in the room and then there's the library and Miss Henderson's house, well it wis Miss Henderson's father that built the library, she was a school teacher, ye'll have heard about her probably.

JMW: I have, yes.

GH: Well, that was her house. Then where Costcutters is Mr Drape used tae hiv that as a showroom for furniture but before that it wis a hairdressers. Is there no a photograph o the hairdressers pole doon there?

JMW: I can't think of one but I'll have to have a look through my collection.

GH: Aye, I think there should be. And then the Miss...that wis doon below, where Jamieson lives, the Miss Birchmond she used tae live there and Mr Birchmond and he did a lot o research in the graveyards and he gave me a copy of one of them and he did Glasserton, he did a lot of the graveyards. Where Pat Horman is that wis Jimmy Whannell's shop, there wis a wee shop there, and there wis The Railway an aw wis there, but there wis Willie Garroch used tae dae repairs, dressmaking and that where that old gentleman stays, there's two doors...doon below Stevie Kennedy.

JMW: Oh, yes, ok.

GH: That was Billy Garroch's an he used tae do repairs there. Then there was St John's gar-, well St John's Garage was the church, the Wee Free, and then it was Hutchison McKress and Mr and Mrs...don't know, used to be there. I see their son just died last week, they're no Plymouth Brethren but they dae preachin as well. Well, Allerton was a hairdressers where Billy Lyons stays, that was a hairdressers. And then there's The Black Hogg. We had a good railway station and the coal come in there and the food stuff, a lot there, the papers come in and the creamery, when the creamery shut and the railway closed that was when Whithorn finished because there was no work for anybody and ye used tae see the carts comin doon the street and the horses knew where they were goin, there wis a lot o work there.

JMW: And the creamery processed the milk and put it on the train or was there also butter and-

GH: No, they made cheese and butter.

JMW: They made cheese.

GH: Aye, they made cheese there and the whey went oot tae the pigs at the piggery and they did quite well wi their cheeses.

JMW: Sort of how many people would have been working at the creamery?

GH: There were loads, I just couldnae tell ye, but there must have been forty or more.

JMW: Men and women?

GH: Men and women, because they had rakes to rake the curd and things and they were just like rakes that ye would do in the field for the hay, they were wooden rakes.

JMW: And was that cheese sold in the town or was it shipped out, all of it?

GH: Well, it went tae bigger creameries and they sold it on. But ye could get it, the men were allowed tae buy, well it widna be very much in those days but it would be plenty if ye were buying it and ye could get the whey if ye wanted it, folk that had pigs could get it and ye used to see the horses and carts going up and doon wi the milk butts.

JMW: From the farms?

GH: From the farms, taking the milk in, summer and winter, hail, rain or shine. But there was a lot of activity at the station as well.

JMW: Yes.

GH: And there used to be the 'whoopie train' on a Saturday night that went tae Stranraer tae the dances, no that ah was ever there but everybody was. It was five shillings tae get tae Stranraer on the 'whoopie train' but that was...Beeching finished that.

JMW: Yes.

GH: But the troops used tae come in on it and the pilgrimage, when the pilgrimage was on, it used to come in on it and all the people in St John Street put notices on the door if they wanted to go to the dry toilets, they were there, and Billy's mother used tae have tea for anybody that wanted a cup o' tea, just on the way there and they would walk-

JMW: Had to walk.

GH: -fae there tae the glen.

JMW: And they were pretty large pilgrimages, weren't they?

GH: Oh, they were. They would be at Denton's and they would still be, they'd be still at Denton's and were nae through the [port's mouth?] end. There is pictures o them somewhere.

JMW: Yes.

GH: But they were big pilgrimages and then when the trains went off they came on buses and then the buses were parked at Physgill but there wasnae the car parking...that was the dam where the car park is now, that was a dam that worked the mill wheel in the steadings at Kidslaw.

JMW: Oh really?

GH: Uhuh.

JMW: Right.

GH: There wasnae that car park then but they used tae let them get intae the farmyard or up the road, or up at Physgill. But there used to be Land Girls at Physgill big house during the war.

JMW: Right.

GH: Katie Vallance's mother was a Land Girl.

JMW: So, you remember it presumably when there were more horses than cars?

GH: Oh yes, and bikes. But a lot of the farm work was done by horses.

JMW: Yes.

GH: And on a Sunday night ye yist tae have tae bring the horse harness intae the back kitchen and ye out papers on the floor and ye had tae polish them and Brasso them and Silvo them

for the Monday morning and that was done every weekend and there was maybe six horses, so we just did everybody's. Well, it was nice for them gaun oot in the morning.

JMW: So, presumably it was just a six day week or was it a six and a half day?

GH: They worked Saturday, they didnae get their pay tae Saturday lunchtime, the workers in those days, and then you saw the wives gaun away intae the toon to git the shoppin.

JMW: So, it would be a busy day [?]?

GH: Yes, Saturday was a busy day, the shops didnae close tae nine o'clock at night on a Saturday. Because the second hoose o the pictures went in then and then the first hoose was comin out, you see, so they had to do that.

JMW: And do you remember going to the cinema?

GH: Oh, yes, ninepence and one and three and two and six. That was when you were sitting up in the balcony but we were never in the balcony, we were in the ninepennies (laughter). And there used tae be a tent down at [Kitbourn?] where the first bungalow is and that was the cinema at one time. It belonged to show people and they used to show films in it and some of the wee-er yins used to wait till it got started and then they went underneath tae get in for nothing (laughter). They still did it in those days.

JMW: So that was before the cinema was built in King's Road, was it?

GH: Yes.

JMW: Right.

GH: And the shows used to come in and the circus used to come in to the field where the police houses are and there's a wee show boy, Paris something, that's buried up in the graveyard and it was jist a wee cairn o stones, he was only six months old. And there was just a wee cairn o stones and Miss Hughes and I used to go through, that's where I got all my information, was fae Miss Hughes, she wis great, Miss Hughes, she yist tae come in maybe about seven o'clock in the morning and if there was a royal wedding or anything to do wi royalty she was in to see the television then and she went away when they went away on their honeymoon. She showed me that wee grave where this wee person was buried and there were shows in at, they were up nearer John's end in the park then in these days and they come into The Grapes and they'd had a whole load o mackerel, somebody had gave to them and they didnae know what to do wi them. And when I was working in The Grapes then and I says 'I'll clean the mackerel for ye' and I took it away intae the kitchen and brought it back and I says to them...he says 'How much are ye wantin for that' and I says 'I don't want anything' I says 'I want ye tae find out...' and I took him up the graveyard the next day to show him this and they put up a wee headstone for the wee yin. So I planted lilies at one time and they're nice and they're getting more and more and more every time. So when they were eighty I put on a nice wee spray of flowers.

JMW: So, at school, was there quite tough discipline?

GH: Oh yes, ye had tae bow to the teachers when ye met them on the street and the boys had to salute. And they were Miss, they werenae by first names. But they were very good, there was a lot of people well educated...it was a senior secondary and then you went on tae the Ewart, and we've had doctors and dentists and solicitors, Alec [Castle?] was one of them

and Johnny Stewart's son, he used to make up the exams for the Ewart, when he was at the Ewart himself, he used tae make up the exams for some o them at the Ewart. But ye respected yer teachers.

JMW: Yes, yes. And was there much in the way of physical discipline if they had to?

GH: Well, the strap was there and then ye were put out in the lobby and if the headmaster got ye there that was another belt ye got so-.

JMW: Were you aware of people who were quite poor at home, that didn't have a lot?

GH: Yes, aye, ye knew that. Ye knew even wi their schoolbags or their schoolbooks that they were never covered cos, no even wi wallpaper, because they said that you could cover...it was usually brown paper, but they said ye could cover them wi anything. But there was quite a lot o that and we had a girl in oor class that was always late, every day of the week and we knew that she would be comin but she always come at the same time but it was maybe about three quarters o an hour later and she used tae sing at night in the streets, Cathy Garroch wis her name. I think she has jist been back once since she went away, but she seemed to be getting on, the first time that she ever was back, and she was getting on fine in Glasgow. And we used to get food parcels from Australia.

JMW: Right.

GH: To the school and there was one for each classroom and there were big tins o fruit salad, fruit, mixed fruit and the teacher would put everybody's name in tae get one an ah won this tin of fruit and I gave them to Cathie Garroch, cause I knew that she wouldnae hae that kinna fruit, well, we were lucky at the farm, we always got apples an pears and we could get them at Glasserton Gardens for there was gardeners up at Glasserton Gardens and ye could go up and buy them at any time. So, oh she was that delighted wi this fruit, I think she ate it morning, noon and night. But it was a wee change for her tae, wasn't it? We were lucky at the farm because ye could always get rabbits or hares or pigeons or something that ye never really were hungry.

JMW: Even during the war when there was rationing?

GH: No. And when the butcher or the grocer came we were about last in line, they had delivery vans round once or twice a week, and the grocer, it was Corson's the grocer and it was butcher was Charlie [Coyde?] and if he'd something left, extra, ye got it a wee bit cheaper suppose it was even a pound o sausages, ye always got that wee bit extra. And my mother used tae...Kinnear's had a man that came round wi his pack but he came fae Kinnear's shop and they had khaki wool and he asked ma mother if she would knit socks for the soldiers so ma sister and I, we knitted them up tae ye come tae the heel, and then ma mother would turn the heel and she would get it shaped, and then we would knit the rest and she got a shilling for a pair of socks but if we had ten pair that was ten shillings and it was a lot o money in these days. So he used to come every so often wi this wool and we would knit up the socks for the troops. Or wee comforters, they were just like a wee bib wi a bit roond the neck, cause we were taught tae knit.

JMW: Yes, I'm sure.

GH: Aye, and sew and things like that and darn the stockings.

JMW: Were a lot of thing, presumably, would be mended at home which are now bought?

GH: Bought, uhuh. And we made rag mats and things like that, there was really never anything wasted because we had hens as well which we got the scraps for the hens and ye got the eggs and ma granny used tae milk a cow and ye got the milk for that and we used to love when it was jist fresh, new, and it was hot and ye had a moustache, ye had a mug tae drink it oot and ye had a moustache wi this cow's milk.

JMW: And on Sundays, presumably you had Sunday best, did you?

GH: Oh yes, well we went tae church and when ye come back ye changed it. We went tae the church and then tae the Sunday School and then that wis you, and we had to have a hat on, ye couldnae go to the church without a hat on or a wee beret or something. And ye couldnae go wi bare sleeves, ye had tae have a cardigan if it was the summer time.

JMW: And what about children's entertainments, what did you do in regard to play?

GH: Well, there was four, there was another, there was Mary and Margaret Dodds and there was four girls and we used to play skippy and rounders and play wi the ball up against the wall and things but we went down tae [Coonin?] shore when it was dry every day we used tae walk round the cliffs tae Physgill, tae the glen and went down and we used tae light a fire which went right up through the rocks and there was a hole at the top, you'd have thought it was a chimney, and we used to put big ones on and then we went back at night and it was still burnin but ye cannae get near it now cos o the rubbish that's there and the sloe bushes have grew up.

JMW: Yes.

GH: But we had plenty entertainment and when ye werenae playing ye were away at the woods, if it was dry, bringing kindlers and [?] and then different lengths o sticks if ye found a bit broken, ye brought it home for fire wood.

JMW: And did you make quite good friends with the children in the town?

GH: When we came? Uhuh. But then we never knew them, we were never at the Guides or the Brownies because it meant that you'd have tae come in at night or walk home and then it's dark. But we soon made wur friends in the town.

JMW: And later on, you worked at The Grapes?

GH: Yes, I left the school on the Friday and started working on the Monday.

JMW: At The Grapes?

GH: At The Grapes.

JMW: And how old were you then?

GH: I was fourteen when I left the school and we cycled in from Claymoddie an ye started at seven in the morning tae three and two tae ten at night but ye always needed a lamp on yer bike. And they were the carbide lamps in those days, that it was the water that tricked doon and kept the flame going. Sometimes ah got it lit and sometimes ah didnae, it was the owls that scared ye and the bats, going up the Glasserton Road, there was always owls darting about someplace.

JMW: And so your job was-?

GH: Well, ah started, ma first job wis washin the breakfast dishes and then getting the vegetables ready for the soup and helpin tae make beds, doin washing, well we had a big washing machine and ye had lines o washin because we had travellers fae Monday night tae Friday morning and maybe they were only in one night and ye had the iron on the table and then Mr Kirk got a rotary iron and ye could do the sheets better that way. Then I got promotion, I was up the stairs and down the stairs and well, ye'd always three fires tae light in the morning and fill the Aga cookers, and the big kettle was always sitting on the side that it was near enough warm and then ye put the big pan on and started tae get the breakfast ready and serve in the dining room and did the Hooverin and cleanin and cleanin the bars and things like that. But Mr and Mrs Kirk were the best people ever ye could work tae and he could dae anything, he could have did any...baking or anything at all and then if there was somebody comin intae another room that needed an extra bed in it, he would shout at me for to go up and help him. Ah says 'Ah think ah'm Angus Macdonald' which used tae be the furniture removers in these days. But they were really great tae work tae.

JMW: And how long did they have The Grapes?

GH: They had it about twelve years, I would be the eight years there, it was sold...we had wur weddin there and it was the new owners took over on the Monday after we got married on the Friday but ah wis stayin on wi them and George Kirk would be two then, George that was married to Aileen Findlay and he still...if I meet him anywhere, he still comes and has a crack about it, ye ken, he remembers.

JMW: I'm sure.

GH: And he wis called for his uncle who was a pilot and if he heard an aeroplane go past him and I had to go out the back and wave because that was his Uncle George, every plane that went by was his Uncle George (laughter). But they had lots o weddings, we had the Maguire double wedding and we had Elsie Muir's two sisters married, they married folk fae the camp. And Burrow Camp was the great thing to the town and Galloway House was a military hospital during the war for some folk, maybe recuperating, and they brought them in on buses and some o them from America, they had their blue tunics and everything on. And ye felt that sorry for them trying to get oot o buses and things. Billy was in the hospital at Galloway Hoose for six weeks because they thought he, he thought he was taking chickenpox or something and he telt them and so they sent him there for convalescence, he was at his mother's every day.

JMW: So, was he in the Forces?

GH: Yes, he was in the King's Own Scottish Borders. He left the school at fourteen and started in Mr Drape's an he was called up tae go to the Army an that wis him away fae Mr Drape's an then when he came home he went tae Sybil's which was his cousin up at Howden and then he went tae the [Dowey's?] which was...he was born at the [Dowey's?]

JMW: Was he?

GH: Uhuh, and Isobel and Margaret, they were born at the [Dowey's?] and they used tae have tae come up the road tae the school in the governess car, as they talked about, horse and cart. Of course it was, or come up on the top of the dykes because there was that much

water. Aye, he was in the King's Own Scottish Borderers and then he went back tae Mr Drapes so he was really Mr Drapes fae the school till he retired, except the Army years.

JMW: So he would remember it when it was a very important business in the town.

GH: Oh, yes, he used to mend some of the binder canvases because there was no big machinery in those days. I've still got his wee hammer that he used for...and it's a great wee hammer, it's no a very big hammer but it's jist a great wee thing that used to sort the binders. They had to put the wood on the canvases and he used to work late at nights tae get them done.

JMW: There would be quite a few employed at Drapes would there?

GH: Well, there was the Grandpa Drape, Mr Drape, Billy, Molly. Mrs Greenhorn wis there and did the books but before that it was Miss...she was an elderly lady and when she died, she really hadnae anything, and when she died it was the funeral that was the big worry because she hadnae had insurances so the Drapes seen tae everything and got it away. So he said 'It's a shame that ye dinnae get insurances so he insured Billy, later in life, for when anything ever did happen tae him.

JMW: And do you remember a saddler working at Drapes?

GH: Aye, Mr Bendle was the old saddler that was there. His son used to be the postman, Jimmy Bendle. Ay he had a saddler there and Robert, Molly Heron's father was the saddler at Gibson's.

JMW: And on a Saturday, I remember that Ian Drape told me it was a busy day when farmers came in to Drapes shop.

GH: Aye, well, they came in to pay the wages oot o the bank.

JMW: Right.

GH: An wee Andrae Black, ye'll hae seen photos o him at the pend. 'Good morning Mr Brown or Mr Black of Mr Green' and he got a sixpence and the farmers' wives used to come into Drapes...into The Grapes, and they had morning coffee, maybe we had twelve this week and maybe we had thirty-two next week, it just depended if they had visitors or anything and they always come in. But it was a busy time, a Saturday, well they didnae close tae nine. Because if the farm women hadnae had their pay, they would have tae come in on a Saturday afternoon or evening maybe when the men were there tae see the children to come in and get their shopping on their bikes.

JMW: So I suppose one of the differences is how much employment there was?

GH: Oh, there was a lot of employment. There was hardly anybody that wisnae employed and there was as many women worked at Claymoddie as what there was men, cause they were either thinning turnips or backweeding turnips or shawing turnips or picking turnips. And then they put...when the mills came in, you see the mills were in nearly once a month, May Smith's father was the mill man, he had an engine that worked wi coal and then he had the thrashing mill and then he had the wee carriage at the end of it which was, they could stay overnight in it and it'd two bunks in it and they used to be lots o people that came extra to get the mill because there had to be two women up on the top o the mill cutting the bunches and givin them tae a man that put them in the thrasher and then when it came oot

there was caff, well they had tae be put in bags and took away and then the corn had tae be put in bags and took away and then ye had tae get the straw, an it wis put in different places, jist for bedding doon for the beasts.

JMW: So was Claymoddie, there wasn't dairying there, or was there?

GH: Not then, we had no electricity at Claymoddie until about two years before we left and then they put a dairy on and we had electricity and I can remember the first eight cows ever that came in, we all wanted tae go and help, tae see, hoo tae get the milk wi this new machine. And there was a lot o workmen there then, there wis Callaghan and...Myles Callaghan, and them were building and there was electricians and there was quite a lot done and they used tae want hot water for their...make their tea so we always took, my sister and I, always took the water doon in a big can and we got a penny for every cop and we put it intae a jar and we had this great big jar o pennies and we thought we were rich wi this jar o pennies, I'll tell ye.

JMW: And so, you remember the town before it had electricity in the houses, do you?

GH: No, no as far back as that, no. Some o them hadnae, they'd still just oil lamps, we had oil lamps at Claymoddie but we had tae have the blackouts up on every window, there had tae be frames made for them, to put them up. And I remember the night that Clydebank got bombed, ye could hear the drones o the planes gaun across and there wis a bomb was dropped at, near the [Dowey's?] and different places where they were just dropping them here, there, and thinking that they were gonna get something. But ye could hear the drones and the auld lady, auld Mary Dodds, there wis a close between us and them and here she was, coming doon wi this like lamp, and she come tae the back door and my mother says 'You shouldnae be oot wi that lamp, they'll see the light and they'll bomb us tae' ye ken', I don't know whether they wid or no. But we brought her in, she wis terrified when she'd heard them.

JMW: And do you remember the Home Guard in Whithorn?

GH: Yes, the Home Guard used tae come up tae Claymoddie in three buses on a Sunday.

JMW: Right.

GH: And they walked, they marched tae [Coonin?] shore and where the boathouse was they put a big screen up and they practiced tae that and they were there the whole day on a Sunday and we had a great time on a Sunday being bus drivers and conductresses and pressing bells and playing in the buses but aye, I've got a photograph I think o some o them.

JMW: And there would presumably be an Air Raid Warden would there? In the town?

GH: I don't know who the Air Raid Warden would be, though.

JMW: Did somebody check the blackout was being observed?

GH: Well, the police were supposed to do it, but the police were on bikes in those days.

JMW: Yes, yes.

GH: Alec Kirk used to be a policeman. Bill Howlett, we knew the policemen in those days when they were staying in the town-

JMW: of course, yes.

GH: -but ye dinnae know them now.

JMW: No. And the town council, presumably did they meet-?

GH: In the Town Hall, in the old Town Hall, uhuh.

JMW: Yes.

GH: That's the worst thing that ever happened, wis the Town Council finishing.

JMW: And was there still a Court that sat?

GH: Yes, and Mr Alexander and Miss Hill worked wi Mr Alexander and there wis [Aikey Dodds?] there was a lot o auld worthies in Whithorn and he had been urinating in the street and this policeman had got him and he was at the Court and Miss Hill was reading oot a his offences that he'd had...and a the dates and a the this, that and the next thing, so he was fined ten shillings so he stood up an he says 'Thanks, ma lord, bit hoo does Miss Hill ken a these things? She must hae an awfy guid memory?' (Laughter) He didnae ken that she wis readin it off a piece o paper.

JMW: And was there still a jail operating when you can remember it?

GH: No, no here. No, In Wigtown there would be one, but no here.

JMW: In Wigtown.

GH: Cannae remember the jail, anybody being in there.

JMW: It's probably before your time, I think Jenny Jolly remembers.

GH: Aye she will, aye, she's that wee bit older than me. Or Mrs McLean maybe. But Jenny wisnae always in Whithorn, she wis in Ireland for a long time.

JMW: And do you remember gypsies or tinkers coming round?

GH: Mm, and the tramps, there was quite a lot o tramps.

JMW: Some of them were famous, weren't they?

GH: Oh yes, aye, Snib Scott was a great man. He used to come up to ma granny's and he would say 'Oh a hae nae had a bite for sae mony days' and she would gie him a scone an a the rest o it. 'And ah'll dae yer gairden for ye' and when she had it and away he went and she shouts...Johnny was his name but we caed him Snib...' Johnny, yer no gonnae dae ma gairden'. 'Well' he says 'a hungry man cannae work an a fu man he's nae need tae work.' (Laughter). So that was his answer.

JMW: So who were some of the characters that were in the town?

GH: Well, there was Sonny and Muggy Gill which lived doon King's Road and she used tae go roond the farms wi a case wi purns and needles and pins and elastic, and some stuff wis jist rubbish, and her husband yist tae come doon the street and he took this wee turribee doon...they lived in a wee alleyway doon the row and there wis wee Andrae Black and there wis Connon, somebody Connon, was another auld man. There was a lot o worthies and they used tae stand there at the Rent Office, well at The Grapes corner, but och there's nane o them nooadays.

JMW: And I guess before the Welfare State people had to get a poor rate or something, if they didn't?-

GH: Well, ye had tae work if...and ten shillings wis the first pension, I think, that anybody got. But ye see they were workin, nooadays they'll no work because they don't need tae but then ye had tae work if ye were wantin money and everybody was looking for a job. And there used tae be men that had their lengths to do wi the council, tae cut, scythe the roadsides and cut the tables tae let the water away. That you had a length maybe fae Whithorn tae Garlieston and another person had the other side of the road to do but if it wasnae being done, well they knew who was supposed tae be doing it, and they cut that length of the hedge as well, cut the grass, cut the hedge and cut the water tables.

JMW: So, do you see a lot of change in the wild life that's around? Do you see less of animals, birds and so on?

GH: Well, I've never heard the cuckoo for years and there use to always be a cuckoo up in the manse woods up there and every morning at five o'clock and every night at five o'clock you could hear the cuckoo. But I havnae seen sae many swallows this year yet.

JMW: No, no.

GH: But there's plenty o sparrows in the morning.

JMW: And what about wild flowers, I suppose with cultivation being less intense-?

GH: Well, there's no sae many wild flowers and then ye see they top the grass which takes the seed away. But the hedgerows are still quite nice.

JMW: And do you remember smiddies in Whithorn?

GH: Yes, there was one at the keep left, that was a school at one time.

JMW: Right.

GH: And there was a school in Glasserton Street and that was Kelly's Garage at one time, there was a garage up there. And where the waste ground is, it used to be the bus station in Glasserton Street. And then Hendersons took over, that sorted tractors and farm machinery and stuff, they were in Glasserton Street. And Ben bought the old school and that was at the keep left and he had his first smiddy there and then he went to the one that's, where we still call it 'the smiddy' but it's no a smiddy any more. And there was gas works down King's Road where Bertie Beaggie stays and there was a carpet factory on the opposite side of where the old fire station is.

JMW: Right.

GH: Because Beatrice Dunning's mother used tae work there, that was how her father and mother met, she was at the carpet factory. And the fire station used to be down King's Road and there used tae be a slaughterhouse doon there as if yer going to the burn, just doon past the side o the fire station.

JMW: And was that used by the local butchers?

GH: Yes.

JMW: And were smiddies a bit of a sort of gathering place for people?

GH: Oh, yes, farmers and horses. And there was a smiddy at Glasserton which was Mrs Hawkins, John Hawkins had the smiddy and we used tae walk fae Claymoddie through, up the drive and then through what we ca'd 'the coomlin' which was the name of a field and go every week there and you got a gallon of paraffin for tae keep the paraffin heaters or...because we had a paraffin stove wi an oven in the top o it and that what's ma grandmother did all her baking in, was the paraffin stove. And we used tae pump the fire glow for tae make the shiners and that for Mr Hawkins. And Katy used tae live 24 The Park, I used to go roond tae Katy's a lot and see tae her, get her pensions and things like that.

JMW: And was John Wilson's family at Glasserton?

GH: Yes, they were the joiners and the joiners shop was where [?] Kerr has his house now, and then Mrs Hawkins lived next door and Mr and Mrs Roger lived on the other side on that same side o the street. On the opposite side, John Wilson's uncle wis in the single house that looks like a bungalow type where Margaret Hutton's son is and then there's three houses there that's all into one. He was wounded during the war and had an arm off, lived there wi his mother and Mrs Macaulay's father and mother used tae stay there, Sarah Macaulay and somebody else lived there, I cannae remember, Johnny Trew, an old gentleman, auld Johnny Trew. And up at the sawmill cottages there was a family in there as well and at the Butler's Lodge, that was where my mother's uncle and aunt used tae stay. And then it was burned doon, as ye ken, wi them that burned it. And Henry Hall lived at where the sawmill wis at Glasserton, on the farm there. And old Mr and Mrs Johnston lived at the lodge where Cathy Miller stays now, they were an elderly gentleman.

JMW: Was that always a slated roof, when you remember it?

GH: Yes.

JMW: Because I've seen very old pictures of when it was thatched.

GH: Thatched, aye. There were two at some sale and I phoned Cathy to say I had seen them and I bought them for her. It must have been something at the [?] I think. Aye, it was thatched at one time, old Mr and Mrs Johnston used to stay there. They were at...they are related tae Elsie [?] on the Isle.

JMW: And so you remember the impact that the troops had on Whithorn during the War?

GH: Oh, they did, yes.

JMW: Were there quite a few romances between-?

GH: Oh plenty, there was a lot o people got married fae the troops. Elsie had two sisters got married, they had a double wedding, and there was a lot of romances and then the RAF were in Glasserton big house.

JMW: Right.

GH: That's where Mrs Wilmot's husband was. And there was quite a lot o the RAF were there. And the day that Burrow Head closed they invited Whithorn school children and the Isle school children to a fete day up at Burrow Head and they came in in their trucks and took us up there and ye were there fae nine o' clock in the morning tae about six at night and what a

great sports day we had. And they had scones wi treacle and ye had tae try an eat them off this pole so ye were covered in treacle but never mind, it was a great day. Bit there was never any bother wi the troops. And then the dances were very busy then and ye could nearly feel the floor movin' when they were on it wi there big tackety boots on.

JMW: And do you remember much contact with the Isle of Whithorn? Was it a place you went to or was it fairly separate?

GH: Well, we went there for regatta days.

JMW: Right.

GH: And we went fae Claymoddie on the tractor and trailer fae Claymoddie tae Kildale tae Tonderghie and tae Burrow Head and doon the road that way and that's how we got to the, we were allowed to get the tractor and trailer, somebody drove us on, so that's when we had the contact there. It was the regatta days were big days, festival days.

JMW: Right. And was it from the Isle that Mr Doughty got his fish?

GH: No, he got it delivered, the same as what they did for the café. It was left at the door, well they were always up in the morning bit the café's was always left at the door. But probably he would get the salmon from Innerwell, for Innerwell was a fisheries, and that's where he would get his fresh salmon from.

JMW: And do you remember ever being down at Garlieston during the War and seeing the...anything to do with the Mulberry Harbour?

GH: Oh, we were always at the beach watchin at the Mulberry Harbour.

JMW: But you probably didn't know what was going on.

GH: No, we'd no idea what Mulberry Harbour was. We thought it was maybe a different colour (laughter). And then there's a concrete boat at...near Maxwell's o Cairnheads.

JMW: Yes. And when you were children were there specific jobs you had with farm work?

GH: We thinned turnips, what was it? Nine pence for a hundred yards or something? They were a big hundred yards I can tell ye and nae wunner ma knees are bad, ye went on a stone and ye went the wrong way. Well, it wis yer pocket money. And then we gathered brambles and brought them intae Davie Doughty, I think it was sixpence or something you got for them, for a pound or something. But that was a lot o' money and then we went for snowdrops in the winter time and we put them in a wee shoe box and ye maybe got a cheque back for ten shillings, that was a lot o' money.

JMW: And they went off by train?

GH: Train, they went in the train down tae London. And ye could put them on the train at night and they would be there in the morning. We used to gather them so that they were fresh and oh, they had to be perfect. And ye had tae put tissue paper in between them, damp, so that it would keep them fresh an a' the rest o' it.

JMW: It seems children had lots of little jobs that they could make a little bit of money.

GH: Oh, there was always plenty little jobs. Well ye could aye make a wee bit money. More in the summer time than the winter time when ye were thinning turnips and things like that. But then in the winter time ye got the snowdrops.

JMW: And do you remember holiday makers coming in to the area, whether Whithorn or the Isle of Whithorn or Port William?

GH: I remember holiday makers but we had evacuees stayed with us at Claymoddie because we had the big farm house ye see, we had a family of seven.

JMW: You had evacuees? Right.

GH: Aye, and they didnae sit in a chair like this, they climbed over the backs of them. Och, they were...loose as cuckoos. So it was the old laird that was roond the hooses tae see what accommodation ye would have for them. So I was aboot ready for the...dronin' in the tide, I think, so we had them a month and that was them away.

JMW: Do you think they liked the countryside?

GH: They liked it, they loved it, and they were always playing in the fields and that and ye couldnae get them in if it was raining because they wadnae be in the habit o being outside.

JMW: They came from inner Glasgow?

GH: The Glasgow area. And then Galloway big house had school children once a month for holidays and schoolin and it was a good industry for Whithorn and the Isle and Garlieston for workers, for cooks and maids cleaning up and doon dormitories. And they had their education in the morning and then they had more activities but it was still education to them and that was the time that the pilot ejected. Have ye seen pictures, I had pictures o that?

JMW: I don't think so.

GH: He wis ejected and the children were walking through the woods and here, they came on this man in the RAF uniform and they took him and he was in Garrick Hospital and so many years after he had been there ye still saw his photo and this was him still thanking the Garrick Hospital and the Galloway House children for what they had done for him because he hadnae a clue where he was. He would be still...I cannae remember what his name was, I should remember, I can see him tae. I'll hae a look and see if I can find that photo for ye.

JMH: And what year was that, roughly?

GH: Julia, my memory's going, I don't know. (Laughter) And then we had Johnny Logie that lived along in the cave off Cairndoon Bank, Cairndoon, and he went into hospital and I've got a photo of him lying in his bed wi his clothes still on and his bonnet. And he supplied The Grapes in the summer time wi vegetables, potatoes and carrots and turnips and he had a great garden and he had the water comin trickling down fae the rocks and he had a big sink, bath, and that was his water that he had tae cook wi and that. And he was spotlessly clean. And Mattie Lawrie had the grocers shop and he had a van that went round and he left Johnny Logie's messages or whatever at Cairndoon and he walked up the cliff side and got his messages every week.

JMW: I've heard of a few people living in caves. Do you remember anybody else?

GH: Him that ate weans.

JMW: Uhuh, that's Sawney Bean, yes.

GH: Sawney Bean (laughter).

JMW: I think I've heard of a woman living in a cave but that might be more Port William area or north.

GH: Aye, maybe. I don't know.

JMW: And did you ever travel as far as Newton Stewart or Stranraer when you were a child?

GH: We were...the furthest we were ever away was tae Wigtown Cattle Show once a year and we went on the train. And ma granny's parents and that are buried in the old graveyard near the church at Wigtown and she had a picnic and we had sheep shears to cut the grass and this wus wur yearly visit, we went on the train and we were loaded, between flowers and stuff for cutting the grave and something tae eat and everything. So we went up in the train and then we come back on the train and that was the furthest we had been for a long time.

JMW: So do you remember when you first went to Newton Stewart?

GH: No, but I remember the first time I was ever away and we hired Mrs Bell, the Bells that have the garage, they had a hiring business, the father and the mother, and Mrs Bell had a taxi and ma mother's uncle was in hospital in Dumfries. He'd got hurt at his work and it was blood poison and we hired Mrs Bell tae take us and I thought I was never gonnae get tae Dumfries and when I was at Dumfries I thought I'd never get back hame. (Laughter) And gaun intae hospital ye smelled the funny smells in these days, ye dinnae smell the smells in the hospital nowadays, maybe that's how there's sae much trouble in it now. But I thought I was miles away at Dumfries.

JMW: I suppose it was quite common for people not really to travel very far.

GH: No, no. Well, ye couldnae afford it.

JMW: And you perhaps didn't need to?

GH: No. Well, there was enough in the town. Ye could get anything ye wanted, whereas ye cannae even get the weans' school uniforms where ye could get that here. Gymslips and your white blouses and sand shoes, cause we had always a good shoe shop.

JMW: So if you look back on it, you feel you had a pretty happy-?

GH: Very happy life. I enjoyed it, everybody says 'Oh, I widnae gaun back'. Well I say now I'd rather be in the road oot than the road in now because we had a really happy time when we were at the farm and you'd always friend and ye'd always visitors, there was always somebody comin to visit or somebody. On a Sunday ye'd always some o' the farm workers, even fae Claymoddie used to come up and if we were sawing doon trees Martin [Lochhead's?] father used tae come up fae Kidstone wi the big saw and ye could get them aw done in a day and they were split and put in the shed and that was them for the winter.

JMW: So, if you had to say what's the biggest change you've seen, what would that be? In your lifetime.

GH: Too many folk unemployed and no wanting work. There's too many handouts because there's families wi five o' them in it and six in it and they've never struck a blow and they're better off than what we are. But we had a happy enough life, we never wanted for anything and there was always porridge when ye got oatmeal and ye'd plenty flour and there wis plenty o bacon. And there was nothing wasted whereas noo it's a throw away system. If a washing machine breaks down they cannae wash, that's another yin, cannae be repaired. No, I think it's a throw away system.

JMW: And if you had to predict the future what would you see for the future for Whithorn.

GH: The future for Whithorn? Well, ye had a lot o' neighbours and ye'd a lot of friends and you would never be hungry. If, say you were now comin home fae school, they would hardly take ye in for tae gie ye a piece, now. Whereas then, if they saw ye comin up the road or that, they would say 'C'mon in dochter' and gie ye a plate o soup or a plate o porridge but now they wouldnae, they wouldnae even gie ye a lift.

JMW: So you think there's been a change in sort of neighbourliness.

GH: There is a change in neighbourliness, I think, cause we were always in the habit o helpin somebody else. Because when the farm workers were workin at Claymoddie they always had their piece and their flasks, or if they forgot their flasks they always come intae...we had a great big kitchen and a great big range and they came in their in their lunchtime and the crack was something beyond control. If it wasnae fitba it was horse racing or it was something else but now, ye see, there's nane o' that, they wouldnae ask ye in. I'm sorry for Betty Stewart now, up there at the Crudens cause there's no a house there that she can gaun into since Molly [Hignet?] died, she felt she could have went in there but now she's naebody tae gaun intae. She doesnae even ken half o them, even in Isle Street cause there's that mony strangers in. And there's no the same community spirit, it's everybody for themselves, ah think. I don't think there's the same community.

JMW: And if you had a wish for Whithorn, what would it be.

GH: The old days, the good old days. And make do and mend. I'm sorry for the new generation that's comin on, I really am.

JMW: You have grandchildren who are quite young still.

GH: Yes, I've still one at...well, Mhairie is twelve now and I've got one at Newton Stewart that's eight and I really feel sorry for them. But Mharie's a great reader which I'm pleased at and she likes all sport and she's interested in baking. I've had her up at the table fae she had tae stand on the chair to make pancakes and I think that that...I've encouraged the ones that I've had tae see tae tae dae these kinna things and tidy up, put their washing intae the machine, if they're staying wi me, I'll say 'Put yer dirty washin in the machine' and she takes her cup through tae the kitchen. It's jist the way that Wendy's brought her up tae, of course. And she's fond o animals, she really is.

JMW: So, is there anything else that we haven't covered that you think we should have?

GH: Oh, I don't know.

JMW: We've covered a fair breadth of things but is there anything you'd like to say?

GH: Ah cannae think o aucht else. Tonderghie big house was a nice big house tae.

JMW: That will have changed a lot the way that big houses used to work and the number of people who worked at them?

GH: Yes, you see there was a lot of people worked between Physgill big house, Glasserton big house and Tonderghie big house and you see there was the castle at Castle [?], it got burned down and the one at [?] got burned. There was a lot of women got employment in these places.

JMW: Well, if you feel we've covered most things-.

GH: Well, I cannae think o onything else.

JMW: Well, that was great, so thank you.

GH: Was that what you were wanting?

JMW: Yes, thank you very much indeed.