

Interviewee: Cathy Doughty (CD)	Interviewer: Julia Muir Watt (JMW)
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JMW: This is Julia Muir Watt and I'm in Whithorn and I'm interviewing Mrs Cathy Doughty. So, you want to tell me a bit about Shorthorns and how you know about them?

CD: Well, I didnae know that much about them... I was born in Crivelton, in 1924, and we moved to the Cotts in May, 28th of May, term time. I was twenty-eight year there. In Whithorn, in Cotts. And my eldest brother worked a lot wi the Shorthorns, he left the school when he was young, cause, well, probably we needit the money, I don't know. But he got off, Marshall got him off to work at that time wi Pat MacDonal, come over Ireland, and my mother fed him him and everything and he stayed in the farmhouse on his own. And they worked wi these bulls. And these Shorthorns, they had boxes their own, each one had their own box, they suckled the cows when they were younger, and then they were fed the cows' milk, they only kept a cow for farm workers, they got a whatever milk they were to get every day. And these bulls were fed on the best, they were going to the shows, they were fed on eggs, and malt, they got everything they wanted. They were taken out for exercise every day, three men took two bulls each and they walked them out every day, brought them back, put them in. A lot o them went to the Argentine, they went there. And that's about it really, the ... I'll tell ye something, the bulls were better done to them than working folk!

JMW: Is that right? So you lived in a cottage there?

CD: We lived in a cottage, two rooms and a kitchen, there was nine of us altogether, that's counting my father and mother, there was seven of a family.

JMW: Goodness. That was quite a crush.

CD: That was a crush.

JMW: How did you all fit in?

CD: Well, ye just had what they called a settle bed, if you know what a settle bed is. Ye bring it down and ye put it into ... and ye fill it with chaff at the mill, when the mill come in, and you fillt it and ye were away up here, then by the time the mill come back again ye were doon on the bare boards!

JMW: And did any of you have to share a bed?

CD: Oh aye, we did, we had two beds in one room for the boys, and the younger ones, well, the younger ones would sleep in my mother's room and I would sleep in this settle bed...

JMW: So it was mainly your brother who worked with the bulls, was it?

CD: ...And my sister, of course, she was ten years older than me, and she moved out. My brother worked more wi the bulls, and I had another brother, Hugh, he helped wi the bulls and then he went to Crivelton and worked.

JMW: And was it the same owner for Colts and Crivelton?

CD: He had five farms. He had Crivelton, he'd Polmallet and Crivelton, Brownhill, the Colts, and Bridgebank in Stranraer.

[04.14]

JMW: And did you ever see him?

CD: Oh, aye, twice a week. First of all it was his father, he was Matthew, and then the other one was Bertie took it, Bertie. And Lord Lovat used to come down a lot, see these bulls, and likely buy some, I don't know.

JMW: What about your mother, did she have farm duties as well? [...]

CD: No, no. My mother just, she had plenty tae dae dealing with things, ken?

JMW: I do, I do. But I didn't know if there was any kind of milking or poultry or anything?

CD: No, no. She fed a lot o the workers. And Marshall brought masons to build a new byre, and they stayed in a cot each. And the people next door, they always had hens, my mother had to feed them, and they come up, they had to get their food. They said they couldnae get sleeping for these hens and the cockerel always crowing. So there ye are, it crowed early in the morning. So they didnae like that. And then they had one o the Marshalls, Charlie Marshall, had horses. He had trotters, you know the things, and he brought a jockey over from Ireland, Tommy Nod they called him, and he stayed in the farmhouse, by that time they'd got a manager in in the farmhouse, because Pat had to go somewhere else to help somebody, he went over to Polmallet or somewhere. And they had to get somebody else, this Mr Forsythe, they called the folk, and they kept the jockey. My brothers used to love it cause we'd take one of the horses out, ye see, down into a wee field, and he used to say ye can take such-and-such a one, but ye never saw me! So they used to take them out, and then Mrs Forsythe would say, some o these boys are gonna get killt on these horses! [Yer high step and things, you know.? 6.57]

JMW: And what about your father, what did he do?

CD: He was the estate joiner.

JMW: Oh, right.

CD: He looked after the five farms. Sometimes he'd tae go to Bridgebank, and he had a workshop in Crivelton, he cycled to Crivelton, every morning.

JMW: Really?

CD: Made carts and things like that, for the farm.

JMW: Did he make the wheels for the carts?

CD: Made the wheels too.

JMW: Goodness. And did you see him do that?

CD: Yes, we used to see him do that. Putting on the ribbon, there'd be rims on them and everything.

JMW: So you were allowed into his workshop to have a look?
[07.43]

CD: Well, we were a good bit away, because we were at the Colts there, but if he's sorting anything at the Colts we saw, we could watch him doing it. He had a joiner's shop at Crivelton, and he cycled back and forward there. And he hadnae a big pay in the week, I think it was eighteen shillings.

JMW: Eighteen shillings and nine to keep?

CD: Eighteen shillings, that was his wage. No big wages in those days. That was terrible. However. That was the wages and I suppose folk lived on it. Cause ye must remember, a loaf didnae cost a lot. Two or three pennies. And I can remember the coal was three and six a bag, then went up to three and nine, I can remember, I can hear my mother yet, saying 'That's an affa price for a bag of coal.' Know what they are now? Nearly fifteen pound!

JMW: Is that right? Gosh. I was going to say ten.

CD: No, fifteen, that's what the cost for coal...

JMW: So did your mother grow any vegetables or anything to help with the family diet?

CD: No, no. We hadnae a proper garden really, it was rough grass, we just played about on it. But we always had plenty, potatoes were grown in Crivelton and there'd put something, so many in, for my father, but us children had to go help to lift them. We didnae get paid, but we liftit my father's, and they lifted my father's, but we did a day's work for nothing, tae get these potatoes. We always got about twenty bags. And there was always carrots on the farms and things like that, you could get. There wis always plenty.

JMW: So what would a typical day's food have been, what did you have for breakfast?

CD: Well, there was porridge, or my mother always had fry in the morning, the boys were going out and they werenae coming back, some o them, til night, but she'd sandwiches to make up for their midday meal. My father liked a scone wi an egg in it. She always baked every day, fresh scones and there's always plenty to eat, she'd always a good oven to bake in.

JMW: Was it a coal fired oven then?

CD: It was a coal fire oven. The old fashioned swee?, you know, for the pans, put them on the kind o, hang them up. Big pans.

JMW: And what would you have had at lunch time?

CD: Soup, and potatoes, and whatever, and then there was always a meal at night. Always plenty to eat, the fish man came round, and the butchers came round, we had plenty of [?11.05ish], we had bakers... Ye had to buy your things, they came about twice or three times a week, but ye got your groceries, and ye got your butchers and your bakers and there's aye plenty coming round. There was aye plenty to eat in the house.

JMW: So she didn't really have to go out to the shops, she just had the shops come to her.

CD: The shops came to her mainly.
[11.41]

JMW: That was quite convenient.

CD: Aye, so it was. It was handy. They used to come in wi different bakers, different grocers. It was MacAulay's, Garrocks, and there was Costly's, and different ones came round. Some were the Cooperate, some were the [caught?] folk like the Cooperatey. They used tae come. And there was plenty of grocers, plenty of bakers. Bakers came from Newton Stewart. And he come round twice a week, so ye'd to buy your bread, and coorse it lastit ...And then Denton's startit and ye could go to Denton's, he came on a Monday night, and ye could buy your bread their if ye wantit. There was plenty o shops and plenty o grocers coming, plenty barns.

JMW: Yes, yes. So you tended to come into Whithorn rather than go to Garlieston, did you?

CD: We came to Whithorn for the better shops, really. Went tae... we liked Garlieston, Cults is halfway, ken, between Sorbie, Garlieston and Whithorn. My brothers, my elder ones started school at Garlieston, [REDACTED]

JMW: [REDACTED]. So you, being halfway between, did you come into Whithorn on foot, or ...

CD: We had to walk. Ye never got ony lifts in my day! There wernae a lot o cars. Wasnae a lot o people wi cars.
[15.20]

JMW: That's a good walk, from Cults, if you're a small child.

CD: Two and a half mile. Och, ye didnae mind, ye just had tae go, and that's it. Remeber once we decided we wouldnae go, it wis a wet morning, we'd pretend we had got our feet wet, we went back home and what did she do? She gave us sandshoes and a pair o clean socks and she says, just keep these on but when ye go to school pit these other things on. We didnae do it again, anyway!

JMW: And did your father have anyone working with him in the joiner's shop?

CD: No, just himself.

JMW: Just himself?

CD: Just himself.

JMW: Did he mend the buildings or was it mainly the machines?

CD: Just the machines, just the sorting the, anything wis to sort or mend on the farms.

JMW: So there'd be things like parts of the reapers or...

CD: Aye, sometimes they hid tae go and stay at Bridgebank.

JMW: Oh, really?

CD: We stayed wi people called Bank there, and sorted things there. That wis up Stranraer.

JMW: So what can you remember seeing him doing?

CD: Oh, I remember him daeing the carts, I remember he did lots o things. I cannae just mind it all, he had a bit of his own, away up in Crivelton, we wernae always there. Whiles he had tae go to some o the ither farms, depends what they wanted, and sort them...

JMW: And this would all be horse-drawn machinery, would it?

CD: Horse-drawn machinery. Oh aye. Plenty of horses. Tam Buchanan, Robert Golashin's uncle, did the horses, broke them in.

JMW: So did you know Robert's family, cause they were...

CD: I knew his father and mother, yes. Robert was an only wee boy. His mum died young.

JMW: Well, he's described to me a bit about Crivelton.

CD: Aye, Robert went to school there, he'd be a wee boy then. When he came here, course, they went tae Perth, and he come back from Perth and his mum died. Stayed wi his Aunt Bessie. So that wisnae yesterday.

[18.10]

JMW: No. And do you remember people coming from a long way away to look at the bulls?

CD: I remember a Lord Lovat coming and there used to be people about Castle Douglas, I cannae remember their name just now, they used to come, they knew when Mr Marshall was coming and they came and met him, and he showed them round. They'd ... Us kids could open up the bull boxes and went to where the bulls were, they never bothered us. But see the cows, aye, ye'd to watch them, they would go for ye.

JMW: And did the bulls get sold and go on the trains?

CD: They went... I don't know how they got, but they went on the trains to the shows, they had tae, they got a carriage, a special carriage tae go to the shows. And Paymaster was a great, it was a great bull. It would be the bull of all bulls, I think, Shorthorns. And there was one called Silver Wedding, it was white. I don't know why it got Silver Wedding, but Silver Wedding, it won prizes. But the men, my brother and some o the other ones, had to go to York or wherever the show was, go on the trains wi the bulls and look after them for a week, the shows on. They met King George the Sixth and his wife. And she spoke to them all, my brother had a wee bit o a stammer, and she said tae him, when she went up tae speak tae him, just take your time, because ye just speak like the king. So just take it easy and it'll come out easier. And then they went to the next boy and asked it to him and he's, well, very ill to hold and work with, but he says, they're nae bother at aa, he says, tae her. And she says, Oh, the Scot, how I love the Scots, she says, I do wish more people would speak it to me!

JMW: Oh really? Goodness. Gosh, those are great conversations to have had, aren't they? That's quite something. Yeah.

CD: So they were very nice.

JMW: Yes. That's amazing. And they had to lead them round the ring, presumably, to show them...

CD: They'd to take them round the ring, and different ones, he met the, well, the one who abdicated, he met him at the shows. Met a few o the royalty there, to see the bulls, and spoke to them. They were very nice.

JMW: And did your brothers have to dress for it?

CD: White coat, they had to get a white coat on.

JMW: White coat and a tie, did they have to wear?

CD: Ties, and white coat, and one o the times he went he'd a big case with him, and he says, ye think ye're going for a month! And he was a month there, some kind o trouble broke out when they were there, and they couldna get home, the beast had to stay, he had to stay with him. Stayed in a hotel. Cannae remember the name o the hotel in York, but I remember the people's name, Willie, something Willie. And he stayed wi them for a month, went and looked after his beast, and back and forwards. He got longer than he meant, he says, there ye are, he said, I was goin for a month and I was there a month!

[22.30]

JMW: So I suppose it was quite exciting for your brothers cause they could get away from daily routine, they could be away at the shows?

CD: That's right, away for... Mind you, it wis work, you had tae feed them and look after them. It was nice when they won, they got to first prize, the champion o champions whiles. All ribbons. There used to be a lot o ribbons but oh, they'll be away now. After Marshall sold up, different

people took over the farm. Edgars took over the Cults then. They were the first.

JMW: So what happened when Marshalls gave up, did your father lose his job, or was he retirement age?

CD: He was retired then, and my brothers were mainly married and away, so ... and there was just wirselves. And well, my eldest brother was still there, he wasnae married, he worked wi the Edgars. And coorse, that was different, he didnae like that, it was their milking parlour, he was in there. So he never liked that.

JMW: Right. He liked the Shorthorns.

CD: He liked the Shorthorns best. So then we moved away, my father died then, and we moved away, went to Port William.

JMW: And did you start work then?

CD: I startit work, I worked in the [Airlar?] with a Mrs Philimore. I worked there for a while, she was very nice. She came from ... she rented the place from Sir Amer Maxwell

JMW: Right. So was that after Sir Herbert Maxwell had died?

CD: That was after Sir Herbert, Sir Amer would be the...

JMW: And did you see much of Sir Amer?

CD: He was away a lot, but when he was there he was round about the places. But usually Mr Christie did the, he wis the kind o manager then. And then Hugh took over the whole thing, I think, gradually. I don't know why, but there you are, these things happen.

JMW: And did you ever see Gavin Maxwell?

CD: Gavin, two or three times, I spoke tae Gavin, aye. Very nice.

JMW: Was he famous then, or was he just a young boy?

CD: He was up in years then, he went then when I was wi Mrs Philimore [REDACTED]

JMW: And did you know about his books when you saw him?

CD: I knew about his books, mmhmm.

JMW: Did you ever see the otter? [...]

CD: Oh yes, we've seen his otter, in fact, Davie, one of the times fed it wi herring ... but it wis fed, he says, it might not take anything because it's already been fed, he had him down at the loch one morning. It was quite nice, Gavin, he could speak tae anybody. So was Sir Amer, we got on fine wi

him when they came about and that, they were nice. I liked Sir Amer. Used to peep... when the cook left and I had tae stay to cook for the old lady, stay with her, but she used to get affa drunk on champagne, and Sir Amer would come in, peep the horn going right round the Airlar, used tae peep the horn going past the kitchen to say that's me arrived, so he gave her time to have a drink or something, before ye served in the meal. And then ye took the meal, and he always came, he never went out, without coming to the kitchen to thank us for the meal.

JMW: Right, that was nice.

CD: He was very very nice.

JMW: So were you trained by the cook there, did she teach you how to cook?

CD: She was an Irish woman, and the old lady says to me, something I was tae cook this day, and she says, the cook said ye had to steep it, whatever the hell that means, she says! I says, it just means ye have to cut it and steep it a wee while to draw some of the salt out of it, whatever meat it was. But she used tae say to me when I stayed with her, if ye hear a noise in the night, don't ever come near me. I used tae hear banging and thumping, I'd lie on my bed and I'd think, what is that auld wumman daein? And in the morning I would gae doon the stair, make a cup o tea, take it up, her bedroom, knock on the door, sometimes she crawled along on her hands and knees to open the door, and she'd say, 'I've had one hell of a night.' And I looked, and I'm saying, we're gonnae have one hell of a morning trying to clean this up! [REDACTED]

JMW: So how old were you when you started that work?

CD: Oh, I'd be getting up in years. Well, I was twenty-eight when I left the Cults, so it'd be then. Nearly thirty then.

JMW: And you had to live in at the Airlar?

[30.51]

CD: I stayed in when the cook left, I had to stay in, stay wi the old lady, look efter her. Oh, she wasnae bother, apart fae her drinking. Pills, she'd pills scattered all over and I went tae Doctor Brown and it wis old Doctor Brown then, says tae him, I dinnae ken about the pills, I says, that old wumman hid them aa scattered... And he used to say, oh, dinnae bother about them, they're just kid-on things, he says, just tae please her. She's no needing any pills! But he used tae sort them out, when he came at night, and she used tae say tae me, ye'll have to stay up to see Doctor Brown out, and whiles they had them for a meal, Doctor and Mrs Brown. ... But I never used to, when they went to bed, I used tae get Doctor Brown and say tae him, snib the door afore ye go out and just pull it shut! So when I met him, he always said, I won't forget to snib the door!

JMW: And did you have to wear a uniform?

CD: No for her, no for her, no.

JMW: What were your other duties, you did the cooking...

CD: I did the cooking, and just the sort o cleaning, but it wasnae a lot to do, because there was ... when she was in the Airlar it wis just an old house, and there wasnae a lot in some on the places. But we just tidied them out and sing a bit and kid her on we were working. Apart from making the meals and that, and then she didnae eat a lot. Especially when she was drinking, she would say, just boil an onion, and that'll do my tea.

JMW: Gosh, a boiled onion!

CD: An onion. So ye boilit an onion and that was her.

JMW: That was a strange dish.

CD: Aye. Wasn't it! But there ye are, that wis easy for me. But her breakfast in the morning was just toast. She stayed in the Ritz in London, she came in a lovely big car – a Logonda,

[REDACTED]

JMW: And were there staff who worked in the grounds as well as in the house?

CD: Well, they just worked on the farms for Sir Amer, for Mr Christie and that, and they did, just tidied up, things like that round the estate. She was paying for the Airlar. So they just kept things tidy, grow her vegetables, what vegetables we needed for the house. They come in in the morning and asked what we wanted and I told what I wanted when I was on, and they just brought it in and that was it. Especially if it's just her and someone for meals at night. Teen Drysdale helped me tae, she did the waiting and the thingmy and I just did the cooking. Then when she wis going back to London she brought her, her ladies maid came for her and went back with her in a car.

JMW: Goodness.

CD: So that's about my life!

JMW: Well that's pretty exciting, I would say.

CD: Well, I never bothered. Teen and I had mony a laugh when we used tae meet about what the old woman did and what we did, ken!

JMW: So how long were you there for?

[38.07]

CD: Oh, quite a bit, maybe two or three years. When she came, she went back and forwards. At that time, the Airlar, the big house, Monreith House was a big jumble o a place, ken, a great big jumble o a place. Everything went up in the lift ... great big old rough kitchens, ken. Just auld fashioned. But then, Michael [?], him that'd been there, but it's aa sorted, I think. Put intae flats or something.

JMW: So did you know the staff at Monreith? Did you know the people who worked there?

CD: I know the men that worked in the grounds and that, the gardeners and that. And then Sir Amer had a housekeeper, ye see, and somebody looking after the place. We never went much about there, but he used to come, just when this old lady was there. She was gien him plenty o money, ye see, she wis payin plenty for the Airlar. But Michael was never much there then.

JMW: No, not at the time.

CD: No at that time. He was, his father was a Maxwell. And one o the times, the old lady come upstairs, she heard Sir Amer in, he came and asked about her, and she come up the stair... She come down the stair on her bottom, and I said, well, that's her down the stair, I've got to get her up! He would help me up. So goin up the stair, and she says tae him, do you know Amer, that lady you took out for lunch – you took out for dinner, in London, she says, had hairy heels. And he says, I beg your pardon. The only lady I take out when I go to London is my sister! How dare you say she's not a thoroughbred!

JMW: Goodness. So you spoke to Gavin Maxwell, Clement Attlee, Lord Russell, anyone else?

CD: No, no, that's all in my time.

JMW: That's pretty good.

CD: That was it.

JMW: And your brother spoke to the King and Queen...

CD: He spoke to the King and Queen, he would get a bit excited, likesay when she came and spoke to him, and she just said tae him to ... just take it quietly, ye talk like the King, just take it quietly, it comes out better.

JMW: I don's suppose, did you ever see the film The King's Speech?

CD: No, no.

JMW: Cause that's about his stammer.

CD: That's his stammer, aye. He had a bit of a stammer, it was a shame really. But there we are. He wasnae too bad, mind.

JMW: I think he learnt to overcome it.

CD: Aye. But aye, that's them. Oh aye, we had a... Ye look back on your life.
[42.16]

JMW: It's quite exciting.

CD: Exciting, that's right.

JMW: And so how did you come to be in Whithorn?

CD: I got married. Came tae Whithorn.

JMW: That was after you left the Airlar?

CD: Oh, aye. We came to, left the Airlar, we came to Vances at the Skeuag.

JMW: Was that to work on the farm?

CD: No, I worked wi the Carsons, the coal agents, then, had a job there.

JMW: In the office?

CD: No, in the kitchen, just general work, cooking and general work just. If ye've tae work, that's it.

JMW: So did you prefer to be at the Airlar or did you like being in Whithorn?

CD: Oh, I didnae mind, ye just went and ye worked where ye had tae and that was it.

JMW: So you lived at the Skeuag and you walked in.

CD: Walked in from the Skeuag intae Whithorn.

JMW: And about how old were you then?

CD: Oh, I cannae tell ye! I'd be getting on anyway. I'd be in my thirties, anyway.

JMW: And then you got married... and you moved into this house?

CD: I didnae marry David first, I married Quentin Davidson first. And we lived in 56 George Street. And then I married David.

JMW: And did you help in this shop here?

CD: In the shop, yeah.

JMW: So can you tell me a bit about how the shop worked?

CD: Oh well, they used to deliver the fish in the morning fae Aberdeen, and then they got, they had to go and dumped it off, cause they were going to Stranraer to get the ferry, and ye had to go to Newton Stewart and pick up your fish, bring it, and then ye had it all tae sort before ye started in the morning, ready for sale. It's a bit o work with the fish in the morning first thing.

[44.52]

JMW: Right. And you had to do some of that?

CD: David did most of it. I just mair or less went and did the housework and then went in and did the shop, made up orders to take out and that sort of thing. There was plenty to do.

JMW: And what about the game? Did you have to do any of the preparation?

CD: Oh aye, plucking and cleaning. No so much as his father's time as far as I know, then I wasnae here then. But plenty of cleaning and working.

JMW: And what did you do with all the feathers?

CD: Well, they usually just bagged them and put them out, sometimes when they'd a lot before I came here they used tae put them out tae different folk and they cleaned and plucked and some o them kept the feathers and made pillow cases and things like that. As far as I know that's what happened. That wis before I came here. Mrs Maclean used to tell us about her folks all doing the feathers and putting them into a big boiler and washing them and drying them off and making pillows. That's the way they did ...

JMW: You were good friends with Mrs Maclean?

CD: Oh aye. Used to go in about Mrs Maclean when we were younger. Sometimes I went out to work in the fields tae make extra money and Mrs Maclean would be there ... Ye had to watch at tattie lifting because some o them shifted, especially... Mrs Maclean's nephew up the street, he used to up sticks and ye wondered who you were getting longer and longer, and who was tae lift. And he was shifting, shiftit them at both sides and made there's lots, ye see, best to lift, ye see. Wee trick he got ...

JMW: Is that how he got his name?

CD: I suppose so, Tricky, they all called him Tricky. However. That was my life.

JMW: And you had to stay in the shop during shop hours and ...

CD: Oh aye. I was in, when David was away on the farm I was in the shop. But before I came he had ither folk working in the shop after his father died, to get people in to work in the shop.

JMW: It was a busy shop, I presume?

CD: Oh, it wis busy, it's always busy. But busier in his father's time because there was rabbits and different things, a lot of stuff went away tae Sheffield to get...

JMW: Was that the meat that went away?

CD: That was the rabbits. They went away. And whatever, I don't know what else, and then the blackberries came in and they had blackberries, David did a lot of blackberries for Robertson's jam

factory.

[48.55]

JMW: So how long did you work in the shop?

CD: Oh, I just cannae mind now. A few years, anyway. Next year we'll be forty year married, so ... so I'd be two or three year in the shop before that. I lived up the street, lived at 56 and then went to 89 and then sold 89 when I married David to bide here.

JMW: And during the war, where were you?

CD: During the war... well, I would be at the Cults when it started, maist o my days I would be at the Cults during the war years. But I was too young then, for war work. That was it.

JMW: Did your father have to be in the Home Guard?

CD: No. My brother was. And wi him hurt in the back he didnae get picked, but the next brother, Willie, he would hae liked to hae got in the forces and he wasnae pleased cause they couldnae take him, because he was a bad speaker and he had a bad stammer.

JMW: You wouldn't have thought that would have affected being in the war...

CD: Aye, but it did, it did, he's not taken at all. He wasnae pleased tae come hame fae [50.42] cause he didnae pass his medical. The next brother was in the Army, Air Force, he was oot abroad. And then the rest were too young. But they did their service afterwards, they went away.

JMW: So with seven of you you must have a lot of family, do you?

CD: Oh, a lot of family. I had three girls, one's at Galloway House, one went tae the BBC in London, and she wis Robert Dougall's secretary. We used tae see her on the television in those days when it wis the budget date she brought in the reports to Robert Dougall. Ye used to see her on the television then. She's still there, in Essex. It's a long way tae Essex! So her daughters, one's in new Zealand, she likes travelling, she likes a wander. None o them married. One went into police force, and then she was in the prison service, she didnae like it, so she come out. She's another job that's something tae do wi that. Cause she was in the police force she got this other good job, so she's there. There's none of them getting married, they said. Weird girls. And my eldest daughter, she lives in Garlieston, that's her family there, all her family there.

JMW: Gosh, that's a lot of...

CD: She had three of a family, so that's all her grandchildren.

JMW: So you're a great grandmother?

CD: Great grandma. And then the other two, that boy there and his sister Tanya, that's my Kathleen's daughter. And he works in the Foreign Office, so his next job is a deputy ambassador.

JMW: Gosh.

CD: Going out, I cannae mind the name o the place, I had a letter that tellt me what it was but I don't know what I did with it. I had the letter telling us where he was going... it's away near China [53.43]

or something, with a fancy name.

JMW: Right, that's exciting,

CD: So he was gaan there as the deputy ambassador there.

JMW: That's an important position.

CD: That's right, he was well up. [REDACTED]

JMW: So tell me about how Whithorn's changed in your time...

CD: Oh, I don't know. There's a lot... at one time there was, well, I counted thirty-six shops, but a friend counts thirty-nine. There's all sorts o shops here.

JMW: That's a lot of shops.

CD: Grocers and bakers, plumbers, chemists, there was jewellers next door, there was two jewellers in here at one time...

JMW: Right, next door?

CD: One next door was Meechan the jeweller, and the one where Mrs ... McComb had her shop, a jeweller in there, he was Alves the jeweller. And he was there, two jewellers, one or two sweetie shops, where ye could go and get sweets if you wanted. And we used to have different places, there was a lot of shops up the top o the town. Cause people had no cars then, everybody come in and the farmers worked then til late at night, and then a Saturday night they come in, they got paid, maybe six o clock at night and they had to come and do their shopping. So the shops were open til eight.

JMW: So it was a busy place?

CD: Oh it wis busy then. It's dead now, Whithorn's gone. Used to be a wee shop over there and she used to do peas in a thing o marrowbone... ye got these peas and pies or whatever, e got that sixpence or something. Across the road here Strachan is used to be a woman made candies and toffee and that sort o thing, she sold that. Farrell's, they called them. They made toffees, aa kind o toffees, kind o fancy twists and aa kind o boilings and candys, sold that. Ah, there was lots o shops.

[58.20]

JMW: I suppose there was a lot of employment, as well.

CD: That's right. A lot o folk had somebody working in their houses.

JMW: Yes, was that pretty common in the main street?

CD: Mmhm. There was people had somebody, you know, Mrs Baxter had always somebody, and different folks had somebody doing housework. David's mother died young, and David, they had always a housekeeper.

JMW: So would all of these girls live in the house where they worked, or were they mostly at home and came in to work?

CD: Mostly at home I would think. Only the ones here I think stayed in because they were more or less housekeeper. So they would hae to get up in the morning to do the work. [...] So that was it, that's the life. Ach, looking back, I'd a great life.

JMW: It's been an interesting one.

CD: Oh, I dinnae tell everybody my life.

JMW: And what do you think about the future in Whithorn, how do you think it's going to work out?

CD: Well, I don't know. I suppose there'll always be something. I'd like to see the dig carrying on, mind, I wouldna like to see it shutting, because it caters a lot and that on the site, they need the tea room. So I don't know. It's a shame.

JMW: Well, we'll hope for the best.

CD: Things are getting that expensive. And then there's no employment for anybody. See, in my day there was plenty employment, ye could leave a place and gang and get anither yin, but no noo.

JMW: Now, is there anything I haven't asked you that I should have asked you? Probably lots of things.

CD: Oh, there'll be lots of things, things for me to think aboot. I don't know. But I've quite enjoyed my life when I look back on it. I've had quite a good life. Had good parents. We were always a happy go lucky family, til some o the boys got married and then their wives didnae get on, and it was a different life.

JMW: Well, okay... I think that will probably do for today, I can come back and ask you other questions if I think of something.

CD: If you think of something.

JMW: Okay, well, I'll switch it off just for the moment, thank you very much.

[01.01.48]

Track 2

CD: She'd a lovely, and it was just all white flowers, and she looked after them herself. In the morning she got up and she put on an old coat, tied it wi binder twine, an old bunnet on her head, crochet bunnet, and her wellingtons. And she went to work in the gardens, and potter about the gardens, and she brought her flowers in, and did her flowers, and passed the day like that.

JMW: So this was Mrs Hopkins?

CD: Miss Hopkins.

JMW: Miss Hopkins, okay. And did they rent Feasgal?

CD: They rented... well, I think they owned Feasgal, though laterally they would sail, when they went to Connel during the war years. And they ... it was just the two o them, and they were catered for. I was what they called the between maid, between the house maid and the table maid. The house maid in the morning, the table maid at one o'clock. And you wore a wrapper in the morning, in the afternoon you dressed for the dinner, lunch, to start wi, wi your collar and your cuffs and your wee aprons and that. Your white dress... You'd a black dress, you'd a wrapper in the morning, flat shoes, and then at lunchtime you had on a black dress, you had your wee thing roond your hair and your collars and your cuffs, waitit the tables, just for the two o them. Then ye had to learn... The first time she said to wait tae he says grace, so I was standing at table there, and there five places, a table over there and a table here, and I stood here, I'd to open the door to let them in from their sitting room, and they come into the dining room, opened this door, there was two doors, in between doors, you see, they come in, opened the door fae their sitting room, and I had tae have this dining room door open, and shut it when they went through, and they would take their place at the table, and he said grace. And I was waiting til he said, for what we are about to, thigmy, and aa this thing. And all this interest, I never forgot that two words, benedictus benedictine... and I was standing waiting at the side! And the housekeeper, she tried to hiss me to come on, to serve it, and I'm waiting on the prayer being said... When ye're young, anyway! She said that we were thingmied and you'd tae attend to the, serve fae one side, lift tae the other side, just for brother and sister, this much carry on. And aa the table had to be laid wi, the spoons, she arranged, the things with, you'd to watch what... I had to watch what Nancy was doing, cause I had to cook when she was off, I had to do it, and I had to hae a different way fae her. And the housekeeper, they changed for dinner every night so he changed right out, vest, pants, everything, socks and things, and she did the same. I come down and I had to watch what evening dress she'd on that I didnae put on one that she'd on before, when the housekeeper was off, so ye had to take note on aa these kind o things. Ye'd to live and learn.

JMW: And how old were you then?

CD: Oh, just young, about fourteen, fifteen, maybe.

JMW: Was that your first job?

CD: No, I was at MacGregor's in Sorbie to start wi but I didnae like it much. But I liked that, what I did, you'd to wait the tables and aa the ... And I used to be kind o naughty, she'd a wee chest o drawers where the phone sat, and she'd wee ornaments, and I used to change these ornaments, ye

[01.07.01]

see. And I'm saying to the housekeeper, Madam will be up this morning because I shiftit they vases. And then she'd come up and she'd say, you must come down. So she took me down into the front hall, ye see, where I'm supposed to be daein it, and she'd say, you must try and remember, child, to put these, that's where that sits, and that's where this sits. So I would do it right for a wheen o weeks and then said to Nancy, she went back up the day because I shiftit they things for badness! I says, it gies her something to dae! Nancy used tae say, ye shouldnae dae that! And I would say, that gies her something to dae so sure enough, up she would come. And she says, ye must try and remember, child!

JMW: And you remembered perfectly well!

CD: I just did it for badness.

JMW: And did you live in at Feasgal?

CD: I did, yes.

JMW: Was it a bedroom on the top floor?

CD: Yeah, the top floor.

JMW: It's a big place.

CD: It's a big place, mmhmm.

JMW: Because there was the extension in those days, which...

CD: That's right, and then there was a big kitchen, and as far as I know that's away. But outside her kitchen window's a huge big kitchen, a scullery, it wis lovely...

[01.08.38 ... 01.09.12 interruption from visitor]

CD: So that was it then. And they went away to Connel, and surely had a daily help there. That was after the war, everything changed.

JMW: So how long were you at Feasgal?

CD: Oh, maybe a year, couple o years or something.

JMW: And how big was the staff?

CD: It was five. There was the cook, the scullery maid, the housekeeper, the table maid and I was whit they caaed the between maid, between the housekeeper and the table.

JMW: And did they keep strict discipline on you, the other house staff?

CD: Oh aye, you had tae have everything, and whiles, she used to... I remember one night she rang the bell and I had to go all the way upstairs, you had two or three flights o stairs, away along a long [01.10.25]

corridor, through into a big hall, and ye wnet to the sitting room, opened the door, and she had tae tell you tae enter. And ye went in and she was... You rang, madam? And she would say, are all these doors shut? And I would say, yes, they're all shut. Well, they all shut when you come through, every one? Well, I can smell the cabbage boiling, I shouldn't smell the cabbage here. And I went the kitchen, and said, see that auld woman! Hope some day she has tae cook the cabbage hersel! Imagine making me go away up there just because she smells the cabbage! It's a great life. Funnily enough some o them went to visit her in Connel and she only had a daily help, so I wonder how she got on wi the cabbage!

JMW: Did the Johnson Stewarts then buy it after she left?

CD: The Johnson Stewarts would take over there, of course they were at the big house...

JMW: They were at Glasserton...

CD: Glasserton. The old admiral was there then, Admiral Stewart.

JMW: Remember them?

CD: I remember the old man, only once I met him. It was during the snow, and the neighbour told that we go through his estate from Airlar, and when the roads were cleared to Whithorn we could get wir afternoon off, and went through the estate, we nearly ran him doon. I always remember him saying, what the hell? And he phoned to see what these kids, these girls on their bicycles cycling through his bit, and she had tae apologise and say, she said we could go that way, but we didnae think we'd bump intae him!

JMW: Was he pretty much a disciplinarian?

CD: Oh aye. He was a lad. But that's the only time I ever saw him. And just cycling by him, and he come out, he wis coming out o a side bit, ye see. And we never saw him. I mind him saying, what the hell?! And he said, just keep [? 1.13.26]

JMW: And when you were at Feasgail, what did they call you, the people of the house, did they call you by your first name, or...

CD: Wir first name, always just wir first name. So that was it, it was Dotty and Nannie, and Mamie was the cook, and she came tae give her orders for the day to the cook, ye see, and

she come down and knocked on the kitchen door to be admitted into the kitchen to give her orders for what she wanted for their lunch and what was for their dinner. And then she went back, but that was the only time she was in the kitchen. We'd wir own wee sitting room.

JMW: And what was the... was the cooking a range?

CD: It was a big old-fashionet range. ...Cook would mainly do the cooking, all sorts of things she had.

JMW: Was it powered by coal?

[01.14.38]

CD: It was coal. And he'd the stoves, and that, ye had tae fill they stoves wi, ken the anthracite, I think, was put into these big stoves, that's where they got heating. And then they'd their own burner for doing the, like, the lights, and it was gas mantles getting used, and ye had to watch ye didnae touch these when ye're putting them on, cause they fell tae bits if ye did, after ye lit them, ye see. Ye darnae touch them wi the match when ye were thingiming them, just sort of disintegrated. So ye had to watch putting these gas things on. They used tae break down and the garage used to come out to repair the engine. And this gas... and he used to gather up his fruit, he had a lot of fruit, a beautiful garden they had, and she bought a lot o it, and he worked, and course they'd two gardeners, and it was a beautiful garden.

JMW: Right. Is this a walled garden?

CD: It was a walled garden, it was a beautiful garden. And he used to bring in pears and put them ontae the, in the dining room, the tables, and watch ye don't touch these, cause they were needing ... to ripen. And I says, sometime I'll maybe cop some o they pears! Nan used to say, don't you go near these pears!

JMW: Did you like your employers? [...]

CD: I did. Nice people, the Hopkinses were nice, they seemed really nice people...

JMW: And did you get a day off?

CD: We'd an afternoon off, and every other Sunday off. But ye had to be in at a certain time at night, nine o'clock. Six o'clock on the Sunday. But on a weekday, when we went wir days off...

JMW: And were you expected to go to church on Sunday?

CD: Well, sometimes we werenae there in time to go to the church, church was half past ten, we were whiles just leaving then, so... it was quite a bit.

JMW: Would that have been Glasserton Church you'd have attended?

CD: Aye, well, we could hae done, but when ye got your day off, when ye were in the place ye didnae get to go into the church. The ministers used to come and visit them. She did afternoon tea, and one o the ministers, Mr Law, from Whithorn here, come out. And she said to some o them, she didnae like their minister because he took two slices of fruit cake and ye should only have had one at tea time, ye see! So he must have been feeling hungry and had an extra bit, he did the wrang thing! ... Mr Law says he could hae ate half a dozen! Just a laugh.

JMW: And do you remember what you got paid for being there?

CD: Seven and six, seven and six.

JMW: And what did you do with your pay?
[01.19.02]

CD: Well, ye had to buy your own uniform, she didnae supply it.

JMW: Oh, did you?

CD: Ye had to buy your own wrappers and your own things. She certainly washed your ... but you had to... I got my auntie Bessie's collars and cuffs and things. But other than that ye had tae buy your own frocks and things. Oh, she never supplied anything like that, she just sent your things tae laundries.

JMW: So where did you get your uniform?

CD: Just Brown and Charter's...

JMW: In Whithorn?

CD: In Whithorn.

JMW: So they sold uniforms for maids?

CD: They sold all these things. There was different shops over here, it was a... I cannae remember the one's name at the moment, but he had the shop over here. Brown and Charter's was here. And there was a Miss Niven had the shop, down the street where the chemist is, that was Miss Niven's when I went to school. And she sold a lot of drapery stuff and she had people making hats and things like that, and she'd her own dressmakers. She employed quite a lot o folk.

JMW: But presumably you didn't pay for your board and lodging, was that free of charge?

CD: That was free of charge, bought wir food, of course, and ye got your bed, and that sort o thing.

JMW: So did you have any money left over for yourself?

CD: No a lot! Ye had to take so much home. Ye kept ... when I startit work first I had five shillings a week and I bought a bicycle, saved a pound a week, [Anton Murchie?] in Newton Stewart, and the bicycle cost five pound, and I paid a pound out and I saved a shilling tae the pound, and then I paid it up a shilling a week, tae Anton Murchie, come every week and collectit money. Ye'd always tae be there wi your money to gie him his shilling. And then ye had tae buy whatever else ye needed wi the rest.

JMW: So did all of you give a bit of your wages to your mother?

CD: Well, if ye could, some weeks ye hadnae a lot left, depends what ye had to buy. Ye got your food, ye got everything. At seven and six. And ye needed to keep your bike up, if ye got punctures you'd to sort it yourself and get on with it.

JMW: So on your day off would you go home and see your parents?

[01.22.42]

CD: Ye went home tae see your parents, give them what money ye could give them, or whatever, and then back to work. Well, that's about it.

JMW: Well, that was an extra interesting bit, I'm glad we got that.

CD: Aye, well, that was it.

JMW: You've probably got a lot more up your sleeve, I would think.

CD: Aye, well, the Airlar... The Airlar was a nice place.

JMW: Did you prefer that to Feasgail?

CD: I don't know. Feasgail was a nice place too, it was well kept, cause the nice men keeping everything nice, and the grounds were kept nice. I don't know what it's like now.

JMW: I think they've done a lot to it.

CD: Have they?

JMW: But they don't have the big extension any more. Do you remember a library, was there a library there?

CD: I cannae remember the library now. There's maybe one now, but there was none in my day. Downstairs there was kitchen porters and there was a lot o bits where ye had tae... they werenae used, in the old days that's where the mains would be in these bits. But there wis nobody in them. Ye kept a barrel o beer there. The first time I had tae gang and get the beer, to draw the beer for the dinner, I had a job, I'm telling ye, for the tap, pittin it on and

pittin it aff! And filled up the thingmy, and then I could hardly get the thing aff, it was running ower. Oh ... ye had tae gang and tell them whit ye did, but the man used to get it aff at the finish up, but somebody should hae come wi me the first time, showed me how to work the thing. It was just a kind o key thing, ye'd to put on and turn it, turn it off, and I wouldnae get it right, likely.

JMW: Were they quite strict with you if you got things wrong?

CD: No, they werenae too bad. The only thing, I used to do this, pittin this, the wrong bits. That was the only thing, and she ... At that, she used to say to me, 'You must try and remember, child!' This Dotty, she used to say to me, 'you dae that for badness.' I says, 'Well, it gives her something tae dae! Brings her up the stairs,' I says. She takes me down the front staircase, to the hall, and tells me what I should do. And I used to say, I ken whar tae put it aa right, but ... I'd leave it for a while and then I would chinge it again! I'd say, the lady, she will be up shortly!

JMW: Well, thank you very much again, that was a good addition, I think.

CD: So I'm glad that's my grass cut...

[01.26.49]

JMW: Absolutely. Have to do mine. Okay, I'll switch this off.