

Interviewee(s): Bill Patterson (BP)	Interviewer(s): Margaret McCole (MM)
Date of Interview: 14 May 2019	Ref: EL22-1-1-1-T
REGION	East Lothian
TOWN/VILLAGE	Dunbar

Running time: 00.00

MM: Ok, this is Margaret McCole recording with Bill Paterson in Dunbar and today's date is the 13th of May, 13th of May 2019. So, Bill and I are just going to chat a little bit about his time living here in Dunbar [*Dog barking*]. Sorry, it's the 14th of May, I've just been told. Alfie, the dog, is putting in his input, as well, so we'll try and keep Alfie quiet. So, Bill, you've spent your early years living in Dunbar, is that correct?

BP: Yea, I was born in 1947 and I lived up the High Street, above, the Black Bull, number seventy-four and Ah was there till 1967...

MM: Ok, so you've seen quite a few changes?

BP: ...when Ah left. Yea, well we came back eight years ago now.

MM: Right.

BP: And a lot of, Ah mean all the fields Ah played in, as a boy, are all full o houses now.

MM: Sure.

BP: You know, things like that. Most o the shops are there but they've all changed hands.

MM: Mm.

BP: When Ah was a boy, virtually all the shops were family owned.

MM: Right.

BP: Grocers, fish shop, places like that, fish and chip shop, sweetie shop.

MM: So, they're all kinda, the same kinda shops still here more or less but they're maybe not...

BP: More or less.

MM: ...the kinna family...

BP: Some of them are different.

MM: ...orientated. Right.

BP: Ah mean the, there were some families owned quite a few shops, there was brothers, John Togneri had the fish and chip shop, in the West Port; Arnold Togneri had the Lothian Hotel in the High Street.

MM: Ok.

BP: Guy Togneri had the Lido café in the High Street.

MM: The Lido

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MM: café, would that have been for the swimming pool?

BP: No, no, that's where the Chinese restaurant is now.

MM: Ok, got ya.

BP: And Laura Togneri had a sweet shop next door to the fish and chip shop in the West Port.

MM: Right. They had the High Street, sewn up.

BP: So, there was quite a number of them, you know.

MM: Mm, mm.

BP: Tammy Smith had the grocer's on the High Street.

MM: So, where would the grocer's be in those days?

BP: Just, it was the other side of the close from the Eagle Inn.

MM: Ok, so the opposite side from the Black Bull.

BP: Ah think it's a tanning salon...

MM: Ok, yea, got ye.

BP: ...or something now. That was the grocer's shop. His daughter still lives in the town.

MM: Is that right?

BP: Yea.

MM: But, even in your early years, from 1947 to 1967, did you see a big change in the town?

BP: Gradually, when they built the cement works...

MM: Ok.

BP: ...there was quite a lot of people came in, to work.

MM: From around the country?

BP: Yea, uhuh, yea.

MM: Right.

BP: Quite a lot remained here once it was up and going, they always [?] new staff, drivers, what have you, and there was quite a number o new people moved in then.

MM: So, would that have attracted, like, a lot of men in the day?

BP: Mainly, yea, yea, mainly men.

MM: Ok. How did that go down locally?

BP: It didn't bother me at all [*laughter*]. They seemed to, they settled in after a while and they, you know, they got, because it was a smallish place....

MM: Sure.

BP: ...people soon got to know them.

MM: Sure.

BP: Ah mean, nowadays, Ah can go up the High Street and never meet a soul that Ah know.

MM: Right.

BP: When Ah was a boy there, everybody knew ye, so, you know, if you got into trouble well, somebody would hear about it.

MM: Aye, for sure.

Running time: 04.00

BP: Things like that have changed. Likes o Old Year's Night...

MM: Ok.

BP: ...you would have lines of people, young people, dancing right down the full length of the High Street.

MM: Is that right?

BP: Yea. You'd have maybe three or four lines.

MM: Like traditional dancing?

BP: Yea, well just arm, linking arms and-.

MM: Sure.

BP: And you visited everybody doon the High Street...

MM: Of course, uhuh.

BP: ...because you knew everybody. Nowadays Ah don't think Old Year's Night, they huv anything now.

MM: So, that would have been in at actually New Year's Night rather than Hogmanay.

BP: No, Hogmanay.

MM: Hogmanay, right, ok, got ya.

BP: But Ah don't think they have anything like that...

MM: No.

BP: ...nowadays. Ah mean, Ah know some people round here, in fact, the people who built this, who converted this building, Ah remember the father, he stays in one of the houses.

MM: Oh right, so what was, we talked about this building here, this Cromwell Quay being converted, what was it originally?

BP: It was a fish processing place.

MM: Is that right?

BP: Willie Gillespie, he was a builder, and his son followed in his footsteps, and they converted the place and the father stays at the end of the building...

MM: Is that right?

BP: ...and the son stays just the other side of the courtyard. Father, he played goalkeeper for Dunbar football team but there, you know, and another woman up the stairs, Ah remember her when Ah originally lived here, her and her sister.

MM: Ok.

BP: They stayed in the

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BP: High Street, as well. And she used to travel on the train, wi ma wife, when they both worked in Edinburgh, initially, at that time.

MM: So that would have been a commuting town even then?

BP: Yes, yea.

MM: Probably to a lesser degree.

BP: Yea, yea, they got a train up in the morning.

MM: And when Ah was coming down here this afternoon Ah was checking the direction wi somebody and Ah said 'down by the harbour' and they referred to this as the old harbour.

BP: The old harbour, yea...

MM: What was that, then?

BP: ...we never, ever called it Cromwell Harbour, it was the new harbour and the old harbour.

MM: And old harbour being what, compared to new harbour? Like when was the new harbour built?

BP: Well, Ah not sure, Ah mean the new harbour was there, certainly Ah would think the turn of the century, if not-.

MM: Yea, so this, when we say old, it's old.

BP: Aye, yea, Ah mean Cr-, it was built at the time of Oliver Cromwell.

MM: Is that right?

BP: This is why it's called Cromwell Harbour.

MM: Ah.

BP: But this was the only harbour, at that time. And then they built the new one.

MM: So, when would this have fallen out of kind of industrial use, for want of a better word, or fishing use.

BP: Once they built, Ah think it got used less and less once they built the new harbour.

MM: Ok.

BP: The boats mainly come round, some of the small boats are always in here.

MM: Right.

BP: The bigger boats tend to come round if the weather's rough. It's quieter for them round this side.

MM: Ok.

BP: So, you can always tell when the weather's gonna be bad when the boats start...

MM: When the bigger boats-.

BP: ...comin round and tying up. And they do, they lift boats in and out and still work on them here.

MM: Mm.

BP: There used to be a house over on the corner, just beyond the bit that you go down on to the beach, there, that was a lodging house...

MM: Ok.

BP: ...when Ah was a boy.

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BP: Ah think it's had various uses over the years since then.

MM: Would that have been for itinerant workers...

BP: Yea.

MM: ...comin into town and fishermen things?

BP: Yea.

MM: Ok.

BP: But my grandfather was from a fishing family at the Cove.

MM: At the-?

BP: At the Cove.

MM: Whereabouts was that?

BP: At the Cockburnspath...

MM: Ok, got ye.

BP: ...down there, but now it's a, there's one or two boats, Ah think, come out o that one.

MM: Oh, the wee Cove Bay?

BP: Yea.

MM: That's really picturesque, round there.

BP: Yea, uhuh.

MM: That's lovely, yea.

BP: Yea, it's quite often photographed, you know, in different things.

MM: Yea, I know exactly where you mean now. So that's where sort of, historically, your family were from?

BP: Yea, my grandmother and grandfather an ma mother come from Cockburnspath.

MM: Right.

BP: And ma father came from Berwickshire, but they were on the farm up [?] direction.

MM: Ok.

BP: And they moved, ma mother and father, when they got married, moved into Dunbar.

MM: Into the Black Bull Close buildings?

BP: Yea, mm.

MM: Right. And so, when you were growing up there, where would your kinna like primary school have been?

BP: Primary school is where it is now.

MM: All right, at Lochend.

BP: It's still there, no, no. The primary school down as you're going out of Dunbar, on the left-hand side.

MM: OK, ok, got ye.

BP: That was the only primary school that was there at that time. The secondary school was the old one along here, at Woodbush.

MM: Oh, is that where the school was, the secondary?

BP: Yea, yea.

MM: So that primary school, that would have been a wee trek then to get from the High Street, no?

BP: No, ye walked...

MM: Yea.

Running time: 10.00

BP: ...Ah mean ye walked everywhere...

MM: Of course, ye did.

BP: ...or cycled. You know, as you were young. There wasnae as many cars going about and ye never though anything about walking anywhere.

MM: Changed days now.

BP: Yea, same wi going to the new secondary school, cause it was built when Ah was still at school. We used to walk, or occasionally take our bike, mainly walked. But, again, that was just what ye did.

MM: Yea.

BP: Ye never, never really thought anything of it at all. And then the kids all cycled all over the place. You know, they would cycle up to Oldhamstocks and...

MM: Is that right?

BP: ...play up there for a while and cycle back again. And cycle out the White Sands and away out the John Muir to the Tyne mouth.

MM: Which is quite an incredible amount of freedom then, growing up here as a young person.

BP: Yea, oh yea, yea, uhuh. We would play till, well either ye got called in or it got dark. It was dark and sometimes during the winter ye would play while it was dark. When we first moved back here I went away out one day and ma wife said 'Where are ye going?' Ah said 'Ah'm going away to go up and down all the closes that Ah've played in, as a boy.' And every time Ah came out one onto the High Street Ah kept meeting one of ma neighbours, the one that went, travelled more, with ma wife,

and 'What on earth are you doing?' So Ah told her, so she was laughing, so Ah said 'Ah'll tell ye one thing' Ah says 'They seem to be a lot steeper and a lot narrower than they used-'

MM: Is that right?

BP: But yea, Ah mean we played up and down all the closes, climbed every wall, Ah think, all along the back gardens.

MM: Amazing.

Running time: 12.00

MM: And when you say playing in the closes, what kinna, what would have been your games? Football or-?

BP: Well, we would play chasing or we would pick sides and one lot would get a head start and the rest had to catch them or whatever. Occasionally we played football but the High Street, there wisnae that sort o scope for playing football, if you were...

MM: No.

BP: ...but things like that we would play at, and swimming. During the summer we had the open-air pool, of course...

MM: Mm.

BP: ...and we swam morning, noon and night, regardless whether it was rain, hail, sleet or snow. Even if the pool was closed we swam [*laughs*].

MM: Of course.

BP: We used to swim from the pool across to the harbour mouth.

MM: Is that right?

BP: It was always one of the things to do.

MM: Is that right? So, you've got strong memories of the pool here and using that?

BP: Yea, it was the sort of main centre for things to do.

MM: Mm.

BP: You know, everybody went to the pool. And the swimming club and whatnot and everybody joined the swimming club and you had galas...

MM: Ok.

BP: ...and things like that, during the summer.

MM: And was there anything else at the pool, like, Ah don't know, like a venue or a café?

BP: There was a dance hall, well there was a café there, and there was a dance hall that we used to go to as we got older.

MM: Uhuh. When ye stopped playing in the closes? [*laughter*].

BP: Yes, aye, yes, there was more interesting things to do, as you get older, than playing in closes. Yea they had the dance hall and that was the only dance hall, well, they used the Corn Exchange...

MM: Ok.

BP: ...for dances and things like that. And then they built the ballroom just up from the harbour there

Running time: 14.00

BP: the Victoria Ballroom.

MM: Was that what it was called?

BP: Yea. So, the dances were held in there and there was a lot of concerts and things like that were run in there. So, that as, Ah think after that went up the one at the pool was closed.

MM: Right.

BP: Ah think the bounce up and down on the floor was getting a bit severe, Ah don't think it would have lasted much longer. And then we had the, well Ah played rugby, Ah played for the school an Ah played for the local club.

MM: Oh, ok.

BP: And it was, Ah was still at school and there was five of us asked to go up and train wi the club. So, of course, at that time we were about sixteen and it was the usual sixteen-year-old, you know, 'We're fit, we'll show these old men how to play.' Well, Ah think the first time I got the ball, I got the ball and two first team props at the same time...

MM: Oh dear.

BP: ...an ma body was never meant to go into that sort of shape.

MM: Mm.

BP: But we enjoyed it and it was just one of these things, everybody knew everybody, and we all got on. At home, the first sort of memories of when Ah was little was being bathed in the sink.

MM: Mm, the big ceramic sort of Belfast sinks.

BP: No, it wasnae that big, it wasnae as big as a Belfast sink.

MM: Right.

BP: Ye just sat on the draining board. And then there was a zinc bath...

MM: Oh, goodness.

BP: ...appeared.

MM: And this would be in the flat in the Black Bull Close?

BP: At the Black Bull.

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BP: An we had, we had gas lighting, at that time.

MM: Is that right?

BP: Yea, there wisnae any electricity in the flat. There wisnae a television at that time, it was radio.

MM: Mm, a wireless.

BP: An ye had tae get, Ah got sent to get the new accumulator battery. Now that'll confuse you, you'll no know what an accumulator battery is.

MM: No, Ah don't know what that is, no.

BP: It's like a glass bottle, that height, it had a handle and inside were metal strips and it was filled with acid. An it got charged up and there was two connector points that you connected the wireless to...

MM: Ok.

BP: ...and that ran the wireless. But every time that battery drained you had to take it to the ironmongers...

MM: Ok.

BP: ...an get a new one.

MM: Get a new battery?

BP: Ye took the old one back and you got the new one.

MM: And would they, would they have recycled those batteries in some way, did they?

BP: No, they just charged them up again.

MM: Oh, wow.

BP: You took it back, they recharged it, somebody else came in to get one and they got-.

MM: Is it, so where would the ironmongery shop have been?

BP: That was, you know the, Ah think it's the Pakistani guy, up the steps, just opposite the West Port.

MM: Oh yes, the *Pick and Choose* it is now...

BP: Aye.

MM: ...yes, uhuh.

BP: Well, that was the ironmonger's in there...

MM: Is that right.

BP: ...where you got the batteries from.

MM: Would there have been a weight in them when you were carrying them?

BP: They were quite heavy, Ah was glad it wisnae too far away from the Black Bull.

MM: And how long would one of those last you then?

BP: Oh, I have no idea., I can't honestly remember.

MM: They must have been a size.

BP: I mean we got all our milk in milk bottles and they were washed and returned to the dairy. So, they go on about recycling nowadays, all your bottles were washed and recycled, lemonade bottles,

Running time: 18.00

BP: beer bottles, they all went back, there was a deposit on them.

MM: Of course...

BP: So you take them-.

MM: ...now they're talking about reintroducing...

BP: Yea, Ah heard that.

MM: ...that, like it's rocket science.

BP: Ah heard that, Ah heard that last week, an Ah thought 'Oh my God, we're going away back fifty, well, mair than that, sixty, seventy years ago.'

MM: Aye.

BP: All the kids used to, ma father worked part-time in the Black Bull...

MM: Ok, ok.

BP: ...and Ah remember there was one night he was telling me there was two wee boys came in with some beer bottles.

MM: Mm.

BP: So, they took, they handed the beer bottles over, got their twopence a bottle or whatever it was at that time and away they went. A wee while later back they came in and some more bottles. So, the third time they came in they thought 'Where are they getting all the bottles?' So, they followed them out and what they were doing, they were coming out the bar, going up the close, and getting the empty bottles out the crates that were stacked up the lane...

MM: Is that right?

BP: ...and bringing them in.

MM: Well, you've got to give them something for being entrepreneurial.

BP: So, they allowed them to keep their money.

MM: That was it, they'd ridden their last chance.

BP: Yep. They did ok, Ah think.

MM: Mm.

BP: Yea, as Ah say, all these sorts of things. When you went to the grocer's shop...

MM: Uhuh.

BP: ...they would weigh stuff out, you know, they would way stuff out. You know, you'd be in for certain things, they would weigh it out [*dog barks*] into a paper bag.

MM: Uhuh.

BP: And it was all dumped and clapped down and you took that away, that was it. You know, there was no plastic bags...

MM: No pre-packaging.

BP: ... or pre-packaging or anything like that. The same wi, in fact I was watching Open All Hours the other night...

M: Uhuh.

BP: ...an if you want to know what things were like, watch that

Running time: 20.00

BP: because the stuff that's in the shop, I can remember...

MM: Oh, the actual kinna brands and things...

BP: ...as a boy.

MM: ...that you're seeing in the back.

BP: ...some o the stuff. The jars o sweets that you used to get, Ah noticed the other night he had a meat slicer. Well, you went into the grocer's and they had the, the cold meats were all [?] so you asked for two ounces of...

MM: Sure.

BP: ...cold pork or whatever. They put it on the slicer and sliced it on, wrapped it and-.

MM: Wrap it in, like, a greaseproof paper or something? Aye.

BP: Yea, yea, same wi cheese, it was a big block of cheese, so they had a, it was marble sort of flat tray thing with a cheese wire.

MM: Ok.

BP: So they cut of the amount of cheese and it's surprising how accurate most of the shop assistants were in cutting, you know, to what you wanted.

MM: To what you asked for.

BP: It always used to amaze me how they could take this big block and quite accurately cut.

MM: It would be a learned skill, after-. Indeed.

BP: They did all these sorts of things, you know. You had clothiers, there was one, two, there was a women's outfitters, clothes shop, two gent's ones, no, three women's and there was a baby shop.

MM: Right.

BP: There was a furniture store, which is where the sort of sports shop is, at the top of Silver Street.

MM: Ok, by the, yes, Ah know where you are. Look is that, what has that got a store, thingamy stores behind that.

BP: Yea, they had stores

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BP: right down the lane there.

MM: Uhuh, that's right.

BP: The same wi, on the other side of that lane, was the George Hotel, which is now apartments, an they had property down the back, an if you went away back, originally, Ah think, it was probably stables.

MM: Right.

BP: You know, to the, even before me [*laughter*].

MM: Indeed. So, did you, did you ever kinna stand out in your memory, like, was it a seaside holiday town for people?

BP: Yea, very much...

MM: Would you get that influx?

BP: ...a lot of people would take in holiday makers.

MM: Oh, right.

BP: Ma mother did.

MM: The place where you lived?

BP: Yea.

MM: Oh, what was that like?

BP: Crowded [*laughs*]. Ah can remember Ah got sort of, there was a very, very small, which was a box room really, Ah think. Ah went in there during the summer...

MM: Did you get chucked in there?

BP: ...and the other room was let out and they had the living room because it was quite a big kitchen, we used the kitchen. My wife's mother, she took in lodgers, so did the-

MM: So, what would that involve, would people just be a place where people put down their head at night...

BP: No.

MM: ...or would they have to be fed.

BP: No they stayed, they got fed, you know, unless they said they were going away out for the day and werenae comin back in. But, yea, they got fed.

MM: And did they sit down and eat with you or-?

BP: No, they ate through in the front room, and the room they had.

MM: Ok.

BP: Aye it was mainly that sort of thing and there was a lot of people took, did take in holiday makers. Some of them had the same ones year after year.

MM: That's what Ah was gonnae ask you, did you find that some...

BP: Yea, uhuh.

MM: ...people came back time and time again?

BP: Uhuh, yea.

MM: So, it really was a destination for people to come to

Running time: 24.00

MM: in their holidays?

BP: Yea, oh aye. There was quite a lot of the people came in from Glasgow and Edinburgh.

MM: Ok.

BP: And Newcastle, as well.

MM: And would they come by train then in those days, predominately.

BP: Yea, yea, mainly by train, the odd one or two, you know, had a car or something like that but mainly by train.

MM: And just going back to the Black Bull Close, can you remember what it was like out the back of it? So, if we're heading down from the High Street and heading to where the sort of garden bit is?

BP: Yea. When you went up the close under the building, on the right you had a drying green area there.

MM: Ok.

BP: And then you had the gable end at the house where there was two old women. The one, the younger one, she was called Aggie, an Ah always took it that the older one was her mother or her grandmother. I only ever heard her referred to as 'Granny'.

MM: Is that right?

BP: You know, when the younger one spoke about her, she spoke about Granny. Ah never, ever knew what her name was.

MM: Is that right?

BP: They were the only two that lived on that side. And ye had a beer cellar underneath their house because there was a flight of stairs went up, there wisnae a ground floor to it, it was an upper flat, if you like. The other parts that had been houses or buildings were derelict...

MM: Even then?

BP: ...at that time, yea. There was nobody living in them. On the left-hand side as you went up, you had part of the

Running time: 26.00

BP: the rear part of the pub...

MM: Ok.

BP: ...if you like. An ye also had a store room that the, had beer barrels and crates o beer and whatnot.

MM: The cellar kinda thing...

BP: Yea.

MM: ...where the young boys were taking the beer bottles from?

BP: Yea, and then ye had a flight of stairs went up the end of the house, up to where your husband's been excavating...

MM: That's right, uhuh.

BP: ...now. And that was all closed off.

MM: Even then?

BP: Yea, that was, there was nothing in there to be seen.

MM: And through into the gardens, was there any-?

BP: Ye had a sort o yard beyond that...

MM: Aye.

BP: There was a bit you could walk in and that had the remains of what, Ah would certainly have taken to have been an old wash-house, Ah would have thought...

MM: Ok.

BP: ...at that point. And then you had the coal cellars just before ye went into the garden. Once you went into the garden, on the left, there was an air-raid shelter.

MM: An air-raid shelter...

BP: Yea...

MM: ...is that right?

BP: ...that we use to play in.

MM: Would you have been able to get into it then, as weans?

BP: Oh yea, at that time you could go in it, yea, and climb on top of it...

MM: Oh, my word.

BP: ...but Health and Safety didnae exist on those days. If you fell and you got scraped, well, that was your bad luck. And that was a drying green there on that side and on the other side was a garden...

MM: Ok.

BP: ...area and then you had that raised bit, just at the back.

MM: Mm.

BP: Just at the back, just when you went into the garden, on the right-hand side, there was a raised bit. That was like that then.

MM: Is that right?

BP: Yea.

MM: Ok. So that whole area's no really changed very much at all.

BP: No, there was an old tree there, on top of that mound

Running time: 28.00

BP: that we used to climb. Ah can remember jumping off it and it catching on ma shorts and left dangling in mid-air...

MM: No!

BP: ...until such time as the shorts ripped an Ah fell off.

MM: Oh no. What did mammie have to say about the ripped shorts?

BP: Ah dinnae really want tae go intae that [*laughter*]. Ah was more, had an infinity for water, as a child, and not even just a child. If there was water within about a three mile radius, Ah would fall in it.

MM: Is that right?

BP: Oh yea. Harbour, pool, anything that had water. Ah remember we went a picnic way up the country one day and parked miles from anywhere, no water to be seen, we'd only been there fifteen minutes, Ah found water and fell in.

MM: Seriously. Drookit?

BP: Oh yes, yes. Ah never did it by halves.

MM: Good Lord.

BP: Ah remember going out to Broxburn, it's on the way out.

MM: Right. Got ye, yea, uhuh.

BP: And there's the wee burn there and there was a bird's nest out on the branch of a tree, an it was overhanging the burn an Ah can remember holding on to the, what do you call it, the ivy stalk and leaning out, an Ah can just manage to get ma fingers in, when the thing broke an Ah went head first intae the burn.

MM: Into the burn, again.

BP: Ah can remember breaking off a part of a branch and tying it to the back o ma bike an Ah had ma top an ma trousers off tied to the thing, cycling up and down trying to dry them before Ah went home.

MM: Were you trying to dry them [*laughs*].

BP: Which must have been a bit of a sight when Ah think back on it.

Running time: 30.00

MM: Och, well. Good stuff.

BP: Yea, water and I always played a big part o ma life.

MM: Did ye learn tae swim at an early age?

BP: Oh, yes, yes, Ah could swim, aye. That wisane quite sae bad. Ah can remember ma wife saying that the old secondary school, up at the top part of the hill, as ye went intae the school, was the boys' playground.

MM: Ok, separate playgrounds.

BP: Oh yes. [?] An round the back at the sea side was the girls' playground.

MM: Ok.

BP: And the girl's playground, there were toilets which were up against the seawall.

MM: Mm.

BP: Well, when the sea was rough if ye happened to be in the toilets wi yer knickers at yer ankles, ye got drowned cause the water came up...

MM: Is that right?

BP: ...an of course it was on a hill and it ran back intae the toilets.

MM: Oh, jings. So, I'm just trying to imagine, did the toilets have no roof on them?

BP: Oh, they had a roof and they were dry but when the wave went onto the slope all the water ran back down the hill and ran under the doors...

MM: Oh, I see what you're saying.

BP: ...and of course ran into the toilet.

MM: And separate playgrounds.

BP: Yea.

MM: And the secondary school.

BP: Yea, oh dear me.

MM: And how long, Ah mean was that still the norm when you left school that there would be a separate playground?

BP: Well, by that time we'd moved to the new secondary school.

MM: Got ye. And no separate playgrounds then?

BP: Well, they did have two, Ah can't remember, strangely Ah can't remember if it was-. Ah think the girls were at the front, at the roadside, and the boys played at the back at the playing field side.

MM: Ok.

Running time: 32.00

MM: And was that kind of marshalled, did teachers-.

BP: Not really...

MM: It was just the done thing.

BP: ...ah dinnae think the girls wanted to be pestered wi unruly boys playing rough games. But, Ah mean, before we moved there, for the likes of playing rugby or hockey, ye had tae walk from the old school down there, where the playing fields were.

MM: Ok, where were the playing fields?

BP: Just between, well, where the ga-, Ah don't know if ye know, there was a gasworks there? Just at the end there's a cottage and a few houses there, there was gasworks in at that bit and then ye had gasworks, ye had the playing fields...

MM: I know where you are, yea.

BP: ...and then had where the new school is now, the new secondary school. Well, we had tae walk and we got changed at the gasworks bit, outside, that where we got changed.

MM: So, ye had to walk from the school to any kinna sporting fixture...

BP: Yea.

MM: ...or PE [Physical Exercise] or whatever...

BP: Yea.

MM: ...and changing out-, changing outside?

BP: Oh yea, yea.

MM: Hardy.

BP: Summer and winter, yea.

MM: Oh, my word.

BP: Ah mean, when we got the new school we had changing rooms, God-.

MM: Luxury.

BP: Luxury, got changed inside, ye got a shower. Ah mean when ye finished there was nowhere tae shower...

MM: Nup.

BP: ...ye know. If it was a muddy day well...

MM: That was it.

BP: ...tough, that was it, aye.

MM: An, the schools, Ah mean were they strict?

BP: Yea. Ah mean there were some teachers would have scared the life out o ye.

MM: Is that right?

Running time: 34.00

BP: But there was a lot o nice teachers, as well. And funny enough, one o the teachers that used to terrify me, outside the school, once you were grown up, was the nicest person ye could ever come across, she would never pass ye on the street. And once our kids were born, she always stopped and asked how the kids were.

MM: Mm.

BP: And yet, as Ah say, at school [*laughs*] she was a terror.

MM: Because you still had capital punishment in schools in those days.

BP: Oh yea, uhuh, Ah can rem-.

MM: Did ye get it? Did ye get the belt?

BP: Yes Ah-.

MM: Was it a belt or a cane?

BP: A belt.

MM: Right, a tawse.

BP: Ah can remember getting the belt.

MM: Aye.

BP: It was no mercy [*laughs*]. But we were never any the worse for it...

MM: No.

BP: ...you know. We all survived.

MM: Mm.

BP: Ah cannae recollect any of them complaining that, you know, they were ever, ever any the worse for it or suffered because of their childhood, or anything like that, ye know. It was just part o yer life, Ah mean, you know, ye got on wi it. And invariably you knew ye'd done wrong anyway, ye know.

MM: And if ye got the belt at school, would ye confess to it at home?

BP: Not if ye could help it [*laughter*]. None of ye thought ye would get away with it. But ye, Ah mean because as sure as fate you would get another rattle round the ear, at home, if ye'd been misbehaving at the school.

MM: Indeed.

BP: But yea. It was funny, wi Roy Pugh, Ah mean I've known, knew Roy and his family, Roy was a wee bit older than me, an Ah was friendly wi his young

Running time: 36.00

BP: brother. We went about together quite a lot. In fact, not long after Ah, in fact the day after Ah spoke to you, the phone went an it was Roy. He says 'Ah've got somebody here that wants tae talk tae ye' and it was his young brother...

MM: Oh wow.

BP: ...he was up visiting.

MM: Oh, wow.

BP: He said, 'Can we come round?' so the two of them ended up round, so we had a blether for-.

MM: Oh, that must have been a good chat.

BP: Golden oldies. Yea up the back o the, in the garden, there was two lots o hens. Ma father had hens up in the back garden.

MM: In the Black Bull Close garden?

BP: Yea.

MM: Wow.

BP: And one o the two brothers that owned the pub had hens in there as well.

MM: And that would be for your eggs and things.

BP: You got fresh eggs, yea.

MM: Lovely.

BP: Yea.

MM: And did yer dad grow anything in the garden?

BP: Oh yea, he always grow, grew his, he had one side which was his vegetable bit and the other side, he grew flowers.

MM: Because the fruit trees are still there in that garden.

BP: Yea.

MM: And they are prolific.

BP: And they were, the belonged to the Potts, the fruit trees.

MM: Potts, now did they own the...

BP: The two brothers, the two brothers owned the...

MM: ...the pub

BP: The pub, yea, although it had been, certainly it had been their mother, their mother and father's before that.

MM: Mm.

BP: Because the old mother had lived in the first flat that we moved into.

MM: Ok.

BP: That's where she lived originally.

MM: Ok.

BP: And then there was, when we were there, there was still the old voice pipe...

MM: Oh, yes.

BP: ...in the hall, running from the hall down into the bar so she could speak to them.

MM: So that's just like a hole in the wall or-?

BP: No, it was up against the wall and there was pipe wi a sort of mouthpiece an ye could speak in

Running time: 38.00

BP: an ye could listen in, an it went down into the bar and there was a corresponding one down there.

MM: That's incredible, eh?

BP: So she was able to tell them when their tea was ready or whatever.

MM: That's fascinating, Ah wonder if that's still in that building in some way, shape or form.

BP: Ah think it, Ah don't know, Ah think it would be, it was certainly in the house when they renovated the house. They put electricity in and a bathroom and whatnot in, that was taken out, it went away. But, yea, ye had all of these sorts of things.

MM: And was there still the access at Garden Lane, was that always there? So, you know where you've got the Black Bull Close Lane, at the side o the pub, and then where, now on the High Street, there's the Found Gallery and Flux, there's a lane that goes down, takes ye all the way down to the stairs that take ye to the Co-op?

BP: Oh yea, yea, these lanes were all there, but they were all intae back gardens at that time.

MM: Right, mm.

BP: Ah mean, most of the house all had, you probably found that wi the work you've been doing, every room had a fireplace...

MM: Yes.

BP: ...the bedrooms all had a fireplaces, in them. But ye only got the fire on if ye were ill an ye were in your bed. That was the only time the bedroom fires were put on.

MM: Yes. So, it would be a trek wi the coal, as well, away out in the back.

BP: Yea, aye.

MM: Up the stairs.

BP: But again, it was like anything at your particular time o life, it's just that's how it is an ye accept it an ye never think anything of it, you know.

Running time: 40.00

BP: Looking back on it, it was certainly different when we think of all yer modern central heating and all that sort of stuff. Ah mean, Ah can remember drawing on the frost on the inside of ma bedroom window, during the winter. Used to get loads o fun drawing, ye just cannae do that nowadays.

MM: And what age were you when you left school then?

BP: When Ah left school? Ah left just after Ah was sixteen.

MM: Ok.

BP: An then Ah went to, well, while Ah was at school, Ah worked as a message boy at Mason's shoe shop.

MM: Ok.

BP: An Ah worked, Ah did newspapers for Knox's and newspapers for Penny's shop. Penny's was over, you know where the Bank of Scotland ATM [Automated Teller Machine] is?

MM: Ah do, yea, yea.

BP: An that was a paper shop, in there. And then as Ah got a bit older, well, Ah was probably fifteen, Ah used tae work part-time at the Roxburgh Hotel, as a waiter.

MM: Where was the Roxburgh?

BP: That's where the, well, ye cannae see it for the big boat, the retirement flats...

MM: Yes...

BP: ...along as ye're going out, near the big building.

MM: I know where you are.

BP: Not the one on the right-hand side, the one as you go further out and it's down towards the sea side.

MM: Yes, uhuh, uhuh, ok.

BP: That used to be the Roxburgh Hotel, there.

MM: Right.

BP: So, Ah used to work in there, part-time.

MM: You were a waiter in there?

BP: Yea.

MM: And that would have been busy over the summer months...

BP: Yea.

MM: ...and things as well...

BP: Yea.

MM: ...was it?

BP: Then, after Ah left, Ah worked for the railway, out at Portland Cement...

MM: Ok.

BP: ...at the siding there.

Running time: 42.00

BP: Ah wasnae there that long and then Ah worked in the stores at Sherriff's agricultural engineers at West Barns.

MM: Ok.

BP: Which was just recently closed up...

MM: Yes.

BP: ...because they built a new place out at, just beyond Haddington. And the ah left there when Ah was twenty an left Dunbar, when Ah was twenty.

MM: Cool. What was the final decision that made ye leave Dunbar at that time? Was it being twenty and wantin tae experience more?

BP: Ah joined the police force.

MM: Did ye really?

BP: Ah joined Edinburgh City Police.

MM: Did ye?

BP: Yea. So, Ah moved up there an well, ah was there until Ah came back down here near eight years ago.

MM: And did you enjoy it in the police?

BP: Yea, oh yea. It was quite different from living in Dunbar. Ah think Ah got lost the first morning Ah went to ma...

MM: IS that right?

BP: ...to go to the station.

BP: Fortunately, Ah had left early enough to get there in time but Ah did take a wrong turning going. An Ah can remember thinking 'This is terrible, Ah'm a policeman, ah've got lost'.

MM: So, was that something that you'd always wanted to do?

BP: Yea.

MM: Right. You'd known that from quite a young age.

BP: Yea. An Ah wanted to join the city police as opposed to the county police for some reason or other.

MM: Oh, so they were kinna two distinct forces?

BP: Oh yea, ye had Lothians and Borders, no Lothians and Borders, Lothians, Selkirk and Peebles, which was one force. And you had Edinburgh City, you had all sorts of different forces all over Scotland.

MM: They would have been called a county police force and a city police force.

BP: Yea, uhuh, but they all had their own names.

MM: Right.

Running time: 44.00

BP: And you had Perth and Kinross, you had Aberdeen City and ye had Dundee city.

MM: Uhuh.

BP: An ye had Northern Constabulary, which took in Shetland, in fact, no, they didn't take in Shetland. Shetland was a separate force...

MM: Is that right?

BP: ...called Zetland...

MM: Goodness.

BP: ...at that time. And ye had all sort of different forces and then the west side as well. Ye had the likes of Tayside, and Argyll.

MM: Of course, because it was the Strathclyde force...

BP: Strathclyde, yes.

MM: ...where Ah grew up.

BP: Argyll was a different, separate constabulary. Ye had Glasgow City and ye had Renfrew and Bute, was the other one.

MM: It would be Kyle and Bute, was it?

BP: No, it was Renfrew and Bute.

MM: Right.

BP: AT that time and they all had different hat badges.

MM: Goodness.

BP: Some of them were quite ornate.

MM: So, was it just the idea of it would maybe be a bit more dynamic and more going on being in the city police?

BP: Yea, I quite...

MM: So, had you had enough of country life?

BP: ...I quite fancied ma, city work, plus it was sort of one of these things, looking ahead, that, you know, if ye got married and ye got, had kids, because you were in the Edinburgh City, then you'd be in Edinburgh City, they couldnae move you anywhere. Because if you were in one of the county forces you might be in Dunbar, but they might move you down to Peebles.

MM: Ok.

BP: You know, they could move you, fairly regularly, round different parts o the area, as they can do now. With Police Scotland they can shift them all over the place.

MM: Mm.

BP: But if you were in one of the city forces, then you would remain within the city force.

MM: Got ye.

Running time: 46.00

BP: So, from any sort of family concerns it was more stable, you know, you werenae shifting kids around, up and down, as far as-.

MM: So, you were then about twenty when you joined the...

BP: Yea.

MM: ...police force, then. You went from living at the Black Bull Close up to Edinburgh, actually.

BP: Up to Edinburgh, yea, lived in, stayed in digs initially.

MM: Mm.

BP: And then Ah had only, well, we got married about eight months after Ah moved tae Edinburgh.

MM: Mm.

BP: And that was us there until we came back, well, we'd actually moved because we then had Lothians and Borders Police so we'd fancied moving back out of Edinburgh by that time so Ah got a chance to move, to work from Dalkeith.

MM: Mm.

BP: So, we then bought a house at Gladsmuir.

MM: Mm.

BP: And that was us there until we moved back here.

MM: Got ye. And did it seem quite a natural thing to move back here?

BP: Not really, no.

MM: No.

BP: Ma wife's health was failing.

MM: Ok.

BP: She'd had a really bad heart attack while we were still up at Gladsmuir [*coughs*] and over the years her health was failing and she had three sisters. I was an only one, both ma parents were gone by that time, but she had three sisters, still staying in Dunbar, and she wanted to be nearer them.

MM: That's understandable, isn't it?

BP: So, that was why we moved

Running time: 48.00

BP: back down here. But it wisnae a sort o natural, you know, return to where we were brought up, sort of thing.

MM: Yea, Ah see.

BP: That was the reason behind coming back down.

MM: And when you were in Edinburgh City Police and you lived outwith Dunbar did you come back at weekends or anything like that?

BP: While ma mother and father were alive...

MM: Right.

BP: ...they both, and ma wife's parents were both alive and staying in Dunbar so, you know, we would come down and visit them. And they would visit us, you know. Ah don't think any of them liked coming to Edinburgh very much, it wisnae their cup o tea.

MM: No.

BP: Ah don't think they liked, well by that time, Ah don't think either her father or ma father liked driving in the city, so it was more often or not we would come down here. So, lots of different changes round about when ye see them. As Ah say, a lot of the fields that we played in, when ye go down Countess Road, to go under the railway bridge there, the other side o that railway bridge was fields...

MM: Is that right?

BP: ...that we played in. They were still harvesting in there and we used to play in the haystacks.

MM: Is that right?

BP: Yea, aye. And we used to-.

MM: Goodness, that's quite hard to picture isn't it...

BP: Yea.

MM: ...for the likes o me?

BP: Yea, well we used to walk up to Lochend Woods and there was the old curling pond in there, which was well out of use when Ah was a kid, but when you went up that long, there was a big house that stood on its own, The Retreat.

Running time: 50.00

BP: Ah don't know if it's still there now, Ah havenae-.

MM: That was the name of the house, The Retreat?

BP: Yea.

MM: And was it used as a kind of religious retreat or-?

BP: No, no, that was just the name of it. Ah don't know what...

MM: Oh right, Ah see.

BP: ...it was an old school teacher that...

MM: Ok.

BP: ...lived in it, a Miss Darling.

MM: Cool.

BP: Ah could remember that, ma memory's no that bad. And as you went up the path, up past that to go to the curling pond there was a big wall and in behind that was a market garden.

MM: Oh right.

BP: Where they grew fruit and whatnot and we used to work in there during the summer, as kids, collecting the fruit, the strawberries and gooseberries and blackberries and-.

MM: How wonderful. All the times that you've been describing, it sounds like Dunbar was really quite a self-sufficient town.

BP: Yea.

MM: No much need to go anywhere [*laughs*] for your food or-.

BP: Yea, well, ye know, everything was there.

MM: You've got the sea there, for your seafood.

BP: Ye had yer, you know, ye had yer garages, ye had Starks Garage, up the top which is where the Post Office is now...

MM: Mm.

BP: ...or part of it, in there. And that lane that went in, that was all part of the, you know the wider bit that you can drive in, now.

MM: Mm.

BP: That was all part of the garage...

MM: Right.

BP: ...at that time

MM: And there was a cinema, wasn't there?

BP: Oh yes.

MM: Is it the Empire Close.

BP: There was two.

MM: Two cinemas, is that right?

BP: There was the Empire and there was the Playhouse. Playhouse, you know, you've got the, at the far end of the High Street, you've got the one-way system...

MM: Aye.

BP: ...you go round up past the station and come down.

MM: Uhuh.

BP: Well, when you come back down, Ah think there's a nursery there.

MM: The Cherry Trees Nursery, there, uhuh.

BP: The Playhouse was in there.

MM: Is that right? So they, both picture houses, as we called them, were at the same end o the High Street then?

BP: Yea. The Empire was

Running time: 52.00

BP: let me see, you know, there's a council offices...

MM: There was a housing office there, uhuh.

BP: ...place there and there's a house next door to that and then there's a gap...

MM: Yes, because you can actually see part of the foyer.

BP: ...that's where the Empire was, in there.

MM: And did they both, because it seems to me, Ah know times were different, but for a small town to have two picture houses really close together.

BP: The queues used to be down the, comin from the Playhouse, and come round on to the High Street.

MM: Is that right?

BP: Yea, Ah can remember standing in queues waiting to go in.

MM: And would they be open at weekends or daily or-?

BP: They were open every night.

MM: Oh, my word.

BP: They weren't, well not on a Sunday for goodness sake, no.

MM: No, is that right?

BP: At that time, oh no.

MM: Did everything stop on a Sunday, yea?

BP: Oh, everything stopped on a Sunday. But yea, Saturday and that, ye'd get Saturday matinees for the kids. And there was a serial, there was normally a short film of some sort and there was a serial.

MM: OK.

BP: They would, they always stopped at the exciting bit an ye had tae go back next week and see what was happening.

MM: They knew what they were doing eh? How much was it into the pictures then?

BP: Ah think it was only three old pence or sixpence. Something like that to get in.

MM: And did they both then, did one specialise in a particular kind o movie...

BP: No, they all-

MM: ...like cowboys or-.

BP: No, they all showed just whatever was going.

MM: That's great. And were they like, because Ah've vague memories of the old pictures in Greenock and they were not like pictures that you get now, where you could just be anywhere, but they had, like, red velvet seats...

BP: Oh, yes, uhuh, yea, red velvet seats.

MM: ...an everything felt really luxurious when you were in them and it felt special.

BP: Yea, aye and it was all the red velvet. They used to have an usher who was in a uniform

Running time: 54.00

BP: certainly at the Playhouse.

MM: Uhuh.

BP: And ye had the women that came round wi the trays round their neck wi the ice-creams an-.

MM: So, did the pictures stop halfway through for selling the ice creams and things?

BP: Yes, the lights came up an [?].

MM: Great stuff. So, would go once a week, once-?

BP: Ah went, well, Ah used to go, the Saturday matinees, we went every Saturday morning, all the kids went, you know. And as ye got older your, well, when you were younger your parents would maybe take ye and as you got older you would go yourself to whatever, whatever you could afford to go to.

MM: Sure.

BP: The Saturday matinees, they used to come round because invariably the thing would break down...

MM: Really.

BP: ...it got stuck. The kids would all be stamping their feet, and the lights would go on, the manager would be around creating merry Hell about ye stampin yer feet.

MM: Ah.

BP: The one at the, at the Empire, the manager, a man called Mr Rogers, and he walked with a stick but when you were stamping your feet he used the stick.

MM: Is that right [*laughter*]? Pokin at ye.

BP: Pokin ye wi his stick, you know, tae stop stampin.

MM: Oh goodness.

BP: Yea.

MM: Different times altogether then [?]. Would people just be, maybe not at the kids' ones, Ah don't know, would people be smoking things in the pictures.

BP: Oh yea, yea.

MM: Aye, changed days.

BP: Aye, people smoking and whatnot. But Ah can remember

Running time: 56.00

BP: ye had all sorts, well, at that time ye didnae have bookmakers' shops.

MM: Oh, like, like a bookies.

BP: Aye. So, ye had street bookies, which was illegal.

MM: Oh right, ok.

BP: An Ah used tae watch then from ma bedroom window, cause they'd come out o the pub, an come up the close.

MM: Oh, the Black Bull pub?

BP: Aye, intae the drying green on the right an take the bets and hand over any winnings that somebody had got.

MM: So, where would they get their information from? What would people be bettin on?

BP: Horses and dugs or whatever.

MM: So, would they have a wireless or something that they would listen to, to get the results?

BP: Oh aye, probably, aye, get the results.

MM: So, it was like real kinda business?

BP: Oh, aye, yea, all be it black market stuff. Ah can remember initially wondering why these men kept cominin up to the back green. Gradually worked it out that this is what it was, it was the street bookies takin their bets and paying the winnings out and what have ye.

MM: So, there would have been no official bookies in those days.

BP: None, no. No, it was all illegal stuff.

MM: No tax getting paid on that.

BP: Oh no *[laughs]*.

MM: These guys that would be the street bookies would they be, like, locals to Dunbar...

BP: Aye...

MM: ...or would they be-?

BP: ...aww, they were local men.

MM: Aye.

BP: Everybody knew them, you know. They were never, they werenae outsiders, they were all well-known.

MM: And was there ever any bother in Dunbar, that you were aware of.

BP: Occasionally, you know, you would get, there would be a fight in the pub or-. Nothing any different from anywhere else.

MM: Sure.

BP: It was never a great problem, Ah wouldnae have said.

Running time: 58.00

Ah mean, Ah can remember when a joined the police, when Ah went to Edinburgh, Ah worked at Gayfield Square, which took in from Princes Street to the coast. And, as a probationer, the first two years o yer service, on a Friday and a Saturday night, you were not allowed along Rose Street on your own.

MM: Is that right?

BP: You had to have an older police officer wi ye. An that was a-

MM: Would that be because it was rough?

BP: Oh aye. Yea, Ah can remember walking through broken glass along Rose Street. One night we were going along and there was a beer barrel came out into the street from the inside o the pub.

MM: What? It had been chucked out?

BP: Aye.

MM: Like the Wild West.

BP: Oh aye, it was quite different.

MM: Mm.

BP: But it was strange because there was at the far end of the west end o Rose Street...

MM: Mm.

BP: ...you never had to bother about the pubs in that end, when you worked there. It was almost as though the pubs at that part were local, you know, locals like you have a local in Dunbar.

MM: Mm.

BP: They were all regular customers...

MM: Got ye.

BP: ...they werenae sort of passin through

MM: Right.

BP: ...comin frae different places. An they wouldnae allow any trouble, you know, locals wouldnae have-.

MM: Kinna self-policing then to-.

BP: Aye, if there was any sort of trouble they got thrown out.

MM: Mm.

BP: So, you never really had any problems wi the bars at the one end. It was just like a bit on its own, you know.

MM: That's quite...

BP: Fair enough, Ah say.

MM: ...an observation.

BP: Aye, yea.

MM: Ah bit less to worry about at the west end then.

BP: Yea, aye, it was quite different, it was strange, yea.

MM: An comin back down here to Dunbar, was there,

Running time: 60.00

MM: can you remember it being, what's the word Ah'm looking for, a more obvious fishing industry?

BP: Yea, there was a lot more boats.

MM: Right.

BP: More fishing boats, not so many o the leisure boats...

MM: Right, ok.

BP: ...if ye like. Ah notice a big difference that way, there are a lot of leisure boats here.

MM: Ok.

BP: Ye had that, you'd more of that in North Berwick...

MM: Aye.

BP: ...Ah think, at that time, but certainly not down here. It was all mainly fishing boats.

MM: And what would they be landin, then?

BP: Oh, they were landin everything, you know, a lot of fish, crabs, lobsters.

MM: And would local people buy it straight from the...

BP: Yea.

MM: ...harbour.

BP: Aye there were some o them used to, used to buy their stuff and the men would be sittin mendin their nets round the side. Ah mean there was quite a few, there's two brothers, here. Now, when Ah was a boy, they were at school wi me and their father run the boat, run the boats. Now, well, they're both my age, they're both sort of retired and some o their kids and nephews and whatnot are running the boats now.

MM: Is that right? So, it's kept it all in the family.

BP: Yea, aye, but there's not as many of them now, you see.

MM: Nup.

BP: There's quite a few less than there used to be.

MM: And would fish be sent away from here, as well?

BP: Yea, ye used to get the lorries come...

MM: Is that right?

BP: ...come in and collect the fish. There was a lot involved in that but like everything else it changes.

MM: What do you think brought about the change wi that?

BP: Well, Ah think there was a lot of

Running time: 62.00

BP: regulations brought in for different things, in a, Ah suppose there was a lot caused by over-fishing.

MM: Mm.

BP: There just wisnae the fish that there had been and then, Ah think, ye had the regulations from the EU [European Union] that came in an stopped them doin this, that and the next thing and a lot o them were, Ah mean they were, Ah can remember them offering to get them to scrap their boats. They would, you know, they would get paid to scrap their boats.

MM: That's quite heart-breaking.

BP: And Ah think there was a lot of that for quite a while. Well, because of the over-fishing and the regulations a lot o them just werenae gonna survive. There was too many boats for what was gonna be available. So, a lot o them were paid to scrap their boats.

MM: I find that quite sad.

BP: Yea.

MM: Especially when you're telling stories, there, of how it's, you know, it's in families for generation after generation.

BP: Yea, aye, there was a lot families, Ah mean there was always certain families that you knew, if you heard the name 'Oh must be fishers' just because of the association o the family name. Ah mean there's a, Ah'd say another guy over there, he was younger than me but Ah went to school wi his brother and the father fished, you know.

MM: Mm.

BP: They were fishermen and Ah see he still does, the guy. But he was, as Ah say he was younger than me, but Ah can remember him at Dunbar. And one or two others who are

Running time: 64.00

BP: retired now an Ah see going about, but obviously arenae involved in the fishin now. Although invariably they, even if they're retired, they still come round.

MM: Are they down here?

BP: Yea, aye.

MM: At the harbour?

BP: Aye, yea, they still appear down. Even the two brothers, Gordon and George, although neither o them take the boats out now, they still appear down in the morning.

MM: Ye can understand that, though, if it's been so much a part o their life and being outside.

BP: Ah was saying to one, you know, 'You guys' Ah says 'You come down there, there can be about four o ye arrive aw at once.' Ah say 'It's like some sort o religious cult' Ah says 'Because you aw go right up to the edge o the harbour, an ye aw stand there, ye aw look down'. Ah says 'You know, it's like clockwork.' [laughter]. An they do, they aw come down...

MM: Reading the water.

BP: ...an they aw line up and they're lookin at.

MM: Heavens, that's brilliant. An earlier on you said, just going back to something that you said earlier, Ah meant to ask ye about, that your dad worked part-time in the Black Bull.

BP: Yea.

MM: What, did he do other work as well as that?

BP: He worked for the railway...

MM: Oh right.

BP: ...he drove the lorry for the railway.

MM: Ok. He drove a lorry for the railway, how does that work?

BP: Well, they used to have railway lorries that delivered stuff.

MM: Oh, Ah've never heard o such a thing.

BP: You know, the stuff would come in on the trains and they would get passed out to the lorries. Ah mean, lots of stuff delivered to houses, as well as shops, you know, delivered goods to the shops. And likes o Christmas, you know, there'd be bikes and whatnot that people had ordered.

MM: So, it would be almost like the Royal Mail but working for the railway

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MM: these wee railway lorries, are they.

BP: Aye, yea.

MM: It's just that Ah've never heard o such a thing? And they would pick up stuff that would be dropped, then, at the station?

BP: There was two Ah reckon, ma father drove one and there used to be Fallon's Taxis?

MM: Ok.

BP: You know, as you're going out of Dunbar on the right, ye had, ye've got the undertakers?

MM: Yes, Ah know where you are.

BP: Well, that used to be Fallon's Taxis in there.

MM: Uhuh.

BP: The two boys, the older one, Ah went to school with, and he had a young brother, he ran the taxis latterly, but his father worked, drove the other railway lorry an then went into driving taxis.

MM: Ok.

BP: You know, a taxi business. So ye had two railway lorries at one point delivering stuff and then ma father was, Ah think Jimmy, the other driver, Ah think he'd gone into taxis by that time an ma father was made redundant when they did away wi the lorries.

MM: When would that have been, roughly.

BP: Oh, that must have been, Ah must have been about seventeen when that happened, it must have been sixty-four...

MM: Mm.

BP: ...something like that. And then ma father worked out at the White Sands as a ranger for a while.

MM: Ok.

BP: And then he went to work in the Post Office.

MM: Oh right.

BP: And retired from the Post Office, eventually.

MM: Ok.

BP: Aye, when Ah was wee, before Ah started, Ah used to go on the lorry with him, round aw the county.

MM: And was that lorry then serviced Dunbar railway station, if ye like?

BP: Yea.

MM: What was dropped there.

BP: Yea, it operated from Dunbar railway station but they would take stuff up, Spott, Innerwick, Cockburnspath, East Linton,

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BP: out that way.

MM: It makes perfect sense when you say that.

BP: Well, they used to have a railway station at East Linton as well, at that time. Ah can remember going out to the, there was a sort of bothy for the workmen up there and he would invariably go in and there would be a brew o tea going. An Ah can remember getting handed this tea, in an old tin, a black, a very black old tin, an the tea was like tar. They brewed it in the tin, just like an old soup can, ye know. This was the fancy cuppa. I remember that was always what it was in when you went in an ye had a cup o tea.

MM: Great, that's great.

BP: Aye, he went roond aw the county areas in the lorries. An, as Ah say, you know, he used to deliver to the houses as well because Ah can always remember at Christmas time, well, he knew everybody, both wi workin on the railway and living here and workin in the pub, so when there was bikes an that turned up for delivery at Christmas, he never delivered them to what the address was he would deliver them to their next door neighbour so that the kids didnae know they were there.

MM: Oh, that's really thoughtful.

BP: So, presents were getting swapped wi everybody and everybody knew that was how it operated. Everybody got somebody else's presents, keep it oot the way o the kids.

MM: Keep it oot the way. That's brilliant. Ah never heard of such a thing as a railway lorry, that's fab.

BP: Oh, aye, it would be an outrage if ye did half of these things nowadays, you know. Ye'd never get away wi half o them.

MM: That's great. So, thanks very much for your time, today.

BP: You're welcome.

MM: Ah'm gonna stop the recordin now and bring you back into the twenty-first century. Ah'll just stop that.

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