

Interviewee(s): Roy Pugh (RP)	Interviewer(s): Ruth Fyfe (RF)
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REGION	East Lothian
COUNTY	Haddington/Dunbar
TOWN	Haddington/Dunbar

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RF: This is Ruth Fyfe I'm an archivist here at the John Gray Centre in Haddington it's the Eleventh of December Twenty-nineteen and today I'm talking to Roy Pugh, Roy is a Dunbar local historian and so he's a regular researcher here in the archive in the Local History Centre and today we're going to talk about Roy growing up in Dunbar so Roy can I start off by asking you when and where you were born?

RP: I was born on the Seventeenth of February Nineteen forty-one in Dunbar at Seventy-five Lammermuir Crescent and lived there until Nineteen seventy.

RF: And so were you born at home rather than in a maternity hospital?

RP: I was born in my mother's bedroom yeah an' if you're interested in a wee story about that the local doctor and the nurse were delivering another baby in the Lammermuir Hills at the time 'cause it was snowing an' my mother delivered me herself and the only thing she couldn't do was cut the umbilical cord so I was perhaps attached a bit longer to my mother than I ought to have been!

RF: So how long did it take for the doctor and nurse to get to her did she tell you?

RP: It was ten o'clock at night but I was born at ten past eight.

RF: Right, and that might be quite a common thing in those days?

RP: It was very common uh huh I think the other baby that was being born was a farmer's wife so they got stuck in the snow!

RF: Ah so that's how you entered the world!

RP: That's how I entered the world.

RF: And who were your parents?

RP: My mother was Georgina Cockburn and she was born in Dunbar in Nineteen fourteen,

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my father was a soldier serving in between the wars at Dunbar Castle Park Barracks, so they met while he - he was a great cinema-goer and she worked in the local cinema sweet shop and that's where they met so they got married in Nineteen thirty-nine an' immediately he was taken away from Dunbar to Salisbury Plains and she saw him about three times between Nineteen thirty-nine and Nineteen forty-five because the war came along so not only was he a stranger to ma mother he was a stranger to me as well but he came from Wolverhampton and he spent all his time in the army until he was more or less forced to retire in Nineteen sixty.

RF: And did you have any brothers or sisters?

RP: I had a half-brother from a previous soldier also at Dunbar Barracks, ma mother was pregnant at the time and he wanted to marry her and they decided they would get married in Haddington Registry Office, he had a motorbike he was a motorbike enthusiast and so they set off from Dunbar for the registry and they got as far as the folly just outside Haddington when the rain came on and they got soaked and my mother refused to turn up at the registry soaked, drookit like a hen, as she used to say and he pleaded with her to carry on because his regiment was getting sent overseas to India very soon and she said

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no way was she going to get married looking like what she did so, a few days later he was posted to India and she never saw him again so I have an older brother who died in Nineteen eighty-nine, I have a younger brother who's still around he was born in Nineteen forty-six and he lives in Peebles.

RF: And when you were growing up then do you remember your dad coming home on leave or was it mainly just your mum bringing you up during the war?

RP: I have very few memories of my father one memory that does stick out in my mind is he did get leave possibly around about Nineteen forty-seven and he turned up with a kit bag and lo and behold in the kit bag he brought out boxes after boxes of sweets and chocolate and of course all that was on the ration[in'] in these days an' it was literally a treasure trove an' I remember my mother collecting, we all got something each, and then she gathered it all up an' put it into her bedroom and locked it away an' we were gauny get so much every week! [Laughs] But that's the first real memory ah have o' ma father I did meet my widowed grandfather English grandfather in Wolverhampton during the war I have no recollection of the journey there or back but I learnt to walk in Wolverhampton it was one o' my father's sisters my Aunt Dorothy who said that I was nearly two and she said it was time I was walking so I took my first footsteps in England I'm sad to say! [Laughs] But it was years later that my mother and father actually separated round

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about Nineteen forty-nine because he wanted us all to move out to Germany he was in the British Army of occupation of the Rhine and ma mother had an idea what army housing was like and she said no way was she going to Germany to live in a

Nissan hut because she had a nice council house in Lammermuir Crescent in Dunbar so they came to blows about that and he met somebody else in Germany and wanted to divorce my mother because the lady that he met was pregnant so I do have another have another half-brother or half-sister perhaps running about in Germany today, anyway they did make up in Nineteen fifty-eight but they never really had a full relationship an' then he got more or less forced to retire from the army they were gauny break him in rank if he didn't go in Nineteen sixty it was a Tory cut and this came as a great shock to ma father because he always believed that the Tory Party was the Party of law and order an' supported the army and the armed forces, an' then he got a job in Ferranti as a security policeman an' he worked there till he died in Nineteen sixty-seven.

RF: So did your mum have to support you financially did she - was she working when you were growing up?

RP: I don't think she was working when I was growing up until ah think it was she had summer jobs an' then she (sorry ah'll start again) although my father and mother were separated

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he was duty bound until they got divorced to pay what they called a statutory deduction from his salary, but he took away all his voluntary money so she did have an income the princely sum of four pounds twelve and six a week so she had to do jobs she worked in boarding houses an' in the summer she worked in local farms an' then when I became thirteen she put me out to work as a paperboy earning thirteen shillings a week then ah worked on farms maself the following year and then ah took a job with Lipton's the grocer in Dunbar and acted as a message boy three evenings a week an' then in the summer they decided to train me as a shop assistant so I got to wear an apron that came down to ma ankles!

RF: And what farms were you working on what kind of things were you doing on the farm?

RP: I worked at Oxwellmains Mains Farm which is now the site of the cement factory, the village and the farm has gone, long gone it disappeared around about Nineteen sixty when the company took over the property and then I took a job in the autumn in those days the schools used to allow school children of employment age an' ye had to be thirteen in those days before you were employed, they gave you three weeks off school to pick the tatties so I went tattie howkin' in a farm at Pitcox which is outside

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Dunbar and the idea was that ah was to work half my time there and then we were going to the farmer's father who had a farm at Tynefield which is on the road to Haddington it was a particularly heavy year that year for potatoes it was a good year and we had to get an extension to four weeks and we were even working overtime on the Saturday which was

quite something because the pay was very good it was four pounds fifteen shillings and bear in mind my mother had been living on four pounds twelve and six so I felt quite grown up when I was earning that money you know.

RF: How many folk would go from the school how many [people] would be liftin' the tatties?

RP: It's hard to say but I was in what they call an A class which took Latin and French an' it had been unheard of, anybody goin' to work on the potatoes that came from that kind of class and there was maself and a girl from Innerwick who was in the B class which was French only as a special subject and the pair of us actually no I beg your pardon she was in the same class as me ah think for a while and our English teacher at the time made us stand up in the class and made us admit we preferred to make money [rather than] concentrate on our education he was disgusted with us and he made us work all the harder when we came back from school from the potato lifting, we used to do one home reader a term he made us read three that one term as a punishment so there were probably about ah'd say twenty/thirty people from the school but lower down they'd

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be in what they called the technical classes an' the domestic classes for the girls.

RF: And did your mum let you keep any of the money or did you hand it all over can you remember?!

RP: I handed it all over and she gave me fifteen shillings she kept the four pounds! But before that (maybe we should have mentioned this at the beginning) one of my earliest memories as a child was in probably Nineteen forty- four/forty-five ah'd be four at the time there was a German prison o' war camp at Haddington at Amisfield as you will know Ruth and they brought the German prisoners along to do field work in this case picking or lifting cabbages and my older brother who was twelve at the time used to take me up to show me the Germans and I remember asking him why were these men in the zoo because they had barbed wire on the wall if I recollect properly and he being a twelve year old and probably having suffered more than I ever suffered during the war he dismissed these guys as the blokes that had killed our men during the Second World War but there must have been something in me that felt sorry for them because I went home that day an' asked my mother if I could have bread for the soldiers and she actually gave me bread and we went back two or three days from then and I fed the soldiers the bread through the wire and I thought it was just like feedin' animals at the zoo that ah had seen in ma picture books and lo and behold the last time or one o' the

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times one o' the German soldiers had made me a little horse a wooden horse he had carved it out of old wood and it was a horse on wheels I always remember it was brown with a green base and red wheels an' another soldier made me a little ring out of a teaspoon and

had fitted a little blue stone in it and these were treasured possessions of mine for years and years until my mother gave them away to some other child an' I was really annoyed about that because they had sentimental value for me so although ah was too young to participate in the war like other children of my age we were aware of what was going on but we had no concept of the effects of the war and what was happening in Europe, and strangely enough my father had a great deal of respect for the German people it was very odd.

RF: Was there quite a lot of stigmatism do you think locally to the prisoners or ah know that some stayed and settled?

RP: It's hard for me to say that although having said that one of the prisoners he was an Austrian he was in Amisfield and he was sent to Dunbar's village or a village near Dunbar called East Barns an' he worked in the farm there and he wasn't under any supervision he was allowed to more or less please himself ah believe there were two other guys in the same boat one was at Spott village I think and the other one ah think may have been in Stenton, but they just slept in barns and never tried to escape, and lo and behold he married an aunt of mine and he worked on the farm until he decided that he wanted to move to England and

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became a coal miner in Doncaster and his family are still living there and ah've had contact with him but he was a very reluctant soldier he didn't want to join the army he was more or less forced he - the story is that he pretended he was a Ukrainian but the Wehrmacht actually made enquiries into his background and it turned out he was born in Austria so they said Austria's part o' Germany now so you're definitely gettin' conscripted an' he said he was fortunate in that he fought in the Western Front an' he said, ah surrendered to the first American ah met! He wasn't a warlike man at all an' a really nice man, a really nice man.

RF: Ah think in your book I've not read your whole book but I've dipped in and out you mentioned things like playing did they have trenches did they have practice trenches in Dunbar can you tell me a bit about that?

RP: Yes they did well they were mainly at Belhaven which is a very flat beach as you know and the had tank obstruction blocks or tank blocks as we called them in ah think the term for them is 'dragons teeth' it was to break up units that were landing on the beach an' of course they were a great playground for kids we used to play cowboys and Indians an' Japs and commandoes and Germans and commandoes and there were trench systems particularly along the golf course at Winterfield an' they were around for many years as were the tank blocks until I think it was probably be what's now East Lothian Council decided that they wanted to move the blocks and they actually used them to

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prop up the coastline at Winterfield golf and you can still see them they're piled up they just bulldozed them up against to stop the erosion and filled in the trenches but there's still evidence of tank blocks on the other side of the river Tyne at Binning Woods ah've been along there and they're just like big furry dice 'cause they're all covered in moss now but yes many fond memories of playing soldiers in the trenches down at Belhaven.

RF: And can I take you back to your house in Lammermuir Crescent can you describe your house when you were growing up?

RP: Yes it was a semi-detached with three bedrooms a lounge a bathroom and a kitchen or scullery as we called it and my older brother was born in the house before Lammermuir Crescent he was born in what was known as Castle Place in the high street where ma mother was born, but I was the first baby to be born in Seventy-five Lammermuir Crescent an' then my younger brother came along in Nineteen forty-six and we were both born in ma mother's bedroom, which was very small! In fact there's a story that I tell in my book about our next door neighbour who saved my life from getting burned to death!

RF: Gosh.

RP: It must have been ah know from the fire that it was reported and recorded by Dunbar Borough Council it was in Nineteen forty-three or forty- two I'm not just entirely sure about the date but it must have been Forty-three because I was

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two and my brother was in the Boys' Brigade at that time an' he came in it was a Friday night which is the night the Boys' Brigade used to meet and he came in and he had been disciplined for not blackening his belt properly an' he had been strapped or hit with a cane and his knuckles were all bleeding an' ma mother had been tending to me in the bedroom an' she came out an' she was in a vile mood because she was insulted that somebody should chastise her child without her permission an' she flung the bedroom door open an' she kept a sort o' silk kimono on the back door an' of course in those days there was no electricity and there was no gas in the bedrooms at least no gas lights so there was a candle burning and the kimono caught fire an' as she was listening to ma brother's story in the lounge next door she thought, my god the candle's burning very brightly tonight, not realising that the place was on fire! And when she went in of course conflagration the door's on fire and the first thing was she ran next door to the next door neighbour to a chap called John Harkess who died not too long ago and John I think was working on the - ah think it was the fire prevention service as a civilian and she expected him to fill buckets o' water an' throw them on the door but no no he went an' got a little a small carpet an' dipped it in the water and beat the flames out with it he said because if ye'd thrown water on it would have just spread so only then when he'd put the fire out she realised I was sleeping in her bed and was very close to the candle so! The bairn was nearly burnt! An' it is recorded in the

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Borough Council minutes.

RF: Another incidence I read in the book when the chimney went -

RP: The chimney caught fire yes uh huh there seemed to be something wrong with the chimney and oh my mother was what they would say in Dunbar, I was black affronted! Havin' the fire brigade havin' to come and put the fire out an' it turned out that the problem wasn't her fault it was the fault part o' the chimney had collapsed apparently and it just happened to be her fireplace or chimney that went on fire her side of the fire that went on fire the fireplace, but oh she had to pay a fine of five shillings for calling out the fire brigade but that's recorded as well!

RF: An' you remember the chimney sweep comin' to the - ?

RP: I remember the chimney sweep very well it was a chap called Matthew Boyle or as I knew him in Dunbar Mattie Byle and he was a bit of a character quite a bright man quite an intelligent man and very well read and he used to put sacking at the fireplace an' he would say to one of us kids, when ah shout down the chimney hello you shout back so that ah know which chimney to sweep, 'cause there was aboot four chimney pots on the roof so we did that and thoroughly enjoyed it then he would get all the soot collected an' he would ask us if we'd like to put it on our strawberries an' we didn't have strawberries at that time it was all potatoes an' cabbages an' Brussel sprouts so he just used to dump them in the field over the wall which is now Dunbar Grammar School's field an' you could tell the people that didn't have strawberries because every so often along the back you just walked along the field you'd see all these piles o' soot so you knew that most folk didn't grow strawberries! An' the ones that did were obviously used to

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soot, however.

RF: So did you grow veggies in your garden just in the wartime or right up to - ?

RP: Right up till I left the house yeah.

RF: An' can you remember when you got electricity?

RP: Nineteen fifty-one!

RF: Och I didn't expect it to be so exact!

RP: How I know that was because ma young brother was six at the time an' they were digging up the road to put to replace the gas lamps with electric lamps so the road was all dug up an' the pavement was dug up and we all had little walkways just planks o' wood an'

my young brother was six years old at the time an' he was negotiatin' the two planks an' he slipped an' he fell an' he nearly got strangled he caught himself in the rope that was holding up the fence if you like and one o' the workmen managed to free him otherwise he would hae been choked that's how they knew 'cause he started screaming an' then he stopped screaming very quickly! So yeah Nineteen fifty-one an' ma mother actually had two of the engineers as lodgers they were lodged with us because ah think there was a huge workforce in the Dunbar area like they were probably doin' the whole of East Lothian at the time and so she got two lodgers. An' ah look at the pylon up in the Black Castle an' ah always think of these two guys because they were really nice men and ah hadn't known ma father very well you know an' it was quite strange to have grown men in the house you know an' they used to play with me and play with ma wee brother which was quite nice.

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RF: And did you have any uncles or relatives that - ?

RP: I had two uncles and five aunts, most of whom the two uncles they both lived in Dunbar although they younger of the two ma uncle Jimmy he got a job with Wimpey and tended to work away in fact durin' the war years he was building or Wimpey were building aerodromes up in Aberdeen an' he was there an' one o' the interesting stories he told me was that he met Barnes Wallis who invented the bouncing bomb, Wimpey built a little mock-up of the dams that they were gauny and he used a tennis ball to show how the bouncin' bomb principle worked because ah remember when the *Dam Busters* film came out he said, oh ah saw that in miniature up in Aberdeen! An' the other memory that he had of Aberdeen was seeing a dog-fight when he was having his breakfast in his digs he said it was just like a movie just like a film. But I have no recollection of the night that the Germans bombed Dunbar they were ah think it was the Nineteen forty-three raid on Clydebank an' they were coming back an' obviously gettin' low on fuel and they came over Dunbar an' decided that when they saw the railway line they thought they would try that so they jettisoned two bombs not too far away from where I lived but I don't remember anything about it ah was only two at the time, an' one o' the bombs exploded an' did nothing it just exploded an' the other one landed but it was a dud an' then they went on another plane bombed a machine gun Innerwick Station and it was a couple o' men ah think

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wounded but an' then there was a second raid and this time they were aiming at the gasometer which was only a few hundred yards away from where we lived and fortunately the bomb exploded not near enough to damage the gasometer but it cracked the window pane in ma mother's bedroom and this is a famous family story in Nineteen sixty she reported the crack to the Borough Council an' they said yeah they would get round to it but they never did an' in Nineteen sixty they were doing a survey of all the houses all the council houses and ah think they were replacing windows or at least replacing the wood in the windows an' the Borough surveyor came out to interview ma mother an' he said, ah Mrs. Pugh I see that you have a crack in your window was that one of the boys at the school



playing golf or something that hit that? And she let him know in no uncertain terms who had done it and I quote, it was that bloody Hitler and I reported it to you in Nineteen forty-three an' this is the first bloody time you've come out to look at it and see what's wrong with it! It's a great family story!

RF: And did they replace it?!

RP: They did replace it yes.

RF: Twenty years!

RP: Yeah.

RF: And so growing up you would have been closer in age then to your younger brother?

RP: Yes.

RF: Do you remember what kinna games and things you would play in the house?

RP: Well I was a great aficionado with model soldiers it's a passion that I've had and still to a certain extent have to this day ah've got a collection of models of the Waterloo

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period all the various regiments that were the British regiments that is and the French regiments and because Waterloo was fought more or less on terrain that had two moors or hills on them I wanted to do an industrial design as well an' the first industrial war or battle that I could come across was Gettysburg in the American Civil War so the master plan was that ah was gaunny build this set an' ah could use both armies at different times never got round to that ah'm afraid but ah've still got all the soldiers an' ah've still got boxed soldiers as well that have never been opened so they're probably collectors' items now but my younger brother he had a curious we weren't just sure where he was going an' what he wanted to do I hasten to add that I never wanted to join the army like ma father I'm so glad that ah didn't have to do National Service but my younger brother he liked playing with building bricks ah suppose nowadays it would be Lego but there was one Christmas he was asked what he wanted from Santa Claus and he had problems with his C's he couldn't pronounce the letter C he always used the letter T so if he wanted his coat it was his toat, and one night ma mother asked us to write our letters to Santa Claus and she said, what is it you want? And he said, a tooker, and she said, what on earth[!s] a tooker? Couldn't think about it an' he kept saying, a tooker, ah want a tooker, nuh she couldn't work it out an' he said,

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ah want a tooker, let me show ye! An' he took her into the kitchen an' he said, a tooker like what we dot! So oh it's a cooker so he got his cooker that Christmas out of Woolworth's an'

he spent endless hours makin' roast potatoes or potatoes, peas green plasticine, white plasticine an' red plasticine for roast an' he'd rattle about the pots an' pans an' then he'd shout, it's ready! So we knew that that was time to go and sit at the table, he liked Dinky toys but I was hooked on soldiers that was my thing.

RF: And was Christmas quite a big occasion did you write a letter to Santa and - ?

RP: Ah wrote a letter to Santa and it was always me that had to go and ask my mother to put the Christmas decorations up and the Christmas tree and she was not happy about that she wasn't a Christmas person it was just another chore and Christmas decorations were in the parlance of Dunbar, 'a herbor o' dirt', a harbour of dirt. However she would put them up eventually an' got the tree an' usually it was a real tree it wasn't a false tree an' ah always remember we had a big bell a big paper bell an' ah used to say to my wee brother at midnight on Christmas eve it rings an' he used to lie awake waitin' for this bell to ring an' he got sleepy an' every now and then he would say to me, ah think Santa's here ah can hear him on the loof! Couldn't say R's either! An' ah'd say, no no go to sleep, an' then next mornin' we'd wake up an' he usually got we had pillow cases for stockings in these days and great things and we'd each get a pillow case an' his was always plasticine Dinky toys an' he got the *Teddy Tale* annual, mine was all annuals ah got *Oor Wullie* or the *Broons* ah got the *Beano* the *Dandy Radio Fun* the *Film Fun* and latterly *the Knockout*, ah just loved books, it's been with me for many years and then ah graduated from comics comic books tae the real thing an' never looked back but yes for my brother and I it was a very happy occasion, an' ma mother usually had we never had turkey it was always chicken an' that was a great treat because it was about once a year ye got chicken ye were really livin' high on the hog when ye got a chicken! But then she used to make currant bun or black bun as it's known and she made shortbread as well most families did that themselves so it was celebrated New Year as well, we were allowed to stay up late that night in our pyjamas and we had dressin' gowns actually usually old coats but it was passed as a dressing gown an' of course we were allowed to go to bed after midnight we got a glass of Crabbie's Green Ginger Wine that was our tippie an' we were allowed to go to bed and read till one o'clock in the morning an' one o' the nice things about pre-Nineteen fifty-one when we got electricity was it was all gas lamps an' ah remember the lamp lighter coming along when it got dark to light the lamps he came along on his bike an' then he came along at eleven o'clock an' put them out and once the lights were out that was the place was complete pitch dark ye know so ah used to always

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look forward to the moon risin' because our house faced opposite Doon Hill there was a gap in the Crescent ah could see Doon Hill just the side of it so ah've seen Doon Hill in all its weathers with snow on it and gorse and all the rest of it an' ah remember one New Year it snowed and the moon was full an' it was like daylight it was fantastic an' it's always stuck in ma memory.

RF: And would the lamplighter - did the lights go out even after the war years was it eleven o'clock yeah?

RP: Yeah they would probably be - I can't remember exactly but ah'm sure they'd be either shaded or not on at all because I don't recall I would only be an infant when the war ended, just startin' goin' to school.

RF: And back to New Year did your mum or your neighbours go - was first footing a thing yeah?

RP: Yes, my uncle who by that time lived with us he had managed to get a job with Wimpey in Edinburgh an' he was usually home at weekends an' then finally he was the man that got the Wimpey buses to run from Dunbar, they were short of workforce an' he said, ah'll fill six buses for ye, an' he did he just about cleared the unemployment he took charge in our house because ma father was always away he was either in Germany or in England so he was the man o' the house and ah always remember at midnight he would open the back door and say, goodbye, whatever the year was, an' he'd open the front door and say, welcome, whatever the year was, we'd have a toast an' then he'd first foot the next door neighbours but that's the only place he really went and when we got

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older we always had to be in the house at twelve o'clock, after that we could do any'hing we liked when I was in ma twenties ah was in a small group o' guys and gals and we used to go and do our - we'd start at the Town House where [there'd] usually be a crowd celebrating there and then we'd go around various houses and sometimes be out till four/five in the morning but got home tipsy, we were probably roarin' drunk but we always claimed it was tipsy, we took our half bottles of whiskey or vodka whatever it was an' always made sure they were empty before we got home!

RF: An' in your book I think Hallowe'en was quite a big occasion as well?

RP: Hallowe'en was a big occasion yes.

RF: What happened at Hallowe'en?

RP: We went out guising, guising is a Scots word for disguising of course it's a short word for disguising an' we used to dress up, anybody that's read *Oor Wullie* will know that the main thing o' doin' was you put yer hat on backwards an' yer jacket on back to front but that was usually the thing but you always had to do a turn you knocked at the door rattled your tin can an' not like Trick or Treat today you had to sing a song or recite a poem or do a dance or whatever and some houses gave you maybe an apple or an orange but most o' the houses gave you a few pennies an' we used the money to buy fireworks for Bonfire Night or Guy Fawkes Night as we called it one year ah'm ashamed to say although ah made a hell of a lot of money out of it ah'm ashamed to say ah dressed up as a woman I didn't put lipstick on or

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anythin' like that but ah got ma mother's high heels, nylons an' a dress an' I made a fortune 'cause it was the first time anybody had ever tried this and the next year I think there was quite a few guys dressed up as women! Because instead of buying a firework box of two shillings and sixpence that year I got a five shilling one so I got extra fireworks and the following year they were all at it but we did things like you'd duck for apples or dook for apples usually in a basin an' ye got a fork an' ye tried to fork them the other famous one was treacle scones hangin' from like a pulley which was a thing for dryin' your clothes in the scullery or kitchen an' o' course you got in a hell of a mess with the treacle but usually you got your treacle scone!

RF: So you had to eat it without using your hands?

RP: You had to eat it without using your hands that's right yeah, yeah fun days but the kids nowadays ah remember the first year ah was back in Dunbar in Two thousand and got the knock at the door, Trick or Treat, an' I said, oh ah see you've brought in this American thing we used to - , oh we're no' interested in what you did just give us some money, and I said, oh where's you tin? We haveny got a tin, so ah gave them whatever smash ah had coppers and silver an' he looked at it an' he says, is that it is that all ah'm gettin'?! Ah said, well you've not done anythin' so you're not getting any more we had to work for our money! But they weren't phased ah think it's still very popular but it's a lot more supervised and younger kids are doing it and their parents usually go with them but we were allowed out on our own because we were told that whatever we did we had to behave.

RF: And would just go round the neighbours

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or would you - ?

RP: You just went round the neighbours aye two or three streets like Lammermuir Crescent Summerfield Road, Countess Road these places and we usually made enough as ah say for a half crown box o' fireworks you know?

RF: Where would you buy your fireworks?

RP: It was in an ironmongers shop in the high street which is now known as Pick and Choose, it's as big now as it was then, it was the mecca at Guy Fawkes time because he stocked the fireworks an' he also - his basement was always Santa's grotto at Christmas time and ye got in there and it was like Wonderland you know an' he didn't sell what I was interested in he didn't sell soldiers but he sold all sorts o' toys an' soft toys an' Dinky toys so my young brother was a great friend of the man that ran it Mr. Graham and we always got allowed to go down and see Santa in there.

RF: What was the name of the ironmongers?

RP: It was just Graham's Ironmonger.

RF: Graham's Ironmongers yeah.

RP: And the close used to be it's been an ironmongers from the Eighteenth century the close that's now known as Craig's Close or Fish Shop Close it was known as Ironmongers Close ... no I beg your pardon I've got that wrong it was known as Miller's Close Miller being one o' the first ironmonger's in the high street and the uncle of James Miller who wrote the first history of Dunbar, quite a famous family.

RF: And what were the other main shops were you sent to the shops for messages?

RP: Oh yes.

RF: Where would you be sent?

RP: Usually the Co-op the Co-op had a very

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heavy presence in the high street it had a separate drapery it had a butcher shop it had a grocery store an' it had what they had a utility store where you bought your furniture and furnishings you know? An' of course everybody shopped at the Co-op for things like meat butcher meat because they did get a very good name for good quality meat and of course you got dividend on it you know but I always remember that ma mother would never buy sausage anywhere except in the Co-op because they weren't full o' sawdust like some other shops! Whether that was true or not I don't know but 'cause there was one or two very good butcher shops in Dunbar but they were a bit expensive and the ordinary workin' people usually used the Co-op, again the dividend came in handy and they had another thing they had a saving society in Dunbar called the Siddons and I used to go and queue up they paid out twice a year in June and December and the Siddons's were paid out in the Corn Exchange which is still there today and I used to go and queue up and take my mother's book and get the money and it was years and years later that I asked I used to ask her, why was it called the Siddons, oh it's always been called the Siddons, but nobody knew an' I did research on it when I was writing my *History of Dunbar*, an' of course one o' the founding fathers was a schoolteacher and he taught John Muir and his name was Mungo Siddons so he started up the society ah think in Eighteen twenty-four and it was still running in the Nineteen eighties, incredible you know and folk used the money to

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go on holiday in June or the summer and it was a great boon at Christmastime 'cause you got dividend at Christmastime and you got the Siddons's but I have fond memories of queuing up to - and the queue went out on the high street you know it went along the high street and you seemed to be there for hours but they had a whole barrage of people in the Corn Exchange with [?] on and I may be wrong but I think they had

you in alphabetic you had to go to alphabetic desk you know if you're like my name's Pugh I would have to go to P so, fond memories.

RF: Can you remember your mums' Co-op number?

RP: Yes one two six four seven. Everybody remembers their mum's Co-op number!

RF: And how did the Co-op dividend work was that paid out at certain times of year as well?

RP: I think from memory it was paid out at certain times of year it may have been only once a year I suspect it probably was Christmastime, although possibly it was paid at anytime when you wanted I seem to remember I think it was specific times in the year, but you got your suit there you got your suit your shoes there you got your shirts there the Co-op was a boon, until you grew up and started working yourself and got a decent salary and then you started going to the more upmarket tailors in the town you know like Daniel Smith.

RF: Was that in Dunbar or was that in - ?

RP: That was in Dunbar yeah.

RF: Where was that?

RP: It was where the wee green shop is today, an' they had a ladies outfitters as well but ye got made to measure suits not just off the peg my older brother was a great snappy dresser and he did all his dressing there he got all his clothes there shirts,

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hats the lot, there's a famous story about him he liked his beer at the weekends but he was known for his snappy dressing and one o' the ladies that worked in the drapers store who knew him she used to be a dance partner he was a great dancer won prizes at dances, she ma mother had been in on the Saturday afternoon and she asked if she had seen my brother Norman and she said, oh ah saw him a wee while ago an' he's immaculate, and ma mother said, he's immaculate is he even at this time o' the day ah'll kill him when ah get him home drunk at this time! She thought she meant miraculous! An' he was dressed in this new suit and a fedora like somethin' out o' Frank Sinatra you know he really prided himself he used to say although my brother and I were both civil servants he used to say, I work all week in dungarees, but he said, I wear better suits than you guys do, 'cause we wore suits an' we changed into dungarees at the weekends ye know! But he walked about like a tailor's dummy at the weekends!

RF: So where would he go for the dancing?

RP: In Dunbar? There was a great dance hall in the Craigenelt Hotel which is now the Rocks, that was a popular venue and where else there was a dance hall down at the beach known as the Cosmo it was mainly records that ye danced to and it was a great haunt of Teddy Boys

and Teddy Girls so we weren't allowed to go there although my brother did apparently go there was also the said Corn Exchange it had a great dancefloor an' it had a stage

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in it they used to put plays on an' have vaudeville shows an' all the rest of it in the summer months, where else did we dance? West Barns Hall -

RF: Would you go up to Haddington or North Berwick or was it mainly local?

RP: No some Saturday nights we used to go to North Berwick and invariably fights broke out between the Dunbar folks the Dunbar guys an' the North Berwick guys, North Berwick guys always said that the Dunbar guys should stick to their own women and not come and try and pinch their women you know but it went on an' the same would happen with North Berwick guys comin' to Dunbar as well there was great rivalry between them ah think although ah wasn't a member o' the rugby club ah wasn't a sporty type but ma younger brother was an' he could tell you stories about the rammies that they got into the rugby club you know, particularly if they were playing in North Berwick and beat North Berwick which wasn't very often North Berwick was a good rugby team but the strange thing about North Berwick was they had two players in their team with the same surnames as me, there was an N Pugh an' there was an R Pugh and we got dogs abuse in Dunbar for playin' for the opposition and we used to swear that no my brother and I neither of us played my younger brother played for Dunbar but we didn't play rugby we hated sport you know and we found out later that the N Pugh was Nigel Pugh and the other one was Ronald Pugh you know or some other name and I stormed into the Craigengelt Hotel which was the rugby club's main drinking/watering hole and said to them, there there's the names in the *Courier* you know it's not me! It's not me or my brother Norman! So they bought us a drink ah think that night!

RF: An' is the name Pugh does your family trace back to Dunbar or where's your families roots from with it?

RP: My family were know as my maternal family were known as Dingwall an' my paternal grandfather was Cockburn my grandmother came from Bolton but lived most or quite a lot a few years in Haddington in Amisfield Park her father was I think he was a gaffer on the estate an' she worked in the fields and she had two brothers who were estate workers as well, so the family name is Cockburn really. Pugh is - it's a Welsh name my father was born in Wolverhampton but he swore he was English. Wolverhampton's not terribly far away from the Welsh border an' I reckon that they stole each other's sheep and women you know but tae his dying day he said, don't ever call me a Welshman 'cause I'm not a Welshman, so I've actually got Welsh English and Scottish blood in me! A bit of a mixture but it's not a name I particularly like, obviously at school I was never called Pugh it was always Puggy! Or Pugs!

RF: So what about school what age were you when you went?

RP: Went to school at five and the school was at Woodbush so I had to walk a mile at five year old every day

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I went to school with my older brother he was still at school at that time and we went in all weathers you know an' home at lunchtime for your dinner an' then back again an' we got out about - ah think the infants got out about three o'clock an' then the big school came out at five to four, so I was always home early in the afternoon but I have quite vivid memories of the infant school the first class that we had was actually not in the school it was a wooden hut an' it was a lady called Miss Miles that had it we used to call her Miss Smiles because she smiled all the time and she was hand-picked for the job she was a great introduction to schooling and we used to walk up the wooden steps an' they had old-fashioned radiators an' I've quite fond memories in my infant days an' I got the belt when I was six for talking in class! I think I was in the third primary class at the time so I'd be probably seven but I had a habit of - I liked plasticine an' I used to make little men and I was fascinated by the bridge at Belhaven [an'] I used to build this wee bridge and there'd be man fishing on it and another wee man on a boat going underneath and I'd give them voices an' I'd talk, have ye caught anythin' today? No no I've not caught anythin', you know and Miss Nesbitt who was the teacher at that time told me that I was to stop talking and she told me twice and she said, I'm not going to tell you a third time go to the back of the class, so I went to the back o' the class an' there was the head infant teacher who was in the classroom next door and she was a Miss [Tinning] and she came in, why is that boy sitting on his own?

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We've got a chatterbox, oh we've got a chatterbox have we? Well I think I can fix that, so, come down to me, she came up and I always remember she had a key to the cupboard that she was lookin' for somethin' probably stationery or chalk or whatever it must have been the summer because I had a short sleeved shirt on an' she laid the key on my arm and I can remember the cold feeling o' the key an' she tapped it on my bare shoulder an' she said, just you come next door with me I want to introduce you to Tommy, my friend. So of course innocent went down the classroom had stairs in it like steps different levels for the desks so we walked down the steps an' in through the partition door and there was a great buzz in the classroom, this is a chatterbox from Miss Nesbitt's class and I've told him he's going to meet Tommy, and [oh] and of course I thought oh yeah they're quite impressed that I'm gettin' to meet Tommy but they don't get to meet Tommy an' I smiled at them and I said I was lookin' forward to meetin' Tommy an' she went to the cupboard and brought out this whacking great tawse and gave me one on each hand and by god I felt it my finger[s] felt like sausages when I got back an' all that Miss Nesbitt said and I hated her after that because she had betrayed me 'cause I thought she was a really nice lady but she had betrayed me and she said, that'll teach you not to chatter in class any more, an' I did still chatter but I used to chatter like that I used to whisper it you know.

RF: And did you tell your mum you were belted?



RP: Mm hmm, you must have deserved it! *[Laughs]* D'you want another one?! *[Laughs]* Yeah 'cause she would be really affronted

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if she knew that her kids were gettin' belted 'cause they must hae been naughty an' that was the way that they reacted and some kids includin' maself an' ma brother we got another slap after she found out what we had done you know? There ye'll not do it again so, yeah them were the days and despite the fact that nowadays it's not politically correct to have that kind of punishment in schools or in the home [since it's] been banned I have to be honest and say I can't say that it really damaged me but a psychologist would probably argue with that ye know! He would probably attribute my nervous habits to gettin' belted at home and at the school however, you don't dwell on these things I mean my brother got belted every day at school my older brother 'cause he just didn't do his homework, as soon as he came out the school the schoolbag went in the corner an' my mother ['d], you got no homework? Yep but I'm not doin' it, he couldn't wait to leave school an' he got belted every day for not doing his homework an' when I went into the upper school one o' the maths teachers she was doin' the register on the first day and when I said my name you know, any relation to Norman Pugh? Yes Miss ma brother, well I hope you can do better than him 'cause he was hopeless! *[Laughs]* And of course I went home and told him that he said, yeah I was, he says, I was I wasn't interested in book learnin' I just want to get a job. An' that was the attitude of a lot o' young men at that time or kids at the time.

RF: What was your favourite subject at school?

RP: I had two favourite subjects English and History, probably in that order, ah used to get

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high marks for essays and the English teacher at the time a Miss MacDonald who was known locally as Maggie Meeks, ah've yet to find out where the name Meeks came from I think it must be Charles Dickens, but she would throw my essay book at me and say, another brilliant essay Pugh I don't know where you get the imagination, and ten out o' ten or whatever you know and she wouldn't put me forward for Higher English because my father was a soldier, she hated soldiers because rumour hath it that she had a sweetheart in the First World War who was killed who was in the Royal Flying Corps an' he was killed an' she never married and she used to rant and rave about the trenches and how the best blood in Britain had been sacrificed on the Somme an' that we were the product of lesser human beings, including the soldiers, an' of course I had no idea that she detested soldiers that much that I could understand why she detested the First World War 'cause she lost her fiancé but nobody ever challenged her to say that we had to fight the Second World War the First World War was perhaps arguably could hae been avoided but not the Second World War and years later my mother was in the Co-op doing her shopping and the butcher shouted out, your order's ready Mrs. Pugh, and this wee English teacher said, Mrs Pugh!

Mrs. Pugh! What are you still doing here the barracks are closed it's been closed now since Nineteen fifty-five, so where are you living? She said, what are you going on about I'm still living in the house that I was living in when Roy was at the school, 'cause she'd asked how I was and

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she said, Roy was brought up in Lammermuir, oh you weren't in army quarters then? She said, no no we lived in a council house in Dunbar, oh I got it wrong so your husband still alive? Yes he's still alive uh huh, still a soldier? No no he's not a soldier any more, thank god for that! Well well well you're learning all the time! But she had gone through thinking I lived in the barracks you know, and hated everybody that lived in the barracks 'cause they could be up to no good if they were soldiers' families you know, crazy.

RF: And did you ever get to sit your Higher English?

RP: Nope but I did something similar I sat the Limited Competition examination for the Civil Service Executive Officer and the standard was higher and I got ninety percent for my English it was an essay [*Laughs*] I remember taking the exam just off Leith Walk I think it was and as soon as I saw the question I knew it was made for me there was things like, describe a day in the life of a social worker or describe such and such or the one that I picked does a modern novel need to have a plot to be described as a novel? An' it was meat an' drink to me, meat an' drink, an' I immediately grabbed and I wrote six foolscap pages on it quoting from D.H. Lawrence, various other authors that I'd read and I never stopped until the guy said, time up, an' I just managed to get finished an' put the pen down an' I looked around me occasionally an' I could see there were guys sittin' starin' at the ceilin' an' writin' a few lines an' starin' at the ceilin' an' writin' a few lines but my pen flew across the paper

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and when the results for the whole exam were passed I was first in Scotland and twelfth in Great Britain out o' two and a half thousand people.

RF: So you would have got your Higher English!

RP: I would hae got my Higher English yeah, probably, but I did announce I did a fifth year and got lowers and announced to my mother that what was I goin' to do an' I said, I'd like to go to university, an' she hit the roof, he wants to go to university is he never gauny go tae work! He's lazy! So I sat the Civil Service exam clerical officer and was lucky I got my father bein' a military man he said to me, when you had to fill a form in about your achievements and then where would you like to work an' I said, I guess it would be London that's where most guys go that sit this exam, an' he said, ask for the one that you don't want first that's an old army trick, he said, so what do you think? I said, London, Newcastle, Edinburgh,

Dundee an' ah got Dundee so he was right ye always got the one that ye didn't want! An' ah worked in Dundee for about a year an' a half an' managed to get a swap with a girl in Edinburgh who was in the Post Office in Edinburgh an' I was there for six years and then sat the exam and got into St. Andrew's House, an' it was like going from winter into spring you know they had a totally different attitude in that department [the] Post Office was very rigid very strict but ye got a good training, one of my bosses in St. Andrew's House he said to me, you're ex-Post Office

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it shows you know you're very good at recording things an' keeping records an' you do follow the rules you know, I said, well it was more than your job was worth if you didn't follow the rules you know.

RF: And what department were you moved around departments at St. Andrew's House then?

RP: Yes uh huh I was lucky in that I was posted into the Scottish Home and Health Department and it was the health side of it an' I spent much of my thirty years in NHS administration including legislation you know and usually at my rank that wasn't given to somebody it was usually given to an assistant secretary who was about two grades higher than me three grades higher than me an' ah did it on my own, it was at the time when Scotland was gaun to get a Scottish Assembly an' they wanted to consolidate all the NHS Acts from the concept of the National Health Service in Nineteen forty-eight an' ah had to bring it up to date rewrite some o' the words in modern English but not take away the legal implications of it so I worked with a lawyer on that and got it through and it was going to be the first piece of legislation that the new Scottish Assembly were going to get devolved to them an' then we had the devolution vote and we lost so ma boss said to me, the knowledge that you've got of the National Health Service in Scotland you'll probably become the Health Sec - there'll be a National Health Service Committee in the Assembly and you'll be the Secretary because you know so much about it, however, it wasn't to be.

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But yes I spent most o' the time in what eventually just became the Scottish Health Department I was in the Scottish Education Department for four years workin' in the Schools' Inspectorate which was a bit of a waste of time really but I was on educational research an' education was never a subject that I was particularly attached to and the schools' inspectors regarded themselves as a kind o' higher being than ordinary common or garden civil servants I remember having an argument with one chief inspector and he said to me, you see the trouble with you is you've got to obey these rules because you're a civil servant we're not, I said, eh I think you're more of a civil servant than I am, how d'you make that out? I said, by your title HM Inspector of Schools, Her Majesty's Inspectors you can't get higher than that, I said I'm Her Majesty's Civil Servant you know but I don't have a title so

you're more of a civil servant than me, he wasn't pleased! [*Laughs*] Wasn't happy about that at all.

RF: So what age were you then when you went to Dundee and left home?

RP: Seventeen and a half.

RF: And when did you move back to Dunbar was it not till - ?

RP: I moved back in Nineteen sixty and took the train up to Edinburgh with the Post Office an' then St. Andrew's House until the Beeching Act came along and shut down the railways or restricted the railways then it was buses after that and now we've got a nice rail service again you know it's all gone round in this it's gone full circle but ah got married in Nineteen seventy and lived in Balerno in Midlothian for

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thirty years and came back to Dunbar in Two thousand. Not sure it was the right thing to do but because I don't think they ever forgave me for leaving it! [*Laughs*] They've got long memories some of my contemporaries and two things that Dunbar people have and you can quote me on this without fear of - well maybe fear of my life but they never forget failure and they never forgive success, and I've spoken to chaps that have not been born in Dunbar but have married Dunbar women an' they said, you know they never forgave you for going away, but they hate you even more because you came back, and that does sometimes feel which is rather sad because I've always loved the town I mean I feel when I read about John Muir I feel that I had a childhood almost similar to his without the severe beatings that he got from his father and the religion an' all the rest of it but I can see where John Muir got his animation from.

RF: Was it quite a free place to grow up?

RP: Oh yes.

RF: Where did you play apart we talked about playing in Winterfield but where else would you go?

RP: Belhaven Beach although it was really my mother didn't like us playing there because there were quicksands there and there were at that time and ah actually saw my brother nearly drowned in quicksands just at the bridge the little bridge you know that they one they call the Bridge to Nowhere Seafield Bridge he was actually up to his chest in sand and fortunately there was a gang o' boys with us and they all tied their shirts together and hauled him out an' we went home I can see it to this day wavin' his clothes in the air to get them dry so ma mother wouldn't know he had been in trouble, but the other place that ah played a lot in was the East Beach the Coastguard Beach

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as we called it, it was very popular and to a certain extent Lochend Woods but they were off limits, signs everywhere trespassers will be prosecuted an' they had two gamekeepers that walked about with guns, an' ye knew that if you were caught in there they wouldny shoot you but they would give you a right good thumpin' you know you'd get your ear belted, although we were allowed to go into the one just at Lochend Cottages as long as we went and spoke to the gamekeeper and said we used to gather what I call pea stakes fallen branches of fir trees that you could use for stakes for your sweet peas and your green peas you know for the garden? An' he would say, yeah yeah on you go lads but don't be long and don't make a noise 'cause there's birds nesting in there you know. He was quite a nice man a Mr. Gibson his name was, the reason why he didn't like kids goin' in there was because ah think the people that owned it they reared ah think it was partridges an' partridges are very prone to if they hear a noise or they get disturbed they fly away an' leave the eggs an' he had to go an' collect the eggs an' incubate them an' he said it was job that he hated doing because he was literally rearin' birds to be shot.

RF: An' was East Beach going back to East Beach was that where the tourists would go when they came here?

RP: Yes aye an' of course when we could afford it in the swimming pool but it cost sixpence to get in to the swimmin' an' we didn't have many sixpences in these days you know! Not until we were working anyway, another place that I used to frequent on the edge of Lochend Woods was the back road to

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Eweford and Boo'er House or Bower House as it was known we used to go up there and I'm ashamed to say pinch daffodils in the spring and in the autumn we went up there to get chestnuts 'cause there was a big chestnut tree up there and we used to collect mushrooms up there as well there was a horse mushroom field and you'd get mushrooms the size of plates you know as long as you got up early in the morning which was the problem! [Laughs]

RF: And were you pinching the daffodils to give to your mum or - ?

RP: Yeah I mean I've seen kids doing that now well not so much recently but ah've seen kids doing it and then just destroying them just takin' the heads off them no we took them home to our mums, hid them in your raincoat, yer Burberry.

RF: What about games in the school did you have playground games and things that you - ?

RP: The girls did the boys usually just fought each other you know or we played marbles, marbles and conkers you'd have seasons for that you know obviously chestnuts in the autumn and marbles in the spring but ah was never one for - ah played marbles an' ah played conkers but I didn't belong to a gang or anything a bit of a loner I'm afraid, I liked

nothing more than to get up in the hills and just be on my own and take your sandwich with me and that was me I was away all day.

RF: And when you were younger was your mum you know you could just go out all day and come home for your tea was that how it worked or - ?

RP: Well particularly a Saturday I had chores to do an' jobs in the house usually not in the house but for the house

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my job was choppin' kindling for the fire an' I'd spend the Saturday mornings choppin' the kindling and most men went to 'cause they finished work on a Saturday at lunchtime most men went to football an' that but I'd be away probably in the hills or something but Sunday we went to Sunday School ye had yer Sunday best on best shoes, tie shirt and tie, twenty past twelve, an' don't come home till five o'clock at night I don't want to see you again till five o'clock at night, and you were in your best clothes so you couldn't get up to any mischief you know, so we used to go up all these places up the hills up [Oasie (Oswald?)] Dean and ah've seen us takin' our shoes off in case they got dirty to walk in our bare feet or our stockin' soles ye know! It was crazy.

RF: And if you didn't swim in the pool did you swim in the sea?

RP: Swam in the sea yeah, I taught myself to swim I watched a frog watched what it did with its legs swimmin' in a pond so ah knew ah could work ma legs ok by watchin' the frog but I had to hold on to something and that was when the swimming pool came in handy because ah begged a sixpence off ma mother to get a lesson and the pond master of the day Mr. Bradbury said, yer leg movement is fantastic, he said, is it natural? Ah said, no no ah was watchin' a frog sir! An he said, but you've got to work on your arms so, that's what he trained me to swim [with] the arms.

RF: Can you remember where you watched the frog?

RP: Yes it was up at Lochend it was in a pond at Lochend, where I shouldn't hae been because it was trespassers will be prosecuted! Because in those days the loch had

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never been properly drained an' we used to go in there and pinch daffodils because they were wild daffodils but I can remember jumping from clump to clump just almost where the Pine Marten is to this day just opposite that there's a wee low wall you could get over that wall and there was still water there ah mean ah remember green scummy ponds and that's where ah saw the frog, we just lay and watched it one day! [Laughs] Went up on ma own [?] watched it, it's good stuff.

RF: An' you talk in your book about your mum would take you away on jaunts and joyrides?

RP: Jaunts and joyrides yes usually ah think it was the Women's Rural Institute that were responsible for these, invariably it was a daytrip to the Trossachs or a daytrip to (where else did we go?) ah think we went to Loch Lomond and ah think we went to Oban but ma mother wouldn't go on - she didn't like boats an' she wouldny go on the Waverley which used to go down the Kyles o' Bute you know ah had to wait till ah was at school tae go tae that but and we got taken to shows in Edinburgh like the Lyceum an' the King's Theatre you know pantomimes an' I've seen Rose-Marie on the stage I've seen it on ice I've seen Chu Chin Chow on the stage ah've seen it on ice an' ah've seen it on roller skates! An' ah've also seen Laurel and Hardy live -

RF: Wow.

RP: They were on the Empire and Roy Rogers and Trigger and his wife Dale, Dale Evans, so we did get a wee bit entertainment you know? But it was good fun.

RF: And was it quite a thing to go on the train?

RP: I prefer the train to the bus ah used to get bus-sick but the trains ah loved, an' ma little brother he was a great train

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man as well he used to - we used to get a day usually before we went back to school in the summer ma mother would take us up to Edinburgh to not necessarily to get our rig-out that was bought in the Co-op but just as a wee outing because we didn't need holidays 'cause we lived in a holiday resort in Dunbar she used to drum that into us you know, you don't need to go on holiday you live in a holiday resort! You got the beach an' the pool an' all the rest of it you know? An' we never felt the need to go away, it was nice.

RF: Was it always really busy in the summer Dunbar noticeably busier?

RP: In the height of the season usually at the Glasgow and the Edinburgh Fair fortnights the visitors outnumbered the population, it was just absolutely heaving, but as I grew older I turned up my nose at the kiss-me-quick hats an' the windmills an' the candy-floss an' all that an' ah think I suppose you would say a bit priggish and became, oh ah'm not having anything to do with that that's common that's for tourists! [*Laughs*] That's probably when I developed my love for books an' wantin' to write you know?

RF: An' had you always been interested in the history from school - ?

RP: Oh yes.

RF: 'Cause that's what we know you for in here.

RP: Yeah although the first book I started to write I've never finished it, it was a novel about the Spanish Civil War although most of it was based in London and it was about gun-running really because the British Government was anti the Civil War you know, so it was about history although it was a novel but it's lying in a drawer somewhere at home you know not finished it,

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it's called *The Shore Watcher* if you're interested! Maybe one day I'll finish it!

RF: Maybe one day you'll finish it!

RP: Yeah!

RF: Was there anythin' else you want to talk about - ?

RP: I think that's probably about it.

RF: We've covered a lot.

RP: The only thing ah have an' ah don't know how to go about it maybe I'll come back and ask you, I don't know much about my grandmother's side o' the family, I know that I've got relatives in Haddington still but they keep - you know the odd person'll pop up an' say, I'm your cousin! An' ah'll say, oh where are you from, Haddington you know, an' ah've seen photographs that ma mother had where they are now I don't know but photographs of her with maybe three women an' a young girl an' she'll say, that's your cousin, but she's gone now and I don't know [of their names].

RF: Well if you've got any certificates bring in - Bill's your man to help you an' if you bring in as much information as you've got if you've got any marriage certificates for your mum 'cause that can - if you can get back to the census and all that sort of thing.

RP: I think most of them have gone to my aunts and uncles.

RF: So if you've got anything if not just come in with what you know yeah.

RP: I mean Anita, when I started I'm doing a ... I'm workin' on probably what's gauny be ma last book called *A Short Walk to the Sea*, an' it's mainly what we've been talkin' about but in a more philosophical way and I want to do a family tree of my grandfather's family and my grandmother's family an' ah've done the grandmother's family first because it seems to be easier. Dingwall's not a very

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common name and I fired it at Anita one day, tell you how long ago it was it must have been June and she - I don't know what she accessed ah think Bill thought it was perhaps Scotland's Working People or something?

RF: Scotland's People maybe?

RP: And she said, oh you've got an ancestor called Hebron Dingwall, an' I said, Hebron that sounds Jewish, well that's what's coming up, and I started looking for it an' Bill couldn't find anything but we did look up one o' the microfiches an' lo and behold one of their descendants listed their father as Hepburn so it must have been either a mispronunciation or -

RF: Yeah it happens in the way it's transcribed sometimes.

RP: So I've put Hebron in 'cause it's a nice name you know Hebron or Hepburn but the Cockburn's oh god there's Cockburn's in Dunbar that I may be related to but I don't know, so I'll need to start that probably next year so you'll be seeing a bit of me!

RF: Seeing a bit of you that's good!

RP: A bit of me again yeah.

RF: The only other thing I wanted to touch on was you know how I was talking to you about the Glasgow overspill I've mainly been looking at it in Haddington so far but I know that houses were built in Dunbar for overspill families do you remember were you still in Dunbar that'd be the Sixties were you - ?

RP: Yeah still in Dunbar and we used to catch the bus just about where the old gas-works was an' ah remember watching the estate go up an' we kept sayin', god the architect's goin' crazy wi' the slide rule 'cause they all looked square you know the squareness o' the

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building was just incredible and we all - the ones that I bused with all said, god I wouldn't like to live in that estate it looks really boring, but it was I think it was all electric there was no gas in it completely electric.

RF: And that would be a new -

RP: And that was very unusual.

RF: Whereabouts was it was it in - ?

RP: It's just at the foot of [?] Hill.

RF: And you said it was called the Electric Scheme was that - ?

RP: The Electric Scheme yeah you know how the other scheme is the Tree Scheme 'cause it's named after trees but that's known as the Electric Scheme 'cause it's all electric! An' ah've been inside a couple o' houses and they're very nice inside but they look awful, but everybody that lives there seem to like and people that have grown up in that scheme seem to have enjoyed it.

RF: And was that I know today we have so many houses bein' built in Dunbar and Haddington and East Lothian but was that quite a big thing for the community - ?

RP: Yes it was.

RF: The Glasgow families coming?

RP: Dunbar people I don't know what the reaction in Haddington was but the Dunbar people were mixed feelings about the, oh we don't want keelies, all right to come for a fortnight holidays but we don't want them livin' here, you know? They'll bring the tone o' the place down! Which is rubbish it's absolutely rubbish, I mean when people are on holiday an' the Glaswegians were famous for goin' home broke they spent every penny an' they would stand at the station wi' their pockets sayin', had a great time no money! 'Cause they saved up for it the whole year an' it wasn't always drink it was you know they were at everything an' it always seemed to rain when they were here! But they were never downcast, och what's a bit o' rain it's Scottish rain it's warm rain!

RF: But when the people moved through hopefully attitudes might have changed [?]?

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RP: I think they did, I think part o' the feeling was that these are West Coast people a lot of Catholics from the West Coast in Glasgow I don't know if there was any - I didn't certainly think like that I thought it was a great thing for people comin' from an industrial city to an idyllic place like Dunbar god they'll take off an' of course I had left school by then so I didn't know how they fared at school but I've spoken to two or three people that grew up there an' thoroughly enjoyed their childhood you know so it's nice. And we're still importing people to this day and I don't think it's a bad thing, because sadly although much as I love Dunbar if it wasn't for the interlopers or the white settlers things wouldn't get done you know? There are times I often think that Dunbar born people hate themselves, I don't know why, because all they can say is, there's no community spirit and it's all these new folk that have come in that are takin' over, well you shouldn't have let them take over you should have done your bit you know? An' you can mix with them that's what a community it's mixing with other people, however, I'm probably preaching to some'dy who understands [that].

RF: You're preaching to a newcomer! [*Laughs*]

RP: Yeah exactly! But for people like yourself Dunbar would never have moved forward I think it's moved forward I don't see anything wrong with that whatsoever

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an' I of course I get I went to school with a chap who just died recently I'll not mention names obviously for this but he - if you weren't born and bred in Dunbar you had no right to an opinion about how things were goin', an' I know that from friends that I've got that live on the other side of the railway line, oh I think I was speakin' to the same guy I was sayin' maybe we should do this, who gave you an opinion you don't belong here you don't know anythin' about the history o' the place, [*sighs*] he didn't mean history as we know history as you know history he meant what your background was and whether you were a fisherman or whether you were a field worker or whatever you know. No they used to say of me in Dundee when I was goin' home for the weekend or goin' home for a weeks leave or something, back to god's country then is it? 'Cause I used to take - ah hated Dundee ah hated the city ah was a - as ah say they took the wee boy out o' Dunbar but they couldny take Dunbar out the wee boy, ah missed ma fields an' ah missed ma hills an' ah missed ma sea ma beaches you know? An' ah still do that every day go down to the harbour an' along the beach it's my place it's where I belong.

RF: That's been brilliant Roy thank you very much.

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