

Interviewee(s): Ormiston Group (OG)	Interviewer(s): Unknown (UN)
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REGION	East Lothian
TOWN/VILLAGE	Ormiston

Running time: 00.06.21

Transcriber's Note: This recording is a continuation of EL28-1-2.

00.00

OG1: A' helped each other oot wi' tatties or, they never went hungry, that's right Bob?

OG2: That's correct.

OG1: They helped each other oot.

OG2: If a neighbour, if it was felt that a neighbour was.

OG1: Needin' a half-loaf.

OG2: Short and needin' anything and neighbours would hand it in.

OG1: That's near tae 50 or 60 year ago they did that.

OG3: Even, even in the pits they were able; I mind yance it was a Saturday, and I was havin' to go tae the fitba, ken. And my, my faither was in the pit, and a chap ca'd Andra (Andrew) Anderson was off the road¹ wi' a hutch² and of course I was hurryin' to go tae the pit and I flew by him, see. And the; now, auld Jimmy McIver was the manager and, of course, it must've been reported I never stopped to gie Andra a hand wi' his hutch. So, when I come hame frae the pit the manager had telt, auld McIver had telt my faither, you see. He says, my faither says to me "What's wrong, you didnae stop and gie that chap a, a hand wi' his hutch dinnae you dae that again" he says "Pass a person in the pit" he says "That's struggling" he says "You given him a hand or you'll get a cuff on the lug fae me". And that was the, that was the spirit in these pits that day.

OG1: Oh aye, and it was the same wi' all mining villages.

OG3: That was the spirit. You didnae pass anybody that needed a hand. If youse were oot in the lye³ and your lamp went oot yea had nae carbide you had maybe left it at the face "Oh I've got carbide in my pocket here" you got pull o' his carbide. This was hoo it went on.

UN: Can we, we're going to have to round up because we've got to go on but.

OG1: Aye, I'm just lookin' the time that's surprising.

OG2: This is about an old miner. And he was Provost in Tranent and him and a pal o' his had been oot for a walk yin nicht. And they jumped a fence and went intae a cabbage field and they had a cabbage under their arm, you see. Came oot on the fence and here a policeman come along on his bicycle. But this Provost [00.02] he discarded his cabbage and the other

¹ Road – an underground passageway in a mine.

² Hutch – a wheeled truck for moving coal.

³ Lye – a siding off a road.

fella didnae. And so the policeman ca'd them, took his name and all that sort o' thing and came up tae the, be the local court, ye ken. And whae was sittin' but the Provost that he was wi' him [unclear] you see.

OG3: He was a JP.

OG2: And, and, and he was tryin' him and "Oh he's fined five shillings" "But you were wi'" "Ah but I wasnae caught!"

OG1: Was that Jocky Herkinson [unclear] his family.

OG2: I think it's goin' to be a long time because they've got to be educated in tae it. And now I'm afraid it's goin' to be some time before we even get back to normal thinking. There're far too much greed in the country nowadays; greed and jealousy and ye cannae get any things worse than that in my opinion. So, I'm afraid it's goin' to be a long time; I'll no see it you might live to see it, but the, the sooner it comes the better and bring back a wee bit sense, common sense intae the nation. Everybody, I'm, no' reportin' on miners, everybody.

OG1: Well, I'm the same as you Bob, I just refer and I couldnae put it nae better that what you did and I just could say nearly the same as what you did because things has got to improve. But I don't know what the young elements coming to or. Whenever they abolished hanging and the birch, I think that was the cause o' the trouble.

OG3: Aye that's right.

OG1: Cause o' the trouble.

UN: So?

OG3: Well, I think it starts away wi' education, they're educated more noo, they're better educated more. [00.04] You can just look at your foreign countries; a lack o' education Egypt, Africa a' these countries where they were dying wi' malnutrition 75% the population. The British government they popped in and educated them and what did they dae they shoved them oot after they were educated. And I say education where it's a good thing education, it's a bad thing in some aspects. Until you get the people educated properly tae work wi' one another and be one big happy family, you'll no' get nae peace in the world, that's my statement.

UN: John what about you you're a wee bit younger than the rest?

OG5: Well, I'm the same I think there's nothing wrong wi' education, right. They must keep up the standard o' education in this country actually because I believe it's one o' the best places to be educated. But I'd like to see the government; we talked about collieries and a' the rest o' it, I'd like to see them developing more collieries or reopening collieries that they could get coal out supposing it's just small units and using the coal to make petrol because they're always talking about the, the oil in the North Sea is going to run out eventually, which we all know it will, every, everything runs out eventually. But they've got the, the skills they've got the technology tae, tae produce plant that makes petrol from coal, and I think, even if they were opening up just small units, and take the coal out and use it for petrol etcetera they could be conserving some o' the oil that they've taken out the North Sea.

[00.05.55] Possible break in the recording.

OG4: Walk the dog and a bit o' gardening.

OG3: Gardenin' [00.06] mostly and a bit pint in the pub.

OG1: There we are gardenin' and a pint at the weekend.

OG2: Looking after pigeons and looking after my wife. I've been lookin'; she's been an invalid for 23 years, so I've put hobbies lookin' after the pigeons and lookin' after the wife.

OG1: You've got plenty on your hands Bob.

[00.06.21]