

Interviewee: Betty Stewart (BS)	Interviewer: Julia Muir Watt (JMW)
Date of Interview: 28 June 2012	Ref: DG4-8-1-1-T

JMW: So, do you want to start just by telling me how your family came to be here and-.

BS: Tell ye where ah wis born?

JMW: Yes.

BS: Well, ah wis born in 15 High Street, Whithorn, ma mother's name was Henrietta McGinn, I'm illegitimate. Ma parents, ma mother's parents were Mary Huxable and Hugh McGinn. Ma grandfather died before ah was born but ah was nine years old when ma granny died. Ah remember ma granny very well, she was a tall lady with white hair, quietly spoken. We were members o the Free Kirk in St John Street.

JMW: Right.

BS: We went to the Kirk in the morning, Sunday School in the afternoon and then evening service. Ma mother was a farm worker. In fact I know she was one of the most hardworking persons I knew. While ma mother was out workin ma granny looked after the hoose and did the cookin for ma sister and I. There wasnae much money but we had always plenty to eat, nothing fancy, but wholesome food, stickin tae yer ribs. At Christmas we got a penny an an apple an a wee poke o homemade toffee, made by old Mrs. Flannigan. At Hogmanay we also got a wee something from the neighbours. Another treat I remember was a weekly grocer's bill at Miss Bee's shop which was paid every Saturday, an we got a poke o sticky sweets and a bag o broken biscuits. Is that aw right?

JMW: Mm.

BS: Ma sister and I went to Whithorn Higher Grade School which was a lot stricter then than the school nowadays, no freedom of speech then. The strap lay on the teacher's desk, ah think just to remind you in case you made a false move. Ma sister and I both left school when we were fourteen years of age. Our schooldays were very happy ones. When we got home from school at four o'clock we both changed into our old clothes and we all went out playing in the street. The boys usually played marbles, the girls played hop-the-beds...do you know what that is?

00.02.14

JMW: Mm, I think so.

BS: Skipping ropes and tiggie. Sometimes we had peeries and birlies...tops. When it began to get dark a leerie came roond the toon tae light the gas lamps. The leerie's name was Andrew Connin. In the summertime when ye got home from school ye changed quickly and went to the fields to help yer folk wi the hoeing o the turnips. Ye got a piece in your hand and that had tae satisfy you until you came home at night. In the blackberry time it was off to pick blackberries as soon as we came home from school. It was nearly dark when we got home but we had to go straight down to Mr Doughtie's to sell the berries. By the time you got back up home you were starving so you were glad to get your supper, unless you had eaten too many berries and had a sore belly, then it was a castor oil. And summer holidays

seemed to go on and on. We were out all day in the summer weather, we ran about in our bare feet. Every day we went to the burn, that's doon at the manse. Every day we went to the burn which was just a field away, we paddled and fished wi oor jam jars, come home when we were hungry and back oot again. I'm quite sure the summers were a lot hotter than they are now. We used to burst the tar bubbles wi oor toes, I can remember having my tonsils taken out on the kitchen table. Well, at least I can remember being put on the table and seeing the two doctors, Dr McWhirter and Dr McDougal. The next thing I remember was waking up in the bed in the kitchen wi ma granny. Sadly, ma granny died soon after that, things changed, Mary was now thirteen and when she came home from school she had tae light the fire, tidy up the house, put the kettle on the hob and a pot o water on the other side o the fire for ma mother coming home from a hard day's work. The open fire was where all the cooking was done, also pots of water for washing and for washing the floors and another big pot for boiling the clothes at the weekend, for your bath water. The bath was a tin one on front of the fire, you got your hair washed and the small toothed comb through, in case you'd picked up something in your hair at the school. We also put heaters in the fire for the box iron, to iron the clothes. We carried the water from the street pump, the [?] pump it was called, the old men used to stand at the corner of the pump at Clanachan's corner for their crack, smoking their pipes and putting the world to right. There was a lodging house in High Street run by Mrs Jones and her husband Tommy, we called them tramps but they were men of the road who walked all over the country lookin for odd jobs. Some of them used to go up and down the street singing, hoping to earn a few pennies. One of the lodgers was called Robert John Connin, he sang from the Bible but he always kept his Bible upside down. One of his favourite hymns was *Bringing in the Sheaves*.

00.05.15

In these days there were three shops in High Street alone: Miss Bee's, the grocers; Mrs Murray's sweetie shop and Mrs McElwee who sold the paraffin and the candles and that was your lighting in the house. There was always a smiddy, the house was in High Street but the smiddy was at the back o the house, it was in the back raw, that's what it was called. Later it was called Green Lane. There was plenty of work in those days, of course there was no much machinery on the farm, the ploughing was done by a man and a horse. The harvest was a jolly time, the women putting up the stooks and the younger ones pitting straps round them. At the leading in, when the last horse and cart came in, there was a kirk, singing and dancing and men got a bottle of beer. Ye worked on till dark at the harvest. The best time of the day was when the farmer's wife sent out the homemade scones wi butter and jam. Another jolly time was the tattie liftin, some folk came from Ireland for this, they slept in the barns. At the end of the week they had the tattie [?]'s dance, a bit of romance come out of this when one or two of them got married. However, time marches on, it was hard work but a lot of happy times we all had. Mary left school at fourteen, on Friday, ma ma had her waged in service on Monday morning. Mary got on well in her job and was very well liked, she stayed in the job for years. Alas, I was different, I also left at fourteen years old on a Friday and was waged on Monday. Ah went off on the Monday morning on a milk cairt, crying, ah didnae want tae go but I had tae go but I hated it. One of the many, ma duties, the mistress told me, was to empty the master's po in the morning so I did not. On the third morning I got a right doing and was told to empty the po at once. I refused and told the mistress 'The master's as like doing it as I was' as he'd be an old man and I was just fourteen. The result was I got sent home. Ma ma immediately took me back and made me

apologise but I carried on that much they were glad to get rid of me. I had a good few jobs after that, I worked in Miss Hannah's tearoom, I liked it very much, and Molly and Joanne were very good to me. It was very busy as the war was on, the soldiers and airmen came in at nights for their supper. The supper was bacon, sausage, tomatoes and egg and tattie scones, all for the sum of one and six, so you can imagine it was a very popular eating house. I worked there for a long time and then I got the job of, the chance of a job as a conductress on the buses. Some of the girls were away to the forces and came to work in the ammunition factory in Dumfries so I became a conductor. It was while there ah was workin on the buses I met my husband who was working on the RAF camp.

00.08.06

Jimmy came from Glasgow so when we decided to get married we went to Glasgow, got married in St Enoch Parish Church, Hogganfield, and went to live wi ma mother-in-law and father-in-law, also with my sister-in-law, but my heart was still in Whithorn. After being in Glasgow for one and a half years, my son Robert was born in Rottenrow Hospital. Ma husband was working with Wimpey, the builder, but ah wanted home tae see ma mother an ma sister. Ah left home tae go to back to Glasgow but ah wished ah was back in Whithorn. Then ma husband was asked to go to Scapa Flow, however he did not go but we came back to Whithorn where ma husband got a job wi a building firm. We stayed for a while, we got a house in Isle Street. Soon after ma daughter, Margaret, was born, then ma sister got married, she was thirty-one years old, she had a son Jimmy and a girl called Jane. Mary and her husband lived in The Isle, sadly my sister died when she was only thirty-eight years old leaving the two children, who were brought up by their father and father's sister, Agnes. Ma mother was broken hearted when Mary died. Five years after Margaret was born I had another daughter, Alison, then later James was born and one year eight months the twins were born, Mary and George. After the twins were born we were allotted a house in Green Croft where we still live. On their way to school the bigger ones called into their Granny's and got a penny but Robert always went for a pail of water for her, so her got twopence. The years went on, ma mother was not able to be in work so she came to live with us at 8 Green Croft. The neighbours always came still to see her. Sadly, she died quietly, as she had lived, in 1967. The years went by the family grew up, all doing their own thing and enjoying themselves. By the time some of them were married and moved off to pastures green our youngest, George, the twin, got a new motorbike which he loved and had some very happy time on it but, sadly, George was involved in a fatal accident with his bike on the 14th July 1979 and died with the result of his injuries. George was only twenty years old. This did not only devastate us, his Mum and Dad, his brothers and sisters, but the whole of Whithorn was affected. That was eighteen years ago, no matter what in your hurt, life goes on. My husband and I have been very lucky in our health, we live to the full and we're out and about. Our family think the world of us. They proved this two years ago when they gave us a surprise party for our Golden Wedding in The Monreith Arms. All the family were there and friends. Talking about our grandchildren, we've no less than thirteen, also five great-grandchildren. Reading this over, I've one or two laughs especially about ma High Street days, the family hasn't read it yet but I know they'll say to some of the things 'Gosh, is that no like ma Ma?'

00.11.14

Battery Change.

JMW: This is still an interview with Betty Stewart.

BS: When ah lived in High Street, wi ma mother an that, we lived in High Street, ma Auntie Janet lived with us and I was in bed this night with ma granny, ah slept with ma granny, an we heard a funny noise, like something squawing, an ma granny says 'Whit's that noise, there?' 'Ah don't know' just at that ma mother came oot o the bedroom holding this squawy thing and put it in the couch and then she went...ah says 'There's another squaw' and she went back intae the bedroom and came back wi another one. That was the twins, ma Auntie Janet had had twins, and of course ah was only nine then an ah didnae know much about them. So they were put on the couch and ma granny said 'What's gaun on here?' Ah says 'Ah don't know, there's two things lying an they're makin funny noises (laughter) ah don't know, they're on the couch'. Ma granny didnae even know that there was going to be...because she was near her end by then. But that was it.

JMW: Was there a midwife or was it just-?

BS: No, no, it was ma mother, ma mother was ma auntie...but the nurse did come in. Nurse Robinson, she used tae live...she was on the go then, she used tae come in and seen tae them after they were born but they were put on the couch, one at the top and one at the bottom. And I got oot o the bed an ah shouted tae ma granny 'Oh, there's two wee babbies, ah don't know where they come from but there's two wee babbies' (laughter).

Molly: One a boy an one a girl, one a boy and one a girl.

BS: Aye there was one a boy, Hugh and Jenny. Jenny lives in (Kilmarnock?)

JMW: So, when you were growing up in High Street, none of these houses were here, presumably?

BS: No, no.

JMW: So this [?] just ended at the Smiddy or-?

BS: The Smiddy, well, it was Isle Street right tae the (walls?) Glasserton Street and High Street were always there.

00.13.19

JMW: Right.

BS: But the Crudens were, ah don't know when the Crudens...cannae remember when they were first built, the Crudens, cannae remember. It was a long, long while. But, it was the old Crudens and then there's these, the old Crudens were all, we got an old Cruden but we were putted oot and we had all wee houses in the field there, tents and things and wee put up houses till the other ones were built. Till these ones were built, we were out in the field for, oh, a long, long while.

Molly: Aye so thur arnae original, Julia, these houses.

JMW: No.

Molly: No.

BS: A long, long while.

JMW: So, who was the blacksmith that you remember at the Smiddy?

BS: His name was Hawkins, Mr Hawkins, he lived up at the very top of High Street and he turned roond tae Green Lane, we cawd it the Back Raw, where the pub was, where Flannigan's the pub was.

JMW: And he'd get a lot of agricultural work, I suppose.

BS: Oh, got it aw, all the horses were aw there, tae get shoed and that was...jist a line o horses waitin tae get their turn. He had Alec Steele worked with him, auld Alec Steele, Molly?

Molly: Mm, Alec' faither that died latterly.

BS: Alec Steele's father, Alec Steele that died, his father, he worked wi him. They had leather aprons on, a kinna leather, they wore leather aprons.

JMW: It would have been a busy place then?

BS: It was very, very busy, cause there was all the horses and different things.

00.14.54

Molly: Was it the only yin in the area?

BS: It was the only one there and then later on there was one doon the street but that was later on.

JMW: And who owned the pubs at the time?

BS: It was Mrs Flannigan had the first one and Miss Torrance the next one.

JMW: Right.

BS: They were there for years and years.

JMW: It always seems to have been women in Whithorn who owned the pubs.

BS: Aye, it was. Well Mrs Flannigan's eldest son helped her too. He helped in the pub too and Miss Torrance, there was two ladies, Maddie and Margaret Torrance, they were in the [?] pub. They were very popular but straight at nine o'clock everybody was put out, definitely nine o'clock.

JMW: Nine o'clock, even on a Saturday?

BS: Even on a Saturday, nine o'clock and Sunday it wisnae open.

JMW: And they perhaps didn't tolerate much drunkenness either.

BS: No. There'd be the odd one...kinna over their stick an that but there was no kinna...no fightin or that, no, there wasnae. But it was very popular the pub.

JMW: And you mentioned the three shops. Were they all grocers?

BS: Well, two shops at the top of the town at the beginning, the end of Glasserton Street, was Miss McKelvie's and across the street was Mrs Murray's, now that's a granny o Davie Briggs that lives down. They had that, they had that pub. And then there was Miss Bee's, these were all before you came to the Port Mouth and then the Port Mouth. I think there was eleven or twelve altogether, between shoe shops and cobblers and things.

JMW: So if you lived up here did you do most of your shopping up here?

00.16.43

BS: Yes.

JMW: So, it was almost like a separate village.

BS: That's right, it was a town.

JMW: Town, oh dear. (Laughter)

BS: Or burgh (laughter). Aye we did oor shoppin, we run a weekly bill in Miss Bee's. I think everybody, in these days, run weekly bills and paid yer messages on a Saturday when you got your money.

JMW: Yes.

BS: And then we also went to a shop at the very end of St John Street, it was called Garrick's, just across from where the vet's is.

JMW: Right.

BS: We had tae shop there because we were related.

JMW: Right.

BS: We went there on a Saturday, I think, for the shoppin. And Miss Bee's was the most popular, it was more popular than the other one, Miss McKelvie's.

JMW: And can you tell me a bit about your house in High Street? What was that like?

BS: Well, it was...we had a livin room, we just cawed it the kitchen, the kitchen, an a bedroom, an it was quite a big bedroom which it would need to be because there was two...an we had what ye cawed a settle bed in the livin room...wi a lid on it. That was it and we had a range fire.

Molly: Nae toilet.

BS: Nae toilet.

JMW: No.

00.18.02

BS: Just a widden [?] thing, we hadnae anything like that, we had no water for any, we went to the pump.

JMW: Went to the pump.

BS: Went to the pump for all your water, we had no pump at all, nothing like that, no, and it was oil, paraffin oil lamps.

JMW: Yes, there was quite a lot of work to get the fire going and the lamps and-.

BS: Yes, and ye did all your cookin on the fire.

JMW: Was that coal that you used?

BS: Coal, it was a coal fire, but we had a kinna oven beside...attached to the range thing, ye could put things intae. It was very...it was really nothing much. And ye were lyin on the floor.

Molly: On yer mattresses.

BS: Mm.

JMW: Well, I suppose most people were the same...nobody had electricity at the time.

BS: No.

JMW: And most people would cook on a range, I imagine.

BS: That's right and [?] if anybody come they just lay doon on a mattress. We hadnae much room at all, just the room and kitchen. Ma granny, while she was alive, she had the main bed in the living room, it was the kitchen we used tae call it then. While she was alive she had that...and then I can remember, just before I was ready to go to school, and I was quite excited and oor hoose was like there and doon on High Street was this old house that a fishmonger kept, Eddie Flannagan, he kept it for pittin the fish in the boxes and things and workin wi the fish...an his daughter, ah was a friend of his daughter and she shouted to me, come on ower and hae fun wi me...so ah run ower an ah run intae a car, knocked down by a car. So that was me, I was-.

Molly: That was before she went to school.

00.19.59

BS: Before ah went to school. Ah wis knocked doon by a car an ma mother was away working, of course ma granny was there...ah can hear ma granny yet sayin 'Oh well' she says 'That finishes the porridge makin today'. (Laughter) I can hear her sayin it, she was a lovely lady, ma granny, she was really lovely. And ah was knocked down by a car and, of course, ah was ready to go to school, and then of course May Steele an aw them, ma friends, called in for me, well ah couldnae go, I was that annoyed because...no because they had to go to

school an ah wisnae goin...so ah wasae at the school for quite a while. Because ah had leg injuries and roond ma tummy and that. It was ma own fault, it wisnae the...but the two ladies, there were two ladies in a dark car, ye didnae see many cars in these days, to me it was a beautiful car and the next day there was a knock at the door an this was the two ladies and they give ma mum something, like money, an I got a doll an that was the first doll ah ever had. So I lifted it...ma granny says 'Let me see it', she took it oot o the...sorted it a bit, got a chair and there it was, put up on the wall and ah never got touchin it(laughter). Never got touchin ma doll.

Molly: How bad is that?

JMW: That was a shame.

Molly: Yep.

BS: But she...it's the only doll, I think, probably I ever had but it was put up on the wall.

JMW: But you never protested?

BS: No, we couldnae protest to ma granny, no, no. In these days ye didnae refuse onything, ye had tae just do what ye were told, ye ken.

JMW: Did most people have elderly relatives living with them like grannies or grandpas?

BS: Oh, aye aw the grannies lived wi them in these days. Quite a lot, anyway, had them, roond about, Granny Cosh an aw these kinna folk ye ken. And then if somebody was gonnae have a baby, there wis an old lady called Mrs Steele, that's Sandra in the shop's great granny, ah think, and there was old Mrs Boyce and there was another one, I cannae mind who the other one was, three in all. Oh aye, Nannie, Tootie, and Tootie Dodds and, when onyone was havin a baby, that was the midwives.

00.22.25

JMW: Right.

BS: That seen tae them, they didnae hae doctors or nurses, they three auld folk brocht they baby intae the world, aye.

JMW: And did you have to give them something for doing it?

BS: Well, ah don't know whether they got onything for doing it or no. I think they just took it into their...that they were the...that they would dae it an they did it. They probably would give them something but it wouldnae be very...there wouldnae be onything tae give them, unless it was maybe something oot o the house. But they always went tae the births rather than havin...no nurses or doctors.

JMW: No. Well, you would have to pay the doctors presumably?

BS: Ye paid the doctors three and sixpence for a call.

JMW: Right.

BS: Ah can aye remember that, three and sixpence. When Dr McWhirter and Dr McDougall come tae visit ye, maybe be in for ten minutes, three and sixpence, if ye didnae pay it then ye got a bill, for some reason or other, for ah can remember gaun and payin the bill, it was three and sixpence and the nurse, there was a nurse, District Nurse, Nurse Robertson, she went to the school and that, she wisnae liked, she was so strict. Oh, she was very, very strict. She went to the school twice a week and went through the hair and that and one thing and another. But the doctors were aw right, they were really very good. Dr McWhirter, he lived down where...right away doon where the vet is; Dr McDougall lived in the middle just doon by the Port Mooth, on the left hand side, and they were very good, the doctors.

JMW: And you went to the Free Church?

BS: I went to the Free Kirk, uhuh.

JMW: That was down where the garage is?

00.24.07

BS: Where the garage is, uhuh.

JMW: Ok. And was that quite a large congregation?

BS: Oh, yes it was, aye, and...he was the Reverend Neil Campbell, always remember that, we had great times and we were takin to the shore and that for the picnics an that and burying him in the sand an aw they kinna things. They were lovely folk, his wife and that, and very good to the ones that hadnae very much and they had kinna things for...ah don't know what they cawd it, wee kinna meetins and they got food and that, extra food and that. Also there was a church down on the road up to Vicky Wilson's.

JMW: Yes.

BS: Right across fae there, that was the church.

JMW: And that was still working was it when-.

BS: Oh yes, we went tae it.

JMW: Oh right.

BS: It was gaun.

JMW: That's known as the Cameronian Meeting House.

BS: That's right, aye. Cameronian Entry that is, aye.

JMW: And did they have a reasonable congregation?

BS: Yes, but funnily enough, a lot...I'll tell ye what used tae come, the Salvation Army, an when they came they stayed there.

JMW: Oh right.

BS: Aye, it was a...I don't know who the minister wis but ah remember going to it. We went tae aw the churches, there was one in Glasserton Street too, a meeting...a religious meeting place in Glasserton Street.

JMW: Oh was there? I've never heard of that one.

00.25.38

BS: Aye, it was in the...the garage used to be like there, Caledonian Garage, the hall was across there.

JMW: Right.

BS: We went at nights tae it. It was mostly at nights it was on.

JMW: So, on a Sunday, would you spend quite a lot of your time going to churches or meetings?

BS: Well, when ah was young ah had tae because ma granny was jist church on the brain, I think.

JMW: Right. And the-.

BS: But they were very good tae ye and if they thought ye needed something, as ah say, they had meetins, in a kinna...doon there where the garage wis there was a meetin...there was a wee bit off the church I think...ye went intae there and they got and then there was a place...ye got lines or something, I don't know what they were called, but you went to this place, anyway, and they gave you a line and ye went...took this line and you got clothing.

JMW: Right. And did the ministers come out if you were sick, did they come and visit?

BS: Yes, the ministers...they would, especially Mr Campbell, that was fae the Free Kirk, that's where he wis. He married ma...he christened me, ah wis gonna say married me, he christened me, Mr Campbell. Ah've got it up the stair.

JMW: And did the churches get on quite well, did the parish church get on well with the Free Church or were they distinct?

BS: No, I think they did, I think there was more in these days, more against the one up here.

JMW: That was the Catholic church.

BS: The Catholic church, that was it up there.

JMW: Right, yes.

00.27.18

BS: I think it was more there, although it didnae bother me when ah was wee, and then when ah used to go to ma auntie's and she had twins, Jenny and Hugh, ah used to go and

bring them intae Whithorn on a Sunday and we went...she worked on a Sunday too...aw farm workers worked on a Sunday and this shop jist doon below the Port was open on a Sunday and that's where ye saw the workers gaun tae,...that's where these workers got their...went and spent their Saturday money, I think they run bills and that, ye ken. An ah had the twins, Jenny and Hugh, with me one day for a day and there was a fete up there at the Catholic church.

JMW: Right.

BS: An ye ken how everybody was against them, everybody was against them, but we went tae that, and the nuns comin round wi...they had a bag collectin...an ah couldnae have been watchin and the collectin plate an ah says 'Where's your-'...Jenny would carry the money for the shop an she said 'It's in the bag' and she'd put ma Auntie Janet's money aw intae the bag and ah got intae such a state because...it was a lot of money...so I went to the priest, the man couldnae hae been nicer, Father Clerk, fae Wigtown and ah said to him...two minutes, she had her money back...the nun came and gave it back to her. And ah've stuck up for nuns ever since, ah think, (laughter) because it was all her money, it would probably be five shillings or something like that, it wouldnae be very much but it was to go for her shoppin. It wouldnae be very much money and Jenny, of course, when they come roond wi the bag just ...ah keep it up to her to this day, she put the money in but everybody says 'Oh, you'll no get it back fae them' but when ah went tae the priest, Father Clerk, dealt with me she got it an a nun came over an patted her an that cause ah had her,...cause ah would hit her likely (laughter). I'd likely gie her a guid slappin, probably did, and he came over and was nice, ah remember that, ah can remember that fine.

JMW: So was it a...it was a tin building was it?

BS: It was a tin building in these days.

JMW: But it was quite nice inside?

BS: Oh, it was all right, aye it was fine.

JMW: Yes.

00.29.44

BS: It was a tin building.

JMW: And what sort of a congregation did they have?

BS: Oh, it was packed.

JMW: Really?

BS: It was always packed they sat oot on the grass an that, it was packed.

JMW: Right.

Molly: They did marriages up there, didn't they?

BS: Aye, they did at one time. And it was always packed though. And...they had parties often, more often than what the Protestants had.

JMW: Right.

BS: And the children had tae take a Protestant with them...oh ah wis at a few o them.

JMW: Right.

BS: They invited ye, I went wi Mary, Mary Flannigan.

Molly: Aye, yer best pal.

JMW: Right.

BS: And we got the same, but it was comical, they would shout 'And where's the Proddies?' The priest would shout 'Where's the Proddies, is the Proddies getting a bite?' (Laughter). But he came every day, he cycled fae Wigtown, Father Clerk, every day.

JMW: So, they didn't have a resident priest here?

BS: No, they had later on, yes.

JMW: Yes.

BS: What did ye caw him, Molly? Went tae...it'll come tae me, Father McGuinness.

00.30.52

Molly: Ah cannae mind.

BS: Father McGuinness it was, wasn't it?

Molly: Ah dunno who came efter that.

BS: Aye, ah think it was Father McGuinness.

JMW: And then eventually they acquired the site down the street?

BS: That's right.

Molly: When would that be, then, Julia?

BS: It's-.

JMW: It must have been in the '50s musn't it?

BS: Ah think so. It would be.

JMW: Somebody said it was a plumber's yard before that, the site.

BS: That's right, it was a plumber's yard.

BS: So mostly, the Catholics and the Protestants got on really well?

BS: Well, they did...maybe Saturday night they went to the pub it was different but most of them, in the whole,...well the women and that did, you know. But the men...or that, so if they got to the pub and that I would think there were maybe have wee fall oots.

Molly: Aboot nothing.

BS: Nothing, no, no, no and these parties, the parties they had for the Protestants and their own congregation were always great. And you always got something home wi ye, a wee present or something, he was a great man, Father Clerk. He was a legend in...aw ower Wigtownshire.

JMW: Right.

00.32.07

BS: And his wee dog run wi him aw the road, he was on the bike, cycled fae...and the wee dog, a wee black and white dog ran aw the road wi him.

JMW: So, tell me a little bit about the school? That was always the one down the street, was it?

BS: Aye, well, it was really a very good school...very strict, the teachers in these days were very strict compared to they are now...they think twice now before they get the strap...I don't think they get it.

Molly: Was that always the school, then?

JMW: Well, there was-.

Molly: There wasnae ony other school?

BS: There was a school up here, like, Bell's school.

Molly: Oh right, aye, there you are. Ah didnae know that.

BS: At the beginning o Glasserton Street, whaur there...remember there used tae be a green?

Molly: Yep.

BS: Well, that was Bell's school. There used tae be a green up there.

Molly: Right.

BS: Mrs McDowell lived in it, ye'll no remember them.

JMW: But you don't remember when it was actually active as a school, do you?

BS: Oh no, it was Bell's school, it was still there, if you know what I mean, but I don't think it was a school then it was a-.

Molly: But you were never at it?

BS: Ah never was at it, no, oh no, I was at Whithorn Village...it was still there and used for something else. But our school, it would be more strict in my day than what it is now. You had tae watch yer...is was Miss McHarg that was the teacher when ye went on the primary one...ye stood up whenever...and then ah can remember ye aye had tae watch ye didnae sit doon before yer time. Ye stood up and waited until the prayer an that was past, ye aye prayed every morning.

00.33.54

JMW: And did the headmaster or headmistress live in the house opposite the school?

BS: No, Miss McHarg lived down at the bottom of Whithorn, near where the where the hotel is.

JMW: Right.

Molly: That wouldnae be a schoolhouse then.

JMW: No, it's quite an old building but...and so, how many children do you think were in Whithorn school at the time?

BS: Well, the infants' class was packed, really. There was two entrances, ye went in the door, then you went through the next door, primary 1 and primary 2, for the infants, so a lot. It was always full, the school was always full and then there was primary 3, Miss Henderson's, great Miss Henderson, she was a terror o a body. She wisnae long oot...she gave ye the strap and when ye went intae the playground you could play until the bell rung and as soon as...as soon as the bell...t was Bobby ringing it, Bobby Martin, ye had tae stop where you were and then you walked in line. I can see them doing it noo, get intae lines, ye werenae allowed tae move until they telt ye tae go into the school. It was very strict.

JMW: Yes.

Molly: Nae school dinners or ocht then, though.

BS: No.

JMW: So, what did you do-.

BS: But there was later on, no much langer either because Bobby Martin and his wife, they made soup, they had the soup kitchen and they got...some o the...for the country yins, they got their soup, for it was a penny.

00.35.38

Molly: And what did ye dae before that, though?

BS: Well, ah don't know aboot the...they jist wis-.

Molly: What did you dae? Walk hame?

BS: Oh ah never went for school dinners, ah come hame aw the time. Ah did that because ah can remember comin fae the school one day, rushin up for ma dinner...and auld Mrs Mills, dae ye remember Johnny Mills, Johnny [?]'s grannie?

JMW: I know the name.

BS: 'Here daughter, come awa in' she says 'Ah've a bowl of soup ready for ye, yer ma's awa tae the steam mill so come in and get a bowl o soup'.(Laughter) They were the kind o folk they were. They were different, actually so different tae what the folk are now...they were different...there's no sae much carrying on and things and ye had tae mind yer Ps and Qs, if ye ken what ah mean, and did anything wrang.

JMW: There seems to have been quite a lot of sharing, like neighbours and so on.

BS: Aye they did that.

JMW: Yes. And do you remember...what was the school heated with, was that just fires in each room?

BS: It was fires, I can aye remember the big guards roond aboot them, fires, and the janitor, that Bobby Martin...fires they were.

JMW: And your mother worked out in-

BS: The fields.

JMW: -the fields, was that on a particular farm or was it...did she change between?

BS: No, no, she went tae...mostly it was the same farm but...Drury, but she went ower such as she was needed.

JMW: And was that a dairy farm?

00.37.20

BS: Dairy farms, aye.

JMW: So, did she do milking and so on?

BS: Yes, uhuh.

JMW: And also harvest work?

BS: Harvest work and hoeing. Ah went tae the hoeing but ah always made a mess o it and got sacked. Ah couldnae dae it, pulled the wrang things. Instead o the weeds, ah think ah pulled the turnips. So, ah wis sacked.

BS: So, your mother just walked to the fields did she or-?

BS: She just walked, she walked for miles and miles anyway, wherever she was going, she was always walking, walkin. She just walked, ah don't think that she'd ever been in a car that ah ken o. Ah cannae remember, maybe-.

Molly: Trailers, maybe, no? Tractors and trailers?

BS: Aye they went on tractors. Ah, gosh, ah've been in a tractor tae in the fields. The Boyach, Mr [?]. The Land Army were there and ah got pally wi one o the Land Army girls, May Masterton, ye called her, she come fae Glasgow and she says 'Oh come and work wi us at the Boyach' so ah jist went tae the Boyach tae and worked wi the Land Girls.

JMW: So, the war must have had quite an impact, with all the extra people coming in.

BS: Yes, oh it did, aye. It was something seein the boys marchin way doon tae the train an that.

JMW: That was the boys from Whithorn that were getting recruited?

BS: Yes. Everybody was oot at their doors and they marched right doon and then there was the ones up at Burrow Head, they didnae come on trucks, they marched fae the station to Burrow Head.

Molly: And the Army.

00.30.09

JMW: In their time off they would get to come into Whithorn?

BS: Oh, they came into Whithorn, for they came tae the tearoom where ah worked cause she did special meals for them, Miss Hannah, the two Miss Hannah's.

JMW: Right, so where was that tearoom?

BS: It was where Katrina Keith lives.

JMW: Ok.

BS: That was at an... but she had me in one day, there's kinna signs o where the tea...things that belonged to the tearoom. That's where it was, there was other ones, but that's the one they went to because it was aw home-made baking an it was Joanne, that was the eldest one, it was her, and she was very good to them, she gave them extras and that, and carry-outs and that tae take tae the camp.

JMW: Yes.

BS: And then the officers started comin too, it was always packed.

Molly: Dances?

BS: And ma mother used tae come down on a Saturday night and help me to wash the dishes, on a Saturday night. And then, of course, there was dances, we cawd them 'the hops' across in the hall and of course ah had tae work on and on and if ma mother come ah would say 'Would ye dae the dishes?'. 'Oh aye' she says, 'Yer gaun tae the dance' and she did ma work for me while ah went tae the hop. We cawd it 'the hop' in these days, 'The Saturday Night Hop, Rennie McAdam's Band, Wigtown.

JMW: Right.

BS: They were a great band, Rennie McAdam had such a voice (laughter).

Molly: What a guid memory.

BS: We loved it, oh we did. And everybody loved Rennie McAdam and he was so cheery...there was nae carry-on and there was nae fights. We had a good man that put them oot, that attended, Bobby Herd fae...he was the one that flung them oot if there was ony carry-on, it was great. Whithorn Saturday night hops were famous aw ower Wigtownshire, they came fae everywhere.

00.41.07

JMW: Yes.

BS: It was very good.

JMW: People would come in by bicycle or bus.

BS: Yes, aye, or walked, some o them, it was very good.

Molly: It would be a kinna highlight wouldn't it?

BS: Mm, but ah had tae be home, even though ah was a teenager, well ah would be eighteen, maybe. Would ah be? Anyway, we were, when ma mother worked or if ah was she wisnae there an ah was at the hop, this was afore she worked in Miss Hannah's for me...when we went tae the dances we had tae be oot at a certain time. Ah had tae be in the house at a certain time and this night ah wis goin up the street an ah was wi a soldier (laughs) and he'd asked me ma name an ah said 'Violet' (laughter), ah can remember an it would be aboot Galloway's shop an a seen her comin and she wisnae changed or ocht, she had the wellies on comin doon the street wi a stick and we used tae [?] on it. 'Is that you Betty?' an he says 'No,' this fella, he says 'No, sorry, this is Violet', 'Aye' ah says, 'Well Violet up the something street the noo or ye'll get this [?] ower yer back.' (Laughter). Ah remember that so well, aye, Violet.

JMW: And did you have to give some of your wages to your mother?

BS: No, some of them, you handed them over.

JMW: All of it?

BS: Aye. My first wage was ten shillings, it was over at The Mains there.

Molly: Was that a month?

BS: A week. And...ah think it was ten shillings a week, aye, and ah hated every minute o it. Ah was frightened and there was an auld man worked at it and he yaist tae frighten me...ah wis only four-, that's when ah left school, that was ma first job, an ah wis over there and a Tuesday night, I think it was a Tuesday night ah was in ma bedroom and a wee rap come tae the door and it was ma ma wi a comic for me an a sweetie, every Tuesday night. (Laughter)
The Film Fun.

00.43.12

JMW: So that's what you got out of it?

BS: That's what ah got.

Molly: On a Tuesday.

BS: On a Tuesday, a sweetie and that, ah didnae really like it, there were what de ye call it, ah dunno if it was Plymouth Brethren...they was some kinna Brethren, anyway, an they had meetings an ye had tae gae intae...it was an awfu palaver.

JMW: This was at the house you worked at?

BS: Aye, they were religious people.

Molly: What was their name?

BS: McQuade, McQuade, Jeannie and Joe McQuade and-.

Molly: And that was up there?

BS: Aye, it was up on the farm up there. The other farm, The Mains. And they were very, very strict. And ye had, ah did...what ah didnae like was, a had tae clean out the henhouses and there was fleas. Ah used tae gaun tae ma bed cryin and that...an there was one night...this night ah was lyin an a wasnae sleepin...ah wis absolutely terrified...when ah happened to look...here's the bedroom door, gradually openin, gradually openin, and this come in wi a long thing tae her feet and a bunnet on their head wi a tassle on it, it was the mistress, she said 'Are ye sleepin? Ah'm takin yer candle cause mine's went oot' and that was me (laughs).

Molly: You were left in the dark.

00.44.36

BS: A didnae know who she was till she spoke, ah didnae...ah thought it was a ghost. Ah think they were quite glad tae get rid of me, tae tell ye the truth. Ah didnae like it, ah really didnae.

JMW: So, you had to live in?

BS: Yes, you lived in, there.

JMW: And so what were your duties?

BS: Ye did the housework an that, ah didnae have any washin to do. She had what she called a hall, well, I'm quite sure it was wee'er than this carpet and she...'Before you go away the night, polish that hall.' Of course ah never bothered, an that was me got intae bother the next time ah went. 'Did ye polish the hall? Ye never did.' We didnae really get

on an ah didnae like gaun tae the meetins for ah didnae understand them cause they werenae the same as us, ken what ah mean? Ah had tae go to them but ah didnae really understand them and they were away singing high, away. But ah cried that much one night she said 'Ah'll just tak ye hame wi me.' That was it.

Molly: Then [?].

BS: After that Cherry Valley, tae the Christies.

Molly: Cathie's mother and father.

BS: Cathie' folk lived there.

JMW: And was that better?

BS: Slightly, aye, but ah didnae like the man.

JMW: Right.

BS: Mr Christie. Jackie the milkman, fastest milkman in the west.

Molly: You got...brought Cathie intae the toon didn't ye?

BS: Got ma what?

00.46.21

Molly: Brought Cathie in, but she wisnae tae come intae the tap o the toon, or something.

BS: Cathie, was a wee girl aboot four, (coughing) and she was...ah was very fond oh her, ah was good tae her and ah gien her a sweetie when she shouldnae have a sweetie and she says 'Can ah come into Whithorn?'. Ah says 'Ye'll need tae ask yer mum and daddy'. So ah lived, as ye ken, at the tap o the toon and ah said tae Mrs Christie, ah says 'Cathie would like tae come into the town. Is it all right?' And she thought...'Yes' she said 'If ye avoid the top o the toon'. Well ah lived at it, ah mean ah couldnae get passed my door, ah couldnae, ah lived at the top of the High Street, and an ye come up Glasserton Street and then it was High Street and ah says 'Ah cannae, ah live in High Street'. She says 'She's no gaun' so she didnae get. But ah often wondered how ah was to avoid High Street cause...ah dinnae ken how ah wis tae dae it.

JMW: So do you think the top of the town and the bottom of the town have always been kind of separate like that?

BS: They were, they were more so in...years ago but noo...everybody mixes don' they but no, they used tae hae kinna fights an wee battles, the top of the toon and the bottom of the toon. Ah was pally wi Molly Heron, an that was fae the bottom o the toon and different ones, Nan [?] and aw these folk. Margaret [?]'s sister-in-law.

JMW: Right.

BS: She lives in Fraserburgh, we still keep in touch.

JMW: But we don't know why particularly the bottom and the top couldn't get on. It was just, were they physically divided, the Ports Mouth, is that why?

BS: Ah think, ah don't know why, it has been for years. Ah think it's different now, right enough, but then it wasnae...it wasnae up fae the Port Mooth it was further doon seemingly, fae aboot where Mr Kelly used tae leeve, fae aboot the Cameronian Entry there...the Kings Manor.

JMW: So the bottom of the town started there?

00.48.29

BS: That's it, uhuh. Ah don't know what it was for.

JMW: No.

BS: An...we had parties in the street on a Saturday night, an there was Pat Flannigan, big Pat, he had his melodien, Johnny Johnston played the bagpipes, wee Johnnie, [?] see him [?] as ah'm talkin aboot, he was a comical wee man, his drank...he was a really alcoholic an he danced, dressed as a woman an danced. This wis wur entertainment on a Saturday night

JMW: So where would that happen?

BS: High Street. Right up tae the pump.

JW: Right.

BS: Tae the turnins.

JMW: I suppose there weren't so many cars so it would be ok.

BS: Aye, there wisnae many cars. Ah think Willie Rogers was the first car in...he was a motor hirer in Whithorn. Ah think his was the first one. There wasnae many cars in my day.

JMW: Yes.

BS: Quite a lot o them wi the horses and traps, but not a-

Molly: No as mony cars.

BS: No as mony cars.

JMW: Well, the horses would be a huge difference.

BS: That's right, aye.

JMW: I can't imagine it now.

BS: No. That's how I went away to ma work, was on the milkcart.

JMW: Right.

Molly: The horse.

00.49.48

BS: The horse, wi the milk.

JMW: And you remember the creamery working?

BS: Oh yes, ah do, for ah worked in it for a wee while.

JMW: Did you?

BS: No for long. Rakin, wi the rake, rakin the cruds.

JMW: This was the cheese making?

BS: Mr Maxwell, Jimmy Maxwell, was ma boss. Wisnae long in it, it was jist...ah went wi someone for a month...somebody was off, anyway, an ah went. Mr Baxter, that was the late John Baxter's father, Mr Harry Baxter, was the boss of it.

JMW: Right.

BS: He asked me to come.

JMW: And the milk and the cheese would go out on the train I presume?

BS: Yes, uhuh.

JMW: The train must have made quite a difference in Whithorn.

BS: Oh, it did, aye. Especially when the soldiers came in...they were aw doon tae see the soldiers comin off the train.

JMW: And you mentioned about the tramps or the people of the road.

BS: The lodging houses they stayed in, that was in High Street.

JMW: Right. So was it a bigger house than the others?

BS: Yes. She had this wee house, Mrs Jones and Tommy, that was her husband, and they sold things like combs and things, wee things, oot o their pack, they was there and next to it, ye went up the steps, and that was the lodging house, ye had tae go up the steps tae it. It was joined together but different, if ye know what ah mean.

00.51.22

Molly: Separate doors.

BS: Separate doors. She was an nice old lady, Mrs Jones.

JMW: Right.

BS: She drank but...ye seen her gaun up wi her jug tae the pub an comin back doon wi it.

Molly: And did she keep the travellin folk?

BS: Yes.

Molly: Right.

BS: Her and Tommy, they kept them.

JMW: And did she serve them a dinner or something?

BS: They got something, ah donno what they would get but the...some of the kinna worse ones that maybe wouldnae hae very much, ah think, they kinna chapped at yer doors an asked for a piece.

Molly: Snib Scott or somethin'?

BS: Snib Scott an that.

JMW: So you remember Snib Scott?

BS: Oh, very much, aye. He went to a special house doon at about the Port Mouth, he went in there to Mrs Begg, ye called her, an she always gien him food and he took her dog oot. Dainty, was the dog's name, he took the dog oot a walk and the big black curly dog, it was so fat wi bein fed, it couldnae move. Aye he went there.

JMW: Were there any other famous characters that you remember? Somebody's mentioned somebody called Scotch Jimmy.

BS: Oh, Scotch Jimmy, oh ah mind oh Scotch Jimmy. [?] He was a kind of wee, he was a tramp, he sung or he tried tae but he had a beard richt doon an hair but...what was it he sung? Oh, *Bringing in the Sheaves*, the hymn. And Robert John Connin, he was another one, they were the famous, two famous ones fae the lodging house and he was a good singer ye ken and, as ah say, the other one kept the Bible upside doon.

00.53.17

Molly: Did he get pennies for that or what?

BS: Oh he got pennies, ay ye had tae keep a penny in the hoose for them, they aye got a...their pennies. Ah think maistly everybody would gie them a penny. But the Scotch Jimmy, was aggressive, he wisnae like the other...I think they were quite glad to get rid o him oot o Whithorn. He was aggressive, he would have fought or hit ye for nothing. He aye went tae the pub a lot, Mrs Flanagan's.

JMW: And if there were any trouble was there a policeman in the town?

BS: Oh aye. McLellan, ah think it was his name.

Molly: Did he stay in the town?

BS: Aye.

JMW: Was that the old Police Station?

BS: Old Police Station, aye, Sergeant McLellan. I think it was McLellan ye cawd him, he was the only yin that ah...far back onyway, aye it was McLellan ye cawd him.

Molly: An there was cells doon there weren't there?

BS: Aye. There was quite a lot of different ones lifted and put in the...quite a lot o them.

Molly: Then of course, in thae days it would be the Burgh Court then wouldn't it?

BS: Aye.

JMW: Yes, do you remember that.

BS: That was in the hall, the auld toon hall?

Molly: The old toon hall aye.

BS: Next tae Galloway's. I was at the [?] for something, ah dinna ken what ah was daen, maybe it was jist nosing but ah've remember being in there. Aye that's where they went tae.

00.54.48

Molly: Wha would be the judge there then?

BS: Well, one of the judges was Miss Morton, the school teacher, ah can always remember that, she was a judge. But ah don't know about the men, it would be kinna like the provost, Provost Dunnin.

Molly: Aye that's whae it would be.

BS: Provost Dunnin, he was a great old man, him, him and his wife. They lived doon in George Street.

Molly: The poet's bit, no? Who lived in the poet's bit?

BS: That's it. Mr Dunning was his name, it was Mr Dunnin that was the poet.

Molly: Was that him that went up in it?

BS: Aye jist [?] this is the way he walked up the garden...and of course my yin wisnae very auld, jist two or something and he lifted a kinna grape thing and the man Willie Barry was [?] the job but he jumped and taked his hand and Robert came and done it here (laughter). Robert was a monkey for imitatin him. He seen him because he was behind his back.

Molly: Of course, youse actually stayed there for a while didn't ye.

BS: That's right, sae.

Molly: When ye came back tae Whithorn.

BS: Aye, when we came back we couldnae get a house so we went in wi Mr Drummond and ah did his work for him. Ah don't think ah had much tae pay, mind, it wouldnae be very much. There was a Mrs, and old lady called Mrs Jolly who lived in Green Lane, she did aw his housework for him, Annie Jolly. She did aw his work for him. But oh, he was a great auld man. Jimmy, ma husband, did a lot for him like shavin him and that and keepin him right an Mr Law, I think Mr Law wis something [?] he came doon a lot tae see him. It was Mr Law? We werenae there long, just till we got wur hoose.

JMW: Right.

00.56.45

BS: In Isle Street.

JMW: Yes.

Molly: Tell Julia, about yer mother no takin the pension.

BS: Aye, well, ma mother...when she got older she wis a wee bit kinna...her mind kinna went a wee bit confused like. Confused a wee bit and the pensions comes oot, ah think it was three-and-six, it was either three-and-six or it was five or six shillings. Anyway, this comes to her. She say's 'What's that for?' ah says 'That's your pension', 'What pension?', ah says 'You get that money noo cause yer over...yer age tae get it an ye're no working, bye working noo, an ah had tae go and get the lawyer, old Laurie, the old lawyer, maybe you've heard o him.

JMW: Yes.

BS: Mr Laurie, because he came up, behind wur hoose tae gaun tae Flannigan's every night. He didnae come up the front street (laughter) he went up the back raw there up the Green Lane and went tae the pub an ah watched for him this night and asked him if he could come in. Ma mother paid the rent tae him, he took the rent and when he got it aw explained tae her she widnae take it. She'd twa or three weeks oh it, she widnae, because she hadnae worked for it. Mr Laurie, the solicitor, he was a nice, ah like him, an old man, but that's the way...he didnae come oot the front street tae Flannigan's, he come up ower the [?] then up an then intae the back raw, there was a field there. And had his drink. But he was very nice, we paid the rent tae him. He was always very nice with us.

JMW: Do you ever remember seeing what the pubs were like inside, because obviously they wouldn't be like a modern pub?

BS: Don't think ah ever been in any o them.

JMW: No.

BS: Because there's none o mine would be allowed ta get intae [?].

JMW: Yes, yes, I just wondered if they had a barrel or something.

00.58.39

BS: Aye, I remember the barrels, they definitely had barrels in the pubs.

Molly: A wee bit sack just where it was sittin.

BS: Aye, that's that what they had it oot o. Oh, no they hadnae a barrel, ah cannae mind, ah was in one, but there wisnae a counter...there was chairs aw dotted roond aboot and there was the barrels and things like that, a wee kinna platform, like a wee widen seat or something. Because we went in for oor Halloween and things, [?] (laughter). The best place to go for wur Halloween, when we were at school, wis was Wards.

JMW: Oh, really.

Molly: Who was in there then?

BS: Wallaces were there then. They were great folk.

JMW: So, was Halloween a big event?

BS: Aye, it was a big event, we went oot, everybody went oot for it and some of the...like Annie Jolly, do you remember Annie Jolly? ... Norah Kane, they dressed up tae, and they were in their thirties, maybe ,or something, twenties or thirties. And we went oot on Halloween tae. It used tae be a great bit Halloween.

JMW: Yes, it's still pretty strong, isn't it, that's one thing that hasn't changed that much?

Molly: No it hasnae waned any, has it?

BS: Ye went out for it, ye ken. An ye had tae say a magic word before ye got anything.

JMW: Right, right.

BS: And what about Christmas, how has that changed?

BS: Oh, it's changed a lot. Gosh, ah mean, ah cannae remember but ah never got anything like...we got sweeties, a box, ah don't know where they got them, wi animals, chocolate animals, ah can mind o getting that and ye put yer stockin, ye got stuff in yer stocking, that was it, nae toys or... we widnae hae the money, but still ye believed in it.

Molly: And what aboot Christmas trees?

1.00.36

BS: Oh, there was nae Christmas trees in my day.

Molly: Did ye get a Christmas pairty fae the burgh or was there-? No?

BS: The Sunday School.

Molly: Sunday School, aye.

BS: Doon King's Road, doon at, aye, doon King's Road, Belmont Hall.

Molly: That was where the flats are noo.

BS: Aye, we went there. Aye we had Christmas parties.

JMW: Now, was New Year bigger than Christmas?

BS: Yes. Hogmanay was really wild, you would say, everybody, an ye even went oot beggin for yer Hogmanay, same as Halloween, ye went roond the doors asked 'Could you please [?] Hogmanay?' Aye, it was big, they made a lot o Hogmanay and ye yist tae have yer food about midnight often and aw they kinna things.

JMW: So, houses would be open for visits?

BS: Aw the shops an the pubs.

Molly: What kinna Christmas dinner did yis get?

JMW: Oh, well, it would be a hen, because they'd get it at the farm (laughter).

Molly: Draw it's neck, probably.

BS: No, no, they got a hen for their Christmas. We always got...the family always gave ye a hen. Aye, it was always a hen. And nae Christmas pudding or onything. It would be maybe, rice pudding or something. Ah don't know.

Molly: Or bread pudding, maybe?

BS: Maybe it was.

Molly: Ah remember ye sayin that.

1.02.15

BS: Aye, it would be jelly, we got a lot o jelly, aye. But it was a hen at Christmas, because the farmers gave ye that, a hen home with ye.

JMW: I was talking to Mrs McLean and she's mentioned the name McGinn as well, so is that the same family?

BS: No.

JMW: No? Different families.

BS: She's talkin about Willie McGinn.

JMW: Right.

Molly: Wi the horse comin oot the hoose.

JMW: Yes.

BS: Aye they kept the horse in the hoose.

Molly: That's no the same.

BS: Related to her, it was her mother, Jessie McLean's mother, was a McGinn.

Molly: But it's no the same McGinns.

BS: No, no the same McGinns as us.

JMW: Right, right.

BS: Aye, Jessie's Nanny, aye that's right...Jessie McLean's mother was Mary McGinn. She had a horse and cart.

JMW: She was telling me, yes.

BS: She had a horse and cart and sold dishes. She was an awfy nice auld buddy, ah can remember.

JMW: Do you remember the business, the china and all that, that she sold?

1.03.15

BS: Yes, oh yes, ah remember that.

Molly: Did they sell it fae the cairt?

BS: Aye she sold it fae the cart but she went to the country, to the cot hooses and farms. Aye she was, ah remember her, ah remember seeing her in the cart, aye she was a nice old person.

Molly: Ah don't remember seeing ony photos o that, do you Julia?

JMW: No, I've never seen the cart.

Molly: No.

BS: Don't know where you would get that.

Molly: Dunno if-.

BS: If onybody would have had it, it would be Agnes, Agnes Jolly. She was a lovely person, Mrs Jolly, she was married tae Jimmy Flannigan.

Molly: The bus hirer.

BS: Bus hirer.

Molly: That's Aly and Mary's mum and dad.

JMW: Right. So do you remember your mother working on mill days?

BS: Yes, cause ah was there.

JMW: Right. So who brought the mill?

BS: It was Hughie Smith, lived down in Isle Street, Hughie Smith and Bob Christie, they were the two men on the mill, that was May...you wouldnae know the Smiths.

Molly: The very end house, comin away oot the other way.

BS: Aye thae Smiths. Hugh Smith had it and ah yaist tae carry bunches.

JMW: Right.

1.04.34

BS: And ma mother was on the top o the mill. Ah was sittin in the other cart at lowsin. Oh aye, ah was a lot o mills, Cutcheons and aw these places.

JMW: Right. That was a fairly big day when you had to do all that work?

BS: Yes, it was something.

JWM: Did you get a dinner in the middle of the day?

BS: Yes, they give ye an afternoon tea, ye had yer piece wi ye ah think, for the middle of the day but in the afternoon, maybe four o' clock or that, they come oot wi a basket wi things an-.

Molly: It would be a lang day likely.

BS: Aye, well, they did get food...well, at most o the farms, maybe some o then didnae but most farms gave them food.

JMW: Was there any particular job your mother didn't like doing on the farms?

BS: Well, ah really don't know, no ah don't...ah think she did, ah think ma mother could hae worked onywhere on a farm. For they were always wantin her tae goo oot tae work, ye ken. But, ah mean, she walked, she widnae take a lift, she walked in the morning and that, she walked tae Brown Hill, Sheddock, and aw these places.

JMW: Right.

BS: An Drury. Mersick, these were her main ones, Drury Lane, Mersick.

JMW: And was Sunday a day off? Did she get that?

BS: Aye, Sunday was off, she got her washing done then, the weekly washing.

JMW: But she worked on a Saturday?

BS: Yes.

JMW: So, a six day week.

BS: Aye, she didnae work aw day on a Saturday, twelve o'clock, ah think. Ah think it was half day. She worked wi [?], aye.

1.06.23

JMW: I've been told Saturday was a busy day in Whithorn, when people got their pay?

BS: Yes, and then ye'd tae gang tae the shops.

Molly: Saturday lunchtime.

BS: That's when they did their shoppin, on a Saturday. And if ye went doon...some o them...at a certain time ye got something off. Like Garrick's at the bottom there, right away doon the bottom o the road, it was a grocers, Billy Garrcik. And if ye went in before a...before nine o' clock, ah think, there was something off. There was something ye got off. An a wee thing handed it tae ye.

JMW: And did your mother do a lot of home cooking and-?

BS: Oh aye, well she did it quite a lot, aye. But when ma auntie staid wi us and she did it.

JMW: Yes.

BS: And then when ma sister was old enough she did it.

JMW: I get the impression people made most things rather than buying things in.

BS: Oh they didnae buy. It was always broth or lentil soup or tattie soup. And scones, and stews and porridge. Porridge was a main, that was yer breakfast and sometimes ye had it for yer supper too. But it was different times and...some o the farmers tae the aulder folk were nice and some o them werenae. I was saying to Elena, she was the sister of auld Mrs Kerr, and she took them all meals...and they had them fae they were say in a steading or in a shed. 'Come here a minute, Hetty' and there was a special dinner for ma mother. She got aw right in that.

Molly: She was the kinna main yin there, though. She was [?] in there when yer [?].

BS: Aye she was a great worker.

JMW: And do you remember people getting work on the...in the big houses like, I suppose, Glasserton House?

BS: Oh aye, they had right crowd, ah cannae remember, there was a lot o folk worked in Glasserton House, Physgill House an aw them.

1.08.49

Molly: Kidsdale.

BS: And Kidsdale. It was nice to see the ponies an that comin in, the men and the ponies. We had tae go out, when ah wis wee, was it Kidsdale or the other bit...Glasserton....the laird...wha was the laird?

Molly: Glesserton?

BS: An him an his men an the horses an we were told that they were comin so the weans, the young ones, were aw oot on the...and when they come ye had tae bow. And the men took off their caps. Ah remember that.

JMW: Would that have been the old Admiral?

BS: Yes, the men sat wi him and the females bowed and the men stood. You were told...if you had it...an for some reason you closed your blinds, I don't know what that was for. I can remember the blinds being pulled down, maybe that was for the pilgrimages. That's what it would be for. That's what it would be for, the pilgrimages...when they came certain...ye pulled the blinds. So obviously we werenae getting taken on wi them or something.

JMW: Right.

BS: But oh, when the Admiral and them come, there was a line and ye were told to bow and that.

JMW: Right.

BS: The men saluted them and had their caps off.

Molly: Guid job it's chainged days.

BS: And we bowed. Seein the horses comin in.

JMW: And do you remember any of the fox-hunting that went on? There was a hunt at one point.

BS: Well, ah heard about it but ah don't know anything much about it.

1.10.34

JMW: You don't remember.

BS: But ah know they did that, fox-hunting, ah knew that but-.

Molly: Ye never saw it?

BS: Naw, naw.

Molly: The horses an that.

JMW: And there'd be a lot of people employed in the gardens at Glasserton?

BS: Yes, there was. Elsie's folk were in it, the McShanes, her father. George Eccleston was the head gardener at Glasserton.

JMW: And were there any Sunday School trips or anything?

BS: Oh yes.

JMW: When you got to the-?

BS: Oh ye got to (Kirkmabe?)].

JMW: Yes.

BS: Aye ye went tae (Kirkmaben?).

JMW: Was that in a pony and trap or-?

BS: Well, at the beginning there was some pony and traps but in my day it mostly was the bus, Caledonian.

JMW: Bus, yes.

BS: But ah've been in the pony thing. It must have been years and years ago but that's what we used to go in. Rows and rows o the pony and traps to the picnic.

JMW: Was that jist once a year or several times?

BS: No, it was once a year. And ye had a party once a year too.

1.11.52

Molly: Summer and Christmas maybe or something.

JMW: What about clothing? Did people make quite a lot of their own?

BS: Well, again, there was a thing at the manse, ah cannae remember the man's name.

Molly: Would it be Mr Long?

BS: Ah don't know but poorer people, ye went tae the council an ye got a chitty, a line, for a pound maybe, maybe it was more than a pound, and ye took that up to the manse an ye got things for it.

JMW: Right.

Molly: Claithes?

BS: Clothes, clothing. Now you could maybe get, maybe, stockings, sandals, sometimes ah think it was a bigger line, maybe, for a dress, but ye got lines. Cause ah've had...ah have had...ma mother got a line, ah can remember once going and getting.

JMW: This was the manse up Bruce Street?

BS: The manse up Bruce Street, aye. Aye, ah went up there, ah think it was Mr Law, maybe someone before him.

JMW: At one point it would have been a Mr Reid.

BS: Oh yes.

JMW: I don't know if you remember him?

BS: He was in the bottom church, was he no? But this was up the manse, Mr Law.

JMW: Right.

BS: Ah aye mind o Admiral Reid. But ye did get a chitty, ah don't know if it was once a year or more often, I don't know if it was Christmas time or when it was but ye had tae-/