

Interviewee: Nancy Muirhead (NM)	Interviewer: Tania Gardner (TG)
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This interview mainly discusses occupations; how work was found in Kirkcudbright when Nancy was young. She talks about her time in the knitwear factory, and covers the training and health and safety, the breaks, holidays and social life of the workers, and the boom and ultimate bust of the factory. It's a fascinating insight into so many aspects of work and the changes over her many years there.

[Brief talk between TG and NM]

TG: This is Tania Gardner interviewing Nancy Muirhead in Kirkcudbright on the Sixth of June Two thousand and thirteen. Nancy, please can you tell me your name and your age, and where you were born.

NM: My name is Nancy Muirhead and I live in [REDACTED] Kirkcudbright. I was born on Mull, and...

TG: You're seventy-five?

NM: I'm seventy-five this year!

TG: Which is amazing.

NM: And I moved all over Scotland with my father, and my mother belonged to Kirkcudbright, my father died and we come back to Kirkcudbright in Nineteen fifty, and I have lived here ever since.

TG: Did you find it hard to come back, or were you pleased to be settled in one place?

NM: Very hard to come back because went to little rural schools all over the place, and come back at twelve years of age, and nearly died off when I had to go into the Academy!

TG: Was it a huge school then, compared with...?

NM: Oh yes.

TG: Can you remember how many were in your class?

NM: Oh maybe if there was twelve that's all there would be, sometimes less. And we had to walk to school every mornin'.

TG: Yes. But when you were living here in Kirkcudbright where were you living?

NM: We went to live with my granny in Shorehouse.

TG: Right down at the harbour.

00:02:03

NM: Yes. And then my mother bought a small house in Union Street, number ten. And that's where we lived.

TG: And who was in the family then? Your mum, and yourself...

NM: And I have a brother but he's deceased John, and William of course is deceased too.

TG: So that was quite a change...and living in a street, rather than in a village? So did you make friends quite rapidly, because of going to school?

NM: Naw, the first day I went to the Academy I...my mother took me and I stood in behind my mother 'cause I'd never seen as many children, in my life. And the noise and everything and I stood, and she said tae me, "Get from behind me, and meet all these girls."

TG: Uh huh. So did you meet people more from playing in the street or going out or...?

NM: Actually playin' in the street I would think, ken there was quite a few people in the street you know a lot o' children in the street and that, and wi' bein' at the Academy, I did make friends but it took me a while, because it was different. I mean when we left school and walked home to the Lighthouse, we...unless there was other children at the lighthouse, we never seen anybody tae the next day anyway, at school.

TG: So you'd actually lived quite an isolated existence, but that was what you knew?

NM: Yes. And I mean we went tae the...mother want tae the shops maybe once a month to stock up, and we used to get to go with her in.

TG: But now, living in Shorehouse or Union Street, shops were just around the corner.

NM: That's right, I was the messenger! [*Laughter*] I was the messenger for Granny at Shorehouse.

TG: Yes, absolutely. And were you at the Academy for three years?

NM: Yes, out at fifteen.

TG: And did you have to sit, just like class exams in those days?

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NM: Yeah, the everyday kinna exam, nothin' like what it is nowadays. And I mean ye didn't get the papers to say how ye had passed and everything like that, just a good record o' bein' at the school.

TG: And did you get a kind of reference from a form teacher or something, when you left?

NM: Not that I can remember, no.

TG: So what were the job prospects for women when you were leaving school?

NM: Well, I don't think they actually came into the school the way that they come...well there's Mark who's got a wee girl in the shop this week, there was nothin' like that.

TG: That's a kinna job experience thing?

NM: Yes, there was nothin' like that, no. And it was...I don't know how my mother actually got tae know, but it must hae been somebody had said tae her, and it was Alice MacMillan that looked after the factory, and she said, "Alice is lookin' for girls to train," and my mother said to me, "you'll have to go," I said, "All right, I'll go," and right enough. But she said, "I will come with you, and introduce ye and that tae Alice," 'cause I don't think Alice would know me. And she said, "Certainly," and Janey Brawl was one o' the girls and the two of us started together in the factory.

TG: So was it called the glove factory?

NM: Well, we called it the glove factory, a lot o' people...it's actually the knitwear factory.

TG: Yes, and was it owned by McGeorge at that time, when you were...?

NM: As far as I know yes.

TG: And that was in the Nineteen fifties?

NM: Well it would be Thirty-three, when I went in to the factory.

TG: Yes, uh huh, and where exactly was it in Kirkcudbright?

NM: It was well in behind the Johnston's School, as ye turn up tae go tae Mr Hastings's, it was just across there.

TG: Right, so it's those sort of derelict buildings opposite Sam Hasting's house, and that'll still be on Millburn Street I would think? It will be the extension...

00:06:22

NM: Yes it will be an extension of Millburn Street yeah.

TG: So your mum went with ye, and your friend, the first day?

NM: No that was to interview Alice to see if there was a job and that, and Alice had said yes she said...I can't remember but somethin' makes me think that she said, "I've actually had another girl lookin' for a job," and it was Janey Brawl. And the two o' us went in and we had a look round the factory and nearly died off when everybody looked at us! Strangers in a strange...

TG: What age range of people were there?

NM: All...right up.

TG: And how many, just as a sort of...

NM: Just kinna roughly just maybe when we went in there maybe would be maybe twenty/twenty-five.

TG: Right. And Alice was the over-seer?

NM: Yes.

TG: So was it noisy, what did ye hear when ye walked through that door?

NM: It was all different of machines, you know, swishin' across, and swishin' across, like that.

TG: But when you two young girls walked in, everybody...did everybody stop?

NM: Oh it just went silent! And ye could hear them sayin', "Whae's that, who's that?" You know, that kind o' thing.

TG: Aye. So that was...you went like, I imagine at the end of June, the beginning of the summer holidays lookin' for a job?

NM: Yes we did, uh huh, but we only actually worked...I think it was always the Trades that the factories got you know there was always trades in these days, in fact I just see that Glasgow Fair's the Fifteenth o' July so they call that the Trades. And of

course Janey and me didn't get any money, that was just the two or three weeks kind o' experience, so, that's when I told ye that we went to Keighley camp!

TG: Yes, tell us about that, tell me!

00:08:06

NM: Well, it was two ladies, but I can't really remember their names, they come into the factory and they said, well you know they opened the big slidin' door and they came in and they said, "Can we speak to Alice please?" Oh yeah, Alice come out o' the office and Alice had said, "We're lookin' for girls to come and work at the Keighley camp, and of course ah sat there, and Janey sat there and Alice sat there and checked everybody's work, and her office was just there.

TG: So that was just at the entrance!

NM: And she just looked, and she said, "Oh I really don't know," but I know that there's Nancy here and there's Janey, she said, "They've just come in to the factory to see if they can do it," and she said, "I'm quite sure that they would come and work for ye!" So, Alice said, "What do ye think girls?" And she says, "You'll get paid for it!" And we thought oh! So that's when we...I can't remember her name, so that's where we went, we went to the Keighley Camp.

TG: The Keighley camp is out at the dunes so...

NM: Yes, and we had bikes and we biked to the Keighley camp and we biked back, and at night, until...the masters lived in the...where they all ate, and the boys lived in tents, and they said, "Look girls, instead o' doin' this every mornin', and goin' back home at night, we'll put you into tents, and Janey and me thought, tents! But we didn't...clothin' in these days was very limited, so we didn't have a big suitcase or anything like that! We just went and, actually it was an experience, it was a good learnin' experience for lookin' after a house. 'Cause ye'd no sooner done the...well they all got porridge and everything in the morning, and we were the kinna kitchen staff, ye know, and to begin with, the first two or three days, we'd no sooner finished the breakfast dishes when the dinner dishes was...! I can still see it!

TG: How many kids used to come?

NM: Oh there was a lot!

TG: A lot o' them. I remember, it was like an invasion!

NM: That's right! And we worked there for the fortnight.

TG: Did you have to do cleanin' up for them or did they have to look after...?

NM: No, they had to look after their, you know, the masters seen that they did their thing, but we did get that we got a' the dishes finished and then we got a relaxin' time, and then it all started at dinner time and then it came tae the tea-time, and after that we were finished.

TG: Did you and Janey become quite good friends, because of that?

00:11:10

NM: Yeah we were good friends. I should o' brought ye a picture o' Janey and me, together.

TG: So two weeks...in fact you would end up with a bit of sunshine, fresh air...hard work?

NM: That's right. Oh very hard work.

TG: But a wee holiday, because it was different.

NM: It was different. And I can assure you we knew how to wash dishes after we were finished it! No but it really was, to me it was a good experience.

TG: So when you came back from that, it was straight into...

NM: Straight into doin'...makin' wir gloves.

TG: So what did they make...so there's twenty-five women with Alice as an over-seer...?

NM: Aye, there was only the two machines for gloves, that's where ye trained tae pick on, and do your handle and read yer cards and everything that was in yer bag, and there was only at that time when we went in, they all made...I'm quite sure that they all made gents socks. We didn't put the heel into them, we just made it, and the stitches come off at each side for the heel, we put a different wool on them, and then we made the heel bit, and they were all folded up Alice checked them and they were all folded up, and then they went back to Dumfries to get the feet put into them, the soles put into them.

TG: Well I'm just going to show you something. The other day in the museum a lady bought in an advert for the Kirkcudbright Sock, and on the back there was a letter, now I haven't got the letter on the back of this, but there's a sock that you would have made.

NM: That's it, that's the Kirkcudbright sock. Diamonds up either side.

TG: Diamonds?

NM: Aye that's diamonds [ ? ].

TG: And when you talked about a card, was that the pattern, the card that you meant?

NM: Well, yes, this was a chat, they called it a chat. When you got your bag with yer wool in it, you also got your chat in it and it said up on it, was a Kirkcudbright sock.

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TG: So you had a good trainin' from Alice, and she would check it. Was she kind, was she firm?

NM: She was a very good manageress. She was a manageress, she was a very good manageress. She could...what's the word? I'm no' sayin' reprimand but she could tell you but she could tell you in a nice way.

TG: She wanted things to be right?

NM: That's right.

TG: She had to have things right.

NM: That's right, I mean anything...what she used to say to us was, anything that's coming off your machine, I shouldn't have to check it, it should be perfect. But she said for my own job...and she sat there and she sat on a stool and she put them on her knee like that and she...see we got the top, you know how you get a top on a gent's sock, well these would be in the bag too and ye picked them a' onto yer machine, and that's where ye started.

TG: So you worked from there, putting the pattern on.

NM: Yes. The tops all come from Dumfries, and you would maybe get a dozen such and such a size, and six pairs such and such a size, and ye put yer pat'ren on, and ye had a table at the front and ye just laid them on yer table, and Alice would come up every now and again and take them away, and she used to come back and say, that's fine.

TG: And did they want you to make so-many a day, or was there a kind of...?

NM: Well it was piecework, ye had tae...

TG: It was piecework that was my question really.

NM: It was piecework. If ye didny work ye didny get any money. I mean if ye didny stand and I mean it was eight o'clock in the mornin' start, and something makes me think...ah canny remember right I know when we went to work in Dumfries, we

wereny home tae aboot half past six, and we used tae say oh everybody's oot changed and everything like that. I canny remember if, when we started in the factory, if we worked from eight till six, or whether it was eight till five. It was a long day, we got an hour at dinner time mind you.

TG: Uh huh did you have a coffee break or a tea break in the afternoon? A comfort break?

NM: I think we got one in the mornin' but I don't think we got one in the afternoon, I mean some people just worked on.

00:15:43

TG: Because of the piecework thing?

NM: Yeah, because o' the piecework.

TG: And they had no rules or regulations about people having to have a rest as well?

NM: Well, no. Not as such that, but I mean if you thought you were far...and said tae yersel', well I've done so-many pairs the day I'll have a wee sit, ye could. I mean ah sat for quite a lot of the time but a lot of them stood. But they had their thingmy at their back that ye could just sit down, ye know yer back got thingmy.

TG: Yes, on your feet, and bending over?

NM: Well aye but see look, there's me sittin' look at one.

TG: Oh right, you're quite straight at that.

NM: Aye, that's a Shetland, that was in the new factory, that's the only one I could find, I've got that many that was it.

TG: That's great.

NM: And all the...I would just have a...

TG: That's your card is it?

NM: It'll no' be a card it'll just be a notebook. When we got the chart in wir head...we just had to...we wrote it down, all in a notebook, and there's where all the wools come up through, look, but it hasn't got a lot on on that one.

TG: So you had to set up your own machine.

NM: Oh yes, aye. Aye, set it up, and ye just pulled yer hand across...

TG: And how many machines were there d'you think?

NM: Oh in the big factory? Oh there was a lot, because they did the plain[ ?] jerseys that just did that, yer feeder the wool along.

TG: This was very skilled Nancy.

NM: Oh aye intarsia is skilled, intarsia is skilled. I mean we made, at the finish up we were makin' golfers on the front o' wir jerseys, gentlemen all dressed up in their golfin' clothes.

TG: And would they be sold probably to Pringle?

00:17:33

NM: Oh yeah, Pringles and Harrods, Harrods o' London aye.

TG: And was it mainly cashmere or...?

NM: No cashmere and Shetland, and the ordinary wool for the socks, well wool, you know they were pure wool, even I think when you got them I mean ye did get all the instructions for washing them and everything like that. I mean they all went back to Dumfries and got washed and everything like that, and pressed and bagged.

TG: Quite often in a way you're doing part of it you actually didn't see the end result?

NM: Well we did when...yes we did, because it didn't matter what jersey we made, it was a prototype come first.

TG: Oh right.

NM: Everybody got a chance o' doin' a prototype, and the prototype would come back, she would come back an let us see it.

TG: So if you're there a long day, standing or sitting, constant noise I would imagine.

NM: Constant noise. Oh there is noise, there's wireless.

TG: There was the wireless on, what did you listen to?

NM: They sung! Everybody took a turn o' singin'! Whether you could sing or not, whether you could sing or not, you had tae have a turn, you know?

TG: So, as young girls, especially at the very beginning that must have been...

NM: And they used tae come in wi' their...we used tae go wi' wixr rollers in, but we were still doin' that, because we had a lot o' customers that came, Chinese, Japanese.

TG: To Kirkcudbright?!

NM: Oh aye, bus!

TG: Right!

NM: Aye, and the factory was opened the factory was all cleaned up and...

TG: So ye had to take the rollers out and make yerselves glam!

00:19:24

NM: Aye then they stopped ye goin' tae work wi' yer rollers in ye had tae be sittin'...in case...boss could land wi' somebody, two brothers J and G McGeorge, aye. Very very very...I would have said clever men like, but very nice gentlemen I mean you were doin' their work for them and that was it.

TG: So they knew you they actually came to visit they knew what was happening in the factory?

NM: Yes, and they walked the lines and they spoke to...but when the Japanese used to come, they were away doon, and we were surprised that they finished up in the new factory that they let them take pictures 'cause they went back and copied.

TG: Right, that was the beginning of change of copyright.

NM: Yeah, that's right, that was a lot of the trade.

TG: Again that's a time when laws were changing.

NM: Yeah, whenever they see something you know they can copy it. And lookin' at the machines and lookin' at the machines, that's how...

TG: They wouldn't know...the boss would be naive enough to think that he was getting sales, a market, but they were changing it too.

NM: That's right, they were changing it.

TG: So you started off in those buildings opposite Sam Hasting's...Jack Hasting's house, and you thought there might be about twenty-five people.

NM: I think there would be twenty-five when we went in, but maybe there was more, because there was more, 'cause there was three lines o' machines, one, two three, aye.

TG: And then, well why did you move from there? Did it move from there across...?

NM: No he built a new one up at Victoria Park.

TG: At Victoria Park, right.

NM: Place, where the houses are now. You know how you go up the cut, it just sat there.

TG: Uh huh. And that was purpose built?

NM: All purpose built, and all the machines.

00:21:20

TG: So there was a big investment then, by McGeorge, in Kirkcudbright.

NM: Yes.

TG: So did that double the numbers of people who were working?

NM: Eh...I couldny roughly tell you, maybe there would be there were that many lines o' machines. Could o' been forty-odd.

TG: And mainly women?

NM: Yeah.

TG: Did you have mechanics, men...?

NM: Mechanics come fae Dumfries, usually there would be a couple o' machines sitting that if anything happened to a machine you could go tae that one.

TG: So you were never idle?

NM: No no.

TG: So you got piecework, so you must have got a little booklet or something where the machine ticked off...?

NM: Yes well you always had your book at the side, and if you did so-many that day you wrote it off of course you had to take it off your ticket and that.

TG: So did you get paid on a Friday night?

NM: Friday afternoon.

TG: So how did that work, did you get paid for the week before...a lying time?

NM: Your sheets went in...if I can remember properly, your sheets went in at the beginnin' of the week, or the Friday for that week, and went tae Dumfries and then it come through.

TG: So what did you feel when you got your first pay packet?

NM: Fantastic! It wasny very much either. I think at the time we went tae work in Dumfries, well of course we got wir trainin' fares paid, I think we got about a fiver or somethin' like that. And that was in Nineteen fifty-three...Oh no that was later on. But I mean we were gettin' wir lunch we were getting everything done for us.

TG: So you got your lunch and your travel and your fiver.

00:23:10

NM: Picked up by car at the train station. I'll tell you where the big factory was, J and D McGeorges, this was before they moved, you know when you come over the...not the bridge at the far end o' Dumfries when ye come over the one comin' up by the ICI, and come up to the junction, ye turn to go to the Infirmary. You know where the petrol station is at [?], that's where McGeorge's factory was.

TG: That's where...so you were all taken I presume?

NM: No no no.

TG: They just took some of you?

NM: They took the ones...I always said this, they took the ones that gobbled up too much work! And left the work when they hadny too much work, they left it tae the ones that would just...

TG: Plod along a wee bit?

NM: Aye, plod along.

TG: So you were taken up to Dumfries on the train, taken by car fae the train to the factory, and given your lunch.

NM: Aye, and brought back to the train at night?

TG: Now you must have...you really have a tremendous expertise for that to have happened, haven't you?

NM: And then when I come back...when we come back, the girls went in to...a few of them went in to Gavin Millers wee bit up the side...you know his little shed up the side, in fact he's just sold it.

TG: Oh right at the back of Sam Hasting's buildings?

NM: No ye know there's the Hasting's factory there, and then there was the road up like that, and there was a wee thingmy there, a wee shed, a wee hut.

TG: Right, behind it, kind of behind it on the right hand side?

NM: No no it's on the right hand side.

TG: Is that behind the...?

NM: It would be behind that house on the corner.

TG: Has it got a great big window?

00:24:59

NM: Yeah.

TG: Cecil Walton lived there. Do you remember Cecil?

NM: No, no.

TG: She was an artist, and she used that as a workshop.

NM: Well see Gavin used it as a workshop.

TG: Some of the girls went in there?

NM: And they had to do their sewing, they used to sew...you know the v-neck at the top of a jersey? You know where it's like a diamond? Well they sewed them.

TG: They didn't do that all day long?

NM: Aye, they did, and they did that in Dumfries, we sat beside the girls in Dumfries at the table and had a hilarious time! But I got promoted, I got back at the factory, ontae a garnet machine.

TG: Right, so to you that was better?

NM: Ah, that was good!

TG: Yes. So you were obviously very shy, and went into Kirkcudbright, and the girls would accept you quite quickly, they would be keen to show you the ropes?

NM: In the factory when ye finished at...I don't know what makes me think it was...it must have been five I thought it was six, but it must have been five o'clock, because I know we were getting home from work and the majority of girls was out and dressed

and down the street. But before we finished at night we had the floor to sweep, we had the floor to sweep! And of course who was picked, Janey and me!

TG: The young ones!

NM: And they used to give us some [touchin'], gettin' up these corridors on this floor, but it was all good fun.

TG: Would you feel there was a good camaraderie?

NM: Yes.

TG: Yes, and everybody would be lookin' out for you, they would want you to do well?

00:26:44

NM: Aye, they did. But it was good fun, it was good fun.

TG: You must have grown in confidence too, in the fact that you were able to do this so well and so readily and that you were taken to Dumfries. That must have made you feel really quite good?

NM: Well I felt better when I come back and went into the factory and got onto a knitter...a garnet machine, that was different, that one garnet machine. Was sittin' workin' on the...but I mean some of these socks that was made it wasny only the Kirkcudbright ones, they had beautiful intarsia fronts on them, ye know they just sat there ye ken on a gents sock. Maybe a big one wi' big diamonds and then we did the a' over diamond ones like that, ye know in the different colours. The two half diamonds at this side and two big ones in the middle. And I tried to get Margaret McKie on the phone because we made Highland hose for...I can't remember if it was for one of the royal family, or if it was for a duke somewhere, I tried tae get Margaret but I couldny get her in, she probably...I canny remember whether she made them or no'? And his sock actually come in...his pair of socks come in to the factory, tae let us see what he wantit, and they were darned, we couldny believe they darned them. At that time they probably did.

TG: That's what people did.

NM: You know they're that type o' person!

TG: And were these sort of nice big ones for wearing with brogues?

NM: Yes, and they turned over, and they had the diamonds all over them.

TG: They'd wear them with plus-fours, huntin' and shootin' and fishin'. Wow. D'you know, that is amazing that all this happened to you in Kirkcudbright. We had an international business.

NM: Oh it was a business, it was a business. But then, as you say, it moves on and they can't compete wi' these...I mean Pringles'll probably still be workin', but they just feed their cards into these great big automatic machines and they just pump oot like that.

TG: Everything that came out of yours was hand-made.

NM: Yes.

TG: You all maybe did bits of it, and then it would be...

NM: Well we only did the fronts, we did the difficult intarsia fronts, and they were all bagged, and intae their bag, and they went back to Dumfries, and the backs and the sleeves were all put onto it. But we all made a prototype, and if the designer...at one time we had a lovely girl designer I don't know, I don't think

00:29:36

McGeorge's was big enough for her, I think she actually moved on to Pringles of Scotland, but oh she could put some designs on paper, and when she used to come in, she would maybe pick me or she would maybe pick Margaret McKie or she would maybe pick that person, and while you were doin' it, she timed you. She didn't stand beside you, but she was maybe way over there, and she would be watchin' how it was...and she would come and say, "It's not comin' off very quick," or you're not no', 'cause ye had that many colours to work with.

TG: She was wondering how complicated she could make it.

NM: She was wondering what her cost would be, see that's...when they made the prototype, they cost them.

TG: And was she based in Dumfries?

NM: Oh she was Dumfries, yeah, she was in Dumfries aye. Aye the prototypes always came.

TG: That's amazing. So it was a purpose built in Victoria Place, from the Nineteen fifties?

NM: No it'd be further on than that.

TG: Nineteen sixties.

NM: Yeah, aye.

TG: And were they still making mainly jumpers?

NM: Yeah, there wasny very many socks.

TG: What happened to the gloves?

NM: A' they gloves gone, maybe they made them in Dumfries I don't know, air force and army gloves and...

TG: Was that mainly what the market was, it wasn't fancy gloves?

NM: No no no it was just...they had a funny feel about them that you'd have thought they had cotton or something in them, you know, for the army boys? The cuffs used to come and we used to make all the fingers on them.

TG: So you must have been bored with green and blue.

NM: Absolutely. Doin' that all day, we did that all day. I often wonder nooadays how I haveny got sore shoulders, I'm okay so far.

00:31:44

TG: Well nowadays of course you would be made to take a break and all sorts of things.

NM: I don't know how factories'll do like you know? And when we went to this new one up here, we had to clock in every mornin'.

TG: And was it still piecework at that point?

NM: Oh yeah.

TG: All the time?

NM: Aye. I mean ye actually had tae be at the factory at ten tae eight to get clocked in for eight, but I think you got ten minutes, and you wereny deducted if it was over that [they would recover an hour ?]. They were all tallied up at the end o' the week.

TG: And was there a canteen when it was at Victoria Place, and did you get a proper...was it roll or soup or something?

NM: No no no we took wir own.

TG: You took your own.

NM: As you went in the door, there was an office toilet there, I don't think Alice went up to thingmy...Nora Grady, aye Nora took over. Nora took over for a long time, and then there was the canteen, and then you walked through double doors. Our staff room was at that side, toilets and all the wash hand basins and ye walked through the double doors and then it was just a great big shop floor wi' heatin', big heaters, and concrete floor. But we all had, you know how you got the carpet ends?

TG: Yes.

NM: We stood on the carpet ends to keep oor feet warm, wasny warm.

TG: Was it cold, oh it'd be freezing in the winter.

NM: Oh freezin'.

TG: And did these heaters, were they the kind that blow?

NM: Aye, they blow. That's where we used to stand...

TG: So the noise of maybe forty machines, the blowers, and feeling cold.

NM: And everybody chat chat chatting!

00:33:40

TG: How could you chat and do a complicated...you could?

NM: Aye ye could. And we were allowed to smoke.

TG: While you were working?

NM: Yeah.

TG: Wow! [*Laughter*]

NM: Aye. They stopped it, they stopped it!

TG: That's a change up for the books!

NM: [Wouldny have got a cigarette in the new]

TG: Fag hanging off the lip.

NM: I had an ashtry. There was one woman [REDACTED] blow the [ash off].

TG: Blow the ash off, intae the wool! So how much was a packet of cigarettes in those days?

NM: Oh no I canny remember, I didny smoke very many, the odd puff I had, we had ashtrays and we laid it on the...I don't think they ever put anything actually burnt in it, everybody was so...

TG: What about all the fluff, the fluff from the wool?

NM: When you finished your order and you bagged it all up, ye had to sweep all round about yer place, and it was just fluff ye were sweepin'. But it never done anything to anybody, well, [this example].

TG: It didn't end...you didn't have people who sneezed?

NM: No no.

TG: Nowadays people would have an allergy, and they would be sneezing. So did you tie your hair up in one of those...in a scarf because of the fluff.

NM: No no, we just...

TG: And did you wear overalls, to cover ye?

00:35:18

NM: Ah wore it, that's why I wear a peeny so much at home, I wore a peeny, and I've got a sleeveless cardigan, for my back, to keep my back warm.

TG: And was it hot in the summer?

NM: Very. And then it was a' wide open and ye see the folk, the visitors would be walkin' about and they used to come in. They can come in and have a look. And people were fascinated by it.

TG: Absolutely, I'm sure...I feel quite deprived that I never ever was there or knew anything about. So good friendships made there?

NM: Oh very good.

TG: And what sort of...I mean did you socialise with the girls, did you go to the dancing or...?

NM: Aye. And we've all got photographs o' us out for wir dinner at Christmas and things like that and as I say the dances.

TG: So were would you go to a dance?

NM: Oh Castle Douglas! We didny hang about Kirkcudbright very much! Castle Douglas, and actually, Margaret McKie did too, and I did, when I had Tony, and I

didny have anybody...well I wouldny have left him anyway, I took my machine home wi' me.

TG: Really?

NM: And did ma socks at home. So did Margaret McKie, Margaret McKie had her machine standin'...d'you know Margaret McKie?

TG: Yes I do.

NM: Well, she in High Street her machine was in...Jimmy Farrell was her manager that come every Thursday, and Jimmy Farrell used tae Fetch Kirky's and my...we called her Kirky we used to shout in the factory, "Come on Kirky!" Her name's Margaret actually, and he used tae fetch wir bags tae us and take the ones away, and if we needit a mechanic, he would fetch a mechanic over.

TG: So you were able to continue to earn some money.

NM: Yes, that's right. He used to get very angry 'cause I was in Dovecroft at that time, and Dovecroft was a lovely place at that time, and there was the Green and the women all sat out in the front, and I used to get angry that they would all sit, I would hear them laughin' at him standin'. I would rather have worked in the

00:37:39

factory. In the environment of...ye knew everybidy was workin', at home, ye were workin' but ye didny really want tae work.

TG: But childcare was a different matter then too, it really was. Most women would expect not to be working, but because you were able to take your machine home, you were still able to do that.

NM: Yeah.

TG: So that meant...and in fact they wouldn't be very happy to have good workers continuing to work for them?

NM: How do you mean?

TG: They would be glad of your work.

NM: Oh yes, aye. Because it took that long tae train ye. I mean ye couldny just go and sit down at a knittin' machine like that, and do that.

TG: Oh absolutely not.

NM: In fact ah went...Bill and me went somewhere once and it was up at the Borders, and ah think...I don't think it was as far as Hawick, and we went intae this big knitwear shop, and there was one o' the machines that we worked on, standin', and ah approached the girl that was in ah said, "Is this only advertisin' your work, or is it a workin' machine?" "No," she says, "It's a workin' machine, the guy's on his lunch." I said, "Oh I used to work one o' these machines wi' J and G McGeorge in Dumfries," she said, "Oh can ye not wait until he comes back?" I said, "No, we're movin' on, we're late for where we're goin'." She said, "That's a pity," and that was the only one machine I saw out in all of these shops, you know how ye get the Edinburgh Woolen Mill and shops in places like that, and there was one machine sittin'...and the guy was workin' on it, he was showin' people how to do it.

TG: How to do it. But there won't be...there'll be very few people able to do that kind of thing now, because as you said it's done by computer and machine.

NM: I don't know whether Pringle's'll do it or not? But maybe further up Scotland there will be wee...

TG: Well you know like Harris Tweed has got to be done with an old fashioned loom and I mean they've had to change the rules slightly but it's still very much it must be hand-woven. But see there's prestige and that costs money. That's what McGeorge wanted, a good quality garment, and if you say tae Pringle and Harrods.

00:39:55

NM: And I mean, when the factory closed Catherine Dodd's took her machine home and she did a lot of work in her house. And these two girls went tae Annie...Ann Clark, and Annie Kennedy well they'd be related the two o' them they went tae Harrods in London and they demonstrated the knittin' machine.

TG: So they went from McGeorge to...

NM: Uh huh, aye they were picked.

TG: To go down just for a...?

NM: Ah think they were there a week. A week anyway.

TG: Uh huh, showing how it was done.

NM: And they would be in a hotel or...

TG: Was that...that's marketing, advertising.

NM: Well I would say in Harrods yeah 'cause we did do a lot o' work for Harrods, the plastic bags and [ ? ]. And of course we got the...they used to fetch the seconds, the

garments with very very little wrong wi' them maybe the shape they'd put them on tae the wrong shape or somethin' like that, you got them for next to nothing. Can you no' remember people, they used to tap us on the shoulder and say, "Well girls, when's the rejects comin'?"

TG: I can remember a man comin' round the doors with a case, but those were acrylic jumpers.

NM: No they only came in to the factory.

TG: And I don't remember my mum, or us, having any. So did you have to...did the stuff that was if you like that was rejects if you like in inverted commas come back, you had pick of that?

NM: Oh yeah.

TG: At good prices?

NM: We got a...

TG: So everybody's...well your families would be well...

NM: I just gave Bill...well ye know how long at the factory, I just gave Bill a nice big navy blue one at the beginnin' o' the winter to wear, and it's got toggle buttons on it and it's lovely. I don't know if I'll be able to wash it or no', because it's cashmere wool, it's beautiful.

00:41:55

TG: This is the problem nowadays 'cause we all want to throw things in the washing machine.

NM: Ye canny.

TG: And with cashmere ye can't, no. So I'm goin' to go back to the...well you went to Castle Douglas to go to the dancing, did you go outings, if you like works outings like on the bus and go away anywhere?

NM: No.

TG: And for Christmas meals where would you go?

NM: We went to...up above...the Belfry.

TG: Oh was that the Stewart's of Dean way, no?

NM: We went to the Ingle. Oh we did it big time!

TG: Oh right, Kilpatrick's, well it wouldn't be Kilpatrick's what would it be?

NM: No it wouldn't be Kilpatrick's, what would it be then? A lot o' girls have come through the factory you know.

TG: It sounds like it. So when did the factory here in Kirkcudbright stop?

NM: Ninety one.

TG: Ninety one. That's a long time then isn't it? Now can I tell you that I also found a piece of information about [ Billislands, Bill ?] glove factory in the Old Tollbooth, in Nineteen twenty-one/twenty-two.

NM: Oh is that whaes factory it was?

TG: Now my dad said he thought there was a carpet factory or something there, but when I looked on the internet I found this [Billison's] glove factory, and the manageress was a lady called Miss Anderson. So there's obviously been glove...there's been something, it would maybe go from the Tollbooth tae Sam Hasting's buildings I don't know what you'd call them, and then to Victoria Park, and that lasted from Nineteen twenty-one tae Ninety-one, if you like.

NM: That's right, that's right.

TG: Because although McGeorge would take it over.

NM: I wonder how McGeorge took it over.

00:44:00

TG: If you know what I mean, who would [Billison's] be?

NM: I haven't a clue.

TG: So that's a mission.

NM: And is that not on the Internet no?

TG: I couldn't find any more information, so. I thought that was really really interesting.

NM: And [Marjory] Wilson told me that...she says it started in the Tollbooth.

TG: Well my dad who was born in Nineteen twenty-seven, so obviously as a child he would be walking about and playing around there, he said it was winding down, so you're talking about in the early Thirties then that he would remember it.

NM: Who told me that they used to watch the girls goin' to the factory in the Tollbooth? (I canny remember, unless I write it doon I canny remember.)

TG: No. So do you think...compared with the other girls who were working in the town, did you think you were probably quite well paid?

NM: Well back to the same answer, if ye didny work ye didny get paid!

TG: Yes, so if you were a good worker you could do quite well.

NM: Yeah.

TG: When the girls came on, well you would be training girls?

NM: No we never trained it was always the manageress that trained. But if ye had a girl...if she put a girl in beside ye, and a girl...was havin' a problem, she would look over and say, "Do you think you could help me with this," and I would say, "But you have to go for Nora," or wha'ever it wis, and maybe Nora would say, "Well I'm busy at the moment will you just have a look?" And when ye filled yer time sheet in you would maybe get half an hour for that.

TG: For supporting. That's the way to learn isn't it, from somebody who's actually doing it.

NM: That's right. But I mean there was a lot o'...I shouldny say this I mean, but there'll be no names, but there was a lot o' girls come into the factory, thought it was an easy number, but it wasny, and they never stayed. 'Cause they just couldny...I mean, I wear specs for readin' now, but the majority o' us all went to the spec man and got glasses to take the strain off.

00:46:31

TG: Yes because it's very close work, very particular work. Did you find ye got a sore neck or sore head, because...there was a nice atmosphere and everybody was...

NM: Actually, it took me a long time to stand at my machine, but once you got yer machine set up and the boys used to come up and put the proper locks on, ye were just lookin' at it...ye wereny like that.

TG: You were at the right height.

NM: I mean at my age I think I've got quite a good back, for bein' in it so long. Whereas maybe somebody leanin' over a desk a' the time doin' paperwork, maybe have a thingmy, but the boys put the blocks up and then they would go in front of ye and they would say, "That's fine, that's fine, yer lookin' right at it."

TG: That's really good forward thinking because they would get better work from you as well.

NM: That's right because instead o' doin' that, you were doin' that.

TG: And again nowadays when people are sitting at computers they're supposed to watch...they've got to get breaks and they've got to sit properly and they've got different stools. So, there would be no great rules and regulations about...

NM: Well ye just actually ye clocked in, went intae yer work, some o' them just went in and had a quick smoke in the canteen, and ontae yer machine, and that was you till dinner time. Oh you got a break at eleven. Ye did get a break, some didny break, aye ye did get a break. Some just...I've seen me just workin' right through it.

TG: It would depend where you were as well in the pattern.

NM: That's right.

TG: And did you always stay in or go home...did people go home for lunch?

NM: Yeah, I used to go home. Just to get a break out of the environment you know.

TG: So you did piecework, you worked at home, you were a home worker for several...while your children were small, and then went back.

NM: I went back, flying colours I went back! Remember the first day I went back I thought wooo! Just the...just the environment.

TG: The friendship?

00:48:45

NM: Aye.

TG: But you were happy to work?

NM: That's right.

TG: I think that comes across.

NM: Well tae get the money you know what I mean? In these days, I maybe shouldny say this, but ye got intae a dance for half a crown, two-and-six, you did!

TG: And where did ye buy yer clothes to go to the dances?

NM: Oh it was very limited. My mother hadny a lot o' money, it was very very limited. Though mind you she did buy me one or two things oot o'...remember [Alexa's] shop, yes?

TG: Yes, [Alexa's] in Castle Street, uh huh.

NM: Aye, she did, she would come up by and she would say, "Oh there's a nice jumper in the window, do you want to go and try it on?" I would say, "Oh well," of course. Because when I worked tae begin wi' ah used tae give...well I didny have tae, but I gave my mother my pay packet, 'cause she was a widow she got no money when she come hame, there was no pensions on the [Lightin'] Service.

TG: No pensions!

NM: No, she only got fifty pence a week, and of course she had tae start work, well I used tae hand my pay packet over and I would get back what I needed.

TG: Pocket money.

NM: We wereny at Castle Douglas till...oh maybe sixteen/seventeen or somethin' like that.

TG: Once a week.

NM: And I meant the majority of the time we spent sittin' on the church-ground wall, everybody...

TG: Cafes? Did you go to the cafes?

NM: No, no no, there wasny much. We just sat on the wall and it was...we used to be sittin' there at ten o'clock and half past ten at night, and the laughs and the ceckle, and can ye remember the wee policeman they ca'd him...somebody Thomson, and the big tall...what did ye call the big tall.

00:50:36

TG: Was that Garroch?

NM: And he used tae say...I'll tell you what it was, they used to come round every night, and check the shop doors they were locked.

TG: Goodness me.

NM: Yeah! And down the closes to see that everything was alright, and when they used to walk by us they used to say, "We don't want to see you ones sittin' here when we come back!" And they would go away down round Margo's shop and away and back up the other street, and you'd hear somebody sayin', "Here they're comin'," so we just got up.

TG: Aye, all round the town checking everywhere.

NM: And we just got up and went away home.

TG: But they knew you all, and you were only as you say, [ havin' a gas ], uh huh. So what about going to the movies did you go to the cinema?

NM: We went to the pictures [ ? ].

TG: Can you remember how much that would be compared wi' goin' tae the dance?

NM: I really don't know how much...I don't know how much we paid tae get in tae the movies, aye.

TG: Can you remember it was the old church where the supermarket is that's...did you go to the Castle Douglas picture house at all?

NM: No, no.

TG: What other events can you remember, the fair comin' was that a good thing when you were a teenager?

NM: Oh we used tae go tae the Rood Fair at Dumfries, oh we wereny interested in the...! Oh we did go tae Kirkcudbright but it was the Rood fair, that was a bus we had a bus for the Rood Fair.

TG: From yer work?

NM: Mmh. Just the lot o' us thegither and we went to the Rood Fair. Ah actually think...I might be wrong, but ye hear a lot o' them in my age group, Margaret McKie and everybody like that, we had a better time than what they have now. The social life was different.

00:52:27

TG: It was simple.

NM: Yeah and I mean I'm not sayin' we didn't drink, but it come a time when we could, we did, but there was none o' this fallin' all over the place.

TG: The thing is girls actually weren't very welcome...or the women didn't go to the pub anyway.

NM: That's right. But we used to nip in at Castle Douglas! [Laughter] Not in the town, Castle Douglas.

TG: No. And it would be an event, you would have saved up you'd worked hard to get that, you knew how much your money was worth.

NM: And then we used to...Campbell's Garage used tae be where Andy Crosby's...where the one down at the harbour is now, that used to be Campbell's Garage, and they used tae run a bus tae Castle Douglas and of course we always...my mother always used to say tae me, "Don't you take a lift, and tell Winnie and Janey and a' them tae get on the bus, nae canoodlin' or ocht like that, just get yersel' on the bus," and the bus would be there waitin'.

TG: do you remember the Harbour Square on a Saturday night with all the buses in it?

NM: Yeah.

TG: Everybody from all the villages came in to Kirkcudbright. I can remember the buses bein' lined up in the Harbour Square on a Saturday night, to take people home.

NM: That's right.

TG: And they knew who they were waitin' for! You worked hard, ye accepted yer life was...it was the same as everybody else's. Did people want to go away and be anything else?

NM: No. No' much. Not very much.

TG: People were content.

NM: Aye they were very content.

TG: D'you not think that's maybe half of what's wrong now, that there's...people always think it's better elsewhere or...?

00:54:18

NM: Ah actually think when I hear people talkin' about work...work nooadays is entirely different. It's just...in the shops, I'm no' carin' whether they serve ye or not really.

TG: No. I know what you mean, there's no service, there's not a commitment to work.

NM: I'm there for my money, I'll do what I've to do, and that's it.

TG: Uh huh. But you've not stopped working yet Nancy!

NM: No, ah couldny...well I can remember the day Margo opened...got the shop and she said, "Are ye gonny work...?" And I said, "No no no, I'll cut the flowers with ye," which that's just what I do, I go in on a Monday or a Wednesday or whatever days they're comin' in, and I just cut them for her 'cause she's servin' away and it gives her that much time. And...well I enjoy it. And I know a lot o' people in Kirkcudbright.

TG: A lot o' the people that you worked with are still here, and they've brought their families up here, and you've got a connection, and I think that's something that's quite essential, it's part of what Kirkcudbright is. Although what d'you think the biggest changes are in the town really, from when we were young? I don't know it's hard to look at it isn't it?

NM: It's hard to look at it that way because it was just...to me it was entirely a good bringin' up, it was a good...I don't know there's just something about it that sticks in yer mind.

TG: There was a freedom?

NM: Yeah.

TG: And a contented atmosphere, and the camaraderie?

NM: And my brother John went to the army, he didn't like the Lighthouse service, and he joined the army, and he stayed in England, but oor John was here every year.

TG: There's a pull.

NM: It was just marvellous to [have him] sittin' on the Moat Brae, lookin' at Shorehouse, and wanderin' about. Goin' to the [shows], and of course people that stay in the cities and that you know, to me it's just unreal for them, it's just something different innit?

TG: Now Shorehouse, can I just, that...when your granny lived there, was that something to do with the harbour, was your granpa...?

00:56:50

NM: No, I thought Shorehouse belonged to the [Isle]?

TG: Oh right. So it would be a rented house? No I just wondered, because it's separate from the row of cottages.

TG: Oh yes, aye, and there was...like there was Shorehouse and then up the back there was a...it was outside toilets.

NM: That's right.

TG: And there was a big shed, and there was a big boiler in it.

NM: A big washhouse?

TG: It was a washhouse. And she used to...granny used to do the sheets for people.

NM: She did their laundry?

TG: Yes she did a laundry, and they used to hang out up the back there, and they were the most beautiful white sheets that you ever seen. And she used to wash peoples blankets and I shouldny say this but she used tae say tae me, "Get yer shoes and socks off and get yer feet trampin' in that barrel!" Ah had tae work at the Shorehouse when I come back, I mean she was a lovely lady, she was a very kind lady, she really was a lovely lady, and she worked for the artists and everything like that, and she would say tae me, and when she did her sheets she put them into the blue, ye know the blue [bag].

TG: The dolly blue.

NM: Aye the dolly blue. And there was a great big tub o' water sittin' and they went into it, and then they got shiftet again, and she would say to me, "And you'll thingmy the ringer."

TG: [Ca'] the handle on the mangle!

NM: Actually I think I've had quite a guid expanse of experience of...comin' up, ye know?

TG: And Mrs [Stipp], she was a beautiful lookin' woman, she was a lovely lookin' woman. And as you say she worked for the artists, so were you aware that these people...she worked for them., you wouldn't...?

NM: Aye they were nothin'...they had no interest in me. And they used to come and they'd lean on the [?] and they used tae come and knock at the Shorehouse and they'd say, "Are you in nanny, are ye in?" "Aye just come in, come in."

00:59:00

TG: They were very much part of the community weren't they.

NM: And you went in like that, intae her wee front bit, and I dunno if it's much the same now, I've been in it I've kinna forgot but and then you went up the lobby and there was a slidin' door wi' a great big brass handle on it that you did that, and then ye went intae her...what was kitchen/livin' room, and the big black range. And then the cooker in the corner, and the sink at the window that looked on to the water.

TG: Onto the river.

NM: And the water used tae come bubblin' up when the...

TG: Yes well they were very very high tides And was there an upstairs at that time?

NM: Yes, two bedrooms up the stair. Ye went up the stairs...

TG: Where was the staircase then?

NM: Oh just when you opened the slidin' door the staircase was just there, and it just turn't like that, then you went up and a room to that side and a room to that side, and a wee kinna...what I'm gonna say is a wee kinna cubby hole [just there].

TG: The basic outline of the house won't have changed very much?

NM: No I don't think she would want tae. I often wonder if she...well ah have been in it but ah think I was in the back bit. I was in wi' the two girls...I've got two cousins in America, my mother's sister's girls, and they asked her if they could get in, and she said, "Oh certainly, tae come in." And I just wonder if she kept the slidin' door, I canny remember, I've kinna forgot, have you been in it?

TG: Uh huh but I can't remember that bit, I know that she uses the back door and you go in and that's like the utility and then a very nice kitchen, but the window, and then there's a door into a very open plan sitting room, and then there's just a wee...

NM: [ ? ].

TG: Yes. And then there's a stair goes up the back wall there, to the bedrooms upstairs.

NM: Beside the washhouse there, there were steps up on to the top and that's where the lifeboat stuff was kept.

TG: On the outside?

01:01:08

NM: That's where they set the flares off.

TG: That's right, because my dad used to...they used to bring the flares down to the top there and set them off, but they gathered all their gear then and then they set off from the Harbour Square out to the lifeboat station.

NM: Ye went up the wooden steps and went in, it must hae been on the top o' the washhoose.

TG: Goodness. What memories. And once ye start to think, they just seem to flood back don't they?

NM: Yeah, it kinna floods back tae ye and ye know that kinna...

TG: Do you remember...people always say that Kirkcudbright's got worthies, or...do you know what I mean by that?

NM: My mother and Bella and that, they were worthies.

TG: They were worthies.

NM: Ay they were worthies.

TG: Uh huh. And that's just because they were characters.

NM: Aye 'cause they used sit in the Moat Brae and discuss everybody! And when we used to be...actually as we got older we went to Castle Douglas but we went on the service bus, and there would be me, and Winnie [?], and whae was it again? Sheena Simpson sometimes, can ye remember Sheena Simpson?

TG: Yes, uh huh.

NM: Sheena worked in the factory and I think Sheena took her machine home too. Aye she was a...aye but she did come wi' us because she really had naebody tae gan wi', and at the Moat Brae ye used tae hear...you could hear what was bein' said, and Bella used to say' "[?] comin' Mac, ah wonder what they'll be daein' in Castle Dooglas the night!" Ye could hear her...!

TG: What was Bella's surname.

NM: [Zeiner]. Oh Bella Campbell but remember she married Hans [Zeiner].

TG: [Zeiner], that's what I remember and Bella...

NM: Then there was the other Margaret Campbell there was Eleanor and [Jinx's] mother.

01:03:17

TG: That's right, they used to come to do the big spring clean for my mum and dad and my grandparents, and I always remember them wi' their crossover pinnies and their hats and the cigarettes sittin' waitin' to get...and it was the big deep clean they came to do. And they were characters. Fun.

NM: And they used to...can you remember when Donald Rudd used tae...maybe you canny remember, when Donald Rudd used tae come doon and stand at the steps in the Harbour Square and do his preachin' on a Sunday night?

TG: Yes I do.

NM: And then Mac and Bella and Margaret would have...oh and Tibbie Nivens, they yased tae sit on that seat.

TG: And then it was Mr Poland.

NM: Yeah, Mr Poland.

TG: And ah always used to be embarrassed because his children were the same age as I was and I felt for them, that he was [?].

NM: Aye but they had tae go doon there and...if we were wanderin' about we could hear Bella sayin', "Come on Mac, it's high time you were singin'!"

TG: Oh dear.

NM: And Mac and my mother, I'm sayin' Mac, my mother and Bella, clean't the [?]. They were on their bikes every mornin', at six o'clock every mornin'. And I used to hear Bella shouting, "Come on Mac it's time we were away doon the bank." In fact I went and clean't when ma mum took unwell at one time, Bella said to me, "You'll come and clean the [?] wi' me," I said, "Indeed I will not." "Aye," she said, "you will tae keep yer mother's job on. I had tae bike tae the [?]."

TG: Tae keep the job.

NM: Aye, aye tae keep the job.

TG: That wouldn't happen now would it.

NM: But [they ay'] had their work finished long before me, I don't think Bella [?].

TG: As you say, there's some that work and there's some that get by!

NM: Aye! And she was in the gent's canteen and they used tae come in and she used to sit doon and...well see there they sat and smoked in their canteen. And I used to come up the [lobby] and I used to say, "Have you finished Bella?" "Och long ago," she says, "I've just sat doon here wi' the men." Once I start I could go

01:05:29

on and on. And I used tae go tae the...the prams was ta'en oot and we used to go to the sand-side.

TG: A picnic?

NM: Mm hmm. Jam pieces, and you always hear somebody sayin', "Ah but we were lucky if it we got a bottle of orange it was usually a bottle o' water," and then as the

afternoon we feenishin' they would say, "Right, get a' the wee bits and pieces picked up, that'll kindle the fire." And we've just tae pick up a' the bits o' stick that was off the shore.

TG: It's not so far from town that people went there for a picnic.

NM: True. That was yer Sunday or...

TG: And again your children were content with all of that.

NM: Yeah, uh huh. A jammy piece. Great time.

TG: Nancy is there anything else? I mean we could go on and on and on. Do you want to check if there's anything else that you wanted to say?

NM: No I just had...that must hae been in the factory I wrote doon here 'maybe about thirty-eight years' or some'hin' like that.

TG: Did you get a long service medal?

NM: Oh no! We got a bottle of...we all got a...ah 'hink we did get some money, we all got a bottle o' Black Bottle whiskey.

TG: Oh right, that's a good whiskey.

NM: In fact it's still in my hoose yet. I often hear Bill sayin', "Oh I'll sell that," "No," I say, "Ye'll no' sell it, just leave it." But no that's jsut what I had kinna. I hope I sound a bit better than what I [sound] mysel'!

TG: Thank you very much indeed, that's been great.

01:07:08