

Interviewee: Isabel Wells (IW); James McWhrter (JMcW)	Interviewer: Isabelle Gow (IG)
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IG: Right, what can you tell me, Isabel, about in the 1950s, Croft Terrace, for instance, where you lived? And Jimmy, you might be able to add something about that as well.

IW: Well, basically, all the people that, and where the car park is now, there used to be-.

J McW: A builder's yard.

IW: Aye, Carruthers & Green, builder's yard, aye. Wee Mrs Johnstone steyd at the corner where the car park wis.

J McW: That's right, aye.

IG: That wee house with the wee window?

IW: Jimmy can remember mair folk in Croft Terrace as ah can. Oor block was like the last block added on, wisn't it?

J McW: When they built them six hooses, Mr Clough, Bob Clough, Alec Clough's dad.

IG: Oh right, uh huh.

IW: Aye, aye.

J McW: He was in there an then somebody called-.

IW: Mrs Warbeck, Jim Warbeck.

J McW: Aye, Jimmy Warbeck.

IW: Then it wis-.

J McW: Harold Brooks.

IW: Then it wis Duke Paiterson.

J McW: That's the name ah was looking for.

IW: Duke Paiterson.

J McW: Duke Paiterson, aye.

IW: [?] an then maself, that was that, six.

IG: Uh huh.

IW: But the rest o them had been there for a number of years before.

IG: So when was Croft Terrace built then, just after the war or-?

IW: There's a sign there or there used to be.

J McW: Aye, 1935, or something?

IW: Something like that, ah think.

01m 23s.

IG: Before the war? Before the war started.

IW: Aye, well, but those last six, ah was five when we went intae that hoose.

J McW: Ah can mind o' the hooses being built like, we were fourteen. Ah wis fourteen then when fourteen Croft Terrace, sorry, it was fourteen Croft Terrace, aw they did was change the numbers.

IG: Oh I see.

IW: Aye, that's right aye.

J McW: We became twenty Croft Terrace.

IW: So if ah was five when oo went in there, forty-six an five's fifty-one, so that block must have been built in what '50 '51, cos ah think it would be the April when we moved intae that block.

IG: So they'd be good solid houses.

J McW: Oh, aye.

IW: Oh aye, they're grand hooses, aye.

IG: So across the road, you played there, then?

J McW: In the builder's yard.

IW: In the builder's, aye, we used to make, well, the lassies made wee hooses oot o the builder's blocks, we made them into wee squares, you got chairs made and everything [*laughter*] using your imagination.

J McW: Used tae be a fight wi the lassies whae wis gonna be Esther Williams.

IW: Esther Williams, aye, Esther Williams.

J McW: Or Jane fae Roy Rogers is the best [*laughter*].

IW: That's right, aye.

Entertainment 02m 23.

IG: You're talking about films. Did you go to any films, did you go into Dumfries or Lochmaben [?]?

J McW: Oh yes, aye.

IG: You went to that one did you?

IW: Oh, aye.

IG: So that was still going in the '50s an that, at the Barras it wis?

IW: The Barras, aye, that would gaun on for quite a while, Jimmy, when we were young.

02m 48s.

J McW: It did actually, ah can mind gaun up there and watching the pictures a lot.

IG: Can you remember some of the films you saw?

J McW: Maist o them wis cowboy films like Tim Holt and Hop-Along Cassidy, Roy Rogers [*laughter*].

IG: Oh Roy Rogers, [?] and was it expensive to get in or?

J McW: Oh would be aboot six pence ah would think an then when it shut down we went tae Lockerbie in the afternoon matinee.

IW: The Rec on a Saturday, aye, get the bus. Ah think one and thrupence would get ye intae the pictures and gie ye on the bus as well.

J McW: That's right, aye.

IG: Aye, so it was cheap entertainment.

IW: It wis, aye.

J McW: The boys didnae get the bus, they walked hame an kept the money [*laughter*].

IG: That's quite a long walk. You wouldnae get kids doin that nowadays, you see, no.

IW: No, but in thaim days, even when ye were a teenager there wis lots of dances like at Johnstone and Hightae and that an ah mean, basically, you walked, ken.

IG: Anything in Lochmaben. Balcastle would be around by that time was it?

IW: Well, we never really, it was, my daughters went there but we didnae go there. They had dances in the Toon Hall.

J McW: Oh aye, they did, aye.

IW: Dances in the Toon Hall aye.

IG: So the Town Hall was quite well used?

IW: Oh aye, it was used quite a lot.

IG: And that's upstairs was it?

J McW: Aye, that's where aw the Christmas parties were for the weans and that.

IW: Aye, that's right.

IG: Oh, I've heard about these parties, ah know there was one after the war ended, a big Christmas party but was it a regular thing?

J McW: The dances maybe wid be aboot one a month or something.

IW: Something like that aye, but there would be a lot of folk there?

J McW: Oh aye.

04m 19s

IW: Ken, it wisnae just two or three, there would be a lot o people.

IG: And was it a live band or-?

J McW: They played as if they were half-dead [*laughter*].

IW: Aye, some o them would be, sometimes ye got yin like the Wamphray band.

J McW: The Wamphray band. The yin that auld Willie Edwards had, the Run Rig or somethin.

IW: Oh ah cannae mind.

J McW: Aye.

IW: But it was him an his twae brothers.

J McW: An Davy, him an his twae brothers, the [?] or something.

IW: Aye, Davy Edwards an then there wis Jimmy that steyd in Moffat, he played in that.

J McW: Cos ah can mind o saying tae him when ah was gaun in the door, tae auld Willie, ah says 'Dae ye no get issued wi ear plugs?' He says 'What dae ye want ear plugs for?' 'For that noise' [*laughter*].

IG: So what kind of dances then, were they waltzes or was it Scottish dances?

J Mc W: St Bernard's Waltz, the Gay Gordons.

IW: That kinnae thing.

I Goe: They're Scottish dances.

J McW: That's right.

IG: Cos ah remember learning that at school, you know, ye did that?

IW: Aye, that's right, ye did.

J McW: It used to be quite guid, you'd get aw the boys standin in this corner an all the lassies in that other corner [*laughs*].

IG: Exactly.

IW: Aye they didnae, well they seem to mix mair noo.

School 05m 24s.

IG: So if you did that at school can you tell me a bit more about the school in the '50s? Can you remember any particular teachers you were fond of or-?

J McW: Fond of [*laughter*]? Well, they were awright.

IW: Ah wouldnae say fond of, they were awright.

J McW: Miss McLelland, she was the Primary One, she kept ye in line and then, when ah was there it was Miss Shankland.

05m 03s.

IW: That's the yin ah can never mind.

J McW: And then you moved up intae the hall, the gym was on that level, an in the hall, an the classroom, it was Miss Blacklock?

IW: Yes.

J McW: Then if ye come down there Primary Four would be Mrs Richardson.

IG: Ah remember her.

J McW: And then ye moved through, it wis Doris Clark and then it was Dole hiself.

IG: Headmaster was Dole at that time, yea.

IW: Aye, it wis.

IG: An what subjects did ye like, ah mean did ye enjoy school or was it just something you had to do.

IW: No, ah did.

IG: You enjoyed it?

IW: Ah enjoyed school, an ye jist got a variety of things really, didn't ye? You got writing, arithmetic, geography, whatever, just ye got loads o things.

J McW: Ah think ah wis jist a typical boy, a lot o nonsense in ma head.

IG: Oh dear, did you get the strap?

J McW: Quite a few times [*laughter*].

IW: Ah think the girls would maybe get sewing or knitting or somethin an the boys maybe went for football, didn't they?

J McW: Aye, we played football, we won the thingimmy cup. Ah was playing. What cup was it again? The Houliston cup or, no the Houliston, they made up a cup for all the primary schools round about.

IG: Right, ok.

J McW: What dae ye call it? Hergarth or something.

IG: Oh, Hecklegarth, Heckelgarth.

J McW: Hecklegarth, aye, Beattock an aw them places. They run a competition an the year ah played they had the final at Beattock and we won it 2-1.

IG: Oh good.

J McW: Ah think ah've still got the photograph.

IG: Oh, well that would be interesting to see, so who coached you?

J McW: Well, Dole always came up himself, Mr Dole.

07m 06s.

IG: Oh, he did.

J McW: But Sam Jardine had a lot tae dae with it.

IW: Aye, Sam.

J McW: You'd always gaun doon an ye would say to Sam, 'Say tae Dole that we need some practice' [laughter].

IG: To get off lessons.

IW: An aw the time the lassies were shoved in gettin knitting or sewin or somethin o the kind.

IG: Did ye not dae netball?

IW: No.

IG: No?

J McW: No.

IW: No, no.

IG: That must have come in a wee bit later then.

IW: It must have, we didnae really, other than jist havin yer ordinary gym an then ye got yer sports on sports day, kinna thing, ye didnae, there was nothin really.

IG: So when you were out in the playground, cos ah remember things like marbles and things.

J McW: Yeah, we used tae play marbles. But the square, the tarmac square, that's where all the boys went tae play football.

IG: Yes, that's right, football, that's right.

J McW: Ye had an arch there an that's where the boys went tae play football.

IG: Well, that didnae change, cos ah remember that.

IW: Aye, but then ye'd seasons for your chestnuts.

IG: And conkers, aye.

J McW: Conkers, ah used tae play a lot o conkers.

IW: Lassies used to play skippin.

IG: Can you remember any skipping games, the names o them?

IW: Oh, no.

J McW: Ah cannae, but-.

IW: Sometimes, when you were skippin, it was jist a case o ye were running through, an the next yin gaun through.

08m 15s.

IG: Aye, that's right.

J McW: But then there was yin where ye stood in the middle yourself an everybody else was shouting...

IW: Aye, that's right.

J McW: ...an then ye came oot, an the next yin came in.

IW: Aye, that's right.

IG: Ah remember ye yaist tae dae skipping an ye would go in an it was like boys' names and things an ye were in love with so and so.

IW: Aye, that's right.

IG: Whatever, an then it was so and so.

J McW: We used tae play kiss catch.

IG: Yes ah remember that.

IW: We used to play the, ken, when you kicked the tin can.

J McW: Oh aye, the tin can aye.

IW: Used to dae that at Castle Street, didn't oo?

J McW: Aye, [*jaking?*], caw's it k-i-n g-king.

IG: An what, did ye ever, did ye leave the playground at all at break time or lunchtime

J McW: No.

IW: Lunchtimes, well, ah went home.

J McW: Lunchtime, aye, lunchtime, ye could go home if ye wanted but in the small breaks nothing happened like that.

IW: No, no, you just stayed in the playground.

J McW: Ye had tae be goin home, ken, when you were in the lower classes, like, if ye mother wasnae there to meet ye tae take ye home ye didnae get home.

IW: Aye, that's right.

IG: So they were still quite strict about that. So, what did ye do when you were at school and you didn't go home, where was the food served then or did you-.

IW: In the dinner hut.

J McW: Dinner hut.

IG: They did have the dinner hut then.

J McW: Oh, aye.

09m 27s.

IW: Oh, aye.

J McW: It wis jist a big long kind of ammunition hut.

IW: Aye, it wis like a munitions hut.

IG: Well, ah remember that, so when was that set up?

J McW: Well, it was there when ah was there.

IW: It was there when ah was there.

IG: Oh, ah remember it, there was a long long hut yes like a Nissen hut sort of thing.

IW: Concrete looking.

J McW: And ye got your wee pint of milk, you know, yer wee bottle of milk.

IG: The crates o milk.

J McW: That was at playtime, ah think.

IW: Playtime, aye.

J McW: Ye got it at playtime, ye went up there and got yer-

IG: An can ye remember, ah mean ah remember collecting rosehips at school?

J McW: Yip.

IW: Mm, mm.

IG: Ye did that swell.

IW: Aye.

J McW: That's where we used to go right along the railway, that was great for rosehips up there.

IG: Up the railway.

IW: Ah yince went wi Moira Thorburn up the Watchhill Road...

J McW: Oh yes, aye.

IW: ...an ah dinnae ken what ah wis daen on top o the dyke an Moira was at the bottom o it but ah fell off backwards and they had barbed wire.

IG: Oh, no.

IW: An ah was hinging, wi ma legs stuck in the barbed wire, an she's shoving it doon, she says 'Push your leg oot' she says [*laughter*].

J McW: An think ah've telt ye, ah can mind the time wi Billy, Billy Wells, we were away bird nesting, walkin, ye ken, an we were up by the Blind Lochs, where there were a crow's nest away up there. Ah says 'Ah'll gaun up an get it, away an get a couple o eggs oot of it'. So ah wis droppin them doon tae Billy but every yin o them broke, so we couldnae hingmy, ah says, 'Listen I'm gonnae bring this yin doon in ma mouth' so we were coming doon and ye had tae kinda swing a wee bit to get ontae the next branch, ah swung an fell down an ah came right down on ma shoulder an the egg was broken. An the last thing ah can mind o sayin tae Billy, ah says 'There's something the maiter with this airm o mine' an ah passed out.

10m 58s.

IW: Billy, can mind that, Jimmy.

J McW: And the next thing ah can remember is this bloody black horse coming tae me an, ken, yer no thinking, ah'm gaun. It wis Billy on his horse, aye, it was Billy on his horse.

IW: He wasnae gonnae throw ye ower the saddle wis he, take ye hame?

J McW: No, he went hame an telt ma faither and ma faither had got the ambulance, ah can remember Nutt was the-.

IW: Oh, Nutt frae Lockerbie, aye.

J McW: Aye, frae Lockerbie, so they had tae cairry me about three mile.

IW: Billy minds that like, he says 'Ah mind when Jimmy felt oot and he broke his shooder.'

IG: So that must have up by Lochbank then.

J McW: Aye, away up there, aye.

IW: Aye, away up in through there, aye.

IG: So can ye remember any big events, ah was thinking about the Queen's visit to Lochmaben, can you remember that?

IW: We aw got Coronation mugs didn't we?

J McW: Aye, we did aye. Ah don't know if there was anything on like, ken, no like what they have now, these street tea parties an that. Ah don't know if it went as far as that.

IW: No. Ah think aw the kids came up tae the cross, like, ah think they were aw roond there, aye, an as ah say ah can remember Billy's dad pitting up this big fancy crown frae the library tae the toon hall right ower that area.

IG: So it would be all lit up, would it ,at night?

IW: Oh, ah cannae remember that.

J McW: Wisnae allowed out.

IG: Oh, of course.

IW: Aye, but ah remember her coming.

IG: She was just a young woman then.

IW: Aye, she was.

12m 21s.

J McW: Ah think money was very scarce in thaim days, like.

IG: Oh yes.

J McW: Ken, for street parties an that, very scarce like. Ah can mind ma mother makin her ain soap and everythin like, you know.

IG: Really?

J McW: Aye, in her big boiler.

IG: Uh huh?

IW: Well, ah remember, ken, ma dad was a blacksmith, well that wasnae the blinkin easiest job in the world an after we moved doon to Croft Terrace ma dad used send me on a Saturday morning across the road, ken, ma grandfather staid across the road.

J McW: That's right.

IW: And he had sent is for the pay, well ah think it would be three pound or something that's aw he got, it wisnae very much, no it wisnae.

IG: But a blacksmith was really needed, ah mean, a lot o horses.

IW: Aye.

J McW: Used tae get chased by Bob quite a lot, when ye went intae his yaird 'Don't dare to disturb my horses' [*laughter*].

IW: He used to get intae a row fae, ken Agnes Broon and them, because the weans would come in an he would be like that wi the hot shoe an he would burn their jackets and things cos they were stannin too near. They used tae gang an complain tae him but he said 'The boys were too near'.

IG: They wouldnae be allowed to do that now.

J McW: You'd no believe it but the bin men were on horse and cart.

IW: Aye, that's right.

J McW: Colin, the horse.

IG: Colin, the horse.

IW: Aye, an they had to blinkin hoy them onto their shooder and get them into the auld cairt.

J McW: It was gaun for years, like.

IW: Oh, it did.

IG: Well, ah was thinking about, would you get milk delivered with the horse and cart.

J McW: Yip.

IW: Aye, McGhie's delivered the milk, aye.

13m 42s.

J McW: There was a milk round for about three years, the Lochmaben run.

IG: An what about the trains, do you remember the trains stopping in Lochmaben, an the station?

J McW: Ah can mind o the station an ah can mind o Alec Grierson being the...

IW: Station Maister.

J McW: ...Station Maister, can mind o that. An ah can mind o the station quite well cos we used to play, we never actually played in the railway but if we were walking up to the three lochs, ken, the two Blinds and [?] we were always up by the railway, like.

IW: But they kinnae, the coal yaird was up there tae, ye ken.

J McW: Well, where my daughter stays, where Martin Burns stays now it was the Victoria Cottage, that's where Mair's stayed.

IW: Yes, that's right.

J McW: An everything came in tae that yard, ken, aw the-

IW: Aye, there was big gate in through there.

J McW: Everything was shunted in there fae the railway, aw the coals and that.

IW: The coal came in that way, that's right.

IG: It would probably be quite busy then.

IW: Aye, it was.

J McW: And you had Billy Edward's sawmill, it was jist over from that, he used to come round every Monday, roon Croft Terrace and that, two bob a bag.

IW: A bag of sticks.

J McW: And ye used tae [?] and he says 'If you're gaun tae work you can come on the wagon' so there was quite a few of us got on the wagon.'

IW: In the holidays, aye.

IG: Ye'd have coal fires.

J McW: That's right, aye.

IW: Aye, that's right. There wis nae central heating.

IG: No, oh, no.

J McW: A big range, ye had a big kind o cast iron range.

IG: Aye, for cooking on as well.

IW: Oh aye, you had thaim, we never had that in oor hooses, but you had them cos ah mind ma Aunt Dorothy having yin.

15m 12s.

J McW: That's right, ah can mind ma mother thingaming it with lead or something, black lead.

IW: Black lead, that's right.

J McW: Everything was done in there like pan scones and everything.

IW: Aye that's Jimmy they were.

Recreation 15m 21s.

IG: And clubs or anything like that, did you, when you were young, you know, what did you do in the evening?

IW: Hung about the Cross likely.

J McW: They had a pole, if ye gaun doon Princes Street they had a pole at what we used to call Maggie...

IW: Mrs Maitlands's aye.

J McW: ...Maggie Maitlands, she was never done oot chasing us away fae there and we used tae dae aw oor games fae there like.

IW: Aye, that's right.

J McW: Whether it was kiss catch or knocking at somebody's door and runnin away.

IW: Oh aye that's right, we used tae dae a lot o that but then later on, well when we were teenagers there was the Youth Club.

J McW: Aye, the Youth Club that's right, aye.

IW: That was the Reverend Carmichael, ah think, that got that gaun didn't he Jimmy?

IG: What did you do there?

IW: Oh just, well table tennis or whatever, they had an odd dance an aw.

J McW: [?] disco and that there aye.

IW: And well, Joe Crolla, he had the billiard room, doon The Vennel, well maybe some of you boys would gaun tae the carpet booling an aw.

J McW: Aye, we did, aye.

IW: When you got a wee bit aulder.

IG: So there was plenty to do you, ye didnae have to go anywhere else out of Lochmaben, no?

J McW: No no.

IW: Och you made yer ain entertainment, its no like nowadays they dinae seem to want tae.

J McW: Very few people had televisions, very few, there was an odd one here and there.

16m 30s.

IW: Aye, that's right.

IG: It would be the radio.

J McW: Aye, radio, aye, very few people had televisions so you just got out.

IG: And what about the shops in Lochmaben, there were a lot of shops?

IW: There was loads of shops, aye.

J McW: Oh aye, if ye gaun up the top of Croft Terrace, start from there...

IW: Mary Tweedies.

J McW: ...Mary Tweedie's. If ye cross the road you've got...

IW: Taylor's.

J McW: ...Taylor's, aye that that was Tweedie's as weel.

IW: It was Tweedie's, an aw.

J McW: And was the yin up, the big shop, was that Rogerson?

IW: Aye.

J McW: We used to call it Maimie McGhie's.

IW: Aye, that's right.

J McW: I think his name was Rogerson.

IW: Rogerson, aye that's right.

J McW: Further down it was Duff, when ah was a boy, changed hands to Abbot.

IW: Aye that's right, aye, but it was Duff's originally aye.

IG: Is that Elizabeth Duff?

IW: No, Elizabeth Duff was doon Jepsens.

IG: Yes, Jepsens. No, it would be her family?

IW: Ah think it would be her brother.

J McW: Her faimily, aye.

IG: The same family, yes.

IW: The same family, aye.

IG: Yes, ah remember Jepsens.

IW: And the bakers and Jimmy Davison's.

J McW: Broon the butchers.

17m 22s.

IW: Mitchell's.

J McW: The flower shop used tae be, when ah was, the flower shop used tae be...

IW: The Co-operative.

J McW: ...the Co-operative.

IW: And McMichaels at the other end.

IG: Where Sandhu's is.

IW: Aye an there was a drapers.

J McW: An ye had the draper shop across the road where aw the hairdressers and that was.

IW: Johnstone's

J McW: Johnstone's, aye.

IW: And then where the bakers is now it wis...

J McW: McMichael's, the bakers.

IW: ...aye but where...

J McW: Davison's.

IW: ...aye, but where the bakers is the now, Jimmy, at the top of The Vennel.

J McW: Oh, Oliver's.

IW: Oliver's.

J McW: It was a baker's shop.

IW: But what did you caw yon wee wuman and man that was in there an aw, selt everything, och just said their name the other day, cannae remember, no.

IG: An there was the Post Office.

IW: There was the Post Office and-.

J McW: Dowling's.

IG: Dowling's.

J McW: Aye, where the thingummy is, café is now, the baker's doon that end used tae be Dowling's.

IW: Aye, Dowlings, that's the name ah couldnae remember.

J McW: Used to go in there for a penny dainties.

IG: What's a penny dainty?

J McW: Was a wee thin toffee thing about that size.

18m 19s.

IG: Oh right.

IW: Aye, it was about that size, just like a caramel.

IG: Like a chew or something?

J McW: Aye.

IW: Aye they had a lot of things for kids didn't they?

J McW: Oh aye.

IW: The Dowlings.

IG: And did you have a chemist?

IW: Yes.

IW: Where the chemist is noo, like.

J McW: Yes aye just where it is now like aye.

IG: So, how do you feel, how has Lochmaben changed?

J McW: Well, you dinnae like to call people interlopers but- *[laughter]*.

IG: Too many of them now.

J McW: But nowadays there a big change like cos when you were thingummyd, if you were born in Lochmaben you got a house in Lochmaben, right? If you were born outside Lochmaben you couldnae get a house in Lochmaben.

IG: Really.

J McW: Ken, but nowadays they come fae Glasgow.

IG: Oh yes.

J McW: They come from all ower the road like.

IW: Everywhere, everywhere.

J McW: That's how things are changing as quick, like.

IW: Ken, we had oor own wee Town Council which, well, we knew everybody in, you ken.

J McW: That's right, aye.

IW: An it was the same wi the caravan park, ah mean that was run by the wee Town Council an that reduced people in Lochmaben's rates because they used the money that they got off that and nowadays, well, it's just all in the yin pot, isn't it?

JMcW As a matter o fact that used tae be the Curling Hut.

IW: Yes, that's' right.

19m 28s.

J McW: An they held the curling aboot every year, it Well's, was it no Well's tournament or something?

IW: Aye, something like that ah cannae remember, but the loch froze ower a lot in thaim days.

J McW: Oh, that's right.

IG: So the winters were maybe colder.

J McW: Ah can mind o a car being on it.

IG: Can you mind that.

J McW: A car aye.

IW: Can you mind of Willie Edwards being on wi his motorbike?

J McW: Aye.

IG: On the Kirk Loch?

J McW: It was the only loch where yer mother and faither would let ye go and it had to be passed by the authorities, ken, drilled and passed.

IG: And the golf course would just be nine holes then?

J McW: Nine holes an it was covered in sheep, matter o fact they virtually belonged to that ferm, Castle-.

IG: Castle Hill.

IW: Castle Hill, aye.

IG: We aye used to call it the Greigs, used to call that Greig's road.

IW: Aye.

IG: We've covered quite a lot.

IW: Aye, ah cannae think o anything.

IG: The weather in general do you think it's-

J McW: Ah don't know whether it was my imagine or no but we seemed to have longer summers, ken, cos ah can remember ye were always gettin a row fae your mum and dad cos you come hame wi, yer feet were covered in tar an it was taken mair butter or margarine tae get it off.

IW: That's right, caulder winters probably, as ah say, when the loch.

IG: Maybe more extreme.

IW: Ah think so, but ah mean ah can remember we always got a new summer frock for Easter an that was basically the start of yer decent weather, you know.

J McW: Aye tha's right, we used to dae oor swimming roond at The Point they used tae caw it, the Mill Loch.

20m 53s.

IW: Aye.

IG: Swimming?

J McW: Aye we used to swim in the Mill Loch.

IW: Oh aye, in the Mill Loch.

J McW: There used to be hundreds and hundreds of people there.

IW: It was so deep.

IG: Really?

J McW: Ah'm no joking, aye.

IW: Frae The Point jist straight across tae where the boat went doon.

J McW: Because that's where we used tae swim.

IG: You would have thought that would have been really dangerous. Ah mean folk drowned in that loch.

J McW: [REDACTED].

IW: Aye.

IG: But you were allowed to go swimming in the loch.

J McW: Aye, oh hundreds o us.

IW: Aye, loads.

J McW: We used to swim from there across tae the paddling pool an then there was a bit at the paddling pool where ye could dive off.

IG: Goodness, ah didn't know that.

IW: Well they used to dae water skiing up there an aw.

J McW: Aye, they did, aye.

IW: Later on.

IG: I remember when the paddling pool was built and it was used, it wasnae used for very long.

J McW: No, it wasnae.

IW: No, it wisnae.

IG: Maybe no the best position right next to the road. Can you tell a little bit of, what did you do when you left school, Isabelle?

Work: 21m 40s.

IW: Well, when ah left Lockerbie Academy ah went to the Tech at Dumfries, which was down the bottom o George Street, ah went there for a year an when ah finished there ah went to work with M R Rodgers, he was a surveyor, building surveyors.

IG: Oh yes.

IW: Quantity surveyors, so ah went to work there until ah was married, basically, and when, ah think it would be Gail was maybe two or something ah went tae work for John McColl Wells, an ah was there for eighteen, twenty years, so ah did, and when ah left there ah went tae Graham's at Langholm an ah was there for twenty-two years.

IG: Oh right.

IW: Ah havenae got a fantastic working life, ah've worked a long time. Ah worked, well ah was sixty-five when ah retired.

IG: Uh huh, so James, what about you, what did you do when you left school?

J McW: Ah served ma time as a brickie, wi Carruther's & Green.

IG: Oh, yes.

Army Service 22m 41s.

J McW: But then as the year went on ah found it wasnae for me so ah joined the army an ah joined the Argyll and Southern Highlanders.

IG: Right.

J McW: An ah was there for twelve years.

IG: And did you go abroad?

J McW: Yes, ah was abroad quite a lot, we started off in Inverness, Fort George, for four weeks and then it shut down an then oo had tae go tae Aberdeen and we were in Aberdeen until oor training was finished in '64 and we got caught up in the Typhoid, in Aberdeen.

IG: Oh, ah remember that, yes. Goodness.

J McW: We got caught up in the Typhoid in Aberdeen, cos ah wis supposed to get taen out tae Singapore an it was cancelled until the July. Ah was in Singapore, you did six months in Singapore and six months up the jungle, so that's when the Indonesians were infiltrating Borneo.

IG: Oh, right, ok.

J McW: An thingummying the villages, so we went in there tae dae that, an then after, when oo were finished in Singapore we came to Plymouth, wi Mad Mitch and we went across to Aden.

IG: Aden, oh yeah.

23m 38s.

J McW: Aye, Aden. Cyprus, ah was in Cyprus for a year, wi the United Nations an then we were stationed, the Argyll's got disbanded, but before that we were in Berlin.

IG: Berlin.

J McW: Ah guarded Mr Hess.

IG: Really?

IW: Really, did you Jimmy? Gosh.

IG: Oh right, cos he was, was he not the only prisoner or something?

J McW: He was the only prisoner in there, an every country taen a shot.

IG: Of course.

J McW: British, French, American an Russian. It was the only time the Russians were allowed into oor, allowed intae oor bit.

IW: Oh right.

IG: Gosh.

J McW: They used tae take aw the papers an music away fae him when they came.

IG: So did you see him?

J McW: Oh, aye, aye. There was thirty-two people in there, sixteen at a time, you had towers.

IW: Oh right.

IG: Guarding one man.

J McW: Guarding one man.

IW: And he would be getting on for bein an auld man.

J McW: He wis an auld man then. An the Argylls got disbanded an ah went tae the Gordon Highlanders an that's where ah wis, a year in Limassol with the United nations and then they got reformed and ah did about three or four tours o Ireland, we were stationed at a place called Kirknewton, jist outside Edinburgh.

IG: Oh yes, aye, yes, ah know where that is.

IW: Is that where thaim barracks still are aye.

J McW: Pardon?

IW: The barracks at Edinburgh, is that where they still are?

J McW: No, the big barracks in Edinburgh's cawd Redford.

IG: Redford.

24m 58s.

J McW: This was an ex-American place where the Americans used tae go.

IW: Oh right aye.

J McW: It was mair or less just ammunition huts, ken, where we were, where did we go after that? Germany again, Osnabruck, well the kids gaun tae be going to school and Anna, ma wife, didn't want to come with me to Germany, so ah went across there for about six months but ah couldnae settle so ah came out. An then I went to Gates, Power Transmission, it was Uniroyal at that time, an ah spent twenty-five years there.

IW: Did ye, was that how long you were there?

J McW: An ah taen...

IW: Early retirement.

J McW: Aye, ah obtained early retirement, voluntary redundancy.

IG: Right, ok. So you've travelled quite a distance.

J McW: Aye.

IG: Been a lot o places.

IW: Ah thought he would have had a colourful play.

IG: 'Join the army and see the world' that's' what they say.

IW: Aye, that's what they say.

J McW: Got the General Service Medal for, they've got bars on them, got one for Singapore, four for Borneo, one for Aden, one for Ireland, what's ma other yin, for [?], one for ah got aother yun for [?], one for Ireland.

IG: So it must have been quite difficult to settle back in Lochmaben after being, you know, touring and being-.

J McW: Oh it wis, aye, especially working in a factory, cos ah went tae Uniroyal, ah wanted tae be a Security Office but there were two o us in for it and he said ah was too young for it but he says 'Ah'll offer ye another job' so he taen to this new place they'd built, Power Transmission, how ah lasted tweny-five years, ah don't know.

IW: So you actually saw active service Jimmy, aye?

J McW: Oh, aye.

IG: Okay, well thank you very much both of you, that was great.

End of interview.