

Interviewee: Mary and Alan Hannah	Interviewer: Unknown
Date of Interview: Unknown	Ref: DG46-15-1-1-T

Notes of interview, not full transcription.

Alan was born in Lochmaben and Mary came from Kirtlebridge to live and work at Lochmaben Hospital when she was aged 15. Mary recalled a young sailor patient who was “fortunate to have TB” as he had just come from the “Princess Victoria” which soon after sank at Stranraer with huge loss of life. (1953)

After leaving Lochmaben School, and later National Service, one of Alan’s jobs was with Annith (Annan/Nith) Engineering which made machinery for the tile industry. In this job Alan was able to travel as far as Kenya, Java, Malaysia, America and Canada. More recently he worked for McGhie’s Dairy driving an 18 ton van of milk to Silloth every day and delivering milk to the 6 hospitals that used to exist in Carlisle.

As a child Alan could remember being chased off the building site which was to be Mossvale in 1938. He recalled the rabbit trappers who could load up 50 to 60 pairs of rabbits daily into wicker baskets to be put on the train to go to Liverpool and Manchester. He remembered a “leerie” who lit the street lamps and he can remember the Lochmaben Games. These games which were held in Lochbank fields included cycling, running, quoits and greyhound racing. The gala was supposed to be a continuation of these games after the war.

They both enjoyed seeing and chatting to the author, Roald Dahl, who regularly accompanied Sir Steven Runciman on his walk from Elshieshiels to admire the Mill Loch. Wonder if Lochmaben inspired any stories?

Up until recently one of Alan’s hobbies was wood turning, producing lovely items such as fruit bowls. Mary spends her time making, much sought after, elaborate ornaments made from ostrich, goose, hen and even rhea eggs. These are pierced, painted, decorated and formed into swans, tea sets and - in the Faberge style – eggs which open to reveal clocks or bridal couples.