

Cartmel Peninsula  
Local History Society



CPLHS - Bringing History to the Local Community

## Interview with Harry Tyson

Harry Tyson ('HT')

Interviewers : Denys Vaughan ('DV') and audience (noted as 'ANO')

Date : 12 February 1992

Location : an evening meeting in Grange

Recording duration : 51 mins 14 secs

Introduction added to file to preface the recording session.

Title : Rural Cartmel – a century of change, 1890 to 1990 – interviewing Harry Tyson, a well known local farmer, who was born in 1922 at East Plain, Flookburgh. Introduction on tape by the course tutor, Denys Vaughan, recorded at an evening meeting of the group in Grange, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 1992 by Tom Sweeny ('TS'). Interview follows.

[Interview recording starts at 0 mins 31 secs]

DV     Whilst we've got Mr Tyson here, we won't spend time on that. One of the things that caught my eye on David's work was for 1881, East Plain Farm ... somebody Tyson ... I thought ... I wondered if that's any relation to Henry Tyson. It was. It was I'm glad to say. Well, Henry's been on this ... in this area for such a long time. [1 min] At the end of tonight, I hope you will have extracted from him famously, and pleasantly, all you can ... all you ... thought you ever wanted to know about farming and life in general in this area. Who wants to pitch the first ball ?

ANO    Could you tell us briefly how in fact farming has changed, 'cos at the moment it seems to be all ... you know, silageing and ...

HT     Yes, well up to about three years ago, you know, there had been evolution all the way. But three years ago, we went downhill, didn't we ... the whole nation went downhill quickly, and farming really went ... you know ... we're still whizzing downwards, and so ... it is in a thorough mess now ... the worst mess it's been in ... I lived ... I'm old enough to have lived through the bad years of farming, and I will tell you when the bad years of farming were : about ... '53 [2 mins] onwards through that ... to about '66, those were the bad years. 'Cos I farmed through the ... lived through the first ones in the 30s. That wasn't anything like as bad as the last one was, and now we're right on the trough now, really at the bottom. Things have never been as they are now, never ever. Just from a labour point of view, the farm I'm on was 120 acres, when we came there in 1938, and there were five people working on the farm, who would be milking about say 18 or 20 cows. Now were are milking 90, just my son, a part-time man, and a part-time me. That is all, and we do it all. He has to be up at 5 o'clock every morning, and he won't have got home for his tea yet. [3 mins] And this is every day ... Sunday, Weekday, every day, Christmas Day, and Boxing Day, all the days, and there's no chance of a holiday whatever, unless I go and take over, and now I'm getting really too old. I have ... I did milk on Boxing Day, because we had the bug ... everybody had

the bug and was ill at that time, and so I milked on Boxing day, and the next ... and I really can't do it any more. It's a beggar when you've been so active all your life, but I just can't do it any more. Things are in a mess now. To begin with, you know, it was all horses, right through until the war came, and we were glad and happy to work with horses. There was hardly a tractor round here ... very very few ... and Mr Dixon down at Meathop would have one of the very first, probably, in the 20s. [ANO : what age was that ?] In the 20s. He got one in the very late 20s, and had used it a little while, and then say in about '36, he would get one and always had one after that. [4 mins] It's rather funny that Mr Dixon from Meathop had the first one, and John Dixon from Aynsome, would be the last farmer to get a tractor, round here, I think, himself. You know he had neighbours who had tractors, and he used horses until ... until the end. [ANO : Were they related, the two Dixons ?] No, no, not that I know of, no.

ANO When do you think John Dixon gave up his last horse ?

HT Must have been ... about ... just after the end of the war. [ANO : Before 1950 ?] Just around ... just around ... just before 1950, yes, excellent.

ANO You know Rupert Repton, he had a cart horse called Bethany that was stood out to grass on the fell ... about 1958 ... I don't know what that horse did.

HT We mostly had our horses .. there's be a horse on ours, I mean ... I actually ... I was born at East Plain ... could I give you just a quick potted history ... I was [5 mins] born at East Plain in 1922, and we moved to Pit Farm at Cartmel in 1923, and we moved from there to Lindale in '38, and then I was in the war, and I came back and got married and went to live at ... and farmed at Liverpool for seven years ... and we had a horse there, which we brought from Cartmel incidentally, because the ones at Liverpool were ... I called them broken down dock horses ... you know, they were tired out before they began. And if you saw them going across, you could see that they were just moving, but you couldn't tell ... So I took one of Hazel's ... what we call ... they were all shires, what we called Clydesdales ... took one down, it was a marvellous thing. And ... so we did have that horse, and I brought it back up here with me, and we had it for a while, but it was ... for certain jobs, it was very very handy to have ... later, late back end ... if you had some a turn of some angles, or something like that, you couldn't get in a field with the tractor, not on our flat land down there, you know, you'd just sink, whereas the horse could work under those conditions ... and all sorts ... [6 mins] and we still had a few old horse machines, you see, so we able to utilise those until they went, and then, that was the end of it.

ANO Where is East Plains Farm ?

HT Just beyond ... you know Ponderosa ... Ponderosa caravan park down there, it's immediately South of there between there and the shore. And it was, when we were there, it was a big place, it was about 430 acres, and then we came to Pit Farm which was ... almost a square mile, it was over 600 acres, including the fell you see, the fell and castle meadows all went it. And ... my father never should have left there ... because, you know, it was a very good farm, and it continued to be a very good farm, but now its divided, of course, with the race horses on it, you know, there are race horse on it now, being reared, so its very much divided.

- ANO Who did you follow at Pit Farm ?
- HT The Dixons. [ANO : The Dixons] The Dixons, Tom and John.
- ANO When did you go into mechanical milking then ?
- HT [7 mins] When we went to Castlehead at Lindale, we'd always milked by hand at Pit Farm, but you see we were only milking about, oh there'd be about 30, 32 or 3, I think, and there were six men there. Well the household was quite interesting. There's mother and father, six children, two great aunts of mine, two maids, and four men, all in the house, and nothing could happen until the fire burnt up and you could boil a kettle, every morning, you see absolutely nothing could happen until then.
- ANO What time did the household wake up in those days ?
- HT Half past five. My father was up at half past five, always, so the others, you know, were shortly after, but ... We began machine milking when we moved to Lindale. The son-in-law of the owner there had prevailed upon his father-in-law to buy a milking machine, so we took it over. It was there. I had a row with my father about it, but ... I said we're not going to take the [8 mins] darn thing out, that's it, you know, we're not going ... 'cos ... So we actually got the milking machine. It was a very good one. It was an American International machine. It was very good indeed, and we soon got used to it, and it made a huge difference. But you see we didn't get electricity at Cartmel, at Pits Farm, until ... I think it was '34 or '5, you see so ... prior to that, everything was candle, wasn't it, and ... candle or an oil lamp, and you didn't light oil lamps round the buildings. I mean, a candle you could put it out, but an oil lamp, you couldn't if it got going. But, it was just ... it was just ... We've changed haven't we, we've got used to things that we didn't have before.
- ANO From what you said about other farmers in the area, there seemed to a hint that the families doing the farming in this whole peninsula, you know, have changed very little over the years. They might have changed farms, but the names of the families haven't changed.
- HT Very very similar. Very ... odd ones ... [9 mins] it really is the exception that has come in ... you know, it really is very much an exception ... they're all ... you know, a son-in-law even might have come in, but generally speaking, they're in direct descent. Mine ... I haven't gone so far back, but they go way back to ... we originally came from Annandale, up in Scotland. Our little sect of Tysons, right through all the Cumbria Tysons, you know, the Cumberland and ... we're not related to any of them at all. I mean, I have no relatives here ... you know, only my immediate family, that's all. Which is very funny, an odd thing to happen, that one little sect came through like that. They had farmed, my Great Grandfather, farmed at ... near Dalton, but they had been tenants right until ... right until we bought his farm at Lindale. We moved there as tenants and then we bought it just at the end of the war, between us. And ... but we'd always been tenants until that time. And ... [10 mins] although some of them had been fairly big farms ... we ...
- ANO Would you like to tell us what sort of price you had to pay for that farm ?

HT When we bought it in '38 ? I think it was ... no, we actually bought it in '46 ... '47 ... '46 I think, we'd been tenants until then, and we gave £7,400 for it then, and it was 120 acres, but ...

ANO What rent were you paying then, do you remember ?

HT I wasn't paying the rent, but I would reckon it would be ... I went to Liverpool and took a farm there in '50s, 1950, and that was roughly the same size, about 130 acres, and that was £270 a year. [ANO : That was quite a lot of money]. It was an awful lot of money, it really was a tremendous amount of money, I found, because it was ... it was the farm that my father-in-law had had, as a tenant, and it was [11 mins] going to be built on. It was entirely surrounded by Liverpool houses. We has 250 acres of prefabs right round us, you know, so, I mean, it was obviously destined for housing, pretty quick, so he'd sort of been farming it out, in a way, you know he'd been thinking, well by he time I'm ready for giving up, the farm will be built on, and that's it. So, I mean who's going to spend a lot of money when its going to vanish, 'cos you can't get it back, I mean. So I had the opportunity of taking it, and he was wanting to quit, and I was wanting to get away from home because ... my father and I didn't actually fall out, but we were two totally different personalities altogether. I was aware of money, and my father wasn't, and then ... I mean ... we were paying a lot of debts, you see, and I mean with a farm, and with a son on, there was absolutely no need ... to pay very much at all, but it was just the way that people thought in those days, you know. It was all his, till after his death, you see. Well that's no good, is it, I mean, that just doesn't work, you [12 mins] can't do that, or else you'd end up with nothing. [inaudible comment from audience]. That's right. And so it was just a ... I was sort of looking forward ... I mean ... One of the things was I was in the forces, I was in the Air Force, so naturally, this terribly upsetting thing ... for a county lad off a farm, you would have to actually suffer it to understand how much of a break it was to be, you know, to be thrown away for a number of years like that, and then to come back. You see, 'cos it was an awful job coming back. And so, I was ready for being off on my own, and way out of it, whether I did or I didn't do, and we got the opportunity and we went. And we farmed down there for seven years. We just got the farm nicely in order when they did come and build on it, you see. And then I got the chance for this farm. My father was giving up, and eventually, we persuaded him to let me have it. But ... since then, we've lost some to Lindale bypass. Of course, it sort of messed up 40 acres, and actually took about 10 acres. And [13 mins] the Castlehead College, next to me, you know it was a Roman Catholic College, and where they really concentrated on young priests. You know, trying to get boys to come to the school, and remain on to go through into the priesthood, which they did. I'm not a Roman Catholic, but we got along tremendously well with them. You know, they were grand fellows. And eventually ... I rented their land. I mean, it got quite impossible for them to afford stuff. Well, they had a man, and they milked a few cows for the College briefly, and it sort of just paid. But eventually it came that they couldn't possibly stand those sort of wages, so it was up for rent, and I rented it, just about coinciding with the time that I lost the land to the Lindale bypass. And then, two or three years later, I got the chance to buy it, so I bought it. And it just sort of worked out very well, it more or less replaced what we had lost.

- ANO Can I just ask you ... you said they couldn't [14 mins] afford the wages, what difference is there in a farm man's pay, when you remember, and now ?
- HT Well, my first man was on an ordinary wage, the one I had at Liverpool, I had four men at Liverpool for a fortnight and then I had ... [unclear but probably 'to get rid of three' with laughter in background]. And he was a really good man, he was an absolutely first class man, could do anything, he was only used to working with horses, but he could drive a tractor, and he could drive a truck, or he could do anything, and he had four pounds four shillings [£4 4s] a week. [ANO : and that was in nineteen forty ... ?] That was in 1950, 50s. 1950 we went there, yes.
- ANO Did that include accommodation ?
- HT No. He paid three shilling [3s] a week for rent for his cottage.
- ANO And did he get free milk ?
- HT And he didn't get anything.
- ANO Did you get these men through hirings, or when did that system finish ?
- HT No. Down there ... we did have hirings ... right ... well, sort of ... very well on ... [15 mins] not in that area ... that ... he was on the farm, you see, he hadn't been to a hiring fair, he had just been engaged normally, but that was just for the flat straight week, you know, just ... I think it was forty ... was it 45 hours at that time. The same man today [1992], a decent man like that, would be doing those hours ... about ... £150 a week, something like that. So really things ... I mean, I know ...
- ANO And he wouldn't be living in a sort of tied cottage, would he ?
- HT No; by jove no. You wouldn't let a man in a tied cottage today, you daren't, you simply dare not.
- ANO That's about what they were paying in Barrow shipyard for an unskilled, so called unskilled labourer, for a 45 hour week, so you weren't getting your farm workers cheap, at £4/4/-, and you weren't overpaying them.
- HT No, no, no, no. They were ... it was a straight ... and don't forget, he was the best man there [16 mins] was in the valley, was this chap ... down there ... he was a really good fellow.
- ANO Although they were called farm labourers, they were far from labourers, they were very very skilled men ... doing many diverse things.
- HT So a man came with the ... the threshing machine, you know, with a great big tractor, and the threshing box and the baler behind it, you know ... it was an unwieldy outfit, and John, my man, he had very poor eye sight actually, it was a great shame, and ... until after I left, and he went to the Corporation of Liverpool to try to get a job, and ... no, they wouldn't have him with his eyes, go and see about them. And so they paid, and he went, had cataracts from both eyes, and can see as well as any of us. Apparently, he had been more or less blind

most of his life, but he could see what he wanted to see, that what I thought ... [laughter & inaudible comments] ... If you sort of went round and it was dark, you had to speak or he wouldn't know it was you. He wouldn't have been able to see you ... but he was ... he was [17 mins] a really good man, you know, and ... as I say, he took this threshing machine ... the one ... [?], the big tractor, he fell off ... got his leg fast ... it didn't break it but by jove it was a mess, and so my wife rushed him to hospital, to get it fixed up, and so ... I was busy with the cow calving, and I just couldn't leave it, and we only had one cow, and that was when it was calving, just as the man came in the yard, and we were blocking the road, and I said, go and fetch that outfit in, John. [he said] I've never driven one of those things. Well, I said, they're all the same, they're all in one box, if you keep trying, you'll find the right gear, and he had it all set up, and by the time I'd finished with this cow, we were just ready to start threshing. Quite marvellous. Never ... he'd never driven that thing before, but he was just an unlucky fellow, just ... a first class man, you know. He's not to be compared with the average farm labourer, you know, 'cos the average farm labourer is often ... well ... at that time, anyway, they weren't ... [?], they couldn't do that job. You know they wouldn't take a job like that on, they would just sort of back off and say no. The [18 mins] field men are very skilled really nowadays, tremendously well skilled.

ANO Did the Liverpool labour market, where there were ... a few big money available, did that push the prices up at all ?

HT No, no. I think if the fellow was a farm worker there, and he was ... you know, the boss was reasonably decent with him, and they always got a bit over the actual bare, you know, bare bottom agricultural wage, and a good man you always gave a bit more, and ... but they were very satisfied, they liked farm hours, you know ... they didn't mind farm hours. They used to start at 8 and finish at half past five, but they didn't care, you know. And you see they were right there on the job, generally speaking, they didn't have this bloody travelling, I mean. It's all irrelevant. Look at any of us, you know, sort of, who had a job anywhere in this area, you know, we sort of more or less go ... there in a few minutes. But, I mean, my daughter has eight miles to go to get to her office in Oxford, and it ... is it six miles or eight miles, anyway ... [19 mins] it takes her an hour and a quarter, on a good morning ... in the car ... and its just totally impossible. If you don't get in that queue you just don't get there. And so, you know, this to go through every morning and every evening, I mean, she'd be far better starting an hour earlier on another job, wouldn't she, really.

ANO's [approx 40 seconds of background comments & chatter with audience, concerning old wage rates, almost all inaudible in the recording]

ANO Well, I was in the shipyard at the time, trying to make money, and my basic rate was £4/3/6 as an unskilled labourer, [20 mins] and the electrician we worked with, or the fitter that we worked with, he was on £9, for a straight 5 day week, but he worked on Saturday and Sunday, it became about £15 a week, and my £4/3/6 became nearly £10, so we were very anxious to pad the work out ... [HT : Yes, that's right]

ANO A friend of mine ... .. [?], that sort of thing, he earned a lot more than I did, but not eventually.

- HT No, most of these things are relevant, aren't they, yer know, they really are, mostly.
- ANO [inaudible comment from audience]
- ANO You were mentioning hirings, when did they finish, what was the organisation ...
- HT I would think the war would pretty much see them out, wouldn't it. I don't really ... did they go on a year or two after the war ... I don't really think they did very much.
- ANO Where did they take place ? Was it in Ulverston ?
- HT Ulverston, yes. Sort of just in the towns. You know, just sort of around the Market Square area, [21 mins] but it was ... it was tremendously interesting. Anyway, there's fellows came over the half year, you know, it was two farms[?] for the half year, at that hiring fair. And Martinmas, which was round the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> of November, and at Whitsuntide, all the farm workers had a week's holiday, at each of those two times. And on the Thursday of that week, here, by tradition you went to Ulverston, and if you were staying on, at the farm where you were ... you see, there were all these ... [?], they called them favours, didn't they, they were little ... a feather with a little bit of ornamentation round it, and if you were staying on the farm where you were, you got a pin in one of these, and stuck it in your cap, you see, so that nobody would come and ask you then, or if you were taken on by someone there, you got yourself a favour and stick it in and no-one would .. everyone knew that you were already taken on then. But there were all sorts of ways, you see. There was a horseman, or like a second horseman who wasn't quite fit to, you know, do anything with a horse, [22 mins] and you were taken on at that level. Or a lad ... a lad was 14, because they began work at 14 in those days, then there was a girl, you see, or there was a young woman. Well, a young woman would be sort of 18, 19, but the girl would only be 14. And they were all took on for a given amount of money for each. An absolutely first class man, I remember coming, and he had £18 for the half year, and his bed and board, and ... But he didn't have a day off, or a half day off in that six months. He was on the farm all the time. I mean, should there be someone ill at home or something, an unusual thing like that he could go for, but not anything else, and ... I mean, if he got a cold, he got better, and that was it, you know, he didn't have time off, and it was a very very harsh life in its own way, but ... it did make people of most of them. It really did.
- ANO If you had the hirings in November, there wouldn't be as work to do, so there wouldn't be as many hired, is that right ?
- HT Yes, [23 mins] there was sort of ... it didn't really vary much round here because this was always a stock area, and when the cattle come in in winter, they are a heck of a lot more work than they are out, so it didn't really vary much. We didn't have ... we had six men at Pit Farm, you see, we'd four men in the house and two men came every day, and they ... we didn't vary them, sort of in the summer or the winter, because, as I say, there was such a lot more hand stock work in winter than there was in the summer time, and so it worked out very well. But a lad, you know, would have sort of £8 for the half year.
- ANO Who hired the maids ?

- HT My father, yes. The father did, yes. Never, never ... they wouldn't take on with a woman. No, they fairly would not. These girls wouldn't have anything to do with a woman, no. They were taken on by ... he was the boss, and that was it, there was no messing, they wouldn't take on.
- ANO Suppose a woman was ... [HT : Yes, yes] [another in audience starts talking faintly too]
- HT ... by a lady, yes ... a widow, that was alright, but very very few farmers' [24 mins] wives would go to the Hiring Fair. And the ...
- ANO What sort of a fee would a maid get for hiring.
- HT Oh, she would be on about ... sort of probably 10 or £12, if she was pretty responsible. You know were there were often some kiddies round the farm, so the farmer's wife had to do all the, you know, ... nothing happened until the fire got going, and all the cooking had to be done there, I mean with ... my mother wouldn't have bought a loaf of bread if ...
- ANO Did she make it for anybody else ?
- HT No, we used to make that in Summer time, dear, Mason's Extract, wasn't it, and ... yes, we used to make that, with the ... flowers from Elderberry ... and this extract in the water ... it wasn't alcoholic, but it was very nice. But there was maids .. had a lot of work to do with the children. And there was ... everything was hand done, it's quite remarkable we you realise that ... how [25 mins] on earth could you spread butter that had come from a cooled area ... we didn't ... never heard of such a thing as a fridge ... but the butter wouldn't spread, it had to be warmed in front of a fire before you could, you know ... there was no margarine or anything like that in those days, I mean, there just wasn't. It was, you know, sort of very much self survival really ... very few things that you bought. Like Rogers and Tysons, these people at Ulverston, no relation of mine, but these ... and Parkers and people like that, they had a big calling in the countryside, of course, and the butchers all came round, you know ... the greengrocer chap, he came round, with a barrow.
- ANO How did you dispose of your milk, before the Milk Marketing Board ?
- HT With difficulty. [audience laughs]. We didn't milk very much at all. We fed a lot of it to cows, and brought cows up, but we got to supplying the Milk Marketing Board in 1933, 1934.
- ANO As early as that ?
- HT Yes. And [26 mins] we at Pit Farm, we had ... we'd take five or six kits ... rather ... no 17 gallon kits they were, and take them down and put them on a little stand at the ... right at the gate there. It wasn't worth while getting the horse hooped up into a ... but we had an old float, you know, which was a light cart, put them all in there, one bloke went in the shafts, and ran like beggary, 'cos it was far quicker to run down the drive, it was flat, you see, there wasn't a hill, and then, you know, bring the empty ones back, and it was ... it wasn't ... we just did it because it was the quickest and easiest way to do. I mean, by the time you'd got the gear on a horse, you were back, you know. And it was quite an easy job. But all we were getting back was ... five pence [5<sup>d</sup>] a gallon. [inaudible muttering in audience].



- ANO Do you mean five ordinary pennies, five proper pennies ?
- HT Five old pence, five old pence. [inaudible muttering in audience]. And every Saturday morning, we took a 17 gallon kit, you know, which had been ... it had brass on, you know, brass [27 mins] plate and brass on the top, and 17 gallons, I can tell you was a heck of a weight to lift, we couldn't lift it, [ANO : standard gallon ?], yes, that's right, and it took two of you, you know, ... .. [?] prepared to lift it, and that went to a man who sold milk in Barrow. There weren't any bottles in those days, it was the old can and the measure. But ... we sent it every week, and he paid for it if he felt like it, because he just wouldn't bother in those days.
- ANO Did you send it by train ?
- HT Took it down to Cark Station and put it on he train, yes.
- ANO You didn't make any butter ?
- HT Oh yes. We made ... that's where all the milk went really, but prior to this going on with the Milk Marketing Board, beginning to take it. And, oh, we made butter. We had two churns, a big double handed one, and a smaller single one. The man always came in to wind that up because it very, really hard work getting it going. I'll never forget ... well ... [?],[28 mins] there'd be about 60 gallons I suppose, which is a lot of weight, and it was sort of three cornered, not quite cornered, a double handed thing, and you just had to have a good man. An ordinary youth wouldn't do, I mean, he would just ... he would have the strength to turn it, but he wouldn't be able to time it, you know, you really had to both be working together. And then mother would say 'Stop', and you had to ... 'cos she was fully in charge of everything like that. I mean, you wouldn't allow a girl to mess with a thing like that. And you had to let the gas out, it used to ... with whipping round, and chursh, let the gas out. And then we had a big butter worker, you know, it was taken out of there, and worked ... a butter worker, with paddles on, squeezed all the surplus water out of it, butter milk out of it, and then mother would make it all into pounds, or half pounds, and I started a butter round in Cartmel, in 1929. [29 mins] I was seven.
- ANO I was just going to say you were ...
- HT I was seven years old and I started a butter round, and not so very long after that, I started a milk round, and ... 'cos I was proud owner of the bike. From when I was five years old I had my first bike. I agree it was an old lady's bike, ... .. [?], but at least it would carry things like that. And it's a proud story of mine that the first customer was at ... now called the Pig and Whistle, it was called the Pig and Whistle then, the Devonshire Arms as it was, and I sold a pint of milk there, and three pence a pint was the going rate, and a man came in the other side, yer know, 'cos I went in this side and he came in the bar side, and it was just gone six o'clock, so they'd just opened, and he bought a pint of beer, out of a jug, for tuppence. And yer pint of beer now [1992] is one pound twentyish, and yer milk's about 33p, isn't it. [ANO : Yes, yes]. So I mean, I know there's a lot of tax [30 mins] in it, but it's still a matter of yer priorities are, I think.
- ANO [unclear whilst several audience speaking at once] ... milk and cocoa were the same price.

- HT Yea, yea. And there was the same thing about a loaf of bread, two pounds of sugar and a pint of milk, wasn't it ? They were all about the same, yer know, and then ... [?] afterwards.
- ANO Before you started your milk round, how did they get their milk ?
- HT From other people. I mean ... [ANO : there were milk rounds ?] yes, yes, I just ... random, and sort of began, and it was a very difficult thing because, yer see, in those days, it didn't use to keep too long, well, yea, there was no real disinfectant [ $\frac{1}{2}$  second break in recording] ... could very often be there. Yer know, where they left a jug, and there was any water, you always washed it before you put milk in, because they were rather careless, and ... but yer did go in the morning with half a pint and night again with half a pint, yer see, twice a day for one pint. It was the only way you could get in. And I gradually got on [31 mins] quite happily with a milk round.
- ANO And what did you manage if you had a big churn, and the ladle thing, you know, that you had got your half pints out of, on your bike ?
- HT No, no. Well, there was a big milk round in Cartmel as well, [unclear comment during audience laughter]. I'd have a gallon kit on one side, and a little sort of carrier on the back with a two gallon one on, and then I'd have one with a spout on, which I could keep dipping into the measure, and so they got either a pint or a half pint, and they wouldn't ... wouldn't let you guess. Oh God, no. You had to have it just right. It always had to fill the ... [?], yer know, come over the top on the flange. And one old lady used to say, if you don't spill it, I haven't had enough ! [laughter] And then things ... yer know, they did change, but of course, as far as I'm concerned, the biggest change was the war. Yer know, this really did alter things. They were difficult and bad years, [32 mins] which didn't affect us up here as much as it did the people down below. The big ploughing farms, yer know, all through Wiltshire and Cambridgeshire, yer know all those huge ... what they call prairies now, they really were, yer know .. yer used to have to pay a man to go and take the farm, you couldn't let them, yer couldn't get any ... and I mean the men on them didn't pay any rent, for a number of years, they had them, it was just keeping them together, that's all they wanted, because yer couldn't make any money out of it, it was ... When I first went to Liverpool, it wasn't how much you could make in a year, as how little you could manage to lose. And that was a fact. It was just absolute ... how little could you manage to lose. And ... this, of course, with the war coming along transformed the whole thing. But in those bad years, up here, there was always stock to sell, yer see. On those ploughing farms for corn they'd nothing, nobody wanted the corn, because the Americans were bringing it over, yer see, great ship loads off the prairies [33 mins] for less money than we could produce it here, as they would do today. It's only the fence, yer know, this ... [?] against the ... this present way of carrying on, because I think we ought to ... the only sensible thing is to be at world prices, isn't it, and if you're not, you're in cloud cuckoo land, ... ... [?]
- ANO I suppose this is why farming diversified, to have so many things, like pigs, they were ... .. [?] money, [HT : Yes, that's right, yes, yes] and what yer lost on one yer probably gained on the other hand, which overall, yer hoped at the end ...

HT One thing I discovered at Liverpool ... yer see we were in an area where there were a lot of pigs down there. Now I didn't have much room for pigs, and I couldn't afford to build a new building, but ... they used to get swine fever, these chaps, decimated, it would kill the whole lot, and I ... they didn't know what ... they couldn't take the little pigs onto that farm because of course, they would all have to be killed too. So they used to bring them to me, and I had the biggest barn in South West Lancashire. It was 38 feet [34 mins] wide and 125 feet long, and that was a very big barn. But it was just a bit wider, there were some the same length but mine was a bit wider. And of course we were combining by then, yer know, we'd got to combining all the corn, so there was only the straw ... used to pile that right round and fill it with pigs. And just throw them a bale of straw and they'd have it ripped. I had as far as 300 pigs in there, at one time, and I didn't pay for them, I just got them and I fed them. And I just threw the piglets into this straw, and I added a water trough where they could get a drink, and most piglets absolutely just looked after themselves, and when they came out, they were as clean as that table. Marvellous ... I wonderful thing is a pig, it will keep itself clean, and they made all their mess in one little corner, every bit. And then I used to sell them back to the fellars that ... and all I did was get the, yer know, the counter balancing money. They bought the pigs, and did them off with me, and then I wouldn't have to worry about the right price, yer [35 mins] see. And then of course they took them back to restock with. And it was ... it worked extremely well, it was a marvellous of doing ... There was one thing that I learnt there, and I think anyone with pigs will soon learn, you must never buy a dear little pig. We were paying about sort of £12 a head at 8 weeks old. Right.

ANO When was this ?

HT In 1950, in there.

ANO It weren't much different later, in 70s

HT Yea. Well, they got up to 16. I was getting ... a fellar had three or four sows and I used to get all his pigs off him, and they got up to £16 a head, and I said, no, I don't want any. He said, well they're better pigs. I said, I don't care. I said, you can't buy pigs for 16 quid. I said, they don't want to be more than 12 or else they can't pay. So anyway, he was stuck with a few so I had 10 or 12, yer see, and I gave him 16 apiece, and every one lost money. If you bought a dear pig, by the time it was [36 mins] ready to go, the bottom had gone out of the market, and they were worth nothing. It was ... never failed, and if they were giving little pigs away, yer know, 7 or 8 quid, go and buy all you could, because by the time they came round, they'd be wanted. It was a funny thing, and it didn't always work like that. It was sort of the opposite to what you would have thought, that's why ... but as you say, pigs always were ... [?], it was up or down, but I just kept those few, and didn't bother. And we ... we grew a lot of potatoes there, in Liverpool, 35 acres a year, about, and that was sort of a big deal.

ANO When did you go to TT in milk ?

HT I ... I've always been TT, because I started at Liverpool with just a few cows, just a few, there were some heifers and things, and I never had one that wasn't, you know, fully tested.

ANO When did they bring in bring in the ...

HT It actually came ... oh, oh, it began in ... immediately after the war, not long after the war. Tom Dixon, yer know, would be born at Pit [37 mins] Farm, I think, he moved up to Greenbank, and he was the first chap in this area, because he bought ... I don't know if you remember them, Raleigh made three wheeler vehicles, and three wheeler vans, like with a motor bike thing on the front, and he bought two of those, brand new, and he went to supply the hospitals, you know, round about. I suppose he would go to Ulverston, and High Cowley, and Meathop, yer see, especially where the TB people were, he supplied those because all of his cattle ... he had bought them in Scotland at a devil of a price, Ayrshires, and they were all TB free. They'd been tested and they were all absolutely ... and they were tested very very regularly, and so was his milk, and he had to have a fridge, yer see, and it all had to be properly fitted.

ANO That was 1946/7 ?

HT I guess in would be 46, yes, or 6 or 7.

ANO Which farm was that ?

HT That was at Greenbank farm. Mr Martin's there now, isn't he, well [38 mins] in fact the son of the Mr Martin that was there. And so, he was really the first to be absolutely clear, but it did begin then, that to ... yer know it gradually went on until ... 57 would be about the last of the ... 57 or 8 would be the last of the cows which were ... which could react, yer know, I mean, yes, we've all had an odd one, since, yer know, but a very very odd one. Touch wood, I never ever had one. I've had one that, the vet, when he did the test, said, this cow won't pass sometime, yer know, maybe the next test, or the one after that, or the one after that, and I didn't hang on to it, I got rid of it anyway, because we didn't ... one could start an awful lot more off, but we hadn't ... really there have been very very few, I think. And we're in to brucellosis now, yer see, that's that other thing.

ANO [39 mins] When did that come in ?

HT Oh ... about 20 years ago. But they didn't do a good scheme on that. They should have ... the old TB scheme was a good one, you knew where you were, I mean, you got a fairly reasonable compensation, and the cow went to be killed if it was ... if it was wrong. And so it was in your own interest to not have any, and so you didn't have any. Whereas the brucellosis was ... well after it used to spread a lot of, you know, bugs in the milk. But there's a funny and rather sad little story about that, you know. When they began all this pasteurising, they did it in Birmingham. And I got to know the medical officer of health there many years ago, and he was talking about this, he said, I don't agree with this ... I don't agree with it at all, pasteurisation, he said. Why not ? I said, well, when I milk, I can't give anyone glandular fever, because there's no brucellosis on my farm, absolutely none, nor has there [40 mins] ever been. So I said, that's OK. But I said, nine out of ten of the other farmers, and farmers that I know, haven't ever had a test. And we know that there is brucellosis knocking about, and its going into the factory, of course ... I mean, OK, so you take it up to a certain heat ... well, I mean, you run right headlong into human nature again, don't you, because the lad was laid out with the girlfriend last night, and he's got a bit late, and he hasn't been ... you know with pasteurisation you've got to milk ... have the milk at a certain heat for a given

time, and then cool it again. Well of course, he gets it warm, and doesn't think, oh damn it, she'll go mad, it'll do. And there have been more people in a hundred, in the Liverpool ... in the Birmingham area, who have had glandular fever, since pasteurisation, than there ever were before. You know it does ... I knew it happens, everybody knows it happens, and it was a ... [41 mins] why do they superheat milk, for one reason, so that it will keep longer, don't they, so that they can take to ... and they don't ... we used to have to throw it away. When I first went to Liverpool, the dairies threw it away, till they got to pasteurising. And you can't tell, has water been added, after it has been pasteurised. You can take cream out, put water in, pasteurise it, and you've done, as long as you leave the ... [?] at that level, yer know. And really, there was some of those big dairies in Liverpool, they made their ... they made their money on ... on that addition. Beggar of a job. No, I've always ... why not leave it alone ? I mean, the green top milk, I mean, its ... I reckon it was quite wrong. And why ... its always staggered me, why has fresh milk to be called untreated milk ? And why have fresh eggs to be called fresh eggs ? Because there isn't any difference, except one thing. About [42 mins] 40% of the eggs that you eat in this country now come from other parts of the world, a heck of a lot from Holland. Salmonella is endemic in the flocks in Holland. But ... what was her name ... she broke [unclear audience comment] almost broke ... well two of my particular friends who lived down in Kent ... they live in Australia now, but they lived in Kent at the time, and they'd built themselves up into real big poultry people, and she broke ... broke ... one man had worked 45 years from nothing, into a right good way of business, and built himself a nice house, and really a beggar, a workaholic, and it broke him, because they just ... that was it, they had to have so many killed. And I don't reckon he had it either, because there were so many people thought they had. It was a foolish silly thing to do, and it never should have happened.

ANO Could I ask you about the breed of cattle ... in the years that you ...

HT Well, Shorthorn. [43 mins] We had nothing really but Shorthorn, and a few Highlanders on Pit Farm. We had just a few black cattle, but mostly Highlanders up there, you know, with great big horns, and they ... funny ... a few would come in in winter time, and to get into the shibben door, they had to do like that with their heads, really funny to watch, but ... they were just a few that we had up there, not very many, but they were all Shorthorns really. And then ... there must have been a Friesian that came around somewhere, because we began to have some blue ones, as we called them, you know, light, lightish blue, and white, like a shorthorn but blue and white, you know, rather than brown or red and white, but they were all Shorthorns in here, and then they got a few Ayrshires, but ... Major Dixon had Ayrshires ... they were very very good milk cattle, but not very good for beef basically, they didn't get ... to the sort of ... they were built to produce milk and that's what they did, but ... [44 mins] and then, we started getting Friesians, and the old Friesian was a pretty rounded out sort of animal, now we've changed, and gone on to the Holstein, which sort of really Canada and America have developed the Friesian and they've gone for these big ... [?] cows, which give an immense amount of milk of course, good quality milk and a lot of it, and ... there's a little story about the ... all, most of the Scotsmen were red hot Ayrshire men, you know, and if they saw a black and white cow they'd think it was ... [?], you see, but they gradually began to change, you see, and one chap said to his neighbour, see you've got a couple of black and

white uns, you're going to follow the ... what ... those there ... oh no just keep those for swilling the units out. [laughter].

ANO If you were producing an awful lot of milk, what's happening now, because of the quota ?

HT The quota, yes. The quota is, yer know ... is it's own thing ... and ... [45 mins] but ... no ... it just means that you do need to keep less cows, actually, than ... than ... and these big cows are making the best possible use of the food, you know, they're becoming more like a manufactory, you know, they really do, and the ... [?] ... and breeding has been all important. Where ... well, we're sort of running around the ... well ... [one second break in recording at 45:26] ... and they know, they've them all written down from way back, and all these pedigree fellars have them, you can follow them right back ... older than a lot of their owners.

ANO When did the quota start ?

HT 83 wasn't it ? [background audience comments] I think it was 83. It was absolute nemesis, and the raving madness of the wildest sort. It couldn't possibly have been dafter than do that. Because we ... the time that they were introduced, we in Britain were producing about 79 to 83%, [46 mins] somewhere in that region, of our dairy product requirements, and we were importing almost all the rest from New Zealand, with a little bit of Danish butter, but not a lot, really. And then, at that time, France was producing 195%, Holland 240%, Denmark 185% ... [break in recording to change of side of cassette] But we accepted exactly the same quotas, and exactly the same co-responsibility level as them. But, it cannot be a common ... common market when those things are happening. I mean, it's got to be right for Fred as well as Joe, and, and yer know, this is what ... this is what infuriates us people here, 'cos it's so unfair, grossly unfair, that we should be having ... I mean, I reckon the chap who is over doing it, he should cut down a bit, and the fellow who's under doing it should be encouraged to go forward, and we just haven't been, and we are using ... You are banned. [47 mins] If you buy anything other than British ... and you have a devil of a job to buy British ... they all have a little sign on from original ... originally more than one country, ... [?], and it's ... You see, they're producing milk, we do know this, and if we sent our dairy people there, you know ... the girl that comes round to examine our plant and see how we clean, and that sort of thing, she wouldn't allow them to produce milk. They haven't ... they don't get up to the hygiene standards at all, make no attempt, you know. We ... we had a local one here, she's retired now, but she said, that having come back from a long tour of the continent, (she went on a study), she said I'll never ever eat any dairy product again that's come across that piece of water, 'cos she said that ... dreadful, dreadful. She said I wouldn't let my farmers produce milk like that, no way. And she'd been in several countries. But it ... I [48 mins] mean ... I wouldn't mind competing on the flat football field, but you know, you can't compete with these people when they've got all the advantages.

ANO [inaudible audience comment mentioning a referee]

HT Costs ... [?] between roughly ... and I know this, small producer, it's cost me roughly 60 ... between 45 and 60 pounds a week has been taken from me in co-responsibility levy, and I don't get a penny back. The ... [?], the Belgian, ... [?], they get it all back, as a living in the

countryside bonus, you know, to sort of stop them swelling the towns. So, I mean, that in itself is totally unfair, isn't it. It's a question of whether it can carry on, really.

ANO What does a farmer in this area, who's in that sort of a position, do to compensate for loosing out in that way ?

HT Well, what we've done ... we were a little bit unfortunate ... we'd just built the new farm at Lindale, you know, which was a ... [49 mins] At the time, it seemed a sensible enough thing to do, but as we went on, I'm not too sure now whether it wasn't a daft idea, 'cos it cost me a vast amount of money and ... but we just got moved, from the farm in the village at Lindale ... we could only milk 32 or 3 cows there, you see, which obviously ... my son was a ....[?], so there wasn't going to be enough to keep us both alive on, on that number of cows, necessary to go up, and I reckoned rather than open the buildings there, which is always the worst of both worlds, isn't it, because you've got half of what was and half of what should be. So we made a complete plan, absolutely new outfit right through, reasonably well planned, with one or two little things we didn't do right, but generally speaking it's worked out very well. But when we went up to sort of 80 cows, and we'd got to 82 when the quotas came in, which chopped us back to 70 cows [50 mins] immediately. Now the profit on the cows was the last 10 cows, all the others were working for somebody else. It was only the last ones that were working for me, and so they took those away. Now when we made all our agreements about building a new farm, I had some grant from the Common Market, you know, because it was a European thing. The idea was that you were going to make a place that could afford two wages, you know, on my size of thing so it would be two men's wages, and would pay for borrowing ... the necessary borrowing to build the place. And so, I worked it out ... my son by then had finished school so he worked it out, the Ministry worked it out, Brussels worked it out, and the bankers worked it out. There was about 300 quid between the lot of us. So it showed how accurately we had all worked it out, you know, we were all there ... what we were doing. And of course, [51 mins] the figures just went ... you know ... just ...

DV We're getting on to Lindale. Would you like to watch some pictures of Lindale.

HT Yes, yes. [cut in recording at 51 mins 8 secs; silent for 3 secs]

TS Interview ends at this point. [51 mins 14 secs]