

Cartmel Peninsula
Local History Society



CPLHS - Bringing History to the Local Community

Interview with Mary Martin

Mary Martin ('MM'), born Oct-Dec 1916

Interviewer : Denys Vaughan ('DV')

Date : January 1993

Location : Greenbank Farm

Recording duration : 37 mins 38 secs

DV Yea, say good afternoon to it.

MM Oh, good afternoon. [break in recording]

DV I'm talking to Mrs Mary Martin at Greenbank Farm in Cartmel, and I believe Mrs Martin, you were a Land Girl. [MM : Yes] How did ... and you were a city girl before that ? [MM : Yes] Which city ?

MM Manchester. I was born in Salford, [DV : Yes] but I worked in Manchester, [DV : Yes] I ... when I ... I sat the scholarship, [DV : Yes] and in between learning the result, my father died, [DV : Yes] and I passed to go to Pendleton High School for girls, well ... of course, then you had to pay for all your books, uniform and everything, [DV : Yes] so I never got there, mother couldn't afford to send me there, [DV : Yes] and ... that was in Salford. [1 min] [DV : Yes] Well, we moved to Monton Green, and we had a shop there. I went to Clarendon Road School, in Eccles. Well, when I left there at 14, which yer did then, [DV : Yes] I did 12 months at Underwood College in Manchester, doing business course, [DV : Yes] shorthand typing, billing machines, all of it. And my first job was with the Waldorf Restaurants and Toilet Saloons in Manchester, [DV : Yes, yes] and their office was in Brazenose Street, and I worked there for a while, it was very boring, [DV : ...[?] years ?] Oh not long, I was only there about 18 months, [DV : Yes] and I got offered a job at the ... what was called the S.P.B.A., it was short for Scientific Poultry Breeders Association, [DV : Yes] next to Manchester Cathedral [2 mins] at the corner of Cathedral Street it was, Hardy's Building. So I went there. And then the Waldorf asked me if I would go back, but during that time, in the shop, it was a sweets and tobacconists, a lady used to come in from Eccles, buying sweets and heaven knows what, and her husband was a turf accountant in Eccles. [DV : Oh yes, yes] And my sister was due to leave school, she was 3 years younger than me, [DV : Yes] and she asked mother if she would be interested in letting her work for her husband. [DV : Yes] But Elsie wasn't interested, but I was. I said, well, ask if I can go, I said, it sounds exciting.

DV You fancied working for a bookie ?

MM Well, I was there 7 years, [DV : Well] and the war broke out, so racing stopped, so then I was without a job. [DV : Yes] So, [3 mins] I went to one or two interviews, and the third interview I went to was at Muir Machine Tool Company, in Strangeways, right opposite Strangeways Prison, [DV : Yes] it was, a machine tool company, and I went there in the office. Well, by

then it had got to 19 ... well on into 1940, [DV : Yes] and the war was going on, and I thought, I'm not doing any good here to help the war effort, stuck in an office. So I pestered the boss to let me go, it was a reserved occupation with being machine tools, [DV : machine tools, yes] and I pestered him, I thought, I want to join the Land Army. [DV : Yes] so, he let me go eventually, and I got an interview to go in the Land Army, and that was it. The reason I was interested was because my father had a cottage in Derbyshire, and we used to spend a lot of time there. [4 mins] And I liked the country, yer know, going there. [DV : Yes] So, I thought I'd be going into market gardening, or something like that. [DV : Yes] Anyway, I was asked if I would come here, to Greenbank.

DV Did you know you'd have to leave home, and work wherever they wanted you ?

MM Oh yes, oh yes, I knew all that. [DV : Yes] And ... oh no, wait a minute, I'm getting ahead of myself, I wasn't coming here, I had to go to Harehills, at ... up through Newton there, Harehills Farm. Marsden's.

DV In this parish, in Cartmel parish ?

MM No. It's out of the parish. You go up through Newton. [DV : Yes] and the way on ...

DV Cartmel Fell way ?

MM Yes, [DV : I've got yer, right, yes] well, I was to go there for some training, and that was awful. Oh gosh, that was a terrible place.

DV Were you wearing yer thick green socks ... thick [5 mins] brown socks and yer big bag of riches and yer green jersey at that time, [MM : Oh yes] or did that come later ?

MM Oh yes. Yes. I think there were three of us there. The son met us at the station, Grange station, [DV : Yes] and took us up to the farm, [DV : Yes] and we were up about 5 o'clock every morning washing eggs. I thought, well, this is funny training for a farm, yer know. [DV : Yes] Anyway, one morning, the old lady Mrs Marsden said : Major Dixon wants a girl temporarily; his dairy maid wants a holiday. She'd asked me if I was interested. I said, well yes, I suppose so. She said, well I'll take you over there, to meet Major Dixon, which she did. I'd only been there a fortnight. And ...

DV [6 mins] And where was Major Dixon at that time ?

MM Here. [DV : He was at Greenbank ?] Here, oh yes. And, he asked me if I would mind working here in the dairy, for a couple of weeks. I said, no I don't mind. So that was it. That was beginning of April.

DV That was the first diary work you'd done ?

MM Yes. [DV : Yes] And Molly, whose place I was taking, was going off for a fortnight's holiday. She wasn't a Land Girl. [DV : She was a traditional farm girl ?] No. She was from Liverpool, [DV : Really] but she was ... how come she came to be here doing dairy work I don't know. Her father was a professor, [DV : Yes] at Liverpool University, [DV : Yes] Anyway, off she went on her holiday, and at the end of the fortnight, Major said : would you like to stay on ?

[DV : Yes] Well, there was a bathroom here, and that decided me. There wasn't a bathroom at Harehills. [DV : ah yes, creature comforts] [7 mins] Oh, it was awful at Harehills ... there was paraffin lamps, and it was cold, [DV : Yes] and gloomy and horrible. So I thought I was in heaven here.

DV You had a bad ... was that with hot water as well ... bathroom with hot water ?

MM Here ? [DV : Yes] Oh, it was all ...[?] as it is now. [DV : Pretty good] Oh it was all very modern. [DV : Yes] And, so I worked in the dairy for quite a while. And then the milk roundsman taught me to drive.

DV Now what did you drive ? I've heard it ... there was a rather funny vehicle that used to deliver milk in these days, what did you drive ?

MM Well ... cars. [DV : Just an ordinary car with a trailer ?] Just an ordinary car, with the milk in the boot [DV : with the milk in the boot, yes, right] Oh Yes. [DV : Yes] And ... I did Grange round. And some milk went to Barrow, but that ... that went on a ... [8 mins] a wagon, I think.

DV Did you put it on the wagon at the farm here, [MM : Yes] or did you take it to the train ...

MM It was TT milk. It was all very modern and up market here.

DV Yes. Was it already TT when you arrived ? [MM : Yes] Major Dixon was one of the first people to go TT wasn't he ?

MM Oh yes. Yes. It was an Ayrshire herd. [DV : Ayrshire] All Ayrshires. [DV : Yes, yes] And ...

DV So you learned to milk, and ...

MM With a machine. [DV : Yes.] Never hand milked. They had everything very modern. [DV : Yes] There were four milking machines ...[?] [DV : Yes] The first job they put me on though, with the cows, was washing the udders, [DV : Yes] and they ... they ... [laughs] ... at the end of the shiben ... [laughs] ... I didn't know, I didn't know anything about cows, I was a young ...[?], and I went along the road, [DV : To see what you could do] and when I got there, I thought this is a funny ... [9 mins] [unclear few words whilst laughing] [?] ... you silly lot, pulling my leg. [DV : Yes, yes] We had to wash them in, the ...[?], in disinfectant, [DV : Yes] and all the rest of it.

DV How many Ayrshires were you milking at that time ?

MM Well, there were ... now, how many ... there was a nine shiben, so there were nine there, there was a five shiben, that was fourteen ... I don't know how many there were in the top shiben, about ten, twenty four, and the long shiben, there'd be about fifty I should think.

DV That would be a pretty big, in fact a very big herd at the time.

MM Big herd. All the shibens were full.

DV So how many of you were there working at a milking ?

MM Well, George was the Cowman, [DV : Yes] and me. We did the milking.

DV What about Major Dixon, did he take part, or was he somewhere else ...

MM [10 mins] No. He used to take the Barrow milk, that was it. [DV : Ah yes] He used to take the Barrow milk, that was it. [DV : Yes, yes] And ... I did Grange. Well, John Dixon sold his round to Major, [DV : Yes] and I started taking that, and Philip, another roundsman, did Grange. [DV : Yes] But that was with a pony and float, Cartmel. [DV : Yes, yes] The pony was ...

DV Was that part of Greenbank's ...

MM Oh Yes, all Greenbank.

DV Yes. So really a very big herd. [another unclear comment after MM starts to reply]

MM Yes it was, a lot of us working here. There was me, there was George the cowman, there was Frank the horseman, there was a labourer ... how many have I said ... George, Frank, Philip, me, and when Molly came back, Molly, [DV : Yes] [11 mins] and the labourer.

DV So there was quite a lot of work to do.

MM Now all that, apart from the rounds, all that, equals what we send now, [DV : Yes] to the Milk Marketing Board, [DV : Quite a change] and there's only Roy and mi two sons, [DV : Yes, quite a change] now.

DV How did being in the women's Land Army affect your pay and conditions of work ?

MM Oh ! Oh well. [laughs] About two pound nine and six [£2/9/6] a week, and mi keep.

DV Now was that from Major Dixon, or was that from ...

MM Nothing to do with the Land Army. All I got from the Land Army was mi uniform, [DV : Yes] and mi dungarees. [DV : Yes] I had dungarees to milk and work in, [DV : Yes] and then going on the milk round I had knee breeches[?]

DV How did that compare ... well, I don't think it would compare with what you would have got as a valuable office person in Manchester, would it ?

MM Oh no comparison, [DV : No] no comparison. I mean when ... I was [12 mins] earning £4 a week, work or not, at the turf accountants, [DV : Yes] which was a lot of money then.

DV Yes indeed. It was more than my father was getting as a craftsman, at the beginning of the war.

MM Well, I was getting £4 a week, [DV : Yes] from 9 ... I went there ... I'd be about 18 I think, when I started there, all the years leading up to the war, I was there, and I was earning £4 a week nearly from the start. And often we didn't work because the racing was off, [DV : Yes, yes] in the winter.

DV And there would be a Manchester race track in those days ?

MM Oh yes there was, been there. [DV : Yes] And, mind you, I only worked from 11 till ... if there was a big meeting, Derby or something like that, we used to work a bit later in the evenings, [DV : Yes] and of course we worked Saturdays, [DV : Yes, yes] all day Saturdays, not Sunday.

DV So really, you were making some financial [13 mins] sacrifices for your war effort ?

MM Well, I don't know, because I was getting mi keep, yer see. [DV : Yes, of course] £2/9/6 and mi keep. It never altered.

DV No. Were you ever home sick for Manchester ?

MM At first I was. Yes. At first, [DV : Yes] but I got used to it. Believe me, I'm jolly glad now that I came here.

DV Yes. So you'd be working virtually seven days a week with dairy work to do ?

MM Oh yes. Oh yes. Oh yes.

DV What time did your typical day end ?

MM Well, there again, if we were harvesting, or hay timing, it'd be till midnight many a time, [DV : Till the work had finished] but normally, it would be between six to half past, [DV : Yes] and we started at six, [DV : Yes] in the morning, [DV : Yes] and we had ... well, I was always the last in for breakfast because I had to finish putting the milk up, [DV : Yes] and they'd be all in, [DV : Yes] and some [14 mins] times I'd be lucky.

DV Who provided your breakfast ?

MM Well now, we all lived at that end, [DV : Yes] that was the servants' end, Major lived at this end. [DV : Yes] When I first came, there was no porch on there, [DV : Yes] and there was ... where that cupboard is in the sitting room there, there was a doorway through. [DV : Yes] It's all one house really, yer see, [DV : Yes] and we used to run the backwards and forwards, Molly and I, but Molly left after a bit, and ...

DV Did you take it in turns to do the ... to be ...

MM She never took milk out on the round, I did, but she never. She was always in the dairy. [DV : inaudible comment] And then I started doing Major's office work.

DV Yes, and that went on for some time, didn't it. [MM : Eh?] And that went on for some time. [MM : inaudible comment] It was you that signed the letter to me in 1965. [MM : Yea] [15 mins] Yes.

MM Yea, I did all his office work. [DV : Yes] In fact, I've still got the typewriter I had then.

DV What did you do for relaxation in this valley in the war time years ?

MM Oh you must be joking !

DV I'm thinking about your Saturday nights.

MM Well there was ... I mean ... when I say you must be joking, there was tons going on. [DV : Yes] There was soldiers parked on The Park, living on The Park, [DV : Holker Park ?] on the race course, [DV : Oh, Cartmel Park, gottcha, right] there were soldiers there, the Air Force was down at Flookburgh, [DV : Yes] the military officers were at the Merlewood, [DV : Yes] and the air force officers were at The Grand, [DV : Yes] and there were dances all the time, [DV : Yes] and the pub, the Kings, was a meeting place for them all. [DV : Yes] It was lovely. [DV : Yes, yes, yes] It really [16 mins] was. Yer worked hard but yer had ... yer were able to play as well.

DV So what time could you get down to the pub in a Saturday night ? About 7 or 8 o'clock, or something like that ? [MM : Oh yes, yes] And did they keep strict hours in those days ?

MM Oh yes, yes, they did. [DV : So ...] And all the villagers were lovely, [DV : Yes] they really were a treat, lovely to get on with.

DV That's nice. So you had a big choice of dances, didn't you. It would all be live music in those days, I guess.

MM Oh yes. Sid Banks and his ... whatever he called them, I've forgotten what he called them.

DV Sid Banks, my goodness. [laughs] [MM : Do you know of him ?] I've ... oh, I've danced to Sid ...[?], [MM : Well he used to play] Sid Banks, very strict tempos Sid Banks. There was a girl called Jeanette who was at school at the same time as Lloyd I think. [MM : Oh yea] Lloyd was nice.

MM Yea, oh yea. But, after a couple of years, well no, it [17 mins] wasn't a couple of years, I met Roy, didn't I.

DV Now how did you meet Roy ?

MM Well, he came here as the horseman, [DV : Yes] and Frank left, yer see ... no he didn't, what did he come here ... anyway, Major wanted him to work here, and he came. He'd been working at John Dixon's, Roy had, [DV : Yes] and he went up to Burns Farm to see Roy to ask him to come here.

DV Yes. Was John Dixon at Burns Farm in those days ? [MM : Who ?] You said John Dixon ... Roy was working for John Dixon.

MM Roy worked for John Dixon, but he was at home, at Burns Farm, when Major went to see him. That was Roy's home.

DV Oh, that was Roy's home. [MM : Yes] So Roy's father was farming there was he ?

MM Well, his brothers were. [DV : his brothers] his elder brothers, [DV : I see] they were a good bit older than him, [DV : Yes, yes, yes] and he asked him to come here, which he did, [DV : Yes] and he hadn't been here terribly long before we were going out together. [DV : Yes, yes] [18 mins] So we've been together really, 50 years.

DV You have. So what year did you get married then ?

MM 1947. [DV : 47] I haven't told yer that I was already married, yer see, I had to wait for a divorce, [DV : Oh I see, I see] and ... [DV : So you weren't a war bride ?] Oh no.

DV Yes. So you would still have to house keep in days of rationing, [MM : Oh yes] in 1947. Rationing went on for some time, didn't it, after the war was over, it went on ...

MM Oh yes. Well here ... when we first married, we were living at the ... well, we were at ... Roy and his parents were living at ... when I first came here, Roy was living at Burns farm with his parents, right. [DV : Yes] Well, they left there and went to Sturdy's Farm, [DV : Yes] and I was going backwards and forwards to work from there. [DV : Yes] Well, the bungalow became empty, Mrs Greyrigg's daughter [DV : Yes] had been [19 mins] living there, and they moved. [DV : Yes] And when we got married, we lived there with Roy's mother and father, [DV : Yes] in the bungalow. [DV : Yes, I see] So I was still working for Major ...

DV So you were working for Major and being a housewife as well ?

MM No. His mother was doing most of the ... 'cos I was out, yer see, working. [DV : Yes] But, I wasn't doing that long before I became pregnant with Howard, [DV : Yes] so I finished it.

DV Yes. So you gave up the farm work then ?

MM I wasn't working ... oh, this is all very confusing really ... we got married in 1947, right. About ... when would it be, he, Major bought Longlands, I ...[?] have to tell you this, I've lost the track of [20 mins] the years ... anyway, he asked Roy, we were at the bungalow about 18 months, [DV : Yes] we were married and at the bungalow. And when he bought Longlands, he asked Roy if he would go down there and run it for him. And I didn't want to go because I loved Greenbank. [DV : Yes] Anyway, he persuaded us to go, and we were down there 14 years. [DV : That's quite a long while] Yes. [DV : Yes] And then the vet was here, yer see, living in, then the ..., [DV : Henderson ?] Bill Hodgson was next door, [DV : Yes] sort of care-taking if you will, [DV : Yes] 'cos there was nothing going on on the farm really, it was all coming from Longlands then, [DV : Yes] and Henderson was here, [DV : Yes] and Illingworth, [DV : Did Illingworth live here ?] Yes. [DV : Well, that's interesting] He was here quite a while, he was the first one, Henderson. And [21 mins] that other Scot ... Angus Carmichael, [DV : No, I didn't ...] Didn't yer know him ? [DV : I didn't come across him] He was here. [DV : No, no] And in the end, Major said I think I'll let it as a farm, the whole lot again, [DV : Yes] And Roy said, well, you needn't look far for a tenant, not really thinking anything would come of it, and Major let us take it on.

DV So do you remember what year that was ?

MM Now then, we were married 47 .. 48, 49 ... 62 we came here. [DV : 62, yes, yes] We came back.

DV Was Major quite happy to let Roy go, because I know he thought very highly of him.

MM Oh, Roy did a lot for him even so.

DV Well yes, I wondered about that. [MM : Oh, he kept on ...] He would still be there for his advice [MM : Yes] and the odd jobs. He thought of him very highly as a horseman, when he talked to me. [MM : Oh yes, he did]

MM [22 mins] So that's about it, we're still here.

DV So when you came back in 62 to set up as ... set up your own business, were you still with Ayrshires ?

MM Oh no, oh no. No, I can't remember what kind they were. [DV : Friesians ?] No. [DV : Shorthorns ?] I think he had one or two Shorthorns and the odd Friesian.

DV Yes. Anyway, if I can talk to Roy sometime he can ... [MM : Yes, you'll have to ask him] Did you do any of the traditional farmer's wife things like keeping poultry, and keeping pigs, when you came back in 62, or had all that got to be too much.

MM They had pigs up at the bungalow, [DV : Yes] but Roy looked after all that sort of thing, [DV : Yes] and ... we had hens down at Longlands.

DV Was that your enterprise, or did you do it together ?

MM No, Roy did it. [DV : Yes. yes] Well, I had the children [23 mins] nearly ...[?] [DV : Yes, yes] And I was doing ... I mean, Roy's mother and father lived with us down at Longlands, [DV : Yes] so I had enough on my plate really.

DV But you still found time to ... to take boarders, 'cos that ...

MM That was when I came back here. [DV : Yes, back here] Well, that all started very peculiarly because, it was April when we came back here. We were putting a bed up in the middle bedroom, and it was just before Easter, and this elderly man and a younger man came to the front door. I looked through the window and saw them there, so I came down stairs, and they said, "Do you take visitors ?" Oh no, we've only just moved in. [DV : Yes] "Well, you should do". I said "Why ?" He said, "It's beautiful up here", [DV : Yes] "it's just the spot". I said I'd never even thought of it. Well, he said "Think about it, and I'll come and see ...[?]". He said [24 mins] "Think about it and I'll come and see you at Easter". [DV : Yes] Alright. Anyway, he rang up. He said, "Have you thought about it ?". I said "Well, if you're ... if you don't mind putting up with me, 'cos I've never done it", [DV : Yes] I said, "you're welcome to come". [DV : Yes] Well, that was it, wasn't it.

DV So you just sort of stumbled into that ?

MM Yes. I'd no intention of taking visitors.

DV Well, that was how I came across you, if you remember. I don't know if you remember Geoff Leecy from Manchester, [MM : Oh yes, it was through them that you came] That's right. Well Geoff was on at me, oh, you want to come and stay with our friend Mrs Martin, [MM laughs] so we did, and it was really through you that led to us getting Hampsfield. [MM : Yes, it was nice, it was me that, ...[?] gave me £5 !] [both laugh] Well, it was ... it was ... it was a good job for it changed our way of life. It changed our way of life entirely.

MM You've not regretted it ?

DV Not a bit, no, [25 mins] not a bit, never, no, no. So it's ...life has some strange pathways, doesn't it. [MM : Yes, yes, it has] Did you ever come across travelling salesmen and hawkers, and ...

MM Oh, there'd be the odd gypsy come to the door, but that's all, and in the past few years, there's been these men ... [DV : Animal health and that sort of thing ?] No, the ... [DV : Feed ?] doing the ... [DV : Tarmac ?] Tarmac, [DV : Oh yes, yes] and that's about it. [DV : Yes, yes]

DV So where did you always do your shopping when ...

MM Oh Grange. Grange and Cartmel really. And Ulverston, I used to go to Ulverston once a week, and get ... well, usually on Thursday when the auction was on. [DV : Yes, yes] I used to get all mi shopping in Ulverston, the main shopping, [DV : Yes] for mi visitors, [DV : Yes] and I'd ... [26 mins] and I used to do it in Cartmel as well. [DV : Yes] And that was something else, I worked in the shop for a while. When I stopped helping Major ... when I started with the babies, once I'd started with the babies, I helped in the Post Office.

DV Whose was it then ?

MM Teasdales. [DV : Still Teasdales then ?] Yes. [DV : Gosh] Stuart, and old Harry. [DV : Yes] I worked there.

DV You ought to write a book, really, about your life in Cartmel. You ought to write a book anyway.

MM Well, it's funny you should say that, because Major's daughter once said that to me. [DV : and she's a ...[?]] [both speaking at once] ... write a book. [DV : I'm sure you could] No, I don't think so. [DV : Yes] She did a bit of writing. [DV : She did, Rose Mary Alexander] Yes, that's right. [DV : Yes, yes]

DV What sort of things would you go to Ulverston for that wouldn't want to buy in Ulv ... in Cartmel or Grange ?

MM [27 mins] Meat, beef. [DV : Yes] I used to go Tudors[?], [DV : Yes] and I used to ... I used to get mi week's meat, [DV : Yes] for the visitors, [DV : Yes] and I was treated very well. They gave me the best ... I paid for it ... but everything was lovely. [DV : Yes] But ... and I went regular, every week, in fact, it's very rarely I get to Ulverston now, but I was there about six months ago, and still the same couple serving in the shop. [DV : Is that right ?] Yes. I popped mi head in. I said "Remember me ?". Oh yes, we see you walking past. I thought, you don't, yer know. [both laugh, with unclear comments]

DV Did you ever take anything to market when you worked for Major, or when you had your own business ? [MM : No] You never took stuff to Ulverston or Barrow, apart from milk ?

MM Roy did, Roy did. [DV : Did he ?] He would ... the beef, yer know.

DV As a carcass or [28 mins] as a live animal ?

- MM As a live animal, sold in the auction. [DV : Yes] And, they go to Kendal as well. [DV : Yes, yes] Kendal and Ulverston.
- DV I was thinking more of things like eggs, and ...
- MM Oh, well those were collected. [DV : People came ...] around ... now ... forgotten his name ... [DV : Wasn't Eggie Cooper was it ?] He used to pick up the eggs every week ... I can't remember his name. [DV : Not Cooper ?] Was it Coopers, [DV : From Ulverston] I can't remember. Roy'll remember. [DV : Yes, he would, yes] Those were Roy's eggs, yer know, eggs, they weren't Major's. [DV : Yes] And we stopped having pigs when we went down to ... when they let the bungalow. [DV : Yes]
- DV Thinking back to the Women's Land Army ... [29 mins] you obviously got the uniform out of it, but did you ever formally leave the Women's Land Army ? Did you get signed out at any time, or did it just fizzle out ?
- MM Not really, not really. [DV : You're still in probably then !] I probably still am. [DV : Still in in a book in London] I've got a certificate of ... now what was it ... a diploma, [DV : Yes] after so many years, but I was working in the Land Army a year or two after that. I think it was after five years. I've got it ... I've got it somewhere. [DV : Oh well that's nice] About four years ago, Roy's younger than me, he's five and a half years younger than me, well ... in the paper ... Lloyd said two or three times, you should apply for this mother, he said, you're entitled to it. The unemployment people were advertising that [30 mins] women older than their husbands, born on a certain date, [DV : Yes] it was certain sections 'cos they'd already paid one month out, ...[?], but ... it's nothing to do with farming really, they ... he said you ought to apply for this, he said, you'll get something. I said, oh, I can't be bothered, it's nothing much. Anyway, [DV : But you never know, you never know] Well, he ... he saw the advertisement again. And I said, oh well alright. He said, well, this is your last chance, you've got to do it by such a date. So I rang up, and they said, well, we want you to Barrow, we want your ... any references you have from when ... we want the details of where you've worked. So, I still have the reference from the turf accountant, [DV : Mmm] I still have the one from Muir's, [DV : Mmm] and I've also mi certificate of ... mi [31 mins] diploma in the Land Army. [DV : Mmm] So I sent all those. [DV : But those are all contributions, aren't they] Yes, yes. [DV : You've paid in to all those] I said, I can't send any proof of working at the Waldorf, 'cos I haven't got it, [DV : Mmm] or the S.P.B.A., but I can send yer, which I did, which I'd told him. And eventually, they sent me over £1,000. [DV : Oh, that was very ...] [both laugh, with unclear comments] [DV : Well I hope you gave Lloyd £5] I did, I did, a tenner. [DV : Oh, well that was nice] Oh yes, yes. No, I've never regretted, at home.
- DV No. It's fallen out nicely for you, hasn't it. [MM : Yes] I didn't ask you if you had any connection with church or chapel in this valley. [MM : Well ...] Did you go to church regularly ?
- MM I don't now. I don't now. [DV : But did you when you first came ?] Oh no, because we were working, weren't we ? [DV : Of [32 mins] course you were, yes]
- DV What about socials, things like harvest suppers ?

MM I was in the Mother's ... mind you, the Mother's Union wasn't then. I wasn't in it then, but I have been in the Mother's Union. [DV : Yes] But ... is that on or off ?

DV It's on.

MM Well switch it off a minute. [break in recording]

DV What I was really looking for was ... was the ... was the church important for social life for young people, at the time when you first came here ? Harvest ... [MM : Well ...] things like regular harvest suppers, or anything like that ? Not as important as the ... The Grand, and the ... [MM : No] the Sid Banks affair. Right, yes, that's fine. [break in recording]

DV I think you've more or less covered my list there. I can't think of anything else. Is there anything else that you can think of that you would regard as significant, worth recording ?

MM Well, not really. There used to be a couple ... a couple lived up Netherwood Drive, the Netherwood [33 mins] Hotel Drive, there's a house up there, and one of those ladies supervised the Land Girls in this area.

DV I think I know the two ladies you mean. They drove a Land Rover about, didn't they ?

MM It's a long while ago, but yes. [DV : I can remember] Well, she used to come to see how things were, yer know, ...[?]

DV Was she connected with the War Agricultural Committee ?

MM I think so. [DV : That sort of thing] Something like that. [DV : Yes] And ... before her though, there was a Mrs ... do you ... would you know the Smalleys ... [DV : I've heard the name, Smalley] Well Mrs Smalley came. [DV : Constance Dixon talked about the Smalleys] Ah, well Mrs Smalley came once or twice, but mainly it was the one in Grange, [DV : Yes] that used to come. I can't think of anything else, really.

DV Well, I was asking you about rationing. Did [34 mins] rationing affect you ? [MM : Well ...] You were in a food producing business, were you much affected by rationing ?

MM Well, you were ... you were allowed extras, working on a farm. Not much, but there was extra. At harvest time, and hay time, you had to apply for it, because of the longer working hours. [DV : Yes] But, the cowman's wife looked after us all. [DV : Yes] She did all the cooking, [DV : Yes] the cleaning, the washing, everything. And we all lived next door, [DV : Yes] all except Watts[?] who lived up at the bungalow. [DV : Yes] Frank, who was a horseman when I first came, he lived up at the bungalow. But then when he left, Major let it to ... Mrs Kerr was there first. Her husband was a Colonel in the army. She was from Liverpool. [DV : Yes] And she'd two children. She was there.

DV Did petrol rationing ever bother you during the war, or ...

MM Well, we had extra [35 mins] petrol for delivering milk and so on, so it didn't. We had ... there were no problems there. We had extra coupons. [DV : Yes] That was when it was two and eleven pence halfpenny [2/11½] a gallon.

- DV What about clothes rationing ? Did that ever bother you ?
- MM Well, I had mi uniform, [DV : Yes] yer see, that was on top of clothes rationing, [DV : Yes] so I was OK for that. [DV : Yes] I'd plenty of coupons for clothes.
- DV Yes, that's good. Did Major have a tractor here, [MM : Yes] at the time.
- MM Oh no. There weren't tractors then, no, horses. [DV : You were on horses ?] Roy was the horseman. [DV : Yes, yes] Ploughed, two horses. [DV : You did some ploughing on Greenbank ?] Roy did, yes. [DV : Yes, yes. I look forward to talking to him about that] Oh yes, it was all ploughed. He did all the ploughing, Roy.
- DV Yes. Well, you've gone through my list there, Mrs Martin. That's excellent. [36 mins] I hope we've got it all in the can. [break in recording – tape silent for 5 seconds]

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- DV After we'd finished that recording, we talked about Mrs Martin's deteriorating eye sight. She's having trouble with cataract in her right eye, and she explained that her left eye had a detached retina. This was diagnosed in the 1940s, 1950s, by Mr Codaleni[?], the ophthalmologist in Barrow. And the apparent cause was a traumatic dental extraction, when she went to the dentist with tooth ache, and came out with most of her back teeth removed at one go. She said she didn't know anything about dental treatment, or what she needed, she took the dentist's advice, and he removed her teeth and detached her retina at the same time. A couple of day's later, after the [37 mins] recording, Mrs Martin telephoned on a couple of points, and I think I must add that she was anxious that I should not get the impression that once she and Roy set and they had their family, that she didn't do any more work in the dairy. She said she's always been a dairy maid, right through her life. She probably still is helping in the dairy now, and she didn't want me to think she was a lady farmer's wife. Well, there's certainly no chance of that. I think Mrs Martin gets up with the birds, and goes to bed a considerable amount later. There's never any suggestion of anything like that.

[recording finishes at 37 mins 38 secs]