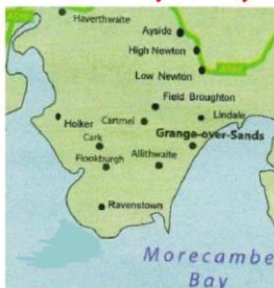


Cartmel Peninsula
Local History Society



CPLHS - Bringing History to the Local Community

Interview with Maurice Unsworth

Maurice Unsworth ('MU'), born Oct 1918, with wife Edith ('EU') making mostly inaudible background comments

Interviewer : Dr Malcolm W. Arthurton ('MA'), born 2nd Qtr 1918

Date : not recorded, probably Jan/Feb 1999 [certainly pre 3 Mar 1999]

Recording duration : 56 mins 56 secs

[recording started during informal chatter]

MA ... today, isn't it, at least it was alright in the afternoon, it was terrible when I went into Kendal this morning. Right, we'll just try that. So now while we're talking, it will come through on there quite satisfactorily.

EU And how long is this ... [break in recording]

MA ... to do this. I think probably, if I just ask you one or two leading questions, and then we can develop it from there. Now, you told me that you were born in Cartmel. [MU : Yes] When were you actually born, do you mind telling me that ?

MU Yes. October. [MA : Yes] October 1918.

MA That's right, I remember you mentioning ... mentioning that your father, was it, who died ...

MU Yes, born at Glenlea. I was born here.

MA Yes, and he died in ... ?

MU He died in February 1919, [1 min] [MA : Yes] in the flu epidemic.

MA Yes, I remember. This impressed me very much because, as a medical student, we were told about this epidemic, you know, what a catastrophic effect it had on ... on, well, the world generally. [MU : Yes] Do you know ... do you remember much about your ... your early childhood in Cartmel, and things that impressed you much ? [break in recording] Yes.

MU Mi grandparents. [MA : your grandparents came] from Accrington, [MA : about 1860¹ , you said] ... and then they lived up at where Dr Atkinson lived,

MA Oh yes, I remember, yes, I know where you mean.

¹ Circa 1890 more likely. First appearance of the Unsworth family in Cartmel census records was in 1891, when Maurice's grandfather, Robert Hugh Unsworth aged 50, his wife Mary aged 55, and son Robert Percival Unsworth aged 19, were all living at a house named Hill Villa.

- MU and then they moved to Ivy Cottage², [MA : Yes], which now of course is Ivy House, isn't it now like, [MA : Yes, yes], and then they moved down here to Glenlea, [MA : Yes], I don't know when, but I should think about 1910, or something like that I would think.
- MA Yes, [2 mins] I see. And did you go to school in Cartmel ?
- MU Aye, for the first couple of years or so, I went to [MA : the Primary School ?], then I went ... then I went to Milnthorpe, [MA : I see] stayed with mi auntie, [MA : I see] during the holidays ... during the school time, and came home for holidays, [MA : Oh, I see, yes, I see] and left school and came back here.
- MA Yes. When did you actually leave school, you know, complete your education ?
- MU Oh, I'd be 15, 15, [MA : Yes, finished school about 15, yes, I see], or was it 16.
- MA And could you tell me about your, sort of how you ... what you did after that ... sort of ... what you first did when you left school ?
- MU Well, of course, I was drafted down into the garage. [MA : Aye, that's what I hear you did, yes, I see] Mi brother³ started a garage up here, [MA : Yes], at Glenlea, [3 mins] 1922, [MA : Yes] you see he served his time at Vickers,[?] at Barrow, as an engineer, and then he left there, he'd be 22 anyway, [MA : he would be your ...] eldest brother, [MA : eldest brother, Yes, I see], there were four of us, four brothers, [MA : Yes], he was the eldest, I was the youngest, [MA : Yes], and ... we ... we left there and started ... started up at the garage and a taxi. [MA : that was what, here ?] Here, at Glenlea. [MA : I see] Model T Ford, with a hood on it, [MA : Yes] which also had an interchangeable body, to put a little flat on it, y' took the body off the rear part and put a flat on it, I remember all that. [MA : Yes] I even [4 mins] remember the number of the vehicle.
- MA Yes, I see, that's very interesting. So you actually worked there, did you ?
- MU I worked ... no, well, they moved ... [MA : You moved from there ?] Yes, he moved from there. He had up there the garage, and he also had a ...[?] at Ennerigg. [MA : Oh yes] It was a barn in them days, [MA : Oh], yer know, which is, yer know next to Ennerigg Cottage, or Ennerigg House. [MA : You had a garage there ?] Aye, as well. [MA : As well ?] As well, and there. And then the ... [MA : I see] And then the ... they sold ... mi mother ... mi mother sold ... they sold Glenlea, [MA : Yes] and moved into The Square, [MA : I see] at Tarragon, well it was Tarragon but it was the old guest house, [MA : Yes] [sound of shuffling papers][?] connected with the Priory, and it was supposed to be [MA : Yes] the old guest house, for the ... for the Priory, and she [5 mins] opened next, which is the Tarragon now, opened that as a shop. [MA : It was a bakery, wasn't it, at one time ?] No, it was more ... well, food [MA : Yes]

² Confirmed by 1901 census, by which time Maurice's grandmother Mary was a widow aged 65, and Maurice's father aged 29 was still living there with his new bride, Sarah Ellen Unsworth neé Moorhouse aged 22, whom he had married in 3rd Qtr 1900. All 3 of them were still at Ivy Cottage at the time of the 1911 census, with 1 year old son Arthur, whilst eldest son Ernest was away at boarding school in Arnside.

³ Eldest brother Ernest was born 4th Qtr 1901; he died aged 59 in Sept 1961.

and sweets, [MA : Yes, a confectioners] Confectioners, that sort. [MA : Yes. I see] Opened that, and we lived there ...

MA And where were you working when ...

MU Ah, well I didn't start 'till nineteen thirty ... what ... four. [MA : At the garage ?] Aye, yes, when I left school. [MA : Yes, I see] And of course, that was ... that was then where John Coward is now. [MA : Yes, yes, yes, I see] There were two petrol pumps there, [MA : Yes] inside ...[?] I often think about that. He had a terrible job to get a petrol pump, and he managed to get two pumps, [MA : Yes] through the ... well ...

MA You had things like Red Lion and Pratts ?

MU That's right. [6 mins] I can remember him bringing ... Pratts wagon come to Glenlea, with 2 gallons cans, [MA : Yes] you know, everything was canned then, [MA : Yes] we used to have cans at Glenlea.

MA Pratts was supposed to be the superior, wasn't it ?[?] [another comment whilst MU starts speaking]

MU Aye, Pratts. And of course, it was taken over by Esso, was Pratts. [MA : Eventually, yes, I see, yes] And of course he moved ... well, when we left Glenlea, well ... he must have bought a large ... it was a large wooden building, and he had that down at the entrance to what is now the village hall. The village hall wasn't built then. That was in 1926.

MA I see. So, this ... this wooden structure ... what was this ? Was this a garage as well, or ... ?

MU What, this wooden building ? [MA : Yes] Yes, he used that [7 mins] as a garage. [MA : So ... so he'd got several places ?] No, well, oh this had gone. [MA : The other had gone ?] Oh, This had gone.

MA I see. Was that .. that was ... was that before he went into the Coward area, or ... ?

[parts of next exchange unclear due to both speaking at once]

MU Ah yes. Oh yes. That was ... [MA : the Coward area] ...[?] was the village hall. That was the last stop, yes. [MA : I see] That was the last ... [MA : Yes, I see, yes, yes, I see. I wanted to get the sequence] Went down there in 1926, [MA : what the ... ?] down to the park gate, ...[?] Park Gate it was called. [MA : Yes, I see. And then ultimately ...] The village Hall was built, of course.

MA Yes ... so 1934, the garage, was it, is that right, yes, that's when you went there, I think you said ? [MU : Yes ... about 33, 34.] And that went on until ... functioned as a garage until, what, [8 mins] when I came here I think, [MU : Yes] about 5 years ago, and they had to close it because of the ... the ...[?] [MU : Yes] safety ...[?]

MU That's right, the petrol. Well of course, all of that petrol came later. [MA : Yes, oh yes] We just had ... it's a bit difficult probably, but, we just had them ... where John Coward is now, [MA : Yes] we'd a couple of petrol pumps inside [MA : Yes] 'cos we weren't allowed,

[MA : Yes] we weren't allowed to fill a car up on outside, [MA : Yes] you weren't ... you weren't allowed to show a ... you weren't allowed to advertise petrol, and you weren't allowed to ... to export a petrol pipe outside on the road.

MA I see. Now was that [MU : That was very very strict] was that because of the strong feelings of the village about this ?

MU No. I think it was just Lancashire County Council. [MA : Really. You ^[9 mins] weren't allowed to ...] No, but we never ... we always did. [MA : Yes] We always did. [laughs] [MA : I see. So the pumps were inside] Yes, two pumps [MA : I see. This is very interesting] Very difficult, very difficult it used to be, yer know, I mean, yer t' drag them out. [MA : Yes, quite a palarver, so you had ... yes] And then, of course, he bought like, he bought that, that garage, and then eventually he bought next door, which was the barn, [MA : Yes] which was a barn, [MA : That's where the tea shop is, is it ?] Yes. And then that's where we [MA : Yes] put the petrol pumps, [MA : Yes, outside, eventually] outside, yes.

MA Yes, yes. Outside, yes. Yes, it's interesting, isn't it, how things change. And then, as I say, that functioned as a petrol supply garage and ^[10 mins] repairs, until, well, it would be as far as the petrol went, until ...

MU Yes, and then we closed the booth down ... we moved down into the ... and then, about what 19... [inaudible background prompt] ah yes, [sound of shuffling papers] I am aren't I, [inaudible background comment] And then in ... [24 secs silence whilst finding a reference] ah yes, in ... before the war, 19.., about 1937/38, the ... ^[11 mins] the yard ... no at the bottom there, the yard, the big yard ... [MA : Yes, yes] well ... and the, what is the house now, Wayside, [MA : Yes] well, that became available. [MA : Yes] The ... the joiner, Mr Gray, Billy Gray, he ... he ceased trading, [MA : Yes] and mi brother ... mi brother bought the house ... bought the whole block, the ... [MA : So you extended ?] Extended, and then everything ... then the, what is it, went down there then, the repairs went down, [MA : Yes] went down there ...

MA I see. You were doing the repairs ... before that, you were doing the repairs where ?

MU Tom[?]. Before we got the yard, we were doing them where John Coward is now.

MA Oh I see. Oh I got you. Yes. I see what you mean, just moved sort of. [MU : Yes] I see, yes, yes. ^[12 mins] And that went on until ... and then eventually some sort of safety regulations came in did they ?

MU Ah, for the petrol. [MA : the Petrol] and so we had to [MA : stop] cease retailing petrol. [MA : that was ... you stopped that in ...] That would be ... [background prompt from EU] five years ago.

MA I think it was just about the time we came here, because I remember the pumps were functioning, and then when we moved here, they weren't functioning. [MU : Aye, yes] So , we came in 80 ... 94, [MU : Yes] so it would be about 5 yeas ago. [MU : It would be about 5 years ago] Yes, yes. [pause] So, then, how long did you ... how long did you ... before you retired ? You carried on working at ...

MU Well, I was ... I went there when I was ... well I was near enough 16. I went there then, until I retired when I was 65. [13 mins] So that's ...

MA So you had quite a long innings, yes. [MU : All mi life, really] Yes, that's 50 years, yes. [MU : Sort of ...] So you ... and you were doing ... you were doing quite a lot a vehicle work, were you, yourself, I mean ?

MU No, not a big lot. Did a bit, not a lot. [MA : Yes, I see] I did mostly the books, [MA : Oh, I see] mostly the books, and driving, [MA : Yes] [EU prompts 'taxiing'] taxiing, [EU : yer had a coach, hadn't yer] yer see, we had ... we'd three or four taxis all the way along the line ...

MA Yes, I see. So you had ... so the number of people working there would have been ... there's yourself ...

MU What do you mean ... before the war, or ... [MA : Before the ... yes, before the second war there was you ...] and mi brother [MA : one brother ?] There was Eddie [inaudible background prompt] and Ebbie[?], there'd be four, four of us, [14 mins] there'd be four [more inaudible background prompts]

MA Yes, so a staff of four altogether ? [more background prompts] Yes, I see, that's interesting.

EU Then yer had a coach, hadn't yer, and yer had a bus ...

MU Ah, but we're going ... ah, we're going post war now though. This is just between the wars.

MA Yes, yes, I see. Anyway, we went on till, let me see ... so you were ... oh you were born about the same time as I was, [MU : Yes] yes, so you're 80 now, aren't you, [MU : Yes] so you've been retired about 15 years. [MU : Pardon, yes, yes] So have I.

MU We were just saying a week or two ago , that the first winter we retired, we ... we went to Minorca, [15 mins] [MA : Oh yes] it was on the 4th of January, for seven weeks, didn't we. [MA : Gosh] first time we'd been abroad. [MA : Yes, that's very interesting] Jolly good. You're not putting that in are you ? [laughs, and inaudible comment] [MA : Sorry] Well go on, you ...

MA Well, I just ... just ... just wondering if you've got any memories about sort of business generally in the ... in the Cartmel area, because there were quite a lot of shops in those days, weren't there ? [MU : Lot of Shops ?] Shops, in Cartmel, [MU : Yes] Quite a few, 'cos I can remember when there was a bank, [MU : Yes] and so on, and ... and ... what were your, I mean, your general ... what ... your general impressions about trade, prosperity, and so on ... what would you ... how would you rate Cartmel ?

MU Well, it was like ... I mean it isn't [16 mins] now any longer, is it, but in those days, it was like a self contained village, wasn't it. [MA : Yes, lots of shops] Yer know, I mean, we had ... like we had the garage, where we had petrol, [MA : Yes] across we had the Priory Shop, [MA : Yes] which, is as it is now, but more so then, with toys and all that sort of thing, [MA : Yes] we had the Larch Tree which was then was a café, [MA : Yes] a café and confectionery, [MA : Yes] then we had across the road, which is by the bridge, this side of the bridge, [MA : Yes] we had Miss ... [MA : where the antique shop is ?] well no, before ...

ah, what's the antique shop now ... well that was confectionery as well, [both MA & EU chip in with inaudible comments, all three briefly speaking simultaneously] no we're between the wars Edith[?], it was between the wars, Miss Warrener had that, [17 mins] and ...

MA I seem to remember that that antique shop was relatively new, isn't it ? [MU : Yes] The present ... that posh one. [MU : That's only new] And I think when we first came up here, that ...

MU It was a vegetable shop. [inaudible comment from MA whilst MU is speaking] After the war, Miss Warrener retired, she got married fairly late on in life, [MA : Yes] and she retired, and ... the, I don't know what they call her now ... she was a Miss and she lived up at Hampsfield, yer know, going to Lindale, and you ... as you go up what they call the Old Towns, instead of swinging left half way up the hill, yer keep to yer right, and yer come to the back of the fell, [MA : Yes] Hampsfield, she lived there. And she ...[?] that up as a ... as a vegetable shop, [MA : vegetable shop, yes I seem to remember that] greengrocer's and vegetables. [18 mins] [three people indistinguishably speaking at once] [?] and then it ... groceries came ... it changed hands again, ...[?] had it, changed hands again, Freddie had it, what we used to call Fred Froth Freddie 'cos he used to [inaudible background comment] ...[?] amongst the ...[?] and food, and then eventually it turned a antique shop. Well then, over the bridge ... over the bridge was Brown's, Mrs Fred Brown. Their's was ... they had their own bake house and confectioners.

EU That's where ...[?] shop is now, is it, the clothes shop ?

MU Yes, the clothes shop now. And also, her husband was a painter and decorator ... had his own business. And then, yer went across the road again ... and yer went across the road again, and Eddie's father ... [19 mins] Eddie worked for us at the garage ... his father was [EU : A tailor] a tailor. Where they lived, well ... [MA : Yes] yer know when yer go up ... the Royal Oak, and then there's an entry, [MA : Yes] and then there's a shop next to it, [MA : Yes] well that was a ... that was a tailor's. [MA : A tailor's] And then ...

MA Where there's a little embroidery place ?

MU Yes, that's it. Then there's the Woodford[?] Bank. [MA : Yes, I remember the bank] And then, next door, Mrs Howson. [EU & MU : inaudible comments][?] wasn't there before the war, Mrs Howson. [EU & MU : inaudible comments] I can't remember what that was. And then mi mother had that shop, the Tarragon, and then mi brother had it later, which is the Tarragon now. [MA : Yes, yes] Then of course yer've got the Post Office.

MA Yes. So your family used to own the Tarragon shop ?

MU [20 mins] The ... no, not owned, it was only rented. [MA : Oh, rented] [tape crackles & inaudible comments whilst looking for a photograph]

MA That was a confectioners, was it, in those years ? [MU : Which was that ?] Tarragon. [MU : No, it was ...]

EU Didn't they sell ice cream and that ? ... [continues prompting whilst MU continues]

MU Ice cream, minerals, [MA : Yes] sweets, [MA : Yes] chocolates, cigarettes, all that sort. [MA : Yes, I see] It's on the desk in front. [EU : inaudible comment]

MA If you have ... I was going to say ... if you've got any old photographs ... we would be very grateful if we could copy them or something, because ... not now, but later you know [MU : Yes] if you would be willing to let us copy ... they would be very interesting. I'm just going to check and see how far this tape's gone. I don't want to ...

MU Ah, I'm on that ! [laughs]

MA [21 mins] That's alright. That's OK. What about ...

MU Oh, and Teasdale at the Post Office, [MA : Yes] well, they had everything.

EU That's, yer know, where the National Trust has taken over the houses, that was a shop. [MA : Oh yes, I've got you, yes, yes]

MU Miss Overend had that. [MA : That's interesting]

EU [part inaudible but mentioning a fish and chip shop]

MU Ah yes, we'll get round to there, Edith.

MA What was the ... was there any unemployment around the place in those days ?

MU Yes, there was, yes.

EU There was the joiners.

MU Yes, there was ... a lot of ... a lot of the tradesmen, like, that was joiners, [MA : They were alright, were they ?] Yes, they were pretty well alright. Joiners and painters ... a lot of them, [22 mins] used to go to the ship yard to work. [MA : Really] Yer know. Of course in those days they built liners, didn't they ? [MA : And they would be part time here ?] Yes, probably. [MA : I see] [then both speaking at once about going to Barrow, but both indistinguishable]

MA Public transport then was quite good, was it, I mean, you could get ...

MU Well, bike down to Cark station. [MA : Oh, of course, yes, yes] The ... what they called the shipyard train, [MA : Yes] [EU : The shipyard bus] Yes, the shipyard train, which came from ... well, the carriages were always in the station at Grange, [MA : Yes] but the engine came from Carnforth, [MA : Yes] and that run through the Barrow, the shipyard train. [MA : Yes, right] And then there was Grange buses. The bus ... the bus company used to run a shipyard bus from Grange. My wife ... my wife [MA : From Grange, but it called here though ?] No, it went Lindale, went Lindale, that way, [MA : So you had to go to Grange to get on it, or Lindale, I see] Yer see, everybody went ... everybody [23 mins] went on the train. I rather think the train went right into the shipyard. [MA : Yes, it would do, I think, yes, I suppose ...[?], yes, yes]

EU [inaudible background comment]

MU My wife was on the shipyard bus, [MA : Yes] just after the war, on Grange buses, conductor,

EU[?] a few years before I got married.

MA When you say that you were on the buses, do you mean you were ...

EU Conductor. [MA : Really. Oh that's interesting, isn't it] [MU : My sister ...] It used to be half past five bus down to Barrow, right down to the shipyard. [MA : Yes]

MU She lived for a couple of years at the ... end of the ... where ... [inaudible comments from both EU & MU]

EU It was only a few years before I got married⁴, [MU : Oh was it] all that was ...[?] [MU : Oh, I thought it was longer]

MU [24 mins] So, there was ... there was unemployment, round about the 30s I can remember. [MA : Yes, I can remember the 30s] I mean I wasn't in work then, but I remember there were quite a few ... [MA : That was a bad time] That was a bad time, wasn't it.

MA I was living in Bradford. I was at school in Bradford then, [MU : Yes] and I remember 1929, 30s, it was not very good.

MU Aye, I can remember ... I was only saying this to Edith last night. [MA : Yes] When I lived with mi auntie at Milnthorpe, her son was a paper maker at Beetham Paper Mill, [MA : Oh] and ... 12 hours on, shift work, 6 till 6, [MA : Yes] one week, and then 6 till 6 on nights another week, [MA : Yes] six days a week, [MA : Yes] long hours [MA : Yes]

MA What about crime, was there much [25 mins] crime in Cartmel ?

MU No. We could leave the cars in the garage or the yard with the keys in. [MA : Yes]

EU Yer left yer doors open, yer never[?]

MU Well, it's only recently that I started locking. [MA : Yes] I mean, we've lived here now ... when did we build this ... not quite 30 years ago, [EU : 30 years ago] and it's only, I say, in this last 10 or 15, that we've started locking the garage. [MA : Yes, yes, yes] [long pause] But, the shops in the village and that, see we'd Teasdale's, which ... they had everything ... boiled ham, had their their own pigs, [MA : Which is Teasdale's ?] the Post Office, [MA : Post Office. That's the main village store ?] Yes, it was in them days. [MA : Yes] And they had a big pot ... pot shop next to it, [EU : inaudible comment] called a pot shop. [26 mins] [MA : Yes] You could get everything there, [MA : Yes] everything, buckets and the lot.

MA Where ... that was on ... what ... was that round the back, round the back of the Post Office, was it ?

MU No. The Post Office just as it is now, [MA : Yes, yes] and then it ... just like a doorway ... is it still open ... yer know where Howard keeps his bogey, [MA : Yes] well behind there's a

⁴ Maurice Unsworth married Edith Thomas 1st Qtr 1947

doorway, [MA : Oh I see] a passage goes down, well, to right of there ... Miss ...[?], [MA : Yes] two ladies live there now, [MA : Yes] well that was the pot shop, [MA : I see, I've got you] and it used to have all sorts of pots, [MA : I'm with you] and all that sort. [MA : Yes] And then Miss Overend's here was a milliners, and yer could get everything there, yer know.

MA Yes. What about the ... the general health of the people round about, I mean, can you remember much about the ... any epidemics, or [27 mins] anything like that ... nothing terrible like that ? [MU : No, I don't know] Nothing that hits you ? [MU : No, I don't think ...] Was there much TB around ? [MU : I had] What ? [MU : I had] You had, yes, that's right. Oh yes, you told me that. I remember now you told me that. Then you weren't able to ... that excluded you from war service, did it ? [MU : Yes, yes] Yes, that's right, I remember you mentioning that. Is there anything on your list that you wanted to talk about that you ...[?] made some notes ? Would you ... I rather talked too much probably. Anything now on your list that you'd like to mention ?

MU There was two or three TB in the village, but ... [MA : Yes, I'd be surprised if there wasn't, really] There was. [EU : several inaudible prompts] Aye, there was Finis[?] Laisby, wasn't there, but there again, that was after the war ... that was after the war. Dick Lewis ... Dick Lewis was after the war.

MA [28 mins] Did you lose any relatives in the war ? [MU : Did ... ?] Did you lose any relatives ?

MU No, I didn't, no. [MA : You didn't, no]

EU He lost a brother down at ... one of his brothers drowned down at Cark shore. Tell them about ...

MU I lost a brother drowned down at Cark Head when I was about 8. [MA : Oh, did you] That's why we sold Glenlea and moved. [inaudible comment from EU]

MA You said there were four brothers altogether, [MU : Four brothers] including yourself, [MU : Yes] Yes, four, so you lost one round about ...

MU Lost when he was 16⁵. Ah, but don't put that in though.

EU [inaudible comment]

MU Yes. He was with the scoutmaster, who lived at Glenlea with us,[?], and he was a chemist, and he was a scoutmaster, and he ... they were [29 mins] both drowned [MA : both drowned] somebody ... somebody went to help in the rescue, or looking for them, he was killed on a motor bike, and somebody else was seriously injured[?] [MA : all as a result of this ...] all as a result of ... [MA : Oh dear, yes] But don't put that in.

MA No, it's alright. [pause during sound of shuffling papers] Have you got any other points you ... that you've made any note of ? A couple of things that you remembered, 'cos I think that these were the important things ?

⁵ Arthur Unsworth born 4th Qtr 1909; died age 16 in Sept 1926

- MU I was just thinking ... the number ... get round to the shops and that ... down Cavendish Street were ... opposite the Cavendish Arms, [MA : Yes] used to be the doctor's surgery.
- MA I remember that, [30 mins] Dr Atkinson, I remember going there once. [MU laughs] I was ... we were visiting the family, and my wife hurt her leg or something. That was an incredible place, wonderful, I went upstairs there, [MU : did you, yea] and I had to walk about, and I had to bend all the way.
- MU Oh yes, yer had to bend. And when yer go in the waiting room, and the old fireplace was looking like new.
- MA Yes, yes. Dr Atkinson ... [EU starts speaking] Sorry
- EU Before that, that was a café wasn't it ?
- MU Oh yes, that was what I was going to say. Before that it was Mrs Ayres ... Mrs Ayres's ... Mrs Ayres, A Y E R S , I think it was an old fashioned eating house. [MA : Oh yes] That's right. And the sign ... I've seen it somewhere recently ... and the sign was at the top, and the sign [31 mins] wasn't up against the wall, flat like that, it was V'ed, it come out from the wall like this, [MA : Yes, yes] and it was V'ed out, and it was ... well, Mrs Ayres ... Mrs Ayres ... well Mrs Campbell who had it, who ... [Tape cuts at end of side 1]
- MA That's OK now I think. Yes, yes the ...
- MU Mrs Ayres old fashioned eating house. Mrs Campbell was the daughter. [MA : She followed on, did she ?] She followed on, [MA : Yes] which used to provide, well, baking and confectionery, [MA : Yes] and also had a café, [MA : Yes] and she also ... if yer go through the ... what d' yer call it ... the ginnel, [MA : The ginnel] the ginnel, and come out ... come out opposite the park, [MA : Yes, the racecourse] well, it's a [32 mins] house now, by itself, just behind ... as yer come out of the ginnel, [MA : Yes] and look right across, [MA : Yes] was a barn, [MA : Yes] or ... well it used to be a ... a room, and Mrs Campbell used to provide bigger refreshments, yer know, for bigger parties and that. [MA : Oh, I see] And they used to walk over in them days from Abbot Hall and Kents Bank, [MA : Oh yes] and she used to do the [MA : By arrangement ?] do the refreshments there. [MA : Yes] But her husband was ... he was there, with a white apron ... [MA : Oh yes] a real ... he was a real character, [MA : Yes] oh aye, a real character. And he was also ... we had lamp ... we had lamp lighting in them days, yer know.
- MA Yes, I gather electricity came about 1928, is that right ?
- MU Well I ... I've got it down here ... [33 mins] [MA : What have you got it down as ?] 1926, [MA : Oh, I see] because when we moved to the shop, [MA : Yes] in 1926, it was ... it was wired up for electric. [MA : Ah] It was Barrow Corporation who supplied it. [MA : Yes] Aye, Barrow Corporation, we paid our accounts to them until it was nationalised. [MA : Oh, I see, yes] And Johnson & Phillips, big firm, they ... they did all the cables, laid the cables. That's where Alice,[?], that's where she met him. And ... hang on a minute ... [two speaking together quietly] but I can remember Johnson & Phillips [34 mins] [two speaking together quietly again]

- EU And he was the lamp lighter in those days.
- MU Aye, Mr Campbell, John Campbell, he was the lamp lighter with the old lamps, [MA : Oh yes] the old paraffin ... the old paraffin lamps ... they were like pre... they were paraffin, and they were like presh... I mean in them days, [MA : Do you mean street lamps ?] Street lights [MA : Paraffin street lamps ?] Yes, paraffin street lamps. [MA : Really] But I think ... whether they were under pressure ... [MA : Yes] yer know, we used to have ... I've been trying to think today the name of the lights, the lamps that we used to have in the house, in the middle of the table, and the ... [MA : Oh] like we used to pump them, [MA : like a sort of Primus stove[?]] Aye, like a Primus. [MA : like a Primus] But he used to ... we'd lamps all round [EU: all round the village] the village, [MA : Yes] we'd one 'ere, just out 'ere, right up against ...[?] wall, [MA : Oh really] and then the [35 mins] next one was up against the school wall, and then the next was Town End. I used to know where they all were at one time. [MA : Yes] Yer know, one down at the Smithy. And then at the end, by the ginnel there, there's ... Campbell, the son, was the ... the ... telephone, telephonist, [MA : Oh yes] so all your calls went through 'im, yer know, I mean there was nothing automatic, was there. [MA : No]
- EU He was a most beautiful singer, wasn't he.
- MU Oh, he was an organist as well. [MA : It didn't go through the Post Office then ?] No, no, this was at Campbell's. [MA : That's interesting] This was the old eating house. [MA : Yes, gosh] He was the telephonist.
- EU And I remember him in the church singing, and he was like a ... [36 mins] just like an angel. His voice was absolutely gorgeous.
- MU Beautiful singer. [MA : Who's this?] Mr Campbell, the son, [MA : The son] Frank, Frank Campbell, the son, the old man was John Campbell. ...[?] wife's son. [EU : They were characters] And he was an ... he was the organist at Lindale church was Frank, as well.
- MA[?] Frank was ? [MU : The organist] the organist, [MU : At Lindale] at Lindale, and he was a Campbell ? [MU : Yes] Yes, I see. [MU : Frank Campbell] Frank Campbell.
- EU And he was on the telephone.
- MU Aye, he was on the telephone as well, yes.
- MA Yes, that's interesting. So when were the telephone ... the ... the ordinary telephones come in then ? You know, the automatic ... there was a telephone exchange opposite [37 mins] Wingfield House, wasn't there ?
- MU Yes, up here, yes. [MA : Yes] That was when that first came. [MA : When did that come ?] Oo, I don't know ... before the war, and we were lads, 'cos I can remember John Rose[?] ... are you ... somebody will have seen John, John Rose[?] [MA : Yes, I think Stuart Allen has been having chats with him] His father was the builder. [MA : That's right] And he, John ... I always remember ... John and I were friends, and his father built the telephone exchange at Crosthwiate. [MA : Oh yes, good heavens] And I think ... I think John said there were a

hundred pound, the building. [MA : (laughing) Well, you'd know, would you from your taxi days, I suppose] Yes, but John would know. [38 mins] John ... John's a terrific memory.

MA When did you start driving taxis then ? You'd have been how old ?

MU Well, I'd be 17. [MA : 17. You were allowed to drive ...[?]] I passed mi test ... passed mi test one day and straight on the next day. Well, there weren't taxis then,[?]

MA When did they bring in driving tests, do you remember ?

MU Not long before I passed mine, not long before, [MA : Oh I see] probably about ... probably ... I would be ... [MA : just after ... just before] I would get a licence at 17, so 17 to '18 is '35, about '34, '35, [MA : Yes] probably '35.

MA But it was before the war anyway, wasn't it ? [MU : Oh yes] I remember I hadn't got one, but I actually drove a 15 hundredweight truck when I was in the Air Force, [MU : Ah yes] [39 mins] [laughs] Used to drive round the block and the chap said you'll be alright.

MU You'll do, aye, you'll do. [laughs] I did that with ... I did that with Eddie. Eddie, who worked for us, he hadn't a car licence, but when the war broke out, [MA : Yes] he got a licence and I went round the block, and we did that with ... [pause] ...[?] Ernest[?]. When the aerodrome was built down near Cark, [MA : Yes] well, we ... mi brother got two Ford tipping, tipping lorries. We were carting stone from top of Brawthwaite[?] [MA : Yes] yer know, ...[?] quarry, that's going to Broughton in Furness, on the top of the hill, [MA : Oh yes] and carted from[?], 20 or 30 ...[?] from there. And then we moved [40 mins] down ... after that we'd done, we moved down into Lancashire, on the same sort of a job. And we had a young fellow out of the village, who ... we'd given him a few driving tests, I mean, there were no driving tests but we done best we could with 'im, and couldn't make a lot of 'im. And mi brother took 'im down there ... and 2 or 3 wagons went down there ... took 'im down, loaded the vehicle up, under a JCB, about 6 ton on, now then ...[?] its yours. And that was it. He sent 'im off, that's how they sent 'im off, and he never looked back. [MA : Yes] Couldn't get 'im to drive properly otherwise, [MA : Yes] but as soon as he ... soon as he did that ... [MA : got his confidence I suppose] he got his confidence back. That was in ... that was round Earlstown, Warrington, Wigan, Warrington, somewhere amongst that. [41 mins] [laughs] [MA : Mind you, the traffic ...] [laughs] Well, You couldn't do it now.

MA You couldn't do it now, certainly not. So, what else have you got there, anything else that you wanted to mention, things that prompted you ?

MU You've got the Smithy down, have you ?

MA Well, the Smithy across ... there were several Smithies, weren't there ? [MU : Aye, when it was a Smithy] Where was the other one ? That was at ...

MU [obviously looking at papers] Here. You've got this one down, here.

MA What, Mrs ... that's a Mrs ...[?]

MU Yes. Oh dear, I thought I could remember the name but now I've forgotten.

MA Wasn't there one ... wasn't there a Smithy near the ... oh dear ...

MU The Smithy which is antique shop now, that one, at Cavendish Street, on the corner, [MA : On the corner, that's right, yes] That was the main Smithy. [MA : Yes, that's right, yes, I remember that now] [inaudible comment then pause for thought] [42 mins] This one here was one as well.

MA Yes. Oh that. Wasn't there a fish and chip shop there ?

MU Yes, it was a fish and chip shop, [MA : Was that before ...] before the war.

MA That was after the Smithy ? [MU : Yes, oh yes] Yes, I see.

MU Then after that it was a garage, after that, [MA : Really] like a car garage, yer know, [inaudible prompt from EU] Ah well Edith, Edith across the road, [MA : Weakly ?] aye, [MA : Yes] well her father owned all this property on here.

MA Yes, I think Tina Gilmore told me that, yes.

MU He owned all that, and used to keep his car there. [MA : Yes, yes] [several seconds pause for thought] The ... the shop in the Square which mi mother took, before that ... I told mi nephew that, David from round the garage, he was asking me something about it, [43 mins] about the shop, because Mrs ... oh dear ... Birkett, Mrs Birkett isn't it, from Tarragon, she's been asking him, 'cos he knew nothing, [MA : Oh, I see] and, well, before mi mother had it, it was a motor cycle shop.

MA This is the one to the left of ... this is ... one ...

MU No. What is Tarragon. [MA : Yes. I didn't realise it was a motor cycle shop] Motor cycle shop.

MA Good heavens. It's had a pretty chequered career. [laughs]

EU It was a motor cycle shop, then in was yer mam's, ice cream, sweet shop, then it was a wool shop, [MU : then it was a wool shop after the war, soon after the war], yea, and now it's a gift shop. [then 15 seconds silence]

MA [44 mins] What about ... sort of local customs and things, do you remember much about the local customs in the village when you were young ... apart from the ... there was Cartmel Show wasn't there ? [MU : Yes] That's been going for a long time.

MU Just the Show and the Races on the Whit Monday.

MA Yes. Were there any other big events going on, like the ... [about 7 seconds pause for thought] Any special sporting events, or ...

MU I can remember a big do for ... to raise money for ... for the Village Hall, [MA : Oh yes] before it was built, [MA : Yes] I rather ... Mrs Ellen Garkarth, up here, would probably know ... she's quite a bit older than me, but ... I think she would know about that. [MA : Who's that ? Mrs who ?] Mrs Gaskarth, at the end, the end house.

MA [45 mins] I think Tina Gilmore's ... oh no, no, its ... it's Rita Allen that's having a word with her, I think.

MU Aye. But I know they produced ... Hiawatha ... think it was Hiawatha, in the Park, all over there, [MA : In the Park] all over there, in the Summer, [MA : This was ...] and there was ... whether it was all on the same occasion, [MA : Oh I see] there was a big effort, yer know, stalls and all that. [MA : Yes] I know we had use of the pavilion in them days ... in them days of course it was a cricket pavilion, and ... I mean I was only 12 or 14 probably in them days, [MA : Yes] 10 or 12, but I can remember that. But can't remember much else.

MA Did you have any ... were there any trades people who came round with vans here, [46 mins] selling stuff, or ... ?

EU It was all vans, wasn't it. [MU : All vans]

MA Like the fish ... the fish man ?

MU Fish. [MA : Yes] We used to have the Flookburgh ... the Flookburgh fishermen [MA : Yes] come round, yer know ... we were only talking about that yesterday, George Hill, [MA : Yes] [EU : The Hill family] George Hill from Flookburgh, he came round twice a week, his father before him, came round twice a week. George Airey the butchers came round then, [MA : Yes] they come round, Martin's ... Martin's grand... grandparents, grandfather, grandfather and great uncle, [EU : What about ...] George Airey [MA : Yes] you know Marion, [MA : Yes] well George came [MA : He's related is he to the Aireys at ... over at ... ?] Yes, the butchers. [MA : Yes] Henry Airey had a son called [47 mins] Henry, who was the father of Martin, and George Airey senior, had George, [MA : Yes] and Ida, [MA : Yes] that plays the organ, [MA : Yes] and George came round with the butchers van before he married ... before he got married, Aireys the butchers.

MA Was there a ... what about hardware, was there a hardware man came ... general ... general stores ? [EU says a few inaudible words] Mrs Tyson. The Tysons used to have a shop over at Brow, Brow Edge, not Brow Edge, ...[?]

MU Oh yes, course they did, yes, big store, yes, they had ...

MA But they didn't deliver in a van here ?

MU No, they didn't come here. They used to go more Rusland, [MA : Yes] Satterthwiate, [MA : Yes, yes] and that way.

EU I'll tell yer who did used to come[?], that lady from, from Cark, [48 mins] with pram full of flowers, every week she came ... [MU : Ah, Mrs Martin] Mrs Martin, yes. [MU : Mrs Martin used to come] in and old pram she brought up from Flookburgh and Cark. ...[?] every week she came, [MU : Yes] with bunches of flowers.

MU Jimmy Martin's wife. Howard. We're talking now ... Howard Martin. Howard's wrote a book about the ... the War Memorial. [MA : Oh yes, yes. I think I've ...] This is ... this is Howard's ... this'll be Howard's aunt, [MA : Oh] who used to come up with the flowers.

MA He's done a lot of work on that War Memorial, hasn't he ? [MU : Oh, well I've just been reading ...] He's now discovered the missing ... there was one man they couldn't trace anything and he's now got some information.

MU Yes, aye. Now yer see, that man there was related ... married a relation of ... of Teasdale's who had the Post Office. And of [49 mins] course Terry, Terry Teasdale, called her Terry, Teresa but they always called her Terry, she never married, she only died two or three years ago. And of course, she could have ... she could have provided the information,[?] [MA : Yes]

EU Only if she could remember. Only if she could remember. [MU : Yes][?]

MU And, who was it used to come round, there used to be George Cross. George used to come from Newton twice a week, with a horse and [MA : Oh yes] ... horse and flat cart ... flat cart with a ... in the centre of the cart, from front to back, it had a .. a bar, full length, [MA : Yes] and then a sheet, [MA : Yes] going like a tent, [MA : Yes, yes] and he used to [50 mins] come round with veg, [MA : Yes] fruit and vegetables twice a week, yes. George Cross.

MA So really, you didn't ... you didn't have to go far for your ... for what you bought. [MU : Yes]

EU There was Pat from Flookburgh[?] probably before that. She[?].

MU Ah yes, yes. Course they did, because ... Mrs Fogg[?] Cyril, used to go to Auntie Loui's[?] at Allithwaite, yer know, up till the war time, but whether they came round here, I can't remember. [EU : inaudible comment]

MA Yes, I'll just see if there's anything down on this list that I ought to check with you here.

MU There's all sorts of little ... I mean, going back again, to mi brother, with a model T Ford, [51 mins] where he could put a ... lift the rear part, behind the front seat, which had been adapted, lift that off, and put a flat on. And he used to ... used to ... Mr Booth who lived here, where Edith lives now, and he had ... he had the barn as well, and he was an egg collector. [MA : a what ?] Egg, yer know, he'd collect eggs from the farms, yer see. Ernest used to go round picking the ... [EU : Eggs up] and picking ... aye, crates of eggs like. [MA : Yes] Yer know, there's all sorts ... how things have altered, haven't they ?

MA They certainly have, yes, absolutely. There'd be a village policeman, I suppose, would there have been, at one time ? A village policeman, coming.

MU Oh yes. We had. They'd ... [MA : Lived in the house down at the bottom of Hags Lane ?] That's right. [MA : Yes] Well the [52 mins] t... .. you've got the ... Quakers' Chapel, [MA : Yes] and then you've two cottages, [MA : That's right, and then ...] and then the next two, [MA : standing back a bit] that's right, [MA : That's where the policeman lived] the first one was a police station, [MA : Yes]

EU There used to be a house on this old Town End Square. What was that ?

MU Aye, that was ... aye, on the Town End Square

EU On the green by the Pig and Whistle, that was a house when I came.

MU That was all taken away, wasn't it.

EU Was it just an ordinary house ?

MU Mmmm. Course the old Police Station down here ...[?]

MA Oh yes, yes, that's right, yes, yes. Now when did they stop using that ?

MU Well, I only ... I can only ever remember the one over there. [MA : Yes, I see. That was on the other green, which I heard of] [53 mins] Before the first world war, [MA : What, that, that one] was when they would have built up there or what, I wouldn't know. [MA : So that would have been the very old one, would it ?] Yes, that would be the old one. Then of course, the other one, where the gaol was round the Post Office corner, [MA : The lock-up] aye, the lock-up. [MA : That's very old, yes] And then ...

MA Yes. We're trying to concentrate on the first half of this ... of the century, really, [MU : Yes] at the moment anyway, so that ... probably ... I expect that was going the first half of this century.

MU I would say that would be, wouldn't it, down there, yes. [MA : Yes] Yes. Of course, you would be here when ... when Ted, the policeman, who bought the house next door ... was our policeman, before he retired, he bought the house next door to the police station, up there, [MA : Up there, yes] and then of course [54 mins] it was pulled down, were you living here then, [MA : No] there was something wrong with it. [MA : Oh dear] And after the insurance, they found something wrong with it. And it was pulled down right ... right down to ...[?] [MA : Dangerous was it ?] and rebuilt. And of course, the policeman next door, although he was stationed in Kendal on traffic, he lives ... he'd like to buy it. He'd like to buy that house, course he can't get a mortgage, 'cos of course his house is same as ... as next door. So whatever it was, I do not know. I've no idea. [MA : Yes]

EU Must have been something to do with the foundations.

MU Must have been something ... must have ... could have been the foundations, because we seem to have a ... a strip of ... what's the name ... [55 mins] right across the valley ...

MA Yes, it's ...[?] I don't know much about the geology, but I ... I gather, there's a line going down Aynsome Road roughly, and on one side ... it more or less divides the main limestone from the ... [a few inaudible words whilst both speak together] local slate. There seems to be a sort of difference ... you notice that ... I'm told that ... you know, the bulldozers, when they put anything in the road, they notice a difference from one side to the other.

MU Yes. Well, you get it at Field Broughton. [MA : Yes] Where Miss Clark lived ... where the Clarks lived ... the big house ... [inaudible comments whilst thinking almost aloud] ... four or five dwellings now, well that's all alright, [MA : Oh, I know where you mean] it's a mansion. Well, Malcolm Slater lives in the grounds, [MA : Yes] and [56 mins] he built his bungalow after the war. Well, he ... he was affected by it. And now then there's another house, behind him, that was ... that was in the same trouble. [a few inaudible words whilst both speak together] What was the other one called ... Cherry ... oh I've forgotten the name of the house now.

Then you go ... the first bungalow, going up the Hags, [MA : Yes] as you go round the corner, now that was affected. [MA : Really] And yet in front of it, there's the flag stones coming out like an escarpment, coming out of the ... out of the ground. [MA : Yes] Yer know, it's funny isn't it how these things should be affected.

MA I think I'm going to switch off now, because I think you've had about ... you've done very well.

MU [laughing] I've enjoyed it, yes.

[Recording ends at 56 mins 56 secs]