



A voice for our village

Interview with Bob Copeland (#2 of 3)

Robert ("Bob") William Copeland ('BC'), born 3 Dec 1919

Interviewer : Irini Tzortzoglou ('IT')

Date : Thursday 27th November 2014

Location : in Grange

Recording duration : 1 hr 12 mins 37 secs

IT So, it is the 27th of November 2014, and I am Irini Tzortzoglou interviewing in Grange, and Bob, for the record, would you mind please repeating your name and date of birth.

BC My name is Robert William Copeland, and I am 54 years of age, I'll be ..., I mean I'm 54 ... I'm 94 now, and in an another three ... on the 3rd December I'll be 55.

IT 95 ?

BC 95. [..... inaudible comment & laughs]

IT Thank you, Bob. And we are doing the second interview today, and I would very much appreciate it, Bob, if you could tell us a little bit about your early years in Cartmel. When was it that you moved to Cartmel; how old were you ?

BC [1 min] Well, I came to Cartmel in 1927, and ... mi father was out of work ... well, it was mi step father actually, and ... his name was Charlie Mayor, and he was mi mother's cousin, y' see. And ... of course she moved up, I say, from where I was born down in Fleet. And then I stayed wi' mi Grandma for two or three years, and then, when she finally got sort of settled in Cartmel ... 'Cos yer see the whole family came from Cartmel originally. In fact, mi great grand-dad, who was 88 when he died, 'is ... 'is gravestone is in the ... in Cartmel Priory churchyard, and it's on his gravestone ... and he was a shoemaker, a bootmaker. And, of course, if yer look it up, he used to make boots and sh..., well I don't think they made shoes in those days, for ... for the [2 mins] Duke of Devonshire at Holker Hall.

IT And his name was Mayor ?

BC No. His name was Huddlestone ... Huddlestone. And even mi ... mi ... see mi mother's Dad was Huddlestone, and of course mi step-father's name Charles Huddlestone Mayor, yer see, because when he ... he had the Huddlestone name in his middle name, yer see, and so, ... I don't know what happened to his Dad at all, but he was a stone mason, in fact, there's some ... gravestones in the cemetery, there absolutely marvellous some of 'em, there's one in particular, and just to look at it, it looks as if ... as if it's logs of wood, taken from out of the wood, and made up as a gravestone. There's a bark ... it's bark and knots on it, and everything like that. And of course on the back of most gravestones, there is always a little name of [3 mins] the stone mason who'd made these things, yer see, and his name's on that, Mayor, yer see. But what ... and of course, when I was that age, I didn't know anything

about 'im. I never made any enquiries about 'im, where he went or anything, but I think they originally came from Kendal, I think, yer know. And ... 'cos I showed yer the photographs of mi great grand-dad and mi great grandma, yer see. I think she came from Kendal as well, yer see. So he went into the blue mist, as yer would say, so I don't know anything about this Mayor, how Mayor came into it, yer see. But ... anyway, I arrived at Cartmel in 1927, and I was enrolled in the Church of England school, and ... it was quite a nice little school, it's still there. And the playground of course is called the Jubilee Playground because it was bought by the villagers to celebrate some jubilee. And ... the only thing [4 mins] about it was ... I always remember was, that when you went in there ... it was pouring with rain, a really wet day and that, and we all wore clogs, of course, and ... the ... yer know when in ... when the snow's on the ground, how snow sticks to the bottom of yer feet, well it did with clogs. And of course when it timed to go back into school again, there was trail of ... it was sort of all pindle, it was, the playground, yer see it wasn't sort of maintained by the school authorities, yer see, I suppose it was maintained by the village, yer see.

IT What is pindle ?

BC Well, it's just like small stones and sort of muddy sort ... yer know ... and it used to stick ... and when ... when all the children crossed the road, of course, 'cos there was no traffic about in those days, it just looked like a builder's yard ... like you'd come from a builder's yard, and at ... at the entrance to go into the school, there's two scrapers, [5 mins] they're still there as well, those scrapers. You used to have to scrape yer clogs as yer went in. And then I know, later on, ... I think it must have happened, I think it was about the second year I was there, they decided that they would renew the floor, in summer time it was, 'cos yer know there's 6 weeks holiday, as you know, because the floor was really really thick boards, ... but ... I remember when they pulled them all up, they were tremendous thick but, the thing why they did the business was ... the floor was sort of covered in knots ... they were ... the knots used to stick up in the boards. Yer could trip up [laughs] ... when yer think about it now ! And they re-laid all nice, I think it was either teak or something like that. I know they were very dark brown boards, so it made a lot better. And they put ... they put new curtains up to separate us from the different classes, yer see. And so ... [6 mins] anyway ... that's what it was like when I first went there. And ... and then of course, later on, of course as I got older, I always remember ... I must have been about ... oh I should think about 12ish, I think; of course I'd gone up in to what yer ... moved in the different classes ... up to 6, and ... the ... I had the job ... with living just down Barngarth, ... I was very near the school, and so I got the job of ... to be at the school pronto, to ring the bell. 'cos there was a bell above, yer see, then in those days, and it was my job to ring the bell for right spot on 9 o'clock, yer see. So ... and of course ... the schoolmaster, his name was Mr Jackson, I got on very well with him, but he was quite strict man, of course, but anyway ... He used to breed these little fox terriers, dogs, and so he asked me [7 mins] would I like to look after his dogs for 'im, take them a walk, and do mi small menial jobs and ... So I had to go every night, after school, and clean up the ... there was these little kennels and places, and yer used to have to clean the poops up, and where they'd done some wet and wee. I had to shovel it up and then put fresh sawdust down, and then ... I think here was about 5 dogs, and ... then I 'ad to take them for a walk for an hour. I used to go down the Park, or down Cark Road, or somewhere like that,

yer know, and ... then ... I had to go on a Saturday morning as well. And ... on a Saturday morning, everything had to come out of the kennels, everything, the boxes and everything. And so ... and I had to go round with a Flit gun, and give them fresh bedding and everything, yer see, so that was every Saturday morning's do, that. And them take 'em a walk. And then ... [8 mins] mi wage was half a crown a week, two shillings and sixpence. But it was quite a lot of money in those days.

IT In today's money, how much would it be ? [question ignored !]

BC 'Cos I remember, Pop was out of work, and then later on ... yer see, what happened was he ... there were ... they didn't have electricity in Cartmel in those days, we just had oil lamps. And ... the ... the ... Meathop and Sanatorium at Meathop, it was for TB 'cos it was very rampant was TB in those days. There was a ladies section and a women's section and a men's section. And they had their own sort of ... place to make electricity, like a big Lister engine and ..., but they wanted to be in the mains. And so this firm from London called J P Phillips, I always remember, they came there, and they had Fort T lorries. You've seen the Ford T cars, haven't yer, cars, how old they were, [9 mins] but they were very reliable. Some even went on the fells even with 'em. And they used to put two poles on each one, and they were very heavy, those poles, they could only take two. Well, he got a job digging holes for these poles to go in. And they brought the electricity across the viaduct from Ulverston, and across the moss there, then over the top, then by Holker, and over the Howbarrow, down Cartmel valley, over Hampsfell, and then right across to Meathop. That where they power ... And so Cartmel got branches off that line, yer see. We got electricity in Cartmel, I mean it was marvellous. Because in those days, the village ... us lads used to play out at night time, everything ... there was no lights anywhere. I mean yer know what oil lamps do. I mean curtains ... people draw their curtains, and that was it. And ... of course, we used to play all kinds of games, yer know, tindo, kino ...

IT Tell us about the games you used to play.

BC Tindo. A man would be ... somebody used to be selected to be [10 mins] the man in charge of the tin, and he'd have it on the ... on the ... on the Fishslab, as yer call it now, yer know. And then all the rest would disappear in the dark, down the little alleys, [..... inaudible comment]. And then yer would try to sneak up, and he would keep sort of looking out to see, yer see. And he'd have to leave his ... his ... his tin, sort of business, stood there, and sort of sneak up to see if he could see yer, and of course if he spotted yer, he shouted yer name out, and of course yer ... yer were finished, once he'd spotted yer. And of course the object was to get it, the tin, yer see, and of course that was his. And that was the tin ...

IT In the dark ?

BC In the dark, yes, it was in the dark. Talking about the dark, also ... a man used to come ... they called him George Cross, and he had a horse and cart, and he had a ... a bar that went along the ... the ... the cart, with a piece of canvas over it, and he had ... apples and ... bananas and kippers ... and turnips, and stuff like that on. And he used to come ... [11 mins] used to come every Friday. Didn't matter what the weather was ... it was pouring down with rain, he used ... he'd always come did Mr Cross. And he lived up at Newton, High Newton, yer

see. And that's a good way, if yer think about it. And ... he ... he always used to go round the Cartmel knocking on people's doors, of course ... did yer want anything. And then he used to arrive in the Square, 'cos there was no cars, or anything like that then. The Square was empty then. And he'd park it just outside the Royal Oak. And he would be there. And he'd put the nose bag on the horse, for the horse to have a feed whilst he was in there. And I suppose he went in for his double whiskeys or his pints, or whatever it was he had. And we always used to say ... yer couldn't go near that cart, we used to weigh up how can we pinch an apple off that cart, or a banana. But yer couldn't get near it because, underneath the cart was two cur dogs, and if yer went anywhere near that cart, oo they would have yer. They'd say, there's only one way we're going to be able to do that, is get [12 mins] a dart, and a long piece of string, and go like that, yer see. But yer couldn't get there because the canvas was over it, yer see. So we never ever did manage to get anything off Mr Cross. And I always remember 'im coming to my door, ... and it was a really wet night, everything ... it was absolutely ... everything he had on was all dripping with water, and he wasn't a young man – he didn't appear to be a young man to me anyway – and ... I remember mi Mam saying to 'im : by jingo Mr Cross, she said, you're really wet, aren't yer, she said, would yer like to come in for a cup of tea ? No, he said, I'm going to have a drink at the Royal Oak. Alright ... she said : how do you manage to keep so well Mr Cross. Nay, he said, I eat a couple of raw onions, he said. [laughs] That was his excuse. I can always remember 'im saying that. Yea, oh dear.

IT Talking about the Square, [BC : Yea] what was in the Square in those days ? [13 mins] Other than the Royal Oak, what do you remember ?

BC The Kings Arms and the Royal Oak, and there was the ... the two banks, there was ... the District Bank and Martins Bank. And then, just where the archway is, where yer go through the archway, well, there's a ... there's a door there, which was the house belonging ... goes up ... went along with the archway, and ... the same sneck is still in there, it's a brass sneck, if yer look it's still there that sneck. It used to be ... Miss Overend had that shop and it was a ... it was ... when yer went in there, she was a quite quaint old dear, she was, and all there seemed to be on the shelves was loads and loads of sheets, sheets everywhere there was. And there was these unblemished ones as well, yer know. People never ... yer never hear of anyone getting an unblem ... you remember maybe, an unblemished sheep, yer see. They're not white, they haven't been treated to ... yer see ... the unblemished ones, but they're the cheaper [14 mins] ones, of course. And ... I always remember, that was Miss Overend's. Yea. And of course, Teasdales, that was a famous ... that was the Post Office there as well, that was the big shop that looks down ... they call it Sticky Toffee Pudding, but I mean that's only recent ... in recent years, that is. I remember 'im coming to Cartmel, that one. 'Cos he was the one who started off the Christmas trees, putting holes in the ground, and what is it, and they had a Christmas tree outside, and they had one outside the Royal Oak, then another one outside the Kings Arms, yer see. But he was the one who started it all, 'cos there was never any tables outside, or anything like that, yer know. And of course, the ... by the Kings Arms, yer see, there's a narrow bit goes down there at the side ... there's the Royal Oak and then there's a house called Ford House. Well, it was the Bell family who lived there. And that narrow bit that goes down ... they call it Ford House because that used to be a ford

across the beck, yer see. Before ever there was a bridge, [15 mins] there was a ford there. And it went along that back lane, and of course that was the Ford Lane, yer see.

IT When you were a child, that was there ?

BC That was still there, the ford, yes. And then of course later on, when they got to be the races, yer see yer used to have races, meetings once ... just one day a year, that was on a, on a ... a Whit Monday. And so, they decided that ... yer see people used to come off at Cark Station from Barrow, and either come on taxis or walk up, yer see, for .. for .. yer know ... just for a sort of ... making a day out, sort of thing, 'cos the races didn't start until the afternoon. And of course they used to come by Mason's Arms, as we called it, where the little playground is, on the lane there, round by the toilets, yer see, and they built the wall up for the ... for the ... for the ford, they built the wall up so it's still there, the wall, and they built it up the other side, and they put a foot-bridge across. So when the people came, they could go across the foot-bridge, yer see, [16 mins] and then walk up the Square. Because all the traffic used to come in through Cartmel in those days, nose to tail, it was in those days. It was only for one day. And I know, yer see, when mi mother ... well, later on when she moved round to the village, which I showed photograph, ... I know the ... she used to take in visitors, one another. And she used to have some jockeys in as well. They used to have jockeys, yer see, they used to come, and stay, just the one night. And the horses, even ... yer know the ... going up to the Cemetery Road, on the right hand side, there's all the stables there, isn't there, well that wasn't there at all. When they used to come with the race horses, the ... the ... the owners ... they used to farm them out to all the different farms. They used to go to all the different farms, and then they used to have to come down to the village on the morning the races were going to go on, yer see. So that's ... that's the way they used to do it in those days.

IT Did you children go to the races, and see what it was like ?

BC Oh, we used to [17 mins] sneak in, yer know, yes, we used to sneak in, but I mean, that was it. Of course, there was a man ... well actually I've got a photograph of 'im, mi uncle, who ... [phone rings] Stop it now. Have yer switched it on again ? so, mi uncle ... mi great uncle actually, mi uncle Alf, see mi mother actually bought ... his house off 'im later on, which I'll tell yer about, but ... and he was on the pass-out. They used to come through the bar there, and of course any locals used to come along and say : give us ... give us a couple of pass-outs Alf. Yer see 'is name was Alf, yer see, Alf Huddlestone, give us a couple of pass-outs Alf. Course he'd give them a couple of pass-outs, and they'd walk away, and then later on, they'd go in the proper way showing the pass-outs ! [laughs] Yer, see. And of course, they got wise to all that did the race committee. And I know one year ... [18 mins] one year they said : right, everybody that goes on the course, they will not be allowed to come off the course. 'Cos yer see a lot of people liked to go on the course in the morning, see, and then go into the Square, and maybe get a pint in the Square, instead of having it on the course, yer see. Yer could get a pint on the course, of course, but they just went to explore the village [... inaudible word], yer see. So they said : right, if you want to go on the course, that's it. If you want to go round the village, you'll have to pay again, if you go back on again. There was to be no pass-outs. So anyway, I remember ... I remember I thought : I'm going to beat

this lot someway or another. So what I ... what I conjured up was ... yer know where I said to you the other day, where the old gaol was, the original gaol house, well there's an entrance there, isn't there. Well, next to the entrance, there's three cottages there, then there's another entrance which goes down to the Cavendish Arms, doesn't it. Well, that first cottage there, next to the gaol, [19 mins] they used to commandeer that for the day, and they used to have the window open, and yer could go and buy 12 race cards, yer see, with all the horses in, see. And they would cost yer five shillings. But ... anyway ... and I'd seen these 'ere people selling these race cards, and of course all the cars used to come in and down the Park, that road as yer go in, see, and yer just walk and shout race cards, yer see, on the course, and of course nobody bothers with them, so I thought, right, so I said to mi Mam, will you lend me five shillings. She said : what do you want five shillings for ? I said : just lend me five shillings, I'll give it yer back, I said, when I come back home, without fail, I said, I'll give it yer back. She said : I can't afford to give you five shillings, and then not get anything back, yer know. I said : I promise yer I will. So, she give me this five shillings, and I went round there, and I bought this[?]. [20 mins] And then I walked in like these other fellars did, the cards, "Race Cards !" "Race Cards !", yer see. Shilling a time, yer see, that's what they were, something like that. And, course they were wanting them, some of them, before they go on the course, so they could look at them as they were driving in, yer see. And of course, I just walked in on the course. I only did one dozen, that's all, I got rid of them and I walked in, and it didn't cost me nothing. So that's how I got in the course that year. I always remember that ... that's through a bit of ... bit of using yer loaf, as they say.

IT Very ingenious. Did you make a profit ?

BC Aye, one shilling. Yea. I knew I was going to make one shilling, yer see. And of course, I went on the fair with it, yer see, 'cos I was never interested in horses or races. [laughs] Yea.

IT Talking about games again, to go back to your time at school, did you have time during the day to play games ?

BC That's the one thing you've talked to me about, now's there one thing that I really really liked. Now Pop, as I always called him, I could never ... I could never end up [21 mins] calling him Dad at all, never.

IT Your step-father ?

BC Mi step-father. And so ... anyway ... he used to like to go and see Barrow Football Club. They were in the third division in those days. He didn't go very often because, I say, later on, after he got this job ... finished this job at ... on the electrical board, and he was finished, he applied for the Post Office, and got a job at the Post Office at Grange. I have a photograph of him with his ... it used to take yer nearly six months before yer got yer uniform in those days. And ... mi great uncle, he's on it of course, and they've got the shacko helmets on, yer know, they used to wear. Did yer remember those helmets ? Yer didn't remember them ? Anyway, they were sort of rounded things with a ... with a ... with lip at the back. And when it rained, the ... the water didn't go down the back of yer neck, it just went ... dropped of the lip, the lip at the back. They were really good. They were really sorry they got those, yer see

they went on to the ordinary peaked cap, yer see. Anyway ... [22 mins] that's ... that's when he got a job on the Post Office. But ... anyway ... where am I now ?

IT So what game did you like ?

BC Oh, so what happened was, the ... the ... my two aunties, that was mi Pop's sisters, one was called Rose, and the other was called Edith, and one lived in Robert Street, Edith, and ... and Rose lived in ... in Lord Street, 55 Lord Street, I remember.

IT Where is that ?

BC Barrow. Barrow in Furness. And ... of course ... they had one daughter did Rose, and ... Edith, who lived in Robert Street, she had .. I think ... either one ... I think she had one daughter and two lads, I think. Anyway ... the local roller ska... ... that was the drill hall, had been a roller skating rink. And I don't know why, but it went bankrupt. And there was [23 mins] a cycle shop down Dalton Road called Dowell's. And he bought the whole ... eight hundred pairs of American skates. Ball bearing skates, they were. I remember the name of them , they were Richardson skates. And of course, when yer went in those places, you had to state the size of yer shoe, and there was lads there would give you a one size lesson what yer shoe was. And they had a key, there was a strap for the back, and a key for the ... screw the thing at the front, to grip yer ... yer toe in front. And anyway ... and they were in the window there, they was in the window, these skates, half a crown a pair, they were. That's what he was selling them for. Well I didn't even have the money. I'd never even bought a pair of skates. Mi two ... there was five us used to knock about together, but there was only two of them that had skates, but they weren't ball bearings, they were just ordinary ones, the ones yer could sort of screw underneath and extend them, sort of bits, yer know. And that's how [24 mins] I learnt on their skates, not mine, I didn't even have the money to buy 'em, sort of business. Anyway ... so that's how I really got on, what is it. When I went to Barrow, and mi Auntie Rose, as I say, I said to her about this half crown, yer know. And I must have pestered the life out of her, because in the end she gave mi this half crown, and I couldn't get up to this shop fast enough, to get these skates. And they were the best thing I ever had in mi life, they were. I know when I got them, and I came back to Cartmel ... and of course, in the meantime, what had happened was, half the playground, that playground I were telling yer about, the local people had decided that they would put flags down on half of it. They couldn't afford to do it on the whole of it, and so ... and these flags were being made at Backbarrow there, there was a cement works there in those days, made pipes and just ... [25 mins] just ... flags. And so, the flags were five shillings each. And I know they asked people to donate five shillings. And of course, mi great aunt, who lived with us as well, I know she was a pensioner, and she said, well I can't afford to pay for a flag, she said, but I can give yer half a crown of half of one, I remember she said, so she paid for half of one. But they were all laid down, and so, yer see, it was like a skating rink to us, that was, yer see, Yer see, but ... When I came back with these roller skates, of course, and mi two mates saw them, and they said : flipping heck, where did yer get those ? They couldn't even catch me, couldn't get near me, and we used to skate round and round the village, we did, 'cos there wasn't no traffic. And at night we used to go to rummage sales, and get hockey sticks. Yer know, people giving them for ... in these rummage sales, 'cos yer see they're boot sales they are

now, but in [26 mins] those days, there were rummage sales, people give stuff for the church, and different societies, yer see. And we used to get the collection, yer see. And then we used to go on this playground, specially on moon-light nights, it was smashin'. And we used to ... we used to go on there playing hockey, yer see, with these skates, they were really ... They were the best thing that I ever had in mi life were those skates. I know I used to go round the village, even going down squatting like a ... a frog and all sorts, and I got really good on skates, I did, honestly, I really loved it. Anyway ... but the only thing about it was, they only did half of it with these flags, and the other half, they did it with the pindle again, but they did it with the stuff that they do ... on tennis courts, hard tennis courts, but they were still sort of small pebbles. And of course, when the children were playing on it, course, some of it used to stray o'er, over onto this flags. Well, of course, when you were skating at night time, you couldn't see these. And I always remember, if you were skating like billyo after the ball, [27 mins] and then yer skate suddenly hit one of these 'ere little pebble, well of course, it would upset you, yer see. And I remember one of the lads called John, John Atkinson, he was a little lad, he was one of the five of us that used to knock about together, his elder brother was Isaac, and ... he hit one of these little stones, and d'y know, without word of a lie, its normal, natural to throw yer arms out when yer fall, but he didn't do. Why he didn't I don't know, the first thing he hit on the ground was his teeth. There, he knocked all his teeth out. Right across, in his mouth, he did, John. [laughs] He made a right mess of it, he did. And that was only through a little stone, on his roller skates, yea. Oh, dear.

IT Bob, when you were at that age, the people who lived in Cartmel, were they all of similar standing, in terms of money, or ...

BC Oh Yes, all working people.

IT Working people.

BC There was nobody sort of ... there was only one man ... yer see, one of ... [28 mins] there was five of us. There was Philip Howarth. Now his Dad was the local rate collector, yer see, and he used to come underneath Ulverston. And he lived just a little across the road from where I lived, at Priest Lane. And of course, he had a car. It was only a Morris Minor, a little Morris Minor, it was. But he had to go round all the farms picking up the rates, for the council, for Ulverston, yer see. And then the only other car in the village was ... was Unsworth's, who had a taxi. 'Cos he had a garage there, yer see, where that place is where yer get coffee and one another, and where the barber's is ... yer know where the barber's is now ... that was the garage part, there, and there was petrol pumps all there.

IT What is now the tea room ?

BC No, no, not the tea room. Where ... [IT : the barber's ?] That's right, the garage was there. No, the tea room and all that, it still belonged to them, of course, but that was the garage with the petrol pumps. And of course, when they said ... they did away with all those years later because ... [29 mins] well, they did away with a lot of these 'ere petrol pumps, didn't they, because ... it ... wasn't logic to have the petrol, sort of, that close to the road, and all rest of it. All these regulations and things came on after. But, ...

- IT So there were another three better-to-do people ? You mentioned the Unsworths ?
- BC Yes. Well, they lived originally ... at the top of Priest Lane, there's a big house, I think they've changed the name of it now, ... that's where they lived, and there was ... about three or four garages up there, and a big orchard, and then they moved from there into the Square, where ... y' know where the little pillars are, yer know, they called it the Old Eating House, that's what it's called, but the people there, have got it now, have put all railings up along the side of it, haven't they. In the Square there, in the actual Square, yer know where the pillars are sort of ...
- IT Ah, the Priory Hotel ?
- BC No, no, the pillars, no, the pillars, [Background voice : down on the flags] in the corner. [IT : Right] There, in the corner there. And there's a little shop window... there was a little shop window [30 mins] there as well. And then in that next corner was ... that's been a butcher's shop, it's been a confectioner's shop, quite a few things, and then there's an entry goes down there ...
- IT At the top of the Square ?
- BC Yes, at the top of the Square, yes. Now then, the other corner, where yer go down ... to go down the race course there, that house there, that's quite a big house, that belonged to Holker, and the man who worked ... he worked for Holker of course, he lived in that house, but ... later on, a ... a man with plenty of money bought it, and then he moved from there to Green Croft. Yer know where Green Croft is don't yer, that lovely house there ? Well, of course, the man who lived there, when I was a lad, I never knew him because he died. He was called Dr Woods. I knew his ... I knew his ... his ... wife, and he had two sons, and they both went to Cambridge, and I remember Joe, the eldest one, riding round Cartmel on a ... [31 mins] one of these 'ere old motor bikes ... I can remember it was like a ... the petrol tank was like a ... just a round cigar, and it was belt driven thing, it was. Joe used to ride it. But his younger brother ... what happened to him ... I never did meet him at all, because, whilst he was at Cambridge he was playing cricket, I don't know if he was playing for he University or what, but anyway, he got hit on the leg with a cricket ball, it turned to blood poisoning, and he died. Yea. So that was ... that was his younger brother. But anyway, mi mother used to go and ... to his house ... to their house, and do clean up, yer know, for the house, that Green Croft, 'cos it's a lovely big house, that is, but its all ... I know it had a lovely conservatory with grapes in, and everything like that, and quite a nice front garden, and one another. Anyway, that's what I remember of it. So anyway, as [32 mins] time went on, I remember about ... 19 ... it would be 1927 ... well it would be around 1930 ... I'd say three years had gone on.
- IT So you were about 11 ?
- BC Yea. Well, what happened was ... the Smithy ... I used to spend quite a lot of time in the Smithy, 'cos I know he used to play Pop with mi, said you're not going to learn any goodness in there, he said, yer know. 'Cos I used to like to go in and talk with the ... talk with the blacksmith, and blow the fire. That's what, I used to blow the fire, yer see. That's what I used to go for. Anyway, this particular year, it was really really heavy rains came,

tremendous rains. And it was so bad ... that yer know where, they call it El Coom [for L'Enclume] now, one of those fancy names they have there ... right opposite there, the field ... the house that stands right at ... at the end of that field ... I think there's a bungalow there now as well, it [33 mins] wasn't there before ... that was the doctor's house. Yer went down that drive. That was just like a lake, right away through as far as the eye could see was one mass of water, coming right down there, and it was ... it couldn't get through the bridge hardly, and it came round, and it was coming across the road, that's how high it was, and it came right round into the Smithy, and it was just to the height of the anvil. I believe it was just about one inch below the an... the top of the anvil. That's how high it was, the water. Now then, it came along, and yer know where Priest Lane is, yer know at the back of the church, the two fields that are there, well it came right through ... the water was all the way through there. One ... those few cottages ... that's by there, the end one ... 'cos they're sort of on a slope there aren't they, the ones at the bottom, they were flooded, not the top ones, but the bottom ones were, 'cos there was two ladies [34 mins] called Greaves lived in there, it was all flooded, right through those fields there, across the Causeway, the Causeway, yer know the Causeway don't yer, right through there across to that other beck. Well, that's what it was like, a great massive lake. There, that's what it was like. And so, there was only one answer to that, and of course, I don't know when they did it. Yer see, later on, in years later on, about two or three years later on, they decided to come ... to have a thing called the ... the River Board. It doesn't exist now, but they went round different places, with sort of a big crane and a grab, and they went down below what we call Cark shores, the wood, where they park all the cars when the races are on, that's ... that's seven acres they got, and they started to dig that beck out, right away down towards Cark, and that was the answer to it. It never ever occurred again. Never ever occurred again, at all, yer see. So ...

IT They deepened the beck ?

BC That's right. Yer see, all it wanted was the [35 mins] water to get away. Anyway, ... that was ... that ... that cured that, as I say, it really did. But then, after that, I remember, ... we had a really ... two or three really warm summers ... about two summers was it or three ... two summers were really warm. And we only had ... there was only one reservoir at Newton in those days, yer see. And of course, at Grange and that, places were growing, gradually of course. And what happened was, there was 2000 Territorials came each year, up to Field Broughton. And they camped in the fields. Yer know where the road splits like that, one to the right goes ... goes to the top of Lindale Hill, and the other one goes to Newby Bridge, doesn't it. Well, those fields from there ... [phone rings; background comments] So, before I get on to about the troops was, I went in the choir. I [36 mins] joined the choir. I went to Sunday School. And what happened at Sunday School was ... the lady who took the Sunday School, that was held in the ... in the Elementary School, she had a private school of her own at Grange. And they called her Miss Carter. Well, when it came to prize giving, yer see, and I never missed, mi Mam always saw that I went to school all right, went to Sunday School, and when it came to prize giving out, the prize giving came of course, and ... they handed them out, and the first prize of course, always went to the most brightest pupil of all. And the one who got that was a bible. That was ... that was the supreme effort, of course, yer see. And believe it or not, that was one of these five that I was. There was ... there was ... there was Philip Howarth, there was Ronnie ... Ronnie Burns, his Dad used to have the Pig

and Whistle, ... Ronnie Burns ... [37 mins] Philip Howarth, Ronnie Burns ... Isaac Atkinson, that was the one that got the bible, that's what I'm just saying, and then John, his brother, yer see. And me, of course, so there was five of us. And we used to all play and go round up Hampsfell, doing all kind of mischief, whatever, yer know ... light fires and win bushes, and build dens, and all kinds of things we did, yer see ... go for he newts up in the ponds up there, yer know, there's newts on the back of the fell, really unusual newts, they've got orange bodies ... orange bellies and all the rest of it, yer know. I mean this day and age, they'd go mad if yer did things like that now. Preserve all these kinds of things. But that's what we did, of course, as I say. Anyway, and of course fireworks, we used to do all kinds of things with fireworks when it firework night . I mean, and the big lads, who were round about 17 or 18, used to buy these halfpenny bangers, and tie string round them, so yer had about three or four, and put them [38 mins] on the edge of the ... of the cross there, and get a taper, and put a taper under. Of course it was like a ... a whole mid furty ... fourty prapper, as they called it, 'cos they don't even make those these days, do they. They were ones yer used to light, and they used to jump all over the place. Well, imagine these bangers all doing that. Anyway, what happened was ... as I say ... and also whilst I was talking about Cartmel, we had the Band of Hope. I went to the Band of Hope, and that was in the Methodist Church ... But we didn't go in there very often, we went in next to the Priory Hotel at Cartmel. That's three flats now, but at the very top, there was a very big long room, and a lady, who was very religious, who lived up at Stoney Dale at Cartmel, she owned that property, and she used to allow ... she used to have a care-taker in the place ... and she used to allow the Band of Hope to be there. But there used to be glass slides, yer see. And of course ... [39 mins] we used to go, because it was like a picture show to us, of course, us lads, and of course, ... and we used to like to get hold of ... in Christmas crackers, yer know sometimes yer get little frogs with a thing on, and yer squeeze it, and it goes "click clock", doesn't it, like that yer see. Well of course, this is the kind of thing that the man who was doing the slide show would be at the front, and there'd be one man at the back putting the slides in, and he would go "click clock" for him to move the slide over, yer see. And of course, we would ... possibly half way through, we'd come out with a "click clock", yer see. And we'd go "click clock". And then he would come say: No! No! No! No! Slide it back again, slide it back again, yer see. That was one of our ... that was one our tricks we used to do. And then when it came to the ... to the ... to the collection ... of course we didn't have any money to give to collection. But we used to enjoy it, mind you, there were coloured glass slides, we used to put acorns in the box, 'cos it rattled when yer dropped them in. [40 mins] [laughs] Oh dear. I remember that.

IT What exactly was the Band of Hope ? What ...

BC It was ... it was to ... it was to get young men, and girls as well, but I don't think there was any girls that I remember ... I don't remember any girls going ... it was to lead yer in the ... the ... the right way to live, and the religious way to live. And ... to sort of ... not take to drink. Mainly it was to do with drink, yer see. And it was all to do with things leading up to things like that. And believe you me, that was one of the things that really stuck in my mind, because, I remember seeing ... one time when I was there, and it showed some seamen, going to ... coming back from ... been at sea, and ... getting their money, and ... yer know, from being at sea, and their wages, and then some smart alec would be meeting hem by the

docks, and [41 mins] ... sort of befriend them, and one another, and know that they had their cash in their pockets, and one another, and ... then maybe take 'em to the pub, and get two or three drinks down 'em sort of business, with the sole purpose of robbing them, and also, maybe sometimes, he'd show 'em giving 'em a cigarette that maybe was doped, yer see, that kind of business, yer see. And of course, it was all leading up the drink business, yer see. And of course, I took all that in. And then ... I always remember about well ... I thought, now if I'm going to smoke, I'm never going to smoke cigarettes, I'm never going to get me a ... I'm never going to get a ... a doped cigarette, so I'll smoke a pipe. And I did end up smoking a pipe all mi life, I smoked a pipe, till I was about 60. I haven't done one ... I haven't smoked one for 30 years since, but I smoked it a long time.

IT And this was on the slides, that were in the presentation ?

BC Yes this was on the slides. Yer see, I did actually ... it did actually ... I [42 mins] did actually take it in. Did yer switch that back on, by the way ?

IT Yes, oh yes, yes. Bob, when ... when ... did you remember at what age you boys, at that time, started becoming interested in ... in girls, and were there girls around ?

BC Not bothered at all.

IT You were not ?

BC Not bothered at all. No. But I'll tell you one thing that used to happen. I remember Pop on about it ... I know the Vicar, his name was Parson Mould ... and he used to do it for young fellars about 16 to 17 or 18, round about that age, just used to be hanging about, nothing to do, and ... Yer see, sometimes, I know, there'd be a gang of us, when it ... when the nuts were on the trees, we'd all stray out, across the Park, and go in the woods, and get hazelnuts, and come back and sit on the Square there, with a knife, and eating these nuts, and the place would be littered with ... with ... with nut shells, [43 mins] all round the place. Things like that, yer see. And so, he got it into his head that he would start what yer call a bible study. And believe you me ... and they used to have them in ... what d'y call ... the part of the Priory where you ... later on, when I was in the choir, it's called the Town Choir, that's at the side, of the altar on the right hand side. And they used to go in there ... I wasn't old enough to go to this, of course, but it used to ... but it was such a ... a learned man ... 'cos I remember Pop saying to me, he said, he should never have been a parson, that fellar, he should have been a lawyer, he said. No, he was remarkable as re... as regards knowledge, yer know. And when he used to teach ... go with these lads, have these lads there, and they used to go ... used to go ... I mean, how many lads would have gone 16 or 17 to church in this day and age, would they, to listen to a parson, they wouldn't, would they. But they did, because he was interesting. He would talk about things of the day, not just religion. What was happening in the world, and things like that, [44 mins] yer see. Well I mean, those lads were learning things, weren't they. What was happening in the world. And he was a really nice chap, he was. The only one thing about 'im was ... that he liked his whiskey. And one of my jobs was ... I ended up doing ... was going to the Vicarage with a little bogey ... he had a little bogey with pram wheels, a box with two pram wheels on it, and two handles on it. And I used to go about once a month to the Vicarage, and get all his whiskey bottles, and I used to

get sixpence for doing this, and I used to go along Priest Lane, Barn Garth, go past Pit Farm, and then, as yer start to go up the hill, the first five bar gate there is there, well yer went in, across the field there, to that corner of that wood, and it was a big hole there then, it was called Tommy Pit, it was called. And that ... They filled it all up with tins and cinds and everything that was going in those days, yer see. And that's where it was. And I used to all these bottles to, [45 mins] from his whiskey. [laughs]

IT Because, presumably in those days there were no dustmen coming round to take the rubbish, or were there, and the recycling ?

BC I think there was. I think there was. Just one used to come every now and then and again, yer know. And talking about that, yer see, when I first came Cartmel, yer see we had ... we didn't even have water lavatories, we had earth lavatories, yer see. Ours ... Priest Lane ... that was at the bottom of the garden, and yer went in, there was two holes, one for a small child and one for an adult. And on the wall used to be a nail, and yer didn't have toilet paper, we had newspaper, which used to ... which used to be either the News of the World or The People, or something like that, the Sunday papers, cut into squares, like that, and a hole put through, and a piece string, and it was hung on the nail there, and that was the toilet paper, of course yer see. And at the side there was a ... a Sun ... Sunlight soap box, wooden box, with cinders in [46 mins] and a shovel, and after yer'd done yer poos, yer got a shovel full of cinders and put it down the hole. And of course, what happened was, that a man, who used to live at Greenhurst, a farmer, it was his job ... he had a job ... I suppose he was employed by the ... by the local Corporation ... well no wonder, it came under Ulverston, it did the ... the people ... and he was paid to do it, I guess, and he used to have to go to every house that had a toilet, they must all have had one, and ... go round the back of course to do it, and shovel it all up into his barra, then barra it out, and ... put it on his cart, and take it up to the fields, wherever he was going with it, yer see. And that's all the earth lavatories. And when we moved into Hazeldene, next to you, that was the first water lavatory that we had, that, yer see. Because in those days, to have a water lavatory, yer used to have a ... a thing out way out in the field like ... if yer have a bungalow built out in the countryside, yer have [47 mins] what yer call a cess pool for it to go into. And then once every 12 months, yer get one of these 'ere people to come with a big what-is-it, and they suck it all out, don't they, yer see. Well, yer see, there must have been one there at Hazeldene, because that was the only one that I know there that did have a ... a water lavatory, as I say. But across the road from Hazeldene was a nice little garden, ... with like a rose bed in the middle, and next to it was the 'orrible old barn, right opposite where you live was an 'orrible old barn, it was, all dropping to bits, no ... no spouts, just water running off all over the road, and starlings used to all ... nest in the holes in it, and eventually it fell. It used ... it was the show people who had it to put all stuff for the show, yer see. For the Cartmel Show. They had quite a few. And ... of course ... Anyway, and then beyond that was a way down to Parson Wells, as we called it. [48 mins] Down there, its called Parson Well, that is. And ... of course, there's a nice bungalow built there now, of course. But it was called Parson Well, and that was part of the stream that runs North. Now there's very very few streams, I believe, that run North. Well it does run ... it goes from a spring, that does, and it goes right past Greencroft there, but eventually comes right round, and it eventually comes ... back into the River Eea, it does. It doesn't run North very far. But I mean, it does run North, yer see. But anyway, that's how it

was. But ... anyway, I say, ... and of course later on, as I say ... oh ... we're getting round to this ... I was on about Miss Carter, and her Sunday School, and so, Isaac got the bible, 'cos he was quite a brainy lad was Ike, he went ... eventually when he left school and went ... I don't know where he went ... he didn't go to grammar school, but he ended up in the Forestry, [49 mins] ... doing some kind of a job, it was quite a good job in the Forestry, I believe, somewhere up Whitehaven way, or somewhere like that. And of course his younger brother, he ended up being a long distance lorry driver, well he's dead and gone. So is Ronnie, he's dead and gone. And so is Philip, he's dead and gone. There's only me that's left, and Isaac, as far as I know. [laughs] I've outlived the lot of 'em. Yea, oh dear. But anyway, getting round to this Miss Carter ... and they were put ... handed these prizes out, and everybody go a prize, and when it came to me, there wasn't one for me. But it's surprising, d' yer know, things like that really stick in a child's mind, I really ... right up to 'ere ... honestly I did. Went right up to 'ere. And mi Mam ... mi Mam went to see her about it. Why was my son left out ... no prizes? She must have said ... oh well ... 'cos she [50 mins] had a private school here at Grange, on Fernleigh Road ... She had about ... maybe about 10 pupils, something like that, 8 to 10 pupils. Anyway, what excuse she told mi Mam I don't know, but anyway, the next time when I went to ... what is it ... the next Sunday, she produced one, and what d' yer think it was ... it was a paperback thing, it wasn't a hardback one like everyone else had got, it was a paperback thing ... that was it. And I said, when talking to mi Mam, I said, that's me, I said, I'm finished. I said I am not going to school ... Sunday School any more. And I was determined that I didn't go. That's it. Now that put me off, that did. So that's why I ended up joining the choir, in the Priory. [inaudible background comment]. Well, I was in it for four years, and I liked it and enjoyed it. We used to go twice a day. We used to be in there in the morning, and at night time. [51 mins] And ... we didn't get paid ... well yer get paid now, these days, but anyway, we didn't get paid, but we were taken on ... we were ... at a certain part of the year, when we used to go to choir practice, they used to say, well, now we're all here, where would you like to go this time, yer see. And of course, we all had a vote of where we'd like to go for the ... for the day out. And so I managed to go to Blackpool, and I went to Southport, I went to York Minster twice, I think it was, so, yer know, I had some good trips out, with the choir, and the parson went of course as well, yer know, and all the choir. 'Cos we had girls in the choir, but they used to sit at the back did the girls, on those seats. We were at the front. And I was on the side where the tenors were, and the other side was where the bass men were. But ... as I say ... and ... of course eventually worked up to be top boy, 'cos there was a little desk where I was. [52 mins] And ... I used to ... the slip that yer had on for all the ... the ... the hymns and psalms that was comin' up, of course, you ... you could prepare yer things before it came, I used to pass it along to the rest of the lads, then they would pass it back. Well, when it came to the sermon, of course, ... of course he used to come out through that lovely screen, and up into his pulpit.. And we used to sit down, I used to get ruddy bored, bored stiff, so what I did in the end ... I started to fold this sheet up, and I folded it up into 32 pieces, and tore it up and made little boats, of each little piece. [laughs] And of course ... and then there was a ... a lassie called Pam Watson, and ... I started to make face at her, this particular Sunday. And I think I was about ... I think I was about 13 or 14, I think something about that age. [53 mins] Anyway, I remember ... the choir master was the organist as well, Ingleton, his name was. I always remember his name with being that hill, Ingleborough. And ... he ... I was making

faces at her, of course, this Pam Watson, and he was sitting ... he wasn't in the or..., he was in the organ, but ... he'd sort of slewed round, he was sat there, he could see what was going on, he couldn't see what I were doing, but he could see 'er, and she was tittering and god knows what. And of course that was it. Course, when the service was over, I got the boot, that day, got kicked out. And of course, I was really upset about that, I really was. But ... the funny thing about it was, yer know, in one of these papers, there, just recently, I think its in memory page, ... [54 mins] the choir master before Ingleton was a man called Dilkes. I never knew him. And the man before that was a man called Rathbone. Now he lived in that Aynsome House. Yer know which is Aynsome House ? That's just above where you are, that big house. Now believe it or not, I've got a picture in my front room there, a watercolour, and it was Mr Rathbone's wife who painted it. She sat on Barngarth, in that ... where there's a field half way along, isn't there, up Barngarth, I think it's an allotment or god knows what now, I don't know what it is, but I know that ... that house there,[?], that belonged to them, but if people had it for different ends and ... god knows what. But she must have sat in that field and done a painting ... it's on the wall in there now. And believe it or not in that painting ... well, I've just given it [55 mins] to mi daughter ... there's a man in there ... an officer ... and ... and he'd some connection of this Rathbones [?]. I only read about it just this week in the ... I thought, flippin' heck, I've got a painting done by his wife. Yea. Just shows yer how time goes ... goes around, doesn't it ? Yea. Anyway, while I was there, I always remember one Sunday ... in the afternoon ... it was summer time ... 'cos I remember we used to sort of go in the main gates and just stand around for a while, 'cos yer see, when they ring the bells, they ring what yer call three times. They ring, first time, they ring what yer call ringin' ... they're hanging like that, the bells, and when they've finished the ... one session, they're like that. And then, with the second session ...

IT Upside down ?

BC Upside down. So the next session ... they ring 'em ... and they put 'em back up again. And then the third session, they 'em what yer call [56 mins] down, and they're hanging there like that. And then after that, they toll the one bell, just for a short while, just one single bell, yer see. 'Cos I was going to go, after I'd finished the choir ... I was going to learn to ring the bells. But anyway, the different jobs that I got, like I told yer all about, I couldn't keep it up, I couldn't go, so I never did learn it. But I went up there quite a few times, of course, helped to wind the clock up, and things like that. [laughs] But I was stand there one ... one ... one ... one summer afternoon, round about, yer know, that time of night ... church was about six o'clock, and it was about ... half past five maybe quarter to six, and the bells had rung, but they'd been muffled. We couldn't understand that. I said : why are the bells muffled ? Yer see, the only time they ever muffle the bells is ... the clapper that is on the inside, they put a piece of felt, strapped to one side so that it ... it's muffled, when it rings it's a muffled sound, [57 mins] and when it comes round the other side, it's a loud sound. That's what yer call a muffled bell, yer see. And this particular day, in summertime, the bells were muffled. The only time they would do it was ... at New Year ... the old year into the new year. That's the only time they ever do it. Muffle the bells, yer see. Yer see, in the old year they have the muffles on, and then when it's the new year, they ring 'em ... they take the muffles off, yer see, to ring it in. And so, we couldn't understand this. Why is ... why is ... why is the bells muffled ... in the middle of summer, yer know. We didn't get to know, because when it was

time for us to go in, we used to go ... not in the main entrance, we used to go round the back, in that entrance round the back, and then straight along and up into the vestry, to get our surplice and cassock on, and everything yer see. And when we got in there, we found out. What had happened was, the R101, [58 mins] that airship, had crashed in France, and there was a whole army of people died, and that was what it was for. And d'y know, believe it or not, years later on, I remember being on Crown Hill ... I don't know where I was working or how old I was then ... it must have been 1936, or something like that, '36 or '37, and what d'y think I saw ... I saw the Hindenburg come across ... across Morecambe Bay, right round Grange, and then right to way round to Barrow shipyard, taking photographs. What was he doing ! That was Hitler, making ready for the war coming along ... taking photographs of all the ... the land. I always remember ... then later on ... when I was working ... I'd worked at the Grand Hotel for two years, then I got a job in the Merlewood, [59 mins] when it first started opened ... and I always remember, about half way through ... being working there, I got a bit fed up, and ... I saw the head porter down Grange one day, and he said, how y're doing, and I said not so bad, 'cos at the Grand, I was ... there was the head porter, the first porter, I was the second porter, and then there was a page boy. 'Cos we used to wear a plum coloured uniform, and it was a really posh place in those days, was the Grand, yer know. Some really quality people used to come, yer know.

IT Where was that ?

BC Grand Hotel at Grange. [IT : Grange]. And ... so anyway, 'cos when I got this job at the Merlewood, I was single handed ... mi wage was only fourteen shillings at the Grand, and living in, of course, but ... I got quite a lot of tips ... I know the first year I was there, it was ... it was ... about November I think it was, the end of November ... [1 hour] and the madam of the house wanted all ... she didn't want any paper garlands up at all, she wanted the real Mackay. And so the first porter and I, and the head gardener, we had to go out in the woods and get all branches of yew trees, and ivy and holly, and then we had to put 'em on long strings, wind it all on strings to hang in the ... in the ... all in the ... along the hall, and all in the ballroom ... 'cos there's a lovely ballroom. I don't know if yer've ever been in that ballroom, it's a real sunken ballroom it is, parquetted all round ... it used to have it's own orchestra when I was there, it's own dance band it did, and ... all these 'ere garlands, yer see. And of course it looked beautiful, of course ... we'd been ... yer know ... greenery, of course, naturally, yer see. Yea. And ... anyway ... when I to Merlewood, of course, I was going to be single handed, so when he said to me, where did I work, and I said, I'd been at the Grand ... 'Cos I got the sack from the Grand. 'Cos I came on duty one [1 hr 1 min] day when the head porter was on, and the manager had rung down and said to the first porter who was doing his job, he said when Robert comes on duty, he said, would you ask him to go and sweep the leaves up in the drive. And so when I came on at 4 o'clock, he ... said to me did the first porter, he said, oh, he said, the boss wants yer to go and sweep the leaves up in his drive, up in the drive. I said, yer what ? He said he wants yer to sweep the leaves. I said, he's had that. And so ... he said, well, I'm only tellin' yer. Anyway, ten minutes went by ... the phone rang. They had their own phones as well there. The lines used to drop down, and pegs ... And before he went to it, he put his hand over the phone, like this, he said to me, what am I going to tell 'im ? I said, same as I've told you, he's had it. So he went ... Yes sir. He said, has Robert come on duty yet, he said. Yes sir. He said ... 'cos his sitting room was [1 hr 2 mins] right

above the front door, and he could see out, yer see. He said Yes sir. Well, he said, I can't see 'im anywhere, he said. No, he said, he refuses to do it sir. Oh, he must have rammed the phone down. He came along the hallway, and I was only a lad about 16 then, and I think I stood head and shoulders above 'im then, this geezer, the manager. And he ... came down along the hall ... pitter patter pitter patter I heard 'im comin'. He said, come into my office, he said. And he walked along ... I knew where his office was ... number 101. And I went along ... and there was a roll top desk in there and two chairs, that's all. He never ever used it, this office. And ... I went in. He said, what's all this, why don't ... why ... why .. why don't you want to go and sweep the drives ? I said, well in the first place, I said, I'm employed inside, I said, not outside. 'Cos I was a hell of a one for sticklers I was. And so ... [laughs] he said, well, he said, well fair enough, he said, but ... [1 hr 3 mins] you clean the windows as well, don't yer, that's outside. I said, yes I do, that's part of mi job. Mind yer, the windows that were in that place, I never ever did get round 'em, there was that many of 'em. I used to get 'em ... when I could get at 'em, sort of business, yer know. So he said, yer clean the windows, don't yer. I said, yes I do. He said, why won't yer ... Because it's not my job, I said, that's the gardeners and the gardeners' lads job. Oh, so you refuse to do it ? Yes I do. Right, he said, take a week's notice. I said, thank you very much. I can remember repeating the words like that, I was ... I was quite enough ... yer know ... about it ... and ... anyway ... etc. ... that's all ... I served mi week's notice, and right on the 3 o'clock on the same day, a week ahead, I left. And that's how I came to go to this other place. And that's why it ... it was a big gentleman's house, turned into a hotel.

IT But there were jobs at that time ?

BC Absolutely.

IT/BC [indistinguishable – both briefly speaking at once]

BC When I went ... I was out of work ... just about a fortnight, [1 hr 4 mins] and I went up there, and I saw 'im, and he'd never ... he'd bought Merlewood Farm. And he had an estate of 500 houses, this gentleman, down at Leigh, West Houghton, they were being sold for about £350 each, in those days, just outside of Manchester, and they were just finishing 'em off. And two men had bought Merlewood, one was called Profit and one was called Brown. And so ... and of course, they came from Manchester, business men they were, and their intention was to make it into a hotel. And so, he said ... Brown suddenly came ... what happened was ... I got to know all about this later on ... what happened was, Brown suddenly had a legacy of some sort ... some money left ... a tremendous amount ... and so he said to Profit, will you buy my half out, he said. I can't, he said, I haven't got the money, he said [1 hr 5 mins] I can't afford to. And so, straight away they said, well we'll go and see Green, that was his name, Mr Green, yer see. He'd already bought Mer... already bought the farm, of course, Merlewood Farm. Because he was one of these kind of men ... he always liked to be doing things. He wasn't a lazy man at all, he had to be doing things. And so they approached Mr Green, and said, what about ... would yer buy Merlewood of us. So, he 'ummed and 'arred about it ... I wasn't thinking about it, yer know, what do I know about hotels and one another. And so they came to some agreement, and they said, well yer will buy it ... so he did do. He bought the whole beautiful house, 37 acres of grounds and woods round it. How

much d'y think he bought it for ? Ten thousand pounds. When yer think of £10,000 now, it's chicken feed ! Absolute chicken feed, isn't it ! [laughs] Anyway, that's what he bought it for. And of course, then ... with having his men just finish ... so he brought his men, [1 hr 6 mins] and started to turn it into an hotel. Everything in the place was brand new. The carpets and the ... beautiful suites ... I know the lounge ... in the lounge, there was all beautiful white dragons ... they're still there on that ceiling, yea, 'cos I've been up since. See all ... one of these 'ere places now where yer ... what d'yr call it, where yer pay money and go on yer holidays to different places ... what d'yr call it ... [IT : Holiday Trust] What d'yr call it ? [IT : Holiday Trust] That's right, that's what it is. They ... they've built 35 or 38 houses up there I believe now. Yer want to see it ... oh, it's tremendous ... I've photographs of it in there, anyway. So ... but when I went there ... so, he said to me ... I told 'im, I said I got the sack from the Grand, I said ... and I told 'im why I'd got the sack from the Grand. So he said to me, well, he said yer've no need to bother about that, he said. He said we have two gardeners 'ere on this. And as he spoke, they passed by the window. And so he said to me ... well he said, if yer've worked at the Grand Hotel, yer good enough for me. [1 hr 7 mins] And so he said, what kind of wage were yer thinking of ? And so I thought, right, I'm going to be on mi own 'ere, what yer call a single handed porter, I've got to do everything, I got to the boilers, I've got to do the boots, I've got to do the windows, I've got to carry the luggage in, carry the luggage out. So I thought, right, I'm goin' to ask for a bit more 'ere. So instead of the fourteen shillings ... I said I'd like a pound, a pound a week. And of course, a pound was a lot of money, that was a big rise to me, that was. Oh, fair enough, he said. So I said, what about uniform ? He asked me about the Grand, and so I says what we wear. And so he said, well ... he said what do you want to do, he said. Well, I said, well what colour d'y want me to wear ? So he said, what colour did you have at the Grand ? I said it was a plum coloured uniform. Well I knew there was green ones for these people who used to be commissionaires at picture houses, outside with the gold braid on, and I hated that damn colour. So I said, well, I'd rather have a plum coloured one, yer know. He said, [1 hr 8 mins] right, he said, well d'y know where to get one. So I said, well, there's a place in Barrow, I said, that makes uniforms. Get yerself there, he said, and send the bill in to me. So I had to go to Barrow and get measured for a uniform. And that was it. So I got alright ... it was alright. And I went ... and that's where I started ... a bit later on I started to go round with his daughter. I started to court his daughter. But she'd only just left grammar school ... mind I wasn't much older. Anyway, I got to know that she was playing about with lads at the picture house down in Grange, and I didn't like that, so I tackled her about it. I said ... I said ... I don't like that carry on down the picture house. Betty her name was. And so she 'ummed and 'arred. I said, oh, that's it, I said, never mind, I said .. I said on yer way, and so that was it. That's how we broke up. But they'd already go to know that I was going with her. She was a bit bothered, [1 hr 9 mins] was her mother, and ... he said, oh don't bother, it's only ... it's only a boy and girl thing, he said, which he was right ... he was right when he said it, yer know. Anyway, after I'd been there I say for ... oh, six, nine, ten months or more even, getting into the next year, I got a bit cheesed off and I thought ... I'd like to do something with myself ... I thought I'd like to see ... go and see the world, I thought. There's only one thing I can do to see the world is get a ... get on a ship at Liverpool, get on a boat at Liverpool ... I'll get somewhere ... see something ... see the world. So, I wrote a letter to the White Star Line, in Liverpool.

IT So shall we leave that for the third interview ? [laughs] Because that sounds like a very exciting time coming up. But, just one last question for your childhood, then we've finished, because we've already [1 hr 10 mins] done an hour and ten minutes. What was ... it's November and Christmas is coming up, and as a young child, what was Christmas like in Cartmel, Christmas time ... how did you celebrate it ?

BC Well, we celebrated it at Church, and that, yer know. Yes.

IT Did everybody go to church ?

BC Oh yes, all the people went to church in those days, yes. Lot of people. I go ... I go to the Methodist now, because mi daughter goes to the Methodist, now, so I go along with her ... we go in the car and that.

IT And at home, how was it at home, Christmas ? Did you cook special things ?

BC Oh yea. Yea. I always remember mi Dad used to in ... In the Institute, across from the church gates, they used to have some billiard tables, yer see. And ... they used to have ... before those billiard tables, they just used to use it as the main room, for concerts and all kinds of things. Then later on, they built the village hall. I remember 'em building the [1 hr 11 mins] village hall, I remember the men who helped to build the village hall, and ... Jackie Rawson ... and even the labourers ... there was a man called Farrar, he was ... he was a mason, a stone mason, and ... the ... Laisby was the ... was a labourer, and so was Mr Bell, one of the Bells, he was a labourer there. But then later on, they got ... they got tables up there, when they built the village hall, and had it as a ... and of course the working mens' club they had there, see, and they used to have competitions, sort of for whist, and for dominoes, and for billiards or snooker ... I don't think they played snooker very much, it was mostly billiards in those days. And I used think it was a boring job, billiards, just three balls, never hear of anybody playing billiards these days, do yer, its all snooker. But I know ... and of course, the prizes at the end of it was a goose for Christmas, or a turkey, yer see. And then other prizes like [1 hr 12 mins] chickens and boiling fowls, and things like that were the smaller prizes.

IT Who was giving the prizes ... farmers donating ...

BC No, no, the money was from the ... sort of in the club, belonging to the club, yer see. No, it wasn't sponsored by anyone. No, it was from the club, yer see. It was quite good, yea.

IT So your father bring the odd goose, at times ?

BC Odd times ... odd times ... he was ... he was quite ... he wasn't a bad player at it, yer know. Yea. But ... I don't think he ever played whist, or anything like that, yer know. No.

IT Thank you very much Bob. It was very interesting. Thank you for your time. [end 1hr 12 mins 37 secs]