



Interview with Percy Unsworth

John Percival Unsworth ('PU'), born 1938,
with wife Lesley ('LU') in background

Interviewer : Barbara Copeland ('BC')

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BC Right, off we go.

PU I'm Percy Unsworth. I was born in Cartmel, well, not actually, born in Lancaster Infirmary, lived in Cartmel all my life. My family have been here for quite a long time. They came to Cartmel in the late 1800s, to a house in ... up Hill Mill, South of the village, and then moved down to Ivy Cottage, on the outskirts of the village again, which is now Ivy House. And the Coach House is now Ivy Cottage.

LU [inaudible comment]

PU And then, I should think the family ... mi grandfather was a gentleman, he never worked, but the family fortunes must have gone down hill, and he downsized again, to Prior's Yeat. [1 min] It's now Prior's Yeat, in the village, which was then called Glenlea. In fact ...

LU Your grandfather died when he was 46.

PU Yes, mi grandfather died when he was 46, and that didn't help the family fortune. And Glenlea, my dad was born there, and his two brothers ... sorry, three brothers. One was drowned, and one ... when he was 17 years old, at ... near Old Park. There was three people drowned that day. The vicar of Cartmel, who was teaching the swimming lessons, and another villager went to help on his motorcycle, and he was killed on his motorcycle, so it was a bad day all round. [2 mins] And mi dad Ernest, Ernest Unsworth, he ... he went from there when he was apprenticed at Vickers Armstrong, in their airship shed in 1917. And that would be ... 15 years old. And he worked ... I've got his indenture papers still. He worked for half a crown [2^s/6^d] a week. And his father had to put a surety down of £5, for finishing the course, which he did. But as soon as he came out of his time, he started the garage in Cartmel.

BC What was your father's name ?

PU Ernest, Ernest Unsworth. [3 mins] And he had a brother Maurice Unsworth, and Frank Unsworth, and Arthur that died. But he started the garage. It was down by the park gate. Must have been just a bit of a shed, I don't know, that's where it started, and then he bought ... where Unsworth's Yard is now, the garage, and the ... It was an old saw mill. Wayside was a storage shed, and the workshop behind with the saw pit. And he carried on the garage business.

LU 1922

PU He started that in 1922. And he ran taxis, and the workshops employed two mechanics. [4 mins]
And during the war, he had a wood business too, and had 20 men in the wood at one time, sawing wood for the war effort. There was no fuel for the ... all the coal was being used on the ships for the war effort. He used to saw logs from local woods, and even Roudsea Wood, which is now a protected wood. And they were in there, and they delivered logs to towns nearby, like Lancaster, Blackpool and Preston and that. And then he had the taxis. He went to the lake tours, and then taxis for most of his life. And there were two petrol pumps, which is now the hairdressers.

LU [inaudible comment]

PU The hairdressers in the village, next to the Mallard teashop, is where my [5 mins] daughter's café, my eldest daughter's café is now. And the yard, the workshop yard is ... well it's the home to the bakery and the cheese shop and mi eldest son's brewery.

LU And the architect.

PU And John Coward, he's got an architect's business going, which he partly bought, and that funded the rest of the development, which was overseen by my second son David, he was the brains behind that, well, the driving force, it would still have been derelict if it was sort of left to me. And so, it seems to be going very well.

LU There was a coach.

PU Oh yes. And we had a coach at one time, it did the school contract. And, when we were at school, ... well, I can get onto the school [6 mins] now. Well, I started at the Primary School in the village, which is now the Primary School, when I was 5. There was ... we had three teachers then. There was Miss Dilkes, who taught us in the infants class; Miss O'Donnell; Miss Dilkes was from Barrow, Miss O'Donnell lived at Newby Bridge, she was in the next class, as yer got older, and Jack Castle, he was the headmaster and lived in the school house, he was headmaster. And when we got to 14 years old, he started the school ... like a finishing school, down at the Y.M., which is now the sticky toffee pudding, down on the Cark camp. But the first term, [7 mins] I had chance to go to High Wycombe, which was a Lancashire Education Committee school near Stokenchurch, in Buckinghamshire. I went there with quite a few village boys, and boys from round about, and the girls went to a school at Whalley, which they had as a girls school. And I spent a term there, and then I finished off at the Y.M. we called it, now down at Cark camp.

BC And what did you learn there ?

PU Well, just general things, but I mean, when we got to that age, we were ready to leave. We didn't want to do anything, just start work. [laughs]

LU What about Grammar School, the old Grammar School.

PU Yes. And when we were at Cartmel School, we used to go one day a week for [8 mins] wood ... when we got older we went to woodwork and joinery at the old Grammar School, just on the edge of the village. They had the garden behind, and we did the gardening. And we'd a

master there, Tom Hindle. He was a heavy smoker, it wouldn't work nowadays, he never had a cigarette out of his mouth. His finger and his top lip, and the side of his face, was always stained brown. [laughs] And I remember getting the cane once, I was outside at lunchtime, and there was some girls talking to us, and he saw something we didn't, and I got the cane. I don't know to this day what it was for. [laughs]

LU The girls learnt cookery.

PU And next door to the ... where we did the joinery, and the girls went [9 mins] for cookery ... domestic science they called it. Yes. I still have a cupboard on the wall. It was a carving done by mi grandmother, a carved door, and I made an oak frame, called a cupboard. We've still got it on the wall.

LU You never said about our dad up at the airfield.

PU Mi dad at the airfield ?

LU Up at Sellafield and Kirkby.

PU Oh yes. Well, there's all sorts of things to go before that, isn't there ? We're getting ... We got back with Glenlea with family, and then they moved to old guest house in the Square. And they had that ...

LU Drapers' was it ?

PU I think that it was a drapers' shop. There's ... got a photograph [10 mins] with a sign above ... bed and breakfast was it ? [LU : Yes] A sign up ... bed and ... [LU : Guest house] Guest house, old guest house. [LU : Frank Unsworth] Frank Unsworth. Yes, Frank had that as an old guest house later on. And then the family moved to Wayside, which is David's wife's wine shop now.

BC Yes, you mentioned about going to Stockmill Bobbin Mill with yer dad as well.

PU Oh yes, that's when I started driving, yes. Yes, well, mi dad had lorries ... his lorries during the war. And when they built Kirkbride aerodrome during the war, he had quite a lot of the local men ... his employees, Bob Gaskarth, Wilf and Tom Fishwick, which were local men ... in fact Wilf Fishwick, he drove coaches ... [11 mins] for Parkers, and then ... well, we'd Grange Motors then. Grange Motors employees were up there, with lorries. And they also ran a bus service. And when they built/finished Sellafield, they ... well, they lodged there for quite a long while. I used to go on mi first holidays to Maryport, to those old lodgings. And then they moved down to Holmrook, Gosforth, when they started building Sellafield, and helped out with that with the lorries. And then, when I was a kid, they started getting long distance lorries. And we had two long distance lorries when I ... yea, well ... and then when I go to driving, we still had a ...[?], that was my job, [12 mins] driving lorries, after I'd spent three years in the garage, and driving taxis, taking the school kids to ... school contract. And he had a local business delivering fire wood. And we used to ... I ... well I used to go to Holker, and load coppice wood, for Stock Park bobbin mill. And we used to go in there, with the coppice wood, and ... for making the bobbins, and we used to bring the blanks out, that ... the slabs

of wood with the holes in, with the bobbins taken out, we used to sell that ... deliver round Grange and local villages, with a lorry, as firewood, kindle wood. And then, well, I went on from that, and when [13 mins] I was old enough, we got to drive the big lorries, and I used to be a long distance man, spent most of mi life on long distance.

BC Did you take a driving test ?

PU Never took a driving test. Oh, I took a driving test with a car, with a taxi, at Kendal, but with the lorries, I didn't have a ... they didn't have a test, a special test for lorries then. And I was back ... when mi eldest son was born, mi wife, Lesley, got a bit fed up with me being away, and I was back in the garage for two years. But ...

LU You was driving the council wagons. You drove your dad's council wagons, [PU : I did ?] when they came off the wagons. [PU : I did, yes] He was a contractor to the council.

PU Yes, he'd a contract with the council, [14 mins] with a tipper lorry, and I drove that and was in the garage. And then ...

LU Bernard Boundy drove it.

PU And then, it was Christmas time when I were driving, he broke his leg over at ... down in t' corporation, loading waste paper ... he fell off a load. And I went back on the road. We didn't want to start a new driver, at a bad time of the year, so I would drive 'is lorry. And I'd never ... it was an articulated vehicle ... I'd never driven ... I'd only driven a rigid, and I set off down the road with this articulated lorry, which was ... it was a nightmare for the first, for the first few weeks, [inaudible background comments and laughs] until I got used to reversing it. Anyway, we won't go into that. But [15 mins] you didn't need a special test at that time, and then of course the test came in for artic's, but I was fairly proficient then.

BC Who were the mechanics who worked for you in the garage ?

PU Yea, we employed two mechanics. One was Eddie Benson. He'd been in the RAF. After the war, he came back and worked in the garage. And John Edmondson. He was a bit of a local character ... and he was a mechanic and also he used to drive occasionally. And the ... Bob Gaskarth used to drive for us, who lived in the village. He ...

LU And David Gee's uncle, wasn't it ?

PU David, yes, David, we remember David Gee, he died just two or three years ago. It was his uncle ... that lived ... [16 mins] at ... what's the name of the house ?

LU Can't remember where he lived. [PU : Yes, well, opposite Mr Teasdale, on the corner.] Oh right, Warton House.

PU Warton House, ah, they lived at Warton House, yea. And he used to paint vans for mi dad. If dad sold a van, he would brush paint them by hand. People couldn't believe that they weren't sprayed. And I don't know how he did it because he always had a cigarette in his mouth, so how he kept the cigarette ash off the paintwork, well ... [laughs] but he did, yea.

BC What age did your father die ?

LU 59.

PU It was ... mi dad was only 59 when he died, but ... and then ...

LU He lived at Headless Cross

PU He was living at Headless Cross at the time. And he ... [17 mins] my eldest sister, and mi next to eldest sister, they were in the garage.

BC What were their names ?

PU Edith was mi eldest sister. She's still alive. And then Eunice, she was the next ... she died.

LU But Eunice went in from school, didn't she ?

PU Eunice was in the garage right from school, in the office.

LU And Marion Airey was in the office.

PU And Marion Airey, she was in the office before that. She married ... [LU : George] [BC : George Airey] George [LU : She was Marion Hull] She was Marion Hull. He had a grocer's shop at Town End. [LU : Where the sandwich shop is] Where the sandwich shop is now. It was a little shop, and ... [18 mins] that was her dad's business. And, when her father retired, Marion married ... [LU : George] married George Airey, which is a local butchering family. And they ran the shop between them, and then moved round the corner and started the Spar shop, which is Cockles ... it changed to Cockles now. George is dead, Marion is still alive and kicking. She's ...

LU Well, Marion will give that history, because they're interviewing Marion, aren't they. [BC : Yes] [PU : Pardon] Marion will give that history because they're interviewing Marion. [PU : Yes]

BC So, when you were growing up, what games did you play ? What did you do ?

PU Well, we played all sorts of games, in the school yard. In the school yard, one side was ... was beaten earth, and the other side was flags. And [19 mins] there was always games going on in the school yard ... marbles ... there was two games of marbles. There was ordinary marbles, as you know it, but there was another game, with a ... yer dug a hole, and rolled the marbles in.

LU [inaudible prompt, mentioning a wall]

PU Yea. I don't ... I can't quite remember the rules on that game, [laughs], but that was a game. But there was always something like whip and top, there was ... when one thing died out, there was always something else. [LU : Conkers] Well, conkers, and ... we spent our time ... played hockey in the school yard. It taught me how to fall, which is very handy now in older age. [laughs]

BC You mentioned tippit.

PU Yes, tippit, that was a game. That was played on The Park. It was a wedge shaped piece of wood, and yer'd to hit it with a stick, and it flew in the air and yer had to knock it, and then [20 mins] guess how many strides to retrieve it. And the elder lads used to play that game ... Tommy Hough, and the Robinson boys, Maurice Robinson, Porky Robinson, and we spent a lot of time ... school holidays, I mean, parents never saw us, we were in the woods, with bows and arrows, and various things, and we used to dig for pig nuts on The Park, with a little white flower, and yer used to get a stick and bury down and get the roots, it was like a little brown nut, wipe the soil off on yer trousers, and [laughs] ... [LU : Eat it] eat the nut.

BC What about damming the river ?

PU [21 mins] Yea. I remember one time we were in with the school, and George Dickinson came, he ... we used to dam the stream up at Castle Meadows, so it was deep enough to swim, and he came to school and complained because it was flooding his fields. But ... I think he went a bit over the top actually. But ... and we used to spend a lot of time in the beck. There was a local legend we took no notice of ... they called it Ginney[?] Green Teeth, and he lived under the bridge in Cartmel Beck, and, well, it's a legend. I mean, that legend's all over the North of England. In Cheshire, it's Jean Green Teeth, Jeanie Green Teeth, but ... and ... around Manchester, yer had the Boarguard[?], who ...[?] near Manchester. But it's a legend in all the [22 mins] becks. Yer know I think it's to keep children from going in the beck. But ours was a Ginney[?] Green Teeth. [laughs] But we used to go in the beck with an onion bag, and with wire tied round to keep it open, and go fish fishing, work up stream with a stick, and tickle the trout out with a stick, out of the hole, catch 'em in the onion bag. But ... as long as the bailiff wasn't about. [laughs]

BC What about the cinema ?

PU Oh yes. We used to do the pictures ... picture houses were a big thing in those days. The cinema was a big thing. We used to go to Grange, the Palace Cinema at Grange, where the Keg and Kitchen public house is now, and the ... and the ... [LU : Chinese] Chinese. There's a Chinese in there now. That was run by the Nelson family, [23 mins] and I still talk about the stall seats, the front seats being the sevenpennies, which is what it was in those days. And also there was picture houses in the Holker Club, at Cark, and on the Cark camp. We used to cycle down, and keep out of the way of the village lads, in case yer got beaten up, and see all the old films. In fact, we used to have a cinema sometimes in the village hall in Cartmel, which was the silent ... some silent films were shown. Aye.

BC What about the circus ?

PU Yes. The circus used to come to Cartmel. It was in the circus field at Wells House farm. And the field which is now the ... where the chalets are, that was the circus field. And the circus used to come every year, [24 mins] and the fair used to go there, in that field, with the big vehicles ... [LU : Yer dad ...] And I remember one time they had to get an elephant to Ulverston, and he ... I don't know ... I've no idea how they got it to get on the flat vehicle, but mi dad said it was the awkwardest load he'd ever taken, 'cos an elephant stands with all it's

feet together, and all the weight was in the centre of the vehicle, and he said it was awful ... I don't know if the men stood on one with it, or ...[?], I've no idea how they did it. But he said, when they got to Haverthwaite, there was a railway bridge in Haverthwaite, and they had to get it to get off, 'cos it was too tall to get through the railway bridge. [laughs] I don't know why they didn't go via the Angler's Arms, but anyway ...

BC You mentioned, as a little [25 mins] boy, about the bombs at Allithwaite.

PU Oh yes, yes. One of mi earliest recollections ... I remember being carried downstairs, from where I lived, in the flat at Headless Cross ... it was open right through to the main house at Headless Cross, where mi grandmother and auntie lived. And I remember being carried down ... and it would be ... I would say in 1941, when Allithwaite was bombed. And mi recollection is being carried down the stairs in mi mother's arms, and all the windows were vibrating in the frames, like setting yer teeth on edge, and I still remember that sound, it was awful. And we spent the night underneath the table in Headless Cross. But, things like that stick in yer memory, [26 mins] and quite a lot of houses in Allithwaite and Holme Lane were destroyed. I remember seeing 'em. And, later on in the war, I remember going with mi dad in the car, he had some business at Vickers at Barrow, and I remember the barrage balloons were up above Barrow. That was to stop the enemy aircraft getting near the shipyard to bomb it. The sky was full of barrage balloons, yes.

BC What memories do you have of Cartmel Races ?

PU Yea, Cartmel Races. It wasn't a big event like it is now. It was just Whit Saturday, Whit Monday, and later autumn bank holiday, two meetings. But, it wasn't [27 mins] as big affair ... I mean, they didn't used to have to block the village off, or anything like that, but ... it has developed as that. But the Race and the Show was every year. I mean, Cartmel has always been a ... a busy village. Well, it was a working village. At Clogger Beck there was a joiner's shop. All the wood work machinery was in there, planeing and ... with wood that was ... there was lots of machine in there, and I believe Jim Dixon, who owned it last, still has it up at Newton, where he lives. I think he still stores all the machinery. There was all sorts of businesses going on. I mean, the blacksmith's. I remember shoeing horses at the blacksmith's. Tim Hewartson¹, he was the blacksmith. Billy Watson owned the business, [28 mins] he was a bit of a character. He had the blacksmith's shop, and sold bicycles. There's still a metal sign on the wall of the barn opposite the ... which is now L'Enclume. There's a big green sign, Raleigh, the old steel bicycle ... and that's what he sold. He was a local character. He used to keep game cocks, in a hen house down by the Stanneypole[?]. Now the Stanneypole[?] is in the corner of the Park, next to the beck, [LU : near the Scout hut] near the Scout hut. And the Stanneypole[?] was a trunk of wood, bridging the river, 'cos there wasn't a bridge there, at that part, and that's how yer got across, walking the plank. [LU : a round one] Yes, [29 mins] a round ... [LU : pole] thing, a round pole. And his hen house there, breeding his game cocks, and, well, I believe there was cock fighting going on, but we didn't know anything about that. In fact there's a hill going in the Park that's called Cock Hill,

¹ Actual name James Hewartson but often known as Timbuck. Reference : his son-in-law, Derek Birch during interview at L'Enclume on 19 Sept 2016, (approx 11' 10" et seq. during that recording).

which is named after cock fighting, when it was legal. But, there's also a cock pit in the building next to the Cavendish Arms, in Cavendish Street. And, I think that's where they went under cover, that's where the cock fighting went on. But, of course, we youngsters knew nothing about that.

BC You mentioned different shops, like the shoe shop.

PU Yes, in Cavendish Street, there was a shoe shop there. Geoff[?] Cockton[?]. He ... [30 mins] there was chap called Harrison used to manage it for ... and his son went to the local school, Harrison.

BC Did they make the shoes there ?

PU No. They didn't make shoes there, no. It was just ... [LU inaudible prompt] although I think they repaired shoes, yes, he repaired shoes. [LU : The old eating house] [BC : Yes] And next to that, opposite the Cavendish Arms, was Ayres old fashioned eating house. There was an old character there, Frank Campbell. He was a portly man with an apron, and he was a real character, and he used to say apple pasty without cheese is like a kiss without a squeeze. [laughs] That was ... mi dad used to keep trotting that one out. Yea, [31 mins] and ... the farmers ... were ... there was the milk business going from ... [LU Joe Gaskarth] Aynsome, Aynsome farm, which is the Dixons. They had a dairy there. And I remember we had a milkman, and just come delivering, and the bottles had just come in ... used to be jugs, but bottles. And I used to think the milkman was called Extra, because mi mother used to shout out the window to 'im "pint extra today please". [laughs] I thought he was called Extra, yes.

LU In Cavendish Street, there was Joe Garkarth milk round.

PU [32 mins] Yes. Cavendish Street, Joe Gaskarth ... well Shepherds ... Shepherds had that first. [LU inaudible comment] At Glenlea, where mi parents lived at one time ... in fact at Glenlea, it's sandstone quoins on the corner of the building, and at the back, the back door, there's mi dad's initials. They were mi uncle Frank's. He carved into the sandstone "F U", his initials, and mi dad came along and made the F into an E, so it's mi dad's initials, and they're there to this day. [laughs]

BC What about the hotels and the pubs ?

PU Yea, the pubs. The Pig and Whistle, which was the Devonshire Arms in the old days, it ... there was one landlady when [33 mins] we were ... well, about 14 year old, we used to go into the back door, and she used to serve us through the back window. [LU : Really] Mrs Bailey. But, it was just a beer house. There was no wines or anything like that. She served the beer straight from the barrel, the tap onto the barrel, lying on its side. It was a Hartley's house, which is now Robinson's, the brewery at Ulverston.

LU It was just a little room, wasn't it.

PU It was just a little room, yes. But ... and then there was of course the Kings. There was a character in the Kings, Jim Horton. He was a local character, big man in the cricket club. He had it for many years. And the Royal Oak which was a Dutton's house. The Kings Arms was

a Case's house. They [34 mins] were ... Case's was a Barrow brewery, Dutton's was Blackburn I believe. And the Priory Hotel, well that wasn't licenced but it was a good hotel. Well, it come back now to a good hotel. It used to be no where, but it's had different years.

LU Mrs Baddeley was there.

PU Mrs Baddeley, yes. She was there for quite a lot of years, and her family. The Post Office, I remember during the war, that was kept by the Teasdale family, Harry Teasdale's brothers. I remember going in there when I was a kid, and they had cheese, this was during the war, and there was cheese there and there was maggots in it. And he maintained that the maggots would only eat the cheese [35 mins] so there was nothing wrong with eating it.

LU That was Teasdales.

PU That's when the Teasdales had it, yea. But ... well, things were hard to get to. Yer had ration books and ... for everything, sweets and everything was on ration. And I still have a ration book in the house, mi auntie's ration book, yea.

BC What about John Rawson ?

PU Oh yea. John Rawson, he ... oh, there was his father, Jackie Rawson. He ... old Jackie used to ... he had a car but he used to ride about on his bike most of the time, with his mortar board on his head. And he used to ... he could park his bike ... jump off at his house on Park Lane ... jump off his bike with it still going, with a mortar board on his head, and be in the house [36 mins] before the bike parked itself against the wall.

LU Park Road

PU On Park View, yea. He was a character. Then his son, John Rawson, been in the army, he took over the business, and ...

LU Had a builder's yard in Cavendish Street, didn't he ?

PU He had the builder's yard in Cavendish Street, yes.

BC And what about all the ladies, the spinsters who lived in Cartmel ? [PU : Eh ?] Spinsters, the Misses, [LU inaudible comments whilst others talking] [PU : The Spinsters ?] Single ladies.

PU Oh. [LU : Mind ! (as something is about to fall)] I don't want it to fall off. Yes, the spinsters ... we were ... well I was a kid, yea, there was a Miss Ransome.

LU She lived in Tower House, didn't she ?

PU Yes ... no ... [37 mins] next to Tower, that one with pillars on on Cavendish Street. [LU inaudible comment] Is it Tower House ? I thought Tower House was where the Robinson lived ... the one near the ... [LU : No, I think Tower House is the big one] I'm not just certain about that. [LU : just under the arch] Yea, Miss Ransome, well, during the war, they had a ... did a lot for the war effort ... I believe that they had a canning machine, they used to can veg and fruit, yea.

- LU Miss Damsell[?]
- PU Yes, Miss Damsell[?]. She looked after old lady, Miss Ballantine. She was part of the whiskey Ballantine family. [LU : She lived ...] She lived on Pr..., no not Priest lane, [LU : Barngarth] Ah yes, [38 mins] she lived on Barngarth. [LU : Near Mrs Rowbottom lived] That's it. She lived on Barngarth. She ... mi dad used to take her, with her own car at first ... she used to go to Lochgoilhead in Argyllshire, on holiday, and mi dad used to take her up with her own car, and then he used to stay up there for a week, in the same hotel with her. And then when she got too old to drive, he bought her car, it was Austin 10, and then he used to take her up in her own car, but he had the car ...[?] And I have been on holiday up there too, with 'em. Well, no, not with them, but after she died, mi dad still used to go up and stay there.
- LU And Miss Bateson, at Green Croft ... where Charles Godwin lives. [PU : Is that [39 mins] where she was ?] Miss Bateson. [PU : I didn't know her, as I remember]
- BC So there were a lot of single ladies ...
- PU Lot of single ladies in the village, yes. [LU : Miss Davies, that ran the Post Office] Yes, Miss Davies ran the Post Office. There was ... [LU : St.Mary's Lodge, as well] Oh yes. The Allenby sisters at Mary's Lodge. They used to have parties for the children, like pre-school, and when we started school ... young kids used to have a party ... used to play croquet in the lawn, which is now a car park, and a garage. It was a beautiful lawn, yea. And there was ... oh there was Mrs Young. She lived at the end of Priest Lane ... Spring ... [40 mins] no, Miss Jackson lived at Springfields, the house next to Springfields ... that was Mrs Young. Her husband was Major T S Young. In the village hall supper room, there used to be a big ... animal's head ... like a moose's head ... or a big heavy head ... stuffed head that had been shot. At the blackout I've no idea where that got to, but somebody 'll have it somewhere, maybe. It was shot in India by the Major T S Young. Mi dad used to take her out in a taxi, and I used to go with 'em. And at Aynsome ... the big house at Aynsome ... [BC : Aynsome Manor ?] [LU : Was it called Aynsome Manor ?] No, the big one across the field there ... it's the flats now ... [LU : Oh, [41 mins] Broughton Lodge ?] Eh ? [LU : Broughton Lodge] No, just past the farm. [BC : Oh, Longlands ?] Longlands, yes. There was a ... what was 'is name ... Hickson, Mr Hickson lived at Longlands. He was the Hickson that they play the cricket cup for, Hickson Cup. And mi grandfather used to drive the taxis, when I was at pre-school age, and he used to pick him up at home every morning and take him to Cark station. And he used to travel to Manchester every day, as a solicitor, and then pick him up at night, and I used to go with him in the taxi, mi grandfather as well, Austin, Austin 18 taxi, with a glass partition behind the ... between the driver and the passengers. I used to sit in front, [42 mins] and we used to go ... with mi dad ... with mi granddad, on the school ... we used to pick up the school children, round Cartmel Fell, in those days. I use to change gear for mi granddad, [laughs] 4 years old ! There was a big chromium knob on the gear stick, and he used to use the clutch and I used to change gear for 'im.
- BC What was your granddad's name ?
- PU John, John Pattinson. He was ... [LU : Oh, that was yer mum's dad] Yea, mi mum's ... mi mum's dad. He lived at ... and mi mum, lived at Thwaite Moss, at Rusland. And he didn't like

- farming, and they moved to Cartmel, and ... [LU : Headless Cross] Umm ? [LU : Headless Cross] to Headless Cross, bought Headless Cross, and [43 mins] bought a steam lorry, and set up a business with his brother George, and I have a picture of it, and it's taken outside the ... the [LU : Royal Oak, was it] Royal Oak at Allithwaite. And there's a picture ... there's mi granddad ... it was a 1914 Gareth[?], and it was a bad lorry, it almost broke them. But the picture, mi granddad and his brother George standing next to it, and another chap at the back, and two little boys on top of the load, which is barrels and boxes, like a mixed load. He used to travel ... go to Liverpool with his steam lorry, and bring a load back from Liverpool. I don't know how long it took them, a long time I would think. And I have ... there's a picture up in the brewery, and also, Grange [44 mins] Now might be publishing that picture in the near future.
- BC So both sides of your family draw, or had owned lorries, and ...
- PU Yes. [BC : Oh, right, that's amazing] Yea, mi granddad, Mr Pattinson, John Pattinson, he didn't like farming, and he packed it in, and ...
- BC So was he a competitor to your other granddad in the village, if they both had lorries, or ... ?
- PU No, no. He was older, actually, and ... my first recollection of 'im, Mr Pattinson, he was retired. [BC : Ah] He used ... I remember 'im ... he smoked incessantly all the time, and he never used matches ... he ... they had an Aga cooker in Headless Cross, and he used to get the spills of the wild parsley, [45 mins] dried, and he used to have bundles of it hanging up in ... the oil kitchen they called it, the little back kitchen next to the kitchen, he used to have bundles of spills, and he used to open the Aga door, put the spill in, and it glowed, and lit his cigarette with it. And the cat ... there's a little alcove with ... next to the Aga, for the tools to go in, and the cat always used to sit in there. And I can remember mi dad saying goodbye cat, and poke it out of the way to get at the tools. [laughs] Yea, goodbye cat.
- LU Oh, June was saying about ... Eu ... was it Babs or Eunice, went to Miss Carter's school in Grange.
- PU Yes, a private school [46 mins] in Grange. Mi elder sisters went to Miss Carter's school, which was in Grange.
- BC Whereabouts ?
- PU I think it was on Kents Bank Road somewhere, but Miss Carter lived at Cartmel, at Lane End Cottage. Yea. But she ran the school in Grange.
- LU Joan Senior mentioned it, didn't she ?
- PU Yes. Like a private school. [BC : Yea] Yea.
- LU And then you were saying about Speddings, about yer pie shop in The Flags. [BC : Oh yea]
- PU Oh yea. On a Saturday morning, Speddings, which is Frank Walker's in laws, they had a bakery, where my younger son David lived now, at The Flags. They lived there, and on Saturday morning, there was pies, and sell to the village, [47 mins] and almost all the village

went on a Saturday morning, and eat their lunch, meat and potato pie. Yea, it was well known, yea.

BC So there were two pie shops, 'cos there was Airey's as well, and ... was it Airey's ... on Cavendish Street ?

LU Oh Ayre's ... Ayre's.

PU Oh Ayre's, it was an old fashioned eating house. [BC : Oh, that's different, right] Aye, it wasn't a pie shop. No Ayre's was a café. [BC : Café] [LU inaudible comment] Yes, there's a triangle sign, and it's on all these old pictures of Cavendish Street, it sticks out, Ayre's Old Fashioned Eating House, yea.

LU And then there was Peggy Howson's bakery, in the ... where Peter Bain Smith had his book shop.

PU Yes, at the top end of The Square, Peggy Howson ... she ... her husband had a painting and [48 mins] decorating business. Brian Howson, the son, he lives with his wife in Allithwaite now. [LU : He carried on the business, didn't he ?] Brian carried on the business after his parents retired. And Mrs Howson had this bakery shop, June Park ... June Bibby that was, served her time there. And that was my first car, I bought off him, it cost me £30, when I was 17. It was an Austin 8 tourer. [LU : Narrow enough to go down the arch, wasn't it ?] And he used to get it through the alleyway on Bank Court, and that was narrow enough, and he bought a new Austin A35 van, which was very narrow. It was the only vehicle that would go down, and I bought this, mi first car, [49 mins] £30. And we ... [LU: And then ...] we used to go to dances and hunt balls, with mi mate Alan Preston from Seattle, and it was so cold for the night, we'd to get newspapers and stuff the cracks up to keep warm, 'cos there was no heater or anything like that. [laughs]

BC And you mentioned yer dad used to take Sid Banks.

PU Yes, mi dad used to take Sid Banks, the dance band, to the ... [LU : Hunt balls] hunt balls. The used to have hunt balls in those days. [LU : And then you started taking him] And then I took him, yes, when I ...[?] sort of. Mi dad did it for years with Sid Banks, and Sid died only last year was it ? He was a fair age, yea.

BC And what about Scouts, you were in the Scouts ?

PU Yes, I were in the Scouts, Cartmel Scout Club, and I was in the Scouts. It was ... [50 mins] run by a Mr Taylor. His brother had the South Lakeland Nurseries, Dick Taylor. It was his brother, lived in ...

LU Wasn't called Sam, was he ?

PU No, Sam Taylor was his dad, lived at Greenfield. It was ... Sam Taylor was his dad, that wrote Cartmel People and Places. And he ... we used to go to his house for the meetings in Greenfield House, and he used to give us ... he had stamp collections, that Sam, his father, he used to give us stamps. He gave some penny black out one day, I never got one of those. [laughs] There was plenty of penny reds, but not penny blacks.

- BC What did you do at Scouts ?
- PU Yea, we used to go to meetings there, and then we used to go to camp, at Stock Park, [51 mins] near the bobbin mill, it was Colonel Dixon's land, but the Scout master used to live at Finsthwaite, and he knew Colonel Dixon well, from Stock Park, and we used to go ... have a camp next to the lake, just below the YMCA camp. And that was our Scout camp, in summer, we went quite a few years to the same place. Very enjoyable. And fished on the lake, and messed about in boats, yes, it was grand.
- BC Did you ever go on holiday anywhere ?
- PU Yes. I used to go on holiday when I was a kid up to ... well I used to go to Maryport, [BC : Oh] with mi dad's lodgings, Mrs Coleman in Church Street, Maryport. And the Bells, they used to lodge there as well, some of the men, and in fact, [52 mins] the son of the Bells, when I was working down the road on long distance, he drove a low loader for Greggains garage at Maryport. And I knew him all my life. And poor man, he was killed couple of months before he retired, in the steel works at Workington. He was loading a lorry, and the sheet steel fell off the lorry and he was crushed. [BC : Oh, yes] And the Greggains guy had the big garage in Maryport, he used to drive for them. Mi dad was friendly with the Greggains, well, they no doubt serviced the lorries when they were up there working. And we were allocated a lorry, in the war ... you were allowed an allowance of lorries ... we didn't ... we couldn't afford a new lorry, [53 mins] but I remember mi dad getting it, and running it for a few months, and then selling it to Greggains, he wanted one. And when I got to driving, on long distance, I used to work for Robsons Motor Transport at Carlisle, and he used to load in West Cumberland a lot. They had ... Quaker Oats used to have a factory at Whitehaven, and Smith paper bags, they used to make paper bags for everybody, and bread wrapping paper, and there was Barclay Shoes at Maryport. They had a shoe factory, until they moved the production abroad. And I remember going in to Barclay Shoes to load one day, and there was a lorry, it had the American star painted on the side by the American army, [54 mins] they were at Stone Cross at Ulverston, and mi dad used to take the stores from Barrow into Stone Cross, for the American army, and they painted an American star on the side, and this lorry was still working, [BC : Wow, yes] at Maryport, yea, unbelievable.
- BC Is there anything else about life in Cartmel that you can remember ? Were the roads ... were they tarmaced ?
- PU Oh yes, the roads had been tarmaced, oh yes. Yea, the roads were better than what they are now.
- BC Did you have many travellers or tourists coming into Cartmel at that stage, to the Priory ?
- PU There weren't many ... oh yes, we'd carry ... well ... we had people delivering fish, what we have now, but Bob Hill from Flookburgh, he was the fish man. He used to come round every Thursday I think it was, with fish, [55 mins] and local tales from everywhere. And also there was Parkinson and Johnson, they were the butchers in Ulverston. And they had the butcher's van they used to come round, and with pies ... pork pies and potted meat, and things like that. And, yes, it was a good service.

BC So Cartmel was almost self sufficient for everything you needed, [PU : Well yes] with people coming in and selling as well ?

PU Yea. You could get everything yer want. Well, people weren't as demanding then as they are now, I mean people want everything now, don't they, but ... I expect during the war, I mean, there wasn't much of anything, but ... I remember [LU : Yer kept a pig, didn't yer] I remember the Gaskarths giving us a pig during the war, [56 mins] and yer used to feed it every ... used to collect the scraps and ... just round the Post Office corner, next to the gaol, lived the guy, and they kept this pig in this pen for us. And I remember the Aireys coming and butchering in the garage below Headless Cross. And I know they used saltpetre. I remember them butchering it, and the ham was beautiful, yellow and fatty, and ... I can taste it yet ! [laughs] Oh dear. Oh, what about Frank Walker with ... he had a thrashing/threshing business. Did yer mention that ? [LU : No, yer haven't] [BC : No] [LU : No yer talked about him being a working farmer] Yes, yes, I said about it, I said about it ... the diary.

BC No, not on [57 mins] the recording.

PU Oh no, I didn't, it was before, that's right. [LU inaudible comment] Yea, Frank Walker, who lived at The Flags, he was the son in law of the Spedding family, he had an agricultural business. He had steam engine at first, with a threshing machine behind. And I remember him being up the back lane, at Wells House farm, threshing the grain. I don't know how he got it up there, he wouldn't get up the lane, he must have gone through the circus field, and in at the back, to get it up there. But he was there in the lane, threshing with a belt onto the threshing machine on the steam engine. And then, he'd a big International tractor after that. That went and he got a big International tractor, and he used to go round agricultural merchants for ... threshing the corn for other people. And that ... they had a [58 mins] dairy there, at Wells House farm. The lean-to at this end of the farm, on the South side, that was a dairy. And I remember going in as a kid and watching the cooling machine, it's like an aluminium ... like a radiator, water used to run down the side, and the milk used to go down the middle, and into the kits to cool it, the milk cooler. And Harold Lamford[?], he was the farm man, he would be in the shippen milking the cows. And if he saw yer, he would squirt yer in the face, [laughs] off a cow. He was a good friend of mine, I used to go about a lot with him, pre-school. [laughs]

BC [59 mins] Were there many buses coming to the village ?

PU Yes, the buses used to ... the bus service, which was Grange Motors, and then Ribble took over, used to come right into The Square. The Square, there no parking like it is now in The Square, it was ... nothing parked, just on the pub front. And the bus used to come up by right hand side of cross, and back round into the corner, and then park looking down The Square, where the drivers had their breaks, kept the schedule, and it was a common ... all day long, and came in and out. But we ... us lads one day, we immobilised it. We used to have a good game with potatoes, and we used to jam [1 hour] a potato up a car's exhaust pipe, and the ... they'd a job to start, till it blew the potato out. In fact, old Angelo, he lived at Horseheads[?], he had old Austin 7, and we did his one night, and hadn't the power to blow the potatoes out, and he had the distributor out, and he was in a right mess. We got tired of watching him and we went home. [laughs]

- BC Oh, you used to watch to see what happened did you ?
- PU Yes, out of sight, yes. [LU mostly inaudible prompt regarding the bus] Well, we did the bus, we got a big potato, we banged it up the bus's exhaust when it was waiting, and, anyway, the bus driver, he got in and he couldn't start, so he put in into gear and let it roll down The Square. Well, that blew the potato out, and it flapped against the bow window [1 hr 1 min] at the old guest house. It was a good job it wasn't a foot lower, it would have smashed the window. [laughs] Oh yea, well, we used ... we'd a good game in The Square, rumbling the pipes. The gatehouse had the best pipe in the village. Yer used to roll a newspaper up, and stick it up the drain pipe, and then light the bottom, and it used to flame all the way up, and make this rumbling noise, rumbling pipes. [LU : yer'd be in trouble now] [laughs] It never used to set the buildings alight ... well, we never had any ... We weren't mischievous.
- LU There was Larch Tree, that was a bakery.
- PU Yes, the Larch Tree was a bakery, yea. The ... [1 hr 2 mins] [LU : June worked there as well, Watsons] Yes, the Watsons had it, but it had various owners, but, the Dugdales had it, a firm called ... a family came up from Lancashire, the Dugdales, and they had it for a while. It used to amaze me, I used to go in there, and there was a tap, and ice blocks used to come out of the tap. I don't know how that worked.
- BC Can you remember Blue Bell House ? [PU : Blue ... yes, Blue Bell, yes] Mrs Mayor ?
- PU Yes, Mrs Mayor of Blue Bell House, yes. [LU : She used to take in lodgers, didn't she] She used to take in lodgers, Blue Bell House, yes, Mrs Mayor, she's a ... yea, once a year, yea, yea. The Dawsons lived down there, next to it, Devonshire House, that's where the Dawsons lived.
- LU Oh, and you haven't mentioned Gladstone Terrace. [continues talking inaudibly after Percy starts]
- PU Oh yea, [1 hr 3 mins] opposite the school, the secondary school, there was three houses ... well, there was two ... two small houses and a large one in the middle. [LU : There was Bernard's] There was Bernard Boundy, [LU : Bibby's. June was born there. June was born at Gladstone Terrace, Bibby's] Yes, Bibbys was there before Bernard, surely ? [LU : Oh, right] Well, there's only three. [LU : Oh were there ? (and another inaudible comment)] The Barnes family lived in the centre one, and the Dawsons lived at this end. And the Bibbys lived at the far end. Bernard Boundy must have come in after the Bibbys left. But it was pulled ... the whole block was pulled down. [LU starts a phone call in the background] They did that back end ... [1 hr 4 mins] fire escape from the back, and the local land owner wouldn't give permission to go into the field.
- LU [partly on phone with June Park, neé Bibby, who grew up in Cartmel, and partly reporting phone information] Now, Percy said three. [pause for telephone reply] Dawson ... Dawson, Barnes and Boundy. [PU : Yea] And you went in after who ? [pause for telephone reply] Right, right, right. So you don't know when the Boundys were there when you were there. [PU : There were only three cottages] Oh, she thinks Boundys would be after them. [PU : Yes, that's what I said] Yes, Percy thought that. Yes, yes.

- BC What year were they pulled down ?
- LU [still on phone] No, yer don't know what year they were pulled down. [PU : No, I don't] No, you don't remember, you ... well, you don't know when they were pulled ...no. [1 hr 5 mins] So when you were 2 ... moved out when you were 2, you went into the council house, didn't you ? Yes, 'cos you were the first one, weren't you ? Weren't you the first ones ? [pause] Right, right. [pause] Right, just a minute then. [pause] Right. There was two council houses built first, when June was 2, that would be in 1943, 1944 ... just before ... about 1944 there was just two council houses built, [pause] and they were farm workers' cottages for Pit Farm. [pause] Yes, they were farm workers' cottages, that dealt with the farm workers. So there was the two built, Roger Shaw and those. [PU : Right] There was no other council houses. There was just those two built, and then ... [PU : Right] yea, they were built first, before the other four on Pit Garth. [1 hr 6 mins] [phone call continues in background for another half minute whilst other conversation continues]
- BC So what about religion, because you had the Methodist Church, the Priory, the Quakers, [PU : Yes] Do you know any ... any thing about ... I mean, on a Sunday, was the village quiet because ...
- PU I was never in choir, but we went to church. We were never big church goers actually, but ... yes ... I mean, there was the Methodist Chapel, and the Priory Church, and the Friends Meeting House, yes.
- BC And you said the Unsworths had a pew at one stage.
- PU Yes, we had our own pew in the Priory, yes. [LU : Well, yer grandmother did] Mi grandmother's family pew, yes.
- LU Yes, no, it was Mr Watson at Larch Tree that June worked for, [PU : Yea] and Grace Nichols, you know Grace, [1 hr 7 mins] Grace drove the van. She used to go round delivering from the café ... from the bakery, like Pat Hughes used to ...
- PU Well, Pat Hughes used to come up Cartmel delivering bread and cakes as well, [LU : Yes, that's right, she did] Yes, she did.
- BC So there was a lot of bakeries around ?
- PU Oh yes, a lot of bakeries, yes. And Seniors, but they never delivered, did they, Seniors Bakery ?
- LU [starts talking inaudibly before PU finishes] ... used to come with a big van, but that was when I was ... we were married. [continues talking inaudibly after PU starts talking]
- PU Yes, that was later on, yes. The Seniors from Grange, they always had the Grange Bakery, for many many years, they came to Cartmel school, [LU inaudible comment] I went to school with them at Cartmel school, Michael and Gerald. We'd quite a few from Grange. [LU : He went to High Wycombe did Michael] Yea.
- BC Is there anything else you want to say, that you can remember ?

- PU We'd better speak without this, yer know, [1 hr 8 mins] yer sort of get lost. I think we did better the other day, we should have had it going.
- LU No, I think you've done very well. [BC : Yea]
- PU There must be other things that we can't think about. [LU : You've talked about the blacksmiths, haven't you] [BC : Yea] Yea. Well, I could smell the essence, the smell of the horse's hooves ... and put the iron on, yes with Tim ... Tim Hewartson² put the iron to the hoof. Yes, and there's a picture that was in the Royal Oak there, till recently, and it ... picture looking down Cavendish Street, and there's an old charabanc outside the pub, and there's three little kiddies, the little girl in the middle, she looks about 5, and there's a [1 hr 9 mins] little kiddie each side, and the little girl's playing around, and I would love to know who they were. But ... and looking further up, there's a cart outside the ... with it's shafts up ... parked outside the wall ... past the blacksmith's, up against the wall. The horse is obviously in the ... getting shoed, and the cart's there with the shafts up.
- LU Oh, there's the Institute, that was a Working Mens Club, wasn't it.
- PU Yes, Cartmel Institute is a Working Man's Club. There was always newspapers, and magazines like the Punch in the reading room, the reading room downstairs. [LU : And the library] And the library was on the left where the hairdressers is. And upstairs there was a billiard table, a full sized billiard table, and a snooker table, two tables, full size, [1 hr 10 mins] and a little room at the end where we used to play darts, and cards, like a little card room.
- BC So women weren't allowed in, or ...
- PU Not saying they weren't allowed in, but it was like ... [BC : It was more men] Yes, working men. [LU inaudible comment, continuing whilst PU speaks] Women didn't go, no, no. [LU ... at home and looked after the family]
- BC And did yer have to be a certain age to go in, or could you go in when you were ... say 14 ?
- PU I think ... yea, we went in at about 14, yes, as members, yes, members of the Institute. I don't know if we paid anything ... whether yer just ... I think yer must have paid something. [LU inaudible comment] No, we used to spend a lot of time in there, yea.
- BC It wasn't like a youth club then ?
- PU No it wasn't. We had a youth club in the village hall. [BC : Oh did you ?] Yes. We'd a youth club for quite a few years, yes.
- BC [1 hr 11 mins] And that would be girls and boys together ?
- PU Oh yes. [LU : who ran that ?] There was a chap at Allithwaite used to come down, Hinedley[?], he was a bit of an odd bod frankly, [LU : You're on record !] [laughs] [BC : Hinedley ?] Hinedley[?], yea. [pause] I don't know ... no, no ... yes ... [LU : And what did you do at youth club ?] Various games and all that.

² See note on page 7 above

BC So there was always plenty going on then ?

PU There was always something, yea. There's the football and cricket.

BC Was The Park just used for the Races, the Show and the cricket and football ?

PU Yes. There wasn't much else going on there. Yes. And then the tippit. The lads used to play tippit [1 hr 12 mins] on there, yer know, I said that. We spent lot of time in The Park. Course, when I got to driving, I couldn't keep on with the football and cricket, I was working Saturday afternoons, so I lost all that. [8 secs pause for thought] So ... [BC : So, well, we've done over an hour, so ...] Well, I'll think of a lot more when you've gone !

BC Thank You, [one recorder switched off] Thanks.

PU [laughs] It's come over ... and coherent !

BC Well, the red light's still on and it hadn't ... did notice though that the time its been flashing, and so ...

PU Well, we'll see when the sound comes over.

BC Well, I've also been recording it ...

[audio file ends at 1 hour 13 mins 2 secs]