

Summary of Interview with Harry Tyson

Interviewee : Harry Tyson, born 1922

Interviewer : Denys Vaughan & audience at a meeting in Grange

Date of Interview : 12 February 1992 Duration of Recording : 51 mins 30 secs

Approx time (mins)	Content
0 – 1½	Introduction added to the recording by Tom Sweeny, and introduction by Denys Vaughan of Harry Tyson to the audience at a meeting.
1½ – 3½	Changing times for farming generally; recalling bad years in the 30s, about '53 to '66, and currently in 1992; recalling labour intensive dairy work in 1938.
3½ – 6¼	In this area, first tractor was probably owned by Mr Dixon at Meathop, whilst last person to give up using horses and get a tractor probably John Dixon at Aynsome c.1950; after the war farmed near Liverpool for 7 years and took a Clydesdale shire horse from Cartmel because local ones were known as broken down dock horses.
6¼ – 7½	Born at East Plains farm, about 430 acres, then father moved to Pit Farm, then over 600 acres, following Tom & John Dixon there, then moved to Castlehead Farm at Lindale in 1938; description of large household at Pit Farm for hand milking a relative small dairy herd.
7½ – 8¾	Working day started at 5.30; began machine milking after move to Lindale; no electricity in Cartmel until 1934/5.
8¾ – 11	Farming families in this area tend to be long established, usually tenant farmers, changed farms occasionally, but few new arrivals; HT's father initially at tenant farmer on 120 acres at Lindale, but bought it c.1946 for £7,400; previous rent unknown, but rent for 130 acres at Liverpool was £270 p.a.
11 – 13	More conscious of money than father, so took opportunity to go to available father-in-law's farm in Liverpool, but not worth investment due to housing plans for the land; shock for a country lad to return to farming after years in the R.A.F.; eventually persuaded father to let him have Lindale farm.
13 – 14	Loss of land for Lindale by-pass; got on well with neighbours at Castlehead College, and rented some land from them when they gave up farming themselves.
14 – 17	Wages : good man in 1950 on £4/4/- per week, who paid 3 ^s per week for cottage rent, no benefits in kind; probably working a 45 hour week; similar man and hours in 1992 would cost about £150 per week; audience comment that in 1950 a Barrow shipyard worker would be on a similar wage; although termed farm labourers, good men were very skilled men operating machinery etc.
17 – 19½	Story of an accident; Liverpool labour market not a problem if boss looked after a good man; comments on benefit of lack of commuting time.
19½ – 20½	Continuing discussion with audience about old wage rates, part inaudible.

- 20½ – 24½ Hiring Fairs half yearly at Martinmas and Whitsuntide for this area at Ulverston; details of how they operated; a first class man at Pit Farm would get £18 for the half year plus bed and board, a 14 year old lad similarly for £8, or a maid (always hired by men, except widows) similarly for £10 or £12 for a responsible job.
- 24½ – 25¾ ‘Self survival’ for food with home baking and travelling butchers, greengrocers etc.
- 25¾ – 27¾ Started supplying the Milk Marketing Board from Pit Farm c.1934; used to take 17 gallon kits, on manually drawn cart, down drive to a stand at the gate; only used to get 5^d per gallon for it; took two people to lift these kits; also sent them on Saturdays by train from Cark Station to Barrow.
- 27¾ – 29 Most milk was used for making butter, supervised by mother, and description of process.
- 29 – 30½ At 7 years old, started a butter round by bike in Cartmel, later followed by a bicycle milk round; sold 1st pint of milk at the Pig & Whistle for 3^d when beer was then 2^d per pint; in 1992, milk was only 33p but beer with taxes about £1.20; brief discussion with audience regarding other price comparisons
- 30½ – 31¾ Stories of milk distribution methods by jugs and measures before bottles.
- 31¾ – 33½ Changes brought about after the war : this area less affected than big ploughing farms in the South after Americans started shipping in corn from the prairies; no profit there, people had to be paid to maintain that land; hence subsequent diversification in farming.
- 33½ – 36½ Stories of keeping pigs whilst in Liverpool, and comments on their profitability or otherwise; also mentioned growing potatoes in Liverpool.
- 36½ – 38¾ TT milk & TB testing brought in after the war : local stories mentioning Tom Dixon, Greenbank Farm, Mr Martin.
- 38¾ – 43 Pasteurising milk to avoid brucellosis : unfavourable criticism of scheme brought in about 20 years ago [i.e. c.1972] regarding both its effectiveness for its intended purpose and the scope for diluting milk after pasteurisation, which was known to happen; criticism that untreated milk can’t be called fresh milk, like fresh eggs, even though the latter may contain salmonella, and comments about known poultry farmers going broke through salmonella.
- 43 – 44¾ Comments on breeds of cattle good for milking, developments and changes.
- 44¾ – 47¼ Comments on the madness of the quota system which started with the European Common Market c.1983, and its unfairness to British farmers.
- 47¼ – 48¼ Comments on reported European hygiene standards, or lack of them.
- 48¼ – 48¾ Further comments on unfairness of European levies.
- 48¾ – 51 Comments on financial plans to build a new farm at Lindale, and subsequent unfair effects of European rules.