

Summary of Interview with Maurice Unsworth

Interviewee : Maurice P Unsworth, born Oct 1918, occasionally prompted by wife Edith

Interviewer : Dr Malcolm W Arthurton, born 2nd Qtr 1918

Date of Interview : probably Jan/Feb 1999

Duration of Recording : 56 mins 56 secs

Approx time (mins)	Content
0 – 1	Informal start without introduction; confirmation of month of birth.
1 – 2	Father died soon after Maurice's birth in February 1919 flu epidemic; grandparents came to Cartmel from Accrington, (date uncertain), initial house identified only as 'Where Dr Atkinson lived', (first Unsworth census record in Cartmel, 1891, shows them to be at Hill Villa then), then they moved to Ivy Cottage, now Ivy House, in Cartmel, (confirmed by 1901 census when grandmother was a widow and her son, Maurice's father, was still living there with his new bride whom he had married in 3 rd Qtr 1900).
2 – 3	Schooling initially at Cartmel Primary, then at Milnthorpe whilst staying with aunt there during term time; left school aged about 15 or 16 and was then drafted in to brother Ernest's garage.
3 – 5¼	Ernest served his time as an Engineer at Vickers in Barrow; he was eldest of 4 brothers; garage was initially at Glenlea, with a model T Ford with interchangeable bodywork; also a garage at Ennerigg, then mother sold Glenlea and moved to a shop in the Square, formerly a confectioners, next to a shop known as the Tarragon (in 1999).
5¼ – 6½	When Maurice started work at the garage c.1934, it was located where John Coward is now (1999), and it had two petrol pumps; discussion of brands of petrol at that time.
6½ – 7¾	Prior to the family move from Glenlea in 1926, the garage in Cartmel had been in a wooden building on the site of the then future Village Hall.
7¾ – 9½	Garage closed 'about five years ago' (c.1994); discussion of problems relating to the petrol pumps.
9½ – 13	Recollections relating to buying adjacent properties pre war, partly facilitated by retirement of a joiner named Billy Gray, and the transfer of repair work to the yard; MU worked in the business for about 50 years before retiring at age 65 (in 1983).
13 – 15¼	Maurice's work at the garage was mostly doing the books and running the taxi business; garage had a staff of four pre war; post war they also had a coach; on retirement, went abroad for first time with 7 weeks in Minorca.
15¼ – 21½	Memories of pre war shops in Cartmel, people & shops mentioned include the Priory Shop, the Larch Tree then a café, Miss Warrener, a vegetable shop, Brown's bake house & confectionery shop, the father of Eddie who worked at the garage was a tailor in the Square, the bank, Mrs Howson next to the bank, then mother rented the shop next to the Tarragon, Teasdale at the Post Office, Miss Overend's shop now National Trust.
21½ – 24½	Discussion of unemployment mentions that local tradesmen, e.g. joiners and painters, used to get work in the shipyard at Barrow; to get there, there was a 'shipyard train', caught after biking to Cark Station, and a 'shipyard bus' that ran from Grange via Lindale; Maurice's wife Edith used to work as a conductor on the shipyard bus for a few years before getting married.

- 24½ – 25 Memories of cousin having long working hours in the 1930s, on 12 hour shift work, days or nights in alternate weeks, 6 days a week.
- 25 – 25½ Enquiry about crime answered by saying cars used to be left in the garage or yard with keys in, and only recently has anywhere been locked up.
- 25½ – 26¾ Continuation of memories of pre war shops in Cartmel mentioning Teasdales at the Post Office ‘who had everything’ together with an adjacent pot shop; and Miss Overend’s milliners shop.
- 26¾ – 28 Enquiry about health of the population has little detailed response, except mention of TB, which Maurice had, and which excused him war service, and after the war one of the Laisby family and Dick Lewis had TB.
- 28 – 29½ Nil response to question about losing any relatives in the war, but prompted Edith to mention loss of brother and scoutmaster in drowning accident in 1926.
- 29½ – 32¾ Continuation of memories of pre war shops in Cartmel, specifically Mrs Ayres old fashioned eating house, later run by her daughter Mrs Campbell, and later still became Dr Atkinson’s surgery; also Mrs Campbell doing party catering in former barn adjoining race course; assisted by husband John Campbell, of whom more to follow.
- 32¾ – 35½ Memories of cable laying by Johnson & Phillips bringing electricity to Cartmel in 1926, supplied by Barrow Corporation, prior to which John Campbell was the lamp lighter of paraffin street lights; first village telephone switchboard was on Campbell’s premises.
- 35½ – 37 Memories of Frank Campbell, not only as telephone switchboard operator, but also beautiful singer and organist at Lindale Church.
- 37 – 38 Memories of friend John Rose, whose father built telephone exchanges.
- 38 – 39½ Started to drive taxis at age 17; memories of when driving tests were introduced, and informal ways of learning to drive.
- 39½ – 41 Brother’s contract work with two Ford tipping lorries, and persuading an unnamed local lad to have confidence to drive one of them.
- 41 – 44 Continuation of memories of pre war shops in Cartmel, mentioning several Smithies; shop that mother took in the Square was previously a motor cycle shop.
- 44 – 45¾ Memories of fund raising activities for the building of Cartmel Village Hall
- 45¾ – 48½ Memories of visiting trades people, mentioning George Hill of Flookburgh (fisherman), George Airey (Butcher), Mrs Martin of Flookburgh or Cark, (flower seller).
- 48½ – 49½ Mention of Howard Martin who researched and wrote a book on the Carmel war memorial.
- 49½ – 50½ Continuation of memories of visiting trades people, mentioning George Cross (fruit & vegetable seller).
- 50½ – 51¾ Brother’s model T Ford was adaptable to put a float on the back, and it was used to collect crates of eggs from farms for Mr Booth.
- 51¾ – 55 Memories of village policemen and various police houses, leading to mention of demolition and rebuilding of the police house on Haggs Lane, probably due problems with foundations.
- 55 – 56½ Examples of other properties in the valley with foundation problems, probably on the fault line between the limestone on the East and local slate on the West.