

Summary of Interview with Percy Unsworth

Interviewee : John Percival Unsworth, born 1938, with numerous prompts from wife Lesley.
Interviewer : Barbara Copeland

Date of Interview : 16 November 2016 Duration of Recording : 73 mins 2 secs

Approx time (mins)	Content
0 – 2	Introductory family background in Cartmel : Grandfather came Cartmel in late 1800s, initially to Hill Mill, South of the village, then moved to what is now Ivy House on Aynsome Road, then moved to Prior's Yeat on Aynsome Road, then called Glenlea; mention of father's brother being drowned in a swimming accident.
2 – 4	Father was Ernest Unsworth, who served apprenticeship at Vickers Armstrong from 1917, with details thereof, and when apprenticeship was completed, he started his garage in Cartmel in 1922, in a shed near the park gate. Father later moved garage to current Unsworth's Yard, then an old saw mill, and employed two mechanics.
4 – 4¾	During WWII, father also had a wood business, employing 20 men for the war effort.
4¾ – 6	Mentions current occupiers of subsequent garage site, including Mallard Teashop, Unsworth's Yard shops, and architect John Coward. Also mentions father had a coach as well as taxis.
6 – 9¼	Memories of school days, including mentions of Primary School teachers Miss Dilkes, Miss O'Donnell and headmaster Jack Castle; then at 14+ a school near Cark Airfield, during which a term was spent away at a Lancashire Education Committee school at Stokenchurch, near High Wycombe, Bucks.; whilst at Cartmel School, used to have days at the Old Grammar School, mentioning various activities there for girls & boys, and a teacher named Tom Hindle.
9¼ – 10½	Mentions family moved from Glenlea to an old Guesthouse in Cartmel Square.
10½ – 13¼	Reminiscing early lorry driving experience with father's lorries, and their work with building Kirkbride aerodrome during the war, (with local employees Bob Garkarth, Wilf & Tom Fishwick), then with building Sellafeld; mention of first holidays in Maryport; then driving wood supplies from Holker to Stockmill Bobbin Mill.
13¼ – 15¼	Note re. driving tests : took a test with a car/taxi, but separate lorry tests not needed then; circumstances of first having to drive an articulated lorry after it's driver had fallen and had an accident.
15¼ – 16½	Anecdotes about garage employees, Eddie Benson, John Edmondson, Bob Gaskarth and David Gee.
16½ – 18½	Father lived at Headless Cross when he died aged 58; two sisters, (eldest Edith still alive and Eunice now dead), both worked in the garage, as did Marion Airey née Hull before marrying George Airey, with mention of their shop at Town End.
18½ – 21	Notes on games played whilst growing up : marbles, conkers, hockey in school yard; tippit on The Park played by 'elder' lads Tommy Hough, Maurice & Porky Robinson; digging for pig nuts.
21 – 22½	Damming the river near Castle Meadows for swimming; complaint by George Dickinson for flooding his fields; stories of legendary characters living in becks to deter children; fishing with an onion bag when the bailiff wasn't about.

- 22½ – 23½ Note on local cinemas, The Palace in Grange run by the Nelson family, and the Holker Club on Cark Camp, and occasionally silent films in Cartmel Village Hall.
- 23½ – 25 Circus used to come to the circus field at Wells House farm; one year his father had to take an elephant to Ulverston on a flat truck, and said it was the awkwardest load he had ever taken, including unloading it to get under the railway bridge at Haverthwaite.
- 25 – 26½ Memories of bombing raids during World War II.
- 26½ – 27¼ Race days were only once a year at Whitsuntide, and later at autumn bank holiday, but no need to block the village off as happens today.
- 27¼ – 29¾ Comments on former businesses in Cartmel : Joiner's shop at Clogger Beck mentioning last owner Jim Dixon; Blacksmith's shop now L'Enclume, mentioning blacksmith Hewartson and owner Billy Watson who also sold bicycles and kept gamecocks; mention of cock fighting at Cock Hill in The Park, also at next door to Cavendish Arms.
- 29¾ – 32¼ Further comments on former businesses in Cartmel : shoe shop in Cavendish St.; Ayres eating house in Cavendish St. with Frank Campbell; milk rounds mentioning Dixons at Aynsome, Joe Gaskarth in Cavendish St., and a Shepherd family.
- 32¼ – 32¾ Mention of uncle Frank carving initials FU at Glenlea (now Prior's Yeat), and father Ernest altering carving to EU.
- 32¾ – 34½ Comments on local pubs and hotels, mentioning some former managers and the breweries that supplied them : Pig & Whistle, (formerly Devonshire Arms) and Mrs Bailey; Kings Arms and Jim Horton; Royal Oak; Priory Hotel and Mrs Baddeley.
- 34½ – 35½ Comments on the Teasdales at the Post Office, and rationing during the war.
- 35½ – 36½ Comments on John Rawson, who had a builders yard in Cavendish St., and his father Jackie Rawson, who used to carry slates on his head whilst riding his bike.
- 36½ – 40¼ Reminiscences regarding the number of single ladies who lived in Cartmel, mentioning : Miss Ransome who lived on Cavendish St. next to Tower House and during the war did a lot for the war effort with a machine canning veg & fruit; Miss Damsell[?] who looked after a Miss Ballantine, who lived on Barngarth and was related to the Ballantine whisky family; digression that father used to chauffer Miss Ballantine on her holidays to Scotland; Miss Bateson who lived at Green Croft where Charles Godwin now lives; Miss Davies who 'ran' the Post Office; the Allenby sisters at Mary's Lodge who used to have children's parties on a long gone lawn; Miss Jackson at house next to Springfields.
- 40¼ – 40¾ Father use to take Mrs Young of Springfields out in taxi, & I used to goi with them; her husband, Major T S Young shot an animal in India whose head had been stuffed and for many years hung in the supper room of the Village Hall.
- 40¾ – 42½ Note on Hickson family who lived at Longlands : presented Hickson Cup, played for by local cricket team; was a solicitor who commuted to Manchester, being taxied to & from Cark Station by my (maternal) grandfather, whom I accompanied, and used to change gear for him in described taxi.
- 42½ – 45¾ Maternal grandfather was John Pattinson, and stories about him : he & my mother lived at Thwaite Moss near Rusland, didn't like farming, moved to Headless Cross, Cartmel, bought a steam lorry in business with brother George, used to take loads to Liverpool with it, retired by time I knew him so not competitor with my father; used dried parsley spills to light his incessant cigarettes after putting them in their Aga cooker to glow.

- 45¾ – 46½ Elder sisters Babs & Eunice went to Miss Carter's private school on Kents Bank Road in Grange.
- 46½ – 47¼ Mention of Speddings pie shop in The Flags.
- 47¼ – 47¾ Mention of Ayre's eating house in Cavendish St., and it's sign.
- 47¾ – 49¼ Mention of Peggy Howson's bakery in The Square; son Brian Howson later carried on the business, June Park née Bibby worked there; bought first car from Brian Howson, which had no heaters but narrow enough to go through alleyway on Bank Court.
- 49¼ – 49¾ Father used to take Sid Banks and his dance band to Hunt Balls.
- 49¾ – 51½ Joined Cartmel Scout Club, run by a Mr Taylor, brother of Dick Taylor of South Lakeland Nurseries, and son of Sam Taylor, author of *Cartmel People and Places*; Scout meetings held at his house, Greenfield House; Scout camps held at Stock Park on Colonel Dixon's land.
- 51½ – 54½ Childhood holidays at Maryport, at lodgings used by father; Bell family went there too; one of the Bell family drove lorries for Greggains garage at Maryport; lorry stories from father's friendship with Greggains.
- 54½ – 55½ Visiting travelling tradesmen included fish man Bob Hill from Flookburgh and butchers Parkinson & Johnson from Ulverston.
- 55½ – 59 Other people mentioned in early memories include : Garkarths, who gave us a pig during the war; Aireys who did butchering in a garage below Headless Cross; Frank Walker, who had a steam engine driven threshing machine; and Harold Lamford[?] a dairyman at Wells House farm.
- 59 – 61¾ Buses used to come to Cartmel Square, initially Grange Motors then taken over by Ribble; details of boys' pranks immobilising cars, and once a bus, by putting potatoes up exhaust pipes.
- 61¾ – 62¾ The Larch Tree used to be a bakery, various owners including Watsons and later Dugdales; Mrs Mayor at Blue Bell House used to take in lodgers; Dawsons lived next to it at Devonshire House.
- 62¾ – 66 Discussion of former Gladstone Terrace and various occupants mentioning Boundy, Bibby, Barnes and Dawson families; building first council houses c.1944 as farm worker's cottages for Pit Farm, mentioning Roger Shaw.
- 66 – 66¾ Family never big church goers, though grandmother's family had a pew in the Priory.
- 66¾ – 68 Various bakeries and personnel named, including June Bibby for Mr Watson at Larch Tree; Grace Nichols van driver, Pat Hughes, Seniors of Grange Bakery; went to Cartmel School with Michael & Gerald Senior.
- 68 – 69½ Description of old picture of Cavendish Street with old charabanc outside the pub and cart outside smithy with shafts up whilst horse was being shod.
- 69½ – 71½ Description of Working Mens Club in the Institute, and brief mention of a youth club.
- 71½ – 73 Conclusion with brief recaps.