

A CONVERSATION WITH ARTHUR & DOROTHY GREENBANK

recorded on the 29th June 1988 at their home.

'Fancott,' Springfield, High Bentham.

Topics covered include their childhoods, education and upbringing on farms, and subsequent life at Horton-in-Ribblesdale. They discuss farming and farmhouse methods and how they changed over the years.

Interviewed by: Tony Simmons.

"Churchgate,"  
Horton-in-Ribblesdale,  
Settle.

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- T.S. Well, you say then that you were born at 'Drybeck,'
- A.G. I was,
- T.S. Not at Brackenbottom - had you got any connection with Brackenbottom at all?
- A.G. Well I'd an uncle, farmed there...and he was also in partnership with me dad. They ran it as one firm.. then. But er that was dissolved about nineteen... when did they 'ave that bad flu can you remember, which year it was?
- D.G. Was it be just before your Aunt Alice died?
- A.G. It was some time round then but er.. that was 1935.
- T.S. What year were you born?
- A.G. Nineteen-o-nine.
- T.S. Nineteen-o-nine. I've never actually been in
- A.G. Twenty-eighth of August.. at ten o'clock in the morning as far as I know!
- T.S. As far as you know! (laughter)
- A.G. That's what I was told.
- T.S. Should be able to work your horoscope out from that I should think!
- Yes. I've not actually been in 'Drybeck,' what sort of a building is it?
- A.G. Just a good solid farmhouse. But mind...
- D.G. (Indistinct comment)
- A.G. It's er.. we left there in 1939, so there's probably been, quite a lot done to it since then it was just a.. there four bedroomed, solid farmhouse.
- T.S. Traditional Dales
- A.G. Yes, with a real, good, pantry with big stone slabs in I remember the.. used to salt the pigs, in the, building, such-like.
- D.G. And the kitchen 'ad the er.. big boiler in 'adn't it?
- A.G. Yeh, big set(?) boiler it'll 'ave gone now will that,
- D.G. Er, where they used to wash, you know in the old
- A.G. There was also in the other corner was what they called the 'backston.' ... with a, fire underneath where me mother used to make oat-cake.
- T.S. Actually on the hot stone.. the back, the backstone.
- A.G. They called it a 'backston'.. in those days.
- T.S. Did you ever use that?
- D.G. No.
- T.S. What's your earliest memory of the, 'Drybeck?'

Continued/

- A.G. The First World War starting. Course the war was.. 1914. I can just remember them saying that, war's broken out.
- T.S. Can you remember exactly where you were at that time?
- A.G. Yes. In the front garden. (laughter)
- T.S. Sticks out in your mind.
- A.G. What I was actually doing I don't know I'd be playing, you know I was I was, what? Erm, nineteen-o-nine I'd be 'bout what? five.
- T.S. What other memories have you got from there?
- A.G. Hard work.. (laughter) ..later on in life. Er... well, going to school.. under Mr. William Edward Pitts.. remember starting school I wish I'd 'ad that photograph.. er, you know that George 'as it 'adn't he?
- D.G. Yes.
- A.G. There was, quite a few of us 'orton School I was in the front row I was.. five. And, I started wearing glasses when I was five I'd, short-sighted. I've worn them ever since. And, erm, Mr. Pitts was, I suppose he was a very very strict, schoolmaster.
- T.S. I've heard a lot about Mr. Pitts!
- A.G. He was the only man I know... if you were, somewhere a bit slow at learning, he'd say 'good God boy if you won't learn I'll knock it into you,' and he was the only man I know that could do that. There was just, two, scholars went to 'orton School that he could meck nothing of... and both, were a bit mentally, retarded. They were the only two that 'ee, that he couldn't, do anything with.
- T.S. Yes I heard that he was, shall we say quite a character.
- A.G. He was a character.
- T.S. Was he very friendly with the vicar, was it?
- A.G. No, I'm afraid he wasn't. I think they was rather a loggerheads. I'll tell you what he once did. Across the beck, from the school there's, there's two little cottages isn't the?
- T.S. Yes.
- A.G. 'St Ann's' and 'St John's.' And, in one of them lived a.. a German lady called Miss Wieber. They were.. not just at loggerheads I should say they were bitter enemies. And I was going down the village, one morning, one Sat'dy morning, and I passed this lady.. and I passed Mr. Pitts whom I raised my, cap... on the Monday morning I got the cane. He says 'for not, raising yer hat, to a lady.' That's the sort of a chap 'ee was.
- T.S. Yes.
- A.G. He also liked whisky! (chuckle)
- T.S. Yes, that's what I'd heard!
- A.G. When we came here, I went into the.. er Martins Bank, one morning, and they called him.. Brian Pitts.. the, Bank Manager. And he said your name seems familiar he says, have you just moved here? I said aye, from 'orton. Oh he says, you'd know my father then, did you? That was Alan.. George Alan Pitts. He was also a teacher he taught at Ingleton. And he used to teach at 'orton School when old Pitts had so much whisky in him he couldn't manage it! I says 'yes, I knew your father very well, but' I said, 'I knew your Grand-dad a lot better! (laughter) Oh he said you were one of his victims, were you?
- D.G. But they were both musical wasn't they?
- A.G. Aye, 'eed two sons, 'ad Pitts. And.. they didn't get, when they were going to 'orton School they didn't get, get off any lighter than the other scholars you know. He used to lift them as well. But he

- I wo' I would say he was a, damned good schoolteacher.
- T.S. Yes that, you are really confirming what other people that I have talked to, have said. Did you have any brothers or sisters?
- A.G. Me? Two brothers. Oh, er, oh and another one, died in infancy. I never, knew him. Er.. both me brothers are dead one used to live in Brandsgill Terrace. The first house in Brandsgill Terrace. He was Churchwarden and God knows what.
- T.S. Did they go into farming and so on?
- A.G. No-no. No he was, costings clerk at the.. what was known then as Settle Lime, Quarry. I don't know who has it now who, is it er, Tarmac? it's one of those firms.
- T.S. It went to I.C.I. and then I think it's Tarmac now.
- A.G. It started with John Delany. John Delany used to come round with a, pack on his back selling tea. And after a while he got the idea of, quarrying.. limestone.. out of the hillside.. for roadworks and, suchlike.. such as there were in that day. And then of course he got, limekilns, burning lime and, kept.. growing and growing. It was finally taken over by.. known as Settle Limes and then it was taken over by I.C.I. And I say, who was it now, it's probably... they just use it for roadstone in that day, it was.. it was all lime-burning you know.
- T.S. Yes, yes...
- A.G. Er.. er.. one chap from, out of Scotland.. he had a caravan in one of our fields.. and er, they were building these new kilns they cost about.. a couple of million, to build.. they've knocked pulled them down now you see. They found out that er, they could, quarry the.. limestone out and teck it down, into Derbyshire to one of those quarries to burn it cheaper than they could burn it up at 'orton, and bring it back again.
- T.S. It is surprising isn't it? I interviewed Stan Potts I don't know if you
- A.G. Oh aye, I remember he used to live up Station Hill.
- T.S. That's right, yes. He lives at Langcliffe now.
- A.G. That's right.
- T.S. He er, I interviewed him a couple of months gone.
- D.G. Now Ned he was farming, wasn't he?
- A.G. Oh aye me, me elder brother
- D.G. Yes.
- A.G. We were all farming together. The, the, the other one Anthony. He er, he had, rheumatic fever, when he was young.. and the doctor said he'd not, to go into far, ' not to do any more farming. He'd to have a lighter job. Anyway.. he started at er.. Nibble(?) Quarry, at er, one up the hillside down goin' over t'bridge you know, he was.. clerk there.
- T.S. Which quarry what name's that?
- A.G. Well, Foredale. Foredale Quarry.
- T.S. Foredale Quarry.
- A.G. Not the one on the moor.. the one right up.. where there's the two rows of houses.
- T.S. Yes, I've seen them on there.
- A.G. On the skyline there. Well he started work, er, there, at er.. They called the boss Roland Habb(?) And Anthony was, doin' the.. probably weighting the, y'know, y'know the stuff that went out and.. brewin' tea! 'appen and suchlike, jobs, cookin' him 'is, fryin' er boillin' him

- his egg and suchlike for his lunch. (chuckle) And then he got, er, Settle. Settle Limes he went there in 1918, as costings clerk. And he stopped there until he retired.. in nineteensixty... four-or-five sometime on then he lived to be eight. He was eight years older than me and me, elder brother was ten years older.
- T.S. I believe you weren't born in Horton were you? (question to Mrs.Greenbank)
- D.G. No. Er, I was born at Conistone.
- A.G. Near Kilnsey.
- T.S. That's a fair distance away.
- D.G. Yes. Well then we moved from, Conistone to, Kettlewell. And I started school at Kettlewell. Then we went, er, from Kettlewell to Arncliffe. And er, when we left Arncliffe I was twelve and Dad took a farm at, Horton-in-Ribblesdale 'Blindbeck.' And er, we was there.. how long would it be before my brother.. took it after Dad died?
- A.G. Well your Dad died in 1946.
- D.G. Yes.
- T.S. I see so you were, so you both met in Horton?
- D.G. Oh yes.
- T.S. Because that was one of the things that I wondered about. Somebody told me that you were born out in Littondale and I wondered how it was that you came to meet, because I suppose in those days, they were like different worlds weren't they?
- D.G. Oh yes. Arthur used to come up on his bicycle. No cars! (chuckle) It was funny from er, Drybeck to Blindbeck wasn't it?
- A.G. (overlapping conversation) My brother (?) came in nineteen...thirtyeight.
- T.S. Um. Yes.
- D.G. I think we met over a show really didn't we?
- A.G. I forget. I'm a bit
- T.S. About what year did you move into Horton then?
- A.G. Twentysix.
- D.G. Twentysix.
- T.S. Have you got any brothers or sisters? (to Mrs.Greenbank)
- D.G. I had one brother but he, died. Um.
- T.S. Can you remember as a child, where did you play?
- D.G. Well, er, at Conistone really, but, er, on the Green at Arncliffe.
- T.S. Um. That's a nice big green of course.
- D.G. Yes and often in the 'bout the pump.
- T.S. Oh yes, I've seen that.
- A.G. I thought you were going to say about the pub.
- D.G. No pump! But it was my uncle who worked, well my mothers uncle who had the Falcon, have you been there?
- T.S. No.
- D.G. Now it'll be his
- A.G. Drop of good beer there (overlapping comments) it's all wor..er, excuse me interrupting you but, there's no pumps.. they just 'ave.. two barrels. One mild one bitter on a rack behind behind there jolly small bar about.... just that bit.. (indicated an area approx 3m X 2M) and they, draw it into a jug and then put it into your glass. It's good stuff though. Doesn't come through any.. tubes
- T.S. Tubes, no.
- A.G. Pipes or anything you know.
- T.S. I've only ever had that once before in a pub and that was down in the

- Cotswolds. And I could never find it again, we were lost. We just drove round and found this place, but goodness alone knows where it was. What's the earliest incident that you can remember then in Horton? Or well, not necessarily in Horton, in your life.. your childhood. (to Mrs. Greenbank)
- D.G. I don't know I know when I came to 'orton I cried all the way over the tops.. (laughter) when we left Arncliffe, and then, when I got there it was.. alright.
- T.S. How did you actually move? How was the move made?
- D.G. Er
- A.G. Wagonette?
- T.S. Was it?
- D.G. Yes. Um. We came in a wagonette and.. er, the other was a, 'orse and dray you know.. with the furniture.
- A.G. Not many furniture removers in that day was there?
- D.G. And we came up by er, Halton Gill.. and over
- T.S. Over the top?
- D.G. Yes, and round by Stainforth. (indistinct words) I can remember that.
- T.S. By wagonette and cart and so on.
- A.G. Times 'ave changed.
- T.S. We take mobility very much for granted don't we? We really do. You say you can remember how you actually came to meet then, it was through the show you think.
- D.G. Yes, I think at a dance wasn't it Arthur?
- A.G. Probably!
- D.G. Well, your father was er..
- A.G. Show Secretary.
- D.G. Show Secretary for whatever years wasn't he?
- T.S. This was the Horton show?
- D.G. Yes.
- T.S. The Autumn one.
- D.G. The old show, yes, not the Young Farmers' Show the old 'orton Show.
- A.G. Finished in nineteen thirtyni.. thirtynine when the War started.. or thirtyeight I'm not quite sure.. whether they did have one the year War started probably not, because.. war broke out just into September didn't it?
- T.S. Was that an Autumn show er, September?
- D.G. September. Um.
- T.S. Similar presumably to the one that they hold now?
- D.G. Yes. Yes it was. Though then
- A.G. The, the present one started throught the Young Farmers' Club. It was the Young Farmers' Club show for a start and then they started extending it you know for local people.. to enter classes and, suchlike.
- D.G. And you were Secretary and Treasurer for how many years for it?
- A.G. I was Secretary and Treasurer for about.. seven or eight year eight years I think. Clerk to the Council at the same time. Corre er correspondent to two newspapers.. Lancaster Guardian Craven Herald.
- T.S. So you were very busy within the village then?
- A.G. I was.
- D.G. But that was after we gave over farming.
- A.G. We gave up farming in sixtytwo.
- D.G. Because er, Ned was ill.
- A.G. Me brother's health broke down and er.. the doctor advised, pack it

- in.
- D.G. And Margaret, er.. she left
- A.G. We ran a guest house, for eight years after that the wife and I.. up at Horton, right on the Pennine Way you know.
- T.S. You did? Whereabouts?
- D.G. Well you know where Daleys' .. the schoolmaster?
- T.S. Yes.
- D.G. Well that's where we were.
- A.G. That's where we were.
- T.S. I see.
- A.G. Went up there in '39.
- T.S. I see.
- A.G. My father died in 1940.
- T.S. I see so you have done things other than farming.
- A.G. Oh aye, yes. (overlapping comments) We didn't make a lot of money but we met a hell of a lot of people!
- T.S. Well, since we've moved to Horton we seem to have managed to do that, meet a lot of people. We found the show last September, we'd only been there a matter of months but we found that Show quite delightful. I entered some of my plants and my wife baked some bread and took first prize.
- D.G. Yes, oh I did!
- T.S. Offcumduns daring to do that you know.
- D.G. Well done.
- A.G. There's very few people we know now in 'Orton you know. We've bin 'ere fifteen years we'll be in September. There's Perry(?) Jackson.. 'ee farms up, er.. top end of 'orton there doesn't 'ee up by the School.
- D.G. Dowgill (Douk Ghyll)
- T.S. Douk Ghyll yes.
- A.G. Sutcliffs. Cragg Hill and er, and, Chris in that
- T.S. Chris yes.
- A.G. (?) from you.
- T.S. Yes.
- A.G. George Perfect the gamekeeper (laughter) do you know George?
- T.S. Yes I know George. He's another one I've got to interview. Do you know that they've had him on television?
- A.G. Is it true that he's taking Russell Harty's (television interviewer, died 1988) job?
- T.S. That sounds very much like a tall story.
- A.G. I was told told this the other Sunday, and he said it was quite true.
- D.G. And I thought I've heard the was teasing Arthur.. when he came home and told me.
- A.G. Well I will say one thing he he's probably qualified as far as education goes because he's a good education has George you know.
- T.S. Yes one of the early things that I discovered was that his 'rural gamekeeper' act is just that, it is an act isn't it?
- A.G. You know, we, I used to go with 'im on the moors, in the grouse shooting times...and... if you heard him if you were sat in the hut having your lunch, and you heard George talking to, the Lord Wrackhole(?) and one or two of these titles people like that, you wouldn't think is was George Perfect you know. Entirely different act.
- T.S. Privately educated of course at St Bees.

Continued/

- A.G. & D.G. That's right. Um.
- A.G. And er
- T.S. He's a Jekyll and Hyde it's a
- A.G. Aye
- T.S. Jekyll and Hyde character
- A.G. Dorothy and I went to a wedding in 1949 and they had the reception at the Waverley(?) cafe in Kirkby Lonsdale you know it in the square there?
- T.S. Yes.
- A.G. And we, happened, to be sat up on it at, elderly gentleman.. who was the French master at er, St. Bees. And er.. he asked, you know where we lived and, such things and I said Horton-in-Ribblesdale.. he said 'you don't happen to know a boy called George Perfect?' I said.. (chuckle) I know 'im very well. He said 'he was a very shy little boy' I thought, you ought to see him now... (laughter) 'cause he was I remember the day George was born in 1925. There's George and Mary. Mary's er..
- D.G. Not Tudor(?)..Canada.
- A.G. Boss of Canada Hotel now or something, the manageress or, whatever. She's, she's a good job anyway.
- T.S. I think that the business of the story of George and the television is that he was interviewed I think it was last week, over the course of a week by 'Yorkshire Television.' Not the people round here, strangely.
- D.G. No.
- T.S. But Yorkshire Television, and that he's going to be sort of, quite a length of him appearing in this programme about this area.
- A.G. He was on television, one Sunday morning last, year.
- D.G. And Mark (Thompson. Beckwalker on the Ribble for Manchester Anglers Assoc.)
- A.G. Down, down at er.. Stainforth. About, somewhere near the old, pack-horse bridge. Er, somebody was interviewing him about shooting crows or something.. er, 'ad 'ee any remorse in, you know, shooting the.. crow 'ee said 'not the slightest not these..sort of crows.
- T.S. Yes.
- A.G. They're what you call carrion crows.
- T.S. Carrion crows, um.
- A.G. Those are the ones that, pick eyes out of sheep when they're lambing you know and suchlike.
- T.S. Um. What year did you say that you married?
- A.G. Fiftyfive.
- D.G. Um.
- T.S. Fiftyfive. At Horton?
- D.G. Yes.
- T.S. In the church there? where did you have your reception in Horton then?
- D.G. At my brothers.
- T.S. When you got married, where did you go to live?
- D.G. Er
- A.G. The Rowe.. farming.
- T.S. You just carried on living there?
- A.G. Um we stayed there till er,
- D.G. With Granny and er.. your brother.
- A.G. Yes. Me mother lived to be 98.. well, two months short of her 98th

- birthday.
- T.S. So you'd both been brought up as farmers then?
- D.G. Yes.
- T.S. Very much in the blood. Did you ever think of doing anything else other than farming or..
- A.G. Well, I don't think so. No.
- T.S. It was what you wanted to do?
- A.G. You 'hadn't, you 'adn't much choice in that day.
- D.G. Arthur's never 'ad a wage.
- A.G. Never 'ad a wage packet in me life.
- T.S. That was one of the things I was going to ask.
- A.G. Only, only for cutting a bit of snow in the 'fortyseven,' storm to get, that was to get, the milk.. to the station... because the rail was the only means of transport, just then.
- T.S. When did you actually take over farming on your own right then?
- A.G. Er... well after me father died we, simply went into partnership with me mother and it was known as 'Mrs Greenbank and Sons'.. and she died in sixty..fi..ive, well we'd already.. finished farming.. three years before that. Was it sixtyfive or sixtysix when she died?
- D.G. I just, remember.
- A.G. Sixtyfive I'll say. And we'd given up farming three years, previous to that.
- T.S. I see. So that you were effectively a partner with your mother.
- Both. Um.
- T.S. Can either of you recall your grandparents just skipping back a little?
- A.G. No, I can't, they were both dead before I was born were mine, all of them. Mothers and hers.
- D.G. Yes I can mine.
- A.G. Dorothy can remember hers.
- D.G. Yes. He lived at Rowe.. Cottage.. my Grand-dad and Grand-ma. That was, well I always came over to Horton, for my holidays and er.. he went on two sticks I can remember. He er, was arthritic I suppose.
- A.G. That's where you got yours from.
- D.G. Must be and I, and, doctor's asked me many a time and I never thought until the other day but Dad, er Grand-dad always went on two sticks. And when he was bed-fast I can always remember, when er, mother used to take me up and he was, in bed he used to say, 'little Dorothy Morphet from Conistone Green' I can, you know hear him saying it.
- T.S. What were your grandparents names?
- D.G. Morphet.
- T.S. What were their christian names?
- D.G. Jonathon.. and Margaret.
- A.G. (In background) Your relatives(?) would be Summers.
- D.G. Me grandparents?
- A.G. Aye. One side.
- D.G. Yes on that side. And er, on, Mother's side it was Summers they lived at Arncliffe. Mary's my cousin.. Mary Metcalfe.
- T.S. Mary Metcalfe, that's right.
- D.G. Um.
- T.S. That's right, yes she said. Morphet.. there are Morphets up at Selside, is there a connection?
- D.G. Er..well that would be distant.
- A.G. Very feint.



- D.G. Well I've heard that Dad say that er... 'is..let me see, 'is mother.. would be **cousin** I think it was, something like that to Jim Will's (Morphet's).. mother.
- A.G. It was Morphets at Nether Lodge you know in that days... well, well one o' t'er.. **grandsons**, farmed High Birkwith.
- T.S. That's right.
- A.G. I think it's... and er.. there's one at Selside but.. aye that'll be a grandson of old.. James William Morphet from.. Nether Lodge. Er.. there was some at, Austwick..belonging to the same family.. Edmund.. isn't the?
- D.G. Yes.
- A.G. He was Harry Morphet's son.
- D.G. Yes.
- A.G. And whether there's any more, well there's several 've died..Jimmy
- D.G. But er.. me Grandfather, he had the slate quarries at er.. Studfold there 'adn't 'ee?
- T.S. I was just going to say did he farm?
- D.G. No.
- T.S. He quarried?
- D.G. Yes he quarried. This, he had the slate quarries.
- A.G. Is that the one back up off the road?
- D.G. Yes..yes I've heard that said that was it.
- T.S. That's on the other side of the road to
- D.G. Yes
- T.S. Studfold House.
- D.G. House, yes.
- T.S. Through a little gate?
- D.G. Um.
- T.S. You can still see it now.
- D.G. Yes.
- A.G. Oh.. in that other book er.. it mentions something about a mill... at Stanaber. Those are the fields belonging Dub Cote you know.. comes down to the road. And they didn't seem to know where this mill was but I knew where it was.
- T.S. Yes, where was that?
- A.G. Er... if you know where I mean.. there's a big heap of stones.. just half way up this hillside.. facing the road..(?indistinct word). When I was a kid I can remember it, being inside a bit of a wall.. walled place but I, suppose now it's all, disintegrated you know..possibly, but I think **that's**.. where the mill was. Now what was, the..what the mill was **used** for, I can't say.. you're way back you know probably in the, nineteenth century. There's a lot of things in the book as are quite.. you know, quite true.
- T.S. Yes, er
- A.G. Well, odd, odd things I noticed well I thought, those can't be true.
- T.S. Yes, when you start doing this sort of thing as I explained before you are listening to people's recollections and things, and of course, they don't always tally.
- A.G. No.
- T.S. Can you remember any stories which your grandparents told you, of their own childhood or?.. because I mean one must be going well back into the last century.
- D.G. Oh, yes,I can remember, my grand-ma saying she was a.. Dent Knitter.
- T.S. Oh?

- D.G. And we 'ave the stick somewhere and I was only looking for it the other day. I don't know where we've put it when we, removed. um.
- T.S. Was that genuine she really was one of the Dent Knitters?
- D.G. That's what she used to say, yes.
- A.G. I'll tell you where you can get a bit of information about er, 'orton. Have you ever read er.. I don't know whether it's in the library or not at.. we've 'Upper Wharfedale' by Harry Spate. Well, there was another one, 'Ribblesdale'.. and there's quite, some interesting things in about Horton-in-Ribblesdale 'ave you ever read that book?
- T.S. No. No.
- A.G. I wonder if they 'ave it still in a public libraries. It's.. well worth reading. T.S. That's interesting that you
- A.G. In fact.. er, you know Mill Dam don't yer?
- T.S. Yes.
- A.G. Well there's a.. down in that pasture across the road there's a.. if it's still there.. there was a great big slab.. that's where the mill was. And it tells in this book it was during the Civil War..er.. there was quite a battle going on round that mill, between the, Roundheads and the... and the others who was, the Royalists. And some people were coming over.. down the green lane against The Crown.. from... Buckden way, no-no they wouldn't come.. that road goes up to Camm doesn't it? Er, it mentions where they were coming from.. just slips me mind.. and they were so scared they turned back.. when they saw this battle going on at Mill Dam. It's a, the, it's quite interesting bit about Horton is the, it tells about the.. you know that.. mitred, bishop's head in the, west window of the church tower.. it was removed from Beecroft Hall... during the Reformation, when Henry the Eighth's er.. er... did away with the monasteries. Er, Beecroft Hall you know, was an old, monk's resting place.. on the way from.. either Fountains.. or Jervoux.. to Furnace, in..near up... you know where I mean don't you Furnace Abbey?
- T.S. That's right.
- A.G. Over at, Barra (Barrow).. or in that region. And this.. piece of glass was removed.. from then that's, why it's in the west window of the tower at 'orton Church.
- T.S. Just a fragment of it.
- A.G. And 'ave you ever noticed in the church.. the groves in the.. where they used to sharpen their arrow heads.
- T.S. Sharpen the arrow heads that's right, yes. That was one of the first things I spotted.
- A.G. You should get 'old of that book. It'll be in the public library.
- T.S. Yes, sounds interesting.
- A.G. And it's er.. 'The Craven Highlands,' by Harry Speight. That's the, that's the title of it.. if you can ever get 'old of it. We borrowed it, from Tot Lord at Settle. Or, me brother did.. he'd ter, put er.. a fiver down ter, in that day
- D.G. Yes.
- A.G. Cause it's a long time ago. Er.. you know up against its, safe return. And he'll, it'll be in that museum of Tot Lord's yet only it's been all dismantled I don't know.
- T.S. (to D.G.) Looking back to your childhood, can you remember how did your mother cook, what did she cook over? what sort of stove did she have?
- D.G. Oh, we just had the,

- A.G. Fireside oven.  
D.G. Fireside.. fireside oven.  
T.S. What would be used for fuel, for that?  
A.G. Where's that photograph of me mother? because I can show you  
(indistinct words)  
D.G. Yes because she'd never 'ave her photo.. photograph taken. But this  
isn't the right, old range you know.  
A.G. No, but it's, er, it's similar though  
D.G. Because the old range it used to 'ave a, chain, for the kettle..a  
wrekin  
A.G. A wrekin they called it.  
D.G. The wrekin they called it.. and then  
T.S. A what?  
Both Wrekin.  
A.G. W.R.E.K.I.N.  
T.S. W.R?  
A.G. E.K.I.N.  
T.S. A wrekin/  
D.G. Yes.  
A.G. 'ave you never heard that expression before?  
T.S. No but that's most peculiar because, where I come from, there is a  
local hill call the Wrekin, (reekin) which is spelled in exactly the  
same way.  
A.G. Yes that's right.  
D.G. And, er.. that's where they used to fry the bacon didn't they?  
A.G. That's right.  
D.G. They used to have a spit.  
A.G. A Dutch oven.  
D.G. Yes. And  
A.G. Er, it.. fits over did the top.  
T.S. Now, yes, this was something that Miss Wilcock (a previous interviewee  
brought up at North Cote) described, as being the same up at North  
Cote.  
D.G. Yes. That's right. It would be.  
T.S. And she used this, she used the same word for it, and she described  
cooking bacon.  
D.G. Yes.  
T.S. On this.  
A.G. There was no grills, in that day.  
T.S. No. Did you have any household jobs that you were expected to do when  
you were a youngster about the place? Work?  
A.G. Only..get a bit of firewood in and, bring, coal in and suchlike. I  
did more household work when we had the guesthouse washing up and  
like. (laughter)  
D.G. But same as haytime, er, you know we used to be, up.. at.. can you see  
that fireplace (showed me a photo)  
T.S. Ah yes. Yes.  
D.G. And that's just granny's face. But she would never be taken would she?  
A.G. Never have her photograph taken.  
D.G. She said I can see my face in the mirror.  
T.S. And this is, which farm is this, particularly?  
A.G. Rowe Farm.  
D.G. It's at Rowe.  
T.S. That's at Rowe Farm.

- D.G. After, we had that put in 'adn't we? the old one taken out. You know, we used to 'ave a big 'igh.. mantel
- A.G. Aye.. it's not exactly like the old er... er, the old, fire-side.. oven but it's as near as we can er..
- D.G. Yes
- A.G. As near as you can come to the, to the real old, fire-side oven.. where, you know.. they used ter.. get pieces of wood.
- T.S. Yes.
- A.G. And push it under the oven you know, er (indistinct word)
- D.G. To, bake with.
- A.G. To bake with.
- T.S. And this heated the water up as well, there was a water tank was there?
- A.G. No-no
- D.G. Oh no. Boiler at one side
- A.G. Boiler at t'other side
- D.G. And the.. the oven at the other.
- A.G. Used to 'ave to fill the boiler with buckets of water.
- T.S. Yes, but I mean it did actually heat
- D.G. Oh yes it heated both.
- T.S. I see. Were there particular days for doing particular jobs on the farm in those days or in the household?
- D.G. Well er, the used to be er, the cream didn't there? You 'ad legs(?) you know.
- A.G. Churning day was always on a Monday.
- D.G. Yes.
- A.G. End, the old end over end churn.
- T.S. Yes.
- A.G. That was before 1919 before we started selling milk. It went to the.. To T & F Stockdale at Leeds for a start and then it got to be known as the Craven Dairy.. and, me dad bought some shares in it I wish I'd 'ad them today.. it because it's the same er.. it.. it's the same.. firm, that sprang from, T & A Stockdale and Craven Dairy, is, er.. Associated Foods & Farm Stores. Those shares now are worth a fortune.
- T.S. Um. Was any other room in the house heated, or was the kitchen really the only room where you had a fire?
- D.G. Well the, we had a fireplace in the room.
- A.G. Fireplace in, in the front room what the, used to call the parlour.
- D.G. (laughter) Yes.
- A.G. Which, it would now be known as a sitting room.
- T.S. Was it often used or was it kept as
- D.G. No
- A.G. No
- D.G. It was kept.
- T.S. Kept! The front room, the parlour.
- D.G. The parlour, um.
- T.S. Yes, a good northern tradition that isn't it. Can you remember any appliances coming into the house - say electrical appliances or anything like that made
- D.G. Well we never 'ad a washer.. until I.. I went to 'elp at school.
- A.G. We never 'ad any electrical appliances until 1947.
- D.G. Um. We 'ad er, dolly tub.. and the.. dolly legs.
- A.G. The old mangle

- D.G. The mangle, um.
- T.S. Yes. That brings back memories. So in fact electricity didn't make any impression any impact on you until
- A.G. Fortyseven
- T.S. Until fortyseven then.
- A.G. And then it was known as er, Settle.. District Electrical.. Electricity Company. That was before it was nationalised.
- T.S. What electrical appliances were used once that arrived? Or was it just lighting?
- D.G. Light.
- A.G. A griller, and, light.
- D.G. Oh an oven.
- A.G. A griller was the first thing we got though.
- D.G. Yes, it was.
- A.G. To certain.. you was buying these..you know these.. electrical appliances er, electric cooker
- D.G. Washer
- A.G. Washer and suchlike. When you look back at the.. the old dolly legs, and the mangle.. and then today one of them Zanussi's.. er.. automatic.. washers.. there's a difference in't there?! (laughter)
- D.G. Well that's what I say when.. the farming, er farmers' wives today.. they're nearly like cottage houses aren't they? I mean we, used to be up in the morning and we always kneaded.. our own bread. I've never bought any. Er, we used to bake, er, white bread and er, brown and tea-cakes (tapping sound is A.G. tapping out his pipe) and all.. you know pies, and cakes and everything like that. Well granny was baking up to eighty.
- A.G. Aye.
- T.S. When you left school, you didn't go to a job presumably then?
- D.G. No. I was at home.
- T.S. Just at home. Yes. I shouldn't say just at home. In fact you would be working physically very hard and long presumably there.
- D.G. Oh yes. Um, 'elping father-in-law.
- A.G. You know Rowe Ghyll at 'orton the..
- T.S. I've not been up there.
- A.G. You've heard of it though.
- T.S. I've heard of it, yes.
- A.G. Well me mother was born right, house on top of yon moor, the Burnt Moor.. and when she left school at fourteen.. she went to work in the little Rose & Crown.. in Low Ghyll. It was kept by my.. great aunt.. Polly Wolfenden, they called her. And my mother 'ad eight (cough) eighteen pence a week.. when she was there six months it was increased to two bob. (laughter) 'Course in that day two bob would buy as much as ten bob will, today you know, won't it? er wouldn't it?
- T.S. Probably more.
- D.G. But it, you see
- T.S. And yet you were
- D.G. 'appier then wasn't you I mean.
- T.S. (To A.G.) Yet you were saying that in fact you never received a wage for the work you did.
- Both. No.
- A.G. You were fed and clothed.. and if you wanted pocket money you'd, either keep a few hens or er.. catch rabbits. Me brother and I 'ad a.. heck of a area.. all this side of Pen-y-Ghent as you can, faces

- 'orton. And some besides.. belonging to Mr. Perfect, that we er.. we rented from 'im and er.. if we didn't get fifteen hundred couples, in a season that's from March from er..September round to March..we though we'd done badly.
- T.S. Couples of what?
- A.G. Rabbits
- T.S. Of rabbits?
- A.G. Rabbits.
- T.S. Yes. Was there anything else that you shot?
- A.G. Depends if you got the opportunity! (laughter) Probably a grouse on a misty morning perched on a wall top you never.. (laughter)..we didn't shoot rabbits though they were all snared.
- T.S. They were snared?
- A.G. Oh, there was no trade for shot rabbits you know. Very little anyway they didn't want a, shot rabbit.
- T.S. Because of the pellets?
- A.G. Aye and er.. smashed them up inside you know.
- D.G. And then you'd sell rabbit skins, didn't they? Then the
- A.G. I can't remember ever, selling any rabbit skins really.
- D.G. Oh I can remember er, skinning a rabbit and.. you know having to do it and that, take it, it right off by its head.. so that, it was a skin to.. used to dry it.
- A.G. Er.. and they used to go down, Nelson Colne.. Manchester Market and...
- T.S. And that was how you made your pocket money then?
- Both Yes.
- A.G. In fact.. I was sat on the seat down in the, down, the town here the, Sat'dy morning.. and..a gentleman came and sat down, besides me.. He said they were in a caravan.. around.. round Austwick way.. is there a caravan site round there?
- T.S. There is.
- A.G. And er, he said he came from.. Nelson. He was a, you know elderly chap, he, probably a bit younger than me and.. I said 'did you ever know a chap in er.. Nelson called Albert Fisher?' 'Oh' he said 'I was a great friend of Albert's.' I said 'he used to come and collect our rabbits.. years and years ago before the war.' 'Well' he said er, 'I knew Albert well,' he said 'he was a very old man when he died,' he said er, 'some of the his grandsons are still carrying on the business.' And, I've seen the waggon come in to, Bentham.. er, with er, potatoes, and er.. suchlike you know, er bit of, produce. Albert Fisher Nelson.
- T.S. You were saying that you made butter. Did you make cheese or?
- D.G. I did.
- T.S. You did? You made cheese?
- D.G. Yes.
- A.G. No on a, commercial
- D.G. No
- A.G. Scale, but, butter you used to sell that didn't you?
- D.G. Yes we used to sell butter.
- T.S. Yes, that's one of the questions that i was going to ask. did you make this butter and cheese for sale or just for your own consumption.
- D.G. No we used to sell the butter until we went on to.. kit (milk churn) kitting the milk um. We used to sell it round the village..I was only thinking, the other day it was two shillings a pound what is it today?

- T.S. Something quite horrific! When are we talking about?  
D.G. When I was eighteen how long's that ago? (laughter)  
A.G. About nineteen thirt.. early thirties, wouldn't it?  
D.G. Um.  
T.S. You just sold it about the village  
D.G. Well, yes and also  
T.S. Didn't go to Market or..  
D.G. No. Er, we could sell it in the village and also I used to take.. a pound of salted, and a pound of unsalted to Doctor.. Hislop's, every week.  
A.G. Settle.  
D.G. Um. At Settle.  
T.S. I've heard about the Doctors Hislop from Kay Foster, when I interviewed her.  
A.G. Tony and David.  
D.G. Um.  
A.G. Tony was my Doctor.  
T.S. Yes, one of them I think delivered Kay. That was one of the stories that she told me.  
A.G. Aye that'd be the old man.  
D.G. Oh it was the fa, father, yes.  
T.S. Apparantly he came up by horseback.  
D.G. Yes.  
A.G. Aye.  
D.G. Did he?  
A.G. So did Doctor Middlemas he used to.. oh yes, he used to travel in a horse and trap. He was another of the Settle doctors on at the same time as Hislop. And.. old Doctor Lovegrove he was the first one to 'ave a car.  
T.S. When would that be?  
A.G. Er.. I broke by leg.. me thigh... I was eight years old so what year would that be? Nineteen seventeen. I know he came up.. in this little open car with a dicky seat at the back I can always remember that.. to set this, leg.  
T.S. So that was quite early wasn't it for someone to have a car?  
A.G. He was the first man I should say in Settle that had a car.  
T.S. Did you make anything else, any other produce, hams or bacon, that sort of thing?  
D.G. Oh yes we always used to cure our pigs.  
A.G. Only for our own use that's all.  
T.S. For your own use? How many pigs would you keep?  
Both. Two.  
T.S. How..  
A.G. Two a year, like. You'd one probably before Christmas and the other after.  
T.S. How did you make the bacon and the ham? What was the process?  
A.G. Well the flitches were rolled, salted it was all salted of course you know.. for a start, and.. a bit of brown sugar on the flitches.  
T.S. Brown sugar?  
A.G. Yes. Gives it a beautiful flavour. And then.. we used to roll the flitches you know, with.. string. Then it was all.. hung up two shoulders two hams two flitches.  
D.G. And salt-petre.  
A.G. Aye but that was only the knuckle-bone of the hams though you used

saltpetre because

T.S. So you didn't use that all over?

A.G. Oh no no no it made it too hard. It was only used on the knuckle, knuckle bone in the ham because that was the place, if a ham went bad that was where it always started. That's why it.. the.. just saltpetre round that bone. And when.. the ham had been oh, m'be six months.. you got it down and you.. going green mouldy. Me mother used to cut the bottom off that was for frying.. and then cut a square piece out, up to the knuckle-bone.. boil that for hours in a big pan. You can't buy any ham today.. that.. tasted, anything.. **approaching**, that ham.

D.G. Granny always used to make er, black pudding you know.

A.G. It was all salt cured.

T.S. Oh yes, nothing was wasted was there?

D.G. No, sausage and...

T.S. During the war years as a child I can remember we had half a pig with some people who lived on a farm near us. The only thing is that as a child I can remember that the flavour was very strong. I can remember the saltpetre flavour, and to a child it was a very strong

A.G. But that was the only place where you put any, saltpetre if you used it anywhere else it, spoils the bacon it cures (?) too hard you know. It's a bit..severe is that stuff.

T.S. I can remember! It might just be that I was unlucky that as a child I just happened to eat a small piece of it and it's a memory that has stuck with me from those years. What did you do about pickles and preserves that sort of thing did you

D.G. Oh yes. We used to pickle erm.. onions and make chutney. And er, we made all the jams as they came you know. Strawberry raspberry..gooseberry.. er rhubarb and ginger wasn't it? (laughter)

T.S. An old favourite of mine!

A.G. I used to get fed-up of that stuff in hay-time (laughter) Rhubarb jam!

T.S. Did you have a garden or did you buy the produce?

D.G. No we had a garden.

T.S. What did you grow?

A.G. Spuds.

D.G. Potatoes... and all, vegetables hadn't we?

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End of side one



SIDE TWO

- T.S. It seems fairly unusual for farmers to have vegetable plots.
- A.G. Well you see they 'ad to 'ave in that day because..
- D.G. The greengrocer'd only come once a week.
- A.G. Unless you wanted to travel to a town, to buy them. I mean the.. you 'adn't motor car in that day.
- T.S. No but I mean, others that I've talked to, didn't have veg plots. I'd got the impression that farmers didn't go in for gardening. Was it left to the wife or?
- A.G. Well we said that farmers were poor gardeners!
- D.G. He always is. Um. (chuckle)
- T.S. Who did the gardening then, would it be the husband or the wife or, shared?
- D.G. Well you, did the potatoes and vegetables and I gathered the fruit and
- A.G. I did most of it I think.
- D.G. Um. Then of course in war-time you know we 'ad.. the ploughin.' And we grew, turnips, kale, potatoes... we used to sell potatoes then, five bob (shillings) a hundredweight.
- T.S. That was a question again that I'd got down here to ask was, what happened.. how did farming change during the war years?
- A.G. Yes well they put this ploughing onto us you'd a.. you 'ad a, little bit we'd er
- T.S. Was it laid down how much you had to do?
- A.G. Well you'd 'bout... what would we 'ave, two and a half acres in that field behind the house, er.. and there'd be a good.. acre above the (? indistinct word)
- D.G. Yes.
- A.G. Er.. three and a 'alf acres.
- T.S. Was it successful, or is the alt(itude) is it too high?
- A.G. Well.. you had to be fairly successful.. but the first year, 'course.. I mean you sort er.... you'd no idea then.. er, we sew the corn.. the oats.. at, ten, stones to the acre.. and it grew so high.. it came bad weather.. battered it down.. and it was very difficult to harvest. In fact it ended up as, bedding, you know, fer.. bedding the young calves and, suchlike with.
- T.S. So as a crop it was a failure?
- A.G. As a crop it was a failure now.. the following year the foreman.. who was called..
- D.G. Forbes
- A.G. Forbes,
- D.G. Um.
- A.G. He said.. this time, he said.. sow it twelve stones to the acre... instead of ten. He said it'll not grow as high.. he said it'll be thicker, and he said it'll hold up better.. which it did.. fer, a year or two after that. Fairly successful with it. And we used ter, teck the.. we had it all threshed you know. And we used to take.. the oats.. if we were going down to Settle take.. few bags of oats.. had a car then. And er.. Dan Saunders, the provinder merchant they ground it up for us.
- T.S. And it ripened all right up there then?
- A.G. Yes, it ripened, like.. quite well. The first year it didn't, but of course the as I say it was, it was too high and too strong some ways er.. it was a complete failure, as far as a crop's,

More follows/

concerned the first year. And it was a bad, time. It got down and started growing through again and you know it was er.. t'was a complete failure but.. it came a bit of dry weather about, September, early October. And we got it, cut and we.. carted it all out up onto a hill-top and got it dry, and, it was used as, bedding.

(Noise of Mr. Greenbank leaving the room)

T.S. Did you keep hens and that sort of thing?

D.G. Yes.. for our own use. That was a.. the thing I missed most when we came here.. er was the milk and er.. well when we gave up farming really the milk.. but we always kept a few hens.. with having visitors.

T.S. Yes. The.. did you have a house cow or that sort of thing? Or did you keep cows, keep an actual herd of cows on the farm?

D.G. Oh yes. Um. Er, up to giving up farming.. we did yes. There was the er, milk cows and then there was the.. er, the stirks you know, that grew up.. and the calves.

T.S. The stirks were for meat?

D.G. Er.. well no they'd be more bullocks, that we had for, they would go for a, beef.

T.S. How many milking cows would you have then?

D.G. Oh we'd have.. I think a dozen anyway, but Arthur'd tell you properly.

T.S. I see. quite a number.

D.G. Oh yes.

T.S. It wasn't just

D.G. Oh no

T.S. One or two

D.G. No-no.

T.S. Where was this milk distributed then?

D.G. Er, it used to, go.. the, lorry came round for it. We used to have about two kits a day of milk that went to er,

T.S. Two kits? What are kits?

D.G. Well churns, they'll call them now but we used to call them kits in our day. Um. How many did you milk twelve or?

A.G. Aye, ten or twelve never any more. Um. We weren't, cut out really for milk farming it was more breeding.. both places more a breeding farm. In fact they stopped us selling milk eventually.. er, because the shippens weren't.. you know, didn't, er, come up to the regulations. So we started breeding.. oh I was, I had a milk round during the war, early part of the war (laughter).. hawking milk round the village.. in cans.

T.S. Yes.

D.G. Pint.

A.G. In er.. pint, measures and half-pint. And in that, severe winter of, thirtynine-forty.. the can-lids used to be frozen fast you know I had difficulty in getting the lids open.. and I'd only a push-bike.. one over each handle-bar. (Laughter)

T.S. Delivered by push-bike?

A.G. Aye! I got a car in nineteen thirty... thirty-eight was it or thirty-nine? I drove a car for, forty-five years..

T.S. Um.

A.G. And I packed it in.

D.G. Arthur is seventy-nine.. twenty-eighth of August.

More follows/

A.G. I'm afraid I will (laughter)

T.S. Doesn't seem to stop for anybody does it, time?!

D.G. Er no it doesn't!

A.G. As long as you're well why worry?

T.S. Yes. That's very true. Can you remember any particularly bad winters when you were farming?

A.G. Yes. Forty-seven.

D.G. Oh yes.

A.G. Forty-six well, forty-seven it didn't start till.. end of January.. and it lasted till, middle March.. twentieth of March about. It was a bad one was that. And what made it worse it followed a very bad summer. We er.. we didn't finish hay-time till the eleventh of October that year. It was all hand work in that day you know.

T.S. Yes. Hand and presumably horses?

A.G. Yes.

T.S. How many horses would you have?

A.G. We used to keep two.. till, latter years we'd only one.. because, it was.. small place we went on to.. The Rowe, at the, finish. I used to use an old 'Austin Sixteen'.. that I bought off Ellis's in Settle.. fer er, sweeping hay.

T.S. Using it as a tractor?

A.G. More or less aye. The last time it was on the road.. was in nineteen thirty-eight it went to the British Empire Exhibition.. in Glasgow, with a load of people.

T.S. Did you have a tractor?

A.G. No we never had a tractor. I had a Land-Rover.

T.S. and that would do?

A.G. Yes.

T.S. Everything that you

A.G. Do what we wanted aye.

T.S. How about hay-time, that sort of thing?

A.G. Aye, we managed in hay-time. We had a horse as well.

T.S. You'd still got a horse at that time?

A.G. Yes. Um.

T.S. When did you finish with horses then?

A.G. 'bout.. 1960 m'be.. couple of years before we gave up farming.

T.S. I see. So you were using horses more or less up to the time you finished then.

Both. Um yes. Aye.

T.S. Was that usual?

A.G. Well, some places as still 'ad them but er.. no, I should say a lot of them had, got tractors then.

D.G. Used to be up at four didn't you mowing?

A.G. In the olden days I was up, half past four yoking two 'orses up ter, mow till about nine o'clock. And of course then you had to be.. you had to pack it up then on account of the sun getting, so hot you see for them.

T.S. For the horses?

Both. Yes.

A.G. Now then with these new, drum mowers they mow as much in an hour as we did in a.. whole day I should think.

T.S. Yours would have been the old side bar mower

A.G. Aye that's right. Yes. Right-hand cutter-bar.

More follows/

- T.S. I remember that from my own childhood too. That was a fairly slow job wasn't it, especially mowing by horse. Miss Wilcock described her own father being out, up at North Cote at four o'clock in the morning.
- D.G. Yes, she would.
- T.S. Using the horse-drawn cutter. What else can you remember about that 'forty-seven winter?
- A.G. I lost quite a few sheep.
- T.S. How many? Any ideas?
- A.G. I buried, what was it fifteen in one grave? But we didn't lose.. plenty.. to apply for this, er.. disaster fund, that was raised to that was given by the government.
- T.S. It reached the stage of being a disaster then?
- A.G. Ah yes. If we'd lost twenty we'd've, drawn so much I don't know just what it was I can't remember now.
- T.S. That would be about out of how many sheep?
- A.G. Eighty lambing ewes.
- T.S. Eighty lambs.
- D.G. It was a lot when, seemed a lot to us then.
- T.S. And yet you got off lightly.
- A.G. Yes.
- D.G. Um.
- A.G. But what a difference in prices today. We sold up in 1962 and.. the top price.: new-calved cow, a black and white one..was.. top price on, our best cow was sixtyseven pounds. If we'd 'ad that cow today and taken it into Bentham Auction, it'd 've med.. it'd 've med seven 'undred quid. At least.
- T.S. That's in what, sort of twentyfive odd years that it's
- A.G. I know that we 'ad Richard Turner on, you know, selling, for us.. and he said you're giving up.. 'bout, ten, or twelve years too soon. What do you do when the doctor advises to, pack it up?
- D.G. And then Margaret was leaving school, she wanted a..job.
- A.G. She wanted a job and she got a job with Richard Turner for a start.
- D.G. At Skipton first.
- A.G. Ah yes
- D.G. You took her.
- A.G. Aye, International Textiles at Skipton up, er.. Grassington road. As you go into Skipton you just turn up to the left. And er..
- D.G. Unknown to us.
- A.G. I used to take her, sometimes. Anyhow.. er.. she works for Turners, after that for two years. Got married in the meantime. And then she saw, a job advertised.. typist, receptionist, wanted, Derek Jordan's.. solicitors, Station Road, Bentham.. and she's been there twelve years. She got it out of sixteen applicates.
- T.S. Was water piped into your kitchen?
- D.G. Yes.
- T.S. Where did that come from was it
- D.G. Oh, it was it came from up Pike Hills, before we got the, proper water supply didn't it?
- A.G. Yes ours at Drybeck was just out of a.. tank up in the pasture, a little.. well you couldn't, t'wasn't big enough to call a stream.. just a trickle, of water.. filled this tank up.

- T.S. Did it run dry at all?  
A.G. Never ran dry but er.. pretty near it, in one or two of those hot summers.  
T.S. I seem to remember that it was a hot summer after the 'forty winter wasn't it?  
A.G. It, was quite a good summer but it didn't start till pretty late on, about the end of July. We always used ter.. sort er.. assess a summer.. how long it took us to get the hay in.. you know.. what fine weather we had.  
T.S. Yes. It's so quick to get hay in now isn't it as you say with these drum cutters?  
D.G. Oh yes.  
A.G. No trouble at all today.. a chap can get a haytime with his, backside on the, tractor seat all the time.  
D.G. Well they don't work it like we used to.  
A.G. No.  
D.G. We used to straw it.. after the  
A.G. Used to do all the work by hand you know.. straw out with a fork if it was a thick crop.  
D.G. Yes.  
A.G. Straw it with rakes if it was a thinner crop.  
D.G. And then you turn it.  
A.G. Leave it like that m'be a couple of days and then it was all to turn by hand, with the rakes.. then probably put into foot-cock..  
D.G. And then  
A.G. And sometimes into what we called hubs, that was two foot-cocks, put together... before it was ready for, it 'ad they were very particular you know the old, folks about how.. it had to be good.. dry, and, you know.  
T.S. Of course it didn't last otherwise did it - went mouldy or?  
D.G. No.  
A.G. Aye. Yeh. That's why so many farmers got 'farmers' lung' you know.  
D.G. The dust.  
A.G. With, dust in winter checking this hay up. I used to (? indistinct word).. put something, over me face.. and the, your brother, got it.  
D.G. Yes.  
A.G. There's quite a few people.. got 'farmers' lung.' It, sort of a, fungi.. that grows inside the.. lungs.  
D.G. Makes 'em cough.. a lot.  
T.S. I saw quite an unusual sight at Helwith Bridge last night, and that was a woman working in the field, actually raking the hay.  
D.G. Um. I used to do all the red(?) roving didn't I? After the car.  
A.G. You haven't seen much, you don't see much of that now do you?  
D.G. No.  
T.S. It was must unusual they'd got a 'Landie' (LandRover) it's only a small field on a steep slope. They'd got a LandRover in there and there she was.  
D.G. Oh, yes.  
A.G. In my day, you'd t'.. go round, all the wall-sides with scythe y'know.  
T.S. If you add that up of course it comes to a considerable crop

More follows/

- doesn't it?
- D.G. Oh yes.
- Both. It does.
- D.G. What, they used to say that'd feed a calf; didn't they, when you'd, finished, raking?
- A.G. Stop a calf from bawling (indistinct word).. they used to say. (laughter)
- D.G. When we'd finished raking a field.
- T.S. During the war years there was A Home Guard in Horton I understand.
- A.G. There was.
- D.G. Yes.
- T.S. Did you.. I understand that there were some peculiar goings on with it.
- D.G. You was in the A.R.P.
- A.G. I wasn't in that one. Is was in, the Civil Defence.
- D.G. My brother was in the Home Guard.
- A.G. You know the messenger from the Civil Defence.
- T.S. What did that involve?
- A.G. Well just any, air raids, er, get up and.. get 'em out. If you'd got the, 'Red' warning. Although, there was never anything there nearest.. anything happened, was.. on Malham Moors somebody had been leading lime. And, in that day they used to set it out in rows, in heaps you know. And then it had got to be spread out..with a shovel, by hand. And, whether this German, pilot.. had mistaken it fer an encampment.. he let fly with one or two, there the, we heard the thuds. But, all he did was.. spread the lime for them and, and dig a, great hole in the ground. That was all that happened.
- T.S. He dropped a stick of bombs? That's not one that I'd heard of. Did they ever use your land for manoeuvres or that sort of thing?
- A.G. Oh, only the Home Guard.
- T.S. Yes the Home Guard.
- A.G. Yes, used one, pasture fer a, a rifle range kit was.. it was ideally suited for that. It's the one called, 'Ringle Pot.'
- T.S. Ringle Pot?
- A.G. Where they have the clay pigeon shoots now I think.
- T.S. Right. I'm with you.
- D.G. There's a cave there isn't there?
- A.G. Ringle Mill Cave, they call it, there was water in, then, there's very little, shows, on the surface. It's a badly watered place, er, field, was that. And we daren't, dig.. round it so much, because in limest'n you're apt to lose it altogether if you're not careful.
- T.S. Is this a field on the right-hand side of the lane?
- A.G. Left-hand side of the road as you're going up to Selside.
- T.S. Yes.
- A.G. And it... when we had it.. those moors... I wouldn't say they were absolutely covered with heather, but, quite a lot on we we.. used to have a few, grouse on there you know. The chap that took it, Barra (Barrow?).. limed it. Well.. I was always told that you should never lime peaty ground. Now-then if you notice, when you go up.. all it grows is rushes. You'll probably have noticed that haven't you?

T.S. I've noticed that there isn't much heather.

A.G. Isn't **any** now, I shouldn't think.

T.S. In the area at all.

D.G. Used to be a lot.

A.G. Course it.. the sheep subsidy did that you know.

T.S. Oh? How?

A.G. Started paying a subsidy on, each breeding ewe. And of course.. a lot of farmers jumped on the band-waggon and started keeping twice as many as they ought to have, done.. to collect.. the subsidy.

T.S. And that over-grazed?

A.G. That **over-grazed** the **heather** it just disappeared. That happened at.. on, Pen-y-Ghent Fell, you know behind, that's **behind** Pen-y-Ghent up, the top end of Littondale. And.. on the moors.. above Horton. It all it all happened.. through the sheep subsidy. Up to that **starting** in the, **during** the war.. er, there was any amount of heather, on those moors.

T.S. As recently as that?

A.G. Yes. And now you've a job to find any.

T.S. Yes because this is something that I found a little surprising. I mean, I came here and I heard that there was grouse shooting, that in sort of years gone by the local gentry etc. went up there shooting grouse and so on so I assumed that there should be a lot of heather. But I couldn't see any.

D.G. Oh well, there was when you were (jumbled words)

A.G. Well, you know when you go up, above Ribblehead, as you're going towards Hawes.

T.S. Yes.

A.G. Those those moors.. Blea Moor, and er

D.G. Gearstones

A.G. And, Cam.. Cam End.. Camside, Moor.. in those.. days, before the war.. if you went up there in a car you'd a.. a job to avoid, **grouse** flying backwards and forwards from si' one side to the other. Now then the, I don't think there's anything at all.

\* That's er, \*Peter Beresford\*, and one or two more up there keeping.. maybe a thousand sheep on it where they should've been keeping a few hundred. I mean I wouldn't bat(?) er.. anybody to meck me **prove** that but that's.. there's no doubt that's what happened.

T.S. Well that certainly explains something that I'd not been able to understand, because I'd assumed there should be heather and I couldn't see any... I'd thought it would have taken a long time.

A.G. Now, all the.. from 'orton, over, pon Pen-y-Ghent Fell.. I understand it **is** coming back there because, they preserved it. They wired, a, a vast piece off, and kept sheep out all together and it's, gradually coming back.

T.S. Is that where George Perfect (Horton gamekeeper) has done his

A.G. Where he was gamekeeper. Yep.

T.S. That certainly explains something which I'd not been able to understand. Looking back to your years in Horton, can you recall any particular 'characters' who stand out in your mind for any reason?

A.G. Quite a few (laughter)

T.S. Apart from George Perfect and

More follows/

- A.G. And Mark Thomson (Beck walker or water bailiff on the Ribble from Helwith Bridge to Ribblehead)
- T.S. And Mark Thomson.
- A.G. Mark had a story you know. The old Horton Fair.. was always held about the 20th of June in the, field.. at the right hand side of what they called the New In flat as you're going towards the Station and you go past The Crown... there's a flat field. That was where the old Horton Fair was held I can, just vaguely.. remember, going to one when I was a kid. And Mark's, father that they used to have these races you know, on the flat. And Mark's.. father..Walter Thomson was drawn.. against a lady called, Sally Brown. And old Walter 'ad bin in The Crown, at dinner time and 'ee'd got a guts-full of ale. And he, thought well.. when we get set off.. this race the only way I can beat her is trip her up.. which he did! Of course he won!
- T.S. Are there any other characters you can remember then?
- A.G. Aye Martin Thorsby.
- T.S. Martin?
- A.G. Thorsby.
- A.G. Thorsby. He, he farmed.. at Little Townend, where er.. what they call those people again? Ann Howe(?)
- D.G. Oh dear me
- A.G. He used to have the Post Office. They have a guest house.
- D.G. He, I think it's a Sale (Sail, sale?) is their
- A.G. You know where.. riverside houses are? The, becksides the.. there's old farmhouse further down isn't there? well that's.. where, er.. Martin Thorsby farmed it's, there's quite a bit of land to it I don't know who has it now
- D.G. It'd be (?) my father's cousin.
- A.G. Yes. And er... in that day...you remember the old stone bottles, with a handle and.. cork in. He half-filled one with water. And er, he went on to The Crown, which, then was kept by a chap called John Heseltine. He was rather a, cranky, crusty sort of a feller. He said, er, we're 'avin' a nappin' (card game) party.. and he said I wanted a gallon of gin. He said I've got half-a-gallon in at, Lion, he said I thought it was only fair to, get half-a-gallon off you. So he says if you'll put me half-a-gallon in to the, which he did.. now he said I can't just pay you now, but he said I will pay you. Oh, be damned to that tale, old John says. Let me have me half back out. Old Martin still had half-a-gallon of, gin and water which he'd pinched!
- T.S. Yes! A very good story! Is it a true one?
- A.G. Yes.
- D.G. Yes that was true.
- A.G. Definitely quite true.
- D.G. And he was the grave
- A.G. Of course, the, the other one was..those
- D.G. He was, the grave-digger wasn't he? And what did he say when someone asked him?
- A.G. Oh, there was some old.. lady, staying at The Lion. It was one hot morning, mid-summer he was, old Martin was digging this grave in the churchyard. And, this old.. lady as was... leaning on the churchyard wall looking over watching.. one old dear said,



- 'do people often die round here?' He just looked up he said 'not but yance!' (laughter)
- T.S. George (Perfect) was busy digging a grave and filling it in just this last week.
- Both. Um.
- A.G. Aye that would be, Annie, Heseltine (jumbled, overlaid speech)
- T.S. That's right. Yes. They buried her yesterday.
- D.G. Anthony's er, wife, Arthur's brother's.. wife.. er, she was the organist from.. twelve.
- A.G. She was the organist for, for 62 years at Horton church.
- D.G. Yes. Um.
- A.G. And then something went wrong with her hands, you know.
- T.S. Yes. Just nipping back to your grandmother being a Dent Knitter, that intrigues me.
- D.G. Er, I'll tell you where that knitting stick, er.. what did they call those two ladies that came and I let them have our butter bowl.. and hands(?).. and then after they'd gone they was looking at this er.. knitting stick. And they was opening something up, Dent wasn't there? Er, some sort of a museum a little museum, two ladies came. They write a book what did they call them I couldn't re '?
- A.G. Oh aye. Can you recall that book? Written to written by two Dent ladies?
- T.S. Two Dent ladies, no.
- D.G. I can't remember I was only thinking about them the other day. And we had one
- A.G. Can't remember their names.
- T.S. She actually lived in Dent then?
- D.G. She would do, when she was young, person.
- T.S. When she was young. So I mean when are we looking back to?
- D.G. Don't know.
- T.S. Middle of.
- D.G. What would it be?
- A.G. It'd be about, early fifties sometime on then, when they came round, wantin' these things.
- D.G. Yes but when Granny'd be and then
- T.S. When she was actually
- A.G. Dent knitter.
- D.G. When she was er.. when would she be married?
- A.G. Oh god.
- D.G. Oh goodness.
- A.G. Long before the war I should imagine.. probably between the wars, sometime.
- D.G. Ooh, my granny's been dead
- A.G. Oh well, 'fore First World War we'll say then.
- D.G. Oh, yes before that Arthur. Well I was only five er, when, Grand-dad died. And Granny.. she didn't seem long after that. She'll 'ave been dead, sevent.. oh, Geoffrey was born, me brother.. when me Granny died that's seventy.. two years.. ago. And so it'd be when she was a young person wouldn't it that she was a, before she was married I should say?
- T.S. Yes.
- D.G. Before she came to Horton.
- T.S. Yes. How old was she when she died?

More follows/

- D.G. I can't remember.
- T.S. But even so we must be looking back into the middle of the last century then mustn't we?
- D.G. Oh, yes.
- A.G. Aye.
- D.G. Must.
- T.S. To her childhood.
- A.G. Going on then.
- T.S. Of course the Dent Knitters were still knitting then. Did any pedlars or visiting tradespeople come round your farm?
- A.G. 'Proven' dealer.. Thornber, and Son, Settle.
- T.S. Robin?
- A.G. W.W. Thornber and Son.
- T.S. Ah, yes.
- A.G. They were down at Settle.
- T.S. Yes. What did they supply?
- A.G. Ah, er.. well any, provender you wanted, er
- T.S. 'Provender' was for the animals?
- A.G. Aye. That's right. And, T.D. Smiths, for groceries and, suchlike. They 'ad that er.. The 'Spar' shop now in Settle, ye, d'you know it er?
- D.G. Yes. What they call it
- T.S. Yes, yes I know it.
- A.G. Bottom of er, Cheapside?
- T.S. Yes.
- A.G. Well that, used to be T.D. Smiths, of Lancaster.. at one time.
- T.S. And that was the
- A.G. But er.. but we used to get groceries from Lancaster.. before they took this place in Settle. Used to come by train, to Horton station. You had them to collect.
- D.G. And me uncle used to deliver them didn't
- A.G. Oh, he, er, Robert Swinbank, from Beecroft Hall.
- D.G. Yes.
- A.G. He used to deliver them. And then, they got to delivering 'em by road, when er.. motor.. traffic, became more popular and.. the first man I can remember brought them on a he was a, chap called Wilkinson.
- T.S. Did you go shopping regularly or did you rely on these people coming to your home?
- A.G. Oh, used to go shopping down in Settle as well.
- T.S. How often would you need to do that?
- A.G. Well Tuesday was Market Day in Settle. And after we'd moved up to The Rowe we used to go come to Bentham fairly regularly fer.. on a Wednesday Bentham.. Bentham Market day. Probably, more.. to come across people you knew and.. have a drink with and suchlike er, more the so than, (chuckle) the, shopping actually. Well we'd quite a few relatives, I had, over here.
- T.S. The animals that you kept, were any, when you came to sell them, how did you get them to market?
- A.G. Er.. cattle removers, to Hellifield, Auction, in that day.
- T.S. They came and picked up?
- A.G. Um-hum. That was in me father's time but.. afterwards er, me brother and I we used to sell at home if we could. Save, transport.. costs.

More follows/

T.S. What do you think is the biggest difference now in farming between you know, your earliest days and now?

A.G. I'd, think all the labour-saving machinery for one thing, won't it?

D.G. Then they all have their own.. er.. cattle things haven't they or

A.G. Then er

D.G. Trailers.

A.G. Type of farming's, changed.. in this way.. er with all these quotas on milk and suchlike you know there's very, few, selling.. milk, I should think now. They're all on this, 'suckler beef.' Cows running wi'.. y'know a couple of calves.. in the, summer.

T.S. Yes. what's the advantage of doing that?

A.G. Well they get a subsidy on the calf and, another subsidy on the cow. You see... they'd to cut down on milk selling. But er.. I should say this jo' this would be a better job although I've, had no experience of it I mean.. we only just were breeding.. stuff, in, our, latter days of farming. But er.. I know one farm in Horton Parish.. we reckoned that one day he'd be he'd be, he'd be drawin'.. five thousand a year subsidy.. and that's, years and years ago before the subsidies were increased... and that would be High Birkwith.

T.S. High Birkwith? Um. Did you get any subsidies or, did you have to stand entirely on your own feet?

A.G. No we got it on the sheep. First of all.. when er, we used to buy.. flock replacements..we got half-subsidy because.. it was what was known as a flyin' flock. But later.. last ten years I were farming we started breeding our own we got the full subsidy... which was.. it was about three quid a head then, in that day. I don't know what it is now but it.. forever more than that now.

T.S. When did these subsidies start? After the war or when?

A.G. During the latter part of the war I think.

T.S. This was aimed at encouraging self-sufficiency?

A.G. That's right yes it was.

T.S. Not having to buy things.

A.G. Well, that and the ploughing ter.. encouraging you to.. produce more food to save, shipping, you know on account of the, 'U boat' and, suchlike.

T.S. You didn't carry on doing any ploughing after the war then?

A.G. No, it was just ploughed again and re-seeded, back to grass again after the war was over.

T.S. Why didn't you carry on growing crops then?

A.G. Well you see.. up this part of the way there's more a, breeding country than a ploughing country. It was all right but.. the ground, isn't, really suitable for, arable.. like er, when you go over, Rippon way and over to those places it's different land altogether fer.. arable land.

T.S. Is this to do with the depth of soil and its stoniness?

A.G. Aye. Yes. Depth of soil. Too near the limeston' rock.. up this part of the world. Especially up, Horton, way.

T.S. How deep could you plough?

A.G. Not very deep. About, what would it be? Something like that.. I should say.. just turned, you know, just about one fer a..

T.S. That's what, about eighteen inches?

More follows/

- A.G. Well, something like that aye.  
T.S. No deeper than that.  
A.G. It wasn't very popular wasn't, ploughing with the farmers up.. then, at, Horton.  
T.S. I should imagine it must have damaged equipment. I assume you kept on coming across lumps of stone and what have you.  
A.G. Aye. You see.. the War Agricultural Committee.. they had the machinery they did the ploughin' for us. All the sowin' and er..and the harrowin' and the rollin' and  
T.S. You didn't have to do that yourself then?  
A.G. You could have done if you'd have wished to buy all this machinery but they did it for you you see they charged you for it but, er.. I can't remember now what they charged .  
T.S. I see.  
A.G. So much an acre.  
T.S. So they brought all their own equipment in.  
A.G. Used to bring their, equipment round.. aye.  
T.S. Did you have any Landgirls helping you?  
A.G. No we hadn't, there was..one or two but.. George Perfect's father had.. he had a couple. And there was also a couple at er, Beecroft Hall, when Joe Barker had it. I don't think they lived there.. but er, you know they came around... working. They'd even, Landgirls for mole-catching you know poisoning them with strychnine.  
T.S. They must have done a good job of course.  
A.G. Oh aye.  
T.S. Did you retain much of a link with Horton once you left there?  
A.G. No, very little. Me brother was still living there but er.. he died a few years ago and.. I don't think I've been back once.. since his funeral or, probably only once since his funeral (noise of jet plane passing directly overhead) well as I said there's hardly anybody I know now only George and er.. Sutcliffe lads. Harry Jackson Alan Carr at Brackenbottom.  
T.S. Yes there certainly seem to be a lot of new faces, ours amongst them. Well thank you very much indeed. You've given me a lot of information there. All I've got to do now is  
A.G. We're going to have a cup of tea  
T.S. Sit down at my machine and transcribe it.  
A.G. See if there's anything else you can remember. (To Mrs. Greenbank)

END OF TRANSCRIPTION

\* See page 23. Comment re Peter Beresford should perhaps not be released in any extract made available to the public?