

A CONVERSATION WITH MR. STAN POTTSrecorded on the 25th February 1988at his home in Langcliffe, Settle.

Topics covered include his childhood, education, first jobs on farms and forty years spent working at the Quarry at Horton.

Interviewed by: Tony Simmons,  
"Churchgate,  
Horton-in-Ribblesdale,  
Settle.

- .....
- T.S. I remember you telling me that you were born in Horton. What year were you born?
- S.P. Nineteen-fifteen on the 29th of November.
- T.S. Where exactly was it? I can remember you saying
- S.P. It's third, third st third 'ouse up on t'Railway Cottages up t' 'ill, Station.
- T.S. Those cottages were still owned by the Railway?
- S.P. They were yes until, well, about twenty years ago was it? Something like that.
- T.S. Was it just Railway people who lived in them?
- S.P. Yes, oh aye plate-layers and signal-men and porters...and Stationmaster were the top one that stands on its own. A bit (?)
- T.S. Class distinction!
- S.P. Oh aye, yeh, um, aye they were all taken. The man that lives in top at..of *that* row of six houses he owns lot now. He's a signalman er-er he's a signalman..at Settle Junction..that box down there.
- T.S. You've said that your father worked for the railway.
- S.P. Oh aye he was on for fifty year. He was, ganger at Horton, length from..went to about, mile belows, Horton and up to, Selside Cottages..fi..five men or four men there were, five or six or, *five* I think.
- T.S. What did that job involve?
- S.P. Well you look after t'rails and put your new sleepers in un keepin't edges *walls*,built up un..er...well general..it's general job int it?
- T.S. I see.
- S.P. See them days were key, wooden, blocks you put into t'rail, to hold them up you see and now then the, they're flat-bottomed rails and they just 'ave a clip in, two clips in don't they?
- T.S. And these were wooden wedges?
- S.P. Wooden wedges what they called *keys*..and if came to t'middle of summer...I've sin t'time when I've, had a walk on a Sunday morning and er...I'd 'ave *one* 'ammer and ee'd 'ave t'other and we were..I'd go up *this* rail and ee'd go up *that* one un'...we'd be meckin', knockin'..knock um in all t'way to Selside and cum down on t'*other* side..doin' t'*same* or-else otherwise ee'd never got 'is dinner. (chuckle) Now-then there's non o' that..you-see.

T.S. Modern rails I think are sort of continuously welded aren't they?

S.P. Well ..some of 'em are an' some of 'um aren't. Just..there's a piece done, somewhere from around here..I think it starts in this cutting up to about Stainf'th School..an' mebee a bit further 'appen, on, on *this* side I don't know about *other* side.

T.S. What year would he have started working for the Railway?

S.P. 'Oo? m' father?

T.S. Your father.

S.P. Well-ay..he'd retire in about..he died in sixty-eight and ee'd been retired about *two* year but ee'd, ee'd stopped on about er...ee'd stopped on about, er, I don't know one or two years..extra..'cause they offered 'im to 'cause...labour was *scarce* durinc, *t'war* people and what-not and other things you-see? So..if you put fifty years from about nineteen-what? For-er-forty-five fort er let's see, sixty-eight..about sixty-nine sixty *five* I reckon ee'd finish. If you reckon about fifty year exactly you're goin' back a little aren't you? Of-course ee, ee wasn't just working 'ere...he worked a bit on t'Helwith Bridge length and before that ee were on t'extra gang at Skipton.

T.S. Where did he live to do all this work?

S.P. Well in Skipton he lived with 'is mother in Skipton and, when ee got up this part o' t'world ee er, lived in 'orton..where, I was born.

T.S. Have you any idea how many people were employed around Horton Station at that time?

S.P. Well...er, Stationmaster'd be responsible for..two, signalmen at..Selside, three at Horton..'nd three at Helwith Bridge that's twice three's six two's eight..and ee'd about *five* porters... and er, a couple of *clerks*..it were a big place was 'orton they took more money at 'orton than any place int..this line. Well er..I was er, at Horton, in t'nineteen..fifties to t'er, up to t'time as..er, I.C.I. took over we were shippin' about, seventy trucks a *day* you know. And it wasn't *all*, going north it was some going south as well..you see.

T.S. Was it the quarry that made Horton Station such a busy place?

S.P. Oh aye..and then of course, there was t, what we called *Tarmac* down at, Helwith Bridge that was t'same firm. They were sending on t'rail as well. Y'ad to 'ave a porter down there to get waggins all..labelled up an'..greazed up an'..and what not and another, shuntin' we 'ad, shunt come to put um..shunt um on an,' teck up off. So we'd quite a, you'd a man, stationed at Helwith Bridge, every *day*..some part o' t'day, y'know..'cause there was signal-box there as well which, is, demolished 'n gone. Then't 'elwith Bridge Quarry itself that er, it's one a *full* of water you know, (yes)..there was another little siding there an' they used to shift on there. Before they 'ad sidings they used ter...when I was a lad they used to bring it up on a steam waggin an', an' shovel it off with shovels into t'railway trucks at 'orton Sidin'. (laughter)

T.S. What was that, one of the old 'Sentinal Steamers?' (Make of steam-powered lorry manufactured at the Sentinal Works)

S.P. Uh-hum, it was. yeh.

T.S. They were made not far away from where I used to live. Have you

- any particularly strong memories, either amusing or tragic or whatever from those years? Accidents or that sort of thing?
- S.P. Yes er, er..I remember, what *two* ..I was going to feed these 'ens one morning before I went to school..and there was a big..(clapped his hands) bang, and that was at Stationmasters 'ouse..I thought n'more about it..and er, 'bout five minutes so after..er, somebody came down to t'ouse...or me *father* came down to t'ouse that was it, 'cause they'd bin lookin t'length, and er.. "will you go up to Mrs. Yates up at the, Quarry 'ouses?" I said "yes what do you want?" 'ee said "ask 'er if she'll come down and 'elp me to lay..Mr., Harding out" I said "oh yeh," no, yes it were. 'Ee's come down 'e did, it wasn't Mr. Harding 'e wanted, 'e wanted me to come dow, down and ask me *mother*, and one o' t'neighbours if they'd go..'ee'd shot 'is-self, Stationmaster. Ee'd fastened both wife an' t'daughter in't 'ouse an' got key in 'is pocket an' they couldn't get out and er...propped the old gun up an'.. 'it wi,' something an,' boom..and that was t'end of 'im. 'Ee were a *nice* man an' all but, job'd got on t'top of 'im I think. An' that was *one* do. Another *do* was..I was just going on me bicycle 'waaay' (exclamation) and 'ee said "what, what do you want?" Said "nip up t' t'quarry will you up t't" 'cause thur 'bout th'ty..about thirty 'ouses up at 'orton then at quarries...two rows an' some...three *rows* and two *bungalows*.
- T.S. Was that at Beecroft?
- S.P. Yes, there's only one row and they were all hou-er offices now. 'Ee said er, "ask Mrs.Yates if she'd cum down an'..'elp me ter..er, lay Paddy out." Paddy was a man that..'ee wuz an *Irishman* that'd stopped..when he'd been haytimin' an' 'arvestin' an' stopped at Studfold at one o' t'houses. 'Ee'd got a start at the quarries d'y you see? Oh 'ee was a big feller 'ee'd be..oh-I-do'n-know, sixteen stone if 'ee was an ounce I should I remember 'im. And 'ee'd, bin walkin' up t'line, short-cut..an' a hengin'd come down 'n...bumped 'im an,' knocked 'im off. And er so I went up and er..I said "me father wants you to cum down ter t'station on t't..opposite side ter.. bookin' office. "Oh what is there?" sh..I said "Paddy's got knocked over and 'ee's *dead* and 'ee wants you to come an'...'elp 'im to lay 'im out" you see. "Aye!" she said "I'll come" an' she said "tell 'im to get some cigarettes on!" (laughter) So I, went back I says "yer she's comin' get yer cigarettes out she says" so..she'd be paid for t'job no-doubt but..that was *two*, things I remember about that life. (laughter)
- T.S. Were there any industrial disputes, strikes or lock-outs, or that sort of thing on the railway in those days?
- S.P. I remember t'nineteen-twenty strike there was they were out for..quite a while weren't they? Er, me father wasn't out 'ee said 'ee weren't goin' out because the..it were t'miners as brought, them out if you, I don't know if you, know anything about it but, it were t'*miners* strike and they tried, gettin' everybody else out on strike. Father said well, 'ee'd nothin' gen t'Railway Company so why should 'ee, pennialize 'em? so 'ee stopped in. An' I believe there were about five gangers, from, 'bout Settle up to about..oh *junction* that didn't go *out* you naw..mind you some went out and some were, ordinary fellows were

back *in* again in a matter of a, a week-or-so, and some stopped out till t'finish. 'Course me father was "*blacklegged*" an, they threw 'im out of t'Union... 'ee was out o' t'Union till t'er..what was it?..after t'war just about aff, 'bout nineteen forty-five, just before 'ee was due to retire, and they asked 'im ter, be if 'ee'd join t'Union ses "no" 'ee ses "you people chucked me out so..I 'aven't long to do so I'm not stoppin'..startin'" s'that was that yer-see. Aye! Oh I remember goin' down to 'elwith Bridge one night..er, some o' t'bosses 'ad bin at..one o,' t'look-out trains, an' they'd spotted..what they call a Jim..it's like a..that, wi a big screw an' you c'n, teck *bends* out o' t'rails with a, big bar y'know. Wanted buryin' I, 'elpin' to bury that one..out o' sight...at Hor so I *do* know about that like y'know.

T.S. Was the Railway regarded as a good employer then?

S.P. Well er..there were plenty up 'ere there must've been in between 'ere from Settle to...say Bleamoor there must've bin about...I should think near-enough forty men there must've bin, y'know. Now it's runnin' with about *two*, or four 'appen. I think average wage in them days were about two pound a week I'm talkin' about. Ganger 'ad about two-or-three bob more, y'know.

T.S. Was that a good wage for the time?

S.P. Well it was average..y'know..a, a, 'course they'd some perks as well. You'd about three passes a year t'go anywhere in t'Brittish Isles, fer nothing. And you'd 'ollidays with pay which we didn't get at t'Quarry. Er...we c'd come ter, Settle Mother could come fer 'bout fourpence-'a'penny on a Market Day an' er, I could come fer three-'a'pence or tuppence something like that being a kid..(laughter)..but er, it wuz about ten-pence if anybody else di, for ordinary folk you know..which ten-pence in them days was *ten*-pence.

T.S. Was the housing subsidised or did they pay a full rent on Railway property?

S.P. I think, er no you paid an ordinary rent I think at that time. I don't think it went much more than about five shillings a week when I left in nineteen-forty I don't think.

T.S. So that wasn't a perk then?

S.P. Naw, no it was, I think all t'Railway 'ouses were something like that. There was no electric in there you know and no and no, flush toilets you know. Not when I left in 'forty there wasn't. We, did come on soon after.

T.S. They'd got privies at the back had they?

S.P. They 'ad er, they'd privies outside in what was called er, at the bottom of the yard there was a hash-pit out at t'back of all them 'ouses which short(?) of 'ouses in 'orton were t'same..and er... well er..they, certainly gave you a..small..well about twice size of *that*..like a dust-bin a small dust-bin, fer, shove *that* under your toilet an'..you er, took it up on to t'bank and tipped it down t'bank an' t'ashes over t'top about once a week. Er ash-pit well..they paid..local farmer that lived, just opposite, where you are living that farm 'ome (Holme Farm)..er, Dick Davies er..they paid 'im ter, mek cum an' empty um, an, there's a hole t'other side of 'orton what they call Pike Hill un, it wuz a pot 'ole they filled that *up* wi' what cum out o' that, (laughter)

over t'years. Aye, yeh! (laughter)

T.S. Coming onto your childhood days, what can you remember of school in Horton?

S.P. Well er, we 'ad to walk all t'way from there, which is a mile, good mile. Er..started at nine o'clock cum out about 'af-past-three, meantime..we'd a playtime about, what would it be? 'af-past ten eleven o'clock fer a few minutes an' back in at twelve till one. And then there was playtime in t'afternoon. Er..we wasn't fastened in t'school yard we..went all over t'place wi..sometimes across to t'quarry where that wood is, when t'nuts were about and get pocket-full o' nuts, and back in't be back before *one o'clock*. Ah, we're, I reckon it wuz a good time really it 'ad its ups an' downs, y'know...er, when we got into t'top..we 'cause ter call 'em Standards in them days y'naw. Got into t'top room er..when t'coal-man came er, it wuz..lad's jobs ter, shovel it down, t'hole er, if it came to t'Schoolmasters 'ouse which stands a bit further up higher up Mr. Parker lives..'ee'd, 'ee'd great big lumps of coal we'd ter stack it in 'nd, that, we'd meck that last all afternoon, better job than bein'...at t'desk. (laughter) Aye, oh aye, *well*...I've sin er..a dinner time we..we'd said ter 'appen to some o' t'bigger girls "gou-on, away go on with..."we used ter call it 'ounds 'n 'ares in them days and we'll be t'ounds you'll be hares (garbled word)..we'll catch yer. And I'm afraid we didn't *always* catch 'em they were to fast fer uz were some of 'em. (laughter) Bottom O' Pen-Y-Ghent I've bin afore t'day before, one o'clock, 'n back aggen. (laughter) Aye..oh aye.

T.S. What were the teachers like?

S.P. Well they w'ant so bad, I mean Mr. Pitts ou the Headmaster he was er, he was a clever feller but, towards t'end he-er...I was there when he retired he..I'm afraid *drink* got 'old of 'im.

T.S. What was his name? Mr?

S.P. Pitts. Pitts, aye. 'e 'as a grandsone, that's in t'Bank at Settle, Barclays I think. But er... oh aye, I remember 'e got fresh one day and 'e was sat in 'is chair one o' these sort o' things you-know 'ow, t'schoolmasters *chairs* were (indicated a tall chair)... 'e gradually, slithered out till 'e tumbled on t'floor. (laughter) And, lad called Alan 'arper..a big strong..lad 'e were, well 'e were nearly ready fer leaving school..'e were managers son at, manager at Helwith Bridge Quarry..'e picked 'im up an' *sat* 'im an' it weckend 'im up and 'is... (laughter) 'e played pop bec teld 'im 'e it was 'im as 'ad *done* it! (laughter) Ay.. oh dear! We used ter get..Catholic priest up, now-an-aggen and 'cause the..ordinary, vicar came in a man called Rawcliffe but, they kept 'em apart, because Catholics and, everybody didn't *agree* in them days they do more now but...we knew, when somebody wuz comin' because 'ed, get on t'phone fer number *six*..'orton number six an' that was t'Golden Lion presently, maid 'ud come wi', a basket-full of, bottles an'..sooner you got t'door shut an' in t'little room wi' well, well you were alright fer t'rest of t'day! (laughter) One o' them sort o' things y'naw. Ay..it's a wonder 'e didn't get *sack* really but anyw..b..(laughter)

T.S. What was discipline like in the school?

More follows/

S.P. I 'ee wuz there you'd ter mind yer P's an' Q's an' if 'ee were that side out an' 'ad a skin-ful t'day before 'is, eyes were down 'ere an' blood-shot an'.. "look out today you boys for squalls" that was what 'e mentioned..so we knew what t'do. (laughter) We didn't ?(garbled) We'd get the tea-leaves an' that. We didn't..bother a big lot when..'ee finished because we got a..a *lady* teacher and er, well..we didn't really bother a big lot. I think she only gave me a whack once an'..I think I laughed at 'er an' she never *bothered* me more! (laughter) Oh we'd a good *choir* though at 'orton school..in them days I mean er..out of 'is, four Standards four number four, five six an' seven..and er..'ee'd 'ave about what, twenty, twenty-odd or so, scholars there I should think and er, 'ee'd, he'd run three, three, you know..treble alto and bass or tenor whatever it was..and er, I know there were one time, there was er, competition on..and we went to, *Ilkley*. And I'm certain we'd 've won only, I think 'ee'd bin on t'bottle *that* day 'ee were beatin' t'wrong *time*..(laughter)..but, otherwise y'naw, 'ee 'ad a son called Alan Pitts an' 'ee, later..I don't know 'ee, worded it but er he used ter come an' 'elp 'is father 'cause I think 'ee'd bin in t'war I think. And er, 'ee went ter, Ingleton School, I, yer-know, mm, big school at Ingleton..finished 'is time..not that many years ago 'bout app twenty years ago I think. They used ter get on t'piana, Horton School in in, t'readin' was singin' room then. Th'old man wi't..*cane* you know..and..they'd sing 'ymns an' all-*sorts* o' things. Oh ay 'ee'd, cum round and, if you weren't in tune.."out!" (laughter) Oh ay..um, I wuz in t'baritones an' I-wa, say it miself wa, as-good a singer as anybody else like yer-know..*some* couldn't *sing* and more like cats wow! (laughter)..Um. Ay.

T.S. Do you think that you'd, that they gave you a good education in those days?

S.P. Well, I think, if I'd 'ave bin..er, as terday, I think I should've got..through out of the Grammar School or, I should 'ave bin, yer-know some of that thing, because, I was 'istory and geography an'..fairly good at spellin' an' that sort of thing..th'wuz, they taught you the Three R's then dawn't they? Know what I mean?

T.S. Yes.

S.P. Mean we didn't 'ave any joiner works same as they do now and all that sort of thing and...but er, girls 'ad er, cookery classes but wi, *boys* didn't.

T.S. Didn't do any gardening or anything like that?

S.P. No, didn't do any gardening and-er as I say-er..if the's if coal-man cum that wuz *our* job pushing t'coal in bin. (laughter) Um..we played cricket 'n football yer-naw. I once led ter..I was goal-keeper, wi', wi' 'orton schoolboys against Settle and I let nine, nine in. And a lad called Thompson he said "get out," I think I'd let about eight in, seven or eight in then an'..he, he wasn't as big as me 'ee let two or three in right sharp so I got back in t'goals aggen we-wa..(laughter)..but er, we were out-classed, no doubt about that. (laughter)

T.S. Can you remember any particular characters, village characters from that time?

More follows/

- S.P. Oh ay, ay, I can. Yeh there..there wuz, old Bill Yates..Tommy White..John-George Maunders and 'is father Peter-George..thur..Tommy er, let's see, erm...Frank Thompson Mar-er..and-er..I dawn't naw if you naw Mark Thompson that booze, (?) 'ee's Beck-watcher 'is, (I know him) 'is father and 'is grandfa, 'is uncle rather. Oh arr thur, th'wur a..real boozers in them days. (laughter) I remember, goin' down t'village one Sunday afternoon and there wuz..Tommy White..an' I think 'ee'd, it'd be..I think it w'd be, ay it would be Tommy an'..and er, Bill Yates I think. They'd bin a-drinkin' 'cause they used to go down about nine or ten, in a morning on a Sunday and a, they'd a place where they could get *in*..round the old chapel there in a *barn* an,' there'd be a barrel or something yer-know. Th'used to cum back..worse fer wear after t'dinner the..one tumbled and t'other dropped on top on 'im an..thur blood flyeth..one 'as stuck a pig!..oh ay, oh dear! Ay..but y'dawn't see um now do they?
- T.S. No..no you don't I can remember looking back to my own childhood I can remember, characters..real characters.
- S.P. One man called Silas Cox who lived up at quarry and 'ee 'ad one eye lookin' *this* and one lookin' t'other..and er 'ee used ter go down specially ter get *drunk* on a Sat'dee afternoon. And er..if we were at Settle there wuz, about 'alf-a-dozen of uz in fact there..don't yer naw..d'ye naw Aubrey Mason?
- T.S. No.
- S.P. 'Ee lives on t'first 'house with 'is sister at Station, row o' 'ouses there. 'Ee 'ad a, something 'ee'd got..present of a...the wud skip er triangle an'..drums an' drums an' what-not an' yer, when yer landed back t' t'corner shop at..just at t'bottom there, w're..toffee shop er, we'd start singin' an'..'ee'd get drummin' an', goin' an'..'ee'd go in an'..oh 'ee'd buy 'alf-a-pound spicin' (?) an' *sling* it an' we 'ad a *real* good do we knew if 'ee was about we always med sure 'ee didn't get *away*. (laughter) That was *Silas!* Yeh! Ay!
- T.S. Were there any particularly sad or happy or amusing incidents from your school years that come to mind?
- S.P. Oh er, what way would you mean?
- T.S. Well connected perhaps with these characters that you're talking about.
- S.P. Well..er, we, we didn't go an' 'arass 'em or, owt about like we were kicked out o' the way because er, in them days er..er, they did what they *daren't* do today they er..if you got..(indistinct/vehicle passing) they'd give yer a *clout* if yer started...teckin t'micky yer-know but er... well things were *sterner* weren't the? you knew where yer *place* was. T'only thing that we ever took, t'micky out of wuz er..there used't-be...er, an old chap...used to come round it was a...um..a *tramp*. And 'ee used t'ave a black cat on 'is shoulder. We used to shout at 'im an 'ee, he, he'd set too an' chess us, 'course we disappeared in t'ouse out o' t'way an' 'eed go but er..we er...we used to 'ave one man cum..up to t'ouse every oo about once or twice a *year* an', they knew where to cum fer a cup of tea but they didn't 'ave a cup they 'ad a tin with a, y'know..pint, can, with a lid on..'eed sit on t'sleepers in t'yard and...mother'd give 'im,

- fill 'im 'is tea up er and er, prob'ly a sandwich or two and then 'eed, get it an' hon 'is way up, ter Selside'n...I think 'ee made up to about *Newcastle* every year an', walked back aggen them *tramps* they were, y'know..no fixed abode. (laughter)
- T.S. They didn't do any work any jobs around?
- S.P. They didn't plan to..yer ga if you *do* get one 'ee might stop a week-a-two while 'ee got a shilling in 'is pocket an' then 'op-it. That were at Quarry, y'know.
- T.S. It's a long time since I've seen tramps, we used to get them when I was a child.
- S.P. Oo we got um t'call callin' um, er "Milestone Inspectors" y'know! (laughter)
- T.S. Nice name for them. Was there a village policeman in Horton in those days?
- S.P. Yes aye 'ee lived on West View on t'end 'ouse. Oh aye. Um, Oh aye Ms..the-wa Mr. 'etherington and then there were Mr. *Fitzgerald* I remember..both them two, the role of the Policeman landed..I think not many what with? way 'bout twenty a thty years ago since the, Village Policeman went won't it, I think? They used t'ave a 'ouse on t'"West View"..it's where you turn and go up to t'Quarry y'know.
- T.S. Were you frightened of the Police?
- S.P. Not particular...well Sergeant Brown 'ee used ter land t'School when we were there..used t'send as *I say* if they'd got t'door shut they were awright 'im an' t'Schoolmaster we were 'rait fer t'rest of t'*day!* (laughter) Used t'ave cum on a Douglas, Motorbike with a, big flywheel y'know y'll 'ave *seen* um, long, time, um.
- T.S. Where, er, I was just going to say that, um, how was the Policeman, Police regarded in the village? Were they very much part of the village life?
- S.P. I should say, they *were*, oh aye. I a..I remember..when we came t oh, aye I remember, one time...when, before I left 'ome a man that lived two doors below uz 'ee wuz single an' 'ee wuz a lodger and-er, 'ee kept some 'ens up past er..Vicarage up that lane towards Pen-y-Ghent. Anyway 'ee wuz missin'...an' it was about January...and nobody'd seen 'im since Friday-night. And, er somebody, suggested that, "well 'ee keeps some 'ens up Pen-y-Ghent Lane" that's what we called it y'see. So somebody went and they *found* 'im at Sunday mornin' 'ee wuz..'ee wuz laid in t'*snow* an', 'parrantly ee'd (indicated slitting his throat). And er..when 'ee'd lost consciousness 'ee'd gone *down*..on to 'is, straight in to snow, snow-drift. And er..I 'member at er, Monday *night* there was a knock came ter t'front door of our 'ouse an'..'course, "go an' see 'oo it is," an' I went....Bobby were there, thought oh 'eck, what 'ave we done yer naw..."can I see yer *father*" I said "yes y'd better cum in" so 'course they came in an'..."will yer... would ya care to cum ter the Crown 'otel and er, lay this man out"..we *knew* 'im, man from akshully 'is, birthplace was Long Preston. And er, so they went *down*, course, in t'meantime before *this* 'appened er, before we got to know *that*..it went round t'village at 'orton that 'ee'd, just about cut 'is 'ead off, y'see. And of course it was, Mother and 'im went and er, down and...they weren't so long about..an hour-



- or-so an' they come back an'..I said "And 'ow was it like a..what did 'ee look like?" "well" she said "I did now't" she said "Y'd a just a nick in the..plugged with a, cotton wool an'..that was *that*," but..it was one episode in 'orton, um..yeh.
- T.S. You don't think of that sort of thing happening in a rural community somehow, do you?
- S.P. There's been a *number* up that valley that seem ter..put paid to themselves with either t'gun or something at different times (laughter)... 'mongst *farming* stock more, y'naw.
- T.S. The loneliness getting through to them perhaps?
- S.P. Oh aye or-else not, meckin enough money or something..upset 'um'n, bang! (laughter)..Um.
- T.S. Was there much crime in the village?
- S.P. No..no..I don't think so.
- T.S. What was his job then in the end?
- S.P. Oo? t'policeman?
- T.S. Yes.
- S.P. Well..in them days..'ee'd go round t'farms..and see as they dipped the *sheep* at the proper time. And 'ee got, ee'd see a, see they *all* did it, an' ee'd ter keep sheep int..'ee'd 'ave 'is *watch*, and 'ee'd t'keep was it *two* minutes? in, yer-know...ah..then o'course 'ee'd..'ee came to t'Quarry I believe well 'ee *did* when I was at t'Quarry 'ee came, periodically ter see.. if you were..keepin' your magazine with your, explosives in and *that* sort of thing...y'know generally keepin' t'er..things, I believe..part duty cum down either push bike or bike whatever 'ee reckoned t'ave an', 'ee'd so many hours to'do in *Settle* at different times yer know.
- T.S. Almost like a factory inspector's job as well as a policeman's.
- S.P. Oh yes..oh, oh aye, yeh, um. There were none o' this 'ooliganism goin' round oh no there were none o' that, not same as y'get *today*..then th'were, there wuz another, there were also a policemaen at Langcliffe we 'ave a policewoman *now* actually *Dorothy* I don't know if you know 'er or not policewoman?..but er..I don't think she does much, more she's more often at t'cattle ? (market? word indistinct).
- T.S. You told me that you left school as soon as you could, how old were you?
- S.P. Fourteen.
- T.S. Fourteen.
- S.P. On me birthday at Friday-night and started work at Monday mornin.
- T.S. You said that was on a farm.
- S.P. Um, yeh *Scale* Farm. Er..late Mr., 'arry Morphett an' 'is wife, were there an'..I stayed..six..month er, 'bout winter *six* month. Seven pound *ten* shillings an' me keep. Started seven and worked while seven. Ye 'ad about..from er...Sunday dinnertime till about three o'clock off, in them days 'cause t'get back at this time o' t'year to..water and feed t'cattle and milk and such-like and that was what you 'ad in them days I don't know 'ow they'd go on *now* but... (chuckle)
- T.S. One of the questions I was going to ask you was what you *did* in your spare time the answer would seem to be
- S.P. Well *nothing*..not so much! (laughter) Er..lot o' t'farms up rou up that part o' t'world though, come t'winter-time they er...used

- ter organize er..a Nappin' session..playin' Nap..y'know cards.. 'nd th'd, *farm* books an,' what-not if you called them *then* they'd the'd go from one *farm* one night and that..another night they'd go to *another* farm, somewhere meck across t'Selside an', 'ave a, a *session*. Occasionally, I it er...well you would never know it but, there used to be an Institute where car-park is at 'orton. I remember that bein' *built* I only started *school* when that was bein' built. And er, they'd Whist-drives and such-like and there was a billiard table fer, a lot o' people. You were lucky if you'd get yerself, in anyway ter t'billiard table always a big *list*. (laughter) Aye.
- T.S. I heard that that building wasn't very well built. Was that true? It had to come down I think.
- S.P. Aye well they could 'ave saved it if they'd wanted. It was t'wall on t'*Quarry*-side, on t'*west side* that er, started bulgin' a bit but, to *me*..of later years.. if they'd 'ad t'dance 'all on t'floor where it was solid an' t'billiard table upstairs, it might 'ave bin a lot more *sense*..when everybody was up *there* t'floor was goin' up an' down.. (laughter)..y'see..if they'd a put some *butresses* in it could've bin there t'*day*. But I think I'm not s'sure whether somebody *did* get a pound or two out o' t'job a bit when, when they took it down. (laughter). Oh aye well-known was...was er..'orton Vill er 'orton *dances*.
- T.S. Sounds as though there was a lot of social life in the village at that time.
- S.P. Um, oh yeh, oh aye..there was *that* anyway. There was Police Ball..Leeds Infirmary Ball..as many ball a-as, y'knaw..there was a good followin' they came frum all-over t'*place*. There wuz a man livin' at er..Askrigg Harry Cockrill..he, later formed 'is-self a band I don't know whether they played in 'orton 'ee will 'ave done at nor, at sometime, 'is t 'is two players now an' again 'ee's older than *me*.
- T.S. Even now?
- S.P. Um, 'add squeeze-box y'know.
- T.S. What other instruments would they have?
- S.P. Er..there was Wallbanks' Band and t'Ribble Band they 'ad er, violins and t'pianist y'know that sort of thing..um.
- T.S. High-class stuff!
- S.P. Oh aye, yes, mind it was in *them* days y'knaw it was..waltzes and jigs an' what-not it wasn't this 'ere..stuff y'get *now!*. (laughter)
- T.S. What did you do when you left the farm then?
- S.P. Well I a..*I* was ackshully there six month and I went to another farm at Crag 'ill (.....garbled) 'orton between 'orton an' 'elwith Bridge and er...I was there...'bout, oh six months and then..'is, is *father*-in-law retired at, New'ouses and er..'ee took 'old and, I finished I was there twelve months, so I finished up at New'ouses, that was in nineteen, Spring o' nineteen-thirtyone..and I did nothing fer..matter..only a few weeks, two or three weeks or 'appen a month afore it was *hay*-time in them days and er..I went back hay-timin' at t'place where I went, when I left *school*..and I could've stopped on *longer* only I, I'd 'ad enough, so I, anyway..it passed t'summer on 'nd, ta..I think we er..me father'd been a plate-layer 'eed er..'eed gone in

contact with, manager at 'orton Quarry..and er, they'd asked 'im if 'eed care to cum'n, help ter put some o' t'rails in action in t'quarry 'cause..they couldn't keep railway trucks on t'line and they couldn't keep their engines on. Well it 'ad bin, laid down iver sin thank, since place'd *started*. Everything was *rotten* and *worn-away* so 'ee..he'd bin on, he used to go at *nights* a summer-time 'n..mebbe *weekend* when he'd nothing else to do and er, they'd a gang out of quarry of-course,'ee were only supervising..and er..they, re-laid all t'rails, from one end t' t'other yer-see. Um. That's 'ow I, more or less got er..the job in t'quarry because, there was, think the things in them days in nineteen-thirtyone and th'tytwo, th'tythree the-wuz-only..it wuz bad as what it's been *nowin* fact it was *worse* ackshully, I think, *locally* it was anyway. Um.

T.S. Yes I wondered what life was like here during the Depression years you know for

S.P. Well if I'd 've bin er, anywhere barring 'orton and having to pay..me boar..(sound of my timer beeping) is that end of it?

T.S. No.

S.P. If I'd've bin anywhere else barrin'..where I was I should, I should be, I should be ownin' quite a bit because it was only, eight *shillings* a *week* weren't *Dole*..and er...well what can y'do wi' eight shillings a week?

T.S. And you were living at home then?

S.P. Yeh, um.

T.S. So, what year did you, did you say then that you actually started in the Quarry?

S.P. September the first nineteen-thirtyone.

T.S. How old would that make you?

S.P. Well I'd be, let's *see*..nineteen-fifteen up to..fifteen and sixteen's th'ty I'd be about sixteen in not quite *sixteen*.

T.S. Young to go and work in a quarry.

S.P. *well*..I don't know if y've bin round t'quarry but if you go to t'..there's a, blue lagoon what they call it y've *seen* it well that..ca-it's three parts full of waste *lime*, there's a fortune in *there*, anybody wanting ta pump it *out*. And er..it was about *eighty* feet *deep*..there was fifteen men fillin' *rock*..a foreman an' two, "poppers" an' a *bri*, and there wuz *two* men at t'bottom an' there was two men on t'*top*, where there was a *hoist* up same as what yer, *pit-head*. One goes *down* and t'other came *up*, and I started in t'bottom with..man called Jack Nelson, that lived down, past t'chapel a, farm'ouse round t'corner there. And we..we put empty out an shove a full-one in. They'd, they'd be lookin' *down* an'..tap and away it'd go, t'only thing about *that* was if wind blew y'd ter get yerself out o' t'way because..it blew *cages* about a bit and, there were stones flying but...well you'd s'trew(sic) about two 'undred tons a *day* I would think..down there there were *five* gangs with three *men* in y'know.

- T.S. Was that all being fetched out by hand not by explosion or?
- S.P. No, in *bogies* it were, brick(sic. =break?) 'n a fill with big 'ammer eighteen pound 'ammer.
- T.S. I was going, one of the questions I'd got here was, what were working conditions like - they sound as though they were pretty rugged.
- S.P. It was tough job I'll tell yer. There..talk about slave bein' on Dartmoor breakin', stones wi', me-er, 'know..on Dartmoor in t'prison there, it was summat like *that*. I er..I didn't do any breckin' 'n fillin' in, in *that* quarry but er..durinc t'war I did up in t'other one, and er, I didn't like it at all it was..it was, only sixpence-*farthing* a *ton* anyway and er..it was a big bogie th't stood about this 'igh (indicated roughly waist height) you could put about couple o' tons in a
- T.S. You were paid by how much you produced then?
- S.P. Tonnage yes, ay, yes.
- T.S. There wasn't a regular weekly wage?
- S.P. No it wuz it, well it you could 'bout..you could 'appen 'ave a fiver one week it just depended on t'weather you might 'appen only 'ave *two* t'week after, just depended on t'weather. Well you couldn't do it with a top coat on. I mean ee, a day like, t'day you'd a bin in yer *shirt* or mebe a waist-coat on un 'course a, if you were goin' to *meck* anything..y'know. I think we used ter, I used ter fill about twenty to twentytwo *tons*, in a day when I was breckin' 'n fillin.'
- T.S. You see I was going to say what jobs were, jobs were done by muscle power and what by machine, and it would appear that most
- S.P. In those days up to about nineteen-fortyfive..it were all muscle power. You'd eighteen pound 'ammer and y'd a fork and a shovel. Er..when I, 'ad to cum out o' t'Granite 'ole when I'd bin in about eighteen month because they couldn't afford to keep me in a six-pence an hour. And, t'old man 'ad to manage, fer 'is-self but 'ee didn't manage, so long before they 'ad t'put another..another lad with 'im t'elp 'im, but anyway, in t'meantime I were ?(garbled word)..what they called t'yard and er, in *them* days there wuz a crushing plant that, from t'Granite 'ole and, it crushed chippins fer't, roads and, cimmentin' an' that sort
- T.S. You were fetching granite out then, that's not limestone out of that hole?
- S.P. That was grannite. And that what went for t'*roads* you'll meckin *roads* an' *cimmentin'* an' that sort o' thing..grannite dust fer, concrete an' ash er, semi-rough-cast on houses and all that sort o' thing. And in t'*yard* in li-in 'orton Quarry, down in t'hou just above t'houses there the..thur wuz a big space an,' railway-lines run to-it, yer threw it out o' t'railway-trucks an' yer 'eaps as far as y'could thr, 'appen twenty feet 'igh yer see..well goin' that way. And er..summertime, what councils didn't want it went on t'stock-pile. And of course when it got ter about..*March* und, er, councils all give thur orders in er, tendered forr-it, and then it started bein' *busier* just about this time o' t'year..and, apart from them, gettin' it out, diggin' it out at t'Quarry, breckin' it in er, that went *straight* out, on railway-trucks...you were fillin' it fer..y'wanted eighty

- shillin'..eighty..shovel-fulls fer a *ton* and that, ah, you'd ter fill it in railway-trucks, low-sided 'eld twelve *tons*. Aye.
- T.S. When did conditions begin to improve?
- S.P. Well er, in nineteen..what was it? hum, can't think nineteen-th'ty..*six* was it? Something round, round about that time..er, breakers and fillers up at 'orton went on *strike*. Er..Firm 'ad put out..an endless ropin' round t'Quarry and..fillers 'ad ter..what they called "dog" thur, bogies on..yer'd lift it way-up an,' it went into a *tip*..and they knocked 'im a farthin' a ton off 'r something..it was a *farthing* a ton the' knocked off. And so they went on *strike* there was, 'orton, Foredale and, come out at *Threshfield*, and er..they went on strike fer (neighbour came in and broke into conversation)..we went on, strike fer a fortnight..and at *that* particular time, waggins were startin' runnin' in ter, 'orton Quarry, road waggin..and thur was, still loadin' it in ter, railway trucks..then they took it down to a bridge where you go and er 'ad to go to *Beecroft farm* and the' was a..a square '*ole* and they used ter shove waggins over t' *top* knock t'door out into t' it dropped into t'er, into t'*road* luries and 'opped it *that* way but er, a lot went, by rail. Um. It was *five*-pence a ton fer fillin' it an' fourpence-aer fer you were empty'in it. (laughter)
- T.S. I find it amazing
- S.P. There was no toilets (yes)..as such. Well if you wanted to do..what you *did* do you, get out o' the..you were out o' t'way! (laughter)
- T.S. Were they quarrying limestone as well as
- S.P. Oh *yes* well you see..er i' them days the' wuz..they'd *six* cap n *six* "kils" runnin' at 'orton. The, t'*slump* in nineteen, early *thirties* thur was only about *four* runnin.' Aye, y'see 'n..y'd 'ave about, let's see..y'd three t two three's *five* seven, there were about eleven *limes* drawers..goin' when t'er, '*ole lot* was runnin' thur wuz two t'er..*two* on one kil two t..two ter, number *five* an' *six* that was *four* of 'em and, the' wuz three at number *three* and then there wuz two old *stone* kils the wuz built I think when John Delaney first *started*, cause 'ee started quarry..and er yer'd a man apiece in at..used ter draw..they used ter pull about twenty tons apiece out ivery *day*..um, them chaps, yes.
- T.S. Was the lime just mined for burning, for turning into
- S.P. More-or-less..er, stuff that wuz, big-enough fer a man ter lift, yer-know, *easy*, 'bout 'alf 'undredweight or whativver it was..down ter about six inches, went ter t'*kils* I anything below *that* it, yer *forked* it an' it went in ter railway *trucks*, and that went up to, *steelworks* up in Glasgow..and, north-east coast y'knew, *Middlesborough* and *them* places y'knew. Um.
- T.S. What proportion was actually burnt was most of it burnt or did most of it go off in
- S.P. *No* at a..*prime job* was meckin, *lime* y'see in them days. Er in nineteen-thirtyfive..they er, put er, hydrating plant up..and er, that got, that got shut of a lot of *small*..hydrated y'see t'*lime* an' crushed and, hydrated it's, not like *flour* y've *seen* it probably and yer ger-a paper-bags..that made er, *Settle Limes* a lot o' money did that job 'cause, if there wasn't any trade on't, outside village well't..y'could always go in *there* and the..the'

made er..well, it went on and you..it was goin' night and *day* was *that*. And, they'd meck, they'd..they'd make round about, fifty tons a *day*, y'knew, which was a good thing in them days...I should think..they'll *no* they'd do about a '*undred* tons a day, really, what, two shifts, na, 'cause they've, twelve two twelves a' twenty, you know.....

end of side one

- T.S. Yes, you were talking about the kilns, whether they were going all the time.
- S.P. Um-well, when I, they, they took me out o' t'yard, after a year a two and er... off fillin' this, shovel and what not and I was, I was waggin sheetin' fer, year or two..er-sheetin' railway trucks. You get er, I dawn't know, th'ty 'appen, railway trucks in a day sometimes they'd a twelve-ton load sometimes they 'ad a six, or a four ton load it all depends what customer wanted. Some-of-it went fer..to Whitehaven to t'er, where they meck leather.
- T.S. Leather?
- S.P. Oh aye, yer, get *lime* ter meck *leather*. And it 'ad ter be..best..lime it 'adn't t'be 'ard b'or else er, it didn't *slack* it, it cut the er.. 'ides yer-know. They used t'get on..oh aye if th' wuz a, y'get a 'i..yer get a, report back if they found one o' *them*..a *stone* in it 'cause..some o' t'lime yer see..might not o' bin, just, had enough heat and it, there'd be what the' called a *boo-'ead* (bull-head) in t'middle it was unburnt lime, yer see..if that wer, went inter t'ides it just simply, shot it, did it yer-see. Um. Oh aye..and it went ter t'oil-works up in.. outside..Grangemouth at, Edinburgh thur and, the were oil..fineries..a, nother time it'd be goin' to, purify sugar-beet...various things and it went, as I *said* to t'steel-works as well yer know, building as well.. 'ouses were more-or-less built with, lime an'..and-er cinders crushed down ter make *mortar* in them days y'knew which, ciment done that job now ya, yer none-of-it is the'?
- T.S. It's coming back I think isn't it, with this business of repointing the old building?
- S.P. Oh yes. Er, oh aye. Um
- T.S. What sort of breaks did you get during the daytime?
- S.P. What er, meals?
- T.S. Um.
- S.P. Well we started at seven o'clock and 'ad a breakfast at 'alf-past eight while ten minutes ter nine, and then you went forward to, twelve o'clock while 'aff-past, or twenty-minutes to one or something like that and then you were straight through er, ten-minutes to five at night it was a *nine*-your day sort-of thing.
- T.S. A nine-hour day of more or less continuous physical effort.
- S.P. Oh aye it was.
- T.S. What was the pay like? You were saying that it was piece-work so
- S.P. Well, as I say, if ye if you'd done, a good week in them days you might get about four fi four quid 'appen something like that four to *five* you wouldn't get any *more*, you'd be, you'd w y'd *slaved* if y'*ad* anyway, kyer know, at breckin' 'n fillin,' (um) Oh aye. I think er, lime-drawing was some't similar fer, pay...'bout four pounds something like that, which was *good pay* compared we' ordinary people who was on *day* work y'knew, 'cause *day* work fer an ordinary man, in *them* days up t' about nineteen-forty, three f'ty *two* f'ty *three*..was about a shillin' an *hour* fer an ordinary, man. A joiner about now one an' tuppence or one an' threppence, y' know..a fitter, that sort of thing.
- T.S. What other trades were there? Were there blacksmiths or?
- S.P. Oh yes oh aye y'd a blacksmith, y'ad a blacksmith in t'job because the..'ee 'ad ter sharpen drills fer drillin' t'oles inter
- More follows/

- t'rock yer see then..and various other, parts. Oh aye.
- T.S. That would be for blasting would it?
- S.P. Yes um yes.
- T.S. What other trades were there?
- S.P. Joiners. Er, electric came up in about nineteen th'tyfive of course y'd t'ave electrician then. Oh aye.
- T.S. Had they got their own generators there or?
- S.P. Well up ter then er, up to then there was a, a steam..compressor in t'er engine room, what drove the, crushing plant fer t'Granite 'ole, and it supplied compressed air all round t'quarries. That was before any electric came..y'know. Um. That's 'owe that did. 'Course when t'er electric, came on ter..those, steam jobs well I think they run while about...I think they run while about war-time, and then the..of course Granite 'ole *closed* in nineteen forty..'cause they'd got this other one, going at er, Ara, (Arcow) y'see, t'same firm an', they could get it cheaper 'avin-ter, dig it yer-knaw have a, hoist, y'know, (yes) sort of, mine, pits y'see.
- T.S. What holidays did you get?
- S.P. Well, up to, about nineteen *thirtyseven*, you didn't get any unless you *wanted* some, and then you, you *pay* for 'em out of yer own pocket there was er, there was *none*, actually. There was no 'olidays with pay up ter *then* and then they..think it would be 'thirtyseven they gave us *three days*..if you were, well the', Christmas Day y'ad it *off* an', Boxin' Day but yer, yer didn't get *paid*, it was..yer'd lost *that*. And you didn't get any at *Easter* who used ter..work Good-Friday and 'ave Easter, *Tuesdays* off or a..goo ter t'*Market* but er, y'd, y'd *lost*, that was *lost* money as we called 'um there was no 'olidays up ter then.
- T.S. Could you run through some of the jobs that *were* there in the Quarry, 'cause *I* don't know obviously what was done in a quarry by hand in those days.
- S.P. Well, for a start, you er..you was given a fork and a hammer and a brush-an'-er..fork an' a hammer and a a, *shovel*. And of course thur, you went along the-yer any amount of bogies you collared a bogie..and y'd a 'tag', wi' yer *number* on..say *thirty* or, whatever yer number. There was anything up ter about..f'rtly or, f'ty or fifty, men breckin' an' fillin,'
- T.S. How big was one of these bogies?
- S.P. It would stand about 'er to, (indicated waist height) it 'eld couple o' tons..or two ton *three*, you could put on, to be paid if they put any more you didn't get *paid* for it, and er...well they'd got, they'd they'd fire a shot yer see and then it 'ud..sometimes you could forks, different stuff on about as big as that cup, into it but er y'adn't ter fork s'-much of that because it..it stopped draught in t'*kil*' yer see there was naw, *forced* draught it were only, natural draught. Er, big stones, foot wide or, y'knaw, owt y'could lift, went *in*. Um. Then o' course er, y'd a man, well, three or *four* men goin' round t'Quarry with a drillin' machine. And, drill 'oles in stones that was as, well say, y'know, about a ton weight or, just o around that n..put a 'ole in 'em, bang bang bang at *dinner* time when you were 'avin' your dinner an'...that sort of thing. Then you'd er, 'ave a couple of men up on t'top of t'rock-face

More follows/



somewhere. They'd drill 'oles in from t'top about thirty, feet down..and if you're..ever go in ter 'orton Quarry you'll see some, beds that go, 'orizontal..try gettin' near ter that..and th, *old*-fashioned way was as soon as 'ee got down as far as yer drill'd let 'im go, 'ee'd get er, p'raps a, bucket of powder, gun-powder black powder, drop that down, and a, lump of, fuse..from 'ere ter..reach from 'ere ter t'other side of t'road..twenty thirty feet y'know, and a, a 'doin's' on..detonator into a piece of..*gelignite* and stuff that down an' then, light it an' shout 'fire' an' then ev everybody out of t'way an' boom yer see.. it'd..that'd just *sheck-it* a bit..and, t'job was that, wi' t'beds goin,' down up an'..y'know 'orizontal like er, it is 'oriz, well, 'orizontal's *that* way in't it?..upright..it'd crack it off same as, you slicing a slice of bread off. wi' t'ope they could get down a bit further an' eventually they'd 'bout, get down..oh 'appen sixty *feet* down. And then er if, the job was with *that* job yer did *that* and then yer'd ter wait an hour about an hour while it *cooled* y'd drop a, a *clothes* line down with a weight of piece of wood on an'..leave it down fer-a few minutes an' see, well pick it back does it feel warm or it's cold oh we'll put some more in and, these, it'd teck 'em ab, two or three days before thur a, decided to put the *final charge* in an'. Y'could see men in them days 'cause there was no *raods* on t'Quarry.. thi'd a..boss 'ud get out an', oh 'ave, seven or eight of yer ter, pick 'alf 'undredweight of, black-powder up in, it wuz in er..grease-proof *bags*...Irish linnin bags with er..bin dipped in wax, water-air-tight water-proof..there'd er, I don't know what 'ee'd shove down, might 'ee shoved 'alf-a-ton down in t'finish..it it depends on 'owe far 'ee'd gone..and er, of course, everybody, disappeared an', buzzer blew an'..fwwwt an'..that was *it*. Sometimes if it was same as top, rock well, be t'time it'd got ter t'bottom, y'wouldn't need to to use a hammer you could, pick it up, a lot of it without y'know. Ya, yah. Later *on*..they developed another pattern. Y'dug a hole, blasted it out of t'rock, about fifty foot, back in, inter t'mountain, so as y'could stand up..and then yer ya, y'd a (garbled words) cup, kep er, capital 'T'..y'know, that one *that* way one *this* way, and yer, yer put about three tons of, gel or whatever, you were firing with..in there, stack it up with, muck an' stone an' wires pu..pu, y'know connectin' wires, detonators..out ter t'end, 'n..biggest one that went off, at 'orton was a 'undred thousand tons..(chuckle).aye.

T.S. Must have made quite a bang.

S.P. A lady called Mrs. Dicken 'er 'usband was..General, Engineer anyway it was 'is she 'ad t'job of, pressin' t'.."dooins" down an'..there was stone as big as, this room came off that one. (laughter) Um. Then net later..later, they started with, *well* drills..well sinker with a fifty foot *boom* on an' yer..y'were swinging' a, a ton-weight, 'bout th'ty foot long..drill I was on *that* y, I got, planted on that fer two-er-three years. Er yer go yer drill from top o' t'rock ter t'er, bottom o' t'quarry, which er, was er, deepest I ever bored was a hundred and eighty feet.

T.S. Is that like they do today? I sometimes see machinery up on top  
More follows/

- of the
- S.P. Aye but, aye that's right there wer, they did, them, them..they developed them later..but er
- T.S. But this did the same job?
- S.P. Yes but they, we went right ter t'*bottom* med it, straight face same as that wall (yes)..now then
- T.S. How far down was that?
- S.P. Ah er, well what they're doin' now is about, anythin' to about fifty feet in't it?..mebee twenty-five ter thirty 'appen, most, most of them..which is considerably safer yer see.
- T.S. But the hole you drilled went from top to bottom
- S.P. Yes aye fer a, fer a few years was that.
- T.S. How far would that be?
- S.P. About a hundred and eighty feet...then when t'last biggest I ever drilled, from anything from about, it went from anything from about seventy just depends on what part, you were *at* if you were up on t'edge o' t'..y'know actin' 'ead y'went..but on t'front it was up ter, a hundred and eighty feet at t'finish yer see.
- T.S. What would be the thickness that you would fetch off doing that?
- S.P. Well er..you went twenty feet back, with them an' you'd a six inch drill..and er about..sixteen feet between each 'ole. You'd mebee 'appen do about a dozen 'oles, just depends..whether they're wantin' it before yer got any *more* done or not. An' er if they were waitin' for it well..yer let it bang as it *were*.
- T.S. How much powder would it take to blow that lot?
- S.P. Oh I should think about..three ton of gelignite..um.
- T.S. That's a lot of gelignite isn't it!?
- S.P. Oh aye well you'd about six, these pills about this big an', that's that wide..put about ten or a dozen in t'bottom then, fit..you'd 'ave a tape, yer know fer, explosive tape, goin' out ter t'top and er, put a few feet of..er, fillin' in, dust an' such like, (indistinct words followed) to be out sharp, an' then er..you er.. you put 'appen another couple o' pills an' when er..went 'bout another twenty or thirty feet an' put some more until yer got ter t'top but..you didn't put any in at t'top actually you were about, twenty foot down or else you'd been flyin' stones all over t'place yer see. It just chopped it off like as I said same as, clean as that *wall*..yeh..um.
- T.S. That's amazing.
- S.P. Yeh I've known about fifty or sixty thousand ton comes...oh when you fired one o' that like that yer see raight ter t'bottom.
- T.S. And most of that would be in manageable chunks would it?
- S.P. Aye yer got the big stuff as well, 'course as I say t'chaps would come an'..bore pot an' bore it an'..what you couln't fill but..when it came ter nineteen fortyfive we'd, in nineteen fortythree they put a crushin' plant in, that's when, that did away with, this hammer' an brayin' an'..some men left because they fancied, more money, 'cause it was *day-work* then paid by the *hour*. Some men left an' went to t'quarry where they were still goin' on t'old-fashioned method.
- T.S. There wasn't a crushing plant before then?
- S.P. No..not up in t'quarry, not in t'limestone there wasn't...only one in t'granite 'ole.
- T.S. Only the one for the granite. How was that powered, the one for  
More follows/

the granite hole?

S.P. Well that was powered by *steam* but, as I say it finished in nineteen forty. But er..up in t'quarry it was electric when it came. Nineteen fortyfive it started in, 'bout August September.

T.S. Yes, I'm amazed at how little mechanization there was until recent you know until

S.P. Yes well it's only..what is it about, fifteen..fifteen twenty year across 'ere at Spencers they were breckin an' fillin' y'know.

T.S. As recently as that?

S.P. Um um oh aye they were *there* anyway. Yes.

T.S. As you say, rather like working on Dartmoor.

S.P. That's what I say, um, *yeh*.

T.S. I had no idea that, er, you know that that was still done as recently as that.

S.P. Yes er..we'd er, we'd three steam locos at 'orton...two er there were, the first two that was there when I started was one called 'Beecroft' and the other called 'Carrie.' Carrie was name of, the, man that owned the quarry, Carrie Delaney, cause 'ee died and sh 'is daughter carried on fer a few years y'see, so aa loco's named 'Carrie' and 'Beecroft' was named after't..farm Beecroft Farm, two six-wheelers anyway, in due course they got wuss for wear and they got a bigger one, six-wheeler.. and-er that, did quite a number of years and then they.. we got a diesel one six-wheeler, that was, that was a different kettle of fish altogether there was all t'work tecken-out because, man that was driver worked fireman as well y'see..diesel well it was just a matter of moving yer leavers an' (chuckle) I drove, I drove 'em all actually at different times. I I w' gettin' about a bit! (laughter) Oh aye! I wasn't a *regular* driver. Only when they were *pushed*. But er, after nineteen..sixtyone..I er, I was.. 'navvy driver'..at that time.

T.S. A navy driver?

S.P. Ay you were you were pickin' stone up in t'quarry y'know..the, excavators

T.S. Yes.

S.P. Apart from er..er two-or-three years in t'er, na about four or *five* actually.. when er, new kils they just felled 'em about a year or two before you come, they were gas-fired kils they made their own *gas*, with.. y'know coal an' *coal* gas..then eventually, they, got onto hoil, and I think we were..when we got onto hoil it was only about, sixpence a gallon an, I think it was got up to about.. two-bob before they finished and it was a bit *expensive* so I think that was one o' t'things that..closed't.. lime-job *down* rather.

T.S. So the oil became over-expensive?

S.P. Um, I think that's what 'appened.

T.S. Yes. In the earlier days presumably the..it was (coal) coal mixed with the lime?

S.P. Well, yes yer, drew some about ten tons of lime out and, when you'd done that you went up 'arth-work put firin'-stage and threw about..couple o' tons of *coal* on. It were 'ot job were that! (laughter) They 'ad to go down into t'bottom and drill again er, fill it out yer know with a shovel, or a..a fork.

More follows/

- T.S. And this was kept in all the time was it?
- S.P. Oh yes they er..aye at night yer just put a tin up an'...some yer *slapped* some lime yer just like putty an' er..stopped the draught or you might just leave a little bit ter keep it, y'knew, keep it goin.' Cause if y' *didn't* do y'd a, y' drew t' *fire* down..then you couldn't work at *all* y' 'ad ter keep a bit of draught on (yes) y'see. Was same as puttin' a *draught* in up 'ere.  
(indicated the fire)
- T.S. Would it be allowed to go out regularly or..?
- S.P. *No.* only, fer repairs 'appen, you might run about, couple of years..
- T.S. As long as that?
- S.P. Before, before th' 'ad to.. some o' t'bricks 'd burn out or tumble out and then they 'ad ter go an'... patch 'em in again y'see.
- T.S. I'd no idea it was
- S.P. Mind you'd brick-layers as well y'knew. (yes) oh aye.
- T.S. Permanent?
- S.P. Well aye you'd always some brick-layers and, if it wasn't one kil' out there'd be another one due to be out, and, such-like y'see.
- T.S. Well how many men were working up there all-together?
- S.P. A hundred and sixty when I were there at first.
- T.S. A hundred and sixty.
- S.P. There are about twenty *five* now. (laughter) Um.
- T.S. Yes. The age of mechanisation!
- S.P. Um. Oh aye!
- T.S. With all this explosive and stones flying round, were there many accidents up there?
- S.P. *No.* sometimes the, you might get someone wi' a cut or something like that but..er, all t'time I was at, 'orton Quarry an' it was just three, *fatal* accidents. One man was fillin' 'is stone an' it bin a wet time, a wet day and something rolled down t'face and clonked 'im on top o' t'ead and that was 'im..'ee was *Settle* man. Er, another time a, a man a Horton man was er, namely Mr. Read (Reid? Reade?) 'ee lived aggen t' *Crown*, 'ee was borin' a, hole an, y'know a *pot*, a big stone, and another one went through 'is helmet and the, that was end of 'im..and t' *mangagers*, brother Mr. Towler 'ee'd, his son got..'ee was working wi' the tar plant in them days, meckin' tar-macadam from out o' granite st-no out o' t'lime-blue limestone it was..and er..his er..his brother was, one o't, fitters on that job at, engineers and er..man that er, friend of 'is an all actually, realy *sad*..'ee er..this railway truck wouldn't *run*..so 'ee went further back, and un-'ooked another one an', took break off 'opin' to give it a bump an', 'ee didn't know 'is mate were at other side an' it..nipped 'im in two that, there was just *three* fatal accidents, quite plenty like, there were plenty folk that'd, cuts an,' bruises like y'know. One man got a heye put out, he got, bit of a flick wi' a stone 'n ..well 'ee's knockin' about 'ee's a Postman in *Settle* well 'ee was 'ee's retired *now*. Ye'.
- T.S. It doesn't sound too bad when you consider the, the danger built into
- S.P. Um, that's why, later on as I say they, they give over, meckin More follows/

- 'igh faces and went on ter.. its in beds of about, forty fifty feet or twentyfive th'ty y'know. An'.. 'course, far as I can meck out there is no, er excavators *now* they're these 'ere like a tractor wi' a bucket on t'front.
- T.S. Yes. Well what were these excavators like that you were?
- S.P. Well you'll 'ave seen 'em on *tracks*..y'know big tracks.
- T.S. Oh that sort.
- S.P. An' a bucket that went *forward* y'know an' spun round, y'know.
- T.S. Was that steam or petrol.
- S.P. Electric.
- T.S. Electric one?
- S.P. Well we 'ad a diesel in t'finish. Um.
- T.S. So that was, that made life physically a lot easier working..
- S.P. Well..you could sit *down* to *that* job. (laughter) Dumpers..when we started with that they 'eld four, tons *ten* an' now they 'old about forty ton..y'see.
- T.S. This is where your labour's down to, what did you say? Twentyfive now?
- S.P. That's right..um. We turned six 'undred tons a day out when we started mechini-mechinisation. They thought it was very good Gen General Manager came into t'cab to me one day 'ee said 'we're goin' to give you a penny an hour you an' your mate.' Well I said 'thank you very much.' Er, then we was on about... would it be? about five pound a week, no *more*. Penny an hour we though we were in 'eaven, y'see, now-then you they go out on strike it's *pounds* an hour now. Aye! (laughter) We started on six 'undred tons a week-a-day..roughly, and I think at present time, they're whippin' about *two thousand* tons a day out, they was when *I* left. So it just shows.
- T.S. There were some industrial disputes there weren't there at one stage, you just, you mentioned one.
- S.P. Well, t'only one we ever 'ad, to mean anything. We never went on strike aggen. No.
- T.S. Was it regarded as a, a fair Company to work for?
- S.P. *I think* so, yes because they paid..they paid er..a decent wage..I.C.I. paid a little bit *more* because er, they 'ad to pay us same rate as they paid their own down in Buxton y'see. Y'know.
- T.S. You are saying that things considerably improved when I.C.I. came then?
- S.P. Oh they *did*.
- T.S. Did they bring a lot of mechanisation?
- S.P. No not really because it was already *done*, they'd only ter walk in. (chuckle)
- T.S. So they knew what they were doing?!
- S.P. Oh aye.
- T.S. What was it like there during the bad winters?
- S.P. Well if you was breakin' and fillin' days er, you couldn't do a big lot in t'*snow*, and you couldn't do anything if it was *rainin'* either because..it was no, no job wasn't er..if it was er, if it was *rainin'* it was no job, bent down all t'day wi' a wi' just a, a mackintosh on because it weren't so long before it went through so, you were more or less con...into t'*cabin* y'see..er
- T.S. You wouldn't get paid for that?
- More follows/

S.P. Er durinc't war there was a man called *Bevin* come along, and er there was something about it 'cause I think all t'quarries were alike and it was, er, essential that the war effort went on..and er, they give us a shillin' an hour if it was rained off or, something like that.

T.S. Yes.

S.P. Er, when you got mechanised it didn't meck much difference, because the, chap said cab's on you're inside in a cab in t'er navy an'..first there were no cabs on t'dumpers but er, you was given overalls and sou'westers and that sort of thing, and eventually we got cabs on.

T.S. What happened during the war years were many people still employed up there? Did it still keep going?

S.P. Er..aye well aye y'ad ter...our General Manager in them days 'ee er..'ee sort of, got people to er certain people that *wanted* to join t'er, Territorials. And this was just before t'war and er, er, I think they 'ad about a week or a fortnight, wi' t'general army y'know regular army and er. five pound a week well five pound a week was more than they was earnin' at *work* so, quite a number, *joined* y'see. I didn't join, 'cause I wasn't raight struck about *that*..and er..when *war* came y'see, it was announced that, eleven o'clock on Sunday morning the third of September, 'we are now at war with Germany,' but our men..were gone at Friday *night* finished at Friday night and they were already *there*, somewhere. (laughter) So it was *known* that there was *something* going t'appen y'see.

T.S. Yes.

S.P. Er, that's why, for one thing t'..granite 'ole closed down because a lot of, them fellows that worked there, they *went*. Some of 'em went and they, if they'd 'ad a medical they would never've bin near because..they wouldn't..a mate of mine went and 'ee wuz as-deaf-as-a stone..but 'ee *went*, and stopped all t'time but, think they were lookin' after 'Stores' some of them y'know but they wuz still in t'*Army* y'know..and t'*Navy* and various things.

T.S. Did you work at the Quarry right through the war?

S.P. U-hum, yes. Um. Yes.

T.S. Was there a Home-Guard in Horton?

S.P. Oh yes, oh aye.

T.S. I had an idea there was because I'd heard some sort of slightly amusing comments about this..

S.P. Oh aye there was a Home-Guard and t'A.R.P. I joined t'A.R.P. Er..(chuckle) at er Institute old Institute was t'eadquarters..and er..I wasn't married just at that particular time an'..w..what was goin' to be me *wife* lived down at next row of 'ouses 'ere at Willy-wood an'..we down at Sat'dy night an' all-of-a-sudden t'er, 'ooter went at Town 'all aoooo-aaaao y'know that were it...er, a Jerry bomber comin' across..down 'ere bi Giggleswick. An' 'ee er, he dropped *five*. The one landed in a muck-vinie(? Sic) belongin' a farmer splattered muck all-over, in fact I think some went on ter t'*Railway*. I 'ad me motor-bike I says 'come on' so she jumped on t'back and I went up, and t'vicar at that time 'ee was the, Head of, the A.R.P. And er, we was up at, Institute before 'ee *got* there. 'Cause I *motored* a bit sharp. And er, oh aye, another night, it my turn t'go ter

More follows/

- Selside, in them days, there was no telephones in Selside..and er a man called Mr. Morphit a retired farmer, he was th'ead man there, an' I went up this particular night and the' were, the' was bombin' Barra ..and I believe Manchester. And oot, it was throwin'-it down. Ah nearly got soaked goin.' So I knocked at 'is door 'ee come in t'carpet slippers, 'Yes?' I says 'well' I said 'there's a, a raid on, Manchester an..der *Barrow-in-Furness*' and 'ee looked out at the door 'ee said 'Well..I don't think I'll bother goin' *out* t'night.' (laughter) It's amusing really!
- T.S. Sounds as though the area had a fairly relaxed attitude towards the war!
- S.P. Well, actually..fellows that, wasn't, that 'adn't bin called up and thi were in t'ome-Guard er..it, I think thi were workin' 'arder than them fellows that 'ad joined joined *up*, because, thi'd do a..a days work in t'Quarry, beckin' an' fillin' an' lime-drawin' an' suchlike and then they'd..out manoeuverin' while two-or-three o'clock in t'mornin' up this valley and what-not y'know. (laughter)
- T.S. Was it a bit like 'Dad's Army?'
- S.P. Well, I would think so. Er... 'bout, few months before, er..big push came fer, y'know when they were startin' goin' back, over t'Channel what was it, 'D-Day?'
- T.S. 'D-Day.'
- S.P. 'D-Day'..oh-aye we'd, 'Fourth Commandos' in, er stationed around here and er, oh-aye thi'were..thi'were fl..flyin'..proper bullets about an' all. (laughter)
- T.S. What, round here?
- S.P. Oh aye. Y'd t'get yer 'ead down them as were there 'avin, chaps were sayin.' Um.
- T.S. They were using the moors for training were they?
- S.P. Try..round t'ouses the..they-er..they were stationed at, Long Preston this particular night an' t'old man, at er, in charge of Langcliffe lot..'ee was a bank manager at Settle and er...he was drillin' 'is men in t'Institute up on t'village green 'ere, it were dark night and all of a sudden, Commandos burst in thi were, free-fer-all fight, quickly, halt these commandos if, comm, the, the commandos said well-they-said if we'd've bin Germans we wouldn't've done *that*, we'd zzzzzzz (indicated use of machine guns. Laughter) Aye, oh aye. We-er (laughter) Um!
- T.S. Yes. It really does sound like Captain Mainwaring. (Character in 'Dad's Army' television programme)
- S.P. I remember..one day, I think I was in bed wi' t'flu..and er (noise of fire being made up) one o't neighbours, seven o'clock in t'mornin'..shouts 'Dick!' that was mi-father's name 'Dick' I said 'what's up?' 'Ee said 'they'e commin'..the, barrage balloon 'ad got, loose at Manchester somewhere..thought it was t'Germans commin!' (laughter) Ah aye! Um.
- T.S. Were you living in Horton at that time?
- S.P. I was up till nineteen-forty..November forty.
- T.S. Yes. How did things change in the Quarry after the war? Was there any noticeable difference?
- S.P. Well, as I say eventually it was all mechanised y'see.
- T.S. Yes. So life became considerably easier for you?
- S.P. Oh yes. Um.
- More follows/

- T.S. Did the working day shorten particularly or holidays improve, that sort of thing?
- S.P. Well you do, we got to, a fortnight's 'oliday, a wee er in a year, actually, didn't we? Plus these other extra days what they've put on since y'know.
- T.S. Comment that I noticed here that I made a note of here, the scars and the mess left by the Quarry create a lot of comment and argument amongst people, have you got any particular feelings on it?
- S.P. Well if you dig a big-enough hole, it'll teck a lot o' fillin' won't it? (chuckle)
- T.S. Yes.
- S.P. Er..We 'ave a quarry 'ere, long(?) firm, same firm, it's..council bought it off 'em.
- T.S. Yes.
- S.P. Er..it's, tip where your dust-bin stuff goos in.
- T.S. Yes.
- S.P. And there's a big 'ole at this end an' they've left it.. I complained only a few months since cause I'm on.. Parish Councillor.
- T.S. Yes.
- S.P. Bin a Parish Councillor fer th'ty years. *And er, I said that it wanted fillin' up.*
- T.S. Yes.
- S.P. Meck it level same as t'field. Course, I've got word back that there's some.. some er, fancy flowers well there's, them sort of flowers *orchids* they are.
- T.S. Yes.
- S.P. But, where they filled it up at I reckon it'll..it'll it'll wash it and cover it all up but...I think it'd been better if it were've been levelled me-self.
- T.S. Been levelled? Yes.
- S.P. For what they've got they're goin' to save, anyway.
- T.S. And do you feel that these quarry owners really should do something to put the land back straight when they've finished with it as near as you can?
- S.P. Well, its, at Horton Quarry, they've, when I left they'd..they'd er...they could go wi' sixty million tons.. so I mean thee, teck nick sixty millions out of place that's already gone with millions I mean er, that'll teck some fillin' woan't it!?
- T.S. It will won't it! (laughter).
- S.P. I think whatever you try it'd actually...'ave you switched me off? (Mr. Potts had walked out of the room and into the kitchen. I followed)
- T.S. No, no no.
- S.P. You can I..a place like that..what, eighty feet tall...whatever you do you can't er, you can't cover 'um up.
- T.S. You're not going to disguise that are you, no.
- S.P. Mind you, them place, them places aren't as dead as what people think you know.
- T.S. No.
- S.P. Oh no.
- T.S. Do you think it's an acceptable price to pay for employment, to have a quarry like that?

More follows/



- S.P. Well you can only 'ave lime cut and get lime where the lime is, (um) can't you? It's no good going down somewhere where's there's all *sand* because *that's* no good. Y'see..I'm just gettin' somethin'.. (indistinct words as Mr. Potts opened various cans to prepare a meal for his son and himself)..puddin' of some description.
- T.S. Well we're must about comming to the end of the tape anyway, thanks very much, I've got a lot to be going at. I shall enjoy typing that up. Thanks very much.