

Longman 10/10/10

Interview with Mr Gilbert Cloughton, 20th March, 1984.

'My first job when I started was down granite hole'. Breaking and filling. I came in Sept; 9th 1938. In '39 war broke out and that quarry finished. We were all to go to limestone which was badly needed in those days for steel working. I spent another year in limestone quarry breaking and filling, This was breaking the rock and filling it into trucks, There was an endless rope went round the quarry which ~~went round~~ took the empties up, then men that wanted one picked one up, they all had a ~~rod~~ apiece, had breakers, there would be about 30 in this line, and when they had filled the truck they brought it and (attached) it onto this endless rope, and it brought it down to the kilns. Then there was two men there and they tipped in. After that they put it on this endless rope again and it set off again into a siding for men to pick up as needed them. That was the old way of doing it, but before that it was done by horses, and I think Mark Thompson down here may be one of the horse lads. That was before my time. That's how the stone got into these kilns.

These kilns, I'll have a job to make you understand what they were like inside. They hadn't the metal ones then, they've only been there about 20 years just before I.C.I. bought them out. These were stone kilns and there were 7 in all. Two stone kilns were the first two that John Delaney built, I don't know what year, well before my time, maybe shortly after railway come. It was a big round and there was two arches over, and a split between the arches, and then up again

They were very high, you know, 100 feet, they tipped in at the top, then between these two arches it came through and fanned out, <sup>h</sup> were the fire was underneath those arches, then after it burnt down, the men drew. As they drew underneath it dropped and came through into the fire again. You drew lime at the bottom and you tried to keep it cool if you could. I had 20 years in the old ones, and I'll say it was a hard job - it was a grand job in winter time - always warm, but in summer it were very hot, you sweat a lot and if you got dust on to you, it burnt you and all.

Mrs Campbell:- What about the coal stage, where they fed the coal in? They used to put stone in top, and underneath these arches, outside, was the firing stage, which was about a yard down. There was a fire door at either side which was

like a half moon. There would be about 30 cwt of coal tipped at each side, there was a man bringing it out of wagons which was parked there, and tipping it. there was two drawers in the kiln I was in, me and another fellow, and we used to go up first thing in the morning, open the kiln doors, well one at a time, lift it up, it was on a balance weight, and then we ~~through~~ <sup>threw</sup> all that 30 cwt in, levelled it off inside, which was very hot, shut it up, went to the other side and did the same there. We shovelled it in, two men, one each side, one left handed and one right handed, I could do both. Then you went down to the drawing hole, after you'd had a rest, of course, and cooled down a bit. Then you went to draw. Drawing into barrows - these barrows were made big, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cwt, six to ten, well maybe rather more. Now, we used to draw about 10 ton in a two man kiln. It took about an hour. Then we were doing the same thing again, four times a day. The quarrymen kept the kilns full of stone all the time. Our job was to go up and fire again and came down and draw again, another 10 ton, four times a day. We didn't take quite as much off the last one, because it had to sit there all night. So we used to take six off the last firing, so we didn't draw the fire down, then it would last all night. At night, when we had finished our days work we used to put up a shutter and slotch it round, to keep the draught out. Through the week we would leave a bit of a hole open so as it could draw a bit, but on Saturdays when we had finished we used to slotch it up tight, so no draught at all could get in. On a Sunday, round tea time, it were my job then to walk up and pick some off, mine and my mates, and others kilns as well if they lived in Settle, they couldn't come so I did it for them.

Mrs Campbell:- You wouldn't be allowed to do that today - doing another man's job!

But you didn't get paid for it, you went on Sunday, but you didn't get nowt for it.

Mrs Campbell:- You didn't get much for working all week, though, did you?

It was piece work. You were paid by the tonnage of lime you brought out at the bottom.

We got up there in the morning about half past five to six, during the week, and if you wanted a full draw on a Saturday (Saturday was half a day) we started early sometimes four o'clock, so we could be done and away to the football match.

Saturday was half a day and we would have drawn two and put one on, but when he wanted a full day we started early. We finished before dinner at 12 o'clock. on a normal week day we finished at two. That was th drawers, the other workers would go on till ten to five.

Mrs Campbell:- They put their tools down when the whistle blew, not before. Being on piece work you could have a break just when you wanted. You weren't on by the hour, you were on by the ton and you pleased yourself. When we used to throw firing on and come down and have a rest we'd happen have a hand of cards. we nearly all went up at the same time and came down at the same time.

Mrs: Campbell:- What time did you go for your breakfast and your dinner? We'd come at half past eight for our breakfast, and twelve o'clock was dinner time. It was the same procedure every day

S.Haywood:- can you remember how much you were paid?

I know the day price. It was 1/0<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d an hour in the yard, that was the lowest pay, day work. I've forgotten the price of lime, but it was more of course. Best lime was 3d ~~of~~<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d a ton more to what shovel was. When you picked best you did it with a fork, then you didn't get small among it. The small we called a shoveller.

Mrs Cloughton:- Doing the washing, you had a job to get the lime out when they was in those old kilns, it was shocking.

S.Haywood:- Can you remember roughly how much a week you would take home? Well, lime drawing was about double to day work. Day work, if you had a full week in you'd have about 50/-. I don't know whether it was 50 hours or 52. Lime drawing was double to day work, because it was a harder job. It was a good job, was lime drawing. It was up to £6 a week in them days. Everybody wanted it but they couldn't all do it. They couldn't all stick it, for dust and one thing and another.

S.Haywood:- I suppose, during the war, it was a reserved occupation? Yes, During the war we were going full blast. they wanted lime and they wanted stone. It all went to steel, both lime and stone. It went to Consett and to Coatbridge in Scotland.

S.Haywood:- Did you have a certain length of time in the year that was a

WHEN?

paid holiday?

When I started here ther was no paid holidays, they come af~~ter~~ the war. The first holiday we had was th~~ree~~ days out of a week. Before that we only had Easter and Whitsuntide and same as that. They shut the kilns down, but you got nowt for it. If you did nothing you got nothing, it was like that. ~~Then~~ First paid holidays were three days, then we got a week then as the years came on it were up to a month when I finished.

When we used to break and fill, breaking stone was 7d a ton, and we used to fill about 28 tons a day.

Mrs Cloughton:- They had to work hard for what they got.

Mrs Campbell:- They took the rent of the houses out of the wages didn't they? And what about that coal job with old Alfred Alf, did they take so much for the coal?

Mrs Cloughton:- we were allowed two, barrow loads a week. It was two bob a week at first then it went to half a crown , then eventually it finished. and we had to get it of coal man

They took the coal money off the wages. 1<sup>d</sup> cwt in a barrow.

S. Haywood:- Did you do all your cooking with a coal fire?

Mrs Cloughton:- We did at first, it was quite a while before we had electric. We had the New Yorkist ranges. They were very good as well. They were nice houses, but we had no bathroom or anything, and we used to get all that lime.

S. Haywood:- How did you get clean at the end of the day?

During the week, we used to strip off to the waist, nearly all lime was at top end, But at the week end you had to do it best way you could.

Mrs Cloughton:- We used to get the bath out. They put us bathrooms in in later years, but we never got a toilet inside, you had to go across the yard.

S. Haywood:- Did you have a flush toilet?

Mrs Campbell:- NO, it was quite an experience having them all emptied. They used to come round on Monday morning. But it was worst on the old road they didn't do them every week on the old road, (G.C.) Nobbut twice a year they were earth closets.

I finished at 65, that's eight years since. There was only two kilns then the old ones had gone, they pulled all them down. There was these that are standing today, but there was only two burning when I left, and I think they had been out, maybe six months or more. When I.C.I. finished and went out there was no lime trade at all.

John Delaney got his idea from the kilns dotting the hillsides and he thought about expanding. He started as a mill overlooker, and he was interested in a little bit more for himself, so he started selling buttons and laces, carrying a box round. Then after that he speculated in a coal job, when the railway started he got bigger and bigger. He was well in with the people who lived at Beecroft Hall in that day, I think they would be Swinbanks, old Robert. He got part of that ground. There had been two little stone kilns, which was one man each. Carrie Delaney took over after the death of her father, but she only had this then and the one at Threshfield. Ribblesdale Quarry is Foredale. That and Craven belonged to somebody else.

Mrs Campbell:- At Archa quarry there were two quarries, one in the top where they did lime and the other was granite, but that's been closed a lot of years.

They opened that granite up when this shut. The flag quarry is at Foredale.

S. Haywood:- Can you remember roughly how many people worked at this quarry? About 150 when I came here. That's only a guess, but it's up there somewhere. When I left in '75 there'd maybe 60. 23 now.

Mrs Cloughton:- When he first came he worked in the Blue lagoon, the granite hole. There's 106 steps down there.

Mrs Campbell:- But you did used to ride when you shouldn't have done, in the cages, didn't you?

I didn't - they might have done, but I never saw anybody.

S.H:- What were the cages? What they brought the stone up in. Full up, empty down, all day long. You came up at breakfast time and again at dinner time.

With I.C.I. we worked three shifts 6 to 2, 2 to 10 and 10 to 6, I never liked that.

Mrs Campbell:- I can remember some of those metal kilns being built. That was just before me dad died in 1941. They came from away to build them and we had some of them as lodgers.

That would be P.K. It wouldn't be any of these four. P.K. was short for Priest Knibbs. They were build in front of the old stone kilns. They were towards Beecroft Hall. The P.K. kilns were pulled down and thrown away, they built these later.

Mrs Campbell:- This is social life really. Can you remember when they had the old institute and they used to come round with the concerts? They stayed a week and did a different thing e very night, 'The Face at the Window' was one thing they did - it frightened us to death. Then there was Swifty's concert party. They came from Bentham. He did a variety.

Mrs Cloughton:- He had plenty there to see him.

*Mrs Campbell* When we were girls we never went out of the village really, until we left school. There were pictures at Settle at the Victoria Hall. If we went to Settle we went on the train.

*Mr Cloughton* I came from Hawes originally, I worked for Sir William Milner at Parcevall Hall before I ~~came~~ here. When I came here if you had a full week in you were a lot better paid. But I've seen time when I've come home with 24/- If it was wet and the breakers and filler s couldn't work it stopped us working. They let the kilns come so far down, when the arches were coming into sight they stopped them. At Parcevall Hall we were paid a weekly wage regular, but it wasn't so good, it was 45/- a week.

Mrs Cambell:- I was talking to a man last week, he'd be my age of a bit younger and he said he gets more money now for less work than he's ever done in his life.

Mrs Cloughton:- Times have changed. When I left school I went into service for 10/- a week.

Mrs Campbell:- we got £1/19/6 and a uniform and kept. Amonth, At the Grammar School at Giggleswick. I can remember bringing it home to my Mother, and she gave me 5/- and I'd 3/6 to pay for my shoe heeling. And that had to last me a month. We were up at 6.30 in the morning and when you were serving the master s' dinner at a quarter to eight, we didn't finish till half past nine, we'd an hour off.

Mrs Cloughton:-Very strict, we had to be in at half past nine.

Mrs Campbell:- In the war time we used to try to persuade matron to let us go to the dance. Looking back it must have been a terrible responsibility for her, eight girls. The airmen were stationed in Settle. She used to give us a time to be in, and we used to run all the way back from the Falcon at Settle to Giggleswick Ann's getting more an hour than I used to get for a month.

Even when we all lived at Beecroft, Mrs Cloughton, don't you think that sociability was much better than it is today? Everybody was friendly.

Mrs Cloughton:- You could go out and enjoy yourself, now everyone seems to have drifted apart.

Mrs Campbell:- I can remember when we had Mrs Wingate, nurse, up there, and when women had babies they didn't go into hospital like they do today, Mrs Wingate lived in for a week and delivered the baby. I don't know how much she charged, you wouldn't have much. It was none of this rushing into hospital job, and you didn't have the before clinic where you do all your exercises. How it has all changed.

S.Haywood:- Were the children pretty healthy, or did you have a lot of problems with epidemics?

*Mrs Campbell* No they were pretty healthy. You had to be. We had an epidemic of scarlet fever. I wanted it because I wanted to go to Harden Bridge to see what it was like. It was in '39 or '40. Going back to emptying the ash pits in the old houses, it's wonder we didn't have something. We thought nothing about it. As long as Alfie Hunt got it all limed up we were safe, weren't we? Everythings that sterilized and clinical today that when theres a germ about it really hits you.

S.Haywood:- What other entertainments did you have in the village?

Mrs Cloughton:- We had whist drives and dancing which we missed. There were some good old time dances in that school. There were concerts - I've been dressed up many a time. We had a good laugh one night, because I was pretty big round the hips They brought a pair of Ernie Sarginson's trousers down and said 'You'll get into these' and I couldn't fasten the things. So I had to put an old mac on and tie it with a string round front to hide the front. The Mothers Union used to get them up.

Mrs Campbell:- Of course, Church played a bigger part. There was a Sunday school and you went to church at least once a day. We always had a church garden party.

S.Haywood:- Did you have a show or a fair or anything?

We had sports. That day we came into Horton it was sports. I've heard them talk about New Inn fair. They used to have a bit of a jig in the square.

5.4.'84. Extract of information from interview with Mr Irving at Beecroft quarry.

John Delaney was an Irishman and a quaker who worked at Hector Christie's mill as an overlooker. He was the first man to fetch a wagon of coal into Settle by rail. He got the quarry rights from Mr Ford at Beecroft Hall and opened the quarry in 1876/7. He had other quarries at Threshfield and Broughton. Between Gargrave and Skipton Delaney's sidings on the railway went into the quarry at Broughton.

To finance the quarries he tried to borrow from local bankers who refused, but the National Provincial bank in Sheffield were prepared to finance him so the quarry always banked there until Settle Limes was taken over by I.C.I.

Ribblesdale Lime Co: at Archa, Craven Lime Co: at Langcliffe merged with Delaney's to form Settle Limes. They carried on until I.C.I. took over in June 1961. In 1980 Tarmac bought out I.C.I. and it is now part of Tarmac Roadstone.

There were 140 to 160 workmen until mechanisation started in 1948. I.C.I. took over 120 workmen. There are now 25. *But lorry drivers?*

Delaney looked after his men. It was a family affair. The older men were kept on with light jobs. Delaney liked Horton water and every day a man came up on the train from Settle with a backcan and took a supply back. Headings were bored in and a T-junction made, then each side packed with explosive, then the top fell in. Everyone ~~had to~~ came to watch - schoolchildren had the day off and Delaney's office workers came up from Settle.

Delaney's men came from Derbyshire, because that's where the expertise was, including a chemist called Mr Gee.

In the 1970's the four kilns were oil fired, and the demand for lime fell off at the same time as the price of oil went up, so lime burning stopped, but there is still a large supply of high quality limestone available if it is ever needed. Now 10,000 tons a week goes out, but it is all roadstone.

The workers had no protective clothing. Dick Towler's brother was crushed by a rock fall, and a man who lived on South View was killed by a stone falling on his head.