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Year : 2nd year

Course: B. ed



Transcript.

Liam Hayes, Interviewing [REDACTED] Knocklong Co.Limerick.

Date: 7th March 2008.

Topic: Childhood memories in native village of Kilross.

Year of birth of [REDACTED]: 1934.

Length of interview: 44 minutes 55 seconds.

This is Liam Hayes here with [REDACTED] in Knocklong co. Limerick and where just gonna talk a little bit today about...am the little village of kilross...am where she grew up and her time as a child there.

Liam :Ok so you grew up little village of Kilross. Can you tell us about that?

[REDACTED] : Well Liam I was born in Kilross, in 1934 in a small little village about six miles from Tipperary town...Tipperary town...so am...I went to school in Kilross... and I stayed in school until I was fourteen, around fourteen. I left school then, anyways there was five of us in the family and my mother and father made seven. I had two sisters and two brothers...we all went to Kilross school...so am...when I left school, then I went to work in...I went to cork for a while, for about a year. I lived there, I came back and I worked with the farmers for two years in one place, two years in another and two years in another and I got married from that place then. So when the end of the year came I had no place to go, so we got married and we came back to Kilross and am...we stayed there for a while...so am...we am...

Liam: So yea ye were kinda there for , you were there for, you went to school until you were fourteen, then you said you am went to cork and stuff...something about fourteen

you were kinda there...whats like, whats your memories from there with you own family. If you kinda start there even. You said you had two brothers, and two sisters, there was yourself that made five children and your parents, that was seven, where did ye live?

██████: We lived in a small cottage...am...there was four cottages just together...there we were all so happy there and it was grand. So ah...there was a lot of children between us all. There was eight and nine and thirteen children in another place. We all went to school together, well not us all, a lot of us and down the road together, all barefoot. We all had good times as bad as they were, we enjoyed it, going down field and going barefoot across...in the evening then we'd go for timber for , at home, for the bit of firing...things were very scarce and any spare time we had we'd go across the fields and we'd put up clips around the field and we'd have great fun playing there and playing skittles. That was our time really and twas very...twas good. We...we drew a lot of timber when we had the chance cause there was nothing else there...and twas like oh...food was scarce...everyone sat there own few vegetables and potatoes and things and twas a great blessing. There was am we'll say coupons...coupons for food, so I mean if you got it all in one day, you'd have to do without if. Things were bad. We had to stretch everything out but my mother was good to manage and that was the main thin, but the neighbours were very good. I mean if you were stuck for anything they'd have it and maybe tomorrow they'd come and get a bit from us then So that's the way we all managed....twas baking and she use to bake bread to keep the thing going when things were bad. No light , no washing machine, no nothing. My father use to mend the aul boots, other than that we'd have nothing on our feet, and he'd have only his flash lamp there on the table and he'd be sowin away the boots and fixing them and twas, it was good fun in one way and I

suppose, still we'd no light, no washing machine, no cooker, no nothing only an open fire. So there was three rooms in the house and a kitchen, and there was just one acre of land. As I said they use to set the potatoes and a bit of cabbage and all the stuff like that. It was a great help and am... as I said you get the...you'd only get the bread every second or third day. When the coupons were gone you'd nothing to get but she use to do a good bit of baking and that was, that was a great help. So now...

Liam: Yea you were saying about the coupons and am you'd get there, where would u get them now?

█: Well we'd get books of them. I'd , I don't know whether tis from the post office or, now I just cant even think of that part of it. But you'd , I , I , do you know what tis only a couple of years ago since I found one of them over in my mothers house...a little book with a few coupons in it? By God I said what a long time they were there. And twas nice to get them, I knew what they were.

Liam: I had read up about them and they , am use them as you said yourself, once you use them they were gone and that was it...

█: ...that was it...

Liam: ... but like did you get one like that would say bread of half pound of sugar or something like that or just could you just get value of like ten pounds and what you got for it?

█: I didn't know what way they'd be. You'd get the book and then they, we'll say for the sugar, would be one thing and a tea and another thing, and bread and o many for clothes to spend, to buy suit or buy

Something, or jumper you know. It would take you ages to get them together, but then we'd all kinda clump them together, that ay we'll say you did want a jumper for

a month, or a coat or something and they'd give it to the next one so they'd go way and buy, they'd hand them back to you if you wanted something, so...you know they were great that way like...that's you know...great...like drawing the timber. I mean if you, honest to god, they were great neighbours, I think cause they'd be after bringing them cross a couple of fields over hedges and ditches and they'd throw em over the...an aul bundle of them over the, the wire. Twas only wire that was between us all that time {indecipherable } ... houses only built you know. But they'd throw in a load of stick after dragging them on there back all the way you know they were really good, they were good old neighbours, they were. They were brilliant.

Liam: They just...they didn't work at that did they or...

█: They didn't what?

Liam: They work at that, that wasn't there job of bringing the timber.

█: Oh no, no, they were just , they were just good, good people you know, I mean who would do it?

Liam : Yea

█: Who'd do it today...that to drag a load of thing up on your back and then throw an aul fist of then into the next door neighbour. For, do ya know, if they thought you weren't able to go or they, you had a sick child or you had young children, they'd wouldn't be able to go, they were great that way. They'd just throw in a few, ball of bushes in over the... there in over the wire. Twas great. Twas great.

Liam: Yea you were saying there about , there was only a bit of wire between ye like, so twas kinda vital, and you were saying like the timber as well, that they'd go if you couldn't go yourself, so twas kinda vital to get on well with them. Do you know in one way.

█: Oh yea, yea

Liam: ...ye depended on each other a bit.

█ : we got on fine like you know. Well we might have an aul, we, we would have debates with the youngsters we like...like everyone we'd be fighting with em and that's all twud be. But you know we'd good fun. As I said we'd go out there an ah...put the...at there across the fields and put on the clips around the field and we'd be roaring and all then. Jee twas great, twas like the Olympics twas. We enjoyed it and then we'd say another evening we'd, they put am or have the skittles and I use to love playing them.

Liam; And what did ye do for them, what did ye use for them?

do you know, do you know skittles, did you ever...

Liam: Did ye have the actual skittles, the toys?

█ : Yea, the little things, the timber things.

Liam: Yea.

█ : And we'd clip em you knoe, twas twas great you everything.

Liam: Yea.

█ : Everything, sures theres nothing there now.

Liam: They were kinda yer pastimes.

█ : Ah they were great. Ya we use to do all skipping you know...one, two, skip. Oh the rope, one at each end and you'd jump in and I'd jump in and next one in. twud go on and on and on...twas oh my God, twas great. Twas great fun now. I enjoyed it.

Liam: Twas kinda all the children along the road then.

█ : Oh yea.

Liam: Everyone together.

█: They'd all be there...come out there and we'd be at it hell for leather for hours and I mean hittin over there across the fields and bringing on the aul, bundle of sticks twas how many of us a crowd of us together. Twas great aul firin you know, twas great and am as I...even my brother Seanie and myself use to go the cold morning across the field and bring hether a bundle of sticks before we'd go to school and the weather could be frozen. You know but we'd always get up cause we knew thing, she couldn't go and things were bad. So we'd go bring on the few sticks and light the fire. She'd light it like but...{indecipherable}... Had the plenty-ness you know...{indecipherable}...cos you had to have something to bake the bread. I know you'd get turf...but the price of it was another thing.

Liam: And where would ye go to get the timber from?

█: We, there were woods there. There was woods, they, woods, they'd be about two or three fields away, but no one ever bothered you going through the fields or no one ever bothered you going into the woods. They, they were only all loads of aul rotten timber there, there and when a storm would come and that {indecipherable} stayed down there...he'd always say that man to get the...you know to get the ...bring draw away the timber, twas only thrown around the field. Twas great stuff you know and ah he was very good...so am... we'd be going off then at dawn {indecipherable}...car or we'd be going , or we'd be goin gin the night time, coul be ten , could be eleven, didn't make any difference, cause there'd be a crowd of us together. By God we drew a lot of stuff out of it. I use to brign it home on the aul ass then...car would go for a bit og it in the day...when I was there...so then as I said am...between it all it was tough going , however we enjoyed it, you see and I enjoyed t.

Liam: You mentioned the ass and cart, was that kinda yer primarily way of transport, was there any cars or anything?

█: We'd go to Tipperary on the little ass and car and we'd tie the little ass inside the a, there was a , O God, a shop there in Tipperary, tis there yet, here in the top of the town, Blackburn's, it use to be, they had all the little hooks on the wall there, everyone done it, twud be an ass and cart and they'd tie their asses, little horses in there, they wud and twas grand. You'd go off and do your shopping, come back up then, put em in the car... come on out and on the road again on home you know. Twas really nice and the same as going to mass, like there was maybe on e bike, as there wasn't enough for everyone and we'd am hit off to go then, my father tackle up the little ass every Sunday morning, on and away we'd go, and there was a place up there as well that you could tie the donkey to the wall, you know, twud, it was good.

Liam: You'd never any fear of the donkey going missing or someone taking it.

█: No , they, they wouldn't touch a thing that time. Not a thing, every, you could leave things... you could leave things on the car, you could do anything, there'd be nothing. It was, its different kettle of fish now you know. Just put in your ass and leave him, put the coats under the , yea the seat where the cripple was on then, an let it there and away you'd go to mass and that's the way. My mother then, would get her bit of meat and that's the only day that she'd like well say that you'd be buying a bit of meat that you'd have it then Sunday. You might have a little bit of bacon for another day but like, people use to keep pigs as well... you see there were like farmers down the road but they'd kill them and they would give you the black pudding when

they fill em, and they were beautiful you know the black pudding was beautiful and a bit of pork, a small bit, but twud maybe a rib or something you know, twas good to get it. We enjoyed it because I'll tell you things were scarce. You'd be glad of something then you wud...you know but that's the way it went sure...tearing and dragging. But my father worked on the council and am he worked for a few years there, a good few years and ill tell ya as I said he'd be breakin stones with a hammerall day, day in day out and they'd fill a bit of a bag and they'd put straw and hay into it and they'd sit over on that load of stones and be breaking the big rocks to am...like for the road. I cant think now whether there would be a loory or what to take am... and they did suffer with the cold. They'd be frozen, when they'd be sitting down all day. I know your hands would be going but, your legs would be frozen but as I said they'd have to make the aul bags of ahy to sit on, at least that would be a bit warm, you know. But they suffered there share.

Liam: You were saying there about the council and stuff, I mean was the pay any good or...

[REDACTED]: well I don't really think about the pay to tell ya the truth, I just would be younger and I couldn't remember. I don't think you know. I cant think what he'd be getting like but twud'nt be good, sure jeekers god, that time you'd only get a couple of shillings...couple of shillings. That wudnt like, when we'd, when my own man and myself went working back to Bohernore, we use to run a farm for those people, we'll say and our pay was eight pounds a wekk for the two of us. wasn't that bad?

Liam: Four pounds a piece.

██████: Well id hardly be getting four , he'd be getting more... and twas...it wud go on all day and could go on all night, if the cows were calving, you'd have to stay up all night, if the sow were having bonnets you'd have to stay up...and then like I had six children myself, we'll say and twas not easy you know, I mean they were getting a bit bigger and they were able to give a hand when they were only ten or twelve, you know. But twas tough times.

Liam: Yea, you were kinda saying there like about your own giving you a hand with stuff, but like you were sayin the pay wasn't good for your father working in the council, you were saying then it was extremely hard work, like what would happen on a sick day.

██████: If the what...

Liam: If he had a sick day?

██████: Well he wouldn't go...unless he was very bad he'd , you know he'd go like. He'd go and he'd have to sit there you know but unless he was very... I don't even remember, to tell you the truth kinda stayin at hme, as I said I cant think right now, you know, but there was, twas cold weather I'll tell ya...tis often I saw em there, sitiing down on the side of the road and hitiing a load of stones to break, to break, breaking them everyday with a hammer the big aul yokes. They'd goggles on and they be belting away...he...whata life.

Liam: Twas hard work.

█: Twas hard work. Twas, but it had to be done and then, anyone of us knew no better. You see, none of us knew no better...so

Liam: You worked away then you said, I mean, you went to the local school?

█: Yea we went down all of us to the local school, cause there was none, I mean I don't even, probably Tipperary was there that time, I didn't hear of it. We'd, we'd have no way of going and we, we never bothered {indecipherable}...and that was that. Here and there, and █ my brother, then he worked on a farm as well for a long time. He went away to England then he did and my other brother worked with my farmer and he went to England and my sister went to England so.

Liam: You didn't go to England yourself?

█: No only just went for weeks holidays there one time out to my daughter out there...but am...Everything changed then when the man died. Sure his twenty one years dead, gone now ha...but anyway that's it. Weve to drag away anyway. But things are better now, there's cars there's everything. There's no fear of people like you know. O God help us there was some People that time when someone died belonging to them. The Lord save us they hadn't a thing, the price to bury them the craters.

Liam: And what would they do then?

█: I don't really know. I thing they use to get, have a collection or something for them, you know but they did suffer cause there was no one to bring in a few bob.

It was very hard to get money then, I'll tell ya it was scraping for the craters...you know...very bad.

Liam: You were saying like that you said there like, scrapping for everyone so twas kinda hard for them to give money in collection.

Liam: It twas yea, but I dont know, as I said they'd clump together better than they do now like. They were good. They hadn't it but they were good. You know they were good. Sure that's the way any way.

Liam: Sure everyone was kinda in the same boat then were they.

██████████: Oh they were sure, they were, they were, of everyone was worse than each other, do ya know. Well I mean, the farmers would have that little bit better. They'd have the few cows and things. Things would be good, I mean they weren't as near as good as they are now. You know everything's good now so I don't know whether tis good or bad but there's too much there now and they don't know what to do. Tis worse off.

Liam: You were kinda saying the farmers had a bit more like...is that kinda...like I mean did you notice that more in ...class distinction...een I mean it obviously kinda existed if they had that bit more but...

██████████: Well you'd have that, you'd have the cold one. You'd have the cold one...but to tell you the truth now where we come from...like we were very lucky, we were lucky. And I remember one man, God rest his soul now he was the best man I ever seen. He , he had , eventually was, he got a trap, trap... do ya know and he was a farmer and we'd go down to the end of the road and we'd be looking for a drive {indecipherable} we weren't able to go...and he'd pick you up in that and he carry what the man use to be able to carry. Eventually is he got an aul van...and ...we were, we were delighted all together then and oh we use to go down and wait at the end of

the road and he'd take us in that van, do ya know, it use to be nearly swaying over there use to be so many of us inside it. But you couldn't do that now, but he was one great man. A farmer there he was, one great man. , I tell ya that much. Oh genie God, you'd be short of nothing with him, do ya know. He was very good, but had a lot of the other thing as well you know, but where were , tis'nt badly off that way at all. They were fine, fine and the same in the school sure they had the big fire and the teacher would be always, have turnin his behind up against it and, and oh I suppose the other ones would be up near it too, but anyway we didn't mind. You'd get use to it.

Liam: so you'd have more of the bigger ones, as you'd say, near, up near the top and ...

█: you would, you would a bit yea, bit of the favourites you know, but sure that went on every where and tis still going on, you know, but sure who cares.

Liam: You said, you didn't care. Was it kinda you didn't give, you just, just got on with it or did it drive you mad or you just didn't take any notice of it.

█: no we didn't take any notice of it. That was just life, we didn't take one ounce of notice, as I said because there wasn't much cars, they was nothing you wouldn't know, they wouldn't be no one passing you out in cars or things...you know it was different like...so we didn't care.

Liam: Did you like school?

█: No I didn't, I wasn't good in school, I couldn't learn irish, I was alright at catechism and sums but after that, we never we didn't need it cause twas only out working we were going, but that's not the point like, you know.

Liam: So you kinda just went to school for the sake of going?

█: Yea, just you had to go like, like you know, but that was it then so tear away at it then, that's all.

Liam: What time would you start school in the morning?

█: About half nine and we'd be home then bout three o'clock. Well we'd be left out at three, I mean but twas grand like cos the part of it is you'd be all together and you'd be chatting and talkin and I don't know, we hadn't far to go. We use to enjoy it like you know. Ther was a great crowd on the road together like, and as I, you could stay there all evening on the road, playing or doing theis cos there was no car, it was grand you know...it was grand.

Liam: You said there you hadn't far to go like, you were pretty close so to the school.

█: I was only about half a mile, three quarters, twas nothing sure.

Liam: Was there some others that came a good bit?

█: O genie there was, some of them there and they were coming three or four miles. I don't know how they, when I think of it now, how they ever got there and they, I mean twas like this they took no notice, they came in hail rain and snow and I mean they were going back a bleak road and, and, and when the wind and rain would be there, tis like going cut the road there and back, mother of God, I don't know how they stuck it. But...

Liam: they would be walking would they?

█: they would yea, there was nothing to bring em, or take em sure. Oh twas tough times, I suppose, when your brought up that way, you know no better.

Liam: There wasn't many cars o the road so?

█: There was no cars hardly...no cars sure I'm telling you, sure the farmers use to be carrying the trap cars up to mass, tying the horses up above there as well.,

same in side in Tipperary, you'd tie them up there as well as the ass, and you'd do your messages and home again, do ya know.

Liam: You were saying earlier, there you didn't like school and you only kinda went for it cos it kinda was the thing like and you just had to do it. So I mean what did you do after school?

██████████: well as I said that was what we'd be doing, we'd go in home first and we'd eat a bit but we could go for a bit of timber, if we were all going twas a bit of devilment, we'd go and we'd be all together. We'd bring home our barton of sticks on our backs. Another evening, then tis out we'd go across the road there, there's a big farmers field. He never bothered with us, you know, he'd eight or nine children himself. we'd be playing around there, we'd great running do ya know, playing the aul skittles on the road and things like that...twas...twas great.

Liam: And when you finished up school what age were you, were you.

██████████: Oh about fourteen id say, and I went, I had a friend going to school with me and am, she went away to cork working and she rang me then and she said there was, you know this place, there were looking for just someone to... help am out minding a couple of children like and I...I hit off I did but I nearly died with the lonesome. If I got home that day again, I would never have gone there, I couldn't bare it but anyway I got use to it and I stayed there...twas for the most of a year you know. But ytwas grand I was able o sent home a few shillings as well you see, you see.

Liam: You were fourteen when you went there?

██████████: Yea.

Liam: Yea, and how did ya get down to cork.

██████████: By train.

Liam: Did you walk to train??

█: No I got, I don't even know how I got there, whether I cycled or did someone, tis so long that I cannot think, but I remember going by train and I met sissy above then.

Liam: Two of ye worked in the same thing?

█: No we were away a little bit but we were only a small little bit from each other, but we were as I said, I wouldn't be there only for her but I enjoyed it then. I got use to it, do ya know.

Liam: What kinda work did ya do?

█: I was just tipping around the house, do ya know, doing a little and minding, a young one, do ya know, not much like, just tipping around but as I said I left that then...came home and that was that .

Liam: Did you not like it?

█: I wasn't that keen on it at all the time and when I came out of it, I stayed out of it then, ya know. But sure twas nearly worse then, I went slaving for farmers, twas worse.

Liam: You preferred the work indoor would ya?

█: I wouldn't, I'd prefer outside, but still twas harder work, d ya know.

Liam: and like would ya...

█: Oh twas oh...

Liam: You were knida saying there, you'd prefer the outside and stuff, would there be a big difference in the pay?

█: In the pay.

Liam: Yea, between the inside and the outside?

█: There was no difference...twas, you would only get paid once a , once in the year. Now they get paid every week, is it fortnight, or whatever, but when we

worked out we were only paid every twelve months {indecipherable}. And if you wanted it for home you'd ask the man your working for and he'd give it to ya. That would be marked down on a bit of paper...and you'd am...when the end of the year came, you'd am...when the end of the year came, make it all up then and you'd get your docket and whatever few pounds you'd left...you get it...you'd have to draw a few pound to keep, well get a few bits and keep you going for a bit of food like.

Liam: You were saying there you'd just get paid once in the year?

█: Yea, yea,

Liam: As you said apart from getting the extra money from the asking, you'd only get it once in the year, when would you get that now.

█: The extra money, when you'd ask for the few pounds, you'd get it.

Liam: No but the pay, the once a month, would ya get it like...

█: Every year only.

Liam: Would you get it in summer, or at Christmas, or at...

█: We'd only get paid from Christmas, this Christmas and then we'd work for tat year and we'd get just paid then.

Liam: So you just get paid before Christmas?

█: At the end of the year, yea, yea, yea and whatever you've drwn twud be maeked down on a bit of paper, or back and they'd give it to ya do ya know. You'd know what you have drawn, you'd be marking it down yourself

Liam: Could you knda say there were kinda good to ye then they'd give it to ya or was it just...

█: No they'd have to give it to ya, sure you had earned it like, tis, tis just, you...am...do ya know...you'd just make a deal at the end...at am...when you'd, the farmers would come to the house, and they;d ask you and you'd...you'd say so much,

so much for the year, but you'll only get aid when the year is up. You'd ask them, you know twas, but now there paid every week.

Liam: So the pay thing again, I remember you, saying that before when you worked over in bohernore twas like, I think twas four pounds...or sory eight pounds between the two of ye. I think I said it was four a piece but you wouldn't be getting the same as a man.

[REDACTED]: I wouldn't id say, do ya know. It was just that much between us. I always, I always said like...me never...we don't know cause we never come to that point but there was eight pounds and then, it went up to eight pounds ten shillings, or something...yea ten shillings, but we'll say I was, I use to always say I wasn't , a woman would not be as, tis'nt that, I done as much more as he did I say but you , they'd be always saying your not as good as man...so I always considered himgettin...

Liam: ...the extra...

[REDACTED]: The extra...few shillings more than me.

Liam: So, twas kinda of the same everywhere and not just over there.

[REDACTED]: Oh everywhere yea, yea...God. Twas, twas...twas, twas hard times. I remember we bought two bonnets from a neighbour and we hadn't, we hadn't the price of , pf the bonnets but we bought em and we said,...said well have it for him at the end of the week...end of the week. Do ya know we were nearly hungry that week, cause we had to gather every penny. I don't know was it eight pounds, was it for the two of them. We'd to gather every cent and give it. We had nothing left then, but the man nearly went man when he found out that because...for devilment, we use to...ya know, when we'd got , that man when {indecipherable}...and go over at night to his house, the sow would have th bonnet and we were just talking about it one night and

oh he said, Tommy said to him, if you only knew what I went through to pay for them bonnets. Oh he went mad, he said if I, if I knew that I wouldn't never have taken it that way, cause he was so good. He thought that we were, we were do ya know, left, left without the money. We'd nothing then, he couldn't believe it. But they had to be paid for and that was that. That was they way we started off.

Liam: Kinda, kinda gave, brought it up. Up the whole relationship thing with the neighbours and everything.

█: Oh sure genie, they were brilliant. I mean you'd be doing the aul bit of hay. When we were herding for the farmer we'll say...they use to come there and do, do, the hay, do ya know, we'd great neighbours, we had great neighbours, honest to God almighty...anyone that would come in there in the eveing an say are they at the hay, I'll milk the cows with ya. Wo'd turn in cows like that like and do it with ya, who would, they were great neighbours...ya know, great neighbours. So we stayed in that place for twenty five years, id sat herding in that place...so...we bought our own little cottage here then and we'll say im here since anyway.

Liam: And at the time when you moved in here, I remember you saying that before...am...about the cottage over havin no electricity when youe home place in Kilross like having no electricity and no running water and all of that like and am...just wondering like when you moved in here, like twenty five years aafter, how different was the cottage.

█: Oh sure there was everything here, light, ater and everything then, you know.

Liam: It was such a contrast?

█: Oh yea, yea makes and awful difference. Oh my god when you'd first turn on the light first twas just like, I don't know what would you say, the whole place, if

you think was on fire, do ya know, the terrible light like. But I think the well and the pump, tere was beautiful water out of it...no...god it was stone cold. It was stone cold, the water out of the pump or well and as I siad there was no fridges there and my mother use to always bring in a few leaves of cabbage and roll the butter uo and , roll the butte up in the cabbage...and leave it over maybe...it could be out, it could be out in the hall, out again the door or anywhere. The cold cement was greator a bucket of water, twas put into.

Liam: It would be kept then?

██████████: Twud be soft, and soft and often very soft maybe, but twud keep it then running around the place, like you know. But twas a freight there, there wasn't a fridge nor a washing machine nor a cooker. that's what I saying, the firing had to be got somewhere or another to brake the bread...you know...we use to love to go, just to go when we were younger, to go for the sticks for my mother, to bake the bread. You know twas grand, that she was able to do it like.

Liam: You mentioned even going before school?

██████████: Yea in the morning yea.

Liam: Twud have been very early would it?

██████████: Yea you'd be up early, but we knew that the timber wasn't there and once she'd have the few bits of timber, we were sure of our feed, then in the evening then and everything was done like, twas there and you know. See hwen you havent a cooker , you cant do nothing. Oh but...I...things were very bad, very very bad, the candle there and the light, twas a terror, but didn't everyone work that time and they didn't know any better.

Liam: What kind of food did you have then when you couldn't even cook on the cooker?

██████: Everything had to be done on the Bastille and the little skillet pots at the side of the fire. Like...you put down a good fire. Put down as much as you could, causes you'd have to put down a good lot if your baking bread and boiling the dinner, and you pull out, when the fire is fine and red, you pull out the spreese, then from the middlle, another fire there then. Twud be all red like, twud be turf and sticks, and you put that pot then, the beef and the cabbage, twud be boiling o the other thing first and put it down there and twud be boiling away. You put the spuds then into the little pot. Skillet pot you'd call em, on the bastile and they'd boil, ten you tie...hi there was no table cloths, youd...you'd put oh, twud be either canvas bag, cause everything was washed and beautiful and even when they'd have the bagof , bag of flour, they had them lovely and white, im going from one thing to another, I'll, the spuds we'll say frst, they, when they'd be strained then and boiled, the pot would be heeled up on the middle of the table, there, there was no plate for the, eat away like a crowd of pigs then and what ever you like. The finest of potatoes, they'd be left up there, cause they'd have the bag on the table perfect clean. Although they has no machine, they'd everyone of them had a great pair of hands, you know, and they'd eat a fine lot of spuds. There might only be a pick of butter with them, but she use to make the little bit of white sauce and another evening lilted bit of scramble egg, and it use to be always something. But once you'd have the aul spud twas great. But, do ya see, when we had our own bit of a garden, twas a great back you see.

Liam: Ye use to grow a few bits in the garden?

██████: Yea, he was great ot set the potatoes, we'd fine potatoes you know. Twas the bread was always and the other things, tea, everything was the...the snag like. And am I mean like, I remember, going down the road to the farmers and getting a bottle of milk. Pint bottle, we'll

Say carrying it off with me, and am going tin for a sup of milk, do ya know. For the tea. Now they were good. you know, you'd get the bottle, twas hard tho. Ask to go in for a bottle of milk, there was no...

Liam: Did you go in and get a bottle of milk, and as you said you had the ma, the m potatoes and stuff I the garden, and then and I mean was that it then, was that then, you bought the rest yourselves.

█: Oh you set the aul few carrots and I cant ever remember about {indecipherable}, but perhaps, few turnip, the aul turnip was great, once you had that you weren't too bad at all...ya know, twas great. But the flour we'll say, the bag of flour, fine bags of lour that time, when am, when they'd be empty. They were in white bags, white as the drip that snow and they'd am, they'd am, when that would be empty then, they'd put the , wash the bag, twud be just only flour in them. Twud be washed. Twud be beautiful, and they'd make sheets out of that. They'd sow four of them together, four...flour bags together and put the sheets on the bed. that's the sheet they'd have.

Liam: An would they be comfortable?

█: They were beautiful soft stuff sure, as soft as they are now like. They...they were lovely and they...and am...you know, you'd have to strain he milk, if you were getting it from the farmer or anywhere around. You seget to the factory for it, you'd always strain the aul milk cause there could be aul ribs in it, you know cows ribs like. So you'd get that kinda cloth you would and strain the milk, I can always remember, tis along time ...I can remember straining the, do ya know, the milk through the bit of white gauze, we'd get that gauze then as well, you know but the fine sheets they use to make. Oh finest you ever see.

Liam : Were you ever nervous about the milk, you were saying...the ribs and stuff...ever be nervous

[REDACTED] : Not a bit because you know no better, you'd strain it, there was nothing going through that cloth. Anything that was in that...milk would be caught on that cloth. Do ya know what I mean. you could drink away, do ya know what I mean.

Liam: You got your milk and stuff then and you had your...I remember reading up an bout it and you, were there vouchers or coupons at the time, id you get anything like that?

[REDACTED] : We had vouchers when we were younger going to ...going to the dhop for messages, as I said you couldn't get a, do ya know like...its so long go since I was at that now...that we'll say you'd get am loaf of bread you know, or you might get two and you'd be looking to see the vouchers would be telling you so many for this and if you spent, if you gone, get the two loaves you can, you'd say well ive to wait teo or three more days before I can get another bit of bread. It might be only twice a week. Twas all vouchers for everything. Twas...twas a blessing when they went away but that will tell you how scarce things were. They were very scarce the things there do ya know. Things were very, very scarce. Well twas am...as I said only for everyone clicked up together and done the thing. You know, if you have good neighbours, it makes an awful difference.

Liam: So twas, kinda tough, but overall then, as you said, with the neighbours, it was he best of the best.

[REDACTED] : You know, yea it was. You'd have the very, you'd have the bad day, when there wouldn't be much there but you'd get through it. You'd get through it cause once you'd have any bit, you were fine you know, but I'll tell ya, tis, I, I ,I know our mothers had it tough and our fathers, you see. They had it tough.

Liam: Ok, well thanks it. Thanks very much.

[REDACTED]: Ok, thank you very much so.