

HENRY COX LEAVING SCHOOL

HC I started at eleven year old about so big. Roller-liftin' as they called it. An' you used to get clouted no end wi' doublers. *[Laughs]* Doublers used to be spinning cotton, you know, doubling cotton? An' we used to go round liftin' rollers. I can't make anybody understand what it were like, only them as were...

IC They were round rollers.

HC Aye, they were round rollers, yer see, and yer had to lift these little rollers up so as the doublers could come round and cut that cotton off an' set 'em goin' again. An' if we let a lot of laps go through, doubler used to come and gi' us such a damn good rattle.

WRM So you started off as a roller-lifter, did you?

HC Yeah, an' then I got... two years after I had to pass another examination to leave altogether. I left school at thirteen. There were no examinations again. I 'ad to go to Langcliffe, an' I passed my examination at Langcliffe to go full time an' I started full time. I was a regular man then. An' I might tell yer that when I started work at eleven year old I got nothin' for t'first fortnight because I 'ad to learn. We were paid every fortnight. An' then it started off until I was full time at 1s.9d a week.

[Laughs] Then when I got full time we 'ad 3s.6d a week. I started off at 3s.6d.

[Laughs] When yer come to think! An' gettin' up at five o'clock in the mornin'. I used to walk wi me mother. Me brothers 'ad gone yer know, they wouldn't be bothered wi' walkin' wi me mother, they were men. An' I used to go wi me mother an' get under the shawl. At that time, female women and girls as worked to Christies

they were to go in shawls and clogs. You've 'eard tell of shawls and clogs? Big shawls, didn't they mother?

BC Yes.

HC You used to do. An' I used to get under 'er shawl and walk with 'er. Set off at five o'clock in the mornin' to be there at six, right away from t'bottom end of Giggleswick down Tems Street, again' Giggleswick workhouse, d'you know where that is? Five o'clock in the mornin'. An' to tek yer breakfast an' dinner wi' yer, and a can wi' some tea and sugar in. An' they used to supply us wi' hot water so we'd breakfast an' dinner but we took our own grub, of course. An' then at Saturdays we 'ad to start at six o'clock i' the mornin's just same an' work while one: 'alf a day that was. An' then Goodman knocked an hour off, it 'ad to be twelve o'clock.