

WRM003: Interviewer W.R. Mitchell (WRM)
Interviewee Sam Dyson (SD)
Present Peggy Dyson (PD)
Present Adrian Bancroft (AB)

[Start of interview - 00:00:12]

WRM Where was your first farm, around Haworth?

SD Oh, me first farm were at Buckley Farm, across 'ere at Stanbury.

WRM How do you spell that?

SD B-U-C-K-L-E-Y Farm.

WRM That's right, and what acreage was that?

SD Fourteen acre. We bought that to get married. We were living at Brooklands at Cullingworth. Well, I weren't; Peggy were living at Brooklands at Cullingworth. We weren't married then, an' we were thinking about gettin' married. But it weren't big enough where we were living. It were a big 'ouse but there weren't enough acre, there were jus' three acre. An' so we couldn't mek a livin' there so we decided that we'd sell Brooklands at Cullingworth an' buy a farm. So we went lookin' round an' we went t' auctioneers and one auctioneer said, 'Well, what you want to do is to go to Keighley.'

PD No, Craven.

WRM Craven?

PD What they call that paper.

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WRM The *Craven Herald*?

SD Alright. Then he said, 'Go and get a *Craven Herald* and look in't *Craven Herald*.' So we looked in't *Craven Herald* and there were two farms to sell. One were at Black Hill and t'other were at Buckley Farm at Stanbury. So we decided we'd go to Black Hill. So we went to Black Hill and knocked at the door, 'Have you a farm to sell?' 'Yes.' 'Can we have a look round?' We went into t'house and you couldn't see fireplace for cinders. It were reet high here. She says, 'I'm not goin' 'ere.' [Laughs] So that were th'end of that farm. So I said, 'Alright, we'll go back an' look at this 'ere at Buckley', so we went to Buckley and looked at Buckley. Fourteen acre, fourteen an' a half, I think. And by God, it were a grand little farm.

WRM So was it a hillside farm?

SD Yes, a hill farm, no moor rights just fourteen acre.

WRM And what height was it above sea level?

SD Oh, above sea level, it would be a thousand feet above sea level now.

WRM It didn't half catch the wind there, did it?

SD Oh aye, it caught a bit o' wind. We went to look at it and she says, 'Aye, I could live there,' so I said 'Alreet.' So anyway, she started packing afore we bought it, ready for... [Laughs] An' I came up t'day after to see 'im and we'd

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to go to this Estate Agent at Oakworth. So I went into t'office an' said how much 'ad it to be, an' it were... I've forgotten how much it were but I bid 'im...

WRM What was it roughly?

SD I bid 'im six 'undred pounds and he wouldn't tek it.

WRM Yeah.

SD An' they said, 'Well, will you go outside?' So I went outside.

WRM You didn't bid him six hundred according to your wife. How much?

PD Well, it were six hundred and sixty they wanted.

WRM Six hundred and sixty they wanted, yes?

SD Well, what did I bid 'im?

PD An' I think it were £620 yer bid.

WRM Oh well, it's only twenty out. *[Laughs]*

PD No, I know that, but it were a lot then.

SD Well, anyway he said, 'Well, will you go outside a minute or two?', so I went outside a minute or two an' then they called me back in an' they said, well they couldn't tek that but that they could tek so much an' that worra bit less. I said, 'No, that's it.'

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WRM What year was this?

PD 1939.

WRM 1939, ah yes.

SD Anyway, there were a bit more talk an' a bit more talk an' they said, 'Well, will you go outside again?' So I said, 'Aye, I'll go outside again'. So I went outside again. An' they called me back in a bit and said they'd tek so much again, an' I said, 'No, I'm sorry, I've bid yer all I'm givin' yer an' that's it.' And so they said, 'Well, will you go...?' I said, 'No, if I go outside again I shan't come back.' 'Well', he said, 'You'd better 'ave it.' So we 'ad it.

WRM So you bought the farm?

SD Six hundred and twenty quid, were it?

PD Aye.

WRM And what did you get for it, a farmhouse...?

SD Farmhouse, buildings...

PD A cottage...

WRM A cottage?

SD It were a grand, little farm, it really was. Because fella that belonged it, his

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fatha were a joiner and his wife's fatha were a builder so it were up-to-date, everything was spot on.

WRM What was the land like?

SD Not bad, not bad at all.

WRM What sort of land do you get round Haworth and Stanbury?

SD Well, it was strong like, you know?

WRM What does that mean, clay?

SD Aye, a bit heavy; it were a bit heavy, but it wasn't so bad for being clay.

PD No, but during t'war when we had to plough...

SD In them days, you know, you could mek a livin' out of 500 hens.

WRM Could you?

SD Aye. It were nobbut a livin' but you could live off 500 hens in them days.

WRM What sort of stock did you have at that farm?

SD *[Laughs]* Well, we bought a heifer.

PD *He* bought a heifer.

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SD Two teeth [unclear 00:05:19] were a beauty an' all, it were. An' when we bought t' farm, neighbours used to come for milk, yer see, an' so they still came for milk. An' we'd only had this cow... we hadn't 'ad it a fortnight 'ad we, when it started goin' off its milk. So we didn't know what to do with this 'ere, an' so it got t' pitch where we couldn't supply t' milk so t' wife wattered it a bit! *[Laughs]*

WRM *[Laughs]*

PD We'd three customers for a pint.

WRM Three customers, a pint each, yes?

PD An' it was tuppence ha'penny a pint.

WRM Tuppence ha'penny a pint...

PD Yes, but that were all in the pocket weren't it, and in those days you 'ad to look after things like that.

WRM It was all in the pocket and you had to look after things in those days, yes. Sorry, I'm just repeating so that it goes in here.

SD An' we also sold paraffin yer see, for t' neighbours round about, so that were another side-line. *[Laughs]*

PD Three ha'pence a gallon.

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WRM How many cows had you got, just one?

SD Just one, but we brought two heifers with us or summat like that and we brought us own 'orse wi' us. We didn't buy t'horse, we brought us own pony with us, and us own pigs. We'd plenty of pigs 'cos we brought them with us from Cullingworth, you see? An' so everything were goin' on alright.

WRM So it was like Noah's Ark, was it?

SD It was alright, til cow started givin' less milk. *[Laughs]* Aye, we wattered it; well, she wattered it.

WRM How many hens had you got then?

SD Oh, we bought all t'hens that were on it, that were on't farm. We bought all t'hens that were on it.

WRM Yes. And what were you getting for your products then? What was a pint of milk in those days?

SD Oh, I don't know; it's that long sin' I've no idea. It's sixty years nearly. It would be about tuppence ha'penny a pint.

WRM And how about eggs?

SD Oh, they got down to eight pence a dozen in summer.



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WRM Did they?

SD Aye. There were egg round wi' this farm an' all, I kept that on when I bought t'farm. I got t'egg round thrown in like an' I went wi't eggs for a few week and then I went one week and this 'ere woman, her that we'd bought farm off she said, 'By, well I'll tell yer what', she said, 'your eggs are little 'uns.' I said, 'They're your hens anyway.' *[Laughs]* Them same hens that we'd bought off 'er an' she were worryin' about eggs, wa'n't she? *[Laughs]* Aye, Mrs Sugden.

WRM Is she still living?

PD No.

SD No.

WRM Oh, we can mention her then. *[Laughs]* Did you have a car?

SD Oh, aye, but we'd to sell t'car. We had a Ford V8, it were a grand un an' all, but we'd to sell that to mek ends meet like and all we 'ad were a pony, an' after a while I bought a motorbike. An' I brought it 'ome an' 'alf on it in a sack. *[Laughs]*

WRM Half of it in a sack, how do you make that out?

SD Well, I bought the motorbike an' there were that many spare parts with it I 'ad

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to put it in a sack to bring it 'ome. Anyway, when I brought it 'ome I said,
'It's cheap, is this.'

WRM Twenty pounds, was it?

SD I don't know, I've forgotten.

PD It were.

WRM Did you have a side car or something?

SD No, I had a box, it were like a coffin. *[Laughs]* You've seen a strange box
haven't yer on t'side of a motorbike?

WRM Yeah.

SD Well, it were one of them things.

WRM What, with a wheel?

SD Oh aye it 'ad a wheel on, by jov aye.

WRM So it was like a side-car, was it?

SD Yeah. An' we kept that for a year or two. Oh, we got a tandem first, didn't
we? Pedalling... Yer see, we still 'ad Cullingworth, we 'adn't sold
Cullingworth then, we still 'ad this 'ouse, an' there were all these fruit trees at
Cullingworth an' we'd to keep goin' to Cullingworth to straighten t'garden up

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and all this 'ere so we'd to go on this 'ere tandem. That took a bit o' doin' yer know.

WRM So you started off with a tandem...

SD We sold us car when we left Cullingworth to mek ends meet. Then we bought a tandem. *[Laughs]* We were to go to Cullingworth on t'tandem to fetch all the plums 'ome and everythin' that were goin' out o' t'garden.

PD It were funny, because the first year of the war we'd lived at Cullingworth for fifteen year I think it were and we'd 'ad only a few plums, and the first year of the war they were absolutely bowed down, weren't they?

SD They were. It were absolutely loaded, wa'n't they?

PD You couldn't believe it to see it, and there were a greengage tree that never 'ad anything on all t'time I'd grown up with it and that were bowed down.

WRM And how long were you at this farm then?

SD We stopped at that farm for fifteen year, but eventually we sold Brooklands. They filled it wi' evacuees, twelve women an' twenty six kids.

WRM Was this the place at Cullingworth?

SD That were it.

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WRM Yeah.

SD It were a grand 'ouse that, it still is a grand 'ouse. An' so we sold it.

WRM What was farming like around Stanbury at that time? I mean, what was the average size of a farm?

SD About that. In our yard, that farm we bought, there were two joined in t'yard. There were our farm and Mary-Ann Feather, an' we both joined at t'yard.

WRM Mare and Feathers?

SD Mary-Ann Feather.

WRM Was that the name of the farmer?

SD No, that were 'er, that were the woman that 'ad bin on't farm.

[Dog barks]

WRM Oh dear. So they were all little smallholdings really, were they?

SD Aye, they were none o' them so big.

WRM And the whole hillside was just full of them, was it?

SD Oh, aye; little farms all over the place.

WRM What was the average acreage then?

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SD Well, fifteen to twenty to twenty five, no more than that. How big were yer Dad's Adrian?

AB Me Dad's were thirty five.

PD Ah, but how many holdings were put together there?

WRM This was the way of farming round Haworth, wasn't it?

SD Yes, not round Haworth, round Stanbury. Haworth were a bit bigger. There were bigger farms. They were looked on as poor farms, yer see, up 'ere. But it were alright for a start. We started on theear and we sort of grew oursen a bit, yer see? After we'd been there... how long had we been there when Mary-Ann said that we could...?

PD 1944 when she died.

SD Next door neighbour, that were 'er that joined at t'farmyard with us an' 'ad big house...

WRM What was she called?

SD Mary-Ann Feather.

WRM And what was the farm called?

PD Buckley House.

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SD Buckley House, that were, an' we were at Buckley Farm.

WRM Oh, I see.

SD An' that were a bigger 'ouse, yer see?

WRM Yes, I see. What was Mary-Ann Feather like?

SD Oh, she were a case. She were alright were Mary-Ann Feather, but she were an old lass, by.

WRM Did she live there by herself?

SD Yeah.

WRM And she did all the work herself?

SD No, she 'ad no farm when we got there. When we went there, Adrian's grandfather 'ad all t'land. She 'ad fourteen and a half acre and we 'ad fourteen an' a half acre, an' it all joined on. She 'ad to go through some of our land to get to 'ers, you know, on that far side down t'turf pits an' all along there.

WRM So you'd got to be good neighbours in a situation like that, had you?

SD Aye, but she were really old-fashioned, wa'n't she Adrian?

WRM In what way?

Adrian I can't remember.

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SD God, aye.

WRM In what way?

SD Every way.

WRM *[Laughs]*

SD I'll tell yer what. She'd no light, no electric, no water in, no nothing like that in t'ouse, an' it were a big, nice 'ouse. An' when we got to Buckley we'd no watter in, we'd to fetch it out o' t'well in t'front yard an' I bought a lot of piping that 'ad been in a mill an' I put water into Buckley House, into Buckley where we lived, an' then I used to have to fetch watter for Mary-Ann because she was an old lady. I used to... you know, she started bein' worse so I started carrying watter for 'er. So I says to her, I says 'Now then Mary-Ann, I'll put your water in for nothin'. Save me carryin' it, yer see?' She said, 'It were good enough for me mother, it's good enough for me.' And wouldn't 'ave it! For nothing!

WRM Where did you buy your stock?

SD Me stock?

WRM At these farms?

SD I bought it auctions or anywhere; or just went from farm to farm if somebody...

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WRM Which auction was it?

SD Skipton, Bingley, Otley...

WRM And what type of [cattle were they], were they short-horns?

SD Short-horns, aye. They were all short-horns round 'ere at t'time. Friesians were fra lower down t'country.

WRM And you sold your surplus stock did you to the auction mart?

SD Oh, aye.

WRM How did you get it there? On a tandem?

SD Oh, no, a wagon used to come, Arthur White's. We sold a bull and he came to fetch this bull and he said, 'Where is it?' She said, 'It's in 'ere'. An' I wa'n't at 'ome. He said, 'Oh'. An' it were writhing sods up... 'Ooh, by God,' he said. *[Laughs]* Arthur White.

WRM How did he get it in?

SD They opened gate and it shot down Buckley Lane, right t'bottom of Buckley Lane an' he said, 'It's alright it can't get out, wagon's at t'bottom.' An' when he got down it'd loaded issel', it were in t'wagon.' A Friesian, wa'n't it?

WRM It was a Friesian bull, was it?

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SD I bought it off Major Bairstow as a calf and reared it up.

WRM Major Bairstow?

SD Major Bairstow, he lived in Stanbury village, he were a big pot, you know?

WRM Yeah, he had a bigger farm, had he?

SD Oh, aye, 'e 'ad a big 'un. 'e used to supply Halifax Infirmary with all t'milk, didn't he?

PD Yes, 'e 'ad one o' t'first TTs, yer know, an' 'e were a Friesian.

WRM What was the name of his farm?

SD Manor.

PD Manor Farm.

WRM At Stanbury?

PD Yeah.

SD His daughter still farms it.

PD The milk used to go on the train twice a day, didn't it?

SD Yeah.

WRM What was this milk that went on the train twice a day?

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SD Not ours, Major Bairstow's. *[Laughs]* We hadn't enough milk to supply t'customers, never mind sending it on t'train!

WRM *[Laughs]* You'd only got three pints to supply had you?

SD By God, aye.

WRM *[Laughs]*

SD I can tell yer.

PD Hey, is it switched off?

WRM Yes, it is.

PD Well, when we did get a drop of milk there were a separator and they used to be fixed to the ground in the kitchen, do you remember those? An' you used to separate your milk, yer see, and mek some butter, an' we started separating this milk. Well, it used to tek ages.

SD Sweat, talk about sweat, grindin' away, it were 'orse work, by God it were hard work, wa'n't it?

PD And then it started going a bit wrong, and Jimmy Docherty that worked at t'local blacksmith he lived next door...

SD He used to come down every day though did Jimmy, an' he came in... we were separatin' one night an' he came in, he said, 'It looks to be hard work that,

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Sam.' I said, 'Aye, by God,' I said, 'it is hard work.' He said, 'I'm not canty, tha's brake on'! *[Laughs]*

PD We didn't know that, did we?

WRM This is the churn?

SD No, it were t'separator.

PD It were a separator and it were fixed in the ground, bolted through the flags. An' you put your milk in the top and it used to come through all these pipes an' the blue milk came down into the can an' the cream came into another, yer see?

WRM What was the brake?

SD Well, it were a little catch that you moved over like that, yer see?

PD Because I mean when you was... when it was goin' it was vibratin' an' I don' know what, but then when the milk had gone through an' you wanted it to settle down you could put the brake on. Well, we didn't know.

SD Anyway, Mary-Ann wouldn't 'ave watter in, would she?

WRM What about sheep, did you keep a few sheep?

SD No, we'd no sheep. We'd plenty of other folks's sheep. By God... me Dad

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came up at hay time an' 'e said, 'Well, you'll bank 'ere'. 'e said, 'By go, they're eatin' you out of 'ome an' 'arbour.'

WRM What kind of sheep were they?

SD Lonks an'... it were Adrian's grandfather who owned a lot what were eatin' me out... and Joe Mullin another lot. Anyway...

WRM They were lonk sheep were they? What's a lonk sheep like?

SD Oh they're good, they were good then. But they've gone out of fashion a little bit now, only for crossing. Because it takes 'em too long to... they grow too fast, you know, too long? An' it takes two year afore you can get 'em into meat. Anyway, I bought twelve sheep off Adrian Bancroft's grandfather, an' that was 'im what started me off. An' he did alright for me did ol' John, he wor alright.

WRM What was the next farm you went to?

SD Then after we'd bin theear fifteen year we came to Ponden Hall. Oh no, for a start off we worked fifteen acre an' then t'old lady nex' door died, an' so that came up to sell an' so we'd grown oursen so much like where we were farmin' both farms then, because we'd got 'er farm before she died because she said, 'I'm not goin' to let me farm to John Bancroft anymore.' She said, 'He's not just farmin' it right.' He wa'n't neither, he were jus' [unclear 00:20:11] it wi'

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sheep like a bit. An' so I said, 'How much is it?' She said, 'It's eight pound.'

WRM Eight pounds?

SD Eight pounds for fourteen acre.

WRM *Eight* pounds?

SD Eight pounds. I said, 'Ah'll 'ave it.' So I still 'ad this farm then, an' the other fourteen acre then, yer see, on me own.

WRM What was the average price for land in those days?

SD Oh, I don't know, you could buy a farm for six hundred quid! [*Laughs*] We bought fifteen acre, buildings an' all t'lot for six hundred pound. When t'sale came up we came, everybody thought we'd, you know... I said, 'We'll 'ave t'buy this farm or else we'll flit.' Yer see, because times were altered and you couldn't mek a living out of fifteen acre because t'job were gettin' worse. An' so we'd to get more stock on, an' so we 'ad more stock on because we'd got more farms then, an' so we said that we'd 'ave to buy this farm an' all.

WRM This was in the 1950s?

PD No, 1944, during the war.

WRM Ah yes, 1944.

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SD So, it came up for sale did this ‘ere farm, an’ everybody thought I’d ‘ave to ‘ave it, and there were one fella in t’village that we thought ‘He’ll chase us’, yer see? An’ so I arranged with another fella to buy it, and I’d bid agen ‘im once an’ then he’d go on an’ he’d buy it for me. He were an accountant at Keighley. So when it came to t’sale day...

PD The sale was on a Saturday.

SD Yeah...

PD And the sale with the house and the furniture were all on the same day.

SD They brok int’ t’sale, durin’ sale, to sell t’house. An’ so when ‘ouse came up for sale they started biddin’ f’t’ouse an’ that, an’ then I bid, an’ then this other fella bid, eventually. An’ then ‘e looked at me and I said, ‘Well, let ‘im ave it.’ An’ so ‘e knocked it down to this ‘ere bloke.

WRM How much did Ponden Hall cost you?

PD We aren’t tellin’.

WRM Oh, sorry...

SD *[Laughs]*

WRM It’s too dear, is it?

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SD No, it were too cheap.

PD Nobody's ever known.

WRM Oh well, fair enough, that's jolly good. Anyway you got Ponden Hall...

SD No, we got Buckley House then see, and auctioneer knocked it down to this fella and then we wanted t'stair carpet out o' this 'ouse to stop where it were because we were goin' to move in there; an' I couldn't get in, he wouldn't even tek no notice of me because 'e thought 'e'd finished wi me you see, an' I had to shout out, 'Go on..' An' he looked at me, so he took mi bid an' I got t'stair carpet, an' just after we'd got stair carpet they said, 'Will you come in and sign for the 'ouse Mr Dyson?' [*Laughs*] Auctioneer said, 'Yer bugger, you've done me.' He'd 'ave chased me on, yer see, if I 'adn't 'ave 'ad somebody else biddin' for me? What did they call 'im?

PD Holmes Ackroyd.

SD Holmes Ackroyd, so.

WRM You came up in the world with Ponden Hall, it was a bigger farm was it?

SD Oh, aye.

WRM How many acres?

SD Fifty acre, an' then I'd fifty acre of Higher Ponden an' then I'd Stanbury

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Moor.

WRM Good heavens...

SD But I 'ad to 'ave Stanbury Moor taken off shooters, an' I 'ad Higher Ponden taken off shooters.

WRM Now the point is that you've since sold Ponden Hall, but you've still got the land have you?

SD I've sold it all bar one field.

WRM Well, most of the land, yes. So what are you doing now? You're not retired at all are you?

SD Yeah, I am supposed to be. *[Laughs]*

WRM Do you mind if I mention your age, at 81?

SD No.

WRM So how many acres have you got now?

PD It's hectares now.

WRM Oh, it's hectares now, yes. I prefer acres, actually.

SD I do an' all. I can't do with these 'ectares an' suchlike but we've near enough, we've about, that belongs to us we've about forty two o' three acre that's ours,

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an' then we've fifty acre that we rent off somebody else, off Peter Moore,
that's 'im at... an' then I've all Stanbury Moor.

WRM Now what kind of cattle have you got now?

SD We've sucklers now, it's cows and calves, sucklers, they're a Hereford cross.

WRM When you first came though you were milking were you?

SD When I came 'ere? Yes, I were milking 'ere.

PD Not proper milking. We never did any proper milking 'ere.

WRM Didn't you?

SD Well, we'd all t'milkin' machines in 'ere 'adn't we?

PD Yes, but we didn't send any milk.

WRM You didn't send any milk from here?

SD We sent milk from Buckley.

WRM What did you do with the milk?

PD We were rearing calves and things.

WRM Oh, rearing calves, yes. And were you still on short-horns?

SD Yeah.

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PD Well, they were mixed: all sorts.

SD We'd all sorts. Belted Galloways an' all manner of stuff. Owt that were cheap! *[Laughs]*

WRM *[Laughs]* And you could also keep a lot of sheep then, could you?

SD Yeah.

WRM Out on the moor, what kind of sheep, were they lonks still?

SD Lonks and Dalesbred cross and now we're onto, we've 'ad to get in't t'Swaledales a bit, and North Country Cheviots.

WRM Yes? I was chatting to this farmer on this walk, this Coast-to-Coast, and I was chatting to the farmer in Patterdale and I said, 'What sort of sheep have you got?' He said, 'Swaledales, mainly.' I said, 'How do you mean, 'mainly'?' He said, 'I've got a few Herdwicks, because me neighbour's have got a few Herwick tups'.

SD *[Laughs]*

WRM *[Laughs]* And he said, 'So you get a few Herdwicks round the edges.' You know?

SD But I'm not a lover of Herdwicks, like.

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	Present	Peggy Dyson	(PD)
	Present	Adrian Bancroft	(AB)

WRM You're not? What sort of land is Ponden Hall?

SD It's alright. It's a bit o' good ground. It's dry an' yer know, it's well drained an' it's alright, an' it's a good moor.

WRM Now you lived at the High Farm, did you, was that Buckley?

SD No, no, I lived at Height Laithe, but I came... I've never lived nowhere else only at Ponden Hall, 'ere and up theear, and like it all belonged to me, didn't it? All the 'shebush' belonged to us, but that up there were our building, an' it were a barn an' an 'ouse, and so...

WRM What did they call it?

SD Height Laithe, H-E-I-G-H-T Laithe. An' we did a lot o' Pennine walkers 'ere, when missus were in't good pomp. *[Laughs]* She med more money than me. No coddin', it were a good job.

WRM Bed and breakfast?

SD Bed and breakfast, we used to do ponies; we had ponies for hirin'. How many years did ponies come?

PD We had 'em three years.

SD Fifteen ponies an' there were all the riders an' all that lot for seven week at once all durin' summer time. We'd customers come to Ponden Hall for how

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long?

PD Fifteen year.

SD Fifteen year, and never missed on t'trot for the fortnight an' all that. Repeat.
They all came back, every one o' them. All Pennine walkers used to come up
an' then they used to bring their wives back an' all, to look where they'd been.

WRM And this little barn, you turned into a farmhouse?

SD It were a big barn and it were a big 'ouse. Well, it were a little 'ouse but it
were a big barn.

WRM Yes, and you put the whole lot together did you?

SD Yeah.

WRM And you lived up there for how long?

SD We lived up there until she 'ad 'er stroke. We sold Ponden Hall because job
got too big for 'er, it were that big. You know, wi' Pennine walkers. In fact, if
we'd 'ad wanted, we could 'ave bin open at Christmas. We wouldn't even
open at Christmas, she were rushed off her feet.

WRM Is Ponden Hall a really big house?

SD It in't all that big, but...

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WRM Because it's a famous house, isn't it?

SD Oh, aye. We liked livin' there. We right enjoyed livin' there, it were alright.

WRM Is there a big inglenook and what not there? What were the facilities like at Ponden Hall?

SD They were dog rough when we went. When we went theear it were dog rough. I'll tell ye, when we came to look at it Billy Askwith, 'e wanted to sell out but 'e didn't want anybody to know really. An' I got to know 'e wanted to sell out, and so I came to see 'im and 'e said, well, no, 'e didn't really want to sell out yet like. An' so I said, 'Well, will yer give me t'first chance when you do?' An' he said 'e would. An' when it got to be spring 'e came across an' he said, 'Are yer still interested?' I said, 'Yeah.' 'e said, 'Well, I'm ready to sell out.' So I said, 'Alright, I'll bring t'wife across to 'ave a look.' An' I took her all round t'top to let 'er look at t'land because she'd never been before.

PD It was the first time I'd ever walked all t'way over t'tops.

SD An' then the day after I said, 'We'll come tomorrow.' So 'e said, 'Alright.' Or Wednesday, were it?

PD Monday morning. We walked round at Sunday night.

SD An' she said she were wantin' to come. But in t'meantime between then an' ready to comin' she'd changed her mind, she didn't want to come. Oh, we

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didn't want to bother. I said, 'We promised to go an' so we'll go.' So we came across an' 'e showed us all t'buildings an' that, an' then 'e said, 'Na then, I'll show you round t'house.' An' his wife said, 'Well, prepare yourself for a shock'. That's just what she said. Can you remember? You knew his wife didn't you, May, aye?

PD Yes.

SD By God, an' it were a shock an' all. When we went in that 'ouse it were dog rough.

WRM What did you find?

PD Everything were either red powdered distemper or green powdered distemper.

WRM Red powdered distemper or green powdered distemper?

SD The big room, the biggest room of all, were red distemper.

PD It's not like what it is today, where you can wash it.

WRM Gosh. Did you have a bathroom?

SD No.

PD There were no water, never mind a bathroom.

SD There were no watter in t'house. By God, it were rough. An' at t'door

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bottoms, theear, there were rat 'oils as big as that where rats had gone to get out.

WRM *[Laughs]*

SD Can you remember it, Adrian?

AB Aye.

SD It were dog rough, wa'n't it? Upstairs ceilings, instead of being like that they were like 'ammocks.

WRM *[Laughs]*

SD They'd pinned sheets up. It's true. By God. Anyway, we looked all round an' then we came out an' I said, 'Well, I'll let you know on Wednesday.' So 'e said, 'Alright'. So we came down...

WRM Is Billy Askwith dead?

SD 'e's dead, just not so long, 'e'd be dead happen on six month. I said, 'Well, what about it?' She said, 'We'll 'ave it.' I said, 'You've changed your mind quick, 'aven't yer?' She said, 'Well, that's it.' I said, 'Well, what about that 'ouse?' She said, 'I'll look after t'house, you look after t'other'. An' that's what 'appened.

WRM You got some good buildings too, did you?

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SD By, there were all these buildings...

WRM In fact you live in the barn, don't you?

SD Oh, aye, but there were another set o' buildings on theear besides. We'd two sets of buildings, outside buildings, an' this barn. This were t'barn an' t'house theear.

WRM And this barn was a big one, wasn't it?

SD This were it, this were t'barn.

WRM Yes, with three big pillars in it?

SD Yeah, like that.

WRM Incredible... and when did you convert it?

SD We went up theear first. We made that before we sold Ponden Hall. We made that up there, an' then when that were ready to move into then we sold Ponden Hall. An' then we lived up there... well, you had a stroke didn't you. How long did we live up there before you had a stroke?

PD We lived up there four years but we lived there five years after havin' t'stroke.

SD Anyway...

WRM You were up there for about nine years?

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PD Yeah.

SD It got t'pitch when if she came downstairs in a morning she 'ad to stop down, because it were 'ard work gerrin' back up.

PD We'd a downstairs toilet an' everything.

SD And so I said, 'Well, we'll mek this into a bungalow an' let me daughter an' her 'usband go up theear.' An' so that's what we did.

WRM The point about why I'm asking this is it must have been... you mentioned that there were lovely views from every window.

SD Beautiful.

WRM Yes, how far could you see?

SD Coo, forever.

WRM Yes, but also when you get good views you get a lot of wind usually don't you?

SD Oh, you got some wind alreet.

WRM Yes, what was the weather up there like?

SD Oh it were wild, it were wild.

WRM Yes, I mean, the rain for instance?

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PD No different t'anywhere else. We'd a greenhouse up there an' we ripened every tomater every year.

WRM A greenhouse and you ripened every tomato every year.

SD Without any 'eat in it.

WRM Oh, I was hoping you were going to tell me about slates being stripped off and picked up in t'next parish.

SD No.

WRM Oh dear, that's my romantic journalistic approach, you know? *[Laughs]*

PD I liked it there.

SD She liked it up thear better than she does down 'ere, because she could see forever, you know?

WRM Yes. But I mean there were times when you were bent over in the wind weren't there up there?

SD Oh, aye, there were.

PD Well, in 1979, that was the winter when I started being out of sorts, we were blocked in and we'd to leave everything down here an' go up t'fields, there were no way...

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WRM You were blocked in, in '79?

SD But we've never 'ad as bad a winter 'ere as we 'ad at Buckley.

PD Oh, no, 1947, oh, no.

SD We'd three winters at Buckley, I said, 'If we've another we're not stoppin' any longer'.

PD That were t'first three winters of the war. We were blocked in first three winters, and then it weren't so bad. But in 1947 it started in January...

WRM Where were you then?

PD At Buckley. In 1947 the snow started; well, it were very frosty to start with, that made it worse. An' the snow started about the third week in January an' we had to dig the last drift out at Easter. It were dreadful were that.

WRM Did you lose any stock?

PD Not really, we didn't do that.

SD No, but we was nearly banked because all us cows were gild in spring when they should 'ave bin in calf, an' you know, we lost money that way. You see, we 'ad no bull at the time an' we used to get AI on the job. AI couldn't get theear, an' wouldn't get theear.

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PD No, 1947 were bad.

WRM Yeah, you mean it just kind of blew...?

PD Well, yer see, there were no mechanical diggers in those days, an' all the farmers, if they 'ad a shovel, they could go an' dig the roads out.

SD Aye, they came an' asked us to t'dig f' t' Council: we digged f' t' Council.

PD Yeah, anybody, if they went with a shovel they got set on to dig. An' they'd just dug down 'The Silent Inn', they'd just got it dug out in about four days when it'd blow back in again.

SD It piled up again.

PD Yer see there were no mechanical diggers like we 'ave now.

WRM Have you had any bad winters since you came here?

SD Not as we 'ad up theear.

PD 1979, when we were up there were bad, weren't it?

WRM 1979, yeah.

PD Yeah, that were bad.

SD But when Askwith lived 'ere, there were a bad winter; well it were t'same when we were at Buckley.

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PD That were '47.

SD He'd ninety sheep, 'e said it I don't know whether 'e 'ad or not but that's what 'e said, 'e'd ninety sheep dead all in one drift at t'wood. I don't know whether he 'ad so many or not.

WRM What is the land around Stanbury like? It seems high lying, it's pretty exposed but it's quite good land is it?

SD Oh, aye. Mind yer, it's improved sin' th'war. It's a lot better now than ever it wor when we came up at first.

WRM This is ploughing and re-seeding and... yeah.

SD Oh, aye, but t'job was mended. I mean, everything is mended these days. It's alright saying 'the good ol' days', they never want to come back, do they?

PD Oh, no.

WRM No, no. And today you've got cattle. Do you milk?

SD No.

WRM No, beef, that's right, beef. Sucklers. Yeah. What do you cross? Do you keep all kinds of sucklers?

SD Oh, aye. We've Charolais... we've how many? We've only eight all told.

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WRM Will you tell me the ones I can spell?

SD I can't spell it neither. When I went t'school we 'ad dictation of forty words and I 'ad thirty eight wrong out o' forty!

WRM *[Laughs]*

PD And how many would you 'ave today?! *[Laughs]*

SD I'd 'ave all t'lot wrong!

WRM So today you've got sucklers. What age do you sell them at?

SD We sell 'em when they get to be worth about £300.

WRM Where, through Skipton?

SD Aye, Skipton or Bingley.

WRM And then you've got sheep?

SD Aye, that's t'main job.

WRM These are mainly Swaledales now are they?

SD We got wer Swadis an' we've... I crossed me shielings. I put a North Country Cheviot onto them, then I 'adn't as much bother at lambin' time because they're nobbut little lambs, an' as soon as 'e was ready to move on they're

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ready to move on. They don't come out half dead for a start off with a big swelled 'ead, do they?

PD No.

SD Terrible. When you get Lonks, you know, they tek a bit of lambin'. Big ears.

PD Well, a Lonk tup lamb can be born with horns like that.

WRM What, Lonks?

PD Yeah, little stubbs, 'aven't they?

WRM But it was all Lonks in this area, wasn't it, when you were young?

SD Oh aye, but yer see there's Lonks now onto Dalesbred and they're onto Swaledales an' all that.

PD They're still good prices to buy Lonks, aren't they?

WRM What for crossing?

PD Yeah.

SD But it's alreet.

WRM What is it like farming up in Brontë country these days?

SD It isn't as good as it is lower down t'country, nowt like.

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WRM No, no, but you get an awful lot of people traipsing through here...

SD Oh aye, it's a lot worse now on t'moor, it's never empty. They're never empty, it's terrible. There are six paths to t'kirk. Six footpaths to t'kirk! 'As thee ever 'eard owt as daft as that?

WRM Official ones?

SD Aye. They aren't twenty five yards apart some o' them. An' there's signs up, an' if you tell 'em about it they say, 'Will you fasten your dog up, please?' and look at you as though you're barmy.

PD And signs with Japanese on as well.

WRM Yes. So you've got a lot more visitors now, and so... I mean the moor, they don't go on Stanbury Moor do they?

SD Aye.

PD Yes.

WRM Are there footpaths across there?

SD Footpaths across Stanbury Moor.

WRM I suppose a lot of these footpaths was because there were all these little smallholdings, weren't there?

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SD There were no footpaths. They've made 'em, they've given 'em 'em.

PD There were old fashioned footpaths that used to be, with proper old stiles, but now they're mekkin new ones, proper new ones.

WRM New paths?

PD New paths. We've one now, they call it 'The Brontë Way', and they've made it... and how many new stone slabs and one thing and another, it's cost the earth, hasn't it?

SD They've paved it, aye, right on past Bracewell, right onto Wycoller.

WRM Paved it?

SD Paved it!

PD Paved it. Proper paving.

SD The way yer mend roads, an' I've paid it for all these years...

AB I wrote to t'paper about that, yer know, but they never replied. Because they lifted all them flags off Penistone, all to t'Withins, didn't they?

SD Yeah.

AB And in t'*Yorkshire Post* they had a photograph of an 'elicopter an' all these flags that they were airlifitin'. And on that same front page of the *Yorkshire*

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Post that day, nurses and teachers, they were cuttin' their pay. An' they were airliftin' them flags, an' I wrote to t'paper an' they never replied, an' they never printed t'letter either. An' I thought it were a disgrace that.

PD That was at Brontë bridge, weren't it?

SD Aye, but they took all t'flags right up to Withins, right up to Withins, an' they've done it all t'way up 'ere now, on t'Brontë Way, an' they've put all pebbles down...

WRM I suppose it stops a lot of erosion, does it?

SD Pardon?

WRM You know, if people are walking on stones they're not likely to... what usually happens in our area is that they tend to walk off t'path because it gets muddy and mek another muddy path, so it can get about 50 yards wide.

SD Yeah, an' when they get a bus load in they're walkin' twenty a-breast. I was across fetchin' some sheep out o' t'Old Snap...

WRM Old Snap?

SD Old Snap Farm, that's a farm on theear, an' I looked back an' there were this 'ere party of walkers comin' on. An' they were ten a-breast.

PD Sunday morning walkers, weren't they?

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SD An' there were two in front of 'em like first, an' they said, 'Good mornin'.' I said, 'Good mornin'.' I said, 'Just look at yer.' He said, 'What's to do now?' I said, 'It's supposed to be a footpath that innit?' He said, 'Aye.' 'Well,' I said, 'Look at 'em'. I said, 'You're with 'em aren't yer?' He said, 'Oh aye, we're with 'em.' I said, 'Look at 'em. Ten a-breast.' I said, 'They've not to go there.' I said, 'In another two or three year,' I said, 'there'll be nothin' growin' there.' An' there won't, will there?

WRM No.

SD Just trodden down. 'Eughh,' he said, 'Bloody ol' farmer, your allus grumblin'.'

WRM Do you get a lot of low flying aircraft as well?

SD Oh, aye, I'm frightened to death. *[Laughs]*

PD Oh, sometimes...

WRM Do they disturb the sheep, or have they got used to it?

SD No, they get used to it.

WRM Does everything get used to it?

SD Everythin' gets used to it, bar us.

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WRM Yeah.

SD It shaks the ol' 'ouse though, an' she thinks that they're goin' to drop on us at any minute. *[Laughs]*

PD Oh, sometimes, I mean they've gone before...

WRM Are there many grouse up there?

SD Aye, a lot of grouse, aye.

WRM So it's not a bad moor?

SD No, it's a good moor.

WRM Do they swidden it, you know, burn it?

SD Burn it? Oh, aye. They've two keepers full time.

WRM And you keep your sheep up there do you?

SD Yeah.

WRM And do they benefit from that? In winter I suppose particularly they will.

SD They benefit from t'burnin' an' all, cheap benefit. They'll follow t'burnin', won't they Adrian?

WRM Aye. They go after the new shoots do they?

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SD Aye.

WRM So generally speaking then you started off at a little farm when things cost next to nowt, and it didn't matter whether you had owt really because there wasn't much to spend it on, and now you're at a farm, how many years later here? You started when? When did you take up farming then? What year was it?

SD I started at t'beginnin' o' t'war. Just before t'war started.

PD When we got married.

SD I got married when I were twenty six, an' I'm eighty one now.

WRM *[Laughs]* And you still haven't made your fortune then?

SD Oh, aye. No, I'm strugglin' yet. *[Laughs]*

PD We've never 'ad a lot of money to throw about.

WRM No.

PD An' what they do nowadays you can't do it. We can't do it. No, we've never done it, you know? All these young ones that can spend fivers...

WRM But anyway, you've got a good, big farm now, haven't you?

SD I'm alreet, aye.

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WRM You look after it, yeah.

SD Yer see I'm too old now to look after it, but I'm not grumblin' because I've done alright, I've done alright. I've no need to... don't get me wrong, I've no need to work, I've no need to keep sheep.

WRM What have you been doing tonight, fencing?

SD Aye, but it's only because... I'll tell yer now, if it hadn't 'ave bin for them up theear we wouldn't 'ave bin 'ere, because they don't want us to sell it because they want to come on it when we're finished. She's forever sayin', 'Let's get off, sell it, let's be goin'.'

WRM Anyway, better not open any old wounds 'ad we? Lovely.

SD Yer see, these young uns they'll...

WRM By the way, I'll send you a copy of this before I publish it so that you can have a look.

PD If you publish that...!

WRM No, you can have a look through it and cross out anything you don't like, alright? Is that fair do?

SD Yeah.

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WRM Yeah?

SD I've liked livin' at Ponden Hall, tho'. It's bin alright.

WRM No, actually what I thought of doing this time was just to [write about farming] round Haworth, because for a lot of people Haworth to them is just the Brontës and they haven't a clue what the farmer does. I mean it's pretty obvious from your hikers that they've no idea what the land is used for or anything else.

SD No, but yer see, it's no use talkin' about what Haworth does, because Haworth is a lot better than Stanbury. It's Stanbury yer want to talk about. They're a menace is walkers up 'ere. Yer can go up theear, an' yer put all your sheep back on t'moor, yer know? An' yer can go up and they've left gate open, t'moor gate. All yer fields is full o' sheep mornin' after, and they reckon to be lookin' after things, don't they? Pennine walkers, I'll tell ye now, Pennine walkers is not bad.

AB No, they respect it, don't they?

SD That's right.

AB Where's all t'six footpaths then up t'kirk?

SD There's one goes through Far Slack, all on that top; there's one goes up t'fell, Heights, all on that top right t'kirk; one below it that goes through Higher Slack, one through Lower Slack up through... d'yer knows that narrer field of

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‘orrockses?

AB Aye.

SD Big ladder, both sides of what d’they call it to go up theear; one up ‘ere; one from Ol’ Snap; one from Whitstones, one from Ol’ Snap, an’ they all go o’er and when they get to Higher Ponden they go up that wall side right on t’top, tha knows what I mean? T’other ones come round and goes up where you walk. *[Pause]*

WRM So when you’re talking about Haworth moors, you’re not talking about Haworth moors at all, are you?

SD Well, they aren’t Haworth moors, they’re Stanbury moors are ours.

WRM Yes, the ones where all the Brontë interest is. Where is the famous little farm, what do they call it?

SD Withins.

WRM Withins, is that on Stanbury?

SD Aye, it’s on Stanbury, it in’t on Haworth moor that.

WRM Which is Haworth moor, that’s the lower one is it?

SD T’other side o’ t’beck, that’s Haworth moor; up watterfalls on yer left. When

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yer go up t' watterfalls the moor on yer left is Haworth moor an' on yer right is Stanbury moor.

AB No, it isn't... oh, aye, up watterfalls, yes, aye, that's right.

WRM So really, when people talk about the Haworth moors they're not the Haworth moors, they're the Stanbury moors: when they talk about High Withins and all that sort of thing.

SD That's right. It's on Stanbury moor really.

AB Aye, but t' footpath will go off Haworth moor onto Stanbury moor.

SD That's right. Footpath comes off Haworth moor onto Stanbury moor to go to Withins.

PD Top Withins.

WRM Top Withins, yes.

SD An' I can tell, and Adrian's father can tell, at Top Withins they 'ad a beautiful roof, top an' everything, an' 'ikers...

AB I can remember it 'avin' a roof on.

SD Beautiful roof it was, no coddin' about it, it was a beautiful roof. There's nothin' now. Folk 'ave gone up tekin bits, tekin bits, tekin bits and they've

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just ruined it.

WRM Why have they taken bits?

SD Souvenirs.

WRM And of course the Pennine Way comes along the top there doesn't it too?

SD Yes, it comes ovver t'top past Withins, but we've bin up theear me an' Adrian's father 'ave been up theear shep'erdin' an' all that, an' we've seen 'em on top o' t'roof chuckin' stuff off. An' we said, 'Eh, what yer doin'?' 'Eughh....' What can yer do wi' them?

WRM Actually, when yer up there you're mobbed by sheep aren't you, at Top Withins?

SD Well yer aren't mobbed, there's a few about, an' we'd rather they didn't because it's only wi' these folk feedin' 'em, an' they never done owt.

WRM That's right. No, that was the point I was making. Because they give 'em sandwiches and things, don't they?

SD That's right. An' they'll stand there waitin' for somebody to come if it'd tek 'em two days before they'll go fend.

AB It's an offence in Cornwall to feed them ponies, yer know?

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SD Yeah.

AB They've a sign up.

WRM And it doesn't do them any good at all, does it?

SD No, it dun't. Because they're pinin' away, waitin' on somebody to come an' give 'em a bit. They daren't go away because they'll miss summat, yer see.

WRM No, that's why I mentioned it. I mean because if you mention it, some people might not feed them in future. And what sort of grub have they got up on the moor? They've got the heather shoots and what not?

SD On Stanbury moor, there's a bit of everythin' on it. It's a right good moor is Stanbury moor.

WRM Is it? What, bilberry?

SD Bilberry, heather, ling, white bent, the lot.

WRM Did you hear what Wainwright said about fell walking on moors?

SD No.

WRM He says he first thing a walker has got to know about is the difference between bilberries and fresh sheep droppings! *[Laughs]*

SD *[Laughs]* Well, they're a bit thick if they don't, aren't they? But when yer get

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up theear, by gum. Yer know, I've right enjoyed bein' up theear.

WRM Yes, what is it about it you enjoy?

SD Everything. You can't stand up at top o' t'kirk, or at Withins, an' yer can see for miles an' miles, can't yer? In fact, when you get to what-they-call-it, so they tell me, I've never seen it missel'... but they tell me yer can see Blackpool Tower. But I've never seen it, 'ave you?

AB No, I 'aven't, but I don't know whether me father 'as, I think me father might 'ave.

SD When yer get to t'stones up yonder, they tell me, but I've never seen it yet an' I've looked and looked but I couldn't see it.

WRM So basically, up on the moors then you've got heather, white bent...?

SD Ling, aye, white bent, all manner o' stuff. I don't know what they call it really but there's a variation, an' that's what yer need on a reet good moor.

WRM And the farmer wants to see sheep well spread out, does he?

SD Yeah.

WRM And so if you do get a cluster at High Withins, or Top Withins, it's not a good thing at all?

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SD No, but there in't as many as folk meks it appear. There might be fowa or five, that's all. But there in't a flock gathers round Higher Withins.

WRM And do the farmers cooperate to gather the sheep?

SD No, they all gather their own.

WRM They do? Yeah, where do you bring...?

SD I bring mine 'ome, they tek [theirs]. An' you can go up to Withins now and officially all of Withins belongs to me. But Harkers' is on it, yer know there's nothin' to stop 'em fra comin' on, there's only a beck between Haworth moor and Withins. They come on. But if everybody does all, yer know, if they're right in their 'ead yer can manage, but they get to t'pitch when some folk gets a bit geared up an' they get too many on, yer know?

WRM But generally speaking it's not so bad?

SD Not too bad at all.

WRM What other beasts do you get up there? Foxes?

SD Aye, foxes. You get stoats. You get a few, whatdtheycallits now, mink an' all.

WRM What, upon the moor? Yeah, oh, they follow the becks up, do they?

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SD Yer see, there used to be... when we sold Buckley, a woman who bought Buckley off us she made it into a mink farm, an' there were a lot escaped from theear.

WRM And they breed out in the wild, do they? Do you get as many curlews and lapwings as you did?

SD No, very little now.

WRM Yeah.

SD It used to be you'd 'ear curlews, yer know, on a night. Very few.

WRM And the grouse though, they're as common as they were?

SD Yer can 'ear them talkin' away, aye.

WRM Yeah, it's a lovely sound.

SD It's two year sin, we brok record two year since up 'ere, yer know?

WRM How many?

SD I don' know, I've forgotten.

WRM But it's a good moor still, because a lot of moors are going down, aren't they?

SD Yeah, but last year we 'ad a poor do.

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WRM Do you like grouse?

SD I do, aye. A lot o' folk don' like 'em, they say they're a bit liny, you know but ah like 'em.

WRM How do you like them cooked?

SD Roasted.

WRM How many grouse do you have to get to make a decent meal?

SD Well. *[Pause]* The cheapest are on shootin' days, yer know, when they allus call in with some. I never go shootin' or owt like, but they call in and bring us a brace o' grouse, that's all I'm bothered about.

WRM Do you get any black game about at all?

SD No.

WRM Did there used to be?

SD No, never up 'ere.

WRM Because they've gone down all over.

SD I'll tell yer what we've got, we've got a pheasant or two comin'. And we've about seven or eight... what i' the world do thee call them, Adrian, less than a pheasant?

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Adrian Partridge?

SD Partridge, aye, we've seven or eight partridge about now.

WRM Ee well, thanks very much, lovely. So you've got some partridge as well, have you?

SD About seven, seven or eight.

Adrian No little ducks about this time, are there?

SD No, I haven't seen any.

WRM Do you get teal and things nesting up on the moor at all?

SD No, we get a few mallard. They don't nest up on t'moor, they're down in th' fields and up at wood an' that like, yer know? But we get a hell of a lot o' them Janada geese, by they're a menace them.

WRM Do they nest on the moors?

SD Aye, they're terrible them. Ninety at once.

WRM On the reservoir?

SD No, on yer fields! Just eatin' away, eatin' away.

WRM Where do they come from, do they roost on the reservoir?

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SD Oh aye, they go on t'reservoir at night an' all that, but durin' day I keep givin' them a blast, I'm sick on 'em. Thee father, ah'll bet he's sick on 'em an' all.

AB Aye.

WRM What they spread out over the area do they?

SD Aye, they can come sixty or seventy at once an' they'll settle in this field an' go on theear 'til someone'll throw a stone on or summat, then they go up an' they go in t'somebody else's. Ninety at once: yer can't stand that tha knows.

WRM Don't people shoot them?

SD Well, I do, aye.

WRM But you're legally entitled to, aren't you, because they're not preserved are they?

SD Aye, but a lot o' folk grumbles and growls if yer do, yer know, only because a lot of folk likes 'em don't they? These that don't farm, they like 'em.

WRM Have you tasted a Canada goose?

SD Aye they're terrible.

WRM Are they? *[Laughs]*

SD Bitter as gall.

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WRM You didn't hit an old one, did you, by mistake? *[Laughs]*

SD I don't know, I shot five wi' one barrel one night. *[Laughs]* Lined 'em up: bang, five o' them. By, they're as 'eavy as lead. Right dark meat, an' bitter. I've never ad one since, ah don't want to.

WRM They're not very tasty then?

SD Oh, they're terrible. If I shoot one I'll let yer know an' yer can come forrit.

WRM With domestic geese you always had to feed them a bit of corn, hadn't you, towards the end? Green geese aren't much good are they?

SD Who has to feed geese, 'as to feed 'em ol' oats last thing at night.

WRM Ol' what?

SD Ol' oats.

WRM Yes, and do you keep geese?

SD No, ah've jus' given two away, am fed up on 'em.

WRM Why was that? *[Laughs]*

SD Mekin a mess all o'er t' garden, mekin it on t' flags, an' she said, 'I'm sick o' them geese', I said, 'I am an' all', so...

WRM Have you kept geese for a long time?

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SD Aye, we've allus had geese knockin' about. But Garnett Leach, when ah were a lad at Cullingworth, they used to keep a lot of geese an' he used to feed 'em, an' they were, bye, they were fed real, an' he always told me, 'Ol' oats, the last thing at night to go to bed on'.

WRM That flavours them up does it?

SD They didn't walk it off, it were night time wa'n't it; yer see, they were fed at night an' that's how they went on, an' by God they were beautiful geese when they were killed at Christmas.

WRM Ee, well thanks very much, lovely.

AB It would keep 'em white wi' oats too, wouldn't it?

SD Aye, but they were 'finished' an' all, Adrian, yer know, bloom on 'em, they were like a grape when yer finished 'em.

WRM Well, it'll be nice just to have a little article on a bit of Haworth.

[End of interview - 00:59:47]