



The End of the Shift An Oral History Project by Grace Notes Scotland

Date: 14 October 2011
Informant (s): Julie Colville, her sister Isa (née Philp) & grand-niece Elizabeth
JohnsonFieldworker: Margaret Bennett (MB) & GMazzei(camera)
Subject: Mining in Fife
Place of Origin: Marshall Place, Milnathort, Fife

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Track 1

Intro, date,

Track 2

Permission to record

Track 3

EARLY LIFE

MB: Have I got this right now? - Julie and Isa are sisters; so were you the big sister?

Isa (laughing) - I'm the youngest. (age 93)

Julie - She's younger.

MB: Yes, it's hard to believe you're 100. You must have been born in –

Julie C: 1910.

MB: Fantastic! Well there's not many folk around who saw the first decade of the twentieth century now. And in your day; well things have changed for both of you. Where were you born, Julie?

Julie: Lochore, in Fife.

MB: Oh yes, Was it a mining, very much a mining -

Julie: mining village, yes, but they didnae stay long, then they came to Kinross and I was brought up in Kinross. We were all brought up there.

MB: And Isa, were you born in Lochore as well?

Isa: No, I was born in Kinross.

MB: So were the family miners when they lived there before that?

Julie C: I think at first Dad was on a farm, before, and then he went to the mines.

Isa: He had to cycle frae Kinross to Kelty They had to work doon the pit in the water and everything and in the wintertime all you could do was go on a bike. And their clothes was frozen on them by the time they got up to Kinross. And then they were ready for the next - by the time they got their clothes dried and that, it was time for the next shift. And my mother had - I had six sisters and four brothers, and she had a man on the day shift, the back shift - her sons - one was on the day shift, one was on the back shift and one was on the night shift.

MB: They had hard lives but so did she!

Isa: She was up at 4 o'clock in the morning, and the boiler in the wash hoose got filled wi' water the night before and she was roon at 4, - by the time she got

they oot on the day shift, she was roon kindling the fire so that by the time she got us ready for the school her water was ready for starting the washing. And she was in the washing tub frae we went to the school till we come back frae it.

THE CABBIE

MB: Did they say why they left Lochore?

Julie: I dinnae think they liked it.

MB: And if your dad had been on a farm before that, that would be a big change.

What was your dad's name?

Julie: James Philp.

MB: And what was your mum's maiden name?

Julie: Bess

MB: And were they both from Fife?

Julie: No, Dad - well the family; the Granny and the Grandfather was in Dunfermline. He was a cabbie

Isa: Ye ken; the horse and the carriage. He had one o' these square hats.

Julie: They cried them "cabbies"

MB: Gosh! Can you remember those cabbies?

J and Isa: Aye, oh aye!

MB: So was it one or two horses with the carriage?

Julie: One, the one.

MB: They were very smart, weren't they?

Isa: That was instead o' a taxi.

MB: Yes, and did he have to dress in this special?---

Julie: Well yes.

Isa: A square hat on, ye ken.

MB: Yes, like a top hat.

Isa: and a swallow tail coat.

MB: And a swallow tail coat as well. Was it black?

Isa: Aye!

MB: And can you remember the horse?

Julie: No, oh no.

Isa: We stayed in Kinross and I mean, to go to Dunfermline it cost a lot of money.

Your mother couldnae take you there.

MB: So he was working as a cabbie first of all. He must have been good with horses, though? And did he give that up to -

Julie: I think he retired after that, my Grandfather.

Isa: My Grandad came up to Kinross to stay. We had the wee hoose next door to us at Sandport - we got Mrs Webster's, the wee hoose, and then they had one up the Avenue Mind, up the Avenue?

Julie: Yes, and they had one in the Causeway Court.

Isa: Aye, just when Granny was hersel', and then she went and stayed with Elizabeth's Gran. She stayed doon the Causeway in a single end by hersel'. we had to go and do her work and go her messages. Then Mary took her. She died at Mary's.

MB: So you all helped your Granny when you were youngsters. She was well off with her grandchildren..

FAMILY LIFE

MB: Now to get back to your own family - I know they all call you Aunt Julie and Aunt Isa, but who of the brothers and sisters, who was the oldest in your family?

Julie: Mary.

Isa: Elizabeth's Gran.

Elizabeth J: My mother was Bessie, Elizabeth, called Bessie.

MB: So going into your family then, from the oldest to the youngest, we should name them all. The first one was Mary -

Julie: Mary, Robert, James, Inie, me

MB: You were 1910, yes, then?

Julie: Then Chrissie, Sarah, Isa, George and Alex.

MB: Isa, you were born in -

Isa: 1918.

MB: Just at the end of the War. You must have been the celebration! And the two after that; when were they born, Alex and George?

Elizabeth J: Well Alex is ages with my mother who's just turned 90 and he lives in Kendall. He'll just be turning 90. Julie was a twin.

MB: Oh you were a twin! Which one was your twin?

Julie: Janet, she died.

MB: Oh did she, how long did she live?

Julie: Oh I dinnae think she lived long. I'm the weakling but I survived.

MB: Well apparently you were the strong one.

Isa: She [Julie] survived to 100!

MB: Do you have a secret for that long life?

Julie: Well I don't know; I'd say hard work, work.

MB: Yes, and good living?

Julie: Yes, oh yes.

Isa: Generous nature.

MB: Do you think laughter has a part to play?

Julie: Oh well, I enjoy a laugh, yes, and I've had many friends but they're all away now.

MB: That's hard, isn't it? So going back to when you were this big big family and you moved then from Lochore to Kelty, were you all at home at the one time?

Julie: Oh no, oh no!- Mary and Robert and James -James went into the Canadian Army and came over here.

Isa: He went when you got for £10 - the 1926 strike; he wouldnae go and sign on the Dole, so he had nae money so he got £10 and he went to Canada.

MB: In the General Strike - that man had initiative.

Elizabeth J: There's still descendants out there.

MB: How interesting, isn't it? He was determined to make a go of it himself.

Isa: Uhuh! And he was there and then he joined the Army. He was in the Royal Engineers and he came and stayed with us. He come to this country for days every year and he came to my mother's for his leave.

MB: So this was your Canadian brother in a way. And he never came back again to stay?

Isa: Just to see us.

Julie: Charlie and I went twice to Canada - '71 and '72 when we retired.

MB: Did you really! And where was he living, which part of Canada?

Julie: Toronto.

MB: That's a big city. You must have loved it.

Julie: Oh I enjoyed the holiday, oh yes, - too warm though.

MB: In the summer, I think it is, I'd agree. Did he take you to see the Niagara Falls?

Julie: Yes, we visited a lot of places.

THE WAR YEARS

MB: Now, can I ask, where was your husband born?

Julie: Milnathort.

MB: Was it him that lured you to Milnathort?

Julie: Oh, Ina, one of my sisters stayed in Milnathort and often I had to go up to Milnathort to Ina's. They had Clubs you know, - you paid so much a week and you got things.

MB: You know, you were so well organized and you knew how to look after every penny and you made it work. You appreciated things, you valued things. You had to.

Back to when - You were married in the July and then the War broke out in September and things changed. You were saying about evacuees - What happened then?

Julie: Oh well, I had a wee boy for a while, and I had a wee girl and everybody - I mean, when we visited they were treated as our family. But I had to get an operation in Edinburgh in 1941 or 42 and I had to put the evacuees away. Then I was called to the "Buroo" or whatever you cried it, and was told I would hae to go oot and work.

Isa: Aye, you see, you would have to register.

MB: Even after your operation?

Isa: Oh Aye! Everybody had to work.

Julie: I took in lodgers; Polish, Air Force men and did for them.

MB: And did your husband's job change during the War?

Julie: Well he had to go oot to the farms. He was told to go to certain farms. He was at Forrester's.

MB: That was a big change then, from the roads to the farm. Did he enjoy it?

Julie: Oh Yes! He enjoyed it, The Forresters had two daughters. They were young. they would gie him his tea. It would be after tea time when he would come home. He would get his meals there.

MB: Did he get to bring home milk for you?

Julie: Butter!

MB: Butter! Oh that was good because that was rationed, wasn't it – because you had rationing.

Julie: Oh they were good, the Forresters. I had a lot of friends that used to come, - every week like, we would go to them and then they would come to us.

Elizabeth J: They'd great card games, they were great card players.

Julie: Whist.

MB: Was Whist the favourite game, and would you have a cup of tea with it?

Julie: Oh yes, at half time.

Elizabeth J: Remember the jar of pennies? We used to play a game called "Double Pack"?

Julie: I know, there were four cards anyway, and you put a penny or tuppence or whatever; and if that card, and you had it and it came up you got the money.

Elizabeth J: I remember this big jar of pennies.

MB: That would be exciting though, and people would be light hearted 'cos during the War you must have seen some difficult times as well though, and sad times too; folk not coming back. Did all your family remain safe?

Julie: As far as I know. Well my Uncle Geordie, he was in Lanark. He lost his arm.

MB: What happened to him? Was he in the Army? That was your uncles, and that was in the First World War?

MB: Did you hear how your uncle lost his arm?

Julie & Isa: No, no.

MB: They didn't talk about it in those days, did they?

Isa: When my mother died, she had four sons and and there were three walking at the back frae Ross Street right up the main road to the cemetery and they were all in uniform except one and he was working at Rosyth salvaging the boats that were sunk. Him and my dad had to go and salvage these boats

from Rosyth dockyard. They were on this boat and my husband was home on leave and my mother had got this telegram to say that my dad - you know, on a boat, they big ships, they had ropes and they were made with wire twisted wire; well one of them had loosened and went on his leg. And he was in this hospital in Oban and my husband had come home that day for his leave and we had got this telegram and we didnae know how we were goin' to get to Oban, because it was oot o' the question trying to get to Oban. So my husband went because with him having his uniform, the Air Force, -he knew the Air Force could put him up at Oban and he could get travelling on the train. So he went and seen that my dad was all right and made arrangements to bring him home.,

Elizabeth J: Why Oban?

Isa: Because that's where his boat was.

MB: You mentioned when your mum died; did she die during the War. What year was that?

Isa: She died in 1945, I think it was, just after the War.

MB: You said, when she died the boys were in uniform, they would be carrying the coffin?

Isa: No, they didnae carry the coffin, they walked behind it. Everybody walked at that time.

MB: Was it a motor hearse? They didn't have horses?

Isa: She was 65. My dad was 97 when he died. He would have liked to have been 100 though. He always thought he was 100!

Elizabeth J: He was still on the boats- he was still on the loch in his 80's, wasn't he? He was a boatman when he retired.

Julie: After he wasnae able for the mines

FIRST JOBS & WEDDINGS

MB: So going back before the General Strike – you were 16 when the General Strike began, so you'd left school by that time.

Julie: I was in the factory in Kinross - Dunfermline, Cunningham's

MB: Now tell me about the factory. What kind of a factory was it?

Julie: Oh well, towels and bath towels, tea cloths, lovely tea cloths.

MB: Were they linen?

Isa: Yes.

MB: Were you in the factory as well?

Isa: Yes I was.

MB: Really, how old were you when you left school

Isa: I was fifteen - fourteen

MB: Fourteen - (to Julie) Were you fourteen when you left school?

Julie: Yes I was fourteen.

MB: So you were grown up by 14 in those days, out earning a living.

Isa: When you were going to be 14 and leave the school at the holidays, you had to have a job ready for the Monday; leave the school on the Friday and start work on the Monday. It's not like that now!

Then during the War,- I mean, I worked in the factory right up till I got married in 1940 and he had to register for Service on the Saturday morning. We got married on the Friday and he had to register on the Saturday and he volunteered for the Air Force and he went to the Air Force the year after we were married. Then I got word that I had to go and work and I was put to the Co-operative bakehouse 'cos the men were all getting taken away and I had to start at 2 o'clock in the morning to bake the bread and the rolls and I got fed up with that because I was in my bed when everybody else was going about. So we knew the manager of the factory so I says to my mother, "Tell her that I would like a job." So I got a job in the factory. So I went to the factory. It was a Dunfermline firm that had it but the factory was in Kinross

MB: Was it both cotton and linen, or was it?-

Julie: Linen and silk; there were silk tea cloths. When I got married; I was married on the 21st July 1939 and the War started the 3rd September. I had evacuees, I had lodgers, I went out to work- I went back to the factory.

MB: You were married in July 1939, Did the nation feel there was a war on the horizon? Was there a bit of unrest?

Julie: Oh yes, there were.

MB: Yes, and what did your husband do?

Julie: He was on the roads, he worked for the Council- tarring

MB: Well that's always needed, isn't it?

Julie: Well it's no' the same now - patches, patches!

WEDDINGS DURING THE WAR

MB: Can you tell us a wee bit about your wedding?

Julie: Oh well, the wedding was just - went to the Church and got married.

MB: What were you wearing?

Julie: I had a kind o' blue frock. And we went into the Church and got married and we went to Forres for our honeymoon. Charlie had a sister stayed in Forres and during the war we went up on holidays and that.

MB: How did you travel to Forres? Did you go on the train?

Julie: The train to start with but then we got a car

MB: A car met you, very nice, that was stylish! At the wedding- after the Church did you have a reception in the hall,- the family?

Julie: No, just in the house.

Isa: My mother had seven daughters, I mean I was the youngest and by that time they had a wee bit mair money and we wanted to do a big wedding for me but NO! because I was to be the same as the rest.

MB: And do you remember Julie's wedding?

Isa: Well it was a case of the bride and the bridegroom and the best man and the best maid and that was it. Some of them went to the Manse and the Minister just married them and that was it. They come back and they were ready to hae a cup o' tea, and that was it.

MB: My Mum was married in my Granny's house, yes, and just wearing a nice dress. And that's what they did. And did you get presents? Do you remember getting presents?

Julie: Oh yes!

Isa: Oh yes. I always remember I got a bread box. - I mean we used to think, the least wee thing from a friend was - it was - and on the bottom was 4s 11d. Four shillings and eleven pence. I always remember that, a bread box.

MB: But you know, 5 shillings, in 1940 that was a lot of money. (to Julie) Can you remember what you got?

Julie: Well I think we only didnae get a fish knife. We got oh, lots of presents.

MB: And was it friends, family?

Isa: Oh you got everything; everybody that kent ye. You had a night then, come to see your presents.

MB: You called it a Show of Presents.

Isa: They dinnae do that noo. You've to gie them £50 or a present. And they dinnae even say thanks!

MB: Now they're wanting washing machines. But isn't it true that you were more pleased with that bread-box than folk would be with –

Isa: Aye, I always remember that bread box; 4s 11d.

MB: And did you have a cake for your wedding?

Julie: No, I don't think so, just a cup o' tea.

MB: And somebody did a wee baking? But you had a honeymoon, that's nice.

Julie: Yes, we went to Kinross station and got in the train and went to Forres.

Elizabeth J: There was a train station in Kinross at that time.

MB: Yes of course that's before Mr Beeching took the trains away.

DOWN THE PIT & RATIONING

MB: So getting back to when he was in the mines, well your mum and all these shifts she had; - it must have had a huge impact on every household really.

Isa: Oh well, I was at the school at that time and they used to come home wi' the clothes they worked doon the pit wi' and they were soaking wet and the coal dust stuck on them. And they had to take them **oot and ...them** on the wall for to get it to drip off them. And she washed the dirty clothes every day.

MB: So they couldn't put on yesterday's clothes, they'd be so dirty?

Isa: Oh no! Well trousers and the jacket they wore all the time - but underwear - Even when my husband was in the pit he used to take a couple o' vests wi' him so that he could take a vest off when it was wet and put a dry one on.

MB: Because of the conditions underground.

Isa: The heat - The roof fell on my husband. He was in Bridge of Earn hospital. He got his spine fractured.

MB: Oh my word! What pit had he been in?

Isa: Aitken, in Kelty, near Kelty.

MB: Did he actually go down the pit after he was demobbed, after the War?

Isa: Well he was in the pit first. He was in Alloa working before I met him. Then he joined up. Then when he come back he had his papers for being in the Air Force and he was goin' to get a job at Rosyth but they were taking that long for to get it passed through - but we were needin' the money for to keep oursel', ye ken. I got 7s a week the time he was away. That was what I got to live on. That's why I had to go and work. So he went back to the pit and he was only back very shortly when - the 7th o' May 1947, when the roof fell in and he was in hospital, he was in a plaster cast fae his neck - he couldnae sit down. He had to go doon on his knees. (laughing) I mind we were at Ina's and he was on his knees at the back o' the table and this man come in and he thought he had nae legs!

MB: Now, when he was injured were there other miners injured at the same time?

Isa: No, he told **the ... three** times that that roof wasnae safe. He went in three times but the fourth time he got caught.

MB: After your husband got out of hospital did he ever go back down the pit again, or was that the end of it?

Isa: He went to Cupar. My brother [Alex] had the Cupar Arms in Cupar. He come out the Air Force. He was trained as a pilot; he went to Canada and did his training - that was the youngest- Alex. He was in the grocer's shop in Kinross, the Co-operative - But he joined the Air Force and he was goin' to be a pilot, so he got sent to Canada and he did his training oot in Canada but by the time he got back the War was finished so he didn't need to fly, you see.

And then the next one, George, the older one, he was in the Navy- the Merchant Navy.

MB: Just during the War? That was dangerous as well, because there was all these mines and everything.

Isa: But then Alex, the youngest one, bought the Cupar Arms and he was needing somebody - I was staying in Milnathort at that time- Willie was working in the pit. He was back working in the pit.

MB: After his injury? Oh my! I suppose he had no choice.

Isa: Because he had broken service we didnae get nothing. He got £200 for getting his back fractured, for being off his work for a year. And we got £2 a week to live on and I had to go to Kelty to get it and pay my bus fare to Kelty to get my £2.

MB: And you still had rationing, how did rationing affect you?

Julie: Not me

MB: How did you escape when everybody else had - apart from, you got the butter from the farm and what about the other things rationing?

Julie: Oh everything was rationed; sugar, meat - oh I got plenty meat.

MB: You did? How did you manage that?

Julie: Well, I knew the butcher. (general laughter) I had an Air Force boy staying. He did private flying. He took somebody to a certain place and he come and stayed wi' me and his wife wondered how I got so much meat and that. She came to Milnathort but she stayed in the Royal [hotel]. I had a lot o' nice lodgers.

MB: So the butcher knew you well.

Julie: Oh yes, well I gave him my [ration] books and he gave me the meat that I needed.

Isa: You would get an allowance, wouldn't you, for meat and such?

Well I mind when I was in Cupar the butcher used to come into the pub, - Well you just tellt him what you wanted. I used to take it down to Kelty.

MB: (laughing) Did it come out from under the counter? Did people in those days do anything like snaring rabbits? Did the men or the young ones do anything like that?

Isa: No no, we didn't do that. My Dad had a pig. We had a big field just across from Sandport, you went through this gate and it was right doon to the very bottom, and at the bottom was the pig sty. And there was so many pigs. And at the 1926 Strike he got a pig killed and cured wi' Cunningham's in Milnathort and we got pork chops and trotters and this and we kept everybody - A' the neighbours going wi' bacon and such.

MB: And was he the only one who kept pigs?

Isa: Aye, Aye, my Grandfather com fae Dunfermline efter he retired. He wanted to come up beside us, you see, so as he would be near my Dad.

Julie: He was in a wheelchair for a long time.

Isa: Aye it was a basket yin , and it had a wee wheel at the front. He stayed up the Avenue and he used to come doon to Sandport so as he would get doom the field.

MB: In this chair of his; could he go it himself?

Isa: Aye, he could go in it - that would be the '20's.

MB: Isa, to get back to the pig - Did he rent or lease - who owned the field? How did he manage to get a hold of the field when he moved over there?

Isa: Oh he must have got the lease of that,- oh, he planted rows and rows o' tatties. We'd to pick the tatties, and the vegetables you could use and at the very bottom was the pigs.

MB: So the pigs didn't get out to get at the vegetables, no. He didn't have to share this field then?

Isa: No, no, we paid for that.

MB: Oh that was really worth it. I don't suppose anyone remembers how much it was, but it was a very good idea. I think we might go back to that – renting fields to grow tatties.

Isa: Well, if you went roon' aboot that way you could go - the drying green

Julie: It's changed now.

Isa: It's aw hooses doon there. We used to come in at the gate at the back, - right doon at the back – right doon at the drying green, we could get in at the back and we were doon at the pig stys.

MB: So the drying green was in the same field?

Julie: The drying green went along with the rented field.

MB: Your mum would have to carry out the washing?

Isa: the washin' hoose was at the side of the hoose, and you just went oot the back.

Track 5

SOCIAL LIFE

Isa: And what they've got now - I mean we were happy, just in oor teens, - We walked frae Kinross to Milnathort [a mile and a half] for a shilling dance, and walked home at 2 o'clock in the morning; - a hale string o' ye singing the way, and ye enjoyed yersel'.

Julie: They're not pleased with what they have; they're always needing more.

MB: Now was it a Friday night, the dance? And who played the music for the dance?

Isa: Oh anybody.

Julie: An accordion or a fiddle or -

MB: And what was your favourite dance?

Isa: I used to go to the dances. Anything would do me - Scottish dancing.-

During the War we had Voluntary Service, Women's Voluntary Service and I was in that. After you came hame from your work you got your dinner and you'd to go away, you'd to serve in the canteen. The Churches took ower the canteens and you were serving men and women.

MB: The ones in the Forces?

WARTIME CAMPS & HOME GUARD

Isa: We had a camp - two camps, one at Balado [Bridge] and one at Kirkhill, for the soldiers. They used to come into Kinross at night, you see, maybe for a dance or or for a drink or something like that. And they would come into the canteen to pass the time.

MB: They said there was a good atmosphere; everybody wanted to help and the people were friendly. It seems there were a lot of soldiers stationed around here. Do you know why they stationed them here?

Isa: Aye, they had the big camp out there. You see, before the War it was the Territorial camp, and you see, these men went into the Territorial and they had a camp and they come there in the summer time for a holiday. - they'd do training or whatever. And then they had the Home Guard.

Julie: Oh yes! We were stopped by the Home Guard; we went out to Lizzie Calder's at Galahill and they shouted, "Who goes there?"

MB: Did they have a uniform, the Home Guard?

Julie: No no, - a badge and a strip on the arm.

MB: But they were local people?

Isa: Aye, they had to volunteer and they went out so many nights. Well I had to work and they sent me to Dunfermline factory to work. So I had to go away to Dunfermline to work and they were wanting me to do fire watching at night. And I says I wasnae goin' to stay in Dunfermline night, watching for a fire.

MB: How did you travel back and forth to Dunfermline; - was it by bus? That's a lot every day. That's not when you were in the bakery, is it?

Isa: No, well I was in the bakery for so long, and then I got fed up with the bakery but I had to have another job before I could leave the bakery,

MILLS, FACTORIES

Isa: I got back to the factory. You see, we were making tents - I was on the weaving, Julie was on -

Julie: The warping and the dressers - in the linen factory.

MB: You were warping; Oh my, that's very skilled. Was all the warping done by hand.

Isa: They had a machine for it but everything, I mean, it come from scratch.

MB: Yes, so before the War you were making tablecloths and towels and tea towels and everything, and you said, during the War you were making tents.

Isa: You see, they had so many looms- so many for bath towels, so many for tablecloths, dish towels. Then there was so many machines for canvas; canvas to make tents for the Forces abroad.

MB: Yes, and there would be kit bags and everything else coming out of the canvas. So when the canvas was made was that sent somewhere else then, to a tent factory or a -?

Isa: Oh well, it would go in rolls.

MB: And that would be sent to another factory?

Isa: That was the tents, but the towels and everything were done at Kinross.

Julie: I've some of the towels yet.

MB: Do you really, ones that you made yourself?

Julie: No, I didnae make them. I started the work

MB: You were warping?

Julie: Aye, and then I helped the dressers. I drew reeds and then and put the threads through and they put it on to the dressers, and then it went frae the dressers to the looms.

Isa: And I worked on the looms, going back and forward, big trolleys going back and forward. I made the dish towels and tablecloths and it was for a P & O liner.

MB: And did they have the letters all up the middle?

Isa: Thistles.

MB: Did you have to do a setting on the loom to do that?

Isa: Well you had cards up, cards made certain needles come up The cards had holes in them and bands come up. It was" Thistles" and then" P.O. Liner Well whoever ordered the dish towels, some firms would order the dish towels

MB: And they were the best of -Fantastic! And what's happened to those factories?

Isa: Oh they closed them, and, do ye ken? The looms went to China and Japan - cheap labour! All our machines; they were good machines. There used to be so many factories in Dunfermline, so many factories in Kinross and there's NOTHING now.

Julie: There were the mill; I was in it for nine and a half years there in the mill.

Isa: That was the woollen mill. They made jerseys

Julie: Pringle's

MB: Oh were you in that mill? Was that in Kinross?

Julie: It's still there, the mill - it's a Chinese place now.

Isa: It's still jerseys - angora; they've changed to angora instead o' wool. They had a shop outside where you could buy the jerseys

Julie: Very expensive!

Isa: They'll be worse noo, the Chinese!

GAMES AND PASTIMES

MB: You had skipping ropes and paldies; what's paldies?

Isa: You drew squares on the road and you had a paldie,- we called it a paldie - an old tin or something filled wi' dirt and you hadnae to put it on a line. If you put it on a line you were out.

MB: Did you play Rounders?

Isa: Aye, we played Rounders.

Elizabeth J: Did you ever have a kleeek and gird? Your brothers maybe had one?

Isa: Aye they had them, a gird, and run along the street with it.

FISHING

Isa: I'll tell you another thing we used to do. My dad was oot in the boats and we used to go doon about half past eleven at night, Saturday night; the women roon about, and the bairns; the hale crowd o' us, we all went doon and watched the men coming in wi' their boats, and see who got the heaviest fish.

MB: So they would be fishing on Loch Leven, what kind of fish did they get?

Isa: Trout

Elizabeth J: It was only trout that was in Loch Leven, was it not?

GALA DAYS

I've just thought of something else, Auntie Julie, did you ever go to the Miner's Gala day? I can remember Miner's Gala days when I was wee.

Isa: No we never went because that was going to Edinburgh.

Elizabeth J: No, well maybe after you, but I went to Gala days along Loch Leven where we used to get a wee bag with a gingerbread square and a wee bottle of milk. Aye, it was the Miner's Gala day. They always talk about the Miner's Gala day on the first Monday in June.

Julie: Aye, they had the Gala day along the Loch. And Milnathort had their Gala day.

Isa: It was no' a Miner's Gala day. There werenae very many miners up this way. It was just a Gala day.

Elizabeth J: Was it just a Gala day, because I remember we used to march up - you know, there was music or something.

Isa: Kelty had a Gala day, and Milnathort had a Gala day and Kinross had a Gala day.

Elizabeth J: I used to walk up the street,- well everybody walked up the street behind the band. We used to walk along to Loch Leven and, well we just ran about.

Isa: And then you had your Fancy Dress parade at night.

Elizabeth J: I've got photographs of that.

MB: Was it just so that people could have fun?

Elizabeth J: I think it was just a holiday; a fun day.

Isa: When we used to go to the Sunday school on a Sunday, we got a drive, a picnic and we used to go on horse and cairt to

MB: Now you mentioned Sunday school.- You were talking about everybody down at half past 11 at night; folk coming in from the fishing on a Saturday. Was Sunday a quiet day?

CHURCH

Isa: Oh aye! you went to Church. You'd to get dressed up on a Sunday; you got your Sunday claes on. You got your Sunday claes on and you had to go to the Church. And you went to the Church and I mind Auntie Bet - well she was my mother's Auntie Bet – she was old, and Tam Bruce her son, they come from Glenfarg. They walked fae Glenfarg to Kinross [c. 6 and a half miles] to the Church and we had to sit beside them

MB: Why did they walk, was there not a church in Glenfarg? Was this the Kirk?

Elizabeth J: Was that the kirk that the Day Centre's in now?

Isa: No no, along the Station Road.

MB: Did people wear hats to go to the Church in those days?

Isa: Oh aye, you had your hat. I had as many hats, - In fact I've maybe got hats in my cupboard yet.

MB: And did the young girls wear hats, the children?

Isa: Oh aye, everybody would put a hat on when they were going to the Church. But they dinna bother now. Just wee fancy things sitting oan the side o yer heid!

MB: Did any of the men have a fancy watch chain?

Isa: Oh aye! He was a handsome man!

Elizabeth J: I've got a photo of five generations...

MB: As well as going to church, did folk keep Sunday's quietly in those days?

Isa: Well they would – when you cam back fae the church you had to go the Sunday School. And by the time you came fae the Sunday School it was time for lunch. And eftir that you'd to go for a walk. And if you weren't goin for a walk you had to take thae claes off and put your old yins back on. It was the same when you went to the school – you'd your school clothes and your old claes. [laughter – they all remember it]

MB: We were the same in our generation – were you not, Elizibath?

Elizabeth J: Oh and on a Saturday, when you went to the shops, you didna go out in your school clothes – you had your old clothes. You had school clothes and you had your best – but now there's no such thing as best clothes.

Track 7

Julie: I've never had any, ye see what I mean.

Track 8

MB: How did you celebrate Christmas and New Year? Did you give wee presents?

Julie: Oh yes!

Track 9 [Elizabeth shows Aunt Julie's knitting, a variety of stitches, with elaborate patterns and colours]

MB: What incredible knitting! This is a work of art!

Track 10

MB: You didn't have electricity when you were young, did you?

Julie/Isa: No! Gas, and candles

Track 11

Isa: Fancy dresses, it was my mother-in-law gied them. .. They used to come fae Canada at the end o the War. And she said that in the mornin they used tae have tae use the water fae their hot water bottles cos in the mornin it was all frozen.

Track 12

MB: It must have been hard for the miners to have a bath, to keep clean

Isa: Well, after they hud the baths put in it was all right – they had a shower.. for aw the men.

MB: So they could bathe before they came home?

Isa: Uh, huh.

MB: Oh that made an awful lot of difference. But before that, the wee tin bath?

Isa: Aye, but I dinna ken much about it because afore I got married there were the baths at the pit head.

MB: Do you remember the earlier days?

Julie: It was a tin bath that was put in the middle o the floor an aw their clothes tae was they were black.

MB: But they kept clean, and if you saw them in the Sunday suits, they were very smart.

Julie: Oh, aye.

Track 13

MB: Thank you very much for a lovely afternoon.