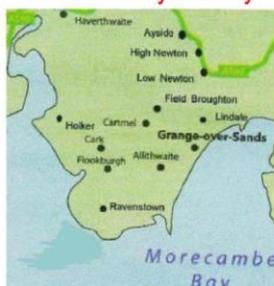


Cartmel Peninsula
Local History Society



CPLHS - Bringing History to the Local Community

Interview with Peter Bibby

Peter Bibby ('PB') born 19 March 1913

Interviewer : Denys Vaughan ('DV')

Date : probably early 1993

Location not mentioned

Recording duration : 13 mins 34 secs

DV Right. Start me off Peter. Where were you born ?

PB Dalton in Furness, at Tunnel[?] Cottages, Dalton in Furness, in 1913.[?] in one of them. [laughs] And then we went to Lindal in Furness. We lived there 'till I was 13. Yer know Lindal in Furness ? And then, there was no work, so I went down there to work in pits, coal pits. And I used to go down the coal pits, and there's nowhere I could have got a better job. I'd probably have been down pony driving. They'd ponies down, yer know. Aye, and mi brother had ... I had two or three brothers in there, and ... well, four brothers ... in there, and Neil[?] was on top, on screen, yer know, and[?] And mi brother George, he had ... he had this in Upton piece. Upton. Have yer heard of Upton ? [DV : No, Upton ?] At [1 min] Pontefract. They had ... they had a pit called Prince of Wales there. [DV : Yes] Pontefract. Anyway, I got ... I went from farm to farm, yer see. I stopped here. And[?]. I was at John Dixon's at Borwicks Farm. And then I got hired to Frankie Lidd[?] at Well Knowe. You know Well Knowe ? [DV : Yes] Up there.

DV And what did they pay you in those days ? How much did they pay you ?

PB How much did they pay ? Three pounds somat I think ... four pounds ... it wasn't a lot, poor money, poor money. Then I went to work ... George ...[?], yer know, I went there, and they were a skinny lot ... very skinny, yea. There's all sorts among them, yer know. Some's alright, and some's ... And I went from there, and [2 mins] I went on to ... I went on ... I worked at Moore's at Outhwaite Farm. Best place ever. They tend to like their own, [DV : Yes] aye, I was one of them. You went in there ... you were one of them. And[?]. And yer[?]. Yer know what finished[?] turnips, [DV : Oh yes][?], aye. And ... anyway ... and I got from there, and I went on to Holker Estates. [DV : Oh yes] I was on there ... they wanted hedger and waller, so I was ... dry walling, yer know, and hedge laying. I like hedge laying. I laid that hedge out there for ...[?], and then the ...[?] blew up again. It was nice, yer know, nice and ...[?], sheep didn't want it doing though. I like hedging. I've done a lot of hedging and dry walling. And then, I was on there 5 year, I think. We used to have to cut, saw trees down across, but yer know, [DV : Yes] [3 mins] on yer knees. It was hard work. I used to go ... I used to do hedges down there at Moorbank[?] like, when I wasn't ...

DV How long were you there, Peter ?

PB Oh heck.[?]

DV Do you mean 30s or ... ?

PB Oh I wouldn't ... aye, I would be, aye, I would be. [DV : Yes] And then I ... I was on there 4 or 5 years, and then I went on Council, County Council, and I got a roller driving. I was on ... that's why I'm there,[?], [DV : Yes] ... no ...[?], yer could be there ... they didn't care about yer as long as worked. You were only a number. If[?] I'd have been alright. [DV : Aye] I'm waiting to go now to hospital about mi ... aye. And that's were I ended up on Townsman. I was rolling ... have yer been up ... have yer been up Wrynose Pass ? [DV : Yes, yes] Well I went up with that roller, twice in day, [4 mins] 12 ton, two of us, up Wrynose Pass, and reversed all way down from top. [DV laughs] Safer reversing that way, the two of us. And I ...and I haven't[?] bad news. There's a lot of bad news now.

DV When you're talking about roll, are you talking about a roller on the road surface ?

PB Yes, tarmac[?] and chippings. [DV : Yes, yes, yes] And I ...

DV Was that a steam one, steam engine, or was it ...

PB It was a diesel. [DV : diesel]. I never were on steamers, they'd gone. But they were ...[?] tackle, yer know, steam and slime. You'd see mi sometimes driving on to a low-loader[?]. One day I was rolling, and it jumped out of gear, I banged mi foot down, and no brakes, and it went backwards down the hill rapid [5 mins][?] it went up ...[?]. There was three of us in that, just about at that time. They weren't ... they weren't ... they weren't well maintained, yer know. And yer'd only a band round one wheel, for yer brake, aye. And I were telling yer about ...

DV Where were you living then, Peter ? Where did you live then ?

PB Oh, I lived, I lived at Pitgarth, [DV : Right] in them days, aye, yea.

DV Were you still single ?

PB Oh, no, no, no. I were married, I were married when I went to Pit Farm. [DV : Right] 1941. [DV : Right] And[?] blind, and marriage is eye-opener ! [laughs] Aye, I was, I was born at Dalton. Brought up at Lindal in Furness. I've bin about a bit. And I ... there's some bad ends[?], there were three of us, run away backwards and picked up rollers. [6 mins] And they wouldn't ... they didn't care about yer, yer know. I was rolling down Allithwaite Road, somewhere Allithwaite Road, and we'd finished, and he said, we're going up to Allithwaite or somewhere, go up ... what d'yer call that ... [DV : Jacks Hill or] ... comes off somewhere and looks down to Allithwaite there, steep, not tarmaced, [DV : Jacks Hill, Jacks Hill ?] no, I went up there, [DV : Yes] and boss was carrying on at sending us up there with no brakes, [DV : Yes] I'd no brakes, yer had keep out of road. Now, what d'yer call it, when yer go up Templand, [DV : Yes, yes] there's a cross roads where yer turn for Boarbank, [DV : Yes] down that road, [Yes, know the one you mean] steep, and I come up there, get up there he said, I got so far and ...[?] thing, I just ... like that yer see, and nobody with me, so I had to back down and go round. See if there's [7 mins] somebody there with me,[?] would have bin different , they pulled the pin out. There's a big pin, big thick pin in one wheel, and yer pull in out whilst it spinning, turn it, and shove it back, and yer ...[?] with both wheels yer see, and yer alright. I'll tell yer where's there's ...[?], over ...[?] over to Broughton, up to that quarry, that's a steep hill.

- DV So how long did ... how long did you have that job then, Peter ?
- PB Just over 20 years, 23 years. [DV : Really, yes] Aye.
- DV When did you start your family ? When did you start your family ?
- PB Well, John's what 50 sumat, 54 I think. And then I ... I was rolling ...[?] out at Newlands, just going into Ulverston, and just ... mi back went, arthritis, and I managed to get to doctor, and I got hold of wheel and I daren't move. And they come and got me out, [8 mins] and[?] he said. They sent me home on a mobile compressor, a mad man on it, he went mad. And Harry said they couldn't have sent a worse man with 'ee. And he was brrrrring away, and when I got home, wife wasn't in, and I couldn't undress myself, and they took me to Lancaster. And next day, the specialist, he showed us the[?]. Look at that plate, he said, look at them, that, he said, they can't do anything for you Mr Bibby, only strap you up. He said it's hard work back. I said, well, I've worked hard all mi life. He said, we know, we can tell by your plate. And they strapped mi up to keep mi going. And he said, tell them yer have to have two ...[?], but they wouldn't give mi two. And that's what's up with mi now. This 'ere ache, terrible pain, and mi knees, and mi spine. I'm on 12 pills. Anyway, I [9 mins] 'ad to go and see doctor. I went to Barrow for X-Ray, a ...[?]. And I had a letter from mi doctor about results. And she talking about ... I've got to go again on Monday night to see her. She talking about bring a specialist on. But I don't know what he can do if t'others can't do it. 'Cos they said, they said they daren't do it, it's too risky, 'cos I've a very bad chest. Yer know, they would warn mi about a bad chest. I didn't go in with that, but I got it. So, I've bin about a bit. And then,[?], yer know,[?] back when yer were straight. So, I've had a rough time. And I liked Engine. Yer know Engine ? [DV : Yes] So I liked mi ...[?]. I was, I was hedging to Maurice Unsworth, out at Milnthorpe there, [DV : Ah, yes] he had a cottage there and he wanted some rough hedging, took mi down to see it. [10 mins] And I did it. Yer always put the barbed wire up, yer know,[?] to keep stock off. Well, Bob went wi' mi, his lad, and we got this barbed wire up, posts and wire, and then the old farmer come. Aye, he said. He said thou's made a good job of that lad, I think we'll leave that wire. It's on somebody else's land, I know. [DV laughs] That's how near they are. Yer always put ... now when I went ... mi niece ... mi niece went to ...[?] to live, and mi sister lives with her, she was 90 in November.[?] laid their hedge for 'em. And the farmer said, thou's done a good job that, I'll put the wire up. Aye, different again. I was on somebody else's land and I ... now what is there in the yard, only nettles growing. I was telling her about having dinner in the farm, and having hotpot. And boss said, [11 mins] after dinner, thou can go and ...[?] tati rows, you and[?]. I said yea,[?] [laughs] One day once, he said, I'm going off today, I won't be back to milk, you'll have to do 'em yerself. He said there's some more gaps in that there field that want puttin' up, and there's a few rounds of lambing to finish, and a few year's hedging to finish, and in bottom there, there's some ...[?] want mucking out. [DV laughs] I said, alright boss, then ...[?] us nar. He said, I didn't ...[?] nar. I said I will be when I've done all them jobs. [both laugh]. I was telling ...[?],[?], greengrocers. He had a stall at Ulverston, I used to go in there,[?]
- DV Tell me more about Cartmel. Tell me more about Cartmel. [PB : Aye, well ?] How many people were living in Cartmel ? [PB : Eh ?] How many [12 mins] people were living in Cartmel ?

PB I don't know.

DV Was it as big as it is now ? Was it as big as it is now ? Were there as many people then as there are now ?

PB Well, I don't know. I would say so. There's one or two ... they keep coming and going. We ... we ... we had to go ... we had to go and sweep village up every week, yer know, with hand cart and[?] We had to go, when snow was on, we had to clear all snow off footpaths, and salt 'em. [DV : Yes] They don't bother now. The we'd to work through night, yer know, in snow, and [?], and get to go out, I've seen myself in that ...[?] at midnight,[?], aye. Aye, and I went ... I was 21st birthday, I was [?] at Burton in Holme, ...[?] [13 mins] farm, aye, birthday. [DV : Yes, yes] Oh aye, there was some[?], they wouldn't pay. Our Union said its worst area there is for pay and conditions. They won't pay.[?] he was mean,[?] was an' all. I have a photo of ... I have a photo of ... [sound of rustling papers]

[recording cuts out at 13 mins 34 secs]