

Project: **'Memories of Seven Lochs' Communities: A people's history'**.

Respondent: Grace Wright

Year of Birth: 1959

Age: 63

Connection to project: Raised In Ruchazie

Date of Interview: 13/01/23

Interviewer: Deborah Walker

Recording Agreement: Yes

Information & Consent: Yes

Photographic Images: Yes (Number of: 4)

Length of Interview: 46m 54s

Location of Interview: The Pantry

Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics)







Time (from: mins/secs)	Description	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
0.38 – 0.48	Respondent tells us that she was raised in Balarnock and then Ruchazie, she moved to Rutherglen when older and then back to Stepps.	
0.52 – 1.46	Respondent tells her background of being in Ruchazie from being adopted by her Grandparents. She started at Ruchazie Primary School at the age of 8 and experienced racial hate due to her skin colour as she was of Italian background.	
	“My grandparents adopted me so I was living with them, in Blairloggie Street, we moved from Balarnock, why I’m not 100% sure but, we moved anyway. I started school here in the primary school, Ruchazie Primary School. Which I hated.”.. “They called me Paki, cause I’ve got dark skin, I was a lot darker when I was younger, and I looked like an Asian because I had long pleated hair and I was really dark when I was young, I’m Italian so.. they had never seen anybody with any other colour of skin other than really white, so it was, I suppose it wasn’t quite normal for them to see somebody a different colour, you know, and for them to have that reaction.”	0.52 – 1.43
1.50 – 2.42	Respondent describes the home she grew up in. She tells about the sense of community within the area and how close they were. She reminisces about going to the Loch everyday with the other children. In summer they did Rhubarb picking at Hogganfield Loch.	
	“ a tenement flat, two bedrooms, large living room with a veranda, kitchen and bathroom, and it was one up and it was a really nice close, and everybody in the close all knew everybody and all the parents looked out for everybodys children, so like school holidays, like my grandmother and father had to work, there was lots of kids up the close, so we just all went to the loch everyday and we used to take our jam sandwiches and our diluting juice and that was it every single day in the summer holidays and we just all looked after each other. And then into the summer we done the rhubarb picking at Hogganfield loch as well so I think we got like half a crown or something a week, so that was us, we were really wealthy.”	1.50 – 2.42
2.48 – 4.28	Respondent tells more about childhood growing up. She tells how at the time Craigend wasn’t there and it was still farm land. She tells about what herself and the other children spent time doing when they were	

	younger, on the local farm and the different walks they took. She reminisces about her first few teachers and expresses her thoughts towards them.	
	“All the kids we all just stayed together, played together, none of us ever wandered away or anything, we made our own entertainment, jumping the midgies and jumping the fences you name it we done it, we used to take a walk up to Wallace’s, I’m trying to think now, Wallace’s Well, It was up past Hogganfield Loch. I’m not sure, There’s still a Wallace’s something up there. We used to go walks up there, we used to take walks down to Alexanders Park, and then there was a farm at the bottom of the road that the boys up the stairs, his grandmother used to work in it, so we used to go down there a lot, especially when the wee baby chickens came in, um Willies farm, and they used to take dogs in, boarding for people to go on holiday.”	3.22 – 4.13
	“All the other parents looked out for everybody elses kids aswell, so, it was quite a nice community really.”	4.20 – 4.27
4.34 – 6.30	Interviewer asks about any issues in the area. Respondent tells how they never had a park but that this didn’t bother them. She chats about how they didn’t have as much as kids do now, but they still made their own entertainment. She tells stories of things they used to do for fun.	
	“We never really had a park, our park was Hogganfield Loch, so we never had a park with swings and things like that, so we just made our own entertainment, but no there wasn’t a park at the time, but then I don’t suppose that really bothered us cause we had the loch you know, and we just, we enjoyed all going up there but other than that, I don’t think you miss anything if it’s not there.”	4.39 – 5.06
	“I don’t really remember a big part of being in Balarnock either, we used to cross the road and sit at the railway and watch the trains go by so there was never, in those days you just got on with it, it’s not like today where everything’s supplied you know, it was a lot different then you know, you never had as much as the kids have like today you know so you made your own entertainment those days. Then in the winter we used to put the big leads on the dog and we would sit on a cardboard box and he would take us down the hill when it was snowing and then we would run all the way back up and the dog would take us back down again.”	5.07 – 5.52
	“We would take the ashes and put the ashes down the pavement so nobody would fall, you know now-a-days nobody does that so that’s how we got allowed to do it as long as we made sure that everything was safe for anybody, not just the elderly people, so we got to play on the pavements in the snow and we used to make slides and whatever and then put the ashes down to make it safe for everybody, we never had sledges or anything you know, it was cardboard boxes we had, It was still good fun but,”	5.56 – 6.30
6.40 – 9.40	Respondent tells about her early school years, she chats about her different teachers and the support she got from them. She tells us that school finished at 4pm back then. She tells about the different after school activities for children and how they were different for girls and boys. She was very crafty and reminisces about the different crafts she made and where she got the items for crafting with.	
	“It wasn’t maybe so much the teacher it was just me being strange, you know, you had to stand up to read, well we never ever had to do that, you had to stand up to do your times table, we never ever had to do that in our other school, we just sat and we read, so if you made a mistake,	6.49 – 7.13

	you know you were standing up and it was just sheer affrontment really if you made a mistake.”	
	“School was on to 4 o’clock then, a Tuesday and a Thursday we used to get craft work after our playtime at 3 o’clock, we learnt how to sew, we learnt how to knit but I could already do all of that because my gran was a, she worked for designers, making designer clothes and making all the samples and everything, I was using a sewing machine at that age you know, but it was still good to it at school”	7.43 – 8.13
	“The boys got football that’s what it was, they got football, and one of the boys in our class he went and played for Patrick.”	8.20 – 8.28
9.40 – 13.45	Respondent tells stories of different paintings she created and sold. She tells her memories of secondary school and the different subjects she had to do. She expresses her opinions on subjects they were allowed to do and how she had to choose between subjects she enjoyed and also subjects she wasn’t able to do because of her gender. She tells about how she went to art school at the age of 12/13 and also college at night as school wasn’t challenging enough for her. She tells about the first lessons she did in Home Economics and how they were very basic for her as she was already capable of doing these tasks and she was raised doing them as a child. She tells about her mother bringing home her work, and how she would watch and learn from her.	
	“I used to do a lot of paintings for the lady up the stair, they were in the orange lodge so it was King Billy, King Billy every where I was like that, then she wanted me to do a massive one where the fighting was and there were just horses and men and horses and men and oh my god it took me about 6 month to paint it but we got there”	10.02 – 10.22
	“I quite liked most of the subjects, in fact I liked them all until 3 rd year and you had to pick your subjects, that’s when it became a problem because I wanted to do art and I wanted to do Home Economics, and you were only allowed one, there was certain subjects you weren’t allowed to do you know, because you could only have one or the other.”	10.34 – 10.55
	“I wanted to do Teccy Drawing, but girls weren’t allowed then, naw we weren’t allowed to do that then, boys got Teccy Drawing and we got Home Economics, how to make a bed, my first cookery lesson, how to make toast, a boiled egg, or a hot chocolate. I had been making the dinner since I was 8 years old you know, for my mam coming back fae work and everything, I was like that, what’s this? But a lot of kids hadn’t even made toast at that age, you know, I’m making dinners and I’m using a sewing machine”	12.41 – 13.12
13.49 – 14.36	Respondent lists the items that most interested her as a youngster. Dolls to play with and anything creative. She tells how she preferred anything to do with learning and art rather than games.	
14.40 – 17.40	Respondent describes her holiday experiences when she was younger. She tells how her grandfather had a farm and they spend a lot of time on it. She tells how her grandmother had got evacuated for the war and her grandfather worked in it. She tells memories of going to a caravan park on the beach and to Colmonell close to where her grandmother had been evacuated to. Respondent reminiscences about going to Lossiemouth on a steam train with her uncle for holidays. She tells stories of her life on the farm and what they used to do there as children.	
	“We used to drink out the stream, the water was just so natural so lovely, to keep me going, I mean I was really young, to keep me going we used to sing songs all the way and then we would sit and get a wee rest, I mean I was very very young.	15.32 – 15.49

	<p>“And I would help her with the bed and breakfast in the morning and then in the afternoon we were in the farm fields loading up bales of hay and you were all scratched to bits, I loved it, I mean we just loved it, I mean that was your holidays, do you know what I mean? Chickens pecking your fingers and God knows or what, but that’s how we amused ourselves, you know I mean, and I tasted the best strawberry jam ever, your homemade strawberry jams, so I watched that, I’ll make that, just amazing you know, but I like to watch and see what’s going on and then that was it, all the kids were in the fields in the afternoon putting up all these bales, sides scratched, do you know what I mean, In those days you never even used suntan lotion so you were scorched red, and then all this hay scratching all your legs you were in agony, but you still got up the next morning and done it again it was good fun.”</p>	16.38 – 17.35
17.47 – 21.49	<p>Respondent describes what she was like as a teenager. She tells of the different dances and discos she used to go to and help out at. She tells us that she had a job with Ruchazie news. She tells how she used to go to the baths and to the park. She tells how they stopped playing games and walked around gossiping then and writing in their diaries as teens. There wasn’t much for teenagers to do then. She tells stories of teenagers fighting within communities with other local communities. She tells about her strict upbringing and how she was grateful for it. Respondent discusses her opinions on discipline for younger people now-a-days.</p>	
	<p>“I answered back once and I got a slap, I was 13, I thought that’s me I’m 13 I’m a teenager I’ll be able to talk back and I got the biggest slap of my life, it was the only slap I ever got.”</p>	17.49 – 18.01
	<p>“My friend and I, we would go maybe swimming, there was baths at Glasgow royal down there, town head, we used to go in there and it was separate baths, there was baths for females and then there was a mixed pool, its long gone now but the water was roasting.”</p>	18.58 – 19.15
	<p>“We’d go to the park in the summer as usual but you stopped playing all the kiddies games and you just ended up kinda walking round the park or just lying in the sun, just gabbing you know like most teenagers do, I suppose in those days you had your diary, I don’t think anybody will have a diary now-a-days, so we never, there really wasn’t a lot for teenagers here, in fact there was really nothing, until they built the community centre, and even then you didn’t find a lot of teenagers in it, and then there was a lot of fights going on, you know, with youths here aswell fighting, ehm, with other communities, like Garthamlock, they would fight with people in Riddrie or Blackhill.”</p>	19.18 – 20.07
21.53 – 25.31	<p>Respondent tells about her experiences working with the local newspaper/magazine. She tells about the different topics included and the types of stories from the local area which were written about and recorded. She enjoyed learning and getting involved. She tells us about the deadlines about how she had to ensure she met them. Respondent expresses her opinions on the differences of the local magazine now.</p>	
	<p>“Reporting, so you had to find out who was getting married, birthdays, what was happening in the scheme, eh used to put recipes in, eh kiddies crafts stuff, so just any news that was going about.”</p>	21.53 – 22.08
25.42 – 28.58	<p>Respondent tells more about her teenage years, she tells about going to a local Roller Blade disco and also the cinema. Respondent reminisces about going into town and eating different cuisines for the first time, she had never experienced this before due to her upbringing. She tells how she still managed to study at night time, balancing her social life.</p>	

	<p>“We weren’t allowed rice or pasta in the house cause father, that’s all they got fed on the boats, was rice and pasta, he just wouldn’t allow it so things like that weren’t even really allowed in the house.”</p>	27.32 – 27.47
28.59 – 36.22	<p>Respondent tells about her working life growing up, she tells how she started working at the young age of 8 in a café in the bus station. She then moved onto more artistic jobs and did a lot of freelance work with a lot of different interesting businesses. She chats about how good the transport system was for her getting to and from work but that she also got a car at 17 and loved the freedom. She also tells about her catering job and how her school experiences and subjects she choose moulded her careers. Although</p>	
	<p>“There was two bus stations one for the green and red buses and then one for the blue buses”</p>	31.32 – 31.38
	<p>“We had green buses here as well, one went to Parkhead, and then we had a bus that used to come from Gartloch, so we had quite a few buses here, we were quite well off for transport here.”</p>	31.57 – 32.12
	<p>“maybe just a wee bit advanced for my years in certain things, but only certain things but that’s because of the knowledge I was getting at home as well, and I enjoyed it, you know it’s not something that was forced on me it was something I enjoyed doing.”</p>	36.07 – 36.22
36.34 – 42.19	<p>Respondent talks about her adult life, she tells how she moved to Rutherglen and rented a flat while she saved a deposit for a house. After a year she bought her place. She tells about all the issues in her house and the renovations she had to carry out in it. The place she moved into only had half the renovations done so she had a lot of work to do. She chats about her struggles at the time losing her grandmother, but also meeting her husband and unfortunately experiencing a few miscarriages. She then went on to have birthed a daughter. She moved to Stepps to move to a house as it was more accessible for her than a flat. She tells about the challenges of renovating her house in Stepps. Respondent tells about the similarities and the differences of her home in the two areas. She tells us about her home now and the changes she has made to it in recent years.</p>	
	<p>“We bought an old house up in Stepps that was falling to bits, but once again the challenge was, aw god I couldn’t wait to get in and rip the place apart, and it had to get ripped apart, all the floors had to get taken out, it had to get re-plumbed, rewired, it didn’t even have central heating, it had, some places have the old round plugs still, I don’t know if you will know what the old round plugs were, instead of like square pins they were round pins, some of them were just two pins, you know, and some where a three pin, so em, some of the house was like that, had to get a boiler put in, to get central heating, aw it was crazy, had to get windows, there wasn’t even a kitchen in the place, and it was funny because Rutherglen was exactly the same, it had this old American fridge in it, you opened it and you went oh my god and you just shut that, and it had a sink and these were enamel sinks and they were identical, so one was blue and one was yellow, and when you went up the stairs the bathrooms were identical and it was English rose, so they were pink, and the one in Rutherglen was exactly the same, but the one in Rutherglen only had a bath up the stair, and a double EC downstairs so I had to get, and these plumbers like that, no you can’t get a double EC up the stair, I went watch me. Stepps was exactly the same roughly, but it had a full bathroom suite but we had to change the sink, it was broke, so we kept that and then we got a shower room put in down the stair but it took 3 months, we bridged for 3 months and that’s how long it took, cause we</p>	39.15 – 41.35

	even had to take out the main beams and everything, it was a lot a lot of work, and it needed windows and we put a kitchen in but it was just so funny and it had a wee single wardrobe, and Rutherglen was exactly the same, this wee single wardrobe and a sprung bed, it all was all springs, aw it was, I couldn't believe how the similarities, you know in both houses."	
42.19 – 46.46	Respondent describes the photos she has provided.	
	"So I taught kids, it didn't really bother me who I taught, but this is their art exhibitions, where you know, some of them were so so good, I mean the kids were fabulous, and this is their puppets and everything, and their designs with just leaves and things and I used to, and this is the pin craft, they made designs with seeds, I would get seeds, like beans and peas and lentils and they would make designs like that, this was the pin art, this was really really hard stuff, this is some of their paintings, eh, this is some more paintings, as you can see, some of the stuff hasn't really turned out very well there, this was their Halloween party, some of them were a scream, this is a lot of their puppets."	42.46 – 43.55
	"This is a kinda gel art, and you dip it in and you bring it out, its like bubbles and what it does is it dries, and they used to make flowers, this is their leaves and they used to make all sorts of things, I think that was a , was that a reindeer? That was a reindeer, mmhm, I still remember a lot of it."	43.58 – 44.25
	"This was my Granda, he was Santa all the time, and that's Peter, Peter used to come in the taxis with us when we went to Troon, so we had parties for them all the time, I used to take them up the Campsies, I used to get one of the education vans, take them up the Campsies and we would have BBQ's, well these kids had never had a BBQ in their life, they didn't even know what a BBQ was, dog and all, dogs running about with a sausage."	44.27 – 44.59
	"So this is a lot of the pin art, now I mean this is really advanced work for a lot of these kids, but I believe, if somebody is capable of doing a bit of it, push them a wee bit extra because if they are good at this type of work, push them, see how far they can go."	45.01 – 45.27
	"So this is just, I think that wee Santa Claus, I think that was Peter's, and the wee Santa. I think that was Peter's. So they got to do a lot of stuff, in fact, oh and that's em, I used to take her and her sister as well, I can't remember her name, that's Mairi."	45.28 – 45.55
	"And these were black and white, now I'm just wondering if this, I think, do you know what this was, this was em, thingmy art, scraper art, and what I done, I let them do their own design, that's why it looks like black and white, it's scraper art, so it's a kind of foil when you scrape the black off it, it becomes a foil and I got them to draw something that they would like to do, I knew there was something in it. So that was scraper art. So that was just one of their, or maybe two of their exhibitions I'm not really sure but I thought it would be good for them."	45.55 – 46.46
46.49 – 46.54	Interviewer thanks respondent for her time during the interview.	
   		
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