

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

Respondent: Mary Sinclair-Ferguson

Year of Birth: 1957

Age: 66

Connection to project: Born in Ruchazie

Date of Interview: 03/02/23

Interviewer: Tina Blakely

Recording Agreement: Yes

Information & Consent: Yes

Photographic Images: No

Length of Interview: 24.58

Location of Interview: The Pantry Ruchazie

Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics)






Time (from: mins/secs)	Description	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
00.00 – 00.19	Interviewer introduced the interview with the Respondent.	
00.19 – 00.25	Interviewer asks respondent where she was born, Respondent confirms she was born in Ruchazie and grew up in the Seven Lochs area.	
00.36 – 1.33	Respondent begins to tell us about her early life. She tells us that her and her family all lived together with her gran in a house. Her dad was a factory work in the whiskey industry and her mum was a housewife. Her parents were different religion but they were raised as Protestant.	
	“My mum, my dad, my brother and my sister, my gran, we all stayed in the same house.”	00.41 – 00.47
	“My dad’s work was like, ehm, he worked in the whiskey bond, he done all the barrels and stuff like that, my mum was more than just a housework, she did the washing, the cooking, looked after us, looked after my old gran as well. My mum is Catholic, My dad was Protestant and we were brought up as Protestants, we went to Ruchazie Primary School, myself, my sister and my brother. Then after that we went to Garthamloch Secondary School.”	01.01 – 01.32
01.36 – 02.02	Respondent describes her house growing up.	
	“We grew up in a Tenement building, we lived in the lower ground flat and so my mum and dad shared a room with my brother, my sister and I shared a room with my gran, there was only two rooms in the house. We had a coal fire in the sitting room, we had a coal fire in the bedroom. We had an inside toilet which was good. We had the kitchen and a hallway. We had a front garden.”	01.36 – 02.02
02.03	Interviewer asks about the coal fires and asks how they got coal in those days. Respondent tells us about the men who used to come round a deliver bags of coal to them.	
	“Yeah, well the men came round the streets delivering the coal and my gran, my granda died and my gran was in a kinda welfare thing and she used to get so many bags of coal a year of off them for nothing so it was quite a good help.”	02.08 – 02.24
02.27 – 02.52	Respondent describes the community when she was growing up.	

	<p>“It was very friendly, like all the mums and all that always came outside with the kids and played games and stuff like that, there was rough bits of the scheme but our bit was pretty good. We had a good swing park so we were there most of the time when we were young. The park-keeper made sure we weren’t in there after hours.”</p>	02.30 – 02.52
02.53	<p>Respondent tells us that when they were younger there wasn’t many opportunities but that she felt it was easier. She tells us about the things she used to get up to as a youngster such as the clubs she went to and where they used to spend their time.</p>	
	<p>“We had the church there, obviously we went to brownies and guides and my brother went to the BB’s and stuff like that. We went to church quite a lot, my mum always made sure of that, the most thing I think was the park, and then we went to Hogganfield Loch where we went at Easter time, rolled our Easter Eggs and stuff like that, go fishing with my aunty and get bit by the swans. Aye we were at the Hogganfield Loch a lot, my wee aunty used to take us there fishing with there with wee fishing nets and wee jam jars.”</p>	03.09 – 03.42
	<p>“Even if we drew on the road or the pavements or the closes where we stayed, we had to wash it off, I think our parents kept the place really good, like the gardens round there were a lot nicer than what I would say even now. You know everybody really, looked after the place. Looked after each other, I think that was the real good thing about Ruchazie.”</p>	03.58 – 04.20
04.20	<p>Interviewer asks about local issues at the time. Respondent tells us that they had a good life growing up and that there weren’t many issues apart from mostly fights between neighbouring schemes. She talks about how it was a safer environment to live in because everybody looked out for each other in the community.</p>	
	<p>“I think really, well when I was young it was mostly like, glue sniffing and stuff like that. I’d say when I was younger there wasn’t so much violence, you had like maybe fighting with another scheme like Cranhill at the Bridges and stuff like that, but I think we grew up pretty well, you know, I think because everybody looked after each other.”</p>	04.25 – 04.47
	<p>“You didn’t really have to lock your doors when we were young, you went in and out of each other’s houses and that, because there wasn’t, I wouldn’t say there was a lot of violence when I was young.”</p>	04.57 – 05.06
05.26 – 07.26	<p>Respondent tells us when she was younger, she didn’t go to nursery as her mum looked after them and taught them. She tells us about the different schools that her and her siblings went to. She tells us that she still has friends now that she met in P1. She reminisces upon old teachers she used to have.</p>	
	<p>“Never went to nursery school, em, my mum always had us at home, and because there was three of us, my mum was there all the time with us and she done things with us, and learnt us your alphabet and stuff like that and how to count and your name and that.</p>	05.26 – 05.41
	<p>“Loved Ruchazie Primary School, but I remember away back in the days when they used to like fight with the Catholic school, like St Phillips school, because it was like a border line between them, but I really liked the school. My brother, my sister and I, we all went there.”</p>	05.42 – 05.59
	<p>“Then when we went to Garthamloch School, my sister never at school, she dogged it. She used to go over to the Golf Course, pretend she was at school, had to pretend she came to school with me on the bus, but she never went.”</p>	05.59 – 06.16
	<p>“I had a teacher called Mr. Scott, and right to this day the kids laugh because when the French National Anthem comes on, I know it all, cause he used to make us sing it every morning. And then we had another</p>	06.44 – 07.20

	teacher Miss Burns she used to live just on Ruchazie Road, she used to like, when the girls were naughty in there like, take their skirt up and skelp them round the backside. Then I had a teacher called Mr Udo, and he lived away over the West End and he was part of the, he was one of the people who helped the song 'The River Clyde', to publish it."	
07.29 – 08.21	Interviewer asks respondent her favourite food, toy and game when she was younger. The respondent tells us she liked Mince and Potatoes most, her favourite toy was a doll that her sister originally got but she ended up keeping. Her favourite game was playing with balls on the streets.	
	"Balls, played balls of the walls and round the back, the back close and get in trouble because you could hear it in the house. It was like tennis balls, or some of them were rubber actually, just depends on what you got, but they were, it was like your two balls and you played a game hitting it off the wall under your leg and stuff like that."	07.55 – 08.14
08.27 – 08.56	Respondent tells us about the holidays they used to go on. She tells us about going to Port Seaton and also to the seaside.	
08.59 – 09.12	Respondent sums up her childhood.	
	"I think my childhood was amazing, I really, I really do, my mum cared for us really well, em, she was always with us always made sure that we had things to do, we never had much money, but we did have lots to do."	08.59 – 09.12
09.18 – 10.11	Respondent tells us that when she was a teenager, she found it very hard as her mum was strict and didn't let her out much until she got older. When she was older she went a lot to Shettleston as a lot of her friends had went there. She expresses her opinion on why she thinks her mother was strict at the time.	
	"I think as I was growing up then, there was more like fighting and stuff going on, and we used to always say, 'it's not fair they get staying out later than us', and my mum would say 'who cares, I care for yous.', but I think her fear was like gang fighting mostly, but I think the gang fighting mostly came bridges and because we hung about the park and the bridge was near the park and stuff like that. "	09.47 – 10.11
10.15 – 10.53	Respondent tells us what she used to do for fun. She chats about going swimming in Dennistoun and the different activities she used to do in the local Church. She tells us that they mostly listened to music in each other's houses on Record Players.	
	"But I used to go to like Bible Classes in Ruchazie Primary School, go to as I say, Brownies and Guides in the Church, go to Sunday School in the Church, mostly things like that, but most times we spent was like in and out of our friends' houses, like just sitting listening to music and stuff like that."	10.20 – 10.37
10.54	Interviewer asks respondent about her time when she was in big school.	
	"My mum used to give us money to go on the bus but, I used to save my money up, walk to school so I could buy tights for when you're older and you wanted tights on your legs. As I said my sister used to dog school, she used to go over the wall and smoke and whatever, but I used to walk it up and walk it down so as I could keep the money."	11.01 – 11.22
11.21 – 11.48	Respondent tells us where she worked when she left school.	
11.48 – 15.14	Respondent tells us about her family life when she had her own family. She continued to stay in Ruchazie and stayed in different places within the lower end of Ruchazie. She describes the houses where she used to live. She chats about her neighbours at the time and tells us that some were really friendly and some weren't.	

	<p>“When we lived in Craighouse Street we lived in a four-bedroom house which had up and down stairs, and had, it was really good, plenty of space in it, still had like dampness and stuff like that in the houses. When we first moved in we didn’t have like central heating in it, em, we just had like electric fire, we had in it, then when I moved out of there and moved to Boghall St I lived in a Tenement building up the very top flat, three bedrooms, it was like a furnished accommodation I got at first because my husband and I had split up, I really enjoyed living there, but I preferred at the low end of the scheme because we came from there. Because my son was at secondary school and didn’t get on too well with the kids at the top end of the scheme. So we put in for a flat in Millencroft Road, which was, it was really hard because it was a really old building, it was dampness and stuff like that in it, but it was ours. You know, we didn’t, we had nothing really because we had to give up the furnished accommodation and kind of start from nothing. But we got there. And then we got, that house got pulled down, and then when we moved to Elliebank St it was amazing because it was a brand-new build, but it was in a close and there was four houses in it. Then I got a chance at a back and front door in Carlington Place, moved there and I really liked that. Then I met a new partner and we moved to Elliebank St, we lived in a three bedroom house there, but now James and I live in a two bedroom house.”</p>	13.08 – 14.42
15.17 – 17.02	<p>Respondent tells us about the shops that were in the area compared to now. She also tells us her memories about the local Churches and Chapels in the area and how they have also changed.</p>	
	<p>“There was lots of shops when we were young, I would say down in the low end at Avondale St, we had like supermarkets, we had a hairdressers, we had a laundrette, we had a butchers and then at the high end we had the butchers again who owned the two shops. We had a fruit shop, a post office, we had a bakers at one time as well and we had a paper shop and we had another grocer shop there.”</p>	15.18 – 15.45
	<p>“Aw a lot different, we have one wee shop at the low end and that’s all really apart from the housing and the Quarriers. At the high end we’ve got Ruchazie Pantry which is really good, we’ve got the Chinese takeaway shop, we’ve got the 101, the Credit Union and the dance studio. But it’s so different now, we had a lot more shops.”</p>	15.48 – 16.15
	<p>“I lived across, straight across the road growing up from Ruchazie Parish Church which is completely different now. It’s nothing like it was when I was young, It was very well looked after, it was all fenced off. We had a separate entrance to go into the Church, the Church is so different now, it’s just like a hall now, it’s not really a Church to me. The Chapel is gone, we don’t have the Chapel anymore, but it was really well attended there, we had a Chapel Hall there, which was used all the time for all different things, em, like bingo, dances, meetings, but there’s nothing there now it’s just a derelict land.</p>	16.21 – 17.02
17.08 – 17.29	<p>Respondent shares her opinion on what issues affect the area in the current day, such as drugs and people not taking care of the area the same as they used to.</p>	
17.34 – 18.15	<p>Respondent chats about what she liked to do in her spare time.</p>	
	<p>“In the past I used to do lots of stuff like go to dances in the Chapel Hall or run the Bingo in the Chapel Hall. Done lots of clubs for the kids and had discos for the kids in the Chapel Hall. But just now I’d say I kind of help out in the Ruchazie Parish Church, I open up for clubs in there and open up for parties and stuff. I do look after my grandchildren a lot, I help</p>	17.36 – 18.15

	out with them, I support my oldest Granddaughter's dance school. I do lots of things with the children like drawing, painting, stuff like that."	
18.19 – 18.53	Respondent shares her thoughts and opinions on how the Seven Lochs area is at present.	
	"Even the Hogganfield Loch itself is very run down, we used to go out on the boats up there. Our park at Ruchazie, we used to have Tennis, Bowling, the Putting Green, the Swings, we had part of the park where you could go and have picnics and there's nothing now. Since the Seven Lochs started down there I think it's got really, really bad, there's nothing there for the children."	18.24 – 18.51
19.01 – 19.41 – 20.09	Respondent shares her views regarding crime in the area, she thinks it's a lot better now than in the past. She shares her frustrations on local roads, local lightings and different issues which haven't been dealt with, which isn't good for the Scheme. She also tells her thoughts on the new houses in the area.	
	"The houses, well the houses from Ruchazie Housing Association are pretty new so most of them are well kept. The five apartments must be about the best houses in Ruchazie because they are more structured. I'd say the worst part of the scheme is round at like where I call like the pensioners houses, only I think it's for like younger folk now. And it's not kept very well."	19.45 – 20.09
20.13 – 20.32	Respondent tells us about a local campaign regarding the buses which took them to a local shopping area. She tells more about her frustrations with the local bus services.	
	"I think the only campaign that I was really involved in was like when the buses, then they had people at the community centre in Ruchazie to, because they look off our wee 33 bus which is the bus that took you from Ruchazie to the Forge, em, and a lot of older people used that bus and now there's no way for them to get there because you would have to take like a 38 bus which isn't a very good bus either, you'd have to go from there to Riddrie and then get a number 8 which takes you away around Duke Street, the Gallowgate, it's pretty bad for older people, especially older people, people with children, but the 33 bus took you right from your stop right to the forge and brought you back, it wasn't a very good service because it went off at 3 O'clock and then didn't start until 9 in the morning, so people going to school and going to college and that would never be able to use that bus. The 38 bus is really bad and that's the only bus we've got now and it's not as frequent as it used to be."	20.13 - 21.18
22.30 – 23.01	Respondent discusses her opinions on changes within the area.	
	"In the past it's been quite negative there's really nothing here, but we're hoping with the Growing21 and the Pantry that things will get better cause we know that there is things going to get better, especially with the allotments, we had the Christmas Tree lighting which we have never had in Ruchazie before, which is really good. The Pantry run lots of things for the kids, like at Halloween, and at Easter time and all that. So that's a good thing to look forward to isn't it."	22.30 – 23.01
23.25 – 23.45	Respondent shares her opinion on how to improve the community.	
	"I think that we need to all get together and try and make the place, the place it used to be, like all the nice gardens and all the derelict areas cleaned up. As I say the Pantry done that as well, we were out and we were litter picking but there's only so many people do it. It's a big area to keep clean."	23.25 - 23.45

24.30 – 24.50	Respondent shares that she doesn't know much about the Seven Lochs but would like to add more. She also tells us that she would like to see Ruchazie getting better. She tells us that the main attribute to the area is the people of Ruchazie.	
24.50	Interviewer thanks respondent for sharing her memories.	
   		
<p style="text-align: center;">Communities Past & Futures Society cpandfs@outlook.com</p>		