

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

Respondent: Alice McCarrol

Year of Birth: 1942

Age:

Connection to project: Lives locally

Date of Interview: 07/06/2023

Interviewer: Cathy

Recording Agreement: Yes/ No

Information & Consent: Yes/ No

Photographic Images: Yes/ No (Number of:)

Length of Interview: 33.14

Location of Interview: Glenboig Life Centre

Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics)



Time (from: mins/secs)	Description	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
00.23	<i>Where were you born?</i>	
	Glenboig	00.24
00.25	<i>Were you raised in the Glenboig area?</i>	
	Yes	00.26
00.33	<i>Can you tell me a little about your family?</i>	
	My Father was John Grey, my Mother was Philippa McPake and they were both born in Glenboig, my Mother was actually born in Annatthill which is part of Glenboig and my Father was Glenboig and he worked in the Star Brickworks for 51 years from when he left school until he retired. My Mother, her family were all miners and my Father's family were all brick workers. I was born in Chapelbank in Glenboig.	00.39-01.16
01.21	<i>Can you describe where you grew up?</i>	
	Until I was 7 years of age I was brought up in what they called a single-end and it was one of the brickworkers houses. My Father got that through his job and we lived there fore 7 years and then we moved through to Marnoch when they built the new houses and we moved to a four apartment which was a big change and we grew up there. My Mother and Father lived in that house nearly all their life till they got a smaller house when they retired.	01.22-01.59
02.03	<i>What was the community like where you grew up?</i>	
	Well it was obviously a very close knit community, we all grew up in the village. When we were in Chapelbank it was works houses, it was rows of cottages. That was nice and everybody knew everybody and when we moved round to the bigger house it was more or less the same but more people in bigger houses. Personally I preferred the wee one. It was just everybody you grew up with, we grew up all together and we're still friends some of us that went to school together.	02.06-03.27

	<p>What I do remember is my Uncle, his Father-in-law was the local J.P., a Councillor and we used to have our local elections, I don't know exactly what they were we were quite young, but one thing that sticks in my mind is the M.P. at that time was called Margaret Herbison and I believe she came from round about Shotts, so when it was coming time for the election they used to come round campaigning and she used to come round in a car and the men were round with the loud speakers, we were all shouting vote for her and some of the people were shouting no don't. Aye, they did a lot of campaigning for elections. I remember that.</p>	
03.29	<i>What school did you attend?</i>	
	Our Lady & St Joseph's Primary School	03.30
03.38	<i>Can you tell me about your Teachers from school?</i>	
	<p>When we started school we had the infant classes and you had your infant Teacher for about three years and then as you went on from the infant classes there was different Teachers there. I had the same Teacher after the infant classes until I went to the High School. So I only really had two Teachers which was great and I liked the Teachers. It was good.</p>	03.42-04.13
04.16	<i>What were your favourite subjects?</i>	
	<p>I always remember I liked writing. I didn't like sums but eventually I got the hang of it. I liked, I suppose you would call it English, I liked the reading and the writing. I liked History, I liked the stories like Mary Queen of Scots, the Scottish History you'd call it. I always remember the Battle of Hastings, 1066.</p>	04.17-05.06
05.11	<i>What's your most vivid memories of school?</i>	
	<p>Just that it was a good school, everybody knew everybody and there was always things happening. We used to have parties at Christmas and there was always stuff like that happening like Halloween, and there was a canteen in the school where you could go for your lunch. In the good weather maybe they'd take you out on a nature walk. You'd go along round the loch and you'd pick flowers and leaves, come back to school and draw them and stuff like that and keep them in your wee art class.</p>	05.16-05.59
06.01	<i>Did you spend a lot of time round the loch when you were young?</i>	
	<p>Yes because my Granny and Granda lived in front of the loch but we were always scared to go near it because it wasn't as nice as it is now. It was very overgrown and there was a big electric pylon in it and unfortunately a few years before we were born there was a wee girl drowned in it. She went out on to the ice and she went down. Somebody went down and she tried to pull the person out but the two of them got dragged under, so my Granda had a terrible fear of the loch, so if we went near it, he was at the window shouting come back come back. So it really wasn't as nice then you know. The only thing we do remember is going further along where it was a bit safer to see the swans every year, to see the signets, we'd never to go near them because the swans would chase you, you know that type of thing. My Granda used to always say they should make a swing park for the weans to play at and now they've got one, I often wonder what he would say. So that's the loch, it wasn't as nice as it is now.</p>	06.05-07.29
07.31	<i>In what way has it changed from then until now?</i>	

	It's much nicer now, its smaller, it wasn't as big as that. I don't know if you know the entrance from Marnoch there where the buses turn there's a roundabout, well the loch used to go round as far as that and then later on they dredged it, cleaned it all out and made it smaller and they made the new roadway in which was badly needed I suppose and it was never as small as that, it was quite big.	07.33-08.19
08.21	<i>What were your favourite toys and games when you were younger?</i>	
	Well we used to play outside quite a lot you know, rounders, out with your skipping ropes and stuff like that, and at home it would be just board games and reading books, that type of thing. I had a doll, I loved my doll and it had a plaster face and I always remember I gave a loan of it to somebody and they threw it down, smashed it. There were five of us so there wasn't a whole lot of toys, it was more books and games, that's what we had.	08.26-09.03
09.05	<i>Was there a place where you used to go to play outside?</i>	
	Yes, up Chapelbank, we called it The Inch and that was a great place to play. During the summer holidays we'd be away up there playing and of course I was the oldest in the family so I'd maybe have two or three of them with me, the younger ones. There was always a group of us all your pals all went up there, you'd take a bag of sandwiches with you and it wasn't bottles of pop it was bottles of water and we'd have that up there and then your parents would tell you you've got to be down for a certain time, but they could see us from the distance and waving if you weren't down for the time you had to come home, and when it would be autumn time my Granny and my Mother they used to go out and pick brambles, so that was a day out. They'd go down to the same place, pick all these brambles and then come home and make bramble and apple jelly, that was the highlight, because we all loved that. So that was the kind of things we did, you had to go out and do things, there were no televisions or anything. We didn't miss anything like that because we didn't know, so we enjoyed going out. We used to do a lot of walking to Annathill because quite a lot of my Mother's brother lived up there because they were miners and a that where a lot of the miners houses were, so we'd walk up there to see them and they'd come down to see us, so that was the way we did,	09.07-10.51
10.58	<i>Was there any other favourite food you had?</i>	
	My Mother was a champion dumpling maker, she used to make a dumpling when it was your birthday. Every year each one of us always got a dumpling and there was a knack that she had, it was her pride and joy, she had a real dumpling pot, it was cast iron and this dumpling would get made and she'd put it in, it was huge and it would boil for hours and you Darren go near the cooker and then when the dumpling was off we'd all be gathering round and she'd take the dumpling out and sit it on a big plate and it would sit in front of the fire or the oven to let it dry out and the skin would come on it, so that was our highlight and we'd all say I want the first bit or you got the first bit the last time. So the dumpling was always a highlight, you know.	11.00-11.55
12.02	<i>How would you sum up your childhood?</i>	
	Very happy, plenty to do, we were never bored, we'd always places to go. I think we were fortunate here, when we got older we had the youth club so there was lots to do. There would be netball, Scottish country dancing, Irish dancing, drama, and on a Wednesday night that was your club night so all the	12.05-13.25

	<p>classes got together and this man played the piano and we learned to do all the old-time dances, so that was our week and I went there from I think when you went to the High School say about 11, and that was you until you went to work at 15 or whatever.</p> <p>As I say we were never bored, the likes of when we went to the club we entered competitions for Scottish dancing and I always remember we won the Lanarkshire Cup one year and we were delighted you know. We'd to go to Hamilton to do this. They were happy days.</p>	
13.32	<i>What childhood games did you play?</i>	
	We played skipping ropes and rounders out in the streets. You'd go into wee teams and compete to see who'd run the fastest, play with two balls hitting them off the wall, things like that you know. Obviously the boys were football. When they saw us coming they chased us, they didn't want us near them.	13.34-14.10
14.15	<i>What other things did you do for fun as a teenager?</i>	
	We had a cinema in the village and it was a great wee cinema and every Saturday they had a matinee for the children. We'd go there and it was really good. I think it was three pennies in old money to get in so we went there every Saturday and then when you got older you were allowed to go at night time. It was on every night of the week practically and on a Friday and Saturday they had two houses, an early showing and a late showing. There was always plenty of films on, they changed the programme every week. So we were lucky we had it in the village and then also up at the church, Our Lady's Church on a Sunday a man would come with a projector, a Father he was on the Committee, he put all the chairs out and we'd all go in and it was things like Laurel and Hardy, stuff like that and there would always be a serial and it would get to the exciting bit and it would say come back next week to see the rest, so we'd always that to look forward to.	14.17-15.41
15.42	<i>What was your High School like?</i>	
	I liked the school, it was quite good. When we got to Primary 7 we'd to sit the control test as they called it, the Eleven Plus was the proper name they called it, and that would determine which school you went to. I don't know if that was a good thing or not, but anyway if you passed it you could opt to go for five years or if you didn't you went for three years. So if you went for five years you went to St Patrick's School for us. I went to St Patrick's School but I didn't stay the five years, I left at 15, I was keen to go and work. The Head Master wasn't very pleased with me but I was the oldest of five and I just felt I'm going to go to work. I was very fortunate, I left school on the Friday but I had a job to go to, I started work on the Monday so straight after I left the school. You wouldn't do that now would you?	15.48-16.52
16.55	<i>What work did you go to?</i>	
	I went into an office, it was the bus garage at Stepps it big was part of the Scottish Bus Group eventually but it was a private company, Alexanders Buses and I started off in there as the Office Junior. You worked your way up. It was quite good because you went into every department so you learned and eventually you learned to do wages and mileage, different jobs in the office. I worked there until I was married and I left there. When my first one, my boy, was born they were looking for someone to go back into the office and I'd	16.56-18,23

	<p>always kept in touch with the people in the office, the girls, so I went back to work there again. It was a food job, I liked the work, it was varied and it was a very busy place you know, you were dealing with the public quite a lot which I liked but eventually they closed the garages down so I never went back there and had to get another later on.</p>	
18.25	<p><i>At your High School do you remember any special events?</i></p>	
	<p>Oh uhuh. We had a very good Music Teacher, she was great, I remember I loved that and she played the piano and she played all the pop songs and we always had a Christmas Show. The one that sticks out in my mind was an operata she called it, The Magic Ruby. That was good, they were great, and you always dressed up for the occasion with the make-up on.</p>	18.30-19.11
19.16	<p><i>Can you tell me about the places you've lived and now live?</i></p>	
	<p>I lived in Glenboig until I got married. My husband had a flat in Glasgow, in Dennistoun and I moved in there. Oh that was a culture shock, I couldn't get used to it, but I loved the house and we stayed there for six years and I had my son by then, my first son. My husband knew I wasn't happy there. He worked in British Rail near High Street Station and it was convenient for him for his work, however he managed to get a transfer out this area and my Mother and my Father had plenty room in the house because my brothers and sisters had all got married bar one. You couldn't just move out of Glasgow to a different area because it was two different Councils. So we'd to ask my Mother and Father if we could go and live with them to put our name down on the list for a house in Glenboig through the Council and I always remember my Mother saying I thought you were never going to ask me. She was desperate for us to come back. We stayed with my Mother and Father for about 14 months I think and then we got our own house in Glenboig and I've been here ever since.</p>	19.19-20.48
20.51	<p><i>What was it about Glenboig that made you want to come back.</i></p>	
	<p>All my friends and family were here. Glasgow was very, I think, quite impersonal. I think that would be right because I would be used to going out and you'd meet somebody you knew and you'd get a blether. When I got married at first I continued working and then when I stopped work when my son was born and my husband, he was out working all day, so I didn't know anybody. I always remember I'd put him in the pram and I'd walk along Duke Street in the park, I always remember because I didn't know anybody and I couldn't go and see anybody, the likes of here I could go and see three or four different aunties, cousins, my granny, my mother, my father and in there, there was absolutely nobody because my husband's family didn't live in that area, they were in different parts of Glasgow. So that was the reason I came back here.</p>	20.52-22.02
22.03	<p><i>Can you tell me about the local industries in the area?</i></p>	
	<p>Well there was the Brickworks. There was one there in the village that made fire-clay bricks which were quite world famous actually because what they were were special bricks. My Father used to tell me there and they used them for furnaces and they were used for all different things, the Queen Mary, the Queen Elizabeth, famous liners. This is what was used for their furnaces on the ships. Then there was another one, hurl. I don't know the kind of bricks they made but it was different. They were called Starbworks. It was</p>	22.08-22.04

	<p>Glenboig Union Fireclay Works and then they extended it and it became The Starworks. So my Father worked as a continuation, he worked there. He worked in the kilns firing the bricks.</p> <p>My Mother had a lot of brothers and they all worked down the coal mine in Annathill.</p> <p>So that was really the industries there. My aunts they all just worked in the village. When we were working we went to Glasgow and Coatbridge and places like that. I suppose a lot of people went to Coatbridge and worked in the shops. The big Co-operative here, there was local women who worked in that, they had the groceries, the butcher and the drapers. So we had all that in the village, so you could do all your shopping in the village, you know.</p>	
24.06	<i>Were you aware of any industrial action or strikes in the community?</i>	
	<p>Well the miners had a strike that lasted quite a while but that was in recent years that wasn't when I was young. I don't know if there were any strikes in the brickworks, I can't remember that. As we got older, I'd be married by that time, there was quite a bad strike by the miners and that lasted a year. That was quite serious because they weren't getting any wages so they were depending on the local community. They had a social club at that time so they'd go to the social club and they were depending on people making their dinner, make food for them, give them shopping bags full of messages, so I suppose that was quite traumatic for them. That was the worst one I can remember. Its the only one I can think of.</p>	24.09-25.06
25.18	<i>Is there more work available in the area or less?</i>	
	<p>Definitely less. In the village, definitely less. There isn't any big employment in the village now.</p>	25.20-25.28
25.35	<i>Has the Seven Lochs area changed since you were a child?</i>	
	<p>The Loch here in Glenboig I told you about. The loch at Gartcosh we'd walk there but we'd never go near the loch. It is nice now but again it was all overgrown, it was not as well tended then. We had a day out if we went to Hogganfield. My Father used to take us on the bus and we'd go to Hogganfield and we'd have a picnic there with my Mother and Father, so that was a nice loch. That's the one we liked the best. I can't remember going to any other ones, just these three.</p>	25.38-26.16
26.17	<i>What did you like about Hogganfield Loch?</i>	
	<p>Well it was a nice loch and there was boats on it, row boats and stuff like that on it and you could walk right round it and you could play, there was plenty of room to run about and play. The lochs here now, Gartcosh and Glenboig there was no room to play whereas in Hogganfield you had plenty of room to play ballgames and stuff like that. Drumpellier, I'd never actually been to that one when I was young but later when my family was young we'd go to Drumpellier, that was quite good as well, but the one in our childhood that we liked was Hogganfield, it was nice and you got ice cream at it.</p>	26.19-27.12
27.13	<i>How has Hogganfield changed from then till now?</i>	
	<p>Well I haven't been for a long time, I don't even pass it now because you go the motorway, you don't go through the wee villages. So I really don't know what it looks like now. I don't think it's bad I think it's still quite a nice loch but I haven't been round it for years and years. If we go to the lochs, we go to Drumpellier.</p>	27.19-27.48

27.49	<i>Can you tell me about Drumpellier?</i>	
	Well, it's just a nice walk round it. It used to have a butterfly place but that's away now. We just went there and walked round about and in the summertime. I'm up to grandchildren now, so I could take them. They always had bouncy castles that sort of thing and they opened a nice tearoom, so you could take them in for their lunch. They enjoyed the walk round it and again the weans could play, there was plenty room.	27.52-28.26
28.33	<i>How do you feel about the media portrayal of your area</i>	
	It's changed so much now. I'm not bitter about it, but it's just changed so much and people are saying, oh it wasn't like that years ago, all these houses coming in. It has changed but I don't think they're changing the infrastructure you might call it, to suit the volume of houses and people. That's what I don't like about it. They've taken away some of the green fields and the walks we used to go on are not the same any more. It's not really a village as such any more, because there's loads of houses, so it's changed that way.	28.49-29.42
29.45	<i>What were your favourite walks you used to go on?</i>	
	Well, a walk from here to Gartcosh, we called it the ducks' walk, so you could go up there and there was the bluebell woods. It's still there, some of it's still there, but they've cut a lot of the trees down, it's just not the same, it's different, and as I say when you're walking up the lane, the houses are right out to the lane. It's just houses everywhere.	29.48-30.16
30.20	<i>What do you think could be done to improve the community in Glenboig?</i>	
	Maybe some place for the young people. The community is quite good but there's not a lot for the young people to do. I don't know if that's the same in all villages. They have a young football team but it's for the boys. I don't really know if they've got anything for the girls. I always harp back to when we went to the youth club, that type of thing. That gave you something to look forward to, somewhere to go. I don't know if they've got that now, but I think that would be a good thing, and we haven't got any shops, nothing. One wee shop in the village. Not that you're looking for many shops, but as people say it's not the same as it used to be, but then you can't live in the past I don't suppose, things definitely change. So I think maybe we live in the past, I don't know. I just would like it to be less busy. The roads are horrific, they speed through the village and they don't care.	30.22-31.47
31.58	<i>Have you got any favourite memories of Glenboig?</i>	
	I really don't know, just all the community things. There's not any place in the village where people of our age can go. We used to have, for talking sake, a social club, and you could go round there on a Saturday night, couples could go round there on a Saturday night. You didn't go every Saturday, but it was somewhere to go and somewhere to meet and they'd have nights for the ladies and they'd have darts and things like that for the men and you'd all get together, that kind of community spirit is not there any more, so there's really nothing for our age group to go to at all.	32.09-32.52
33.09	<i>Thank you Alice for sharing your memories</i>	
	Thank you	33.10



Communities Past & Futures Society

cpandfs@outlook.com