

## ORAL HISTORY - A

Transcriber's initial: T

P1: It was Hillington, and I'm still in the same house. I've no reason to leave. My parents were older when I was born. I went to Hillington School, and I really liked school. I didn't want to leave school. I couldn't understand how you could leave school. In the holidays... I felt guilty not being at school, and that's the holidays! I had lots of friends at school. I don't have any brothers or sisters, but I have got lots of friends. I've still got friends from primary school and secondary school.

I went to Girvan, my holidays when I was a wee girl. For two weeks in the summer. And I liked Girvan. And my mum liked Girvan. My mum and dad went to Largs for their honeymoon, my dad liked Largs. But... my mum won.

My dad played bowls. He was a member of Cardonald Bowling Club, and he joined Girvan Bowling club as well. So, if I was up early enough in the morning, after breakfast my dad and I would walk to the bowling club. And I was very easily pleased. All he had to do was buy me two packets of crisps and two small bottles of raspberryade, and that was me! I'd just sit and watch him play bowls! And I do remember my dad running after the bowl because... there's a white ball that they have to aim for at the other end of the green, it's called a jack. And they've got to get as near to that as possible. And my dad would run after that. He was older, but he was fit. He was rather... fat. And he wasn't very tall. But... I did say to him, he would make a good Father Christmas. But he didn't like that idea. But I thought that'd be great, but anyway... Well, we'd go back home for lunch. It wasn't really much of a holiday for my mum because she cooked as well, and she cooked at home, but... And then in the afternoon we'd go to the beach. Mum and I would put our swimming costumes on and my dad would have his swimming trunks on and... we didn't swim in the sea, but we maybe just paddled it in. And then sometimes at

night-time in Girvan we'd go back to the bowling green at night, because my dad was playing then.

P2: Again.

P1: Again. The house has got a garden, it's got a long garden. It's four in a block and it's the corner house. Before I was born my dad built a path, his own path, so we have a path going from our door, and there's the main path that goes to the front. And my dad said that he... I think the garden must have been a bit hilly, so he lowered it, and it's all grass. He liked doing the gardening. Mum and I would help him. We've got a lot of hedge which was very tall. My dad would stand on the steps to cut the hedge. With a hedge trimmer, which is quite heavy. And mum and I... well, my mum would sweep it up and I would help her. And then she'd say "I'm labourer here!". I helped her and then... Perhaps if we were doing it on a Sunday afternoon and the ice cream man came, we'd have oysters. Like, it's two shells, and there's ice cream in the middle. Kind of pastry shells. And so, we'd sit and have a break and have that. I've actually have photographs of us, mum and I, sitting on the grass doing that.

My mum made homemade soup, and I liked her homemade soup. And she would make it either flank mutton or boiling beef or perhaps a bone. If she was making it with any of those, she'd cook that for about two hours or something, or an hour or so, it was... a wee while. And then three carrots and some parsley, and a potato, turnip, and... She chopped everything up very finely, so there was lots and lots of vegetables, and then the night before she made the soup she would steep Scotch broth, lentils, and then everything went to the soup. Well, I was a wee bit fussy. My dad liked it the first day because it was thick. And I said "Oh, it's a bit thick!" and mum says "It'll be better tomorrow, it's always thinner the second day". So, I still ate it the first day! So, I liked that. And she made mince potatoes, and I liked mince potatoes. And she put carrot and onion in it, and Bisto. And on a Sunday, after church we'd come home and we'd have steak pie, peas and potatoes, and we'd have our homemade soup and bread. She didn't make

the pie, that was out the butcher's. She'd maybe roll the pastry and put it on. And then it'd rice and pears. Ambrosia creamed rice. I didn't know about any other kind of rice then. I've since learned that there's baked rice and all that. But the only rice I knew was out of a tin. So, rice and pears, and that was fine for me. I liked that, I like my food, as you can see.

I do remember my dad, and mum, the three of us went to buy a carpet. An almost-fitted carpet for the living room. And it was red with other color in it. And my dad just said to me, "Would you like a scooter?". And I hadn't ask for this! And I said yes, so I got a red scooter with a hooter. So that was good because I asked my mum if I could, like about 5-ish, near the time my dad was coming home from work... I asked her if I could go just up and down that wee bit and wait for my dad coming off the bus. So, I was allowed to do that, and then I'd meet my dad off the bus and then we'd come back home. Men at that time, when they went to work, they wore a soft hat. And then coming up the stairs I just put his hat on, and... I was quite happy!

I really liked being a child. Don't like being older now, but I liked being a child!