

## ORAL HISTORY - J (INTERVIEWED BY Y)

Transcriber's initials: CO

Sensitive topics: Misogyny, swear words used, death of a pet.

P1: So Margret do you just wanna tell me, what some of your earliest memories are?

P2: When I was at school I used to always wonder how cigarettes were made, and when I left school I started looking for different jobs at [inaudible] Cigarette Factory and ehhe Caperfoot, Whilston Cigarettes and Templeson's but I didn't get accepted for them so I done another job at the [inaudible] and I done the CV, I was in there for six months, didn't like it, and my mum says, "You've always wondered how books were made, why don't you try that?" and I went in there and I was in there for nearly 26 years. They took me [inaudible].

(0:22-1:07)

P1: How old were you when you started?

P2: 15 when I started there.

P1: And is that the only place you can remember ?

P2: Na, I used to work in, as I say the [inaudible: CanDarf] [workplace?] [Inaudible] TA and I did the night shift but I didn't like it. In there everybody was far too strict , you had to ask permission to go to the toilet. Then I went round to [inaudible workplace] in March 1970 and I was in there for over 25 years, till it went redundancy.

(1:14-1:55)

P1: So which bit of Glasgow did you grow up in ?

P2: Ehh [inaudible: sounds like Kilmarnock?] down at Davison street, then we moved up to Easterhouse and we lived there for a while, then we moved down again just at Bridgestone moved there then we went to the [inaudible] that's just at Celtic Park there for years. It was a lovely thing if you were a football fan , you could walk, you know, just across the road. I wanted to go one time, he said, "You cannae go yourself," and I said "You want to go?" "What you mean, 'Do I want to go?'" "If you go, I can go with you." He says, "Aye alright, so I went to [inaudible] we went to Celtic Park every three or four weeks to watch the football. We went to see, me and a pal that I worked with, we went to see the Dunfermline and I was in [inaudible] at the time, and the boyfriend I had at the time was wasn't going cos he didny have a lot of money, "Well I'm going, I don't care if you're going," so me and my pal went, and then later on we went got something to eat and I went up to his and he says, "Did you go to the Celtic?" [Inaudible] Well that was us, he was raging cause lassies don't go to football, said, "Well I am a lassie that does though." At the time lassies didny play football the way they do noo, and he goes, "Well that's disgusting and makes you look dead cheap," all cause I went to a football game, "aye cause lassies don't do things like that." "Well, I'm one lassie that does and he was really angry."

(2:00-4:00)

P1: Ooh Gosh, that must've been horrible.

P2: Aye it was in his house and his mammy was sitting listening to what we were saying, and she said, "Leave her alone, she's no a stupid wee lassie, she was able to go to a football game cos she went with her pal." He goes, "Well that's besides the point she should've never went there in the first place." I go, "Well you're just jealous cos you never went.." It was cos he had nae money, cause if you've paid to go to football I'd have come with you so...

(4:03-4:30)

P1: What's it like now, you know, knowing that things are you different now, that women are, you know, playing big football games.

P2: I think it's good, even the driving buses and vans, my mum wouldn't do that, used to be a man's job and when I just left school before I was fourteen [inaudible] carpet cleaners, it was a heavy job [inaudible]. He said, "We can't give you this job, its a mans job." I said, "Well I'm gonna stop you there there's no such thing as a man's job." I goes, "I can do the job watch." [Inaudible] "Well you've got to lift a lot of weight." I go, "Lifting a lot of weight doesn't bother me." "You've got to use a pressure washer, you know, to wash all the floor and dae the wall cause it was a fish factory, it's got to get done." I says, "I'll struggle when I first start but I'll know how to work it cos like everybody else you've got to learn." He goes, " I still cannae give you the job." I goes "Cos I'm a female?" He goes, "Aye?"

(4:40 - 5:50)

P1: That would've made me really angry.

P2: [Inaudible] the religion was quite strict sort of thing, you, you weren't a Protestant or Catholic they didn't let you in [inaudible] my mum says, "I don't know if they'll let you in." "I can dae the job." [Inaudible] "cos you're a Catholic." "My aunt [?] is doing the job so I'll be doing the job." [Inaudible], "Catholic or Protestant, you've got to be one or the other" so that's how I never got that job.

P1: Gosh wow, but you did get job you stayed in for a long time. How was it making books?

P2: I was amazed at the way they done things, how they made, put them all together, different things, absolutely fascinated at first, cos ehh when I first started in there , wasn't a very good reader and my mammy was always moaning "You should be reading books." I wasn't interested [inaudible] one time we were out, looking at books and she saw me shaking it, asked what I was

doing I said "well books are made out of cigs... [inaudible], she goes that's proof you like your job. I goes, "I don't, I hate my job." And she used to go and buy books from Harper Collins , and I said to her once "Why did you buy that book? [Inaudible] do you know where that was published?" She said, "Naw," so I showed her. "What does it say?" "Harper Collins." "Where do I work?" "Harper Collins." I goes, "You spent whatever you spent on that book and I could've got it free cos," I goes, "I could've got it for nothing." "How, what do you mean ?" [Inaudible] I had backhanders quite often, so I didn't buy a book. The only time I bought a book is if I was in the book sales at the work, paperbacks were only 10-15p and you spent 2 pounds odds for that, "I could've got it for you for 15p." "Keep forgetting your in there." I goes, "How many months i've been in there and you forget, woman."

P1: Aaaah... you when you were working there were where you living? Were you living on your own or with other people or...?

P2: We lived in easterhouse, when I first started in there, then we moved again nearer the work, that's when we moved to Denniston, you could walk it too work, dinny have to get the bus.

P1: And did you live with your family ?

P2: Yes.

P1: How many of you was there ?

P2: Well I've got three sisters and two brothers.

P1: Well, must've been crowded.

P2: Well, cos there wasn't a lot of room, a kitchen, one kitchen and a bedroom. It was bunk beds cause we didn't have the space and that's what we were sleeping in, two sets of bunk beds in the room, which was the only beds you could get at the time.

P1: Did you like living there ?

P2: Aye, it was quite good .

P1: Not too far away from where we are, I suppose.

P2: [Inaudible] so it was quite handy.

P1: Yeah, what was your relationship like with all your siblings? Did you like all get on well?

P2: Most of the time, typical sister share a few choice words with each other [Inaudible] but most of the time we got on okay. So , but I used to [Inaudible], we went out one night me and my sisters to the [inaudible: sounds like "doctery"] and my sister made a comment about my hair and I says, "Just remember who you wae the night." She says, "How, what do you mean?" "We're your 3 older sisters." "What's that got to dae with it." "Well, just watch your cheek." [Inaudible].

P1: And did you do the dancing at the [inaudible].

P2: Aye.

P1: What was that like? What are your memories of that?

P2: [Inaudible].

P1: Not a dancer?

P2: Naw.

P1: What did you like doing back then? What were your hobbies?

P2: Well mostly dancing, cos we went to the Barrowlands quite a lot and used to go rollerskating used to be [inaudible], I started going there just before I left school and when I started work, I was a saturday morning [inaudible], you see people going dead fast you just trying to keep up with them but you know you cannae, well that was a disappointment cause I wasny very fast. Aye cause there was one guy that I liked [inaudible]

(11:40-12:40)

P1: Awww, the main thing is that you enjoyed it then. How often did you go ?

P2: Nearly every week it was that [inaudible].

P1: So you were a bit of a party animal back in the day?

P2: Aye and naw [inaudible], my da was quite strict we weren't allowed to wear make up, so we used to get a handbag and stuff all our makeup , used to go on the bus, sit on the bus and put all our makeup on, wee woman sitting watching me, "Where you going anyway?" "Just going to the dancing — dad quite strict, doesn't let us put makeup on." "Aye I was wondering how yous were putting makeup on, are you related to each other?" Cos I had sisters, going to sit on the bus put makeup on, try get it off before we went hame.

(13:00-13:45)

P1: Aww man. What did you used to put on? Like lipstick and eyeshadow?

P2: Aye.

P1: The works.

P2: Aye.

P1: That sounds really fun, erm, is there anything like emm, specific memories, or like food and drink wise that reminds you of your childhood?

P2: I used to like curries, they were quite kind of curries [inaudible] growing up my mammy she always made the same things, say you used to get fish and chips during the week, naw it was mince and tatties during the week, we didn't get fish and chips cos the used to say that was a Catholic's dinner they used to say, Catholics aren't supposed to eat meat they're supposed to eat fish. Well guess what my ma done, there was one weekend she came out with mince and tatties and the priest always came up, he says, "What's this your eating?" and my ma say, "Mince and tatties." "Its friday your not supposed to be eating them," and my ma says, she was a right cheeky bugger sometimes, she'd tell you straight to our face she goes "When you start giving me money to fed my wains i'll give them what you want, until then they'll get mince and tatties, no fish and chips, it's got nothing to do with you."

(14.09-15.13)

P1: Priest just come along and say you're not allowed to eat fish and chips on a Friday.

P2: Yep, you're not allowed to eat mince and tatties on a Friday, you had to have fish and chips.

P1: Awwww, they said fish and chips, half the sinner. That was just rubbish , it was just something to eat.

P1: So funny, why did they used to say that?

P2: I don't know, cos you were , I don't know , Cause we were catholics I suppose [Inaudible].

P1: Alright here's a question for you: where was the best chippy in Glasgow, when you were what age or working or...?

P2: Whhh, one on London road used to be good , quite next to the pub , near all the [inaudible].

P1: Is it still there ?

P2: I've not been down that way for ages but I think it's still there , it might have changed hands and there used to be a nice one at Parkhead and its Chinese [inaudible], the only thing I know is pasta, I don't like pasta.

P1: Why ?

P2: I don't know it just sticks there, yet I like spaghetti and that's pasta but [inaudible], the chunky ones, i'll only eat spaghetti not the other kind.

P1: Mmmm so it depends on the shape of it?

P2: Aye.

P1: Mmmm that's interesting, so what about? You're quite into films and stuff aren't you? What was some of the best films that came out at that time? When you were working at... [doesn't say].

P2: *Star Wars*.

P1: *Star Wars*, yeah.

P2: [Inaudible] I was 14 when I went there and yeah all the films I liked all the films, the worst one that ever had an effect on me was *The Exorcist*, but the boyfriend I had at the time he was evil and there was one time where we stay, the house well the house, the build was condemned, and the houses in it and the couples. Boyfriend says, "Wait here and i'll give you a shout." "Ooh right okie." And I went up to the top of the stairs were I stayed and one of my brothers jumped out on me, I didn't shout I screamed and I was [inaudible] "What's the matter? Sam shouted on you and you screamed, I goes I certain part in the film and he jumped and that's what I was done in, he goes "You stupid bitch!" [inaudible] that's what thingy affected me cause the was a certain part in the film and I screamed at the cos I went to the toilet with my, his sister in law and she screamed so I never seen the actual bit she screamed , I screamed even louder and the hall went burst out laughing and I sat doing this, "What everybody laughing." "Cos you, you stupid bitch," he went, "Why you screamed?" "She hadn't done it first, wouldn't have done it, I mean watching the film, [inaudible] when she screamed I joined her." You know what he said, he said " "You have a problem."

(16:59-18:52)

P1: Naaah usually , you're alright though, aren't you? With horror films, yeah? [Sensitive content saved elsewhere].

P1: Yeah, do you think that's where your love of horror films and stuff came from?

P2: That was just more graphic, *The Exorcist*, that was quite graphic as well.

P1: What about music, were you into music?

P2: Always been a fan on Neil Diamond. I still like him and I got slagged one time by my young niece, I slagged one of the groups that she likes. "You like Neil Diamond, he's an old man." "No really, no at the time, I was 17-18 when I liked him, when I was at school, I left school at like 15



I've liked him ever since, I go, "No, Neil Diamond's brilliant and I still like him." But I've noticed his voice is starting to change due to his age.

P1: What age is he now?

P2: 82.

P1: Mmm, what are your favourite songs?

P2: Ehh, umm... 'Sweet Caroline', I liked that, 'Song Sung Blue', 'Forever in Blue Jeans', just about anything, quite a lot of them I like.

P1: What did you like to dance to when you were going out in the Barrowlands? Do you remember?

P2: Just about anything, sometimes there was a band on they weren't always very good, when the disk jockey was on, I was always up dancing, it was good

P1: Yeah, did you go out with your sisters, did you go out with your friends, who did you go out with?

P2: I went with my sister quite a lot, I also went out with some of my pals that I was working with but I always had company, I went out with my aunt a few times that stays in Dumbarton to see Neil Diamond, of that was absolutely fantastic.

P1: Saw him live?

P2: Aye.

P1: Wow!

P1: Twice, I've seen him live. He's brilliant cos when he comes to Britain he brings his own stage and I was just looking at him on this stage, and said, "Gonna tell me something, is that stage moving?" My aunt says I'm not the only one that seen it. [Inaudible], I think at the time he was coming to Britain he must've had at least 10 lorries. Lorry used to come up on stage, it was brilliant. Cos I don't know how many time ilve seen him on the telly, my sister phoned me up one night says Neil Diamonds on, I said I know, and she said what do you mean, I'm sitting watching it.

(21:48-23:22)

P1: Yeah, that must've been amazing.

P2: Aye, seen Rod Stewart live, he's good as well on stage.

P1: So is it country music that you like or...?

P2: Various kinds of music, I like country and western, Neil Diamond and Rod Stewart are my favorite.

P1: Amazing, did you go out and see a lot of live music?

P2: I seen [inaudible] Rod Stewart and Neil Diamond, I went to see Jimmy Niel [inaudible], didn't like him at all, the best part of his act was the wee Irish guy and I went when the show was finished that's a complete waste of time, and my sister says, my auntie says what do you mean, "He was absolutely rubbish." She says, "Well you went for the tickets." Well [inaudible] then I seen him on stage and I didn't like him at all.

P1: What was it about him to think?

P2: I don't know, couldn't take to him.

P1: Naw that's fair enough, in any house you ever live in did you ever have a garden?

P2: Naw, Easterhouse we had one in there, we done it up we used to do it all up, cut the grass and that and we used that, and we had a big back green, we had a torch in every garden, the big back green, this one here we don't really have any grass. There's grass just where the burns are but you've got to go through the square but I've never used it cause the wee man next door has a habit of closing the door when he's not using it, but he doesn't check the back to see if anybody's there. I was getting some things done in here and my sister was taking the rubbish out and he shut the door on her and she had to shout on me to get it opened. Then she done it again, she went to take the rubbish out and he shut the door on her again and when my sister

comes around, she doesn't like it and he knows she doesn't like it and she came in and was like, "See your neighbour?" I goes, "How, what's wrong?" She goes, "He's a beast!" I goes, "How?" She goes, "Well, I couldn't get in cos he's taken the back door key and he shut the back door on me." I goes, "Well, he's done it to me when I've been hanging out the washing and I've shouted on him, he was like, 'Sorry hen, didn't know you were there.' I was like, 'You were just looking.' I goes, 'A nice day hanging out the washing, a nice day hanging out a washing, common sense should tell you, the most majority of woman will hang out a washing on a nice day and you shut the door. It's just as well I heard the door shutting or I could've been banging your window.' [Inaudible].

P1: So you were never into gardening or anything like that ?

P2: I liked sunbathing, my sister did at one time, she gets a good tan cos where she stays she's got a [inaudible] she ends up with a good tan.

P1: But you don't like it, why?

P2: I don't have the patience.

P1: You like to be doing things?

P2: Aye.

P1: Yeah that's fair enough.

P2: Cos one day I went and sat with her, my pal was with us and I started feeling sick, I said, "I canny stay here I'll need to go in." [Inaudible], she goes. "I feel like I canny move I'll need to go in to the house cause I was cooler." She goes, "You're the first person I've ever heard say that." Cos I think it was around the time I'd just been in the hospital for my first heart attack and that was going for me, I was like naw don't like this at all.

P1: Naw it's good to stay cool isn't it? Anyway trying to think what else we should talk about, you used to have dogs didn't you?

P2: A wee westie. That one's K, the other's one's H. H's tail and his big belly.

P1: Aww.

P2: And that wee one there is G, got him no longer after he died. Cos when he died, it used to break my heart, every time my sister came home from work she ask what's wrong, I goes, "Nothing." She goes, "You're thinking about wee G." I goes, "Aye." I was like for months and months sitting greeting when she was in from her work, then my wee niece came up one time, "You'd better get another dug [inaudible] and the dug's been deed for a while now," and I goes, "I cannae help it cos I loved him."

P1: Yeah.

P2: Then I was greeting with K, then see when G was put down I took him into the vet [inaudible]. I was upset the fact that he died but I was more upset the fact it was me that took hi in. But it wasn't so bad with K but I couldn't stop greeting.

P1: Aww, that's really sad. Aww. Did you, I was gonna ask you about how much Scotland you had seen have to travelled around Scotland?

P2: i've been to Aberdeen, Dundee, Arbroth used to go there quite a lot. Arbroth is quite a nice wee place it's like a village and Struthers is nice. I like Arbroth and I like Struthers, I sued to go quite a lot at the weekend and stay the long weekend. Aberdeen, I'm not so keen on, people were friendly enough but they're not as good as Glaswegians and Glaswegians are brilliant because I was taking my wee dog out one time and their was a wain in the street and he says something to me about the dug and I answered him back, your a glaswegian you tell someone straight to their face, I goes "Why, I firmly believe that tell me to your face cause i've of the habit of saying thing I shouldn't really say to people, cos I could get myself into trouble." He says, "That's the worst thing you should do cause I've heard the same, I'm surprised I've not got a punch in the nose yet." I goes I'm surprised i've not got a slap yet , cause i'm one cheeky bitch, I will tell on you." "That's alright. Don't do that."

P1: So you like the fact that Glasgweigns are direct?

P2: Aye, aye, aye.

P1: I like that as well yeah.

P2: I will tell you your face, if you're found out naaa.

P1: That's principle you like to live your life by.

P2: I used to always lecture the boys in the work, if they said something sarcastic, I would be more sarcastic to them for, and one was actually when he said something, "You right cheeky bitch," he goes, "I don't like you." I goes, "You think I'm worried? I come in here for the one reason, this, cause if i'd had enough money in plenty, that's what i'm in here for money."

P1: Aww.

P2: The man I worked for when he was always talking about, he stayed in Bishopbriggs, he thought he was better than everyone else. I said, "You're not any better than me or anybody else." We're talking a couple of men. He said, "What do you mean?" Well, I said, "There's two things you've got debt." He said, "I've not got debt." I goes, "You pay your rent?" "No, it's a mortgage, debt." I goes, "You've paid your electricity, debt and your pay for your gas and anything else," and the men cover me, they said, "She's right. Doesn't matter how fancy you call it it's still debt cos everybody in here has got it and we're all in here cos we've got it." And he wasn't very pleased cos I'd said that, cos everybody's got debt cos it doesn't matter how much money, you've still got debt.

P1: The arguments you got into over the years.

P2: Uhhh aye.

P1: Well, M. We need to stop recording.