Interview with Morton Davidson by Lee Paton on 4th December 2025

Photos from Auchencairn History Society archive



John Davidson's 14-seater Overland Bus

Photo AHS Collection

LP. Today I'm interviewing Morton Davidson at his home in Castle-Douglas, and I'm going to start with your grandfather who started the garage in Auchencairn. Could you tell me a wee bit about him and how he ended up there.

MD. Grandpa, as far as I can remember, he started with the charabanc, the old busses with the open roof, and he kind of started off with Auchencairn pub, and wherever they went, I presume it would be Castle-Douglas, and I don't know. He was a very hefty man. I can remember him with me standing beside him in the yard and he had a straw hat on, and I had a wee pair of overalls on, a curly headed wee boy with a duster in my hand.

LP. I think we've got a photograph of him somewhere with that straw hat on.



MORTON'S GRANDFATHER (AHS Collection)

MD. Aye, he had a big straw hat.

LP. What was his first name?

MD. I think it was Andrew.

LP. And your granny, where was she from?

MD. Granny, I cannae mind where she came from. Dad, John Davidson, had a brother, Tom, and they fell out over the garage. Tom wanted a share out of the garage, but he never put anything into it, so they fell out, and Dad's mother, they fell out too, she moved to Castle-Douglas to her daughter who stayed above the Posthorn shop on the corner, there was a flat above there, and when Dad had the busses, he used to do messages for folk while he had the busses and she was always shouting, Johnny could you call in and get me so and so at the chemist. This went on for

years. And she went up to Dad's sister at this place above the Posthorn and I can even remember her sitting at the window and she was always lookin' doon King Street to see if she could see Dad, and she was yin o' thon woman who had the rings/coils in her hair. That was a family fall out.

LP. Was your dad a local man?

MD. As far as I know. I cannae really say an awful lot about that. But he did start off with the busses and what have you.

LP. Busses from Auchencairn?

MD. The charabanc. There are some photos I think somewhere of folk getting onto them outside the pub in Auchencairn.

LP. What was on the site there before the garage was there or would it just have been open ground?

MD. I think it must have been. I can't really remember much about it. There were some old sheds there that were kinna falling to bits and he just took them down because they were an eyesore.

LP. So, there was something there before but it wasnae a garage.

MD. I think there would be stables there because inside the garage there's kinna rows or marks on the floor where stables were, so there must have been horses in those days.

LP. But your grandfather didn't deal with horses.

MD. Not that I can remember, no.

LP. Was it a bus service and a garage for other people's vehicles or were there not many vehicles then.

05:05

MD. I think there were just the busses but as I say, I was just a wee kinna curly haired boy.

LP. So, you do remember him.

MD. I do remember him. He was quite a bulky man, a sonsy man. And he'd always this straw hat on and I was just this wee guy beside him like I say with my overalls on and a duster, And the lassies still go on at me. *You and your duster!* (Morton reaches down beside his chair and produces a duster)

LP. Oh! You've still got your duster!

MD. I've still got my duster.

LP. So, he had 2 sons then.

MD. Dad was John, and Tom. Just the two of them. And Tom and Dad fell out.

LP. So, when did your dad take over the garage?

MD. We originally stayed in Viewfield.

LP. Where's that then?

MD. The very last house before you get to the school up Main Street, Where John Davidson (no relation) and Molly stayed. We stayed in there. I've got photos of me sitting in that garden as a toddler.

LP. This is when your grandparents were still in the house at the garage.



THE GARAGE HOUSE, ORCHARD VIEW, ABOUT 1907

JUST BEFORE IT WAS BOUGHT BY THE DAVIDSONS (AHS Collection).

MD. We stayed there and that would be when we moved down to the garage. I would only be a year and a bit, something about there.

LP. So, were talking 1930s then. And would your dad have been a mechanic.

MD. No. He was never a mechanic. No, I just think he just came on the scene with Grandpa and the charabanc thing and did work on busses then.

LP. What came after the charabanc? A proper bus?

MD. Aye, he had a Chevrolet bus, 16-seater. I can always remember that, and it was a blue bottom and a white top and at the back it had corner seats, and it was only a 16-seater. A wee blue and white thing. And he had a Bedford which he bought from John McKenzie in Dalry. John McKenzie had some busses at The Lochinvar Garage in they days. It was just if you know where the Lochinvar Hotel is, there was a garage in there where it's a car park now, and he bought a bus off John McKenzie and I can remember John McKenzie, he was a very slight fellow. A Brylcreem boy! He bought this bus and that was the two he had then. It was second hand. And then he got a Bedford 28-seater, but it had wooden seats on it, a kind of utility thing. I can remember the number was GZ21 55. It was a 28-seater. That's when they went from Auchencairn to Castle-Douglas and also with the other Bedford he got from John Mckenzie, to Dalbeattie. After that he got a Bedford coach with nice comfy seats on it. It was SW7 944. It was a service bus as well as a coach. They did mystery tours on a Sunday actually. A big run up to New Galloway and Dalry. Big runs in these days. But he did the service too. There was always a gang of folk comin' doon tae the Red Ha'en and getting off at The Rigg there.

11:17

LP. I've heard about it.

MD. Oh yes! They used to come down on a Sunday if it was a nice day, he would bring them down from Castle-Douglas in the service bus. They were crammed in, standing, and then folk would wander away down to the Red Ha'en and then he took them back home on the service bus at night at about 7 o'clock and they were all coming up, tired out, noisy wains and things like that.

LP. Do you remember that Morton, that would be in your time.

MD. Oh aye. Actually, my mum used to say … beside the driver's seat in the Bedford there was a wee box, and I used to come out with my dad on the bus, and I sat on this wee box seat. I'd be about 2 or 3 years old, and Mum would always say, we'll put you out with your dad on the bus. She wanted rid of me! Get me out of the road and let her get on. But I had this wee box seat, and I sat beside my dad. But Dad had also a Peter Maxwell who stayed just across from the garage where Betty and Robert (Caldow) stayed (No.7 Main Street). Betty and Robert stayed down the steps. I think that was the first house they went into, but they had no view or anything, they were all enclosed, and Peter and Mrs maxwell stayed next door to them, down the steps, and Peter was a driver for Dad.

LP. I was just going to ask you did he have drivers.

MD. Peter was a driver, he drove for dad for years on the service bus. Any Sunday service, Dad did himself to give Peter a break because usually when they came in on a Saturday night frae the pictures when The Palace was open, and Billy's was a picture hoose, you'll maybe not remember but that was in where The King's Arms car park is now in Queen Street. There was a picture hoose there.

LP. I remember hear tell of it, aye.

MD. There were the 2 picture hooses, and they used to come back on a Saturday night. There was 2 busses loaded, and they went into Palnackie and then Auchencairn. There was no Dalbeattie ones then, but they needed the 2 busses on a Saturday night when folk went to the pictures for the ninepenny rush. I mind going to the ninepenny rush at the Palace, and by the time they got in the busses it would be about 11 o'clock at night and of course there was an awful lot of litter on the busses. Folk bought their fish and chips and just left it in the busses and so the busses were quite smelly. We had to clean all the busses, the inside anyway, before we went to our beds actually to get them kinna semi decent, but on the Sunday morning there was a service went out at 11 o'clock in the morning it was, to Castle-Douglas, but the busses had to be then washed. Again, up early to wash the outside and what have you. The inside was done on the Saturday night, and it could be after midnight before they got in the hoose.

16:10

LP. I can imagine if everyone was eating fish and chips you would have to clean it that night.

MD. So the bus went oot, and again that was when in the summertime the folk came doon tae The Red Ha'en.

LP. He was kept fairly busy with the busses then. It was quite a comprehensive service he provided.

MD. Oh aye. I think Dad would stop the busses in about 1954 because folk were getting into their cars and of course there's less folk travelling on your bus and of course The Western (Western Scottish Motor Transport Co Limited) was coming on the go then.

LP. Western SMT.

MD. They were coming on the go.

LP. Would all the wee communities have had their own bus service?

MD. Aye, there was Campbell of Gatehouse had one because when I went to Kirkcudbright Academy, Campbell of Gatehouse picked us up at the fountain at Auchencairn and Jimmy McLelland was the driver and he would come from Kirkcudbright, pick us up and take in the gang from Auchencairn and take us back to Kirkcudbright but they went the top road, the Buckland road, past Kirkcarsewell and they picked up pupils for The Academy.

LP. That must have taken a wee while.

MD. Oh aye. Campbell had quite a few busses in these days and their garage if I remember rightly, at that time was where that place, Galloway … that eating place, there's a big car park beside it in Gatehouse. The Anwoth Hotel and there was a garage in there and I think Campbell had a garage there. There was various busses. There was Carruthers of New Abbey, they had busses too and I can't remember any more.

LP. Tell us the story about braking when they had to change gear going up to Bengairn.

MD. Well seemingly when they had to go up that road, it's quite steep, as you'll know. Why they had to go up that road, I don't know but I'm not sure if it was the old ones with the open top, but they used to put a … when they had to change gear, they had to stop and there was this thing like a pick,

somebody must have pulled a lever somewhere and it stuck into the tarmac so that they could engage the other gear, the lower gear and start off on that. Then they lifted this pick thing. I vaguely remember that.

20:04

LP. It sounds a wee bit precarious.

MD. Oh aye! Good Heavens aye! It was like a big steel rod, and they stuck it into the tarmac to let them change gear and they would lift it I suppose after they got up to the hill and went into a higher gear. I can't remember why they had to go up there, whether it was ocht tae dae with Bengairn hoose.

LP. Lifting people for a picnic or Sunday School trip?

MD. That's about all I can remember.

LP. If it was from the early 1900s till the 1950s, that's a lot of decades of providing a bus service to the village.

MD. I think it was about 1954. Folk were getting into their cars, and I think Dad realised and thought, we'll get rid of these busses.

LP. So, he would have to adapt the business.

MD. Aye. The garage wasnae kinna on the go then quite honestly.

LP. So, it was really the busses stopped and he started the garage after that.

MD. I started to serve my time at Brown's garage in 1950. Browns garage was at the bottom there, of the toon and I was there until 56. Dad was kinna friendly with Brown's and I was always going to be going to Brown's garage to serve my time. I knew that. I left the school at 15. Couldn't get away from it quick enough. I was at Kirkcudbright Academy. I went there until 1956, and it was then I had to go into the army of course, 56 till 58. National Service, I just was in the last batch before it stopped.

LP. Where were you for your National Service Morton.

MD. I was down in Honiton in Devon for the square bashing as they call it, training for 6 weeks and then moved across. When the postings came out, I moved across to Hampshire, Borden in Hampshire and they put me on the permanent staff there which meant I was going to be there for the rest of

my 22 months service. I wasn't going to be posted anywhere else, and I worked in a garage there too.

LP. Was that because of your training.

MD. That was because of my training. I had to do parades and guard duty as well, what you have to do.

LP. Did you enjoy it?

MD. Eh. Ahh! I didn't want to do it. I think most folk didn't, but after I'd done it, I thought, I'm glad I did it cos it made you kinna dae what you were telt, even though you didn't feel like it many a time. But keep the peace and just get on with it.

LP. For a lot of young men, it would be getting away from home for a couple of years, and some would have quite enjoyed that.

MD. I've heard a lot of folk say that it would still be beneficial. But I didn't dislike it after a while and when I knew I was going to be there all the time there in Hampshire- it was just a wee bit up from Portsmouth actually- and I knew I wasn't going to be shifted, that was quite good because I used to come in from there to Waterloo Station and Waterloo Station over to Euston and I caught The Paddy. It left at half past seven at night and I was in Castle-Douglas in the morning at half past four. You'll maybe have heard of The Paddy. And Dad had to pick me up at half past four in the morning! It wasnae just the best! I'm glad I did it, put it that way. Kept myself out of bother.

25:50

LP. You would never get into bother would you.

MD. There was no good in arguing. Sometimes you could have smashed somebody in the face, well smashing somebody in the face is maybe a wee bit hard but you just had to dae what you were telt!

LP. Just to go back a wee bit Morton, presumably before you were at the Academy you were at Auchencairn Primary School. What was it like?

MD. It was quite a big school. Catriona McCall's there just now isn't she.

LP. She's about to retire.

MD. I believe so. There was the infant room which Mrs Thompson, the headmaster's wife. Alec Thompson was the headmaster. There was the infant room there and then there was the big room and then there was another room, and they had a soup kitchen out the back, a wooden kind of shed. And there was folk from the village used to cook up there.

LP. Just the two teachers.

MD. There was Mrs Thompson and there was another one. When I started there, there was a Miss Whan, and she married John Brydson, you know Brydsons of Nether Hazelfield. That connection. She married John Brydson.

They were a big family the Brydsons.

MD. There was Bert, Dovey and all that lot. If I remember right, she married this Brydson.

LP. I'll ask Jane about that because Jose and Bert's daughter Jane's living at Bunker Hill now.

MD. Of course aye.

LP. Did you like it at the primary school Morton.

MD. No. Actually, I'm told Miss Whan caught me running away from the school when I was 5. You know you went when you were 5 years old and she caught me about the police station somewhere going down the front street.

LP. Heading for home.

MD. Hauled me back. So, there was that. I never liked the school. I never liked Kirkcudbright Academy either actually.

LP. They would be a lot stricter in your day, I think.

MD. Oh aye!

LP. Do you remember the people you were at school with? I know it's a long time ago. Chrissie Rennie would be your age.

MD. Chrissie would be. I canny really remember.

LP. But you didn't like it very much.

MD. I wasnae very enamoured with it. I'll tell you one lassie who was there, Sheila Picken, her dad had Rascarrel Farm. A big lassie she was. A big, hefty lassie. I remember her actually, she was quite a tall lassie, and she was bigger than all us lot.

LP. The Pickens were there before the Hendrys.

MD. That's right, the Picken's were there. There was John. John the son died didn't he.

LP. Drowned, I think.

MD. Drowned at Rascarrel, aye. There's not an awful lot I can mind about whae was there quite honestly.

30:06

LP. Where was your mother from?

MD. Mother was from Wigtownshire. She was a McHarg and she actually, unknown to me, was a music teacher at some time and I always wish she had taught me the piano or something. I don't know where she taught as a teacher, but she had her cap and gown, mortar board, and I've still got that in a room somewhere in a box. She then she must have changed from that, and she was a nurse at The Crichton Royal, Dumfries, and I think that's where Dad and her met up. She was a nurse, she had various pals. I remember Margaret Foote, she was a nurse and she got pally with Mum, and they became quite close pals. Dad must have met her about then when she was nursing as far as I can make out. Now Margaret Foote turned out later to be a police sergeant in Dumfries, a lady police sergeant, and she was an Irish woman, and she missed The Victoria going down. You know The Princess Victoria, the boat that sank.

LP. The one that sank going across from Stranraer to Ireland.

MD. Aye. She would have been on that if she hadn't to wait at the police station for some police business that night and she went over 2 or 3 days after that to her home. But she would have been on The Princess Victoria.

LP. Quite a thought isn't it.

MD. They became very friendly, even when Mum and Dad were in Orchard View, you know, the garage, Margaret used to come up monthly on a Sunday to visit them and then went back on the bus. She didn't drive.

LP. So, tell me about the garage then, after he gave up the busses, you presumably came back to work with him after that.

MD. I came back to work after National Service, 1958 and I got onto the mechanical side of things. We always had taxis too.

LP. But you say your dad was never a mechanic.

MD. He was never a mechanic, no.

LP. Presumably he picked something up.

MD. He must have picked it up you know, through the years but he never served his time, it was just a case of he just grew and grew, and it was that that set me up after National Service. We just got folk, a lot of folk coming in.

LP. Like you say, there would be starting to be a demand for a garage then because more and more folk would be getting cars. It just seems quite a leap to go from busses to servicing cars.

MD. 1954 the busses went away.

LP. When did you and Jan meet and get married?

34:50

MD. Well, that was very interesting. In about 1959, there was 2 students, Janet Jenkins and Jan Stewart came down to Auchencairn School as part of their training from Jordan Hill, and it was Fred Lewis who was in the schoolhouse and Mrs Lewis in these days, and Fred contacted me one day and he said at the garage, Morton, could I hire a car to go up to Castle-Douglas to pick up 2 students who were coming, and I said aye, certainly Fred. And Fred and I went up to Queen Street where Fred Lewis's Mother stayed just up where the filling station was, where Haugh's filling station was, which is the Jet place now, and we picked them up there and took them back to the schoolhouse at Auchencairn. And that was all, I thought nothing about it, picked the lassies up, fair enough, and then one night Fred phoned me up and he says, are you doing anything tonight, Morton? And I said no' really Fred, no. I was pally with a fella called Chris Agnew in these days who came from The Mill up at the cemetery.

LP. Collin Mill.

MD. Aye, and he said would you object to taking the students out, Chris and you taking the students out to a Friday night dance. There was always a Friday night dances in these days. It could be Dundrennan, it could be Laurieston, it could be Colvend. Aye I says that'll be fine Fred, I'll pick them up. That kind of started it off. We seemed to be up at the Lewis' an awful lot! So, Jan did her time at the school, and Janet, and she had to go back to Jordan Hill. There were students dotted all over the place. Palnackie, some went to Colvend, some went over in Creetown, MInnigaff and all these places, and the 2 Janets got to Auchencairn. There were some at Palnackie, some at Castle-Douglas and that was fine, so Jan was due to go back to Jordan Hill, and she originally stayed in Dunblane in Perthshire, but she lodged with her aunt in Glasgow for handiness. I think her aunt was in Mary Hill, her mother's sister. I said to Jan, would you mind if we could keep in touch and she said yes, fine, we'll keep in touch, and I started writing letters to her. There were always 3 letters I wrote a week, and she wrote me back 3 letters and I always got the last letter on Saturday morning to keep us going for the weekend. So that was that and we finished up getting engaged and married in 1961.

39:54

LP. We've got a newspaper clipping in the history society archive of your wedding.

MD. We were married up in Dunblane. It was a QV (Queen Victoria) school for serviceman's kids and Jan's dad was principal maths teacher up there. We were married up in the church up at QV. I had to go a hundred and something miles for my wedding.

LP. Somebody had to travel. And then you moved into Glebe Crescent after that.

MD. We were in 9 Glebe Crescent. Norval and Chrissie (Rennie) were directly opposite, and George Currie's mum and dad were in the top block where Norval and Chrissie were, George and Mrs Currie and wee George then. We were married and went into number 9 and after a while, Mrs Littlejohn (Jose Brydson's mother) who was in number 3 which was a 3 bedroomed house and ours was just a 2 bedroomed house and we swopped houses. Mrs Littlejohn was wanting a smaller hoose and we

wanted an extra room. We were there till the garage closed, well we left the garage so not closed, till we left it. That would be 1971.

LP. Am I right in saying your parents moved into Chapel Cottage?

MD. Aye, after the garage was sold, that was to a fellow from Dalgetty Bay in Fife. I cannae remember his first name. They moved into Chapel Cottage. There was a Mrs Clark stayed in that house, and they renovated a wee bit. They made a kinna bigger sitting room and cut out a bedroom and that would be after the garage closed, they moved in there. Chapel Cottage, there was one night, quite a long time before, Harry Parker, the joiner who did a wee bit of undertaking. I would just be a boy about 17 or something like that and Harry came down when we were staying at Orchard View, the house at the garage, Harry came down to me one night and said, Morton, have you got 5 minutes? And I said, Aye what is it, Harry? Could you give me a wee hand? Would you help me to coffin Mrs Clark. Well, I'd never done ocht like that before and I said, Oh Harry no! He says, you'll be all right. I remember going up to what now is Chapel Cottage and went into this bedroom that Mum and Dad renovated into a living room, but it was a wee bedroom then and Mrs Clark was lying there, and we did what we had to do. I went back home to the garage and kinna thought about it, not having done that before or seen anybody dead before but I remember Mrs Clark was a wee, wee woman and when we set her in her coffin, she just looked like a wee doll. That stuck with me for ages and ages and ages. Harry did the necessary after that. He just wanted a wee lift and that was my first experience of that, but Chapel Cottage was quite handy for them too. There wasn't much room in the kitchen actually but there was a wee bit at the back with a wee yard where my dad put the dog out and what have you.

45:00

LP. When did they die Morton?

MD. 1984. That was a kind of odd thing too Lee. Mum was not very well, and she'd been attending Glasgow Royal. I think she had cancer somewhere but they didnae say in these days, and she was up and down from Glasgow Royal and she came back home and here, Dad, in our house in Queen Street- we gave them a room, a big bedroom and Dad slept in the single bed and Mum was in our bed beside him, and here one night … Jan and I

gave them a wee bell to ring if there was anything through the night, and here this bell did ring and Dad says I've got terrible pains. I phoned Dr Wilkinson, and he came and I sat with Dad and Dr Wilkinson gave him a few thumps on the chest and then says I'm stopping Morton. That's it. And of course, Mum was lying in the next bed with Jan beside her, comforting her and Dr Wilkinson and I had to carry Dad out to a wee back bedroom until we spoke to Willie Bendal. He was Ian Bendal's uncle. And it was horrible because we had to carry Dad past Mum. But she was taken into the Castle-Douglas Hospital for treatment, and just 6 weeks after that she died. Quite honestly, she was supposed to die first. Dad was fine.

LP. Maybe the stress. I had that memory that they had died quite close together.

MD. 6 weeks between them.

LP. That's quite tough to lose both parents so quickly.

MD. I remember Willie Bendal brought the hearse up to outside Castle-Douglas Hospital where mum was and she could see the hearse through the window. He did it deliberately just to let Mum see. I went up to Masonhill Crematorium in these days and came back down and reported back at the hospital to Mum that everything was ok in the circumstances. Mum was 80 and Dad was 79. There was roughly a year between them. It was a traumatic time. I wouldn't want to do it again like. It certainly was an experience.

49:43

LP. The house at the garage is called Orchard View. Was there an Orchard.

MD. There was an orchard there. Up where Beresford built the new bungalow. It would stretch right down to the bottom of the village and there was damson trees, apple trees and pear trees. It was a kinna rough area quite honestly. Dad had an awful job keeping it half decent.

LP. But there had been an orchard there because I had wondered if it had been on the other side of the road where the shop is now.

MD. No it was where Beresford built … I think it was David's dad that built it wasn't it.

LP. That's right aye.

MD. Is David up there still?

LP. He's still up there yes. What about the village, Morton. What do you remember of the shops and services when you were younger?

MD. Well, my mother's sister, Mary, Aunty Mary we used to call her obviously, had a wee café where Mrs Hogg … do you remember Sandy Hogg that was in the square … she had a wee shop there and she had a wee tearoom. You went into the shop, and she had kinna groceries and things and there was a wee tearoom on the right in that shop. I can remember going in and of course she was Aunty Mary, and we often went in for a cup of tea or whatever. John Alexander the shoemaker was just the next door at Rathan, the name of the hoose, he had the shoe shop where Davy Gordon renovated that bit there. He had a shoe shop there and did shoe repairs. So, Aunty Mary, I don't know how long she was there actually, she had a daughter Nancy who married a man called Billy Gibson. Now Billy, he was a prisoner with the Japs, he was in the war and I can remember when Billy came home from the war, he was in the back room of Aunty Mary's hoose. There was a long kinna sitting room bit, and Billy was there. Now this was the first time I had seen him since he came back, and he was stripped to the waist. I think he still had his army trousers on. Right away you could see he was just what prisoners are like, he was just skin and bone, but he had big lash marks on his back where he'd got the whip or whatever. But he was standing in that room, their sitting room behind the shop, and that was the first time I saw Billy. I think Nancy had twins, Doreen and Andrew. Now let me think, I'm sure it was Doreen and Andrew. I was going to say, Billy eventually got a job, a very light job with … do you remember the barytes mines?

LP. I don't remember them, but I know about them.

54:56

MD. You've heard about them, There were Barytes mines at Barlocco and Billy got a job just driving the barytes truck, just a wee light thing, he was able to do that, it was just a wee kinna tipper truck and he used to ferry from Balcary, there was some doon about Balcary too, and Billy got that job. I don't think he lasted it very long. I couldnae tell you when he died but I think he wouldn't be long, you know. But he got this wee job with the

barytes mines, and he was just awful weak after all the batterin's he'd taken. And the barytes mines … you know The Rossan up the Mill Road.

LP. Behind Bunker.

MD. Behind Bunker. John Simpson and Bill Shaw were the bosses for the barytes mines. They stayed there, and Mrs Shaw, John wasn't married. I presume Mrs Shaw was there, we always saw John and Bill, they were the bosses of the barytes mine and they stayed up at The Rossan in these days, aye. There was Alec Mitchell the bakers too. I used tae gan in the mornin' before school time, even when I was at Auchencairn and I used to nip up and get the hot rolls as Alec was bringing them out of the oven, the big ovens, you know with the boards and get some and nip back hame with them. It was lovely. He finished up in Dalbeattie, he had a wee baker's bit just at Station Road yonder. Just about the station, he used to be up there. He used to bring stuff down in the van, his wife Vicky. She was always smoking. She was quite an attractive woman, a big woman but she was quite attractive actually, but Vicky always had a fag in her mooth, I can always remember.

LP. Well far more folk smoked then of course.

MD. Remember Jackie martin too.

LP. I remember Jackie aye.

MD. He did a lot on the community council didn't he.

LP. He did and he set up The Millenium Garden, Jackie coordinated all of that.

MD. He was just around the corner from the bakery in McLure House.

LP. I'll tell you who's bought that now is Iain McCartney.

MD. Oh it that right. Robin's son.

LP. He's still down south with his family but they come up, him and his wife Vivienne come up quite often, and Jan, his sister has bought Arranvohr which is the one up Church Road.

MD. There used to be a Mrs Cowan in that place, Arranvohr. And it was just at that bend at the church that their mum died, she was on a horse or something.

LP. She got thrown of her horse. I believe something frightened it.

MD. Somebody said paper had blown or a bag had blown.

LP. It was before I was born but I do remember my parents talking about that.

MD. Aye, it was just at the corner at the church. I think she was laid to rest in Crossmichael. Of course, since that Robin's had more trouble with Jeanette Kalotka.

LP. Jeanette had breast cancer. I see Robin quite often.

MD. I bumped into him once or twice, I bumped into him in Tescos one day. At first, I didn't recognise him because like us all, he got a wee bit older. His hair was always nice and neat. He was dairyman, wasn't he, for the Heughans up at The Hall.

LP. His wife was a Heughan.

MD. Of course, aye.

59:53

LP. And then the Taylors came after that, and he stayed on as dairyman for the Taylors for a lot of years. I'll maybe get Robin interviewed one of these fine days as well. He'll have some stories to tell.

MD. I think he's in Dalbeattie isn't he.

LP. Somewhere fairly local anyway because I see him quite often.

MD. Further up the village too, going up the left-hand side (Main St), there was a bowler's hall, carpet bowling and there was Spoot Ra', you went along. Mrs Ashton was up above, a wee woman with glasses. She had to go up steps to get to her house.

LP. Up the stone steps.

MD. Stone steps up the side aye. Then moving further up there was Ernie Lawson and Mrs L Lawson in the next row.

LP. That was Jessie McLellan's family.

MD. Jessie, yes, and they moved up to the last house on the left-hand side on the Main Street, Ernie and his wife. Mary Lawson was in that house with

them too then, she was just a lassie, a young lassie who could run like a hare.

LP. That was Mary who married Jim Waugh.

MD. Aye, they were in there, but Ernie moved up and they were joined up with Norval and Chrissie who had moved from Glebe Crescent and Bill Corrie was up there and Mrs Corrie, Rae Corrie, and Betty and Myrna. Rae's still in Gordon Drive.

LP. I recognise the names.

MD. Aye, there were the 3 lassies, there was Betty who married Billy Little from Chapelcroft. They moved down to somewhere in Yorkshire, Billy joined the police or something. I believe Betty died and Billy died but there was quite a big family of Littles at Chapelcroft. They were up in this house. Before that (down the street) was The Police Station of course and Jimmy Caldow was the policeman in they days and during the big snow of 47 I can remember Jimmy, photographs of Jimmy, out in the biggest snow at the 30-mile limits of Auchencairn, the snow in bits was higher than the hedges. It was all over your dad's fields.

LP. Dad used to talk about that. It was the year he bought the farm he said you could walk at dyke height.

MD. Jimmy Caldow was the policeman in they days. There was another policeman came, young lad, somebody Evans.

LP. I remember the Evans were there when I was a lassie.

MD. Was it Doug Evans?

LP. Dougie Evans, he had 2 children that were at the school, but I can't remember who came after that.

MD. I don't know where Doug went after that. Comin' ower the street there was Viewfield where we were and the Davidsons were and there was the other Davidsons, the fishing folk. John's brother Walter and Alec, his dad. There was a big family of them actually. They were up there too. Walter, unfortunately, he's away now too. Walter moved to near Colvend, they did the fishing at Portling.

LP. That's right, I think John used to go down and help them.

MD. And the next house down was Betty Potts.

LP. Betty was there for a long time.

1:05:02

MD. She was the Sunday School teacher. You'll maybe know a lot of them too of course.

LP. Well, Betty was there for a long, long, time.

MD. She was, and then there was that house which you mentioned a wee while ago. Oh, there was the kirk that was there. The Free Kirk.

LP. It would be getting used as a hay shed then.

MD. Aye, and further down there was 2 Miss Pattersons in the next house I think one of them taught music if I can remember right. That was just in the house that was second house down from the kirk. There was the 2 Miss Pattersons there and I think one of them taught music. Frank McSherry was in the next house, Frank and Olas, remember them? Further doon was Nancy Douglas and Mrs Douglas. Nancy was very friendly with Chrissie Rennie. The next one was Violet Beattie and there were the Beattie boys there. There was Frankie, there was Owen and there was his big brother, Eddie. He was in The Royal Marines and when he came home in his Royal Marine uniform he looked very smart actually. Then there was Jimmy Caldow the ex-policeman moved into that one. I forgot about The Heughan Institute.

LP. Jimmy used to look after it.

MD. That's right because it was just across the road. Is it still on the go?

LP. It's sitting empty Morton. It was used as a workshop. Ray Innes had it as a workshop for years and then the Innes family sold it, and I don't actually know who owns it now.

MD. We used to go up as boys and play snooker there.

LP. Was it still functioning as a reading room? It would have been.

MD. Aye it was. There was a room at the back you could read in, and the snooker, it was a three-quarter size I think and there was a dart board in the same bit and you could go into a room at the back and read.

LP. Jimmy would go across and light the fire

MD. Aye, Jimmy was there and Eddy Parker was the next one (next house). Eddy Parker had the fishing boat and the fishing at Balcary.

LP. He fished the nets.

MD. Eddy was in there with Kay. I think she was a Carlisle woman.

LP. I think you could be right.

MD. When Auchencairn had a badminton team, and quite a good badminton team actually, Kay and I used to play together, we were paired together. Then there was a wee entry and there was Frank McSherry's father, John. He had an Armstrong Siddeley, and I used to work on it, not that I knew awful much about it. It was a pre-selected gearbox, and it was wee levers up the column and say you're in second gear and you wanted to change into third gear eventually, you just leave it in second, put it into third and then pump the clutch and that was you in third. Pre-select Armstrong Siddely. Moving down there was Blairbeth. That was where Nurse McNae was. She had a daughter called Margaret. Margaret and I were about the same age I think, and she had quite a big family, and Jimmy their son, he moved to Australia. But just across from Blairbeth, there was a bungalow built there on a bit of waste ground and that was something to do with nursing too.

1:10:06

LP. That's where Nurse Brown is. Eileen Brown lives there still because I think she was the next nurse in the village. It was supposed to be the nurses house for the village, but it got sold.

MD. Annie and Jack Armitage were in that house too, Blairbeth, before they moved round to The Crescent. The next yin doon was Miss Kirk's who had a wee shop there, a wee sweetie shop and at Halloween she used to do scrambles for the kids with sweeties and blah blah. And there was Rober Wilson, Budgie, Robert and Lily, and then there was a bit of waste ground, somebody had a bit of a hen run I think in there, I'm not sure if it was Willie McCleary or no, and then there was a Mrs Cornine in the next block, and Cathy Cannon. Cathy Cannon stayed there, I think she was up steps on the top and Mrs Cornine in the bottom one. Then we come doon to the bit near the bakery entrance where there was the McGeorges. Quite a family of them and I think it was McGeorge that had that hen run just a couple of doors up.

LP. Was there a McGeorge who was known as Squirrel?

MD. Yes! There was.

LP. He used to help Mum when she started the craft shop at the farm which didnae last very long, but I remember this guy who was called McGeorge, and his name was Squirrel. I couldn't tell you what he looked like.

MD. I had forgotten about that but there was yes, and there was a fella called Rab McGeorge, a big gangly fella. Some folk said he was the village idiot.

LP. I think Squirrel's name was Billy.

MD. Billy, Billy McGeorge, and there was a Sylvia wasn't there. Sylvia McGeorge stayed there too. And that brought us of course to Bakery Street entrance and up to McClure House, and Ian Mitchells house was at the back, coming round to the bakery, and there was a shop next door but it didnae last very long. Was it a Morrell or somebody from Kirkcudbright.

LP. In The Brick Buildings?

MD. Yes, just next to where the bakery was, and of course Tom Shimmings and Mrs Shimmings and Chrissie stayed at The Brick Buildings, up above.

LP. Did they. I didn't know that.

MD. They went in the next entrance up the steps, they always went in the side entrance and they stayed up above, there was a kinna … I don't know what it was below and I don't know who had that, but the Shimmings were up above. Then you come to the square again and there was a Commercial Hotel there I believe and Tommy Laurie and Mrs Laurie and Tommy Junior stayed there. That was Annie's mum and dad. Annie who moved round with Jack (Armitage) to The Crescent. Tommy, his son I think was in the RAF. Then there was a gap where Harry had his joiner's shop and there were the big stones where folk used to sit at the fountain, and George (Currie) was on about those stones the other day. He said I don't think those stones are there. They were quite big stones, but they were a kind of meeting point for the village, folk used to meet at the square.

LP. We used to sit in the fountain but it's full of flowers now.

MD. And then there was Davy Rae and Mrs Rae.

LP. Jenny Rae.

MD. Jenny who played the organ.

1:15:00

LP. Bert Brydson's sister.

MD. That's right aye, and Davy, her man. I think he worked at Stelrad's or something, I'm not sure. But Mrs Rae was the organist and Mum and Mrs Rae got very friendly. Then of course, there was Willie McVie and then there was the place by the pub, which is not there anymore, but you can see the outline of the house on the pub wall. Mrs Hughs' and there was quite a big family there. Two sets of twins, Alma and Pat, Morag and Maureen, and Dan, he was called Denis, but we called him Dan, he was a pal of mine and if he's still with us, he's about a year younger than me, he's out in Australia. And there was Frances. There was Pat and Alma who were the oldest and then Frances, he died not so long ago, he was in Dalbeattie. He was married to Sheila Hunter from the town here. Her dad was a policeman or inspector or something. They were in Dalbeattie, but I did hear not so long ago that Frances had died. Then there was Denny and Morag and Maureen. And we're back now at Betty and Robert's, and Peter the bus driver. There was a shop there at one time, where Betty's sitting room is now (street level window on right) There was a woman, I think she came from Glasgow, and I think it was a draper's shop.

LP. I think you could be right. There's old photographs of that somewhere.

MD. I think her name was Mrs Russel. It was directly across from the garage. Robert must have made it into a big sitting room with big windows in it. And of course you've got the post office now haven't you, next to them.

LP. It's a shop now mostly. The post office come once a week.

MD. There was a bit of waste ground there for a while wasn't there.

LP. They found out when they were looking for somewhere to build a shop, the community was looking to source money to build something there, they found that that bit of land still belonged to Freddie Yeo who used to own the pub and they tracked her down and managed to buy it from her.

MD. We forgot to mention the pub didn't we.

LP. Don't forget the pub! Who was in the pub?

MD. There was a few odd bods. Martin Mulhearn was in it when I was just a wee boy. Martin and the wife didnae get on. This was the story of Auchencairn pub. There was quite a lot of husbands and wives didnae get on through the years. Martin was down at a football match, it would be John Taylors field, there used to be a fitba pitch doon there and you used to go up through the wee wood to it. Martin was there watching a football match and he dropped doon deid, and they had to carry him up the back of what was our orchard and out at the old post office entrance. He died down there at a football match. There was Roy Robertson and his wife, they got on fine. They were a nice couple and they had 2 lassies, I can't remember the lassie's names now. I'm not sure if they were twins or not but Mrs Robertson had a connection with Rae's mum and dad, Rae Corrie's mum and dad, and Roy, he always brought me in mind of Cary Grant. He had the wee moustache and the hair and a smart looking bloke he was. Roy Robertson was his name, and I think these two lassies were twins. Pauline and Aileen? Don't know. Then there was another kinna battle between Ernie McKenzie and Mrs McKenzie.

1:20:42

LP. I recognise that name. They were maybe in the pub when my parents were first going there.

MD. Ernie and Maggie were always battling. Maggie, I think was a Castle-Douglas woman, and she would come across to my mother and say, *Jean, will you come and take me away from this man,* Ernie. I could hear them having battles fae the yard in the garage, the shouting. And he used to chase her through, it seemed to be as if he was chasing her through rooms in the hotel. It was often I stood and listened to this squealing and Maggie would say come and take me and Mum would get the taxi out and take her up to Castle-Douglas. *I'm no' gan back tae him, I'm no gan back tae him*. But she came back. Ernie, I think worked at the range, which I don't think would be a hard job. There was a story went about that when there was a full moon, Ernie went a wee bit funny, something like that. I've heard things like this before about the full moon and what have you, but Ernie went a wee bit funny and that's when he had battles with Maggie. They had a son called Ian. There were twae boys actually. There was one called Ian McKenzie. There was a story that some lads that were in the pub - I don't think it was ever much used for visitors, it was kinna dilapidated - but there

were some lads in the pub one night, and Maggie and Ernie were behind the bar, and all of a sudden Ernie took a dirty beery cloth that you wipe the bar with and threw it ower Maggie's face. That was a story that went about, Maggie got hit with a beer cloth by Ernie. I was never in the pub, well I occasionally went in.

LP. Not a regular.

MD. There was a wee dining room as you went in the front door, on the left and there was stairs in front of you up into the rooms, and the rest was the kinna living room bit. And then we come to the bottom of the village which was the Spar shop of course. Matt Kerr used to be in there, and Mrs Kerr, and he was a Glasgow bloke, and he was a kinna swanky guy with the split hat, and there was 2 fitba teams in Auchencairn.

LP. We've got photographs of them Morton.

MD. Cairn Strollers and Hestan Rovers. Now, I played for them occasionally, for Hestan Rovers in they days, and Cairn Strollers … Matt got a lot of the soldiers that were at The Range to play for them. I think Tam Ashton and Joe Ashton played for them too, and there was Hestan Rovers and Robert Caldow played for Hestan Rovers, Jack Agnew, Tom Telfer was a goalkeeper, Geordie Telfer. They were the Telfers from The Roadman's Cottage, and I think Norval used to play, Norval Rennie. He got injured. At the bottom of The Mill Road, Norval had a wee BSA Bantam bike, and near there he fell off and his knee knackered him for football and he had to get a plastic or metal kneecap put in or something like that. Of course, Norval when he was at Kirkcudbright Academy, he was sports champion too. He was very into sports, he had the badge up here. He was very good at sports Norval, though I never saw him playing badminton when I think about it. There were the 2 football teams in Auchencairn and Matt used to run yin o' them, but I think he was Glasgow. You had to watch what you said to him.

1:26:26

LP. That was before the Lees bought the shop.

MD. Oh aye! Well before. There was another guy before the Lees bought it. Was his name Savage or something. He was a wee guy, and I don't know where he came from, and eventually Doug and Iris (Lees) came, and they had 2 boys.

LP. They had Bobby and Penny and then a daughter, Sally.

MD. That's right. And they used to go out their morning walks, out your road or down the shore road, and Margaret Thompson used to watch the shop.

LP. They employed quite a few people.

MD. When Matt Kerr had it, it was just a meeting place for the boys. There was ice cream sold, but it was just a meeting place. And after that, years and years ago, the waste ground there, there was houses there, below the shop and just at the bridge there was a smithy. That's a thing we forgot too was Tom McGill's smithy. The post office entry, at the end, Tom McGill's. Stockmoss, he had.

LP. Did he have both of them, the one in the village and the one at Stockmoss?

MD. I think he had, aye. I used to watch Tom actually shoeing horses up there, with the leather pinny on, and always sweating. Black and sweaty.

LP. Hard work.

MD. Aye, it was. He had a wee Austin 7 car and Harry Parker bought it. It was a wee blue thing. Tom was along there. That was when Mr and Mrs Rennie had the Post Office. Norval and Bessie, was it?

LP. I didn't know what her name was. We have quite a few photos of them in the drama club.

MD. Of course. I've still got one through there.

LP. After you left, Morton, you still went back to Auchencairn church.

MD. I did actually. To tell you the truth, I was an elder.

LP. I remember you were an elder. Was Colin Williamson there then?

1:29:55

MD. Colin Williamson, aye. Colin used to play the guitar sometimes. We went down, I wouldn't say every Sunday but some months you were on, you know, taking the collection and what have you and we always called in at Mum and Dad's when they were there and Mum always had shortbread biscuits made for us. Some of the young lassies would go down too, when there was a Sunday school. I can remember one of my most embarrassing

moments in the church. I was on duty this Sunday and I think I was on duty with Eric McCrae. The two of us were taking the money up each side, and before the service started we had to go into the ante room and bring the bible out for the pulpit. Well, I went in this Sunday and came out, there was the choir at the front, and Jan was in the choir, and of course I'm marching out and I've to go up into the pulpit and my foot slipped. I didnae get a full grip and I shot forward and I disappeared into the pulpit, but I was determined not to let the bible fall you see. Bill Middleton was the minister then and he was standing at the door into the back, and I could see his face and he was laughing. He saw it all happen and he was waiting to get into the pulpit. You laid the bible up and folded over the markers and made sure they were nicely in line, but I can always remember Bill's face, and we had a wee talk about it after the service.

LP. He went off to Canada, didn't he?

MD. He's in Toronto. He moved to Carnwath before, because we visited them. Jan and I and the kids and they had a bungalow up in Carnwath that was a church bungalow that was the manse, it was a modern kind of bungalow next to the church. Bill and I had a couple of games of golf. There was a golf course pretty near. The golf course was beside that prison, Carstairs and one of the holes went down the side of that, I can always remember that. We used to go up and visit him occasionally. I don't know if he's still with us quite honestly, and Mary and there was Alan, the boy who got into drugs. He died. And there was a lassie, Jane. I just remember her as a wee tot. But it was a nice bungalow up at Carnwath and then they went to Canada, Toronto. When we were heading out to New Zealand, we got a plane from Glasgow to Toronto, and we met Bill and Mary at the hotel we were staying at in Toronto. We were a couple of nights there and that was the last time we saw them.

LP. I can just remember Bill. Colin and Norval used to play their piano accordions for the dances in the village hall, back in the day when they weren't allowed to serve alcohol in the village hall.

1:35:00

MD. Norval used to play the accordion a lot. So did Jack Armitage. Jack Armitage was musical and Jack never could read a word of music, and Jack

could play the saxophone, the clarinet, the accordion, because they used to play for the bands at the dances.

LP. I was going to say, they had a band.

MD. They had a band and also there was another fella, Jim Parker, Harry Parker's son who stayed up in the house across from the entrance to the church, Jim used to work at Brown's Garage with me actually.

LP. Craignair, was it, the house?

MD. Craignair, aye. Jim used to work at Brown's, and he had a motorbike then. He went away up to Islay and the last time I heard about Jim, and he was a wee bit older than me, he was a postman, I think it was Islay, he was up near Craignure. Oh, and there was Gavin too.

LP. He was a bit younger.

MD. He was an awful lot younger aye. Gavin had ginger hair hadn't he.

LP. Gavin's still in the village.

MD. Is he still in the village?

LP. Gavin and Alison live up at the top of the village. Netta, Gavin's mother had one of the pensioners houses that were built up at the top and Gavin and Alison are in that house now. He's still working, Gavin, he drives for James Baird.

MD. And there's the houses along Spoot Row of course.

LP. Geordie Milligan was in one.

MD. Is Geordie still there?

LP. He died last year and his niece and her husband have bought that house from his estate.

MD. There was Tom, and was it Mamie?

LP. Phemie.

MD. I remember Tom, he was a big, tall fella, and of course, Nellie Geddes was at the end. She did the post work. She used to walk miles. She had an awful lot of cats, hadn't she?

LP. I believe so. What have we missed Morton? I think you could tell me stories about Auchencairn all night.

MD. Well we ken aboot the Crescent don't we. I'd forgotten about these houses up by the schoolhouse, the wee ones. Jean Cummings used to be there.

LP. Jean was one of the first people to go in one.

MD. Jean and her Pekinese dogs.

LP. She was quite a character, Jean. She lived out at Thornglass.

1:39:11

MD. Yes there were a few stories about Jean. I could tell you one. When I was with Mum and Dad, before I was married, we always used to get a phone call, well not always but occasionally we got a phone call from Jean from down near Barnbaroch, to a house near there. Now I cannae remember, I can picture it but I cannae remember its name. I said this night to Dad, look, I'll go down and pick Jean up at this place, and I got down there and of course jean came out with a male friend and she'd obviously got a few drinks in her, she usually had quite a few drinks in her. Anyway, I got them into the car and we had a big Zephyr in those days with the bench seats, no seatbelts or anything, bench seats in the front and bench seats in the back and of course I set my mirror, my driving mirror just to see what was going on, and we got to Dalbeattie and the man whoever he was, got out in Dalbeattie, and Jean said goodbye to him and then she says, *right Morton, I'm coming into the front with you*. I says, no you're not jean and she says, let me in the front and of course she was half gassed. I said you just stay where you are because I'm not wanting any stories getting about! She did eventually stay where she was, but she was determined to get in the front after this man was away. I dropped her off at Thornglass and she never paid for it, it was always her mum, Mrs McLellan.

LP. I think she would drink her money away.

MD. I think so. There was another story I heard. Drew Leslie, the vet. Is this one true or not.

LP. I think it's probably true because it's the same story my dad and Eddy parker used to tell.

MD. He got his car jammed on the front grass or something.

LP. He got it stuck across the top of the steps. Dad and Eddy must have been involved in having to go and get this car out because Drew had got his car stuck. He said Drew was there looking very, very sheepish, Mrs McLellan was at the door, furious because she knew exactly what had been going on, and Jean was upstairs keekin' out of the window.

MD. Is that right. I heard about this Drew Leslie, the vet, getting his car somehow jammed.

LP. There would be drink had likely. Dad said he had no idea how he had done it. He had it perched right across the steps.

MD. Aye, how did he manage that. Jean was notorious, wasn't she.

LP. She was, and she had the Pekinese dogs. I remember being terrified because they had these wee poppy eyes and I always thought they were going to pop out.

MD. I think they were nippy wee devils. She was in the Army wasn't she, she was a driver. Now talking about that, Lee, you'll no' remember when there were American soldiers stationed at Orchardton House, away back. There used to be a convoy of lorries came up to a pump outside our garage, where the Esso sign used to be, and that was only for Army vehicles and it used to be queued up to the bottom of the village and they came and got filled up there and it wasn't electric pumps either, it was a winding thing and an outside meter saying how many gallons you had put in. I got friendly with one of these American guys, simply because the lorries had names on the front bumper, and this one was called Typhoon, and I thought this was a good name for a lorry, Typhoon.

LP. How old were you?

MD. Not very old. The driver took me in with him and we went up to turn round the fountain and came back down, and stopped opposite where Robert and Betty were, and I got out there, and it was always with this driver and this Typhoon lorry. This was when Americans were stationed at Orchardton House. There were quite a lot of them. I was just wee but this name, Typhoon, on the front bumper and all the rest of the lorries had names on the front bumpers and the fella gave me a wee run up round the square and dropped me off. That must have been during the was mustn't it.

1:45:20

LP. I guess it must have been. That apparently is where Fred Lewis came to the village, he came to Orchardton.

MD. Is that right.

LP. Would that be war time. I suppose it must have been. He was Welsh. I don't know how long it was used by the Army.

MD. I don't know. So, Fred was Welsh. Mrs Lewis was a nice buddy. When I was meeting Jan, we were never out of the Lewis' Hoose. Just pests actually. If Jan hadn't been there, I wouldn't have been there like, but it was just the way it worked out. Best move ever she made, or I made.

LP. It's just chance sometimes.

MD. Absolutely! She could have been posted to anywhere and I would never have known she had been in The Stewartry.

LP. You said she was from Dunblane.

MD. Yes, she could have been posted … some were posted over in Creetown. But it was the two Janets. The other Janet came from Inverary in Argyle. It was pure chance she could have been posted anywhere.

LP. And Jan taught at Gelston, didn't she.

MD. Jan taught at Gelston, yes. She taught with Jean Galloway, Jean was the headmistress there. You've maybe heard her name. She stayed in Gelston, but she moved to Railway Terrace. After Jean retired there was Jan and I think I'm right in saying, 4 other folk in for that job and of course a lot of folk thought that with Jan being with Jean, she would just move across. But no, they had to have a voting session and what have you and it so happened that Jan got it. But Dr Carmichael told her she would have to stop teaching because she was walking about with a stick and teaching and she was quite uncomfortable with her hip, so she got retirement with that. It was Dr Carmichael that said it. She quite enjoyed Gelston if it hadn't been for her hip business. She had some of the senior kids, if the phone rang, would they go and answer it and be as polite as you can until she could get herself moved across, but she was really pretty crippled. And the way she was walking it started to do for her knee on the opposite leg. She had an operation up in Glasgow Royal, then she went to Dumfries and then

she had another operation for the hip thing in Glasgow Royal and then another operation on the other hip at Clydebank, and unfortunately, she ended up in the Edinburgh Royal.

1:50:00

LP. She did her rounds of the hospitals.

MD. Didn't she!

LP. That's been absolutely fabulous Morton.

MD There was a Jimmy Roxburgh stayed in the houses, the first houses, Edna and thingummy Lawson stayed in, just above Davy McLellan's.

LP. In Main Street?

MD. Before they moved up to the top of the village, there was a fella there, Jimmy Roxburgh, he drove for Niven. Now, it was a cattle float. I remember Jimmy, he had 2 lassies. I cannae remember his wife but he had 2 lassies, Isobel and Margaret? Nivens only had about 2 wagons at that time but now it's a massive business. Jimmy stayed in one of these houses just up from the bowler's hall where the McLellans were. He was in there I think before Edna and her man, but I remember Jimmy and his lorry.

LP. They were employing a few people even back then.

MD. Oh aye. Now he's got depots down in Devon hasn't he. So I believe. I spoke to one of his drivers. He came up to me one day and he says, you don't know me do you, and he says, you drove my mother and father at their wedding. I was none the wiser like. Then he told me that he drives for Niven. It was his day off and he was getting stocked up, but it's quite a big concern now. John Niven, he was quite a good badminton player. I played against him up at Trinity Hall in a competition, a tournament, and he married a woman, he was quite a good-looking bloke, John, he married a woman who was a Gala Queen at Dalbeattie. I can remember her, she had kind of reddish hair, but she was a hell of an attractive woman and John and her made a smashing couple. There were 2 or 3 of them in the firm of course. I didn't know any of the other ones. I remember the old man stayed in Palnackie, but it was a small affair then. But this fella says he knew me, but I hadn't a clue who he was. He looked like a lorry driver.

LP. I think if you've worked like you have in a garage or anywhere where you're serving the public, they remember you, but you can't remember everyone.

MD. I went with Stevie, after I retired, with Stevie Rudd who drives with Coulthard now, he's driven for quite a few firms, and I used to go away a week with Stevie in the lorry to Germany and France. We left on a Saturday night, got the boat at Dover over to France. The first trip I went with him was to Paris and the next trip was 2 or 3 bits in Germany and then there was a trip to Italy.

1:55:16

LP. Was that just for the company?

MD. Aye. Jan let me go! I was away from the Saturday night until usually the Friday night or early Saturday morning depending on the loads.

LP. What was he delivering?

MD. He was delivering, now what was the first Paris run, I cannae mind. I think it was some medical stuff. Remember Glover had the bit out where Aldi is now. Stevie was with Glover and I went once or twice with him with Glover. That's not there now.

LP. You'll have seen a lot of change, Morton.

MD. Oh heavens aye! I used to like that wee café round there. I went there quite often actually. It was quite handy for taking someone out.

LP. At the garden centre?

MD. The garden centre aye. I mean, I'm never in Aldi. Well, I've been in Aldi about twice with Gillian but I just gan tae the Coop.

LP. I'm going to turn the machine off, Morton, if you think you're finished.

MD. Yip!



MORTON IN AUCHENCAIRN SHOP, APRIL 2026, HIS DAUGHTER GILLIAN IN THE BACKGROUND (Photo Lee Paton)