# Scottish Oral History Centre (SOHC) Transcript of Interview

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Transcript					
00:02 RS: So good afternoon. To begin, could you tell your name, your year of birth and where you are from?					
00:07					
00:18					
RS: Could you tell me a wee bit about your upbringing					
00:23					
: Well I'm an only child. My father was a chauffeur and my mother was Well she					
worked in shops in the town for years and years. And, that wis about it. I left school at					
fifteen. I didnae dae very good at school. Didnae like it. So, ehm, I was tae start as a nursery					
teacher and this nursery at Quarry Brae it wis called, but I never went because I didnae know					
I hid tae go tae Jordanhill and I wisnae intae that side of it, if ye know what I mean? Working					
with kids And then I went, finally got a job in Templetons.					

01:10

RS: And what age were you when you starting in Templetons then

: I must have been fifteen and a half because as I said, I left school about fifteen. Because I went ma holidays first [laughing] We went tae Aberdeen every year. I wisnae sixteen anyway.

01:34

RS: Can you describe to me then, just how did you end up getting that job in Templetons?

01:39

: Well, eh, well, ma friends worked in it and I went, "I'll have a go" and started no bother. Ye know wit a mean? "Could you start on Monday?" Ye didnae need experience or anything like that because they trained you up.

01:56

RS: Did you just go along to the building or get in touch with them?

01:59

: No, I just went doon tae the actual factory.

02:02

RS: Oh okay. And just asked if there was anything going?

02:05

: If they were looking for any vacancies.

02:08

RS: And what year would that have been then, you would have started? What year was that you started?

02:14

: Wait a minute. If ye can work that oot. So, I'm seventy-five the noo and say fifteen then. This is 2018.

02:24

RS: Would that have been 1958?

02:27

: Aye, yer right there.

RS: 1958. And what was your job then, your position?

02:36

: Well when I started off, I was a message girl for the flat. And then, ye worked in these things... We called it the hanks, but it was were all the wool went it and ye fed the wool in to the loom there, ye fed it in and when the bobbins got wee and ye wrote them down and take them in. And run, til they run out. 'Til the bobbins ran out. And then, you got took to stand wae somebody that wis a weaver tae pick-up, ye know, witever, and then they gave you a loom.

03:11

RS: Oh right, I see. So, would you have been sixteen, seventeen before you...

03:15

: I was near about sixteen a think, when a got a loom.

03:20

RS: And can you, sort of, tell me a wee bit about the details and the process of being a weaver? What did you have to do on your loom?

03:29

: Oh, I had tae dae everything. Ye started at eight o'clock in the morning, right. So ye aww went in this big gate and ye put a cheque in, ye dropped this cheque thing and then they shut the gates, so if you were late, ye had to come in the gatehouse as they called it. Very seldom... Ye know how ye used tae get quartered as they called it, very seldom ye got that. Very seldom I was that late. And then you went to the loom. Ye had this big overall oan and ye just put yer bag... Ye had a locker for yer thingmy... But you put yer bag at the back. It was a wooden stool you stood oan and that's when you got, you waited for somebody tae start and then that's when we aww started, ye know. Weaving away, witever. I don't mean it was boring but if your loom was running well, you could sit oan the carpet that you had thingmied, you know wit a mean, or you just stood there tae the shuttle run oot, ye stopped it, stop the other shuttle in, put it oan. D'you, and it just went like that, maist times. And then you had the tea break, when the wummin came round wae the trolley. She came round wae the trolley, selling rolls and aww the rest of it and a cup of tea, obviously. You just sat at your loom oan this stool. Sit at the loom. And if you wanted a smoke, ye smoked in the toilets then, ye know we aww went tae the toilets. In fact, when you got fed up standing at this loom or it wisnae gawn right, "I'm away tae the toilet for a smoke" but a few of us went in. And this poor manager [laughing], we used tae sit wae our feet up, three of us in the wan toilet,

our feet up the wall so when she looked under, she wouldn't see that we were aww sitting. She could see the smoke coming oot the top, obviously, ye know. Jessie Withers [unsure?] She was really dedicated tae the job, ye know wit a mean. And that wis that, we came back. I always got ma lunch in there as well. We had a good laugh. We mixed wae the... There wis the finishers upstairs, the spoolers and the finishers. The finishers were a wee bit, kind of a, ye know wit a mean? But, uck, we aww had a good laugh, d'ye know what I mean? And see in the like, shutting doon for the Fair Fortnight, you couldnae get yer holidays any other time, ye know wit a mean. We paid this, I think it wis... I think it was six-pence for the union, ye know, for the union thing. Six-pence for that. And then, another thing, I dont know, I'm getting it till this day. It's called graduated pension.

06:29

RS: Oh right, okay.

06:31

But it's like tu'pence but ye get it, ye know. Its along wae Super Annuation. This is wit ye get this graduated pension but I think we only paid about three-pence for that, d'ye know what I mean? So, that wis us, if it was okay with the thingy... You should see this loom that went back and forward, ye got dain flying. If ye got lots of knots... Ye know how you join well, because there's a certain way that you tied the knot. I should have brought a bit of wool and showed you how tae tie it. You pulled it in but you'd to watch because you could get yer arm cut off with this blade flying back. But, oh, we got fly for that. And, if ye had a hole... If there wis a hole in your hole in your carpet, you'd tae stop, rip it all back and fix it aww up for the hole. But, sometimes you let wholes go by because the sorted it aww up at the finishing anyway, dae ye know wit a mean?

07:27

RS: You mention the finishing department being upstairs Where abouts was the factory that you worked in?

07:33

: We were oan the ground floor.

07:34

RS: And what street was that on?

07:37

: St. Marnock Street it was called, off of Crownpoint Road.

RS: So that was away from the main factory at Glasgow Green?

07:46

: Aye, oh aye. You could walk it to it. It would take you about twenty minutes. Because you're talking... Where am I? I'm on the Gallowgate end, well that wis doon the London Road. Dae ye know wit a mean?

08:02

RS: So it was a wee distance away from that?

08:05

Example 1: Aye, well it wisnae that far away. Ye could always go tae that big wan, see if ye were...

See if you wanted like, in our work, ye could get carpet ends, they'd sell them off tae ye for buttons. But, if you wanted one, say for yer mammies hoose, ye had tae go tae the big wan. Ye could get it at a discount, obviously. But, at our bit, as a say, it was only, I think it twenty-seven... Whatever. We done just plain colours and there was, wit they called, there wis plain wool and kinky wool. It was like wool that wis ripped out. Ye done that [motions hands as if tugging at a ball of wool]. But I remember that we done, we used tae get orders in, special people, and I'm sure that we done when Princess Margaret got married tae Anthony

Armstrong Jones. I'm sure we done that. Pale blue it was, for the aisle, for wherever she got married. And, I'm sure done off-white, because the finishers sewed it aww together... Just like out there. I'm sure we done it for, I think it was Bing Crosby's hoose. He wanted this certain colour or whatever. We done that. Oh, ye had tae be dead careful with white because think of all that oil and all that, it was everywhere. Because ye had to oil the machine yerself, ye know wit a mean.

09:35

RS: Could you describe to me a wee bit, about the conditions within the flat? What was that like, being a weaver in there?

09:46

: Well, it was awrite, but as I say, it was really noisy. And it was dirty. In this particular flat, the windows were right along but they were those windows with the wire through them, and if you wanted to open them, you had to go to the other end of the flat and roll it doon, but aww the windows. But ehm, the floor was always manky. Ye had to keep sweeping it because, fluff, see fluff off the wool and the oil. Dae ye know wit a mean? The oil was, you had tae watch ye didn't get it on the carpet, dae ye know wit a mean? But that wis it, there wur nae luxuries, dae ye know wit a mean? And ye had tae lift these big weights so often.

They were really big weights, they were like the weight-lifting things. It's a wonder I've not got big muscles! [laughter] Things like that. Ye had tae dae aww that yerself. Like roll out the carpet because say somebody wanted forty-eight yards, you done it forty-eight yards and you stopped and then you wove it all plain, took the blades oot and then ye started again because we want the same measurements, the same colour, only they'd only want sixty yards for that. But ye had tae roll it up yerself [laughter] Pull it oot and the man came and measured it. And then you had to roll it up, pull it all back and then roll it all again and it was murder, ye know, trying to roll it.

11:26

RS: It must have been quite a tiring job I imagine?

11:28

: Aye, it was. It was tiring, dae ye know wit a mean.

11:33

RS: You must have wanted a sleep after you went home [laughter]

11:35

: Well you got used tae it really. Of course, I think every night when I went in, I got ma tea and my juice and fell asleep in the chair for a wee while. But, that wis that. But, as a say, ye got used tae it. Ye were young then, ye know wit a mean, ye were young.

11:54

RS: I suppose. Can you tell me a wee bit, about some of the people you worked with? What were they like?

11:59

themselves to themselves. I've showed ye that [points to a photograph on the wall] They two twins at the end, they were really, I don't mean they were, they were good weavers and they didn't waste time. I tended tae waste time quite a lot because I got fed up. But aww naw, they took serious. They took it serious, dae ye know wit a mean? But I mean, yer talking here, yer getting three-pence a yard, come on! And they must have been selling them for a fortune. And every year, we all went, well we all went oan holiday every year, but these lassies wired in aww the way. The other one at this end, she was very quiet [pointing to picture on the wall] She kept herself tae her herself. She married an engineer in there [Templetons] ye know wit a mean? Some of the guys in there, they never ever got a loom, they had tae wait tae a guy died, dae ye know wit a mean.

RS: Was it a lot of women you worked with in the weaving department?

13:04

: Aww, it was all women. All women in the weaving department. There were, we called them tenters, they call them engineers noo. They were just dain their... We had wan guy, Buckie, he was oor tenter for oor flat and for the other flat through there, Jimmy McNiff. But, the flat through there, they didnae have any, there wis nae windaes in their flat, dae ye know wit a mean and it was roasting.

13:34

RS: I could imagine. That must have been terrible.

13:37

It was roasting. But they had this big enormous, it was like a big, big bobbin that sat up on the top. That's were they... Whereas, see me, I had aww these bits of wool and I had tae tie them in when yer other bit of wool went, ye had tae tie them in. It wis this knot, as I was telling ye aboot. I'm trying tae count how many there wis. Was it three-hundred and fifty or two-hundred and fifty, ye had tae tie that in? Just tae say... Three-ply wae this back big and two-ply with the next. And the wool was just single but ye had aww these ends. Yer arms were breaking once ye tied them in. And when ye work that right doon, when the notes came in, ye stopped. You'd pull all the wool in because ye didnae want tae get aww these knots. So, that wis a new start, ye know.

14:38

RS: Could you tell me a wee bit, what was the camaraderie like between the women you worked with? Was it a happy place to work?

14:46

Aye [pointing to a picture on the wall of her and her old Templetons colleagues] She wis awrite. That wis her Johnstone. This wummin is called Jessie Withers. She must have... She wisnae married. She must have been in there fae school. I think she must have really been one of the first, she was in there fae school, but she was a good... She knew wit she was talkin'... Everything had to be perfection fae her, dae ye know wit a mean? But, she was awrite. That was her that said, "I think you better, maybe, stop working here". Ye know wit I mean? But, aye, she was... She followed you "Where are you going?" [laughter] "The toilet, is that awrite" There wis nae restrictions on going tae the toilet, ye know wit a mean. There wisnae a time. Ye know some works have got "You can't get..." No, it was okay.

RS: Did you and the girls that you worked with get on with each other?

15:41

: Uck aye, aye. As I said, we aww went tae the dancing and aww that together. On nights oot. We got paid, once a week at the time, it was pay on a Thursday. And, we used tae... I don't remember where we went oot. Sometimes we went oot tae the shops. But, we used tae buy, like, say there wis ma two pals there and me, and other pal. We would stuff ourselves. Spend half our pay oan mars bars, bottles of ginger and things like that, ye know wit a mean? And ye go hame tae yer mammy like, "Well I just bought..."

16:22

RS: Your mum would have been looking for some dig money!

16:24

: Aye. I think she gave me it aww back.

16:28

RS: I see, I see.

16:31

Because it used tae be, I remember, it used tae be wit a thing called, ye went oan yer can. So say ye gave her ma' two-pound, because see when I started in there, I got about two-pounds three-shillings or something like that. But when ye were weaving.... I canny mind much ma got when I wis weaving. We wur lucky if ye got twenty-pound a week. Everybody gave their mammy two-pound-fifty, two-pound-ten-shillings. They gave their mother that and the rest. But, I would spend it all and then have to tap my mother. Which they still do now in this day and age!

17:14

RS: I can vouch for that [laughter] Can you tell me a wee bit about the health and safety. What was that like?

17:22

: Non-existent.

17:24

RS: Non-existent...

: Naw, it didnae exist. Honest tae god. In fact, there wis this thing that went oan tae yer loom that taught ye about these bobbins. And ye used tae have tae, well bring them doon. Ye put another, a spare bit, it's like a bit of wood thing and ye rolled it round and ye got them, ye made them all sort of the same size. So, we used tae go, if we were going out that night, we had our head full of rollers.

17:53

RS: Aye, ready for the night.

17:56

Head full of rollers! But we just walked about like that. Or sometimes ye put a scarf oan like a peggy scarf as we called it. but we got in to a row for wearing that in case it caught there. That wis the only thing they said, in case it caught, but there wurnae any help and safety. Non-existent.

18:15

RS: Nothing for your eyes or your ears or anything like that?

18:17

: Oh no, oh no. Not even with yer feet! Dae ye know wit a mean? We could have been doing with special shoes because I'm full of, it's left me with varicose veins. Standing on that piece of wood didnae help, dae ye know wit a mean. But you could wear any sandals and all the rest of it.

18:35

RS: Yea, I see. I see. Because you did mention it being quite a noisy place...

18:38

: Oh, I tell ye. The noise. Could you picture, a flat, say ten on one side and ten on the other and clattering shutters. Clatter, clatter. And the weights rattled up and down. And these belt. Well, I'm a bit dull of hearing but I put that doon that to my age. Nowadays, we would looking for things for our eyes. And if I wanted tae talk to the lassies, because say if yer loom was there, her loom would be just there [points around ten centimetres away from here]. If I wanted tae talk tae her, I would make a funny noise, right. A cooee sound and they would hear ye and ye could dae that and you could dae that and they knew wit ye were saying.

RS: Need to become an expert in lip-reading. Do you think that working in Templetons, did it have any impact on your health in the long-run?

19:34

: Naw.

19:37

RS: No? So you didn't end up with any hearing issues or anything related to, no?

19:41

: No, I canny think so. As I say, I'm a bit dull of hearing but I'm not, I was okay right up until I reach a certain age. When I was well out of thingmy. I wisnae in Templetons.

19:53

RS: Of course.

19:55

: No, I couldnae. I would only maybe say varicose veins, but they don't bother me. But that's maybe wit they've left ye wae because ye stand aww the time.

20:05

RS: Of course. Because that would have been, what, eight, eight hours a day?

20:08

: Well, eight tae about quarter-past-five I think it wis. It wis a long shift.

20:14

RS: Yea. Standing all day and constantly on the move. You're absolutely right. Did you enjoy working in Templetons?

20:21

E. Uck aye. We had a good... We had a good laugh, dae ye know wit a mean? Ye definitely had a good laugh. And, as I said, at Christmas and in the New Year, well no Christmas... It used tae open on Christmas Day but it was maybe before my time. I don't remember working on Christmas day. Fair Friday... Fair Friday, if we wurnae going away, as I say, we went tae the Isle of Man, what we would dae is, we would get a bottle of spirits [puts on mocking posh accent] After we had cleaned the looms, ye gee'd yer wee lassie, ye always gave her a pound a week for cleaning yer loom. I think you'd maybe gee her three-pound at that time, we just

used tae aww sit round the loom and bevvy and then there wis a put called, across the road, on Crownpoint Road, a wee pub called Jack's and everybody went tae Jack's and sometimes I didnae go home. I had tae go and stay with a friend along the road tae stay because I was too pissed [laughter] My mother and father would have been quite upsetting seeing me...

21:35

RS: Well, I think it sounds well earned [chuckling] It sounds like a hard shift. It was the holidays after all.

21:39

: Aye, it wis the hoalidays! But we didnae thingmy, we just watched because we would get... We'd went tae Central Station and you got a train fae the Central Station to, I don't know whether it was Wemyss Bay, and got the boat over to the Isle of Mann. But ye were all pissed [whispers] as well when ye go over there. So by the time you reached your destination and everything, if ye wurnae chucking it over the thingmy because the Irish Sea is very rough.

22:10

RS: Of course. I wouldn't fancy going over that after a few tipples.

22:14

: And at six o'clock in the morning, you landed in, you always landed at six in the morning in the Isle of Man, but you couldn't get in to, it was the boarding house, you couldnae get in 'til twelve o'clock [noon] in the day. [unclear]

22:32

RS: That sounds like a good wee trip [chuckles] Was that organised amongst yourselves or was that the company?

22:35

: Aye, well we always done that. We always done that. A good few years, we kind of all went. As I said, they two twins [pointing to the photograph on the wall again] Harriet and Ellen and Joyce and Nana [?] Hagan, that wis oor wee gang.

22:52

RS: And it wasn't arranged by the company or anything? It was just off your own back?

: Oh, no, no. They didn't even have... Some works had places that they could go but I don't think Templetons had a home for workers. Ye know how some places had a home for workers.

#### 23:07

RS: How did the company treat their staff generally? Did they look after them? Did they put anything on for you?

### 23:14

: No, no. No. It was a case of them and us, if ye know wit a mean. Or us and them. The only time you were in the office... Don't get me wrong, management used tae come round, especially if you wwere on a special order. They would come doon and round and say, "How much have you done?" "How many have you got to do?" Because ye had tae try and dae... Say ye had tae try and do at least forty yards a day, anymore than that was thingmy. But, ye wurnae getting anymore if ye done sixty-yards, but tae suit them.

#### 23:52

RS: To get the order done on time...

### 23:54

: Aye, get the orders oot. They would come roon and "What happened?", "What's keeping you?" and would go like "Well, I canny go any faster." Faster would be in the toilet probably! [laughing]

### 24:05

RS: That's fair. So they didn't have any sort of, I don't know, doctors or nurses or anything like that. Or did they put anything on...?

### 24:14

: Naw. Dae ye know, see you're saying that, I think, wit a can remember, I don't know whether they had a... No, I don't' think they had a place in St. Marnock's street but I think when we moved over to Dixon Blazes, they had a place, see if you wurnae feeling too hot, you were sick, feeling sick, I think they had a nurse then. I cannae remember, cannae remember.

#### 24:44

RS: You mentioned earlier, paying your union dues. Do you remember the name of the union that was in Templetons?

: Naa. I do not. I don't think it even had a name. I just cannae even remember the name of the guy, ye know, that wis the rep.

25:04

RS: Was there any examples of strike action or anything when you were there? Were there any disputes?

25:10

: Naw. We often threatened but naebudy done it. Ye know wit a mean? They spoke about it and they would stop and say "Naw, well get this union man and gee him our worries". "Well just go back and I'll speak to the management", ye know what I mean.

25:32

RS: Did you get on okay with the management? The ones like your supervisors and things. How did you get on with them?

25:39

: Aye, we got on fine.

25:40

RS: They looked after you okay?

### 25:41

Aye because some of them were yer same age. Dae ye know wit a mean? I'm trying to remember... There was one, wit was his name. He wis quite a cheeky name. Andrew Fogle wis it his name wis? Anyway, him but I cannae remember the younger guy that was that sort of a [unclear] Andrew Fogle. Sometimes we seen them and they've noo... We went up tae the office, see when you were finished wan order and ye had tae get another job as they called it, we had to go up to the office. But this was just a, they gave ye, well whatever it was, "Right, that's your next order". And maybe the bobbins would be, they would be aww ready for ye. Ye know what I mean?

26:28

RS: You said that most of the, or that it was all women in that weaving department with you. What sort of jobs, or positions did the men have within the factory?

Eleming their name wis. That's wan of them up there and that's his wife [points to photograph on the wall of ex Templeton colleagues]. They were the wan that measured yer carpets. Willie Fleming and thingmy, Jim Fleming. Willie Fleming was Jack the Lad. He's noo living now. He ended up very pally with ma husband because he stayed round... But anyway. There was him, and who wis it? At the door when you went in tae our flat, the wool went in, a told you, to this big bobbin for these other types... That was Jim Kelly. I knew him. He married a lassie. May Kelly. Well that's... Ended up marrying a weaver as well. One of this... He stayed up were Duke Street hospital used to be. He stayed up in the building in there. That was wan at the times at the Fair that I did an overnight stop in his house. Dae you know what I mean? [laughter] But ehm, that was him. Then there was the engineers. Burkey.

28:05

RS: Were any of the supervisor's male?

28:08

: Naw, aww female.

28:09

RS: No, all female in there. You mentioned going away obviously to the Isle of Man with your group of friends from work. Do you still keep in contact with them? Or did you keep in contact with them when you left?

28:21

: Aye. Well, the only ones I could say [begins to look at photograph on the wall of former colleagues] Well obviously she was ma bridesmaid, so that's, she didnae work in Templetons. The only one I could say is, I told you these ones. Just that one, that one [has stood up for her chair and left the table to closely inspect the photograph on the wall]. I don't know what happened to them. Sometimes I see her up in Easterhouse. That's

That was her man that had measured it all up.

28:51

RS: That worked in Templetons as well.

28:53

: She worked in Templetons as well.



RS: I see. I see. So, you did keep in touch with a few of them afterwards?

29:00

: Oh aye, aye. We did go tae nights-oot. A few of them actually stay up beside where I stay up in

29:04

RS: Oh right, okay.

29:05

there and then she stayed in flats down the bottom of Springfield road, which are no longer there either. But, that's where we went tae her, for her hen night.

29:37

RS: Aww right, okay. I see. Did yous ever meet up after leaving Templetons? Like a reunion or anything? Was there ever any...

29:45

: Naw, naw. They never had a reunion.

29:49

RS: No. And have you ever kept any photographs or anything from your time in Templetons?

29:53

: Naw, I haven't. I haven't really. I don't know where that came from really [pointing to the picture on the wall of herself with ex Templeton colleagues], whether it was, ma son took big cases of, millions of pictures, cases out of ma house. I don't know how daughter] got them unless she was going through them in her, in her own, ye know, in his house for like that. But that's about all.

30:18

RS: I see. I see. And what year did you leave Templetons then

: Wait a minute until I think. Well, "s forty-night ["s son]. I'm trying to think how many years ago that was. It was... I got married in ", right. I got married in ". Well say sixty-seven [1967] because he was born in So, I must have left in about the sixty-seven [1967].

30:57

RS: And did you leave Templetons?

30:59

: Pregnant [chuckles].

31:02

RS: A very common reason I assume for a lot of women at that point?

31:05

: Aye. Aye.

31:08

RS: And where you advised to go or did you leave off your own...

### 31:11

Aww naw, as I said, she'd said... I was wanting to leave anyway. I was going to be leaving anyway, dae ye know what I mean? Because plus the fact that... See, that's what I meant tae say to you. See when we were moving over to thingmy [Crown Street], the took looms two at a time over to Dixon Blazes. There were shifts, six-to-two [6am-2pm], two-to-ten [2pm-10pm]. I never done them. I went, "Naw, naw naw". I couldnae handle shifts. If you were doing six-to-two [6am-2pm] and then it swapped over, you'd have to do two-to-ten [2pm-10pm], so you were hardly getting to your bed. I never done them. It was only ones that sort of volunteered to do it but they stayed nearer. In walking distance.

31:52

RS: Of course. So, just to clarify. Do you remember what year it would have been that you moved over to the Dixon Blazes site?

32:00

: Wait a think. [eight second silence] I couldn't have been married at the time [six second silence]. Wait til I think now. I must have been married because I'll tell you how, my man

used tae come up and big us and a full team and fire them in the back of the van tae take them hame [laughter].

31:29

RS: You wouldn't get away with that nowadays, would you! [laughter]

31:30

: Of right, you wouldn't. You want to have seen this. It had big holes on the floor and our feet up in the windscreen when, up there when it was raining. Aww naw, wait to I think. Well I couldn't have been expecting. So, if I got married in about then.

32:50

RS: So, maybe around 1965, 1966?

32:53

: But I wisnae married then.

32:55

RS: So... And you left in sixty-seven [1967].

32:57

: Aye, sixty-seven [1967].

32:59

RS: So, how long would you have been, do you think? As an estimate, how long did you work in the Dixon Blazes site then?

33:07

: Wait to I think. I think it wisnae long. Wisnae long. It was before I got married I was still in Dixons Blazes. Say, three or four years.

33:23

RS: Yea. I see. And was the Dixon Blazes site, whereabouts was that?

33:31

: I haven't a clue [laughter] That place has all changed noo.

RS: Was that over in the Gorbals?

33:39

: Aye, it's over Gorbals way.

33:41

RS: Because Templetons I know had a place at Crown Street. Would it have been at the Crown Street, do you remember? Or would it have been somewhere else?

33:53

: Where's Crown Street?

33:55

RS: It's just on the southside of the river, in the Gorbals, I suppose. I'm trying to think...

34:01

: Uck it might have been Crown Street, but I just knew it as Dixon Blazes. It was across the road fae, was it Morrison Street?

34:13

RS: I may have a picture here of it, actually, of the Crown Street. It might help and you might be able to recognise it, if not. This was the Templetons building at Crown Street so... [Rory shows a picture of the Crown Street factory on his mobile phone].

34:23

: It was just like...

34:25

RS: Was it in there?

34:27

: Aye, it would be that because it was just like huts anyway. Ye know wit a mean, it wisnae brick buildings.

34:33

RS: But that just helps to clarify in my mind as well because there was a wee bit of confusion about, did Templetons build that or did they take it over? But it makes sense...



: I think they must have just put it up like wit they dae nowadays because they must have... Its noo there now, I think there's... I don't know wit is there now.

### 34:52

RS: I think its houses now, I think.

#### 34:54

: Aye, I think it is.

### 34:55

RS: I think they built on it.

### 34:55

: Because I used tae work [laughter] all over the southside, after I left there I used to work in hostels.

### 35:02

RS: Oh right, okay. I see. Could you tell me a wee bit about your life then, in the sort of, the two, three years after leaving Templetons? What happened to you? What did you do in that period?

#### 35:17

: Nothing. Ehm, naw. I had, I just had... I had , that's my oldest son. He stayed in the back road, well . I didnae work. I didnae work. My man wouldnae let me work. He worked wae the council. He was a heat, well he was a plumber at the time and he also worked at the Barrowland. He was a musician and a vocalist. He worked with Billy McGregor. Ye know, that was the big shots down at the Barrowland. That was the... Well they wurnae big shots but it was the big band sound that they worked with. Because they had just, ehm... I had been going with him for years right enough... But he came back. Once we got engaged, we went and worked up in Then he came back and wisnae settling... Then he went tae... Where did he go? This was before we got married. He went and he worked six months in and six months in with the band, with the bands. I went over to Now, I don't know if it's of any significance it's nothing to do wae... When I was over in at the time and it was G.I camps, the Vietnam War was on but I didnae know the Vietnam War was on at the time, dae ye know wit a mean? And all these G. I's treated us like Queens. Aww they were great to us. Nae messing about. But nae thingmy, just female company talking because I was fed up listening to them signing with the band because it's the same stuff, ye know. So, I smoked at the time. Oh, they bought you drink and

thingmys aww the time. They took you tae... The big black guys, it wisnae reggae but it was music like that, I went with them... I must been have been dead gallus... I went with them tae other clubs because it was a wee change of music, dae ye know wit a mean? And then when we got back here, we finally got back, and we got married and then he got this job with the Barrowland and he worked during the day and he was at the Barrowland during the night. That was fine, until I had my wains then it was getting up ma nose, ye know what I mean? Because he was oot all the time [chuckles]

37:48

RS: Of course. Of course. So you didn't work after leaving Templetons initially?

37:53

: Naw, I didnae work. I didnae work. If we want to go that far along the line, we split up, right. We split up. I've had three wains by this time - \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ was only about three [3 years old] when we split up, well she's forty-three [43 years old] now, because he was working in another place. Anyway, what was I gonny say there? I cannae remember... So, when we split up when weren't very friendly at the time but I'd nae money, dae ye know wit a mean? Nae money. Went tae the usual sources and they gave me absolutely buttons. It was a thing called a Monday book. I don't know whether you've heard of that. They gave you a Monday book. It would hardly feed them, dae ye know wit a mean? Anyway, we were getting quite, I was getting kind of depressed, so my sister and law said to me they were looking for workers down the Carousel. This was a wafer place, it made wafers, cones, blah, blah.

39:02

RS: Oh right, okay.

39:03

: It was casual. It was down in Shettleston Road. Duntocher Road. If you want to go. So ma friend that stayed downstair, Janette, when we, that was us, we'd moved up to by this time, in a flat. She says, so we went away. We walked it away doon and we got started and I'm noo kiddin ye, eighteen pounds [£18] a week you got for twenty hours and it was absolutely murder [laughing].

39:38

RS: Really?

39:40

: The heat because it was all ovens!

RS: Of course.

39:43

: And working, you'd have to go like the clappers.

39:45

RS: Of course.

39:46

But we had a carry-on. We used tae laugh aww the time with the man. They didnae bother because they were aww casual as far as I was concerned. It was an Italian guy. He used tae go like that, "Get these idiots" because we were carrying on! But we always got our money because he brought in this machine. It was going to Libya, these chocolate bars.

40:14

RS: Oh right. Okay.

40:17

: It was going tae Libya. But it was going at one hundred miles per hour and you'd tae try and get them and put them in the box [laughter] [unclear] And that's when Sanja. Sanja his name was, said "Get these idiots..." [unclear because of the laughter] That was making us laugh aww the mare, dae know what I mean? So, we stuck that. I stuck that for a wee while. Then they were out wae banners demonstrating because they were slave labour anaw in there for them.

40:46

RS: Was there a lot of younger folk in Carousel?

40:49

: Aye. It was aww younger folk. I was a lot younger then maself. And I went, "Bugger this. I'm gonny go up and see if I can get a job in the dinner school." So you put your name down for the dinner school. Never heard anything. So, say about the second of January. That was aboot... I started in there in eighty-three, [1983] I think.

41:13

RS: In the school? Or in the...

: I got in the school.

41:16

RS: In eighty-three [1983].

41:17

: About eighty-three [1983] I started in a school over in Queensland. See all the schools I worked in, they all got pulled down [laughter]

41:23

RS: Really?

41:24

They're aww away. So, I got started there. I was a milk lady. I don't know what school you went to but you're too young to remember. The milk lady wore the white overalls and she just took the bottles of milk to the classrooms. And, then I worked in the dinner school as well. I cannae mind what I got for that. What did I get for that? Hhm, I think I got about twenty-one pound [£21] or something like that a week. A got paid weekly, but it was awrite. Then they were shutting it... Naw, they were introducing money, cash in to dinner schools. Plus, this was a good walk I had tae go tae ma work. I had tae go over motorways and aww that, right. I went, "Aww naw. I'm noo wanting anything to do with money".

42:14

RS: Of course. Aye.

42:17

Primary and then they said, ehm... Where was it they said?... "Would you go and work in school?" I went, "Aww I don't know if I could work there. Addicts, special needs school." And I went and worked there and I says, "Will I have to feed these wains?" Ye know how the slabbers and aww that. "Will I have to feed them?" "No, no, it's trolleys that goes round." So I went there and I never looked back wae that job. I loved it. I worked there for years. In fact, they papped me out because I was too old.

43:03

RS: Were you retiring? Was that when you retired?

4	3	•	U	6

Well that's when I finished... It was still in the dinner school, right. Then, wit happened? Why did I get these two jobs? Oh aye, what happened wis... How did I dae that? Two... Because I was working in Secondary as well. And I was working there. Dae ye know, I cannae remember how that worked because then I got the job on the busses, the special needs busses. I done that as well. I canny remember. Oh, I think they shut that doon and I got extra hours in this special needs school.

43:44

RS: I see, I see. What year would you have left there?

43:47

: Uck, I don't know. I can't remember.

43:49

RS: Would that have been... I trying to... Maybe ten, fifteen years ago or something?

43:54

: Aww naw. Aww, that would be aboot twenty-odd years ago I would like. Then, what happened was that . Aye, well I worked in . and I wis oan the busses. Then, I got moved - I was still on the busses - and I got moved tae a school that ma wains went to, . So, then when I went to . they were looking for people to go and work... Homes, like that. So, I worked in a home on . it's called. It was prostitutes and junkies and aww that. I done the overtime in there. It was good money. Double time and aww that. But poor souls, aww [sighs] I worked there for ages but I still had, these other, ye know, the special needs thing.

44:50

RS: Of course.

44:52

: Then I stopped the dinner school. I went, "Aww it's getting too heavy". What age wis I when I stopped the dinner school? I think when I stopped the dinner school I was about fifty-nine [59 years old] or sixty [60 years old]. Uck I went, "Naw, naw, I'm noo here to move tables and chairs" dae ye know what I mean? And I kept this bus oan. And then they gave me a reprieve and the reprieve and when I reached sixty-seven [67 years old], "You'll have to go" [laughs] That was me bumped out.

RS: So that would have been what, eight years ago?

45:26

: Well, at sixty-seven [67 years old], well I'm seventy-five [75 years old] now.

45:29

RS: Yea. So, eight, nine years ago I suppose. So say 2010 before you retired?

45:34

: Yes.

45:36

RS: And what eh... Do you remember what year you would have started in

45:42

: Oh, wait tae I think [sighs]

45:44

RS: Or just roughly...

45:45

: Well if I done... Say I done that, say, eighty-three [1983] did I say I started in the dinner school?

45:50

RS: Yes.

45:52

: So eighty-three [1983]. Maybe seventy-nine [1979] or eighty [1980]. Ye know, I wisnae there that long.

45:58

RS: Yea. Just a couple of years. I see. It's a really interesting array of jobs. How did they compare to working in Templetons? Did you prefer Templetons?

46:10

: Well it was a different... I don't know. It was a different... I was younger then. A different era. But as you move on, how dae I say that? That was just an episode of ma life that

I worked there. But I did prefer working in the dinner school. No at the beginning at the dinner school, yer conditions wurnae much better either, if you know what I mean. It's vastly improved now. I don't get whether it's for the good of the bad. I don't know if you dine in universities or wit ye dae, it was only a meat and two veg [vegetables] when I started in the thingmy but now the children have a big variety of food but theres a lot more. But it all gets brought in.

47:02

RS: Yea. So there's no cooking done actually...

47:04

: No really that much cooking involved. But its more the case that cleanliness because the hygiene people are a hundred and one percent [101%] in the dinner schools. It is that, plus everything is in wee containers. Yer wee grapes here, yer wee jellies here. There's hundreds of them and you've got to do that yerself. Dae ye know wit a mean? I'll need to go to the loo.

47:28

RS: No, of course. Of course.

[The interview is paused for approximately five minutes as takes a break to use toilet]

47:30

RS: Do you have any memories of hearing about the Templetons closing down? Either the Bridgeton factory in 1975 or when they finally liquidated in 1980? Do you remember anything about hearing...

47:46

: I don't know a thing about it to tell you the truth. But, as I said, that's a different part of ma life. That was me finished when I left. That was the end of the story about Templetons. Dae ye know wit a mean?

48:00

RS: So you didn't have any friends or anything in there by that point?

48:03

: No.

RS: No. No. I see. Have you been to the big Templetons building at Bridgeton since it's been all renovated?

48:16

: No, I have not. I've seen it outside, which is really lovely. But I've never been in the actual place while they were weaving, ye know.

48:29

RS: Have you... And you've never been in it since?

48:31

: No.

48:32

RS: No. Because I know they have a brewery in it where you can go and have a beer and some food.

48:37

: Oh I've been in that!

48:39

RS: Oh have you been in that?

48:40

: Aye, I've been in that!

48:41

RS: The West Brewery, yea.

48:42

: Aye, it's really quite good. Aye, I've been in there.

48:45

RS: I suppose its good that they are using the building isn't it and keeping it in use?

48:48

: Aye.

RS: Do you think there should be anything, I don't know, done around the building or on the building to reflect the fact that it was a carpet factory? Do you think they should have anything, sort of, to make that clear to people?

49:04

: Well, I think it's a wee bit, quite a lot of folk know about that because it was something else. Its noo the Taj Mahal but that's what that was sort of a based on, I think. That's wit they said, ye know wit a mean? And I think they've kind of a... I don't know, renovated because it looks much cleaner to me noo. Dae ye know wit a mean?

49:26

RS: Maybe cleaned it up a bit?

49:28

: Aye, that's what I'm meaning.

49:29

RS: Because, I know that they've recently put a statue down in Govan for Mary Barbour and the rent strikes. And down in Govan as well, at the shipyards, similar to the Templetons building, they've kept the building and they've got offices in it. But they've put a wee heritage centre about shipbuilding in there. So, I was wondering if maybe that would be an idea they could have done there about carpet making because that building was there for over a hundred years [100 years], wasn't it?

49:55

that I am! Aye, well it must be, but I never... I've no heard anything... I've no heard anything about it. It's just when a maybe see something. I canny remember where it wis... See when I watch the old programmes on the television like, ehm, following-up things, series things like, I say to... There was one on recently but it was a great, big, big, big loom and I, "That's the way ma loom was" I says. And the belts, see when I see these belts things and the condition - I know these people are older than me because they've got long skirts and aww that oan - but the same, maybe slightly better condition than wit it wis in the Victorian times, dae ye know what I mean? Maybe slightly, but no much. Nae health and safety. Ye couldnae get an Elastoplast!

51:00

RS: No. Nothing?

: Aww naw.

51:05

RS: Just actually then, I suppose, just to... Sorry to jump about, but just to jump back to your time working in Templetons.

51:12

: Aye.

51:13

RS: Can you tell me a wee about, what did you wear to work? How did you... Was there a dress code or anything like that?

51:20

Naw. See when I started, see when they told me - it was funny - "Right, start on Monday". So, I went out and ma mother bought me a navy-blue full length nylon overall, right, you button up the front. Wit else. And, I canny remember. It must have been nylon stockings, not tights. Nylon stockings. And I went in... I don't know what I had in on ma feet. And I went in and I looked and they aww had these, it was either green or blue. It was called a crossover - dead thick - crossover overall. [laughs] Naebudy, they had nae stockings on. Bare legs or socks. And I felt as if I was out of the place because they kind of looked at you, as if tae say "Yer better dressed than the gaffer!". Ye know what I mean, with this... But, through time, I wanted one of those overalls. So, I did get one. I bought two. I think I got a blue and a green. And just like that, you paid it up every week. Say about six-pence a week or a shilling a week until it was yours. But they were murder! They were that thick! And see trying to get them washed and dried, and they were covered in oil, ye know if they were covered in oil, trying to get them washed and dried, you were better with yer wee nylon one.

52:49

RS: Aye, of course. You would have been a wee bit cooler with that on, certainly. Were there a lot of families in Templetons when you worked there? Were there a lot of relations like mothers and daughters?

53:01

: Aye, there wis. In fact, it was up the finishing right enough. Two friends of mine, Elizabeth and Jean Scott, they worked up in finishing. They were two sisters. Their daddy, Jimmy Scott, was a weaver. There was a lot of that. There was another... Hilda... In fact I've met her in Tenerife a couple of years ago. Hilda, her father worked round where ye... These

blades I'm talking aboot, when they were getting blunt, ye took them round tae this man and he took... It was like a wee thing you get in a Stanley knife, he changed them. He put sharp ones in. That was her father but there was a lot of that. As I told ye, Jim Kelly married this May Patterson, her name wis, I worked with her. They two got married. That Jean up there, the other Jean. Well, I told ye Jean, her man, wis the measured the carpets, Jim Fleming. And the other lassie Jean, I canny mind... Semple. She married an engineer anaw.

54:06

RS: Oh right, okay. I see.

54:08

: D'you know, they were aww, ye know, things like that.

54:10

RS: And did you have any relatives when you started in there? Was there anybody in your family that worked in Templetons?

54:16

: No. Well, ma cousin. But it wisnae in that one. She was working in the spooling. Ma cousin . It was round... I don't know the name of that street. We were there, and you went doon, it was off the London Road. I don't whether it was called Kerr Street or something like that. She was in there, but she spooled, worked in the spooling.

54:35

RS: Oh right, I see. So, you did have, I suppose, some connection?

54:39

: Aye, but I didnae know that's where she worked, d'ye know wit a mean. Because we never, ever went tae that... We were never in that building. We were always just in this one building until we moved over to Dixons.

54:54

RS: How do you reflect on your time working at Templetons? Was it a time of happiness?

55:03

: Uck aye. It was fine. It was really awrite. Ye did have some laugh, dae ye know wit a mean? And carry-on's and we... See when you got married in Templetons? Uck I done a runner! See when you were getting married, they put a sheet round for ye, right. And then,

another... Ye put a sheet round yer flat and then they put a sheet roon the aww the other flats, female. But see if ye were leaving, wit they did wis, they dumped ye in this big bogey full of fluff and run ye round the whole factory and then they took ye oot in the street and it was like a potty, ye know like a baby's potty but it was full of... That's a traditional thing, full of salt but people put money in it as well. And you had to sit in this potty and they'd dance round about ye. I went, "I'm no havin' that. I'm definitely no havin' that." So anyway, I kept watching and watching but, ye know I told ye the handbag was just on the floor at the back of ye, and I'm watching and I'm watching and I'm going "no". So, I went and took the loom off and went away and shot right oot door, without ma coat. But I had an aunty that stayed up in [unclear] Street, just up the hill and I went tae her house. I went, "Oh" a says, "They were gonny dance aboot". I couldnae handle that.

56:36

RS: So you done a runner from it?

56:38

: I done a runner. So that was me.

56:42

RS: Sorry , on you go.

56:44

: I'm trying to think. I think we had a week off work when ye were getting married. A week or a fortnight, you stayed off your work.

56:55

RS: Did you have any bad experiences of working in Templetons?

56:58

: Well I did, I did. There was one bad experience that sticks out in my mind. I can remember... You know how you can remember...

57:04

RS: Of course.

57:05

: So, if this loom of mine wisnae working, ye got put round tae another flat which was basically the same loom.

RS: Of course.

: Because they all had different names. The Beale flat, the Hall flat. I worked in the Hall flat maistly. And the Smith flat was round the corner. Anyway, there was this lassie. You've heard me talking about May Patterson, right. May Kelly, May Patterson. May Kelly was off so they said, "Away you roon and work on her loom". But she had a pal, I used tae be pals because she was in ma class at school. What was her name? and her, I don't how we had kind of a fell out. Anyway, I'm on the loom, her loom. Finish it. When you finish it, you sweep it out. You tidy it round about because you're going back tae yer own loom. She comes round tae me -- I'll always remember, she had a big bust, right. "You, get roon there and clean the effing loom". I went, "You who talkin' tae?" Ye know, blah, blah, blah. She had the scissors because we had big scissors because we cut the carpet. She had the scissors. I was feart but I stood up... "You clean that effing..." I went, "Who made you the gaffer? Naw, I'm noo dain it. I've done it. I have done it so get lost!" And I turned ma back and I went, "She's gonny go for ma back here" but she never. She never, luckily. She never. But she thought she was a gangster but went, "Aww, hawd oan, don't be feart

58:50

RS: Stood up to her...

58:52

: I'll go and get a fag and settle ma nerves after.

58:54

RS: You would have needed that.

58:55

: That was the only time I had any sort of a...

58:57

RS: That would have been quite, aye...

58:58

: Aye, she just thought she was... Ye know what I mean? How was she? Just because she was her pal? "Away and go and clean..." Aye, so I will!

RS: Did you have any injuries or anything in Templetons, 2002. Pid you ever, any accidents or injuries or anything like that?

59:13

Naw, I canny think. Sometimes wae these blades, you'd cut yer finger, dae ye know wit a mean, but nothing major. Nae major things, ye know how... I cannae even think of anybody having any major... Sometimes people, if they didnae, when they were dain the spooling, [unclear], because this wee thing went round aww the time, they'd maybe catch their hair. But if you got the hair pulled oot yer heid, they wouldnae make any difference, ye know what I mean, they would say, that's your... They should have actually made you wear something on your heid, like a turban or something like that.

59:50

RS: To keep it all in?

59:51

: Aye.

59:51

RS: Aye, that would have made more sense.

59:53

: They should have done that, between this and then wae this fluff when you were cleaning your loom, you should actually have something over your face.

01:00:01

RS: Because you're right, breathing all over...

01:00:03

: Aww, yer breathing it in. Because it's up like that, because it's all the wool.

01:00:06

RS: It can't be good for you, can it?

01:00:08

: And picking these... You're underneath picking the peddles, "Please God, naebudy touch the handle of that loom!"

01:00:14

RS: Of course. I suppose actually in some ways, quite a dangerous place to work.

01:00:19

: Aye, well it could have been, if you weren't fly enough.

01:00:22

RS: Yea, you had to be careful by the sounds of it. Was there a pride in working with Templetons ?

01:00:31

: Well, I don't know so much a that kind of... It was... It's quite, ehm, what would I say... It's not an achievement... You were quite chuffed if you got these jobs done oan time. Plus the fact, if ye had nae bother wae yer loom and it just rattled off a specific order, ye know, that was - not that they weren't aww important - but a specific order that if you knew who it was for, and not to make a mistake.

01:01:01

RS: Of course.

01:01:02

: Dae ye know what I mean?

01:01:03

RS: Yea. Just, I suppose then, in coming to a close, my second from last question that I've got for you is. This is quite a broad question but it's something that often occurs to me and I was just wondering if you've got any thoughts on it, that people often tlak about Glasgow and they talk about the shipbuilding and the steelworks but they don't really talk about the textile industry and the carpets and the clothing industry and I just wondered if you had any thoughts or any ideas while we're here on why that is? On why people maybe don't talk about the textile and carpet workers maybe quite as much?

01:01:41

: Naw, I don't know. D'ye know think... Well I'm only saying this personally, d'ye know think like years ago - I mean, personally, ma mother and father never had a fitted carpet - it was only posh people we felt that could buy oot of Templetons, particular, a big fitted carpet.

01:02:04

RS: Of course.

01:02:06

: D'ye know what I mean? I know ma family never had a fitted carpet, it was only like a square they got. But, ehm... No, I think, I think that would be what it was, price wise, for a Templetons carpet. And yet, there wisnae any... I mean, we were next door tae a carpet factory called Lyle's.

01:02:26

RS: Oh yea, I've heard of Lyle's.

01:02:28

: That was joined oan, right, tae us, but I don't know anything about that either, d'ye know? But Templetons, all over the world I would say was the place for a carpet.

01:02:42

RS: It had prestige, didn't it? That world name.

01:02:46

: Aye. It was quality. I mean in the later times they started introducing nylon to the wool because it was aww wool. And in later years before I left, it was nylon through the wool.

01:03:03

RS: Yea. But that cheapens it, doesn't it, a little?

01:03:07

: Aye.

01:03:08

RS: It's not the same quality...

01:03:09

: Aye. And the thingmy... Because if a ever go tae a carpet - it doesnae matter noo - I always look at the back of it, right. I go like that, because I look to see the blue stuff, dae ye know what I mean. Like the warp and weft, it's aww... It wis jute.

01:03:23

RS: To see if it was well made?

01:03:25

: It wis jute. This thingmy... This shuttle thats full. It wis jute that wis in it. Strong stuff.

01:03:32

RS: Strong stuff, you're right. Well , just in suppose in coming to an end then, is there anything else you would like like to, like to tell me about working in Templetons that I've maybe not asked you this afternoon?

01:03:46

: Naw, well I'll just... I cannae think. Eh, just that the conditions wurnae very hot [chuckles] in ma time there, dae ye know what I mean. And they didnae pay us that much, we had tae work really hard if ye wanted a half decent pay.

01:04:05

RS: Yea, of course.

01:04:07

And they didn't even... Well the unions didnae listen tae ye, dae ye know wit a mean. If you've got a wee grievance. "How can we not get time... Time work" Ye know how there's piecework, but the time when yer looms not working, we didnae mind going to work somewhere else, ye know, but it's always at the back of another loom you worked. Eh, but why did they not pay us? Say I was off ma loom for two hours, they didnae really, they didnae bother. Wits this, ye know...

01:04:39

RS: Even though it was no fault of your own?

01:04:42

: It wisnae ma fault, its actually a fault with the actual loom. Because if they didnae have another loom to gee ye... Ye know there might be another one: "Just you go oan wee Jimmy's loom the noo" ye know, "Go on the loom the noo". That's fine because that's you starting making money again. Dae ye know wit a mean?

01:05:02

RS: Well, it's fantastic . Thank you very much for your time.

01:05:05

: I hope it helps ye a bit.

01:05:07

RS: It really will. I appreciate it. Thank you.

## 01:05:11

: Nae bother.