

**Doreen Ballinger**Key:**I:** Interviewer

R: Respondent

M: Respondent

**I:** Okay, Doreen, so if we can just start. If you can just tell me your full name and when you were born.

R: Doreen Ballinger. April 1932.

**I:** Okay. And you were born in Cheltenham?

R: Yes, in Malvern Street.

**I:** Malvern Street?

R: Yeah.

**I:** Okay. So could you tell me a little bit about your family, your parents, what they did at the time that you were born?

R: My mum was... After she got married, she didn't work, and my dad was in partnership with another gentleman in plumbing and decorating.

**I:** Okay. So they both lived and worked in the area... your father worked in the area.

R: No. My mum came from Malvern Street; my dad came from Leckhampton. And I think they met when my dad was doing some work for my grandma, because we lived with my grandma. That's how they met, and then when they got married, my dad came down there. But his yard, they called it, was in Knapp Road, not far from the Catholic church.

**I:** Okay, right. So near where the school is.

R: It's not there now. Yes, yes, because he did a lot of work for the school or the church.

**I:** So he was a builder.

R: Plumbing and decorating, yeah.

**I:** Okay. And what do you remember about growing up in the 1930s, in that period? What's your memories of your childhood on the street?

R: It was great, because we could play in the street. And it was lots of hoops, you know, to run... And often it was an old bicycle wheel they were pushing along. But I was fortunate because... I had a little (unclear 00:02:07). We made friends when I was three, and she had a big garden, so we could play in there. And earlier on, probably before I was born, there were two little cottages and they pulled them down and left the ground blank, and we could

unofficially or officially go in there to play, because it was adjoining our house, so we played a lot in there. Wasn't out in the street very much. And it almost tended to be one half of the street and the other half of the street.

**I: Right, a bit of rivalry.**

R: Yes. I mean, yeah, sometimes you would mix, but it was usually better for us to stay up our end and them to be down there end, you know, yeah. But when it came to the VE parties, it was all in together. Oh yes. I mean, it wasn't really any conflict, it was just that... Well, for me particularly, my friends lived up the top, and then we were also friends with a little boy, the sweet shop on the corner, and so we would just sort of play together, either in my house or Jean's house.

**I: Right. So what do you remember...? On Malvern Street were there any shops or pubs?**

R: There was a sweet shop on the corner, Phillips', the sweets and general stores, and on the other corner was the Vauxhall. Nothing at the Swindon Road end; they were both at Tewkesbury Road end. That was about it.

**I: And where did you go to school?**

R: It was Swindon Road then. It has been Elmfield and it has been Gardners Lane. I don't know what it is now. It's the one just off the college... On the Swindon Road there's a big college playing field, isn't there? Well, college playing field's this side of the lane, and the school's there, and then there's the nursery down there and the animal shelter. Yeah, that's where I went.

**I: That's the school. Right, okay.**

R: And when we were... up to when we were... I think it was 8, we were mixed, and then we had a girl's school and a boy's school next door.

**I: Ah, okay, so you got separated. Right, I see. And so your memories of your childhood before the war are all kind of quite positive?**

R: Oh yes, yeah. I mean, you sort of knew everyone in the street, and everyone would speak. If it was a nice evening, there was one particular couple - I would say an older couple - who'd sit on a chair just by the front door on the pavement, and it was that sort of atmosphere. You don't get it here now. We don't know neighbours now. Well, not like... Because I could go all the way down Malvern Street naming them.

**I: Naming them all.**

R: Oh yeah, yeah.

**I: So there was a sense of community, really?**

R: Oh yes, yes. Oh gosh yes. It wasn't until 1955 my dad died, and not just for him, but they'd have a collection for flowers, or they actually bought a vase for my dad. That was the sort of thing, and if anyone hurt themselves... if someone saw someone hurt, they would be there. And if they'd got a

pinafore, off came the pinafore to bandage up or tighten up or something. Oh gosh, yeah. Yes, definitely.

**I: So obviously you remember your neighbours that lived on the street. What did the families do? As in...**

R: Next door to us was an electrician. Mr Aston was too old. Mr Stevens was in the building trade. I don't know what Mr Hamilton did. Next door to us... Oh, we had a man in the army for a while, and then we had another man in the building trade; Mr Bannister was in the building trade. Oh, Jean's dad was working for the Post Office. Then it was the corner shop. Some of the ladies in the summertime used to go and work on the gardens. That was quite a thing, for some of the ladies to go down on the gardens to work.

**I: The gardens... where do you mean when you say gardens?**

R: Well, they would come down to Tewkesbury Road because... When you've got to what now is Elizabeth Way, it was sort of market gardens and things like that, and they used to go down there, I think weeding or picking things. Because when I was a child, it was just a lane. You've got two... what is now... I think it's Travis Perkins now. There used to be a stone built building which was (p.h. Andy Candies 00:07:15), the sweet people. And then there was a lane, and then just across the road was another house with a family living in. Then you went along a lane to get to the fields. So as I say, there was... it's Wilcox... I don't know the other ones, but there were two or three lots down there where the women could go to do a bit of gardening. Some of them went hop picking when it was that time of year. Yeah, it was very much... I suppose probably a lot of the men were involved either perhaps with the gardens or more or less in the building trade; perhaps labouring or something like that sort of thing.

**I: So would you say it was a very working class area?**

R: Oh yes, yes. Oh yeah, definitely. Yeah.

**I: Some of the other people I've spoken to have talked about how it was quite poor, people were quite poor in those days, but they got by.**

R: Oh yes, yeah. I mean... I didn't know very much, but there were a couple of houses further up our street, and they were pulled down... Oh, I don't know. I was 5, 6, 7. I think they went down to the moors to live, but I think they sort of got a passageway through two houses... But I don't know. I think they shared a tap outside, and I don't know about toilets. But that was the sort of area down... in some of the parts, anyway.

**I: So did that ever case any... were your parents ever worried about any poverty?**

R: Oh no, because... Is this being reported?

**I: Well, don't worry. You have control over that.**

R: I'm going to say... [pause]. It sounds as if I'm bragging, doesn't it?

**I: No...**

- R: My parents and my grandma were poor. They had enough money to get by on, sort of thing. We lived with my grandma. My grandad died when I was about 3. He used to work for people called Mark Williams Hauliers, and he used to have a horse. But yes, my mum... before she was married, she worked at the Victoria Nursing Home, but she never worked after she got married.
- I: **Yeah, because obviously she didn't need to work.**
- R: Well, I think... That was the way they were brought up and the way my dad was brought up, that you don't go to work. "I'm in charge." [Laughs].
- I: **Okay. Now did the people of your area refer to the area you lived in as Lower Dockham?**
- R: Dockham, yes, yeah.
- I: **Okay. And did that include for you the lower High Street?**
- R: As far as I was concerned, Dockham went as far as the gas works. That's what we always thought was Dockham, wasn't it? Yeah.
- I: **Yeah. Because I've heard a lot of people say that, exactly the same as you do. Then a few of the people that are slightly older have mentioned that they believed that Lower Dockham was from the bowling green...**
- R: Up to Dixie's, yeah. That's right. No... I don't know. Because they used to have the High Street and the Lower High Street, and I think that was sort of from the Prom down, which probably went to Dixie's, thinking about it. But I think if you asked people that lived in Dockham, it went to the gasworks.
- I: **Right, okay. So the Lower High Street area and the streets off there weren't part of Dockham necessarily?**
- R: No. Up to the gasworks... But they were... a lot of the houses up there, as you got higher up, seemed a bit bigger and a bit better. If you think about it, you got to Cleveland Street and what was Albert Street, and the houses seemed a bit better than what... Because we had an outside toilet; we didn't have a bathroom. So it was a case of tin bath... you know. Whereas I must say... but having said that, we had some council houses at the bottom of Malvern Street, and I don't know what they'd got, but they were better than us. They wouldn't be nicer houses than ours, because our house was quite nice, but they were obviously more modern. But I don't think they were that big. There was a block in Malvern Street, but I don't know exactly what they consisted of. I've got a feeling they might've had a bathroom but I'm not sure. I wouldn't like to say.
- I: **Okay. So did your parents, when they needed to buy any groceries or do any shopping...?**
- R: Co-op. Up to the Co-op. Because there was a Co-op at the corner of Swindon Street, and many times I came home from school and I had to run - because they closed at 1 - to do a bit of shopping and come back home again. But that's the Co-op. Except when rationing was on, and then - my dad went

away to work, but my grandma was there, and my mum and me - and grandma's ration book went to a different shop, so it was only buying it at that shop you got them, and they weren't all at one shop.

**I: And where else did they go other than the Co-op?**

R: For the wartime, we went to Jackson's at the corner of... What's that little dummy end street where the railway is? This side?

**I: Burton Street?**

R: No, too far up. It was... Swindon Street, where the Co-op is, and then you come back and there's a little... White Hart Street?

**I: White Hart... yeah.**

R: White Hart Street, isn't it?

**I: That's where the bridge goes through.**

R: That's right, then, that's right. And there was a grocer's on the corner there, sold more sort of dairy stuff, so we registered there for bacon and stuff like that, and then the Co-op for the sugars and the teas. We went to [\(p.h. Bert Manners' 00:13:54\)](#) for the meat, and that was about it.

**I: Did you ever go further up the High Street?**

R: On a Saturday, when I was quite small, my mum always took me up the High Street and I am pretty sure it was called the Meat Kings, and I think they used to sell their meat off or something or other, because she always took me up there. This is when I was much smaller, obviously. She went there, and I think it was because the meat was cheaper. We always went on a Saturday afternoon, and we always walked.

**I: Okay. So would you say that the area you lived in was very much like a bit of a village, that you didn't really have to leave very often?**

R: No, because we used to have a bus come to the end, and that bus used to go right through to the cemetery. No, we had a corner shop, but my mum didn't go to the corner shop very often because it was probably a bit more expensive, and then she didn't get her divvy if she didn't go to the Co-op. But no, we weren't sort of isolated at all. Some of the people who go to corner shops... I mean, we had the one at the corner of our street; then we had Jones', who sold sweets and some groceries; then we had Miss James who mostly sold sweets; then we had a Mrs Welsh, she sold groceries; and then a bit further down we had Russell's, who was a family shop, and sold groceries and teas and that. Then a bit further up again we had Roly's, who also sold food. But we didn't go to Russell's or to Roly's. My mum just more or less went to the Co-op, more or less, yeah.

**I: Okay, right. So you said that the area you lived in was quite working class. What are your memories of going to the other more up-town parts of Cheltenham, like the Promenade or...?**

R: Well, you didn't go. You didn't go into Cavendish House or the Promenade.

**I: Why not?**

R: We weren't posh enough, I suppose. And then you used to have the meet on Boxing Day and my mum would take me up there, and you're standing looking at the Queen's Hotel, thinking, "Just look at it. It's so big." And we'd go to Woolworths, Marks and Spencer, Peacocks. But we'd never go to Cavendish House, oh no. Because there was a doorman at those days at Cavendish House.

M: He'd see you off.

R: But then we went to Ward's. I don't know how old we were. They were the first to have an escalator, and that was great fun. [Laughs]. We could go into Ward's, yeah.

**I: Okay. So do you remember how people used to talk about the Promenade area?**

R: I don't think you sort of...

M: You weren't allowed in there with working clothes at one time, were you?

R: Well, that's a long, long time ago.

**I: You needed to dress up?**

R: Yes, yeah. I mean, if you see photos of them, they were all in their... But no, I think probably if you mentioned it to many of the children my age, up until we were about 14, 15, we wouldn't have gone up there. I mean, Easter time, some of the ones at the bottom of the street would go up to Leckhampton hill with their bottle of water and their sandwiches, that sort of thing. That's the sort of thing we enjoyed. And down by Moors, now, as I say, Mr Jones had a coal yard, and he had piles... I suppose they could've been railway blocks, and we'd go down there to play, which of course was very dangerous really, and if he saw us, he would tell us to go home. Our life was simple. You played ball, marbles, that sort of thing, you know. If you were lucky enough to have a doll's pram, well, you know, you were lucky.

**I: So what do you remember about during the war period? What memories are coming to mind about how the area coped?**

R: We coped very well. A couple of ladies had some American friends. We often were given a bit of chocolate or a bit of gum, you know.

**I: So the soldiers?**

R: Yes, yeah. We were fairly lucky with regard to bombing. I think the Ritz got bombed, and of course Martin's down here. That obviously shook us a little bit. But there again, as I say, they came round and certain people had to go to this house because they had a cellar, and the shop on the corner had a cellar so some had to go there. I think there might've been a shelter, a brick one, on a spare piece of ground where some cottages had been pulled down, but that was it. (Unclear 00:19:22), because when we had the bad bombing at Bloomsbury Street, the gas works, my dad hadn't gone away to work then,

and he was working late. And my grandma... Because my grandma stood on the door looking for him to come home, and eventually he came home and he said, "Oh, it was terrible. There's glass everywhere." But there was one man - probably my dad went in there to get his cigarettes - was sweeping up and he gave my dad a little box of that magic to bring home. But he said it was absolutely terrible up there, what he walked through. We didn't know much about it. Because there was one bomb dropped at the end of King Street on the college, but that was about the nearest it got.

M: They dropped the bomb in (unclear 00:20:17) by the bridge.

R: Oh yeah, but that was a bit further away from us.

M: Allotments, it was. It blew the allotments away.

R: We weren't really affected with bombing. Obviously if you heard the siren, you went... But then my grandad decided she wasn't going to go down in the cellar, so then of course my mum didn't go down in the cellar either, she stayed. So we stayed in the house. Then my dad went away to work, so it was just three of us there, yeah.

**I: But you don't remember rationing being particularly difficult?**

R: Oh yes, because you had... my mum could never understand the points for bread and flour, because they were the same. I could always work it out, to say she could either have a bag of flour or a loaf of bread. You just had so much marg, and so much milk, and all this sort of thing. And you took the ration book... I think... I'm not sure if we've got a ration book here or not now. We've got an identity card, but whether there's a ration book I don't know. You had to... for sweets and everything, and clothes. You had to be so careful with clothes, because you didn't have the coupons. But there again, if Mrs Somebody didn't want something, well then she would pass them on to Mrs Somebody-else. That's the sort of thing. We were down there. That's how it went. If you could help somebody, you would help them.

**I: Right.**

R: Yeah, definitely, definitely.

**I: So one of the things I've heard about is you mentioned earlier the street parties on VE Day.**

R: Oh, we had a fantastic one. I can remember my mum saying, "Wherever did they get the food from?" Because you've never seen anything like it. And one lady got her piano out in the street, and they were all dressed up in things and that. I know she got a... I think it was dustbin lids, I'm not certain, and she got a whole crowd of us kids walking behind her, and she was singing, "Sylvester, medals all across his chest, big chest, plenty of room for you," and we were all toddling along behind. It was absolutely fantastic, and then we had a big bonfire in a spare piece of ground in the evening. Absolutely wonderful.

**I: Yeah?**

R: Oh yeah. Everybody...

**I: Came together.**

R: Yeah, oh yeah.

**I: Is it true that every street had its own?**

R: Oh yes, and the vicar usually came round to each one. He was made canon, Richard... He came round, and I think he... just after the war, I think he went round to a couple of the pubs just to say, "We are done. We're over," and that sort of thing. Oh yeah, every street had their own.

**I: And how often did they happen?**

R: Only the once.

**I: Only the one big...?**

R: As far as I know... As far as I remember, we only celebrated VE Day. VJ Day, I was... my mum and dad and I were away, anyway; we were in Bournemouth, so I wouldn't have known. But it was the VE one I definitely went to, yeah. A few weeks ago there was a thing in the Echo about Malvern Street part. I don't think I kept it, though; I can't remember why. Because there again, my grandma's on there, but what she's doing there... because it was down the other end of the street. But she'd gone down to have a look [laughs].

**I: Right, okay. So you were still living in the area after the war, obviously. So do you remember that the area changed in any way, over the years after the war?**

R: It stayed as it was for quite a while, and then they started to say some of the houses needed to be pulled down.

**I: Why was that? Because they were...?**

R: I don't like saying... I think it was termed as slum clearance, which I don't really like, because they weren't... They hadn't got bathrooms, alright. I mean, one house had a front room - which we called it - a kitchen, and then it went out the back door to the scullery, as we used to call it, and the toilet. So they took about five houses down by us - because we were in an end house, when they finished - and they were moved up to Common Road or Swindon Road where those new houses are there. Most of them went to those places. We were the end house for a while, and we were told we wouldn't be pulled down.

**I: Do you remember how people felt about that happening?**

R: Oh, there was a lot of... "We don't want to move from our house." They'd been there for years.

**I: So they were forced to move?**

R: Well, yes, they had to move. We had some people just by us and they were going to go to Australia. She was saying about her house, and I said, "Well, you can sell it." She said, "No, because they're going to pull these houses



down." So we hadn't long lost my dad, and we made contact with someone, and they told us to write letters to the (p.h. muni 00:25:38) and say we're going to decorate, and they advised us not to. But they built all the side of our house up with brick, because when they come to knock through... I happened to be in the bedroom, and I said, "You're through." And obviously it looks as though our house as being an end house with a window, but when they built the other one, they just went straight up. We only had the one brick there. So that... We were there when they were building all those new houses, at the side of us and at the back of us. Then we moved in... '58, we came here, yeah.

**I: Okay. So it's interesting that you said you don't like using the term slum clearance which they used a lot for other parts of that area.**

R: We were told it was town planning for us, and of course they built all those flats on the Tewkesbury Road. Because many, many, many years ago, we kids called it the Irons. Whether that was the official name I don't know. You've got the bridge going up... But there were houses along here, down low. I can't remember the houses, but I can remember one family living there, if you can understand me, and they were moved down to the Moors. So whether those houses were pulled down and people were sent to the Moors Avenue I don't know. But that ground was left spare... Because we used to play on there for years and years and years. But there again, there were houses there, but they were down low, and then the wall up, and then they had these irons. That's why we called it the Irons. Whether that was official or not, I don't know, but we did call it the Irons.

**I: So you do remember people not liking, obviously, being forced to move.**

R: Oh, no, you didn't want... I mean, my mum didn't want to move, oh no. Derek was in the building trade, so he did put a bath in our kitchen, and we could put on the top. Oh no, she didn't want to move. She'd lived there all her life, sort of thing. I don't know if we were particularly keen, were we? We were quite happy there.

M: Yes. I got a lot of work.

R: Well, yes, yeah. We had a front room, a kitchen and a scullery, outside toilet, two bedrooms. Obviously when we had our little girl, we had her in with us, but the bedroom was big. I think at one time it could've been two bedrooms because there were two windows in it. It was at the top of the stairs, wasn't it? Like a door thing. So we think probably at some time it could've been two... And if we'd have stayed there, we probably would have made it two bedrooms. But we came with my mum. We stayed with my mum.

**I: So after you left the area, then, and you came here... Obviously you're not that far away from...**

R: I still used to go down there to church, and my mum did, and my daughter went to Sunday School down there, oh yeah.

**I: But this was a relatively new area?**

R: Oh yes, this was quite a posh area to what we'd been in, you know what I mean. And apparently... My mum knew the lady that lived in the house over

there, because she told us about this house. She said, "I don't mind telling you, when they were going to build these houses we made a fuss," because it had been market gardens, and they didn't want the houses built on this ground.

**I: Same story.**

R: Yeah, it's everywhere. Yes, yeah.

**I: And after you left the area, obviously you say you went back a lot... you probably mixed with people from other parts of the town a bit more?**

R: Oh yes, yeah. And a friend of my mum's lived in Malvern Street, and she moved into Cobham Road. So my mum would often go down there on a Sunday and we'd go pick her up, and when my son was going to Scouts and that, I would take him down to Scouts and go and stay at my mum's friend. Of course, we knew all the people... because she was in the flats, we knew all the people in the flats anyway. We never really... I wouldn't say you didn't lose contact - you did lose contact - but if you saw someone from down there, "Oh, hello!" Oh yes, definitely. It was still that, even... Oh gosh, where was I? I can't remember where I was now. Oh, in Tesco, and someone was behind me. I went to do something... She turned around and said, "I know you, don't I? Yes," she said, "You lived in Malvern Street." "Oh," I said, "Yes, you lived in Queen Street." All those years... hadn't seen her for absolutely... Well, I don't know when I last seen her. But there's still that, "We know you and we're going to talk to you." Yeah, definitely.

**I: After you left, did you get a feeling of...? Because one of the things that's interesting about the Dockham area is the reputation it has for people who never used to go there, people from the Suffolk areas or the posh parts of town.**

R: Oh yes. Well, my dad's brother would come and visit us, because he lived up Leckhampton. Grandma didn't come very often, but we went to her. But as far as family were concerned, it was fine. Because I went to the central school, and I was from down Dockham, as were about six of us. A little bit, sometimes then... A couple of them would come in and they'd have new shoes on or something, and you'd think, "Okay, they've got new shoes already," sort of thing. You know. As I said, we weren't poor, but believe it or not, I had a gym slip, and we had to go to Gloucester, to the Bon Marche as it was then. And it must've come to here. The buttons on the shoulders were taken up, up to here, and that gym slip lasted me four years. So you can tell. You see what I mean? That's the sort of person my mum was, and she was always knitting and turning collars for my dad and that sort of thing. That's the sort of people that were down there, generally. There were the odd few that didn't bother, but generally that's the sort of people you had. They were knitting, sewing, you know, passing something onto somebody else.

**I: Yeah, making the most of stuff.**

R: Exactly, definitely. Yeah.

**I: But the interesting thing is, you know, you said earlier, you didn't really go to the Promenade, but people from that area never came to where you lived either.**

R: Oh no, oh no, they wouldn't have come down there.

**I: There was no mixing?**

R: No, definitely not. When I met Derek, and he lived in Street George's Drive, and I remember going home and saying to my mum and dad about him, "He lives in Street George's Drive. They've got a bathroom." So my dad sort of says, "Hmm. They live in those maisonettes." Just like, "We've got a house." That sort of thing. But it was great. It was a lovely place to live really. You'd get a few little bust ups, but not so much at our end. Not very many at all, anyway, and the next day they'd be friends again. The same with the kids... if you fell out with somebody, you were friends the next day.

**I: Were there ever any parts around where you lived, or close, or maybe parts of the Lower High Street, where you were told that you shouldn't go or you should stay away from?**

R: No. No, no. No, never.

**I: It was never an issue?**

R: No, no. Because I say now... I mean, when I had my children small, I didn't like them going out, and now my grandchildren, I don't like them going very far.

**I: Yeah. You don't see many kids playing outside.**

R: We could go round Swindon Village for a walk on a Sunday morning, Kingsditch Lane and all around there. "We're going for a walk." "Yeah, okay." Nobody bothered. Go over to the lido to play? Safe as houses. No problem whatsoever. I mean, as far as a childhood was concerned, we could go out in the street and play, no cars, and that was it. You'd get somebody on a bike, one gentleman in particular on his bike, he'd had a few too many ciders and he'd be going like this, you know, but...

**I: Do you remember seeing a lot of drunk people about?**

R: That one gentleman in particular.

**I: Oh, quite often, there was the regular town drunk?**

R: He always used to go up to the Vauxhall and he always drank cider. But one day I did see him struggling on his bike, and I saw his daughter come up, and she took two bottles of cider out of his pocket... I remember that so well.

**I: I've heard a few stories about how... because there were so many more pubs.**

R: Oh god, there was, and they always seemed to make money.

**I: So people weren't that hard up, then.**

R: Oh, no. Well, it wasn't very expensive, was it, then, dear? And we used to have... We had a gentleman down our street that swept the chimney, and he

was pretty good. He brought his brushes and all. I don't know; I think he charged about sixpence. But often he didn't go home; he went straight up to the pub. But on the whole - this sounds awful - we didn't have... I'm sticking my neck out. I don't think he had anyone that drank excessively all the time. Perhaps Christmas or something. But I can't remember anyone falling about. Are you okay?

M: Yeah.

R: Yeah. No, I can't remember it, not actually living in our street. But like you say, they had their own pub to go to. Some would go to the Vauxhall, some to the railway.

I: **So every street was almost like a little village, almost?**

R: Well, yes, you had your own little pub, sort of thing. Could you just move that back a second?

I: **Yes, sure. Sorry.**

R: Alright my love?

I: **I'll just move this out of the way for you.**

R: But no, it was really... it was lovely down there.

I: **So you've got very fond memories?**

R: Oh yes. I don't regret my childhood whatsoever.

I: **Someone told me recently, the lady who grew up on King Street said, "We were poor but we lived quite well, and people don't know what poverty means now."**

R: Oh no. Like, at Christmas, for several years I had a doll, and probably a book to draw, because I couldn't draw, and then a stocking with an orange, an apple, and a couple of coppers in. It was wonderful. Look what they have now. It's so sad. What my grandchildren have, it's so sad.

I: **So how do you feel about the area now? I mean, obviously you've lived here quite a long time. But when you see... Is the house that you lived in still there?**

R: Oh no, that was... We were under town planning, and as (inaudible 00:36:43 - 00:36:53). About five houses were pulled down and built again. They left the old council houses. I don't know what they've done now. I haven't been down there for a long time. They built some houses... Oh, that's right. We lived this side of the street, and they lived... There were houses over there. They were pulled down, and some of the people from this side went to that side. That's right, because Mrs Blake did. Yeah, yeah. But no, it was great down there, yeah.

I: **Okay. Right. We'll stop it there.**

(End of recording)