

Kendal Oral History Group Interview R0066 (same respondent as R0066A)

Male born 1907

Interviewed January 1998

Summary Sheet 0066 – edited version minus pages 11 and 12 which are closed. No CD available

P.1 Attended Kendal Green School.
Began work at age 14 for Arthur W.Simpson at Queen Katherine Works, Sand Aire.
47 and a half hour week for eight shillings and tuppence (1921).
Seven years' apprenticeship. One afternoon and three or four nights at Allen Technical School to study cabinet-making.

P.2 Making pulpits, dining chairs, etc. Eight cabinet makers and two or three wood carvers employed.
Working drawings and procedures.
Arthur Simpson made the designs.

P.3 Architects made some drawings. Hubert Simpson did small ones.
Arthur Dixon made practical drawings.
Billy Newby, chair making specialist.
Buying timber in Liverpool.
Only machinery - a saw and a treadle.

P.4 Fitting of pulpit, etc. at Crosby-on-Eden.
Jim Cookson, Tommy Parkin, Ernie Oldcorn, carvers.
Red Rose Guild of Artworkers exhibition in Manchester.

P.5 Simpsons and fellow Quakers.
Fitting tracery panels in Strickland Chapel, Kendal Parish Church.
Workmen, whilst fitting blower for organ, disinterred human bones.

P.6 Plans for panels in Cartmel Fell Church drawn by John F. Curwen.
A.J.Miles' daughter worked for Curwens. She was later architect for Whitwell Inns.
Making bedroom furniture for the Woolpack.
Meeting a giraffe-necked woman [from Circus].

P.7 Working at Black Well on Storrs Estate and at Darwen Church.

P.8 Fitting pulpit in Catholic Church.
Tom Dixon, benchmate
Joined army in 1939. Posted to Woodford, Cheshire, to work on Lancaster bombers. Transferred to Windermere (Short Bros) to instal flying controls in flying boats.

P.9 First test flight in flying boat.
Simpsons' sale.
Worked at J.J.Smiths, coach builders.

P. 10 Went to work for Wilkinsons, organ works, Aynam Road, 1949.
Austin Jones, Works Manager, retires; R.M.Grey takes over.

Summary sheet 006 continued

Pages 11 and 12 closed.

P.13-14 Problems fitting organ at Kirkcudbright.
P.14 Fitting organs at Heversham and Cartmel Fell churches.
 Refurbishing and fitting of chamber organ in Masonic Hall in
 Blackhall rd.

P.15 Jim Noble came to prove Masonic Hall organ.
P.16 Restoring organs after five-year neglect during "39-'45 war.
 Test pilot for Sunderlands came from Rochester.

P.17 Testing the Sunderland.
 Paid £5 per test flight.