

Kendal Oral History Group

Interview R0079

Female Born 1914

Recorded April 1998

Summary Sheet R0079 p.1

P.1 Born at Cross Lane, Kendal, 1914. Seven in family; father boot and shoe operative. Layout of house in Cross Lane; flag floors; rag rugs.

P.2 Washing arrangements.
Began at Parish Church School aged 2 or 3.
Attended Kendal Green (Senior Girls) before leaving at age 14.

P.3 Kirkland School infants to age 7, then girls only. Boys went to Central School. Headmistress Miss Gornall. Girls from Orphans Home attended Kirkland School. Home made clothes; clogs; K's didn't make children's shoes.

P.4 In 1920s Mother fed children other than her own. Two uncles killed in 1914-18 war.
Father served in WW1 war with Kendal Pals (Border Regiment).

P.5 Spent one month at Senior Girls (Kendal Green)
Left school at 14 and worked at box shop up yard in Stricklandgate, then Netherfield (K Shoes) tying knots in shoes, then in closing room.

P.6 K Shoe fete every year.
As a girl walked through fields to Brigsteer. Went on bike to see Lyth Valley blossom. Building of Kirkbarrow.

P.7 Thompson family lived in Capper Close. Gardens (allotments) stretched to Gilling Reane.
Thompson family. Herbert Cleary, Kirkland, owned property in Capper Lane.

P.8 Property in Capper sold to Netherfield. Kirkbarrow Lane.

P.8/9 Shops in Kirkland.

P.9 Abbot Hall - Borough Band, dance floor, dancing to records.

P.10 Abbot Hall nursery during war.
At K Shoes during WW2 Low Mills made camouflage and army boots as well as K Shoes.
Munitions factory next door to Grammar School.

P.11 Schoolchildren taken to watch mayor-making.
Conjurer came to school; children were taken to see Shakespeare at St. George's.
Pictures at Saturday matinees.
Kinema/Roxy/St George's/Palladium.

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P.12 Children's matinees on Saturdays. Attended fairground on New Road. Capper - stables, jam factory, caravans.

P.13 The Lowthers. Allisons lived in caravan on Hawesmead. Victory parade after WW1.

P.13/14 K Shoes parade with rose queen. Picking of the rose queen.

P.14 K Shoes fete - Sports at Netherfield cricket ground. Husband served in Pioneers in WW2. Anchorite.

P.15 Anchorite site/Brockbeck.

P.16 Altering the Anchorite and felling yew tree (250 years old). Paddling in the Kent.

P.17 Playing ducks and drakes in the river near Church Walk; paddling near Netherfield bridge. Headmistress lived in Glebe Cottage. Floods in 1954. Evacuated Netherfield by lorry.

P.18 Machinist making uppers after '45.
Football and cricket clubs. Playing hockey. Somervell family.