

Charlie Parker Interview A-3757-Z/1/14

Summary

Charlie Parker was born in 1943 in Worsbrough Dale and has lived in Worsbrough all his life. He describes the houses he grew up in and his family. His father worked in the Barrow pit and then at the Worsbrough glasshouse. His mother worked and had to care for the whole family after his father died. He talks about his school memories where he saw plasticine and red apples for the first time. During his spare time, he would walk everywhere with his friends and played different games. They would catch newts in streams and play football on street. He would also go on club trips and visit the cinema with his sister. He remembers watching his first television and describes what it used to screen. He talks about the changing surroundings of Worsbrough for example increased in cars and the impact from it. He describes the huge influx of people and developments within Worsbrough. He talks about how local shops and pubs have gone out of business. He worked at Needhams as an apprentice moulder before working at the steelworks in Stocksbridge. He ends by talking about going to the Chapel, and how baptisms were performed in a stream.

Transcription

KH: Right then so we're in Worsbrough library it is the 19th of July 2018 and this is Kate Harper talking with Charlie Parker. So, first of all Charlie can you just tell us - would you mind telling us how old you are?

CP: Eh, I'm just 75 so... [chuckles]

KH: ... Lo-lovely.

CP: Yeah.

KH: And have you lived in Worsbrough all your life?

CP: Yeah, all my life yeah.

KH: Yeah, where were you born?

CP: Eh 1 Melton Terrace, Bank End, Worsbrough Dale

KH: And did you live all your childhood?

CP: Oh no no I didn't no. In fact I were born there but I think we moved to eh number 2 Welling Crescent (maybe referring to Wellington Crescent) which weren't far away d'you know what I mean.

KH: Yeah.

CP: Yeah, and then eh... then we lived in eh Worsbrough Dale in West Street.

KH: Yeah. What-what houses like?

CP: Houses eh...

KH: That you grew up in.

CP: Wer' first house were like a fairly modern in a way were, I think built in probably I'd say about [loud bang in background] 1930s but coal electricity in that do you know what I mean.

KH: Eh bathroom.

CP: Yeah bathroom yeah in-inside bathroom yeah. I think it got a Yorkshire range though funnily enough.

KH: Alright.

CP: So meant to get a Yorkshire range and a set pot.

KH: A set pot?

CP: Aye. A set - do you know what a set pot is? Well a set pot is built inside of the fireplace. And it is like a brick square eh will like a-a pot inside made of iron and it's got a grate in underneath that's lit by a fire but when eh eh for-for for 'cause it lit by a fire, you got a smoke coming out somewhere and it's directed into the same chimney as your fireplace, you see. And then used to boil your cloths in this. Do you see eh and-and then wash' em eh ... [loud bang in background]

KH: Yeah.

CP: ... and-and that-that were it-it would tee water up basically, do you know what I mean and that were a set pot.

KH: Yeah.

CP: Yeah. Di-Have you ever seen before?

KH: Eh no, I've not heard of that.

CP: Ah, ah right ah yeah. I think it everyone knew about them. Yeah. So, yeah.

KH: And what about the other houses that you lived in?

CP: Eh other houses ... oh then we eh we-we moved 'cause me mum 'n' dad they took over working man's club in Worsbrough Dale and that were a a a-a semi-semi-detached but it were storm built house you know what I mean, quite old I would think still there today do you know what I mean [a lot of background noises 00:02:13] and eh, eh that were a move down actually I think do you know what I mean. I think that might have had a outside toilet it a great big washroom like you know eh for a outside you know for eh doing your washing in.

KH: Oh right.

CP: But eh that had eh, eh it had electric it had gas as well I think

KH: Yeah.

CP: Yeah.

KH: Yeah.

CP: Yeah.

KH: So did your dad always work at eh working men's club or what did he do?

CP: No, me dad he worked eh as far as I know he worked at Barrow, Barrow pit and eh he worked on beehive ovens there and then like eh in 1935, Brivels [spelling unknown] was really old fashioned eh they brought these new retorts [word unclear] in and you know they quite modern then, and he were there then for ages do you know what I mean and then eh he worked there eh most of his life then he went to Wors' glasshouse for two years and then actually he eh went to working men's club do you know what I mean. We had that two years but unfortunately he died eh when we had that you know what I mean so eh it were ...

KH: Had you got brothers and sisters?

CP: Yeah got brothers and sisters. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

KH: Yeah, yeah. Did they, did they all stay local?

CP: Eh yeah, yeah. Had eh eh three sisters and a brother. Aye yeah, we all lived you know local like yeah.

KH: Did your mum work? I know it's unusual in that.

CP: No eh ... well eh she tells us there's but she did she did but I can't remember exactly what it were because we got a family then and, and she said she worked probably someth- David Browns making aeroplane propellers or something like that it were something like that. You know I never could figure out what time because we got a family then do you know what I mean. I don't know...

KH: Yeah, and where were David Browns? Where were that?

CP: Penistone.

KH: Oh right.

CP: Do you know what I mean, I'm sure she worked at Penistone yeah. So yeah.

KH: Yeah, yeah.

KH: Right and where did you go to school?

CP: Well, I went eh infant school on West Street you know. I-I liked that. It were only thing I can remember about eh infant school is that eh, eh ... we-we I first saw plasticine you know. And I never seen plasticine in me life, it were in strips wouldn't it and and like you could cut it in strips and there- another thing eh were clay we used to have clay and this clay were in like a-a small dustbin and-and I think they mixed it with water but it were great stuff you know what I mean almost like plaster and it were like, it were like modelling clay but you know what

I mean but I think you could just put it back in bin and like you know and add water to it use it again. And what I liked about that was smell of something, there's so much smell about plasticine and clay but you never forget do you. Yeah.

KH: Yeah.

[00:04:54]

CP: Yeah and eh I can remember I think punishments eh were, it were either a ruler or a clay spoon. But there again I think it were more eh what would I say, I think punishment were more mental than physical in a way and it gave a, a warning to other kids so I don't think I never got it I can remember when- do you know what I mean but I think they did they did chastise you like do you know what I mean. They-they won't let you get away with things you know at all. Eh yeah I liked it there. I mean another more thing I remember we used to cod liver oil on a spoon.

KH: [gasp] Did they give that at school?

CP: Yeah. Aye, aye I remember that yeah that's what I remember about that. And then eh, eh... Oh! Ah yeah, yeah another thing I can remember 'cause you went to that school while you were you know about seven and then you went into Juniors.

KH: Yeah.

CP: Biggest thing I remember about that is that I remember one day we got a crate of apples from Canada, and they were first time I've ever seen red apples.

KH: Really?

CP: D'you know what I mean. Aye. That were, that were- it's surprising what you think on ain't it. Yeah. And then eh I went across road then to Juniors, and they were quite strict- they like- I liked school anyway, but eh, eh they-they were still strict d'you know what I mean and but-but fair and I don't think they like eh an-show any favour to anybody or or you know they were willing too, but eh I-I liked that school. Those who get caned [laugh] in top class eh eh from Mr Jolly eh and what it were it were my fault I took a a comic to school, and this were before lessons, and I would show it to me friend Tony Bennett, and he caned us both.

KH: Did he? [laughs]

CP: Aye. He did yeah [laugh]. And eh I also remember 'cause Mr Jolly's cane all the punishments they all had different kinds of canes I think and, and Mr Jolly's were right dark brown do you know what I mean. It were like really fancy you know they all the special punishment things I think you know what I mean.

KH: Yeah. Were it - were they well-resourced schools? Were there plenty books and paper and pencils and things like that?

CP: Oh yeah, I would say so yeah, yeah, yeah. I also remember I think first eh class I went in they were doing about eh different eh soldiers like Romans and Saxons and stuff like that and there'd be big drawings on eh pinned up on wall and then we'd have smaller ones same version to colour you know what I mean and that were really good. And eh I think what they call her Miss Noble and [children talking in background 00:07:26] it were like art that in a way you know what I mean it were really good yeah. It were a nice school.

KH: Yeah

CP: Yeah and in 'all I like 'all [hall] because eh eh no in 'all we did us gym and stuff like that and there's eh. eh... meetings and stuff like that and classrooms were glass, all glass front into hall you know what I mean. On outside of 'all there were like glass cases, and they were fossils in them, birds' eggs and all sorts it were brilliant. It were really something different. I also I often wonder where they went to.

KH: Yeah.

CP: You know, but eh yeah.

KH: What sorts of things did you do in your spare time?

CP: Eh me spare time we used to go all over the place, used to roam everywhere do you know what I mean, we used to, eh we used to play on muck stacks eh looking for fossils d'you know what I mean and eh, eh we used to walk everywhere you know in a way eh they wouldn't do it today 'cause you know we'd be like eight or nine year old eh you know and eh we used to go everywhere you know near canals and things where you wouldn't really want to go. But me mum and dad they, they seemed happy with that d'you know what I mean, and eh we'd never get into any trouble really and eh, eh I think I don't know I think we were... we were more mature then I suppose, and another thing is there were no traffic on road hardly very little traffic d'you know what I mean so that were lovely wouldn't it.

KH: Yeah.

CP: We could play football in our street d'you know what I mean. Yeah.

KH: Yeah. Is that what you did a lot playing sports football and...

CP: No [laugh] I-I was never into sport really; I've never been but we-we used to knock about d'you know what I mean and eh we used to play nipsy and played nipsy and eh like different games like 'kick-a-can'. I don't know [muttered] - Do you know what that one is?

KH: Eh...

CP: Where-where you put a can and you you kick it and then eh you got to fetch it and all- eh it all disappear [laugh] you to find them.

KH: Yeah.

CP: Yeah, and eh stuff like that but eh we used to be everywhere you know we used to walk miles.

KH: And eh like you were saying earlier this this area where we sat now it it were fields and and such.

CP: Oh this were a field yeah big field yeah.

KH: Yeah, this estate wouldn't here were it?

CP: Oh yeah that's right it were like it eh when I were about well still at school eh they started a big programme of eh slum clearancing in Worsbrough. The houses even in countryside they were pulled down because you know eh they haven't got a proper toilet and stuff like that and running water all sorts of stuff and particularly in in Worsbrough Dale itself Jarrets you know Ebenezer Square and lots houses were pulled down d'you know what I mean and it changed totally Worsbrough Dale. I loved I loved it then really I mean it might have been rough about- boy it were rough in a way 'cause they made houses had been up a long time but eh it-it seemed different d'you know what I mean it. It were quiet and some of them houses would have been ok today I reckon do you know what I mean

KP: Yeah, yeah some money spent on them and... yeah.

CP: Yeah and-and at that time same time so we'd slums that pulled down and they put Council houses up d'you know what I mean and then eh then they took over lots of eh eh farm, farm farming fields d'you know what I mean that they used for houses. And there were lots of housing estates and private eh eh houses built in that period d'you know what I mean you believe how many there were really, so population really exploded in Worsbrough to be honest you know what I mean.

KH: Yeah.

CP: Yeah eh oh another thing when I were young is that eh I think we'd more facilities be honest. In in in in eh Bank End we got Bank End community hall and on a Saturday, we used to have cinema you know which were out of this world really wouldn't it. We used to have cinema for kids for so I can't just remember now about 2 o'clock in eh in eh... no eh eh about 10 o'clock while 12 o'clock you know Saturday and then at evening parents could go for a evening session but they couldn't take kids do you see so that were really good wouldn't it and you could get ice cream there and that hall were a library as well.

KH: Was it?

CP: Yeah it was a a small library. West Riding library and eh and 'all eh you could always get eh it were to do with health as well like a clinic 'cause I remember seeing doing eh is it ultraviolet? You know when you've problems with your skin and eh...

KH: Jaundice and that.

CP: ... and stuff like that used to do that all that there as well you know. There were lots of things really. And sport eh I most remember this I'll be about eh I don't know about eight and nine and Germans come to the sport in Bank End field and that I couldn't believe it me 'cause although young I knew that really we just been to war with Germany and these youths come do you know what I mean like youths that- I don't know they would be in their 20s to do sport against us do you know what I mean [KH says "wow"!]

in Bank End field yeah oh ye-ye-ye-you couldn't believe it, I couldn't believe it then d'you know what I mean 'cause you couldn't- these big youths talking in German do you know what I mean and then eh eh in same field, they used to have like a-a like a sporting day and there would be thousands there. They have cycling and all sorts.

KH: Yeah.

CP: And local you know who were into athletics and that they'd come you know, and it were absolutely brilliant we couldn't believe it. In fact there's like a DVD I think out do you know what I mean we can see some of this yeah aye, aye, yeah, yeah, yeah

KH: This is brilliant Charlie, this is brilliant, yeah.

KH: So what you remember about eh Barrow pit? Did you, did you go and meet your dad from work? And things like that?

CP: Well, even when I were young we used to go into Barrow pit into into pit yard.

KH: Oh right.

CP: Because we used to go catching newts you know what I mean eh we-we we used to- I know we shouldn't have done this but we used to catch newts near canal eh near canal that eh down Edmunds eh eh there were a like eh where, where barges come into it a wide area like a-a wharf d'you know what I mean. Well actua- over-over years canal wouldn't been used for barges anyway at this time but this this wharf got like silted up and there were reeds in this area and although canal was still working you know at side and newts were in this reeded area so we used to play shelter tin at top of reeds to catch newts [laugh] did you see and then eh we used to then we used to go up to Barrow pit and go in pit yard at weekend and it were really quiet d'you know what I mean m-massive area and this were a big pond but it were like there were no rushes around it or anything and eh it was just clear water you know it were quite deep four-four or five foot deep and we used to catch newts with a piece of string and a worm d'you what I mean and eh we used to go all over the place.

KH: Yeah.

CP: Yeah eh yeah we and eh eh ...

KH: Were it a really busy pit? Was it...

CP: Oh yeah it were the biggest pit around here oh I think at one period like I'm not sure it employed about 2000 which is a massive pit.

KH: Yeah.

CP: D'you know what I mean. And ...

KH: Yeah and did people come from all over the place?

CP: Oh yeah to Barrow like they did everywhere like you know in 1800s 'cause eh I think eh Barrow pit were built about 1875-76 and people were coming from all over all over this country to-to work in mines from all kinds of jobs farming and stuff like that.

KH: How did they house them all?

CP: Pardon?

KH: Did they build an estate for them? How did they house them all?

CP: Oh yeah, yeah they-they-they built eh a big house called "New England" that were in Worsbrough bridge mainly for these you know for these new influx of people you know what I mean.

KH: Yeah.

CP: Cause eh it-it-it probably grew year on year and why it were so famous Barrow and I-I didn't know until not long ago is that it were named because eh it were Barrow in Furness, that actually sunk eh you know for for coal there because what they wanted at Barrow in Furness they got a special kind of iron there that's hardly found anywhere in this country, really high quality iron eh they called hematite iron d'you know what I mean but they hadn't got good, good enough quality coal eh to melt it but for some reason they knew that there were a lot of [lots of background noises 00:15:42] coal under Worsbrough called "Silkstone Bed" and that "Silkstone Bed" was some of the best coking coal this country d'you know what I mean so eh somehow they got to know about this d'you know what I mean and chairman were eh what did they call him now... eh was at Chatsworth?

KH: Devonshire.

CP: Yeah. Eh Chairman of of Barrow of Barrow pit were Duke of Devonshire you know, so they probably talking about all this in London perhaps d'you know what I mean. Eh about this and eh and-and Barrow pit were sunk mainly to provide coal and coke for up-up in Northumberland, up in Cumbria.

KH: Yeah, brilliant.

CP: Yeah.

KH: Yeah.

CP: So eh....

KH: Wow, oh that's really good.

CP: And then-then and-and to be honest I think they been eh mining coal for coke for hundred years at Barrow you know what I mean which you know...

KH: When did it shut?

CP: I-I-I can't just remember exactly. But I know they've got an-anniversary programme for its hundred years and it were saying in that in that programme that they were still going to make steel in the future eh still eh eh mine coal and make coke on that plant you know for future. It's always been really good coal here you know. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

KH: Hmm.

CP: And eh what shall I say about eh, me dad worked in coking plant there. Yeah I also remember eh it it took me to where he worked I were only about nine years old and eh eh he took me at weekend so there'd be no buses there d'you know what I mean and I remember like walking eh through muck stacks at Barrow eh to-to go to this coking plant, but what he did then I didn't know this before like eh we-we walking into plant into a eh-eh office there weighbridge office for-for railway you know what I mean. So, he left me in this office with two men there, two total strangers. I didn't know what we doing didn't tell me and he went to work in ovens 'cause he got to work like so, I didn't realise that one of these man one of these men eh were loco driver. The locos stood outside d'you know what I mean and other chap was his assistant to eh-eh fasten wagons onto loco and pull points to move 'em down yard. You see, so eh they put me on this loco and eh put me on a a drop down seat just a piece of wood and re-rest of shift, I were clinging on that seat being shuttered up and down yard d'you know what I mean [laugh]. Right so that... and I missing out there eh but it all strange to me this like do you know what I mean. So eh about 8 o'clock eh we- and this were summer time you know. 8 o'clock me dad comes to pick me up and then I didn't know what were going to happen again and he took me took me round to the back of these ovens do you know what I mean, massive ovens onto this great big machine and eh ... we goes into cowl [word unclear] and-and-and this machine is called a ram and this ram shoves coke great big block of coke through ovens to other side and then it goes into a coke car did you see? Goes into a-a- because it's a great big block of burning coke this. And eh... so they let me con-control of this eh ram so I-I-I-I-I they're there like so I'm pressing controls, shoving this coke out of this you know and then so when that's happened me dad takes me to front t-to-to other side where coke comes d'you know what I mean and we go in coke car then you know this is a another machine eh a bit like eh eh similar to a lorry but made of steel and runs on rails and eh then eh they take door off other side on this next ram eh this next oven that's to be shoved and and we're we're we're in coal car only a few yards off it d'you know what I mean off-off eh this-this eh eh oven and all of a sudden like you see this great big block of coke coming out in front of you and and what they do then 'cause it's a massive block and its coming out like a great big block but they put a-a chain across door heavy chain d'you know what I mean and chain breaks this coke up and then it all falls into coke car. But when it when it when it when it

starts to break up it's absolutely spectacular because it-it-it goes into lots of little pieces then you see and-and what it does it makes a reaction eh like fresh air going to meet carbon it flares! And this dropping into coke cart it's absolutely spectacular just like it-is-like this is like a flare out you know it's absolutely spectacular to-to see d'you know what I mean.

KH: Yeah!

[00:20:38]

CP: And then eh it ... drops into this coke car which is really made of steal and that d'you know what I mean and then he lets me have a control of this as well! So, all you have to do is like press a lever and we start going forward like a train you know and we under we go under this massive square chimney d'you know what I mean. And in this chimney inside, there's massive hose hose pipes do you see?

KH: Oh right.

CP: And that's quencher d'you see. So it quenches all all coke but then steam goes up this chimney and you could see this this ber- column of steam for miles around d'you know what I mean. And if you're anywhere near it and we used to be eh we used go visiting that area sometimes in steam it's fuller like bits of soot and all sorts but if y- if you get underneath it it starts to it just start to fall on you! D'you know what I mean.

KH: Wow. Yeah.

CP: Aye.

KH: Yeah. Wow, brilliant.

CP: And they always said up there, eh Blacker Hill were built at back of there d'you know what I mean. They always said even sparrows coughed up there. [KH laugh] You know 'cause pollution would be out of this world. Honestly, just you wouldn't believe it. You know and you could smell and how I used to love it me because...

KH: Smells evoke memories as well, don't they?

CP: Aye. Oh it is well ... o-ovens eh you know they used to be sealed with clay, oven doors and but it- s-sometimes it'll leak, and and and it were really brown smoke really dark brown really acrid and smell you could smell it from miles away. We were lucky in a way but wind were always towards Blacken Hill [KH laugh]. So so their washing would be you know but I lived probaly a mile and a half away from eh from coking plant and if wind were right way, you'd smell it there, but I used to love it, it were summat I don't know a strange smell d'you know what I mean but eh I love going up that area. You know it were aI-I've also- and-and another thing about this and I might be wrong again. We used to go to cinema and up eh and they- m- interval and stuff like that, they'd Pathe News you know in black and white and and I'm sure it showed you an oven being shoved d'you know what I mean eh on-on to like introduction to it. I might be wrong there but I see you know it-it stands out in mind I don't know if it's true or not. Yeah.

KH: What sort of shops do you remember from round here ...

CP: Shops?

KH: ... shops that have gone.

CP: Yeah lot of shops. I reckon in Worsbrough Dale eh I can't remember there were loads of shops in Worsbrough Dale itself high street eh I can remember cobbler shops, there were two cobbler shops eh beer off there were two beer offs eh oh there were a eh what did they do with that ... plumbers where they had accumulators. Do you- do you know what accumulators are?

KH: No?

CP: Well most houses at that time eh they were just gas lit, there've no electricity at that time eh so eh accumulators they were like a battery like a square battery almost like a car battery d'you know what I mean. And you could have a radio on them now you know you could just clip it on like and-and have a radio and and and this plumber he used to do these he used to charge them up and used to have a little eh like handle and used to carry them to Thompsons the plumber and eh and exchange 'em. He'd charge 'em and charge you for it d'you know what I mean.

KH: Right.

CP: Yeah, yeah, yeah. And other shops eh there were barbers like and eh [pause] a place where they did haberdashery and eh fish shops you know fish shops, eh greengrocers, eh Fells bakery that were brilliant, best bakery in world it were that.

KH: Was it?

CP: Oh yeah.

KH: Yeah. Fells.

CP: Fells, yeah on eh Station Road.

KH: Oh right yeah.

CP: And used to make unbottomed cakes there. You'd never seen unbottomed cakes like them they be about a foot across be like that, couple inch thick and they were like soft in middle but but on outside on flat part they looked as though be slightly burnt, they were hard like crusty, and they were absolutely lovely. You could just cut 'em into strips and put butter on them that'd be a meal [laugh].

KH: Yeah.

CP: It were really good, yeah. But eh.... I know lots of... a lot of these shops have disappeared today don't they.

KH: Yeah.

KH: Do you remember things- holidays or club trips or?

CP: Oh yeah we used to have a club trips from Dale you know yeah I used to go on them eh I think everybody went on you know and some used to be in eh different clubs, some you-you you'd be a member if your parents were a member of Ward Green you go with Ward Green as well but we used to go mainly to Cleethorpes it were brilliant that. It were, it were really good fun. Yeah, it were smart there.

KH: Yeah.

CP: And there'd be loads of buses.

KH: Yeah.

CP: You know, I-I can't remember there probably about 10 at Worsbrough Dale at eh Worsbrough Dale Club but say I think Ward Green they might have had 20 in like eh B-Barrow Club you know there load-loads of buses you couldn't believe it. Yeah, yeah it eh it were good. But-but like I said when we're kids eh eh ... I think biggest thing is that there hardly any traffic on road do you know what I mean.

KH: Yeah.

CP: And it weren't unusual where I lived 'cause I lived not too far away from a farm to see a herd of cows going down the street d'you know what I mean which would be novel today wouldn't it to up ... and eh it-it were so different really. You know it was just pace of life was so different and eh it- when you imagine like there were no motorways and very few cars you know even on like A61 which were main road hundreds of years ago eh from Leeds to London you know it were very quiet. In fact when I got me first car, I used to overtake up Birdwell and somebody would overtake me. You can't overtake today 'cause it's just too dangerous innit too much traffic but eh yeah I-I-I loved it I-I-I think it's still ok but it has changed such a lot you know what I mean it's its' ...

KH: Yeah. Do you remember national events like Coronation or men landing on moon eh things like...?

CP: Oh yeah, I think everybody remembers them yeah yeah, I do yeah.

KH: Yeah. Do you remember watching Coronation?

CP: I'm not so sure eh about watching it but I can remember watching first telly.

KH: Really?

CP: You know eh and it weren't ours [laugh] it were me friends and and we used to go to their house and-and I think it used to start ... what time did it start ... about half past 4 and used to watch telly until a little white thing come on summat like that and something would appear and eh eh I can't remember it were like eh ... I think it were an aerial one of the aerals they had on BBC and-and it some'it turn round on it you know that'll be on for 20 minutes [laugh] yeah yeah it were like warming up it eh it were really strange eh and and eh televisions then they were tiny like d'you know what I mean.

KH: Yeah, yeah.

CP: And then I know some of the intervals when they had a a swan going down River Thames and-and I can't remember where swan were a a tiny white blob and it come bigger going other way round you know it would same for ages. Yeah it were eh eh television that were a bit eh different as well. Yeah... but eh... and we used to go pictures, that were eh eh... in fact me sister were eh oh she worked at Globe so that were good for us because we could could get free tickets so we could go and see pictures yeah.

KH: Did you used to go to youth clubs and dances and things?

CP: No I'll be honest no there wouldn't many things like that to be honest. Eh no I-I didn't eh that might have come a bit later d'you know what I mean.

KH: Yeah.

CP: But yeah.

KH: Yeah. What about a library? Did you use a libra- did you go to a library?

CP: Yeah yeah I did yeah. I did.

KH: 'Cause there were quite a few about wouldn't there?

CP: Yeah, yeah, yeah. In fact I used that library at Bank End Hall do you know what I mean.

KH: Hmm.

CP: Yeah but eh we had to use library at school as well because when I were in- when we were in fourth year at school, they got a library brand new do you know what I mean only a small one and eh eh you couldn't talk or anything like that it were- she were really strict you know she stand outside classroom with ruler and check your hands [laugh] and eh you know if there if there were al- any grub bit like you have to go wash 'em or something like she were really keen but she should be and then eh eh then we started to after request eh a West Riding book to take home...

KH: Hmm.

CP: ... which were bad news for me really I tell you what happened [laugh] eh it's strange this, eh when I were at school like I had spare time jobs do you know what I mean and one of them eh were to take greyhounds out, I used to take three greyhounds only a torch? [word unclear] I take these three greyhounds for a walk before I went to school and-and on my way like I see some of teachers coming you know what I mean 'cause this were before school there be some teacher would walk to school do you know what I mean. And I used- anyway eh what happened eh later I-I took a a-a library book home eh you know from school and we had pet dog at home and it chewed all back of this this book and and eh I daren't take it back I just- you know I thought she would kill me 'cause she were really keen you know and you know she didn't say a word, you know she said "is it one of them dogs that you take out in the morning" [laugh] so y-you know but I couldn't believe it I thought and I-I couldn't get out of it could I, you

know I-I-I could only say I lost it and I didn't lose it but eh dog chewed back of it, me book so that were but that were another story [laugh].

KH: [laugh] What about sweets? Did you have many sweets? What were your fav- ...?

CP: Sweets?

KH: Yeah. What sort of ... sweets?

CP: What sweets yer. Sweets were on ration then and eh I can only remember when me dad worked at Woods eh on Friday when he got paid, eh I go and meet him like and he'd give me a few pence you know.

KH: Yeah.

CP: But sweets were really cheap then do you know what I mean.

KH: Yeah.

CP: I think- I can't remember I think they'd be like 6 pence a quarter something like that but eh eh there weren't like a variety of sweets they've today not with a long, long long way, do you know what I mean.

KH: Yeah.

CP: Eh, I've always liked sweets do you know what I mean.

KH: Yeah.

CP: And eh eh I always felt that when I left school eh I'd-I'd buy dozens of Mars bars [laugh], but I didn't but I didn't.

KH: Do you remember getting your first wages?

CP: Oh yeah yeah I do ah.

KH: Did you have to hand it all over to your ... your Mum?

CP: Yeah I did because eh me dad had died then, do you know what I mean so eh weren't a lot money coming in and I worked at Needhams. At Needhams Brothers and Brown I were a apprentice moulder eh in Barnsley eh and eh I liked that job as well eh I think I got about- I can't just remember, we worked a funny hours we got paid something like it were 47 hours or something like that we used to start at sil- an odd time, quarter past seven, no 12 minutes past seven or something like that it were a really odd number it weren't it weren't even quarter past it were something like 12 minutes past seven and finish at five and I loved that job that were brilliant, it were it were, eh well, they made big head gear do you know what I mean they made big pulleys wheels and haulage systems yeah. I-I loved it there it were eh eh and eh I used to go home black as well [laugh] eh and then I-I-I eh I left there I went to steelworks eh eh in Sheffield eh eh Stocksbridge and eh I don't know what it were that episode we went to see me dad eh working at coking plant and on a-a-a railway that it it made me ... want to

do that kind of work you know 'cause eh at Stocksbridge when I was 16 I worked on biggest arc furnace in Europe.

KH: Did you?

CP: Aye for two year do you know what I mean, massive furnace and I have to shovelling and everything and there sparks flying out and everything and at that time they let you. And all I used to wear like were a-a pair of jeans and a long long sleeve shirt and a soft hat and a sweat towel and you know it'd slide off and everything. Really dangerous you know really eh and eh that were another job. Then I got made redundant a couple of times 'cause steel works in that period were going through a-a sticky eh eh situation weren't it do you know what I mean and I-I then I went on locos eh so that were that other part when I worked on eh internal railway you know that were same that were quite dangerous because eh there we'd like have seven locos on a shift where at a pit even a big pit you only have one a-a-at most two you know what- with seven you-you can imagine, massive firm because it employed 8,000 you know and eh they made best steel in world there you know for eh jet engines and all kinds of things tools and eh we've made springs for telephones, springs, valve springs for cars, massive springs for u-clids [spelling unknown] and lorries and stuff like that you know that's apart from steel that we were selling to eh car companies do you know what I mean and stuff like that. They they used to even make armoured plate for French. French couldn't make armoured plate but we could do you know what I mean, it were, oh it were lovely firm you know it were really used to look after you, you know but eh yeah but but steel works were starting to be you know mechanised and stuff like that and eh it weren't a secure job do you, 'cause I could do anything melting shop I could drive cranes and everything d'you know what I mean it- 'cause when when you were 18 and you were on full money at 18 and you imagine like you do some hard work it were hot you know and-and really dangerous you know but eh I loved it there just did and I liked it on locos that were up there as well. And that would send you out all day, all night choose what weather were, you've no saying you know I'm not a brickie with a stopping work, you out all time because they couldn't do without a movement of traffic d'you know what I mean. Because we brought scrap in eh eh and then we took eh eh finished steel out you know and-and empties out as well you know very busy. To have eight locos you know it- eh it it were quite busy and-and that would say very dangerous 'cause you had a lot of movement in a small area yeah but that-that were another job I loved you know it- I mean whether were you know I mean it were really atrocious sometimes you know when you were working in eh bad conditions erm got to be v-very careful yeah, yeah, yeah.

KH: Yeah. Ah it's lovely. Is there anything else you'd like to add about the area, how it's changed or things that have disappeared that you remember or do you remember air raid shelters and ...?

CP: Oh yeah, we had one in garden.

KH: Yeah.

CP: Yeah we did yeah we had one in garden. Eh I can't remember it eh I can remember playing it you know in fact we used to put coal in it to be honest do you know what I mean. Eh yeah eh air raid shelters and in fact we got one of them eh I don't know where that come from one of them things for a baby you seen 'em like a, like a little cradle with pump on to pump air into it, we got one of them in there yeah yeah.

KH: Ah, right, yeah.

CP: I-I-I always tell people as kids this, just as a joke I always said I were bored in middle of war do you know what I mean and eh this is only kidding though this. I used to say me mum told I wouldn't go to sleep at night you know so in summer she put me out in pram do you know what I mean a-at night in-in a nice night and I'd watch bombers coming over bombing Sheffield and she said when I were about five or six I could tell difference between a iron club bomber a- and eh eh eh what- Lancaster [both laugh]. Just for kidding, I couldn't like. Yeah, aye, yeah, yeah, yeah, but eh...

KH: Yeah. What other things that have disappeared from around here that you remember?

CP: Eh...

KH: Or is biggest change the way the the village has spread?

CP: Well I-I think you know it's it's totally changed like I said really. It-wer-it-wer it were fairly quiet you know our village when there were no like all this eh eh business with slum clearance and that it-it-it totally changed overnight really and- and like that's made this place a lot busier do you know what I mean. Eh that's definitely one of the things and traffic eh is like unbelievable to be honest I never thought we'd see traffic like you have today you know when-when I can remember on our estate in Bank End eh we probably in-in near vicinity where I lived we'd four cars and probably knowin' Bank End we might have had say eight you know what I mean. Well sometimes you've two-two and three cars a house today you know you-just wouldn't believe it...

KH: No.

CP: ... you know just eh you-you-you just can't believe traffic and-and even eh year on year it multiplies and motorway I can remember oh I can't remember 15 or 20 years since they were saying that they never envisaged that amount of traffic being on then and like what it's been since then goodness knows do you know what I mean. I just... I think eh...

KH: Yeah. What industries have disappeared from around here that you remember?

CP: Oh ever- more or less everything. You know I can remember loads of eh there were- you know like Barrow pit eh you know like I say coking plant were working eh eh Longleys were working they didn't make boats anymore but they made pit tubs and you know pit head gear eh we had a bobbing mill eh in eh in Darley yard they made bobbins wooden bobbins for eh for West Yorkshire, for mills. We

had a shoe factory eh that were end of West Street it were only small eh shoe factory but they come from Northampton they were making shoes for Northampton because Northampton was a famous place for making shoes and for some reason, they came up eh to Worsbrough and a lot of women worked there do you know what I mean. Eh there were Corahs, that's disappeared they made a lot of dresses and other eh materials things for eh Marks and Spencer's, that disappeared. Eh lots of things you know just eh and-and this just disappeared do you know what I mean. They were local and I-I think an-another change is like eh people walking you know eh when I were young everybody walked, everywhere more or less. Nobody got a car eh and then then if you went any long distance you'd catch a a bus you know what I mean and like now nobody wants to walk at all you know it's it's so different and-and-and ... I-I think we we lost something by not using public transport you know w-when you think like before everybody w-went on buses, bus services would be ev- better and we d- we all get a-around better d'you know what I mean wouldn't be polluting planet and eh I-I just think that were a big mistake when when we didn't actually go that way instead of going in eh having cars you know. People would be fitter and-and I-I didn't really notice me about doing walking you know what I mean I used to ...

KH: It just how it was.

CP: ... how it was yeah everybody walked so so it were different, but like progress never goes back does it you know unfortunately. But eh eh I think eh...

KH: Is there anything else you like to add? You know any other bits that you think ...

CP: Yeah just one thing eh and I can't believe this either really. I-I wouldn't have believed that say 20 or 30 year ago that there'd be no pubs in Worsbrough Dale. Well, there is some but a lot have gone and I-I can't believe that eh why they allowed this to happen 'cause it were a main part eh eh social our social being at all you know where people met each other and I can't- you know and now supermarkets sell beer and everybody drinks in their houses I find that a bit ... eh I can't believe how it happened.

KH: Where does ... eh this might be controversial. Where does Brig end and Dale start?

CP: Oh aye [both laugh] ... Brig end and Dale start oh eh...

KH: Which bit do you class as "Brig" and which bit do you class as "Dale"?

CP: Well I-I-I-I think it- I think Dale is best part and Worsbrough Bridge isn't quite as good [laugh]. An-anyway yeah but no I-I-I don't- I-I really don't know I think it's somewhere eh where we are actually now, somewhere like that do you know what I mean yeah.

KH: Yeah. Right about here. Yeah.

CP: Yeah but I've never actually found that out d'you know what I mean.

KH: Yeah.

CP: Yeah but eh and I think it goes straight down to West Street because I think eh Pretoria that's where clinic is, is Worsbrough Dale you know then this is Worsbrough Bridge you know that's what I think. I think if-if you put a line up eh I'd say def- I-I'm almost sure that where Pretoria is and where new clinic is, is Worsbrough Dale, and to this side eh is Worsbrough Bridge but for hundred year ago there were no Worsbrough Bridge you know it were all Worsbrough Dale. But only thing that you could say about Worsbrough Bridge that it were bridge over River Dove... because there were hardly any houses in Worsbrough Bridge d'you know what I mean.

KH: Is that...?

CP: That side yeah.

KH: Yeah. Ah right.

CP: Oh yeah, there were no houses around here at all.

KH: And it's funny that it's ... separate from Worsbrough village which has been there for centuries.

CP: Oh yeah yeah yeah.

KH: But it's it's all over district in t'it.

CP: Aye yeah but-but reason is for that is that ... it's it were when canal came do you know what I mean. C-canal changed everything, it absolutely changed everything eh and-and because canals are- and rivers running bottom of valley that's where all houses were that canal you know that's why-why it evolved around there d'you know what I mean yeah. And eh there's lots of things really eh... another thing that's changed eh there's no chapels. Chapels have all disappeared d'you know what I mean. I used to go to Chapel to Sunday School.

KH: Did you?

CP: Aye. I didn't go long, I'll be honest [KH laughs]. But I did love it. 'Cause I think... chapel, that chapel I went were eh eh chapel on Green Street you know and-and people there were lovely it were just like a family it was just like your mum and dad do you know what I mean. It-it wouldn't as how-how can I explain this- strict to going to church d'you know what I mean it were more eh... in fact it were a primitive chapel and that's what they are. Primitive chapel means that you know they more... teaching like with manners and stuff like that d'you know what I mean as well as religion you know. I-I-I and I loved it there yeah and eh eh there's- they've they've all disappeared. Eh can I just tell you this there were a chapel eh everybody seems to think that you know when this when population exploded you know in early 1800s when canals come and industry came here, they built Saint Thomas' Church I think in 18 something like 1859 and they said it were eh for you know expansion in in eh population you know what I mean it were too far to go up to Worsbrough village so we were to have one on this side of valley and that's ok and they always think that that's eh were first one but it weren't eh I think first one were a chapel and chapel were near canal you know

and then I've seen somewhere in Archives where eh when-when these chapels were formed, they used to baptise children in-in a-a stream in Worsbrough, which were really good weren't it that yeah. And-and then you know but eh eh eh you know and then chapels came you know and came to fruition like yeah. But I thought that were lovely that, weren't that lovely yeah. I never got to know where this stream were- I just to mention just- it just mentioned like a stream or a brook you know what I mean where-where they christened them. That-that were good. Yeah.

KH: Yeah, yeah.

CP: But eh but that's another thing there were some lovely buildings d'you know what I mean they've all disappeared, and people don't go to church either do they? A lot? You know. Yeah.

KH: No, not like they used to. No. That's brilliant Charlie thanks ever so much for that.

CP: Yeah.

KH: Is there anything else you want to add or?

CP: No, I think we've covered a lot of- quite a bit of stuff you know but eh eh it's been lovely to do it anyway.

KH: Yeah, yeah, that's that's ...

(End of interview)

[00:45.15]