

H.G. Six. Come down and take the ashes and black lead, 'twas black lead those days, the kitchen range and that was a monstrosity. And that fire had to be lit and ovens up nice and hot to start for the breakfast.

Int. When did you finish work?

H.G. At night? 10. we had half a day off a week, because with all this washin' up, I couldn' get out very Lady Le Breton didn't want us out after seven, we had to be in by seven, and sometimes I didn' get out 'till four. It was the day and age wasn't it and you couldn't do much about it.

Int. How did you get into Bridport, for instance?

H.G. Walk, and when we lived t' Bell, my mother had to walk, every day. Every time she had any shoppin' to do, walk into Bridport and come back. It was hard, because she generally had two baskets, laden with groceries.

Int. I suppose sometimes the carrier would get shopping for you.

H.G. Well, I suppose we could 'a' done, but then 'twas gettin' down to get 'im.

Int. What about when your mother wanted clothes or hats?

H.G. There was always the ..., used to come around, from Reynolds in Bridport, and you could get quite alot from them, like roundsmen, I suppose, I don't know what they called them. And they would take an order, these men would, if you wanted, like some coats or anything, and you'd get a few sent on, get your coat, what you wanted and send it back. But with us children, my mother was wonderfully good with the ..., she 'ad a machine and she made alot of our clothes. She was very good at that.

Int. When you had any leisure time, what did you do with yourself?

H.G. When I was at the Court? How much leisure time did I 'ave off? That's another big question. Sometimes I could never get out, 'specially when ..., 'cos they entertained alot in the early years, they did entertain, so we was kept goin', with no chance to 'ave any, er, leisure time, that was unheard of.

Int. What sort of influence, do you think, the church had on the village at that time?

H.G. Well I think the village people were very devoted to their church and the churches was very full and there was mornin' service and evenin' service. Yes, I can remember as a child, comin' down from Bell, and it was a full church, but that gradually drifted away.

Int. It was normal for people who lived in the village to go to church?

H.G. It was a recognised thing. But there again, my mother was a Methodist, but we did go to church, but my mother was really

and truly a Methodist and she went to Uploders. And she used to take these short cuts across the fields to get t'Uploders, down New Street Lane, but that's all overgrown and gone.

Int. Did she take you to Chapel as well?

H.G. Oh we went to Chapel and she respected, and we 'ad to keep our Sundays. There was nothin', no larkin' about, no playin' games and Sunday was a well kept day, kept with great reverence. They did those days, di'n they?

Int. Can you remember festivities in the village, like Christmas for instance.

H.G. The one great festivity in the village, was Loders Feast and that was hold in St Mary Magdalene's Day, the 22nd July, isn't it. That was a big to-do and there was a great deal o' merrymaking and outside the Farmers Arms there was a big stall, stannen we called it and there's trinkets and sweets and all different trinkets, cups, dear little cups and saucers and plates and different things and some of the old people still got them. But it was a great day and that was to do with the church, St Mary Magdalene.

Int. I wonder why that was changed and we now have the fete, which is on the first Saturday in August.

H.G. There was a flower show, which became revived, but I don't know 'bout the fete. I don't think in my young day I could remember nothin', but I know there was a ..., we used to go down to what they called Loders ..., and Powerstock had a day, they had a feast.

Int. You were here during two world wars, weren't you?

H.G. Yes, well in the first world war, up at ~~Wetherstone~~^{Wetherstone}, there was, up in the trees, there was airship, and this airship, we could see it come down, it was patrollin' the coast. It go on in the mornin' and come back. We could see it, then break away from Burton Bradstock way and then come back to go on to ~~Wetherstone~~^{Wetherstone}, and it hung on the trees there. We wondered whatever it was, we was frightened. My granny was that scared, she went and hid, was outside and up be'ind a wall. Airships were 'uge things, weren't they, but they patrolled the coastline.

Int. Did you have many army here during the war?

H.G. I think there was alot of army about. They bought hay ricks and made up the hay for the horses. But I don't think ..., but in the second war, mind, there was more, 'cos there was alot of Americans through 'ere. Everywhere they could get in, put them in, and in Loders, in empty 'ouses, there was quite alot of Americans went in.

Int. I suppose alot of the young men from the village were sent to the war.

H.G. There was quite a few, and quite a few was killed over in France, but you could get an exempt, couldn't you, if a farmer desperately wanted these men and some cases, if 'e thought 'e could do without them, some of them would go.

Int. I believe they took alot of the horses during the first world war.

H.G. They did, yes, alot of the horses went, went out in France to be mutilated, didn't they.

Int. So the farmers had to make do with less horses and less men.

H.G. Yes, some did. And I know a farmer at Corfe, he went to a tribunal, he said "you daren't take my man, I want 'im, 'e's so needed at 'ome". It was, you know, needed at whoam. It was very essential.

Int. Do you feel that the village has changed?

H.G. Oh terribly, the character of village life has gone, it's no more here, it's not a bit the same.

Int. Can you describe how.

H.G. Well the old country people 'ave gone out, 'a'n't they. That's the character. wasn't it, and you see, alot o' these people, like, retire and come 'ere, for they never knew what country was, did they, really.

Int. That's very true, but we've still got some country people here to remind us what it was, haven't we?

H.G. It's gone, alot of the character of country life is gone. 'Twas very amusin' you know, to listen to some o' them, it was quite good, used to have many laughs, they were quite jolly. It was a hard life, but they made alot of fun for themselves. You had to make all your own amusement, there was nothin' laid on for you.

Int. Tell me about the harvest time in Lodors.

H.G. Well we looked forward to that, that was a great time. Used to follow the binder, cuttin' the corn and the sheaves 'd be comin' out, just slitherin' out off the canvas and we were always chasin' for a rabbit. The rabbits, alot of rabbits around then, and as the rabbits came out, we'd chase after 'em, sometimes we were lucky to get them and sometimes not. But there was quite a few at the end of that field that was caught, and they was put in a big heap and we went back home with a few rabbits.

Int. Did you catch them with your bare hands?

H.G. Yes, we did, but sometimes the poor things were, you know, legs were cut, that was the trouble with it, yes. I never killed a rabbit, I couldn't, but the men would do that, the boys would do that.

Int. So it was a good social time, harvest time.

H.G. It was a merry making time. Always a nice lot o' cider, I didn't drink, but always a nice lot o' cider, the men 'ad. Men those days worked very hard, it was manual labour.

Int. Thirsty work. So you used to go out in the fields in the morning, the men had sandwiches, did they?

H.G. Yes, they took their food for lunch and a dinner and there was always at an evening time, I've gone out in the field to my father, with food, and alot of people did that, take the food into the field.

Int. So they'd work until it was dark?

H.G. Well, harvest time, haymaking time, they were needed to, 'till the sun went off the hay, they cut grass, and then, you see, it got damp, and hay, if it's not nice and dry, it goes mouldy.

Int. Did you use big forks to lift it up?

H.G. Oh yes, there was an elevator, and as the wagons came in, the men on the top would be throwin' it down in the elevator and that would take it up, build up the rick. And there's two or three men on the rick, draggin' it as it came off the elevator and spread it to get the rick a good shape. I suppose now, an elevator would be a museum piece, wouldn't it? It would be in these big places where you see alot of agricultural stuff, can't you, big open places, big estates, where they show it.

Int. Did people sing while they were working?

H.G. Oh yes, there was alot o' singin' goin' on. Yes, well it was a different life. You can't really compare that life with today and I'd often think, how much the youngsters of today have missed, have lost that life. We were happy, plenty of fun, rompin' in that hay, beautiful.

Int. When they brought the corn in, did you put it into stooks?

H.G. When the binder went on and cut it, it was in sheaves and the men would come and stook it up in about eight sheaves and that's how the field was done. That would finish off the corn and ripen it, because it was laid on the ground and got damp, y,see, all those ears would start sproutin' greenery, and that kept it dry and that ripened it up.

Int. What did they do with it then, after it had been stooked and it was dry?

H.G. Well that went on, then it was ricked and later on in the winter, the thrashin' machine would come in to the side of these ricks, and all that was thrashed and all the straw that came away went onto the farms to beddin' for the cattle. You see, it was all used and some was chaffed up and mixed with the corn for the horses.

Int. Do you remember any games or sayings?

H.G. Oh yes, skippin' and hopscotch and then we'd have buttons and make a little ring and get the button in. What was there, now your's went in and you had them. You flung 'em in, like that. Hoops, wooden hoops for the girls and iron ones for the boys, and they were made to a blacksmith's.

Int. I wonder why the boys had iron ones and the girls wooden ones.

H.G. They thought they were man enough to handle them. I had a wooden one, but my brother had an iron hoop.

Int. Do you remember any special sayings?

H.G. Well, I always remember, very young, I was, I used to go out from Bell, out to what we used to call the carthouse and there was alot of hurdles and cribs made there, and I used to go out and sit on the straw and watch that. 'Cos y'see t' Bell there was nothin' else, there was no children, and there was an old man, Joe Caddy, from Powerstock, Nettlecombe, and 'e used to say to me, lots of times, I can always remember tha': "git arf that straw, 'tis full o' varmits". That was insects, I suppose, "'tis full o' varmits"! I never forgot it. (gap in tape). Bread and cheese, and 'twas lovely blue cheese and I used to share a little o' tha' wi' 'e, 'e used to break off a bit an' gi' me some as I sat on the straw.

(gap in tape)

H.G. And see, today, like I say, about the meat, it's got the needle plugged into i' from birth to death, 'asn't it, the hypodermic goes into it. And our meat, well the bits we 'ad, it was pure and our bread was pure. We used to have to come down into the village for milk and my mother used to go to Lambrook for cheese, a long way, a person that made cheese there and 'twas lovely cheese and butter was made across here at the Crabb's farm, that's where we got most of our butter. I don't think butter was made 'ere, no, they only sold the milk.

Int. Tell me a bit more about Yondover Farm. Can you describe what the yard was like then.

H.G. There was a great manure heap in the middle, and then there was the stables, wasn't there and the cow stalls and there was alot o' manure had to come all in the middle. Round that corner was a big cider press and there was alot o' cider made for the men to drink. Haymakin' and harvest was thirsty work, very thirsty work, too thirsty! And I remember, years ago, when I was small, my mother, she said she don' know where Geaorge, tha' was me father, where 'e's to, an' they got a nice lot o' cider took away over the farm, Hillway, that way and there was quite a drop more cider left and they consumed it, drank it and they was 'avin' a hayday up there, singin'.

Int. I don't know where Hillway is.

H.G. You know where New Street Lane is, then you go through into that field and you go up that track and up over. Mr Bishop 'ad all that. And then some of them, before they got to Hillway, to Peascombe, they rode down over there, that was famous days. Those days, they 'ad to make alot o' fun, didn't they, really, they never 'ad no money. You know, wages was only about eight shillin's a week. My father was a shepherd and 'e 'ad ten.

Int. What date would that be?

H.G. In the twenties. At the end of harvest, they had an extra pound, an extra bit o' money, 'cos they were working right 'till night time, and haymakin', their wages was no different, but they 'ad this bit o' extra then. They really don' know nothin' about it today, do they?

Int. They were very strong men.

H.G. I think stuff was more pure, the ground was not dosed up with the rubbish it is today. 'Twas organic, wasn't it, the yards, like here, 'twas 'auled out and put in a big mound and rottened down and there's men days, spreadin' the manure. Y'see today, what is it, 'tis just artificial, isn't it? and I think that was good value, goin' back on the land.

Int. Did you grow your own vegetables?

H.G. Oh yes, and the farmers those days grewed fields of turnips and swedes, they were good. The swede that was grown in the field was much better than yer garden swede. And practically, when we lived t'Bell, the rabbits my father caught! 'Cos 'e was out with the sheep, hurdlin' and 'e 'ad the chance to put down the wire and we lived off rabbit, welsh rabbit, rabbit pie and rabbit stew. Wonder we didn' grow long ears! I could skin rabbits, I could do it. Children were brought up to work, we weren' spoon fed them days, we 'ad ter help. But a rabbit those days was good, but after that myxaematosi, that was a disease they brought, they could keep their rabbits. I think that was ... well they had to get rid of it, I suppose, the country was overrun with them, but a rabbit pie was nice wi' a little bit 'o meat put in, rabbit stew, roast rabbit was good. I saw enough of those poor rabbits dyin', 'twas terrible, Lodgers had it, good and proper.

Int. Did that affect the grass?

H.G. Yes, definitely it did, 'cos the rabbits did eat alot o' the pasture and they would get into the fields where the turnip and the swede was and nibble away.

Int. How did they keep them away from the young crops?

H.G. There was better hedgerows and they was wired, wire nettin' round. And there was more foxes around those days.