

## **INTERVIEW 1**

**INTERVIEWER:** Pat Hughes  
Yondover Farmhouse  
Loders

**DATE:** 1988

**MRS HENRIETTA (NETTA) TAYLOR (NEE HINES), Born 1902**  
**PINE COTTAGE**  
**UPLODERS**

**Description of life in Lodors from 1902 until the present day.**

Reminiscences of Netta Taylor, born in Uploders on 22 December 1902.

Tell me a little bit about your family.

Well they were Dorset born. Father was from Powerstock and mother from West Milton, so they were both Dorset born. Mother was father's second wife; his first wife died. They lived at the Lodgers Arms at that time and he kept the Lodgers Arms. Then she died and left three boys and he married my mother and one of the boys died, and then my mother had three girls and the middle girl died. But I was the only one that was born in Uploders: the others must have been born at the Lodgers Arms.

So you were a big family.

Yes, six of us. But o' course by the time I came along the boys were grown up.

It was rather like having very grown up brothers.

Yes: o' course they were away and I only saw them durin' the holidays. One went to London, the other went to Liss I think, working, so that I wasn't brought up with them but I was made a fuss of when they came home.

Do you keep in close touch with your family now?

I'm afraid they've all died: I'm the last one left. I keep in with their children, but they were all older than me you see. My sister, my actual own sister, was eight years older, because there was the baby in between us which died young.

So they would really have been about 100 by now.

Oh they would. I did look out the certificates. These are the certificates to show when they were born. One would have been 107 I think and the other 109.

What about their children: are they scattered all over the place?

No, not actually. Mrs Lowe - you don't know Mrs Lowe I don't expect do you. Well she's the eldest daughter of one of my step-brothers. She's come back to Lodgers, but actually my eldest step-brother died in Corfe Mullen in Dorset. The other one came back when the war started and bought the bungalow in New Road after he retired, and he

died between 60 and 70, and he is buried here in Loders in the cemetery.

So what was your maiden name?

Hine: Henrietta Hine, always known as Netta.

Can you tell me about some of your earliest memories when you were a child in Loders.

Well I can remember the chapel bein' full, the little chapel up here. There was a choir and the Sunday School, which I went to the Sunday School because there was no Church Sunday School at that time so I went to the chapel Sunday School. And I can remember it being quite full and, let me see, three classes. There was a man what came out from Bridport every Sunday mornin' to teach the older boys, and then there was Miss Willoughby that lived at, oh what do they call it, Myrtle Cottage I think it is. And she and her maid that had always been with 'er, they taught in Sunday School, but the only thing I can remember learnin' there was how to tell the time, because the maid was in no way religious and she used to teach us how to tell the time, and when we could tell the time she gave us a penny, which was a fortune in those days. But sadly it's gone down now; if you get half-a-dozen there it's .....

So you still go to chapel?

I go there now because all the years I went to Church mother always went to Church, but it's too far to walk now and I feel one should go somewhere so I go to the chapel. It's the same God I think so it doesn't really matter does it.

But the Church at that time had a lot of influence on the village didn't it?

Oh yes. The first Vicar I can remember there when I was only a child, we used to call him Parson Thomas, which was ... now what's his name, the man up the road ... Prideaux ... I suppose it was his great grandfather.

Nick Prideaux?

Yes. But he was a quite outspoken li'l man you know. I can remember him very well, and I think everybody liked him because he more or less told the truth whether you liked it or not: if you'd sinned you were told you'd sinned ... you know, that sort of thing.



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And did most people go to church?

On yes. Yes, I can remember during the harvest thanksgiving, which o' course is always an attraction, they would have to take chairs in. The church was absolutely full. But of course there was no radio or anything in those days: people can sit in their own homes and have their service now can't they. That makes a difference.

When you were a very tiny child before you went to school, what did you do? You mostly stayed at home with your mother did you?

On yes. Mother was the village dressmaker. She used to do the dress-making and I used to sit down by the machine and learn all sorts of things from her 'cos o' course she talked to keep me quiet, you know, and she had her work to do. And I can remember I learnt, well I didn't know until a few years ago that what I had learnt, one of the poems I'd learnt, was one of Barnes' poems. I don't say I was word perfect but I learnt it as a very small child.

Can you remember it now?

Yes, it's 'A bit o' sly coortin'', but I can't remember it off hand. I've got it now, I've got one of Barnes' books, one of the very old ones, and it is in there, but I never knew it was Barnes until I had grown up. Mother was great on poetry, and o' course I used to learn quite a bit from her .... to be kept quiet you know.

And your father, he ran the Lodgers Arms?

He ran the Lodgers Arms and then they left the Lodgers Arms. I don't think he made it pay - father wa'nt one of the world's workers - and they came to Uploders. Well then he had learnt to be a butcher, and he used to go pig killin' at the farms: in those days the farmers killed their own pigs, and the cottagers in the farms, so he used to do that - pig killing and, well help at hay making times or anything like that. But he never had what I call a regular job; really it was mother that was keepin' the home going with her sewin', which was very poorly paid in those days.

Still is I think, to a large extent. And then you were old enough, when you were 5 presumably, to go to school.

I think I must have gone to school about four and a half, they used to take them in those days y'see. And we had to walk of course, there was

no bus or anythin', we walked to school.

That was quite a long way for a 5 year-old.

Yes. Yes, but still we were used to it in those days you see: there was nothing else, you just had to do it.

What did you do at lunch times: did you stay at school or come home?

Stay at school and take sandwiches, until I got old enough to come home then we used to run home you know, never walked in those days!

And you have quite happy memories of school haven't you?

On yes, I have. I looked out some photographs. That's a photograph at Lodgers Court when we had a summer feast there, because the Lodgers Court were always very good, they used to give us a Christmas tree at Christmas. But you can see how many children there were in the school.

There must have been about 60 children there.

Oh over a hundred, well over a hundred it was.

And that's later, that's long after I had left school. They still did the maypole; that's long after Mr Fookes died, that's Miss ..... oh I forget her name, but she never taught me but that is some of the children that I knew ... you know o' course they've grown up and grand-mothers now.

And they wore those little what we call mob caps.

Yes: I don't know whether that was just for that picture y'know, for the maypole or not. I shall have to ask George Hyde who they are ... he'll know cos that was about his time. But I did have a picture ... there's some very old photographs of Lodgers only they're almost faded. Somebody bought them for me in Weymouth, they saw them in a shop in Weymouth and bought them down for me. But o' course they're almost faded. That's the school again there I think.

So you were at school in Lodgers, and did you spend your whole time at school there or did you go on to another school?

Oh no cos in my day you couldn't afford to and it meant even if you passed for the Grammar School I think you had to pay a certain amount. And although Mr Fookes was a sweet man, a very dear man, I don't think he was one that was goin' to push people on for other things. No I



stayed there until I was 14. I've got the medals, you know in those days they used to give medals for full attendance. I've got them upstairs. They would give a medal and a book for full attendance, and then if you missed say one or two days you'd get a second-class medal and a certificate, and beyond that you got nothing you see. I think I've got about five or six full attendance medals, and then I've got a book they gave me because I had the measles and missed school through the measles. I only missed half a day, they came and closed the school in the afternoon. But then they had a concert and with the money they bought books for the children that had lost their books through being ill, you see. So I've got one of those, and I've got one or two second-class medals cos mother always says that I wouldn't stay away from school, but she never gave me a chance to! I'm sure I would have if she had. I surely wasn't as fond of school as all that, but she said 'Oh you would never stay away'.

What did you learn at school - you learned to read and write?

Read and write and to make great wide chemises which mother didn't approve of at all, very coarse stuff it was. And that kind o' thing. We learnt sewing and knitting, but it was only more or less the basic things, not things like French and the kind of thing that they learn today, just the everyday things.

Did you learn history and geography?

Oh yes, history and geography. I was never very good at that but I think I've learnt more since I've grown up than I did at school. Once my sons started travelling, then o' course I was more interested in the place, looked it up, but at school you just get through as quickly as you can and tear off out again.

And with no television a lot of it would have been meaningless.

Oh yes it would.

Although there were films, presumably you went to the pictures did you?

Yes, but very seldom. Yes I think it used to cost us about a penny to go to the pictures in those days, and we had to walk you see, there were no bus service, so we had to walk into Bridport.

What about the train, there was a train?

Yes there was a train, but to get to the station it meant walkin' to Powerstock y'see, there was no stop here in Loders.

So by the time you'd done that ....

Oh it would have been easier to walk to Bridport, yes.

So there weren't any buses coming through the village.

No. No, not at that time. No, not until I was grown up and then there was a little bus, an open sided thing, started from Askerswell and I don't remember how many years they ran, that was when I was growin' up, and then ... I don't think that was every day, I think that was only market days as far as I can remember. And then there was a bus came out from Bridport, Kitch & Dunham I think they were, years before the National started.

So how did people get into Bridport?

Oh walked. They had to walk, or there was a carriers cart which went every day, which was a horse and cart. You could ride by that y'see, but o' course it took you quite a time to get there, it was a day's journey. But you see there was no need to go to Bridport as it is today because every shop sent out what they called an outride, which took orders. Every shop practically in Bridport sent out that ... shoes, everything, so that 'twas a great event for mother to go to Bridport cos o'course people used to call with the things y'see, even cottons and silks and whatever she was usin' for her dressmakin' there was somebody came from Bridport and took the order for.

And did they bring the shoes here for you to try on?

They would bring out or send out several pairs that you could try on. But it was all at that time family firms you know, you knew the head of the shop and o'course he knew you, and I can remember their sending out big boxes of hats, in those days everybody wore hats, which you could try on and send back what you didn't want, you know. Really you got far better service than you do today.

Then of course you had shops in the village too didn't you?

On yes, there were shops in the village. There was two little shops in part of Uploders, and then there was the little shop out here which George



Hyde has pulled down now where his grandmother lived, she had a little shop where you could get groceries and sweets. Then there was a little shop where Joan Howell lives, and if we had a ha'penny or a penny we used to run in there. And they had such patience: I often think back, the patience that people had you know to wait while we decided what we'd spend these pennies and ha'pennies on!

They were so precious weren't they.

Yes, that's right. You know when you look back and look at the things today, and I think oh what a difference from what it was. They couldn't care less today, but in those days they'd stand and wait while you chose what you wanted, and half-a-dozen would go in and spend one penny!

What did the village look like when you were a child?

There were plenty of wild flowers everywhere - along the roads there were wild flowers, but today people come out in their cars and dig them up. And there were also orchards, cider orchards around everywhere. Where Home Farm Close is was a lovely cider orchard up at the new road. Oh yes there were masses of orchards around because nearly every farmer made 'is own cider y'see. I can remember the cider presses on all the farms and them making their own cider.

So that's why they didn't do quite so well in the pubs.

Oh yes. Well I don't know: in those days the people used to seem to go to pub more.

For the company really.

Yes I think so. And o'course they didn't dress up as they do today to go to pub y'see, they went straight from the farm to the pub and, oh yes I think the pubs, well I don't say they made a fortune in any way but they did do fairly well.

How many pubs did you have at that time?

Well the same I think as we've got now, there's just this at the Crown here but two in Lower Loders, where Mrs Balfour lives, the Farmers Arms, and the Loders Arms.



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They're almost next door to each other aren't they: quite competitive in a way.

Yes I s'pose in a way: but like I say people used to slip in dinner time and have their drink you know, the men from the farms, and in the evening it was the usual thing for them to go and talk. In fact we've had friends come here from London, they've gone to the pub and they haven't understood a word that's been said! It's like double Dutch to them, you know, the Dorset.

I don't know whether you would agree - do you think the children have not got such strong Dorset accents now?

Oh they haven't. Nothing like, no. Due to television and radio and the schools. Our schoolmaster used to encourage us to speak the dialect.

Well I think it's important. It's nice to listen to and it's nice to keep and you have a lot of words of course which are really Dorset words.

Oh yes. Yes, and I had a Professor come here from New Brunswick I think he was, and he said that over there quite a few of the words, the dialect words, were the same as we use here because people had emigrated there many many years ago and they still clung to the dialect.

So, they had a lot of cider orchards; and what about the farming - did they concentrate on cows or sheep or arable as they do now, or was it more varied?

Well I don't remember. They grew corn, but there was a lot of dairies, and o'course the thing was that in the farm houses they made their own butter and cheese you see. That's where the Blue Vinny cheese comes in: they was all made in the farm houses, and the butter was delicious but it was all made with the pure cream and things, you know, nothing mixed in with it. And we used to fetch our milk from the farms, you see, and our butter and our cheese and eggs, well most people kept a few chicken in their garden those days, and a good many people kept a pig, you know for the bacon rinds and things like that the pig used to eat; a good many of the cottages kept a pig.

So they kept a pig and then your father would go and slaughter it and then they would hang their own bacon. So you were almost self sufficient.

In a way, yes. In a sense. Well we had to be you see because wages were very very low. Yes, I can remember my uncle at Swyre, he worked on the same farm for, what, 58 years I think it was, and his wages were only about 12 shillings a week, that was all.

And when was that?

Well that would have been, what am I now, 85 ... that would have been oh quite 75 years ago.

Before the first world war?

Yes. I can remember the first world war. I was still at school when it started but before it finished I was away in service: the Armistice was signed whilst I was away. I was only about 15 then I think.

What was the village like during the first world war?

Well it didn't really affect the village a lot because there wasn't the bombing and that kind of thing, but o'course the lads went away, and also the horses. In those days they took the horses. I can remember one of the carters that we knew sayin' 'They're goin' to take my horse and they'll have to take me', you know, and he did go. Oh yes, I can remember the horses, the station yard at Bridport being full of horses when they went away in the first world war, which was the saddest sight of all really to think the animals had to go.

And then I suppose quite a lot of the young men didn't come back?

No they didn't, no.

The village was depleted to a certain extent.

To a certain extent yes. Well the War Memorial in the Church is to lads from the village that never came back. Cos that was a terrible war really. I can remember a cousin going and not coming back, but as regards affecting us, the children, it didn't you know, you didn't know anything.

What about your step-brothers who were much older than you?

One went in the Army, the one in London, he was in the Army, but I don't think he ever ... he was very lucky he never went abroad because he was a chauffeur and he drove, now then, the Rajah of ..... an Indian Prince, in London. Yesterday when I was looking out the certificates I came across his reference from this Rajah ... so he was lucky you see he never went abroad at all, he just stayed in London all the time.