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1 kent01

1.1 Utterances 0001–0050

0001 Yes, well, my name’s Alistair Crown.

0002 I’m, I was born at Selling Church in eighteen eighty-seven.

0003 Innit?

0004 [INT] That’s right. You’re eighty-eight now.

0005 My father was a shepherd, under a Mr North, Sean North.

0006 He left there and went to Sittingbourne, shepherd for Mr Trawley at Rodmersham.

0007 [INT] Hmm.

0008 When I was four years old, the only recollection I got now, is riding in the back of an old waggon with my mother and my brother and sister, coming to live at the house at Molash.

0009 And we lived in that house for six years, then moved up into the Molash village, and took the shop, the little village shop, mother did, and ran the Post Office.

0010 My father was a horse dealer, he started horse dealing, and, he gradually got a good name for genuine business.

0011 And the, the tradespeople came to him from Faversham, Canterbury and all round, for him to find’em a pony or a horse to do their business with their cart, see.

0012 And eh, he used to go and buy these ponies off farms and wherever he could hear about one.

0013 And us boys used to have to ride’em, see if they were safe to ride; drive’em, see whether they were genuine on the road.

0014 Some of em shied when they see a bit of paper.

0015 Well, it wouldn’t do to sell a tradesman a horse that shot one side and - would it?

0016 And if he got one that wasn’t genuine, he used to send it to a man at Folkestone, we used to call Slippery Joe.

0017 And he used to generally give him what it cost, so he didn’t lose too much money.

0018 That was agreed between them.

0019 And what he done with them, I think, they went to France for meat.

0020 They eat a lot of horse meat in France, see, and I think these horses that wasn’t genuine, what you couldn’t recommend, they was shipped over to France.

0021 ’Cause he lived at Folkestone, and I know my
father then, he used to buy a lot of ferrets. You know what a ferret is.

And they all used to be shipped France. He used to get a - oh, perhaps twenty on the farm, and us boys had to feed'em.

And the devils used to bite us! You know, when we put the grub into'em, they'd grab for their food - bread and milk they used to have - and they used to grab your hand, if you weren't careful.

So my brother used to take an old rope, up the other side of the hutch and shake it like that, and they used to run over there, while I put the food in.

And eh, that's the way we used to - do it, and then when he got about twenty, they used to, this chap he used to - well, he lived at West Well, Wheel, West Well, The Wheel, at West Well, the pub.

You know it?

And he used to take'em to France.

And they used to turn'em down wild out there for to destroy the vermine, in the forests.

[INT] Hmm.

And father had that job, and then he took a contract with G. Webb and Company, poulterers, at Canterbury, to supply'em with so many head of poultry a week.

And us boys used to go round the farms, and he used to give us sovereigns; an - always golden sovereigns it was, and sh-silver; and go round, he used tell us what to give for these chicken and old hens.

The old hens he used to send to London; we used to put'em on rail, and the chicken we used to take to Webb's, at Canterbury, poultry shop.

He'd take anything up to two hundred a week. [INT] How did you used to get about the countryside?

Well, you'd ride the pony and cart. [INT] Even as a kid?

We used to keep two ponies, father did, and he got a four-wheel van and a two-wheel cart. And we got a pig cart, with a little tiny hole in the back, so as, when you bought small pigs, you whip'em through the hole, see, if you put your tailboard down, while you put one in, one would jump out, wouldn't it?

So these, it was made like that. That you'd just open it and put your pig in, see - he had net over the top, so he couldn't
get out.

And eh, I, well, as I was saying, at twelve years old, the first job he gave me was: go down to Court’s, at Fisher Street - you know where that is?

Just out here, Jack Court’s - and pick up twelve pigs, little pigs, and take to Ashford Market.

That was the first job I done, with a pony.

And I took the van down there, and I collected these pigs.

He said, take’em to Ashford Market, and put’em in Haynes’s auction.

I’ll be down there, I got to go to Stalisfield for some calves.

So, as I was going in Ashford Market - I’d been with him dozens of times like before I done work, I knew the way and all - as I was going in the market, some man come up to me, he says, Where you gonna take those pigs, boy?

I says, Ford Thorps.

Go and put them in mine, he says, here’s threepence.

In Haynes’s, put them in the first place you come to, he says.

So, I took this threepence, and done as I was told, put them in the first place I come to.

Well, my father was - I put the pony away, he always used to have two stables up at Merrill’s, eh Me- Merrill’s yard; he used to hire’em every Tuesday the year they reserved’em for him, see.

And I put the pony out there, walked back down the Bank Street to the market, and my father was in there.

He says, I can’t find those pigs.

Says, where are they?

I said, here they are.

And I showed’im.

He’s, didn’t I tell you to put them in Ford Thorps?

I said, well, some bloke give me threepence to put them in there, he said, well, that’s Mr Haynes.

And he boxed my ears, and he said, now shift’em!
That was the first experience of going to Ashford Market, and I told that to Mr Haynes not more than six months ago - his grandson.

Yeah.

[INT] Hhm. What, was there rivalry between these?

Heh?

[INT] Was there rivalry between Haynes?

Yeah.


And anyway, of course I got these twelve pigs to shift, and Ford Thorps sent a man up to help me do it, see.

Father wouldn’t help me, you know.

He said, no, shift’em.

And you’ll earn that threepence, he said.

And that’s the way I started work.

And gradually, we got into a way of riding these ponies and; oh, the wicked things, you’d never believe what horses can do, if they’re not broken properly.

If they’re not broken properly, when they’re young.

We’ve had’em.

I, he, he come home with a cob one day, that was a beautiful-looking thing.

I was about fifteen.

And he says, put tha’ pony in, he says, and - in the cart, and let’s try him, he says, I want that for Tom Smith at Faversham, if it suits him.

And he said, put that pony in the cart, and let’s try him, I want that for Tom Smith at Faversham, if it suits him.

And so I put this pony in the cart.

We hadn’t got out the gate and I said, this is a napper.

He says, you think so?, I says, I can see it is.

I looked at his old ears.

And I was a - only about fifteen to sixteen.

You could see his ears coming back - when a horse lays his ears back, you know he means business.

He’s up to some trick.

And he got out in the road, stopped dead, father well he was - and he wouldn’t go no further, you know.

And I can see my father now; he always had a ash stick, a crooked ash stick; he’s left-handed - and he stood up in the - alongside the - alongside of the eh eh van, and he hit that horse - pony up the ribs as hard as he could hit him with his stick, and the pony jumped, and
him with his stick, and the pony jumped, and
the thirlpin of the van snapped, we dropped in
the road, and the pony went up the road, and
I never, oh I never done so much laughing in
my life.

0093 [INT] How did you get him back?
0094 Oh, caught him, well, we went after him,
catched him.
0095 Got out, put another pony in the cart, and
went and fetched him.
0096 [INT] Whose job was it to break these horses
then?
0097 Well, wherever w-, we didn’t know who broke
them; we bought them - they warranted them,
see, they - they was all rogues, horse dealers
were all rogues.
0098 They’d warrant it; they, long as they got them
sovereigns and got rid of their horse, they was
landed.
0099 Wadn’t no law.
0100 See, you couldn’t take a man to court for that
job, not them days.

1.3 Utterances 0101–0150

0101 Eh, that was a tricky job.
0102 [INT] What sort of places did he, did he buy
from then?
0103 Ooh, farms or dealers or anybody.
0104 Dealers, most of ’em.
0105 We had a lot of horses out of London, what
was - they break their horses in London.
0106 They only last in London two year, you know,
on - them days.
0107 This’s slippery, you know, and smooth, and
then got, they used to put two ton behind one
big horse, you know.
0108 Didn’t want no pulling, only starting and
stopping, you see.
0109 And it took it so much out of the horse’s legs,
the horse’s front legs used to go over like that
- bent.
0110 Then they, we used to buy them, they used
to come back on the farms, and they used to
recover.
0111 ’Cause they were only six, seven year old, you
see.
0112 Then we used to get’em used to farmwork and
then sell them to the farmers round about.
0113 [INT] How did you bring them down from
London?
Huh?

[Int] Did you, did you

Walk’em!

[Int] All the way?

How, how other could you bring them?

No, all - there were chaps up there used ehr to bring them down, at the mart, and they used to say, where you wanna go to?

And we used tell’em, Close Faversham.

And, oh, I know that, and perhaps he’d bring about four, down, see?

Em- pe- for other buyer - perhaps we’d buy two, and another farmer b- buy one; they used to come down together; perhaps two or three of them used to come down and, with about a dozen old horses, out of London; stop at every pub, time they got down here, they was all pretty near boozed.

Yeah.

[Int] Couldn’t they bring them on the train?

No.

They couldn’t have them on a train; it’d be like the donkey - what’s the name, donkey, wouldn’t it?

I say it’d be like the gypsy’s donkey, wouldn’t it?

[Int] What’s that? Gypsy’s?

Donkey.

Two old gypsies bought a - got a donkey up in Lon-, bought a donkey in London, you know, or a, in a town somewhere, and it - they told us that it was true.

And one got the guard, in out the guard’s van to go and have a drink with him, and he whipped the donkey in the guard’s van to get it - get him down on the train, you see.

And old guard come back, and he tied him on the back.

And he said, I bet old Jamie’s legging it now.

And the old train was coming in.

Yeah.

Oh, we’ve had some fun.

We made fun of our life.

We enjoyed my life anyway.

[Int] Hmm.

If I didn’t work so hard, I’d enjoyed, I’d - enjoyed it till father took more ground.

And then took me, put me in, in control.

He, he got too big a business to do anything on the farm, and he, and he said, well, you’ll have to look after the farm now, and you can...
look after the horses and that when I come home.

0143 And I was all alone on thirty acres.

0144 [INT] How old were you then?

0145 Uhm, sixteen; fifteen, sixteen.

0146 [INT] It was, it was actually a farm he had at Molash, was it?

0147 Hhm?

0148 [INT] It was actually a farm he had?

0149 Yeah, he bought it.

0150 [INT] (unintelligible crosstalk)

1.4 Utterances 0151–0200

0151 He bought it off the eh, when they sold the outlying farms, from eh Eastwell Park Estate.


0153 Lord Grand.

0154 [INT] This would be about, eighteen-nineties?

0155 Oohh.

0156 [INT] How old were you?

0157 Hhm?

0158 [INT] How old were you, for-?

0159 Well, it was, I was about fifteen.

0160 See?

0161 [INT] What had he had for his horse premises before? You know.

0162 Hhm?

0163 [INT] What had he, what’d he started off as, as a horse buyer?

0164 Oh, he, he had these little m- ponies in the other place, over the road; we had two places here.

0165 And he, the house we come in first, we didn’t stop long.

0166 Wadn’t big, it was only about acre of ground, and then we bought this farm were up for sale, and we went over there - bought that.

0167 [INT] Where did he get the money from, if he’d only been a, a shepherd? Did he -

0168 Where did they get it?

0169 Saved it.

0170 Mother worked in, eh - worked hard.

0171 And we all worked.

0172 And you didn’t spend threepence, where tuppence would do, you know.

0173 Well, what’s your farm cost?

0174 [INT] Hhm.

0175 Three cottages, and thirty-one acres - five-
hundred pound.
0176 How was that then?
0177 Three cottages.
0178 Oh I think the bank or, somebody helped mi
dad with the money.
0179 Mother did, I know, mother was very thrifty.
0180 She’d got quite a bit of money, and just like
my wife: don’t let ...
0181 He’s just the same.
0182 She’s just the same.
0183 Put your foot on that.
0184 [INT] How did your father start off dealing?
Where did he get the contacts? Do you know
that?
0185 In a pub.
0186 All the business was done in pubs.
0187 They were open all day, you know.
0188 It was never closed.
0189 Six o’clock, you go in the pub at six o’clock
and get some beer, and you go in there at
twelve o’clock and get some beer; nobody said
nothing about it.
0190 And we’d go on a farm, and perhaps
somebody s- like the grapevine would come to
my father that John Norman had got a pony
for sale.
0191 My father’d slip up, get a pony in, go off and
have a look at this pony.
0192 Got a pony for sale, John?
0193 He said, yep.
0194 He says, have a look at him, try him.
0195 Warrant him?
0196 Yeah.
0197 Every way?
0198 If father knewed the man, he’d know his
warranty was good.
0199 If he, he’d know if it wasn’t, too.
0200 Well, put him in, let’s try him.

1.5 Utterances 0201–0250

0201 So they’d put this pony in the harness, try him,
drive him up and down the road.
0202 And my father’d have all manners of tricks.
0203 When he g-, as he says, drive him by me! he
whip a white handkerchief out and shake it;
and if the pony didn’t take notice, he wasn’t a
shyer.
0204 See?
0205 And, eh, he said, drive him by his farm - his
house, where he’d stopped.

So they’d put this pony in the harness, try him,
drive him up and down the road.
And my father’d have all manners of tricks.
When he’d say, drive him by me, he’d whip a
white handkerchief out and shake it; and if the
pony didn’t take notice, he wasn’t a shyer.
See?
And he said, drive him by his farm - his house,
where he’d stopped.
Now this, in nine horses out of ten, if you’d try to drive them by where they st-, their home was, where they’d been, they’d pull in, you know, try to go in the yard.

But if you just touch’em on that side with the whip gently - you’d have a long whip, always have a whip - if you just touch’em on that side, they’d go straight on.

They knew.

If they didn’t, they’d have it slashed up their ribs quick.

And the horses were very sensitive.

My father then, he, he bought a waggonette.

You know what that is?

A four-wheeled trap for taking people to station.

And we had quite a business.

People would go - the old parson always used to get us to take him, out to some other parson’s house to tea and lunch and that.

And I, I used to drive him, just dress myself up and drive him there, and perhaps earn ten bob.

We used take people to Chilham Station from Molash for half a crown.

Take’em down there.

Or go and fetch them back for half a crown.

And gradually we built a business up, and my father had quite a smart turnout.

And I used to look after that as well when he was gone.

Well then we used to keep a grey pony - our Jimmy, we used to call him - he was a, a pony we used to use for the weddings.

We’d take people to church, when they got married, see.

If it wasn’t only the half a mile, we used take the old pony to church.

Hhm.

You know where Molash Church is?

[INT] Not quite.

Oh, I did, I was in the choir for eleven year, at Molash Church.

I sang in the choir.

Pretty near all the boys was - really religious, you know, their parents - there wadn’t the crime there is today.

Nothing like.

Well, there wadn’t the population, was there?

[INT] Could I ask you about the house, horse dealing again? Did you ever go up to London
with your father?

Hhm? No.

[INT] Did you... You never went?

No.

No, I never went, to London, no.

[INT] Did he ever tell you tales about it?

We used to, they eh, we used to have a, in April, I think it was in April every year, the eh yeomanry.

You've heard of the yeomanry, have you?

The farmers' sons used to hire a horse off father, for to ride in the yeomanry.

They had to go up for a fortnight's training, see.

So father used to get quite three or four of these horses about, and buy them purpose for the job.

He used to charge'em five pound for a fortnight.

That was a lot of money.

But, perhaps the horse wasn't much good by the time they were done with it.

And me and my brother had to make sure these horses would take the saddle, see; there are some horses that didn't like people on their backs, you see; never had nobody on their back.

And father used to put a saddle on'em, and say, go on up there you go, and bunt us up on'em, and off we used to go - sometimes we fell off, sometimes we went off at a gallop and didn't know how to stop and had all manner of capers.

Hhm.

Anyway, I was riding one one day - father put me up on one.

He says, walk him down the field, he says, and gallop back.

So, I walked him down the field, and he walked quite sure and galloped back, and there was a sheep hurdle in the middle.

See?

And the blooming thing went straight for this sheep hurdle and jumped it.

Did jar, pretty near jarred my inside out when he landed.

I'll never forget it, I wasn't very old then; I must have been about fifteen.

And father says, he'll do.
And that were just the horse, for the yeomanry, you see.

[INT] Hhm. Who, who were the people that’s hired them up, the...?

Oh, farmers’ sons, yes - Tim Fennel from Faversham, people from the towns.

Tim Fennel from Faversham knew, he belonged to it, and he tried to get me to.

Stan Howl he belonged to it.

He was at Drylands, Molash.

I used to have to always find him one; he used to find Tim Fennel one.

Andy Fennel his brother, he used to have one.

Oh, we used to buy about...

I think we had six, about six customers.

And they were a year occurrence, you see.

For several years, I don’t know, it finished up when the ‘Fourteen War come, didn’t it?

That’s when it finished.

[INT] Did he ever sell horses for things like hunting, or?

No, the old farmers used to own their own horses, didn’t keep the horse.

Now this place here, they kept a hunter here.

But it worked on the farm all the year, and then they used to go out hunting, and that’s what broke the man, cause his son went hunting and got, he was, he’s come down from Scotland, this man what had this farm before me; he had it twenty-six years.

And he told me that he, he’d got three thousand pound, when he come down here, from Scotland, and he says, now, Mr Crown, I haven’t got three thousand pence.

And I’ve been here twenty-six years.

And I we- sa-, he says, and I’ve got nowhere to go.

I says, well, you can go over in one of my cottages, I says, and stop there as long as you like rent-free.

And that’s where he went and that’s where he died.

‘Cause we wanted him out the house to get the house done up, you see, to repair the house - it was in an awful state.

I planted all these hedges.

I planted that orchard.

This house just stood in a meadow, and the cattle and sheep used to lay in the porch, where you come through.

And I laid the lawns and done it all.

And that was just the horse for the yeomanry, you see.

[INT] Hhm. Who were the people that hired them?

Oh, farmers’ sons - Tim Fennel from Faversham, people from the towns.

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And he told me that he’d got three thousand pound, when he come down here from Scotland, and he said, now, Mr Crown, I haven’t got three thousand pence.

And I’ve been here twenty-six years.

And he said, and I’ve got nowhere to go.

I said, well, you can go over in one of my cottages and stop there as long as you like rent-free.

And that’s where he went and that’s where he died.

Because we wanted him out the house to get the house done up, you see, to repair the house - it was in an awful state.

I planted all these hedges.

I planted that orchard.

This house just stood in a meadow, and the cattle and sheep used to lay in the porch, where you came through.

And I laid the lawns and done it all.
I never asked Lord Sourstone for a penny.

[INT] How come he’d, he’d eh done so badly?

Hhm?

[INT] How’d, how come he’d done so badly?

He?

[INT] Hhm. Did he have the...

His son started hunting.

And then it was wine and women.

And he kept a hunter here, and he, he would do his wife; his son’s wife was a better man than ever he was - she’d work.

But Haggary - that was the owner of the farm, the tenant of the farm - he was, what shall I say - slow, you know.

He was honest, straight man, but he’d got no gumption of how to do a job.

See?

He wouldn’t, I’ve, he, there was a little box there, when I come here first, with the eh, with my eh valuer, and not - it - that box struck me comical.

I sat there at the table.

I said, Mr Haggary, what’s that little box for up there?

He says - he’s Scotch - he says, that, Mr Crown, is where I keep mi guid book - his bible.

And so he kept his bible in that little box.

I take it down every night, he says, and read a chapter.

Ha.

Now he’s the sort of man that would rather not miss going to church if the old cow was calving.

Well, you can’t farm that way.

You see the cow’s alright, then go to church afterwards.

And if she wasn’t alright, you’d go pray for your sins, couldn’t you.

And it was just the same the other farm I took, before this.

He was a chapel man; he was bankrupt.

He was a chapel man; he was bankrupt.

And they let me have that farm three years rent-free, for to put it in order.

And they let me have that farm for three years rent-free, for to put it in order.

As soon as I’d got it in tip-top condition they charged me top rent for it.

As soon as I’d got it in tip-top condition they charged me top rent for it.

That’s how they did this.

I offered them a hundred eighty pound a year for this farm, when I come here, and now
paying over two thousand a year.

Huh?

That’s hardly fair, you know, after you’d done all that, is it?

I told ’em so.

They ain’t kept up their agreements, their verbal agreement; when we were boys and men, my word was my bond.

And always has been.

But - it was with the l- tenants before the agents, before this lot, Strutts and Parkers.

And it was with the tenants before those agents, before this lot, Strutts and Parkers.

But theirs isn’t.

If you ain’t got it in writing, they don’t take no notice.

[Int] Did it always used to be verbal then, all the agreements with between the tenant -?

Yes, we never used to dream about signing anything, or writing anything, or - five, five out of six of ’em couldn’t write.

My father, he couldn’t read his own name; he couldn’t write his own name.

I can remember when the Boer War was on - that’s going back some, innit?

My father used to come home from Canterbury Market, or from town, with a little old paper, he give a penny for, so’s I could read out to him what happened in the Boer War.

I can remember that as well...

[Int] Did he ever keep any records of his dealings then? Your father?

My father, never, no - how could he? Only here.

[Int] In his head.

Yeah.

[Int] Hmm.

That’s where I kept mine, until it got so big; then I used to have a Collin’s notebook.

Ooh, that’s on here.

Oh -
2 kent02

2.1 Utterances 0001–0050

0001 [INT] Okay. We’re on.
0002 Heh?
0003 [INT] We’re on now.
0004 I say, there was a lot of gypsies about the place.
0005 And eh, they used to come around to the back doors, to every cottage and sell these old pegs, made out of hazel twig.
0006 They used to make’em and sell’em sh- about tuppence a dozen, and what the women used to peg their clothes with, you see; you’ve seen them, ain’t you?
0008 Well, they, I had eczema when I was eight, in my eye, that eye; that’s what made that, pulled it one side.
0009 And eh, the doctor couldn’t seem to, give us a lot of ointments and one thing and other, and he couldn’t see, seem to do it any good.
0010 And a old gypsy come to - woman with - door with the pegs.
0011 What’s the matter with the boy?, she says.
0012 Oh, he had eczema in his eye, she said.
0013 Oh, she says, That’s not.
0014 She says, Go to the chemist and get some white copperas, and bathe it, she says, twice a day.
0015 And we done that and it was gone in a fortnight.
0016 How do you think about that?
0017 [INT] Incredible.
0018 That was when I was eight.
0019 [INT] Hhm.
0020 And I had it all right down the face.
0021 Hhm.
0022 [INT] Did people like the gypsies in those days?
0023 Oh, we didn’t mind’em.
0024 Well, there were some bad gypsies and some good ones there, we had one lot, Charles - name of Charles, used to come and see my dad, and if they’d got a decent pony, they used to bring it and sell it to him.
0025 I remember they sold him an old grey horse one day, starved of life; he could real-, he could hardly walk.
0026 And father says, I don’t want that.
He says, *Give us a fiver for it, Edward, and you can have it.*

And so father gave him a fiver for this horse.

And, eh, we nursed him up, and got him to be in good condition.

We sold him to the Earl Sourstone to this farm just at next door to me.

And, eh, about three years afterwards, I didn’t live here, mind then, mind you; I lived at Molash.

Three years afterwards - what?

[Int] What, how old were you then, about?

I was eleven, about eleven or twelve.

[Int] Hhm.

Father had a letter, from a man named Barnes, Street End Farm - they still got it, ain’t they?

Do you know o’em?

[Int] Hhm.

She was going to Germany.

And, eh, she wanted Lord Sourstone, the Earl of Sourstone really, except that we always called him Lord, he but he’s Earl, really.

She asked him If he’d have this horse back, ‘cause she didn’t want to sell him, she wanted eh him to have a good home all his life.

And he said, No, I don’t want him.

He said, You send him to Edward Crown.

He saved his life, he said, He’d like to have him.

So eh, sh- sh- she wrote to my father; we went over there, to see her - ponycart, and eh, she said, Now, she says, I’m going to give you that horse on conditions you never sell him; you keep him till he dies, or have him put down.

She says, And you can have his this cart and the harness and everything with him.

So eh, she told her groom, Put the horse in the cart, and put all the tackle in it, his nosebags and his flynet - you don’t know what that is, I suppose.

So she wrote to my father; we went over there, to see her, with a ponycart, and she said, Now, I’m going to give you that horse on conditions you never sell him; you keep him until he dies, or have him put down.

She says, And you can have his this cart and the harness and everything with him.

That’s a net they used to throw over’em to keep the flies off; and everything was put in his cart, and I brought it home.

And we kept that horse for eleven years; he was a beautiful horse.

That’s the old horse we used to drive the wedding, people to the weddings with, when I got older, you know.
2.2 Utterances 0051–0100

0051 Yeah, we kept him eleven years.

0052 And we turned him out, n- when he got too weak to work - too, he was, l- got rid lame, and winter was coming, so Dad said, Don’t like doing it, he said, But we’ve, we have to put old Buller down.

0053 You called him Buller.

0054 After the old man what eh in the Boer War, wasn’t it?

0055 General Buller, wasn’t it?


0057 Hhm.

0058 Well, they’d given him the name when we bought him - when we fetched him.

0059 And, I couldn’t go see him killed.

0060 I, I never went.

0061 Father went up and took him up the road, in the little paddock we got, and they shot him in there.

0062 They hadn’t got humane killers then; they had to shoot them, you know.


0064 They used to shoot them right in the forehead.

0065 [INT] What used to happen to the carcass?

0066 Oh, that went away for dog meat.


0068 Or else human consumption, who knows?

0069 Yeah, there was a lot of, lot of meat - horse meat eaten in the 'Fourteen War.

0070 Any amount of it.

0071 So there was in the last war, wasn’t there?


0073 Whale meat.

0074 Didn’t you know that?

0075 Oh, yeah.

0076 A friend of mine - a rich man - said to me and Ned Coleman - that’s in the last war, now, I’m going on to - he said, I’m gonna take you boys out and give you a good lunch.

0077 At a sale, we met him; he used to have some sheep there.

0078 And eh, we went to The Bull Hotel at Sittingbourne, to have a good lunch.

0079 All they got was whale meat.

0080 Old Coleman said, No, I’m not eating that - he’s a Scotch chap - he said, No, I’m not eating whale meat.

0081 He says, Have you got nothing out of a tin?

0082 Well I think we had bully beef at the finish.
Hhm. [INT] Did you, dealing with horses, Heh? 

[INT] Dealing with horses all your life, have you got any special remedies or horse medicines that you used on them? No, no. Only kindness. [INT] Hhm. That’s the main thing with horses. Ponies talk to you if you had’em long, but we never used to keep’em long, see, perhaps we only had a horse a week. I used to be out on the farm to work, with a pair of horses, and he used to come along with a man, and see this horse work, and he used to sell it to him, and we used to take it out, and go home, and he used to take it, pay for it and take it away. It was always paid for with golden sovereigns, you know - always paid with golden sovereigns. Hmm.

When I used to go round with chickens, buying poultry, father used to give me about seven or eight sovereigns to go off with, see. And I paid a woman at Challock, right opposite The Halfway House, for some chicken, and I’ld got three sovereigns left when I paid her. And when I got home, I’ld only got two. It was only a mile. And I said, I must’ve dropped that when I paid her, see, when I put them back in my pocket, these three.

So I, my old neighbour got a pony, colt he was, and he, he asked me - the blacksmith, if I would give him a run, to, you know, take him out, and so I used to drive him out when I wanted.

2.3 Utterances 0101–0150

So I slipped round to see the old bloke, and I says, Lend us the old cob, for half hour, I want to run to Challock. Oh, he was pleased; he put him in the harness and cart and off I went. Oh, this pony could go too. Up Challock we went, and before I got out the cart I see this sovereign laying on the grass. That was something, that was a week’s wages,
you know.

I got married on sixteen bob a week.

[INT] When was that?

Nineteen twelve.

[INT] Were you worked - you were still working for your father then, were you?

Yeah.


I worked for him all my life, till I took my own farm.

[INT] Hhm. Why, what, what did ehm, you know you said, you said last time that you’ve managed a farm when you were sixteen.

We - I was managing mi father’s farm then. ‘Cause he, he was never at home; he was always away.

[INT] It was thirty acres, was it?

Thirty-one acres.


Hhm.

[INT] How many men did he have on it?

How many what?

[INT] How many men? Just yourself?

Just myself.

I used to, we used to hire for the binder to come and cut the corn; we only had seven acres of arable.

And our neighbour, he used to come in and cut the corn.

See?

And then I used to have to stand it up.

I used to have to go mow around it in the morning, so the horses didn’t trample it down, and the binder went round and cut it, then I had to shock it - we called it shocking it, standing it like that, see - tending a shock.

And then when it got dry, I used to carry it, and I used to go up there with a horse and van miself, and load it, and take it home, pitch it on a stack and stack it, and I used to do it all.

And then I used to have to stand it up.

My brother come home.

He was in the army, he come home for a weekend.

He says, I’ll help you carry those oats.

So, he come and helped me, and we was getting on fine.

And my father and him couldn’t get on at all; they was always flying at one another.

So, my father come along, and he says, You wanna lay them sheaves a bit further out, up
this end.

0136 Cause it was, you either you had to lay them true, you see, to stand.

0137 My brother looked over the corner, says, You hook off, we don’t, we got on very well without you.

0138 My father turned round and walked away.

0139 I’ll never forget it.

0140 Hmm.

0141 But these old gypsies, they used to come, f- when we moved to Molash.

0142 And we had a little, little piece of ground we, with a cottage in it, we hired from Chilham Castle.

0143 That’s Sir Ernest Davies’s father; I think he was an old army man, General or something; Captain Davies, that’s what it was, and eh, that came natural then, and eh, we gave him a half crown a year for this little piece of land.

0144 With a cottage on it, but, you know, uninhabited, it was dropping down.

0145 How he come to th- have that piece of little square of land, in, right in the middle of Lord Grand’s, I don’t know.

0146 Well with this cottage, I suppose somebody owed him some money, he took it, off’em.

0147 Anyway, we had it for a half crown a year, and we pull-, I pulled the old cottage down myself, and grubbed the foundations out and put it down with grass.

0148 And that was just handy for us ’cause when was summertime when you we - I was working up there with mi horses, I got, well half of a quarter of a mile to walk home, with the horses and back again, and so I used to keep mi old bike out there and put the horses in there to have their dinner on the grass, and bike home, see.

0149 And then bike back and put mi horses up and go to work again.

0150 [INT] Hmm. Did the gypsies used to use that?

2.4 Utterances 0151–0200

0151 And the gypsies used to come in there, and I used to a- they used to d- ask down so ask if they could come there and stop for a day or two, see.

0152 Especially when the fairs were on.

0153 There was Badlesmere Fair - that’s in May always - Throwley Fair - that’s just up the
road - Molash Fair, Challock Fair, all within a month, month or five weeks, them four fairs were.

0154 And my father used to go to Whitstable and get a bushel of whelks.
0155 You know what whelks are?
0156 And then he used to bring’em home, put’em in the copper and boil’em.
0157 And us kids had to get the whelks out their shells of a night, that night, to take to the fairs, and he used to have a whelk stall, and you’d sell them a penny a plate, about six whelks on a plate.
0158 Little tiny plates they was, about four inches across’em, three inches, and he used to sell these whelks, and me and my brother used to go to the fair; that was just our jobs going there.
0159 And mother, she used to stand there and sell the whelks, while father, he was always round them dealer boys, having some beer.
0160 And then he used to drive home, about, used to get home about eleven, of a night, and what whelks was left, we kids used to eat.
0161 If there was any, but very seldom was any left, you know.
0162 Always done that, ev - for years, he did.
0163 [INT] What other things were at the fair?
0164 Hmm?
0165 [INT] What other things were there at the fair?
0166 Oh, roundabouts and all manner of shies, coconut shies.
0167 Just the same as the ordinary fairs now.
0168 ’Course, nothing that’s so elaborate; nothing like, but coconut shies.
0169 My brother, he was a dab hand, he, he’d knock coconuts off.
0170 Hmm.
0171 [INT] Were these gypsies’ stands or...?
0172 These gypsies’s all there with these turns outs, you see.
0173 Old Charles, I don’t know what happened to them.
0174 They come and see us every year.
0175 I went up there one night - evening, with’em, and I used to go there and they used to tell me all manners of yarns, you know.
0176 Hmm, nice people they were.
0177 And: Come and have some tea.
0178 I went in and had some meal with them - what Molash Fair, Challock Fair, all within a month or five weeks, those four fairs were.

And my father used to go to Whitstable and get a bushel of whelks.
You know what whelks are?
And then he used to bring’em home, put’em in the copper and boil’em.
And us kids had to get the whelks out their shells over a night, to take them to the fairs, and father used to have a whelk stall, and you’d sell them a penny a plate, about six whelks on a plate.
Little tiny plates they were, about three or four inches across, and he used to sell these whelks, and me and my brother used to go to the fair; that was just our job, going there.
And mother, she used to stand there and sell the whelks, while father, he was always round them dealer boys, having some beer.
And then he used to drive home about eleven for the night, and what whelks were left, we kids used to eat.
If there were any, but very seldom were there any left, you know.
We always did that for years, he did.
[INT] What other things were at the fair?
Hmm?
[INT] What other things were there at the fair?
Oh, roundabouts and all manner of shies, coconut shies.
Just the same as the ordinary fairs now.
Of course, there was nothing that so elaborate; nothing like, but there were coconut shies.
My brother, he was a dab hand, he’d knock the coconuts off.
Hmm.
[INT] Were these gypsies’ stands?
These gypsies’s were all there with these stalls, you see.
Old Charles, I don’t know what happened to them.
They came and saw us every year.
I went up there one evening with’em, and I used to go there and they used to tell me all manners of yarns, you know.
Hmm, nice people they were.
And they’d say, Come and have some tea.
I went in and had some meal with them - what
do you think it was?
Hedgehog!
They didn’t tell me before ever I’d eat it!
I said, Oh, I says, Do- I thought it was rabbit.
No, That’s hedgehogs, he says, Better than rabbit.
I says, How do you get the spikes off him?
Oh, We roll him in some clay and bake him, he said, And then take it, it all drops off.
Bake him in the clay.
[int] Is it good?
Yeah, it was.
I liked it.
It was the only bloody time ever I did taste it, I liked it then.
Of course, when we were young, we would eat anything, wouldn’t you?
Thems days.
But you didn’t get a lot of meat, you know.
No, we had, used to always have a, a joint of meat Saturdays.
Father used to go to Canterbury, and bring home, he used to stop to the old butcher’s as - pretty near sold out, perhaps and then, when they couldn’t sell out, he used to buy a big joint, see, about seven or eight pounds, all in, in one piece - all bones and all, you know.
And he used to come home and we used to have a proper fry-up Saturday night.
And that used to have to last us all the week, with the rabbits - course, there was always get a rabbit when you liked.
Thousands of rabbits was, on our place.
[int] Hhm.
And pheasants.
We never touched the pheasants.

2.5 Utterances 0201–0250
My father was so; that was the agreement.
We could have what rabbits we liked; and they were our perks.
But never touched the birds.
And they used to come out on our field in dozens, when you put your corn in.
It’s just the same here, when I come here.
Today it’s the same conditions.
I had eighteen in my garden last summer - pheasants, properly ruined my spring greens.
I sent for the syndicate and told’em, Pretty soon
soon do something about it.

[Int] Was there any poaching?

Poaching, in them days, not now.

[Int] Hmm.

Oh, everybody would poach or I went poaching when the War was on, 'Fourteen War was on.

But they couldn’t do nothing with me.

'Cause I knewed too much about’em.

He - d- e- the keeper what looked after our place - I happened to see a motorbike and sidecar - the chap lived just up the road here - come up our lane to the field, about eight o’clock.

I thought, what the devil’s he going up for?

So, I slipped over the hedge and slipped up to see where he was going, see.

See the keeper, with a bag, with a dozen pheasants in it.

And he was holding them there and sold’em to him, and, this chap went off, he lived just up the road here, had a pub, his father did.

[Int] Hmm.

I never said nothing till I got alongside the old keeper one day and he says - I was in the, just in the wood getting a rabbit, you see, yes, and he say, You’re trespassing.

I says, Oh, I says, I know I’m trespassing, I say, But they, they’re getting a bit short.

Because everybody was having rabbits then, ’cause the grub was so short.

Hmm.

Oh, yeah, I says, Didn’t trespass quite so much as you did when you was unloading them twelve pheasants last Thursday, did I?

He said, You didn’t see me, did you?

I says, Yes, I did.

Never s- found more fault, I could go where I liked in that wood then.

We used to shoot deer down there.

Yeah.

You set snares up with wire, where they used to jump in the field, you see.

And eh, I had a good old retriever dog.

And this was all, I’d be - what would I be then?

About seventeen, I suppose, seventeen or eighteen years old.

I used to break these gun dogs.

I was one of the crack shots; I wiped the board at Whitstable.

Won a silver watch and chain, before I was do something about it.

[Int] Was there any poaching?

Poaching, in them days, yes; but not now.

[Int] Hmm.

Oh, everybody would poach; I went poaching when the War was on, the 'Fourteen War was on.

But they couldn’t do nothing with me.

Because I knewed too much about’em.

The keeper who looked after our place - I happened to see a motorbike and sidecar - the chap lived just up the road here - he come up our lane to the field, about eight o’clock.

I never said anything, until I got alongside the old keeper one day, I was just in the wood getting a rabbit, you see, and he said, You’re trespassing.

I said, Oh, I know I’m trespassing, I said, But they’re getting a bit short.

Because everybody was having rabbits then, because the grub was so short.

Hmm.

Oh, yeah, I said, But I didn’t trespass quite so much as you did when you were unloading those twelve pheasants last Thursday, did I?

He said, You didn’t see me, did you?

I says, Yes, I did.

He never found any more fault, I could go where I liked in that wood then.

We used to shoot deer down there.

Yeah.

You set snares up with wire, where they used to jump in the field, you see.

And I had a good old retriever dog.

And this was all - what would I be then?

About seventeen, I suppose, seventeen or eighteen years old.

I used to break these gun dogs.

I was one of the crack shots; I wiped the board at Whitstable.

I won a silver watch and chain, before I was sev-
seventeen, but then I lost the silver watch when I went in the army - somebody pinched it.

So, I was about sixteen, when I won that silver watch and chain.

And eh - my father used to take a load of chicken, to Boughton, The King’s Head, Boughton.

You know where that is?

And eh - my father used to take a load of chicken, to Boughton, The King’s Head, Boughton.

You know where that is?

He used to sell - say, a chicken was worth three bob.

My father’d have twelve tickets threepence each.

That was four bob, wasn’t it?

That was four four pence each; that was four bob, wasn’t it?

He used to sell - say, a chicken was worth three bob.

My father’d have twelve tickets threepence each.

That was four four pence each; that was four bob, wasn’t it?

He used to sell - say, a chicken was worth three bob.

My father’d have twelve tickets threepence each.

That was four four pence each; that was four bob, wasn’t it?

He used to sell - say, a chicken was worth three bob.

My father’d have twelve tickets threepence each.

That was four four pence each; that was four bob, wasn’t it?

He used to sell - say, a chicken was worth three bob.

My father’d have twelve tickets threepence each.

That was four four pence each; that was four bob, wasn’t it?

He used to sell - say, a chicken was worth three bob.

My father’d have twelve tickets threepence each.

That was four four pence each; that was four bob, wasn’t it?

And we used to shoot’em off.

He used to shoot’em off.

And we used to shoot’em off.

He had a dozen of’em, or fourteen of’em, as many as he could get.

Oh, he wouldn’t let it go before he got enough money to cover the cost of the chicken, then what he got out of that was profit.

He had a dozen of’em, or fourteen of’em, as many as he could get.

Oh, he wouldn’t let it go before he got enough money to cover the cost of the chicken, then what he got out of that was profit.

He had a dozen of’em, or fourteen of’em, as many as he could get.

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He had a dozen of’em, or fourteen of’em, as many as he could get.

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He had a dozen of’em, or fourteen of’em, as many as he could get.

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He had a dozen of’em, or fourteen of’em, as many as he could get.

Oh, he wouldn’t let it go before he got enough money to cover the cost of the chicken, then what he got out of that was profit.

He had a dozen of’em, or fourteen of’em, as many as he could get.

Oh, he wouldn’t let it go before he got enough money to cover the cost of the chicken, then what he got out of that was profit.

He had a dozen of’em, or fourteen of’em, as many as he could get.

Oh, he wouldn’t let it go before he got enough money to cover the cost of the chicken, then what he got out of that was profit.

He had a dozen of’em, or fourteen of’em, as many as he could get.

Oh, he wouldn’t let it go before he got enough money to cover the cost of the chicken, then what he got out of that was profit.

He had a dozen of’em, or fourteen of’em, as many as he could get.

Oh, he wouldn’t let it go before he got enough money to cover the cost of the chicken, then what he got out of that was profit.

He had a dozen of’em, or fourteen of’em, as many as he could get.

Oh, he wouldn’t let it go before he got enough money to cover the cost of the chicken, then what he got out of that was profit.
And I beat ’em!
I had a silver watch and chain.
I beat the whole lot, there were twelve, fourteen of ’em.
There were just as many shots, that you could get in a card when it had swung six times.
And it shook quick, you know, it - this chap was swinging it and you had to shoot, and I hit it every time.

[Int] Where had you learnt to fire a gun?
Hhm?
[Int] Where had you learnt to handle a gun?
Oh, I handled a gun since I was twelve.
Father ehr, shooting these rabbits, on the farm, see.
With my old muzzle-loading gun, you know.
You shoot the old powder in, put a bit of paper in, ram it down, then shoot some shots in and ram your shot hard, and then put your cap on, never put your cap on before you’d that you had pull the trigger back, put the cap on, and you was loaded.
Then s-, then you shot, and then you got all that go-through again - it wadn’t like it is today.

Hhm.
[Int] When, when were these ehm shoots held?
Hhm?
[Int] When were these shoots held? Were they a Saturday or week night or something?
What, Boughton?
[Int] Hmm.
[Int] Yes.
Oh, always on the Saturday.
You know, Saturday afternoons.
Hmm.
I went down there several times with Father.
That was about the last time, I suppose, I yes, because father, he was ill after that.
’s when I come back from the army, he had a cancer in his stomach.
That’s what killed him.
He eh, he used to live here, my father did, in this house.
He was ehr working on the farm, and he used to sleep in the bedroom but he wouldn’t ever go in there - not when he was here.
He said, I’ve see enough of that when I was
I'll show it to you before you go away. It's got this old king beam up there. You ever seen one?

[Int] Hhm. Oh, you don’t want to look at that then. [Int] I’ll have a look. Hhm?

2.7 Utterances 0301–0350

[Int] I’ve only seen the one. Yah.
[Int] This one’s different. I’ll take you up there.
[Int] What were these fairs, that, eh?
[Int] Hmm?
[Int] What days were these fairs held on at Badlesmere and?
Always in May.
[Int] Always on a Saturday, were they or?
Oh, always Saturday, oh, yes - Saturday afternoons.
Had to work seven days a week.
The fair was, the kids used to run in the afternoons, and the adults never got to a fair much before four o’clock.
See, they had their stock to look after on the farms and all that, but plenty of children there.
But eh, hm!
Used to enjoy ourselves at the fair.
[Int] Did you ever go to Canterbury Fair or Faversham Carnivals or anything?
No.
No, I never went.
Couldn’t afford it.
We had saved our money - not waste it!
If not we should never had money enough to buy out the farm, should we?
Did I ever tell you what it cost?
I told you nearly five-hundred, didn’t I?
[Int] Hhm.
Well, it cost three-fifty.
I remembered when I got into bed; I thought, I believe I told him that cost five-hundred.
But it was three-fifty.
And eh, we hadn’t been there above six months, and I was in the field at work, with pair of horses; my father come up, nine
He says, *You got another job now.*

I said, *What’s that?*

He says, *You gotta go to Wye, to pay the quit rent.*

You know what a quit rent is?

Well, you go to pay the Lord of the Manor so much, that was - we’d hired the farm then, ’fore we bought it.

And he says, *You better take that fresh mare, he says, And you can give her a good trial, he said.*

So, I was off; I’s about fifteen, sixteen - sixteen, I reckon I was.

And I goes down there and this quit rent was three and six pence.

’Course, father didn’t know nothing about it, ’cause he’d only just bought it, and he couldn’t read or write, he didn’t know what a quit rent was, and, neither did I.

But anyway, I went down there, to the I don’t know the pub’s name was, it was in Charing anyway, we had to go there - in Wye.

And I got there and I see a man there I knew.

I said, *Where do I have to go pay this quit rent?*

Oh, he says, *In here.*

And he took me in there, and it was our, a chap used to come round, for a f- feed firm, you know, a traveller chap.

He took me in there, and I paid this three and six pence.

I said, *Do I have a receipt?*

Ahh, you don’t wanna a receipt, he says.

He says, *You ain’t going home.*

I said, *I’m going home, I said.*

No, he said, *You’ve got to stop to lunch.*

Oh, stop to lunch, he says.

See, we was a tenant, of Lord Grand and he put a lunch on for all his tenants, see.

And they had t’ pay this three and six quit rent.

So, I stopped to lunch, put the horse away, and, wadn’t many people there, I was early.

And this mare, you had to st- take her out the cart, you had to stand her right up against a wall.
Because in her young days, somebody had took her out and got her harness hooked up on the cart, and frightened her, see.

So, when you took her out, in the open, she dashed out, perhaps 'fore you got all the harness undone.

So, we always used stand her right up against the wall, so she couldn't dash out - dash forward, see, till we got her out, and then push the cart back off her.

Hhm, anyway, old Slippery took her; we couldn't send her to a cousin.

He, she went to Folkestone.

He put her in a four-in-hand, down at Folkestone, run her from Folkestone to Dover.

He said he'd never had a better horse in his life.

Hhm.

But she was a devil to take out of harness.

And as I'm saying about this quit rent, we went in there, there were about twenty of us, I should think, I sat down at a table in this pub, and ohh, dinner was laid out, all cold meat, and salad, bread rolls, and beside each plates was a little green glass, and a bottle of ale, in front of you - pint bottle, mind you, not a half pint - pint - and a glass, this little green glass, like ah!

I looked at this green glass, I'd never seen a little teeny green glass 'fore, and the old bloke came round and shot some wine in it - in this green glass.

Now, we drink to the health of the King -  Queen.

Queen Elizabeth, wasn't it- Queen Victoria, wasn't it?

[INT] Well, how old were you?

I was sixteen, nearly there.

Or rather King Edward, I don't know.


Hah?

[INT] Edward, it would be.

King King Edward, wouldn't it?


That's it.

We had to drink to the health of the King, that's it.

So, we tossed this here, little lot.

And he filled them all up again.

Now we'll drink the health of the Lord of the Manor.

That was Sir- what's his name.
And then we had to drink to the health of somebody else.
So we had, say - I know we had three or four we had drank the health of.
And then we had some beer.
Well, I’d never been used to spirits of any sort - I whether, what it was, I’d never did know.
But this old room was going round and round.
And I sit there, and I’d had mi meal, and all of a sudden, the room started going round, you know.
And I said to a chap, now I said, I’m pretty near boozed.
He says, You look as if you were quite.
So, Oh, I said, Well, I’m off.
No, Don’t go yet, they said.
I said, No, I’m off.
And I got out and when I got out in the air, I properly had it.
I staggered about all over the place.
This josseler chap at this pub put mi mare in - she was easy to put in - and I got up and they said I went through Wye as if I ‘as mad - full gallop.
And when I got home, the mare was l- white with lather, from head to foot.
My father came out and he started swearing,
I got up in the cart and pitched right out in the, in the yard.
He had to carry me indoors.

2.9 Utterances 0401–0450

I was drunk as hell.
Yeah.
I never forget.
I thought about that when I was up in bed; I thought to myself, I never told him that.
Hhm.
[INT] Did you go every year after that?
Hey?
[INT] Did you go every year afterwards?
No, I wouldn’t go no more.
Father said, No, They can come fetch their quit rent, they want it; says, You ain’t going down there no more.
Well, never heard no more about it.
It was just a day out, that’s what it was.

Lord Grand was giving his tenants a day out, you see.

[INT] Was it a good dinner, or can’t you remember?

Oh, I don’t know, it was cold meat, jolly sure it was.

Cold beef, I expect.

Yeah. Hm!

How old were you when you moved to the farm at Molash?

I was four when I come, we come to one cottage, the first move from Sittingbourne.


Then we were there six years, as I was ten, when I went to the other house, in Molash.

There was only a acre of ground of that, and father were, hadn’t got room to move, you know; he was buying a lot of cobs, and you couldn’t turn four or five in one meadow.

And then Butcher’s farm on the opposite side of the road, that’s all, come for let.

And father went down to see the agent - Miller his name was, Bobby Miller - and he’d let it to him.

And then we took three acres off Sir Wayne Bolton and eh, we was alright, see.

And that’s what we finished up with.

And we bought three cottages, and the other land, and they put eleven acres on it; there were twenty-six; no, nine acres; there was twenty-six, they fixed us up the thirty-one; now there, there was three acres, nothing to do with it - twenty-six and nine, what’s that?

[INT] Thirty-five.

Oh, then there was sh- sh-

It was thirty-one altogether; that was including the house.

Oh, no, then we bought two acres of orchard, off Adam, what, back here, lives back here, so as we could get from one field our house to another field without going up the main road.

That’s why we bought that.

[INT] Hhm. What sort of things did you ehr do on the farm, you know, apart from horse dealing and some arable? Anything?
Well, we used, we used to use our own corn, we used to grow oats, and father used to keep' em for his horses.

And hay and that, that's all.

He wouldn't sell anything.

He told me, advised me, when I took a farm, Whatever you do, let all your corn walk away!

You understand that?

Feed it on the farm.

Don't sell it.

Feed it on the farm - Well, you can't do it on a two-hundred acre farm, can you?

But, of course, he'd never dreamt of having a two-hundred acre farm.

He told me I was mad when I took sixty. He come and looked at it - and I had it three year rent-free. That was in nineteen twenty-six. He was just very ill, he was.

He used to drive an old pony up till he died, prettynear.


And he give me the pony and told me to have him killed when I done wi' him.

I had him killed the next week. He was too old 't do anything with.

[INT] So you had some corn. Was the rest just pasture for the-

Hhm?

Hhm?

[INT] Was the rest just pasture for the horses on the farm?

Yes.

Oh, yes, we used to turn them out.

Yeah.

Make hay, and then used to keep a couple of good horses and no bearing as what they were.

We never had two s-, the same horses together long, because they was always selling one of'em, see, and then buying another one.

Sometimes he hadn't only got one; sometimes he'd got four.

Yeah.

I've been bit all over, with the horses.

I had, I carried the marks on mi shoulder for six weeks where a horse fixed me right across the shoulder.

I've had marks there where a horse bit me
there - no, that eye, it was.

0470  Hmm.
0471  Oh, I’ve been bitten all over.
0472  Never was kicked.
0473  I always looked out and give’em plenty of room for the for the legs.

0474  [INT] Do you think it was good advice your father had for-
0475  Hmm?
0476  [INT] Do you think it was a good way of running a small farm, like he did? Do you think he could’ve do-
0477  Well, he got a living.
0478  That’s all mattered, wasn’t it?
0479  And see, Mother got a good job in the post office, she was, got a good job.

0480  She was a bit religious, my mother was.
0481  She used to take the children to Sunday School, and arrange outings for the parson; she was very fond of the parson.

0482  I was in the choir, I told you.
0483  Hmm.
0484  My father wasn’t religious at all; but he was straight.
0485  That’s all the religion he was.
0486  Too straight to be horse dealer, to get a good living like.

0487  [INT] What, you had to be a bit underhand, did you, to make a-?
0488  You want to be a little twisty, you know.
0489  Never tell them the truth, horse dealers didn’t, but my father used to tell them the truth; he wouldn’t send a horse to a man if it wasn’t genuine.

0490  He wouldn’t send a horse to a man if he knew it didn’t suit him.
0491  He used to send them down to Old Slippery.
0492  [INT] Hmm.
0493  Let him do that job.
0494  But they got on; we got on well with horses.
0495  Hmm.
0496  Used to always keep a lot of pigs.
0497  You always used to keep quite a lot of pigs.
0498  A few sheep.
0499  My neighbour, he used to come and help me when I doing the lambing.
0500  If I had any trouble, I only had to go down Adam’s; it was just about - ooh, five minutes’ walk.
2.11 Utterances 0501–0550

0501 He used to come up here, and he’d come over and help me, ’cause I didn’t know nothing about taking a lamb out of a ewe, did I?

0502 Not at my age.

0503 [INT] What did you do with the lambs and–?

0504 Hhm?

0505 [INT] What did you do with, with the lambs?

0506 Lambs? My father used to bring them up, and take’em to market.

0507 In the olden days, going back now to when we first came to Molash, when I was, from four to ten, our neighbour used to go to Ashford with two sheep, in the back of his cart, every Tuesday, to pay, to get money to pay his men, and live on - two sheep.

0508 About a fiver, the two used to come to.

0509 He w’s lucky if he got six.

0510 So, that shows what you paid your men.

0511 I had sixteen shillings a week, when I got married in nineteen twelve.

0512 And my father’s cottage, and that was two bob a week - we’d let the cottage two bob a week, and we had to give the man a week’s notice, to get out, so that I could in when we got married - well, we gave him a month’s notice, ’cause I knew when I was going to get married.

0513 Veer his name was, old Gregory Veer, he used to work for us.

0514 Hhm.

0515 [INT] Y- You did have men on the farm?

0516 He used to work odd, you know, when we was harvesting or anything, when we wanted a little help, setting wurzel out.

0517 Well, I couldn’t do that.

0518 Setting wurzel out.

0519 You used to drill your wurzel, and they used to come up, perhaps as thick as that.

0520 See?

0521 You’d get ten in a foot.

0522 Well, you only wanted one in a foot.

0523 So the other nine had to be chopped out, didn’t they?

0524 I used to give a man six bob an acre, to go and set your wurzel out.

0525 We used to call it setting the wurzel out.

0526 I got my old hoe out there yesterday.

0527 I told my son, if he - my grandson, I said, If they want you to settin’ the wurzel out - ’course, I never thought - I said, Don’t forget I got a hoe pur- made purpose with corners,
sharp corners for; hook’em out. See?

0528 And eh, he says, Well, we don’t set none out.
0529 ’Course they got automatic drills now that put one in where it’s wanted, every foot, see.
0530 My son’s got electric drill.
0531 That’s what he puts his swedes in with - this drill.
0532 [INT] What did you do with the nine you dug out?
0533 Them dropped dead.
0534 They would only be about that high.
0535 [INT] Why did you plant so many? Was it-
0536 Well, you can - with the drill I made; it’s sold now.
0537 I had it made, cost thirteen pound, in nineteen twenty-six.
0538 I sold it three years ago for five shillings.
0539 And we’ve kept it all that time.
0540 Used it right up till we thought, till I give up, and this - James bought this automatic drill.
0541 [INT] Hmm.
0542 That cost thirteen quid - Tetts-made, it was made to order. I was the first one to have a three, three-row Kent drill.
0543 That put in three rows; the old ones always put in two - Tetts-made.
0544 Tetts’ been in Faversham ever since I can remember.
0545 And I went down there, and I said to this chap, the manager, I says, This blooming thing, I says, I got a three, I got a shim, what we used to clean’em up between the rows - does three rows.
0546 I said, With that two row thing, I says, It’s harder this; sometimes you get one close, then your sh- plate takes the row out, you see.
0547 I said, You, can’t you build me one, I said, With three rows?
0548 Yeah, Can if you like.

2.12 Utterances 0551–0600

0551 And they cost me thirteen quid.
0552 And they built it.
0553 [INT] Nineteen twenty-six?
0554 In nineteen twenty-six.
0555 [INT] Hmm.
0556 Yeah.
0557 And I s-, we used it up to - oh, well we used it
all the time we were there - eight years - that were the first year I was over there, I said, I'll never borrow no more tools.

I bought a new corn drill, and eh, my old man what was bankrupt, he was going out the farm, he says, First man who'll want to borrow that, he says, Is Paulson.

That's next door.

Well, I says, He won't borrow it, 'cause I shan't lend it to him.

And since ever we started putting grey peas in - that's the first thing you put in on a farm - grey peas, in the old days.

Don't grow 'em now.

Up come Paulson: Lend us your drill, I want to put my grey peas in. And I was, No, I shan't lend it to you.

He says, You're a tidy neighbour!

That was the first year, see.

I said, Well, I that'll want doing repairing, I says, In about three years' time, who's going to do it, you?

Oh, I don't know.

Well, I said, You can have it.

I said, But it'll cost you shilling an acre.

See?

And then that'll outdo the repairs, won't it?

Hhm, You know, I don't want it, he says.

So he never come borrowed anything else off me.

That's how laddie I've been.

Why did you plant grey peas or what were they?

Eh, just ordinary peas like the peas today, only they were grey peas that we used to feed the sheep with, pigs.

Finest thing in the world for little pigs.

Wean - eh, you know, up to six weeks old.

Hhm.

Always used to grow a bit of grey peas.

Did your father grow them then, on his farm?

Hhm?

Did your father grow them on his farm at Molash?

No, he didn't.

Only had a bit of oats.

No, he just growed oats for his horses, see.

What did he feed his pigs on then?

Old miller used to come round with old horse time we were there - eight years - that was the first year I was over there, when I said, I'll never borrow no more tools.

I bought a new corn drill, and my old man who was bankrupt, he was going out the farm and he said, First man who'll want to borrow that, he said, Is Paulson.

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Hhm.

You always used to grow a bit of grey peas.

Did your father grow them then, on his farm?

Hhm?

Did your father grow them on his farm at Molash?

No, he didn't.

Only had a bit of oats.

No, he just growed oats for his horses, see.

What did he feed his pigs on then?

The old miller used to come around with his old
and cart, and a bag of sharps, seven bob.

0590  Or middlings, they call’em now, don’t they; we used to call’em sharps.

0591  Barley meal, that was about eight bob, hundredweight, already ground delivered.

0592  Hhm.

0593  Always used to grow mangel for the old sows; these wurzel, you know what a mangel-wurzel is, he used to give them to the old sows.

0594  The sheep.

0595  Horses, ooh, they love them, horses do.

0596  Oh, they do love them.

0597  If you, we’ve had, I’ve gone in and the old horses got used to having one; we give them one a day, see - just for a relish.

0598  And if they hear you chuck one up in the manger, the others holler like hell.

0599  You know, they want theirs.

0600  Hhm.

2.13 Utterances 0601–0650

0601  Go-

0602  [INT] Hhm. Wasn’t keeping pigs a risky business?

0603  Hhm?

0604  [INT] Was keeping pigs a risky business?

0605  Ooh, we never had swine fever.

0606  I don’t think there was, I don’t think I can ever remember swine fever.

0607  We never had it.

0608  Let me think there.

0609  There was a case in Boughton

0610  I don’t know whether that was swine fever or whether it wasn’t.

0611  It was closed, we went along there one day and the police told us we got to go some other way, ’cause there was something, I think, I don’t know, or it may have been swine fever.

0612  I don’t know.

0613  They, they eh, if you had anything the matter with the pig, eh, you had to notify the ministry, you know.

0614  And eh, we’d got an old sow.

0615  [INT] When is this? Is it-

0616  Oh, this is going back now, when I, when I, I was at home from that war - home from the army.

0617  I was seventeen then.

0618  And this sow was queer, and she got purple

0619  horse and cart, and a bag of sharps, for seven bob.

0620  Or middlings, they call’em now, don’t they; we used to call’em sharps.

0621  Barley meal, that was about eight bob, hundredweight, delivered already ground.

0622  Hhm.

0623  He always used to grow mangel for the old sows; these wurzel, you know what a mangel-wurzel is, he used to give them to the old sows.

0624  The sheep.

0625  Horses, ooh, they love them, horses do.

0626  Oh, they do love them.

0627  I’ve gone in and the old horses got used to having one; we gave them one a day, see - just for a relish.

0628  And if they hear you chuck one up in the manger, the others holler like hell.

0629  You know, they want theirs.

0630  Hhm.
So, we got hold of the police, and they notified the ministry.

Mhm, a bloke come up, said, Well, he said, We shall have to shoot her.

He says, Then I can open her and find out what’s the matter with her, see.

So he says, You gonna shoot her?

I’d, You gonna shoot her? He says, No, he says, You shoot her.

So I went in and got mi gun.

I’ve still got the same gun; that’s going back some, innit?

And no, this ain’t right; that’s wrong. That was the second year’s war; but that gun is from first year’s war is what I’m talking about - early on.

You know, he went in the chicken house whilst I shot it.

He was frightened.

I looked around, thought where’s he gone to, and he came crawling out of the chicken house I shot her right in the forehead.


And he took her organs out of her, you know, and he says, You can do what you like with the rest, he says, I should advise you to bury it.

He said, I’ll give you an order to buy a - a bushel of lime.

You bury her six foot deep, and cover her with a bushel of lime, he said.

I think he give us four and six, to do that, and buy the lime.

That was four pence, I think, that lime; that wasn’t very dear.

And there was a chap next door to us, he was a runagate chap.

Well, a runagate chap was a chap who has got a living anyhow, as long as he got a bob or two, he was landed, see.

So, Father fetched Brian Connor up, and said, Bury that old sow for us, Brian?

He says, How much you gonna give me?

Father says, Five bob.

He says, Alright, I’ll do it.

He says, You got to go down six foot, and then chuck that bushel of lime on her. He says, Alright.

So, he was out in there, digging this hole, to put this old sow in, you know.
And he was a chap, stood about six foot, you know.

He was down in the hole, we could just see the top of his head, when we went round the corner, and he peeped over the top, says, Ain’t this deep enough, Edward? Yes, Father says, Put her in there.

Then he stood up; and it come up about here; he was squatted down in the hole.

And Father said, No, he says, You got to go deeper than that. No, he said, You said, Put her in there, he said, In she goes.

She never was put down more than three foot.

I used to have to go mole-catching on our farm; we used to have a lot of moles on our farm.

And I set these traps up, and they used to give us, s- skin a mole, and they used to give us threepence a skin, you know.

You, when you got a dozen, and you dried them, you’d send’em up to London to a firm, and they gave us threebobadozen, for these moleskins.

It used to cost tuppence for carriage - postage.

And I couldn’t find one of these mole traps.

I knewed I’d put it there overnight.

Old Brian come along there, he says, Hello, Alistair - Hello, Brian.

He said, What’re you looking about for? Well I put a mole trap up here, I says, And I can’t find it.

And he says, where did you put it? I said, Just here somewheres, I says, In a run - There were runs all over the place.

And him and me looked all around, for this mole trap, and we couldn’t find it, you know.

And I went down the - Father went down The George that night, and he says eh, Did you...
lose a mole trap this morning? I says, Yeah.

He says, Well, Brian Connor’s just sold it to a chap down the pub for a pint.

He, he found it. He said he picked it up and put it in his pocket.

That’s the sort of chap he was.

But I liked him, he was oh, a very likeable man.

He was about four year older than I was, I expect.

Too sly for me, wadn’t he?

Too sly for me, wadn’t he?

Too sly for me, wadn’t he?

He found the mole trap and he pi- picked it up and popped it in his pocket.

Hhm. He wasn’t much older than you?

About four years.

Hhm.

Hhm.

Hhm.

How old was he, when he was doing all this?

Bu- hey?

Ah, when are we talking about with the mole trap. Hhm, when would that be?

Ooh, that would be when I was about eighteen - seventeen, eighteen.

Hhm. Who was the firm? Did you, how did you find out about it?

Hey?

How did you find out about this firm that bought moleskins?

Advertise, they used to advertise for’em.

They used to make moleskin dresses, didn’t they?

Hhm.

Were coats for women.

Could you get rid of rabbits’ pelts like that?

No, no. You could get a penny for a rabbit skin, and then the old gypsies used to come round and collect them; I don’t know what they did with them.

If it wasn’t shot, if it was a shot, you only got ha’penny, if it was snared, you get a penny.

You tell by the skin, you look inside, see the shot marks in it, you see.

And you, you were, used to get fifteen shillings for a fox skin.

I’d catch a fox in a hare wire; we used to set some snares up for hares, you know -
proper make them, I used to make them.

And I went down there one morning, was a fox in this net - this wire.

2.15 Utterances 0701–0750

0701 And I eh I went to him; I thought I'll to myself, Tap him on the head, and take him home and skin him, see.

0702 Hhm.

0703 Ooh, when I went up to him, he flew at me.

0704 Oh, I said, If that's how you feel, I said, We'll both argue about that, so I stepped back a bit and shot him.

0705 I'd got mi gun; always carried a gun.

0706 Hhm.

0707 So, I messed the skin up.

0708 It wadan't no good then, 'cause I was close to him, you see, blowed the - a great hole in him.

0709 Caught a deer in a snare one day. I went down there, as I told you, about how I always trained gun dogs.

0710 And I got a beautiful Labrador dog with me.

0711 All of a sudden he stopped short and his bristles went up and he growled, and I heard some crashing, I went in there, I'd got an old deer, in a hare snare, and his horns were caught in the snare, and his head was as-fixed right back to his neck, you see.

0712 Hhm.

0713 Thought to myself, well.

0714 Didn't want to shoot him.

0715 He was in a right old state. I, I got mi knife out, and he stood and looked at the old dog, and I rushed in at him, and caught hold of one front leg and one back leg and snatched him up on his back and down on him, and cut mi knife, I had mi knife, I cut his head half off.

0716 And my father, oh, he did give me a dressing down.

0717 Well, I said, I didn't want to waste a cartridge on him, I said, He was tied up.

0718 He said, If he'd've cut you with his claw, he said, He'd have ripped your guts out.

0719 He'd had your inside out, he said.

0720 I didn't know that.

0721 'Course, they d-, they strike and they're so sharp, their claws are, he says, It would have ripped your inside out.

0722 Ah, I had got away with that, didn't I?
[INT] What did you do with it?
Oh, sold that to butcher.
That wasn't no trouble.
Father came and fetched him in the cart and we took him down to butcher, and he dressed him and, oh I think he gave me about fifteen bob or a pound for it.

[INT] Wasn't that poaching then?
Oh, we sold that to butcher.
That wasn't no trouble.
Father came and fetched him in the cart and we took him down to butcher, and he dressed him and, oh I think he gave me about fifteen bob or a pound for it.

Huh?

[INT] Was that poaching?
No, that wasn't poaching.
Because we were allowed to get' em on your own land, you see.
No, but you were not allowed to go in the wood to shoot' em.
Still, it wouldn't have mattered as well, the old keeper wouldn't have said anything if I had.

Hhm.

[INT] Hhm. Can you tell me anything about your mother's shop and post office?
That was down in the corner of the village.

Well, we was ehh, we took the, this shop off a man named Paul Pinter when he went bankrupt.
That was down in the corner, down the corner of the village.

It's a nice house now, they've made of it.
And he went bankrupt, and Mother, she started the shop up herself, and applied for the post office and got it.
Now, that was, that was the heart of the job, at the post, 'cause I think they paid her a pound a week.

See?
That was a lot of money then days.
But, of course, there was a lot of writing that was all had to be, and you had to be there when the postman called, nine o'clock in the morning, five o'clock at night, and then we had to distribute the - Mother had to go round the village.

[INT] She did that?
No, the gi-, my sister done it.

Hhm.

I think she was allowed five shillings a week for do that, my sister.

Hhm.

[INT] Did you ever have to help in the shop?

Hhm.

[INT] Did you ever have to help in the shop?
Hhm.
2.16 Utterances 0751–0800

0751 [INT] Did you ever help in the shop?
0752 No, oh no, me.
0753 She said I wasn’t much help.
0754 She said, I—You eat more sweets than I do profit.
0755 And Father, he used to go in and get his f-baccer out of the shop then; he wouldn’t, he didn’t pay for it.
0756 But I always paid for mi cigarettes; I used to smoke.
0757 Funny thing, I, I had a chap, I’d gotten a cigarette case what was given to me when I was—first started smoking cigarettes—when I was sixteen.
0758 Silver cigarette case, my sister give; my sisters clubbed together and bought it for me.
0759 It got mi name and address printed inside, and it went away last week.
0760 A friend of mine, see a—antique bloke, see it, and he says, I’d like my dad to see that, he says, and he took it away with him.
0761 I’d have showed it to you.
0763 Hhm.
0764 Got my name and address, Post Office and all, inside.
0765 I don’t know what it’s worth.
0766 Solid silver, it weighed four ounces.
0767 What’s it worth?
0769 About eight quid?
0771 Two pound a ounce, innit?
0772 And what it’s worth with being antique, God only knows.
0773 [INT] How did you get hold of it again?
0774 My sisters gave it to me when I was sixteen. I started smoking ci-cigarettes: Players were a penny a packet for five; Woodbines were a penny a packet for five.
0775 Players got every—five cigarettes, and five holders, stuck in one another like funnels.
0776 So, you stick your cigarette in the f-cigarette, in the funnel and smoke it, you see.
0777 And they was a penny.
0779 Now what are they today?
0780 I don’t ever smoke’em, do you? I don’t like bought, I always made my cigarettes.
Always made my own fags.


I smoked a pipe for a long time; I still smoke a pipe now - about once in, once a month.

Somebody comes along with a load of 'baccer, I pipe anything in front now went in this, indoors, in the holder and anybody comes along got a bit of 'baccer, I say, I'll have a pipe o' 'baccer.

Sometimes I put a cigar end in; I always smoked cigars, you see, latter part o' time, the last five years.

Them small cigars.

And if I get a big'un, I'd put the end in the pipe.

I like a cigar.


I had a standing order up the shop here for them.

Used to have four packets a week.

But I don't now; I can't - cost too much.


Well, the doctor told me, Pack it up.

They ain't no good to you.

I left off just like that, you know.

I didn't make no fuss.

Some of'em made a hell of a fuss leaving off.

Can't leave off, they say. But you can, you know, if your mind, make your mind up, can't you?

[INT] Hhm. I don't know; I've never smoked, so-

You've never smoked?

Oh, I think it's a mug's game.


Although I always smoked.

I started smoking when I was at school.

Buy a packet of Woodbines, two of us; put a penny together, ha'penny each.

Then when - got out of sight and had a smoke.

Di- didn't dare let governor see us.


No, my father was a heavy smoker.
He always smoked a pipe.  
No, he never made no fuss at all; not when I'd started, when I was younger, about fourteen or fifteen I was smoking cigarettes.  

[Int] Did many women smoke in those days?  
No.  

Never seen a woman smoke, only in the hop garden.  

[Int] What sort of women-  
See, those London women come down for the hop gardens.  

Here's the thing.  

Every farm in - this - East Kent, of about a hundred acres, had got a bit of hops.  

You know, and they used to - the old women used to come down from London, and live in hopper huts, as we used to call them, pick these hops.  

And when we were boys, and when we were only very small, we had to go out with Mother hop picking, and we had a basket, and we filled that basket, and then we could go play.  

We had to pick a basket each, about a bushel.  

Well, there were three of us and we used to have to fill this bushel basket.  

I think you used to have seven pence a bushel for picking hops.  

That was, this field in front here was all hops; I can remember that.  

[Int] Hhm. You used to go as a family, did you, when you were-  

[Int] Hhm?  

You all used to go as a family, when you were young?  

Yes, Mother used to take a bin - what they called a bin.  

And they'd allot you so big a quantity as the children you'd got, they'd let you see, and if you're a bigger family, they had a bigger piece, and soon as you got your old basket full, that old five bushel, they come round and chucked this five bushel in a bag, took it away, and they'd give you a chit, piece of paper, say we've took one away, see, or two.  

Hhm.  

My mother used to, we used to fill about three a day.  

Oh, it was fifteen bob a week, you know.  

Five days a week.  

Saturdays we didn't go.
Then they used to fetch 'em and take 'em down to the brewery.

We have sold, Father did sell the breweries barley once; he'd grow a bit of barley.

My father could mow, you know.

Six shillings an acre, he had, for mowing; he took six acres of barley to mow and he took six shillings an acre.

That was 'fore he went to Molash, when we's down 'n the other place.

When we's down at the old first cottage.

That was the price, mowing barley, six shillings an acre.

And he could ow-, he could mow a acre a day.

Then we had to take it out; he used to mow it into the corn, see; that used to stand up against the corn, then you used to go along with your foot like that and take armful, lay it in a bond; he used to twist 'em, with a straw, as he went back with his scythe, lay 'em down, Mother used to nhn take 'em out and, and eh, lay 'em in the bond, and bind 'em, and then we boys used to stand 'em up.

And of course we were doing it for a neighbour; he done it for a neighbour.

He did grow a little bit of barley out there and then he didn't reckon much of it.

Brewery, we always had a barrel of beer in the house.

And the, the old dealer boys come along; he gave 'em a drop of beer.

Us old boys would be drinking beer, too.

I got boozed one day, when I was, me and my brother.

We got as drunk as pigs.

We got in the kitchen window, when Father and Mother was out, and we tried some wine.

And we emptied the bottle.

When they come home, we were both drunk.

A damn good hiding we got, too.
So that didn’t do much good, did it?
That ain’t taking it all down, is it?
[Int] Yes, it’s all on.
Good God!
[Int] Did women often have to work on the land? Did lots of women work on the field?
Oh eh, no. No, the, women didn’t, only in seasonal work like hop picking, cherry picking, apple picking and they used to go - don’t think the women used to go on the land much.
Stone picking they used to go; picking stones up for making the roads; they used to pay shilling a yard. My father paid shilling a yard, and my wife picked the stones.
How’s that?
She knew what it is to work.
She went pulling sugar beet in the war. That’s what gave her arthritis in her hands, in the last war.
[Int] Hmm. When, did your mother use to work on the land even when she’d got the post office? You know, when you said she-
No, she just, she helped Mum.
She helped my, my mother, see.
She used to go in, indoors and help my mother, ’cause we lived next door, see.
They lived in the two cottage that were made into the farmhouse.
[Int] Hmm.
’fore we went there.
And eh, then the cottage we let to old Veer’s I told you, two shillings a week.
And when I got married, he moved, and I went in the cottage, and I lived in there until I went to Throwley.
[Int] When was it you went to Throwley?
In nineteen twenty-six, when the General Strike was on.
[Int] Hmm.
And that was a roughhouse.
Coo!
I’d got about a hundred pound in the bank, when I went there.
And I’d got about thr- thr- two hundred pounds’ worth of stock, you know, horses and that.
And the first year I lost the hundred pound; I hadn’t got nothing.
And next year I just hadn’t got nothing.
And the next year, I was nearly broke.
That was first three years. And I went to the bank, and eh told him that I was afraid to write a cheque, and he said, You carry on, he said, Write your cheques, he says, As you always have done. That was in nineteen twenty-six, mind you.

He says, You don’t worry about anything else, says, You’re doing alright. "T was a good manager; he knew me; he’d been up to see me; he seen the farm. He knew all the - Well, they kne- the farms - the bank managers them days, in the agricultural, knew as much about a farm as the farmer did, pretty well.

2.19 Utterances 0901–0902

0901 He’d been up and seen how was I doing mi job, see.

0902 And eh.