

**Women entrepreneurs and self-employed business-owners in Ireland
1922-1972**

Volume 2 of 2

Volume 2: Transcripts of interviews

Table of Contents

Mrs. Ryan	1
Mrs Lawlor	3
Maggie	18
Mary Huggard and Hilda Huggard	32
Jane	58
Annie Brophy, Jossie Brophy, Annie O'Brien	79
Bridie	116
Nellie	132
Ellen	151
Sheila O'Donoghue	164
Sheila	186
Molly McElhinney	214
Una	241
Mary	256
Grainne, Nora and May,	267
Dorothea Rogan	293
Triona	311

Katie Ryan, Retailer

Galway, born in 1879. Set up a retail operation with her husband in 1909. Had 5 children. Worked in the business up to the 1950s when her son took over the business. The business now over 100 years in existence, is still in family hands. Interview daughter-in-law on 12/3/2013; data drawn from newspaper archives, no transcript

Not recorded, no transcript available. Notes from interview with daughter-in-law, 12/3/2009

Established in 1909. Co founded by a husband and wife team. Originally from Sligo, Katherine Morrisson, known as Katie was trained as a milliner in Enniskillen, and worked as a draper's assistant in McDonogh's shop. She moved to work in Donnellons shop, Shop Street, Galway in 1906. Her mother died very young, she was very creative and good with her hands. When she moved to Galway she lived in, over the shop as was the practise at that stage. She became very friendly with Mary Rose O'Loughlin who worked there also. She was a niece of the man who owned the shop, who in turn was related to the McDonagh's that Katie worked for formerly, thus how she got the job. She met Anthony Ryan in Donnellons, he had trained with Forrests in Dublin (now Brown Thomas. He was originally from Craughwell. He was of a very mathematical bent and worked in the office, she worked on the shop floor and in alterations. In 1909, they set up Ryan's, 3 years after she had moved to Galway. Someone said to him, 'you need to get out of the office cos you'll never make any money in there, you need to sell'. They got married and set up the business, Ryans next door to Donnellons where they both had work. She did all the buying, and he looked after the back end. They employed 6/8 female staff, who lived in and 3 men.- as well as working in the shop and doing the buying she catered for all of the staff and ran the house. A very hard working woman, and a key part of the business from the outset. Her friend, Mary Rose, ended up married to Mr. O'Gorman, of the Galway Advertiser, bookshop and print works across from the Ryan premises.

She is described as a very hard working woman, she went on to have 5 children, 2 girls and 3 boys, 2 of whom died at 4 and 4.5 months respectively. She used her millinery skills, it was common to have to trim and adjust hats when they came into the shop. She also would have trained up staff, imparting the skills set and knowledge that she had acquired. As buyer, especially in the time up to when the Free State was established she would have made regularly buying trips to London, namely Spring and Autumn. She would leave Galway by train, arrive at Westland Row, get the boat train to Dún Laoghaire (Kingstown) and then get the boat from Dún Laoghaire to Holyhead, from where she would take the night train to London. Staying at the Strand Palace hotel which was close to the East End, she would do her buying. People did not shop as frequently as nowadays, and often times she would know exactly what to buy for her regular customers. Following independence she did not have to make these trips as regularly as different fashion houses had agents and it was possible to source material locally. Her husband died in 1936 at the age of thirty eight, at that stage her remaining son was still in school.

See also Articles on Centenary Celebrations for Ryans of *Galway City Tribune*, 'A Galway institution celebrating its centenary', 28/09/2009.

Mrs. Lawlor, Caterers, Kildare born in 1880. Established a small catering business and hotel in 1914. Married, two sons, set business up when her sons were small. Grew to substantial business, did all the catering for the RDS and numerous racetracks around the country. By the time of her death she was running a hotel, one of the most established catering businesses in the country, a 300 hundred acre farm and was owner of 15 races horses. The business was passed onto her son. Interviewed grand-daughter on 1/5/2013. During the interview her grand-daughter quotes from a clipping of an interview that Mrs. Lawlor gave to the Irish Catering Review in the 1960s.

A	<p>Out in Punchestown she was the second or third in the family, and she was born in 1880 and she died on the 20th September 1969 and she was aged 89. I remember I was only in my early teens when she passed away, and my father didn't survive her by too long, he died 5 years later. But she was, she was a very generous woman and my recollections of her growing up was – she was an invalid in bed, we all thought she broke her hip, back then they wouldn't have the procedures that they have now, but she ran the business from her bed. But we found out, I found out there recently she must have, maybe she had a stroke because she was paralyzed from the waist down, she was well looked after and she ran the business from the bed down in the Mill House which was in front of the ballroom and we used to go down every Sunday to see her, that was a tradition. After Mass we all went down to see Granny Laura, and we'd climb up on this big bed and give her a big hug and a kiss and she used to give us a half crown, which was fantastic, a half a crown it was huge. But she was very, very generous, she just, she was an amazing, and my father adored her, I must say her sons adored, they were regulars up into her every day and checking on her. She had, but this thing you will read a day and night nurse. But it was one of the nurses at a funeral recently said that she was paralyzed from the waist down, but</p>
---	--

	<p>growing up we didn't realize it, she had a fabulous big bed and her room, it was all on the ground floor, she had a phone, she was very with it with the phones, if she had a mobile then she would have been in her element. But she had, she was great into family photographs, which was unusual back then and she had a great interest in all that we did and the staff all loved her. So as time was going, I, she was an icon of her day and how she ran her business but I grew up in Naas in walking distance from my grandmother and that like, she was so popular, she was the main employer in Naas at the time. She and my father and herself, he would have been very close to her and as a teenager I used to work up in the RDS at the horseshow and the Spring Show and get a taste of the outdoor catering and then, the ballroom was fantastic, I mean the ballroom was, and of course we'd be sneaking down at night, calling to see her and we wanted to see what show band was on, we'd go, there was a side door out to the ballroom and we got to see a lot of the show bands and they used to have postcards with there and everybody who went there and you would get their autograph on the back, there was the whole lot of them, Joe Dolan, The Dicksies, Dicky Rock, I mean, Eileen Reid I mean, the whole lot of them and we'd be going in the side door peeping at them, I mean it was and the dance floor down there was fantastic, actually there is a photograph here I'll just show you of the ballroom that they built, that was the ballroom there.</p>
Q	Oh wow that's a fine space isn't it?
A	<p>That's when it was being built and I know, that was a committee room where they used to meet beforehand, that was a long bar where all the functions, dress dances. Now this was a great mural here, at the, the historian celebrated 100 years, they were all upset and worried about this mural, that was since painted over, but they were so delighted that I had the photograph of it, you used to come in the entrance here and</p>

	<p>this was the Kildare Hunt and it's now unfortunately a factory, it's an engine factory and the floorboards were taken up, and they are somewhere in Warsaw, but it was an incredible dance floor. You know, you kinda came in.</p>
Q	<p>It's a magnificent room.</p>
A	<p>It was, I think I have a photograph here of my father watching over the building of it, the foundation, so that was something else.</p>
Q	<p>And when did she start or how did she get into it?</p>
A	<p>She started, she grew up in PuncHESTOWN on a farm a big cottage out there, actually my brother has a farm out there now, it was a thatched cottage that she grew up in and has long fell down, and she did a course in Naas in the technical college, they have it, she started there and that is where she got her flair, and also working in Palmerstown House that's where she got her flair you know.</p>
Q	<p>And then she started herself did she?</p>
A	<p>That's when she, yeah, she bought, she was married at that time and she bought what is the hotel now, Nás na Rí, I believe she bought that, she got financial funds from her father-in-law because back then women had no, nothing, so we learnt, because the Lawlor's originally came from Ballinahowan at the bottom of the Blessington lakes and they when, that was flooded over and my grandfather on that side, my great grand- father James Lawlor – they, we were dairy farmers up in New Street in Dublin and then they came down to Johnstown where they bought a big house there which my cousin now has, - he bought that, he had money, so he bought a place next door and obviously, that's where my grandmother met him – I wonder how they met? She was working in Palmerstown House so she her husband [REDACTED] Lawlor in Johnstown, we reckon that's what must of what happened and she lived out that area when they were first married. In one of</p>

	the census she was there when my uncle Jim was a baby, so it was from there that she started her business, she bought it as a tearoom and had accommodation.
Q	And is that the present Lawlors, that's in the square now?
A	Yeah, it's not in our family anymore, my brother sold it 10 or 12 years ago, no it's more, a little more than that.
Q	But that was the original site? So she had a tearoom initially?
A	It, think it was the tea-room she started and then went into accommodation, but she started it, I was reading through, off doing small, I think before that small little catering parties and from that.
Q	So she was catering before?
A	She was doing small little things, and then she bought that and then it was suggested I think, by a few people that she could expand on that because I think it even said here -This is her own words – How much did you know about catering, cooking and so on when you began – “No more than any other countrywoman and her husband and two young sons to feed, my first decision was that I would learn to cook, I joined the cooking classes in the local technical school- which was up at the Fair Green I believe - and I got on very well, this knowledge helped me later on when employing chefs and cooks”. Going back to your previous question – What prompted you as a woman with a mainly rural background to enter into catering – “Mainly to ensure the rearing and education of my two sons, farm life can be very hazardous, behind Mrs. Lawlor’s decision was an astute and foresight which would help her later in pushing her business to greater heights and success than she had ever dreamed of as a little girl who milked her share of cows before going to Brookheaven school just beyond Punchestown racecourse. I took a house in Naas called Nás na Rí, it was a private house

	with boarders and it catered a great deal for professional people – so that’s it.
Q	So she was catering as well as a hotelier?
A	It was all, I mean she started off small and she grew bigger and bigger, and where is it she says I am just trying to, when she started the catering. She... And by what particular means did you, she said by what particular means did you take on ensure... she said, ‘I worked very hard, nothing comes easy and I am particularly, I am a very particular person and I give great concern, a great concern to detail’, and I think that comes through in some of us. She would have started off small and she would have started catering locally at different venues and then she would have grown, got bigger and bigger, she says here – “we would have catered for many proud occasions” – these are her own words I’m saying here – she catered for “the Kildare Hunt, The Royal Dublin Society Horse Show, Punchestown Races, in fact we did race meetings all over the country which I always attended to personally, the service and the seating was a very important aspect of these occasions as there was often a little diplomacy to be observed as to who would be sat beside whom, in fact it was as far back as the early 20’s that we got the catering concessions for the Spring Show and Ballsbridge.
Q	So she was doing the RDS from the 20’s? That’s incredible isn’t it?
A	And I remember she used to do the Galway Races, Tramore Races, The Curragh, like, and I remember like as a child, I mean all the women of Naas, and the men but the women and they would say ‘yahoo we are going on our holidays’ and they would go in army trucks, they would be leaving their families and some of them would be leaving 12, 13 or 14 children behind and I mean, they were hard working people, but the break for them, apparently some of the workers, a lot of them

	<p>have gone now but the crack they would have, they would be singing on the way back and down in these army trucks –you can visualize them, the canopies, the canvas, and the food. But they had great crack and great camaraderie, and the staff were so loyal – I mean, the families even to this day in Naas, we still see them, you know it’s amazing, she even at this talk in Lawler’s this guy here James Dorney who writes a lot of history, his father works in the Army, he has done a lot of writing, James Dorney, in history, he got up and he actually said we wouldn’t have had any delph only for Lawlor’s, cos they used to just, like all the delph she had the particular patterns of the tree, some tree and I have a plate of it inside, and they were talking at this thing about the first thing when they were away on these trips, and the catering at race meetings and whatever, the first thing every morning all the staff had to have a good feed up, a big fry to get them through the day and a good meal at night, and the conditions they would have worked under nobody now-a-days would do it.</p>
Q	So she used to employ local people?
A	All local people.
Q	And they would go to the venue that she was catering at?
A	Yeah, and they would be gone for days, ah yeah, and one of the staff, Aggie, ah she was lovely, they all have really fond memories of it, and the fun and the crack and there would be singing coming back, it was a working holiday for them, because a lot of the locals wouldn’t have had the opportunity to go anywhere else, no she was a huge employer, main employer in the town.
Q	And do you have any idea how many she would have employed in the 20’s and 30’s.
A	Well was it here, its asked here wait till I see – How many catering staff do you employ – “This varies greatly – we have employed large numbers perhaps 700 or 800 for some of the

	Ballsbridge shows, for example our permanent staff number about 20, I mean that's unbelievable.
Q	So the staff would expand and contract depending.
A	Yeah but there would have been the regulars, would have been the regulars especially the hotel, they would have been regular, but the catering would have been part-time, sure whole families would go, sure I mean this guy here says he was 14, you know, so it was all, at the race meetings, whole families would have been employed.
Q	So she was married when she set up and she got the funding through her father in law?
A	She was, through her father-in-law.
Q	What did she do before she got married do you know?
A	Well she worked in Palmerstown House
Q	Ok that's right.
A	Because in the census in 2011 [1911] she's there. and the next one she's in Greenhills which is between, she was resident and she was married, it was a house which we reckoned her father-in-law bought, Mill House, it's between Johnston and Kill.
Q	And she started then when the lads were youngish?
A	Young, yeah and I mean and it's a pity she is not around now to ask her, but that I think is great, that interview.
Q	That is a good interview, I am going to take the records of that. And then the sons, and what about her husband what did he do?
A	Myles died in 1951 but poor old Myles got lost in it all you know. She was very much into her sons and my father, and I kinda said where is the father now, but I noticed there was letters I came across from my father when he was travelling – he did catering as well, he was in England and his letters were all to his mother and how is dad, how is father, oh my God, mother, the feel the relationship, the respect, the love, that they had for her, the mother was incredible but she was a very

	strong person, she was a very strong, so for anyone that wasn't as strong couldn't keep up with her. But I believe he was a very gentle person.
Q	So she had two sons? And did the two sons go into business with her?
A	My father worked with her, she set up Jim in Oberstown.
Q	So she had one in the business?
A	Yeah one in the business and then she looked after the elder one, who had the TB.
Q	So she set him up in business. Do you have any idea what the legal status of the company or the hotel was?
A	It was Mrs. B. Lawlor & Sons, oh and son.
Q	I can check this but do you know if that was registered as a company, or was she a sole trader do you know?
A	That's interesting, I don't know, that's actually interesting, Mrs. B Lawlor and Son, well if it was Mrs B Lawlor and Son, surely I'd say a company. I wonder, when she started off she was probably Bridget Lawlor, it probably changed.
Q	It may have changed, that often happens, happens a lot, they start as sole traders and emerge then.
A	Yeah, because just looking at the picture of the hotel - Mrs. B. Lawlor & Son Caterers, Mrs. B Lawlor and son, interesting.
Q	And what about other businesses in the location, do you know if she had a relationship with other businesses in or do you have any recollections or stories of that?
A	Oh they would all have looked after each other and supported each other, I know there was – is it [REDACTED] what was it, - I'm just thinking of a guy that always said that his grandmother had a pub across the way at the time, eh was it [REDACTED] no why do I think it was, and he always said that my grandmother set his grandmother up, that she was doing some function for somebody and she helped him out, and my grandmother helped his grandmother out, and they were

	<p>literally in a triangle in the Poplar Square and my grandmother, she was very kind to other people, very generous and eh sent over stuff to them, she was doing some do in her pub and she sent over food and cutlery anything she needed, and this is her grandson, saying to me how good my grandmother was to his grandmother so that went down through the families, and so that is – and I’ve heard of other stories up the, at the other end of the town where there was a situation where somebody had a business and was in difficulty and my grandmother came to their aid, so now back then people they supported each other which I think is probably going to happen now I think we are going back – they all supported each other because they needed each other. Everything was local.</p>
Q	Okay so it wasn’t hugely competitive?
A	No, it wouldn’t have been no, you know and even in that thing, she refers to competition, there’s not much and it is a good thing – in the catering she didn’t have had much competition but she felt competition was good but at the time she didn’t, you know it’s a positive thing.
Q	And do you have any idea how she went about getting business, did she advertise, when you think about it.
A	Yeah, advertising, advertising and you know what she was very clever, she went to the clergy, the religious, the religious, she went to all the top places, she aimed high, she didn’t go down, she just, she was very brave, I mean she really - so that’s how she got to do the catering in Maynooth at all the ordinations and that’s how she probably got the Ecumenical Service, she did the schools, she did Clongowes, Newbridge, anything up there she put her advertisements in all the religious places and everything, so that’s a clever move.
Q	So she was advertising and marketing?
A	Before any of us thought of it, I mean she was some woman,

	she really was an icon of her time, and I mean she had nobody else, I dunno anyway. But they were women strong women her sisters, they were all strong women.
Q	And were they involved in any way?
A	Not any of her sisters but she lost, she lost– one of her sisters worked with her, who was a nurse and where were the others? - they all went on and were very pro-active, one was a seamstress, a nurse, business - there was only two brothers in the family, but a load of them were wiped out in the time of the 1918 Great flu and she was very generous - one of her sisters was wiped out in the great flu and she was very good to her children, who are still in contact would send us Christmas cards to this day. You know the family is kinda scattered, but she was very, she was known for her generosity and kindness for those, she would never see anyone go hungry you know.
Q	And she remained involved in the business right the way up?
A	She ruled the roost, she was like the queen, and she ruled it until the day she died.
Q	So she was actively involved till the very end?
A	Oh God yeah, amazing, I mean lived in bed, she ruled from the bed- that's what I was just saying. I was just looking at this and I remember looking at this and I said my God, she was, she remained mentally very active and alert.
Q	And how was, she had obviously had thought about passing it on had she? Had she made plans to pass it on?
A	Well I think it was a given that my father was to take over, which he did and eh, when did I say she died in 69' and my father died in 75' so we didn't, so she died in '69 and '75 - it was six years after she passed away, so we were all quite young when my father died, so that was a dramatic change then you know, and that's when there was this, a huge turnabout, so the outdoor catering stopped, I know it had wound down a bit after she died I think and then it was wound

	<p>down. Then my brother who eventually took it over, [REDACTED], he was only 18, he was very young so he went off and trained in Shannon and did hotel and catering management and came back and took it over but didn't do the catering just went back to running it as a hotel you know.. And then he got married and then had a couple of children and then his children were kind of, times had changed and like where's Daddy and [REDACTED] was thinking he got a good offer and he was kind of thinking, you know there's got to be, the times that were in it and so he sold and he is now a farmer, he sold the business, and there was no point killing himself and not being home and he is a real, he's a great father – so you have to think what's it all about, and the times were different too.</p>
Q	And the nature of the business changes over time.
A	Oh very much so.
Q	What do you think the impact of her working and her business life was on the family? Do you have any sense on that, if you were to?
A	<p>Sense of the family? - Well I would say as a grandmother she was, she was wonderful, we all went to her, now my older sister would remember her more up and walking around and my other cousins would remember her when she was walking. Oberstown when she was young, there's a photograph there with grandchildren, they are all older. She used to hold children's Christmas parties down in the ballroom every year, children from all over would come to it and they were meant to be fantastic, I don't have any recollection of those, but I know Timmy Conway who wrote a book, Conways shop in Naas, he wrote a book about Naas and about my grandmother having these parties and they weren't at it but they were looking at all the children that were coming from far afield and all the different places, coming from Dublin coming all dressed up, coming to this party in the ballroom. Apparently</p>

	<p>she did that for years, there would be a Santa Claus and everything and Timmy was kind of looking at it – it was Timmy wrote it wasn't it, looking at all these I suppose posh children coming down, these kids where did they come from, Dublin, I suppose, I suppose my grandmother showed, they would have all the different relations that would have spread around, and all be coming, I don't know who was invited I believe but apparently these parties were fantastic. I believe I was at them as a baby but I have no recollection, apparently she used to have them every year, you know.</p>
Q	<p>And her relationship with her sons was close?</p>
A	<p>Oh very, oh very, I was just going, there a box of letters I was coming across and I said Jeepers, Da my Father like really adored her, he absolutely adored her, 'em there was a very close bond, a very close bond with them.</p>
Q	<p>And their working relationship worked well?</p>
A	<p>Oh very well, very well, I'd say that maybe at times my father was probably lost when she went – I'd say she was probably a very controlling person and when she went it was a huge shock, because she was always there she was, and she seemed to be very good to her staff and they all speak highly of her, I think she was tough but very highly, very well respected.</p>
Q	<p>And in terms of suppliers and the operation of the business, do you know who she was dealing with or how did she source her?</p>
A	<p>I'd say everything would have been as local as possible, Well now, I know O'Rourke's was the fruit and vegetable shop up the town at the time – that's gone now, and she would have got a lot of stuff, a lot of fruit and veg from them. Am, the butchers I don't know who would have been her main butcher, I'd say she probably dealt with them all, I'd say she probably dealt with them all as that would have been her way, and even with the chemist I know even with my Father, he had, he knew</p>

	<p>them all, you support them all, that would have been very much, support the local. And I would still do that but if I can't get the local I would go further afield but I would try first. So I suppose that would have been always in us support your local shop, local business that's very important, what would you want to go over to Newbridge, why would you go up to Dublin, why don't you go up to so and so, up town, you know that was very much bred into us. Why would you go up to Dublin – my mother was Dublin, why don't you go up to so and so, and so and so, and so and so. But I always remember my father getting from the chemist, the local chemist he would get something from them all, spread it around, it was a good idea and I think that's coming back, even my own daughter who is expecting her first baby, she, when she was getting married, she'd say 'Ma I might as well go local', we went up to Dublin, what's the point in seeing something in Dublin you would have to go back up, so she went local and even for the baby stuff now she is looking local. Go local, I think that is going back now because everybody needs each other in the community, where everybody went away from it didn't they?</p>
Q	getting back to basics.
A	Yeah.
Q	And do you know how she described herself in the census; she is obviously in the 1911 and the 1901?
A	I have it here, wait. In the 1901 census she was in residence in 13 Palmerstown and she is 21 years of age and she is described as a female servant.
Q	And that was in '01 was it? In 1901?
A	Yeah in 1901.
Q	And the 1911?
A	The 1911 she is described as a wife.
Q	That was probably just before she started.
A	I would have thought so, cause she had only one child then,

	James is the only male, and no age, I'm presuming where there is no age they are under one, they don't put in the months do they?
Q	I don't think so. Very interesting. And how do you think she would have described herself later on? I know that's a hard question.
A	God, I don't know em, how would she describe herself, I'd say, she must have been proud of herself, I mean she worked all her life and she definitely, holidays didn't exist, except oh, her, well she brought a house up in Lacken and that was her retreat and that was where the Lawlor's would have originally come from. They just moved up from Ballinahown to Lacken and she used to always retreat there and with all the older cousins, really a lot of them would have been her nieces and nephews, and she used to have great gatherings there, I remember her up there, going up there on Sundays to visit her, but it was a great retreat. Where she went apart from traveling around the country in her early catering years – I'd say she must of died a very happy women, she must have been very proud of herself, I mean she did build some empire, and she like was very family orientated, my brother would have stayed down in the house with her, and also one of her nieces who never married, so she would have had nieces and nephews working with her so she was surrounded by family in lots of ways. And my cousin, now my cousin he would have stayed down in the house with her you know, like overnights because it was a big house. I'd say she probably must have been, said I did it my way.
Q	And she was obviously commercially very successful? Like in that the business made money?
A	Oh yes, I mean we all benefited greatly, definitely, and I often think you know, like from her humble beginnings though her family would have had a good farm, a big farm, with a long

	<p>thatch cottage and everything has over the years, it's funny when you come to a stage in your life where you appreciate things – you know there was five in our family, there was 7 in the Oberstown family you know, so we all benefited very well, the thatched cottage that she lived in out in Punchestown that she would have grown up in, there wouldn't have been running water, there wouldn't have been showers or anything like that, as there was in most houses but it was a big thatched cottage, it was a long one and at the time it would have been very up market, a lot of other dwellings you know. But it was believed that the Keely's did come over with the Lord of Mayo to Palmerstown house, so she is west of Ireland, and so I'll have to go back and see - I mean Keely's not Kiely, it's not a very common name, and they came over to Johnstown, no over to Kill, do you know where Palmerstown house is near roughl, the motorway, it's kind of ironic if you're going out by Johnstown and there is a motorway flyover now going out the back road to Johnstown, the flyover, and you see Palmerstown house and I often think, that's where my grandmother worked and on the other side is the house where she married and lived, ██████ took it over years later as a riding school, and I said isn't that ironic only for this modern bridge can I see the two houses where she was.</p>
Q	<p>Ok, great well that's great, you have some good references there, thank you very much.</p>
A	<p>You're welcome.</p>

Maggie (alias) – Café Southern Ireland, born c 1885. Set up in 1909. Taken over by current proprietors grandmother Maggie– in the 1940s. Was joined in the business by her daughter in the 1970s. They jointly ran the business until Maggie died. Married, had two children. Business still in family hands. Interviewed granddaughter on 10/4/2013.

A.	I have heard lot and lots of stories from people about you know the times being kinda tough, obviously in the kinda 1930 and 40's and she was very well known for giving people an awful lot, for kind of forgiving bills and all that kind of thing and I know one of the local storytellers wrote a story and she was in it and he said that she fed half of Kerry for free and so as far as I know my grandmother took it over with a kind of a big debt which then she went and paid off. So that is kind of a nice story of my great-aunt, that she was very generous I suppose and caring for the local community. And then my grandmother was at the helm and her husband was working in refrigeration and he was involved in kind of bringing electricity into the town and all of that kind of stuff, but he was also involved here and he worked with her as well and so I think she didn't have children until late, 36 and 40 she was when she had her two daughters. She was very hard working and when she was in her eighties she was still working here 9 'til 6 every single day.
Q.	Wow.
A.	Yeah, similar to [REDACTED] ary down the street. And as well, well I was more or less brought up upstairs by my granddad, but she was up in the morning and made breakfast for us, she came down worked and her lunch hour she came up and made lunch, she made soup, a main course and a dessert every-day and that's what we grew up with and it was like everything

	properly done with china and silver on the table and all of that, and she was a real stickler for everything being right and the same in the evening she would finish work and she would come up and cook dinner.
Q.	Good Lord.
A.	She was top like, she did have support definitely, I mean, I know like, this is from my Mom, not from my memory, but they would have had people helping in the house and mind the kids or whatever, but she so definitely had help, but at the same time I never saw the woman relax like. She was constantly going, she was a big huge character, a big personality, she had a big social life as well as working hard, and loved attention, loved singing and dancing and being the centre of everything, and you know she wore lovely clothes and she was a fairly big character, I'd say she was the big character in the house, my granddad was quiet and she kind of took over everything. And then my Mom came, oh, sorry, my grandmother, actually, something, I don't know if it was unusual or not but when she was 12, her mother died and her father had died already, she was sent off to boarding school by my aunt [<i>grandaunt</i>] and she went to [REDACTED], so she was, she had her secondary school education and then she was sent to college in England which I think, probably unusual so she was educated and she had her French and she understood accounts and you know she had her business side of things, and she was trained as a confectioner as well and so she kinda of probably came back, and we always laugh about her like she had a slight twang in her accent so she was a bit snobby we thought, like and so.
Q	What did she do in college?
A	I think she studied confectionary and business. Yeah, Because I know I found loads of her books and stuff and it was all accounting and all those kind of things. I'm sure it was a basic

	<p>enough course but she was educated anyway, probably more so than other people locally would have been and she definitely had huge confidence and was yeah, just a big character and a big personality and I, we used, she was very into etiquette and how things should be done, and definitely, I heard that every-day of my life, you know walking properly and this mat, and it obviously rubbed off a little bit because I was always teased in school for being too ladylike and I think I was just the product of that. But em, at the time obviously she'd talk about school and I never thought it was any different but then as I got older I did think that she was lucky obviously, and she had opportunities that other people didn't have, and she was, she definitely was tough, because I remember as a child I would go shopping with her and we would go to the butchers and to the supermarket and the bank and my grandmother when she got old, older, she would go to the bank, there would be a big queue and she would walk right past the queue to the top, and she would beckon whoever in the bank and they would see to her straight away, so she was a bit of a madam as well. You know maybe you get like that when you get older, I don't know if there is a license in that, but I'm my, Mammy, Mom, wouldn't have that memory of her but I do, she was a force really, and I knew from the way she conducted herself no one walked all over her. I know when I came into business here I found having worked like in a hospital setting and it all being very professional, coming into business here and I had worked in Dublin and had lived in London, things were very different coming home and I found people quite traditional and I found sometimes when I was dealing with people for business they would ask to speak to my husband.</p>
Q	Are you serious?
A	Yeah, or they would say 'oh, sure I'll talk to you know [REDACTED],

	<p>that's my husband's name, about that' and that was common enough and obviously that didn't suit me one bit, but I remember thinking, this would not happen to my grandmother because she is, was just a bigger character, like I'm fairly quiet spoken and so maybe they would think that they could do that like, but I remember thinking I'll have to summon up a bit of the, the bravado from my grandmother, and I do think she obviously had to be tough. You know, maybe being in business in those days you had to be, to show like that you were well able and you were the boss, and when they came through the door and she was great like in that way.</p>
Q.	And she ran the business up until?
A.	Em, well you see, I suppose, because my Mom would have worked, came in and worked with her I don't know if there would have been any definite date, but certainly.
Q	But your Mom came straight in here, did she?
A	My mum went to college for a year and then she actually left and then she did something artistic some kind of design thing, and something happened like, I think my granddad was unwell or something anyway and she basically felt that she was needed and she was asked to come home and that was the story. I don't know the exact details so she came home, but she must have only been 19 or 20 and she worked here ever since, and though my grandmother always worked here while I was growing up, I was probably in my early 20's when she died or my mid 20's maybe, my Mom was the boss really even though my grandmother still worked with her every-day. So I guess maybe in her 70's really.
Q.	And did that transition work well?
A.	I suppose it's always tough to work with family like, but it was all I knew so – but I remember when I was a young child and my granddad minded me but he also, I remember seeing doing like the bookwork in the evenings so she would have

	<p>had support but she was definitely the person everyone came to, you know she was hiring the staff and firing staff and dealing with bills and all that kind of stuff, so she was definitely the boss. Em, we did talk back then like, I remember being here and the three of us fighting you know like cats and dogs and then also having a great time as well so but I'm sure there were words like.</p>
Q	<p>Yeah, was she a confectioner, who, like did she do the baking?</p>
A.	<p>No, there was actually well, from when my Mom was a baby we had the same baker here until my mum closed, so she was here for like 30 or 40 years and my grandmother trained her, my grandmother was an amazing baker but she was here in the front.</p>
Q	<p>You mentioned that your gran-aunt passed it on? Do you have any idea did your grandmother have to go to the bank to get started or?</p>
A	<p>I don't know that, but I might be able to tell you more about that, I can ask my Mom. I know, all I remember is hearing that my grandmother was just a really strong woman and I think it was like my Mom said, or my Mom or Dad said, when she got the business, there was a big debt and she had to pay it off and she worked hard to do that and when she had it paid off they had a fire here in the house part of it, and it burned and had to be redone and she, they then had no insurance and they said sure like it was very, like it was normal, no-one had insurance and the year that this place went on fire insurances went up by 50% because all the locals bought insurance, so then she had that debt so when she had paid off one she had to do it all over again, but she did and it was no problem.</p>
Q	<p>And do you know what the legal status of it was in her time? Was it a limited company or what?</p>
A	<p>I doubt it, I'd say sole trader. Yeah, I wouldn't think, I'm not sure. I'll ask my mother that but I'd imagine it was sole trader</p>

	anyway, em my Mom was a sole trader.
Q.	Would you have any idea how many people would have worked here?
A	I'll have to ask on that, but I know that when I was a child I know there was 3 in the bakery and that was on the third floor and then on the floor here, probably say 2 and my Mom and my granny everyday like, and then at the weekends there would have been more, and in the summer double that, because the summers are mad, for about 2 months anyway or 3 months it's absolute queues out the door all day long like. And the other thing was that when this was my Granny's and my Mom's it was probably the only café and also they opened late, they opened like late at night and kind of when the cinema closed or whatever anyway or the pubs and they had like massive trade and they were the only people in business so they probably had a really strong business like.
Q	This was during the season was it? So that would, that would have been very intensive wouldn't it?
A	Yeah, like I'm meeting people all the time now who keep saying to me 'oh my mother worked for your grandmother you know' so I mean, I know they had, I know that even when I was a child there were a lot of people working here, there might have been 2 or 3 sisters all working here together and I have, I met someone at a wedding last week that said her mum and her mum's sister worked here for years and years, you know and some of the staff that kind of worked here with my grandmother became family friends and we kind of grew up with them and you know I would still visit, they are elderly now, I would still visit them you know so it is kinda close.
Q	And in terms of, would she have had any – I suppose today we would call them networks you know, business networks, what was her network like with other business people or would you have any sense of that?

A	<p>I would say it would have been very good, like I think, well say I obviously I know loads of the businesses here from when I grow up I know loads of people, but I'd say definitely in comparison, to definitely in what I saw with my Mom and my Granny working here, it is much, much more separate for me like, I kind of just get on with my own life whereas they would have been much closer, much more community and like a lot of the business people, especially that worked on the street here lived above their businesses as well so they were business partners and neighbours, so it was all much closer and em, they would have been customers, and they would have gone, exactly... so there was that kind of support, em and like I suppose the local hotels as well, I mean there are so many hotels <i>here</i> it would have been the same thing, they would have had that relationship– you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours, no I definitely remember that and as well as that, my Granny made wedding cakes and they were the only people that did that so all the hotels would have known them and Mom actually was only saying last week, cause we, I was making a wedding cake with my mother and we delivered it up and we were laughing about various things that had happened over the years, but she said one year, or one time that she saw, heard wedding cars going down the street and that whatever hotel it was rang her and said 'do you have a wedding cake for today' and she said 'no, no I think that for tomorrow' and they said 'Jesus will you go up and look in the bakery' so she did and sure as God they had a wedding cake and she said that was how it worked in those days – that she said she would have forgotten the cake except for the hotel had the cop on to ring her when they saw it wasn't there and there is no way that would happen now, you know, not a hope, so I think, definitely, local relationships were or networks were strong.</p>
---	---

Q	And the business then would have been– I mean, it was the café, and cake making and baking and?
A	My grandmother had a grocery shop as well, so there was, how was it now, the grocery shop was the entrance was where that little music shop is next door, right next door and then my granddad had like some kind of other little ice-cream parlour kind of thing going on here and then actually, it was my Mom bought the middle bit that connected the two of them. So em, there was a slightly different layout, this would have been belonged to them and that, but this middle skinny bit wasn't, so my Mom added a bit on in the 70's or something like that
Q	And they obviously lived here?
A	Yeah my brother lives there now; so like there is a, it's big town house, three stories of a house upstairs so.
Q	You would never think it, would you?
A	Yeah I know, I know, so.
Q	And any sense, I mean you obviously grew up around it – what was the impact of having the woman of the family running a business – what was the impact on the family do you think?
A	Em well, I'll only be able to talk for me, anyway we'll say, well, I can talk a little bit for what I imagine for my mother, em like, I think that they had to dole out the children a lot and I think I was especially lucky because it worked out because my granddad was on site and he wasn't actually very well, he had emphysema so he was flying when he was sitting down but he couldn't walk or do proper so he wasn't out working – he was in his 60's so it ended up by default that he was minding me, so I had this amazing wise like em, parent figure in my granddad who kinda gave me a 110% and I adored him and so I was very lucky, but I know like my older brother was sent off to a lady who used to work here, so even though Mom was there, there was never any, there was never like sitting

	<p>down at 5 o'clock for dinner or you know someone making your dinner after school, it was all fairly busy and I know as well, my Mom and my, my dad is actually a farmer and we live in the country side and my Mom would come in here every-day so instead of going to the local school which is where my children now go, em we would, we were brought into town and sent to town, so we didn't really know our neighbours at home very well, em like it was a great place to grow up as well, and exciting because we were always in the thick of it, running around, we had great freedom, we knew all the staff very well, there was always a buzz, the customers we knew them, and we were probably you know off to bring things to tables from a very early age, we grew up like, we got great experience so we all can cook, we all can like bake, we are all trained in the bakery – you know in that way we got great benefits. But I do think there is a sacrifice to be made, and that was part of why I made the decision that I made you know when I had my own children because I thought I wanted it to be a bit more traditional where there was you know everyone sitting for breakfast and dinner and all the romantic notion of it whether that is what works out or not – some days it does, but like I definitely having thought I wanted the first thing when it came to it I didn't, I wanted it more calm and less frantic and more about the family and less about the business - in theory do you know.</p>
Q	And when did the place close?
A.	My Mom's, em it was when I was in university I think, eh, t'would be 2000 or something like that.
Q	And you reopened then?
A.	2008, or was it 2009 – Oh God, the date - hang on, this is my fifth year now, so what does that mean?
Q	Yeah, 2008.
A	Yeah, 2008.

Q	So it was closed for 8 years and then reopened?
A	<p>And I never, and that was the other thing actually, because I was the only girl, I have two brothers, all my life it was said like, oh, [REDACTED] take over the café and I said I will absolutely never, ever, ever do, I'm never doing that, so I was almost like enraged about that thought and I remember when it was my kind of Leaving Cert time and all of that ever, I kept hearing oh sure you don't have to study like, you can just take over and all I wanted was to get my, I said I am getting a degree and I am going to have like a proper 9 to 5 job and I'm not going to be having people calling me and I don't want to be anyone's boss, and eh, so that was the way it went and that went on and I went off and did all that and loved it and absolutely loved my job and then, when I lived in, myself and my husband went to London for about 8 months, he was doing a project and I had my first child with me and I said Oh God, wouldn't it be nice to have a little tearooms, and what do you think will I open one up and within, I think we moved home about 2 or 3 months after that and I had it open within a month, just a complete notion, my mother nearly fell over like, she didn't know, she actually was against me doing it, she said oh, you're mad and em, I don't know what happened, never before that did I get any ideas about it but it was obviously just in me like and it was easy, you know that kind of way, I knew exactly what to do, I knew exactly what I wanted it to look like you know, I wanted it to be more old fashioned, more like the kind of romantic ideas I had from being probably in my grandmother's house, with all of the things being just so and, like, I didn't even take, I didn't take any time to let myself back out of it, I just did it and it all worked out really well, was great, but still in saying I still love my old job and I still miss it, and I'm thinking of going back to do a few hours, because I'm trained to do that and I love that too.</p>

	But yeah, honest to God it was a shock to my mother, she really, she pretty much did everything she could to make me not do it but she is delighted now and she does a lot of the baking for me.
Q	Oh fantastic, and how many do you have now?
A	In the winter-time I have 3 full-time and 2 part-time and I have 2 extra or 3 extra at the weekends and in the summer-time madness there would be like 2 for the kitchen and 6 for the floor full time. It's mad.
Q	And going back in time what was the business, was the business local or was it?
A	Both, I mean it's always been very touristy, I mean we have, there are tourists here all year long but in July and August, those 8 weeks, it is chaos, I mean it would be around, I mean the population of [REDACTED] is probably about 20,000 people and we have probably 60,000 people in the town for those 2 months like constant, it is just mad.
Q	And would your grandmother have had to promote – your mother, I mean would they market it?
A	No, No.
Q	No advertising?
A	I don't think so, I mean, I know the kind of things my mother did would have been local, so I remember her doing wedding fairs and that kind of thing but nothing, nothing, nothing national no.
Q	This is a hard one, so if you don't know it don't worry – do you have any sense of how your grandmother would have returned herself on the census?
A	I don't know, no my Mom might but I don't.
Q	How would she have described herself do you think in general?
A	I've seen her on the census, sorry no I haven't, I have seen my, her mother and the grand-aunt on the census, before my

great grand-mother would have been married and they lived together so it would have been [REDACTED] and my great grandmother and it was my great grandmother not [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was down as the head of the household, and they were in business, and that surprised me because I didn't know that. My grandmother – I'd say she would have been down, not head of the house, but I think she would have been down as businesswoman yeah, I wouldn't have said she would have been pretending to be the little housewife at all, no she wasn't like that, I've never really met anyone like my grandmother like, she was very, she was just hilarious, like you know, like a film character, very, just like a strong woman, you know very, very funny, and quick and probably loved being the centre of attention and that's the absolute opposite to me, like I would be definitely not like that, but em we used to do every single day, I mean, God we worked here, I used to work with her and then we would have our lunch hour and she would get me to make her lunch and I'd have lunch with her and then I might have tea with her and you know, I spent all my time with her so every single day I used to laugh and laugh about the things she would say, she was just so, just a huge character really and I would love watching her with the customers, with the Americans especially, she would just charm the life out of them, you know they loved her and they would come back every year to see her, and people would come back and take photographs with my Granny and she wore like a housecoat so she looked like this, she looked like a cute little housewife in Ireland but like she was just way more dynamic than that, so she played, you know she kind of played the role yeah. As well, we used to fight because we were so different and she would pretend to cry to make me come round to her but I would be like – you're pretending, you're not even crying, so my Mom would just

	give in to her but I was stubborn, like when I was younger, so we would kill each other, it was very funny, yeah, no I will ask my mum about the census but I would doubt there'd be any.
Q	No it's not that important, I was just curious to know how she perceived herself.
A	Oh business woman yeah. I never heard a story, I never heard one story about motherhood or babies from my grandmother ever, I heard about – she was a bit older than my granddad so I heard about the boys who used to take her out, and she's said she had a boyfriend for the cinema and I had a boyfriend to go dancing and a boyfriend to do this, that and the other thing and loved men and she charmed all of them of all ages and she was just like. You know that's the kind of thing I heard about, all glitz and the glamour, and dinners out, this person and that person.
Q	She sounds quite a character.
A.	Yeah brilliant.
Q.	And would your mother have been like her do you think?
A.	A bit but not as, yeah a bit like her, my Mom is yeah a business woman and yeah, very social as well, she was at every, like she took us horse riding, and Irish dancing and she was at all of those things and she loved that and she loved the social bit of it but she wouldn't have been, you know sitting, like my Mom is an outstanding baker, an amazing cook and all of that but she wouldn't have been loving sitting at home making fairy cakes with us,
Q	And where did you learn the confectionery and bakery side of it -was here on site was it?
A	Here, [REDACTED] was the name of the baker we had for about 40 years, my Granny trained her and then she trained all the other ones, up there with her yeah, so we did, we worked like in the bakery and down here, all of us and my brothers as well, so we

	<p>loved it like, it was a great adventure and great freedom and even having that separation, 'cos I'd say I am going to the bakery but I could go anywhere like, I could be watching TV or doing whatever and then as well, I know when I was really young like, I could go to the bakery and I would make whatever it was, apple tarts and if I made a special one I 'd put like a mark on it, like make a pastry leaf on it and when they I sold it I would get the money, so we were trained up like in all those little things like from being young yeah, so we got that head for business, a taste for it yeah.</p>
Q	<p>And would, would commercial success be important to her do you think?</p>
A	<p>My grandmother, yeah, and I thinking having standing in the community, yeah I think she wanted to be, people to respect her definitely yeah.</p>
Q	<p>Well that is wonderful; you have given me loads there. Thank you.</p>

Mary Huggard, Hotelier Kerry born 1887. She trained in hotel management and moved to Waterville to run the Southern Lake Hotel. Married Martin Huggard who ran the Bay View Hotel. The Huggard family acquired a number of hotels in the region, the Caragh Lake, The Royal Hotel, Ashford Castle at the behest of the government and the Lake Hotel. A member of Fogra Fáilte, was a very well-known figure in the tourism industry and worked at national level to promote tourism. She was also involved in the Irish Hotels Federation. Seven children, Interviewed grandson on 11/04/2013.

Hilda Huggard, Hotelier Kerry, born c 1918, daughter of Mary Huggard. The family acquired the hotel in 1940 and she operated and ran the Lake Hotel for fifty years. Active figure in promoting tourism, particularly in the Killarney region where her hotel was located. Single, no children. Interviewed her nephew on 11/04/2013.

Q	So maybe you would start by telling me about these two women
A	Well, I will, I suppose the first one is our Grandmother, she's, she was from county Wicklow, Aughrim, county Wicklow, and she trained as a hotel manager, and eh, she moved to Waterville, I'm not sure what year she moved there, but she actually took over the Southern Lake Hotel, which was the Waterville Lake Hotel, I think it is now, I think they call it the, they still call it the Waterville Lake Hotel. Club Med took it over at one stage. Yeah, but [REDACTED] he owned it for a while as well, he was a, an Irish American returned, I think very wealthy and he did a lot of eh, he actually bought

Ashford Castle off my uncle, funny enough he ended up with Ashford Castle, but anyway going back to my grandmother, she started, before that our family would have come from Coomanore in Caherdaniel, and they moved to Waterville, they had a shop, but yeah no, they had a shop and my grandfather would have been a farmer and his father farmer and they used fish. But it is funny enough, they would have been down there at the time of Daniel O'Connell, so you know we don't have many stories from that era, but they had the shop in Waterville and I remember my aunt, Auntie Hilda telling me that when she was younger they were telling her the stories that before money, like they had barter, women would come in from west Ballinskelligs, and they'd, they'd walk to the town limits in bare feet and then they'd put on their shoes and they'd bring in cheeses and all kinds of things and they'd actually trade it, and sometimes my grandparents would give them something, or great grandparents would give them something for whatever cheeses they brought, but the quality of it was so bad that they would end up throwing it in the bin, they couldn't re-use it, it was just you know, people were, you know it's only a few generations ago but there was fierce hardship down there you know, so the place had gone from I suppose after the famine 75% of the population there died of starvation, it went from being very poor area to, I suppose the change, the big change that I can see back from what I know of the history is when they started with the cable company in Valencia, that the English Government invested loads of money, they had a railway to Caherciveen, they had all these, they build all these houses for the cable staff and they had them on Valencia and they had them in Waterville as well and then they had a lot of engineers, so the Butlers hotel in Waterville that time would have been doing quite well. My grandfather's family had the Bay View hotel and then my

grandmother would have worked as the manager in the Waterville Lake, so they were actually match-made, they actually, they had a matchmaker actually, he was an MP, he was a, I think he was an MP at the time but I think he was a Fine Gael, he ended up to be a Fine Gaeler anyway, but he, he knew the two of them and he basically matched them together, and that's how they got married, and then my grandmother being a hotel manager went in, my grandfather kinda only ran the Bay View I'd say very casually you know, he was a bit laid back, and of course she ran it as a business, and she made a go of it because she was young, she was a trained hotel manager and she was keen to get on, so she ran that and in 1917 they bought the Butler Arms hotel and em, they ran that and of course they had great occupancy that time because of the English Government with all these engineers staying, they could stay for a year, you know they would have people working in the cable company and they could be there for an entire, you know they could be there for a year or so or maybe months, but they were always full, so they made money when nobody, say in other parts of Ireland tourism would have been poor enough, they were making money. So eh, after that anyway she went on and she bought the Royal Hotel in Valencia, now I am not a hundred per cent right on the dates but em, after that, she had the Royal in Valencia, she bought the Caragh Lake Hotel, em she went on then and she bought em the, I think she bought here the Lake Hotel before Ashford Castle and funny enough she was going to Dublin on the train and the Hilliard family owned the Lake Hotel here and they owned, they employed 75% of the population in Killarney, they probably owned half of Killarney, they were a very wealthy family, they had loads of businesses, they had Tuff shoe factory and that, but one of them met my aunt on the train station and she, they said, Hilda, Hilda, actually it was to my

grandmother sorry, 'Mary would you be interested in the Lake Hotel' and she said 'I might be, why are you selling it?' and she said they were so anyway she went on to Dublin and when she came back and she bought the place, so she had the Lake Hotel here and eh, after that she bought the, Ashford Castle and I think at the time now, she'd have been very renowned as being a hotelier and em, she was actually, well, if you've, the documentation that I sent you there, that was done by a cousin of ours, and it's actually very good, but she was seen as a kind of an authority on the hotel industry in Ireland at that stage, and eh, she knew the Lemasses and she was very friendly with Sean Lemass and his wife, and I don't know, the exact transition there but her eldest son Noel had trained in England in The Dorchester, so anyway between the two of them anyway, they bought Ashford Castle off the Guinness family and turned it from a castle into a hotel and after that then I think they bought Ballynahinch Castle and did something similar, so she ended up anyway with seven hotels, but there was great drive in her, but they had great, great stories back in Waterville, how people would travel from England and I still can't get my head around this, they'd spend a couple of weeks there, they'd fish and they, they used to have, put the fish out in the hotel everyday on the floor and you would put your tag on it and of course you'd come back and you know who-ever had, they'd have a weigh in then whatever, at six or seven o'clock each evening, but there was great camaraderie and they were all engineers, doctors, they were real, I suppose that time you had the upper-class and the lower-class people, you know which is, thanks bit of God things are more middle-class now, but you either had it or you didn't at that time, and those who had it had everything, they had 30 gillies working out of the Butler Arms, and they had all industry, they employed most of the town in Waterville, my grandmother at that stage

	<p>eh and you know, they had, people would come in year in year out and you couldn't get into the hotel, they were very famous. But going back to, she had this technique and I must do a bit of enquiring about it, she would get reeds and when they would get the fish, if somebody was going back to England, they would get the salmon or sea trout and wrap it in these reeds and they could actually bring it home and it would be fresh, it would be fresh when they got home, and I, I have heard that story fifty times, but I have never, I would love to know how, the science behind it, because it would be great in today's terms, you know you could offer something, could be very beneficial to, it would environmentally friendly you know.</p>
Q	<p>And what was the role of her husband in all of this?</p>
A	<p>Oh he was laid back but she was complete driving force you know, he was happy out, now in fairness he was very good to his family and you know, I have always heard great things about my grandfather, I was, I never remember him because I think he was dead when I was growing up, but my sister now alright, she was, she remembers sitting on his lap, a very much a family man, spent all the time, I think what actually happened the roles were nearly reversed, that you know traditionally at the time men went out and they were working and the women stayed at home and cooked, it's gone the other way now as well in today's terms, but at that time, she was way ahead of her time, she was out doing all the, the working and you know, the driving force behind everything you know. That time they used to cook a lot, anyone running a hotel used to cook, I know my uncle Noel up in Ashford you know cooked, my father cooked in the Butler Arms, you know they were all trained chefs and you know they trained, you know they did hard training in the hotel industry, so they were actually good at what they did you know.</p>

Q	And was she a chef or did she do the front of?
A	She was, I'd say she did front of house, but I'd say they all took part, and yeah, I'd say shared the workload yeah and you know hotels that time like you could be out serving drink in the bar one minute and the next minute you could be inside cooking something in the kitchen, you know that's the way, you had to be able to turn your hand at anything you know.
Q	Less of the specialism I suppose of today. And in terms of say, you, you said they were making money which probably did give her the capital to invest.
A	Oh she was able to buy all those hotels and it's funny enough, she bought most of them, most of them were bought in the war. Because even in the early days the First World War, and then the Second World War she bought all her hotels during you know the war times, amazing, and funny enough everyone of them was beside water and they were already built.
Q	And you talk about her, your grandmother being involved in kind of, in a way developing tourism, was she and how did that work, how did she get involved there?
A	Oh yeah, yeah, she was just, she was one of the founders of the Irish Tourist Board, em, the, anytime the government would do anything with tourism they would consult you know the top people, like she had seven hotels, I don't think there's any other woman in her day running seven hotels, you know, and it was Ireland's first hotel chain as far as we know it, independent anyway, hotel chain, and you know Walt Disney came to meet her and you know the amount of hotels he built after, I'm not saying that he built them because of my grandmother in anyway, but he certainly came to meet her because he was very interested to know more, more about it you know. We've actually a lovely photograph here of Walt Disney and our grandmother and the cousins have one below in Waterville and there is always a debate of who has got the

	original. We don't know but it doesn't matter, it's just the history of it is nice you know.
Q	He came to visit her specifically?
A	Yeah, yeah came to meet her, she was you know, at the time she would very, she would have been an authority really on the hotel industry that time in Ireland, I mean no one else had done what she had done.
Q	And then Hilda?
A	Hilda took over here, and she had three sisters involved, my Auntie [REDACTED], my Auntie [REDACTED], and my Auntie [REDACTED] eh, [REDACTED] was a doctor, a qualified doctor herself and she married a [REDACTED] and I suppose she didn't work, I don't think she ever practiced, Auntie [REDACTED] married [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and she didn't work you know, I suppose you know, doctors did well that time like they do today where they have a good income so they didn't need to work and my Auntie [REDACTED] then she married a banker and you know, again she didn't work, I suppose she didn't need to work, but to be honest in the early days, they all worked in the Butler Arms and they worked hard you know, they all had a job, I mean my grandmother wouldn't have stood around and had all these people inside in the building doing nothing, she had them all working, every one of them and they all worked even when they were married. It's funny, when they all got married first all the husbands used to kinda be around the Butler Arms, it was a huge haven and everyone loved being down there that time because you didn't know who was going to come in the door next, they had everyone, I mean you could name all the top business people in Ireland would have stayed there, people came from all over the world, as you probably know Charlie Chaplin stayed there, you know Alec Guinness, they had lots of famous people, they had Royal Princes staying there, a lot of people used go, she had this massive, kind of a hive of

	<p>interest set up there and the whole town of Waterville was thriving because every, the amount of people employed off the hotel and jobs be it boatmen, fishermen, people driving, people, the whole, the shops were doing well because they had people in the town so all the little shops were, were thriving but eventually they all kinda they moved on. I think they all ended up moving to Dublin actually, although no my aunty [REDACTED] moved to [REDACTED] for years and [REDACTED] practiced there, as a doctor there for years, but eventually then when they retired they actually moved to Dublin, so they all ended up moving to Dublin you know and my aunt Hilda was here then on her own.</p>
Q	She came here on her own?
A	<p>But she owned the hotel, she had shared ownership with her sisters here as well and they would have been actively involved as directors of the hotel for years but my aunt would have, basically she would have ran it, you know she was here on her own and she never married and I suppose those days it was very tough, she went through the Second World War, she went through recessions, eh I remember once, there was someone offered her two hundred thousand for the hotel years ago and she was very tempted in selling it, because I'd say it would have been easier to sell, take the money and live off that, than you know, it's a, you know it's an old building, you know we have, we have invested huge amounts of money in it now to get it back, but we had old sash windows, you could get a windy day and one of them would fall out, do you know roofs were falling down, like in fairness she did very well to hold onto it you know.</p>
Q	And she was here on her own? And what would her specialism have been was she?
A	<p>I'd say she was tough, she, Killarney Golf, funnily enough Killarney Golf club got into financial difficulty years ago and</p>

	<p>em people had to bail out the Golf Club, they were looking for people to bail them out and in fairness she stood up and put the hotel up as a guarantee to get a loan off the bank, I think, the Lake Hotel and the International Hotel in Killarney together went and put their properties up as a guarantee to the bank to get a loan to keep the golf club afloat and they got the golf club out of troubled times, and eventually the golf club got up on its' own legs and functioned after, you know it was a brave thing to do, she could have lost everything.</p>
Q	<p>Very much so, was she a networker, in the sense, did she engage with other business people?</p>
A	<p>Oh yeah, there would have been, but again at that time in Killarney business people would have do you know, linked, there was great camaraderie. But when she came to Killarney first, I'm not sure if she, was she overly welcomed when she came first eh, and one of the main reasons, she was eh, being a woman and em, in a man's world, but she was tough, as tough as the men if not tougher, and eh, she had a lot of head to heads with local people, and I think after she gained great respect, probably one of the most famous ones I remembering hearing about was the famous table tennis match for the championship of Killarney which happened out in Muckcross hotel, she eh, there was a dentist in Killarney [REDACTED], actually [REDACTED] daughter actually works with us here now, lovely family in Killarney you know, and very well known, but [REDACTED] was the table tennis champion of Killarney, and my father and my aunt used play table tennis in the winter when it was quiet in autumn, so she was quite good at it, and this big match, she had beaten everyone, was like, it was like the contender of the world heavy weight champion of the world, so nobody wanted her in there, I'd say, people got in her way, that you know like, they didn't want a woman could come and beat anyone like you know, so anyway she beat anyone she</p>

played and eventually of course, they organized this match that no one would beat [REDACTED] and of course, some people said that nobody would beat Hilda Huggard so they had this big match, and my father told me the story years ago, where he was inside in the Muckcross hotel and the match starting and the place was packed, you couldn't get into it, there was people outside in the street listening, to hear, could they hear the news traveling out who was winning. But the game started anyway and there was huge money put down on it and everything, and my aunt was playing away and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was getting the better of my aunt, and [REDACTED] [REDACTED], he played rugby for Ireland and golf for Ireland, very famous, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from Killarney, he was actually sitting beside my father and being a doctor as well, which is strange, he turned around to my father and he said 'Hilda is getting very pale, is she alright?', so my father looks, looks at him and he goes 'that means she is going to win', and my father had spent every-time, winter playing table tennis with her and she was good at golf and tennis as well, but when she would get into what they call 'the zone' they call it today, she was playing away and she got into this state of concentration anyway, and she was as white as a ghost. Doctor [REDACTED] was worried that she was going to pass out, my father said 'no, no, no at all, she'll win the game'. She actually did beat [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and they carried her around the Muckcross Hotel on their shoulders and I think there was a little bit of eh, coolness between them but they ended up life-long friends after that you know, so she was tough out. She also eh, used to go back to Rossbeigh, a fabulous beach back in Rossbeigh, back in Glenbeigh there, and every year they used to have horse racing and she would go back there and enter. She was very good on the horses as well you know, and the men used hate her, they'd try to sabotage the horse, they tried all kinds of things, I

	<p>mean the tricks they got up to so is that she wouldn't race was unbelievable because she used actually leave the men behind at the races so. There was a stubbornness behind it all, eh my sister had a bit of it, and I have a daughter who has a little bit of it, and I don't mean a bad stubbornness, it's actually a determined, a determination and I think it's a, it's a case of you know why, why can men have the freedom and all the everything else when the women can't, there is a little bit of that there. So I think it all comes back from our grandmother you know and I see it there a little bit, and you know there was six boys in our family and one girl, and you know so we can't judge, in other girls it is in too, but certainly in my sister and I can see it in my daughter as well, it's funny you know.</p>
Q	<p>Tenacity, tenacity. And what would the legal status have been in terms of, was the whole concern a company, a limited company, or do you know in the early days?</p>
A	<p>The Lake Hotel? Well the Lake Hotel was a limited company, yeah yeah,</p>
Q	<p>When she, Hilda was here? And prior to that, your grandmothers concerns, they would have been a, limited companies at that stage would they?</p>
A	<p>Do you know I'm not sure to be honest, I would imagine it was, it's back so long now you know, I don't know really to be honest, I couldn't answer that now, but I suppose that time that whatever way business was done t'was done you know, but eh,.No but it was fair going, don't forget she had seven hotels at one stage you know together.</p>
Q	<p>And you would see her, the grandmother, your grandmother as the driving force behind all of that?</p>
A	<p>Oh definitely yeah, yeah, yeah, our grandfather seemingly was very capable and able as well like, but he was a bit more, I think she drove the whole thing and all that.</p>
Q	<p>Yeah, yeah, it sometimes. and, she obviously had the, had the</p>

	recognition for it as well in terms of.
A	<p>Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, she was huge at the time yeah, they would often bring groups of hoteliers off to Florida and different countries and they went to Florida one year to go over and see how to run the hotels, and it's funny, I remember when we started here as kids there was a few, like we have the old wall to here, it was built in the 1820 the hotel, this main part was built in 1850, it's lovely old world look you know and they went to Florida one year, and was brought over by, I think it was called Bord Fáilte at the time they'd, that was the name of the organization, but they went to Florida and they looked at all these hotels and of course Florida being a warm country and what you do in warm countries as you know you put bright colours to cool down you know rooms, because it's not too hot here you put warmer colours to warm them, but they came back and the idea was that everything should be painted white, and you know like, it was, I remember here there was a couple of doors we had to pull the panels off them, they had actually put panels on them, they were recommended by the Tourism Board, it was recommended. They put panels on the doors and they were painted white, and all this, it's crazy, it's a bit like I suppose, twenty years ago people going into pubs and ripping out timber floors and putting in tiles and marble and then they realized they lost the character and now they are going back to these antiques stores buying stuff from churches and paying a fortune, just to get back what they already had originally.</p>
Q	Yeah, I noticed in one of the files, that your aunt Hilda was on some deputation, some deputation that went to the States?
A	<p>She did yeah, that was one of them yeah, yeah that was the one I was referring to. T'was funny, they learnt an awful lot of things and they looked at hotel, but when they came back a lot of recommendations after that would go around, because</p>

	generally when you get audited by the Tourist Board you have, tick all the boxes, and a certain percentage. I remember that time that they would come out with ideas saying you need to go this way and that way, the hotel industry was only developing really, you know still and I think people thought oh yeah, you have to brighten up rooms now and make it the, modern kind of look you know, but you know you go to Florida and expect modern hotels but you would have lovely old hotels in Florida I'd imagine as well, but that kind of thing but we have all done that, we've made the mistake and then we realize ah, we shouldn't have done it you know.
Q	Well herself and there was a lady from, I think Adare, Adare Manor on that particular trip, there was only the two of them but it's on one of the files.
A	Did you catch up with her?
Q	No, no I haven't tracked her down yet but, but there was about ten men I think and the two women.
A	Ah, no she enjoyed it and I remember her telling me about it you know and she really enjoyed it and it was great for telling. You know when she got older then you know she couldn't tell you what happened an hour ago but she'd tell you, my God she'd have it to a tee what happened thirty years ago. So no, we got plenty of all the old stories you know in that line you know.
Q	And she stayed here then until?
A	She lived here until, em she died in 2001em, until 2001, she told us when we were kids, see she had us working since we were kids here, I started when I was thirteen, working summer holidays here, and you know, anytime I remember, I went to the Caymans one year, t'was great, they recruited a lot of people from hotels in Ireland and I was enjoying myself out there, and you know the hotel got quiet, I joined the diving school and I was, I actually got a job as a diving master,

	<p>bringing people diving when the hotel was quiet, you know I played a bit of rugby out there, really enjoyed myself out there, sunny away from the Irish, the Kerry winters you know, and I got a three page letter reasons why I should come home, we had a Bridge Congress, you know and it was busy in May so I actually just made it back for that, I had to give plenty of notice in the job I was in, but she always kept us together here, and I suppose, I probably would have left the hotel industry twenty times over because when we started off as kids you know, you didn't get any pay hardly, you worked seven days a week, and you know t'was hard graft now, and to be honest I found it stood to me in years later, I have no problem doing, you know I still work six days a week, I have no problem, I often work seven days a week even though I try and you know, I have kids at home now so I do spend time with the family. But, work was never a problem to me and to my brothers, we were always able to work, had to you know.</p>
Q	<p>And how did she market the place when she was here or where was the main clientele?</p>
A	<p>They were very lucky, we had to do an awful lot of changes, like any business now. They, they had people who came year in and year out, they had a loyal following, a lot of them were very wealthy, t'would be English people, like when we started here you would have the, you would call it the dying gentry still coming over, and I remember we, having you know a barrister you know, a barrister and his family staying here. Now they were fabulous tourists, they'd stay for two or three weeks, they went fishing every-day, horse riding, playing golf, but anything they did, they paid gillies, boats, like money was never an issue, they did so much and if you have visitors like that in the country the amount of money they leave, you know now people flying in and they are coming around in these buses and they're, they want to pay the lowest room rates, they</p>

	<p>don't really spend money, God help them a lot of them don't have it, but at that time like a lot of these people came and they had so much money, they were very wealthy, they'd spend, so if you have customers like that inside the hotel, and in that time I suppose, they'd be full with sixty or seventy people, and if fifty of them have that kind of spending power, they'd have morning coffee, you know they'd have lunch, afternoon tea, if they went out for the day they gave them a packed lunch so everything was generating money, money all the time.</p>
Q	<p>And would the American market have been big for here during that time?</p>
A	<p>That time no, no no, it's a, it's a very, it would have been there but very small, it was completely UK. It was when the '70's came along it kinda made everything different, and I think that's the time the place went way back here, and I know in the Butler Arms, and I know Charlie Chaplin used stay with my father for years, they became great friends and you know all their family used to send them to our place, we grew up with them as kids in Waterville, the Chaplins every summer, but in the 1970 when the troubles started in the North they stopped coming, and even here a lot of the English stopped coming and business went bad and I'd say, went through a tough time with our aunt, but she had a lot of money I'd say put away, you know she used to put money in stocks and things like that, shares and I'd say she had money kinda put away, I'd say she built up a bit of a war chest for bad times and I'd say, I'd say she went through all that by the time we even arrived, working here because when we started working here, you know we used have to be very nice to the bank so we'd get, they'd give you credit so you could actually function you know, we used to paint the hotel every winter, wall paper, you know do it up, we did the best we could. I</p>

remember a time in the hotel here when it was probably at its lowest in the early 80's, people would come in and check in and you would give them the keys and you would be at the reception and they would go off up to the room and we had the squeaky floorboards and the carpet in the middle of the room and the paint on the all side and that you used to be polishing that every-day on your hands and knees 'cos any slight bit of dust would sit on that, but it was the whole hotel, there was em, the rooms prior to that you would be leaving a potty inside in the room. The, she had it at the stage where in the corridor here above the bar now, em we had probably about 10 rooms along there on the right hand side, there would have been a fireplace in every room, so each fireplace had to be cleaned out every-day, there was two toilets on that corridor, and one toilet was in a room with a bath, there was no such thing as a shower. Now we had a wing down at the end which we used to call the new wing and they had baths inside in the room and we spent the whole winter one year putting mixers on the bath taps so that people could have a shower with those old hoses but the pressure was awful here, there was no pumps or anything in those days so when you, by the time you would put up the hose and turn on the shower the pressure was so bad you wouldn't really be having a shower, but I remember we would give people the keys and leave them up to their room and you'd be waiting at reception and next minute you'd hear the foot, the foot sounds coming down the corridor again and I remember one gentleman, I can always remember his face and he passed the key back to me and he said 'thanks very much' he says 'but its not exactly what we were looking for, but thanks anyway' out the door and into the car, and I remember my aunt that time, you know she had a bit of illness, you know she suffered, she had cancer, it came back to her a couple of times but eh, she eh, I remember that time the old hotel, the

look was the real 1850, look outside and the door nearly looked a little bit, you could nearly, the hospital started to be built, it looked like the front of the hotel and the carpark side, you have the most fantastic view here as you can see with the 12th century castle and the lakes and, but at that time anyway I remember asking my aunt em could we get a canopy to put over the door at least it would say hotel and have it red or purpley or something warm that would entice people to come in and the answer I got was “Young man, we never had a canopy on the door before, we won’t need one”. So I had to say how am I going to get around this, so she was playing bridge so I remembering saying it to one of her bridge partners and then her bridge partner would mentioned it to her or something and then the next day she said to me “Young man we might get a canopy”. So I remember we had this canopy over the door, we have pictures of it somewhere and you know that’s the kind of thing, we started slow, and she was very slow to, you see she was minding the pennies, so she meant so well to kinda keep the hotel, because she’d known hard times and she’d known what to do but we were young, probably like she’d been before and we wanted to drive and get the place going and she was getting also, she was getting to the stage she was being more careful, so but in a good way she was doing it. But I remember the first time we wanted to get a computer in the hotel. First of all I saved myself, my own money which was very difficult for a long time, I bought an AST, I always remember a computer, didn’t look like the ones, it looked like, we have today and I bought it myself and had it my own house and I used to be on it till four or five in the morning trying to learn how to use it, ‘cause I haven’t a clue, it was turn on the switch and all of this stuff came up and I’m eh, and the manuals that time were so basic you learned so little from it but anyway after weeks of doing it anyway, my sister

had worked in a hotel in Killarney and they em, they had a computer so I remember I said to my aunt one day we need to change like the other hotels and get a computer and she said to me 'over my dead body will we have a computer in this hotel', so I said what am I going to do here, so anyway I said to my sister one day would you say it to her and how they're fantastic and how you know they save work and that, if you have three employees now you will only need two, of course that would be a good idea to save the, so she eventually came up to me one day and said 'young man I think its time we got a computer'. So anyway, I don't want to bore you with all the stories and that, but I had to use the same scenario many times. And she was so conscious of spending money, she used, she had an apartment we'd call it up here, she had two rooms and she had a fireplace in there and she had her bedroom and there would have been a bathroom in the middle and the sitting room, and in the winter it would be absolutely freezing, it would be freezing in the winter here and the hotel was closed and eh, I'd go up along the corridor and I would see staff members and we used to have live in accommodation that time and they would have these two bar heaters on and the door open and you know the cost of running them, and that was fine, keeping their room, people have to heat their rooms with, the heating system wouldn't have been great that time, we went from the old steam radiators that time and into the modern you know, electric two bar, the two kilowatt heaters, sure if you had them on all over the hotel sure, they'd close you down with the price, but anyway I'd go into my aunt's room and she would have four or five coats on her. So anyway, I remember I went away and actually bought her a heater, and I brought it up, I said I have something to give you, you have to, you know, you'll get pneumonia, you will be cold. So I'd go up anyway and plug in the heater for her and

	<p>next minute, you would go up another night, she wasn't, we would call up to see her every evening, we'd take turns, the brothers would be out, the lads used to play soccer, I used to play rugby you know, and we'd always take turns and we were always around, but in the evening calling into her to see was she all right and I went up one evening anyway and the thing was turned off and she was on about the price of electricity and everything, so I said how am I going to get out of this, so I came up with an idea anyway, she was over 65 and I said Auntie Hilda, do you know you get free electricity now, and we had this, we had a man staying here he was here all his life working the garden and we actually set up a meter in his room, because he had a little room here and we were able to get him the free electricity but it was just set up for his room alone by the ESB, now we didn't have it done in our aunt's room because it was a lot more technical to get the wiring up there, so I went up and told her she had the same thing, so I went up the next night anyway and of course the heaters were off again, oh I said, I said if you don't use it they're actually going to take it away, I said you have to use it or they take it away it's free, but if you don't use it they will actually take it away and they said they might have to take it away, Tomeen's as well, because [REDACTED] was here, so anyway thanks bit of God I went up the next night and she started using the heater, but it took, because she had come from all the, seen all the good times and the bad times she used to be, was still watching the, the bucks you know.</p>
Q	<p>During your time, did the, it would close for the season, because you would be open in the summer and closed for winter?</p>
A	<p>Oh, yeah you could be closed that time, the end of October, we used open Holy Thursday, be closed all the winter, it was an awful long season, you know I mean there was no income in</p>

	<p>the hotel whatsoever, you know that time you know it was awful, that's why, I wanted to work, I was a worker, I always, you know I always wanted to work and I spent the winters painting, you know we'd be fixing things, doing up the rooms, that kind of stuff, but thanks bit of God the season has extended a little bit you know, no it was a long winter that time.</p>
Q	<p>Very hard going. And what about, obviously you're talking about the transition, passing it on, was that easy or difficult?</p>
A	<p>It was difficult in a way, because she had sisters involved as well there, and we had to borrow money to buy them out.</p>
Q	<p>What would you reckon now, this is possibly a hard one, but what was the impact on these, these two women, do you think on the family?</p>
A	<p>On our family? Oh well they were the driving force alright, kept our grandmother kept the whole family together, as a network of family. I mean my, my father now, my uncle Noel and uncle Brendan went to Clongowes, the girls all went to, Loretto in Dublin, so they were all educated, they got a fantastic start in life, they all got private education, and you know, well looked after and she kept the whole thing going, and but the family then kind of split, because everyone went their own way, but my aunt here actually kept the whole family together as a, like we have cousins now you know now, from all over Ireland, a lot of them actually still work in hospitality but they all come to the Lake Hotel, like annually here, do you know or any bank holiday weekend we'd have 10 or 15 cousins that would still come back, but they used always come back for our aunt and when our aunt died then – she used to keep the whole thing together, because I suppose she was a bit more a neutral, but then our aunt actually wanted us to take over the hotel and they still, we still get on great with all our cousins, they all still keep here, a lot of them have</p>

	<p>actually, you know a lot of our aunts died, you only have one aunt alive at the moment, actually our aunty [REDACTED]. She'd actually be, very well worth talking to actually, she'd know all the older, you know if you wanted to go back, she'd know all that, she actually married em, actually her son [REDACTED] was the [REDACTED] there a few years ago yeah, but she's still alive, she's 90, I think she's about 90 now, drinks her gin and tonics and has a cigarette and drives the car.</p>
Q	Good woman, enjoying life.
A	Well able yeah, and all her family now would have been very involved, now.
Q	And how would your grandmother and indeed your aunt have described themselves do you think? There's a question.
A	<p>Jesus, I don't know, the impression I got of them I don't think they'd describe themselves much, I just think they were so kind of driven and they, they believed in what they were doing, they didn't see, they didn't have to question themselves you know, I think sometimes if you have to question yourself you are wondering why would I, I just think were, they didn't see themselves – I would say, they, you know that time I don't think women had the same rights in Ireland that I can gather and I think they just saw themselves as completely equals and do you know, but whether they felt that way I don't know.</p>
Q	And on the census forms do you have any idea how they returned themselves, you know when you tick what you do, your occupation?
A	Oh they would have been hotelier, hotelier oh yeah.
Q	That's how they would have described themselves?
A	<p>Oh yeah, definitely, oh definitely, yeah and it's completely, it was in, my grandmother was a complete hotelier you know, and my aunt you know and we've, funny enough an awful lot of our cousins actually work in hospitality you know, some are managing restaurants in Dublin, some cater for caterers you</p>

	<p>know, one, some running a bar, we have another one you know working in a, a very famous food establishment in Dublin you know. A lot of them, they've done, a load of them in hospitality, so there is something.</p>
Q	<p>So it has gone through the genes? Ok well listen, that has really been useful, I think I have got everything that I want. Thank you for giving me your time.</p>
A	<p>You're welcome.</p>
A	<p>And another thing: So when she had it in the forties, just to give you an idea what it looked like, we had a working farm, we had a walled garden, they used to grow potatoes in the what we called the back field up there on the National Park side, that would be full of potatoes every year, they had a working garden probably 80% of the vegetables actually served in the hotel were actually grown here, they had, there was an orchard here, they had apples, plums and they used to grow grapes in the greenhouse, they had tomatoes in the greenhouse, cucumbers, eh marrows. I remember one year we actually grew melons in the greenhouse and we used to get potatoes in the walled garden as early as May 'cause the wall was actually south, south facing so it was a heat trap and the walls would have been about 15ft high. What else, they used to get hay here, there was cattle, the lands wouldn't have been huge it wasn't, it wouldn't have been a big farm but at the same time it was very productive, they would have had a farm manager here so everything would have been in its day very efficiently managed, you know the grounds would have been manured with horse manure you know, they got as much out of the ground as they possibly could, there was a bit up the front here that was a bit marshy alright, I remember that here when we arrived as kids, we had stables, there was cow houses, we had three pig sty's below and all the food waste we had was actually fed to the pits in that area.</p>

Q	Recycling and?
A	Yeah, it was everything, but it was done very efficiently and in recent times now unfortunately with the rates and all that and the charges on the out buildings, years ago we had to knock them. Muckross Traditional Farms is a fantastic attraction now out the road here in Muckross, if we had, if the laws of the land weren't as strict as they were, we could have been, if they were left there and restored, it would be absolutely fantastic news, we, if we had the hotel in today's terms with a traditional farm and a working farm can you imagine the attraction of that, not only would it be good for people staying in the hotel but the education for schools and for kids the place could be thriving, but it's just we went through that recession and it killed everything off, basically all these buildings they were falling down and there was no money to repair them, but in a wishful world it would be absolutely fantastic.
Q	If you could have had it the way it was when she had it.
A	And a big turnaround, the, the red deer that time, if the deer was seen on the land that time they would have been shot because they used to dig up the potatoes and they would eat all the crops and now the deer, you could put your hand out the windows sometimes and you can touch them, they're fantastic, you know, we don't, we don't plant flowers or that anymore because they just eat everything, but they are a fantastic attraction, and during the rut here in October they would be bellowing mad out there at night and they wake up the guests and rutting season is unreal, they'd be fighting each other and the water is up, up in lake here, up in front of the window. It's completely eh turned around from the farming type to the way it is now you know.
Q	And at that stage then how many people would she have employed?
A	She had, that time I suppose in the hotel, I would guess and

say in the hotel it would have been probably 30 or 40 in the hotel but on the grounds there would have been about 10, working constantly on the grounds and em, there probably would have been about 15 boat men you know and gillies. There would have been people fishing and on boat trips and that time they used to row people up to Lord Brandon's Cottage, to the hunting lodge there and they'd do the Gap of Dungloe on the pony and trap, and that's a 13 mile journey, 22 kilometers and they used to have two men in a boat and a double oar and they'd row, they could carry 10 people up there, they use outboard engines today, and I remember [REDACTED], your man who used to work here years ago, he is long dead now God help him, but worked hard all his life, he told me some days they'd have to row up there twice and that's 54 miles in a day, rowing so you can imagine they were tough, and you know they used to cut the timber that time with the crosscut saws, after the War and that so there was, there was hard work, so even, even, I suppose her being here at that time, being a woman that time with all that going on and keeping the whole show going, you know it can't have been easy you know, and people used to queue up that time to get work here. I know even the farm manager now told me years ago, he'd go into a pub in town and, he'd, he'd have 10, 15 people up to him looking for work, you know there was no work here in Killarney and in a place like this, and then during the races, there wasn't that many hotels, during the races, I remember one time the place would get so busy here, they'd have someone up on the wall, there used to be a high wall up the road that time and they'd have someone up at the wall to keep people from climbing over the walls because the place would be so packed, t'would be - oh it was a fierce social, they used to have, John McCormack used to sing here, in this lounge here actually, yeah, there was, there's under part of it

	<p>here there's a lovely tiled floor, I suppose the ould sound and that, but he used to sing here regularly now, so they had that kind of thing, but they had a very, in one way they had a very privileged life because all the business people would have congregated around that, whereas do you know if you were living across the wall do you know what I mean, and you weren't allowed in that was it you know so, just different times you know.</p>
Q	<p>Very different times yeah. And you, did she have, I mean You, said it was a limited company, would she have used accountants and all that?</p>
A	<p>Oh, yeah, oh yeah, oh God yeah, she always had the best because she knew – she had, we would have had company from Cork, actually funny in the glass cases here now it's like a bit of a museum around here, we have all the old stuff there. We had, at that time in Cork they were, God I'll think of their names in a second, there was some company she had for years, they did the, oh God yeah everything would have been done very professionally.</p>
Q	<p>And you mentioned she did a little bit of investing and?</p>
A	<p>Oh yeah she would have, yeah, yeah, she would have been in the know I suppose with people at the time you know, and she maybe she good advice or maybe she got bad advice I don't know.</p>
Q	<p>But she did to a little bit of, managed her.</p>
A	<p>Oh she would have yeah, yeah and I'd she was a good one to throw a bet on a horse and different things as well.</p>
Q	<p>Good for her.</p>
A	<p>Without being em do you know, obviously you can't be excessive in that and keep a business you know. Oh no, she would have been as cute as a fox that way you know</p>
Q	<p>You have obviously kept the day books and things like that have you?</p>

A	Ah yeah, we have them all around there, it's fascinating.
Q	It's very important actually, it's great to keep them and preserve them
A	Oh yeah, she was very good at the tennis as well and the golf you know, she was lady captain of the golf club and that you know, she was one of the directors at Killarney golf club, again I think she was the only lady director back there at the time, I'm not sure on the full records but for a long time anyway.
Q	Given that she put the hotel up as collateral, she certainly well-deserved that
A	I think that would have been back around the 50's yeah, I'm not sure if her sisters know that or if she got permission off them I don't know, it was way before our time anyway
Q	Listen, thank you very much, that was great.

Jane (alias) Retailer, Dublin, born in 1893. Took over fish and poultry business that was operating in the South City markets in 1922. Business was handed to her on the condition that she would take care of original owners in their old age. Married, had 3 children Business ran for over 40 years, and passed it onto her son-in-law in the mid-1970s. Interviewed daughter on 16/03/2009.

Q	Ok, I wanted to ask you about [REDACTED] was that her name?
A	Her original name was [REDACTED]
Q	Ok and when would she have been born?
A	It would have been the very end of 19 th century.
Q	And she married?
A	A [REDACTED]
Q	So back to [REDACTED], she was born at the turn of the century and how did she become involved – what age do you think she was when she started the business or took it over?
A	I am not aware of when she took over the business but I can go back to the fact that I have now done some research and I know that her father died leaving three children, it was the second family and he died leaving them in pretty difficult circumstances.
Q	And she was the child of the second family?
A	She was the child of the second family. The father was a taster in Jameson's but the reason that I am only bringing that in is that he died, he had bought a house, his wife was left in very difficult circumstances and she was involved in the poultry business.
Q	How did you find that out?
A	Through [REDACTED]. He did the research.
Q	Was it official that she was involved in the poultry business? She worked for a business as such.
A	She was in the poultry business, what exactly that entailed I don't know but she was in the poultry business. I also wondered why my

	mother went into the business, and because of the research that [REDACTED] did and that I found this out I know now that my mother was apprentice to Henry's South City Markets.
Q	At about what age do you think?
A	I would say it may be the age of 16.
Q	Ok, so that would have been around the time of the rising or maybe before it?
A	A bit earlier than the rising.
Q	A little bit earlier, maybe 1910 or 1911. I think she died at about 82.
A	She died at 85.
Q	And that was the late 70's?
A	We can discover all those because we have the dates.
Q	You know that she apprenticed at about 16. What were the circumstances when she actually took over the business? Was she married yet? How did she take over the business? Tell me that story?
A	Mrs [REDACTED] married then, she married a [REDACTED] and with my mother she ran the business.
Q	Would she have been a lot older than my mother? Mrs [REDACTED]
A	Oh, yes yes,
Q	And the business was run by a [REDACTED]
A	[REDACTED]
Q	[REDACTED], who married later?
A	She married a Mr. [REDACTED] and they lived in Howth, on the hill of Howth.
Q	So it would have been owned by a woman before that as well?
A	It would have been the [REDACTED]s that owned the business.
Q	But [REDACTED] was running it when my Grandmother worked for her?
A	Yes and that was her business.
Q	So it had a history of being with women?
A	Oh, yes she was running it, and then she decided to retire and because she saw the potential of my mother and what a very good

	businesswoman she was, she gave her the business.
Q	This would have been before you were born would it?
A	Oh well before I was born. I would imagine that would have been before [REDACTED] was born so that would have been the 1920's [REDACTED] was born in about 22 or 23 so I would imagine that would have been in the 20's. I remember my mother telling me about.
Q	She would have been married by then?
A	Oh she was married, because in taking over the business, they were taking it over together. My father at that stage was in the business and he was training and he was a buyer, when she took over the business she would have been running the business and he would have been the buyer.
Q	But I always have a sense that it was her business?
A	It is, well when I say it's her business it was both theirs.
Q	It was in her name though; it was in Granny's name?
A	Well [REDACTED]'s
Q	And it retained the name of [REDACTED] was it.
A	It had nothing to do with [REDACTED].
Q	Oh [REDACTED]
A	Henry, the name of the shop was [REDACTED] South City Markets. Never changed. They never changed the name, the proprietors were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]ger but the name of [REDACTED] never changed even when they turned it into a limited company it still remained [REDACTED] Limited.
Q	Ok, and had she children? So she was married when she took over the business, had she children or not. No you don't think so when she took over the business
A	No I wouldn't think so.
Q	But afterwards she had three children?
A	The three children were [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and myself and there is practically four and a half years between us.
Q	And what was her religion? That was kind of interesting I think the [REDACTED] were.

A	The interesting thing is that the [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] was Protestant and my mother was Catholic which was a very unusual handover. But my mother was an extraordinary woman.
Q	But a lot of the business would have been with the Catholic Church as well wouldn't it?
A	The business before my mother took over would have been the business of the big houses all over Ireland and I am talking about – and even nearing my mother's period of time we supplied Powers Court, Carton House, and all the big houses around the country. That was achieved by either train or bus because at that time there was no deliveries like we have today and a supplier in Liverpool supplied these mat bags, they were made from rushes.
Q	They were green were they?
A	Yes.
Q	They were woven? They were wide kind of leaves?
A	Yeah, and all the supplies were packed into these bags.
Q	It was fish and poultry?
A	Game.
Q	And game, pheasants in particular?
A	Oh very big in game and poultry, pheasants. I had a book and unfortunately I lost that book that gave the list of the houses. All the big houses around the country they supplied up to Donegal, Dunsany was another one that we also supplied.
Q	And it was by train?
A	It was mostly train or bus because at that stage there was no van deliveries.
Q	And were you aware of how it changed, how the business changed would that have been in your time?
A	Then of course I would imagine now, not so much Powerscourt or any of those big houses because they were in my time and we were still supplying those in my time. But I would imagine the other houses round the country like Sligo and all over the place. The big houses we supplied, actually a lot of those after 1916 – things

	changed. My mother then must have decided that the business then had to expand and we supplied in certainly, in all my time we supplied the big hospitals the Mercy convents the Christian Brothers all the institutions all around the country.
Q	They wouldn't have really existed before your grandmother's time?
A	I wouldn't think so.
Q	She would have been an element.
A	This would have been what my mother brought in, yes I would imagine so and of course we supplied a lot of hotels around – Jammets was one of our hotels.
Q	Jammets was a hotel.
A	And that is not a hotel. That was one of the biggest restaurants in Dublin. That was thee restaurant. And we supplied all to Jammets. The buyer in my time was a man called Besson in Jammets. Jammet used to come up to see my mother, because my mother was a great businesswoman and she supplied a lot of hotels around the town.
Q	The Hibernian?
A	Yes, the Russell.
Q	The Central Hotel?
A	Yes of course we did and I'm trying to think of the one in Wicklow Street, that was a big customer of ours. There were some small restaurants too. Most of our business – then we had the shop at the front which really and truly was the biggest part – the biggest part of the business was contract and there was the Mater hospital which was enormous.
Q	So you had the Mater hospital too?
A	The Mater, Jervis Street, Vincent's.
Q	That would have been fish and poultry?
A	A lot of that would have been fish. Beaumont hospital which was a convent and a nursing home. In other words I would say without contradiction that we supplied most of the Mercy Convents Dublin.
Q	And the business began to concentrate in Dublin rather than outside then as well?

A	Yes, the only big places we supplied – as I told you before about Carton when the shoot would come in. The shoot would be sent into us.
Q	And did you get the shoots from other places or just Cartons?
A	No we never got one from Powerscourt, although we supplied Powerscourt and I remember in the summer we would be always invited down. She ran the place, and she'd invite us down and bring us out into the garden for afternoon tea and we would be invited down to Carton to the Shell house for afternoon tea.
Q	What was the Shell House?
A	A Shell house was a house built on the estate of Shells. Yes I remember that well, I wonder is that Shell House still there.
Q	And you would go with your mother and father, all of you would go?
A	Oh yes, we would all go.
Q	So it was urban based by that stage although it had –
A	We were supplying hotels down the country too. Mullingar, Headford.
Q	Headford? That wouldn't have been easy to supply?
A	There was two hotels built by a man who had a business – a furniture business and he revamped the hotel in Longford, not Longford, Mullingar, the Greville Arms in Mullingar. And then there was one in Headford which was a very good hotel when it was done but I don't know what it's like now. But we supplied other hotels down the country.
Q	Ok and how do you think she managed to convince these people to hand over the business to her? What was the arrangement?
A	The arrangements were quite extraordinary.
Q	And what age would she have been about?
A	She got a stroke.
Q	Mrs [REDACTED]?
A	Mrs [REDACTED], she married, Mrs [REDACTED] had a stroke, the husband died. Now I do know the husband lived for quite some time, in actual fact

	he gave my father and I have a silver cigarette case with a cigarette holder in it, which he gave to my father. Mr. [REDACTED] must have been there after the handover of the business. The handover of the business – the arrangement were that my mother.
Q	What year do you think it might have been?
A	Oh it must have been '18, '19 or there about, I am not exactly sure, but I am quite sure that I would find out in some research. The handover of the business was very strange. What my mother was asked to do was to mind and look after them for the rest of their days, so every Monday my father and mother would visit them, all their meat was sent out to them.
Q	Was the shop closed on Monday?
A	The shop always closed on Monday. Monday was our closing day. So they always visited her on Monday. I don't know whether any money ever passed hands on this business, I don't think it ever did. But my mother then was responsible for her holidays, so she would always send a taxi and send her off on a holiday down to the hotel that I was telling you about.
Q	But she must have made some capital available to grandmother.
A	When the business was handed over it was a going concern it wasn't handed over.
Q	There must have been some money for granny to keep running it?
A	Do you understand that it was handed over with the business running, so in actual fact when she took it over –
Q	But she would have had access to their bank account?
A	Oh sure she was running the business.
Q	So it was a matter of capital being made available?
A	The capital was there, the business was there so what really Mrs [REDACTED] was doing was she was handing over the business but my mother looked after her for the rest of her days. Ran her house, any expenses that she had, or anything that she done, my mother looked after them. So in other words, until Mrs. [REDACTED] died my mother looked them.

Q	And it was a good.
A	It was a most happy, happy, happy relationship.
Q	But it was a successful business as well? Would it always have been as successful in your mother's day as it had been previously?
A	Oh yes, it was even more successful.
Q	In your mother's day but it had a different ethos then? Do you think when your mother took over they would have lost a certain amount of the people who were-
A	No they didn't lose any of those; in the handover it was extraordinary, over the years that I saw people.
Q	Certainly crossed an incredible period of timing in the life of the country.
A	Yeah, but even in my time all those people that were still alive that had businesses still called to see my mother.
Q	Any sense of why she might have started the business? We kind of covered that. What kind of business was it and how did it operate?
A	The business was fish, poultry, game.
Q	It was based in the South City Markets, now were they very active, where there a lot of businesses in the South City Markets at the time?
A	No. The South City Market in that time had four businesses. Two fish shops ██████ and ██████ side by side. ██████ were the big business; they would have been bigger than our business if you like because they would have had shops all over Dublin.
Q	Ok, so they were a bigger outlet to the public?
A	Yes, but they would have been, they had shops all over the place.
Q	They were selling directly to the public, supplying the shops?
A	That is correct.
Q	So it was a different, it was a retail
A	Yeah, but ours was a retail
Q	But you wouldn't have been selling that much out of the front?
A	No.
Q	They had a shop front?

A	They had a shop front; they had the space in the South City Market
Q	And would they have supplied to the Shelbourne maybe?
A	Well they would have supplied to a lot of places around. [REDACTED] was the biggest fish business in Dublin and we were side by side and my father used to say “the best business you will ever have is to have the same business side by side” because it generates business and the funny thing about it that’s what [REDACTED] later said, if I wanted a shop beside me I want a grocer shop because business brings business. how the other two businesses were vegetables and flowers and one was Dalys and the other was I can’t think of them off the top of my head, but those two businesses were something similar to ours because they did all hospitals, institutions and hotels and restaurants. A certain amount of business generated the front.
Q	And was it mostly done over the phone the business?
A	Oh yes it was orders.
Q	There wouldn’t be agents coming in or anything?
A	Oh not at all, it was all done by orders yes of course and the likes of – we will take the like of Jammets for an example – the headman, buyer in Jammets, Besson would come up to the shop and he would walk round and he would take that and that and that and the same thing would happen.
Q	With very specialised restaurants they would come up and they would look at what you had and they would choose the best. And you would provide lobsters, scallops etc?
A	Lobsters, scallops.
Q	Crab?
A	Everything.
Q	And did smoke salmon?
A	Smoked salmon no. You see in those days you had a very different business than what you have today. Everything had a limit. Salmon finished – it opened in January and finished. Game started in August and finished so you literally had seasons for everything, which I think, is one of tragedies of today where everything is farmed and

	everything. Everything was fresh.
Q	And you were saying that at a certain point there were blocks of ice used to come in the morning?
A	In the back – when I was very young at this stage now you would have had baths and you would have them full of ice.
Q	And the fish would be kept in that would it?
A	Yes it would come in and at that stage everything was sold.
Q	And who collected the fish, there were people who worked for you and collected the fish in Howth?
A	No, we had a buyer and my father and in the mornings at five o’ clock my father would go to the market, there was the fish market which was a very big market.
Q	That was in Smithfield was it?
A	Yes Smithfield down off Capel Street and Cartons and game and poultry businesses they were down there. They would go down in the morning and they would buy everything and then you had the van and they would fill them up and that would be brought up. Now at those early stages and I’m talking back in the forties.
Q	The block of ice I was interested in, so you would buy ice, where did that come from?
A	There was a big place – a fridge place that made ice and that came in big massive blocks and they would be put into these big baths.
Q	And then they would be broken down is it?
A	Yes broken down and the fish would be put on that. Now that was before we got proper refrigerators.
Q	When was that?
A	I would imagine that would have been in 40/50’s because we had the big walk in fridges from that on you had a fish fridge and a poultry fridge, big walk in fridges. But before that this place that made the ice – when salmon would come in – we’ll say they might buy a couple of hundred salmon well they would be boxed –iced and they would be brought off to somewhere up in Cork Street, there was a big, big refrigeration place up there that made the ice,

	they also had deep fridges so you would have a stock of fish packed away for you in these places.
Q	Frozen, so they would freeze them for you, oh, I didn't know they did that?
A	Well when you were using ice you only keep it for a very short period. You had the time when you had scarcities so you had a certain amount frozen; they had a big area where they stored your stuff for you.
Q	What do you think the business status was – was it a limited company, partnership or a sole trader?
A	Where?
Q	The business?
A	I know that when we got to a certain.
Q	████████ and Company was it?
A	Well I know at some stage we became a limited company.
Q	Would it have been a sole trader before that?
A	A limited company ██████████ South City Markets Limited.
Q	And her role was – What was her role?
A	She would have been – my father and mother would have been the managing directors of it.
Q	Was there anybody else on the board or?
A	I would have had a share in it and ██████████ and ██████████ would have had shares in it.
Q	Nobody else?
A	No it was purely family.
Q	How many employees do you think there were? It's complicated isn't it. I mean were the van drivers employed by you?
A	You would have had a buyer; you had to serve four years apprenticeship to train as a fish and poulterer.
Q	And you would have had trainees there all the time?
A	Oh yeah, you would have had four qualified and you would have had two trainees.
Q	Six out the back, and that would have been filleting and cutting?

A	Filleting, cutting.
Q	And then there was somebody in the office was there?
A	Oh yes a secretary.
Q	Just one?
A	Well she had a private secretary.
Q	And was there a front of house person then?
A	Oh yes, they had people on the front yes.
Q	So that's six out the back, plus the buyer was there van drivers.
A	Oh yes, when it started up we had bicycles with baskets, we would have had boys, you would have had maybe four of those or so, and they would have delivered around the town.
Q	But you would have had to have a van to go to the station. When you bought fish in the morning did it go straight to the station to go down the country when your father bought it or did it go to the shop?
A	Oh it went to the shop, sure it had to be prepared and put in these mat bags.
Q	Always?
A	Always. There was a van all right but then you also had these boys with baskets on their bicycles.
Q	So where other family members involved in the business and if so in what capacity.
A	Well my brother was involved and I suppose like a lot of mothers they didn't think that they should be working so he did as little as possible.
Q	It sounds like [REDACTED] next door?
A	[REDACTED] next door had a similar situation, their son had a fast car.
Q	And a set of golf clubs in the back.
A	Yes and so had [REDACTED].
Q	And did your sister work in the business?
A	My sister [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] business went bang, he never had a business; they set up a business in Donnybrook on the corner. [REDACTED] was a great businesswoman, but it wasn't the same type of

	business, she did everything.
Q	Did you work?
A	Yes I did a certain amount.
Q	What did you do?
A	Well I did the office, when [REDACTED] would go out to rugby or golf; I would step in for him.
Q	And what would that be, answering the phone?
A	Answering the phone, taking orders and taking messages and help in the shop itself, a lot of my work was that my mother never drove a car and that I was responsible for getting her from a to b and from b to c.
Q	And would granddad drive her on a Monday out to Howth?
A	Oh yes but I would go out to Howth with them sometimes. A funny part of the story, it really is not relevant to this at all, but when Mrs. [REDACTED] died, her housekeeper who was of the same religion, my mother immediately took her in and she became our housekeeper for the rest of her days that was Mrs [REDACTED].
Q	She was [REDACTED] as well?
A	My father christened her Gem, because she was the gem of our house and that is where she came from.
Q	And she would have been with you all your life?
A	She was with us then from Mrs [REDACTED]
Q	What age were you?
A	I suppose I would have been about twelve or thirteen when she came to us. And she was with us then for the rest of our life.
Q	And at that point then was the business written over to granny in the will?
A	Mrs [REDACTED] lived for a long time.
Q	She had already written it all over to granny. Your mother didn't inherit her house or anything?
A	No, no, she had a nephew and the house was left to the nephew.
Q	But the business was handed over to your mother?
A	The business was handed over to my mother, and as I said Mrs

	came to us, I don't know when she died, you remember her?
Q	Not really. Was the business commercially successful? If so what kind of evidence do you have that indicates this? Your mother would have had a lot of property?
A	Yes.
Q	And she bought your house? I mean that is evidence that she bought your house, your brother's house?
A	She had the whole of one side of Smithfield, she had two shops on Dorset Street, she had two houses on Botanic Road, and she had a house up in York Street and got rid of that. A solicitor advised her to buy it. It was you know flats – very difficult but she had that. She had another place over the Southside, she bought house.
Q	She bought your house, did she buy s house?
A	Yes.
Q	So she bought three houses outright for all of you?
A	Yes
Q	And she assisted in the education of most of the grandchildren?
A	She did do. A very, very successful business, that I can never understand how let it go but anyway.
Q	And she lived a good lifestyle and she travelled?
A	Do you know that she travelled – she didn't travel in my time, when I say she didn't travel she travelled in my time but she didn't travel as much. She went to Switzerland and France.
Q	She was quite a religious woman wasn't she?
A	She was, she went to Lourdes. That is a story to be told.
Q	Ok, any information on whether there were other female business owners or managers in her location and did she have much to do with them?
A	She didn't have much to do with this person but she would have been one of the people that I would have put her out as, one of our very, very, highly respected couturiers in Dublin, Marjorie Boland.
Q	And she would have known. Was Mrs Allwright an entrepreneur?
A	Allwright and Marshalls were their close friends and they were a

	very big silversmiths in Dublin.
Q	But Mrs Allwright was involved in that?
A	Oh yes, Mr. and Mrs Allwright,
Q	They ran it together?
A	They ran Allwright and Marshalls and they made silver for all the cups.
Q	And they would have been in the vicinity of Smithfield City Market?
A	They were on the back of the our shop.
Q	The Market Bar?
A	Marshalls are still there, the name is over it.
Q	And would she have known other women who were business women or?
A	Well I tell you whom she was very friendly with in latter days.
Q	Who?
A	Mrs ██████████
Q	She's ██████████ is she?
A	██████████ yeah, she used to come in regularly.
Q	And they moved ██████████ in next door didn't they?
A	██████████ were in Georges Street, their first big place was in Georges Street and they used to come in and she became very friendly with my mother. She was also very friendly with Dockrells, the Cassidys, Pimms
Q	Now were they women who ran businesses?
A	No, Dockrells that was a man, Cassidys was a man, but there was another shop in O'Connell Street, Madame Nora's now that was run by a woman and that was a very successful business.
Q	What was it?
A	Madame Nora's
Q	Was it fashion?
A	Fashion business in O'Connell Street, now they would be related to the Cassidys of Georges Street. There was also a jeweller there that were very successful, my mother knew very well, my mother used

	to get all her stuff there. The name won't come to me but I know it very well, I used to go in there.
Q	She would have had her clothes made by couturiers or tailors?
A	A lady made all her clothes and it was a lady called Mrs Caulfield, she was trained in Bond Street and she came back and she had an unfortunate life in the sense that her husband wasn't very good but she ran a wonderful business.
Q	And where was she based?
A	She based herself afterwards in Dawson Street, she had a house in Belfield Road but she used to dress all the Ministers' wives, and a lot of people, she was a superb dressmaker.
Q	And would granny have gone to the races a lot?
A	Oh yeah.
Q	And that would have been for business, like meeting people and that?
A	Well yes, but she liked to go racing, she was very outgoing and one of the things she did and she passed it on to us, she was a very charitable person and she ran many things during her life, she used to do the dinners in Cork Street – Christmas dinners for the people around Cork Street. They gave a Christmas dinner every year. She also – The St. Vincent's orphanage as it was at the time, the Concert Hall, and they set up a carnival and she put a stall in it and made an awful lot of money and paid off the Concert Hall.
Q	And where was the carnival?
A	The carnival was run in the grounds of the school.
Q	And what were they selling in the carnival?
A	She had a stall with clothes and all kinds of things, she was getting the clothes and selling them and making money for the Concert Hall.
Q	And where did she get the clothes? Secondhand or new?
A	New clothes, she had an entrée into a wholesale business in Dublin and she bought all the clothes there and brought them up and sold them at a certain profit.

Q	She made all the money for the Concert Hall?
A	Well made a lot of money and then she ran concerts, very prodigious concerts, she would have part of the..
Q	In the St. Vincent's Concert Hall?
A	In the Concert Hall.
Q	Where was it?
A	You know the St. Vincent's School up the Finglas Road, as you are going down the Finglas Road there is a school in there, that Concert Hall, she ran concerts and she had Radio Eireann, and all these people used to come.
Q	Was she involved in more than one business?
A	No.
Q	She wasn't on board with other businesses? Did she associate with other business people in the area?
A	Yes she would have associated with all the people in the area.
Q	Was she in a chamber of commerce, or any type of association?
A	No, not in those days.
Q	Was she a member of any association?
A	No there wasn't associations in those days. She would have been very involved in charities; I could name another few charities that she was very heavily involved in setting up things. Now the one thing about that St. Vincent's orphanage thing was they sent for her after they did up the thing and they wanted to give her something, a kind of thank you for all she had done for them and she said yes, she said I want you to do something for me, she said over the years of that school you have St. Vincent's Orphanage, I want you to take that down and put up St. Vincent's School, those children living her don't need to be coming out of orphanages, they are travelling to everything and they are schools they should never have been called orphanages.
Q	Ok how did she promote the business?
A	I would say..
Q	Did she have ads in magazines and things? In the newspapers?

A	She always had an ad in the <i>Capuchin Annual</i> which was a very prodigious annual every year and she always had an ad in that. She advertised.
Q	In the newspapers?
A	I think maybe in the evening mail sometimes. It wasn't a thing that you really did an awful lot in those days, it was word and mouth, you sold good quality stuff and you sold it on that. Advertising was not a big thing in those days.
Q	How long did the business run? It would have been Victorian wouldn't it in the South City Markets, would the business have preceded the market or it came with the South City Market?
A	I would say the South City Market.
Q	Was late 19th Century was it or?
A	I would say yes but I would say the South City Markets was an English company and all the businesses there were rented, nobody owned them.
Q	How long do you think the business would have been there before granny was there? You've no idea?
A	I would say 18 something. The business was running way before that..
Q	And did she run it for the length of her life?
A	Most of her life.
Q	What age did she retire at about? She handed it over to her son in law and he took over the business and he kept the name [REDACTED]?
A	Yes of course.
Q	And things would have been changing at that time as well. Things would have been changing into much more like frozen. People would have been buying a lot of frozen stock from abroad?
A	And an awful lot of thing were changing in that chickens were coming – you see at Christmas time my mother would go to the market on one day, the Cartons were friends, she knew them very well and she was very highly respected and a very good eye for turkeys, and she would go on just one day and she would sit down

	and she would buy maybe about one hundred to a thousand turkeys.
Q	She chose to buy them?
A	She was expected to turn up for this. In those days what they did was, they had a table and the farmer would come in and the table would be covered with turkeys and the buyers would be around in a circle and she would be up here in her special seat and she would just look down and she'd say, you can take that and that and that off and then the sale would start. She had that good an eye, and then that lot would be sold and then the next lot would be brought in and it would go on for maybe two hours or so.
Q	And she was buying for herself?
A	Oh yeah. They would buy thousands of turkeys at Christmas.
Q	She left at about 75 was it when she finished up?
A	70.
Q	How did the business close? It passed onto J
A	It passed onto J
Q	And that would have been in the 70's and it probably closed in about the 1980's. And the whole market was dying and it shifted altogether and it was happening to those market places, like it happened in London to Covent Garden, this whole change of ethos where these market places died off and they had become regenerated.
A	A market place was totally different, in my mother's day there were four businesses and were if you like, complementary to one another.
Q	They took up the whole space. And it was full of flowers wasn't it?
A	Yes, and fruit and vegetables, fruit and vegetables was the two opposite ■■■■■ was one and I can't remember the name of the other.
Q	Well here we get to it now, any interesting stories or anecdotes associated with the business and how did she operate. Did they have any nicknames for her or anything?
A	No, they didn't have any nicknames for her.
Q	Did she always wear a hat?

A	For a long time she always had her hair up in a bun.
Q	She had very long hair didn't she?
A	She had very long hair down to her waist and she wore it in a bun.
Q	It was a kind of a plait wrapped around her head.
A	<p>Wrapped around and then she had it in a bun because I think she was suffering from headaches and the doctor thought the very long hair was causing her the problem, so it was shorter, but she wore it in a bun for a long time. I would say that a lot of her – she a wonderful personality, now it may not have come over to you children but she had a wonderful way with people, she had a phenomenal memory. She never had to write anything down, she had her secretary, Mrs Donnelly, but she had a phenomenal memory, she could remember orders and things, quite extraordinary. She knew all the convents, she knew their feast days, and their this days, and their that days, and their other days, and at Christmas she would always remember all these nuns, even though it was a big business, it was a very personal run business, she had a great personality, she had a great way with people. I think a big portion of her business was her – she kind of had if you like a motherly.</p>
Q	She was always very elegant wasn't she? She wore tailored clothes and mostly navy.
A	And she always wore beautiful furs.
Q	Did she wear those to work?
A	Oh no.
Q	She would have been rarely at the fish shop itself would she?
A	She would have been in the office.
Q	Would she have gone and visited the businesses?
A	<p>Oh yes and she would have visited the convents, and the nuns she was very friendly with, and some of them used to come visit her to the house, but even the Christian Brothers all those institutions – we supplied the whole lot of them. I would say that was a big portion of her thing, her personality, her very outgoing way and phenomenal</p>

	memory, I don't think I ever saw her writing anything down in my life.
Q	I remember talking to dad about uncle [REDACTED] and he was a big business man, Dad said he used to caddy for him, and an awful lot of business was done on the golf course and I was wondering what for granny might have been that place where she did business that was social, do you know was there anywhere like that? Do you know like the business wasn't so much done in the shop as going around but meeting at certain social occasions you would have met people? Would she go to the music a lot?
A	Music she loved. I remember from my early days.
Q	You would go to the Theatre Royal?
A	We would go to the Gaiety or to Olympia, My mother was made keen on music all of her life, she had a beautiful voice.

Annie Brophy, photographer, Waterford born in 1899. At the age of approximately 16 was apprenticed to a photographer-. Set up her own studio in 1922. Ran her business there for over 50 years, closing it down in the early 1970s. She built up a substantial business as a portrait photographer, but also did weddings and commercial work. Single, no children. Interviewed nieces on 24/1/2013.

Jossie Brophy – confectioner, Waterford. Born in 1903, Jossie was a sister of Annie’s and she also ran a business in the town – she operated a confectionary business in partnership with another woman. It was a business of great longevity and operated for most of Jossie’s life. She was a confectioner and baker and the business was called the Regal Cake shop. Jossie remained single and operated the business until she was in her eighties. Interviewed nieces on 24/1/2014

Annie O Brien, B and B owner Waterford, born c 1910. Set up one of the first Bed and Breakfast Guest houses in Tramore in the 1940s. Ran the business until the late 1980s. The B and B could accommodate up to 14 people, depending on the set up. Had a family of four. Interviewed her daughters on 24/1/2013.

Note: there are two respondents at times on this transcript

Q	What was her own background, I mean her family background?
A	Well her family, her father was an RIC Officer and whilst an awful lot of people would tell you Annie was born in Waterford, in fact looking at the census in 1911, it would tell me that she wasn’t, because originally he was based in Cork, and my own father was born in Cobh and he would have been a bit older than Annie - she came I think, third in line, there was Tom, no there was Tom, May, Joe my father and Annie, so she came fourth in the family, and then after her there came Jossie and the youngest was Billy, no Tom, sorry did I say Tom, May, my father Andrew Joseph, Annie yes she was fourth that’s right and the other 3 came after her and Billy was the youngest

Q	So there was seven of them in total?
A	<p>So looking at the census of 1911, a copy of which is there you can have a look at it afterwards, it would appear that Annie was then fourteen years of age, and they lived at that time – he was stationed in Kilmacthomas in Co. Waterford, so he was obviously transferred from Cobh to Kilmacthomas. It also stated that she was born in Johnstown in Waterford, but she couldn't have been because he would have been transferred straight to Kilmacthomas and in 1911 Annie was fourteen, so she certainly wasn't born in Waterford. Unless she was born in Kilmacthomas and she was now fourteen and he was transferred earlier. But so that is as far back as I can go, but I am pretty sure she wasn't born in Waterford, she was born in Cobh or Kilmacthomas, one or the other.</p>
Q	And she would have gone to school where?
A	<p>She went to school obviously on a train that used to run between Kilmeaden and Waterford in those days and they used to get a train in and out to secondary school, I mean the Mercy convent which is where she, and my own father used to use that train going in and out to De LaSalle which is where they went, so that was the mode of transport from Kilmacthomas to Waterford, so I'm sure she went on the train, I wouldn't be certain, but there was no other way, so that had to be the mode of transport. Now that railway is now gone. I think they tried to reinstate in there some years ago but it doesn't run all the way, it just runs part of the way. So that would have appeared to be the way of getting in and out. Another very interesting fact is again historians would say that oh 'how did she get into photography'? Oh well one day this Mr. Hughes who was a photographer operating in Waterford at the time, who was an English man who apparently came here because of the World War happening in 1916 onward, 1914, he came here and had been operating in Waterford for a few years and he was looking</p>

	<p>for an apprentice, this would have been somewhere around 1918, I would have thought, sometime like that, '17, '18 something like that, before the end of the first World War so it might have been 1916, something like that, and she was reputed to have been sixteen at the time and he went to the Mercy Convent in Waterford and asked them what was there, was there anybody who might be interested in art and so on, and they recommended Annie because she was very artistically inclined and very good at art and so forth and she then was apprenticed to this Mr. Hughes. Now that's one angle on it – I have my own angle on it because if you look at the census again of 1911 which is in there, am, a house in Kilmacthomas with whom the Brophy family were very friendly was the house of [REDACTED] [REDACTED], now they were farmers, and they also had a pub and they had, they were undertakers and they would have been neighbours, now Kilmacthomas in those days was a very small place, so they would have been very friendly. Equally they were on the opposite sides of the fence. You have the RIC man there and you have rank IRA people living opposite, but they were personally great friends. So I was looking at the census there for the [REDACTED] 1911 and I saw where Mrs. [REDACTED] ran a guest house, okay and who was a lodger in the guest house? Mr. Thomas Hughes, photographer.</p>
Q	So she knew him, the likelihood is?
A	<p>Of course they did, there was something like that there, I would have no evidence of that but adding two and two together and knowing that they were so friendly with each other and that Mr. Hughes was a lodger in this house and obviously went in and out to Waterford to do his business, but they were friendly with the Brophys who were only maybe across the road or whatever so Annie would have been living there at the time and going in and out to the Mercy Convent so I don't think that it was like that, I think there was a connection there somewhere.</p>

Q – sister	It might have been as a courtesy he went to the convent.
A	Possibly, but there is a reason for it, he didn't go off willy nilly, I think he knew what he was at. So she then was apprenticed to this Mr. Hughes and she obviously stayed there until '22, this was 1916, so six years later he obviously moved out –now who was in business in the town at the time were people called Pooles, I think they had been there for some time, so I suppose she must have talked it out with her parents and maybe Hughes said look before he went, something went on between the parents and her now ex- employer and herself and knowing the Brophy family as I know them, as Mary Rose would know, she would have done exactly what her parents told her, I am pretty sure of that and it was in the middle of the Civil War 1922 so I doubt if she would have decided I will clear off and do my own thing blah de blah de blah, I am sure it wasn't like that, I'm sure it was that she was guided into that and advised that this was the thing to do and I would imagine it was coming from her parents together with a consultation with this Mr. Hughes, and he was gone then and she set up on her own. Now she set up on her own in the house – which, in the then family house which was now in Waterford city.
Q	So it was in the family home?
A	Yeah, so between 1916 and 1922 they had moved into Waterford, now this is why I'm sure that she wasn't born in Waterford City because they say Johnstown in the thing, now she maybe, she might have opened up some kind of reception area, I don't know where this Johnstown came from.
A - sister	Talking about the family home in Barker Street did you see that thing, do you remember the day that they had one of her exhibitions in Waterford and a local photographer gave a speech on her and he had researched her pretty well. And I can remember he said in there that she was the one that took out the

	lease on that house, which wouldn't appear for it to have been the family home.
A	No it wasn't the family home and she wasn't born there.
A - sister	No but what your saying is that when she set up the business it wasn't the family home either.
A -sister	She took out a lease on it.
A	Unless that when he was transferred, the father, presuming the other angle on it would be that between 1916 and 1922 the father was transferred into Waterford and didn't have their own house and was transferred into an RIC house if you like, now that's the only.
A - sister	They might have joined her in Barker Street when she started up?
Q	She was in Barker Street is it?
A	She opened up her own business in Barker Street in '22, now that was in now the family home but there is a mystery about the years between 1916 and 1922 as to where they lived, sorry between 1911 and 1922 as to where they actually lived after 1911.
A - sister	I'm trying to find that thing that that chap had done because I had a copy of it at home, the speech he made but I couldn't find it, I thought I had kept it. But he must have been on the property registration office.
Q	The valuation office this would probably give you that.
A -	Yeah saying that she took out the lease on that house.
Q	And what number was on that, what street number was on that do you know?
A	In Johnstown?
Q	No, Barker Street

A	In Barker Street that was number nine. You 'll have to back there to find out and I haven't done that.
A - sister	I looked for it the other night when I knew you were coming but I couldn't darn-well find it.
Q	Well I'll be in the Land Valuation Office at some stage and I'll check there - it might be worth and I'll let you know if I find it.
A	I'm a bit of a destroyer, now I am not like Carmel, I look at things from time to time and I think and I may have kept it for a year you know, and I think what have I got that for so out it goes so I would say that I probably did that with that.
A	Well that's the one thing that I would have a thing about, with other historians who have written about where she was born, and I could bet on it that she was not born in Waterford, but possibly in Kilmacthomas depending on how long they lived there, but not in Johnstown as people were saying, born in Johnstown, she wasn't absolutely not, couldn't have been.
Q	How far is out Kilmacthomas?
A	Well Killmac is about five or six miles out, more.
Q	Which is a good bit in the day.
A	Yeah, something like that, and that is where he was stationed you see, when he was transferred from Cork. Well now after 1916 he must have been, he was transferred into Waterford because he was a sergeant in Waterford City, but I don't know what year he was transferred into Waterford, but it was post 1911, because that is on the census and I will give you a copy of that if you wanted to have a look at it.
Q	So she started up in Baker, Barker Street? And you feel very much with the sanction of the family and the advice of the parents?

A	<p>Oh I do, absolutely, I would certainly say she did everything her parents told her, that she was guided, absolutely, by parents, even at that age she was now twenty two herself and by her tutor or mentor yeah, who was this Mr. Hughes who was now finished in business, but he had probably, obviously decided that she was good enough to have a bash at it on her own and that was what happened. But then the business, I don't obviously have any recollections personally of her early life except what I am told, but I do know that she started operating in number 9 Barker Street and I don't know how she came by her equipment but it because they would have been a relatively well-off family, that's how they would have been deemed by all in sundry if you like, I'd say they would have the wherewithal to set her up with her equipment. Em, Now I can't remember when she actually built the studio, whether the studio was built in the early days or the later days. But my memory of it as a child of about, seven, six, seven years of age which we are now talking about thirty, forty one, forty two around that era there was an existing studio to my memory going in and out to Barker Street which was, if you like (<i>sister, a conservatory built on the back of the house</i>) an extension built on the back of the house, with an awful lot of glass all around, I can't remember what sort, was the roof built of glass I can't remember, (<i>sister – oh there was a lot of glass in it, Peter would be able to tell you that</i>)</p> <p>It was all, it was almost all glass and it was, but you had to go out the back door to go into the studio, you see that's how simple things were and between the studio and the back door (<i>Sister- was the kitchen</i>)</p> <p>Oh no, well the kitchen, I'll come to the kitchen in a minute – going out to the extension there was the studio here and you went out the back door of the kitchen to get to the studio into the left, but attaching the kitchen there was a walkthrough into a</p>
---	---

	<p>small little area and it was the darkroom, it was like a little pantry that had been converted into a darkroom, and that's where Billy did all his work in there, he was the one who did all the developing, the tough, the tough work, the developing and washing of the negatives and eh, but I can see them now hanging up drying with pegs and then they were washed when they were developed, when they were printed, the prints then had to be washed and they were washed in two sinks of cold water where there was another little poky place that was built on with two sinks in it, especially for washing prints and I often stood there and washed them in the freezing cold for what deemed, to be me, deemed to, I deemed to be hours and hours and hours in and out of freezing cold water.</p>
Q	<p>So Billy became involved with the business? Did he go into that immediately?</p>
A	<p>I think he did yes, cos he was the youngest, and he didn't really have I suppose, well he did actually have some kind of a job, I think it was, whether it, that happened during his, when he started working with her or before he started working with her I don't know, he would have only been about what? he was the youngest, he wouldn't have been, he was, he was seventy eight when he died, I think and that was in 19, 1978, I can't remember but he was a good bit younger, he was six or seven years younger than her or thereabouts and ah, she was obviously going under her own steam until he became capable of doing a job of work, but in the mean time you know in those days the RIC – if you have, a bit like, a bit like our own set up today the Public Service if you have an aunt or uncle in there you know, that's where you go and you had connections, and because the father was in, he obviously had connections, because they all kind of had other kinda jobs, Billy was an inspector for cruelty to children at one time,</p> <p><i>Sister – people who know a lot about it</i></p>

	<p>That's what I mean, yeah, no sorry, sorry, cruelty to animals <i>Sister – Oh animals, so that I was thinking about that, he was into his dogs,</i> and he seemed to be that forever, from the beginning, along with doing this.</p>
Q	So he ran the two in tandem?
A	It looked like it, in later years it didn't seem there anymore, but it seemed in the earlier years he had this, but nobody ever said too much about it like or how he got it but I'm pretty sure how he got it, because his fathers' connections. They all did in those days, got things like that.
Q	And did she employ anybody else?
A	No, she was a one woman show except for Billy who was very much in the background. And she did all the, what do you call it, professional work, what they called sitters in those days, the sitters arrived and the only help she had during the day time in the house would have been the lady who helped who was then called the maid, in those days and that was a lady named Bridie Colbert that I remember from childhood, very early days, she was there all her life all most, and she was always attired in a white coat with a white working apron over it and when the door would ring for sitters the apron came off and she answered the door in the white coat, and then when the sitter arrived and she would go back into the kitchen the apron would go on again but it was white.
Q	So there was a uniform and a professional image.
A	Oh yeah, the apron would have to come off and the coat would be there under it and she would answer the door and she'd leave in the sitter and that would be in the small drawing room on the right hand side that when you came in the hall door the drawing room was there – the sitting room, a small sitting room and that is where they sat, in what we'd now call a waiting room if you were in a doctors, and there they sat until such a time as to the

person they were going to was finished, they never saw the person before them going out, and she never had any more than one person waiting, this is kind of the way it was worked out, you didn't leave too many people waiting at the same time.

Sister – that's what would happen if you go to the dentist in Harley Street. Exactly, she was ahead of her time

Sister – I've been there so I know

And in later years, now this is very, this is your real social gem, in later years she had this little sitting room, which was now they had great taste these Brophys, they were very, very Victorian and they liked nice things and they lived very well and my memory of their dining room, may I say, when you go in there to be, for a visit, you'd get your lunch or dinner, which was always cooked by Annie. She did all the cooking the others went out to work. Now first of all, actually I am going ahead of myself here. Tom was the eldest who was now married, I am now talking about 1943 or 43, Michael was the next who was now married, Annie was the next, no sorry May was the next, Annie was the next, Jossie was, my father was the next, sorry I beg your pardon, my father, I keep leaving my father out, after my father came Annie, my father was married, so Tom, Michael and my father were married and gone, but they weren't and I will come to that in a minute. Then you had em May who went out to work, Michael was next and then you had Jossie, Joss was the boss and finally we had Billy. So in the home at this time in the late, middle early forties were Annie, her mother, Granny Brophy, you had May, Jossie and Annie, that's five who lived in the house, Mother, Annie, May, Jossie and Billy all living in the same house none of them married except the mother of course, but the others never married ever, ever, that was it, the three married people were gone at that stage, but as I say they weren't really gone why? Because they came home for lunch including my father.

Q	And she cooked every day?
A	Yeah everyday with the help of Bridie and between the two of them they managed the photography and the house like that over the years that I remember and....
Q	So the business ran from the house but it was still operating as a family home?
A	Oh yeah and right up to the time that she retired from business, that was 'til they all retired, May was the first to retire, Jossie was still working when Annie died, Jossie had her own confectionary business, and she ran that all her life and was working into her eighties.
Q	And where did she run that from?
A	She ran it from her own shop which was in the Glen in Waterford and it was called the Regal Cake shop, <i>Sister – ‘cos it was next door to the Regal cinema</i> next door to the Regal cinema in Waterford which is now known as the Forum. <i>Sister – fabulous cakes by the way</i> And she was a superb confectionerist, is that what you call it, what's the word, there isn't any and she had wonderful stuff there. And she ran that business, Annie ran her business, but because Annie was in the home, she was the obvious choice to do the cooking.
A - sister	Isn't there a story, I don't know, whether it's true or not when she was asked to go and cover one of the big, one of the royal wedding or something, and it would mean, for one of the magazines, <i>Vogue</i> or so some magazine like that, that was about at that time..
A	<i>Horse and Hound, Horse and Hound</i> I think that's what it was
A	And because it would involve being away for two days or three, 'she said she couldn't possibly 'who would get Billy's dinner'.
A	Yeah but that was after an awful lot of representations from the magazine, they had written to her several times but she had

	<p>written back thank you very much but no thank you. And then somebody came down personally to interview her to ask her would she please you know, because she was the leading photographer at that time, when you think about it, it was the Royal Wedding,'47 and she said 'look it's very kind, and thank you very much and I'm very honored, blah de blah de blah but I couldn't leave the house' she said for three days, 'cause they were going to pay all her expenses and do this and that and the other thing, 'I couldn't do that' she says, 'there'd be nobody here to get Billy's dinner'. That was the attitude - it was a way of living, she didn't see herself as this wonderful icon or career diva or anything like that, she never saw herself like that.</p>
Q	It was just what she did.
A	It was what she did and it was the way of life at that time, it was the parental, the up-bringing and the strict code of discipline, that was infused into the entire family by the way, because we all kinda had the, my father kinda was very Victorian too.
A - sister	Well, I think it was a bit of a matriarchal family Carmel in some-ways. And she was the Matriarch really.
A	She was but..
A - sister	You can say what you like but she was the matriarch of the house.
A	<p>Another reflection I have is, my grandmother died in 1947 so now they had just the family yeah, the four of them and some years later, and I can't remember the year, but it might have been the early fifties, or the very late forties this aunt arrived from Cork, Aunt Maggie, she would have been a sister of my grandmother and she was the dotiest little thing and I can see her sitting there now with the black</p> <p><i>Sister – still wearing the Victorian clothes</i></p> <p>with the black satin blouse</p> <p><i>Sister - with the cream ruffle at her neck</i></p> <p>And a spider on her throat here and a long black dress with a</p>

	<p>kinda of silk apron or something over it, but she was this, a dotey, the grandmother before her wasn't that dotey and I'll tell you about her in a minute, but Aunt Maggie was ah, one of these sweet little people, now I cannot remember was she married but I don't think so, I think she was Miss Walsh, but she'd be sitting there and when we'd come in, my brother and I to visit in the afternoon, Annie would say, now this is a fact, Annie would be in and out with the sitters, and in and out, we'd be sitting in the, here was the sitters sitting room, and here was the dinning living room, you'd be put into the living room when you arrived - sit down and be good, be quiet and Aunt Maggie would be sitting there by the fireside and at some stage in the afternoon Annie would come in and she'd say "Aunt Maggie, go up-stairs and say your rosary" and Aunt Maggie would get upstairs "Yes Annie". Now that was the kind of household. 'Aunt Maggie go up-stairs and say your rosary' and it would all be taken very normally. And I used to say, and I was only a child at the time, gosh she is awfully good, you know, Yes Annie and off she goes</p> <p><i>Sister – as you said, she was the boss in the end, the boss of the house</i></p> <p>She was, she was</p>
Q	And how long, she operated there for what, fifty odd years was it?
A	'22 to well they said, according to what you are reading there, it was 1970 in anything there but she operated way into the seventies and into the eighties, yes, 'cos I have photographs of my own brother's children who would have been taken when they were– my, sixty two Niamh was born, wasn't she...
A sister	Yeah, No sixty three, she was born on the day Kennedy was assassinated and that was '63.
A	Well I have a photograph which if you have time I will show you later on, I have some photographs at home in my own house

	of Niamh when I'd say she must have been about twenty four or five.
Q	Which was well into the eighties.
A	And Niamh certainly was way into her twenties at the time. So she was taking photographs way up into the seventies, late seventies and into the eighties as far as I'd concerned..
Q	And was she doing that commercially or was she doing that just as a?
A	I would say she certainly was doing a little bit commercially, but most of it I'd say was private, probably family stuff.
Q	And would you reckon she made a living, you know, as in she made money at this?
A	Yeah she made a good living, but the other thing was she lived well and she was a very generous of nature and she would have seen to it that all her family members were looked after. Now Jossie would have been very independent in her own right because she had her own business. May was the manager of one, a place called McKechnie's,they were a Cork company, Quakers also by the way, I understand.
Q	McKechnie , how do you spell that, that's unusual.
A	McKechnie, McKechnie.
A - sister	And it was also said that her, her charges very much reflected the people whose photographs she was taken.
Q	So she priced according to....
A- sister	Because she was very Waterford, she would have known every family in Waterford and everybody from the lowest to the highest went to her for every occasion and she knew who she was dealing with.
Q	So she priced accordingly, sensitively.
A	Yes she priced accordingly, and if she wasn't paid she never sent a bill, I know that.
Q	She never sent a bill?
A	No if she wasn't paid, if it was a poor person, if it was

	somebody that couldn't pay, there was no such thing as looking for money.
A - sister	But it certainly meant that the poor could get their portraits taken the same as the people that could well afford it.
A	That's right and the other thing and it is only a supposition on my part, but I'm pretty sure it happened, when she died her funeral was attended by the Lord Bishop of Waterford and I was trying to figure out in the name of God why would he have been at that funeral. Now I know she was very well known photographer in Waterford but an awful lot of well-known people's whose funerals the Bishop wouldn't be at, but I have come to the conclusion over the years she did an awful lot of work for St. John's College and I conclude that in fact she was doing an awful lot of that work for free. I'm pretty sure that was the way things were.
Q	That was part of her give back or.
A	I'd say so but you wouldn't know about it you could only guess at it. But that was her way and I have a pretty good feeling, I could never figure out what, why is the Bishop at her funeral, and I reckon that that's what it was, they, they felt they were obliged because of her generosity possibly to the college over the years. 'Cos I, So many photographs she did for John's College for the ordinations and all that sort of thing over the years, but I'm pretty sure that is what it is about, but again that is only guess on my part but I am pretty sure.
<i>Sister</i>	But going into Barker Street was a bit like going into a bit of a time warp..
A	Oh it was yes.
<i>Sister</i>	'cos everything was. I can remember going in there as a child, being invited into tea and although you'd like it, it was half terrifying because the table would always have linen and lace and beautiful bone china and here you are, seven or eight old, we were terrified that we were going to spill something or break

	something or crack something but that was how they lived, and no allowances made for children.
Q	And you were seen and not heard.
A	Funny you should say that. (showing photograph).. that's exactly what she is talking about..
Q	Oh isn't it beautiful.
A	Did you ever see that?
<i>sister</i>	I don't know.
A	Now, that was taken by Annie: that's May, this is Jossie who ran the confectionery shop, now this is very interesting, that lady May was a partner of Jossie's, they two worked together in the confectionary business, right, that's my eldest brother, that's a girl named [REDACTED] who was a next door neighbour's child, and do you see that little one there, she came from Galway and do you know who she is? [REDACTED].
Q	Oh very good.
Sister	Oh of course, they were very friendly weren't they?
A	[REDACTED] mother was Kathleen [REDACTED] and she married a [REDACTED] and they lived in Galway and [REDACTED] was born in Galway and the Brophys were very very close with [REDACTED] - they were friends and they used to go up and down to Galway to visit them and the child would be sent down to Barker Street for holidays. What is written on the back of that?
Q	Aunty May, Aunty Jossie, [REDACTED], Michael Brophy, [REDACTED] and May Walsh, [REDACTED] daughter. Ah very good.
A	Now because you are from Galway it might be you know interesting for you, but that's what Mary Rose is talking about.
Sister	I know that's posed for a photograph, but that was exactly how the dining table was, silver, silver sugar bowls, silver milk jugs, So the family sat down every day to eat.
Q	Every day?

A	Oh, every-day.
Sister	That's what I'm saying, you were invited into tea.
Q	It wasn't just Sunday?
A	Oh, no, no and the very best of china and the silverware.
Sister	Every single day, it was absolutely.
Q	And Jossie had a partner in the business?
A	Yeah May Walsh.
Q	May Walsh, and was she a relation?
A	No, no, no they were just friends, but May died very early on and Jossie was on her own then, for the remainder of the time.
Q	Isn't it interesting that the two of them ended up in business for themselves, the two sisters.
<i>Sister</i>	That's right, Jossie must have been in business a good number of years as well.
A	Who Jossie, oh she was indeed, yeah, she was but she didn't have the fame that Annie had. Annie's fame was because it was on everybody's walls, and everybody was talking about it. ut Jossie was equally industrious, and equally business minded you know.
Q	And did she, what kind of training had she? Did she do.?
A	I think she was just very good at cooking, very good at baking and all that kind of stuff.
<i>Sister</i>	And there is a certain artistic element in that as well 'cos the stuff that she turned out was divine to look at. Visually very good, yeah, yeah.
Q	It was just a different manifestation of a creative talent?
<i>Sister</i>	Yes, exactly, exactly. But her stuff was stunning and it was quite unique, I have never, I have never tasted a vanilla slice like the like of which she made, well you know, well I suppose things in your childhood.
A	But they were thriving businesses you know.
<i>Sister</i>	Fabulous, just stunning wedding cakes and all that kinda of thing.

A	Just look at the dress there now, do you see the cardigans they were what they called Hyland Wear, the very best.
<i>Sister</i>	Oh, that's still everywhere.
A	..the very best and the blouses, both ladies are wearing Vyella blouses if you look at it, one is a check, that's Jossie and the other one was a little peter pan collar.
<i>Sister</i>	And that was the everyday table.
A	That was the everyday table and that was everyday dress and that was how Annie presented herself at weddings.
<i>Sister</i>	She was always beautifully dressed.
A	Yeah, I have one of her here, that is the only one of Annie I have actually.
Q	And did she have to do any advertising or marketing do you know?
A	Not at all, it was completely word of mouth. There is the only photograph that Annie has ever appeared in. Do you see, do you see her there. That's she now. I don't think she ever had a photo, nobody has a photograph of her.
<i>Sister</i>	Well, somebody did now Carmel, they snapped at her at a wedding, but not a posed photograph.
A	Oh no, that's in the later years you are talking about.
<i>Sister</i>	That's she there now.
A	Now I have one of her here of course, but it's ah.
Q	That's in the sixties is it?
<i>Sister</i>	God, that's heartbroke, that's me there and look at you,
Q	Oh, aren't you gorgeous?
<i>Sister</i>	And there's Jossie.
A	And there is me.
Q	Oh ye are beautiful, bless ye.
A	and that is Mary Rose and that's my late little brother Joseph who had Down Syndrome, there's Jossie there and Annie.
Q	You can see the resemblance.

A	My father's not, my father wasn't at it, no he wasn't at it.
<i>Sister</i>	And mother is not in there either.
A	No funny enough, I think it was just the two of us that were at it. I don't think they were at it.
<i>Sister</i>	That was [REDACTED] wedding.
A	There's [REDACTED], and he is the next generation, our cousins, [REDACTED] and their sister is there somewhere [REDACTED].
<i>Sister</i>	But our brother [REDACTED] is not there, I wonder if they photographed half of the group and then another half or something.
A	No I think only you and I were invited, [REDACTED] was in Dublin don't forget.
<i>Sister</i>	But I wonder why Mother wasn't at it?
A	I have no idea.
<i>Sister</i>	And there is Uncle Michael's wife, he is not in it but his wife is
A	Strange isn't it? What year would that have been?
Q	Well, looking at the dresses, it's in the sixties sometime is it?
A	T' would have been in the sixties yeah, t' would have been in the sixties, because look the skirts had gone up over the knees on the younger people. I am sure it was all viewed very.. <i>laughs</i>
<i>Sister</i>	So Billy took that.
A	Billy would have taken that, that's right.
Q	And did he take many of the photographs – or was he mainly the back man, in the technical?
<i>Sister</i>	he used to take a lot of the buildings didn't he Carmel?
A	Yeah, he did, he was a commercial photographer. Now have a look at the way she is stuck in there like that, why?
Q	Why?
A	Because she had already set up the camera and she just ran around and stuck herself in. Now do you see?
<i>Sister</i>	That's after she had told everybody to hold you head like that and put you foot like that. People used to go crackers at

	weddings.
A	That's right, after she had set the whole thing up she'd run around, sat in and Billy clicked, and that is how it worked.
<i>Sister</i>	It might have taken her twenty minutes to set that up and...
A	Every picture tells a story doesn't it?
<i>Sister</i>	Every man's tie would be straightened and every person's foot would be in the right position, people used to be weary from it.
A	Yeah she would wear you out trying to ..
<i>Sister</i>	I remember then, just as a story, I remember going into a photographers in Waterford, it would have been about six or seven years ago and I needed a photograph that he had taken for the golf club when I was captain and they wanted a copy of it at the golf club, don't ask me what they were doing and I went into [REDACTED] and I had bumped into him the night before at one of the exhibitions of her work and he said to me "just go into Geraldine "he said, ask her and tell her to put, and I will get it done for you", so I went in anyway and he had already told her that I was calling in and she said to me 'you are Annie Brophy's niece' and I said 'I am', and she said 'well she was some photographer' she said, and she said 'see that portrait up there', it was a gorgeous portrait of a little girl having made her first communion and she said to me 'that's my daughter' and I said 'ah she's lovely' and she said 'yeah' but she said 'her front teeth are missing and sure I said 'that happens with a lot of kids' and 'yeah' but she said 'my mother has a photograph of my brother' she said, 'when he made his first communion' and she said 'he had no front teeth but' she said 'Annie Brophy took the photograph and he has got his teeth in the photograph'
A	She would touch them in.
<i>Sister</i>	Yeah and she said that they can't do that these days. But she said 'my brother's teeth are in in his photograph and he had no teeth either'.
A	That's how you did it

Sister	So I think about it, well what a funny story, I always remember her telling me that.
A	Yeah I would absolutely agree with it because I spent a couple of years with her.
Q	You worked with her did you?
A	I did but I was very young, I was only school going at the time, about fourteen and I was two years there because like her I was good at art and they sort of said well we think, now don't forget it was a very Victorian background and here was a fourteen year old who like life, and playing tennis and doing all sorts of things but, eh I was two years there and I was, it wasn't, it wasn't a permanent thing, it was just something that I did every week on a Saturday when I wasn't at school, or if I had a music class on a Saturday in school I'd come down and spend the rest of the day there doing what one does when you are learn photography, i.e. washing prints which was unbelievably arduous and cold and sinks and blah, de blah de blah, but anyway and then I started to be, she started teaching me retouching which is what Mary Rose is talking about, and that's retouching the negative which is really the professional end of photography as it was then and you did that with the pencils, with lead pencils and so on, and I'd get, she would give me a negative to do and it was done on a desk like affair with a round circle in it where you, where it highlighted the negative and you penciled in all of the blemishes and delicately on a round sort of stroke like that with these pencils and I often got it back and she'd look at it and maybe after half an hour well yeah, yeah, she'd wipe it all off and do it again, and that went on absolutely every-time I, it was never right it was always do it again, do it again and I would get it back and back and back, but that wasn't difficult I would do it again, so I was doing very well and I knew how to do the printing and I knew how to do the washing of the prints and I knew how to re-touch which was all the basis of the

professionalism of photography and I, I was summoned to go in and stay with Aunt Jossie when Aunt Annie was gone to Galway to visit [REDACTED] and May, the two of them were gone up, they use to up for an annual week up there and Jossie was on her own, well Billy was obviously there as well, but Jossie was on her own and I was told that would I go in and stay with Aunt Jossie for the week, I was now about sixteen I think something like that, still at school, and of course I went into stay with Aunt Jossie. Now Tramore was seven miles from Waterford and we used to go in and out on the train in those days and I used to play tennis and I used to play it in the evening after school or whatever, and I was going in to go home to Barker Street and I had my tennis racquet with me having played tennis and I was going in to Barker Street to stay with Aunt Jossie and I had been in and out all the week and this was I believe on a Friday evening and I went in on the train anyway and on the train going there were a whole lot of lads who I used to know from the tennis club, one was a fellow called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and, we were only kids, he said 'I'll go up with you as far as the house' and I said 'fine', he lived down in the Mall and I said fine, and there was a place called the Stony Steps, that we used to call the Stony Steps, it had another name but of course, I can't remember what it was now, like Queen's Terrace or something, and it led from the lower part of the city right up to Barker Street and we were walking up there and we were stood at the top of the Stony Steps and Barker Street was just there around the corner and we were talking away on the top, swinging the racquets and talking and all the rest of it, and you wouldn't bring a boy to the door, you just didn't in those days it wasn't done, you would be afraid of your life, well now three maiden aunts wouldn't know anything about a sixteen year olds behaviour in those days, only what possibly they had conjured up in their own minds and the rest of it, so I was standing there

	<p>talking to [REDACTED], and this was about half nine at night, in the evening and this lady passed up past us and she said, 'night Carmel', or good evening Carmel,, 'hello, hello Mrs. [REDACTED] - the next door neighbour and I went in and I slept and I said good night to everyone, seeing, Jossie, Billy and whoever else that was there and I went to bed and I went home the next day, and on Monday, my father came home on a Monday evening and he was very cross,</p>
Q	You were hanging around (Laughter)?
A	<p>Annie had come back from her holiday 'cos this was the Monday and my mother said to me at some stage on Monday evening you're finished in Barker Street and I said what, and she said you're finished in Barker Street they don't want any more responsibility for you, and I said what did I do, and they still wouldn't tell me what it was I did, God, I didn't know what I had done. Anyway it evolved sometime later that I was seen talking to a boy at the top of the Stony Steps and Mrs. [REDACTED] out of the goodness of her heart went and told Aunt Jossie, 'cause she was concerned about my welfare and what she didn't know was the lad I was talking to was a relative of her own. That was the funny bit, sure I never even thought of that at the time. So none of them would have the responsibility for me at all.</p>
Q	So was that the end of your career at photography?
A	That was the end of my career at photography.
Q	Wow.
A	But that's how they were.
Q	Black was black.
A	Right, and you see they wouldn't have had any experience, apart from that, so there you go, that's that story but getting back to more.
Q	And Barker Street was the centre of operations for the entire time that she?

A	Oh yes, never moved, no and never, she never sought to em, notoriety or recognition. My memory as an adult, as I grew older and became sort of, more, more aware of what was going on, I'd say she really didn't – she was making a living, that was the object, that was the sole purpose of what she was doing. She was making a living.
Sister	She was making a very good living.
A	Yeah, she was making a living but because it was such a good living, you didn't, you know, if, if it ain't broke don't fix it, so she never went off on a tangent oh I must expand or I must do this.
Sister	But I think that, you know that DVD one of the things that really defines her is in there. There was a very bad accident where the jail wall which opposite collapsed and it collapsed in on houses that were adjacent to Barker Street but further down around along the Stony Steps that Carmel was talking about, and they had stored peat and turf against the wall and it was very wet and the wall collapsed, big wall in on these houses and people were killed, but who had the presence of mind to come out with her camera though, she didn't stand back and think oh this is a tragedy you can't photograph this. She took photographs that day when all the rescue services were there and everything you know.
A	Well, actually it was Billy who did it in fact.
Sister	Eh?
A	It was a Billy who did it,
Sister	Well, I 'd say she told him, he didn't go out on his own.
A	Permission, permission yes, He was the one that did all that kind of work, because a lady didn't do that in those days that's why
Q	And when you say outside, she did the studio?
A	Well outside work meant weddings as well and you had to go to wherever the wedding was and how that was done by the way – she never owned a car, never had a motor car.

Sister	So she did do outside work – she went to weddings?
A	She did but who carried the camera, Billy.
Sister	Ah yeah, sure I know that, but she took the photographs.
A	She did the outside work if it was a wedding, but she wouldn't go to do commercial photographs like.
Sister	But she probably didn't have much interest in them, to be honest.
A	Well he, Billy was sent to do, if there was anything,
Q	It was more for records.
A	Yeah, if somebody called on her to do, you know they need to have something like.
Sister	They had photographs of a lot of the buildings in Waterford, which turned out to be very interesting, they did an exhibition at one stage of the buildings as they were when she/Billy photographed them and as they are now which was quite interesting... how some have suffered.
A	Yeah but it wasn't her specialty, portraits were her specialty, studio portraits.
Q	And would you have any sense that, would she have been involved in the business community in Waterford in anyway or did she have?
A	No, kept a very low profile in that area. Em, she would have been a good customer of all sorts of people but she wouldn't have been involved commercially with any of them there would have been no input, no investments, nothing like that.
Q	I was just curious to see was she involved in commercial life in the city in any way.
A	No, not to my knowledge.
Q	Not to your knowledge, you don't have a sense of that.
A	No, the only thing that she would have been involved in would have been charities, but you wouldn't know or hear about that
Q	The right hand wouldn't know what the left was doing. And other business women – connections with them, other than the

	one she lived with, the sister?
A	No, it was all very..
Sister	I suppose if you think back to then there wasn't much going on that involved women. Now there is with the network and all that sort of thing.
A	But she shunned, I used to often hear– for instance there was a fellow called Dawson who came in there and set up as a photographer in Waterford at some stage and if you ever mentioned the name it would be completely ignored, it would never, t'would never be discussed, anything like that, any opposition wouldn't even be discussed, it wasn't something, you just did your own business and then that was that.
Sister	And of course all her colored work was actually done by hand, There was no such thing as a colored photo then
A	Now this one here is only just an example but this is one I did, has nothing to do with Annie at all, but that's the kind of stuff she did.
Sister	Have you any of her stuff?
A	Oh I have, down in my own house and if she wants to see it on the way
Q	Isn't that beautiful?
A	That's my work and that's my brother and myself, now I have stuff down in my own house which you can pop down and have a look at it before you go. It's just down the road there. Do you know what I was wondering Mary Rose, there is a lovely photograph of you that used to be a stand up photograph, you were quite young, it was in our own home, sitting in the sitting room for years, it was there on a, by the, on the side table, a little stand up photograph.
Sister	Of me?
A	Yeah, with your hair up, do you remember that?
Sister	Oh do you mean when I was twenty one, ah yeah I have that one.

A	Oh do you, well I seem to remember that was colour was it?
Sister	It was colour, but it was my twenty first birthday and I always remember her telling me when she rang me up, that I had a bump on the side of my nose so we'd have to get rid of it. It's still there now, I can feel it. She coloured it out anyway. But as a family member if you went in there and you had a colour on you that she didn't actually like, that wasn't aesthetically pleasing, t'would come back a different colour.
Q	So she had a great eye?
Sister	Yeah, she would put her own colour on.
A	Now she has never seen that, because if she did she would find, she would tell you what was wrong with it.
Q	And did the business then, when she retired was that the end of the business or did she pass it on?
A	No, she never passed it on, it was a shame really but they were very like that.
Sister	But if you saw the colour work, I mean, I don't know how long colour photographs had passed but I have a photograph of me at home and I suppose I was about two in it, so that makes it sixty four years old and it is as good as the day taken it's unbelievable.
A	I'll show you some of those before you go, I'll bring you down to the other house and you can see them in a couple of minutes.
Q	And what about Jossie business then, was that sold on?
A	She, she retired at -I can't even remember what year it was now but she kinda just shut up shop and retired, it was never sold, a bit like Annie.
Q	And did she employ people?
A	She did, well her partner died and so then she had, I think she had two or three employees there, certainly two, and she had a shop, she was running the shop as well, so the little shop in front and the bakery was behind.
Q	That was a busy operation.

A	Yeah it was but, she gosh, she worked very hard though too, I can see her now would see her running around in her little white coat, they were all terribly industrious, all the Brophys, very, very hard working people, that there was an ethos of work there, you, you got nothing for nothing you know, what you got you earned.
Q	And did the entrepreneurial streak come out in the second generation then or is it?
A	I went into business on my own, but that was in pretty much later years I was a travel agent and I sold on my business in 2004.
Q	It came through?
A	Well it did in spots, but then there were other branches of the family, my brother is an architect, Mary Rose is in her own business with her husband, and then my brother Joseph died at an early age, 32 and we had one other sister who died at a, as a child and I will show you her picture later on when you are going away, but then there were very few descendants if you like in the Brophy family, there was one other boy ■■■■, another, her eldest brother who had a family and he had five children and ■■■■ who ended up, I think in, in ■■■■ - a manager in there
A	two of the girls became nurses, you know in the early days, they both married and retired as one did back in the seventies, or whatever you didn't work once you were married you gave up whatever you were doing, so there was two girls, one went off to Canada.
Sister	To Newfoundland.

A	Newfoundland. And then there was one [REDACTED] who went, who went into – [REDACTED], this cousin of ours, [REDACTED] brother [REDACTED] they sent him, he was very mischievous as a child and he broke Annie's camera at one time, all three thousand pounds worth of it, ha ha, when he was about sixteen because he was sitting down while they were waiting for her to come in to click the camera, three of them were sitting down, they were brothers, and he said I wonder how this works and he went up anyway, and broke the lens you see, swiped down, sat back, on his face and Annie comes in to take the photograph- lens gone, so he was absolutely thrown out of Barker Street at time, but because he was mischievous they decided they would put him into the [REDACTED], anyway, they bought a cadetship for him in the [REDACTED] I can tell you that for nothing.
Sister	And the [REDACTED] it didn't cure him.
A	No and he had to buy his way out of it - well as they say, there's another story there. He was quite mischievous.
Q	And your own mother then was a definite entrepreneur?
A	She was an Annie Brophy as well you see, she was Annie O' Brien, married to a Brophy
Sister	Very hard working entrepreneur.
A	Oh very much so yes, very much so, she knew all about hard work, so did everybody else
Q	And she ran a guest house here in Tramore?
A	Yeah, yeah from the early days, early days of marriage really, she was a nurse herself and when she married my father Joe Brophy who was actually doing, he was actually, he had an auctioneer's license but he never practiced and he worked for other people and went into, and because he was getting married he left the auctioneering business and then went into management in Waterford for furniture stores and things like that and that's where he stayed all his life, but my mother ran the guest house.

Q	And how many years did she run that for?
A	Well I have a book, the early visitors book goes back to forty one and you have the following on one to that, I have it from forty one to about sixty, early sixties, you have it from sixties on.
Sister	up to about the eighties and...
A	And an awful lot of my writing in that sixties book that you have – I was there during that period because I came back from London in the sixties and was running the guest house with her because things were getting, she was getting a little bit old and I used to come home in the summer time and help to run things with her and that was during the late sixties now.
Q	And was that seasonal?
A	It was, but in the end it actually it began to get extended, in the early days you'd see, the book began in June, July and August and then very little after that and in the later years then anywhere from April and until October so the season was extending and people were, maybe having different or more holidays but that is an interesting one.
Q	Was she registered with Bord Fáilte then?
A	She was yeah, yeah.
Sister	She used to get the letters from Bord Fáilte where people would contact them and say how much they enjoyed their stay and Bord Fáilte would write to her to tell her. There is one family that was mentioned in that book of mine that was written to her by an American I think he was a gynaecologist I and...
A	I remember that..
Sister	And he and a pal of his came to play bridge in Tramore and they fetched up at mother's house and he wrote this stunningly good letter when he went back home, it was very funny, and it tells them how much they enjoyed their stay. It is really a fabulous piece of writing if nothing else..
A	I must have a look at that 'cos I remember those years well in

	the house as I was home from London during those years.
Q	And was there, what kind of capacity had the house, I mean how many bedrooms?
A	Well we had five very big bedrooms and then downstairs were the living quarters and you had your own bedrooms down there, so you could take I suppose.
Sister	If people came in the right way she could accommodate, four, seven, nine, eleven, fourteen, if you had the right combinations
Q	If they came in the right way?
A	Yeah, There were two bedrooms there that were literally dormitories, like this size, as big as this room here, family rooms.
	and then she had four singles you know, and huge space and the next room was a double and a single, and the next one was a double and on the next floor was a double and another treble so if you got the right parties you could have fourteen people, so it would be anything from fourteen downwards..
Q	Okay, and was she doing that as a commercial venture, do you, was it?
A	Well I suppose in the early days people didn't do it as a commercial venture, but I suppose it subsidized the income as opposed to being a commercial venture and then as time went on I suppose people got a little more commercial about it and a little more competitive about it, other people were springing up around you, that kind of thing but I'd say my mother was probably one of the very first real guest houses in Tramore and Mrs ██████ was another, she was going when my mother and then others sprung up around.
Sister	And Mrs ██████
A	Mrs. ██████ wasn't there as early as my mother.
Sister	No, she wasn't. I will tell you one very funny story that happened, this happened in the late years when Peter and I had come home so it would have been early 1980, '80, 81, and it

	<p>was, it was at a time of the year when no guest houses were open but you see Mrs. █████ used to be open because she catered for teachers so she was kinda open all the year around. And this young couple arrived at our door one night about 7 o' clock I'd say and Peter and I were living with my mother at the time so it was '80 or '81 around that time we had come back from London, and they had asked in Tramore where they could get accommodation and somebody sent them straight to Mammy's house but she wasn't open at all, I think it must have been March, around that time, there was a cold nasty night. So we explained to them, we brought them in and I think we gave them a cup of tea and explained that we weren't open but we said that we would ring Mrs. █████ for them and so I did ring Mrs. █████ and I said 'this young couple would she be able to accommodate them for the night, they were English', and she said 'yes send them down', so we did we got them farewell and they thanked us and off they went, they went down to Mrs. █████. About half an hour later there was a ring at the door again and there they were back on the doorstep and now it's even colder and darker, and we said "what happened" and they were foolish enough to tell Mrs. █████ that they weren't married, so she threw them out and we said, 'Oh come in'. So in they came and we made up a bed for them and we had a lovely letter from them as well when they got back to England. That's a fact, but sure I never thought to say to them, now for God's sake, don't, you know you're married and Mother never asked them.</p>
A	<p>But Mother had the distinction you see over the other guest houses bar one of having the Brothers every month of August and every month of July, the Christian Brothers came.</p>
Sister	<p>They used to go away you see, as a community in those days.</p>
	<p>A monastery and we lived like a monastery but that's another book now, it's an entirely different story, but you actually, your</p>

	house was turned into a monastery for the months of July and August and you had upward of between ten and twelve again depending on the breakdown of the community, the entire house was a monastery, you had no access to anywhere in the house, except you went in and out the back door, yes in and out downstairs, you were not allowed upstairs, that was verboten completely and every night at 10'o clock the prayers would be said in the sitting room and we would hear it all coming down.
sisters	But that was the Christian Brothers, but she used to have the Patricians who were quite different.
A	Yeah they were,
Sister	Quite different, we used to have great crack with them we would put crabs in their beds and all that kind of thin. Poor Br. ██████, who was a lovely little man and always very smart and did he have a dog, ██████, one of them used to. One night, he used to go up to whatever was on in the church every night and as I say a fastidious little dresser and we filled his umbrella with confetti one night.
A	That sort of stuff used to go on
Sister	and he got outside the door and opened up the umbrella and down came the confetti.
A	There's a whole book there.
Sister	but you see, the whole thing was – like you have all this thing with the Christian Brothers now but the Patricians were worldly and that is why you don't see them mixed up in any of the scandals. There is no question of them in any of the scandals.
Q	And how did she get that business? That was very regular business.
A	Sure one lot of Christian Brothers use to come from Birkenhead every year.
A	They did, every year, the Birkenhead men, the Birkenhead used to come and a lot of those were of Irish origin, and when the Patrician Brothers were coming, I was looking at the year they

	started in the forties and that went right through up to the sixties until they were no longer sent as a community but in those days they were a community, holidays except the Patrician's they came as a community for one month and they were allowed to go home to their own homes, but not the Christians. The Christians came, had a month's holiday and went back to the monastery and no money, they hadn't any spending money, it really wasn't...
Sister	There was a famous night we put the crab in, t'was [REDACTED] bed I think, we put the crab into.
A	[REDACTED] was a Patrician brother, subsequently became the President of the Patrician order.
sister	and there the window looked out over the back garden of the house right, and we got this crab and we put it into his bed and my mother was saying you shouldn't be doing that, ah, for goodness sake Mam, but we put the crab in anyway and bedtime came and the next thing was we heard shouting outside and so I went outside in the yard and [REDACTED] had his head out the window and he said 'that bloody crab bit me. Can you get me anything I am bitten', of course I got panic stricken and I went back in and I said to my mother 'he is looking for a plaster, the crab bit him' and she ran out instead of me and stood under the window and out came a big bucket of water and my mother go soaked, cause he thought it was me who was going to come back you see. Great fun.
Q	No wonder the two of you ended up in business.
A	Our house was a total monastery for the Christians.
A	Another one was, I was going to bed and in those days, I was I dunno, about fourteen or fifteen.
A	Ah you were older, you were.
	and there was the short nighties up to your bum and I was talking to my mother in the kitchen and I was getting ready to go to bed and I was in the nightie and the next thing was we

	heard the front door open and instead of going up stairs ██████████ and I think it was ██████████, detoured and came down the big long passage way into our kitchen and into the kitchen with a few bottles of stout that they had brought home with them that they were going to have as a night cap and I shot into the pantry, there was a big pantry off the kitchen when I heard them coming and...
A	Shut the door.
Sister	I didn't, I was standing behind the door, the pantry door was open like that and I'm standing up like this behind it and of course, if, we didn't think they were going to stay you see and by the time five or ten minutes went by it was too late for my mother to say look, she's stuck in the pantry you know, and I think they stayed there, I think it took her half an hour to get them out of the kitchen.
A	at least..
Sister	.. so that I could come out and go to bed. I mean, actually if I had of been older it wouldn't have bothered me but at fifteen you couldn't be seen.
Q	Because you were at that age where you couldn't be seen?
Sister	Yeah, And she used to say now are you not going up to bed now lads and they used to say ah now mam sure we're grand now here and we we'll have a chat.
Q	But you meet all kinds of interesting people, I suppose it was a plus side of the business like that?
A	Yeah my mother was a very, she was a very gregarious character in her own way and she loved a party.
Sister	Ah sure the parties would start in the house at the drop of a hat. Complete strangers would be staying in the house and the next thing up in the sitting room, our sitting room was upstairs and there would be a big party going on, a big party going on. And the guests and locals and who ever happened to be around. I remember one night a party started up up there and I was there

	<p>with [REDACTED] who was a very good friend of mine at the time and her boyfriend. Now [REDACTED] father was the local [REDACTED] and at about two' o clock in the morning I think my mother said to me 'would you ever get [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to go and we might get everybody to go home and people go to bed'. So anyway I told them and they said 'yeah', they got up and they said goodnight and as I was seeing them out the door, up the road for a late night walk comes [REDACTED] and a house guest that they had for the weekend and he said 'what's going on? where are you going?' and we said 'well there was a bit of a party' – 'where is the party' he said so we left with two and came back with four. So that was a bit of a disaster, so it went on for another hour then. That was the sort of house it was.</p>
A	<p>But it was you know, it was a business and at the end of the day it was a business. And what would be, and I used to say, God, and she 'd consider, in the days when the tourist office would ring - Mrs. Brophy have you accommodation for three people or four people or whatever it was, and she would be considering and then she would say well what time is it, it's five o'clock, four o'clock and other people coming in later and she wouldn't let that room go if there was an extra bed that she could get some, so at the back of it all was the brain was ticking over and she would say 'well no Mary but ring me later on if you have a bigger party in', and she'd take the chance, she did it, do you know because those were the days in the sixties people were coming in in droves from England, in droves, they were coming from everywhere.</p>
Sister	<p>The English, America was huge.</p>
A	<p>It was huge.</p>
Sister	<p>You know when the troubles came in.</p>
A	<p>That finished it, '69 finished it but right through the sixties there was a huge British influx into Ireland, and American and indeed continental people as well, and it all started to go, and then</p>

	suddenly with the troubles the whole thing, it all started to go.
Q	That fizzled it out for..
A	You could nearly tell by the visitors book, the visitors book could tell you, the history of it is all there, the social history. They stopped coming from Britain in the, in the late 1960's and all through the 70's then Irish, Irish, Irish, Irish.
Q	It was locally only business, that is very interesting isn't it?
A	So nobody learns you see. Do they ever do any research like that these people who are running our country. Seriously, do they?
Sister	Sure they are getting it again up north now, there are businesses that are being destroyed.
Q	very quickly and very visibly..
Sister	After that business with the flying of the flag.
A	And the British were great, they were very generous.
Q	Well listen that has been fascinating. I got loads of histories, not just the one, they are wonderful, thank you very much.

Bridie (alias) Retailer Kerry born c 1890, married into a family who operated a newsagent, general merchant shop and goods carrier. Took over and changed focus of business in 1930s. Developed a significant antique business, the first of its kind in her locality. Self-educated, read up on the trade. Married, six children. Interviewed daughter on 9/04/2013

Q	I was very interested in what you were saying about your mother.
A	Yes.
Q.	What was her own background before she came into the business here?
A.	Well she was, she just had a job and she married my father and there were six of us there, five older than me and she was educated in the Presentation Convent here.
Q.	She was from [REDACTED] originally?
A.	She was from Killarney and her father was a Cart and Wheelwright, he made farm carts and he cut his own wood, now I am talking about a time that nobody has forgotten all about, he used to cut his own wood and bring it in and they would label it, the year and they would use the most seasoned and he was a Cart and Wheelwright. And she was educated in the Presentation and she did knitting and crochet and lacework because she learned it, it was their time to learn that you know. Then she married my father and as I say, her mother-in-law was here and they had a newsagents and a small grocer shop, and I told you what they sold there, they sold all the newspapers and particularly at the weekends they sold the <i>Kerryman</i> , the <i>Kerry Champion</i> , the <i>Killarney Echo</i> and the <i>Cork Weekly Examiner</i> . There was a weekly publication and in the local papers at that time verbatim the meetings of the County Council and the Courts, there was a correspondent sent and what everybody said.
Q	Who said what to who?

A	<p>And it would be a topic of, there was a big farm, they used to come to the market, where the car park is in [REDACTED] Street now across from the [REDACTED] Hotel, that was a big market and they would bring hay and they would sell all of that and they would buy the paper and they'd read it for the following, until the following week and the reason they bought the <i>Cork Weekly Examiner</i> was, it was all the correspondence from Munster, that would be in a weekly paper you see, and they only came, the farmers only came to town at the weekends and they'd sell hay and oats and all of that you know. But my grandmother was here and she sold as I say, the newspapers and she sold tea, and sugar, Petri biscuits and Lifebuoy soap and Sunlight soap and American Dyes for dying clothes and Pear soap and, and American bacon that used to come in in big barrels from America and mostly pigs heads and crubeens and fitches of bacon and people would buy it at the weekends because that's the only time they had money.</p>
Q.	<p>Do you know if she gave credit, your grandmother? Did your grandmother give credit?</p>
A.	<p>She gave credit, there are, I think there are a couple of old books there and I think sometimes she had to put them against the wall to get them to pay up, but it was a long running account because they would buy stuff and then they'd give it so much off you know, and the same with the papers, they would pay the papers maybe weekly or something like that and she gave some credit, but she was a very small operator and, but she gave credit, she gave credit. So, as I told you in the 1930's a Jewish man that had an antique shop in Cork asked my mother – you see the grocery part of it and the American bacon was all gone at that stage and my mother was here because my grandmother was very old, and he asked her to know would she rent the shop and she said no, and then he asked her to know would she sell on commission and she sold</p>

on commission and she knew a lot, quite a bit about antiques and then she started doing business for herself and he eventually dropped out and she continued the business and the newsagents until the late 1950s, but the American bacon and the salt and all of that was gone after the war you know. She used to buy stuff anywhere, used to go to auctions and she'd go to Dublin and there was, she did business with a lot of people in Dublin. There was, where Dunnes Stores is at the top of Grafton Street, that was almost a derelict business, building and there was about 20 antique shops, half the size, half the size of there, just the corner and she used to buy an awful lot from some of those people, small pieces and, she, one of them was one of the [REDACTED] that are in South Anne Street in Dublin now and she could be a great grand- aunt of the [REDACTED], a lovely lady, actually, a lovely lady but they were lovely people doing small trades at that time. She used to stock silver, and silver plate and brass, small pieces and she, in the silver plate she would have breakfast dishes, you know that revolve and you would put hot water under and all of that sort of stuff and she kept Dresden and Chelsea and Spode and Staffordshire China plus the jugs, Venetian Glass, decanters and all of that and she sold old Belleek, and some old Bog Oak that was hand carved in Killarney while it was available but it was coming to the end of it at that time, and she exported it all over America. There were no Germans because they had no money, and no French, very little French, but the Americans were coming and then the [REDACTED] Estate, Lord [REDACTED] estate, had to be sold because there was three lots of death duties in about 10 years. And it was bought by an American by the name of [REDACTED] son and he brought a lot of Americans because he thought he could sell them plots to build summer homes here but that all fell through, but he was a customer here and he bought quite a lot of stuff from my

	<p>mother, and he brought a lot of Americans to the house, and she could do... He had, at the race meeting one day he had a whole lot of guests for the races and he had bought all his cutlery from Newbridge and it arrived but there was no teaspoons, so he came up here and he was telling her and she said to him, he said 'I need 12 spoons', and he told her that the order was short and she said to him 'you don't need 12 spoons, I'll give you a loan of 12 spoons', she said 'you'll have them in tomorrow and you will have 12 of my spoons that you don't want' so anyway after an awful amount of persuasion he took'em and the day after the races he came in and he put the money for them on the counter and he said to her 'I told my guests what happened where the teaspoons were concerned and I gave each of them a teaspoon that they would remember what [REDACTED] is like'. He sold it then, it was sold on to [REDACTED] and they were great customers here, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and his wife and [REDACTED], their only daughter and she has written a type of pamphlet on [REDACTED] House and she mentions her father buying it and that they were great friends in this house and there was, they bought stuff from [REDACTED] [REDACTED], that was bought here, but they bought an awful lot of things and my mother procured a lot of things for them. So she has that recorded. My mother continued then as I say, made her own crates and sent it to, she never dealt but in cash, there was no such thing as a bank account.</p>
Q	So no account?
A	No, if she couldn't afford anything she didn't buy it, that's it
Q	And did she, she was she a sole trader then was she? She wasn't, she didn't set up a limited company?
A	No, no just herself. And there was no such thing, my mother wouldn't know anything about banking, nor did she want to know. Now she didn't, knew nothing about a company and she didn't want to know. Where our house was concerned, our

	own house, if you needed it and you had the money buy it, if you needed it and you hadn't the money, collect the money and buy it. But there was no never-never.
Q.	No debt, not a bad lesson in today's world.
A	No ball and chain, and if I can't pay for something I don't buy it, if I can't pay for it. She continued on then in the 1950's and the 1960's and as I say in the, 1974 my father died and she died in 1975. But that's the history of this shop.
Q	And how did she teach herself about antiques?
A	She read an awful lot, she read an awful lot and every day that you meet somebody in the trade you learn something, and she was a great listener, and she didn't, when she would go to, particularly this [REDACTED] woman now, she was a lovely old lady, real old lady, and she would, they would have something and they would explain to you what it was, they would educate you because you were looking at something, and there was a Mrs. [REDACTED], I think they have, I think her sons, they have a furniture shop in Westmoreland Street, I think 'tis [REDACTED] and my mother bought an awful lot of stuff from Mrs. [REDACTED] and she would go to England – they mostly dealt in furniture, but she would go to England buying furniture and different things and she would know what my mother would like and the price she would pay for it and she'd buy and my mother bought the majority of it when she came back you know.
Q	And your mother did most of the buying in Dublin, in Ireland, she didn't travel abroad?
A	No she did most of the buying in Ireland, she was never outside Ireland. Nor my father wasn't.
Q	And what did your father do?
A	My father, his father and himself were in the horse business, they drew everything from the railway station to the shops in town. Guinness and all the beers used to come into the railway station, and they would bring down everything that came in on

	<p>the goods trains to ████████ they also had a horse, a Jarvey business and side cars and they took people around ████████, my father took the first grand piano from ████████ to ████████ in a dray, a low dray with, that you'd have the barrels in and that would have been around, 1900, early 1900s, 1902 or 3 or 4, and that's the first place he ever saw a motorcar, when he went in the gate in. But you see, they, they were a different breed of people, people would come from ████████ to go ████████, that were in the same business as my grandfather and they would get a change of horses here and they would continue onto ████████ to collect their stuff and they'd rest their horses here and when they were coming back they would collect their horses, leave our horses and continue on home. Now there was never a penny exchanged, it was a gentleman's agreement. I didn't know that for many years and I met a man at ████████ one day and he was asking me who I was and he said "I know your father" he said, and he said "tell him that I was asking for him" and he told me who he was and he said if he was going to ████████ he said, with some things he would collect my horses in ████████ and go on to ████████ and collect them back.</p>
Q	So it was kind of a barter.
A	<p>Now in 1925 when motorcars were becoming and lorries were coming in, my father was employed as the town steward, he was responsible for all the men working, cleaning the streets, collecting tolls at the fairs, because you had to pay a toll when you sold cattle or sheep or anything like that, he was in charge of the fire brigade, he was a selector for the county for 40 years.</p>
Q	Yes, I see the sign outside.
A	<p>And he was a founder member of Stadium here, he was obsessed with football, and he knew nothing but football. He was a treasurer, a secretary, a chairman, a president of the</p>

	local club, my brother was a chairman and a secretary, my nephew was a chairman and a secretary and I am a life-long member because I owe it to them.
Q.	Do you enjoy it?
A.	I enjoy it very much, they'd drive you scatty, but. As well as that, in the horse – you see life was so different, if a person died in town and a person wanted to go to the funeral, they came along to my father or my grandfather and they'd say 'can we have a seat in a side car to go to the funeral', now there'd be three more people or maybe if they had a wagonette there'd be six people but they each paid for their own seat. Because they had no other transport, you see it was a way of life. But you are mostly interested in...
Q	So but I suppose what I was getting at, he was very separate from the business and your mother ran?
A.	Oh yeah he was very separate from the business yes, yeah. I don't think he approved of it earlier, I don't know think so, I don't know why but maybe he thought that he wasn't providing for us but he was, you know. But anything that she bought for the house like, she bought out of her own money. She was a very religious woman but not shoving it down your throat. We were never asked to go to Mass on at Lent, we were never asked as children or as school children. You had to go to confession once a week, and if you came into your tea on a Saturday evening and you hadn't been to confession - go up and get it. She was born up on the top of [REDACTED] Street. When we were grown up and she had more free time if you like, she went to daily Mass but she never went while we were children because we had to be get to school and there was washing and ironing and everything else had to be done.
Q.	She had no help in the house?
A.	No help in the house, in my time anyway.
Q	How many children had your mother?

A	There were 4 girls and 2 boys, and we each had our own jobs. And we ran the house like clockwork, because you did it at a certain time and that's it, you know.
Q	And did the business take up much of her time?
A.	Well you see we lived here, so she was able to be in and out, and she would put on the dinner and she'd be in and out to the dinner you know, and then my eldest sister died, and she had a baby of two years, and the wedding was, the whole set up was a disaster so, it was my sister's wish that we would take the baby, he was two years, and she asked each of us and we said ok, and she asked my Mam and Father and they said okay, so at 64 years of age she took on a two year old grandson, and that's him now, and he was treated as a younger, I was, I was about 20 when he arrived, I was the youngest and he just, one of my brothers, my eldest brother, we were upstairs one night and yer man was going to bed and he said to me "Oh, my God will you listen to his prayers outside next door, Jesus did she ever change him."
Q.	And what would you say was the impact of having her work on the family, or was there an impact of her running her business?
A	Sorry.
Q	What was the impact on you as a family of her having her business?
A	It was, we just took it as a way of life you know, the cycle of life, because I don't understand young people, they are committing suicide and they are everything, we were taught to cope with any difficulty; it was a way of life, it was a cycle of life. And they didn't have it easy my parents, where they were concerned one of them made the decision and the other never questioned it. Where my father was concerned, he was out at seven o'clock in the morning and we were dealt with by our mother, and there was no such thing as going to him because

	<p>she was in charge of us, and only if she wanted him would she say to him ‘these are out of hand or something’ but she had a bamboo cane with a hook on it and t’was hanging in the kitchen dresser and she need only had to look at it. I don’t think I ever.</p>
Q	<p>Saw it come down of the hook.</p>
A	<p>Got a slap of that bamboo. And I, when I was in, about 14 or 15 I decided one day that I wouldn’t go to school at all and, that I was sick and my two brothers called me a couple of times and I said I was sick, and one of my sisters who never caused a minutes trouble, never at any stage of her life caused a minutes trouble, a very clever girl, photographic memory and she opened the door and she said to me “unless you have your death cert in your hand you go to school in this house, get up”. Your death cert, I always think of it you know.</p>
Q.	<p>Sounds like my own mother, we always went to school, and can I ask you did she, there were other business women in the town -did she associate with them or was?</p>
A	<p>They were just friends and neighbours.</p>
Q	<p>Friends and neighbours?</p>
A.	<p>Yeah, yeah, they were friends and neighbours’, but you see there were a couple of big premises in the town and a lot of small shops. There was ██████████ in High Street, and they had a big grocery, a bakery, wine and spirits and it was run by women because they had an only son, the ██████████ had an only son, and when the big ‘flu was here in the early 1910’s or 1920’s they sent him back to ██████████ the way he wouldn’t get the flu and I think he got the measles behind, and died and he was an only son, so the sisters ran it and one of them was in charge there and she ran a great business, but she died and the others couldn’t agree and it went. Across the way there where ██████████ is, there were a family of ██████████, 8 girls and they ran, the eldest, when her father died, father and</p>

	mother died the eldest girl ran that business for 40 or 50 years.
Q	And what kind of business was that?
A.	<p>And it all went eventually. Across the way, with [REDACTED] there, [REDACTED] married when she was about 18 and her husband went to Dublin sometime later for an operation and he died in the operation and he, advised her, he left her everything, they had no children, lock, stock and barrel, he left it her but he said that she wouldn't be a good business woman and he would advise her to sell it, and she ran that for 40 years and they did a huge trade. They also had a bakery, flour and meal store, a bar out the back and there were an awful amount of country gentry if you like, and they came once a week in there, back to back traps with their timber crates and they got their wines and spirits, they'd give it to them, you know that sort of business. But, the neighbours in Connell Street were the best and still are the best neighbours that this town could ever have. And where [REDACTED] is concerned, [REDACTED] is a great neighbour because she got it from her mother and her grand-aunt and her daughter is the very same, it was a way of life. And when my mother was, if any old neighbour was sick in [REDACTED] Street my mother didn't even take off her apron in the kitchen, she went up to know, were they alright? could they do anything and they came here the very same. As I say, they had ups and downs, one of my sisters died at 25, one of them at 29, and my brother at 43. Before they died.</p>
Q.	Oh that was sad, very hard on them.
A	<p>There was always a sadness naturally, once the first sister died, because of there was a vacant chair, it was a vacant Christmas and all of that, and my mother adored my eldest brother and he died six or seven years before she died, but he got a heart attack and he died and he was only 43. But then it was a way of life. You were born, you lived the best you could, you took, my mother was a great believer in – we did</p>

	awful things, we were quite a handful, she'd kill you the day it happened, you would, she never complained to my father, you'd get it left, right and centre, but that was yesterday, learn from it, pick yourself up, and never mention it again, and we were not allowed to throw anything at any of the others, you did such a thing and I didn't – that was not allowed, it was deal with it and try and get on with life as best you can.
Q	And you mentioned that your dad wasn't overly keen on the business in the early days, why do you think she, what do you think motivated her to do it?
A	I'd say she just saw the opportunity, do you know, yeah, it was something different, t'was something different and I was about 8 or 10 that time and my brother ■■■ was 2 years older than me, it was something else, do you know it was something new. There was never an antique shop in town.
Q	It was the first one?
A	Yeah.
Q	Oh very good.
A	There was never an antique shop here. There were jeweller shops alright. But, you see my father was an only son, he was an only child, and he was the apple of his mother's eye and her husband used to take a few drinks and she decided that when my father was 10 years of age that her husband might take him drinking, no reason in the world now for it, but her precious son, so she put him in as a boarder at the bottom of the street at 10 years of age – madness – he went in in September, he came out at Christmas, he went in after Christmas and he came out at Easter for a week, and he went in after Easter and he stayed there till June, and he was there 8 or 9 years, waiting for fellas of his age to come, because she had this notion that her precious son would be led astray by his father. Now, he was in school, the ■■■■■■■■■■ ihan who was his second cousin, they were boarders, ■■■■■■■■■■, the

President of Maynooth, [REDACTED] h, there was a Minister in the first government, they were all boarders together and they were lifelong friends, they were lifelong friends, and there was a famous county footballer lived where [REDACTED] is now [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] was the brother my father never had, as different as chalk and cheese, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would go off on skites my father never drank nor smoked but he went everywhere with [REDACTED], and he was a selector for the county as I say Park, but when [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and my father were finished in the Seminary, I think [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was in three or four schools, because he was thrown out of everywhere, he went over the wall playing football and everything, but when they were finished in school they went to a business school in Cork for two years because [REDACTED] people were big exporters of butter and eggs to the Cork booths, to the English market and while they were there they were involved in football of course – I'm talking back in 1903 or 1904 but one of their pals at football was an older brother of Michael Collins, and they got friends with him and they came home and they went about their business and [REDACTED] got involved in the Troubles, my father didn't, but he got involved in the Troubles and he ended up in jail in Frongoch in Wales and Michael Collins the first fella he met going in the door and they took up where his brother left off with [REDACTED], and when the Treaty was signed Michael Collins came to town and he came into this house because [REDACTED] brought him in and he met my father and mother and grandmother and grandfather and there were 3 girls, 2 boys and then me and the little girls were playing in and out of the shop and my father asked him to know what did he really think of the Treaty and he said [REDACTED] he said "they will have a great life – your children will have a great life and will live in a wonderful country but I'll be dead in 12 months

	or less because I'll be got rid of “, and he was dead within a month. And I have two mortuary cards sent by the Collins family of Michael Collins after his funeral.
Q	That's very interesting isn't it?
A	Yes, so you know what my politics are.
Q	Yeah, that's very, very interesting, so if the walls could talk, they have seen a lot. That's all very interesting thank you very much.
A	You're welcome.
Q	So then your mother passed on the business to your sister you were saying?
A	My sister was here with her because, I used to come home every week and my colleagues in the Great Southern Hotel in ██████ used to say t' was the hardest day work I ever did, because all the jobs were kept for me, the washing and the ironing, we had a washing machine but all the ironing, and 'when will you be here again like sort of thing'. And she was a very generous woman, she was a very generous woman to the poor that nobody knew anything about and she was a very generous woman where the Church was concerned. She was always sending candles and flowers to the altars and when we were children all the lanes here were occupied you know, cobblestone lanes and no toilets or anything, but there were a couple, to us old men and every Sunday we would have a bit of roast beef, that was our Sunday, weekdays we would have stews and we'd have everything and anything but on a Sunday and she took out two pie dishes and she heated them in the oven and she cut some meat, she put vegetables on top of it, she put a few potatoes, she wrapped it in a tea towel and we were never to tell our father where we were and we delivered it to two or three people until they died, until they died and she, where that was concerned that was her own money, now my father gave her money every week for the housekeeping

	<p>but if they went away, when we were growing up, they used to go in the Autumn to Dublin for a week and they would go to a different show every night, to the Gaiety, the Royal anywhere, and they went to a different show every night. She never went out for a day that she didn't bring each of us something, it was only a pair of socks, but it was the habit in the house to bring something back, small for everyone, and but when they would go away or when I went to Dublin with them on business, my father would pay for everything and she'd say to him "██████ I have my own money" and he'd say "tis all right", he didn't care what she paid or what clothes she bought, that was her business, that was her business, he loved style. My father loved style and anything he bought you was perfect and my brother, my youngest brother ██████ he could look at you and if you said to him 'would you have a look out for a coat for me' he'd bring you the exact size, the exact color and it would all fit. He was the most generous brother where I was concerned, I am a great lover of music, I was a member of the Dublin Grand Opera Society for 40 years, I was a great friend of ████████████████████, she was a great friend, she married a Killarney man but she was a great friend in this house and we used to go to the Spring Season and the Autumn Season in the Gaiety Theatre and I heard, I saw Margot Fonteyn dance in Dublin, I heard Yehudi Menuhin, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Jessie Jurley, Eileen Joyce, Joan Hammond, Victoria de Los Angeles, Pavarotti, Jose Cura, Kiri, I saw all of them and heard all of them.</p>
Q	Wonderful.
A.	<p>Until I was too old to go and they got too snooty. You see you'd be a member of the Dublin Grand Opera Society and they would decide what operas they would hold in the Autumn and about three weeks or more, a month they would send you an offer to buy tickets in advance and we always went ██████ and</p>

	<p>myself, we always went to the Gala night. I was, once my clothes are clean I'm not into style at all, but my brother ■ was and you better be correct going or they would be ructions. We'd go to the Gala night. But then one day we discovered there were no tickets available for the members, it was all corporate and after a couple of years of that I said 'to hell' to them, 'why should I be going any old night when they had me when they had no one'. I am talking about going now from from the 1940's when we were very young, the 1940's up to the 1980's.</p>
Q	It's a long time.
A	As regards my father, it wasn't that he disapproved, it was all strange to him, but when he got around to realizing that she was happy and that it was going somewhere that's, she was going to do it anyway you know but.
Q	Good for her.
Q	I never refused my mother anything in my whole life, I'm very proud of that, I'm very proud of that.
Q.	And did you learn about antiques from her?
A.	I learnt from her and then I started, I like silver myself and I started reading up about it and looking at things and as I say, there's a big antique shop in Grafton Street I think, but once they knew that you were really interested they showed you different things, unusual things that they had got in you know, and when I was, when I would be doing my mother's jobs, there was never payment, but I have everything in silver from a writing desk, a dressing table, I have a couple of lovely bits of silver jewellery, she had lovely earrings, I have all her earrings, gold earrings, she would never, she had pierced ears and she would never put but a gold wire into her ears, never silver always gold. She used to go to Slowey's in Dublin to buy her clothes because if she bought it in the local shops they had it in four different colours and that wasn't her, she didn't

	<p>care what she paid for hats, handbags and shoes. She was a very handsome woman when she was younger, a very handsome woman, she was much taller woman than my father, my father was very small. She dressed for her years and she used to buy her shoes in Fitzpatrick's in Grafton Street, and she had a long narrow foot and they would send them down to her and she would send what she didn't want back if we weren't in Dublin.</p>
Q	Very good, Different times wasn't it, very different times.
A	Now was that any good for you.
Q	Well that was wonderful and you are an absolute star and thank you.

Nellie (alias) Manufacturer Dublin, c 1900. Started a small knitting business in 1937, based in her home. Then moved to Summerhill in North inner city Dublin in the early 1940s where she set up a drapery shop. Started a small knitting factory in the late 1940s, developing her own brand of lady's knitwear. Had 7 children. Developed property portfolio in later years. Interviewed daughter on 18/6/2013 who set up her own business in the 1960s.

Q	So your mother had to set up for herself as well?
A	Yes she started in the home. There was seven of us in the family and there wasn't that much income coming. My father was working as a theatre electrician in the Gaiety Theatre. Salaries were not very high so she had to supplement that in some way. She started off actually by getting a knitting machine. It was a machine for knitting socks, a circular one. She had a particular contract with, I think it was called the union up in James Street – it's now the James hospital, I think it was a workhouse but it was called the Union at that time. There were particular types of socks that they needed so she used to make the socks for them. Then she got somebody else that worked, lived quite close and she used to make some socks as well, so between the two of them they built up the business. I remember, we as children had to help her then because we used to have to finish off the socks as well, when we learnt how to sew and knit, and join the toes and finish them off for her.
Q	And what period would that have been?
A	Now I was born in 1925, I was about twelve I suppose then, so that would have been round about 1937.
Q	So she had to have?
A	She had to have some income at home. And then at that time you used to have a maid and the maid lived in the house as well, so that, she had to have some income to look after that

	and pay the rent as well. Because in those days you didn't, she didn't, they didn't buy a house, they rented a house.
Q	Okay, yeah, what was her own background, was she?
A	No, she hadn't got that background at all. She had worked actually in a theatre, in the booking office in the theatre so she, was used to office work. She was very creative with her hands, she was good at sewing and knitting and very good at crochet. So in that way she must have thought of using, what she had herself to earn more income.
Q	Fair dues to her, and was she, was the knitting machine, would that have been a very expensive purchase do you know?
A	I don't know, I'd say she bought it second hand. She would have never bought it new, I don't know how she came across it, I don't know what the cost would be but she would have worked out that she could get some return from it.
Q	And did she continue that for long?
A	Not for too long. When we were a little bit older she wanted to make more money I think. She got a shop, a drapers shop in Summerhill. I think, she a used, the money to pay for getting into the shop from an insurance policy that was maturing for my father. I don't know whether he knew about it. With the shop there was an assistant, and she, the two of them ran the shop. It was a drapery, with a men's side as well. Now we didn't go into suits, but shirts and all the necessary things, and children and a general range of things in Summerhill. It was called Costello's as far as I remember. And then she was interested, in serving people's needs. So she also had a seamstress as well and she would take up clothes and do repairs to clothes. Then I think we were coming into war time and people found it very hard to buy things because they were so rationed. She would actually repair shirts and cut of the bottoms of the shirts and make collars out of them, and at one stage she was even turning coats for people because there was

	so little material available at the time. She had either one or two people on this work in the back of the shop. I used to come down and help her with that as well because I was at school and then later on when I went to university - I used to come and help her there as well.
Q	Okay, so she kept that going for some?
A	She kept that going for a number of years and then she decided to sell and then she started a knitting factory,
Q	Did she, good for her?
A	Yes, she had a small knitting factory in Queen Street in Dublin. She brought some of the people with her that she had in the shop. One of, the assistants in the shop actually went on to work in Brown Thomas, she got on extremely well there. But the, the people who were working on the, on the repairs side, they came with her and they had been trained. She trained them to knit on these big flat machines. They made knitwear and it was called Ballerina Knitwear.
Q	Ballerina Knitwear, and was that the trading name of the company?
A	Yes that was the trade name, I remember getting an artist who did the brand name for her with the little symbol on it. She traded under that and sold to a lot to small shops around the country. She had a traveller as we called him and he went around and sold what she produced, mostly ladies cardigans and jumpers and menswear as well. So she did that for a number of years in Queen Street.
Q	And at that stage would she have had many working for her?
A	I'd say at that stage she would have had three or four people working for her.
Q	In the factory?
A	Yes
Q	And do you have any idea whether or not, I presume the original business was home based?

A	Oh yes it was working in the house.
Q	And the second business was a shop which was, that wasn't attached to your home?
A	No that was separate.
Q	Do you know if that would have been a company or was it?
A	No it wasn't a company it was just a sole trader.
Q	And then by the time she went, evolved into the knitting was that a company?
A	No that was just sole as well.
Q	Sole trader, so she continued as a sole trader?
A	Yes, and I remember she used to buy the yarn from Scotland and then the machines –she used some machine company she worked with as well.
Q	And what do you think her motivation was?
A	Oh, the motivation was to get sufficient income to let us go through college and to do different things. She was always very interested in, in our welfare. We were all doing different things in school, going to elocution classes, and going to drama and theatre, and we also learned the violin and the cello. When we finished our Leaving Certs, some of us went to college after that, which was unusual at that time.
Q	Yes of course it was.
A	So, so that was her interest.
Q	And she had, there was seven of you, she had seven children throughout that period?
A	There was seven of us yes, throughout that period, which was heavy going.
Q	And what do you think the impact of it was on the family or have you any views on it?
A	I think it was quite good, I think most of us had to become quite sensible and we had to, be aware of what things cost and to make use of things and to work.
Q	And did you, you worked in the business, you mentioned?

A	I worked in the business, I used to come in on a Saturday. In the shop, p in Summerhill we opened on a Sunday morning as well as Saturday. Oh, and I remember one thing special we used to do. The women from Moore Street used to come from the stalls and they would want specific aprons made with big pockets, so whatever they needed she would do for them – looked after the customers in that way.
Q	Custom, custom made.
A	But I remember and the clothes used to be hanging out the front of the shop and then had to be taken all down in the evening, the clothes, do you remember that?
Q	Yes, yes, I remember that, I had forgotten that.
A	Yes, those kind of things, with the big hook and a big line and you would take them up and down to show you were open and the customer would come in. I liked business so I think I've always got it from her but I don't know where she got it from.
Q	Do you not?
A	Not, I think it was, needs you know, but she you know. She used to have a solicitor, and she had an accountant and she had to work all through all those things.
Q	So she did it properly, you know, she had the solicitor and the accountant
A	Ah she did yes, but that time I think there wasn't so much emphasis on small businesses, from the point of view of kind of doing actual returns every year. I don't think so. Later on that all developed but not so much that time.
Q	And would she have had other relationships with other females in businesses do you think or have you any recollection of that?
A	It wouldn't have arisen too much, I don't think so, not in her line of business. We would have known the local shopkeeper around the corner and that sort of thing, but I wouldn't have thought that many other people in her line. She was very

	friendly, I remember with the Barnes, -in fact she had enrolled me to go and get an apprenticeship with them when I finished school. But then I changed and I went to the university instead, and she was very friendly with other suppliers. I remember now there were Jewish companies that were always very helpful to her as well supplying stuff to her and the Barnes were very good to her as well.
Q	What kind of business did they run?
A	Oh the Barnes had a very big business, in Tallaght, well they started in Dublin city first of all but they used to do Glen Abbey ladies underwear I remember, and they had a big knitting business and hosiery.
Q	And how long did she work up until then, how long did she last?
A	How long was that business, I am just trying to remember eh,... then she closed that down and then we bought a house – we moved, we were in Drumcondra at the time. We bought a house in the North Circular Road, and I remember being with my mother at the time when we bought the house. It was one of these Victorian three story ones, and at the back they had a coach house. So she brought the business to the coach house, when we got settled in. So that made it easier for her. So she brought it down a bit and just, I think two people working there. Then she rented the coach house next door to it as well, so that we had a bigger space at the back. She did that for a number of years and then she gave that up altogether.
Q	Yeah, and she retired at that stage did she?
A	She did yes; I'm trying to remember the date now when she retired, when that happened. Yes, I'd say it must have been the late 50's or early 60's, because I started my own business in '61, so I think it was before that.
Q	And would she have been marketing or advertising or how did she, you mentioned she had a traveller?

A	No she had a traveller and he went and sold for her. Now he would have been selling other clothes as well, but he would have the entre already to all the different shops, mostly in smaller country places, because she wouldn't have had a great, a line of production.
Q	It was small?
A	Exactly, I think in the end she, she sold some knitwear to Dennis Guiney, I think that was just when she was finishing off, and she had a quantity, I think you wouldn't get as big a price because he would have wanted a big quantity at the cheapest possible price. But it suited her in the end to clear the stock.
Q	And you learned your business skills?
A	Well I learned from that and then when I, I also went to, eh, to the Dreadnought School of Design and I learned how to sew.
Q	Dreadnought?
A	Yes, Dreadnought it was called, there is Dreadnought and there is Grafton as well, that was a more famous one. But the Dreadnought, we made patterns. So I used to help my mother make the designs for the knitwear. I was also interested in making clothes as well, as I was thinking I might go into clothes design, but I hadn't studied it enough. At that stage I was also now, I was going to university.
Q	Okay, and then you did your own thing?
A	I did my own thing then afterwards, Yes, I did because she had given up then. When I finished college, I did the B.Comm degree and when I finished, that was in 1946, it was very difficult to get jobs. But I was lucky enough because Professor Shields, who was the Dean of faculty, you might have heard of him, he said to me there is a job going up in the Albert College with Professor Drew. It was in the farm office there, all records and accounts and statistics and I got my first job there. So I worked for two years there in the farm office. I had done

some secretarial work before I went to college in Miss Galweys, I must have learned shorthand and typing there but I never finished the course so I went back at night-time, because I had only spent three months before I had to go to Earlsfort Terrace. One of the nutritionists there, a lecturer in the Albert College had started his own business in animal feed stuffs. He was doing it with the very top knowledge of nutrition and he wanted to sell direct to farmers and he asked me then would I be interested in joining the business. So I joined the business and ran the office there. We had a manager then who was an agricultural graduate and the two of us ran the business.

██████████, the nutritionist and his brother- in-law ██████████ ██████████ were the Directors of the company and they just came in after hours. ██████████ would write the letters to the farmers who wanted advice on how to manage their own feeding stocks plus the ones they would get from us. I had to organize all the deliveries because we went around the country delivering directly to the farms and I had to look after the invoicing, the schedules, the payments. So I did that for about ten years and then I decided I wanted to do something on my own. Even though they had made me a director, I still decided that it wasn't totally my line of business, because I wasn't an agricultural graduate. My sister was in London at the time and she had done a commerce degree as well and worked in American Express and she suggested I come to London and see what was going around. I went to London and looked at employment agencies there. I was quite experienced in getting staff for my own place and I could see how things were developing there and how they were emerging and that people needed a bit of help in sifting through applications and weeding people out and that maybe that might be useful. I investigated while I was over in London and it was then decided that both of us would come back and we'd start the

	business.
Q	So your sister and yourself?
A	Myself and my sister, but my sister then decided not to come back to the business, she was now going to enter the Medical Missionaries, but a friend of hers, [REDACTED] and myself then came together and I decided we'd start the business. So I started the business then in College Green, right beside the Guinness Mahon Bank.
Q	Lovely, a great position.
A	Financial, they were bankers. And it was actually in their premises, next door to them that I started in.
Q	Okay, and that was in 1960?
A	1961.
Q	What was in like to start a business as a female at that time in Ireland?
A	Well, I, I didn't find it that bad, because I was used to dealing with businesses and I knew that I'd have to get a solicitor and an accountant and I would have to deal with them. My father helped, on the electrical side as well and, I just got somebody else to help setting up the office.
Q	And in terms of finance start up, was there, how did you manage that, was there much required?
A	Well it was just my own money that I had saved that was all I used.
Q	Like all good business people?
A	Exactly, that's the way, now you have it and I suppose we didn't have such a lavish sort of style then. I started on just with one floor and then gradually I built it up. I had three floors in the end, but everything was gradual at that time and perhaps a bit more simple.
Q	And what about banks, how did the banks treat you?
A	Oh, I had no trouble with banks, I was with the Bank of Ireland for quite some time, we went to the Bank of Ireland in

	Rotunda then for the business and there was no difficulty, none at all.
Q	And what would you think was your own motivation at the time?
A	I don't know, I think it just wanted to do something for myself really and I felt there was a need for something like this here and I felt that it would, it would help people and it would help employers, both sides you know. They needed a service like this at that time. There was no service like that here at all at the time.
Q	An employment Agency in Ireland?
A	Yes. That's right and it was solely for office staff yes. But there was an employment agency for domestic staff already established.
Q	That's right? Yeah
A	I think there is one Hynes, still going strong.
Q	That's right, yeah
A	And I do think at one time the <i>Irish Times</i> ran something but that's way back, way back now. But I think I was the first one to start one where we thoroughly asses the candidate unlike in London. London was very busy at the time in the sixties and they didn't test the people or they didn't kind of interview them that well. I mean, because they didn't have to, because when they came in they just sent them off, but I insisted that we would have to make sure that they could do their shorthand and typing, so we would give them a test for that and make sure that they could spell. We used to have a test for arithmetic and we used to have one for geography, where were the towns in Ireland? And I mean it was quite amazing, you always had to have the xxx in it, I mean it was an indication of how they felt about it
Q	And then, where were you placing people?
A	Well different companies. In quite a lot of companies in

	Dublin, there were changes going on at the time too. I remember Esso and Dunlops were changing, cutting back as well and they would have quite a few temporary staff. In one place they would have sixty or seventy temporary staff at one time, while their own staff were moving out and doing something else and they would take just temporary staff just to keep things going while they were re-organising.
Q	And did you set it up as a limited company?
A	Oh initially I wasn't but then later on I did become a limited company. When I started first I called it Office Personnel Agency and that was my name. And then I discovered that everybody was calling me the Joan Morrison Agency so I had to drop the Office Personnel and therefore when I became a limited company I called it Joan Morrison Personnel Limited.
Q	And you ran that for how long then?
A	Well I started in '61 and then I sold out in 1987. I was approached by somebody who was interested in buying it and it just suited me at the time.
Q	And did the other lady [REDACTED] remain involved?
A	Oh no [REDACTED] was only a very short while with me. She got married within a year or two, and then I got other staff.
Q	And did you have a network of business women that you associated with or you know the way today there is quite a lot of?
A	No, they didn't exist at that time. I joined the Dublin Junior Chamber of Commerce and I think I was the first or maybe the second woman to join that, Junior Chamber, I think you had to be under forty years to join it and I found that quite useful in a way, but it was mostly the men in it. I was in the Graduate Association of UCD now for a while but that was a broader one it wasn't only for business at time. I was always interested in how businesses behaved. There was one area that I took a great interest in, that was the role of the consumer and how we

	<p>looked after the consumer so I became involved with the Consumers Association, yes and it had already been formed, I wasn't a founder member but I joined it two or three years later. I met up with some people through an ICA meeting, I felt we didn't have that much legislation. I thought we had more legislation looking after cows, and animals than we had for humans and consumer protection. We were still operating under Victorian Law so I became very much involved with that and I got it going and moved up the political agenda so I worked on getting legislation through, I remember the Trade Description Act was the first one we pushed on, eventually we got it in under a Consumer Information Act and we got an update on the Sale of Goods and Services and I worked on that too. Then there was, eventually we got the Consumer Credit Act but that took quite a while to get. But I was also very interested in on the way business looked after their customers, because I always remember Marks and Spencer's approach which was to look after the customer really well you know I was always intrigued the way Marks and Spencer's would give you your money back and also change things for you if you wanted to but here they would have been quite rigid. They were ahead of the laws and still are. Now many of the shopkeepers are the same now, but I always admired them for that and the way they looked after their staff.</p>
Q	<p>And how did you market your own business or was it a challenge, how did you?</p>
A	<p>Well I was the only one when I started so we were extremely busy. We built up, I used to have about ten staff working for me at that time- at the height because we would have maybe 100 to 150 people working temporarily and we would have to pay those as they were our staff and invoice our clients.</p>
Q	<p>Okay, so you, oh right so they were contracted, you contracted out?</p>

A	<p>They were contracted out, exactly, to do the job so we paid them all and looked after them well. We enjoyed that, you know, so in the early stages it gradually grew. Oh I have forgotten another factor, while I was there I was approached by a Belfast company who had been in the animal feeding stuffs too. They came down to see me, they wanted to get staff and set up an office here. Then they decided asked if I would do it for them, wouldn't I act as their agent down here?</p>
Q	<p>So you had that going as well?</p>
A	<p>So I did that for the first few years but then my own business built up so I decided then to help them set up an office for them and got them the staff. They were linked in with another company in Canterbury in England so I would have to go meet up with people in Canterbury. I looked after them when they came over here and wanted to meet up with their customers so I had to do that. That was only for a very short time, for about two or three years, that was only, because I didn't know how my own business was going to go in the initial stages. My philosophy always was, if I couldn't get a job for myself out of the business well then I wouldn't be very good at it.</p>
Q	<p>And I mean, would you class it as having been commercially successful?</p>
A	<p>Well I think I was successful in that I broke barriers. Women had to leave the public sector on marriage up to '73, '74 when they when they broke that ban down. Those women that came from civil service or the banks for that matter as well, they had lost confidence in how they would deal in the private sectors of industry and I felt that they should be encouraged and helped. So we used to have a little set up where they could come in and practice their skills with us and we would encourage them. We would then get them a week or two weeks temporary work just to get in and settle in. They were always so delighted to find that it was not so different or</p>

	<p>difficult and the employers were delighted with them as well. Employers were also nervous about taking civil servants on because they also felt that they didn't have to work that hard but in fact most women worked very hard and were very good.</p>
Q	Some things never change.
A	<p>So it broke down the barriers, so in that way it worked out very well, and they were delighted to get going, some continued doing temping and some of them were no sooner in the temping jobs when they were made permanent you know and it worked out well for both.</p>
Q	And what was that period like in Ireland to do business?
A	<p>Well I found it quite good. Now it was well before computers. When I started we didn't have electric typewriters. We had to train people how to use electric typewriters when they came in and then later on when I was finishing, the computers were coming in.</p>
Q	Beginning to come and the fax machines?
A	Exactly, the faxes were,.
Q	And did any of your family become involved or were ?
A	No, none of the family did, they all went different ways you know,
Q	And were there other business people in the family from the original seven?
A	<p>Well eh, now that I think of it – not really now, funnily enough my eldest brother he went to Trinity for the first year, and then he was called to the civil service so he went to that- at that time it was considered quite shocking to go to Trinity but my mother was determined that he was going to go there, He went to the Department of Social Welfare but it had been, it was an insurance company before that, I forgotten the name, it was National Insurance I think it was called. It was taken over then or amalgamated into the Government Department afterwards, so he was quite senior there. My other brother then went into,</p>

	<p>Strand Electric which were suppliers for electric equipment to theatres. My youngest brother was an engineer, with the ESB, but he died quite young. The rest of us four girls, one, my eldest sister, she wasn't always that strong so she was at home most of the time, and my other sister, then Marie, she went to Cathal Brugha Street studying Domestic Science and then she worked for a while in hotel and catering but she also did secretarial and she went into Burroughs accounting machine company and then she got married and at home then after marriage. My other sister went into the Medical Missionaries yeah and she had done accountancy, she qualified as a Chartered Account while she was in the Medical Missionaries. She got articled down in Dublin her as they hadn't any accountants in the order.</p>
Q	Of course, interesting, very interesting
A	So that's the family history.
Q	And has the entrepreneurial gene come out in, in the next generation?
A	<p>Yes, actually they have, my sister's children three boys and one girl, one is in computers and he studied in DCU and he has his own business with another chap. The other one, [REDACTED] is a computer engineer, graduate of TCD and with some other Trinity colleagues started a computer company [REDACTED]. He is out of it for quite some time but he did very well out of it. He is still tied up with computers, and the third one, [REDACTED], is a barrister and he is doing fine and then the daughter, the one and only daughter is married to a French man and living in Strasburg. She is in the Council of Europe, and she is in the film side, I think that they encourage by giving grants so she is involved with that.</p>
Q	So the gene has kind of moved a little bit along the line.
A	Yes they have moved.
Q	So your overall experience was been positive?

A	Oh yes I think so, I enjoyed business and enjoyed meeting people and I am still interested in business. I take a great interest in seeing how things go and how we do things. I forgot to tell you, I was on the consumer panel of the Financial Regulator. It was an advisory panel, consultative consumer panel, advisory panel they called it and we made suggestions to the Financial Regulator, I was on it for four years.
Q	And were you, you mentioned the ICA, were you involved with the ICA?
A	No I had contacts with them only. I was a Government appointed chairman of a committee that was set up, the National Consumer Advisory Council and I met them on that. That was set up by Minister Justin Keating when he was in coalition government at the time. We were just about entering the EU at that time and we found we were so behind at that time, with consumer protection. He wanted us to bring in consumer law and he set up a committee and within the committee then we had consumers, the trade and industry and the retail side, farmer representatives on it, trade unionists. The whole idea was to let them know that we had to get updated legislation and to make recommendations. He made me chairman of that so I did that for about 2 or 3 years then and then after that, I concentrated on the Consumers Association. We were doing very well indeed at the time, we are not doing so well now.
Q	Yeah a lot of those have taken a big hammering haven't they?
A	They have yes. At that time I used to go to Brussels quite a lot because now they were bringing in a lot of consumer directives. There was a Consumers committee in Brussels that I used to go to and you would hear what was happening there at the time and what their views were. They wanted inputs on the Irish view. We had a very good Director here in Dublin in the Consumers Association, but I'm afraid the Bankers

	Association grabbed him, he went over to them, I forgotten, the Irish Bankers Federation
Q	Poacher turned gamekeeper
A	Exactly. So that kind of hurt us a bit, because he was very good. I remember when he was recruited first, I went through the recruitment process for the Association.
Q	And what made you move the status from sole proprietorship to company, was it?
A	A limited company at the time, I think it suited me from a kind of accounting angle at the time.
Q	And would you have found that it was becoming, there was more regulation throughout the period that you were?
A	Oh, there was quite a bit of regulation from the Department of Industry and Commerce at the time. I remember Louden Ryan, did you know Louden Ryan, he was in Trinity he was a Professor of Economics there and was very well known at the time, and with the National Prices Commission was very involved with that. I remember at that time inflation was terribly high and prices went up a lot. The Government set up the National Prices Commission to look at certain areas like services and they said that they would have to be controlled in some way and monitored. So employment agencies came in under that and you couldn't actually increase your fees unless you got permission from them and the strange thing was new ones could come in and charge anything they wanted to but the old ones could not. So there was kind of control.
Q	And how long did it take for you to feel strong competition in the business, I mean you were there?
A	Many entered the field, I think there are about five or six hundred of them now, but I was the first one at the time. There was more competition amongst them and quite a frenzy at certain times when there were plenty of job opportunities. Certain tactics would develop which I wouldn't consider good

	practice, to get a person interviewed, put forward their names, and they would also perhaps not test them as well as they might beforehand. A bit of shortcutting, but anyway I never felt it would pay off, I thought it better to look after it properly.
Q	Okay, well listen, that's been interesting, very, very interesting, thank you very much.
A	Is that enough background for you?
Q	It is fantastic and it's very interesting that, your mother's story is very interesting as well.
A	It is. Oh I forgotten afterwards, there were other things that we did, we were no sooner in North Circular in a big house and when she bought the house next door and put it into apartments and then she knocked the door in-between. She had builders going and electricians and so that's when she gave up the other business she started doing that, so the next thing we had another house, three or four houses and I had to look after all those with her.
Q	So she kinda developed the property business?
A	She had on a very small scale, three and our own house.
Q	She obviously had a flair for doing business?
A	She did, she loved dealing with business and dealing with people, planning and all that.
Q	And was your father?
A	Ah not at all, he didn't know how much was going on. You see he worked very hard, well at one time and he died much younger than she did, he died in 1961 just after I started the business. He wasn't at all involved in it, because you see he worked night times and then he'd be working in the morning as well. He would just come home at lunch time, have his lunch and then he would be gone back again in the evening. He would have been working Saturday nights and on some Sundays as well. So really we didn't see that much of him, he

	was always working.
Q	So she ran the business?
A	So she ran the business, yes. At one time they had different kinds of shows on, changing each week or two. He would have to be there at rehearsals and they would have had to plan it all, it was pretty hard work but he enjoyed doing that now very much. He didn't have a car and he used to go by bus all the time, over to the Gaiety, the number 11 bus. I was the first to get the car, and I learned to drive in this mini-van and I remember I couldn't get it up, up the hill. I remember it was a 500 weight van we had in the company for livestock foods but I had it after the Albert college. I used to go up there in the 11 bus. Then I got a car. I remember buying the car a ford Anglia. It was the first car in the family. That was great. I remember we went all around the country in the car with my mother and my brother. Can you imagine and they were awfully hard cars, hard to drive and the upholstery wasn't that soft I think.
Q	Interesting, you have my sympathy because I drove Golf vanette at one stage, you know the commercial one and it was diesel and it was like driving a tank.
A	Well you appreciate the other ones afterwards.
Q	Well listen thanks very much it was wonderful.

Ellen Hotelier Kerry, born c 1910, set up a guesthouse in late 1940s when her husband died. She commenced as a small guesthouse, but extended it to a full hotel with licence in the 1950s. Had 9 children. She had regular loyal guests, locally and internationally and also built up a trade in catering for weddings. She operated the business up until the 1970s when she herself was in her seventies. Her son and his wife took over the business.

Interviewed her daughter on 11/4/2013.

A	My sisters, now they'd be, I'm the end of the family so I was very young when it happened, whereas they would have more up to date information but I mean, I can always check anything or detail for you.
Q	No problem, I am very much looking for the family memories, and the impressions, and you know, I mean I don't expect you to know all the details but it is to get an impression.
A	And what exactly?
Q	I'm interested to know what her circumstances were, what led her to set up the business, what were the challenges for her as you can remember or as the family remember them.
A	Or as I would have heard about them. Well I suppose she married having come from a business background. She lived on a farm and at that time they had a hotel there, now that would have been in the 1920's, so she had a little bit of hotel background in herself.
Q	So they had a hotel on the farm?
A	They had a guest house, I'll show you a photograph of that in a minute. It would have been in Queen Victoria period and it was a, you know, quite a modern, because there were two hotels in the area and they would have the overflow from them, so it was known as the Home Park Guesthouse, it's now a golf course. But she married out of there and my father was a doctor and they had nine children. Em, now it was very, very tough times, like this was the 1920's and '30's. She was born in the 1940's (<i>error</i>) and there wasn't any money around

anywhere and money would have been very, very tight, and even though he was a doctor but people couldn't afford to pay. And he was incredible now from the history I have of him or what I hear, he was a wonderful man he never looked for money. But they had nine children living in a very small two roomed house, two bed roomed house, and they eventually had to move and they moved in [REDACTED] to a big house at the top of the town, it was called [REDACTED]. There were two rooms, or sorry, there were two houses joined together and so they moved up there with his surgery and it became their home and the business and a year later I was born, so the eight children had moved up and then I was born and two years later my father got very ill and died. So she was left with nine children, the eldest at the time was studying to be a doctor, the two eldest girls were studying, there was an eighteen year gap then - one of the last things my father said to my mother was 'Ellen, whatever you do educate the children'. Now he came from a farm, a very small farm, but education was highly, highly prized and they went to great extremes to educate them, they were sent as very young children to stay in houses so they could access secondary education, so it was a big thing with them, and that was his instruction to her, no money to do it but educate the children. So all she had was a house, a big house and no income and money was from what I hear incredibly tight, so the only thing that she could think of doing was to start keeping people, hotel was too big a word, so she converted two rooms upstairs, one big one and one small one. She could only afford to furnish one so depending on what room was wanted the furniture moved between the two rooms and that was the start of her business. Over the years she built up a guest house there, a very, very small start from the two rooms, then it progressed to, there was five rooms along one corridor and gradually it was built on and she lived in the

	<p>middle of it, now it was just a guest house at that time and then in the, it would have been the late '50's she got a license so she started a bar as well and from that developed, em it became the [REDACTED] Hotel. Now it was [REDACTED] Guest House for a long time, she expanded and it became the hotel. She got, there were Swiss tours that came, that was the first time we ever saw people with walking boots, women you know with walking boots and eh, that brought a great, kinda of a steady flow of people for some time and then she was very, very involved with the GAA so [REDACTED] became the team house. Now that would be my memory of growing up. Once the team were around, I mean we might as well lie down on your hands and knees and bow. She adored them, they adored her and by God, she looked after them. At that time the team used to come in for training and they'd stay for 2 weeks.</p>
Q	Okay, that was big
A	<p>So that was big business, and, but it was also great fun altogether. And then she, know, she did all the matches; she'd have the teams and feed them so that would all have been very, very and consistent business. And eh, she developed that until, she worked there night and day until, she, my brother and sister helped her until she married and then my brother eventually took over, but my mother was in her 70's at that stage. And the other thing at that time, we would have done a lot of were weddings, because at that time a wedding was a group of 50 to 60 and am, now that would be my memory as well, you'd get up in the morning, she would be up in the morning at 7 o'clock cooking and she'd work then till 12, 1, 2 o'clock. She was incredible now, em, just as a worker and as an organiser, but yet she always had time for, for everyone. My father had a big family as well and he was the one who had been sent away to be educated but all the rest of his family, even though he was dead, she was kinda the focal</p>

	point if anybody had a problem into Ellen and you know I can remember all the time growing up there would always have been somebody calling, she was, she was a very jolly, but very, very capable woman and extremely hard working.
Q	And did she do all the cooking?
A	She did, she did all the cooking herself and we had a lady called Bridie, Bridie was from Caragh Lake. Now at that time staff lived in and Bridie really was, I suppose she was a single girl at home on a farm and you know there was no room at that time for a single girl, so she lived with us. She was there from the time I was two and she was there when I married so she was there for 25 nearly 30 years and used to go home for the holidays but lived in and she worked with my mother, non-stop. They did all the cooking, they did all the laundry was done at home, em things like making soap, have you ever seen, we had big, big vats and in the winter time, soap would be made and that would be for all the laundry and all the kitchen and all that sort of thing, that would all be done at home. The weddings then of course were very simple, it was always turkey and ham, there was no such, and weddings were morning time and at that time as well in the hotel you had have breakfast, dinner and high tea, there was no such thing as dinner in the evening, you know it was just.
Q	People ate at lunchtime.
A	Yes, so that really be the..
Q	And do you, when she started, was she, did she start basically as a sole trader or was it a limited company?
A	Oh no, sole trader all her life.
Q	And did she have, I mean she obviously, did she have to borrow do you know or did she develop as she generated the cash?
A	I don't think, I don't think she would have been allowed borrow very much at the time, em so really it was hand to

	<p>mouth for a long time, just barely take in and put back into it, in the earlier years. That's actually something I never asked her now about, the mortgaging, now for her later developments she would have been able to borrow and she had a premises against which to set it off. Em in the, it was in the early 60's then she was able to buy the premises next door and expand, now and for all those she would have been able to borrow at the time, because there was a ready, once she had developed the cash flow and there was the bar generating business, so she did, she made an incredibly, em thriving business, small but thriving.</p>
Q	<p>And how did she go about getting more customers do you know or have you any memory of that?</p>
A	<p>Oh how, Yes there were a few different travellers would be, you know commercial travellers would have been a big part of it and the other one I would remember would have been the bank girls. That was a very common thing at the time, you know when bank staff moved to town, you see there were no flats or no apartments or anything like that so when they came to town they would be housed in a small hotel which would be reasonable accommodation and I remember upstairs there was a sitting room for the bank girls and we were not allowed next or near it. We didn't have a sitting room ourselves but we weren't allowed near that one. So that would have been steady kinda winter business so she was very enterprising in, in sussing out those kind of things. So the tours then, the walking tours, the Swiss tours were another big thing and em, weddings and I suppose then, kind of repeat business. Now marketing would, per say would have been unknown and it, the whole development wouldn't have been you know, done to a plan - do you know the way people go to a bank now for money, you have to have your business plan and all that sort of thing, that wasn't the way it was done you know, - we need</p>

	<p>three rooms – stick them on here to this wall and pay them off and then gosh, we could do with another two so that really was how it was. Em, then we found suddenly that the rooms we were living in were needed so there was a bit put on elsewhere to house the family, but as a premises then it had all the signs of it, as this house has here, you know additions as required rather than to an overall plan.</p>
Q	<p>And then in terms of, did the family work in the business? I mean how did that work?</p>
A	<p>Once, wait now, the two eldest - my brother went away to sea, the two eldest girls were doctors, em ██████ did medicine and then ██████ would have been the third girl, she did, she went to Cathal, no not to Cathal Brugha to em, Beaufort in Dublin to do hotel work and she went away then and she was working in the Great Southern, she qualified and she came back and she worked for years, now that would have been I suppose, in the mid 50's until '65, for 10 years then she worked at home. Now she was mainly responsible for the bar and my mother did the hotel, that was how they operated. Now it was all the one premises obviously, but my sister's brief was the bar, she had two girls there with her, ██████ and ██████ and they were demons the three of them, they were three -the same height, same size but three very lively women and they ran a terrific trade, now they were small, I'd be way, I'd nearly be twice the height of my sister, she was a much smaller person but she ruled that bar and they built up a great trade, you know the bar trade was big at the time and that was open from half, from 10 in the morning until 12/ 1 o'clock at night time, and they did that between the three of them and my mother, and with the help of Bridie kept the back of the house going.</p>
A	<p>Okay, okay, - and when it came to succession what happened to the business?</p>
Q	<p>██████ then got married, and moved out, so there was nothing</p>

for it for my brother who was at sea to come home, 'cos we were all at that stage, we were all, the other eight of us were all doing our own thing, and [REDACTED] who is a Radio Officer was more or less, you know sent for to come home and take over, and there was a huge worry as to what would happen, [REDACTED] had no experience whatsoever, no expertise in the hotel trade and, my mother continued on working and then [REDACTED] met a girl who was, one of my brothers was in England and he was a doctor and his, his head nurse in the paediatric wards, they were very, very good friends and they socialized as well as working together, and her sister came on the scene and they thought oh gosh, wouldn't this be great, so they set up a meeting and it worked and [REDACTED] fell for [REDACTED] who happened to be a qualified cook and an incredible business woman and best of all she got on like a house on fire with my mother. They had a terrific relationship because, you know that was a little bit iffy but my mother was extremely practical like, she was, she wouldn't allow situations to develop, you know, she would see a problem and she would nip it in the bud. [REDACTED] is getting married to [REDACTED], I need to be out of here, couldn't go too far because everything was, everything depended on her, so she bought a house two hundreds yards up the road and was there for [REDACTED] all the time and [REDACTED] took over – now you know it was gradual and as she got a little bit older my mother eased out of it but [REDACTED] took it on and was superb, so then when my mother died obviously [REDACTED] went to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], there was never a question about that, never discussion, it was just assumed even though I used to say well, I was the only one born there, but it didn't get me anywhere. (laughs) – nobody heard me. But [REDACTED], oh she was a superb business woman and she continued on and she had again the team and all the GAA, like she maintained that and she used to do the catering

	<p>for the park, by that I mean the football park you know, bring up sandwiches for the officials when they were there, then they'd all come back for meals, she looked after the GAA incredibly well and you know that, the GAA were very good to them. So she developed the business further then, she, I suppose you know is had changed, she was, you know way tourism evolved, and there were different tours, now she had a, she would have been more into the tour scene than my mother, I suppose the tours were becoming more popular as well and she had a lot of those sort of Contiki tours that would be around over the winter, regular trade, but again she was a superb worker and eh, they continued, the both of them and they had four children and even though one of them was working in the hotel, in a hotel, she wasn't working at home and then in the, my mother died in 1989 and a good bit, on the years, maybe about 2005 or 6 my brother had quite a lot of health problems and eventually they just had to put it up for sale. The family weren't interested in taking it on, it was becoming too much for them so they sold it and they bought a house in [REDACTED]. And it was taken over very, very briefly as a hotel but then sold on and eh, then they knocked it, it was knocked and there are, there are horrible apartments on it.</p>
Q	Ah, the legacy of thousands.
A	Ah, absolutely, and it was a lovely old building but they put brownstone, was horrible, - that was the home farm, that's the house she came out of.
Q	Very nice, and was it her father that ran that – isn't that beautiful?
A	Her grandfather really – he was a very, very, that was a book, the shopping book of the 1927's.
Q	Yeah, wow, = American cheques cashed – isn't it wonderful. 2 shillings for breakfast, 2 shillings for luncheon, 1/6d for a cold lunch, 2/6d for dinner at 7pm.

A	That was very posh, that was in the home farm, that didn't, we didn't have that in our little hotel in town even though it was later.
Q	And do you think, she had a feel for it, had she?
A	Oh she had yes, she had, she was a very good housekeeper first of all, but she was an incredible people's person. Em, She could relate to anybody and she sort of drew people to her like a magnet. I think that was em.
Q	How do you think she would have described herself? That's a bit like saying, where do you think you'll be in 5 years time, isn't it, sorry.
A	She had, she had no, no ideas of grandeur or importance at all, she was an extremely down to earth person, how would she have described herself?, hardworking, yeah.
Q	And would she have seen herself as a hotelier, a business person or?
A	Oh yes, yes, and she would have been conscious of, of maintaining the links with other hoteliers in the town, also [REDACTED] mother and herself could have been very good buddies, she would have been aware, she would have gone on the Guinness days out, you know that, the vintners would have had a day out, she would have participated in those things, because she would understand the need to be involved and to the fore front.
Q	And did she, I mean were there, I suppose nowadays we would see lot of networks for business people, was she involved with any of those that you know of?
A	Not that I know of no. She, she didn't have a lot of time for socialising and at that time I don't think there was that much organized socialising. Now she'd go on a holiday, you know, the tours, went here and there and different places, but no mostly it was work and family and then her few friends then that would be in. You know she'd be working say at night

	time now or that, she mightn't, she 'd be on call so she wouldn't go out but she would have 2 or 3 of her friends in and they would sit and have a drink themselves you know. It was very much home socialising.
Q	And em, what would you, how would you describe the impact of it on the family? How do you think it impacted having a mother as a business woman?
A	I think it gave us all an incredible work ethic. Like there was a price to pay for it, it cut out home life for us an awful lot, because she was always working, I was away at school, that was mostly for health reasons, but when we came home it was, I suppose it gave you free reign in some ways because she was busy working, so as long as you were there to do the jobs that you were supposed to do, what you did after that was – you know I could go out with my friends playing, and em, but we would have been, we would all be very, very good workers and that was expected, and following to do whatever job was required, it wasn't your job or anybody else's job the job was there to be done, and do you know I think we have all sort of carried that. The reason I am conscious of that is because my daughter, she was saying to me there, ah it's a year, a few years ago, she was working and one day she just really didn't feel like going to work and she was very tempted to pull a sicky and she said I could see you at home and it just wasn't worth it.
Q	She could feel it, despite the distance
A	Yeah, even though she was in London, so I think that's something she would have passed on to us, and which I hope we will pass on to our kids. But eh, she was an extremely hard worker but, very, very sociable person as well.
Q	And she obviously made a commercial success of it?
A	Oh she did, very, very definitely did, it was extremely successful, I mean she didn't go into chains or anything like

	that but she expanded her small business into quite a big hotel and it was debt-free when she handed it over, you know, it was a very comfortable way to be able to live.
Q	And she obviously, you all worked in the business at one point did you?
A	No, I suppose the older girls wouldn't have because they were qualified it was really only [REDACTED] and then [REDACTED] and I, we would have done it, during holiday time, the others would have been, by the time it was at that stage they'd have been, were doing their own thing but [REDACTED] that came home to do it.
Q	And did she pay ye for working in the summer?
A	No, no but you never wanted for anything and there was no structured, Now <i>my sister</i> would have been paid obviously, because she was working there fulltime, em, but it would have been very casual, you got what you wanted, what you needed but you would never have been foolish with money like, you wouldn't, you never looked for too much either because I suppose she had come up through such tough times that she would have been very, very careful with money, but then you know she would have looked after all of us.
Q	And got the education that was?
A	That was, yeah, and that was her thing, because I remember, I was in, after I left school, and I had no wish to do anything else, so I was sent to Dublin to do a commercial course, and the weekend of the all-Ireland again, one of my brothers in law was sent, he was going up to the match so he was sent to talk to me, to tell me this is my last chance to make up my mind if I wanted to go to college and to make up my mind that weekend, because October it was starting and at that stage it was easy enough to go to college if you had, if you had the means to do it. And I had the means and the Leaving Cert results to do it, but no interest so <i>my brother-in-law</i> called to

	<p>my digs and said come on and we will go for a meal, he wanted to talk to me and it was Friday, Friday before the all-Ireland and we went down to a restaurant and I'll never forget it, I was sitting inside, restaurants, now I had been in one maybe two or three times in my life at that stage and the next thing he ordered, we will have two steaks and I kicked him under the table "it's Friday", he didn't care anyway so we had two steaks and he told me, listen now you'd want to think about doing something and my boyfriend was up for the match and I said well, I can have a good time if I don't have to go to college for the next day or two, to my typing school, so I said right, I'll go to college – like that. I was lucky I was the end of the family you see, so, so I got sent off to college. That was it, she wanted, she really did, that was a huge priority with her that, that we would all be educated, yeah, so.</p>
Q	<p>And do you think the motivation to do what she did was– it was necessity?</p>
A	<p>Oh absolutely, to do the hotel, oh absolutely, she hadn't a penny when my father died because that was just after the war and people, like he was – he had a car, now the stories that my sisters and brothers would, if we were together here now you would hear about the stories about the different things he did to get petrol, because it was rationed and he used to go out to the [REDACTED] which was 7 or 8 miles out of town on horrendous roads, you know the [REDACTED], all the way down there like because he was the only doctor who would venture out there and eh, he, em, any money they had like it was gone and people couldn't pay, because for years after, even long after he was dead people used to come in with stuff, you know a turkey or a chicken or something when they didn't have money but for many years, like I don't remember him but I do remember 10, or 11, or 12, you would still get occasional money in the post, from America or from somebody you know</p>

	<p>- I never had this to give to and here it is now - now it might be 10 bob or something like that but it was incredible, but she had no money whatsoever so the, it was dire necessity to eh, but she had a few, very, very good friends then who helped and I'd say encouraged her. [REDACTED] was one, do you remember the [REDACTED] Hotel, [REDACTED] now would have been a very, very good friend em, of my mother's and would have been very, very encouraging, and very good to advise her, you know she would run things by him yeah. But, eh, it, oh I'd say for the early years, as again I say, I wouldn't be aware of them, money would have been terribly, terribly scarce. But she, you know she, only just constant hard work is what brought her through and, and determination, she was fierce, she was a fiercely determined woman, she didn't, she didn't concede, you know if something needed to be done we'll do it, however we will manage it but it will be done. So that,</p>
Q	<p>Well that's great. That has been fantastic, it was really good. Thank you.</p>

Sheila O Donoghue, Hotelier, Kerry, born in 1910, set up in 1958. Small start-up but grew quickly. Had 6 children and one of her son's became actively involved in the business, he concentrated on developing the entertainment side which became an increasingly important side of the business. She operated the front of house and all of the accommodation side of the business and ran it exclusively for about 15 years. Remained involved in the business. Interviewed her grandson on 9/4/2014.

Q	So when did, where does start I suppose?
A	Okay well obviously, you specifically talking about my grandmother you know, because, em, the I suppose the story, the story starts with the Gleneagle, in that my grandfather is local, he's from Glenflesk, and he got an apprenticeship and he became an apprentice pharmacist, in Killarney town back in the, after the War of Independence, back in 19, it would be 1920s, late 1920s and my grandmother's family, owned the business in Killarney town, the business is still there, it's called Charley Foleys, that's where she was born. She was born in 1910, so she is on the 1911 Census.
Q	Okay.
A	And she is in there as Julia Foley, she subsequently became Sheila, because my fa, my grandfather was a Gaeilgeoir, so like they spoke Irish when they were at home in my grand, my dad's house. So they go married then, kinda in the early 30s and there would have been a bit of an age difference, he was a good 10 years older than she was, and she was a homemaker really for most of the forties and having her kids and all that sort of stuff, and I suppose around the mid-50s tourism started to develop and my granddad then say, opp, an opportunity, he at that stage now, he'd taken over the business he was apprenticed in.
Q	The pharmacists.
A	The pharmacy, yeah, and that business is still there. It's the Medical Hall in Killarney town centre, Patrick O' Donoghues Medical Centre, was my granda. And she would have been the homemaker and

obviously the mother of my father and my aunts and uncles. And around the mid-fifties then, they saw the potential for development of tourism, and this house, that we are in, this actual room is part of the original house, came up for sale and they originally had the idea of buying it as a house because at that time they were living over the shop, and they originally thought of it, as buying it just as a house for the family. And em, but shortly after they bought it em, a local hotel asked them to take in some guests because they were full, and they needed, they had a larger group than they could cater for, The Lake Hotel down the road. This is one of the stories anyway, and they took in guests and em, that gave them the idea to actually develop it as a hotel and em, my grandmother then would have been the one to run the hotel business as such, cos my granddad continued as a Pharmacist running the pharmacy business in the town centre, and em, my grandmother then would have kind of operated from the hotel so, that would be, they bought the house in 1957 and it was fairly soon afterwards in 1958 they opened, they took their first guest in, em. My dad was the second oldest and the oldest boy, so he was very much involved in the business from very early on, and even when he was in college, he was born in 1938, so he would have gone, he would have been about 17 or 18 when they took over the hotel, and even when he was in college he was coming home at the weekends and in the summer to work in the business, and ah, he em, more or less, came straight into the business when he qualified. He qualified as a Chemist but he never actually worked as a chemist, he came straight into the hotel side of things 'cos he had been working on that since he was, since they had taken it over, and I suppose all of my aunts had really, you know what I mean, they all had some involvement in the business. And my, so my grandmother kind of ran the hotel side and looked after the guests and she was, she ran the front office and managed the housekeeping and all that kind of thing, right through the 60s and 70s and my dad then would have looked after the entertainments side of the business because very early on, I think in and around 1960 they

	<p>built a function room attached to the original, the old house and am, they built some extra number of bedrooms and he would have ran the entertainment side of the business but there would also have been weddings, and she would have managed all that, the weddings and functions and all that and we still have some old bills and all that kind of stuff. So she, the thing is with my grandmom, she never, she never really felt it as a business, even though she operated as a business she always was kinda treated it as the house, and the home, but taking guests in so I suppose it was not, not unlike the kind of modern day, em B& B lady even though it was a hotel, had a bar licence, and ran as a business, am, she was very much, she never really saw herself as a businesswoman if you know what I mean. Now she was a member of the Soroptomists and all that kind of thing you know which is kind of a business womens, but she always kind of felt that, eh, she never kinda saw herself as going out to work, she always kind a felt, it was kinda an extension of the family home and treated as such all the way through. Having said that, like obviously she was a, she was a sharp lady like you know, and she was very keen on, you know how guests should be looked after, and how money should be managed and eh, all that type of thing.</p>
Q	Um, Um, and what do you reckon was the motivation, was it opportunity or wa
A	I think to be honest with you, the, it was opportunity driven, by like, the, the males in our family tend to be the visionaries, they tend to have all the great ideas and the females are the ones who have to actually carry out the work.
Q	Pick up the pieces.
A	If you know what I mean, and they have to pick up the pieces and make it work and make the bills pay and make ends meet and I don't think, that's un-similar, I don't think that is dissimilar to a lot of what you probably, you're experiencing. Ah I suspect that there is a theme of that going through from your reaction, I think that was very much the case in ours, like my, my I suppose my granddad because he was

	<p>very much involved in the pharmacy and eh, while he would have been, so that was, the hotel was kinda more hobby than anything else and kinda left the running of the hotel business to my grandmother and my dad, and so they were the main kind of driving force behind it but other members of the family would have dipped in and out and as my aunts kinda got married off, they kinda went off and did their own thing and then my uncle, then whose one of the young, I have one uncle then, he was kinda younger in the family and he became an optometrist, or an optician and he, he continues to run that business he has his own optometrist, so my Dad took over the overall business then like from my grandmother and grandfather, in the mid-seventies, so she kinda ran it exclusively for about 15 years, but she continued to work in the business up until nearly 3 years before she died and she died only two years ago.</p>
Q	Wow.
A	<p>So she was 100 when she died, she was in her hundred and first year and eh, but she continued to work in the business up until she was about 95 or 96 and then she just, and the only reason that she stopped, her mind was one hundred percent right up until the day she died, but she, her, she just got a bit weaker in her legs and you know when she couldn't kinda of stand behind a counter and kinda greet the guests and all that, she just kinda lost confidence I suppose, to a certain extent but she was still taking a huge interest in what was going on and was in the business every day, called in everyday you know.</p>
Q	My goodness.
A	So em,
Q	And did the family live on this site as well.
A	<p>Originally, my, my when I was a kid now, my grandparents lived here, when my Dad got married obviously to my Mom they built their own house, am, but when, but even when I was young they used to live here and then they built their own house in kinda the mid-seventies, and that's where they lived and that's where she lived until she died.</p>
Q	And do you know, what, did they set it up as a company, or ah, what

	was the legal status.
A	Yeah, do you know, when, when all was set up as a company and I'd say fairly early on, when exactly now, I can't, I couldn't tell you now, but like you can get that in the companies office, Gleneagle Hotel Company Ltd, the year of...
Q	Incorporation, yeah.
A	Off the top of my head, I couldn't tell you when that is but I'd say they did it reasonably early on, I would. I have a feeling around sixty-eight, sixty nine but that's only, I am just picking that out of the top of my head, amh, that they ahm, that they could be kinda, well they started thinking about inheritance and passing the business on, that's when they, they put it into company, and as it was expanding fairly rapidly at that stage, I suppose it just, from the point of view of em personal liability and all that kind of stuff, they felt it was better to separate it from the sole trader which would have been the pharmacy business and I'd say they separated sometime in the mid-sixties to late-sixties, so that the Gleneagle as a company in its own right and am, kept it separate from the, because obviously they were thinking of inheritance and how the businesses would be divided, so my Dad got this business and my aunts got the shop and they continued to run it to this day, so they're..
Q	And presumably that would have been done jointly.
A	How do you mean..
Q	As in the company would have been set up in your, by, in your father's name and your mother.
A	No, no it was set up in my grandparents names initially, yeah, yeah, he had to buy it off them/
Q	Oh right.
A	There was, there was nothing done for nothing like, you know what I mean.
Q	And in the early stages how big a concern was it.
A	When they bought the house, it, there was, it was an eight bedroomed house and this is the footprint of it, this is one of the rooms, of the

	<p>original house and there was eight bedrooms, and now it is, now the Gleneagle hotel on its own right is 250 rooms, we have the INEC attached to it, which is a 2,500 seater conference centre, ahm and you have all the other elements of a leisure centre and all that, that was all added with time down through the years, Amh, the major kind of growth spurt was kinda between '75 and maybe '85, when em you know the Gleneagle kinda really established itself as a family holiday destination, you know and I suppose around the mid-seventies or late seventies you would have seen a big growth in families taking holidays and that kind of thing, 'cos up to that point, it just wasn't the done thing.</p>
Q	Day trips to Salthill.
A	<p>Yeah, it was day trips but at that point then you really, you know there was a certain affluence came with the late seventies that really put us, you know out there and we were very well known for our entertainment offering and that kind of would have been the main focus of our business and still is, you know our entertainment is a huge element to the hotel side of the business now.</p>
Q	And in, back in the day when she started, where was the clientele coming from in the late 50s and early 60s.
A	<p>In the late fifties, early sixties, it, have been mainly UK touring groups. A lot of people coming over on the boat and they would, in their cars and like the Gleneagle was the first hotel to open in Killarney I'm fairly sure of this now, and this is, because I am not aware of any other hotel that would have opened after, since the early '30s, so because you had, obviously there was nothing happening during the '20s and that, I think there was one or two places, because you had a few of the local business people opened hotels in the kind of the thirties, then you had the, the War and that kind of killed it and nothing happened then until the UK started to get a bit of affluence back in the mid-fifties, and started to travel again you know and there was a big growth period in the UK, especially right through the fifties, and then you had the likes of Aer Lingus and the promotion of Ireland</p>

	<p>in the US and all that, so you had American tours starting to come in the early sixties, and eh, but they would, the business of the Gleneagle right up until 1973 when you had the Bloody Sunday and when the whole thing went through the floor, and the oil crisis and all that kind of thing, that was a real hit to the business internationally and that's when we, we were very badly affected. Well our business up to then would have been very much English tourists, on coaches or on cars.</p>
Q	<p>Okay and that would I presume have been developed through, with a bit of help from Bord Fáilte would it?</p>
A	<p>Oh I sup, they would have been, yeah, they would have been, because there wouldn't have been that many hotels in Killarney that time, there would have only been a few hotels, mostly family run, so we would have, we would have been there as, with the rest of them like. I think it was Failte, Bord Fáilte set up in 1939 or something, before the War or something and eh, so and I suppose they had a big push then and, when they tried to em, in conjunction with Aer Lingus, and that there, and Pan Am and a couple of more kind of American airlines who were trying to encourage non-American travel, and they developed Shannon and all that kind of stuff right through the fifties and we would have piggybacked on a certain amount, or Killarney in general and we got, we got a share of that as well I suppose.</p>
Q	<p>And in the early days how many, roughly how many would have been employed do you think?</p>
A	<p>Oh, it would have been small really like you know. It would have been, there would have probably a core staff of probably about four or five, because we, there were so many family members working in the business first of all, em like my grandmother would have been here morning noon and night, like you know what I mean, cos she wouldn't have left, there was no such thing as....</p>
Q	<p>Going home or switching off</p>
A	<p>Like her day off or anything like that, because, and then I suppose even though she was relatively religious lady, she thought nothing of working on Sunday, do you know what I mean. I mean that didn't</p>

	<p>come into it, because as far as she was concerned it was the family business and you don't think of it as like a normal nine to five job, em so but there would have been a core staff of probably around four or five right through the sixties. There would have been a lot of part timers though, local people because eh, around the weekends then when we had the entertainment like, we would have run dances from very early on so like when you had the whole ballroom of romance season going right through the fifties or sorry, the sixties into the seventies, you, we'd have been at the centre of that.</p>
Q	Was it the showbands.
A	<p>The showbands, we would have been at the very centre of that, here with our ballroom and especially then when people got more mobile, as more people got cars, people were willing to travel further so you had people, so where, where where and in the late fifties, early sixties you had a dancehall in every village, because people hadn't the ability to travel, it was just a bicycle and they'd go down to the local village whenever a dance band happened to come around, but as people got more affluent and car ownership increased right through the sixties, then people could travel further so, and we had the bigger ballroom so we were able to attract the bigger bands so we had all the top bands, like The Miami, and the Joe Dolans and all these kind of playing here from the early sixties and I suppose for want of a better way of putting it we were probably responsible for closing a lot of the rural dance halls then because, the people, they wanted the the, the people going to the dances wanted to come to the bigger halls where the bigger names were playing and em, that was a real stalwart of our business right, especially in the end of the sixties, when, you know when that was a very big thing and you had. I remember when I was a kid even in the early seventies and into the eighties Christmas was one of the busiest times of the year because you had all the people coming back from England and that was a huge time like you know and everything could be...</p>
Q	Stephen's night and ...

A	<p>Stephen's night and New Year's Eve were the two biggest nights of the year, they were huge like, you know because that was the time that people just met up with their friends that they wouldn't see from end of the year to the next, because they were all over in England or wherever they may be, and em so that was a huge time, as well as end of summer season for the tourist obviously and then with, the odd wedding or local GAA function thrown in, here and there, but that time of the year, the hotel used to more or less close from, from probably the end of September, right through to Easter Weekend. Nothing happened like there, the bedroom side of the hotel was more or less none existent.</p>
Q	<p>But the entertainment side ran through the winter.</p>
A	<p>But the dances on the weekend would have ran right through and as I say, you 'd have the odd function on a Saturday, then you know from the local GAA club or whatever it might be. Because that time, the vast majority of couples who were married with kids, they'd have one night out in the year and that was for the local GAA function so you had all the local parishes and even up to 10 or 15 or 20 miles away, the GAA clubs in the various different parishes, they'd have one night in the year that everybody got together and that was the local GAA function, and invariably we were the venue that they picked because we were probably the biggest hotel in the town at that stage like you know from, from the function point of view.</p>
Q	<p>Yeah, yeah, wow, and I mean obviously it was, that was a commercial success in her time obviously?</p>
A	<p>Yeah.</p>
Q	<p>In terms of start-up capital, was that a big deal or was it.</p>
A	<p>I have no idea where, you see the thing is that they would have had, they would have had a very strong business in the, with the pharmacy, It was probably one of the, like while you'd have had a few more family chemists in the town it was very well established, especially my Grandad had a great rapport especially with the country people because he came from Glenflesk, so he would have had a huge, am</p>

	<p>which is kind of about 5 miles out the road and he would have had a massive appeal so and anybody who'd come into town like, and he was in the town centre, probably the best located, it was right on Main Street, like you know, it was probably the best located one in Killarney, right next to Hilliards Department Store, which was the big, which was the fam, the local department where everyone came for their shopping, from 30 mile radius, am so I would say he would have probably had a good bit of capital built up in that. I wouldn't have imagined that credit would have been a big thing that time, you wouldn't have banks loaning to those type of businesses, you know really like, it wouldn't have been a huge thing, so I would say that the, but I am only assuming this, I don't know.</p>
Q	One obviously supported the other anyway, one business would have..
A	Yeah, definitely yeah, the foundation capital came from the pharmacy business and I would presume they probably took out some sort of a mortgage and but, em, the thing is there wouldn't have been a huge amount of money available that time, like you know what I mean, I mean there would have been few enough people who had that money. Em, this building actually had been a hotel around the turn of the last century.
Q	Oh?
A	Around 1900, it had operated as a hotel earlier in its lifetime, it was built around 1870s I think em, it had operated as a hotel around the 1900s and ah, then it had been a family house up until we bought it in 1957.
Q	Okay, so it has a And at the time she started and bought what stage were her family at, I mean how many children had she at that stage
A	Am, Brid is the eldest, and she would have probably been around 18 or 19 when they bought this, so the youngest then probably would have been 7 or 8 like you know, yeah, Ann Marie, she would have been, I'd say that's about it
Q	And how many of them had she
A	She had 8, I have to count them again, 1, 2.. 5 girls and 2 boys, 7, had

	she 7 Jesus, because there was 10 in my mother's family, now I remember and I can't remember in my father's family was it 7 or 8. 5 and 2, 7.
Q	So they were pretty much steps of stairs from 18 down to 7/8.
A	Yeah.
Q	Okay, so it was a busy household.
A	Yeah, but the, the thing is that em, my grandfather had had, was a little bit older than here so she, he had a housekeeper in the shop in town from before she ever arrived into the house, so em I suppose from a, the, she from when they got married her focus was on rearing the kids and then as soon as the youngest one was kind of old enough to, was at school and all that kind of thing, she came straight into the business so there wasn't a break either like, you know what I mean, there wasn't a huge break, but she came from a business background as well like you know, her, her am, am her mum and Dad came back from Liverpool and bought a shop in town, which as I said to you is still there, a shop and pub, and that's still there like so my second cousins still run that like, so.
Q	And would she have worked in that herself
A	Oh when she was a kid, absolutely, no question about it, no doubt about it yeah.
Q	She was reared in it.
A	She was a bit like Maggie Thatcher in a sense, she was reared in the local, the local grocer shop like you know, so...
Q	Yeah, yeah, okay, very good and you mentioned she was involved in the Soroptomists, was networking a part of what she did?
A	I think very much so yeah, absolutely, yeah, it would have been, especially locally and eh, am, so that would, absolutely yeah, definitely.
Q	And was it, do you reckon was it general, was she in the chamber for, for instances, Chamber of commerce or ...
A	No I am not aware that she was in the Chamber, but the Chamber wouldn't have, I don't think, probably wouldn't have been very well

	established in Killarney, am, you know there was a small, and like among her best friends like, there was a small number of family businesses especially in the tourism side of things, and like they were all, have been her friends like you know and that would have been her network and eh, I'd say the women across all that would have been fairly strong, do you know.
Q	I am getting a sense of that from this area.
A	Yeah, Yeah, they would have been fairly strong in, as in terms of leadership and you know they wouldn't have been the retiring type like you know what I mean, nor the meek, going to Mass on Sunday and look after the kids and stay at home kinda people like you know what I mean, definitely not.
Q	Yeah, so they would have supported one another, or talked to one another.
A	Yeah I would say so, yeah, definitely.
Q	And what about involvement in the tourism side of things.
A	Amm, say I suppose there weren't formal structures there, I suspect like you know what I mean, there was nothing and em, kinda, suppose within Killarney then there wasn't a huge rivalry either, because everybody kinda found their level, because we were very much on the entertainment side of things we'd had a couple of other hotels would have concentrated on different, different markets like you know, especially the town centre hotels would have been more, maybe more business orientated and had a lot of commercial business thing and then like, that we wouldn't have got here, so you didn't have a huge amount of crossover, and I think you even find that today, we all kinda stick to what we, you know, obviously there'll be competition.
Q	Yeah, but..
A	But like there is a level got there and I think that's probably part of the reason that you don't have, you don't have a huge amount of foreign chains if you notice in Killarney like, a lot even today, most of the businesses are family owned and operated em. I think there is probably a reason that like, that they were all very strong and solid businesses,

	largely driven by the women, I have no doubt about that.
Q	Yeah, yeah, that is very interesting, because I have been looking at things like the Tourist Association and the ITA as it was before Bord Fáilte, and just trying to see what levels of female involvement in, but I think there, I am getting a sense that a lot of it was informal, less formal.
A	Yeah, I would have thought so, yeah, you see the industry is small, Ire, even now, the tourism industry is a small enough industry like you know and there is, I would say that even now, the informal contacts and the informal relationships are probably more important than the formalised ones through the Hotel Federation, or through links with Failte Ireland, or as it, Bord Fáilte as it would have been then. So, the thing is, the, I am just thinking about it now again like you know because you had, I suppose, the likes of Bord Fáilte that time, when they were you know a real development agency, whereas it became very much tourism promotion since, but at that time back in the 50s and 60s they were very much a development agency, so they would have a lot of, they would have had a lot of contact with owner / operators on a one to one that you probably don't get to the same extent now in terms of advice, and do you know, because there would have been various different schemes and grant schemes and all that kinds of stuff, that would have been available to people that we probably would have taken advantage to a certain extent and you know, they would have you know helped us in terms of promote, promoting through the tourist office, you know going to a wider area like you know, am, so we wouldn't have ever have gone to England on tourism promotion but because you know you had, you had the local tourist office here that they would have been trying to farm out business and probably being seen to be doing it as evenly and as fairly as they could em, you know it was more kind of along those basis, like having personal relationship with the local tourism promotion officer was where it came from I suppose.
Q	Okay, and in the early days, I mean have you a sense of what she did

	to promote or didn't do in terms of promotion and marketing?
A	<p>Am, you see I suppose, the, I'd say a lot of it was done in the fifties, in the sixties, on the basis of the, there wasn't an awful lot of promotion I suspect like you know. People came to the tourist office and that kind of thing, like we wouldn't have been putting a huge amount of ads.</p> <p>Now we would have locally because we were still in the entertainment business, so we would have been promoting to the local newspapers, to get business in for, for coming to the local dances, or for having functions, or having weddings, but in terms of international promotion for, for, ah, the hotel and all that kind of stuff, it would have been small, because you couldn't, you wouldn't have the budget for it, you know and the numbers were small too like you know. They'd, even up until the mid-70's we had 40 bedrooms, you know and so, the. What we probably did alright, but that was more my Dad really, when we kinda started, when my Dad took over, he started adding various different facilities, so for example we put on a pitch and putt course, and in kinda 1970, and then we added squash courts, and we added a couple of other things to try and attract domestic tourists and Irish people and, put facilities on for them, so it wasn't just a general tourist who'd be doing the Lakes of Killarney, or doing the Ring of Kerry or whatever it is, but this would be people who would, who would come specifically to Killarney for a weekend and they would have, they would be acting, or for their summer holidays, July and August summer holidays, because you didn't, there was no jet setting, there was no going to Marbella, or Torremolinos, or any of those kind of places that time, so when you had a family holiday, you tended to stay at home or when you had honeymoon couples, they would travel around Ireland that would be their holiday, there was no going abroad at that time, em and then we had facilities in place to try and attract them and so we would have been leaders in our own right in terms of, from a Killarney point of view anyway in terms of adding those facilities because before we did it they weren't, they didn't really exist like you know. But a lot of that in fairness probably was driven more by my Dad.</p>

Q	By your Dad when he became more involved.
A	You know she kind of had to follow on afterwards then like you know what I mean and make sure that it worked and that, and again, that they.
Q	And how did the succession work, I mean you did talk, mention planning for the, they obviously planned for it.
A	I suspect so and then, my father took over in the mid-seventies, in terms of the formal handing over, but she continued to work in the business, em right up until, up until the day she died like you know so, in terms of the formal side of it was handed over, and I suppose, and he <i>branded business</i> ? With my mum, eh so from, from kind of, I think it was 1977/ 1978 around that time on, and they ran the business then together like until I started getting involved in the business, as, like the more I got involved then, kind of in the mid-90s then my mother kinda, she kinda took a step back from it then, from that time on.
Q	But your grandmother was still there.
A	Oh she was still there, but, but I suppose, in, like she was still there in terms of liaising with customers, and, and am you know supervising the front office, and the desk and all that kind of stuff, but the actuals, kind of more management and strategic, then was handed to my Dad at that stage like.
Q	And have you any sense of the, if you were to describe what impact her working and running a business had on the family, would you have a view on it or...
A	On the family or on the family business?
Q	On the family in..
A	I think that, from on the family, I think they gave, it probably handed a fairly strong commercial consciousness, like you know, that I would always suspect everybody benefitted from, I would hope anyway. Em, definitely from my Dad's point of view it gave him a huge commercial consciousness, like you know what I mean, and, and awareness of what you have to do to make money and what you have to do to make your own luck and what you have to do make a business strong and

	<p>survive in no matter what climate, because you have to remember they were looking at recessions now, but they, this business went through numerous recessions, and numerous, foot and mouth diseases, cos there was one there at the end of the sixties that had, that fairly dramatic impact on us, because it kinda hit at Christmas time when a lot of the country people you know, they were totally discouraged from coming back to Ireland because of the fear the spread and that had a big impact on our business because a big part of our cash flow would have been what we drew in in the winter time like and eh, eh, you had the oil crisis, you'd the Northern situation in the early seventies, like you know what I mean, they lived through all that like you know, so okay I suppose, it gave a strong ability to cope and when you had other recession situations like you had in, in the eighties and again, now like you know. am, so I would think that would have probably helped in terms of, the business again like you know, I think that that, the, the Irish people still like to, to relate to people as much as they do to a business or to a building I should say, and they see the people involved as important, if not more important than the actual building, you know when they, when they imagine the business they imagine the people involved as much as they imagine the actual building or, or, or any other features of the business, so when they are choosing to come on a holiday or whatever it might be, its coming to see the O'Donoghues or down to see my grandmother, or coming down to see my Dad or whatever it might be, am. Now I suppose we are slightly grown beyond that but I still like to think that in terms of the culture of the business, that we do try and maintain as much of that personal relationship with as many people as possible.</p>
Q	And that was part of her.
A	<p>Oh very much so, like you know, she was, like she was part of the furniture like you know, when people walked in the door, she was the first person that you met invariably, for a good length, a good 25 or 30 years of the existence of this business she was the, she was the link person, em or more even, like the business is 50 years old in 199, 2007</p>

	<p>so it's so and she was working, even up to, I'd say for fifty years of the existence of the business she would have been, for a lot of the customers, she would have been the, the face of the place like you know, and you had the likes of all the entertainers, the likes of Joe Dolan, the Dickie Rocks and you know, she would have had a personal relationship with all these people because she, she'd have known them since they were children like you know, since they came in when they were 18 or 19, when they started off in the entertainment business first, they and like we would still have groups and families that would come back you know, third generation, that would still come back to the place like you know, and would still be telling us stories about things that happened in the sixties and seventies, you know before we were even born, you know so, and that still happens like.</p>
Q	<p>Okay, okay, and I suppose, one last question, and it's a hard, it's a hard one in that I expect you probably don't know the answer to it, how would she have described herself in the Census do you think in later years, when she was filling in the Census form.</p>
A	<p>Hotelier.</p>
Q	<p>Hotelier?</p>
A	<p>Hotelier, yeah.</p>
Q	<p>You'd be fairly definite about that?</p>
A	<p>Yeah, Yeah, I would yeah, I wouldn't have any doubt about it, but I could be wrong now, but I ..</p>
Q	<p>Yeah, you know.</p>
A	<p>It would have been hotelier, yeah, that's what we are like, we're hoteliers, like you know, and em, so I would be very surprised if she put anything else in apart from that. I doubt if she would have put in housewife or domestic, she would have, she would have seen herself as a hotelier, like you know, as I say in the way she operated, she just say it as an extension of the family, but that was more, em in terms of instilling values in the family and that kind of stuff like you know what I mean and the way she looked on business herself, but em, I would, I'd be very surprised if she put in anything else, she won't have put in</p>

	homemaker, I'd, I'd love to see it like, it would be interesting if you looked at it.
Q	You won't see it, you won't be able to see it for.
A	No I won't be able to see for another 50 years or so, but I'd be very surprised if she put anything else in except hotelier, I, I think she would have seen herself as a hotelier as opposed to a homemaker and em, but I could be proven wrong. If, is that.
Q	No, that is, that is the question because with women sometimes they don't necessarily appear, some of the do appear, and some of them don't always appear.
A	Yeah, I suppose the difference here compared to a lot of them was, would be, even though my grandmother, the, the, even though both my grandparents were involved, like there was two distinct elements to the business, there was a shop in town that my granddad looked after and there was the business here. Now, the I suppose, I have no doubt that they ran it as a couple and that they would have consulted each other on big decisions, but in terms of the day to day, she was very much involved and.
Q	This was her domain and that was his domain.
A	Very much so, yeah, yeah.
Q	Okay and would that be the perception around, within the business community or around Killarney, that that was the way it.
A	Oh I would have thought so yeah, I would be surprised if there was any view otherwise, oh no definitely, a. See a lot of this is before my time, like you know because she was more or less from a strategic and management and director point of view she was kind of, before even when I was small she would have been kinda winding herself out of that like you know, but em because I was, in 1977 when the business was more, was kind of, don't quote me on that now because I am not sure of the exact year, but, when the formal kind of handing over to my Dad happened, am, I was only 10 so I wouldn't have been au-fait with a lot of the stuff that was happening, but I'd have no doubt in the wide earthly world that from a local point, a local perception,

	<p>especially in the people that would be familiar with us, that she would have been the face, definitely, right through the, in terms of the hotel side of it, my Dad would have been the face of the entertainment side of the business, but the, am in terms of visitors, guests, weddings, functions, all that type of business would have been my grandmother would have been dealing with that.</p>
Q	<p>And the day to day headaches and problems.</p>
A	<p>Yeah, and that was, in fairness, they probably worked fairly hand in hand, with my Dad, from because of the fact that the entertainment was such an intrinsic part and to be honest with you, probably the more lucrative element of the business for a good part of that time, it would have been the most profitable, because of the fact they did all year round, am it did generate cashflow in the wintertime like you know when you didn't have tourists travelling, but em, and later years when the hotel element, when we did add more bedrooms and that, it would have been the entertainment side of the business that would have been responsible for filling a lot of those rooms and a lot of people would have come to the Gleneagle in order to experience entertainment, but to stay in the hotel, that still happens today like.</p>
Q	<p>Very good, and it is very much the niche you continue to operate.</p>
A	<p>I think so, yeah, I think so yeah, now, obviously because, with the, with the development of INEC, we do, we are big into the corporate and conference and all that kind of stuff, now we would, we would have done conferences back then too but, they wouldn't have been as plentiful as they are now like you know and the first big conference we did, was, we did the GAA congress in the early 80s but apart from that we wouldn't have been hugely in the conference business before that and that kind of, and we have dipped our toe in the water to good, a little bit since then but the main exposure to that market was when we built the INEC, am so we would be doing a lot of conference business now, it would be a big part of our business now..</p>
Q	<p>And has the entrepreneurial gene worked its way right through the generations do you think, is there?</p>

A	<p>I think so, but I suppose in terms the entrepreneurial, in terms of the ideas, that kind of came from the males side and the actual work from the female side, like you know what I mean, that's that was the reality of it like you know what I mean, you know. I 'd like to think that I get a bit of both, because I suppose I would have grown up very much with my Dad, so and he was still the driving force in terms of new ideas, and, and you know and branching out into new areas and that kind of stuff, where am, I was very much involved in the day to day operations of the hotel and, and em so I got exposed to both, and then the fact that he passed away kind of relatively young, I was only 33 when he died like you know, so I ended up having to take the kind of leadership role in both sides subsequently em and I think because of the scale of the business now you need that like you know, you can't do it on the kind of adhoc, and do you know, seat of the pants kind of way that you would have got away with before, em you know you can't do that anymore and as we kind of established early on in the conversation, that it was kind of the women of the family then who ended up picking up the pieces, and making the ends meet afterwards like you know and when you had the males going off on these madcap ideas you like you know, and, em 99% of them worked thank god, but there were a couple of them that probably didn't work either like you know.</p>
Q	<p>Their working relationship, between your grandmother and your father, how would you describe that, would you.</p>
A	<p>I'd say it was, ah, like it was respectful, very much so but because they didn't really cross to a large extent, in the sense that when she was very much in the strategic and management point, like, she would have been the leader then and she would have made the xxx, but she would have listened to him because, you know, again as I said to you the, the entertainment side of the business was the more profitable side and that was his expertise and he was bringing a lot to the table and that was I suppose the main reason why he ended up eventually inheriting the whole business was for that reason like you know, because he was</p>

	<p>the one, the main driving force beside, behind that whole side of the business so because, they, so they didn't need cross, there didn't need to be a huge amount of conflict, because you know one wasn't impeding on the other, they were very much complementary, am with their own particular skill set so I would have thought that it was very respectful and very eh and reasonable, like my Dad was I suppose a little bit of the golden child as well because he was the oldest boy, so like you know she would have made excuses for him to a certain extent as well like whereas she mightn't have had the same eh, tolerance or appreciation for maybe the girls in the family if you know what I mean like, that's the way it was, she was a traditional woman in her own right, even though, even though she, she was very much em, a business woman, at the same time there was a healthy, like, like she was, she was very religious as I'd say were all women at that time but at the same time they didn't take everything that the church handed down, like we had numerous conflicts right throughout the sixties with the Church like you know, in relation to, especially in the dance, the entertainment and the dance hall and all that kind of stuff you know, because we would have been one of the first licensed dance halls in the country. Because we had a hotel attached to the dance hall, it was unique, and not very common.</p>
Q	Of course, yes.
A	We had a bar license with the hotel and to start selling drink in, in the dance, that was, there was war over that.
Q	Was there?
A	Oh there were, yeah, yeah, oh fairly serious court cases and everything like. And obviously you know my father was aggressive in terms of pushing the agenda because he could see the business opportunities in it, but you know my grandmother's devotion to the Church wasn't going to stop her doing the, doing the right thing, if that's what the business required that's what the business required like you know, so and my granddad, you know having come from a you know, very much a business background as well, and he would have kinda grown

	up in the 1910's and the 1920's, so there was a healthy disrespect as well for the authority of the Church that time too because there was, things were, looked totally differently before the War than they were subsequently like you know, they didn't have, you know, there was a, they, like you came from an IRA background and all that kind of stuff so like I think he was probably excommunicated at some stage like for being in the IRA and all that kind of thing you know, so there would have been a kinda of a...
Q	So there was a healthy.
A	You know, yeah, absolutely.
Q	separation of private and public.
A	Absolutely, yeah, absolutely, like you know what I mean they did all that, what they were supposed to do, but at the same time they weren't going to be told how to run their business or how to run their lives like you know, to the extent that you know maybe a lot of people were in the fifties like you know.
Q	Okay, that's very interesting, Okay, listen that has been most useful.

Sheila (alias) Manufacturer, Dublin, born in 1911. Set up a small shop in the early 1930s, ran it for 2 years or so. Went working in shirt factory, started dressmaking in the evenings. In the late 1930s she went into dressmaking full time, and operated from home. Had 5 machinists working for her. Set up a limited company in 1950 with her eldest son manufacturing children's coats. Had 4 children, remained involved in the business until she died. Interviewed her son on 2/11/2012.

A	I was the eldest, the next one was 5 years below me and then, she went to boarding school, the next one was 5 years younger,
Q	so there were three of you?
A	then there was another, and she was spoilt altogether, yeah, she had horses and gymkhanas, I used to drive me mother around to gymkhanas on Saturdays and Sundays, she used to hunt with the Kildares, anyway that's the family coming on. Back to the beginning, my first memory was of a house in Elizabeth Street, I tell you this very interesting and it is very important. My grandmother was a very good woman, she was a very poor woman and she wouldn't collect the old age pension when it came out because she considered it charity. But she was born, she was from North King Street, she was originally born in County Wicklow, Baltinglass and her father and her brothers and herself came to Dublin to make barrels for Guinness and they opened up a cooperage in North King Street, and she did that, she was Lizzie, my grandmother did the cooking and in that house, this man was known, this grandfather of mine (<i>great-grandfather</i>) as Solomon O'Toole and he was known as Solomon because in those days the working class people in the area, around all the tenements, they couldn't afford, they had no money, they couldn't afford solicitors or that when they had problems so they used to go to Solomon O'Toole because he was a wise man and he would give them advise and the first thing he used to do was when they came into the house, and I often heard me grandmother talking about it, and my mother. When they came into the house he'd say,

	<p>“before you do anything, go down into the basement there and there’s corn beef and cabbage there and Lizzie will look after ya, you can’t talk on an empty stomach”, cos he’d know they were hungry and he was great respected. Now I met a man many years later in the Shakespeare pub in Parnell Street. I went in to wait for somebody and I was reading the evening mail and drinking a pint, a bottle of stout waiting and there’s an old guy there drinking a pint and he said to me “<i>you’re a stranger around here</i>” and I said “<i>I am yeah, but not very far funnily enough, I’m a Drumcondra man</i>”. I said “<i>where are your from</i>” and he said “<i>a just, down the other side, I ‘m from North King Street</i>”. “<i>Oh</i>” I said, “<i>my family came from North King Street</i>”. “<i>Did they? but I’m there all me life</i>” he says “<i>what’s their names</i>”. “<i>Well</i>” I said, “<i>me grandfather was an O’Toole – he had a “Solomon O’Toole, let me take the hand of a Solomon O’Toole</i>” he remembered me grandfather, now he was an old man and I was a young man. So this is part of the background, now, my grandmother, the army barracks were all around North King Street and all that area, Collins barracks and all that and she married a British soldier who went off to the war in France and died of poison gas and the story was when she wasn’t involved in politics but when, what do you call him, was shot.</p>
Q	Which of them, Pearse?
A:	the young fella, he was caught under a bread-cart in King Street and he was shot, they shot him the British.
	<i>What follows for a number of minutes is some elaboration on subjects view of Irish history, not relevant to the topic</i>
A.	Well anyway, the first thing, my mother was only 17 when she became pregnant and that was a terrible thing and I have no doubt, though I have never gone into dates, but I have no doubt, my father was a year older?
Q:	Okay, so she was 17.
A:	She was about 17, I must go up to cemetery and sit down and find out, but I never, I don’t bother. The story, they were a very good

	<p>Catholic family but they were very much working class. My grandfather died in France, in Manchester, came back to hospital in Manchester and he contacted my grandmother to come over to Manchester and bring the children, she had three daughters, my mother was the second, there was [REDACTED] the eldest, 3 or 4 years older than my mother. Then there was, well maybe two years older than my mother, and there was [REDACTED] who was about 5 years younger, 4 years or 3 years younger than mother. The three of them and my grandmother lived in Elizabeth Street, now Elizabeth Street, do you know Clonliffe Road/ do you know the?</p>
Q:	<p>Yes, I do, I know Clonliffe Road.</p>
A:	<p>You know Clonliffe Road, well, Elizabeth Street runs between Clonliffe Road and the Railway. It's a little straight street, it runs down, they were artisan houses I think, and they have two rooms downstairs and a little scullery, no one room downstairs, sorry and a scullery, and upstairs, two, a little narrow staircase going up, from the hall door and two little bedrooms, tiny little box rooms. We lived there, my mother who was an adult, [REDACTED] who was an adult, [REDACTED] was an adult, my father was an adult, and my grandmother, was, well I used to think she was ancient, you know. My grandmother, would never get a bus anywhere, she saved a penny, she would walk into Moore Street and get the cheap cuts of meat and make brawn, and make cheeks and pigs legs and make her own bread, soda bread and all the rest. Now it was a great house for people coming in, people called in, they had a lot of friends, and they were very religious, they were in the Legion of the lost I call it, the Legion of Mary and all that sort of thing and they used always have people coming in, and always raising money for the foreign missions, and the little black babies and all that stuff. But that was the sort of house it was. Now, I could never understand, how I had a first cousin, well she was called a first cousin, she was, I knew she wasn't a first cousin, but I met [REDACTED], and I never knew how she came into it into the thing, cos she was only a year older than me.</p>

Q:	Okay:
A	<p>And she lived in the house, and where did she come from? Years later before me mother died I said to her one day “where did [REDACTED] fit into the family”?. She said “<i>well, it’s very hard to understand but the truth of the matter is, granny was coming home from Mass one morning, she was a daily mass goer and the parish priest came out and said “Mrs [REDACTED], can I talk to you?” and he brought her into the Presbytery, and he said, “know I want to tell you a story about a couple I know, a young couple, who are not in a position to do anything, they are not in a position to get married but they have had a little baby, a little girl and she’s a beautiful child and you know, the child will have to go for adoption and I was wondering, would you, you’re a good family woman, you’ve a lovely family and I was wondering would you take the little baby in.” So me grandmother said, “sure where could I put it, I have no where to put a little baby, the house is running out of.. “I know that, but you could fit it in somewhere, you’re to right one, you’d make a good mother” and she... “will you come and have a look at it, the child, I’d like you to see it”. So me grandmother went and reluctantly she was dragged into see the child and of course, she started to cry nearly and she said “ well, what’s the name, what name is” “well he says, she says “I’ll tell you what I’ll do if you can change the name, if you can change the birth certificate to mine, my family name, to our family name I’ll take the baby”. “Well” he says “I won’t be able to do that with the birth certificate but I’ll do it with the baptismal certificate.” So he had to produce the baptismal certificate, so [REDACTED] had a baptismal certificate, where most of us have a birth certificate.</i></p>
	.
	<p>So now they were all living in this little house, I don’t know where we slept. I’ll tell you what, when I was born in Mannix Road, where my other grandmother lived, my father’s mother and she was the opposite to the one, she was the flighty, she was dressing young, she was like, she was 65 and dressed like a young one, purple clothes</p>

	<p>and a little box, pillbox hat and she wouldn't have a shilling, she'd borrow from me mother all the time and as soon as she'd borrow from me mother she'd give it to [REDACTED] and meself. But she was a snob, a snob about nothing, they ran out of everyplace they ever lived in because they never paid the rent. They would stay as long as they could.</p>
Q:	So your mother was very young when she had you?
A:	Sorry for boring you.
Q:	No, you're not boring me at all, it is very interesting.
A:	<p>My birth certificate says I was born in Mannix Road, which went that nobody knew in Elizabeth Street where me mother was from, that I, that me mother had our baby. But around that time me father worked as a porter, well he was a, he had TB, he was also sick, he was, he left school when he was 12 because he was sick. He had tuberculosis, but he had double pneumonia and he had to leave school and he couldn't read or write. Me mother taught him. He was a beautiful writer in the end cos she taught him calligraphy. My mother worked in the post office, probably as a shop assistant, she was probably 14 or 15 and the two girls, her sisters worked in a shirt factory, in Arnotts shirt factory, [REDACTED] was to become manageress or forewoman, or whatever it is called and the other one was a machinist. My mother had me and they lived in Rush, they had a flat, they didn't have a stick of furniture and they went to a place in Rush and my father could get the train from Rush in the morning into Broadstone. He worked in Broadstone. Now he was, the doctor, his doctor, the doctor that they had when he was sick was Dr [REDACTED], and he happened to be the doctor for the railway in Broadstone and he got me father a job there and he said he wouldn't be able for heavy work but they got him a pen-pushers job, just signing docketts, that kind of thing. It meant he didn't have to wear a uniform. But anyway, he was always the lowest grade you could possibly find. Now, I was born and I was living, they were all living out in Rush and I don't think they lived in Rush for that long, they couldn't have</p>

been any-more than about 6months, or 5 months maybe or 4 months even, until she was able to bring me home, do you understand, this I am just taking with a pinch of salt, I don't know, I put two and two together and I think that this has to be the way. So they had absolutely nothing, now they were living in Elizabeth Street, in this house, with me father, me mother, 3 adults and another child and the grandmother. I dunno where we slept, but I remember I used to run around, you see you'd play in your bare feet in summer, in the winter you'd have a pair of boots and as I said, from the day that the post office gave us unemployment benefit, whenever that came in, you put 6 pence of a stamp card. My grandmother put 6 pence a week into the three girls post office and those books were found under her mattress when she died – they were never touched, no they were the British post office, originally the British post office, where she was thrifty even, you know, now she must have had a pension from the British Army but she would never take the old age pension but she had to... [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had to pay her their wages, you know, she never, she was very, she would never give you a penny – everything went into the house, food, furniture, things for the house, curtains, that sort of thing, she'd be a proud women. As I said, she used to walk everywhere 'cos she wouldn't spend a penny, that would be waste.. So you never got a penny, then me other grandmother would give you, Jesus you'd have more bits and pieces, every bob she borrowed from me mother you got ah, anyways, distributed to [REDACTED] and myself. So we came back to live in Elizabeth Street, and at that, at the age of 3 years of age, I know I was still living in Elizabeth Street, and I know of that because, [REDACTED] was going to school in Gardiner Street and my grandmother walked us down and my mother was working at this stage. And my mother, what had happened I tell ya, putting you the story now, when they came back from Rush my mother had lost her job in the Post office as a shop assistant and but she had to push me around, mind me during the day and I was a cantankerous child I believe, I was known as the gimme boy, gimme

	<p>this, gimme that, gimme that water, gimme that but I was the eldest, I was the first and I was spoilt. Now, my mother was walking with the pram one day, she had heard about these houses up in Ferguson Road, do you know Ferguson Road?</p>
Q:	<p>Oh, I do, I lived in it.</p>
	<p>A: Hardiman Road, you know Hardiman Road, but that complex was only being built. Pats School was where I went to School, national school, you get off the bus there at Pats School in Drumcondra Road, and you come up that avenue, Millmount Avenue and it leads you up, there's a library on the corner.</p>
Q:	<p>I know it well.</p>
A:	<p>And then there is the estate then, Hardiman and Ferguson and all, Walsh Road. Those houses were being built and me mother went out to have a look at them one day, pushing the pram. Now she was eighteen or something, maybe nineteen and she was walking past down by Pats School and there was none of them let at this stage, they were all being built, half built and quarter built and you know, you can imagine, and it was a big building site and the back of it was, was not built yet, they did that in two phases or something. But she was walking down past Pat's side entrance and she saw a shop for sale and she said to herself "now when those houses are built sure people will have to come down there in the mornings and go back up in the evenings and this would be a good shop for selling cigarettes and now and things like that". So she had it in mind and she walked back down and she was going back to Elizabeth Street and at the corner of Clonliffe Road there was a bank called the National Bank. I think it is still a bank.</p>
Q:	<p>There's a bank still there, Ulster.</p>
A:	<p>A that's gone anyway, she went in there and asked could she see the manager and the manager came out and <i>he said "yes" and she said "I wanted to know could I get a loan" and he said "come in, come in, bring the buggy" he said. Brought into his office anyway, and she told him what she wanted. He said "how much do you want"</i>.</p>

	<p><i>“About 500 pounds”.. “And how long do you want it for?” “Well, I’d pay you back in two years”. “Well what collateral have you got”</i></p> <p>She did even know what the word collateral meant, she had nothing, not the tosser. Well after the end, he liked her very much, now she was a very likeable woman, and these are times when times were going to quick change by the year, you know and she had nothing. <i>He said to her “you know something, I am going to give you the 500 pounds, I shouldn’t but I am going to”. “I think” He said “you’re a very good young woman and he said, I think that you’ll make it work.</i></p> <p>She said, it work, yeah she said that she’d would work there, she’d open in the morning at 7, in the morning to get the workers coming out of the estate and she’d be working til the last bus, I think were 10 o’clock and she’d work until half 10 til the last people came up, going up to Walsh Road and Ferguson Road, and all that, and she’d open during the day for the schools, penny bars and all that type of thing. He gave her the 500 quid. Now they were there, me father was a young fella, he’d come back from the work and they’d sit at the counter, and they’d turning out shirt collars, at 6 pence a dozen, or something or thrupence a dozen, or a penny a dozen or something, under the counter when they were waiting for customers to come in. And the collars would come from the shirt factory, Arnotts shirt factory.</p>
Q:	Where the sister was?
A:	<p>Yeah, doing it as a piece-rate, so much for a dozen and they’d earn a few bob at that, but unfortunately, my father began to cough up blood, and they found out that he had, and he went down to Lord Edward, the doctor sent him down to Lord Edward Street where the first xray machine was installed for lungs and he went down to Lord Edward Street and he came back with a letter for to give to his doctor. And my mother and himself are there and they’re, and <i>me mother says “what’s in the letter, what do they want to say”. Me father says “I dunno, they just said to make sure to give it to Dr. [REDACTED]”.</i> “Look” she says “we’ll steam it open and see what’s</p>

	<p><i>inside it</i>". She went into the little kitchenette at the back and put the kettle on, and she steamed it open and she says "<i>Thank god</i>" she said "<i>whatever it is its not important, I never heard of it, you've got consumption</i>" Oh Jesus, never heard of it, didn't know what it was. So, anyway, me father wasn't able to work, he had to go into a sanatorium, or somewhere. My mother couldn't keep the shop going on her own, with the baby, so she did, she sold the shop. But out of what she sold, me father came out of hospital but by the time he came out of the sanatorium after three or four months, the bleeding had stopped and he was built up, they had built him up with potatoes and but, milk and what not, she paid the bank the 500 she owed and she had a deposit to put on, you know Walsh road?</p>
Q:	Yes.
A:	Well, then you know the park.
Q:	Yes.
A:	Well you know the other side was Botanic Avenue.
Q:	Yes.
A:	Well right facing across there were two houses built, 126 Botanic Avenue, she bought that, a semi-detached house, they were cottages, mud wall cottages with a front garden, that was a village of Botanic, and the men used that, the builders when they were building, they used to, they let the cottages standing to hold their tools. She bought that house and furnished it on the surplus. Now the next thing she did, she got [REDACTED] to get her a job in the shirt factory and she was doing simple things, on the machine, and when she learnt enough about how to work the machine she got a job in a coat factory, [REDACTED], they're Jewish.
Q:	[REDACTED]
A:	Yeah, now you see she was using her head, how do you go anywhere? You have to learn how to make a pattern, you have to learn how to make a garment. That's a business I could, I could make you with, cos the dressmaking, don't forget the war- the war was on and there were no clothes, so if you had an old rag you could turn it

	<p>into something, so my mother anyway, learnt how to make, make linings, and then eventually, she started making the fronts of coats and the backs of the coats and then, became a pocket maker, making pockets and learnt the whole thing and eventually became a sample maker. Now there was, only men were sample makers, because that meant your standard was very high, and most of the men, the sample makers were English men, because what had happened in 1935 the Irish Government brought in people to teach the Irish, they brought in Jews from the East End of London and from Manchester for their clothing business and they gave them, rented small spaces up on the tops of places like Capel Street, up in the garrets and they put in maybe four machines, or five machines. The Jew would be there, he'd be out, he'd have got maybe 10 kids, maybe 7 kids from the East End tenements slums, but they all, every factory I worked in for Jews all the time, only one Catholic, one Catholic I worked for, it was the last one I ever worked for, yeah, and he learnt his business working for the Jews. They were all Jewish factories, and the South Circular Road was the Jewish area, all around there. The synagogue was there and all the rest, but on the other hand at that time all the drapery shops were all protestant, you had Pimms, you had Clearys, you had Kingstons, you had ah, you had Kellets, you had, you all these, you had Shaws throughout the country, you had, they were all Protestants, and they only employed Protestants so it was very hard for a Catholic to get a job, but, they were I remember I went to work for a fella called [REDACTED], I worked in 8 factories of which 6 of them, 7 of them were clothing factories. First one was the car factory warehouse, lighting these fires or trying to light them, and am, I realised then too late that I had left school and I couldn't go back, and I regretted it, so the only thing I could do. At this stage my mother was making dresses at home as well as working in the factory.</p>
Q:	Okay, so she was working at home?
A:	In the evening times, she'd be, people would come for fittings and

	<p>that. So she started making money, because all she was paid in the factory was buttons, and she said to me, I went to work for [REDACTED] one time, “oh” she said, “ that old devil” she says “ I worked for him” that fella’s the meanest man, he used to pay us sixpences and thrupenny bits, that’s all you’ll get in your wages cos it will look like money”. She was dead right, he was the meanest man in Ireland. Em, anyway, she became very proficient, she could get a piece of paper like that, now I’ve started learning, I got into the garment industry through making By telling a lie, that I had been cutting car seats and I had some experience starting off as an apprentice, as against someone who had no experience, but I didn’t, I didn’t have any experience in fact but I had to, I had applied for that many jobs as a junior cutter but no one would have me cos I had no experience, so I told a lie and I got a job in Knight and Petch, they were in Drury Street, and I was always very tidy and very neat and I was doing silk shirts for Hopkins and Hopkins and Kavanaghs of Dame Street, the top people, course you know, the only people, people, these were the people from Powerscourt and you know, the big estates and what not, these were the sort of customers they had. So when I got a bit of experience there I went looking for a job, and I got a job in a coat factory as a lining cutter and I was very respected because I was very neat, ‘cos linings are rough and ready and I was so used to putting matching stripes in shirts, you know very expensive shirts, that I was very good at doing what I was doing. So I went to Tech at night and then I met a guy, [REDACTED] who to this day.</p>
Q:	Oh I remember [REDACTED]
A:	I was with him only last, about 4 weeks ago, he was on the phone yesterday, he’s down in [REDACTED] now, retired of course.
Q:	And [REDACTED],
A:	Yeah, and [REDACTED], Oh Jesus [REDACTED], yeah....But am, anyway [REDACTED] was in he’s 3 years older than I, he was a very talented artist, he did beautiful sketches, but he was also a pattern, he was able to cut patterns. I don’t know where he learned to make the

	<p>patterns, I think it was [REDACTED], the boss, 'cos he was a friend of the family. They had chows/, his mother used to breed chows and [REDACTED] used to bred, he was an English man of course, and they had no children, [REDACTED] had no children and they used to visit with the dogs you know, and anyway they became very chummy, anyway, and [REDACTED] went to work there in and he was, as I thought he was my boss, very conservative kind of guy and I went, I was, that was my first fashion end and I got into lining and from there I got onto the cutting table, beginning to cut and I got a job then in another factory, and I was on the cutting table, I was now a cutter. But all the time I was learning to cut patterns I was going to night Tech and em, I was only about 20 I think when I started my first factory.</p>
Q:	When you started your first factory?
A:	Yeah, with my mother.
Q:	You started it with your mother did you?
A:	I did yeah.
Q:	Okay, and did she, was she still working at home?
A:	She had, now, oh she was the most successful dressmaker in Dublin. They used to come from Galway, they'd come by taxis for her, and they'd be sitting there for two or three hours waiting for a fitting.
Q:	And where was she living at this stage?
A:	St. Alphonsus Road, and worked from downstairs in the basement. And it was a lovely house, a beautiful house upstairs, had a big garden with an orchard at the back.
Q:	And had she bought that or was she renting?
A:	Sorry?
Q:	Did she buy that or was she renting?
A:	No I'll tell you the story. Now the house that she bought in Botanic Avenue where, she was working in a factory and doing dressmaking. She got so busy doing the dressmaking that she couldn't cope and a house went up for, the two houses started cracking and people used to stop outside, come along on bicycles and stop looking at the

houses, because whatever the sand they used, the sea sand or something it cracked and the houses became, you could talk to the neighbour next door through the bedroom, through the wall, not alone did they crack in the front of the house but they cracked inside the house. And my mother and father were using this solicitor to take the builder on and what they didn't know was the solicitor and the builder, they were all using the one solicitor. But they didn't understand these things, so my father at this stage was in and out of hospital and you know, but now, they were getting money. Now they had their own house, there was enough money coming in. I was at school, I used to wait til my mother would come home and sometimes I had to cycle over, My mother got a job in a factory in William Street, and eh, she was, she got on very well there, she left that factory to go to work for Benny [REDACTED] another Jew and she left that to go home to work in the house fulltime. At this stage, she, the house was falling asunder with cracks, modern house, you know. A house came up for sale on Dargle Road and they bought it. The funny thing was, it was only one storey at the front but it went out at the back and this house had no bathroom but it had a toilet at the back yard, to get to the back yard, the same as Elizabeth Street had been. Now Elisabeth Street had no bath – in Elizabeth Street there was only one room downstairs, a small front room, front room whatever you call it. The kitchenette at the back had a bath, that, like making a table and you could have a bath there with hot water thrown in, yeah, but there was a lavatory down the back at the end of the yard which ran onto the lane for Clonliffe Road, which is the lane for, same lane. This house in Dargle Road, had a toilet in the back yard but they built a bathroom onto the back of the kitchen, that was the beginning of the bathrooms, indoor bathrooms, indoor toilets, from the beginning they were putting them onto these houses. And we stayed there for about, I was 10, I was, I know I had my 10th birthday when I was living there, so we had left Botanic Avenue, probably when I was about 8. I know I made my Holy Communion

	<p>in Botanic Avenue. And we moved then to Russell Avenue, which is right beside Elizabeth Street, the other side of the railway, you have Fitzroy Avenue and you have Russell Avenue, runs down to Croke Park, Jones Road. We moved there to an end house there, and they built a workroom in the back in the garden, now there was very little yard left, when this thing was build, but it was modern and she had about 5 machines in it, and she had about 5 workers.</p>
Q:	<p>Very good.</p>
A:	<p>Now the, all the machines, well there were 5 machines wouldn't be all flat machines, they'd be a button sewer, button holer or something, but anyway she had a very successful, and one of her customers was a Mrs. [REDACTED] from, Mrs, it wasn't [REDACTED], she was a next door neighbour, doesn't matter, from no. Alphonsus Road, and I was asked to go over and deliver a coat, one, one day and I went over, and Mrs. Phelan brought me in, Mrs. what's her name, <i>and said "would you like some apples?" and I said "I'd love some apples" and she brought me out the back and she said "Pick at what you want there" and I couldn't believe – she'd apples and plums and pears, and they had a long garden you know, oh Jesus, and I came back and I said "oh Mam, you'd wanna see the house". So Mrs. [REDACTED] came back, she was, they were always getting stuff made by my mother 'cos there was nobody else to get clothes from and ah, my mother said to her "I believe, [REDACTED] was telling me that you have a beautiful house, and you'd a beautiful orchard in the back, and I must say, the apples were beautiful" and she said "Yeah, she said it's a pity, it's on the market, I am selling it, we're selling it, we're moving to Galway" or somewhere, and a pity we'd didn't know you were looking for a house, cos it would have suited you down to the ground cos the basement would work as a workroom and you'd have the rest of the house all to yourself" So my mother says, that's a pity, she said "would you like to see it" Me mother said, yes I would – it was only across the road sort of thing. So me mother went down and Jesus, she bought the house anyway.</i></p>

Q:	Fair dues to her.
A:	At this stage now they had money. At this stage they'd bought a hut, a wooden hut, one room in Greystones, Delgany
Q:	Oh?
A:	In the middle of a field, you know – we loved it
Q:	What was that for? That was for your country....
A:	It meant we could go down there – we went down, me father had..... Do you know what me mother used to do. Me mother would be working now. Me father would go down on the Friday, sometimes on the Thursday, he wasn't working because of his health, and he'd be down there in the hut, and we'd come down. Me mother would get the train, the train would run out of steam at Bray, wouldn't go any further than Bray. The pram, ■■■ in it, no ■■■ a was a toddler, I was about 10, Cora was about 5, ■■■ would have been a baby, she would push the baby up Bray head, all the way from the railway station, Saturday night and push her up the Bray head, and down Windgates the other side and up to Delgany. And we'd stay the Saturday night and Sunday and leave Sunday night, back for Dublin, We'd get the train from Greystones back. And then my father was offered a house on the railway line, it was an old creosote house, they used to do creosote sleepers, so we got that for a very nominal rent, but you had to walk up the railway tracks to get to it, but that was another thing. Then we bought a boat, for the Harbour, we bought a beachbox, we were getting on now, we moved out of the hut, the hut was now put on the back.
Q:	And this was all being funded by her dressmaking from the basement at this stage in Alphonsus Road.
A:	You see, they never spent anything, they weren't people to go out at night 'cos they never had time, but me father was, began to get a bit spoilt at this stage, and he wasn't working very often, because he ill, I suppose his health, and he had a girlfriend, and that was a problem. And all the way along the line, this is what happened. So you can see from nothing. Now, the story, going back now, when we were living

in Elizabeth Street, I discovered, now what had happened him, I never remember me grandfather, the man who died, what had happened, when he came back from the war Kevin Barry, was the lad who was shot dead or, Just a lad of 18 summers, sure there is no one can deny,.... Yeah, she became anti English, and when he was dying, when he came back from France he asked for Lizzie to go over to Manchester, and bring the children and she wouldn't go, and he wrote and he said he was dying, and he was going to die, and he pleaded with her and she wouldn't go. "That oul devil, he's telling lies, lies" and she wouldn't go. And she had a house somewhere, an artisan house, I don't know where at that stage but he wrote to the three children and they were all kids at this stage. My mother was probably about 10, ■■■ was about 12 and the other was about 8, and he wrote to the three them, and asked them to please ask Mama, dada's very ill and all that kind of thing. They got her to agree to go and they sold up everything and went to England, sold up her bits and pieces and handed the key back to the artisan dwelling wherever that was, I dunno, the history. She was in Manchester for one week when she ran out of it and came back to Ireland and she had nowhere to go, she went to the artisan dwelling houses and they said there is a house vacant up on Oxmanstown Road, and she was so lucky, she said the prayers have been answered and they went up to Oxmanstown Road, there's a load of artisan, back onto the cattle market on the North Circular Road, and they took this house, and it was grand, and they couldn't understand, things were moved around at night, me grandmother couldn't understand where, and they could here noises. Me grandmother thought there were people working upstairs in houses around, next door, and this is as true as God, me mother swore to this, and everybody else did in the family. They were living there about 6 weeks and me grandmother was coming out one day and a neighbour was coming out "*Hello Missus, how are you, you're the new people here, lovely to see you and the young family, lovely. How do you like the house? Me grandmother says,*

	<p><i>“it’s grand, we love it, we’re very lucky we got it, we didn’t really expect, but it was the only one that was vacant when we went looking, no problem, we got the key immediately. She said, you like it? “Yes”, Me grandmother began to think there was something wrong. “Why do you say that?” “ Well ‘cos people have been in and out there and nobody stays in it very long, because eh,, there seems to be funny things happening” “Yeah”, she said, “well funny things do happen, with the dresser ‘d be pulled out some mornings and” ..Poltergeist, or whatever you call it.</i></p>
Q:	Yeah.
A:	Genuine, now, so they got out of that house, that’s when they got the house in Elizabeth Street, from the but that’s the original story, before I was born.
Q;	Did your grandmother have to work?
A:	No, she never, worked, not that I remember. She probably did work a bit, she worked you see, looking after the house for her brothers. Her brothers went to Canada and were never heard of again, they went off you know, and the father stayed there and he died quiet young, and very sad about that, because, they lived in a house, now I thought they owned the big house, across from the cooperage. The cooperage was on the corner of Smithfield and King Street, right on the corner. There was a seed company there in recent times, well not in recent times but when I was growing up. My grandfather was dead and buried and all that sort of thing you know, my grandmother lived – he’d be my great grandfather, sorry. Naturally, but anyway, am, I forgot which part I was at now.
Q:	We were chatting about your grandmother and that she used to support the brothers in the cooperage and the business.
A:	Oh yeah, she looked after the food, the cooking and cleaning and all that.
Q:	and she was getting wages?
A:	I dunno, maybe she did another job, I dunno. But she was the daughter, don’t forget of the house and this day, she always told me

	<p>this story, many times she told me this story, she told me variations, but it was always the one, this part of it is true, well as far as she's concerned. In those days, they believed in ghosts and fairies, and leprechauns and all sorts of things, the will of the wisp, you'd come back from the fair, pissed, with barrels, after selling barrels in [REDACTED] and they'd see what they believed, yeah, will o' the wisp and all those sorts of things.</p>
Q:	Of course yeah.
A:	<p>And they believed, well now, my grandmother was one of those, but she really believed... I dunno, but I'll just tell you a story. She was telling me that her father had a farmer up from the country, you see they used to deliver the hay, that was the hay market and they'd always come up every Wednesday and the drays came up with the hay and they sold it there and they'd go home with barrels, 'cos farmers held everything in barrels, rainwater, food, and whatever they had within the barrels, and this man wanted a special barrel, special dimensions and my grandfather said he would make it for him. And he made it for him and the man was to come back on a Wednesday, the following Wednesday and he'd have it for him, and he got pneumonia and he was sweating and perspiring and what not, and sick as a dog, and he went over and he worked until midnight, or after midnight and he got the barrel finished for the man to come next morning and the man never came. Now my grandfather died.</p>
Q:	He was your great grandfather, was he?
A:	<p>My great-grandfather died, sorry and my grandmother told me that she went over a couple of times, over to the cooperage which was locked up now and she saw me grandfather sitting there at the barrel, her father, sitting at the barrel, still waiting for the man to come to collect his barrel, he never came. Course it shows you the stories of the time, and that's, she would, that was as far as she was concerned, that was a fact, a 100%. Now..</p>
Q:	So when your mother then, she was working from Alphonsus Road, had her own work room.

A:	She had her own work room there.
Q:	She had five or six workers.
A:	<p>Four or five, and then, I'd I had now reckoned I'd learned enough, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I got 100 quid and I gave him a 100 quid to teach me how to cut, cos I wasn't grasping in the Tech and what they were teaching me in the Tech, was making, you'd make shapes out of a straight line, he'd say it can't be done, you buy a block that is already made, you don't need to make a block, you know and he is right, perfectly right, but he put sense into my head. He was very good, and I gave him a 100 quid and that's when I started drinking, cos he went to celebrate when he got his 100quid and paid, and I knew all I knew. We went off down to town and I got pissed on two pints, sick as a dog, ah Jesus. But that was, meant now that I wasn't going to work for anyone then, I said, okay. But now, the thing that happened then, because of the situation in Ireland being very bad, very jobs, you couldn't get jobs, you couldn't get a trade unless your father was in the trade, the trade unions wouldn't let you, and the way I got into the tram-shed as a labourer, I went in hoping I was going to be an apprentice, and to learn something, and I went into the trade union, the Irish, no what was it called, the tailor, the Boilermakers union, or something like that, the Railwaymen's Union, that me father, and I saw the man who was in charge there, he was in charge, cos I knew from my father. I didn't tell him who I was, cos I didn't want me father to know, and I asked him was there any jobs going and he told me that there might be a job, going up there and I believed it was an apprenticeship and I was getting in through the trade union, but it wasn't really, you know so I left thereafter, <i>unclear</i>by a fluke I was earning big money 'cos I took a senior's job even though I was only the boy, but it was my own pushing that got the job, cos I was leaving, and I put myself in for the job and in the office, they didn't know what age I was, and I wasn't an apprentice you see, so I was paid full man's wages, and then copped on after about three months or four months and as soon</p>

	as they copped on, I was gone because I wasn't going to work for buttons after working for that.
Q:	Yes of course.
A:	But then I was running around with no job, looking for a job in the clothing and that wasn't, the clothing business wasn't too unionised, it was easier to get into if you had, but you had to have the bit of experience, so you were working for nothing, you were working for buttons, and you were doing a man's work. So, I was about 20, so yeah, I'll tell you, I was about 19, when I said to, this was the early 50s, when, now I'll tell you what happened, the war finished in 1947, 45, 1945, by 1950 the British market, the British consumer market had almost reached saturation point, I think it was about 1950 that they were still using coupons in England, until about 1950 I think, 1949 or something, but the production was now swamping and what were they doing with, 'cos all the factories that were working on munitions and men's uniforms and parachutes, they were all now making clothes. So you had, reach, you had saturation point sometime in the early 50s, 50 /51 and 1951 I remember, we were living in Alphonsus Road and we had a Woolsey 14 car and we went to Europe to bring food to Europe and we drove through Germany down to Rome, the Marian Year, Pope Pius the 12 th .
Q:	Wow, and who went?
A:	My father, my mother, my aunt M [REDACTED] who worked for my mother, [REDACTED] and myself – now I was driving a car at this stage, I was 17, so that would have been about, that would have been, 18 or 19, because I was born in 1932 say, December 31 so that would have been, so if I was 17 it would have been, 32, would have been 49, so 51, that would have been right, yeah I was driving a car but I wasn't allowed to drive on the continent. I did drive, parking the car, moving it or something you know, but I didn't drive, my father did the driving. He was a terrible driver, Jesus, how we lived I don't know. But we drove all through Germany, from the North of Germany, right down to Oberammergau, the Passion play was on that year, the first

	<p>passion play after, it was 1932 or something, up the mountains and we stayed, and you couldn't get a hotel anywhere, or a B& B cos all the armies, the French zone, the British zone, the American zone and we wouldn't go to the Russian zone, needless to say but they had everything commandeered and if there was anything left standing and Germany was still flattened, they were rebuilding it though because the Germans were industrious. The Germans used to gather bricks going to work in the morning.</p>
Q:	So you went with food parcels?
A:	Sorry?
Q:	You went over with food parcels was it?
A:	No, not with, with food yeah, but really we wanted, we had money accumulated during the war years, a.
Q:	So it was a holiday?
A:	and of course, there was no tax paid on that, that was all cabbage, and me mother had queues of people, you know, Jesus, there was nothing, I mean, when you think of it; a week's wages then was about 2 quid a week, so you can understand someone taking in on a Friday night, taking in 97 pounds and counting out 97 pound notes and that was, okay, you had to pay your staff out of that, what's that -that was a 10, you still have 87 and that's on one night.
Q	And was she officially, did she have a company per say?
A:	Not at all, my mother, they wouldn't know anything about companies, for God's sake. But now, when I formed a company, yes, we formed a company my mother and myself.
Q:	so that was the first?
A:	And she moved over her workroom to the factory.
Q:	Okay.
A:	Now, the problem was that I had no experience of selling, what had happened was now, go back. Because of the situation with dumping, the factories here closed down, all the little workrooms closed down and went on short time etc. because they could buy stuff from England, and the English were delighted to dump stuff into Ireland,

	<p>'cos it wasn't affecting their own market. So, in about 1951 I decided on going to Canada. Now we bought a boat, a few of us bought a boat to go to Australia, yeah, it was a time, funny enough now, it was a time a few people bought boats, we had it down in Ringsend, in a yard and we were working on it, putting it into condition. Now I had experience, we had boats in Greystones harbour and do you know that I remember the coal boats coming in there, the schooners from Wales, emptying coals in the Harbour in Greystones. Two massive schooners used to come in and there was a crane on the, on the Harbour wall and it used to lift, guide the coal over to Dan's yard, the Beach house it is called now, it's a bar and there used to be a coal yard there, and there was groceries, wine and spirits, and what not, and em, we had the boats there. And anyway, we bought this boat to sail and then, [REDACTED] worked for, [REDACTED], he lives down in M [REDACTED] here, he plays double base still today, he plays on Sunday morning out in [REDACTED] now [REDACTED] he's, he must be 85, 84 anyway, he still plays double base in the jazz, and he plays cello for classic and songs, oh very, you know, well [REDACTED] was one of my pals then, he was a bit older, his cousin, his first cousin [REDACTED] was me best friend, who married me girlfriend afterwards, he told me she was a dose, don't know what you're doing with her and I said, "well, she's alright, she's got big tits" and he married her anyway and they had about 15 kids, every year she had a kid, she was back from Canada. But anyway, I was going to Canada, the boat was confiscated, we didn't pay the rent and the guy that owned the shed it was in decided to take the boat, it was still, there was a lot more to be done to it, but [REDACTED] pulled out of the deal because, a guy, he met a guy in the office who told him that he'd, he had got this this em, disease that you get in the tropics from the mosquito.</p>
Q:	Oh yeah, malaria.
A:	Malaria, and he said once you get it you never get rid of it, and its terrible and you break out in cold, and cold and hot temperature, so anyway, of course, there was only quinine in those days, they hadn't

any other cure, but anyway, Aidan pulled out, that put, that dampened it, we had all the plans, through Suez, and all the rest of it you know, we would never have done it, but we thought we would. So anyway, it ended up that three of us were going, so we decided we'd try and get tickets and get on a boat going to Canada from, and get ABC men, try to get into a Union, so we went onto the Union to try, and they wouldn't, they knew what we were up to, that we'd jump ship when we got to Canada. So we decided anyway, okay we'd go to Canada, we'd go to Cooks and get either a boat or a plane, or somehow the cheapest way we could get to Canada and we went, we went to get. I'd no money and I said to my parents that I was going to Canada, that the only, I had already discussed one factory I had worked in, in a children's coat factory, Bertola, that was the Christian I worked for, and I said, that's the only end of the business that seems that there is an opportunity in, is the kid's clothing, kid's coats, cos the fashion end is swamped, Jesus, giving stuff away and my mother and father never got that, but I, a couple of times I'd remind them that I wanted the fare to go to Canada, and they promised, said yeah, okay. So it came to the week that I was going, a Saturday morning we were going down to Cooks, so [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were calling and [REDACTED], sorry there was three of them and myself were going down to Cooks to pay, so will you give me the deposit - I forget what it was, 50 quid or 60 quid or something, I think it was the whole fare - maybe it was only 30 quid, whatever it was at the time. And yes, that morning I warned them again 'cos I don't want to be embarrassed to say I can't go, I have no money, they wouldn't give me the money and the lads called to the door, and I brought them into the hall and I said "just hang on a sec and I'll run down and get the money" and I went down to me mother and me father called me and he said "hey listen, I'll tell you, your mother and I were just talking, you were always talking about going into business, now, maybe children's coat business" I said, "forget, it, my pals are upstairs, we're going and I am going down to Cooks

	<p>now, will you give me the money please”. “Look, can you go Cooks on Monday and think over the weekend – this is what we have, we have £870 in the bank and you can have that to buy cloths and what nots”. Now £870 then was 25k, now, I ‘d say 30k. I said “No”, I ‘m not letting my friends down, and Jesus, I ended up going up stairs and saying “Listen lads, go on ahead, I can’t get the readies, they want me to stay”. I felt so embarrassed and humiliated, so on the Monday anyway, I said “okay, I ‘d have a look at cloths” so I went down to Martin Maloney’s in Abbey Street, picked out some cloths, some sample ends and we looked for a place, and found this little room on top of, two rooms on the top of Grafton Street and it looks over Stephens green on one side and King Street on the other side, right on the corner.</p>
Q:	Lovely.
A:	<p>Upstairs yeah, but it was only, ah Jesus, little narrow staircases up, Jesus it’d near kill you bringing up bales of cloth and there was only the one person to bring up the bales of cloth, four stories up and they were big, might be 30 or 40 bales, and the guys wouldn’t bring them up, the guys that delivered them, they’d say, just leave them there and that’s it, sign for them. So we were there for a while and we got on well. The awful problem was that for three months I was going around, the factory was producing for me mother’s business, not for, I had done the samples but I did not know the pricing, I didn’t know what the mark-up was, I didn’t know where the samples any good. Now I had worked for one factory and I had been a cutter, but I wasn’t the pattern cutter, but because I was working with the patterns I know what I could do, and I also took copies of the blocks, which I copied, which everybody does in the clothing business, that’s how you make your pattern, the block is the outline, the front and the back, sleeves, collar and now you make your shapes, different shapes from that. But that the fit piece, fitting and em, I was about three months going around and I hadn’t sold a garment and I had very place worn out, they were giving me the run-around, I’d go to and</p>

	<p>I'll just tell you a – this morning I went to, the woman, the hat shop it was called, well baby shop really, it became the baby shop afterwards after the hat shop in Rathmines, Mrs. [REDACTED] and she gave me an order this morning for about 20 garments, 20 coats, I couldn't believe it, 3 months after I was walking around the place, and from her I had arranged to go to O'Hora's of Francis Street, which was like a Denis Guiney of Francis Street, Jesus, I got me order there, about 50 garments, after 3 months, just one morning I get two orders. The next morning I went to Clearys, I got Clearys, I went into (<i>unclear</i>)'s the same week, and there the girl said, "<i>I told you to come back next season</i>" I said, "<i>you told me to come back, well I'm back</i>". "<i>You're coming in every week, you don't, there's no point in you coming in every week, I told you</i>". Well I said, "<i>when will I come back that you'll look</i>". "<i>Where are your samples now</i>" "<i>well I have them here</i>" so I had about 10 samples I think. I got an order.</p>
Q:	All in the one week?
A:	<p>All in the one week – everything broke at the one – they were sick looking at me, making excuses, they couldn't turn me away. Now, I'd say it was, I'm only saying about three months, it was a long time. I know if I hadn't a tied me mother's money up, I would have thrown myself in the Liffey, I would not have done what I did, but my pride and my sense of responsibility to my family, to my mother and father, my mother particularly, wouldn't let me so it worked out okay, then we worked from there and then we only supplied Dublin, Brown Thomas and everything, would drive you mad, you have to come down Noel, she wants the pockets changed, you know. We were doing that sort of business, nobody would do that in their right senses, we were the only people that would. So we got on there, we learnt that and then we got a traveller to do the country, an Englishman, and he was a good traveller, and he started to open up the business and we moved then from that factory to a place over in Georges Street, we had the whole building there, and it's over the</p>

	butchers and the butchers was around the corner from Fade Street, beside [REDACTED], and it was at the bus stop and we had our own entrance there and straight up a little narrow hall and then staircase and we had two flights on top of the butchers.
Q:	Yes, yes.
A:	and we had the workroom on the top and the cutting room downstairs and a showrooms downstairs, two rooms downstairs, there was a room there and a back room. The backroom was the cutting room and the front room was the showrooms, fitted out with nice fixtures and carried stock (<i>confidential material</i>).
Q:	And at that stage was your mother actively involved?
A:	At this stage me mother wasn't making dressmaking at all, we were now a factory, but she began to get older and the trouble was I was having more and more rows with her, because I was progressive and she was still an old tailoress like, and she was taking short cuts, she was doing without, you don't need a baster, a baster was the guy who comes down and puts a little tack stitching and then to press it into shape, and she'd do without the stitching and well you see, you can't. These are things that were very important. You didn't have (<i>unclear</i>) that stuck, you had canvas, so there was a lot more handling and my mother would take corners, cut corners and the stuff wasn't coming out right. But at that time, when I was in my early '20s I would often go to a dance with the lads and leave them at 12, maybe 12.15 and go to Caseys of the Green and have a bowl of soup, after being in the four provinces and I'd go up to the factory at about 1 o'clock in the morning and be there until 4 buttonholing coats, pressing coats, because instead of going over at night I 'd go out with the lads, cos I had to have some social life. It was a really difficult time cos my mother and I, me mother was a workaholic.
Q:	She was.
A:	Yeah, oh she worked morning, noon and night, she'd, even when [REDACTED] was born, she worked until about 2 hours before he popped out, she was still in the work, and you see, they didn't go to hospital, she

	had the baby upstairs, two days later she was back in the workroom. She was that sort of woman you know.
Q:	And she was out of her own clients when you set up the factory.
A:	Well, she and I were working together, but I couldn't get on with her, eventually I said look, I'll sell the stuff, I'll make the kids range, and I'll sell, and you do the ladies end. At this stage we were doing ladies, and this is where the trouble was, she could do the ladies but she would not put the work into them, and when the stuff would come like flour bags, now we were able to sell the ladies very cheap. Sometimes we would hit the jackpot with a number, a very good number, that didn't need basting, very simple, plain, style that the cut, but generally speaking I couldn't get her to make car coats, which I knew I could sell. I remember, saying to my, I had a model with me, she was a teenage model and I remember saying to her, ■■■■, we're seven weeks travelling, we should have been 5 so it was costing 7, because I couldn't show the stuff to some customers, I wouldn't show them, I'd be ashamed. So it would take me seven weeks in lesser accounts, opening, keeping lesser accounts to keep the production rather than going to.. I'd often say, ■■■■, the range is lousy, I have nothing in it of interest to you, I'm not going to show it to you, leave it to next season, rather than lose customers. I got respect for that you know, sometimes you do and sometimes you don't. So that's more or less the story.
Q:	And did she stay involved for long (<i>continues with very detailed narrative surrounding property dealings undertaken by himself</i>)
A:	Yes, she did until she died and ..
A:	Oh yeah, we were, she was, I was out selling, and I would do the patterns and the kids, and this wasn't at the time – there were problems all along the line with my mother and myself because, she fecked up me social life, she wouldn't let me, she hated ■■■■ my first wife, because, ■■■■ was taking her crutch from under her. You know, it wasn't because ■■■■ wasn't nice, ■■■■ was very tolerant to her, and but me mother hated anybody. She messed me up, she

	knew I had a date, she wouldn't leave the factory, I'd have to drive her home, I'd see me date standing there and by the time I'd got back me date would be gone. But there were always things like that – she was a difficult woman, but she was neurotic and she would tell you all the things that were wrong with me. But, I looking back at it, I did things that nobody would have done, all out of loyalty, although I did have awful rows.
Q:	And did your mother stay with your father all through.
A:	Ah now, she bought him a house eventually and he moved off with this girlfriend of his, a girlfriend, not the one that was.
Q:	Okay.
A:	He was living over there, then she brought him back at the end of his days.
Q:	and looked after him.
A:	Well, he looked after himself you know, and there were always rows between my sister, 'cos my sister was spoilt, my young sister, and she used to hate him because she wanted her own way, and she being spoilt didn't understand. The funny thing is, even ■■■, who was only 5 years, 10 years behind me, he finds it very hard to understand, I tell him the background to our family, cos he never saw that cos the ten years of gap, by the time he was, became 14 years.
Q:	There was a few bob coming in?
A:	There was money in the house, and it was coming, it was getting better.
Q:	And she generated all the money?
A:	Oh every penny, every penny, until such time as we were producing in the factory. And even then, I didn't have any control of the money, I just took a nominal salary and it was always, when I go, the share of the factory would be yours. So that's the way it went you know, and then I went out and I started, I'd do the patterns and I'd sell the stuff and people were asking me, I was a good salesperson, and people were always asking me would I sell this and would I sell that and at first I used to say I wouldn't have time.

Molly McElhinney Retailer Meath, born in 1915. Set up her shop in 1937. She initially started by making the fashions herself and this continued during the 1940s and into the 1950s. Over time she started buying stock, initially from Dublin but overtime expanding to buy from abroad. She grew the business significantly and developed a strong reputation for the shop as a fashion centre to which customers would travel from all over Ireland to get clothes for special occasions. An astute businesswoman, ran a farm as well as the business. Had eight children. Operated the business for over 50 years until her death in 1988. Interviewed grandson on 11/3/2013.

Q	I suppose, it's just really to get a bit of context, and when did she start.
A	1937 she started the shop, originally down the street, yeah.
Q	What age was she at that stage?
A	Molly was born in 1915, so she would have been 22, but she sort of had a background, her mother was sort of, a very good sewer, Mary Macken and that's how she picked up the trade from her mother, just darning, making some clothes at home and that sort of thing. Around about 22 then, in 1937 she decided she would try and open a shop, small shop and that's the thing and made all her own clothes and...
Q	Okay.
A	You know, all the way through the thirties, forties and early fifties and then started buying a little bit then from Arnotts in Dublin, so that where the men's shop is today, that's where we were all raised as a family, and that's her thing, three generations were raised there you know, and that's, downstairs was, on the right hand side when I was a kid was the ladies and the left hand side was men's, sort of boots, hardware, a few items like that, overalls, that sort of thing and some waders and that.
Q	Every-day wear?
A	Every-day wear, so it was real traditional and then on the right hand side would have been ladies fashion which would have been a little bit higher fashion because she would have catered for say some of the

	quite wealthy around the area and racing would have been popular enough, Meath, with Fairyhouse, Navan and places like that.
Q	Of course.
A	She would have been making sort of bespoke stuff at that early age for those people attending races and she really liked the occasion wear, was really her forte, loved that end of the business.
Q	So she started, she was both supplying, doing the clothes herself and selling in the shop?
A	Correct.
Q	Wow that was a busy.
A	Busy time, yeah, she made them at night, most of the time I think. Shop hours were normally 9 until about to 5 so then in the evening, herself and her sister Roseanne, that came into the business a little bit later, both were very good seamstresses, and so, it was sort of a one woman, two woman show all the way through until the fifties.
Q	Okay.
A	And then she got a little bit bigger and then she took on her first employee which was Kitty Foley, then at that stage you know, anyway fifty five.
Q	So up until that her sister was working with her?
A	Yeah, her sister Roseanne, both of them were seamstresses, both very good at it, it was sort of an outlet, she married, she was married to a plumber, so you know that was her thing, and he was the more industrial end of things and she was probably, the more I suppose, the more seamstress finesse and...
Q	And was she married when she started the shop or was she...?
A	Let me see, she married in thirty, she would have been married, she would have been just married, yeah, just one year married yeah.
Q	Okay and was her husband involved in any way or was he completely separate from the business?
A	Completely separate, no, yeah he had no involvement at all, if it was anything it might have been something to do with hanging pictures or hanging fittings but, day to day no he had, no he had no interest at all,

	he was a pure plumber and that was it full stop.
Q	Okay.
A	Now he was very good in his own way, because he used to do deliveries, so like if there were deliveries to be left to Drogheda, or something like that, he was brilliant, he would do all that in the evening and that sort of thing so he helped out that way.
Q	Yeah.
A	But day to day, no interest at all in the shop. Yeah, like I mean there is a good story where he was sent over to Drogheda to find a woman with the chickens, you know and eh, Duleek on the road, and he said how am I going to find her, and she said, keep asking at the houses and you'll find the woman with the chickens, that's all me grandmother would know you know, Mrs such and such, with the free range chickens you know, as if there was the only person in the fifties or forties that had free range chickens, nearly every house in the country had. But, like he was good that way, he was patient and that's how things were.
Q	And how many children did she go on to have?
A	She had eight in total and two didn't reach adulthood and six did.
Q	Okay.
A	So she had eight children in total.
Q	Alright and were they involved obviously down through the years?
A	Yeah, em, my mother which was Mary Sweeney became the buyer, Mary McElhinney, and then her younger sister Louise became the shoe buyer and then later on, in the late seventies, then her eldest son, who was a plumber by profession, he changed career and he came in here in to run the stock room and sort of, the departmental control, stock control systems, he came in then Mossie after that you know.
Q	And how long did she run the business for, and I was reading about her, she was, seemed to be...
A	To the very end yeah, until she passed away in eighty eight, yeah she had only an illness for about 10 days.
Q	Yeah, so she was.

A	<p>Yeah, right 'til the end. It was her life, because her own husband died in seventy seven and then for 11 years she lived eh, essentially with some of the grandchildren. I spent 11 years living with her I suppose, and that sort of thing and some of the other grandchildren as well, until the time she died, so, yeah for. Like her day was, she would walk down, when she moved out of town. She moved from the building where the men's shop are now, where [REDACTED] is in the middle of the town, she moved from there and then she moved to the left there to another building two doors down which was a business about three times but it was a purpose built only business without any sort of accommodation, family accommodation so she bought that, and she bought that in fifty, fifty eight and that's when she had X [REDACTED] working for him, and then in 1973 she bought this building where we are today and this was the old alms houses, I'll show you a picture of it outside, and it was derelict so it was, and then she built this shop here, then in 1973, 74 she opened it and really, this was the beginning of great success for her. She built up a business really based on, predominantly occasion wear because she loved that and people came from big distances for it. So it became well known as an occasion wear shop in particular and that's what she really pushed on then, high end day wear and then moved into the bridal, various ends of the business shoes more so that her daughter Louise got involved in, and then, Mary my mother did all the buying from about, I suppose Mary was from the time she was about sixteen, she started buying with Mollie, that the two of them had great flair and worked very well together and then, my mother then, she moved then in the late fifties, early sixties from making clothes to sort of buying them in and that sort of thing. She still made clothes for certain people right up until the eighties, yeah but certain people wanted something that was bespoke you know.</p>
A	Thanks, you might have seen those ... <i>presents photographs</i> .
Q	No, I don't think I have seen that.
A	But sort of, it will give you a little bit of the history and you know to

	document, that would have been Mollie.
Q	Very good.
A	That would have been the shop then here in the seventies, and that would be my mother.
Q	Oh yeah, you can see the family resemblance.
A	Yeah, family resemblance, that's the girls.
Q	There is an incredible, 90 staff?
A	Yeah, there were 90 staff at one time, yeah, big, big staff at that time you know, very, very busy and it would have been like that, well not from the seventies or eighties, but the late eighties, probably into the nineties and we were very busy in the two thousands, but then 2008 like every business it suffered a lot, slowdown. So there is Molly
Q	You can really see the resemblance.
A	Yeah, and that's the shop, originally before the stone façade was put on it, and all the thing at the front and the upstairs and then this was built in the 90s as well, the coffee shop. The coffee shop and the upstairs in 1991/92.
Q	Lovely, that's great, thank you very much.
A	But it will just give you a little bit, and the other thing too was what happened with the coffee shop was that, just what occurred was that there was a very good hotel here in the town, [REDACTED] and unfortunately his wife got sick and then they sort of, a lot of people started complaining that there was no, people had to go to the hotel, probably didn't have the food at the heart of their interest, they were more events, so she, unfortunately she planned this, but she never got to see it, so this.
Q	So she knew about this, this was part of her vision.
A	Exactly, this was her legacy she wanted built, so we built this in 1991 and that sort of thing and it is named after her, Molly's kitchen.
Q	Yeah, and it is lovely.
Q	Why do you reckon she did it, what do you reckon was her drive?
A	Ah she was very ambitious.
Q	Was she?

A	Really was, like she ran a farm as well as the shop, as well you know.
Q	Okay.
A	She had about 8/ 10 acres of a farm, and her pigs, sheep and cattle and then she bought probably over the years 150 acres by the time she died, and about 160 head of cattle at that time. So she loved that you know, she really did, she was always – she had the business but she loved the agriculture end. When she was younger what she used to do was, my mother would tell you she would go out and thin turnips at half six or seven in the morning before she would come to work, you see and that's what she did when she was young.
Q	Her version of going to the gym?
A	Exactly, yeah, that sort of thing and farming in the evening then when she would be finished you know. How she fit it all in we don't know but she was at that up until the seventies, she was really a hands on you know.
Q	And what was her background, her home, like what kind of a family did she come from herself?
A	Her father was a publican.
Q	Okay, so she had the business.
A	Yeah, the business acumen from that. Her mother was just extremely industrious, like talking about her mother Mary Macken, she was just you know, her own mother was very resourceful you know, I suppose a lot of people were. She raised all the food for the family, grew all the vegetables, all that sort of thing. Her father, although wasn't quite as industrious, he was more front end, socialising with people and then running the pub, but her mother did all the, put the food on the table, raised them and all that sort of thing. So she got that from that and her mother was very tasty with clothes, and that's the thing and like, she was a large woman, probably a size 20 / 22 so she needed tailored clothes and my grandmother saw that, and my own grandmother wouldn't be more than 14 or 16 herself in size but she loved tailored clothes as well, you know and look smart, and the tradition at the time around, I suppose like every town in Ireland was to have your Sunday

	best. And she loved going to Mass in something different.
Q	A rig-out?
A	A rig-out, you know something with a nice line, a proper lined skirt and all that sort of thing, and a nice wool coat as it was, and in the late seventies it was a fur coat, so she was probably a good advertisement for her own shop.
Q	And did she have any formal training in the dressmaking side of things?
A	No, no her mother would have been, her mother really taught her everything and then herself and her older sister Roseanne, the two of them just seemed to be very skilled, and you know in fairness they taught a lot of the girls here, you know a lot of the training. When, during the winter months when she wasn't say at the farm or that she was back in here, pressing and making clothes during the winter months which was - the busier times of the year were the summer months in the shop, other than the summer sale was a little bit quieter. So she graduated from making all the clothes less, and then Arnotts supplied us a lot, and then they, my own mother went for formal training in Arva, she set up her son then, well and set him up in the business down the road there in the men's shop, she bought the other two, Louise and Mossie into the shop, and then she also set up her other son Jack, and Jack went, he owned a pub, I don't know if you heard of Jack's of Kinnegad years ago.
Q	Oh yes.
A	That was named after him, and he set up those pubs, now he's in England, but he, they would have been all fairly industrious, but predominantly from her mother, herself and then all the children did quite well really.
Q	And from, in terms of set up, was it set up as a limited company or?
A	Originally no,
Q	No, originally?
A	No it was a sole trader, Molly McElhinney, yeah, all the time. And then the powers that be in the nineties, sorry in the late eighties, when

	Molly was still alive, no it was still a sole trader, and it was in the nineties, ninety one it became a company. Yeah, because, for taxation reasons at the time, they felt that the best thing to do was, you know that the family, or whoever was involved owned the business and they leased the property then to the business McElhinney Fashions and McElhinney Department stores. So that's what happened.
Q	So she would have been a sole trader up until?
A	A sole trader, but she would have been a sole trader all her life, there was no such thing as a limited company that time.
Q	Okay, that's interesting, and it was obviously much a family business by the time, as they grew up and as they all became involved?
	Yeah, they all became involved, no-one was pushed into it, but they all liked it. Like as I said the eldest lad, plumber was Mossie the elder lad, and Jack went into the publican, Pat then the eldest boy had an eye for the drapery and he went in, he trained in Wexford and then in Arnotts in Dublin. My own mother then was the eldest girl and she trained in Arva, with Mrs Boucher for about six months so you know, the apprenticeship and the formal training was done quite well, you know. In her day, there wasn't really much option.
Q	And where was Arva?
A	Arva was in Cavan.
Q	And was it a woman who ran that?
A	Yeah, Mrs. Boucher, yeah.
Q	Great and at some time you were up to 90 employees?
A	At the height of it there, in 2000 we had 102 in total. It was very busy, well it was the biggest employer and still remains, probably even though in these times, the biggest retail employer in the county, you know. We have 36 now, so it is not as big. We have still great staff, and a lot of them would be here 40 or 50 years, and there is something, they are great girls, because they have seen the ups and downs you know, so they don't mind, as the saying goes, digging in and you know
Q	They understand.
A	Yes, exactly, with the way the cycles go?

Q	I mean, there is no question about her commercial success because her reputation is nationwide.
A	Yeah, yeah, she built up a great name and you know I suppose the best form of flattery is that John McElhinney copied everything she did in Ballybofey, you know.
Q	And there is no relationship between the two?
A	None at all.
Q	I thought there was.
A	A lot of people do, yeah, none at all, John is a hugely successful business man but he would have modelled everything on here, same brands, same stock, same, not at this end, John then branched into the mens and into the, what do you call it, ladywear.
Q	And in terms of starting up, any idea, did it, in terms of capital and getting it off the ground, how, it was a smallish operation at the start?
A	Yeah, I mean you are talking about a shop that was probably, you know when we came down the stairs in our house, to the left was the room that was 100 sq feet that was the men's department, to the right, then I remember when we were, I was a kid, in the 60s and early 70s, the women's was 180 sq feet and then they built on a lean too onto it, they doubled its size.
Q	And that was the home as well?
A	Yeah, upstairs, we all lived upstairs, yeah, you know the usual, single stairs down and in the back was the sort of living, the eating living combination and upstairs was the bedrooms then. In that house you know eight of them would have grown up and then my generation, three families grew up in that house as well, so you know, that they were the things, I mean it was a very happy house, we never wanted for anything and like certainly never food or anything like that.
Q	So it would have been a relatively low capital start up?
A	Ah yeah, she exactly, and she was good, she saved and she made money on the farm, and she ploughed the money back, on the farm back into her. I remember as kids, you know she bought us all a bullock, I remember at the time, she bought the bullock for £85, I

	remember at the time and then she, she got £165 and it went into the post office and we were allowed to take £5 out every year you know. And it wasn't that she was, she didn't mind what you did but that's what she recommended.
Q	So she was getting you into good habits from an early age.
A	Yeah, she saved the money and I remember my grandfather, my grandfather, when he retired and he sort had a little bit of illness and that sort of thing, the poor devil lost an eye in a car accident. Across the road he won a bullock, or he had a chance of £100 or a bullock and he was all for the getting the £100 and all that and Mrs Mac, as they called her went over the night before to [REDACTED] and says, I'll collect that bullock tomorrow. Oh will you Mrs. Mac, George thinks he is getting. Don't mind George, so she took the bullock and put it on the farm and when George went back to collect the £100 he was told the bullock was gone. But in fairness that bullock she turned into £220 and gave George £120, you know, so he did well, but she got the £100 out of it. You know, any chance of something like that she wasn't going to let it go.
Q	So she was the boss I take it?
A	Yeah, Yeah, like, the great saying was when she went and bought this, he didn't know about it, he found out in the pub across the way, and he said, Jesus I didn't know anything and he liked his few drinks but he came home that night and there was, you know discussion about it, I was a youngster and he said, what are you doing for money Molly, and she said, Don't you worry Georgie, I have all that sorted out, and he says I don't know what she's doing. She just, she took risks but she was a really hard worker, you know, very hard worker, and then she bought, when things were going well, for the seventies, she bought an old house outside of town, and did it all up and sure they were supposed to retire there, the two of them, but didn't he, he never made it, didn't he die on the 21 st July 1977 and she moved out in August 1977. But funny, she said, I don't know if he would have been happy out of there, because he was so happy in the middle of the town. Yeah

Q	And did she make the adjustment to living out of the town?
A	Oh yeah, she did. Yeah she was only about half a mile out and she, actually loved the walk in, it was something she really liked. But you see, essentially, even though she grew up in town she spent an awful lot of time in the country, she wanted to be in the country really, you know what I mean, even though Athboy is not very big, she just really wanted to be outside of the town. I think just the farm, the land, she had her own garden growing vegetables, and that sort of thing and that's what happened here was that as time went by, she didn't have as much room at the back, because her son took over the family house, and then she didn't have her garden anymore, and she wanted to give that shop, so as soon as she could move out of town she gave him that shop and he was able to build his business.
Q	Okay, and tell us about, did she do any networking as we would know it now, or were there other women, any stories of her?
A	She would have been very good with charities, like she would have done work with the Rehab, then she would have done the charity work with Lady Dunsany up there outside of Dunshaughlin, like I think they were involved in the Cancer research, because they used to sell the tickets and come down here and do raffles. And then she did a fashion show every year in aid of Navan hospital, so she would have done all that kind of network. But she wasn't a socialite per say, you wouldn't find her going horseracing, she thought that was a waste of money, complete waste of money, gambling, you know, no time for that kind of thing. Like she enjoyed having friends and family around, and having dinners at Christmas in particular, she would go to people's houses and vis versa, but she had no interest in socialising, you wouldn't get her at a dance, or an event. And she actually was a very good dancer, she won two all-Ireland championships, and ceili dance, so she loved dancing, she was mad about it, but she wasn't into I suppose, the real social element of it, being seen in such and such a club, or something like that, you know.
Q	And was there any kind, was there a Chamber of Commerce in the

	town?
A	<p>Macra na Feirme, probably and she would have been involved in that, but and then the ICA probably as well, she would have been involved. Now, she wasn't an active member, but she would have done things with them and all that sort of thing, baked cakes, something like that with them. I suppose she felt herself that she was so busy with the shop, with the farm, and all this that she probably couldn't commit to the kind of time regularly, but she would have been involved if they were ever doing charities, she would do whatever it took. Navan hospital, because it was close to her heart, she always had a Fashion show every year for them in the Kirwans as it was, and that was well attended, maybe a thousand people would come to that every year, and it was a good place to showcase in the Spring and the Autumn the stuff that was there, that was in the shop.</p>
Q	So it was a good marketing tool really as well wasn't it?
A	<p>It is yeah, you know she was clever that way, unbeknownst to her, she was doing networking, but she would have probably saw it as social, doing things like that. But she was well got because a lot of people you know, she was,...I suppose she took risks. I mean, even at the time she married a Church of Ireland man which was not seen to be the thing to do at the time.</p>
Q	She was Catholic?
A	<p>She was Catholic and then it was 1935 when she married George. He lived in Rockfield House, he was a coachman over there, his father was a coachman and like at that time, they were supposed to marry in the Vestry of the Church. Her grandfather, however, if you want quote this or not, it is up to you, he wouldn't have any time for, he was very straight, and he insisted that they be married on the altar but at that time you were supposed to get permission from the Bishop. We don't know, we don't think the priest got permission from the Bishop, but they got married on the altar anyway and that they thing, but at that time they went to Wynns Hotel for the day, that was the honeymoon, and then they were back down here in the shop the next day, and that's</p>

	<p>what happened. George of course, stayed the night, and people didn't know locally that they got married and thought George had moved in with Mollie as it was at the time and there was all sorts of scandal, went to Fr. [REDACTED] and asked Fr. [REDACTED] when did they get married and he said, well he was clever enough and he says that's between me and God, you'll have to ask God cos I won't be telling ya. But that would have been sort of, that can do, a little bit of, I suppose religion was a huge issue that time and people so proper about it and the rules and regulations of the Church, so in fairness to Fr. [REDACTED], he did what he felt was right, and whether it was completely right in the eyes of the Church I don't know. But you'd sort of have the do-gooders in the town that would have been saying that was the wrong thing to do. Look that's the kind, she took that risk, she took the risk of opening the shop, like you know she listened to her own instinct and when she felt it was right, she'd do it and she would discuss it but at the end of the day, she was a determined woman and you know, the same way when she bought land, you know she got someone, a cousin of hers, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to buy the land, for her. She'd identify it, and say that's good land, and she'd have the cattle out on it, and I'd bring her out you know every evening then when I was a youngster when I was driving and later on me father did, when I was younger, we'd bring her out and check the cattle every evening. But that's when she was finished her and half seven, or eight during the summer, off she went then out to the farm.</p>
Q	It's amazing, isn't it? And did she have any, was it a farming background she came from originally?
A	Yeah, a few cattle and pigs, nothing in comparison, just self-sustaining, and then, she loved that.
Q	So it was a hobby as well.
A	Yeah, it was a hobby and definitely, she was very commercial, she did very well out of it as well, you know the only thing she had a hobby I was suppose maybe the garden. She didn't want to make money.
Q	She didn't sell the produce?

A	<p>No, she gave it away, you know what I mean, she gave it to customers, she gave them carrots and eggs and everything going home, and all that sort of thing, no, she didn't but the farming was a serious activity for her. Yeah, even when the business was going through a rough time she had the farm, and she relied back on it so things, and vis a versa. Farming was tough, the business was on, so I know she used a lot of money from the farm to build, to buy this building originally. But she was clever then, she set up all the family as well, you know, bought them houses, set them all up, helped them buy land and all that thing. She was very, really good natured, very good woman, very generous. It wasn't like she was making money, it was, I think, just that she helped the next generation, and that things would be better, 'cos her own mother died when she was only eight, you see so she had real fond memories of her own mother, but she didn't have her during her teenage years, so while she taught them a lot, they, between her older sister Roseanne who was 12, it was between the two of them that they really picked things up themselves, but they learned as kids.</p>
Q	<p>And did the sister stay involved for long?</p>
A	<p>No, the sister went out of business, she probably wasn't as, she got married to [REDACTED] and she probably decided, you know, Mollie was moving on to become a bit more commercial, becoming a one to two person show, and she wanted Roseanne to come into partnership with her, but Roseanne didn't want to, the commitment of it, with family and things like that. She probably found that it was going to be very difficult for her to do both, you know, whereas Molly felt that she could do both.</p>
Q	<p>She had no qualms about it?</p>
A	<p>Yeah, no qualms and to be honest with you, she spent loads of time with kids and all that sort of thing. You know Sundays were Sundays, and that's the way it was. She only opened the shop coming up to Christmas on Sundays, and you know, round about sale time for one Sunday, no she was quite devout that way, and attended Mass every Sunday and all that, but she just liked to have Sundays off and spend it</p>

	with the family. Like she'd go to one of them for breakfast, one of them for lunch and one of them for dinner, she was political that way, she wouldn't ignore anyone.
Q	And what about promotion and advertising, did she do any?
A	Well, you know what, she used to say her best promotion was word of mouth, and then the only thing after that she would was Sales. When she had her big Sale in the winter and in the summer, she'd advertise on RTE radio and television, and Radio One. They were the three biggest things and the <i>Meath Chronicle</i> , and then, sort of articles then came, from say <i>The Sunday Business Post</i> , <i>The Times</i> , people would want to write something about her, and she liked that. But she was a bit shy of her own success, she wasn't, although she was successful, she wasn't mad about being interviewed, or she'd get nervous, for a thing like that, being interviewed, she'd just felt, she wanted to be successful for her children, to set them up, it wasn't anything for herself.
Q	Passing it on was obviously important to her too?
A	Ah yeah, and in fairness she set it up in such a way, at the time Capital Gains Tax was big, she had a life policy at the time when she was, she had good advice and she was clever enough herself because, you know she talked to accountants and she said I need to put a life policy in place for anything ever happened to me, that pays the Capital Gains Tax and she did. And in fairness, that probably allowed her pass it on properly at the time because there was no such thing as company planning at the time and passing on companies there was going to be a Capital Gains Tax, and that's the thing of sole traders, and she passed it on and fortunate enough to pay for it, all the taxes, inheritance taxes that went to her three siblings, and then you know it passed on 40% went to Mary, 40% to Louise and 30% to Mossie, so the two girls. She always believed in her own view that the two girls were the future of the business, whereas she felt Mossie would probably retire, you know that sort of thing.
Q	So she had thought about it?

A	<p>Oh yeah, she had, bigtime, no she did, I think she had earmarked my mother in particular at a younger age, and then later on Louise and the shoes, but in her own view, she felt Mossie, he was probably going to retire, because he was an avid sports guy, he was mad into the golf. She had no time for golf, she thought that was a waste of time so she says he can waste his time, but not her time, you know. And she just felt that he was going to retire but that Mary and Louise would be here as long as it took.</p>
Q	<p>And she obviously then had good advice, she had accountants, and..</p>
A	<p>She would have had accountants, yeah, at the time. Benson Lawlor in Dublin, and then you know various ones have had advised her and probably business people around the time, like her own cousin there, related to [REDACTED], was very good. He was a farmer and a business man and, but he was also quiet and astute, a business man, he set up the creamery in town and so she liaised a lot with him, and you know, chatted him when they met up. They were like brother and sister more than they were like cousins, and he was very good, and she probably didn't feel it was going to happen when it was going to happen to her, that she would pass on, because she got illness when it was quite sudden and that sort of thing, and then got a stroke from it, unfortunately and that was a bit unfortunate, so like she was very healthy in herself and it was just there was a little bit of a congenital problem, heart problem in the family and I think she suffered from that. So although she probably only put the succession issues in place maybe two years before she died herself, I think it was just towards a view, she felt that there was probably another 10 or 15 years. You know I remember her here, she broke her arm in 1985 and we were all advising her to take some time off and then we'd see her going around with the lynch on and then the hangers hanging from the plaster on the front and the doctor asked her when he was taking off what's all the puck marks, and she said that's the hangers, and there'd be seven or eight puck marks in the plaster where the hangers. Yeah, she just loved it, she couldn't stay away from it.</p>

Q	And did she take holidays?
A	She did actually, funny she hated the middle of January, the middle of February 'cos it was too quiet, the weather was like cold and wet and then, miserable so she would go to America cos she had a lot of relations and one of her daughters lived in Seattle, so she would go and see her every year and then some friends in Florida, so she spent four weeks. So she would go on the third week in January and come back the third week in February, and then she'd be all ready for the Spring.
Q	And what would you say now, the impact of her being in business was on the family or have you a view on that?
A	Yeah, I think, I mean we all grew up with sort of understanding the values of money, the values of time, and you know none of us in any generation were lazy and it wasn't tolerated. Like you know, my grandmother, you know if you weren't out of bed by half seven Saturday morning, I always remember you were in trouble. That was it, there was no lying in and that sort of thing you know, and Sunday you probably got, if you weren't going to early Mass you could lie in, but I mean that was one. The second thing was, you know she, when she spent time with you it was always quality time, you know what I mean, and you respected her. She was very, very kind to us, all, both her children and her grandchildren, really, really kind and good natured, but in turn she demanded that you'd be respectful to others. She didn't want any, sort of, hassle that you'd grow up in the town properly, you know she wouldn't tolerate anyone, some of the lads getting drunk, or anything like that, that kind of values system, or equally, so the girls, behaving themselves. We all grew up with a good set of values, and I suppose the thing about it was, was, we had very good, all did reasonably well in business. I suppose at the time, my mother's generation didn't get a chance to get educated but all of us, the following generation were all, like I'm an engineer, my other brother's an engineer, another one is a pharmacist, a physiotherapist, so we all got opportunities from the previous generation and probably the ability that there was a few pounds there to get around. I know we

	got scholarships and things like that but the thing was we still had to live in Dublin, and do things like that, that definitely wasn't available to her and certainly wasn't available to my mother either, and that's the thing. There was always that, and as well as that she left a really good legacy for us all, because we have a sense of passion about business, and to keep it going and that sort of thing in the family as long as we can.
Q	And is that a driver for the current generation?
A	Ah yeah, it would be, yeah. My brother and I are involved in it now, and that sort of thing, like, my Mum unfortunately got sick in 2008 and that was a huge blow to the business because she was really the cornerstone of it all. When my grandmother died, the succession was, well not straightforward, reasonably straightforward, the key people who were there got on, and my mother did all the buying, but my own mother was, in 2008, unfortunately she got very ill and she wasn't able to resume in the business and I came into the business in 2005, to build the business for two or three years and I was re, leaving it to go back to another business in 2008 but she got sick and that sort of thing and that wasn't as smoothly as we would have, she was such a key person, we hadn't a buyer of sufficient understanding as, or experience as her so we ended up training in someone else afterwards in 2010, and that's the thing. We had one or two people, but they certainly weren't of the calibre, cos we, although there was a downturn in 2008, in the economy, we also had a downturn in our product and our sell through, we had a number of issues in '09 and '10, you know that caused us problems. Now we have addressed them, and rebuilding them, but it just, it wasn't as smooth transitions as it was when my grandmother died in '88.
Q	And your own mother, she would have worked full time from the time she was 16?
A	Yeah, correct.
Q	All the way through, so you would have grown up with her being very much involved?

A	<p>Involved, yes, exactly and she, Mum was involved, she was buying, selling and so on and all that side, she wasn't, she did the pressing and ironing and all that kind of thing but she wasn't involved in making clothes, now at all. She just travelled, you know Dublin a lot, then in England, and then around Europe, and then I suppose the belief was, she was, her mantra was you know the very good customers service which my grandmother believed in, and also stock that other shops didn't have in the country, so that was a bit more unique and a bit different, so she spent a lot of time, honing those instincts. Her one thing was, which we all learned and even I notice, even though I wasn't buying, was she had the ability to pick for 10 or 12 customers that she knew would were a garment. She never bought for herself, so she knew, such and such, Mrs. [REDACTED] would wear this, Mrs [REDACTED] would wear that, Mrs [REDACTED]n 'd wear this.</p>
Q	<p>So when she was buying she was able to.</p>
A	<p>She'd pick out the outfits, and you know nine times out of ten she was absolutely right. She had an amazing, she probably was extremely well known in the industry 'cos she had the highest sell through, 88% sell through of stock in the industry and that was really what made the business so successful. My grandmother would have been the powerhouse driving the business, and then my mother out buying and that's was her thing and the two of them worked just like hand in glove.</p>
Q	<p>They were, it was a good combination?</p>
A	<p>A really, really good combination.</p>
Q	<p>And had they a good working relationship?</p>
A	<p>A really good, yeah, yeah, my mother wouldn't have been as ambitious at driving the shop, but she knew exactly what to buy, she knew that sort of thing and she, you know would have been very determined in her own way, but she would have probably worked three days a week here in the shop and three days on the road, travelling and buying clothes. But she said that was hugely important to know how stuff was selling and all the rest.</p>

Q	And did she travel abroad as well?
A	Yeah, she would have started in Dublin, Arnotts and all those wholesale, then you know a number of different travellers as they were known, agents we'd call them nowadays, and that would have been Dublin and from then on, then she would have gone to say Belfast, and London, London for a number of years, and then Dusseldorf, Milan, those kind of places. She always found the German products, Austrian products and a little bit Dutch, better for the Irish figure, rather than the petite French and, you know the Italians because, you know the size 4s and 6s are something that work well in and as well we always catered for the slightly older customer as well, and that sort of thing. That's where my grandmother build the business on that you know, though Mother of the Bride became very good, Mother of the Groom, and guests at the wedding and Bridal, and then more expensive day wear. Then in the 2000s we did branch into, when the economy was going well, into high end for younger people, developed the Evolution department, and that sort of thing, but that phased out in about 2009/2010 when younger people didn't have the money, so we are back sort of to the core principals. As a business plan now we have gone back to buying what we would have done in the 90's, '00s, very classical, elegant clothes and that sort of thing, not so funky and the same way, with occasion wear, well-tailored stock and you know, we believe that the, a lot of the boutiques, and Pennys and Dunnes can pick up the younger end.
Q	More faddish.
A	Exactly, you know that kind of layered look, that's not us, because people aren't interested in travelling here to buy that look, they can get that locally.
Q	And when did people start travelling, do you think?
A	Not so much.... In the seventies people would have travelled around Meath and North Dublin in particular. But then towards the beginning of the '80s they started, you did find people from Mayo here, and then Galway, Donegal, and then we'd get some coming down from Newry

	<p>and Armagh, and maybe come down once a year and that's something. I remember once, a woman from Mayo, she was from Castlebar, she came down and didn't she lock the keys in the car and couldn't open the car and my grandmother had an old car and gave it to her, not knowing her, and she drove back to Mayo, she couldn't believe that she gave her a loan of the car, but my grandmother says, so I still had her car in the car park anyway, but you know that's the way she was. She was so honest and that's the thing you know. We often hear stories, people come back, god your grandmother let me go home with that dress and I was a week before I could pay for it, but she had great trust in people and rarely would she be wrong about people like that, but she said if they want to do that to me, they'll only do it the one time, you know, that sort of thing.</p>
Q	And was it, was there much credit being extended?
A	Yeah, no, it was big, there was six months credit in the sixties and the seventies especially 'cos it was predominantly farming so when they sold their stock they would come in and settle their bills, and that's what they did.
Q	So supplying credit...
A	Yeah, we're back to that a bit now, we give six and eight weeks credit now, to let people pay things down, and you know in these times it is understandable.
Q	So would she have been keeping books then?
A	Yeah, she had old books and the names, yeah, little red books with all the different customers in, you know pound, shillings and pence. My father has those now.
Q	They go back I am sure almost to the beginning?
A	Yeah, probably to the forties and fifties, you know the £1, 2 shillings, so many pence, the three different columns.
Q	And paying them off.
A	Exactly, crossed off, and then normally you know in September, cattle would have been sold and then probably milk would have been fairly regular, would have been okay, but then, sheep, cattle then probably

	<p>March, April and actually she bought the old Market House eventually, that was the old market place in town where all the fair was, which is now the Bridal boutique, yeah, so in years gone by, before she died there, I think in the early '80s she bought that, it became derelict and she bought it off, I think it was [REDACTED] that owned it and she bought it, put a roof on it.</p>
Q	<p>And then through the say '80s, and '90s did that shift, the giving of credit, did that ease out?</p>
A	<p>Yeah, people did, because people had cash, and things like that and came in and bought with cash. You know, credit cards, and then a lot of cheques and that sort of thing, you know I suppose that was the transition from, like local people would still get credit, but you'd find people coming from afar would never ask you for it and that's probably, not that it wasn't offered, people didn't expect to get it when they weren't... but she, she always she could have been owed ten or twelve thousand, at any one time out there which was a lot, in the 70s, and 80's, an awful lot of money. I remember an acre of land that time was eight hundred euro, or eight hundred pounds, you know.</p>
Q	<p>So it could have been another little bit of a farm to her?</p>
A	<p>Exactly, you know, but she, you know people trusted her, that she was honest with them and she trusted people, that they would be honourable to their word. You know, people ran into difficult times, and as long as they rang her or told her she didn't mind, particularly say farmers, coming to Christmas. There was a big thing in the '70s and '80s fur coats, loved to buy fur coats, and she had a big fur department at the time and she didn't mind that, she knew how much it was, she, like she had cattle herself so she knew it was two bullocks to buy a fur coat or something like that, so she could equate the two things and she'd say I know Mr. so and so wouldn't have that yet, but if he gives me half it now and then maybe half in March, and of course, he was delighted because he could get the wife a fur coat for Christmas, but he mightn't have paid for it at all, but that was between himself and Mrs. Mac, but then he'd be good to his word, when he'd</p>

	<p>sell the first bullock in March he would come in and pay the balance. So there would have been a good bit of that, there would have been, yeah.</p>
Q	<p>From talking to people it is very interesting, we seem to have had a very strong credit economy.</p>
A	<p>Oh absolutely, yeah, and I think people, the other thing was, the barter system, and went on from that, where, but it was, and I think that too, it was a much tighter bond between the supplier, the shopkeeper and the customer, than now, and there was a serious sense of pride that you wouldn't let some-one down and you would pay your bills and if you fell on hard times, she was owed money for two or three years, but they would eventually fix up with her or do something for her, do the plumbing or do a job, that would clear the bill.</p>
Q	<p>So there would be a little bit of that?</p>
A	<p>There would have been a barter thing behind it all. Like I do remember, a few people like, people who went on hard times, maybe a house, part of it got burned, she'd give them clothes and all that sort of thing and then there would be farmers, and when they'd have a few pounds in three or four years' time and they'd come in and give her a few pounds. Ah there is no need to, she did that for three or four families that I didn't even know growing up, but people would tell you, your grandmother helped me out when things were bad, or such and such was bad, or I needed to buy such and such, you know maybe seed potatoes or something like that. They'd come to her, she was almost a bit of a banker, you know, help people out locally, and not just family, other people she knew to give them a turn.</p>
Q	<p>That's interesting, isn't it?</p>
A	<p>Yeah, it was interesting and people wouldn't go to the bank, they'd go to business people and ask them for a little bit of help, but then business people knew well that they wouldn't let them down, and the other thing.</p>
Q	<p>And as you say, the bond was.</p>
A	<p>The bond was strong.</p>

Q	Maybe that's what we need to go back to with the banks....
A	It was interesting, I was listening to on another level, that new concept that they have where you, basically credit insurance and you put it on the internet through a brokerage and you say, such and such, maybe McElhinneys, want to raise £50,000 for stock and people could subscribe £50, £100 until it is fulfilled and that sort of thing, from ordinary people rather than from banks.
Q	They are doing that to raise money for the arts, and the web site, for fundraising. If I want to run an event in my local community, you know that you raise it in, that it could be a tenner from you and a tenner from and me.
A	Yeah, it's a great idea.
Q	Yes, it is an interesting idea, but it is kind of a modern version of what you're talking about.
A	It is, exactly, really what we had in the past, and you were dealing with individuals, people who had..... and all that goes along with that, personal guarantees, which had the country destroyed.
Q	And would you have any idea if she, how she might have described herself in the Census. I know that that's a long shot.
A	How she would have described herself? I think she would have felt she was industrious, hardworking, and she used to say, the biggest problem in Ireland was that people did not have a lot of common sense, you know, that was it. What she meant by that was the sense, if there is someone looking for clothes and they are going to Dublin from Athboy, it's common sense that they will come to Athboy rather than going all the way to Dublin, and that's the thing. She had common sense, she'd see opportunities, like I remember she was asked to give, to come to the Institute of Management, the IMI, and you know she sort of said, she went to this and the one or two lecturers on high powered business. She said, look, at the end of the day it is about having the product that the consumer wants and selling it, she says, no matter what way you gloss that up it is common sense, you know and she wouldn't go and give a lecture on that, she says I'd only last two

	<p>minutes and that would have been it over, but that's what it was, and she says, they were charging £500 a week or something for that lecture, but she says it's common sense and that's what it was. At the end of the day, she felt, you know she had to have something, make something, or buy something that someone wants and then sell it on.</p>
Q	<p>Sell it on and make a few bob.</p>
A	<p>Exactly and in between, customer service was a huge thing, she felt as well as the product and goods, you had to have good girls to sell the product, and you know chat them, the customer and she always told the girls if something is wrong for the customer, you know that will go out of here and they will tell 200 people at the wedding, whereas if you let someone out, maybe only 10 or 15 will know and we will get a good reputation, You know she always insisted on them not misselling, items to anybody, 'cos she felt that was, really our reputation was built on looking after customers and buying the right items, right products was part of that.</p>
Q	<p>So was training staff then, was it.</p>
A	<p>Oh yeah, it was huge yeah. I mean for the first six months when you came in here you couldn't sell anything, you had to do, you know hang clothes out, clean floors, clean mirrors, stock and all that sort of thing and then she'd let you with customers then, once you got used to clothes. You know, whether you had been in another shop or not, the training system ran through, you couldn't deal with customers for six months, until she felt you were competent enough to do it. And you know she was very much hands on, very fussy about people with the proper attire coming in, properly dressed, you know, whether it was black and white or navy and white outfit, that's what she wanted, no funny earrings or no things, like she sent girls home a few times, coming in with the wrong things, and had no qualms about it, and you know one or two people says, you know that's not in my terms and conditions. Well your terms and conditions is that you won't be coming back tomorrow if you don't come in with the right things, that's the way things were you know. She dressed properly and she</p>

	wanted the staff to reflect what she wanted, and she paid them well and looked after them well, but in turn she expected that there were certain standards kept.
Q	And she'd keep that going?
A	Yeah, like normally she was out in the wellington boots and gloves and all that sort of thing, thinning turnips in the morning but she still could set herself up and dress properly and come into the shop and that was a different job completely, she could do that, because she used to give out to us, particularly as boys, that we'd have dirt under our nails or something like that coming from the farm, but she wouldn't be long in telling you, go out and scrub yourself down and come in properly attired, and if you don't, don't come in. So, like that's she didn't have an big highs or graces about her, what I would have found with her was, and I, like I knew her because I probably lived with her from, in the house, from the time her husband died, George died in 76, I'd have been 22/23, for 10 or 11 years, but I would have said I have extremely fond memories of her, no bad memories of her, and I suppose any of my family that are interested in business, we would have got it from her, and that's the thing, from my mother's side, my father's side were more educational, he was a professor and teacher, and that's the thing, great merit in its own right, but from a business point of view, it certainly came from my grandmothers side of the family, but I think where we did grow up, it was a sense of ambition, a sense of respect, and a sense of . She used to say, it doesn't cost anything to be nice to people and that's the thing, and she used always be nice to people, even if they weren't always nice back to her. She was just that way inclined, and she never had any time, and the one thing she'd say is, there is no time for gossip or rumour, she had no time for girls who were at that, she'd say, get on now with that nonsense and her great saying was idle hands, idle minds, so if you kept them busy, they didn't have time to talk.
Q	She had it sussed, hadn't she?
A	She had it sussed, what we are all doing, but we are going to lectures

	for 4 years to learn,
Q	<i>(interviewer observation – not question)</i> I ‘m in the business of teaching business, and I couldn’t agree with her, you know it does come down to common sense, an awful lot of cop on.
A	It is, it is built on that, as a core model and it had obviously expanded. And you know of course she was the pre internet era, she was pre really strong advertising and all that sort of thing, like she would have had to develop with the times now, but you know I think the same core principles would have fed through whatever she was going to do, would be subject to good customer service.
Q	That’s great, thank you very much.

Una (alias) Hotelier, Kerry, born in 1916. Worked for aunt as maid servant in aunt's hotel. In 1936 she came to an arrangement with her aunt that the aunt would sell her the hotel at a good rate. Had 5 children. In the 1960s acquired another hotel. Son took over and she started a shop in later life. Interviewed her son on 10/4/2013.

Q	Well I suppose I'm just interested in what your own story is, it was your mother was it?
A	Yeah my mother, will I start at the beginning?
Q	Yeah please do.
A	<p>My mother was born in [REDACTED] which is a rural, Jackie Healy Rae country, a rural place on a hilly farm out there in 1916. She, obviously it was poor land and blah blah blah,, but her uncles were all in business in [REDACTED], uncles and family, [REDACTED] hotel She, yeah her mother's name was [REDACTED] she was Una. She, her uncles were in business, they had a hotel here in [REDACTED], another brother had a hotel here in [REDACTED], a bar with rooms I'd suppose we'd call it and there were uncles in Liverpool in the bar trade as well. She hated the land at home, and always wanted out of it, absolutely wanted out of it, hated it with a passion and she came working for an aunt of hers, who was [REDACTED], who was running the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] now known as [REDACTED], and she came working for her as a servant girl, maybe 15, 16 years of age, on a weekly wage, and getting on great and all that. The lady, her aunt had a daughter who was obviously my mother's first cousin, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], and the aunt recognized immediately that [REDACTED] e was not going to do the business, just an absolute disaster, [REDACTED] was a bit older than my mother but just she was a lady for high time, dancing and you know, that kind of, foolish, nothing wrong, but just a bit of that, and she immediately saw this and she, my mother was very ambitious and always wanted to get on and lively and all, and they came</p>

	to some arrangement that she would sell the hotel to my mother at a reduced rate and ah, at a reduced price but also with a term to pay it a bit below, and my mother, and that was in 1936 and my mother went down to the Provincial bank and borrowed the money as a single girl. Now what age was she, that was?
Q	She would have been 20.
A	Yeah she would have been 20 yeah, maybe a bit later I'm thinking of it, let me see, maybe, it was before the war anyway, I'd say she was over 20, which was very unusual at the time and borrowed a certain amount of money and they gave it, and that was the arrangement and she started working then. She met my father, who was a customer in the bar and she met him, he was [REDACTED] and they got married in 1947. My father just kept his job as a [REDACTED], backed her to the hilt, he was the quiet, silent strong type, my mother was driven, she was absolutely driven, just unbelievable, she was notorious as a real hard worker and that's it.
Q	Did she have any difficulty getting the money?
A	No. There's a story told that when she was doing the deal, the bank manager said, he said to her, eh how did he put it, 'Miss [REDACTED] he says, 'I have been looking through the deeds of that place and, now it's always been a lucky house'. – she used to say.
Q	Okay, so she.
A	And that has continued, that luck in the house.
Q	Good, and where was that located, the business?
A	Just over there in [REDACTED].
Q	Yeah, okay and that was, she ran that then?
A	Yeah ran that and expanded maybe, I suppose when she went there, there were 10 bedrooms you know, and she kept building it and buying pieces at the back and kept just kept driving it on all the time, you know we were young, we were

	living just 200 yards away.
Q	You lived off the premises?
A	Yeah, maybe for the first couple of years, I think I was born in the private house and my two eldest sisters were born in the hotel. We moved before I was born, yeah at that stage we were in a private house.
Q	And how many children did she have?
A	Five children, 2 girls first and then I was in the middle and then a brother and sister younger. And as youngsters we all worked in the business. I', just go back to [REDACTED], she, now native place, she just wanted out she saw the misery and it hasn't changed out there I can tell you– you know the term Jackie Healy Rae country?
Q	I heard the term.
A	You know what I am talking about.
Q	Yeah I do, I'm west of Ireland myself.
A	You know what I'm talking about, but she despised that small insular, despised it– she wasn't educated, she left school at 14, she wanted, she wanted out. In appearance she was quite like Margaret Thatcher but much softer though.
Q	And the motivation then was to get out?
A	Get out of that misery, even when we, she, we used to go up and see her father, my grandfather, she hated it, she just hated it, absolutely
Q	So she was a townie at heart?
A	Yeah she became a townie, but in a nice way.
Q	And do you know at that stage what was the legal status of, was she a sole trader or was she?
A	She was a sole trader absolutely; we converted to a company in 1972 or 1974 or something like that.
Q	So it was operating as a sole trader up.
A	Absolutely and I suppose when my father came in like it was, she who did all the deeds you know. Yeah, she did everything

	you know.
Q	So she was the dealer?
A	Yeah absolutely, The story, my father, there's a story told – my father came home one day and there was a yard out the back and she said to my father 'I've bought the yard from [REDACTED] [REDACTED]y' and he said 'is that so, how much did he ask you, how much was it'. Em 'he asked for four' and he said 'was that four hundred or four thousand', 'I don't know' she said, -that's the type of thing you know, she was always driving forward, absolutely.
Q	And in terms of employment in the early days, did she have many people?
A	I suppose she did, she always, she had loyal, high standards you know, my mother was very much involved in the Legion of Mary and that kind of stuff, you know that time you know and she was that type of person you know.
Q	And, was it, would she have had an accountant or would you have?
A	I suppose my father would have handled a share of that, but there was, I remember a Mr. [REDACTED], he was an accountant.
Q	So she employed someone locally?
A	Yeah, eventually yeah, but I would say that was later, maybe that only came about when it was being incorporated.
Q	And what was the clientele? Where was she getting her business from?
A	She was big into, fisherman was a big business in [REDACTED] at that time, there was no such thing as a golfer coming to [REDACTED]. Fishing was quite a big business, She, she in the wintertime she started the socials you know, these fisherman socials, yeah she'd have one a week or one a month or something you know, that generated. You see the lakes were, there was a lot of employment in the Lakes from the boatmen, there was this trip called the [REDACTED] and all the men

	used to go into the bar there. The bar was known as [REDACTED] you know, her name was [REDACTED] and it was, but it was a very well regulated you know, bar, to be honest it was very, very well regulated, she was very, there was no, you know what I am getting at, it wasn't Rosy O Grady's like.
Q	She ran a tight ship.
A	Absolutely but, and huge respect for her you know. And like the musical society and that type of thing. But it was predominantly a bar I suppose, with rooms attached you know. But it was known as the [REDACTED] Hotel. And she changed it's name to [REDACTED] Hotel.
Q	So it was the [REDACTED] ms Hotel when her aunt had it and then she changed it?
A	Yeah exactly.
Q	One of the things that you did mention that I'm very interested in was – there were obviously other women in business and she was in business in the town and part of the community, was she involved in kinda, I suppose what we would call now networks?
A	No, the Legion of Mary, nothing else no.
Q	And did she relationships with other business people in town, would you?
A	I suppose she had, they kinda had a little, yeah but it was very down at that level you know what I mean.
Q	So it was an informal?
A	Absolutely oh, absolutely, she would never, she was interested in doing her work, looking after her family and nothing else. But they, she would share views, that Mrs. [REDACTED], that I was telling you, Mrs. [REDACTED] Hotel, dunno if I said it to you, anyway and Mrs. [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] hotel, they were quite friendly, you know quite friendly. And Johnny's mother, there now, would have been, she was like, they were very friendly, but that was a different

	business you know. The others were in the same business.
Q	So they did talk?
A	Yeah they did talk, talk, yeah, yeah.
Q	But they hadn't a formal organization?
A	Absolutely not, absolutely.
Q	And would she have had any involvement in say, the development of tourism in the area.
A	No, my father got a little bit involved in that, with the Chamber of Commerce, you know that type of stuff, he was a little bit involved when the airport was being set up, you know, that type of stuff but not. She never got, her only involvement in any organization was the Legion of Mary, Vincent De Paul and that type of stuff and then she got very involved in the Soroptimists.
Q	Okay and when would that have been?
A	She was a founding member with the Soroptimists in I'd say the '70's.
Q	Oh so it was later on?
A	Yeah, She became President, you know and she was very involved in that, and I suppose then subsequently she got involved with the National Council of the Blind, that type you know, but never in a business organization. No networking as such.
Q	And what about promotion then?
A	Yeah, yeah they used go to London you know, so do the, for business you mean?
Q	Yes.
A	That time, obviously, that time it was all coach business, English coach business - yes they'd go to, we would have called them workshops where Bord Fáilte at the time have arranged a hotel in London and bring the Irish trade in and then they would bring Sheffield United, that was the name of a company, rather than the football club, and people like that

	you know Wallace Arnold you know, the tour companies in and make a marketplace, yeah, that was the way it was done.
Q	And was that in the 50's and 60's?
A	Yeah after the war it was a big thing.
Q	There wouldn't have been an awful lot before the war.
A	No.
Q	What would you say or would you have a view on what the impact it was, there was on the family by having her involved in business?
A	Yeah, - There was always a sense of loss when the season started I have to say and that from my own personal view, when the evenings get long, as a kid – that was it, you would love, love in the winter, you'd be having our dinner at home together, you know, that was it you know. The effect I suppose, there was always work, we were never idle, there was no hardship, we took our holidays together and all that, she did it properly but when you worked, you worked and when, when you went on holidays that was it. It wasn't the slavery that you hear spoken about, there was a place for everything, you know, it was properly done you know, and I suppose there was a certain regulation, because of my father's school holidays too you know. Dublin for the November break and you know, maybe after Christmas we would go to the Panto in Dublin, that type of thing, so it was quite a normal family set up like. But that is my own personal feeling, I see it, saw it in my own kids, when the season would start.
Q	It's hectic?
A	Yeah, yeah, yeah, and it was hectic that time, the seasons were very tight you know, the seasons longer know, more spread out and there would be more staff, that time it was all hands on deck.
Q	So she was very hands on?
A	Oh she was, she was the cook really, she was, she was yeah,

	she was a real cook, she was the real thing, so that's what she wanted.
Q	So she spent a lot of time in the kitchen?
A	Yeah, a long time in the kitchen and she was wonderful, solid food like you know, it wasn't, it wasn't you know anything classy, it was good solid food and she had a name for that, we would still have a good, very good name for food, my sisters are in business as well like you know and food is a big part of it.
Q	And, but she did take holidays and?
A	Oh yeah, absolutely.
Q	And they were family times?
A	Family times absolutely –she'd, my mother never drank or smoked or anything like that you know, she was active, didn't play golf or anything like that, just cycled.
Q	And when it came to passing it on, was that a big issue?
A	It was yeah, it was a big issue yeah, it was
Q	Had she planned for it or?
A	I wonder did she, I don't know about that, em, things might - I had a sister who became ill and that affected things, and the eldest sister, I don't know I just, I don't know, I was supposed to come back and I came back and then I left, blah, blah, blah, but anyway we sorted it out in the end, I came back and that was it, and my other. She bought another hotel then down a small bit called the ██████ Hotel.
Q	Okay, at what stage did she buy that?
A	She bought that in, again from another aunt or another uncle she bought it, well no, at that stage she bought it from her, another first cousin, she bought that in 60 I'd say about 63, yeah 63 and then she'd be running between the two of them up and down the street and em, developed that a bit and eh, yeah, one of my, my eldest at the beginning, and ██████t my second sister who is still in business now, she was married up,

	<p>she was a nurse up in [REDACTED] and she asked [REDACTED] to come down and leave her house and she was only just married and [REDACTED] came down, into, came to [REDACTED] I suppose, Eventually, her husband, he was from that side up there and he went up to the [REDACTED] to look after things, and maybe after a few years I eventually made up my mind to come home, and [REDACTED] then moved into one hotel and I stayed in the other and that might have been a source of something.</p>
Q	So did you train?
A	No, no I didn't
Q	Any of the family train?
A	No, the next generation have.
Q	This is one you may or may not know. How would she have returned herself do you think on the census, when she was filling in the census? Any idea?
A	Never, no, I don't know.
Q	How would she have described herself do you think? Maybe that's an easier question.
A	She, she, I'd say she put down hotelier, yeah she would, hotel keeper. Yeah, I'd say that would be the word, yeah.
Q	Because sometimes, they don't always show their occupation.
A	The census was always in April wasn't it? It was usually in April. Evenings were getting long.
Q	Yes.
A	It would depend if the season had started or not.
Q	If she was in full flow she was a hotelier.
A	And the amazing thing, and you know you only think about it, is when somebody starts asking you questions about different things, even though it was a very successful bar and all that, she had no time for drink, and I'll try and put this in the right way now, and she knew that, she always had a saying the customer will suit themselves you know, that sometimes people can get, you know especially younger people- it

	happened myself when I took over the business, I thought the customers were loyal to me you know, she always knew that you know.
Q	She had no illusions?
A	Absolutely no illusions, but she ran a very, very strict house. T'was a very, you know, the licensing laws were different that time too you know, like closing at 8 o'clock and Sunday closing and there are a lot of old stories about the hotel. There was, the one thing about the hotel was that, and it happened when I took it over as well, obviously it had died for a few years before I took it over, I came back and rejuvenated it and got it going, in that time the labouring man would be sitting at the bar counter, the bank manager would be sitting at the bar counter, the county engineer, there was that kind of mix, so it wasn't, you know for any one exclusive class, and I'm not saying there were classes but you know what I am getting at?
Q	Yeah I do, yeah.
A	It was very much that way, and it's still that way, that doesn't apply as much now I suppose, that time, t'was very across the board like. There was a standard kept.
Q	And everyone abided by it?
	Absolutely.
Q	And did she stay involved in the business right up until?
A	Yes, yes, absolutely yes.
Q	She didn't retire per say?
A	She took it easy, but in fairness she was decent, when I got married, I got married to a girl that was trained in the business, she was working in the [REDACTED] then and eh, I was probably [REDACTED] at the time, [REDACTED] was only [REDACTED] and eh you know, she you know, she said I'll take it easy, I think there is only room for one woman here now and there was no hassle or anything and she set up a high fashion ladies, she loved clothes, high fashion women's shop?

Q	Are you serious?
A	Absolutely she lost her shirt on it, you know, but she loved clothes, but she loved buying them rather, she didn't know about selling them. But, t'was a very, will I tell you the names of the brands she used to sell, cause they are imprinted in my brain
Q	Yeah do.
A	<i>(tape unclear)</i>all those types of things, good quality stuff, classy, classy, classy and you know she lost a lot of money, but she enjoyed it, she enjoyed it, she had a bit of a second career but got out of it then after a few years you know.
Q	Fair dues to her, so that was her route to retirement?
A	It was yeah, yeah it was.
Q	And, and do you think the entrepreneurial gene has past on through the generations or would you?
A	She never set out to do anything, she never set out to do anything, she just wanted to get away from where she was you know, and there was no problem there, I'm giving the impression that there was something wrong, but there wasn't.
Q	No, my own mother was a country girl and she couldn't wait to get away.
A	Yeah, yeah, like stuck in the mud like you know, boggy land, you know, stony grey soils, you know that type of, misery and my mother had seen you see her uncles you know, with their little hotels, and getting on well and she, she was going on holidays to Liverpool and saw that there was more to life than ...buckets. That was it, that was the problem, absolutely hated that inward looking. And my mother wasn't an intellectual by any means, but she had her own sense.
Q	And very self -taught obviously by the sound of it?
A	Absolutely, absolutely, and one thing about my mother, she could hold her place in any company. She could meet the Queen of England, and could meet the Queen of England and

	converse nicely, and the working man she would talk to him the same as she'd talk to me. And she had that exceptional gift absolutely. No big deal you know.
Q	What women do you remember of her generation, I mean from around the town and what kind of businesses were they running?
A	Well as I said to you, there was a Mrs. [REDACTED], she was known as Mrs. [REDACTED], she ran the [REDACTED] Hotel and she was a doctor's wife, [REDACTED], and he died suddenly when, they had a big house on the [REDACTED] Street and she, she was older than my mother, but the doctor had died when the youngest was only six months old, funny I have the name and number of that person if you wanted to talk to her about her but that's up to you, so that woman [REDACTED] [REDACTED] converted the house to a hotel and ran it as a hotel and yeah she was a great woman. So that was one. Mrs. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] hotel then, the big [REDACTED] hotel, she was a chemist's wife and they bought this country house and started keeping people and it developed from there and they were quite close, my mother and herself were quite close. Then there was a lady called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Johnny's mother that I was just speaking to, she was a hair dresser, a very hard working woman, but now she just employed 1 or 2 people, but they were very close as well. But it was all work and family and church and we'd didn't get any of that unfortunately.
Q	And did you go to school locally?
A	Yeah we all went to school locally.
Q	And all worked in the business?
A	Yeah without slavery, and I really want to stress that.
Q	It was hands on but.
A	Yeah, but there was a proper time and we got paid and there was no messing and funny enough, we did that with our children, if you do your job you get paid, even when the kids

	were young I would never let them work five days a week, I mean 15 or 16 year old kids, it's wrong, there are other things out there, work, be there you know and we do the same and hence my kids are in the business.
Q	I understand.
A	And [REDACTED] my sister that has [REDACTED] and she developed another hotel [REDACTED] and all that, she had the same, her children all work with her but they were never driven at it. Absolutely, and my mother never drove us at it and that's, that's the secret, I've seen it so many times and people run away from it, because I know a family, there is 12 in the family, hotel and not one of them worked. And [REDACTED] was saying to me what happened, he said to me I was often pulled out of the bed at night to collect glasses. Doesn't work.
Q	Listen that's been great, thank you kindly.
A	It's all about, it just not being pointed, and I always say to the kids, and they see it too, you're dealing with people, who are having the time of their life, they are coming here, they want to have a good time, they want to be happy, they are here to have a good time, they are paying you money. you have a problem, right, there's a disgruntled customer but he is gone the following day, and you'll never again see him, whereas if you were a doctor, a solicitor, a guard, a nurse, a priest, you have a problem, first of all, a – you are seeing most people when they are in trouble, you know we are seeing people when they are having a good time and it just makes your life so much easier.
Q	It's a great way of looking at the business actually.
A	And as I said, we do have problems, there is no doubt about that, we do have problems but by God they are gone and they don't come back to you. .
Q	They are once off.
A	You don't have to worry about it, you know. I take that as a

	positive, that's what keeps me going.
Q	And would she have had a similar mentality?
A	<p>She would yeah, yeah, she used to say that like, you know, they're gone, they're gone, keep happy now. It was all based on food, she would have been, to the food. Like I remember she brought a German architect, well now, he had been working in [REDACTED] he came from [REDACTED] actually, like the range, she had to get the best, whatever it was, and any development she did she got good architects and did the best always. We did that a bit too, you know to our eventual cost, 'cos we overextended but anyway, that's another day's work, but she was innovative you know, she was ahead of, absolutely. There was a, the [REDACTED] was a small hotel, about 30 rooms now, but she built it up to about 50 or 52, no rooms had baths you see at that time, there was only two or three rooms with baths. The story goes, there used to be two buses every night you know, that was two coaches and eh, that they'd leave [REDACTED], they'd stay in [REDACTED], they'd come down to [REDACTED], and get onto the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and come back into town then at 5 o'clock. And there was two rooms with bathrooms, three rooms with bathrooms, and there were two buses, Sheffield... Don's Coaches and Midland Ribbon, and different, Monday, Tuesday, you know that kind of thing.</p>
Q	It was on a schedule.
A	It was on a schedule and they used, the bus drivers used to be racing around the [REDACTED] to see who would get into town first, so that their people would get the rooms with the bathrooms.
Q	And did she move with all of that as it changed? That must have changed during the '60s.
A	Oh, yeah, yeah, she did, yeah, she moved very fast, absolutely, that's one thing, she was mad for progress, like, absolutely,

	<p>Jesus she was yeah. Now that was the other thing, she wasn't keen on us, we knocked the hotel then in [REDACTED], or sorry, yeah, yeah, we were planning it for two years that we would have to knock it to the ground, absolutely, cos it, I mean it was timber floors and stud partitions and the way things were moving we had to get a fire certificate and the next thing we'd have refugees in there and I felt that wasn't what we wanted, just didn't want it and that was it and am, we were planning to start in October and she got sick Christmas so she passed away in May, so you know she didn't see it knocked and I'm glad in one sense, but at the same time she would have been happy out too, do you know what I mean, she wanted progress, she never stopped, there was always gravel outside the hotel in the wintertime, you know.</p>
Q	It was do up and make up time.
A	Absolutely, sure Jesus she never took anything out of it you know, that was maybe a mistake, sure.
Q	Well listen, I know you are a busy man and thank you very much.

Mary (alias) Hotelier. South east, born in 1919. Trained in the hotel business, managed hotels prior to marriage. On marriage worked in her husband's family hotel business, taking it over in 1960s when it was willed to her. Ran it for her entire life. Interviewed her son on 19/3/2013.

Q	How did she end up here, I suppose that is the question?
A	<p>Well, she started off, she was born in ██████ an, in 1919 on the 13th March, and she came to ██████, originally in about 1939, I think, to work in ██████ House, which was a hotel at that stage, it is now part of the Botanical gardens – it is run as an adjunct to the Botanical Gardens in Glasnevin, because they have an interesting collection of plants and trees there, but in those days it was owned by a German guy called ██████ I think his name was, and it was run as a hotel, and she answered an advertisement to come in work in that, and I don't think she had any prior experience, I think she went straight from school, more or less, or she maybe had done some work locally, but I can't remember. And she came down, she worked there and I think she didn't like it there, so after, there was a job that became vacant here as a bookkeeper, and eh, she applied for that job and she got that. That was about 1940, I can't remember but anyway, so she came here and she was still very young and at that stage this place was being run by my great Aunt, and she was, she had been, she was quite an interesting lady in her own right, she was born in 1875 and she, having, she had about 12 brothers and sisters, but between one thing and another, they all were sort of, disappeared of the face of the earth. Some of them were killed in the Great War, and some of them died of TB and one of them, died in an accident and anyway, but only one of them ended up having a family as well, so that was her brother who lived to be quite an age. So anyway, she came to work here and she stayed for, not that long actually, a year or two, working as a bookkeeper, and then she decided to, in that period she met my father, who was my, he wasn't actually working her, he was, his aunt was, so he used to come and</p>

	<p>visit her quite a lot, and then she got the opportunity of a job in Northern Ireland, and she decided she would take that, up in Coleraine. So she went to work there for a while, and then she went to work, and this was during the war, and then she went to work in [REDACTED] the Great Northern Hotel, as a manager, which was, she was very young, she'd still have only been in her early twenties. The Great Northern in [REDACTED], and then from there she was promoted to be the manager of the Great Northern in [REDACTED], which was a huge hotel.</p>
Q	<p>Yes, that would have been big.</p>
A	<p>And still again, in her, she was only about 24/25 and she worked there during the war and eh, then she came back then, married my father, they had an ongoing relationship while she was working in [REDACTED] [REDACTED], I think in 1945 or 1946, I can't remember exactly what day she was married. She came back down, she married my father, they lived locally, my father had a business in [REDACTED] and they lived in [REDACTED], and she didn't really work in the hotel for a few years, I think she was, had young children at the time, my sisters were born then and eh, then eventually she started helping my aunt in the hotel, she came back to the hotel, sort of part time while she had a young family, so that situation grew then. My aunt was getting quite old, she was in her, she was in her nineties, she would have been in her seventies then, so my mother, so my great Aunt's role diminished and my mother's increased over the years, so eventually my great Aunt, she was in her nineties then, in the 60s. My father died in 1964, and then my great Aunt lived another two years to 1966, she was 91 when she died and she left the hotel you my mother and our family. So that was it really and my mother, she was very involved in various things, the Hotel Federation and the local branch of the Hotel Federation. She used to travel off to the meetings all around the place, and even though she was, she led a very busy life, she was totally involved in the whole running of the hotel really, and then she was very involved in the local tennis club and even though she didn't actually play tennis, it was through her family's involvement, we all played tennis, so she became</p>

	<p>involved in that way, they had various you know efforts to try and raise money, to build new courts, and eh, she became involved in that. At one stage, they wanted to sell part of the club, to fund development in another part of the club and she said this wasn't a good idea and we'll just raise the money ourselves and it was quite a substantial amount of money, £10,000 or something, to build this new tennis courts, so anyway she, she took that upon herself to do that and she raised the money, the whole thing, the courts were built and whatever and then she decided, they decided to do some work on the clubhouse and she helped organise that and she became President of the club, so she was very involved in that and kept the whole thing going whilst, it was sort of through, through a period of doldrums and then, developing the hotel over the years, you know various bits and pieces, it was quite a dilapidated and, so she organised getting the rooms upgraded, and all that sort of thing. So she was, also having a family, she had five children as well.</p>
Q	She had five?
A	So it was quite a job really and she was a very strong willed lady, really. So anything else you want to ask me about.
Q	Is she, I am very interested in the fact that she was involved in the Hotel's Federation, do you have any sense of when that happened or what prompted her to get involved?
A	Ah, well just, being a property owner, she was, it was sort of, ah, she was the sort of person who used to get involved in things really, she liked being involved in these things. She didn't have much, many other outlets really, and that was really it. She was on the committee in the local hotels federation, and county tourism, that sort of thing. She was involved in all those things, yeah.
Q	So she would have been involved.
A	I can't really remember, in the seventies really.
Q	Yeah, so she would have been involved in promoting, she saw the value of doing that.
A	Oh yes, yeah, certainly yes.

Q	And would she have networked, were there other women involved in that do you know or would she have networked with women.
A	There would have been some other women, the hotels, I think there was a lady in [REDACTED] had a hotel, I can't remember, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Hotel, I think that was operated by a woman, and not very many, but there were a few other women involved in it. Yeah, I can't just think of anybody else, no offhand.
Q	And did she come from a business background, in the family, family wise?
A	No no, she came from a farming background.
Q	She came from a farming backbground?
A	And she was really, she was sort of, she was very driven sort of an individual, very intelligent, dynamic, and em, didn't really have the opportunities,that, that, because of that she was from a relatively poor background, she didn't have the opportunities that other people may have had. I mean she didn't go to college, she went to, she went to, she did actually bookkeeping, a bookkeeping course up in <i>her home town</i> , somewhere, I can't remember where it was, and she was intending to go away somewhere to study in the hotel industry and then she decided to work down in that place in [REDACTED], so yeah, no she came from a farming, very poor background.
Q	And do you, what would you think was her motivation during that time?
A	Just, she always wanted to improve herself and she was quite, she was, yeah she was a very driven individual, I don't know what her motivation was, I suppose she just, she felt a responsibility in certainly here, to take on the mantle of her predecessor and also to try and make the business as successful as possible, but em, yeah, it was sort of.
Q	And how many would have worked here at that time?
A	Oh, I suppose there was always about 20 -30 people working here, and at the same time we had a business, my father's business, he was actually, ah, his family business was a [REDACTED] business anyway, and he em, ran that until his death and then she had to help to run that as

	well. He died unfortunately, she. So the two businesses had to be sort of run.
Q	So she took over his business when he died?
A	Yeah, yes, and that's still, we still have that business, it's my [REDACTED] [REDACTED] now runs that, so yeah.
Q	And how did your aunt come to this place, did she set it up or was it?
A	No, she, her grandfather came in the 1860s, 1840s, no 1820s sorry, he came, he was a butler working up in [REDACTED], in one of the large houses in [REDACTED], apparently and the lease became available on this place and his wife and himself decided to take it on as a business, and eh, yeah, they took it on, and they ran it for a few years and they had two sons, and whilst he was here, another hotel, the Hotel.
Q	Oh yeah, yes.
A	Became available, the lease on that and he decided to take that as well. So he had two sons, and when he passed on he left this hotel to <i>one</i> , and then the other hotel to <i>the other</i> , and they had the two hotels up until about 1912 or so, both of the hotels were run by the family, but then the [REDACTED], they sold it in the 1912s and then they emigrated to Canada, that branch of the family, but then the were here from that time, so it has been in the family for nearly 200 year.
Q	Wow, that is some heritage isn't it? Is that mantle heavy?
A	Well, it's a responsibility alright, I figure we can't really, and that's why it hasn't changed so much, it's remained relatively unaltered over the years.
Q	And how did your mother market it? I mean, they were tough enough times?
A	Yes, they were, now, the main marketing tool that we have is the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which is [REDACTED] and we were, she was a founder member of that.
Q	Okay.
A	It was originally an idea which was from, through the Irish Georgian Society. Anyway, so that was that, so she was one of the drivers,

	driving forces behind that, starting that organisation which was a very successful now, and I don't know if you have seen it.
Q	Yes, I am aware of it yeah. So she was in there from the start in relation to that?
A	Yes, from the beginning.
Q	And that was a key marketing.
A	That's really, was our main, has been, over the years, our main marketing effort yes, So and then, just Failte Ireland, various, various things with Failte Ireland and Tourism as well.
Q	Yes, okay, so she got active in those networks to, as part of the business.
A	Yes, yes.
Q	And eh, passing it on, was that an important, of her plan.
A	Oh yes, yes, yes, em, well my brother and I work here.so my brother and I now run it, in tandem and em, so we have families as well, so it works out quite well and it gives us a bit of freedom. It's a very, very, eh, full, it's a fulltime business(unclear xxxx)here, I mean its, for instances someone has to be on the premises most of the time, cos it doesn't, it's not sufficiently large, if you like to generate sufficient income to employ a full time manager, so we have to, we live on the premises, and we alternate then, when, you know we have homes as well, so.
Q	And did she live on the premises?
A	Yeah, yeah, but she was full time here on almost a hundred percent of her time, she very rarely went anywhere else, didn't take many holidays, so it was eh, it was a vocation if you like with her really and eh, yeah she didn't have an awful lot of life out, a life outside this business really.
Q	Yes, and what was her strength, do you think in terms of, on the hotel side, like what was she best at or good at?
A	Ah, she just had a phenomenal energy and really, she had a phenomenal ability to apply herself and she was very good with people, very she, met people from all over the world and she was very

	affable sort of person, Em, just her general drive was the thing and her application, she, she was she had the ability to, just to focus, on the business and that was it, and she just put all her energies into it.
Q	And, did ye grow up then on the premises?
A	Well we did, we, we, we, we actually didn't, we actually lived in [REDACTED] originally and then when my great Aunt died we moved here, but we were away, we were in boarding school most of the time, yeah, we lived here for part of our childhood.
Q	And would have a view on what the impact of what her being in business was on the family, or ?
A	Well I mean obviously, when she's, when you are working fulltime you don't have eh, a hundred percent of your time to devote to your family, so it is the same as with any working mother I suppose, but yeah, that's par for the course, unfortunately when you're, but we, as I say we were away in boarding school so it was... and I suppose that's why we were, we went to boarding school because my mother couldn't have the time to, eh to eh you know to devote to her family the whole time, but that was.
Q	And did ye work here then?
A	Yeah, Yeah, we worked here, yeah, we worked here in the summer, my sisters worked her, eh, the weekends and that sort of thing, we worked here, basically all our student lives we did that, and eh, yeah it is hard to get away from it really, it is quite difficult in some ways to break away and eh, so yeah, we've always had an on, even when I wasn't working here, I always had an ongoing relationship with the place.
Q	And in terms of adjustments, or expansions, did she add on to the hotel, or is it very much in its original.
A	It's very much in its original eh, eh format, but we have added on over the years, we've added on extra bedrooms and bathrooms, and inevitably you have to upgrade.
Q	Upgrade yes?,
A	And we did, about 20, I suppose it is about 15 years ago we did an

	extension with a, em, what we call the conference room, it's a small sort of conference room cum dining room that we use and eh, a couple of extra bedrooms. But we haven't, we haven't really altered it, no, I mean it looks exactly the same as it did, you can see from the photographs there.
Q	Yeah.
A	That it did, in 1900 and this elevation is that same and that elevation, just the extension is out the back, so no it is essentially the same as it was.
Q	Essentially the same, and was the core business B& B or?
A	Em, No it is basically, the restaurant is the main business now, we do very big restaurant business and eh, so that's it really and then we have about 16 bedrooms, it is difficult enough to fill them in this day and age and now of course, with the crisis in the industry, I mean during the last 10 years they have built all these crazy hotels.
Q	Oversupply.
A	Yeah, Yeah, [REDACTED] up there 150 bedrooms, and [REDACTED], 200 bedrooms and there just isn't the demand for that, so as a consequence they're not viable hotels and they are charging below cost rates for their rooms and undermining the rest of the business, it's a very big problem, so you have American's coming and they can stay there for you know, 50 euros per person for bed and breakfast in a four star, five star hotel, where they were charging 3 or 4 times that a few years ago, so they undercut the rest of us, and they just take, Hoover up the market.
Q	And would food have been a core part of the business during your mother's?
A	It always was, really it always was.
Q	Yeah, afternoon tea.
A	Yeah, Afternoon tea, and lunch em. Lunch and dinner in the evening it always was. Afternoon tea in the garden is a big thing, in the summer and eh, yeah.
Q	And in terms of business is it repeat business, would that have been

	important?
A	Yes, very much repeat business, very much, we yeah, we've been here for so long that people know us so well, people from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] come down here, and eh, ah yeah, we get a lot of the same people coming, over and over for years and years and years. Yeah.
Q	And, would you, now you may not know the answer to this, it's a. when it came to filling in the Census of Population how would your mother have described herself do you think? Would you have any idea?
A	Em, well she would have, I would say she would have described herself as a hotel proprietor.
Q	Yeah, I ask that because sometimes in families it isn't always explicit on the register.
A	Yes.
Q	I have been looking at the census figures
A	I can't remember now, exactly but you see I think it usually says, owner, I mean?
Q	Yes, yes it does, there is a category called employer and what they call own account worker which indicates em, that you either were employing people or working for yourself, but eh, in family context it is not always explicit.
A	Yes, no she would have definitely yes, she was very proud of the fact that she owned a hotel, absolutely and it was, I mean, in her family as well, it was considered, she was considered to be very successful, because she had risen from very modest background to become a hotel owner, so, I mean that was, she was very, very successful in those terms.
Q	And she, she was the one running this business, your father was separate.
A	No my father had nothing to do with this business at all, no he never became involved in the business, he was, he had his own business in [REDACTED] to operate, no, I mean, he would advise her maybe on, no he didn't really have anything to do with the business at all, no.

Q	And would you have a sense, was it a, was she operating as a sole trader, or was it as a limited company.
A	No it is a limited company, yeah.
Q	And was it always, that, or was it.
A	Eh, well its, from her involvement in it, it was more or less, I think it was set up as a limited company in 1946 or something, but I mean, it was originally called the [REDACTED] hotel, up until that, then I think it was called the [REDACTED] Hotel, but people used to refer to it [REDACTED] so they changed, I think the name was changed then to [REDACTED] Hotel.
Q	So when they formalised the company, they changed the name?
A	Yeah.
Q	Yes, that's great, thank you very much, the other thing that the research is showing is that that issue of formality, you see an increasing formality in terms of the status of companies they further into the period you go. In the earlier stages, there seemed to be a lot of ah, sole trading going on, but increased formalization?
A	Yes, well I, that would be, I would imagine that was through advise from her solicitors, really and that was probably, though I mean she wouldn't have been fully involved at that stage, when it was formed as a limited company. That was my great Aunt, was here then, but I'd imagine that was on legal advice that she would have decided to do that, I am not really sure why they did it.
Q	And did your great Aunt have any formal training or was it?
A	No, no she didn't, she, she was brought up here, I mean, it was, yeah, I don't know how they managed at all, in those days the transport wasn't so, there was always the railways, I suppose. The railways came in the 1850s so there was a station just up the road here in [REDACTED] so that would have helped, but the main, at the time you see it was the, it was a coaching inn, but she, she was born as I say in 1875, and I think she worked, she went to work in Dublin for a while, in Ketchmans, or something, there was a company, a shop in Grafton Street, I think that was the name of it, and eh, she worked there as a shop assistant for a

	while, that was the only formal training she had, in any sort of business, but I mean she was, again I mean, you, when you grow up in a business you know it.
Q	You absorb it.
A	Exactly.
Q	It's training on the job.
A	Yeah.
Q	And did your mother work right up until
A	She more or less did, fortunately she wasn't very, very she didn't have a chronic illness. She became ill I suppose about a year before she died, she became ill and she had various trips to hospital, but in between she was reasonably okay, and then, it wasn't just until the last six months or so, she wasn't able to work, but yeah.
Q	She never retired per say.
A	No she never retired, no, no, no, but so she had a very full life and ah, she absolutely loved the business, it, it was her life really.
Q	It was her life.
A	Yes.
Q	Okay, well listen, thank you very much, that's very, been very useful.

Grainne (Alias) Retailers Galway 1922, born in the early 1920s.

Following their marriage in 1946, Grainne and her husband set up in business together - a drapery and hardware shop as well as a small haulage business. Had 2 children. She was mainly responsible for the shop while her husband looked after the yard and the haulage side of the business. Ran it for over 40 years. Interviewed daughter on 18/6/2013.

Nora and May (alias) Publicans and Guest house Galway, born 1914 and 1926 respectively. Grainne's sister. Father bought them a pub and grocery business in a rural town which they operated together for 12 years. Sold business, relocated and set up a very successful B and B in a nearby larger tourist destination which they ran up until the death of the Nora the eldest sister. Single, no children. Interviewed niece on 18/6/2013.

A	My aunt [REDACTED] had trained in Dublin, she had been in the Gresham Hotel. Aunty [REDACTED] had been at home on the farm looking after all that aspect.
Q	These were your mother's sisters?
A	My mother's sisters, my uncle [REDACTED] was going to settle down and my grandfather wanted them to have a business.
Q	Okay, that's interesting, so the grand, the father wanted to.
A	The father, so he thought, he weighed it up, Aunty [REDACTED], Aunty [REDACTED] would be very solid, wouldn't have the experience of the business element but he felt the younger sister [REDACTED] would, so he thought a certainty would be a pub because at least you'd make some living out of it, it just shows you the change in years, so they bought it and they had the pub, grocery and down the back they were able to keep the horses in October. They also did soup and a lot of the students used to come for the soup and sandwiches, from the school. So they had a very good little business there.
Q	And were they two single ladies?

A	Two single ladies.
Q	And at what age did he, did they set that up in?
A	I am trying to think about it, they must have gone in the sixties, let's say, I would say 1960,so my Aunty [REDACTED] was born in 1914, yeah no sorry, 1916, t'was round about 1916, so you are talking about, she was in her forties and my Aunty [REDACTED] would be eleven years, no twelve years younger than her, so she would have had the training for the financial end of things whereas Aunty [REDACTED] would have common sense in abundance, very level, very, able to manage people and was a great, could pull a marvellous pint I believe.
Q	Good for her.
A	Which was important and they would have had - that time the pub business would have been so different, like you had the regulars that came in but then they weren't drinking themselves, but you had the regulars and you had the little snug then where you would have the woman would come in and have her little toddy or whatever, then the shop, you had sweets and you had the groceries so it, in any business that survived or that made any kind of a living you had to have an awful lot of irons in the fire.
Q	That seems to have been the case.
A	There just was no such thing as a one trick pony. You had to have a variety and when one thing was up the other thing was down or that way you worked around. [REDACTED] was then, just the demands, they had to get in extra help, my dad used to go down to help them just to have a male in the vicinity in case things go difficult.
Q	And what was their surname?
A	[REDACTED]
Q	Oh right [REDACTED] aunts

A

There were five girls and some of the boys died quite young, they got the scourge at the time, TB and uncle [REDACTED] was the, he settled down quite late in life, he's, his family is still in the home place and then uncle [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] dad, and one died a baby and the other two died of TB but the girls, aunty [REDACTED] was the eldest girl and she was a primary teacher and aunty [REDACTED] was more or less kept at home. Mom stayed at home for a while and then she got married but she was dying to become a nurse but they said no, you're needed at home. Aunty [REDACTED] was the youngest of them, she did her secretarial course or whatever after school, she went to school in Mountrath where her mother had gone to school believe it or not, because the mother, there were just girls in the house, they came from A [REDACTED], [REDACTED] was their name. [REDACTED] it's called there, there's kind of a crossroads and her husband died leaving her with two girls and a son, the son died of pneumonia or something in 1918 and the two girls, she was afraid anything would happen them during the trouble times and so she was able to manage to send them away, which wasn't easy but she managed it. My grandmother promised to send someone to school there but the youngest did, my aunty [REDACTED] went there and then she did a secretary and then she went into training in hotel management. That time, you went in on the ground floor, so she was in the Gresham and then the [REDACTED] which was up in, off Parnell Square, so it was a Scottish woman that was running that and I'm telling you, if anything went wrong you paid for it, she used to say "you wouldn't feel my pain" so you would pay for any pain. She had a good sense, she often talked about that, so if you broke, if anyone broke a cup they replaced it. So when you think of the differences, that's why businesses paid because there was no room for any losses, and if you broke a cup and you didn't pay for it, you might be casual but when you knew you were going to pay for it you

	<p>were careful. So that was, they made a very good living there until eventually they sold it and they moved to ■■■■■ where they took over a guest house, ■■■■■ house, so they ran that until ■■■■■ died, she got ovarian cancer and she was gone in six weeks and then of course my other aunt wouldn't have been able to manage that on her own so eventually she sold that and moved into the house that she was living in. They were great women.</p>
Q	<p>So they moved on, they sold up in XXX and moved on to another business.</p>
A	<p>Yes, my aunty ■■■■■ would have preferred, and this was before the pubs really, she was, they went in '72 they moved to, '72 because my uncle ■■■■■ died the following January, leaving five children the eldest ten, it was very sad, but they were great, like they got up and they did it.</p>
Q	<p>Fair dues to them.</p>
A	<p>You have to admire them. And then my aunt ■■■■■ who was the teacher, she was the driver, she would come down to them and bring them off to the cash and carry in ■■■■■ and everyone would go down on holidays and I used to weigh the sweets and have them ready in the little bags, this was pre-package stuff, and I'd say, wouldn't it be great now to have them ready, and there's the 4 oz and have them in, I can still see the sweets and you knew which ones you were getting</p>
Q	<p>Wow, so the whole family weighed in?</p>
A	<p>Yeah and that's what happened. I'd say, I think at the moment you'd nearly have to go back to families helping each other to get anything going.</p>
Q	<p>And do you, do you think the start-up from that came from their father, the start-up capital or?</p>
A	<p>Oh yes, they were lucky now in that case, that he backed them on that, because I suppose, he felt</p>
Q	<p>He was providing for..?</p>

A	She had put so much, she had looked after people who were ill, she had looked after her mother and he felt she was entitled to that, but knew on her own that it would not have been possible without aunty [REDACTED] experience. But together it was a great team.
Q	They were, they were probably there when I was wee, wee girl.
A	Yes, there would be people around that would remember it, you know because even when she died, we had, people remembered it in [REDACTED], but years go on and you go out of the public.
Q	And did your mother run a business?
A	<p>She did, now she, but as I said she was at home on the farm as well, and her uncle was Parish Priest in [REDACTED] and she met my Dad through coming up there, and my Dad's family would have been in business for generations so what Dad did was he bought a new business and then got into the general drapery, all that, it became a shop that you got everything in. So she kinda started, wouldn't have had any background training, which she often felt she missed in certain areas, I would say to her "Stock control, Mum", but that wouldn't have been a term people used, - like what's the point in having six of something and be missing something else, but em, she had a great way with her customers, knew exactly what they needed and she built up a very, very good business.</p> <p>But this was pre-Dunnes Stores and all that, I mean, you cannot talk about the same things nowadays because so much has changed. Even when I was running the shop at home, I'd come up here to Dublin, I got to know where I was able to get good value and then it was mostly, you were ending up with a list for the customer and they'd tell you it was most important but that's very wearing, it's much nicer just to get in stuff and</p>

	<p>move it out but you can't do that when you have a small population, but then you have Lidl and Aldi now who have gone in, – and what I've found with the drapery shop was, I also had, I did all the school requirements, we did the uniform, we had paint, we had a very broad, so that was how you kept going, again the number of items, but that was going to cost you an awful lot as time moved on, that was becoming hugely expensive to stock and it wouldn't move quickly enough so you could see very clearly that retail as it was known was going to change. Even places like the big stores in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]x, the biggest drapery shops are finding it, I'd say they won't last, so that element of business is gone.</p>
Q	And when your mother, she married into the business then?
A	She married my dad and he bought a new, the house I am in now and that's where they set up.
Q	So they kinda set up together?
A	They did and he would look after the hardware and then he also had what they used to talk about, was a plate, it was the permission for a lorry to work in different counties. Now you wouldn't even know about that know.
Q	Ok, that's interesting.
A	You could have it for 32, but his, I think wasn't 32, it was enough for the counties around, which meant he could have the lorry working for the County Council and he could drive it himself or he could hire somebody to drive it so that was the income as well that made sure that you were always able to pay your suppliers, so this is where I learnt the importance of you know having different sources and not all your eggs in one basket and you watched, you tried to watch.
Q	So the remaining of the shop then was kind of grocery, drapery?
A	No because, the house he came down from, his uncle's business that he ran and that would have been a very

	<p>successful business way back, he said “grocery was hardship without return”. You bought huge containers of tea and then you spent half the night weighing stuff out, I mean I even had the bags at one stage that they used, you were all night at it, you see, it was labour intensive and then a lot of it, as you know with most businesses they got it on account and you were paid when they sold whatever they had to sell, whether it was pigs which I would say was the main, you see you didn’t have great land in that area so you were not fattening big cattle or that, you had the cow, but the pigs were the essential in the economy and they’d have enough to feed themselves from that, they were self- sufficient and then what they sold was the extra, so they used that to pay for the sack of flour, cause that’s what people bought if they had big families, that went home and that was the main thing, they’d have their potatoes at home, butchers meat as they used to say in the country was a rare treat, they would have their own chickens, so it was the pig was the, bacon and cabbage was the five day.</p>
Q	<p>And so your mother would, and father, would have been extending credit for a lot of people?</p>
A	<p>Oh absolutely, even when I came home the ledger was, as I said far too large, because we had changed times, those times the people did not have an income, they did not get anything every week, that changed with the Small Farmers dole or whatever you’d like to call it, and then Children’s Allowance improved and there were things like that.</p>
Q	<p>So there was more money?</p>
A	<p>So there was, therefore there was no reason why things should go on indefinitely unless you were foolish.</p>
Q	<p>And at what stage was that when you would have come back?</p>
A	<p>I came back in ‘81, Dad was failing in health that time and I didn’t really know, and he actually lived for five years, he died in ‘86, but I learned an awful lot, I said “if you want to be an</p>

	<p>economist you should be made get into a small business”, you learn so many things, you won’t have the terminology but you’ll certainly have the principles. Now, the problem is that wouldn’t work today, because with the best will in the world there isn’t money out there at the moment and what there is they are going to go to Lidl and Aldi, you may provide some services but you’d have to be in an area where you have got, a very, a good population and you’ve got people who are getting paid salaries.</p>
Q	<p>And at that stage when you came back they had been running the shop for what, 30, 30 odd years?</p>
A	<p>They opened it in August 1946.</p>
Q	<p>Ok so they were a long, well established?</p>
A	<p>I remember the accounts used always be before???<i>unclear</i> and then they changed to the January.</p>
Q	<p>So over that, nigh on 40 years they would have been extending credit for a considerable number of customers?</p>
A	<p>Those people that would come to them wouldn’t know what the inside of a bank looked like, nor were they encouraged. They just wouldn’t have, the cheque book was just not seen.</p>
Q	<p>And how did your family then, how did your parents manage to you know, buy stock, deal with suppliers, if you are extending the level of credit that?</p>
A	<p>I’ll tell you how they did it. I would say the most essential item was what came in from the County Council through the haulage business.</p>
Q	<p>Yes, so they were sustaining, they were getting the income from that?</p>
A	<p>My father would have been of the opinion nearly, that they were, it was a service as much as a business which I used to say “Daddy, sorry that’s not the real word” you know and I said “I’m not going to do that, I can understand if someone is in difficulties but I am not going to support all these people on</p>

	<p>my back”, I was dead down on too much credit. I never approved of all what was going on with the Celtic Tiger because I knew you were giving people the wrong message. Credit is wonderful when you need it and you know that you have to pay it back, I love the idea of the Credit Union but they obviously went beyond their remit as well. Because all people can meet tight times and it’s great to know that you can go to them but now there are tight times and they can’t get it and you see what it is doing to the whole economy but, neither of my parents would have lived high, there was no such thing as out gallivanting, my mother would have thrift, worked and in her whole system and was fabulous, and would even, would run up curtains for people, so she was able to add value in different ways, she wouldn’t have ever believed in charging much for doing things like that, but it was all this thrift and care and looking for good value, and it was, but they did not go off on a continental holiday, there was none of that, Mammy got a holiday yes, every year she got her holiday and we went with her, that was established, we went to Connemara and or we went to Salthill, so that was, they made sure that that was there, that had, built a caravan, a step- nephew from way back and that was brought over and left in Silver Strand, in the field there beside the sea and all of the family used it, and that was before.</p>
Q	So that was the bolt hole?
A	<p>So that was reasonable, you see you could do that for very reasonable at the time, but they saved and saved and they sent both of us away to school, but like that, I without, I knew very well that I wasn’t asking for extras or anything else, I was quite happy with what was done and while they would have had a bit of land, they would have had security but you never saw that and you certainly never looked at your house as being - money, the way people in later times thought, this I have a</p>

	<p>house worth x amount, that would have never come into the equation, the land you could sell if you were under pressure so they were kept as back-ups, but your day to day you know, I would have even run it more tightly than, I would have been on top of the bank if there was a penny out I was demanding it back, I was really very, very careful but like big businesses would sneer at that, but I'm sorry they need a little bit of it and they mightn't be in the mess they're in.</p>
Q	<p>And did ye, ye worked in the business when ye were small?</p>
A	<p>My sister never put a foot inside in it, she had no interest in it, but I loved it, I loved it always, but I loved my [REDACTED] as well you see, this was the big problem.</p>
Q	<p>And did she, like in terms of, I mean advertising and selling, there wasn't the same kind of?</p>
A	<p>It was word and mouth very much and they would say oh you'll get that in [REDACTED]s, you know that was, and they were known as the shop that kept everything, I mean I can remember even horse nails, I think I eventually dumped them and the boxes that they were in are still there, you know these ones that were especially made and then they had all this stuff that was added to paint, you know for their walls, you had white wash and then you could put a bit of coloring through that and the stuff, yellow ochre, I can still remember the names you know and then Mum was very interested in paints, wall papers and all of that, that was really a good, a very good business until you had to start buying huge quantities and then, even that she could manage because she had a terrific business in that but then the cut throat and the newer type thing came on and that was that. I was only, I keep "nil aon rud ach seal", there is only a short time in anything because change is natural; it's a natural thing and to anticipate it and to say well what's happening now, it might be there, but it will be different. I can see that now, you go through the towns and</p>

	practically all the businesses, it happened in England and it' happening here now, just whatever chance they have in being, maybe able to keep a little going they certainly can't pay rates and all the overheads - that is the killer, because by the time you work, how many months before you get those paid.
Q	And what was the legal structure, was it a sole trading business or was it company limited?
A	Yes, it was known as [REDACTED] and company, but I don't think it was ever.
Q	It was ever actually a registered limited?
	But always, it was just that was never questioned and he never went in for limited liability or anything like that, which in a way, you had to produce all these figures, and which we always, I have stacks of going back even to before him, to the accounts because they were always done, they always kept accounts and they always had an accountant?
Q	And who kept the accounts, they had an accountant?
A	My Dad, Dad would do all the stuff himself.
Q	All the figure work, and then get it looked at by an accountant?
A	And that would have been taken, he would come out actually to the place and they would go through it and question it. Like it would have been much bigger, it was getting as you can imagine but it was fine, it was manageable for me and then when Mum died I went back to work and I let my sister hold on for, for probably it's natural...
Q	Demise?
A	Precisely and that suited me because I employed her.
Q	Yeah, and did they live over the business?
A	The house was such that you had a fairly good front and then the house s over that and continues along down.
Q	And that was in the town, in the village?
A	Yes, well you would see it now, I even got shuttering put up

	<p>and the people thought I was crazy, because I had that done in about '87 - I was terrified of the big windows, that they would come in and we had very boisterous Stephens Day, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], it is now transferred to [REDACTED], but it was very well known and it was always very, kind of scary that something would happen, so I got the National Aluminum in Cork, they went out sometimes afterwards, came up and put those ugly looking shutters in but I had security and I felt happy about that, so they're down now which, I was discussing with someone, getting rid of that and turning the area maybe into accommodation.</p>
Q	<p>Okay, very good. And around the town then, what kind of businesses were operating at the time they were operating?</p>
A	<p>Well in the town when I was young you had two dressmakers, now one of them would be a lady with a physical disability and a lot of people went into tailoring and dressmaking because at least they could work with their hands and they had their little business. And they, the tailor and the dressmakers did very well. We had a shoemaker, we had blacksmiths even at that time.</p>
Q	<p>Of course, yeah, and the shoemaker and the blacksmiths would have been males?</p>
A	<p>Yes, oh yes, absolutely, the dressmaker and then the tailor, who also trained guys from the industrial school, would bring out boys from there, and they were apprenticed, so he'd train them. You had, five, or it must have had about seven pubs, but every pub would have had grocery or something else as well, they would have land, not an awful lot maybe but enough to keep a couple of cows, again nobody could survive on just one thing, or else the wife might be working at something.</p>
Q	<p>And did the wives work?</p>
A	<p>There were a few, again it would be maybe someone who was a teacher, that was the main, there was really only nursing,</p>

	teaching and the bank, they were the main, so most of the people around home left and that was the sad thing.
Q	And it was the lads left and the girls left? It was both, was it?
A	Yes, oh yeah I mean and what was even worse in the late '50's was families left from behind the town, so the people who kept the shops going were just diminishing all the time—and now you have nothing out there only the foreigners who came in, people who liked this very quiet afforested area and they like it, I mean Irish people would be afraid nearly to live in that but eh, now, that so if you have, what was support in the town has disappeared.
Q	Em, yeah, well then the, the businesses eh, dry up as a result of that.
A	So business is, one, like you'd say even, when I look across the street now I am looking at empty houses, one lady has just gone into the nursing home with Alzheimer's, the pub across the way is, the it's owned by a lad from home whose is in America, he rented it and it wasn't satisfactory because they were going and leaving bills, and ah it was a nightmare. He's gone, tried to sell it there, no movement, em, there is a house with husband, wife and three children who are still in national school, the eldest will probably by moving on to secondary, but they are the only children really on the street. So what's going to happen is that all those houses are going to be vacated and I said it to the County Council, we are going to have the, county of █████ is going to have in this area, X,Y and Z and surrounding areas, they'll all be derelict, they will be left unless there is some way of encouraging people to come back to those houses but they won't come back unless they have standards that they would expect in a new house and you've miss the boat on that, that was what you, when the Celtic Tiger was up and going, you gave incentives to get going but then you pulled them, but you went on way beyond, which was

	decided by people at the time, – but to try and encourage getting people back there and getting something back to keep them, because my attitude is if you have an old person here and you have a younger couple, she could look after that old person, she'd have no expenses traveling, the kids would be gone to school and she would have her cash coming in.
Q	Oh yeah, there are ways of doing it but it is getting the ?
A	You know, it's the will and the understanding and all that behind it.
Q	And would, I mean the business was, I mean your mother was involved in it fairly full on?
A	All day, all night, kind of thing, it never.
Q	She was very much a presence in the shop? So it was a co-venture really was it?
A	Yes and she always had someone working in the shop as well, one at least, we'd have a man in the yard and we had someone that helped in the house for so many hours. So that provided some employment as well plus the man maybe in the lorry.
Q	Yeah, okay so there would have been a number of people?
A	Yes.
Q	And it would have been commercially successful in the sense?
A	It, you wouldn't have become a millionaire but you were able to keep your head above water and I keep explaining to people, they used to say, 'oh a yard of counter was better than a farm', this was the common belief always that you would've made money in a shop, I said now that I know more I would say the thing in a shop is this: you have access to money, because while you were doing an awful lot of credit you were still being paid, you were getting suppliers giving you stuff for 30, it was 30 days or 60 days at another time, so you actually had cash so you were, you had a power to buy which gave the impression that you were very well to do, but you were putting off the evil day with the payment but in the mean-time stuff

	<p>was coming in, that's my own now, interpretation of it. And I mean if you were on a very big scale of course you have, and the ones that were clever saw that the thing to do if you had any bit of profit was to reinvest it in something else that was going to work for you, but they wouldn't have understood that, they would buy more stock, that was because you knew what you were doing there, you would buy stock when you would have extra things and therefore that would bring people in and once you got them in you'd sell a bit more, that was, being a good shop keeper, you'd say "well I have something now that" and there was a lot more interaction with the person, and it was up to you to kind of, make your sales.</p>
Q	<p>And was it, did she have any difficulties as a business women do you think, or how was she perceived by the community, within the community?</p>
A	<p>The community had great time for her, because they knew she knew what they needed, being a very, very sensible person and she would have really had nothing to do with the, even if Dad was in debt at any stage and it wouldn't have been easy when they started out because he bought from scratch and it would have been a rope around his neck so to speak, so by degrees, but what he would do if it was getting tight, he had something to sell and he got rid of that first, because I have the bank letters all the time, from way back, that would be back in maybe early '50/ 51 and things were tough that time, but then with one thing and another, he got out from under that and then, it went on well, but she would never have known the full financial - he kept that from her because she was a worrier, so her full job was the buying and the selling and keeping the staff on, happy after that and running the house and all that, I mean they were great, talk about multi-tasking, I mean they had no choice but to multi-task, and she had her hens as well and she'd keep her garden.</p>

Q	So she kept hens? And did she sell eggs?
A	Never sold the eggs but we used to use a lot of them you know, and we would keep our chickens and they'd be often be cut and cooked and I remember having a setting of ducks and rearing them and Daddy said they are going to eat you out of house and home, because they need to be out on grass, we were buying Uveco, it was Indian, some kind of an Indian meal that you'd pour hot water on and it would swell up and I used to feed them, I loved that aspect of it. And, but I mean it wasn't a viable thing really but I liked it. You got a taste of things, children nowadays, as I say to X and even if you were just living where they are, you see a very small section of the world whereas the country shops and the country people were exposed to an awful lot of things, and a lot more, so they had a much broader world and I dunno, I think in a way it's better, even going to the ordinary national school you met so many different people.
Q	Yeah, yeah, it's a mix, you get the mix?
A	It is much better.
Q	You get a good mix?
A	So that's what your short of, there was no such thing as just exclusive. The pubs did grocery, I could.
Q	So there was a lot of pubs?
A	There was, you had X, now the other drapery shop also had a six day license and he was my father's first cousin, X, so there would have been that bit of, what would you call it,
Q	Healthy competition?
A	Competition, but Mum would win with the personality and the general. But on a Wednesday they had a half day and what did they do?, closed the door, did they go off and have a (<i>unclear</i>), into Limerick 'cause they had quite a few suppliers in Limerick, Todd's had a wholesale, Cannocks, Roches, Boyds for the seeds, because they did things, because Dad also

	<p>did the artificial manures, hugely expensive because you were only paid off the following year. Mum kept talking about it ever after because knew that it was just a huge draw on the finances, waiting to be paid but they also did all the seeds, hay seeds, clover and all the stuff. There are shops in X that are like that, X, exactly that's the one now I am thinking of. So there was quite a lot of that being done, I can remember all those being in the shop. Footwear was huge, you would get an amount of footwear in September and all the kids would be in to be looked after - until the next year.</p>
Q	<p>And so they'd close on a Wednesday and she would, they'd go to Limerick?.</p>
A	<p>Half day and then occasionally they would leave whoever was there in charge and they would come up to Dublin, to the wholesale, just to see the stuff because usually they had reps, that would call.</p>
Q	<p>The reps would call in?</p>
A	<p>and the reps would come out from Limerick, from Todds and you would come, they'd be there at maybe half 10 or 11 and it might be 2 o'clock before he'd go. Bringing in all the different stuff and then maybe interruptions as well, with people and one thing and another because he always booked his lunch with the lady, now this lady, Mrs. ■, she was a trained confectioner and we could walk down at any-time and you'd get homemade buns, iced buns, she'd have fruit cakes. She had all the sweets and ice cream. She also would provide meals for people, she'd do small weddings, she was one wonderful woman.</p>
Q	<p>And she was in the town, she was in the town as well, so she was running her little business there?</p>
A	<p>Yeah, so the first house was a pub and they had a farm as well. Now it would have been quite a small pub and I'd say it was a struggle because they had six children but again the younger</p>

	<p>fella developed that pub and it was going very well and he died suddenly, about 10 years ago. The next one then was Mrs. ■, that was an elderly woman that came back from America. ■s, that's where we all went for our chocolates and ice cream. Then further up the street there was a woman, called we used to call her Mrs. Small because she was small in stature, same name as the other chap. But she kept all the penny wonderfups – you know the things like the mice and all that stuff and the liquorice – oh we used to love going into her.</p>
Q	That was a sweet shop?
A	it was a lovely little shop. But she kept the primary teacher, male teacher until he married someone in the town. She would do meals on the fair day. Now the fair day, once that went it was another blow.
Q	Of course yah.
A	Her shop after the fair day, it was empty – she wouldn't have a thing until Xs would arrive with the big biscuits, you might have heard your Dad often talk about these big huge, they were the currant tops with the, just currants inside or the big square biscuits, people toasted them –
Q	I never heard of them now.
A	Oh they were, they were big sale. And then the ten a penny sweets and the conversation lozenges – did you ever hear him talking about those?
Q	Oh I did yes – I remember those.
A	Well she did all that – and she, they would have some land, not an awful lot but that's what brought the bit of cash into her. There would be no taxes or anything that time, I mean this was– you paid the supplier and what was over was your own. Her daughter got into the Civil Service, I don't know whether she won a scholarship to ■ or not and the, one of the boys was a marvelous tradesman so he did very well at that. And then the other son stayed with the mum in the house. That was

	demolished and a new townhouse has been built there. The next house would have been her brother's and that was good trading, it was drapery as well. They eventually got out of it and the woman of that, the old woman there came back from County Clare and she was a great business woman. She said I am doing this and whoever likes can do the kitchen and she stuck to her business and made a great success of it.
Q	So she was in the Drapery?
A	She was in it, but then eventually that drapery went because things were changing so Mum would have been, would have had the edge there and that's the way it is. Things, and there is no use getting annoyed about it or anything else I think, because this is just natural.
Q	Evolution?
A	And evolution as well because everything will change, what people buy. Now the shops are going to be up against buying online.
Q	Very much so yes.
A	For an awful lot of stuff and I heard a story recently, where someone went into [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and you know that would be the major store there, a very good middle of the road shop – it wouldn't have the very, very way out exotic stuff and she tried on something and the girl was thrilled, she felt she had made a sale –she took out her pen and took down all the details and said now I am going to get that online. Like she should have had the decency to say nothing and do it quietly but no. [REDACTED] have huge staff and huge overheads and like if that goes.
Q	Oh yeah it is very different.
A	They were talking there as I came out about Kerry, someone was talking to a guy that has a big shopping centre and he said we provided 600 jobs and I said you did but they lost how many in the town then you know. Granted there is probably

	more – but you do lose.
Q	Oh yeah, but, so there was quite a selection of women in the area really when you look at that.
A	<p>Yeah, every single one like Mrs. [REDACTED] in this pub that is now unoccupied and owned by a man in America. She was the same, she had, there was grocery and where they, they wouldn't sell much groceries during the day but the guys that would come in for the few pints at night, that is when they would bring home their bread, tea, butter and the basics. So you see, it was to make use of that. So that meant they knew all the vans that were coming in delivering. No van could possibly be going in with 3 of this and 2 of that because that just wouldn't work anymore because of the cost of transport. And then up the street from her there was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] you know [REDACTED]. His mum, now she did meals on the fair days as well, they had a pub. And above it were [REDACTED] and that was another pub and grocery. And there was enough to keep all those going. Now there were a few others but that was the most of the business was from the end of the town up to what is now called the "[REDACTED]" which unoccupied - up for rent but who is going to take it on? There is no way because people can't drink and drive. People haven't got the money, there, it's like all the straws coming together that breaks the camel's back. You can cope with one or two things going on but not all that. The smoking ban was the start of it – while we all approve of that, you don't see the repercussions until further down the track.</p>
Q	How would you say it impacted, or would you have a view of how her being involved in the business impacted on the family?
A	Well I would say that the business at that time, there was no cut off. It really impinged on your life in that it tended sometimes - like Mum would say to me, after years I am going into Limerick to buy a new coat. She invariably came home

	<p>without it unless there was an absolute reason why she had to get it, because she would have to go into Connells, Todds and she would have all those things that had to be done. So Dad's belief that business was so important and keeping people on side was so important that you were really inclined to put yourself out of the picture and that's forgotten – not by the older people. And his Uncle ■ before him would have been extremely good to people in much harder times. I would say “business is business” and “I am the one that is going to give and I am not allowing someone else to take”. And I still believe that – I do not like when someone, even at home if someone took something belonging to me I just would not tolerate that – ask me first and more than likely I'll give it to you but I don't like it being the other way. These are the kind of things but with him, you always kept the customer on side – you bent over backwards for them, but no business would do that now because you don't have a life if you do that.</p>
Q	So it was twenty four seven?
A	<p>It was huge, it was nearly a twenty four hour seven – but maybe he would have been extreme in that, but like he saw his uncle involved in business and I am sure the generation before that, I am nearly sure were in it as well and Dad was, was on the telephone directory and he was regarded as a potato exporter. Can you imagine from Ireland – he was very into seed potatoes and all that. There was, it was, it was very difficult because you could get awfully rubbish. They'd have the good stuff at the top and this would make quality control a nightmare. And there was some Jewish man he used to deal with up here in Dublin and when they'd ring the Jewish man would say “who is paying for this call, you or me” and if Dad said well he, if the Jewish man was paying for it, whatever, put him through the call would be very short – so Dad got cute eventually and said right, he was paying for the call whether</p>

	<p>he was or he wasn't because he would know that those people were so— that is how they had it, they were so careful. Also he had to go with them where the pigs were brought and weighed and loaded, and he brought them up as far as the Clare border and the people in that shop – still the shop is there, would bring it to Limerick because Limerick was the centre of the pig business. Limerick ham was, should be up there with Waterford Glass. They let that go, that was a huge, that nobody had the wit to go to places like Italy, to see how do I make more of this.</p>
Q	<p>They didn't get the value add-on it. And did your mum stay involved right up until?</p>
A	<p>Right up until the, and then when Dad died I was going to go back and she said, – “I really wouldn't – I'm not able and I don't want to anymore” so I stayed put and she lived 9 years after dad died. So then I worked awfully hard as a one person trader really. I came to Dublin, I'd come up here, I'd whip around all the wholesale houses. If carriage was paid it was delivered, if it wasn't I brought it back so it was all watched, but like people would say “why would you do that” but that was how you managed.</p>
Q	<p>If you were to make any money out of it?</p>
A	<p>But if I was at it forever, you would not make the kind of money you were going to make with the job I was doing. And that is where the big problem is now.</p>
Q	<p>And did you keep, you kept the job on and ran it?</p>
A	<p>I didn't – I did when I went back I was kinda doing it but I knew then things were changing and was going to be, I encouraged my sister, I did a lot of it over and in holiday time I would come up but I was not, I was scaling down, I was getting rid of things by degrees, I was watching that.</p>
Q	<p>Yeah, you could see the change?</p>
A	<p>Oh I knew – I knew as well as could be, I was just thankful,</p>

	'cos I said it was a miracle in a way that the job that suited me turned up in ■, in ■.
Q	Were you in ■, I didn't realize that?
A	I drove down from home everyday, 28 miles to the very dot, that was the mileage. They had a class there for children with learning difficulties. I did the course here in Pats way back, and I said, well now unless I have forgotten everything I should manage that. The only problem was the junior section which I had responsibility for, was a temporary, fulltime temporary and I stayed in that until I saw something nearer home, that was ■ So I stayed from, I went back in 1996 and I stayed then until
Q	Oh, very good. And was passing it on an issue for your parents, did they have a desire to keep it in the family or?
A	My father hugely – Mum would have said get out.
Q	Deal with it.
A	There was no way my father's heart and to a degree my roots are there, my sister would now love to live in ■ I'm like him, there was some tug there even though I look out and I see what are we facing in these towns in the future – not a lot, unless something happens and I can't see what that something would be. They talk about activity holidays being the way forward - we have miles and miles of wonderful countryside, we have forests, we have so much stuff that others want but to be able to provide for those people and to a certain standard that's not going to happen. And to put it there is costly and the money isn't there for that, and it could be a while coming back.
Q	Now I am just checking I have got a lot of what I need from you. What would you think, did she enjoy the business?
A	I wouldn't say she liked as much as my father but she was a woman that duty was number one and you did it. And she did like the people and she got on extremely well with her customers – I mean if they came in and Mum wasn't there it

	wasn't the same, there were certain people who wouldn't deal because you are talking about the elderly now, and the utter trust and knew she knew what they needed and you see this is the personal thing again – you pay a fortune now if you wanted that.
Q	You would, yes, you absolutely would.
A	The fact she got her holiday and that, but I felt in a way she gave up a lot – she would have been a very intelligent woman, but again this was it and as long as we got on and that and we shared our success and that with her, that was.
Q	That was, that was her motivation there? A common thread?
A	These women – sacrifice was a common thing like– they were did it for their business or for their family, there was a no Me in it at all. Me was very far down the line which is totally opposite nowadays. Me, while Me is terribly important it can't be exclusive, but there it was the other extreme. But practically every woman in that town – if there was a shop she was the first – out around the surrounding areas how did people survive – they had the forestry. Now, that was the main employer in our area. By degrees that was being phased out because machinery and that could replace them. They would have small farms but the pig – I keep saying the pig, the pig was the. because I remember.
Q	The economy moved on it?
A	Around that, and my father used to say such and such a woman now, now she fortunated out her daughter – and I'd say “fortunated out your daughter – how would you put a bean together” – “you pay the rates” he said “and when they sold the pigs”, this is a great quote of his, every penny was a prisoner. Now for that to work, you did not want inflation, because it took time, but then you could probably buy a nice piece of land for €100 and if you had someone in America that sent home, which I can distinctly remember the dollars, that's

	<p>an interesting thing and the English pounds. The English pounds were in the, the till just as much as your, as your Irish money and at Christmas the dollars and the big thing was, I was sent to the bank with the dollars and to get the exact value and to get it written down so the people knew they were getting - it was an absolute code of strict honesty. They saw exactly what they got for the dollars. As I got older I used to do the same but I wouldn't part with the dollars, I'd hold onto them and someone I knew I would send them a few dollars and I would say I am not pleasing the bank, they are not going to get it out of me both times.</p>
Q	<p>Yeah, every which way I know. That's very interesting isn't it that the money, the dollars would be coming through the till?</p>
A	<p>Now we are seeing that in reverse, in that the Polish and all these other people are sending home and while it is wonderful for the other countries I think too much is going out, now too much. But that time that dollar was vital. Our Christmas, you must remember in all these businesses you asked how viable—what stood to them was Christmas. I don't know what percentage, but a very high percentage of the turnover was November and December. My father used to say in the best year February was a write off – you could forget that month, but that was a great time he said for getting other things sorted out but it was, and January was very good because you were still being paid. So you had November, December and January were the.</p>
Q	<p>Were the months where you made money?</p>
A	<p>Were the main months.</p>
Q	<p>Where you made cash?</p>
A	<p>Yeah and you had all those dollars coming in and then there was the tradition which held to me to the day I finished up, and I finished up on the 31st January [REDACTED] - the turn at Christmas. Even the people who weren't your regular</p>

	customers would come in at Christmas and there was the vital thing of giving your local person the turn, that's what they called it. So that of course, I mean, there was no such thing at the height of business where I would see a mortal from 11 in the morning until maybe 5 in the evening. Just couldn't leave.
Q	Very interesting, that's very interesting – I hadn't considered the dollar.
A	The Christmas was the vital- and the dollar was big, that's what gave them that extra bit. I know one woman and she used to say "only for the dollar and your Mam how would I have reared 14". She is still alive this woman now. She did inside and outside as they say.

Dorothea Rogan Manufacturer Dublin, born 1924. Did a course in Grafton Academy. Worked for a number of manufacturers, then set up a manufacturing factory in Dublin making housecoats in 1946. Operated the business until the late 1970s. Had 3 children. Interviewed son on 27/2/2013.

Q	Well I suppose tell me a little bit about your mother?
A	<p>Dorothy was born in 1924, okay, to her father was a sergeant in the old DMP, the Dublin Metropolitan Police, and as far as I know, I think he was a spy for Michael Collins, at the time and her mother was a, she was I think a housewife really, and there was seven girls, they had seven children, seven girls and they lived in Dartry, just there by the Tramway House where Dorothy Pinnock's was, right beside there and that was the old tram station and Dorothy was the second eldest, the eldest, Kitty was the eldest and she, I dunno where she was educated, I think they were educated in Clarendon Street schools and then in St. Anne's I think, down in Milltown and she then went onto, when she got older obviously, she was, she was always very good at stitching and handwork and all that kind of thing and when she was older she went on to the Grafton Academy where she studied there. I don't even know if she completed her course there, but she studied there for I think a couple of years, and she was offered a job then in, I think it was Keogh was his name, and he ran a factory, he lived on Temple Road there and he had a factory in Dublin, and he took her on, I think as a pattern maker but she wanted to be a designer so I think he offered her to make something up and she made it up and suddenly he thought wow this is great and he took her on full time. To be a designer then was a big jump up because obviously you were, before you were worked on the floor and now you were working in the offices with the management. And from there, I will give you the summaries, so it is just a summary – from there she was offered a job, I think</p>

	<p>Cassidy's took her on as a designer and I think they helped to set her up in business at that time because they were very, you know they were, liked her work a lot and Cassidy's at that time were very good at that, if they liked something and they would actually help you to set up in business in the manufacturing end. I don't know much of the details of that but I know they were involved. And my father came from a business family background although he was a civil servant and, he had a shop and house in Dundrum and he had bought that from my mother's cousin, my mother's cousin was [REDACTED], so he bought the house shop and that's where my mother set the factory, her first factory up above that shop, in the rooms upstairs, either in the shop or above it and that's how she started off, and I think his brother lent them money to start the business off at the time and that would have been I presume that would have been about 1948 or 1947.</p>
Q	<p>And do you know what the name of the business was?</p>
A	<p>Well she, it started off as BP Rogan & Co which was the beginning of the factory and then she eventually changed it to Dorothea Fashions which was her name. And she then had bought, later on then, I think at the beginning she would have been supplying a lot to Dunnes when they set up and obviously she became quite friendly with [REDACTED] at the time and she would supply a lot of those housecoats to the, to the... she was originally a lingerie designer and she worked with a company I think in the UK, or in, in Europe, she did a lot of work for the Kayser Bondor group they were quite famous at the time and she would have supplied them a lot of designs in the past but obviously, subsequently she realized that, you know manufacturing was where she really wanted to be. At that time in Ireland you had to, to survive you had to do something in the business field and obviously then she got into supplying Dunnes and she would have supplied Cassidy's and all those other</p>

factories that she had worked for in the past, or companies that she had worked for in the past. And she, eventually, obviously she set up a factory and then she moved, she bought a mews around where we lived in Dartry, because she'd built a house around the corner from her mother, she bought a site there and she bought a mews then, beside that, a house called, the house was Barmeen and she bought the mews site beside it and set, moved the factory in there so she could be near the home and the work and my grandmother was right beside, so she had a kind of connection there. And then she, she just expanded the factory then and it grew then, until she bought, she built in 1968 an office block in Dundrum on a yard called Meagher House, and she moved the factory into that and she then let out the Mews, but all the time it was growing, at this stage she would have been supplying the likes of Penny's, she knew [REDACTED] and she would have been supplying the likes of British Home Stores and other companies and she'd, I remember as a child she used to go to Paris quite a bit, they were, obviously with sales people and marketing people trying to sell over there and when we were young she would have fashion shows in the garden the house at that time, it was a very different time then. So and then she bought an office building, she bought it in 1972 I think or in 1974, she bought Landscape House which was the Murrow works which was previously a cinema, and she moved the factory into there then after that and expanded again, and she then started employing a manager and I think from that point onwards things didn't go as well because obviously if you are not in control yourself yeah, and I think from that point onwards things started deteriorating and then obviously, the economy was starting to go into a recession, particularly in the rag trade, it was a terrible and I think by '74 or '76 she was going to put it into liquidation but she had built her, she had her properties which she then had the rents coming out of them at the time and she

	<p>still did some designing and stuff for people, but it was, but obviously her relationship with Dunnes then broke down later on as they grew bigger, I mean she never fell out with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] but just you know, she obviously passed on the sales and the thing, or the buying to different buyers and eh, you know things had changed at that point and she wasn't supplying them as much, although she was still supplying Penny's and British Home Stores and various other companies, she did some work with Marks & Spencer's as well. So and she always did her own sales, so she did her own sales, she would pick up the phone, I can remember being with her and she would be ringing up these companies, saying you know, can I get you blah, blah, blah, and she'd send over the patterns or she would have gone and met them and then she would do all her sales herself by phone.</p>
Q	And did your father have a role in the company?
A	He would have helped with the books and stuff in the evening you know but not during the day to day of the company.
Q	He did his own thing?
A	Yeah, he was work, my father was the transport officer at the Eastern Health Board, so he was kind of in the civil service there at that time, but he had come from a different, he had come from kind of a business family, his family, my father was born in 1908 and his, he lived in Pool Street, in the Coombe.
Q	And did she ever talk about why she went into business?
A	She, I suppose, at that time in Ireland it was probably very difficult – a lot of her sisters would have been sent to, on secretarial courses to the college of commerce in Rathmines, and they would have, so that's as far as they progressed, they would have done that after their inter cert or not even, at that time they would have just went straight on and did a secretarial course and ended up in you know, in menial jobs, or not menial but jobs in companies and then would have got married, and she didn't

	want that, she wanted to make something of her life and she wanted to, obviously at that time in Dublin there was a lot of poverty and you know, now she wasn't from that kinda of thing, but she, you would see it and she wanted to try and better her life I think at the time, you know and she, I suppose she wanted to see that, you know women didn't get really much of a chance at that time and she wanted to kinda break that mould, but you had to be kind of tough, you had to be kind of steely you know and while she didn't come across that way there was a side of her which was tough, you know your decision making was made and that was it. And eh, she wouldn't, they I suppose she wouldn't, they didn't take advise very easily, you had to make your mind up and go with it.
Q	And when did she get married?
A	I think they got married in 1954 or '55, I'd have to check that out, I'm not sure, because my sister was the youngest, or the eldest, she was born in 1956.
Q	So she would have, so she had started the business then prior to getting married?
A	She had started the business prior to getting married yeah, and they had, yeah, no the business was up and running and I think it was in my father's shop and house that he had bought in '48 from [REDACTED] that they had set that up then.
Q	Okay, and how many children, do you mind me asking she went on to have?
A	She had just, there are three of us, my sister, my brother and myself, I am the youngest.
Q	And how did, was she out working full time then? I mean she was pretty.
A	She worked, yeah, in the early days she would have worked day and night and she would gone from like, it would be early morning 'til nine or ten at night, she wouldn't get home you know. You know, obviously latterly, it got easier and she had

	<p>bigger staff and you had more managers and stuff like that, but she still worked, during the season she would have worked very, very hard you know, to keep everything going and, I mean we all worked in it a bit ourselves. You know I can still, I can still see the factory in my head you know in all the different places, but you know the, there was a lot of machinists girls, working at different machines and they all came from kind of around the area and she was very good to them, like they all, she made sure that they all got mortgages and they all bought houses and she'd have been at their weddings and all that kind of stuff, so it was, again it was a different time, and he, they were all paid very, very well and she put them, I think, she wanted to put them on piece work much earlier but my father wouldn't allow that, because it was just the way you know he thought, no they have got to work for what they are working, but she thought if you give them the incentive they'll do more, so she was a thinker, like she thought ahead and eventually when she did her factory improved hugely.</p>
Q	And the legal status of the company, was it, it was a?
A	It was a legal, it was BP Rogan and company limited, yeah it was a limited company at the time and yeah, and so she was a, it was quite a, it was a big; it was a big enterprise at one stage.
Q	Yeah, how many do you think, reckon she employed at its height?
A	At its height there would have been I'd say fifty odd I think, fifty odd people, there was a lot, you know, obviously a lot of them were machinists, button holers, and cutters and all that, they did all the different, and then you have pattern makers and you'd have, they got cutters and she'd bring you know, 'cos they had these huge long tables, they'd be the length of this hallway and they would literally, I remember I used to help, you'd literally pull out the rolls of material and it was an old fashioned

	method, stick the pattern on top, mark it out and then the big, the big machines would cut it out.
Q	I'd eat it before I'd do it!
A	Yeah, yeah, it was a very different time.
Q	Yeah, and did, she traded under the same name, the same company?
A	In the end, yeah it was BP Rogan and then she traded under Dorothea Fashions and that ... D-O-R-O-T-H-E-A., Dorothea Fashions, and her maiden name was Ahern, Dorethea Ahern but she would have traded under Dorothea fashions and I think she maintained that till the end, and then obviously by '77 or '78 she was out of it, she'd, she'd got the property and was living off that for a while but obviously all things, it evaporates over time you know, time eventually evaporates everything, that kinda thing.
Q	And was there ever any sense that it might be passed on within the family or was that a?
A	I think my father would have liked to have kept it going you know, but I think she probably didn't feel that there was life in it, I think by the time she had, by '77 she realized it was over, I mean the labour costs were getting too high, you know it was cheaper to make stuff in Portugal and Greece and you know on the continent and it just wasn't viable, you know.
Q	And it was coming in anyway at that stage?
A	It was coming in at that stage and she knew the writing was on the wall, I think a lot of other people, a lot of other manufactures did at the same time, because there wouldn't be many, I don't think there are many now.
Q	Not as much, no.
A	Certainly not in the clothing industry.
Q	No, no I think the '80s put paid to it.
A	Finally put paid to the end of it I think, yeah.
Q	A lot of them yeah. And you say the start- up capital you think

	came from within the family and its networks?
A	<p>Yeah, I think so, I think, I think Cassidy's would have helped her work wise but I think that, I think Daddy's brother lent some money and Daddy had the building and I think they were able to kinda kick off that way, you know which was...</p> <p>They were living that time in a flat, when she first got married, Janice was born, this was in '56, in a place called Hatherton which is on Richmond Avenue in Dartry, you know off Palmerston Road there, and there was a big old house and she lived in one the, they kinda had them divided into apartments, flats and she was living there, she tried to buy it later but she was beaten to the post on that, and then she built the house in Dartry Road, just, she bought, there was a house there called Barmeen which is on the corner of the, where the clock is at Norths there, and there was, the twins, they were kinda an old family who lived there had, the [REDACTED] they sold here a site on the side of it where she built the house and she bought the Mews beside on the other side of it, so she kind of set herself up beside her mother, her mother lived in number 31 Dartry Road, so they were well, so she was well ensconced there with her mother around her to help her.</p>
Q	And in terms of you know, would you class it as a commercial success?
A	<p>Oh I think it was at the time, you know, I think she did very well out of it, at the time we had probably a privileged upbringing because of it in the latter part of the '60's 70's but I think it was also, you know it was a different time as well from and I would say it was more of a black economy then, because I can remember, she'd guys, sales guys would come around and they would buy these – she always had seconds, and they would buy the bags of seconds for cash and they would go off and sell them to the likes of Shaws and Todds and all these different places around the country, sorry not to the bigger shops, to the smaller</p>

	<p>kind of drapery shops who needed to buy their stuff cheaper, so it was a different era, so there was a huge amount of that going on, I can always remember the guys calling over to the factory and they'd go off with their four or five bags of seconds. There was two scales to the business, two levels to it.</p>
Q	<p>Yeah there was the front door and the back door.</p>
A	<p>Yeah.</p>
Q	<p>And in terms of, would you have any insight in to whether or not she networked or were there other women that she associated with or knew of through the business?</p>
A	<p>I suppose, she didn't really know many of the, you know, obviously she was friends with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and all that, because obviously in her business that was going to happen. She knew obviously [REDACTED]. I don't know if she knew, I am trying to think of the other, she didn't know many of the other designers very well, and she wasn't in that, she wasn't in the Sybil Connolly or that kind of, they were more of the Haute Couture and she wasn't into that at the time, in the beginning she was but not at the latter part, and I am trying to think who else she was friendly with at the time, Eamon Donnelly, he had Hickeys at the time and she knew Eamon quite well I think, and, I can't think, I don't think there was, she didn't socialize that much.</p>
Q	<p>She didn't socialize?</p>
A	<p>No, that much, she very much kept herself and ran her own business on that level and it was usually was managers she got in who would, you know kind of do the networking a bit for her on that level.</p>
Q	<p>And did she employ sales people?</p>
A	<p>She did a lot of sales herself, yeah, she would do the cold calling and the selling herself, I don't recall sales guys being there or the manager came in in the end, he wasn't very good and it kinda of, she took her eye off the ball then and fizzled out, you</p>

	<p>know from that, well in those you could get a wrong guy and he'd take your business you know which was the sad part about it.</p>
Q	<p>And what about advertising? Any recollection on that?</p>
A	<p>She, I don't think she did much advertising at all bar the standard, you know have her vans with the name on it and she'd delivery guys and no, I don't recall any advertising at all, because I don't think, I don't think they had to. At that time, I think, yeah, in fact if you look back at <i>shops</i> even in those days they didn't do a lot of advertising so I don't recall, I don't think they really needed, I think it was networking, it was just dealing with sales, and you know you got the sales and you got orders. One thing she did do which was quite clever, was at the time a lot of the manufacturing houses and designers and pattern makers were obviously changing the length of the gowns particularly the house coats that she was making and to change the design or the look of them, so they had to cut the material long-ways, what made her more competitive was she cut it cross-ways and to change the design she just changed the collars, cuffs, pockets and laces and stuff like that but she kept the length of the garment the same all the time, so she had no waste, virtually minimum waste so therefore she could sell the product at a much cheaper price to [REDACTED] or to whoever, you know the other suppliers, or the end retailer, so that was one of her.</p>
Q	<p>And the main line she was doing was, she did house coats?</p>
A	<p>She did the house coats and I think she did ladies night dresses originally but it was mainly the house coats was her main seller at the time, and both full length and three quarter length, and I think at one stage then, she got conned into buying this false fur once and they sent her loads of it, reams of it, you know she couldn't get out of the deal, and but she designed it up into these bomber jackets and three quarter length jackets and she made a</p>

	fortune out of that, she sold the lot of them but she also did that kind of thing.
Q	So she was quite innovative?
A	Very, yeah she was very, nothing would stop her if she wanted to do something she did it and that was it. You know you have to be that way, it is a trait, I don't think I have it myself, but you have to have that kind of mentality, and I suppose there were other aspects. I suppose being a female at that time, you could play that part more to your benefit in certain things you know because I suppose you could, there were parts that you could use to gain ground over other males because obviously you didn't have to play the macho part but yet you could be steely tough underneath.
Q	And do you think she was conscious of that?
A	I think she probably was, she was very clued in you know and I think that – I always remember her going to the bank and the bank guy wouldn't give her the money and she went to three or four different banks, something she was trying to buy or purchase, and eventually she got the money. So she never took no for an answer even if she was laughed out of the bank, I remember one guy laughed her out saying 'what are you coming in here for, a mother of kids' but of course she wouldn't take no for an answer and there was a lot of that then back in the '50's and 60's, she would tell you that story herself, like she went in and the guy literally laughed her out of the bank showing her the door, it was quite embarrassing I suppose but you just had to keep going.
Q	Would you have any idea how she might have returned herself on the census? I know that's a very difficult question for you to answer
A	As in what way, she married or?
Q	Yeah, like well I tell you were I am coming from.
A	My father filled in the census forms.

Q	There is a category there which is employer or own account worker or would she, and this is where the census can creates hidden windows, did she do it by saying I am a designer or ?
A	I think she might have put herself down as fashion designer maybe at some point, and possibly or designer or she could have put herself down as director of a company, company director, was she a company director, I think she was. My father did all that at the time, he would have filled in the census forms in the house, so she probably wouldn't have or he might have consulted her but he was, they kind of made the decisions then on that kind of stuff.
Q	And did, who were the directors on the company do you know?
A	I think it was mainly just her and my father, yeah, within the thing, and I'm not sure if even he was a director because he was in the Civil Service but he may have been at that time, he might have been allowed – because that was pre '70's you know so I don't think it was as strict. So I can find out, I can find that out for you.
Q	It's interesting, and I suppose one last thing then, how would you assess the impact on the family in general, or was there an impact of what she did?
A	Well, I suppose with my own children I can see now, I suppose, we were lucky that our grandmother was right beside us so she was always there, she would feed us and she looked after us when we came home from school and we would get our dinners there, but I do think if your mother's not there you do miss that a bit growing up and I think it affects you in, I suppose your mother will make you do your homework, your mother will make you do things that probably your grandmother won't have the same instinct on or the house keeper or the girl at home, so I suppose you do miss that, and there is, I suppose there is a certain nurturing that can go astray if your mother is not there all the time and in those days fathers were not around you know

	that time, so it was a different era but it's eh, I think probably in hindsight you're nearly better off if they are at home, from a just nurturing, education, just having your mother there I think is important.
Q	Did she employ someone within the house as well to look after the children?
A	Yeah there was always staff there, yeah there was to look after us, both cook and just housekeeping and stuff like that, and then again my grandmother as well, was literally, you go out the back, up the lane and you were in my grandmother's house so she was beside us as well, so there was always somebody there, we were well looked after, but it's just not the same as having your mother there. But that's not, then again, you know she achieved a lot, for what she did at the time.
Q	And in terms of business, in her own side of the family were there business people or was it?
A	Well only that, her aunt who was her mother's sister married [REDACTED], so they obviously went on to become successful business people in their own right as well and they were kind of involved together, herself and [REDACTED] in the early days, just in that they'd obviously have been very close, but I don't think so on her side. Her grandmother ran the farm, which would be where Milltown Golf course is now, that was the farm of Lamberts, the farm there was a dairy farm and she kind of reared them all, Grandmother Lambert reared a lot of the family there, so but, I suppose they, I think she went off to America years ago in the middle of the nineteenth century and came back and they obviously had money and bought that farm, so there must have been something there but I don't really know an awful lot about it. I know my father's side they were definitely all business, all business people.
Q	And what about the rest of the sisters, did any of them venture into business?

A	No Kitty was a, she I think was bookkeeping and others were secretaries, and receptions and that, but once they got married they stopped working at that stage, oh.
Q	So she was the only one?
A	and Pauline never married, but she worked in an engineering firm as a receptionist but she was the only one I think who, that went on into business at that level, and obviously she helped them all, she helped my grandmother a lot as well later on in life, financially and in turn that kind of spun off.
Q	Finally do you think the entrepreneurial gene has been passed on?
A	Oh God I don't know, I don't know, I mean I work in, ours is a, the creative industry as well, I work in television, post production but it's all technical and IT as well, but I probably wouldn't have had the courage that she had in setting out but then probably needs must at the time and that's probably the way they got started, whereas now I don't know if I would have the same courage or spirit to do what she did, you know it was a very different time and you would have to admire them they were pioneers at that stage. I think there were not probably many of her ilk in business at that stage, there were a few though.
Q	There are some, and the fashion/ garment business throws them up in different levels and in terms of designers obviously and the '50s and '60s seems to have been a very rich time for fashion designing and?
A	Yes it was at the time, wasn't it?
Q	So they do, they crop up, retailing and the service sector, particularly around hotels, tourism, pubs, all that kind of thing, there are quite a number.
A	Yeah, all that kind of thing, was the start of women kind of getting a grip on things.
Q	So it's, there was, when you look at the Census you do find

	really unusual ones, running pottery firms, but not, obviously not in the same numbers, but they were there and they were probably there in a higher proportion than I expected to see when I started which is very interesting?
A	It will be an interesting Phd, interesting thesis when it comes out.
Q	It is an interesting area, and but I mean they have been there all through history and I suppose not always acknowledged.
A	For what they did at the time yeah, 'cos it was, I mean within her area I suppose it was huge exports, they exported a lot.
Q	So she was exporting at the time?
A	Yeah, she was, abroad to the UK and further afield. You know, so she had, she had a lot of work there.
Q	Did it involve much travel for her then?
A	Yeah, she used to go to Paris a bit, and she'd go to the UK a lot, she'd be going over there selling at the time, so she would have travelled a lot, in the latter part, not in the early stages, latterly she would have you know, but not in the scale of today where everything is export, weren't exporting to continental Europe on a large scale.
Q	Your comment about the formality and informality is interesting as well because I think the formality increased as the decades went on.
A	Yes, absolutely,
Q	And that becomes apparent when you are, but for some of the businesses in the earlier period.
A	There was like, what's right and what's wrong?
Q	I don't it was even what's right and what's wrong, but the systems and the, even in terms of if you look at the formation of the State and the apparatus for collecting say tax, or the laws and regulations around business, they became much more efficient.
A	They weren't in the early stages.
Q	So I think it is a combination of factors.

A	<p>In business, there was a huge, I think there was a big black economy then and you know, it was enormous and when you think about it, sure, the State couldn't keep up with the functions of collecting tax, collecting, because it wasn't mobilized. Now at her age now, it doesn't really matter but you know, obviously today, everything, we are much more, you wouldn't get away with it today at all, there are no loopholes. Most people are compliant and you have to be compliant. In those days people were not compliant, you know, as much as they were, there was a certain amount of compliancy, but as you say, formal and informal, there was a bit of both, the way it operated.</p>
Q	<p>And that is coming through in other stories.</p>
A	<p>But she would have had, all those travelling sales guys would have just, she would have kept them going, because they needed the seconds and that's how they made a living and that's how the shops survived in the country, and quite amazing isn't it, it was a cycle wasn't it, there was a kind of a food cycle, or as I say a business chain which kept others afloat. You know, so she would supply them and I think the other thing was, during the troubles she used to get, I remember guys coming down from the North, who had been probably, you know, needed work, they would have been very good at that, helping them out during the, I think it was about between seventy, early seventies when things were very difficult and a lot of Catholics came down, like she would employ them as cutters and machinists and stuff at that time.</p>
Q	<p>So there was, it is an interesting social history.</p>
A	<p>Yeah, there is a bit of social history there, I don't know the whole details of that but there is a side to it that went on.</p>
Q	<p>And as an employer, you mentioned she did support her staff. How would she have been rated as an employer do you think?</p>
A	<p>Oh they stayed with her for life, they were very fond of her. They were all there and some of them would still contact her. So</p>

	<p>she didn't have a high turnover no, and they were the same girls all the time, she never had a union or anything like that because I suppose they looked after them. You know they all got their mortgages and she'd help them, make sure they got extra work if they needed extra money for stuff, she'd make sure they were well catered for on that level, and I think they all, in those days they could, you know obviously, they could get married, they could buy houses, and stuff and get mortgages, it was hard to get a mortgage then, but she ensured that they all got set up, so there was a social thing, you know because I suppose she saw it in the past, you know in her life, and there was, I think she is still in contact with some of the girls or had been up to not so long ago. They were with her for a long time.</p>
Q	And was it largely females obviously?
A	<p>All women, yeah, there was, there was a male cutter, until she brought in that manager guy, prior to that there was a male cutter, and I think that was it, and I think he sometimes doubled up as a van driver, you know when they were delivering stuff. But everybody else was female, all women that was in the place, so it was a, and we used to work on holidays you had to go in and help, you know you did your share, but it was mainly just, you know I suppose you understood the way the system worked, once you understood the way there was a system which operated and you had to follow that system all the time, but it was all labour, there was no, there was no computers, and that everything was literally, you know he cut the stuff, put it into the bags, the bags being taken over to the plain machinist, and the plain machinist would put the stuff together, and that'd be sent over to the overlocker and the overlocker would hem it and that it'd be sent over to the buttonholer and so on and so forth, it was the same system all the time.</p>
Q	Same process?
A	Yeah, yeah, so you, I could actually set up a factory today on

	<p>that basis if I, 'cos you never really never forget, you never forget the actual process that was going on there at the time, but now of course it is all automated. I remember meeting a guy who knew her years ago, he was a shirt, shirt guy, he actually did an ad with us in here, and he said, 'God, he said, 'I remember your mother, I was a [REDACTED] and he said and he went into making shirts, manufacturing, but he said, he's a very wealthy man, this guy now, all my stuff is manufactured in Portugal, but sold as Irish shirts made in Donegal.</p>
Q	Are you serious?
A	Yeah, that is all manufactured in under the label, whatever it is that is there
Q	Does that not contravene some?
A	I suppose it does, I suppose effectively, they're Irish, if they are Irish designed they are Irish made, they just happen to be you know, manufactured in a factory. I suppose, aren't they, it's a bit like some of the foodstuffs we get, it's sold as Irish made and it's...
Q	We won't even talk about food...
A	Yeah, don't mention the war, yeah it's, so he said you wouldn't be able to manufacture in Ireland anymore, you know which is quite sad in some ways. But obviously that is the correction that is going on now at the moment, we have to get our labour costs back down.
Q	So listen, that's been really interesting, and useful. I will.
A	There is nothing else I can, I don't know. If you put that, I am sure that my sister can add a lot more to it.

Triona alias Retailer Waterford, born c 1935. Set up a shop and a petrol station in the early 1960s. Operated it for over forty years. Had 6 children. Interviewed her on 16/11/2012.

Q	So tell me your story – you started down here?
A	<p>Yeah, I was working in [REDACTED] I got married in 57, eh, my husband came from here, and eh, we lived in [REDACTED], sorry we lived in [REDACTED] after we got married first, my husband came out to the home farm to work, and then we got this field and I said, “we’ll build a house, a shop and petrol pumps”, so it took us a while to get planning permission but we went through it and there had been a shop over there, but it t’was gone to about 30, a small little shop, a house you know, it was gone for a good while, it was gone. Now, there was plenty of shops, there was a shop two or three doors over, there was a creamery down here. There was a big creamery down here which has gone into Waterford co-op, and there was a shop in the village, but there was no petrol pumps and cars were starting, that was now 57, married 57, 58, 59, and we started talking to, and we got the field anyway and that was trouble transferring it into Ned’s name and then, he started doing contract, agricultural contracting work and by the time we moved out here in 60 the shop had a little window there and the shop was attached to the house, that’s the way we built it. Now when we built the house, we tried to build it as cheaply as we could, and this door opened out into the scu, out into the daylight, we just had the shop, had it there but I had a glass door on the front of the shop sideways, and the winds around here, I suppose after a couple of months the wind took the front door and broke it, and when it happened the second time we decided to build a small kitchen on there. So we built onto that, so there was a kitchen there most of the time, that was all say in the sixties. But we opened the shop anyways, say about 1961, [REDACTED] was born in 60, 61, 62 and I had two children then and other one on the way I think, but due to the fact that the window was there, and I just slipped out. We had a high counter but then I</p>

	<p>discovered that I had no storage really, so we used to have to, well, we didn't sell much at first, but the petrol kinda took off, and at that time they were lovely. I remember he was a lovely old fashioned man, [REDACTED] petrol?, but of course, Burma took them over and they were more, there was a lovely man the first time, and they put down pumps and everything, and you see it didn't cost you any money because you pay a halfpenny a litre, a gallon at that time, paid for the pumps. You pay every gallon you bought, they got a halfpenny and that paid for the pumps, they put up the pumps for you and they looked after them and eh, two petrol pumps. At first we didn't have diesel because there wasn't a big demand for diesel, but eventually, of course the diesel and I remember with only two bedrooms in our house first but then the family got bigger and we had to build on two more bedrooms down there and one of them at the end was used for storing, because I was selling more stuff out here. So eventually, I think it might be in 1968, 68 around maybe 69 we decided to build a bigger. Now no architect, or anything, I kinda designed it myself to come and it worked out kinda well, to come from there over build the big kitchen of course to, which joined the two with the door going into the shop. So I was still, had a big strong bell that rang well when the shop door opened and of course I had my storage space then. Did you go into the shop out there now?</p>
Q	No, I haven't gone in, I'll go in now on...
A	<p>But, when, the last man took it now he knocked the storage to make the shop bigger. I had a storage back at the back for storing slotted, and I had slotted shelves and everything for storing everything which went, was very good except, and there was no really access to it. Oh I had all windows on top, see they had to have a light on every day. I had windows, three windows on either side, three big windows on either side and ceiling and just a small window on the back, but some robbers came one day and of course, I bought everything direct, I bought the cigarettes direct, I bought Cadbury's,</p>

	I dealt with Urney, that they loved them.
Q	Oh yes.
A	Urney were there, Cadbury's, Gallaghers, Carrolls, Players, everyone direct and I just had to be, now, [REDACTED] in Waterford were the wholesalers, I was dealing with them. I knew somebody had told me about them. But anyway, I happened to be in Cork one day and just by chance, I found what was the very first I'd say cash and carry, in cornmacs Market Street, twas Musgraves.
Q	Musgraves? Yes
A	And I only found it, but I was away then you know, the cash and carries were great, really you know, with your cash and your car, whereas with eh, [REDACTED] they delivered, you know, but then you didn't always get exactly what you want but you did in the cash and carries. But, em as I said, I went on to have 6 children, now, I used to have a girl a girl to help.
Q	You had 6?
A	I had 6 children, but of course according as they got, by the time I had the bigger place, [REDACTED] must have been really 12, 11 or, he served, he was serving at 10, 11, you know, serving all the time, so much so that I knew that if they didn't go away to school, particularly the eldest fellow, he was very good in the shop. If I didn't send them away, they'd be in the shop because if they are not here you manage without them but if they're here you call help.
Q	Yes.
A	You call help, you want to call on him so he went, he got a scholarship actually to [REDACTED], and he went to [REDACTED] and then the girls went to [REDACTED] n to boarding, which meant I had less children to mind, and eh, I think by the time they went boarding to [REDACTED] they were out every weekend, [REDACTED] weren't, the boys were, three of them went to [REDACTED] and the two girls went to [REDACTED], but eh, I got a weighing scales, an old fashioned one and I got a meat slicer, and I dealt with meat direct, I got fresh, everything now is in packets, I had nothing.

Q	Yes, of course.
A	Nothing in packets, and if someone wanted sandwiches I made them.
Q	Yes.
A	For them, I had the milkman calling every week, eh, I opened at 9 o'clock in the morning, well I was supposed to open at 9 o'clock, by the time I staggered out it might be nearly half 9 and then opened up and served anyone who came in then, ate my breakfast, or, whatever I had to, no one, I never got a breakfast for anyone you know, ■■■ got his own breakfast, the children got their own breakfast, I didn't get anyone's breakfast, the children got the bus, it used to stop out there for primary school, so em, I think, you know everyone, they were very nice really to be dealing with, eh, it went on of course, and I got on fine. Then, I had a girl, I used to get, have different girls, I went through a lot in my time, put them through the books and everything. At first it was more a girl in the house, but then a girl in the shop, but em, but then I had to do their, first thing that started was turn over tax.
Q	Oh yeah?
A	That started first before VAT.
Q	Yes.
A	and you had to keep, really my accounts were kinda erratic, but I kinda kept to them you know.
Q	So in the early days, did you have to keep books or what?
A	Yes.
Q	or did you set up as a company or as a?
A	No, not at all, and I didn't keep books.
Q	Yes?
A	I was, I would say that I was, I didn't keep any books for a while or anything but in the end I had to go in to him and I had to get an accountant.
Q	Yes of course.
A	And eh do books you know and then it got harder and harder you

	<p>know, of course and then the VAT, I registered for VAT, I did everything by the book and I, they started a Traders society in [REDACTED], not [REDACTED], now they had a Chamber of Commerce in [REDACTED] but I found this traders thing in [REDACTED] was brilliant, because all the small shops came and there I heard, I was selling milk, when I think of it twas eh dairies what was it [REDACTED] Dairies or something, Central Dairies in [REDACTED] three days a week and the hottest day in summer and I had no fridge that time, you didn't have a fridge when I started first I hadn't even a household fridge.</p>
Q	Of course.
A	<p>Three days a week, bottled milk, bring it in and leave it on the floor, and every bottle you didn't come back, you were charged two pence or something for, all the bottles had to go back. So, em, I remember I begged him to come the extra day during the summer, no way, they couldn't do it, I was lucky to be getting the three days a week. Imagine selling, course I suppose the milk you are buying now is three days old and you don't know it.</p>
Q	Don't know it now?
A	<p>But em, eventually, oh yeah, some young fella in [REDACTED], who had his father's farm, a lot of milk, decided to go on his own and he came out to me to know would I take the milk and I said I'd be absolutely delighted but I'll use my head and I never said a word to Central Dairies and got all the bottles I could find and got my money for them, before I left him, and I went to the other man, delighted to come which was grand, em, he was very good and barely, just two young men. The day VAT started he closed down, he would have to do VAT, cos when VAT came first it was on food.</p>
Q	Yes.
A	<p>And he would have to adhere to and he stopped. So I had to go with my cap in my hand, go back to Central Dairies looking for milk which was a hard thing to do. But going back then to the crowd in</p>

	<p>██████████ the traders, you see they all had their little bit, they all knew different things and I learnt a lot from them.</p>
Q	<p>Yes.</p>
A	<p>But then I discovered that there was this fella from ██████████ bringing milk from Limerick at a very cheaper price, and very good, so if he was I was going to go to him, and the manager in ██████████ came out to that shop with a wad of notes, pushed at me a wad of notes not to go, but I told him he could keep his wad of notes. Now he went down to the shop in the village and they said they'd stay with him but I don't think he gave them any wad of notes, but he knew I'd go and he thought that he could buy me.</p>
Q	<p>Yeah.</p>
A	<p>But I was delighted to go, because I got on great with that man, and of course, he went eventually and he stopped, but it was gone much, much later, we had many years and I think the ██████████ was gone then. It was amalgamated with Glanbia.</p>
Q	<p>Of course, yeah.</p>
A	<p>and Glanbia, were, twas no bother to go to Glanbia, but then, talking about being caught?, em Diesel, my husband, I suppose eventually I did get a diesel pump but my husband used diesel in tractors and eh, I suppose that this hasn't anything to do with the shop but anyway, eh, we were going, all the diesel from Esso in ██████████ and of course, they, twas expensive. Now why wasn't I getting it from Burmah, they would n't I suppose supply a small amount of tractor diesel, but he was getting it from Esso oil, but a new crowd started up called the ██████████, which is just around here, the ██████████, so, the ██████████ company and I said, why won't we go look, so we started buying from him and we spent two years buying from him, even got a better price and got on very well with him. And then do you remember petrol got scarce?</p>
Q	<p>Oh yeah.</p>
A	<p>And short, I had to ring them, no answer, threw in, lock stock and barrel gone, so I had to go back to Esso with my cap in my hand,</p>

	and lucky, lucky, he gave me a bit of abuse of course, but I had got it, twas only two years gone or something, but since that day I am very careful about swapping and changing, sometimes the devil you know is better.
Q	Than the one you don't know, of course.
A	But eventually then, of course we got a fridge, first of all, but then, eh, a drinks company, I was getting 7 up were coming direct, and they gave me a fridge, and Dwans were coming to Tipperary. Cash and carries sprung up all over the place, and eventually a cash and carry came to [REDACTED], they were in Waterford first, I was going to them in Waterford, but strangely enough, every, any place I was, that there was a cash and carry I went there and bought my stuff. If I was in [REDACTED] collecting the children I went to the cash and carry, if I was in Thurles visiting my brother I went to the Thurles Cash and carry, if I was in Cork I went to the Cork cash and carry, if I had to go to Shannon or something, I went to the Limerick.
Q	You spread it around.
A	I just went anywhere that was convenient. I went you know, they don't do these things now any more, but that's what suited me.
Q	And was there much of a hinterland now.?
A	You see, I mean, now, he's doing fine. I retired 200 [REDACTED] I think, or 3, or sometime around that time, I retired, and I let it to [REDACTED] and he was coming up oil, they sold petrol and oil, so he took it for 5 years, 4 ½ but at the end of that time he gave it up, and then a man took it who had been delivering milk, and he made a bad fist of it, he really left it go down a lot. He was a married man with kids, but none of his, he didn't, you had to do it yourself, you couldn't make a business if you were paying staff, he was paying three different staff, and he couldn't, and he was so careful, he hadn't that much waste. Waste is the biggest thing you know, waste, I notice now the man that took it from me, [REDACTED], he put a manager in there. Well the waste on vegetables and fruit and things was terrible, you know you had to watch that, even, if you haven't what

	someone wants, you can't have waste all the time.
Q	Yeah.
A	But I eh, this laddo, now he has it a year, but he knocked and made it bigger, and he is doing most of it himself, he has only one girl and maybe his niece, does an odd evening or something but he's only paying one girl and he is doing the rest himself and he is keeping on top of it, and he is doing very well. You see, there was, when I was, when I opened the shop, at that stage there was one over the road, one down here at the creamery but the biggest problem was the main creamery who had a huge shop and they let you charge what you buy against the milk.
Q	Oh yeah, yeah.
A	Now they closed the shop, but they sold it to someone and someone took the shop, and they sold it. The man that took that shop, took it on condition that they would let him charge against the milk, so he got, so anyone that was supplying milk to the creamery.
Q	Was inclined to buy?
A	Went down there for the stuff, you know, they didn't have to have money. Now, I did have accounts, but you'd nearly know I can tell you, I am sure I could go around the place and tell you 10, 20, 30 people that owe me money. But not a lot of them to a great extent you know, not.
Q	And what way did you decide you wanted to do this, like at that stage, starting off.
A	Starting off. I worked in the County council which I had to stop when I got married.
Q	Yes of course.
A	Em, ...my husband at that time, he didn't get the farm, he was working on the farm, just we went to live in [REDACTED], and we were wondering what we'd do, and we decided that,, we'd get the field and we'd build it, and that there was a demand for petrol.
Q	Yes, the petrol.
A	For the petrol, which there was and of course, the time of the

	scarcity, you'd have queues around the road, and I got so many phone calls telling me, to give me a few gallons you'd have a customer for life, but I'm afraid....
Q	Yeah, I know.
A	That didn't, they didn't stay for life, but I did get calls but it was funny. Oh God, you'd have funny customers, but you see I, how many times, did I boil something over, or something, but sure you'd come in and put on the dinner and you went out and you served the customer, and used to have it ready for the kids when they'd come home from school, and then send one of them out to the customer while... you know.
Q	So it worked with the family?
A	Yeah, it worked. You see, the door was there, we boarded up the door then when we let it of course, but eh, I couldn't sell it really, I probably would have sold it but it is too attached to the house, so that, cos none of my family is into want it, they had enough of it.
Q	When they were growing up?
A	So now, do you want to ask me anything else
Q	I am just wondering, then, you went into [REDACTED] to the business traders.
A	Yeah, maybe once a month.
Q	And okay and that was for, you used to have a meeting or something?
A	Yeah, their meeting, the Traders meeting.
Q	Okay.
A	You know it was as I said there was only about 8 or 9 different but they were all small shops.
Q	Yeah.
A	What you be, what would suit me you know?
Q	And were there other women at that?
A	There was, there was, there was an [REDACTED], she's dead, she was very good, she had, they've a shop up in the Hayward? Road, but I, that's I'll think of a woman that I knew ran a business in em, oh, I'd

	say seventies, sixties, seventies, eighties, she had an insurance business, her husband got into trouble I think and in the end they split up and she ran that insurance business. I did my insurance with her, it was very good, if you wanted to contact her she might talk.
Q	Okay, and what was her name?
A	Ms...
Q	Ms. and she's in [REDACTED].
A	Yeah and she's retired
Q	Good for her.
A	and she's great to talk.
Q	And you used to deal with her?
A	I dealt with her, yeah, I did my insurance.
Q	And did people pass any remarks on you, I mean setting up?
A	Well I suppose they were surprised to start up, but and you know they'd say, oh we'll give you a start and they'd come and they'd buy tuppence worth. But, you see, the only thing is of course, the reason that I didn't make any money is, anything we wanted we went out, I didn't keep a check of what I was taking out of the shop.
Q	Yeah.
A	A: If you wanted tea you went out and you got it, so when eventually I had to do books, I just had to assume a sum, but of course when the kids got big, too it was, you can be sure that the sweets and the things were going, and the drinks and twas hard.
Q	But did you make a livelihood out of it?
A	Ah we did, my husband did contracts you know. I can't say that any year we made a profit, but we definitely reared us, reared the six children and kept us going.
Q	Educated them?
A	And educated them, yeah. And added to that of course, I did the books for the contracting as well and the whatever, writing had to be done and things you know.
Q	Very good, let me just double check to make sure that I am getting all.

A	The information.
Q	Oh, sorry, that's the map... your directions were very good, spot on.
A	Listen, I am well trained, I am all of my life giving directions.
Q	To people to get.
A	'Cos' everyone would say, you come to the shop, ask there.
Q	And would you have had different people, or was the custom mainly local, I presume?
A	Oh no, you would get passers. Every Sunday, on a fine Sunday, everyone went to the sea.
Q	Yes?
A	You would get strangers, it wasn't all local you know, looking for petrol, they stopped for petrol, sometimes they'd buy something you know
Q	Yes
A	And particularly at that time, people only bought petrol in small amounts. Nowadays people, they are inclined to fill their car before they go anywhere you know, but you'd get passer bys and a certain amount.
Q	And in terms of starting up and getting the finance to start up, was that a difficulty?
A	It was, but you see, it was and it wasn't, because, you got a loan to build the house and the shop was part of it. The petrol crowd put up the pumps for, because at that time, they were kinda different companies vying, I looked to a couple of companies I think, and I remember Esso turning me down because they said there were too many Essos which there's not, but anyway, I know there was a couple of companies but I dealt with Lovetts from Cork, but they paid for that an`d my first load of groceries I got on account, you had to pay... as opposed to the Cash and Carry, you paid at the end of the month.
Q	Yes?
A	So really it was on a wing and a prayer.

Q	Yes?
A	I remember [REDACTED] saying that, what was it [REDACTED] or someone of the children, and there was a scheme about buying cows and that you'd get a grant and he went into the bank and he couldn't get over it, they handed him out the money like that, which he needed badly at the time, you know, probably. You see, you wouldn't have that much, you'd have plenty of small cash.
Q	Yes?
A	You wouldn't have a lot of money to spare really you know, and the small cash was handy.
Q	Yes, and was security ever an issue or did you have?
A	Yeah, the time I was buying the cigarettes direct and I had loads of them, because you have to buy so many and particularly then if there was a budget coming you bought extra.
Q	Yes, of course.
A	and you'd have two or three ... and I had them all up there in behind, and some, put a child in the window at the back because, otherwise, they couldn't have got in. But, and they weren't open then, I had a door at the back for, with just a lock now, but anyway, anyway they were able to get out with the stuff and t'was never got, but my insurance insisted that I cover the windows from the top. Now I couldn't see how they were going to come in there, but they are covered in now.
Q	Yeah, of course..
A	But after that no, no really, and I just have a door with a three point lock you know, locked every night.
Q	And how long did you stay open for every day?
A	As I said from 9 in the morning, I was supposed to.
Q	9 in the morning.
A	and 9, half nine, maybe 10 at night.
Q	So it was a big commitment? And Saturdays and Sundays?
A	Yeah, and Mondays' and Tuesdays and bank holidays. The only day was Christmas day, We were open Stephen's Day, we did very

	well on Stephen's Day, no one was open that time and you did well on Sundays because people weren't, shops weren't open on Sundays, they were the days to be open, particularly people going to the seaside, you know.
Q	So Sunday was a big day.
A	Yeah, you would do, passers you know.
Q	It was a big commitment though, wasn't it?
A	You don't look at it like that when you're doing it and when you're young. And as, they'll all say of course, about the inequality of it, the wage of the women and the men, I never had that because I started working in the county council, we were paid the same as the men, from the time I started, you know,
Q	And did you have any business, like had you a family that were in business?
A	No, my father was an Army officer.
Q	Your father was an Army officer?
A	Yes, so we had no business, nothing, nor neither had my husband, but sure you do these things you know, when you're young. You don't and you wouldn't have - you know what got me in the end? I'd swear I'd be still there but the red tape about the Health. We are right on the main road of course, and the Health woman, from [REDACTED] Every-time she passes she calls in and you have to keep this, the thing about the Health now is gone from being a, it's a cod, you know.
Q	So the amount of paperwork.
A	Yes, you had to keep your book to say that you washed the fridge at 10 o'clock today, you know that has to be all kept, all that rubbish, you know there's a fierce lot of that. It got so much red tape that I said, I couldn't be bothered, really you know. But that wasn't there, you started it off and you sold. I remember, when I was deciding whether I'd have, would it be a good idea to sell fruit, someone had asked for oranges, so I asked the fruit people to call. You see, all the deliveries were coming out to the creamery delivering, and

	<p>coming to [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] which had a shop for 100 years, gone now, of course nothing there, but, she said, you have to buy the box, so you buy the box and see how many you sell and after that, you know she told me, that was Mrs. [REDACTED], eventually you got different things you know and people bought. Christmas cards, would be a thing that time and things like that, I got stamps and I had a phone, and I got a public phone and there was no such thing around about, a public phone in the shop, twas my only phone and I said, the first thing I got in my small kitchen there was a household fridge and I used to put a few things in it. But then, when I got the bigger shop I got a bigger fridge and then a freezer and the ice cream. I think I had the ice-cream before I had the ordinary fridge you know, but the ice-cream crowd would supply an ice-cream grade seller.</p>
Q	Q: And would you sell it by the slice, that's the way I used to buy it?
A	Yes, by the slice yeah.
Q	A sixpenny was a great treat.
A	Yeah, I remember the different sizes?
Q	So what were you stocking in the early days and how did the stock change?
A	Tea, sugar, bread, butter, milk, staples, sweets, great seller sweets, and a long life, chocolate and sweets. Then, drinks, they came kind of later, you know, the drinks they were a good seller too.
Q	And then did you go into a little stationery, you know the Christmas cards.
A	Yeah, you would have Christmas cards, and anything that there was a demand for I sold it.
Q	Did you sell newspapers?
A	Oh yeah, from the start.
Q	From the start?
A	From the start, I was selling, only the Newsread, oh my god, when you think of the hassle they put you through and they are still there

	outside, so much so, that most of the shops, he is buying his newspapers from the shop in [REDACTED]. The shop in [REDACTED] is giving him half his commission, <i>Imagine</i>
Q	Oh
A	First of all, he, the <i>Cork Examiner</i> , he they only demanded a 5,000 deposit, I think. I don't know whether the Independent want more, and Newsread wanted more, but the hassle with Newsread, because they sent you stuff you hadn't ordered, all you had to do was send it back, but you didn't get the credit, you had to ring. Now at that time, a phone to Dublin cost a pound a minute. You were ringing there and holding on, trying to get your credit for a magazine that you didn't order and you didn't get. I wasted more money, for that reason alone, I said you're better off, you know exactly what you have and you haven't the hassle of ... Now they also have put in a machine for cigarettes.
Q	Yes.
A	If you bought your cigarettes at the cash and carry, there was no profit, but if you buy them direct there was great profit. I did great, did very well on the cigarettes, but again, that's the new thing I suppose now.
Q	And tell us about the family, did you rear any shop keepers?
A	No shopkeepers, I'm afraid, they had enough of it.
Q	Yes, but they all helped out and were part of the whole?
A	Oh they all, yeah,
Q	They all got their training?
A	Yeah, be nice to the customers, be careful with money. I always had a till I think, did I have it at the beginning, but, I never had a thing in the till, a roll, never, thanks be to God, because you'd have to balancing that, I counted the money every night, only the notes, I'd leave the coin in it, because, sure the coins turned over anyway, you know you just counted the notes, now they count everything but you have to balance with the till, and I never put, and of course the accountant was saying, but like you kinda got away with it you

	were there so long I suppose, you probably wouldn't get away with it now.
Q	So you had to get an account?
A	Yes I had to go to an accountant eventually, yeah. And the first accountant that I went to was an alcoholic, a very nice man but a couple of my cheques that I brought in to pay the Revenue Commissioners, that didn't pay the Revenue Commissioner, I paid the accountant and they don't know what.
Q	Oh dear. And when you had to do all of that, had you to register as a company or were you a sole trader?
A	Yeah, as a sole trader, you had to for VAT a.
Q	Yes of course.
A	And for turnover tax. I remember going into Lawlors hotel, crowded, telling us about turnover taxes and how to go about it, just the start of it you know.
Q	And that was with the [REDACTED] traders?
A	No, no I went to [REDACTED] which is nearer to me, [REDACTED] is only about seven miles, but em, the Revenue told everyone to go, they were giving information on this new turnover tax that you had to pay.
Q	And was there a Chamber of Commerce in either town.
A	There was in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], but I never, I think there was anyway, I never, joined any of those really, but I did go to that Traders, I didn't join anything really like that.
Q	And you husband was a farmer by background?
A	He was a farmer and he worked at home, but his brother got the farm, but he got, the 3 or what was it? 10 acres or whatever here, meant, he got the field first to build the shop but then when his father died he got 3 more fields or something, but he had started as an agricultural contractor then which wasn't very, you know they were only coming into being. My son now is a proper agricultural contractor, but he never had any interest in the shop.
Q	No interest in the shop?

A	And he never served in the shop, all the rest of them did, he never did, but he did the farm machinery all the time, that was.
Q	And you would have had a girl sometimes.
A	Yeah, I remember I got a girl, oh a teenager first to come in after school and during the holidays, first and then I got a girl, cos I remember when she was 16, it must have been only 14 she was finishing school, at that time they did, and she came to me and she did the kitchen and she used to serve in the shop and I remember when she was 16 her father came to me and said would you pay stamps for her now, which I did, and you stamped her card. She left to go to work in the hospital and her sister came, her sister was better than she was, and she was good and she stayed with me, until after the last?? That was 1969, '70 I'd say. So really, I suppose I had a girl of and on, most of the time,.
Q	Most of the time?
A	off and on you know.
Q	And did you have to do any advertising in the early days or was it...?
A	Never advertised.
Q	You never advertised?
A	I never, never advertised, and it's funny, [REDACTED] is there now with the contracting and they are all advertising, he doesn't advertise at all either. I never advertised, I was there and the sign, and so actually, when I started Lovvets put a sign over here, two fields over, and another sign over here, two fields over. I think we had to get planning permission then, but so that you see, at that time now, there is a big filling station down near [REDACTED], here about 5 miles away, that wasn't there when I started, we were the only, there was one in [REDACTED], you passed it.
Q	Yes.
A	That was there, he was there, but that was none til here except of course, down at the creamery, The creamery was off the main road, the fact that I was on the main road, was an asset. The only thing it

	wasn't an asset for was when that bloody Health women... every-time she'd pass it she'd come into check, and she used really, I'd swear, you know something, they are not half as strict as they were about somethings, no they are not as fussy, it was when they started first.
Q	Well it's one of the big complaints, isn't it for small businesses?
A	Yeah.
Q	The amount of paperwork.
A	They are trying to put you off, they are only, too much paperwork, it's just not fair really, you are only doing a service really.
Q	and is the creamery still there now.
A	██████ co-op took over the creamery, it was ██████ co-op, took over the creamery and eh, closed the shop eventually, but let it out to a man who made money on it, I believe first, but the man, the next man he gave up after he had his money made, and the next man, didn't make money on it and there is no shop here now, the store, the Creamery still, they're doing cattle feed and things like that and there is a petrol, sorry, there's a wire place there.
Q	So you weren't, you didn't have that many other females around you that were doing the same kind of thing.
A	No, no, but down in, the ██████ in ██████, in the village, and they were three old ladies and as I said, they were old ladies like when I was young, they are gone now, and their shop is gone. They had a fit when I opened this shop.
Q	They were still in business?
A	And the local paper, and I never sold, I sold everything, I sold all the daily papers, all the Sunday papers, and all the weekend papers but I could never sell the ██████████, they stopped me. They wouldn't allow the people that owned.
Q	The suppliers to supply?
A	Imagine, imagine.
Q	What were their names,
A	██████, there was a, three elderly ladies and I remember my

	<p>husband saying to me “you’re going to go on like [REDACTED], because they went on serving in their eighties, they kept, they died on the the job, you know, they didn’t’, one after another, but they were there for years and they did, got all the, you know they used all come on a Sunday to Mass, hand in their lists and to be ready when they’d come out and buy bread for the week. But I had a good lot of bread vans come from [REDACTED] and from [REDACTED] and a good lot of vans really, meat vans, Dennys and HB and I had another for the ice-cream crowd. HB started of by being eh, I want HB to come over anyway, some crowd did in [REDACTED] what’s that they were, ice-cream, it was nice ice-cream, but HB took them over. According as the companies got bigger, of course they got harder to deal with.</p>
Q	Did they?
A	You’re dealing with a small company, you know you can talk to them. They get more stricter.
Q	And would you have had agents, sales agents and travellers calling to you?
A	Ah yeah, travellers for the Independent, the Examiner, for the Cadbury’s traveller came every six weeks and then Cadbury’s, they were great. He came, the traveller came every six weeks, and you paid, you see everything you got, you paid after you had it sold, the month after. At Christmas, Cadbury’s used to run a fair in Waterford to which we were all invited, you got your lunch and you got two or three, pick any boxes and give your Christmas order and pick any boxes you’d like to bring home, that was great I used to look forward to that every Christmas, that was one of the perks.
Q	That was civilised.
A	Yeah, that was, you think anybody does it now, not.
Q	And was it getting harder as you got to the end to make ends meet.
A	Yeah, well the demand was gone, as I was coming to the end in that the demand from, at the house cos we hadn’t any children, they were all gone, so we didn’t take as much out of the shop, you know,

	cos when they were all here, as I've said, and I never kept track, never, we kinda got away with it.
Q	So no advertising, - you're a good ad for it!
A	Advertise yourself, you're there you know.
Q	And would it have been a hub for a bit of chat .
A	Yeah, it still is, and if you notice, he has two chairs and a table outside the door, of course, they go out and smoke there and but, my husband even goes out and sits there and meet the people in the morning, you know, and sits and have a chat, it's always a kind of hub for a chat.
Q	And would that have been part of it when you were there?
A	Yeah, you would always come and have a chat.
Q	You said you were selling stamps?
A	Yeah, you can sell stamps, you can you can buy from the post office. Now, there I wrote to the Post office, lots of times to ask them to put a box there. There is a box down that road about a mile for the people out the mountain there, but if they only moved it up here it would be wonderful, but there is a post office in the village which is in a couple of miles, but I wrote to the Post Office a lot of times but they never gave me the box. What else did I sell, I told you I had the... and of course I sold the telephone cards at that time when they came out. And I did do, I applied for the Lottery I think, alright, and he came and he looked but he said I would put it into town, but we got, some man came with the Rehab lottery. I don't think it was a success really, I did it for a while, but then I didn't bother. And then of course, there's always people giving you in tickets to sell, you know for things, for different, various things, schools and everything, you always got tickets.
Q	And when you put the phone in that must have been a big?
A	help, it was, yeah, it was great to have the payphone, and I even, when I that was when I put it in straightaway, in the small shop but I put it in then in the big shop, and it was still in big demand.
Q	So you put it in very early on?

A	Oh I put it in very early on,
Q	That was smart, thank you very much, this was really interesting