

Romany Theatre Company

Atching Tan Project

Reminiscence Interview – Transcription of Edited Interview

Date of Interview	Interviewer	Interviewee	Age Range of Interviewee	Duration of Edited Recording
March 2010	Sinead	George Pt 1	65-70	05:17

Key timing	Initial of person speaking	Transcription of Interview
00:00	George	Growing up You only had your own entertainment didn't ya. There's the pictures. When you was miles from anywhere you either had to ride a bike or catch a bus, but a bike was your favourite thing. The treader.
00:13		I done all sorts of things; garden, even done a paper round.
00:18		In flat 2 rooms. Until they... it was uninhabitable and my mum went to the council offices every week coz they wanted to get us out and she wouldn't go until they... and then they moved us into a new council house in 1949. It was a council house an' all, brand new. Toilets upstairs, outside toilet, separate bathroom, even a boiler to heat the water up, which was a bit unusual in them days, its a lot warmer than anything else.
00:44		I bin everywhere; all over the south of England, Midlands. Farthest I've been is Appleby in the north, Leeds, Blackpool, all up round the lake district, up round Garstang and all up there. Wales, I've worked all through Wales. We was down there working in Wales when the Aberfan went off. All up through South Wales; Llantwit Major. We worked the West Country; Exeter, Plymouth, all through there. All through Hampshire, Kent; Margate, up in Essex; Basildon. We was up in Essex in the '63. In the winter, when it snowed and it never thawed 'til Easter. I think most everywhere. All through the Midlands, Leicester, Birmingham all up through them countries, Manchester, Preston Blackpool, all the way round. Went to the lake district once, but didn't find much an' that was all moors up there and lakes. We turned round and came straight back again, never stopped.
01:36		In them days I was doing, well, anything, house painting, anything you could see you know anything you see, you come across. I mean, I in't done much like umm I've never been 'op picking. We used to go to the 'ops afterwards when I was a young fella, but umm we never done that. Coz my dad died in 1947/48, so we only had me mum and she couldn't drive, so the only place we could go was on buses or bikes. We never got to hop pick, ya know. Used to do a bit of brussel picking and that on the farms around. Local and that was about our lot until of course I got to 16. I put me age on a year and got meself a driving licence. Then it was no holds barred because it was everywhere, everywhere. But in them days, they'd turf you off anywhere. Make out that, ya know, that it belonged to someone or someone had complained. You might get a week, you might get a fortnight, but most times you get 2 days. Coz soon as you pulled up they was on ya.
02:39		Well they've changed for the better in a lot of ways coz there's more money about. You can get more money, but then money ain't the same as what it used to be. Though there's still the same amount of stuff, ya know, don't go here, don't go there. But of course your that much better off. You can do more things, you can go more places. Where they turned you off a place for being a traveller, now you can get a tidy trailer and join the caravan club and they cant turn you off, ya know. So its got its good and bad points, but now you can get a bit of planning on places. They don't like it but you still push your way and you still get it, but like I say now it's a bit different coz you can err.. you can join the caravan club and go caravanning like that, like everybody does, not just the travellers. But if it weren't for the travellers, they wouldn't have caravans would they.
03:29		Well, there's a lot of flash travellers now, in't there, but there always was flash travellers. But err obviously thing are a lot worse than they used to be there's still a lot

03:58		of prejudiced, a lot of name calling and things like that. But in general I know its got better. But the trouble is things always have to get worse before they get better and I don't mean its got worse and then its got better. It gets worse and then it gets better, then it gets worse again and then it gets better. It's a never ending thing.
04:28		The travellers have changed, adapted, but they haven't really changed. The worlds changed, everything's changed in it now. The travellers have, they've altered. They haven't actually changed, but they have altered. They've altered their ways, but they're still travellers. A travellers, a traveller whatever he might be. He ain't gonna... just coz he buys an Armani suit and he drives the latest Mercedes car doesn't stop him from being a traveller, ya know what I mean?

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