

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
2010	Sinead	Ivy B	60+	09:33

Key timing	Initial of person speaking	Transcription of Interview
00:00	Ivy	Right my names Ivy Buckley and I live on West Meadows in Ipswich Me and my husband. All my families grown and married so I'm on me own now. But I'm going to tell you my life when I was a little girl. We was always err.. we was beggars in other words to you. Umm making pegs, making the wooden flowers to paper flowers. We used to go on the doors and knock, knock day after day, selling them, when we were young. My father was a grinder was brought up round Stowmarket, Long Melford. We used to travel round for our work pea picking, 'tata picking up, all sorts of things for work as long as we had the money. I was born in 1943, the 16 th January. We never had a hard life coz we was all young, we was all happy where ever we was moved at. We was liked with the locals, so we never had a hard life. As a matter of fact me life was more harder now since I bin married than when I was... when I was single. I had a very happy life and there in't much to say to my life really. We was brought up in wagons. I was born in a wagon I got 6 brothers... I got 3 sisters and 3 brothers and err they're all quite happy really. But we never used to work a lot coz we was always beggars. We used to beg for our clothes, beg for our shoes, sell our pegs And really there's nothing to my life really. You know, I know it was a hard life and umm... what I really miss in life is moving around again, you know, going from one county to the other. We do miss that life, you know and mixing with other travellers and that and talking and that and I'm not prejudice against nobody, I like everybody. If they can get on with me, I can get on with them. Whether they're gorgias or whether they're travellers or whether they're Irish. I get on with everybody.
01:55		The biggest change in my life was when we come on these traveller sites. They were the biggest change in our lives. We don't see nobody and that now, we don't talk to nobody, everybody keeps their self in a little square patch as I call it and everybody kept their selves to their self. Don't talk like they used to coz years ago when we used to be up and down the roads and say 5 or 6 lots of us, we used to have an old fire outside, we used to do all our cooking on a camp fire outside. Never used to have no fires inside. Put our boilers out there, kettles out there, we used to fry, we used to cook, do our cooking and you miss all that life really. You do miss that life more for contact with the travellers yeah, but there you go. Cos there's travellers of these trailer places all over different counties now and that's very rare that you can drive to them or see them, ya know.
02:48		I in't got much to say about my life really. Oh dear when I was growing up to what it is now. I had a hard life when I was growing up, I'll tell you. We weren't allowed, if we went to pictures we had to be home by 9 o'clock. That was the rules of the game you know with my mother and father. You went to the pictures you go at 6 o'clock you come home at 9. You get to bed you get up... Its all the one routine all the time but strict rules. We never did wear make up, none of the family, none of the sisters. A dress up in fancy clothes, we didn't know what that was, ya know. It's hard to put down on a bit of paper what your life was like. Some days it was hard and on other days it would be easy and you were happy. Nobody never did hate us where ever we were. We went down Essex beet picking an' all. Where ever we meet with other travellers we used to get on with them fine and they liked us. And then with the gorgias, we was so local round the county coz we always come back to here, ya know Suffolk. And everyone sort of liked us 'Oh your back again', you know. They say to me dad 'Back again Moses'. I mean if you talk to a lot of the old locals now, 'You know Moses, Moses Smith?' and they say 'yeah, we know 'em wonderful well that family' and we was stood

04:16		<p>here once at Needham Market up at Darmsden coz he used to grow a lot of fruit up there. We stood up there 5 or 6 year at a time up there. I had a lovely life really. I used to never grumble at my single lives and how I was brought up.</p> <p>None of the family, of us can read or write because as we was moving about, we probably had a couple of days here, you'd probably have a week and that's if we were farming mother sent us to school then. We get longer, you know, so of course children at the local school, you know, they used to leave us alone but otherwise we used to skive from school more than we went to school (laughs). But I don't know why? We was silly I reckon to our selves really. I can't blame for mother and father it was our own fault really. Coz we were taken off you know with school, then skive from school. Go an' hide up the hedges all day long. (laughs) Then go home 'How have you done at school today?' 'Oh not too bad mum'. (laughs) As I growed up, you know, coz I got married at 18. I didn't want my children to miss out on school and like me you know. My older daughter what come in a minute ago and all my children can read and write; all the lot of 'em. I got a couple what cant but they're slow at reading, but they can read you know. They know what they're looking at and they know what it is, but I can't, I can't even know all my alphabet. If I want a letter read or somebody to read one of me letters I give it to one of me daughters. They can read it for me. So I get through.</p>
05:35		<p>What makes me a gypsy? To be honest with you I don't think we're more different than what the gorgia people are really. It's just that they do little things different to what we do, you know. Meself, I don't notice a lot of difference. We all bleed red it you cut us, you know. It's just that we live in caravans, they live in houses, you know, not a lot of difference. You know and I think coz it better 'ooh they're gypsy' you know, they come up on the caravan site. They don't say the camp, they didn't say the camp, you know. I go to bingo. I go dart playing on Thursday nights with my daughter and them, but I got on with the locals and they're pleased to see us, you know. Get on with them wonderful well. Some don't you know coz they're rough, coz all they want to do is cause a hargument and all a row don't they. Then the locals don't want to talk to them, but I don't know, I get on with anybody where ever I go, I get on. I got a son in a house. All my brothers and sisters are in houses. They get on with their locals that lives around them. I got one son in a house. Oh no I've a son and a daughter in a house. One at Brentwood and one lives down at Whitehouse. I got 2 in houses and the rest are still in caravans but they loves their lives out here and I think it's a wonderful thing what the council's done. Its good to travellers these sites coz they got hot water, they got baths now. We never used to have that you know. We used to have a tub standing on the floor. 3 or 4 kettles of water, tip it in the tub to bath our children or we wanted to have a wash ourselves. But since we bin on these sites, its beautiful, lovely, got hot and cold water, baths, telly, when we only used to have a wireless, but we got a telly now so we're over the moon.</p>
07:24		<p>When we go, when the time come, we gonna all die, when the time comes. Deaths gonna come knocking on our door and my god that's gone be rough for the young uns whats growing up and I know we shouldn't be alive to see it. That's going to be a lot harder for them because I don't think they'll be the work about. There wont be the money about for them and how they gonna get through? I don not know. You can tell by the way the worlds a going today. Look at the people out of work. The people that can't get work. I got a grandson whose been signing on the dole now for this last 3 year job centres, after job centres, Newspaper after newspaper. I've seen him sit there for hours with a newspaper. I bin out this morning to go an' have a look because I don't know if its coz he's a gypsy, but I don't think he tells them he's a gypsy. If they ask him where he comes from he says West Meadows. Whether that's hard for him to get a job of work or not. But my daughters, they got regular jobs of work but they never had no problems, ya know, but I think it's more harder for men than what it is for women.</p>
08:28		<p>What would I like to see happening? Ooh that's a hard question that. I can't look into the future 'what will be will be' that's what I say and my fathers says 'Live for the day because tomorrows not promised to us'. And I believe in that one. When tomorrow comes I'll sort tomorrow out. But until then I'm just gonna live for today that's what he</p>

09:33		<p>taught us. I've had some sad times, I've had some good times, but I've had more good times than I've had bad times. So I'm not gonna grumble, No. I was happy the day I got married. I've bin married now for 49 year on the 18th of this month, I've had me ups and downs. I've had some good ol' times. I've had some bad times, but I still love him and I wouldn't pass on him for the world and I wouldn't exchange him. I shall live with him now until the end, so either he'll go first or I'll go first. I took a note from the bible, for better or worse (laughs).</p>
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Key Timing Index	
Time	Topic
00:00	Past Times
01:55	Changing Times
02:48	Past Times
04:16	Education
05:35	Identity
07:24	Changing Times
08:28	The Future
09:33	End