

Brough Transcription Template

Accession Number:	DBR10 0008
Batch Number:	
Date of Interview:	2011
Interviewee Name:	Jean Anderson
Fieldworker Name:	Interviewer - Liz O'Donnell Typed by Joanne B Kaar
Keywords:	Pentland View, Caberfeidh, electricity, wells, Schoolie, Church, Jean Anderson, Tom Shearer, James Shearer, poems, Alex Shearer. Sabbath day, Dunnet school, Crossroads School. Ration books, Cathys post-office, Johnny Sinclair,
Interview Summary:	Jean Anderson tell about her relations in Brough – (00:00) poems written by Alex Shearer, (03:28) when she was born in Brough at Pentland View, (03:50) going to Dunnet School, (05:19) her fathers work, (07:40) shops in Brough, (09:14) Smiths van travelling shop, (10:39) Sabbath day, (12:28) and when electricity arrived in Brough.

Transcription

(remember to note time code from recording regularly to make it easy to find key quotes quickly later) (Time is minutes and seconds).

LO: Ok

JA: Ok.

LO: Right.

JA: So this photograph is Danny Shearer

LO: Eh yes.

JA: My grandfather. Tom Shearer (???) (00:10)

LO: What a goodlooking fellow.

JA: Pentland View;

LO: Look at his hair:

JA: Yes ... Tom Shearer, his brother lived here,

LO: Right.

JA: Caberfeidh ... James Shearer another brother

LO: Right

JA: And Alex Shearer stayed Morven in Thurso.

LO: Ah

JA: Right. Now Alex Shearer wrote the 'Fair side of the Sand' by Alex Shearer.

LO: Right

JA: And this was to his wife Minie.
(noise of pages turning)
 ... (00:53) And there's poems, The Sabbath Day Brough in the nineties.

LO: That would be wonderful , yes.

JA: Yes I'll get you a copy of that also that's the sands of Dunnet, that's about Dunnet 'The Fair Side of the Sands' he called Dunnet.

LO: uhhu

JA: *(noise of pages turning)* And then Brough, this is a poem about Brough.

LO: Wonderful

JA: *(noise of pages turning)* ... Dunnet Head when the boats go to sea but I don't think that's local. He wrote all these things 'The Dunnet Marymas', poem about it.

LO: Ah ha

JA: *(noise of pages turning)* ... and 'From a Window in Thurso' that's where he stayed. You know where you go down to the Esplanade in Thurso.

LO: Yes

JA: Top O' Durness street.

LO: Yes.

JA: Big two story house on the left-hand-side Morven,

LO: Oh

JA: That's where he lived and he wrote this from his window.

LO: Ah

JA: 'From a Window in Thurso'.

LO: Right

JA: So, that's, that was printed and you know done I don't know when.

(noise of pages turning)

LO: Right

JA: 1954

LO: Ok

JA: But also I have a copy of poems that were never printed. *(Noise of pages turning)*

LO: Ah

JA: And there's one here.

LO: And this is all in his handwriting.

JA: No 'is is me at wrote this.

LO: Oh you did. You copied them.

JA: (02:12) 'In Memory of John Sinclair, Brough who died 9th June 1903', which I think must be Mervyn's grandfather.

LO: Ok

JA: ... And this was a friend of Alex Shearers.
(noise of pages turning)

LO: Right *(noise of pages turning)*

JA: (02:30) ... And he also wrote which I thought you would like ... *(noise of pages turning)* is ... 'Brough in Summer'.

LO: That's just amazing Jean.

JA: (???) (02:44)

LO: Yes, they are just perfect so

JA: Yes so I'm sure you can get that done yes.

LO: we can get those typed, yes.
And having the photograph with him as well.

JA: (02:58) Yes ah ha And that says 'To his cousin Jakobina on her return from New York to Brough'.
(Noise of pages turning)

LO: (???) (03:02)

JA: But these were never printed.

LO: Right

JA: You know

LO: Yes.

JA: (03:10) But it's all about the sea because every one of them were at e sea and that was their life.

LO: Yes of course.

JA: You know.

LO: Yes yes.

JA: So I'll get you copies of that.

LO: Right

JA: emmm and copies of that .

LO: That's just fantastic

JA: Right, so I'll do that for you.

LO: Yes yes, right now then

JA: So what else do you want to know?

LO: (03:28) I was, well, you were born in Brough.

JA: Born in Brough 1944.

LO: That's ages with me.

JA: At, yes, Pentland View.

LO: Ah right

JA: Where William stayed.

LO: Oh

JA: so I was born there.

LO: So that was your family home.

JA: Yes that was where my granny and grampa stayed.

LO: Yes

JA: Danny Shearer and Jeanie

LO: Right
JA: I was born there. Dad was at the sea.

LO: Yes

JA: (03:50) So I can remember mum taking me till e school on the back of the bike when I was five. Starting school in Dunnet.

LO: In Dunnet.

JA: Yes

LO: Ah

JA: She's a bike with a seat on the back.

LO: Right.

JA: Started school in Dunnet.

LO: Yes

JA: Some folk from Brough went to Crossroads.

LO: Yes

JA: Like George Malcolm, Peter and Pearl stayed behind Pentland View. You know where Zoe stays now.

LO: Yes

JA: Well there was a ruin ... Zoe's house is here, well there was a ruin just slightly, well it's no longer their.

LO: Right

JA: At the back of Pentland View

LO: Ah

JA: and that's where George Malcolm

LO: Ah they

JA: They stayed there but they went to Crossroads school.

LO: Ah yes

JA: But being in Brough you could

LO: Go either

JA: Take your pick.

LO: Yes

JA: So Elsie Henderson, leke Jessie Henderson's sister

LO: Yes uhhu

JA: She came to school wi me.

LO: Right

JA: Started e school wi me and we're palls till 'is day.

LO: Ah yes

JA: you know some o them you just keep up with

LO: That's right

JA: Yes. Whereas Ishbel Dunnet and Ian Dunnet, they went to Crossroads School.

LO: Right. So, Ishbel, Ian, Elspeth

JA: ... Hugh-John

LO: Hugh-John, yes

JA: They went to Crossroads school.

LO: Right

JA: But we went till Dunnet.

LO: Uhhu. And friendships are formed aren't they

JA: Oh yes

LO: In School days.

JA: Of definitely and

LO: Yes

JA: to this day, I mean Elsie comes home and you can pick up, you might not see her for years.

LO: Ah ha yes

JA: But you'd pick up like yesterday

LO: Yes

JA: You know

LO: Brilliant

JA: Yes , so that was that.

LO: Uhhu

JA: (05:19) Parents

LO: Yes

JA: Employment, well dad was at e sea.

LO: Right, because I always remember Roddy coming past in his big tractor.

JA: That was him, yes

LO: Yes

JA: Yes, well, dad came home e sea whenum...what a minute, Rosemary seven years younger than me, Eileen is twelve years younger than me and Eva is fifteen youngers, fifteen years younger than me.

LO: Right

JA: (05:50) Dad came home from the sea when Dounreay started.

LO: Ah yes

JA: And got work with Sutherland, Alexander Sutherland the plumbers.

LO: Right

JA: you know.

LO: yes

JA: He worked (???) (05:59) them. ...em but mum didna work. You know.

LO: So did you have sheep them.

JA: yes, he's sheep. Yes.

LO: So when he was going past

JA: Yes

LO: Would he have sheep down where you have cows.

JA: No no no

LO: Just...

JA: They, we, stayed in Pentland View till I was aboutRosemary was born in Pentland View so at was seven years. When we were, when I was eleven we move to Dunnet to where David Steel stays.

LO: Right

JA: At Burn Lea, and Eileen was born in Dunnet

LO: Yes

JA: And then when uncle Tom died like, my mum's uncle Tom Shearer died.

LO: In that photograph

JA: Yes

LO: Yes

JA: He left Caberfeidh to my mum.

LO: Ah I see.

JA: So that's when we came to Brough here in 1956.

LO: OK right

JA: And been here ever since.

LO: Oh
(both - *Laughter*) I see yes.

JA: More or less yes. (*laughter*)

LO: Yes, it's funny how things

JA: Yes

LO: have come round in

JA: uhhu

LO: Circles

JA: So dad had sheep as I say, he'd sheep

LO: Yes

JA: but he just had the fields here.

LO: Ah right

JA: You know

LO: Yes, because

JA: But they's be going till e hill probably

LO: That's right because, yes

JA: They'd go past till e hill on e tractor.

LO: Ah ha And did do work for other, I mean did he do ditches or

JA: ... no

LO: I'm just

JA: Don't remember

LO: .. Just

JA: I mean I married in 1964.

LO: Right

JA: And moved to Thurso.

LO: Yes, oh, so when you were little

JA: uhhu

LO: I'm thinking you know, where there any shops in Brough then?

JA: (07:40) Just the post office

LO: Right

JA: And my auntie Cathy's we called it, where the café is now.

LO: Windhaven

JA: Yes

LO: Yes, yes

JA: That was the shop.

LO: Right

JA: And I can remember going with the pension book,

LO: Yes

JA: Not, pension book, ration book! Pension book now!
(laughter)

LO: oh yes,

JA: The ration book then,

LO: Yes yes

JA: taking the ration book

LO: uhhu

JA: Cos rationing was still on till 1952

LO: Yes

JA: 53

LO: There was sweets

JA: I would be seven. Yes

LO: The was certain sweets

JA: I can remember going to the shop

LO: Yes

JA: for bread an

LO: uhhu

JA: you know, but that was Cathy's. Everybody met at the shop.

LO: Right

JA: Yes

LO: Yes

JA: It was just a meeting point for everybody

LO: Ah ha

JA: And there was seats, you know the counter was on the one wall and the other three walls was seats right round.

LO: Ah, yes that would be a gathering

JA: So you would go in and sit and have a blether, yes that was it.

LO: (08:32) And was there any time a shop at em Johny Sinclairs?

JA: Heather had the shop.

LO: Oh

JA: In the front porch.

LO: Oh right

JA: They had the shop there, and I've a funny feeling that Mr Gunn in, when she'd the post office, do you remember Ishbel's mum?

LO: Yes

JA: She'd the post office.

LO: Yes yes

JA: But I don't know if she's a shop

LO: Yes, Mrs Gunn

JA: Mina

LO: yes

JA: But Heather, Mrs Sinclair had the shop in the front porch.

LO: Right

JA: You went to the front door of the house,

LO: uhhu

JA: that was the entrance to the shop.

LO: Right

JA: And Heather ran it.

LO: Ah right

JA: But eh we used to get butcher vans came round

LO: Yes

JA: every week

LO: Right

JA: (09:14) And the Smith's stores in Barrock.

LO: Oh yes

JA: It was a grocery van

LO: Oh right

JA: And that came round and I can remember, it was a big event when, when the Smiths van came in to Brough.

LO: Ah

JA: And I can remember my granny, she paid the egg, she paid the shopping with eggs.

LO: Ah right, bartering (*laughter*)

JA: You know, bartering yes. And before the van came we used to have till wash all 'is eggs and put them in sections

LO: uhhu yes

JA: You know

LO: Yes, because, did anybody have a car then? I mean Johnny

JA: Johnny Sinclair had a car

LO: Yes

JA: That was the only car that was in Brough

LO: uhhu

JA: Yes

LO: Yes

JA: I mean we walked walked to school and meeting a car on the road was just a rare event.

LO: Yes

JA: You know, yes

LO: It's funny isn't it

JA: yes

LO: that's right, when I think back we never had a car and then

JA: No

LO: none of my relatives or had cars

JA: Had cars, no. Alex Shearer, I can, right I'm going back till 'is photograph, he

LO: Yes

JA: had a shop in Thurso

LO: Oh

JA: Cameron and Shearers.

LO: Right

JA: And he had a car, and when he came out to Brough, oh it was great getting a run in 'is car.

LO: Oh yes (*laughter*)

JA: you know

LO: Yes (*laughter*)

JA: Because nobody hed cars

LO: Oh yes, a big thrill.

JA: And I can remember on a Sunday there used to be a bus. I mean would go to Barrock Church one Sunday

LO: Right

JA: And the following Sunday it was Dunnet Church.

LO: Ah

JA: And there was a bus use to come round and take us te e church.

LO: Ah right

JA: (10:39) And then on Sunday nights my grampa used to open the schoolie.

LO: Yes

JA: Up here and put the peat fire on because the mission man from or the baptist minister from Scarfskerry use to come over

LO: Oh so he would

JA: And hold services in the schoolie

LO: All lit up (???) (10:51)
 JA: Yes put the fire on in the Schoolie.

LO: Right ah yes

JA: Very religious, I mean my grampas (???) (10:59) probably rest of them all were, it was just the times, sign o the times but Saturday night, my granny made all the dinner for the Sunday.

LO: Yes

JA: My grampa, the shoes were all polished, peats were taken in

LO: Right

JA: Animals were fed

LO: All on the Saturday night.

JA: Nothing, grampa shaved on a Saturday night.

LO: Gosh

JA: Nothing was was done on a Sunday

LO: Ah to that extent. (???) (11:24) shave.

JA: Really oh just nothing was done.

LO: Mmm

JA: Even going oot till play on a Sunday, oh don't make a noise.

LO: Yes

JA: You know

LO: Yes yes

JA: Rediculous when you think today

LO: It is isn't it

JA: But it was to

LO: enforce that

JA: Yes

LO: Yes

JA: Oh he was very very strict

LO: uhhu

JA: as far at went, I mean everything was done on the Saturday night.

LO: Right

JA: Yes

LO: So

JA: (11:46) And doing homework by the tilly lamp you know.

LO: Yes

JA: Yes

LO: Yes
(*Laughter*)

JA: Sittin by the (???) (11:449) pumping it up you know.
(*laughter*)

LO: Yes

JA: Cos it was warm and it was good light

LO: That's right cos they gave heat didn't they.

JA: Yes uhhu

LO: And that hissing noise I remember that.

JA: Yes I can remember going up to my bed with we e candle.

LO: Yes Yes

JA: Yes

LO: And water then you would have

JA: There was water.

LO: because a lot of these houses there's wells isn't there.

JA: There's wells everywhere, there's a well here, there's a well at Pentland View. The Best well in Brough was at Tina's in front of Tina's.

LO: Right

JA: You know where George's ruin you know

LO: Oh yes

JA: That bit there

LO: oh right

JA: I can remember my granny going with the thing round her neck and two pails o water for feeding the animals.

LO: Oh

JA: Every hoose hed a well.

LO: Yes

JA: (12:28) And then electricity came in probably ... late fifties.

LO: Yes

JA: Rosie and Smart, that was the contractors.

LO: Oh was it.

JA: Yes

LO: Ah

JA: Yes, I can remember them

LO: That must have made a big impression.

JA: I can remember that was a great

LO: and remembering the name.

JA: Yes, well when we came back here, to Caberfeidh 1956, 57, there was electricty here then.

LO: Right

JA: But I can remember it was Rosie and Smart was the contractors that came

LO: Yes, what a big change that would be.

JA: Lifting floor boards and yes

LO: yes

JA: Yes

LO: yes, gosh. We thought street lights were a major happening.

JA: I know Yes

LO: But electricity

JA: Electricity yes. And the phone I can't really remember when the phone came in. I would be 60's probably.

LO: Yes right

JA: You know

LO: So, so you, when you got married you lived in Thurso

JA: Thurso yes

LO: And then eventually you came back here

JA: Yes, after dad died, came back here

LO: And had Derek any background of farming?

JA: Oh yes yes (13:33) All farming stock

LO: Right, cos I know he's an electrician

JA: Oh yes, electrician to trade but farmer at heart.

LO: Yes

JA: Yes

LO: Yes that's right

JA: Oh definitely yes he just loved it.

LO: uhhu

JA: We always said that once he retired we would come back to Brough.

LO: Yes

JA: And just the time was right

LO: Yes that's right so

JA: You know this was it.

LO: So, I can remember you had sheep then.

JA: Yes

LO: Most people did in Brough.

JA: Well dad had sheep you see and we kept the sheep on.

LO: Yes

JA: But we got, when we were running back and fore before we came out and lived out here it was a lot of work with sheep.

LO: Yes uhhu

JA: So we thought, no we'll put the sheep off

LO: Yes and there wasn't the money

JA: and start the hightland cows. This is it. No.

LO: Yes

JA: But, oh no we enjoyed it.

LO: So the hightland cows.

JA: That's it , yes

LO: Yes

JA: So we're cuttin back on them too now cos once you reach 70 as Derek says *(pen clicking) (Laughter)* it's time to slow down!

LO: Oh right yes *(Laughter)*

JA: Can't keep going forever

LO: No but

JA: No

LO: it's wonderfull isn't it to have that opportunity to do something

JA: Is it

LO: to do something that you love.

JA: Yes, well

LO: Even though you've had to have a trade and something

JA: You've got to have something, yes

LO: yes, behind you.

JA: But to be stuck in Thurso retired with

LO: Yes

JA: nothing to do, no hobby

LO: that's right

JA: you would just go stir crazy.

LO: Yes

JA: You know

LO: That's right

JA: But there's no enough hours in e day.

LO: I know

JA: (???) (14:45)

LO: But it doesn't

JA: you know, I'll put that off.

(End of Recording 14:44)

