

Thorne and Hatfield Moors Oral History Project

Interview with: Trevor Sharpe (1 part 2) (including Barry Sharpe)

Date: 10 August 2006

Interviewer: Lynne Fox

Summary

Trevor and Barry Sharpe lived in Moorends but spent most of their time at their grandfather's house at Bell's (Sharpe's) Pond on Thorne Moors. The two houses at the Pond belonged to the Pit owners and were occupied by the Sharpes and the Bell family. About a quarter of a mile away were the two houses at Whaley Balk occupied by the Verhees family and the Smits. These houses belonged to British Moss Litter Company. Trevor and Barry both worked in the peat industry. Barry drove a Hy-Mac loading peat wagons. Trevor drove locos but eventually became factory foreman at Hatfield Mill.

Early memories of living on the moor. Lots of children around. Going to grandmas every day via tea at pit canteen where she worked.

Mother travelled from Moorends to work in woollen mills in Keighley every day

Father worked in Thorne Pit. Lived for a while in Nissan hut on disused airfield at Sandtoft

Houses at Bell's Pond condemned

Life on the moors – self reliance –clans

Great grandad stern – children were wary of him. His horse bit

Trevor's early working career. Eventually loco driving on the moors – other general work on moors

Description of hand graving & 'piddying' process.

Travelling back from base at Medge Hall across moors by bike. Closure of Medge Hall & move to Hatfield

Move from locos to work in factory, eventually factory foreman for 20 years.

Moors workers are special breed.

Watched peat gravers work when he was young – is interested in the history of peatworking. Has collected photos and information.

Difference in landscape on advent of surface milling