

Interviewer 1 0.00-0.02

"Hmm, it's Mr Hopwood."

John Hopwood 0.03-0.11

"My name is Mr Hopwood. I reside now, still in Higher Blackley, the place where I was born."

Interviewer 0.12-0.13

"Were you born in Crab Lane?"

John Hopwood 0.14-0.20

"No actually, just off Crab Lane, a place called Booth Lane, which is now disappeared."

Interviewer 0.20-0.22

"What was that like?"

John Hopwood 0.22-0.39

"It was just a little dirt road and it was the last house in the village. It was number 10, the number, and it overlooked the fields, and the farms, and nothing else."

Interviewer 1 0.40-0.43

"Which end of the lane was this?"

John Hopwood 0.43-1.37

"What we called as iams, we called it the West End, as we were west-enders, at Crab Lane, and then of course at the other end, they were east-enders, there was always a battle, between the children of West End and the East End and ours happened to be the last house to such an extent that we had oil lamps, and there were the older, original oil lamp, which eventually, was put on one side, and we got an oil lamp with a mantle on it, which was a great improvement, and then of course, along came gas, and we had gas, but unfortunately, when everybody else lit their gas, the power's insufficient, and our gas went out, so we had to go back to the oil lamps, and then of course, we got electricity, which is still there, and we're still using electricity.

Interviewer 1 1.37-1.41

"Which was the West End? Which end was the West End? Is that the Tweedle Hill Road end?"

John Hopwood 1.41-2.20

No, it's at the bottom end, Chapel Lane end, and from the bottom of Crab Lane, there was a street, right down, called West Street, which was then linked up to Booth Lane, which went across the fields, over the crematorium, as it is now, onto the footbridge, it led you out onto Middleton Road, near the Heaton Park Hotel. The other way, it went down, what we called Barleycroft, which is now Riverdale Road, and came onto Blackley New Road. These roads of course were private, and you had to pay a toll, from Middleton Road, to come down Blackley New Road."

Interviewer 2 (female) 2.20-2.22

"How much was the toll?"

John Hopwood 2.22-2.44

"Well for pedestrians, it was free, but for horse drawn vehicles, which there were then, they had to pay a penny to go through, and there used to be a lodge on the corner, and a woman came out, and opened a gate for you, to go through, and it was all dirt roads. Even Victoria Avenue was a dirt road."

Interviewer 1 2.44-2.54

"You said that the eastenders and the westenders were kind of split."

(John Hopwood-"Oh yes".)

"How did they show it so in the fights?"

John Hopwood 2.54-3.05

"Oh yes, we used to have regular battles on the fields, and err, well actually played us at football, and cricket, against one another, in the school."

Interviewer 1 3.07-3.09

Which fields were these that you?

John Hopwood 3.09-4.00-use for blog

"Well, it was known as the, err, Sand Hill, which is now occupied by the, where the new school is now, The New Day School, that used to be a cricket ground for the Zion Methodist Church. Back to, near, the church on top of the hill there, we used to have running battles on there. It was quite interesting, especially being a youngster."

(Interviewer- "What, so the battles...?")

"Oh it was more or less the usual stuff, throwing stones, like that at one another. I don't think anybody really got seriously hurt, but, err, it was always interesting if you were a westender you know, you thought you were the best, and if you were a eastender, of course, you thought you were the best. In the same way that we had the battles with Blackley village itself, because they were known as Blackley Bulldogs, we were Crab Lane muffins."

Interviewer 1 4.00-4.03

"How old were you then?"

John Hopwood 4.03-4.07

"Huh, I was only a youngster, going to school."

Interviewer 1 4.08-4.10

Why the Blackley Bulldogs?

John Hopwood 4.10-4.32

"I don't know, it was a name that was given to them, and err, we were known as Blackley muffins, because Higher Blackley had a advantage of having a muffin maker, named Mrs Ormson, she lived at the top of the brow, and she used to make these oven bottom muffins, they used to come from all over the place to buy these. She was a marvelous woman, so we were muffin makers."

Interviewer 1 4.33-4.37

" But, can you describe the muffins again?"

John Hopwood 4.37-4.57

"It was an oven baked muffin, it was a flat muffin, and it was err, it was really nice to eat, you know, it was really tasty. It was only flat, it wasn't one of these thick ones, that were all doughy, and everything like that. It was a lovely muffin to eat, and it was quite nice, she used to make hundreds of them, I think."

Interviewer 1 4.57-4.59 *

Was this when you were at school?

John Hopwood 4.59-5.01

"Yes, oh yes."

Interviewer 1 5.01-5.04

"What about the battles between the Blackley Bulldogs and the Crab Lane Muffins?"

John Hopwood 5.04-5.38

"Well unfortunately, we had, from Crab Lane School, we had no what we call a manual, and the girls had no cookery classes, so we had to go down to Domett Street in Blackley, from Crab Lane School, and err, whilst we were there, of course they resented us going into that school, and we didn't like going, so of course, it's always caused a bit of a row, and you know what lads are like when they get together, and there was always a bit of trouble between Blackley and Crab Lane. We were an isolated little village."

Interviewer 1 5.39-5.42

"Did you feel a sense of loyalty to Crab Lane?"

John Hopwood 5.42-5.45

"Oh yes, still do as a matter of fact."

Interviewer 1 5.45-5.47

"It was a community...?"

John Hopwood 5.47-6.56

"Yes, oh it was a wonderful place really. Everybody knew one another, and to such an extent, a lot of the people were inter married, and err, if you take the Jackson's for instance there was such a lot of Jackson's in the lane that, that's Mr Jackson, that's Mr Jackson, and to differentiate one from the other, one was Joe Martha, because that was his wife, and the other one was, Fred Susan, so that, I still had a problem, even up till recently that my wife was known as John's Hilda."

(Interviewer 1-"Yes".)

"As John's Hilda, because there was that many John's and Hilda's, and this was known throughout the whole of the village, that with this inter marrying business, that one got mixed up with another one, and if you spoke to Mr Jackson, you said which one, and well, you had to try to sort it out, and they said; "Oh Joe Martha". Well of course you knew then right away."

(Interviewer 1-"Which was Martha's?")

"Martha's Joe"

(Interviewer 1-"Martha's husband?")

"Yeah."

Interviewer 1 6.56-7.03

"Your name is John?"

(John-"Yeah")

"So it'll be John's Hilda, it's good isn't it?"

John Hopwood 7.03-7.04

"Yes"

Interviewer 2 7.05-7.09

"Did the eastenders and the westenders join together against the Blackley?"

John Hopwood 7.09-7.17

"Oh yes, yes, like if it was a battle against Blackley, the whole of Crab Lane joined in, all the kids."

Interviewer 2 (overlaps) 7.15-7.17

"Was there any leaders?" (inaudible sounds)

John Hopwood 7.19-7.26

"Well, I don't like to say this, but, I happened to be amongst them."

Interviewer 1 7.26-7.30

"How was it decided who was the leader?"

John Hopwood 7.30-

"Well, I think this was a matter of either you could run the fastest, or you could fight the best, or, you know, like everything else is decided, as far as youngsters as concerned."

Interviewer 3 (a younger sounding female) 7.42-7.46

"Did you have to have a contest to see if you could get in a gang or anything?"

John Hopwood 7.46-7.58

"No, you happened to be amongst your own few pals, and gradually, that, so that eventually somebody had to be the leader. Whoever took the initiative, of course, was accepted.)

Interviewer 2 8.00-8.07

Did Crab Lane muffins do anything else apart from fight, or?

John Hopwood 8.07-11.17

"Well we used to play all the normal games that I suppose children do today, but, we had a system that doesn't seem to operate today. You had a game, marbles, which of course doesn't appeal to everybody nowadays, but, that was like, it came, in one part of the year it was marbles, and somehow you used to switch, and it would become something else, such as piggy and stick, and then it would switch from that, and go to football, and then it'd be cricket, and all various games, and everybody used to join in this, but they used to come in kind of a rotation. The girls would be playing hopscotch, that'd stop all of a sudden, and all the skipping ropes would come out. That'd stop, and then they'd be bulls and hoops, and things like that, so that, you know, there was quite a lot of things going on, and being in a small village, you'd no swings, no roundabouts, your nearest cinema was at Moston Lane, so that was a long way to go. Your nearest swimming baths were at Moston Lane, again it was a long way to go, so that anything that you did, you made up yourself. You made all your own games up, you had to enjoy yourself in your own way, and of course a lot of it was hide and seek, rally-ho, hmm, knocking at doors and running away, those sort of things. There was one particular house in Crab Lane, where an old man used to live, a man called Mr Bradbury, we used to follow me leader and you were picked, and you knew who was the leader. If you were the leader, you were alright, because you used to go in at his front door, run right through the house, and out of the back door. Well he was a rather elderly man, and he used to sit there with a stick, and you could say 1,2,3,4, he'd just about have enough time to turn around, and catch the fourth one with his stick, so you had to be quick to get through. Those were the sort of games we played, plus pin and button. I don't know if you've played that. Haven't you? It's a very good game. You have a pin, and a long piece of cotton, and you dangle the cotton onto a window frame, and you'd fasten the button onto the bottom part, so that it's just hung down from the window frame like that, and you'd fasten a piece of cotton onto that piece of cotton and go out the other side of the fence, pull the cotton, and the button keeps banging against the window, like that. People in the house, they couldn't find anything, can't see anything, they're wondering what is going on. They can't see you, your down behind the edge, and you've got the bottom of the pin going all the time."

(inaudible noise)

(interviewer 1 - "they're trying.")

(female interviewer- "you should tell em these things".)

(interviewer 1 "it's not very nice)

"Well we had another game called Burgler's Knock, but you had to be careful how you did it. You got a bobbin, a already cotton bobbin, cut all grooves in, so that it was like a cotton wheel, put it on a nail, put some string around it, put it against the window, and pulled your string, and the noise that makes is terrific, it used to rattle the window like that."

Interviewer 1 11.17-11.22

"It was just a bobbin with grooves around it?"

John Hopwood 11.22-11.31

"It was serrated all the way around, like a cogwheel."

(Interviewer 1-"Yes)

"Just wrap some strings around, put a nail through the hole, and pull the string, and the bobbin would fly around against the window."

Interviewer 1 11.31-11.32

"How was the nail held?"

John Hopwood 11.32-11.35

"Just hold it in your hand, with the bobbin swinging around on it."

Interviewer 1 11.35-11.38

"And you just hold this against the windows?"

John Hopwood 11.38-12.50

"Just hold it against the window, and pull the string, and it'd go brrrrrr on the window. Quite amazing. Well we had quite a number of things like that, and then we had foghorns, which was rather dangerous."

(Background voice-"Oh no, don't tell them that".)

"There was a drainpipe, an ordinary drainpipe, against the house, used to get some paper, push it up, up the drainpipe, and light it. Now that is one of the most remarkable things, because as soon as you light it, it starts going up the chimney, as it goes up, the noise it makes is just like a foghorn. You can't possibly stop it, and it's a terrific noise, just like the ship's hooter going "WOOOoo!", so, then, if you want to try that on a old building, it won't set fire to anything because the, of course these drainpipes now are plastic, I don't know how you'd go on, but the old iron.."

(Interviewer-"They'd probably melt now")

(Background voice-"Hmm, yeah")

But the noise they made was terrific, because you couldn't get to the top to pour water down to put it out, but it was a really good noise, so those are the sort of tricks we used to get up to."

Interviewer 1 12.50-12.58

"When was the games, I mean you had a lot of fields around you..."

(John Hopwood-"Oh yes.")

"...Farms and such, did you play any games in the fields, or in the farms?"

John Hopwood 12.58-13.26

"Yes, yes, we used to go. Well they were more or less open to you, mind you some of the farms were a bit nasty and chased you off, especially if the corn was growing, or if the grass was pretty high before cutting, but, I think we used to enjoy ourselves more during hay making periods, we used to go treading the hay in the barns, and come out all sweaty and covered in little bits of straw and all sorts of things."

Interviewer 1 13.26-13.27

"Can you tell us about that?"

John Hopwood 13.27-14.18

"First of all, it was a matter of collecting the hay. You used to go and help them with haymaking, that's raking and everything else. They used to say to you; "If you don't want to get blisters on your hands, catch a frog, rub it in your hands like that, and the slime that comes off it, it'll stop you getting blisters", so that was one of the good things, we did all the raking and turning the hay, and it was collected and put on the carts, with pitchforks, which you had to handle very carefully, and the cart used to go away to the barn. Now it was pitchforked off the cart, into the barn, and there was about four or five kids then, all walking

around, treading this hay down, so that you could get more in, and we used to go treading, oh as often as we could, we'd go from one farm to another, what they called treading in the barns."

Interviewer 2 14.18-14.20

"Did you get paid for this?"

John Hopwood 14.20-14.36

"No, it was just enjoyment, you used to enjoy it. You used to get a glass of milk, or, they used to make like a can of a cider, which they used to bring out to the fields for you to have a drink, but it wasn't, you couldn't get drunk on it. It was that kind of cider, that they used to make themselves."

Interviewer 2 14.37-14.39

"What was your schooling like?"

John Hopwood 14.39-14.49

"Well."

(inaudible background noise)

"Personally, I never liked school, the only thing I liked about school was holidays, now is that fair."

Interviewer 2 14.49-14.51

"How often did you have holidays?"

John Hopwood 14.51-15.16

"Well we used to get the same, I think it was about a month off in the year

(Background voice "A month off in the summer".)

"In the summer, and then you got, a fortnight I think at Christmas. You always got a full week at Whit week, because they always used to do the Whit week walks and go on the Whit week picnics, and every day of whit week, you had something to do. There was always big organised parties."

Interviewer 2-15.16-15.19

"What was your teachers like in school."

John Hopwood 15.19-15.56-shortlist for blog-upto 16.16

"Well, I don't know how you would say really, they're probably the same as what they are today. They were more strict I think, more than what they are today, the cane was in frequent use, or the strap, or a piece of horse reins, something like that. You knew when you got to be good, and you got to be bad. We had a teacher with very bony knuckles, and she used to get one like that, and if you were bent down writing, she used to come around and straighten your back. When writing, your back, you had to sit up and write like that."

Interviewer 2 15.57-15.58

"What were the classrooms like?"

John Hopwood 15.58-16.16

"Well it was one big classroom, and there was no division between it, there was a set of forms, that was one class. There was another set of forms, that was another class. and you could hear that, and if you weren't interested in your own teacher, you could listen to what the other teacher was telling somebody else, which was fatal if you didn't because you didn't know what was going on."

Interviewer (not sure which one) 16.16-16.19

"How old was the school? Was it very old?"

John Hopwood 16.19-16.38

"It was a very old school. I don't know the date it was built, but it was in a L shape, and this was because the chap that had this school built, was a chap called Langford, and he wanted something to remind, be reminded by, so the school was built in an L shape".

Interviewer 2 16.40-16.43

"Did the teachers wear uniforms?"

John Hopwood 16.43-17.06

"No, no. We had one chap, a, a teacher called Mr Pollitt. The uniform that he had was a pair of brown shoes, and they were beautiful, always beautifully polished, so we used to invite him into the schoolyard to play football, and we all wore clogs, so you can imagine how his brown shoes used to finish up."

Interviewer 2 17.08-17.10

"What kind of games did you play?"

John Hopwood 17.10-17.23

"Used to play football more or less, whip and top. I don't know if you ever played whip and top."

(Background voice "Err, no")

"Oh we had quite a lot of different tops, you got boxer top, and a flying top, you'd all sorts of tops."

Interviewer (possible interviewer 2, or maybe even john's sister) 17.23-17.26

"Did you have chalk, or you know to make patterns on the floor?"

John Hopwood 17.26-18.23

"Yeah, oh yeah. Oh yes, everything was really, really good. We used to play buttons in school, that was a, you had a certain, you used to throw the buttons, and get them. If you got one in the center of the circle, then all the others that were round it, you know, had to get, this business with your thumb, and pick their buttons up and get them in the circle before they dropped off your thumb, and of course, if you got all the buttons that were in the circle, and you won them all, that was it, you'd won the game. You used to run out of buttons, but there was always a lot of buttons available. You know the school caps, you know the school caps that boys wear. Well in the top, there's a little button isn't there, and if you got a little sharp knife, you can get all the buttons you wanted and everybody walked about with a little piece of rag stuck on top of their head, where the button used to be,

Interviewer 2 18.23-18.24

"Did you wear uniforms?"

John Hopwood 18.24-18.52

"No, oh eventually, and this is, when my boy and girl went to school, they had a uniform for crab, and it was a. I think it was a green jacket."

(Background voice, "Oh yeah, yeah. Green and gold it was".)

"Oh yeah, green and gold, with a pocket, (inaudible), and a crab on the pocket, to show they came from Crab Lane."

New person, likely to be John's sister based on conversations later in the interview 18.52-18.55

"That was from the new school?"

John Hopwood 18.55-18.56

"Yeah."

Interviewer 1 18.56-19.04

"When you said that one of the teachers had one of these polished brown shoes, and you had clogs, how did you feel about that?"

John Hopwood 19.04-20.10

"Well we didn't bother, because you used to get a pair of new shoes, and you got those for Whit week, and those are your Sunday best, you used to wear them on Sunday's. I mean, nowadays, they don't bother, but at one time, you had a Sunday suit and that stayed for Sunday's only, until became to such an extent, you got to start wearing that for days, then you got another new Sunday suit, but, the same was with your, you used to wear boots, and when these boots got a bit bumped up, you used to take them to have them clogged. We had a little clogger, a chap called Mr Taylor, and he used to put a clog on the bottom of your boots, so you, he clogs your boots, those were known as cloggers because if you got a kick off those, you

know you've got one, and we used to have clog irons on, heels and irons, wooden soles, very comfortable and very warm, and you could also run down the street, striking the side of your foot on a pavement, and making sparks. It used to be interesting to see how many sparks you could make,

Interviewer 2 20.11-20.13

"Where was the clogger?"

John Hopwood 20.13-20.16

"He lived in West Street."

Interviewer 2 20.16-20.18

"Where's that, on the West end?"

John Hopwood 20.18-20.57

"That's gone now, that part of Riverdale road. If you walk down from Crab Lane, and down Riverdale Road, the first turn is the gates leading into the crematorium, where the first bungalow is, on the right hand side, that was our house, where I lived. That's built on the house where I lived, and where the crematorium is now, was the farm, that was the, err, Booth Farm, and why it was known as Booth Lane, and it was quite a big farm."

Interviewer 21.00-21.02

"Where did your parents come from?"

John Hopwood 21.02-22.45

"Well rather strangely enough, both my parents were born or lived in Salford, and err, they came up to live in higher Blackley, or Crab Lane as we knew it then, round about 1908, and, err, of course, you got to live in Crab Lane a long time before you were accepted. You were a foreigner unless you were actually born in Crab Lane, so my parents were really foreigners in Crab Lane. I wasn't because I was born there, and this is the sort of the thing that went on throughout the whole of the place, but both my parents came from Salford. My mother used to be an embroideress, that is. I don't know if you ever seen the fantastic badges that these officers in the navy wear, made up of all tiny little wires, all sewn together, to make these badges, that were really beautiful, and this is the sort of work that she used to do, but my father was an engineer. He was an horizontal borer, and he worked for the firm, what was known as Westing House, it then became Metropolitan Vicars, which is now G.C.E, and he worked there forty years, on nights. He worked nights all the time. I didn't see very much of him, because I was going to school, when he was coming home, and then when I came home from school, he was getting ready to go to work, so I didn't see very much of him.

Interviewer 2 22.42-22.45

"What is an horizontal borer?"

John Hopwood 22.45-23.33

"Well I don't know if you know what a turbine is. These are the great big turbines, that they put in the ships and so on, and they're so large that they, they used to work inside them, and they were turning all the time, on the, in the works. They were moving around, in the, you know, completely moving around, and his job, he used to stand inside. Well, he'll be walking, all day long and not getting anywhere. It was just like a great big barrel turning, and as it turned around, he just walked forward, all the time, it was just like, you can understand what I'm saying? And he was watching this boring being done, by the various cutters, who were cutting into the metal, and shaping it out."

(Interviewer 1-"They were on the outside?)

"Hmm, and on the inside, they were doing both sides at once."

Interviewer 2 23.33-23.35

"Was the wages much?"

John Hopwood 23.35-23.46

"No, very very little, very small, roughly about £2.10 I should think, for a full week of nights."

Interviewer 23.46-23.47

"Was the work dangerous?"

John Hopwood 23.47-23.51

"Well everything is dangerous, where metal is being cut."

Interviewer 23.51-23.53

"What were the hours?"

John Hopwood 23.53-24.01

"Well, he used to, err, I should say somewhere about fifty hours a week, he was working."

Interviewer 1 24.03-24.07 *

"What brought him to Crab Lane?"

John Hopwood 24.07-24.35

"Now this, I've never been able to fathom meself, I don't know, probably that Dad used to love the country, whenever he could get to it, and I think that he used to come to Heaton Park and I think this is what decided him to come and try and live over here, rather than live down in Salford, after working in Trafford Park, as you know what an area that was. and I suppose he wanted some sort of freedom, and he could see it in the countryside.

Interviewer 1 24.35-24.38

"So what year was it that he came up here?"

John Hopwood 24.39-24.41

"About 1908."

Interviewer 1 24.43-24.48

"Did he continue to work? Did he, in the engineering works?"

(John Hopwood-"Yes, oh yes.")

"And did he go down daily to Salford?"

John Hopwood 24.48-26.29

" That's right,, yeah. It was a long way to go, because there was no. He actually used to walk from Crab Lane, down what we called Barleycroft, over Bowker Bank, to Crumpsall Station and get a train into Manchester, and then he used to walk from Manchester, to Trafford Park. I was once going back to the villages of, I was once explaining to somebody about Old Crab Lane, a chap that had come up and he wanted to know, did I know a fellow called Arthur Chadwick, and I was explaining to him about Crab Lane and some of the facets about it, and there was a chap, who came into the school, while I was talking, and he stood there listening. Now this man's name was George Wilde, and I should think he was getting on towards ninety, and he said to me, after I'd finished speaking " Thou thinkst they know something doesn't there lad? " So I said, "Well, no, not really". He said, "Well let me tell thee sommat, my mother were a cotton thievr... (trails off) a cotton winder." He said we lived in those houses opposite as you know, I said "yes." He said "well, when she finished doing the cotton, I used to take the samples down to Manchester, and do you know where the last style were (*hard to make out), when I got over", so I said no, he says "Shudehill, corner of Swan Street." He said it was all fields till there, he says "now then, someone's got something to swank about."

Interviewer 1-26.31-26.38

"So he was describing his wife or his mother? And she was making cotton goods?"

John Hopwood 26.38-26.43

"Yeah, no she used to, err, wind the cotton, onto bobbins."

Interviewer 1 26.43-26.49

"And then he would take the bobbins.."

(John Hopwood-"Down into Manchester...")

"And into the mill?"

(John Hopwood-"Huh, huh.")

Interviewer 1-26.49-27.01

"Can you tell us something about the history of Crab Lane, as much as you know yourself, about why it's called Crab Lane, or anything people used to do in the old days?"

John Hopwood 27.01-28.42

"Well I don't know any reason why it's called Crab Lane, no idea at all, but the majority of them were weaver's cottages. You see, around here, there were dye works, bleach works, there's still two bleach works, there's Heaton Mills that do bleaching and cotton, even now, but there was Whittaker and Harwood's which was a dye works, that was off Barleycroft. I don't know how it come to get that name, but we always knew it as Barleycroft, I didn't know it as anything else. It actually, it was like a continuation of West Street, and you used to hear them all going down to work there in the mornings. You'd hear all the clogs going past, you'd hear the hooters going, you know for half past seven, eight o'clock, and the majority of people, that I knew, worked either in one of the mills or the dye works round here, but as far as the cotton spinning, that wasn't going on in the homes, as you know, when I was a youngster, that had ceased to be then"

(Interviewer 1-"But they were still weaving, weaving in the factories?")

"Oh yes, yes, yes. It's rather an amazing thing that, that if you, can get hold of these books that are a speaking of, written by the literary society, you'll find that the education system that is now in being, was started in the Sunday schools, by voluntary teachers. You'll find this all in the books."

(Interviewer 1-"We must get those books later on")

Interviewer (3? perhaps) 28.44-28.48

"How old was you when you left school, and what did you do?"

John Hopwood 28.48-30.10

"Well I was fourteen years of age and you had to finish at fourteen, you couldn't go on after that, and it didn't matter which class you'd got to. When you was fourteen, you finished. I went from what they called it, babies, now they call it infants. We call it the babies, and there was Class A, Class B, and there one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, and X7. Now depending on your ability in schools, in those days, was if you were good at a subject, you were moved into that class, so that it wasn't on your age, in actual fact. I was good at drawing, so I went into X7 for drawing, that was the super class, but as far as maths, I think I should have gone back to the babies. (Laughter) See what I mean. If you were good, you were moved into that class that was good at a subject, but if you were bad in a subject, you were moved down to one, so you were moved backwards and forwards and it depended, but you finished at fourteen years of age. That was it, you had it. You got a school leaving certificate, I've still got mine, by the way, very tattered and when you was out in the open world, it was up to you to go and get a job."

Interviewer 3 30.11-30.14

"What did you work as?"

John Hopwood 30.14-31.38

"Well, I didn't know what I wanted to do, and I think that applies today with a lot of children. They don't know what to do, but we didn't have careers officers, or anything like that, you'd nobody to advise you. You had your own parents of course, and a lot of boys, and a lot of girls followed in their own parents ways, like if your father was probably a, a joiner, you probably went to joinery. A lot of them followed in their father's ways, but I didn't fancy engineering though, which my father used to do, and I went down into town, and I got work with a printer. I was running errands for a start, and then I graduated from one job to another. I did dusting and I did a bit of printing, I did a bit of rollering, I did all sorts of things, and from a printer, I got a job with the boot binders, so I went all the way through boot binding process, and then I had a bash at joinery, but jobs, you could walk from one job into another. There was loads and loads of jobs, but mind you, you only got seven bob a week, that was it, seven shillings and that was it, and you were lucky if you got that, then I went into a warehouse, and I was on fabulous money. I was nearly sixteen, and I got ten shillings a week."

Interviewer 1 31.38-31.42

"When was that?"

John Hopwood 31.42-31.54

"That would be, ooh, I'm trying to think, dates, you know, all these years that have gone past."

Interviewer 1 31.54-31.56

"You were about 16."

John Hopwood 31.56-32.09

"Yeah, and I'm 76 now."

(Background voice-"You're not, you're not.")

"66, 66 now."

(Interviewer 1-"So were born in 1911, this would be about...")

"I was born in 1910 actually, my birthday's late on the year."

Interviewer 1 32.09-32.11

"So this would be about 1926?"

John Hopwood 32.11-32.55

"Yes, yes, and of course, there came a big slump then, 1926, and everybody was out of work, that was one of the terrible things. It's one rather, something that I'd rather not look back on and yet I view at something that was very testing, that since I was born, I've seen two World Wars, and the biggest strike in history, that was the general strike, where everybody stopped work, there was nobody working. That's in 1926, right up to the 1930's, that prevailed."

Interviewer 1 32.55-32.57

"Were you involved in the general strike yourself?"

John Hopwood 32.57-33.37

"No, I just, well, fortunately, I worked at, as I say, at a warehouse, at that particular time, and well, you either walked to town, because there was no buses running, well there was no buses, there was trams, there was no trams running and occasionally you'd get a lift down with a horse and cart or something like that, but for the majority of the time, you had to walk, but everywhere you went, there was people queuing, trying to get something to eat, because it was shocking, nothing was being made, everything was being home made, it was a very, very, very bad period."

Interviewer 2 33.37-33.40

"Were you ever evacuated?"

John Hopwood 33.40-34.02

"Oh no. In the first World War, I didn't see very much of it, except for the soldiers based at Heaton Park,

but they came training on the fields all around here. That was 1914-1918. In the Second World War, I was involved in it, so."

Interviewer 1 34.03-34.12-use for blog

"Can you tell us something about the poverty of the 1930's, the great slump period?"

John Hopwood 34.12-35.32-

"Well the main thing I remember about that was of course not being able to afford to buy anything. The corner shops, one of them was actually very very fortunate. The one that was at the corner of Crab Lane and West Street was run by my own auntie. My auntie and uncle owned that shop, and it was a grocery shop, and general, general stores, so that in one respect, I think we were more fortunate than anyone else, that your own relatives would let you have a little bit more than they did other people, but to see people with, what you would now put on one slice of bread, that was as much as they could get to eat for the full week, and they'd no money to pay for it, so that they were running bills up, and now, this was the, the most unfortunate part that people were getting stuff, they couldn't pay for it cos they'd got no money, and when they did start work again, they owed that much money that they couldn't really, you know, start up again. Everything was really threadbare. (Inaudible word) people were walking around with more rags than I've ever seen in my life. It was really shocking, and you just lived on the bare essentials, this is when everybody went to work on the land sort of thing, digging, and you know growing their own stuff."

Interviewer 1 35.33-35.35

"Did your parents do this?"

John Hopwood 35.35-36.00

"Oh yes, well we always had our own vegetable garden as it happened, there was always plenty of land around, and we, we also kept our own hens, so that we had eggs. We had rabbits, we had all sorts of things, then of course the farms were always available. I worked on a mill round for the farmer. I used to milk cows, and then I'd take the milk out."

Interviewer 1 36.01-36.03

"This was, when was this?"

John Hopwood 36.03-36.51

"When I was at school."

(Interviewer 1-"At School?")

"Hmm, I used to go to the farm first thing in the morning, I had five cows that I used to milk, then I used to go round with the, the milk cart and the horse, harness the horse up, get the cart, and go out with the milk, but it's not like it is now, there were no bottles, people used to leave a jug on the doorstep, they used to fill a can with a Gil measure or a pint measure, out of a big drum of milk on your cart, put it in his can, and take it and pour it into the jug. It was all hard work, and from there I used to hand over to the farmer's son who lived in Blackley and I used to go up to school, and I used to go back to the farm again at night."

Interviewer 1 36.51-36.53

"How much did you earn?"

John Hopwood 36.53-37.47

"Well a lot of this was, he used to give me all sorts of things you know, he gave me the first pup I had as a dog, and he used to give me various sorts of meals, you know. I always got plenty to eat there, and it used to work out about half a crown a week, which was a lot of money, don't forget that. It was a lot of money then, because I could go, at that period where I got half a crown, I could go to, from here, walk to Harpurhey, that's Moston Lane, go in the cinema, go in the swimming baths, buy a big loaf, with a cob of (hard to hear properly) dripping on it for under sixpence. That wasn't bad was it?"

Interviewer 2 (or 3?) 37.48-37.54

"What was your house like, how was it furnished?"

John Hopwood 37.54-43.24-use for blog

"Well, it was, like I told you, it was the end house, and it was two up and two down. It was two bedrooms, and a kitchen, and a, what you'd call a dining room, and there was Dad, and mother, and two sisters, and myself. So we had the back bedroom divided off and made into two bedrooms, but you had to go through from one, into the other one, so that sufficed for my two sisters, and me, and my parents had the other bedroom, but the house itself, they were pretty fairly, solidly built in those days, and furniture, well I suppose you would call them antiques now. You had a chiffonier, or a sideboard, you had a What Not. I mention this to people, they say "what's a what not?" Well it was a thing that stood in a corner and it was shaped in a triangle. Three, three long legs and it was stood about this high, and it had little shelves on it, all the way down. They said "what's it for?" Well you put your what not's on it. Somebody, you know, picked that up and said "what's this?" Oh it's a what not, so alright stick it on the What Not stand, so that was a, so that was the one little bit of furniture that we had and of course you had, there was no wireless, no television or anything like that, no wireless. You had a gramophone for the majority. Nearly all houses had a piano. We had one and we used to loan ours out around the village. People if they were having a party, came around saying "can we borrow your piano?" So out it went a hand cart and wheeled it to somebody else's house, but it was rather awkward, because the majority of the things around there had to be carried because of the dirt roads. The rain used to mix some terrific ruts in the roads and then the carts going up and down the hill had the two ruts where the cart wheels used to go, and the horse used to walk in the middle, and once you got wheels and cart in those ruts, you couldn't get out, you had to follow those ruts, like you would in tram lines, you had to follow them, so that if you were carrying anything, or it was east to carry than trying to wheel it. Even funerals, if someone was being buried from down the bottom end near Booth Lane, it was easier to carry the coffin all the way up to the church. If you lived on Crab Lane, you could get a hearse on Crab Lane, because it was a, a stone road, it wasn't tarmacked. It was like little cobbles, but they're worn in and of course they used to have the horse, black horses, and the, the big glass hearse, and they could use those, but if it happened to be down in Booth Lane and West Street, then you couldn't get anything done. You had to carry everything."

"They were all carried by hand, and the house itself, you had outside toilets, but there not toilets like they are today. This may give you something to think about, that when I first, the first thing I remember is we had what they call a cesspit, now this was a, a series of four toilets, all joined together, all like four little houses, just doors in, and these were used by the, err, the ten houses. There's five in West Street, and five in Booth Lane, and those ten houses used those toilets, but it all went into a great big hole, what they call a cesspit, and the corporation used to come around about once a month and clear this. The methods of clearing were rather gruesome, what I wouldn't like to go into, then of course you've got your own toilets, but these were based on a similar system, and instead of a big cesspit, they had tins great big tins, like a

dust, a short dustbin about that high and these were pushed into the toilet from the outside, which had a little door on, at the back of the toilet, and everything went into this tin and they used to come round and collect these tins once a week. As a matter of fact, there's a song we used to sing about it, hmm. I don't think you'd be really interested in knowing because it was the lad's song, but they used to come around and collect these tins, and then they had a great big truck, never forget it. There was always a great big shire horse was necessary, the biggest horses you could think of those, to pull it because of the weight. It was lead lined, to stop, so that anything that was put in it was staying. It was like waterproofed, it kept it, sort of water tight. They used to come around to empty them, and those were in being until such as, I don't think there's any left in Crab Lane now, but, err, those were in being until our houses were pulled down, demolished."

Interviewer 1 43.24-43.26

"When was that?"

John Hopwood 43.26-43.56

"When was it Mum moved?"

(Background voice-sister? "Oooh I don't know, it was years and years ago, it was probably when they started building the crematorium.")

"Hmm."

(Sister again-"When they pulled our house down, I don't know when they built the crematorium, what date.")

"It'll be about twenty years ago, won't it?"

(Sister-"Ooh I don't think it's been up twenty")

"Be getting on that

(Sister-"Could be, someone knowing the crematorium would help."-**particularly hard to hear this part, but this is my best understanding of it**)

"But those toilets were still in use right up till then."

Inaudible comment by Interviewer 1

Interviewer 43.59-44.01

"Did you rent or buy your house?"

John Hopwood 44.01-44.02

"They were rented."

Interviewer 44.02-44.03

"How much did you pay?"

John Hopwood 44.03-44.47

"Well, I, my first recollection was an old lady coming around, to collect the rents, a Miss Briggs, who always referred to everything as being genteel. I don't know why, but that word always stuck with me, that was one of her favourite words, it was genteel. I don't know what she was meaning, but I, even if she had a snack, or a bit of tea with us, everything was so genteel, and she collected the rents from all the houses around that area, and ours was I think one and six a week at first, then it went to three and six. You know, in various stages and the last I remember, I think it was six shilling."

(Sister-"Eight.")

"Was it eight shilling?"

(Sister-"It was eight, eight shilling")

"Eight shilling was the highest rent it ever got to."

Interviewer 44.49-44.52

"What type of flooring did you have?"

John Hopwood 44.53-45.58

"Oh wooden floors."

(Sister-"Stone.")

"No we had wood, in the back place, we had difficulty because it got dry rot, so we had it concreted over, that was, that was the back place, that made of concrete, but you always had a backyard and your backyards and your front door steps, were, or anything where, where they happened to be some brass. If you had a brass knocker on the door, or a brass handle, that had to be polished and your front door step was donkey stoned and your yard was stoned either white or brown or, but this was something that the, the women, I think, of those days, if you had a good clean door step, and a clean apron and your brass were clean, your house was alright."

(Inaudible comment from John's sister)

"Yeah, but you were judged by the, the, your doorstep, your door knocker, and your curtains.

(Inaudible background comment)

"Oh yes you were judged on these sort of things."

Interviewer 1 45.58-46.17

"What did people used to do in their home in those days? You said there was no television, there was no radio."

(John Hopwood-"No.")

"You had a gramophone."

(John Hopwood-"Yeah.")

"You had a piano which you used, and shifted around there, the village. What other things did you do, when the family was together at night, when you were a boy?"

John Hopwood 46.17-49.17

"Well, we had, I think the biggest thing was the get-togethers of families. There was more of a family life. Instead of going out, you'd play out as youngsters but then you came in, when you did come in, like I say,

with having nothing like what you've got today, everything provided for you, it was sing round the piano, or the gramophone on, and well this was all you had, you'd nothing else really to do, except you used to play games in the house, you used to have our own little games that we used to play, err, one or two of you had to get a game of ludo, or even those dominos, the, all those sort of things were there, but you used to play charades and things like that, you know, if you've got a company together, it was a matter doing whatever you could possibly do to fill the time in, you were asking me earlier about how did Crab Lane get it's name, well this, I'm not quite sure how true it is, but it's the truest record that I can remember. From here, there's a little narrow passage called Bruno Street, which comes onto Crab Lane, and facing Bruno Street is a, a cottage, called Birch Cottage. Originally there were two houses built in front of it, so that Birch Cottage was kind of isolated behind it, nobody could see it, and in, in the garden, behind Birch Cottage, which is quite a big garden, there is, what it was known, as far as I know, the original crab apple tree and I think it's still there and from what I can gather, that is how Crab Lane got it's name, from the crab apple tree. When you were asking about my parents, you might find this interesting, I don't know, but my grandparents lived in Peru Street in Salford. That's near St Phillip's Church and my great great grandmother was to me, she, she was always like a witch, very very old, and she always wore a black shawl, and she had very bony fingers and she used to open her purse when I went, and she used to give me a haypenny, and say "now, look after that", and her name was Crompton, and I don't know if you ever heard of Samuel Crompton. Well this was his wife, so that my great great grandmother was Mrs Crompton, was Sam Crompton's wife, and when he died, she went living in Peru Street, so I have got relatives that go way back."