



Project: Ploughing Up Our Past
 Respondent: **Gregor Caldwell**
 Year of Birth: 1960
 Age: 61
 Connection to the project: Local knowledge
 Date of Interview: 21/6/2021
 Interviewer: Ian McGhee
 Recording Agreement: Yes
 Information & Consent Yes
 Photographic Images: No
 Length of Interview: 28.46
 Location of Interview: Mauchline, Ayrshire
 Recording Equipment: Zoom H4N – built-in mics



Gregor Caldwell

Summary Time (from/to Mins.secs)	Summary Transcript	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
0.25 – 0.44	Respondent tells story of his birth in a snowstorm.	
1.15 – 2.12	Describes family farm and when it changed from dairy to beef.	
2.46– 5.28	Description of schooling and how he got to school; interaction with other children.	
5.30 – 6.35	Respondent’s father retired from farming but farm still in wider family.	
6.52 – 7.09	Spread of opencast in New Cumnock area.	
7.16 – 7.37	Employment of a boy who had a bothy; sole employee and only for a short time.	
7.40 – 10.55	Differences between dairy and beef farming, changes in technology and implications for farmers and their families.	
	<i>When I was a young kid every neighbouring farm had a dairy, so that’s ... from where we were you could see 12 13 14 dairies. Whereas now in the whole of the parish of New Cumnock there’s only three dairy farms so they’ve got much much bigger, so each of them’s farming what would be two or maybe three farms when I was young.</i>	10.29 - 11.00

11.08 – 12.13	Amalgamation of farms in the area.	
12.15 – 13.50	How farming has become more capital but less labour intensive and how this has made it a more pressurised business.	
13.55 – 16.27	Description of the social networks of farming communities including the organisations used and how these are now in decline.	
17.08 – 17.45	Role of the Kirk in the farming community.	
17.50 – 18.30	List of the extensive number of places where the respondent worked.	
18.35 – 18.55	Respondent's views on the current state of farming in the area.	
19.00 – 20.43	Respondent mentions diversification; some but not much in New Cumnock area. Most prevalent way is that all farmer's wives now have jobs. This was not the case when he was a boy.	
	<i>Every farmer's wife has a job now. In my mum and dad's day none of the farmers' wives worked; they worked, they milked cows, worked their fingers to the bone, but they never had paid employment as such.</i>	20.29 – 20.52
21.01 – 23.04	Change in the relationship of farmers to banks and how it has become much more impersonal.	
23.10 – 23.43	Respondent has slide collection, some of which, if digitised, might help the project.	
23.50 – 25.40	Respondent recalls the coexistence of farmers and miners and how the latter would provide casual labour at hay-time for cash-in-hand or in return for access to rough shooting.	
	<i>The big thing in that wee corner of the world where I come from is the landscape has just changed dramatically because of open cast coal mining. Like I say, from where I was born, if you look around there are 16 farms that aren't there anymore.</i>	26.49 – 27.05
26.35 – 28.45	Respondent describes land changes due to opencast working and how some land has been restored to prime productive state while other land will, at best, revert to rough grazing.	
29.00	Interview ends with thanks.	



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