**Oral History Interview Synopsis** 

Interviewee: Margaret Newnham DOB Aug 1929

Interviewer Sonya Teale Interview Date: 22 Aug 2005

Synopsis written by: B Tomkinson Date: June 2023

## Synopsis:

00:20 Introduction. 26b Uplands Rd Rowlands Castle

00:20 Edith Margaret Jenkins. Born in Bedhampton and moved to Rowlands Castle aged 2. Her father worked in the Brickworks, on the kilns. Hard and hot work. As a child took "Tizer" bottles of tea to her father at work for his break. Worked there several years.

- 01:40 Lived in East Durrants and went to St John's School with her sister.
- 01:50 On leaving school worked in the local draper's shop "the wool shop" which belonged to Mrs Pugwell and her husband. She worked there for several years. Mrs Pugwell retired and Mrs Short(?) bought the shop and Margaret continued to work there for a long time.
- 02:26 Had lots of customers in the village. Took samples out to customers for approval on her bike.

Had lots of farm people as customers. There was Miss Brown who lived at the end of Wellsworth Lane who was a customer. It was an old fashioned farm which is now a thatched cottage.

- 03:18 There were three sisters lived up there, they bought all their Christmas presents in the shop. If the item they wanted wasn't available, Mrs Short(?) would order it for them.
- 04:10 Years and years ago when she was a little girl, where the post office is now was a hut, a sweet shop, Mr Burt's. Her father bought sweets for them on a Friday night after being paid, causing great excitement. They were good, old-fashioned sweets. It is now local Post office.
- 05:00 Where the Doctor's surgery is now belonged to Mr Royal, a cowshed with 3 or 4 cows.
- 05:45 Beside Mrs Short's shop where Robin Hall's garage is now was a field with pigs in it, which belonged to Mr Royal. The children used to feed the pigs.
- 06:25 Margaret's husband worked for Mr Hall as a mechanic and this was how they met. They were courting for about 3 years and eventually got married in St John's church. After getting married they lived in Woodberry Lane in the old telephone exchange (now care home) which was let out as rooms. Only had one room, a great big room. Put names down for council flat and got her present place where she has been for 50 odd years. Thinks it is a lovely place to live and lucky to live here.
- 08:38 The shop used to be between Hall's garage and the Doctor's surgery. Sold almost everything.except gents clothing. Ladies wear, babies clothing and household goods eg blankets sheets etc (flannelette sheets because there was no central heating then). Sometimes ordered things for customers. Did not sell hats or shoes.
- 10:30 She liked doing window dressing in the shop using ladies and children's models. They had two windows that were dressed, one one week and the other the next.
- 11:55 Very busy at Christmas time, customers queued up. Talks about work in shop at Christmas time.

- 13:25 Continued in shop for a while after marrying then worked in shop in Havant called Bakers. Worked in baby department for years. Came back to shop in Rowlands for a while then left to look after husband who was ill. Lost him 20 years ago.
- 14:35 Shop customers. Chauffeur brought Lady from Aldsworth Manor to the shop every Friday. Several people from Bowes Hill. Mrs Trevis, Mrs Newley. The Major didn't come in but he was a governor at the school.
- 16:10 Wartime experiences. Dad called up to the Army. She had a sister and a brother and her mother had to cope. Family had evacuee from London called frank. Everyone had to take an evacuee. Frank was a nice lad. On call-up her father was in the Royal Artillery and went to Dunkirk and was evacuated in a little fisherman's boat. Coincidentally, another soldier on the boat was from Waterlooville. The family didn't hear from him for a month and mother was going frantic. Eventually returned in ragged trousers safe and sound very worrying time. Came home with a haversack full of tins of corned beef, very welcome as food rationing was in place. On his return he became a batman at Bramley, beyond Basingstoke. Family went to live there for a while.
- 21;20 Memories of D-Day. Americans. Tanks on side of road and in woods. Soldiers asked children to go and buy cigarettes for them. Tanks everywhere. One morning they were all gone. Cookhouse in woods brickwork still up there.
- 23:20 King's visit. Inspected troops along side of road. Schoolchildren given time off to see it.
- 24:10 Describes yearly school outing to Lady FitzWygram's at Leigh Park. Also talks about regular school visit to Lady Vernon-Roe's for tea.
- 25:50 Talks about May Day celebration and maypole dancing. Miss Winifred Stubbington drove maypole from shops to recreation ground. Fairground rides.
- 29:18 Worked for luncheon club once a week when husband died, continued for 15 years. Worked in kitchen known as "custard lady" Now a customer rather than volunteer. Talks about luncheon club. Ran by Mrs Van Tue(?).
- 32:27 End