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| **Project: ‘Glasgow’s Highstreets: An oral history…’**  Respondent: Jan Robertson  Year of Birth: 1952  Age:  Connection to project: Respondent  Date of Interview: The 28th of June 2023 Interviewer: Sher Allan  Recording Agreement: Yes  Information & Consent: Yes  Photographic Images: Yes (Number of: )  Length of Interview: 37 minutes and 57 seconds  Location of Interview: Sher’s home in Glasgow.  Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics) | | **Glasgow Story Collective** | |
| Time  (from: mins/secs) | Description | | Transcribed Extract  (from- to:  mins/secs) |
| 0.46 | Interviewer asks the respondent during which era she first remembers Glasgow’s Highstreets. | |  |
| 0.53 | Born in Cathcart. Went to local shops mainly. Neighbour took her into the town centre when she was about five and this was a big thing. Has no exact memories of that. | |  |
|  | “Age four. It’s coming back now. We would go to Lewis’s for Christmas. And you waited in a queue up the back stairs in Lewis’s on Argyle Street to see Santa. I remember it was a long, long wait and long, long queues. It was so exciting; you would go up and see Santa. Beforehand…Even then it’s kind of all laid out that you’d go up to see Santa. It was also the toy department on the top. And I can remember they had walkie talkie dolls…” | | 1.38-2.39 |
| 2.40 | Mum worked in a local fruit shop in Cathcart. On Holmlea Road, corner of Garry Street. Fascinated by the potato scuttle. String bags and plastic carry bags. | |  |
| 3.30 | Went to Victoria Road as a child. To Pearson’s and the park. | |  |
|  | “I remember Victoria Road. Because we’d go Saturday mornings, if we could if we had money, to go on the horses that went round. There was a tiny wee circuit at the gates.” | | 3.40-3.49 |
| 3.55 | Worked in Gloria’s Record bar on Battlefield Road. | |  |
| 4.19 | Worked in a chemist shop in Sinclair drive. Went back 50 years later to find a sign she had written still there. Mentions Victorian prescriptions still there. Was a homeopathic chemist. Mr A C G Florence. | |  |
| 7.23 | Gloria’s record bar really well known all over Glasgow. | |  |
| 9.20 | Started in Hades and then went to 23rd Precinct. Smell of joss sticks in Hades. Went to The Iron Horse with staff at 23rd Precinct. Got free tickets to see bands. The Rolling Stones, Alex Harvey etc. | |  |
| 13.30 | Talks about the sales statistics from the record shops being used to help determine chart positions. | |  |
| 14.24 | Couple bought an Alexander Brother’s record on at wrong speed. | |  |
| 15.24 | 23rd precinct became a different kind of music shop. Imports and club hits. | |  |
| 16.01 | MacCormack’s record shop. Tune played to English manager. | |  |
| 18.09 | Talks about Fran and Anna coming into Cuthbertson’s. | |  |
| 18.36 | Mentions working in the Pavilion Theatre and Fran and Anna coming in. Staff being taken to the bowling by The Krankies. | |  |
| 19.12 | States that it was really busy in Glasgow City Centre. | |  |
| 19.28 | Mentions first interview that she had along with her friend who went to a Catholic school. Mentions preferences of employers. | |  |
| 20.15 | Doesn’t remember any trouble going out or dirty streets. Streets dirtier than they were then but buildings cleaned up. | |  |
| 21.30 | Mentions that Sauchiehall Street was very busy as was Biggar’s Record Shop. Cinemas. Mentions the Outback nightclub and DJs coming in to buy records in the record shops. | |  |
| 23.05 | Interviewer asks the respondent if there was a dress code in the record shop. | |  |
| 23.13 | There was no dress code apart from women to wear skirts. | |  |
| 24.14 | Interviewer asks the respondent if she worked in other shops after the record shop. | |  |
| 24.19 | Worked in record shops mid 1970s. Has had over 50 jobs. Some weekend, some voluntary. You learn something everywhere you go. | |  |
|  | “In Glasgow I just see a terrible, terrible change. No individual stores. I miss all the…the shops had canopies outside. Displays… Beautiful displays in shops. That’s all gone. It’s kind of chain stores now or…The same way, probably, as to where I live in East Kilbride. It’s going to retail parks. The city centre…I don’t know. I think we could probably end up being…Having apartments in Marks and Spencer’s and banks. Buildings are going to…If they’re not being lived in, worked in they’ll start really going downhill. Especially, our buildings are so old. Grime and slime and…” | | 25.50-26.55 |
| 27.33 | Mentions that she worked in the Pavilion from 1998 into the 200s. Mentions the manager of the time. Brought Pavilion back from the brink. Didn’t like big headed people. | |  |
| 29.15 | Talks about how the Mrs Brown’s Boys show started in The Pavilion. | |  |
|  | “One summer we were working. So, summer’s really quiet. And I went in-Oh, there’s something really strange about this auditorium. It’s awful bright. And I looked up and you could see the blue skies. So, the Pavilion was built, what was it? 1904, 1910. Beginning of the twentieth century. So, the men would smoke a lot. Their pipes and their cigars and their cigarettes. So this was… There was a mechanism on the top of The Pavilion. So, it’s on a, kind of, handle, roller. So it’s just wound. You wind. Oh, it’s probably more technical than that. And the whole roof slides back. So that’s what had happened that day. It was so hot in the summer. And they’d pulled it. It was the strangest, strangest thing to see the blue sky. Down on the stage. It was wonderful.” | | 29.43-30.33 |
| 30.33 | Talks about artist and performers who made it at the Pavilion. Shakin Stevens. | |  |
| 31.23 | Talks about mediums at The Pavilion. | |  |
|  | “It was so busy at pan.. Pantomime was fantastic [at The Pavillion]. The atmosphere. You would go away at night and you’re…you’re really high, you’re really high. Cause it’s so uplifting. The sound and the music and the dancers. And there was a place in Sauchiehall Street, Dino’s. So, all of the dance…It just utterly amazed me. Apart from the fact a lot of them smoked. They would go up to Dino’s. And it must be the energy that they’ve just, you know, eaten up with this dancing. They would go and eat great big pizzas. And, Aww, they would eat, eat, eat. And then come out and have a cigarette and back on the stage. Always smiling and it was really great. The pantomimes were fantastic. “ | | 32.19-32.57 |
| 32.58 | Talks about family atmosphere at The Pavillion. Whereas Kings was more remote. Talks about Jack Milroy at The Pavillion. | |  |
| 34.50 | Sauchiehall Street always busy. Talks about a band with a small crowd at The Pavillion. It was cheap to go and see bands then but prices high now. | |  |
| 36.40 | Great variety of shops then. Pubs and clubs everyone mixed and mingled. Cannot remember trouble. | |  |
|  | Interviewer thanks the respondent for her contribution to the project. | |  |
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