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| **Project: ‘Glasgow’s Highstreets: An oral history…’**  Respondent: Patricia Dickson  Year of Birth:  Age:  Connection to project: Respondent  Date of Interview: 7th of July 2023 Interviewer: Dr Sue Morrison  Recording Agreement: Yes  Information & Consent: Yes  Photographic Images: Yes (Number of: ? )  Length of Interview: 1hour 26 minutes and 19 seconds  Location of Interview: Patricia’s home in Stirling  Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics) | | **Glasgow Story Collective** | | | |
| Time  (from: mins/secs) | Description | | | Transcribed Extract  (from- to:  mins/secs) | |
| 0.52 | Interviewer asks the respondent what her earliest memories of Glasgow’s Highstreets are. | | |  | |
| 0.58 | Respondent recalls going into town on the tram with her mother. No supermarkets. Mentions Craig’s the grocer, Sauchiehall Street. Copland and Lye, Pettigrew & Stephens and Lewis’s. Trip to a tearoom a special treat. | | |  | |
| 2.07 | Interviewer asks the respondent what era this took place in. | | |  | |
| 2.11 | Was in the 1950s and early 1960s. Her mum loved shopping. States that the Lewis’s building will always be Lewis’s to lots of Glaswegians | | |  | |
|  | “Pettigrew & Stephens was a beautiful fashion… A variety of goods were sold in Pettigrew & Stephens. You went into the glove counter and you were measured for a pair of gloves. Leather ones. And it was Copeland & Lye that had the very grand wooden stair inside. Which…to one side. And up that stair were portraits. Painted portraits of the owners. And I used to think they were wonderful gentlemen and ladies. To see these beautiful paintings up on the wall of the shop. They were there because, obviously, they were the founders, I would assume, of the store. But, again, a beautiful shop and very high class goods in it. And you had to save up to buy a pair of shoes. Because you didn’t just go in and get a quick pair of shoes out of Primark. You were…had to go in and get measured. And those shoes would last you for many years. My mother wore Church’s shoes which she got in a shop in Sauchiehall Street called Buoyant [?]. It was there for many years. And Church’s shoes today, now…You need a second mortgage to buy a pair. If indeed you can get ladies ones. You can certainly still get men’s ones. Daly’s had…I particularly remember Daly’s. It was a lovely shop. And there was Wylie Hill. So, there was lots of places to go when you went shopping. And lots of nice places.” | | | 3.07-4.51 | |
|  | “There was Treron et Cie in Sauchiehall Street too. And sometimes we went into Treron et Cie for a cup of tea, for afternoon tea. And I do remember as a young girl going in and needing to go to the toilet. And when you went in you didn’t just go to the toilet. There was a restroom for ladies. And you went into…and you could sit down and write a letter at the writing desk. And there was pencil, pen and paper and envelopes. If you were in for lunch. And you could write a letter that you’d maybe just remembered about. And then you could go and freshen yourself up in the toilet. And there were seats in Treron et Cie for just having a rest. If you didn’t want to sit in the restaurant itself. And, again, all of these stores were of a similar nature and really a lovely shopping experience to go in and enjoy.” | | | 4.52-5.58 | |
| 5.59 | Interviewer asks the respondent what sort of services the stores offered. | | |  | |
| 6.02 | Mentions the different types of goods she is sure were in different stores. Copland and Lye, Pettigrew and Stephens. | | |  | |
| 7.00 | Interviewer asks the respondent to describe Lewis’s building. | | |  | |
|  | “Lewis’s was the go to store for just about everything. There were three entrances to Lewis’s. There was one at the Buchanan Street end. On the corner. There was one…an entrance in the middle opposite Queen Street. And one at the far end. A mirror image of the one at the Buchanan Street end. My very distant relation, long ago, was a James Hoey Craigie, the architect who designed Lewis’s Department Store.” | | | 7.06-7.44 | |
| 7.45 | Gives a history of the Lewis’s. John Anderson’s. Head of office of Lewis’s in Liverpool. Polytechnic. Store designed 1929/1930. Built on Pontoon due to risk of flooding. Innovative designs. Escalator from basement to fifth floor. Craigie designed French restaurant. French restaurant the go to place. Scissor design lifts. | | |  | |
|  | “And there were lifts also and you had to be very careful if you had children going into Lewis’s lifts. Because they were the, kind of, scissor design. Which you pulled…they were pulled back and forward. So, you could see through the lattice ironwork on the lift door. So, you’d to keep wee ones back. I particularly remember that. Being told to stand back. And there was always…there was a lift operator on every lift. And I think it must have been eight or ten lifts on one wall. And there was a lift operator on each lift. And they took the lift up. And it had a big brass handle inside the lift. Which…I can remember him…Must of worked the mechanism some way. And when you came to the first floor the lift attendant would shout out what was on that floor. And second floor. The third floor which was the toy department. Second…first and second floors was, as I recollect, fashion. And some home goods as well. The third floor was toys. The fourth floor-I can’t remember. I think the toy department was the third or the fourth floor. And then the fifth floor was the French Restaurant and later they sold things up there as well. I can’t remember what they sold but there was certainly goods being sold on the fifth floor where the French Restaurant But the French Restaurant and the cafeteria were on the fifth floor. And the cafeteria was at one end of the floor. And then the French Restaurant with its big glass windows along one side. And the lifts opposite the passageway. They were…the French Restaurant was there and then I think there was an area where they could sell things as well. But, I don’t remember what they sold. And the managers offices and what not.” | | | 10.31-12.53 | |
| 12.56 | Interviewer asks the respondent about when her mum worked at Lewis’s Department Store. | | |  | |
|  | “Mum, as I recollect, started in Lewis’s in The French Restaurant in the 19…early 1960s. It was very much…The style of the restaurant was…Really; it gave the impression of being earlier than that. And their cafeteria was much more modern. And wooden seats and tables and what not. And you can actually see a picture of the table and some of the chairs in the photograph of the waitresses at Christmas one year. A photograph that was taken. But, the French Restaurant…It was very much a restaurant of maybe pre-‘60s. Because it had a raised platform at one side with long bench seats. And I remember they were a kind of kingfisher blue, teal colour. Covered in leather. And they had seats…they had tables and…they had separate tables and chairs. But, you could sit on the bench seats and have your lunch or morning coffee at the tables there. So, that was a raised balcony, they called it. With windows looking outside. And, then, the lower part, about three steps down, there was the well of the restaurant. And it was all tables. Covered with…they were all covered with beautiful snowy white table cloths. And you got a cloth napkin. And they started, as I recollect, with…I’m not sure if they did breakfast but they certainly did coffees. But, it was morning coffee. It was all set out. It wasn’t like in a paper cup that you threw away in the bin. You sat down and you took time with your morning coffee on this beautiful white tablecloth. And, Mum worked there. She mostly worked over on a Saturday. When they were very busy. She also did extra holiday Mondays. And sometimes she would go in if they were short staffed as well. So, you would class her as being part-time. So, the day would go…they perhaps did breakfast. I don’t know. I can’t remember. But, they certainly did coffee. They did lunches. They did afternoon tea and then they did tea. And one of the favourite teas that they used to…a lot of the people who came in to eat. They loved to come for what they called a Poly Tea. And the Poly name came from the Polytechnic, the old name. And Lewis’s was the Poly as well. It kept its name. And, a Poly Tea, from my memory, was, you got something like bacon and egg and I don’t recollect…there were maybe tomatoes. I don’t recollect chips or anything like that. But, you got bread and butter and you got a pot of tea. And you would have scones and you would have cakes on a lovely cake stand, which was all brought out and laid on the table. And you took time over your meal. Even although you’d been in shopping. You went for a proper meal. It was a proper sit down meal.” | | | 13.03-16.47 | |
| 16.48 | Talks about her mother setting out the table like at the French Restaurant. Describes a slop basin. | | |  | |
| 17.51 | Cost of Poly Tea maybe 2 shillings and 6 pence. | | |  | |
|  | “On a Saturday, the French Restaurant (in Lewis’s) was extremely busy. To the extent that it would be full and a queue right out of the door, and along the glass windows, and along the corridor where the lifts were. Right back to almost the entrance to the cafeteria which was on one side of the French Restaurant. And when you came in…Mums, dads, children, couples… You would come in at a nice entrance way in to the restaurant, there were double glass doors. And, when you reached the second glass door there was the lady at the pay desk. She sat at a little booth at the side.  And you would meet Miss Morgan, who was the manageress of the French Restaurant. She was a…not a terribly tall lady. Always dressed in a black dress with a nice brooch. And her hair was always done up in rather a fancy style. Pinned up with pins, and what not, on top of her head. And she would greet you when you came into the restaurant. And then, either she or another lady, and there was a lady called Margaret, I don’t remember her second name. And she helped Miss Morgan. She was a seater. And Miss Morgan might say-A table for four. And the seater would take you to the table and make you comfortable. And then Miss Morgan would return…would remain at the front of the restaurant. And the seater would make her way back to seat somebody else. And that went on, on a Saturday particularly, and on a holiday Monday or a holiday Friday, there was never…You could not hardly get a seat in the French restaurant it was so busy…” | | | 18.13-20.24 | |
| 20.25 | Mentions impression. when she was young, that people could afford to eat out. She realises not all. | | |  | |
| 20.52 | Talks about skill of the waitress job there. French service at lunch. Gives names of some of the waitresses. Cathy MacMillan, Jean Jennings, Betty Mac. Squirrel away extra cutlery to use. | | |  | |
| 23.29 | Describes the café.-modern. Self-service a new concept. Mr Clugston-manager of the cafeteria and maybe the French Restaurant. Mr Oppenshaw. Cafeteria and French restaurant opposites. Staff cafeteria 6th floor. | | |  | |
| 24.45 | Comprehensive DIY department in the basement. | | |  | |
| 25.30 | Family came to shop from Aberdeen. Towels and pillow cases etc from the East. Perhaps India as were Treron’s. | | |  | |
| 26.50 | Tools left basement. There was also a large glass and china department. Mugs unheard of always teacups. Some may have been seconds from potteries in England. Odd cups bought for everyday use. | | |  | |
| 27.49 | Talks about the Ground floor at Lewis’s Department Store. | | |  | |
| 28.03 | Mentions teenage fashions in Lewis’s. She had a Dolly Rocker dress and she thought she was no small fry in it. | | |  | |
|  | “And then of course, I went up. And there was the toy department. It was a thing of joy for a child. Because, it was a huge area. And they really sold all the toys. You just went in. At Christmas they had a huge grotto. Santa’s grotto. And, at the entrance of Lewis’s at the opposite end from Buchanan Street. They had a stair. You could go right up on the stair. The grotto, to my memory, was on the fourth floor, and the queue for the grotto, the mums and the children and the dads too, I expect. You queued up that stair. You had to wait and sometimes you came into the stair and you were down on the first floor. And you had to wait in the queue and go up to the second floor. Up to the third floor. And then you eventually got into Santa’s grotto. And you looked at all the grotto and you spoke to Santa. And I can remember going in. And for about two years mum… This was when I…I can still remember it as a young child going in. And, each year I got a post office set. And in that was like a stamp and fake money and slips to pay your money in. And it came in a cardboard box. And, the third year I went. And I got my thing. Because once you’d seen Santa you went into a place where they had all the parcels wrapped up. And the ladies said-‘What age?’ and your mum said-‘Eight, nine.’ Whatever age you were. And she went away and she came back. And, about a third year, as I recollect, I got another post office set. And my Mum was so disappointed. She went back and she said-‘This is the third year she’s had a post office set. Could she get something different please?’ (laughs). So, I got something different. I can’t remember what it was. But she was fed up with these post office sets every year. It was something different. I think it must have been a standard thing that they made up as gifts for girls. Or, boys, I suppose, maybe it was for both. And, I think I’m right when I say. They used to bring Santa on to the roof of Lewis’s. And, I think I’m right, he used to be lifted in, in a crane, and put on the roof of Lewis’s. And then, he would wave to all the children down in Argyle Street. And then he was landed on to the roof and he would make his way down to the grotto. Think of health and safety nowadays. Would he do it now? I don’t think so.” | | | 28.44-31.50 | |
| 31.51 | The ground floor of Lewis’s Department Store. Food hall. Biscuit tins. Broken biscuits. Cold meats. Vegetables, Fruit, Counters | | |  | |
| 34.17 | Interviewer asks the respondent what she remembers of the window displays in Lewis’s Department Store. | | |  | |
|  | “In Buchanan Street, in Glasgow, we had a beautiful store called Wylie and Lochhead. It was bought over eventually by Fraser’s. And they were very, very…It was a beautiful store inside. It still is a beautiful store, with a lovely wooden staircase up and balconies where they displayed fashion goods, and what not, and they’d homewares as well. But, Wylie and Lochhead used to do a Christmas display. And it drew people from all over to come and see with the children. It was displays of, oh, I don’t know, Santa reindeers. Everything Christmassy. Christmas trees. And Lewis’s did a similar thing. Because they had windows that ran along the front of Lewis’s store. So between the two end side doors. Which were, kind of, at an angle,. .And they took you into the ground floor. And the basement was below and then the floors above. Then there was the centre door. Between the centre door and these side doors there were large plate glass windows. And they were generally dressed for Christmas at Christmas time. The rest of the…and they were very beautiful. Not quite up to the shop on Buchanan Street. But, still beautifully done. Because, Lewis’s used to have a large shop fitting…You can imagine a shop like that would have…change all their displays regularly for the season and for the festive season, going on holiday etc. And, so, on the 6th floor they had a large shop fitting display department. So, they really did a beautiful job of Lewis’s windows. All through the year. Christmas was special. And you used to go to Lewis’s and look in their festive display. And you’d go up Buchanan Street and Wylie and Lochhead had a display as well. And Fraser’s carried that on, as far as I remember. But, as a child, and I can remember as a little child going and looking in all the windows at Christmas time. But, they really made a beautiful job, as they still do today. But, it was quite…The displays during the year were…I would term quite stiff. You know. They weren’t…You know, you would have two ladies…the dummies that they dressed up with clothing and what not. I don’t remember, particularly, looking at the dress wear. Because it probably didn’t interest me that much. I think as time went on they became more upmarket. Not, upmarket. More with it…” | | | 34.25-38.15 | |
| 38.47 | Mentions the architect of Lewis’s building James Hoey Craigie and the Grosvenor Building. Windows further up with small panes. | | |  | |
|  | “Forsyth’s was where…There was Forsyth’s and there was Paisley’s. They were both, again, similar to Lewis’s and to Pettigrew & Stephens and to Wylie and Lochhead. Forsyth’s was very, kind of, top of the range. And you went…you could go there to get your school uniform, because, of course, you wore a school uniform. As, Paisley’s was the other place you could go to. And they had a school uniform department. And, again, old stores…They pre-dated Lewis’s because I would of said that probably Forsyth’s, Pettigrew & Stephens. Daly’s. Wylie & Lochhead, Copland & Lye. They all, I think would pre-date Lewis’s new store in Argyle Street, I’m pretty sure. Even just the interior furnishings of the store. The stairways and the balustrades. They were all of a similar interior. The fixtures and fittings were wooden counters with glass showcases and these…I can’t remember it…I don’t remember this in Lewis’s, but I remember it in Daly’s. If you went in for a pair of leather gloves, let’s say, the lady would go to this large cabinet with many, many closed shelves that you pulled out. And the gloves would be size and by colour in these drawers. And she would pull out a drawer and bring it over to the counter. And she’d let you see what there was. You didn’t go in and get something hanging on a plastic peg on a rail, as you do in Marks and Spencer’s. You just choose your own gloves. She would bring them. And, you know, she’d special…I remember the lady…My mother wanted a pair of gloves for a wedding and she had…if they were a little bit tight. She had a long, kind of, stick, with a finger type thing on the end. And she would poke it up the fingers of the leather glove. Cause it wasn’t mittens. It was proper like the Queen would wear. But, you only bought one pair of gloves. You didn’t buy a lot of pairs of gloves. Nowadays, you might buy a new pair each winter. But, you kept them good for good occasions. And she would poke them up the finger of the glove to stretch the glove a little bit. Because, of course, leather gloves had never been on anybody’s hands. So, you stretched…So, you wanted them tight. And you could get long gloves right up to your elbow if you were fancying going to a dance or something like that. Not that I ever did. But, you could get them as well. So, it was, interiors were very much of the time. And, I think they pre-dated Lewis’s store.” | | | 39.10-42.15 | |
| 42.20 | Interviewer asks the respondent if there was much traffic in the highstreets when she was younger. | | |  | |
| 42.26 | Talks about getting trams and buses in the centre of town. Tram terminuses. | | |  | |
| 43.48 | Talks about changing the seats round on trams. | | |  | |
| 48.11 | Interviewer asks the respondent if there were many pedestrians on Glasgow’s Highstreets. | | |  | |
| 48.18 | So busy it was like Argyle Street. Princes Street the same. Both really, really busy. | | |  | |
| 48.48 | Interviewer asks the respondent if they had Xmas lights back then. | | |  | |
|  | “Yes, oh, the Christmas lights were a…much more a thing. The opening of the Christmas lights. I mean you went to see that. That was great fun. And, you know, the switching on of the Christmas lights. And the tree in George Square. And of course, they’d started to generate more towards George Square being the centre of where the lights were. And I suppose with the economy and what not it was becoming more expensive. The lights to me as a child were…I used to think they were wonderful. Flashing lights and what not. It really did make an air of Christmas. Along with the windows. And, you know, all the buzz of people coming and going. And, of course, the thing that I always think; people didn’t carry plastic bags. It was all parcels they carried with string and brown paper.” | | | 48.51-49.53 | |
| 49.54 | Talks about wrapping parcels in shops. Big roll of paper on counter. Need for big counters. Heavy parcel double string. Handle to carry. | | |  | |
|  | “They also…in shoe shops, you got your box of shoes into a bag. I don’t know if Lewis’s had this. Some of the stores on Sauchiehall Street had. And Bayne and Duckett, one of the famous shoe shops in Glasgow, they had a special machine which fascinated me. Where you pulled out a strip of paper. And as it came out it went through…no sellotape you see. Came out through a wet sponge. Or, little wet reservoir. And it came out and the lady tore it off. And she’d, by this time, parcelled your shoes up. In a…brown paper. And she would stick this on the top. And out of the piece of tape. Paper tape. Came a little handle. And she would pull it out. And you carried your shoes like that. Cause they didn’t necessarily always want to use string. But, some of the shops used string.” | | | 51.21-52.23 | |
|  | “But, to get back to Craig’s in Sauchiehall Street. The grocery shop I spoke of. And they had a beautiful tearoom and a smoking room. Where the business people used to go…The business men used to go for morning coffee and a smoke. And the waitresses worked in there. And then they had a restaurant. Craig’s had a restaurant. A beautiful restaurant at the back. Much like Lewis’s French Restaurant. But, I do remember that they used to have a mechanism. Quite a lot of the shops had it. Where the person serving you…And I’m not sure if Lewis’s had this but many of the shops did. Where the person serving you would make out a receipt for what you’d purchased. And they would then…You would give them their ca…the paper notes and the coins. The paper notes and the pounds and the shillings and the pence. Pennies not pence, pennies. And, she would put…So, say your purchase came to two pounds…two pounds, three shillings and six pence. You might give them two pounds, ten shillings. And you needed to get change. So, the assistant had a little cylinder about six inches high and about two inches in diameter. And it twisted. The top and bottom twisted. And they put the receipt in and the two pounds, ten shillings in this little cylinder. They then twisted it so that it closed a little hole. And they would go to the end of the counter. And they would twist this cylinder into a…a little cap which received the cylinder. And beside it there was a long string And from this cylinder that the lady had put up, or the man…had put up and caught up into the screw above.. Beside the string was a wire that ran from the counter to the cash desk. And the assistant would pull the string and the contain…the cylinder would run along very, very fast to the cash desk. And the assistant at the cash desk would take out the money and the receipt. And she’d work out the change and then she’d put it and the receipt back into the container, the cylinder. She’d pop it back into her end. Into this screw. Kind of like a receiving screw. And she’d pull her string and it would shoot back to the assistant at the counter. So, all the time, these things were shooting across the…well above head height to the cashier. These wires were strung across the shops. Lewis’s certainly had that but there was…Craig’s certainly did. So, if Mum went in and bought half a pond of Danish butter. Cause they had it in a big barrel shape. And maybe she would buy…They had lovely cakes. And all sorts of cold meats and what not and cheese. They had all sorts of things. Once she’d bought her goods they would go into this mechanism and go over to the ti…the cashier over at her desk.” | | | 52.23-56.11 | |
| 56.12 | Tells story of mother going to Craig’s. Sweetie displays.Brother had taken sweeties while in pram. | | |  | |
| 58.15 | Interviewer asks the respondent if she remembers hearing music in the stores. | | |  | |
|  | Talks about the Hawaiian guitar music in Fine Fare on Byres Rd. One of the early supermarkets. Can’t remember music in any other shops or tearooms. | | |  | |
| 59.01 | Interviewer asks the respondent if she remembers any kind of fashion events. | | |  | |
|  | “Quite a few of the shops had fashion shows. And what you did was you…Henderson’s was another shop further down Sauchiehall Street. And they had a regular fashion show. Which Mum liked to go to. And I, if I probably wasn’t at school, was allowed to come as a child. And what they did was…Oh, I mean Treron’s had them as well, Copeland’s certainly had them. But, I remember particularly going to Henderson’s, I think it was, and they laid out the…it must have been done in the restaurant, I think. Because, you went in and you could have tea and light refreshments. And, so, while you were having your tea and maybe a scone and a cake. The fashion models would come down and turn round and go back. And so, the…it was an event and yes, and I don’t remember whether my mother booked a table. Or, I wouldn’t of thoughts so because there was no telephones, no mobile phones. So, she maybe just turned up and if there was a table free we got it. And, I remember the models coming down and having on…I thought they were so glamorous and so pretty and, you know, the different styles of the time. You know, the big kind of…I think they must have had stiffening behind the material. Or, maybe backing or something. And they stuck out in little tight jackets and what not and pretty little hats. Little pill box. Well, not pill box. That came later with more…Jackie Kennedy in America and all that kind of thing.” But, little hats that they put on.” | | | 59.11-101.13 | |
| 1.01.16 | Talks about her mother wearing a hat to the shops and church when young. She was shocked when that stopped. Lots of hat shops and a furrier on Sauchiehall Street. Saving up for a straw hat. Varnishing straw hats. | | |  | |
| 1.03.40 | Talks about the fashion shows a little again and how glamorous she felt they were. | | |  | |
| 1.03.52 | Interviewer asks the respondent if she recalls any hairdressers working in the stores. | | |  | |
|  | “In Pettigrew & Stephens shop on Sauchiehall Street. That was the go to place for children’s haircuts. And somewhere up on the second, third floor. I don’t know where. Certainly it was up the stair. I remember that. We used to go and get our hair cut. And I had long hair with pleats. My brother went as well. And we sat up in a lovely wee high chair. And you got a…Just much like they do today. And I would get my hair…my pleats taken out and my hair cut. And then they did a very funny thing that I do remember. Children’s hair…Don’t know if they did it to adults hair. But, they used to take a…a taper that they had lit and blown out and they would run it up the ends of the child’s hair. Presumably to stop broken ends. I don’t know. And I used to think- [intake of breath] I’m not sure if I like that. Cause, the lady would…she would just very lightly do that. So, yes there was a children’s hairdressing department. And I’ve no doubt there was a ladies hairdressing department in the store as well.” | | | 1.04.02-1.05.27 | |
| 105.28 | Talks about her mother’s naturally curly hair. | | |  | |
|  | “When you went to the shoe department for your school shoes or a pair of shoes. I mean you didn’t get a whole lot of pairs of shoes or trainers. Lots of trainers. You got your school shoes. And you tended to wear them pretty well all the time. Or a pair of gym shoes. That was my recollection of what I had. So, when you got your shoes…Obviously, they had to do you for a while but they hadn’t to be too big. And in the shoe departments they used to have a kind of machine. Which, and I don’t know if you’ve ever hear of this…seen this machine. I’ve never seen one since. But all the children’s shoe departments had them. And it was like a kind of…It was like a…It was probably about a metre…more than, about a metre and a quarter high. One metre, twenty. Maybe about a yard and a half high. And it was probably about three quarters of a yard wide. About eighty six centimetres wide. And it had a step…two steps at the front. And then, there was a little, kind of, curtain bit at the bottom. At the top of the step in a little archway, where you could put your feet. And at the top there was two handles for the child to hold on to as they stepped up the step and to keep them still while their feet were in this little cavity at the bottom. And at the top there was two oval shaped viewing…Like, almost like a wee periscope. And there was one in the middle. So, the child could look in the one in the middle. The assistant could look in this side. And your mum could look on the other side. And if the lady…When the lady pressed the button, you saw an X Ray of your feet. Where your toes were in the shoe. And, if your toes were right at the front they were too small. And if your toes were so far back they were really too big. So, you would go and try on another pair and do it again. Now, in today’s world…You went regularly to get your shoes. You got X Rayed in your feet every time. Health and safety? So, eventually, I think, those machines became considered as dangerous and they all went. But, they were brown varnished wood on the outside. And, I used to love to go and see my toes. Because, I could see my bones. I could see the bones in my feet.” | | | 1.06.40-1.09.29 | |
| 1.09.31 | Talks about start rite shoes | | |  | |
| 1.09.58 | Interviewer asks the respondent how she thinks the highstreets have changed over time. | | |  | |
| 1.10.09 | Says shops are less formal these days. You can make your own choice. Far more staff in the past. Mentions counter assistants in Lewis’s showing sheets etc. | | |  | |
|  | “In my memory, there were far more open departments when I was older, in my teens and in my twenties, than there were when I was little. I mean it was…I can think of somewhere like Daly’s. There was actually a seat at either end of the counter for you to sit on. And you sat down at the counter and waited to be seen by an assistant. So, all these jobs are not there and, you know, you saw the…You really saw the sale. If you were an assistant maybe it was quite satisfying. Because, a customer came in, you met them, you said. You got out what they were looking for. You helped them in their purchase. You took their money. Then you cleared away. You saw the whole process from beginning to end, including taking the money. The whole thing. So, I think probably in that way they’re much changed. There’s a much freer…probably a much freer. There was a shop in…my mother didn’t enjoy shopping in it. But, it was a ladies outfitter, dress in Dumbarton Road. Down at Byres Road, called Walker’s of Partick. And Walker’s of Partick were…You went there for a dress for the summer or a wedding outfit or what have you. And, you went in and there were no clothes for you to look at. You went in the door and there was a row of about twelve seats and you sat on a seat. And an assistant came for you and said-‘What is it you’re looking for madam?’ And you’d say, ‘Well, I’m looking for a suit. And I’d like a blouse to go with it.’ So, she would say come with me, Madam’ and she would show you in to the fitting room. And then she’d disappear away off and she’d come back with, maybe, six suits. And maybe, the same with blouses. And you stayed in that room and you tried them on. Her choice of your clothes. Mum hated it because she said-‘I want to go and see what they’ve got. ’And, you know, you kind of get what the lady brings out and I don’t know what else is there. So, she never tended to go there. So, places like Pettigrew’s there was more display. That you could see more easily and you could walk around, so, you know there was the kind of, contrast between Walker’s of Partick and like a department store like Pettigrew & Stephen’s. And you could see all the hats displayed on, you know, the long po…It was a..A base and a long stainless steel pole. And then the hat sat on the wee wooden thing. And they were all different heights. And you could go and look at the hats for the summer, winter, what have you. So, I think there’s probably…For me as I grew up there became more, kind of departments, as I said earlier…they started going to boutiques. So, you would get, kind of, that style, in that boutique. And the young girls knew to go there to get their mini dresses and what not. And, I suppose, that kind of, opened up the whole thing. I don’t know whether or not…I think you went into…Yes, you went into fitting rooms. I’m sure I went into fitting rooms to try on things. Skirts and what not. And, then, an assistant would probably help you there. As things became freer. But, nowadays, I don’t think people would go back to that old way of shopping. I think it...It’s too restricted. I mean, look at people nowadays they’re buying online. They don’t even try on their shoes. I find it an anathema to buy a pair of shoes online and then they don’t fit. What do you do? Send them back. Go to the post office. A base where you’ve to leave a parcel. Then, you’ve to start all over again. And pay it again. Get a refund. And I sometimes think. Bring back the old days. When you went in and tried on your shoes and you got them and that was it. That’s still not…You can go to John Lewis today and try on a pair of shoes. But, I think the whole movement has gone. I think with electronic facilities the whole shopping experience has changed. And I sometimes wonder if…Will they? Could they die out? Could they become just a place where you maybe go and try on a pair of shoes, or a top or a what have you. And then they order it up and they deliver it to you, because they only have one of each thing. Who knows?” | | | 1.11.08-1.16.08 | |
| 1.16.09 | Talks about the system in Japan where you don’t have to take clothes with you as they will prepare some for you. | | |  | |
| 1.16.55 | Wonders if shops will no longer exist eventually. Mentions they have changed since Victorian times. Will a limited choice become a thing again. | | |  | |
|  | Quote about drawing a garment online in the future. | | | 1.18.17 | |
| 1.18.48 | Interviewer asks the respondent what her favourite memory of Glasgow’s highstreets would be. | | |  | |
|  | “Probably going shopping with my mother [favourite memory]. Cause my father was busy working. He worked on a Saturday. Sometimes on a Sunday as well. Because it wasn’t a five day week then. So, mum took me shopping. And if I got something nice or a toy from Lewis’s Department Store and I had my own parcel…I can…I do remember sticking in my mind. I got a new…I was in Henderson’s, I think, in Sauchiehall Street. And I saw a pair of pyjamas that I fell in love with as a wee girl. And, I must of said to my mum. Maybe I needed pyjamas, I don’t know. But, I can remember they had a fancy, kind of, patterned yoke and patterned round the sleeves. And they had white cuffs on them. You know, these stretchy cuffs, kind of thing. And the trousers were…the pyjama bottoms were the same. And I fell in love with them. And I thought they were beautiful. And I can still remember saying. Must of said to my mum. ‘Oh these are lovely.’ Whatever you would say as a child. ‘Can I have them?’ I want them. I need to get them.’ [laughs]. She kindly agreed to get me them. And I can still remember coming home on a Saturday. Coming in and we must have been in town in the morning. We came back for lunch time. And nothing would do but I would get undressed, get into my pyjamas and get into bed. Because I was so proud of my pyjamas. And I sat in bed all afternoon in my new pyjamas. So, yes, probably just the joy of going out shopping. And seeing all the things. And the excitement of that. Going on the transport. Cause, life was very simple for children. Children didn’t have the…They had no computers, they had no phones, they had no televisions till a bitty later on. You made your own fun.” | | | 1.19.05-121.14 | |
| 1.21.15 | Mother taught her to knit. John Smith and Company, Sauchiehall Street. Talks about her mother’s embroidery skills. Mentions Ayrshire white work embroidery and Belfast linen. Talks about knitting as a child and her father making toolboxes. How she learned to wire a plug, use a screw driver etc. | | |  | |
| 1.24.10 | Talks about being able to go in and see all the fashions in the ‘60s. Talks about teaching herself to make clothes. Talks about computers taking time away but also being valuable. | | |  | |
|  | “But, I used to do dress making as well. Because there was a point in time where if you went shopping to the stores I’ve been talking about. And you were buying things. It was actually cheaper to buy a pattern, buy your material, your needle and your thread and make your own garment. Nowadays, with places like Primark and all the other fast fashion shops it’s cheaper. Mum used to knit all the…you know, she would knit jumpers. Now, by the time you buy the wool it’s as cheap to go and buy it ready made. So, a lot of these skills I see going. I saw that in education. These skills were going as well. So, as far as shopping is concerned. There will still be a need for people to buy things. But, if I knew how that was going to go. I would be, as I say, a millionaire.[Laughs] Because I’d be able to take advantage. [laughs].” | | | 1.25.05-1.26.09 | |
| 1.26.10 | Interviewer thanks the respondent for her contribution to the project. | | |  | |
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