

Title: Eddie Rumsey & Jean Goode

Creators: Rick & Julia Goldsmith

Project: 'Chewing The Cud: Memories from Hereford's Old Livestock Market'

Subject: Autobiography, Living and working with the Old Cattle Market, Heritage

Publisher: Catcher Media Social CIC

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Identifier: Eddie-Rumsey-&-Jean-Goode

Interview Date: 2015/16, Hereford

Interviewee: Eddie Rumsey & Jean Goode (speakers, male & female)

Interviewer: Marsha O'Mahony & Julia Goldsmith (speaker, female)

Camera & Sound: Richard Goldsmith (male)

Producer: Julia Goldsmith

Language: English

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Type: Video

Width: 1920 pixels

Height: 1080 pixels

Scan type: Progressive

Stereo/Mono: Stereo Mixdown

Duration: 16 min 34 seconds

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Transcript:

(00:00)

How Eddie and Jean got to know each other, through being Market Assistant in 1950 to the superintendent Albert Whithall - Jean joined later in 1958 at the age of 17 working with Eddie.

(00:42)

At this time there was a different Superintendent Arthur Greenhalsh who had his own little office with Eddie and Jean in an outer office which was called 'The Roundhouse', a brick building that got freezing cold in the winter with a quarry tiled floor. Jean and Eddie would share a 2-Bar electric fire for heating. (01:20) Jean recalls Eddie having a desk, but she had a kitchen table with a little typewriter sat on top. Jean and Eddie talked before the interview and estimated it to be 52 years since they last saw each other.

(1:40)

Eddie explains further his role as Market Assistant under Albert Whithall, he was the first member of his staff and would keep records of the livestock entering the market and also keep records of the car parking fees that were paid into the office. (02:24) Jean describes her role as a clerk typist for the superintendent, who had a private office but she shared an outer office (the roundhouse) with Eddie. The office was just across from the covered Pig section, and next door to the Deanley Cafe. (03:00) Eddie talks about how the Deanley appeared to provide refreshments to the drovers who used to bring the cattle years before on foot. It was opened up by Dean Ley (Spelling) the Dean of Hereford at that time.

(03:27)

Jean talks about Mrs. Beason, who was the manageress of the Deanley, recalling there were the half a dozen boilers in the back section to provide tea and coffee, alongside Mrs. King's memorable Tea Urn, which tasted like nothing you had ever tasted in your life.

(04:13)

Eddie describes how Hereford Livestock market had the largest throughput of any municipally owned market in the country with over a quarter of a million livestock going through in the course of a year. The only other market that was larger was bambury market which was privately owned.

(04:43)

Eddie recalls that the livestock entered via the entrance in Black Friar Street where there was a hut, manned by Harry Farmer would collect tolls from the lorry drivers and farmers for all of the livestock brought into the market. (05:06) Jean talks about the role in greater detail, how he would ascertain what stock was on the vehicle and would add to his book of tickets how many he got of each kind of stock, cattle, calves, pigs, etc. and then let them in to load their stock. (05:30) at the end of the day all of those tickets would come back to Jean and Eddie's office to then be entered into a big ledger, which would take all day Thursday, and balanced for each book of 50 tickets. The cash generated from this toll for each animal would then go back to the city council after being balanced.

(06:07)

Eddie used to keep a record of the livestock coming through the market, those figures were then presented by the market superintendent (Eddie and Jean's boss) to the marketing committee at their monthly meeting. Jean talks about the ledger and recalls that it was Eddie's job to take all of that cash to the town hall along with the balanced figures.

(06:54)

Jean describes how the market was used differently on each day of the week, a format that was used for many years. Monday - Fat stock. Once a month Tuesday - Horses. Wednesday - Store animals. Thursday - Store Cattle. Friday - Dairy Cattle. (07:25) Eddie recalls that, around the time he joined in 1950, there was what was called the 'October Faire' which was an annual horse fair held in the market, many travellers used to come to this market in those days to run the horses up and down the market for the buyers to have a look at. (07:58) Another special event in the market life was the pedigree Hereford cattle show and sale organised by the Hereford Herdbook Society. This was held twice a year, a spring and autumn show and sale. The auctioneer that held that was Mr. Bill Gallimore. (08:40) When Jean and Eddie moved to their new offices they overlooked the square where Jean would watch the animals being shown.

(08:55)

The other thing their office had to do was organise the Hereford Christmas fat stock show and sale. Where they would send a list of rosettes required to the British Legion poppy factory in Richmond, Surrey. All of the prize cards were done by Jakemans in Church Street. (09:28) Silver cups were also awarded by the market, who organised the show each year, where farmers who won would hold the silver cup for 12 months which would have been engraved each year with the winners. (10:08) In the evening after the market there would be a dinner in the farmers club to celebrate.

(10:17)

At the time Eddie joined the Markets department plans were drawn up for the development of the livestock market. The Langford sale ring was the first building to be completed - with covered areas for cattle beside it. Either side of the Langford building were the new layerages which housed the dairy cattle for Friday sales and the pedigree cattle when the shows were on.

(11:43)

The open retail market was held on a Wednesday, where market traders from all over the Midlands and South Wales used to come to Hereford to sell their wares. It was Eddie's job to go around and collect the rents. All sorts of things were sold at the market, carpets, clothes, crockery and vegetables. (12:15) Jean remembers how the man who sold the crockery, Walter Davis from Worcester, would put on an amazing show throwing the plates up into the air and catching them and showing how durable and inexpensive they were at his stall. (12:40) Eddie recalls that Walter also used to come along with his brother and sell linoleum off the back of a lorry. He is one of many characters in that market. (13:04) As time went on, after Eddie had left his role, Jean remembers that the market grew and grew from 30-35 stalls when Eddie began at 18 shillings upwards depending on the space you took up, to many more than that. The council later provided covered stalls that were moved aside when the markets weren't on - allowing the city council to charge more rent because the stalls were provided. (14:17) Eddie remembers that another aspect of his job was to collect the rents and tolls on the Buttermarket as well on a Wednesday and a Saturday. (15:10) Jean notes that another part of the market that was run by their department was the parking areas around Hereford which included Merton Meadow, Blue School Street, New Market Street, Cannemore Street [Spelling] - each having an attendant who would physically give a ticket and collect the money. Later in the day the attendants would descend on the office, tip the money out, and leave Eddie and Jean to reconcile the tickets with all of the cash. (15:50) Later ticket machines came into being, but it was still that department's role to empty/refill the machines regularly.

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This film was made by Catcher Media for the Hereford Cathedral Close project in association with In Our Age and supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Watch the video interviews on the vimeo showcase:  
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7908663>