

## Voices of Hickling

### Interview Transcript: TERENCE SMITH

*In conversation with Teri Ellis on 11th June 2019*

**TS:** Terence Smith, 4/6/42. I was born in Birmingham and I've lived in Hickling since 1953.

*TE:* *And what brought you to this part of the world*

**TS:** My parents took over the tenancy of the Greyhound Inn in Hickling and that is the reason for returning back to Norfolk from the Midlands.

And I went to school in Norwich for a short while, because that's where my grandparents or my grandparent lived while they were getting the accommodation up and running at the Greyhound and then I went to Hickling School for about 2 months and then I moved off to Stalham school where I done my education until I was 15.

And at 15 I left school and I went to work in a boatyard in Wroxham. I was supposed to sign an apprenticeship after a year but being in a boatyard under cover I didn't like that at all so I left there and tried several other jobs, one as a petrol attendant, bike repairer at Potter Heigham, left that job and went to work on a chicken farm at Wayford Bridge where I contracted Weil's disease, and I left there and then I joined Perrys at Poplar Farm, under the guidance of Mrs Perry and Ben Nobbs who was the foreman at the time.

*TE:* *Weil's disease is nasty, isn't it? you must have been quite ill.*

**TS:** I was, yes. I was in isolation for about 6 weeks.

*TE:* *Where did you go to hospital?*

**TS:** West Norwich, in isolation there and, um, then when I was convalescing Ben came into the pub for a drink and he got talking and he said they were going to start a new enterprise of rearing baby calves and they were looking for someone to look after them and I volunteered and went for the job and I slowly after we'd done all that, when we decided to go away from baby beef we went... I just carried on...

*TE:* *Which farm is this?*

**TS:** Perrys at Poplar Farm. And then we just moved off when the stock of baby beef, I just went on general onto the farm and done multitude of jobs what you do and slowly got slowly into potato production and all that sort of thing and I was there a long while.

We had a total structure change to the farm, I don't know what age I was, anyway they made 7 people redundant because they had a total change of policy and I was one of them who they kept and I worked there until I was 55.

*TE:* *That's a long time on the same farm.*

**TS:** Yes. 38 years I think it was and erh, got made redundant then because they didn't require my services any longer for one reason or another.

And I moved off and went to over to working for the Delta farm group via Charles Bracey (?) and I went as a part time pig man, tractor driver, you name it anything what came up and

then after about a year of that I moved over to one of the other Delta group farmers and went to Neatishead Hall and under, er, working for the Boar family, which was Lewis and Frank. Which was very nice and we had the cows and I got back into livestock which I really liked.

TE: *You liked livestock*

TS: I prefer livestock, than I do tractor work to be truthful. Tractor work was alright but boring at times so I got into the cattle and that was very interesting. In fact I think the last 10 years of my working career were probably some of the best I would think.

TE: *So what sort of things - were they raising beef cattle or...*

TS: No, dairy cattle, it was dairy farm yes. Got rid of all the, obviously male calves went at birth, went off somewhere to be fattened and we kept all the heifers and they were pedigree stock, I mean there were some very special cows there, they used to take the semen from those, and freeze the embryos and all sort of very interesting. Used to have someone coming...

TE: *Did they go to shows and things?*

TS: Oh yes to shows and they won multitudes of cups and, they got Best in Show at the Royal Norfolk and, um, one or two other things and they had a lovely cow there she was a brown and white instead of a black and white, she was really placid and had some beautiful calves out of her.

TE: *So it was really the cattle stuff that you really enjoyed?*

TS: Yeah.

TE: *Well, getting back to life in Hickling, what, you know, when you were a young lad at 15 what, your friends were in Hickling presumably.*

TS: Yes, yes, most of the people I went to school with, we didn't move out of the village much.

TE: *What did you do, did you play football.*

TS: Oh no I didn't play football, I used to mess about, but I never was good enough to play in the team and that. We, err, oh, there was biking then we used to bike everywhere, here, there and everywhere, and run around the village.

TE: *So did you have any particular hobbies that you were interested in doing when you had spare time?*

TS: Fishing, mostly. Fishing and bird watching. Bird watching in later life, but fishing mostly when I was younger. Anywhere we could go, we'd get there and most of the lads were interested in that sort of thing, well to be truthful...

TE: *And the girls, the girls...*

TS: Well yeah there was always that (*LAUGH*) there was always that.

The meeting place was mostly on the recreation ground, that type of thing. When you got a bit older there was the pubs, down the car parks and things you know just general, trying to amuse ourselves really more than anything.

There wasn't a great deal to do in the village. I used to go to the youth club at Stalham when I was a little bit older under Paul Dean I think, Paul Dean from Sea Palling, he used to run the youth club. He used to have it at Ingham to start with. The old sailors' things then, the table tennis and records and...

TE: *Getting together, really .*

TS: **Just to get together. Yes he was a very nice man, he used to spend a lot of time running that youth club, yeah and didn't drift off much, sometimes when I was older we used to sometimes go to the speedway at Yarmouth, we'd bike, bike to Yarmouth and watch the Speedway and come home again and that sort of thing.**

It was quite a pleasant childhood in the village, there was lots of things to do, you know. There was a lot of company because you didn't have cars and motor bikes, not until later, I mean there was only the odd one or two who had a car, or who was borrowing the father's or something like that.

Brian Applegate was one of the ones who had it, had a car and, um, he used to take us out and about, we'd pile in the back of his truck and go to the dances at Potter Heigham and things like that. Yeah that was good fun, really.

We didn't drift off very far, odd times we'd go to Norwich, but the problem with that was you had to leave the city when the place was livening up because half past 10 if you missed the train it was long walk home, or bus rather. It was a long walk home.

But I mean village life was good, was easy really I mean then you knew everybody who lived in the village, you know because we had the shops, 3 pubs, and you know, mostly, a lot of the working people in the village they never had cars and they worked within the village or the next village where they could bike to: you know, they didn't have the transport to get backwards and forwards not until later on.

And when we used to go to, when I went to work in Wroxham when I first left school I used to bike to Wroxham to work and then a gentleman in the village Russel Brookes, he joined the same firm as I did and he had a BSA 250 and he used to pick me up and take me to work which wasn't too bad, but no, it was mostly confined to village life really to be truthful. It was a shame when we lost all the facilities because we...

TE: *It was lot livelier wasn't it?*

TS: **It was a lot livelier 'cos there was actually a meeting place where you could meet people.**

**You go out and walk through the village now and there's nothing...**

TE: *No shops any more...*

TS: **No shops, no one to talk to. So, you know, it's a shame but it was a really vibrant village, I mean it was very enjoyable for me when I first came to the village because living in what I suppose that was a rural setting, but that was a place, I suppose, about as big as North Walsham, perhaps just a little bit bigger, and that was about, that was about 20 miles from Birmingham where we lived and you could walk out of the back, out of the back door and you'd be up into the hillsides, when I left. But you would be walking onto the Bournville, the Cadburys estate up into the hills which was nice, but I mean when I got down here that you know was just freedom all the while. I used to be fascinated watching the blacksmith working, watch Mr Elliot do mend the shoes and that sort of thing I liked yes that was good fun.**

TE: *Yeah. So how many shops and businesses were there when you came here?*

TS: **There was, er, starting down Stubb Road, there was Mrs Osborne and then there was the Reader Family, they had a Nursery which done tomatoes and chrysanthemums.**

Then coming back up into the village you come onto the Greyhound corner and there was the Greyhound and then there was Mr Elliot, just round the corner. No I missed one Mr Markham who is in the house where Sue Pugh live now, the Butcher. Then there was Mr Elliot, the shoe maker or repairer, then there was the Blacksmith, Mr Watts

And then there was Mrs Burdett, the Burdetts, then the opposite side of the road was the Post Office, Mr Turner and then going back across the Road there was Mr Gibbs, Enoch Gibbs 's shop.

Then you got Mr Markhams, Martin rather, him, and then a little bit further on you to the Osbornes and then there was the garage. Mr Pratt he had is, done odd repairs and served petrol and then you went up to as far as High Hill, would be the next business which would be the shop up near what was the Bull which is now the Old People home and that's about it I think.

TE: *There was a lot of businesses serving a small community...*

TS: Yeah and then of course there was the Fish Shop which opened on what I think was Tuesdays and Saturdays for fresh - well we'll say fresh - fish and chips and then of course you went a little bit further and got to Mr Beales, Waldo Beales garage down by the Staithe and then of course you had the Pleasure Boat on that corner - down there and then a little bit later on in the village, I can't remember when he started up, but then there was a shop, Falgate's shop, a little thatched house right next door to the Guest House.

TE: *Oh yes.*

TS: It was thatched.

TE: *What did he sell?*

TS: Oh everything bits and pieces, you know a little bit of general stuff for the tourists, boat people 'cos I mean you're talking about when the boat business was going I've seen the front dyke, what they call the front dyke in front of the Pleasure Boat, I've seen 3 berths, 3 lots of Cruisers, on them you could walk from one side to the other.

TE: *Oh so it was very busy...*

TS: It was was a very busy place yeah. I mean, um, Gwen, when Gwen Amis had the pub, there was, I mean, that was always, probably, upwards of 50 boats moored there most evenings.

Really a lot. They used to moor, they moored out on the broad because they used to come in on little dinghies because there was not enough room up and down the dyke which was a very popular place.

TE: *Were these mostly motor boats?*

TS: Yes motors and sailing yeah. Lot of sailing, used to get... I mean Herbert Woods had a big fleet of sailing craft at one time. I forget now what they called them. I don't know whether it was Blue Star Line or something I can't remember exactly but I know they had a lot a sailing boats.

TE: *So this would be in the 60s?*

TS: I would have thought so yes. Yeah

TE: *You came here in 1953.*

TS: It would be yeah that would be 53

Yeah I'd be taking more, paying more attention then, than in my later times, you know in my teens.

Yeah that was quite good. Quite a busy village, quite a vibrant village. I mean I would think there was, from what I can remember I think there was one, two, three, four, five, there was probably six people doing bed and breakfast in the village throughout the summer and they would always be busy, you know I mean my mother and father, they would all be in touch with one another so if one was full they'd ring up and say, you know, if you can take them. They'd pass people around and you got really we had...

TE: *So did people drive to the village?*

TS: **Yes. A lot of people...**

TE: *Or was the train still coming to Stalham then?*

TS: **Oh yes, the train was still coming to Stalham, I went to, when we first come down here I went to, I went back to Birmingham to see our neighbours to stay with them for a while and my father put me on the train, I was about 15,14 probably. I think I was still at school. He put me on a train at Stalham, spoke to the guard and said keep an eye on him and then I went from Stalham to New Street Station in Birmingham on me own and you know they just look after you. I wouldn't do it now. I wouldn't even think about going on the train you know on me own (LAUGH) not after the last journey we had, yeah but that's that's a different culture all together.**

TE: *Yeah it has changed.*

TS: **Yes, a different culture altogether really. I mean, it's got to be the sign of the times hasn't it really, you know. Got to be the sign of the times. You know, it's always like the little, I don't know, the little things what you can't always remember, the little things what happened like.**

**You go down like to, I used to go down to to Mr Chapman's farm and work there before I left school. Messing about, cleaning the dairy up and that sort of thing, and then of course there was Mrs Chapman and Joan, Mary and - I can't think of the other one - and yes I sure there was another one, unless that was Joan.**

TE: *Well Joan went up the road didn't she, I knew a Joan.*

TS: **Married a Harmer didn't she in the end and then there was Mary: she left the village. But yeah I used to go down there if they'd been out having a good time on a Friday night if I went down then, you know what a dairy like it's quite hollow and it was quite um, I'd was quite into whistling at that time and I'd be whistling about and I'd always get it wrong for making a noise.**

TE: *Making a lot of noise.*

TS: **Yeah. (LAUGH) And little things like that. That was always good, that was always good fun down there because things were always happening, you know little things happening. That was quite interesting working down there.**

TE: *And you married a local girl?*

TS: **Yes I married my wife, yeah, Geraldine yeah.**

TE: *When did you two get married?*

TS: **Oh I can't think now, well it'd be....**

TE: *She'll tell you.*

TS: **I'll tell you: 57 years ago this September.**

TE: *Really.*

TS: **Yes. 57 years this September.**

TE: *That'll need a bit of a celebration.*

TS: **Oh well yes, yes. Hopefully.**

TE: *And still here living in the village.*

TS: **Yeah we've been living within the bounds of village ever since we got married, which was. Mind you I've enjoyed living in the village.**

**I don't think I'd want to live anywhere else to be truthful. It's a pity there's not a bit more facilities to get in and out of the village that would be quite pleasant.**

TE: *Yes it's the lack of transport isn't it?*

TS: **Yes that the biggest problem. If either of us - well I can't drive now, but my wife at the moment can still drive which is a good job. But if she didn't, we would be a little bit restricted, that's the thing.**

**But I think it's a nice community although there's lots of people now that I can walk down the street and wouldn't have a clue who they are.**

TE: *It's changed.*

TS: **That's how it is in every village, everyone you speak to who lives within a village community is the same thing, but that's progress I'm afraid.**

TE: *Yes, yes. Things alter don't they?*

TS: **Yes, I mean the influx when the housing boom was on in London, the amount of people who came into the village, who retired from London and found a good property and of course they came down from a property at a third of the price and they had a lot of spending power.**

**But that didn't work out for a lot of them because you know some of them couldn't drive and if one partner died and they'd be left alone and they just, they couldn't cope with being isolated because they hadn't been used to it. They'd been used to walking out the door and having the facilities were there, weren't they, for them.**

TE: *And as the village shops closed...*

TS: **Yes. Yeah. Which was a great shame I think. I think probably with a little bit more forethought, the village shops, I think one of them possibly could have been...**

TE: *Kept going.*

TS: **...kept going.**

**I mean you know you hear all about these community shops and that sort of thing with volunteers keeping them going, there's a lot of them about in the country.**

TE: *But it takes a lot of input.*

**TS:** It takes a lot of organisation and a lot of wanting to do the job.

*TE:* We have got the Post Office on a Thursday morning.

**TS:** Yeas; which people do use that quite a lot. I mean we use it every Thursday to go over to the thing 'cos, once again, there's no banks now. The banks are just slowly disappearing and they will do and if you can't do anything on this magical on-line business...

*TE:* You are a bit stuck.

**TS:** ...You are a bit stuck.

*TE:* Well, yeah, so what happened when you retired: you eventually retired from the job in Neatishead.

**TS:** Yes. I retired from there.

*TE:* Yes. Because Mrs Perry who you worked for she had the farm for a long time. You worked there for 38 years didn't you and that farm changed a lot over the years didn't it?

**TS:** A great deal, yes. A great deal. We went from all sorts of things, she was quite a forward thinking person and, you know, she went into a lot of things.

*TE:* She was the farmer, wasn't she?

**TS:** She was the farmer. Her husband was the banker, he was the Bank Manager at the Nat West in Stalham.

*TE:* And just to prompt you a bit, I can remember things like - rabbit farm.

**TS:** Yes yeah.

*TE:* She had a go at that.

**TS:** Yes. Well, he done that. When I first went there she was into Mink. We had a small, small mink enclosure which the gardener looked after and then they went, we went into broiler chickens and when they finished they err, the sheds were left and then.

**When Mr Perry when he retired he decided he'd go into these New Zealand rabbits, so we had all the cages and everything built and he went into them in a big way for meat production. I mean there was lots of...**

*TE:* They exported weren't they?

**TS:** Yea. Lots of the meat was all over the place they went to, 'cos people were still, I don't know, still had that stigma about not eating rabbit I think. I think most of them were probably sick of rabbit after the war, I'd think. Probably living on it all the while.

**I know when I lived, when we lived in Birmingham my father kept angora rabbits and he used to skin and dry the pelts and the pelts used to go down to London for glove production you know fir and glove production. So I was brought up on tame rabbit. (LAUGH).**

*TE:* And where did they go after the rabbit farm? That was around until about the 70s wasn't it? The 70s

**TS:** Yeah, yeah and then they went to, ooh from there they went to, I'm trying to think what other things they went into. Oh they went into um...

*TE:* Potatoes started about then.

**TS:** Yeah they went in - before that they went into vegetable production for a shop she...

*TE:* Which sort of vegetables did they grow?

**TS:** All general, you know, caulfs...

*TE:* A variety...

**TS:** ...Caulis, cabbage, beetroot, parsnips all that sort of thing. Only in a small horticultural way about, I think we had about 4 acres I think of that.

And she bought a shop, or hired a shop in Norwich on, oh I'm trying to think of the road now, going out towards the multiple crossroads where all the traffic lights are. I can't think where they are now, anyway.

*TE:* Anyway, that was a shop in...

**TS:** That was the shop within Norwich on the outskirts of Norwich and she kept that for quite a long while and we supplied that with fruit and veg as much as we possibly could and the rest we bought in local. And that was another enterprise what went down the drain.

And then um, then the son came home from college and he decided we'd go into pigs in a big way, because he was interested in pigs and we had, oh I don't know how many sows we had, I think we must have had about 50 sows in time.

Then we built sheds and all sorts of things, we built for them, and then that died a natural death and then we then had the potato production start, and we had a shed built to store potatoes and then we gradually went from 1000 ton, which was the first shed and we gradually went up to, oh I don't know how many ton we done in the end: I can't remember exactly, but there was one, there was a box shed, there was two bulk sheds and then there was another box shed and then we had another one built at the other way and I think, yeah there was about 5 places where they stored potatoes.

*TE:* Did you still have some livestock on the farm at that time?

**TS:** Only odd pieces, they kept drifting in and out of animals. We tried to farm without livestock but that didn't work very well 'cos the land just deteriorated very quickly. You know we got so that was not very ploughable in places, so we used to have - have when the mushroom farm at Catfield was in full production - we used to get loads of mushroom muck. And then we went we got chickens muck and we got sewer cake from Stalham which was spread on the land and all sorts of different things.

*TE:* A necessity really wasn't it, with some crops to constantly need feeding it.

**TS:** Yeah and then we had, er, then in the end James went in for Charolais, we had some pedigree Charolais in the end and they were quite nice cattle, but then that slowly dwindled and died another death.

So they had drifted in and out with lots of different things.

*TE:* Willing to try new things as they come along.

**TS:** I mean we grew, we grew onions on a commercial basis for about 4 seasons I think, 4 or 5 seasons. They were quite labour intensive because you know that weren't sort of...

*TE:* They can't compete with the weeds, can they, onions.

**TS:** No, no. That was our biggest problem, we couldn't, the chemical wasn't there available at the time to keep the weed down so we got, sometime one year I remember we had one



particular weed that just smothered the whole crop and we spent hours and hours out there trying to keep the crop clean, but we just couldn't. In the end I think we left it, and we just hoovered up what we had and sorted them out.

No, that was interesting to see, you know, move everything and, you know as normal as all the rest of the farms were doing the same, they were increasing the size of the fields, so there was every winter time there was always a hedge to pull out or trees to pull down and tidy up and clean up.

And then we had all the marshes down at Whiteslea Lodge, we had oh I don't know how many. Well we had all, as you drive down towards Whiteslea Lodge, we had all the marshes at one point on the left hand side right from the start to the end, right down to Whiteslea and all them we fenced them all and then we run cattle down there.

We had pedigree herd of, oh that was another enterprise, a pedigree herd of Herefords down there which ran wild, down there which, um, they were quite a big herd in the end and they sold them at the old cattle market at Norwich Hill.

TE: *Oh yes, yeah.*

TS: The old one, you know, the old market up there, they went there. They cleaned them up and got rid of the whole herd.

TE: *When would that have been*

TS: **When?**

TE: *yes, roughly.*

TS: I would have been, I don't know, I would probably have been in my 30s I would have thought when they done that, which was, yeah 40 some odd years ago.

TE: *Yeah.*

TS: **Yeah.** Time flies so quick you can't remember. I'm not very good at remembering dates to be truthful.

TE: *No. If you can remember the decade...*

TS: **Yes. Yeah (LAUGH).** Other than that, that's about it really in the village. There we so many different things we had, when we used to go fishing in the evenings there would several boats out there, you know, local lads out there fishing and we'd always be larking about and shouting to one another. That was just a good life then. Then.

It's not - I don't think it's - there's a reasonable community now in the village I think, but it's not quite so knitted together as that was because, as I said before, nobody went anywhere. Virtually everybody who lived in Hickling worked within a 3 mile radius. Now you know people commute.

TE: *Or they come from far away.*

TS: **Yes,** people think nothing of, probably if they have a job in Oulton Broad, they'd commute every day. But people don't, you know, don't get jobs within the local area anymore you know.

My youngest son he lives in Yorkshire between Doncaster and Sheffield and he commutes to Hull every day of the week, which is about hour and quarter ride every day, but I mean lots and lots of people do the same thing, they live within a small community and then go off to work.

TE: *Yes that community where you grew up together and worked together...*

TS: **It's gone. It's gone everywhere. You know I mean in most, a lot of the people in the village worked on farms, because the farms employed a lot of people. I think at one point there was 13 people working on Mrs Perry's farm, you know. Which was a lot of people. Roy's Workers's (?) farm which was only just down the road, there was over 20 worked there.**

TE: *Yes. It's not like that now.*

TS: **It's not like that. And Mr Blaxell's had about 5 or 6 people. Same at Mr Tallowin...**

TE: *And up at the Hall they had a few...*

TS: **And up at the Hall, I mean, when Jack Borrett used to run the Hall or do whatever he did at the Hall, I never did know exactly what he done, but he was sort of overseer there. I know my father-in-law worked there for a while, and, you know.**

**There was lots the people involved in agriculture and lots of the men, people like Jack Nudd and like Mr Gibbs who lived down here and that. They used to do small jobs, like they'd go reed cutting, sedge cutting, they'd be hoeing sugar beet and then they'd go off fishing.**

TE: *Yes. Would they spend their winters on the trawlers?*

TS: **Then they'd go off trawling and they'd come back.**

TE: *Back for the summer*

TS: **They'd come back. They'd either to the Hull fishing which was out of Yarmouth and Lowestoft, and then if they got on, were on a good boat, they'd go up to Shields and do the fishing up at Shields. And that's how Jack met his wife because she was a North Shields woman, and, er, they came back to live here. I mean Jack used to do all sorts of jobs, I mean when they used to, like, muck out the cattle and that I mean he used to pull it out in small heaps and you got so much - all done on piecework, you know they'd put the heaps out to start with and then they'd go behind and throw it out. It was very labour intensive. I mean all the sugar beet was done by hand.**

TE: *Yes, the hoeing.*

TS: **The hoeing and the lifting, topping and carting off and that was all on piecework. You got so much and acre to do the hoeing, the seconding and then there'd be the, they'd lift them, they put bow lifter or something like that through, they'd lift the sugar beet and you'd go out and knock the sugar beet into rows, then you'd have to rake all the bottoms out, then you'd top them and put them there, then you'd throw them on the cart, and then you'd throw them off the cart into a heap and they put the lorry on. I mean that was... Jobs was so labour intensive and when the machinery come along of course that revolutionised the whole job.**

TE: *Yes, total revolution, wasn't it.*

TS: **Yes it was, yeah. It was. I mean that was still going...**

TE: *And it's still going on.*

TS: **The frightening thing is that's still going on. I mean, I kept up with the job until I retired - just about - with all the modern machinery and I don't mind admitting I only just about kept up to scratch with it. But I wouldn't walk onto a farm now and know what to do. I probably wouldn't even know how to start, start a machine up now. You know, I mean, you look at them and I think...**

TE: *They're like computers.*

**TS:** Yeah well that's what everything is computerised now. I mean you don't have to try and work things out, you know, calculate sprayers and fertilizers spreaders and things: it's all...

*TE:* What do they call those hover things...

**TS:** Yeah.

*TE:* ...that go over the field to decide where to put fertilizer... Yeah, yhey don't have to walk the field anymore.

**TS:** No no, not any more they use these...

*TE:* This thing over...

**TS:** Yeah yeah, well it's how it should be, the trouble is...

*TE:* You can't keep up!!!

**TS:** It's making life very lonely to be on a farm now, it's not the old ways.

I don't think anybody would want to go back to the old ways, I'm sure they wouldn't, all the hand work when you were always in a group of people. If you were mucking out a cattle shed there would be about 6 of you all on forks, and you'd be having a laugh and a joke and, you know, what did you do last night and all that sort of thing, and I saw you down the pub and that.

But you won't get that now, you turn up for work, you jump on this machine and you probably won't speak to anybody for the rest of the day until you got home at night which is not, it's not a good working environment, I don't think, any more.

*TE:* It's not a healthy one is it?

**TS:** It's not healthy one, because it's all about getting the job done. You know getting the job done as efficiently as possible and it's - they were saying - I was watching a program on the television and they were talking about how lonely it is for people like, you know, probably in the hillside farming, when they had quite a lot of stock, but the only thing they have got now is a dog and a quad bike and that's their life. And that must be hellish I should think all day long to get up and the only thing you can hear all day is the bleat of sheep, I think, or the mooing of cows. I think that would be quite a depressing job, I would think.

*TE:* You become very introverted, don't you.

**TS:** I would think so, yes. I don't think I'd want farm life anymore, to be truthful. I think it's just a bit too isolated, too isolated. You got no friends, no communication. The only thing you got is you got your telephone, which most people hang on to all day and, um, the radio and if you take that away from you, you've got nothing.

I mean, one time when we used to do the spud lifting and stone picking and things like that, we all used to be wrapped up with CBs. Well, you know, we were on CB channels we could talk to one another, everybody would be coming in...

*TE:* Yes, I remember that...

**TS:** ...from different places, you know there'd be another gang probably up at Sherringham somewhere doing something and you'd be chatting away. Some of the things what was said over the CB probably wouldn't have been repeated to tell the truth (*LAUGH*) that was quite good fun actually.

I wouldn't want to go back to it, I wouldn't want to go back now.

TE: No

TS: That's why I enjoyed being with the cattle, because there was always something happening every day, you know there'd be the vet coming in or the cowman would be trimming feet, or doing things or inspecting to see if they were in season or the vet would come in and be scanning the cow, you know when you got a couple of hundred cows that take a long while.

All the followers you know you don't have to... You're always busy every day and you had a lot to think about... You know, mixing rations for cows, special rations, you know, you'd have a dietitian come in when we had a herd of cows over there we have a special dietitian come in, he'd go through all the books to see what the yield was of the cows and what the food content was going in to the cows and what was coming out to see that you weren't putting stuff in what they didn't really need and all that. That was, that was the interesting part about it as well, when you have all that to sort out, mix up every day. That was the enjoyable part about it I thought. Although you know it was long hours.

TE: *It was physical, but you were also having to think all the time.*

TS: Yes yeah we had to think all the while about things yeah. That's good.

TE: Well, thank you very much.

*This transcription has been made to back up, not replace,  
the audio tapes that form the main record output of the VOH Changing Village project 2015 to 2020.  
The transcribers used their best efforts and checked back for proper names and places.  
We ask for forgiveness for any errors...*