



## Magdalene Institutions: Recording an Archival and Oral History A project funded by the



<b>Reference Code:</b>	MAGOHP/41/ANON
<b>Oral History of:</b>	Chrissie Plunkett
<b>Pseudonym?</b>	Yes
<b>Status:</b>	Survivor
<b>Keywords:</b>	Good Shepherd Sisters; Waterford Magdalene Laundry; disability issues; lack of money/financial awareness; learning difficulties; punishments for learning difficulties; Árd Mhuire Mother and Baby Home, Dunboyne, Co. Meath.
<b>Date of Interview:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> August 2013
<b>Also present at interview:</b>	Kate Treacy (sister-in-law)
<b>Transcript:</b>	70 pages
<b>Number/Format of Audio Files:</b>	One .m4a file
<b>Interviewer:</b>	Claire McGettrick
<b>Records/Papers included:</b>	None
<b>Access Conditions:</b>	Anonymised interviews are freely available to the public. Immediate release of transcript; audio destroyed on request; interviewee's identity to be revealed in 30 years.
<b>Conditions Governing Reproduction:</b>	Interviews can be reproduced, however the citation below must be used at all times.

To cite this transcript:

O'Donnell, K., S. Pembroke and C. McGettrick. (2013) "Chrissie Plunkett". *Magdalene Institutions: Recording an Oral and Archival History*. Government of Ireland Collaborative Research Project, Irish Research Council, pp.1-70.

## Note Regarding Interviewee

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Chrissie is hearing impaired and her sister-in-law Kate Treacy was present at the interview to ensure that Chrissie was comfortable at all times. Chrissie is not a very vocal person and it was necessary in this transcription to indicate whether she had said 'yes' or 'no' by nodding or shaking her head in response to a question. Kate also provided assistance to the interviewer in asking questions in a way that Chrissie would understand. Kate also has recollections of previous conversations with Chrissie about her time in Waterford and she prompted her at various times to remember things she previously recalled.

## Notes on Redaction and Transcription Process

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**Interviewee Initials:** CP  
**Relative's initials:** KT  
**Interviewer Initials:** CMcG

### Key

... = Short pause (or where words are repeated or the speaker changes direction mid-sentence)  
(*pause*) = Long pause  
*blabla* = spoken with great emphasis  
(*blabla*) = Additional audible expressions, body language  
[blabla] = background information that might be helpful

### Notes on Redaction Process

- Named individuals have been given pseudonyms
- Dates are accurately transcribed
- Certain locations have been removed in this interview to protect the interviewee.

### List of Pseudonyms

Pseudonym	Status/Relationship to Interviewee
Chrissie Plunkett	Interviewee
Kate Treacy	Also present at interview/relative
Dearbhla McMahon	Third party survivor
Agnes Jones	Third party survivor
Frances Brown	Third party survivor
Theresa McGowan	Third party survivor
Andrew Plunkett	Son of interviewee

### Basic Data from Interview

<b>Name/Pseudonym</b>	Chrissie Plunkett
<b>When Born</b>	c. 1950
<b>Born outside marriage?</b>	No
<b>Raised by</b>	Family
<b>Education</b>	Post-primary training
<b>Order</b>	Good Shepherd
<b>Laundry</b>	Waterford
<b>From</b>	1969

<b>To</b>	1974
<b>Duration of stay</b>	Five years
<b>Age on entry</b>	19
<b>Entered Via</b>	Referred by nun in Dunboyne
<b>House Name/No</b>	Didn't say
<b>Haircutting/punishment?</b>	Wouldn't say
<b>Circumstances of Departure</b>	Family collected her, says the laundry was shutting down
<b>Emigrated?</b>	No
<b>Physical ailments?</b>	No, but was injured in laundry
<b>Of Note</b>	Hearing impaired

[End of conversation prior to interview]

CMcG *Yeah, don't worry...*

KT *Yeah.*

CMcG *...now...*

[Interview begins]

CMcG *So, please give your name for a start.*

CP *(Pause)*

CMcG *So, if you give me your name?*

CP *I'm Chrissie Plunkett [Pseudonym]*

CMcG *So, before starting the interview, I would just like to ask you to confirm that you agree to participate in this interview voluntarily and that you are familiar with the information and consent forms that I provided to you.*

CP *I worked in Waterford. [Good Shepherd Magdalene Laundry]*

CMcG *So if you just...if you...do you understand...I just...all you have to do is say 'yes' or 'no' that you understand, do you remember when we were ...*

CP *Yeah.*

CMcG *... we were talking about the...*

CP *Yeah.*

CMcG *...the forms here, yeah...*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *You understand about the forms? Grand.*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *So, can we...can you just start by telling me something about yourself Chrissie like what...where you...*

CP I worked in Waterford.

CMcG *You worked in Waterford.*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *And how did you come to be in Waterford?*

CP I came in 1969.

CMcG *Right. And how did you come to be there, do you remember how you...how you came to be there?*

CP It was in December.

CMcG *It was in December. And...and, who brought you there?*

CP A lady.

CMcG *A lady.*

CP A nun.

CMcG *Okay, and where were you before that?*

CP In Dublin, working.

CMcG *Whereabouts?*

CP [Dublin suburb removed]

CMcG *[Dublin suburb removed] And what were you doing there?*

CP Children's school...

CMcG *Oh...*

CP ...college.

CMcG *...okay...okay. I'll just say...if you...if...if Kate [pseudonym of Chrissie's sister-in-law], that's Kate Treacy, if you want to jump in at any stage to clarify anything...*

KT Yeah.

CMcG *You...you can...*

KT Okay.

CMcG *...to...to help, we're just having a chat here...about this.*

KT Okay.

CMcG *And (addressing Chrissie) do you know why you were sent to Waterford from [Dublin suburb removed]...*

CP I don't know.

CMcG *You don't know. A...and were your...were your parents made aware that you were...*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *W..th...were they told that you were going to Waterford?*

CP A lady came to the house.

CMcG *They came to the house did they?*

CP A lady.

CMcG *Oh, a lady came? And...*

KT To...Chrissie? (*Gets Chrissie's attention*) Did they come to...did they come to [Dublin suburb removed] to bring you to Waterford?

CP No, no.

KT They came to your mother's house was it?

CP Yeah.

CMcG *Okay.*

KT And, how come you were at home in your mother's house?

CP What?

KT Why were you at home in your mother's house? Were you on holidays from [Dublin suburb removed] or...

CP Holiday.

KT You were...you'd gone on holidays from [Dublin suburb removed]?

CP Yeah, yeah.

KT And then...some lady came...

CP Yeah.

KT ...to take you...did you think you were going back to [Dublin suburb removed] then?

CP No.

KT You knew you weren't? Had you left [Dublin suburb removed]?

CP Yeah, I left it.

KT You'd left it?

CP Yeah, someone broke in, I was afraid of me life.

CMcG *Somebody broke into [Dublin suburb removed]?*

CP *(Nods head)*

CMcG *Okay.*

KT In...into the room...into the room that youse were sleeping in was it?

CP Yeah, I was sleeping in another room, I found someone at me door and I had it locked and the next door was open and there was a lady in the bed and a man holding her like, and all night [inaudible] they were taking fingerprints.

CMcG *Right!*

CP Fingerprints.



CMcG *Yeah. And what was this place in [Dublin suburb removed] then?*

CP I...I think it was [name of workplace removed].

KT It was...it was a school...it was a school, I think it might have been a boarding...

CP Children.

KT ...school.

CMcG *Oh right.*

KT And...did...you were a domestic...she did the...the cleaning and the...

CP Yeah.

KT ...you know, looking after the...the ch...didn't you, wasn't that what you did there?

CP Yeah.

CMcG *And you were living-in were you?*

CP What?

CMcG *You...were you living in the place...in...that you were working?*

CP Living in it yeah.

CMcG *Right.*

KT Were there many of you?

CP A good few.

KT And how many were in the room? Was...was there just you and one other person in the room or were there...

CP There was two people in my room.

CMcG *Right.*

KT As well as you?

CP Yeah.

KT And...how did you get home? How did you get home to [name of home county removed] from [Dublin suburb removed]?

CP I run away.

KT She ran away.

CP I ran away...

CMcG *Good for you.*

CP ...got a bus.

CMcG *You got a bus, okay.*

CP And I never came back.

CMcG *And...and so...so you ran away...*

CP I was afraid of me life.

CMcG *...you ran away after somebody broke in...*

CP Yeah.

CMcG ...to [workplace in Dublin suburb removed], and you went back to [home location removed]...

CP Yeah.

CMcG And then a nun came to your house in [home location removed]?

CP (Shakes head)

CMcG No?

CP Not a nun, a lady.

CMcG A lady came to a house...your house in [home location removed] to bring you down to Waterford?

CP Yeah.

CMcG Okay. And, you don't know why she came?

CP (Shakes head)

CMcG No. No, and you don't know who she was?

CP (Shakes head)

CMcG No. And...sorry, go on, Kate.

KT On her...do you know the thing that we got back from the...

CMcG Good Shepherds?

KT Yeah. It said 'recommended by Sr...' – I'll...I'll actually look for that...

CMcG *Okay.*

KT A 'Sr Somebody' in Clonee. So (*addressing Chrissie*) do you remember any contact with...with somewhere...with Clonee, it's in Co. Meath?<sup>1</sup>

CP (*Shakes head*)

KT No, because that's who the...the recommendation for the...the Good Shepherd was from.

CMcG *I would be very interested to see that, yeah.*

KT Do you want...

CMcG Whenever, when...we can...we can have a look at the end if you wish.

KT Yeah, okay.

CMcG (*Addressing Chrissie*) *And...and how did you get down to Waterford?*

CP On the train.

CMcG *On the train. And did you know what was happening to you?*

CP (*Shakes head*)

CMcG *You d...you d...you didn't know why you were going down or where you were going, did you not?*

CP (*Shakes head*)

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<sup>1</sup> Chrissie's records were later retrieved and show that she was referred from Árd Mhuire Mother and Baby Home, Dunboyne, Co. Meath.

CMcG *No, no.*

KT Did anyone else go with you?

CP No, me brother [came as] far as Dublin. Me brother then came back...for Dublin [sic].

CMcG *Oh, okay.*

KT Your...your brother came back to Dublin?

CP *(Louder)* Me brother came [as] far as Dublin.

KT Oh he came as far as Dublin?

CP Yeah.

CMcG *With you...with the lady?*

CP I met a nun in the station.

CMcG *Right.*

CP And she brought me down.

CMcG *Right.*

KT So...

CMcG *So a lady came to the house, your brother came as far as Dublin and then...and then your...and then...and then you went on the train then from Dublin to Waterford, yeah?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *And...was ...there was a nun there at that stage yeah?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *Okay, okay.*

KT Do you remember the nun's name?

CP *(Pauses, sighing) I forget her name... (Pause)*

CMcG *That's alright...*

KT That's okay, yeah.

CMcG *...no that's okay...that's...that's no problem. And, so you didn't know where you were going or what...what you were doing on the train or anything like that did you or...*

CP No.

CMcG *No.*

KT Did you think you were coming back to Dublin to work, did you...did you think they were sending you back to [workplace in Dublin suburb removed]?

CP No.

CMcG *No.*

KT You didn't think that?

CP I didn't want to go back.

CMcG *Right.*

KT Were you crying, were you upset?

CP No.

KT Now...

CP [I was] afraid of me life.

CMcG *You were afraid were you?*

KT You were afraid yeah...because that's what I was thinking, I thought you might be crying...if you were really afraid, I thought you might be crying and upset, I think I would have been.

CP [Inaudible]

CMcG *Was it scary like, on the train going down to Waterford?*

CP What?

CMcG *Was it scary on the train going down to Waterford, were you frightened?*

CP *(Shakes head)*

CMcG *No. But...but tell us what happened when you got there, to Waterford...*

CP It was a laundry.

CMcG *To the laundry, yeah can you tell us what happened when you got there.*

CP I was on the presser doing the sheets, and the coats and the shirts.

CMcG *Right.*

CP Presser *(does motion of pressing clothes).*

CMcG *And were you put to work straight away?*

CP Working [inaudible] yeah.

CMcG *Can you remember what happened on your first day...when you got...*

CP Presser...flattener...flattener...presser.

CMcG *A flattener and presser?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *Yeah, yeah. A...and, but do you remember when you went down on the train, do you remember what happened when you got there? Did they tell you where you were or anything?*

CP No.

CMcG *No. And did they show you where you were going to live?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *Yeah, yeah.*

KT How many people were in that room?

CP Lots of people.

KT There was...it was like...would it be like a hospital ward, do you know, like loads of beds...

CP [There were] loads of beds.

CMcG *Right, right. And...*



KT And were they young people or were they old people?

CP [There were] young [and] old.

KT There was young and old?

CMcG *And...so...so...when...you...d...do you remember like, was it daytime or night time when you got down or anything?*

CP *(Shakes head)*

CMcG *No. You don't remember. But...so...so...you...I mean, do you remember like, the...the first day you were working?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *[Do] you remember what happened then?*

CP Flattener presser.

CMcG *You were put on the...on the flattener and the presser?*

KT *(Whispered, addressing interviewer) Who taught? Who taught you...who showed you how to use it?*

CP They showed it to me.

CMcG *Who showed you how to do that?*

CP A lady.

CMcG *Oh a lady.*

CP A lady did it.

CMcG *Okay.*

KT Another one of the workers?

CP Yeah.

CMcG *Right, right.*

KT And was there a supervisor or a boss, do you know, over the room that yez were working in?

CP *(Shakes head)*

KT No? It was all...the workers, one showing another was it?

CP *(Nods head)*

CMcG *Right, yeah. And, did you make many friends when you were there?*

CP I did *(smiling)*.

CMcG *You did. Tell us about that.*

CP Dearbhla McMahan [pseudonym]

CMcG *Dearbhla...*

CP Dearbhla McMahan.

CMcG *Dearbhla...Dearbhla Mahon?*

KT No, McMahan.

CMcG *Oh McMahan...McMahan.*

CP And Agnes Jones, she's dead; Frances Brown, she's dead; Theresa McGowan, [pseudonyms] from Dublin...me friend, I do keep in touch with her.

CMcG *You still keep in touch with her today yeah?*

CP Yeah...

CMcG *That's g...*

CP ...on the phone.

CMcG *...great. And do ye talk about...about Waterford when you're talking?*

CP No.

CMcG *Do you...you don't talk abo...*

CP No we talk about the weather...talk about A...my son is here...

CMcG *In Dublin?*

CP No he's here!

KT No he's...he came...

CMcG *Okay.*

CP [We] talk about Andrew [pseudonym of interviewee's son].

KT ... he's here as well for a few days ...

CMcG *Okay.*

KT ...and Theresa has...three children isn't it?

CP Who?

KT Theresa?

CP Yeah three girls.

KT Yeah she has three and they talk about their children...their families

CMcG *Yeah, good for you.*

KT Yeah.

CP She has six grandchilder [grandchildren].

CMcG *Wow, wow. And tell us, do you remember anything about like...you were talking about...there was like a big dormitory like...like with all the beds, do you remember anything else like...about what the food was like or anything in Waterford?*

CP Food wasn't...I didn't eat the food.

CMcG *You didn't like it, did you not?*

CP I lived on jam and bread.

CMcG *Jam and bread? Right.*

CP Blackcurrant jam.

CMcG *Oh! Blackcurrant jam! (Laughs) And, did you get enough food?*

CP What?

CMcG *Did...were you hungry, or did you get enough?*

CP No, I wasn't hungry.

CMcG *You weren't hungry. And, tell us, how many...can you remember how many hours a day you worked.*

CP I don't know.

CMcG *You don't know...and...*

CP Evening.

CMcG *Were you working a long day?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *Yeah...and...and did you get paid at all?*

CP Got paid every Saturday.

CMcG *In...in Waterford?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *And what were you paid?*

CP A couple of pound.

CMcG *A couple of pound. And was that like...*

CP You write down in the book how much...what you want, what you want, they'd give you.

CMcG *They write down in the book what they'd want to give you?*

CP Yeah how much you...how much...whatever you want.

CMcG *Right.*

CP £2 or £3, £4

CMcG *A...and would that be kind of like pocket money now or...t...t...you know when you were working in [workplace in Dublin suburb removed] now, would it have been the same as what you were getting for a wage there?*

CP No.

CMcG *Was it less or more?*

CP More.

CMcG *Was it m...was it different to...like what kind of money were you getting in [workplace in Dublin suburb removed] can you remember?*

CP No.

CMcG *You weren't getting paid in [workplace in Dublin suburb removed] were you not?*

CP I was getting paid.

CMcG *Can you remember what you were getting paid?*

CP I don't know how much.

CMcG *Was it more or less than Waterford?*

CP More (*smiling*).

CMcG *More...a lot more?*

CP *(Nods head, smiling)*

CMcG *Yeah. I th...*

KT No...Chrissie? *(Gets Chrissie's attention)* Did you have to write down in a book what you needed money for?

CP That was in Waterford.

KT In Waterford.

CMcG *In Waterford...right...*

KT Do you know, if she needed...do you know, maybe...if you needed sanitary towels or if you needed...

CP Yeah.

KT ...pants or if you needed stockings...

CP Yeah.

KT You had to write that down in a book and you were given...

CP No we didn't have to write it down you were write down [sic] money, how much money you want.

KT Yeah, so if you needed £1 to buy your stuff...

CP Yeah.

KT The pound was written down.

CP Yeah.

CMcG *And...*

KT But, you weren't given £5 and told, 'you can spend that on anything,' were you?

CP What?

KT Were you just given...you weren't just given your wages at the end of the week, no matter what you wanted, it wasn't the same every week was it?

CP No.

CMcG *Right. And would it be like...more like pocket money than wages?*

CP Must have been pocket money.

CMcG *Kind of more like pocket money?*

CP Must have been.

CMcG *And...but like...would it be enough to buy a week's shopping?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *What you got paid in Waterford?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *Do you think? But like...say when you were writ...what would you write down in the book...what you needed?*

CP £1, £4, £5, £6 to spend on whatever I want.



CMcG *Right. And...and would you get what you wanted then when...*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *And would you ever...*

KT Did you *always* get...

CP Yeah.

KT ...did everyone *always* get what they asked for?

CP Yeah, people asked...different people...

KT But did they always get...you know...whatever amount they wrote down, would they always...would they be given that, or would there be some weeks that they'd say, 'oh no, we haven't got that much this week,' were yez ever told...

CP *(Shakes head)*

KT No? You...you got whatever you asked for?

CP Yeah.

[See Pg 35-37, 57-58 and Pgs 67-68 for clarifications regarding Chrissie's money awareness]

CMcG *And...and what kind of stuff would you...what...what kind of stuff would you need to spend your money on back then?*

CP Jam.

CMcG *Jam! (Laughs)*

CP Tights.

CMcG *Tights.*

CP Maybe shoes or something.

CMcG *Right...right. And where would you buy them?*

CP In Waterford, out in the city.

CMcG *Right, and...and how would you get there to buy the stuff.*

CP We walk[ed] up on the street.

CMcG *Right.*

KT What day of the week was that?

CP Saturday.

CMcG *Right.*

KT After din...after lunch, do you know...

CMcG *Right. And would somebody be with you when you'd go up to Waterford then?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *Right...would...a nun or something was it?*

CP It was Dearbhla.

CMcG *Dearbhla? And was Dearbhla like a kind of a boss person in there or...*

CP She was a nice person.

CMcG *Oh she was a nice person, was she? And...and...like but, was she in charge or anything in there?*

CP No.

CMcG *No, no. So the two of ye would go up together?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *And...and you'd go back then to the convent later?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *And you wouldn't think about running away or anything like that, no?*

CP No.

CMcG *No? Were you...were you happy down there like?*

CP No.

CMcG *No, but you still wouldn't run away*

CP Away from home!

CMcG *Away from home, yeah, yeah. And...and...and...and tell us, did you work hard? Was the work hard?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *Yeah? And...and...and that pocket money that you would have got for it, was it enough?*

CP *(Pause)*

CMcG *Do you know, when you put the...wrote the money down in the book for what you wanted, was that enough for the work you were doing?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *Do you reckon...it was...you got paid for what...do you know...enough...money for wh...*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *...yeah? And...hang on 'til we (consults interview guide)...can you remember any special events or anything like that, like holidays or Christmas down there?*

CP We had holidays during the summer.

CMcG *You had holidays in the summer?*

CP Clonmel.

CMcG *Clonmel, right. And, whereabouts in Clonmel, do you know what you did in Clonmel?*

CP I think it's in Tipperary *(looks confused)* I think...yeah.

CMcG *Yeah, yeah, I know, it's in Tipperary, but can you remember what you did on holidays there?*

CP We were at the seaside.

CMcG *Oh okay. Right. Can you remember...were you...did you get any opportunity for education when you were in Waterford? Any reading and writing or anything like that when you were there?*

CP *(Shakes head)*

CMcG *No. And what about religion, did they say many prayers down there or anything?*

CP There was Mass.

CMcG *Mass. Was Mass every day?*

CP No, every Sunday.

CMcG *Every Sunday, right. And were you saying prayers when you worked every day or anything like that or...*

CP *(Shakes head, smiling)*

CMcG *No? (Laughs)*

CP The nuns would be squealing!

CMcG *(Laughs)*

CP Singing!

CMcG *Oh the nuns would be squealing singing? (Laughs)*

CP They were squealing. Rooster....like rooster.

KT They were like roosters! *(Laughs)*

CMcG *Rooster! (Laughs)*

CP *(Laughs)*

CMcG *And tell us, did you ever have a time when you didn't want to work, what happened if you didn't want to do your work?*

CP I did me work.

CMcG *You did your work. And did anybody ever not do their work?*

CP *(Shakes head)*

CMcG *No, everybody just did their work, did they?*

CP *(Nods head)*

CMcG *Right. And, can you remember any accidents?*

CP No.

CMcG *No, no. And...and...can you remember when somebody was ill, if somebody was sick, what happened?*

CP No.

CMcG *No.*

KT *(Tries to get Chrissie's attention)* Chrissie? What about...remember you told me one time about a lady who was cleaning out a...a big machine...

CP A big tank.

KT ...a big tank, and she got poisoned or got...did she fall into...she...

CP She got down...

KT ...oh she...she had to get down into it...

CP She had to get down...she was swell up [sic]

KT ...to clean it out...

CMcG *Oh my God...*

KT ...and she...she obviously got some sort of infection or something from it because she swelled... Chrissie's memory isn't... (*Addressing Chrissie*) [Can you] say what you remember of her?

CP Yeah.

CMcG *Can you...can you tell us about that...what happened...she got down into a tank to clean it was it?*

CP She got down in the tank to clean and she got swell up [sic].

CMcG *She swelled up after, did she?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *My God.*

KT And what happened then?

CP She was dead.

CMcG *She was dead? Oh my God almighty. A...and...can you...like...was there a funeral at the time or...can you remember anything?*

CP No I don't remember.

CMcG *You don't remember. And...*

KT Did any of you go?

CP *(Shakes head)*

KT You don't remember going to a funeral or anything, no?

CP I don't remember.

KT No?

CMcG *Right. Can you remember her name?*

CP I remember she had her own place.

CMcG *Can you remember her name?*

CP No.

CMcG *No, that's alright. A...and can you remember like, was there any kind of punishments down there or anything like?*

CP No.

CMcG *No. If...if somebody didn't do what they were told or anything like that, did anything happen to them, no?*

CP No.

CMcG *And can you remember what....say for example if somebody tried to escape...do you remember anyone escaping?*

CP No.

CMcG *No. And...*

KT Did...sorry...did Theresa...did Theresa McGowan not run away?



CP Yeah.

CMcG *She did, did she (smiling)?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *Can you remember what happened? (Laughing)*

CP Theresa McGowan didn't run away!

KT I thought she did?

CP No, another woman.

KT Oh another...well...well it was Theresa McGowan who told me about that...

CMcG *Right...*

CP One of the girls...she was down in Carlow...

CMcG *And can you remember what happened?*

CP She got out from the window.

CMcG *She got out the window*

CP She got a lift off someone outside, there was someone outside waiting for her in a car...never came back.

CMcG *She never came back?*

CP I have her address.

CMcG *Have you?*

CP She's dead.

CMcG *Oh.*

CP She died of cancer.

CMcG *Oh God...with cancer.*

CP She used to write to me every week.

CMcG *Wow. So she looked you up afterwards did she...when...*

CP *(Nods head)*

CMcG *Right.*

CP She didn't come back.

KT And, do you...did she get married or did she...

CP She got married.

KT Did she? Oh right.

CP She has children.

KT And...she never...she never came back at all, she just got on with her life?

CP *(Nods head)*

KT Oh. And she used to write to you at home in your mother's house?

CP What?

KT Used she write to you at home in your mother's house? She didn't write to you when you were in Waterford did she?

CP *No!*

KT *No! (Laughs)*

CMcG *And what happened...*

CP *No! They'd open the letter if I got it! (Smiling)*

CMcG *Did they open the letters yeah?*

CP You never know!

CMcG *A...and...*

CP [The nuns would] get [the] address.

CMcG *And tell...tell us, so the nuns would open letters if you got letters yeah?*

CP They wouldn't open the letter no, in case they would.

KT In case they'd open the letters.

CMcG *Oh right, so you wouldn't have anyone writing to you in case they would?*

CP *(Nods and smiles)*

CMcG *Right, right (laughs).*

CP She used to write to me when I came home, I wrote to her.

CMcG *And did you have any communication with the outside world at all when you were in Waterford, other than like...when you went into the...the city of a...of a Saturday?*

CP No.

CMcG *Did...did you see newspapers or anything like that or...*

CP Yeah...newspaper.

CMcG *You'd see a newspaper. And, did your family come and visit you at all?*

CP Me brother and sister and me father.

CMcG *And...and would they come...*

CP Me sister came home from America.

CMcG *Oh, okay...and...*

KT *(Gestures to catch interviewer's attention)*

CMcG *Sorry Kate.*

KT *(Whispered) One time.*

CMcG *Was that just one visit was it?*

CP One visitor.

KT One...one time wasn't it Chrissie?

CP One time.

KT Just one time.

CMcG *And you...j...so you didn't have loads of visits?*

CP *(Shakes head)*

CMcG *No, okay. And...*

KT Her older sis...sorry...

CMcG *No...*

KT ...her older sister lived in America and obviously she was home on...maybe her first holiday home from America...

CMcG *Okay. And...*

KT ...and I think that's how the...the Dad and brother and that sister came to visit.

CMcG *Right.*

KT But it was one...one visit.

CMcG *Right.*

KT *And...(addressing Chrissie) did you...used you write home...to your Mam [mother]?*

CP Yeah.

KT Did you write every week...

CP Eh.

KT ...or did you write...

CP An odd week.

KT An odd time.

CP An odd time.

KT When you were in [workplace Dublin suburb removed] and when you were getting your wages every week, did you send money home to your mam?

CP Yeah.

KT Nearly every time you wrote to her?

CP *(Nods head)*

KT So when you were in Waterford and you were writing to your mam, you didn't have money then to put in it, or did you?

CP *(Shakes head, indicating 'no')*

KT *(Whispered, smiling) Say no!*

CP No.

CMcG *(Laughs)*

KT And...did your Mam...did your Mammy ever say anything about the fact that you weren't sending her money from Waterford when you had been sending money from [workplace in Dublin suburb removed]?

CP No she didn't say anything.

KT She never said anything to you?

CP      *(Shakes head)*

KT      No.

CMcG   *No.*

KT      Bec...at that time...even...I was...I was living in Dublin, I was living in a flat and you'd be trying to send maybe 10 shillings a week...

CMcG   *Hmm.*

KT      ...every so often. It wouldn't be...it was very sel...not very frequent with us anyway because by the time we paid rent and everything else...

CMcG   *Yeah.*

KT      ...we didn't...but you...it was just the thing to do...

CMcG   *To send home money.*

KT      ...in...at that time...was to send...and that's just one of the...the questions...

CMcG   *Yeah, yeah.*

KT      ...that was in my head, you know.

CMcG   *Yeah, to kind of orientate the whole thing.*

KT      The...the normal thing would be to be sending a little bit of money home...

CMcG   *Yeah, yeah, absolutely.*

KT ...and, it would seem strange to me that...in a whole five years that she wouldn't have had money...

CMcG *Yeah.*

CP ...to send home, whereas when she was a younger person, probably earning less...well...should have been earning less...

CMcG *Yep, I understand.*

KT Also we did...I did a little check to see if she's social welfare compliant for those years...

CMcG *Right.*

KT ...and there are no social welfare records for [workplace in Dublin suburb removed] either.

CMcG *Right.*

KT Well she wa...sorry...I shouldn't say there's no...she...was granted a...her first stamp card as it was called then in [workplace in Dublin suburb removed] and this...the address for it is [Dublin suburb removed].

CMcG *Right.*

KT But there are no contributions for Waterford.

CMcG *So that would have been what...'69 to what...'74 then?*

KT *Yeah.*

CMcG *Yeah*

KT There are no contributions for that time.



CMcG *Right, okay, okay, (addressing Chrissie) so you weren't getting your stamp Chrissie?*

KT No.

CP *(Looks inquiringly)*

CMcG *For your...you weren't getting a stamp for the time in...in...in Waterford.*

CP No.

CMcG *No.*

KT Yeah, you see like...I mean, I worked those years, and I worked in...in...I actually worked in a hospital, but I have a record...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KT ...you know...

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KT ...from those years...

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KT ...so, do you know, she...she ought to have been...

CMcG *Yeah, absolutely, yeah if they were wages...*

KT ...there ought to have been...a...a...like, the wages weren't great but they were...they were wages and there should be a...a record

CMcG *Uh huh. Uh huh. Absolutely.*

KT Yeah.

CMcG *Yeah, yeah. And (addressing Chrissie) can you remember about anybody else visiting in Waterford like, say doctors or inspectors...*

CP No, no

CMcG *... or anything like that, you don't remember any other visitors?*

CP No.

CMcG *And, can you remember the different kinds of clothes that you would have been working on, like shirts and stuff, do you remember uniforms or anything like that or?*

CP No, no uniforms.

CMcG *What were you...*

CP *(Louder)* No uniforms.

CMcG *You weren't wearing a uniform, no.*

CP No.

CMcG *But you know the clothes that you were washing and that you were...you were ironing down there in the laundry, the peop...other people's clothes, can you remember what they were like?*

CP They wash it for you.

KT Yeah, but what kind of clothes were they, were they?

CP They were butcher coats. [White coats]

CMcG *Butcher coats, right, right.*

CP And shirts.

CMcG *Right.*

CP And...

KT For the church?

CP ...trousers and...

CMcG *Trousers, right.*

CP ...sheets...pillow...

KT Sh...would the sheets...

CP ...hanky...

KT ...have been for a hotel or...what do you think the sheets...where do you think the sheets were from.

CP [The] sheets were from...in a hotel

CMcG *Right, right. No, that's okay...just...we're interested to know all the different places. And...*

KT Wh...what Claire is asking you...do you ever remember having to...to press uniforms, you know like a man's...like a Guard's [Irish police] uniform or a...any of those kind of uniforms?

CP No.

KT You never remember them, no.

CP We don't [sic] do the Guards.

KT You didn't do anything like that.

CP No.

CMcG *That's alright.*

KT And, was there different...was there only the one...was everything done in the same room or was there...we'll say, a room for sheets and...

CP Sheets.

KT ...that kind of stuff, and then was there another room for...

CP It was all the one...

KT It was all the one.

CP ...it was all the one.

KT Yeah, yeah.

CP All the one big building.

CMcG *Right.*

CP Big building.

CMcG *A...and...*

KT Was it hot?

CP Hot.

KT Very hot?

CP *(Nods head)*

CMcG *Yeah? A...and what...what was it like, like that it was...did you...was it kind of safe to work in do you think or...do you know, was it...was it comfortable to work in?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *Was it? Even though it was hot?*

CP No! *(Smiles)*

CMcG *(Laughs)*

KT Was it hot in the winter as well? What about your room, where you...the...the room where you slept...

CP Wasn't cold.

KT ...was that nice and warm in the winter?

CP Not too cold.

KT In the winter was it nice and warm?

CP *(Nods head)*

KT Was it? It was okay?

CMcG *Right. And what was...were the beds comfortable like that or do...do you remember?*

CP [The] beds [were] comfortable.

CMcG *They were alright?*

CP *(Louder) [The] beds was [sic] comfortable.*

CMcG *It was okay, was it? And tell us about the nuns, what were they like?*

CP *Alright.*

CMcG *They were alright? Did you get on...get on okay with them?*

CP *Yeah.*

CMcG *Yeah. And did everybody get on okay with them?*

CP *Yeah.*

CMcG *Yeah? Did anybody give back cheek or anything like that?*

CP *No. (Smiles)*

CMcG *No? What would happen if you would?*

CP *Ah...no paid [pay].*

CMcG *You won't get paid? Would they give out to you?*

CP *(Nods head)*

CMcG *Yeah? And, were they nice like, were they...they...did they ever show any affection or anything like that...the nuns were they kind?*

CP *No.*

CMcG *No. Were they strict, yeah?*

CP What?

CMcG *The nuns?*

CP *(Shakes head)*

CMcG *No?*

KT *(Louder)* Were they strict, do you know, did you have to do what they wanted?

CP Yeah.

KT You know like a schoolteacher...

CP Yeah.

KT ...where if they said, 'this has to be done this way'...

CP Yeah.

KT ...is that the way it had to be done?

CP Yeah.

KT And no other way?

CP No.

CMcG *And what happened if you didn't?*

CP Ah I'll leave it there *(smiling)*.

CMcG *You'll leave it there!*

KT Would you be in trouble, did you ever see anyone getting into trouble because they didn't do the thing the way the nun wanted it done?

CP No.

KT No, bu...no, you never noticed anyone?

CP *(Shakes head)*

KT Yeah.

CMcG *That's alright. And tell us, how...how did you survive being in there, how did you cope with being in there all that time?*

CP *(Pause)*

CMcG *Do you know what I mean?*

CP *(Pause)*

KT Did you feel sad?

CP No.

KT Did you feel...were you upset at having to be there?

CP No.

KT You were...were you not sad that you couldn't go home now and again?

CP No.



KT      *What?*

CP      No. Wasn't sad.

KT      But would you not like to have...you know when you got your...your holiday that you went...you were sent to Clon...Clonmel...sorry where did you say?

CP      Holiday.

KT      Yeah, but would you not like to have gone home to see your Mam and Dad and your granny and...

CP      Too far away. *(Pause)*

KT      But sure you had a whole...you had a whole week, would you not like to have gone home for the week, no?

CP      I *would* like to go home.

KT      You would like to...yeah. Do you think you might have been...if you went home, you might have been lonely leaving home again?

CP      Yeah.

KT      Yeah.

CMcG   *Hmm. Hmm. A...a...and, how...how did you...I mean you...you...you're obviously a very strong woman to have come through an experience like that, how do you...how do you think you go through it when you were there, how do you...*

CP      Work.

CMcG   *Work, yeah? You just worked through it?*

CP (Nods head)

CMcG Good on ya.

KT I...do you remember at one time Chrissie telling me that you were upset because they didn't tell you when somebody that was very special died?

CP (Pause)

KT Who died while you were in there?

CP Me Granny...me Granny died.

CMcG Oh God.

KT Yeah. And they...they didn't tell you, and for a long time that used [to upset you]...and I think still might...kind of...but (*addressing interviewer*) that was one of the things that used to upset her...

CMcG Hmm.

KT ...was that they didn't tell her. (*Addressing Chrissie*) Do you know, did...can you remember, did your mam and dad write to you at that time?

CP (Nods head)

KT And did you not get the letter?

CP I did get the letter.

KT But did you...you didn't get it so as that you could go to the funeral?

CP (*Shakes head*)

KT No.

CMcG *[It] didn't come on time, no?*

KT Yeah, that's...she was...I remember that, she used to say that she was upset because she didn't know. I think it was... *(Addressing Chrissie)* I thought it was when you came home altogether that you discovered that your Granny had died?

CP *(Shakes head)*

KT No? You knew beforehand, did you?

CP *(Nods head)*

CMcG *Right.*

KT Yeah. But I...she used to be sad about that, that her Granny was gone.

CMcG *Well that's not very nice.*

KT No.

CMcG *No.*

KT No.

CMcG *Hmm. And can you tell me about how...how you got out of Waterford, Chrissie?*

CP Me mother and father came down on the train [for] me and I got out. They were closing it down.

CMcG *Oh right.*

CP They were closing it down.

CMcG *Okay.*

CP *Everyone had to leave.*

CMcG *Everyone had to leave. Right, okay. And did you know that was coming like, did you know that...that you were going to be getting out yeah?*

CP *Yeah.*

CMcG *Yeah. And...and where did you go after that?*

CP *Home.*

CMcG *Home.*

CP *On the dole (smiles).*

CMcG *On the dole! Right, right. And, did you talk about having been there to anybody?*

CP *(Shakes head)*

CMcG *No. Did you ever tell...tell people about...bout being there at all?*

CP *(Shakes head)*

CMcG *No? Just kept it to yourself, yeah?*

CP *(Nods head)*

CMcG *Yeah, yeah. And...and what was it like getting used to being on [sic] the outside world afterwards?*

CP *(Pause) What it was like?*

CMcG *Yeah, like did you find it hard to...like 'cos you were after being in Waterford for five years...*

CP [It was] hard.

CMcG *...did you find it hard to...*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *... get used to being not there [sic]...not being there anymore? [Interviewer did not hear initial response at time of interview]*

CP No.

CMcG *No, you got on alright?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *Yeah. And has...has the laundry had any effects on your health?*

CP No.

CMcG *No. You're...you're...you're doing okay health wise are you?*

KT *(Tries to get Chrissie's attention)*

CMcG *Kate wants to jump in there.*

KT *Chrissie? (Points to Chrissie's fingers)*

CP *Finger...(points to finger) ...caught in a machine.*

CMcG *Oh you caught your finger in a machine, did you?*

CP *(Nods head)*

CMcG *Oh my God almighty, tell me about that.*

CP *[!] caught me finger, I was [pressing] the cuff and the collar and I put my hand into the box and this thing came down, caught me finger, right across there. (Indicates scar on finger)*

CMcG *Oh my God I can see it, yeah*

CP *Hollow.*

CMcG *And what happened, did you...did you get brought to a doctor?*

CP *No.*

CMcG *No! A...a...did you...was it very painful at the time, yeah?*

CP *It was.*

CMcG *Yeah. And did you get a bandage for it or anything?*

CP *Plaster.*

CMcG *A plaster. And...but...and does it still hurt you now or...*

CP *(Shakes head)*

CMcG *No. But, did it hurt you for a long time...when...after it happened...*

CP *(Nods head)*

CMcG *...yeah, yeah. God...my God.*

KT *(Addressing Chrissie) Chrissie? [Inaudible whispers]*

CP What? My arm?

KT No not yours, somebody else, didn't you see somebody else's...

CP Eh...

KT I thought somebody else's arm got burned by a presser or an iron or something?

CP No.

CMcG *And tell us, so you...you...you got married eventually anyway didn't you?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *You did, to...to Kate's brother?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *And...and...and you had one son is it?*

CP He's here.

CMcG *He's here at the moment, yeah.*

CP He's in bed.

CMcG *And...a...a...and tell us...has it...do you think your time in Waterford...has...has...did it affect your...how...how you made relationships with people and...*

CP *(Nods head)*

CMcG *...it did, yeah? Yeah? And can you tell me anything about that or?*

CP (Shakes head)

CMcG No. It just did?

CP (Nods head)

CMcG Yeah. Do you find it difficult to relate to people sometimes?

CP Yeah.

CMcG Yeah, yeah. And do you....but would it be...do you find say when you're talking to Theresa d...d...does...is it easier to talk to Theresa about it or...

CP No.

CMcG ...do y...no?

CP No.

CMcG No.

KT (Whispered) She doesn't talk about feelings or relationships at all.

CMcG You...you don't do feelings, no? (Laughs)

CP (Shakes head, smiling)

KT (In a low voice) [She is a] very...a very generous...and a very good person, but [she] just doesn't have words...or doesn't use words anyway, to...to describe feelings or to...

CMcG Y....y...your...

KT ...she keeps them very much pushed down.



CMcG *Right. (Addressing Chrissie) And...but...but...so Kate's saying you're very generous, y...y...you go by your actions then and not your words?*

KT *Yeah, too generous for her own good at times.*

CMcG *Uh huh. (Laughs) That's...that's...a lot of...a lot of survivors are like that!*

KT *Yeah, yeah.*

CMcG *But...and...(consulting interview guide) hang on until we have a [look]...and so, you are in touch with...with somebody from the laundry, are you in touch with anybody else other than Theresa from...from when you were in Waterford?*

CP *[Inaudible] friends?*

CMcG *Have you...are you friendly with anybody...*

CP *Yeah.*

CMcG *...other than Theresa? You...you...*

CP *Yeah.*

CMcG *Yeah, you've other people that you talk to as well from Waterford yeah?*

CP *Yeah.*

CMcG *Yeah. And...let me (consulting interview guide)...d...did you ever go to...do you remember the Redress Board [Residential Institutions Redress Board] Chrissie for the...for the industrial schools, did you ever go and make a claim in that?*

CP *No.*

CMcG *No, no. Did you think about it at the time? Did you think, 'oh that might be something to do with me,' or...?*

CP No.

CMcG *No.*

KT No, no, definitely not.

CMcG *And...did...did you apply for records...you did...you were talking about you...y...you applied for records.*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *Yeah.*

KT Well I just put in an application for...you know, for her social welfare record...

CMcG *Yeah.*

KT ...to see if that would show the time that she was in Waterford, because I...

CMcG *Right.*

KT ...before I became involved with you [Justice for Magdalenes]...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KT ...I thought that we kind of had to...to find a way of proving...you know...the time that she was in Waterford...

CMcG *Hmm. Uh huh.*

KT ...and I thought that would be...you know if it showed a social welfare record, but it showed that she didn't have a record for Waterford, do you know...

CMcG *On the social welfare.*

KT ...so...for those years...

CMcG *And...*

KT ...and there were no social welfare contributions so...

CMcG *You did apply to the Good Shepherds though didn't ye for...you got the records...*

KT Oh yes, yeah.

CMcG *...and...and did you have any trouble getting the records...*

KT No, no...

CMcG *...or anything...*

KT ...they came back in...about 10 days I think it came....

CMcG *Good.*

KT ...quite a short time anyway.

CMcG *Good.*

KT Yeah.

CMcG *Good, good. Okay, so, yeah, I mean, I suppose that's kind of nearly...nearly it in terms of...of different....oh yeah, (addressing Chrissie) have you any...have you ever complained to anyone about Waterford, about your time there?*

CP No.

CMcG *No. That was the other...other question I think. And, did you ever...have you ever talked before today to anybody about Waterford?*

CP *(Shakes head)*

CMcG No.

CP No.

CMcG *No. And, I suppose, other than that like, do you have anything you'd like to say about it or Kate, if you've anything you'd like to say or if there's anything that you remember from your conversations before that you think should be in this?*

KT Just...I think, even relative to the amount of monies...amounts of money that Chrissie mentions, she has...she has very poor money awareness today...

CMcG *Okay.*

KT ...and has had all her life, very poor money r...so, I think the amounts that she's talking about are...can be dealt with as very approximate, do you know?

CMcG *Okay, okay.*

KT Even now, do you know, she still has...it's...it's one of her...one of her drawbacks is that she could think that...do you know, if she handed in €20 for something and if they left her short €5 in the change she wouldn't...she absolutely wouldn't notice that, do you know what I mean...

CMcG *Uh huh. Uh huh. Uh huh.*

KT ...she just hasn't...hasn't the concept of counting...

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KT ...change and...you know, being aware of...of costs and...

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KT ...and money...and...

CMcG *No, I think it's good to clarify that for...*

KT ...so...

CMcG *...her, you know...*

KT ...yeah, so do you know, I think maybe her £4 or £5 might be a gross exaggeration, because if you were to think of a pot of jam and do you know...

CMcG *What it costs today...*

KT ...maybe it cost thruppence at the time, it certainly wouldn't have been coming to anything resembling that so...

CMcG *Uh huh. Uh huh. Uh huh.*

KT ...yeah, I'd reckon, and...sweets...at one stage she told me that they would have bought a few sweets as well, and that would have been average at that time in life as well because...

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KT ...going back to...I suppose when I was that age, we spent our money on...on sweets and whatever, drink or whatever didn't come into it, you know what I mean...

CMcG *Hmm. Hmm.*

KT ...you weren't. (*Addressing Chrissie*) Were yez ever allowed to go out to a dance?

CP (Shakes head)

CMcG No.

KT No, never, yeah.

CMcG *What age were you actually, Chrissie when you were in Waterford?*

CP Eh...

KT She was nin...nineteen, we'll say...she would have turned twenty, and she was there up 'til she was nearly twenty-five.

CMcG *Hmm, okay.*

KT So, you know, it was...

CMcG *Yeah, and the other thing I wanted to...I forgot to ask you at the beginning because we kind of jumped into it is, did you grow up at home with your parents in...in [home county removed] you did?*

CP Yeah.

CMcG *Right. Yeah.*

KT (*Addressing Chrissie*) Do you want to tell Claire about the time in the school in [home county removed]?

CP (*Pause*)

KT Do you remember the...the time in school...that you told me about?

CP Yeah.

KT Do you want to tell Claire about that?

CP The teacher to close me in, she wouldn't give me me lunch...

CMcG *She closed you...*

CP ...locked me in the room, she wouldn't give me me lunch and it was near nightfall and she went up to the toilet in the back of the...back of the building and there was a fella, a fella hiding behind the wall, he opened the door and I got out, I got out and I run [sic] through the fields...

CMcG *My...*

CP ...ran away home.

CMcG *...God almighty. And...and what...why did she do that Chrissie?*

CP She...I don't know...it was me lessons.

KT For...

CP *(Louder)* Me lessons.

KT ...it was a punishment for not ha...not knowing whatever, you know, whatever class or...

CP I was no good at lessons.

KT ...spellings or...

CP *(Louder)* I was no good at school!

CMcG *That's no need...no reason to lock you up is it?*

KT But she...she...didn't...

CP I was no good at school.

KT ...did the teacher go to your...to your mother and father's house?

CP They went to the neighbour's house, it was the wrong house, there was a fella...fella behind the wall...

KT The neighbours.

CP ...came to the wrong house.

KT A neighbour...

CP The neighbour's house, they were up in the field.

KT ...they were never out of the school...

CP ...they were up in the field...

CMcG *My God.*

CP They wouldn't go, she wouldn't go up to the house.

KT And when did you go back to school after that, did you go back to school?

CP Few days.

KT A day?

CP [A] few days.



KT Yeah.

CP Me mother came at her, she was hammering her!

KT That means her mother gave out to...when she's saying...says her mother came at her...

CMcG *Right.*

KT ...that is the term for, 'my mother told her off'...

CMcG *[Told] the...the teacher off?*

KT Yeah, yeah...

CMcG *Okay.*

KT ...yeah.

CMcG *Okay.*

KT And what did you say, was the teacher...was the teacher beating you?

CP [The] teacher [was] beating me, she wouldn't let me in the school, she wouldn't let me out.

CMcG *My God.*

KT So she was in...

CP I was never good at school.

KT Do you see...

CMcG *That's no reason to beat you though is it?*

KT Yeah so I think, you know, she probably would have had, you know...leading on from that, it certainly wouldn't have been encouragement to anyone to learn, but again I went to school in the same time...

CMcG *Uh huh. Uh huh.*

KT ...and I think the teachers more needed to be taught than the pupils at that particular time.

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KT But, it...it must have been a dreadful discouragement to any child who had any kind of an impediment to learning, sure... (*Addressing Chrissie*) do you...were you left-handed Chrissie to start off with?

CP What?

KT Were you left handed?

CP Two hands.

KT Yeah, but can you remember when you started school, would you...can you remember did you write with your left hand?

CP Me right hand.

KT No, you were right handed? Yeah. Because, I can remember children in our school getting cracked on the knuckles for writing with their left hand. My...own aunt – now she was in her nineties, she only died a couple of years ago – and she was a left-handed person all her life and did everything with her left hand but had had to learn to write...her hand used to be tied behind her back. And she was actually a beautiful writer, but everything else she did was done left-handed, you know, it was an inhuman...

CMcG *Hmm. Hmm.*

KT ...way of doing it but I suppose they didn't know any better.

CMcG *Yeah. (Addressing Chrissie) I meant to ask you as well, how...how did you come to be in [workplace in Dublin suburb removed] in...in the first place?*

CP I went for [county removed] [sic].

CMcG *[County removed]*

CP I had training.

CMcG *Training as what?*

CP Training putting tables, knives and forks and cleaning...

CMcG *Oh like silver...*

CP Cleaning.

CMcG *...silver service was it, or something like that?*

CMcG *Cleaning, okay. A...a...and, then you went from [county removed] then to...*

CP [Workplace in Dublin suburb removed]

CMcG *[Workplace in Dublin suburb removed] Right.*

KT In...in [county removed], was that a school or was it a...

CP No not a school, [county removed] [was] working, working, working (*louder*) *learning how to work.*

KT Yeah, yeah. But, do you know, was it like sch...was it a...

CP *Not a school!*

KT Was it a restaurant or was it a...

CP No it was just for people to learn how to work.

KT Oh there was other people there learning the same thing as you?

CP Yeah.

KT Oh, can you remember where in [county removed] that was?

[Attempts to remember, the name of location removed]

CMcG *Never heard of it.*

KT I don't know...no, I don't know of it either.

CP [It was] in the country

CMcG *Right. No it's just...to...to...join the dots...for...*

KT [Partial word removed] wait now, was it [attempt removed]...there was a place somewhere in...in [county removed] but I thought they looked after people who had...do you know like...bone problems or...

CMcG *Oh gosh... (Trying to think)*

KT ...do you know...maybe people who weren't fit to walk properly or whatever.

CMcG *Hmm.*

KT I just have a vague memory of that, back from....

CMcG *Hmm.*

KT *(Addressing Chrissie)* And how long...were you long there? Can you remember?

CP *(Shakes head)*

KT A little while. And did you go straight from [county removed]...

CP No I went home, I went home and I got a letter and got the job.

CMcG *In [workplace in Dublin suburb removed]?*

CP *(Nods head)*

KT How long were you in [Dublin suburb removed] can you remember, were you there for...

CP Ah not that long.

KT ...a year...couple of years...

CP Couple of year[s], couple of year[s].

CMcG *Right.*

KT And were there many of you working there?

CP [A] good few. Boys and girls.

KT And was there lots of people in the school, do you know, was there lots of children in the school.

CP *(Nods head)*

CMcG *Hmm.*

KT And did youse have to wash their clothes?

CP No.

KT No. You had to make their...make their dinner and their breakfast for them...

CP Make the bed.

KT Make their dinner and make their beds.

CP We don't [sic] cook the dinner.

KT Oh right, so you were making the beds and cleaning the rooms that they...

CP Yeah.

KT ...that they slept in. And had yez to do any other work for them?

CP *(Shakes head)*

KT No? And did...did you work somewhere in...in Dublin city?

CP No.

KT Did you come in *(pause)* no? *(Longer pause)* When you left [workplace in Dublin suburb removed] when you ran away from [workplace in Dublin suburb removed] can you remember how you got from [Dublin suburb removed] to come...to be able to get the bus back to [home county removed]? Do you remember that?

CP I...

KT You can't remember? Like, was there somebody else along with you, was there a...

CP Got a taxi and then got off of the bus [sic].

KT Oh you got a taxi, right.

CP To the bus.

KT Right. So, therefore in [workplace in Dublin suburb removed] you must have had...we'll say...your wages there meant that you had a few shillings in your purse, you would have had enough money in your purse to be able to get a taxi, like [Dublin suburb removed] is a good bit...

CP I had enough.

KT ... away from the bus station.

CP I had enough of money.

KT Yeah, but that's why, like, if you think about that Chrissie that you had enough money working then, that you could save a few shillings and have a few bob in your purse, and then enough money to buy your bus ticket as well. Whereas if you left Waterford, would you ever have had money in your purse to get a taxi to the bus station and then the bus ticket to get home, would you ever have had that *ever* in Waterford?

CP *(Shakes head)*

CMcG No.

KT No day ever?

CP *(Shakes head)*

CMcG *(Addressing Chrissie) You're shaking your head [meaning] no?*

KT Yeah, yeah. So, isn't that different to how you were in [workplace in Dublin suburb removed] do you know, weren't...weren't you better off in [workplace in Dublin suburb removed]?

CP Yeah [I was] better off.

KT You were better off in [workplace in Dublin suburb removed] than you were in Waterford.

CMcG *And...and in terms of the work, was it harder work in [workplace in Dublin suburb removed] or Waterford, which was harder?*

CP It was hard work.

CMcG *Which...which was harder?*

KT Which...which place was harder?

CP Waterford.

CMcG *Waterford was it?*

CP *(Nods head)*

CMcG *Right. Much harder?*

CP *(Smiles)*

KT Much...we...did you work far longer days?

CP A long day standing on our feet!

CMcG *Right, right. (Pause) Okay. So, have you anything else you'd like to say or anything like that before we...*

CP No.



CMcG *...before we wrap up?*

CP No.

CMcG *No. Well thank you...*

CP Thank you.

CMcG *...both of you for being part of the...the project and we'll just get our [recording] equipment stopped.*

[Interview ends]