

THE ULSTER-SCOTS LANGUAGE SOCIETY

FLORRIE DINES (nee McMaster) born 1917, talks to Willie Cromie and Will McAvoy at her home in Ballydrain Road, Comber on 26th August, 2003.

[00:00:00.00] One day, Sarah wus stannin lukkin ower the half-dure an, here, down cums this man, an she sayes tae him, 'Ye'r early on the pad this moarnin, ma man'.

[00:00:12.23] 'Ach,' he sayed. 'Sarah, A hae bin ower hill an dale, an lukkin in here an lukkin in thair,' he said.

[00:00:20.12] Sez she, 'An whut wur ye lukkin fur?'. He sayes, 'Sarah, A hae loast a soo, an A hae been lukkin fur it'.

[00:00:29.17] He sayes til her, 'Ye didnae see an oul soo gaun doon the road? A thocht mebbe it wud turn an g' intae Davison's yaird'.

[00:00:38.07] 'Na,' sayes she, 'ma man, A did not see nae soo but A seen the frame o yin'.

[00:00:42.24] Will McAvoy: Oh, she was a kine o thin?

[00:00:46.18] Florrie Dines: So it was kine o, kine o thin, so that was that.

[00:00:52.02] Will McAvoy: The'r no monie o them characters left noo, sure the'r no - barrin you an me.

[00:00:56.07] Florrie Dines: Na, oh na. Oh whan A go, A'll be weel redd-o, fur ye know, thair was a fella lived roon here, an A wus terble up agin the shootin

[00:01:10.23] An it done me great, give me great delight tae go down tae the shore whan the shooters wus aa lyin oot on these oul sconces.

[00:01:20.07] An A had one dug, he was a terrier an he wus, he wus a terrier, an A wad hae sayed, 'Luk, thair's the seagulls, on ye go!'

[00:01:31.18] An away the' went, ower the sans an that, an dae ye know, it's a winner the' didnae shoot them... them two dugs on me.

[00:01:39.10] The' wad hae shot me, niver mine them, if they'd 'a' gathered.

[00:01:42.13] Will McAvoy: Ye wur scarrin the birds awa.

[00:01:44.01] Florrie Dines: An this fella, this fella lived at Castle Espie oniewye, an A got great wi a man the' cal'd Arthur Irvin.

[00:01:58.14] An Arthur Irvin wus here yin day, an this fella went doon by an he sayes ... He cum in an he sayes til me,

[00:02:09.05] 'Whut the H?' he sayes, 'wus he daein here? A suppose ye wur feedin him up wi information'.

[00:02:15.25] Sez I, 'No, A wus daein damn all o the soart'. A sayed, 'He wus in here mizurin me up'. 'Whut dae ye mean, mizurin ye up?'

[00:02:25.03] Sez I, 'Fur ma jecket an ma buits'. 'God bless ma sowl,' he sayes, 'is that the nixt thing ye'r up til?'

[00:02:35.27] 'Weel, A can tell ye here an noo, Arthur Irvin wus bad but, by sowl, if ye're takkin ower deputy, you'll be a hell iv a bit worse'.

[00:02:45.26] Will McAvoy: Oh, ye wur gaun tae dae a guardian, yes?

[00:02:47.10] Florrie Dines: Yes, an A got the name o bein the Sheriff.

[00:02:50.22] Will McAvoy: Sheriff Dines.

[00:02:53.01] Florrie Dines: Monies a thing A had daen til me like that an monies a thing A cum through. A nearly got droont ower the heid o a man in Cummer had a bütcher's shap.

[00:03:08.07] An he had a place out at the Flow Dam an thair wus an oul lint-hole.

[00:03:12.24] An ma brither an me, we wur only weans like, an A wus goin alang the dyke an A heerd this scringin an that

[00:03:20.14] An A cudnae understan whut it wus - an it wus a sheep haed got intae the lint-hole an got catched on the things an it cudnae get oot.

[00:03:28.11] An av coorse we yelled fur help an A sent ma wee brither away tae luk tae see if he cud see onieboadie aboot an, iv coorse, A aff wi the shoes an intae the lint-hole.

[00:03:42.07] An A aye kerried a stick wi me, even oniewhar A went, A aye had a bit o a stick wi me

[00:03:47.10] an A got it catched roon her hoarn, an A hel her thair tae the bütcher happened tae...

[00:03:56.13] The' got him on the scene an, dae ye know, he's deid an buried noo an, by God, so is the sheep an that.

[00:04:03.23] But listen, he didnae as much as say til me, 'Thair's a poun o sausages'.

[00:04:10.01] An that wus an oul fella the' cal'd Smith, Smith the bütcher.

[00:04:17.20] Well, in ma granny's hoose, it wus a thatched roof but it wusnae sealed or ocht.

[00:04:25.09] Will McAvoy: Thair was nae sealin then.

[00:04:26.16] Florrie Dines: It was jaist like lukkin up at sods an this big beam across it.

[00:04:33.25] Ma Granny an ma Auntie aye - ma Granny fur a livin, she daen flooerin fur a wumman the' cal'd Miss Maggie Morra that leaved at Killenigan

[00:04:47.26] an that floerin was brought tae her wee shap iverie week, an the wumman or man or whoiver it wus, collected it

[00:04:58.09] an ma Granny wus peyed fur that, an then fur her next lot o floerin.

[00:05:02.29] An then it got tae be, efter that, she gien me a bit o an oul apron that she uist tae hae wi a navy thing wi white dots on it

[00:05:12.23] An she started me tae learn me hoo tae dae dots.

[00:05:16.24] Will McAvoy: Doats?

[00:05:18.06] Florrie Dines: Dots, wee dots.

[00:05:19.19] Willie Cromie: The' uist tae caa them 'doats an dozie holes'.

[00:05:23.04] Florrie Dines: Doats. An then, whaniver A got better at that, she gien me the pair o wee hoops an she got me a dozen o hankerchiefs tae dae wi these dots in the coarner.

[00:05:38.14] An then A aye got a penny back o butter-nuts.

[00:05:44.01] So this particular night, ma Grannie an her, an ma Auntie was sittin floerin, an the lamp pülled doon bae a chain.

[00:05:55.03] An the' wur sittin floerin, an ma Granda... My Granda loved tae get the paper, and whar he got it fae A dinnae know fur ye wad 'a' had tae 'a' went tae the Crossroads.

[00:06:08.21] So at any rate, he wus sittin on a wee raip chair an he had his oul hat lyin at the back o the chair an, av coorse, A hadnae oniethin tae do.

[00:06:23.09] An av coorse, A got up, A got up an got this brush, an A cudnae reach it properly, the yin road, so A lifted it an hit it a skite wi the brush-en

[00:06:38.00] An it over-balanced, like the oul wumman - like the oul wumman wi the chair. It ower-balanced an cum doon fair on the tap o ma Granda's heid.

[00:06:47.25] An he lut a yell oot o him, 'Oh Dolly, Dolly, Dolly, the wean haes me kilt this time'.