

Gwyneth Spurr	Interviewed by Jeanette Payne 27.1.15
2.15	<p>Born 25.1.31 Father a Welshman and mum came from Halifax. He lodged in the Ravenscars. Lived in West Lodge near tennis court – an interesting house. A single storey living room, huge bathroom but an outside toilet. No central heating, range in living room. Isolated so didn't play with other children really until school. Also lived at White House for 11 years – another Parks house. A bigger house – too big for our income. A tied property. Just the three of us, I was an only child.</p> <p>Talbot Road School – known as the tin school because it had corrugated iron roof and cinder playground. Then to Roundhay High School. A good school – very happy there.</p>
5.15	<p>Learnt to swim in open air swimming pool. In 1940, after Dunkirk, had two soldiers billeted on us and one of them taught me how to swim. Spent most of our time there, after school and all the school holidays. I was interested in swimming so took teaching certificate and got a job there, on the poolside. Had to go in through turnstile. We got season tickets.</p>
7.30	<p>Went to Congregational Church, did Brownies, Guides and Sea Rangers. Learnt about tying knots and the constellations. Liked the uniform.</p> <p>Oakwood was where mother did main shopping – mainly Co-op – number 112444. Could get blocks of butter wrapped in paper.</p> <p>Perkins – bakery on Parade. Jones of Oakwood came later on. Cobbler – sat on counter to work – he was crippled.</p> <p>At a passing glance it doesn't seem to have changed much – fish shop there forever. Used to meet friends under clock canopy. Shame if it had deteriorated completely.</p>
15.00	<p>Trams – during war the tram windows were covered with mesh. You could tell where you were by the noise it was making. Stopped at Roundhay Park and wrapped up the money in brown paper. Trams were incredibly cheap. Good in the fog.</p> <p>We watched George V and Queen Mary drive by in 1933, I was told I was there. I wrote an article about my life called 'A Roundhay Childhood'.</p> <p>From West Lodge you could hear tennis balls in the evenings. People seemed to congregate there.</p> <p>Went to Tattoos before the war. Went to dress rehearsal. Could hear that at night. Didn't take part in Children's Day. Remember the floats. Band of Green Howards came to play. The Americans staged a baseball game on the Arena. My mother was in Women's League of Health and Beauty – put displays on.</p>
20.00	<p>Cycling races in the Arena. Fireworks.</p>
21.15	<p>Pegleg Pete – used to dive from a platform into a barrel of water. Became the Printers' Gala. Donkeys in the park. Still go to Bonfires – love it.</p> <p>Row of cottages on Mansion Lane – built as Dutch barns and then converted for the workers. Roundhay Cottage – Director of Parks' chauffeur lived there.</p> <p>Tropical World memories.</p> <p>Roundhay Fox was the park café. Had my wedding reception at Park café in 1954.</p> <p>Oakwood still a district area. Fewer proper shops.</p>