

Tom and Jean Brown	Interviewed by Jeanette Payne 13.1.15
2.30	<p>Jean worked in Oakwood 1962 to 1984.</p> <p>Tom had a shoe repair shop. When partner had a heart attack Jean offered to help him and never went home after that. Worked with Mr Bramley who was born and bred in Oakwood. He had had polio and he tucked his legs under a wooden stool to get around. Had to have someone to help him. Tom went as the Saturday boy at 14 then he went in the army, then went into partnership with Mr Bramley.</p>
4.45	<p>Had shop on Gledhow Rise – converted garages. We had 2 converted garages, then there were 2 for Henry Lax’s offices then an electrician’s called Harry Houseman. At the back was an engineering shop which changed into an electrician’s.</p>
6.15	<p>Where the car park is (behind where the Co-op is now) there used to be a person selling carpets, a man who sprayed cars, a man who repaired lawnmowers, and everybody knew everybody. It was so rural that squirrels took a kitkat from your hands. It was an old woodyard first of all, full of railway sleepers and rats. In the wood behind the car park there was a house where an architect lived. When he died Mr Lax bought the house. Architect had been a hoarder. Had bundles of twigs. One of bedrooms had newspapers from floor to ceiling. Had lived there from 1924 until he died. He used to write to a girl of 18 at the turn of the century and they married in 1924. During the war pepper was short and one cupboard was full of tubs of pepper. Had rows of raspberry vinegar. Died about 1966/7. Architect worked for the Council.</p>
12.00	<p>Doctors – Mr Boyle – very nice man. Was a customer. Saw us straightaway when daughter was poorly with her ears.</p>
14.00	<p>Children went to Gledhow then Allerton Grange Schools.</p>
17.15	<p>Shops on Parade – Dewhurst butchers, Bradburys pork butchers, and Co-op butchers. Dewhursts changed to dry cleaners. Also had Martins Dry Cleaners. Greenwoods the Tailors, Nortons the Chemists, Crocketts, then a dress shop, then a hardware shop (Welburns, then Walkingtons, then ours because in 1969 we moved onto front of the Parade). Smiddys, then Claughtons, then Oaks, then Perkins, then a bread shop. Next door was a carpet shop, a hobbies shop and a florists. Then a greengrocers which became a chemist. End shop was Patricks, painters and decorators. Then Co-op.</p>
21.30	<p>On the other side was a barbers and umbrella shop. He could be brusque. Another greengrocers (Laycocks), then a shoe shop, Bairstows, then a sweet shop, a hairdressers, wines and spirits, Nathan Bates chemist. Then Jones of Oakwood. Always banked at Midland Bank.</p> <p>Post Office used to be where Lloyds Bank was.</p> <p>Hairdressers on Parade. Margaret Horsley moved across the road – Margots. Employed about 12 people. Jean’s daughter worked for her. Became good friends for over 40 years. First people to get sunbeds. Daughter was a good advert for it.</p>
24.45	<p>David took over travel agents on Parade. Jonathan bought travel agents from David.</p> <p>Bairstows sold shoes. Very genteel person who ran it.</p> <p>Cobblers – they sold some shoes and Wellingtons. Made sandals for Ian Campbell the wrestler because he had feet ‘like a dinner plate’. Gentle giant.</p>

26.00	<p>Lot of wrestlers stayed with Ian Campbell. Billy Two Rivers, Jackie Pallo. They patched and stitched wrestler's boots. Also did the shoes of the people from Novello House on Wetherby Road.</p>
	<p>Daughter married from St John's Church and grandchildren christened there. Freddy Miller had playground at Roundhay Park - he opened the gates so they could go round to the Mansion for the reception. Bollards taken out. It was wonderful.</p>
28.00	<p>Watched cricket in park on Sunday afternoons. Saw Michael Jackson and Phil Collins there. Atmosphere outside even better than inside. Whole buzz of everything.</p> <p>Love Parade – a lot of them were lovely. All these things are good, like cycle race.</p>
	<p>Tom – Oakwood seemed to go downhill. Harehills is blossoming.</p> <p>Jean – could go like Chapel Allerton – trendy.</p> <p>Need younger generation to do it.</p> <p>Parochial Hall quite well attended. Dance classes and nursery. Snooker room upstairs.</p>
35.00	<p>Used to make a lot of use of the library, not at Oakwood, but Moor Allerton. Because it's easier to park, with no steps.</p>
37.50	<p>Blackburn factory – husband's father worked there. Had to finish because he had an accident there. Son-in-law's granddad was general manager there.</p> <p>Remember it as Bradbury's cash and carry – just before Tesco's. Henry Lax secured the land. He moved into offices above Safeway. He is 81. He has been married twice. I went to clean for Janet, and Tom went to garden for Henry, his mother and his son. Used to live on road going down to the park. Still in contact with his youngest daughter. I worked for his first wife and all 3 of his children.</p>
41.15	<p>Henry's dad was a character. He used to walk around with his hands behind his back, looking down. He built Fitzroy Drive and the Clock cinema. It is said he never took a holiday.</p>
43.45	<p>Astoria – had some most enjoyable nights. Dancing, and school functions. New Year's Eve. Had the same band there for years. Had daughter's evening reception there. There was a balcony all the way round. The toilets were upstairs.</p>
44.15	<p>Everything looked palatial in soft lighting. Not as palatial when it was the gym. I went to it as a gym. Not many places to go and dance now. Tom took private dancing lessons above the umbrella shop.</p>