

Farm Supplies Transport Road

The weather the winters where definitely worse then than they are now there was far more snow nearly every year. The summers I think were better round my younger days than they are now, more longer spells of dry weather in the summer time. But your talking about 1947 the storm came on it was fairly well on probably after Christmas and the roads were blocked for about 6-8 weeks. I was driving a lorry for Watson & Bell and we weren't out for about 6 weeks there was no snow ploughs or anything then there was just tractors and link boxes and there wasn't that many tractors either.

I had a bit of a kind of a car I had I was going forward to work on a bicycle I had to stay near Tullydraw in a house with Dunlop's I couldn't ride the bike home through the snow I had to walk in and out to me work the road were that bad you just spent the whole day in the garage everyday.

I remember the first load of meal I went to Newtownsaville with the farmers were there with srights and horses and sleigh's behind them waiting on the meal for the cattle and pigs. They were nearly in starvation every shop was sold out of feeding stuff for the animals. I remember that well when I got the length with the load of bails it was away before I just took it of it was away to the farm houses right away. That was at Hackett's of Newtownsaville.

There was not much traveling to Belfast to work or anything like that then. Just people were working locally working for local farmers or in the town shops. Shop Boys and Shop Girls. There was a few factories' around Dungannon alright but they were nearly all local walking to their work.

But a lack of transport if your depending on transport you would of got to your work horses and all were off the road.

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Well in my younger days farming for a while I used to take land and grow my own potatoes and then sell them down at or sell them wherever I could sell them. Grew Flax and oats and compulsory silage for this period people that had land that wasn't fit to farm it themselves would be letting it. I used to take it, it was good subsidy's then for potato subsidy and maize subsidy and it was just after the war there you know and when the war came on I was only 14 but it was over it lasted 5 years it was 1945 in 45, I was 20 then I worked at that for a few years then.

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