

## **Edo Nanneli - Transcription**

*Audio Quality: Some background noise, or an echo?*

**0:00:00**

**LMI:** ...just so I can listen back and make notes and everything, and because we're putting together some files of everything. So, are you able to tell us what your memories of the mills were like, from the '70s onwards, your experience.

**EN:** I arrived in the country in 1977. And I couldn't see no... a lot of people getting out of the mills in... the end of the shift, but soon after, I don't know which year, they closed down altogether. Early '80s, I remember. And then there was... because a lot of... I believe on Thornton Road then, that there was a whole line of mills there, they was all demolished at the end of the '70s.

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**EN:** There was... and... Greenside, there was Greenside on... where the Farmers' Boys now, used to be a huge complex there, already demolished, but demolished at the end of the '70s.

**LMI:** And did you know anybody that lost their jobs from working in the mills?

**EN:** Honestly, no. No. I remember my mother-in-law and father-in-law, they worked here. We're talking about '60s, '70s. In those days. But I married a local lass, born in West Park, not far away from here, West Park Road. And so both mother and father worked here. He was a lorry driver actually, during the war and after. For Lister's.

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**EN:** He was in North Africa with the Montgomery fighting the Italians. My father was sent to Russia by Mussolini. And got lucky because he got frostbite on foot, and they sent him back to the Italian hospital. And then September 8th, 1943, the fascist regime collapsed. And so everybody went back home. And the front passed our house, well, their house. I was born in 1945. And the Germans planted their guns in our fields, like, firing against the Allies coming up from the south. From Rome, Grosseto. And actually, Chechnya was another big battle against Germans and Allies.

**LMI:** So, when you came over in 1977, and the mills were beginning to close...

**EN:** Yeah.

**LMI:** Can you remember seeing the demolition process?

**EN:** Yes, a lot. The one I mentioned, on Greenside - Woolcombe - is between Cemetery Road and Thornton Road. And is actual[ly] Morrisons...Farmer's Boy plant, which has been expanded right from Cemetery Road...from the bottom end of Cemetery Road... straight up near Thornton Road. So it's got huge...is big land. It used to be all Greenside, is all...That's

the one... the first one. And there was Allied Colloids, Allied's on Cemetery Road, at the top. That was a big factory. And that's gone now. It's half built. They built the new houses between Cemetery Road and Ingleby Road, and the road which takes the ambulance depots. On there. Also on Thornton Road, I took my son once to see a chimney being demolished one afternoon.

**LMI:** On one afternoon?

**EN:** And one Italian, another Italian family bring a young child, similar age of my son. We met there by chance there, and said, 'I didn't realise it was... I think it looks like Italian, in fact it is.' This lad now is a doctor and is studying to be a consultant. Very good.

**LMI:** Wow. That's very good. Did you ever go... did you ever see inside the mills before they were demolished?

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**EN:** No. Never been inside once. I only been to the Industrial Museum, and saw the things like, you know, they'd shown how to customers... because I was a volunteer there... not a volunteer, oh yes, volunteer... on the printing gallery. Because I did training as an apprentice for compositor on a printing in Italy. And then I did a... branched off slightly to something else.

**LMI:** So what did you do for work when you came over in '77?

**EN:** Before or here?

**LMI:** When you moved here.

**EN:** My previous job, or the first job in this country?

**LMI:** First job in this country.

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**EN:** I came across in... I left Italy on the 8th of December... and arrive in Bradford on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Driving a Fiat 850, loaded with all my possessions. But I sent the rest of the furnitures and everything from the house... from the flat... on a truck. And I learned that in this country you only send short trucks, good trucks. Because they cannot, the longer ones in Europe, they cannot negotiate the bends. They hit each other.

**LMI:** Like Italy.

**EN:** So, in Lecco... we lived near Merate, near Lecco... Leccos. And I went to this [?], I said, 'Have you go[t] one... because we [go] to England, we need a short one. 33 square cubic meter, 33 cubic meters. So I arrived in England on the 10<sup>th</sup>, the day after my son's birthday, which is the 9th of December. He was two years old then. And my wife preceded me here and she came in October. My son is deaf since birth.

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**EN:** He's a postman now. He lives in Plymouth, far away from here. And so I'm looking for a job myself and for my wife. So from the 10th to Christmas...15, 20 days, more or less. No, 15 days, actually. We got two jobs and a mortgage.

**LMI:** In such a short space of time?

**EN:** We went to the job centre, where the police station is now, near the train station. What do you call that street there? There used to be a fire station, police station. And opposite, a very old building, was a job centre. And they said to me, 'No chance of getting a job now.' And they give me then £33 a week as a... what you call it?

**LMI:** The benefits... Job Seeker's benefits.

**EN:** Benefit. Because we lived with the grandparents, parents-in-law, all together. Because all the stuff went into the storeroom. All the stuff arriving from Italy - including a lamboretta - all went into the storeroom, not far from Lumb Lane. And that warehouse eventually burned down to the ground.

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**EN:** So looking on the Telegraph & Argos, we found two jobs in that week. Because you know, wife got a job as part-time...she was a civil servant for the Inland Revenue when she left and got married. So she got a part-time job in Allied Colloids on Cemetery Road. And I was looking for any job, so night cleaner, Harry Ramsden's fish and chip shop.

**LMI:** That's where I live.

**EN:** And I said, 'Ok, go.' My wife said, 'It's far away.' Ok, so we went to this... And this Mr Bramwell, the manager, then, in those days, and then bought the Copper Kettle in Settle. He left and then went back as a manager for Harry Ramsden's. And they bought the Mauder Ubers on Ingleby Road. At one stage it belonged to Harry Ramsden's, Mother Hubbard's. And they said, 'So and so would like to have a job as a night cleaner.' And he said to me...he'd have an office, and over there frying, the frying rain, you could see everybody frying. You got six pans back to back, three or four fryers all the time. And he said to me, 'Would you like to be a fish fryer?'

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**EN:** I said to wife, 'What does that mean?' I didn't know fish fry! And she said, 'Well, you better go.' And I had nice hush-puppies shoes. And he said to me, 'You need some rough shoes, because...' I said, 'It's all right.' A week after they was all white with the batter. So I got a job there as a fish fryer. And I worked there for about 14 months, from December...on the 20<sup>th</sup>, I think I started, and that was ... They closed for Christmas and for St Valentine, tradition, Harry Ramsden's, that was traditional. And then round the clock. And so my first

job was fish fryer. And my wife got a job back from the Inland Revenue. She went back and she retired.

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**LMI:** When you moved to Bradford from Italy, what made you choose Bradford?

**EN:** Because...not a problem, but my son was deaf. There was a school for the deaf in Bradford, from Park. And in Italy I had a job, never been without. Never been one day unemployed, no, no, I could not. And wife stayed at home. And... I was still against wife working, if you could have had...it's not like discrimination, if you got family...anyway. And then we decided to, I was going fast, this car passing 40 miles an hour. And then we decided to come across. We packed everything from the flat. And we came here, in Bradford. And the truck arrived in Foster Square, where McDonald's is now. Used to be a goods yard there. And then I went on the lorry. Because in Italy when you do the removal, they send the truck to your house on a small, like tractor, from the train station.

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**EN:** You load it... so we loaded it from the balcony into the truck, into the carriage, into the... what do you call it...And then back here on the lorry, on the depot, from the depot to the lorry, from the lorry to the house. And they said to me, 'If you don't stock the stuff properly inside the truck, you get matchsticks when they arrive at the other side.' Because, you know, the bend. Switzerland is terrible for bends, if you've been to Switzerland...

**LMI:** I have. Every road...

**EN:** It was cold one night, was just... Sorry, I vomited. Terrible.. headache and...worse than being on a... a sea-force 10 on a bloomin' ship! And nothing smashed at all.

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**LMI:** And you've stayed here ever since, have you? You've lived in Bradford?

**EN:** Same house. We moved in there in 1978. We got two jobs and a mortgage before Christmas in that year. And we had a mortgage...You can start laughing now - a mortgage of £50 a month. It went up to £70 and £90, you know, the interest. And then back down to £70 and it was extinguished. And when we got the mortgage, we just managed to get the mortgage, because we had two jobs, part time and my full time.

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**EN:** Plus we put a third of the cost of the house, £10,000 but £3,000 as deposit. Otherwise no chance. Now they give 100% mortgage. When you're 99 you can still pay your mortgage.

**LMI:** So now, what do you like about living in Bradford? Because your situation is very different to when you first moved here.

**EN:** Totally different, because in the '70s you could go out with the family. And you got to bring your own food, everything. There was nothing, petrol station, just petrol station. Nothing else and... nothing at all. Pubs were for drinking. And in fact I remember they were fighting against, 'You got to start cooking now, pubs.' Because they had to change or die. And so... What is it like now?

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**LMI:** What do you like now?

**EN:** It's a hard question. I like everything because Bradford can only get better, as it is now. Because everywhere you go is mayhem. For traffic. People coming from outside Bradford are scared of driving in this town. We live about a mile and a half from the city centre, Thornton Road. And there is one or two near miss each way you go. When you go into town, come back. So, we've got to do something about this. Because our area, BD8, is the worst for car insurance. Bradford will be a City of Culture in about 18 months, or less. And is not fair for the citizens of Bradford. If you go round now, take your car, round randomly, every street you can manage, in and out, you can record about 20 or 50 crashes.

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**EN:** Walls, irons in the middle of the road, protection for the pedestrians, metal fencing. You can see... walls above private houses on the main road, demolished day and night. Systematically. And it's just horrible.

**LMI:** Do you still feel there's a lot of culture and diversity in Bradford? And do you think it's a strong part of its identity?

**EN:** This is a fact. It's hard to answer this question, because the theory is very good, the practice is different. The theory is one thing, yes. Multicultural and everything. But it's hard. In theory, the media, people like that, yes, tat tat tat. Then you go to the nitty-gritty, to the practical things, it's a different kettle of fish. Different situation.

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**EN:** Not to say anything bad or good about... 'those are better or worse.' It's natural. Human. If you belong to a community or a religion or whatever, you tend to... We say in Italy, in Italia, 'Tirare l'acqua al tuo mulino' - 'Doing things for your side.' And on doing that... you do that against somebody else. Possibly without any malice, and without any... So it is not a utopia... but... I came here this morning, or this afternoon, in this place and I was astonished to see what is in here. Because I was part of the committee with Monsignor Moffitt QC. He lived here not far from the Ukrainian church and then moved [it] to Bolton Abbey years and years ago. And all the committee... when the building was dilapidated by the contractors. And they tried to save it, and they saved it. And then they came, and they saved it all together. The council, at a certain point, after the failure of having the Victoria [&] Albert and Museum here, they washed their hands, and it was abandoned by the council. And I think they

couldn't care less. It could have been demolished, such a monument to the workforce. People with sweat and blood in this place. And it was very naughty from the council. And I'm glad it's been saved. [It] cost money, but they sold... flats and everything.

**LMI:** It's beautiful, isn't it, how they've done it.

**EN:** And the developers made a lot of money. A nephew of this Maria, now he lives in Manchester, but he had a flat above here. He had a flat with his wife and now they're going to live somewhere near Manchester.

**LMI:** Thank you so much. Is there anything else about the mills from when you moved here that you want to say, or want to talk about?

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**EN:** It's a totally different environment from those days. Totally. Services, industry. Now with this...especially this transition with the... I can consider another utopic things...Having all the electric cars in about 7 years' time. I am driving a Toyotas motors. I go petrol. And I say to everybody as well, 'If they wanted to power all the cars, or half of the cars, which are on the road, without considering the ones on the show ground for sale, you needed to switch the lights off. Because they haven't got enough power.' But can they see it or not? Or just plod on, and as far as they vote for them, they're happy? Because there's no chance. And then, I am a customer of the Ladyroyd Garage on Thornton Road for years. I been a taxi driver as well in Keighley, myself for 11 years.

**LMI:** That's a tough job.

**EN:** And recently my daughter got a service there, and I was talking about to Darren, one of the senior mechanics there, he said, 'How do you manage with electric cars?'

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**EN:** 'You take them off the road in droves. You just get stuck here, you just get stuck there. There is no power, nowhere to charge them. And you spend £80,000 for nothing.' And they said to him, 'If you get stuck on M62 in winter, because of the ice the ice on the road, you are on your battery, and you go half battery. And you go... because of the battery... if it is cold weather it got to warm itself. If it's hot it's got to cool down itself and use the power. And you can get stuck for two hours. And on M62 you get a thousand cars stuck there. Who's going to rescue them?'

**LMI:** Not an electric one.

**EN:** A carnage.

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**LMI:** Yes. Absolutely. Oh, well thank you. Grazie mille.

**EN:** Prego. You can talk...