

Romany Theatre Company

Atching Tan Project

Reminiscence Interview – Transcription of Edited Interview

Date of Interview	Interviewer	Interviewee	Age Range of Interviewee	Duration of Edited Recording
2009	I	Jim		08:22

Key timing	Initial of person speaking	Transcription of Interview
00:00	I	What was it like when you were growing up?
	Jim	When I was Growing up? I'm still growing up
	I	What sort of work did you do?
	Jim	All kinds of work
	I	Can you think of anything you did that you really liked?
	Jim	No not really
	I	What age did you start working?
	Jim	What age did I start work? When I was young
	I	Were you in your teenage years or 9? 10?
	Jim	I don't know about 10 or 11 I suppose I might have been younger I don't know.
	I	Who did you work with?
	Jim	Who Did I Work with? Mum and dad
	I	Can you remember what sort of work you used to do?
	Jim	Yeah picking potatoes, pea picking, strawberry picking
	I	Did you like it?
	Jim	Not really
	I	What sort of things did you live in, what did your mum and dad live in? Was it a trailer? A wagon? A house?
	Jim	It was a trailer; we had all sorts of trailers
	I	Where did you used to travel? East Anglia or anywhere?
	Jim	East Anglia and everywhere
	I	And how have things changed for you as a traveller over the years?
	Jim	Well now imp born again

I	And is that important?
Jim	yeah very important
I	Anything else that's changed for you over the years, for you being a traveller?
Jim	Got older, got poorer.
I	Have things got better or got worse for travellers in general?
Jim	I suppose they've made it worse for themselves ain't they
I	Did you or your family ever face racism?
Jim	Yeah sometimes
I	Can you give me an example
Jim	At school
I	What sort of things? Name-calling? Being hit?
Jim	Yeah they called me a dirty gypsy and tried to hit me but they couldn't
I	Did you go to school?
Jim	Yeah I went to school
I	Did you enjoy it?
Jim	Yeah I always liked dinner times best
I	Why was that?
Jim	I used go to school in the morning time, have me dinner, then I used to tear off
I	So you'd only stay for dinner time
Jim	Yeah, terrible.
I	Did your mum and dad let you off with that or what?
Jim	They used cheek me, you know what I mean?
I	So you got bullied at school?
Jim	Yeah sometimes.
I	Have you had any racism when you've stopped at the side of the road?
Jim	Yeah people swearing, everything really.
I	Cause some people have said to me that they've had things thrown at them, some people have tried to set things alight, have you experienced them sort of things?

Jim	Yeah I have, someone tried to set my trailer alight one night
I	How did that happen? When did that happen?
Jim	In that lane up there. I got up and underneath the tow bar of the trailer; some chairs were there with the motors and they on fire at the end of the trailer, where the gas bottles were. I had to go out there and deal with it.
I	Did you see who did it? Did you report it?
Jim	No, I chased after him with me motor and that was about it! I couldn't catch him.
I	Did your children face racism?
Jim	Yeah sometimes.
I	Do you think education is a good thing?
Jim	Yeah I suppose it is yeah
I	How do you see life changing for travellers for you and your children in the future? Can you see any difference or is it going to be just the same?
Jim	I think we're all turning into gorgers to me, the travellers are mixed and they're going to schools and that with them and they turn out like them.
I	What is the most important thing of value or belief to you? Like family, money, freedom or the lord?
Jim	Probably money I reckon
I	Money? Is that what your mum and dad would say would be their most important thing?
Jim	No I suppose the family is the most important thing though isn't it?
I	Did your mum and dad ever talk about the old times?
Jim	Yeah a lot of the time, things that used to be years ago when they used to travel about the roads and that, how people used to be to one another, more civilised, never used to rob one another and that.
I	Do they think that it's better now or then?
Jim	Better years ago than what it is now because of the way the people were to each other.
I	What do you think travellers think of gorgers?
Jim	*inaudible*
I	Can you speak Romani?
Jim	Yeah
I	Do you think it should be taught in schools?

	Jim	No
	I	Do you think it should be taught to young travellers?
	Jim	Oh yeah definitely
	I	To only young travellers or to gorgers and travellers?
	Jim	Just young travellers
	I	Is important that young travellers know their own language?
	Jim	Yeah
	I	What makes you a traveller?
	Jim	You're born one
	I	Can somebody whose say gone from a house and gone into a trailer become a traveller?
	Jim	I suppose they can be yeah, they can call themselves a traveller, but you've got to be born a traveller, to be a proper gypsy you've got to be born one you can't just become one can you?
	I	And if you lived in a house for the next 15 years would you still be a traveller?
	Jim	I was born a traveller and I'll die a traveller I suppose. Like a black man can't become a white man

Key Timing Index	
Time	Topic