



Peter Cotton

“And me mum had sent me an errand into the village and as I went along I saw quite a few of the people that we knew outside a bus and they’re all talking, and on the bus I noticed a lot of children, boys and girls, you know, they had that label on them, which I remember you know, I used to say “That’s their name”, you know, couldn’t read, you know, and er, I went to finish me errand and when I come back it was still there! But the bus was empty other than one boy who eventually we got to know by the name of er, Ken Powell. And his father came to live with us, who was Alf Powell, but anyway as it goes, I could see these women you know, talking and different ones have got little children holding their hands, and I asked her, I said “Why is that little boy crying?” you know in the back, she said “Well the people who should have picked him up, didn’t arrive”, you know, and of course he was broken-hearted, so I thought oh I’ll go home. So I went home to me mum and I told her, I said “Mum, there’s a little boy in there”, you know there, “He’s got nobody live with, can we go?” course she couldn’t at the time as she said, she said “We haven’t got enough room”. Well, I started to cry. And my mother said “Oh come on then, we’ll go look what, what’s happening”. So we went along to the bus and my mother spoke to somebody, got what information was required at the time, and it wasn’t long after I was holding this Ken’s hand going back to our house (laughs). So me mother had taken on the job of adopting like, and never bothered about me father giving his request because what mum said then was word! (Laughs) She was the power of the house and my father just accepted things, you know. But the part, amusing part come, when I look back, to think we then had to split the rooms up, you know, there’s two beds in one room, there’s another bed, you know, the older brother or sister, they had to have their privacy like, they had basically rooms on their own we shared rooms, and er, the living situation, sleeping situation was, the boys at the top and the girls at the bottom, you know (laughs).”