

Title:

Pitminster, Somerset

Shelfmark:

C908/66

Description:

Clara recalls how people used to look after each other and remembers harsh winters. She also describes the annual Club Walk. The original recording appears to have been paused on two occasions. Blagdon Hill and Curdleigh are villages just to the southwest of Pitminster.

Lexis:

anyhow = anyway; *cause* = because; *Club Walk* = annual festival of benefit club or friendly society, usually featuring procession of members and band; *standing* = fairground stall; *fairings* = cake, sweets sold at fair, especially gingerbread; *conference* = type of large, round sweet

phonology

rhoticity; occasionally <f-> → [v] (*fetch* [vEts] and *for* [v@`]) and <s-> → [z] (*say* [zeI]) and voiceless <th-> → [D] (*things* [DINz])

MOUTH [{U}; FACE [eI]; GOAT [o:]; START [A` ~ a`]; NORTH [O`]; NURSE [@ `]; BATH [a:]; LOT [A]; LETTER [@ `]

note also *wouldn't* [Un], *very* [v@r/i], *can't* [ka:nt], *it was* [tw@z ~ twOz] and *it is* [tIz] and *it isn't* [tId=n] and *isn't it?* [Id=nIt] and *ones* [w@nz]

Grammar:

preterite *done* (*see what my mother done and never got nothing for it*)

multiple negation (*see what my mother done and never got nothing for it; it isn't no working class; the gentry can't get nobody to do the work*)

first person plural *was* (*when babies was coming*); third person plural *was* (*they was my Sunday school teachers; they was the gentry I knowed most about*)

negative particle → *no* (*I don't know if she did or no*)

zero to + place-name (*we had to come down _ Blagdon*)

to be + past participle (*the snow was all blown in the road* = the snow had all blown in the road; *they are changed right around now* = they have changed right around now)

third person plural be + negative particle → *ain't* (*they ain't got do what I had to*)

zero to + infinitive (*they ain't got _ do what I had to; not for the gentry if they've got _ do their own work*)

zero auxiliary (*they _ got a better time; they _ got more money to spend; they _ got to come and ask*)

use of *ye* (*they can't go and order ye to do it*)

preterite *knowed* (*they was the gentry I knowed most about*)

preposition, with → *along of* (*we used to go round along of the band to the farmhouses*)

