



## Magdalene Institutions: Recording an Archival and Oral History A project funded by the



<b>Reference Code:</b>	MAGOHP/73/ANON
<b>Oral History of:</b>	<i>Kathleen R</i>
<b>Pseudonym?</b>	Yes
<b>Status:</b>	Survivor
<b>Keywords:</b>	Good Shepherd Magdalene Laundries; Waterford, Sundays Well, Limerick; St. Dominick's Industrial School for Girls; hunger strike; transfers between Magdalene Laundries; Traveller Community; St Joseph's Industrial School, Greenmount; priests' housekeepers in Magdalene Laundry; St Otteran's Psychiatric Hospital; anti-psychotic medications; straitjackets; Cork City Gaol; fear of being re-incarcerated; Gardaí returning women and girls to laundries; inaccuracies in religious order records; deaths in Magdalene Laundries; end of life and burial practices; survivor complaints to religious orders; physical abuse in industrial schools; Residential Institutions Redress Board (RIRB); treatment of witnesses at RIRB; St Coleman's Industrial School for Girls, Cobh, Rushbrook; Clifton Convalescent Home; Carriglea Psychiatric Hospital.
<b>Date of Interview:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> May, 2012
<b>Transcript:</b>	104 pages
<b>Number/Format of Audio Files:</b>	Five .mp3 files
<b>Interviewer:</b>	Claire McGettrick
<b>Records/Papers included:</b>	To be confirmed.
<b>Access Conditions:</b>	Anonymised interviews are freely available to the public. Immediate release of transcript and anonymised audio; Interviewee to be identified in 30 years.
<b>Conditions Governing Reproduction:</b>	Interviews can be reproduced, however the citation below must be used at all times.

To cite this transcript:

O'Donnell, K., S. Pembroke and C. McGettrick. (2013) "Oral History of Kathleen R". *Magdalene Institutions: Recording an Oral and Archival History*. Government of Ireland Collaborative Research Project, Irish Research Council, pp.1-104.

## Note Regarding Interview

---

This interview is one of 22 testimonies gathered by Justice for Magdalenes (JFM, now JFM Research) as part of its submission to the *Inter-Departmental Committee to establish the facts of State involvement with the Magdalen Laundries (IDC)*. To avoid the need for survivors and other interviewees to give multiple interviews, those who gave their testimony were given the option to include their transcripts in the archive of this project. The JFM testimony gathering process became the pilot phase of this project, and it was carried out with financial support from the *Feminist Review Trust*.

## Notes on Redaction and Transcription Process

---

**Interviewee Initials:** KR

**Interviewer Initials:** CMcG

### Key

... = Short pause (or where words are repeated or the speaker changes direction mid-sentence)

(*pause*) = Long pause

*blabla* = spoken with great emphasis

(*blabla*) = Additional audible expressions, body language

[*blabla*] = background information that might be helpful

### Notes on Redaction Process

- Named individuals have been assigned pseudonyms
- Some minor details have been removed at request of interviewee
- Some locations have been removed and/or assigned pseudonyms to protect the interviewee's identity

### List of Pseudonyms

Pseudonym	Status/Relationship to Interviewee
Kathleen Ryan	Interviewee/Survivor
Cormacstown	Interviewee's birthplace
Frances	Interviewee's housename in Sundays Well
Benignus	Third party religious/possibly also interviewee's house name in Limerick
St Philomena's Ward	Ward in Ardkeen Hospital
Elizabeth	Interviewee's mother
Patrick	Interviewee's brother
Sr Veronica Maguire	Third party religious
Ruth	Survivor friend of interviewee who lives in sheltered accommodation

### Basic Data from Interview

<b>Name/Pseudonym</b>	Kathleen R
<b>When Born</b>	1942
<b>Born outside marriage?</b>	Didn't say
<b>Raised by</b>	St. Dominick's Industrial School for Girls, Waterford
<b>Education</b>	Primary, removed at thirteen by Good Shepherd nuns to clean the orphanage
<b>Emigrated?</b>	For a short time, then returned

<b>Physical ailments?</b>	Yes
<b>Of Note</b>	Was moved from laundry to laundry (spent time in three in total) and finally expelled from the Magdalene system because of continued refusal to work and hunger strike.

<b>Laundry No 1</b>	
<b>Order</b>	Good Shepherd
<b>Laundry</b>	Sundays Well, Cork
<b>From</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> June 1959
<b>To</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> January 1963
<b>Duration of stay</b>	3 years 7 months
<b>Age on entry</b>	16
<b>Entered Via</b>	Sent by Good Shepherd nuns in Waterford after she had been sent back to them from her hospital position where she had been supervised by nuns
<b>House Name/No</b>	Yes
<b>Circumstances of Departure</b>	Sent to Good Shepherd Magdalene Laundry in Limerick

<b>Laundry No 2</b>	
<b>Order</b>	Good Shepherd
<b>Laundry</b>	Limerick
<b>From</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> January 1963
<b>To</b>	August 1964
<b>Duration of stay</b>	1 year 8 months
<b>Age on entry</b>	21 (20 according to records)
<b>Entered Via</b>	Transferred from Sundays Well
<b>House Name/No</b>	Yes
<b>Circumstances of Departure</b>	Sent to Good Shepherd Magdalene Laundry in Waterford

<b>Laundry No 3</b>	
<b>Order</b>	Good Shepherd
<b>Laundry</b>	Waterford
<b>From</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> June 1963 (according to Waterford records but inconsistent with Sundays Well Records)
<b>To</b>	April 1965 (according to records, but interviewee disputes this and says she left on 24 <sup>th</sup> February 1965)
<b>Duration of stay</b>	Between 1–2 years
<b>Age on entry</b>	21 (20 according to records)
<b>Entered Via</b>	Transferred from Good Shepherd Magdalene Laundry in Limerick
<b>House Name/No</b>	Yes
<b>Circumstances of Departure</b>	Was told to leave

[End of conversation prior to interview]

[Audio File 1 Begins]

CMcG *Okay.*

KR [Inaudible] listening to me there...

CMcG *So...*

KR ...I didn't know!

CMcG *So just...for the purpose...*

KR Is it on now? Is it on?

[Consent process]

CMcG *...it's on now, it's on now. Just for the purpose of the...the...the recording I just n...need you to give your full name, so just...if you say your name, yeah.*

KR Kathleen R. [Pseudonym]

CMcG *There you go. And I just need to say, before starting the interview, I would like to ask you to confirm that you agree to participate in the interview voluntarily and that you are familiar with the consent forms that I previously provided to you. So...*

KR I agreed to this meeting with Claire and I agree to everything about the consent forms and everything.

[Interview Begins]

CMcG *Lovely, lovely. Perfect. Now, so, we'll start from the beginning, when and where were you born?*

KR I was born in Cormacstown [pseudonym] in 1942 and I was put into the Good Shepherd in Waterford i...in the orphanage [St Dominick's Industrial School for Girls] and I was there until I was seventeen. And the nuns put me out to work in Dungarvan in a hospital with nuns and it was very restricted, it was like I wasn't out of the school at all, I wasn't allowed to do anything and I rebelled and they put me back into the...in with the nuns again and they put me up to the Magdalenes up in Sundays Well in Cork and I was up there a couple of years and I just said to myself...I didn't want to spend the rest of my life there, so I rebelled again, I went up the stairs, sat on the stairs, I wouldn't do no work, I wouldn't eat nor nothing. I used to drink water, the old women used to let me into bed at night. I was transferred from there then down to Limerick and there again after another year or two I rebelled again, I didn't want to be there either, so I done the same thing, sat on the stairs, I wouldn't do nothing, then they pushed me down to Waterford, back to Waterford into the Magdalenes again. And I was rebelling all the time, I wouldn't do *nothing, nothing*...nothing for them, I done *nothing*, wouldn't do no work nor nothing for them, I wanted to be out in a job. And I'll always remember...it's forever in my memory, the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 1965, I was called, and the nun called me and she packed a small little heart case...small little heart cases, with a couple of rags in it as I call it, and she stood in the hall door in the Good Shepherd in Waterford and there was about two or three inches of snow on the avenue and the snow was still falling. She said, '*off!* Off out now! Away! Off out now!' she said, 'and try and get a job for yourself, we can't put up with you here anymore'. Now, Ardkeen Hospital is about three miles from the Good Shepherd, I walked *every step* of the way out there and...*every step* of the way I walked out there and between the salty, salty rain going into my eyes and me tears, my eyes was in a shocking condition by the time I reached Ardkeen Hospital. I went into the Assistant Matron, I told her my story, about the Good Shepherds, and she said, 'Kathleen, don't you worry,' she said, 'we've got a job here for you'. I was in Ardkeen Hospital after that for six years, I worked in Ardkeen Hospital. Then, I got friendly with a nurse and she went to work in a nursing home in...in England and I went over as an auxiliary nurse and I brought myself to where I am today with no one's help, without a creature in the world belonging to me. I stayed in England then for a couple of years, and I came back and I worked in the orthopaedic [hospital] up in Cork here and I reside in [location removed] now.

CMcG *Excellent. Now, a...and I...I co....I'll c...*

KR Is that alright?

CMcG *...oh that's perfect, I'll come back to you on some of the stuff with...you'll see yourself when we g...*

KR Was that alright now?

CMcG *That's perfect, don't be worrying, don't be worrying. So who raised you, Kathleen?*

KR The Good Shepherds in Waterford.

CMcG *The Good Shepherds in Waterford raised you.*

KR In the orphanage in the Good Shepherd in Waterford.

CMcG *Okay. And f...a...and sorry now, at what age did you go to the Good Shepherd in Waterford in the...?*

KR When I was four.

CMcG Th...you were four a...

KR 1947.

CMcG *A...and y...but you were in...*

KR I was born in 1942.

CMcG *And in...from...before that then were you in Cormacstown, yeah?*

KR I was with my mother...

CMcG *In...in...*

KR *(Whispered) we were travellers...*

CMcG *Ri...*

KR *(Still whispering)...we were travellers...*

CMcG *Okay, okay, okay y...would you rather that not be on the [recording]...*

KR *Not at all! (Speaks loudly) We were travellers! We were travelling.*

CMcG *Okay, okay.*

KR My mother was a traveller, I wasn't reared a traveller like you know.

CMcG *Okay, okay.*

KR But th...that's my background, that's my history.

CMcG *Right, right, right, right, right.*

KR Just me and my brother, my brother was reared over in Greenmount School there in Waterford...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...and I was reared in the Good Shepherd in Waterford.

CMcG *Right, right.*

KR As I told you then, when I was seventeen or eighteen I was put out...

CMcG *You were put out...*

KR ...to that place in Dungarvan.

CMcG *(Consulting interview guide) And so you...the next one is did you have any brothers or sisters, you had one brother.*

KR One brother, yes. Can't find him.

CMcG *And you still can't find him...*

KR Can't find him, searched everywhere, can't find him.

CMcG *We'll see if we can help you with that. And, you went to school then, that was in the Good Shepherd in Waterford, that was... [Inaudible]*

KR Oh no, I went to school in the Sisters of Charity in Parnell Street in Waterford.

CMcG *Okay, so you were...*

KR We went out to school.

CMcG *...you went out to school, okay, okay. And, when you were young, like d...were you aware of the Magdalene Institutions?*

KR I was taken away from school when I was thirteen. Oh when I was young – we were aware of them yeah...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...because we were in...the church was a big church and in the middle...in the pews were the nuns and on the right were the children from the orphanage and on the left were the...were the Magdalenes.

CMcG *Oh right, okay.*

KR The church was so big like...

CMcG *This was in Waterford...*

KR ...the nuns were in the middle. That's in every one of the churches in the...

CMcG *Right.*

KR ...in the convents.

CMcG *Right.*

KR ...the nuns were in the middle in pews and we were on the right, the...the children were on the right and the Magdalenes were on the left.

CMcG *Right, right.*

KR So we were well aware of them (*clears throat*) we were well aware of them, Claire.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR Worked very hard in every one of them Magdalenes Claire I did...

CMcG *I know, I know.*

KR ...very hard, we drank our sweat.

CMcG *So...we...I know, I know, believe me.*

KR Oh, drank our sweat we did.

CMcG *So you...the...I know the answer to this so...but we've kind of got to do it three times because you were in three different laundries so...*

KR Yes, no problem.

CMcG *...so if you tell me the three laundries you were in and then maybe if you'd start from the first one and we'll...we'll work through and then go to the next one and how you...you know, because we've got...I've got a set of questions about each of them if that's...*

KR Sundays Well was the first one...

CMcG *In...*

KR ...in Cork.

CMcG *...in Cork. So you were sent from...*

KR And...

CMcG *...you were sent from the Good Shepherd in Waterford...*

KR Yeah, yeah.

CMcG *...orphanage...*

KR Yes, I was put back to the Good Shepherd and, from the...from...no – remember I was put out to work with these nuns...

CMcG *...so, so, hang on back up there now until I make sure I get it right, okay so you're...you...from the age of four you're in the Good Shepherd in Waterford...*

KR ...until about seventeen or eighteen...

CMcG *...until seventeen or eighteen...*

KR ...and then I was put out to work in this hospital in...in Dungarvan, but they were nuns again but they were restricted like the convent...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...I couldn't go here nor I couldn't go there, so I rebelled again in there so they put me back with the nuns again and then they put me...the nuns in Waterford put me up to Sundays Well.

CMcG *Right, okay.*

KR Is that alright now?

CMcG *So when you're talking about...no, no, that's grand, no, because I want to make sure I have it straight...*

KR Yeah, yeah...

CMcG *...in my head...*

KR ...that's it now, that's it.

CMcG *...and we'll come back and we'll...we'll clarify if we haven't got it.*

KR Yeah.

CMcG *So, when you were telling me about the...the nun sending you out with the case, was that...that when you were seventeen or...?*

KR Oh no, no, that...that...that was...that was...I...I was put from, Cork, then down to Limerick and then back to Waterford...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...and I rebelled and they were so fed up with me, putting me around that she put me out on the road, out getting a job then.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR Can you follow me now Claire?

CMcG *I can, yeah...no, I'll st...I'll...I'll stick with you don't worry! So, so...st...to start from...from...from the beginning then, you went from Waterford out to work, you were rebelling in...where were you working when you were...*

KR ...in a hospital with nuns in Dungarvan, I can't think of the name of the place now in Waterford, in Dungarvan, but it was in Dungarvan anyway...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...in Waterford.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR And they were nuns and they were...it was like I wasn't out of the school at all...

CMcG *Was it the same order, the Good Shepherds or was it a different order?*

KR No, no, no, it was the Sisters of Charity or something...

CMcG *Sist...Sisters of Charity, okay.*

KR ...but it was like I wasn't out of the school at all. I was...restricted to everything like, I had no freedom.

CMcG *Okay. A...and do you have any records of that, as...as in what...what age you w...like, when they sent you out from the orphanage like, to work, y...*

KR I have...I have all...

CMcG *...you have that, you have that.*

KR ...I have them.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR But to find them now...

CMcG *No that's okay...*

KR ...Claire, if I had known all that...

CMcG *...that's o...well, y...you can give them...*

KR ...oh I have all them Claire...

CMcG *...to us afterwards, yeah...*

KR I have them...

CMcG *...just because if you were...w...w...w...*

KR Oh I have them Claire...

CMcG *...we might need to establish whether you were like, say under eighteen or over eighteen or...*

KR No, I have all them Claire yeah.

CMcG *So, so you rebelled when you were working in that hospital and then they complained...*

KR Because I was restricted, like th...like, I was never out of the school like...

CMcG *Right, right.*

KR ...do you know what I mean?

CMcG *Right. And so the...did the...*

KR The nuns in Waterford then put me up to Limerick, up to Waterford, up to Cork.

CMcG *And did the...the nuns in the hospital complain to...*

KR Yeah, yeah.

CMcG *...the nuns, like was that how it happened...*

KR Yeah, yeah, they sent me back again, yeah.

CMcG *...they sent you back to Waterford and then Waterford sent you to...*

KR Sundays Well.

CMcG *...to Sundays Well. So...*

KR I was a couple of years up there...

CMcG And...

KR ...two or three years I'd say Claire, or that.

CMcG *...and...so, I think we have that on your...your...your dates [interviewee's records], hang on until I'll just get the...I'll get the...the piece of paper here so we... (checks records) ...1959 in Sundays Well in Cork, yeah.*

KR Yeah, yeah, yeah yeah.

CMcG *So, the...the...so when you...you...so, how did you actually get there, were you put on a bus or a train or...*

KR Oh I was put on a bus and someone from there was to meet me off the bus...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...and bring me back up again...

CMcG *Okay, okay.*

KR ...bring me back up again, yeah.

CMcG *What was your reaction when you...when you got there, to Sundays Well?*

KR But sure, I was only young at the time like, you know and...

CMcG *How did you react when you...?*

KR ...frightened and everything like, you know, going into the unknown and I mean...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...you know?

CMcG *Yeah, yeah.*

KR Going into a big laundry then the following morning and...

CMcG *Yeah, yeah.*

KR ...I was on one of the mangles, do you know what a mangle is?

CMcG *Yeah, yeah.*

KR Did you hear them talking about the mangles?

CMcG *Yeah, yeah.*

KR And the sheets coming off and it boiling hot and *oh terrible*, prospect [Perspex] glass over you and sweat pouring off you. I drank me sweat Claire, drank my sweat, girl I did there. Then I was kind of afraid I thought...and I was looking around at all the old women, you know, I was saying, 'God I'm never going to be here all my life am I?' That's the way I was feeling, so I rebelled. Sat up on the stairs and I wouldn't do nothing for them.

CMcG *Good for you, good for you.*

KR The old woman was telling me. And then they got tired of me then and they pushed me down to Limerick, to one of their classes in...one of their houses in Limerick.

CMcG *I...I...can we...we'll get to Limerick in a minute...*

KR *Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.*

CMcG *...if that's alright... (Laughs)*

KR No problem.

CMcG *...I...I...I want to make sure we cover all of Cork first.*

KR Oh yeah, ask away Claire, yeah.

CMcG *So, were you made aware of your rights when you arrived in Cork?*

KR *Oh God no...*

CMcG *In...you'd no....*

KR ...God we'd no rights as far as they were concerned.

CMcG *Y...they didn't say, 'you're going to be here for so long...'*

KR *Oh no!*

CMcG *And...*

KR *Oh no!*

CMcG *You weren't told how long you were going to be there?*

KR We were taken...all our...all our own clothes were taken off us and we were [to] put on other clothes...

CMcG *God.*

KR ...like...like a pens...like a prisoner.

CMcG *Can you remember what the uniform was like?*

KR They were all kind of the same like, you know.

CMcG *Right.*

KR Yeah, they were nearly all the same, we were like prisoners like, we were.

CMcG *Hmm, hmm. Were you told that you were free to leave?*

KR *(Looks shocked)* Not at all Claire! I'm asking you Claire! No, Claire we weren't!

CMcG *I...it's...*

KR No.

CMcG *...important that we ask all these questions so...*

KR Oh no Claire, not at all, no, not at all!

CMcG *Were you told you could leave on a certain date?*

KR Not at all!

CMcG *No. Do you know why any of the other women in the laundry were there like, did you...*

KR Oh God no, no...

CMcG *...get to hear any of their stories...*

KR ...no...

CMcG *...did you...*

KR ...no.

CMcG *...you know like, did they have babies, did they come from an orphanage...*

KR They probably did, they probably did, there was rumours going around it but [inaudible]...

CMcG *Yeah, so, it wasn't sort of said out straight, how people ended...*

KR *Yeah, yeah.*

CMcG *...up there.*

KR And there was a couple of girls like us as well. *(Clears throat)*

CMcG *From orphanages and...*

KR Hmm.

CMcG *...yeah, yeah, yeah.*

KR Yeah. Like there was one or two slow women put in there as well like, you know what I mean.

CMcG *Right, right.*

KR But I was rebellious...

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR ...I wouldn't do nothing for them.

CMcG *Hmm. And were they mostly older women or younger girls or...?*

KR Oh a lot of them were old women, God love them, yeah, gave all their life, working hard like you know...

CMcG *God.*

KR ...very sad.

CMcG *And, so...I tell you...we...we'll...I'm gon...I'm going to back you up and we'll go maybe with Limerick with the same questions...*

KR Yeah, yeah.

CMcG *...if that's alright.*

KR Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

CMcG *And we'll see if we can...if we can get a system going.*

KR Yeah.

CMcG *So Limerick then, you were sent in '63, is that right, is that...the...*

KR It must be, because it was '65 I came out anyway.

CMcG *So...and how did you get there, did you go on a bus again?*

KR Oh yeah, a bus again and someone waiting for me at the end, someone out of the Magdalenes waiting for me...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...at the other end of it.

CMcG *Okay. And again, what was your reaction when you arrived in Limerick?*

KR The very same. Like, I...I kind of knew what to expect...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...from Cork do you know what I mean Claire?

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR I kind of knew what to expect then.

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR So, but like I...I was still upset and everything like...

CMcG *Of course.*

KR ...like, I wasn't getting a chance to go out to work, all...*that's all I wanted* was to get a chance to go to work...

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR ...and to be...to have a bit of freedom, do you know what I mean Claire?

CMcG *I do, I do, I do.*

KR And to be able to go and come and [whenever] I wanted to like you know.

CMcG *Uh huh, uh huh.*

KR That's all I wanted.

CMcG *And again, were you told if...anything about your rights?*

KR No, no, no, no, nothing Claire.

CMcG *Were you told how long you would be there?*

KR Oh God no!

CMcG *That you were free to leave?*

KR Oh God no, Claire, no, no, no.

CMcG *Or that you could leave on a certain date or anything like that?*

KR No, no, no Claire, no.

CMcG *And again, in...in Limerick, you know, th...th...was there...like, was there any indication of why the others were there, did you get any...or was it the same as Cork...*

KR No, no...

CMcG *...in terms of...you just...they w...*

KR ...no, no Claire.

CMcG *A...and again in Lim...*

KR *(Whispered) There were housekeepers for priests, housekeepers, probably had babies for them, I don't know, like you know what I mean?*

CMcG *Housekeepers for priests?*

KR There was...there was one or two priest's housekeepers there, yeah. Hmm, hmm.

CMcG *Right.*

KR Hmm, hmm.

CMcG *And did you have indications that there...they had babies?*

KR I did...I had indications but like, 'tw... 'twas later on in life that I had indications...

CMcG *Okay, okay.*

KR ...not then like...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...because I was too innocent. But it was later on...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...in life I was wondering why priest's housekeepers were in there...

CMcG *Right.*

KR ...do you know what I mean?

CMcG *I know what you mean, yeah.*

KR Your mind would start...

CMcG *Of course.*

KR ...you know, on overdrive...

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR ...do you know what I mean?

CMcG *Hmm. And was tha...*

KR But you weren't told anything.

CMcG *...was that peculiar like, to Limerick or was it every...was it in...in all three of them or...?*

KR Well, one in Cork and one in Limerick I found.

CMcG *Okay, okay.*

KR Yeah, yeah, yeah.

CMcG *And again in Limerick, were there...were there mostly older women or were there young girls or...?*

KR There were kind of old women as well like you know...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...but like they're all given a lot of years there you know.

CMcG *Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.*

KR You know.

CMcG *And...and again...then...so, let's follow this again, so you went... (consults records) ...and you were sent back to Waterford then in '63 from...*

KR I was two years in Waterford there and then 'twas the last straw, I rebelled harder in Waterford, because they...they had put me away...

CMcG *Right.*

KR ...if you know what I mean.

CMcG *Yeah, yeah.*

KR So I rebelled twice...doubly hard then.

CMcG *Okay, because you were back where you started kind of thing, yeah.*

KR Hmm, hmm.

CMcG *And...*

KR So that's why the nuns got tired of me. She packed a couple of rags in a small square case and put me out, there was about three inches of snow on the ground Claire, I'll never forget it, the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 19...1965, I'll *never forget it*. The day and the date sticks in me memory, and she said, 'off out now,' says she, 'we can't put up with you anymore, off out and see if you can get a job'. And I don't know do you know where Ardkeen is, it's...

CMcG *I've heard of it.*

KR ...about three miles...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...from...

CMcG *Right.*

KR ...the Good Shepherds in Waterford...

CMcG *And you walked that...*

KR I walked *every step of the way* out and told my story to the Assistant Matron, roaring crying, she said, 'don't worry Kathleen, we have...we have work, we have a job here for you'. And she called one of the other girls in and she brought me over to the little domestic staff home and the girl gave me the uniform for the following day for work and says she, 'make sure Kathleen gets a dinner'. This was about twelve o'clock in the day. The Ma...the Assistant Matron was very good to me. And I was there for six years after.

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR That'll give you proof that all I wanted was to get on.

CMcG *You were no trouble there, yeah.*

KR Do you know what I mean?

CMcG *Absolutely, yeah, yeah, absolutely.*

KR And I brought myself to where I am today...

CMcG *Of course you did, yeah.*

KR ...*no one*...with help from *no one*.

CMcG *Absolutely Kathleen, absolutely. And then, like...say...when you went to...back to Waterford, again, how did you react when you arrived?*

KR Worse...

CMcG *Yeah, yeah.*

KR ...worse Claire, because I mean, they were bouncing me around all their houses, I really got rebellious then...

CMcG So...

KR ...I acted like a mad woman then.

CMcG *...so, were...you were probably w...or...were you...more angry than scared at that point when you went back or [inaudible]...*

KR They put me up to St Otteran's... [Psychiatric Hospital]

CMcG *To St...?*

KR ...before...they put me up to St Otteran's.

CMcG *What's that now?*

KR A mad house in Waterford.

CMcG *Before you went...*

KR Before I went, b...before they put me out. *(Clears throat)*

CMcG So...

KR I was very rebellious altogether in Waterford.

CMcG *So, so, so, hang on, so...*

KR I have all them records, do you want to see them?

CMcG *Absolutely, maybe when we're...maybe when we're done you could give me a look...*

KR Yeah.

CMcG *...yeah.*

KR That's from the mental hospital in...in...in...

CMcG *S...so, so hang on until I get this right in my head now, you...you were sent from the Good Shepherd in Waterford to the mental hospital...*

KR St...St Otteran's in Waterford.

CMcG *...and so...and then did you end up back in the Good Shepherd...*

KR Yeah, again, yeah.

CMcG *...out of the mental hospital?<sup>1</sup>*

KR Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

CMcG *So there were...and...and would you...do...do your records show kind of...your...your entry and leaving dates?*

KR I don't think they do show that...<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Interviewee provides further clarification on the sequence of events on pages 101-103

<sup>2</sup> Records were examined with the interviewee after the interview and it was established that the records did show the admission and discharge dates

CMcG *Okay, okay.*

KR ...they only show...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...that I was in there.

CMcG *Okay, well that's alright, that's alright. So they were...th...you were sent...*

KR Yeah.

CMcG *...sort of back and forth and then on t...*

KR Yeah, yeah. Because they knew there was nothing wrong with me.

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR They knew...they knew there was nothing at all wrong with me.

CMcG *And...and did they medicate you in the mental hospital?*

KR They did, they did...

CMcG *And do you know what they...*

KR ...they put me in one of them... *(Indicating a straitjacket)*

CMcG *In a straitjacket...*

KR ...because I was rebellious yeah...

CMcG *...in a straitjacket?*

KR Yeah! Yeah!

CMcG *For how long?*

KR Oh I...I'd say I was a good six months there. And Largactil [anti-psychotic medication] they were drugging me and sure, you're looking at me here Claire, talking to you – am I mad? Am I mental?

CMcG *Not at all.*

KR That's what they put me on there.

CMcG *Lar...Largactil was it?*

KR Yeah, everything, they were putting me on, doses of stuff t...t..to quieten me.

CMcG *Right.*

KR All I wanted was to have a job, that was all I wanted.

CMcG *Uh huh, uh huh.*

KR See my mother was in the mental hospital, they had my mother's history and they probably thought I was mad too.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR My mother wasn't mad at all, there was nothing wrong with my mother. God I hope I don't get emotional here now Claire, I'm alright though.

CMcG *Are you okay?*

KR I'm grand love...

CMcG *You can...*

KR ...yeah.

CMcG *...you can take a little break any time you want.*

KR Oh I'm grand love, I'm grand.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR But, then they put me back then again, I have the records of the...St Otteran's Hospital in there for you.

CMcG *Brilliant, that would be really helpful.*

KR I have them there.

CMcG *So in terms of...*

[End of Audio File 1]

[Recording paused to start new audio file]

[Audio File 2 Begins]

CMcG *Now, sorry I want to get it goin...get...*

KR Yeah, yeah, Claire, yeah.

CMcG *...make sure the recording is okay. So, i...in terms of...you know, all three of...of the laundries, and tell me if there was...sort of...changes in this but, h...how did you feel at the time of being in the Magdalene, how...how...how...what...what were your feelings in general?*

KR Claire, all I wanted was to go out to work...

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR ...was to...was to have a job and...you know? Just to have job and...and go out to work and have a bit of freedom.

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR I felt like, well seventeen or eighteen years of my life I was locked up and...u...and up in the orphanage...

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR ...you know?

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR I mean I was twenty-three when I left Waterford like, *twenty-three*, my whole youth was gone!

CMcG *Uh huh, uh huh.*

KR So I mean...I mean, they took away my youth...

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR ...do you know what I mean Claire?

CMcG *I do.*

[Short section removed at request of interviewee]

KR I just wanted to go to work.

CMcG *I know, I know.*

KR I mean, they took me away from school when I was thirteen to wash big long corridors, big long cloisters, you know what it's like in them places.

CMcG *Was that when...when you were in...*

KR That was when I was in the orphanage.

CMcG *...in the orphanage.*

KR They...they did.

CMcG *Did they pu...was...where...and where were...w...w...were you put to work in the laundry or just in the...*

KR *No in the school, in the school, washing big long corridors, big long classrooms, big long cloisters, you know what 'tis like now, in a big monastery.*

CMcG *Yeah.*

KR Yeah, yeah!

CMcG *A...and you were removed from class-time to do that?*

KR Yeah, yeah! Because I wasn't one of their cronies.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR They looked after their cronies.

CMcG *So...oh, they had favourites?*

KR Oh yeah, oh yeah.

CMcG *And so, say...just so I'm picturing this right, you...you...you would have been sent out to school*

KR Yeah.

CMcG *...so you would have been kept back...*

KR Kept back yeah...

CMcG *...from school...*

KR *...they kept me back, the nun br...told me one Friday evening I'm not going to school anymore on the...the following Monday. Thirteen I was.*

CMcG *And how...like...how much...*

KR To work.

CMcG *...would you have been kept out of school?*

KR *All the time like, to do work like, they had the big children doing all the work like, you know what I mean?*

CMcG *Would it be a couple of days a week or something like that or...or...?*

KR Oh, oh all the time!

CMcG *So...so from the age of thirteen onwards you weren't in school?*

KR Yes I had no school, no school, no!

CMcG *They kept you out completely, out of school?*

KR Yeah, yeah, yeah! Wouldn't tell you a word of a lie Claire, yeah.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR I wasn't one of their bright sparks.

CMcG *Right, so they kept you out of school...*

KR They did, they did.

CMcG *...from thirteen until you were seventeen, eighteen?*

KR But it was all on the...on the, you know, the orphanage records like, you know.

CMcG *Okay, okay.*

KR Yeah.

CMcG *My God.*

KR No wonder I was rebellious, I w...I worked for nothing for them and they wouldn't let me out to work then after.

CMcG *Did you have a house name?*

KR I did, Frances. [Pseudonym]

CMcG *In all three was it the same or...?*

KR Oh no, ah wait now Claire, oh you're getting me there.

CMcG *No that's alright.*

KR Frances I was up there anyway.

CMcG *In...*

KR Frances...

CMcG *...in Sundays Well?*

KR ...I was Frances up there in Sundays Well.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR Oh what I was now in the other two now...

CMcG *That's alright, if...if it comes to you, you can tell us again.*

KR *Oh! My God, I've a memory loss now.*

CMcG *No, that's okay, that's okay.*

KR I could find out...

CMcG *You can come back to me on it.*

KR ...I could ring the nun and find out.

CMcG *You can come back to me on it. So...*

KR I can ring the nun in Waterford and find out.

CMcG *...alright, alright. Because actually I...I know some of them would have...or actually...*

KR I was Frances in Cork anyway.

CMcG *...actually, hang on, on the...*

KR Is it there, is it on that [records]?

CMcG *(Attempts to spell out illegible house name on records from Waterford laundry)*

KR Frances is on one of them anyway.

CMcG *Frances is on one of them yeah...*

KR Frances is in Cork.

CMcG *...I see Frances on Sundays Well, okay.*

KR Yeah, 'cause Frances is in Cork, yeah.

CMcG *And...*

KR Jesus Claire...

CMcG *Ben...Benignus [pseudonym] is on the other one [Limerick]...*

KR She's one of the sisters, she's one of the sisters.

CMcG *She's one of the sisters so they...they have that...maybe they...they recorded them differently.<sup>3</sup> Anyway, if it comes to you it comes to you, don't be worrying. So again, for all three of them, what were living conditions like? If...you can kind of fill me in a little bit on...on each of them?*

KR Bad like, you know. We had...we had o...our bed I suppose.

CMcG *Where...where did you sleep? Did you sleep in like...*

---

<sup>3</sup> The Sundays Well register placed Kathleen's house name above her real name, in the case of Limerick, the name 'Benignus' [pseudonym] was in the same place. Sr Benignus is also the name of the religious sister who sent Kathleen to Sundays Well. Therefore it is unclear whether Kathleen was given Benignus as a house name in Limerick or if the record is referring to Sr Benignus from Waterford.

KR In a dormitory.

CMcG *With...in...in all three of them?*

KR In a huge big dormitory in...yeah, in...in all three of them yeah.

CMcG *And...*

KR And we ate in...in a refectory.

CMcG *And what kind of food was it? What was it...*

KR *Oh, basic. Bread and dripping.*

CMcG *Were you hungry?*

KR *God we were starving! You couldn't...y...you know, after working so hard, you couldn't get enough to eat, do you know what I mean?*

CMcG *Right, right.*

KR You know?

CMcG *Yeah.*

KR We'd get our meals but it wouldn't be overfill like, if you know what I mean?

CMcG *Yeah. Did you get much meat?*

KR Oh God no, oh God no. No, no, no.

CMcG *Vegetables?*

KR What?

CMcG *Vegetables?*

KR God no, not much of it, do you know.

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR We probably got a bit like, you know what I mean?

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR I can't remember the meals, they were all...

CMcG *That's okay, no that's alright.*

KR ...all I can remember Claire is...is the hard work like.

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR I suppose that's for most of them [other survivors] do they remember the hard work too?

CMcG *Oh they do of course.*

KR Hard work, it was mostly all hard work.

CMcG *A...and...*

KR Physical work.

CMcG *I know, I know, I know.*

KR Very physical.

CMcG *And...what...what...what did you wear? Was there...were they all the same?*

KR We were all...our own clothes were taken off us...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...and we were all given a kind of a un...like they were in prison, given a uniform. Given something, a...a dress and, they nearly all had the same dresses on, do you know what I mean?

CMcG *And was that the same in all three, yeah?*

KR Oh yeah, oh yeah.

CMcG *Okay. Now, again for all three, were there any opportunities like, for recreation or exercise or anything like that or...?*

KR We used to go out to the green.<sup>4</sup> There was a green, we'd go out there of an evening from about half-seven until maybe nine o'clock, walk around...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...square and that.

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR There was a big 'hurdy gurdy' out there, there was swings. But like you know, looking down on to the gaol [Cork City Gaol] you don't know the gaol up in Cork do you?

CMcG *Yeah, I do.*

KR You know that gaol?

CMcG *Yeah.*

---

<sup>4</sup> Also known to some survivors as 'the gym'

KR Well we were looking down on to that gaol from the green.

CMcG *From the green?*

KR Where we...where we used to go for recreation.

CMcG *Right, okay.*

KR We were looking down on to that gaol.

CMcG *You could see the gaol from where you were?*

KR From the green...oh directly!

CMcG *Okay.*

KR Next door.

CMcG *Okay, okay.*

KR Hmm, hmm. From the green, yeah.

CMcG *And, would you see...would you get to see any of the comings and goings or goings on from...?*

KR *Oh no!*

CMcG *No.*

KR *Not at all! Nothing...no...no one only ourselves!*

CMcG *Right, right, right.*

KR Not...never another creature only the people that were...you were in immediate...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...thing with you, like you know.

CMcG *What...what opportunities for education were there?*

KR I'm asking you Claire, there were none at all girl, none at all!

CMcG *Okay, again...*

KR *None at all Claire!*

CMcG *No, th...that's alright, I...I have to ask the question, that's all!*

KR No, no! And I'm not giving you a wrong answer!

CMcG *I know you're not, I know you're not!*

KR There was none at all in Cork, in...in any of the three, anywhere else.

CMcG *No, that's alright. Were you allowed to make friends?*

KR Not very...not very close friends. You couldn't...if they saw you talking to someone we'll say, for a day or two, they'd separate you, do you know what I mean?<sup>5</sup>

CMcG *Okay.*

KR I prob...they probably...it was afterwards, when I was thinking, they'd probably think you were quare, [queer] do you know what I mean?

---

<sup>5</sup> See also MAGOHP13/ANON, Bernadette & Francis Murphy and MAGOHP/46/ANON, Pippa Flanagan, who also speak of women and girls being separated for communicating with each other.

CMcG *Right, right, right.*

KR It was later on in life I was thinking like that.

CMcG *Yeah, yeah, it's not until afterwards, yeah.*

KR Well what would you put to that like, I think that...that like myself, what would you think?

CMcG *Hmm, hmm, hmm. Well yeah, I'm su...I'm...I'm sure...and I'm sure...*

KR It was later on in life that I...I thought that like, do you know what I mean?

CMcG *Yeah, yeah. Fair enough. And...*

KR You were kind of...if you were pally with someone, they'd have you in a circle, say there was...there was about ten, ten in a circle, in the evenings and there was a prefect in charge of that circle, and you couldn't get any way close to anybody in the circle, you must talk to them all.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR And there was circles in all the room like, you know what I mean?

CMcG *Right, right.*

KR That was a part of recreation, if it was raining, if it was raining, you'd be in these circles, but if it wasn't raining, you could go out on the green.

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR Do you know what I mean?

CMcG *Hmm. I know what you mean. Yeah, yeah.*

KR And have you that story from other people as well like, the circles, about the circles?

CMcG *No, not so much now,<sup>6</sup> w...was that partic...peculiar to Cork or...or...*

KR Cork anyway, Cork, definitely Cork.

CMcG *Yeah, yeah, yeah, you're the only one we've talked to you see, from...from...*

KR Oh yeah...

CMcG *...Sundays Well...*

KR ...yeah.

CMcG *...so...*

KR The circle.

CMcG *...the circle, and there would be a prefect...*

KR And there was a...a kind of a prefect, an auxiliary they called her...

CMcG *An auxiliary.*

KR ...an auxiliary. There was an auxiliary in charge of all...all the circles...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...and you couldn't get close to anyone in the circle; if you did you would be changed from that circle to the others.

CMcG *And are you talking about like...say, getting physically close or...or talking close?*

---

<sup>6</sup> Interviews with Bernadette & Francis Murphy (MAGOHP13/ANON) and Pippa Flanagan (MAGOHP/46/ANON) had not yet taken place.

KR Oh no, just talking...

CMcG *Talking close like, so...so...*

KR ...God you couldn't get physically close, just friendly like.

CMcG *Yeah, yeah, yeah.*

KR If they thought you were...

CMcG *What I mean is like, are you standing in a circle and, 'oh no, you're standing too close to her' – it's not like that?*

KR No, no...

CMcG *It's more that you're...*

KR ...if you were...if they thought you were very friendly...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...talking, talking, or...they'd change you, they'd shift you.

CMcG *Right. My God.*

KR They were weird!

CMcG *Right.*

KR Oh yeah, oh that's the truth. Sure I couldn't lie, that's...I went through it myself, I couldn't lie.

CMcG *Uh huh, uh huh. Of course, of course. And how would you describe your relationships with the women...who...who...the other women who were there?*

KR Ah some of them were lovely like, some of them were okay. They were there like me, like, you know?

CMcG *Of course.*

KR And there was one old...what did I call them a while ago?

CMcG *Auxiliary?*

KR Aux...no...auxiliary yeah, auxiliary yeah. There was one old auxiliary and I was very close to her, she was...she'd be always trying to advise me like, you know...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...not to be so rebellious and everything but sure all I wanted was to work.

CMcG *I know.*

KR She was old like, God love her, she was old.

CMcG *I know, I know. And...and were...were friends or relatives able to visit you?*

KR Not me anyway, sure I had no one Claire.

CMcG *Hmm, hmm, hmm. No, that's alr...*

KR There was someone's people able to visit them alright...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...some of them had visitors alright, but I hadn't.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR So that was it Claire, girl.

CMcG *And were there other...there were other visitors then, to the Magdalene, yeah?*

KR Oh they were, to other people like, you know.

CMcG *Okay, okay. I'll keep it going, I...I...I know I'm probably wearing you out.*

KR No you're not, no you're not girl, keep it going.

CMcG *What other...what other contact with...with the outside world did you have? Hav...did you have newspapers or radio or anything like that or...?*

KR Not a bit in the...*newspapers? I'm asking you, Claire!*

CMcG *No.*

KR *No!* The laundry used to come in, you know, big...'twas a laundry, and the laundry used to come in and some people would wrap their clothes up in the *Evening Echo*...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...and people that were in the Packing Room used to keep the *Echo* and we'd read...that's how we'd read, do you understand me?

CMcG *Ah I see. Very good!*

KR That's how we'd get a bit of, you know...

CMcG *Great.*

KR ...the laundry used to be packed in the news...the *Evening Echo* or newspapers, and they'd keep them like and they'd read them like...

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR ...do you know, some of the women down there, like you know...

CMcG *Wow.*

KR ...that's how they'd get a bit of news, like you know.

CMcG *Wow, that's...that's amazing.*

KR Yeah, yeah.

CMcG *A...and how would you re...describe your...your relationships with the nuns?*

KR *Oh no.* I didn't like them at all, I hated them with a passion, hated them with a passion.

CMcG *Hmm.*

[Short section removed at request of interviewee]

KR I left a lot of anger out of me down in the graveyard in Waterford, I left an awful lot of anger out of me [short section removed at request of interviewee]. Oh I left an awful lot of anger in that graveyard. They weren't there physically to talk to them you see, but you...you have to get your revenge out some way.

CMcG *Well, you...you'd a lot of anger.*

KR I went down on the bus here from [location removed] and I...I went up to the graveyard and I left an awful lot of anger in there. And I'd say I wasn't the only one, I imagine.

CMcG *No, that's okay.*

KR I imagine I wasn't anyway.

CMcG *No, no, absolutely, absolutely. And did you have any...*

KR I mean Claire, *twenty-three years of age!* My life started then like.

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR I mean, they took my whole youth away like...

CMcG *I know, I know.*

KR ...I mean...I mean 'tis very hard to forgive them like for doing it like...

CMcG *I hear you.*

KR ...very hard like...

CMcG *I hear you.*

KR ...you know.

CMcG *Absolutely.*

KR And I don't like looking back on it like, because it makes me angry...

CMcG *I know, I know, abso...*

KR ...I gets very angry when I look back on...think back on it like, you know.

CMcG *I know, I know you do, I know. And that's understandable.*

KR Oh *yeah, yeah*, very angry I gets, very angry.

CMcG *Did you...did you have any relationship with friends or family outside the institution when you were there?*

KR Outside the institution. All my relations, the cousins and that, they're all from [location removed]...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...but I never bothered with them like, Claire you know.

CMcG *Okay, hmm.*

KR But they were...

CMcG *This is when you were like...but...but...so they w...certainly when you were inside like, you didn't have...*

KR Oh yeah, yeah, I didn't know, I...I didn't...when I was inside – no...

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR ...no, no, no, no, no.

CMcG *And did you have any kind of relationship with anyone that came into the institution, did you have any...*

KR No!

CMcG *...interaction with anyone, delivery person...*

KR No.

CMcG *...or...?*

KR No, no, no, no, no.

CMcG *No. So, just a...just a little bit about the work, what work did you do?*

KR I was on...I was ironing priests', what do you call them – vestments – you know them white robes...

CMcG *Hmm, hmm, vestments, that's the word, yeah.*

KR ...vestments. Ironing them and starching them, spray starching them and ironing them and *oh Claire*, you would be nearly two hours doing one of them, oh *terrible, terrible, terrible*. Then I was put on the...the mangles that you put the sheets through...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...receiving them off the mangles, and the sweat coming down through me. The nuns put in...in...in the washing machine, I was on a big spinner, the spinners you know, filling in the spinners with the clothes and the arms used to be nearly hanging off me. And spinning on...and you're not talking about a small spinner, you're talking about a...a big industrial spinner like, you know.

CMcG *God.*

KR Oh yeah, oh yeah.

CMcG *My God.*

KR Hard, hard, hard work. We drank our sweat in there...

CMcG *I'm sure.*

KR ...drank our sweat.

CMcG *Were you...now...were you paid?*

KR *God almighty, not at all Claire.*

CMcG *Were you given pocket money?*

KR *Not at all...*

CMcG *Nothing.*

KR *...not a cent...*

CMcG *Nothing.*

KR *...not a cent, Claire.*

CMcG *How many days a week did you work?*

KR *On a feast day we might see an apple and an orange on our plate in...in the refectory. That's the pocket money we got, not for sweet things.*

CMcG *Right.*

KR *Say if there was a nun's feast or anything we might see...we'd go into our tea that evening and we might see an apple and an orange on the plate.*

CMcG *Right.*

KR *That was it...*

CMcG *Right.*

KR *...oh nothing.*

CMcG *How many days per week did you work?*

KR Five.

CMcG *In...in all three of them?*

KR Five, yeah, five, yeah five, five, five.

CMcG *What hours did you work?*

KR Oh, we got up at half-six for Mass, then we had our breakfast after that, say from half-eight until nearly half-five.

CMcG *And that was the same in all three of them?*

KR Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

CMcG *And, again for all three of them, was every day the same, or...or were there any kind of special events or holidays or...?*

KR No, every day was the same, the same ding-dong every day Claire.

CMcG *Yeah, yeah. What were working conditions in general like? Like for example, were there any accidents or anything like that or, you know, you know, were you walking around in a lot of water?*

KR Oh well the laundry used to be pools of water like...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...because they'd be getting buckets of soap out to...you know, you could trip at any time, you would have to watch your step like, you'd slip

CMcG *Right, right.*

KR And over at the sink, washing the collars, you know the wings...

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR ...and the...do you know the [washing] boards?

CMcG *Yeah, I do, yeah.*

KR Washing the men's collars and...and, you know the boards?

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR Any dirty...real dirty collars, you'd have to scrub them up and down on the boards...

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR ...you know?

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR We were hard worked Claire like.

CMcG *Do you remember any acc...any accidents or anything like that?*

KR I don't really now Claire.

CMcG *No that's alright, that's okay, it's just important if...if you did. And what happened if you didn't want to or couldn't work?*

KR I didn't want to work, I'd sit up on the stairs and do nothing all day, I wouldn't even go for a meal. I used to drink water – I made sure I wasn't going to die out of them! I drank water Claire. And the old women at night time then used to lift me in to bed, I wouldn't go into bed either. And I was as weak as water and after...you know, after a while then they'd be coaxing me down and I'd come down especially the...the...the auxiliary I was fond of. But...but Claire

you know, all I...do you know, all I wanted was a job like, do you know? I'm after saying that so many times, and *I proved it* Claire...

CMcG *I know.*

KR ...when I went to Ardkeen, I stayed there six years, *I proved it*...

CMcG *I know, I know.*

KR ...that's all I wanted like.

CMcG *I believe you, I know.*

KR And nobody inside in Ardkeen Hospital had any bother with me, do you know what I mean?

CMcG *Exactly, exactly.*

KR So, I mean...and I left of my own accord with a nurse that got a job over in...in a nursing home in England. She was a nurse and I was an auxiliary [nurse]. So, I mean...

CMcG *A...and tell us, would there have been any kind of punishments if you didn't want to work or anything like that, or were you just left be or...?*

KR Oh no, they wouldn't...punishment, no. Physical punishment in the school, hard physical punishment in the school, but not in the Magdalenes, do you know, not in the Magdalenes, we were never beaten or anything like.

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR Can't say now we were, we weren't.

CMcG *No that's alright, the...*

KR But Claire, I say...I want to say...put on record...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...how I met my mother, how I know my mother, if that's alright with you?

CMcG *Okay, that...do you want to say that now, do you wan...I can...*

KR If that's alright with you?

CMcG *Of course, yeah, while...while it's in your mind, absolutely.*

KR I was...when I was put out like, you know

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR ...to Waterford...

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR ...to work, I was working in St Philomena's Ward [pseudonym] in Ardkeen, [identifying details removed] and we had two shifts, we had one from half-seven in the morning and we finished at half-one and back at half-four for the teas.

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR All we had from half-seven until half-four, are you with me?

CMcG *Right.*

KR We'd two...I'd have...I'd have two shifts. So it was on an afternoon shift on st...I started at half-seven and finished at half-one and I went back at half-four. And when I went back at half-four the nurse said to me, (*clears throat*) 'Kathleen, we've got two new patients, go into the kitchen and make sure that their trays are set, the girl in the afternoon should have set their trays for them'. I went in and I counted and I said, 'how many patients have we, nurse?' She said,

'thirty-five'. So I went in and I counted thirty-five trays, grand. So I went up the wards anyhow, to see the patients like, so I came down again and I was going up with the...I went back up with their teas and I was going around with their teas – it's an intriguing story, Claire...

CMcG *I'm listening.*

KR I went back up with their teas and at that time, they had no individual teapot on the tray, you had a big teapot and you were going around pouring out their teas.

CMcG *Right.*

KR And I didn't know I was being observed in the ward, I didn't know.

CMcG *Right.*

KR So half way through, I was going around to take up the plates and this woman called me, says she, 'Kathleen,' – it was one of the new patients – 'Kathleen,' says she – and you'd know by her voice, she was a travelling person, you know – 'Kathleen,' says she, 'is your second name R\_\_\_?' And I was very smart with her, I said, 'what do you want to know for?' – do you know! So, (*laughs*) 'no,' says she, 'Kathleen, no,' says she, 'I could know your mother'. I went cold inside R...Claire, I went cold.

CMcG *Wow.*

KR I says, 'how did you know my name is R\_\_\_?' I asked. 'Kathleen,' she said, 'you *walk* like your mother, you *stand* like your mother, you have the regard of your mother,' she said, 'you're definitely Elizabeth's [pseudonym] daughter'.

CMcG *Wow.*

KR Says she, 'what time do you finish, Kathleen?' And I said, 'half-seven,' says she, 'will you come down and I'll have a chat with you?' So I went down, she...she...she told me all about my mother, told me I was *definitely* Elizabeth's daugh...wasn't that strange, Claire?

CMcG *Wow.*

KR Wasn't that very strange?

CMcG *That's incredible.*

KR Isn't it now! She said, 'your mother is up in Our Lady's Hospital in Cork,' she said, 'there's nothing wrong with her Kathleen, but she's in the...the mental hospital up there,' she said.

CMcG *Right.*

KR She said, 'and...and you have a brother called Patrick [pseudonym] haven't you?' I said, 'I have' – I knew about Patrick [inaudible] – 'I have'. Says she, 'well, I'm married,' says she, 'to your grandfather's brother'.

CMcG *Wow.*

KR Wasn't that strange, now?

CMcG *That's amazing.*

KR I...I think that's a very intriguing story isn't it?

CMcG *That was meant to happen wasn't it?*

KR Wasn't it! There's...you know, things come before you in life...

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR ...I didn't even go looking for my mother, she was able to tell me! Isn't that an intriguing story?

CMcG *That's amazing Kathleen. And did you go and meet her then?*

KR Oh I did. I went up and I...oh Claire, it was a very bad experience for me.

CMcG *Really?*

KR She was up in a very grey building up...she was up in the grey building up there in Cork, on the Lee Road. And to go in to see her, I had to go up a stony, spiral stairs you know. A *hard, marble, stony spiral* – and like, even if you only coughed it was an echo, it was an echo on the thing and *oh, Claire!* And there was someone behind me with a big bunch of keys and I had...he locked about four doors before I went in to see me poor mother and *when I saw her Claire, oh when I saw her, God love her*, she was only a...a woman in her forties then.

CMcG *Right.*

KR *Oh Claire, when I saw her girl, I was very upset*, I thought...I couldn't even talk to her...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...because I thought they were going to keep me in there, because...on account of St Otteran's below...

CMcG *Of course.*

KR ...in Waterford you know. I thought, 'oh mother of God I'll never get out of here...

CMcG *Yeah.*

KR ...never get out of here'. But then like, I couldn't bring myself ever to visit her up in Sundays Well ever again, but when she went down to St Raphael's, I visited her every week, or every fortnight. Always, I always went down to...to see her down there. That building frightened the life out of me up there.

CMcG *Yeah, yeah. Was that...*

KR [Inaudible]

CMcG *...in Sundays Well where you had b...in the same...*

KR No...

CMcG *No.*

KR *...it was in the...the grey building up there, Our Lady's Hospital, you know?*

CMcG *And is that up next to Sundays Well?*

KR Oh yeah!

CMcG *Right.*

KR Oh yeah, not far from it.

CMcG *Fr...right, of course, yeah.*

KR Oh not far from it. But wasn't that intriguing now that she could tell me that?

CMcG *Just incredible, absolutely incredible.*

KR Now, and I told Kathleen Lynch [former TD and Minister] that story, she couldn't believe it when I said it to her...

CMcG *Wow.*

KR *...that's how I met my mother...*

CMcG *Wow.*

KR *...that's how I know my mother.*

CMcG *Wow.*

KR Now!

CMcG *Amazing, and did you...did you...*

KR If I went hunting for her, I don't think I'd find her as quick.

CMcG *I know, well it was obviously meant to be.*

KR That's...a person said that to me, when things is meant for you, they come before you in life.

CMcG *Exactly, exactly.*

KR You know?

CMcG *Yeah.*

KR And that woman, she had seventeen children...

CMcG *Wow.*

KR ...that woman in Waterford...

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR ...she had seventeen children, she had, she had. Her husband was my...my grandfather's brother, isn't that strange now?

CMcG *Unbelievable.*

KR She knew me out of my mother.

CMcG *A...and roughly what year would have this [sic] been?*

KR This would have been, I'd say either '60...either '66 or '67, either one of them...

CMcG *Right.*

KR ...either on[e]...I was working in Ardkeen anyway...

CMcG *At the time.*

KR ...at the time...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...either one of them.

CMcG *Right.*

KR And if I didn't...had gone out...if I hadn't gone out of the convent into Ardkeen, I...I...I'd have never met that woman.

CMcG *I know, I know. Wow. Hang on, I'm going...*

KR When I got up that morning at half-seven I didn't think I was going to end the day that way, do you know what I mean?

CMcG *I know, I know.*

KR Wasn't that strange now?

CMcG *Unbelievable, unbelievable. Just one...bear with me one sec...*

[End of Audio File 2]

[Recording paused to start new audio file]

[Audio File 3 Begins]

KR I...I wanted to tell you that story Claire because it's kind of...of...

CMcG *It's part of your story.*

KR Yeah, you know.

CMcG *It's part of your story, absolutely.*

KR Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

CMcG *So...so...can...are you...are you happy...are you...do you...have you anything more on that, I don't want to be stopping you...*

KR On my mother, no, no, just...

CMcG *No, that's alright.*

KR ...I just wanted to tell you how I met her, you understand?

CMcG *Oh...and...and thanks for telling me, that's...*

KR Yeah, yeah, that's the truth now, that's the truth.

CMcG *...it's an amazing story. No, I just don't...I don't want to be cutting you short if you're...*

KR But like it's...it's...like, for...for someone in the hospital, I didn't know I was being observed going around.

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR I didn't...I s...that's why I told you about the pot of tea because you had to go to every individual bed...

CMcG *Uh huh, uh huh.*

KR ...and I didn't know I was being observed...

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR ...doing it like.

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR How she could tell me all...the walk and the standing and everything...

CMcG *Wow.*

KR ...I couldn't believe it Claire.

CMcG *Amazing, amazing. Wow.*

KR Just like...it didn't strike me then, 'twas years afterwards it struck me, I said, 'Jesus, what a way to be told and to meet her like,' you know.

CMcG *Hmm, hmm, hmm. Absolutely.*

KR And like, a friend of mine said to me, 'Kathleen, that would do a good book...

CMcG *It would of course!*

KR ...that would make a good book,' says she.

CMcG *It would be a great book!*

KR And I said to her, 'oh God no,' I said, 'I'm alright, girl'.

CMcG *(Laughs)*

KR What's her name wanted to do a book on me, Frances Finnegan [author of *Do Penance or Perish*].

CMcG *Oh right.*

KR She did, she did.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR She did, she wanted to meet me in the Metropole Hotel, oh, I said, 'no, I couldn't,' that's the truth, now.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR You know Frances Finnegan, don't you?

CMcG *Yeah, yeah, yeah, she did the book...*

KR She's, what do you call it, a professor down in Waterford [Waterford Institute of Technology].

CMcG *That's right, yeah.*

KR She said to me one day, 'Kathleen,' she said, 'my office is actually the Superior's office, the S...where the Superior was in the convent'.

CMcG *Right.*

KR That was her office, down in...she's one of the professors down there isn't she?

CMcG *That's right, yeah.*

KR She just wrote a book on it and do you know, as you're there now, Claire, isn't it very...I was very unhappy and sorry for Mary...Mary...Mary Raftery, God love her.

CMcG *I know, I know, we were too.*

KR Oh she took it all, she dig...dug up all this and everything God love her.

CMcG *I know, I know. It was very sad.*

KR *(Whispered) How long had she the cancer?*

CMcG *I...I don't know, Kathleen...*

KR God love her Claire.

CMcG *...it...I don't think many people knew.*

KR No, no, I don't think many people did eith[er] because it wasn't common knowledge.

CMcG *Yeah, yeah, yeah. Oh no, very sad, very sad...*

KR Oh we were all very upset over her.

CMcG *Yeah, yeah, yeah.*

KR She was a young woman, she was only in her forties, was she?

CMcG *Maybe in her fift...*

KR Maybe early fifties?

CMcG *...early fifties, yeah, yeah, yeah. I know.*

KR Still very young Claire.

CMcG *I know. Too young, absolutely. Which actually brings me...were you ever ill when you were in the laundry?*

KR Oh God yeah, yeah. I...I'd asthma attacks and that like and colds like.

CMcG *And were...what kind of treatment did you receive?*

KR I would be up...they had an infirmary...

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR ...I'd be up in the infirmary and maybe a doctor would be called and I would be put on tablets or whatever, you know.

CMcG *Okay, so you were given treatment if you were sick?*

KR Oh yes, if you were sick, yes, God you'd have to, Claire, I wouldn't be around today if I wasn't, you know.

CMcG *I know. And can you...can you remember what happened to anyone else who was sick?*

KR They...they'd be put in the infirmary...

CMcG *Same.*

KR ...for a rest and that like, you know, you know.

CMcG *Okay. Can you remember if any...like...government officials, employees like, say...or factory inspectors...*

KR We never saw any of them...

CMcG *...Gardaí, doctors...well you were just saying...*

KR No.

CMcG *...a doctor would be called if you were sick...*

KR Yeah, yeah, yeah...

CMcG *But there was no...no...nothing like...*

KR ...or a nurse, or a nurse...

CMcG *Alright.*

KR ...I'd say, one or the...one or the other.

CMcG *And say, when the doctor would have come, you know...did...did...would he or she have gone just to the infirmary...*

KR Oh just to the infirmary...

CMcG *...or would they have seen anywhere else?*

KR ...just the infirmary.

CMcG *Would...they wouldn't have seen anywhere else?*

KR Oh no, oh no.

CMcG *Okay, okay. So, in terms...like...w...the laundry, was it possible to tell in each of the laundries, like s...where the items of clothing would have come from, like, say with hospitals or army or...*

KR Oh yeah.

CMcG *...you know, do you remember uniforms?*

KR Yeah, the Metropole Hotel sent their laundry up. The Metropole Hotel. And a load of private individuals...

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR ...sent their laundry up.

CMcG *A...and...*

KR Most of the hotels in Cork sent their laundry up there.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR Do you know?

CMcG *A...and, now, I'm thinking in terms of all three of them now, you know, do you remember army uniforms, do you remember hospitals or...you know...*

KR Not hospitals anyway.

CMcG *No.*

KR ...not hospitals. All private individual laundry, do you know?

CMcG *You don't remember any kind of government-related laundry, you know, State-related laundry or anything like that?*

KR No. You mean, do their laundry is it?

CMcG *Yeah, yeah, yeah.*

KR No, no, no.

CMcG *Nothing like that. Oh no, that's...that's alright.*

KR No, I don't remember. Well, I wa...I wasn't in the packing room...

CMcG *Okay, right.*

KR ...we were only given what...we're...we see...

CMcG *Right.*

KR ...there was a packing room, they unpack and they pack again to go out.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR Do you understand me, Claire?

CMcG *Okay.*

KR And I was never in the packing room.

CMcG *No, that's alright, that's alright. Do you remember like...the...you know, regular contracts, so you were saying the Metropole Hotel would be a regular one in there...*

KR I know the Metropole because there used to be names on the end of them, do you know ...

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR ...small little names on the end of them.

CMcG *Hmm. So, we're...we're n...we're getting there, we're nearly there.*

KR You're alright Claire.

CMcG *So, were you allowed to leave?*

KR I wouldn't be sitting on the stairs now Claire, if I was allowed to leave.

CMcG *Okay, yeah.*

KR If I was allowed to leave I wouldn't be up on the stairs.

CMcG *Did you try and leave or escape?*

KR No but I knew a couple of the girls that did escape.

CMcG *And what happened there?*

KR Ah they were back in an hour with the Guards.

CMcG *The Guards brought them back?*

KR Hmm.

CMcG *Was that in all three laundries or...?*

KR Well, up in Sundays Well anyway...

CMcG *In Sundays Well.*

KR ...because it's easier to get out of Sundays Well.

CMcG *Okay, okay.*

KR But you'd be...you'd be back again like, the Guards would have you back again.

CMcG *Every time?*

KR Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

CMcG *Okay. And was there any particular reason why you didn't try to escape?*

KR Because I didn't know anyone on the outside, I didn't know where to go to like...

CMcG *Right...*

KR ...you know, Claire?

CMcG *...yeah, yeah, no that's alright.*

KR Girls...girls now, that might have been put in there by the court...

CMcG *Yeah.*

KR ...and they were living in Cork, they used to escape, you know.

CMcG *A...and you remember girls being put in by the courts?*

KR Oh...maybe they were like, I don't know...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...but they were living in Cork anyway.

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR For what reason they were in, I don't know. But like, they used to escape because their home was in Cork...

CMcG *Right...*

KR ...do you know what I mean?

CMcG *...they had somewhere to go, yeah, yeah, I understand, yeah, yeah.*

KR They used to...

CMcG *And, how in general did p...d...do you remember people leaving, how...how did people get to leave?*

KR God there weren't very many [that] left while I was there Claire. They either went out in a box or...because I didn't see them going out Claire...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...I didn't see them going out.

CMcG *Okay. Did you ever ask the nuns when you would be able to leave the laundry?*

KR I did and sure I was given...they wouldn't give me any answer, girl.

CMcG *They didn't reply to you?*

KR No, no, no, no.

CMcG *They just...they just blanked you?*

KR 'Go away and do my work', yeah, yeah!

CMcG *'Go away and do my work'? Okay.*

KR Yeah, yeah.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR They wouldn't...they wouldn't *take* that kind of a story from you Claire, th...they weren't *interested* in that kind of a story.

CMcG *They wouldn't entertain like?*

KR No!

CMcG *Were the doors locked?*

KR All the time, constantly.

CMcG *From the inside or the outside?*

KR From the inside, you couldn't get out like.

CMcG So...

KR And if you wanted to go out, you'd have to call a nun to get out, because she was the sole holder of the keys.

CMcG *So it was locked from the outside in like, y...you couldn't get in...*

KR Well, when you were in...in the building...

CMcG *Yeah.*

KR ...it was locked from the building in...

CMcG *Yeah.*

KR ...and the nuns were the sole holders of the keys.

CMcG *Of the keys, okay, gotcha.*

KR And if the nuns hadn't the keys, the auxiliary had the keys...

CMcG *Okay, gotcha, gotcha.*

KR ...do you know?

CMcG *And what about the windows in...in the thr...different laundries, what were they like?*

KR Like ordinary windows.

CMcG *Like, were they...were they locked like, and did they have bars on them?*

KR I don't think they were locked, I don't think they were locked but you couldn't...you still couldn't get out them like.

CMcG *Right, you co...could you see the outside world or...?*

KR *Not at all Claire!*

CMcG *Okay, hmm.*

KR Sun...were you ever up in Sundays Well?

CMcG *Only from the outside.*

KR Sundays Well is a big...did you not see it ever?

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR So, there's a big avenue going up Sundays Well.

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR All you see from the outside is the view of Cork from the top windows.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR Like, you'd never see from the road...from the road like I can see here.

CMcG *Yeah, yeah.*

KR Do you know what I mean?

CMcG *I do.*

KR There's a big huge avenue going up and it's going up that way...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...do you know, 'tis a big...

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR ...and...and how couldn't you...how couldn't you get into it Claire?

CMcG *I know.*

KR Why couldn't you get into it Claire?

CMcG *Yeah.*

[Interviewer initially misunderstood question from interviewee]

KR Why couldn't you get into it, above?

CMcG *Oh, why couldn't I get in? Oh, because it's all boarded up now.*

KR Do you know who owns it? NAMA. [National Asset Management Agency]

CMcG *Right.*

KR It was the nuns told me that, NAMA owns it now.

CMcG *Right.*

KR It was after being sold three or four times and they couldn't make anything out of it. The college [University College Cork] bought it once, Hegarty's bought it, they're a big, big developing builders here, Hegarty's bought it, they paid €10 million for it I think at the time. And what they wanted to do was knock two houses in Blarney Street and make a footpath down from the college, they wanted...you know, they wanted to make it a college and make a footpath down to it, but people wouldn't sell their houses like, you know. So, it's in NAMA's hands now I believe. Hmm.

CMcG *It says it all, doesn't it! (Laughs)*

KR But the...I mean, and did you ever notice Claire, all them buildings, they're all well structured aren't they? Aren't they?

CMcG *They are.*

KR Aren't they really now, they're no...they're no Mickey Mouse jobs like some of the ghost estates, do you know what I mean?

CMcG *I hear you, uh huh.*

KR They're all well structured, well, well, good real buildings.

CMcG *Yep, absolutely, absolutely.*

KR God, the men that built them years ago must have worked very hard!

CMcG *Indeed, indeed. Absolutely, absolutely.*

KR Really and truly when you think of it.

CMcG *So come here, tell me, you...you gave me an idea of how you...you managed to leave, you d...it was, you were sent out, is what you were saying, is it?*

KR Do you know them small cases, Claire?

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR Them square – you're too young to remember, but you heard of them I suppose – small, square cases...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...they were like cardboard, you know.

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR She put about four or five rags into that and told me, 'get out, *get out!*' And there was about two or three inches of snow on the avenue and still falling and told me to go out and get a job and I thought of Ardkeen and I walked the whole way out to Ardkeen.

CMcG *And were you given any money?*

KR *No!*

CMcG *Nothing, just...*

KR *No!*

CMcG *...just a few rags of clothes?*

KR *Yeah! A few clothes!* I went out and I told my story to the Assistant Matron, she told me, she said, 'don't worry Kathleen, we've a job here for you'.

CMcG *Right.*

KR That was her then. And that was the start of my life in...I don't know, was it...I'm sure it was, that's right, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, 1965.<sup>7</sup>

CMcG *And now, just so I can just double check, they have April '65 there, that you went to a job.*

KR That's the way I was put out, that's the day I was put out of the convent.

CMcG *Oh, so...it's just, you were saying February, but that's April...*

KR Oh not April, wait now, it was February 1965 I went to Ardkeen.

CMcG *So their records are...are wrong then?*

KR Wait now, no, no, no, that's probably...no! They *are* wrong, Claire!

CMcG *Yeah, yeah, because you...*

KR They are wrong Claire! Where does it say here now... *(Interviewee looks at records)*

CMcG *It says, 'went to a job, April 1965' there –*

KR It wasn't April Claire, now, no, no. It was the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 1965.

CMcG *February you were saying?*

KR Feb...February Claire, 1965 it was. It was, Claire.

CMcG *No, that's...that's...*

KR I didn't go *(looks at records)* St Domnick's, *I didn't go to a job from St Domnick's!* St Domnick's is the orphanage school.

---

<sup>7</sup> Interviewee said the 22<sup>nd</sup> in error and later clarified that it was the 24<sup>th</sup>, as per earlier in the interview

CMcG *Show me?*

KR *I didn't go to a job from St Dominick's!*

CMcG *Address of...th...that's under the address of relatives or friends.*

KR What does that mean, Claire?

CMcG *(Reads from records) 'Of St Dominick's,' oh that's...sorry, 'PP', 'past pupil' of St Dominick's, that's what that means.*

KR Oh yeah.

CMcG *That's what they have down under your...your relatives or friends.*

KR Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

CMcG *Which actually...*

KR Claire, I didn't go from...from...it wasn't April, it was February, I remember it as *plain* as anything.

CMcG *And that's absolutely fine, I'm just...it's...it's...*

KR I went out to Ardkeen.

CMcG *I just...it's just that there is that discrepancy so I'm saying it so that...*

KR They probably know! They probably know that I went out to work, that I was put out in Waterford in 1965, they probably know that.

CMcG *I know.*

KR Do you know, from their records, you see?

CMcG *I...I...I suppose I'm saying it out loud to you so that we...we have it on the record that you're...you're...*

KR They probably know from their records, the right date Claire – *how could I make up a date!*  
It's all in my memory Claire.

CMcG *Absolutely it is, Kathleen, don't be worrying.*

KR Stuck in my memory.

CMcG *Now...*

KR They...all they have right there is the year.

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR That's all they have right there...

CMcG *I know, I know.*

KR ...is the year, Claire.

CMcG *Don't worry, don't worry.*

KR Wait until I get St Otteran's records for you now, I must get them before you go.

CMcG *Oh right, hang on, I'll pause so. Hang on, I'll....*

KR Oh yeah.

CMcG *...I'll pause...*

KR Do you want me to get them now or will I keep going?

CMcG Well hang on, I'm after pausing it now [referring to back up recording] hang on...

[End of Audio File 3]

[Interview paused to examine records]

[Audio File 4 Begins]

[End of conversation about recording device prior to interview resuming]

CMcG *...first of all...and then we'll...*

[Interview resumes]

CMcG *Now, do you remember, in terms of all three laundries, what happened when people died, when the women died?*

KR Oh, well people died like, we...when they were dying we all got around the bed and we were praying – when they died like, you know and when they were drawing their last [breath] then they used to put a mirror up to their mouth like, to see was the breath still...

CMcG *Was this in...in the laundry, yeah?*

KR Yeah, I saw it, yeah...

CMcG *That was...*

KR ...in the infirmary, I saw it happening like...

CMcG *Wow.*

KR ...put a mirror up to see if the breath is still coming like. But anyway, they'd be buried – if they were auxiliaries they'd be buried on the grounds but if they were ordinary, like...ordinary girls like us, ordinary women, they'd be buried in St Finbarr's, I think there's a plot in St Finbarr's, you know...cemetery, yeah.

CMcG *A...and thi...that's for Sundays Well, now...*

KR Oh Limerick, I don't know...

CMcG *Do y...but...but...stick with Sundays Well for a sic...second there now, d...like, do you remember where the graveyard was?*<sup>8</sup>

KR It's still there. Graveyard's still there, no one even gives them a prayer, it's up...it's...it's up where the Magdalenes was like, it's not where the nuns' graveyard is, it's over where the Magdalenes was, do you know?

CMcG *Right, right.*

KR A...all the grave...all the auxiliaries are buried there.

CMcG *And were they only auxiliaries there...*

KR Only auxiliaries, only...

CMcG *...that were in that plot?*

KR ...only...in the plot in the convent, yeah.

CMcG *And...and then ordinary Magdalenes would be buried in St Finbarr's?*

KR Out, out, I think St Finbarr's yeah, out.

---

<sup>8</sup> At this point JFM was still in the process of establishing the burial locations for women from Sundays Well. Two plots were subsequently discovered in St Joseph's Cemetery in Cork. Further information about the Sundays Well burial locations is available in the following JFMR publication: [http://www.magdalenelaundries.com/JFMR\\_Critique\\_190215.pdf](http://www.magdalenelaundries.com/JFMR_Critique_190215.pdf)

CMcG *Okay.*

KR They were buried out, like, they weren't buried in the grounds at all.

CMcG *Right.*

KR It's only auxiliaries were buried in the grounds...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...and they're still there, to my knowledge today. Hmm, hmm.

CMcG *Hmm. Do you know if they were buried in coffins?*

KR Oh they were I think yeah...

CMcG *They were.*

KR ...they were, they were, they were.

CMcG *Right.*

KR But they wouldn't be kind of...you know, expensive ones like, you know what I mean, but they were coffins like.

CMcG *And were other Magdalenes allowed to attend the funerals?*

KR Oh for the auxiliaries we were, for the auxiliaries, but for the [women who were buried] outside we weren't.

CMcG *Do you know if there was a funeral for...for...for...*

KR For the outside? We don't know.

CMcG *You don't know.*

KR But for the Mag...for the auxiliaries there was a funeral.

CMcG *And a priest would be there?*

KR Yes, yes...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...yes.

CMcG *And tell us, what about Limerick and Waterford, do you remember the same there...*

KR The auxiliaries were buried on the ground as well.

CMcG *Right, right.*

KR And so were the Ma...so were the...Waterford...so was Waterford.

CMcG *Right. So, was there a process to make a complaint?*

KR How do you mean now, Claire?

CMcG *Say, when you were in the laundry, could you make a complaint?*

KR *Oh God!* I'm asking you, we could make no complaint, Claire. *Ah*, we'd be told where to go if we made a complaint!

CMcG *A...did you complain?*

KR Well, my complaint was [sitting] up [on] the stairs.

CMcG *Right.*

KR You know, verbally I didn't complain, there was *no point* in complaining, Claire.

CMcG *Yeah, I know.*

KR You couldn't complain, because there was no one to complain *to* because they won't listen to you.

CMcG *And then, since you got out have you complained to the nuns?*

KR Oh I have.

CMcG *And what...*

KR I have, I w...I went back to Waterford, and there was about three or four of them still alive – and now this wasn't in connection with the Magdalenes, it was in connection with the school. And I...I challenged one...one or two of them, I said, 'oh my God,' I said, 'we got an awful time from you,' and they said, 'Kathleen, look,' they said, 'it was like this, we had 150 children, 140 children and,' she said, 'things were very, very bad at the time, it was the war years,' – this is what you're told! – 'it was the war years and we were only getting half a crown for each child'. But I put it to her, I said, 'listen, we could have done without a meal, all we wanted was a bit of love, that's all we wanted! We could have done without a meal,' I said, the meals were...do you know!

CMcG *That's a very good point.*

KR But it is! That's all we wanted was a bit of love, 'ye bate [beat] us to pulps,' I said, 'savages,' I said, 'you were like'. I did, I...I told them.

CMcG *The beatings were bad in St Dominick's were they?*

KR *Oh they were terrible! Terrible! Oh!*

CMcG *And would it be for behaviour or...*

KR Do you know the straps from the Singer sewing machine? They beat us with them, across the legs, across the backside. And do you know the bamboo canes? With them.

CMcG *A...and what would you be beaten for?*

KR Nothing! If you were in a...in a...in a line, if your head was out...out of the rank you would be condemned for that. And locked in a room, locked in a dark room for about six hours, no windows, no nothing in it and the main switch outside switched off. And that's the way you'd be holding your hands (*holds hands up to face*) after about six hours in there, because the brightness would pierce your eyes.

CMcG *God.*

KR Yeah, yeah, yeah!

CMcG *My God.*

KR Oh Claire, it was torture we went through as children.

CMcG *Yeah.*

KR Torture! Talk about the camps in Germany, mother of God, we went through just as bad. The only thing is we weren't...we didn't die. You know...

CMcG *Yeah.*

KR ...it was terrible, terrible murder.

CMcG *And, have you complained to anyone else, like say the Guards...*

KR No.

CMcG *...a minister or anything like that or...?*

KR No, we went back and challenged what nuns that were there and what nuns that weren't there that were bad to me, I went over to the graveyard and I left a lot of anger there.

CMcG *That's fair enough.*

KR An awful lot of anger there.

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR And th...c...they relieved me a bit.

CMcG *Yeah, yeah.*

KR And I went back about a year or two ago to the school, just for closure...

CMcG *Yeah.*

KR ...just...just to look around, just for closure like. Because they told us they were going to give it to the RTC [Waterford Institute of Technology<sup>9</sup>] you know the college...

CMcG *Yes, yeah.*

KR ...they were going to make a college out of it and I just went back in and looked around just for closure like.

CMcG *Yeah, yeah, I hear you.*

KR And when...when I say closure now, there was a hell of a lot of memories came through me but like...

CMcG *Hmm.*

---

<sup>9</sup> Institutes of Technology were previously known as Regional Technical Colleges

KR ...you have to overlook all them...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...you know.

CMcG *Yeah.*

KR Anyway, I haven't been back since and I have no intentions of going back. But, there's a good friend of mine in Waterford and from time to time I go down, I go to the Granville Hotel and we go out for a...you know, I might spend a night or two in Waterford, but that was it like, that's it then, I don't go near the convent...

CMcG *No, I hear you.*

KR ...I don't go near the convent at all.

CMcG *Now, you applied to the nuns didn't you, for your records?*

KR I did, I did, I did.

CMcG *Yeah. And how were you treated when you were looking for your records?*

KR Oh she was very nice – now, she was. Sr Veronica...Veronica Maguire, [pseudonym] she was very nice...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...like she hadn't...she hadn't anything to do with the...the Magdalenes or anything at the time but I think she's the sole organiser of giving out the records, do you know?

CMcG *Right, right, okay.*

KR You know what I mean?

CMcG *I do, I do. And did you get your records immediately, was there any trouble or anything like that?*

KR Not a bit, she sent...I sent...I had them within four or five days.

CMcG *Fair enough, fair enough. And they didn't attempt to deny that you were in the laundry or anything like that?*

KR No, no, no, no, no, no.

CMcG *And have you ever applied for any State records, like government type records like from when you were in...like...the orphanage or anything like that?*

KR No, I never applied for them no.

CMcG *Okay, we might need to look into that for you.*

KR Yeah, yeah.

CMcG *So, the Redress Board, [Residential Institutions Redress Board] tell me what happened, you...did you make any kind of an application to the Redress Board at all or...?*

KR No I didn't, I was working through my solicitor's advice.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR Do you know? My solicitor advised me just to go for the redress.

CMcG *A...and did you...did you...did you go to the Redress Board at all, like as in to the...*

KR Not to...not to the committee...

CMcG *Right, right.*

KR ...not to the committee [to a hearing before the Residential Institutions Redress Board] because I heard through the grapevine that they were...they were putting people through the wringer.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR That...you know, that....do you know what I mean, lots of people after, you saw it on television there, they were all angry after it weren't they?

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR They were eaten with anger. But I didn't and in a way I was glad I didn't because they would have made me much worse I'd say.

CMcG *And so, you know, so you...you were...you...you...you made an application but didn't want to speak to the...the Board, is that it?*

KR It's not that I didn't want to, I was advised not to.

CMcG *Advised not to, right. And did you get any kind of success in...at the Redress Board at all?*

KR Well I got a bit of compensation like, you know.

CMcG *You got...you got...you got a little bit, yes?*

KR Yes, I got compensation like, yes.

CMcG *Were you allowed to speak about the Magdalene Laundries?*

KR No, no. They wouldn't...they wouldn't hear tell of it, you know. No, they weren't dealing with that part of it, they were only dealing with the orphanages.

CMcG *And what happened like, when you tried to bring it up?*

KR That's what they told us, they were only dealing with the orphanage.

CMcG *That's it?*

KR That's all, they were only dealing with the orphanage.

CMcG *And so...like, you...you received a payment from the Redress Board, do you feel that your time in the Magdalene Laundry has been acknowledged. Like, despite getting a payment, you know?*

KR Well, my...my time in the Magdalene Laundry had nothing to do with the Redress Board, do you know? Well, although my solicitor thinks it has. My solicitor thinks I'll be compensated for the Magdalenes.

CMcG *Right.*

KR But nothing only my records came back to me that's all, about the Magdalenes.

CMcG *So in other words, what I'm asking is, do you fe...do you personally feel that you've...you've been given justice, like?*

KR No! I...well, I haven't even been given justice for the orphanage, not to mind the Magdalenes!

CMcG *Fair enough.*

KR That's the way I look at it.

CMcG *Ri...so what happened at the Redress Board didn't feel like justice for the orphanage either?*

KR No, no, no, no, no! Not for what I went through.

CMcG *Okay.*

KR I mean, inside in a mental hospital and everything, not for what I went through.

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR I know people that were...weren't through *half* as what I went through got a hell of a lot more than me...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...I know that...

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR ...for a fact. Now, it isn't the money I'm bothered about...

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR ...it isn't the money I'm bothered about like you know, but 'tis denial...the denial of having to listen to us...

CMcG *Okay, okay.*

KR ...you know?

CMcG *A...and...*

KR My solicitor specifically told me that they were only dealing with the orphanage at the time. But it was common knowledge to everyone Claire that it was only the orphanages...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...because Bertie Ahern [former Taoiseach who made the State apology in 1999] said it out that's what it was, didn't he?

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR Far as I'm concerned, I heard him myself.

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR They weren't...I heard it off the Joe Duffy show [RTÉ radio programme] and all, they weren't going to entertain nothing only the Magdalene...only the orphanages...

CMcG *Yeah.*

KR ...that's what I heard on the radio anyway.

CMcG *And, after you left did you speak about being in the laundry at all to anyone, did you...*

KR After I left what Claire?

CMcG *Like, say, when...after you got out of Waterford and you...*

KR Oh, to friends of mine and everything like you know...

CMcG *Y...you told people about it did you?*

KR ...oh to friends of mine, yeah, friends of mine...

CMcG *Yeah, yeah.*

KR ...close friends of mine like, you know.

CMcG *Hmm, hmm, hmm. And how do you feel...*

KR Like, in Ardkeen Hospital now, I made quite a few friends and they all knew.

CMcG *Right.*

KR Yeah, ah they were lovely girls, they were from Kilkenny, Wexford, Waterford, New Ross, they were all around that area, they were lovely girls...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...Kilkenny, Mullinavat, they were all around that area, they were a *lovely* bunch of girl[s]. There was about 60 of us...60 of us in the domestic staff home, oh we had a great time. They were lovely, lovely.

CMcG *Excellent.*

KR Oh Claire, I really enjoyed it, I really enjoyed Ardkeen.

CMcG *Well, you deserved a bit of enjoyment after...*

KR Oh I did, they were all lovely girls they were now.

CMcG *How do you feel now about your time in the Magdalene?*

KR I don't like looking back on it Claire.

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR I don't like looking back on it because it makes me angry.

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR Especially the part [when] they tried to put me into a mental hospital...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...do you know?

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR I don't like looking back on it, I just don't. You see, because they had my mother's history they thought they were going to do the same to me...

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR ...do you know what I mean?

CMcG *Hmm, I do.*

KR I stuck a fork in someone [according to records from St Otteran's] I'm asking you now, Claire!

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR I wouldn't do that to no one, sticking a fork in someone.

CMcG *Hmm. We might come back to that...*

KR They had to have an excuse you see!

CMcG *Hmm, hmm. We might just come...I...we might just kind of come back to that in one second, I've a c...a few more questions and then we'll be done.*

KR Oh you're alright Claire!

CMcG *I just want to make sure we...we...we get that very straight...*

KR Oh no problem, Claire.

CMcG *...from you what happened there, you know. What would an apology mean to you?*

KR Oh it would mean an awful lot, Claire. Now that...now that there is nobody else to apologise to us, the nuns are all dead. Now that there is no one else to apologise to us I think it should

come from the State, you know? Even though the State at present had nothing to do with it but their previous...their previous people in politics had something to do with it like...

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR ...you know?

CMcG *Uh huh.*

KR So I think that an apology from the State would be...i...it wouldn't block out the memories but, 'tw...it would go halfway towards healing us a bit, give us a bit of relief before we die like, you know what I mean?

CMcG *Yeah, yeah. Absolutely.*

KR You know?

CMcG *I do, I do. And has your time in the laundry affected you since you left?*

KR Oh God it has, Claire.

CMcG *And...and how...has it been...*

KR Any of us that went through all that, there's none of us right. Now, I wasn't mentally affected before, but I am now.

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR I'm hyper for the least thing, *hyper! I'm full of paranoia, full of it!* I am out of my mind with paranoia.

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR Like, I was never like that as a...you know, as a young child like, years ago.

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR Like I mean, it has affected me mentally.

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR Mentally it has. Like as I say now, I'm full of paranoia, I can't sleep without a sleeping tablet, I can't sleep a...at all, and since I can't get my mother's records it's messing me up every night in the bed. Ev...my head is messing me up all the time. What the reason...I mean it is my property, why won't they give them to me? Like, what have they to hide that they...they won't give them to me like? They're telling me they can't find them. They can't find them – I'm sure! I mean, I was born in 1943, I couldn't get me...my...my birth cert anywhere, I had no birth cert. Yet I went, I wrote to the Four Courts in Dublin and they were able to send me my...my birth cert, I mean, *all records are kept!* All records are kept in my book! They can't tell me they can't find them because they can! Records going back *years and years, centuries* are kept! You agree with me?

CMcG *I do, I do.*

KR Yeah, yeah.

CMcG *I absolutely do.*

KR They can't find them they tell me then.

CMcG *We'll see if we can get you a...a letter drafted up to...to write out for your mother's records.*

KR Oh they were...I was so stupid to tear them up Claire.

CMcG *I know, I know...*

KR So...

CMcG *... but that's...that's...it's understandable, you know.*

KR I didn't want no one reading them like, I don't mind reading me own, I don't mind anyone reading me own business, because ev...they [inaudible] going to be burying me anyway, they all know I'm half mad!

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR So I don't mind that like, you know what I mean? Don't mind me own records, but I didn't want anyone reading my mother's records and that's why I destroyed them.

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR My doctor killed me, told me I should have put it into my records in his surgery. Mother of God when I thinks of it...

CMcG *I know.*

KR ...I don't even want to think about it.

CMcG *Well we'll see about writing off for you...*

KR Yeah, yeah.

CMcG *...we'll...we'll see about getting them back. And have you physical effects of being in the laundry?*

KR When you say physical now Claire...

CMcG *Like, well do you...like, some...some women have...their...their backs are affected or their knees might be affected or their...their f...*

KR Well now, God I'm full of arthritis in my hands over it like. With all the wet clothes and everything you know, (*coughs*) full of arthritis but not physically like, mentally, I'm more mentally affected...

CMcG *Right.*

KR ...than physically...

CMcG *Fair enough.*

KR ...you know?

CMcG *Yeah, I do.*

KR Because the memories I have up 'til the time I was twenty-three aren't very good ones...

CMcG *Hmm, hmm, no, absolutely, absolutely.*

KR ...you know? And I am physically, physically...

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR ...in [sic] respect to you Claire, fucked up in the head like...

CMcG *Yeah.*

KR ...you know, I...I am like, really. My head does be all over the place.

CMcG *And that's completely understandable.*

KR Yeah. Now.

CMcG *Do...do you ever visit any of the women who are still institutionalised like, do you have any contact with any of the women that are still in the laundries now like?*

KR        Actually, there's one [identifying information removed]. Poor Ruth [pseudonym] but like – I have Ruth's records, I was going to show them to you today Claire but – Ruth is...she's kind of (*pause*) the lift don't go the whole way to the top, do you know what I mean?

CMcG    *Yeah.*

KR        And like, she couldn't sit down now, and have a conversation with you like this...

CMcG    *Hmm, hmm.*

KR        ...do you know? She was put from Rushbrook in Cobh, [St Coleman's Industrial School for Girls] you probably heard of it, have you?

CMcG    *Hmm.*

KR        A school in Rushbrook in Cobh...

CMcG    *Hmm.*

KR        ...up to Sundays Well.

CMcG    *Hmm.*

KR        No, she was put up to Clifton first to convalesce, I think she had TB and she was put from Clifton...t...from the hospital, up to Sunday...up to Clifton, run by the Good Shepherd nuns, a convalescent home and the nun up there put her up there for four or five years. I have Ruth's records, but I don't think you'll get a...a story out of her, you know?

CMcG    *You don't think she'd talk...*

KR        I can show you her records if you want to now, I have them.

CMcG    *Hmm.*

KR I...I asked her for them today, to show them to you, but like...

CMcG *Okay. And...and that's okay with her, is it?*

KR Oh yeah.

CMcG *Oh great.*

KR Oh yeah...

CMcG *Well, that...that would be very helpful.*

KR ...yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

CMcG *That would be very, very helpful.*

KR Oh yeah. But like, I don't think she could sit in front of you now and...

CMcG *Oh that's alright, if she w...if...*

KR ...she's very lonely, she comes over here some nights to me and sits down and the two of us do have a chat and...

CMcG *Hmm, hmm. Well if she...if she...*

KR ...I do have to draw talk out of her, you know?

CMcG *Hmm, hmm. Well like, she...i...i...you know her better so...*

KR Oh she's very...

CMcG *... if you'd...if...if she...if you don't think that she...she'd be comfortable talking then we don't have to, you know.*

KR No, well like, it's not comfortable, it's that...you couldn't...like you know, you couldn't get talk out of her.

CMcG *Okay, okay.*

KR You know as I said, the lift don't go...she's not 100% like.

CMcG *And do you know if...like...if sh...if...if it was that way before she went into the Magdalene or...or after?*

KR *(Whispers)* I think the mother was that way.

CMcG *Right. A...like...and, like do you think she was always that way?*

KR As long as I know her like, a young woman above in the...you know.

CMcG *Okay, and were you in Sundays Well with her?*

KR With her, yes, I was.

CMcG *Oh right, okay.*

KR So, you see, she'd come over some nights here and she'd sit down and I'll give her the cup of tea and she'd go away about half-eight or nine o'clock and go to bed, do you know? She's 74 now poor Ruth...

CMcG *Hmm, right.*

KR ...now at the moment like, you know.

CMcG *God love her.*

KR She had to go for an operation, she was split open from there to there [jaw line]...

CMcG *Oh God.*

KR ...her – what do you call it?

CMcG *Voicebox?*

KR Her spit gland...

CMcG *Oh, God love her. Right, yeah.*

KR ...do you know? Her saliva gland.

CMcG *Hmm, hmm.*

KR Hmm, hmm, hmm, hmm.

CMcG *God love her.*

KR God love her, yeah, she's desperate. And the last few weeks she's been waiting and waiting and waiting for this operation and in the last few weeks she's complaining of pains that she never had in any...her back, her knees, her legs, I hope to God it's not gone through her like, do you know what I mean?

CMcG *I know, I know.*

KR Isn't it awful the way they keep them waiting, people waiting on everything, aren't they?

CMcG *I know, I know.*

KR People are in agony like...

CMcG *I know.*

KR ...but as I said now, I...I have them there, it's Ruth's...Ruth's...the nun, the same nun that I wrote for my records...this is Ruth's now. (*Walks to other side of room to retrieve records*)

CMcG *Okay.*

KR These are Ruth's now.

[End of Audio File 4]

[Interview paused to examine Ruth's records]

[Audio File 5 Begins]

[End of conversation prior to interview resuming]

KR Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

[Interview resumes]

CMcG *I want to get it straight in my head about the...how you ended up in St Otteran's, right?*

KR Oh yeah.

CMcG *So, you...when...you were...*

KR I was put out to the...Dungarvan...

CMcG *...this...this is when you were...*

KR ...to this hospital, yeah, in Dungarvan...

CMcG *...to...right, and you were unhappy in the hospital?*

KR I was unhappy working for the nuns because it was like being still in the school.

CMcG *Yeah, yeah.*

KR The...they were full of restrictions, you couldn't go out, you couldn't...it was in...away in the countryside it wasn't even in the town, it was in the countryside, you couldn't see anything...

CMcG *And is that what Carriglea [psychiatric hospital] was, is that what they're talking about...*

KR *Yeah, yeah.*

CMcG *...when they're saying Carriglea?*

KR That was a hos...that was a hospital...

CMcG *Okay.*

KR ...I think it was an old folks' home if I'm not mistaken.<sup>10</sup>

CMcG *Okay, okay.*

KR Do you know, I'm...I'm nearly sure it was.

CMcG *And this is where they're claiming that you...*

KR That I stuck a fork in a girl...

CMcG *...that you stuck a fork in someone. And then, so they sent you from there to the...*

KR *Yeah.*

CMcG *...mental hospital. [St Otteran's]*

---

<sup>10</sup> During the 1960s Carriglea changed from a psychiatric hospital to a centre for people with intellectual disabilities: <http://carrigleaservices.com/index.php/about-us/history/>

KR One of the nuns probably – I didn't stick a fork in no one anyway Claire – one of the nuns probably gave me the mads [made her angry] because she wouldn't...I wouldn't be left out and I got...I got into a raby [rabid] temper and I was screaming and shouting and roaring and maybe one of the girls was trying to quieten me down and I got up, do you know?

CMcG *Hmm.*

KR You know what it happened now, I don't really remember anything.

CMcG *Oh no, no that's fine, I...I...I suppose I'm trying to get the sequence...*

KR But to be put into a mental hospital for no reason...

CMcG *I know, I know, absolutely.*

KR ...all because I wanted a bit of freedom!

CMcG *And...and, so...so it was...it was...it was St Dominick's, Carriglea, mental hospital, back to...*

KR Yeah, yeah...

CMcG *...and back to...*

KR ...yeah, yeah...

CMcG *...the Good Shepherd...*

KR ...the Good Shepherd...

CMcG *...in Waterford...*

KR ...yeah, yeah, yeah...

CMcG *...the laundry then from the mental hospital?*

KR Yes, yes, yes.

CMcG *That's grand, that's all...*

KR Yes, yes, yes.

CMcG *...I just wanted to make sure*

KR Yeah.

CMcG *...that I had that straight...*

KR Yeah.

CMcG *...from you.*

KR Yeah.

CMcG *That's grand. I...I think we're done. Kathleen, thank you so much.*

KR Alright Claire love, no problem.

CMcG *Thank you so much for...for...*

KR No problem Claire, now is there any other records you want or anything?

CMcG *I think...no, I think that's about it.*

[End of Audio File 4]

[Interview Ends]