NANCY BIGGS (nee Johnson) I was born 1920 RK291(1-8)

My days as a child were happy days. I lived at No 1 Desford Rd. I remember going to the old school which is now the church Hall Mr Gardiner was the head master and used to like a drink, if the boys were naughty he would pinch their cheeks and give them a slap. I was there till I went to Lubstock

We had a picture House which was run by my aunt & uncle I think the prices were 6d 9p I shall the drawer one having a double for counting copies they were silent films, but we loved them I remember my aunt Lil rewinding the films then they were taken to Barlestone to be shown there

We played lots of games skipping was my favourite, ball games hop scotch and

marbles, shuttle cock & Battledor & whip - top

On May day my friend and I went singing the day before we would go and collect flowers, bluebells primroses and violets, then we had a small doll on a tray with the flowers all around, then we would go singing May day songs, we would leave the tray at my grannies then collect it on the way back from school, we had a ten for the pennies we collected.

My other memories were going down the fields we called it the mans foot, as it was shaped like a foot, there was a brook down there, and we used to bank it up and paddle, it was great fun

Another thing we did was fishing, there was a pond in the field opposite where I lived, what we did was to tie a long piece of cotton to a stick, then tie a match stick about 6" from the bottom and put a worm on the end throw it in the pond and catch stickle backs, In the winter we went skating on the pond.

Christmas was a happy time for me, my mother used to make all her own puddings, cake a mincemeat, we had candied peel in Rolves and I used to pick the sugar out of them, and I would help mum turn the mincer for mincemeat

We always made our own trimmings, we bought

crepe paper and made streamers out of it, I remember sticking them with flour & water

In the early 20,s we had no electricity it was oil lamps, I remember going to bed with a candle, and to keep us warm in the winter my mother used to wrap the oven shelf in a piece of blanket to warm the bed, we didn't have a bathroom, we used a tin bath, and the toilet was outside, there was a cart that came round every week to empty them,

Drinking water was got from a pump in the yard. but it was lovely & cold, as it was from the spring.

Wash day was a full days work, my mother would get the copper on for hot water and boiling the clothes, she would have a dolly tub and dolly pegs to do the washing, then she would mangle them, which was hard work, then all the whites would have to be boiled rinsed and blued some of the clothes had to be starched After doing the washing, the red tile floor had to be scrubbed on her hands & knees, it was very hard work, plenty of exercise,

We got our shoes mended in the village, down Red Lion Lane there were two brothers, I think there name was Statham and they were cobblers,

We had a Co Op, when it is now, but much smaller, my mother

used to send her orders in. Then it was delivered in a brown parcel.

I looked forward to Fridays as I got a penny to buy sweets. We got quite a lot as those days we had farthings. and a penny went a long way.

In my early teens ~~we had~~ my friend & I had dancing lessons at the Miners welfare Hall, at about seventeen we had dances most weeks, different bands used to come, we had great nights, special dances such as Christmas we bought long dresses which were all the go then. what a good time we had.

RK291(7-8)

We always had plenty of bacon in our house, as dad used to rear a pig. He pulled it and cured it himself, there was a flitch of bacon on the wall, and a ham hanging from the ceiling, a bit different to what we get now.

During the war we all had to have our windows blacked out, ration books and gas masks, the wardens would come round to see if there was any light showing.

We didn't have a shelter so when the sirens went we used to go under the stairs till it was over, when they bombed Coventry you could see all the lights over there from the fire.

I worked in Earlsdon

at the time and we had to take it in turns to do fire watching, it was a Rossendale firm and made some army cloth's.

I got called up 1942 and did three years in WAAF's I was in the cook house, I did my training in Morcombe and Wakefield, then posted to Oxfordshire, where I was demobed in 1945.

I got married had two daughters, my husband died 1990, I still live in Heywood I wouldn't swap it.