

### Jan Edmonson 3-7 Translation

James: Very good, well done, well read, it isn't easy...

Jan: There's some faults but no matter.

James: No, no matter. Well that's marvellous, it isn't easy doing that.

Jan: No, no.

James: Especially the, the form of the story or the form of the writing is difficult to read aloud.

Jan: Yeah, with English words and other.

James: Yeah there is English words also yeah. So, a good story, thank you for that and now we can move to the third part of this conversation when I ask you open questions, so we can do an free conversation um so, why did you study Cornish?

Jan: Well, I studied three languages.

James: Oh yeah?

Jan: When I was in school, and I continued with French afterwards and when I was young I said that I don't want to go to a country without speaking the language so when I returned to Cornwall I decided to learn Cornish.

James: Splendid, so you can speak French and what else?

Jan: Well, thirty years ago I spoke French fluently but now I have forgotten most of it, I can read French but it's somewhat difficult to speak now.

James: What other language?

Jan: Spanish and Latin.

James: Ah latin also, very good, very good and you went to a class in Liskeard with June and was there lots of other people studying with you?

Jan: No, I was with June on my own most of the time. There was another woman for three terms but that is all.

James: So um you learnt, or studied, on your own.

Jan: Yeah, that was hard because there was a problem with the spoken language. It's hard to chat together when there is two women but after the fourth grade I went to the Saltash class, Saltash in order to chat with Wella.

James: Oh yeah.

Jan: And improve my spoken Cornish.

James: Well, Wella is a teacher of distinction.

Jan: Sure.

James: And he can speak extremely well, he knows everything about Cornish so that is good. You said before that you were away from Cornwall, that was in order to study or work or...?

Jan: I left Cornwall when I was eight years old because had to go to London for his work, and all the time he wanted to return to Cornwall, eventually...

James: So, you went to...

Jan: I had a chance to do it.

James: Yeah, so you went to school in London?

Jan: Yeah.

James: And after that?

Jan: After that I went, well I started studying in order to become a teacher but that was a bad decision and afterwards I became a secretary and afterwards I worked for Mary Quant and this was good.

James: So, did you enjoy yourself in London or...?

Jan: No, I hated it in London.

James: What was wrong with it?

Jan: There was too many people and I wasn't happy in school, I had a Cornish way of speaking and that wasn't good with the children in London.

James: So, you had a Cornish accent?

Jan: Yeah, yeah sure.

James: Yeah, children being children, that wasn't good. So, You spent a time in London and after that where did you go?

Jan: Well, I spent some thirty years in London or a bit more and then I returned twenty years ago now.

James: Very good, and here, you came here or...?

Jan: No, first I lived in Widegates and then Saltash, then Quethiock and then here.

James: Very good, so you moved around.

Jan: Yeah sure.

James: Are you happy here now?

Jan: Yeah sure, very happy.

James: Oh yeah splendid, a marvellous place in truth, very quiet.

Jan: Very quiet, there is a splendid view from the garden, there isn't sound of traffic.

James: No, and lots of birds also.

Jan: Lots of birds, there is a big family of woodpeckers here, lots of birds.

James: Um, when you were a student of the language was it easy to study or...?

Jan: It was easy yeah sure, I spent lots of time learning because I'm a disabled lady and I can't work these days, that was something interesting for me.

James: So, what about, well yeah, about the mutations, the mutations and things with that?

Jan: Well, there is a problem with mutations still but I remember June used to get angry with me after I forgot every second mutation. I still have a problem with that but no matter.

James: But you can speak French and Spanish so is Cornish similar to those languages or...?

Jan: More similar to Spanish because there is two verbs 'to be' in Spanish similar to long form and short form of 'bos'.

James: Oh yeah very good.

Jan: And there's words similar to Cornish words in Spanish.

James: Perhaps that's because there is lots of Latin words in Cornish also.

Jan: Yeah.

James: Is that true?

Jan: Sure;

James: So now how do you use the language everyday?

Jan: Well, I like to read and I teach Cornish three times a week so I use lots of Cornish.

James: So, three times every week teaching, where is that?

Jan: I teach in Liskeard and Lostwithiel and I help in a Callington class also, I teach the advanced group at Callington.

James: Ytho is there lessons now?

Jan: No.

James: Through the summer?

Jan: There isn't anything through the summer.

James: What about walks or 'yeth an werin' or...?

Jan: I go to some, I go to some 'yeth an werin', I can't walk so I go to the pub after the walk.

James: That's the best thing to do. So where is the pub, what pub will that be?

Jan: Well, there will be a walk in St.Germans soon so I'll go to the pub there and there's a 'yeth an werin' often in the pub Holland Inn at Hatt but there's lots of thing organised by Maureen (Pierce) and Hazel through the summer.

James: What day is the 'yeth an werin' in the Holland Inn?

Jan: Um sometimes Tuesday and sometimes Wednesday.

James: Well that's good I would like to go to a 'yeth an werin'.

Jan: I can print a page from the computer if you want.

James: OK please yeah that would be marvellous yeah. There was a very good 'yeth an werin' in Liskeard.

Jan: Lots of years ago.

James: You can imagine, there was Graham, Pawl Dunbar, Martin Miller, all the people who can drink exceedingly well. Um what's your opinion about the language in the future? What would be your dreams?

Jan: I would like to see growth, I hope there will be classes in schools soon and perhaps when children learn a bit of Cornish in school, parents will come to classes in order to learn. That would be a splendid start for the language.

James: Um well now it's decided, what is it, 'Standard Written Form'.

Jan: Yeah.

James: I don't know if you agree with that but perhaps it will be a help now to do everything.

Jan: Sure. I don't want to teach if there's people who don't want to learn it, as I suppose 'kemmy'n' is better sure but the standard form is political, if people want to use it that is good but 'kemmy'n' is better.

James: Yeah OK well, I hope there will be well, an advancement for the language, who knows, we'll have to see what will happen. Um so, you would like to see Cornish in schools and perhaps there will be a need for teachers now who can teach the language so, would you like to teach in school or...?

Jan: No.

James: is it something...?

Jan: I don't want to. I tried that when I was young, I don't want to teach children, I prefer to teach adults.

James: Why is that?

Jan: I'm not sure. I haven't the patience with children.

James: I can understand that. I'm not sure if I can also.

Jan: It's necessary to sing with children, I can't sing well so...I prefer, it's better that I teach adults.

James: OK. What was the obstacles to learning?

Jan: It was hard when I was learning Cornish because I was on my own learning it. My husband

doesn't want to learn languages so there wasn't a chance to practise out, outside the class and that was hard, I didn't know anybody else except a teacher so I held myself but now easier, it's better to go to a class where there's lots of people learning.

James: Yeah, it's easier for speaking the language perhaps if there were lots of people there. Um you said before that you are a teacher now of Cornish in three classes, is there lots of students there or...?

Jan: There's not, in Liskeard there's only one person and I hope that he has succeeded in the third grade exam this year and he wants to continue with the fourth grade and he does some Cornish with the children, that's very good. Um in Lostwithiel there are four at the moment but most of them are rather old, there are two who are seventy three and one young woman so the class is somewhat hard but I intend to continue.

James: Are they at well, different levels or...?

Jan: There's two who did the second grade this year, and the other two did the first grade but they don't want to continue with exams.

James: No?

Jan: No. Three say that they are too old and the other one is a student at Plymouth university and she will start her last year in September so it would be hard for her to do Cornish exams as well, but she wants to continue with the language and she helps with 'Rainbows', the 'Rainbows' group in Lostwithiel, she does some Cornish with them as well.

James: What's 'Rainbows'?

Jan: Young girls who are too young to go to 'Brownies'.

James: Ah OK, OK yeah, very good, um when you were young was the language in your house or school or...?

Jan: No, no. There was a woman teacher in my primary school who was a bard, Mabel Maddever, but she was a musician, a splendid musician and we did, we used to sing old Cornish songs but in English.

James: Very good. What sort of music?

Jan: 'Trelawney' sure and, and the Stratton carol (?) and some more but I was very young then.

James: That's where?

Jan: Launceston.

James: Launceston. So you were born in Launceston?

Jan: No, I was born in Yelverton but I came to Cornwall when I was a baby. And I was born in Yelverton because our new house wasn't ready yet.

James: So, what sort of work did your father do?

Jan: He was, I don't know the Cornish word, he was a quantity surveyor.

James: Oh right.

Jan: For the government and he used to build buildings for the airforce in Cornwall at St.Mawgan and St.Merryn in those days as well.

James: Very good, vey good.

Jan: He used to work in Launceston castle, his office in the castle, in the old hospital.

James: Marvellous.

Jan: And I can see his car in the photograph in the tourism centre in the castle these days.

James: Very good, very good. OK that is, well that's the end of these questions, there isn't another question um you answered all the questions before I asked.

Jan: I chat too much.

James: No, that's good, I want you to chat. Is there anything else you want to say?

Jan: No. no.

James: OK, OK well that's good, I would like to thank you for that and that's the end of the conversation.