

23/1/82 On Friday 22nd January 1982 Chris
Metherell went to Stanley

Having unsuccessfully tried to find ^{Mrs} Doreen Kerr on Bircham Street South Moor ^(Coxhill) We went to Stanley central Post Office and looked up the electoral registers for her and for various other names of Harry Robinson's pupils. There seemed to be no Kerrs registered on Bircham Street so look down all the unregistered numbers. Went back and called on some leaving 29, 34, 39, 45, 56. However met a lady who thought she lived in no. 63. No one was in. (She learnt from Tiny) We were also looking for ^{Ronnie} "Caldicot and Gwen Tweddle". (We had the name wrong) Two people Tiny could remember learning from Harry Robinson. We went to see John and Marjorie Collicott at 33, Hillside Gardens and were told they had moved to 9, Edward VIII Street. We asked if they had a relative called Ronnie who clog danced but in fact it was Jacky himself who had learnt off Harry Robinson.

Jacky was born in 1922 and sent to learn off Harry by his dad when he was about 10 or 11. His dad danced a little bit but he didn't learn off him. He learnt for about 5 or 6 years. He thinks he paid 1 shilling for upto 2 hours. Harry taught him in the back kitchen and he had to work hard at it. He also practised a lot at home and He learnt holding the kable - upto about 30 or 40

was facilitated in this by being able to practise to his sister playing the piano.

They worked together a lot and she also played for him at competitions. Her address is :- Mrs. Henderson

19, Conniston Ave.,
Seascale,

Nr. Whitehaven,
Cumbria.

We can ask her about tunes, Jacky

only remembers that they were schottisches. He used to dance at Go as you please and for a couple of years was in a double act with Gwen Treble (maiden name) who married and moved to Lanchester. Jacky used to clog dance first and then they would dance together - I think more cap dancing style.

He remembers a Mr. Mackintosh coming to watch him dance once, he says he was a "theatrical fellow with a cloak"! (Presumably George M. - world champion) he said he was Scottish and that his two daughters travelled the boards performing all sorts of dancing including clogging. He saw them at the Empire, they called themselves the two Macs.

Jacky's first appearance was at the Hibernian Hall, Stanley in a concert.

He also entered for a clogging competit in about 1934 which was held in a big working men's club in Westerhope. There were about 10 entrants and Jacky

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won, beating an older guy, who was good, called Wellwood. (He didn't know whether it was Johnson or Jimmy and couldn't guess an age.) There would be one or two judges sitting in front, he didn't know their names. They danced on a wooden board, not raised off the ground. You had to dance on the spot and were marked on stance (upright etc.) He danced 8 steps and a double shuffle. You always ended on a double shuffle and everyone knew this but he thought the number of steps in a competition might vary - possibly 6. He won £6 from this competition at a time when his father was earning just under £3 a week for working down the pit! He was offered a week's contract at a main theatre also for £6 for the week, which he took. He had to have his school standards checked before he was allowed to have his week off; he also had to leave the theatre before 9.30 pm. He was offered a contract but his dad turned it down saying he wasn't going to dance professionally.

The Palace
Durham

His dogs were ~~the~~ 'Westmoreland' style (my name) i.e. duck loed with a fair curve to the sole. One pair he had had jingles in the heel. He also had a pair when he was in a concert

party which were aluminium with wooden soles and he danced on a lighted glass pedestal - and you could only see his feet! He had one pair from Gateshead and one pair from a cobbler's called Emerson's, Front St, Stanley. He wore velvet breeches, a silk shirt, and cummerbund. There are two photos we are going back to copy.

He remembers a competition at the Hibernian, Stanley but he didn't enter.

He was also in a concert party for 2 or 3 years (I think after the double act) He was the only dancer. The others were musicians, singers and a comedian. They were paid about 30 shillings each a night and travelled all round the area. The best floors were wooden. He used to dance very fast and changed his style on the stage. (Not on the spot and not necessarily finishing with double shuffles) He caught one person, but not for long and can't remember who.

He remembers Tiny as being a couple of years older than him and thought she was wonderful to do all the teaching she did. "She'd dance till she dropped"

He thought Harry Robinson's only son Les probably had 2 left feet and that

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that is why Harry didn't teach him.
He also remembered a dancer called
Boyd who came from S. Stanley and
worked in the Co-op. We had heard of
a Jimmy Boyd of Clifford Street.
He also knew Cassie Boyle from S. Stanley
- she ^{did} danced a couple of weeks ago for
the over 60's club. We can contact her
at South Moor Women's League - held
on Monday nights at 7.30-8.00 in the
school at the bottom of the hill (Turn
left at Manfredi's fish shop)

Mrs. Collicott used to dance a few steps -
a "dutch dance" - she said everyone
did in those days.

Also told us of Mrs. Herdman - 80 years
old who runs a weekly tap dancing
class in Stanley. Her husband runs a
record and gramophone stall in Stanley
closed in market.

The only ~~other~~ step, apart from
double shuffles, that he could remember
is one which he never quite mastered
and was learning when he gave up.
It is the galloping kicks step that
Chris and Alice learnt from Ivy Sands - of
something like that.

The other names of interest we got from
the electoral register are:-

John + Doreen Burrell, 52, Eden Terrace, Oxhill
Cathbert + Elizabeth Burrell, 6, Moore Street, S. Moor