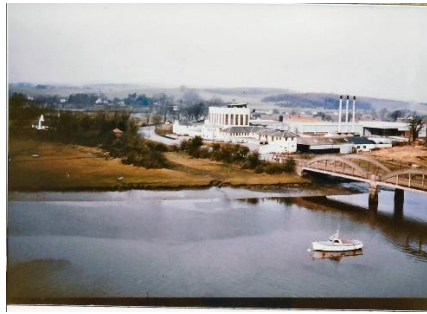


Kirkcudbright Creamery :As written by Billy McKeand 27th November 2012



The continuing progress of the demolition of the creamery here in Kirkcudbright has certainly stirred up some old memories with the townsfolk and many I have spoken to have their own personal reminiscences of a family member working there. It was never difficult to recognise a creamery worker, white boiler suit, black wellies and canvas piece bag over the shoulder crossing the bridge for the start of yet another shift. Humble dedicated men whose main purpose in life was to provide a decent standard of living for their families. Many were to achieve promotion within the company and how justifiably proud that man was when he went home and informed his family of his success.



I remember as a small boy travelling on my father's horse and cart with a young Eric Campbell as wagoner carting coal singles from the railway station to the creamery and the massive pile of coal stacked beside the boiler house. Several carters were employed on this heavy laborious job as it all to be hand shovelled from railway wagons on to carts and lorries in all weathers and the only respite for the driver and wagoner was the short journey across the bridge and back again to the station yard. This routine all stopped in the mid 1950's when the boilers were converted to oil

The SMMB employed local contractors Milhench and Coulthard to collect the milk on a daily basis from the local dairy farms and I can remember some of the drivers involved: Booler Gray, Da McKie, Bill McCulloch, Taffy Hunt and Alex Ross. Some of these drivers often acted as paper boys. Before leaving town in the early morning they stopped at the local newsagents and uplifted the papers which were duly delivered at the farms when collecting the milk.



When arriving with the milk cans at the Creamery the drivers parked at the milk house next to a conveyor belt and duly offloaded the heavy cans of milk which disappeared into the building to be emptied out, cans washed and cleaned to later re-emerge from another door to be loaded back on the lorry. This whole procedure always well managed and properly organised. All this work provided employment for local men and all were important and essential undertakings for the everyday running of the Creamery.

Since the very early days of the Scottish Milk Marketing Board, whose main purpose was to provide a service for local farmers, there has been many changes over the years within this company and as history has proven not all for the better.



The workforce, once known on first name terms with the bosses and management, became computer numbers stored away in some far off office.

Then the final closure, a sad and depressing situation for the townspeople.



Demolition of buildings in 2012

Copied from Billy's notebook with the permission of Elizabeth and family

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