

SURSA

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Oral History

Interviewee:	Nancy Haddow	
UoS Dates:	1969 – 2009	
Role(s):	Cleaner, 1969 - 1973 and Cleaning Supervisor, 1973 – 2009.	

Interview summary:

<i>Summary of content; with time (min:secs)</i>
Start 00.00 - Nancy Haddow called in at University Porter's Desk to ask if work available. She was asked if she had children, their ages and whether she planned to have any more. They then said they would let her know. However, as she left, a porter asked her to start next day. Worked in Pathfoot. About 30 cleaners in Pathfoot then. Also construction of Cottrell Building in process of being finished, so cleaners sometimes were moved to Cottrell. In Pathfoot, 2 cleaners per corridor, plus cleaners to do stairs, dining room and coffee bar. Not too busy in early days as not so many students. NH worked evening shift 5.45 pm to 9.45 pm. Later switched to morning shifts.
03.00 - NH became supervisor quickly. In charge of cleaning Pathfoot. In early days, Senior Porter sent cleaners to particular jobs, but later this responsibility given to cleaning staff. Cleaners were sent in university mini-bus to clean Cottrell in the evenings, assembling in Pathfoot at main desk.
04.00 - NH worked at university for 40 years, so one of the longest-serving cleaners. Nice celebration event took place for 25 years of service. There was official dinner in Cottrell and NH was a little nervous as the group was mainly academics, such as Alasdair Macrae and Rob Ball. She was put at her ease by Alasdair joking about a glass of wine helping things along – but one glass not being enough.
05.15 - Working at the university was a nice social time in her life. Made a lot of friends over the years. She had student friends in the early days when there were small numbers. NH got to know them as they went to lectures and seminars. Students, away from home for the first time, confided in her as sort of mother figure. Likewise international students. [Interviewer Angela Smith recalls Nancy being very sociable and coming in to chat to staff working late in their offices.]
07.00 - NH specially enjoyed graduation days, seeing students she had known over several years finish. Attended graduations in the Albert Hall and in Gannochy Tennis Court, sometimes invited by students.
09.00 - NH recalls wide corridors from early days, where departments were located, and which had social areas, with seating, leading out to courtyards. On lower levels, very open plan. Then as

university expanded, corridor space taken over as offices. Remembers the wide top corridor leading to the Pathfoot coffee bar. [Interviewer AS remembers the hessian curtains and Scandinavia furniture in the coffee bar.] The coffee bar was the hub for everyone, academics, admin staff as well as students. NH recalls there was often still a haze of smoke in the coffee bar when cleaners arrived in the mornings, as so many people smoked then. Other social places existed, but Pathfoot coffee bar was the hub. [Interviewer AS recalls the intention of the first Principal, Tom Cottrell that there should not be barriers, everyone should mix.] NH agrees it really worked and this vision was realized.

11.50 - NH never worked in the Macrobert. Recalls staff being reluctant to move from one building to another, for example, from Pathfoot to Cottrell and back, once university expanded.

13.20 - NH finds grounds have not changed much, buildings more so, as buildings get a bit tired. University grounds very well-maintained and particularly important at graduations when students return with families to celebrate, walk round and take photos. NH particularly recalls graduations being like weddings in days gone by. Ladies in hats and men dressed for the occasion.


15.30 - NH thinks probably only about a quarter of the number of cleaners now in Pathfoot compared to early days. NH thinks perhaps it was easier then, whereas now less money available and yet many extra buildings and offices to be cleaned.

16.35 - Once some corridor space lost to offices, social spaces more necessary. Often paintings in the Fergusson Collection hung in the social spaces. NH recalls that the Fergusson Collection paintings in the social spaces were sometimes too accessible, as there were student pranks such as using BluTak to put feathers on paintings in unlikely places. Also moustaches etc. NH recalls banks of student lockers in B corridor.

18.55 - NH recalls residences for first year students when she came, but most were housed elsewhere and off campus.

17.35 - NH felt she belonged to a community and still keeps in touch with some friends from her days working at the university. People got to know each other and there were social events like parties and drinks.

Ends 20:12

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Interviewed by:	Angela Smith		
Date of interview:	22 August 2017		
Summary completed by:	Moira Ball		
Date:	15 October 2017		