

Interviewee: Penny McCarthy
Dates: 1968-9
Role(s): Temporary assistant lecturer



Interview summary:

Summary of content; with time (min:secs)

Start 00:25 PM came to Stirling with her husband who was a postgraduate student. She had an English teaching qualification and had taught classics at a school in Liverpool but she wasn't qualified to teach in a Scottish school. Matilda Mitchell, the Principal's secretary, introduced her to Professor Graham Bird in the Department of Philosophy and she was given a temporary part-time assistant lectureship.

02:00 The other staff were Stewart Sutherland, Tony Pitson and Stanley Kleinberg. Tony Pitson gave general lectures to first-year students; PM taught tutorial groups of about 5 or 6 students. They were very varied: quiet girls who spoke sensibly when they did contribute and mature students such as a very big policeman who was unused to abstract thought and was puzzled by epistemology.

05:20 PM also team taught tutorials on the philosophy component of the Approaches and Methods course. Graham Bird gave the lecture; tutorials were bigger in this course and PM found team teaching difficult.

06:40 Matilda Mitchell, the Principal's secretary, introduced PM and her husband to Patrick Buchanan who owned the Touch estate; he rented them a cottage on the estate. Their first child was born in the infirmary that year.

09:45 They stayed for a year and made many friends, including Eric and Jane Richards, Felicity and John Riddy, and Moira and David Buchan. PM enjoyed the Wednesday evening seminars at which a member of staff gave a paper. She remembered Stewart Sutherland speaking on Dostoevsky. She was impressed by the beauty of the campus and the coldness of the winter.

Ends

Interview No:	SURSA OH / -
Interviewed by:	Angela Smith
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Summary completed by:	Angela Smith
Date:	6 October 2020-