



Both Norman and Jean Bogie's parents ran guest houses in Scarborough during the 1930's. In those days the North Bay beach was packed and as child you could get lost in the crowd, a frightening experience. They were not allowed on the beach on a Sunday as they had their Sunday best clothes and shoes on. Many Scarboroughs advertised their spare rooms to holidaymakers with a notice in the window. There were no inspections and regulations then. Jean's parents owned the Holme Vale guest house with 13 bedrooms and 40 guests. The rooms had 2 double beds so all the children slept in one double. Full board had 4 meals a day at 9 shillings a day. There were 2 toilets and 1 bathroom shared between everybody. The same families came back year after year, often in the same week as it depended on their factory or mine shutdown week. They left their buckets and spades at the lodging. The rooms had a bowl for washing which was later changed for a sink. There was no heating except for a fire in the lounge. Some families brought their own food which was labelled and kept in the larder. There was no frozen food so fresh meat and veg was delivered each day, usually by a boy on a bike. Peas were shelled and potatoes put in the "rumbler". Bread and cakes came from Rowntrees store. Most working class families never eat shop made cakes which were seen as a real treat.

There was no TV or radio so kids played games like skipping, conquers, marbles, cowboys and indians, what time is it mr wolf, oranges and lemons, tiddlywinks, musical chairs, collecting butterflies and cigarette cards. Everyone booked by letter. They had a phone but it never rang, when it did they jumped out of their skins. All their family helped cook and clean. Holiday makers loved their trips in cobbles around the bay and often the miners would take the oars and let the owner just steer. The whole town was seething with people chatting etc. You had to queue to get in the cinema.

During the war Norman and Jean both had to do "Fire watch" which meant staying behind at work in case fire bombs were dropped by the Germans. Norman was in the Futurist cinema when they flashed up an "air Raid" warning. He decided to stay put and watch the end of the film. Jean worked for the "Food Office" who issued ration books, baby food, hotel ration cards, farm workers extra rations at harvest time, pig killing certificates and butchers returns.

Norman's father was the first man to sign up for the "LDV" Local Defence Volunteers or Homeguard, after he heard an appeal on the radio. He went to sign at the Police station but they knew nothing about it. The LDV started with no uniforms and only farmers shotguns for weapons. There were four divisions with 80 men in each. They had to guard the gas works and electricity station, railway station and Post Office. There were barricades on the road to the wireless station which was closed at night. The North Bay had barbed wire and was allegedly mined.

When Jean was 17/18 she was not allowed to go out anywhere with a bar, including the Royal Hotel. There were many young servicemen lodging in the town and she often danced with them in Church Halls and they would walk her home. Everyone was very honourable in those days. Her brother would see she got home ok where her father would be waiting.