

**PAT JESS**

The cooperative like this one is one response to the problems of this area. But agriculture by itself cannot sustain a viable community, any more than it ever could. What happens to those who cannot or don't wish to earn a living from agriculture? What alternatives are there now that widespread economic recession has reduced the opportunities for emigration?

Norman, the younger of the Fuller sons, prefers not to farm, but doesn't want to leave either. What was his alternative?

Norman works in manufacturing in a local knitwear cooperative originally set up by Father McDyer in the '60s.

How long does it take you to actually to learn to do this?

**NORMAN FULLER**

Ah, I think about six weeks.

**PAT JESS**

Six weeks to

**NORMAN FULLER**

Learn how to do it yeah.

**PAT JESS**

to learn, to learn how to do it, yeah. Do you like doing it or?

**NORMAN FULLER**

Aye I do yeah.

**PAT JESS**

You really do?

**NORMAN FULLER**

Yeah.

**PAT JESS**

What would you do in, what's your alternative?

**NORMAN FULLER**

Not much really, you know.

**PAT JESS**

Nothing much.

**NORMAN FULLER**

No.

**PAT JESS**

You don't fancy the farming?

**NORMAN FULLER**

No I do not, no. oh no, ah now the day of farming's gone.

**PAT JESS**

Is that right?

**NORMAN FULLER**

As far as I'm concerned, yeah.

**PAT JESS**

Well what would you do if you didn't work in here?

**NORMAN FULLER**

That's hard to say. Maybe, I did do a bit of welding like and I might have gone on to that maybe.

**PAT JESS**

Well you'd have had to leave here though wouldn't you?

**NORMAN FULLER**

Yeah, yeah.

**PAT JESS**

I mean you wouldn't have got work round here

**NORMAN FULLER**

No I wouldn't no.

**PAT JESS**

in that sort of thing.

**NORMAN FULLER**

Killybegs is the nearest you'll get work on that line

**PAT JESS**

Is that right?

**NORMAN FULLER**

Yeah, a bit too far to travel.

**PAT JESS**

Yes certainly but you, so you like working in here because it keeps you in the area.

**NORMAN FULLER**

Yeah more or less yeah. Quite good pay, you know, and it's nice and close to home and there's no travelling expenses, anything like that, you know.

**PAT JESS**

Yeah, yeah.

**NORMAN FULLER**

And you know everybody you're working with and they're all, they're all...

**PAT JESS**

Friendly atmosphere.

Southwest Donegal, Tradition and Change, clip 11

**NORMAN FULLER**

Yeah very friendly atmosphere yeah.

**PAT JESS**

The local knitwear cooperative is successful but it has been very difficult to establish industry in this and other similar areas.

[End of recording]