

PAT JESS

A community is often identified through settlement and housing is a major feature.

This is many people's idea of the traditional Irish cottage, and that's the way it features in the tourist literature. It also seems to give some people a highly romantic notion of what rural life is like. This is quite unjustified. There's ample evidence and illustration of the sheer harshness of life which existed down into the 1950s and '60s, and of the very real difficulties which people like the Fullers still experience today.

Hello, are you there?

CHARLES FULLER

Aye.

GLADYS FULLER

Hello.

CHARLES FULLER

You've arrived.

PAT JESS

I've arrived indeed, yes. Oh it's a wild day isn't it.

CHARLES FULLER

Wicked day, same every year.

PAT JESS

Aye it is indeed. Oh it's getting nasty now.

CHARLES FULLER

It is, yes.

PAT JESS

Great bit of heat in here.

CHARLES FULLER

Oh you need it.

GLADYS FULLER

You need it today.

PAT JESS

Sure is, it's a lovely warm house.

GLADYS FULLER

This wall does anyhow.

PAT JESS

It's a very old house!

CHARLES FULLER

Ah about a couple of hundred years old.

PAT JESS

Change in the West of Ireland, on OpenLearn Ireland

<http://www.open.edu/openlearn/openlearn-ireland/ireland-places-culture-heritage/change-the-west-ireland>

Is it?

CHARLES FULLER

Yes.

PAT JESS

Is this the family home?

CHARLES FULLER

It is yeah.

PAT JESS

Have you lived in it all your life?

CHARLES FULLER

Yeah, my mother and my father always lived in it.

PAT JESS

Really.

CHARLES FULLER

Yes. Well my father was born in the States.

PAT JESS

Was he?

CHARLES FULLER

Yeah.

PAT JESS

Well what happened to your generation, people that you went to school with for example?

CHARLES FULLER

Well they all...

GLADYS FULLER

The majority all emigrated.

CHARLES FULLER

Emigrated.

PAT JESS

Where did they go?

CHARLES FULLER

Mostly all to England.

GLADYS FULLER

All practically all, England, Scotland. A few went to America, but not many.

PAT JESS

And how many would be left in the Glen now, that you would have been at school with?

CHARLES FULLER

I'd have said three or four about the height of it.

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GLADYS FULLER

That'd be about all of our age.

PAT JESS

But the Fullers are leaving their old cottage. They're now going to live in a new bungalow built very nearby by the County Council.

So you're moving out of the old house now down to this nice new one, but why are you moving?

GLADYS FULLER

Well really this house is damp. We have no bathroom, no water inside.

PAT JESS

And what about the kitchen?

GLADYS FULLER

Well it was small and we had no accommodation for anything.

[End of recording]