

# World Oral Literature Project

voices of vanishing worlds

## Accession Form for Individual Recordings:

<i>Collection / Collector Name</i>	Mr Neil Lanham
<i>Tape No. / Track / Item No.</i>	Gamekeeping Tales
<i>Length of track</i>	1 hr 15 mins & 1 hr 12 mins
<i>Related tracks (include description/relationship if appropriate)</i>	The Disappearance of the Squire's Ham Village Life Gunner on the Atlantic Convoys Lord Sainsbury's Gardener
<i>Title of track</i>	Gamekeeping Tales
<i>Translation of title</i>	/
<i>Description (to be used in archive entry)</i>	<p>It was after Dick returned from the war time Atlantic Convoys (Vols. II &amp; III) that he settled in once more working for Whitlocks in Great Yeldham. His governor Carlton Whitlock was advertising for a gamekeeper and suggested that Dick should apply. Having secured the job, Dick tells us that there were things with which he needed a hand. Here Joe Miles, the keeper at Spains Hall for Sir Ruggles-Brise, came to the fore and a lasting friendship was formed. Joe was a 'Moonraker' - a man from Wiltshire, a character with a deep knowledge of vermin, game and the etiquette that surrounds shooting parties and he features in many of the stories told here.</p> <p>Dick soon got his shoot round and won the respect of both those cultivating the land, the beaters, fellow gamekeepers for having one of the best shoots around. Also all of the 'guns' who would join the rest of the company in the public bar for a game of darts after the shoot.</p> <p>These are stories then of the outward going Dick enjoying every minute and at the same time establishing a high reputation for both his company and prowess.</p> <p>Dicks governor was at one point going to sack him, however on seeing the funny side of Dick's misdemeanour he telephoned Reg Wooton, the cartoonist of the Sunday Express, for a cartoon of the incident to appear in the paper the following week. When Reg Wooton sent the original artwork to Carlton Whitlock he had it framed, and who should he give it to at the Christmas shoot but his trusty colleague in pursuit of fun and sport, Dick Ruggles.</p>

# World Oral Literature Project

voices of vanishing worlds

<i>Genre or type (i.e. epic, song, ritual)</i>	Life story
<i>Name of recorder (if different from collector)</i>	Neil Lanham
<i>Date of recording</i>	May 2005
<i>Place of recording</i>	Neil Lanham
<i>Name(s), age, sex, place of birth of performer(s)</i>	Dick Ruggles was born in Stambourne on 2nd February 1923 and died in Toppesfield (next village) on 18th July 2010
<i>Language of recording</i>	English
<i>Performer(s)'s first / native language</i>	English
<i>Performer(s)'s ethnic group</i>	British
<i>Musical instruments and / or other objects used in performance</i>	Piano
<i>Level of public access (fully closed, fully open)</i>	Fully Open
<i>Notes and context (include reference to any related documentation, such as photographs)</i>	<p>Dick Ruggles is a natural storyteller with a dialect typical of the North Essex/West Suffolk Border. Walter Benjamin (The Storyteller-Illuminations) described the typical Storyteller as the artisan/farmer who stays at home or the traveller who returned with stories. Dick Ruggles is both. He is a keeper and custodian of the inherited tradition of his area (called Seanachie in Ireland). His stories are as passed on (some from his mother etc and some are folk tales) or from his experience of life – nothing whatsoever taken from Literacy or outside interests.</p> <p>He has a typical local technique of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Framing his stories at first from afar (e.g. 'I was sitting having me sandwiches at the time when old so and so....')</li> <li>2. Using formula: local sayings, proverbs.</li> <li>3. Strong use of dialogue to bring forward the players in this play of life.</li> <li>4. Playing pranks for the sake of relaying it in story</li> </ol> <p>He was recorded close to his face to show every</p>

# World Oral Literature Project

voices of vanishing worlds

	possible gesticulation. (see The Anthropology of Gest. Marcel Jousse). Fourteen hours recorded in total.
--	--