

Name	John Troll
Relationship to NN	friend
Interviewer	Charlie Lambert
Date of recording	9/11/19
Location	Millom
Dur	23 mins 37
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Top: self-ident. Have always lived in Millom apart from my first 9 years in Workington. Family background. Father Reg ran metal business in Workington, had worked in local steelworks. After moving to Millom had very menial jobs. He would disappear in a black car at weekends. We presume that he was working for the Government somewhere.

02.53 knew about Norman from v early age. Remember reciting a poem with Yvonne as the judge. She said I over exaggerated everything, which I did of course. Didn't really know Norman till later on. Peg (*John's sister*) worked with Yvonne and was v close companion of Yvonne. Got to know Norman through Yvonne. After Yvonne died her (Peggy's) friendship blossomed into providing transport for him etc.

4.45 I used to look after his hifi and shared whiskies with him. He would say when it was time for me to go. Passed his old hifi on to Cicely, blind lady, and bought a bg Hiachi hifi. Collector of Haydn symphonies. Hoped to get them all. Really knowledgeable about music.

06.35 I know he wrote intros (music) for the church, almost impossible to play, don't know why he wrote it so difficult. Whether ever used I don't know.

07.35 V religious all his life. He was friendly with Rev Darrell and I was too.

08.35 talks about visits to N's house. Usually with a specific purpose such as editing a recording or maintaining his hifi system. Have a whisky with him. But always at 4 o'clock I had to go.

10.28 What sort of a man was he? Very nice, v good, could talk about almost anything. He had a friend Richmond Ward who told me about books being sent direct to Norman from America for reviews, I got to know N had v extensive library. In 1956 in the Encyclopaedia Britannica he wrote the definitive description of HG Wells.

15.22 My knowledge of N is restricted to that, being almost a regular visitor...my son (*Raymond*) took over from me and became a regular visitor. Can't remember how that came about.

16.15 tells story of daughter Isla asking Norman to be her grandfather. He maintained an interest in both children and used to visit every week. Raymond liked photography, helped Raymond with that, photographed Norman with the Cumbrian map behind him.

18.21 Not aloof at all. Picture him walking along swinging his stick. Walked quite quickly. Raymond knew him s a schoolboy, N always generously nice, was always generously nice. He took an interest in everybody he came across.

20.30 surprised by the way he has been taken up academically – the way people know him through what he writes is v different from what I knew, as a gregarious person.

21.12 I took him to see Halley's Comet, I recorded him reading his poem for the BBC, in Peggy's house. Can't find that tape.

21.55 Talks about going to see the comet. Norman and Jean Cooper in the car and Peggy. Can't remember where took them. Was v cloudy here. I didn't see the comet. He knew where to look but it was cloudy and raining. Didn't see anything. Later we saw a vague blur but don't know if he saw it.