

Name	Susan Troll
Relationship to NN	Friend, nurse to family members
Interviewer	Charlie Lambert
Date of recording	9/11/19
Location	Millom
Dur	14 mins 48

Top: self-ident. First met Norman 1964 as nurse to his step-mother (*Rose*). Relationship between Rose and Norman – she was a bit bossy, but a good relationship.

01.00 talks about Rose. Small, bit nowty. She was in charge. What she said, Norman did.

02.25 talks about Norman. A gentleman. Grateful. Friendly. Didn't come across as being a famous poet. Always very gentle and grateful for services that people gave him.

04.00 He was v much one of them ( the community). Some people were in awe of him.

04.25 Norman used to visit John's mother so became friends. And I knew Yvonne. All in WEA (*Workers' Educational Association*) together.

05.10 atmosphere was different when I went back to the house to nurse Yvonne. She was in charge.

05.40 N's interests – music. WEA.

06.12 N became a friend of the family. Story about daughter Isla asking Norman to be her grandad. N came a few days later bemused, but then used to call to see children and he enjoyed it. Children were delighted. We owe N a debt of gratitude because he encouraged Raymond (*son*) as a photographer. N arranged for him to take photos of other famous people, e.g. Melvyn Bragg, we took him to Melvyn's house. Raymond would visit N at home and N would give him whisky at age 16 or 17! It was lovely.

09.15 life for N after Yvonne passed away. Lucky to have two girls who went in to look after him, Margaret and Jean. He would do some strange things, like boiling a tin of boiled ham! Girls would make his meals. A really nice man.

10.00 When N fell ill. Peg (*Susan's sister-in-law Peggy Troll*) and I were at hospital when he died. We spent last week of his life sitting by his bed. Also there were Irvine Hunt and Rosemary, Yvonne's sister. Think he knew he was dying. Ironic thing was that he lost his voice and all he could do was whisper. As if life has turned full circle. His faith was there. He was a Christian and so were we.

11.45 reaction of others at the hospital to having Norman there. Some knew who he was, some didn't.

12.40 Think he would have liked to have died in Millom but not practical.

13.05 Don't think the N I knew compares with his reputation. Knew him as a gentle man. I had a special relationship, through the nursing. A bond. I was fortunate to know Norman the man. Find it difficult when people talk about him as an academic, stand offish and didn't like people, that is not the Norman I knew.