

Arrival in 1927 - Transcript

In this short video extract, filmed in the early 1990s, Frank Cochrane talks about the day of his arrival as a young man at the Royal Albert Hospital, Lancaster in the 1920s. He came from Crumpsall Workhouse in Manchester. Along with Frank is Bill Lamb (a former resident) and two tutors (Steve Mee and Dave Spencer) with a group of students. (This extract is from the video 'Two Lives', courtesy of Steve Mee.)

Frank Cochrane stayed at the Royal Albert from 1927, only leaving in 1990.

Dave: Frank... The Chap over there was asking when you first came to the Royal Albert.

Frank: 1927. December 8th.... That's 65 years. I'm 80 now.

Dave: And he's asking why you came, and where you came from?

Frank: Now that's a thing I can't tell you... I've not the slightest idea.

Dave: Do you want to tell him where you were before you came here, Frank?...

Frank: Crumpsall.

Dave: What was it at Crumpsall?

Frank: It was a workhouse. It was on a Thursday when I came... December the 8th. I can remember it as though it was yesterday.

Dave: What happened?

Frank: When I was going to Royal Albert the chap that took me, he said, "You're going to a nice big hotel and," he said, "you'll like it very much." He said, "You'll make plenty of friends and that." Anyhow when I gets out of this car I was going up the front entrance steps and I've seen 3 or 4 lads. "Oh a new patient! A new patient!" And I said to the chap that took me, "It's a fine bloody hotel is this."