

LLEISIAU O LAWYR Y FFATRI / VOICES FROM THE FACTORY FLOOR

Ackroyd & Sons, Bala (1974 - 2008)

Cyfwelai: VN001 Mrs Cath Parry
Dyddiad: 11: 11: 2013
Cyfwelydd: Kate Sullivan ar ran Archif Menywod Cymru

There is an English translation of the interview following the Welsh text

00:05 *OK, Cath, ydych chi'n gallu dweud eich enw a dyddiad geni?*

Cath Parry. Ges i ngeni ar y nawfed o Ebrill un mil naw pedwar pedwar.

Diolch. Ydach chi'n gallu dweud rhywbeth am eich cefndir, eich teulu, lle dach chi'n dod?

Dw i wedi byw yn Bala erioed. Dw i'n un o bump. Mae gen i bedair chwaer, a ddaru mi briodi dyn lleol, a gynnon ni ddau o blant, a 'dan ni'n dal yn y Bala.

Eich rhieni, beth wnaethon nhw?

Roedd nhad yn ffarmio ac roedd mam yn wraig tŷ.

Teulu bach clos, felly?

Oedden, oedden. Ond pump o enethod a roedd 'na lot o ffraeo.

01:00 *A'ch addysg? Lle aethoch chi i'r ysgol?*

Es i i ddechrau i Ysgol Fach Llandderfel a pam o'n i wyth oed ddaru ni symud i Ysgol Goch y Bala. Ac yna mi basies i'r *scholarship* a es i i Ysgol y Berwyn.

A faint oedd eich oed yn gadael yr ysgol?

Un deg chwech.

Pam penderfynoch adael pryd hwnna?

Wel, yr adeg honno, *which* dw i'n difaru rŵan, oedd gynna i ddim awydd gwneud gwaith ysgol. O'n i eisio mynd allan i ennill pres, a es i weithio i siop bapur.

Felly'r siop papur oedd eich gwaith cyntaf ar ôl yr ysgol?

Ie.

Am faint oeddech chi'n gweithio yno?

Tua blwyddyn. Achos o'n i'n priodi cyn o'n i'n un deg wyth.

Yn ifanc iawn.

Ie, ie.

02:00

Wnaethoch chi gario ymlaen gweithio ar ôl priodi?

Naddo. Ces i Pat yn chwe deg dau a ches i ei brawd hi, Andrew, yn chwe deg tri.

Oedd gynnoch chi dau o blant yn ifanc iawn?

Ie.

Pryd wnaethoch chi ail-ddechrau gweithio wedyn?

Es i i'r ffatri ym mil naw saith pedwar a dechrau gweithio amser llawn.

Oeddech chi yn y tŷ, fel mam tŷ, am faint o flynyddoedd? Faint oedd y plant?

63 . . Un ar ddeg a deg oedden nhw, ynte, pan on i'n gweithio, dechrau gweithio.

A pham penderfynoch chi ddychwelyd i'r gwaith?

Achos bod gynna i angen y pres.

Y ffatri, sut oedd o? Sut oedd y gwaith y diwrnod cyntaf, ar ôl bod off gwaith mor hir?

Oedd gynna i ofn i ddweud y gwir, o achos oedd lot o Saeson yno, ac on i ddim yn siŵr iawn os on i'n dallt nhw iawn, ac on i'n meddwl bod pawb yn edrych arna i, ac on i'n meddwl 'Na, na, wna i byth aros fan hyn'. Ond bues i yna am dri deg pedair blynedd.'

Amser hir.

Oedd, oedd.

03:17

Oedd yr ail ddiwrnod yn well na'r un gyntaf?

Oedd. Ond fuodd o'n hir cyn cawn i setlo achos oedd gynna i ofn gwneud

rhywbeth yn rong.

Pam oedd lot o Saeson yn y ffatri?

Wel, dw i ddim yn gwybod, roedd yno bobl leol ond roedd yna lot o siarad Saesneg, mwy o Saesneg nag o Gymraeg i ddeud y gwir.

Oeddech chi'n nabod pobl?

Rhai ohonyn nhw, dim llawer.

A sut cawsoch chi'r swydd hon?

Ddaru mi jyst gofyn i'r boss ryw fin nos yn y dre os oedd gynno fo waith yn mynd, a ddaru o ddeud 'Oh! call in tomorrow', ac es i mewn y diwrnod wedyn.

Lwcus iawn! Oeddech chi eisiau mynd yn ôl i'r gwaith?

Oeddwn a nac oeddwn. Oeddwn i eisio'r pres yn fwy na eisio'r gwaith.

Fel lot o bobl.

Ie.

04:15 *A beth oedd y ffatri yn cynhyrchu?*

Pyjamas.

A'r enw ffatri oedd . . . ?

Ackroyds and Son.

Oedd gynnoch chi aelodau o'r teulu neu ffrindiau yn gweithio yna?

Oedd, roedd fy chwaer hyna yn gweithio 'na ond roedd hi mewn gwahanol le. Roedd hi yn y *packing room* ond on i'n gwnïo.

Oce. Oedd hi wedi bod yn gwnïo o'r blaen?

Nac oedd. Ddaru hi ddechrau off yn y *packing room*. Oedden nhw rhoi'r rhai hŷn i bacio a'r rhai iau i wnïo.

Wnaethoch chi wnïo . . .

Gwnïo trwy'r adeg, do.

Felly oedd angen cymhwysterau y weithio?

Wel nag oedd, nag oedd, dim byd.

Dim byd. Allwch chi ddisgrifio'ch diwrnod felly? Beth oeddech chi'n gwneud ar ôl cyrraedd?

05:23

O'r munud roedd wyth o'r gloch yn dod, roeddech'n gwnïo trwy'r adeg tan amser brêc. Pob peth yn mynd efo'r cloc. Oeddech chi'n gorfod gwneud saith deg pump o byjamas mewn hanner awr. A beth bynnag oedd eich job chi ar hwnnw oedd rhaid i chi wneud e mewn hanner awr. A'r dynesi . . . roedd tua chwech ohonon ni yn gweithio mewn rhes. Roedd un yn dechrau off, os oedd ei mashîn hi yn torri, roedden ni i gyd yn aros. Ond roedd rhaid i chi neud y saith deg pump yna bob hanner awr erbyn diwedd y dydd, neu roedd o eisiau gwbod pam.

Felly'r ferch ar y mashîn gyntaf, roedd hi yn gwneud un darn a phasio'r darn ymlaen?

Un darn, oedd, wel adeg honno, roedd hi'n rhoi'r ddwy ysgwydd efo ei gilydd, ac wedyn roedd yr un nesaf yn rhoid y goler, roedd yr un nesa yn rhoi dwy lawes, ac roedd un arall yn cau'r goler i lawr a rhoi label i fewn, ac yr oeddwn innau yn gwneud yr *hems*.

Oce. A wnaethoch chi'r hems drwy'r amser, felly, dyna oedd eich rhan chi?

Ie, ie.

Felly mewn diwrnod, faint o byjamas oeddech chi'n wneud?

Roedden ni'n gweithio wyth awr, ond oedden. Roedd rhaid gwneud *seventy five* Bob hanner awr . . two hundred and fifty . . . roedd cannoedd mewn diwrnod, oedd.

Anhygoel!

Oedd.

07:00

A lle oedden nhw'n mynd wedyn, y pyjamas?

Roedden nhw'n mynd wedyn i gael eu tsecio a'u pacio. **Ac oes oedden nhw ddim yn iawn, dyna yn dod yna - yr hen Mr Ackroyd, tad yr hogiau sydd yna rŵan. Roedd o'n dod i mewn o'r offis, ac os oeddech chi'n gweld o yn rhoid ei sbectols yn ôl yn poced ei siwt, oeddech chi'n gwbod, 'Whew, 'dan ni'n iawn.' Ond os oedd y sbectols yn dal ar ei wyneb o, ac oedd o'n galw chi i fyny, roeddech chi'n gwbod 'dyma ni.' Oedd na rhywbeth yn bod ar rywbeth.**

Fo oedd y supervisor, oedd na supervisor arall?

Oedd 'na *supervisor* oedd, ond y *boss* oedd yr hen Mr Ackroyd.

Ac roedd yn dod ei hunan i lawr y ffatri?

Ie. I tsecio, oedd, oedd. A'r adeg honno, doeddech chi ddim yn siarad, doeddech chi'n deud dim byd.

Na?

Na. O'ch chi ddim yn codi'ch pen i fyny rhag ofn iddo, doedd o ddim yn frwnt, na dim byd, ond bod o jyst dim yn dweud dim byd. Ond os oedd y . . pan oedd y sbectol yn mynd yn ôl yn ei boced, on i'n meddwl 'Whew, 'dan ni'n iawn.' Ac roedd o'n mynd yn ôl i'r offis.

Faint o weithiau mewn diwrnod oedd o'n dod?

Roedd o'n dod rhyw dair gwaith.

Tair gwaith, heb siarad efo neb?

Dim siarad efo neb, na, dim byd.

Oedd gan bobl, oedd gynnoch chi ofn arno fo?

Roedd gen i ofn siarad am un peth, rhag ofn, roedd y nodwydd yn mynd trwy'n bysedd ni eniwê, os oeddech chi'n troi eich pen i ffwrdd, dyna nodwydd yn mynd trwy'ch bys chi. Neu, os oeddech chi'n gorfod galw un o'r meibion i drwsio'r mashîn, wel roeddech chi'n sâl swp ynte? Achos oedd hwnna yn *big thing*, oedd y mashîn wedi torri a dim ond y mab oedd yn medru trwsio.

08:48

Reit. Oedd na dynion yn y ffatri hefyd felly?

Dim ond . . un mab ac oedd un bachgen arall oedd yn rhedeg o gwmpas, yn gwneud y fath . . glanhau rybish, a chi' mod, pethau felly.

Felly ffatri deuluol o . . .

Merched yn unig, ie.

A phan oedd y dyn i fyny yn yr offis, oeddech chi'n siarad rhyngddo'ch gilydd?

Roedden ni'n siarad yr adeg honno, oedden, ac roedden ni'n gwrando ar y radio a pethau, ac yn canu, oedden ni'n cael hwyl, ond . . ond roedd rhaid i chi weithio, 'sech chi'n siarad, wel, gynnoch chi waith dal i fyny, ond oedd?

Chi'mod, dyna oedd o.

Oedd, ac os oedd y mashîn chi'n torri a'r ddynes o'ch blaen chi yn aros am waith, doedd o ddim yn hapus 'te.

Oedd y mashîns yn torri lawr yn aml?

Oedden, oedden, oedden.

Pam?

Wel, dw i ddim yn gwbod. Roedd y nodwyddau yn mynd yn sownd neu rywbeth, chi'mod, ac os oedd y rhai duon yn mynd trwodd, oedd hwnna'n *big job*, ail-thredio hi, oedd.

10:08

Felly oedd rhaid i chi thredio'r machines eich hunan ben bore?

Nac oedd. Oes oedd eisio newid lliw wedyn, y cwbl o'chi'n gwneud oedd torri

fo, clymu fo, a thynnu fo drwodd yn ofalus. Ond deudwch fod hwnnw'n torri a bod chi'n gorfod galw'r *boss*, ynde, i ail-thredio i chi, oedd o ddim yn hapus.

Oedd brêcs gynnoch chi yn ystod y diwrnod?

Oedd, oedd gynnon ni brêc bore a gynnon ni brêc amser cinio a pump munud yn y prynhawn.

Dim ond pump munud?

Ie. Ond fedsech chi ddim relacio achos roeddech chi'n gwbod bod rhaid i chi wneud *so and so* erbyn pump o'r gloch, neu erbyn cyn mynd adre.

Ac oedden nhw yn ystod y brêcs . . . wnaeth y ffatri yn rhoi coffi a te am ddim? Neu fwyd am ddim?

Nac oedden. Roedden ni'n prynu coffi o'r mashîn, neu fynd â bwyd eich hun.

Doedd dim cantîn na dim byd?

Nac oedd. Dim yn y stryd fawr. Na.

Rhaid i chi ddod allan . .

On i'n dod adre ond roedd rheiny oedd yn byw allan o Bala, oedd rheiny yn eistedd ar y wal tu allan neu eistedd wrth y mashîn a byta.

A lle oedd y machine?

Oedd y machine mewn stafell fawr, roedd pawb yno efo ei gilydd, roedd *jackets* un ochr o'r rwm a trowsusau'r ochr arall.

Dim ond un stafell oedd, felly?

Un stafell wnïo, ac roedd hi'n stafell fawr.

Ac yn y ffatri, faint o stafelloedd?

Yn y Stryd Fawr, roedd y stafell fawr wnïo, roedd stafell fach arall roedden nhw'n rhoi nhw mewn bwndeli o rownd seisys, roedd *packing room* ac roedden nhw'n torri fyny'r stair.

i

12:00

Reit, ocê. Pan dach chi'n dweud 'y stryd fawr' dych chi'n meddwl ochr y ffatri ar y stryd fawr?

Ydy, ydych chi'n stepio o'r stryd fawr i mewn i'r ffatri, wel, pasej oedd o, hen filding ofnadwy, ofnadwy o hen, dim gwres na dim byd.

Oer yn y gaeaf felly?

Cathon ni fath o ryw roced o beth, dw i'n cofio, a'r *fumes* a'r tân, ynde, ond dim *else* yno.

Oedd yna tân? Tân agored?

Na, dim tân, na, nag oedd. Och chi'n gwnïo weithiau yn eich cotiau.

A beth am dy fysedd di?

Wel, oeddech chi ddim yn teimlo rheiny, na fyddech, achos oeddech chi'n iwsio Nhw trwy'r adeg, oedd rheiny'n gynnes.

Oeddech chi'n cerdded i'r gwaith, dw i'n cymryd?

Oeddwn, oeddwn, oeddwn. Ond y genethod a oedd yn dod o Landrillo a Cynwyd, oedd gennan nhw fan yn eu hól nhw.

Fan y ffatri?

Oedd.

Oedd hwnnw'n rhad ac am ddim?

Oedd, adeg honno, tan aethon ni i'r un newydd, ac yna roedden nhw'n codi pres.

13:10

Ydach chi'n cofio faint oeddech chi'n ennill?

Dw i'n cofio y tro cyntaf, y cyflog cyntaf ges i, oedd un ar ddeg punt a rhywbeth am bedwar deg awr. Ond oedd o'n lot o bres.

Ar y pryd.

Oedd.

Ac oedd eich gŵr yn gweithio ar yr un pryd?

Oedd, oedd.

A beth am y plant, oedden nhw yn yr ysgol?

Roedden nhw yn yr ysgol ac roedd Mam yn gofalu ar eu hól nhw tan on i'n dod adre am bump.

Oedd hi'n anodd, y ddau ohonoch chi'n gweithio a chynnal teulu ar yr un pryd?

Oedd, oedd, ond roedd y gŵr adre rhyw hanner awr o'm mlaen i. Ond adeg honno on i'n *organized*. On i'n gwneud bwyd y noson cynt, fath o stiwb a pethau, oedd yn barod ar y diwrnod wedyn. Ac oedd hynny'n neis. Oedd yn iawn.

Oedd pawb yn cael yr un cyflog, mwy neu lai?

Dw i'n meddwl mai dim ond y *supervisor* oedd yn cael mwy o gyflog. Oedden ni gyd fel arall ar yr un un cyflog, oeddem.

14:30

Oeddech chi'n rhannu eich cyflog chi gyda'r teulu, neu yn cadw rhywbeth?

Na, roedd yn jyst yn mynd i mewn i botyns (?) ac roedd pethau yn cael eu talu.

Oedd na unrhyw 'perks' yn y ffatri?

Oedd, y parti 'Dolig, a pan wawn ni gael dechrau mynd i rasys ceffylau a phethau. Oedd hynna'n neis. Roedden ni am gael hwyl.

Oedd y rasys ceffylau yn rhywbeth bob blwyddyn felly?

Oedd. A weles i erioed mo'r ffasiwn beth. Ac o'n i'n meddwl, a nhw'n deud trwy'r flwyddyn bod nhw'n mynd â ni i Bangor on Dee, i'r rasys ceffylau, ac o'n i'n meddwl, 'Ie, dw i am fynd', ac yn cofio mynd mewn sgert a *high heels* a *jacket* denau, ha ha, a cyrraedd yno a pawb mewn *wellingtons*, ynde, a cotiau cynnes. Ond cathon ni lot o hwyl, do, lot o hwyl.

Oedd y ffatri yn trefnu bws a phopeth i chi?

Oedden, oedden, roedd yn talu am bob peth.

Y bwyd . . ?

Oedd, oedd o'n glên iawn efo pethau fel 'na, chwarae teg. Oedd, oedd o'n glen, a'r parti 'Dolig yr un fath.

Oeddech chi'n betio wedyn yn y rasys?

Oedden, oedden.

Oeddech chi'n ennill?

. . . ennill dim ond punt, dw i'n meddwl, rhywbeth felly. Ond oedd o'n hwyl, sŵn i erioed wedi yn bod yn ffasiwn le heblaw on i'n gweithio.

15:58

Ac yn y rasys yma, oeddech chi fenywod i gyd neu oedd y teulu yn dod?

Na, dim ond pawb oedd yn gweithio yn y ffatri, doedd neb arall yn cael dod.

Y gŵr, dim byd?

Nac oedd, na, nac i'r parti Dolig, dim ond pawb oedd yn gweithio yno, os oedden nhw eisiau dod.

A'r parti Dolig, lle oedd o?

Neuadd y Cyfnod, bron bob blwyddyn, yn Bala. Achos dyna'r unig le sy'n medru cymryd cymaint ohonon ni.

Felly faint oedd yn mynd?

O, tua rhyw, dros gant, oedd.

Oedd y boss yno hefyd?

Oedd y boss, ac roedd y wraig - y boss yn dod, Mrs Ackroyd, yr hen wraig, hi oedd Yn gwneud y cyflogau, a hi yn dod â'r cyflog rownd.

Yr hen wraig, mam Mr Ackroyd?

Mam Nigel a David Ackroyd, ynde, sydd yn rhedeg o rŵan.

Roedd hi yn wraig i'r hen Mr Ackroyd?

I'r hen wraig efo'i glasses yn ei boced, oedd.

Felly oedd hi yn gweithio yna hefyd?

Oedd, a nhw, y ddau ddaru ddechrau'r lle off, ac wedyn rhoid o i'r meibion.

17:14

Oedd na bonus hefyd amser 'Dolig, bonus ariannol felly?

Dw i'n cofio bonus, ond gynnwys ni - cael bonus yn y ffatri newydd achos bod ni'n gwneud cant bob hanner awr, ydyn ni'n cael bonus. Ac os oedd o eisau ordyr allan, oeddech chi jyst yn gweithio overtime, achos roedd rhaid cael nhw allan. A dyna neb yn gwrthod, ynde, achos roeddech chi'n gwbod os 'sai hwn ddim 'n mynd allan, oedd o'n medru deud 'tha ni mewn ffordd neis, os oedd o ddim yn cael yr ordyr allan 'sai dim gwaith. Ond dw i ddim yn gwybod os oedd hwnna'n wir. Ac roedden ni gyd yn gwrando, achos roedden ni eisio gwaith.

Felly, oeddech chi'n fodlon gwneud y gwaith yn gyflym?

Oedd, oedd, oedd yn gyfleus a dan ni'n medru gwneud o, achos roedd o'n gwbod bod ni'n medru gwneud, achos roedden ni'n siarad mwy a mwy fel roedd yr amser yn mynd ymlaen. . . . Dyna fo yn gwybod bod ni'n medru gwneud 'chwaneg, ond ...oedd. Na, oedd o'n foss da ond oedd o'n waith caled.

A'r cydweithwyr, wnaethoch chi ffrindiau mawr yno?

Do, achos mae pawb yn deud, ym, dy ffrindiau ffatri ydy, ffrindiau ffatri ydyn nhw hefyd. **Dan nhw ddim yn ffrind, fatha 'sai gennyh chi ffrind iawn – ffrindiau gwaith a gwaith chi'n siarad amdano, a joinio mewn yn y pethau gwaith. Ond mae ffrind arall yn ffrind pennaf sy ddim yn gweithio efo chi.**

Felly'r menywod yn y ffatri, doedden nhw ddim yn ffrindiau go iawn?

Oedden nhw'n iawn, oedden, 'swn i byth yn mynd allan efo nhw ond roedden ni'n iawn yn y gwaith, achos on i eisio gweithio efo nhw. Ond doedden nhw ddim yn ffrind pennaf, nac ydyn.

Felly, nawr, ydyh chi'n dal yn nabod rhai ohonynt?

O, ydw, 'dan ni'n dal yn gweld ein gilydd, chi'mod, a'r cwbl 'dan ni'n siarad am ydy'r ffatri, ynde, achos does gennyh ni ddim byd arall i siarad am, achos

ffrindiau felly oedden ni.

Felly mae 'na rai dal yn byw yn y dre ma?

Oes, oes, Mae 'na rhai, dw i ddim yn gwybod am y rhan fwyaf, ond y rhai hŷn, ynde. Mae 'na lot wedi dod o 'na, wedi priodi, ac mae plant wedi gadael yr ysgol ac wedi cael plant, dw i'n gweld rheiny.

19:49

Oedd undebau llafur yn y gwaith?

Union? Oedd, oedd.

Oeddech chi'n aelod?

Oeddwn.

Oedd rhaid i chi fod?

Dim rhaid i chi fod ond roedd y gŵr yn benderfynol mod i'n joinio yr union.

Pam?

Dw i ddim yn gwybod, achos roedd o'n gweithio ar y bwrdd dŵr, a bendant, meddai fo, paid â peidio joinio, fydd rhaid i ti wneud.

Bu yna unrhyw broblemau, fel streic, neu anghytundeb?

Cathon ni ddim streic ond oedd y boi *union* yn dod aton ni yn aml, achos roedd yn trial gwneud, o dw i ddim yn gwybod, ddaru drïo i'r ffatri fynd yn ei blaen am fwy o amser *which* (?) medru gwneud. Cath o ryw grant a rhywbeth, chi'mod, cathon ni fwy o waith, achos y dyn *union* am lwc. Ond pan ddoth i'r diwedd, fasai neb wneud dim byd, achos genna fo mo'r gwaith i ni.

Oedd rhaid i chi dalu rhywbeth i fod yn aelod?

Oedd, doedd o ddim llawer, rhywbeth fel punt ne rhywbeth, doedd o ddim byd eniwê.

Punt bob wythnos?

Dw i'n cofio doedd o ddim byd o bres beth bynnag, **ac roedden ni'n talu 20 pence at Barnardos bob wythnos, which oedd yn beth da, oedden nhw jyst yn cymryd o'ch cyflog chi. Ac roedd rheiny yn dod i'n gweld ni teirgwaith y flwyddyn, chi' mod, i ddiolch am faint 'dan ni wedi . . .**

21:21

Oedd gynnoch chi iwniform ar gyfer y gwaith?

Nag oedd.

Beth oeddech chi'n gwisgo felly?

Adeg honno, roedd pawb yn gwisgo oferôls neilon, ond oedd, dach chi'n cofio

rheiny?

Dw i ddim, ond oferôls eu hunan, oedd rhaid i chi brynu nhw, neu wneud nhw?

Ie, na, o'ch chi'n prynu nhw.

Doedd y gwaith ddim yn rhoi arian?

Na, dim byd, na.

Oeddech chi'n hoffi gwisgo oferôls?

Oedden, roedd pawb mewn oferôls smart iawn, oedd. Roedd yn cyfro eich dillad chi ac wedyn pan aeth rheiny allan o ffasiwn roedd pawb jyst yn mynd mewn trwsus a top.

Felly, yn ystod eich amser, aeth yr oferôls 'ma allan o ffasiwn?

Do, do.

Pryd oedd hwnna?

O, maen nhw wedi mynd allan o ffasiwn ers blynyddoedd, o ynde, lot, am ryw ddeg mlynedd fues i'n iwsio nhw, dw i'n meddwl.

A sut oedden nhw, rhyw fath o gôt?

Roeddech chi'n medru cael un fel côt efo botymau, neu roeddech chi'n medru cael un dros eich pen ac yn cau dwy ochr, tabard, oedd rheiny mwy smart.

A pha fath o overall oedd gynnoch chi?

Cotiau efo botymau i ddechrau *off* ac wedyn ces i un llai, ac es i i'r ffasiwn newydd wedyn, dros fy mhen.

Oedd lliw favourite gynnoch chi?

Nac oedd, *turquoise*, pink neu glas.

23:05

Oedd yn well gynnoch chi wedyn heb yr oferôls?

Na, dw i'n meddwl bod yr oferôls, on i'n teimlo fel bod ni'n gweithio mewn oferôl. Ac oedd e'n cadw chi'n gynnes yn y gaeaf.

Oedd pawb yn meddwl yr un peth?

Oedd, 'swn i feddwl, oedden. Ond roedd pawb fath o'n trio cael un neisiach na pawb arall, ynde, oedd.

Ac eich esgidiau, pa fath o esgidiau oeddech chi'n gwisgo?

Unrhyw beth, roeddech chi'n cael gwisgo unrhyw beth.

Cyfforddus?

Oedd eich traed chi yn beth saff, (?) ylwch chi, eich traed oeddech chi'n iwsio, ynde. **Eich dwylo oedd y gwaethaf, roedd na wastad nodwydd yn mynd trwy'r bys chi, a dyna oedd pinchars wedyn i gael o allan, ond roedd eich traed chi yn *better*, roedd rhywbeth ar eich traed. Ond dw i'n cofio un ddynes rhyw fore yn dod i mewn yn ei rolyrs, achos roedden nhw am fynd allan, ynde, ac oedd gynni hi sgarff drosodd. Dw i'n gweld hi rwan, a dw i'n cofio Mrs Ackroyd yn dod trwodd ac yn deud "*Can you please go home and take your rollers out.*" A chafodd hi fynd adre, dw i'n cofio hynny, ac yn mynd 'O, mae wedi cael row ac mae'n mynd adre.'. Achos, oedd gynna i ofn, ynde.**

Wnaeth hi ddychwelyd wedyn?

O, do, do. Syth ar ôl mynd adre a tynnu'r rolyrs, ddoth hi'n ôl.

Aethoch chi rhywbryd efo rolyrs?

Naddo, naddo, o naddo. Roedd gynna i ofn, do, naddo. A dyna'r unig beth glywais i, chi'mod, ddaru ddim byd arall, achos doedden ni ddim yn gwneud dim byd arall. Ie, dyna'r unig beth, jyst y rolyrs 'na, dw i'n cofio hynny, a dw i'n cofio hi'n codi i fyny wrth y mashîn yn goch a mynd adre. Roedd hi eisio mynd allan y noson, neu rywbeth, ac eisio ei gwallt i sychu yn iawn yn y rolyrs.

24:30

Oedd bobl yn gwisgo make up?

Oedden, oedden.

A nail varnish?

Dim nail vanish, nag oedden, doedd neb llawer yn ponsio efo'i dwylo. Achos oeddech chi'n iwsio nhw gymaint, mae'n siwr.

Y damweiniau gyda'r nodwyddau, oedden nhw'n ddifrifol weithiau? Oedd bobl yn gwaedu?

Oedden, os oedden - fyddan nhw'n mynd â chi i'r syrjeri.

Syrjeri leol?

Cafodd neb *first aid* na ddim byd.

Doedd na ddim?

Nag oedd, nag oedd, dim yn y dechrau, os oeddech chi'n brifo, roedden nhw'n mynd â chi i'r syrjeri.

Y boss, felly?

Ie, oedden. **Ond os oeddech chi jyst yn cael nodwydd, oeddech chi jyst tynnu hi allan a platar.**

Felly, roedd 'na ryw fath o kit first aid?

O oedd, oedd 'na blastars, oeddech chi'n cael mynd i'r offis i nôl un.

Oedd rhaid i chi reportio bob tro bod y nodwydd yn mynd i mewn?

Oedd, roedd hi'n dod â llyfr i chi, a gofyn be oeddech chi wedi gwneud.

Oedd rhai damweiniau wedi digwydd i chi a bod rhaid mynd at y meddyg?

Na, naddo, diolch am hynny, naddo. Ces i ddigon o nodwyddau ond ces i ddim byd mawr.

26:26

A'r damweiniau mawr, pa fath o ddamweiniau fyddent?

Roedd rhai, roedd 'na blades i mewn i'r machines a oedden nhw wedi rhoi eu bys arno ac wedi rili rhwygo, ynde. Chi'mod, pwysau (?pressure) oedden nhw'n cael ond dim byd mwy na hynny, doedd na neb yn brifo yn ofnadwy.

Oedd na rheolau gwaith eithaf strict? Beth oedd yr arfer?

Oedd, roedd o'n strict, achos roedd rhaid i chi wneud, deudwch bod chi, oedden nhw'n gwybod erbyn diwedd y diwrnod faint o waith oedd yn y *packing room*. Ac os oedd dim wedi cyrraedd yno, roedd eisio gwybod, *even* 'sech yn cuddio nhw, fasai fo dal yn gwybod.

Ydach chi'n cofio sut oedd y ffatri ei hunan? Goleuadau, swnllyd? Dach chi wedi son bod o'n oer.

Oedd, roedd yn swnllyd ofnadwy ac roedd o fatha sied, yr unig beth oedd yn cael ei lanhau oedd y llawr. Doedd y *cobwebs* byth yn dod i lawr, achos roedd y waliau yn disgyn i lawr, achos oedd yn hen filding. Ac oedd y glaw yn dod i mewn.

Pam? Na chafodd o ei drwsio?

Naddo, naddo. Mae'n beryg bod nhw'n gwybod y byddent yn symud, dyna pam. Gathon ni fwy o hwyl yn yr hen ffatri efo'r ffordd roedden ni'n gweithio na chathon ni yn y ffatri newydd. Doedden ni ddim yn iwsd i'r pethau, chi'mod, y gwres *on* trwy'r dydd, llawr yn lân 'na, dim *cobwebs*. **Gathon ni fwy o hwyl yn yr hen un, ynde. Ond oedd hi'n hawddach gweithio yn yr un newydd.**

Felly, pan dach chi'n deud yr un hen, y ffatri pyjamas dach chi'n son am?

Ie.

Ac wedyn cafodd hwnna ei brynu gan rywun arall?

Naddo.

Sut wnaeth o droi yn un newydd felly?

Gath o brynu, gathon ni un newydd ar yr *industrial estate*.

Adeilad newydd?

Ydy, adeilad newydd sbon.

Ond oedd well gynnoch chi'r hen?

Oedd well gynna i'r hen un, oedd.

Pam?

Dw i ddim yn gwybod, roedd yn siwtio i'n well pan on i wedi cychwyn a, chi'mod, i gymharu â'r un newydd, oedd hwnna'n rhy smart. Roedd 'na cantîn, roedd paned yn barod i chi, i gymharu â sefyll wrth y mashîn i aros am de. Oeddwn, dw i ddim yn gwybod, roeddwn yn fwy hapus o lawer yn yr hen un.

30:00

Yn yr hen ffatri, oeddech chi'n sefyll neu eistedd ?

Eistedd. Roedd rhai yn sefyll trwy'r dydd .

Reit, dewis nhw oedd hynny?

Naci. Roedd rhaid iddyn nhw sefyll i fyny i bacio, on'd oedd? Ac roedden nhw'n dal i sefyll i fyny i bacio yn yr un newydd.

Ac oeddech chi'n cymryd paned ar bwys y mashîn?

Yn yr hen ffatri. Doedden ni ddim 'n cael gwneud o yn y ffatri newydd.

Am faint oeddech chi yn yr hen ffatri?

O, s'dim cweit yn deg mlynedd - mae ffatri newydd fyn mnd i fyny. Roeddwn i am flynyddoedd yn yr hen un.

Ydych chi'n cofio faint oedd eich oed yn symud i mewn i'r ffatri newydd?

On i ddim yn hanner cant. Dw i'n *hopeless* efo *dates*.

Oedd y ffatri newydd yn bellach i ffwrdd?

Oedd, lot bellach.

Oeddech chi'n cerdded o hyd?

Dal i gerdded, oeddwn. Oedd 'na fws yn dod o Flaenau, wedyn, ond roedden nhw yn gorfod talu. **Roedd yn iawn, oedd, jyst bod ni ddim yn iwsd i'r *luxury*, ynde, Dyna oedd o. Roedd o'n neis iawn, glyd ofnadwy.** Ond roedd y *rules* yr un fath, oedd y gwaith yr un fath, jyst bod ni'n gwneud lot o bethau gwahanol.

31:40

Fel beth?

Roedden ni'n gwneud crysau nos a pethau yn y ffatri newydd, a siorts i fynd efo pyjamas, a rhyw dopiau gwahanol. Roedd yn waith gwahanol *altogether*. Gorfod ni newid ein dull o weithiau i gyd, ynde. Er mod i'n gwneud hems, roedd yr hems yn wahanol. Ydy hynny'n gwneud sens?

Ydy. Oeddech chi'n gwneud y pyjamas o hyd ond pethau eraill hefyd?

Pethau newydd, ie.

Mwy o waith?

Oedden, oedden.

Ac oedd mwy o ferched yn gweithio yn y lle newydd?

Oedd dim, oedd na fwy o ferched, ond oeddech chi'n dal i wneud eich gwaith ei hun, dyna oedd o. Oedd eich gwaith chi heb newydd, ynde.

Ond oedd y boss yr un person?

Y meibion oedd erbyn rwan, ynde.

Oedden nhw'n wahanol i'w tad?

Oedd eu tad yn deud dim byd ac roedd y mab yn gweiddi dros bob man.

Oedd?

Oedd, ond oedd o wastad yn apologiso, bod gynno fo ryw *worry* hyn a rhyw *worry*'r llall, oedd pob peth yn *worry* a dyna pam oedd o'n gweiddi

32:57

Oedd yn gweiddi arnoch chi weithiau?

Nac oedd, na. Doedd o byth yn gweiddi ar un person, roedd o'n gweiddi ar bawb. **Ond roedd gen bawb ofn. Chi'mod, dw i ddim yn gwybod os mae'r oes felly oedd hi, fasai neb yn agor ei geg basai fo'n dechrau gweiddi, achos oedd gynnon ni ormod o ofn.**

Am beth oedd o'n gweiddi felly?

Bod 'na rywbeth wedi dod yn ôl, neu bod rhyw ffyrn dim eisio rhywbeth, bod o ddim digon da. Gweiddi dros bob man ac wedyn, y diwrnod wedyn, roedd yn apologiso.

Sut oeddech chi'n teimlo am yr apologies ma?

Os oedd o ddim eich job chi'ch hun, doeddech chi ddim yn poeni gymaint, ac yn meddwl, 'O, wneith o apologisio yfory i bwy bynnag eniwê'. Ond oedd o byth yn aplogisio i un person, oedd pawb yn rong.

Ond oedd yn aplogisio y diwrnod wedyn? Nid yn syth ar ôl gweiddu?

Na, na.

A'r boi arall, oedd o'r un peth?

Oedd y *twin*, ei frawd o, wastad i ffwrdd. Oedd o'n gwneud y trafaelio a'r ordro, a ponsio. Oedden ni byth yn gweld fo.

34:22

Oedd y cyflog yn well yn y ffatri newydd?

Roedd y cyflogau wedi mynd i fyny erbyn hynny, roedden ni'n cael *basic wage* trwy'r adeg ond oedden ni'n cael *bonus*.

Yn y ffatri newydd oedd bonus?

Oedd, oedden.

A'r oriau gwaith?

Roedd yr oriau gwaith, dw i'n meddwl, wedi newid i *thirty eight and a half*, neu rywbeth.

Cyn hynny?

Roedd o'n bedwar deg. Oedden ni'n jyst yn gorffen am un ar ddydd Gwener, yn Lle chwarter wedi tri fel roedden ni'n gwneud yn y dre - rhywbeth felly.

Oedd hynny'n well gynnoch chi?

Oedd yn iawn, oedd, oedd yn iawn.

Oedd eich plant yn yr ysgol pryd honno?

Oedden, oedden, ond roedden nhw'n hŷn, ond oedden, roedden nhw'n ddigon hen adeg honno

Oedd rhaid i chi weithio penwythnosau weithiau?

Weithiau bore dydd Sadwrn, chwech tan hanner, ond dim byd arall, os oedden nhw eisio rhywbeth *special*.

Felly amser 'Dolig, er enghraifft, oedd na fwy o waith?

Basen ni'n neud 'Dolig yn ganol haf, basen. Roedd pethau 'Dolig yn barod yn ganol haf, chi'mod, ac roedd rheiny wedi mynd.

35:35

Oedd rhaid i chi, oedd 'na system i glocio mewn a mas?

Oedd, oedd.

Oedd rhaid i chi clocio mewn a mas ar gyfer brêcs ac amser cinio?

Nag oedd, dim ond yn y bore, amser cinio, ac ar ôl amser cinio am bump o'r gloch.

Felly oeddech chi'n gweithio wyth tan bump?

Oedden.

Sut oeddech chi'n cyfuno bywyd gwaith a bywyd teulu, a bywyd cymdeithasol?

Roedd o'n galed ond roeddech chi wedi dod i mewn i rwtîn, doeddwn i ddim yn mynd allan ar fin nos beth bynnag, felly doedd o ddim yn gwneud gwahaniaeth. Na, oedd o'n iawn, oedd, roedd yn galed ond roedd o'n iawn. Roedden ni'n gweithio rhyngddo.

Oedd adegau pan oeddech chi'n mynd allan gyda'r nos? Neu dim arfer chi oedd mynd allan?

Na, ni byth yn mynd allan gyda'r nos, na.

37:00

Ydych chi wedi mwynhau gweithio mewn ffatrioedd?

Rhaid i mi ddeud, do. Er yr holl helynt a pethau, do, dw i wedi. Yr unig beth ddaru mi ddysgu cau fy ngheg a gwrando ar bawb ac ateb pawb. Achos oedd 'na gymaint o siarad trwy'i gilydd a roedd 'na gymaint o ffraeo, on i'n meddwl, 'Wel, os wna i agrïo efo pawb, wneith neb ffraeo efo fi'. A ddaru mi ddysgu lot ... chi'mod, sort o gwrando ar bawb.

Oedd pawb, oedd y merched yn siarad drwy'r amser?

Oedden, roedden gwneud *gangs* ohonon ni. Roedden ni'n mynd, chi'n gwybod, oedd yr un un oed efo ei gilydd, a'r rhai ifengach gyda'i gilydd, siwr, achos doedd ganddyn nhw wahanol fywyd, ond oedd.

Felly, oeddech chi mewn gang?

Oeddwn, oeddwn. Ac roedden ni'n cael y *records* 'ma i gyd ar drwy'r dydd, ac roedd pawb yn canu. Cathon ni hwyl, ynde.

Oedd pawb yn canu yn y ffatri felly?

Oedd, roedd 'na lot yna yn canu, oedd. Oeddech chi'n canu wrth weithio, chi'mod.

A phawb yn canu gyda'i gilydd? Neu yn canu'n dawel?

Oedd, on i'n canu dros bob man, ynde, ond roedd rhai yn canu'n dawel wrth weithio. Ond roeddech chi'n gwybod bod nhw'n mwynhau'r radio.

Oedd pobl yn cwmpo mas o bryd i'w gilydd?

O, bobol bach, oedd, oedd, andros o lot o hynny.

Pam?

Dw i ddim yn gwybod. Mae'n rhaid bod rhywun wedi deud rhywbeth am rywun, dw i ddim yn gwybod. Ond on i'n trio cadw fy hun allan o bob peth. **Un ffeith dw i'n gofio yna, chi'n gwybod, tynnu gwallt a pethau. Ie, dwy ferch yn tynnu gwalltiau ei gilydd, a dw i ddim yn cofio am beth oedd o, i ddeud y gwir, ond ?(dychrynnais) i am fy mywyd. A dyna'r boss yn dod ac roedden nhw'n stopio.**

39:20

Am faint oeddech chi yn y ffatri o'r dechrau i'r diwedd?

Am dri deg pedwar o flynyddoedd.

A pham wnaethoch chi ymddeol?

Naddo, ddaru nhw wneud ni yn *redundant*.

Sut oeddech chi'n teimlo am hynny?

Wel, on i'n meddwl, 'sai rhaid i fi orffen yn chwedeg wyth beth bynnag. Ac on i'n chwedeg pump pan ddaru nhw orffen. So on i'n meddwl, dw i'n gorfod gorffen rywbyrd ond doeddwn i ddim barod i'w wneud.

Oedd pobl eraill yn barod?

Nac oedden, nac oedden.

Oedd pawb yn drist?

Oedd, oedd pawb yn drist, chwarae teg, er bod y creadur yn gweiddi roedd o'n crio'r dirwnod olaf, na, roedd hi yn drist, ynde, oedd, chwarae teg. Achos mae rhywun yn mynd i mewn i rwtîn, tydy, chi'mod, dach chi'n mynd yno erbyn wyth, dach chi'n dod yn ôl erbyn pump, a dyna fo.

Oeddech chi'n hoffi'r rwtîn yna?

Oeddwn, oeddwn, achos on i wedi gweithio fy hun rownd o. **Oedd, roedd o'n iawn, rhaid i mi ddeud oedd o'n hapus, er bod 'na adegau ofnadwy. Criaes i lawer yn Y dechrau, ynde, meddwl na fedrwn i ddim gwneud o . . . (?).**

40:50

O achos oeddech chi ddim yn gyfarwydd â gweithio neu oeddech chi ddim yn siwr?

On i ddim yn licio gwnïo am un peth, ac on i ddim eisio *full time* on i'n meddwl. Ond doedd 'na ddim byd arall.

Am faint o amser oeddech chi'n crio? Pam wnaeth pethau newid?

O, jyst am ryw fis, chwe wythnos yn y dechrau. on i'n meddwl 'Wna i byth wneud o, bydd pawb yn gweiddi arna i, a dw i'n methu gwneud o.' Ond mi ddoth yn y diwedd.

Wnaethoch chi ddysgu lot am eich hunan, felly, yn y ffatri?

Do, ac mae pawb yn meddwl os dach chi'n gweithio mewn ffatri pyjamas, bod

chi'n medru gwneud eich dillad eich hun. Fedra i ddim gwnïo, chi'mod, fedra i ddim gwnïo, ynde. Fedra i ddim iwsio mashîn adre am un peth, achos bod chi wedi arfer iwsio eich coesau, a bod eich dwylo chi'n rhydd a bod nhw'n ffast. Dw i'n cofio trio un lectric adre, roedd y bwrdd a finnu'n jympio a don ni ddim yn mynd i 'nunlle. Achos mae gennych goes, a'r nodwydd, mae gynnoch chi'r ddwy goes i wnïo, gynnoch chi'r ddwy law, on'd oedd.

Yn y ffatri?

Ie. Chi'mod, oedd gynnoch chi ddwy law a dim byd, dim ond iwsio'r ddwy law. So, roedd o'n hawdd yn y diwedd ond fedra i ddim gwnïo, ynde.

Wnaethon nhw trainio chi ar y machine i ddechrau?

Naddo, dim rili. Cathon ni ryw ddirwnod efo tamaid o ddefnydd i weld sut oedd o'n gweithio.

Dyna i gyd?

Dyna'r cwbl, ie.

Oedd o'n hawdd wedyn dod yn arfer i'r . . . ?

Oedd, achos roeddech chi'n gwybod faint oeddech chi eisio rhoi eich traed i lawr, pa spîd, oedd ochr y goes dw i'n codi'r nodwydd *with yn brilliant*, ynde, achos roeddech chi'n jyst yn symud o, oedd o'n *brilliant*.

Oedd o'n otomatig?

Oedd o mor hawdd, oedd. Na, oedd o'n iawn, ond fedra i ddim gwnïo.

Na?

Na. Fedra i wnïo botwm ond fedra i ddim gwnïo. Ac maen nhw'n methu dallt pam bod fi ddim yn gwneud dillad i fy hunan achos bod i i yn y ffatri. Wel, dw i ddim yn cymharu'r ddau beth.

41:40

I chi, oedd bywyd gwaith a bywyd arall, gwahanol?

Oedd, oedd. 'Sw'n i byth eisio mashîn adre, ynde, a finnu ar mashîn trwy'r dydd. I beth? Basai ddim pwrpas cael un adre.

Beth oeddech chi'n gwneud yn y tŷ, felly, i ymlacio? Oeddech chi'n ymlacio yn y tŷ ar ôl gwaith?

Jyst *television*, o na, ar fin nos, sut fedra i ddeud wrthach chi, roedden ni . . . chwerthin llawer am bethau gwirion fel teulu, ac roedden ni'n wastad yn mynd i'r gwelyau'n gynnar, a dyna ni, roedd hi'n fore wedyn, doedd. Roedd pob peth wedi cael ei wneud yn barod. Nid bod ni ddim, doedd bywyd ddim yn berffaith o hyd, ond roedden ni yn chwerthin lot am bethau gwirion.

Pethau gwaith neu bethau bywyd?

Pethau gwaith, ie. Ar ryw bethau bywyd, chi'mod, rhyw brogram neu rywbeth ar *television* ac wedi cael ni gyd yn chwerthin. Ac wedyn, oedden ni dal yn chwerthin trwy'r nos.

Oeddech chi a'ch gŵr yn swopio storiâu gwaith weithiau?

Oeddem, ond gan y gŵr, oedd o ddim yn deall beth oeddwn i'n siarad amdano, pan on i'n dweud bod i'n gwneud yr *hem*, 'O dw i ddim yn dallt. Be ti'n meddwl?' 'Wel, beth sy ar y gwaelod.' 'O'. Doedd gynno, y dweud y gwir, ddim *interest* yn y ngwaith i. **Achos bod o yn dreifio lori i'r Bwrdd Dŵr, doedd gynno fo'r creadur ddim byd i ddeud, jyst bod o wedi bod yn dreifio, chi'mod.**

45:16

Oedd o'n hapus bod chi'n gweithio?

Oedd. Yr unig beth oedd o, on i'n wneud lot o *cakes* adeg honno, a dw i'n cofio byddai o yn dod adre ar fin nos a deud 'O, dw i wedi deud wrth *so and so* yfory bod i'n mynd â chacen cyrens iddo fo.' 'Dw i ddim eisio gwneud cacen cyrens' medda fi. 'Dw i'n gwbod bod gen ti ddau funud i wneud o. Wna i olchi'r llestri tra ti'n wneud y cacen cyrens.'

Roedd rhaid i ti wedyn wneud y gacen?

Gwneud cacen. Oedd o'n gaddo cacen i bawb, ynde.

Oeddech chi'n dda yn gwneud cacennau felly, oeddech chi'n enwog?

Na, nac ydw, nac ydw. Ond oedden i'n dwneud tin bwyd, on'd oedd, a wastad cacen ynddo fo, a dyna fo yn roid tamaid o'i gacen o i'r dynion 'ma i drïo, a dyna rheiny yn deud bod nhw'n ei licio o ac oedd o'n deud 'Wneith hi wneud un i ti, 'sti'. Ie. So on I endio i fyny yn gwneud *cakes* i bawb.

Wnaethoch chi wrthod weithiau?

Nac on, nac on. Os oedd stwff gen i yn y tŷ, doedd dim bwys genna i. Roedd rhaid i ti gwcio adeg honno, on'd oedd.

Oeddech chi'n mynd â chacennau i mewn i'r gwaith yn y ffatri weithiau?

Oeddem. Pob pen-blwydd, os oedd o'n pen-blwydd chi, o'ch chi'n mynd â cacen i'r bobl oedd ar eich bwrdd chi, ynde, i'r giang bach 'na. Dyna ni i gyd yn rhoi cacen, rhywun yn dod â cacen ar eu pen-blwydd nhw, fel hynna oedden ni'n gwneud. Ond o'ch chi'n cael cerdyn pen-blwydd gan bawb.

Gan bawb?

Oedd. Oedd pawb yn dda iawn.

Oedd pawb yn gwybod?

Oedden, oedden, ac roedd pawb yn dda am rannu fferins, bod pawb yn prynu yn ei dro.

49:00

Felly, oeddech chi'n eistedd, pan ddach chi'n son am fwrdd, oedd giang ohonoch yn eistedd ar yr un bwrdd amser brêc?

Oedd, ac amser cinio, ac roedden ni'n gwneud yr un peth bob dydd. A fydd neb yn eistedd ar eich bwrdd chi, chi mod, byddwch chi'n mynd i'r cantîn a gwybod bod y bwrdd hwnna'n wag, achos bod chi wedi dechrau o'r dechrau. Oedd o'n iawn, chwarae teg.

Ac ar yr industrial estate, oedd ffatrioedd eraill?

Oedd, ond doedden nhw ddim yn agos atoch chi. Oedd na ffatri *chocolate* yno, ond o'ch chi wedi ... pethau.

Oes gynnoch chi rywbeth arall mewn cof, dw i ddim wedi gofyn?

Nac oes, dw i ddim yn meddwl, nac oes. Nac oes, dw i'n meddwl mod i wedi deud pob peth.

Fasai dewis gynnoch chi yn y lle cyntaf, fyddwch chi wedi mynd i weithio yn y ffatri neu aros gartref?

Na, roedd hi'n fater o raid, roedd rhaid i mi gael rhywbeth i'w wneud, achos y pres mwy na ddim byd. A dw i'n falch mod i wedi gwneud o, ddaru dalu am lot o bethau, ynde. 'Sw'n i ddim wedi cael hanner y pethau 'sw'n i ddim wedi gweithio.

Oedd eich bywyd chi yn well, felly?

Oedd, oedd.

50:00

Oeddech chi'n cymryd gwyliau haf i ffwrdd?

Nac oedden, achos bod y plant mor ifanc, wrth bod ni wedi priodi mor ifanc ac wedi cael y ddau blentyn yn syth, roedden ni methu fforddio wedyn, wir, er bod ni'n gweithio. roedden ni'n mynd i Swydd Caer am y diwrnod ond doedden ni byth yn mynd ar wyliau.

Yn y ffatri, oedd gwyliau gynnoch chi?

Oedd, roedden ni i gyd yn cymryd yr adeg yno. Roedd y pythefnos ola, yr wythnos ola yn *July* a'r wythnos gyntaf Awst, dyna oedd y gwyliau.

Oeddech chi'n aros gartref ac yn mynd ar day trips felly?

Ie, ie. **Roedd yn neis bod adre achos roeddech chi'n gweithio bob dydd.**

Oeddech chi eisiau mynd yn ôl wedyn ar ddiwedd y pythefnos?

Oeddwn, roeddwn i'n barod i fynd yn ôl achos roedd gan bawb gymaint i ddeud wrth ei gilydd. A dw i ddim yn gwybod beth oedd gynnwn ni i ddweud, deud y gwir, ond roeddwn i'n wastad yn edrych ymlaen, ac yn cael gwybod hanes pawb,

chi'mod. Oedd.

Yn ystod gwyliau plant o'r ysgol, achos oedd gynnyn nhw chwe wythnos?

Chwe wythnos.

Pwy oedd yn gofalu amdando nhw felly?

Mam, oedd. Roedd mam yn byw jyst dros y ffordd.

Gyfleus, felly?

Oedd.

Dyna fo, dw i'n credu. Diolch yn fawr iawn Cath.

Croeso.

English Translation

Ackroyd & Sons, Bala (1974 - 2008)

Interviewee: Mrs Cath Parry

Date: 11: 11: 2013

Interviewer: Kate Sullivan on behalf of Women's Archive Wales

00:05 I was born on the ninth of April, 1944.

Thanks. Can you tell me something about your background, your family, where you're from?

I've always lived in Bala. I'm one of five children. I have four sisters and I married a local boy, and we have two children and we're still in Bala.

What did your parents do?

My father was a farmer, and my mother was a housewife.

You were a close family then?

Yes, we were. But with five girls there was a lot of quarrelling.

01:00 *And your education? Where did you go to school?*

I started off in in Llandderfel primary school and when I was eight years old we

moved to Ysgol Goch, Bala. And I passed the scholarship exam and went to Ysgol y Berwyn.

And how old were you when you left school?

Sixteen.

Why did you decide to leave?

Well, at that time, although I'm sorry now, I had no desire to do school work. I wanted to go out and earn money, and I went to work in a newsagents.

So the job in the newsagents shop was your first job?

Yes.

How long did you work there?

About a year. Because I got married when I was eighteen.

Very young.

Yes, yes.

02:00

Did you carry on working after getting married?

No. I had Pat in '62 and I had her brother, Andrew, in '63.

You had two children at a very young age?

Yes.

When did you go back to work?

I went to the factory in 1974 and started working full time.

You were at home with the children for how many years? How old were the children?

They were eleven, and ten, when I started working.

And why did you decide to go back to work?

Because I needed the money.

What was the factory like? What was your first day like, after being off work for such a long time?

To tell you the truth, I was frightened, because there were a lot of English people there, and I wasn't sure if I would understand them, and I thought that everybody was looking at me, and I thought, 'No, no, I'll never stay here.' But I

was there for 34 years.'

A long time.

Yes, yes.

03:17

Was the second day better than the first?

Yes. But it took a while for me to settle down because I was scared of doing something wrong.

Why were there so many English people working at the factory?

Well, I don't know, there were local people, but there was a lot of English spoken, more English than Welsh to tell you the truth.

Did you know people there?

A few of them, not many.

And how did you get the job?

I just asked the boss one night in town if he had any work going, and he said, 'Oh! call in tomorrow', so I went in the following day.

Very lucky! Did you want to go back to work?

Yes and no. I wanted the money more than I wanted the work.

Like many people.

Yes.

04:15

And what was the factory producing?

Pyjamas.

And the name of the factory?

Ackroyds and Son.

Where there any members of the family or friends working there?

Yes, my eldest sister worked there, but in a different place. She was in the *packing room* and I was sewing.

Okay. And had she been sewing before that?

No. She started in the *packing room*. They put the older ones to pack and the younger ones to sew.

So you sewed

I sewed all the time, yes.

Did you need qualifications?

Well, no, nothing.

None. Can you describe your day then? What did you do after arriving?

05:23

From eight o'clock onwards until break time we sewed. Everything we did, we did according to the clock. You had to make seventy five pyjamas in half an hour. And whatever your job happened to be on the pyjamas, you had to do this in half an hour. And the women ... there were about six of them in a row. One started off, and if her machine was broken, we all had to wait. But you had to do that seventy five every half an hour by the end of the day, or he'd want to know why.

So the girl on the first machine, she would do one part and pass it on?

One part, well at that time, she would put the two shoulders together, and then the next one would put the collar on, the next one would put the cuffs on, the next one would sew the collar down and put the label in, and I would do the hems.

Okay. And you did hems all the time - that was your job?

Yes, yes.

So in one day how many pyjamas did you make?

We worked eight hours. We had to do seventy five ... two hundred and fifty .. There were hundreds in a day.

Incredible!

Yes.

07:00

And where did the pyjamas go then?

They went to be checked and packed. **And if they weren't right, then he would come, old Mr Ackroyd. He would come in from the office, and if you saw him putting his spectacles back in his suit pocket, you knew, 'Phew, we're alright.' But if you saw that his spectacles were still on his face, and he called you up, you knew 'that was it.' There was something wrong with something.**

He was the supervisor, was there another supervisor?

There was a *supervisor* yes, but old Mr Ackroyd was the boss.

And he would come down himself to the factory floor?

Yes. To check, yes he would, yes he would. At that time, you wouldn't talk, you wouldn't say anything.

No?

No. You wouldn't raise your head just in case, he wasn't nasty or anything, but he wouldn't say anything. But ... when the spectacles went back into his pocket, I would think, 'Phew, we're alright'. And he would go back to the office.

How many times a day would he come?

He would come about three times.

Three times, without speaking to anybody?

Without speaking to anybody, at all.

Were you scared of him?

I was scared to talk anyway, in case the needle went through my fingers, if you turned your head away, a needle would go through your finger. Or if you had to call one of the sons to fix your machine you would be gutted. Because that was a big thing, the machine being broken, and only the son being able to fix it.

08:48

Right. There were men in the factory as well?

Only one son and there was another boy running around cleaning up the rubbish, that type of thing.

It was a family run factory . . .

Girls only, yes.

And when the man was up in the office, would you chat amongst yourselves?

We would chat then, yes, and we would listen to the radio and things, and sing, we would have fun, but ... you had to work, if you talked you had to catch up on your work, didn't you? You know, that's what it was like. And if the machine in front of you broke, and the woman in front was waiting for work, he wasn't happy.

Did the machines break down often?

Yes, yes, yes.

Why?

Well, I don't know. The needle would get caught or something you know, and if the black ones went through, that was a big job, re-threading, yes.

10:08

So you had to thread the machines yourselves first thing in the morning?

No. If you needed to change the colour, that all you did was cut it, tie it, and pull it

through carefully. But if that snapped and you had to call the boss to re-thread for you he wasn't happy.

Did you have breaks during the day?

Yes, we had the morning break, and we had the lunch time break, and five minutes in the afternoon.

Only five minutes?

Yes. But you wouldn't relax because you knew you had to do so much by five o'clock, or before going home.

And during the breaks, did the factory give you coffee and tea for nothing? Or give you free food?

No. We bought coffee from the machine, or took our own food in with us.

There was no canteen?

No. Not on the high street. No.

You had to go out.

I came home but those people who lived outside Bala, they would sit on the wall outside, or would sit near the machine and eat.

And where was the machine?

The machine was in a big room, everyone was there together, there were jackets on one side and trousers on the other side.

So there was only one room?

One sewing room, but it was a big room.

And in the factory, how many rooms?

In the High Street, there was the big sewing room, there was another small room where they put them in bundles according to size, there was the packing room, and they used to cut upstairs.

12:00

Right, okay. When you say the 'high street' do you mean the part of the factory on the high street?

Yes, you stepped from the high street into the factory, well it was a passage, an awful old building, with no heating or anything.

Was it cold in the winter?

We had some sort of rocket for heat, from what I can remember – there were fumes and the fire, but nothing else there.

Was there an open fire?

No, there was no fire. You sewed sometimes, in your coat.

And what about your fingers?

Wel, you didn't feel it in them because you were using them. They were warm, all the time.

Did you walk to work?

Yes, yes, yes. But the girls who came from Llandrillo and Cynwyd had a van to take them to work.

A factory van?

Yes.

Was that free?

Yes, at that time, until we went to the new place, and then they used to charge.

13:10

Do you remember how much you earned?

I remember the first time, the first pay that I had, was eleven pounds and something for forty hours. It was a lot of money.

At the time.

Yes.

And your husband was working at the time?

Yes, yes.

And what about the children, were they in school?

They were in school and Mam would take care of them until I got home at five.

Was it difficult with the both of you working and trying to bring up a family at the same time?

Yes, yes, but my husband would arrive home a half hour before I did. But at that time I was organized. I would make food the previous evening, some sort of stew, and it would be ready for the following day then. And that was nice.

Did everybody more or less earn the same money?

I think it was only the supervisor who earned more. We were all on the same pay, yes.

14:30

Did you share your wages with the family or did you keep some back?

No, it just went into the pot to pay for things.

Were there any perks working in the factory?

Yes, there was the Christmas party, and then when we started going to the horse races and things. That was nice. We all wanted to have some fun.

Were the horse races an annual thing?

Yes. And I'd never seen anything like it before. And they said all year that they would be taking us to Bangor on Dee, to the horse races, and I thought, 'Yes, I want to go', and I remember going in a skirt and pair of high heels and a thin jacket, ha ha, and arriving there and everybody was in wellingtons, and warm coats. But we had a lot of fun, yes a lot of fun.

Would the factory arrange a bus and everything for you?

Yes, yes and they would pay for everything.

The food?

Yes, he was very generous with that type of thing, fair play. Yes, yes, he was generous with the Christmas party in the same way.

Did you bet at the horse races?

Yes, yes.

Would you win?

. . . only win a pound, or something like that I think. But it was fun, and I would never have gone to a place like that if I hadn't been working there.

15:58

In the races, was it just the girls together, or did families go too?

No, it was only people working in the factory, nobody else was allowed to go.

Not even your husband?

No, nor to the Christmas party, it was only those working there, if they wanted to go.

And where was the Christmas party?

In Neuadd y Cyfnod, Bala, nearly every year. Because that was the only place that could accommodate all of us.

So how many people went?

O, over a hundred.

Was the boss there as well?

The boss was there and so was his wife – old Mrs Ackroyd. She was the one who did the wages and brought the wages round.

The old lady, Mr Ackroyd's mother?

The mother of Nigel and David Ackroyd, who run the place now.

She was the wife of old Mr Ackroyd/

The wife of the old man with the glasses in his pocket.

So she worked there as well?

Yes, the two of them started the place, and then gave it to the sons.

17:14

Was there a bonus at Christmas time, a financial bonus?

I remember a bonus – having a bonus in the new factory because we were making a hundred per half an hour, and we had a bonus. And if he wanted an order out, you just worked overtime, because they had to be sent out. And nobody refused, because you knew if it didn't go out, he would tell us in a nice way, if the order didn't go out there wouldn't be any work. But I don't know if that was true. And we all listened, because we wanted to work.

So, you were willing to work quickly?

Yes, yes. It was convenient, and we could all do it, **because he knew we would do it, because as time went on we began talking more and more. So he knew we could do more. No, he was a good boss, but it was hard work.**

And did you make friends among your colleagues?

Yes....but your factory friends were your factory friends.... **not friends like your proper friends – you talk about work with work friends, and join in with work things. But other friends that don't work with you are best friends.**

So the women in the factory weren't real friends?

They were fine, I would never go out with them but we were fine in work, because I wanted to work with them. But we weren't best friends.

Are you still in contact with some of them now?

O, yes. We see each other, you know, and the only thing we talk about is the factory, because we've got nothing else to talk about because that's the type of friends we were.

So some still live in this town?

Yes, yes. There are some. I don't know about the majority of them, but the older ones do. Many have left, have got married and children have left school and had children, I see them.

19:49 *Were there unions in the factory?*

Union? Yes, Yes.

Were you a member?

Yes.

Was it compulsory?

You didn't have to be a member but my husband insisted that I join.

Why?

I don't know, because he worked for the Water Board, and he said that I had to join.

Were there any problems like a strike or dispute?

We didn't have a strike, but the man from the union came to us quite often, because he was trying to, I don't know. He tried to push for more time (?) at the factory. He had a grant of some sort, which meant more work. But in the end nobody did anything because he didn't have the work for us.

Did you have to pay to be members?

Yes, but it wasn't much, like a pound or something, it was nothing anyway.

A pound a week?

I can remember it was nothing, money wise, **and we paid 20 pence to Barnados each week, which was a good thing, and they just took that from your pay. And they came to see us three times a year, to thank us for what we had done.**

21:21 *Did you have a uniform for work?*

No.

So what did you wear?

Back then, everybody wore nylon overalls, do you remember them?

I don't, but the overalls themselves - did you have to buy them or make them?

You bought them.

Work didn't pay for them?

No, nothing.

Did you like wearing overalls?

Yes, everybody was in very smart overalls. They protected the clothes, and then when they went out of fashion everybody just went in in a pair of trousers and top.

So, during your time there these overalls went out of fashion?

Yes, yes.

When was that?

O, they went out of fashion years ago, I wore them for about ten years, I think.

And were they like some type of coat?

You could get one that was like a coat with buttons, or you could get one that you put over your head, and closed on both sides, tabards, those were smarter.

And what type of overall did you have?

Coats with buttons to start off and then I had a smaller one, and I went to the latest fashion, one that went over my head.

Did you have a favourite colour?

No, turquoise, pink or blue.

23:05

Did you prefer not wearing the overall?

No, I think, I felt as if I was working in an overall. And it kept you warm, in the winter.

Was everybody the same?

I would have thought so. But everybody was trying to get a nicer one than the next person.

And your shoes, what type of shoes did you wear?

Anything, you could wear anything.

Comfortable?

Your feet were safe, you know, because you used your feet.

Your hands were the worst, there was always a needle going through a finger, and then the pincers would come out to take it out, but your feet fare better, there was something on your feet. But I remember one women coming in one morning in her rollers, because they wanted to go out, and she had a scarf over them. I can see her now, and I remember Mrs Ackroyd coming through and saying, “Can you please go home and take your rollers out.” She had to go home, I remember that and hearing, “O, she’s had a row and she’s going home.” She

went because she was scared.

Did she return later?

O, yes, yes. Straight after going home and removing her rollers she came back.

Did you ever go in in your rollers?

No, no, no. I was scared to, no, I didn't. And that was the only thing I heard, you know, because we didn't do anything else. Yes, that's the only thing, just the rollers, I remember that, and I remember her getting up from the machine all red and going home. She wanted to go out that evening, or something, and wanted her hair to dry properly in the rollers.

24:30

Did people wear make-up?

Yes, yes.

And nail varnish?

No nail varnish, no, nobody bothered much with their hands because you used them so much, probably.

Were the accidents with the needles ever serious. Were people bleeding?

Yes, Yes. – they'd take you to the surgery.

A local surgery?

Nobody had first aid or anything.

Wasn't there?

No, no, not in the beginning, if you got hurt they took you to the surgery.

The boss did?

Yes. **But if you got a needle, you just pulled it out and put a plaster on it.**

So was there some sort of first aid kit?

O yes, there were plasters. You could go to the office to fetch one.

Did you have to report it, if a needle went into your finger?

Yes, she would bring you a book, and ask you what you had done.

Did you have an accident that meant having to go and see the doctor?

No, thank goodness, no. I had plenty of needles but nothing major.

26:26

What type of accidents would the big accidents be?

Some of them, there were blades in the machines, and they'd put their fingers on them, and they've be ripped open. They would have stitches, nothing more than that, nobody got badly hurt.

Were there strict working rules? What were the practices?

It was strict, because you had to do it, and they knew at the end of the day how much work was in the packing room. And if it didn't arrive, he wanted to know, even if you hid them he still knew.

Do you remember what the factory itself was like? The lights, the noise? You've already mentioned that it was cold.

Yes, it was extremely noisy, and it was like a shed, the only thing that got cleaned was the floor. The cobwebs never came down, because the walls were falling down, because it was an old building. And the rain came would come in.

Why? Wasn't it fixed?

No, no. Because they knew that they would be moving, that's why. We had more fun with the way we worked in the old factory than in the new factory. We weren't used to things, you know, the heating on all day, a clean floor, no cobwebs. **We had more fun in the old place. But it was easier working in the new one.**

When you say the old one, you're talking about the pyjama factory?

Yes.

And that was then bought by somebody else?

No.

How was it turned into a new one then?

We got a new one on the industrial estate.

A new building?

Yes, a brand new building.

But you preferred the old one?

I preferred the old one, yes.

Why?

I don't know, it suited me better when I started, and you know compared to the new one, that one was too smart. There was a canteen, there was a cuppa ready for you, compared to standing by the machine waiting for your tea. Yes, I don't know, I was much happier in the old one.

30:00

In the old factory, did you stand or were you seated?

We sat. Some people stood up all day

Was that their choice?

No. They had to stand to pack, didn't they? And they still had to stand up in the new factory.

And you used to have a cuppa at the machine?

In the old factory. We weren't allowed to in the new factory.

How long were you in the old factory?

Oh, it wasn't even ten years – the new factory went up. I was in the old one for years.

Do you remember how old you were when you went to the new factory?

I wasn't fifty yet. I'm hopeless with dates.

Was the new factory further away?

Yes, much further.

Did you still walk to work?

Yes, I still worked. There was a bus from Blaenau, later on, but they had to pay. **It was fun but we weren't used to the luxury. That's what it was. It was very nice, extremely comfortable.** But the rules were the same, the work was the same, just that we did many different things.

31:40

Like what?

We made night shirts and things in the new factory, and shorts to go with the pyjamas, and different tops. It was different work altogether. We had to change our way of working totally. Even though I was still doing hems, the hems were different. Does that make sense?

Yes. You were still making the pyjamas but other garments as well?

New things, yes.

More work?

Yes, yes.

And were there more girls working in the new place?

There were more girls, but you still did your own work, that's what it was. Your

work hadn't changed.

And it was the same boss?

It was the sons, by now.

Were they different to their father?

The father would say nothing, and the son would shout all over the place.

Would he?

Yes, but he was always apologizing, that he had some worry or other, everything was a worry to him and that's why he shouted.

32:57

Did he shout at you sometimes?

No he didn't, no. He never shouted at one person in particular, he shouted at everybody. **But everybody was frightened. You know, I don't know if it's because times have changed, but nobody would open their mouths when he started shouting because we were too scared.**

What would he shout about?

That something had been returned, or if some firm didn't want something, that it wasn't good enough. Shouting all over the place, the following day then, he would apologize.

How did you feel about these apologies?

If it wasn't your job, you didn't care as much, and thought, 'Oh, he'll apologize tomorrow to whoever anyway.' But he never apologized to one person, everybody was wrong.

So he apologized the day after, and not straight after shouting?

No, no.

And the other son, he was the same?

The twin, his brother, was always away. He did the travelling and the orders and the fussing. We never saw him.

34:22

Were the wages better in the new factory?

The wages had gone up by then, we'd have the basic wages all the time, but we had a bonus too.

You had a bonus in the new factory?

Yes, we did.

And what about the hours?

The hours had changed to thirty eight and a half I think, or something like that.

What about before that?

It was forty. We just finished at one o' clock on a Friday instead of a quarter past three as we used to – something like that.

Did you prefer that?

Yes, it was fine.

Were your children in school at that time?

Yes, yes, but they were older, they were old enough by then.

Did you have to work weekends occasionally?

Sometimes on a Saturday morning, six until noon, but nothing else, if they needed something special.

What about at Christmas time, for example, was there more work?

We would do the work for Christmas in the middle of the summer. The Christmas stuff we would do in the middle of the summer, yes, and they would be gone.

35:35

Was there a system for clocking in and out?

Yes, yes.

Did you have to clock in and out for breaks and at lunch time?

No, only in the morning, lunch time, and after lunch time at five o' clock.

So were you working until five?

Yes.

How did you balance your work life, home life and social life?

It was hard but you got into a routine, I didn't go out at night anyway, so it didn't make any difference. No, it was fine, it was hard but it was fine. We worked it out between us.

Were there occasions when you went out in the evening, or wasn't that something that you used to do?

No, we never went out at night.

37:00

Did you enjoy working in a factory?

I must say I did, yes. Despite all the trouble and things, I did, yes. The only thing I learnt was to keep my mouth shut and to listen to everybody, and answer everybody. Because there was so much talking, and so much squabbling, I thought, 'Well, if I agree with everybody, nobody will quarrel with me.' And I learnt a lot ... you know, sort of listen to everybody.

Did everybody, did the girls talk all the time?

Yes, there were gangs of them. We would go with people the same age, the young ones together, because they had different lives.

So were you in a gang?

Yes, yes. And we had these records all day, and everybody sang. We had a lot of fun.

Did everybody sing in the factory?

Yes, there was a lot of singing, yes. You sang as you worked, you know.

Did everybody sing together or did they sing quietly?

Yes, we sang all over the place, but some sang quietly as they worked. But you knew that they enjoyed the radio.

Did people quarrel from time to time?

Oh good grief, there was an awful lot of quarrelling.

Why?

I don't know. Somebody must have said something about somebody. I tried to keep out of all of it. **I remember one fight there, you know, hair pulling and things. Yes, two girls pulling each other's hair and I don't remember what it was about, to tell you the truth I was scared. And then the boss came and they stopped.**

39:20

For how long did you work in the factory, from beginning to end?

For thirty four years.

And why did you retire?

I didn't, they made me redundant.

How did you feel about that?

Well, I thought, I'd have to finish when I was sixty eight anyway. And I was sixty five when I finished. So I thought, I've finished but I wasn't ready.

Were other people ready?

No they weren't, no.

Was everybody sad?

Yes, everybody was sad, fair play, even though there was some poor dab ... crying on the last day because she was sad. Because you get into a routine, you go there by eight, you finish at five, and that's it.

Did you like this routine?

Yes, yes, because I worked round it. It was fine, I must say it was happy, even though at times it was awful. I cried a lot in the beginning thinking that I wouldn't be able to do it.

40:50

Because you weren't used to working?

I didn't like sewing for one thing, and I thought I didn't want to work full time. But there was nothing else.

For how long did you cry? Why did things change?

Oh, only for about a month, six weeks at the beginning, I thought 'I'll never do it, everybody will be shouting at me, and I can't do it.' But it came in the end.

Did you learn a lot about yourself in the factory?

Yes, and everybody thinks that if you work in a pyjama factory you can make your own clothes. I can't sew, you know, I can't sew. I can't use a machine at home for one thing, because you're used to using your legs, and your hands are free, and they're fast. I remember using an electric one at home, and the table was jumping, and I wasn't getting anywhere. Because you have a leg, and a needle, you have two legs to sew, you have two hands.

In the factory?

Yes. You now, you had two hands and nothing, nothing but those two hands. So, it was easier in the end but I can't sew.

Did they train you on the machine when you started?

No, not really. We had a day or so practicing on a piece of material to see how it worked.

That's all?

That was it, yes.

Was it easy getting accustomed to things after that?

Yes, because you knew how far you needed to put your foot down, what speed, the side of the leg that I raised the needle with was brilliant, because you just moved it, it

was brilliant.

Was it automatic?

Yes, it was so easy. No, it was fine, but I can't sew.

No?

No. I can't sew a button. And they can't understand why I don't make my own clothes because I've been in the factory. Well, I can't compare the two things.

41:40

For you, was there your life at work, and another different life.

Yes, Yes. I would never want a machine at home after using a machine all day. What for? There would be no point having one at home.

What would you do in the house to relax? Would you relax in the house after work?

Just television, and in the evenings, how can I explain, we laughed a lot about things as a family, and we always went to bed early, and that was it, it would be morning then. Everything would have been done ready. Life wasn't perfect, but we laughed a lot about silly things.

Work things or things about life?

Work things, yes. About life things, you know, some programme or something on the television, and then we would all laugh. And then we would all be laughing all night.

Would you and your husband swap work stories sometimes?

Yes, but my husband didn't understand what I was talking about when I said that I was doing the 'hem', 'Oh, I don't understand. What do you mean?' 'Well, it's at the bottom'. 'Oh'. He wasn't interested in my work to tell you the truth. **Because he drove a lorry for the Water Board, he didn't have anything to say, except that he'd been driving.**

45:16

Was he happy that you were working?

Yes. The only thing was, I used to make a lot of cake at the time, and he would come home from work and say, 'Oh I've told so and so I'll take him a currant cake tomorrow.' 'I don't want to make a currant cake,' I'd say. 'I know you've got two minutes to make it. I'll wash the dishes while you make the currant cake.'

Then you'd have to make the cake??

Yes. He used to promise everybody a cake.

You were good at baking cakes then, were you famous?

No, not at all. But I would prepare a food tin, and there was always cake in it, and he would give a little piece to the men to try, and they would say that they liked it, and

he would say, 'She'll make you one.' Yes, so I ended up making cakes for everybody.

Did you refuse sometimes?

No I didn't. If I had things to do in the house, they weren't important. You had to cook in those days, didn't you?

Did you ever take cakes into work in the factory sometimes?

Yes. Every birthday, when there was a birthday, you took a cake for the people on your table, for the little gang. We all gave a cake, someone brought cake on their birthday, that's how it was. But you had a birthday card from everyone.

From everybody?

Yes. Everybody was very good..

Did everybody know?

Yes, and everybody wanted to share sweets, everybody in their turn shared.

49:00

So, when you talk about a table, would there be a gang of you sitting at a table during your break?

Yes, and during lunch time, and we did the same thing every day. And nobody would sit on your table, you know, you would go to the canteen and know that your table would be empty because you'd been there from the beginning. It was only right, fair play.

Were there other factories on the industrial estate?

Yes, but they weren't close to you. There was a chocolate factory.

Do you remember anything else I haven't asked?

No, I don't think so, no. No, I think I've said everything.

If you'd had a choice would you have gone to work in the factory or stayed at home?

No, I had no choice, I had to do something, because of the money more than anything. And I'm glad I did it, it paid for a lot of things. We wouldn't have had half the things if I hadn't worked.

It improved your life then?

Yes, yes.

50:00

Would you go away during the summer holidays?

No, because the children were young, and we'd married so young and had the children straight away, we couldn't afford it. We would go to Cheshire for the day but we never went away.

Did you have holidays in the factory?

Yes, we all had them at the same time. The fortnight, the last week in July and the first week in July, those were the holidays.

So you stayed at home and went on day trips?

Yes, yes. **It was nice being at home after working every day.**

Were you keen to go back to work after the fortnight?

Yes, I was ready to go back because everybody had so much to tell each other. And I don't know what we had to say, to tell you the truth, but I always looked forward to having everybody's news, you know. Yes.

What about during the children's school holidays, because they would be off for six weeks?

Six weeks.

So who would look after them then?

Mam, would look after them. She lived just across the road.

That was very convenient then?

Yes.

That's it, I think. Thank you very much Cath.

You're welcome.