

## LLEISIAU O LAWR Y FFATRI / VOICES FROM THE FACTORY FLOOR

### Y ffatri staes/The corset factory, Caernarfon (1955 - 1962) (Hefyd Ferrantis, Bangor a'r Ffatri Gocos, Caernarfon)

Cyfwelai: VN006 Mrs Dilys Wyn Jones  
Dyddiad: 13: 01: 2014  
Cyfwelydd: Kate Sullivan ar ran Archif Menywod Cymru

*There is an English summary of the interview following the Welsh text*

00:00 *Ok, Dilys, allech chi roi eich enw a'ch dyddiad geni?*  
Dilys Wyn Jones, 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1940

*Diolch. Allech chi ddweud rhywbeth am eich cefndir, eich rhieni?*

Gollais i fam pan o'n i'n chwech i saith oed, TB oedd arni, a wnaeth dad ail-briodi efo dynes a chael chwech o blant, ac es i at chwaer mam, Anti Gladys. Ond rhaid i mi fynd i'r hospital, Pen Esgyn, Sir Fôn am flwyddyn am y rheswm *caution*, gan fod TB wedi lladd mam felly, doedd dim *cure* adeg hynny, efo TB, ac oeddwn i yn Pen Esgyn am tua blwyddyn. A doeddwn i ddim yn licio llawer yna.

*Sut oeddech chi'n teimlo, byw yno am flwyddyn?*

Ddaru mi grio ar ôl mam a pethau, a chael fy nghloi mewn cwpwrdd.

*Pam?*

Chwarae o gwmpas yn y gwely, mae'n siŵr, a'm chwaer yn y gwely nesa i mi. A hogan arall o'r dref, o'r enw Eirlys. Dw i ddim yn gwybod beth oedd ?? Eniwê roedd 'na lot o blant yna ac oedden ni yno dros Dolig, a wnaeth y *television*, dim *television*, y BBC yn dod rownd a siarad ac yn gofyn pa gân oedden ni eisio ac wedyn oeddech chi'n cael llond sach o doys bob un. Ond doeddech chi ddim yn cael mynd â nhw adre efo chi, ddim yn cael mynd a dim byd o na, mae'n siŵr rhag cario *germs*, dw i'n siŵr, 'sŵn i'n meddwl. A dw i'n cofio cael tynnu'n *tonsils* yna.

*Oeddech chi a'r chwaer yno?*

Oedden, efo'n gilydd, oedd hi'n gwachio ar yng ôl i, 'te. A dw i'n cofio Anti Gladys yn dod i'n gweld ni, oedden ni'n falch o weld rhywun, ac oedd hi'n eistedd ar ochr gwely ac oedd gynni hi het, ac yn gafael yn ei het hi, ac yn eistedd yna, oeddwn i eisio mynd o 'na, yli. A dyna fo, y stori yna te.

*Felly, pan ddaethoch chi yn ôl wedyn, aethoch chi ddim i fyw efo'ch tad?*

Naddo, naddo, oeddwn i ddim yn licio fo, oedd o'n ddyn brwnt. Eniwê, es i i fyw efo Anti Cil ac aeth fy chwaer efo Nain Bethel. Ac o'n ? coroni? mynd efo Anti Cil o achos oedd gynni hi fferm fawr, gwartheg a defaid a chwn a pob dim, *Siamese cats beautiful* ac o'n i'n stario arnyn nhw. Ac o'n i'n gweld nhw'n ymolchi a meddwl bod y blew yn ffals a wnes i dorri, *cut if off*, ac yna Anti Cil (yn dweud) "cnawes, o!, *prize cats* ydy'r rhain!" Roedd hi'n brîdio nhw. O ges i slap a chael fy nghloi yn y beudy, a'r gwartheg yno. Dw i dal gan ofn gwartheg ond dw i'n byta nhw.

03:06 *Y lle aethoch chi i'r ysgol?*

On i eisio dod o na wedyn, so, wnes i gael *sterics*, ac eisio mynd yn ôl at Anti Gladys, so, es i yn ôl at Anti Gladys i fyw.

*O'r fferm, felly, i'r dref?*

I North Penyrallt, at Anti Gladys, te.

*Oeddech chi wedi dechrau yn yr ysgol bryd hynny?*

O'n. Yn ysgol Penyrallt, North Penyrallt, ie. Ysgol genod.

*Oeddech chi a'ch chwaer yn mynd at yr Anti arall?*

Ie, at Anti Gladys. Wnaeth hi adoptio y ddau ohonon ni, o achos dymuniad diwethaf mam oedd "Wnei di gymryd y genod?" Oedd Anti Gladys yn ??

*Beth mae hynny'n golygu?*

Wel, adoptio ni, ynte. Ie, wnaeth hi adoptio ni. Felly, Dilys Thomas on i, Dilys Cross on i wedyn, ha, ha.

*Felly, oeddech chi'n mewn cysylltiad efo'ch tad, neu ddim?*

Wel, on i'n avoidio o, ynte. On i ddim yn licio siarad efo fo. Wnes i ??? na ddim byd. Wedyn, roedd un o'm brodyr fi yn dod yma, doedd o ddim yn licio fo chwaith. Roedd o'n frwnt.

04.30 *Ond oeddech chi'n mewn cysylltiad efo'ch brodyr a chwiorydd?*

Wel, ar ôl i mi dyfu fwyaf, ar ôl i mi ddyfnu fwyaf. Ac mae'n chwaer ar waelod lôn ma. Mae Dicw, y brawd arall, yn dod yma lot, dw i'n gweld hwnnw hefyd.

*Felly aethoch chi i'r ysgol . . .*

Ysgol Penyrallt, ie.

*Pa oedran oeddech . . .*

Chwech oed. A'r teachers yn gwybod bod mam wedi marw, ac oedden nhw'n dda efo ninnau, oedden nhw'n dda iawn, a ges i gael eistedd efo'm chwaer am dipyn Wedyn wnaethon nhw separatio ni wedyn – *headmistress* - o oedd hi'n lyfli te, “Dowch yma Dilys, dw i eisio gair efo chi.” A mynd i'r office ‘te, rhoid *raincoat* i fi, *ribbon*, *jumper*, dillad, o achos oedden ni'n dlawd. Ie, Miss Lewis oedd ei henw i, dw i'n cofio, oedd hi'n lyfli o ddynes. "A peidio deud wrth neb, Ssh."

*A pa oedran oeddech chi yn gadael yr ysgol?*

Ysgol yna, tua deg oed, un ar ddeg, ie. Wedyn oeddech chi'n cael trio *scholarship*. Wnes i ddim pasio'r scholarship - wnaeth Mary, *brains* (*Mary Evans, a oedd yn yr ystafell yn ystod y cyfweliad*). Wedyn, roedd 'na *higher grade* ac roedd 'na *county school, higher grade no brains*, ha, ha, i'r *higher grade* es i, te, pryd o'n i yno, ynte, on i'n miglo. Doeddwn i ddim yn licio'r ysgol.

06:00

*Oeddech chi'n hapus i adael felly.*

On, i weithio'n syth efo'r *Corset Ffactri, fifteen*, dechrau gweithio wyth yn y bore Tan chwarter wedi chwech, hanner awr i ginio.

*Gawsoch chi gyfweliad efo'r boss?*

Do, mynd i'r ffactri, oeddech chi, adeg hynny, i chwilio am waith, a siarad efo Mr Allen oedd ei enw fo, dw i'n siŵr, Mr Allen, ac *'you can start next week'* meddai fo, so oedd gen i fashîn . .

*Pa flwyddyn . . .*

**A ges i chwe swllt, cyflog gyntaf i, chwe swllt, be ydy'r *equivalent* heddiw i chwe swllt? *Thirty pence!* Ie, *thirty pence* am yr wythnos. Ar y mashîn on i, cael fy nysgu. Wyt ti'n cofio'r bratia (*brassiere*) *cross*, un o rheina, ac o'n meddwl “o Dyna smart”, hen ffasiwn! A mynd i'r ffatri ar y mashîn, wedi gweithio yna rhyw chwe mis, a dyma nodwydd reit trwy'n fys i. Y fforman yn dŵad yn tynnu, unscrewio, ac wedyn oeddech chi'n considro fath o *true machinist* adeg hynny os oeddech chi wedi cael nodwydd trwy'r bys. ????? ?? a pawb 'hwre, ' ac yn gweiddi. A doedd o ddim yn brifo, a be wnaeth o oedd ei dynnu fo, yna 'waaaaaaaaahhh', oedd o'n brifo wedyn.**

*Pwy wnaeth tynnu fo?*

Nansi Fawr, Nansi Fawr

*Un o'r cydweithwyr?*

**Ie, be oedd hi, supervisor. Arglwydd, gwallt gwyn oedd gynni hi a llygaid glas, Ac roedd hi fath o Gestapo'n cerdded rownd y lle. A whistle, iwsio whistle, o, a rhegi.**

07:50

*Felly ydych chi'n cofio pa flwyddyn oeddech chi wedi dechrau?*

*Fifty five, fifty six.*

*Ydych chi'n cofio'ch diwrnod cyntaf?*

Ydw.

*Sut oeddech chi'n teimlo?*

**O, on i'n teimlo'n grown up.** On i'n cael fag a pob dim, ha, ha. Meddwl bod ni'n grown up. Eniwê, oedd, mae pawb ers talwm, doedd dim warning fel sy arnyn nhw rwan, ac oedd pawb yn smocio especially gwachio ffilms, yn gwachio'r film stars 'ma. **Arglwydd, oedden ni'n meddwl bod ni'n ffantastig, ie, dipyn bach o lipstick, ie, a smocio.**

*Oeddech chi'n nabod pobl yn y ffatri?*

Oeddwn i'n nabod pawb. Roedd genod y wlad a pawb yna.

*Ffrindiau o'r ysgol, perthnasau?*

Oedd, oedd, oedd. A dw i'n cofio bod ninnau'n eistedd ar y pen, yli, a'r brats oedd gen i, ac ers talwm, doedd na ddim safety measures o gwbl, doedd na ddim shields dros y straps, oedd yn mynd i rownd. Aeth cornel y brats i mewn, a chefais, 'o! o! help, help.' Nansi yn fforcio fo, mynd ymlaen a pwsio'r botwm i stopio'r mashîn ???

09:18

*Felly cawsoch chi ryw fath o hyfforddiant? Training ar y mashîn ar y dechrau?*

Wel, na, naddo.

*Wnaeth rhywun ddangos . .*

Oedden nhw'n gofyn 'Can you sew?' 'Yes' Ond oeddech chi methu - jyst declario hynny er mwyn cael gwaith.

*Felly, doeddech chi ddim yn gallu gwnïo?*

Na, on i wedi gwnïo ond efo'm llaw, ynde.

*Oeddech chi wedi defnyddio mashîn?*

Na, erioed. Wel, do, yn yr ysgol i ddeud y gwir. Do, mi ddysgodd hi yn yr ysgol ? Adel hynny, yr ysgol fan 'ma, dysgu i chi sut i thredio'r machine. Ond, doedd na ddim byd i wneud rîli, jyst gwnïo hems bach on i.

09:30

*Pa fath o ddillad oeddech chi'n wneud?*

*Corsets, living on the fat of the land, fel maen nhw'n deud,*

*Felly, oeddech chi'n gwneud yr hems?*

Oedd 'na seams, oedden nhw fel 'na, roedd y pen yn raw ac oeddech chi'n jyst twtio i fyny a gwnïo nhw i lawr. Wedyn . .

*Bias binding oedd hi (Mary Evans yn dweud hyn)*

Dyna chi. A gefais i'm shifftio wedyn i'r bocs rŵm. Oeddwn i isio mynd i'r bocs rŵm, lle oeddech chi'n trimio'r corsets. A diwrnod o fysedd fel hyn, iwsio'r siswrn trwy'r dydd, a pacio nhw mewn bocys wedyn, Oedd Mr Arnold yn dŵad, y manager, er, y ffforman, cymryd bocys *out of random* a tsecio os oedd dy waith di yn iawn, ac os oedd o ddim, oedd yn lluchio fo ar dy flaen di a dweud '*That's not right, do it again.*'

*Oedd hynny yn digwydd i chi?*

Naddo, naddo. On i'n dda efo siswrn. Ond oedd o yn digwydd, ie. Wedyn, oedd hogan, Margaret Alright oedden ni'n galw hi, hogan *repairs* oedd honno, os oeddech chi'n cael *slip up* bach, oedd hi'n repario fo, ac oedd hi'n dod lawr grisïau, oedd yn dŵad ata ni, '*Any repairs, any repairs?*' Wedyn oeddech chi'n rhoi nhw o'r un ochr ac yn dweud 'wnei di hwnna?' ac roedd hi'n mynd â nhw i fyny, a hi oedd yn gwneud nhw, oedd hi'n ffantastig ar *repairs* oedd hi, te. Ac wedyn oedd rhai yn pushio y weïars i fyny, *bones* i fyny'r corsets ma.

11:00

*Felly, oeddech chi'n eistedd lawr wrth fwrdd?*

**Oedden ni'n eistedd lawr, llawr concrete oedd o, ac oedd na lwch yna, calch oddiw'rth y corsets, 'sti, ac yn cael x-ray, pob blwyddyn oeddwn yn mynd am x-ray yn y Maes, ac ?? yn cael TB, do, am bod y llwch, ie.** Ac wedyn, oedd na, beth oedd ei enw fo, dwad, yn rhoi dŵr ar y llawr? Dim yn cofio, rŵan, o Saesneg oedd o, oedd o'n dod â dŵr i mewn, mewn *watering can*, wedyn oedd o'n mynd rownd y lle fel na a watro'r llawr, er mwyn cadw'r llwch i lawr. Ac oedd hi'n oer yno, **Doedd 'na ddim heating, na dim byd, 'sti. Ond i fyny'r grisïau, oedd na ffenestri tŷ gwydr i fyny'r grisïau a pan oedd hi'n haf, oedd hi'n berwi oedden ni'n cael ein cwcio'n fyw.**

*Doedd na ddim health and safety ar y pryd?*

Nag oedd, na.

*Oedd na unrhyw reolau?*

**Nag oedd, nag oedd. A bob dim yn agored, y mashîns, dim safety catches na dim byd.**

*Ydych chi'n cofio unrhyw ddamweiniau difrifol?*

**Beth ddigwyddodd i fi, 'de, - lot yn cael nodwydd trwy'u bysedd.**

*Ydy hynny'n boenus?*

**Wedyn, pan maen nhw'n tynnu fo, mae'n boenus, ond ar y pryd roedd yn digwydd mor sydyn.**

*Oeddech chi'n cael rhyw fath o blaster neu rywbeth i wisgo?*

Oedd, oedd, *plaster o'r first aid kit.*

*Ond aethoch chi yn ôl i'r gwaith?*

**O, do. Colli gwaith ydy colli pres. ?? On i'n gweithio, on i'n cario babi yn wyth mis ac wythnos yn dod o 'na. A'r rheswm - medrwch chi ddim fforddio aros adre.**

12:00

*Felly, oeddech chi'n bymtheg oed yn dechrau, pryd wnaethoch chi briodi?*

Pan oeddwn i'n ddauddeg oed.

*Ac oeddech chi'n cael babi . .*

Ac yn gweithio, ie.

*Wnaethoch chi stopio wedyn?*

Do, do, ond es i yn ôl wedyn yn rhan amser.

*Pwy oedd yn gofalu am y babi?*

Nain y gŵr gyntaf. On i wedi priodi o'r blaen ac yn byw efo'i nain o felly. Oedd hi'n gwarchod Carol a ni'n gweithio rhan amser. Rhaid i ni, doedd na ddim pres, oeddech chi ddim yn cael help. Maen nhw'n cael bod dim rŵan, lle i goelio. Maen nhw'n prynu coetsys a bob math, o'r catalog gaethon ni coets, talu bob wythnos, coets du a gwyn.

*Felly sut oedd, oeddech chi'n sôn bod y lle yn oer, ac oedd na llwch a phethau, oedd cyfleusterau fel canteen?*

Oedd, oeddech chi'n cael paned a chwarter awr, a smoc bach.

*Oeddech chi'n smygu hefyd?*

O, niwsance, ie, dw i wedi stopio ers blynyddoedd ond adeg hynny doedd dim *warnings* na dim byd felly. Dw i wedi deud, bod ni'n teimlo'n *grown up*.

*Oedd rhaid i chi dalu am y bwyd yn y cantîn?*

Doeddech chi ddim yn cael bwyd yna. Jyst panad a dod â *sandwiches* dy hun. Jyst panad oeddech chi'n cael a dod â rhywbeth, oeddwn i'n prynu chwarter o fisgeds ar y ffordd i'r gwaith, *broken* bisgeds o siop Charlie Babcock, ac roedden ni'n rhannu nhw efo'n gilydd.

*Lle oeddech chi'n byw ar y pryd?*

North Penyrallt.

*Yr un lle felly?*

Oeddwn i wedi symud i William Street ar ôl priodi, ac on i'n byw yna am bedair blynedd cyn dod yma i fyw. Cael tŷ, tŷ *council*.

***Sut oedd hi, yn cael plant a gweithio ar yr un pryd?***

**Caled iawn.**

***Pam?***

**Wel, doedd gynnoch chi ddim llawer o bres, a methu gwneud fel maen nhw'n gwneud rŵan, oedden ni ddim yn fforddio. Ces i ddim drinc tan y diwrnod wnaeth fy chwaer briodi - Babycham, ha, ha, a chaethon ni'n botel o *Babycham* rhyngddon ni, drud ofnadwy.**

15:00

*Felly, wnaethoch chi ddechrau off fel machinist, wnaethoch chi newid eich swydd yn ystod eich amser yno?*

Ar ôl gorffen yn *corsets*, ddes i i fyny fan 'ma i fyw, a ches i ferch fach arall, a bod y gŵr wedi mynd - mynd *off* a gadael i, wnes i weithio fel *waitress* yn Harpers ar y Maes.

*Wnaethoch chi adael y ffatri?*

Do, do.

*Pam?*

Wel, wnaethon nhw newid, wnaethon nhw wneud canfas i *jeans* wedyn, ac on i ddim eisio llawn amser o achos roedd y genod gynno fi, wedyn ces i o ddeuddeg tan bump yn y caffi Maes, yn Harpers, ac roedd ffrindiau yn cymryd y genod i mi ar ôl ysgol, o bedwar tan bump.

*Am faint oeddech chi yn y ffatri corsets?*

Chwe blynedd mae'n siŵr. Wedyn ar ôl bod yn Harpers, wnes i gyfarfod â Dafydd (Llewelyn, y gŵr) a ches i'r tŷ yma. Ces i *three bedroomed house*, wnes i gyfarfod â Dafydd a phriodi a ches i fab efo Dafydd, ac es i i weithio wedyn i'r *cockle factory*, Bangor Road yn fan na, Felinheli, wrth ymyl Ferodo mae'r *cockle factory*. Arglwydd,

gweithio'n galed, oedden ni fath â *navvies* yno yn gweithio. Dw i'n deud y gwir rŵan, oedden ni efo *souwesters* amdano a *wellingtons* ac oedd na *skip* yn dwad at y *belts* 'ma. Wedyn, oedden ni efo rhaw yn taflu'r *mussels* a cocos ar y belt i fynd i mewn i'r ffatri, ac yn socian.

*Oeddech chi yn y ffatri neu .*

Tu allan.

Tu allan, o achos oedd y *skip* tu allan, ac oedden ni efo rhaw fel yna, ac wedyn ar ôl i mi wneud hynna, roedd rhaid i mi fynd ar y lein wedyn i dynnu'r *muscles* a rhoi nhw mewn *jars* a pethau felly, a genethod, hogan dros y ffordd, yn dweud '*Dilys come here*' a '*would you like job in the canteen?*' '*Oh, yes I would.*' medda fi - ffantastig, sych, neis a chynnes, ie. So es i i'r cantîn ac yn gwneud te yna ac yn gwneud pres bach neis fanno dw i'n siwr. So fi a'r hogan hynna yn gwneud *cakes* a mynd â nhw i'r ffatri yn y nos, o achos *twilight shift* oedd o, yn dechreu pump tan deg - rhywbeth felly, ac oedden ni'n gwerthu *cakes* er mwyn i Carol cael pres poced.

*Yn y cantîn?*

Yn y lle *cockles*, ie.

*Felly, oeddech chi'n 'moonlighting.'*

O, mewn ffordd, on, ha, ha, gwneud *cakes*, ie, a mins pies a pethau bach, wedyn, codi llawr ar y genod, on, jyst rhywbeth i'r hogan gael pres poced felly.

*Yn y cockle factory, oedd lot o ferched yn gweithio 'na?*

Oedd, oedd. Roedd 'na *whelks* a pob dim yna, *lemons* ac wŷy wedi berwi, *mussels*, bob dim, lle yn socian a nofio mewn dŵr, ac yn drewi.

*Felly, oedd yn waeth na'r corset factory?*

Oedd, oedd. Wedyn ar ôl hynny, wnaeth hwnnw gau am ryw reswm, ges i job yn Ferranti's ym Mangor, yn gwneud *telephones*, wedyn on i ar y lein yn fanna, efo'r genod, a beth oedd *job* fi oedd gwneud y ?? gân ei hun, ffons hen ffasiwn, ring ring, rheiny, ac wedyn oedden i'n gweithio fanno, wnaethoch chi ddim cael codi dy ben fanno, gweithio'n galed.

*Ar ryw fath o lein felly?*

22:30

Lein, ie. A dw i'n cofio Margaret, oedd yn deud y *News* ar y *television* ers talwm, Margaret, o, wyt i'n cofio Mary? Ac roedd ei chwaer hi yn gweithio ar fy ochr i. Ac oedd hi'n tagu a tagu. "Be' sy'n mater" medda fi, "dw i ddim yn gwybod Dilys", meddai hi, a fuodd hi farw o fewn tri mis - canser oedd arni. Ie, ei chwaer hi yn deud y *News* ar y *television*. Margaret oedd ei henw hi. Bechod, hogan fach ddel. Roedd 'na genod yn dod o bob man i Feranti's, o Fangor, o bob math, Bethesda, a'r storis 'tel' Oedd 'na un ferch, on i wrth fy modd gwrando arni, stori am Anti Nanw. Oedd y ddynes 'ma, o Fethesda, yn byw mewn canol nunlle yn Bethesda, Anti Nanw oedd



ei henw hi  
(Dilys yn dweud stori hir am ddynes od oedd yn mendio anifeiliaid yng  
nghefn gwlad ac roedd ganddi frawd yn America oedd wedi rhoi teledu yn anrheg  
iddi.)

*Felly oedd lot o straeon felly yn y ffatri, lot o sbort?*

Oedd, lot o straeon digri. Oedd na un hogan, Charmain oedd ei henw hi . .

*Yn y ffatri?*

Oedd gynni hi ??? tan haul a rodd hi'n watchio'r pres, a doeddwn i ddim yn licio hi  
am ryw reswm, ac all of a *sudden* roedd ei thŷ wedi mynd ar dân ???

*Felly, tu allan i'r gwaith, beth oeddech chi'n gwneud?*

Pan on i'n dod adre?

***Ie, sut oedd eich bywyd.***

**Golchi, glanhau. Ar ol gwaith, ar ôl dod o'r lle cocos a Ferranti's, oedd plant  
yma, roedd tri ohonyn, doedd, wedyn ddaeth Anti Gladys i aros yma un 'Dolig a  
wnaeth hi aros *thirty five years*, ha, ha, ha. So oedd hi'n handi i fi, oedd hi'n  
gwatchio'r plant i fi fynd i weithio llawn amser wedyn,**

*Oeddech chi dŷ llond bobl felly?*

Ie, ond oedd hi'n dda.

*Oeddech chi'n mynd allan? Oedd gynnoch chi bres i fynd allan?*

Oeddwn, oedden ni'n mynd i'r *football club later on*, mynd i'r *football club* efo Mary  
a'i gŵr, a fi a Dafydd, a chael noson Sadwrn allan, t'e.

*Ac oedd Anti Gladys yn gofalu am y plant?*

Na, oedd yr hogan hynaf yn neud. Roedd Anti Gladys wedi mynd i joinio *old time  
dancing*, am y rheswm bod hi wedi bod yn y tŷ am *thirty years* yn gwatchio'n ôl ei  
mam a'i gwr, doedd o ddim yn *fair* iddi hi, nag oedd. Wedyn, nos Sadwrn, oedd hi  
wrth ei bod, gwneud ei gwallt a gwisgo i fyny a ffwrdd â hi, bechod. Roedd pawb yn  
y dre yn nabod hi, a pan wnaeth hi farw, yn y 1980s, oedd pawb yn y cynhebrwng,  
doedd dim lle i eistedd, oedd na pobl tu allan a bob man, *standing room only*.  
Wnaeth hi farw fan ma, gaeth hi *massive* o strôc, oedd y teulu yma un nos Sadwrn i  
chwarae *Trivial Pursuits* a doedd Anti Gladys ddim yn dda, poen yn ei gwddw, a  
oedd hi'n teimlo'n well noson honno, wedi cael Chinese a pethau. Anti Gladys yn  
eistedd yn y gadair fan'na, siarad i gyd efo i gilydd, pawb, ac mae Helen yn dweud  
“Anti Gladys ddim yn edrych yn dda”, “Mae'n teimlo'n well,” medda i, “Wyt ti eisio  
rhywbeth?”, medda i, “Dw i'n iawn, del, dw i'n iawn, del,” a dyma hi yn cael strôc  
o'n blaena. *Massive* strôc, ‘sti, colli llais, a bob dim. Wedyn oedd yn yr *hospital* am  
wyth mis, ac on i ddim yn meddwl bod nhw'n gwatchio ar ei hôl hi'n iawn, so wnes i'r

penderfyniad i gael hi adre. Ces i wely *special* yn fan'ma, llawr pren, gwneud y lle fel *hospital* mewn ffordd, wedyn roedd rhaid i mi ddysgu sut i iwsio mashîn i feedio hi.

25:55 *Doeddech chi ddim yn gweithio ar y pryd?*

Nag oeddwn, gwathio ar ei hol hi.

*Felly, wnaethoch chi roi i fyny i'r gwaith i watchio ar ei hól hi?*

Wel, on i'n gweithio efo'r *mentally handicapped*, yn fan'ma. Wnes i orffen gweithio pan on i'n *fifty six*.

*Wnaethoch chi orffen lle?*

Yn y *mentally handicapped*. Ac on i yn y *Cottage Hospital* yn gweithio hefyd.

*Felly, aethoch chi o'r ffatri corsets i waitressing i'r ffatri cockles,*

Ie, a Ferranti's. Ifan Jones wedyn, timber merchants, on i'n gweithio yn fan'no, o wyth tan hanner dydd, *part time*, a mynd i'r lle cocos y nos. Ces i ddau *job* ar unwaith, rhaid i chi, ers talwm o achos doedd dim pres, nag oedd. Ac ar ôl bod fan'no, Ifgan Jones, es i i'r *Cottage* i weithio, ac on i'n gweithio yn *Cottage* tua wyth mlynedd, a wnaeth y lle gau, ie, *hospital Cottage*, a ches i transfer i Ysbyty Gwynedd, ac on i'n gweithio fan'no am bum mis. On i ddim yn licio yno o gwbl, so oedd *job* yn mynd efo'r *mentally handicapped* rownd y gornel. Ac yn fan'no on i ddiwethaf.

*Felly, wnaethoch chi newid o waith ffatri i wneud pethau eraill?*

Do.

*Wnaethoch chi jyst penderfynu? Oeddech chi ddim yn licio gwaith ffatri? Beth oedd y rheswm?*

**Ddim yn mater o ddim yn licio. Oedd rhaid i chi wneud, *like it or lump it*, oeddech chi eisio byw, cael pres, roedd rhaid i chi weithio, oedd.**

*Oedd y ffatri wedi cau?*

Oedd. Ac roedd well i fi ddod o Ferrantis i'r *Cottage Hospital*, oedd yn ffantastig, oeddwn i'n licio fannu.

*Oeddech chi'n hoffi gwaith ffatri?*

Nag on.

*Pam lai?*

**Oedd yn boring gwneud yr un un peth, trwy'r adeg, yr un peth.**

*Monotony math o beth?*

Ie, neu efallai bod gen i ormod o *brains*, dw i ddim yn gwybod, ha, ha.

***Oedd na rywbeth oeddech chi'n licio am y ffatri?***

**Oedd, yn y corset ffatri, oedd un yn dechrau canu oedd pawb yn canu.**

28:00

***Canu wrth y gwaith?***

**O annwyl, ie. Ond yn Ferranti's, oeddech chi ddim yn clywed llais dim sôn am ganu, ond oedd yn ffantastig yn fanno. Ac oedd gynnoch chi genod efo lleisiau da, fel Nansi Parry, a Margaret Alright - oedd gynnyn nhw leisiau da.**

*Oedd pawb yn dod ymlaen yn iawn?*

Oedd, byth ffraeo, byth.

*Byth?*

O, na, wel wnes i ddim erioed ffraeo efo neb arall, naddo.

*Felly wnaethoch chi ffrindiau da yno, ond oeddech chi'n nabod pobl ?*

Do. Roedd geneth o'r wlad, Mareth, yn dod o Benygroes, hi wnaeth ein teisen briodas, hogan dda iawn, a Margaret Jane, bechod. Dw i dal i weld lot o'r genod, Gwyneth a Greta, dw i'n gweld y rheiny yn aml.

*Oedden nhw i gyd yn y corset ffatri?*

Oedden, oedd, genod o'r Groeslon oedden nhw. Genod bach iawn yna. A Sally bach, gollodd hi ei mam a'i thad ac yn watchied ar ôl ei chwaer, chwaer fach felly, a doedd gynnon nhw nunlle i fyw, ar ôl i mam a tad farw. A wnaeth Mrs Jones, Pilot, dynes yn byw yn North Penyrallt, oedd gynni hi dŷ yn Cwm y Glo, a wnaeth hi adael y genod rentio tŷ wrthi, a doedd hi ddim yn chargio lot, dynes â calon fawr.

***Oeddech chi'n son am stad y ffatri corsets, efo llwch a pethau felly, oedd na undeb Yn y ffatri?***

**Nag oedd, nag oedd. Oedden ni ddim yn talu fo o gwbl. Dw i ddim yn meddwl oedden nhw'n gwneud o yn Ferranti's chwaith na'r lle cocos. Na, oedd (Undeb) yn y lle cocos.**

Oedd y dynion yn rhedeg o (Mary Evans yn deud hyn.)

**Oedd 'na yn y lle cocos am y rheswm wnaeth Katy dros y ffordd, wnaeth Beti a fi i weld hi, roedd 'na sôs ar y llawr, a doedd o ddim i fod yna.**

*Beth ydy sôs?*

Math o *cream, ketchup*, a wnaeth hi slipio.

*Yn y ffatri cocos oedd hyn?*

Ie, wnaeth hi slipio, Katy, a Beti a fi yn *witness*, o achos oedd na *hose pipe* yna yn hanner rhydd, a oedd hi'n *sixty* ar y pryd, a daethon nhw yma i ofyn i fi fel *witness*, a deud y gwir wnes i, "Well, she's sixty - you employed her, you knew she was sixty when you employed her", medda fi. "That woman fell and hurt herself badly and it wasn't her fault." So, dw i ddim yn gwybod beth gaeth hi, gaeth hi rhywbeth mae'n siŵr.

*Oedd yr undeb yn ymladd drosti hi felly?*

Oedd, oedd, mae rhaid ei bod hi nes.

35:00

*Felly, pan oeddech chi yn y ffatrioedd, oeddech chi'n cael gwyliau?*

Oeddwn, pythefnos bob blwyddyn.

*Yn yr haf?*

Ie. Pawb yn cael o ar unwaith, cau'r ffatri am bythefnos.

*Oeddech chi fel teulu yn mynd i ffwrdd?*

Nag oedden, doedd gynnwys ni ddim pres i fynd i ffwrdd. Digon i ni fyw adeg hynny. Oedden hi gael mynd i Rhyl unwaith pob blwyddyn, ha, ha, dyna'r unig beth, trip ysgol Sul.

*Beth oeddech chi'n wneud yn ystod y gwyliau felly?*

O, gwneud yr ardd, glanhau, mynd am dro, picnics. Roedd gan Dafydd gar, rhyw *dormobile*, a ffwrdd â ni i rywle.

*Am y diwrnod?*

Ie, ie. Rhaid i ni fynd, o, aethon ni i Cambridge, do. Aethon ni i Cambridge i campio. O, on i'n gweld y ficar. "Dach chi ddim yn nabod fi?" "O, don i ddim yn nabod chi yn y dillad na", ha, ha.

*Beth am amser 'Dolig, oedd 'na partiau?*

Na. Parti plant, oedd. Ac yn Ferranti's, oedden ni'n cael mynd i *pantomimes*, a parti plant. Ac yn y *cockle factory* hefyd oedden ni'n cael parti.

*Oeddech chi'n cael rhyw fath o bonus amser Dolig?*

Na, na.

38:00

*Oeddech chi'n cael bonus os oeddech chi'n gwneud lot o corsets mewn diwrnod?*

Na. Chwe swllt yr wythnos!

*Felly, wnaethoch chi ddechrau efo chwe swllt, beth oeddech chi'n cael pan oeddech chi'n gorffen?*

O, ryw pedair punt os oeddech chi'n lwcus, te, £3.75, rhywbeth felly.

*Felly, oeddech chi wedi mynd i fyny. Pa flwyddyn wnaethoch chi stopio yn gyfan gwbl, gweithio mewn ffatrioedd?*

*Nineteen sixty two yn Corsets.*

*Ond aethoch chi o'r corsets i'r cockles?*

Do, pan oedd David yn, wel, on i yn Harpers do, wnes i weithio yno am dair blynedd, ac o Harpers i'r lle cocos, o'r lle cocos i Ferranti's, on i yn Ifan Jones a Ferranti's, y ddau, dau jobyn.

*A beth oedd eich oedran yn stopio gwaith ffatri?*

Tua forty, ie.

*Reit. Os gynnoch chi rywbeth dw i ddim wedi gofyn, unrhyw straeon arall am y ffatri?*

Na, dim really. Dydy'r cof ddim mor dda nag oedd o, ha, ha.  
*Wel, diolch yn fawr iawn, Dilys.*

40:00 Iawn.

### ***English summary***

## **The Corset Factory, Caernarfon (1955 - 1962) (Also Ferrantis, Bangor and the Cackle Factory, Caernarfon)**

**Interviewee:** VN006 Mrs Dilys Wyn Jones

**Dyddiad:** 13: 01: 2014

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

Dilys Wyn Jones was born on 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1940. She lost her mother when she was six or seven years old to TB. Her father re-married with a woman who had six children of her own and Dilys went to live with her mother's sister, Anti Gladys. She had to go to Pen Eryn hospital, Anglesey, for a year as a precautionary measure against TB. She didn't like it there, and was locked in a cupboard because she'd been messing around. There were many children there and she remembers one Christmas when people from the BBC came and asked them about what songs they liked and they received a sack full of toys.

Her sister was also at the hospital, and would watch out for her. She remembers Anti Gladys coming to see her, and sitting on the edge of the bed wearing her hat and Dilys felt that she wanted to leave.

She didn't return to live with her father, who she considered to be a a nasty man but went to live with her Aunt Cil, and her sister went to live with her grandmother in Bethel (Nain Bethel). Her Aunt Cil had a large farm with cattle, sheep, and dogs. She also had prize-winning Siamese cats and Dilys was punished when she snipped the fur of one of the cats one day, by being locked in the cowshed with the cattle. She is still scared of cattle to this day.

03:06

She went back to live with Anti Gladys in North Penyrallt, and went to school there. Anti Gladys adopted Dilys and her sister, as this had been the dying wish of her mother, and she changed her name from Dilys Thomas to Dilys Cross.

She avoided her father, but was in contact with one of her brothers who disliked their father as well. She re-established contact with other brothers and sisters at a later date. One of her sisters lives at the end of the road, and she sees her brother, Dicw, quite often.

She went to Ysgol Penyrallt when she was six years old. The teachers knew that she had lost her mother and allowed her to sit with her sister, although they were separated later on. The headmistress was very kind to her and gave her a raincoat, ribbon, jumper and other clothes because she knew that they were very poor. Her name was Miss Lewis and she told Dilys not to tell anybody.

She left that school when she was ten or eleven years old. She didn't pass her 'scholarship' exam, although Mary did. (Mary Evans present during the interview.) She went to the higher grade school and didn't like it at all.

06:00

After leaving school she went straight to the Corset Factory to work. She worked from eight in the morning to a quarter past six in the evening, with only a half an hour break for lunch.

To secure the job, she was interviewed by Mr Allen at the factory, who told her she could start the following week. The year was 1955 or 1956. Her first wage was six shillings a week, and she was trained on the machine itself. After she had worked there for six months she got a needle through her finger. The foreman came, pulled and unscrewed and released her finger. It didn't hurt until the needle was removed. Everybody was shouting hurray because it was considered to be an experience that made somebody a true machinist.

Nansi Fawr (Big Nancy), one of the supervisors, had removed it for her. **She had white hair and blue eyes, and walked around the place as if she was one of the Gestapo. She used a whistle,**

**and she would swear a lot.**

07:50

Dilys remembers her first day well, and felt very grown up. She was smoking just like everybody else did, just like the film stars in the cinema. **She said, 'We thought we were fantastic, yes, a bit of lip stick, and smoking.'**

She knew everybody in the factory. There were girls from the countryside there and all. There were no safety measures and she remembers having an accident when the corner of her apron got caught in the machine. (Referred to again below.)

09:18

Training was minimal. When she went for a job they asked if her she could sew and she said she could in order to get the work. She could sew by hand but had never used a machine apart from learning how to thread one and sew a hem when she was in school.

09:30

She made corsets at the factory and jokingly calls it '**living on the fat of the land**'. Her job was sewing seams. She was then moved to the box room where the corsets were trimmed. This meant she would use a scissors all day, and then pack them in boxes. Mr Arnold, the foreman, would come and choose a random box in order to check the work, and if he wasn't happy would throw the work in front of them, say that it wasn't right and needed re-doing. This didn't happen to Dilys, who says she was good with a pair of scissors. There was a woman who they called Margaret Alright who did repairs if they slipped up. There were others who pushed the bones up into the corsets.

They sat down to work. **It was dusty there because the floor was concrete and there was chalk from the corsets. They would go for an x-ray every year because of the dust.** A man would come round with a watering can to water the floor and keep the dust down. It was also cold there.

There was no heating in the factory. Upstairs, however, there were windows like a glasshouse which meant that in the summer they were roasting. There were no rules there as such, and everything was open – there were no safety catches on the machines. When somebody got a needle through their finger they would get a plaster from the first aid kit and carry on working. **'To lose work was to lose money.'** When she was pregnant, she worked up until she was eight months and a week because she couldn't afford to stay at home.

12:00

She got married when she was twenty years old, and after having the baby, she went back to work part time. Her first husband's grandmother, who lived with them, looked after the baby. They bought a pram from the catalogue and paid for it every week.

They would have a quarter of an hour break and a cigarette. She has stopped smoking now but during that time she smoked. No food was provided in the canteen, just a cuppa and they brought their own sandwiches. She would buy a quarter of broken biscuits on the way to work from Charlie Babcock's shop, and share them out.

It was hard working and rearing children, and money was scarce.

15:00

After finishing on the corsets, and having her daughter, her husband left her and she went to work as a waitress in Harpers on the Maes in Caernarfon. She didn't continue in the factory because the work had changed – they were then making canvas for jeans, and she didn't want to work full time because of her daughters. She got a job working from twelve until five in the cafe, and friends would help by looking after the girls for her after school, from four to five o'clock.

She worked in the corset factory for about six years. After working in Harpers she met Dafydd (her husband) and moved into the house where she lives now. They got married and had a son, and she went to work in the cockle factory in Bangor Road, Felinheli, not far from Ferodo. It was hard work. They worked like **navvies**. They wore their souwesters and wellingtons to do the work. There were skips coming to the belts, and they would throw the mussels and cockles onto the belt to go to into the factory. Everything was soaking wet.

They worked outside because the skip was outside, and she used a shovel. She would then go down the line to take off the mussels and put them in jars. One of the girls who lived across the road from her asked if she would like a job in the canteen (of the cockle factory) where it was dry and warm and this is what she did. She and another woman would make cakes and take them to the factory in the evening for the twilight shift, which started at five and ended at ten. She would sell the cakes so that Carol (her daughter) could have pocket money.

There were many women working in the cockle factory. They dealt with whelks as well as mussels. The whole place was soaking wet and stank. It was worse than working in the corset factory, but it shut down. Dilys got a job on one of the lines in Ferranti's in Bangor, making telephones.

22:30

Dilys remembers one woman who worked with her, who was the sister of somebody called Margaret who used to read the news on the television. She seemed to be choking all the time, and died of cancer. Dilys would enjoy hearing all types of stories from the other girls. One would tell a story about Anti Nanw.

After work she would **wash and clean the house. After coming home from the cockle factory and Ferranti's the three children would be there.** One Christmas her Anti Gladys came over, and she stayed for thirty five years, which proved useful for Dilys as she would look after the children.

Dilys liked going out to the football club when the children were a little older.

Dilys was working with the mentally-handicapped when Anti Gladys had a massive stroke and she decided to give up work to look after her properly. She had also been working in the Cottage Hospital. She stopped working when she was fifty six.

After working in Ferranti's she had gone to work at Ifan Jones's timber merchants on a part time basis from eight until noon, and also worked in the cockle factory in the evening. After working at Ifan Jones's she went to work at the Cottage Hospital, and stayed there for approximately eight years. The hospital closed and she got transferred to Ysbyty Gwynedd, and worked there for five months. She didn't like it at all, but there was a job vacancy nearby working with the mentally handicapped. She had moved from factory work to other work because she had to. **“It wasn't a case of liking it or not liking it. You had to do it, so it was like it or lump it if you wanted to live, earn some money, you had to work.”**

Ferranti's had shut when she went to the Cottage Hospital, and she loved it in the hospital, it was



fantastic. She didn't like factory work because it was monotonous doing the same thing all the time, although she enjoyed the singing in the corset factory.

28:00

It was very noisy in Ferranti's – “ **you couldn't even heard anybody's voice, let alone anybody singing.**”

She made good friends while she was at the corset factory. One of the girls, Mareth, made her wedding cake. She still sees many of the friends she had there. There were many from Groeslon working there.

There was no union in the corset factory, and Dilys can't remember one being in Ferranti's either although there was one in the cockle factory. Dilys remembers seeing one of the girls called Katy slipping on some sauce which was on the floor and hurt herself. Dilys was quizzed as a witness and thinks that the woman in question was compensated.

35:00

Dilys had a fortnight's holiday a year in the corset factory during the factory 'shut down.' They couldn't afford to go away together as a family. They all went to Rhyl once a year on a Sunday School trip. During the holidays she would garden, clean, go for walks and go on picnics. Dafydd had a car and they would go out in that for the day. They went camping to Cambridge, once.

**There was a children's party at Christmas time, and when she was in Ferranti's they would go to the pantomime and have a children's party. There was even a children's party when she worked at the cockle factory. There was no financial bonus at Christmas at the corset factory though, and no bonuses for extra production. Dilys's wages went up from six shillings to approximately four pounds a week during the time she was there. She stopped working there in 1962 and was aged approximately forty when she finished factory work.**