

LLEISIAU O LAWR Y FFATRI / VOICES FROM THE FACTORY FLOOR

Dolgarrog Aluminum (1936-68)

Cyfwelai: VN018 Mair (Mary) Bronwen Williams
Dyddiad: 10: 03: 2014
Cyfwelydd: Kate Sullivan ar ran Archif Menywod Cymru

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

Cadarnhaodd Mair ei henw, ei chyfeiriad a'i dyddiad geni, sef 02/03/1921.

(Roedd Elfyn Jones, VN017, yn bresennol yn ystod y cyweliad)

Samuel Powell oedd ei thad, a Hannah Louise Powell oedd ei mam. Daeth ewythr i fyny o'r de i weithio yno, yn cerdded o Hirwaun, ar ôl clywed bod gwaith yn Nolgarrog. Daeth ei wraig i fyny i ymuno ag ef, sef modryb Mair, yn nes ymlaen, cyn 1925 oedd hynny, achos roedd ei modryb a'i mam wedi gweld damwain ddŵr Dolgarrog y flwyddyn honno yn y sinema, ac yn deud nad oedden nhw byth eisiau byw mewn lle fel hynny. Ond ddwy flynedd wedyn, roedd ei modryb wedi symud i Ddolgarrog. Yn fuan, aeth brawd Mair i fyny ac mewn blwyddyn ei brawd arall, ac yn y diwedd y teulu i gyd, yn byw yn yr un stryd lle mae'n byw rŵan, rhif 30, ac wedyn symud i'r un tŷ lle mae'n byw rŵan, ac roedd hi'n byw efo'i rheini tan iddi briodi. Roedd llawer o dai wag bryd hynny, cyn i bobl symud i mewn i weithio yn Nolgarrog, ac roedd y cwmni piau llawer ohonynt. Roedd y bós, Mr Jack, yn byw mewn plasty ger y ffatri.

Cafodd Mair ei geni yn Hirwaun ac wedyn symudodd i Ddolgarrog pan oedd tua 5 oed a mynd i'r ysgol fanno. Roedd clinic gyferbyn â'r ysgol. Aeth hi wedyn i Ysgol Talybont ond aeth hi ddim ymlaen I'r ysgol ramadeg. Roedd hi'n hoffi chwaraeon a ddim yn hoffi'r dosbarth mathemateg. Siaradodd dipyn am yr ysgol yma a'r athrawon.

12:00 Gadawodd hi'r ysgol yn 16 oed, a chafodd hi swydd gofalu am ddwy hogan fach (lle?), ond bob tro roedd hi'n dod adre roedd yn llefain achos roedd hi'n 'homesick.' Roedd ganddi *half day* ddydd Iau a byddai'n dod adre'r diwrnod hwnnw. Roedd yn gas ganddi'r *half days* yma a byddai'n crio ar y bws ar y ffordd yn ôl, roedd hi wedi cael ei sbwylio gan ei brodyr. Dydy hi ddim yn cofio sut cafodd hi'r swydd hon. Cafodd hi swydd arall mewn siop losin wedyn (lle?) a dechreuodd hi yn Nolgarrog yn 1936. ?Ar ôl i'r rhyfel (neu yn ystod y rhyfel?), roedd yn rhaid i'r merched symud i mewn i'r felin fawr.

"Wrth gwrs, wrth fod y rhyfel wedi dŵad, roedd rhaid i ni genod symud wedyn i fyny i'r lle mawr achos roedd yr hogiau yn mynd i'r rhyfel, doedd, cael eu galw i fyny."

Dechreuodd hi yn y *light sheet mill*, lle roedden nhw'n rollo shîts ysgafn, y rhan fwyaf ohonynt yn mynd i Awstralia ar gyfer tiniau bach cold cream:

"Pan oedden ni'n rholio nhw, roedden nhw'n mynd ar ryw mashîn, ac wedyn roedden nhw'n slitio nhw fewn yn y gwaelod ac wedyn roedden nhw'n pwshiad y mashîn 'ma nol ac ymlaen . . ac wedyn roedden nhw'n mynd yn wyn ar ôl i chi fynd so many *passes* oeddech chi'n rhoid. Ac wedyn roedden nhw'n torri nhw fel beth oedd y *firm* eisau nhw ac roedden nhw'n gyrru rheina i Awstralia. Ac roedden nhw'n torri nhw, dim yn deud mai cold cream oedden nhw, ond sut oedd y tuniau bach yn cael eu, ac wedyn, yn y diwedd, mi ddaru dipyn o *firms* wedyn clywed am y peth, achos peth newydd oedd o, a ddaru nhw ordro."

Aeth Mair o'r *light sheet mill* i fyny i'r felin fawr, felly. Mae'n dweud tasai hi wedi aros yn y siop sweets, basai hi wedi cael ei galw i fyny, ond achos roedd hi wedi mynd i'r gwaith hwnnw roedd hi o dan reolau arbennig, achos roedd y gwaith yn gwneud pethau i'r rhyfel. Roedd hi'n 17 oed yn mynd i'r ffatri. Byw gartre yr oedd hi - yn "*dipyn o home bird*." Roedd hi'n mwynhau'r gwaith. Chafodd hi ddim cyfweiliad swyddogol, dim ond mynd lawr i ofyn. Aeth ewythr â hi i lawr i weld rhyw Mr Oswin, a oedd yn gyfrifol am dai'r gweithwyr ac am bwy oedd yn dod i mewn i'r gwaith, ac aeth hi i'w weld o "a beth nesaf, on i'n cael job."

"A dyna le oedden i tan 54, 55. Ces i briodi, ces i ddim plant, naddo, ac wedyn, wrth gwrs, wnes i gario ymlaen gweithio. A'r gŵr yn gweithio 'na hefyd."

O ran hyfforddiant, dywedodd "**Pam ddaru chi fynd i mewn i'r gwaith, oedd gynnoch chi'r *rolls* 'ma, ac oeddech chi'n gorfod pwshio, roedd y shîts yn dechrau seis hynna, ac roeddech chi'n rholio nhw, tynnu rhyw olwyn fach, ac roedden nhw'n mynd yn fwy wedyn, ac wedyn, tu nôl oedden ni i ddechrau, a pan oedden ni wedi cael y peth 'na, a thipyn o *brains*, 'te, roeddech chi'n cael *promotion* o fan na."**

Gweithio i *orders* oedden nhw, dibynnu ar faint. Ar ôl eu rholio nhw, oes oedden nhw ddim y maint roedden nhw eisiau roedden nhw'n mynd â nhw i gael eu torri, eu rhoi nhw o dan y *shears*, i'w torri nhw i faint oedd ar yr *orders*. Ac wedyn caent eu gyrru i ffwrdd. Roedd hi'n teimlo'n iawn ar ei diwrnod cyntaf achos roedd hi'n byw gartre ac yn nabod llawer o bobl, pobol leol bron i gyd oedd y gweithwyr yr adeg hynny. "Wrth gwrs, roedden nhw'n hynach na fi."

Cwrddodd hi â'i gwr yn y ffatri pan oedd hi'n 19 oed. Roedd ei gŵr yn gweithio yn yr adran bacio. Roedden nhw'n pacio'r shîts yn ofalus efo blocs o bren yn y bocsys. Priododd nhw yn 1944.

23:00 Ei chyflog cyntaf hi oedd 12s and 6d. "**A pan ges i fynd ar ffrynt, tu nol i'r rôl, ac wedyn pan es i ar y ffrynt, dw i'n meddwl bod e wedi codi i 15s and 6d, 'ta 16s and 6d?, doedd o ddim yn llawer mwy 'te . . . O, roeddw'n i'n meddwl mod i, argoel, a diwrnod cyflog, roeddech chi'n gorfod mynd, wedyn, dod i mewn i'r lle gwaith, dim y gwaith, dod i mewn i'r lle roeddech chi'n dechrau . . . *time office*, ond cyn i chi ddod i fan na . . . roeddech chi'n dod i mewn, ac wedyn roeddech chi'n mynd i fyny rhyw lwybr ac wedyn roedd 'na office bach yn fanna, ac wedyn ar y diwrnod cyflog roedden nhw'n agor y ffenestr ac roeddech chi'n rhoi cerdyn i mewn, ac roedden nhw'n rhoi'ch cyflog, ac wedyn roeddech chi'n mynd trwodd**

wedyn i'r *time office*, a rhoid y cerdyn i glocio fewn a rhoid o yn y slots lle oedd *number* eich cerdyn chi."

Byw gartref yr oedd hi'r adeg hon, ac yn gwario ei chyflog ar ddillad - mae'n mynd ymlaen i siarad am siop ddillad yng Nghonwy, lle roeddech chi'n gallu talu, e.e. punt yr wythnos a bydden nhw'n cadw ffrog, neu got i chi nes eich bod chi wedi talu amdani. **"Roedd ei mam yn dweud bod hi'n wirion efo ddillad, gen i fwy o ddillad na dim byd. Well, ychydig gaeth mam o'r pres, te. A deud yn onest, 'te, hwyrach fasai'n well taswn i wedi rhoi mwy, on i'n gwbod hynny, ond wrth gwrs oedd gynna i ddau frawd adre hefyd, ar y pryd doedden nhw ddim wedi priodi."**

Doedden nhw ddim yn *'well off'* ond doedd y teulu ddim yn dlawd, meddai. Roedd ei thad yn gweithio ac roedd y brodyr yn dod ag arian adre hefyd. **"Ges i bob dim oedd gynna i eisio, dedwch fel 'na."** Mae'n mynd ymlaen i siarad am siop yn Llanrwst, London House, lle roeddech chi'n gallu prynu dillad 'ar tic' ac roedd hi'n mynd yno hefyd i brynu dillad. Roedd yn rhaid cael cot newydd a het ar gyfer y capel a'r gymanfa; roedd hi'n gwneud lot efo'r capel y tu allan i'r gwaith. Mae'n mynd ymlaen yma i siarad am y capel am dipyn. Roedd hi'n ymarfer canu cyn y gwaith ac ar ôl ond wedi iddi ddechrau canlyn, doedd hi ddim yn mynd gymaint.

Yn y gwaith, roedd hi'n gwisgo dillad fel sgert a thop, doedd trowseri ddim yn arferol; roedd hi'n sôn am wisgo rhyw fath o ddefnydd ond doedd hi dim yn cofio beth oedd o; wedyn daeth rhyw fath o *overall* yn y 70au, mae'n debyg, ac wedyn trowseri - **"Pan ddaeth y trwsys i mewn, roedd hwnna'n fendith i ddeud y gwir . . doedden nhw ddim yn deud wrthoch rhaid i chi wisgo fel hyn neu fel 'na."** Roedd y gwaith yn gallu bod yn frwnt, achos yr olew; roedd yn rhaid rhoi olew ar y *rolls*, a'u dipio nhw, a doedd hi ddim yn hoffi gwisgo'r un dillad i fynd allan ag roedd hi'n eu gwisgo yn y ffatri.

"Pan oeddech chi'n cael y shîts 'ma i ddechrau, roedd 'na un set o rôls, roeddech chi'n cael y shîts a phlygu nhw drosodd, ar ôl pwshio nhw mewn, ac wedyn, roedd 'na ddau shît mewn ffordd ond roedden nhw'n sownd un pen, rhaina oedd y mwya' budr . . rhyw ddau ddiwrnod fues i ar rhaina, doeddwn i ddim yn licio'r rôls hynna."

Roedd hi'n trio disgrifio rols efo olwynion, rols roeddech chi'n medru'u tynnu, ond doedd hi ddim yn cofio'n iawn. Efallai, fod dwy ferch ar y rôls, un ar y blaen yn tynnu'r olwyn; mae'n ymddangos bod y rôls 'ma yn dibynnu ar ddau berson. Merched ar y rôls ysgafn, a dynion ar y rôls mawr.

Mae'n cofio'r ffatri fel lle hapus, lot o hwyl, gyda merched a dynion yn gweithio yno. Doedd 'na ddim dynion o gwbl yn y light sheet mill, ond pan ddaeth y rhyfel roedd yn rhaid i nifer o ferched symud i'r felin fawr. Roedd y gwaith yr un peth ond roedd y shîts yn fwy ac yn drymach. Mae'n deud bod nhw'n saff yn Nolgarrog rhag cael eu galw i fyny i ymuno â'r fyddin. Gwneud pethau i'r rhyfel oedd Dolgarrog, gan amlaf adenydd awyrennau. Bob amser roedden nhw wedi gwneud shîts ar gyfer pethau, nid y pethau eu hunain. Anfonwyd yr alwminiwm i ffwrdd i gael ei wneud i mewn i'r eitem derfynol.

Doedd ganddi hi ddim byd i ddweud am y rhyfel, dim ond am pan aeth hi i'r Almaen ar ôl y rhyfel efo'r côr. Aeth hi ymlaen i siarad am y trip hwn am dipyn.

40:40 Doedd y ffatri ddim yn gwneud dim byd fel tripiâu i ffwrdd. Roedd llawer o bobl o Lanrwst yn gweithio yno, meddai, pawb yn ffrindiau mawr ond ddim yr un fath â phobl Dolgarrog. Aeth hi erioed allan efo nhw, i gymdeithasu. Roedd pwll nofio yno a chyrtau tennis y tu ôl i'r ffatri, y cwmni oedd wedi eu hadeiladau nhw, ac roedden nhw'n cael partïon ar gyfer *Bonfire Night*. Hefyd, ar un

adeg, roedd 'na *engine* bach yn mynd o'r ffatri i'r *station* (wnaeth hi ddim dweud y stori'n llawn, ond roedd pobl yn mynd o'r capel ar y *engine* yma; doedd o ddim yn glir os oedd pobl y ffatri yn mynd ar drips ar yr *engine* yma).

Priododd hi yn 1944. Cafodd hi drafferth i gael brecwast priodas achos diffyg le. Cariodd hi ymlaen i weithio ar ôl priodi. Roedd hi yn y gwaith o 1936 i 1968. ? Gwnaeth ei gŵr hefyd gario ymlaen yn yr un ffatri.

Pan ddechreuodd hi yn y *light sheet mill*, roedd 'na fachgen ifanc wedi bod yno fel rheolwr/fforman yn y *light sheet mill*, a dydy hi ddim yn cofio beth ddigwyddodd iddo, ond mae'n dweud ei fod o'n ifanc ac felly roedd y merched yn gwneud beth bynnag roedden nhw eisiau, chwarae cardiau ayyb. Riportiodd rhywun y bachgen yma, am beidio â gwneud ei swydd yn dda **“On i wedi mynd i'r toiled un diwrnod a dod yn ôl ac on i'n gweld y *notice board* ac on i'n gweld arno '*wanted foreman, foreman, nid forewoman, foreman, light sheet mill*. . . O, dw i'n mynd i drïo, medda fi.”** Doedd Wil, ei gŵr, ddim eisiau clywed dim byd amdano pan ddywedodd Mair wrtho. **“Dim ots gen i ond paid â dod ag o adre efo ti, dw i ddim eisio clywed dim byd amdano fo,”** dywedodd ei gŵr. Ar ôl meddwl am dipyn, aeth Mair i weld y bós, 'Jinks'. **“Mair yw fy enw fi.”** Saeson oedden nhw a ddim yn gallu dweud ei henw'n iawn. **“Well, Mair, what can I do for you?”** A minnau'n eistedd lawr, **“Well, you can do a lot for me. I'm trying for that job in the light sheet mill.”** **“Oh, meddai fo, “aren't you happy?, rhywbeth fel na.”** Cafodd hi'r swydd, rheolwraig y *light sheet mill*.

“Ond rhaid i chi fod yn ofalus, on i wedi mynd i fan 'na, i'r *light sheet mill*, pan on i'n dechrau'r gwaith, a dw i'n hogan, faswn i ddim byth yn gofyn i chi wneud rhywbeth a faswn i ddim wedi gwneud o faswn i yn eich lle chi i ddechrau. Ac, wrth gwrs, roedden i'n cael paned o de, on i, cyn i mi symud rwan, a wyddoch chi be ydy genod, dw i'n deud y gwir, maen nhw mwy *catty* na dynion i ddeud y gwir, ‘te, ac roedden nhw wedi bod, yr adeg hynny roedden nhw ar shifftiau chwech tan ddau a dau tan ddeg, ac oedd y bobl ar shifftiau yn cael brecwast o ddeg tan hanner awr wedi deg, ac roedden nhw'n dod o'r cantîn a rhaid bod nhw wedi gweld fi yn eistedd ar y gadair, pasio, ac on i wedi clywed un yn deud 'Well, I 'm not going to take off her, if she tells me to do anything . . . ' rhywbeth fel ‘na, wnes i ddim cymryd dim sylw. *Anyway*, ar y bore dydd Llun, wnes i ddechrau, do, es i mewn a'r offis, on i'n methu mynd i mewn, on i ddim yn gwybod bod rhaid i ti gael gorïad o'r *time office*, a mynd i nôl y gorïad 'ma . . . es i i nôl o a mynd i mewn, a doedd y genod ddim wedi symud rwan, oedd gynnyn nhw ryw fath o, pan oedden nhw'n cael paned o de, doedden nhw ddim i fod i gael o, wrth le oedden nhw'n gweithio, roedd 'na berygl, oedden nhw i fod i fynd lle roedden nhw'n galw'r *rest room*. Wel, roedden nhw i gyd yn fan 'na pan wnes i ddod, ac on i'n clywed 'Oh, she's here' a phethau fel 'na. On i ddim wedi tynnu'n got i, a dyma fi yn nocio'r drws a'i agor o, yn y lle roedden nhw, faint oedd ‘na, *sixteen* dw i'n meddwl, a 'Look', medda fi, *I heard a lot of comments*', medda fi fel 'na, dywedais i wrthyn nhw, *You can guarantee I'll never ask you to do anything that I wouldn't do myself. So you can take it either way*', medda fi. *But as long as we work together . . . ' a ches i erioed trafferth efo nhw.”*

50:00 Dywedodd stori arall yn ymwneud â'r adeg pan oedd hi'n *forewoman*. Roedd 'na bedwar bachgen yno - 'hogiau bach da', dywedodd Mair - ac roedden nhw mewn tafarn yn Newborough un noson acr oedd gŵr Mair wedi digwydd galw i mewn i'r un dafarn ar y ffordd yn ôl o Lanrwst. Clywodd o'r bechgyn yma'n siarad ac roedd un ohonynt yn deud 'You know that woman that's in the *light sheet mill*? *Duw, I'm afraid of her, you know. I'm scared of her.*' A'r gŵr yn deud '*She's alright you know.*' A'r un gyntaf yn ateb. '*Oh, I wouldn't do anything with her.*' Daeth y gŵr adre a gofyn i Mair 'Be arglwydd? aflwydd ti'n gwneud yn y gwaith? . . . Dw i wedi clywed pethau mawr

amdanat ti heno.'

“Roedd gen i betha efo hogiau bach, ‘te. On i'n licio'r hogiau. Roedd y genod ym meddwl bod fi'n ffafrio nhw.”

Pan ofynnodd y cyfwelydd sut aeth y swydd yn ei blaen a'r berthynas rhyngddi â'r gweithwyr, dywedodd Mair. “Roeddwn i wedi gweithio am dipyn cyn es i i'r job ar y staff.”

Gorffennodd hi orffen yn 1968, pan ddaeth opsiwn o *redundancy*. Roedd ei gŵr wedi gorffen o'i blaen hi ac roedd hi'n gweld ei fod o ar ei ben ei hun lawer. Bu Wil farw yn 72 neu 74 oed yn 1982, felly roedd hi'n falch ei bod hi wedi gorffen cyn hynny. Teithion nhw dair gwaith i'r USA a fasai hi ddim wedi cael y cyfle i wneud hynny tasai i ddim wedi cymryd *redundancy*. Roedd hi wedi cael digon erbyn hynny, meddai. Cafodd hi barti ffarwelio ac anrheg - dau dancard arian. Roedd hi'n 61 oed yn gorffen.

Gweithio mewn siop roedd hi eisiau ei wneud yn wreiddiol ond eisiau aros gartref yr oedd hi, a ddim eisiau cael ei galw i fyddin. Roedd hi'n 'ofnadwy am gartref'.. Priododd hi yn 23 oed, ar ôl canlyn am bum mlynedd. Cafodd hi hwyl yn y ffatri. “Doedd dim ots lle roeddech chi'n mynd, rhaid i chi weithio, doedd?” Yr adeg hynny, doedd y bosys ddim mor '*keen*' ag y maen nhw heddiw, meddai, ac roedd hi'n nabod y bosys yn dda, ac oredden nhw'n iawn, er bod un ohonynt, Oswin o Landudno, dipyn bach yn oer.

Soniodd hi ar y diwedd am hanes doniol. Roedd yn rhaid iddi weithio shifft nos hefyd, deg tan chwech, ac roedd bachgen o Lanrwst yn gweithio lle roeddynt yn golchi a dipio'r shîts alwminiwm. Roedd y bachgen hwn yn dipyn o gomic, ac roedd ganddo rywbeth fel '*urn*' ac yn berwi dŵr ynddo i wneud te iddynt yn ystod y shifft. Un o'r *foremen* oedd Jack Ifans ac roedd un o'r merched, Jessie Murdock, yn hoff o siarad efo fo:

“A pan oedden ni eisio cael paned, oedden ni'n deud wrth Jessie '*Go and talk to Jack Ifans in the office.*' A honno'n mynd i'r offis . . . a tra oedd hi yn yr offis, oedden ni'n rhedeg wedyn efo'r (rhywbeth efo handles) a'r dyna'r boi 'ma efo dŵr poeth barod i ni ac wedyn roedden ni'n gwneud y te, a dod a fo nôl, ond beth oedd mor wirion . . . oedd hi (Jessie) yn dod allan o'r offis, a'r peth nesaf, fo yn dod allan, ac roedd gynno fo *habit* i sefyll rhwng y cloc, wel, yng nghanol y llawr, rhwng y rôls mawr 'ma, a dyna lle oedd y pisar (?) 'ma, o dan y bwrdd, ac roedd y mwg yn dod i fyny, oedd o'n gwbod bod ni'n mynd i gael te, bod ni wedi cael dŵr o rywle, a Jessie a fi, ar y rols oedden i '*Has he gone? Oh, it'll be cold,*' medda fi, '*before he's gone.*' Achos roedd o'n gwbod.”

Hyd: 1 awr

English summary

Dolgarrog Aluminum (1936-68)

Interviewee: VN018 Mair (Mary) Bronwen Williams

Date: 10: 03: 2014

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

(Elfyn Jones, VN017, was present during the interview.)

Mair was born on 2nd March, 1921. Her parents were called Samuel Powell and Hannah Louise Powell. Her uncle came up from South Wales to work in Dolgarrog after hearing that there was work available there, having walked all the way from Hirwaun. His wife, Mair, joined him later on, followed shortly by one of Mair's brother, and a year later her other brother, and eventually the whole family. They lived in the street where she lives now. There were many empty houses in Dolgarrog, most of them owned by the company, before people moved in to work there. Mr Jack, the boss, lived in a manor house near the factory.

Mair was born in Hirwaun and moved to Dolgarrog, where she went to school when she was about five years old. She then went to Talybont school but didn't go on to grammar school. She liked sport but didn't like the mathematics class.

12:00 She left school when she was sixteen and got a job looking after two little girls but would cry every time she came home because she was homesick. She had a half day on Thursday and would come home on that day. She then got a job in a sweet shop before starting in in Dolgarrog in 1936.

"Of course, when the war came, us girls had to move up to the big place because the boys were going to war, and being called up."

She started in the light sheet mill where they rolled thin sheets. Most of them went to Australia to be made into little tins of cold cream. Mair describes the process of making these sheets. She went from the light sheet mill to the large mill. If she'd stayed in the sweet shop she would have been called up but this wasn't the case in the factory because it was making things for the war effort. She was seventeen years old when she started there, and lived at home. She wasn't given a formal interview. Her uncle took her down to see a Mr Oswin who was responsible for the workers' houses, and people coming in to work in the factory, and the next thing she knew she had a job.

"And that's where I was until 54, 55. I got married, I didn't have children, and then of course I carried on working. And my husband worked there too. "

The dimensions of the sheets were set according to the orders they had. If they weren't the right size after rolling they were taken to be cut with shears, and then sent away. She didn't feel nervous on her first day because she was living at home, and many of the people working there were local so she knew most of them, although they were older than her.

She met her husband in the factory when she was nineteen years old. He worked in the packing

department where they packed the sheets carefully into boxes between wooden blocks. They got married in 1955.

23:00 Her first wage was **12s and 6d**. This went up to **15s and 6d, or 16s and 6d** when she moved to the front of the roll.

"... there was a little office there, and then on pay day they'd open the window and you'd put a card through and they'd give you your wages, and then you'd go through to the time office, and put the clocking in card into the slots with your number on them. "

She lived at home at the time and spent her money on clothes. There was a shop in Conway where you could pay a little every week for an item such as a dress and they would keep it for you until it was paid for. Her mother used to say she was foolish about buying clothes because she had plenty. She acknowledges that perhaps she should have given her mother more money rather than spend it but she had two brothers living at home as well who could contribute. The family was neither well-off nor poor. Her father was working and her brothers were bringing money in, so she had everything she wanted. She talks of a shop in Llanrwst called London House where clothes could be bought 'on tick'. She would buy a new hat and coat for the Cymanfa. She was very involved with the chapel outside work. She would often practice her singing - before and after work - but not as much after she started courting.

She wore a skirt and top to work. It was unusual for women to wear trousers then. They started wearing overalls in the 1970s, and then trousers. **"When the trousers came in it was a blessing to say the truth ... but they didn't tell you what you had to wear.'** The work could be dirty because of the oil. She had to put oil on the rolls and dip them and didn't like wearing the same clothes that she wore in the factory to go out.

"When you had the sheets to begin with, there was one set of rolls, you would hold the sheets and bend them over, and after pushing them through there would then be two sheets although they were attached at one end. These were the dirtiest. . I was only on them for two days, I didn't like those rolls. "

There may have been two girls on the rolls, one at the front pulling the wheel. The rolls needed people to operate them. Women worked on the light rolls, and men on the big rolls.

She remembers the factory as a happy, fun place, where men and women got on well. There were no men in the light sheest mill, but when the war came a number of girls had to move to the large mill. The work was the same but the sheets were larger and heavier. They were exempt from being called up to the army because they worked in Dolgarrog, and the factory made sheets for the war efforts such sheets for airplane wings. The aluminium was sent off to be made into the finished product.

40:40: There were no trips organized by the factory. There were also people from Llanrwst working there, although they weren't as close as the people from Dolgarrog. She never went out with her work mates socially. The company had built a swimming pool and tennis courts behind the factory and they would have parties on Bonfire Night. At one time there was a little engine travelling from the factory to the station.

She carried on working after she got married and worked there from 1936 until 1968.

She remembers one young man being dismissed because he wasn't able to manage the women.

They would play cards rather than do their work and wouldn't listen to him. She saw his post advertised.

“I was going to the toilet one day and on my way back I saw the noticeboard, and on it I saw 'wanted foreman,' not forewoman, foreman, light sheet mill. . . Oh, I'm going to try for it, I said.”

Her husband Wil did not want to hear a word about it. He said, “I don't care but I don't want you to bring it home with you, I don't want to hear anything about it.” After considering for a while Mair went to see Jinks the boss. The bosses were English so he had difficulty pronouncing her name. He said, “Well, Mair, what can I do for you?” She got the job.

Shortly after this, she was sat down having a cup of tea when the day shift workers were coming back from their half past ten break. She heard one of them say, **‘Well, I 'm not going to take off her, if she tells me to do anything. . ’** Mair didn't take any notice.

When she started on the Monday the girls were sitting around drinking tea in the area where they were supposed to be working. This was not permitted. She heard them saying thing like, 'Oh, she's here'. She told them, 'Look, I've heard a lot of comments. You can guarantee I'll never ask you to do anything that I wouldn't do myself. So you can take it either way..'. She never had trouble with them after that.

50:00 Mair tells another story about her husband going in to a pub in Newborough where there were four lads from the factory drinking. He overheard them talking about Mair and saying, 'You know that woman that's in the light sheet mill? Duw, I'm afraid of her, you know. I'm scared of her.' Her husband said, 'She's alright you know.' The first one answered, 'Oh, I wouldn't do anything with her.' Her husband came home and asked her what on earth she was doing in work because he'd heard these things about her.

“I liked the lads. The women thought that I favoured them.”

She finished in 1968 when redundancy was offered. Her husband had already finished and was on his own quite a lot. Wil died in 1982 aged 72 or 74. Taking the redundancy meant that they were able to visit the USA three times. She had a farewell party and two tankards as a present. She was sixty one years old when she finished.

Originally, she wanted to work in a shop but when she was at home (during the war) she was scared of being called up. She was twenty three when she got married, after a five year courtship. She had a lot of fun in the factory. In those days the bosses weren't as keen as they are today, and on the whole they were okay, even though one of them, Oswin from Landudno, was a bit aloof.

Mair tells a story about one night when she was on night shift. A lad from Llanrwst was working with her and another woman called Jessie Murdock. The lad had some sort of an urn to boil water to make some tea for them during the shift. When they wanted their cuppa they told Jessie to go and talk to the foreman, Jac Ifans, in the office to distract him. But Jessie came out of the office too soon followed by the foreman who could see the steam from the urn billowing out from under the table.

Duration: 1 hour