

LLEISIAU O LAWR Y FFATRI / VOICES FROM THE FACTORY FLOOR

Ferranti's c.1961 (chwe mis) Austin Taylor's Bethesda 1962 – 1970

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

Cadarnhaodd Dilys ei henw, ei chyfeiriad a'i dyddiad geni: 19 Mehefin, 1943.

Ei chefnidir: Ganwyd hi yn Ysbyty St David's Bangor (ddim yna bellach) a daeth gartref i dŷ ei Nain ym Methesda. Dyna lle bu hi wedyn, doedd ganddi ddim brodyr na chwiorydd. Roedd chwaer ei mam yn byw efo nhw, a'i mam a hi a Nain. Roedd brodyr ei mam i gyd wedi priodi a gadael cartref.

Aeth i ysgol Penybryn, ac yna am eu bod nhw'n bobol eglwys, bu'n rhaid iddi newid i fynd i ysgol Gerlan – ysgol yr eglwys. Yna aeth i ysgol Cefnfaes ac yn 16 oed aeth i weithio i Woolworth. £14 16 s oedd y cyflog yno'r adeg hynny. Bu'n Woolworth am 3-4 blynedd, ac wedyn **'genod yn siarad a ballu, am gyfloga, a sylweddoli bod Ferranti's yn talu mwy o gyflog.'**

Gadawodd yr ysgol yn 15 oed, achos doedd dim llawer o help i blant yn yr ardal i fynd ymlaen. Doedd hi ddim wedi pasio'r 11+ felly aeth i ysgol Cefnfaes. Os oeddech wedi pasio byddech yn mynd i Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen – County. Roedd yn rhaid iddi hi fynd i chwilio am waith. Cyn mynd I Woolworth roedd ffrind i'w mam yn gweithio yn Swaines (?) yn y farchnad ym Mangor (nid yw'r farchnad yno mwyach), i helpu ar ddydd Sadwrn, a chafodd fynd i fan'no ar ddydd Sadwrn, ond doedd hi ddim yn licio fo. Roedd wedi rhoi ei ffurflen i mewn yn Woolworth's i ofyn am waith yno. Roedd hi'n falch – yn Swaines - gwerthu blodau a ffrwythau roedden nhw ond roedd yn rhaid gwagio hen fwcledi efo dŵr budr, yn bora a doedd hi ddim yn licio hyn.

Cafodd fynd fel *trainee* ar y cowntar biscuits (yn Woolworth). Ac fel roedd hi'n dysgu, riteiriodd y ledi oedd yng ngofal y cownter, a chafodd hi fynd *in charge*. Roedd hi'n cael *training* sut i wneud y *folders*, a cael y cacenna a gwatshiad bod eu *date* nhw'n iawn, a bod bob dim yn y biscuits yn iawn. Roedd hi'n gorfod tsecio beth oedd yn dod i fewn ac nad oedden nhw'n ordro gormod. Wedyn naethon nhw roi rhywfaint o *Easter Eggs* iddyn nhw, ac roedden nhw'n gorfod gwatshiad ar *ôl* rheiny hefyd. Yna cafodd hogan, Dorothy, i'w helpu hi, a *Saturday girl*. Roedd hi'n o ddrwg pan oedden nhw'n gorfod gwneud *inventory* achos roedden nhw'n gorfod pwysu'r tuniau biscuits ar *scale* pwysu (weio) pobol, ac roedd hynny'n cymryd oriau i'w wneud. Wedyn roedd yn rhaid mynd fyny i'r *stockroom*, i nôl y tuniau yn fan'no ond roedd hogia'r *stockroom* yn eu helpu. Daeth hi *in charge* o'i chownter wedyn.

5.06

Rhwng 1960 a 1970 digwyddodd popeth iddi yn y rhan yma (o'r sgwrs). **Bu yn Ferranti am ryw chwe mis, roedd wedi cael ei threnio fel *capstan operator* oedd yn gneud tylla yn y *washers* yma. Roedd hi'n job fudur efo oel a doedd hi ddim yn licio'r gwaith o gwbl.** Wedyn clywodd bod gwaith yn mynd yn Austin Taylor yn Bethesda, oedd yn well achos roedd hi'n gorfod trafaelio 5 milltir i Fangor ond roedd Austin Taylor jyst i lawr y lôn. **Bu'n ffodus i gael gwaith fel un o'u *key workers* nhw.** O Failsworth yn *Manchester* ddaeth Austin Taylor a dim ond rhyw 12 ohonyn nhw oedd yn *key workers*. Roedden nhw'n dod â'r stwff o'r ffatri arall yn Manchester iddyn nhw eu sortio allan, a setio *sections* i fyny. *Electrical Telecommunications* oedden nhw, ac yn yr adeg hynny BA oedd mesur sgrïws a phetha, - erbyn hyn mae'n metrig. Bryd hynny roedd yn 2 BA a 4BA ...sgrïws.

A dyma nhw'n dweud wrthyn nhw y byddai un ohonyn nhw'n cael mynd i neud *government training* a hi gafodd fynd i Camelaird's yn Biwmares. 'A fi oedd yn unig ddynas ar y cwrs. Dynion oeddan nhw i gyd. A nesh i neud mistêc o fynd mewn sgert y tro cynta, a wedyn wrth gwrs oedd rhaid i fi fynd o flaen y *class* i ddemonstretio beth oeddan ni'n neud yn ffatri ni. Ac wrth gwrs roedd 'na *comments* mawr, am fy mhena glinia fi a petha felly a wedyn beth nesh i ond iwsio mhen a mynd mewn trywsus diwrnod ail.' Fuo hi'n mynd am tua chwech wythnos ... ac roedd 'na bobol o wahanol ffatrioedd, yn mynd i'r cwrs 'ma. Mae'n cofio un dyn, reit fawr o *Anglesey Knitting Company* – dydy hi ddim yn meddwl bod hwnnw'n dal i fynd 'chwaith.

Ar y cwrs roedden nhw'n dysgu i chi sgiliau sut i fanejo pobol, edrych faint oeddech chi'n gwbod am y *product*, ac os nad oeddech chi'n gwbod, roedden nhw'n eu trênio am y *product* roedden nhw'n mynd i werthu. Dallt am *engineering*.

Pam gweithio mewn ffatri? – roedd ei mam ar ei phensiwn, ac roedd ganddi hogan fach, achos roedd ei *relationship* hi wedi torri fyny, a doedd dim pres yn ardal Bethesda. Roedd pobl yn dlawd iawn (ar hyd yr oesau) a does dim llawer wedi newid hyd yn oed heddiw. **Roedd Austin Taylors yn talu cyflog dyn mewn ffordd yna (V £14-16 yn Woolworth).** – tua £56 – roedd hynny'n lot o bres ac roedd e werth lot adeg hynny. A phan symudon nhw o Abercaseg o dŷ Nain, dodrefn ei Nain oedd ganddyn nhw, a **chan ei bod hi'n gweithio roedden nhw'n gallu cael dodrefn newydd a moderneiddio'r ty.**

Bu yn Austin Taylor am tua 8 mlynedd. Daeth oddi yno am iddi fynd yn sal - pan aeth adre am ginio un diwrnod – roedd poen mawr yn ei hochor. Sylwodd ei mam a dweud wrthi am beidio mynd nôl i’w gwaith. Ffoniodd y doctor ac roedd *acute appendicitis* arni, a bu adre am wyth wythnos. **Roedd dyn o’r enw Mr Hall – yn gwatshiad ar ôl y bobl oedd yn gweithio yno, daeth e i’r fflat lle roedden nhw, a rhoi ei chardiau iddi hi a bu’n rhaid iddi hi fynd i dribiwnal i geisio cael ei job yn ôl.**

10.41

Yr adeg hynny doedd yr *unions* ddim wedi dod i fewn – felly colodd hi ei job. Wrth golli ei job cafodd *nervous breakdown*, a bu’n reit wael. **‘Ton i ddim wedi gneud dim byd yn rong, mond wedi bod yn sâl, ac wedi colli cyflog oedd yn cynnal ni fel teulu, d’ach chi’n gwbod.’**

Ar ôl hynny, bu’n rhaid iddi gael pobol o *Mental Health* i’w helpu. Bu Keith Ferns, oedd yn College Road (Bangor), yn ei helpu, a ffurfion nhw Grŵp Seilo – mae lot o bobol â pethau fel hyn yn digwydd iddyn nhw a doedd hi ddim yn sylweddoli hynny nes iddo fo ddigwydd iddi hi – eu bywydau nhw wedi cael eu torri, a gwnaethon nhw drip i Steddfod Llangollen. Ac wrth neud hynny dod i nabod ei gilydd, ac wrth weld mai dim chi oedd yr unig un, roeddach chi’n cael rhyw nerth i ddod at ‘ch hun., a mynd allan a trio wedyn.

Chafoch chi ddim triniaeth dda iawn gin y Cwmni felly?

W, naddo, naddo.

Roedd y rhan fwyaf o’r staff a’r pobol oedd yn gweithio yn y ffatri ei hun o Bethesda. Roedd un *gentleman* ar *wiring*, o’r enw Derek Scott yn dod o Glan Ogwan, mi oedd Don Owen yn dod o Carneddi, roedd o yn y siop baentio, .. Gwilym Breeze – *toolmakers’ section* oedd o, o Glan Ogwan hefyd. Bellach mae’r rhain wedi marw ond mae ei chof hi’n cofio amdany’n nhw.

Beth d’ach chi’n meddwl oedd agwedd y gymuned tuag at y ffatri?

Roedd hi’n help mawr i’r gymuned. Roedd pawb isho gwaith yna. Achos oeddach chi ddim yn talu *fares*, roedd hi jyst lawr lôn i bawb oedd yn gwaelod y pentra. **Ond mi oedd ‘na lot o anghydfod am bod- oedd ‘na lot o Saeson yna a oeddau nhw yn sort o siarad ‘u ffor’ i gael jobsys top ... pobol dŵad ylly, dach chi’n gwbod.** Mae hi’r un fath rwan *‘He who shouts loudest, gets the job.’*

14.16

Dach chi’n cofio’ch dwrnod cynta yn Austin Taylors?

‘Yndw. .. y dyn oedd *in charge* ohonon ni – o’r enw Tom Hewitt o Talybont – o ryw 9-10 o genod ar y lein, ‘a dyma fo’n deud wrtha fi – oedd ‘na rac wrth ‘n ymyl i fan’na, a *channels* du fel hyn, oeddach chi’n mowntio yr *units* ‘ma ar y *channels* ‘ma, ac roedd isho’u ll’nau nhw i gyd, roeddau nhw wedi dod o Failsworth ac wedyn oeddau ni wedi cael job ‘u ll’nau nhw. Rwan oeddau ni’n gorfod gwisgo *goggles* – erbyn rwan oeddau ni

wedi fformio *Transport and General Workers Union* dwi'n meddwl, ... ac mi oeddani wedi cael gwybod, i neud jobsys fel'na oedd isho i ni wisgo *goggles*, neu *mask* neu *rubber gloves*. A wedyn oeddani'n gofyn am y petha 'ma – *safety* 'te?

On i ddim yn siwr be' i neud o'r dwrnod cynta, .. ond oedd o'n well na Ferranti. Doedd hi ddim yn job fudur, - llychlyd, ia ond doeddach chi ddim yn meindio hynny achos oedd gynnach chi ryw fashîn fatha hwfyr i sycio'r llwch i fyny. '

Ei gwaith hi? *Assembly worker* oedd hi ar y dechrau. A wedyn ar ol iddi hi fod yn *Camelairds* cafodd ei rhoi i ar yr *assembly* i ddysgu merched eraill beth i wneud. Erbyn y diwedd roedd 30 o ferched ar y *section*, a cafodd hi ei gwneud yn *leading hand*, nesa i'r boi oedd yn – erbyn hynny roedd Tom Hewitt wedi gadael a dyn o'r enw Tom Greenway, oedd efo nhw, *ex-Sergeant Major* 'a toedd y merchaid ddim yn licio fo, achos bo fo'n eu bosio nhw.' .. a oedd jobsys budur ar yr *assembly*, i neud, dipio rhyw betha mewn oel a'u rhoi nhw fan'na. A 'dyma fi'n syjestio "Well, Tom", medda fi, "*the best thing is to have a rota, so nobody is doing the job more than at least twice in a month*" medda fi, "*that's fair, everybody then is not just leaving one person to do it.*" Roedd yr olew 'ma a merched efo'u gewinedd a *nail polish* a pethau felly . Fasa fiw i chi gael *rubber gloves*, achos roedd y peth 'ma yn toddi ryber.'

17.20

Lle oedd y management yn cymyd eich syniada chi? Oeddani nhw'n gwrando arnach chi ..?

I ddechrau doedden nhw ddim yn cael unrhyw *input* i'r deud, tan nes dôth yr *Union*, a rwan roedd isho *shop steward*, 'Wel, dyma nhw'n rhoid 'n enw i lawr! Ton i ddim yn gwobod dim byd am fod yn *shop steward*, a dyma fi'n deud "Ew na, dwi ddim isho bod." Ond beth ddigwyddodd oedd fod pobol yn fotio ac mae'n rhaid bod rhai wedi fotio iddi hi, a chafodd fynd i Colwyn Bay i ryw ysgol i ddysgu sut i fod yn *shop steward*.

Mae'n sôn nawr ymlaen dwy flynedd – roedd hi'n aeaf ac yn oer yn Austin Taylor. Os oeddech chi'n dod i fewn ar ddydd Sadwrn, oeddach chi'n cael pob peth, ac os oeddach chi'n dod i fewn ar Ddydd Sul roedd 'na *bonuses* a phetha. Roedd hi'n oer ac roeddani nhw wedi dod i fewn ar y dydd Sadwrn a'r dydd Sul – O oeddani nhw isho mynd ar streic ar y dydd Llun! 'A dyma fi'n deud wrthyn nhw "Wel fedrwch chi ddim gneud hynny, da chi 'di dod i fewn ar yr un *temperature* dydd Sadwrn a dydd Sul, rhaid i chi ddod i fewn." O! *No wê*. A dyma nhw'n mynd ar streic rwan, a dyma fi'n dod i fewn, - on i'n cerddad i ngwaith dydd Mawrth a dyma bos 'n *section* i'n deud "Dilys, *get in this bloody car*" medda fo wrtho fi "*because there's people on the gate and if you try and walk in, you'll be in trouble.*" "*Oh no, I'll be alright*". A dyma fo'n dod allan o'r car a gafal yno fi, a rhoi fi yn y car.' Roedd hi'n gweld beth roedd o'n feddwl pan aethon nhw drwy'r giatiau, roedd *pickets* ar y giat. Wedyn dyma hi i fewn, - wrth bod hi efo *leading hand*, roedden nhw'n cymryd ei bod hi efo'r *management* ond doedd hi ddim. Roedd hi'n gorfod bod gyda'r *Union*. So dyma ddwy o'r genod yn dweud na wnaen nhw ddim gweithio efo hi a dyma nhw'n cael *instant dismissal*. Wedyn roedd hi'n teimlo'n annifyr am hynny, a dyma hi'n dweud "*Well, you know, they don't understand what's going on. ... and it's a*

bit harsh to give them ...” “*O.K. we’ll just let them off for two days.*” Ac fe gaethon nhw ddod yn eu hola i fewn, achos genod ifanc oedden nhw. Felly y gwnaeth hi ddysgu rheolau *Union*.’ Gwnaeth hi lot o bethau yn yr adeg hynna nad oedd hi erioed yn ei bywyd wedi gorfod gwneud a *decisions*. A be arall gafodd hi ei dysgu oedd – darllen *drawings* mawr, ‘fatha’r llawr ‘ma’, efo lluniau *co--junction boxes*. Roedden nhw’n gyrru rhai i lawr i Dubai - i’r *oil field*, a daeth Arab yno (yn ei *national costume*) a dyma fo’n gofyn amdani hi –

20.50

Naci - (camgymeriad “dwi wedi jympio’r *gun*”). Aeth Dilys o’r *shop floor* i weithio i’r offis - *sales liaison clerk* – roedd yn gorfod siarad efo’n bobl oedd yn prynu’r pethau ganddyn nhw. A dyma’r dyn yma’n dweud ei fod yn dod i weld – felly dyma’r ddynas yn y *foyer* – hi oedd yn grîtio pawb – yn ei ffonio hi i’r offis, a dyma hi’n deud bod Arab yn y *foyer* isho’i gweld hi! A doedd hi ddim yn meddwl ei fod o’n gallu siarad Saesneg. Aeth hithau i lawr a’i groesawu ac roedd o’n gallu siarad Saesneg yn iawn. Roedd o wedi graddio o Rydychen. Wedyn bu’n rhaid iddi fynd ag o i Douglas Arms Hotel i gael bwyd ac wedyn roedd o’n siarad am beth oedden nhw’n ei wneud. Roedd ei bos wedi rhoi pres iddi i dalu am fwyd iddo fo. Felly mae wedi cael *experiences* nad oedd hi’n eu disgwyl.

Faint o ferched oedd yn y ffatri? Roedd 30 ar bloc *assembly*; tua 40 neu fwy ar y *wiring*; wedyn rhai ar y *packing*, ac roedd rhai ar bloc *assembly* yn jyst gwneud y blocs ond *box assembly*, rydach chi’n rhoi’r blocs i fewn yn y bocs yna yn rhoi *sealant* i gadw’r bocs yng nghau. Roedd tipyn gol-ew o ferchaid yn gweithio yno.

Faint o ddynion – Gwilym Rees – os oedd y mashîn yn torri, roedd *section* Gwilym yn dod yno i weld beth oedd yn bod. Bydden nhw’n mynd â’r tŵl i lawr i’r gwaelod i’w drwsio. Roedd mwy o ferchaid na dynion.

Roedd gwahaniaeth rhwng gwaith y merchaid a’r dynion ond roedd rhai merchaid yn gwneud y gwaith roedd dynion yn ei wneud. Roedd *cables* mawr, tew, fel y bocs yn ymyl Caffi Seren – yn sgwâr fel yna, oddi mewn i fan’no mae *cables*, 4 ohonyn nhw, ac ynddyn nhw mae weiers bach tena o bob lliw, ac mae bob lliw yn representio – roedd y merched yma’n gorfod cael eu trênio i wbod lle yn union roedd y rhain yn mynd. Ac roedd y *cables* yn drwm, a bob tro roeddau nhw isho *cable* newydd, roedden nhw’n gorfod gwitshiad i un o’r dynion ddwâd â *cable* achos roedd o’n drwm ofnadwy. Ond roedd rhai yn stryglo efo’r blwmin *cables*.

24.21

Ac wedyn efo pacio – codi bocsys. Roedden nhw’n cael rhoid y *corrugated* rhag i’r bocs gael ei sgratsho o baent, a wedyn rhoi rhyw gyfar arno fo a wedyn ‘i bacio fo – Ted yn ‘i bacio fo, - ond toeddan nhw ddim i’w godi. Bydda hogia’n dâd i godi’r bocs. Byddent yn gwneud gwaith i GPO .- sôn am deleiffon a bocs bach ifori – P60, ac un mwy – P45 (eliffant *grey* oedd y rhain); y tu mewn iddyn nhw PD4 (?) *Printed circuits block* – roeddech chi’n medru rhoi weiers i gonectio i fewn. Roedd ‘na ferchaid yn gneud rheiny. Wedyn roedd dwy o ferchaid ar *inspection* – gwraig Gwilym Rees – Joan Rees, oedd ar *inspection* a Christine

Evans – y ddwy o Fethesda. Roeddau nhw'n testio'r petha 'ma ac os oedden nhw'n gweld un yn rong roeddau nhw'n rijectio'r holl *unit*. Roeddau nhw'n anfon lot – *consignment* cyfan – miloedd ar filoedd o focsych bach, i'r GPO. A wedyn oedd dyn o'r GPO yn dod yna i'w inspectio ac os oedd gynnach chi label y ffordd rong byddai'n eu gwrthod. Byddent yn colli yr ordor i fynd. Byddai'n rhaid mynd â'r ordor yn ôl ar yr *assembly*, a 'oeddau ni'n gorfod bod reit ofalus sut oeddau nhw'n rhoid y petha yn *section packing*, bod nhw'n addas i fynd allan o'r ffatri.

26.28

Oedd merched yn swyddogion yno? Nag oedd, pan oedd hi yna. Dynion rhan fwyaf. Roedd Mr Taylor ei hun fyndy grisiau, wedyn roedd y *drawing* offis, wedyn roedd Mike – fo oedd yn testio – roedd *plastics* yn dod i fewn mewn *liquid*, roedd o'n gorfod testio'r peth poeth yma – roedd o'n rhoi plastic 'ma i mewn mewn *mould*, a sbïo arno fo, i edrych a oedd e wedi fformio'n iawn. Os oedd o'n iawn roeddau nhw'n prynu'r *moulds* yma gan y *manufacturers*. Ond roedd *manufacturers* gwahanol, ac roedd rhai yn well na'i gilydd. **Un dwrnod, mi aeth o i dorri'r PD4s yma ar *circular saw*, a dyma hi'n dweud wrtho – gan ei bod hi ar yr *assembly*, 'Mike nei di roid *safety cover* arno fo,' 'O, na, fydd i'n iawn' medda fo. ... A dyma top 'i fys o'n dod i ffwrdd a fflïo drwy'r awyr a *thump* ar lawr. Roedd rhywun wedi dweud wrthi os byddai'n gafael mewn peth fel'na a'i roi yn ôl lle mae e i fod, mi neith o ... 'So dyma fi'n gafal yn top 'i fys o a roid o nôl, a dyma Mike yn pasio allan! So odd raid i mi fynd ar mhenaglinia ar lawr a deud 'Cerwch i nôl Arwel, *First Aid*.' "Well done" medda fo 'tha fi, 'Ti 'di gneud yn iawn, "' A dyma fo'n beindio fo neu mi fasa Mike'di colli'i fys. Ac mi fydda yna lein wen bob amsar o gwmpas 'i fys o. Pen bach – ddim yn gwrandao arni. Hi achubodd ei fys o er nad oedd hi'n gwybod dim am *First Aid*.**

Gan iddi symud i'r offis a oedd yna gyfle felly iddi wella'i hun yn ei swydd?

Oedd gynnoch chi Tom Greenway, *in charge* ohonan nhw; roedd hi'n *leading hand*, ond uwchben Tom Greenway oedd Bert Gillan fel *Managing Director*. Daeth o ati un diwrnod a dweud 'Dilys, there's a job going in the office, you know all these drawing numbers, why don't you try for it? Well I'll put your name down' A'r peth nesa roedd hi'n gwybod roedd hi wedi cael y job. Cafodd ryw fath o draining efo hwnnw. Atab ffôn oedd hi fwyaf, ac roeddau nhw isho gwobod am y *products* ac roedd hi wedi gweithio efo'r *products*, ac yn gwybod beth oeddau nhw ac roedd hi'n gallu darllen y *drawings* yma, wedyn roedd hi'n medru siarad efo nhw. Weithiau roeddau nhw'n cael rhywun o Dubai oedd ddim yn gallu siarad Saesneg yn dda iawn, wedyn roeddau chi'n gorfod gneud yn siwr beth oeddau nhw wedi'i ofyn i chi, a mynd yn ôl atyn nhw a deud 'We have made an order for you, for so and so and I'm sending a copy. Can you please send a letter to confirm that this is what you want. ... Fasa dim iws gyrru *junction boxes* i Dubai a rheiny ddim yn iawn.

30.45

Roedd hi'n fam yn gweithio yna. Oedd yna famau eraill a merched priod yno?

Oedd. roedd 'na ferched mewn oed yno. Roedd ei mam ganddi hi ar ei phensiwn a byddai hi'n mynd i nôl y ferch o'r ysgol ac felly roedd y merched eraill hefyd – teulu'n gwatshiad ar 'u hola nhw. Neu roedd y fam yn gweithio *part time*. Ac wedyn roedd shifft yn y nos, roedd rhai merched yn dod o tua naw o'r gloch tan hanner nos. Roedd y shifft hwn yn handi i ferched. .

Faint o dâl bob wythnos?

Pan oedd hi'n y ffatri – *shop floor* – roedd o tua £30 rywbath ond pan aeth hi i'r offis, - ' **dyn oedd 'di gneud y job oeddan i'n gneud yn yr offis – so, on i'n cael yr un cyflog â odd o'n ga'l.**'

Codiad cyflog? Oedd gyda'r *cost of living*. Doedd e ddim yn lot ond roedd yn help.

Cael ei thalu mewn *envelope* bach brown. Ar ddydd Gwenar roedd hogan o'r *pay* offis yn dod i ben yr *assembly* ac roedd ganddi focs pren a byddai'n galw nymbar – '**one two one oedd 'n nymbar i.' a byddai'n dweud 'Dilys Pritchard one two one.' ac roeddech chi'n rhoi tic ar ymyl i ddangos bo chi 'di ga'l o.'**

Yn yr offis byddent yn dod ag ef o gwmpas a'i roi ar ei desg. Yr un fath – *envelope* brown.

Roedd hi'n ymwybodol o faint roedd gweithwyr eraill yn ei gael. Roedd hi'n dibynnu ar eich job. Os oeddech chi'n gwneud job gymhleth – a weithiau ar yr *assembly line*, os oedd y lein yna wedi gneud lot roeddau nhw'n cael bonusys - roedd o'n 'vario' Roedd *standard wage* ond os oeddach chi'n gneud *overtime* neu'n mynd i mewn ar ddydd Sadwrn, oeddach chi'n cael mwy o bres.

Gwario'i harian? Ychydig iawn fyddai hi'n mynd – Llandudno ac ar y pryd roedd lot o siopau ym Mangor – Polycoffs, Wartskis, (dim yna rwan) ac roedd ganddyn nhw ddillad bach del i blant. Byddai isho iwniform yr ysgol i Mandy. Byddai'n rhaid iddi hi wneud hyn yn gyntaf a gweld beth oedd ganddi dros ben. Gan bod ei mam ar ei phensiwn roeddau nhw'n trio hel, yn y tun 'ma, rhyw bres sbâr.

Beth ddigwyddodd wedyn tra roedd hi'n Austin Taylor, (na, cywiro ei hun).

Roedd ganddi ddigon o ddillad a doedd hi ddim yn un am brynu dillad o hyd. Doedd hi ddim yn mynd allan i ryw ddansys, felly doedd hi ddim yn gwario lot.

35.55

Perks?

Nag oedd , nag oedd. Ond os oeddach chi efo teliffon, roeddech chi'n cael rhywbeth i roi teliffon i mewn, ond nid yw'n sicr yn iawn beth oedd. '**Doeddau ni ddim yn medru fforddio teliffon.'**

Yr Undeb: Mae'n meddwl mai *Transport and General Workers' Union* oedd hi (TUC?). Clive Jenkins oedd *in charge*. O safbwynt ymuno mae'n meddwl bod pawb wedi sylweddoli

... mae'n meddwl eu bod nhw wedi gofyn iddyn nhw – bod nhw isho *union* yna, achos roedd lot o bobol yn y ffatri rwan 'ac wedyn roedd lot o broblema cymlath – gwahanol *sections* – a wedyn roedd isho ryw *clarification* o beth oedd iawndera pobol.'

Bu dwy neu dair streic yno yn ei hamser hi. Rheswm un streic oedd 'bod pobol ifanc ddim yn dallt, wedi mynd i fewn pan oedd hi'n oer dydd Sadwrn a dydd Sul, ac wedyn wedi deud dydd Llun "O, dan ni ddim yn dod i fewn dydd Llun mae'n rhy oer." Wel oedd hynna'n hollol rong. ... ond mae'n rhaid i chi gael, efo *union* fela, be ddudodd y bosys wrtha i, 'They can't do that Dilys, they've come in on the Saturday and the Sunday when the temperature was still the same, they've got to – bethma 'de.' Bu'n rhaid iddyn nhw ddod yn ôl i'r gwaith. Doedd y bosys ddim yn rhyw hapus iawn a wedyn – y pres roedden nhw wedi dod i fewn dydd Sadwrn a dydd Sul, gath hwnnw 'i lowerio (?) am bod nhw wedi colli dydd Llun – rhai ohonyn nhw.

Roedd newid mewn perthynas rhyngddyn nhw a'r bosys pan ymunon nhw â'r undeb. 'Oeddau ni'n gorfod gwatshiad nad oeddau ni'n deud petha o flaen y *management* ylly, rhag iddyn nhw wbod beth oedd yn mynd ymlaen. ... *Privacy* ylly 'de.' Roedd rhai pobol ddim yn syweddoli ac yn deud petha *out of context*.

39.45

Beth oedd bod yn Swyddog Undeb yn ei olygu o safbwynt oriau ac ymroddiad?

Roedd yn rhaid iddi fynd i Colwyn Bay i hotel yno, roedd lot o bobol yn cael *training* yno. Roedd yn cael llyfr o'r rheolau, a phan fyddai pethau'n digwydd roedd hi'n gorfod mynd trwy'r rheolau ac os oedd yn gweld nad oedd y rheolau yn cyd-fynd â beth oedd yn digwydd, roedd ganddi nymbar i ffonio, ac roedd dyn o'r undab yn dod i weld beth oedd y sefyllfa, a wedyn roeddau nhw'n cael *meeting* brys yn y Douglas Arms Hotel (neu arall) – 'This is how you move on and Dilys will do this, that and the other .' Wedyn bydden nhw'n gneud hynny ac efallai na fyddai hynny'n gweithio byddai'n rhaid iddo ddod yn ei ôl, ac adfeisio nhw wedyn. 'Roedd yr undeb efo ni ar hyd y ffordd.' Roedd hi'n dysgu wrth y gwahanol broblemau.

Oedd gan weithwyr y ffatri ofn y rhai oedd yn cynrychioli'r undeb – neu barch tuag atyn nhw?

Oedd, achos roedd rhai ohonyn nhw wedi cael eu helpu. Roedd *trust* yna 'te.

Oeddau nhw'n gwisgo iwnifform?

Methu cofio. Mae'n meddwl eu bod yn dod â'u hoferôls eu hunain. Ac 'ers talwm, oeddau chi'n cael ar eich *tax form* os oeddau chi'n gorfod cael iwnifform oeddau chi'n medru claimio a dwi'n meddwl mai felly oeddau ni'n gneud 'te.'

Oedd y gwaith yn beryglus? (gan gofio stori colli blaen bys)

O, mam, oedd! Roedd yna hogan – roedd hi ar mashîn ac on i yn *leading hand* rwan ar *assembly* a dyma fi'n deud wrthi "Gwranda" medda fi, "ma'n rhaid i ti roi dy wallt yn

dôl, a sgynta fi ddim ond lasting band i roid i chdi,” medda fi, ‘ond os oes gyn ti rwbath gwell i beth’na fo, achos ti’n mynd ar y mashîn ‘ma” medda fi, “a rhag ofn i dy wallt di fynd yn sownd.” O! doedd hi ddim yn mynd i roid. “Wel,” medda fi, “ma rhaid i fi siarsio arnoch chdi bod rhaid i chdi neud o.” Wedyn bu raid i Tom Greenway fynd ati a deud pa mor beryg oedd y mashîn a dangos iddi achos oedd on *fast*, dach chi’n gwbod. Wel, on i ‘di mynd i *stores*, - bora oedd hynna – wel, yn pnawn on i ‘di mynd i *stores*, a dyma fi’n dôl rwan, a dyma rywun yn gweiddi arna fi, “ O, mam bach, ma Christine – ma’i gwallt hi ‘di mynd i fewn i’r mashîn.” Toedd neb wedi meddwl am rhoid y swits off i’r mashîn. So dyma fi yna a swits off y mashîn. Roedd ‘i gwallt hi - roedd gynni hi wallt i lawr hannar ei chefn, ‘Ma fi’n deud wrthi, “Gwranda” medda fi “ma’n rhaid i mi gymyd siswrn a torri dy wallt di.” Wel oedd hi ‘di dechra crio rwan toedd? Wel, dyma fi’n gofyn i rai o’r genod, drïo tynnu rhei o’r gwalltia fel hyn. Buon ni yna am tua hannar awr, rhag ‘i dorri fo jyst bod ni’n tynnu – ocê, roedd hi’n colli rhywfaint o wallt ond toeddan ni ddim yn torri ‘i seis o. Geithon ni’i gwallt hi oddi yno yndo o’r diwadd. Dyma hi jyst yn colapsio a pasio allan a fuo rhaid i ni fynd â hi – Arwel yn mynd â hi – i’r *First Aid*, i Ysbyty Gwynedd. Roedd hi wedi cael sioc mae’n siwr toedd?’

Doedden nhw ddim yn sylweddoli bod y mashîn mor *powerful*.

44.41

Damwain arall – roedd hi wedi mynd adre i Abercaseg, ac roedd ledi yn byw yn Glan Ogwan, ? Glan Ffrydlas oedd Eirwen yn byw .. daeth hi i’r drws tua saith o’r gloch y nos “Dilys” medda hi wrtha fi, “Dwi wedi gadal y pitsh ar .. “ (Be oedd hwn oedd – oeddach chi’n llenwi’r cania ‘ma efo pitsh du, a rhoid y *components* i fewn ac wedyn oeddan nhw’n sychu a rhoi nhw’n fan’na. Ond roedd Eirwen wedi gadal y peth gliw du ‘ma - y swits on) ‘Wel, rhaid i ni fynd i’r ffatri felly” medda fi. Lawr lôn â ni. Ond rwan , roedd ‘na gŵn yn y ffatri yn gwatshiad, *guard dogs – Alsations* mawr, oedd ‘na tua chwech ohonyn nhw. Dyma ni i’r drws a oeddan ni’n gwbod mai Jimmy Richards oedd yn edrach ar ôl y ffatri, ond mi roedd ‘na – dwi ddim siwr beth oedd enw’r *security*, y bobol oedd yn gwatshiad, a dyma ni’n cnocio ffenast a mi oedd Jimmy’n dŵad, o’r *toilet*, wedi bod yn ll’nau’r *toilets* oedd o, a dyma fo’n deud i ni fynd rownd i’r cefn. Bu’n hir yn agor, roedd wedi gorfod gofyn i’r bobol fynd â’r cŵn i’r ochor arall. ‘Ac mi oedd y blwming thing ‘ma on! Mi fasa wedi ecsplodio’r ffatri i gyd tasa ni heb fynd yna efo *coal tar* du oedd yno fo ynde! A wedyn oedd o’n berwi o boeth. Fuo rhaid i ni gael cadacha i roid o *off* a gwitshad iddo fo gwlio i lawr a trio gwagio peth ohono fo achos oedd o’n gan mawr ychi.’

Oedd iawndal os oedd rhywun yn cael ei frifo? Dydy Dilys ddim yn cofio hynny.

Roedd Arwel efo St John’s Ambulance ac roedd wedi cael ei apwyntio i fod yn ddyn *First Aid*. Os oedd rhywun yn sal roedd o’n dod i sbio ac yn gwneud *decision* – galw doctor neu ambiwlans neu beth bynnag. ‘Dyna’r cwblw oedd gynnon ni’.

47.25

Cynhesu'r ffatri a'i goleuo? Digon o olau? –'Ew annwl oedd!'. *Strip lighting* oedd o. Nid yw'n siwr sut oeddau nhw'n twymo ond roedd *radiators* poeth ar hyd y ffatri i gyd.

Cyfleusterau? Roedd toilet a sinc yna a lle dynion a lle merchaid, ond i fwyta eu cinio neu eu *sandwiches* roedd yn rhaid eu bwyta lle roedden nhw'n gweithio. Doedd dim cantîn yna.

Cerddoriaeth? Nag oedd. Fe wnaeth pobol ddechra ond mi nath pobol erill – roedd 'na rai jobsys roeddach chi'n gorfod consentretio faint oeddach chi wedi neud ne faint o hir oedd hwn wedi bod ac roedd o'n *distraction* felly naethon nhw stopio hynna.

Roedd yn lle swnllyd i weithio a doedd dim byd ganddyn nhw i warchod eu clyw. Roedd yn rhaid gweiddi i siarad felly bydden nhw'n gwneud *signs*. Gorfod gweiddi achos roedd *toolshop* yn gwaelod, a doedd dim byd i gau hwnnw rhag y twrw. Wedyn roedd y *wiring*, roedd rheiny yn drilio, i silio'r weians yma, a wedyn oedd gynnach chi *assembly*, **ac roedden nhw yn assembly yn cael horrendous o dwrw.**

'Be oedd y genod yn neud oedd mynd i toilet i gael sgwrs. ... Eto oeddau nhw'n mynd i toilet i gael smôc. Wedyn os oeddach chi yna'n hir oedd Tom Greenway'n gofyn "Where've you been?" Oeddach chi'n gorfod gneud ecsgiw "I wasn't well .."

50.40

Effaith ar ei hiechyd? Dydy hi ddim yn clywed yn dda iawn. Mae wedi gweld rhywbeth yn y papur am ferched wedi bod yn gweithio mewn *industries with a lot of noise*, bod isho nhw archwilio'u clyw, achos doedd dim *ear plugs* na dim byd felly. Ond dydy hi ddim wedi cael arian am hynny.

Sut oedd y merched yn trin y dynion oedd yn gweithio yno – yn enwedig bechgyn ifanc?

Lot wedi priodi'i gilydd oedd yn gweithio yno. **'Lot o'r hogia ifanc yma'n cael eu herian gan y – merched mewn oed oedd yn section fi gan fwyaf a wedyn roedd rhai o'r merched mewn oed yma'n nabod mam ne tad yr hogyn ifanc a tynnu'u coes nhw ynte, chi'n gwbod. Roedd 'na lot o hiwmor yna'n te.'** Stori am Nigel Whitehead sy'n dreifio bys, roedd Nigel newydd ddod ac roedd o'n gorfod torri PD4s ar y mashîn mawr hyn, job boring dach chi'n gwbod, a wedyn dyma fo'n deud wrtho i, "Dilys dwi'n mynd am smôc i'r toilet" "Reit" medda fi, "Iawn". A dyma Tom Greenway, y dyn oedd *in charge* yn gofyn, "Where's he gone?" "To the toilet" medda fi. A dyma Nigel yn dod yn ei ôl, roedd o wedi bod yna reit hir, a dyma Tom Greenway yn deud rwan, "Where've you been lad?". "I had diarrhoea" medda fo (chwerthin) O mam bach!

Roedd hi'n dweud "Amen" i'r tynnu coes.

Roedd hi'n gweithio- Llun i Gwener oedd wythnos normal, wedyn roeddach chi'n cael cynnig gweithio *overtime*, ar y nosweithia yna'i gyd; roedd rhai pobol yn gneud hynny. Wedyn dydd Sadwrn, os oedd job bwysig i fynd allan, i gael ei *shipping out*, roedd isho cymaint o bobol ag y medrech chi i helpu i'w chael hi'n barod wedyn fasech chi'n cael *overtime* dydd Sadwrn a dydd Sul.

Oriau – o wyth tan chwech, ac wedyn o chwech tan tua deg, - naethon nhw newid y shifftia

Faint o shifftia? “Wel yn y diwadd oedd ‘na beth wibrath o shifftia. Roedd nhw wedi newid yr wsnos a newid y dyddia, wedyn roedd ‘na rai pobol yn mynd jyst yn y bora, tan amsar cinio a ddim yn mynd yn pnawn ..”

54.32

Wedyn gaethon nhw ffatri yn Llandygái – *extension* o Austin Taylors.

Roedd nhw’n clocio i mewn ac allan,.

Overtime: “Wel oedd nhw’n gofyn i chi neud *overtime* a’r peth oedd pobol oedd yn *willing* i neud, oedd nhw’n mwy – rhoi petha’n ‘u ffordd nhw. “ Os nad yn fodlon – “ddim yn hapus iawn bo chi ddim yn contriwiwtio i’r gwaith ‘te.’

Roedd nhw’n cael rhyw chwarter awr yn bora, (ddim yn cofio’r amser) ac wedyn cael o tua hanner dydd tan hanner awr wedi un amsar cinio (?). Roedd rhai pobol yn mynd lawr i Bethesda i nôl *pasty*, neu i siop tsips. Doedd dim bwyd yn y ffatri dim ond mashîn te a coffi.

Gwyliau gyda thâl, a gwyliau banc. Cael pythefnos o wylia a gwylia banc ac *odd days*. Dolig - cael dros yr ŵyl.

Doedd nhw ddim yn mynd i ffwrdd ar wyliau. Byddai ei mam a hi a’i merch yn mynd ar dripiâu Purple Motors. Pan oedd hi’n fengach bu’n gweithio i Michael Film Productions yn Manchester – roedd nhw isho *script girls* a gwnaeth hi apleoio am y job. 1969 oedd hynny, ac roedd yr *Investiture* yn Caernarfon, *Prince Charles* yn mynd i gael *investiture*, a oedd nhw isho pobol i neud ffilm, ac roedd tipyn ohonyn nhw’n trio ond roeddach chi’n gweld pwy oedd yn mynd i gael y jobsys ‘ma, - rhai wedi gwisgo i fyny’n grand ... Eniwê tair ohonyn nhw – hogan o Lanberis, o Gaernarfon a hi - a Margaret Pritchard o fan’ma – Sam Cae Drain oedd ei thad hi a shop tsips gynnyn nhw, - dyma nhw’n galw nhw i fewn ““ *You see I want models for the film.*” W – dyma ni’n cael sioc! Farw! “ *I don’t know anything about that. I don’t know how to do that*” medda fi ‘ychi, - pobol, *country bumkins* ‘te.’ Y dyn yn dweud y byddai’n eu galw ac yn anfon llythyr atynt,.

Ar ôl mynd adra dwedodd wrth ei ma, “Hen ddyn budur ydy o” medda mam wrtha fi ‘te, “Watsha di o.” Yna cafodd ei galw ac aeth, a dweud “*Well, I’m afraid my mother doesn’t approve of ...*” “*I’ll come and see your mother*” medda fo. A hwn oedd Leslie Phillips oedd yn mynd i fod yn ddyn oedd yn edrych ar ei hôl hi wedyn. Ar ôl i’w mam gwrdd ag ef roedd wedi newid ei meddwl. Ac un flwyddyn, roedd ganddo fo garafan lawr yn Devon, “*two weeks empty, Margaret*” medda fo wrth Mam, “*if you’d like to go.*” Felly aethon nhw, a dim ond bwyd a *fare* oedd eisiau iddyn nhw gael aros yno.

59.54

Roedd rhai o Lanfairfechan, Llanberis, yn teithio efo ceir, - rhannu liff - i’r ffatri. Byddai hi’n cychwyn tua *ten to eight*.

Gweithgareddau cymdeithasol: **Cawson nhw drip i Blackpool, y ffatri i gyd yn mynd**, i weld y *lights*, “Oeddan ni wedi bwcio hotel i’r dynion a hotel i’r merchaid, a O mam bach! Yr hotel gaethon ni – sobor oedd y bwyd.” Cig mewn plastig bag jyst wedi ei roi i dwymo! Ond roedd y dynion wedi cael hotel gampus. Italian oedd y ddynas ‘ma lle roedd y dynion. Gwahoddod nhw draw i ymuno mewn *buffet*. “Argol, dyma ni yna, roeddan ni’n gorfod talu dwy bunt am y *buffet* yma, ew annwl, sôn am *spread, chickens - whole chickens*, ac oeddach chi’n cael torri beth oeddach chi isho, - roedd y chef ‘ma’n deud “*How many slices would you like?*” A’r sosej rôls ‘ma, a’r *sandwiches* ‘ma a’r *piquants (?)* a’r petha ‘ma. Argol naethon ni erioed fyta gymint yn ‘n bywyd ‘te.’

Partis Nadolig? “O, mam oedd.” Roedd ganddyn nhw glub Dolig, - rhai o’r merchaid yn gneud club Dolig, i chi gael presanta.

Dim côr, na chwaraeon.

O safbwynt cymdeithasu – bydden nhw’n mynd i’r Douglas Arms Hotel; Margery a hi’n mynd yno – wedyn Margaret, a weithia bydden nhw’n mynd i Fangor, “dim byd drastig, doedd dim byd llawar ar ga’l.” Mynd i’r pictiwrs yn y Plaza neu City Cinema .

Dim cofio neb pwysig yn dod i’r ffatri.

1.04.02

“O sbio nôl, oeddach chi ‘di neud ffrindia fedrach chi drystio ...Hyd y dydd heddiw ma – oeddach chi’n nabod ‘ch gilydd, nabod faint mor bell fedrach chi fynd efo nhw, gw bod ‘u ffor’ nhw ... achos bo nhw’n byw yn lleol mae’n siwr. .. Oeddan ni efo’n gilydd reit glos, oeddan ni’n dallt ein gilydd ‘te. “

Gadawodd dan amodau anodd - dyna pam gafodd hi’r *nervous breakdown*. Roedd hi’n teimlo nad oedd hi wedi gwneud dim byd – wedi cael tynnu ei *appendix* allan yr oedd hi ac roedd y Mr Hall ‘ma wedi dod â’i chardia hi, fel tasa hi wedi gwneud rhywbath. A byw mewn cymuned bach fel hyn – a pobol yn ffeindio eich bod chi wedi colli’ch gwaith, roeddan nhw’n wyndro “O be ma hon ‘di neud, felly?”

Ac roedd ganddi blentyn isho edrych ar ei hôl, a’i mam ar ei phensiwn, roedd hi’n reit anodd.

Er bod y genod eraill eisiau gwneud parti ffarwel iddi – doedd hi ddim isho gwybod. Jyst isho anghofio a dod o ‘na.

Bu’n gweithio yno am tua wyth mlynadd i gyd rhwng bod ar y *shop floor* ac wedyn yn yr offis..

Ar ol gadael, doedd hi ddim yn dda efo’i nerfau, wedyn yn College Road, a wedyn gwnaeth hi dechrau Clwb Seilo ac roedd lot o bobol wedi ymuno â *nervous breakdown*, ac roeddan nhw’n gwneud gweithgaredda a Keith Ferns yn trefnu – aethon nhw i Steddfod Llangollen, ac i’r Rhyl. Nid yw’n cofio beth wnaeth hi wedyn – pob math o betha mae’n siwr.

Mae’n dal mewn cysylltiad â sawl un o ferched y ffatri.

Wrth edrych yn ôl: ‘Wel, ma wedi rhoi y sgilia i mi heddiw ‘ma, ella bo fi ofn siarad pan on i’n fengach ‘lly, ond y ffaith bo nhw wedi lymbro fi efo bod yn *shop steward* a petha felly, lle on i’n gorfod siarad, a dallt petha – heddiw dwi’n gneud lot o waith gwirfoddoli lle mae gwahanol asiantaetha a wedyn mae’n siwr ma’r sgilia rheiny sy ‘di helpu fi i neud petha fel hyn dach chi’n gwbod ynte.’

Hyd: 1 awr, 10 munud

English summary

Ferranti’s c.1961 (six months) Austin Taylor’s Bethesda 1962 – 1970

Interviewee: VN053 Dilys Pritchard

Date: 02:07:2014

Interviewer: Shan Robinson on behalf of Women’s Archive Wales

Dilys was born on 19th June, 1943 in St David’s Hospital, Bangor and came home to her grandmother’s house in Bethesda. She had no brothers or sisters. She lived with her mother’s sister, her grandmother and her mother. Her mother’s brothers had married and left home.

She went to Penrhyn School and then went to Gerlan School which was a church school as her family were church people. She later went to Cefnfaes School and when she was 16 went to work in Woolworth for £14 a week. She was there for three to four years but was influenced by the talk that Ferranti paid much more.

She had left school at fifteen years old because there was no help available for the children in the area who wanted to stay on. She hadn’t passed her eleven plus and had therefore gone to Cefnfaes School. If she had passed she would have gone to Dyffryn Ogwen School. She had to look for work. Before going to Woolworth her mother’s friend had gone to work in Swaines (?) which was in the old market in Bangor and Dilys got a Saturday job there. They sold flowers and fruit and she had to empty buckets of dirty water and she didn’t this work.

She started as a trainee on the biscuit counter in Woolworth. The woman in charge of the counter retired and she got to be in charge. She received training on how to make the folders, on how to ensure that the dates were correct, etc. She had to check deliveries and was responsible for ordering. They were then given Easter Eggs, and had to keep an eye on these

as well. A Saturday girl called Dorothy was taken on to help her. There was a lot of work involved in doing the inventory because they had to weigh the biscuit tins and this took hours. Then they had to go to the stockroom to fetch the tins although the lads there would help.

5.06

Everything in this conversation happened between 1960 and 1970. **She was in Ferranti for about six months. She had been trained as a capstan operator that made holes in washers. It was a dirty, oily job and she didn't like it at all.** She then heard that there were vacancies in Austin Taylor in Bethesda which was just down the road for her. **She was lucky enough to get a job as one of their twelve key workers.** The company brought the material from their other factory in Manchester. They were an electrical telecommunications factory. At that time, screws were measured as 2BA or 4BA, etc. (By now it's all metric.)

They were told that one of them would be sent for government training and she went to Camelaire's in Beaumaris. She was the only woman on the course. She wore a skirt the first time she went there and had to demonstrate what she did in the factory in front of the whole class. There were many comments about her knees so after that day she wore trousers. The course lasted approximately six weeks and there were people from different factories there such as the Anglesey Knitting Company.

They were taught people management skills and product training.

Austin Taylors paid £56 - a man's wage – unlike Woolworth who paid £14-16. When they moved from her grandmother's house in Abercaseg she could buy new furniture and could modernise the house.

She worked at Austin Taylor's for approximately eight years. One day she went home to have her lunch one day when a pain started in her side. Her mother told her not to go back to work. She had acute appendicitis and was off work for eight weeks. **A man called Mr Hall looked after the workers. He came to the flat where they were living and gave Dilys her cards. She had to go to a tribunal to try and get her job back.**

10.41

At that time the unions hadn't come into force and she lost her job. As a result she had a nervous breakdown. **'I hadn't done anything wrong, I'd just got ill, and I lost the wages that supported us all as a family you know.'**

She was helped by people from the Mental Health. Keith Ferns who was in College Road, Bangor helped her and they formed Grŵp Seilo offering support to people who had been through similar experiences.

The majority of the workers at Austin Taylor were from Bethesda. All the local people wanted to work there as it was so conveniently situated on their doorstep. **There was**

however, a lot of bad feeling – there were many English people there who could talk their way into the top jobs ... people who had moved in.

14.16

Dilys remembers her first day. It was better than Ferranti. It was a dusty job but not dirty but she didn't mind the dust because she had a machine similar to a vacuum which sucked up all the dust.

She was an assembly worker to begin with and after being trained in Camelairds it became her job to show other girls on the assembly what to do. By the end there were thirty girls on the section and she was made a leading hand next to Tom Greenway, who the girls didn't like because he was too bossy. The jobs on the assembly were dirty and involved dipping parts into oil. Dilys suggested to Tom that they should have a rota so that nobody was doing that job more than twice a month.

17.20

The management didn't listen to the workers until the union came. Dilys's name was put forward to be shop steward. Despite saying that she didn't want to be shop steward she was voted in and was sent to Colwyn Bay for training.

Dilys talks about a dispute two years after this. It was winter and very cold in Austin Taylor. The workers had been in working over-time on Saturday and Sunday in order to get bonuses but wanted to strike on the Monday due to the cold. **Dilys told them they couldn't do this as the temperature had been the same on the Saturday and Sunday. They disagreed and went on strike. Dilys decided to go into work and was walking in on the Tuesday when the boss of her section told her, "Dilys, get in this bloody car because there's people on the gate and if you try and walk in, you'll be in trouble." "Oh no, I'll be alright". He got out of the car and grabbed her and put her in the car. She could see what he meant when they got to the gate and she saw the pickets. Because she was with a leading hand it looked as if she was on the side of the management. Two of the girls said they wouldn't work with her and they got instant dismissals. Dilys argued the case for them to have their jobs back as they were just young girls, "Well, you know, they don't understand what's going on. ... and it's a bit harsh ..." "O.K. we'll just let them off for two days." She learnt the rules of the Union through her work. One of the other things she learnt through her work was how to read large drawings with pictures of junction boxes on them. They would send drawings to the oilfields in Dubai.**

20.50

Dilys went from working on the shop floor to working as a sales liaison clerk in the office which meant dealing with customers. She received a phone call from reception one day to say that there was an Arab there who wanted to see her but that he couldn't speak English. Dilys went to meet him and discovered he could speak English, and had in fact got a degree from Oxford University. Her boss gave her money to pay for food for him and she took him to the Douglas Arms Hotel.

There were 30 women working on the assembly, about 40 working on the wiring, and some on the packing. Some of the workers on the assembly just did the box assembling – putting the block in the box and putting sealant to keep the box shut.

Gwilym Rees was responsible for fixing the machine if it broke. Some of the women did the same jobs as men such as working on the wiring of the large cables, although these were very heavy.

24.21

Dilys goes on to talk about the working in the packing department and the work they did for the GPO.

26.28

There were no female officials during the time she worked there. Mr Taylor worked upstairs in the drawing office, Mike tested the plastics. One day as he was about to cut the PD4s with a circular saw and Dilys warned him he needed to put a safety cover on. He didn't listen and lost the top of his finger which went flying through the air and landed on the floor with a thump. She grabbed the top of his finger and handed it back to him, and he fainted. She called upon Arwel, the First Aid person who bound it and who commended her for doing the right thing. She was responsible for saving Mike's finger.

Bert Gillan the Managing Director came to her one day and said, 'Dilys, there's a job going in the office, you know all these drawing numbers, why don't you try for it? Well I'll put your name down'. She got the job. She did do some training for the job which consisted mainly of answering the phone and answering queries about the products. She had experience of working with the products and could read the drawings so she could explain to them. She had to deal with people from Dubai who didn't speak English very well so she would have to make absolutely sure that the order was correct. She would say, 'We have made an order for you, for so and so and I'm sending a copy. Can you please send a letter to confirm that this is what you want.'

30.45

There were older women working there. Dilys's mother would collect her daughter from school for her. Other women's families helped them in the same way. Sometimes the women who had small children worked part-time, and others worked the night shift. Some girls worked from nine o'clock until midnight.

When Dilys worked on the shop floor her wage was approximately £30. She took over the job in the office from a man, and therefore received the same wage that he had been paid. Wages rose with the cost of living.

She would receive her wages in a little brown envelope. On a Friday a girl from the pay office would come to the assembly holding a wooden box. She would call out the worker by

number. Dilys's number was 121 and she would put a tick by her name to indicate that she had received it. When she worked in the office they would put it on her desk.

Bonus payments were available for workers on the assembly line, and over-time on a Saturday.

Dilys would go shopping occasionally to Llandudno or Bangor – to Polycoffs, Wartskis who sold nice children's clothes. She would prioritise buying a school uniform for Mandy first, and then see how much she had left. Her mother was on a pension and they would try and save any spare money in a tin. Dilys didn't care much for clothes and didn't go out to dances so didn't spend much money.

35.55

There were no perks as such. If you wanted a telephone you were given help but Dilys couldn't afford a telephone anyway.

Dilys thinks that the union in the factory was the Transport and General Workers' Union. Clive Jenkins was in charge. People began to realise that a union was required because there were so many workers there, in many different sections, and therefore they experienced different problems. They needed clarification on what their rights were.

There were two or three strikes there during her time there. She talks again about the strike held due to the cold conditions. She thought this was unjust because they had been in earning good over-time money during the weekend but decided it was too cold to work on the Monday.

There was a change in the relationship between the bosses and the workers when they joined the union. **'We had to watch that we didn't say things in front of the management in case they found out what was going on.'**

39.45

She went to a hotel in Colwyn Bay to train as a union official. She received a book of rules. If she saw something in work which she thought was wrong she would consult the book. If she thought the rules were being contravened she had a telephone number to phone, and a man from the union would come to take a look at the situation. They would then hold an emergency meeting in the Douglas Arms Hotel or another venue and she would be advised on how to proceed. If this didn't work he would return and offer her more advice.

The workers trusted the union.

Dilys thinks the workers provided their own overalls. At that time they could make a claim on their tax form if they had to buy their own uniform.

When Dilys was a leading hand she told one of the girls on a machine in the assembly one morning to tie her hair back and offered her an elastic band. The girl refused it. Tom Greenway had to go to the girl to tell her how dangerous it was. That afternoon

she heard somebody shouting that Christine's hair had gone into the machine. Dilys switched the machine off. The girl's hair was long and Dilys told her that she would have to cut it. The girl started crying so they tried to pull her hair out without cutting it. They did this for half an hour. The girl lost some hair but they didn't cut it. They got her hair out in the end. She collapsed due to shock and Dilys and Arwel took her to First Aid, and then to Ysbyty Gwynedd.

44.41

Dilys tells the story of another incident. Dilys was at home in Abercaseg when Eirwen, a colleague of hers, called to tell her that she had left the pitch switch on. This heated the coal tar and meant that the factory was in danger of exploding. Dilys and Eirwen went down to the factory. It was closed and there were about six guard dogs guarding the factory. They knocked the window to get the attention of Jimmy Richards, who looked after the factory. He let them in after ensuring that the dogs had been taken around to the other side. They had to use rags to put the switch off because it was so hot, and they waited for it to cool down, and emptied some of the coal tar out of a large can before leaving.

The First Aider, Arwel, was a member of St John's Ambulance and when somebody was ill he would come and take a look at them and decide if he needed to call a doctor or an ambulance.

47.25

There was strip lighting in the factory and there were radiators to heat it. There was a toilet and sink in the Gents and Ladies, but workers had to eat their food where they worked as there was no canteen. There was no music played there because it was considered a distraction for those people in jobs where a high degree of concentration was required. It was a noisy place to work, especially with the tool shop at the bottom end, but they didn't wear anything to protect their ears. It was noisy in wiring because of the drilling there, and there was a horrendous amount of noise in the assembly.

'The girls would go to the toilet for a chat ... They would also go to the toilet for a smoke. If you were there for a long time Tom Greenway would ask "Where've you been?" You had to make an excuse.'

50.40

Dilys doesn't hear very well now but has never claimed any compensation.

There were many marriages made at the factory and many of the older women would tease the young lads. Quite often they knew their mother and father. There was a lot of humour in the factory.

Dilys worked Monday to Friday and could be offered overtime in the evenings. When an important shipment was due to go out they would be offered overtime on a Saturday and

Sunday. If workers didn't want to work overtime it didn't go down well. The hours were eight until six, and six until ten o'clock. However, the pattern of the working week changed with more shifts, and some workers working just in the mornings.

54.32

They acquired a factory in Llandygái as an extension of Austin Taylor's.

They had to clock in and out.

They had a quarter of an hour's break in the morning, and half an hour for lunch at twelve o'clock. Some people would go down to Bethesda to buy a pasty or go to the chip shop. There was no food provided in the factory, only tea and coffee.

There was a fortnight of paid holidays during the summer as well as the bank holidays. Dilys didn't go away during the holidays. She would go with her mother and daughter on the Purple Motors trips.

Dilys describes the time she got work with Michael Film Productions in Manchester at the time of the investiture in 1969.

59.54

Dilys recalls a work's trip to Blackpool to see the lights, "We had booked a hotel for the men and a hotel for the women.. The food that we got in our hotel was awful. We had meat in a plastic bag that was heated up. But the hotel where the men were staying was good. The woman running it was Italian. They invited us over for a buffet. ... We'd never eaten as much in our lives."

There was a Christmas club arranged by some of the women in order to get Christmas presents.

They would socialise in the Douglas Arms Hotel or go to the Plaza cinema or the City Cinema.

1.04.02

"Looking back, you made friends you could trust. You knew each other well, and knew how far you could push them, knew their ways ... probably because they lived locally. We were very close, and we understood each other."

She was forced to leave, through no fault of her own. This was difficult because she lived in a small community where people questioned what she had done to deserve losing her job, and she had a child to care for and a mother on a pension.

The girls in work wanted to arrange a farewell party for her but she refused. She worked there for a total of eight years, on the shop floor and then in the office. She is still in touch with many of the women from the factory.

Dilys says of her experience at the factory: **‘Well, it has given me skills, perhaps when I was younger I would be scared of speaking out, but because I’d been lumbered with being shop steward and things like that, and I had to speak out and understand – today I do a lot of voluntary work with different agencies and those skills have helped me do these things you know.’**

Duration: 1 hour ten minutes