

LLEISIAU O LAWYR Y FFATRI / VOICES FROM THE FACTORY FLOOR

Ffatri ROF Pembre, Sir Gaerfyrddin, 1950 - 1954

Cyfwelai: VSW021 (Ann) Maureen Jones

Dyddiad: 27.1.14

Cyfwelydd: Susan Roberts ar ran Archif Menywod Cymru

There is an English summary at the end of the Welsh text

Ganed Maureen yn yn Rhydcerrig, Cwm-mawr, Sir Gaerfyrddin ar 4 Hydref, 1933. Daeth ei mam a'i thad i Bontyberem i fyw, i Paris House. Roedd ei thad yn gweithio yng ngwaith glo Pentremawr, ym Mhontyberem fel haliwr. Ni fuodd ei mam erioed allan i weithio. Nid oedd yn iach iawn. Roedd Maureen yn un o ddau o blant ac roedd yn bedair blynedd yn hŷn na'i brawd. Aeth ei mam yn dost ar ôl geni ei brawd, ac aethant yn ôl i Gwm-mawr i fyw, at ei mamgu a'i thadcu. Buodd ei mam farw yn 1947 a buodd ei brawd farw yn 1948. Roedd Maureen a'i brawd wedi cael scarlet fever, a gwrthododd ei brawd fynd i mewn i'r ysbty. O ganlyniad methodd ei arennau a bu farw yn ddeg mlwydd oed. Daeth Maureen a'i thad yn ôl i fyw i Bontyberem.

Aeth Maureen i'r ysgol yn y Tymbl pan roedd yn byw yng Nghwm-mawr, ac yna i ysgol y sgwâr ym Mhontyberem ar ôl symud. Mae Maureen yn cofio'r boms yn cwmpo yng Nghwm-mawr adeg y rhyfel ar dir ei thadcu, ac mae'n cofio mynd o dan y ford yn Ysgol y Tymbl ac edrych allan a gweld awyren yn mynd ar ôl y bomar.

Naw mlwydd oed oedd hi pan symudodd hi i Bontyberem. Pan oedd yn ddeg mlwydd oed aeth i Ysgol y Ramadeg y Gwendraeth. Buodd yn yr ysgol yno nes ei bod hi'n bymtheg a hanner mlwydd oed. Hoffai fod wedi mynd i ffwrdd i weithio ond roedd ei thad yn anafdlon. Heb yn wybod iddo aeth i lawr i Lanelli un diwrnod, i'r 'Junior Job Centre' yn Station Road. Roeddynt yn chwilio am 'learner tracer' i weithio yn ROF Pembre. Cafodd gyfweiliad a chafodd y swydd, a wedyn wedodd wrth ei thad. Roedd Maureen yn 'eitha' da yn ysgol' ond nid oedd yn 'dwlu' ar waith ysgol. Roedd yn hoff o arlunio, a chelf oedd ei hoff bwnc gyda 'James yr Art' yn y Gwendraeth. Dyhead Maureen oedd mynd i rywle fel Caerdydd i fyw. (Roedd ganddi fodryb ac ewyrth yno.) Teimlai Maureen hefyd na allai gadael ei thad oherwydd ei fod ar ei ben ei hun.

Fel 'learner tracer' un ar bymtheng mlwydd oed aeth hi mewn i weithio mewn swyddfa llawn o ddynion. Roedd y merched oedd yn gweithio'n yr ROF yn edrych ar ei hól hi. Mae dal mewn cysylltiad gydag un o'r merched oedd yn gweithio yno yn yr adran gyflogau.

Pan gafodd Maureen y cyfweiliad yn Llanelli rhoddwyd y swydd iddi yn y fan a'r lle. Pan ddywedodd wrth ei thad, roedd yn falch oherwydd bod hyn yn golygu na fyddai'n 'parablu' mwy am fynd i ffwrdd i weithio. Roedd yn sioc i Maureen ei bod yn gorfod dal bws saith o'r glochi lawr i Borth Tywyn er mwyn mynd i'r gwaith. Bws yn llawn 'coliers' oedd e yn codi coliers eraill ar y ffordd. Roedd un fenyw arall yn teithio ar y bws oedd yn gweithio fel nyrs yn Optical Cydweli felly roedd cwmni gan Maureen rhan fwya'r ffordd. Buodd y ddwy yn ffrindiau ar ôl hynny.

00.12.50: Cafodd Maureen sioc pan ddechreuodd gwaith. Nid oedd yn disgwyl taw dim ond dynion fyddai'n gweithio yno (yn y swyddfa). Tu allan i'r swyddfa roedd cymysgedd o ddynion a menywod yn gweithio. Menywod oedd yn gweithio mewn swyddfeydd eraill fel 'Cyflogau'. Roedd prentisiaid yn dod i mewn i'r 'drawing office' i gael gweld os byddant yn gallu mynd yn 'draughtsmen'.

Roedd tua chwech dyn yn gweithio'n y 'drawing office', Maureen a'r prentis. Roedd y dynion yn gwneud y lluniau mewn pensil ac roedd Maureen yn eu trêso mewn inc ar y lliain. Byddai gwaith Maureen wedyn yn cael ei argraffu.

Y Royal Ordinance Factory oedd enw'r ffatri yn gwneud 'boms a phethe'. Roedd Maureen yn gallu dod i nabod gweithwyr eraill yn y ffatri amser bwyd. Roedd y bywyd cymdeithasol i lawr ym Mhembre'n eithaf da. Byddai Maureen yn cael gwahoddiad i fynd i wahanol lefydd trwy'r gwaith. Roedd clwb chwaraeon yn perthyn i'r ffatri ac roedd Maureen yn chwarae badminton yno.

Ar ôl teithio i Bembre ar y bys roedd y ffatri dros filltir o'r heol fawr. Byddai Maureen yn cerdded y rhan yma o'r siwrnai pan oedd y tywydd yn braf. Roedd rhaid dangos eich papurau cyn mynd i fewn trwy giatau'r ffatri, ac roedd rhaid dangos bod dim sigarennau na matsys gennyh chi. Nid oedd Maureen yn ysmegu cyn mynd i'r ffatri, ond dysgodd sut i ysmegu gan y merched yno.

Gwnaeth Maureen ffrindiau gydol oes yno ond mae wedi colli nabyddiaeth ar lot ohonynt, a llawer wedi marw. Roedd Maureen yn hoffi'r gwaith o'r cychwyn cyntaf. Teimlai Maureen ei bod yn cael ei thrin yn arbennig o dda gan y dynion yn y swyddfa. Roeddynt tipyn yn hŷn na Maureen. Nid oedd yn hoffi'r prif reolwr, Mr Pollett, a oedd yno pan ddechreuodd hi, ond aeth hwnnw'n fuan ar ôl iddi ddechrau. Nid oedd yn boblogaidd o gwbl. Daeth 'bos' arall o Bembre a buon nhw'n ffrindiau am flynyddoedd.

Nid yw Maureen yn gwybod llawer am gynnyrch y ffatri. Roedd dyn a oedd wedi bod yn yr ysgol gyda Maureen yn gweithio'n y 'lab' pan ddechreuodd hi yno. Roedd adeiladau'r ffatri dros ardal eang iawn, ond roedd Maureen yn teimlo'n eithaf cartrefol yno. Teimlai'n swil ar y dechrau ond dywedodd, 'gorfes i ddod mas o' 'na.' Roedd y merched yn y swyddfeydd eraill yn neis iawn iddi, ac yn ei gwahodd i fynd i sefyll gyda nhw ym Mhembre. Cyfarfu Maureen â'i gŵr cyntaf tra bu hi yno.

£1.12 oedd cyflog Maureen, ac roedd yn prynu dillad gyda'r arian. Nid oedd yn cynilo arian ond yn ei wario i gyd. Roedd y merched ar raddfeydd cyflog gwahanol. Nid oedd y cyflogau'n 'wonderful'. Ar ôl blwyddyn a hanner daeth Maureen yn 'fully fledged' a chafodd godiad cyflog. Nid oedd dynion yn yr un swyddfa â Maureen yn gwneud yr un gwaith â hi fel 'tracer', ac nid oedd ei gwaith wedi newid yn ystod y cyfnod y bu hi yno, ac yn ogystal a'r trêso roedd yn gwneud prints hefyd a thrwy hynny roedd yn dod i nabod y

prentisiaid i gyd. Amser cinio byddai'n dysgu sut i ddawnsio gyda nhw. Roedd y bechgyn a oedd yn brentisiaid yn y 'drawing office' yn treulio cyfnod o tua tri mis yn dysgu eu crefft. Roeddnt hefyd yn treulio cyfnod mewn ardaloedd eraill o'r ffatri fel y 'lab'. Nid oedd cyfleoedd tebyg ar gael i ferched fel Maureen, ond roedd hi'n eithaf hapus ble roedd hi'n gweithio. Er hynny, buodd chwant arni ddi fynd 'ymlaen i neud fwy' ond nid oedd hynny'n bosib. Cafodd gyfle pan aeth i weithio i Thyssen. Aeth i weithio yng ngwaith glo Cynheidre cyn iddi orffen gwaith i gael babi. Buodd yn gweithio am flwyddyn a hanner yn y 'drawing office'. Yn hwyrach ffoniodd un o'r dynion o'r swyddfa yna hi a chynnig gwaith iddi gyda chwmni Thyssen.

Yn y ROF, gwaith clerigol oedd y merched yn gwneud. Dynion oedd yn gweithio ar lawr y ffatri. Roedd llawer ohonynt yn cario ymlaen i weithio ar ôl priodi. Bob wythnos roedd Maureen yn cael ei thalu, a theimlai'n 'prowd iawn' wrth dderbyn ei chyflog. Pan ddechreuodd Maureen weithio roedd ei thad yn dal i weithio (yn y gwaith glo). Byddai Maureen yn trio gwneud ychydig o waith tŷ cyn mynd i'r gwaith. Roedd yn gadael y tŷ am saith o'r gloch ac yn dechrau'r gwaith am chwarter i naw. Roedd yn gorffen y gwaith am hanner awr wedi pedwar ac yn dal bws o Borth Tywyn am bump o'r gloch, ac yn cyrraedd adref rhyw ddeuddeg awr ar ôl gadael yno yn y bore.

Roedd Maureen yn cael amser i ffwrdd o'r gwaith i chwarae badminton i'r ffatri. Roedd hefyd yn mynd i ffwrdd ar drips i chwarae.

Roedd undeb yn y ffatri, ac roedd Maureen yn aelod, ond nid yw'n cofio llawer iawn amdano.

Roedd y cantîn yn gwneud prydau bwyd fel cinio twym ac roedd tri chwarter awr ganddynt. Yn ystod y cyfnodau hyn roedd hi'n dod i nabod ei chydweithwyr. Roedd 'rest rooms' ar gael i fynd i orffwys os oedd hi'n teimlo'n flinedig. Teimlai bod angen hoi weithiau oherwydd ei bod ar ei thraed drwy'r dydd. Buodd yn ffrindiau gyda'i bos, Austin, am flynyddoedd.

Yn ystod y bore roedd 'tea ladies' yn dod rownd â te.

Roedd lot o dynnu coes ar y bws ar y ffordd i'r gwaith, ond gydag amser daeth Maureen yn cyfarwydd â hyn ac wedi dysgu sut i 'ateb nôl'.

A1 oedd enw'r prif adeilad ac roedd cyntedd fawr gyda swyddfeydd gwahanol yn arwain oddi yno. Priododd un o ffrindiau Maureen, Jenny, un o'r bosys.

Dechreuodd Maureen ysmygu ar ôl dechrau'n y ffatri er mwyn bod yr un peth â phawb arall. Roedd ei mamgu a'i thadcu yn grac iawn, ac yn ei hannog i wneud yn siwr na fyddai ei thad yn ffeindio allan. Roedd gwrthwynebiad ei mamgu yn deillio o'i hagwedd bod ysmygu yn rhywbeth 'ych a fi' i ferched.

Gwisgai Maureen 'overall' i wneud ei gwaith achos roedd inc yn gallu mynd ar y dillad. Roedd y gwaith yn ei ddarparu ac yn ei olchi. Credai Maureen fod pawb a oedd yn gweithio yno yn mwynhau.

Roedd rhai o swyddi'r 'dynon' yn beryglus. Roedd gweithwyr yn cael eu archwilio ar gyfer matsys a sigarennau. Roedd y rheolau yma'n berthnasol i'r gweithwyr i gyd ac roedd y ffatri

yn 'strict iawn' yn eu cylch. Dim ond yn y cantŷn y caniatwyd ysmegu a byddai'r gweithwyr yn cael y sigarennau 'dros y cownter' un ar y tro.

Roedd y cyfleusterau'n y ffatri yn dda, ac yn lan. Roedd un o'r menywod te, Queenie, hefyd yn glanhau yno.

Roedd tipyn o siarad yn mynd ymlaen yn y swyddfa a llawer o'r sgwrs am rygbi. Pan gyfarfu Maureen â'i gŵr cyntaf roedd y dynion yn ei phoeni amdano. Roedd Maureen rhywfaint yn genfigennus am y merched eraill oedd yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd er roedd yn reit hapus lle roedd hi ac yn credu bod cystadleuaeth yn gallu bodoli lle mae mwy nag un ferch yn gweithio.

Nid oedd radio yn chwarae'n y swyddfa (achos y byddai'n amharu ar y gwaith efallai.)

Nid oedd angen i Maureen i weithio gor-amser, yn enwedig gan fod y swyddfa'n gwybod bod yn rhaid iddi ddal bws adref. Ni fuodd yn dost a cholli'r gwaith o gwbl yn ystod y cyfnod roedd yn gweithio'n y ffatri.

Roedd Maureen yn mynd ar ei gwyliau i Gei Newydd, a weithiau i'r Barri lle roedd ganddi berthnasau. Nid oedd diddordeb gan ei thad mewn mynd ar ei wyliau, ond roedd menyw yn 'carco'r tŷ' ac aeth hi gyda Maureen i'r Barri sawl gwaith.

Roedd llawer o'r bobl a weithiai yn y ffatri'n byw ym Mhembre.

Roedd cwrt badminton mewn un o'r adeiladau y tu allan i'r ffatri. Roedd 'table tennis' ar gael i'r gweithwyr hefyd. Roedd sawl bos yn chwarae badminton – nhw oedd yn dysgu Maureen a'r gweithwyr eraill sut i chwarae – ac roedd cynghrair o chwareuwyr.

Adeg Nadolig roedd parti ym Mhembre neu Borth Tywyn. Roedd Maureen yn cymdeithasu tipyn gyda'r merched eraill y tu allan i'r gwaith, ac yn mynd i'r clwb golff lleol gyda nhw. Yn y ffordd yma roedd Maureen wedi dod i nabod 'pob math' o bobl.

Roedd Maureen yn mwynhau'r gwaith, er ei bod yn blino weithiau'n sefyll ar ei thraed, ac roedd y dynion yn y swyddfa yn ei thrin yn dda.

Dechreuodd Maureen yno yn 1950 a gorffennodd yno bedair blynedd yn ddiweddarach cyn iddi briodi. Roedd ei darpar ŵr yn dod o Stoke on Trent ac fe ddaeth i sefyll gyda hi a'i thad, felly roedd tipyn o waith ganddi i wneud adref. Roedd yn teimlo'n barod i adael ac yn edrych ymlaen i'r dyfodol. Roedd yn dal i weld ei chydweithwyr yn gymdeithasol ac felly nid oedd yn gweld eisiau'r cwmni oedd ganddi'n y gwaith. Mae Maureen dal mewn cysylltiad gyda'i ffrind Eryl, a weithiai gyda hi, er nad yw'n byw'n lleol mwyach.

Ar ôl cyfnod byr adref aeth i weithio'n y 'drawing office' yng ngwaith glo Cynheidre, trwy gysylltiad o Bontyberem. (Tua 1954) Roedd yn briod erbyn hyn ac yn hapus i ailgydio'n y gwaith achos bod y safle'n agosach at adref ac felly'n golygu llai o amser teithio. Teimlai Maureen bod y gwaith yn well yng Nghynheidre achos roedd merched gyda hi'n y swyddfa yno, er nad oeddynt yn gwneud yr un gwaith â hi. Buodd hi yno nes bod hi'n mynd i ddisgwyl ei mab, Stephen. Ar ôl cael plentyn buodd adref nes bod rhywun yn ei ffonio o gwmi Thyssen i gynnig gwaith iddi fel 'tracer'. Aeth i Thyssen yn 1973 a gweithio yno tan 1993. Roeddynt yn gyflogwyr da.

Mae Maureen yn disgrifio ei hamser yn yr ROF fel cyfnod hapus, a rhoddodd y swydd y gyfle iddi gyfarfod â phobl newydd, a rhai buodd yn ffrindiau iddi am flynyddoedd. Hefyd, rhoddodd y cyfle iddi symud ymlaen i weithio mewn llefydd eraill, yn gwneud yr un math o waith. Cafodd fwy o gyfle yn Thyssen oherwydd roedd yn gwneud y 'drawings' yno yn ogystal a'r trêso. Buodd hefyd yn gweithio yn yr adran Geo Technical yno.

Pe na bai Maureen wedi mynd i weithio'n yr ROF hoffai fod wedi gweithio ym maes Celf gan ei bod yn hoff o arlunio.

English summary

Ffatri ROF Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, 1950-1954

Interviewee: VSW021 (Ann) Maureen Jones

Date: 27.1.14

Interviewer: Susan Roberts on behalf of Women's Archive of Wales

Maureen was born in Rhydyccerrig, Cwm-mawr, Carmarthenshire on 4th October, 1933 and then moved Paris House in Pontyberem. Her father worked in Pentremawr colliery as a haulier. Her mother suffered from poor health and stayed at home. Maureen had a younger brother, four years younger than her. After he was born her mother became unwell and they returned to live in Cwm-mawr with her grandmother and grandfather. Her mother died in 1947, when Maureen was fourteen, and her brother died of scarlet fever the following year. Her brother had refused to go to hospital and as a result his kidneys had failed. He was only ten years old when he died. Maureen and her father then returned to live in Pontyberem.

When Maureen was living in Cwm-mawr she attended Tumble School, and after the move to Pontyberem went to the school on the square in Pontyberem. Maureen remembers the bombs falling on her father's land in Cwm-mawr during the war, and remembers being under the desk and seeing a plane flying in the air, chasing the bomber when she was at school in Tumble.

She was nine years old when she moved to Pontyberem. When she was ten years old she went to Gwendraeth Grammar School and was there until she was fifteen and a half. She would have liked to have gone away to work but her father was unwilling. She went down to the Junior Job Centre in Station Road, Llanelli one day without his knowledge. They were looking for a learner tracer to work in ROF Pembrey. She was interviewed and got the job, and then had to break the news to her father. Maureen was 'quite good' in school but didn't like school work. She was fond of art, and this was her favourite subject with 'James Art' in the Gwendraeth. Maureen's dream was to go to somewhere like Cardiff to live (she had an auntie and uncle there) but felt she couldn't leave her father on his own.

She went to work as a learner tracer when she was sixteen years old, in an office full of men. The women who worked in the ROF looked after her. She is still in contact with one of the women who worked in the wages office.

When Maureen was interviewed in Llanelli, she was given the job there and then. When she told her father, he was glad because he thought that this would put an end to any ideas she had about moving away. It was a shock to the system when she had to start catching the bus to Burry Port at seven o'clock in the morning. The bus was full of colliers. There was one other woman on the bus who was a nurse working in the Optical in Kidwelly. The two of them became friends.

00.12.50: Maureen had another shock when she started. She hadn't expected to be working in an office of men only. There were both men and women working in the factory. It was women working in the offices, such as the wages office. Apprentices came into the drawing office to see whether they were good enough to become draughtsmen.

There were about six men in the drawing office, as well as Maureen and the apprentice. The men did the drawings in pencil and Maureen traced them in ink on cloth. Maureen's work would then be printed.

The factory was called The Royal Ordnance Factory and they made 'bombs and things'. Maureen got to know other workers in the factory during lunch times. The social life at the factory was quite good. Maureen would receive various invitations to places through work. There was a sports club, and Maureen played badminton there.

After arriving in Pembrey, Maureen had another mile to travel in order to get to the factory. She would walk this part of the journey when the weather was good. Before being let in through the factory gate, she would have to show her papers and would be checked to ensure that she wasn't carrying any cigarettes or matches. Maureen didn't smoke before she went to the factory, but the girls there taught her how.

Maureen made lifelong friends there but has lost touch with some, and others have died. Maureen liked the work from the offset and felt that she was treated well by the men in the office. They were quite a bit older than she was. She didn't like Mr Pollett, the manager, who was in charge when she first started there, but he left soon afterwards. His replacement, Austin, came from Pembrey, and Maureen and he were friends from Wales.

Maureen doesn't know much about what the factory produced. There was a man who had been to the same school as her who worked in the laboratory when she started. The factory buildings were spread over a wide area, but Maureen felt quite at home there. She felt quite shy when she first started working but soon got over this. The girls from the other office were very nice, and would invite her to go and stay with them in Pembrey. Maureen met her first husband when she worked there.

Her first wage was £1.12, and she bought clothes with the money. She spent all of it and didn't save any of it. The women were on different grades of pay. After a year and a half Maureen had become a fully-fledged tracer and got a pay rise. None of the men in her office did the same work as her, and she continued doing the same job during the time that she worked there. As well as printing she did prints and therefore got to know all the

apprentices. During lunch times she would learn to dance with them. The apprentices in the drawing office would spend a period of three months learning their craft. They also spent time in other sections of the factory such as the lab. These opportunities didn't exist for girls, and Maureen was quite happy doing her work, even though she admits she would have liked to have gone on to learn more. She had more opportunities when she went to work in Thyssen. She went to work in Thyssen before she gave up work to have a baby, and worked in the drawing office for a year. Later on, one of the men from the office phoned her and offered her work with Thyssen.

The women in ROF did clerical work and men worked on the factory floor. Many of these women carried on working after getting married. Maureen would be paid weekly, and felt very proud that she was receiving a wage. When she started work there her father was still working in the mine. Maureen would try and do some of the house work before leaving for work at seven o'clock. She started work at a quarter to nine and finished at half past four, and would catch the five o'clock bus from Burry Port to arrive home about twelve hours after she had left in the morning.

Maureen would be given time off from work to represent the factory playing badminton. She would go away on trips to play badminton.

There was a union in the factory, and Maureen was a member, but she doesn't recall much about it.

They had three quarters of an hour for lunch and the canteen made hot meals. She got to know her colleagues during these breaks. There were rest rooms available to go and rest if somebody felt tired. She felt as if she needed a rest sometimes because she was on her feet all day.

During the mornings, a tea lady would bring tea round.

There was a lot of leg pulling on the bus on the way to work, but Maureen got used to this and learnt how to answer back.

The main building was called A1 and had a large reception area with different offices leading from it. One of Maureen's friends, Jenny, married one of the bosses.

Maureen started smoking after starting in the factory in order to fit in with everybody else. Her grandmother and grandfather were very angry, and told her to make sure that her father didn't find out. Her grandmother thought that women shouldn't smoke and that it was 'ych a fi'.

Maureen wore an 'overall' to do her work in case she got ink on her clothes. Work provided this overall and washed it. She thinks that everybody who worked there enjoyed themselves.

Some of the men's jobs were dangerous. The non-smoking policy was strictly enforced. Smoking was permitted in the canteen and individual cigarettes could be bought over the counter there. The facilities in the factory were clean and good. The tea lady, Queenie, also cleaned there.

There was a lot of chatting in the office, and much of the conversation would be about rugby. When Maureen met her first husband, the other men would tease her about him. Maureen did feel somewhat jealous of the other girls because they worked together although she thinks that working with men might have been easier in one sense because there is always competition between women when they are together.

There was no radio playing in the office as this would have interfered with the work going on there.

Maureen wasn't asked to work over-time, but they knew that she depended on the bus to go home. She was never off sick during the time she worked there.

Maureen would go on holiday to New Quay (Cardiganshire), and sometimes to Barry where she had relatives. Her father wasn't interested in going on holiday, but there was a woman who kept house for him, and she went to Barry with Maureen on several occasions.

Many of the people who worked in the factory lived in Pembrey.

There was a badminton court in one of the out-buildings. There were also table tennis facilities available for workers. Several of the bosses played badminton and taught the other workers how to play.

At Christmas time there was a party in Pembrey or Burry Port. Maureen socialised quite a bit with the other women outside working hours, and would go to the golf club with them. In this way, Maureen got to know all sorts of people.

Maureen enjoyed the work even though she would get tired standing on her feet all day.

She began working there in 1950 and finished there four years later before getting married. Her husband-to-be came from Stoke on Trent and he came to stay with Maureen and her father. She felt ready to leave and was looking forward to the future. She still saw people from the factory socially so she didn't miss the company too much. Maureen is still in contact with her friend, Eryl, even though she doesn't live locally now.

After a short time at home she got a job in the drawing office at Cynheidre Colliery through a contact in Pontyberem (circa 1954.) She was married by then and was glad of the chance to re-start work, especially as the work was situated locally, therefore she didn't have to spend time travelling far. Maureen preferred to work here as she had female company in the office, even though the women didn't do the same work as her. She stayed there until she got pregnant with her son, Stephen. She remained at home until she received a telephone call from Thyssen offering her work as a tracer. She went there in 1973 and worked there until 1993. She describes Thyssen as a good employer.

Maureen describes her time in ROF as a happy time, and the job gave her the opportunity to meet new people, some of whom remained friends with her for years. It also proved to be a stepping stone to work in other places, doing the same type of work. She had more opportunities in Thyssen because she was doing the drawings as well as the tracing. She also worked in the Geo Technical department there.

If she hadn't gone to work ROF Maureen would have liked to have followed her love of painting and art.