

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

### British Leyland (Morris Motors) 1968 – 1984

**Cyfwelai:** VSW028 Patricia Lewis

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**Cyfwelydd:** Susan Roberts ar ran Archif Menywod Cymru

*(There is an English summary at the end of the Welsh text)*

Ganed Pat ar 7 Hydref, 1941 ym Maesyfelin, Pontyberem. Glowr oedd ei thad, ond fe adawodd y gwaith glo ac aeth i weithio fel gyrrwr i'r Co-operative cyn iddo gael slip disc a brifo'i gefn. Cred Patricia taw codi pethau yn y gwaith oedd wedi achosi problemau gyda'i gefn, ond gorfodd rhoi'r gorau i'r gwaith.

Bu farw ei thad yn chwech deg a phump mlwydd oed o drawiad ar y galon a achoswyd gan pneumoconiosis er iddo orffen gweithio'n y gwaith glo yn 1942, pan oedd yn ei dridegau. Bu'n gweithio yng ngwaith Glynhebog ac roedd llawer o lwch yno. Roedd hefyd gan Patricia ewyrth a bu farw yn bum deg tri mlwydd oed, ac roedd ef wedi bod yn gweithio yng Nglynhebog hefyd.

Roedd mam Patricia yn gwasanaethu yn ffarm y Llethdŷ pan oedd yn un deg pedwar mlwydd oed. Buodd hefyd yn forwyn gyda Colonel Woods. Roedd tafarn gan famgu Patricia, tafarn y Bridge ym Mhontyberem. Nid oedd dŵr tap tu fewn i'r dafarn. Pan roedd yr afon tu ôl i'r dafarn yn codi, roedd yn dod i mewn i'r tŷ. Un tro pan roedd yr afon wedi codi ac wedi mynd reit lan i'r grisiau. Dywedodd ei thad bod eisiau glo ar y tân ac roedd yn rhaid i'w thâd mynd allan i'r cefn yn y dŵr. Mae Patricia'n cofio gweld 'y da, y moch, a'r defaid' yn dod lawr yr afon, ac yn bodd. Roedd Patricia tua chwech mlwydd oed ar y pryd.

Mae Patricia'n disgrifio Pontyberem fel oedd y pentre yn ei hieuentid – y llifogydd, Pen y Bont, yr ysgol.

00.10.53: Aeth Pat i'r ysgol fach ym Mhontyberem. Collodd flwyddyn yn yr ysgol ac mae'n teimlo bod hyn yn golygu ei bod wedi colli allan ar lot o bethau. Collodd lot o'r ysgol hefyd, oherwydd afiechyd (TB glands). Nid oedd gobaith basio i fynd i'r Gwendraeth (yr ysgol ramadeg). Aeth lawr i'r 'ysgol waelod' yn lle hynny.

00.12.21: Mae'n cofio ei mam yn dod adref un diwrnod ac yn dweud ei bod wedi cael jobyn iddi yn siop Lewis yn y pentre (lle mae'r bwyty Indiaidd nawr). Roedd i weithio ar ôl ysgol bob dydd Gwener a dydd Sadwrn. Buodd yn gwneud hyn o fis Medi i'r Nadolig (yn bedair ar ddeg mlwydd oed). Gadawodd yr ysgol adeg y Nadolig hwnnw, ac aeth yn llawn amser. Roedd yn bymtheng mlwydd oed ar y pryd ac yn cael ei thalu dwy bunt yr wythnos. Gweithiai bump diwrnod a hanner yr wythnos (gweithiai o naw o'r gloch y bore, ddydd Llun i ddydd Iau, tan saith o'r gloch ar nos Wener, ac o naw tan un ar ddydd Sadwrn). Roedd yn hapus â'r gwaith a'r arian ar y pryd. Cerddai adref i fynd i gael cinio.

Roedd yn hapus ei bod wedi gadael yr ysgol. Nid oedd yn hoffi'r ysgol – roedd wedi colli cymaint, nid oedd yn gallu dal i fyny. Teimlai y gallai fod wedi gwneud yn well pe bai wedi cael mwy o help. O ganlyniad, gwnaeth yn siwr ei bod ei phlant ei hun yn cael digon o help.

Roedd ffrind y teulu'n gweithio'n Siop Lewis ac roedd un o'r merched yno'n mynd i nyrsio. Ar ôl iddi fynd i nyrsio daeth yn ôl achos nid oedd yn hoffi'r gwaith, ond gyda tair ohonynt yn gweithio'n y siop roedd gormod yn gweithio yno. Bu'n rhaid i un ohonyn nhw orffen ond cafodd hi ei chadw ymlaen. Buodd yno nes ei bod hi'n priodi a chael plant. Ar ôl hynny buodd yn gwneud 'bits a bobs' ac aeth i weithio'n y ffatri yn 1964.

Yn ôl Pat, doedd neb yn ennill arian da bryd hynny. Roedd ei gŵr yn ennill wyth bunt yr wythnos. Saer ydoedd ond gweithiai ar y rheilffordd. Yna, aeth i'r Optical yng Nghydweli ond ni fu yno'n hir oherwydd cafodd 'dermatiis' ar ei ddwylo. Aeth yn ôl i wneud gwaith saer tan tua 1974, ac aeth i mewn i ffatri Calzonic (British Leyland ar y pryd.) Buodd yno am ddwy ar hugain o flynyddoedd.

Dechreuodd Pat yno yn 1968. Roedd wedi bod yn gweithio mewn siop arall (siop Jac Henri gyda Dora), yn y fferyllfa, ac yn Siop Jane pan bendefynodd bod angen mwy o arian arni oherwydd bod y plant yn tyfu, a dyna sut pendefynodd fynd i weithio mewn ffatri.

Morris Motors oedd enw'r ffatri'n wreiddiol ond roedd wedi newid dwylo a British Leyland oedd ei henw pan aeth Pat yno yn 1968. (Newidiodd ei henw i Nuffield Works cyn iddi fynd yn British Leyland.) Yn hwyrach, fe drodd yn Calzonic.

Roedd Pat wedi clywed bod gwaith ar gael yno yn weldo 'silencers' Weldo nwy oedd hyn. Roedd yn cael '14 and 6' am gant o 'silencers' – cymaint ag oedd hi'n gallu gwneud mewn un diwrnod.

Roedd deg munud o frêc yn y bore, ac yn ôl Pat roedd eisiau cymryd brêc achos roedd yn gwisgo masg ar ei hwyneb, ac roedd tân o'i blaen (fflam y gwn) ac roedd hyn yn golygu bod hi'n mynd yn dwym iawn yno a bod eisiau mynd i gael diod. Ond oes oeddech chi'n cymryd gormod o amser roedd hyn yn golygu bod eich sgôr yn mynd lawr.

Pan aeth Pat i ofyn am swydd yno dywedodd y swyddog Personel taw dim ond swyddi weldo oedd ar gael. Nid oedd gan Pat syniad beth oedd weldo. Dywedodd y swyddog personel wrthi y gallai ddechrau ar y dydd Llun olynol. Ffeindiodd Pat y gwaith yn galed iawn ar y dechrau.

**00.22.30: Dywedodd, 'Roedd y gwaith yn galed, ac yn itha dangerous.'**

Mae'n cofio gweithio ar lein, a phump yn eistedd ar bob ochr. Cydiodd yn ei gwn, a'i chynnu, a chwythodd y cwbl. Jwmpodd pawb off y lein a llewygodd Pat. Nid oedd yn gwybod beth oedd wedi digwydd. Aethpwyd â hi i'r syrjeri. Roedd nwy wedi mynd mewn i'r 'cans' ac wedi casglu yno ac wedi ffrwydro pan gynnodd y gwn. Nid oedd wedi cael ei niweidio, dim ond wedi cael ofn.

Tro arall, pan ddychwelodd Pat i'r gwaith ar ôl gwyliau'r 'shut-down' clywodd ffrwydriad yn rhywle. Edrychodd pawb o gwmpas i weld beth oedd wedi digwydd ac yna clywon nhw ffrwydriadau eraill, un ar ôl y llall. Achos y ffrwydriadau oedd bod y pibau heb gael eu glanhau, ac yn chwythu. Cafodd y gweithwyr eu danfon adref y diwrnod hwnnw. Cafodd glustiau un ferch eu heffeithio achos roedd yn sefyll o dan un o'r pibau oedd wedi chwythu, ond nid oedd unrhyw anafiadau. Cred Pat taw hi cynnodd ei gwn yn gynta a chwythodd y beipen uwch ei phen. Pan ddaeth hi allan roedd wedi gorchuddio mewn rhyw fath o huddug. Buodd hi i ffwrdd o'r gwaith oherwydd roedd wedi effeithio ei chlustiau. Dyma'r tro cyntaf a'r tro diwethaf welodd Pat hyn yn digwydd.

Roedd Pat yn nabod rhywun o'r enw Julia Price a weithiai yn y ffatri cyn ei bod hi'n dechrau yno. Pan ddechreuodd weithio yno cawsai lifft gan bwy bynnag y gallai, a thalu 50c yr wythnos iddynt. Mae Pat yn cofio hi a'i ffrind yn dechrau cael lifft gydag un o Dystion Jehovah achos roedd y person roeddynt arfer cael lifft gyda fe wedi gorffen. (Roeddynt wedi bod yn talu 17/6 i 'Ivor' am lifft.) Gofynnodd y merched faint roedd y lifft yn costio a dywedodd y dyn £1, 17/6, a oedd yn bunt yn fwy nag yr hyn roeddynt yn arfer talu. Prynodd gar bach iddi ei hun ar ôl hynny, a buodd hi'n rhoi lifft i'r merched wedi hynny.

Nid yw Pat yn cofio os oedd bws yn rhedeg yr adeg yr oedd hi'n gweithio'n y ffatri. Roedd bws yn dod yn ôl am chwarter wedi pedwar ac roedd yn bosib dal hwnnw. 'Service bus' oedd hwnnw.

Roedd Pat yn dechrau'r gwaith am hanner awr wedi saith ac yn gorfod gadael y tŷ am saith. Roedd yn gorffen y gwaith am bedwar o'r gloch, ac roedd hanner awr i ginio. Roedd cantîn da yno yn gwneud tua tri phryd gwahanol. Y broblem oedd bod ciws yno o'ch blaen yn eithaf aml, ac felly nid oedd llawer o amser gyda chi i fwyta'ch bwyd.

Roedd y 'foremen' yn bwyta'u mewn ystafell arall, (er eu bod yn gallu gweld y gweithwyr o'r ystafell hon) ac am un o'r gloch byddent yn dod allan a dweud wrth y merched ei bod hi'n amser i fynd yn ôl i'r gwaith.

Roedd tipyn o ddynion yn gweithio yno ar y pryd a rhai ohonynt yn gwneud yr un gwaith â'r merched. Mae Pat yn cofio mynd draw i'r adran oedd yn gwneud seddau, am nad oedd gwaith yn ei hadran ei hun. Gwaith Pat oedd tynnu'r seddau o'r conveyor a llusgo deg ohonynt. Byddai'r dynion yn eu gwyllo'n gwneud y gwaith hyn. Roedd Pat yn credu ei fod yn waith anodd dros ben.

### **00.31.37: Dywedodd, 'Jobyn dyn oedd e'.**

Yna, byddai'n cael ei danfon i weldo seddau.

### **00.31.52: Dywedodd, 'Ma' pob job yn galed os nad ych chi wedi'i neud e o'r bla'n.'**

Weldo trydanol oeddynt yn gwneud yno, nid weldo gyda nwy. Roedd weldo gyda'r 'silencers' yn galed o'i gymharu â gweithio ar y seddau.

Roeddynt yn cael chwe phunt o 'National Award'. Roedd unrhyw arian roeddech yn ennill ar ben hwn yn fonws. Mae Pat yn teimlo roedd y gwaith yn galed i ateb yr arian roeddynt yn ei gael, ond roedd yn well arian na gweithio mewn siop. Roedd Pat wedi blino yn y nos, ar ôl diwrnod o waith. Wrth lwc, roedd ei mam a'i thad yn byw drws nesaf iddi ac yn gallu helpu. Pan oedd yn un ar hugain cafodd feirws niwmonia. (Cafodd tri pherson o Bontyberem y feirws, a bu farw un ohonynt.) Bu bron iddi golli ei bywyd ac o ganlyniad symudodd ei rhieni i fyw drws nesa iddi. Roeddynt yn mynd â'r plant i'r ysgol a mynd i'w ôl nhw ar ôl ysgol pan roedd Pat yn gweithio'n y ffatri.

Pe na bai mam Pat wedi gallu ei helpu ni fyddai wedi gallu ymdopi gyda gwaith yn y ffatri ac edrych ar ôl y plant. Er roedd y gwaith yn galed roedd yn hoffi gweithio'n Morris Motors. Ond gorfodd fynd i lawr i Dafen (fel rhan o'i gwaith gyda'r un cwmni) er mwyn gweithio ar wresogwyr ceir. Pan roedd yn gweithio yn yr adran hon roedd yn gweithio ar lein gyda merch oedd yn cadw mynd 'off i glebran' a oedd yn golygu bod gormod o straen ar Pat. Effeithiodd y gwaith hwn ar gefn Pat oherwydd ei bod yn gorfod codi nwyddau o'r lein. Yn ôl Pat nid oedd y 'foreman' yn dweud dim wrth ei chyd-weithwraig oedd ddim yn tynnu ei phwysau, oherwydd eu bod wedi gweithio gyda'i gilydd o'r blaen. Cafodd Pat dau crushed disc wedyn, a gorfodd orffen yn y ffatri. Dywedodd yr osteopath wrthi, 'Lucky you came now or you would have been in a wheelchair.' Mae Pat yn disgrifio'r problemau cafodd gyda'i chefn.

Roeddynt yn gwybod yn y gwaith ei bod yn dioddef problemau gyda'i chefn oherwydd roedd yn colli gwaith. Roedd yn cael papur doctor, ond nid oedd yn gallu hawlio iawndal. Mae Pat yn credu dylai'r goruwchwyliwr fod wedi dweud wrth y ferch a weithiai gyda hi am dynnu ei phwysau, a lleihau'r faich ar Pat. Mae'n dioddef o osteo-arthritis dwys nawr.

Triodd am y swydd yn yr adran yn Nafen oherwydd bod y gwaith weldo yn Felinfoel yn dod i ben, ac nid oedd eisiau gweithio ar y seddau. Caedd Dafen wedyn, ac roeddynt eisiau'r gweithwyr yn ôl ar 'y top'. Esboniodd Pat bod ei chefn yn wael a dywedwyd wrthi taw gwaith ar y seddau oedd yr unig waith oedd ar gael. Felly, fe benderfynodd cymryd tâl dileu (*voluntary redundancy*) swydd yn wirfoddol.

Ar ei diwrnod cyntaf yn y ffatri cafodd Pat ofn ac roedd eisiau rhedeg allan. Roedd pawb yn gwishgo goggles, ffedogau a sbats, yn dal tarian o'u blaenau, ac yn edrych fel eu bod wedi dod o'r blaned Mars

#### **00.42.07: Dywedodd, 'O'dd e yn frightening am y flwyddyn gyntaf, nes bod chi'n dod i neud ffrindie ych hunen.'**

Roeddech yn dod i nabad pobl wrth weithio gyda nhw. Roedd pedair ohonynt yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd ar y jobyn roedd Pat yn ei wneud. Ar ôl iddi wneud ei gwaith roedd yn ei roi i mewn i gratiau ac roedd *glass wool* ynddynt yn torri eu dwylo. Roedd yn rhaid bod yn ofalus eu bod yn gwisgo'i menyg felly (ac roedd yn rhaid talu am y menyg.)

Pan roedd yn gweithio ar y weldo trydanol roedd yn rhaid iddi gael menyg mwy trwchus. Roedd yn rhaid talu am y rhain hefyd. Roedd y cwmni yn darparu'r ffedogau a'r sbats oedd am eu traed. Mwynhaodd Pat pan roedd ar y weldo.

Roeddynt yn cael deg munud i chwarter awr o frêc yn y bore i gael brecwast. Roedd un o'r merched yn cymryd ordor ac yn mynd ag ef i'r cantîn ac yna roedd yr ordor (tost, ayyb) yn dod lawr o'r cantîn rhyw bum muned cyn cael brêc.

Amser cinio roedd pawb yn eistedd lawr â'u bocsys bwyd gyda nhw. Roedd lot o bobl o Bontyberem yn gweithio'n y ffatri ar un adeg. Daeth hi i nabod merched Tymbl hefyd.

Roedd y sŵn yn y ffatri yn *terrible*. Roedd 'press shop' oedd yn mynd 'bwmp, bwmp, bwmp' trwy'r dydd. Roedd yn mynd ar nerfau Pat ambell waith. Mae Pat yn cofio un dyn a oedd yn gweithio yno oedd yn drwm ei glyw. Daeth ati un diwrnod a dweud, 'de, ma' sŵn ma' heddi', er ei fod yn drwm ei glyw. Nid oedd gan y gweithwyr dim byd dros eu clustiau i ddiogelu eu clyw, ond dywedodd Pat eu bod yn dod yn gyfarwydd â'r sŵn. Roedd rhai wedi hawlio iawndal am ddifrod i'w clyw. Cafodd brawd-yng-nghyfraith Pat iawndal. Buodd e'n gweithio yn Shop 3, lle roedd yna lot o sŵn.

Aeth gŵr Pat i weithio yn y ffatri ar ôl iddi fod yno am sbel. Cododd y cyflog i ugain punt yr wythnos i bawb, ac roedd Pat yn meddwl bod hyn yn dda iawn. Ond roedd y 'sgors' yn mynd lan gyda'r cyflog. Roedd yn rhaid i Pat wneud 480 silencer y dydd. Roedd hyn yn golygu gweithio'n ddi-stop tan ddau o'r gloch (ar wahan i'ch brêcs) neu ni fyddech yn cyflawni eich targedi.

**00.49.29: Dywedodd, 'Siwrne o'ch chi wedi cwpla'ch sgôr wedyn 'nny, o'n nhw ffael dweud dim byd wrthoch chi'.**

Tu ôl i Pat roedd yna ferched yn weldo. Roedd rhai merched yn weldo'n gyflym, ac yn weldo 150 y dydd yn rhwydd. Roedd eraill ddim yn cyrraedd eu targed ac o ganlyniad roedd rhai o'r rhain yn cael *bollocking* (yn dibynnu ar bwy oedd 'drosto chi').

Os nad oedd gwaith gennych i wneud byddai'r oruwchylwraig yn dweud wrthyhych am fynd i frwsho neu labro. Ond os oeddech chi'n dod *labouring* i lawr ar eich tocyn roedd yr oruwchylwraig yn mynd yn benwan, oherwydd os nad oedd gwaith yn eich adran roeddech fod i fynd i adran arall.

Ambell waith ni fyddai'r gwaith yn dod trwyddo yn ddigon cyflym, ac roedd hyn yn golygu bod angen mynd i ôl bocsys o nwyddau er mwyn i Pat cael cyflawni ei gwaith ar y silencers. Ond os oedd hi'n rhoi hanner awr o labro i lawr ar ei chrynodeb gwaith roedd yr oruwchylwraig yn mynd yn grac, ac yn dechrau pigo arni.

**00.51.17: 'Roedd hi'n gas, yn rili, rili, gas..... Forewoman o'n i'n galw hi... Roedd 'i cronies gyda hi, merched oedd wedi gweithio gyda hi cyn 'i bod hi'n mynd yn forewoman. Ac o'n nhw'n 'i nabod hi, achos o'n nhw'n gweud bod mwy o waith mewn potel o bop. A fflag man hyn, yn hongan trw'r dydd... O'dd hi'n ffys i gyd yn ych wyneb chi, ond one wrong move ac o'dd hi'n dod lawr arnoch chi fel tonne of bricks.'**

Roedd rhai o'r goruwchylwyr yn well. Ar ôl hyn, cafodd Pat fforman ac mi oedd e'n 'briliant'. Dywedodd Pat am y *forewomen*,

**'Roedd dwy 'da ni ar y section, ac o'dd y ddwy ohonyn nhw'n gas.'**

‘Y cwmpni’ oedd Pat yn mwynhau am y swydd. Roedd yn mwynhau’r gwaith roedd yn ei wneud ar y silencers. Ond pan roedd y lein yn dod i ben roedd y merched yn cael eu symud i lein arall, ac roedd rhaid dod yn gyfarwydd â’r gwaith newydd cyn eich bod yn gallu gwneud y gwaith yn gyflym.

Amser daeth y *fflat rate* mewn roedd mwy o amser gan y gweithwyr i gymdeithasu yn y gwaith, achos roedd ganndynt eu targedi, ond ar ôl eu cyrraedd roeddynt yn gallu mynd lawr i’r ystafell gotiau.

Roedd lot o bethau’n cymryd lle yn y *cloakroom*, fel dweud ffortiwn (gan un o’r merched), partis .... Mae Pat yn cofio un o’r merched yn darogan ei dyfodol ac yn dweud ei bod hi’n mynd i brynu car, ac o fewn pedwar neu bump mis roedd ganddi gar. Cawson nhw barti penblwydd rhywun oedd yn un ar hugain mlwydd oed. Roedd trin gwallt yn mynd ymlaen yno hefyd. Cerddodd y swyddog personel mewn un diwrnod pan roedd hwn yn mynd ymlaen a chafon nhw rhybudd i beidio gwneud hynny eto.

Yr unig reol oedd ‘da nhw oedd eu bod nhw’n gwneud eu targed. Hefyd, os oeddech yn cloco rhywun arall mas roedd yn *instant dismissal*. Mae Pat yn cofio bod dyn wedi cael ei sacio am wneud hyn. Mae Pat yn amau ei fod wedi cyflawni’r drosedd hon o’r blaen a bod y rheolwyr yn ei wyllo. Nid oedd llawer o neb o gwmpas ar lawr y ffatri am chwech o’r gloch pan roedd hi’n amser mynd adref.

Pan roedd y gweithwyr yn cloco mewn roeddynt yn cael bod dwy funud yn hwyr, ond os oeddynt yn fwy na dwy funud yn hwyr roeddynt yn colli chwarter awr o gyflog.

Roedd yr arian a enillai yn y gwaith yn ddefnyddiol ar gyfer pethau fel mynd ar eu gwyliau i lefydd fel Butlins. O’dd hi ddim yn gorfod ‘sgrimpan a sêfan’ pan oedd dau gyflog yn dod i mewn.

Roedd codiad cyflog bob blwyddyn. Pan orffennodd hi yno roedd yn ennill £90 - £99 yr wythnos.

Os oedd camgymeriad yn cael ei wneud wrth dalu cyflog roedd rhai’n mynd i’r swyddfa i gael cywiro’r broblem. Nid oedd y swyddfa eisiau talu allan o’r ‘petty cash’, ond yn annog gweithwyr i aros tan yr wythnos ar ôl hynny, er nid oedd hyn yn bosibl i rai o’r gweithwyr.

Roedd discownt ar gyfer gweithwyr oedd eisiau prynu ceir. Gallech chi arbed tua dwy fil ar bris y car (ar gar oedd yn costio pum mil a hanner). Mae’n dal i fod yn bosibl i gael rhyw fath o ddiscownt i gyn-weithwyr.

**01.06.30: Ym marn Pat nid oedd yr undebau yn llawer o help. Roedd yn rhaid bod yn aelod i’r undeb i weithio’n y ffatri.**

**00.07.20: Dywedodd, ‘Wy’n cofio pan ddechreues i ‘na gynta, ‘na i gyd o’ch chi’n clywed, right, outside, we’re not working. We’re not in tomorrow.’ Ar y dechrau roedd Pat yn meddwl ei bod hi wedi cael y sac. Roedd wastad *dispute* am rywbeth – rhywun wedi mynd â swydd rhywun arall. Roedd yr anghydfod diwydiannol yn effeithio’n andwyol ar gyflogau.**

**01.08.15: Dywedodd, ‘Os o’dd yr iwnion yn gweud ‘tho chi bod chi mas, mas o’ch chi.’**

Nid yw Pat yn credu bod y gweithwyr yn elwa llawer wrth gael undeb. Ond yn aml iawn roedd y person a oedd wedi colli ei swydd yn ei chael hi'n ôl, neu jobyn cyffelyb.

Pan roedd pawb yn cael eu galw allan byddai'r gweithwyr yn eistedd y tu allan yn y maes parcio neu'n mynd i dafarn y Bear, neu'n mynd lan i'r cantîn i gael cinio. Roedd e'n frêc, ond nid oeddynt yn cael eu talu.

Yn ôl Pat, roedd rhai o'r bosys yn 'gwd', ac roeddynt yn deg. Roedd eraill yn poeni dim am y gweithwyr.

Roedd ar Pat ofn y rheolwyr, a phan roedd yn gwybod eu bod yn dod o gwmpas, byddai'n rhoi ei gogls ymlaen a chadw ei phen i lawr. Os oedd y gweithwyr yn eistedd o gwmpas a'r lein yn wag roedd y rheolwyr eisiau gwybod pam.

01.13.30: Dywedodd Pat byddai hi byth wedi ateb nôl pe bai rhywun yn dweud rhywbeth wrthi. Mae'n cofio un achlysur pan roedd hi'n gweithio gydag un ferch oedd yn anobeithiol yn weldo – roedd tyllau yn ei gwaith. Roedd Pat yn marco'i gwaith – roedd yn rhoi dau smotyn i ddynodi taw pa nwyddau oedd ei gwaith hi. Ond roedd y ferch yn rhoi'r un marc â Pat. Mae Pat yn cofio cael tua 10 eitem o'i gwaith yn ôl, achos bod y gwaith yn wallus. Roedd Pat yn gwybod taw nid ei gwaith hi oedd y rhain. Wedodd hi wrth y fenyw a oedd yn gyfrifol am y gwaith gwallus taw ei gwaith hi ydoedd. Ond cafodd hi 'llond pen o cheek'. Gorfodd Pat ail wneud y gwaith. Roedd y forewoman oedd drostyn nhw ar y pryd yn gyfeillgar iawn gyda'r fenyw. Yn ôl Pat dylai'r goruwchwylywyr bod yn cadw llygad ar y gwaith tra bod e'n cael ei wneud er mwyn sicrhau bod y safonau'n foddhaol.

Roedd angen tipyn o sgil i wneud y gwaith. 'O'dd rhaid bod pethau'n iawn.' Roedd wedi cael mis i chwech wythnos o hyfforddiant cyn dechrau. Nid oeddynt ar lein yn ystod y cyfnod hwn ac roeddynt yn cael platiau tin, gwn a rods i gael ymarfer. Ar ôl dod i ddeall y gwaith roedd y gweithwyr yn cael eu rhoi ar y lein, er eu bod nhw dal mewn cyfnod o hyfforddiant, ac felly nid oeddynt yn gorfod cyrraedd yr un targedau â'r lleill. Roeddynt hefyd yn cael eu talu cyflog hyfforddi.

Roedd bechgyn yn gallu cael prentisaeth fel gwneuthurwyr tŵls, yn maintenance, neu fel trydanwyr. Nid oedd Pat yn gweld y bechgyn hyn achos roeddynt yn gweithio mewn rhannau eraill o'r ffatri. Ambell waith byddai'n gweld *fitter* yn dod lan â prentis.

**01.18.50: Dywedodd, 'O'dd yr iaith yn *nobody's business*'.**

Roedd y chwech mis cyntaf yn addysg i Pat.

**01.19.09: 'O'n i ddim yn gwbod bod shwd eirie i ga'l. '**

Roedd e'n bosib prynu unrhywbeth yn y ffatri (gan gynnwys vibrators, nwyddau i'r Nadolig, a nwyddau aur.) Roedd un ferch yn gwerthu (tatws) Smash. (Roedd ei chariad yn gweithio i'r cwmni.)

**01.20.34: 'O'dd lot o sidelines 'na'.**

Roedd y lanhawraig yn cymryd ordors ar gyfer shîts i'r gwely. Gallech chi brynu rhywbeth yn y ffatri, yn enwedig amser Nadolig. Prynodd Pat dipyn tra bod hi'n y ffatri – modrwyon a sawl mwclis sofren – wrth Yvonne 'Gold'.

Pan roedd Pat yn gweithio yn *air-conditioning* dywedodd un o'r merched ei bod wedi colli arian o'i phwrs. Yna, aeth modrwy briodas un o'r dynion ar goll o'i boced. Dwgodd rhywun arian allan o bwrs Pat hefyd. Galwyd yr heddlu mewn a darganfuwyd taw mab un o'r gorwuchwylwyr oedd y lleidr, a oedd yn gweithio yno fel labrwr.

Roedd *glass wool* yn gallu mynd mewn i'r dwylo weithiau, a phan roedd hyn yn digwydd roedd yn 'crynhoi'. Fynycha, roedd angen pyrnu un pâr o fenyg bob wythnos. Roedd nyrs yn gweithio'n y ffatri ac roedd damweiniau'n gallu digwydd. Aeth un o'r rods metal poeth i mewn i fron Pat un diwrnod. Aeth hi lan i'r syrjeri er mwyn cael y glwyf wedi'i thrin.

### **Dywedodd Pat, 'Yn fai 'yn hunan o'dd e'.**

Os oedd gennych broblem gyda'r gwaith byddech yn mynd yn y lle cyntaf at *foreman* neu'r *forewoman*. Wedyn, bydden nhw'n mynd at y *Superintendent*, a byddai hwnnw'n dod lawr i weld beth oedd o'i le. Nid oedd yna ystyriaethau Iechyd a Diogelwch am y gweithwyr.

Roedd hi'n oer yn y gaeaf yn enwedig os oedd y drysau ar agor i'r loris cael mynd a dod. Nid oedd y rhai oedd yng nghanol llawr y ffatri yn teimlo'r oerfel cymaint. Yn yr haf roedd yn arbennig o dwym yno. Ambell waith byddai scwosh yn cael ei ddosbarthu i'r gweithwyr. Roedd rhaid gwisgo llewysau hir beth bynnag oedd y tywydd, ac wrth gwrs y sbats, ffedog a bandiau am y breichiau.

Roedd awyrgylch da yn y rhan o'r ffatri lle oedd Pat. Pan aeth hi lawr i Dafen nid oedd yn gymaint o sbort yno, achos roedd hi ar y lein drwy'r amser. Nid oedd yn gallu siarad â'r ferch o'i blaen hi.

Nid oedd Pat yn gweld llawer o'u gŵr pan ddaeth e i weithio'n y ffatri, ond roeddynt yn gallu teithio i mewn i'r gwaith gyda'i gilydd.

Pan roedd merched yn mynd yn feichiog roeddynt yn gorffen yn y gwaith – neu gallent ddod yn ôl i'r ffatri ond dim i'r un swydd yn union. Bydden nhw'n ffeindio job i chi'n rhywle, ond doedd dim dal ble byddech chi.

Roedd Pat yn gweithio pump diwrnod a hanner yr wythnos. Ambell waith gweithiai o chwech o'r gloch y bore i chwech o'r gloch y nos, yn dibynnu os oedd eisiau gorffen archeb neu beidio. Roedd yn bosib gwrthod gwneud y gwaith gor-amser ond roedd y graddfeydd cyflog yn well am y gwaith hwn. Roedd un ferch yno'n gwneud gymaint o oriau gor-amser ag y gallai oherwydd ei bod yn fam sengl. Roedd rhai merched yn gweithio shifft nos yno, ond dynion oedd y mwyafrif. Nid oedd yr oriau ychwanegol bob amser yn cael eu cynnig mewn ffordd a oedd yn deg. Roedd Pat yn ymwybodol bod merched yn gweithio ymlaen er nad oedd hi wedi cael y cynnig, ond nid oedd modd cwestiynu hyn achos gallai achosi anghydfod rhwng y merched.

Roedd pythefnos o wyliau yn yr haf pan roedd y ffatri'n cau lawr (ar wahan i waith cynnal a chadw). Os oedd gwell gennych gael pythefnos gwahanol roeddech yn gorfod rhoi eich enw



lawr misoedd cyn hynny, a byddech yn gweud *stock-taking* yn ystod y pythefnos hwnnw. Gwnaeth Pat hyn siwrnai.

Pan ddechreuodd Pat yn Morris Motors roedd y ffatri ar agor ar Ionawr 1af, ond roedd rhai o'r gweithwyr yn dod mewn ar ôl bod yn yfed y noson gynt, ac roeddynt dal dan ddylanwad alcohol. Roeddynt yn bwrw mewn i bethau, ac fe benderfynwyd gwneud hwn yn ddiwrnod rhydd.

Roedd y ffatri yn gweithio ar noswyl y Nadolig hefyd a byddai gweithwyr yn dechrau yfed am ddeg o'r gloch y bore tan ddeuddeg o'r gloch. Roedd y bosys yn ymwybodol o hyn. Mae Pat yn cofio un ferch o'r Tymbl yn cweryla gyda merch arall (ar ôl yfed) ac yn bwrw tua 200 o silencers drosodd. Ar ôl hynny, aeth pethau'n fwy strict yn y ffatri o ran yfed alcohol.

Roedd cwmpo mas yn aml yn y ffatri – er enghraifft, oherwydd bod un person wedi cyflawni mwy o waith na rywun arall. Cafodd Pat ei riportio i'r undeb ar un achlysur. Roedd y ferch a oedd yn gyfrifol am roi'r gwaith iddynt yn rhoi mwy i'w ffrindiau nag iddi hi, ac felly roedd Pat yn mynd i'w nôl wrth y merched eraill. Ni ddatryswyd y broblem yn iawn. Dywedodd,

**01.42.32: Siwrne o'n nhw'n dechre pigo arnoch chi that was it.'**

Roedd un o'r *foremen* yn gofalu bod gan un o'r merched ddigon o waith ar draul y merched eraill a oedd yn aros o gwmpas heb ddim byd i neud (ac mewn peryg o beidio cyrraedd eu targedau.) Er bod y merched wedi dweud eu cwyn wrtho roedd Pat yn teimlo nad oedd yna ddim byd allen nhw ei wneud.

**00.44.20: Dywedodd, 'Roedd cario mla'n yn big thing yno.'** Roedd ffeit un diwrnod ar ôl i gŵr un o'r merched dod i wybod ei bod yn gweld dyn arall oedd yn gweithio'n y ffatri. Mae'n debyg taw ffrind y ferch oedd wedi dweud wrtho, er bod hi ei hun yn 'cario mla'n' gydag un o'r bosys. Roedd y carwriaethau yma'n dechrau wrth i weithwyr gymdeithasu ar nos Wener, neu nos Sadwrn yn y clwb. Hefyd, pan roedd rhywun o maintenance yn dod lan i drwsio rhywbeth ar lawr y ffatri, roedd dynion a menywod yn cwrdd bryd hynny. Roedd un fenyw yn mynd i'r clwb gyda'i gŵr. Byddai'r gŵr yn mynd i yfed a byddai'r fenyw yn mynd i ddawnsio gyda un o'r Superintendants drwy'r nos. Dyma oedd eu rwtîn.

Roedd nosweithiau cymdeithasol ffantastig yng nghlwb y ffatri. Roedd bingo a dawnsio yno ar nos Wener, a cabaret ar nos Sadwrn a nos Sul. Roedd y bar yno ar agor drwy'r wythnos. Roedd lot o fandiau'n perfformio yno. Ar ôl gwaith byddech chi'n mynd adref, newid, dod nôl a chwio tu allan i'r clwb i fynd mewn am tua awr. Erbyn bod Pat mewn byddai rhai o'r dre wedi dod i eu cotiau a'u bagiau ar y seddau a byddai'n anodd dod o hyd i ford.

Os oeddech eisiau ymaelodi a'r clwb roeddech yn gallu talu rhywfaint bob wythnos. Ymunodd Pat pan aeth hi yna gyntaf ac roedd hi'n ei ddefnyddio lot.

Clwb 'Sports and Social' oedd e. Roedd rhai'n chwarae bowls, ac eraill yn chwarae darts. Roedd stiward yn rhedeg y clwb.

Roedd Pat wedi mwynhau gweithio'n y ffatri. Y ddeng mlynedd gyntaf oedd y rhai gorau achos roedd mwy o ryddid ganddi yno ac os oedd ganddi *foreman* da drosti '*that made your day*'. Os oedd hi'n cael un cas a strict roedd ei bywyd yn uffern.

Yn y diwedd fe benderfynodd gadael achos y problemau gyda'i chefn. Nid oedd yn benderfyniad anodd achos roedd yn gwybod ni allai fynd yn ôl i'r ffatri dop i weldo'r seddau. (Nid oedd siliencers yno erbyn hynny.)

Buodd yn gweithio yno am un ar bymtheg o flynyddoedd. Nid oedd yn gallu gweithio ar ôl gadael yno achos y broblem gyda'i chefn. Pan roedd yn bedwar deg a naw, aeth i weithio ar Home Care a buodd hi gyda nhw am ddeuddeng mlynedd. Glanhau roedd hi'n ei wneud ar y dechrau, yna fe drodd y swydd i fod yn ofal bersonol. Mwynhaodd y rhan yma o'r swydd yn arbennig.

Y cwmni oedd Pat yn gweld ei eisiau ar ôl gadael y ffatri. Aeth mam Pat yn dost ar ôl iddi orffen yno. Cafodd Pat *voluntary redundancy* pan orffennodd hi.

**01.58.36: Dywedodd Pat am ei gwaith yn y ffatri 'Oedd achievement 'dach chi pan o'ch chi'n neud rhywbeth fel 'na... O'dd *pride* 'da chi yn ych gwaith. Pan o'ch chi'n pipo ar rywbeth o'ch chi'n gwbod bod e'n *perfect*, o'ch chi'n gwbod bod e'n mynd ar ryw gar.**

Roedd jobyn *inspection* yn swydd dda.

Pe byddai Patricia wedi cael dewis swydd, fe fyddai wedi hoffi gweithio gydag anifeiliaid, er enghraifft cŵn. Ond ni chafodd ddewis – roedd y dewis wedi cael ei wneud drosti pan oedd hi'n un deg a phedair mlwydd oed. Nid oeddech yn dadlau gyda'ch mam yn yr amser hwnnw.

### *English summary*

## **LLEISIAU O LAWYR Y FFATRI / VOICES FROM THE FACTORY FLOOR**

### **British Leyland (Morris Motors) 1968-1984**

**Interviewee: VSW028 Patricia Lewis**

**Date: 12.2.14**

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

Patricia was born on 7 October, 1941, in Maesyfelin, Pontyberem. Her father worked in the mine and left to become a driver for the Co-operative but had to give up work after suffering a slipped disc. Patricia believes this to have been a result of lifting heavy goods at work.

Patricia's father died when he was sixty five years old after having a heart attack caused by his pneumoconiosis, even though he'd left the mine when he was in his thirties in 1942. He had worked in Glynhebog which was an extremely dusty mine. Patricia had an uncle who had also worked there, who died when he was fifty three years old.

Patricia's mother worked as maid at a farm called Llethdy when she was fourteen years old. She also worked as a maid for Colonel Woods. Patricia's mother ran the Bridge pub in Pontyberem, where there was no running water. A river ran past the pub and when the river flooded it would come into the house. She remembers one occasion when the water had risen right up the stairs. Her father had to go outside to get coal for the fire which was under water. She remembers seeing dead cattle, pigs and sheep floating past. (She was about six years old at the time.)

Patricia describes Pontyberem as it was during her youth – the floods, Pen y Bont, and the school.

00.10.53: Pat attended school in Pontyberem. She was absent for a year due to illness (TB glands) and feels that this meant that she missed out on many things as a consequence so she didn't stand a chance of getting into Gwendraeth Grammar School. Instead, she attended the school in Pontyberem.

00.12.21: She remembers her mother coming home one day and saying that she'd found Patricia a job in Siop Lewis in the village (where the Indian takeaway now stands.) She was to work there after school on a Friday, and on a Saturday. She did this from September to Christmas, when she was fourteen years old. When she left school that Christmas, she went full time. She was fifteen years at the time and earning two pounds a week. She worked five and a half days a week – a half day on a Saturday. She was happy with the work at the time, and would walk home to have her lunch.

She was glad to leave school. She didn't enjoy it as she felt she could never catch up. She feels she would have done better at school had she been given more help. As a result, she has made sure that her children have received enough help.

One of the girls who had been working in Siop Lewis had left to go nursing but found that she didn't like it so she returned. This meant that there were too many working there and one of them had to leave. Pat was kept on and stayed until she got married and had children. After that she did 'bits and bobs' until she got a job in the factory in 1964.

Patricia talks about her husband working on the railway, and in the Optical in Kidwelly before going to work at British Leyland. She started there in 1968 after working in another shop - Jack Henry's shop in Pontyberem – the chemist, and Siop Jane. She decided that she needed to earn more money to help with the cost of raising the children and so went to work in a factory.

The factory was originally called Morris Motors but by the time Pat went to work there in 1968 it had changed hands and was called British Leyland. (It was called Nuffield Works before it became British Leyland.) It later became Calzonic.

Pat had heard on the grapevine that there were vacancies there and went to work on the welding and silencers. She got '14 and 6' per hundred silencers – which is the amount she could do in a day.

She would have a well earned ten minute break in the morning when she would be able to remove the protective mask she wore on her face. It would get very hot there because of the flame that came out of the gun she held, and she would get very thirsty but if somebody took too long at their break it meant that their score went down.

When Pat asked for a job there she was told that welding was the only thing available. Pat didn't know what welding was. The personnel officer told her she could start the following Monday. She found the work very difficult in the beginning.

**00.22.30: She said, 'The work was hard, and quite dangerous.'**

She remembers one day when she was working on a line where there were five workers sat on each side. She grabbed her gun and pulled and there was a noise like an explosion. Everybody jumped and Pat fainted. She didn't know what had happened but was taken to the surgery. She found out that gas had got into the cans and collected there and had blown when she lit the gun. She wasn't injured but was shaken. On another occasion there was an explosion somewhere in the factory, followed by a succession of other explosions. They were caused because the pipes had not being cleaned and as a result they had blown. Nobody was injured but the hearing of one girl was affected as she had been standing under one of the pipes.

Before Pat got her own car, she would get a lift to work. After she bought her car she would give the other girls a lift. She would leave the house at seven o'clock in order to get to work for half past seven. She finished work at four o'clock. There was a good canteen at the factory making a cooked dinner and chips. Unfortunately, the queue there would be long which didn't leave much time for eating the food.

The foremen would eat their food in a different room to the other workers, although they could see the workers from this room and at one o'clock they would come out and tell the girls to go back to work. There were many men working at the factory doing the same work as the women. Pat remembers going over to the section that made car seats because there wasn't enough work in her own section. It was very hard work and she would have to take seats off the conveyor. The men there would watch her doing this work but didn't help her. She would also be sent to weld seats. This welding was electrical rather than gas welding.

They would earn six pounds 'National Award', with bonuses paid on top of this. Pat feels that they worked hard for their money but the wages were better than shop work wages. She would be very tired after returning home from work. Luckily her mother and father lived next door so would help her. They had moved there after Pat contracted pneumonia, aged twenty one years old. Her parents would take the children to school and collect them at the end of the day when she was working in the factory. Without her mother's help, Pat would not have been able to cope with working at the factory and caring for the children. Even

though it was hard work at Morris Motors, Pat enjoyed working there although she had mixed feelings when she went down to Dafen to work on the radiators. She worked on a line with a woman who kept on going off for a chat which meant that Pat had to bear a greater workload. This affected her back because she had to lift heavy items off the line. The foreman had worked with this woman before and didn't admonish her for not pulling her weight. Pat suffered two crushed discs in her back and had to give up work. She couldn't claim compensation for this although she suffers from acute osteo-arthritis now.

She tried for the welding job in Dafen because the welding work in Felinfoel was coming to an end, and she didn't want to work on the seats. This section in Dafen shut down but Pat was told the only work then available was on the seats. With her bad back, this wasn't an option for Pat so she decided to take redundancy and left.

Pat felt frightened on her first day at the factory and wanted to run out. Everybody was dressed in goggles, aprons and spats, and they were carrying a shield – they looked as if they came from the planet Mars.

Pat and three others worked together. After they had finished their work it would be placed into crates which contained glass wool. This would cut their hands. Care had to be taken, therefore, and gloves needed to be worn, but they had to buy the gloves themselves.

When she was doing the electrical welding she had to wear thick gloves. These had to be bought by the workers, although the company provided the aprons and the spats. Pat enjoyed the welding.

They would have a ten to fifteen minute break for breakfast in the morning. One of the girls would take an order and then the toast, etc, would come down from the canteen about five minutes before the break began.

Lunch time everybody would sit down with their lunch boxes in front of them. There were many people from Pontyberem working at the factory at one time. Pat got to know girls from Tumble as well.

The factory was very noisy, and the press shop would go 'bump' all day long. This got on Pat's nerves occasionally. The workers didn't wear any protection over their ears. They got used to the noise after working there for a while. Some workers claimed compensation for damage to their hearing. Pat's brother-in-law received compensation. He'd worked in Shop 3, where there was a lot of noise.

Pat's husband went to work in the factory too. Wages rose to twenty pounds a week for everybody, which Pat considers to have been good money. But as wages rose so did the amount of work that they were required to do – the 'scores'. Pat had to make 480 silencers a day. This meant working non-stop (apart from breaks) until two o'clock in the afternoon, otherwise she wouldn't hit her target. The girls who didn't reach their target would be given a 'bollocking'.

If Pat didn't have any work to do she would be sent to do some sweeping or labouring although they were supposed to go to a different section to work if they didn't have anything to do. Occasionally, the work wouldn't come through fast enough for Pat to do so she would

have to fetch boxes of items in order to be able to carry on with her work. If she put labouring down on her time sheet the supervisor would get angry and start picking on her.

**00.51.17: ‘She was really, really nasty ..... They called her a forewoman ... She had all her cronies, girls who had worked with her before she became a forewoman. And they knew her, because they said that a bottle of pop had more work in it than her. She had a fag here, hanging all day... She was all fuss to your face, but one wrong move and she came down on you like a tonne of bricks.’**

Some of the other supervisors were better. Later on, Pat got a foreman and says he was brilliant. Pat said of the forewomen,

**‘We had two on our section, and both of them were nasty.’**

Most of all, Pat enjoyed the company. When the flat rate was introduced workers had more time to socialise in work. They still had their targets, but once they had reached them they could go down to the cloak room where there were many activities taking place such as fortune telling, and parties. There was also hairdressing going on there. The personnel officer walked in on them one day but turned a blind eye. The main rule they had was that they must reach their target. Also, if somebody clocked out on behalf of somebody else and was found out they would be dismissed instantly. Pat remembers a man being sacked for this. (She thinks that the worker in question had committed the offence before and was being watched.) Workers were allowed to be two minutes late but any longer and they would have their wages docked. (For example, they would be docked a quarter of an hour if they were three minutes late).

The money she earned was useful for paying for things like holidays in Butlins, and meant they didn't have to scrimp and save.

There was an annual pay rise. By the time she finished there she was earning between ninety and ninety nine pounds a week.

If there was an error with the wages, they had to go to the office to get it rectified. The office would encourage them to wait until the following week if any more money was due.

Cars cost approximately five and a half thousand at the time and workers could buy one at a discounted rate which meant a saving of about two thousand pounds.

**01.06.30: The workers had to be a member of the union to work in the factory.**

**00.07.20: She said, ‘I remember when I first started there, that’s all you’d hear was, ‘Right, outside, we’re not working. We’re not in tomorrow.’ There was always a dispute and this affected wages.**

If a person had lost their job, the intervention of the union meant that they would get it back, or a get a similar job.

When the workers were called out they would sit outside in the car park or in the Bear pub, or go up to the canteen to have lunch. They wouldn't be paid for this time.

According to Pat, the bosses were a mixed bunch – some were fair, whereas others didn't care about the workers.

Pat was scared of the managers, and when she knew they were coming round would put her goggles on and keep her head down. If there was nobody on the line and if workers were sitting around the managers wanted to know why.

01.13.30: Pat would never answer back if somebody said something to her. She worked with one girl who was a hopeless welder – there were holes in her work. She marked her work in the same way that Pat marked hers – with two spots. Pat got 10 items returned to her one day because they were faulty but knew that they weren't hers. She told the woman but still had to re-do the work. The forewoman over them was friendly with the woman who had done the faulty work.

The work was quite skilled. She received six months training before starting on a line and would practice with tin plates, a gun and rods. When they were ready they would be put on a line and would have to reach the same targets as everybody else.

Boys could get apprenticeships as toolmakers, in maintenance, or as an electrician. Pat never saw them because they worked in a different part of the factory.

**01.18.50: Pat says of swearing in the factory, 'The language was nobody's business.'**

The first six months were an education for Pat.

**01.19.09: 'I didn't know such words existed.'**

It was possible to buy everything under the sun in the factory (including vibrators, Christmas items, gold jewellery and "Smash" potatoes) .

**01.20.34: 'There were lots of sidelines there'.**

The cleaner working there took orders for bed sheets. Pat herself bought a lot of stuff while she worked there including rings and a sovereign necklace from Yvonne 'Gold'.

When Pat worked in air-conditioning one of the women lost money from her purse. Then, a wedding ring belonging to one of the men went missing. Somebody stole money from Pat's purse as well. The police were called and it was discovered that the thief was the son of one of the supervisors, who worked there as a labourer.

The glass wool in the crates could get into the hands of the workers sometimes and cause an infection. She would usually buy a pair of gloves every week. There was a nurse working at the factory and accidents happened occasionally. One of the hot metal rods went into Pat's breast one day. She went to the surgery to get the wound treated. Pat blames herself for the accident.

If a worker had a problem the first port of call was the foreman or forewoman. They would then go to the Superintendent who would come down to see what was the problem was. There were no real Health and Safety measure to protect workers.

It was cold in the winter as the doors would be open for the lorries to come and go. The workers in the middle of the floor didn't feel the cold as much. In the summer it was extremely hot, and sometimes squash would be brought around. Long sleeves had to be worn, regardless of the weather, and of course the spats, aprons and bands on the arms.

There was a good atmosphere where Pat worked in Felinfoel. When she went down to Dafen it wasn't as good because she was on the line all the time, and couldn't even speak to the woman in front of her.

Pat didn't see much of her husband when she went to work in the factory but they travelled in together.

Women finished working there when they were pregnant. Some did return, but not to the same job.

Pat sometimes worked from six o'clock in the morning until six o'clock at night if an order needed to be finished. It was possible to turn down the extra work but the rates of pay for over-time were higher than the normal wage. One of the women there took all the over-time she could get because she was a single parent. It was mainly men who worked the night shift. The over-time wasn't always shared out fairly. Pat was aware that some women would be working late when she hadn't even been offered over-time, but it was not possible to question this.

There was a fortnight's holiday in the summer when the factory shut down. If a worker wanted a different fortnight off, they had to put their name down months in advance and do stock-taking during that time. Pat did this once.

When Pat started there they would be in working on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Some of the workers who came in on that day would have been out drinking the night before and were still under the influence. They would knock into things, and it was decided that it would be better to make this a day off.

The factory would be operating on Christmas Eve too and some workers would be drinking from ten o'clock in the morning until noon. The bosses were aware of this. Pat remembers one woman from Tumble who was the worse for wear, quarrelling with another and knocking over 200 silencers. After that incident, the rules regarding drinking in work were tightened.

There was plenty of quarrelling in the factory – usually because somebody had completed more work than somebody else. Pat was once reported to the union. The woman responsible for distributing the work was giving her friends more than she was giving to Pat, so Pat would go and fetch some from the other girls. The problem was never resolved. She said,

**01.42.32: 'Once they started picking on you, that was it.'**

One foreman would make sure that one of the girls had plenty of work, but at the expense of the other girls who would be standing around with nothing to do (and in danger of not hitting their targets.) Even though these women voiced their complaints nothing could be done.

**00.44.20: Pat said about relationships at work, 'There was a lot of carrying on going on there.'** There was a fight in the factory one day after the husband of one of the women found



out that she'd been seeing another man who worked in the factory. He'd found out from the woman's friend, even though she herself was 'carrying on' with one of the bosses. Many of these relationships would start after a night out socialising in the club, or perhaps if somebody from maintenance came down to fix something on the factory floor. One of the women would spend the night dancing with one of the Superintendants while her husband would be drinking.

They had some fantastic social evenings in the factory club. There was bingo and dancing there on a Friday night, and cabaret on a Saturday and a Sunday. The bar would be open all week. Many bands came there to perform. After work they would go home, get changed, come back and queue outside the club for about an hour. By the time that Pat got in some of the townies would have put coats and bags on the seat so she wouldn't be able to get a table.

Membership of the club was paid every week. Pat often went there. It was a sports and social club. Some played bowls, and darts, and a steward ran it.

Pat enjoyed working in the factory. The first ten years were the best because she had more freedom there and had a good foreman and 'that made your day'. If she had one that was nasty and strict it would make her life hell.

In the end she decided to leave due to the problems with her back and took voluntary redundancy. It wasn't a difficult decision because she knew she couldn't go back to the 'top' factory to weld seats. (There were no silencers by then.)

She'd worked at the factory for sixteen years and her back wasn't well enough for her to work anywhere else after she'd left. When she was forty nine she went to work for Home Care and she was with them for twelve years. She was a cleaner to start with but then the job developed more into one involving personal care. She particularly enjoyed this aspect of the work.

Pat missed the company after leaving the factory. Her mother became ill soon after.

**01.58.36: Pat said of her work in the factory, 'There was a sense of achievement when you did something like that. ... You had pride in your work. When you looked at something you knew it was perfect, and it would be going on some car.'**

Patricia would have enjoyed working with animals, if she'd had a choice. Unfortunately, she didn't have a choice. It had been made for her when she was fourteen years old – you didn't argue with your mother in those days.