

LLEISIAU O LAWYR Y FFATRI / VOICES FROM THE FACTORY FLOOR

Smiths/Ingersoll watches and clocks, Gurnos Works, Ystradgynlais

Ffatri 'Tic Toc' 1946-1980

Cyfwelai: VSW045 Mrs Mary Lyn Jones
Dyddiad geni: Awst 1944
Dyddiad: 26/09/2012
Cyfwelydd: Catrin Stevens ar ran Archif Menywod Cymru

(Recordiodd Mary Lyn Jones ei phrofiadau hi yn blentyn ar gyfer Prosiect Hanes Llafar Merched y Wawr 2000-2002 sydd yn archif sain, Sain Ffagan a gweler www.hanesmerchedcymru.merchedywawr.com)

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

Mae'r cyfweiliad mewn dau ran

Cefndir: Cafodd ei geni yn Hertfordshire ond pan oedd gwpwl o fisoedd oed roedd hi 'nôl yng Nghwmllynfell. Cafodd ei chodi gan ei mam-gu a'i thad-cu. Priododd ei mam a'i llysdad pan oedd hi'n bump. Bu ei mam yn gweithio yn y Tic Toc hefyd o'r amser agorodd e nes bod hi'n priodi. Aeth Mary i Ysgol Gynradd Cwmllynfell ac wedyn Ysgol Gwaun cae gurwen, yna Coleg Technegol Pontardawe tan ei bod yn 16 oed ac yna i weithio.

Dewisodd adael yr ysgol oherwydd cael *chicken pox* a cholli chwech wythnos o'r cwrs, a wnaeth hi ddim dal lan â'r gwaith, yna torrodd ei mam-gu ei braich. Arhosodd gartre i edrych ar ei hól a doedd hi ddim yn lico teipo, felly aeth i weithio i siop David Evans yn Abertawe. Bu yno am dair blynedd ond yn y drydedd flwyddyn, yn ystod gaeaf caled 1962-3, bu tirlithriad ar yr hewl trwy Godre'r Graig a doedd dim bysys yn gallu rhedeg a rhaid oedd dod oddi ar y bws a cherdded hanner milltir i ddal bws arall. Penderfynodd na allai wynebu gaeaf arall tebyg, bu farw ei thad-cu yn y mis Ionawr, a dewisodd geisio am waith yn ffatri 'Tic Toc'. Ddim yn sicr a gâi hi waith yno gan nad oedd ei llygaid yn ddigon da i wneud y gwaith manwl, manwl gyda watshys yno.

Ei mam: Dechreuodd ei mam weithio pan agorodd y ffatri (1946?) – amser delfrydol iddi. Roedd hi ar yr *Assembly Line* yn gwneud *springs* bach bach a gwaith technegol, lle byddai'n

rhaid iddi newid ei dillad a rhoi pethach am ei thraed. Ond roedd swyddi eraill yno hefyd. Gadawodd ei mam pan briododd hi (1949) ‘**achos os oeddech chi’n priodi o’ch chi ddim yn gwitho**’ a hefyd roedd ei llys-dad wedi dechrau gweithio fel stiward yn y Legion yn Panteg ac roedd disgwyl i’r cymar fod yna’n gefen iddo fe. Bu ef yno nes iddo fynd nôl i’r gwaith glo.

4.56 Ei gwaith hi - bu hi’n gweithio yn yr Enfield - Smith’s Industries yn yr adran ‘*watch casing*’ – adran fach, fach a dim ond deg yno – testo ac inspecto’r casys oedd yn dod i mewn, a rhoi’r gwydr i mewn a rhoi’r cefen arnyn nhw. Roedd amrywiaeth bach o waith yno. At hyn roedd *contract* gan Enfield gyda’r ‘Ministry’ i desto watsys i fynd o dan y dŵr – rhai watsys yn gorfod mynd i ryw ddyfnder arbennig – felly eu rhoi mewn tanciau bach i’w profi. Yna selio’r casys ac yna gweld y *pressure* dan y dŵr ac os oedd unrhyw ‘*bubble*’ ynddyn nhw mäs â nhw!

5.37 Dim hyfforddiant penodol - dysgu wrth fynd mlân. Meddwl ar y dechrau bod angen Mathemateg (*tanks* dŵr a *pressure*) ar gyfer y gwaith a hithau ddim yn dda ynddo, ond dilyn eraill a phopeth yn iawn. Pob un o’i chydweithwyr yn yr adran yn fenywod. Adrannau eraill - drws nesa atyn nhw a’r gweithwyr yn gorfod mynd i mewn trwy eu hadran nhw - *gold shop*. Hon yn ddiddorol oherwydd roedd pob un a âi i mewn yno yn gorfod gwisgo cap, sgidie a phopeth. Felly os oedd unrhyw ddwystyn o aur pur arnyn nhw o’r peiriannau ddim yn gallu cerdded allan â’r dwst yma arnyn nhw. Bydden nhw’n newid mewn ystafell ar ôl mynd trwy’r drws yn eu hadran nhw. Bydde’r ‘*swarf*’ (*fine metallic filings or shavings removed by a cutting tool*- geiriadur) yn mynd dros bob man. Nodi bod Meira (cangen MYW Brynaman) wedi bod yn gweithio yn y *gold shop* am flynydde. Mynd i weithio mewn adran benodol yn dibynnu ar ba swydd oedd yn wag ar y pryd. Gwneud wats *casings* ddim yn gofyn am waith manwl, manwl.

8.40 Hi yn gweithio yn Smiths Industries ac yna roedd yr Anglo Celtic yn ffatri arall gerllaw. Pob math o adrannau yn y ffatri lle roedd hi - gwneud popeth yno - *machinery* enfawr a *presses* mas tu fas ac un ferch o Gwmllynfell wedi colli ei llaw ar y *press*. *Assembly* ar gyfer watsys a chlociau fwyaf. Roedd y gwaith yn hyblyg iawn rhwng y ddwy ffatri. Doedd hi ddim yn siŵr ai’r un bobl oedd berchen y ddwy ffatri. Enfield fwy gyda chlociau a chafodd sioc bod rhai adrannau yn gwneud watsys - *cases* a *bezels*. Yr unig ddarnau oedd yn dod i mewn i’r ffatri o’r tu allan oedd y gwydr. Y gweddill i gyd gan gynnwys y ‘*movement*’ yn cael eu gwneud yn y ddwy ffatri.

Yna cafodd hi ei gwneud yn *redundant* yn ystod y flwyddyn olaf yr oedd yno - ‘*last in first out*’. A thybiodd y byddai hyn yn gyfle iddi wneud yr hyn roedd hi eisiau ei wneud, sef mynd i nyrsio. ‘**On i’n moyn gyrfa**’.

‘Beth oedd yn ypseto fi fwy na dim am y ffatri – och chi’n cal ‘ch traino ond odd y bois yn dod i mewn fel ‘apprentices’ ac on nhw’n cal mynd i’r coleg. A on i’n gweld hynna’n annheg.’

Fel merch yn gallu mynd ymlaen i fod yn ‘*charge hand*’ neu ffforman, ond dim cyfle i fynd i’r coleg. Bechgyn yn dysgu *engineering, qualified draftsmen, toolmaker* a.y.b. – nifer wedi mynd ymlaen a gwneud gyrfa dda ohoni.

Y ddwy ffatri yn cael eu galw yn ‘Tic Toc’ – enw lleol arnynt.

Dynion a menywod yn gwneud gwaith gwahanol.

‘Fi’n credu bod menyw yn gallu gwneud y pethe bach manwl hyn a bysedd bach; mae hwnna’n rhywbeth naturiol fi’n credu. ... Na, odd y dynion yn gwneud pethach mwy pwysig.’

Yn ei blwyddyn olaf hi yno daeth un ferch i mewn fel prentis – pethau’n dechrau newid. Doedd hi ddim yn meddwl bod ganddi hi’r Fathemateg na’r amynedd i ddysgu’r gwaith. Eto byddai wedi bod yn neis cael y cyfle.

14.00 Dechrau yno yn 19 oed yn 1963 ac aros yno am 5 mlynedd. Wedi mwynhau’r profiad.

‘Odd pawb mor gartrefol yna, pawb yn siarad Cymraeg’ (cymharu â David Evans)

Taith bedair milltir iddi hi – dal y bws am 7, dechrau gwaith am 7.30; gorffen am 4 – gartre erbyn 4.30. Shifft dydd. Dim shifftiau ar y pryd ond daeth ‘*twilight shift*’ ar ôl iddi hi adael.

Diwrnod gwaith: Cloco mewn ac os colli munud – colli chwarter awr o bae. Felly os byddech chi’n hwyr o funud fydden nhw ddim yn dechrau gwaith tan ddiwedd y chwarter awr! Eistedd wrth ei sedd a threi yn cyrraedd. *Chaser* yn galw allan ‘**Nawrte virgins, p’un ohonoch chi sy’n mynd i gal y trei ma?**’ (chwerthin mawr - odd hi’n embarrassed gan ei bod ychydig yn *naïve*) Y *chaser* yn casglu treis o’r machîns a dod â nhw mewn. Boi neis a thipyn o gymeriad. Dim ond rhyw 4 o fenywod priod oedd yn yr adran a phawb yn eitha sedêt yn y chwedegau cynnar!

17.30 Yr arfer erbyn ei chyfnod hi oedd bod y menywod priod yn parhau i weithio tan fod y babi cyntaf yn cyrraedd. Digwyddodd hynna iddi hi - ei ffrindiau yn gadael un ac un ar ôl cael eu babi cyntaf nes bod fawr ohonyn nhw ar ôl. Yn ei blwyddyn olaf cafodd ei symud am ei bod yn *redundant*. Merch arall yn *redundant* hefyd - Rita - ac aeth hi i weithio ar y gwau yn ffatri *Paine’s knitwear* Rhydaman.

Ei mam-gu ddim eisiau iddi fynd i nyrsio felly aros pythefnos eto yn y gwaith ac fe ddechreuodd pethau wella felly cafodd hi fynd i adran arall.

O safbwynt y diwrnod gwaith - ar ôl cael y trei byddai’n tsieco nhw i gyd i weld bod y seis yn iawn. Wedyn rhoi’r *bezels* o drei arall. Os yn rhy dynn neu rydd - eu *rejecto* a gorfod ysgrifennu hyn i gyd i lawr. Rhai yn gorfod cael eu hail-wneud - eu hanfon yn ôl.

Yna byddai ‘*tea break*’ ‘**On i’n meddwl bod hynna’n ffantastig**’. Menyw yn dod â *urn* mawr – pob un â’i myg. Rhai yn dod â bisgedi; eraill â thost oer – stopo gwaith yn yr ystafell – tua deg munud. ‘**Wedyn beth odd yn ticlo fi fwy na dim odd pawb â’u hamser mynd i’r toilet; deg munud unofficial**’. Tair yn mynd yn eu tro. *Toilet time* yn bwysig.

Wedyn oedd yr hwter yn mynd – amser cinio. Hanner awr a draw â phawb i’r cantîn. Rhannu cantîn gyda’r Anglo Celtic – hanner awr ar eu hôl nhw. Ansicr faint oedd yn gweithio yno – cannoedd.

Bwyd twym yn cael ei goginio yn y cantin – *chips, sausage roll, pasties*. Gallu ordro cino twym ar gyfer dydd Gwener ar y dydd Iau cynt – porc neu chopen – rhesymol iawn. Talu am bopeth. Ond nifer fawr yn cerdded lawr i siopa i Ystalyfera – siope bach yno. Ond anaml y byddai hi'n mynd i lawr yna – gwell ganddi fynd i'r cantin.

Nôl prynhawn – ansicr a oeddent yn cael *tea break* yn y prynhawn. Ac ansicr hefyd a fydden nhw'n talu am eu te. Gweithio tan bedwar. Ar ddydd Gwener dyn yn **'dod o draw wlad'** â basged o wyau i'w gwerthu – rownd y ffatri. Menywod priod yn prynu fwyaf.

24.00 Gwisgo *overall* – dwy *overall* wen a mynd â nhw adre i'w golchi. Y rhai ar y peiriannau yn gwisgo mewn gwyrdd. Dim menyg na dim byd arbennig ar eu pennau na'u traed.

Smoco – rheol yn erbyn hynny: **'Wi'n cofio pam on nhw'n mynd i'r toilet nawr – On nhw'n cal smoco'**. Dim llawer yn smygu beth bynnag. Wrth fynd i'r *toilet* gallu cerdded drwy'r ffatri a gweld pobol. Odd *club house* gyda'r ffatri a *thîmau darts* a phethau eraill ond yn teimlo mai ar gyfer dynion yr oedd y rhain a fu hi ddim yn aelod o gwbl tra bu hi yno.

Dim dawnsfeydd tra bu hi yno. Roedd y staff *'charge hand a foremen'* yn cael mynd am gino Nadolig (yn yr hwyr – gyda'r *Managing Directors*) ond bydden nhw yn cael cinio Nadolig amser cino yn y cantin. Byddai'r rheolwyr yn cerdded o gwmpas ac yn gofalu nad oedd gormod o wastraff. Mr Kingsler oedd yn rhedeg y ffatri ar y pryd -?German? yn byw mewn tŷ hyfryd. Roedd lleoliad y ffatri ei hun yn hyfryd - ar hen ystad Ynyscedwyn; coed mawr fel rhan o'r parc. Ffatri newydd sbon ar ôl y rhyfel. Dod i lawr o Enfield yn Lloegr i'w hagog. *Charge hand* yn gyfrifol am eu hadran nhw yn uniongyrchol ac wedyn y fforman yng ngofal y peiriannau tu fas ac yn dod â'r casys i mewn atyn nhw. Ambell i fenyw yn *forewoman* – e.e. menyw o Bontardawe oedd wedi bod yna o'r dechrau. (sŵn glaw)

Credu ei bod yn gweithio yno am rai misoedd r'un pryd â'i mam oherwydd daeth hi'n ôl i weithio yn y ffatri arall am gyfnod. Sawl aelod o'i theulu yno – **'y peth cyntaf on nhw'n gofyn i chi amser och chi'n mynd i gael cyfweiliad oedd pwy oedd gyda chi'n perthyn yna!'** Enwi tri chefnider, Clive, Kevin a Gary a oedd wedi bod yn brentisiaid yno. Hefyd Pat ei chyfnither - gadael y Co-op am fod yr arian yn fach i weithio yn Tic Toc. Hyn yn wir drwy'r ffatri.

Menywod o Frynman a Thŷcroes a Blaendulais, Coelbren, Abercraf ac Ynysmeudw – sylwi ar y gwahaniaeth mewn tafodiaith – **'Ti'n moyn losinen?'** **'Taffish'** oedd ei gair hi yng Nghwmlllynfell. Geirie gwahanol - **'rhywbeth mowr'** – **“mawr"** on i'n gweud". Un ferch yn dod o Gwynfe ac yn lodjo yng Nghwm Twrch. Ddim eisie aros ar y fferm.

31.00 Arian- lot gwell nag yn David Evans. Credu ei bod yn ennill £4 50 yr wythnos yn David Evans ac yn talu am deithio ar y bws; tua £6 yr wythnos yn Tic Toc a dim llawer o deithio. **Beth sylwodd hi odd bod y rhai oedd yn brentisiaid (dynion) yn ennill llai na nhw'r menywod – synnu at hyn.**

Gweithio dydd Llun i ddydd Gwener - dydd Sadwrn yn nefoedd oherwydd wedi gweithio ar y Sadwrn yn David Evans. Gwerthfawrogi hyn yn fawr – er cael hanner diwrnod ar ddydd Iau yn y siop. Pae dydd Gwener – ciwio lan a galw eich rhif gwaith chi. Weithie gorfod gweithio ar ddydd Sadwrn ac ennill *time and a half* – enjoio hyn.

Gwylie – pythefnos yn ystod yr haf – y ffatri ar gau, er mwy na thebyg bod rhai'n ei chadw i fynd. Os oeddech chi wedi bod yna bum mlynedd – wythnos ychwanegol o wylie. Manteisiodd hi ar hyn unwaith cyn gadel. Profi'ch hun am bum mlynedd.

Rhan 2

Adolygu: Dechrau gweithio – dim angen cymwysterau ond cael cyfweliad. Cael y pecyn pae dydd Gwener – rhai yn ei rannu gyda'u teulu ond doedd hi ddim yn gwneud hynny. Gan ei bod yn byw gyda'i mam-gu; dim ond talu am y papur ond treulio'r penwythnos gyda'i mam a rhoi rhyw bunt neu ddwy iddi hi. Merched eraill yn rhoi'r cyfan i'w mam a chael arian poced yn unig yn ôl.

Undebau – hi'n perthyn '*Everybody out*' am y pethau mwy twp weithie. Ddim yn cofio enw'r undeb (TUC??) ond mai Gwyn Moses oedd y Pennaeth a swyddfa ganddo yn Abertawe. **Talu cyfraniad – hithau'n dadlau nad oedd eisiau cyfrannu cyfran o'r tal at y Blaid Lafur gan ei bod yn aelod o Blaid Cymru. Tom Pritch yn chwerrthin 'Dere nawr – ti'n holhti blew', ac yn talu. *Shop steward* yn dod i ofyn i chi lenwi'r ffurflen yn syth ar ôl dechrau gweithio yn y ffatri. '*Odd e'n synnwyr cyffredin bo chi'n aelod o'r undeb*'.**

4.00 Enghraifft o anghydfod: Merch yn gweithio *ming wear* (?) ar y peiriannau wedi torri tair *diamond* ac wedi cael rhybudd neu ddau ac yna'r trydydd rhybudd ysgrifenedig – hyn ddim yn gwneud y tro; Felly 'Pawb mas'. Methu â deall sut roedd hi'n llwyddo i dorri'r deiamwntiau! Yr undeb yn ymladd ei hachos hi – chafodd hi ddim sac a wnaeth hi ddim torri *diamond* arall. Allan am ddiwrnod neu hanner diwrnod yn unig.

Teimlo bod y gweithwyr yn cael eu trin yn deg ar y cyfan. Cafodd godiad cyflog i dros £7 cyn iddi adael. Neb yn rhy hoff o Kingsler ei hun. Ond yn iawn gyda'r *foremen* a.y.b.

Y gwaith ddim yn beryglus lle roedd hi ond wrth fynd I'r *toilet* cael arswyd wrth weld y *presses* mawr – metel i mewn iddyn nhw a'r sŵn yn enfawr – bownd o fod yn effeithio ar eu clustie nhw.

Cyn iddi hi ddechre yno collodd un ferch o Gwmllynfell ei llaw yn y *presses*. Roedd yn un o efeilliaid – Eunice a Mair – yn grefyddol iawn a gwrthododd dderbyn unrhyw '*compensation*' – er bod yr undeb eisiau ei helpu. Credai mai Duw oedd yn ei chosbi am wneud rhywbeth o'i le. Cafodd waith wedyn – gweithio gydag un llaw. Llaw artiffisial ganddi.

Anafiadau bach – roedd nyrs yno drwy'r shift. Cytiau bach ar y peiriannau – '*swarf*' yn mynd i mewn i'r llygaid. Ambell adran yn gwisgo *goggles* i amddiffyn eu llygaid. Ar ôl y ddamwain y *presses* wedi cael eu gwneud yn fwy diogel. Ffatri weddol i weithio ynddi. Rhai'n gweithio gyda '*tricolene*' – math ar gemegyn mewn tanciau a rhaid glanhau popeth ynddyn nhw. Mynd i'ch *chest* chi. (Sôn am ei Hwncwl Jim yn gweithio mewn ffatri ger Enfield – gorfod yfed dau beint o laeth y dydd – marw o gancr y stumog). Gweithwyr y gwaith glo wedi mynnu eu hawliau o safbwynt colli iechyd ond nid felly gweithwyr y Tic Toc.

11.00 *Worker's Playtime* ar y radio – wedi recordio yn y ffatri. Pan oedd ei mam yn gweithio yno yn y pedwardegau - y gweithwyr yn canu gyda'i gilydd. Y rhaglen yn ymweld â ffatrioedd dros y wlad i gyd.

Yn yr adran lle roedd hi – cael siarad a chlonc drwy'r amser.

Yn cael prynu watshys yn rhatach – mynd i'r swyddfa lle roedd watshys yn cael eu harddangos. Bonws bach.

Os angen diwrnod bant – e.e. i angladd – cael '*pass out*' gan y fforman.

Y bys yn cario'r gweithwyr i mewn i iard y ffatri.

Mwynhau'r cyfeillgarwch fwyaf – y merched - roedd y gwaith yn *boring* ond roedd y gwmniaeth yn hyfryd.

Cyn gadael gweithio ar yr *Assembly Line* – gwneud clociau '*automatic cookers*' – llinell hir iawn a ddim mor ddiddorol â'r gwaith cynt. Y cyfan roedd hi'n ei wneud oedd adjysto wifren a nôl; a'r un peth eto ... roedd hi'n cael *blisters* ar ei bys o hyd a gwisgo *bandage*. Mwy o amrywiaeth yn yr adran *watch casing*.

Penderfynu gadael i wneud ei Lefelau O ym Mhontardawe a gweld hysbyseb *NNEB Nursing* – yn ddelfrydol iddi.

Dal i gadw cysylltiad â dwy o'i ffrindiau gorau o'r ffatri a bu farw un ohonynt ddwy flynedd yn ôl.

Ar ol iddi adael aethpwyd i wneud darnau ar gyfer ceir ac aeth y gwaith i Poland – 2,000 + yn gweithio yno ar y pryd. Colled erchyll i ffordd o fyw yn y cwm. Rhai o'r gweithwyr yn gorfod mynd allan i Poland I hyfforddi'r gweithwyr yno – ei wneud am chwarter y pae.

19.00 Roedd llawer o'r merched yn y ffatri yn dechrau yno yn 15 oed ac yn aros i Mr Right ddod ac yna unwaith oedd y babi cyntaf yn dod, gorffen a gartref. Roedden nhw'n hollol hapus â'r drefn hyn a hithau'n methu deall hyn o gwbl. Rhai ohonyn nhw wedi bod yn yr Ysgol Ramadeg, yn alluog, ond gwaith yn ddim ond llenwi'r bwlc rhwng gadael ysgol a chael plant.

Son am ddawnsfeydd yr ardal.

Llawer o'r merched yn ferched y capel hefyd. Rhai ohonyn nhw yn aelodau yn yr Aelwyd ym Mrynaman. Neb o'i ffrindiau yng Nghwmlllynfell yn mynd i'r aelwyd.

English summary

Smiths/Ingersoll watches and clocks, Gurnos Works, Ystradgynlais

'Tick Tock' Factory (1946-1980)

Interviewee: VSW045 Mrs Mary Lyn Jones

DOB: August 1944

Date: 26/09/2012

Interviewer: Catrin Stevens on behalf of Women's Archive of Wales

(Mary Lyn Jones recorded her childhood experiences for Merched y Wawr's History Project 2000 - 2002, which is in the sound archive of St Ffagan - see www.hanesmerchedcymru.merchedywawr.com)

Mary was born in August, 1944 in Hertfordshire. When she was a few months old she moved to Cwmllynfell where she was raised by her grandmother and grandfather. Her mother and stepfather got married when she was five years old. Her mother worked in Tick Tock from the time the factory opened (circa 1946) until she got married. Mary attended Cwmllynfell Primary School, Gwaun Cae Gurwen School and then Pontardawe Technical College before going to work at the age of sixteen.

She decided to leave school because she'd had chicken pox and was off for six weeks which meant that she couldn't catch up with the course work. Then her grandmother broke her arm so she stayed at home to look after her. She didn't like typing so she went to work in the David Evans store in Swansea. She was there for three years. During her third year, 1962-3, there was a very hard winter. The road through Godre'r Graig became blocked following a landslide which meant there were no buses running through it which meant she had to get off the bus and walk another half a mile to catch another one. She couldn't face the prospect of travelling during another winter like this and her grandfather had also died in the January so she decided to try and get a job at the Tick Tock factory. She wasn't sure whether her eyes were good enough to do the detailed work involved in the making of the watches.

Her mother: Her mother started work when Tick Tock opened, circa 1946. She was on the Assembly line making tiny springs and doing technical work. She would have to wear a uniform and change her shoes. Her mother left when she got married in 1949 because in those days, 'if you got married you didn't work'. Her stepfather had started working as a steward in the Legion in Panteg and the partner of the steward was expected to help out.

4.56 Mary worked in the watch casing department on the Enfield site. It was a small section with only ten people working there, testing and inspecting cases that came in, putting the glass on the face, and putting the back on. The work there was varied. The Enfield had a contract with the Ministry to test watches underwater so they would be put into tanks for testing. The cases would then be sealed and the pressure checked, and if any bubbles appeared they would be removed.

5.37 There was no specific training – she learnt on-the-job. She was worried that she would need mathematical skills to do the work with the water tanks and pressure, but she followed the lead of other workers. Next to their section was the gold shop. Everybody who went in there had to wear special clothing and they couldn't leave if any of the gold dust from the machines got onto it.

8.40 The Enfield was part of Smiths Industries and the Anglo Celtic site was nearby. The sections in the Enfield did all types of work. There were large machines there, and presses outside, and one woman from Cwmllynfell lost her hand. The assembly was for the watches and clocks. Work was flexible between the two factories. The only part of the watch that wasn't produced at the factory was the glass. She was made redundant during the last year that she was there. Redundancies were decided on a last-in-first-out basis. She thought this was an opportunity for her to do what she really wanted to do, which was nursing.

She said, **“What upset me most about the factory was that you would be trained, but the boys would come in as apprentices, and they would be allowed to go to college. And I didn't think that was fair.”**

Women could go on to be charge hands or foremen, but didn't get the opportunity to go to college. The boys became qualified engineers, draftsmen, and toolmakers, and could have a good career.

The Enfield and Anglo Celtic sites were known locally at Tick Tock.

Men and women usually did different jobs.

‘I think women could do the little detailed things because they had little fingers ... The men did the more important things.’

During her last year things had started to change and a girl started as an apprentice. Although Mary doesn't think she had the mathematical skills or the patience for that type of work, she thinks it would have been nice to have had the opportunity.

14.00 She began there when she was nineteen years old in 1963 and stayed there for five years. She enjoyed the experience.

‘It was like a home from home, everybody spoke Welsh’ (unlike at David Evans.)

Work was three or four miles away for her. She would catch the bus at seven in the morning to be in work for seven thirty. She finished at four o'clock and would be home by four thirty. There were no shifts at the time, although a twilight shift started after she had left.

Workers had to clock in and clock out, and if they were a minute late they lost a quarter of an hour's pay so if they were a minute late clocking in they wouldn't start working for a quarter of an hour! She would sit at her bench to work and a tray would arrive. The chaser would shout '**Now then virgins, which one of you would like this tray?**' The chaser would collect trays from the machines and bring them in. He was a nice man and quite a character. There were only about four married women working in the section, and being that it was during the sixties, everybody was quite sedate.

17.30 In those days, women carried on working after getting married until they got pregnant and the baby was about to arrive. This is what happened to Mary. Her friends left one by one to have their first babies until there were only a few of them left. In her last year she and another girl were moved because they were being made redundant. The other girl, Rita, went to work at Alan Paine's knitwear factory in Ammanfod.

Her grandmother didn't want her to go nursing so a fortnight passed and things improved so she got to go to another section.

Mary describes her work with the bezels, and the work brought to them on trays, etc.

During their tea break a woman would come round with a big urn. Everybody would have their own mug, some brought biscuits, others had toast. They would go to the toilet in threes.

The hooter would sound at lunch time. It was just half an hour long and everybody went to the canteen. They shared the canteen with the workers from the Anglo Celtic but their lunch time started half an hour later. The canteen made hot meals –
– chips, sausage roll, pasties. They could order a hot meal for the Friday on the previous Thursday. They had to pay for everything. Many of the workers walked down to the shop in Ystalyfera but Mary preferred to go to the canteen. She can't remember if they had a tea break in the afternoon, or whether they had to pay for their tea. She worked until four o'clock. On a Friday a man could come round with a basket, selling eggs.

24.00 She wore a white overall to work (she had two) and had to wash it herself. The workers on the machines wore green overalls. They didn't wear gloves or anything special on their feet.

There was a 'no smoking' rule so they would go to the toilet to smoke. The factory had a club house with different teams, such as the darts team but the teams were for the men and she was never a member of any of them.

There were no dances while she was there. The charge hands and foremen would go for Christmas dinner in the evening with the Managing Director but the workers on the shop floor had theirs in the canteen. The managers would walk around ensuring that there wasn't too much waste. Mr Kingsler ran the factory at the time. He was possibly German and lived in a lovely house. The factory was situated in a lovely location on the old Ynyscedwyn estate. It was a factory built after the war.

The charge hand would be responsible for their section and the foreman would be responsible for the machines outside and would bring the cases in to them. There were a few women who were forewomen.

Mary worked there at the same time as her mother for some months for a period during her employment. There were several other family members working there. (She names three cousins.) She said, 'the first thing they asked you when you went for an interview was if you were related to anybody working there!'

Women from Brynaman, Tycroes, Blaendulais, Abercraf and Ynysmeudwy worked there, and they had different accents.

31.00 The pay was much better than what she got working at David Evans. She thinks she earned £4.50 a week in David Evans and had to pay bus fare to get to work. In Tick Tock the pay was £6 a week, and she didn't have to travel far. The apprentices earned less than many of the women.

The working week was Monday to Friday. It was 'heaven' having a Saturday off after working at David Evans. They were paid on a Friday – they would queue up and their work number would be called out. She did work on a Saturday occasionally, and would earn time and a half. She enjoyed this.

She had a fortnight's holiday during the summer. If you had been there for five years you had an extra week's holiday.

Part 2

Review: No qualifications were required, just an interview.

Some shared their pay packets with their family, although Mary didn't. She lived with her grandmother but spent the weekend with her mother, and would give her a pound or two. Other girls would give their whole pay packet and just have pocket money.

She was a member of the union and they would strike over the silliest thing. Somebody called Gwyn Moses was the leader and he had an office in Swansea. She objected that part of her union subs went to the Labour Party. A shop steward would come round with a membership form as soon as you started working there. Mary thinks it was common sense to join the union.

4.00 One woman had been given a warning or two for cutting three diamonds, and then a written warning so they went out on strike for a day or half a day. She wasn't sacked but she never cut another diamond.

Mary feels the workers were treated fairly, on the whole. Her pay had increased to £7 by the time that she left. Nobody much liked Kingsler but the foremen were fine.

Her work wasn't dangerous but the large presses which she passed on her way to the toilet were scary and very noisy.

Before she started there one woman from Cwmllynfell lost a hand in the presses. She was one of twins and very religious, and refused to accept any compensation even though the union was keen to help her. She believed that God was punishing her for something. She was given work that only required the use of one hand.

A nurse was on site throughout the shift to deal with small injuries such as little cuts received on the machines, or ‘swarf’ going into the eyes. Workers on some sections wore goggles to defend their eyes. After the accident in the presses safety procedures were tightened.

Some workers worked with a chemical called tricolene which could affect the chest. Tick Tock workers weren’t compensated for any side effects of working in the factory.

11.00 When Mary’s mother worked in the factory in the forties, the workers would sing. By the time Mary worked there they had Worker’s Playtime. In Mary’s section workers chatted all the time.

They would buy discounted watches. If time off was needed for personal reasons such as attending a funeral, a pass out was required from the foreman.

The bus carried the workers into the factory yard.

The best aspect of the job was the friendship of the other girls. The work was boring but the company was lovely.

Before she left, she went to work on the Assembly Line – making clocks for automatic cookers. This work wasn’t as interesting as it just involved adjusting a wire. She would get blisters on her finger.

She decided to leave in order to do her O Levels in Pontardawe and saw an advertisement to do NNEB Nursing.

She kept in contact with two of her friends from the factory, although one of them died two years ago.

After she left, the factory began making car parts and the work went to Poland. There were approximately 2,000 working there at the time and it was a terrible blow to the way of live of the valley. Some of the workers had to go to Poland to train workers there for a quarter of the pay.

19.00 Many of the girls had started work at fifteen years old and were waiting for Mr Right to come along. Once they had the first baby they finished working and stayed at home. They were happy to do this, although Mary can’t understand why. Some of them had been to the grammar school and were intelligent, and just worked to fill in the gap between leaving school and having children.

Many of the women went to the chapel and some of them were members of the Brynaman Aelwyd.