

LLEISIAU O LAWR Y FFATRI / VOICES FROM THE FACTORY FLOOR

Ffatri Wlân Glyn Ceiriog (1945-1951) (Hefyd ffatri frics, Newbridge, am gyfnod byr)

Cyfwelai: VN010 Marion Davies
Dyddiad: 16: 01: 2014
Cyfwelydd: Kate Sullivan ar ran Archif Menywod Cymru

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

Cadarnhaodd Marion ei henw, ei chyfeirid a'i dyddiad geni, sef 08/10/1931.

Mae Marion yn chwaer i Beti Davies. Aeth hi i Ysgol y Glyn ac wedyn i'r ysgol ramadeg yn Llangollen. Gadawodd hi yn 14 oed a chafodd swydd yn y ffatri wlân, yn gwneud bobinau fel ei chwaer. Roedd hi'n gwneud bobinau drwy'r amser, ond doedd hi ddim yn ffeindio hyn yn ddiflas. Erbyn iddi ddechrau, roedd Beti wedi symud i weithio ar y peiriannau. Roedd Beti wedi dechrau'r flwyddyn gynt. Roedd cefnder Marion yn dysgu iddi sut i wneud y bobinau, ond doedd ei chefnder ddim yn gweithio ar y bobinau, ond ar yr wŷdd fel Beti.

Roedd Marion yn hapus i fynd i'r ffatri ac yn ffeindio'r gwaith yn hawdd. Dechreuodd hi yno tua 1951 ond nid yw'n cofio'r flwyddyn dechrau (os oedd hi wedi dechrau syth ar ôl ysgol, fel dywedodd hi, 1945/6 fyddai'r flwyddyn dechreuodd hi). Gadawodd Beti flwyddyn cyn iddi hi adael ac roedd hi yno tan i'r ffatri gau yn gyfan gwbl. Pan orffennodd hi, saith deg chwech oedd ei chyflog hi (?).

Ar ôl gorffen, aeth hi i ffatri Frics yn Newbridge, ger Y Waun. Dydy hi ddim yn cofio sut daeth hi o hyd i'r swydd hon. Roedd hi'n a ffrind yn teithio yno ar y fan a oedd yn dod â phapurau newydd i'r Glyn, o Lerpwl, mynd am 6 o'r gloch yn y bore ac yn dal y bws yn ôl yn y nos. Daeth hi i nabod y dyn a oedd yn dod â'r papurau trwy ddyn y siop, meddai. Doedd hi ddim yn talu am y lifft ac roedd y fan yn mynd heibio'r ffatri.

Yn y ffatri frics, roedd hi'n rhoi'r clai mewn teils sgwar i mewn i'r *press*. Mae'n debyg ei bod hi'n gweithio efo rhywun arall, achos dywedodd fod un yn rhoi'r teilsen i mewn i'r *press* ac un arall yn troi'r olwyn i'w gwasgu nhw. Roedd hwn yn waith caled - yn troi'r olwyn yma, meddai. Ar yr ochr arall, roedd rhywun yn eu tynnu nhw allan ac yn eu stacio nhw ac wedyn roedd y brics yn mynd i'r *kiln* i sychu. **Roedd yn waith trwm iawn.**

Roedd merched a dynion yn gweithio yno, dynion gan amlaf oedd yn gweithio yn y *kilns* a'r

merched, gyda rhai bechgyn, yn gwneud y gwaith gwasgu a throï'r olwyn. Roedd mwy o bobl yn gweithio yno nag yn y ffatri wlân, gan gynnwys llawer o ddynion y tu allan yn mynd â'r brics i ffwrdd. Roedd y cyflog yn well hefyd, dydy hi ddim yn cofio faint oedd ei chyflog hi.

O ran cyfleusterau, roedd gan y ffatri frics ryw fath o gantîn, gyda dynes yn gwneud paned o de i'r gweithwyr, ac roedden nhw'n dod â'u bwyd eu hunain neu'n talu am ginio yno. Syml iawn oedd y cantîn, *benches* o gwmpas y bwrdd. Roedd hi'n cael hanner awr i ginio a brêcs o chwarter awr yn y bore a'r prynhawn.

Roedd y gwaith yn eithaf peryglus, roedd perygl colli bys os oeddech yn rhy araf gyda'r presses, wrth roi'r clai i mewn a throï'r olwyn. Roedd hyn wedi digwydd i un neu ddwy, meddai, ond dim iddi hi. Wnaeth hi ddim gweld damwain.

Roedd hi'n gweithio mewn rhes o ddau neu dri *press*. Doedd hi ddim yn nabod neb cyn mynd yno, dim ond y ffrind a oedd yn cael lifft gyda hi yn y fan. **Roedd hi'n nabod pawb yn y ffatri wlân ond meddai roedd rhaid mynd i weithio i ffwrdd, fel petai, achos doedd dim gwaith yn y Glyn. Roedd y bobl yn y ffatri frics yn neis iawn ond Saeson oedd y rhan fwyaf. Felly, iaith y ffatri oedd Saesneg. Doedd hynny ddim yn anodd iddi. Doedd hi ddim yn meddwl bod y bobl yn wahanol chwaith, er eu bod yn Saeson ac yn 'pen lawr' (?) y rhan fwyaf ohonynt. Doedd hi ddim yn cofio gweld y *bosses* o gwbl, ond roedd supervisors, Saeson oedd y rhain hefyd, ac roedden nhw'n gwneud yn siŵr eich bod chi'n gweithio.**

Roedden nhw'n gallu siarad wrth weithio. Roedd yn rhaid iddynt siarad, meddai, wrth wneud y gwaith. Roedden nhw yn gorfod gwneud y gwaith yn go gyflym hefyd. Doedd dim llawer o fesurau *health and safety*, a chafodd hi ddim llawer o hyfforddiant ynglŷn â sut i wneud y gwaith. Doedd e ddim yn anodd, jyst troi'r olwyn a gwneud hyn a hyn o deils, meddai. **Doedd hi ddim yn gwisgo iwniform, - ei dillad ei hun, trowseri, a dim menig am ei dwylo. Roedd ei dwylo yn sych iawn, meddai, oherwydd y clai.**

Roedd y brics yn mynd i lefydd yn yr ardal er mwyn adeiladu tai.

Dydy hi ddim yn cofio os oedd undeb yno.

Ei horiau gwaith oedd o 7.00 tan 4.00. Roedd hi'n mynd oddi cartref am 6.30. Ar ddiwedd y dydd, roedd hi'n dal bws i'r Waun a bws arall i'r Glyn, siwrnai hir, oni bai ei bod hi'n cael lifft gan rywun oedd hi'n ei nabod a oedd yn digwydd pasio.

Gwnaeth hi ffrindiau yn y ffatri ond doedd hi ddim yn cymdeithasu efo nhw, achos roedd hi'n byw yng Nglyn Ceiriog ac roedden nhw'n byw'r ffordd arall. Yn ei hamser hamdden, weithiau byddai Marion yn mynd i'r sinema yng Nghroesoswallt ar nos Sadwrn ar y bws, roedd tipyn o fysus yn mynd yno'r adeg honno. Roedd hi'n mynd efo ffrindiau, nid mewn grŵp o bobl.

Roedd hi'n rhoi'r rhan fwyaf o'i chyflog i'r teulu ac yn cael tipyn o 'pocket money' ar ôl iddi hi ei hun, os oedd hi eisiau mynd rywle. Roedd hi'n gwario'r darn hwnnw ar 'swîts mae'n debyg', meddai.

Dydy hi ddim yn cofio faint o amser roedd hi yn y ffatri frics. Ar ôl gorffen, bu'n chwilio am waith yn Llangollen - gwaith cafe, dim gwaith ffatri, achos, meddai, doedd dim llawer o gwmpas. Aeth hi i weithio i Boots Chemist yn Llangollen.

Roedd hi wedi mwynhau gweithio yn y ffatrioedd, er bod dim llawer o sbort yn y ffatri frics. Gweithio i gael pres yr oedd hi. Doedd hi ddim yn teimlo'n flinedig ar ôl dod adre o'r ffatri,

er bod y gwaith yn drwm, achos roedd hi'n ifanc, a doedd hi ddim yn gorfod gweithio penwythnosau.

Mae hi wedi gweithio erioed. O'r ffatri frics aeth i Boots Llangollen am dipyn, ac wedyn cafodd hi'r cyfle i fynd i Boots yng Nghroesoswallt. Roedd hi'n dros 30 o flynyddoedd yn Boots. Doedd hi ddim eisiau gweithio ar y cownter felly yn Llangollen aeth hi i weithio yn y warws yn derbyn y *goods* i mewn, tsecio bod pob peth yno, ac roedd hynny yn cymryd drwy'r dydd bron. Tu ôl i'r siop yr oedd y warws. Yn Boots yng Nghroesoswallt, cafodd hi waith yn y swyddfa, ar y cyfrifiadur, gyrru'r ordyrs i ffwrdd, gwneud *invoices* ayyb. Dywedodd iddi fod ar y dôl am dipyn cyn cael gwaith yn Boots ac roedd hi'n hapus iawn yn gweithio yn Boots yng Nghroesoswallt.

Doedd hi erioed wedi priodi ac mae wedi gweithio ar hyd ei hoes ac wedi mwynhau. Dydy hi ddim wedi symud o Glyn Ceiriog erioed ac mae'n byw efo'i chwaer, Beti a'i gŵr.

Hyd: 25 munud.

English summary

Glyn Ceiriog Woollen Factory (1945-1951) (Also the brick factory in Newbridge for a short period)

Interviewee: VN010 Marion Davies

Date: 16: 01: 2014

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

Marian was born on 8th October, 1931. (Her sister is Beti Davies. VN009) She went to Ysgol y Glyn and on to the grammar school in Llangollen. She left when she was fourteen years old and got a job making bobbins in the woollen factory, just like her sister. (1945/6?) By the time she started work there, Beti who had started the year earlier, had moved on to the machines. Marian's cousin worked on the loom like Beti, and taught Marian how to make the bobbins.

Marian enjoyed working at the factory and found the work easy to do. Beti left the factory a year before she did. She stayed until the factory closed. When she left her wage was seventy six (pounds?)

She went on to work at the brick factory in Newbridge but can't remember how she got the job. Marian and her friend would travel there on the van that brought the newspapers to Glyn Ceiriog from Liverpool. She would travel by van at six o'clock in the morning, and return home by bus in the evening. She got to know the driver through the shopkeeper. She didn't have to pay for a lift and the van would drive right past the factory.

At the brick factory her job was putting clay in square tiles into the press. One person would put

the tiles into the press and the other would turn the wheel and press them. Turning the wheel was hard work. At the other end somebody would take them out and stack them. Then the bricks would go to the kiln to be dried.

Both women and men worked at the factory. It was usually men who worked the kilns, and the women (and some boys) did the pressing and the turning of the wheel. There was a greater number of people working there than in the woollen factory, including many men who would take the bricks away. The wage was higher, although she can't remember how much it was.

There was a canteen of sorts in the brick factory where a woman made tea for the workers. They would bring their own food, or paid for the food they had there. It was very basic – a few benches at the table. She had a half hour break for lunch and a quarter of an hour break both in the morning and in the afternoon.

The work was quite dangerous and it was possible to lose a finger in the presses if you were too slow, as the clay was put in and the wheel turned. This had happened to one or two but she never had an accident.

She worked in a row of two or three presses. She didn't know anybody who worked there before she started apart from the friend she travelled with in the van. **She knew everybody in the woollen factory but she had been forced to go further afield to look for work because there was no work in Glyn Ceiriog. The people working in the brick factory were nice but the majority were English so the language of the factory was English. This wasn't difficult for her and she found that the people there weren't that different.** She doesn't ever remember seeing the bosses. **The supervisors were English and made sure that you worked.**

They were allowed to talk as they worked, and indeed had to talk in order to get the work done. The work had to be done quickly too. The health and safety measures were few and far between, and she didn't receive much in the way of training to do the work. The work wasn't difficult, it just involved turning the wheel, and making a certain amount of tiles. **She didn't wear a uniform – she wore her own clothes which included trousers. She didn't wear gloves and her hands became very dry because of the clay.**

The bricks were used locally to build houses.

She doesn't recall if there was a union there. She worked from seven in the morning until four o'clock and got home at six thirty. It was a long journey home. At the end of the day she would catch a bus to the Waun and then another onto the 'Glyn' unless she got a lift home.

She made friends in the factory but didn't socialise with them because she lived in Glyn Ceiriog and they lived in the other direction. She would sometimes go to the cinema in Oswestry in her spare time with friends. She would go by bus as there were many buses running at that time.

She gave most of her wages to the family and would receive pocket money if she needed money to go somewhere. She would spend this money on sweets.

She can't remember how long she was in the woollen factory. After she finished there she tried to get work in Llangollen working in a cafe. She got a job working in Boots the Chemist in Llangollen.

She enjoyed working in the factories, even though it wasn't much fun in the brick factory. She worked in order to earn money. Even though it was heavy work she didn't feel tired

when she got home. She didn't have to work weekends.

She has always worked. After working in Boots in Llangollen she got the opportunity to work in Boots in Oswestry. She worked for Boots for over thirty years. In Llangollen she didn't want to work on the counter so she went to work in the warehouse receiving the goods and checking that the orders. The shop was behind the warehouse. In the Oswestry branch she worked in the office, on the computer, sending orders and invoicing, etc. She was on the dole for a while before she got the job in Boots, and was very happy working in Boots, Oswestry.

She never got married. She's worked throughout her life, and always enjoyed herself. She has never moved from Glyn Ceiriog. She lives with her sister Beti, and Beti's husband.

Duration: 25 minutes