

LLEISIAU O LAWR Y FFATRI / VOICES FROM THE FACTORY FLOOR

Kaylor Compacts, Caernarfon (1957-58) (Hefyd Bernard Wardells, am 18 mis)

Cyfwelai: VN007 Dafydd Llewelyn
Dyddiad: 13: 01: 2014
Cyfwelydd: Kate Sullivan ar ran Archif Menywod Cymru

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

Wnaeth Dafydd gadarnhau ei gyfeiriad a'i ddyddiad geni: 13 Awst 1942.

Mae Dafydd yn dod o deulu o Lanberis/Caernarfon, un o bump, dau frawd a dwy chwaer. Roedd ei dad yn *custodian Segontium Museum* yng Nghaernarfon, a'i fam yn ei helpu o, a thyfodd Dafydd i fyny efo diddordeb mawr yn hanes awyrennau. Cafodd o ei addysg yn Ysgol Twtil, ysgol rad, ac wedyn yn Ysgol Segontium. Gadawodd o'r ysgol yn bymtheg oed ac aeth yn syth fel prentis i ffatri Kays Compacts yng Nghaernarfon, fel *'tool setter'*, ond roedd eisio mynd i swydd gyrru ond doedd o ddim yn gallu yn bymtheg oed. Aeth o i'r ffatri er mwyn cael arian, cael swydd, er bod o ddim yn hapus iawn. O'r diwedd, cafodd o swydd fel bachgen ar faniau'r Co-op.

Yn siarad am ei ddiwrnod cyntaf yn y ffatri, dywedodd bod lot i gymryd i mewn, lot i ddysgu. Roedd yn cofio'r fforman, toc ar ôl iddo ddechrau, yn deud wrtho am drwsio rhyw fashîn:

'Un peth dw i'n cofio ydy'r dyn ma, y fforman, yn deud wrtha i i newid tŵl, y *press*, ar un o'r mashîns, y rheiny oedd yn tynnu'r patrwm ar y *compacts*, Roedd 'na rhai gwahanol, a finnau'n gwneud hyn, a dyna fo yn dod ataf mewn rhyw hanner awr wedyn, ac yn deud "ti byth wedi newid hwnna" medda fo. "Do" medda fi, "dw i wedi gwneud o." "Naddo, wyt ti ddim" medda fo "Paid â deud bod ti wedi achos mae'r sbaner gen i fan hyn," medda fo. "Wel, dw i wedi gwneud, wnes i iwsio'n sbaner fy hun." "Wneith o fyth weithio!" Ond mi oedd o wedi gweithio! Oedd o allan i gael fi wedyn, ond wnes i ddim aros yno'n hir.'

Prif waith Dafydd yn y ffatri oedd mynd rownd i newid tŵls ar y presses, a jobs fel pwsio'r *compacts* i mewn i dwnnel lle roedd gwres yn mynd arnyn nhw, lle oedd y fforman fel y llall, a phethau eraill fel *maintenance*, ond *tool setter* oedd o i fod. Doedd o ddim yn hoffi'r swydd o achos y ffordd roedden nhw'n trin pobl, yn enwedig y ddau fforman, ond dywedodd bod y genod yn grêt. **Pan oedd yn cerdded lawr trwy'r mashîns roedd y merched yn tynnu ei goes a gweiddi 'Ti isio**

***thrill?* a fo yn bymtheg oed!** Ond oedd 'na *crowd da* yno. Roedd yn nabod rhai cyn dechrau ond daeth i nabod pawb, er nad oedd gynno fo berthnasau neu ffrindiau penodol yn gweithio yna. Roedd yn sôn am fynd i'r cantîn, a bod dynes neis yn gadael iddo dalu yfory os nag oedd digon o bres gynno fo. Dim pryd o fwyd oedden nhw'n serfio yno, ond snacs. Ac roedd rhai o'r merched hyn yn edrych ar ei ôl o, **er bod nhw'n deud pethau bach gwirion pan oedd yn pasio heibio, cael hwyl, wincio a phethau.**

Roedd bechgyn ifanc eraill yn gweithio yno hefyd, rhai ohonyn nhw yn mynd ymlaen efo'r *trade* a gwneud cyrsiau ar eu gwaith fel *tool makers* ayyb. Roedd y cyflog tua 6/5 yn dechrau; oedd o ddim yn ennill cymaint â'r dynion eraill gan ei fod yn brentis, a doedd o ddim yn cofio os oedd y dynion yn cael mwy na'r merched (er bod Mary Evans a oedd yn yr ystafell yn ystod y cyfweliad y mae hi yn meddwl eu bod nhw). Roedd yn gwisgo oferôl, yn llawn "on i'n *oil* ac yn *grease*." Roedd yn dysgu pethau bod dydd, am ryw chwe mis, ac wedyn penderfynodd nad oedd o eisio'r gwaith yna. Roedd y rhan fwyaf o'r dynion yn ei helpu fo i ddsygu, fel egluro *technical terms*.

Roedd yn aelod o'r undeb ac yn talu dau swllt yr wythnos, neu'r mis, doedd o ddim yn cofio, ond doedd yr undeb ddim yn golygu llawer iddo. Doedd o ddim yn cofio'r un streic pan oedd o'n gweithio yno.

Roedd pawb yn siarad Cymraeg, ar wahân i'r *managers*, un ohonynt â'r enw Mr Welsh!

Y tu allan i'r gwaith, roedd o'n arfer chwarae pêl droed i'r dref. Roedd o'n cymdeithasu efo bachgen arall o'r ffatri, Victor. Roedd ei reini yn fodlon bod o'n gweithio mewn ffatri gan fod gynno fo waith. Doedd y gwaith ddim yn arbennig o beryglus, er bod rhai o'r merched yn cael eu brifo, ee. un wedi torri'i bys yn y peiriant. Roedd y tŵls yn drwm, ond cafodd o fyth ei frifo. Roedd y dynion hŷn yn deud wrtho fo i fod yn ofalus, gwneud pethau'n dyn, ayyb.

Roedd yn byw filltir i ffwrdd ac yn mynd i'r gwaith ar gefn beic, yn gweithio o wyth tan bump, a hanner awr i ginio. Doedd dim rhaid gweithio penwythnosau. Fuon nhw ddim, fel teulu, ar wyliau i ffwrdd. Roedd yn gwario ei arian ar fodolau awyrennau.

Roedd yn cofio llawer o sŵn, o'r peiriannu, a'r merched yn canu. Roedd yn dynion yn gweithio yn y gweithdy, ond rhaid iddyn nhw fynd byth a hefyd i'r *presses* lle roedd y merched yn gweithio. Roedd rhywbeth i drwsio, neu adjustio, neu newid y tŵl bob munud os oedden nhw'n rhoi patrwm newydd ar y compact.

Ai adre i ginio weithiau, ond gan amlaf ai i'r cantîn. Roedd merched a dynion yn cymysgu yn y cantîn, rhai ohonynt mewn 'cliques.' Roedd y bwyd yn *basic*, *sandwiches* a phethau felly, dim pryd o fwyd. Roedd rhaid iddynt dalu am y bwyd.

Wnaeth y ffaith ei fod o'n fachgen pymtheg oed yn gweithio efo pethau merched, fel compacts, ddim croesi ei feddwl. Roedd ei waith o gyda'r tŵls. Roedd yn gwybod ei fod o'n mynd ar y lon ryw bryd neu'i gilydd.

Roedd ei gyfweliad deg munud yn Saesneg ond doedd o ddim yn anodd, er bod o ddim wedi cael cyfweliad o'r blaen. Roedd ei dad wedi rhoi cyngor iddo cyn y cyfweliad, yn rhoi syniad beth i ddisgwyl. Roedd o'n hapus i gael ei dderbyn, ond dylai fo fod wedi gofyn mwy o gwestiynau o achos doedd o ddim yn gwybod beth yn hollol oedd y gwaith cyn dechrau. Cafodd o gyfweliad efo Mr Welsh a ddywedodd '*it involves working with machinery.*'

Roedd hi'n hawdd cael swydd yn syth ar ôl gadael yr ysgol yn y cyfnod yma. Roedd o yn y ffatri am flwyddyn. Ar ddiwedd y cyfnod, clywodd o am swydd ar faniau y Co-op, trwy ei dad, a oedd yn talu mwy, ac roedd wrth ei fodd bod mewn fan yn mynd o gwmpas.

Doedd agwedd y dynion yn y ffatri ddim yn dda tuag at y *supervisors*, o achos y ffordd oedd y gweithwyr yn cael eu trin.

Doedd o ddim wedi enill unrhyw *qualification* yn y ffatri, er bod yn bosib tasai o wedi aros, byddai modd gwneud hynny.

Roedd yn cofio lot o hwyl yn y ffatri, siarad efo pobl, ond oedd o hapusach allan yn yr awyr iach mewn swydd yrru. Ond aeth o i ffatri arall, ar ôl rhai blynyddoedd, a oedd yn gwneud lledr ffug, sef Bernard Wardell, a oedd yn gwneud dodrefn. Roedd dwy shift yno, nos a dydd. Roedd na merched yno hefyd, yn y warws, ond yn y ffatri, dim ond dynion oedd yn gweithio. Roedd mashîns mawr yn rholio'r plastic allan, ac roedd y deunydd hwn yn mynd i'r warws lle roedd y merched yn gweithio ac yn cael eu ddelifro dros y wlad i gyd. Aeth o yn ôl i waith ffatri achos fod ei job yrru yn darvoud. Roedd yn hawdd newid swyddi ar y pryd. Roedd y cyflog yn dda yn Bernard Wardell. Roedd y gwaith yn wahanol iawn i'r ffatri compact ac roedd rhaid iddo ddysgu sgiliau newydd. Aeth yn ôl i waith gyrru ar ôl blwyddyn a hanner. Roedd o mewn undeb yn y ffatri newydd hefyd, ac ar hyd yr amser wedyn.

Gwnaeth o gyfaddef yn y cyfweliad fod ffatrioedd wedi bod yn bwysig iawn i Gaernarfon, ond ar ôl dod i ddeall ei hun, mae'n well gynno fo fod allan yn lle gweithio yn yr un lle trwy'r amser. Roedd 'na lot o ddewis gwaith yn y gorffennol, llawer o ddewis o swyddi i bobl.

Hyd y cyfweliad: 30 munud

English summary

Kaylor Compacts, Caernarfon (1957-58) (Also Bernard Wardells, for 18 months)

Interviewee: VN007 Dafydd Llewelyn

Date: 13: 01: 2014

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

Dafydd was born on 13 August, 1942. He comes from Llanberis/Caernarfon and has two brothers and two sisters. His father was custodian of the Segontium Museum in Caernarfon. His mother helped his father with his work. Dafydd developed a great interest in the history of aeroplanes as a result of his fathers work. He was educated in Twthill School and Segontium School. He left

school when he was fifteen years old and went to work as an apprentice at Kays Compacts factory in Caernarfon as a tool setter. He wanted to get a driving job, but couldn't because at fifteen years old, he was too young. He went to work in the factory so that he had a job and could earn some money, but he wasn't very happy there. Eventually he got a job on the Co-op's vans.

Speaking of his days at the factory, he says that there was a lot to take in there, a lot to learn. He remembers the foreman asking him a few days after he'd started there to fix a machine.

'One thing I remember is this man, the foreman, telling me to change a tool, the press, on one of the machines, that's what made the pattern on the compacts. There were different ones, and I did it, and then he came to me about half an hour later and said that I hadn't done it. "I have," I said. "No you haven't," he said. "Don't tell me you have because I have the spanner here", he said. "Well, I have done it, I used my own spanner." He said, "It'll never work.!" But it had worked. He was out to get me after that but I left not long after.'

Dafydd's main job in the factory was to go around changing the tools on the presses, although he did other jobs like pushing the compacts into a tunnel where they were heated, and maintenance jobs, even though he was supposed to be a tool setter. He didn't like the job because of the way they treated people, especially the two foremen, but he said the girls were great. **When he walked down past the machines the women would pull his leg and shout, 'Do you want a thrill?', even though he was only fifteen!** There was a good crowd of people there. He knew some of them before he started working there, and he got to know everybody there, although he didn't have any relations or specific friends working there.

He would go to the canteen, and the woman there would let him pay the following day if he didn't have enough money. They didn't serve hot meals there, only snacks. Some of the girls looked after him, **even though they said silly things when he walked past. They had fun and would wink at him.**

There were other young boys there as well, working and doing courses in order to get a trade in jobs such as tool makers. His starting wage was six and five and he didn't earn as much as the other men because he was an apprentice. He doesn't remember if the men earned more than the women (although Mary Evans who was in the room with him during the interview believes this was the case.) He wore an overall to work, and he was covered in oil and grease. He was learning things on a daily basis and stayed there for a period of six months, and then decided that he didn't want to work there anymore. The majority of the men there would help him learn new skills, and explain technical terms.

He was a member of the union and paid two shillings every week (or month, he can't remember which) although he didn't think much of the union. He can't recall that there were any strikes when he worked there.

Everybody spoke Welsh, apart from the managers, one of whom was called Mr Welsh!

Outside work, he would socialise with a lad from the factory called Victor and he played football for the town team. His parents were happy that he was working in the factory because he had work. The work wasn't dangerous, even though some of the girls got hurt occasionally. The tools were heavy but he was never hurt. The older men would warn him to be careful.

He lived a mile away and went to work by bike. His working day was from eight until five, with

half an hour for lunch, and he didn't have to work weekends. As a family they never went away on holiday. He spent his money on model aeroplanes.

Dafydd remembers the noisy machines, and the women singing. The men worked in the workshop, but had to take items to the presses where the girls worked. Something needed fixing or adjusting, or a tool needed changing all the time if a compact pattern needed changing.

Dafydd would go home for lunch occasionally, but most of the time he went to the canteen. Men and women would socialise in the canteen. The food was basic and consisted of sandwiches rather than hot meals. They had to pay for their food.

The fact that he was a fifteen year old boy working on women's compacts didn't bother him as he was working with tools, and knew he wouldn't be there very long.

When he was interviewed for the job, it only lasted ten minutes. He felt it wasn't difficult, even though he'd never had an interview before, and he'd been given advice by his father beforehand. He feels he should have asked more questions because he wasn't sure what the work there was. When interviewed by Mr Welsh he was told '*it involves working with machinery.*'

Finding work as a school leaver was easy in those days. He was in the factory for a year, and heard of a job going on the Co-op vans from his father. This job was better paid, and he was in his element driving around in a van.

The attitude of the men in the factory towards the supervisor was negative because of the way they treated the workers.

He didn't gain any qualifications in the factory, although this would have been possible if he'd stayed on.

Even though Dafydd remembers that there was plenty of fun to be had in the factory, talking to people, Dafydd was happier working outdoors in a driving job. He did return to factory work some years later when he went to work at Bernard Wardell, a factory making fake leather for furniture. There were two shifts there – a night shift and a day shift. There were women working in the warehouse, but it was only men who worked in the factory itself. Large machines rolled out the plastic, and this material went to the warehouse where the women worked, and it was despatched the material to different parts of the country. He returned to factory work because his driving job had come to an end, and it was easy to chop and changes jobs at the time. The money at Bernard Wardell was good and the work very different from the work at the compact factory so he had to learn new skills. After a year and a half he returned to driving. He joined the union in the new factory, and remained in a union afterwards.

Length of interview: 30 minutes