

Interviewee: David Jardine (DJ)	Interviewer: Margaret Smith (MS)
Date of Interview: 31 August 2017	Ref: DG38-39-1-1-T

TITLE	DG38.39.1.2
REGION	Dumfries and Galloway.
SUBJECTS/KEYWORDS	ICI Factory; Technology; Health and Safety; Social Clubs.
COUNTY	Dumfries and Galloway.
TOWN	Dumfries.
DATE OF INTERVIEW	Thursday 31st August 2017.
INTERVIEWER	Margaret Smith.
YEAR RANGE	2000-
SUMMARY	<p>David talks about his time at ICI which was then taken over by DuPont. David applied for ICI which had a good name for pay and conditions in the town; he started the process of applying but ICI were notoriously very slow responders. By the time he heard that he had the possibility of a job with them he had been working as an apprentice television engineer for six months. He finished this and reapplied to ICI almost five years later. In this interview he talks about the work done in the Dumfries plant, mainly making basic film to start then the technological advances that meant crossovers in trades and management. David talks about how workers opinions were invited from ICI and a suggestion that was implemented would earn a percentage of the profit for the worker. This changed to workers not being consulted on anything. There were big and necessary changes to health and safety during David's career and he mentions some of these. He also mentions the hearing and sight tests that were available to staff at the plant.</p>

Margaret Smith (MS)
Interviewing
David Jardine (DJ)

MS: My name's Margaret Smith I'm a volunteer field worker here in Dumfries and this is Thursday the Thirty-first of August Two thousand and seventeen an' ah'm here to interview David Jardine primarily about his work experience of working in the local ICI factory here in Dumfries so David if you could maybe just start by tellin' us a wee bit about when you were born an' where you were born an' yer early life.

DJ: Yes David Jardine speakin' ah was born in Dumfries, still live in Dumfries ah was born in the year Nineteen forty-nine ah went to the primary and secondary schools here an' ah joined the ICI in Nineteen seventy, Twentieth of July. I previously applied to the ICI when I was at school an' got an interview went through the process. ICI was notorious then for just leavin' you hangin', the personnel department an' ah never heard any more so, ma dad died when ah was eleven so ah had to get a job an' ah took a job as an apprentice television engineer in Dumfries.

MS: An' what age were you then?

DJ: Fifteen/sixteen, and started work there an' then ah got a letter from personnel six months later sayin' come for this final interview an' in the discussion ah said that ah'd started, what are ye doing now an' ah was like ah've started a job as a television engineer an' ah decided what they ca'ed the indentures then which was yer apprenticeship papers an' tae that they said well we canny offer ye the apprenticeship because we don't want a reputation of poachin' people from the town so that was that so ah left done ma time, qualified as a television engineer an' then we were ah [got ah was] engaged [we were] savin' up tae get married an' that an' ah thought well the wages are better at the ICI ah'll reapply an' unbeknown to me they'd been advertisin' the month before in the local papers, so ah sent a letter in explainin' not knowin' this ah sent a letter in to personnel explainin' what had happened five years earlier an' aw the rest an' ah think because o' that a got a re-interview an' out a quite a lot o' people that applied 'cause ICI was always a big number o' people wantin' tae get in tae ICI an' ah got a job so ah left the television engineerin' side o' things an' a started what they called an instrument [officer] which was dealin' wi' instrumentation work which was brand new tae me it was a learnin' curve wi' pneumatics an' low voltages an' stuff like that an' there was a dividin' line between instrumentation an' electrical an' they did their bit an' we done our bit an' we did that an' we were primarily there was six o' us ta'en on it was primarily to boost the numbers because [we're] buildin' a new plant in the back o' the ICI the polymer plant it was built Sixty-nine finished in Seventy, Sixty-eight/Sixty-nine started produce we started takin' process on what was it flippin' when they changed the coinage, decimalisation day Seventeenth of February Nineteen seventy an' ah was there we learned ah learned about the job an' there was about eight or nine o' us instrument men on the plant an' they commissioned it it run very successful makes an awful lot o' money or [it] did for the ICI.

04:12

MS: So what was it producing?

DJ: It was producing the raw material for the film plants, the polymer from the raw materials an' then it went to the film plants an' they turned it intae film an' sold it round the world, it was a pretty basic film industry then now they're makin' any colour o' film ye want near enough ye know black an' white, metalised everythin' then it was just purely just a clear film, an' ah worked there for fourteen years an' technology was movin' on then this is when calculators came in the go! As far back as that an' instrumentation was changin' it was

gettin' more digitalised an' electronic an' stuff an' ah was gettin' after fourteen years o' doin' the same thing a' the time it was like a new plant was gettin' built next door which was gaun tae be the biggest film plant in the world at the time Nineteen eighty-three/eighty-four an' ah applied for that but they wanted what they ca'ed control technicians rather than instrument or electrical ye know combinin' the two trades.

MS: Oh right.

DJ: So ah got that job an' ah had to learn the electrical side o' 'things an' the electricals boys had to learn the instrument side o' 'things so we were teachin' each other an' we were away on a lot o' courses an' things an' that all opened an' ah went on to do shift work which was you know round the clock maintenance an' things an' then a few years later they built another one next door, an' a few years later than that they built another one next door which was even bigger than the first one so it was the biggest in the world it was nearly thirty feet across you know compared to the old units that some o' the older workers worked wi' way back in the Sixties they were tiny ye know these were huge things so again technology was movin' on tae more computerised controls an' things tryin' tae keep up wi' a' that ye know? An' the young boys that were comin' in were gettin' taught that at the tech college ye know we were just expected to understand an' follow on, so ah worked there -

MS: That must have been quite a challenge?

DJ: It was still is ah think for the boys that are still there because there's little time to teach ye.

MS: So who was teachin' you?

DJ: Some o' the manufacturers would come in ye know on a one day course or a three day course.

MS: So this was instruments and equipment that was manufactured by other, not ICI?

DJ: Yes, no Siemens an' other companies some o' them are still in existence some o' them have changed they've been swallowed up by other companies ye know.

07:10

MS: Yeah.

DJ: But it was you were expected tae, because o' yer experience get a grasp of it an' if ye got a course it was on you an' it was like a lot o' it ye wouldny retain ye got some manuals an' things but it wasny like havin' ye know a months experience on things ye know so ye got through an' ye got through an' sometimes ye got stuck an' ye had tae ca' other people out that were got more trainin' or whatever ye know?

MS: Was it quite a supportive environment ye were working in when you were - ?

DJ: Oh yes aye you were part o' a squad, you'd a supervisor an' you had an engineers generally above ye in the ICI days yer engineer was o' the same trade/discipline, since it was sold an' changed hands ye can get anybody now as yer ultimate boss who'd know nothing about the job he's just dealin' wi' whatever he has tae deal wi'.

MS: But was that your experience?

DJ: That was latterly yeah.

MS: And how did it compare?

DJ: It was nothin' like what it was, nothin' at a' like what it used tae be like.

MS: In what way?

DJ: ICI looked after you, did things their way which a lot o' people refer tae as belt an' braces type o' mentality ye know if ye did that there was also somethin' else in place tae, they knew [the] company, run it for profit ah would say an' they weren't interested in teachin' ye the new stuff ye just managed tae get on wi' it, some people applied better than others others struggled others kinna got a grasp o' it ye know kinna thing which is a bit unfair but an' ye ended up wi' maybe a mechanical engineer that was he can understand mechanical problem but he couldny understand why you were doin' it this way or it took ye so long tae do that kind o' thing an' ye know they were workin' tae schedules an' they had bosses that were pushin' them ye know a' the time but the ICI was a far people always said like when ah was there in that period ye had the best time wi' ICI an' everybody now's desperate tae leave ye know as quick as they can ye know for whatever reason they're wantin' out, everythin's just it's no' like it used tae be but ah worked eventually ah worked till ah wis nearly sixty-five, retired, got a great job now ye know ah look after maself! [Laughter] But ah did forty-three years there an' when ah started it was a means tae get a house an' then move oan a bit ye know then time an' just flies by it just flies by it's ... anybody young listenin' tae this think what yer doin' because shortly it'll be twenty years gone an' ye'll be still in the same job doin' the same thing an' what did ah miss an' ye

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know it's an' wi' technology in my trade changed from as ah say calculators were a new thing tae digital flat screen touch screen flippin' processors all over the place ye know internet connections between hubs an' still does the same job it just does it in a different way ye know an' it's more technical ah mean it goes down or faulty it affects a lot more because it shuts every'hing else down because if somethin's no' talkin' to someone else it's a fault an' the whole lot goes down whereas before one thing would go wrong everything else was workin' so ye'd an idea well that's workin' that's workin' the pressure valve's no' workin' it's somethin' to do wi' that now it's like ye've got tae start at the top an' work down tae the actual fault ye know, but ah mean that's just the world's like that cars are like that nowadays my god the electronics that's in cars now can the electronics in cars in the Sixties was the radio ye know! Now it's unreal.

MS: So with you doin' that kinna job what kinna contact did you have with the operators that were working the machinery to do?

DJ: Oh very close very but when ah was on shifts or when ah was on days as they ca'ed them dayshift your operators were the ones that would in the first instance generally report the fault that there was a problem with a particular unit or a particular part o' that unit or whatever or a machine an' they would lead ye to this stopped workin' or whatever ye know that's maybe as far as they would go an' then we would look at it an' see if the motor had tripped out ye know overcurrent or processor had shut down or ye know cable had got broken or you know but the operators were the ones that knew the machines best they

would a lot o' them if they were good would specially in the film plants which was rolls turnin' things they could tell ye that's a different noise ye know there's somethin' changed here there's a different noise or somethin' wearin' here or whatever ye know an' a fitter might investigate it an' agree somethin' that'd be fine for a wee while but take a note an' say that needs looked at an' it's shut down an' do preventative maintenance, ICI used to do that, run it for so long shut it down do a lot of maintenance start it back up the new company tend tae just run it until it breaks you know which is a'right for them but generally when it breaks it's a far far bigger job for the guys that are doin' the job.

MS: So what then if you had something that had broken you'd identified something from the operator an' you'd sorted it but then it needed much more extensive repair than you could manage what would then what would be the - ?

DJ: If it was a simple repair like a change o' motor or renew a cable or some a short cable some o' the cables would go ye know for miles there was a big job just to replace a cable we would do that through the night and get the unit goin' again for the mornin' an' then that part that was broken would go intae the workshop an' either be repaired or scrapped ye know if it was that bad it'd be just put in the bin but generally it was just a change bearin's or clean somethin' up recalibrate somethin' sometimes ye know things like that, an' a lot o' repairs would be done but in some cases because they were run tae they were dead they were just scrapped it was cheaper tae just throw it in the bucket, things that ye

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couldn't repair beyond yer technology in my case ye called ye 'phone people out through the middle o' the night.

MS: Who would be who?

DJ: That would be technical support above me might be ma supervisor it might be at the weekends they had a plant engineer would be on call so he'd get called by my process supervisor who was in charge o' all the process boys which on a film plant was about twenty-five guys an' there was one control guy an' one maintenance fitter mechanical guy an' we did a' the work that was required if we could in the weekends ye'd phone this guy or holidays there'd be somebody in place ye know an' then he'd phone whoever he thought should be there tae get it goin' ye know.

MS: An' that would be somebody from within' the Dumfries site yes?

DJ: Oh yes aye, eventually if it was really bad ye'd have tae 'phone Siemens or Reliance or the people who made the machine an' that was a big outage then that was maybe down for a week by the time you get them they wereny just [*David clicks his fingers*] they're in Germany or wherever they had tae come, sometimes we got parts that was gettin' shipped tae China 'cause we needed them today an' the only parts that were actually made were actually on order for a unit in China so we got them an' they had time tae make them before the Chinese shipment went out or India for instance ye know they were the big emergin' markets in the film industry then an' sometimes ye just couldny get them ye know an' ye just had tae wait but we used tae carry a big stock in the stores for that reason a spare for every'hing was the ICI's policy an' that's none at all now it's all gone it's all gone just a different attitude towards the business ye know some things ye might wait fourteen weeks for it tae get made nowadays an' it's like we used tae have it! Could go an' get one ye know but they run the business it's their business it's the way they run it an' we just try we in the

trades always try tae make it easier for us which means have one there but sometimes we canny do that 'cause we're no' allowed tae ye know? But it was a great place tae work great friends great camaraderie within the instrument section an' then the control section an' then on shifts wi' the process 'cause they were yer front line as tae like stop doin' that 'cause yer breakin' it or ah've heard this is wrong or this is shut down but eventually wi' new technology ye got far more information on yer monitor screens tae say this has stopped this is the reason it's stopped as well in some cases so it gave ye a far better chance o' trackin' it down ye know quicker as well an' the process would learn that's tripped again kind o' 'hing there's somethin' wrong somethin' needs cleaned out it's chokin' it's whatever ye know but aw it was a great job some people quit the factory that worked outdoors lets say farmers or painters or that an' didny like it 'cause it just enclosed a' the time, some people didny like workin' dangerous machinery or chemicals but most folk came in an' as ah say the time passed that fast ye were there for twenty years before ye realised it ye know? But it was a good place tae work.

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MS: Yeah you said about the workshop so what people worked in the workshop? What jobs did they do?

DJ: Well initially in instrument section [?] section hud their own buildin' a wee tower thing and there'd be they would have people that worked in Propafilm an' people that worked in Melinex worked in the buildin' an' they hud their own floor kinna thing an' they did their own work an' most o' it was calibratin' things checkin' things repairin' things that got bent or broken or making new things servicing things then that was Nineteen seventy they had some'dy on shift that covered both plants Melinex and Propafilm and the electrical section did there own they had their own man an' their own squads Melinex squad the Propafilm squad then later on Propafilm developed bigger they made bigger bubbles an' then they built a new plant PP2 they called it which was a single bubble it was the biggest in the world at the time a huge thing and they had tae start kinna coverin' more o' the the site was gettin' bigger by this time an' as ah say ah got the job as one o' the numbers to swell the squads because o' the polymer plant bein' built but it was further away so we then had wir own workshop in the plant electricians had theirs mechanical people had theirs instrument guys had theirs and they'd be smaller there'd be six or seven that type o' thing an' over the years that diminished an' diminished an' diminished ye know.

MS: Did it?

DJ: Ah think when we started commisionin' the polymer plant we probably had about eight or ten guys, ten years ago there might only hae been about two or some'hin' like that on days 'cause everthin' was gettin' simpler technical but at that point had been complicated but machinery [?] simpler and the company that run it were runnin' it tae it broke so it didny need as many preventative maintenance takin' thinks out strippin' them out cleanin' them recalibratin' them puttin' them back in, an' then when ah moved to the Melinex Five the instrument electrical guys had a workshop but it was in a bigger workshop along wi' the maintenance guys but we eventually pinched a wee bit o' the plant we had oor own wee workshop up the stairs ye know out the road but we done a lot o' the heavy work downstairs because it was easier tae do that wi' just purely wi' the weight o' things ye know smaller things we could do up in the secondary workshop but it was good ye could if ye when ah was on shifts ah had a great rapport wi' ma mechanical guy an' we worked as a pair as a team an' we tended to always a fault would come up somethin' broke or somethin's

choked or somethin's no startin' whatever it might be and we'd go as a pair because we never knew if it would be like a mechanical problem [initially] the main part o' it mechanical or the main part might be control an' the reason it wouldny start would be 'cause it's choked like it needed cleaned out so it needed a' opened up an' bigger tools an' a different permit we a' had permits tae work, ye couldny just go an' do a job ye hud tae get a permit which ye signed it it told ye the limitation on the job ye were doin' ah had tae go an' isolate things for other people to make it safe for them so ah had tae go an' check that the isolation [?] fuses padlock it up sign the permit tae say ah'd done a' this before they'd get a permit to do like a,

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some units would shut down for a week and there was a lot o' jobs gettin' done in that week.

MS: So who put together the permit?

DJ: There was a chap that did just, if it was a big shutdown there was a guy who did the whole shutdown he planned the whole week an' a' the permits were pre-written before the shutdown an' everybody would an' if ah was on shift ah hud tae lock everything off the night before and prove that it was dead there was no power goin' an' a' these things an' sign countless number o' permits to say every'hin' was done if it was a breakdown durin' the day an' ah was on ah was workin' ah would go tae my process supervisor who'd write a permit fir that job an' then ah'd hand it back in.

MS: When it was completed.

DJ: When it was completed.

MS: An' was that always the system?

DJ: Yes aye.

MS: An' ah guess for what was some o' the reasons that system was in place?

DJ: It grew as health and safety really grew away back in the days it wouldny be an issue it would be like ah'd tell ma process supervisor ah was gaun tae shut this thing down or whatever an' it'd be aye fine away ye go tell me when ye've finished it kind o' thing an' then it started tae get like things had tae be locked off an' ye can see the reasonin' for this 'cause there'd be fatalities all round the world through confusion about what was safe an' what wisny safe and sometimes even where cables were on the ground people would be diggin' them up because they didn't know they were there so there's a lot o' scannin' the ground now an' us removin' fuses an' lockin' things off an' provin' they're dead an' signin' paperwork an' stuff an' then when this jobs done puttin' it a' back so it's ready tae start up again ye know? But health and safety has forced companies to do this kind of thing you know, safety guards guards that lock now ye canny open them when the machine's runnin' quite a lot o' that out there nowadays.

MS: And how did you feel about that once you saw that development?

DJ: It was slow it was, we did it other companies were doing it we were told and it was law now things like that an' in some cases polymer plant was a chemical plant an' there was reasons of possible explosions so there was reasons why everythin' was done a certain way

an' ah was used tae that on the polymer plant so when ah went to the other place it was just normal that we'd do things a different way but in a safe way by ye know lockin' things off an' that an' the electrical side o' things ye hud tae because o' a' the cables goin' to things that

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people were takin' out tae maintain them ye had tae make sure it was dead tae take a' the cables away tae remove it, so it was just god knows what it'll be like in ten years time it'll be even worse probably but there was some things that ah tried tae change when ah was there the big well no' the huge motors but a motor heavy enough that ye couldny pick it up we were changin' them quite regular an' the cables were what ye called hard-wired in tae the motor ye know terminated an' a' the rest o' it an' ah tried tae see if we couldny just put them on a plug ye know a big plug an' socket but a plug an' socket so that some'dy could just come along an' unplug take it away new one there ye go, less involvement for me quicker for them less paperwork safe enough ye know but sometimes ye felt in some cases ye were just bangin' yer head against a brick wall naebody wanted tae know it was too much hassle ye know things like that.

MS: Right so innovation wasn't welcome?

DJ: No wi' ICI it was it was they had what they ca'ed a suggestion scheme and there was a form ye filled out it could be any'hing from reducin' the size o' the Sellotape we used to a major repiping of things on the plant tae save their chemicals an' things to ye know just even doin' a job a different way the people who were doin' the job were doin' it as maybe the manufacturers instructions an' it was like well we dinny need tae do that part 'cause we're no' maintainin' that we're only can we no' just change this an' reduce it by six hours an' things like that and ye'd put a form in an' some'dy would look at it from a savin' point of view an' there'd be a calculation on savin' an' ye'd get a percentage o' that.

MS: Oh right! So there was quite an incentive to - ?

DJ: Oh yes oh aye ye could get thousands o' pounds or a hundred pounds or whatever ye know.

MS: Were you ever fortunate?

DJ: Ah think ah put one in but ah can't remember now whether it went forward or not ah sometimes helped other people who wanted our input tae understand what they were tryin' tae talk about ye know which was fine, but the new company didny dae any'hin' like that an' it was a shame because it was like the people who work it are the ones who know a' the short cuts and can improve things if the management don't want tae hear they just say aw well ye know they end up wi' a gap an' they just say aw tae hang wi' them we'll do it oor own way when we can an' then just so they don't learn because they're as ah said before my engineer used tae be the instrument engineer an' when you get people who are not they're that far away from the job they're no' there's very few who really want to talk to ye an' be interested in what yer sayin', they hud meetin's an' tell ye what's happenin' no questions that's it finished ye know type o' thing.

MS: David you started with ICI an' you've obviously then moved to the new company when did that happen the new company being DuPont yes?

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DJ: Yes the American company and do things different although there was no American boss came over it was always the bosses we had or bosses that left that were replaced by people local ye know but they've obviously got tae answer tae people in Europe there's a boss in Europe an' you sometimes got high profile visits but nothin' tae dae wi' us really you know and paper exercise for them or whatever but ah think it would be about Ninety-five, twenty years ago maybe some'hin' like that maybe Ninety-eight somethin' like that, they came wi' ICI always talked about DuPont being the world leader in safety we were always tryin' to be as good as them in safety an' we were always talked down as if we weren't not as good as this company an' then when ye see this company in action ye think this is just a lot o' rubbish we were far better than what they were for safety an' things you know? An' ah 'hink the company the ICI company did it as a [family] better ah would think any o' the plants round Britain would have the same attitude that they were far better as they were but the company went through a bad time through bad investments and things an' lost its way an' ended up gettin' sold ye know which was a real shame for the country ah think.

MS: So how long were you with DuPont?

DJ: Be about sixteen years maybe, maybe about a quarter o' the time a third o' the time o' workin' out there roughly.

MS: So you've got a very clear impression of the contrast between the two organisations?

DJ: Yes it's hard to see how ICI would hae been now if they'd still been goin' wi' the pressures ower the world an' you know credit crunch Brexit goodness knows what but ah mean you can only judge it like a football team as they were ye canny say what they'd be like now 'cause they're different players now different fitnesses an' things, business had different attitudes ye know? But workin' then an' workin' lately there it was far better wi' ICI but they got intae financial difficulty an' hud tae sell up so but DuPont bought it well no in fact DuPont and ICI (was it DuPont and ICI or was it?) naw ICI were in a partnership wi' a Japanese company ca'ed Teijin an' ah think it was DuPont went intae partnership wi' them tae buy the plant the Japanese wanted the technology an' the Americans really just wanted it tae another arm in their DuPont's a huge big company it was just another finger to boost output they could sell more to the rest o' the world an' things you know they're tryin' to get out now so, ah dunno what'll happen wi' the company now you know some'dy else they've been tryin' tae sell it for ten years but some'dy else was interested now but what [?] in price an' what'll happen in the future wi' the ICI and the other companies in Dumfries were big employers which helped Dumfries grow, the people who didny work for ICI used tae always say oh the ICI has got big payers an' people are buyin' their own houses an' things like that but ye were workin' shifts for it an' aw the rest o' it people got big money goin' on the oil rigs but they were workin' two weeks solid ye know type o' 'hing so it was a' different it wasny apples an' oranges ye couldny compare them but it was a fact that two or three big companies helped

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Dumfries ye know after the war 'cause Nobel was there durin' the war which [was the] explosives part Nobel had a workforce o' two or three hundred probably at the time the biggest when the ICI was at its biggest it employed thirteen hundred some'hin' like that so it was a massive employer.

MS: An' that would be mainly male yes?

DJ: Yes aye there was a [?] medical centre it had it's own Sister, Sister Baxter she run the medical centre cuts an' bruises tae acid burns on the Nobel side o' things ye know different things.

MS: And did that operate twenty-four/seven?

DJ: No it was just durin' Monday tae Friday but there was a lot o' preventative work done there hearin' loss checkin', weight, eye tests a lot o' things like that were done every two or three years, which was a good thing ye know and the other people would be office staff generally now there's people on the workforce that are females ye know there's quite a few o' them now so ah don't know the percentage there was at one time maybe up tae ten percent maybe might o' been on the workforce? Which is not a lot but at one time it was none so! An' we had female engineers as well things like that ye know they come and went they went ontae other things but comin' out o' university an' done two or three years there an' then they moved on tae somewhere else.

MS: How did that go down havin' female engineers?

DJ: It was fine we used tae get graduates doin' an eight week thing in the summer you know [when they were at] university, some o' them might hae been some o' the bosses sons or whatever or a worker's family would get the chance to come in and work fir eight weeks then that would supplement their student money so ye got them an' we used tae get people comin' fae Guyana flippin' South Africa comin' up fir maybe a year tae work an' then go on tae somethin' else, it was a good bit for that interaction of people comin' as a said a guy came fae South Africa for about a year as an engineer an' went somewhere else an' people like that ye know, so it was good, I've no regrets.

MS: No what about the social life then, when you were working there was there any - ?

DJ: Yes well again ICI it happened back in ICI again but ICI had a cricket club a fishin' club football club bowlin' club gardenin' club probably a lot more that ah wasny interested in but there was that an' they had a mini bus that you could hire type o' thing tae go on outin's so ye could have like ten o' ye's on a shift could go tae a horse race meetin' if ye want wi' the take the mini bus, go fishin' or hill-walkin' or a' these kind o' things.

MS: And was that paid for by ICI?

37:48

DJ: Ah think part o' it wis paid for by ICI an' part o' it was paid by a kinna subscription thing that everybody'd maybe put a shilling in or some'hin' like that an' ye didny really notice it type o' thing.

MS: You said about the football club an' the bowling club was there did they have their own facilities or did they use - ?

DJ: No ah think they would use other clubs would maybe, ah never went tae that but ah think they probably used the other people's changin' rooms that had a football pitch or whatever an' they maybe played in some kind o' league thing but people would go fishin' or whatever ye know any excuse tae a night out type o' thing.

MS: Was there!

DJ: They'd have dances they would have shift dances they would have ICI sometimes had big get-the-gethers they used tae have a summer fête thing the ICI run that an' then occasionally they would have open days where the plant'd be shut down nearly an' the whole family could go in an' you could take your family round where you worked because a lot o' people ye come home an' ye say ah've been workin' on this an' they don't understand what yer talkin' about an' they had open days every four maybe five years or some'hin' like that an' the kids would get presents an' a box o' chocolates an' ye could go around the other plants as well ye know it would take a' day they had a big tent up an' stuff an' that an' then at Christmas we used tae have Christmas parties for the kids an' they got presents an' things but that a' stopped, again just the change ye know it was a family ye know it was just a business.

MS: And you sayin' it changed when DuPont or was it startin' - ?

DJ: Yes aye.

MS: When DuPont took over.

DJ: Some things changed before that the mini bus cost a fortune to keep repairin' 'cause it was anybody could drive it almost ye know an' some things like maybe the gardenin' club diminished no' enough to be viable ye know things like that ah mean some things would start an' be really popular an' then they would fade away an' other things would just continue in the background [like] the bowlin' club.

MS: And ah guess the workforce was reduced by the time DuPont [?]?

DJ: Again it was reducin' yes the [Bell] shut an' Melinex one closed an' Melinex two closed Propafilm one closed Propafilm two closed, a' that was left a' that's left now is the two that were the new ones fae the Seventies on ye know the

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polymer plant's still goin' an' Melinex five's still goin' an' that's about three hundred people now so shed a thousand over the years ye know?

MS: So that's had a big impact on Dumfries and Galloway?

DJ: Oh yes aye, ye look at the shops ye canny blame ICI or rubber-works or any'hin' but ye've a these out o' town shops now which was never there an' the town centre's quite empty but a part o' that'll be that people how much money they've got to spend as well you know an' [?] the Carnation was a big employer the rubber-works was a big employer the ICI was a big employer now ye've got the council an' the health service they're the only big employers left.

MS: That's right. Ah think David ah will stop it there because that's been a fascinatin' insight into your work at the ICI an' also illuminating on some other aspects of ICI is there anything you would like to finalise by saying?

DJ: Ah'm just an ordinary worker ah'd never thought ah'd spend forty-three years there when ah walked in the gates an' walkin' in the gates tae a great big site like that is quite dauntin' when yer just twenty-one year old but no regrets.

MS: Thank you.

42:02