

Quarry Tales Clitheroe

Clitheroe Brookside CE Primary School Question Time

March 2016

- 0:10 Bobbie introductions
- 0:43 Q1 – What year did you start working the place
- 0:45 Mick 1936 one small kiln
- 0:58 Q2 – Why did you knock the chimney down in the first place?
- 1:05 Mick – we cut the wet kilns up
- 1:14 Q3 – How long did it take to build the control room?
- 1:17 Mick started building mid 80's
- 1:54 Q4 - What inspired you to work at Castle Cement?
- 1:55 Mick – Money
- 2:25 Q5 - How many years have you worked there?
- 2:26 Mick - 30 years
- 2:32 Paul – 40 and a half years
- 2:55 Q6 - What was your first work experience?
- 2:58 Mick – shift labouring
- 3:23 Paul – I started off in the offices as an office junior to office manager cashiers
- 3:45 Q7 - Is it fun working in the control room?
- 3:48 Mick It can be – there times stressful depends what's happening in kiln
- 4:15 Q8 - What's the best thing about working for Castle Cement?
- 4:20 Mick – getting paid
- 4:25 Paul – the camaraderie – working in teams and went out together – on holidays – day out in Manchester-
- 4:50 Mick few went to Majorca on holiday
- 5:00 Q9 - How did the first blast go off?
- 5:03 Mick - 1936 when we opened
- 5:10 Q10 - How many holes?
- 5:15 Question for Sam - Mick Probably 30
- 5:28 Now?
- 5:30 Mick – then used dry – dynamite now its liquid, pour itsxplosive doen, tanker, drop charge on electric circuit trigger it off ripple effect across top flash flash slash

6:20 Mick – drill it by hand in them days – large jackhammer – automativ drill 10000 top when blast 2 x week 200000 a week 1million a year

7:08 Q11 - Was you friends before you started in the quarry?

7:10 Mick – we went to school together, Horrocksford and Castle Cement.. We left on same day.

Going on holiday together

7:45 Q12 - Why did you re-open the factory.

7:50 Re-opened Bellman Quarry. Lanehead not as good as it used to be. We mix it together to get right blend.

8:21 Q13 - When working at Castle Cement how many explosions happen in rock

8:30 Since working there

8:38 Mick 2 a week blast, 4 times , wet kiln same as dry kiln, now 1,2 3 small

9:29 Q14 - Did you work on Christmas day?

9:30 365 days a year. 4 da shiftsys 12 hrs nights 4 off 4 nights 4 off for 8 weeks 16 days off repeat then 20 days off, Every year 10 weeks hols 5th year 12 weeks holiday 12 hour shifts

10:29 Q15 - Which department did you start in?

10:34 Shift labouring where most people start

10:37 Paul I started in offices – white colour worker

10:48 Q16 - Why is the water so cold?

10:52 Mick not in sumer. Water 30 m deep sun can't pen

11:25 Q17 - What did you use for transportation?

11:30 Mick – trucks

Paul light railway, ponies, when father started late 1930's first job was guiding ponies pulling trucks only twice length table tipped into static kiln, then later on endless chain bridge over Pimlico road

13: 00 Paul tramway

13:24 Q18 - How many workers?

Paul excluding drivers – on plant manager. Plant shift men 110-115

Sunday night 10 working 3 packing dock 2 control fitter elec line op kiln line op kin manager iin fiice if any sense

Mick – between 4 and 8 morning

14:39 Q19 - How many bag cement sell per day?

Paul 17000 tons per week bags 2-25% x 25 kg

15:57 Q20 - How long does it take to make a bag of cement?

16:02 Mick from blowing it up – if no bottle necks – non stop 1 day per bag

17:30 Martin – if never stopped an hour and a half

18:04 Q21 - If you worked in quarry?

18:10 not work in quarry

Mechanical equipment

18:35 Paul - Manual handling courses – safety use equipment

18:45 Mick - If you think it is too heavy it is!?

18:55 Martin used to use shovels, crowbars, jump out way, sledgehammer, pick up, into truck
When piled up roll them down train tracks and to into trucker – ride waggon, horses to pull them
back

20:12 Mick – breaking and filling – my father – best paid – no health and safety father blinded in
one hour

21:25 Q22 - Did you originally want to work there?

21:29 Mick – no – didn't want to do shift work. 7 years of nights

22:55 Q23 - How long did it take to make the machine to put the cement into bags?

22:53 Mick –

23:10 Martin – not made there – Danish? German? Dutch? Don't make machinery in this country –
need to start doing it again. Palletiser – complex piece of equipment

23:29 Q24 - Why is the control room the best?

24:32 Mick – matter of opinion – dry, air conditioned, coffee machine

25:03 Q25 - How long did it take to build all of Castle Cement?

25:10 Mick – the whole of it? 1936 and still building always adding continuing improvement
modernising

25:27 Martin – in 1936 when it started there was old works not used few years little quarry was a
tall hill road over the top, quarried both sides, none building there – nothing

Interviewed old man made concrete blocks for offices. Everything since 1936 –

26:30 Q26 - Who was it that started Castle Cement?

26:33 Paul – 1936 a consortium of two owned it. Big wooded staircase came from HMS Olympic,
sister to Titanic

27:22 Q27 - What happen when pipes burst?

27:26 Mick - Kilns? Contain water, air pressure drops, alarm sounds and shut down

28:02 Q28 - How many ladies work at Castle Cement?

28:05 Mick – none – Stella – control room laboratory – rest Transport Manager, and assistants female, works managers' secretary, few in offices, purchasing, HR

28:53 Q29 - Martin Women drivers?

29:01 Martin Any fitters?

29:07 No females

29:28 Q30 - How much you get paid in 1936?

29:35 Mick few shillings a week – pennies and shillings

19:55 Mick – first wage package £9 and I could go out every night of week, get drunk, packet of cigarettes and fish and chips and still money left over. Now several hundred pounds a week

30:59 Q31 - How many buttons ????

31:03 Will have to count them

31:40 Q32 - What football team do you support?

32:32 Children been wonderful

33:00 Teacher Thank you learned a lot

33:20 brought some rocks

33:35 Mick - Cement from bags 50 kg bags – men used to stand under chute, the bag would drop onto shoulder. You got paid for every bag – now 25 kg – 50 times a bag of sugar. 6-10 foot drop
Went on School trip –reason why didn't want to go – packing plant – that deep in dust – not going to work in that place. No health and safety, dust masks – own clothes, showered before going home –

Thank yourself you were born later

36:03 end

23:

