

Talking Hosiery

An on-line exhibition on the hosiery industry in Leicestershire. <u>http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha/community/resources/hosiery/</u>

Did you or your relatives ever work in the hosiery? Would you like to find out about the hours people worked in Leicestershire's hosiery industry during the twentieth century? Or hear about the Bedaux strike at the Wolsey factory, or a hosiery employee's first day at work? If so, you should visit the East Midlands Oral History Archive's first on-line exhibition at www.le.ac.uk/emoha/community/resources/hosiery/.

The exhibition recalls the time when hosiery made Leicester into a boom city and attracted workers from all over the country to move to Leicestershire. Using oral history extracts, and photos from the archive, the exhibition gives interested

'So of course it got to a breaking point, and, er, we had a meeting and then we, we decided it was no-go and we came out on strike...We used to go on picket - there was some girls went in to work but they went in by coach and we used to shout at them, but that was all there was...After the trauma of the seven week strike it was agreed that we was re-timed, and this is what it was - retiming of the job. Then they was more moderate, they reasoned things out more. From that day on I never looked back.' - a factory worker remembers the Bedaux strike at the Wolsey factory, which lasted for 8 weeks from December 1931 to February 1932

web surfers insight an into the working conditions and lives of those who worked in t h e Hosiery". Hear how to "link a toe" and learn about the smell of a hosiery factory first hand, from those who actually

worked in the industry.

history

Leicester,

Leicestershire

and Rutland

available to the

people of the

city and the

two counties.

also produces

a regular

newsletter

available on

request that

features

excerpts of

oral testimonies.

The

archive

of

The East Midlands Oral History Archive is using new technology to tell the story of one of Leicestershire's traditional industries. The archive contains dozens of interviews with the county's hosiery workers gathered over the last twenty years. Some of those interviewed were able to recall back to the start of the twentieth century, and it is now possible for anyone to visit the website and hear a century of history.

The hosiery exhibition is one of a number of projects undertaken by the East Midlands Oral History Archive to make the recorded

I left Wales in 1923. My brother couldn't get a job and I, I was working in a shop at 3/- (15p) a week. My aunties lived here, and they came to live in Leicester in 1913 because of the depression - there was no work in Wales then. And one of my aunties made a friend of a Leicester girl, and she came to Leicester for a holiday and she liked Leicester so much she got a job, there was plenty of work in Leicester. - A Welsh hosiery worker.

East Midlands Oral History Archive http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha

How do I....?

The East Midlands Oral History Archive offers a range of training, support and advice for people wishing to set up their own oral history projects. This includes the following free information sheets:

- #1 What is oral history?
- #2 How do I conduct an oral history interview?
- #3 What equipment should I use?
- #4 Copyright and ethics
- #5 Who can help: contacts and research sources
- #6 How can I be safe while interviewing?
- #7 How do I use the Internet?
- #8 What oral history resources are available on the Internet?
- #9 How can I use oral history in schools?
- #10 How to publish oral history
- #11 How can I put sound on the Internet?
- #12 How can I look after my material?
- #13 How do I get funding for an oral history project?
- #14 How to promote your project
- #15 How do I transcribe and summarise oral history recordings?
- #16 Researching local history
- #17 How can I use oral history to support family learning?

We can also provide free training sessions for people wishing to set up their own oral history project.

Toys and Games: an Oral History

The East Midlands Oral History Archive is pleased to announce the launch of its new resource 'Toys and Games: an Oral History'. The resource comprises a CD of edited extracts ranging from the early twentieth century to the present day, and covers a wealth of childhood memories, including tales of mischief and adventurous play, from the days when toys were a luxury, to crazes like Action Man, hula hoops and computer games. Listeners will be able to identify with many aspects of these, and may be surprised to find that despite apparent changes in childhood since the early twentieth century, they also



share many of the speakers' experiences. If you would like copy of 'Toys and Games: an Oral History' (priced at $\pounds T + \pounds 1$ postage), please contact the East Midlands Oral History Archive on (0116) 252 5065.

EMOHA also offers a variety of talks, which are free and can be held at a time and venue to suit your group:

- Slums and Suburbs: Housing the Victorians
- Work and unemployment in the first half of the 20th century
- An introduction to oral history & the EMOHA
- Childhood a look at the history of childhood
- Health and housing
- The Co-operative Movement and Housing: Edinburgh 1860-1920
- Leicester's Blitz

- Walnut Street Past, Present & Future
- Death and funeral customs
- Wharf Street revisited
- The story of the Saff Saffron Lane estate
- Coming to Leicester
- The First World War
- Women in the armed forces in the Second World War
- Training in oral history

Find out more... Get in touch with the East Sarah Ferrier You can also find out more Midlands Oral History EMOHA by visiting our website at: Centre for Urban History Archive by contacting Sarah Ferrier, our Education University of Leicester http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha/ Officer, on (0116) 252 5065, University Road, Leicester, by email at sjf17@le.ac.uk I F1 7RH or by writing to: Leicester City Council University of Heritage LEICESTERSHIRE Leicester Lotterv Fund COUNTY COUNCIL

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