

## **Canal Memories – Lock Cottage**

We were contacted last week by Mrs Joyce Morgan who lives in Trallwn. Mrs Morgan recalls the time when her parents, John and Mary Miller and their family lived in Lock Cottage, alongside the canal basin. Joyce, three sisters and two brothers were born in the cottage which at that time was much smaller than it is now and comprised a living room, kitchen and two bedrooms, all on the ground floor.

Her father worked at the Albion Colliery, at first underground and later, after an accident, as a stoker. One of her brothers, Hubert, worked as a chef at the Bunch of Grapes Inn. She can recall Lock Cottage being flooded, not from the canal but from heavy rain which swept through the cottage, leaving some of the furniture floating around.

Mrs Cliff, from Ynysangharad Road, made small beer which would be taken into the men in the Works. Joyce also recalls going into the Chain Works to help the office cleaners.

She remembers the canal boats in the 1930s and helping with the operation of the lock gates and paddle gear and also watching the boats from the bridge on the canal bank. The boats would pass beneath the bridge when entering the Chain Works where they were loaded with chains for transport to Cardiff.

There were also several trips in the summer when the boatmen took the Miller and Carter families for picnics at Taffs Well.

The locks were the responsibility of Bill the lock keeper, who worked from a hut alongside the top lock and Joyce and her sisters would take him soup prepared by their mother. He eventually died of pneumonia and, as he had no family, her mother offered to take his coffin in prior to the funeral.

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