**Sudbury Silk Stories Interviews**

Stephen Parker - Retired - Gainsborough Silks

File Length: 00:06:56

FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

*00:00:12:28 - 00:00:25:05*

Me. I was born in Baltimore actually just outside Opry. And of course I might be said I went to school in Beaumont. And then we had to come to Sudbury take out the secondary school.

*00:00:25:13 - 00:00:36:03*

All my work and life here except two years when we had to do national service.

*00:00:36:13 - 00:00:46:19*

Well actually it was. I went to see the foreman who used to be up here Cotonou noon and found I was interested in it.

*00:00:46:22 - 00:00:53:15*

So he got me an interview up here with the then factory manager. All right

*00:00:55:18 - 00:00:57:25*

who used to live just down the road from here

*00:01:04:14 - 00:01:19:12*

are the ration book. Well that was something which had happened during the war. You see everybody would thrash them with everything so you just couldn't get anything. But as this was an essential job you say you had to have

*00:01:20:03 - 00:01:34:11*

The baton to do it. They couldn't do anything without it because without it they couldn't twist a war pin. So therefore we couldn't believe you couldn't pull a new war pin with Angel. So they decided to have a ration card

*00:01:40:23 - 00:01:44:06*

that's when I went down to actually the

*00:01:46:02 - 00:01:57:07*

State the sashes for the queen rolled tartan. That was a fast one on also the design we done for Osborne house in all of white

*00:02:03:15 - 00:02:03:27*

Well

*00:02:04:15 - 00:02:11:02*

Our old form and always used to say there's only one way to do a job and that's the correct way.

*00:02:11:14 - 00:02:19:12*

So therefore we always done everything correct. We never made second so therefore everything had to be perfect

*00:02:25:18 - 00:02:33:14*

no poor are very much poor I should say because it's a silk industry but actually of made outbreak in the first place

*00:02:39:23 - 00:02:44:27*

yes I would because the with the modern machine there's no art to it.

*00:02:45:17 - 00:02:48:18*

Whereas with the old looms you had the feel for

*00:02:55:04 - 00:03:01:29*

Well I've seen modern looms come in the new world shall we say doing here and

*00:03:03:24 - 00:03:08:24*

fade away time looms which can do everything automatic. What

*00:03:08:24 - 00:03:15:10*

What we had to do all by hand. Of course the scale has taken ages the job then

*00:03:21:28 - 00:03:38:03*

I suppose because he was made his name on silk. After all we go way back to the what he said to when we've been doing stuff for America when they first had their flag I think it may be sub retail.

*00:03:38:08 - 00:03:40:20*

So therefore we can go way back in history.

*00:03:46:28 - 00:04:18:27*

The unsung heroes I should say the weavers and some of the girls on the preparatory side because everything had its own skill and if you hadn't got the skill to do the job. Then somebody had to suffer. We sold a staff of up like on the Penn side if you didn't get the perm try. The Weavers suffered and act the way it was on piecework where he had to earn his own money.

*00:04:18:27 - 00:04:30:00*

He couldn't earn his money if the bands weren't right so therefore that had to be right. The windows had to be right so that everything was done properly.

*00:04:30:04 - 00:05:01:12*

Like I said in the first I Foreman always used to say it's got to be done properly. You're the man. The people who make sure the way this can earn their money pan as a club what does the weft bitch go backwards and forwards in a shuttle. Backwards and forwards across the war a spot prayer has come in the opposite way.

*00:05:01:19 - 00:05:25:16*

Well I suppose created when we had Princess Margaret come up and look and round and come and round here. That sort of stood out because I remember I would wear even in one loom and she would stand in sight. I'd invite her to have a go. Oh I can't do that. I should break it. I informed her that there's nothing she couldn't break here that I can't fix. So go ahead and do it.

*00:05:26:06 - 00:05:56:14*

So she had to go. British Telecom come up because they wanted to film the Jag college because that is an early computer. So while you've been using computers all your life. People think they knew about not so we had those people come up through all these sort of things stick in your mind. Jack card us. What type punch cards Andy make the design

*00:05:57:05 - 00:06:12:29*

On any clock. It's fun by a jack on it to it like a computer. It's up or down on or off. So it works and you have to cut the cards accordingly to get the correct design.

*00:06:15:11 - 00:06:19:28*

It's easy enough punch you know here but it's very difficult until you do

*00:06:26:18 - 00:06:40:16*

I suppose a history of it. Because the history when you look at the history of this face the man who founded it right you Warner was a very clever man.

*00:06:40:18 - 00:06:49:23*

Dave is a man who decided that he could make a course cage machine to find Gage work and he devised a method of doing it.

*00:06:50:06 - 00:06:52:02*

And that is while still using