

Jane Buttigieg Transcript

Speaker 1:

What is your full name?

Jane Mary B.:

Jane Mary Buttigieg.

Speaker 1:

What year were you born?

Jane Mary B.:

1961.

Speaker 1:

Where were you born?

Jane Mary B.:

I was born in Westminster Hospital in London.

Speaker 1:

What did your parents do for a living?

Jane Mary B.:

My dad was a lift attendant and my mum was a barmaid.

Speaker 1:

Please tell us why you decided to work for Royal Mail.

Jane Mary B.:

I was working in a sweet shop at the time and I was 17. And one day a man came into our estate and said that the post office are actually going to take women on as workers. And he told my dad that it's a good job and I should apply.

Speaker 1:

Tell us about any family members who worked for Royal Mail.

Jane Mary B.:

Well, before I started, I didn't know anybody that worked for Royal Mail. And then when I started, I met my husband there and he worked for Royal Mail and his brother joined after we joined and he worked for Royal Mail. And my husband's uncle and cousins worked for Royal Mail. But when I first started, I didn't know anybody, but when I married my husband, his family joined Royal Mail and some of them were in the Royal Mail.

Speaker 1:

What did your family members think about your decision to work for Royal Mail?

Jane Mary B.:

My dad thought it was exciting because it was a proper job, he'd call it. And it was a career thing so that you would get a pension and everything and you could move up and you could be there all your life.

Speaker 1:

Tell us how you started working for Royal mail.

Jane Mary B.:

I was 17 and I got the application form and it was to be a telegram girl and a telegram girl was that you had a belt and a little bag here. And what would happen was before texting and emails, someone would like to send a message to you. So, they would ring up the post office and then they would say what they want it to say. And they would say, "Hi, how are you? Need to meet at this time or date." And then the people in the office would type it all up.

And it would come out in a long, long, long, long strip of paper or fin, and then they would cut it and they would stick it on a card. And then that card would go through a box, down a tube and we would be sitting there waiting all of us, telegram people, and then we would get the telegram. And then we would get on a bike, put it in our bag and drive it up to people, knock on the door and give them the telegram. And if it was someone who had died, there'll be a black cross in the corner. So, you would knock on the door and say, "It's sad news. Is somebody with you?" And then they would come and then you would give the telegram. But it was very expensive to send a telegram because every cost money. So, you kept it short. You didn't say, "How are you?" I prefer you would go, "Meet you on Tuesday," because it was very, very expensive.

And then, so that's when I was with telegram girl. And then that was at 17. And when you become 18, you become a postwoman. But when I was a telegram girl, I delivered to lots of famous people, which was lovely. And you got to meet nice people and use the ride round London on your bike.

Speaker 1:

Describe the training you did.

Jane Mary B.:

The training, I was just saying, I've just looked at, I was very lucky enough to keep the stuff that I had. When you become a postwoman you do a different training to be a telegram person. So, the telegram was, you had to be able to, I've just got it here, you'll see it later. It sort of, you had to underline the same words. So, if it says still and static, then you'd underline, they'd be the same. You also have to read to make sure that you understood when you got addresses. And so, that was a telegram. When you went onto the post, you had to have a, as a big sorting frame and you had to put all these cards that were pretend they had pretend addresses and you had to go through and go right. Well, that goes in [inaudible 00:04:09] and [inaudible 00:04:11]. That goes to Scotland that goes on and you had to do it in quite a quick time.

So, that was one of the tests that you done. And then if you pass that, then you became a post woman. But you were on temporary for a year. So, nowadays you're sort of, they keep you and make sure that you're right for about six months or three months in those days. I've just read that I was there for a year before they sit on a definite.

Jane Buttigieg Transcript

Speaker 1:

What was the first job you did for Royal Mail?

Jane Mary B.:

Well, I don't know. It would just be telegrams. I just delivered telegrams to people.

Speaker 1:

Tell us how you felt on your first days at work.

Jane Mary B.:

Very, very nervous because I was the only girl. So, I was the first telegram girl in South Kensington. So, I was with all these young boys because we were all 17. So, when you're a telegram, you're 17, when you're a postman, you're 18. So, and it went around the office and it went around other offices that a girl had joined. So, all the people in the other offices were driving up to see who this girl was, and it was me. And that's how I met my husband because there was, well, we just met there. And then when I was a postwoman, I was the only postwoman with a 100 men and me. And in those days there wasn't a restroom for women because it was all men. And the only difference was the men carried a heavier weight in the back. I think I carried 30 pound and the men carry 35. But I think that was the only difference.

Speaker 1:

Describe your work in those early days.

Jane Mary B.:

Work in the early days was fun because everybody was, the post office wasn't just the place where you would work and deliver mail. They also had a lot of social stuff. So, when you were 17, you could still go to college and still do stuff and they would let you have time off and you would get vouchers to go and have your meals. So, you didn't have to pay for your meals, but they also add lots of social stuff like swimming and things like that. So, you all became friends. It was like one big family and the post office that I was in the union and all the other posts that was, you would take a little bit of your wage because we couldn't afford to go on holiday in them days. So, when you got your money, you would put, say three pound away a week and then when they would book a big airplane and you'd all go off to America. So, it wasn't just about, so I was lucky to take my children to America, but I wouldn't have been able to afford it otherwise.

Speaker 1:

That's interesting.

Jane Mary B.:

Thank you.

Speaker 1:

And what was the atmosphere like[inaudible 00:06:43] days?

Jane Mary B.:

It was fun. It was really good, fun. Everybody was, they all laughed and jokes and everybody helped each other. It was just an amazing place to be. And we made lots and lots of friendships. And where I lived, they had a community hall, so they would have parties. So, on a Saturday you could bring your family and friends to different parties and to discos and that. So, and no, it was just a big fun atmosphere.

Speaker 1:

What kinds of people were you working with?

Jane Mary B.:

I was working all men. And one day they said that they wanted to go, they had the thing called the beano and a beano is when all men go on a coach together down to the seaside and all women go on a coach. But because I was the only woman they said, I couldn't come because it was just the men. So, even though I worked with them. Everyone was nice. We had uniform, you got given a uniform and you had a hat and you're very smart. And if you didn't wear a uniform, you'd be told off or days were taken off you. So, you didn't have to pay for your clothes. You had everything that was given to you, then not, it was a good place to be, even though I was the first woman. And while I was there, I was there a while. Then I think four or five women joined after me.

Speaker 1:

How diverse was your workplace when you started?

Jane Mary B.:

I don't think it was that diverse. It was mainly white men. As I say no women. And yeah, it wasn't that diverse.

Speaker 1:

What sort of equipment did you use in your [inaudible 00:08:19]?

Jane Mary B.:

We use the sorting thing. We'd have a conveyor belt that would sort of bring all the packets along, so you'd go out. So, I would go out, go to the postbox. I was called a buck. So, because I didn't drive. So, the person that drive was the driver, the person that was next to him was called a buck. So, I would jump out, unlock all the post bags, put the bags in the back and then we would drive back. We would tick a pit on a massive big table and everyone would be there. And then you'd sort it all out into letters and things. And then it'd be a big conveyor belt that come down and then all the parcels would come down this end.

And then I would sort parcels with other people, put them into bags and they would be going to Scotland, Ireland, England, America, down that end. Then there was a sorting box where you had to sort your letters. But now at the moment, then there was a massive hook at the end of this big frame where, when you went out on your delivery. So, you'd sort of your letters and you would say number one, number two. So, then you bundle it up and you learn to tie this knot. But I can't, I don't remember if I can ever remember it. Because you had string, you tied this big bundle and you went like that and you pulled it. And then when you got out on your delivery, you pulled the other string and it would all open.

Now at the moment because I've gone back to the post, they all use elastic bands and they pick up these elastic bands and they all go on the floor and it's a waste.

Whereas when you had the string, you were like that you pulled out and you cut it and then you went out on delivery so that I would deliver to lots of places and you'd have a thing called the walk. And that would be my walk. So, if you lived in this estate here, I might be on your walk, so I do your, these streets and all around.

Speaker 1:

Describe the uniform.

Jane Mary B.:

Very itchy, very heavy, very wet, very uncomfortable, gray and everybody itched because it was like wearing, I don't know what, what was that? [inaudible 00:10:08], if you've ever know what [inaudible 00:10:09] is, it was very, very itchy. Yeah. But we looked nice, but it wasn't comfortable. And you had a big bag when you were a post woman, post man. You had a hat, shoes. Yeah. It wasn't comfortable.

Speaker 1:

Tell us about the skills you needed for your job.

Jane Mary B.:

We need to be able to read and I think that was the main thing. Other than that, you didn't. I think that was one of the reasons I went into the post in a sense, because I was working in a sweet shop and one of the good things about here, you didn't have to have a degree or anything like that. You didn't have to have anything as long as you could read and you had, you were self-motivated you enthusiastic, then and as I said before, if you wanted to go back and learn things at 17, they would give you time off to do that. So, if I wanted to go back and do sort of English course or something like that or mass course, they would let you do that.

Speaker 1:

Describe a typical day at work.

Jane Mary B.:

Typical day at work, you'd get up, I'd get up. I'd get in by about half past five in the morning. And then I'd go over to my bay. Bay is way like a big table. And then I'd get, if I was on a walk, then I'd go to a walk is where you're going to be going. So, it's all split up in different things. So, then all the letters be there and then I'd start sorting them out. So, then at half past seven, by half seven, I'd be out in the streets, delivering your letters. And then by about half past nine or a little bit earlier than that, you'd come back. You'd do a two hour walk. Most walks in them days were two hours or an hour and a half on how quick you were. And then you'd come back and the canteen would be open.

So, you got to have breakfast. And then you'd come back and you do the second walk, which would be the second delivery. So, when you see the stamps, there's a first in the corner and the second. You probably know this. So, your first delivery is important to get out. And your second goes on the second delivery, which has now changed completely. But, and then when you finished that you went home, but you, as I say, lots of letters would come in and you'd all have to sort them and then you'd put them into your different walks. And if I was on a late, I would get in about two o'clock and I'd work till

about eight at night. And that would be in the vans, emptying the boxes and tip them on the table because you weren't going to go out walking then ready for the people that were coming.

If I was on a night, which was all through the night, then you would do a thing called redirecting because I've just seen downstairs in your classroom. You've got returned to sender. So, if it says return to sender in the night, when you work on the night, you would look at the thing occurs. Why is it returned to sender? Is the address not right? So, you'd have to look up that address in a big book and then you'd go, right? Okay. The address is not right or something's wrong or it's open. So, you'd have to look up. Not computers no more. And then when I was, I don't know if it was when I was leaving in the old days, you could just put what's your postcode now, is it, your school is West Central One.

Now that was enough to get a letter to you and it's still is. But what they brought in was an extra bit. So, I lived in SW1. Now I live in SW1V4AR. If I don't put the 4AR, the machines that they had couldn't read it. It had to be done by a person. So, because the machines are all based on it now. So, in the old days, everything was done by people. But if you miss out certain things, the machines can't do it. So, it still has to go back to humans, so to speak.

Speaker 1:

What were your favorite things at work?

Jane Mary B.:

Being out and about and being fit and just, and when I was in the telegrams, riding my bike and going everywhere and meeting new people and seeing new people and yeah, no, it was good fun. And delivering was great because if you had the same walk, because if what you do is people can be on their walk, which is where they deliver their letters that you could be on there for 20 years. But I like to be what was called a floater. So, if you never came in, I would do your walk. Then if you never came in, I would do your walk. So, then I'd done all different stuff. I didn't like to have my own walk every day and every day for 20 years. Imagine that doing the same walk for 20 years. [inaudible 00:14:49].

Speaker 1:

Sure. What were the difficult things about your work?

Jane Mary B.:

I think the weather was very difficult because you still out to go out when it was raining and cold and windy, that was a hard one. And walking up stairs when there wasn't lifts and things like that. It wasn't that hard. It was really enjoyable, but the weather would have been all for and yeah. But you have to be prepared. I worked 43 hours a week. Yeah. Your face.

Speaker 1:

Can you tell us about any discrimination you experienced or witnessed?

Jane Mary B.:

I think I had a lot of discrimination because as I say, I was the only woman in there and in them days people thought it was all right to be, they thought they were funny and insulting and things like that. And there wasn't really any backups. So, if someone was insulting or offensive, it would, you didn't really say because you were part of that. You didn't say because if you said it would cause a lot of problems and people would call different names and things. And for me it was just that you've just got to get on

with it, but there was a lot of, there's a couple of things that upset me. And one day something really did upset me and I had to take it to someone. But other than that, you didn't say. And I just think, people thought, it was [inaudible 00:16:31] and people thought it was funny, but it was hurtful.

Speaker 1:

Tell us a story that stands out from your working life.

Jane Mary B.:

My working life. If you want to know, I delivered to Ingrid Bergman. You wouldn't know she's a big film star in [inaudible 00:16:47], and she invited me in. And to me that was like, if you've got someone who you knew you like I don't know, one direction or Robbie Williams or something, imagine going into their house and meeting them and having a chat, that was to me. And there was people like Ava Gardner, who you won't know. And, but you would know Christopher Reeves, who was Superman. I met him. That was the nicest thing about it. You got to meet people that you would never dream of meeting.

Speaker 3:

[inaudible 00:17:21] telegram.

Jane Mary B.:

Telegram. Yeah. All his telegrams. Yeah.

Speaker 1:

What was some of them naughty things people did at work?

Jane Mary B.:

Now that's a hard one. Because what'd you say. When you were a telegram person, there was a thing called initiation, which I was lucky because I was the only girl and I don't think people could understand that they didn't know how to do that. So, they would, the initiation is when you're new and they would do silly things to you, like tie you to the chair and send you out naked in the street. And that would be, leave you there for five or 10 minutes. So, they were the naughty things that they did, but everyone had to go through it except me because I was the only woman. Thank God.

Speaker 1:

Just [inaudible 00:18:13] different jobs you did while working for Royal Mail.

Jane Mary B.:

Right. So, I'd done telegram. So, I deal with telegrams. I'd done the emptying the boxes. I'd done a redirection, which is making sure that ones that come back, why they've come back and send them. I've done cleaning. I used to clean the post offices because that was over time. So, then the postman would go out in a van at five o'clock in the morning and clean the post offices because you'd get more money. I'd sorting parcels that are in parcels, delivering letters. I'd done absolutely everything that there was and when you were there, they would teach you to drive. So, I met my husband there. So, he was a telegram guy, telegram boy and we got together. And then we both put in to drive the vans. If you go for a driving lesson, it's a lot of money. So, you'd have a two week driving thing.

So, you and I would go in. So, I would drive for half a day and you would drive for half a day. Then I would drive for half day. And then after two weeks, you'd take your tests. My husband passed, I didn't. So, my husband, Carl, Carl is his name, he became a van driver. Because you had to say, if you did become a driver, you had to drive for the post office, I think for maybe six months. So, but it was good for me because when I left, I took two driving lessons and then I passed, but I never drove to the post office up until recently when I've gone back and drove in a big van.

Speaker 1:

Tell us about your favorite job.

Jane Mary B.:

My favorite job, I just think it's telegram. I think it was being delivering telegrams.

Speaker 1:

How did you progress in Royal Mail?

Jane Mary B.:

I didn't. The reason being was that I had children. So, and the thing about the Royal Mail was, as we're saying is you picked what you wanted. So, me and my husband worked in different post office places. So, Carl worked in [inaudible 00:20:17], I worked in South Kensington. So, he would say to me, I've got a work, I've got an early. So, whenever he said he has got an early, I had to choose a late in South Kensington so that because we had children so that he would go up past 5:00 and he would come home by say two o'clock or something like that. And I would go in at 2:00 and I'd come home at 8:00 so that we didn't have anyone looking after our children. So, if the next week he said, "I'm going to be doing 2:00 till 8:00," then I would look at say, people I'll take the 5:00. But sometimes it didn't work. So, then I took time off and because I took time off, I had to leave in the end because it didn't work with my family. So, that's why I left.

Speaker 1:

Tell us about your relationships with your colleagues.

Jane Mary B.:

They were just good family. They were just all funny, mad men, and they would help you as much as you say there wasn't a lot of diversity, but there was a woman that they didn't know. Well, men just didn't know how to handle women if he wanted to talk about something that they were uncomfortable about. I think now days men and women are more open about things, but if, so it was quite good because I sometimes I can't do that. And I go all right then. Do you know what I mean? So, but they were really good colleagues. And we used to have a pool table downstairs. We'd play pool at games machine when we weren't there we'd have, and everyone they'd have dart competition, pool competitions. So, it was a real, a family, I suppose.

Speaker 1:

Tell us about your experiences of joining clubs at work.

Jane Mary B.:

Joining?

Speaker 1:

Clubs at work.

Jane Mary B.:

Club. As I say, I joined this club where you put money in every week and then one day they hired a whole plane. The whole plane was all the post office people and we all went off to Disneyland and so I took my children and then we used to go abroad to [inaudible 00:22:22], and then we would go to different clubs to see shows. So, they would put it up on the board and they say, it's going to cost 50 pounds to go and see Lenny Henry. Yeah. And then you would pay weekly. So, if you were earning, if you had 10 pounds, you'd give a pound. And then after six months, you've got, hopefully you've got all your money and then you can go. So, and lots of people that worked in the post did other things as well.

So, they might just be, they weren't just sometimes a postman. They might be doing something else. They might be a taxi driver. They might be something else because it was a job that suited. You could do other things in a sense, yeah, which was good. Because if you finished it too, you have the day to yourself and you could go off and go to the theaters and things like that. So, it was a really good job.

Speaker 1:

Did you join [inaudible 00:23:20] club?

Jane Mary B.:

Well, you got to, that was it. Well, you didn't have to, it was the South Kansas Sports and Social Club and that's who run all the outings and things. So, I did. Oh, and when I was 17, they used to do a, I think it was a week away at [inaudible 00:23:38]. And I don't know if that [inaudible 00:23:41] is like a place called where'd you go now? Did you use to go away with the school, Ashdown Forest? I don't know. Where do you go here? There's anyways, but there was one, and when we were 17, it was like a youth club, so they took everybody. So, all the 17 year olds would go and we'd do a abseiling rock climbing, and then I didn't do the sport sports. Although I run once never again, I did run for a little while. Oh, no, I did. I, I used to play netball for the post office. I played in all the netball teams, yeah.

Speaker 1:

What made you join the union?

Jane Mary B.:

Because I believe in the union and I think that they stand for people's rights and that. So, if you're on your own and something happens, it's harder to get heard but if you're within union, you know that you've got someone to represent you if something goes wrong.

Speaker 1:

Why is the union [inaudible 00:24:47] for place to work?

Jane Mary B.:

It's not for everybody. But as I say, for me, I like the union is something you pay into and it supports people when things go wrong, or if something happens and they fight for, well, they look at what's happening and if they feel like you're in the right then, because some people aren't very articulate as well or they get worried and don't want to upset people. If you go to the union, they'll say that they can help you and sort you out.

Speaker 3:

Do you think they helped as a woman?

Jane Mary B.:

I didn't really use them, but I'm trying to think. They did help because I was leave, because I couldn't share my children and the job, I did go to them and they said, "You're better off leaving because you're not going to be able to stay because you're taking too much time off." So, it was that. So, they gave you the heads up in a sense. "You can't go on like this." So, yeah. So, they did help me as a woman because I was, if you got sacked, it would have been complete different, wouldn't it? So, I left because it, I did actually, I did use them. Yeah.

Speaker 1:

Tell us about any strikes or disputes you're involved with.

Jane Mary B.:

Strikes or disputes. I can't remember. There must have been one. I'm not going to remember that and I won't give it justice. So, I'm not going to.

Speaker 1:

What was your most memorable moment at the post office?

Jane Mary B.:

I think just getting the job. I think that it was exciting and becoming a postwoman, I think that was brilliant for me and going up and passing the tests and things.

Speaker 1:

What were the most challenging moments at the post office?

Jane Mary B.:

I think dealing with the men, that was sometimes too challenging, yeah. Because what they thought was funny wasn't.

Speaker 3:

Could you give me examples of somethings [inaudible 00:27:00]?

Jane Mary B.:

I can, I'm trying to think of one that's clean. Do you know what I mean? It's a-

Speaker 3:

[inaudible 00:27:06] change the language [inaudible 00:27:09].

Jane Mary B.:

Well, they would send pictures of, so when you send a postcard, say someone says a postcard to their friend, some people we would get postcards of naked men or naked women, and they'd come through the posts and they would send all the naked men to me and say, "What do you think?" So, it was like, oh, that's quite time.

Speaker 1:

Over your working life, what were the main changes at work?

Jane Mary B.:

Main changes there in the post office? I think more women come in. The more women coming may just have more of a voice and you didn't feel so alone. Yeah. But on saying that sometimes you had women that wanted to be more friends with the postman, which didn't help the women's calls in a sense. Do you know what I mean? So, some women would turn up and not do their work or said that they couldn't do it and things like that, which didn't help women because it made men more superior and start saying that we couldn't do the job because someone might fancy somebody else. Do you know what I mean? And that would wobble the, if someone fancies someone and they'll start doing their work.

So, that was what for me, I was the first and I just thought that you're sort of, you're not helping women here because they've accepted us now. So, we've got to do the job that they're doing, and if you're not doing it, then it just gives an opportunity to say, "Well, why should women be here because they can't do the job?" So, that was more upsetting than anything.

Speaker 1:

In what ways do you think the job has improved?

Jane Mary B.:

I'm going back recently and I don't think it's improved at all. I think it's, my husband has gone back at the moment and he's working for hours and hours and hours. And because of technology, more people are sending parcels and more people are getting what's the parcel called, Amazon and Amazon and Amazon. And I don't think it's improved at all. I think if I'm being honest, I think it's horrendous. I think that it's called the Royal Mail, but it's not the Royal Mail no more. Because when you were the Royal Mail, you could park and you could go down bus lanes and you were the role now and now you're not. Another organization's taken over. There's no schemes that support people because my husband should be here today that they, he couldn't come here because they wouldn't support him coming here. He's out from morning to night. I think that the walks are bigger. Whereas your walks would be two hours, they're now five hours and there's no break and you're expected to do all this work. And I absolutely think it's horrendous.

Speaker 1:

What would you do? What do you think if your child wanted to work for Royal Mail?

Jane Mary B.:

I'd say no, not at the moment. And I think it's an interesting thing because my brother-in-law works for one office and my husband now works for another office and each office had a vote as far as I know, I might be wrong, do they want a day off in a week or do they want to do four days on or four days off? So, each office that you go to has got their own system. I just and all the walks, because what's happening is there's more houses being built, there's more flats being built. So, the walks are being bigger. So, whereas you, might've gone to two blocks, you're now going to six, but that's not. That should be free people, not one person. So, I think we're developing in the country and we're building houses and building flats and things, but we're not actually saying, well, actually that's too big. I think a massive overhaul needs to be looked at.

Speaker 1:

If you're the boss of Royal Mail, what changes would you make?

Jane Mary B.:

Tons, absolute tons. I would make sure that people aren't out there five hours walking in without a break, I would bring back canteens where people can come. And because I think when I was there, you came back and you had a cup of tea or you had a breakfast and then you met people. At the moment, I think you're going in, you're picking out your parcels and you're going out. So, you're not actually meeting your colleagues. And the expectation at the moment is unbelievable on people. And there's a factor of, I mean, I'm not saying about, I've just, I've done six weeks in the post office and I drove the van this time because I can drive. See. And so, but there's an expectation. Can you do more? Can you do more when I finish? Or would you mind, would you mind? So, I end up going out again and again, because the person who's in charge had to get everything out of the way.

And then if you look at COVID, loads more packets have to go out just for COVID. And I don't think, I honestly don't think that the post office have sat down and thought about the people. They might be feeling and thinking about the job but I don't think they're thinking about the people. And if you invest in people, you get a lot more done.

Speaker 1:

Looking back over your working life, what has working for Royal Mail meant to you?

Jane Mary B.:

Oh, it meant the world. And it was sad that I asked to leave. It wasn't just a job. It was everything from sports to, it just meant the world. And you got a pension and you knew that you were going to be fine. And yeah, it meant the world to me and I was sad to leave.

Speaker 1:

Thanks very much for answering my questions. Is there anything you would like to talk about that I haven't covered?

Jane Mary B.:

I'm trying to think. I think I've covered everything. Have I covered everything?

Speaker 3:

There's a couple of things [inaudible 00:33:27] ask you, nicknames for jobs and for people.

Jane Mary B.:

You want me to say them?

Speaker 3:

Yeah.

Jane Mary B.:

Yeah. Well, in the days there'll be a fat man and he was called Wimpy, which was a name in, I think in Tintin. Is it Wimpy? Then there would be Skinhead because he was a skinhead venturing us or can't think, gone off it now. Who else? Oh, that they gave names for everyone. Seabird because he was a sailor in his old days. And there was, oh, there was a guy that drove the trains and every time he went out they went, "Dilidi, dilida, dilidi, dilida, dilidi." Every time he came in, dilidi. If you had a nickname, it was there forever. Then there was Groucho from Groucho Marx because he looked like Groucho Marx. If he looked like someone, that's what you called you. And then when I was pregnant with my daughter, they called me guts are big. Here comes, guts are big. So, that's what I'm saying, you had to just embrace it. Otherwise, you would be [inaudible 00:34:48] the more you sort of thingy.

Speaker 3:

What about nicknames for jobs [inaudible 00:34:51]?

Jane Mary B.:

There was a buck, as I said it was buck. Then there was, don't know if there were nicknames, postman, there was PhDs if you know that if you went up, you were a PhD.

Speaker 3:

[inaudible 00:35:04] moppers or something.

Jane Mary B.:

Moppers. Yeah. That's what we were. Telegram people were called moppers and I don't actually know why, but probably my husband would know that. Yeah, we were called moppers. Yeah. That, but I don't know why probably messages on pushbikes or somebody like that. I don't know. Yeah. Maybe I'm making that one up.

Speaker 3:

And finally for me anyway, there's obviously good walks and bad walks. How would you [inaudible 00:35:34]?

Jane Mary B.:

The longer you were in the job, the better walk you got. So, if you just came in, you'd get the worst job, you'd get the worst walk. So, then as the years went on, you'd get the better walks. So, when I was the person that would do different walks, if I've been in there five years and the person underneath who had been there two years, all the walks would go up. So, there might be five or six walks and then I would choose the one I want and then the person who's a year under me with choose the next one. So,

the longer you were in, the more, the better you got. And I was looking back, my wages were 25 pound a week for 43 hours.

Speaker 3:

What would make a good walk and what would make a bad walk?

Jane Mary B.:

I think estates with no lifts, like the posh blocks where you're up and down the stairs. Because and a good walk would be one level, but you'd have a lot more work, but it will be on one level. So, you'd be walking by the way up on street and round and things. And it was before trolleys. So, you always, you carried it. So, I think the women carried 30 and I think the men carried 35. So yeah, but there's a lot more posts now, but parcels more than anything else. So, what you're doing now with parcels is you can't get it in your bag. So, you're putting in a trolley, then you have to go back. Then you put it in your trolley and have to go about or there might come.

It's no, but a good walk would be something that you could finish in an hour and a half and a bad walk would be something that you couldn't finish in about two and a half hours. But yeah. And that's the same with drives. It was good drives and bad drives because you'd get in over which is a lot harder now. Yeah. And what else?

Yeah, but I'm not sure, but you'd have to look that up and you might know this, that I was told that men got more money than women to do the same job, but I'm not a 100% on that.