

Thorne and Hatfield Moors Oral History Project

Interview with: Shirley Squires (part 1)

Date: 1 December 2006

Interviewer: Lynne Fox

Summary

Shirley Squires was the manager of all the gangs of contract casual labour used by Fisons on Thorne & Hatfield Moors

Hand graving process. Loading wagons. Stacking & piddying. Husbands & wives, fathers & sons working together.

Demonstration of cutting machinery attended by Lord Netherthorpe, Chairman of Fisons

Details of walling machine-cut peat.

How process worked from cutting, walling to loading & transporting to factory

Details of how contract casual labour gangs worked & her role

Where labour came from, transporting to moors, organisation, payment, jobs undertaken

Boom loading gang managed by her husband

Organisation of amount produced

Digging up bog body – WW2 airman. Medium told them who he was.

Ghosts

Working year – only had holiday at Christmas

Striking miners came to work for her during the strike – said work on moors was much harder!