



In this clip Dolly Terfus is talking about being apprenticed to her father and her training.

TRACK 00 – 00:09:57 – 00:11:49

Terfus: 1951. Yes I really begged him and eventually, after three years--, the other thing is, it wasn't a career, as such, that people knew very much about. It wasn't publicised. It wasn't so--, it wasn't anything that anybody in school would recommend as a profession to go into. They didn't know about it, it was unheard of. Dentists, everyone knew of. The technician was the extension of the dentist. They thought he went into a little room and abracadabra, the dentures would appear. They didn't know about us, we were hidden. And then eventually, after this three years of nagging, he said right, okay, you will come and you will be apprenticed to me. And the apprenticeship was five years long and literally what you did is you stood at the master's elbow, he told you what to go and do and you then sat down and you did it until you got it right. And if it meant doing the same thing a hundred times, when you got it right, then you proceeded onto the next one. Whether the City & Guilds was actually around then, I don't know, but colleagues of mine--, I don't know if even they went to what was then to become City & Guild. It was Burrow Poly--, Burrow Polytechnic or Burrow College, where you went one day a week to learn dental technology, which is what it became. We were called dental mechanics. Dental technicians didn't come in till--, as a word till a long time afterwards.