

“Merthyr Express” 1 January 1955

All the World’s Children Collection As a result of the collection in the village, the sum of £10 10s 6d was realised. The collectors were: S. James, D. Morgan, W. Evans, G. Williams, M. H. Morgan, L. Jones, Nurse Ballard Davies, R. Thomas, W. Pearce, M. H. Morgan, L. Evans, M. A. Lewis, M. Evans, G. Lawrence, Miss O. Payne, G. Jones, G. Burrows and Rouse. The organiser was Miss Maria Jones, assisted by Nurse M. Lewis, who wish to thank all collectors, and those who gave so generously.

Success In Music At the recent examination of the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music, Willie Edwards, son of Mr. & Mrs. B. Edwards, The Anchorage, Pleasant View, was successful in passing Grade 3.

Carmel Chapel Singing festivals were held on Christmas Day. Mr. W. A. Davies presided at the morning service for children. Miss Maria Jones conducted the singing. Recitations were given by Gwendy Ham, Joyce Lewis, Derek Ham, Jennifer Thomas & Lawrence Blunt. Margaret Shankland read a portion of Scripture, and Carl Blunt took part in prayer. Mr. T. Walters was the organist. In the evening, the adults had their gymanfa ganu. Mr. S. Lewis presided and Mr. T. Walters was the organist. The singing was of a high standard.

Gymanfa The annual Noddfa and Nazareth gymanfa was held on Christmas Day at Noddfa Chapel. The singing reached a high standard under the conductorship of Mr. D. J. Thomas. The organists were Mr. Tom Davies and Master Willie Edwards. The morning was devoted to the children, when Mr. W. A. Davies presided. Angela Owen read a portion of Scripture, and Ann Hughes led in prayer. A solo was sung by Susan Thomas. Mrs. E. P. Lewis was the president at the afternoon session. The devotions were taken by Miss Margaret Morris. Mr. T. J. Jones presided at the evening meeting. Miss Muriel Lewis read the Scriptures, and Mr. Tom Thomas led in prayer. “The Christmas Story” was related by a party consisting of Eunice Jones, Ann Hughes, Angela Owen, Rosemary Jones, Jean Owen and Yvonne Davies.

“Merthyr Express” 15 January 1955

Missionary Play The children of Fochriw Council School gave a splendid performance of the missionary play “Led by a Star,” at Carmel Congregational Church on Sunday. The producer was Miss Maria Jones. Mr. T. Walters presided and was also the pianist. An address was given by Nurse Ballard Davies. The children taking part were: Jean Davies, Ruth Jenkins, Anthony Mantle, Terence Shankland, Margaret Mantle, Carl Blunt, Ann Jones, Angela Owen, Sandra Gardener, Lynn Jones.

Welfare Association A meeting of the Welfare Association took place at the Reading Room on Friday. Mr. Frank Jenkins presided. The question of outside contributions came up for discussion, and a figure was agreed on. It was decided to increase the wages of the caretaker. The billiard tables show a steady increase in takings. The financial report of the outdoor and indoor schemes showed splendid progress. The Hall, which was recently opened, is proving very attractive. A radiogram has now been purchased by the committee, and should prove an asset.

“Merthyr Express” 29 January 1955

Barnardo’s Collection The recent collection for the Dr. Barnardo’s Fund realised the sum of £9 10s. The organiser was Miss M. Lewis.

“Merthyr Express” 12 February 1955

Appeal For Better Bus Service From Fochriw Supporting an appeal by the three local members, Messrs. Sam Lewis, W. J. Payne and William Poyntz, for a more frequent omnibus service from Fochriw in the mornings, Mr. W. J. Kedward, J.P., Bargoed, told Gellygaer Urban Council at its monthly meeting, “We want to keep trade in our own area.” Mr. Kedward said residents of the Fochriw district might do their shopping in the Merthyr area if they found they were better served by the present train service. The chairman referred the matter to the chairman and vice-chairman of the omnibus committee for consideration.

Motor Cycling Club Dance On Friday evening at the New Hall, a very pleasant evening was spent at a dance under the auspices of the Motor Cycling Club. Music was supplied by Ron Hughes and his band. The M.C. was Mr. Cadfan Cumpstone.

Welfare Association Mr. Frank Jenkins presided at a meeting at the Reading Room on Friday. The question of film shows came up for discussion. The Hall is properly equipped for the showing of films, and it is hoped that satisfactory arrangements can be made. Mr. Dan James gave a report on the activities of the snooker league. The Fochriw senior and junior teams have reached the semi-final rounds. The treasurer gave the financial report.

“Merthyr Express” 26 February 1955

Late Mrs. Emily Martin, 11, Mount Pleasant, Pentwyn The funeral of Mrs. E. Martin took place at Pentwyn Churchyard on Saturday week. The Vicar officiated. The mourners were: Messrs. Morgan Williams, Desmond Harding, Ivor Williams, Glyn Jones (sons-in-law); Ralph Johns (grandson); J. Edmunds, W. & D. Garbett, F. Thomas, E. Davies, A. Thomas (nephews); B., L. & M. Davies, W. Lewis, G. Harris, B. E. & D. Evans, G. Williams, J. Pullen (cousins); W. Pope. The bearers were Messrs. J. Pullen, M., F. & G. Williams, T. Lewis. At the house were: Meg. Lucy, Phyllis Bronwen (daughters); Lucy, Gwladys & Betty (nieces); Mesdames Lewis, Harris, Pope and Davy (cousins). Funeral arrangements were by Mr. W. Thomas, undertaker, Deri.

Late Mr. Richard Evans, 1, Railway Terrace, aged 79 The death occurred on Saturday week of Mr. R. Evans. He had lived at Fochriw all his life. The funeral took place at Pant Cemetery on Wednesday week. Rev. T. J. Jones officiated assisted by Rev. E. Adams Evans. The mourners were: Messrs. W. A. Davies (son-in-law); Richard Evans. Dd. E. Evans, Caradog Thomas, T. J. Evans, Emrys Evans, Robert Thomas, Sydney Evans, Evan W. Jones, David Llewellyn, Emlyn Evans, David C. Evans (Australia), Tom Morris, Cliff Bane, Syl James, Ray Clark, Harry Jenkins (nephews); Tom Rowlands, David Evans, David Jones (cousins); Geo. Davies, Ray Davies, Harry Jones, Thos. Ballard, Wm. Cook, Tom Walters, Stephen Lewis, John Bibby & Walter Jones. At the house were: Annie Davies (daughter); Doris Jones, Lizzie Morris, Gwenda Pearce, Edith Thomas, Gwenfil James (nieces); Eliz. A. Evans, Blod Evans, Annie Evans, Morfydd Watkins, Nan Jones, Teg Cumpstone, Barry, (cousins); M. I. Jones, Edith M. Davies, Irene Lewis (Llanelly), Peggy Davies (Laleston). The funeral arrangements were by Mr. D. J. Davies, undertaker, 25, Glan-y-nant Houses, Fochriw.

Late Mr. Lewis Richards, Chapel Row, Penybank, aged 64 The death has taken place of Mr. L. Richards. He was a member of a family that had lived in the village for many years. The funeral took place on Monday at Pentwyn Churchyard. The Rev. T. J. Jones of Noddfa officiated at the house and graveside. The mourners were: Messrs. David and William Evans (brothers-in-law); J. R. Davies, T. J. Evans, Sydney Evans, Trevor Evans (nephews); Reg Gittoes.

Late Mrs. Catherine Mary Jones, 6, Aelybryn, aged 88 The death occurred suddenly on February 14th of Mrs. C. M. Jones. She was the wife of the late Mr. John Jones, who was an official for a number of years at the old Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds No.2 Pit, Fochriw. A faithful member of Noddfa Chapel, where her husband was senior deacon, Mrs. Jones was a native of Dowlais, and, in her younger days, was a member of the old Dowlais and Merthyr Mixed Choir. The funeral took place on Friday at Pant Cemetery and was strictly private. Rev. T. J. Jones of Noddfa officiated at house and graveside. The mourners were: Messrs. Gwilym Thomas (brother); Nehemiah Thomas & Leighton Bevan Walters (grandsons). At the house were: Mrs. Eunice Walters (daughter); Mrs. T. Sullivan, Mrs. Crad Shankland & Mrs. Cumpstone. Noddfa Chapel was represented by Mr. Joshua Evans and the neighbours by Mr. Tom Sullivan. The undertaker was Mr. D. J. Davies, Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 5 March 1955

Snooker In an exhibition match at the Billiard Hall on Thursday night, between Cliff Wilson and Ray Reardon, both of Tredegar, Ray Reardon made a break of 101. It was excellent entertainment from both players.

“Merthyr Express” 12 March 1955

Wedding: Pillidge-Cumpstone The marriage took place at S. Margaret's Church, Cardiff, of Lieut. Roy Campbell Pillidge, London, and Miss Enid Cumpstone, younger daughter of Mr.

& Mrs. I. Cumpstone, Fochriw. The bride wore a gown of white lace with a head-dress of lilies-of-the-valley, and carried a bouquet of red roses. The bridesmaids were Miss S. Robson and Miss E. Batstone, friends of the bride, who wore gowns of white lace and carried bouquets of spring flowers. After a reception at the Park Hotel, the couple left for their honeymoon in Gloucester, Somerset and Devon. The bride wore an oatmeal mixture coat and matching hat with tan accessories.

United Nations Childrens' Fund As a result of a house-to-house collection at Penybank and Pentwyn in aid of the U.N. Childrens' Fund, the sum of £4 1s. was realised. The collectors were Mrs. T. E. Davies & Mrs. Prouse.

"Merthyr Express" 19 March 1955

Donation The Old Age Pensioners Supporters Committee wish to thank the Fochriw Debating Society for the donation of £4 12s. to the Pensioners Fund. The secretary of this committee is Mrs. Joan Owen, and the treasurer Miss Shankland.

Labour Party A meeting of the local branch was held at the New Hall on Friday, Coun. W. J. Payne presiding. Reports were given by Coun. Payne & Coun. S. Lewis, J.P..

Welfare Association Annual Meeting The meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday. Mr. Frank Jenkins presided. Coun. W. J. Payne was elected chairman. Coun. Payne & Coun. S. Lewis were made life members for their services. Other officers elected were: vice-chairman, Mr. Frank Jenkins; secretary, Mr. R. Rees; treasurer, Mr. I. Evans; librarian, Mr. D. J. Thomas.

"Merthyr Express" 2 April 1955

Welfare Association The first meeting of the new committee took place at the New Hall on Friday, Coun. W. J. Payne presiding. The chairman welcomed the new committee, and hoped that they would have a very successful year. It was stated that the stage would soon be completed, so that dramatic performances could be held. The question of the children's playground and equipment came up for discussion. Mr. Dan James reported on the year in the snooker world. The financial report proved satisfactory.

"Merthyr Express" 9 April 1955

Palm Sunday Throughout the week, many people visited the old churchyard at Pentwyn to lay flowers on the graves of loved ones. Services were held throughout the day at the Parish Church.

Angell – Powell The wedding took place at Bethania of Mr. Haydn Angell, youngest son of Mrs. And the late Mr. W.J. Angell, Fochriw, and Miss Rosemary Powell, eldest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J.E. Powell, Glyn Terrace, Tredegar. The Rev. W.J. Evans officiated. The bride wore white lace and tulle over taffeta and carried a shower bouquet of pink carnations. The bridesmaids were Miss J. Powell, sister of the bride, and Miss I. George, cousin of the bride. They wore lavender tulle over taffeta and carried posies of anemones. The flower girls were Sandra Gardener and Jean Davies, wearing blue tulle over taffeta and carrying baskets of mixed spring flowers. Mr. Donald Jones was best man, and Mr. S. Davies groomsmen. After a reception at the Park Café, the couple left for London, the bride travelling in a camel coat with tan accessories.

"Merthyr Express" 30 April 1955

Jumble Sale A jumble sale was held at the New Hall on Saturday, when £42 was made for the O.A.P. outing fund. The Supporters' Committee wish to thank all who helped. The officers are: president, Mr. Farley; chairman, Mrs. J. M. Lawrence; secretary, Mrs. Joan Owen; treasurer, Miss Shankland.

Motor Club Dance The Fochriw & District Club held a long dance on Friday evening at the New Hall to the music of Ron Hughes and his clavoline. M.C.s were Mr. C. Cumpstone and Mr. G. Lawrence. The secretary is Mr. W. Abbey.

Labour Meeting Coun. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting of the local Labour Party on Friday at the Reading Room. The chairman drew the attention of the meeting to the District Council Elections and the General Election on May 26. Mrs. H. L. Farley gave a detailed

report on the meeting of the Gellygaer Labour Party. Coun. S. Lewis gave a report on Council activities.

“Merthyr Express” 14 May 1955

Late Mr. Henry Fisher, Aelybryn The death has occurred of a well-known personality in the village, Mr. Henry Fisher.

Motor Club Dance A successful dance was held at the New Hall on Friday last. The music was supplied by Ron Hughes and his band. Mr. C. Cumpstone was M.C..

Late Miss Mary E. Thomas, 13, Guest Street The funeral took place on Wednesday last of a well known inhabitant of the village, Miss M. E. Thomas. A service was held at the Parish Church conducted by the Vicar. The mourners were: T. J., B. & R. Lewis (nephews); T. Jones (cousin); R. Lewis. At the house: Mrs. R. Lewis (sister); Mrs. A. M. Lewis (niece); M. Thomas, M. Osbourne, M. Edwards, E. & B. Lynch (cousins); M. Wells, L. Powell, B. Lewis. Mr. D. Thomas, brother, was unable to attend due to illness.

“Merthyr Express” 21 May 1955

Blizzard Causes Electricity Breaks: Cables Down Several inches of snow blanketed Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale, and Tredegar on Tuesday, after an unprecedented mid-May blizzard. Two thousand people in Rhymney, and another 2,000 at Fochriw were without electric light and power for many hours because of the blizzard. Electric power cables were frozen by the snow, and some at Fochriw, and the lower part of the Rhymney valley, were brought to the ground.

Late Mr. J. Lewis The death has occurred of a well-known inhabitant, Mr. John Lewis, Guest-street. He had lived in the village all his life.

Died Aged 87 The death has occurred at 16. Aelybryn, of Mr. Henry Fisher, aged 87. He was an old inhabitant of Deri, but had lived in Fochriw for the past 13 years, with his daughter and son-in-law. The funeral took place at Pentwyn Churchyard, Rev. E. Adams Evans officiating. Mourners were: Messrs. Will Fisher (son); Messrs. John Rees Thomas, Tim Morrissey (sons-in-law); Desmond Morrissey, David Tancock, Thos. Baker (grandsons); Chris & David Thomas, John Slimmons, Thomas Thomas, Vivian Powell, Stuart Davies, Iorwerth Evans, Norman Thomas, S. Russell, J. Bibby, S. Ballard. Bearers: Messrs. A. Wood, W. Edmunds, R. Jones, Windsor Chapman, Ralph Titcombe, Sam Harris. At the house were Elsie, Ethel, Doll (daughters); Frances, Cynthia, Betty, Shirley (grand daughters); Kathleen (great-grand-daughter); Paul, Douglas (great-grandsons); Lilian, Jean, Mair, Betty (nieces); Mesdames Bull and Chapman, Morfa, Olga, Dot, Irene, Elsie. There were numerous floral tributes. Funeral arrangements were by Powell and Sharpe, builders and undertakers, Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 28 May 1955

Eisteddfod Win Miss Mary Cumpstone won first prize at Tafarnaubach Eisteddfod.

Dance The Motor Club held a dance at the New Hall on Friday, to the music of Ron Hughes and his band. Mr. C. Cumpstone was M.C.

Labour Meeting Coun. W. J. Payne presided at a Labour Party meeting at the New Hall on Tuesday. He welcomed the Rt. Hon. Ness Edwards and Mrs. Edwards. Mr. Edwards dealt with the proposals of the Labour Party, and received a splendid reception. Other speakers were C.C. W. J. Kedward, and Coun. Bryn Roberts. Votes of thanks were moved and seconded by Coun. S. Lewis, and Mr. George Williams.

Indecent Language For using indecent language, D. I. Lewis, aged 24 of Coronation Crescent, Fochriw, and Cyril Burton, aged 23, of Abertysswg, were fined 10s. each.

“Merthyr Express” 11 June 1955

On New Stage At the New Hall on Thursday, the Fochriw and Tiryberth County Youth Centres presented three one-act plays to a large and appreciative audience. The chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne, congratulated each Centre on being the first to use the new stage, which was one of the best in the Valley, with every modern facility. The plays were: “The Bathroom Door,” and “The Sixth Hour,” by the Fochriw County Youth Centre, and “The Mayor of Tarantol,” by the Tiryberth C.Y.C. The plays were well produced and brought

rounds of applause. At the close, Mr. Howell Owen, warden of the Fochriw Centre, thanked the chairman and all who had helped to bring about such a successful evening.

Late Mr. J. Richards The death has taken place after a long illness of Mr. John Richards, Railway Terrace, at the age of 60 years. He lived at his native Pantywaun before coming to Fochriw. The funeral took place on Monday at Pentwyn Churchyard, and was well attended. The Rev. T.J. Jones, Noddfa, and the Rev. E. Adams Evans, vicar, officiated. The mourners were: Messrs. W.T. & Jenkin Richards (brothers); E. Stead, John Lloyd Jones (brothers-in-law); Evan Jones (uncle); Haydn Richards, Glyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Bryn Jones, Aeron Jones, Arthur Smith, David Morris, Eban Morris, Thos. Morris, George Dare, Teifion Morris, Seaborne Williams, Dryslwyn Rowlands, Ellis Davies, W.J. Dyer, Owen Dyer, Jenkin Whiting, Edgar Williams, Daniel Williams, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Shalespeare, David Evans. At the house were Mesdames M.A. Richards (wife); Katie Stead, Mary Jane Rowlands (sisters); Caroline Jones, Louiza Richards, Betty Richards (sisters-in-law); M.A. Jones, M.J. Jones (aunts); Megan Davies, Betty Williams, MaTabitha Smith, Gwen Dyer, Maureen Williams, Glenys Rowlandds, Elizabeth Dare. M.A. Davies, Jones, Thomas, Fox, Williams, Farley, Williams (Blaen Carno), Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Evans. Funeral arrangements were by Mr. D.J. Davies, Glanynant, Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 18 June 1955

Sewing Class Outing The Fochriw Evening Sewing Class went to Gloucester on Saturday, accompanied by their teacher, Miss Davies, Butetown. Mrs. E. Shankland is the secretary, and Mrs. G. Yeoman the treasurer.

Class Outing The Fochriw Evening sewing Class enjoyed a pleasant outing

Many Congratulations Following the recent announcement of his gaining the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Louvain University, Dr. Huw Ballard Thomas of Aelybryn, Fochriw, has received many messages of congratulation from friends and associated. These include messages from the Marquis of Bute, the Earl of Dumfries, the Viscount Southbury, P.C., Sir Horace Evans, G.C.V.D., Dr. David Jones, C.B.E., D. Litt., and a letter from Sir John Cecil Williams, Ph.D., conveying the congratulations of the Council of the Honourable Society of Cymrodorion, and inviting Dr. Ballard to accept membership of the Society.

Carmel A children's service was held on Sunday last, when the book entitled “On the Wings of Faith” was performed. The soloists were Nurse M. Lewis, Miss Margaret Shankland and Neville Hann. Mrs. Lewis presided. Readings were given by Mr. T. Walters, Nurse Lewis, Miss M. Jones and Nan Jones. The producer was Miss Maria Jones assisted by Mesdames Glyn Thomas, Graham Jones and Miss Nan Jones. The organist was Mr. T. Walters. The offerings were taken by Margaret Shankland and Delfryn Jones. During the service, a vote of sympathy was passed with the family of Mr. T. Ballard, whose death occurred on Thursday last. He was the senior deacon, and had been for years, the corresponding secretary of the Chapel. Mr. T. Walters played “O Rest in the Lord,” whilst the congregation stood in silence. Congratulations were tendered to Mr. Huw Ballard Thomas, grandson of Mr. T. Ballard, and son of Mr. & Mrs. G. Thomas, Aelybryn, on his obtaining the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Louvain, Belgium. He also attended Carmel when a young lad at home.

British Legion A special British Legion membership campaign was held at the Rising Sun on Saturday, June 11, when the officers of the North East Glamorgan County Committee, and the officers of the Pontlottyn and District branch were present. Mr. H. Ward, County Chairman, spoke of the vast work the British Legion is doing for ex-servicemen and women and their dependents. He also spoke about increasing membership. Others who spoke were Mr. Ron King, county secretary, Coun. Cyril Phillips, vice-chairman, and the county treasurer, Mr. W.T. Christopher. Coun. Hy. James, treasurer of the local branch also spoke, and thanked the N.E.G.C.C. for coming to Fochriw. This was seconded by Mr. R. Surtees. Among others who spoke were Mr. W. Pearce, Fochriw. The next branch meeting will be held at the Lord Nelson Hotel, Pontlottyn, on Friday, 24 June at 7.30 p.m. and all ex-servicemen are requested to make an effort to attend.

“Merthyr Express” 25 June 1955

Dance The Fochriw and District Motor Cycling Club held a dance at the New Hall on Friday. Mr. C. Cumpstone was the M.C., and Ron Hughes and his band supplied the music.

“Merthyr Express” 2 July 1955

British Legion The local branch of the British Legion held its fortnightly meeting at the Nelson Hotel on Friday last. It was well attended, and the committee and members are now hard at work on the branch and social activities. It is proposed to hold a social evening on Saturday, July 9. The secretary is Mr. C. Gardener, 1, Sunny View, Pontlottyn. Anyone wishing to join can also contact Mr. R. Surtees, 103, Glanynant, Fochriw.

Honours Degree Mr. Hugh Jones, a student at Aberystwyth University, has obtained his B.A. degree with honours, Class 2, Division 1, in geography. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Evan W. Jones, 14, Guest-street. He is a former pupil of Bargoed Grammar School.

“Merthyr Express” 9 July 1955

Labour Meeting A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday, Coun. W. Payntz presiding supported by Coun. S. Lewis, Coun. W. J. Payne and Mr. Frank Jenkins, secretary. Reports on council activities were given by the councillors. Coun. W. J. Payne was elected Ward chairman. Letters of thanks for support during the election were received from the Rt. Hon. Ness Edwards, and Mr. D. G. Evans, organiser.

“Merthyr Express” 16 July 1955

Pensioners’ Outing On Tuesday, in glorious weather, the Fochriw Old Age Pensioners travelled to Porthcawl in three luxury coaches. Arrangements had been carried out by the committee of which Mrs. Jean Owen is secretary, and Miss C. Shankland, treasurer.

General On June 12, 1955, there were 9,093 men, 307 boys, 5,022 women, and 510 girls – a total of 14,942 persons – registered as unemployed in Wales. In the preceding month, the total was 15, 891, while a year ago it was 19,582.

“Merthyr Express” 23 July 1955

Sunday School Outings The Sunday Schools had their annual outing to Barry Island on Saturday. The weather was glorious and a delightful day by the sea was spent. The journey was made by rail from Fochriw Station.

Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided at a meeting of the Welfare and Institute on Friday evening, with Mr. Frank Jenkins, vice chairman, Mr. R. Rees, secretary, and Mr. Iorwerth Evans treasurer. The matter of the use of the playing field for organised games for school children on two days a week came up for discussion. This was agreed to. Arrangements were made for the official opening of the Hall on Saturday next, July 23 at 3 p.m. by Mr. Corfield of the N.C.B.

“Merthyr Express” 30 July 1955

New Hall Opened: Bright Future For Fochriw Area: Coal Board Chief And £3,000,000 Project The National Coal Board is spending roughly £3m. on a project at Ogilvie Colliery, near Fochriw, said the Board’s area general manager, Mr. D. G. Corfield, on Saturday. Mr. Corfield was opening a Hall at Fochriw, towards which the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation has contributed £7,300. “During the next 50 years, I foresee this mountain hamlet of yours becoming quite an important locality,” said Mr. Corfield. “The prosperity of this valley, and the top end of the Rhymney Valley is assured, as far as I can see, not only for this generation, but also for the next.” The Board had erected 200 houses, at a cost of £350,000 at Fochriw. “I would like everybody on this new estate to make it as beautiful as possible. It is most important that the houses are kept beautifully and properly.” Mr. Corfield hoped that everyone would make full use of the Hall, and enjoy the efforts it would stage.

The Rt. Hon. Ness Edwards, M.P., said that he was glad to see that the dead-ends of the valleys were at last getting some attention. “When we look at the lack of amenities in these mining areas, we do not wonder why the mining industry is steadily losing manpower. The Coal Board is now doing at Fochriw what ought to have been done a generation ago, and it deserves our congratulation for this excellent start.” He said that unless the young miner

could find compensation in his "above ground surroundings," he was not likely to tolerate "life below ground." Referring to the recent Commons debate on coal, Mr. Edwards said that for the years ahead, coal was never again going to be in adequate supply to meet the power needs of expanding industry. He went on: "And we must realise that we cannot export coal in its raw state, and in the form of motor-cars, steel and engineering goods. If we are going to have an industrial future, the export of coal as fuel will have to end. The mining industry has been harassed because of the failure of the Government to make up its mind on policy. The Coal Board has been pressed to get on with a large capital development programme: to rehabilitate the industry, and to squeeze out ever-greater quantities of coal. On top of it, it is urged to provide exports, and at the same time to pay for coal imports to fill the nation's fuel gap." Mr. Edwards said that far too few people realised the burden on the mining industry. "The miners have to carry the cost of buying the pits for the nation, and the cost of filling the fuel gap with imported coal. Until atomic power and the use of oil play a full part in power needs of the country, the fuel gap will increase, and the miners will have to bear the cost. It is this problem and the Government's inability to handle it, which is likely to take the heart out of the mining industry. There can be no buoyancy in an industry that is kept in the 'red' by Government policy. And an industry that is not buoyant cannot hold and attract the manpower it needs." Mr. Edwards said the future of coal was certain. "As in 20 or 30 years time, it loses its place as a fuel, more and more will it find a new place as a basic raw material for the chemical revolution that is taking place. The greatest need of the moment, is that the Government should give the mining industry a chance," he said.

Coun. W. J. Payne who presided, said this was a memorable occasion in the history of Fochriw. They were indebted to the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation for its assistance, and to the Board for the provision of 200 houses. Mr. W. H. Crews, J.P., secretary of the South Wales Area of Mineworkers' Union, and joint secretary of the Social Welfare Organisation for the area, said it was estimated that £95,000 would be allocated by the Divisional Welfare Organisation on recreation grounds, workmen's institutes and halls during the coming year.

Coun. Cledwen Williams, J.P., chairman of Gellygaer Urban Council congratulated the local Welfare Association on its efforts, and said he hoped this latest amenity would help keep young people in the area. "The population of Gellygaer was greater 20 years ago than it is now," he said.

Among others who spoke were County Councillor W. J. Kedward, who praised Fochriw's cultural organisations; Mr. Lance Rogers, secretary of the Ogilvie Lodge of the Mineworkers' Union, who expressed the hope that the hall would bring together the old and the new Fochriw residents of the new estate; Coun. W. Poyntz, who said that Gellygaer Council was to erect 100 houses at Fochriw; and Mr. Tom Jones, the Coal Board's regional welfare officer, who said that the hall should provide greater opportunity for the people to come together to discuss problems for the well being of the district. A vote of thanks was proposed by Coun. Samuel Lewis, J.P., and seconded by Mr. Frank Jenkins, vice-chairman of the Association. Treasurer of the Association is Mr. I. T. Evans, and the secretary, Mr. R. Rees, Heol Iago, Fochriw. The Hall was dedicated by Rev. E. Adams Evans, Vicar of Fochriw.

Ambulance Flag Day The officers and members of the Fochriw Ambulance Division wish to thank all who took part in the recent flag-day collection. The sellers were as follows: Llwyn Iago Estate, Misses Margaret Morris and Jeanette Burrows; Aelybryn etc., Misses Joyce Evans & Mary Cumpstone; Brynteg etc., Miss Ann Ballard, Mrs. Yvonne Davies; Cae-glas, Miss Ann Morris, Mrs. Eunice Jones; Penybanc, Gordon Evans, Mansel Evans.

Late Mr. Richard George Evans, Plantation Terrace The death has taken place of a well-known local man, Mr. R. G. Evans. Mr. Evans died at Tredegar Hospital where he had been a patient. The funeral took place at Pentwyn Churchyard on Saturday. The officiating ministers were Revs. Jesse Yeoman, T. J. Jones and E. Adams Evans. The mourners were: Mrs. Evans (wife); Phyllis, Idris, Emrys, Douglas, Derlwyn (children); Emllyn (grandson);

Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Evans, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Evans (brothers & sisters-in-law); Mr. & Mrs. Ivor Horton, Mrs. Gladys Miller (sisters & brother-in-law); Mr. Ben Evans (nephew); Messrs. R. W. Parry, David Lewis, S. O. Davies (brothers-in-law); Bradley, Maldwyn Hughes. At the house were Mesdames Ciss, Ren, Florrie and Amy (daughters-in-law); Edith Lewis, R. Parry (sisters-in-law). The bearers were Messrs. R. Clarke, Steve Jones, Wm. Lewis, W. A. Davies, Gordon Lawrence and John Gwyn Gittens. Funeral arrangements were by Mr. D. J. Davies, Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 6 August 1955

Jones - Small The wedding took place at St. Mary’s Church on Saturday of Mr. Douglas Jones, son of Mr. & Mrs. James Jones, 2, Oaklands-street, Bedlinog, and Miss Elvira Small, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Llewellyn Small, Glen View, Pentwyn. The Vicar, Rev. E. Adams Evans officiated. The bride was given away by her father, and wore a costume of peacock blue with white accessories and carried an ivory prayer book. She was attended by her sister, Miss Brenda Small, in a costume of pale blue and pink accessories, and carried an ivory prayer book, and Miss Jean Williams, in a grey costume with white accessories, and carried a prayer book. The best man was Mr. V. Eddington, and the groomsman, Mr. Delwyn Small, brother of the bride. The reception was held at Glen View. The honeymoon is being spent at Didcot.

Jenkins - Pullen At the Parish Church on Saturday, the wedding took place of Mr. D. Jenkins, youngest son of Mrs. C. Jenkins, and the late Mr. W. Jenkins, Caerphilly, and Miss Doreen Pullen, only daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. Pullen, 2, Glen View, Pentwyn. The Vicar, Rev. E. Adams Evans, officiated. The bride was given a way by her father, and wore a full-length gown of blue taffeta with a design of silver flowers, and carried a bouquet of red carnations. The bridesmaids were Misses Denise and Maureen Pullen, nieces of the bride; Miss E. Morgan, niece of the groom; and Miss Marion Pole. They wore pink and mauve full length taffeta dresses covered with net and each carried a bouquet of sweet peas. The best man was Mr. T. Withers, Caerphilly. The groomsmen were Messrs. J. C. W. H., and D. G. Pullin, brothers of the bride; Master E. Jones of Radstock, Bath. The reception was held at the White Horse Inn, Pentwyn. The bride’s going away costume was a pale pink suit with white accessories.

Pontlottyn Court Glyndwr Thomas Davies, aged 24, blacksmith of Plantation Terrace, was fined 10s. for committing a nuisance, and 10s. for using indecent language. P. C. Jenkins proved the case.

Dog Killed Chickens: Fochriw Miner Fined 10s. Kenvin Franklin, a 29 year old miner of Heol Iago, Fochriw, was fined 10s. on a summons that his dog was worrying poultry. Leslie Jones of Morris Row, Fochriw, said that on Saturday, Jene 4th, he was visiting his chicken cot on the mountain side. He opened the doors and found five pullets lying dead on the floor. He found a terrier dog in the cot, and on examination found 11 pullets and 7 chickens dead. He later identified the dog as belonging to Franklin. P. C. Baunton said that the dog was destroyed that day.

“Merthyr Express” 3 September 1955

Eisteddfod Winner Mary Cumpstone gained second prize in the recitation (10 to 15) at the Llagatock Eisteddfod on Saturday.

“Merthyr Express” 10 September 1955

For the Blind A house-to-house collection in aid of the Sunshine Home for Blind Children was made recently. Collectors were: Mrs. Sheen, Miss E. Evans, Miss Shirley Lawrence, Miss Sylvia Evans, Miss Betty Fox, Miss Lorna Rees, Mrs. Jones, Miss Margaret Morgan, Mrs. O. Williams, Miss Anthea Watkins, Mrs. Price, Mrs. Small. The total collected was £10 2s 10d. Mrs. Evans, the organiser, wishes to thank all for their support.

Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Friday. He thanked all who had worked so hard to make the opening ceremony of the New Hall the success it was. It was decided to start a film show on September 13. The public are promised a fine display of films. A try-out of the equipment was given by Deri friends who were

delighted with the results. The treasurer gave a detailed financial report which was very satisfactory. A snooker league report was given by Mr. Dan James, who was congratulated on being appointed this year's chairman of the Rhymney Valley Snooker League.

“Merthyr Express” 17 September 1955

Formation Of A Male Voice Choir A meeting was held at the New Hall on Sunday to form a male voice choir. The conductor will be Mr. T. Walters, A.L.C.M., and the accompanist Mr. L. Jones, Pontlottyn. Mr. D. J. Davies, 25, Glanynant, Fochriw, is the secretary, and Mr. W. Abbey, treasurer. The first practice will be held on Sunday next at the New Hall at 4p.m.

“Merthyr Express” 24 September 1955

Welfare Committee The Committee opened their cinema show last week with pictures on Tuesday and Friday. Very encouraging audiences attended.

Male Voice Choir Quite a number attended the first practice on Sunday afternoon at the New Hall. It is hoped they will give their conductor every encouragement by attending regularly at practice.

Harvest Festival Services were held at St. Peter's, Panrywaun, on Sunday and Monday. The church had been decorated with flowers and fruit. The celebrant and preacher was Rev. E. Adams Evans. On Monday the service was taken by the Vicar, with Coun. Payne preaching. The organist was Mr. Ernest Cumpstone.

“Merthyr Express” 1 October 1955

Late Mrs. Esther Matthews The death has taken place suddenly of Mrs. E. Matthews, wife of Mr. John Matthews, Dynevor-street.

Harvest Festival Services were held at the Parish Church on Sunday and Tuesday. The church had been decorated with an array of flowers, fruit and vegetables. On Sunday morning the preacher and celebrant was the Vicar. The evening service was taken by Coun. W. J. Payne, and the preacher was the Rev. W. H. Hughes, Vicar of Pontlottyn. The organist was Mr. N. Palmer. On Tuesday, the preacher was the Rev. Arthur Williams, Caerphilly. Mr. John Palmer, lay reader, read the lessons, and Miss M. Ralph, Pantywaun, was the organist. The Vicar took the service.

“Merthyr Express” 8 October 1955

Late Mrs. Esther Pugh Matthews, Dynevor-street, aged 39 The funeral of Mrs. E. P. Matthews took place at Pentwyn Cemetery on Saturday. She is survived by her husband, Mr. Hohn Matthews, and a daughter, Malvina. She was the daughter of Mrs. S. Pugh, and the late Mr. R. Pugh. Mrs. Matthews was a faithful member, and loyal worker at Nazareth C. M. Chapel, where she will be greatly missed. She was suddenly taken ill coming out of chapel after the week-night service, and was taken to Tredegar Hospital, where she died the same night. Revs. Jesse Yeoman, T. J. Jones, Glanville Jones, and E. Adams Evans officiated at the house and graveside. The bearers were Messrs. W. A. Davies, C. Shankland, D. Lewis, M. Thomas, J. Watkins, E. Gittens. Mourners were: Messrs. John Matthews (husband); Lewis Hopkins (brother-in-law); Tom Matthews (father-in-law); Will, Horace, Vivian, Cecil, George, Glyn (brothers-in-law); W. A. Jones, Griff Jones, Idris Davies, J. A. Jones, Trevor R. Jones, D. Mutlaw, D. Lloyd Jones, Howell Bowen, Harold Wellsman, Ivor Davies, Leslie Hathaway, Maldwyn Jones (cousins); D. Matthews (nephew); Howell Jones, W. J. Payne, M. Williams (uncles); J., Reg, S. Matthews, W. & R. Rowlands, J. & S. Johns, Idwal Williams, Ellis Matthews, W. Tams, B. Pittaway, G. Morgan, M. Edwards. At the house were: Mesdames S. Pugh (mother); Malvina (daughter); Magdalen Hopkins (sister); Muriel Hopkins (niece); Sarah J. Matthews (mother-in-law); Flossie Perkins, Winnie Meredith, May, Iris, Iris V., & Phyllis Matthews (sisters-in-law); Janet Jones, Beatrice Mutlaw, A. Pugh, A. Jones (aunts); Hetty Grawen, Hetty Carter, Estyna Wellsman, Mattie Davies, Esther Hathaway, Helen Locke, Muriel Lewis, Jane Pugh (cousins); M. H. Morgan, E. J. Williams, R. & M. Pittaway, K. Jones, L. & M. S. Price, E. A. Evans. The funeral arrangements were by Mr. D. J. Davies, Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 22 October 1955

Fochriw's Village Postman: Mr. Rowlands Retires The familiar face of Mr. Thomas Rowlands, 6, Glyn-terrace, will be missing from the streets of Fochriw in the future. Through winds, rain, and all kinds of weather, Mr. Rowlands, the village postman, was always on time with the delivery of letters and parcels. He had a pleasant word for all. Mr. Rowlands and his wife are faithful members of Carmel Chapel. As a miner before taking up the duties of postman nearly 23 years ago, he worked in the Fochriw and Ogilvie Collieries. He served in the Royal Garrison Artillery during the First World War. Mr. & Mrs. Rowland's son is on the teaching technical staff at Cheltenham, and their daughter, who is a nurse, is now in British Guiana with her husband, who is in the Forces, and their children. His large circle of friends wish Mr. & Mrs. Rowlands good health and happiness in retirement. He has received a certificate from Dr. Charles Hill, Postmaster General, offering best wishes in the future, and saying how much his services to the Crown over more than 22 years have been appreciated. [with photograph]

“Merthyr Express” 5 November 1955

Eisteddfod Success Miss Mary Cumpstone won two first prizes at Pontlottyn Eisteddfod on Saturday last - Test selection, 12-16 years, and open champion (own selection).

Merthyr Court: Let Off Firework In Street George Bradley, aged 19 of Glanynant, Fochriw, was fined 20 shillings for letting off a firework in the street. P.C. Williams said that on Saturday he saw a flash and heard a bang coming from the junction of Market Street and Garden Street, Dowlais. He saw three youths running in his direction. Bradley admitted that he set off the firework.

Ward Meeting Coun. W.J. Payne presided at a Labour Party ward meeting at the New Hall on Thursday evening. Representatives were present from Pantywaun, Deri and Fochriw, with Coun. S. Lewis, Coun. Wm. Poyntz, and Mr. Frank Jenkins, secretary. The chairman extended a welcome to Mr. Burgess, a new member, son of Coun. Ted Burgess, Bargoed. Coun. Poyntz gave a report on Council activities, after which many matters came up for discussion.. It was with deep regret the meeting heard Coun. S. Lewis state that he would not be standing for election next time. Tribute was paid to Coun. Lewis by the chairman and several members for the excellent services he has given.

Late Mrs. E. Rees The death occurred on October 20 of Mrs. Elizabeth Rees, widow of Mr. John Rees, Aelybryn, at the age of 88 years. Mrs. Rees was one of the oldest inhabitants of the village. The cremation took place at Glyntaff on October 24. The officiating minister was Rev. T.J. Jones, assisted by Rev. E. Adams Evans. Mourners were: Messrs. David J. Rees (son); Charles Ffrowd, H. Billingham (sons-in-law); Gilmor Robinson (grandson); Tom Matthews (nephew). Bearers: Messrs. Wm. Cook, Stephen Ballard, W.A. Davies, Thomas Lewis, David J. Jones, Gordon Lawrence. At the house were: Mesdames Charles Ffrowd, H. Robinson, H. Billingham (daughters); Linda Williams (niece); W.A. Davies. There were a number of floral tributes. (listed)

Carmel Wedding The marriage of Miss Margaret Davies, youngest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. D. Davies, to Mr. Graham Crane, eldest son of Mr. & Mrs. W. Crane, Southend, Pontlottyn, took place at Carmel. Rev. T.J. Jones officiated. The organist was Mr. Thomas Walters. The bride's dress was of lace and tulle, the head-dress of mother of pearl covered with a full length veil. She carried a shower bouquet of red carnations. She was attended by six bridesmaids – three in turquoise – Miss Lila Crane, sister of the groom, Miss Valerie Cook, cousin of the bride, and Miss Eileen Watkins; three in lavender – Miss Pat Jones, cousin of the groom, Miss Pat Brown and Miss Pat Sullivan. All carried posies of pink and white carnations. The flower girl was Merriel Crane, dressed in white, and carrying a basket of pink and white carnations. The page boy was Maldwyn Gittins, nephew of the bride, dressed in brown and white velvet. The groomsmen were Messrs. John Gittins, brother-in-law of the bride, and David Kendrick, cousin of the groom. The reception was held at the New Hall. The young couple will make their future home at 17. Duffryn Street, Pontlottyn.

“Merthyr Express” 12 November 1955

Fireworks and Bonfire A gigantic fireworks display and communal bonfire was held by the Fochriw Tenants' Association on the N.C.B. Estate at Fochriw on November 5th. The chairman of the Gellygaer Urban District Council, Coun. C. Williams, J.P., attended, accompanied by the vice-chairman, Coun. E. Burgess, who gave a donation of fireworks to the display. The bonfire was lit by Mr. Burgess as Guy Fawkes and the fireworks display followed. Musical entertainment was supplied by Mr. & Mrs. Everett.

Wedding: Mr. Fred Evans & Miss Margaret Jones The wedding took place on Saturday at St. Mary's Church of Mr. Fred Jones, eldest son of Mr. & Mrs. Albert John Evans, Penybanc, and Miss Margaret Jones, only daughter of Mr. & Mrs. David Jones, Fochriw. The Vicar officiated, and Mr. N. Palmer was the organist. The bride was given away by her father, and wore a picture gown of witch-craft lace and nylon net. Her shoulder-length veil edged with lace was held in place by a coronet of diamente. Her bouquet was of red rose-buds. The bridesmaids were Miss Winnie Evans, sister of the groom, who wore a pale blue dress of taffeta and tulle; Miss Rosemarie Harris and Miss Margaret Wood, who wore pale pink dresses of taffeta and tulle with head-dresses to match; and Miss Miss Janet Elston and Miss Colleen Williams, who wore white dresses of tulle, trimmed with blue rose-buds and wore blue lace bonnets. All carried Victorian posies of bronze and gold chrysanthemums. The best man was Mr. Glanville Jones, brother of the bride, and the groomsmen were Messrs. W. James and C. Wood, uncles of the bride. The reception was held at the New Hall, and was attended by 100 guests. The honeymoon was spent in London. To travel, the bride wore an off-white ensemble, with sage green accessories.

"Merthyr Express" 26 November 1955

Late Mrs. Elizabeth Cumpstone One of the oldest inhabitants of the village, Mrs. Elizabeth Cumpstone, Bryn Awel, died on November 13th at her home. Aged 81, and the wife of Mr. Ernest Cumpstone, she came to Fochriw from Penydarren when she was five years old. The daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. William Ballard, Mrs. Cumpstone had attended Carmel Chapel of 75 years, and was made a member in 1891. She was a member of the Mothers' Union. Mr. & Mrs. Cumpstone were married at St. Tydfil's Church, Merthyr, in June 1897, and they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary eight years ago. Mrs. Cumpstone had 5 sons, 3 daughters, 13 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. She was interred at Pentwyn Churchyard on November 16th, the Rev. Rhys Bowen, Rhymney, officiating, assisted by Rev. E. Adams Evans, Fochriw, Rev. Thomas and Rev. A. Williams, Pontlottyn, and Rev. Howell Jones, Deri. The mourners were Mr. Ernest Cumpstone (husband); Idris, Nicholas, Bert, Arthur, Cadfan (sons); Lydia, Margaret, Tegwedd (daughters); Mrs. B. Davies (sister); Messrs. Stephen Ballard (brother); Frank Chaplin, Haydn Jones, Eric Slade (sons-in-law); R. Broadbent, W. Lewis, Bryn & Graham Cumpstone, William & Caradog Ballard, Gwilym Davies (nephews); Douglas & Billy Cumpstone, Ronald Petchey, E. Hodgson-Walker (grandsons); Cliff Hayward (brother-in-law); Robert Arthur. At the house were Mesdames Idris, Nicholas and Bert Cumpstone (daughters-in-law); R.M. Cumpstone, M.A. & Celia Ballard (sisters-in-law); Hodgson-Walker, Enid Pillidge, Elsie Cumpstone (grand daughters); Trollope, M.A. & Nelly Davies (Pentwyn), William Thomas (Deri). There were many floral tributes. (listed)

Marriage The marriage took place on Saturday, November 12, at St. Mary's Church, of Miss Patricia Sullivan, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. T. Sullivan, Aelybryn, and Mr. Tudor Moon, son of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Moon, Hill-street, Rhymney. Rev. Cooper Lewis, Rhymney, and Rev. E. Adams Evans, Fochriw, officiated. Mr. Ron Davies was the organist. The bride was given away by her father, and wore a gown of white Nottingham lace with shoulder length veil edged with lace, and held in place with a lace coronet. She carried a shower bouquet of pink carnations. Matron of honour was Mrs. J. Albron, sister, who wore an ankle length gown of lavender tulle, and carried a bouquet of white carnations. Bridesmaids were Miss Hilda Moon, sister of the groom, and Miss Margaret Crane, both of whom wore ankle length gowns of blue tulle, and carried bouquets of bronze and pink chrysanthemums, and Misses Mary Jones and Gillian Jenkins, who wore ankle length gowns of pink tulle, and who also

carried bouquets of pink and bronze chrysanthemums. The flower girls were Miss Rosemary Jones, cousin of the bride, and Miss Sonia Moon, niece of the groom, who wore taffeta dresses covered with nylon net of blue and pink, with head-dresses to match. They carried posies of pink and blue anemones. The best man was Mr. Glyn Edwards, and the groomsmen were Mr. Trevor Powell and Mr. J. Sullivan, brother of the bride. The reception was held in the New Hall, and was attended by a large number of guests.

“Merthyr Express” 31 December 1955

Carmel Yearly Services These were held on Sunday week, when the preacher was the Rev. Wilfred Price, Llanelly. The organist was Mr. T. Walters, and the precentor, Mr. Meirion Shankland.

Welfare Association Coun. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall recently. The summer holiday camp, and the fencing of the playing field were discussed. Reports on the progress of the film shows which are being held twice a week were made. The Treasurer gave a detailed report on the financial side of the indoor and outdoor schemes. The secretary will make arrangements for relief for the caretaker during Christmas week.

Parish Church On Christmas Day, the celebrant and preacher was the Vicar.

Institute The officers of the Library and Institute entertained all school children to a free show at the New Hall on Friday.

Party The children of the Fochriw Primary School held their Christmas party at the school on Wednesday. The main Hall was tastefully decorated with a Christmas tree on each table. Nearly 240 children sat down to tea, followed by games and singing. The headteacher, Mr. Bryn Davies, and staff are most grateful for the valuable financial assistance given by the trades-people of the village. Tea was served by the teaching and non-teaching staff. Among the visitors were Councillors S. Lewis and W. J. Payne.

Gymanfa Ganu Large congregations attended the annual Baptist - Methodist United Gymanfa which was held at Noddfa on Christmas Day. The singing, conducted by Mr. Dd. J. Davies, reached the usual high standard. The morning session was devoted to the children. The devotions were taken by Angela Owen and Ann Hughes. Susan Thomas sang a solo, and Michael Jenkins recited, as did Mr. W. A. Davies. In the afternoon the devotions were taken by Miss Muriel Lewis and Mr. T. J. Jones. The president was Mr. D. J. Thomas. The organists were Mr. Tom Davies and Master Willie Edwards.