

## **Accidents [not Colliery]**

### **“Merthyr Express” 9 December, 1864**

A Man Cut to Pieces Last Saturday afternoon at about four o'clock, a mason, Thomas Jones, in the employ of the Dowlais Iron Company, was returning from his work when he attempted to jump on a train of trucks at Vochriw. He missed his hold, fell under the trucks and was cut to pieces, his body being dreadfully mutilated. At the inquest, a verdict of “Accidental Death” was returned

Fatal Accident on the Cwmbargoed Railway On Tuesday afternoon, an accident occurred on the Cwmbargoed line, an old man, Evan Davies (60 years of age) being killed. Deceased was riding on one of the trucks of a coal train, when his foot slipped, and he fell across the rail while the train was in motion. The latter part of the train passed over him, cut off one of his feet, and so badly crushed his chest that he died shortly afterwards. An inquest was held, and a verdict of “Accidental Death” was returned.

### **“Merthyr Express” 9 December 1865**

Killed on the Railway Near Vochriw On Monday night sometime after dark, and while the wind was blowing hard and the rain was falling fast, a man named Jenkin Jenkins proceeded from his work to his home at the Deri huts, along the Brecon and Merthyr Railway line. The wind was blowing against him. An engine and trucks were coming along the line in the same direction, and before Jenkins was aware of his danger, the train was upon him, passed over him, and killed him on the spot.

### **“Merthyr Express” 13 June 1868**

A Remarkable String of Accidents on the Brecon & Merthyr Railway The Brecon & Merthyr Railway has had its share of accidents since its opening, though considering the nature of the line, and that is a single set of rails, it must be admitted that it has been worked with very fair success, as far as the mere working is concerned. But in the last week however, there have been three sad accidents on the line, involving serious loss of life and property. On Friday, a passenger train left Pontsticyll Junction for Vochriw, and shortly after leaving Dowlais Top, the driver thought he saw something awkward in the action of one of the wheels. He watched it for some time, and then, in order to have a better observation leaned some way on the side of the engine. Just as he did so the engine passed through a bridge, and going at a tolerably rapid pace, the unfortunate driver's head came violently into collision with the telegraph insulators. The fireman was at this time looking out on the other side, and after passing the bridge about fifty yards, on looking round missed his mate. He stopped the train at once, and on going back found the driver under the bridge between the wall and the rail, quite senseless and bleeding from the head. With the help of the guard, he was put into the van and taken to Vochriw, and doctors sent for, but he expired the same night about twelve o'clock. The doctor was soon in attendance, and it was found that he had sustained a compound comminuted fracture of the skull, and a wound had been inflicted of such size that part of the substance of the brain had been lost. At the inquest held by the coroner, G. Overton Esq, Mr. T.D. Roberts, the Company engineer, said that the distance of the wall from the rail was 3 feet 9 inches, and the bridge was 14 feet high. Brackets and insulators of the telegraph were fixed just at the turn of the arch and were 2 feet only from the engine, which projected over the wheels, but that was in accordance with the Board of Trade regulations. The name of the unfortunate driver was John Evans, 27 years of age, remarkably sober and steady, and he leaves a widow and one child. The jury returned a verdict of “Accidental Death.”

### **“Merthyr Express” 14 May 1870**

Fatal Accident Jumping On To A Tram In Motion A boy named John Peters, aged 13, working as a collier at Vochriw, lost his life this week by jumping on a coal truck whilst in motion. The boy had left work, and was returning to his home at Dowlais with his companions. In his carelessness, he attempted to get into a truck which was passing. He fell and slipped down to the rails and several trucks passed over him, severing his legs from his body near the hips. He died on the following day. Many lads have lost their lives, and others maimed for life from attempting to get into moving trucks. The jury returned a verdict of “Accidental Death.”

### **“Merthyr Express” 23 March 1872**

Fatal Accident at Dowlais: Loss of Three Lives A shocking accident occurred on Tuesday last on one of the lines belonging to the Dowlais Company, running between their works and Vochriw. It appears that about 5.30 p.m. a coal train left Vochriw with a number of colliers in one truck, and three more in the tender, the truck containing the men being the next behind the tender. The train was proceeding along at the usual speed, when on rounding the curve, where there is also an incline, a stationary engine was seen on the line ahead. The distance was too short to stop the train, and a violent collision ensued, which threw some of the carriages off the rails, and completely blocked the line. The violence of the collision was so great that the buffers of the truck immediately behind the tender were forced through the tender instantaneously, crushing two of the occupants to death, and so injuring the third that he died the next day. Several of the trucks were more or less smashed, but strange to say, the men who were in the truck escaped with nothing more than a few slight blows and a severe shaking. An inquest was formally opened by Mr. Overton at the Dowlais Inn on Wednesday afternoon, and adjourned for a week. The names of the deceased are John Harris, overman, William Williams, collier, and William Francis, collier.

### **“Merthyr Express” 23 May 1874**

The Railway Accident A railway crash occurred at Merthyr Station on Saturday afternoon, 16<sup>th</sup> May, at 3p.m. A train of 25 laden coal wagons with two locomotives in front collided with a passenger train standing at Merthyr Station. Fifty five people were injured. One woman died the following week.

### **“Merthyr Express” 15 August 1874**

Frightful Disaster to a Runaway Train at Bargoed Junction On Wednesday, one of the most terrible and desctuctive collisions ever known in this area occurred outside Bargoed Junction Station, on the Rhymney Railway. The Station is the point of junction between the Rhymney and the northern section of the Brecon and Merthyr Railways. The line of the latter enters here the narrow gorge of the Rhymney-Bargoed valley, and by curves of short radii and gradients of 1:40 and even 1:38 ascends the side of the mountain through Deri and Vochriw, and so on to Dowlais Top. It is a single line, and the Rhymney Railway Company enjoy running powers over it as far as Dowlais. On Wednesday morning, a train of 40 ten-ton wagons laden with coal left the siding of the Dowlais Company’s Vochriw Colliery for Cardiff. It was drawn by one of the heavy and powerful new tank locomotives of the Rhymney Company, constructed especially for sharp curves and gradients, and had the usual brake-van at the rear. The driver was Joshua Forcey, and the fireman Joseph Hayman, both of Cardiff. The brakesman, John Ried, was on the train about half a dozen trucks behind the engine, and the guard, William Stockings, was about the same distance from the rear, both being on the train for the purpose of putting down the brakes. Most of the trucks were new and the brakes in good condition. The

atmosphere, however, was moist, and the rain came on which made the rails greasy. The train proceeded safely from Vochriw to the Deri Station, and when it passed through that place there were 37 brakes down. But it is here that the steepest gradients begin, and in descending these, the train acquired a speed that increased at such a rate that it was clear that the engine had lost control. The driver commenced sounding the brake whistle and kept it going. The engine was reversed and every effort made to arrest the progress of the train without the slightest success. It seems that only the enormous weight of the train could have kept it on the rails. The alarm whistle was heard at Bargoed, but the runaway was quickly at the Junction and collided with an engine and trucks standing at a watering tank, before both engines, trucks and their contents rolled over the embankment into the ravine 50 feet below in a mass of indescribable confusion and destruction. The driver and fireman of the runaway were killed.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 25 September 1880**

Inquest On Saturday an inquest was held at the Rising Sun upon the body of John Jones, Twynnyrodin, who met with his death by endeavouring to jump on a locomotive engine while passing by the tunnel pits. The verdict was “accidental death.” It was proposed by the foreman of the jury, Rev. W. Jones-Evans, that the fees should be handed to the widowed mother, a hard-working woman, who had been widowed for 11 years, her husband having been killed in one of the Vochriw pits in 1869.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 31 December, 1881**

Fatal Accident An inquest was held at the Rising Sun Inn by Mr. Overton, coroner, upon the body of Edward Jenkins, 5 Williams-street, Vochriw, who met his death on his return from Merthyr on Saturday between the old incline and Cwmbargoed station, by being run over by one of the G.W.R. engines. The verdict was “Accidental Death.” The foreman of the jury called attention of the coroner and jury to the absence of a certain publican at whose house the deceased had been drinking.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 27 January 1883**

Dreadful Accident Near Vochriw On Wednesday afternoon, a dreadful accident befell Dr. Kent Jones of Vochriw, on the railway not far from the village. Dr. Jones was returning from Dowlais, and for a short cut proceeded along the deep cutting near the Tunnel Pits which was formerly a tunnel. He allowed one locomotive to pass and then presumed that the line was clear, before and behind him. Unfortunately, a dense mist concealed almost everything from view except at close quarters, and thus it happened that another engine came along, and before Dr. Jones could get out of the way, knocked him down and passed over him. He sustained very severe injuries, one leg severed and the other greatly lacerated and bruised. Dr. Cresswell was telegraphed for. He went with one or two members of his staff by special conveyance, and all that could be done was done. Great sympathy is felt for Dr. Jones, who is much liked by the workmen and the people of the neighbourhood generally. Latest accounts state that Dr. Jones is doing as well as can be expected.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 28 July 1883**

Dr. Kent Jones On Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup>., a deputation of workmen and other friends from Vochriw and Bedlinog waited on Dr. Kent Jones to present him with a testimonial of their regard in the form of an artificial leg and a purse of money for his long and valuable services as their medical attendant. This movement arose, not only in consequence of his retiring from the district, but particularly from the respect and warm and sincere sympathy entertained towards him upon the severe accident that befell him in January last. The deputation comprised the following workmen, viz., Messrs. Thomas Thomas, Evan Hughes and W. B. Evans, of Bedlinog, who had

arranged to present the purse of money; leaving the gift of an artificial leg to the Vochriw deputation, consisting amongst others of Messrs. Thomas Jones (grocer), Seth James, Charles Payne and William Angel. Dr. Kent Jones, on receiving the above, thanked them very sincerely for their kind and good wishes.

**“Merthyr Express” 17 November 1883**

Child Killed On Saturday morning, a sad accident happened near No.1 Pit, Vochriw. A tram, laden with timber, was being drawn along the tram road, when several children attempted to get on for a ride. A little girl, Elizabeth Llewellyn, three years of age, fell under the wheels and was killed on the spot.

**“Merthyr Express” 24 November 1883**

Inquest On Monday last, before Mr. Thomas Williams and a respectable jury, an inquest was held at the Rising Sun Inn, Vochriw, on the body of a child named Elizabeth Llewellyn, who was killed by being run over by a tram on the 10<sup>th</sup>. A verdict of “Accidental Death” was returned.

**“Merthyr Express” 1 September 1888**

Accident to a Young Women on a Pit Bank The Bank of South Tunnel Pit, Vochriw, was the scene of an accident to a young woman, about 18 years of age, employed there in pushing the trams to and from the mouth of the pit. It appears that the carriage having ascended, the girl, whose name is Dawkins, and resides at 5, Lloyd-street, Dowlais, stepped forward for the purpose of pulling the loaded tram away, but owing to the fan which is used for preventing the descent of the carriage, not being pulled out, the carriage came down upon her leg and fractured the bone. The poor girl, as soon as convenient, was conveyed home on an ambulance stretcher and received surgical aid.

**“Merthyr Express” 8 February 1902**

Schoolboy Killed On a Wednesday afternoon, at 5p.m., Thomas Walter Wood, aged 10 years, was returning from Fochriw Board School to Nantyffin Cottages, Cwmbargoed, when he was killed by a Rhymney Railway train of empty wagons.

**“Merthyr Express” 30 August 1902**

Boating Disaster at Dolygaer Four people drowned out of a party of fifteen from Rhymney. An eye witness account of the disaster was given by D. Harris of Fochriw.

**24 July 1909** Inquest On Tuesday evening, at the Rising Sun Inn, the coroner conducted an inquest on the body of Elizabeth Jones, the three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Dynevor-street, who died on Thursday week as the result of burns received about a month ago. No one seemed to know how the accident occurred. The little child had only just left the house when she was found by some neighbours in the channel of the roadside with her close on fire. Dr. Davies was called and all was done that could be done for the little child, but without avail. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned. The funeral took place at Pentwyn Churchyard on Tuesday, and was well attended. The officiating minister was the Rev. D. Hughes Jones, minister of Carmel.

**1 January 1910** Sad Fatality near Dowlais: Sisters Drowned in Pond The mining hamlet of Pantywaun, situated on the mountain eminence adjacent to Fochriw, was overclouded on Christmas Eve by a distressing double tragedy, the victims being Margaret Ann and Martha Jane, aged five and seven years respectively, the young daughters of William and Mary Ann Dyer, Rhas Las Cottages, Pantywaun. In the neighbourhood are several ponds which serve as a feeder to the Fochriw collieries. It appears that the children ventured on the surface for some distance, when it gave way, and they were plunged into the water and drowned. There do not appear to have

been any eye-witnesses, and it was several hours before the bodies were recovered, when P.S. Williams and P.C. Wilson of Fochriw made a raft, and after considerable difficulty, took the bodies from the ice. On Monday, an inquest was held by the district coroner, when a verdict of "Found Drowned" was returned.

**8 April, 1911** Accident: Motor-car and Trap On Thursday, as a large motor-car was passing through Pentwyn, going in the direction of Bargoed, it crashed into the trap of Mr. Watkins, Ysgwyddgwyn Farm. Mrs. Watkins, who has been in delicate health for some time, was thrown out on to the roadway, and received a severe shaking and injuries. She was carried into one of the houses near. The car stopped within a few feet of the lady. After the impact, the horse turned round, and dashed down the road, but was stopped by some men below the White Horse Inn. One of the shafts of the trap was broken, and the horse received a large cut on one of its legs. Mr. Watkins was on his way to Merthyr, but had to return home.

**4 January 1913** Dowlais Collier Killed: Walking Home along the Railway On Friday evening last, Thomas Richard Powell, a married man with two children, 36 years of age, a hitcher at No. 2 Pit, Fochriw, proceeded to work, and caught the 8.30 p.m. train at Caeharris for Cwmbargoed and Fochriw. It is said that Powell fell asleep in the van and was left there, so that when he got to Fochriw, it was too late to go down below. He certainly did not ask for his lamp, and it is presumed that he proceeded to walk home. He was knocked down by a train and died shortly afterwards. At the inquest, Wm. Turner, Rhymney Railway guard, said he was on the train that struck Powell. It was a train of forty empty wagons and a van, which was being pushed to Fochriw. The van was leading. He and Allen Williams were on the look out in the van, on which there were two lights. These were lit. He saw something glistening ahead and began to shout, and so did Williams. They continued to shout until they came to the man. He was walking with his head down against the wind. The train was going about six miles an hour. He turned the red light towards the driver, and the train was stopped immediately. The deceased was passed the 12<sup>th</sup> waggon when he was found. The engine was whistling all the way. It was usual to do so, as so many people walked that way. It was a very rough night. A verdict of 'Accidental Death' was recorded.

**3 January 1914** Great Fire at Pontlottyn: Mr. Will Hagggar's Theatre Destroyed At 6 p.m. last Friday, a disastrous fire broke out at Mr. Will Hagggar's Theatre at Pontlottyn. The fire broke out in the engine room beneath the canteen and operator's room. The Theatre was burned to the ground in 15 to 20 minutes, fanned by a great wind. Councillor Ben Hughes phoned for the Bargoed fire brigade, in addition to the local brigade. The Hall was used by Mr. Hagggar as a picture palace and variety hall, and was capable of holding 800 to 1,000 people. It was a wooden structure. He had purchased the building just two years ago. The 'turn' for the week was Dockstader, illusionist and conjurer, and all his equipment, worth £200-£250, was lost in the blaze. Mr. Hagggar was away at Tredegar where he has another theatre.

**31 July 1915** Railway Accident A railway accident occurred at Fochriw on Friday last. A goods train was nearing the station when the coupling between the guard's van and a passenger coach broke. The guard's van was thrown across the 6ft way. Before the train was brought to a standstill, the coach, which contained no passengers, also left the rails, tearing up the permanent way as it was borne along. The line between Deri and Fochriw being a single one, the Newport to Brecon train, which was full of passengers, could not proceed. Within an hour, the four o'clock train steamed into Fochriw station bound for Newport. This train also was held up. It was eventually decided to change trains, so that passengers from the up train walked to the station to

take their places in the down train, and the down train passengers walked to the spot below the smash to join the up train. Colliers and others helped to transfer luggage from one train to the other. A breakdown gang was soon on the scene, and by six o'clock the van and coach had been removed from the permanent way.

**4 March 1916** Railway Accident A sad accident occurred on the Brecon and Merthyr Railway early on Sunday morning. Mr. John Price, who was well-known in Dowlais and Merthyr, and lived at Fochriw Junction, was found on the railway in a terribly mutilated condition. By his side lay the body of his spaniel dog. It appears that Mr. Price left Fochriw on Saturday night for his home, and was run down by one of the trains which he was unable to hear approaching him owing to the snowstorm.

**11 March 1916** Inquest Mr. R. J. Rhys, coroner, conducted an inquiry at the Rising Sun Inn on Thursday week concerning the death of Mr. John Price, Fochriw Junction, who was found on the line near Fochriw on Sunday night last. Evidence was given by Mr. T. H. Matthews, nephew, and Mr. C. C. Abbi, platelayer. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death." The funeral took place on Thursday week at Pant Cemetery. Deceased was 49 years of age. Revs. I. Williams, J. Roderick, and R. D. Jenkins officiated at the house and graveside. The mourners were: Messrs. David Price and Dan Price, brothers; Mr. Thomas Evans, brother-in-law; Messrs. T. Matthews, William Phillips, J. Evans, Jenkins Thomas.

**5 June 1920** A Dead Hero - Mr. Tom Harris, Aelybryn: Allowance to Family and Memorial Certificate from the Carnegie Hero Fund Trust As reported in these columns on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1919, an accident occurred at the Guest Keen Colliery, Fochriw, which resulted in the death of a pitman, Mr. Tom Harris, Aelybryn. It may be recalled that the knocker broke, and the deceased's fellow pitman, Mr. Wyndham Edwards, was knocked off the top of the cage into the pit, but succeeded in gripping a guide. He shouted to Harris, who was in safety, to let him know where he was suspended, saying he could not hold on much longer. The next thing, Edwards saw Harris's lamp and body passing him. He presumed that Harris lost his grip of the guide rope in trying to effect the rescue of his fellow pitman. This is the sequel. The matter was taken up by Mr. Fred J. Wotten, and reported to the Carnegie Hero Fund Trust. The trustees of this fund have decided to place the name of the deceased on their roll of heroes, in recognition of his heroic action. In addition, they unanimously agreed to grant his widow an allowance of 20 shillings weekly for herself, and 3s. 6d. weekly in respect of each of her three children under 14 years of age, together with a memorial certificate.

**5 March 1921** Motor Accident Quite a gloom was cast over the village on Monday last, when it became known that Morfydd Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jones, Brynteg, had been knocked down by a motor lorry and killed. It appears that at about 12 o'clock, as the children were leaving school for dinner, the motor lorry belonging to Messrs. Picton and Morris, Dowlais, was coming down the road very slowly, when about 100 yards or so below the school, on the bridge, the little girl was knocked down. The lorry was stopped immediately and the child was picked up and carried into the house of her grandmother, who lived close by. Despite every attention, she breathed her last a short time afterwards. Morfydd was 10 years old and a very bright and intelligent girl. Great sympathy is extended to the grief-stricken parents and family in their severe trial. Sergeant Williams, Dr. Stenner Evans, Mr. Isaacs (schoolmaster), the school nurse, and a host of willing helpers, were immediately on the scene, rendering all the assistance it was possible to give.

**22 December 1923** Accident An alarming accident took place on Monday afternoon at Fochriw, when Glyn Williams, 11 years of age, son of Mr. & Mrs. Williams, Dynevor-street, was run over by a motor lorry and very badly injured. He was taken home in an unconscious condition, and received very careful attention and medical aid. He was later removed to Merthyr General Hospital, where he still lies in a very precarious condition. It is stated that he was riding behind a van when one of the back wheels ran over him. He was taken home in an unconscious condition, and is suffering from a fractured skull.

**19 July 1924** Drowning At Fochriw Junction on Saturday, Harold King was drowned in a pool by the house.

**18 October 1924** Motor Accident Between Hill Row and Mount Pleasant Row, the Council has purchased houses for demolition. On Saturday, Mr. L. H. Jones of Fochriw was en route to Deri, and Mr. Cook was journeying to Fochriw. The handles of the motor bikes touched. Mr. Jones was unconscious but recovered.

**7 March 1925** Accident A very distressing accident befell Master Stanley Jones, the young son of Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Jones, Glen View, Pentwyn, on Sunday morning, when a large stone from one of the buildings fell on his head and fractured his skull. He was attended by Dr. Stenner Evans and afterwards conveyed to Merthyr General Hospital where a successful operation was performed. He is making good progress.

**22 August 1925** Motor Accident A very distressing accident occurred at Pentwyn, Fochriw, on Saturday evening last, involving injuries to six or seven people. It appears that a motor car belonging to Mr. E. Cumpstone, Fochriw, and driven by Mr. George W. Wood, was conveying a patient – Mrs. E. J. Williams, wife of Mr. Watkin Williams - from King Edward Hospital, Cardiff, to her home. The car had stopped outside her home, and they were in the act of removing the patient, her husband and daughter having alighted, when a lorry, owned by Mr. Withers, Pengam, came down the hill and dashed into the stationary car, the impact being very severe. The patient was badly shaken, and several who had gathered around were injured. Wood, the car driver, with great promptitude, although slightly injured, managed to steer the car into the side to prevent it running down the hill after the accident. Dr. Stenner Evans was quickly on the spot attending the injured, and he was ably assisted by Mr. Crad. Shankland, an efficient ambulance man and also Mr. George Baldwin. The injured were: Mrs. Willie Roberts (seriously), Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Gibbons, Miss Seaborne, Masters Christie Tyler, John Pullen, Wyndham Davies and Mr. George Wood. P.C. Howells and P.C. Brangwyn were also immediately on the spot.

**22 August 1925** Tragedy Whilst bathing at the Rhas Las Pond, Fochriw, on Monday night, Ivor Griffiths, aged 13, of 66 Harcourt-place, Rhymney, was drowned.

**29 August 1925** Inquest The Deputy coroner, Mr. Trevor C. Griffiths, held an inquest at Rhymney on Thursday last into the drowning of Ivor Griffiths at Rhas Las Pond near Fochriw. A verdict of ‘Accidental Death,’ was returned.

**29 October 1932** Motor Accident Two well-known residents were involved in a motor-cycle collision on Thursday in the persons of Mr. Vivian Powell, Dynevor-street, and Mr. Alvin Llewellyn, Pentwyn Farm. The accident occurred between Pentwyn and Bedlinog on the main road. Both were badly injured and were conveyed home after receiving medical attention.

**16 September 1933** Fatal Accident It is with regret that we have to record the death, in tragic circumstances, of Mr. Frank Potter, Brynteg-terrace, who met with a fatal accident when motor cycling near Abergavenny last weekend.

**20 July 1935** Cycling Accident Mr. W. J. Davies, sons of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Davies, Martin-street, was cycling on a push-bike towards Deri on Monday, when he was thrown off by the Cwm Bridge. After receiving attention, he was conveyed in an unconscious condition in Mr. Emrys Evans' motor-car to Merthyr General Hospital where an operation was performed.

**14 September 1935** Road Accident On Monday, Olive Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Jones (greengrocers), was leaving school in the morning when she was knocked down by a motor-car. She was conveyed to Merthyr General Hospital suffering from injuries to her legs.

**28 September 1935** Motorcycle Accident As a result of a motorcycle accident on Monday on the Pontygwindy-road. Caerphilly, Mr. David Giddens (driver), and Mr. Ernest Sibley (pillion rider), both of Guest-street, are in Caerphilly Miners' Hospital, suffering from serious injuries. It appears the motorcycle collided with a telegraph pole on the roads side.

**25 April 1936** Motor Accident Mr. Garfield Davies, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Davies, Brook-cottage, when out motorcycling on Monday, met with an accident, and received injuries which necessitated his removal to Merthyr General Hospital. He is making satisfactory progress

**10 October 1936** Motor-Cyclist's Accident As a result of an accident on Friday, Mr. David John Way, Glen View, Pentwyn, received injuries to his head and hands. He was attended by Dr. O'Shea, Brithdir, and afterwards conveyed home in the Gellygaer Council ambulance car. He is progressing favourably.

**1 May 1937** Road Accident Mr. Idris Williams, Pentwyn, who was riding pillion with his brother-in-law, Mr. T. Powell, met with an accident on Sunday. It appears that his heel caught in the wheel and was badly cut. Mr. Powell, who is an ambulance man, rendered first aid, and Mr. Williams was taken home in a passing car. The Gellygaer Council accident car was called from one of the new call boxes, and arrived in about eight minutes. Williams was then conveyed to Merthyr General Hospital.

**30 September 1939** Accident Mr. James Harding, Plantation-street, slipped and fractured his leg as he walked home last week. St. John Ambulance Brigade rendered first aid, after which he was conveyed to Merthyr General Hospital.

**16 December 1939** Accident While travelling to work on his motorcycle, Mr. David Thomas, a signalman, of Aelybryn, met with an accident. He was discovered by Mr. B. Lewis, another signalman, and taken to Merthyr General Hospital.

**3 February 1940** Accident Miss M. J. Evans, Dowlais, was injured on Saturday night at Fochriw station platform. She was on a visit to her sister-in-law, Mrs. Evans, Martin-street, when she fell and fractured her leg. She was conveyed to the home of her sister-in-law.

**31 July 1943** Accident Mrs. E. Cumpstone, wife of Mr. Ernest Cumpstone, Aelybryn, was knocked down by a lorry at Dowlais on Saturday. She was removed to Merthyr General Hospital.

**10 November 1951** Fatal Accident Mr. Evan John Jones met with a fatal accident last week while working in a Cardiff timber-yard. Before moving to Cardiff a few years ago, he lived at Fochriw, where he had spent the whole of his life. He was a member of Nazareth Chapel. He was 59 and married. Mr. Jones was a keen musician, and was a member of many well-known choirs.

**2 May 1953** Motor Cyclist's Killed Idwal Davies, aged 32, of Hill-row, Pentwyn, a fitter employed at Ogilvie Colliery, Deri, died at Merthyr General Hospital on

Saturday afternoon, after the motor cycle he was riding hit the fence on the side of the road at Penybank earlier in the day. He sustained injuries to his head and legs. He was married with three step-children.

**13 July 1957** Car Accident As the result of a car accident, Lorraine Davies, young daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Davies, Penybank, is a patient at Caerphilly Hospital. She has a fractured leg.

**6 September 1958** Two Injured In Collision Near Cwmbargoed A Fochriw man and woman were rushed to St. Tydfil's Hospital, Merthyr, on Monday morning after two cars collided on the Fochriw-Dowlais road near Cwmbargoed. The injured man was Mr. Leighton Millward, Glanynant, an employee of the National Coal Board. He was returning to Fochriw in his Ford Consul from Merthyr, where he had taken his wife to work. The injured woman was Mrs. Maude Clark, Plantation Street, who was a passenger in a Morris car, being driven to Merthyr by Mr. Gordon Lawrence, Glyn Terrace, who owns a greengrocery store in Dowlais. Also in Mr. Lawrence's car were his niece, Miss Shirley Lawrence, also of Glyn Terrace, and Mrs. Pat Greeney, Aelybryn. The crash occurred at 8.20 a.m. Both cars were extensively damaged. [with photograph]

**1 April 1961** Gas Explosion At Fochriw Site plans, clothing and building equipment was destroyed when a cylinder of liquid petroleum gas exploded in a fire at a contractor's site office in Pontlottyn Road, on Monday. Debris from the shed was scattered over a wide area. No one was injured. Bargoed and Rhymney Fire Service had the blaze under control in ten minutes.

**15 July 1961** Motor Cyclist Hurt Motor cyclist, William Morgan, aged 17, of Penybank Farm, was injured when his machine was in collision with a lorry on Rhymney Common on Monday morning. He was taken to St. Tydfil's Hospital, Merthyr, and then transferred to St. Lawrence Hospital, Chepstow.

**25 August 1962** Van Hit Tree and Crashed Through Hedge The driver and a passenger were taken to Tredegar General Hospital on Saturday night after the van in which they were travelling struck a tree and went through a hedge near the junction of Pentwyn Avenue, Blackwood. The vehicle was extensively damaged. The driver, Maurice Morgan, aged 29, of Glanynant, Fochriw, sustained chest and knee injuries. The passenger, Terence Williams, aged 25, of Rhodfa Terrace, Fochriw, sustained shoulder and knee injuries. The condition of both men is described as satisfactory.

**1 September 1962** Lorry Driver's Lucky Escape Mr. Ronald Lewis Roberts, aged 49, of Bewas, narrowly escaped injury on Friday, when his lorry loaded with 16 tons of small coal from the Fochriw Washery crashed into a wall after the brakes had failed when descending a steep hill between Pentwyn and Penybank. There was extensive damage to the front of the lorry, owned by L. Ryan Holdings Ltd.

**28 September 1963** Accident Mrs. Yvonne Bowen, 21, Dynevor Street, was involved in a car accident on the Penybank-Deri road. She received slight facial injuries. The car was extensively damaged.

**20 June 1964** Dowlais Man Injured In Fochriw Collision A 23 year old Dowlais man, Mr. William Beale, was injured when his motor cycle combination was involved in a collision with a lorry at Tynywaun Road, Fochriw. He was admitted to St. Tydfil's Hospital, and is making satisfactory progress.