

“Merthyr Express” 6 January 1962

For Sale Vacant Freehold: End of Terrace House - 1, Brynteg Terrace. Apply by letter: Morgan Brothers, Penybank Farm, Fochriw.

Sunday Services The morning service of Holy Communion held at St. Andrew's, Pentwyn, and was conducted by the vicar. In the evening, the service at the Parish Church conducted by Coun. W.J. Payne, and the Vicar officiated at St. Peter's. Deri.

For The Blind A house to house collection in aid of the Royal National Institute for the Blind organised by the Rev. & Mrs. Sedgemore, realised £14 14s 6d. The collectors were: Mesdames G. Hughes, G. Hopkins, J.D. Jones, O.M. Evans, R. Bills, A. Watkins, S.J. Pullen, C. Pullen, T.E. Davies, E. Fox, L. Lawrence, C. Ballard, E. Thomas, M. Chapman, M.A. Jones, E.H. Dummett, C. Evans, G. Dummett, B. Southworth, O. Jenkins, O.M. Payne.

Death of Mrs. Shankland Mrs. Laurie Ann Shankland, widow of Mr. Benjamin Shankland, has died at Maentwrog, North Wales. Mr. Shankland was buried at Pentwyn last November. It is understood that Mrs. Shankland will also be buried at Pentwyn.

“Merthyr Express” 13 January 1962

Late Mrs. Shankland The funeral of Mrs. Laurie Ann Shankland took place at Pentwyn Churchyard on Wednesday last week. She was 74. Both Mrs. Shankland and her late husband, Mr. Benjamin Shankland, were old inhabitants of the village, prior to their move to Maentwrog. The officiating ministers were Revs. T.J. Jones and T.J. James. The bearers were Messrs. R.J. Price, Roy and Emrys Shankland, Glanmor Williams, Noel Williams, Coun. Frank Jenkins. Mourners were: Will & Tom Angell (brothers); Mary Jane, Nell, Judith (sisters); Win & Blod Angell, Emily Shankland (sisters-in-law); W.A. Davies, W.J.A. Davies, Dan Jenkins, Thomas J. James (cousins); Burkley Hiscox, Burkley & Gwyn Griffiths, Roy & Emrys Shankland, Glanmor Williams, Noel Williams, Ken Evans, Frank Jenkins, Syl James, David Morris (nephews); Annie, Mair, Betty, Laurie, Evelyn, Gwladys, Mavis, Enid, patty, June (nieces); Mr. & Mrs. Price, Wm. Lewis.

Deacon Dies Mr. Joshua Evans, 16, Brynteg Street, has died. He was well known in the village, being senior deacon of Noddfa Baptist Chapel. He was 75 years of age.

Panto Visit Members of the Mothers' Union and Sewing Guild with friends of the Parish Church journeyed by motor coach to Swansea on Saturday and spent a happy time at the pantomime, “Babes in the Wood.”

“Merthyr Express” 20 January 1962

Late Mr. Joshua Evans The funeral of Mr. Joshua Evans, printer, of 16, Brynteg Terrace, who died on his 75th birthday, took place at Pentwyn Cemetery last Wednesday. Mr. Joshua Evans was senior deacon at Noddfa Baptist Chapel, where he will be sadly missed. From 1898 until 1922, he was the secretary of the Fochriw Branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and the coffin was draped with the St. John flag and bore an ambulance cap and belt, there being no flowers by request. Conducting the service was the Rev. Thomas John Jones, who spoke of Mr. Evans' sterling qualities, and of how he would be missed at home and chapel. Rev. Jones was assisted by Rev. E. Sedgemore and Rev. Haydn Jones of Rhymney. Mourners were: Frank, John (sons-in-law); John, Lyn, Michael, Howard (grandsons); Tom, Bryn (nephews); Robert, Crad & John Thomas, Will Pearce, Iorwerth, Dick and John Evans, Tom Morris & Tom Matthew of Abertysswg (cousins); Harry Hughes & Sid Wright (friends). At the house: Iris & Win (daughters); Ann (sister); Lorna (grand daughter); Olwen & Phoebe (nieces); Dilys, Edna, Lizzie, Mary, Martha (cousins); Evelyn & Eira (friends). The bearers were Messrs. J.G. Gittins, Gwilym Davies, Ken Evans, Tommy Jenkins, Norman Withers, Richard Price.

Funeral of Mr. Meirion Shankland Mr. Meirion Shankland of Pleasant View, who died at Groesfaen Colliery, was 57 years of age. He was precentor at Carmel Chapel, and a member of all choral societies in the valley. The funeral took place at Pentwyn Churchyard on Saturday, and was a very representative one. The service in the old church was conducted by Rev. T.J. Jones and Pastor David Thomas. Mr. Thomas Walters led the singing. Mourners were: Islwyn (son); Michael & Terence Shankland, Gwyn & Moelwyn Hughes (nephews); Dick Chapman, John Henry Saunders (brothers-in-law); George Powell, John Edwards, David Davies (cousins); Windsor, David, Teddy, Dick & Don Chapman, Noel & Glanmor Williams,

Roy & Emrys Shankland, Billy Hall, John Price (nephews); Mervy & Dai Howells, Mr. Price, John Henry Evans, Tom Walters, Coun. W.J. Payne. At the house: Lil (wife); Margaret (daughter); Evelyn (daughter-in-law); Bessie, Cassie, Nellie, Jennie (sisters); Rachel, Maud, Gwladys (sisters-in-law); Sarah Ann, Emily, Elspeth, Maggie, Lizzie, Jane (cousins); Morfa, Kattie, Edna, May, Phyllis, Catherine, Emily ann, Lizzie, Gwladys, Enid, Mavis (nieces); Mrs. Bryn Jones, Mrs. Davies, Penybank, Mrs. Howells, Cwm Carno Farm. Bearers were Messrs. Richard Price, Robert Thomas, Crad Thomas, Elwyn Davies, Osborne Parry, D. Martin Thomas. The manager of Groefaen Colliery was represented by Mr. David Brown, Head Lampman. There were many floral tributes. (listed)

“Merthyr Express” 27 January 1962

Y.M.C.A. At Thursday's meeting of the Y.M.C.A., Mr. Norman Withers presided, supported by Coun. W.J. Payne (president of the Y.M.C.A.), Mr. J. Gifford (secretary), Mr. Neville Hann (treasurer), Mr. Meakin (Bargoed), and Mr. Jack Davies. The Vicar opened the meeting in prayer. Discussion centred on the proposed erection of the Y.M.C.A. new building and advice was offered by Mr. Meakin and others. Regret was expressed at the damage to the present building. The Y.M.C.A. football team is making good progress.

“Merthyr Express” 10 February 1962

Parish Church After Evensong on Sunday evening, the children of the Sunday School, with the Vicar, their teachers Miss Lorna Rees, Miss Betty Fox and Mr. John Palmer, produced a first class programme of Bible reading, carols and hymn singing. Mr. Norman Palmer was the organist. The readers were: Susan Bills, Paul Jenkins, Lily Lewis, Jane Sedgemore, John Moore, June Palmer, Allison Watkins; Soloists, Jane, Mary and Ann Sedgemore. Also taking part were: Joyce Lewis, Gwyneira Evans, Myfanwy Evans, Veronica Evans, Susan May, Tony Mitchell, Stuart Reynolds, Sonia Moore.

Late Mr. Dummett Mr. Charles Dummett, 12, Pontlottyn-road, died recently at Redwood Memorial Hospital, Rhymney, aged 56. Rev. E. Sedgemore officiated at the funeral at Pentwyn Cemetery. The principal mourners were: Messrs. Charles, George & Rufus Dummett (sons); Grenville Lewis & Thomas Llewellyn (sons-in-law); Edwin, George, Percy, Albert and Rufus Dummett (brothers); Absent through illness were Fred & Alfred (brothers) and Haydn Watkins. Others: Alfred. Wm. & John Penny, Fred Adams (brothers-in-law); Tommy Watkins, Glanmore Dummett, Royston Edward Price, Cledwyn Parry, John Yeoman, Billie Lewis, Michael & Terence (nephews); Wm. Cheeh (great-uncle); Reginald Lewis, Mel Harris, D. Harries (cousins); Haydn Banfield, Alfred James & Ben Williams, Dowlais, Tom Morris, Steve Jones, John Lewis, Ricahrd Treverrow, Wm. Morgan, Arthyr Saunders, O. Morgan, David Jones, and numerous friends and workmates. The bearers were Messrs. Ernie Morgan, Mel Edwards, Trevor Edwards, Jack Morgan, Will John Jones, Idris Williams. At the house were: Mrs. N. Dummett (wife); Lily, Silvia (daughters); Margaret (daughter-in-law); Mary Ann, Nellie May (sisters); Edith, Maggie, Cridwen Dummett (sisters-in-law); Lily Letchfield, Bertha Adams (sisters-in-law); Mrs. M. Jones & Amy Lewis (neighbours). There were numerous floral tributes. (listed)

“Merthyr Express” 17 February, 1962

Late Mr. Jenkins The funeral of Mr. Frank Jenkins, aged 64, of 4, Brynteg Terrace, took place on Thursday last at Glyntaff Crematorium. Mr. Jenkins, a former patient at Ystrad Mynach Hospital, and later a resident at Combe House, Cheshire Home, Llanstephan, died at Penylan Hospital, Carmarthen. At the house were Annie Mary (sister); Win & Rosemary (nieces) The mourners were Bert (brother-in-law); John, Frank, Bill & Terence (nephews); Messrs. Thomas Walters, Gwilym Davies, Michael Evans, Will Edwards, Tommy Jenkins, Jack Lawrence, Tudor & Will Evans, Will Lewis, Bob Parry, W.A. Davies, Tom Jones, David Evans. The service was conducted by Pastor David Thomas, assisted by Rev. Evan Sedgemore. There were a number of floral tributes. (listed)

Died in Devon Recently at the Devon and Exeter Hospital, the death occurred of Margaret May Prowse, widow of Mr. J.W. Prowse, Penybank. Aged 64, she had spent a short holiday with her daughter, and the day before returning home, was taken ill. She was transferred to the hospital where she died. The funeral took place at Exeter. The family mourners were: D.W. Love (son); Phil & Vera (daughters); Irene (step-daughter); Rhoda (sister); Nan

(daughter-in-law); Peter, Ivor, Len (sons-in-law); Mrs. Underholl, George, Ralph, John, Edith & Nola (friends). There were many floral tributes for which the family is very touched and grateful.

Tea and Social The annual Sunday School tea and social of St. Mary's Church took place at the New Hall on Sunday evening, when the children were entertained. The children were in the charge of the Vicar and teachers – Rev. Sedgemore, Miss Lorna Rees and Miss Betty Fox, and Mrs. Sedgemore and members of the Mothers' Union and Sewing Guild who helped at the tables. After tea, games and competitions were held.

“Merthyr Express” 3 March 1962

Church Services The vicar conducted a service of Holy Communion at St. Andrew's, Pentwyn, on Sunday morning. In the evening, he took the service at St. Peter's, Deri. Coun. Payne took the service at the Parish Church in the evening.

Labour Meeting A meeting of the local Labour Party was held at the New Hall on Wednesday and was well attended. New members were welcomed by the chairman, Coun. Payne. Coun. E.E. Burgess, Bargoed, spoke on the Urban District Councils Association. Coun. Frank Jenkins gave a report on Council activities. Also present was the treasurer of the section, Mrs. E.J. Rowlands.

“Merthyr Express” 10 March 1962

Death of Former Resident: Mr. Llewellyn Rees Mr. Llewellyn Rees, son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Rees Rees, Guest Street, has died in Chicago. He emigrated 40 years ago. His sister, Mrs. Gwen Jones, and brother, Mr. Bob Rees, still live in the village. Mr. Rees is survived by his wife, a son (who is a District Attorney) and a daughter. He last visited Fochriw in 1955.

Late Mrs. H.L. Farley The death has occurred at Southsea Hospital of Mrs. Hannah Lloyd Farley. She was in business in the village for many years until her removal to Southsea four years ago. Cremation took place at Porchester Crematorium on Friday. The Rev. John Sturgess of John Pounds (Unitarian) Church officiated, and on Sunday, the family attended a memorial service in the church.

British Legion The first meeting of the Benevolent Fund took place at the New Hall on Thursday evening, presided over by Mr. Jack Jones. Coun. Harry James and Mr. Dando gave a detailed account of the benefits and work of the Fund, and answered questions. Mr. Eddie Jones, secretary, dealt with the correspondence, and discussion followed. Also present were the President, Rev. Evan Sedgemore, and a number of Legion members.

“Merthyr Express” 17 March 1962

Fochriw Man As Broadcaster Dr. Huw Ballard Thomas, only son of Mr. & Mrs. T. Griffith Thomas, formerly of Fochriw, now of Whitchurch, Cardiff, who has achieved distinction as a writer and psychologist, is gaining acclaim as a broadcaster. Recently, he gave a talk on the B.B.C. Home Service, about his experiences as a member of the Benedictine Order at Ampleforth Abey, Yorkshire. He has recently contributed two talks to the Silver Lining Series on the Home Service, and has been invited to make future contributions. Some of his short stories will be broadcast in the coming months, and he is working on a play for television. Dr. Thomas is also working on research into the causes of suicide and mental illness in South Wales, and hopes to produce a documentary programme on the subject in the near future. He recently collaborated with Lord Longford in a work on Crime and Punishment.

Lent Service The preacher at the Parish Church on Sunday was the Rev. A. Roberts, curate of Pontlottyn.

Ward Meeting The local Labour Party met at the New Hall on Thursday evening, when Mr. E. Uzzell presided. He was supported by the secretary, Mr. Bryn Rogers, and the vice-chairman, Mr. W.M. Davies. Also present were Coun. Poyntz and Jenkins. A detailed report on Council activities was given by Coun. Payne, who answered many questions.

Sunday School Association At the Parish Church on Monday, Sunday Association members from Fochriw, Deri, Pontlottyn, Troedrhifwuch, Ystrad Mynach and Bargoed were present, also the Vicars of Fochriw, Pontlottyn and Bargoed. The service was conducted by the Rev. E. Sedgemore, and the address was given by the deaconess, Irene Allen. The organist was Miss R. Jones, Troedrhifwuch. Refreshments were served by ladies of the Mothers' Union and Ladies Sewing Guild, who thanked Miss B. Greening, Pontlottyn.

“Merthyr Express” 24 March 1962

Sweeting – Evans The wedding took place at St. Mary’s Church of Mr. David Owen Sweeting, eldest son of Mr. & Mrs. Owen Sweeting, Walter Street, Abertysswg, and Miss Joyce Elizabeth Evans, the only daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Evans, 17, Brook Row. The Rev. E. Sedgemore officiated. The organist was Mr. T. Walters. The bride was given away by her father. She wore a ballerina gown of French lace and chiffon. Her shoulder length bouffant veil was held in place with a coronet of pearls and crystals. She carried a spray of red carnations and freesias. The bridesmaid, Miss Janice Hann, wore a short blue and white nylon dress. She carried a Victorian posy of freesias. The best man was Mr. Malcolm Clarke. After the reception held at the bride’s home, the couple left to spend a honeymoon in Cheltenham. To travel, the bride wore a brown suit trimmed with mink, and beige accessories. The bride was presented with three silver horse-shoes by Lyn Hann, John Sweeting and Stephen Goulding.

Sudden Death A well-known inhabitant, Mrs. Powell, Brynteg Street, has died suddenly.

Parish Church The Vicar was the celebrant at the early morning service on Sunday. Afterwards he took the service at St. Andrew’s, Pentwyn. In the afternoon, he took the service at Pantywaun, where children were christened. In the evening, he took the service at St. Margaret’s, Gilfach. The Rector of Gelligaer took the service at Deri. At the Parish Church on Sunday evening, Mr. John Palmer, lay reader preached. The organist was Mr. John Owen (jnr).

British Legion On Thursday last at the Rising Sun Hotel, Mr. R.F. Evans, minute secretary of the local branch of the British Legion, who is leaving for Milford Haven, was presented with a gold watch. The presentation was made by Rev. E. Sedgemore. Others who spoke were Mr. Eddie Jones, secretary, and Mr. J. Jones. Mr. Evans thanked them. The Legion is building up a strong branch in the village, and extends a hearty welcome to ex-servicemen to join.

“Merthyr Express” 7 April 1962

Fochriw Woman’s Dog Bit Rhymney Youth A Fochriw woman, Mrs. Myfanwy Rees, Heolybryn, was fined a total of £1, with 8s 6d costs by the Pontllynn magistrates on Friday last week, for keeping a dangerous dog and with not having a licence for it. Mrs. Rees was ordered to keep the dog under control. Mr. Albert Lester, 18, of Rhymney, said that he was walking down a street when a black and white dog ran up to him and bit him on the leg. Mrs. Rees told the magistrate that although it was a big dog, it had never bitten anyone before. She added that she had since taken out a licence.

Bowen – Davies A white full-length heavy brocade gown and bouffant veil were worn by Miss Elizabeth Yvonne Wyn Davies for her wedding to Mr. Richard Bowen at St. Mary’s Church on Saturday last. The bride is the only daughter of Mr. & Mrs. A.W. Davies, 8, Railway Terrace, and Mr. Bowen is the son of Mrs. Bowen Jones, and the late Mr. D.C. Bowen, Mount Pleasant, Pentwyn. The bride’s veil was held in place with white roses, and her bouquet was of tangerine roses. She was given away by her father. The bridesmaids were Miss Gillian Bowen and Miss Sian Tyler, nieces of the bridegroom. They were dressed in white flocked nylon, with tangerine coloured sashes. Their coronets were of white flowers, and they carried small replicas of the bride’s bouquet. The best man was Mr. D.C. Bowen, brother of the bridegroom. Mr. J.L. Gittins Davies, the bride’s brother, and Mr. D. Evans, her uncle, were the groomsmen. The Vicar, Rev. E. Sedgemore, officiated, and the organist was Mr. T. Walters. The reception was held at the New Hall. The honeymoon was spent in London, the bride travelling in an apple green coat, a brown dress, and all accessories were also brown. [With photograph]

“Merthyr Express” 14 April 1962

Fochriw Candidate For May Election Mr. Elwyn Morgan has been chosen by the ward Labour Party as the prospective candidate for the May election. The retiring member, Coun. Frank Jenkins, did not wish to be considered for re-nomination. At the meeting at the New Hall on Monday, Mr. E. Uzzell, Deri, presided. Also present were Mr. Fred Evans, organiser; Mr. Brian Rogers, secretary; Mr. Evan Evans, treasurer; Mr. N.M. Davies, vice-chairman.

“Merthyr Express” 21 April 1962

Dance At the New Hall on Thursday, a dance was held under the auspices of the Fochriw Branch of the British Legion. Music was supplied by the Flamingo Band. Mr. D. Dando, Pontlottyn, was M.C. The secretary of the Legion is Mr. Eddie Jones, Glanynant, who would be pleased to welcome new members.

St. Andrew's Church Hundreds wended their way to the old churchyard of St. Andrew's, Pentwyn, on Saturday and Palm Sunday, to place flowers on the graves of loved ones. A service was conducted on Sunday afternoon at the old church by the Vicar. The service at the Parish Church on Sunday evening was taken by Mr. Graham Jones, Tirphil. Donations for the rebuilding of the old churchyard walls, will be thankfully received by the Vicar.

Married at Bournville: Pearce - Holding The wedding took place at Friends Meeting House, Bournville, Birmingham, on Saturday, of Mr. Brain Pearce, B.Sc., son of Mr. & Mrs. W. Pearce, Brook Row, and Miss Janet Holding, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. N. Holding, Blackthorne Close, Bournville. The bride was given away by her father. She wore a full-length gown of duchess satin with pearl and diamente head dress, and short veil. She carried a bouquet of freesias and fern. The bridesmaids were Miss Rosemary Holding, sister of the bride, and a friend of the bride, who wore blue silk dresses with white head-dresses, and carried posies of white freesias. The best man was Mr. Malcolm Harris, and the groomsmen were Mr. H. Pearce and Mr. J. Holding. The couple will spending their honeymoon at Weymouth. The bride travelled in a mauve and black suit with black accessories. They will make their future home at Bournville where both are in the teaching profession.

"Merthyr Express" 28 April 1962

Late Miss E. A. Price The death has occurred of Miss Evelyn Annie Price, aged 53, of 34. Guest Street. Miss Price was born at Penyardren, but moved to Gilfach, Bargoed, at an early age. The greater part of her life was spent at Fawr Farm, Bargoed. She moved to Fochriw in 1954, where she kept a small general store. In the 1930s she attended a course in dairy farming at the Glamorgan Agricultural College, Pencoed. Her other great interest was singing, particularly choral work. The funeral took place at Gelligaer Church, where Rev. J. I. Jones, and Mr. Thomas Jones officiated. The bearers were Messrs. Roland Evans (Bargoed), Cyril Davies, Alun Davies, Gwynfor Evans, David Ballard, Lionel Everitt, all of Fochriw.

Parish Church The Vicar conducted the Easter services. The church was decorated with Easter lilies. The preacher at the evening service was Mr. John Palmer, lay reader.

Canadian Visit Mrs. Rachel Willaims, wife of Mr. Gomer Williams, 30, Heol Iago, is leaving by air to visit her two daughters in Canada. She will be away six months, Her daughter Megan lives at St. Johns, Newfoundland, and Dwynwen in Brantford, Ontario. Both left Fochriw in 1946.

Free Church Council Meetings were held on Good Friday at Nazareth Chapel. A prayer meeting was held in the morning, and in the evening an English sermon was given by the Rev. D. Elfed Evans, Abercynon. Mrs. Doris James presided in the morning, and Rev. Ieuan Jones at the evening service. The organist was Mr. W.A. Davies.

"Merthyr Express" 5 May 1962

A Native of Fochriw: Late Mrs. Eleanor Evans The death has occurred at her home of Mrs. Eleanor Evans, aged 64, of 22. Martin Street. She was born at Fochriw and lived there all her life. Mrs. Evans was a faithful member of Carmel Chapel and a chairman of Carmel Sewing Guild. She was active as a member of the N.S.P.C.C. and as a member of the W.V.S. Interment was at Pentwyn Churchyard. Officiating were Rev. T.J. Jones, Pastor David Thomas and Rev. E. Sedgemore, and the organist was Mr. T. Walters of Carmel Chapel. Bearers were Messrs. P. Iles, A. Sharp, L. Davies, L. Coggan, G. Lloyd, A.H. Dummett. At the funeral were David, Alvan and John (sons); Sylvanus Jenkins (brother); David I. Evans, David Davies, Ray Clark, David Morris (brothers-in-law); John Cole, Frank & Terry Jenkins, David, Rev. Cyril Jenkins & John Jenkins, Howard Jenkins, Malcolm Cook, Enoch Lewis, Elwyn Edwards, Edryd, Garnant, Islwyn, Delfryn & Graham Jones, John Gwyn Gittins, Gwyn Davies, Graham Crane, David Morris (nephews); Dan & Aneurin Jenkins, Willie Angell, Thomas John James, Syl James, Roy & Emrys Shankland, Noel Willaims and Ken Evans (cousins); Mr. Wm. Morgan, Brian Morgan, Mr. Wm. Cook. At the house were Eliza (daughter); Sylvia (daughter-in-law); Elaine & Diane (grand daughters); Annie, Lenora and

Eirlys (sisters); Annie Mary and Elvis (sisters-in-law); Lisa, Iris & Lisa (nieces); Mrs. Mary Cook, Mrs. L. Hughes, Mrs. C. Evans, Mrs. Sedgemore.

“Merthyr Express” 12 May 1962

Easter Vestry The annual Easter Vestry of the Fochriw Parish Church took place on Wednesday, when the Vicar, Rev. Evan Sedgemore, presided. The minutes were read by Mr. John Palmer parochial secretary and the statement of accounts was given by Coun. W.J. Payne, churchwarden. Miss Rosie Davies and Miss Lorna Rees were the auditors. The Mothers' Union statement of accounts was also given by Mr. John Palmer. The following officers were elected: People's Churchwarden, Coun. W.J. Payne; Vicar's Churchwarden, Mr. John Owen, Deri; parochial secretary, Mr. J.B. Palmer; auditors, Miss Rosie Davies and Miss Lorna Rees; The parochial council and sidesmen were re-elected. The Vicar thanked the Churchwardens, the parochial secretary, the Mothers' Union, the Sewing Guild and the Sunday School teachers, Mr. D.R. Tyler, Sexton, and all who had helped at St. Andrew's, St. David's and St. Peter's. Everyone stood in silence tribute as the Vicar read the names of all who had died during the past year.

“Merthyr Express” 19 May 1962

Fochriw Man Broadcasts Dr. Huw Ballard Thomas of Ardwyn, Cardiff, formerly of Fochriw, is making numerous contributions to B.B.C. programmes in the month of May. Two of them are of particular interest to local people, however. A talk to be broadcast on all B.B.C. Home Services (except Welsh) this Friday evening (May 18th) forms a sequel to his previous talk on his monastic experiences that was selected for “Pick of the Week” and reprinted in The Listener. This sequel entitled, “Coming Out in Style,” tells of his experiences when he left the monastery through ill-health, to return to the world. On Wednesday, May 30th, a talk of outstanding interest to local listeners will be broadcast on the Newport to Brecon railway, which is now threatened with closure. In it Dr. Thomas has tried to recapture some of the unique atmosphere of the time and the people and places connected with it. As a result of a recent talk he gave on the Welsh Home Service feature programme, Hook-Up, in which he spoke of an exhibition of photographic art mounted by the students of Cardiff College of Art, he has received a letter from Kensington Palace informing him of Lord Snowden's ‘interest and delight.’ [With photograph]

Late Mr. L. Griffiths Mr. Lewis Griffiths, who had lived at Aelybryn for many years, has died. Mr. Griffiths recently worked with British Railways at Cardiff.

Trip To Bristol Members of the Mothers' Union and Sewing Guild went to Bristol on Saturday, accompanied by the Vicar and Mrs. Sedgemore. Fine weather helped to make the day an enjoyable one.

Institute Meeting Mr. L. Everett presided at the meeting of the Fochriw Welfare and Institute at the New Hall on Thursday. Coun. W.J. Payne, president, paid tribute to P.C. Southworth who is leaving the area to take up an appointment in the Caerphilly area. Repairs to the pavilion and playing field were discussed.

Late Mr. D.J. Williams An 84 year old Fochriw resident, Mr. David James Williams, has died at his home at Glen View, Pentwyn. Born at Deri, Mr. Williams lived at Fochriw for many years. He was an ex-serviceman. Burial was at Pentwyn Churchyard last Thursday. The Vicar officiated. Mourners were: George & Idris (sons); Tommy George (brother-in-law); Tom Powell (son-in-law); Gwyn, Gareth, Graham (grandsons); Joe Pullen, John Williams, David, Eddie Thomas, Islwyn Williams, Will Williams (nephews). Bearers were members of the Deri Branch of the British Legion. At the house were: Harriet Ann (wife); Sarah Ann (daughter); Sarah Jane, Sal (Dowlais), Sal (Fochriw), Dolly, Edna, Nellie, Hannah, Annie, Lizzie, Ivy Morgan, Auntie Lilly, Mrs. Barry, Doreen and Jean. There were many wreaths. (listed)

“Merthyr Express” 26 May 1962

Veteran Organist's Death Mr. Thomas Walters, A.L.C.M., organist and choirmaster of Carmel Congregational Chapel for the past 60 years, has died.

British Legion The Fochriw Branch of the British Legion was represented at a standard dedication service and parade at Mountain Ash by Mr. Les Williams and Mr. John Griffith.

Also present were two standard escorts: Mr. R.C. Jones (branch sec.), and Mr. G. Blunt (committee man).

New Y.M.C.A. Building The proposed new Y.M.C.A. building was discussed at this week's meeting, when Coun. W.J. Payne presided, and the Vicar opened the meeting with prayer. Those present included Mr. J. Gifford, secretary, and Mr. Neville Hann, treasurer. They heard Mr. Smith of Cardiff explain the implications involved in building a new local Y.M.C.A. centre. Three local representatives attended the Royal garden party at Duffryn Gardens for the visit of Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal. They were the Vicar and Mrs. Sedgemore and Coun. Payne.

Fochriw Plans Singing Festival for Pensioners A community hymn singing festival is to be organised by the churches of Fochriw in aid of the old age pensioners' funds. This was decided at a meeting of the local churches on Wednesday at St. Mary's Church, when the Rev. Evan Sedgemore presided. It will be held at Penybanc Chapel. Officers were elected: chairman, Pastor D. Thomas; conductor, Mr. W.A. Davies; organist, Mr. Willie Edwards; pianist, Mr. Idris Powell; soloist, Miss Rosemary Jones.

Pantywaun To Be Demolished The village of Pantywaun, near Dowlais, is to be demolished. On Tuesday, Gelligaer Urban Council made demolition orders in respect of the 21 remaining houses in the village. They are inhabited by about 80 people. The village, isolated on a vast expanse of moorland above the Deri Valley was labelled with a death tag earlier this year. This gave rise to a storm of protest from the villagers, who presented a petition to Caerphilly and Gelligaer Education Executives as an objection to the closing of the local primary school. At Tuesday's meeting, four of the villagers were invited to give their views before the Clerk, Mr. D.W.C. Morgan, said that the houses were unfit for human habitation, and incapable of being repaired at a reasonable expense. Mr. Morgan said the residents of the village would be offered alternative accommodation, probably at the neighbouring village of Fochriw. One of the residents, Mrs. Catherine Gallier, told the meeting: "We know the houses, in most cases, are not fit to live in. It's going to cost a lot to repair my house. I am a widow and I cannot afford the expense." The other residents said they were in the same position. The Clerk said there was a provision under the Housing Act for compensation to be paid to an owner or a tenant where it was considered the property had been well maintained. He said that a number of the villagers had already been to the Council office to sign application forms for compensation. Following the Clerk's observations, the four villagers left the chamber to sign application forms for compensation. Coun. Hopkin Lewis told members: "I feel in the long run, the villagers will realise we have done them a service by making the closing orders." Coun. W.H. Bennett said the people would be given better opportunities and a better outlook when they moved into their new homes. We can say Pantywaun is a village that has died. It is not a village that lends itself to development. When the people move, the children will be much better off." Coun. W.J. Payne told members he could remember Pantywaun as a village without electric light, water, telephones, or a railway station. "Now they have all these things, but the houses have deteriorated. I blame some of the owners for this," he said. "I am sorry they have to move, but when they do, they will realise the benefits of the surroundings we have to offer them."

"Merthyr Express" 9 June 1962

Carmel Chapel Special yearly services were held on Sunday last, when the preacher was the Rev. T.O. Thomas, Caerphilly, who preached inspiring sermons. The organist was Mrs. Annie Davies.

Parish Church On Thursday, Ascension Day, a large number of schoolchildren, accompanied by their headmistress and teachers, attended a service at the Parish Church, conducted by the Vicar. The organist was Mrs. Gwynne.

Welfare Association Mr. L. Everett presided at a meeting on Thursday. He was supported by the secretary, Mr. Tom Powell, and Mr. Frank Jenkins, treasurer. Correspondence regarding the pavilion and playing field was discussed. The treasurer gave the financial report.

Ward Meeting A meeting of the ward Labour Party was held at the New Hall, when Mr. E. Uzzell, Deri, presided, supported by the secretary, Mr. Brian Rogers, and vice chairman,

W.M. Davies. Councillors Payne and Poyntz were also present. Coun. Elwyn Morgan thanked the people of Fochriw for the excellent support they had given him at the election. He had already thanked the people of Pantywaun. A report of Council activities was given by Coun Payne, and questions were answered by the councillors. Mrs. G. Yeoman and Mr. Frank Jenkins were elected delegates to the local Labour Party meetings.

Late Mr. Thomas Walters Born in the village 77 years ago, Mr. Thomas Walters, Bryntirion House, has died. He was a senior deacon of Carmel Congregational Church and for 60 years was both choirmaster and organist. He was a former conductor of the Fochriw Male Voice and Mixed Choirs, and had also conducted the United Church Choir. He was prominent as a music teacher, too, and taught the piano, and also trained many noted violinists. At one time he conducted the valley singing festivals. He has one son who is in the Excise and Customs service. The United Church Choir attended the funeral at Glyntaff Crematorium. Officiating were the Rev. E. Jones, Cwmaman, the Rev. T. Alban Davies, Ton Pentre, and the Vicar of St. Mary's Church, the Rev. Evan Sedgemore. The Crematorium Chapel was crowded with representatives of all the organisations in the community and surrounding villages. Many well-known people in the music and mining circles were present. Immediate family mourners were Willie, Eileen and St. John, son, daughter-in-law and grandson. Carmel was represented by its deacons, Mr. W.J. Angell Davies, C.T. Cook, David Jones and Nurse Lewis.

“Merthyr Express” 16 June 1962

Parish Church The Whit Sunday services were well attended. The celebrant and preacher was the Vicar, Rev. E. Sedgemore.

£23 For Cancer Fund Over £23 was realised in the recent house-to-house collection in aid of the British Empire Cancer Fund. The organisers were Mrs. E. Sedgemore, Mrs. E. Fox and Mrs. K. Lewis. The collectors were Mesdames E. Sedgemore, K. Lewis, B. Davies, T. Lewis, E. Thomas, A.M. Holifield, M. Chapman, L. Lawrence, C. Ballard, M. Lawrence, C. Evans, J. Jones, G. Hughes, G. Hopkins, B. Bills, C. Dummett, C. Jenkins, Misses E. Fox, O.M. Payne, M. Jones, A.F. Jones.

Well-known Producer The death has occurred of Mrs. Matt Lewis of Tonypandy at the age of 85. Born in Guest Street, she was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Aneurin Jones, and spent her childhood days in the village. She was a singer of repute, and held important posts in the Education world as a teacher and headmistress. She was the founder producer of the famous Mid-Rhondda Garrick Dramatic Society, and produced plays for the Maes-yr-Haf Players.

Sunday School Teas On Tuesday, the Sunday Schools of the Parish Church and Nazareth C.M. joined together in their Whitsun parade through the village, singing hymns as they marched. Before the parade, a short service was held at the Parish Church conducted by the Vicar, with Mr. W.A. Davies, Nazareth C.M., at the organ. Members of both churches attended and they were extended a warm welcome by Churchwarden W.J. Payne. After the service, they paraded through the streets, headed by the Vicar, Churchwarden Payne, Mr. W.A. Davies and Mr. Mitchell. After the parade, they returned for their tea, and afterwards, the children of Nazareth were taken on a motor coach outing to Llangorse. The Parish Church children enjoyed games with their teachers at the New Hall. Special thanks are due to the Sunday School teachers, and those who waited at the tables, and other helpers, for making it such a happy event.

Cumpstone – Crompton The wedding has taken place of Bertie, the only son of Mr. & Mrs. Bert Cumpstone, 8, Aelybryn, to Elaine, only daughter of Mr. & Mrs. George Crompton, Ramsden Street, Rhymney. Officiating were Canon W. Cooper Lewis, assisted by the curate. The organist was Mrs. M. Jones. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a brocaded satin gown, and carried a bouquet of red roses. The bridesmaids, Misses Lorna Rees and Pauline Slade, the groom's cousins, wore short pink and blue dresses, and carried bouquets of pink carnations. The flower girl, Miss Paula Crompton, niece of the bride, wore a lemon dress and carried a posy. The best man was Mr. Cadfan Slade. After the reception at the Castle Hotel, Rhymney, the couple left for Oxford. The bride wore a lemon suit with white accessories.

“Merthyr Express” 23 June 1962

Native of Fochriw: Late Mr. W.J. Davies William John Davies has died at the age of 61 at his home in 21, Guest Street. Mr. Davies, who lived in Fochriw all his life, was a member of Noddfa, and in his later years of the Gospel Hall. The funeral was at Pant Cemetery, where Pastor David Thomas and Rev. T.J. Jones officiated. The bearers were Messrs. John Matthews, Linfsey Coggan, D.C. Jones, Gwynlais Lloyd. The family mourners were: Mabel Davies (wife); Cyril & Willie (sons); Elsie Thomas (daughter); Sarah Davies (mother); David Davies (brother); Norman Thomas (son-in-law); Violet & Rena (daughters-in-law); David Thomas, Wyndham Hughes, Albert Percy, Ernie & Ron Marshall (brothers-in-law); Albert Charles Marshallsea (father-in-law); Rose Thomas, Sal Davies, Lil Hughes, Rene, Hilda, Mona & Betty Marshallsea (sisters-in-law); Maud Lewis (aunt); Glanmor, John, David, Windsor, Kerry (nephews); Pam, Yvonne, Phyllis (nieces); Thomas Jones, Jack Davies, Lena Davies, Thomas James (cousins).

Carmel At the Sunday services, the preacher was the Rev. Eurof Jones, Cwmavon, a former minister of Carmel. The organists were Mrs. W.A. Davies and Miss Jean Davies.

“Merthyr Express” 30 June 1962

Late Mr. W.J. Davies Mr. Habuck Ballard (uncle) was one of the family mourners at the funeral reported last week.

Jumble Sale The members of St. Mary's Church Mothers' Union and Sewing Guild held a jumble sale at the New Hall on Saturday that proved very successful.

“Merthyr Express” 7 July 1962

Mile of Pennies The Ladies' Supporters' Committee of the O.A.P. held a very successful 'Mile of Pennies' collection on Friday. The Committee wish to thank the public for their support.

Sewing Class Outing The Ladies' Sewing Class, with their instructress, Mrs. Sylvia Davies, had a very pleasant motor coach trip on Saturday, visiting Hereford, Worcester and Evesham.

O.A.P. The O.A.P. had their annual outing on Tuesday, and toured the coast from Barry to Porthcawl. The arrangements were made by the Ladies Supporters' Committee.

Labour Party On Thursday last, the local ward Labour Party members met at the New Hall. Coun. W.J. Payne presided, supported by Mr. Frank Jenkins, secretary, and Mrs. E. Rowlands, treasurer. A number of new members were enrolled. Matters affecting the area were discussed. It was decided to hold the annual section meeting in July.

“Merthyr Express” 14 July 1962

Parish Church The preacher and celebrant in the morning was the Vicar. At the evening service, the preacher was Mr. G. Watson Jones, Pontlottyn.

British Legion A well-attended meeting of the Fochriw Branch was held at the New Hall on Thursday. Rev. Evan Sedgemore presided. The secretary, Mr. Eddie Jones, said that club membership was now about 50. The proposed new club premises were discussed.

“Merthyr Express” 21 July 1962

Fochriw House Owners Can Buy Freehold Leaseholders living in more than 100 homes at Fochriw are taking steps to buy up the land on which their properties stand. The action will prevent the leases expiring in two years' time. This was revealed on Monday, when Mr. Ness Edwards, M.P. for Caerphilly, spoke in favour of the residents' plan to safeguard their properties. He told a reporter that he was not without hope that the freeholds could be bought on terms that, in these days, would not necessarily be unreasonable. He said the head lease in respect of the properties, previously held by Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, has been held by the N.C.B. since nationalisation. The head lease would expire in 1965 and the freeholds would revert to Caeglas Estate. He had had discussions with the N.C.B. and the trustees of the estate, and had put forward suggestions that the sub-lease be commuted so that direct negotiations could take place between the owners of the houses and the estate.

“Merthyr Express” 28 July 1962

Fochriw Freeholds Mr. Ness Edwards, M.P., addressed a meeting of leaseholders of property on the Caeglas Estate, Fochriw, at the New Hall, when Coun. W.J. Payne presided. The meeting was called to discuss the possible purchase of the freeholds of the Caeglas property involved. There are about 100 leases, which have only a short time to run. Mr. Edwards invited statements from those present at the meeting who had made application for their

freeholds. Coun. Hopkin Lewis also spoke on the matter. Thanks were accorded to Mr. Edwards for his efforts. Mr. John Ballard was elected secretary, to collect the necessary information concerning the purchase of the freeholds. A further meeting is to be called in the near future.

“Merthyr Express” 4 August 1962

Fochriw Man Re-Elected Boxing Association Chairman Mr. John P. Llewellyn was re-elected chairman of the Welsh Amateur Boxing Association for another two years, at the annual meeting on Saturday. Since 1960, Mr. Llewellyn has represented the W.A.B.A. in Belgrade, Copenhagen, Holland, Germany, Ireland and France. Despite opposition to boxing, Mr. Llewellyn states that without boxing there would be a larger number of delinquents in our society. [with photograph]

Carmel Chapel The preacher on Sunday was Miss Greta Evans, Fochriw. The organist was Mrs. Annie Davies.

Parish Church The preacher and celebrant at the morning service was the vicar, Rev. Evan Sedgemore. The preacher at the evening service was Councillor W.J. Payne.

Labour Party The Fochriw Section of the Ward Party held their annual meeting at the New Hall on Thursday. The chairman was Coun. W.J. Payne supported by the secretary, Mr. Frank Jenkins, and Mrs. E.J. Rowlands, treasurer. All the officers were re-elected. Mr. A.H. Wood and Mrs. Enid Lewis were appointed auditors. A report of Council activities was given by Councillor Payne, who also replied to questions.

Y.M.C.A. A meeting of the Y.M.C.A. was held at headquarters on Thursday evening presided over by Mr. Norman Withers. The Vicar, Rev. Evan Sedgemore, opened the meeting with prayer. Also present were Mr. Smith, Cardiff, Mr. Jones, Pontlottyn (architect), Mr. Nevill Hann and Mr. Glyn Jenkins, secretary, and the president, Councillor W.J. Payne. Chief discussion centred on the proposed new building. Comments were given by Mr. Smith and the architect. It was decided to await a further report from Mr. Smith, Cardiff. The Y.M.C.A. football teams are busy preparing for the coming season with their secretary, Mr. Philip Jones.

Only The Public House Will Be Left In Pantywaun The Royal Arms Hotel, built in the last century to serve the isolated village of Pantywaun, is likely to be a public house without customers when the rest of the village is demolished by Gelligaer Urban Council. The hotel, owned by the Rhymney Brewery Company, is the only building in the village that has not been served with a demolition order. When the 80 residents move from the village, trade at the pub will collapse and the building will be forced with closure. Already, the hotel is losing custom and stocks of beer have been cut down. The licensee, Mrs. Elsie Evans, who lives at the hotel with her husband, Mr. John Thomas Evans, told an Express reporter: “Our customers have drifted away and business has been on the slack side for weeks. During the past month, we have sold hardly any beer. Two of three men call occasionally for a few bottles, but that is all. On Saturday night, we had two customers, and from now on things will get worse,” she commented. Mrs. Evans, who is the mother of six sons, four of them schoolboys, said they had no plans for the future if the pub is closed. “I have been to the Council and they asked me to apply in writing for a house. But I have heard nothing yet,” she added. A spokesman for the Brewery said on Thursday: “We would like to keep the pub alive, but there is no future for it. We have made no definite plans as yet, but if the other houses are demolished, there is no way of keeping it alive. It’s a pity but the building is in reasonably good condition, but the drainage facilities there are not adequate,” he added. The spokesman stated that there was no bulk stock of beer at the hotel because trade had become generally poor. He said the licensee normally called at the brewery with a van when supplies were low. Demolition orders in respect of the 21 houses in the village were made by Gelligaer Urban Council on May 22.

Gelligaer’s Slum Clearance Work Ahead Of Schedule The re-development of parts of the Gelligaer Urban District, which has progressed rapidly and is well ahead of schedule, was described by the Clerk of Gelligaer Urban District Council, Mr. D.W.C. Morgan, on Tuesday, as a tremendous achievement. Speaking at the Council’s monthly meeting, Mr. Morgan said that since the Council first started its slum clearance programme in 1956, a total of 364 dwellings had been demolished. “In 1956,” said Mr. Morgan, “the Council was required to

inform the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of the estimated number of slum properties in the area, and the period in which the Council considered they would be able to secure the demolition of the properties. The figures then supplied were 600 houses to be cleared within 20 years, 80 houses included in the clearance area, and 20 houses to be individually demolished within five years. In the six years that have elapsed, the Council has dealt with not merely 100 properties as proposed, but no less than 364. This is undoubtedly a tremendous achievement." Mr. Morgan said that 217 properties had been demolished at Pontlottyn and 12 at Fochriw. Under individual demolition orders, 135 properties had been dealt with. The Ministry had now asked for details of the residual slum clearance problem in the area.

"Merthyr Express" 11 August 1962

City and Guilds Mr. Dilwyn Evans, son of Mr. & Mrs. Tudor Evans, 8, Glyn Terrace, has passed the final City and Guilds examination in gas fitting. He works at the Pontlottyn depot of the Gas Board.

"Merthyr Express" 18 August 1962

Parish Church The Rev. L. Dowse, Vicar of Llanishen, was the celebrant at Holy Communion on Sunday morning. The Sunday School was taken by Miss E. Fox. The evening service was conducted by Coun. W.J. Payne.

"Merthyr Express" 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.

Plans For New Fochriw Pavilion Completed Plans for the re-building of the pavilion at Fochriw playing field have been approved, and an appeal is to be made for volunteers to help in the work. Mr. T. Powell, secretary of the Fochriw Welfare Association, reported this at last Thursday's meeting, when Mr. L. Everitt presided. The treasurer, Mr. Frank Jenkins, gave details of the indoor and outdoor schemes for the pavilion. Dissatisfaction was expressed with the indoor layout.

Late Mrs. M.J. Williams The funeral took place on Thursday of last week of Mrs. M.J. Williams, Blaen Carno, Pantywaun. Mrs. Williams, who was 67, is survived by her husband, Mr. Thomas Williams. The Rev. Cooper Lewis, Vicar of Rhymney, officiated at the funeral at the Graig Cemetery. The mourners were: Messrs. Thomas Williams (husband); Hohn, Charles, Cyril (sons); H. Bradley, D.J. Pugh, John Angell (sons-in-law); Dorian, Malcolm, Kerrie, Meirion (grandsons); Thomas John, Evan Gwyn, Idris & Elwyn Morgan (brothers); Arthur Davies, Will Williams, Will Bradley, David Rees, W.T. Morgan (brothers-in-law); David Auger, D. Williams and Mostyn (grandsons). The bearers were Messrs. J. Phillips, J. Davies, Idwal Bradley, J. Dyer, Gwynfor Williams, G. Williams. At the house were Olwen, Irene, Mair (daughters); Rhoda, Glenys, Nancy (daughters-in-law); Brenda, Myra, Elsie, Margaret (grand-daughters); Hannah Phyllis, Margaret, Myfanwy Rees (sisters); Caroline, Mary Ann, Lilian (cousins); B. Hodges (friend). Funeral arrangements were by Mr. Crad Price & Sons, Dowlais.

"Merthyr Express" 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.

St. John Competition Fochriw annual open senior ambulance competition, under the patronage of the Order of St. John (Priory of Wales), will be held at the New Hall on Saturday at 2.30 p.m. A number of teams have entered including several national winners. In the

ambulance world, Fochriw has a noble tradition dating back over 60 years. The secretary is Mr. S.M. James, 12, Hillside, Ogilvie, Deri, and the president is Coun. W.J. Payne.

“Merthyr Express” 8 September 1962

Fochriw Open Ambulance Competitions Some of the finest ambulance teams in Wales and Monmouthshire took part in the Fochriw Annual Open Ambulance Competition at the New Hall on Saturday. The winners were Cefn Cribbw team with 317 marks, followed by Kenfig Hill and Abertysswg. The winning team was presented with £8 and a shield. Second prize was £4, and third prize £2. The prizes were presented by Corps Superintendent J. Hayden Jones, Coun. W. J. Payne, president, and Rev. Evan Sedgemore. Officer Tom Thomas thanked the judges, the Welfare Committee, and the ladies who provided tea.

Fochriw Householders Offered Freeholds One hundred leaseholders at Fochriw are to be given the chance to buy the freeholds. Mr. Ness Edwards, M.P. for Caerphilly, gave the news at the weekend. He said the arrangements had been made whereby the Coal Board would surrender the head lease on the properties, thus enabling the Caeglas Estate to offer the freeholds to the owner-occupiers. The leases are due to expire in two years time. About two years ago, a like number of leases were sold to the owner-occupiers by the same ground landlords on terms said to be reasonable and fair, having regard to present-day conditions. Mr. Edwards said he was satisfied with the way matters were going. Coun. W.J. Payne presided at a meeting at Fochriw last week, when those present accepted a suggestion that steps to be taken in the present negotiations should follow those adopted when the previous ground rents were bought.

G.C.E. Success Miss Elaine McDonald, who is a pupil of Manchester High School for Girls, has been successful in gaining her G.C.E. O Level in nine subjects. Elaine is the daughter of Mrs. Elinor McDonald, formerly Angell, of Fochriw, and Mr. R. McDonald, of Oldham, Lancs., and the grand-daughter of Mrs. B. Angell, Dynevor Street, and the late Mr. B. Angell.

Kenya Post Mr. Granville Jones and his wife and child have gone to Kenya, where Mr. Jones is to take up a teaching appointment under the Government for a period of three years. Mr. Jones is the son of Mr. & Mrs. David Jones, Pontllynn Road, Fochriw, and had been teaching under the L.C.C. for the past three years. He was educated at Bargoed Grammar Technical School and Caerleon Training College.

Leaseholders Coun. Payne presided over a meeting at the New Hall on Wednesday evening of the Caeglas Fochriw Leaseholders. Mr. Ness Edwards, M.P., gave a detailed report of progress since the last meeting. He had dealt with the N.C.B. and the solicitors of the Estate, and the outcome was very satisfactory. He said that Coun. Payne would deal with matters as they arose, and when necessary, a further meeting would be called. Mr. Edwards, Coun. Payne and Mr. John Ballard were thanked by the leaseholders for the work they had done. Coun. Hopkin Lewis was present and spoke.

“Merthyr Express” 15 September 1962

Late Miss H. Bassett The death has taken place of a well known inhabitant, Miss Hannah Bassett, 13, Rhodfa Ganol.

Cathedral Visit Last Saturday, three motor coaches organised by the Mothers' Union and Ladies' Sewing Guild of the Parish of Fochriw and Deri, journeyed to Coventry, accompanied by the Vicar and Mrs. Sedgemore.

Labour Meeting A well attended meeting was held at the New Hall last Thursday evening, presided over by Mr. Ussell, Deri, supported by Mr. Brain Rogers, secretary, Councillors W.J. Payne and Elwyn Morgan. A report on Council activities was given by Coun. Payne. A report on the executive meeting was given by Coun. E. Morgan and on the local Labour Party by Mr. Frank Jenkins.

In Hospital Nurse Ballard Davies, The Villas, and Mrs. Davies, White Horse Inn, are both in Tredegar Hospital. All join in wishing them a speedy recovery.

Harvest Festival Harvest festival services will begin in the parish on Sunday at St. David's, Pantywaun. The services, at 3 and 6 p.m., will be led by the Rector of Gellygaer. On Monday at 7 p.m., the Vicar of Pontllynn will conduct the service.

“Merthyr Express” 22 September 1962

Mothers' Union A combined service of Fochriw and Deri members was held at the Parish Church on Tuesday. The Vicar conducted the service and the address was given by Mrs. J.C.K. Buckley, Llandaff.

“Merthyr Express” 29 September 1962

Fochriw House Fire Appliances from Bargoed and Rhymney Fire Brigades called at Fochriw on Sunday evening to deal with a small fire that broke out in the living room of No. 3, Glyn Street. There was little damage, and the fire was under control soon after the arrival of the fire brigades. Station Officer Clive Warren was in charge.

Community Hymn Singing A community hymn singing in aid of the O.A.P. funds will be held at Penybank Chapel on Sunday at 8 p.m. The conductor will be Mr. W.A. Davies.

Native of Brithdir The funeral of Hannah Elizabeth Bassett, 13, Rhodfa Ganol, took place recently. She was the daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. Bassett of Brithdir, but had recently resided with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. David Lewis Evans. She was 51 and a faithful member of the Gospel Hall. The burial was at Gwaelodybrithdir Cemetery, Pastor David Thomas officiating at the house and graveside. The mourners were: Jim & Simon Bassett (brothers); D.L. Evans, Fred Jones, H. Dodson (brothers-in-law); James Jones (cousin). Bearers were Messrs. Jack Jones, Tom Sullivan, W. Rowlands, Cyril Coughlan, Tom Lewis, William Lewis, Tom Owen, Cyril Jones, Haydn Jenkins. At the house were: Blod, Rachel, Edith (sisters); Lil (sister-in-law); Charlotte (cousin); Joan, Catherine, Esther, Marjorie, Elspeth. There were beautiful floral tributes.

“Merthyr Express” 6 October 1962

Labour Party At a meeting at the New Hall on Thursday, Coun. W.J. Payne presided. The auditors report was given by Mr. A.H. Wood and Mrs. Enid Lewis. Coun. Payne was again nominated as Council candidate for the next election. He was unopposed.

Pensioners' Week To commence the Old People's Week, a community hymn singing was held at Pantywaun Chapel on Sunday. Pastor Wm. Griffiths presided, and Mr. W.A. Davies, Nazareth Chapel, conducted. The organist was Mr. Willie Edwards, and the pianist Mr. Idris Powell. Miss Rosemary Jones was the soloist. Prayers were said by Rev. T.J. Jones. Other speakers were Rev. Evan Sedgemore and Rev. Jones. Coun. Payne and Mr. W.A. Davies, Carmel, thanked everyone. A collection of £6 8s 1d. was realised for O.A.P funds.

Fochriw Collier Killed A 60 year old Fochriw collier was struck and killed by a flying haulage rope sheave four days after he had tightened it by hand, it was stated at a Bargoed inquest on Tuesday. The North Glamorgan Coroner recorded a verdict of “accidental death” on Mr. David Rees, a married man with four children, of 4, Heolybryn, Fochriw. It was stated that Mr. Rees, a sheavesman, was killed in the R.H. 5 district of Ogilvie Colliery, on Friday, August 17. The manager of the colliery, Mr. David John Lewis, said that Mr. Rees was responsible for greasing the sheaves. “In my opinion, I think he was undoing the sheave to reposition it. The strain in the rope caused it to fly off,” he said. Dr. Paul McCarthy of Deri said that Mr. Rees' death had been instantaneous. Death was caused by lacerations of the brain due to an injury to the skull. His ribs were also fractured. In returning a verdict of accidental death, the jury expressed sympathy with Mr. Rees's widow and family. The Coroner and the manager also expressed their regrets.

“Merthyr Express” 13 October 1962

Harvest Festival Services were held at Nazareth on Monday and Tuesday evening. The guest preacher was Rev. Noel Gibbard, Penywern, Dowlais.

Parish Church The celebrant at the Holy Communion service on Sunday morning was the Vicar. The preacher on Sunday evening was Coun. W.J. Payne, who welcomed the new organist, Mr. Willie Edwards.

“Merthyr Express” 20 October 1962

Executive Supports Fochriw School Fares Protest Unless bus fares are reduced for pupils travelling from Fochriw to Pontlottyn County School – a distance of two miles – parents of the village are likely to boycott the school by keeping their children at home. This was the threat in a letter from Mrs. Enid Lewis of Iscoed House, Fochriw, considered by Caerphilly and Gelligaer Education Executive on Monday. Writing on behalf of the parents who had signed a petition to protest against the high cost of bus fares, Mrs. Lewis stated, “We, the

people of Fochriw, have decided to make communal protest against the high cost of our children's education in a country whose proud boast is free education for each child. We feel we are just in doing so. Our children are compelled to attend Pontlottyn County School by public transport, and the recent increase in bus fares means that it costs our children 7d. a day to do so. There are instances in the village where there are mothers with three children attending the school, and paying a total of 8s. 9d. a week in bus fares. We think consideration should be given to the fact that the two-mile limit rule, which prevents secondary modern school pupils from using free transport, was made when travel was only 1d. per mile for a child's ticket. Feeling is very high in Fochriw, and unless some form of help is given, we will have to consider the extreme step of taking our children away from school until we have satisfaction. With the prospect of the school leaving age being raised to 16, we think the question should be given every consideration now." Coun. W.J. Payne, of Fochriw, said that he favoured the protest and had every sympathy with the parents concerned. Because Gelligaer Urban Council was recently forced to increase its bus fares, the people now had cause to complain. Mr. D.W. Davies, Divisional Educational Officer, said that the two-mile limit for secondary school pupils was enforced by the County Council, and was a mile shorter than the national limit. Primary school pupils attending schools in Glamorgan were allowed one-and-a-half miles. Coun. Alex Jones said that the Executive should support the protest by showing agitation on the matter. "These bus fares could cause hardship among families with three or four children attending the school," he said. Mr. W. Beynon of Caerphilly moved that the details of the petition be sent to Glamorgan County Council with the suggestion that the present two-mile limit be reduced to one-and-a-half miles. This was accepted unanimously by the members.

Fochriw Parents and School Meals A protest from parents of Fochriw children attending Pontlottyn County School, complaining about school meals, came before Caerphilly and Gelligaer Education Executive on Monday. The Divisional Education Officer said that the complaints had been investigated thoroughly by the School Meals Organiser and the headmaster, and the petitioners had been informed of the outcome. There appeared to be no grounds for the complaints, and an invitation had been given to the correspondent, and one other parent, to observe the service in operation at any time, without warning. The Divisional Education Officer added that the parents had complained that the meals were cold and insufficient, and that various things had been found in the meals, including ants. He said that it was true that ants had been found in the food, but this was due to an infested consignment of flour that had been sent back to the mill.

"Merthyr Express" 27 October 1962

Bible Society A house-to-house collection realised £21 7s. for which the secretary and treasurer, Mrs. A.M. Hollifield, and Mrs. L. Lawrence, wish to thank the collectors and all who contributed. The collectors were Mesdames D. Jones, E. Rees, O. Thomas, A.M. Hollifield, L. Lawrence, and Misses M. Jones, E. Jones, R. Jones, R. Davies.

Placed Third The Fochriw St. John Ambulance team came third in the competition held at Bryn, near Maesteg, on Saturday. The team was: Supt. Ivor Morgan (capt), Evan Warner, Tom Powell, Kerry Morse. There were seven entries.

Harvest Festival The children of Fochriw Infants' School had a harvest festival service on Wednesday afternoon. The children had brought beautiful gifts of flowers and fruit. The children gave a fine performance of harvest hymns, prayers, and recitations. They had been taught by the headmistress, Miss Olive Payne, and staff, Miss Gwynne (pianist), Miss Morris, Miss Nan Jones, Miss Mundy. After the service, the gifts were taken to the Old People's Hospital, Ystrad Mynach by the headmistress and Mrs. Sedgemore.

Miss Karen Lloyd The funeral of Karen Lloyd, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Lloyd, 34, Aelybryn, took place at Pentwyn Churchyard on Saturday. The Vicar officiated at the house and graveside. The mourners were Ronald & Winnie Lloyd (parents); Ann (sister); Brian, Keith, Colin (brothers); Thomas John Evans & Margaret (grandfather and mother); Roy Evans, Sydney Evans, Maldwyn Williams (uncles); Eunice Evans, Gay Evans, Polly Williams, Nellie Small (aunts); Malcolm, Terence, Alun Williams, Ellis Edwards, Alfred Bradley, Ruth Fox (cousins). Bearers: Harry Bradley, Rufus Dummett, Victor Davies.

“Merthyr Express” 3 November 1962

Ambulance Team Success The Fochriw Team came third in an open competition at Treharris Ambulance Hall on Saturday. Team: Supt. I. Morgan (capt), Tom Powell, E. Warner, S.M. James.

Collection Result The Moral Welfare house-to-house collection in aid of the Llandaff Diocesan Association organised by the Rev. & Mrs. Sedgemore, realised £15 4s 7d. A cheque for this amount was presented to the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff by Mr. Gordon Lawrence at the Cathedral recently. The collectors in Fochriw were Mesdames E. Sedgemore, M. Chapman, E. Thomas, C. Ballard, M. Lawrence, L. Lawrence, N. Sharpe, W.K. Evans, D.J. Jones, G. Hughes, G. Hopkins, J. Jones, O. Jenkins, A. Watkins, T. Powell, T.E. Davies, S.J. Pullen and the Misses O.M. Payne, E. Fox, Christine Pullen, Allison Watkins, June Palmer, Shirley Lawrence, C. Evans.

“Merthyr Express” 17 November 1962

Carmel Chapel Special services were held on Sunday, when Dr. Pennar Davies preached powerful sermons. The organist was Mrs. Annie Davies.

Welfare Association Mr. L. Everitt presided over the meeting on Thursday, supported by the secretary, Mr. Tom Powell, and the treasurer, Mr. Frank Jenkins. The secretary reported on the re-building of the pavilion on the playing field that has reached roof level. He also referred to the visit of Mr. Morgan, the Welfare organiser.

Remembrance The service at the Parish Church on Sunday morning was well attended. The service was conducted by the Vicar, Rev. Evan Sedgemore, and the organist was Mr. Willie Edwards. The Vicar, a former cornet player with the Hirwaun Band, sounded the Last Post, and then Mr. Frank Jenkins, chairman of the branch, said the Recite “They shall grow nor old.” The standard bearers were Mr. Dando, Pontlottyn, and Mr. L. Everitt, Fochriw. Wreaths were laid by Councillor W.J. Payne on behalf of the Council; Mr. Eddie Jones, secretary of the Men’s Section British Legion; Mrs. E. Lewis, Women’s Section and Poppy Organiser; Mrs. Pullen and Mrs. Small. Mr. Wm. Lewis, R.O.H., represented the R.A.O.B.

Ward Meeting A well attended Labour Party Ward meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday evening. Mr. E. Uzzell, Deri, presided, supported by the secretary, Mr. Brian Rogers, Mr. W.M. Davies, vice chairman, and Councillors W.J. Payne, W. Poyntz and Elwyn Morgan. Nominations were invited for the next election. Only one name was submitted, the present sitting member, Coun. W.J. Payne, who had the unanimous support of the meeting. Coun. Payne thanked them for their confidence. The report of Council activities was given by Coun. Elwyn Morgan who dealt with several matters, and answered several questions.

“Merthyr Express” 1 December 1962

Councillor W.J. Payne, Veteran Fochriw Administrator, Is Dead Coun. W.J. Payne, of 1, Glyn Terrace, Fochriw, former chairman and a member of Gelligaer Urban Council, died at his home on Sunday, aged 82. He had been the “Merthyr Express” correspondent in the area for half a century, and had been a member of the Council for 23 years and was held in high esteem for his services to the public. He was chairman of the governors of Lewis Boys’ and Girls’ Grammar Schools, Ystrad Mynach, and a member of the governors of Bargoed Grammar-Technical School. He also held the chairmanships of the Cerphilly and Gelligaer Divisional Health Committee; the Rhymney Valley Water Board and the Board of Governors of Bargoed Technical School. For 30 years he was a member of the Rhymney and Abertysswg Hospitals House Committee and also served on Merthyr Hospitals Committees. Two years ago Coun. Payne received the Vellum Vote award for his long record of active work for the St. John Ambulance Society.

Coun. Payne was born at 7, Railway Terrace, Fochriw, and at the age of 12, went to work at the Fochriw Colliery. Three years ago, at the age of 79, he retired from work on the consultative committee of the Wales Gas Board. During the years of Depression Coun. Payne produced many dramas in connection with St. Mary’s Church, Fochriw. Later, he became Churchwarden and a licensed lay reader of St. Mary’s. Also during Depression days, he was chairman of the local Distress Fund. Other positions formerly held by Coun. Payne were: Captain of the Bargoed Fire Brigade and organiser of the Fochriw Welfare Hall and Y.M.C.A. He was a devoted and conscientious member of the Gelligaer Urban Council. He

had recently been striving to reduce the free-hold costs of Fochriw houses. Mr. Ness Edwards, Labour M.P. for Caerphilly, a colleague of Coun. Payne, recently paid this tribute to him: "Coun. Payne was a great personal friend of mine and was always a great help to me. I had a great admiration for him. I always thought of W.J. as Fochriw." Coun. Paynes is survived by a daughter, Miss Olive May Payne.

"Merthyr Express" 8 December 1962

Councillor W.J. Payne, Of Fochriw, Buried At Pentwyn The funeral of Mr. W.J. Payne, J.P., of Glyn Terrace, Fochriw, at Pentwyn Churchyard on Wednesday last, was attended by a large number of people from Fochriw and the surrounding district. There were many of Mr. Payne's Council colleagues and representative from other organisations with which he was connected. Both the local M.P., Mr. Ness Edwards, and the Bishop of Llandaff, expressed their regrets at not being able to attend. Officiating clergy at the service at the church of St. Mary the Virgin, Fochriw, were the Venerable J.G. James, Archdeacon of Llandaff, representing the Bishop; the Rev. E. Sedgemore, Vicar of Fochriw; Rees Emmanuel, Vicar of Bargoed; David Prosser, curate of Caerphilly, representing the Rural Dean, Canon J.O. Williams. Mr. W. Edwards was the organist. The chief mourners were: Rev. J.C. Payne (brother); Messrs. David H. Jones (brother-in-law); Jack, Trevor and Gordon Lawrence; Rev. Vernon Payne, Vicar of Llanharan, and Mervyn (nephews); Messrs. Jack and Trevor Boyns, B.P. Pittaway, J. Lewis, A. Palfrey, A. Morgan, M. Edwards, J.B. Edwards, T. Sullivan, T.M. Mantle, J. Jones, P. Mantle, D.L. Evans, W. Evans and Desmond Kelly (cousins). At the house were: Miss Olive May Payne (daughter); Mesdames Margaret Hannah Jones, Elizabeth Jane Williams, Myfanwy Jones (sisters-in-law); Mesdames May, Elned and Lilian Lawrence, Misses S. Lawrence and Janice Lawrence, Mesdames Kathleen Lewis, Rosie Pittaway, Betty Palfrey, and Miss Carol Lewis (nieces); Medames Esther Sullivan, Lil Edwards, Phyllis Jones and Nellie Edwards (cousins). Bearers from the house to the church were: Messrs. G. Davies, T. Evans, M. Evans, N. Walters, F. Jenkins, B. Davies, G. Davies, A. Palmer, D. Jenkins, W. James, F. Wright and B. Rees; from the church to the churchyard: members of the Glamorgan Constabulary under Chief Inspector Glyn Matthews, Inspectors G. Gilmore and D. Bowne escorted the cortege, along with Sergeants F. Bright, T. Williams, Jing, and P.C.s Evans, Sergeants Watkins, Gwilym and Carey. A large number of representatives from local government, education, local organisations and the Church were present. There were a considerable number of floral tributes. (listed)

The chairman and members of Gellygaer Urban Council paid tribute to Coun. Payne at their meeting on Tuesday. The chairman, Mr. H.L. Roberts, spoke of his sincere and faithful service to the council, and extended his sympathy to Mr. Payne's daughter. Councillors John Davies, William Poyntz, Cledwen Williams, D. Blatchford and Will Jones all paid testimony to Mr. Payne's public service.

"Merthyr Express" 15 December 1962

Our Correspondent The District Correspondent is now Miss E. Fox, 9, Aelybryn, Fochriw.

Placed Second Fochriw Division, St. John Ambulance Brigade, gained second place in an ambulance competition held at Bargoed on Saturday, December 8.

Pantywaun Service The usual monthly service will be held at St. David's Church, Pantywaun, at 3 p.m. on Sunday next. The service will be conducted by the Vicar, Rev. E. Sedgemore,

Fayre St. Mary's Parish Church held their annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday. Miss D.L. Green, B.A., B.Sc., headmistress of Lewis' School, Ystrad Mynach, opened the Fayre. A bouquet was presented by Miss Mary Sedgemore. Stall holders: Mesdames S. Davies, T. Roberts, L.G. Jones, K. Lewis, W.K. Evans, L. Lawrence, E. Llewellyn, N. Bebb, O. Jenkins, M. Lawrence, M. Chapman, E. Thomas, C. Ballard, M.J. Davies, N. Sharpe, T.E. Davies, A. Jones, Misses L. Rees, J. Palmer, J. Bebb, A. Watkins, J. Sedgemore, B. Fox, S. Dummett, C. Evans, J. Lawrence, C. Lewis, J. Chapman. Stewards: Messrs. A. Palmer, B. Rees, P. Jenkins. Father Christmas, Mr. V. Coggan. Organisers of the Fayre were Mrs. Sedgemore, Mrs. L. Lawrence, Mrs. A. Palmer.

“Merthyr Express” 29 December 1962

Bible Society A meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society was held at Nazareth Chapel. Mrs. A.M. Hollifield, secretary of the society, presided.

Sub-Postmaster Mr. Michael Evans, Post Office, Fochriw, has been appointed sub-postmaster at Fochriw, and will commence his duties in the new year.