

Law & Order

**“Merthyr Express” 9 September, 1865**

Pugilistic One of the unhopeful signs of our times - a pugilistic encounter - took place on Vochriw mountain on Monday evening last. Being an improper affair, they managed for some time to elude our vigilant constabulary. We have no doubts the belligerents (whose names are not worth recording) will hear more of this from another quarter.

**“Merthyr Express” 16 February 1867**

The Ring On Monday morning, there was a “mill” for £1 a side, on the mountain at Twynywaun, between Cornelius Crowley, the “Cock of the Walk” of Dowlais, and James McDonald, the “Chinese Bantam” of Merthyr. Both men had undergone the necessary preparatory training for the fight, and bets, to a large extent in half-pence, were made upon the result of the contest, each champion being in almost equal favour with the lovers of this delightful pastime. Great efforts were made to keep the “whereabouts” from the police, but the blue gentry got scent of the little affair, and resolved that it should not be settled without their assistance. The men, however, started early, tended by their seconds, and when a numerous crowd of admirers arrived on the mountain, a ring was formed. The usual preliminaries considerably abbreviated, the champions set to their brutal work. Fourteen rounds had been fought when the police hove in sight, and the champions skidaddled in two directions. Crowley ran to Rhymney whither he was pursued and surrounded opposite the Police Station there. McDonald fled to the Chinese Covers, from which he was brought by the police, soon after the other arrived from Rhymney. Crowley’s eyes were black and swollen, and he had evidently been more severely punished than McDonald. Both men were brought before Mr. Fowler, and bound over to keep the peace for six months.

**“Merthyr Express” 20 February 1869**

The Game of “Cat and Dog” at Merthyr We are glad to observe that Superintendent Thomas has commenced a crusade against the players of the well known game of “cat and dog.” This game, at all times attended with some risk to its players, is particularly dangerous when played in the roads with people passing to and fro. But for some time past, boys have grown so bold that it is common enough to find half a dozen parties of them playing in the middle of the streets. Several serious accidents have resulted from this, and one of the worst features of the game is the large stone from which the game is played. This is placed in the middle of the road, and is a stumbling block to horses, and a source of extreme danger to the occupants of light carriages – the stones being generally large enough to brake the spring of the vehicle, or indeed, if driven at a brisk pace, to upset it altogether. A youth was summoned and fined in the Police Court on Saturday for this offence, and the police will proceed against all offenders until they have driven the “cat and dog” from the streets.

**“Merthyr Express” 4 September 1869**

The Pontlottyn Riot – Two Deaths Two of the persons who were injured in the riots of the 22<sup>nd</sup> August have since died. The first death was that of Andrew Canty, which took place on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Catherine Carrell died on Sunday afternoon. An inquest has been opened and post mortem examinations in each case. The inquest stands adjourned. Five of the supposed ring leaders were apprehended on Monday morning last before the magistrates at Merthyr Police Court on a charge of willful murder.

**“Merthyr Express” 5 March 1870**

Merthyr Police Court: Cat and Dog Thomas McCarthy, Thomas Miskell, Daniel Callaghan, Michael Callaghan and Michael Welsh were summoned for playing the game of “Cat and Dog,” at Pontlottyn, to the danger of the public traffic. P.S. Jenkins proved the charge and described the character of the game. He said that he had received many complaints about it, and cautioned the boys and their parents, but all to no purpose, the boys would persist in playing the game. The boys were cautioned and fined 1 shilling and costs each.

**“Merthyr Express” 19 March 1870**

Merthyr Police Court: Drunk and Riotous David Evans, who appeared in Court with his head bandaged, was summoned for being drunk at Vochriw on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February. P.S.

Jenkins proved the case. Evans was fined 5 shillings and costs, and in default, seven days in gaol.

**"Merthyr Express" 31 August 1872**

Stealing Coal Mary Smith, 19, was charged with stealing coal, weight 30 pounds, the property of the Dowlais Iron Company. P.C. James Davies said he saw prisoner taking coal from the Dowlais Company's railway line at Vochriw on Thursday evening; he followed and took her in charge, when it was found that she had 30lbs. weight, coal that had fallen from the overloaded trucks. Prisoner said she did not know there was any harm in it, and her mother, who was in Court, stated that she rented a cottage from Mr. Dixon, who had given her permission to pick up as much coal as she wanted, for her own use, from the tips. Mr. Jones, cashier of the Dowlais Company, said that Mr. Dixon was merely the contractor for constructing the Great Western Railway extension from Llancaiach to Dowlais, and had no right whatever to give permission to take coal from the Dowlais Company's line. Prisoner was sent for seven days hard labour.

**"Merthyr Express" 21 September 1872**

Merthyr Police Court: The Vochriw Public House Case Mr. de Rutzen, Stipendiary, intimated that having looked carefully through the evidence, he should be prepared, if Mr. Simmons (for the defence) would permit to a conviction, without going further into the case, to deal leniently in the matter. After consulting with his client, Mr. Simmons consented to this course as there were one or two circumstances which were difficult to meet, and there might have been a slight infringement of the law. Defendant was fined 20 shillings and costs.

**"Merthyr Express" 8 May 1875**

Assault by a Pugilist at Vochriw Ivor Lewis, a collier, an individual who under the name of "Ivor Wynne" has attained considerable fame in Rhymney and its neighbourhood as an exponent of the principles of "the manly art of self defence," was summoned by an engine driver named William Morgan of Pontlloyn, for an assault committed on him on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Plews, who appeared for the complainant, said that if his instructions were correct, and he had no reason whatever to doubt them in this instance, a more gross, wanton assault was never committed than on the occasion to which this summons related. The defendant was a bit of a prize fighter, and had exhibited his pugilistic skill for money upon several occasions in the ring. An unwarrantable attack had been made on this occasion on the complainant, who was a very inoffensive man, and he (the learned gentleman) hoped that such justice would be meted out to the assailant in this instance, as would effectually put an end to doings of the sort in future. Complainant, who was then called, stated that on the day in question, he was returning home from his brother's house at Vochriw with a man named Thomas. Defendant and a friend overtook them, and witness knowing that their roads lay together, parted with Thomas, who returned towards Vochriw. After proceeding a short distance, defendant's companion stayed behind for some purpose or another. Defendant thereupon gave witness a push, and upon his remonstrating gave him another, telling him to shut his mouth, or that he (defendant) would shut it for him. Witness asked him his reasons for such conduct, but the words had no sooner escaped him than defendant collared him and beat him in a savage manner about the face and mouth with his fist, blackening both his eyes and loosening all his teeth. Ultimately he let go his hold, and witness fairly exhausted dropped to the ground, where defendant left him and proceeded on his journey with his friend. Witness afterwards went back to Vochriw and showed himself to a police officer. Defendant now endeavoured to show that the attack had been provoked by Morgan, who had collared him and challenged him to a fight. His worship thought the assault was about as savage a one as he had heard of for a long time, and in his opinion the man who committed it was an arrant coward. Fined £5 including costs, and in default of payment committed to Swansea gaol for two calendar months with hard labour.

**"Merthyr Express" 16 February 1867**

Monday morning: prize fight on mountain at Twynywaun - Cornelius Crowley ("Cock of the Walk" of Dowlais) and James McDonald ("Chinese Bantam" of Merthyr) - was dispersed by the police. Both men were brought before Mr Fowler and bound over.

**"Merthyr Express" 27 May 1876**

Assault at Vochrhiw James Morgan, collier, was summoned for having assaulted a lad named William Henry French at Vochrhiw on the 30th.. Mr. Harris appeared for the complainant. The evidence went to show that a quarrel having taken place between the complainant and his brother and the two sons of the defendant, the latter interfered and gave complainant a shove, slapped his face, kicked him on the thigh, and threw stones after him, one of which knocked him down. An old feud was shown to exist between the parties concerning a hen which the defendant had lent the complainants mother. - The Bench, after commenting strongly on the behaviour of both the defendant and the parents of the lad French, imposed a fine of £3 8s. inclusive of costs, with an alternative of a month's imprisonment with hard labour. - Defendant, upon depositing a moiety, was allowed a fortnight to find the remainder.

**"Merthyr Express" 2 September 1876**

Colliers Wives Evading The Payment Of Their Rail Fare Marian Jones, Mary Ann Evans and Eleanor Evans, married women, residing in Vochrhiw, were summoned for having travelled from Vochrhiw to Dowlais without previously paying their rail fare and with intent to avoid the payment thereof. The case was a somewhat peculiar one. It appeared from the evidence of Inspector Richard Matthews, of the Rhymney Railway, who prosecuted, that the Taff Bargoed Line was opened on the 1st of February last. The joint owners (the Rhymney and the Great Western Companies) entered into an agreement with the Dowlais Company to carry their colliers to and from Bedlinog, Vochrhiw and Dowlais at a special rate. Subsequently, the colliers themselves made application to the joint companies to allow their wives to travel the same route at reduced fares on market days. The concession was granted them, the fare being reduced to about one-half. Not satisfied with this, a great many women - as much as forty or fifty at a time - made it a practice of gathering into the carriages which conveyed the colliers in order to escape altogether. On the 19th., Inspectors Matthews, Mends and Pegg went on special duty at Dowlais Station and caught the three defendants. There were several other women in the train, but they escaped. These facts were fully proved, and there was practically no defence to the case. The defendants were each ordered to pay a fine, which with costs, amounted to 15 shillings.

**"Merthyr Express" 9 March 1878**

Merthyr Police Court: Non-Attendance at School Henry Harris, collier, Vochrhiw, was summoned for not causing his son Jacob to attend the Vochrhiw National School with the regularity prescribed by the bye-laws of the Gelligaer School Board, whose attendance officer (Jones) now prosecuted. Defendant's wife appeared. The Bench considered the case to have been very plainly proved and a fine of 5s. including costs was imposed. A week was allowed defendant to find the money.

**"Merthyr Express" 18 May 1878**

Merthyr Police Court: A Boyish Quarrel Llewellyn Evans, collier, was summoned for assaulting George Evans, haulier, at Brithdir Huts on the 3rd inst. The parties, who were mere boys, quarrelled over a game of marbles. In the end, the defendant gave complainant, who had thrown stones at him, a thrashing, which his worship held was serving him right. Summons was dismissed with costs against the complainant.

**"Merthyr Express" 21 December 1878**

Robbery By A Railway Guard James Phillips, a railway guard in the employ of the Brecon and Merthyr Railway, was brought up charged with stealing four bottles of champagne valued at £1 4s., the property of his employers. It appeared from the evidence that a goods' clerk named Gabe, employed at the Dowlais Top station, in examining the contents of a van on the previous Monday found a broken wine case in which were only three instead of its full complement of champagne bottles. The fact having been communicated to Inspector Cunningham at Pant, the latter telegraphed to Mr. Harris, station master at Vochrhiw, to stop the prisoner's train and search his van. Upon this being done, four bottles of champagne were found in a box of which the prisoner had the key. Prisoner admitted to having found them lying about in a van which he had entered by mistake and had taken them. He was handed over to P.C. Evans at Vochrhiw. He now pleaded guilty to the charge and the magistrate passed a sentence of four calendar months' imprisonment with hard labour.

### **“Merthyr Express” 7 June 1869**

Merthyr Police Court: A School Board Case Henry Harris, collier, Vochriw, was summoned by Mr. J. Jones, attendance officer to the Gellygaer School Board, for not sending his child to school regularly. The regulation fine of five shillings including the costs was imposed.

### **“Merthyr Express” 8 November 1879**

Merthyr Police Court: Coal Stealing at Vochriw Samuel Davies, a stoker, a respectably dressed young fellow, was summoned for stealing 112 lbs. of coal from the landing of No. 2 Pit Vochriw on the 25<sup>th</sup>. P.C. Evans, who is stationed up there, said that he witnessed the theft at about 3 o'clock in the morning. The defendant pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to five days imprisonment with hard labour. Monday - Before J. Bishop, Esq..

### **“Merthyr Express” 7 February 1880**

Merthyr Police Court: Drunkards Morgan Pritchard, Richard Couch, John Jones and Thomas Giles, all young colliers from Vochriw, were summoned for having been drunk and riotous at the place on the 19<sup>th</sup> January. Shortly before 10 o'clock, P.C. Jenkins saw the defendants, who were drunk, fighting in Vochriw. Fined 5s. and costs.

A Vochriw Affiliation Case Evan Evans collier, again appeared in answer to a summons alleging that he was the father of an illegitimate child of a girl named Margaret Thomas also of Vochriw. The case had been adjourned so that the girl could call witnesses to corroborate her statement. Two young men were called and gave the required testimony. The child was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> November, and died on the 18<sup>th</sup> January. The Stipendiary made an order on the defendant to pay 2s. 6d. per week for the eight weeks that the child lived, £1-5-0 for the midwife, and £1-5-0 for the funeral, and costs.

### **“Merthyr Express” 1 May 1880**

Assault at Vochriw Ann French, married, was summoned for assaulting Gwen Griffiths, a married woman, residing at Vochriw, on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst.. Mr. Plews defended. The learned gentleman's client was proved to have given complainant three blows, the last of which knocked her down. The recipient of the blow was insensible for fully one hour afterwards. Defendant was fined £1 3s. 6d., inclusive of costs, with the alternative of 14 days imprisonment with hard labour. The parties reside within half a dozen doors of each other at Martin-street.

A School Board Case The summons against Alfred Small, collier, Vochriw, taken out by Attendance Officer Jones for a breach of the bye-laws of the Gelligaer School Board was adjourned for one month, defendant alleging that his child was prevented from going to school because of a rather bad cutaneous eruption from which she had been suffering for some time.

### **“Merthyr Express” 5 June 1880**

Coal Stealing at Vochriw Mary Ann Griffiths, aged 12, was summonsed by P.C. Evans for stealing 25lbs. of coal, the property of the Dowlais Iron Company, from one of the Vochriw sidings, on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. She was fined 2s. 6d inclusive of costs.

### **“Merthyr Express” 12 February 1881**

Merthyr Police Court: Maintenance Order The Stipendiary today gave judgement in the case of the Guardians v. Evan Davies, colliery overman, Vochriw, who was summoned to show cause why he should not be ordered to contribute towards the maintenance of his four grand-children who were chargeable on the union. The matter was adjourned from the previous Monday for consideration of the point raised by Mr. Plews, viz. that defendant's indebtedness made it impossible for him to pay, notwithstanding the fact that he was in receipt of good wages. His worship pronounced in favour of the guardians, and made an order for 1s. 6d. per week with the costs.

### **“Merthyr Express” 28 May 1881**

Alleged Criminal Assault at Vochriw Robert Scattergood, haulier, David Parry, engine driver, and William Morgan, railway porter, three individuals of youthful and respectable appearance, were brought up charged with feloniously assaulting Sophia Davies, a single woman, residing at Vochriw. The confused evidence supplied by Miss Davies, and the evidence of Dr. Jent Jones, resulted in the discharge of the prisoners.

### **“Merthyr Express” 18 March 1882**

Supposed Case of Infanticide On Saturday the 4th., the body of a newly-born infant was discovered in the privy at the rear of some dwelling houses in Vochriw. From closer examination it appeared to be that of a fully developed female child. A young woman, residing with her parents, was arrested by P.C. Hunt on suspicion of being the mother. The officer took the body from the privy at the instance of a labouring man, who was involved in cleaning it out. On the Tuesday following, an inquest was held at the White Horse Inn, Vochriw, before Mr. T. Williams, deputy-coroner, and a respectable jury, of which Rev. Jones-Evans was foreman. After the evidence of two witnesses who discovered the body, and also that of the policeman, the medical evidence was gone into. Mr. D. Kent Jones, surgeon, told that he was called by P.C. Hunt to examine the child, and he described its appearance etc.. Mr Cresswell, surgeon, Dowlais, said he had made a post mortem examination that day (Tuesday), and came to the conclusion that the child had breathed, but for how long he was not able to say. The inquest was adjourned for a fortnight to enable the supposed mother to attend.

### **“Merthyr Express” 8 April 1882**

Concealment of Birth at Vochriw Fanny Garbett, 22, single, a respectably-dressed, rather delicate looking young woman, was brought up charged with having attempted to conceal the birth of her child. Mr D. Rees Lewis appeared to prosecute, and called the first witness, Mary Kinsey, the wife of a collier, residing at 3, David’s Row, Vochriw. She stated that in a closet at the back of her house, which was used in common by her family and that living next door, she saw on the morning of the 4th., the dead body of a child under the seat, upon which there was some blood. Thomas Davies, haulier, who lodged with Mary Kinsey, said that about half an hour before Mrs. Kinsey made the discovery, he cleaned the closet out. There was nothing unusual about the place then. After being told of her discovery by Mrs. Kinsey, he went to the closet and saw the body. It was removed in his presence by P.C. Hunt. P.C. Hunt (Cwmfelin) said the child was naked, with the afterbirth attached. He directed some women to sever the umbilical cord, after which he showed the body to Dr Kent Jones.

The Stipendary: In future you had better not interfere with the natural appearance of anything which may come under your notice, unless the act should be necessary for the saving of life, which was not the case here.

Elizabeth Ann Hawke, a young woman who had worked with the prisoner at the Bargoed Coke Ovens, said that she had repeatedly said to the prisoner that she was pregnant prior to the finding of the child. Despite the fact that appearances were against her, she had persistently denied being pregnant. Amelia Garbett, 4 Davies’s-row, Vochriw, the prisoner’s step-mother, gave similar evidence. After the finding of the body, a conversation about the birth took place between her and her step-daughter, but her step-daughter denied all knowledge of it. The witness noticed nothing in her appearance immediately after the event different to that which she had presented immediately before. She complained of a cough in the night, and the witness thinking she had had but little rest, told her to stay at home from work the next morning.

Dr. Kent Jones, surgeon, Vochriw, who was next sworn, said that the body shown him by the police was that of a fully-developed, newly-born female infant. Dr. Kent Jones could not say positively whether it had been born alive or dead. There were certain marks observable on the body; the right side of the head and the right leg and arm were flattened, but these might well have been the result of severe labour or the lying of the body in a particular position after death. The umbilical cord had been cut, but not in the way it would have been in the case of a proper delivery. On the afternoon of the day upon which the child was born, the witness examined the prisoner and found that she had been recently delivered - within 18 hours or less.

P.C. Evans said that he saw the prisoner at her house shortly after finding the child. She denied all knowledge of the affair. On the following Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup>., the witness visited her bedside and heard a conversation going on between her and her stepmother, in the course of which the young woman admitted having given birth to the child and finding it dead, she watched her chance, and whilst Mrs. Garbett was out shopping, took the body out in the slop

bucket to the closet at the back. P.C. Hunt then began to search the house for baby linen, but stopped when told that the prisoner had made no preparation of the kind.

This was all the evidence, and the Bench at once committed the accused for trial at the next assizes. The prosecutor did not object to bail. The magistrate said that he felt it would be better for the young woman to remain in custody. She would have to go to prison, where she would be well cared for, pending her trial at the next assizes which would take place in a fortnight or three weeks at the latest. This would be far preferable to a long wait which would be the result if the accused was released on bail. The accused who had remained silent and tolerably composed throughout the hearing, began to shed tears when told she must go to prison.

**“Merthyr Express” 23 February 1884**

Gelligaer School Board: Non-attendance at Vochriw The attendance officer brought four cases of non-attendance at the Schools. The parents appeared before the Board, and in one, the officer was ordered to issue a summons against the parents.

**“Merthyr Express” 2 February 1889**

Ten shillings reward, with reasonable expenses: lost, two pony mares, one elderly, black; the other red, rising 4 years, with black legs. Apply John Jones, 31 Guest-street, Fochriw.

**“Merthyr Express” 7 February 1891**

Alleged Attempt to Commit a Rape upon Two Girls on the Rhymney Mountain John Williams, a rough looking customer, was charged with attempting to commit a rape upon Eliza Ann James and Mary Lewis on the Vochriw road on Monday last. Eliza Ann James, 4, Railway-terrace, said she was a single woman. About 5.45 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February, she was going along the road to Vochriw. When she was about sixty yards away from the gate, the prisoner came behind her, caught her round the throat, and pulled her down on his knees. He then meddled with her clothes, and said, “You mustn’t go any further tonight; you must stay here with me.” She saw a man coming and struggled with the prisoner. She got away and ran to the man who was approaching. The man was Mr. Tozer, the postmaster at Pontlloftyn. Mr. Tozer spoke to the man and was cheeked by him. Mr. Tozer said that the girl who rushed up to him said “Save me from this man.” She was in an exhausted state. The prisoner then came up, and he (witness) asked him why he had insulted the girl on the road, and he replied that he hadn’t. When the trap approached, the prisoner ran away. Mary Lewis, 24, Market-street, Vochriw, said that as she was going home at 6 o’clock on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, the prisoner, who pretended to be drunk, passed her. He then turned around and caught her by the waist, saying “Oh my little love.” Two men then approached and the prisoner ran away. Mr. North said that it was abominable that two modest girls could not walk along a mountain road without being molested by a scoundrel like the prisoner. Williams was sentenced to three months imprisonment for each offence, the sentences to run consecutively.

**“Merthyr Express” 3 October 1891**

Forthcoming Plebiscite (Under Pontlloftyn) The committee for carrying out the plebiscite of the people of this locality upon the local option and prohibition clauses in the licensing question, met at Nazareth Chapel on Thursday night, when it was decided to enlist the services of some of the leading temperance men in every congregation to explain the motive. This having been done, the papers will be distributed on Monday next, and collected on the following Friday. It is specially requested that every householder should vote one way or the other.

**“Merthyr Express” 31 December 1892**

Concealment of Birth A lad named Pritchard, whilst playing on the banks of the stream past the corner of Brook-row, Vochriw, discovered the body of a male child lying among some stones. The body was removed to the surgery by Dr. E. Davies who pronounced it to be the body of a premature child. P.S. James and P. C. Williams have the case in hand.

**“Merthyr Express” 22 June 1901**

Alleged Outrage on a Girl at Fochriw Richard Hill, Troedyrhiw, was committed for trial at the Assizes on a charge of outraging Annie Powell, aged 16, living at 15, Guest-street, Fochriw on Sunday afternoon.

**“Merthyr Express” 22 August 1903**

Alleged Wounding at Vochriw William Williams was charged with unlawfully wounding Thomas Thomas, and his wife, Miriam Thomas, at Fochriw. Miriam Thomas, whose head was bandaged, said she lived at 6, Martin's-row, Fochriw. The prisoner had lodged with her, and on Saturday night last he came home at 11:30p.m. the worse for drink, and began finding fault. He said he would kill her and her husband, and he struck her across the head with a poker. The prisoner struck her husband three times on the head, and several times on the shoulder with the same poker. Thomas Thomas, whose head was also bandaged, said he heard a noise downstairs. On going down, he saw the prisoner swearing at his wife. He told him to stop it, eat his supper, and go to bed. Prisoners struck him on the nose, which was marked, and in the chest, and he fell. He was then struck on the shoulder by Williams with the poker, and he said he would kill all of them. He then struck Mrs. Thomas on the forehead with the poker, turned around and dealt him another blow on the head with the poker. The police then came on the scene. P.C. Williams said he heard the noise proceeding in a house, and he saw the prosecutor, and his wife, bleeding from the head. The prisoner was sitting down by the fireside. The woman's head had a wound which was exposed to the bone, and he sent for the doctor, and in the meantime stopped the bleeding. The prisoners said he struck the blows in self-defence. He said the man and wife struck him to the floor, and when he got up, he caught up the poker to defend himself. He also said they had quarrelled during the day. He asked for some powder to kill insects which he found in his bed, and it was not obtained. Dr. Davies said he was sent for, and examined and attended to the wounds. These could have been caused by the poker produced, and the wound on the nose by a blow from the fist. The prisoner was committed for trial. He said he struck the women by accident, and he struck the man in self-defence.

**“Merthyr Express” 29 August 1903**

Drunk on Top of Vochriw Pit David Davies, night labourer, was summoned for being in a state of intoxication at No. 2 Pit, Fochriw, on 31<sup>st</sup> July. Lewis Williams, banksman at No. 2 Pit, said the defendant came to the top of the pit "in beer" and wanted to be let down. Witness refused to let him pass, and the defendant interfered with him and wanted to fight, and he was obliged to stop the winding. P.C. Henry Williams said he was called to the top of the pit, and saw the defendant drunk, and cursing and swearing at the banksman. Defendant said he had only drunk 10 pints that day, and he could not be drunk on that (laughter). He had to escort defendant a mile away from the pit. Defendant was fined 20 shillings and costs.

**“Merthyr Express” 5 December 1903**

Permitting Drunkenness Thomas Llewellyn, grocer, Fochriw, the landlord of the Penybanc Inn, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his premises on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, and Richard Evans was summoned for being the drunk person referred to. Evans denied being drunk, but said his foot struck a stone and he fell. He was fined 10 shillings and costs. Mr. W. W. Meredith, defending the landlord, contended that his client had done all he could to keep the house properly. Half-an-hour before the police entered the house, the landlady told Evans to go home, as she thought he had had sufficient to drink. Evans left the bar, and wished Mrs. Llewellyn good night, but instead of going out, he went to the tap room, and watched three men playing a game. He was there when the police entered the house. Mrs. Llewellyn testifies to this being correct. Cards, rings, and dominoes had been stopped since she entered the house a few weeks ago, and this had been done at the suggestion of the police officer. John Morgan said he saw the defendant leave the bar when Mrs. Llewellyn told him to do so. Daniel Evans, John Price, and Richard Evans also gave evidence. The Bench considered the case proved, and fined the defendant £10 and costs. The Stipendiary said he would never have knowingly granted a licence to a man who was not always upon the premises.

**“Merthyr Express” 6 February 1904**

Unhappy Home at Fochriw Daniel Sullivan, collier, was summoned for deserting his wife, Elizabeth, after eight years of married life. The complainant said that the defendant left her at Christmas. He had abused her very much. Inspector Rogers, N.S.P.C.C., said

he had been to her house on Boxing Day. He said that she had no food, let alone drink. Since 28<sup>th</sup> December, her husband had lived in his mother's house; he had given her a little money every week, but not enough. Defendant said he earned 35 shillings a week, but his wife said that he earned £3 odd. Defendant was ordered to pay his wife 10 shillings a week and costs. The Bench advised the parties to make up their quarrels.

**“Merthyr Express” 31 December 1904**

Collier's Cardiff Holidays John Edwards, aged 24, a Fochriw collier, was charged at Cardiff on Thursday with being disorderly in St. Mary Street, and with assaulting P.C. Thomas Simmonds and P.C. Victor Chapple while in the execution of their duty. According to their evidence, the prisoner was turned out of the Royal Oak Hotel, and in his resentment issued the usual challenge to fight the world. Edwards, whose memory was a complete blank as regards the incident, was fined five shillings and costs, with the alternative of seven days imprisonment on each charge.

**“Merthyr Express” 10 June 1905**

Paternity Summons Daniel Davies of Fochriw was summoned by Lucy Jenkins, single woman, living at Gelligaer. Complainant said she had kept company with the defendant for nine years. At first she was a servant at a farm, and afterwards at Pantyfyon near Trelewis. She then went into service at Fochriw Farm, and later at the Penybanc Hotel. Her sister, Sarah Thomas, was in service at Bryntirion House, Fochriw. After hearing the evidence, the Bench considered the case proved and ordered the defendant to pay 3s 6d per week and costs.

**“Merthyr Express” 21 October 1905**

A Row at Vochriw Mary Thomas, Gwenllian Thomas, and Mary E. Thomas, mother and two daughters, were summoned for assaulting Sophia Whitby of Guest-street, Fochriw. Mr. F. P. Charles for the complainant, said that on Tuesday the defendant's little boy called Mrs. Whitby names. She asked Mrs. Thomas if she could prove what he had said, and when replied by giving her “one” under the chin, and the mother and two daughters then beat her. Daniel Evans came up, but the defendants came on after that, pulled her hair and knocked her about. She fainted away, and did not remember any more of the row. Mrs. Thomas (holding up a little boy): This is the beginning of the row sir. (laughter) She said that the complainant beat her boy, and when her daughters interfered she “struck ‘em awful,” and said she would beat the child again. Daniel Evans, aged 14, of Guest-street, said he heard the row. The boy was there, but the complainant did not strike him. Mrs. Thomas's boy called Mrs. Whitby some awful names, and he saw the blow given under the chin. Then the daughters set upon her, and he went to the complainant's help. They again attacked the complainant, jumping at her when he was trying to defend her. Mrs. Whitby fainted. She did not do anything to the defendants. The eldest daughter said the complainant “dragged her hair to pieces.” Annie Thomas said she heard the little boy using bad language, and then she heard his mother using similar expressions to Mrs. Whitby. She saw the attack on the complainant as had been described. Edith Lewis corroborated. Mrs. Thomas: I did not see her. Stipendiary: No, you were too busily engaged, you know (laughter). For the defence, Edward Thomas, a youth, said that the daughters prevented Mrs. Whitby from striking Mrs. Thomas. Jame May deposed that the complainant first struck the daughter, when the other two tried to stop her. There was then a lot of hair pulling. Mrs Thomas was fined 20 shillings and costs, and each of her daughters 10 shillings and costs.

**“Merthyr Express” 14 April 1906**

Unjust and Unstamped Weights and Measures at Fochriw Aneuryn Jones, Royal Stores, Fochriw, was summoned for having in his possession a weight which was unjust, and which was also unstamped. Inspector Wilson, Glamorgan County Council, said he visited the defendant's grocer's shop, and found there an unstamped seven pound weight, which was eight and a quarter ounces deficient. Defendant said he only used the weight to keep open a door. The Stipendiary said “That is what they always say.” Inspector Wilson said the weight was near the scale. Defendant was fined £3 and costs, and 10 shillings and costs, respectively.



John Angel, grocer, Guest-street, Fochriw, was summoned for having an unstamped weight. The weight was however accurate. Mrs. Angel said that her husband had only recently bought the weights, and had not examined them. A fine of 10 shillings and costs was imposed.

Whilst Inspector Wilson was in the Fochriw district, a horse and cart belonging to Thomas Jarman, High-street, Dowlais, came along, and the officer did not allow it to pass. He found two weights which were unjust and which were also unstamped. One weight was five drams and the other four drams deficient. Defendant was fined 10 shillings and costs, and 30 shillings and costs, respectively.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 22 September 1906**

False Pretences: Photographic Subscriptions Frederick George Hardy, 35, School-street, Tirphil, was charged with obtaining one shilling by false pretences from Elizabeth Jones, wife of the landlord of the Mount Pleasant Inn, Fochriw, and two shillings and sixpence by false pretences from Mary Ann Kinsey, a servant at the Inn. Mr. F. P. Charles prosecuted, and he outlined the facts of the case in considerable detail.

Elizabeth Jones said she arranged with Messrs. Taylor for a photograph of herself to be taken from a group, and she was handed the book produced. The collector called fortnightly for subscriptions, and when she paid he placed on the book the receipts appearing there. In the early part of July, the prisoner came to the house and said he represented Messrs Taylor, and she gave him her book with a shilling, for which he gave a receipt on the book in pencil. He called again on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, when she paid him another shilling, for which he gave the pencilled receipt.

Mary Ann Kinsey said she saw the prisoner at the Inn on a 23<sup>rd</sup> July, and he said he represented Messrs. Taylor and she arranged with him to have an enlargement of a photograph of her mother, the price to be 12s. 6d. She paid him 2s. 6d. and he gave her a receipt. He called on the 28<sup>th</sup> July and she paid him another 2s. 6d., for which he gave a receipt. She then asked him for one of Messrs. Taylor's cards and he said they were not giving a card for such a small amount of money. On the 4<sup>th</sup> August she paid a similar amount again, and when she asked about the picture he said the agents had been on holiday and it hadn't been done, but she would have it the following Saturday. The following Thursday, one of the accredited representatives of Messrs. Taylor called, and from what he told her she sent for Police Sergeant Williams when the prisoner came next. Andrew Lawrence, manager of Messrs. Taylor's Cardiff branch, said that three years ago the prisoner was in their employ for about a month as canvassing agent in the Rhondda valley. He applied for another agency about the beginning of the year, but the appointment was bluntly refused. He had no authority to act on their behalf during July or August last, and he had not accounted to the firm for any money received from Mrs. Jones or Miss Kinsey.

P.S. Williams said that on the 18<sup>th</sup> August he was sent for, and came to the Mount Pleasant Inn, and in his presence, Mrs. Jones and Miss Kinsey said that they had paid money on the representation that he was a collector for Messrs. Taylor. He asked the collector if this was so, and after a little hesitation Hardy replied "I was once, but I am not now." In reply to further questions, he said he left Messrs. Taylor's services about six weeks before, and was then travelling for Mr. John Harris of Aberdare, to whom he had given the photograph received from Miss Kinsey, as he new that Mr. Harris could do it just as well. This he is in the course of doing now, and it would have been done but for the holidays. The prisoner told witness that he was willing to refund the two shillings to Mrs. Jones. After communicating with Messrs. Taylor, he arrested the prisoner on a warrant. On searching him at the police station, he found upon him other papers, the receipts showing that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July he received money on behalf of the Modern Art Company, Tredegar, and a book showing that he was then representing Mr. William E. Smith of Cardiff. The prisoner pleaded guilty to both charges and he was committed for two months with hard labour.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 18 May 1907**

Workmen's Trains: Are The Company Liable for Accidents? Is a Company liable under the Act if a man meets with an accident whilst travelling on a workmen's train? Thomas Lewis, a collier at No. 2 Pit, Fochriw, who resides at Caeharris, Dowlais, claimed compensation from Messrs. Guest, Keen, and Nettlefolds, Ltd, in respect of an accident. Mr. Hill Kelly was for

the applicant; Mr. Ivor Bowen for the respondents. Mr Kelly said that on the 1<sup>st</sup> January, Lewis was carried to Fochriw in the collier's train. There was no platform on which to alight; Lewis slipped on the step of the train, and injured his leg, and was away from work for seven weeks. He understood found that the defence raised was that the accident did not arise "out of and in the course of his employment." Mr. Ivor Bowen said Lewis did not pay for the use of the train; he lived at Caeharris, which was four miles away from the pit, and he was not under contract with his employers to travel by that train.

Thomas Lewis, the applicant told His Honour that the workmen's train took the men to the pits in the morning and brought them back at night; the respondents supplied the coaches and the Rhymney Railway Company supplied the engine. The colliers train had run to his knowledge ever since he was a boy, and years before that. Only workmen were allowed to travel on those trains, and so far as he knew they paid nothing.

Mr. Ivor Bowen to Thomas Lewis: Is there any kind of agreement at all between you and the Company that they should provide this train for you except for the purpose of convenience?

Witness: I don't know of any agreement myself, unless our fathers had it. He added that a similar train runs from Pantywaun, and also from Cwm Bargoed. Mr. Kelly said that the men were under an agreement which was common throughout the coalfield. Mr. Bowen re-asserted that Lewis had said that there was no agreement between himself and the Company to carry him; in other words, he was not bound to go by train, and the Company was not bound to carry him. It would, no doubt, lead to trouble in the pit if the men were not taken to the colliery, but there was no legal obligation or duty to carry them.

His Honour thought there was an implied agreement on the part of the company. The question was, was it understood by both parties that the train was to be supplied? I am of the opinion that there is an obligation where the thing has been done for all those years - that there is an implied obligation.

After further argument, His Honour said he would look through the cases quoted by counsel, and give judgement on Friday.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 25 May 1907**

Workmen's Trains: Are Employers Laible for Accidents? Judgement for Applicant On Friday, His Honour gave judgement in the case of Thomas Lewis versus Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd. His honour said it seemed that there was nothing like a sufficient number of houses at Fochriw for all the workmen, and consequently the company had, for a number of years, run workmen's trains to the Fochriw Pits. The accident occurred at the colliery end of the journey. The defence was that the accident did not arise out of and in the course of the applicants employment, and the respondents relied strongly upon the case of Davies and the Rhymney Iron Company. In that case, the collier was going home in the workmen's train, and it was when alighting at the home end of the journey, three-quarters of a mile away from the pit, that the accident happened. His Honour also cited the other cases referred to - Holmes and the Great Northern Railway Company, Sharp versus Johnson & Co. Ltd., and said that in his view, this case depended entirely upon where the employment commenced - when they got into the train, or when they got to the pits mouth. He came to the conclusion that there was an implied term of contract that the workmen's trains were to be provided to take the men to Fochriw, and therefore, that the accident arose out of and in the course of the man's employment. He gave judgement for the applicant, with costs of Scale B.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 28 September 1907**

Boys who Damaged Bridge Parapets Named The names of some young boys at Fochriw who damaged the parapets of the bridge on the road leading to Pontlottyn, were given by the surveyor as follows: Ivor Prosser, 25, Aelybryn; Joseph Evans, 2, Martins-row; John Lewis, 4, Aelybryn. It was decided that the clerk communicate with their parents.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 9 November 1907**

Robbery on Vochriw Mountain On Wednesday evening, shortly after 6 o'clock, Annie Jane Davies, aged 15 years, a domestic servant at the Rising Sun, Fochriw, was robbed when on her way to Pontlottyn. She had been a servant at the Rising Sun, and had terminated her service on Wednesday, intending to go to assist a relation who was ill at Fleur-de-lis. She had placed her purse, containing 15 shillings, in her stockings, and retained half -a-crown in order

to pay her train fare from Pontlottyn to Pengam. When near the spot where the Cwmbargoed and Fochriw roads meet, she was accosted by a man, who stopped her and asked, "Have you any ---- money?" She made no reply, and he searched her pockets, and took the half crown. He then ran across the mountains towards Rhymney. She went to Pontlottyn and informed her relatives, Mr. and Mrs. David Davies, Dyffryn-street. Mr. Davies went to the mountain immediately in order to find some trace of the assailant. Unfortunately, the girl can give no description of the thief. The matter was reported to Police Sergeant Gammon but, in the circumstances, the thief's identity will be a difficult task to solve. The young girl has now proceeded to Pengam after spending the night at Duffryn-street.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 7 December 1907**

Summons: Haulier in Trouble David Parry was fined five shillings and costs for leaving a horse and cart unattended at Fochriw.

**4 April 1908** New Magistrate The list of names of gentleman added to the Commission of the Peace for Glamorgan was issued last weekend. It included Dr. Eleazer Davies, Ivor House, Fochriw. Dr. Davies is a very popular gentlemen in the district. It is assumed that he will sit at Hengoed, and so augment the short list of justices there.

**9 May 1908** Daring Burglary at Fochriw Post Office In the early hours of Friday morning, the Fochriw Post Office was broken into, and coppers and other small coins, amounting in all to about 20 shillings, were taken; also a number of postage stamps. The pantry window facing the main road was the means of access. The catch was forced completely off, and thrown away, whilst some books on the window ledge were cast outside. The glass-panelled door separating the office from the house was carefully closed. Naturally, the cash-draw was the object of attention. This was smashed, and the contents taken. Luckily, Mr. Aneurin Jones, postmaster, had, before retiring, placed all the gold, money orders, valuables, etc., in the safe. The occupants of the Post Office did not go to bed until one o'clock, and then everything seemed to be quiet. Mr. Aneurin Jones (senior), father of the postmaster, aroused the household when he discovered the break-in, whilst on his way to work in the morning. Police Sergeant Gammon, Pontlottyn, and Acting-Sergeant Stead, Deri, were soon on the scene, and arrests were made by P.S. Nicholls and P.C. Williams at Bargoed on Sunday.

#### **"Merthyr Express 20 February 1909**

From Fochriw to Merthyr: A Dear Outing Nellie Ford and William Lewis were charged with committing a robbery with violence on Saturday night. John Hughes of Fochriw said he came to Dowlais to draw his "pay" and afterwards came down to Merthyr. He went to Ynysgau and met the female prisoner and they went down the canal bank. The female prisoner took his purse from his pocket and took a sovereign from it. The male prisoner came up and struck witness blows on the mouth and eye. He knew the prisoner because he had "club feet." John Roberts of Fochriw said he accompanied the last witness to Merthyr and to the Patriot Inn. They afterwards went to the old works at Ynysfach. He did not see the alleged robbery. The woman denied the theft. She was discharged. Lewis was then charged with assaulting Hughes. He was sent to prison for two months.

**17 April 1909** Burglary On Good Friday morning, between one o'clock and four o'clock, a burglary was committed on the premises of Mr. George Phillips, grocer. The burglars gained entry through a window. They proceeded to the shop, where they wrenched open the cash drawer in the counter, taking three shillings in silver and about two shillings in coppers. Evidently they were disturbed, for a few coppers were left behind in the drawer.

**2 October 1909** Sunday Trading A correspondent writes: "Sunday trading at Fochriw is increasing rapidly at present. It is generally admitted that the Sabbath ought to be kept as a day of rest, to better the highest faculties of every human being. A few years ago, no one thought of opening his shop on Sunday. There was a deep awe and reverence on every hand towards the sanctity of the Sabbath. It was a pleasure for anybody to spend a quiet day amongst the inhabitants of the place. Today, things have altered for the worse. There are no less than three shops open on the Lord's Day. It is quite natural for us to ask the question what is the cause of this desecration of the Sabbath? There is no doubt that these tradespeople are to be blamed: but, on the other hand, the greatest part of the blame is attached to a section of the inhabitants. Careless and indolent parents are slack enough to supply their

children with coppers, and even encourage them to support Sunday trading, which is very damaging to the spirit of the young. This evil has reached such dimensions that something must be done to check it. If it is allowed to continue, the rising generation will be ruined. Every denomination in the place ought to unite against it."

**18 December 1909** Dear Coal Joseph Williams, Fochriw, was charged at Merthyr last Friday, with stealing coal, value 2d., the property of Messrs G.K.N. Ltd., and was fined 10 shillings.

**29 January 1910** Theft of a Sovereign William John Griffiths, of Fochriw, was charged at Merthyr on Tuesday with stealing a sovereign from the Canford Inn, Dowlais, the property of James Stevens. Mrs. Stevens said she went to the house with her husband, and had a drink. Prisoner was there. She took a shilling out of her purse to pay for the refreshments, and later on, when she left the house, she missed her purse, which contained a sovereign and other money. She returned to the house, and the landlord handed her the purse. The sovereign had been taken out. Prisoner said he picked up the purse, and handed it to the landlord. He denied taking anything from it. John Evans, a labourer of Castle-street, said he saw the prisoner pick up the purse. The landlord said the prisoner handed in the purse, and another person said he saw the prisoner open the purse before he handed it over. Police Sergeant Isaac Jones said he arrested the defendant, who denied the charge. The sovereign was found in his pocket, however, and he was sent to prison for a month.

**26 February 1910** Personal I, James Way, of 21, Aelybryn, Fochriw, hereby give notice that I will not be responsible for any debts contracted by my wife, Clara Way, after this date. Witness, Samuel Way, 2, Aelybryn, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. 1910.

**"Merthyr Express" 26 March 1910**

A Nuisance Joseph Thomas, for committing a nuisance at Pontlottyn Railway Station, was fined 20s. and costs.

**26 March 1910** Transfer of Licences: Penybank Inn and Bargoed Inn The licence of the Penybank Inn was transferred from Chas. Samuel to Thomas Rosser, and that of the Bargoed Inn, Fochriw, to Henry Evans.

**"Merthyr Express" 6 August 1910**

Fell Off The Horse Whilst Drunk Watkin Jones was fined 10 shillings and costs at the Merthyr on Friday. Defendant was in charge of a horse and fell off whilst drunk. He was taken to the Pontlottyn Police Station.

**6 August 1910** Women's Quarrels At Merthyr Police Court, on Friday, Mary Walters, Margaret Jones and Eliza Lloyd of Penybank, were summoned for using bad language towards Lydia Walters, and there were cross-summmons. The parties handed to the bench written specimens of the words used. Police Constable Stead said that some of the parties came from Lancashire, and could not get on with the Welsh people. The defendants were always quarrelling. The parties were bound over to keep the peace. An assault summons was dismissed.

**5 August 1911** Land Dispute at Fochriw At Glamorgan Assizes last Friday, Mr. Dd. Thomas claimed possession of a piece of land which, with other land and a dwelling house, No. 8, Williams-row, Fochriw, had, he alleged, been demised to him by a lease for 99 years, dated 1897, and which land on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July was, he alleged, taken possession of unlawfully by the defendants, John Benjamin Lewis and Mary Lewis, his wife. Mr. R. Vaughan Williams appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Ivor Brown for the defendant, and Mr. Lincoln Reed for a third party, Mrs. Cecilia Davies. His Lordship, after hearing the legal argument, reserved judgment till Saturday, when his Lordship awarded the plaintiff half the land, and the defendant the other half.

**10 August 1912** Merthyr Crown Court On Friday, Margaret Davies, milk vendor, Fochriw, was summoned for selling milk to Sergt. Nicholas which was found to be 6% deficient in butter fat upon analysis. Mr. F. P. Charles, who defended, said that the milk was sold as it came from the cow. The case was dismissed on payment of costs.

**31 August 1912** Half-Holiday The Gellygaer Council has decided to make orders fixing Thursday, at 1 p.m., as the half-holiday for grocers, drapers, boot and shoe dealers, hairdressers, ironmongers and china dealers.

**23 November 1912** Red lights Red lights or reflectors at the back of vehicles have been made compulsory by a new bye-law.

**4 October 1913** Inquest On Tuesday week, Mr. R. J. Rhys, district coroner, held an inquest at the Rising Sun Inn, concerning the death of Clifford Pugh, the six and a half months old child of Blodwen Pugh, Chapel Row, Penybank, who was found dead in bed. The jury, of which Mr. Charles Payne was foreman, after hearing the evidence of the mother, returned a verdict of 'Death from Natural Causes.'

**20 June 1914** Summons John Martin, Fochriw, was summoned for assaulting Edward Davies. Complainant admitted he was drunk at the time, and the case was dismissed.

**7 November 1914** Drunkenness There were several cases of Sunday drunkenness at Fochriw, and this caused the Deputy Stipendiary to ask "What celebrations were on at Fochriw that Sunday?" Inspector Nicholl replied - "They had come for the club sir." The drunks were fined 10 shillings and costs.

**12 December 1914** A Mother at Sixteen Sidney Evans, Penybank, was summoned at the instance of the Merthyr Board of Guardians, acting on behalf of Jane Griffiths, single woman, whose 16th birthday was in September, to show cause etc.. Mr. Pullibank appeared for the Board. Inspector Lamb said that when he served the summons, the defendant admitted the paternity. Mr. Pullibank told the court that the defendant was only 17 years of age. An order was made for 3s. 6d. per week.

**24 April 1915** Fochriw Soldier's Child: Why A Girl Refused to Marry David Lewis of Fochriw, now a private in the Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry, was summoned by Mary Alice Davies. The Magistrate's Clerk had received a letter from the defendant admitting that he was the father of the child, and added that he had offered to marry the girl. She had refused. The Stipendiary asked the girl "Is this true?" "Yes sir," she replied, "I have already gone through my shame." Stipendiary: "You might have got rid of your shame by marrying him. It is senseless for a woman to refuse to marry the father of her child." However, an order for three shillings and sixpence per week was made.

**26 June 1915** Summons William Price, White Horse Inn, Fochriw, was summoned for keeping his house open for the sale of liquor contrary to the closing order made under the Temporary Restriction Act. The following were summoned for aiding and abetting by being on the premises: Henry Jones, Bert Evans, Thomas Pugh, John Davies, Rees Jones, and Charles Edwards. The defendant was fined £3, and the others £1.

**28 August 1915** Drunkenness John Hughes was fined 9s., or 10 days imprisonment, for being drunk at Fochriw.

**16 October 1915** Drunkenness Evan Jones of Fochriw was summoned for being drunk in Brook-row and was fined 9s. or seven days in prison.

**16 October 1915** Travelling Without Paying David Lewis, Fochriw, was summoned for travelling on the Brecon and Merthyr Railway without paying his fare on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September. William Lewis, station master at Fochriw, said the defendant did not pass through the gate after leaving the train, but went up the line. Defendant: "I was drunk." Stipendiary: "If you work a day for somebody and were not paid for it, you would think your employer dishonest." Defendant: "Your Honour, I cannot hear properly." Stipendiary: "Pay a pound, or down for 21 days."

**20 November 1915** Drunkenness David Davies, of Fochriw, was fined nine shillings or seven days imprisonment for having been drunk in Pontlottyn. The police constable stated that the defendant had lost his way and did not know where he was. He had sent 10 shillings to the police station stating that he would not appear in court and that the money would pay his fine. Charles Lewis, Fochriw, was fined 13 shillings, or seven days imprisonment, for having been drunk and disorderly in Pontlottyn.

**12 February, 1916** Bankruptcy Evan Henry Davies, aged 35, a collier, of Pentwyn, Fochriw, appeared at the Merthyr Bankruptcy Court on Tuesday for his first public examination. Replying to the Official Receiver, Mr. Ellis Owen, he stated that he was married in 1902, and attributed his failure to his deceased wife "going into debt without my knowledge." Prior to the death of his wife in April, 1915, he had no knowledge that she was contracting debts, but then he received notice from creditors, together with county court

papers. His gross liabilities amounted to £51-10-4, and his assets were £10. There was a deficiency of £41-10-0, of which £17-4-5 were for groceries. The hearing was adjourned for the signing of papers.

**24 June 1916** Summonses David Davies, Brook-row, was summoned for stealing 12 cwts. of coal, the property of G. K. N. Ltd. on June 7<sup>th</sup>. The prosecution said that Mr. Davis took a horse and cart and took the coal away from one of the tips. He was fined 40 shillings. Robert Campbell was fined 10 shillings for having a match in his possession at No. 2 Pit, Fochriw.

**18 November 1916** Summons David Lewis, Williams-row, was fined 20 shillings and costs for using threatening language at Dowlais Top Station, to the annoyance of passengers. Mr. S. Roberts prosecuted, and pointed out that the offence was all the more serious as the station was in such an outlandish spot.

**6 January, 1917** Gellygaer Council Meeting Mr. J. Jones, the member for Fochriw, at a meeting on Tuesday, expressed the feeling of people there in regard to paying a fee for the registration of charitable events. The clerk replied that it has to be done.

**3 February 1917** Fochriw Baker's Affairs At Merthyr Bankruptcy Court, on Tuesday, before the Registrar, the first public examination into the affairs of Mr. Thomas Llewellyn, 18, Dynevor-street, baker and provision merchant, was held. It was stated that Mr. Llewellyn had gross liabilities of £2,186-13-4, of which £1,494-1-9 was expected to rank for dividend. His net assets were £567-0-8, and there was a deficiency of £927-1-1. Mr. Llewellyn, aged 63, had commenced business in November 1884, having previously worked as a colliery winding engine man. He had kept a farm and a public house in addition to the business. The causes of failure were ill health, bad debts and a keen competition. There were 230 debtors and his assets included £275-4-5 cash in hand. His net profit for the last 12 months was £330, and during 1916 his takings amounted to £4,287-19-8. Since December 8<sup>th</sup> last, his average weekly takings were £103. The hearing was adjourned for further investigation, and will await the result of the creditors' meeting.

**17 February 1917** Summons Emily Rees of Fochriw was fined 20 shillings for stealing coal, value 6 pence, the property of Messrs. G.K.H & Co. She was seen with 50lbs. of coal in her apron, which she said she picked from the tip. Mr. D. W. Jones, who appeared for the prosecution, said that the defendant had been cautioned repeatedly.

**17 February 1917** Summons Annie Evans was summoned by Annie Mary Griffiths for assault at Fochriw. Complainant said she was on her way from Church on Sunday night, when the defendant came to her and said, "You young bitch, I will finish you before I leave you tonight, you ----- ." Defendant: "She threw stones at my door and she struck me on her own doorstep." The defendant was bound over and ordered to pay five shillings costs.

**3 March 1917** "Too Much Credit" The adjourned public examination was held at Merthyr Bankruptcy Court of Thomas Llewellyn, grocer etc, Fochriw, who was questioned at considerable lengths by the Official Receiver, upon the details of his amended deficiency account, which he now presented. He was examined in detail upon his estimate of household expenses, and as to the ownership of furniture, some of which was claimed by his wife, and some, including the piano, by Mrs. Watts, her sister-in-law, who lived with the family. He was also questioned as to borrowing and lending flour. It was the practice of the tradesmen at Fochriw to give each other accommodation in such respects, and Mr. Llewellyn said that all the flour he had borrowed from, or lent to, other tradesmen, had been duly returned in each case. He attributed his failure to ill-health and other causes, including keen competition and book debts (which he had continued to regard as good). He did not think it was necessary for him to have given so much credit, and he was afraid his wife was too lenient. Upon the application of Mr. W. W. Meredith, the examination was closed.

**10 March 1917** Summons Raymond Hemmings, a youth of Fochriw, was summoned for stealing coal, the value 6 pence. He said his aunt told him to fetch some coal as there was none in the house. The boy was bound over and made to promise not to repeat the offence.

**5 October 1918** Summons Morgan Thomas, Penydarren, was summoned for riding on trams underground at Fochriw Colliery and was fined 40 shillings or 21 days imprisonment.

**8 March 1919** Bankruptcy At Merthyr Bankruptcy Court on Tuesday, Thomas Thomas, colliery night lander and newsagent, came up for examination. His liabilities were £115-15-4, and deficiency £113-15-4. The causes of his failure were an inability to follow his occupation readily owing to his hands and feet being crippled. The receiving order, on debtor's petition, was made on the 17<sup>th</sup> February, and he was adjudged bankrupt on that date. An execution was levied against him on the 14<sup>th</sup> February, but the bailiff withdrew as there were no effects. The debtor, aged 40, said that his earnings were small owing to his being crippled, and to supplement his earnings, he commenced, in November 1917, a small news vending business at his private address. He discontinued the business until October 1918, being unable, on account of illness, to meet the claims for the newspapers supplied to him. No books of account of any kind were kept by him. The liabilities comprise four creditors for papers etc. supplied to the business, £49-5-5; one for the hire of a sewing machine, £9-7-6; and eleven for goods and clothing, £55-2-5. The examination was closed.

**14 June 1919** Midnight Scene At Fochriw: Sequel At Merthyr Police Court At Merthyr Police Court on Friday, before the Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr. R. A. Griffiths, Mr John Evans, Mr. Thomas Morgan, and Mr. Thomas John Jenkins, Fochriw, were summoned for being drunk and disorderly in Milton-street at 11p.m. on Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. J. A. Daniel appeared for Morgan, and Mr. Edward Roberts for Jenkins. Evans did not appear, and his case was adjourned. Police Sergeant Williams said he heard defendants quarrelling. They were drunk. There was a crowd of a hundred people around them, and they were opposite Morgan's house. He prevailed upon Morgan to go into the house, but it took him half an hour to get Jenkins away. He had had constant trouble with the defendants. Jenkins was Morgan's brother-in-law, and he thought Jenkins "got up to" Morgan. There had been trouble between Morgan and his wife, and complaints had been made to him following police court proceedings. Mr. Daniel: I put it to you all that Morgan was not "particularly drunk." Witness: He was not "particularly drunk." He agreed that Jenkins went to Morgan's house and caused disturbances. He believed Jenkins was the cause of the trouble. Morgan was the finest workmen at the colliery and never lost a turn. Morgan was fined 10 shillings.

**29 January 1921** Alleged Burglary at Penybank: Merthyr Police Court At Merthyr Police Court on Friday, Thomas Morgan Davies and Thomas James, defended by Mr. W. J. Canton, were charged with burglary at Penybank Hotel, Penybank, on the night of the 14<sup>th</sup>, and stealing from there money and spirits to the value of £28-11-0. Thomas Lloyd Roberts, the landlord, said that at 10:15p.m. he locked the premises and went to Troedrhifwch; his father had died, and he went to his house. He was with a man called John Jones, and they passed the defendant Davies and another. Next morning he went to the hotel about 10.30a.m. and discovered the burglary. At once he went to the police station, and two officers accompanied him to the hotel. He made a search and missed from the bar £9-10-0 in Treasury notes, £13 in silver, one sovereign, one half-sovereign, one 5s. piece, one 4s piece, three quart bottles of rum and two bottles of whisky - total value £28-11-0. His wife was not in the house that night: the premises were left unguarded. They went away on account of the death of his father. There had been about a dozen customers in the house that night; it was a big house, but he did only a moderate trade. The money taken included £11 which he placed in the draw for change. From the upstairs, he missed a box containing three-penny pieces and old coins.

William M. Davies, haulier, Penybank, a cousin of Thomas Martin Davies, defendant, deposed that on the night in question they were together for some time after 10 o'clock. Defendant lived at Pentwyn, 800 yards from Penybank. Defendant accompanied him going towards his home. The defendant was intoxicated; witness was not. They met Thomas Lloyd Roberts and John Jones, and he wished Jones good night. Witness went home and went to bed. About one o'clock in the morning, someone knocked at his front

door. He went to the window, and found it was his cousin, one of the defendants. He admitted him to the house. He had bottles in his pocket. Witness asked him what he had been doing. He replied, "Shut up, I am well away; I've been up there in the hotel." He placed four bottles on the table, three of rum and one of whisky. He pulled out a fistful of small silver from one of his pockets and said "I had these, but there were no notes there, or I would have had them." He tried to persuade defendant to take them back to the hotel, but he refused to do so. Defendant remained in the house for about a quarter of an hour, and the witness then told him to clear and take the things with him. He went but left bottles and a fistful of three-penny bits. His wife put the property in the pantry, and later they were handed them to the Serjeant. Defendant was "three parts drunk."

P.S. Edwards said that at 12 noon on the Saturday, from information received, and with P.S. Clinch and Williams and Thomas Lloyd Roberts, he went to the hotel. He found footmarks as though someone had climbed over the wall and dropped on to the stone steps. The pantry window was broken, and it looked as though someone had entered the house that way. He found the house had been burgled as the landlord had described. He made inquiries, and with P. S. Williams he went to No. 10 Chapel Houses, Penybank, where William M. Davies lived. He found a bottle of rum and one of whisky, and 55 three penny pieces, and other money, including one foreign coin. They were all in the pantry on the stone, as stated by the witness. He went to the hotel, and found Thomas M. Davies in custody with P. S. Clinch. Defendant replied, "O well, I see I am in it. I was drunk. Thomas James was there with me, and we shared." He searched Davies and found £2-15-0 in him. He went to see James, told him what Davies had said, and arrested him. He said, "It's a lie; I wasn't near the hotel." He took James to face Davies. The latter said, "Give the money up; it would be easier for us." James said, "I only had 13s. 9d." They took the accused to Pontlloftyn Police Station. James said, "I want to make a clean breast of it. As he turned coward, so will I. I was drawn into it. There was not £9 there, and no paper money. I got £5 of it. It is in silver, and you will find it in the box in my bedroom window." He went to prisoner James's house at Penybank, and found in the box £4-6-6. On the 16<sup>th</sup> he charged the defendants. James replied, "I plead not guilty to breaking. The door was open when I got there. I've handed over all the money. I wasn't in the house when Tom Davies fetched me, and we went up together. He had been there before me. He brought two bottles of rum, and money to my house." Davies replied, "I don't think all that money was there. I handed over all the money I had. We went there together; me and Tom James." He found a bottle of rum in James's house under a washing board in the passage. £8-3-3½ was found on the defendants. The defendants were committed for trial. Mr. Canton applied for their release on bail. He said that James was an old soldier. He joined up in 1914, and served in France to 1917. His father lived in Dowlais, and would become surety. Davies was also respectably connected. Bail was allowed.

**12 March 1921 Fochriw Tragedy: A Death Trap** Mr. R. J. Rhys conducted an inquiry at Fochriw into the circumstances of the death of Morfydd Jones, daughter of Walter Jones, who died as a result of injuries received whilst returning from school. Walter Jones, father, gave evidence of identification, and said his daughter was active and in the best of health. She was 10 years of age. On the day of the fatality, he was called from work, but his daughter was dead when he reached home. Mary Thomas and Mary Morgan, playmates of the deceased, said they were playing "touch" on the way from school. They did not hear the horn of the car. Percy Edwards said he was standing on the platform of the Fochriw station and saw the car coming down the Pontlloftyn road. It was coming down very slowly and he could hear the horn. Hugh Jones, the driver, said that he was a driver of three years experience. He was driving from Pontlloftyn down the hill, with the engine free. The children were coming out of school and he saw the girl falling in front of the wheel of the car without anyone touching her. He pulled up within his own length. P. S. Williams also said the car was going slowly. The coroner remarked upon the dangerous turn in the bridge, which was only 15 feet wide, and then passed a verdict of "Accidental Death," and exonerated the driver from blame.



**2 July 1921** Stealing Planks Nathaniel Arnold of Fochriw was summoned for stealing five planks, value £2-5-0, the property of the Guest Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd. Sergeant Williams said that the defendant admitted the theft saying that he wanted the build a shed at the back of the house. "I have nothing else to do during the strike and I wanted to make a foul cot." Defendant was fined £2 or 31 days imprisonment.

**3 December 1921** Summons Edward Parry was summoned for stealing a lump of coal, value 6d., the property of Messrs. G.K.N. Ltd. P. S. Jones stated that he saw the defendant carrying the lump of coal from the direction of the pit. Defendant said that he had picked up the lump during the strike. A fine of 10 shillings was imposed.

**24 December 1921** Fochriw Lads Tamper with Signals At the Merthyr Police Court on Friday, two boys from Fochriw, namely David John Price and Robert Carter, were in the dock on several charges of interfering with the signal lamps on the Brecon and Merthyr Railway between Fochriw and Pantywaun Junction. The defendants pleaded guilty to stealing the lamps and wilful damage, and threw themselves on the mercy of the court. They said "We don't remember anything; we were drunk." For stealing the two lamps they were fined £5 each or 31 days imprisonment, and for wilful damage £2 each or 21 days imprisonment.

**29 April 1922** Presentation An interesting presentation took place at Bargoed Police Station on Friday last, when Police Sgt. Hy. Williams of Fochriw was the recipient of a handsome ebony, silver-mounted, inscribed walking stick. It was given by his colleagues to mark the occasion of his retirement, and as a token of esteem. Supt. T. Williams and Inspector Herbert Evans paid glowing tribute to Mr. Williams, and thereby expressed the sentiments of all those present at the felicitous function.

**17 June 1922** Retirement of Sergeant P. S. H. Williams: Services Recognised There was a large and representative attendance at Noddfa Vestry on Thursday evening to recognise in a fitting manner, the services of ex-Sergeant Williams, after 49 years in the Glamorgan Constabulary, 33 years of which were spent in Fochriw. The chairman was Mr. John Bevan. There were musical contributions from Mr. Gwilym Price Jones, Madame H. C. Davies, Lydia and Ceinwen Ballard, Miss Doris Davies, Miss Elvis Phillips, and Mr. James J. Lewis. Inspector Canton of Bargoed paid glowing tribute to Sergeant Williams, and other speeches were made by Mr. Thomas Evans, Mr. James Thomas, Mr. David Thomas, and Mr. T. Sims. Mr. Williams was presented with a magnificent gold hunter watch and chain, subscribed by his many friends in Fochriw and district. The presentation was made by Mr. John Thomas, Brook Row, one of the oldest inhabitants of Fochriw.

**24 June 1922** Three Months Hard Labour John Morgan Davies was charged with stealing 17 shillings in money from the till at Royal Arms Inn, Pantywaun, and also with taking two little ornaments and two handkerchiefs, the property of Mrs. Jones, the landlady. Mrs. Jones said she missed the 17s. after hearing a smash in the bar, and the till was open. Thomas Thomas, collier, Dowlais Top, the landlady's brother, said that he saw the defendant with the ornaments in his pocket. P. C. W. Howells arrested the accused at Fochriw. He had 12s. 6½d. in his pocket. Defendant said he took the ornaments but not the money. The defendant had been before the court on previous occasions, once for larceny. He was sentenced to 3 months in prison with hard labour.

**21 October 1922** Bankruptcy At Merthyr Bank Court on Thursday, Mr. W. J. Canton, solicitor, appeared for David ap Jones, H. Lloyd Jones and John Lloyd Jones, the Supply Stores, grocers, Fochriw. The examination was adjourned for the debtors to furnish an account of debts to the estate. Mr. H. A. Oliver, Merthyr, was the debtors accountant.

**26 May 1923** Merthyr Police Court Fred Evans of Fochriw was summoned for loitering at Brook Row for the purposes of street betting, on the 11<sup>th</sup> May. P.C. Edwards Davies said that he kept the defendant under observation and saw a man hand him what appeared to be a piece of paper and some money. The witness arrested the defendant, and found on him £1-1s-2d, 9 betting slips with 37 horses names running that day at the races, and one paying-in book. Defendant did not deny the charge, and was required to pay £10, or 31 days in gaol.

**25 August 1923** Personal P. C. Bloomer, who was transferred from Bargoed to Fochriw, was the recipient of a wallet and cigarette case from the local Press, as a mark of esteem and

appreciation for his services. He had been stationed at Bargoed for over eight years. He is a painstaking and conscientious officer, and is well known and highly respected in the district.

**3 May 1924** Merthyr Police Court: Cigarette in the Mine George Griffiths (21), of Dowlais, was summoned for having a cigarette in his possession in No.2 Pit, fochriw. William Price, manager, said he instituted a search, and found a portion of a "cig" in the defendant's waistcoat pocket. Griffiths' mother attended the court, and made the excuse that her son had by mistake put on his brother-in-law's waistcoat that morning. The Stipendiary: If your son had come to court, we might have bound him over as a first offender. He is fined 10s.

**26 February 1927** A Fochriw Bankrupt: Collier who borrowed £37 from Guardians At Merthyr Bankruptcy Court on Wednesday, Albert Wright, collier, Aelybryn, returned his liabilities at £117 10s. and his assets at £1 16s, and a deficiency of £115 14s 10d. Mr. A. V. Watkins, deputy official receiver said that Mr. Wright owed £37 10s. in groceries, £37 for out-door relief by way of a loan, £24 11s for drapery, the remainder for rent, and 12s for jewellery – a watch which was now broken. Wright stated that he first started to "go behind" during the strike. Mr. Watkins: How much did you receive from the Federation? Wright: 2/6. Wright stated that he borrowed the money from the Guardians to buy furniture, and he owed about £37 on it today.

**2 July 1927** Merthyr Bankruptcy Court Thomas Jones, a miner, and who for some time kept the White Horse Inn, Pentwyn, Fochriw, was represented by Mr. W. G. Batterbee, Bargoed.. He said his liabilities were £321 13s 1d, his assets £18 10s, and his deficiency £303 3s 3d. He owed £89 to brewers, £59 borrowed from a relative to pay rates and licence fees, £19 10s to the Guardians, and £149 for groceries. He had paid £118 in going for the public house. He had served in the Great War, had contracted malaria, and still suffered from the effects of it.

**9 June 1928** Burglary On Monday night, burglars succeeded in entering the Co-operative Stores and several articles was stolen. The library hut was also entered this same night. The thieves have not yet been arrested.

**16 June 1928** Fochriw Charge: Mountain Pony Dying on of the Roadside: Owner Fined A very sad case was heard at Pontlloftyn Police Court on Friday, when George Weaver, aged 36, of Fochriw, was charged with cruelty to a horse by neglecting it. The defendant did not appear, but his wife was present. P.C Brangwynne said that acting on information received, he proceeded to a spot on the roadside near Fochriw, and there saw a pony lying down. It was in such a poor condition that it was too weak to stand, and its bones were protruding. On examination, 17 sores were found on the body. Witness went to the defendant's house and saw his wife. She said, "What has it got to do with you?" Witness instructed the woman to feed the animal, and later Inspector Thomas Barnard of the RSPCA, visited the house and examined the horse. He found the woman had given it some chicken feed since the morning. The following day, James Brown, veterinary surgeon, called in and ordered the horse to be destroyed. Inspector Barnard corroborated the evidence of the police officer. "People bought these mountain ponies," said the inspector, "and then turned them out to the mountains. They might live and they might not. That was a matter for the pony." The woman said that did not apply to them, but the horse had been suffering from kidney trouble. The defendant was fined £3 or 31 days imprisonment.

**14 July 1928** Summons Caradoc Shankland, aged 28, and Robert Carter, also 28, both of Fochriw, were fined 10 shillings each for being drunk and disorderly on 25<sup>th</sup> June. P.S. Robert Thomas was the officer.

**13 October 1928** P.C. Brangwynne Leaves for Trelewis The many friends of P.C. Brangwynne and family wish them well in their new home at Trelewis, to where the popular officer has been promoted. During his stay in the village, he has won the esteem of all sections of the community.

**17 November 1928** Emphatic Denial A fine of 10/- was imposed on Artwell Woods, aged 24, for stealing coal value 9d, on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>. Woods emphatically denied the charge. P.C. Pugh said he saw the defendant pick up two lumps of coal and hide them in

some ferns. Defendant said he had no coal in his possession when stopped by the officer. He was only out for his usual Sunday morning walk.

**9 March 1929** Honours The large circle of friends of Dr. T. Stenner Evans, were delighted to find his name in the list of J. P. honours. He is an honorary surgeon of the medical staff of the Merthyr General Hospital, and is also president of the local branch of ex-Servicemen. He is closely connected with the St. John Ambulance, and is a member of the Priory of Wales.

**20 April 1929** Drink Charge Morgan Davies, aged 24, of Fochriw, who got drunk at Deri and was seen by P.S. Thomas, was fined 10 shillings.

**15 June 1929** Fine David Morris, aged 25, collier, was fined 10 shillings for travelling on the G.W.R. without a railway ticket, and of attempting to avoid payment of his fare.

**10 August 1929** Fine James Harding, aged 32, collier, of Fochriw, was fined 10 shillings for stealing timber value one shilling on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Police Sergeant Thomas gave evidence.

**10 August 1929** Bound over Gwladys Wright, aged 30, married woman, Pentwyn, was summoned for stealing coal valued at one shilling on 9<sup>th</sup> July. Police Sergeant Howells gave evidence. The defendant said her husband was ill with influenza and they had no coal at home, although they paid for it some time ago. Defendant was bound over to come up for judgement if called upon.

**8 March 1930** Railway Trespass William Morgan, aged 22, labourer, Fochriw, did not appear to answer a summons for trespassing on the G.W.R. P.C. Sansom gave evidence and a fine of 5/- was imposed.

**17 May 1930** Pontlottyn Court Joseph Williams, aged 56, of Fochriw, was summoned for obstructing the police on 6<sup>th</sup> April. P.C. Jones said he was keeping a party of card players under observation on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April. When he was approaching the "school," defendant shouted out twice, "Look out - Jones the policeman is coming," with the result that the card players got away. Defendant: "If you heard me when you were 80 yards away, you had very thin ears." Stipendiary: "You might not have realised that you were committing an offence, but you know now. You will have to pay four shillings costs."

**17 May 1930** Pontlottyn Court Thomas Lloyd Jones, aged 42, licensed victualler, of the Rising Sun, Fochriw, was summoned for selling intoxicating liquor for off consumption during prohibited hours. Benjamin Thomas, aged 49, collier, Fochriw, was charged with aiding and abetting. P.C. Sansom said that at 11.20p.m. on April 26<sup>th</sup>, he was on duty with Acting-Sergeant Howells near Fochriw Station. They saw Benjamin Prosser and E. Prosser leave the last train. First they went in the direction of their homes, but after going some distance they came back. A short time later, witness and the other officer were patrolling in the lane behind the inn. They went to the kitchen, where they saw the landlord, his wife, Thomas, Prosser, and another man partly employed at the house. When spoken to by the witness, the landlord said, "They have just come in, and I have asked them to go." When Benjamin Thomas stood up, witness saw the top of a bottle under his coat. Police Sergeant Howells took possession of the bottle, and found that it contained stout. The licensee said, "I have taken no money for it now; it was paid for before four o'clock." Defendant further said that he sometimes called in for a bottle of stout on his way home and paid for it earlier in the day. Thomas said he went to order the stout at half time, when he was listening to the broadcast of the Cup final. He rushed back home to hear the wireless again after paying for the stout. The Stipendiary: Why didn't you take it with you; there was no need to make two journeys. Defendant: I was excited over the match. A fine of 20 shillings in each case was imposed.

**28 June 1930** Pontlottyn Police Court Iorwerth Phillips, aged 17, a collier from Fochriw, was summoned for driving a motorcycle without a driving licence, and John P. Llewellyn aged 20, of Fochriw, was charged with aiding and abetting. P.C. Sedgewick said that on May 30<sup>th</sup>, he saw defendant drive the motorcycle in Deri. When witness asked for his driving licence, Williams produced one drawn out in the name of J. P. Llewellyn. Llewellyn, who was present, said he lent it to Williams to take particulars from it. They were each fined 10 shillings.

**12 July 1930** Summoned David Thomas (20), Bryn Jones (20) and Elwyn Jones (22), colliers, Fochriw, were summoned for trespassing on the G.W.R. at Fochriw. Police Constable Sansom said that on 28<sup>th</sup> May, he saw the defendants walking down the line towards Ogilvie Colliery, and when he spoke to them they said they were going to work. Defendants were fined five shillings each.

**26 July 1930** Trespass Thomas James (63), Fochriw, was charged with trespassing on the G.W.R. Defendant was not present. A ganger employed by the railway company said that he saw the defendant crossover the fence and on to the line. There was a notice on the spot where the defendant crossed. Defendant was fined five shillings.

**29 November 1930** Pontlottyn Court Rees Jones, (52), of Fochriw, was ordered to pay four shillings cost for a breach of the Swine Fever Order. P.C. Samson said that on November 7<sup>th</sup>, in company with an inspector from the Ministry of Agriculture, he visited defendant's pigs, and found that the pig was missing. He asked the defendant why it was not in the cot, and the defendant replied that he had been repairing the cot that day, and in so doing, the pigs had escaped. Superintendent Griffiths said that since the escape of the pig, the Order had been cancelled.

**21 March 1931** Trespass For trespassing on the GWR between Fochriw and Deri, Albert Owen, aged 25, engineman, of Fochriw, was fined five shillings.

**29 August 1931** Police Raid the White Horse Inn: Heard Talking and Rattling of Glasses At Pontlottyn Police Court on Friday, considerable time was spent hearing summonses against Annie Davies (44), licensee of the White Horse Inn, Fochriw, for refusing to admit the police in the execution of their duty on August 1<sup>st</sup>., supplying intoxicating drink during non-permitted hours, and permitting drunkenness; and against Thomas Martin (38), repairer; Edward J. Morgan (27), collier; and Morgan Davies (30), for being drunk on licensed premises and of aiding and abetting; and against Arthur Adams (48), and Percy A. Barrick (Northampton), who did not appear, for aiding and abetting.

P.C. Sanson said that he and P.S. Howells visited the White Horse Inn at midnight on August 1<sup>st</sup>. We listened at the door and heard loud talking and the rattling of glasses. We tried the door and found it was locked. We knocked several times, and after the lapse of a minute, Mrs. Davies came to the door and said "Who's there?" We replied, "The Police. Open the door, please." She did not open the door, and we heard her hurry back to the kitchen. We heard loud talking, the scuffling of feet, the rattle of glasses, and the movement of chairs. I looked at my watch and continued knocking the door for four-and-a-half minutes. Then I left the Sergeant and went to the back of the house. I climbed over a difficult fence and my progress was stopped by a dog. I beat off the animal, and eventually got to the back door. There I met Police Sergeant Howells who had been admitted at the front door. In the back yard, near the door, we saw a number of drunken men. Some of them were hiding beneath the wall. We escorted them all into the kitchen. The room was full of smoke, it was reeking with for the smell of beer, and the floor showed signs of beer having been recently spilt. We saw that Thomas Martin Davies, Morgan Davies and Edward John Morgan were very drunk. The former was very abusive, and the latter tried to prevent us taking particulars. The Bench were thoroughly satisfied that all six men were inside the house when the police arrived. The licensee was convicted of permitting drunkenness and was fined £3 or 31 days, and for refusing to admit the police £2 or 21 days. Thomas Martin Davies, Edward John Morgan and Morgan Davies were fined 10s. for being drunk on licensed premises. The other charges were dismissed.

**3 October 1931** Window Smashing at Fochriw: Summons Alice James, aged 60, married, of Fochriw, was summoned for committing damage to two panes of glass at the house of Arthur Coggan, and also for damaging a pane of glass at the house of Ellen Baker. Mrs. Baker gave evidence that she saw Mrs. James throw a stone at one of Mr. Coggan's windows. Mr. Thomas Williams stated that in his opinion Mrs. James was drunk. The Stipendary was satisfied that the case had been proved and fined James 10s. in each case or 7 days imprisonment.

**20 February 1932** Indecent Language Thomas M. Davies, aged 39, of Fochriw was fined five shillings for using indecent language in the street.

**16 April 1932** Pontlottyn Court David Jones, Fochriw, was summoned for stealing coal, value 6p. He pleaded guilty. A large lump of coal was found under his overcoat and he was fined five shillings.

**23 July 1932** Pontlottyn Police Court Derwyn Davies of Fochriw was summoned for travelling on the GWR without paying his full fare, and with intent to avoid payment. A fine of 10 shillings was imposed.

**1 October 1932** Another Unhappy Home Brynmor Lewis, aged 33, unemployed collier, of Fochriw, was summoned for being guilty of persistent cruelty to his wife, Amy Lewis, who lives at Tirphil, and for desertion. Mrs. Lewis said they were married on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1919, and there were three children. Defendant had treated her cruelly ever since marriage. They first lived in apartments at the defendant's mother's house. He had given her black eyes on many occasions. She had summoned him before, and obtained a maintenance order, but they made up their quarrel. They then lived in apartments, but defendant continued to ill-use her. He beat her many times, even in front of his mother. He had threatened her with a knife and also a poker. Her body was very much bruised. Defendant accused his wife of being the cause of the quarrels. Hannah Mary Harris, Tirphil, gave evidence supporting Mrs. Lewis' story. Elizabeth Williams, complainant's sister, corroborated. Police Constable George Fraser told the Bench that the defendant drank, and was a violent man. He had treated his wife very brutally. On the 10<sup>th</sup> September, he was called to the house and saw the defendant with a knife in his hand. Defendant was told to pay 15 shillings a week and costs. Mrs. Lewis was to have custody of the three younger children.

**13 May 1933** Pontlottyn Police David G. Thomas of Fochriw, and Thomas G. Griffiths of Dowlais, were summoned for stealing mandril shafts, value 3s 4d., the property of the Dowlais Collieries Ltd. They pleaded guilty. Thomas was fined 20 shillings, and Griffiths, who is only 17 years of age, was bound over.

**10 June 1933** Pontlottyn Police Court Hartwell Wood, aged 31, of Fochriw, was summoned for committing a breach of the Coal Mines Act by riding on a journey of trams. Police Sergeant W. Saunders, Deri, said that in consequence of complaints received from the colliery manager, he kept the incline under observation and saw the defendant riding on the journey. When he spoke to him, he expressed regret and said it would not happen again. Defendant was fined 10 shillings.

**22 July 1933** Pontlottyn Police Court: Affiliation Benjamin Lewis of Rhymney, aged 28, was summoned by Mary Angell of Fochriw. Miss Angell said she first met the defendant in July 1931, and they kept company until last December when she told him she was in trouble. Lewis admitted liability. An order was made for 6 shillings a week and costs.

**18 November 1933** Bedlinog Collision: Fochriw Man to Pay £15 in Damages At Merthyr County Court on Wednesday, Alfred Jones of Fochriw, was the defendant in an action brought by the Gellygaer Urban District Council, for damage caused to an electric light standard at Bedlinog, through a collision which the plaintiffs alleged was due to negligence on his part. The case had been adjourned to enable Jones to produce expert mechanical evidence that the collision between the car and the standard was no fault of his, but due to a defect in the steering which was unknown to him until after the accident. Jones told the court that the mechanic who repaired the car was unable to attend. His Honour awarded the plaintiff's £15 damages.

**25 November 1933** Correction Mr. Alfred Ernest Jones, Brook House, Brook-row, Fochriw, was not the defendant at the hearing of a claim for damages at the Merthyr Crown Court. He was a witness for the Gellygaer Urban District Council.

**2 December 1933** Correction Mr. Alfred Ernest Jones, Brook House, Fochriw, was the witness for the prosecution in the recent hearing of the case for damages at the Merthyr County Court, when an action was brought against Bryn Rees by the Gellygaer Urban District Council. He was not the defendant as stated in the report.

**23 December 1933** Pontllytyn Police: In Fochriw Plantation Archibald Williams, Brinley Cumpstone, and Garfield Davies, all of Fochriw, were summoned for stealing growing trees, value three shillings, the property of the Mountjoy Estate. Police Sergeant Jones said he saw the defendants in the plantation. They were carrying trees towards their homes. They had a hatchet in their possession. Defendants said they found the trees on the ground. Mr. Jenkins Edwards, agent to the estate, said the trees - oak, larch and birch - were newly cut. The defendants were fined 10 shillings each, and told not to do it again.

**26 May 1934** Pontllytyn Police: Bound Over Caradoc Shankland, aged 19, of Fochriw, was summoned for being drunk in Broad Street, Pontllytyn. Police Sergeant Wately proved the case, and on account of his youth, the defendant was bound over. Also, Thomas Shankland and Clifford Lewis of Fochriw were summoned for using indecent language, and were bound over.

**7 July 1934** Pontllytyn Police: Fochriw Neighbours Annie Mary Evans of Fochriw was summoned for using insulting language to a neighbour, Mrs. Taylor. The latter said the defendant called her indecent names, and said she had seen her husband leave her (complainant's) house early in the morning, when her husband was at work. Defendant, who denied using insulting language, was bound over and told to pay five shillings costs.

**14 July 1934** Personal Police Constable Sansom has left for Pontygwindy, Caerphilly. He took an active part on the Welfare Committee, the Silver Band (as chairman), and in cricket.

**13 October 1934** Pontllytyn Police Court: Fochriw Youth's Quarrel David W. Strange of Fochriw, was summoned by Mervyn Thomas for using insulting language. Complainant said the accused used most terrible words which witness had written on paper. Doreen Thomas, his sister, corroborated. Defendant put the blame on the complainant. He said that Thomas challenged him to fight, and used bad language. A witness bore out the statement. The Stipendiary said "It is nothing but a foolish quarrel between these two boys. The case is dismissed."

**17 November 1934** A Girl from Fochriw: London Life 'Turned Her Head' Doris Wright, a 19 year old domestic servant, was charged at Wimbledon on Monday with stealing a silver cigarette case, and a George I five shilling piece, worth together £5, from her employer, Mrs. Sheppard of Wimbledon. Mrs. Sheppard said that the girl's head was turned by the gaiety of London life after the quiet of her Welsh home town. The girl, whose address was given as Hill-row, Fochriw, said that she saw the case, and as she was going out, she wanted to take it to 'swank' when she saw the name engraved on it was the same as hers. She intended to return it, but she either dropped it, or had it stolen from her by some boys she met on Wimbledon Common. She denied taking the coin. She was bound over for a year on condition she returned home to Wales.

**19 January 1935** Pontllytyn Police Court: No Wireless Licence Timothy Lynch of Fochriw was fined ten shillings for using a radio set without a licence. William T. Pope, also of Fochriw, was similarly summoned, and said he had been ill. He was fined five shillings.

**30 March 1935** Fochriw Man & Wife: Husband Objects To Her Going To Dances At Pontllytyn Police Court on Friday, Samuel John Jones, aged 36, an unemployed boot-repairer, of Brook-row, Fochriw, was summoned for being guilty of persistent cruelty to his wife, Ivy Maud Jones, and for desertion. Mr. Jesse Roberts, Dowlais, appeared for the wife, and Mr. Charles Jones, Bedwas, for the husband. Mrs. Jones said they were married in September 1930, and there was one child. She left her husband on 12th February because of his conduct. She alleged that on that day he knocked her about and threatened to kill her. During the whole of her married life he had knocked her about. On one occasion, he picked up a poker and was going to strike her on the head with it, but she warded off the blow. He accused her of being an immoral woman, and said he would "have the rope" for her, and told her to go and never come back. She was laid up for a fortnight. On one occasion he struck her from one side of the street to the other. Just before Christmas, he won a sweepstake, and drank heavily. Cross-examined, the wife said she forgave her husband once, thinking he would turn over a new leaf. They first

lived with her parents, and after at a house in Fochriw. She denied that the unpleasantness was owing to her going to dances. Violet Palmer, sister, said that she had seen the defendant strike his wife "heaps of times." Arthur James Palmer, brother, said he had seen the wife's face bleeding, and Lily May Palmer, said she had seen many bruises on the complainant's leg. Samuel Jones admitted striking his wife on February 16th but not on other occasions. He said they quarrelled because he did not think it right for her to go to dances and spend money that ought to be devoted to the needs of the house. He accused his wife of threatening him with a carving knife. The Stipendiary: We are satisfied with the evidence of persistent cruelty in this case, which is corroborated. The man is evidently an intemperate brute, and he is incapable of telling the whole truth to the court. If he had been working, we should have made a substantial order. You must pay your wife 12 shillings a week and costs, the wife to have the custody of the child.

**13 April 1935** Pontllytyn Police Court: Without a Light Thomas Shankland, Fochriw, was summoned for riding a pedal cycle after dark at Deri without a lighted lamp. P.C. Taylor proved the case and the defendant was dismissed on payment of costs.

**18 May 1935** Pontllytyn Police Court: Street Betting Edward Thomas, of Fochriw, pleaded guilty to street betting and was fined 20 shillings

**18 May 1935** Affiliation Case Thomas Lewis, Fochriw, was summoned by Gladys Irene Gwynn in respect of the £25 14s 6d due under an affiliation order made in March 1929 for 6 shillings a week. Lewis said he was willing to pay. He was committed for a month, but the order was suspended so long as he paid 7s. a week.

**8 June 1935** Pontllytyn Police Court: Affiliation Case David Thomas, a painter of Fochriw, was summoned by Maggie Davies, a single woman of Fochriw. The complainant, who could not read, said the child was born on 5th February. They courted for nine years. An order was made for 6 shillings a week.

**24 August 1935** Police Court Gwilym Llewellyn of Fochriw was summoned for use of a motor vehicle for a purpose other than that for which it was licensed. Mobile Officer Evans said the defendant's vehicle was loaded with gravel. The case was dismissed on payment of 10 shillings costs.

**23 May 1936** Pontllytyn Police Court Idris Williams was summoned for not displaying a letter "L" on the rear of his motor-cycle while still a learner. He said that the letter was on the machine when he started his journey. The case was dismissed on payment of costs.

Edward Price was summoned for stealing coal value one shilling, the property of Powell Duffryn Co. The case was dismissed as this was his first offence. P.C. Wadley said he saw the defendant leaving the outcrops with "clean coal."

**20 June 1936** Pontllytyn Police Court: Indecent Language Thomas Jones of Fochriw was fined ten shillings, the case being stated by P.C. Wadley.

**27 June 1936** Pontllytyn Court Case Thomas Jones, 20, Brynteg-terrace, wishes it to be known that he was not the person of the same name who was summoned at Pontllytyn Police Court last week.

**29 August 1936** £15 Fine For Milk Offence John Slimmon, a farmer, of Fochriw, pleaded not guilty to selling milk deficient in butter fat on 6th July. Police Sergeant William Hamilton said he purchased a pint of milk from Slimmon, who said he obtained the milk from James Jones, Tynewydd Farm, Brecon, and that the milk arrived by rail each morning. The analyst's certificate showed that the sample of milk submitted was deficient in milk fat to the extent of not less than 20 per cent. Police Superintendent G. Griffiths said that he met the train on July 8th at Fochriw station on which the milk for Slimmon arrived from Brecon. He took a sample of the milk, and the analyst's certificate showed that it was genuine milk. Slimmon said he emptied the milk from one can to another and should have emptied it back again, but it was a very wet day. The Stipendiary: The analyst's certificate of the milk of the producer casts a certain suspicion around your head that it was adulterated. Slimmon: I would not attempt to tamper with it. The Stipendiary: We are satisfied that you adulterated this milk with your own hands. This kind of thing cannot be allowed to go on, and we would be lacking in our duty if we

did not impose a punishment that will stop you doing it again, and as a warning to others. You are fined £15. There is no blame attached to the producer of the milk, although you tried to cast a reflection on him.

**7 November 1936** Pontlottyn Police Court: Fochriw Man and Wife John Davies, collier, was summoned for deserting his wife Blodwen Davies. Mrs. Davies said they had been married for 13 years, and there was one child, a boy aged 12. The case was adjourned for one month, and in the meantime, the husband was to pay his wife 15 shillings a week.

**5 December 1936** Pontlottyn Police Court The case against John Davies, collier, aged 47, for alleged desertion was dismissed. The Stipendary remarked that it was only a "storm in a tea-cup."

**27 February 1937** Pontlottyn Police Court Charles Parker of Fochriw pleaded guilty to stealing coal, value 1s 6d, the property of the Dowlais Colliery Company, and was ordered to pay 10 shillings.

**3 July 1937** Pontlottyn Police Court Thomas Jenkins of Fochriw were summoned for stealing timber, value one shilling, the property of the Powell Duffryn Colliery Company. The case was dismissed with a caution.

**25 September 1937** Pontlottyn Police Court Stephen Jones of Fochriw, was summoned for riding a motorcycle without signing the licence as required by Act of Parliament. He was required to pay the costs of the summons.

**6 November 1937** Pontlottyn Police Court A fine of £1 for each offence was imposed on Walter Jones of Fochriw who pleaded guilty to driving a motorcycle without a licence or a policy of insurance. Leslie Jones of Fochriw, the owner of the machine, was fined £1 on each charge for aiding and abetting Walter Jones.

**4 December 1937** Pontlottyn Police Court An order of 7s 6d per week for the maintenance of a child was made against Stanley Russell of Fochriw who did not appear. The application was made by Dulcie Ann Carter of Deri who alleged Russell was the father of her child. Russell had now married another girl.

Attwell Woods of Fochriw was fined £2 after pleading guilty to behaving in a violent manner in the yard of Ogilvie Colliery. Woods expressed regret for his behaviour, saying that he only became violent under provocation. Woods, who is employed as a platelayer at Ogilvie, approached another workman, William Davies, and asked him what he had been saying about him. The man replied 'Nothing,' and then Woods struck him several blows. Davies lost one and a half shifts as a result.

**12 February 1938** Pontlottyn Police Court Albert E. Grist was summoned for not sending his children to school and was fined 10 shillings. Attendance orders were made.

**26 March 1938** Pontlottyn Police Court On the evidence of P.C. Davies, David Daniel Thomas of Fochriw was fined 10 shillings for using indecent language in the Square, Bedlinog.

A plea for leniency because he was going to be married next month, was contained in a letter from David John Williams of Fochriw, who was summoned with Frederick H. Amos and George K. Morris, both of Fochriw, for trespassing on the GWR line. P.S. Brangwynne said that when he spoke to the men, they said they used the line as a short cut because they had lost the bus. The men were fined five shillings each.

**13 August 1938** Fochriw Man's Road Offence: Sequel to Collision with Wall The son of the Vicar of Fochriw, John R. White, was at Chippenham Police Court on Thursday of last week, and was fined £2, and was ordered to pay £1 13s 3d costs, the magistrates reducing the summons of driving to the danger of the public, to one of driving without due care and attention. White's licence was endorsed. Inspector Sloper said that the case arose from an incident on the Malmesbury to Chippenham road on July 3rd, at 10am, when White rounded a corner at speed, and was confronted with a stationary coal lorry and an approaching car. He skidded and collided with a wall. Defendant said that he carried on business as a ladies' hairdresser in Bargoed, and had a clean record for eight years' driving. He drove 15,000 miles a year. He said that he was on his way to Portsmouth to meet relatives, and was not in a hurry. The brakes caused his vehicle to



swerve violently. Jack Turberville, a passenger in the car, corroborated White's version of the incident. He stated that in his opinion the coal lorry was dangerously parked near a bend in the road. White asked not to suspend his licence because of his business, and because he conveyed his father around the parish on Sundays.

**6 May 1939** Pontlloftyn Police Court P.C. Roy Taylor saw Hewitt Davies and David John Evans of Fochriw riding their bicycles at a fast speed down Groesfaen, Deri, and take the bend on the wrong side of the road. There were several children nearby, and they were nearly run over. When he called on the defendants to stop, they had difficulty in pulling up. They were charged with riding their bicycles furiously. Evans pleaded guilty, but Davies did not appear. The case was dismissed on the payment of four shillings each costs.

**1 July 1939** Fochriw Girl's Child: Wedding Was Planned Herbert Charles Dobson, a railway fireman, of Swindon, was summoned at Pontlloftyn Police Court on Friday, by Rachel Jane Bassett, a single woman, of Fochriw, on respect of a child. It was stated that they were to have been married on December 28th last at Merthyr Register Office, but Dobson failed to appear on the day. Before December 28th he had signed a note saying "I promise to give Ray Bassett's child a name by marriage." The magistrates made an order that Dobson should pay 10s. per week, and £5 3s costs.

**12 August 1939** Pontlloftyn Police Court: Straying Mare and Foal For allowing a mare and foal to stray in Broad Street, Pontlloftyn, John Hughes of Fochriw was fined five shillings. Hughes, who did not appear in court, is very deaf, and did not appear to be able to understand English. Superintendent Howell Rees spoke to him in Welsh about his animals.

**16 September 1939** London News Warning was given on Monday by Sir Gervais Rentoul, the West London magistrate, that in future, persons who obstructed the police, or defied the lighting regulations, would be sent to prison.

**23 September 1939** Pontlloftyn Police Court Joseph Pullen of Fochriw, pleaded guilty to using his motorcycle without a road fund licence. He was ordered to pay 4 shillings costs.

**16 March 1940** Merthyr Police Court: Straying Sheep For allowing sheep to stray on the highway, Evan Kinsey, Bryncarnau Farm, was fined five shillings and ordered to pay five shillings costs. He pleaded guilty.

**20 April 1940** Police Court Charles Parker, aged 61, unemployed, of Fochriw, was fined 10 shillings for stealing seven wooden posts, value 17s 6d, the property of John Slimmon, Bryniago Farm. Parker said that the posts were disused and were no good to anyone.

**4 May 1940** Police Court Thomas Edwards, Fochriw, and W. H. Edwards, Incline Side, Merthyr, were dismissed on payment of costs for trespassing on the GWR line.

**29 June 1940** Pontlloftyn Police Court Thomas R. Lewis, aged 36, of Pentwyn, did not appear to answer the summons for using indecent language in Brook-road, Fochriw. He was fined 10 shillings.

**27 July 1940** Pontlloftyn Police Court Brynmor Lewis, Fochriw, was called to answer a charge of being drunk and disorderly, and assaulting P.C. Edwards, and Special Constable T. Holbeck. He was remanded on his own bail of £10, and a surety of £10.

**10 August 1940** Fochriw Man Sent To Prison: Sequel To Midnight Scene Brynmor Lewis, haulage engineman, of Fochriw, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly, and for assaulting P.C. Phillip Edwards, and Special-constable T. Holbeck. Lewis was sent to prison for a month on each of the charges. The Stipendary stated that the defendant had been repeatedly fined for his violent actions, and clearly this treatment was not sufficient. The conviction related to violent actions on the night of July 6, at Tirphil, where Lewis' wife lived.

**21 September 1940** Pontlloftyn Police Court "I struck a match in the trenches in 1914, and there is no one going to stop me doing it here," said John Williams of Fochriw, when told that he would be reported for displaying a light by striking a match at 10:45pm on 24th August. PC Whatley said there was an air raid in progress when he saw Williams

strike a match. His mother, who appeared, said he was sorry and that he had served four years in the last war. Williams was fined £1.

**5 October 1940** Fochriw Youth in Trouble: Stole From Slot Meter Henry Grist, aged 18, unemployed, of Fochriw, who pleaded guilty to stealing 37 shillings from an electric meter at his home on September 21, was bound over to be of good behaviour for two years, and ordered to pay 15s. costs and 10s. expenses. The accused's mother said that his father was willing to take the boy to work with him, and the son was willing to go.

**28 December 1940** Police Court Adelaide Lawrence, aged 31, school teacher, of Fochriw, was summoned for leaving her motor-car on the highway during the hours of darkness on November 27th without lights. A lad named Thomas Davies of Bedlinog, a collier boy, said that as he walked around the corner he bumped into the car. It was found that when the mudguard was touched the lights were extinguished, and when touched again, they came on. Miss Lawrence was ordered to pay costs.

Ivor Jones of Pontlottyn was fined 20 shillings for having blacked out the bedroom window of his house. P.C. W. Davies reported that he saw a light in the house at 11.30pm on December 14.

**25 January 1941** Pontlottyn Police Court: Light from Match Ernest Sibly of Fochriw was summoned for having a lighted match burning after the hours of darkness on December 21<sup>st</sup> which he denied. P.S. A. Hanney said that at 10.55 p.m. he was outside a dance hall at Pontlottyn when the dancers were leaving. It had been announced that there was an air raid warning in progress. Sibly lit a cigarette with a match. When spoken to, he put it out, but on going along the road he lit another match. There were hostile aircraft overhead at the time. When told about it, Sibly became abusive and refused his name. He was fined £1.

**25 January 1941** After 32 Years Charles H. Parker, Pontypridd, was summoned for desertion, by his wife Esther Parker of Hillside Row, Pentwyn. Parker said he had left, but did not desert his wife. Mrs. Parker said they had been married nearly 33 years. They had 11 children, seven of whom were living, and two were under 16 years of age. They parted on November 16<sup>th</sup> because of differences. When she got up in the morning, she found he had left, taking his clothes and tools with him. She had received three sums of money since. The magistrate made an order that Parker must pay his wife 10s. per week, and that she should have custody of the children. Parker: I cannot pay that out of 19 shillings. Magistrate: That's your affair. That's the decision of the court.

**8 February 1941** Failure to Pay Fare Wyndham Reynolds, aged 22, fitter, of Fochriw, was fined £1 for failing to pay his fare on the G.W.R. The ticket collector at Bargoed, Clifford Duckworth, stated that the ticket handed to him by Reynolds had been tampered with. Interviewed at his home, Reynolds admitted the offence, and stated that it would not happen again.

**15 March 1941** Bargoed Police Court: Fochriw Linguist Rufus Dummitt, aged 25, collier, Fochriw, was fined 10 shillings for having used obscene language in Station Road, Bargoed, on February 8. He did not appear, but sent a letter to the court pleading guilty.

**5 April 1941** Fochriw Relatives in Court: Sequel to Row at Guest-street At Pontlottyn Police Court, Evan John Jones, aged 47, and John Adams Jones, an uncle and nephew, were accused of unlawfully wounding Evan John Lewis, brother-in-law of Evan John Jones. Martha Ann Lewis of Fochriw, wife of John Lewis, stated that on February 26<sup>th</sup>, she had some trouble with her husband, and as a consequence she went to her brother's house. Whilst she was out in the back, her husband came there. When she went back into the house, there was a row between her husband, her brother and his nephew. They were trying to get her husband out of the house. Evan John Jones, brother-in-law of John Lewis, stated that before the 26<sup>th</sup> February they had never had a cross word. On the day, his sister came to his house distressed and crying. He was having a meal when John Lewis came to the house. His nephew was sitting by the fire. Lewis was in a fighting attitude. He was raving. His nephew called him a wastrel and a loafer and told him he was too lazy to work. Lewis made a dart at his nephew, and he got up to stand between them. At the time he had a knife in one hand, and a loaf of bread in the other. Lewis was like a raving madman, swinging his arms in the air. He did not know that the knife struck Lewis. It could only have happened whilst Lewis

was swinging his arms. His nephew did not strike Lewis with a poker, and he did not strike Lewis in any way. John Adams Jones, nephew of Evan John Jones, said that he had been discharged from the Army because his eyesight was defective. Whilst at his uncle's house, John Lewis arrived and attacked him. He picked up a poker to defend himself. Lewis wanted to fight him. He was using filthy language and said he would half kill him. The Stipendiary concluded that the cause of the whole trouble was John Lewis. Both John Adams Jones and Evan John Jones were not guilty. Lewis would be fined £1 for assaulting John Adams Jones.

**27 September 1941** Merthyr Police Court Thomas Ryan, a soldier of Fochriw, was fined 20 shillings for being drunk and disorderly. War Reserve Constable A. Rasbridge said he saw Ryan on Thursday in High Street, Merthyr, arguing with another soldier. He was drunk and using filthy language. When spoken to, he became abusive.

**27 September 1941** An Expensive Ride John Pellard Llewellyn of Fochriw was summoned for using a motor vehicle without a road fund license and insurance policy, and without a pillion seat, on July 27<sup>th</sup>. P.C. Roy Taylor said that he saw Llewellyn riding in Fochriw-road, Deri, with his four year old daughter on the tank in front of him. There was no pillion on the machine. The road fund license had expired on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1939. Llewellyn said that he was repairing the bike for his brother who was in the R.A.F. He was giving his little girl a short ride. The Stipendiary said that he was satisfied that Llewellyn was only trying out the machine. However, he had broken the law, and he was fining him £1 2s 6d.

**7 February 1942** Trespass For trespassing on the railway between Deri and Fochriw, Glanmore Williams of Fochriw was fined 5s. at Pontlloftyn on Friday, and Wm. Gittens, Wm. Hervins, Fredk. Amos, Vernon Llewellyn & Stanley Gittens, all of Fochriw, were each ordered to pay 4s. costs.

**30 May 1942** Maintenance Arrears Brynmor Lewis, colliery engineman, Fochriw, was summoned by his wife, Amy Lewis, of Pleasant-view, Tirphil, in respect of £98 16s. arrears said to be due under a maintenance order. Lewis did not appear. Mrs. Lewis said the order, made on April 26, 1940, was for £1 per week, and she had only been paid £1 since the order was made. Lewis was committed to prison for three months, which will be suspended whilst he pays 5s. per week off the arrears.

**5 September 1942** Expensive Short Cut For trespassing on the railway at Fochriw on July 1, James Davies and Desmond Pritchard, both of Fochriw, were fined 5s. each at Pontlloftyn Police Court on Friday. Evidence was given by P.C. W. Fox who saw the youths on the railway. When they were told they would be reported, they said they were taking a short cut to work.

**3 October 1942** Never Before For trespassing on the railway, Griffith Pugh of Fochriw, was fined 4s. at Pontlloftyn Police Court. Special Sergeant N. Thomas said that he saw Pugh walking on the railway and told him he would be reported. Pugh said, "I have never walked this way before."

**31 October 1942** Fochriw Girl's Child Cora Patricia Small, aged 20, single, of Glen-view, Pentwyn, applied to the Pontlloftyn magistrates on Friday for an order against Ronald Stanley Clark, a soldier, of York, in respect of her child, born in June, 1941. It was stated that before joining the Army, Clark lived at Deri. Mr. John Evans appeared for Small and said that she and Clark had kept company for a number of years. Mr. Evans read letters from the defendant to the complainant which were couched in affectionate terms. The bench made an order for 10s. a week until the child was 16 years of age, with costs, expences and advocate's fee.

**18 September 1943** Fochriw Man Had a Few Drinks Griffith Jones, aged 30, farm labourer, Fochriw, admitted at Pontlloftyn Police-court on Friday that he had had a few drinks. He was summoned for having been drunk and disorderly on Saturday, August 21. P.C. Harry gave evidence of seeing Jones drunk, staggering across the road and using bad language. Jones, who did not appear, was fined 10s.

**18 September 1943** Fochriw Linguist Vincent Hollister, aged 18, collier, Fochriw, was fined 10s. for having used indecent language.

**11 November 1944** Hard Labour For Fochriw Couple: Condition of House Beyond Description Albert Jas. Prosser, aged 33, collier, and his wife, Margaret Prosser, aged 30, of Brook-row, Fochriw, were each sent to prison for four months with hard labour by the Pontloryn magistrates for having neglected their six children. The husband pleaded guilty and the wife not guilty. Mr. John Evans, Bargoed, prosecuted for the N.S.P.C.C., and alleged that the husband and wife were absolutely indifferent to their children. Dr. S.W. McCarthy, Deri, gave evidence of visiting Prosser's house on October 9 last and examining the children. He said the condition of the house was beyond description and the worst he had ever seen. The children were poorly clad, in a filthy condition and under-nourished. The beds upstairs were as black as dirt. Prosser (interposing): I am very sorry; I have played my part. Inspector D.J. Jones said that the husband had been in the Army for years and was discharged about 12 months ago. He worked in a local colliery. His average earnings were over £5 a week. He described the condition of the house as shocking. The children were poorly clad, and the only food in the house was three lumps of bread, about two ounces of margarine and a rind of a piece of cheese. The mother was not at home, and the father, who took a piece of bread, said it was the first he had had for a week. The living room was in a shocking condition, and there was very little furniture. The children were removed to an institution. He later spoke to the mother, who alleged that she did not want to see the children any more. Margaret Prosser (intervening): I have never told you that. The children have not been neglected and were not filthy. I have looked after my children since I have had them. P.C. Walter Cox said he saw the wife, who said, "You can do what you like. I don't care if I have to go to gaol." Albert Prosser said: "It is not my fault: my wife is starving us." The husband (on oath) said that when he came home on leave one time, there were four men in the house. Mr.. W.G. Protheroe: "Why don't you see the children are looked after?" Prosser: "It is not my place to look after them when I am in work. It's a woman's work." Cross examined by Mr. John Evans, the husband denied he had been drinking badly, but admitted he liked a glass of beer. Margaret Prosser did not give evidence. The chairman (Mrs. M. Evans) said that they found them both guilty and sent them to prison. After the decision of the Bench had been given, Albert Prosser asked, "Is it possible for me to have eight months so that my wife can have her life and freedom?" The other magistrates were Mesdames G. Beynon Davies, M.B.E., and M. Judd, and Messrs. S. Lewis and Tom Jones.

**2 June 1945** Trespassers Fined Fines of 10/- each were imposed at the Merthyr Magistrates Court on Tuesday on Beverly Wright (17), Frederick Morgan (18), Desmond Pritchard (22) and Douglas Beale, all of Fochriw, who were charged jointly with trespassing on the G.W.R. at Rhymney on March 14. They were also ordered to pay 1s 3d costs each.

**29 September 1945** Fochriw Girl's Story of Alleged Assault: "After The Dance" Scene Sequel: Collier For Trial An alleged assault on the mountainside after a dance at the Mayfair Ballroom. Pontlottyn, which was held to celebrate the return of Cpl. Edward T. Chapman, V.C., had its sequel at Pontlottyn Magistrates' Court on Friday, when Thomas James Mann, aged 23, collier, of Old School House, Pontlottyn, was accused of an alleged serious offence against Megan Griffiths, aged 26, single woman, of Aelybryn, Fochriw, on August 20. Mann, who was represented by Mr. John Evans, Bargoed, entered a plea of not guilty, and reserved his defence. Mr. D. Owen George prosecuted for the Glamorgan County Council, and said that Miss Griffiths attended the dance.

Giving evidence, Miss Griffiths said she had one dance with Mann and left at about midnight with Audrey James and Mann, who asked to accompany her home. She and Mann were walking along the mountain road towards Fochriw, when Mann tried to put his hands around her. She stopped him and he pushed her down. There was a struggle and she bit him. She managed to get up and run away. He caught her and dragged her a distance of 30 yards. She screamed and shouted at the top of her voice. He then sat on her chest, and she still resisted. When she was on the ground he ripped her clothes. She continued to scream and he put his hands around her throat, telling her that if she did not stop shouting he would choke her. He then committed the alleged offence. When she got up, she ran to a bungalow occupied by Mrs. Chapman, mother of Cpl. Chapman.

Dr. Hill said that on August 21, he examined Miss Griffiths, who was very distressed and frightened. He came to the conclusion that there had been intercourse within a few hours. There were marks on her neck which might have been caused by finger nails.

Mrs. Rachel Chapman said that Miss Griffiths knocked at the door. She was sobbing, and told her that she had been assaulted by a young man. Audrey James (18), Queen-street, Pontlloftyn, said she attended the dance and after arriving at the house, she left Miss Griffiths and Mann. When cautioned by Det.-Sgt. Gwynfryn Davies, Ystrad Mynach, Mann said, "I had a few drinks and lost my head and made her give in." In a statement, Mann was alleged to have said, "I had a few drinks and mixed it. I was not so tight. I tried to molest her, but she would not give in. I am not clear what happened. I lost my head. She started to struggle, and after struggling she had to give in as she was beaten." When charged Mann said, "There is nothing more to say."

**27 October 1945** Children's Custody It was erroneously stated in the *Merthyr Express* for Saturday, October 13, that an order for 10s. per week for each of his two children had been made against Stanley Leonard Russell, who was summoned at Pontlloftyn Magistrates Court by his wife, Mrs. C. Russell of Fochriw, for the custody of the children. The order made by the magistrate was for 5s. per week for each child.

**1 February 1947** No Licensed Club For Fochriw: Free Churches Opposition to Registration Plea Considerable interest was taken in an application by the Fochriw Workingmen's Club and Institute at Pontlloftyn Magistrates Court on Friday, when the club applied to be registered in respect of alcoholic drink. After a retirement, Mr. W.A. Hancock, chairman, with Mr. S. Lewis, Mrs. M. Evans, and Mrs. G. Beynon Davies, announced, "We have discussed this appeal very fairly and fully. We are unanimous in dismissing it. We refuse to register a club." Mr. E. Chivers (from the office of Mr. Granville West, M.P.), Newbridge, appeared for the club, and Mr. George Owen (on behalf of Mr. Joseph Jones, chief constable of Glamorgan, who was present in court) opposed the application. Mr. Chivers said that before the war, it was not necessary to make an application of this kind, but under the Defence Regulations of 1939, they had to apply to the chief constable for permission. The regulations were gradually disappearing, but at the moment they were bound by them. The population of Fochriw was roughly 1,000, and there was only one licensed house, the Rising Sun. There were two others in the village of Pentwyn, some distance away. In his submission, there was a substantial need for a licensed club. They might have different opinions about clubs generally, but clubs had become part of their national life, for every village in the land had a club. Mr. George Owen said that the grounds for the objection were that the club, as a registered club, was not required to meet a genuine and substantial need, in that the existing facilities for social amenities, recreation, refreshment, cultural and political activities at Fochriw were adequate. The existing facilities for refreshment were sufficient to meet the public without the provision of additional facilities by the club, and the means of social intercourse, mutual helpfulness, mental and moral improvement, and rational recreation, could be successfully achieved by the club without the necessity of registration under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act. 1910.

Wm. Martin Davies of Plantation-terrace, Fochriw, secretary of the club, said that the club had a membership of 79. In reply to Mr. Chivers, Davies said he was definitely of the opinion that the facilities now existing were inadequate to meet the social life of the village. The Chairman: The Rising Sun public house has been re-modelled, and a considerable amount of money has been spent to make it a good public house. Davies, continuing his evidence, said there was no need for a man to go to a club simply to drink. Cross-examined by Mr. George, Davies agreed that the premises was an ordinary dwelling house, but denied that it was unsuitable for selling intoxicating liquor. Mr. Owen George said there were two public houses in Pentwyn, three-quarters of a mile from Fochriw. With regard to social activities, they had a Welfare Hall, where music and dancing and public meetings were held. These were amenities that the club could not provide. They had a flourishing youth movement with headquarters at the school, and also, the Fochriw Silver Band. Mr. George (to Davies): I suggest to you that the only added facility you want is for drinking purposes. Davies: I deny that. We want to carry out various improvements to the club, so that we can

use the club for social purposes. Mr. George: And you propose that the club should have drink on Sunday? Davies: I don't see anything wrong in drinking beer on Sunday and a weekend. Mr. W.G. Protheroe (magistrate's clerk): You know there is a shortage of beer. Are you in a position to get a supply? Davies: I think so.

Edward Puddle, Railway-terrace, a member of the club, said there was a real need for social amenities in the village. Sandy V. Powell, Dynevor-street, also gave evidence in support of the application. Mr. George Owen submitted that the application by the club was merely for drinking facilities on a Sunday.

Police Inspector G. Thomas, Bargoed, opposing the application, said that the premises was an ordinary dwelling house, and that there were inadequate sanitary arrangements. The village was adequately catered for in regard to social and cultural activities. The Rev. Eurof Jones, minister of Carmel Congregational Chapel, said that he opposed the application on behalf of the denomination and the Free Churches of Fochriw. He felt there were ample facilities in the village, and he did not think a licensed club to sell intoxicating liquor was needed. There was no genuine need. Mr. Chivers: You have strong convictions on the matter of licensing? Mr. Jones: Yes, especially on Sundays. Mr. Chivers: I take it that you have strong convictions against public houses in general? Mr. Jones: That is a matter for one's personal conscience. I don't agree that a public house is for social amenities, neither is a club. Trevor Lawrence, schoolmaster, of Glyn-terrace, chairman of the Free Church Council, said that the needs of the population were amply catered for. Mr. Chivers: Are you a teetotaler? Yes, I am, but I have no objection to a man having a drink. Thomas John Jones, Fochriw, a deacon at Noddfa, also gave evidence opposing the application.

**2 June 1951** Council Chairman Welcomed Coun. W. J. Payne, chairman of the Gellygaer Council, was sworn in as a magistrate at Pontlloftyn Court on Friday. He was welcomed by Mr. Joshua Davies (Stipendiary) who wished Mr. Payne a successful year in office.

**16 June 1951** Blackwood Court Three youths, disturbed by a police officer while they were playing 'pitch and toss' in the street at Argoed, ran away and left three half-pence in the road, it was alleged at Blackwood Court on Friday. The three, Grahame Lloyd, John Hook, and Terence Botchett, all of Argoed, did not appear, but wrote letters to the court in which they pleaded guilty. Each was fined 5s, for gaming in a public place.

**23 May 1953** Fochriw Widow Wins Claim: Colliery Work Contributed To Husband's Death Judge L. C. Thomas, at Bargoed County Court on Wednesday, made an award, which was agreed between the parties at £400, the maximum, in favour of Mrs. Lydia Gwen Williams, widow, of Martin-street, Fochriw, who claimed compensation from the Coal Board in respect of the death in Merthyr General Hospital on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 1948, of her husband, John Williams, aged 64, who was employed as an underground repairer at Groesfaen Colliery, Deri. An order for costs was made against the Board. For the applicant, it was claimed that Williams' work in using a mandril and pneumatic drill to make room for the erection of rings, had contributed to cerebral haemorrhage from which he died. Mrs. Williams said her husband was in good health and good spirits when he left home for the night shift on Jan. 22, 1948. Early on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, he was brought home by ambulance and later taken to Merthyr General Hospital. She said that on arrival home, her husband understood what she was saying but could not speak. Edmund Jones, Regent-street, Dowlais, Williams' assistant, said that he and Williams were working on "hard ground," and that before having his food, Williams had been standing on a staging for two of three hours. The Judge heard medical evidence from both sides before giving his decision.

**27 November 1954** Dangerous Dog Zygmunt Frost, a 24 year old machine operator of Coronation Terrace, Fochriw, was ordered by the magistrates to have his dog destroyed, and ordered to pay 5/- costs for failing to keep a dangerous dog under proper control. Glanmor Williams of Glanynant, Fochriw, said he was riding a motor-cycle very slowly when a dog bit him on the leg. The dog had continually worried him.

**28 May 1955** Indecent Language For using indecent language, D. I. Lewis, aged 24 of Coronation Crescent, Fochriw, and Cyril Burton, aged 23, of Abertysswg, were fined 10s. each.

**6 August 1955** Pontlloftyn Court Glyndwr Thomas Davies, aged 24, blacksmith of Plantation Terrace, was fined 10s. for committing a nuisance, and 10s. for using indecent language. P. C. Jenkins proved the case.

**6 August 1955** Dog Killed Chickens: Fochriw Miner Fined 10s. Kenvin Franklin, a 29 year old miner of Heol Iago, Fochriw, was fined 10s. on a summons that his dog was worrying poultry. Leslie Jones of Morris Row, Fochriw, said that on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, he was visiting his chicken cot on the mountain side. He opened the doors and found five pullets lying dead on the floor. He found a terrier dog in the cot, and on examination found 11 pullets and 7 chickens dead. He later identified the dog as belonging to Franklin. P. C. Baunton said that the dog was destroyed that day.

**5 November 1955** Merthyr Court: Let Off Firework In Street George Bradley, aged 19 of Glanynant, Fochriw, was fined 20 shillings for letting off a firework in the street. P.C. Williams said that on Saturday he saw a flash and heard a bang coming from the junction of Market Street and Garden Street, Dowlais. He saw three youths running in his direction. Bradley admitted that he set off the firework.

**21 January 1956** Pontlloftyn Court For committing a nuisance at Broad Street, Pontlloftyn, Melvyn Jones, aged 20 of Glanynant, Fochriw, was fined 10s..

**28 April 1956** Railway Trespass For trespassing on the railway between Penybanc and Fochriw, George Puddle, aged 38 of Railway Terrace, was ordered to pay 5s. costs.

**9 June 1956** Indecent Language George Puddle, a 28 year old platelayer of Railway Terrace, was fined £1 for using indecent language. P.C. Southwood gave evidence that on Friday, April 6, he heard Puddle use indecent language in Railway Terrace, and that he had been drinking.

**29 September 1956** Driving Offence Eugenies Grabowski, a 30 year old miner of Glanynant, Fochriw, was found guilty at Pontlloftyn Court on Friday of driving a motor-car in a dangerous manner, and was fined £10, and his licence endorsed.

**6 October 1956** Inquest Held on Fochriw Man: "Accidental Death" A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned at the Caerphilly inquest last Wednesday on Jenkins Richards, aged 48, a miner, of Glanynant, Fochriw. Richards, a married man with four children, was struck by a journey of runaway trams at Ogilvie Colliery, Deri, on September 7. He received multiple injuries from which he died at Caerphilly and District Miners' Hospital, five days later. George Williams, master haulier at the colliery, said he realised something was wrong when he saw a journey gain speed too quickly because a rope had become loose. He ran down to see what had happened, and found Richards lying in the middle of the journey that had stopped. Richards said "I've had it pretty bad George." Daniel Jones, ropeway man, said he heard Richards say he would go on in front after he had helped to get the journey re-started, after one tram had become derailed. Glyndwr Richards, and electric haulage driver, said he received the signal to 'slack rope' and the journey move off at a walking pace. Then he saw the rope leave the drum. Dr. June Birch, house surgeon at Caerphilly Miners' Hospital gave details of Richards' injuries. The coroner, Mr. Owen Rees, said nobody was to blame for the accident. The men concerned were all experienced workers, and they had no reason to believe the rope would become detached. Neither had Richards taken any suicidal risk in going ahead of the journey as he did.

**27 October 1956** Pontlloftyn Court Isaac Evans, aged 38 of Rhodfa Ganol, Fochriw, was summoned for keeping a dangerous dog. He was ordered to pay £2 19s. costs, and ordered to keep the dog under control. Lawrence Delahey of Glanynant, Fochriw, gave details of the wounds he received when bitten by the dog on Jul 20<sup>th</sup>, supported by P.C. Southworth.

**1 December 1956** New Tredegar Court William Phillips, aged 24, of Hillside, Fochriw, was fined £2 for carrying an insecure load on the back of his lorry.

**23 February 1957** Bad Road Killed Fochriw Man A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned at the Bargoed inquest on Monday evening, on Melvyn Hier, 20 year old signalman of Heol Iago, who was fatally injured while riding a solo motor-cycle at Fochriw on Jan. 28. The jury sitting with the North Glamorgan coroner said that the accident was caused by the rough and uneven surface of the road. Evidence was given by William Thomas, Bryn Amlwg, Fochriw, and Arthur James Farmer of Pontlloftyn Road, Fochriw. Hier was not

wearing a crash helmet. It was reported that since the accident the road had been rolled and lamped.

**27 April 1957** Fochriw Man Was Killed By Runaway Cart Pinned against a ventilation door by a timber cart, Caradoc Shankland of 33, Guest Street, Fochriw, sustained injuries from which he died. At the Caerphilly inquest on Wednesday, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death." Mr. G. M. Hughes, colliery deputy, said there had been trouble with the slack rope and winch attached to the cart. As a temporary measure, he cut the rope and knotted it. One journey was completed, but on the second, the cart became wedged against a conveyor. After the cart ran downhill, he found the knot had become untied. He concluded that the jolt of releasing the cart had caused the knot to come apart. We called to Shankland to get out of the way, but the cart caught up with him, pinning him to the ventilation door. Mr. J. E. Hodges, assistant repairer, said Shankland was helping to dislodge the cart, which was stuck 40 yards from the ventilation door. When the cart started to move, he shouted to Shankland to get out of the way. The gradient there was 1 in 1.4.

**30 March 1957** Indecent Language Clifford Bishop, collier (35), of Coronation Crescent, Fochriw, was fined 10s. for using indecent language on Saturday, March 2. P. C. Southworth gave evidence.

**30 March 1957** Dog In Street at 1.45 a.m. Iorwerth Lewis Matthews (23) collier of Glanynant, Fochriw, was fined 10s. for not having his dog under proper control during the hours of darkness. P. C. Southworth gave evidence.

**30 March 1957** Dogs Worried Sheep Thomas Lance, collier (28), and Idwal David Matthews (50) both of Glanynant, Fochriw, were summoned because their dogs had been worrying sheep. Lance was fined £1, and Matthews, who said his dog had been destroyed, was fined 10s. Lance was ordered to keep a dangerous dog under control and to pay 9s. costs. Walter John Williams of Pentwyn Farm gave evidence, saying that a ewe had died as a result of injuries.

**31 August 1957** Fochriw Child Crawled Under Van – Killed: "Accidental Death" A young Fochriw mother, giving evidence at a Bargoed inquest last week, described how she saw a neighbour's child run over by a van. The jury, sitting with Mr. T. Alwyn John, Coroner for North Glamorgan, recorded a verdict of "Accidental Death" on Lynette Elaine John, aged two, younger child of Mr. & Mrs. Robert T. John, 123, Glanynant, Fochriw. Mrs. Jones told the Coroner that she lived on the opposite side of the road to the dead child's parents. Soon after mid-day on August 7, she handed a coat for dry cleaning to Mr. Douglas Evan Jones, the driver of a dry cleaning service delivery van. The van was outside her house. She returned to her work at the front of her house. Within a few seconds she heard a bump, and saw the back wheel of the van go over a child's body. She had not seen the child before. Mrs. Jones said, "I could not move. I just screamed. The van stopped immediately. A lady living opposite came across to comfort me as she thought my little girl had had it. Both the children were dresses similarly and had blond hair. Mrs. Lucy Mary Howells of 73, Glanynant, said she was on her doorstep when she saw a child playing on the side of the gutter. A van was stationary outside No. .. and the driver was away a few seconds calling at the house. Mrs. Howells said she did not see the child when the driver returned. She went indoors. Later, someone told her husband there had been an accident. The driver, Douglas Evan Jones, said that after calling on Mrs. Jones, he returned to the van. Just when he moved, he felt a bump at the back, when he stopped. He looked out of the van and heard a scream. Mr. Jones said he got out and ran to the back of the van, where he found a child lying in the gutter. Two men came up, and he ran for the ambulance and the police. P.C. Ralph Southworth said he saw the child at her home. She was bleeding from the ears and nose. There was a pool of blood at the scene of the accident, and there were traces of blood and blond hair on the rear near-side wheel of the van. The child's mother, Mrs. Dora May John, said Lynette was in the kitchen with her. The door leading to the road was open, but she had two chairs wedged across the open doorway. "I missed her a few seconds after I had given her something to eat," Mrs. Jones continued. I was just going out after her, when a lady called to say there had been an accident. I all happened in a matter of seconds." Summing up, the Coroner said that quite obviously, the child had crawled between the front and rear wheels of the van while Mr. Jones had been collecting the



coat. When he returned to the van, the child must have been completely out of sight. The Coroner added that Lynette was dead when examined by Mr. Alan Evans at Redwood Hospital, Rhymney. Dr. Evans found that death was caused by a fractured base of the skull.

**21 September 1957** Body In Car On Wednesday afternoon Glamorgan Police were investigating the death of a middle-aged man. He was found dead in a car standing on the side of the lonely road - South Tunnel Road - a short distance from Fochriw. The man was taken to Bargoed Mortuary for post mortem examination. He was identified as William Sidney Thompson of Tamworth, Staffs.

**28 September 1957** Inquest: Suicide Verdict Suicide was the verdict at the Bargoed Inquest on a man whose body was found in a parked car near South Tunnel Road, Fochriw. The man, William Sidney Thompson, a carpenter and joiner, of Tamworth, Staffs, died due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

**21 June 1958** Fochriw Driver Acquitted In Dublin On the Judge's direction, Norman Withers, aged 37, mining engineer, of the Rising Sun, Fochriw, was found not guilty at the Circuit Criminal Court, Dublin, on Monday, of the manslaughter of Frederick Bradley (32), and Leslie Trollope (44), both of Fochriw. The case arose out of a road crash at 1 a.m. on March 11 involving a party of Welsh supporters who were in Dublin for the rugby international match between Wales and Ireland.

**25 October 1958** Coroner Praises Heroic Efforts of Fochriw Rescue Workers The Coroner and jury at a Bargoed inquest on Friday evening praised the heroic efforts made by firemen, a police constable, miners and mine rescue teams to save the lives of three miners who collapsed in a drift mine at Fochriw. A verdict of "Accidental death from asphyxia due to inhalation of carbon dioxide" was returned on the three miners - Thomas Idris Shankland, Wilfred Hollister, and his son, William Charles Hollister. They died on September 24. Desmond Evans of Guest-street, Fochriw, one of five men at work in the mine on the day of the tragedy, said that when he heard Wilfred Hollister shout that Shankland had collapsed further in the drift, he and the two Hollisters rushed to help. As he was trying to lift up Shankland, he saw the two Hollisters collapse. "I was partly overcome. I knew something was wrong and I held my breath. The next thing I knew was when I saw David Gittens standing over me. I heard after that he had pulled me out." When he recovered he went to telephone for help, and Shankland's two brothers and other men arrived. John Llewellyn of Glenview, Fochriw, a small mines owner, said he went into the drift. He could see the three men who had collapsed, and then the lamp went out. He realised it was impossible to get the men out without breathing apparatus. P.C. Southworth said it took four men to pull out one of the men. After a mishap to the breathing apparatus of the firemen, it was too dangerous to get to the third man until the mines rescue teams arrived. Appreciation of "outstanding bravery" by two Glamorgan firemen is to be recorded by the County Fire Service Committee, and letters of congratulation will go to Leading Fireman R. W. J. Smith, and W. G. Sims of Bargoed Fire Station. The two officers are to be presented with the Chief Fire Officer's Commendation.

**22 November 1958** Fochriw Cars in Collision: N.C.B. Clerk Fined £20 A collision between two cars on the Ponlottyn - Fochriw road, in which two motorists were injured, had its sequel at Pontlottyn Court on Friday. Leighton Cole Millward, aged 32, an N.C.B. clerk, of Glanynant, Fochriw, and Gordon Lawrence, aged 44, grocer, of Glyn-terrace, Fochriw, were found guilty of driving their cars without due care and attention. The Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr. Joshua Davies, Q.C., imposed a fine of £20 on Millward. Lawrence was given an absolute discharge on paying costs of £2 1s 6d. The Stipendiary said that it was obvious from the nature of the road, Millward had driven like a "road hog." P.C. B. Jenkins said that the car driven by Lawrence was a complete wreck, and the front off side of the other was damaged. Lawrence said he had been driving for 27 years, and had not previously been involved in an accident. At 8.30 a.m. on September 1, he was driving in the direction of Dowlais at 15-20 m.p.h. He had three passengers in the car. As he was taking the turn into Dowlais road, he saw a car about two hundred yards away. He pulled over to his correct side, but the other car was on top of him before he had a chance to do anything. A collision occurred. He had bruising to his chest, and cuts on his left hand. Millward said he was

travelling at about 40 m.p.h. He sounded the horn once as a warning gesture, and saw no reason to diminish his speed. A few yards from the junction, a car pulled towards the middle of the road. It was hopeless to apply the brakes, so he attempted to take the only avoiding action by turning the car to the right into the mountainside. Before he could do this, the other car caught the rear side of his car. He sustained cuts to his head and had concussion, and was taken to Merthyr hospital, where he remained for a week. Mr. Russell Evans, Merthyr, appeared for Lawrence, and Millward was represented by Mr. Alan Withers, Bargoed.

**10 October 1959** Fined Thomas J. Williams, aged 21, a collier of Pentwyn, was fined £1 for carrying an unqualified driver on a motor cycle, when a holder of a provisional license. His passenger, William Tyler, aged 30, also a collier, was fined £1 for aiding and abetting Williams in the offence.

**5 December 1959** Fined An eighteen year old youth, Clive Borstal of Heol-y-Bryn, Fochriw, who was discovered gaming with cards with two juveniles in Bute Terrace, Pontlottyn, on September 27<sup>th</sup> was fined £2.

**5 December 1959** Dog Bite An 84 year old undertaker, Ernest E. Cumpstone of The Villas, Fochriw, was ordered to keep his black and white sheep dog under control and to pay 9/- costs. Thomas David Evans of Pontlottyn said in evidence that he was walking behind Cumpstone's house on September 27<sup>th</sup> when the dog jumped from the doorway and bit him on the calf. P.C. Southall that Evans reported the incident, and he saw that there was a slight tear in the left calf of Evans' trousers, and there were two small wounds on his leg.

**30 December 1961** Fochriw Youths' Bus Fight Women were screaming and huddled in terror as two youths fought in the back seat of a bus in Pontlottyn, magistrates at Pontlottyn Cout were told on Friday. P.Sgt. F. Bright told the Court that on the evening of December 20, a single deck bus was stopped outside the Police Station. The conductor made a complaint and he boarded the bus. The two youths were fighting and the bus was in an uproar. He had forcibly to eject them from the bus. Douglas Bailey, 19, unemployed of 2, Noddfa Ganol, Fochriw, and Sidney James Saunders, 19, unemployed, of 8, Coronation Crescent, Fochriw, were each fined £2 for being drunk and disorderly. In Court, Bailey said he would never touch another drop of beer in his life. Saunders, who was stated to have 17 previous convictions, was also fined £5 for the larceny of a half pint glass measure from the General Picton Hotel, Pontlottyn, and £5 for leaving broken glass on the highway. P.S. Bright said that he was taking the youths into the police station from the bus, Saunders took the glass from his pocket and threw it into the road. Sitting with the chairman, Mrs. G. Davies, was Miss M.E. Edwards.

**7 April 1962** Fochriw Woman's Dog Bit Rhymney Youth A Fochriw woman, Mrs. Myfanwy Rees, Heol-y-bryn, was fiend a total of £1, with 8s 6d costs by the Pontlottyn 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.

**25 July 1964** £21 in Fines: Fochriw Learner Forgot the Lights A Fochriw learner-driver, Malcolm Reed, a miner, aged 27, of Coronation Crescent, was fined £15 by Bargoed magistrates on Friday for driving his car without insurance, and disqualified from driving for six months. For not showing 'L' plates, he was fined £3, and had his license endorsed. He was fined £2 for parking on the offside after dark, and £1 for not showing lights – altogether a total of £21. He pleaded guilty to the summonses. Reed told the court that he was under the impression that his mother had insured the car, and that he did not know he had committed offences.

**18 December 1964** Fochriw Man Fined Haydn Wood of The Grove, Fochriw, was fined £5 by Bargoed Magistrates last Friday for leaving the engine of his unattended car running in High Street, Bargoed. He was also fined £2 for leaving his car in a 'No Waiting' area. He pleaded guilty by letter.