

“Merthyr Express” 3 January 1953

Social Evening A successful social evening was held at the New Hall on Tuesday evening by the members of the Fochriw County Youth Centre. Members meet weekly at the Fochriw School. They are an active body with Mr. H. Owen as warden and Mr. J. Ballard secretary. The evening was devoted to different forms of entertainment. Refreshments were served by the lady members.

Coronation Committee A representative meeting was held at the New Hall on Monday evening, to make arrangements for celebration festivities for the Coronation Year. Coun. Sam Lewis, J.P., presided. Several matters were discussed and a further meeting was arranged for Jan. 9. The officers appointed were: chairman, Coun. S. Lewis, J.P.; vice-chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; secretary, Mr. Dan Jenkins; treasurer, Mr. Ben Griffiths.

Christmas Tree The giant Christmas tree at Fochriw was illuminated on Christmas Eve. The inaugural ceremony was performed by Coun. H.J. Williams, J.P., chairman of the Gelligaer Council, who was introduced by Coun. S. Lewis. The large crowd surrounding the tree included Santa Claus (Mr. Cyril Davies) who arrived by sleigh; Mr. John Slimmond; Councillors W.J. Payne and B. Cook (Bedlinog); Messrs. R. Thomas, Frank Jenkins, Howell Owen, Iorwerth Owen, H. Wood & V. Powell. Prayers were offered by Rev. E. Adams Evans, vicar. Later, a carol singing service was held at the New Hall, which was crowded with children and their parents. The singing was conducted by Mr. Meirion Shankland and the accompanist was Mr. W.A. Davies. Coun. Williams addressed the children, and other speakers were Coun. Payne, Coun. Cook, and Rev. E. Adams Evans. At the close, Santa Claus presented each child with a present.

Singing Festivals The annual Nodda and Nazareth gymanfa was held at Noddfa on Christmas Day. The singing reached a high standard under the conductorship of Mr. W.A. Davies, who took the place of Mr. D.J. Thomas, who was unable to attend through illness. The organists were Mrs. K. Walters and Mr. Tom Davies. A hymn tune was sung composed by Mr. Sam Evans, A.C., a former deacon of Noddfa. The morning service was taken by the children when Edna Hughes read a portion of Scripture and Michael Shankland took part in prayer. A solo was sung by Phyllis Jones. “The Christmas Story” was related by Annette Jones, Ann Ballard, Rosemary Jones, Herbert Jones, Willie Edwards and Phillip Jones. The devotions in the afternoon service were taken by Miss Katie Hughes and Mr. Tom Thomas. The following Nazareth children took part: Michael Shankland, M. Matthews, E. & A. Shankland, May Morris, Edna Hughes, Gwyn Hughes. In the evening service, the devotions were taken by Mrs. G. Pearce and Mr. R. Jones. A solo was sung by Jeanette Burrows. The presidents for the day were: Morning: Mr. R. Jones; Afternoon: Mr. Hugh Jones; Evening: Mr. T.J. Jones.

Carmel annual gymanfa was also held. Although the number was small, the singing was of a high standard. The morning service was for children, and Nurse Mimi Lewis presided. The devotions were taken by Islwyn and Margaret Shankland. Recitations were given by Rosalind Russell and Morfydd Owen; solo, Margaret Shankland. The afternoon service was presided over by Mr. Daniel James. A portion of Scripture was read by Mr. James Davies. The evening service was presided over by Miss E. Evans. The devotions were taken by Miss M. Owen and Mr. Sam Lewis. A portion of the play, “Man Born to be King,” was performed by Rosalind Russell, James Davies, Leonard Evans and Islwyn Shankland. The accompanists were Mrs. A. Evans-Davies and Mrs. E. Rees. Mr. Meirion Shankland was the conductor throughout the day.

“Merthyr Express” 10 January 1953

Noddfa Sisterhood Miss Edna Jones presided at the meeting on Thursday evening. She read a portion of Scripture, and Mrs. Irene Jones offered prayer. The speaker was Mrs. T. Evans of Deri, who gave a paper on “The Lonely Jesus.” Mrs. Evans also gave a solo. Thanks were accorded by Mrs. E.P. Lewis and Nurse M. Lewis. Mrs. Dilys Edwards was the organist. The meeting was closed with the Benediction.

“Merthyr Express” 24 January 1953

Sisterhood Miss Edna Jones presided at the meeting on Thursday. The meeting was taken by Mrs. A. Davies, Railway-terrace, who led the devotions and gave a paper on “The Birth of Christ.” She was thanked by Miss Evans and Mrs. I. Jones. The organist was Mrs. D. Edwards.

Cycling Club Supper The third annual supper took place at the Rising Sun Inn on Saturday. The Host and Hostess, Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Pritchard, prepared an excellent meal. Later, a first class concert was given by Al Lewis Bros., Pengam. The chairman was Mr. Jack Davies and the pianist was Mr. Jack Jones. At the close Mr. I. Shankland proposed a vote of thanks to the Host and Hostess and helpers, seconded by Mr. Jack Jones and Mr. Gordon Lawrence. The president of the club is Mr. Emlyn Evans; secretary, Mr. W. Abbey; treasurer, Mr. N. Thomas.

Coronation Plans At a meeting of the Coronation Committee at the New Hall on Friday, Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., presided over a representative meeting, supported by Coun. Payne, vice-chairman, Mr. Dan Jenkins, secretary, and Mr. F. Jenkins, treasurer. Several possible plans were discussed. The Entertainment and Sports Committee selected officers as follows: chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; joint secretaries, Miss Eliza Evans and Mr. Iorwerth Evans; treasurer, Mr. Frank Jenkins. Several items of entertainment were discussed, and it is hoped to make the week a memorable one. Events will be held before Coronation Day.

“Merthyr Express” 31 January 1953

New Houses The erection of 200 new houses for the N.C.B. began last week. Gelligaer Council will build another 100 in the district in the near future.

Late Mr. J. Hughes The death has occurred at the home of his son and daughter-in-law in North Wales, of Mr. John Hughes, who for many years lived at Martin-street.

Coronation Plans A Committee meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday evening. Coun. Lewis presided over the general committee, and Coun. Payne over the entertainments and sports committee. Arrangements were made for entertainments during Coronation week, commencing with community hymn singing of the combined churches on Sunday evening, Mr. T. Walters conducting. Among other events will be a children’s tea, an old age pensioners’ tea, and street teas. Prizes will be given for the best-dressed street. A Noson Lawen, carnival and comic events, sports and fireworks display will also be held. The secretaries are Mr. D. Jenkins and Mr. Iorwerth Evans, and Miss Eliza Evans and Mr. Frank Jenkins are treasurers.

“Merthyr Express” 7 February 1953

Sisterhood Mrs. S. G. Parry, vice-president, presided over the meeting on Thursday. Nurse M. Lewis took the reading; Miss G. Evans offered prayer and gave a paper on “Life-building.” She was thanked by Mrs. A. Davies and Mrs. I. Jones. Mrs. Dilys Edwards was the organist.

Dance for O.A.P. A dance was held at the New Hall on Friday in aid of the O.A.P. Outing Fund. Dancing was to the music of Mr. John Pullen’s radiogram. The M.C.s were Messrs. C. Cumpstone, G. Davies and G. Lawrence. The first part of the evening was given over to dancing for children, followed by dancing for adults. Winners of the spot prizes, given by Mrs. H. L. Farley and Mrs. J. M. Lawrence, were Mrs. M. Chapman and Mr. Powell. A prize, given by Mrs. T. Rowlands, was won by Miss Connie Wood. Refreshments were served by members of the committee. The officers were: secretary, Mrs. Joan Owen; treasurer, Miss C. Shankland; president, Mrs. H. L. Farley; chairman, Mrs. J. Lawrence.

200 Houses For Miners At Fochriw: Council's "Yes" To Immediate Start On £282,639 Scheme Two hundred homes costing £282,639 are to be built by the Coal Industry Housing Association at Fochriw. Included in the total cost are amounts for the provision of coal cooking ranges and for extra insulation and draught-stripping to doors. This information was given at Thursday's meeting of Gellygaer Council, which offered no objection to the Associations' application that an immediate start be made on the scheme.

"Merthyr Express" 21 February 1953

Dr Barnado's Homes Film Lecture A film lecture in connection with Dr. Barnado's Homes was given at Carmel Vestry on Thursday evening by Rev. J. O. James.

Late Mrs. Olive Lewis The death has occurred of a well-known inhabitant of the village, Mrs. Olive Lewis, wife of Mr. Tom Lewis, Aelybryn.

Coronation Committee Dance A dance was held under the auspices of the Coronation Committee at the New Hall on Friday. Dancing was to Mr. John Pullen's radiogram. The M.C.s were Messrs. C. Cumpstone, G. Lawrence and D. Keen. The ladies of the committee served refreshments.

Noddfa Sisterhood Miss Edna Jones presided at the meeting on Thursday. The meeting was taken by Mr. W. A. Davies, Railway-terrace, who gave a paper on "The Christian Race." He was thanked by Nurse M. Lewis and Mrs. S. G. Parry. Mrs. D. Edwards was the organist. The meeting was closed by the Benediction.

"Merthyr Express" 28 February 1953

Coronation Committee On Friday evening at the New Hall, Coun. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting of the Coronation Committee. Coun. Sam Lewis was unable to attend due to illness. It was reported that the dance, recently held, had been successful and that a drama will be staged on Feb. 24 by the Cefn Coed Society. These events are being held to provide a Coronation week of enjoyment, and to provide souvenir mugs for children under school age. The chairman appealed for the greatest co-operation between the general committee and the street teas committee. All street tea committees have been invited to send representatives to the general committee. It was decided to invite several more people to serve on the general committee, as much work had still to be done. The secretaries, Mr. Dan Jenkins and Mr. Iorwerth Evans gave their reports, as did the treasurer, Mr. Frank Jenkins.

Late Mrs. Olive Lewis, Aelybryn The funeral of Mrs. O. Lewis, wife of Mr. Tom Lewis, took place at Bedwellty Churchyard on Thursday. The Rev. Eurof Jones, Cwmavon, late of Fochriw, officiated at the house and graveside. The bearers were Messrs. S. Lewis, W. Fox, W. A. Davies, J. Jones, S. Ballard & H. Jones. Mourners were: Mr. T. Lewis (husband); Messrs. W. Adams, Rees Lewis, D. Lewis, W. Angell, T. Shankland, C. J. Quick (brothers-in-law); W. Lewis (uncle); T. & H. Adams, G. Cumpstone (nephews); T. R. & D. E. Lewis, D. Harris, W. James, W. & E. Harris (cousins). At the house: Joyce (daughter); Mrs. A. Titmus (mother); Dolly, Ivy, Phyllis (sisters); Rachel, Mary, Cassie, Nellie, Elspeth, Rona, Edith (sisters-in-law); Maggie, Bella, Mary, Alice (aunts); Joan, Thelma, Wynne (nieces); Sur, May, Rachel, Totse, Dolly, Ivy (cousins); Mrs. Games, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Fox.

"Merthyr Express" 7 March 1953

St. David's Day: Fochriw Schools The festival was celebrated in traditional style at the local schools, with fine programmes prepared at Fochriw School, by Mr. Dan Jenkins and staff, and at Penybank, by Mr. Ben Griffiths and staff.

Drama at the New Hall On Tuesday, the St. John's Church Dramatic society, Cefn Coed, gave a fine performance of the comedy "The Camel's Back," produced by the Rev. T. Emlyn Jones, vicar. The proceeds were in aid of the Coronation Fund. Mr. Dan Jenkins introduced the Company, and Coun. W. J. Payne who presided, thanked the Company and the producer.

"Merthyr Express" 14 March 1953

First Prize Miss Mary Cumpstone, 12 year old daughter of Mr. & Mrs. A. Cumpstone, won the first prize for elocution (16 years and under) at the Brecon Eisteddfod last week.

Noddfa Sisterhood Miss Edna Jones presided at the meeting last Thursday. Mrs. M. Sheen read a portion of Scripture, and Miss G. Evans offered prayer. A paper was given by Nurse M. Lewis, Guest-street. Thanks were accorded by the president. Mrs. A. Davies and Mrs. H. Farley also spoke. Mrs. Dilys Edwards was the organist.

The Coronation A meeting of the Coronation Committee took place on Friday at the New Hall. Coun. W.J. Payne presided. The drama had proved a financial success and the funds had benefited. It was agreed that there would be a Children's Esteddfof, a flitch trial and a concert. It is hoped to arrange a television viewing of the Coronation ceremony in the Hall. Also, the Fochriw Silver Band will be re-formed for Coronation week.

Labour Party The annual meeting of the Fochriw Labour Party took place at the New Hall on Wednesday week. Coun. Payne presided. Coun. S. Lewis was absent through illness. Coun. Payne gave a report on Council business and answered several questions. Regret was expressed at the resignation of the secretary, Mr. Iorwerth Evans, and Mrs. H.L. Farley was appointed in his place. The auditors' report was accepted, and was very satisfactory. The auditors are Mr. Frank Jenkins and Mr. V. Coggan. Officers were: chairman, Coun. S. Lewis, J.P.; vice-chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; secretary, Mrs. H.L. Farley; treasurer, Mr. D.J. Thomas.

One-Act Plays On Thursday at the New Hall, a performance of three one-act plays was given by the Tiryberth County Youth Centre, who performed the play "Mr. Twemlow is not Himself;" and the Fochriw County Youth Centre, who performed "Riders to the Sea" (J.M. Synge), and "A Husband for Breakfast" (J. Elwy Mitchell). The chairman was Mr. Frank Jenkins. Mr. Frank West, Tiryberth, and Mr. H. Owen, Fochriw, the centre wardens, thanked the audience for their attention and support. Mr. Arnold Jones was responsible for the make-up of the Fochriw group, and the stage carpenter was Mr. John Sullivan. Refreshments for the visitors was served by Miss Margaret Williams, vice-warden of the Fochriw Cente, and Mr. H. Owen. The performers of the Fochiw plays were: "Riders to the Sea:" Margaret Davies, Pat Brown, Pat Sullivan, John Williams, Gillian Jones, Mair Jones, Sheil Lewis, Donald Jones, John Sullivan; "A Husband for Breakfast:" Mary Jones, Gillian Jones, Pamel Edwards, Roy Shankland, John Ballard, Donald Jones, Gwyn Morgan. Mr. H. Owen was the producer.

"Merthyr Express" 28 March 1953

For Church Funds The St. Margaret's Amateur Dramatic Society, Gilfach, gave a performance of the comedy, "Short Story," at the New Hall on Thursday. The company was well received by an appreciative audience. Coun. Payne and the Vicar, Rev. E. Adams Evans, thanked the company for their excellent services. At the close, the company was entertained to tea by the ladies of the church.

"Merthyr Express" 4 April 1953

Fochriw Houses Splendid progress is being made with the erection of 200 houses for the Coal Industry Housing Association, and with the erection of 112 houses for the Gellygaer Council, which we hope will be started soon. These developments will add greatly to the status of the village.

Motor Club The Fochriw and District Motor Club held their annual dance at the Mayfair, Pontlottyn, on Friday. Music was supplied by the Tommy Watkins Melody Makers. The M.C.s were Messrs. C. Cumpstone, G. Lawrence and G. Davies. The secretary was Mr. William Abbey. The event proves more attractive each year.

"Merthyr Express" 11 April 1953

The Gymanfa The annual Noddfa and Nazareth Gymanfa was held at Noddfa on Easter Day. The singing reached a very high standard under the conductorship of Mr. D.J. Thomas. The organists were Mrs. K. Walters and Mr. Tom Davies. The morning service was devoted to the children when a portion of Scripture was read by Willie Edwards and solos were sung by Phyllis Jones and David Price. At the afternoon service, Miss Edna E. Jones and Mr. Tom Thomas prayed. A solo was sung by Michael Shankland. At the evening service, the devotions were taken by Mrs. Gwenda Pearce and Mr. T.J. Jones. Solos were sung by

Herbert Jones and Mr. Griff Morris of Colwyn Bay, late of Fochriw. The presidents for the day were: morning, Mr. Richard Jones; afternoon, Mrs. Edith P. Lewis; evening, Mr. T.J. Jones.

Easter Services Special services were held at Nazareth on Good Friday morning and evening, when the Speaker was the Rev. Stanley G. Lewis, B.A., B.D., of Treherbert. The services were well attended. The organists were Mr. W.A. Davies and Mr. D.J. Davies, and the precentor Mr. W.A. Davies.

Good Friday was observed at the Parish Church with a three hours' service conducted by the Rev. E. Adams Evans, Vicar. On Easter Day, the celebrant and preacher was the Vicar, and at Evensong, Coun. W.J. Payne was the preacher.

Welfare Association The annual meeting took place last Wednesday. Mr. A. Palmer presided and reviewed the work of the past year. The balance sheet was audited by Mr. T.D. Evans and accepted. The secretary, treasurer and librarian were thanked for their work. Coun. Payne then took the chair for the coming year. The election of officers was as follows: vice-chairman, Mr. Frank Jenkins; secretary, Mr. R. Rees; treasurer, Mr. Iorwerth Evans; librarian, Mr. D.J. Thomas; committee, Messrs. L. Davies, W. Abbey, T. Ballard, Rev. E. Adams Evans, Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., Messrs. A. Palmer, R. Thomas, C. Cumpstone, H. Wood, D. Kelly, E. Lewis, J.R. Thomas, S.V. Powell, E. Morgan, D.J. Thomas, D. James.

Thorne – Slimmon The wedding took place at Beulah Baptist Chapel, Brithdir, of Mr. Ernest John Thorne, eldest son of Mr. & Mrs. Thorne, East View, Brithdir, and Miss Jean Slimmon, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Slimmon, The Farm, Fochriw. The Rev. H.E.D. Paine officiated, and the organist was Mrs. Davies. The bride was given away by her father, and wore a full-length gown of figured brocade, cut on classical lines, with an embroidered veil held in place by a coronet of orange blossoms. She carried a shower bouquet of cream rose buds. Mrs. Morfydd Morris was matron of honour, and she was dressed in a full-length gown of blue taffeta, a feathered head-dress with shoulder length veil, and carried carnations. Miss Mair Slimmon and Miss Elvis Beer, the bridesmaids, wore ankle length gowns of pink taffeta, and shoulder length veils, and also, carried carnations. The flower girls, Merle Thorne and Shirley Thomas, wore white taffeta dresses and carried posies of anemones. The page-boy, Vivian Thomson, wore a plum velvet suit and white satin blouse. The best man was Mr. Terence George. The reception was held at the George Hotel, when 80 guests were entertained.

“Merthyr Express” 18 April 1953

Late Mr. Edward Pryce, Martin-street The death has occurred of Mr. Edward Pryce, who was well known in the district. Mr. Pryce had lost both his legs, but was able to get along day by day on his artificial legs.

Pentwyn Dance Under the auspices of the Pentwyn Coronation Committee, a successful dance was held at the New Hall on Friday. Music was played by Mr. John Pullen and his radiogram and the M.C. was Mr. C. Cumpstone. The Committee is very active in their preparation for the Coronation.

“Merthyr Express” 25 April 1953

Late Mrs. Margaret Jones The death has occurred of another old inhabitant of the village, Mrs. Margaret Jones, Pit-row.

Late Mrs. Tydfil Smith, 11, Dynevor-street The death occurred suddenly of Mrs. Tydfil Smith. The burial was at Pentwyn Churchyard on Monday, April 20. Rev. Adams Evans and Mr. T. J. Jones officiated. The mourners were: Messrs. T. Price (brother); J. Lawrence (brother-in-law); W. P. Lawrence, Idris Williams, L. H. Jones, G. & D. J. Smith, C. & M. Evans, Gomer Davies & Lewis Jones (nephews). At the house: Mrs. J. M. Lawrence (sister); Mesdames E. M. Williams, A. M. Lawrence, Jeanne L. Williams, W. P. Lawrence, L. H. Jones, O. Evans, G. Davies (nieces). The bearers were Messrs. R. Price, D. Jenkins, W. Lewis, J. R. Walters, M. Shankland, O. Parry, J. Matthews, B. Edwards. Funeral arrangements were by Mr. V. S. Powell, Fochriw.

Vestry Meeting The Easter vestry of the Parish Church took place on Wednesday, the Vicar presiding. The vicar thanked all at Deri, Fochriw and Pantywaun who had helped in the passed year to carry on the work of the Church, particularly the churchwardens, and the lay readers, Messrs. W. J. Payne, and Mr. John Palmer. Mr. Payne gave the financial report and this was accepted. Officers appointed were: churchwardens, Coun. Payne and Mr. John Owen (Deri); parochial secretary, Mr. John Palmer; auditor, Miss R. Davies; Parochial Council and sidesmen, re-elected.

Quarterly Meetings The quarterly meetings of the North Glamorgan Congregational Churches were held at Carmel on Wednesday evening and Thursday last. Inspiring sermons were preached by Revs. Wilfred Price (Penywn), H. Williams, (Rhigos), & J. T. Rogers (Merthyr). A notable feature of Thursday morning's conference was a paper read by Mrs. M. A. Lewis, wife of Coun. Sam Lewis, entitled "The history of Carmel Church from its inception to the present day." The devotions were taken by Revs. S. D. Davies, E. M. Isaac and S. Lloyd, Aberfan. Rev. Haydn Davies gave a report on the Easter Missionary Conference at Barry. Mrs. Martha James also took part. The ladies were thanked for their splendid efforts with refreshments. The tray holders were Mesdames L. Parry, W. Lewis, M. Evans, M. A. Ballard, C. Walters, H. Thomas, H. Evans-Davies, E. Evans, Nurse M. Lewis, M. Watkins, A. Davies, D. Brown, R. Fox, M. Jones, G. Davies, B. Morgan, B. Evans, M. Davies. Mrs. M. Evans and Nurse B. Davies acted as president and secretary. The organist was Mr. T. Walters, and the precentor, Mr. M. Shankland. The chairman for the whole day was Mr. J. C. Evans, Bargoed.

"Merthyr Express" 2 May 1953

Motor Cyclist's Killed Idwal Davies, aged 32, of Hill-row, Pentwyn, a fitter employed at Ogilvie Colliery, Deri, died at Merthyr General Hospital on Saturday afternoon, after the motor cycle he was riding hit the fence on the side of the road at Penybank earlier in the day. He sustained injuries to his head and legs. He was married with three step-children.

Pensioners To Benefit A dance was held at the New Hall on Friday in aid of the O.A.P. Outing Fund. Dancing was to the music of Mr. John Pullen's radiogram. The M.C. was Mr. Cadfan Cumpstone. Refreshments were served by members of the committee. The officers are: secretary, Mrs. Joan Owen; treasurer, Miss C. Shankland; president, Mrs. H. L. Farley; chairman, Mrs. J. Lawrence.

Coronation Plans Meetings were held on Friday by the General Committee, Coun. S. Lewis presiding, and the Entertainment Committee, Coun. Payne presiding. The secretaries, Mr. Dan Jenkins and Mr. Iorwerth Evans, reported on the preparations made. A programme of sports has been arranged for one of the days, which will include a Marathon race, an eisteddfod, Noson and community singing will be held.

Noddfa Sisterhood On Thursday, the Sisterhood met at the Vestry, when they were entertained by Glanynant Sisterhood, Pengam. A vote of condolence was passed with the family of the late Mrs. T. Smith, who was a faithful member of the Sisterhood, in their bereavement.

Late Mr. Edward Pryce, Martin-street The funeral of Mr. E. Pryce took place at Pentwyn Churchyard on Wednesday. He was well known and highly respected. He was 72, and had lived in the district for over 40 years. He was a member of the Gospel Mission. The officiating ministers were Revs. Dd. Thomas, T. J. Jones, Wm. Griffiths, Dewi Morgan, J. Davies, Robert Davies and E. Evans. The bearers were Messrs. Islwyn Jones, Percy Isle, Lindsay Coggan, Gwynlais Lloyd, Mervin Parsons and Edryd Jones. The mourners were: Messrs. Edward G. & Ronald Pryce (sons); Stan Newman & Cyril Davies (sons-in-law); Brian Newman (grandson); Edwin, Charlie, George, Islwyn, Albert & Rufus Dummett, Evan Watkins (brothers-in-law); Willie Cleek & Dd. Davies (uncles); Glanmor & Baden Dummett, Haydn & Tommy Watkins, Len Davies, D. Leoman, Cyrus Newman, John Dyer, T. Williams (nephews); At the house: Mesdames S. Pryce (wife); Mabel Newman, Rhoda Evans, Violet Davies, Jean Pryce (daughters); Jenny & Ruby Pryce (daughters-in-law); Pam

Newman & Sylvia Pryce (grand children); Mary Ann Watkins, Edith, Maggie and Phyllis Dummett (sisters-in-law); S. Davies (aunt); W. Watkins (cousin).

“Merthyr Express” 9 May 1953

First Prize Mary Cumpstone won the first prize for elocution under 16 at Cwmfelinfach Eisteddfod.

Road Victim The funeral took place at Pentwyn Churchyard on Wednesday of Mr. Idwal Davies, aged 32, of Hill Row, Pentwyn, who recently met with a fatal accident on his motor-cycle, a few hundred yards from his home. He was very genial and highly respected, and proof of his popularity was shown at his funeral that was one of the largest in the village for many years. Rev. E. Adams Evans, vicar, officiated. Mourners were: John Thomas & Denzil (step-sons); Mervyn, Victor, Gwynfor, Horace, Tommy, Leslie & Dyfed Davies (brothers); Tommy & Peter Jenkins, Cliff Golding Hann, A. Carter, William Griffiths, G. Baker & C. Rowlands (brothers-in-law); R. Barnett, W. Allen (stepsons-in-law); F. Cowles, S. Lewis, Bert Ebbw Vale, J. Lee, T. Blake, & O. Saunders (uncles); A. Carter, E. Davies, J. Bell E. Beynon (nephews); D. Davies, J. P. Llewellyn, W. Dobson, W. Angell, T. Lewis, B. King, R. Lloyd, M. Williams (cousins). At the house were: Mesdames N. Davies (widow); E. M. Davies (mother); M. Colbourne, L. Golding Hann, B. Carter (sisters); G. Barnett & A. Allen (step daughters); O. Cowles, M. M. Jenkins, R. Davies, L. Jenkins, A. Griffiths & M. Baker (sisters-in-law); A. M. Davies, Gwladys Ebbw Vale, J. Lee, S. Lewis, T. Blake, O. Saunders, B. Mitchell, S. Davies, M. Cowles (aunts); Miss E. Davies (niece); E. Llewellyn, P. Clarke, B. King, V. Walters & Olwen (cousins); H. Pope, M. J. Davey, K. Jones, E. Evans, A. Wheeler (neighbours). The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. D. J. Davies, Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 16 May 1953

Fochriw Children’s Eisteddfod The Coronation Committee held a Children’s Eisteddfod at the New Hall on Saturday. The president was Coun. W. J. Payne, supported by Coun. S. Lewis. The adjudicators were: music, Mr. E. Morgan, Merthyr; literature, Mr. E. Hughes, Bargoed; conductor, Mr. T. Walters; secretary, Mr. I. Evans; treasurer, Mr. F. Jenkins.

Noddfa Sisterhood The Sisterhood met on Thursday. Nurse M. Lewis read a portion of Scripture, and Miss G. Evans offered prayer. A paper was given by the president, Miss Edna Jones. Thanks were accorded by Miss Evans. Mrs. D. Edwards was the organist.

Labour Party Ward Meeting The annual meeting was held at the New Hall on Thursday, Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., presiding. There were representatives from Pantywaun, Deri and Fochriw. Officers elected were: chairman, Coun. W. Poyntz; secretary, Mr. Stuart Davies; treasurer, Mr. T. Morgan; delegates, Mr. Bryn Williams and Mr. George Jones; auditors, Messrs. G. Jones and B. Williams.

Coronation Queen On Thursday at the New Hall, the Queen and her Court were selected. Coun. W.J. Payne presided, and the M.C. was Mr. D.J. Davies. The judges were Mrs. Luke, Hengoed, and Mrs. Price, Gilfach. Nurse Connie Wood was selected Queen; deputy Queen, Miss Idona Marshallsea; Court ladies, Misses Margaret Edwards, Jessie A. Davies, Pam Edwards, Gillian Jones. Flower girls: Margaret Shankland, Margaret Evans, Jennifer Thomas, Allison Davies. Herald: Herbert Jones. Page: Michael Jenkins. The secretaries are Mr. D. Jenkins and Mr. Iorwerth Evans.

“Merthyr Express” 23 May 1953

Eisteddfod The name of the accompanist, Mr. D. J. Thomas was inadvertently omitted in last week’s eisteddfod report. The following choirs were successful: 1. Coronation Bells; 2. Snowflake.

Coronation Events A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday, presided over by Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., supported by Mr. D. Jenkins and Mr. I. Evans, secretaries, and Mr. Frank Jenkins, treasurer. The week’s programme was completed. It will be opened with the crowning of the Queen by Mrs. M. A. Lewis, wife of Coun. S. Lewis, J.P., on Saturday, May 30th at 3p.m. The Queen is Nurse Connie Wood, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. A. H. Wood, Aelybryn. After the ceremony, the carnival parade will start headed by the Queen and the

deputy Queen, Miss Idora Marshallsea, Brynteg, and her court, and they will travel on a lorry provided by Messrs. Wimpey, contractors. An appeal is made to all in the village to join in the week's festivities. It is hoped that the Silver Band will head the parade. Prizes will be given for the best-dressed street. Sunday will be devoted to singing festivals at Noddfa.

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 24th, 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 23rd, 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.

Nursery Class: Fochriw Suggestion Referring to an inquiry at the previous meeting about the establishment of a nursery class at Fochriw Junior Mixed and Infants' School, the executive officer told Monday's meeting of the Gellygaer and Caerphilly Divisional Executive Committee that the matter had been raised in January and February, 1952. "On each occasion," said the executive officer, "the county authority stated they were unable to make such provision on the score that the establishment of a nursery would involve additional expense in providing for children under statutory school age. The practice of the head teacher of Fochriw School at present is to admit, at the commencement of the term, those children who will become five during the term, which results in a class of some 29 in number by the summer term. If admission is extended to children of four years of age, the same class would approach 45 in number." The executive officer added: "The age range and number is too great for one class, and the only alternative is to form two classes, but since this would involve extra expense for children under school age, it is unlikely that the attitude of the county authority would be different if yet another request is made to establish such a class." Nonetheless, it was decided to raise the matter with the authority once again.

"Merthyr Express" 6 June 1953

Noddfa The special preacher on Sunday was the Rev. W. Rowland Jones of Cardiff.

St. Mary's The preacher and celebrant on Whit Sunday was the Vicar. In the evening, Coun. W. J. Payne preached.

Coronation Festivities On Sunday week at Noddfa - Cymanfa Ganu; Monday - Pensioners tea and Noson Lawen; Television of the Coronation on Tuesday, kindly arranged by the Bargoed Radio Co., followed throughout the week by daily events.

"Merthyr Express" 13 June 1953

Coronation Events On Saturday, Nurse Connie Wood of Aelybryn, Fochriw, was crowned Coronation Queen by Mrs. M.A. Lewis. Fochriw Silver Band, conducted by Mr. A. Mantle, headed a carnival procession that paraded the streets. Mr. D.J. Davies was marshal. The judges of the carnival were Mrs. M. Jenkins, Miss Olive Payne and Miss Margaret Ballard, and of the jazz bands, Messrs. A. Mantle, T. Walters and F. Jenkins. Three jazz bands took part. On Sunday, a singing festival was held at Noddfa Chapel. The afternoon was devoted to the children, when Coun. S. Lewis presided, and Mr. D.J. Thomas conducted the singing. Michael Shankland read the Scriptures, and Margaret Shankland prayed. A solo was sung by Miss Phyllis Jones, and the organist was Mr. W.A. Davies. Coun. Payne presided over the

evening session. Miss Edna Jones read the Scriptures and Nurse Mimi Jones prayed. The organist was Mr. W.A. Davies and the conductor Mr. Meirion Shankland. A pensioners' tea was held on Monday at the New Hall. The tables were served by the ladies' committee of the O.A.P. Fund. Grace was said by Coun. W.J. Payne. Thanks were proposed by Coun. S. Lewis, Coun. W.J. Payne, Mr. T. Ballard and Mrs. M.A. Lewis. The Coronation Queen, Nurse Connie Wood, attended, and cut the Coronation cake. Mrs. J.M. Lawrence and Mrs. Farley, chairman and president of the O.A.P. Fund, also spoke. Mr. David Davies, Brook Cottage, was pianist. Mr. Iorwerth Evans, Coronation committee secretary, was also present. A Noson Lawen was held at the New Hall on Monday evening, conducted by Mr. W.A. Davies, one of the party. The chairman was Coun. S. Lewis, who thanked all for their efforts. On Coronation Day, a tea was given to Pentwyn children and adults of the village, in a room kindly lent by Mr. L.D. Jones, Mount Pleasant. Grace was said by Coun. W.J. Payne, who attended with Coun. S. Lewis. After tea, Mrs. J. Llewellyn presented each child with a souvenir medal. Councillors Payne and Lewis then presented each child with a cup, saucer and plate, oranges and sweets. The officers were: chairman, Mr. Victor Davies; vice chairman, Mr. B. Griffiths; secretary, Mr. Walley Davey; treasurer, Mr. L.D. Jones. A large bonfire was lit on Monday night. On Tuesday, a large gathering was present at the New Hall to view the Coronation ceremony, through the kindness of Mr. Owen of the Bargoed Radio Company. Later in the day, street parties took place. The streets were gaily decorated. The prize for the best decorated street were: 1. Pleasant View; 2. Aelybryn. In the afternoon there was a children's dance, with a Coronation Ball in the evening. Music was supplied by Mr. John Pullen on his radiogram. The M.C. was Mr. Cadfan Cumpstone. Coronation events were held also on Wednesday and Thursday, including sports, football and cricket. First prize in the marathon race was won by Bertie Cumpstone. The cycle race was won by Haydn Wood. The officers of the committee thank the Band for their help. A successful week concluded on Friday evening, when children under five years of age were entertained to tea at the New Hall, and each child was presented with a Coronation mug. The presentation was made by Mrs. S. A. Payne. At the school, all the children were entertained to tea by Mr. Dan Jenkins, headmaster, and staff, and the presentation of a Coronation mug was made by Mrs. M.A. Lewis. A repeat of the Noson Lawen was given in the evening. On Saturday, the various streets arranged motor coach outings to Porthcawl, Barry, and other places. The Committee also thank Mr. Owen of Bargoed Radio Company, who provided the television set which enabled the old age pensioners and others to view the Coronation.

“Merthyr Express” 20 June 1953

Outing to Barry Island Members of all Churches held their annual outing on Saturday last when they visited Barry Island.

Carmel The annual preaching services were held on Sunday last, when the Rev. Emrys Jones, Carmarthen, was the preacher. Mr. M. Shankland conducted the singing, and Mr. T. Walters was the organist.

“Merthyr Express” 27 June 1953

Noddfa Sisterhood On Thursday, Miss Edna Jones presided. Scripture was read by Mrs. Irene Jones and Miss Greta Evans offered prayer. An address was given by Mrs. M. A. Lewis, Glyn-terrace, and thanks were accorded by Miss Evans and Mrs. D. Jones. The meeting was closed in prayer. Mrs. A. Davies was the pianist.

“Merthyr Express” 4 July 1953

Carmel Guild The members held their annual outing on Saturday and travelled by coach to Bourton-on-the-Water.

Noddfa Sisterhood The members went on their annual outing on Saturday to the Elan Valley. Arrangements were made by Mrs. G. Pearce and Mrs. E. Lewis.

Annual Meetings The annual meetings of Noddfa Sisterhood were held on Sunday. The speaker at each service was Mrs. Peel of Ystrad Mynach. The morning service was devoted to the children, the following taking part: Rosemary Jones, Phyllis Jones, David Price, Margaret Jones, Dawn Games, Yvonne Davies, Eunice Jones. In the afternoon service Mrs.

A. Davies read the Scriptures and Miss G. Evans led the prayer. In the evening, Mrs. A.G. Parry read the Scripture and Mrs. Irene Jones led in prayer. Miss Edna E. Jones presided at each service. The organist was Mr. D.J. Thomas.

Band Re-formed Coun. W.J. Payne presided over a meeting of the recently re-formed Fochriw Silver Band at the New Hall on Monday. Great enthusiasm was shown. The playing of the Band at the Coronation festivities at Fochriw and Deri was praised. Several persons are anxious to join, and arrangements will be made later for their entry. Regret was expressed at the resignation of the veteran secretary, Mr. J.J. Lewis, owing to ill-health. Mr. Lewis has been secretary since 1935. It was decided to make Mr. Lewis an honorary member of the Band. Several ways were discussed to raise funds to keep the band going. It was decided to ask the Fochriw Motor Cycling Club to organise the first event. The officers elected were: president, Mr. E.T. Pritchard; vice-presidents, Messrs. J.P. Llewellyn, S. Farley, E. Maggs, M.E., S. Evans, M.E., and P.C. Perryman; chairman, Coun. W.J. Payne; vice chairman, Mr. Desmond Kelly; bandmaster, Mr. A. Mantle; deputy bandmaster, Mr. Emrys Lewis; secretary, Mr. D.J. Thomas; treasurer, Mr. Frank Jenkins; librarian, Mr. W. Edwards; assistant, Mr. R. Shankland; contribution secretary, Mr. Roy Shankland; committee, Messrs. Emlyn Evans, Jack Jones, B. Angell, J. Davies, Bob Rees, W. Pearce, I. Shankland, E. Jones, P.C. W. Evans.

“Merthyr Express” 11 July 1953

Noddfa Sisterhood On Thursday, Miss Edna Jones presided. Scripture was read by Mrs. A. Davies, and Miss Greta Evans took the prayers. The speaker was Mrs. Acreman, Bargoed, who also sang a solo. Nurse M. Lewis and Miss Evans thanked the speaker. The next meeting will be held in September.

Literary and Debating Society A meeting took place at the School on Tuesday, at which the speaker was Mr. J.B. Jones, B.A., warden of Bargoed and Rhymney Educational Settlement. His subject was “The Principles and Practice of Economics – with special reference to World Economic Affairs.” Mr. Jones’ lecture was followed by questions and a discussion. The Society begins its winter session in October. All interested persons are cordially invited to attend.

“Merthyr Express” 25 July 1953

Late Mrs. Sarah Ann Coggan, Penybank, aged 58 The death occurred recently of Mrs. S. A. Coggan, wife of Mr. Arthur Coggan. Mrs. Coggan was a member of the Parish Church and of the Mothers’ Union. The funeral took place at Pentwyn Churchyard on Thursday, the Vicar officiating at house and graveside. Mourners were: Messrs. Arthur Coggan (husband); Vernon, Ralph, John, Lindsey (sons); Gordon, John Ivor, Garry, Clive, Philip (grandsons); Ralph Coggan, W. Brangwynne, C. W. Lill, A. Spencer (brothers-in-law); Bert Spencer, D. Mountes (nephews); G. Baldwin (cousin). The bearers were Messrs. E., D. & T. Morgan, C. G. Hann, L. Bengough, A. Williams & Dewi Morgan. At the house were: May, Glenys and Doreen (daughters-in-law); Betty, Pearl (grand-daughters); Elsie, Muriel, Ethel, Vi, Winnie (sisters); M. Clothier (sister-in-law); Joan, Margi, Freda, Pam (nieces); Mrs. Hilda Evans, Mrs. Evans (The Vicarage). There were a number of floral tributes. (listed)

“Merthyr Express” 1 August 1953

O.A.P. Outing On Tuesday, the pensioners journeyed to Swansea by motor coaches. Arrangements were made by the ladies committee - secretary, Mrs. J. Owen, treasurer, Mrs. M. Shankland, chairman, Mrs. J. M. Lawrence, president, Mrs. H. L. Farley.

His 90th Birthday Mr. James Griffiths, now living in New South Wales, Australia, who is well known to many local people, celebrated his 90th birthday recently. A special function was organised by members of the church that he attends. After the birthday tea, Mr. Griffiths was presented with an armchair. Among the guests present were Mrs. Myall Williams (nee Mantle), formerly of Pentwyn, and Mr. & Mrs. Idris Roberts, late manager of Bedwas Colliery. Mr. Griffiths still writes regularly to his relatives and friends in this country. He lived for a time at Abercynon, Brithdir, Trethomas, afterwards moving to Dolgelly, North Wales. He now lives with his son and daughter-in-law at Kurri Kurri, New South Wales.

“Merthyr Express” 15 August 1953

Burling – Williams The wedding took place at St. Mary’s Church on August 1, of Mr. Leslie Burling of West Bromwich, and Milly, only daughter of Mrs. S. Parry, and the late Mr. D.J. Williams, Pleasant-view, Fochriw. The Rev. E. Adams Evans officiated, and Mr. Octavius Richards was the organist. The bride, who was given away by her step-father, wore a ballerina length dress of heavy lace, the veil held in place by a coronet of roses and white heather. She carried a shower bouquet of pink carnations. The Matron of Honour, Mrs. Glenys Doughty, wore a dress of blue taffeta with a headdress of feathers, and carried a bouquet of sweet peas. The bridesmaids, Miss Jill Parry, the bride’s sister, and Miss Joyce Evans, were dressed in pink net over taffeta, with headdresses of velvet roses. They carried bouquets of sweet peas. The two pages were David and Peter Price, in blue and velvet trousers and powder blue blouses. The best man was Mr. Edward Doughty. The reception was held in the Noddfa Vestry, after which Mr. & Mrs. Burling left for Bangor. The bride’s going away outfit was a grey three-piece suit with cherry red accessories.

“Merthyr Express” 22 August 1953

Table Bowls An exhibition of Table Bowls was given at the Billiard Hall during the week by teams from Pontlottyn and Abertysswg.

For The Band On Monday, the Fochriw and District Motor Cycling Club gave an exhibition of sports at the Welfare ground, in aid of the Fochriw Silver Band. The Band was present, under their conductor, Mr. Arthur Mantle.

“Merthyr Express” 5 September 1953

St. Mary’s At the morning service, the preacher and celebrant was the Vicar. In the evening Coun. Payne preached

Noddfa The annual services were held at Noddfa on Sunday, the preacher being Rev. W. D. Morgan, Hebron, Ton, who gave a very fine sermon. Mr. D. J. Thomas was the organist.

Carmel The preacher at Carmel on Sunday was the Rev. Latimer Williams, Deri, who is leaving this week to take up his new appointment. Mr. T. Walters was the organist.

Labour Party A ward meeting was held at the New Hall on Wednesday week, presided over by Coun. W. Pontz, supported by Coun. Payne and the secretary, Mr. Stuart Davies. Representatives were present from Pantywaun, Deri & Fochriw.

Football The Fochriw team opened their Amateur League fixtures for the new season on Saturday at the Welfare Ground. Despite very bad weather, a good match was played, Hirwaun winning 3-1. The secretary is Mr. W. Pearce, Brook-row.

Eisteddfod Success Miss Mary Cumpstone gained second prize in elocution under 16 years of age competition at the Llangattock Eisteddfod on Saturday.

Dance A dance was held on Friday at the New Hall by the Pentwyn Christmas Club. Music was provided by Mr. John Pullen’s radiogram, and the M.C. was Mr. Cadfan Cumpstone. Before the adult dance, the children were entertained to a social. Refreshments were served by the ladies of the committee. The winners of the spot prizes were Mr. Ralph Colbourne and Miss Linda Neade. The secretary is Mr. Walley Davey.

Wedding: Evans-Way The marriage took place on August 15 at Carmel Church, of Mr. H. Evans, younger son of Mr. & Mrs. A. Evans, Fochriw, and Miss Thelma Way, younger daughter of Mrs. C. Way, and the late Mr. W. H. Way, of Fochriw. The Rev. A. Williams officiated, and the organist was Mr. T. Walters. The bride was given away by her uncle, Mr. W. R. Lewis. The bride wore a two-piece of orchid pink, and carried a bouquet of cream roses. The matron of honour was Mrs. Vera Lewis, who wore a frock of ice blue and carried a bouquet of pink carnations. The best man was Mr. D. J. Evans, brother of the groom. The groomsmen were Messrs. S. Thomas & T. Lewis. On leaving the chapel, the bride was presented with a silver horseshoe by Joy & Ann Evans, Ralph Cockram and Joyce Lewis. A reception was held at the Noddfa Vestry. The couple later left for Blackpool, the bride travelling in a brown costume with pink accessories.

“Merthyr Express” 12 September 1953

Late Mr. Harold Benlow, Aelybryn the death has occurred of Mr. Harold Benlow, who has been a well-known and highly respected inhabitant of the village for many years.

Football A keen Amateur League match was played on Saturday at the Welfare Ground between Fochriw and Cardiff City. Cardiff won 1-0 in a game in which both teams gave a fine exhibition of football.

Sewing Club Outing The annual outing of the Fochriw Sewing Club took place on Saturday by motor coach. This year the group paid a visit to the Golden Valley. They were accompanied by Mrs. F. Evans, instructress, Mrs. Shankland, secretary, and Mrs. T. Rowlands, treasurer.

“Merthyr Express” 19 September 1953

Noddfa Sisterhood The weekly meeting was held on Thursday, Miss Edna E. Jones presiding. Miss Jones also led the devotions. The speaker was Mrs. Evans, Bargoed, who was thanked by Miss Jones and Mrs. J.M. Lawrence. Mrs. D. Edwards was the organist. The meeting was closed with prayer.

Late Mr. H. Barlow The funeral of Mr. Herbert Barlow, 42, Aelybryn, took place on Friday at Pant Cemetery. He was a faithful member of the Gospel Hall, Deri, and the Gospel Hall, Fochriw. He met with an accident some 20 years ago at Ogilvie Colliery, and apart from this enjoyed good health. He died after a very short illness. Rev. D. Thomas officiated at the house and graveside, assisted by J. Hollifield of the Deri Gospel Hall, and Rev. T.J. Jones, Noddfa. The mourners were: Messrs. John & Harold Barlow (sons); Jack Barlow (brother); Richard Jones, Daniel Evans (sons-in-law); Herbert Jones (grandson); John D. Jones, Evan Jones, Fred Smith (brothers-in-law); Wm. Morgan, Wm. Griffiths, Ben Davies, Tom Lewis, Dd. Elias, Roy Evans, Eric Cheshire. At the house were: Mrs. A. Barlow (widow); Irene & Iris (daughters); and other relatives. Mr. D.J. Davies, undertaker, Fochriw, carried out the funeral arrangements.

“Merthyr Express” 26 September 1953

Dr. Barnado's Homes The recent house-to-house collection realised £5 12s 11d. The collectors were: Mesdames I. Jones, D. Jones, G. Edwards, L. Evans, E. Jones, and Misses C. Shankland, G. Evans, E. Matthews and N. Jones. The organiser was Mrs. D. Davies-Jones.

Welfare Institute A meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday, Coun. W.J. Payne presiding. Mr. Dan James reported on the snooker league. An effort is to be made to run a junior and senior team in the league. It was decided to run a Christmas snooker handicap, and a table bowls competition. A discussion took place on the proposed erection of the children's playing equipment. The librarian, Mr. D.J. Thomas, is bringing the lending department up to date.

Harvest Festival Services were held at St. David's Church, Pantywaun, on Sunday and Monday. The celebrant on Sunday afternoon was the Vicar, and the preacher in the evening was Coun. Payne, lay-reader. The organist was Miss Maureen Ralph. On Monday evening, the preacher was Mr. W. Williams, lay reader, Troedyrhiw.

“Merthyr Express” 3 October 1953

Noddfa Sisterhood Miss E. Jones presided at the meeting on Thursday. Nurse M. Lewis read the lesson, and Miss G. Evans offered prayer. The speaker was Mrs. T. Evans, Deri, who also rendered a solo. Thanks were offered by the president. Mrs. D. Edwards was the painist. The meeting closed in prayer.

St. Mary's Harvest Festival Services Services were held on Sunday and Monday. The church was decorated with fruits, flowers and vegetables. The preacher was the Vicar. On Monday, Canon A. Lloyd Jones, Rector and Rural Dean of Merthyr Tydfil, was the preacher. The organist was Mr. N. Palmer.

“Merthyr Express” 17 October 1953

Snooker The Institute snooker team made an excellent start in their Rhymney Valley League match. The visitors were Deri. Before a good crowd Fochriw won by three points to

nil. Fochriw team: Leighton Millward (capt), Haydn Watkins, Mel Edwards, Tommy Watkins, John Ballard, Desmond Evans.

Midwife Retires County Midwife B. Davies of Fochriw reached retiring age on Thursday last, after 30 years of faithful service. She was devoted to her duties and won the esteem of all who came in contact with her. She will be succeeded by Nurse Phoebe Thomas who has been appointed County Midwife.

Debating Society The opening meeting of the Fochriw Literary and Debating Society took place on Friday at the School, when the Society was addressed by Mr. Trevor Evans, B.A., Director of Education for Glamorgan, on the subject, "Progress in Education." After his talk, Mr. Jenkins invited questions of the audience, who eagerly took advantage of this. A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. Stuart Davies, and seconded by Mr. C. Cumpstone. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Phil Mantle. At the next meeting of the Society on Tuesday, October 20, there will be a film show. The officials of the Society are: chairman, Mr. P. Mantle; vice-chairman, Mr. S.H. Davies; treasurer, Miss Enid Cumpstone; secretary, Mr. Desmond Kelly, 2. Dynevor-street, Fochriw. It is hoped the public will attend the meetings of the Society, which has an excellent programme drawn up for the season.

"Merthyr Express" 24 October 1953

Prize Winner In the Youth Eisteddfod at Tylorstown on Saturday, Mary Cumpstone won the first prize for recitation under 14, and second prize in the under 18 section.

Snooker On Thursday, the Fochriw Seniors played Pengam away in the Rhymney Valley Snooker League losing by three points to nil. Fochriw team: L. Millward, M. Edwards, Tom & Haysn Watkins, John Ballard, Len Davies.

Noddfa A Sunday School anniversary service was held at Noddfa on Sunday evening. The president was Mr. Richard Jones, superintendent of the Sunday School. Willie Edwards read a portion of Scripture, and Philip Jones led in prayer. A solo was sung by Hubert Jones. The book, "The Wall Builders" was performed by the children of the primary department. Those taking part were: Phyllis Jones, Megan Jones, Susan Thomas, Michael Jenkins, Peter Price, Clive Gittoes, David Price, David Pearce, Lyn Morgan, Margaret Mantle, John Lyn Gittens, Rosemarie Jones, Elizabeth Evans, Margaret Jones, Margaret Evans. Also taking part in the service were: Keith Williams, Christine Tyler, Charlotte Lewis, Jennifer Chapman, Susan Hill, Kenneth Jones, Donna Lewis. The accompanist was Mr. D. J. Thomas. The children were taught by Miss Edna E. Jones and Mr. D. J. Thomas.

"Merthyr Express" 31 October 1953

Film Show Continuing its winter programme, the recent meeting of the Literary and Debating Society took the form of a film show, comprising four films that were provided by the Glamorgan Further Education Committee. The films shown were: "The Servant of the People;" "Julius Caesar" (the Forum Scene); "The Story of David Livingstone;" "Steps of the Ballet." A vote of thanks to the Authority and its projectionist, Mr. Simlett, was proposed by Miss Lorna Jenkins, B.A., and seconded by Mr. D. Emllyn Evans, B.A. In the next meeting on Tuesday November 3, the society will be addressed by Mr. D. E. Howell of Cardiff, his subject being "What is a good citizen?"

Presentations Mrs. B. Davies, who has completed 30 years as midwife for Fochriw and District and who has been a student of the evening classes for many years, was presented with a spray diamante brooch. Mrs. F. Evans, instructress, who made the presentation on behalf of the students, said it was a token of the gratitude and appreciation they all felt, not only to Mrs. Davies as midwife and student, but as a person they all liked. Others who paid tribute to Mrs. Davies were Mrs. E. J. Rowlands, secretary, and Mrs. E. J. Shankland. A tea was provided and attending the tables were: Mesdames R. James, G. Williams, L. James, M. Evans, E. Jones and M. Powell. On Monday evening, Nurse Davies was presented with a diamante necklace by the mothers of Penybanc as a token of appreciation of her services. The gift was accompanied by a letter expressing deep gratitude signed by every mother in the Penybanc district. The presentation was made by Mrs. Gillard, senior.

"Merthyr Express" 7 November 1953

Late Mr. John Williams The death has occurred of a well-known inhabitant, Mr. John Williams, Plantation-street.

Snooker Fochriw Junior team were at home to Aberbargoed on Wednesday in a Rhymney Valley League game and won by three points. Team: John Williams, Roy Shankland, Delfryn Jones, Gwyn Morgan, Brian Pearce, Brian Jones.

Death of Former Headmaster The death has occurred of one of the district's oldest inhabitants, Mr. Josiah John Evans, of Penybank Farm. He was a former headmaster of Gellygaer Council School. The funeral took place at Glyntaff Crematorium on Thursday.

Welfare Association Coun. W. J. Payne presided at a meeting at the New Hall on Wednesday, supported by Mr. F. Jenkins, vice-chairman, Mr. R. Rees, secretary, and Mr. I. Evans, treasurer. Mr. Dan James gave a report on the work of the Snooker League. The treasurer gave the financial position. It is hoped to form a table bowls team for competitions.

“Merthyr Express” 14 November 1953

Sisterhood Miss E. Jones presided. The speaker was Mrs. Jones, wife of the Rev. Hywel Jones, Deri. Thanks were accorded by Miss Edna Jones and Mrs. M. A. Lewis. Mrs. D. Edwards was the pianist. Mrs. J. M. Lawrence and Miss G. Evans also took part.

Debating Society “What is a good Citizen?” was the subject of an address given by Coun. D. E. Howells of Cardiff at the Fochriw Literary and Debating Society. Mr. Howells outlined the main points of law and matters relating to local authorities and Parliament which every good citizen should know. Mr. Stuart Davies proposed a vote of thanks. Mr. P. Mantle presided.

“Merthyr Express” 21 November 1953

“The Challenge” Fochriw Literary and Debating Society were addressed by Mr. Meredith Jones, Organiser for Further Education in Glamorgan, on “The Challenge to Young People.” Thanks were accorded by Mr. D.A. Lewis and Nurse M. Lewis. Mr. Phil Mantle presided.

Late Mrs. K. Price The death has occurred of one of Fochriw's oldest inhabitants, Mrs. Kate Price, Martin-street, aged 81 years. She was a faithful member of Noddfa Baptist Chapel. The funeral took place at Pentwyn Churchyard, and the officiating ministers were Rev. T.J. Jones and Rev. E. Adams Evans. Mourners were: Messrs. David J. Richard, G. & Gordon Price (sons); T.A. Kent, J.C. Parry, J. Sheen (sons-in-law); John Davies, Thomas Thomas (brothers-in-law); Glanmor & Derlwyn Kent, Rhys Price (grandsons); W.J. Davies, J. Thomas, Anthony Price, Bryn Rees (cousins). At the house were: Mrs. S.A. Davies (sister); Mesdames Bridget Price, Edir Kent, Sarah Parry, Mennie Sheen (daughters); Agnes, Eve & Kitty Price (daughters-in-law); Elsa & Jill (grand children); Anie, Rosie, Miriam, Chrisley, Sal, Mair (cousins); Mrs. John Williams, Mrs. Cumpstone.

“Merthyr Express” 28 November 1953

Sisterhood Miss Edna Jones presided at the Thursday meeting. Devotions were taken by Mrs. G. Edwards and Miss G. Evans. The speaker was Mrs. M. A. Lewis, who was thanked by Mrs. Lawrence and Miss Evans. Mrs. D. Edwards was the pianist. A vote of condolence was passed with the family of Mrs. Kate Price, who was a faithful member of the Sisterhood.

Debating Society “The Theatre” was the subject of an address by Mr. E. J. Williams of Brynmawr at the recent meeting of the Society. Mr. Williams talk contained many interesting facts about plays, authors and actors, and he displayed a vast knowledge of drama in general. Miss O. M. Payne proposed a vote of thanks, seconded by Mr. Frank Jenkins. Mr. Stuart Davies presided.

Late Mr. John Williams The death has occurred of Mr. John Williams, Platation-terrace, aged 64. He was the eldest son of Mr. & Mrs. Edward Williams. The funeral, which was private, took place at Pentwyn Churchyard, the Rev. E. Adams Evans, vicar, officiating. Mourners: Messrs. M. & J. Williams (sons); Jenkin & D. Stanley Williams (brothers); L. Williams & Leslie Davies (nephews); Harry Hiscox (brother-in-law); T. Sullivan (cousin). At the house: Mrs. Williams (wife); Miss Williams (daughter); Mrs. Maggie Williams

(sister-in-law); Mrs. Monica Davies (niece); Mrs. Sullivan. Mr. D. J. Davies, 2, Aelybryn, was the funeral director.

Late Mr. F. Sibley, Guest-street, aged 84 The death has occurred of a well known inhabitant of the village, Mr. F. Sibley. He had spent over 60 years in Fochriw. He was a member of St. Mary's Church. The funeral took place on Wednesday at Pentwyn Churchyard. Officiating ministers were the Vicar, and Rev. T. J. Jones. The mourners were: Mr. Ernest Sibley (son); Mr. F. Wilton (son-in-law); Messrs. Willie Sibley William Wilton, Dorian Moon, C. Greenaway (grandsons); John Greenaway (great grandson); Horace Tunnlry, Dan James (nephews); T. Brown, G. Gwynne, R. Evans. At the house: Mrs. V. Sibley (daughter-in-law); Mrs. M.J. Strange (sister-in-law); Mesdames Scriven, F. Greenaway, I. Moon, Misses Freda Wilton, Evelyn Sibley, Mrs. Dora Wilton (grand daughters); Mesdames Braly Caple, Cissie Caple, Weston-super-Mare, D. Jones (nieces); R. Evans, Mrs. Pugh, Mrs. Ramsey, Mr. J. J. Lewis.

“Merthyr Express” 5 December 1953

Debating Society “The Continental Sunday” was the subject of a discussion at the meeting of the Literary and Debating Society. The subject was introduced by Miss Lorna Jenkins, B.A. Mr. P. Mantle thanked Miss Jenkins. The president was Mr. Desmond Kelly.

Dance the Fochriw and District Motor Cycling Club held their annual dance at the Mayfair Dance Hall, Pontlottyn, on Friday. Music was provided by the Blue Diamond Band. The M.Cs. were Messrs. Gomer Davies, Gordon Lawrence and Cadfan Cumpstone.

Eisteddfod Success Miss Mary Cumpstone added another first prize to her many successes by winning the recitation competition at the Deri Eisteddfod.

“Merthyr Express” 12 December 1953

Prize Winner Miss Mary Cumpstone was again successful at Pontsticill Eisteddfod. She gained first prize in the recitation under 16 set poem, and the first prize in the under 21 years (open).

Welfare Association Coun. W.J. Payne presided at the meeting on Friday. Mr. Dan James, the representative on the Rhymney Valley Snooker League, gave a report of league meetings. The Fochriw seniors and juniors are doing well in the league. The Table Bowls Christmas Tournament is proving a success. The New Hall is being reconstructed.

Silver Band The Band is making good progress with a loyal number of bandmen.

Noddfa Miss Edna Evans presided over the meeting on Thursday. Mrs. E.P. Lewis led the devotions. Nurse Ballard Davies addressed the meeting. Thanks were given by Miss G. Evans and Mrs. A. Davies. Mrs. D. Edwards was the organist.

Carmel The anniversary meetings were held on Sunday. Rev. T. Pugh Jarman, B.A., New Quay, preached. The organist was Mr. T. Walters, and the precentor was Mr. Meirion Shankland.

Reminiscences The Rev. Crwys Williams, M.A., spoke at the recent meeting of the Literary and Debating Society on “Persons, Places and Incidents,” a collection of reminiscences, humorous and otherwise, and related in his own inimitable manner. Thanks were accorded by Mr. Howell Owen and Mr. Phil Mantle. The chairman was Mr. Desmond Kelly.

“Merthyr Express” 19 December 1953

Late Mrs. Mary Ann Evans The funeral of Mrs. M. A. Evans, 41, Aelybryn-street, wife of Mr. Bert Evans, took place at Glyntaf Crematorium on Monday. Mrs. Evans was 65, and had resided in the village for the past 47 years. She was the eldest but one of the family of the late Mr. David Davies, builder and undertaker. Mrs. Evans was a faithful member of the Sisterhood. The Revs. E. Adams Evans and T. J. Jones officiated at the house and Crematorium. The mourners were: Mr. Bert Evans (husband); Tudor, Willie, Myrddin, Harry (sons); Tom, David John, Dan & Ben Davies (brothers); Lizzie, Gwladys, Hilda, Aseneth, Jenny May (sisters); Lilian, Joan, Ethel, Enid (daughters-in-law); Messrs. Gordon Davies, Evan Parry, W. M. Davies, Sydney Evans, Sam Thomas (brothers-in-law); Vernon Davies, Sylvan Evans, Trevor Edwards, Fred Wright (nephews); Wm. John, Rd. Jones

(uncles); H. Jones, Mrs. H. H. Beynon, Mrs. Tawe Jones (aunts). Mr. D. J. Davies, Aelybryn, was the undertaker.

“Merthyr Express” 26 December 1953

Noddfa Sisterhood Miss E. Jones presided at the meeting on Thursday. Others taking part were: Nurse M. Lewis, Miss G. Evans, Mrs. A. Davies, Mrs. E. Lewis, Miss E. Jones, Mrs. O. Thomas, Mrs. S. Parry, Mrs. L. Jones, Mrs. D. Edwards, Mrs. E. Thomas, Mrs. G. Pearce, Miss E. A. Evans, Mrs. I. Jones. The accompanists were Mrs. D. Edwards and Mrs. A. Davies.

Late Mr. A.E. Wright The death has occurred at Rhymney Hospital, after a long illness, of Mr. Albert Edward Wright of Aelybryn. He was the son of the late Mr. James Wright. Aged 63, he had lived in the village nearly all his life. The funeral took place on Tuesday at Pentwyn Chyurchyard and was attended by many friends and fellow-workmen. The officiating minister was Rev. E. Adams Evans, vicar. The mourners were: Messrs. Fred & Beverley Wright (sons); Jeffrey Tyler & Wayne Wright (grandsons); Fred, Syd & William J. Wright (brothers); Goronwy Tyler (son-in-law); Tom Davies, David J. Davies, Ben Davies, Dan Davies, Bert Evans, Evan Parry, Sydney Evans, Wm. M. Davies, Sam Thomas, G. Davies (brothers-in-law); Robert Davies, Wm. John (uncles); W. Fox, Willie Evans, Harry Evans, Ellis Davies, Reg Gittoes (nephews). At the house were: Mesdames Gladys Wright (widow); Doris, Jennie May, Annie (daughters); Christine (grand-daughter); Lizzie, Hilda, Aseneth, Jenny May, Edith, Maud, May, Mrs. Syd Wright, Mrs. W.J. Wright (sisters-in-law); Mrs. T. Jones (aunt); Mesdames R. Fox, R. Williams, Elsie Wood, R.M. Cumpstone. There were a number of floral tributes. (listed)

Late Mr. Slimmon The funeral of Mr. A. Slimmon, who died at St. James' Hospital, Balham, London, at the age of 49, took place from the residence of his sister, Mrs. Grace Edwards, 1, Brynteg-terrace. He was the husband of Nesta Slimmon, and the son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Robert Slimmon, Lllwyn Iago Farm. Mr. Slimmon was a member of the Methodist Central Hall, London. He leaves a widow and three sons. The service was conducted by the Revs. T.J. Jones and E. Adams Evans. The bearers were Messrs. Willie Davies, Derlwyn Lewis, Jack Lawrence, Bob Rees, Crad Shankland & Wm. Lewis. Mourners were: Messrs. Charles & Leonard Slimmon (sons); John & Lonnie (brothers); Jim Jones, John Lloyd, Will, Edwards, Bill Beer, Evan Evans (brothers-in-law); Glyn Edwards, Robbie Slimmon, D.R. Lloyd (nephews); Steve Ballard, David Evans, Gomer Evans (uncles); Edmund Davies, Gwynfor Davies, Leonard Britton, Will Slimmon, John & Cecil Llewellyn, Cyril Lewis (cousins). At the house were Nesta (widow); Gareth (son); Maggie, Grace, Addie, Margaret, Jean (sisters); Lilian (sister-in-law); J. Davies (aunt); Pim, Margaret, Rita (nieces); Jessie Jane, Mary Jane & Doris Davies-Jones and Jessie Elizabeth and Sarah Jane (cousins); Mrs. E.G. Rees. Owing to illness, Matthew (brother) was unable to attend. There were a number of floral tributes. (listed)