

[See also 'Deaths-Funerals' * 'Places of Worship' Files]

"Merthyr Express" 28 December 1878

Fochriw: Testimonial On Monday evening a meeting was held in Carmel Congregational Chapel to present the minister, the Rev. W. Tibbot, with numerous volumes of books worth between £12 and £13. Mr. Thos. Jones presided. The ministers present were Revs. J. R. Williams, Pontlottyn; R. O. Jones, Nelson; and J. Jones, Deri. Also present were Messrs. J. Lewis, Brynrhe; D. Evans, Aberdare; and J. Evans (Ioan Gwent). After remarks from the chairman, the children's choir sang, under the leadership of Mr. H. M. Williams. The meeting was then addressed by Messrs. Williams, testimonial treasurer; D. Evans; Rev. J. Jones; Mr. J. Lewis; and Mr. W. Harris, testimonial secretary, who also gave statements of accounts. The books were presented by Misses Hannah Evans and Elizabeth Harris. After an address on the contents of the books given by Rev. J. R. Williams, Mr. J. Evans (Ioan Gwent) made a few remarks and read some verses he had composed for the occasion. Thanks were accorded to everyone that gave anything to the testimonial fund, and especially to the ladies that collected the money. The meeting terminated with prayer by the Rev. J. R. Williams.

"Merthyr Express" 15 November 1879

In Memoriam: The Rev Gilbert C.F. Harries, Rector of Gelligaer We have this week the painful duty of chronicling the decease of one of the most prominent figures in the clergy of this part of the diocese of Llandaff, in the person of the Rev. G. C. F. Harries, M.A., Rector of Gelligaer, and Canon of Llandaff. He was 51 years old at the time of his death. He was ordained deacon in 1851, and was appointed Rector of Gelligaer in 1862. The Marquis of Bute is the patron of this living, which is represented to be worth £669 a year by the tithe rent charge, yielding a net income of £485 with house and glebe. Mr. Harries was appointed to Gelligaer when many complaints were heard on all sides of the indifference of the previous holders of the living to the spiritual wants of the parish, although they were careful enough in its emoluments. The parish was undergoing a gradual but sensible transition from one of pure agriculture to a mixed condition of agriculture and mining, leading to an increase of population which settled in clusters around the various seats of mining industry. The ancient parish church was in a ruinous plight, so he commenced with the work of restoring the nave and chancel which were carried to completion a few years ago. Concurrently, churches and school churches - buildings which partook of the double character of being places of worship on Sunday and seats of education in the week, were opened at all the chief centres of population in the parish - Pontlottyn, Newton, Pantywain, Vochriw, Deri, Bargoed, and Cwmpelin. In this great work he obtained valuable assistance from wealthy friends, notably Mr. G. T. Clark, but the labour and the responsibility and anxiety all fell upon him - the fag ends of debts incurred here and there having at the last to be expunged out of his own private resources. Until the advent of the School Boards he conducted the National Schools without any very serious loss; but when the time came which threw these voluntary schools into competition with schools backed by all the resources of the parish, it was too arduous a task, an one after another he relinquished the charges into the hands of the School Board He was at one time a member of the Gelligaer School Board, but for the past four or five years withdrew from participation of the affairs of the parish on this Board - though he continued his connection with the Gelligaer Educational Charity, in the

reformation of which, under the recent Act of Parliament, he took a deep interest. He was a fine example of the aggressive, combative, clergyman burning with zeal for the church whose faith he had vowed to disseminate It was impossible to do this and not stir up hostile feelings from some quarters, for in striking out right and left for the church to which he belonged it did sometimes happen that the zeal of the Rector stightly overstepped his direction; but errors of judgement are always overlooked, and certin it is that in the parish of Gelligaer, today, there are more deep and sincere mourners over the loss which the parish has sustained than the dissenters, with whom he has held hot argument so frequently, for they one and all recognised in him a clergyman faithful to his call and zealous for his Master's work, though far from infallible in the ways by which he sought to promote it. Mr. Harries was a widower. He married a daughter of the late David Evans, Esq., of the Brecon Old Bank, Merthyr, by whom he had numerous family, and who died some half dozen years ago.

“Merthyr Express” 31 January 1880

Presentation to The Rev. Aaron Davies of Pontlottyn On Thursday night last, at the board school-room, Pontlottyn, a large number of persons gathered to witness the presentation of an illuminated address, as well as a purse containing £60-13s..

“Merthyr Express” 28 July 1883

Dr. Kent Jones On Saturday the 14th., a deputation of workmen and other friends from Vochriw and Bedlinog waited on Dr. Kent Jones to present him with a testimonial of their regard in the form of an artificial leg and a purse of money for his long and valuable services as their medical attendant. This movement arose, not only in consequence of his retiring from the district, but particularly from the respect and warm and sincere sympathy entertained towards him upon the severe accident that befell him in January last. The deputation comprised the following workmen, viz., Messrs. Thomas Thomas, Evan Hughes and W. B. Evans, of Bedlinog, who had arranged to present the purse of money; leaving the gift of an artificial leg to the Vochriw deputation, consisting amongst others of Messrs. Thomas Jones (grocer), Seth James, Charles Payne and William Angel. Dr. Kent Jones, on receiving the above, thanked them very sincerely for their kind and good wishes.

“Merthyr Express” 24 November 1883

The Late Rev. W. Jones Evans At the parish church, a handsome tombstone has just been placed over the grave of Rev. W. Jones Evans, the late curate of Vochriw, who died in May last. The cost of the whole has been subscribed by the working men of Vochriw, by whom the deceased was highly esteemed.

“Merthyr Express” 24 March 1888

Death of Mr. William Mathews of Vochriw We regret to announce the death of the noted and respected old character, Mr. William Matthews, who died on Sunday, the 11th, at his residence in Guest-street, Vochriw, from bronchitis, at the age of 68 years. He was a man who will be very much missed. He was a specimen of the intelligent working man, who had arrived at advanced manhood before the days of the Board School. He was well known to the parishioners of Gelligaer for the past 45 years. He was the son of the late John Mathews, Tyrlan Farm, Llanon, Carmarthenshire, and came to Dowlais in 1840. The last 34 years of his life he spent at Vochriw. He was fortunate in having a noble, erect form, and a crown carrying an abundance of curly silvery hair, which gave him a fine appearance. From boyhood until his twenty first year, he worked as a farm servant in

the parishes of Llanon, Pontardawe, and Mynyddislwyn. At Dowlais he became a collier, in which capacity he worked under the Dowlais Iron Company for many years. Afterwards, he became a butcher, and he transferred the business to his son a few years ago. Finally, he became a contractor. He was a man of good discernment, and a shrewd man of business. He was a manager of the Fochriw Board Schools, and had served as treasurer to the managers since the opening of the schools with considerable benefit to the ratepayers, by exercising judicious economy in the management. The government auditor invariably complimented him on the accuracy and neatness of his accounts. He was also a member of the Rural Sanitary Authority for Gelligaer, whose meetings he attended regularly at whatever point in the parish held; and was always found travelling to and from mounted on his horse "Jack." It was customary to call him the Mayor of Vochriw (and he was never known to be displeased with the title) on account of the intense interest he took in the welfare of the village. It is to his exertions mainly that the inhabitants of Vochriw are indebted for the good system of sanitation and water supply which they now possess, and to the lighting of the streets by lamps. He had many excellent traits which we should like to dwell upon, but space forbids. He was a deacon of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists, and a more zealous "corph" never breathed.

On Thursday last, he was buried at Pant Cemetery, the Rev. Aaron Davies, Pontlottyn, officiating at the house, and the Rev. Thomas Davies, Hermon, Dowlais, at the grave. Mr. Matthews was a deacon at Nazareth C.M. Chapel; indeed he was one of the founders of the church. He was also a staunch Liberal, and always took a great interest in the Liberal movement. His death will be felt as a great loss. Great sympathy is felt for the sorrowing family.

"Merthyr Express" 9 January 1892

Strayed Children The inhabitants of Fochriw and Pontlottyn were in a state of wild excitement on New Year's Eve and Day, consequent upon discovering that two boys, named Tom and Sam Jones, aged 8 and 5, and living at Martin's-row, Fochriw, had strayed from home since the morning. Scores of people were engaged in scouring the mountains and surrounding districts all night and up to the following mid-day, when they were found at Groesfaen Wood, near Bargoed. The father was inconsolable at their loss.

"Merthyr Express" 17 October 1896

Dinner: Mr James Morgan B.Sc. On Thursday the 8th instant Mr. James Morgan, B. Sc., headmaster of Tredegar Intermediate School, and a native of Fochriw, was entertained at dinner by the managers of the Fochriw School Board. The company included the committee of management and Technical Education Committee, and the following ladies graced the proceedings with their presence: Mrs. Bevan, Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. James Williams (Martin-street), Mrs. Edwards (Cwmbargoed), Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Evans (Brook House), Mrs. Jones (Guest-street), and Mrs. Worman. The main room of the school for the time being had been completely transformed, and for the evening was an inviting banqueting hall. Skillfully arranged draperies, appropriate mottos, and a good display of choice plants assisted to make the transformation complete. Mr. Thomas Bevan, manager of the Fochriw Pits, presided. Grace having been said by Mr. Worman, the first toast was "Our noble Queen," the company singing the national anthem. The next was "Our honoured guest," proposed by the President in a pertinent speech, and supported by Rev. J. Jones and Dr. Davies. Dr. Davies presented Mr. Morgan with four volumes of "Chips from a German Workshop," by Prof. Max Muller. Mr. Morgan

thanked the company for the gifts and their kind words. The company could not refrain from singing "For he is a jolly good fellow." Next came the toast "The Fochriw industry," spoken by Mr. Thomas Roberts, Mr. James Williams and Mr. Henry Evans, who, between them, enlarged upon the good quality of the Fochriw coal. The President proposed a toast to "Cycling," to which the Rev. James Jones replied in a genuinely humorous speech. Sport brought to his feet the well-known sportsman, Mr. George Phillips, who complained of the scarcity of grouse and snipe in Gelligaer parish, as compared with year's gone by. The toast, "Vocalists and musicians," was responded to by Mr. John Jones in a thorough Celtic fashion, the breeze having got into his sail so that we had the "hwyl." The toast, "The teachers of Gelligaer," received excellent treatment by Mr. W. O. Morgan, who was highly pleased to see an old pupil receive such a signal honour. The next toast, "The railways of our district," was well dealt with by Mr. John Edwards of Cwmbargoed, and the last toast, but not the least, "The ladies," was responded to by Rev. Evan Morgan and Mr. James Morgan. While the company were discussing the good things set before them, the following young ladies contributed largely to the evening's entertainment: accompanist, Miss M. A. Thomas; vocalists, Misses S. A. Davies, Elizabeth Jones, Maud Angell, Addie Phillips and Lilian Williams. The proceedings came to a close by singing "Hen wlad fy nhadau," but not before Mr. James Morgan had proposed a vote thanks to the president, to Mr. Worman, to the young ladies mentioned, and to the attendants.

"Merthyr Express" 12 February 1898

Presentation On Saturday night, the 29th January, a very interesting ceremony was gone through in the vestry of Carmel Chapel, when Miss Margareta Phillpott, the accompanist to the Pentwyn Choir, was presented with a gold brooch, suitably inscribed, in recognition of her valuable services. Miss Philpott has accompanied the choir at at least a dozen eisteddfodau. The presentation was made by Mr. Simon Evan Cole, the leader of the choir. Miss Philpott suitably replied. During the meeting, songs were given by the following members of the choir: James Jones, T. Davies, Joseph Shankland, Simon E. Cole, David Cole, J. M. Jones, Rees Jones, and recitations by James Davies, (chairman), David Evans, and Elizabeth J. Evans. In an impromptu reading competition the prizes were divided between Caradoc Shankland, David Evans, and James Pugh, while T. Davies and Caradoc Shankland took the prizes in an impromptu music reading. With the rendering of the quartette, a most enjoyable and successful meeting was brought to a close.

"Merthyr Express" 3 February 1900

Presentation The Male Voice Party held a meeting on Thursday evening to make a presentation to its conductor, Mr. W. Walters, A.C., who is now retiring. The chair was occupied by Mr. David Cole. After a short speech by the chairman, songs were rendered by Messrs. S. Cole and D. Cole, whilst Mr. D. Evans recited "Ond." On behalf of the party, Mr. J. M. Jones, in a few well-chosen remarks, handed Mr. Walters a splendid silver albert with medal attached, and also a fine meerschaum pipe. Mr. Walters suitably responded. Messrs. Daniel Jenkins and A. Shankland also spoke. Mr. D. Evans, on behalf of the party, handed Mr. Davies, the secretary, a silver mounted fountain pen, for which Mr. Davis briefly returned thanks. Songs were rendered by Messrs. W. Cole, Joseph Shankland, J. Davies, T. Shankland, T. Jones, T. Llewelyn, Edward Jones, and John Evans. Mr. S. Cole played the

accompaniments, and an enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the rendering of the "Sailors' Chorus."

"Merthyr Express" 12 May 1900

Ambulance We congratulate Dr. Eleazer Davies on the marked success which has attended his efforts in connection with the Ambulance class. Twenty eight students passed successfully through the examination at the end of the term. We hope to see a continuation of this class next winter.

Presentation On Thursday evening, the members of the Calvinistic Methodist Chapel met at the Board School to acknowledge the services of their late secretary, Mr John Jones. The meeting having been opened by a solo from Miss Blodwen Angell, the chairman, the Rev. D. Davies, in the course of an able speech, referred to the invaluable service rendered by Mr. Jones, not only as secretary, but also as precentor. Mrs. D. Jones, the oldest member, was then called forward to present Mr. Jones with a beautiful illuminated address. Mr. Jones suitably responded, and mentioned a few amusing incidents that had occurred during his term of office. Speeches were then delivered by Messrs. T. Roberts, J. M. Jones, James Lawrence, J. Davies, and G. Pugh, all of whom paid a high tribute to the late secretary, and expressed a hope that his services as conductor would, for along time to come, be placed at their disposal.

"Merthyr Express" 29 December 1900

Presentation A presentation meeting took place at Noddfa Baptist chapel on Monday, 24th December, at 6:30p.m., in order to present Councillor T. Bevan and family with a handsome marble clock, on the occasion of their leaving the town. The chairman was the Rev. L. P. Davies, pastor, who pointed out the good qualities which had elicited this mark of affection between Councillor Bevan's family and the Church. The presentation was made by Mr. T. Evans, senior deacon, on behalf of the Church.

"Merthyr Express" 23 February 1901

Presentation On Saturday evening at the Board Schools, a testimonial was presented to Mr. John Harris, late stationmaster at Fochriw, who has been transferred to a similar position at Maesycwmmmer. The large and representative gathering bore ample testimony to the popularity, respect and esteem which the recipient enjoyed during his 34 years of residence at Fochriw. Dr. Eleazer Davies, Ivor House, presided, and said that Mr. Harris had lived at Fochriw for over a third of a century, and had seen the village in every aspect of joy and sorrow which life brings. At all times he was a genial, courteous neighbour and friend. He was a capable musician, and had acted as a precentor of Congregational singing, and conductor of choral singing, and as the local correspondent of the school managers had rendered valuable public service. Mr. H. Williams, on behalf of the subscribers, then presented Mr. Harris with a pair of gold-rimmed spectacles in a handsome solid silver case suitably inscribed. Mr. Thomas Mantle presented an ivory handled, gold-mounted, ebony walking stick, also inscribed. Mr. Charles Payne next presented a purse of gold. Each gentleman accompanied the gift with a few appropriate remarks. Mr. Harris thanked them all from the depth of his heart for these handsome proofs of their kindness. Mr. T. Evans, the Rev. J. Jones, and the Rev. D. W. Davies also spoke. With a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, the proceedings were brought to a close. The Rev. D.

W. Davies acted as chairman, Mr. J. Powell as secretary, and Mr. H. Williams as treasurer of the movement.

“Merthyr Express” 13 April 1901

Presentation A very interesting presentation took place at other Fochriw Board School on Thursday evening last, when Mr. John Powell was presented, and on the occasion of his marriage, with a silver-plated tea service by the Fochriw Mining Class. The present was given in recognition of services rendered to the class during the past few months. Mr. John Powell has supplied a long-felt want in Fochriw, as it has been known for years that only a teacher was wanting to make a good class, many intending students walking as far as Bedlinog and Pontlottyn on week nights, after finishing their days work, to attend classes in mining. One very interesting feature of the presentation was the taking of a flash-light photograph of the class by one of the members, who is an amateur photographer.

“Merthyr Express” 20 December 1902

Presentation to the Rev. D. W. Davies On Friday evening last, at Pentwyn Church Schoolroom, under the chairmanship of Mr. Charles Payne, Rev. D. W. Davies was presented with a gold watch by Mrs. Lewis, on behalf of church members, in recognition of his services. Mrs Jones read some verses in Welsh composed for the occasion by Llew Brycheiniog.

“Merthyr Express” 3 October 1903

Presentation At the schools on Thursday evening last, the services rendered by Sergeant W. J. M'Murray of Dowlais, were recognised in a practical form by the teacher and members of the Fochriw Ambulance Class. The teams from this class have done splendid work during the past season in the numerous competitions they have attended, and this success is due to some extent, to the very valuable instruction in military drill given by Sergeant M'Murray. In a recent competition for the shield, when pitted against the best teams of South Wales, the Fochriw team came in a very close second to Ystalyfera, the holders of the shield. At the presentation meeting, Dr. Davies, the teacher of the class, presided, and after a few remarks, Sergeant M'Murray was made the recipient of a handsome photo of himself, bearing the following inscription: "Presented to Serjeant W. J. M'Murray for services rendered, by the Fochriw Ambulance Class, 24th September, 1903." A splendid walking stick was also presented to the Serjeant by Dr. Eleazer Davies. Speeches and songs were given by Messrs. D. Cole, T. Davies, J. Evans, W. Cole, E. Lewis, and S. Cole.

“Merthyr Express” 6 August 1904

A Fochriw Curate's Warfare Against Clubs: Action for Slander by a Conservative Association: Verdict for Plaintiffs At the Glamorgan Assizes on Tuesday (before Justice Willis and a special jury), an important slander action was heard, in which the plaintiffs were the Cardiff Conservative Club Company (Limited), and the defendant the Reverend John Alfred Rees, curate of Fochriw. Damages were claimed for slander contained in a speech delivered by the defendant at a temperance meeting at Blackwood on January 5th last. Mr B. Francis-Williams, K.C., and Mr. Arthur Lewis appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. S. T. Evans, M.P., and Mr. Llewellyn Williams for the defendant.

Mr B. Francis-Williams began by giving a brief history of the Cardiff Conservative Club, and the character of its membership. The Lord-lieutenant of the county, Lord

Windsor, was its president. There were other gentlemen who belonged to the club of the position of Lord Bute and Lord Tredegar. There were two or three men of his own profession, a number of medical men, about 26 solicitors, 56 accountants and commission agents. This was perhaps the largest club in Wales, and was carried on like a country club, or like those in London. It was in no way a bogus club, such as they knew some clubs could be. The Conservative Club of Cardiff was not conducted for the purpose of evading the Licensing Act, and was not one of those clubs which was merely conducted for the sale of drink. It was a place that was used as a party club. The words used by the defendant, and the words which were complained of were: "We have heard a great deal lately of the devil being in the Potteries. Well, if he is there, I am perfectly certain that he is in the so-called Liberal, Constitutional, and other clubs of Glamorganshire, for the conduct of their members as disclosed from time to time in our police courts, is not one whit better than the Pottery men. Why, only the other day, one of the prominent Conservative Club men in Cardiff unblushingly characterised his party's club to me as being very shady, and the resort of the betting fraternity. Indeed, to such proportions had their presence grown, and so great was the nuisance they caused during luncheon time, that he now invariably deserts his club for the more congenial and quiet surroundings of a popular St. Mary Street restaurant. The conduct of the majority of these institutions, if the truth were known, is often contrary to law, and I have not the slightest hesitation in asserting that if our police raided all the Glamorganshire clubs, nine and of every ten would cease to exist." That was the portion of the speech complained of, counsel continued, and after the meeting, the defendant handed his manuscript to the representatives of the "Western Mail." The libel was the publication of the written matter given to the representative of that journal. Counsel next proceeded to show that the only political club which supplied luncheons in Cardiff was the Cardiff Conservative Club. If the allegations were now withdrawn he would be satisfied as they were not asking for the payment of costs. As there was no withdrawal, witnesses were then called.

In his evidence, Rev. Rees said that he had lately compiled statistics showing that 53 clubs in Glamorgan had been prosecuted between 1896 and 1904. There were 35 convictions, and the fines amounted to £1,598 5s. Rev. Rees was made to admit by counsel that he had 'stretched his imagination sometimes' when interpreting what he had been told by his friend relating to Cardiff clubs. Various witnesses were also called relating to bookmaking and the Cardiff Club.

In summing up, the Judge said that that the questions for the jury were - Whether the allegations applied to the club? Whether the alleged libel was of such a character as to affect materially the pecuniary interests of the concern? Was it of a character to interfere materially with the carrying of the club in the commercial sense? Dealing with the alleged libel, the Judge said it was one of those unfortunate instances of intemperance about temperance, which he was sorry to say did extreme harm to a very good cause. He always regretted it was so, and that gentleman were so carried away by zeal for what they considered to be a righteous cause, that they forgot what was due to other people and what was due to themselves. And the reverend gentleman could hardly be acquitted of having done what he himself regretted he had done. The jury retired at 1.12, and returned at 1.20 with a verdict for the plaintiff company answering the questions as follows: 1. Did the the alleged libel affect

materially the peculiarly interests of the plaintiffs? - No. 2. Did it interfere materially with the carrying on of the business of the club? - Yes. 3. Was it justified? - No. The jury further informed the judge that they assessed the damages at 40 shillings.

Enthusiastic Reception for the Rev. J. A. Rees The Rev. J. A. Rees met with an enthusiastic reception on his arrival at Fochriw from Swansea on Wednesday evening. Mr Rees reached Fochriw about seven o'clock, and was met at the railway station by the majority of the residents, headed by the Fochriw Brass Band. A procession was formed, and having paraded the principal streets, wended its way over the mountain to Pontlottyn, where the reverend gentleman was again received enthusiastically. A public meeting was held in The Square, in the centre of the town. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. Rees and Mr. Tertius Phillips, Cardiff.

“Merthyr Express” 4 February 1905

A Curious Find When travelling the mountain near Fochriw on Wednesday, a drayman made a curious find which now awaits a claimant at the Dowlais Police Station. The find is a brass coffin plate engraved as follows: "Evan Evans, died Jan 28th 1905, aged 70 Years."

“Merthyr Express” 24 March 1906

Presentation at Noddfa Chapel On Tuesday se'nnight, a presentation meeting was held at the above Chapel, the Rev. L. P. Davies, minister, in the chair. The object of the meeting was to acknowledge the services of Miss Lilian Williams, who has been organist at the chapel for many years, and has served the church most faithfully. Mr. Thomas Evans, the precentor, made the presentation. Sergeant Williams spoke on behalf of the Church; Mr. Samuel Evans for the choir; and Mr. D. J. Thomas for the Sunday school. The present given Miss Williams was a chaste gold chain and pendant. Miss Williams acknowledged the gift with some well-chosen words. The following contributed to the entertainment: Miss Phyllis May Williams, Mr. Sydney Phillips and friend, Mrs. Thomas, Miss Edith A. Williams and Miss Mary Davies, Messrs. R. Thomas, Williams and Hill, D. J. Thomas, Miss M. A. Davies and Miss Massie Davies, Master Roberts, Mr. John Evans and party. Votes of thanks were passed to the chairman and others on the proposition of Councillor Rees Thomas.

“Merthyr Express” 16 May 1908

Presentation to Brother David John Thomas On Thursday evening at the Baptist vestry, the members of the Morning Star Juvenile Temple and several other members of the I.O.G.T., met together to show their appreciation of the excellent services rendered to the Order by Brother David John Thomas by presenting him with a beautiful silver-mounted baton. Brother Thomas Lewis occupied chair, and paid high tribute to Brother Thomas's services. The presentation was not payment for work done, but a mark of appreciation of his services as conductor of the choir. Brother Lewis reminded the young people present that they had a duty to perform in this world. They should live a life of sobriety and usefulness, that others might benefit by it. Brother Thomas had served them well for the last two years, and during that time the singing had greatly improved. He hoped that others would follow his example in doing good work. Brother William Griffiths made the presentation, and Brother Thomas thanked them one and all for their kindness. A solo was then rendered by Sister M. A. Walters, followed by short addresses from Sisters Bronwen Ballard and Mary A. Lewis.

“Merthyr Express” 23 May 1908

Rev. J. A. Rees, Represents Wales at I.O.G.T. Supreme Lodge in America The Rev. J. A. Rees, curate of Fochriw, left for America on Monday last, to attend the International Supreme Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars. He was elected to represent Wales at the annual session of the English Grand Lodge of Wales, held in the Cory Memorial Temperance Hall, Cardiff, in September last. Rev. Rees is treasurer of the English Grand Lodge of Wales, treasurer of the Rhymney Valley and District, and Past District Chief Templar of the Rhymney Valley District.

“Merthyr Express” 26 September 1908

Presentation to the Rev. J. A. Rees On Wednesday night, a meeting was held at St. Mary's Hall, to present the Rev. & Mrs. J. A. Rees with a gold watch and a case of silver afternoon tea spoons, respectively, on their departure for Rhoscolyn, Anglesey. Mr. A. Evans presided, and he, Mr. Charles Payne and Mr. J. Richards, spoke in glowing terms of Rev. Rees' excellent qualities as priest and Church-worker. The new Church, organ and Institute were entirely the fruits of his labours on behalf of the Church. No harder worker could be found anywhere. They were glad of his promotion, but deplored his removal from South Wales to a parish so far away. After a solo from Mr. Teddy Jenkins, Pontlottyn, Mr Josiah Richards presented the case of spoons to Mrs. Rees, and Mrs. J. Davies, presented the gold watch to Rev. Rees. In thanking the people for the presents, Rev. Rees said that he would look back on the nine years he had spent amongst them, as the brightest, pleasantest, and most enjoyable years of his life.

“Merthyr Express” 31 October 1908

Presentation to Mr. Edward Lewis, Secretary of the Fochriw Ambulance Brigade On Friday last, at the Fochriw Ambulance Hall, Mr. Edward Lewis was presented with a photograph of himself by the Fochriw Ambulance Brigade, for services rendered as their secretary for a long time. The 15in. by 12in. enlargement was mounted on a 24in. by 19in. mount, finished in black and white, framed in carved oak, with flat moulding and gilt inside. A large number were present, and the chair was taken by Dr. Eleazer Davies, honorary surgeon of the Brigade. Dr. Davies spoke of Mr. Lewis's excellent qualities, and of his untiring efforts to raise money for the Brigade by sending out appeals for subscriptions to various parts of the county, and in other ways. Songs were given by Mr. David Cole ("Teithiwr a'i Gi,"), and Mr. T. Jenkins ("Under the Desert Star,"), before Mr. J. H. Jones, M.E., deputy agent, Messrs. G.K.N. Ltd. made the presentation. After speeches from Mr. Jones and Superintendent W. J. Ballard, and a reply from Mr. Lewis, there were songs from Mr. James Jones - "Mor o Gan yw Cymry," and Mr. J. Morgan - "Britons, raise your Banners High," before the meeting closed with the usual votes of thanks.

“Merthyr Express” 6 March 1909

Presentation to Mr. David James Thomas, Fochriw On Tuesday night there was a large gathering at Noddfa Baptist Vestry, when the Fochriw United Choir presented a set of eight bound volumes of oratorios to Mr. David James Thomas on the occasion of his leaving Fochriw to take up the conductorship of Salem Welsh Baptist Chapel Choir, Senghenydd, and of the Llanbradach Male Voice Party. The meeting was presided over by Mr. George Thomas. Mr. T. Shankland opened the proceedings with a fine rendering of "Gwlad y Delyn," after which the chairman said he was glad to see Mr. Thomas once more amongst them. He thought that Fochriw was backward in recognising its people.

He was glad they recognised Mr. Thomas, not for what he had done, but for his talent in the musical world. He had left for Senghenydd and he hoped he would do his best there. He hoped he would give his whole spirit to the Church to which he had gone. The choir then gave an excellent rendering of "Magnifying, Glorify" (under the conductorship of Mr. Daniel Jenkins). Mr. T. G. Davies then sang "The Veteran," Mr. James Williams recited "Y Ffoadur," and Mr. David John Thomas gave an address. The choir gave a rendering of "Efe a Ddaw," after which Mr. Daniel Jenkins, conductor, presented Mr. Thomas with the books on behalf of the choir. Mr. Thomas, in responding, heartily thanked the choirs for their valuable present. He stated that his first choir was very small, consisting only of two, his father and mother. Then followed duetts and quartettes of children, children's choirs, and afterwards the Fochriw Made Voice Party. Mr. T. Walters, Mr. Thomas Llewellyn and Mr. Richard Evans then spoke, all wishing Mr. Thomas success in his new sphere. Mr. David James Thomas then gave a very amusing recitation, "Saeson yn Nghymru," after which Miss Elizabeth Jones sang "Speak on, speak on, sweet voices." The meeting was brought to a close by the choir rendering "We never will bow down." Miss Lilian Williams was the accompanist.

“Merthyr Express” 3 July 1909

Presentation to Miss Lilian Williams A very interesting meeting in connection with the Fochriw Juvenile Choir was held at Noddfa vestry on Sunday evening. The object was to recognise in practical form the excellent services of their accompanist, Miss Lilian Williams, Brynawel. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Thomas Jones, Brynteg, chairman of the choir, who spoke very highly of Miss Williams and her services to the choir. An excellent programme of music, etc, was contributed to by members of the choir, after which Mr. David John Thomas, conductor of the choir, presented Miss Williams with a gold brooch on behalf of the choir and committee. Miss Williams heartily thanked them for the beautiful present.

“Merthyr Express” 4 September 1909

Presentation The members of the Fochriw United Choir and a large number of friends, met at Noddfa Baptist Vestry on Tuesday when the choir presented Miss Lilian Williams with a silver flower stand and toast rack, as a token of their appreciation for her services as organist to the choir. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Richard Evans. The choir gave an excellent rendering of "Ebenezer," under the conductorship of Mr. Daniel Jenkins. Mr. James Williams then gave a recitation, after which Mr. Daniel Jenkins made the presentation. Miss Williams said she did not look so much at the value of the tokens, but the good feeling that prompted the giving of them. Mr. David Evans then gave a recitation, "Y Fodrwy Briodasol," and Miss Elizabeth Jones gave an excellent rendering of "A May Morning." A good rendering of "Efe a Ddaw" concluded the meeting.

“Merthyr Express” 2 October 1909

Presentation On Wednesday evening week, a large number of well-wishers congregated at Carmel Chapel to mark their good-will and high esteem in which they held Mrs. Wm. Lewis and her three children, on the occasion of their leaving the village for South Africa. The chairman, Rev. Hughes Jones, referred in feeling terms to Mrs. Lewis and family's departure, Mrs. Lewis having been a member of the chapel for many years. On behalf of the Church, he presented Mrs. Lewis with a Bible and her three children with a New Testament each. Addresses were also given by Mr. Rhys D. Jenkins, Mr. W. Ballard, Mr. Thomas Jenkins, Mr. D. Griffiths, Mrs. Dr. Davies, Mrs. David Jones and

Miss Bronwen Ballard. Mrs. Lewis feelingly acknowledged the gifts. She was also the recipient of many presents from her numerous friends. Mr. Lewis left for South Africa some months ago, and on Monday, Mrs. Lewis and children left to join him. Large numbers of friends assembled at the station to give them a hearty send-off.

“Merthyr Express” 9 October 1909

Fochriw Council School: New Headmaster Mr. J. D. Jones, who was recently appointed headmaster of the Fochriw Council School, in place of Mr. W. O. Morgan, who has retired after 37 years service, commenced his duties on Friday last. He is a gentleman well worthy of the office, and is greatly respected by all. He received his early education at a small country school near Llanwrda, and when nine years of age removed to Penyardren, Merthyr, and attended the Penyardren Boys' School, under the charge of Mr. John Lloyd. He left school after passing Standard VI. I. and went to work at Aberdare, in the well-known works of Messrs. Thomas and Williams, the makers of miners' lamps. He remained there for three years, but was not happy, so he determined to return to school as a pupil teacher. He was apprenticed at Abernant Boys' School for four years. He passed the Queen's Scholarship Examination in 1899, and proceeded to the University College, Reading, where two years were spent. He came out as a fully-fledged certificated teacher, and holder of the diploma of Associate of the University, with distinction in English and European History. He went back to Aberdare, and served under Mr. John Griffiths at Park Boys' School for two years. He left Aberdare for Brithdir in June 1903, and served under Mr. Samuel Davies, an old Fochriw boy, for over six years. He is the holder of several certificates in science and art. He has also conducted a successful certificate class for several years in the Rhymney Valley.

23 July 1910 Testimonial The Royal Humane Society has awarded a testimonial to Mr. Watkin Williams 23, Hill-row Pentwyn, for successfully rescuing a person from drowning at the New Pond, Penywern, on May 24th. The case was brought to the notice of the society by Mr. Joseph Payne.

23 July 1910 Gallantry Recognised In May last, a collier, named Thomas Davies of Dowlais, attempted suicide by drowning in the New Pond Penywern. Mr. Watkin Williams of Pentwyn promptly jumped into the pond which is twelve feet deep, and eventually succeeded in pulling Davies out. The Royal Humane Society has awarded a testimonial to Mr. Williams.

“Merthyr Express” 10 September 1910

Presentation at Fochriw On Wednesday evening at the Mount Pleasant Inn, Pentwyn, Mr. Adams was presented with a handsome gold Albert and medal (suitably inscribed) by his fellow-workmen - the enginemen, stokers and service craftsmen - on his leaving the district. A very large number of workmen were present. Mr. Wm. Powell presided. Mr. Adams thanked his fellow workmen heartily, and said that he had never worked a day out of Fochriw in his life. Now, he was venturing on a new life, and he thought that hundreds of Welshmen should do the same. An excellent programme of music, etc. was contributed by the following: gramophone selection, manipulated by Mr. Wm. Parry, Pentwyn; solo, “The Veteran” Mr. T. G. Davies; comic song, “As a friend,” Mr. Harry Griffiths; song, “Eileen ma Creagh,” Mr. S. Philpot; comic song, “I have to be cruel to be kind,” Mr. Harry Charles (Dowlais); song, “Thora,” Mr. T. G. Davies; humorous address, Mr. Wat. Watkins; descriptive song, “Love and Honour,” Mr. Tom Harris; comic song, “Has anyone seen our Charlie?” Mr. Hy. Charles; song, “John Willie,”

Master Arthur Prichard; solo, "Yr Ornest," Mr. T. G. Davies; Indian Club Exhibition, Mr. Wat. Williams; song, "The Cows in the Dairy," Mr. Dd. Prosser; song, "Another good man gone wrong," Mr. Hy. Wilcox; song, "Roger Tichborne," Mr. Wm. Evans. A vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman and artistes on the motion of Mr. Watkin Williams, seconded by Mr. Jenkin Pugh. Mr. Harry Hughes was the accompanist.

"Merthyr Express" 24 September 1910

Bravery Rewarded: Royal Humane Society's Certificate to Mr. Wat Williams On Friday evening last, at the Ambulance Hall, Mr. Watkin Williams, Pentwyn, was presented with the testimonial of the Royal Humane Society for the saving of life at Dowlais. A large number were present, the hall being practically full. The chair was taken by Councillor John Jones. The circumstances of the rescue were as follows: On 24th. May, Mr Watkin Williams was 120 yards below the pond when someone shouted "A man in the pond." Williams immediately ran up to the pond, divested himself of his coat, vest, cap and muffler, and jumped in taking with him a crutch which he obtained from a cripple on the bank. Swimming out to the man, he handed him the crutch, which he took hold of, and instead of letting Williams bring him back, he pulled Williams towards him and try to grip him. To avoid being gripped, Williams pushed him off with the crutch and swam back to the bank. He immediately made another attempt (the man now becoming weaker), and was this time successful in bringing him safely back to the bank. Mr. J. C. Payne brought the case before the notice of the Society, and after a very searching inquiry, granted Mr. Williams a testimonial.

An excellent rendering of the "The Veteran" was then given by Mr. T. G. Davies, Fochriw, and Mr. William Morris sang beautifully "Llwybr yr Wyddfa." Miss Ceinwen Thomas, Fochriw, delighted the audience with a fine rendering of "Alone on the raft," followed by a laughable recitation from Mr. Robert Davies, Pontllytyn, which was encored, and a song from Mr. Samuel Philpott. Dr. Eleazer Davies then read the certificate and presented it to Mr. Wat Willaims. Mr. Williams thanked everyone for their kindness, and especially Mr. J. C. Payne for his work in gathering the evidence relating to the rescue. Speeches from Rev. M. S. Young, Mr. J. D. Jones, Mr. T. G. Davies, Mr. Charles Payne, and Mr. W. J. Ballard then followed. Mr. Harry Charles of Dowlais delighted the audience with his comic songs, and Mr. Wm. Morris gave a splendid rendering of "The Death of Nelson." The usual votes of thank were then made, and a collection was made for the Society. The singing of "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau" brought the evening to a close. Messrs. Harry Hughes and Thomas Walters ppresided at the piano.

"Merthyr Express" 29 April 1911

Presentation A very interesting meeting was held at Carmel vestry on Sunday last, when Mr. W. J. Angell was presented with a silver-mounted ebony baton. The Committee connected with the performances of 'Aladdin' decided to make him a little presentation for his excellent work among the children. The presentation was made by Mrs. E. C. Jones, who made reference to Mr. Angell's many good points, genial manner, and his popularity with the little ones. Mr. J. Evans, the superintendent, and Mrs. David Lewis, also spoke. Songs and choruses were rendered by the children. The secretarial duties were carried out by Mr. Thomas Lewis, and Mr. D. M. Davies acted as treasurer.

"Merthyr Express" 10 June 1911

Pentwyn Church: Presentation to Mr. J. C. Payne Mr. John Mantle, being the oldest member of Pentwyn Church, was chosen to present Mr. Payne with a gold watch, albert and pendant, the inscription on the watch being as follows: "Presented to Mr. J. C. Payne by the Pentwyn Churchpeople and his many friends in appreciation of his voluntary services as lay-reader, June 1st, 1911." In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Mantle through serious illness, the presentation was made by his daughter, Mrs. Lewis. In Mr. Mantle's address, which was read out by Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Mantle said: "It is a great and particular pleasure as a member of Pentwyn Church to have the honour conferred upon me of performing this little duty. Mr. Joseph Payne is a firm friend of mine, in personal and Christian ways. I must say that I have known him from his childhood, a period of about 30 years. As a scholar in the Sunday School, he has filled almost every branch of work, from a scholar up to a superintendent. His ministerial career commenced about 10 years ago, when he preached his first sermon at Pentwyn Church. It gave me great joy when I learnt that he had chosen the work of the Master. As a lay reader, he uses his great religious opportunities with zeal, discretion and self devotion. He is unwearied in his efforts, and is the centre of much active Christian work. He is an excellent and eloquent preacher. He works so hard amongst the people of Pentwyn. He is a splendid visitor of the sick, and not an empty handed visitor, whether his own flock or not. He is full of vigour and loves his own flock as his own Master. May the blessings of the supreme hour be poured upon Mr. Payne to guide and strengthen him to continue the noble work which he has commenced." Mrs. Attwell then presented Mr. Payne with a purse. She said, "The saying is, 'A prophet is not respected in his own country.' In many cases this is true. In Mr. Payne, who was born and bred in Fochriw, we have the grand exception. He is more that respected: he is loved by one and all. I have great pleasure, on behalf of the members of Pentwyn Church, and his many friends, in presenting Mr. Payne with this purse, and sincere hopes that God will spare him for many years to come to labour in his vineyard, and that he will crown his humble efforts with success." Mr. Payne responded saying, "On occasions like this one feels how feeble words are to express one's great feelings. You can easily understand with what emotion I look upon these your splendid gifts, in recognition of spiritual work done in your midst. It is a joy to me to have kept the light of Christianity burning, however feebly, in Pentwyn Church. Our dear old church, situated at the top of the hill, since it sends its shadows over the dust of so many of our friends who have departed this life in the Christian faith, is a place of sacred memories. Such a place should occupy a central place in the affections of surrounding Christians. I feel deeply thankful to God, who has enabled me to advance his kingdom in this parish for so many years. I have been a lay reader for over ten years, and have been in charge of Pentwyn Church since December 1909, and during the whole time I have met with nothing but kindness and sympathy, at the hands of my flock, and my Nonconformist friends. I shall go away from this kindly and generous assembly conscious that God has blessed my humble spiritual efforts here, and if God spares me, to labour in His vineyard for another 20 or 30 years. I shall still, more than ever, need your help and co-operation, your sympathy and your prayers." Others who spoke were Mr. John Wood, Mr. Brown, Mr. Richards, Mr. John Evans, Mr. James Williams, and Brother Thomas Lewis, a fellow member, with Mr. Payne, of the Star of Fochriw branch of the I.O.G.T. During the intervals there was a full programme of solos and recitations.

"Merthyr Express" 14 October 1911

Presentation to Mr. W. J. Payne On Thursday evening at the Station Restaurant, the headquarters of the Fochriw Hotspurs Soccer Club, Mr. W. J. Payne was presented with a valuable case of cutlery - 52 pieces in all - which had been subscribed for by the members of the club, of which he is President, to mark the occasion of his recent marriage. The chair was occupied by Mr. William Evans, vice-president. Mr. W. J. Jones, Pentwyn, made the presentation. In responding, Mr. Payne said that the little he had done was for the interest of sport in the place. He was proud of being a member of the Hotspurs, which had a membership of at least 60 and was still growing. He urged upon them always to play clean and honest in sport, and to conduct themselves as gentleman on and off the field of play. Then they would be sportsmen in the true sense of the word. Mr. Llewelyn Rees, captain, then spoke, followed by Messrs. Percy Mantle, secretary, Stephen Ballard, treasurer, Rod Jones, and Tom Jenkins. An excellent programme was contributed to by the following: songs - Messrs. W. H. Davies, W. J. Payne, J. H. Evans, A. Prosser, C. Edwards, S. Lewis; impromptu speech competition - subject "Bread" - the winner Mr. Llew Rees; funny story competition - prize divided between Messrs. David Thomas and Albert Prosser; selections on the gramophone.

"Merthyr Express" 6 March 1909

Presentation to Mr. David James Thomas, Fochriw On Tuesday night there was a large gathering at Noddfa Baptist Vestry, when the Fochriw United Choir presented a set of eight bound volumes of oratorios to Mr. David James Thomas on the occasion of his leaving Fochriw to take up the conductorship of Salem Welsh Baptist Chapel Choir, Senghenydd, and of the Llanbradach Male Voice Party. The meeting was presided over by Mr. George Thomas. Mr. T. Shankland opened the proceedings with a fine rendering of "Gwlad y Delyn," after which the chairman said he was glad to see Mr. Thomas once more amongst them. He thought that Fochriw was backward in recognising its people. He was glad they recognised Mr. Thomas, not for what he had done, but for his talent in the musical world. He had left for Senghenydd and he hoped he would do his best there. He hoped he would give his whole spirit to the Church to which he had gone. The choir then gave an excellent rendering of "Magnifying, Glorify" (under the conductorship of Mr. Daniel Jenkins). Mr. T. G. Davies then sang "The Veteran," Mr. James Williams recited "Y Ffoadur," and Mr. David John Thomas gave an address. The choir gave a rendering of "Efe a Ddaw," after which Mr. Daniel Jenkins, conductor, presented Mr. Thomas with the books on behalf of the choir. Mr. Thomas, in responding, heartily thanked the choirs for their valuable present. He stated that his first choir was very small, consisting only of two, his father and mother. Then followed duets and quartettes of children, children's choirs, and afterwards the Fochriw Made Voice Party. Mr. T. Walters, Mr. Thomas Llewellyn and Mr. Richard Evans then spoke, all wishing Mr. Thomas success in his new sphere. Mr. David James Thomas then gave a very amusing recitation, "Saeson yn Nghymru," after which Miss Elizabeth Jones sang "Speak on, speak on, sweet voices." The meeting was brought to a close by the choir rendering "We never will bow down." Miss Lilian Williams was the accompanist.

"Merthyr Express" 3 July 1909

Presentation to Miss Lilian Williams A very interesting meeting in connection with the Fochriw Juvenile Choir was held at Noddfa vestry on Sunday evening. The object was to recognise in practical form the excellent services of their accompanist, Miss Lilian Williams, Brynawel. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Thomas Jones, Brynteg,

chairman of the choir, who spoke very highly of Miss Williams and her services to the choir. An excellent programme of music, etc, was contributed to by members of the choir, after which Mr. David John Thomas, conductor of the choir, presented Miss Williams with a gold brooch on behalf of the choir and committee. Miss Williams heartily thanked them for the beautiful present.

“Merthyr Express” 4 September 1909

Presentation The members of the Fochriw United Choir and a large number of friends, met at Noddfa Baptist Vestry on Tuesday when the choir presented Miss Lilian Williams with a silver flower stand and toast rack, as a token of their appreciation for her services as organist to the choir. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Richard Evans. The choir gave an excellent rendering of "Ebenezer," under the conductorship of Mr. Daniel Jenkins. Mr. James Williams then gave a recitation, after which Mr. Daniel Jenkins made the presentation. Miss Williams said she did not look so much at the value of the tokens, but the good feeling that prompted the giving of them. Mr. David Evans then gave a recitation, "Y Fodrwy Briodasol," and Miss Elizabeth Jones gave an excellent rendering of "A May Morning." A good rendering of "Efe a Ddaw" concluded the meeting.

“Merthyr Express” 30 April 1910

Presentation At the Bargoed Inn, Deri, on Saturday last, Mr. Harry Evans, Fochriw, was presented with a gold albert, medal, and a pipe, by his fellow workmen on the occasion of his resigning from Fochriw collieries after 35 years service. He has held the position of foreman for the past 20 years. The presentation was made by Mr. William Williams, Pentwyn. At intervals, songs, etc, were rendered by Mr. James Healy, Mr. W. T. Williams, Mr. J. Evans, Mr. Wat Williams, and Mr. H. Hughes. The accompanists were Mr. J. Evans (Dowlais), and Mr. H. Hughes. Mr. W. T. Williams gave an excellent rendering of "The Veteran." The singing of "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau" by Mr. W. T. Williams brought a very pleasant evening to a close. Mr. J. Evans carried out the arrangements, and the vice-chairman was Mr. G. Uzzell, Deri.

“Merthyr Express” 10 September 1910

Presentation at Fochriw On Wednesday evening at the Mount Pleasant Inn, Pentwyn, Mr. Adams was presented with a handsome gold albert and medal (suitably inscribed) by his fellow-workmen - the enginemen, stokers and service craftsmen – on his leaving the district. A very large number of workmen were present. Mr. Wm. Powell presided. Mr. Adams thanked his fellow workmen heartily, and said that he had never worked a day out of Fochriw in his life. Now, he was venturing on a new life, and he thought that hundreds of Welshmen should do the same. An excellent programme of music, etc. was contributed by the following: gramophone selection, manipulated by Mr. Wm. Parry, Pentwyn; solo, "The Veteran" Mr. T. G. Davies; comic song, "As a friend," Mr. Harry Griffiths; song, "Eileen ma Creagh," Mr. S. Philpot; comic song, "I have to be cruel to be kind," Mr. Harry Charles (Dowlais); song, "Thora," Mr. T. G. Davies; humorous address, Mr. Wat. Watkins; descriptive song, "Love and Honour," Mr. Tom Harris; comic song, "Has anyone seen our Charlie?" Mr. Hy. Charles; song, "John Willie," Master Arthur Prichard; solo, "Yr Ornest," Mr. T. G. Davies; Indian Club Exhibition, Mr. Wat. Williams; song, "The Cows in the Dairy," Mr. Dd. Prosser; song, "Another good man gone wrong," Mr. Hy. Wilcox; song, "Roger Tichborne," Mr. Wm. Evans. A vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman and artistes on the motion of Mr. Watkin Williams, seconded by Mr. Jenkin Pugh. Mr. Harry Hughes was the accompanist.

“Merthyr Express” 24 September 1910

Bravery Rewarded: Royal Humane Society's Certificate to Mr. Wat Williams On Friday evening last, at the Ambulance Hall, Mr. Watkin Williams, Pentwyn, was presented with the testimonial of the Royal Humane Society for the saving of life at Dowlais. A large number were present, the hall being practically full. The chair was taken by Councillor John Jones. The circumstances of the rescue were as follows: On 24th. May, Mr Watkin Williams was 120 yards below the pond when someone shouted "A man in the pond." Williams immediately ran up to the pond, divested himself of his coat, vest, cap and muffler, and jumped in taking with him a crutch which he obtained from a cripple on the bank. Swimming out to the man, he handed him the crutch, which he took hold of, and instead of letting Williams bring him back, he pulled Williams towards him and try to grip him. To avoid being gripped, Williams pushed him off with the crutch and swam back to the bank. He immediately made another attempt (the man now becoming weaker), and was this time successful in bringing him safely back to the bank. Mr. J. C. Payne brought the case before the notice of the Society, and after a very searching inquiry, granted Mr. Williams a testimonial.

An excellent rendering of the "The Veteran" was then given by Mr. T. G. Davies, Fochriw, and Mr. William Morris sang beautifully "Llwybr yr Wyddfa." Miss Ceinwen Thomas, Fochriw, delighted the audience with a fine rendering of "Alone on the raft," followed by a laughable recitation from Mr. Robert Davies, Pontlottyn, which was encored, and a song from Mr. Samuel Philpott. Dr. Eleazer Davies then read the certificate and presented it to Mr. Wat Willaims. Mr. Williams thanked everyone for their kindness, and especially Mr. J. C. Payne for his work in gathering the evidence relating to the rescue. Speeches from Rev. M. S. Young, Mr. J. D. Jones, Mr. T. G. Davies, Mr. Charles Payne, and Mr. W. J. Ballard then followed. Mr. Harry Charles of Dowlais delighted the audience with his comic songs, and Mr. Wm. Morris gave a splendid rendering of "The Death of Nelson." The usual votes of thank were then made, and a collection was made for the Society. The singing of "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau" brought the evening to a close. Messrs. Harry Hughes and Thomas Walters ppresided at the piano.

“Merthyr Express” 10 June 1911

Pentwyn Church: Presentation to Mr. J. C. Payne Mr. John Mantle, being the oldest member of Pentwyn Church, was chosen to present Mr. Payne with a gold watch, albert and pendant, the inscription on the watch being as follows: “Presented to Mr. J. C. Payne by the Pentwyn Churchpeople and his many friends in appreciation of his voluntary services as lay-reader, June 1st, 1911.” In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Mantle through serious illness, the presentation was made by his daughter, Mrs. Lewis. In Mr. Mantle’s address, which was read out by Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Mantle said: “It is a great and particular pleasure as a member of Pentwyn Church to have the honour conferred upon me of performing this little duty. Mr. Joseph Payne is a firm friend of mine, in personal and Christian ways. I must say that I have known him from his childhood, a period of about 30 years. As a scholar in the Sunday School, he has filled almost every branch of work, from a scholar up to a superintendent. His ministerial career commenced about 10 years ago, when he preached his first sermon at Pentwyn Church. It gave me great joy when I learnt that he had chosen the work of the Master. As a lay reader, he uses his great religious opportunities with zeal, discretion and self devotion. He is unwearied in his

efforts, and is the centre of much active Christian work. He is an excellent and eloquent preacher. He works so hard amongst the people of Pentwyn. He is a splendid visitor of the sick, and not an empty handed visitor, whether his own flock or not. He is full of vigour and loves his own flock as his own Master. May the blessings of the supreme hour be poured upon Mr. Payne to guide and strengthen him to continue the noble work which he has commenced." Mrs. Attwell then presented Mr. Payne with a purse. She said, "The saying is, 'A prophet is not respected in his own country.' In many cases this is true. In Mr. Payne, who was born and bred in Fochriw, we have the grand exception. He is more that respected: he is loved by one and all. I have great pleasure, on behalf of the members of Pentwyn Church, and his many friends, in presenting Mr. Payne with this purse, and sincere hopes that God will spare him for many years to come to labour in his vineyard, and that he will crown his humble efforts with success." Mr. Payne responded saying, "On occasions like this one feels how feeble words are to express one's great feelings. You can easily understand with what emotion I look upon these your splendid gifts, in recognition of spiritual work done in your midst. It is a joy to me to have kept the light of Christianity burning, however feebly, in Pentwyn Church. Our dear old church, situated at the top of the hill, since it sends its shadows over the dust of so many of our friends who have departed this life in the Christian faith, is a place of sacred memories. Such a place should occupy a central place in the affections of surrounding Christians. I feel deeply thankful to God, who has enabled me to advance his kingdom in this parish for so many years. I have been a lay reader for over ten years, and have been in charge of Pentwyn Church since December 1909, and during the whole time I have met with nothing but kindness and sympathy, at the hands of my flock, and my Nonconformist friends. I shall go away from this kindly and generous assembly conscious that God has blessed my humble spiritual efforts here, and if God spares me, to labour in His vineyard for another 20 or 30 years. I shall still, more than ever, need your help and co-operation, your sympathy and your prayers." Others who spoke were Mr. John Wood, Mr. Brown, Mr. Richards, Mr. John Evans, Mr. James Williams, and Brother Thomas Lewis, a fellow member, with Mr. Payne, of the Star of Fochriw branch of the I.O.G.T. During the intervals there was a full programme of solos and recitations.

"Merthyr Express" 29 July 1911

Presentation At Carmel vestry on Monday evening, Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis of Clydach Vale, was presented with a marble clock by her Fochriw friends, on the occasion of her marriage and departure from Fochriw. Mrs. Lewis has taken a very active part in the public life of Fochriw and surrounding area, especially as a public singer of a high order. She will be greatly missed. Rev. D. Hughes Jones, Rev. R. D. Jenkins, and Mr. James Williams, spoke highly of her ability and willingness at all times to serve all good causes in the district. Mrs. Lewis very suitably thanked her friends for this token of respect towards her.

"Merthyr Express" 14 October 1911

Presentation to Mr. W. J. Payne On Thursday evening at the Station Restaurant, the headquarters of the Fochriw Hotspurs Soccer Club, Mr. W. J. Payne was presented with a valuable case of cutlery - 52 pieces in all - which had been subscribed for by the members of the club, of which he is President, to mark the occasion of his recent marriage. The chair was occupied by Mr. William Evans, vice-president. Mr. W. J. Jones, Pentwyn, made the presentation. In responding, Mr. Payne said that the little he had done

was for the interest of sport in the place. He was proud of being a member of the Hotspurs, which had a membership of at least 60 and was still growing. He urged upon them always to play clean and honest in sport, and to conduct themselves as gentleman on and off the field of play. Then they would be sportsmen in the true sense of the word. Mr. Llewelyn Rees, captain, then spoke, followed by Messrs. Percy Mantle, secretary, Stephen Ballard, treasurer, Rod Jones, and Tom Jenkins. An excellent programme was contributed to by the following: songs – Messrs. W. H. Davies, W. J. Payne, J. H. Evans, A. Prosser, C. Edwards, S. Lewis; impromptu speech competition - subject "Bread" - the winner Mr. Llew Rees; funny story competition - prize divided between Messrs. David Thomas and Albert Prosser; selections on the gramophone.

“Merthyr Express” 13 April 1912

The Retirement of Mr. Rhys Jenkins, the ex-member for Fochriw Mr. Rhys Jenkins is the son of Mr. Thomas Jenkins, who was an official at the No. 1 Colliery for 27 years. Mr. Jenkins died in August last year, but his wife, Ann, is still living. Mr. Rhys Jenkins was born at Dowlais, but attended Fochriw Board School until he was twelve, at which time he went to work in the Fochriw Collieries. However, he attended technical classes and obtained two certificates in Mining under the Science and Art Department. In 1895, he commenced preaching in Carmel Congregational Chapel, and eventually, went in for a course of theological studies at the Gwynfryn Academy, Ammanford, and the Memorial College, Brecon. Since the completion of his college course, he has been ministering to the various Welsh and English churches of his denomination almost every Sunday. He still holds the post of deacon and corresponding secretary at Carmel, where he is held in high esteem. In June 1910, Carmel Church honoured him by ordaining him to the full work of the ministry. He is also an active member of the Welsh Congregational North Glamorganshire Association, and a member of the executive. As a member of the Forward Movement Committee, he was selected to read a paper at the conference of the Association at Horeb, Penyardren, in October, 1908, on the subject ‘Jesus of Nazareth, Social Reformer.’ He also preached the missionary sermon at the meeting of the Association held at Elim, Cwmdare, in October, 1910.

Mr. Jenkins has taken an active and painstaking concern in the welfare of the Parish of Gellygaer, and was elected to represent Fochriw on the Council in 1904. On the formation of the Gellygaer Urban District Council in 1908, he was elected as one of the members of the same ward. He has held office until his recent retirement, much to the regret of his colleagues, and the public, who have observed how honestly, sincerely, and faithfully he has discharged his duties as councillor. Besides acting on various Council committees of the Sewerage Board, Mr. Jenkins has been a member of the Gellygaer School Managers for four years, and did his utmost for a new infants’ school at Fochriw, and a new school at Pantywaun, which he opened in 1908. Being a good Welsh scholar, he held the position of teacher in Welsh under the Glamorgan Education Committee for several years. An ardent supporter of the good side of the national eisteddfod, Mr. Jenkins has acquired a good reputation as an essayist, and gained many prizes. In politics he is a staunch Liberal, and has been the Liberal Registration Agent for the district of Fochriw for several years. By the retirement of Mr. Rhys Jenkins, the district has lost the services of a faithful representative. Mr. Jenkins has always had the courage of his opinions - he was not a party to be bargained with. If a thing presented itself as

wrong or impudent, Mr. Jenkins was dead against it. Fochriw always had one to voice its needs in him, and he deserves well of Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 31 August 1912

Presentation to Mr. Thomas Mantle On Saturday last, a meeting took place at the Rising Sun Inn, the headquarters of the Lily of Fochriw Philanthropic Society, at which Mr. Thomas Mantle was presented with an illuminated address by members of the Society, in token of their appreciation of his services as secretary, which he has capably filled for 35 years. Mr. Mantle has lived in the village for about 50 years, and is an official at Fochriw Colliery. He is a faithful member of Carmel Chapel. Mr. James Lawrence, senior, who presided over the meeting, spoke in praise of Mr. Mantle, as did Mr. J. M. Evans, the newly-appointed secretary, and Mr. W. J. Powell, bandmaster. The address, which bore photos of Mr. and Mrs. Mantle, was presented by the two oldest members of the lodge, Mr. T. J. Morgan, landlord of the Rising Sun, and Mr. Edwin Evans, with the address being read by Mr. Thomas Thomas, Guest-street. Solos were rendered by Messrs. Wm. H. Jones, sd. Henry Evans, Charles Payne and Wm. Evans. A solo was also sung by Mr. Myall Williams, Dowlais, the words of which were composed by himself for the occasion. The meeting was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem by Mrs. Williams.

“Merthyr Express” 5 October 1912

Presentation A meeting was held at Nazareth on Thursday evening last to present Mr. and Mrs. Roderick Jones with a handsome marble timepiece on the occasion of their marriage. Mr. Jones has been organist at the Chapel for many years, and the timepiece was given by members of the chapel as a small token of respect for his faithful and valuable services. During the first part of the evening, tea was provided. The following ladies presided at the tables: Mrs. J. Jones, Mrs. D. Lawrence, Mrs. Maggie Davies, Nurse Jones, Mrs. T. Roberts, Mrs. Captain Jones, Mrs. T. Pugh, Mrs. E. Jones. Valuable assistance was rendered by Mrs. J. D. Jones, Mrs. I. Roderick, Mrs. R. Jones, Miss Edith Parry, Miss Annie Maud Jones, Mr. Wm. Jones, Mr. Edward Parry, Mr. Wm. Morris, Mr. Thomas Pugh. After tea, a concert was held, Mr. J. D. Jones presiding. Mr. Griffith Jones made a speech and presented the clock. Rev. I. Roderick spoke and read some verses he had composed for the occasion. The concert programme was as follows: pianoforte solo - Miss Katie Jones-Davies; solo - Mr. Wm. Morris; recitation - Miss Lizzie Mary Lawrence; solo - Miss Hannah Jones; solo - Mr. James Jones; address - Mr. T. Roberts; poetry - Mr. Wm. Jones; solo - Miss M. A. Walters; recitation - Mr. Edward Jones; duett - Mr. Wm. Morris and Mr. C. Shankland; address - Mr. Edward Parry. The singing of the National Anthem brought the evening to a close.

“Merthyr Express” 12 October 1912

Technical Classes A meeting was held at Fochriw Council School on Monday evening, when certificates were presented to successful students at the various technical examinations last April and May. Councillor Rev. Leyshon Evans, Bargoed, presented the certificates, congratulating all, both students and teachers, on their achievements. In two classes, Welsh and practical mathematics, all who entered had passed, the teachers being Mr. J. D. Jones and Rev. Rees Jenkins. There were further speeches, followed by a short concert. Mr. J. D. Jones, the organising teacher, then called attention to the classes for the coming session. Councillor John Jones, Fochriw, presided.

“Merthyr Express” 8 February 1913

Interesting Presentations at Fochriw: Services to St. Mary's Church Recognised On Monday at St. Mary's Institute, Mr. J. O. P. Richards, son of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Richards, Llwyncelun Cottage, was presented with a beautiful gold watch, and purse of gold, subscribed by members of the church, to mark their appreciation of his services as organist. Mr. Richards is now 17, and has been organist since he was 11 - from the time St. Mary's Church first opened. Rev. R. A. Williams, curate-in-charge, presided. An excellent programme was gone through as follows: pianoforte solo - Mr. Richards; song - Miss Elvis Phillips; piano solo - Miss Hilda Phillips; duet - Master David J. Davies and Miss Hilda Davies. Rev. Williams then presented the inscribed watch, followed by Mrs. George Way, who presented the purse of gold. Mr. Richards replied, and there were further speeches from Mr. J. C. Payne, Mr. Thomas Lewis and Mr. H. Brown. The following again contributed to the programme: Miss Hannah Jones, Misses Hilda and Irene Phillips, Miss Blodwen Watkins and Miss Hannah Jones. Dancing then followed with Mr. S. Phillips as M. C. and Mr. J. Prosser at the piano.

“Merthyr Express” 8 March 1913

Presentation A presentation took place at the Mount Pleasant Inn, Pentwyn on St. David's Night, to Mr. Ben Grey Davies, Penydarren, of a beautiful gold albert, given by fellow-workmen at the Fochriw colliery. Mr. Davies, who is leaving this country for the Far West of America, has worked as a blacksmith at the Fochriw colliery for many years.

“Merthyr Express” 19 April 1913

Presentation On Tuesday, the owners of Glyn Terrace met together around a table of delicious eatables, and with a gift of a fine roll-top desk, they showed their appreciation of the services of Mr. J. C. Payne during the construction of the Terrace. Mr. Payne rendered valuable services by taking over all secretarial transactions and supervision during the building, as well as other arduous work. This was done gratis, and without a penny expenses to the owners. Tea over, the entertainment commenced, the following contributing with Mr. Harry Hughes as accompanist: piano solo - Mr. H. Hughes; songs and solos - Messrs. Wm. Griffiths, W. J. Payne, C. Payne, Tom Lawrence, Mrs. J. Maud Lawrence, Misses Ceridwen Davies, M. A. Davies, Mary and Elsie Griffiths, Mrs. Budd, Masters Jack and Trevor Lawrence; recitations and readings - Mr. H. Hughes and Mrs. E. M. Davies. Selections on the gramophone were also given. Mrs. Budd made the presentation. Mr. Payne thanked everyone, and was especially touched because he knew that they were all hard-working men and women, who had striven hard and long to become their own landlords. In turn, each owner thanked Mr. Payne warmly for his efforts, and expressed their delight at having this opportunity of casting a glance back over the last eighteen months, and finding themselves, after all their worry and labour, in possession of some of the finest and best designed houses in Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 3 May 1913

The Late Mr. Fred Hagggar The Fochriw Division of the Dowlais Corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade passed a vote of condolence at their meeting on Monday night, with the relatives of the late Mr. Fred Hagggar, who passed away at Abertysswg Cottage Hospital on Saturday last.

An Invention We have received specifications of the new acetylene gas generator which has been invented and constructed by Mr. Jas. Williams, 12, Glen View, Pentwyn. The machine has no mechanism, therefore cannot get out of order. All

intricacies and complications are abolished. It is extremely simple. It works automatically and gives no trouble. The machine may be charged or discharged once a fortnight if needed. The automatic lubricator operates according to as many burners as are lighted. The machine can be charged with carbide without the least interference to the light. No fluctuations, no danger, no waste, no corrosion, no plant house required, as the machine, capable of supplying ten lights, is so small, it could be easily covered with an empty barrel. The inventor has his own method of purification which gives a clear, steady, large white flame.

“Merthyr Express” 17 May 1913

Presentation: Social Evening at St. Andrew’s Pentwyn On Thursday week, a large number assembled at St. Andrew’s Schoolroom, when Mr. and Mrs. Tom Jones, Glenview, were recipients of some lovely presents on the occasion of their leaving Pentwyn for Lancashire. There was an excellent spread, about 200 partaking, and this was followed by a splendid programme. Mr. J. C. Payne presided. Mr. Payne presented Mr. Jones with a dressing case, and Mr. H. Brown presented Mrs. Jones with a ‘lady’s companion.’ Mr. C. Ballard, Mr. Wm. Morris and Mr. Jas. Williams then spoke. Mr. Payne thanked all who had given so freely to the social and the entertainment.

“Merthyr Express” 10 January 1914

Presentation On Saturday night, a presentation was made, at the Mount Pleasant Inn club room, to Mr. Ted Evans, Aelybryn, Fochriw, of a purse containing £52-8s-6d, the result of a drawing which had been arranged for him by his friends, he having been ill for over two years. Mr. Evans is an old and respected inhabitant of Fochriw, where he carried out for many years, until his health failed, the duties of colliery winder at No.2 Pit. A large company of friends was present. The chair was occupied by Mr. Tom Morgan, colliery overman, who spoke of Mr. Evans good qualities, particularly his straight-forwardness in all matters. He also said that everyone was pleased to show their support in a practical way. An excellent programme followed. Mr. Watkin Williams, vice-chairman, who is known as ‘the ideal man,’ greatly amused the company with his stump speeches and comic recitations. He then introduced the illusionist, Mr. Williams of Pontlottyn, who delighted all with his marvellous doings. Mr. Jenkins (Dowlais), who was the accompanist during the evening, gave an excellent pianoforte solo, which was followed by a song, ‘The Woodman,’ by Mr. Joe Poke, and a further song, ‘The Totanic’ by Mr. Crad Chankland. Mr. Stephen Davies (Dowlais) gave a beautiful rendering of ‘Thora,’ and a comic song, ‘I shall meet you some dark night,’ which caused roars of laughter, was sung by Mr. Josiah Kinsey. There was further conjuring, and songs from Messrs. John Evans, Crad Shankland, John Thomas (Pentwyn). Mr. Tom Evans (Pentwyn) then made the presentation to Mr. Evans, wishing him a speedy return to good health, and a happy and prosperous future. Mr. Evans responded saying that he was greatly touched by the generosity and practical sympathy of his friends. There were further songs from Mr. John Thomas, Mr. Stephen Davies, and Mr. Turner (Pontlottyn). Praise is due to the committee, especially Messrs. Thomas, Rees, C. R. Mills, and Thomas Morgan, for the excellent way in which they worked to bring this drawing to such successful issue. A message of sympathy was to be conveyed to Mr. C. R. Mills, the energetic secretary, in his sad bereavement at the recent, sudden loss of his sister. Votes of thanks to all, including Mr. Jones, Mount Pleasant Inn, brought the evening to a close.

18 April 1914 Personal The many friends of Councillor John Jones will be pleased to hear that he has arrived home safely, greatly benefited in health, after a trip to Australia. He returned on Saturday night, and was met by a large number of friends who gave him a rousing welcome home.

“Merthyr Express” 6 February 1915

Departure of Mr. J C Payne: Farewell Sermon At Pentwyn Fochriw has just lost one of her most prominent townsmen in the person of Mr. J. C. Payne, who is leaving in order to prepare for ordination, and has taken an appointment offered by the Rev. Canon Lewis, at St Mark's Church, Gelli, Ystrad Rhondda. Mr. Payne has for over 20 years been engaged as engineman at the local colliery of Messrs Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, and during the whole of this time has actively associated himself with every social function in Fochriw, but his efforts were more particularly identified in connection with church work. His interest in this direction matured early, and he was a voluntary lay-reader in the parish of Pontlottyn for 14 years, officiating at Tirphil, Pentwyn, Troedrhifwuch, Newtown and Pantywaun. Six years ago he was appointed licensed lay reader to St Andrew's Church, Pentwyn, and the energy and devotion which he applied to his work raised the Church to its present flourishing state with a crowded congregation. Amongst other duties which he discharged, were those of Chaplain to Cwlwm-y-Brodoriaeth, R.A.O.B., and secretary of the Soldier's and Sailors Association. During the last 10 years, he has represented the "Merthyr Express" at Fochriw, and his contributions to these columns have been much appreciated. We regret the loss of his valuable services in this capacity. Mr. Payne has taken a bold step with commendable courage, and one that involves very considerable personal sacrifices, in order to follow more closely the work he loves. The choice, however, will bring its own reward in the ultimate realisation of his ambition. The Church at Pentwyn, and his friends at Fochriw, will undoubtedly miss his genial companionship, but their loss will be others' gain.

Mr. Payne preached his farewell sermon on Sunday evening, when the Church was packed from chancel to door. At the conclusion, he referred to the growth of the Church since he had taken up the duties nearly six years ago, when, at the request of the late vicar, the Rev. T. Rees, he opened the Church after it had been closed for three years. Tonight, he said, he was proud to be able to say they had a flourishing Sunday School of 150 scholars, a strong staff of teachers, the Band of Hope, an excellent service, and various other organisations for the welfare of the Church, and also a full Church of worshippers. During his ministry, the Church had been renovated, and new heating stove put in, and an acetylene lighting plant installed throughout the Church and vestry, the gift of the late Viscount Tredegar. He said it was very hard for him to leave such a flourishing Church and a loving congregation. He was not leaving because he was tired of his work; he loved the work and the people, who worked so harmoniously for the good of the Church. He was leaving with the object of preparing for ordination. He hoped that they would continue the good work that they had been doing in the past. Nothing would hurt him more in his new sphere than to hear that the good work was falling away at Pentwyn. Appropriate hymns were sung under the conductor Mr. John Wood, with Mr. H. Brown presiding at the organ.

26 June 1915 Fochriw "Slackers:" Vicar's Indictment An extraordinary passage appears in the Pontlottyn Church Magazine for this month, from the pen of Rev. G. A. Williams, vicar. It reads as follows: "During the concert held at St. Mary's Church Hall,

Fochriw, the performers did their parts right well, when the behaviour of not a few is taken into consideration. They were not aided by the patriotic enthusiasm which characterised the Pontlottyn concerts. This is not to be wondered at, for, if report be true, there are more "slackers" in Fochriw than in any other village in the parish of Pontlottyn, yea, in the civil parish of the Gellygaer. Methinks that twelve months in khaki would tend to civilise not a few who are over-endowed with animals spirits." Similar remarks were also passed at a recent Gellygaer Council meeting by the Rev. Canon T. J. Jones, and of Mr. W. Hammond, Tirphil, about the 'slackers' at Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 3 July 1915

A Pentwyn Presentation: Mr. J. C. Payne's Record of Service On Thursday evening week, a presentation took place at the Federation Hall, Pentwyn, when Mr. J. C. Payne was made the recipient of a handsome marble clock, subscribed for by the members of the Fochriw branch of the Enginemen, Stokers and Surface Craftmen's Association, and other workmen of the colliery, as a token of their great esteem for him, and to mark the occasion of his leaving Fochriw to take up an appointment offered him by the Reverend Canon Lewis at St Mark's Church, Gelli, Ystrad Rhondda. A good number of members and friends were present, the proceedings being presided over by the Mr. Edward Lewis. The Chairman spoke in glowing terms of Mr. Payne. He had always been a faithful member of the Association, had filled many positions of trust, and had always carried out his duties honestly and straightforwardly. They heard a lot of recruiting for his Majesty's Army in these days, but Mr. Payne was recruiting for the army of the King of Kings. He sincerely hoped that he would continue with this good work and rise to a high position in the Church. A fine programme of songs, recitations and instrumental solos, given by Mr. Payne's colleagues, followed. Mr. Lewis then made the presentation of the clock. Others who spoke were Mr. Alfred Evans, Mr. Fred Wootten, Mr. Harry Hughes, Mr. H. C. Seaborne (the secretary of the branch), and Mr. M. Jones. The singing of the National Anthem brought the evening to a close.

“Merthyr Express” 17 July, 1915

St Andrew's Church, Pentwyn: Presentation to Mr. J. C. Payne On Thursday last week, the annual tea in connection with St Andrew's Church Sunday school Pentwyn, took place when teachers and scholars, about 150 in number, attended. A public meeting was afterwards held, the occasion being a presentation to Mr. J. C. Payne of an illuminated address and suitcase, subscribed for by the Vicar, Pentwyn Church people and friends, in appreciation of his six years ministry at St Andrew's Church, and as a token of the high esteem in which he is held, and to mark the occasion of his leaving. Mr. T. Baldwin, superintendent of the Sunday School, presided, and made the presentation to Mr. Payne. The address was as follows, and included excellent photos of Mr. Payne, and of Pentwyn Church:

"St Andrew's Church, Pentwyn, Fochriw. In presenting to Mr. J.C . Payne this address, together with a suitcase, we the congregation and friends of St. Andrew's Church, desire to express our deep regret that we are losing you after nearly six years work as licensed lay reader in charge of our Church. We ask you to accept, with this small token of esteem, our heartfelt thanks for all that you have done amongst us. Your labour has been earnest, sincere, and thorough in every branch of Church work which has fallen in part or in whole to your care. We rejoice to believe that the result of all your labour has been an increase in the spiritual and moral good of those among whom you have worked, and we

trust that in so helping and serving, you yourself have met with divine rewards of grace and encouragement. It is our sincere prayer that our Heavenly Father made graciously continue to bless your work for him in the new sphere of labour to which he has been pleased to call you, and that there, as here, you may be privileged to strengthen the Lords people, and gather fresh trophies to his kingdom. " T. Baldwin, W. J. Jones, A. Coggan, M. Parry, E. Jones, J. Evans, G. Evans, A. Gwynne (sidesman), H Brown (organist), John Wood (choirmaster), Gilbert Williams (vicar). Mr. H. Brown, Mr. W. J. Jones, Mr. T. J. Gwynne, and Mr. J. Williams then spoke, all showering great praise on Mr. Payne for his good work. Mr Payne responded.

"Merthyr Express" 23 October, 1915

Presentation to Dr. E. Davies The members of the Star of Fochriw Lodge of the I.O.G.T. made a presentation on Saturday last to one of their members, Dr. E. Davies, Ivor House, on the occasion of his departure from Fochriw. Dr. Davies has been a member of the Order from the commencement. His departure will be keenly felt by all. The presentation took the form of a fountain pen suitably inscribed. It was handed to him privately at his house by Bros. W. Jones and S. Lewis. In a letter which Dr. Davies sent to friends of the Order, he asked them to accept his sincerest thanks. It would serve as a reminder of pleasant meetings in the days that are gone, listening to speakers, singers, reciters, debaters, etc., each with a pleasure of its own, with the promise of the future activities of the various members of the lodge. I look back with pleasure on all these experiences. I am pleased to accept the pen on account of the special principles which such an acceptance involves, and this is an acknowledgement of these principles. I wish the Lodge every success in the continuation of its teaching.

"Merthyr Express" 12 February 1916

Presentation to the Rev. R. D. Jenkins: Successful Ministry at Fochriw On Tuesday evening, a very interesting presentation meeting took place at Carmel Chapel, the occasion being the presentation to the Reverend Rhys D. Jenkins, of a gold watch, chain and pendant, and a set of 20 books, subscribed by the Carmel Church members and friends, as a token of the high esteem in which he is held, and to mark the occasion of his leaving to take up the pastorate of Goshen Welsh Congregational Chapel, Rhymney. The Reverend Jenkins has been one of Fochriw's most prominent ministers for many years, taking a leading part in all causes for the uplifting and the betterment of the place. He has held many important offices in connection with the chapel, having been secretary and deacon. His labour has always been earnest and sincere for the spiritual and moral good of those amongst whom he laboured. For eight years he has been a member of their Gellygaer District Council, overseer for three years, school of manager for five years, and a Welsh teacher at Fochriw and Deri for 10 years, under the Glamorgan Technical Committee. The chairman was the Rev. D. Hughes Jones, who spoke in glowing terms of the excellent qualities of Mr. Jenkins, his kind nature and his ready help in all cases. The presentation was made by one of the oldest members of the chapel, Mrs. Lewis Jones. The watch bore the following inscription: "Presented to the Rev. Rhys. D. Jenkins by Carmel Church, Fochriw, on the occasion of his induction at Goshen, Rhymney, as a token of appreciation of his faithful services, 8th February, 1916." Mr. David Griffiths, one of the deacons, then presented Mr. Jenkins with a handsome set of 20 books. Mr. Jenkins, with much feeling, said he hardly knew how to thank them for their great kindness and good feeling towards him. He was sure he had not laboured for any

earthly reward, but had done it because he loved the work. Mr. Sam Lewis read appropriate verses, and Mr. George Sibley then spoke. Mr. Thomas Lewis played a high tribute to Mr. Jenkins for the noble self-sacrificing work he had done in connection with the chapel. He was full of good works. Mr. Griffiths Jones, deacon, Goshen, Rev. J. R. Salmon, Pontlottyn, Rev. Peregrine, Rhymney, and Mr. J. D. Jones, schoolmaster, also spoke. There was an excellent programme of music. A vote of thanks to the artistes, speakers and chairman, brought the meeting to a close.

“Merthyr Express” 24 February, 1917

Presentation An interesting presentation took place at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Bevan, manager of the collieries, when they were handed a beautiful piano, on the occasion of their marriage, by representatives of the colliery officials, workmen and friends. Mr. Bevan's connections with Fochriw are of long standing, he being son of the late Mr. Thomas Bevan, who was manager of the collieries for 25 years, and previously under manager. Many old friends were present. Expressions of goodwill and future happiness were expressed all round, to which Mr. and Mrs. Bevan responded with feeling.

“Merthyr Express” 9 August 1919

Presentation In the evening, a presentation meeting was held, presided over by the Rev. Samuel Evans, when the late vicar and Mrs. Frances were presented with a beautiful Jacobean writing desk, and the children with lovely prayer books, as a mark of esteem from the Church people and friends of Fochriw, Deri and Pantywaun. Rev. E. Fowler, Deri, spoke, followed by Mr. Charles Payne, and then the Rev. Esaiiah Willaims, pastor of Noddfa Chapel. The presentation was made by the churchwarden of St. Mary's, Mr. W. J. Payne. Rev. Francis said that throughout his stay at Fochriw, he, and his family, had received nothing but kindness. He had made friends, not only in the church, but also on the allotments, and on the football field. Rev. Fowler then presented the books to Mrs. Francis and the children - Masters Mervyn and John, and Miss Lizzie. The Rev. R. D. Jenkins then spoke in glowing terms of Rev. Francis work, wishing him well in his new place. "It was only a change of place: the work is the same," he said. A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman was proposed by Nurse Thomas, and seconded by Mrs. Harris.

“Merthyr Express” 11 October 1919

Presentation A very interesting presentation meeting was held at Nazareth Chapel on Monday evening last, when Mr. Willie Adams Jones was made the recipient of a hymn book, dressing case, and cheque case by members of the Nazareth Sunday school, on the occasion of his leaving the Church for Bristol College. Mr. John Jones very feelingly made the presentation. Others who spoke were Mrs. Captain Jones, Messrs. James Lawrence, John M. Jones, and William Morris.

“Merthyr Express” 6 March 1920

Presentation Mr. J. D. Jones, headmaster of Fochriw Council School, left on Friday to take up duties at Gorseinon Boys' School. As a token of the sincere regard in which he was held by the people and staff of Fochriw, he was presented with a neat and useful bureau. He has been headmaster at Fochriw for ten-and-a-half years and during that time he has done excellent work in the school, and has associated himself with every local official movement. We wish him every success in his new sphere.

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

“Merthyr Express” 26 June 1920

Sergeant Honoured At a recent meeting of the Glamorgan Baptist Association, held at Abercanaid, Police Sergeant H. Williams, Fochriw, was presented with a beautiful illuminated address. Sergeant Williams has rendered faithful service at Penybank for about 20 years. The presentation was made by the Rev. W. C. Thomas, Dowlais, who referred to the excellent work done by the recipient. It was chiefly through the activities of Sergeant Williams that the cause at Penybank was kept open for so many years, and he was also instrumental in raising about £1,000 towards the debt, which is now cleared. His activities at Fochriw have been highly appreciated by the denomination.

“Merthyr Express” 10 July 1920

Fochriw Police Sergeant's Splendid Record: P.S. Henry Williams Honoured by Baptist Association The record of Police Sergeant Henry Williams, who has just been presented with an illuminated address by the East Glamorgan Baptist Association in recognition of his long, faithful, and fruitful service to the cause, is somewhat unique. He has served for 38 years in the Glamorgan Police Force, and on being stationed at Fochriw, over 30 years ago, he found the cause at Siloh, in the adjacent village of Penybank, closed, with the burden of £800 debt. Setting to work with exemplary zeal, Sergeant Williams was instrumental in collecting the amount required and in reviving the cause. For 19 years he has kept the Sunday School for some forty or fifty children at Siloh. During the whole period, he has been equally active in the interest of Noddfa Church, Fochriw, where he has been a deacon for about 30 years. For the two chapels, he has been mainly responsible for collecting the magnificent sum of £3,000. The address presented to Sergeant Williams was entirely in Welsh.

“Merthyr Express” 9 October 1920

Presentation On the Thursday, at Noddfa vestry, the Fochriw Touring Club held a social and presentation. Mr. Richard Jones, one of the members, is leaving to take up studies at Bristol College, and he was presented with a beautiful dress case and wristlet watch, as a mark of the esteem in which he is held by the members. Before

the presentation, a social was held, when each member of the club invited a friend, about 90 partaking of the spread. After the tables had been cleared, the following contributed to an excellent programme of music: solos, Messrs. Jas. J. Lewis, Theo. Shankland, Mrs. H. Davies, Misses Enid Evans, Doris Davies, Lydia and Ceinwen Ballard; recitations, Mr. Rees Thomas; duet, Messrs. Lewis and Shankland. Mr. Aneurin Thomas presided at the piano. Mr. William Evans, secretary, made a presentation. Mr. Matthew Thomas proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the trayholders, artistes, chairman and accompanist, seconded by Mr. Stanley Jones. The chairman for the evening was the Reverend Esiaiah Williams, and the tray holders were Mrs. Price Jones, Alf Evans, Rees Thomas, John Thomas, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Evans; cutters, Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Evans. The evening was brought to a close by the singing of "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau" by Mr. Jas. J. Lewis.

"Merthyr Express" 8 October 1921

Presentation On Thursday evening at the Mount Pleasant Inn, a presentation meeting was held to bid God-speed to Mr. Thomas Lewis Griffiths and family, who is leaving for the USA. The event was organised by his friends of the Mechanical section, of which he is an engine driver, to show their appreciation of the high esteem in which he is held amongst them. The chair was occupied by Mr. Tom Sims, M.E., who spoke in glowing terms of Mr. Griffith's character. The presentation was made by the Rev. J. C. Payne, an old engine driver before going in for Holy Orders. A musical programme accompanied the presentation. The duties of secretary were carried out by Mr. Harry Hughes, with Mr. David Harris as treasurer.

"Merthyr Express" 14 January 1922

Farewell Presentation At Noddfa Baptist Church, a presentation was made to Rev. Esiah Williams, Mrs. Williams and family, who are moving from Fochriw after nearly eight years to take charge of Seion Welsh Baptist Church, Cefnmawr, North Wales. There has never been a more popular minister: always endeavouring to do service as a public man, always ready and willing to help in any cause for the welfare of the place. Rev. Williams was presented with an illuminated address. There was a case of cutlery for Mrs. Williams and books for the 3 children. There were speeches on behalf of all the various places of worship in Fochriw: from Rev. Samuel Evans, vicar; Rev. J. D. Jones, Carmel; Sergeant H. Williams, Noddfa. There were also many clergy from all denominations from the surrounding areas.

"Merthyr Express" 29 April 1922

Presentation An interesting presentation took place at Bargoed Police Station on Friday last, when Police Segt. Hy. Williams of Fochriw was the recipient of a handsome ebony, silver-mounted, inscribed walking stick 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.

"Merthyr Express" 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.

“Merthyr Express” 2 September 1922

Departure of Nurse Thomas There was widespread dismay in the village when it became known that Nurse Thomas had decided to leave the place and go to live in Cardiff after 7 years of faithful service in Fochriw. Never was a nurse more devoted to her duties. She has endeared herself to the hearts of all her patients. Her heroic duties and self-sacrifice during the blizzard of 1916 will live long in the minds of local people. She was always interested in any good work for the welfare of the village, and her loss will be keenly felt on all hands.

“Merthyr Express” 9 September 1922

Presentation Nurse Thomas was presented with a handsome gold wristlet watch, which had been given by the officials and workmen in connection with the Doctor’s Fund. The presentation took place at Nurse Thomas’s home. Mr. E. M. Davies, Mr. Walter Jones and Mr. W. J. Payne were appointed to make the presentation.

“Merthyr Express” 16 December 1922

Presentation On Thursday evening, a very pleasing function took place at the Church Hall, when Nurse Thomas of Cardiff, late of Fochriw, was the recipient of some beautiful presents which had been given by local people in appreciation of her faithful service. The chair was occupied by the vicar who spoke highly of Nurse Thomas’s excellent qualities. Dr. F. Stenner Evans then made the presentation of a beautiful solid silver teapot and cream jug. There followed a duet from Messrs. Aneurin Thomas and Francis Wilton, and solos from Madame H. C. Davies, Miss Doris Davies, Mr. Henry Evans, and Mrs. Bronwen B. Davies. The accompanist was Mr. Aneurin Thomas.

“Merthyr Express” 19 May 1923

Presentation A presentation to Miss Doris Davies, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Lodwick Davies, under-manager of G.K.N. Fochriw Colliery, took place at Carmel on Thursday night. Miss Davies is leaving the village to take up the nursing profession. She is the possessor of a very rich musical voice, and her services were in constant demand for concerts, cantatas etc. She was given a handsome, gold, wristlet watch subscribed by the inhabitants of the place and presented by Mr. W. J. Angell, and a handsome Bible given by the chapel, which was presented by Mr. Moses Williams, superintendent of the Sunday School. The presentations were part of a fuller evening of solos, recitations, instrumental contributions, and speeches.

“Merthyr Express” 12 January 1924

Temperance Veteran Honoured by Fellow Workers: Mr. Henry Charles Payne On Thursday evening last, a representative gathering assembled at Carmel Vestry to do honour to a faithful stalwart of the cause of temperance, in the person of Mr. Henry Charles Payne. For the last 36 years, he has been faithfully associated with the cause of

temperance, having held all the offices in the Rhumney Valley District of the I.O.G.T., and also offices in the Grand Lodge of Wales, positions he has filled with distinction. Mr. Payne recently celebrated his golden wedding and is still hale and hearty. He is also active in other spheres of life being vicar's warden of the parish. The presentation took the form of a beautifully illuminated address and a handsome inscribed clock. Bro. Williams, D.C.T., Bargoed, presented the address and Bro. Thomas Lewis the clock. A short musical programme was then given as follows: pianoforte solo - Bro. T. Walters; solo - Bro. Latimer Evans; recitation - Bro. T. Walters, followed by a number of short addresses.

“Merthyr Express” 26 January 1924

Honour for Old Fochriw Boy The numerous friends of Mr. Gerald West McArthur of the Liverpool and Victoria (late of Fochriw, and now of Newport), will be delighted to hear that he has been appointed to a high position in the insurance world, namely, the position of treasurer of the Association. He was born in Scotland, and after coming to Wales, worked as a collier in the Fochriw Pits. He left the colliery to become an insurance agent with the London, Edinburgh and Glasgow, commencing his career under Mr. W. R. Beddoe, Pontlottyn. He married Miss Eleanor Lewis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Lewis. He has had considerable insurance experience, having been appointed assistant superintendent as far back as July 1900 for the L.E. & G. at Brynmawr, and in 1903, superintendent for the same company at Llanelly. He left the L.E. & G. in 1907 to start with the Liverpool Victoria at Bargoed, and in 1912 took over the management of the Newport district, where he has remained.

“Merthyr Express” 9 January 1926

Long Service: Mr. John Wood On December 31st, 1925, Mr. John Wood, signalman, retired after 52 years and 54 days faithful service with the G.W.R. Company as signalman. Mr. Wood spent 50 years and 12 days at the same box at Cwmbargoed, where he had won the respect of employers and employees by his faithfulness to duty. His genial countenance will be missed by his host of friends. Mr. Wood is now - and always has been - a keen churchman, and was for many years the choirmaster of Pentwyn Church - a choir in which he took great pride, and whose singing under his baton reached a high standard of perfection. May he be spared for many years to enjoy his well earned retirement, and may the evening tide of his life be a happy one. This is the wish of his many friends.

“Merthyr Express” 23 January 1926

Presentation to Mr. John Wood On Saturday evening, at the Rising Sun Inn, Mr. John Wood, who retired in December from the G.W.R., was presented with a valuable clock and a wallet of Treasury Notes. Inspector West presided. Mr. J. Jones, Cwmbargoed, made the presentation, and Mr. Moses, Queen's Head Hotel, Rhymney, an old railway employee, spoke. Mr. Wood feelingly responded. Messrs. J. J. Lewis, C. Jenkins, D. Jenkins, T. Rees and others gave a musical entertainment.

30 October 1926 Appointment Congratulations to Mr. E. Lewis, stationmaster, who has been appointed to the position of stationmaster at Llanbradach. He has laboured very faithfully at Fochriw for many years, and will be missed by his large circle of friends. We wish him and his family well in their new sphere of labour.

29 January 1927 Presentation: Mr. and Mrs. James Williams, Aelybryn A very representative gathering assembled at Noddfa vestry on Tuesday, 25th January, to bid

farewell to Mr. and Mrs. James Williams, Aelybryn, who are leaving the district after a stay of about 40 years, to take up residence at Wolverhampton where most of their family now reside. Mr. and Mrs. Williams are natives of Dowlais. Mr. Williams held a very responsible position as clerk to Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds until his retirement a short time ago, and it is no exaggeration to say that he faithfully served both master and man. His total service under the company amounted to sixty years. They were faithful members of Noddfa Chapel. The presentation, which took the form of a gold watch, cheque and a lady's handbag, had been subscribed to by the inhabitants and friends. The meeting was presided over Ex-Sergeant Williams. Letters of apology were read from Messrs. Howell R. Jones, Councillor Tudor Davies and Mr. John Bevan. The speakers included Rev. Ieuan Evans, the Rev. Samuel Evans, Mr. Charles Payne, Mr. John Jones, Mr. Wm. Ballard (on behalf of the workmen), Mr. Thomas Evans, and Mr. John Thomas. The presentation of the watch, suitably inscribed, was made in fluent Welsh by Mr. John Thomas, an old veteran of well over three score years and ten; the cheque by Mr. Thomas Evans, also in Welsh; and the handbag, with gold fittings, by Mrs. Ieuan Evans. Each of the presenters paid tribute to the many fine qualities of Mr. & Mrs. Williams. Mr. Williams feelingly responded on behalf of himself and his wife. The musical programme was provided by Mr. James J. Lewis, Miss Margery Lewis and Mr. C. Davies. Miss Hilda Phillips and Mr. Wyndham Lawrence were the accompanists. The secretarial duties were carried out by Mr. J. Lloyd Jones, and the treasurer was Mr. Morgan Morgans (Rising Sun). They were supported by a very strong committee. An appropriate poem was composed by Mr. J. Lloyd Jones for the occasion. [Photographs included. A similar account dated 5 February, 1927.]

26 February 1927 Presentation At Noddfa Vestry, on Tuesday evening, Mr. E. Lewis, late stationmaster at Fochriw, now of Llanbradach, was the recipient of a gold watch and medal, suitably inscribed, from the G.W.R. staff and friends at Fochriw, to mark the occasion of his departure from Fochriw, after 18 years faithful service. The chairman was the Rev. S. Evans, vicar. Miss Margery Lewis sang "Cartref" in fine style, after which Madame H. C. Davies sang "Glory of the Sea," and "Dear Friends." Mr. W. R. Jones then sang "Mountain Lovers." The presentation was made by Mr. G. R. Williams, relief stationmaster. Mr. Charles Payne spoke of Mr. Lewis's work in the village. The evening was brought to a close by singing "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau" by Miss Margery Lewis. The accompanist was Mr. Wyndham Lawrence. The secretarial duties were carried out by Mr. S. G. Thomas.

30 April 1927 Departure To celebrate the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Morgan from the Rising Sun Inn, Fochriw, for the Cambrian Hotel, Bridgend, a social was held last Thursday evening, when ex-Sergeant Williams presided. A good company were present. The Rising Sun Inn had been occupied by the Morgan family for over 68 years, and no one could find fault with the manner in which the house had been conducted. Addresses were given by Mr. John Thomas, Brook-row (in Welsh), and by Messrs. C. Taylor, Alf Millar, Evan Jones, J. J. Lewis (Ap Morlais), Bert Lewis, R. Slimmons, Ernest Jones, David Davies, and Inspector Ted Roberts. They wished the family well in their new home.

15 October 1927 Personal Fochriw people were delighted at the success of the Garrick Dramatic Society (Mid-Rhondda) at the Dowlais Drama Week with "Outward Bound." The producer is an old resident of Fochriw – Mrs. Matt Lewis -

who also won the individual prizes for the best actress, and received a very high compliment from the adjudicator.

“Merthyr Express” 26 November 1927

Presentation to Mr. W. J. Angell and Mr. Wyndham Lawrence Carmel Chapel was well filled on Tuesday evening, the occasion being a concert and presentation to Mr. W. J. Angell, late conductor of the Fochriw Male Voice Party, and Mr. Wyndham Lawrence, late accompanist, to mark their faithful services. The chairman was Mr. W. J. Payne. The presentations took the form of a magnificent Berkeley arm chair to Mr. W. J. Angell, and a handsome writing bureau to Mr. Wyndham Lawrence. After the presentations and replies, a fine programme of music was contributed by the following: the Male Voice Party; the Juvenile section of the Ladies' Choir; Mr. Griffith Morris, Mr. W. A. Davies, Mr. Leyshon Rowlands, Mr. Meirion Shankland, Mr. Thomas Walters, Mr. D. M. James, and Mr. Gomer Evans. Votes of thanks were moved by Mr. D. M. James, seconded by Mr. Emrys Lewis, and carried with acclamation. The singing of "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau," Mr. Griffith Morris leading with the solo, brought a memorable evening to a close.

18 August 1928 Presentation A presentation of a gold albert was made to Mr. S. G. Thomas, late porter at Fochriw, on Wednesday evening at the Rising Sun Inn. The gift, which had been subscribed to by the railway staff of Fochriw station and friends, was presented by Mr. William Powell, Martin-street. Mr. Walter Davies, station master, presided, and he spoke of the sterling qualities of Mr. Thomas as a railwayman. Mr. R. Slimmons, Fochriw Farm, spoke on behalf of the public. Mr. Rees Jones, the veteran signalman, added his tributes. Mr. Thomas returned thanks to all those who had spoken and taken part in the presentation

10 August 1929 Bon Voyage On Monday, a hearty send-off was accorded to Mr. John O. Roberts, who has joined the Metropolitan Police. He is a brilliant athlete, being the star performer at the Fochriw Cricket Club, both with bat and ball, and is also a well-known footballer. He has also had a successful career on the running track. He is an old pupil of Lewis School, Pengam. His host of friends wish him good luck in his new sphere of life.

17 August 1929 Presentation Before his departure to join the Metropolitan Police Force, Mr. John O. Roberts was the recipient of a beautiful silver cigarette case and holder, given by his many friends at the Fochriw Cricket Club, as a mark of esteem for his splendid sporting qualities and to show the great respect in which he is held. Mr. David Evans presided. The majority of members spoke.

9 November 1929 Fochriw Vocalist There was a large audience at the Hanbury Cinema, Bargoed on Sunday evening, when the Powell Duffryn Male Voice Party, under their conductor Mr. C. Tudor Jones, L.R.A.M., gave a benefit concert to one of their vocalists in the person of Mr. Claerwyn Davies, Brook Cottage, Fochriw. The chair was taken by Councillor Minhinnick. Mr. Davies, who is only 21 years of age, has been successful in obtaining the Rosing Scholarship, London, which is open to singers throughout Great Britain, and he headed the list of 600 aspirants. The scholarship is valued at 250 guineas per annum, including tuition in eight languages. Mr. Davies has made a wonderful advancement in the last three years. His musical career reads like a romance. One day, he went to hear Chaliapine, the Russian bass, sing at a concert in Cardiff, and apparently, he was inspired on hearing the Russian's wonderful voice, and

went in seriously for singing. He has broadcast from the Cardiff Studio, and holds the distinction of being the youngest bass to have appeared before the microphone. When the Royal Carl Rosa Company visited Cardiff last season, he was offered an appointment. Patrons of the Capitol, Cardiff, heard his powerful voice when he appeared there a short while ago on the week's engagement. According to the critics his range of voice is described as phenomenal, from bottom Double C to top B Flat. Mr. Davies is a former pupil of Lewis' School Pengam, but is now employed as a miner. He is also an all-round athlete, and was given a soccer trial for Wales when at school. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Davies, Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 10 May 1930

Obituary: Mr. Richard Bell Mr. Richard Bell, former Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, and M.P. for Derby from 1900-1910, passed away last week. His memory will live long, and his great deeds of kindness will never be forgotten. He was one of the originators of getting Fochriw adopted by Southgate, and was instrumental in getting a large supply of clothing and money to the village.

“Merthyr Express” 7 June 1930

Presentation At Nazareth Chapel on Saturday evening, signal honour was paid to Mr. John Lawrence, who has held the position of Church secretary for the last 25 years, and still carries out the duties. His many friends and admirers showed their appreciation of these services by presenting him with a handsome bureau bearing the following inscription: "Presented to John Lawrence by Nazareth Calvinistic Methodist members, for 25 years service as secretary. May, 1930." Mr. Lawrence, whose name is a household word locally, comes of a noted family, his father (Mr. James Lawrence) having been a faithful deacon at Nazareth until his death some years ago. The happy gathering was presided over by the Rev. Richard Evans, who spoke in glowing terms of Mr. Lawrence's work on behalf of the Church. The presentation was made by Miss Katie Davies. Mr. Lawrence, who was received with cheers, said he was deeply grateful for the handsome gift. Mr. Willie Adams Jones, Mr. William Morris, Mr. Thomas Pugh, and Mr. Evan Jones also paid their tributes. A first-class musical programme was contributed to by Messrs. W. A. Davies, Tom Walters, William Morris, and Berkley Davies. The accompanists were Mr. Thomas Walters and Mr. Willie Davies.

“Merthyr Express” 2 August 1930

Presentation A very interesting presentation meeting was held at the Old Reading Room on Monday evening, under the auspices of the Fochriw Cricket Club, when Mr. Harold Harris, the former secretary of the club, was presented with a set of hair brushes in recognition of his faithful services. Mr. John Lloyd Jones presented the gift. P.C. Sanson was appointed chairman in succession to Mr. S. Jenkins who is leaving the district.

“Merthyr Express” 6 September 1930

Presentation At the Church Hall on Tuesday, a pleasant time was spent when the members of the Fochriw branch of the Mothers' Union met to do honour to their late treasurer, Mrs. J. P. Isaac, who had recently removed to Pontlottyn. The presentation took the form of a beautiful electric lamp stand. The presentation was made by Mrs. Payne, The Vicarage, who spoke of Mrs. Isaacs' faithfulness. Mrs. Wilton and Mrs. Mantle also added their tributes. Afterwards the members sat down to an excellent tea, and an enjoyable evening was spent. The meeting was presided over by the vicar. Mrs. Walter Davies was appointed treasurer.

“Merthyr Express” 13 September 1930

Presentation A very interesting presentation took place at the Old Reading Room on Wednesday evening, when Mr. Thomas Jenkins, late secretary of the library, was the recipient of a gold-mounted Onoto fountain pen in recognition of his faithful services as secretary for the last five-and-a-half years, before leaving the district to live at Ystrad Mynach, where he is engaged as a clerk at the Council Offices, Hengoed. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Sam Lewis who spoke of Mr. Jenkins' faithfulness to his duties. Mr. Stephen Ballard, treasurer, and Mr. W. J. Payne, vice-president, also added their tributes. The pen bore the following inscription: "Presented to Mr. T. Jenkins by the Fochriw Institute, 1930."

“Merthyr Express” 18 October 1930

Presentation A very interesting presentation took place on Noddfa Vestry last week to honour Miss Hilda Phillips, who for the last twenty years has been chapel organist, and has also been active in a number of other branches of Church work, including being producer of Noddfa Dramatic Society. The family has recently moved to Ynys Tawe, near Clydach. Noddfa has lost an excellent band of faithful workers. The meeting was presided over by ex-Sergeant Williams, who spoke very highly of Miss Phillips. Others who bore excellent testimony were Messrs. John Bevan, John Jones, Albert Walters, and Thomas John Jones. The presentation was made by Mr. Thomas Evans, choirmaster, and took the form of a grandmother clock and a beautiful chair. Miss Phillips feelingly responded. A concert was contributed to by the following: Misses Phyllis Williams, Dilys Evans, Iris Evans, and Phyllis Davies. The accompanist was Mr. D. J. Thomas. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to all on the motion of Mr. J. Bevan, seconded by Mr. John Jones.

“Merthyr Express” 29 November 1930

Presentation A very pleasant time was spent at Nazareth chapel on Tuesday. The tables had been tastefully decorated, and the willing band of workers attended to the wants of a large number present. After the cloths had been removed, a presentation was made to Miss Adelaide Lawrence to mark her departure from Fochriw, where she has been a faithful member of Nazareth, to take up her duties at Cardiff Domestic College. The presentation took the form of a ladies' companion, and was made by Mr. Evan Jones, senior deacon, who wished her well in her new sphere. Mr. William Morris was the chairman. Mr. W. J. Jones spoke of Miss Lawrence's good qualities. The following contributed to the programme: solos Mr. Willie Angell Davies; humorous readings, Mr. Thomas Walters; solo, Mr. Burke Davies; quartet, Messrs. W. A. Davies, T. Walters, B. Davies and Griff Jones; medley of Welsh airs, Mr. Thomas Walters. The evening was brought to a close by the singing of "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau."

“Merthyr Express” 27 December, 1930

Presentation As a mark of their appreciation, and on the occasion of his departure to take up the headship of Deri Mixed School, Mr. William Davies, headmaster of Penyank School for the last nine years, was presented with a beautiful dressing case by the staff and scholars of the school. The presentation was made by the oldest teacher, Miss Rosie Davies. Mr. Davies responded very feelingly.

28 March 1931 Personal It is very pleasing to know that Mr. Islwyn Davies has been highly successful in passing with honours, his final tests and probation period in the Metropolitan Police Force.

28 March 1931 Congratulations The many friends of Mr. Claerwyn Davies will be pleased to hear of his brilliant success in the musical world. He has been awarded the Rosing Progress Medal, and has the unique distinction of being the first student to receive this award after one year's study. This award covers singing, languages, etc. His friends join in wishing him further success.

4 April 1931 Personal The many friends of Mr. Willie Morgan, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Morgan, Plantation-terrace, who is a student at Exeter Training College, will be pleased to know that he has been appointed captain of the College Rugby XV.

11 April 1931 New Doctor A cordial welcome is extended to Dr. D. C. Williams, who has taken on the practice of Dr. T. Stenner Evans, J.P. All join in wishing him and Mrs. Williams a pleasant time in the locality.

11 April 1931 Doctor's Appointment The very large circle of friends of Dr. T. Stenner Evans, J.P., were delighted to hear of his important appointment to the post of deputy regional medical officer to the Ministry of Health. A more capable man for the post it would be difficult to find. Coming to Fochriw in November 1918, after serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps, he soon endeared himself to the people in the scattered area, by his devotion to duty. He was appointed a member of the honorary medical staff of the Merthyr General Hospital in 1923. He was the organiser and first medical officer of the Fochriw Maternity and Child Welfare Centre under Gellygaer Council. He was lecturer and surgeon to the Fochriw Division of the St. John Ambulance Association, and was made an honorary life member of the Priory for Wales in 1925. He was also President of the Fochriw Branch of the British Legion, and is a member of the Ministry of Pensions Medical Board. He is a Justice of the Peace for the County of Glamorgan, and is Worshipful Master of the North Glamorgan Lodge of Freemasons. All join in wishing him well in his new sphere.

18 April 1931 Personal The wide circle of friends of Bombardier William Roberts, R.A., son of Mr. and Mrs. William Roberts, Glyn-terrace, will be delighted to hear of his rise to fame in the football world. He is a regular player in the Army Soccer Team, and as a full-back his displays week after week have won much praise from the football fans. He has signed amateur forms for the Arsenal.

27 June 1931 Appointment Friends of Mr. L. Haydn Angell, B.A., son of Mr. W. J. Angell, will be delighted to hear that he has been appointed Welsh master at Rhyl County School.

27 June 1931 Personal The large number of friends of Mr. Howell Jones, M.A., B.C.L., son of Mr. George Jones, Picton House, will be delighted to hear of his important appointment at Rhodesia, S. Africa, in his capacity as Bachelor of Civil Law. He sailed from Southampton last Friday.

25 July 1931 Presentation At the Church Hall on Monday evening, a very happy time was spent, when a concert, presentation and supper was organised by the Mothers' Union to recognise the faithful services of Mrs. Payne, their enrolling member, who has now left for Ystradowen. Before sitting down to supper, a first class programme was given by members. Mrs. S. J. Jones took the chair, and spoke in glowing terms of Mrs. Payne's efforts for the Mothers' Union and parish.. Mrs. George Way made the presentation - a handsome grand-daughter's clock. Others who spoke were: Mrs. Isaac, Mrs. Walter Davies, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Baldwin, Mrs. W. J. Jones, Mrs. Powell, Mrs. Curtiss.

1 August 1931 Presentation to Rev. J. C. Payne On Tuesday evening, a very happy function took place at the Church Hall, when Rev. J. C. Payne was presented with a handsome grandfather Westminster chiming clock in recognition of his great services to the Church and public when vicar of Fochriw and Deri for two-and-a-half years. A fine musical programme was contributed to by the Fochriw Male Voice Party under their conductor Mr. Tom Walters, with Mr. Wyndham Lawrence as accompanist. The supporting artistes were Mrs. Mary Lewis and Mr. Meirion Shankland. The chairman for the evening was Mr. Walter Davies, stationmaster, who paid a glowing tribute to the late vicar. Councillor A. T. Minhinnick, Mr. Tom Baldwin, Mr. John Lloyd Jones, and the Rev. J. L. White also spoke. Mr. W. J. Payne proposed, and Mr. Geo. Way seconded, a vote of thanks to all who had taken part, and the evening closed with the singing of "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau," Mr. Meirion Shankland taking the solo.

5 December 1931 Fochriw Boys' Appointment It is with feelings of great satisfaction that the wide circle of friends of Mr. Thomas John Jones, B.A., son of Mr. George Jones, and the late Mrs. Phoebe Jones, Picton House, learned that he was appointed last week to the post of manual instructor to the Bargoed Secondary School. He is a product of the village school, and one of a family of six, all of whom have made good in the scholastic profession.

13 February 1932 Services Recognised At the Church Hall on Shrove Tuesday, a tea and presentation took place. The Vicar presided. Mr. Octavius Richards, who has been church organist for 25 years, was the recipient of a beautiful mirror to mark the occasion of his recent marriage. Mr. Richards very feelingly responded. Others who paid tribute to Mr. Richards were Mrs. Henry Thomas, Mr. George Evans, Mr. W. D. Davies and Mr. Gordon Lawrence. The musical programme was contributed to by Messrs. G. Tyler, W. J. Payne, G. Lawrence and Windsor Rees.

27 February 1932 Link with the Past: Mr. William Ballard, Aelybryn, aged 81 Amid signs of deep sorrow, Mr. William Ballard, Aelybryn, was laid to rest last week at Pant Cemetery. He was 81 years of age, and came to Fochriw over 50 years ago from Penyardren. He worked at the Fochriw Colliery until its closure in 1924. He was hale and hearty until the last few weeks of his life, and his genial countenance will be sadly missed. He was one of the stalwarts of Carmel Congregational Chapel, and one of the oldest deacons. He could be seen until the last, faithfully wending his way to the House of God. He could give very interesting reminiscences of the life of the village in the days of long ago. Sincere sympathy is extended to the family. After a short service at a house, the solemn cortege wended its way to Fochriw station, and thence to Pant. Rev. J. R. Salmon officiated. The chief mourners were: Messrs. William J. Thomas, Stephen, Caradoc and Arthur Ballard (sons); Ernest Cumpstone (son-in-law); Willie, Crad, and John Ballard, Idris, Nicholas, Bert and Arthur Cumpstone, Gwilym Davies, H. Ballard, G. Thomas (grandsons); T. Sayce (brother-in-law).

"Merthyr Express" 30 April 1932 Presentation The Old Library was the scene of an enjoyable function on Monday, the occasion being a presentation to Mr. John Lloyd Jones, Supply Stores, in recognition of his great services as secretary of the Fochriw branch of the British Legion, and also, secretary of the Benevolent Committee, U.S.F.. A capital musical programme was provided by Miss Mary Morgan (violin), Mr. W. A. Davies (tenor), Mr. Tom Lewis (baritone), Mr. Tom Walters (elocutionist). The

accompanist was Mr. Wyndham Lawrence. Mr. Jones was presented with a writing bureau suitably inscribed.

14 May 1932 Personal Congratulations to Mr. Gwendoline Llewellyn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Llewellyn, Pentwyn Farm, who has been chosen one of the ladies-in-waiting in attendance to the Queen of the Carnival at the Merthyr Fate and Gala on Whit Tuesday

20 August 1932 Presentation to Dr. D. C. Williams On Thursday evening at the Church Hall, there was a very happy gathering, the hall being crowded to pay tribute to Dr. D. C. Williams, and Mrs. Williams, the former having recently taken up an appointment at Bedlinog. The occasion was the presentation of a beautiful oak writing bureau, suitably inscribed, purchased from contributions by Dr. Williams' host of admirers from Fochriw and District. A first-class programme of music was given by the following artistes: Madam H. C. Davies, Mr. James J. Lewis, Miss Mary Lewis and Mr. Jones (elocutionist). Mr. Wyndham Lawrence was the accompanist. The Chairman was Police Sergeant W. Howells, who spoke of the high esteem in which Dr. Williams was held. Mr. W. J. Payne made the presentation on behalf of the people, stating that although Dr. Williams had been with them for just fifteen months, he had endeared himself to all. What he liked in Dr. Williams was the human touch and his kind words of comfort to the sick and suffering, and that, in his opinion, did more good often than the medicine. Mrs. S. J. Jones, Mr. John Lloyd Jones, and Mr. Evan Morgan Davies also spoke. The evening terminated with the singing of "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau," by Mr. J. J. Lewis.

“Merthyr Express” 25 February 1933

Presentation At the Church Hall on Thursday, a happy function took place in connection with the St. Mary's Dramatic Society, when the members sat down to an excellent tea. Mrs. Lena Morgan was presented with a wristlet watch as a mark of appreciation for her services to the Society. The chair was taken by the Vicar, who spoke of Mrs. Morgan's work for the society. Mr. W. J. Payne (producer) made the presentation. Others who spoke were Mr. T. Baldwin, Mr. Jack Lawrence, Mr. W. D. Davies, and Mrs. Annie Morgan. After the presentation, games were played. Master Cecil Llewellyn gave two recitations. The accompanists were Mr. O. Richards and Mr. Willie White.

11 March 1933 Organist's Record: Mr. Thomas Walters, A.L.C.M. The large circle of friends of Mr. Thomas Walters will be pleased to note that he has completed 30 years faithful service as organist at Carmel Congregational Chapel. He commenced on October 16th, 1902, and is still organist and choirmaster. His abilities as organist and conductor are well-known throughout South Wales. His wonderful successes as the conductor of the Fochriw Mixed Choir and Male Voice Party are still fresh in the minds of music lovers throughout the Valley. Always of a kind and genial disposition, his services are given ungrudgingly for all worthy objects in connection with the welfare of the community. As an adjudicator, elocutionist, and accompanist, his services are in great demand and no appeals for charity are made in vain to Mr. Walters. It is the wish of his many friends that he be spared for many years to carry on the great work for which he is so well fitted.

18 March 1933 Personal At a meeting at the Old Library, Mr. Tom Jones presiding, it was decided to show appreciation of the great services rendered by Mr. Wyndham Lawrence, A.L.C.M., who has taken up study at Cardiff University.

8 April 1933 Personal Mr. Lewis H. Angell, B.A., son of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. Angell, has been appointed president and organiser of the Urddd Gobaith Cymru, Rhyl Section.

22 April 1933 Eighty Not Out On Thursday evening an enjoyable time was spent at Pennant, Fochriw, to celebrated the 80th birthday of Mr. David Davies (Caerefryn), who is well-known and highly respected in the locality. Relatives and friends sat down to an enjoyable supper, after which Mr. Davies was presented with a Berkley chair as a mark of appreciation and esteem by Mrs. Roderick and Miss Katie Davies. Mr. Davies, in acknowledging the gift, gave a vivid description of his childhood and early manhood days.

22 April 1933 Services Recognised At the Old Library on Monday, a social gathering, under the auspices of the Fochriw branch of the British Legion, took place. The occasion was the presentation of a silver-mounted walking stick, suitably inscribed, to Mr. Wyndham Lawrence, A.L.C.M., in appreciation of the valuable services he has rendered the Legion as accompanist. The chairman was Mr. Tom Jones, headmaster, and the presentation was made by the chairman of the branch, Mr. S. Phillips. The following took part in the musical programme: Madam H. C. Davies, Mr. J. J. Lewis, Nurse Ballard Davies, Mrs. Jones, Miss Mary Lewis, Master W. J. Jones, Tom Smith and Cyril Lewis.

6 May 1933 Personal Mr. Wyndham Lawrence, A.L.C.M., was the organist at Pontmorlais Chapel, Merthyr, in connection with the Gymanfa Ganu on Monday

3 June 1933 Services Recognised On Tuesday evening at Nazareth Chapel, a representative gathering assembled to pay tribute to Mr. Wyndham Lawrence, A.L.C.M., son of Mr. and Mrs. James Lawrence, Pleasant View, who was the recipient of a public presentation in the form of a wallet of notes, subscribed by his host of friends as a mark of appreciation for his great services to the community as the accompanist to the Male Voice Party, the Children's Choir, Ladies' Choir, and Mixed Choir. He is also organist of Nazareth Calvinistic Methodist Church, and had the honour of being organist at the last Cymanfa Ganu held at Pontmorlais, Merthyr Tydfil. Mr. Lawrence has now taken up his studies at Cardiff University. The chairman for the evening was Mr. W. J. Payne, who, in his opening address, paid high tribute to Mr. Lawrence. Others who spoke were Mr. Tom Jones, headmaster, and Mr. Jenkin Pugh, who spoke in Welsh. The presentation was made by Mrs. Sam Lewis, who delivered a very striking speech. Mr. Lawrence was visibly affected, and thanked the public for their gift and kindness. The following contributed to a fine musical programme: Miss Mary Lewis, Miss Eliza Evans; overture on the piano by Mr. Wyndham Lawrence; Miss Margaret Dyer, Masters Ewart Davies; duet, Miss Lewis and Master Davies. Mr. Lawrence was the accompanist. At the close, votes of thanks were proposed by Mrs. H. C. Davies, seconded by Mr. T. Pugh.

10 June 1933 Presentations Noddfa Vestry was the scene at a happy function on Thursday evening, the occasion being the presentation of awards to the members of the G.W.R. Fochriw and Rhymney Ambulance Class. A programme of music was given by the Fochriw Ladies' Choir, conducted by Madam H. C. Davies; duet, Mesdames Davies and S. Millward; recitations, Miss Eliza Evans and Miss Margaret Dyer; trios, Mesdames Lawrence, Morgan, Gregory, Davies, James and Davies. The accompanist was Mr. Wyndham Lawrence. The chairman was Mr. Tom Jones, headmaster, we gave an interesting address on ambulance work. Mr. B. Board (Divisional Superintendent's Office, Cardiff) presented the awards to the class members. Mrs. Board, on behalf of the

Fochriw Class, presented Mr. R. G. Wood with a half-tea set in recognition of his work as instructor. The team that recently won the first prize were congratulated by Mr. W. Davies, station master. The team was as follows: Messrs. R. G. Wood, T. J. Jones, S. G. Thomas, R. Jones, B. J. Thomas.

15 July 1933 Final Certificate Friends of Mr. H. B. Harris, a native of Fochriw, will be pleased to know that at a recent examination he was successful in obtaining the final certificate of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association.

2 September 1933 Personal Fochriw felt proud of the honour conferred upon two well-known and highly respected citizens in the persons of Mr. Gerald W. McArthur and Mrs. Ellen McArthur, his wife, who spent the early part of their lives in Fochriw. Mrs. McArthur is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Lewis. Mr. Gerald McArthur, who has been the Newport district manager of the Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society for 21 years, was honoured by his colleagues at the Queen's Hotel, Newport, on Thursday. He and his wife were presented with a silver tea service, suitably inscribed. Mr. A. J. Adams, assistant manager, Pontypool, made the presentation. Mr. McArthur retired on attaining the age limit. Before he went to Newport, he was at Brynmawr, Llanelly, Dowlais and Bargoed, and was with the society for 35 years. Outside his work, Mr. McArthur is also well known, and is a past president of the Caledonian Society. He was a deacon at Mount Zion Chapel, Newport, and is now a prominent member of Mill-street Congregational Church.

28 October 1933 Irish Sweep Luck Amongst the lucky ones to draw a horse in the Irish Sweep was Mr. William P. Gwynne, 9, Glen-view, Pentwyn, who has drawn "Bow and Arrow."

11 November 1933 Personal The many friends of Private Kenneth Phillips, now stationed at Catterick, Yorkshire, and attached to the Signalling Corps, will be pleased to know that he has succeeded in passing his first class examination and has gained distinctions in all subjects. Private Phillips is the son of Mr. S. Phillips, and the late Mrs. Phillips, Pentwyn. He enlisted last February. All join in wishing him future progress.

3 February 1934 Personal The many friends of Mr. James Williams, now of Wednesfield, and formerly an official under Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd, Fochriw Colliery, will regret to learn that he is seriously indisposed.

2 June 1934 Personnel Mr. & Mrs. James Williams, Wendsfield, former residents in the village, have both recovered, and contemplate a visit shortly.

28 July 1934 Teacher's Appointment Miss Olive May Payne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Payne, has been appointed to the teaching staff of the Bargoed Girls' School. She is an old pupil of the local school and of Bargoed Secondary School. She was trained at Barry College. Miss Payne has been on the teaching staff of Albion-road, Girls School, Dagenham, for the past two years.

1 September 1934 Lost Tobacco Box While road excavation was being carried out in Railway-terrace for the purpose of brass laying relief drains, a tobacco box engraved "Howell Thomas, P.A.V." was found by Mr. J. Lawrence, the Gellygaer Council road foreman. Mr. Jenkin Thomas, Martin-street, who was standing by promptly claimed it. He recollected his father losing it about 30 years ago. The box was in perfect condition and will now be a prized possession.

10 November 1934 The Late Mr. James Williams The death has occurred at Wednesday of Mr. James Williams, who was clerk at the Fochriw Collieries of Messrs.

Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds for many years. He was a faithful member at Noddfa Baptist Church and took an active interest in all affairs relating to the welfare of the village.

1 December 1934 Presentation To Signalman A pleasant function took place at the Rising Sun Hotel on Thursday, when a presentation of an oak timepiece was made to Signalmen Rees Jones on his retirement as a signalman after 34 years service. The presentation was made by Mr. Walter Davies, stationmaster, on behalf of the railway staff and friends. He spoke of Mr. Jones fine qualities, and wished him every happiness in retirement. Mr. Jones returned thanks. Other speakers were Mr. John Jones, Mr. W. J. Williams, Mr. B. Cowling, Mr. F. Sweetland. The musical programme was contributed to by Mr. Cyril Jenkins and Mr. H. C. Jenkins, Pontlottyn, were gave selections on the pianoforte accordion, and Mr. D. Jones and Mr. H. Jones, Bargoed, humorous monologues. Mr. G. R. Williams, stationmaster, Darren, presided.

9 March 1935 Transferred to Whitchurch Mr. Walter Davies, who has been stationmaster at Fochriw for over eight years, has been appointed station master at Whitchurch.

9 March 1935 Appointment Mr. T. Walters has been appointed head teacher of Sandfields School, Aberavon. Mr. Walters is the elder son of Mrs. Walters and the late Mr. Walters, Moore's-row. He is a product of the village school, and before going to Aberavon 15 years ago, he was on the teaching staff of Deri Council School.

6 April 1935 Postmaster's Retirement Two highly respected personalities left the district this week in the persons of Mr. and Mrs. Aneurin Jones. Mr. Jones has been postmaster at Fochriw for the last 30 years, and was held in high esteem, and Mrs. Jones was a deacon at Carmel Congregational Church, and associated with many good causes in the village. They will make their future home at Roath, Cardiff, and their many friends join in wishing them every happiness in their new sphere.

31 August 1935 Health And Beauty Winner Miss Thelma Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas, Brynteg-street, won the first prize out of 468 competitors in the health and beauty competition at Barry.

14 September 1935 Scholastic Appointment Mr. John G. Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Lewis, Preswyl, has been appointed to the teaching staff of Earl's Colne School, Essex. He received his training at Trinity College, Carmarthen. He is a splendid athlete, having played for his college both in football and cricket. Mr. Lewis is an old pupil of Bargoed Secondary School, and a product of Fochriw Council School.

12 October 1935 Personal Mr. Howell Jones, M.A., second son of Mr. George Jones and the late Mrs. Jones, Picton House, who is practising as a barrister of civil law in Ndola, Northern Rhodesia, paid a visit to his old home last week. Mr. Jones has had a brilliant career. During the Great War, he saw active service with the Yorks & Lancs Regiment, holding the rank of lieutenant.

4 April 1936 Appointment Miss Addie Lawrence, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. James Lawrence, Pleasant-view, has been appointed domestic science teacher at Deri and Brithdir Schools. She was domestic teacher at Rhoose and Llantwit Fadre.

8 August 1936 Appointment Miss Katie Jones-Davies, Fochriw, has been appointed headmistress of South Bargoed Infants' School, after having held the position of headmistress at Cowbridge Infants' School for ten years. Miss Davies is the daughter of Mrs. Davies and the late Mr. J. Davies.

19 September 1936 Appointment Miss Phyllis Parry-Evans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Evans, and grand-daughter of Mrs. Parry, Bryn Corwen), has been appointed to the teaching staff of the Turret School, Amersham, Bucks. She is a graduate of Univ. College, Cardiff.

10 October 1936 Home From America Miss Lewis, headmistress of the Fochriw Infants' School, has returned after spending some months in America.

19 December 1936 Opera Singer Mr. Claerwyn Davies, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Davies, Brook-row, who is well known in musical circles under the name of John Havard, is making fine progress as a singer. He was heard to good effect in the broadcast from Sadlers' Wells Theatre on Saturday in Act 2 of Puccini's opera "Madam Butterfly."

19 June 1937 Personal Mr. Graham Jones, elder son of Mr. T. J. Jones, headmaster of Fochriw Council School, has been awarded first prize by the Board of Education in Australia for an illuminated address design. Mr. Jones is now teaching at Glynell.

19 February 1938 M.A. Degree Mr. Lewis Haydn Angell, son of Mr. W. J. Angel and the late Mrs. Gwen Angel, Tewlesbury Street, Cardiff, and late of Fochriw, has been awarded the degree of M.A. (Wales) for research work on "Medieval Welsh Manuscripts." He was educated at Fochriw School, Lewis's Grammar school, Pengam, and University College, Cardiff. He is now senior Welsh master at Rhyl County School.

19 February 1938 Teaching Appointment Miss Elizabeth Ballard, daughter of Mr. T. Ballard, and the late Mrs. Sarah Ballard, has been appointed headmistress of Troedrhifwuch School. Mr. Ballard was educated at Fochriw school and Swansea College. She has been an active worker in connection with the I.O.G.T., drama, Urdd, and in connection with Carmel Chapel. She is at present at on the staff of Deri Infants' School.

10 September 1938 Carnival Winner Mrs. M. H. Morgan, Station-terrace, secured second prize in the advertising class at the Porthcawl carnival on Saturday. She was also successful at the Bargoed carnival.

10 September 1938 Summer School Success Among those who were successful in the Glamorgan summer school at Barry was Miss Olive Payne, who was awarded the prize for the "Best Group of work during the summer school of August 1938." Miss Payne, who is on the staff of the new Senior School, Bargoed, was trained at Barry.

17 September 1938 Cycling Feat Two Fochriw boys, D. Lyn Jones and W. Walters have cycled from Fochriw to Glasgow, where they visited the Exhibition. The two left Fochriw on Sunday, August 7th, and, on the Rhymney road, met a Cyfarthfa schoolboy, Rees Williams, and another lad named Donald Bencough, who attends Lewis' School Pengam. The four reached Glasgow on Friday, August 12th, and the return journey commenced on Sunday, 14th August.

1 April 1939 Splendid Record: 65 Years' Service Mr. J. Lewis, Aelybryn, retires from the services of Messrs. Guest, Keen and Baldwin today after 65 years unbroken service as a winding engine man and forman of the mechanical department. He is 76, still active, and walks every day to his duties at Nantyffin drift. He retires with a pension, and in a letter from the company, which he has served so faithfully, they pay him excellent tribute.

6 May 1939 Presentation A presentation has been made to mark the retirement of Mr. John Lewis, Aelybryn, after over 60 years with Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, at Dowlais Collieries as a winding engineman, and an official for the past 12 years, as

foreman at the Nantyffin Drift. The gift was made on Saturday at the Royal Court Hotel, when Mr. Lewis was presented with a clock as a token of the esteem in which he is held by officials and workmen. Mr. Rees Morgan presented the gift, and Mr. Lewis responded. Others expressed their good wishes and a programme of music was given by several artistes.

24 June 1939 Doctor at Twenty-Four Mr. William Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Evan Williams, late Brynteg-terrace, and now of Gilfach Goch, has passed his B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch. He has been a student at Cardiff School of Medicine for the last six years, and is now 24 years of age. Mr. Williams is a product of the Fochriw Boys' School.

20 April 1940 Scholastic Appointment Mr. Dan Jones, The Villas, has been appointed to the headship of Brithdir School. He was educated at Lewis' School, Pengam, and Exeter College. He is a brilliant cricketer and footballer. He is the son of Mr. George Jones and the late Mrs. Jones Picton House. He is a member of Carmel Chapel.

29 June 1940 Teachers' President Mr. W. Adams Jones has been elected the new President of the Gellygaer Class Teachers. He is a well-known figure in the life of the village, and has associated himself with all social welfare movements in the district. He is a member of Nazareth Chapel, and vice-chairman of the Library and Welfare committee. A keen musician, he has been the conductor of the male voice and mixed choirs, who won many prizes under his baton. He is a first-class cricketer. Mr. Jones is the acting headmaster of the Fochriw Mixed School since the illness of Mr. T. J. Jones. He has played an active parts in the formation of the Local Defence Volunteers, and is also a member of the year A.R.P. During the Great War he was a sergeant in the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

24 May 1941 Presentation A meeting was held last week in connection with the public presentation to Mr. T.J. Jones, late headmaster of Fochriw School. Coun. Payne presided supported by Mr. Idris Cumpstone, treasurer, and Mr. J.J. Lewis, secretary. It was decided to hold the presentation on June 5th. Mr. Jones has associated himself with all movements in the village and it will be fitting to show appreciation in tangible form.

28 June 1941 Headmaster Honoured: Mr. T. J. Jones Last Thursday at the New Hall, Mr. T.J. Jones, late headmaster of Fochriw Mixed Council School, was the recipient of several gifts in appreciation of the high esteem in which he was held by the scholars, staff and general public. Mr. Jones was forced to resign his post owing to ill-health, but he is now improving. Coun. W.J. Payne presided supported by Coun. Sam Lewis, both paying tribute to Mr. Jones' fine qualities, as did Mrs. S. Lewis, a former teacher. She presented an Aladdin lamp to Mr. Jones on behalf of the scholars. Mr. A. Ballard, headmaster of Penybank School, on behalf of the Fochriw School staff, presented Mr. Jones with a smoker's cabinet, and reviewed a happy, unbroken friendship of 40 years. Coun. Payne, on behalf of the inhabitants and various organisations, presented Mr. Jones with a gold watch, suitably inscribed, and spoke of Mr. Jones' devotion to the welfare of the village and all good causes. He had a happy knack of combining work and play. Mr John Lloyd Jones, secretary of the British Legion, and Mr. Idris Cumpstone, chairman, paid tribute to Mr. Jones' work with the organisation. The officers of the Presentation Committee were: chairman, Coun. Payne; treasurer, Mr. I. Cumpstone; secretaries, Mr. J.J. Lewis & Mr. D.J. Thomas. The musical programme was provided by Madam H.C. Davies (contralto), Mr. J.J. Lewis (tenor), Nurse Ballard-Davies (elocutionist), and accompanist, Mr. Wyndham Lawrence.

16 August 1941 Appointment Miss Edna Evan-Jones, grand-daughter of Mr. Thomas Evans, 27, Aelybryn, has been appointed assistant teacher at Bushbury Mixed School, Wolverhampton. Miss Jones was educated at Fochriw Mixed School and Bargoed Secondary School, and later trained at Glamorgan Training College, Barry.

6 June 1942 Presentation Meeting A pleasant function took place at Carmel Vestry on Thursday evening, organised by the members of the local British Legion (men's and women's sections), to mark the occasion of the marriage of the secretary, Mr. John Lloyd Jones. The women's section of the Legion had prepared tea and the tables were attended to by the members of the branch. Mrs. Jones, accompanied her husband, was given a hearty welcome. Also present was Mr. Jones' twin sister, Mrs. Farley, who apologised for the absence of her mother because of an accident. After tea, the presentation meeting was presided over by Coun. W.J. Payne, chairman of the Legion Benevolent Committee, and who has known Mr. & Mrs. Jones for many years. In honouring their secretary, the Legion were honouring themselves. Mr. Jones had been their secretary for the last 15 years, and was also a county officer for the North-East Glamorgan Association. He had devoted much of his time to the Legion and had been instrumental in obtaining many benefits for its members. He appealed to all ex-servicemen to join the Legion, whose services would be needed more in the future than in the past. The chairman called upon Mr. Idris Cumpstone, chairman of the branch, to present Mr. Jones with a cheque subscribed by his many friends of the Legion. Mr. Cumpstone paid a glowing tribute to Mr. Jones' untiring efforts on behalf of the Legion. He wished Mr. & Mrs. Jones every happiness and on behalf of the Legion members handed him the cheque as a token of their esteem for him and his wife. Mr. Jones, responding, said it had been a surprise to him, but on behalf of his wife and himself he thanked them. He dealt with some of the events that had transpired at the Legion conference in London during the Whitsun week, to which he was a delegate, and also, with Legion work in the district. He appealed to all members to renew their membership with the Legion. Mr. Sidney Phillips, an ex-chairman of the Legion, spoke in high praise of the work of Mr. Jones, and of the numerous cases for which he had obtained benefits. He read some verses he had composed for the occasion. Other speakers who paid their tributes were Mrs. Phillips, chairman, and Mrs. Thomas, vice-chairman of the women's section, and Mr. Tom Jones, Pentwyn, who appealed for an increase in financial members. Also present were Mrs. S. Jones, secretary of the women's section, and Mr. W. Pegg, treasurer of the men's section.

31 July 1943 Appointed Music Master Mr. W.P. Lawrence, Mus. Bac., son of Mr. & Mrs. James Lawrence, Emlyn House, has been appointed music master at the Cyfarthfa Secondary School. He is the organist at the Parish Church and was organist at Llandaff Cathedral for eight months during the recent illness of the organist.

24 November 1945 Outstanding Success First Mate Mr. Tom J. Smith (Merchant Navy) has passed his master mariner's certificate exam with 100 per cent marks in his first attempt. He is 25. He is the son of Mrs. Flewitt and the late Mr. George Smith, and is a product of the village school, from where he went to the Smith Nautical School, Cardiff.

11 May 1946 Local Boy's Appointment Mr. Lewis H. Angell, M.A., has been appointed schools inspector for Glamorgan. He is 38. He is the son of Mr. and the late Mrs. W.J. Angell. He married Miss Christley Sibley, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Sibley, Fochriw. A product of the village school, he later went to Lewis' School, Pengam, where

he became head prefect. He was awarded first class honours in Welsh at University College, Cardiff, and double first in the diploma in education. Later, he gained the degree of M.A. for research work in medieval Welsh. Mr. Angell won his colours for football at Cardiff University. For over 14 years he had been senior Welsh master at Rhyl Grammar School. He has been short listed for the posts of Director of Education at Aberdare and at Merthyr, and for the post of head teacher at Aberdare and Merthyr County Schools.

18 May 1946 Prize Award At the annual speech day held at Lewis' School, Pengam, last week, it was announced that Huw Ballard Thomas of Fochriw had been awarded the R.W. Jones Memorial Prize for distinguished work during the year. Mr. Thomas, who won a Glamorgan County Welsh Scholarship, is at present studying Arts at Cardiff University prior to training for Holy Orders.

18 January 1947 Presentation Meeting A presentation and concert was held at the Rising Sun Hotel last Saturday evening, when two aged miners, Messrs. Wm. Evans and Jack Cusack, were presented with silver-mounted walking sticks and some money, by the fellow workmates of Ogilvie Colliery. The chairman was Mr. D. J. Evans and the presentation to both workmen was made by Mr. Noah Jones, the oldest workman at Ogilvie Colliery. A concert followed the presentation. Mr. Harry Cullum was the organiser.

15 February 1947 Singer's Praise Mr. W.P. Lawrence, Mus. Bac. received a fine compliment from Nowarowski, the famous Polish bass singer, on the way he played for him at a recent concert at Bargoed, by the Bargoed National Choir. Mr. Lawrence is an accomplished player, and was recently appointed conductor of the Fochriw Male Voice Party. He is also organist at the Parish Church, Fochirw.

28 August 1948 Personal Amongst those invited to take part in a conference on Christian Sociology to be held at Llandaff during September is Mr. Huw Ballard Thomas, B.A., Bryn Gwyn, Aelybryn.

2 October 1948 Teaching Post Miss Adelaide Lawrence, Pleasant View, domestic science teacher at the Deri Mixed and Tirphil Primary Girls' Schools, has been appointed permanent domestic science mistress at Cwmaber Girls' School, Abertridwr. The appointment was made by the Caerphilly and Gelligaer Divisional Executive on Monday night.

8 January 1949 Fochriw Writer to Broadcast Amongst the programmes which the B.B.C. Welsh Region hope to feature early in the New Year is one by Huw Ballard Thomas of Bryn Gwyn, Aelybryn. The programme entitled "Teresa'r Diwydiad," will be in Welsh, and is a study of the life and work of Ann Griffith, the famous Welsh hymn writer. It is the outcome of an article which Mr. Thomas published early in 1948, and which aroused considerable interest in Welsh circles. Aged 20, Mr. Thomas will be one of the youngest writers ever to have work featured by the B.B.C. He is an old boy of Lewis' School, Pengam, and recently graduated with honours at the University of Wales, Cardiff. He assisted the Rev. Moelwyn Merchant with the broadcasts of Welsh Compline from the Welsh Region last year. Many of his articles and short stories have previously been published. At the National Eisteddfod at Bridgend, he was initiated into the Gorsedd, and subsequently became a member of the Council of the National Eisteddfod.

26 February 1949 Student's Success Mr. T.J. Jones of Martin-street, passed his final non-collegiate examination for the ministry. He is employed at Ogilvie Colliery and is

well known as a preacher. Mr. Jones is a faithful member and deacon of Noddfa Baptist Church.

23 July 1949 Fochriw Man Confirmed Mr. Huw Ballard Thomas, a former scholar of the Church in Wales, and late chairman of the Cardiff University Church Society, was received into the Roman Catholic Church earlier this year, was confirmed at Ampleforth Abbey, York, by the Auxiliary Bishop of Middlesborough.

19 November 1949 Their Help A smoking concert was held at the Rising Sun Inn recently to raise funds for the assistance of young Eddie Morgan, who received spinal injuries while working at Ogilvie Colliery. The concert was organised by Mr. S.V. Powell and Mr. Stan Davies.

31 December 1949 Guest Organist Mr. Huw Ballard Thomas of "Bryn Gwyn," was the special guest organist at a special performance of Handel's "Messiah" given by the Leyburn (York) Choral Society last week. Mr. Ballard-Thomas is at present a tutor in literary studies at Ampleforth College, York, and assistant organist at the Abbey Church.

3 June 1950 Guest Organist At the North Riding Festival of Music at Thirsk, Yorkshire, last Sunday, the guest organist was Mr. Huw Ballard Thomas of Ampleforth College, Yorks, only son of Mr. & Mrs. T.G. Thomas, "Bryn Gwyn," Fochriw. The main works were sung by massed choirs from all over the North Riding, and included works by Bach, Holst and Vaughan Williams. Mr. Ballard Thomas was accompanied to the festival by the Earl of Dumfries.

10 June 1950 Musical Honours Several honours in the world of music have recently been conferred on Mr. Huw Ballard-Thomas, son of Mr. & Mrs. T.G. Thomas, of "Bryn Gwyn," Fochriw, who is tutor in literary studies at Ampleforth College, York. He was guest organist at the North Riding Choirs' Festival of Music held at Thirsk, and again at the Whitsuntide celebrations in honour of the Catholic martyrs at York, when he was responsible for the music and choral arrangements of the Pontifical Ceremonies, presided over by the Bishop of Brunner. He has now been specially invited to attend the North of England Festival of country dancing which is held annually at Malton, in June. He has recently assisted in reviving the famous Ampleforth sword dance, which had its first public performance for years at Ampleforth College Exhibition, held last week. Also invited to the Festival is the Earl of Dumfries, heir to the Marquis of Bute, who is to lead a team of dancers in some Highland reels. During the past few weeks, Mr. Ballard Thomas has been acting as organist of the Abbey Church during the absence in Rome of the senior organist Dom Laurence Bevenot, who is a well known authority on church music.

21 October 1950 "Grand Harbour" Next Stop Mrs. Davies, wife of A.C.1 J.J. Davies, F.M.E., stationed at Malta, the second son of Mr. & Mrs. D. Evans, Guest-street, left by air on Saturday to join her husband, who is at present stationed with the Royal Air Force in Malta. During the war, Mrs. Davies was a telephonist, stationed in London and Cornwall.

17 February 1951 Personal Mr. Huw Ballard Thomas of Ampleforth College, York, the only son of Mr. & Mrs. T. G. Thomas, Aelybryn, is making good progress after an operation at a York nursing home.

7 July 1951 "Song of Norway" Mr. Claerwyn Davies, son of Mr. & Mrs. Davies of Brook-row, who is well known by the stage name of Jack Havard, is the producer of the "Song of Norway," at the Open-Air Theatre, Scarborough. Mr. Havard has had

considerable experience of open-air theatre work. As a young man he worked in the mines, and by hard work has become a well-known singer and producer. He appeared in "Maritana" in 1946, "Hiawatha" in 1947, and was stage director for "Faust" in 1948. He was the producer of "The Vagabond King" last year. This year's production is the most ambitious to date. The story is set in a Norwegian village to the music of Grieg. As darkness falls, a curtain of water sprayed into the air illuminated with coloured lights, it achieves a Northern Lights effect.

1 September 1951 Sandhurst Graduate Roy C. Pillidge, grandson of Mrs. & the late Mr. W. Cole, and Mr. & Mrs. S. Pillidge, Cardiff, formerly Fochriw, has recently passed out of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, gaining a prize for the third military paper. Second Lt. Pillidge attended Fochriw Mixed Junior School, and later Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith. He has been commissioned into of the School of Artillery, Lark Hill, Salisbury.

13 October 1951 Settling Down Mr. & Mrs. Evan Morgan Lewis, who with their family recently left for Swinton, have now settled down in their new home. Mr. Lewis is the son of Mr. & Mrs. W. Lewis, Brynteg-street. He is an excellent all-round athlete, and has now joined Swinton Rugby League Club. Both Mr. & Mrs. Lewis are school teachers and have appointments in Swinton.

22 December 1951 Another Success Miss Mary Cumpstone was again successful at the go-as-you-please competition at Deri, winning first prize in the open-junior competition, under 15 years.

29 December 1951 New Headmaster Mr. Trevor Lawrence and family will be leaving the district in the New Year, to take up the headship of Elmley Castle School, near Evesham. Regret will be felt at Mr. Lawrence's departure from the village where he was born, and has live all his life. He has been an active citizen, and together with his wife, stalwart members of Nazareth Church, where Mr. Lawrence is a deacon. He followed his father as secretary of the Church. He has been on the teaching staff of Deri Mixed School for 20 years, and acting head of Penybank School for two years. His wife is also on the teaching staff.

1 March 1952 Soldier for Jamaica A concert was held at the White Horse Inn on Friday to mark the departure of Pte. Gwynfor Davies, 16, Hill-row, Pentwyn, a member of the Services, who is leaving for Jamaica. The chairman was Mr John Pullen and the presentation was made by Mr. F. Bowen, Deri. The artistes were Messrs. W. Weaver, L. Tenby, S. Edwards (Deri), W. Pope (Pentwyn), Jack Davies, D. Harding (Fochriw), Fred O'Connor and C. Llewellyn (Bargoed). The accompanist was Mr. Gilbert Harris. The secretary is Mr. Geo. Williams, Pentwyn Outing Club.

26 July 1952 P.T. Mistress Miss Enid Cumpstone, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Idris Cumpstone, Glyn-terrace, has been appointed P.T. mistress at Rhymney Grammar School. A pupil of Bargoed Grammar School, Enid entered the Chelsea College of Physical Education, Eastbourne, in 1949, for the three-year course, during which she gained the London University Diploma in Theory and Practice of Physical Education. She commences duties in September.

17 October 1953 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.

31 October 1953 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 Penybank as a token of appreciation of her services. The gift was accompanied by a letter expressing deep gratitude signed by every mother in the Penybank district. The presentation was made by Mrs. Gillard, senior.

24 April 1954 Presentation To mark the occasion of her retirement after 30 years of service as a county midwife, Nurse Ballard Davies received a presentation from her colleagues in the Gelligaer and Caerphilly Midwifery Service at a recent meeting in Bargoed. The gifts consisted of a television table and two books, and were presented by the supervisor, Mrs. Evans.

24 July 1954 New Appointment For Fochriw Man A former pupil of Lewis' School, Mr. Huw Ballard Thomas, only son of Mr. & Mrs. T. Griffith Thomas, Aelybryn, has been appointed assistant director of a leading firm of London publishers. The duties of the post will include selecting and editing works for publication, and supervising the exchange of ideas and material with publishing house on the Continent. Mr. Thomas is a graduate in Celtic Philosophy and Psychology. Earlier this year, for health reasons, he was granted a dispensation from membership of the Benedictine Order at Ampleforth Abbey by the Pope. Last year he gained a research degree with distinction at the University of Louvain, Belgium. To celebrate his new appointment, a luncheon party was given at the Garrick Club, London, by the directors of the firm. The guests included Lord Robert Stuart, Sir John Gielgud, and Mr. Vernon Bartlett. Mr. Thomas will take up his new post early in the autumn.

18 June 1955 Many Congratulations Following the recent announcement of his gaining the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Louvain University, Dr. Huw Ballard Thomas of Aelybryn, Fochriw, has received many messages of congratulation from friends and associated. These include messages from the Marquis of Bute, the Earl of Dumfries, the Viscount Southbury, P.C., Sir Horace Evans, G.C.V.D., Dr. David Jones, C.B.E., D. Litt., and a letter from Sir John Cecil Williams, Ph.D., conveying the congratulations of the Council of the Honourable Society of Cymrodorion, and inviting Dr. Ballard to accept membership of the Society.

22 October 1955 Fochriw's Village Postman: Mr. Rowlands Retires The familiar face of Mr. Thomas Rowlands, 6, Glyn-terrace, will be missing from the streets of Fochriw in the future. Through winds, rain, and all kinds of weather, Mr. Rowlands, the village postman, was always on time with the delivery of letters and parcels. He had a pleasant word for all. Mr. Rowlands and his wife are faithful members of Carmel Chapel. As a miner before taking up the duties of postman nearly 23 years ago, he worked in the Fochriw and Ogilvie Collieries. He served in the Royal Garrison Artillery during the First World War. Mr. & Mrs. Rowland's son is on the teaching technical staff at Cheltenham, and their daughter, who is a nurse, is now in British Guiana with her husband, who is in

the Forces, and their children. His large circle of friends wish Mr. & Mrs. Rowlands good health and happiness in retirement. He has received a certificate from Dr. Charles Hill, Postmaster General, offering best wishes in the future, and saying how much his services to the Crown over more than 22 years have been appreciated. [with photograph]

19 January 1957 Presentation A large number assembled at the Rising Sun Inn on Saturday evening to make presentations to the host and hostess, Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Pritchard, who are leaving after 20 years in the village. Both are held in high esteem and the conduct of the house is admired by all. Best wishes for their health and happiness were expressed. Mr. A. H. Wood presided over the social evening, and also made the presentation of a biscuit barrel on behalf of the football team, of which Mr. Pritchard was president. One of the oldest inhabitants of the village, Mr. John Davies, made the presentation of a reading lamp on behalf of the many friends of Mr. & Mrs. Pritchard, who responded warmly to the gifts.

2 November 1957 Farewell to Mrs. H.L. Farley A farewell tea was given for Mrs. H.L. Farley in the New Hall on October 21, by the O.A.P. supporters' committee. Mrs. J.M. Lawrence presented Mrs. Farley with a small gift on behalf of the committee. Mr. Lawrence and Mrs. M. Davies expressed the regret for the loss to the committee of Mrs. Farley who has been president of the present committee for six years. All the committee members joined in offering her their very best wishes for the future in her new business in Southsea.

17 October 1959 85 Years Old Mrs. E. J. Lawrence, 2, Glyn Terrace, wife of the late Mr. John Lawrence, celebrated her 85th birthday on Saturday. She is a native of Fochriw, and is a staunch Churchwoman. She can read and sew without any difficulty, and is an active walker. To mark the occasion of her birthday, tea was held at the home of her son, Mr. Jack Lawrence, 10, Glyn Terrace. Among those present were her three sons, Jack, Trevor and Gordon, with their wives and children, Coun. W. J. Payne, her brother, and his daughter Olive. The Rev. J. C. Payne, retired vicar, was unable to be present. Mrs. Lawrence was the recipient of many presents and numerous birthday cards.

18 June 1960 Appointed Headmaster Mr. Tudor Rowlands, B.Sc., son of Mrs. Ethel Rowlands, and the late Mr. Tom Rowlands, Glyn Terrace, has been appointed headmaster of Llwynderw Boys' Secondary School. He is at present head of the mathematics department at Cheltenham Technical High School.

14 January 1961 Fochriw School's New Headmistress Miss Olive May Payne, for several years deputy headmistress of Bargoed Girls' Secondary School, commenced duties on Monday as headmistress of the Fochriw' Infants School. To mark her appointment, she had received a gold watch from the staff of the Girls' School, the presentation being made by the headmistress, Miss Gwladys Cowles, B.A., who in a meeting of the school governors last month, said that she could not speak too highly of Miss Payne's efficiency as a teacher, and her loyalty as a colleague. A former student of Barry Training College, Miss Payne taught at Dagenham before joining the staff of Bargoed School, 25 years ago. During her teaching of arts and crafts at Bargoed many pupils gained awards at eisteddfodau and exhibitions for their work. Miss Payne is the daughter of Coun. W.J. Payne, who is a member and former chairman of the Gellygaer Urban Council. She is secretary of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund of the Gellygaer Association of the National Union of Teachers.

16 December 1961 Associate Mr. Elfed Williams, whose parents reside at Moore's Row, has been elected an Associate Member of the Materials Handling Institute. He is employed at the Esso Oil Refinery, Milford Haven. Mr. Williams was formerly store-keeper at Tredomen Engineering Works, Ystrad Mynach. Whilst a part time student at the College of Further Education, Ystrad Mynach, he was awarded a Diploma by the Purchasing Officers' Association.

17 March 1962 Fochriw Man As Broadcaster Dr. Huw Ballard Thomas, only son of Mr. & Mrs. T. Griffith Thomas, formerly of Fochriw, now of Whitchurch, Cardiff, who has achieved distinction as a writer and psychologist, is gaining acclaim as a broadcaster. Recently, he gave a talk on the B.B.C. Home Service, about his experiences as a member of the Benedictine Order at Ampleforth Abey, Yorkshire. He has recently contributed two talks to the Silver Lining Series on the Home Service, and has been invited to make future contributions. Some of his short stories will be broadcast in the coming months, and he is working on a play for television. Dr. Thomas is also working on research into the causes of suicide and mental illness in South Wales, and hopes to produce a documentary programme on the subject in the near future. He recently collaborated with Lord Longford in a work on Crime and Punishment.

19 May 1962 Fochriw Man Broadcasts Dr. Huw Ballard Thomas of Ardwyn, Cardiff, formerly of Fochriw, is making numerous contributions to B.B.C. programmes in the month of May. Two of them are of particular interest to local people, however. A talk to be broadcast on all B.B.C. Home Services (except Welsh) this Friday evening (May 18th) forms a sequel to his previous talk on his monastic experiences that was selected for "Pick of the Week" and reprinted in The Listener. This sequel entitled, "Coming Out in Style," tells of his experiences when he left the monastery through ill-health, to return to the world. On Wednesday, May 30th, a talk of outstanding interest to local listeners will be broadcast on the Newport to Brecon railway, which is now threatened with closure. In it Dr. Thomas has tried to recapture some of the unique atmosphere of the time and the people and places connected with it. As a result of a recent talk he gave on the Welsh Home Service feature programme, Hook-Up, in which he spoke of an exhibition of photographic art mounted by the students of Cardiff College of Art, he has received a letter from Kensington Palace informing him of Lord Snowden's 'interest and delight.' [With photograph]

8 September 1962 Kenya Post Mr. Granville Jones and his wife and child have gone to Kenya, where Mr. Jones is to take up a teaching appointment under the Government for a period of three years. Mr. Jones is the son of Mr. & Mrs. David Jones, Pontlottyn Road, Fochriw, and had been teaching under the L.C.C. for the past three years. He was educated at Bargoed Grammar Technical School and Caerleon Training College.

1 December 1962 Councillor W.J. Payne, Veteran Fochriw Administrator, Is Dead Coun. W.J. Payne, of 1, Glyn Terrace, Fochriw, former chairman and a member of Gelligaer Urban Council, died at his home on Sunday, aged 82. He had been the "Merthyr Express" correspondent in the area for half a century, and had been a member of the Council for 23 years and was held in high esteem for his services to the public. He was chairman of the governors of Lewis Boys' and Girls' Grammar Schools, Ystrad Mynach, and a member of the governors of Bargoed Grammar-Technical School. He also held the chairmanships of the Cerphilly and Gelligaer Divisional Health Committee; the Rhydney Valley Water Board and the Board of Governors of Bargoed Technical School.

For 30 years he was a member of the Rhymney and Abertysswg Hospitals House Committee and also served on Merthyr Hospitals Committees. Two years ago Coun. Payne received the Vellum Vote award for his long record of active work for the St. John Ambulance Society.

Coun. Payne was born at 7, Railway Terrace, Fochriw, and at the age of 12, went to work at the Fochriw Colliery. Three years ago, at the age of 79, he retired from work on the consultative committee of the Wales Gas Board. During the years of Depression Coun. Payne produced many dramas in connection with St. Mary's Church, Fochriw. Later, he became Churchwarden and a licensed lay reader of St. Mary's. Also during Depression days, he was chairman of the local Distress Fund. Other positions formerly held by Coun. Payne were: Captain of the Bargoed Fire Brigade and organiser of the Fochriw Welfare Hall and Y.M.C.A. He was a devoted and conscientious member of the Gellygaer Urban Council. He had recently been striving to reduce the free-hold costs of Fochriw houses. Mr. Ness Edwards, Labour M.P. for Caerphilly, a colleague of Coun. Payne, recently paid this tribute to him: "Coun. Payne was a great personal friend of mine and was always a great help to me. I had a great admiration for him. I always thought of W.J. as Fochriw." Coun. Paynes is survived by a daughter, Miss Olive May Payne.

9 February 1963 President Miss Eliza Evans, 22, Martin Street, Fochriw, is the newly elected President of the local association of the National Union of Teachers. Miss Evans is on the teaching staff of Fochriw School, and is also the secretary of Carmel Congregational Chapel.

16 March 1963 Fochriw Man Made J.P. Mr. John P. Llewellyn, Glen View, Pentwyn, has been appointed to the Commission of the Peace for the County of Glamorgan. Mr. Llewellyn is the eldest son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Gwilym Llewellyn. Ffynnonauduon Farm, Pentwyn. A small mine owner, and stock raising farmer, Mr. Llewellyn is deputy chairman of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Small Mines' Association. He has been interested in amateur sport all his life, and is chairman of the Welsh Amateur Boxing Association, a position he has held for three years. Mr. Llewellyn represents Wales on the British Amateur Boxing Committee, and is a member of the Welsh Games Council. He is a member and sidesman of St. Andrew's Church, Pentwyn, and among his many other honorary positions, he is president of the Fochriw Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

30 March 1963 Associate Member Mr. Elfed Williams of Milford Haven, formerly of Fochriw, has been elected an Associate Member of the recently Incorporated Association of Stores and Materials Controllers. Mr. Williams, a former storekeeper at the National Coal Board Engineering Works, Tredomen, is now employed as a stores controller at the new Esso Oil Refinery, Milford Haven. Mr. Williams frequently visits the home of his parents at Moore's Row, Fochriw.

25 May 1963 London Councillor Mr. John Collins of Willesden Green, London, was elected as Labour councillor for Willesden Green District in the recent municipal elections. Mr. Collins mother is an old inhabitant of the village. During the war, he lived in the village with his aunt at Aelybryn. For a short period after the war, he was employed at Ogilvie Colliery. He also served with H.M. Forces in Kenya during the Mau Mau uprisings.

6 July 1963 Back Home Mr. & Mrs. T. Alfred Kent, 3, Martin Street, have returned home from Holland where they spent a month with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Chaplin. Mr. Chaplin is serving with the Air Force.

20 July 1963 Fochriw Born Doctor on T.V. and Sound Dr. Huw Ballard Thomas, formerly of Fochriw, now of Whitchurch. Cardiff, is shortly to appear both on radio and television in connection with research into the "Problems of Failure," in which he has been engaged. He will be interviewed in the Welsh Home Service magazine programme "Focus" on Friday evening, July 19, and will appear in the television series "Standpoint" on Thursday, August 1, to present an interim report on his findings. Dr. Thomas has only recently left hospital after an illness lasting several months.

5 October 1963 On the Air Dr. Huw Ballard Thomas, son of Mr. & Mrs. T.G. Thomas, Aelybryn, broadcast on Tuesday on the Welsh Home Service in the "Silver Lining" series. He will broadcast again this month.

19 October 1963 New Host Mr. John Williams has taken over as licensee of the Rising Sun Inn, in succession to Mr. Norman Withers. Mr. Williams was formerly steward of the Rugby Club, Rhymney.

19 October 1963 Eighty-Nine Mrs. Emma Jane Lawrence, 2, Glyn Terrace, celebrated her 89th birthday on Sunday last. A birthday party in her honour was held at Elmley Castle, the home of her son Trevor. Mrs. Lawrence is still very active and enjoys good health. She is one of the oldest members of St. Mary's and she still attends.

26 October 1963 88th Birthday Mrs. Sarah Ann Davies, 6 Railway Terrace, celebrated her 88th birthday on Saturday. She received many greetings. Born in Fochriw, she has lived in the village all her life. She is a member of Noddfa.

16 November 1963 Advanced Driving Mr. Norman Jones, eldest son of Mr. & Mrs. Samuel John Jones, 25, Pontlottyn Road, was successful in his Advanced Driving Test held at Pontypridd last week, obtaining a mark of 86%. In August, he was successful in his Basic Advanced Driving Test, obtaining a mark of 96%. Mr. Jones, who will be 21 next week, has only been driving since last December.

11 April 1964 Winning Dancers In the finals of the Waltz competition held at the New Labour Club recently, the winners were Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Farr, and the runners up were Mr. & Mrs. Norman Withers.

18 April 1964 Home Again Sgt. & Mrs. J. Woodhouse and their two young daughters have returned home from Nairobi to Llwyniogo Farm. A/c W. Richards and Mrs. Richards have also returned home from Nairobi to their home at 27, Coronation Crescent. All have been in Africa where their husbands have been serving with H.M. Forces.

6 June 1964 Dancing Medal P.C. & Mrs. R. Gwillim, Police Station, members of the Pioneer Dancing School, Merthyr, were awarded a bronze medal by the Dancing Teachers Association in Latin American Dancing at an examination in Merthyr.

17 October 1964 90th Birthday Mrs. Emma Jane Lawrence, 2, Glyn Terrace, celebrated her 90th birthday last Tuesday. Mrs. Lawrence remains active and has a remarkable memory. She is a member of St. Mary's Church, and the oldest member of the Mothers' Union. Mrs. Lawrence received many messages of congratulation, and received Holy Communion at her home. She has three sons: Trevor, who is headmaster at Elmley Castle, Worcestershire; Jack, who is a foreman with the Gellygear U.D.C.; and Gordon, who owns a grocery business in the village. [with photograph – No. 57, pb8]

24 October 1964 89th Birthday Mrs. Sarah Ann Davies, 6, Railway Terrace, celebrated her 89th birthday on Monday. She had lived in Fochriw all her life. Mrs. Davies has a remarkable memory, and is still able to sew, knit and read. She watches television with out glasses. She is the oldest member of Noddfa. Her husband, Mr. John Davies, died 12 months ago at the age of 91. She received several messages of congratulation.

31 October 1964 A 'Pop' Group The group known as "The 5 Commandments," which includes two local boys, Ronald James, 24, Pontlottyn Road, and Phillip Coggan, 25, Martin Street, were invited to play at the Victoria Hotel, Blackpool, recently, and proved to be very popular. They have been invited to play at a forthcoming dance in the area with the Norman Holt Band.