

synopsis & transcript

MAERDY 4

INFORMANTS

A: Male, 60 years old Welsh: fluent/some/slight/ <u>none</u> Mother's Birth: Ferndale Father's Birth: Ferndale	B: Male, 40 years old Welsh: fluent/ <u>some</u> /slight/none Mother's Birth: Penygraig Father's Birth: Trealaw
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They discuss the absence of employment opportunities in the Rhondda. A says how he was turned down for employment at Lewis Merthyr Pit. B talks about his work days at Maerdy Pit. [00.00 min - 05.10 min]

They describe the efforts made to find jobs for unemployed miners after Maerdy Pit was closed : [05.10 min - 06.50 min]
transcript

I: and erm . . what~ what happened in the last erm . . days now when
=====

I: they were closing the pits . . what . . erm took place . . were there
=====

A: . . well they had people from the employment

I: meetings or erm
=====

A: exchange up there trying to fit you up for work . . . outside
=====

A: of the . . outside of the pits whatever . . buildings . . factories
=====

A: . . . trying to fit you up like . . . whether~ whether you got a job is
=====

A: another thing . I mean it's . . . so many pits closed that . erm a lot of

A: miners were out of work . . . that's beside the unemployment before

I: mm

A: that . . . you had erm . a lot of unemployed people before the pits

A: were even closing . so . . you're climbing on the bandwagon then

A: and . . little chance of having work . very little chance of having

A: work very erm . . you know . . depressing like

B: (looking at

I: . . mm . . it is

A: you know

B: new picture) [there's] Crazy by there . we were just talking about

I: depressing

A: [aye (laughs)] oh aye

B: Crazy out by there (laughs)

I: . . are these some of your mates

A: . . aye . I know them all aye

B: [they're from Maerdy (inaudible)] . they're from Maerdy Village

I: here

A: . . yeah . . these . . . as a matter of fact . . these youngsters . these

A: boys were transferred . . . from a colliery further down . . . in Porth

A: . . Lewis Merthyr they were transferred to Maerdy as a

A: matter of fact one or two of them were transferred from . . Ty Mawr

A: . . . to Lewis Merthyr . . then from Lewis Merthyr . . up to Maerdy

I: . . . why~ why~ . . why were they transferred . because there was more

A: . because they were closing the pits

B: . they were closing

I: work up here

A: (coughing)

B: them . . . closing the pits they was . . . gradually all the way

I: . . oh

B: they~ they started closing them . then it came all the way up didn't it

Talk continues about the closures and bleak employment prospects. They talk about the Club and about the 'good days' in the past, and then about the strike and the international interest in it.

[06.50 min – 11.50 min]

The talk about different politicians who have visited or been associated with Maerdy, e.g. Bill Paynter, Arthur Honour. They return to discussing the Club and how it is faring.

[11.50 min – 16.55 min]

TAPE ENDS