

synopsis & transcript

PORTH 10

INFORMANTS

<p>A: Male, 42 years old Welsh: fluent/some/slight/<u>none</u> Mother's birth: Ynyshir, Rhondda Father's birth: Ynyshir, Rhondda</p>	<p>B: Male, 42 years old Welsh: fluent/some/slight/<u>none</u> Mother's birth: Porth, Rhondda Father's birth: Pontygwaith, Rhondda</p>
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Finding an aerial photo of Rhondda Fach: A & B identify many of the places in the photo - in some detail because A was brought up there. [00.00 min - 04.10 min]

They look at pictures of various collieries in the Rhondda, identify them and talk further about the particular areas and their landmarks. They then try to identify people in a group photo of some miners. [04.10 min - 08.10 min]

A picture of George Thomas sets A off on a personal recollection of him : [08.10 min - 09.20 min]
transcript _____

A: _____ [piano]
oh we know George . aye . {uncle } George

(looking at picture)

B: oh we know him don't [we]

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A: aye . . . erm . spoken to him many a

I: . do you know him personally

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A: time I have yeah . well . he was~

I: . . . what~what did he say to you

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A: he was~he was on . . . a steam train . I live right by the railway line

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A: of the window of the train . . it had stopped right outside my front

B: yes

A: door like I live . just . narrow street across the . . from the platform

(laughing) [h i g h k e y] (laughing)

A: . . and I just went . . how are you George . all right . . and he went .

[h i g h k e y]

A: how's things boy-o (inaudible) you know . how . . just like as

(l a u g h i n g)

A: if he did . . he most probably wouldn't remember me from Adam .

B: (l a u g h s)

[d i m]

A: but erm . that's the conversation we had like you know . . aye . so//

They look at and discuss more pictures : of old collieries; of a street of terraced houses ; of a meeting bringing together different Welsh Secretaries of State; of a picture of a local Welsh-medium school.

[09.20 min - 12.40 min]

B recalls an encounter with Welsh-speaking ladies at a house on the mountain.

[12.40 min -16.55 min]

B: the first . the first . . recollection I've got was . of We~ Welsh was

B: when we was kids . when . . erm before I was eight years old . . .

B: I was living in Maerdy and we very often used to go for a walk .

B: across the mountain to Blaenllechau . . . and . . we used to . .

B: knock one of the doors and . . ask for a drink of water we didn't

B: want water we wanted pop . or lemonade or . or erm squash or

B: something . . we . . always asked~ used to ask for a drink of

B: water . . . and the women used to come to the door . . and they

B: always used to . . try to talk to us in Welsh . . but . . we couldn't

I: mm

B: answer . because we couldn't speak Welsh . . . now . . lots of them

I: no

B: I found isn't it . . . because you couldn't speak Welsh they'd give

A: . . if you could speak Welsh . they'd

B: you water . . but if you . if you [if you could speak

A: give you pop (l a u g h s)

B: Welsh . they'd] give you pop . they'd give you lemonade . (laughs)

I: (laughs)

A: (looking at picture) . . oh . we know where that is . Lewis Merthyr

I: . well that's lovely

A: isn't it . . . yeah . . my father-in-law worked

B: . . . yeah . . definite aye

A: down there . for . . . a lot of his working life till is closed . . .

A: that's where he (inaudible) . this is where they found that . they found

A: a shaft in here now see erm . . a drift mine . . th~they're moving .

I: . . . yes

A: y~you've seen where they're removing all that colliery waste

I: . . . yes I

A: . well that~that~ that's the area where they're removing . . . and

I: have

A: they found erm . a~a mine~ drift mine in there . . . which was~ erm

A: . . was built in . eighteen forty two . . . into the side of that

A: they didn't know it existed . . but they found it now last week or

A: the week before and it was erm . . it was built by two men . .

A: Llwynceilyn which is just above here . . two of the streets there .

A: Gethin Terrace and Lewis Terrace . . are the two men that~ erm .

A: built that . . drift mine into the side of the mount~ the coll~ the~

A: the coal waste there like . it's beneath the coal waste

B: how do you

A: well . because they found it on the plans now . that

B: know that then [inaudible]

A: it was erm . . but nobody knew until~ until they found~ came across

B: [oh oh]

A: the entrance to it . when they were . . digging away . . . erm .

A: they've discovered now on old plans . I suppose that . erm that's how

A: it originated and the two . . two people that built it are the Lewis and

A: the . Gethin of the two names of the streets you know . in

I: well well

A: Llwynceilyn

B: . tell me then how did they use to get across to that

A: . . under the . bloody . under the what-you-call-it

B: football field then

A: isn't it . under the bridge down by here . . you know the . they . you

A: still go under the same way now

B: . aye . but there's a road coming in

A: . . erm they've put a road over there yes . but

B: over here now isn't it

A: you can still walk under there from

B: . . but you couldn't get a car in

A: . oh no . . no we had to walk . we had to change

B: there before though

A: in . I played on there once or twice . . and we had to change in one

A: of the clubs down there in 'Hafod . and walk under~ under the bridge

A: along there . to get up [inaudible]

B: [yeah] well . I was looking everywhere . I seen the

B: bridge . but I~ I couldn't remember now . . how they got in there

A: . . you . well there was no traffic could get over there before . .

B: like no

A: you had . . only the players could walk there like everybody had to

A: walk there . . . at that time like

I: . . . you played football there did you

A: I played football on there yeah . once or twice . years ago

A: . . and these buildings up here which you can see and the old erm . .

A: . the old gas works in Porth . because you can see them on erm . .

A: . . on . . post cards that I've got . old post cards you know of Porth

A: you can see a row of gas . . gas work buildings there where the . .

B: yeah

A: the gasometer is now down the bottom there you know

B: . I would

B: have thought . I would have thought that was Thomas and Evans's

A: . . no no . . further around here yeah . . . that's

B: building [that] would be [further round here]

A: just down in . the . the . the lodge is about by there like isn't it and

B: [i n a u d i b l e] [aye aye]

A: that's . . over where the gas holder is like and there .

A: there's that little street that was erm . . . at the bottom of the hill

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A: wasn't it . where you come down from Llwyncelyn . . . that's

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A: that's not shown on there though is it . . . there must have been

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A: steps coming down there at that time though or is that the

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B: mm

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A: road I wonder . it's a bit steep isn't it

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B: . . I don't know . . aye . it's

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A: aye . 'cause you're coming from over here like . you come from

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B: look[ing at (inaudible)] [aye]

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A: further down don't you . yeah . yeah that's the top part

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B: [that's the . that's the] hill isn't it

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A: of the hill isn't it

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TAPE ENDS