

synopsis & transcript

**PORTH 1**

INFORMANTS:

<b>A:</b> Male, 67 years old <b>Welsh:</b> fluent/some/slight/ <u>none</u> <b>Mother's birth:</b> Somerset <b>Father's birth:</b> Somerset	<b>B:</b> Male, 64 years old <b>Welsh:</b> fluent/some/slight/ <u>none</u> <b>Mother's birth:</b> Porth <b>Father's birth:</b> Porth
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*They look through some pictures. A talks about starting work at Lewis Merthyr Colliery. He recalls that a boy was killed near where he was working. They talk about the unsafe working conditions, and about the Rhondda Heritage Park Museum that incorporates parts of a closed-down colliery.* [00.00 min - 04.05 min ]

*B talks about work on the railways and about the closure of lines when the pits disappeared.* [04.05 min – 05.10 min]

*They talk about the pits, about their ownership and about the NCB era ('too many bosses').* [05.10min – 07.10 min]

*A talks about his family and where they come from:* [07.10 min - 10.50 min]  
**(transcript)**

A: because .

I: why did your parents come from Somerset here then . just

A: . it was more~ this was a~ in their day . . it was more like a

A: Klondyke wasn't it you know . . everybody was . . there's

A: thousands that come from the West Country into the Rhondda and

A: different . . the Valleys . . you know and I~ I expect if you

I: . . yes

A: ask a lot of people . . around my age . . where their fathers come

I: mm

A: from and mothers come from . I don't say this tonight mind you . .

B: aye

A: a lot of them will say the West Country or Bristol . . . see my father

A: was a labourer {on the land} . . my mother was in service . . so

A: they . . I suppose they . . they were knocking around with each-other

A: then . I can't remember they come over here then they got married

A: then like . . yeah . and in the Lewis

I: so your father got a job here

A: Merthyr aye . aye .

I: . . and they're from different parts of Somerset

A: not very far apart . . one was from Ditchit . . and the other one was

A: from erm . . . Evercreech . . a little place called Evercreech . .

A: which is where the . . Bath and West Show is now . near enough

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B: [ yeah ]

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I: . . have you been back to . . do they go back to Somerset at all .

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A: . . no . I went back with my mother . 'cause

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I: do they take you back

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A: she . a lot of her sisters are still . there's about fourteen in the family

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A: you see . . now {then} all her brothers . most of her brothers came

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A: over here . . . 'cause in~ in one time . . in Lincoln Street . . my

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A: mother was living there . . my Auntie Kate was living there . . my

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A: Uncle Jack . my Uncle Bert . my Uncle George . . right there's

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A: five~ five of the family living in one street like . {and} they all came

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A: over here . . . you know how it was see like . . aye

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B: . . (laughs) (laughs) yeah

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B: . . yeah . . . erm . my . well my

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I: . so what did your parents do

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B: mother was in service . after she . when she got married . she didn't

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B: work like . . my father was in the colliery . . erm . . he was in the  
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B: Cymmer . . in the Cymmer . colliery . the erm . well  
=====

I: . . in (inaudible) [where's that now]  
=====

B: that's . just down below us . there . . and erm . . . in  
=====

I: . oh yes  
=====

A: ( c o u g h s )  
=====

B: thirty-six then . erm . . of course he had to . . no~ no work in the  
=====

A: ( c o u g h s )  
=====

B: pits [inaudible] . . so he~ he went to . Coventry . . . again to work  
=====

A: (coughs)  
=====

B: in the pits . . . . he worked in the pits in Coventry . . . erm . .  
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B: we stopped there till erm . . till the war started . . that was for .  
=====

B: three or four years (inaudible) . . never spent a Christmas up there  
=====

B: mind . he wouldn't allow us to~ to spend Christmas up there . we all  
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B: had to come home Christmas time . . so . . . erm . . we used to  
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B: live up there for four years . . we came back here . we went back  
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B: then . . eventually we lived in erm . . see next door to the house he

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A: mm . . . mm

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B: was born in . . in~ in~ in Lincoln Street . so we've

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A: [oh aye] . . yeah

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B: known one another all our lives there . . erm after that . he

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A: [after the war like]

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B: worked in the Lewis Merthyr . . erm . after the war . pipe-fitting~

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B: pipe-fitting in the Lewis Merthyr . . . erm . . he died at the age of

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A: . . yeah . . . my father died at forty one

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B: sixty-two

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I: [ inaudible ]

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A: . . I was seven years of age then

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B: . forty one aye . aye . aye . oh yeah

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I: [oh]

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A: . mm no . he died of

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I: . . with the . what they call the dust was it . or

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A: double pneumonia they reckon . . only bad a week . and then

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A: meningitis set in . you hear that drea~ dreaded word today . it's

A: coming back meningitis . my mother used to tell me

B: . aye it is . aye

A: . it used to take about six men to keep him in the bed . . in the night

A: . . they'd have to do with six men in there . in bed with him . like

A: you know in the bedroom with him . going (inaudible) oh crazy . do

A: you see . . he ripped every blanket up . every sheet . every sh~ oh

A: only seven days {he was alive} . . and when he went to see the

A: doctor he was going up with the dogs . . taking the dogs up the~ up

A: the track . up the race track . . working hard underground isn't it

I: oh

A: . a bit of enjoyment like isn't it . aye

I: . yeah . yeah . . . oh~ oh

A: . yes . forty one . . my mother was a widow

B: . yeah

I: y~y~young to die

A: then . I was only seven . . now what do you call it them days

I: . . yeah

A: . . the means test . the dreaded means test they call it . .

B: [oh aye] that's right

A: . . you'd have about eleven shillings a week from the bloody parish

B: [ the parish] [aye]

A: . . to live on (inaudible) . the buggers

B: . aye . aye . . aye . aye . . . yes

A: my mother lived till she was seventy three like

B: . they were hard days [inaudible]

A: . . I got one sister still alive . she's living in Somerset .

B: . . . mm

A: funny place funny thing where my mother used to live . she's living

A: she's been there since after the war . . . she was in the WAAFS . .

A: she married this fellow . (inaudible) . he was in the army . . they

A: married and . they~ she's been there ever since . . aye

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

*They sort through pictures, identifying people and places. They recollect Annie Powell, Communist Party Mayor of Rhondda and a Prince Charles visit, in honour of which the town's toilets were specially redecorated.*

[10.50 min – 14.00 min]

***They say they played football (soccer) and not rugby when boys:***

[14.00 min - 15.00 min ]

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(looking at picture)

B: it must have been a . . . that must have been . . . a grammar school

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B: that because they were playing rugby . . . you never play rugby in

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B: elementary school see . . . no . . . no

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I: . . . didn't you . . . didn't you (inaudible) . . . what

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(looking at another picture)

A: . . . Trealaw

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B: . . . well . . . you very rarely played anything

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I: did you play then

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B: be~ erm . . . soccer if anything . . . erm . . . the school didn't~ we

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B: didn't have a school team as such . . . we used to play outside . . . play

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A: . . . yes

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B: one another . . . erm . . . (inaudible) . . . we had a . . . tip . . . we

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I: . . . in the [yard]

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B: had a field up here which the . . . during the . . . strike and what . . . men

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B: were out of work . . they flattened and made a . football field you

B: know . . and erm . up there we used to go and play football . play

( looking at another picture)

A: . there's Cliff [Morgan]

B: anybody who wanted to play us but as regards schools

B: . our schools didn't have a team as such . none of the elementary

B: schools had a team . . it was . that was the . privilege of the grammar

B: schools . . as regards playing rugby you know . they were~ they

I: yes yes

B: play rugby and nothing else . . yes . .

I: . . they~ they'd have a pitch

A: ( looking at the Cliff

B: yes they were~ they were allowed a Council pitch . they would be

A: Morgan picture) . . Cliff Morgan isn't it

B: playing on and . . yeah . yeah

*They talk about Cliff Morgan (Welsh rugby star).*

*[15.00 min – 16.00 min]*

*They look through further pictures, including one of Tommy Farr, the Rhondda boxer.*

*[16.00 min – 17.30 min]*

TAPE ENDS