

synopsis & transcript

PORTH 3

INFORMANTS:

<p>A: Male, 89 years old Welsh: fluent/<u>some</u>/slight/none Mother's birth: Porth Father's birth: Porth</p>	<p>B: Male, 82 years old Welsh: fluent/<u>some</u>/slight/none Mother's birth: Porth Father's birth: Porth</p>
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They look at a picture of Tommy Farr, the Rhondda boxer. They talk about him and his fight with Joe Louis, whose bar A has visited in America. [00.00 min - 01.25 min]

Picture of Cliff Morgan, the rugby player. They talk about him – he is from Trebanog, just up the road from the Club. [01.25 min – 02.05 min]

Picture of a colliery. They identify places in the photo. [02.05 min – 02.35 min]

Picture of King George VI visiting the Rhondda. A thinks it is the Prince of Wales, and talks about him. [02.35 min – 03.55 min]

Picture of Ty Mawr Colliery. They describe the location of this and other nearby collieries. Picture of George Thomas. They talk about him, and about the various co-operative societies that used to exist: [03.55 min – 06.30 min]

(transcript)

A: . yeah

(looking at a picture)

B: this is the end of~ of Ty Mawr Colliery . . that's the end of it

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A: . . that is Ty Mawr . . yes erm . .

B: (inaudible)

I: . is that . around here

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A: a~about a mile down the road

B: . . erm the Cymmer Colliery . . is just

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B: down . . well from here . just down (inaudible) . what's left of it

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A: [mm]

B: . of course there's a . . there's a food store there now . .

I: . . yes

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A: . . aye

B: . . a cooperative . . . and then . . . in the Lewis Merthyr

I: [mm]

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B: in the next down . the next one down . and then the Ty

I: . . yes

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B: Mawr is further down again well erm

I: . . is Ty Mawr a big one

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A: . . oh . it's a good size . there's two big . two shafts there .

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A: (inaudible) . Ty Mawr . . . Lord

B: (looking at another picture) . . and this is Lord Tonypandy

A: Lord Tonypandy . yes . . good a very good (inaudible) . . .

A: he was very very good Lord Ton~ George~George~ George

A: . . . George Thomas was excellent . . . in

B: yeah . George Thomas

A: the cooperative and (inaudible) . I've had a couple of dinners

B: yeah

A: with him

I: was the cooperative movement strong in the Rhondda

A: . yes . it was strong . it's sunk sadly now . since the erm~ . . .

A: since the big . supermarkets come you haven't got these shops now

A: these little erm . corner shops like we did have . . in erm . . the

I: [no]

A: Rhondda Valley was very very . prominent years ago . . we had

I: yes

A: the . . Penygraig . we had the . . the Penygraig Industrial Society

A: . . you had the Mid Rhondda . . Soc~ Cooperative Society

I: . . mm

A: . and you had the Treorchy . and Ton Pentre

B: . Mid Rhondda aye

A: Society . actually . operating then there

B: [yes] . . you had the Ynysybwl in

A: . and of course Ynysybwl in Ponty . . [and erm] . . .

B: Ponty . . [inaudible] Cooperative

A: and each~ was~ they w~. . . and they had their education committees

A: as well . . and erm . we did a lot of . . no . they did a lot

I: . . yes

A: of promotion (inaudible) . . when a young boy erm {become}

A: . a girl . . had a scholarship . and erm went~ went . erm gained

A: them their admission to the eleven plus that we had in those days . .

A: we had the Secondary School and the County School . . and of

A: course if they (inaudible) they would go to the County School

A: of course . . that was County . . supported and and erm

A: . they were giving them . . . one society would give . . erm the

A: old satchel bags . you know they used to have years ago . to sling on

A: their back . . . erm for every child that there . won the scholarship

A: and . . some would give a~ a blazer . . . and others . . would

A: give a dictionary . or an atlas . . or . oh . you know you had .

A: th~ they~ they were recognised . . erm . the~ the family's children

B: [yes]

A: when they passed the scholarship by there . it was a great day . .

A: the eleven plus . . was a~ an important day when the results was

A: coming out . . it was down tools for the parents . for them because .

B: [yeah]

A: you know with the children were getting on . and that they had . .you

A: know . . and there . there was a lot of . sort of jealousy you know

A: if somebody . if your~ if your son had failed . . and my . . erm .

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A: next door's had gained . you know that sort of thing you know . they

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A: was~ was (inaudible) very proud you know . they were really . . erm

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A: . . for those days . and erm .

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I: . . yes I took the eleven plus myself

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(l a u g h i n g)

A: pardon . there you are (laughs) you know it don't

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I: . I took it myself

=====

A: you . . yeah

=====

I: . . yeah

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Picture of the Houston brothers (actors). [06.30 min – 07.10 min]
They talk about them.

Pictures of Welsh Secretaries of State. [07.10min – 09.40min]
They identify who's who, and talk about George Thomas in particular. They then look briefly at a picture of some terraced houses in Trealaw.

They talk about their own work in the [09.40 min - 11.10 min]
collieries and about an explosion at Lewis Merthyr, which killed several men including the manager:

A: . . yes

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B: . . well I was a

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I: did you two work . . . in~ down the pits

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B: welder and burner I was . I just~ I went down the pit occasionally

A: [yeah] [yeah]

B: like . in different jobs . but erm . a welder and burner I was

I: . . . so

B: on the surface most of the time

I: you could be on the surface [or] . . . did

A: . yeah

B: . . . yes . . . and the~ the

I: you work~ did you work for the NCB

B: Lewis Merthyr Colliery before that I done fifty three~ fifty

A: (inaudible)

B: two years there

I: . . . at Lewis Merthyr

B: . . . no . . . I'd finished then

I: . were you there when it closed down

A: yeah

B: (inaudible) Dick was an official there see

I: . . . at~

A: . . . yes I was there during the first . during

I: at Lewis Merthyr

A: the . . . first explosion . . . the explosion down the pit then

A: [{when I was}] working there then

B: I was there [inaudible] . . I helped to carry them out on

A: . yes

B: the carriage as they came up

I: . . what~ what explosion . . tell~

A: . . well . the explosion~ explosion in the {old}

I: tell me about that now

A: pit [inaudible] . . in the two foot nine . the explosion was

A: killing the manager~ undermanager . . the manager he was really

A: . Mr . Mr Fox . . Gilbert Davies

B: . . Fox . Mr Fox . . Gilbert

A: . Gilbert Davies and . . two more from erm . Peny~ Penygraig

B: Davies

A: . . some were badly disfigured those that was~ were~ come out

A: were [aye]

B: . they took them to Chepstow Hospital see and . . . then there

A: . . I was a . I was then what you call a fire-man then

B: they died {aye}

A: and erm before I became a overman . and then I went . . I was

A: working in the Berkley at the time and erm . but in an adjoining pit of

A: course which . . which . . one could smell the air . sort of thing

A: {and as we} thought there was something happening . we went . .

A: to the pit . . and of course the expl~ (Tape ends)

TAPE ENDS