

synopsis & transcript

**PORTH 5**

INFORMANTS:

<b>A:</b> <b>Male</b> , 74 years old <b>Welsh:</b> fluent/some/slight/ <u>none</u> <b>Mother's birth:</b> Dowlais, Glam <b>Father's birth:</b> Dowlais, Glam	<b>B:</b> <b>Male</b> , 72 years old <b>Welsh:</b> fluent/some/slight/ <u>none</u> <b>Mother's birth:</b> Porth <b>Father's birth:</b> Mountain Ash, Glam
---	---

*They sort through some pictures, and identify people and locations. They say who can speak Welsh in their families.* [00.00 min - 03.50 min ]

*B talks about his great grandparents, who lived in the Rhondda and spoke Welsh. They talk about a landslip that took place near the Club, and its causes. They talk a little about the early history of Porth:* [03.50 min - 09.20 min]  
(transcript)

---

B: now my great grandparents . . . . . spo~ my great grandparents .  
=====

B: they all spoke . they spoke Welsh

---

I: . . where were they from then now  
=====

B: . . from this area . . aye

---

I: Morgan . . . really . tha~that's going back a  
=====

B: . . ah we~ well . . my . . great grandfather was

---

I: long time now  
=====

B: farming this area . . . and . he was also a publican

I: . . . was he indeed

B: in this area he was a prominent man . in~ in his

I: . . now where was [that now (inaudible)]

B: day he was a very prominent man in the area because . . . first of

B: all he was . he was farming . . and he kept a pub . he owned the

B: pub . . oh no the pits were in full

I: . . was this before the pits now

B: flow then they were open then . the pubs then were open

I: . . yeah this [was in eighteen sixty or eighteen]

B: from . erm . . six o'clock in the morning till twelve at night . .

B: that's before the First World War . right

I: . . . oh right . . yeah . . . .

B: . . . in

I: so there we are then . now~ now where did he have a pub

B: this . . in . . Cymmer here . . . you don't know Cymmer I don't

B: suppose . . you're not familiar with Cymmer I sh~ shouldn't

B: imagine

I: . . well . I know . I know~ I know a little now . you mean

B: yeah . you know the road to

I: . up the . the road up to Trebanog [or]

B: Tebanog . . do you know the Rhondda Hotel on the right-hand

I: . . yeah

B: side . have you noticed that . . and then there's . there's

I: . . yes I have

B: a road turning left then . . down towards Glyn Fach . . that's where

I: yes

B: I live . . well . . on the base of that hill . my grandfather . . owned

B: a pub . . . . in~ in the day . a very famous pub . . as he knows

A: . . oh yes . . aye . . but [there was a . fault (inaudible)]

B: . in its day it {became} . it was pulled down

A: . no . a fault it was

B: . because of subsidence from the colliery . fault

A: . . it come down from the mountain . .

---

B: erm . a fault underground

---

---

A: . . you know . . . . it took a couple of houses . . it took that . .

---

---

A: took a row . of houses opposite the old pub . . . . erm . they built it

---

---

A: up . . and I was only a very very young . boy

---

B: young {one Cyril}

---

---

A: in~ in arms of . . {led} . . but the thing I remember about

---

B: wasn't it

---

---

A: it was the . . the bright lights . . . . electric . . . no one had . no

---

---

A: one had electric . . . . no one had electric then

---

I: it just went out suddenly

---

---

A: see . but I could see it~ the cake shop it was . on . by the

---

I: . . no

---

---

A: cemetery . right on the cemetery . . . and erm . . I was talking to

---

---

A: my brother years after . years and years after . . about seeing a shop

---

---

A: he said you can't remember that he said . they pulled it down in

---

---

A: nineteen twenty nine . . . (laughs) . . so . . nineteen nineteen . say

A: . . say . . two years . . . two years before . (inaudible) . . I was

A: about seven . may have been seven

B: . . oh you've got a memory then

A: [but] I can remember that see . the bright lights

B: haven't you from seven [ inaudible ]

A: you know . the bright lights

B: [ inaudible ][from seven] . . from seven years of age you can

A: the bright lights you know and erm . . I can remember it

B: remember it

A: . . nineteen twenty nine . . and after that . the . . the whole houses

A: down . . opposite the . . place he's talking about know . . they

A: al . so . . went . . empty like . . . (inaudible) derelict then . . if

A: that's the word no there was a fault

B: . . [yes]

I: . . there was subsidence

A: . . no there was a fault see . coming from the top of the mountain

[ a fault]

A: up there . . down to . . past the pub . . well past the houses . .

A: higher up [ i n a u d i b l e ] the pub . . and

B: [came] right down . . {and crossed} the road

A: there was . built new houses . I don't know if you know the . .

A: Rhondda Hotel by here . . well . the fault came next

I: . . yeah . yes

A: door to the . they built . . so many . . . erm . what~ what we

A: used to call . posh houses . . . say . four or five posh houses

B: [they were~ they] were

A: no no no no . I don't think

B: houses for the officials of the colliery [they were]

A: they were . they were to be sold . . they were to be sold . [I~] as far

B: [they were] no no

A: as I know [see] [aye] [aye] well anyway

B: hey . they were for the officials of the colliery

A: . . . they built them up [ I don't think]

---

B: . . they were a better standard than the

---

---

A: [I don't think] I don't think anybody lived in them . . . next thing

---

B: company houses

---

---

A: you know . . . they'd cracked . . . . next think . . . pulled down

---

---

A: . . .

---

B: . . it runs right up the valley

---

---

I: . . . . wh~ what's this fault erm

---

---

A: right up the mountain see

---

I: . . but was it made worse by the workings

---

---

A: [oh] I don't know . I don't know that

---

B: . . possibly [it could have been] weakened

---

---

I: underground

---

---

A: . I think there . I think there's a fault itself . what I . what

---

B: by that see [no]

---

---

A: I was told . I don't know it it's right or wrong . what I was

---

B: . . yeah

---

---

A: told . the fault is going from

---

B: [we've] we've all been told different versions of it

---

A: . it was coming down

---

B: really . what the real truth is we don't know

---

I: . yes

---

A: the mountain . . . it~ it had two houses . erm . in Glyn Street . .

---

A: I'm not sure if they're police houses . . then it came down to the . .

---

A: what they . what he's talking about . the pub . . which his grand-

---

A: father owned . . . . it affected that underneath . . then

---

B: . . well

---

A: it went across the road . then it went up to the . this new shop I was

---

A: telling you about . then it went across the road then to erm . . next

---

A: to the . new erm~ by the . . . . Rhondda Hotel . . and

---

I: . . well well

---

A: then it goes further up there somewhere up the mountain I expect .

---



A: up the tip or wherever it is like isn't it

I: . . and you can remember that

A: . . oh yes aye . . . . that's what we was told about it mind . erm

B: mm

A: rightly or wrongly I don't know

I: . . is . . is Cymmer older than Porth

A: [well ] [well] [well (inaudible)]

B: well . . part of Cymmer are older than Porth

I: . or are they the same [ inaudible ]

A: [Porth] . well Porth~ erm Porth Bridge . . Porth Bridge

B: . . . parts of Cymmer

A: was . . was erm . . . there was two bridges apparently . . I'm

A: going back now seventeen fifty or something like that . . . . and

A: erm . there was two bridges to go across the valley . . . . Porth

A: was one . . and the other one was up in erm . . by the Llwynypia

A: erm . . blind school . . you know the little road up the hill . . . I

B: [yeah]

A: think that's the . . . that was the only two bridges you could go from

=====

A: one valley to the other . . . that was in seventeen

B: . . . where's your

=====

A: fifty three

B: home now . . . Neath

I: . . . Neath . . . yes

=====

*They look through more pictures, identifying people and places. They list the collieries that used to exist around Porth and Cymmer.*

*[09.20 min – 13.00 min]*

*TAPE ENDS*