

### **“Merthyr Express” 5 January 1963**

Snow Cuts Off Village As Its Last Train Storms Out Fochriw was once again isolated following heavy snowfalls on Saturday and Monday. This time, however, there was a great difference – there were no trains. The last train on the Newport to Brecon line left on its final trip as the snow commenced. No motor vehicles entered the village from Saturday until late on Monday night. Mr. Lance Rogers, secretary of the Ogilvie Lodge of the National Union of Mineworkers, said on Tuesday: “It is impossible for the men to get to work. As far as I know, no miners have tried to get to work today.” There were deep snow-drifts on the road between Fochriw and Deri. The village was without bread, milk and newspapers. Mr. W. Morgan, a Pontlottyn dairyman and farmer, said that it had been impossible to get to Fochriw on Sunday and Monday. There were drifts of up to 10 feet on the Pontlottyn to Fochriw road, and the snow-plough failed to clear a way. A bulldozer had to be used before Fochriw was finally opened to the outside world, late on Monday night. Many motorists were taken by surprise by the blizzard. According to a police spokesman, the cars that were stranded belonged almost entirely to local people. A power failure which started at 9 p.m. on Monday continued until mid-day on Tuesday, to complete the discomfort of villagers living in Old Fochriw and Pontlottyn Road Council Houses. In spite of heavy snow and drifts, conditions in other parts of the Rhymney Valley are not too bad.

### **“Merthyr Express” 12 January 1963**

New President Mr. J.P. Llewellyn has been made President of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in succession to the late Councillor W.J. Payne. Mr. I.T. Evans is the Vice President.

Mrs. H.A. Williams The death has occurred of Mrs. Harriet Ann Williams, 3, Glen View, Pentwyn. Mrs. Williams was born in Pentwyn and spent all her life in the village. She is survived by one son and two daughters.

Phillips – Evans Mr. Selwyn Phillips, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glyndwr Phillips, formerly of Pantywaun, and Miss Patricia Evans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Evans of Fochriw, were married in Cardiff on Boxing Day. The bride was given away by Mr. Stuart Male, brother-in-law of the bridegroom. She wore a green coat with matching accessories. Mrs. Alice Carter, matron of honour, wore a beige coat with matching accessories. Mr. Glyndwr Jones was best man.

Male – Phillips The marriage of Mr. Stuart Male, son of Mrs. Male and the late Mr. Male of Mountain Ash, to Miss Evelyn Rona Phillips, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glyndwr Phillips of Fochriw, formerly of Pantywaun, took place in Cardiff recently. The bride, given away by her father, wore a three-quarter-length astrakhan coat and blue suit with white accessories. Mrs. Gladys Parton was matron of honour. She wore a three-quarter-length astrakhan coat with white accessories. Mr. Albert Hiscox was best man. A reception was held at the bride's home.

Gymanfa The annual united Gymanfa was held at Nazareth Chapel, Fochriw, on Christmas Day. The conductor was Mr. W.A. Davies. The morning service was a children's carol service. Mrs. A.M. Hollifield presided. The reading was taken by Ann Davies and Susan Pearson led in prayer. Solos were given by Keri Williams and Miss Ann Hughes. A recitation was given by Allison Evans. The organist was Miss Jean Davies. Mr. T.J. Jones closed in prayer. Mr. Bryn Jones presided over the evening service. Mr. Ewart Davies read and Nurse M. Lewis led in prayer. Recitations were given by Mrs. C. Cumpstone. Hymns sung included two tunes, “Norman” and “Caerphilly,” which had been composed by Mr. Willie Edwards, who was the organist.

Play: “The Little Roses” The Sunday scholars of St Mary the Virgin Parish Church performed a Christmas play, “Three Little Roses,” on Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1962. Children taking part were: Anne Sedgemore, Stuart Reynolds, Mary Sedgemore, Lily Lewis, Veronica Evans, Myfanwy Evans, Gwyneira Evans, Marilyn Jones, Carol Dummitt, Susan Bills, John Moore, June Palmer, Allison Watkins, Geraint Watkins, Darryl Elliott, Gary Evans, Paul Jenkins, Jane Sedgemore, Sonia Moore, Joyce Lewis, Eleanor Reynolds, Betty Fox. A solo was given Miss Lily Lewis, and a duet by Jane Sedgemore and Sonia Moore. The organist was Mr. Willie Edwards. The play was presented by Miss Lorna Rees. The vicar thanked all who had taken part.

Ambulance Supper The annual supper of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Fochriw Division, was held recently at the New Hall. Among those present were Corps Superintendent J.H. Jones and Mrs. Jones; Corps Secretary Calvin Quick, Bargoed; Lady Corps Superintendent A. Jones, Deri; Corps Inspector of Stores T. Thomas and Mrs. Thomas; Vice President I.T. Evans; Mrs. Evans and Miss M. Jones, Fochriw. The chairman was Mr. I.T. Evans. The following promotions have been made: Divisional Officer, S.M. James; Divisional Secretary, A.T. Powell; Divisional Sergeant, J.W. Jones; Divisional Corporal, E. Warner; Divisional Inspector of Stores, T.J. James. The following officers passed for label: Superintendent, I. Morgan; Divisional Officer, S.M. James; Divisional Secretary, A.T. Powell; Divisional Sergeant, J.W. Jones; Divisional Corporal, E. Warner; Divisional Inspector of Stores, T.J. James; T. Thomas, R. Southworth, G. Williams, V. Llewellyn, A. Cook. Vouchers: G. Edwards, G. Coles, B. Smith, J. Coggan, M. Shankland, G. Williams, A. Reed, Mrs. R. Thomas, Miss E. Fox, Miss A. Morris.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 19 January 1963**

Competition In the ambulance competition held at Bargoed on Saturday, the Fochriw Division senior team gained first place, and the junior team fourth place.

Pensioners’ Gift The O.A.P. of Fochriw and district received a Christmas gift of 12/6 from the Committee of the organisation. The recipients are indebted to the Committee for their generous gift.

Late Mrs. Williams Mrs. Harriet Ann Williams, 3. Glen View, Pentwyn, who has died at the age of 77, was born in Dowlais, but lived at Fochriw since early childhood. Burial was at Pentwyn Churchyard, the Vicar, Rev. E. Sedgemore, officiating. Principal family mourners were: George, Idris (sons); Mr. T.G. Williams (brother); Messrs. H. Blight, T. Powell (sons-in-law). At the house were: Ann, Sarah (daughters); Mesdames E. Williams, L. Williams (daughters-in-law); Gwyn, Gareth, Graham, T. Bibey (grandsons); Islwyn Williams, G. Williams, Joe Pullen, E.R. Thomas, J. Thomas, Will John, David Pullen (nephews); Jean Price, T. Bibey, R. Powell (grand daughters); S.J. Pullen, S. Davies, B. Thomas, C. Williams, D. Thomas, D. Jenkins, E. Pullen (nieces). Bearers: D. Tyler, T. Williams, D. Pope, B. Llewellyn, V. Davies, C. Tyler, D. Williams. Also M.A. Lewis, Nellie Davies, H. Pope, A. Amos, I. Morgan, L. Williams, C. Parker, Treharris, E. Beynon (friends). There were many floral tributes. (listed) Funeral arrangements were by Mr. E. Davies, Treharris.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 2 February 1963**

New Snowfall Just as Valley Was Recovering The Rhymney Valley was well on the road to recovery from the devastation caused by the snow and frost when the snow returned on Tuesday night. Although the snowfall had been heavy, it was not accompanied by frost and high winds, and added little to the Valley’s troubles, turning to slush after causing morning hold-ups to traffic. However, the water situation seems bad at the moment, but if the thaw continues, and the catchment areas re-freeze, the situation should become easier. Many houses have frozen pipes, and are still without water. The main concern now is leaking gas pipes, damaged by the frost. Only a few schools remained closed among them Fochriw Primary School.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 9 February 1963**

Snow Causes Valley Chaos in Cold Spell’s Last Fling The Arctic spell had what everybody hoped was its dying kick on Tuesday and Wednesday, when heavy snow and high winds brought back chaos to many parts of the Rhymney Valley. But the wind was from the south, and everybody hoped it would bring the much-vaunted thaw and restore conditions to normal after nine weeks of frozen misery. The heavy snowfalls became a blizzard before midnight on Tuesday, and many motorists and lorry drivers were forced to abandon their vehicles. It brought a further aftermath on Wednesday. The first buses taking people to work, hit drifts, and three Gellygaer Council buses became stuck in drifts between Fochriw and Deri. Fochriw was cut off from both Deri and Pontlottyn, and the town of Rhymney was itself isolated for a time. The aftermath of the night’s snow was closed schools and manning problems at factories and collieries. Tuesday found the Rhymney Valley’s eleven collieries working, but experiencing traffic difficulties on the surface. As time wore on, however, their problems increased as bus companies tried valiantly to take colliers to the mines and to bring them

home. All did not succeed. Mr. A.E. Everitt, Deputy Surveyor to Gellygaer Urban Council said on Wednesday morning: "Conditions are very bad throughout the area. It is still snowing heavily, and the wind is causing drifting around Fochriw. Snow ploughs are working on the roads, but supplies of salt petre are running out, and we have had to rely on mechanical loaders to shovel snow away." Mr. T.R. Thomas, Inspector of the Gellygaer Council Transport Department said that the Fochriw service was off. Buses could run only as far as Deri.

President Miss Eliza Evans, 22, Martin Street, Fochriw, is the newly elected President of the local association of the National Union of Teachers. Miss Evans is on the teaching staff of Fochriw School, and is also the secretary of Carmel Congregational Chapel.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 16 February 1963**

Dies in Hospital The death occurred in hospital on Sunday of Mrs. Ethel Emery. A native of Pantywaun, Mrs. Emery moved to Fochriw recently to the new Council Flats at Tyr Waun.

Late Mr. E. Cumpstone The death has occurred at his home, Bryn Awel Villa, of Mr. Ernest Cumpstone. He was in his 89<sup>th</sup> year. A native of Shropshire, Mr. Cumpstone came to Fochriw nearly 70 years ago. A baker by trade, he took up haulage with horse drawn vehicles, changing to mechanical vehicles with the progress of time. An ardent chapel man, he was a life-long Methodist, and in earlier days, walked twice on Sundays to Pontllytyn Primitive Methodist Church. He continued to attend at Deri and Fochriw. With his business, he combined farming, and in 1938, became the tenant of Cwmllywdrew Farm. He leaves five sons and three daughters.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 23 February 1963**

Fochriw Buisnessman: Mr. E.E. Cumpstone The death has occurred of Mr. Ernest Edward Cumpstone, aged 88. He was born at Ironbridge. He was a car proprietor and funeral furnisher for 60 years. He was a member of Nazareth Chapel. The funeral at Pentwyn Churchyard was conducted by Rev. T. Jones, assisted by Rev. E. Sedgemore, vicar, Rev. J.R. Stacey, vicar of New Tredegar, Rev. T.J. Jones, and Pastor David Thomas. The mourners were: Idris, Nicholas, Bert, Arthur, Cadafan (sons); Frank Chaplin, Haydn Jones, Eric Slade (sons-in-law); Stephen Ballard (brother-in-law). At the house were: Lydia, Margaret, Teg (daughters); Liz, Olwen, Annie, Gwynfil, Doreen (daughters-in-law); Celia Ballard, Elsie Hayward (sisters-in-law); Messrs. W. Ballard, J. Ballard, D. Ballard, Windsor Ballard, R. Broadbent, G. Davies, G. Blunt, Bryn & Graham Cumpstone (nephews); Douglas, Billy, Peter & Bertie Cumpstone, E. Hodson-Walker, Brian, David Robers (grandsons); Betty, Mair, Dora, Mary, Elsie, Jean, Elaine (grand daughters); Myfanwy (niece); Phyllis, Mrs. Lewis (friends). There were many family tributes. (listed)

#### **"Merthyr Express" 9 March 1963**

Shield Competition The Fochriw Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade has been chosen to represent the Riches Corps in the Llandinam Shield Competition to be held in Bridgend later this month.

Concerts St. David's Day concerts were held in Fochriw Infants and Junior Mixed Schools on Friday last. Miss O. Payne presided at the Infants' School, and Mr. B. Davies at the Junior School.

Church Services Lenten services will be held every Tuesday, with a celebration of Holy Communion in the morning and further service in the evening.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 16 March 1963**

Fochriw Man Made J.P. Mr. John P. Llewellyn, Glen View, Pentwyn, has been appointed to the Commission of the Peace for the County of Glamorgan. Mr. Llewellyn is the eldest son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Gwilym Llewellyn. Ffynnonauon Farm, Pentwyn. A small mine owner, and stock raising farmer, Mr. Llewellyn is deputy chairman of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Small Mines' Association. He has been interested in amateur sport all his life, and is chairman of the Welsh Amateur Boxing Association, a position he has held for three years. Mr. Llewellyn represents Wales on the British Amateur Boxing Committee, and is a member of the Welsh Games Council. He is a member and sidesman of St. Andrew's Church, Pentwyn, and among his many other honorary positions, he is president of the Fochriw Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

### **“Merthyr Express” 30 March 1963**

Fochriw Ambulance Team’s Distinction Fochriw Ambulance Team won the Glamorgan County Ambulance Competitions outright on Saturday. They gained two trophies, a cup for the best ambulance team in East Glamorgan, and the Glamorgan County Shield for the best team in the whole of Glamorgan. The team members were Supt. Ivor Morgan (captain), Mr. T. Powell, Mr. Evan Warner, Mr. Lyn Edwards and Mr. S.M. James. The team will compete in the final in Cardiff on May 18. The Fochriw Junior Ambulance Team has qualified for the Coal Board Competition at Porthcawl next Saturday, representing Ogilvie Colliery.

Siloh Presentation The Siloh Mission Church, Penybank, held its 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary services last week. The special speaker was Pastor F.C. Newcombe, Pontyclun. During the services, presentations of a clock, by the young people and Sunday School combined, and a wallet containing treasury notes, by the members of the church, were made to Pastor William Griffiths, the resident pastor.

Associate Member Mr. Elfed Williams of Milford Haven, formerly of Fochriw, has been elected an Associate Member of the recently Incorporated Association of Stores and Materials Controllers. Mr. Williams, a former storekeeper at the National Coal Board Engineering Works, Tredomen, is now employed as a stores controller at the new Esso Oil Refinery, Milford Haven. Mr. Williams frequently visits the home of his parents at Moore’s Row, Fochriw.

Fochriw and Deri Parish Appeal The Rev. Evan Sedgemore has launched a Parish Appeal for the Freedom From Hunger Campaign. He is asking for the value of a loaf of bread from each family. Appeal boxes will be available in St. Mary’s Church, Fochriw, and St. Peter’s Church, Deri, for the next two Sundays.

### **“Merthyr Express” 6 April 1963**

Institute The annual meeting of the Fochriw Welfare and Institute will be held at the New Hall on Thursday, April 16, 1963.

Mr. Evan Watkins The death occurred at his home, 5, Williams Row, on Friday, of Mr. Evan Watkins. Aged 73, Mr. Watkins moved to Fochriw from Dowlais as a child. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Dies in Hospital The death occurred suddenly, in hospital on Monday, of Mrs. Margaret Jones, 11, Pontlottyn Road. A native of Fochriw, she was a faithful member of St. Mary the Virgin Church. Mrs. Jones is survived by her husband, a son and daughter.

Dedication The dedication of an altar frontal, pulpit fall, burse, veil and stole, will take place during Evensong, at the Parsih Church, Fochriw, on Sunday, April 7, 1963.

Pentwyn Church The usual Palm Sunday service will be held at St. Andrew’s Church, Pentwyn, at 3 p.m. The Vicar will officiate.

### **“Merthyr Express” 13 April 1963**

Confirmation Service A confirmation Service will be held at the Parish Church on Sunday, April 21, at 6 p.m. when the Bishop of Llandaff will confirm a number of candidates. All are welcome.

Gifts Dedicated Gifts of an altar frontal and pulpit fall were dedicated by the Rev. Evan Sedgemore at St. Mary’s on Sunday. The gifts were given by the Mothers’ Union Ladies’ Sewing Guild and Sunday School.

Mr. Evan Watkins Mr. E. Watkins, 5, Williams Row, has died, aged 72. He was born in Stableford, Warfield, Bridgenorth, and lived for 51 years in Fochriw, where he had been a miner. He served in World War I. The Vicar officiated. The burial was at Pentwyn Churchyard. Principal mourners were: Tommy, Haydn (sons); Herber (brother); Bill Curtis, Edwin, Percy, Alfred, Albert, Rufus Dummett (brothers-in-law). At the house were: Mary Ann (wife); Emmie, Mary, Gladys (sisters); Winnie, Mair (daughters-in-law); Morfydd, Edie May, Nellie May (sisters-in-law); Will Watkins (brother); Will Cheek (uncle); Fred & George Dummett (brothers-in-law), were unable to attend owing to ill-health; Tom, Will, Stanley, Leslie, George, Randall, Ken, George, Glanmor, Royston, Charlie, George, Michael, Cyril (nephews); W.J. Bradley, Henry, Will Henry, Ron, D. King, Leslie, Cyril, John (cousins); Rosie, Eileen (nieces); Mrs. Thomas, Gwyneth (friends). There were a number of floral tributes. (listed)

Dies in Hospital Mrs. Margaret Ann Jones, 11, Pontlottyn Road, has died at St. James' Hospital, Tredegar. She was born at Llanddewi, Abergavenny, and lived in Fochriw for 47 years. Mrs. Jones was a faithful member of St. Mary's Church. Burial was at Pentwyn Churchyard on Saturday, the Rev. Evan Sedgemore officiating. Principal mourners were: David (husband); Margaret (daughter); Glanville and Irene (son & daughter-in-law) who are in Kenya were unable to attend; Dick, Bill (brothers); Amy (sister); Fred (son-in-law); Nan (mother-in-law); Jennie May, Nellie, Elsie, Myfanwy, Gloria, Auntie Men, Cousin Olwen, Mrs. Dummett, Mr. & Mrs. Reg Price, David, Cledwyn Chick, Peter, Albert Bulch, Victor, John, Ken (nieces and nephews). Bearers: Frank Jenkins, Billy Cumpstone, Alun Davies, Trevor and Mervyn Edwards, Arthur Palmer. There were numerous floral tributes. (listed)

Headmaster Dies The death occurred suddenly at his home in London on Sunday, of Mr. Tudor Davies, whose parents live at 14, Brynteg, Fochriw. Aged 48, Mr. Davies was appointed to a headship at a Middlesex School last September. His wife is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ben Roberts, Deri. A wife and two children survive.

### **"Merthyr Express" 20 April 1963**

Progressing Nurse Phoebe Thomas, county midwife for the Fochriw area, is progressing favourably after her operation at St. James' Hospital, Tredegar.

Former Resident The death occurred suddenly at her home in Cardiff of Mrs. Tegwedd Jones, formerly of Fochriw. In her early sixties, Mrs. Jones was the widow of Mr. T.J. Jones, also of Fochriw. Her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Jones, still reside in the area. A daughter, Mildred, survives.

Parish Church On Good Friday, the Vicar conducted a service of prayers and devotional addresses. The organist was Mr. Willie Edwards. On Easter Day, the Vicar celebrated Holy Communion, and at Evensong, Mr. John Denner, Deri, conducted the service.

Good Friday The Free Church Council of Fochriw held their religious services on Good Friday at Nazareth Chapel. A prayer meeting was held in the morning when Mr. T.J. Jones presided. At the evening service, the guest preacher was Rev. Gareth Watts, Trecynon, Aberdare. Rev. I.T. Jones, minister of Nazareth, presided and Mr. W.A. Davies was the organist at both services.

Repeat Performance A united Gymanfa was held at Nazareth on Easter Day. This was a repeat of the Christmas Day gymanfa. The conductor was Mr. W.A. Davies. The afternoon service was for children. The organist was Miss Jean Davies. Mrs. A.M. Holifield presided. Ann Davies read, and Susan Pearson led in prayer. A solo was sung by Mary Price. An item was given by a party consisting of Gwyneira Gittoes, Sylvia Owen and Doris Holifield. Rev. Ieuan Jones closed with prayer. At the evening service, Mr. Bryn Jones presided. A portion of Scripture was read by Mr. Ewart Davies, and Nurse M. Lewis led in prayer. Mrs. C. Cumpstone gave recitations and a duet was sung by Mrs. Peggy Davies and Miss Nellie Shankland. Mr. T.J. Jones closed in prayer. The organist was Mrs. Ann Davies, wife of the conductor. Among hymns sung were two composed by Mr. Willie Edwards.

### **"Merthyr Express" 27 April 1963**

Easter Vestry The annual Easter Vestry of the parish of Fochriw and Deri was held at the Parish Church on Thursday last. The Vicar presided. Mr. A.J. Palmer was appointed People's Warden in succession to the late Councillor W.J. Payne. Miss E. Fox was appointed Parochial Secretary. Two new members appointed to the Parochial Council were Mr. J.P. Llewellyn, J.P., Pentwyn, and Mr. T.E. Davies, Penybank.

Noddfa A Children's Service was held on Sunday. Mr. Tom Thomas presided. Paul Millward read the 96<sup>th</sup> Psalm and the prayers were taken by Rita Jones. Others taking part were: Allison, Julie and Susan Moon, Linda Lyons, Ann Evans, Carol Lyons, Jill Davies, Susan Hughes, Mary Price, Susan Pearson, Helen & Jean Kwersinski, Ian Watkins, David Charles Jones, Kei Williams, Michael Davies, Annette Kidley, Susan Thomas, Rita Jones, Margaret Jones, Rosemary Jones, Eunice Jones. The organist was Mrs. Dilys Edwards.

Confirmation Service The Lord Bishop of Llandaff, Dr. Glyn Simon, confirmed sixteen candidates at a service held at St. Mary's Church on Sunday. Those confirmed were Jane Sedgemore, Victoria Gittens, Eleanor Reynolds, Maralyn Jones, Lily Lewis, Joyce Lewis, Paul Jenkins, Willie Edwards (St. Mary's Fochriw), Gerwyn Bowen, John Locke, John

Stephens, Roer Edwards, Olwen Jones, Kathleen Blow, Heather Morgan (St. Peter's Deri), Ivor Jones (St. Cattwg, Gelligaer). The lesson was read by Mr. John Denner. Mr. Willie Edwards was the organist.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 4 May 1963**

Bible Society The annual local meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society was held at Nazareth Chapel on Monday. The Rev. T.J. Jones presided and an address was given by Rev. B. Vivian Morgan of Pencoed. The speaker was thanked by the Vicar, Rev. Evan Sedgemore and Pastor David Thomas. The local secretary is Mrs. A.M. Hollifield, and Mrs. L. Lawrence is the treasurer.

Ambulance Team Wins The Ogilvie Colliery Ambulance Team which represented the South Western Division of the National Coal Board at the Miners' Ambulance Championships held at Blackpool on Saturday last, gained sixth place out of nine teams. Mr. Adrian Reed, captain, gained first place in the individual competition. All are members of the Fochriw Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Nursing Success Miss Anthea Watkin, S.R.N., elder daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Evan Watkin, 40, Corporation Crescent, formerly of Deri, has been awarded her S.R.N. Badge and Certificate at the Prizegiving Day at the East Glamorgan Hospital, Church Village, Pontypridd. Aged 21, Anthea began her nursing career at Porth & District Hospital. At present she is a theatre staff nurse at the East Glamorgan Hospital.

Late Mrs. P. Thomas The death has occurred at the Redwood Memorial Hospital, Rhymney, of Mrs. Phoebe Thomas, nee Cole, of 5, The Grove, Fochriw, widow of Mr. David Joshua Thomas. Aged 56, Mrs. Thomas had lived in Fochriw all her life. From 1941 to 1946, she served with the Q.A.I.M.N.B.{R} and was assistant matron attached to the 6<sup>th</sup> General Hospital in Suez. For the past eleven years, Mrs. Thomas has been county midwife for Fochriw and district. A daughter, Susan, aged 14, survives. Cremation was at Thornhill Crematorium on Saturday.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 11 May 1963**

Ambulance Success The Fochriw Division “A” Team of the St. John Ambulance Brigade gained first place in the Gelligaer open championships at Bargoed on Saturday. The junior team gained fourth place.

Mrs. Phoebe Thomas The death has occurred of Mrs. Phoebe Thomas. Mrs. Thomas was born in Fochriw, and was county midwife. The funeral took place at Thornhill Crematorium on Saturday, Mr. T.J. Jones officiating. Mourners: Susan (daughter); Sarah, Ceinwen (sisters); George (brother); Leighton, Ian, Gerald, Donald, Glyn (nephews); Megan, Eileen, Myfanwy, Pamela, Non (nieces); Mrs. A. Thomas (mother-in-law); T. Millward, E. Gibson, T. Thomas, B. Thomas (brothers-in-law); Wymmie, Cyril, Leon, Lalla, Mary, Jane (cousins); Mesdames R. Cole, O. Thomas (sisters-in-law). Bearers: Messrs. T.J. Evans, T. Beale, A. Woods, H. Woods, J.R. Walters, F. Jenkins. Also present were: Messrs. W. Pearce, W.A. Davies, I. Evans, D. Jenkins, W. Davies, R.A. Evans, Mesdames May Davies, E. Shankland, L. Evans, E. Rowlands, M. Cheal, colleagues from the Caerphilly Branch of the Royal College of Midwives. There were numerous floral tributes. (listed) Funeral arrangements were by D.J. Davies, Fochriw.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 18 May 1963**

Late Mrs. P. Thomas In the funeral report last week, one of the mourners was Mr. W. Edwards (cousin), and a floral tribute was received from colleagues of the Gelligaer and Caerphilly Branch of the Royal College of Midwives.

Late Mrs. G. Lewis The death has occurred at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, 1, Plantation Terrace, of Mrs. Gwen Lewis, formerly of Church Street, Pontlottyn. Aged 86, she was a member of Zoar Welsh Baptist Chapel.

Mothers' Union At the annual Spring Council Meeting of the Mothers' Union of the Diocese of Llandaff, held at the City Hall, Cardiff, the following members represented the parish of Fochriw and Deri: Mrs. R.S.E. Sedgemore (Enrolling Member), Mrs. Lilian Lawrence, Mrs. M.E. Palmer, Mrs. Mary Owen, and Miss E. Fox.

Hospital Death The death occurred on Tuesday at the General Hospital, Merthyr, of Mr. Wm. Henry Edwards, Ivor Street, Dowlais, formerly of Aelybryn, Fochriw. Aged 73, Mr.

Edwards retired from the Bedwas Colliery three years ago. His sister, Mrs. Esther Sullivan, still lives at Fochriw.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 25 May 1963**

**Festival** Members of the Parish of Fochriw and Deri Sunday Schools attended the Sunday Schools Festival held on Rogation Monday at St. Tyfaelog’s Church, Pontlottyn.

**Mrs. G. Lewis** The funeral of Mrs. Gwenllian Lewis, 1, Plantation Terrace, took place at Gwaelodybrithdir Cemetery on Thursday. Mr. T.J. Jones and Mr. T.J. James officiated. Mrs. Lewis was 86, and was born in Pontlottyn. She was a member of Zoar Baptist Chapel. For the past few years she had lived in Fochriw. The mourners were: Emlyn (son); Fred (son-in-law); Wayne, Nigel (grandsons); David Williams (cousin). Representing Noddfa, Fochriw, were Mr. Robert Thomas, Mr. Will Pearce. At the house were Eluned (daughter); Phyllis (niece); Ethel Evans, Winifred Evans, Maud Chapman.

**London Councillor** Mr. John Collins of Willesden Green, London, was elected as Labour councillor for Willesden Green District in the recent municipal elections. Mr. Collins mother is an old inhabitant of the village. During the war, he lived in the village with his aunt at Aelybryn. For a short period after the war, he was employed at Ogilvie Colliery. He also served with H.M. Forces in Kenya during the Mau Mau uprisings.

**Fiftieth Anniversary** The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cwlwm-y-Brodoriaeth Lodge of the Royal and Ancient Order of Buffaloes was held on Saturday last. There were 23 brothers present for supper. The secretary of the lodge, Bro, Wm. Lewis, R.O.H., outlined the history since its commencement. Among those present were Bro. Benjamin Evans, R.O.H., who had served the lodge since its foundation; Bro. Albert Evans, a Trustee for 48 years; Bro. Wm. Lewis, secretary, 47 years; and Bro. Wm. Powell, treasurer for 14 years. Entertainment was provided by Bro. Weaver and Bro. Davies. The chairman was Bro. Goronwy Tyler.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 1 June 1963**

**N.S.P.C.C. Collection** This was held recently and the sum of £15 4s was realised. Collectors were Misses E. Evans, M. Jones, A.F. Jones, Betty Fox, O.M. Payne, Mrs. T.E. Davies, W. Davies, A.M. Holifield, Brown, Thomas, Hilda Morgan, Phyllis Jones, L. Lawrence, E. Rees, T. Powell. The president of the local branch is Mrs. A. Evans, 3, Moore’s Row, and the secretary, Miss O.M. Payne, 1, Glyn Terrace.

**Ascension Day** Teachers and pupils from the Fochriw Primary and Junior Mixed Schools attended Holy Communion at St. Mary’s Church on Ascension Day. The Vicar officiated. Mrs. Dilys Edwards was the organist. Members of the Mothers’ Union attended Llandaff Cathedral for a service marking the end of the Mothers’ Union Christian Family Year. On Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, the Rev. Evan Sedgemore was one of the local representatives at a service of thanksgiving to commemorate Christian Family Year held at St. Paul’s Cathedral, London, in the presence of the Queen and Prince Phillip.

**Mrs. Hilda Evans** The death has occurred of Mrs. Hilda Evans, aged 62, of 11, Chapel Row, Penybank. Mrs. Evans, who was the daughter of the late Mr. David Davies, builder and undertaker, and the late Mrs. Davies, was a fine contralto, and sang with the ladies’ and mixed choirs in the village. She was connected with many social activities locally. Interment was at Pentwyn Churchyard, Rev. I.T. Jones and Rev. T.J. Jones officiated, assisted by Pastor David Thomas. Mourners were Messrs. Sydney Evans (husband); David Robert (son); R. Gittoes, G. Carter (sons-in-law); Clive & Robert Gittoes (grandsons); David John, Dan (brothers); T.J. Evans, Sam Thomas, W.M. Davies, Bert Evans (brothers-in-law); Ellis Davies, Ewart Davies, Tudor, Willie, Myrddin, Gwyn, Roy and Trevor Evans, Alun, Gwyn, Tawe, Vernon, Ken, Ron Lloyd, W.E. Thomas, Paul Thomas, F. Wright, Goronwy & Jeffrey, Ronnie & Alan Parry (nephews); T.J. Jones, E.W. Jones, Crad & Robert Thomas (cousins). At the house were Marion and Ena (daughters); Gwyneira (grand daughter); M.A. Beynon (aunt); Gwladys, Asaneth, Jenny May (sisters); Edie Maud, May, Maggie (sisters-in-law); Jean Parry (niece); Andrea Price. Ben Davies, brother, of Taunton, was unable to travel due to illness. There were many floral tributes. (listed)

#### **“Merthyr Express” 15 June 1963**

**First Aid** Thirteen members of the Fochriw Division St. John Ambulance Brigade sat for their re-examination in First Aid on Sunday last. The examiner was Dr. Paul McCarthy, Deri.

County Chaplain Rev. Evan Sedgemore was appointed County Chaplain for the North East Area of Glamorgan at a meeting held at Pontlottyn recently.

Noddfa Sisterhood At a recent meeting, the speaker was Mr. Frank Hughes, Dowlais. The scripture was read by Mrs. W.K. Evans and Mrs. E. Rees was the organist. Mrs. P. Jones presided.

Outing The St. Mary's Sunday School held their annual outing on Saturday last, and journeyed to Barry Island. They were accompanied by the Vicar, and Miss Loran Rees and Miss E. Fox, Sunday School teachers.

Mr. Coggan The death occurred at his home on Friday last of Mr. Arthur Coggan, 4, Chapel Row, Penybank. He had resided in the village many years. His wife, two daughters and four sons survive. The funeral took place at Pentwyn Churchyard on Tuesday.

Witness The annual procession of witness and hymn singing was held in Fochriw on Whit Tuesday. St. Mary's and Nazareth were well represented by their scholars. Heading the procession were the Vicar and Mr. Ewart Davies, Nazareth. After tea, the Church were entertained in the New Welfare Hall, whilst Nazareth left to spend the evening at Llangorse Lake.

For the Blind A collection was held in the village recently in aid of the Royal National Institute for the Blind. It realised the sum of £15 14s 6d. The collectors were Mrs. T. Gillard, Mrs. S.J. Pullen, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. N. Sharpe, Mrs. C. Ballard, Mrs. M. Chapman, Mrs. E. Thomas, Mrs. O. Jenkins, Mrs. T. Powell, Mrs. A. Watkins, Mrs. J. Jones, Mrs. G. Hughes, Mrs. L. Lawrence, Mrs. M. Lawrence, Misses O.M. Payne, C. Evans, S. Dummett, O. Lewis, S. Lawrence, E. Fox.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 22 June 1963**

Legion A Committee meeting was held in the New Hall on Tuesday. The chairman was Rev. Sedgemore.

Carmel The annual services were held on Sunday. The preacher was the Rev. L. Lloyd Jones, Aberaeron. The organist was Mrs. A. Davies.

U.S. Visitor Mr. Thomas Sedgemore, now of America, arrived at the home of his brother, Rev. Evan Sedgemore on Sunday, for a short holiday. His mother is living at the vicarage at present. Mr. Sedgemore was born in Hirwaun.

Outings The Ladies' Sewing Class journeyed by bus to Oxford on Saturday for their annual outing. After lunch, Abingdon was visited. The outing of the Gospel Hall was to Barry Island. The Pentecostal Hall, Penybank went to Aberavon.

Late Mr. Arthur Coggan Mr. Arthur Coggan, aged 76, died recently. He was employed at Fochirw Coliery until it closed, and then worked at Ogilvie. Upon retirement, he opened a green grocery business. He was a member and trustee of St. Mary's Church. A service was held at the church before interment at Pentwyn Churchyard. The Vicar officiated, assisted by Pastor David Thomas and Pastor Wm. Griffiths. Mourners were: Vernon, Ralph, John, Lindsay, Reggie (sons); Frank (brother); Gordon, John, Ivor, Phillip, Gary, Colin (grandsons); Trevor (brother-in-law); Richie (nephew); George (cousin). Bearers: Tom & Doug Morgan, Cliff Goulding, Cyril Jones, Reggie Davies. At the house and church were: Maud (wife); Eileen (daughter); May, Doreen, Glenys, Nancy (daughters-in-law); Betty (grand daughter); Mrs. Pipkin (mother-in-law); Ethel (niece); Addie (cousin); Mrs. Gillard, Mrs. Goulding, Gretta, Olwen and many friends. Ralph, brother, was unable to attend because of illness. The organist was Mr. W. Edwards. There were a many floral tributes. (listed)

#### **"Merthyr Express" 6 July 1963**

Jones - Hughes Mr. John Richard Jones, son of Mr. & Mrs. Evan M. Jones, 74, Glanynant, was married at Nazareth Chapel on Saturday to Miss Hannah May Hughes, daughter of Mrs. E. Hughes, 2, Aelybryn, and the late Mr. Myrddin Hughes. The Rev. T. J. Jones officiated, and the organist was Mr. W. A. Davies. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. Gwyn Hughes, and wore a gown of white lace with nylon insertions, and a shoulder length veil held in place by a coronet of pearls and diamente. She carried a bouquet of rose buds. The bridesmaid, Miss Phyllis Hughes, sister of the bride, wore a ballerina length dress of burnt orange nylon with a head-dress to match, and carried a bouquet of mixed flowers. Mr. Austin Jones, brother of the groom, was best man. The groomsmen were Mr. Moelwyn Hughes,



Clive Gittoes and Ronald Morgan. After the reception at the New Welfare Hall, the couple travelled to Coventry for their honeymoon.

Holidays At the commencement of the miners' holiday, two bus-loads of holiday-makers left for Trecco Bay, Porthcawl, and others for Blackpool.

Back Home Mr. & Mrs. T. Alfred Kent, 3, Martin Street, have returned home from Holland where they spent a month with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Chaplin. Mr. Chaplin is serving with the Air Force.

Missionary's Visit On Sunday afternoon, the members of Noddfa Sunday School were addressed by Mrs. Stockwell, a missionary from the Congo. She was thanked by Miss Edna E. Jones who presided. Mrs. Dilys Edwards was the organist. Mr. T.J. Jones closed the meeting with prayer.

In Hospital The following residents of Fochriw are patients at local hospitals and are making good progress: Mr. Gwynlais Lloyd; Mr. Roderick Jones; Mr. David John Moss and Mr. David John Jones. Mr. Harold Ward, Heol Iago, has now returned home, also Mr. Vernon Coggan.

Youens – Jenkins On Saturday at Cardiff Register Office, Mr. Terry Youens, Oswestry, married Miss Pearl Jenkins, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Jenkins, 3, Davies Row. The bride who was given away by her uncle, Mr. Herbert Marshallsea, wore a blue two-piece suit with white accessories and carried a horseshoe. Her attendant, Mrs. Barbara Howells, sister, wore a green suit with white accessories. Miss Geraldine and Miss Denise Youens wore, respectively, a blue dress with brown accessories, and a white dress with white accessories. The reception was held at the White Horse Inn, Pentwyn. The couple will make their home in Oswestry.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 20 July 1963**

The Invalids Mr. Fred Dummett, 20 Martin Street, has returned home from hospital. Mrs. Mary Withers, Rising Sun Inn, is a patient at Tredegar Hospital, as is Mrs. Laurie Ann Flewitt, 15 Dynevor Street. Mr. Thomas John Prosser, 7 Railway Terrace, is a patient at Pen-y-Vai Hospital, Abergavenny.

Late Mr. A. Ward The death has occurred at his home, 5 Heol Iago, of Mr. Alfred Henry Ward, aged 73. Born in London, he worked at a colliery in the Rhondda Valley until his retirement. He had lived at Fochriw of nine years. He is an expert billiards and snooker player. He was a member of the Baptist Church. Mr. T.J. Jones officiated at the interment at Trealaw Cemetery. Mourners were George, Alfred, Henry (sons); Alice (daughter); Idwal (son-in-law); Raymond, John, Glyn, Wyndham (grandsons); Sylvia, Georgina, Moyra (grand daughters); Mr. & Mrs. L. Townsend, Mr. & Mrs. W. Jones. Bearers: Len Townsend, Michael Walker, Len Townsend (jnr), Will Rees. There were a number of floral tributes. (listed)

Fochriw Born Doctor on T.V. and Sound Dr. Huw Ballard Thomas, formerly of Fochriw, now of Whitchurch, Cardiff, is shortly to appear both on radio and television in connection with research into the “Problems of Failure,” in which he has been engaged. He will be interviewed in the Welsh Home Service magazine programme “Focus” on Friday evening, July 19, and will appear in the television series “Standpoint” on Thursday, August 1, to present an interim report on his findings. Dr. Thomas has only recently left hospital after an illness lasting several months.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 27 July 1963**

R.A.O.B. Outing The annual outing was held on Saturday, when a party journeyed to Aberavon Beach.

Annual Outings Carmel Sunday School journeyed from Pontlottyn to Barry Island for their annual outing.

Pensioners' Outing The O.A.P. held their annual outing on Tuesday, when they journeyed to Aberavon Beach and Porthcawl.

His Last Service The Rev. Ieuan T. Jones, minister of Nazareth Chapel, held his last service on Sunday last. He is moving to Abercrave.

Mrs. J. Coonick The death has occurred of Mrs. Coonick, 43 Heol y Bryn. She was 61, She had lived at Pontlottyn until the slum clearance.

Hospital Patients Mrs. Sarah Davies, 13 Dynevor Street, is a patient at Ystrad Mynach Hospital. Mrs. Olive Ann Jones, 2 Mount Pleasant, is a patient at Aberbargoed Hospital.

Community Hymn Singing A meeting of all chapel representatives held at St. Mary's Church recently, decided to hold community hymn singing in aid of the O.A.P. Fund on Sunday, September 20 at Carmel Chapel.

Mrs. Mary Strang The death has occurred of Mrs. M. Strang, 17 Pontlottyn Road. She was born in Penywern, Dowlais, 78 years ago. She came to live in the village when very young. She had recently been discharged from hospital.

Died in Colwyn Bay The funeral took place recently in Colwyn Bay of Mr. Griffith Morris, son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Morris, 19 Martin Street. He was aged 58. A wife and four-year-old son survive.

Congregational Union The quarterly meeting of the North Glamorgan Congregational Union of Ministers was held at Carmel Chapel. In the morning there was a conference. The afternoon and evening services were conducted by the Rev. Derwyn Jones, Penydarren, and Rev. Glannant Jones, Aberdare. The organist at both services was Mrs. A. Davies. All services were well attended.

### **“Merthyr Express” 3 August 1963**

Mrs. Coonick, Fochriw Mrs. Mary Jane Coonick, 42, Heol y Bryn, has died at St. James' Hospital, Tredegar. She was 61. She was born at Pontlottyn where she lived until she moved to Fochriw five years ago. She was a member of Bethel, Pontlottyn. The funeral was at Gwaelodybrithdir Cemetery on Friday, the Rev. Aneurin Thomas officiating. Mourners: Cyril (husband); Bert, John, Fred, Lewis (brothers); Louisa, Edith, Lilian (sisters); R. Coonick (father-in-law); Lewis, Billy, Evan, Ernie, Bert, Tom, Gilbert, Cyril (brothers-in-law); Sally, Gwyneth, Evelyn, Maggie Jane, Ruby, Meg, Maggie, Bronwen, Sally (sisters-in-law); Eric, John, Ray, John (nephews); Dorothy, Winifred, Ann, Mary, Margaret (nieces); Harriet, Bessie, Sally, Tom, Hughie, Jack, Essex, John, Sid, Harold, Clive, Richard, Dofrey, Will, Billy, Ivor, Reg, Mike (cousins); Mrs. Powell, Moss, Davies, Jones, Sal, Greta Thomas (friends). Bearers were John & Jeffrey Powell, Charlie Jones, Ivor Davies, Abe Cook, Michael Maloney. There were numerous floral tributes. (listed)

A Mile of Pennies In aid of the O.A.P Fund, the mile of pennies realised £27 16s.

In Hospital Mr. Bryn Jones, 34, Heol y Bryn, a deacon of Noddfa, is a patient at Redwood Memorial Hospital.

Outing The Sunday schools of Noddfa and Nazareth journeyed by bus on Saturday to Barry Island for their annual outing.

Collection A recent house-to-house collection in aid of the Cancer Campaign realised £18 7s 3d. The organiser was Mrs. Sedgemore, a member of the committee for the area.

Parish Church The Vicar of Pontlottyn, Rev. C.H. James, was the celebrant and preacher at St. Mary's on Sunday. Mr. Willie Edwards was the organist.

### **“Merthyr Express” 10 August 1963**

Forrest - Shankland The marriage of Mr. David Forrest, son of Mr. & Mrs. John Forrest, Mill Road, Deri, to Miss Enid Shankland, daughter of Mrs. Emily Shankland, 39, Guest Street, and the late Mr. Crad. Shankland, took place at Cardiff on Saturday. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. Emrys Shankland, and wore a coffee-coloured coat and dress of French lace with white accessories, and wore a spray of orchids. Miss Sandra Marshallsea, who attended her, wore a dress of turquoise-coloured French lace with white accessories, and wore a spray of pink carnations. A reception was held at the bride's home. They will make their future home at Fochriw.

Walters - Rees Mr. Lionel John Keith Walters, B.A., only son of Mr. & Mrs. John Rees Walters, 7, Pleasant View, was married to Miss Barbara Gillian Rees, only daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Glyn Rees, Gilfach Road, Neath, at St. Mathews Church, Duffryn, on Saturday. The Rev. D. G. Rees officiated, assisted by Rev. Evan Sedgemore. The bride was given away by her father. She wore a full-length gown of ottoman silk with an overskirt falling into a train. Her shoulder length bouffant head embroidered veil was held in place by a cluster of roses and lily of the valley. The bridesmaids were Misses Susan Bayliss, Judith Hale, Patricia Rees, cousins of the bride, Pauline Adams, cousin of the groom, and Fay Gimerlett and Gaynor

Marvin. They wore full length dresses of blue and white embroidered Swiss cotton with blue sashes, with matching head-dresses, and carried Victorian posies of blue sweet peas. A reception was held at the Memorial Hall, The Park, Skewen. The honeymoon is being spent touring France and Austria. The bride travelled in an apricot and white dress and coat with white accessories. They will make their future home at Tilehurst, Reading. The bridegroom is on the staff of Caversham Grammar School. The bride was presented with horse-shoes by the pupils of Llansawel School where she was on the teaching staff.

Dando - Morris The marriage took place on Saturday at Hen Dy Cwrdd, Hengoed, of Mr. Kenneth George Dando, son of Mr. & Mrs. James Dando, James Street, Brithdir, and Miss Margaret Morris, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas James Morris, Old School House. The Rev. N. Perkins officiated. The bride was given away by her father, and wore a white satin brocade dress. Her head-dress was a coronet of pearls and diamente. The bridesmaid was the bride's sister, Miss Ann Morris, who wore a dress of lemon Ottoman silk, and carried a spray of white carnations. The reception was at the Cross Inn, Gellygaer. The couple will honeymoon at Minehead.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 24 August 1963**

Hospital Mrs. Lilian Lawrence, Glyn Terrace, and Mr. John W. Jones, Aelybryn, are patients at St. James Hospital, Tredegar. Mrs. Dilys Edwards, Pleasant View, is a patient at Maidiff Court Hospital.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 31 August 1963**

Christening On Sunday afternoon at St. Mary's Parish Church, Master Christopher Tew, baby son of Mr. & Mrs. Brian Tew, formerly of Fochriw, and grandson of Mr. & Mrs. J.P. Llewellyn, J.P., was christened by the Rev. Evan Sedgemore.

Camp Services The Rev. and Mrs. E. Sedgemore have returned to the Vicarage after spending two weeks at Trecco Bay, Porthcawl, conducting services at the Camp Church for the caravan dwellers. The Vicar officiated in the morning, and Mr. C. Prosser, Pontlottyn, conducted the Evensong.

A Slight Mishap Able Seaman Gilmour Fox, son of Mr. & Mrs. W. Fox, met with a slight mishap when he fell from the cage whilst painting the side of the ship on which he serves. He received no injury, and swam around the ship to the gang-plank and walked aboard. He has served in the Royal Navy for 13 years, entering as a boy of 15.

Convention Meeting The third annual convention meeting was held at the Mission Hall recently. The special preacher was Mr. Brain Teed of Swansea. Pastor Thomas of Bedlinog presided on Saturday evening. On Sunday, Miss Ruth Jenkins, Fochriw, and Mr. Clifford Goulden-Hann, Penybank, Miss Phyllis Ann Iles, Fochriw, led in prayer. Pastor David Thomas presided at all meetings, and Mrs. Pamela Temby was the organist.

Golden Wedding This Sunday, September 1, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wm. Parry, 19, Brynteg, will celebrate their golden wedding. They were married at Zoar Welsh Congregational Church, Merthyr, the late Rev. D. Hughes Jones officiating. Mr. & Mrs. Parry are both natives of Fochriw. Until his retirement at 70, Mr. Parry worked at the Nantyffin Drifts until their closure, and then at Taff Merthyr Colliery, Trelewis. Both are members of Carmel Chapel. Mr. Parry is 73, and Mrs. Parry 71. Both are in good health.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 7 September 1963**

Competition The annual Open Ambulance Competition for the John Llewellyn Shield will be held at the New Hall on Saturday, Sept. 7. Competitions commence at 2 p.m.

Pupils Transferred Twenty-one children from the villages of Pentwyn and Penybank commenced at Fochriw School on Monday last. Their school at Penybank closed in July last.

Fire Outbreak A small outbreak of fire occurred in a bedroom of the Rising Sun Inn on Monday night. The overheating of an electric blanket was the cause of the fire. Mr. Norman Withers called the Fire Brigade. Two appliances from Rhymney and Bargoed dealt with the fire. The damage was not as bad as feared.

Y.M.C.A. Fochriw Y.M.C.A. football team entertained Phillipstown at the Welfare Field on Saturday in a friendly game. The result was a draw, 2 goals each. On Saturday, Sept. 7, the team will play away at Brithdir.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 28 September 1963**

III Mrs. Marion Davies, 60, Heolybryn, is a patient at Cardiff Royal Infirmary.

Noddfa Sisterhood Mr. Howell Owen, Pontlottyn, was the speaker at the meeting last week. Mrs. May Davies presided. Mrs. Edith Parry Lewis gave a scripture reading and led in prayer. Mrs. Phyllis Jones was the organist.

Accident Mrs. Yvonne Bowen, 21, Dynevor Street, was involved in a car accident on the Penybank–Deri road. She received slight facial injuries. The car was extensively damaged.

Harvest Festival Services Services were held at the Parish Church on Sunday. At Evensong, the Ven. J. Gwynno James, Archdeacon of Llandaff, preached. The preacher on Monday was Rev. Rees Emmanuel, vicar of Bargoed. Mr. Willie Edwards was the organist. Mr. John Denner read the lessons.

Harvest Service Nazareth held their harvest services on Sunday. Miss Maralyn Holifield presided. Miss Angela Owen gave a scripture reading. Gwyneira Gittoes, Huw Holifield and Michael Owen led in prayer. Mrs. Amy Holifield was the soloist and a duet was given by Doris Holifield and Jeanette Brown. Susan Price recited. An address was given by Mrs. Doreen Cumpstone. The Sunday School Choir took part and the organist was Mr. Wm. Davies. The chapel was decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables.

Howells – Owen The marriage of Mr. Malcolm Howells, son of Mr. & Mrs. Brinley Howells, Llangorse, Breconshire, formerly of Bryncaerau Farm, Fochriw, to Miss Jean Owen, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Owen, 17 Guest Street, took place at Nazareth Chapel on Saturday. The Rev. T.J. Jones officiated. Mr. W.A. Davies was the organist. The bride was given away by her father. She wore a white, full-length brocade dress with train, a bouffant veil in place with rhinestone and pearl coronet, and carried a bouquet of lemon rosebuds. The bridesmaids were Misses Angela & Sylvia Owen, sisters of the bride, Miss Ann Howells, cousin of the groom, and Miss Rita Howells, sister of the groom. Gail Evans, cousin of the bride, was flower girl. Short dresses of fiesta orange figured brocade were worn by the cousin of the bride and cousin of the groom, and eau-de-nil figured brocade worn by the sisters of the bride and groom. All carried posies of freesias and chrysanthemums. Head-dresses were of white imitation roses. All wore elbow length white gloves and white shoes. Mr. Raymond Howells, brother of the groom, was best man, and Messrs. Bertram Howells and Olver Evans, groomsmen. After the reception at the New Hall, the couple left for a honeymoon at Porthcawl. To travel, the bride wore a three-quarter-length boucle suit of eau-de-nil with white accessories.

### **“Merthyr Express” 5 October 1963**

British Legion A general meeting was held at the New Hall on Friday. Rev. Sedgemore presided. The Benevolent Committee also met.

Labour Party The ladies’ section is holding a social evening at the New Hall today, Saturday. Children between 5 and 15 will be entertained.

Hospital Mr. Glyn Mitchell, 9 The Nant, is in East Glamorgan Hospital. Mr. Aubrey Bishop, 37 Glanynant, is at Penyvai Hospital.

At Llandaff Rev. & Mrs. Sedgemore represented the parish at Llandaff Cathedral for the requiem to the late Mrs. Sheila Simon, Wife of the Rt. Rev. Glyn Simon, Lord Bishop of Llandaff.

Chapels Members of Nazareth and Ysgwyddgwyn, Deri, attended the institution and induction of the Rev. Ieuan Tegfryn Jones, formerly pastor of Pontlottyn, Fochriw and Deri, at Abercrave.

Y.M.C.A. Fochriw played McClaren on Saturday and drew 0 – 0. R. Dummett was outstanding in goal. The under 14’s played their first game of the season against Georgetown and won 7 – 1. The “open-age” side is away at Cardiff today in the first round of the F.A. Amateur Cup. It is the first time Fochriw have entered. A bus leaves the station at 1 p.m. to take the team and supporters. Ties and badges are being awarded by the club. A player needs thirty points to qualify. Three points are awarded for playing, two for attending as a reserve. A plaque will be given to the season’s outstanding player.

Darts Mr. Ivor Morgan and Mr. Carey Morse won the individual pairs challenge at the Ambulance Hall, Bargoed. Both are members of the St. John Ambulance, Fochriw Division, and the Ogilvie Ambulance team.

Hymn Singing The annual community hymn singing in aid of the O.A.P. Fund was held at Carmel. Conductor: Mr. Ewart Davies; organist, Mrs. Ann Davies; chairman, Mr. Wm. Davies. Votes of thanks were accorded.

Baptisms Miss Meryl Yeoman, Miss Julia Ross, Miss Rose Griffiths and Mrs. Martin Davies, who attend the Mission Hall, were baptized at Cefn Coed on Sunday. The service was conducted by Pastor Horace Jones, Cefn Coed. Mr. Glyn Jones, Penybank, gave the address.

On the Air Dr. Huw Ballard Thomas, son of Mr. & Mrs. T.G. Thomas, Aelybryn, broadcast on Tuesday on the Welsh Home Service in the "Silver Lining" series. He will broadcast again this month.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 12 October 1963**

M.Ps. Visit The Fochriw Ward Labour Party met at the New Hall on Thursday. The chairman was Mr. W.M. Davies. Also present were Councillors Frank Jenkins and Wm. Poyntz. On Friday, The Fochriw and Deri Wards were addressed by Mr. Ness Edwards, M.P. for Caerphilly.

Thanksgiving Service Noddfa Chapel Sisterhood held their Harvest Thanksgiving service on Thursday. Mrs. Phyllis Jones presided. Mrs. Elsie Rees read a portion of Scripture. Mrs. Harriet Odden gave a recitation and a duet was sung by Mrs. P. Jones and Mrs. Elizabeth Morgan. The address was given by Mrs. Edith Lewis. Mrs. Elsie Rees was the organist. A tea followed and the servers were Mrs. Elizabeth A. Evans, Mrs. Olwen Thomas and Mrs. Minnie Sheen.

British Legion Officers At the annual general meeting of the Fochriw Branch, the following officers were elected: president and chairman, Rev. E. Sedgemore; vice-president, Mr. J.P. Llewellyn, J.P.; vice-chairman, Mr. Idris Cumpstone; secretary, Mr. T.L. Williams; treasurer, Mr. N. Withers. Local service committee appointments were: chairman, Mr. Gordon Blunt; vice-chairman, Mr. John W. Jones; secretary and treasurer, Mr. L. Williams; pensions and employment officer, Rev. Sedgemore; committee members, Mr. W.J. Davies, Mr. F. Jenkins, Mrs. E. Shankland, S.J. Pullen, Miss E. Fox.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 19 October 1963**

New Host Mr. John Williams has taken over as licensee of the Rising Sun Inn, in succession to Mr. Norman Withers. Mr. Williams was formerly steward of the Rugby Club, Rhymney.

Thanksgiving The Free Church Council held their annual harvest festival on Monday and Tuesday. The service on Monday took the form of a prayer meeting, and on Tuesday the special preacher was the Rev. D. Nathan Perkins, Hengoed. Mr. T.J. Jones presided at both services, and the organist was Mr. W.A. Davies.

Eighty-Nine Mrs. Emma Jane Lawrence, 2, Glyn Terrace, celebrated her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday last. A birthday party in her honour was held at Elmley Castle, the home of her son Trevor. Mrs. Lawrence is still very active and enjoys good health. She is one of the oldest members of St. Mary's and she still attends.

Blind Welfare A meeting and service of the St. Mary's Mothers' Union was held last week. The service was conducted by the Vicar and the guest speaker was Mr. Ambrose Williams of Cardiff, the Blind Representative for the County of Glamorgan. He illustrated his address with tape recordings made at the Sunshine Home for the Blind, Southerndown, and also the Eisteddfod for the Blind. Mr. Williams was thanked by Mrs. Sedgemore, enrolling member, and Mr. Palmer, people's warden.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 26 October 1963**

Noddfa The guest speaker on Sunday was Miss B. Greening, Pontlottyn. Mrs. Phyllis Jones presided, and was organist. Mrs. Edna Davies read.

Young People's Guild A meeting was held on Wednesday at Nazareth with the view of forming a Young People's Guild for all denominations. Any person who is interested can attend meetings that will be in Nazareth Chapel every Wednesday.

In Hospital Mr. Geo. Dummett, 20 Dynevor Street, is a patient at Llandough Hospital. Mr. Robert Parry, 19 Brynteg, is at St. James' Hospital, Tredegar. Mrs. Maud Clarke, 10 Plantation Terrace, is a patient at St. Tydfil's Hospital, Merthyr.

Play Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds Dramatic Society presented the comedy "Bachelor Brothers" at the New Hall on Tuesday. The chairman was Mr. Thomas John Jones, and the proceeds were in aid of the O.A.P. Fund.

88<sup>th</sup> Birthday Mrs. Sarah Ann Davies, 6 Railway Terrace, celebrated her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on Saturday. She received many greetings. Born in Fochriw, she has lived in the village all her life. She is a member of Noddfa.

In County Team Miss Rosemary Jones, 1 Aelybryn, a student at Trinity College, Carmarthen, has been chosen to play hockey for Carmarthen County Team. She is a former pupil of Bargoed Grammar Technical School, and was captain of the school team. She also played for South Wales Ladies and Glamorgan County Teams.

School Service Fochriw Primary School held their harvest recently. Each class gave an item and prayers were said by Alison Moon, Sian Lewis, Diane Jenkins and Cheryl Hall. The assembly hall was decorated with the pupils' gifts. The service was conducted by Miss Olive Payne, assisted by Miss I. Morris, Miss A. Jones, Miss M. Mundy, and Mrs. F. Gwynne was the accompanist. After service, the staff and pupils held a harvest tea. The gifts were given to Ystrad Mynach Hospital.

Ambulance Team At the invitation of the Cardiff City Police, Fochriw Division Ambulance Team took part in a competition at the Law Courts recently. The team was placed second, scoring 150 points for the floor test, and 34½ for the theory. Ivor Morgan, captain, Tom Powell, Sylvanus James and Adrian Reed were highly commended by the judges for their floor test. On Saturday last, the team gained first place in the competition held at the Ambulance Hall, Bargoed. The next competition will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2, at Treharris.

### **"Merthyr Express" 2 November 1963**

Fochriw Couple Wed: James – Morgan The wedding took place on Saturday at Cardiff Registry Office of Mr. Vivian James, son of Mr. & Mrs. B.S. James, 14, Heol y Bryn, and Miss Barbara Morgan, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Idris Morgan, 6, The Nant. Given away by her father, the bride wore a blue courtelles suit with white accessories with a spray of pink carnations. Her attendant, Miss Doris Edwards, wore a royal blue suit, with white accessories and a spray of pink carnations. Mr. Frederick Edwards, uncle of the bridegroom, was best man. The reception was held at the New Hall. Mr. & Mrs. Morgan will make their future home at Pontlloyn.

Carmel The half yearly meetings were held on Sunday. The special preacher was the Rev. Professor D.L. Trevor Evans, Swansea. The organist was Mrs. Ann Davies.

R.A.O.B. On Saturday, the Cwlwn-y-Brodoriaeth Lodge R.A.O.B. enrolled Rev. Evan Sedgemore as a member of the lodge. The initiation ceremony was conducted by Mr. William Lewis, R.O.H. The vicar was appointed chaplain of the lodge.

Late Mr. J. Lawrence The death has occurred at Ystrad Mynach Hospital on Sunday, of Mr. James Lawrence, 20, Brynteg. He was 81, and had lived at Fochriw all his life. He was employed at Bargoed Colliery until he reached the age of 70. His wife died four years ago.

Collection A house to house collection in aid of the Moral Welfare Home at Penarth held recently, raised £14 12s 6d. The organisers were Rev. & Mrs. E. Sedgemore. The envelope collectors were Mrs. Sedgemore, N. Sharpe, A.M. Holifield, L. Lawrence, J. Jones, G. Hughes, G. Hopkins, A. Watkins, M. Lawrence, E. Thomas, C. Ballard, Misses C. Evans, O.M. Payne, Maralyn Jones, G. Jones, E. Fox. The money was presented to the Lord Bishop of Llandaff by Mrs. A. Palmer for St. Mary's and Mrs. M. Owen for St. Peter's, Deri.

### **"Merthyr Express" 16 November 1963**

Fochriw Girl In County Team Margaret Jones, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. E. Jones, Guest Street, has been selected to play left inner for the County of Glamorgan ladies hockey team, First XI.

Ambulance Team The Fochriw team was placed second at a competition at Bryn.

Guild The meeting at Nazareth Chapel took the form of a "Juke Box Jury." Panel members were: David Price, Ruth Jenkins, Gwyneira Gittoes and Meryl Yeoman.

British Legion A branch and service committee meeting was held on Friday last. The chairman was Mr. Gordon Blunt. Any ex-Serviceman wishing to join should contact Mr. T.L. Williams, 24, Glanynant.

Noddfa Sisterhood Mrs. Phyllis Jones presided over the meeting on Thursday. Mrs. Minnie Sheen read and a duet was sung by Mrs. Peggy Davies and Miss Nellie Shankland. The address was given by Mr. A. Dando, Pontlottyn. The organist was Mrs. Ann Davies.

Guild The Young People's Guild held at Nazareth Chapel took the form of a "Question Box." The questions were answered by Mr. T.J. Jones of Noddfa Chapel and Mr. D. Thomas of the Mission Hall. Julia Ross read and Meryl Yeoman led in prayer. Mr. W.A. Davies was the organist.

One of the Victors Alun Thomas, only son of Mr. & Mrs. Francis Thomas, 8, Williams Row, was one of the Newport Rugby players who beat the All Blacks. He was described by one of the commentators as having played a "fireball" of a game. He has already played for the Welsh XV under 23s.

Dies at 81 Mr. James Lawrence has died. He was born at Fochriw 81 years ago. He worked at Fochriw Pits, and afterwards, until his retirement at age 70, at Bargoed Colliery as a haulage engineman. He was a member of Nazareth Chapel. Burial was at Pentwyn Churchyard. Rev. T.J. Jones officiated. Principal family mourners were: Wyndham P. Lawrence, Mus. Bac. (son); Adelaide Lawrence (daughter); J. Idris Williams (son-in-law); Ceinwen Lawrence (daughter-in-law); Jeanne Lawrence Driscoll (grand daughter); James P. Driscoll (grandson-in-law); Jonathon James Lawrence Driscoll (great grandson); Geo. Smith, Wyndham Smith, Michael Evans, Thomas M. Jones, Lewis Jones, Martha Smith, Lil Smith (nephews and nieces); Geo. Watson Jones (cousin). Bearers were Richard Price, John Rees Walters, Wm. Lewis, Gwilym Davies. There were a number of floral tributes. (listed)

#### **"Merthyr Express" 30 November 1963**

Bible Society A collection in aid of the British and Foreign Bible Society held recently amounted to £24 3s 6d. The collectors were Mesdames D. Jones, R. Davies, P. Jones, O. Thomas, L. Lawrence, A.M. Holifield, E. Rees, Misses M. Jones, B. Jones.

Poppy Receipts Poppy sales in aid of the Earl Haig Fund realised £17 15s 11d. The organiser was Mrs. Elspeth Shankland. The collectors were Mesdames E. Shankland, J. Jones, C. Ballard, M. Chapman, E. Thomas, S.J. Pullen, P. Jones, Miss E. Fox.

Advanced Driving Mr. Norman Jones, eldest son of Mr. & Mrs. Samuel John Jones, 25, Pontlottyn Road, was successful in his Advanced Driving Test held at Pontypridd last week, obtaining a mark of 86%. In August, he was successful in his Basic Advanced Driving Test, obtaining a mark of 96%. Mr. Jones, who will be 21 next week, has only been driving since last December.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 7 December 1963**

Fayre St. Mary's Christmas Fayre and Sale of Work is to be held this Saturday at the New Welfare Hall.

In Hospital Mrs. Doreen Powell, 23, Heol Iago, is a patient at St. James' Hospital, Tredegar, and Mrs. Louie Richards, 61, Glanynant, is a patient at Redwood Memorial Hospital, Rhymney.

Noddfa Sisterhood The meeting was held on Thursday last week. Mrs. Edith Lewis led the devotions and Mrs. Ann Davies gave the address and also played the organ. Mrs. P. Jones presided.

#### **"Merthyr Express" 14 December 1963**

Late Mr. H. Thomas The death occurred at the Redwood Memorial Hospital of Mr. Howell Thomas, a native of Fochriw, but lately of Rhymney. Aged 74, he was the son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Thomas, Station Terrace. A wife and grown up family survive.

Late Mrs. M. Lewis The death occurred on Friday at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. W. Evans, 17, Brook Row, of Mrs. Miriam Lewis, formerly of Pontlottyn.

Christmas Fayre St. Mary's Parish Church held their Christmas Fayre and Sale of Work on Saturday. The sale was opened by Mr. John Pellard Llewellyn, J.P., accompanied by his wife. A bouquet was presented to Mrs. Llewellyn by Anne Sedgemore, and Mary Sedgemore presented a button hole to Mr. Llewellyn, and they were thanked by the Vicar and Mr. A.J.

Palmer, people's warden. Stall holders were: Mesdames S. Davies, B. Davies, Y. Roberts, E. Thomas, M. Chapman, C. Ballard, H. Small, M.J. Davies, W.K. Evans, L. Lawrence, N. Sharpe, A. Gardener, I. Walters, O. Jenkins, A. Watkins, M. Lawrence, T. Gillard, Misses G. Chapman, A. Watkins, J. Lawrence, S. Lawrence, O.M. Payne, L. Rees, J. Lewis, L. Lewis, G. Evans, G. Dummett, S. Dummett, C. Dummett, C. Evans, A. Davies, J. Sedgemore, E. Fox; Messrs. D. Jenkins, W. James, P. Jenkins, H. Davies. Father Christmas was Mr. Willie Edwards. Mrs. Jane Sedgemore, who is 88, mother of the vicar, was also present.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 21 December 1963**

Late Mrs. M. Lewis Mrs. Miriam Lewis, 17, Brook Row, has died at the age of 82. Mrs. Lewis spent her life in Pontlottyn, until moving to Fochriw two years ago. The cremation was at Glyntaff Crematorium. Rev. A. Thomas, Abercynon officiated. The bearers were Messrs. F. Hann, W. Pearce, T. Thomas, D. Jones, R. Price.

Ambulance The Fochriw Division of the St. John Ambulance gained first place in the league competition held at the Ambulance Hall, Bargoed, on Saturday. They will now represent the Riches Corps at the Llandinam Shield Competition to be held later.

Hospital Mrs. Joan Cockram, Glanynant, and Mr. Alan Powell, Rhodfa Ganol, are patients at St. James Hospital, Tredegar. Miss Rosie Davies, Martin Street, is a patient at Ystrad Mynach Hospital.

Late Mrs. M. McCauley The death occurred last Thursday at the home of her daughter and son-in-law at 81, Glanynant, on Mrs. Lily McCauley, a native of Newcastle. Mrs. McCauley came to live in the village about eight years ago. The funeral took place on Tuesday at Pentwyn Churchyard. A grown-up family survive.

Film Show Noddfa Sisterhood was entertained by Miss Lorna Jenkins and Miss Eliza Evans with a film show. One of the films was the journey of the last train from Newport to Brecon. Before the show, carols were sung. Mrs. Peggy Davies read, and the organist was Mrs. Ann Davies. Mrs. Phyllis Jones presided. Light refreshments were served.

Evans - James The marriage of Mr. David Evans, son of Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Evans, 2. Guest Street, to Miss Diane James, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas James, 24, Pontlottyn Road, took place at Cardiff Register Office on Saturday. The bride was given away by her father. She wore a mustard two-piece with chocolate brown accessories and a spray of pink carnations. Mr. Denis Evans, brother of the groom was best man. A reception was held at the Central Café, Bargoed.

#### **“Merthyr Express” 28 December 1963**

Pentwyn Road Progress Report Because of the good progress made, Gelligaer's Surveyor believes work on the re-construction of the frost damaged road from Pentwyn to Dowlais Top – costing more than £50,000 – will be completed “on time,” by the end of the year. He said that more than one and a half miles of road had been completely re-structured despite difficulties with plant and bad weather.