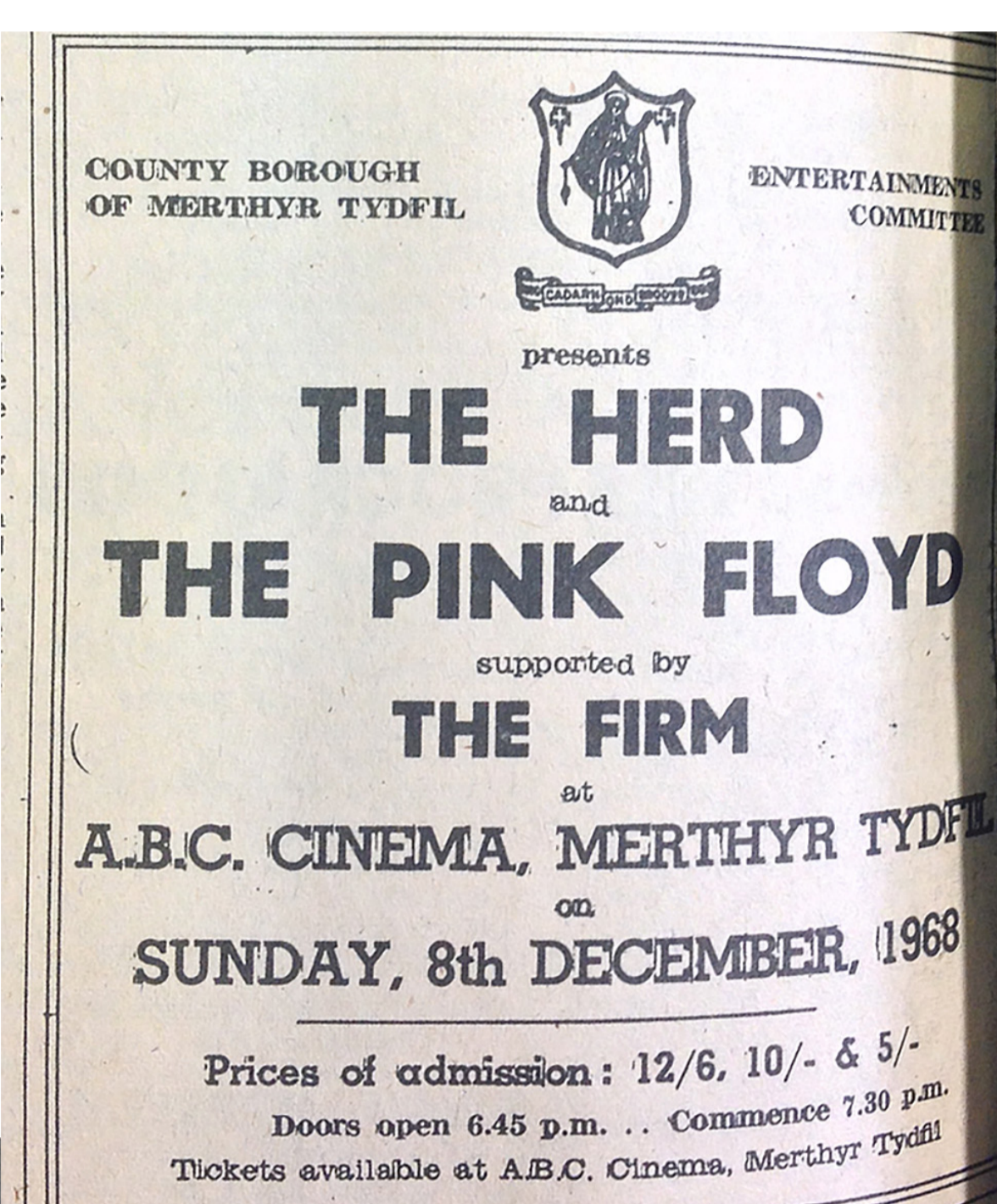


MERTHYR TYDFIL 1955-75

MEMORIES OF POPULAR MUSIC
ATGOFION O GERDDORIAETH BOBLOGAIDD

PINK FLOYD, THE HERD AND THE FIRM: ABC (CASTLE CINEMA) DECEMBER 9TH 1968

Newspaper Ad from the Merthyr Express, dated November 28th 1968 (Courtesy Merthyr Express)



The Herd at The ABC Cinema on December 9th 1968 (Photo courtesy Merthyr Express)



The Merthyr audience cheers The Herd (Photo courtesy Merthyr Express)



Dave Gilmour meets fans at The Castle Cinema (Photo courtesy Merthyr Express)



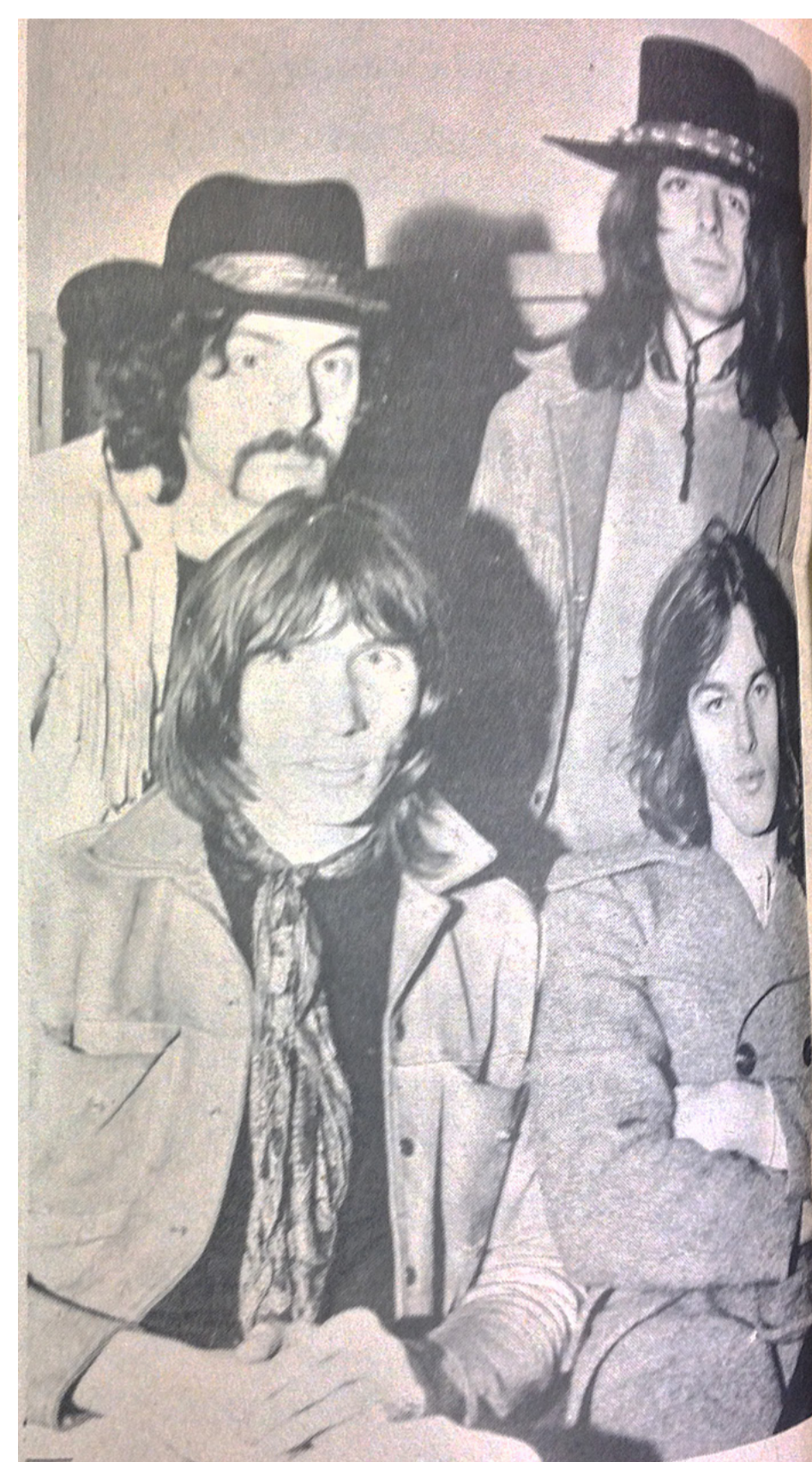
Pink Floyd at the ABC on December 9th 1968. Featuring Nick Mason, Richard Wright, Roger Waters, Dave Gilmour (Photo courtesy Merthyr Express)



Listen to The Herd, 'Fly From the Underworld'



Listen to The Herd, 'I don't Want Your Lovin' To Die'



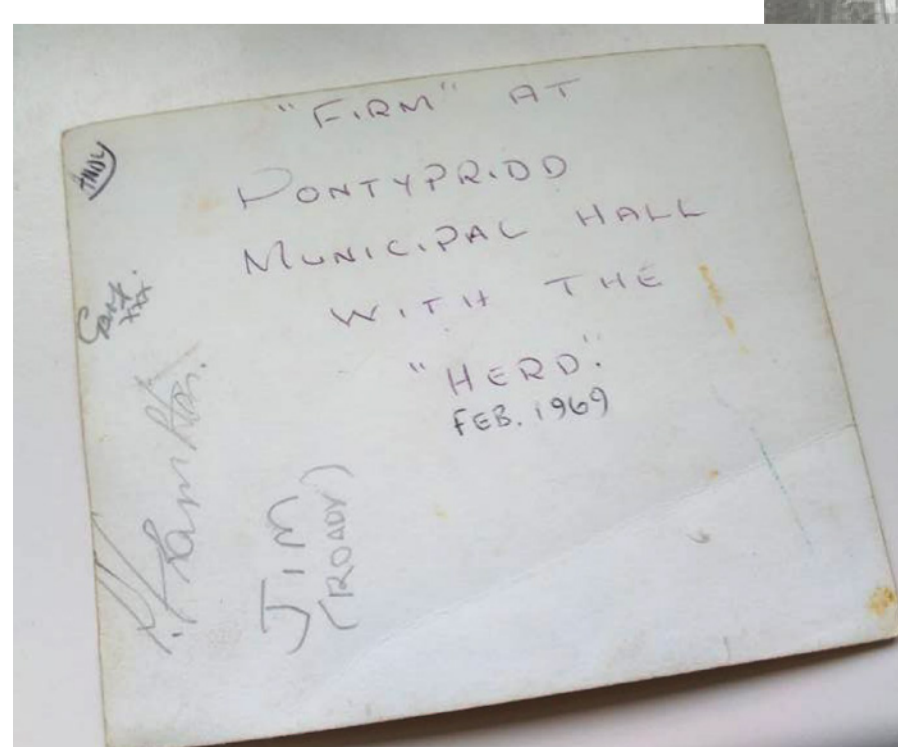
Although there are no recordings of Pink Floyd's performance in Merthyr, they did some recordings for Top Gear, on December 2nd 1968, a week to the day prior to the performance in Merthyr Tydfil. To hear some of these recordings scan the QR codes above.



The Firm (courtesy Brenda Jones)



Autographed photo of The Herd (courtesy Brenda Jones)



The Herd, Pink Floyd and local band The Firm performed at the ABC (Castle) Cinema on December 9th 1968, in what is one of the most iconic performances ever to take place in the town. Newspaper reports at the time outline how fans occupying the cheaper five shilling seats in the balcony were allowed to come downstairs for the second part of the show to watch The Herd, who were headlining. Not long before appearing, The Herd had released their single 'From The Underworld', which had reached number 6 in the UK charts, so by this time they were fully-fledged pop stars. Other songs played by The Herd included Dylan's 'I Want You', and The Righteous Bros 'I Lost That Loving Feeling'. They also played their biggest hit 'I Don't Want Our Loving To Die'.

Pink Floyd closed the first half of the show and according to The Merthyr Express used "a variety of electronic gadgetry" that produced "weird and unusual sounds" – although the light show they normally used was not part of the Merthyr gig. Interestingly, the newspaper report said many of these sounds came from "Syd Barrett's electric guitar", although he left the group in January 1968, nearly a year beforehand. The music they played on the night included 'Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun' and "Astronomie Domine" from *Pipers at the Gates of Dawn*, which of course features Syd Barrett on guitar. When one thinks about it retrospectively, the pairing of Pink Floyd with The Herd is an unusual choice by the promoters, with it in some ways resembling the early gigs that Jimi Hendrix played with the Monkees.

"I didn't know about it until I moved to Merthyr. I wasn't old enough to see them [Pink Floyd] then. I did see them at Wembley Stadium and the London Docklands Arena."

"My husband was there - just before they became famous with 'See Emily Play!'"

"I was there that night. I was also there when The Love Affair performed there and met them afterwards."

"I was there but have to be honest, I went to see Pete Frampton. Pink Floyd were the supporting act! I was young and only realised the significance of seeing Pink Floyd years later. I remember queuing right up around the corner of the ABC Cinema."

"The gentleman that booked the acts for the Castle Cinema was Peter Lovis."

"I was there and didn't care who else was on stage as I only had eyes for Peter Frampton."

"Saved my school lunch money and starved myself so I could buy a ticket to see my hero Peter Frampton!!!"

"They [Pink Floyd] were booed off stage as we all wanted the Herd."

"Peter Frampton with the Herd didn't play a note on his guitar. It was over his shoulder all night."

"I think there was a bit of a scramble for the 10.30 bus home."

"I was there. Sat next to and chatted with Roger Waters during the interval."

"Yes I remember that concert it was fantastic. So great that Merthyr's entertainment people brought these top acts here. The few concerts we had went down a storm. It should have been a regular thing."

MID TO LATE

