

synopsis & transcript

PORTH 6

INFORMANTS:

<p>A: Male, 37 years old Welsh: fluent/some/slight/<u>none</u> Mother's birth: Ystrad Father's birth: Trebanog</p>	<p>B: Male, 34 years old Welsh: fluent/some/slight/<u>none</u> Mother's birth: Caerphilly, Glam Father's birth: Abertridwr, Glam</p>
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*They look at a picture of a colliery. They talk [00.00 min - 03.10 min]
about Lewis Merthyr Colliery and its closure,
then about the pits where their fathers worked.
They talk briefly about where they went to school.
A picture of Welsh Secretaries of State leads to
some discussion on politics.*

*A says that the only politics in the Rhondda is [03.10 min - 03.50 min]
Labour:
(transcript)*

A: no . not really

I: do they talk politics a lot . . down at the bar

A: . I mean erm . the Rhondda Valleys is . is one politics . it's Labour

A: and that's it . I mean . . you~ you very rarely have anybody in here

A: expressing Tory views or . . Liberal views you know . . it's . it's

A: . so it's so Labour as well orientated . . it's not . it's not

A: a debatable sort of area if you know what I mean . . I think Plaid

A: Cymru is getting stronger in the area now . . but that's . I think

A: that's more to do with local elections . local council elections rather

A: than the main parliamentary seat you know . . so no I . . . I don't

A: I can't speak for other clubs . this is a working man's club . so

A: therefore its mainly a Labour club . . we have got the odd

A: Conservative club in the area but . . . I suppose they've got the

A: same ideas there . that they only speak their own erm . . . I think

A: if you put up too much of a fight in a Conservative club . you'll find

A: yourself banned

*They look through a succession of pictures
and comment on them: Ty Mawr Colliery,
Cliff Morgan, a local factory, Prince Charles
visiting the Rhondda, Tommy Farr the boxer)*

[03.50 min – 10.45 min]

*They look at more pictures (Lord Tonypandy,
pits in the Rhondda Fach, terraced houses in
Trealaw, the shrine at Penrhys, miners marching
to London in 1936, the Houston brothers and
another local colliery):*

[10.45 min – 17.15 min]

(looking at a picture)

A: that's erm . Tonypandy . that's when he was erm

B: . Lord Tonypandy

A: . leader of the House I would think is it . . or Speaker of the House

B: [yes]

A: . . yeah I believe he's living

B: . Speaker of the House

A: back up here somewhere I don't know where in Tonypanyd but erm

A: . . I think he's local isn't he . . I think he is yeah

B: [he's] done a lot

I: . is he

B: for the Rhondda special school as well . . it's a

I: . . . what's that then

B: school for physically and mentally handicapped children . . . erm .

B: they're erm . . they come out of the out of the . erm .

B: government sector it's . . funded . solely by . . . the school itself

B: . fundraising or whatever . . . erm . . . at the moment they're . .

B: fund-raising for a new hall . . the school . the school isn't big enough

B: so they've . . they have been . fundraising with badges or what not

(looking at another picture)

A: . . . this is a photo~ aerial photo of Ynyshir I would think leading

=====

A: up to Tylorstown up there . . . that's what it looks to me

=====

(looking at another picture)

A: . isn't it . . . that's an old pit there I don't know

=====

B: yeah . yeah

=====

A: what pit it was it's . . donkey's years old it is by the look of things

=====

A: . . look at Tylorstown tip . it's working then look it's still got the

=====

A: coal on it . . Llanwynno Forestry that's

=====

B: yeah

=====

A: Mount Pleasant over here that must be a few

=====

B: . . yeah

=====

(looking at another picture)

A: years old that phot I would think this one I haven't got a clue

=====

A: I wouldn't like to say where it is . is it local you don't

=====

A: know do you it's the other valley . .

=====

I: . . I think it's the other valley

=====

A: . . I wouldn't know

=====

I: [when I say the] other valley . it's erm . up the Fach . . . some-

=====

A: I don't know as I say~

I: where . Wattstown or somewhere

A: like as I say . this is probably way before my time again

I: . . (inaudible)

A: . . yeah . . someone from that area would erm . have a better idea

(looking at another picture)

B:

A: aye I know that aye I

B: . . . Miskin Road Trealaw . (laughs)

A: think John can tell you more about Trealaw . he lives up there now

B: (laughs) . . yeah . yeah I moved up there about . erm three years

I: . . do you

B: ago . this~ this road here is a . . grocery shop up grocery

B: shop this side of the road opposite here . . just behind this row

B: of houses . . . on the bottom now is . . is erm . behind ere is

B: Leeke's . . there's a~ there's a . . a row erm . steps . . . between

B: the two . . terraces there with the steps going down towards . . .

B: . . . towards Leeke's and the Paddy's Goose by there . Paddy's
=====

B: Goose is a pub . . on {Merthyr} Terrace . . . further along this
=====

B: way down it's onto the . . the new houses they built . . . just this
=====

B: side of the railway line

I: . . and erm . have they got big . gardens
=====

B: . . erm . they're . three storey houses and . . there's

I: at the back
=====

B: not a very bug garden as such . no . . they're erm . . . well
=====

B: they're not very big . it's . . some of them are well maintained .
=====

(looking at another picture)

A: . . this is that Catholic Shrine up in Penrhys
=====

B: some of them are not
=====

A: isn't it . . . see (inaudible) Llywnypia Hospital by there . . .
=====

B: [yeah]
=====

A: there's a . there's a road leading here if you . . . just up
=====

A: on Porth by there there's a . there's a path they call the Parish
=====

A: Road Path . and it leads right up to this shrine . . and apparently

B: (coughs)

A: as the saying goes . . before the Rhondda was ever developed into

A: a mining . . it was heavily forested you know . . . all that went

B: yes

A: when the pits come {along} you know . pit . erm . pit props and all

A: the rest of it . . . and that road . . or that path . . led all the way

A: to Cardiff . . in . in seclusion through these woods . . because

A: as . . you know better than me Catholics wasn't exactly erm .

A: in certain parts of~ of our history like Catholics wasn't erm .

A: welcome erm were they . in certain areas . . but erm . that's what

A: they reckon . there was a secluded path going all the way to Cardiff

A: from here . . oh yeah {that was} old

I: . . so it's very old then that

A: . . there was monks up there at one time wasn't there . . there was

A: an old . there was a monastery there at one . at one stage

A: I wouldn't imagine they had any problems in the Rhondda 'cause I

A: couldn't imagine there was anybody here in them days . erm they

(looking at another picture)

A: wasn't . they wasn't mining coal that's a sure thing Mid-

A: Rhondda Marches . I think that's . Tonypandy isn't it . or . people

A: from Tonypandy nineteen thirty six . House of Commons . .

A: oh they're outside the House of Commons so you can say they

A: walked a long way probably most of them ended up

A: in Spain . fighting for the erm . the International

B: (looking at another picture) . . Glyn

I: yes

A: . . these are both Tonypandy boys aren't they . . . one of

B: Houston

A: them is dead no isn't he . it's . . Glyn is dead is he

B: . . Glyn Houston

A: . Donald (inaudible) I thought it was Donald .

I: . . no . the other one [the other one is it]

A: aye Glyn's still alive Donald . he had a

I: I~ I met him in Portugal . . yeah

A: villa out there didn't he . didn't he . didn't he spend his last days out

A: there

I: . . yes he built a house on the side of a mountain . absolutely

A: . was it but he was . the both of them

I: isolated . . . yeah

A: were famous but he was more famous wasn't he . he~ he acted in

A: more films I think

I: are there cinemas left now in town

A: . . no . the one in Porth . . the one in Porth turned into a bingo

B: [not] down here

A: half years ago

B: . . . but there's a small one in . . called the Phoenix

A: . . Ton Pentre . . and then there's the Park and

B: in erm . Ton Pentre

A: Dare in Treorchy . . and that's the only two . . . and the Municipal

A: have opened up again in Pontypridd . but erm that's . . only lately

A: isn't it . . well . I think that

I: . . why did they all close down then

A: silly thing I~ I don't understand it really there was no

A: videos around in them days . there just . people did . just wasn't

A: going to the cinema . what~ what they blamed it on was the television

A: wasn't it . . and yet now there's a revival in the cinema even though

A: there's videos out . you know . . more~ more~ more cinemas are

A: opening now . . and yet~ yet people got more chance of watching

A: latest~ the latest films on erm . on video . . but erm . I think what

A: it was . people wanted to play bingo more than they wanted to watch

A: erm . . . the cinema and I suppose they . . to get the top films .

A: they had to have people going there and paying the top money didn't
=====

A: they . so they . . they wasn't running . . . what I would have
=====

A: thought is they should have . had cinema say two days a week . .
=====

A: and had their bingo the other five days of the week like isn't it like but
=====

A: . we had~ we had

I: . . . they could~ could have done that couldn't they
=====

A: a . erm . film shows here every Monday for . . oh quite a few years
=====

A: didn't we John . charging . we had a~ a proper
=====

B: . that's right yeah
=====

A: cinema [yes . up in] the hall . we had all
=====

B: . . yes . yes [yeah]
=====

I: . what in the club here
=====

A: the top films . . and we had quite a response and all . we were only
=====

A: charging fifty pence to come in . but with~ with the . . with the . .
=====

A: . you have a pint of beer with it as well . . whereas . you know .
=====

A: there's not many cinemas you can have a drink and watch a film like

B: (looking at another picture)

A: . . that's the Lewis

B: that's the wheel of the Lewis Merthyr . isn't it

A: yeah

B: . (inaudible) that's~ that's the only~ only one that's standing now

A: . yeah

B: . this side here is the children's play area isn't it . . . they've

B: done a lot of work now this side where . . (inaudible) dropped down

B: at the old shaft or something wasn't it . this side or the other side

A: . . . well . it's erm . it's hardly recognizable now is it . I mean

A: that's all you can recognise now . is these~ these two features when

A: you pass now the . . which is . what they call the Heritage Park now

A: there's a chapel just up . . up on the brow by here . about

A: two hundred yards away from the Club . . it's the oldest chapel in

A: the Rhondda . it's where the erm well . there was a

A: community living . by here long before the pits were ever formed

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A: you know just

B: just up the road here now

I: . . where's this now . . here

=====

A: . . go up by here now . . as you come into the club instead of going

=====

A: right towards Porth . go left . . and it's only about a hundred yards

yes

=====

A: on the left hand side (TAPE ENDS)

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TAPE ENDS