



Welsh gaucho Robert Bradley on his trip across Patagonia, reversing the exploration trek of the early Welsh settlers. Photo Jornada, Trelew.

## Welsh Sailor Turns Gaucho

By Maelona Drake

We have had the pleasure of the visit of Mr. Robert Bradley, a young Welshman who is dedicated to life on the sea. He specializes in sailing boats and teaches sailing.

He read about the journey that a contingent of riflemen from the Chubut Valley made to explore the territories to the west and eventually discovered Cwm Hyfryd (the delectable valley) on the slopes of the Andes. Robert's imagination was so much taken up by this enterprise that he decided to follow in their steps.

He came to Patagonia, bought horses and made the journey in the opposite direction, West to East, from Trevelin to the sea. He camped beside the river Chubut, and bought meat at the lonely sheep farms.

He was greatly impressed by the generosity of these farmers always ready to help him on.

The thought that the countryside was still as it was when the Indians travelled along its pathways also made a great impres-

sion on his mind. Robert gave an account of his journey on the weekly Welsh Radio program from Trelew.

On St. David's Day the Welsh community gathered for dinner at the Memorial Hall in Trelew. The hall was tastefully arranged and the meal splendidly served. Miss Neved Jones was elected "Woman of the Year" for her co-operation in all activities in the community. Mrs. Irma Hughes de Jones (Irma Arianin) was also honored as the present editor of Y Drafod. This paper is a hundred years old this year. After supper there was music for those who cared to dance and many couples gained the floor and enjoyed tangos, waltzes and the lot.

Miss Catrin Williams, the Welsh teacher from Coleg Normal in Bangor, Wales, has started her classes in Welsh again after the summer holidays. Cor Arianin is working hard on their music and collecting funds for their projected journey to Wales to attend the Urdd Eisteddfod.

### IMPORTANT

There will be no June issue of NINNAU. In its place this year an issue will be published in September (our normal vacation month). This change is due to the Editor's absence from the country in May and June. The next issue will appear on July 1 (subscriptions will be extended accordingly).

## Welshman Woosnam Wins Masters

By Owen C. Roberts

The famous Welsh golfer Ian Woosnam brought honour and fame as an athlete to his native Wales by winning the prestigious Master's annual golf tournament in Augusta, Georgia on Sunday, April 14th.

Welsh born Elizabeth Thomas Robb formerly of the historic town of Wrexham, had a "HAPPY HOUR" for a group of her friends to watch this very exciting golf classic on her giant T.V. set.

Ian Woosnam, already ranked Number 1 in the golfing world, the 33 year old, 161 pound Ian has won this major title he has so long desired, following Sandy Lyle

and Nick Faldo, a two time winner, to continue the domination of British golfers of this premier American tournament.

Like the former boxer he was, Ian picked himself up after landing four bogeys, and won the Master's green jacket, by fighting off a series of serious back-nine challenges. Ian Woosnam's par at the final hole gave him a final-round 72, and 11 under 277 total.

"I'm very happy to win here" said Ian in his pleasant Welsh accent, grinning from ear to ear, sporting his green Master's jacket size 40, also with much pleasure accepting the winners substantial cheque for the amount of \$243,000.00. The pugnacious scrapper from Wales

kept the Master's golf championship title safely in British hands for the fourth successive year.

Although Ian Woosnam is very well known in the European golf circuit, he is not so well known in North America. By winning the "MASTER'S" he consolidated his high ranking and this according to SONY ranking confirming him Number 1 in the golf world, both in prestige and also his exceptionally high annual earnings.

This was a real "HAPPY HOUR" that Elizabeth and her husband Kenneth hosted. Her delicious Welsh cakes along with liquid refreshment kept the watchers very happy, especially with the happy results of Ian's Woosnam's remarkable win.

## The Rev John Humphreys Jones, Minister Emeritus, dies in Toronto

Peacefully at Toronto's after a long illness, the Rev. John Humphreys Jones, B.A. Minister Emeritus of Dewi Sant Welsh, United Church of Canada, was blessedly called into the safety of his God, on Wednesday, April 3, 1991.

Born in Amlwch, Mon, he was one of the seven children of Grace and Thomas Jones. On his mother's side, he was the grandson of John Jones the Miller of Mona and his wife Martha as visited by George Borrow and mentioned in his book 'Wild Wales.' Today, five generations later on the Isle of Anglesey, the family is still called 'Teulu'r Felin', the 'Mill Family.'

He was brought up by his uncle at Gelli Farm near Bodfari deep in the Welsh part of the old country of Flintshire. It was here on the rich soil of the Vale of Clwyd, that most green and soft of Welsh valleys, that he heard the call of God. Answering that call was not easy, personal determination and much sacrifice together with inborn intelligence, a poet's heart and Christian faith were all needed before he was ordained in the Presbyterian Church of Wales. He attended 'Y Coleg ar y Bryn', -the University of Wales, Bangor, and received his B.A. with Honours in Welsh.

It was while he was at the university during the late thirties that I first got to know my Uncle John. It was around this time that I also met the beautiful lady who was to become his loving, faithful and supporting life companion, my Aunt Katharine.

Rev. Jones ministered to churches in Ewloe Green and Northop Hall, Dinbych y Pysgod (Tenby) and Llandudno before accepting the call to Dewi Sant, Toronto in 1951.

The church at that time was on Clinton St. in downtown Toronto in an area known as 'Little Italy.' For many reasons it became desirous to move the spiritual home of the Welsh people to another part of the city. The Rev. Jones saw this as a challenge and a dream. Through his vision, his faith, his love and his belief in the Welsh people, his dream was realized and in 1960 the present Dewi Sant opened its doors and

its heart. The Welsh people of Ontario had a fine new cultural and spiritual home.

In 1945 when his mother died, the headline over the *Pentre* read, 'The Anglesey papers read, "Marw Brenhines y Pentre." [The Queen of the Village Dies.]



Rev. John Humphreys Jones

If we were to set a headline for the Rev. Jones, I'm sure that "Marw Esob Cymry Ontario" [The Bishop of the Ontario Welsh, Dies.] would be one of the most popular. This 'title,' though probably first given with a smile on the face, was a meaningful one that he lived up to in so many ways. Like all ministers he was aware that he was a minister of God to all people, but while at Dewi Sant he never forgot and often reminded people that his mission there was, in addition, a special ministry to the Welsh. He wore the 'title' of 'Bishop of The Welsh' with pride and with meaning.

The one word that quickly comes into any conversation about Mr. Jones, is the word 'respect,' and with it the fact that hardly anyone called him other than Mr. Jones. It was not because of any aloofness, cultural or academic snobishness or the wearing of his ministerial collar; whatever else he might, or might not have been, he was human with a heart as big as the Clwydian Range which he could see every day from Y Gelli.

The gaining of respect came

easily and naturally to Mr. Jones, he was a sayer of words, one of the best you would ever hear, but he was also very much a doer, he practised his religion by practising with language, both English and Welsh was amazing and his preaching style caught and held the attention of his congregations. He was a master of the old 'Hwy!' of Welsh preaching, using it only when the 'Spirit moved.' Of all his spiritual strengths, his faith in his God was most obvious in his prayers, whether they were public or in the privacy of a death-bed.

The funeral service was held in Dewi Sant on Friday, April 5. The casket was draped with Mr. Jones's Liturgical black stole, with a gold Celtic Cross embroidered thereon; a gift from his daughter Gaynor and son-in-law David on their wedding day, exactly 23 years ago, to the date of the funeral.

Aloft the casket was a magnificent spray of flowers and spring blossoms of all kinds. It was to this writer, a display of nature highly reminiscent of the Spring hedge-rows that he would have observed while toiling in the fields of Dyffryn Clwyd. A symbol of the resurgence of Spring and of the Easter resurrection.

The service to celebrate the life of the Rev. John Humphreys Jones, began with a violin solo, Ave Maria, played by his young granddaughter "Bronwen" Low, playing at her own request, as a tribute to 'Taid'.

In the absence of the minister of Dewi Sant Church, Rev. R. Cerwyn Davies, visiting relatives in Britain, the service of Celebration was conducted by two very close friends of Mr. Jones, and both past ministers of the church, the Rev. Elwyn Hughes of Oshawa and the Rev. Hedd Wyn Williams, Honorary Minister of Dewi Sant. Also participating was the Rev. Ogwen Glyn-Jones of Fonthill, Ontario, brother-in-law of Mr. Jones.

Elwyn Hughes read the 14th Chapter of the Gospel According to St. John, in Welsh, followed by Ogwen Glyn-Jones reading the 23rd Psalm in English. Deep and sincere emotion could be heard

(Continued on page 15)

## Adventures of Ifan the Dragon

**GELERT NEEDED A GOOD VET. A STITCH IN TIME COULD SAVE A CANINE.**



**GELERT**  
Gelert was the magnificent Welsh hunting dog of Prince Llewelyn. When the prince married the English king's daughter, the dog was presented as part of the dowry. The lucky forested valley below Snowdon were full of foxes, deer, and wild rabbits. Brave and fearless Gelert led the pack of hunting hounds. He was first to pick up a scent and the boldest in a chase.

Within the palace he was affectionate and gentle. When the prince gave birth to a son, Gelert appointed himself as guardian over the infant. He was often found lying beside the cradle.

One autumn morning Prince Llewelyn and his wife prepared for a hunt with a group of friends, pages, and many hunting dogs. The day was crisp and clear and the dogs barked anxiously awaiting the sound of the hunting horn. Soon the hunting party was into the woods with Gelert in the lead.

Back at the lodge the baby was asleep. The nurse had gone for a walk with a man who was courting her, leaving the door slightly ajar. Gelert noticed an alarming scent that he had noticed the day before near the family home. He immediately sensed danger, turned back, and raced for home. Soon Prince Llewelyn missed his favorite hound. A page saw the dog turn back at the last stream crossing. A worried Llewelyn rushed in his horse and rode for the castle, knowing Gelert was first to notice danger.

At Llewelyn galloped into the courtyard. Gelert sprang forward to greet his master with wagging tail. The dog was smothered with blood. The distressed prince spoke sharply, and Gelert cowered away from him.

Llewelyn flung open the door to a terrifying sight. The room was splattered with blood, and the cradle was overturned and empty. Terror turned to wild anger as the prince turned to see bloody Gelert nearby. Believing his dog had killed the infant, the prince swiftly drew his sword and thrust it into the heart of the dog. Gelert gave a stricken whine and confused look at his master as he sank to the floor dead. At that moment a faint cry came from a pile of bedclothes at the corner. There lay the frightened baby, and nearby lay the body of a large gray wolf. While the baby was unharmed, the wolf had been killed by the loyal Gelert.

Llewelyn was torn with guilt and grief. In his haste to punish what he thought was his son's murderer, he had slain his best friend and loyal defender. Gelert had saved the baby from the ravens' wolf.

Servants were ordered to dig a grave outside the castle walls in the shadow of Mt. Snowdon. It was marked by a monument so that every passerby would notice and remember the master who slew his best friend in cruel haste.

Kathy Evans Taylor

## Welsh Celebrity Chatter

By Llewellyn Parri-Jones

"They say that Julia Roberts has 'it'—whatever 'it' is. But not to brother Eric Roberts! The two have been bickering ever since Julia appeared on the Hollywood scene to captivate movie audiences in films such as 'Steel Dawn' and 'Runaway Train.'"

Julia claims her association with her big brother has not helped her career in any way. Perhaps she's thinking about his arrest for drug possession and disturbing the peace, charges later dropped, nevertheless detrimental to a budding career. New Eric's career has suffered from the result of bad publicity, while Julia's continues to flourish, a fact that has widened the gulf between brother and sister.

Snapshots of the 3rd Annual Academy Awards! The pre-awards show as co-hosted by Steve Edwards, who also hosted the late-night post-awards program at the Governor's Ball.

The weather in Los Angeles was frigid, and Geena Davis, draped in gold to rival Oscar, received enthusiastic cheers from fans in the stands as she braved the low temperature and pneumonia without a wrap.

Geena presented previously filmed scientific and technical award.

Although Robin Williams missed out on a nomination for "Awakenings," the film was nominated. Undoubtedly, Williams' performance contributed to that honor.

John Williams received a nomination for the music for "Home Alone."

Angela Houston presented a salute to Myrna Loy, spotlighting the career of the legendary star of the 30's and 40's. Shown were clips from some of her films with Charles Clark, Cary Grant, and William Powell.

Miss Loy accepted the special award from her apartment in New York.

Best remembered for her role of Nora Charles in the "Murder" series, Myrna was in her early career identified with excellent roles and was even admired by the great lover of the silent screen—Rudolph Valentino.

It's all in a week's work when Big Spin host Geoff Edwards makes his studio call to inform one lucky person that he or she will appear the following week on "The Tonight Show."

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## Martha Evans' Poems

By John O. Morgan

The amazing diversity which has characterized the literary works of Martha Evans over the years is again revealed with the publication of her poems, titled, "Where Your Treasure Is and Other Poems."

Assembled in the collection recently released are a number of the finest poems ever written by Evans.

Summer sunlight filtered faintly through oak, elm, walnut. Tracks dotted winter snow. Wolf, bear, deer, rabbit. Alert to constant danger, Miami, Shawnee, Delaware, Wyandott. Roamed the land, and found life good. O-be-yo, great river, they called it.

"Ohn, Yesterday and Today" The poem "Return" expresses the poet's delight on being able to visit Wales, the land of her ancestors.

Mid-Wales was home to grandparents one hundred years ago, but she did not survive the distance and the years.

Today, retracing steps of theirs, we left the memories as if they were our own.

Wales is beautiful especially in Spring, rolling hills cross-country, green of hedge or stone, a panoramic view, green grass, white sheep, and homes of stone that stood long years ago.

Small homes, small shops, small fields: to youth scarce through their teens which regained all they had known, and made of Wales a memory, a dream, until today.

At Tawelfan, the cemetery of Gomer in 1833, the poet dis- covered the Welsh people covers tragedy.

I strolled a quiet cemetery lane and thought of those who were walked on this way now resting here, free from all grief and pain, some I remember from long ago.

Outside sounds of the rushing world increase but here is quiet, calm and tranquil peace.

In "Love and Lust" she writes poignantly of the death of a young member of her family.

You blossomed so briefly like the fragrant flowers that lift their fragile beauty to the light of morn, and wither the shades of night creep in to mark the swiftly passing hours.

Though gone from sight, forever will we lift our hearts in gratitude for God's great gift.

Do you remember the garbage barge from New York which roamed the seas for a place to dispose of its cargo? In the "La- ment of the Garbage Barge," the poet's humor runs gaily through each verse.

I left New York and headed south to find a port. Was turned away in Carolina, Mississippi stopped me short. Rejected by six states, three countries. They all say We've much of our own. Please go away. Thirty thousand tons of garbage. That ain't hay! And it grows older every day.

The lines quoted in the above verses are extracts from the fuller and completed poems contained in the book by Gomer's popular poet.

Martha Evans is well known to NINNAU readers. She has been the publisher's Gomer regional prolific writer, having published two historical books on Gomer, and another on "The Parish of Gomer," which is the story of her own family.

The poet lived in Gomer most of her life. Not too long ago she moved to Lima, where she shares a home with her sister, but any town where she spent some of her happiest times.

Where Your Treasure Is and Other Poems is recommended reading. The poetry of the collection offers considerable enjoyment for poetry lovers and others.

Within the verses of the fifty collected poems, Martha Evans registers keen observation of the seasons, love, nostalgia, sadness, mirth, school days, memories, and of personal experiences in Gomer and other places.

Her love for her native state becomes obvious as she writes:

Summer sunlight filtered faintly through oak, elm, walnut. Tracks dotted winter snow. Wolf, bear, deer, rabbit. Alert to constant danger, Miami, Shawnee, Delaware, Wyandott. Roamed the land, and found life good. O-be-yo, great river, they called it.

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## Pen Pals

By Lew Gardiner

These persons are interested in exchanging correspondence. Malters Jay 1202 W. State St. Apt. 1 South Genera, IL 60134

Brandt Goodman 613 Summer Sheridan, Wyoming 82001 Karen Mullian 1021 Washington Ave. Prospect Park, Pa. 19076

Dr. Owen Clayton 8711 Hyatt Drive, Minneapolis 55425 Wendy Lynne Hughes 112 W. Sanbury St. Shamokin, Pa. 17872

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## BOOKSHELF

### Welsh Nationalism Updated

By Philip G. Davies

This book is based upon a dissertation that the author wrote at Duke University in Cultural Anthropology in 1976. It has been revised as a result of post-graduate studies at University College, Swansea.

It should be of interest to large numbers of people who are interested in the Welsh language and its history. Those who have been following recent developments in the Welsh language movement, and as in the context of other national movements, most of them with a language factor, for instance the Hispanics and Native Americans in this country, and similar nationalist movements in Quebec, Cornwall, Scotland, and Brittany.

In this regard Davies finds that the "Welsh language" is by far the most vigorous of the Celtic languages, whether measured in terms of official recognition, access to the mass media, use in education, or literary output.

The first of the book's six chapters deals with the general background of Welsh-English relations, going all the way back to the Act of Union in 1536. The second with the renewed interest in the past history of Wales — a subject seriously neglected by nineteenth century English historians. The third with the revival, if not the growth in importance, of the Welsh language.

Chapter four and five deal with Welsh economic development from a basically one industry — coal — to various "welfare state" attempts to diversify its economy. Finally, there are conclusions and predictions for the future of the Welsh language in Wales.

In analyzing Wales, Davies sees the country as an "internal colony" — internal instead of external, like, for instance, Rhodesia, because the "economy was heavily dependent on a single extractive industry tied to the export market, profits from the use of this resource were channelled out of Wales by an industrial structure centered on London."

Both the scope and general conclusion of the book may best, perhaps, be summarized by giving dates of what Davies considers the main events in recent Welsh history.

1915 The Anglican Church in Wales is disestablished. 1925 Plaid Cymru (The Welsh Nationalist Party) is founded. 1936 Saunders Lewis' attack on the RAF, based on the Llysofennau.

1938 First school in which Welsh is the medium of education. 1952 Saunders Lewis calls for official recognition of the Welsh language.

1953 Welsh Language Society established. 1964 The Welsh Office created. 1965 Gwynedd Evans, first member of Plaid Cymru, is elected to Parliament.

1966 Investiture of Prince Charles. 1967 Welsh Trades Union Council established. 1968 Separate Welsh language unit at the BBC.

1969 Devolution referendum decided in Wales. 1982 Welsh television (S 4 C) begins. 1987 Three Plaid Cymru members in Parliament.

All in all, Davies sees Plaid Cymru as the major purveyor of nationalist ideas in Wales. Although at first "primarily academics, school teachers and university lecturers, ministers of religion, writers, and others whose professional lives were bound up with the Welsh language, literature, and cultural heritage," over the years it has come to extend its base of interest, particularly after World War two when returning servicemen brought with them a heightened sense of Welsh identity which made them more likely to notice the nationalist party and its message.

Although Plaid Cymru was interested in both language, culture, and political separation, Davies sees the country as an "internal colony" — internal instead of external, like, for instance, Rhodesia, because the "economy was heavily dependent on a single extractive industry tied to the export market, profits from the use of this resource were channelled out of Wales by an industrial structure centered on London."

Both the scope and general conclusion of the book may best, perhaps, be summarized by giving dates of what Davies considers the main events in recent Welsh history.

1915 The Anglican Church in Wales is disestablished. 1925 Plaid Cymru (The Welsh Nationalist Party) is founded. 1936 Saunders Lewis' attack on the RAF, based on the Llysofennau.

1938 First school in which Welsh is the medium of education. 1952 Saunders Lewis calls for official recognition of the Welsh language.

1953 Welsh Language Society established. 1964 The Welsh Office created. 1965 Gwynedd Evans, first member of Plaid Cymru, is elected to Parliament.

1966 Investiture of Prince Charles. 1967 Welsh Trades Union Council established. 1968 Separate Welsh language unit at the BBC.

These persons are interested in exchanging correspondence. Malters Jay 1202 W. State St. Apt. 1 South Genera, IL 60134

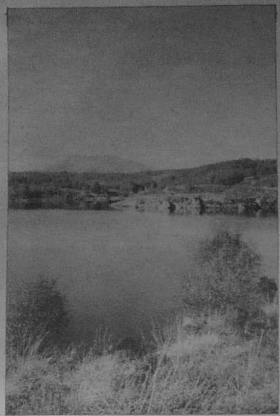
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Maude I. Harry 112 W. Sanbury St. Shamokin, Pa. 17872 Miss Paula Massey 21 Bridge St. Okeech, Oxford, England, U.K. OX2 0BA







LYNN ELSIS, SNOWDONIA  
Photo courtesy of Wales Tourist Board.

# TRAVEL PAGE

Travel Editor: Anne Habermehl

## Walking Wild Wales

By Bob Harten

"Bring a strong, waterproof jacket, warm sweater, a pair of well worn-in walking boots, vacuum flask and a small rucksack," advised the leader from Welsh Wanderer. The preparations sounded like those for a military exercise rather than a weekend of walking in the hills of mid Wales.

We met our fellow walkers, and tour guide Geoff Elliot, for dinner in the rambling black-and-white Carr Bori Manor Hotel, set in acres of wooded grounds near the market town of Builth Wells. The small party of couples and individuals from Britain and as far afield as the USA, Australia and the Netherlands soon got to know each other, and discussed the following day's assault on the Upper Wye Valley, a beautiful region of high open moorlands and wooded hollows—reputedly the haunt of herons and buzzards.

Morning dawned bitterly cold and damp, with a thick mist swirling around the 19th-century hotel, once the home of Lord Staines. Enthusiasm undampened, eager walkers donned layers of clothes and headed into the Welsh countryside, led by Geoff wearing nothing more than casual trousers and an open-neck shirt.

Geoff's optimism was well founded: within a few minutes of setting out, climbing steadily up hill, we found we had risen above the mist into a wonderland of crisp sunshine and blue skies.

For the next few hours, as we ambled across the warm, green hills high above the River Wye, there were awe-inspiring views of mist-shrouded valleys below, with hills rising up through the banks of clouds in a wonderful, almost surreal fashion. Above, a hazy sun appeared, as if in one, gliding in a warm air stream.

Through the warm air stream

# Tales of Yesterday The Lady of the Lake

CLIVE BETTS recounts some of the famous legends of Wales and tells the stories and meaning behind them. The first article in our series of five tells of the loveliest and beautiful ladies seemed made for each other in Wales. The combination has provided one of our country's best-known and most poignant stories, in which a hidden memory of the days when the Welsh were newly arrived invaders in the country they now call theirs.

The tale of the lady of the lake is told about a number of remote areas of Wales, but it is the beautiful damsel of Llyn y Fan Fach and her children, the physicians of Mydfaid, who have most caught the imagination.

The location of the lake is significant. It lies about 10 miles south of Llandoverly in the very heart of the Brecon Beacons, in a beautiful but isolated area where few people had reason to wander.

In the 13th century, one of the few who roamed that far was a young man herding his mother's cattle. One day, as he walked the cows around the lake he was astonished to see, sitting on the woman's surface, a beautiful creature that mortals eyes never beheld.

Without thinking, he offered her a piece of the bread he was eating. Laughingly, she refused it, but when the shepherd persisted, she said, "Crwy dy fara, Nid hawdd fy mala." (Hard-lucked is your bread; it's difficult to catch me!)

So smitten was he with this apparition, that he asked his mother's advice, which was to offer the unloved bread the next day. But when the shepherd disappeared the next day, she would not accept that either.

His mother then suggested, "If you don't only took this bread but also, after one of the world's fastest courtships, agreed to marry him."

Over what happened next there is some slight disagreement which is hardly surprising after three times, or—this is the more likely version—should he hit her with iron.

Quickly agreeing to the condition, the youngster then found he had to surmount a test: the woman disappeared back to the lake, to reappear with her father and identical-looking sister (one version talks of three sisters in all).

The father agreed to the betrothal, provided the lad could identify the lady he loved. As expected, true love always succeeds; his wife-to-be moved her foot slightly! The union proved fruitful in every way: three sons were born, and the cattle, sheep, goats and horses she had called forth from the lake by coming in five to stock their farm at Edgar Llanthely (which still exists near the village of Mydfaid) grew and multiplied, with the cows giving far more milk than those of her neighbors.

After they married, they never saw her kinfolk except when they came to market; they were a small, queer-looking folk with sallow complexions, who never said a word but pointed to what they wanted.

The wife seemed to possess no Byronic qualities; she objected to the pudding in front of their home but enjoyed, and she knew little about horses.

It was a problem with a horse which led to the fateful breach of the marriage contract. She was so unskillful at trying to catch a horse that her husband came to help her; to prevent the horse

helling, the husband threw the bridle with the iron attached. Frightfully, he missed the horse and the bit struck his wife. "You have now struck me with iron," she said, immediately disappearing into the lake, calling her cattle after her, with a long rhyme naming all the breeds the family possessed.

The husband never again saw his mate, but the children, wandering near the lake, did. She told them that their mission was to relieve mankind of pain and during a number of return trips from the fairy-kingdom, she passed over the knowledge which ensured that their descendants were physicians at Mydfaid with Welsh royal warrant from Rhys Geng, lord of Llandoverly and Dyfed castles.

The last local doctor—descended and died in 1779, although the family was still at work as doctors in Aberystwyth until almost the end of the last century.

However, fascinating tale, the background itself is fantastic.

The lady of the lake was no fairy. She was one of the people who were already occupying Wales when the Celts, with their knowledge of Welsh and of iron, invaded around 700 BC.

As usually happens in such situations, the Celts retreated before superior might to poorer and more isolated parts of the land that was theirs, and particularly to islands—sometimes man-made—in lakes.

We know of no such settlement in Llyn y Fan Fach, although others are slowly coming to light.

These earlier people were clearly different from the Celts. The invading Celts said they were small—and there is archaeological evidence that they were indeed about five ft. tall—and said they were of the Iron Age.

Their skeletons have been dubbed Mediterranean, because similar skeletons have been found in that area—which fits with older views, advanced recently once more on the basis of blood groups, in Genetic and Population Studies in Wales, that there still exists in Wales a substantial population substratum hailing from the Mediterranean, and particularly the Iberian populations of North Africa.

Academic myth 70 years ago by Prof. H.J. Flower, of Aberystwyth, found that the concentration of these older immigrants was greatest in the most inaccessible parts of Wales—the moorlands around Plynlimon.

The ballad-tellers of the Mydfaid area 150 years ago averred that when the lake-people visited market they never spoke. Because, presumably, they knew no Welsh.

Of the method of counting in five, a trace remains to this day: the Welsh numerals between 15 and 19 are named pyndwyl, 15 is un-ar-yming (one-on-15), etc.

The tale of the offered bread could indicate that these primitive folk possessed no ovens, or that they baked unseasoned bread.

That they were racially different from the Welsh is proved by the difficulty the lover experienced in choosing between the sisters: he found the same sort of problems as we might find.

The fairy wife's objection to the ploughing of the land in front of the farmhouse seems to indicate that she was descended from a pastoral people, whose skills were with cattle, hence the high milk yield she achieved. Certainly, her difficulty with a horse would indicate that her people did not possess such beasts.

The most telling factor in the tale, though, is the mention of iron—this was a metal of which the fairy-people had no use.

They themselves belonged presumably to the Bronze Age and did not possess the more powerful iron implements and weapons. Iron was, indeed, the weapon which the Celts used to subjugate them.

Hardly surprising, therefore, was the warning about being struck by iron which the lake-lady passed to her son.

Francis Payne has even managed to date the lake. Using the long list of cattle which the woman called to her as she returned to the lake, he dates the tale in Vr Aradr Gynvrig to the late Iron Age, about 400 years ago.

It was that same poetic cattle list which the lake legend suddenly had added to it: the previously separate tale of the Physicians of Mydfaid and their connections with the Royal court at Dindefryn.

The list refers to white bulls. According to the 1,000-year-old Laws of Hywel Dda, such bulls were the property of the king. In the Middle Ages, such bulls existed—and did until recently—in the possession of Lord Dindefryn, scion of a Welsh Royal line.

It did not take long for local people to connect the lady's bulls with the Dindefryn Park herd, and thereby to join two previously separate stories.

CLIVE BETTS is Welsh Affairs Correspondent of the Western Mail in Cardiff.



Anne Knowles of Madison, WI with Michael Wettstein President of the Village of Wales. Anne is receiving the 1991 annual Community Service Award.



New Welsh-American Commissioner William F. Griffiths to Pennsylvania Heritage Affairs Commission (center) with Lt. Governor Mark S. Singel, PHAC Chairman (right) and Dr. Shalom Staub, executive director (left).

## Griffiths Joins Commission

HARRISBURG — Lt. Gov. Mark S. Singel announced the appointment of William Griffiths to represent Pennsylvania's Welsh American community on the Pennsylvania Heritage Affairs Commission.

Over the past two years, the Commission has been working to develop Pennsylvania to a future which pays careful attention to the multi-cultural nature of our communities and Commonwealth. In the issues of cultural conservation, cultural education, P.H.A. Affairs have been a strong force, and we shall continue to do so."

The Commission has also sponsored a variety of public programming efforts in folk arts, and the State Office of Public Programs is operated by Commission staff.

Griffiths, a retired business executive from Westerville, is a past-president of the National Welsh-American Foundation. He has been active in regional, statewide and national Welsh American affairs.

The commission currently comprises 31 members, representing 4 ethnic communities. Commissioners, who serve a two-year, non-salaried term, are recommended for appointment by community organizations around the Commonwealth.

"Bill Griffiths is a strong

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# People



U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman visited the Chubut Valley and enjoyed a Welsh tea at "Ty-Nain" in the company of Quimón's Mayor Raúl Millán Macchuray. Photo "Jornada," Trelew.



Welsh author Harri Pritchard Jones lectured recently at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, where he is seen with his cousin Dr. (standing) Mrs. J.R. Jones.

# Celtic League Meets

THE CELTIC LEAGUE AMERICAN BRANCH will hold its 1991 annual FAN-CELTIC CONFERENCE on Saturday, May 11th at the Second Presbyterian Church, located at West 96th Street and the corner of Central Park West.

This year's program includes a panel discussion on the future of the native-speaking communities within the Six Celtic Nations entitled, "CAN THE CELTIC COMMUNITY SURVIVE?" followed by a question and answer session.

Also on the day's schedule is a slide presentation on the 1916 Easter Uprising in Dublin (1991 is the 75th anniversary of the Uprising). Musical performances include a presentation of Scottish, Shetland, Island, Cape Breton, and Welsh fiddling by Elke Baker, noted Celtic fiddler, and a late afternoon mini-concert by the Celtic rock group, The Barleycorns.

The Conference will begin promptly at 12 noon and will conclude at 6:00 p.m. There will be an intermission during which refreshments, featuring traditional Celtic foods, will be served. Admission is \$7 for the general public and \$5.00 for CLIA members. For further information, call (212) 266-0820 or (212) 746-7158.

# Scholar to Visit

Dr. Neil Wynn, Head of History in the Department of Humanities at the Polytechnic of Wales in Pontypriid, has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to spend three weeks in the USA this summer on a research project.

Dr. Wynn will be developing the earlier work which formed the basis of his book on America and the First World War, (From Progressivism to Prosperity), to examine social change in the 1920s. This is an exciting project because it marks a new field of study for Dr. Wynn, an established American scholar in the UK, and because the period has tended to be neglected in American social history. The research will concentrate particularly on the work place and the urban environment, and will focus on the postwar experience of Bridgeport, Connecticut, a war boom town between 1914 and 1918. The changing place of women, blacks, and ethnic groups will be major subjects for attention in a study which should lead to another book eventually.

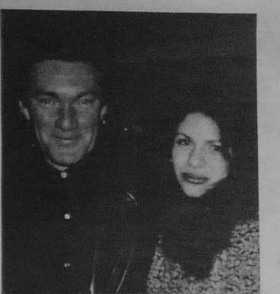
# Meets Welsh Author

By Flora Jones

The following is a sketch of the author, Harri Pritchard Jones, whose most recent publication, "Saunders Lewis," was reviewed recently in "NINNAU" by Robert A. Fowkes.

I first met Harri Pritchard Jones a little over 30 years ago when my husband and I gave him a ride home one wintry, dark night. He was on his way home, after finishing his duties as an intern at the Bangor (North Wales) hospital. "Meet my first cousin," said my husband. "Well, we're more like brothers really," added Harri. The next morning, we found that he had inadvertently left a book of old Irish verse on the back seat of the car. "That's typical of Harri," commented my husband. "During his student days at Trinity College (Dublin) Medical School, he took an interest in Irish literature, and learned the Irish language. I don't know how he manages to excel in so many things."

Harri Pritchard Jones has proven over the years that he has an exceptional ability to be happy and successful in the five main areas of his life that matter most to him: his family, his Welsh heritage, his religion, his duties as a psychiatrist and his writing. He and his wife Lena live in Cardiff and are two of the kindest people I know. All three of their children have done well academically. Gola Harri, an Oxford graduate, (their eldest son)



GARETH AND IRMA FARR Gareth's new romance is his late father, Welsh fighter Tommy Farr, was noted by many who saw him at the Los Angeles St. David's Day celebration. Farr is a professional photographer and lives in Southern California with his wife and two sons.



Welsh author Harri Pritchard Jones lectured recently at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, where he is seen with his cousin Dr. (standing) Mrs. J.R. Jones.

has recently returned from the thick of the fighting in the Gulf as a reporter for the R.B.C. Via their daughter, is perhaps following in her father's footsteps, and is just completing a Master's degree in Drama. The youngest, Tilly, is an undergraduate at the University of Liverpool, studying Economics.

By today, 57 year old Harri Pritchard Jones is an internationally acclaimed writer, whose work has been translated into English, German, Hungarian and Irish. Five years ago, he was invited to Russia to attend a Literary Convention, as one of the most promising contemporary European writers. He has also traveled and lectured in the U.S. and Canada. The awards that he has won are too numerous to list, but among the most recent and prestigious is the L'Oréal Award (1987) for a minute TV film, "Dead End," about a Welshman in the undercover security forces of N Ireland, who lives in Australia, Czechoslovakia and Norway.

To date, he has written 3 major novels, several short stories, a book on Freud (1985) and Saunders Lewis (1990), as well as several films and TV dramas. His adaptation of Saunders Lewis' drama, "Gwyneth and Sigaret" is currently being filmed in Budapest and Prague.

We are proud that Dr. Harri Pritchard Jones is a regular reader of "NINNAU" whose readers with him continued success.



Jill Kolodny, David Thomas, Noreen Wells, Jane Loring, Judith Gallop, and Terrence Thomas learning Welsh in the Washington, D.C. area.

## The Cymry in Cattaraugus County

By Barbara H. Henry

In 1841 a few Welsh families from Onondaga County, New York, began to migrate to Cattaraugus County in the southwestern corner of the state. During the years that followed many more Welsh joined them. The story of the Cattaraugus Welsh has never been fully told. While an in-depth study has recently been initiated by this writer, it will not be finished for some years to come. Nonetheless, this being the 150th Anniversary of Welsh settlement, it seems fitting to share at least a beginning, albeit incomplete, sketch of the Cattaraugus community. This is part one of a two-part series.



The Coming of the Welsh During the period of westward expansion following the Revolution War, many New Englanders and eastern New Yorkers moved into western New York. This area had been occupied by Native Americans for thousands of years and in more recent history by several Iroquoian tribes. As more white settlers were drawn to the excellent agricultural lands, new geographic political units were imposed. In 1826 Cattaraugus County was created, in 1829 and 1831 the townships of Freedom and Farmerville were carved out of the township of Tonaconga in the northeastern corner of the county. New roads came through, post office stations were established, small hamlets and villages sprang up. Freedom, Fairview, Farmerville Center, Sandhazy, Elton, Farmerville Station, New groups began to arrive, the Scots beginning in 1822. Around 1850 members of the new Mormon sect, on their way west, stopped momentarily to make conversions. So when the Onondaga Welsh began arriving in 1841 the land had long been accustomed to human presence.

Throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century more Welsh came to settle in Cattaraugus with the township of Freedom becoming the center of settlement. To a lesser extent, the Welsh also settled to the south in the neighboring township of Farmerville, especially along the border with Freedom. Smaller numbers of Welsh were scattered throughout adjacent towns. Still other Welsh spilled over the Allegany County line, to

the east into Onondaga and southeast into Rushford. Initial census studies indicate that the further away from Freedom, the fewer the Welsh. Population estimates for the 1850s indicate between 700-800 Welsh living in Cattaraugus County. By 1900 the Federal census for Cattaraugus Welsh was put at 490 immigrants and their children. While never anywhere near as large as the Onondaga settlement, in its heyday, supported four Welsh churches and later, in the nineteenth century an English-speaking Baptist Church.

Not enough research has been completed to determine the details of settlement. Many questions arise. Who were the first settlers, how many were there and when did they come? From where in Onondaga County did they come and why? What circumstances led them to uproot and move on to a new place? What was there about Cattaraugus that attracted them? Were there common elements holding individuals together as a group, or did they come one-by-one? How long had they lived in Onondaga County? What portion of the Cattaraugus Welsh came through Onondaga first? From what areas of Wales had they originated? So far there are a few hints.

According to town history, those first Welsh families to arrive in Freedom were headed by Robert Williams, John Higgins, Thomas Ross, Daniel Morgan, John Lewis and others. Not included in this list was William H. Williams whose gravesite in the cemetery of the Welsh Ebenezer Baptist Church in Freedom proclaims that he was "the first Welsh settler in Cattaraugus County." Nor was the name of W. W. Thomas included. One historian claims Thomas as one of the first—if not the first—Welsh settlers in the Cattaraugus community.

We know from town and family histories that some of the Cattaraugus Welsh originally came out of South Wales and in America had connections to Onondaga County towns such as Marcy, Trenton, Prospect, Rome, and "near Olean." Often new Welsh immigrants arriving at the end of New York came up to Onondaga first to get a start before going west. With Welsh settlement beginning in 1790, Onondaga was an older more populated community. By the mid-nineteenth century, good arable land was not readily available there. But further west in Cattaraugus County and beyond vacant cheaper land was to be had. For some Cattaraugus settlers Onondaga was a point of brief sojourn before migrating west. An early Freedom settler, Daniel Morgan, settled in Onondaga County after emigrating from Wales.



About two years after emigration he moved his family to Cattaraugus. Some settlers, like John L. James, were the sons of Welsh immigrants who years before had come from Wales to Onondaga County. The children, now grown, went west, the older generation stayed behind in Onondaga. In some cases Onondaga Welsh came into Cattaraugus and later moved to Welsh settlements in the Midwest. One example is the possibility of reverse migration patterns. John L. James' son Benjamin later moved back to Onondaga County where his grandparents, Levi and Mary James, had lived and died. More research will be needed to determine what factors caused particular Welsh families and individuals to migrate into Cattaraugus County to form the nucleus of a new community. Hopefully, federal census records and family and church records will shed more light on the migration patterns of the Welsh as they moved in and out of Cattaraugus County.

As in all Welsh-American communities, the church very early became the primary institution for the Cattaraugus Welsh. What happened in Cattaraugus has been repeated over and over in many other Welsh-American communities: the founding, the splintering, the flourishing, the Americanization, and, finally, the demise of the Welsh churches and often the disappearance of Welsh identity itself.

(Continued next issue)

### Pen Pals

Correspond with friends who share your Welsh heritage or interests

Write to:  
Lyn Gardiner  
1714 East 21st Street  
Des Moines, Iowa  
50317  
U.S.A.

## Learning Welsh in Washington

By James A. Walker

Residents of the Washington, DC area are taking advantage of the Welsh course taught as part of the Montgomery County, MD public school program of Adult Education. In the Spring Semester, nine students are attending a weekly introductory Welsh course taught by Morgan Hoover, who also teaches Irish for the Adult Education program of Montgomery County Public Schools. In each two-hour session, the fundamentals of vocabulary, pronunciation, spelling, and reading are taught using the first Living Welsh by T. J. Rhys Jones, supplemented by word lists and Mr. Hoover's own lessons, emphasizing such topics as verb conjugations, phrases for travelers, and polite and familiar commands.

The course was at least in its second year when this correspondent joined it in the Fall of 1981. During that semester, ten students attended. It continued, albeit with fewer students, in the Spring Semester. The Fall Semester of 1982 began auspiciously with a Welsh course for those students who had mastered the first 10 chapters of Living Welsh, but there were not enough students to meet the minimum enrollment requirement of the Montgomery County Schools.

By the Fall of 1981, enough people had indicated a desire for the course for it to appear once again in the catalog. A few telephone calls to previous students soon had the class at the minimum size and the sound of Welsh was heard in the hallways and on the parking lot of Walter A. Johnson High School. The cost is \$66 per semester; it is free to senior citizens.

Some of these students shared information about their different backgrounds and attractions to the Welsh language. First is Morgan Hoover, native of Bethesda, MD, and student of Welsh in general and the Celtic languages in particular. He has been with Irish for about ten years, making it easy to pick up any Celtic language after another. Studying and teaching the Celtic languages appeals to

his inner person because it lifts him out of an ordinary, everyday existence and puts him in touch with something ancient and beautiful. Of Irish descent, he is able to reinforce features of Welsh by comparing them with similar constructions in Irish or Cornish.

Evans Parker, retired, is the catalyst for the Wednesday night classes and the Sunday afternoon classes at the Church of the Redeemer in Glen Echo, MD. No stranger to Welsh courses in this country, Evans has also studied at the University College of North Wales and is well-connected to the Cymdeithas Madog. Evans is our standard for pronunciation and the authority for North-South differences. Evans' paternal grandfather was from Aberystwyth.

Jane and Nancy Loring, mother and daughter, saw the announcement in the catalog and decided to give it a try. Jane's father was Welsh, from Caerwyn and Bangor, and she still has six cousins in the Bangor area, all of whom are Welsh speakers. Jane herself is a native of Windsor, Berkshire and came to the United States in 1964. Jane has visited Wales many times, and Nancy, a graduate of James Madison University in Virginia, has been in North Wales twice.

Judith Gallop is a management consultant who will be teaching a sales training course in Wales in the Fall of 1982 for a group of computer services information services clients. Although she will be teaching in English, Judith wants to be able to speak enough Welsh to explain the concepts to students and to understand their informal conversations.

David John Thomas, fire protection engineer and former anthropologist, is learning Welsh out of a sense of tradition—his namesake grandfather was born in Carmarthen and came to the United States in 1909. Terrence Thomas, a retired engineer and naval officer, came from Scranton, PA. His father, whose parents came from Merthyr Tydfil around 1870, grew up speaking Welsh in Nanticoke, PA.

Noreen Wells, Jill Kolodny and Jim Walker are also in the class.

## Welshman in the White Way

By Annette Kamada

The Musical "Miss Saigon", based on the story of "Madame Butterfly", transposed from 19th Century Japan to 20th Century South Vietnam, has finally opened to generally good reviews by the critics, a more than healthy advance sale exceeding \$10 million and a general consensus that its leading actor is brilliant in his pivotal role of the Karamazov Engineer. When "Miss Saigon" opened to great acclaim in London, there was a hint of the trouble which was to come later in New York when Cameron Mackintosh, the producer of the musical, decided to bring the show to Broadway with its two lead stars intact.

Imagine his shock when Actors' Equity Association, the labor union having jurisdiction over the legitimate theatre, rejected the application to permit the leading actor, Jonathan Pryce, to play his role in the

Broadway production. In considering the application, Equity's Committee for Racial Equality had voiced its strong opposition, citing complaints from members of the Pan Asian Repertory Theatre, actor B.D. Wong, among others. They found it unfair to bring a Caucasian actor from overseas to perform a role which numerous Asian Americans were quite capable of undertaking. Equity stressed, however, that its decision in no way was meant to be derogatory towards Mr. Pryce's talent.

Needless to say, there were shocked statements by Mr. Mackintosh who threatened to cancel the New York production of "Miss Saigon". The furor created by the decision continued to rise, including a petition from over 800 Equity members requesting their union overturn its decision. After weeks of impassioned debates, Executive

Secretary Alan Eisenberg announced the rescinding of Equity's previous decision. The application allowing Mr. Pryce to appear in his original role was approved. There was no doubt that Jonathan Pryce was of "Star" quality, since he had appeared on Broadway in 1970 in Trevor Griffiths' play "The Cenciades", winning both a Tony Award and the Theatre World Award. He had created the role of Gethin Price at Nottingham and also appeared in the old Vic's production, directed by Richard Eyre. The New York production was simply by Mike Nichols.

And who is Jonathan Pryce? Simply stated, Mr. Pryce was born in Hollywood in North Wales on June 1, 1947. Leaving home at sixteen, his first thought was to become a painter, but a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London set him on his proper road. A recent article in New York Magazine describes Mr. Pryce as "an intensely private man who hates the trappings of celebrity." This may also be said of other internationally well-known outstanding actors—perhaps it is that very private quality which sets them apart. A fine classical actor, Mr. Pryce has done a prestigious amount of theatre work including appearances with the Royal Shakespeare Company as



Jonathan Pryce in a scene from the Cameron Mackintosh production of MISS SAIGON, a musical playing at the Broadway Theatre in New York City. Photo: Michael LaPorte/Trench

Petruchio in "The Taming of the Shrew", Octavius Caesar in Peter Brooks' production of "Antony and Cleopatra", Angelo in "Measure for Measure", and the title role in "Macbeth" (directed by Adrian Noble), putting his particular stamp on all the roles which he has played. In 1980 he was honored for his portrayal of "Hamlet" by winning the Olivier (SWET) Award. His repertoire of classical and modern plays goes on and on. He is busy on "Broadway" as he is in his busy screen "career." "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen", necessary? An actor of his calibre, a summation skill can certainly generate an image through acting. Will his privacy remain? That remains to be seen, but Mr. Pryce should certainly be accorded every courtesy. Mr. Pryce, I believe is resilient. After all, Mr. Pryce is Welsh; he will abide.

The opening night of "Miss Saigon" brought out the Asian American protesters with placards and loud voices. While Part of the difference in his role as "Hamlet" is that he is no one can understand their outrage as he wears the prosthetics on his eyes or make up to make him look Asian. Was it really respected?



Jonathan K. Evans

after which the audience sang "Amazing Grace." After final graces, a tape of the Washington Men's Chorus singing "Men of Harlech" was played, and a reception was held for friends, family and colleagues of Mr. Evans. He will be missed.

On June 12, Mr. Evans will be buried in Portland after a New Orleans style jazz funeral procession along High Street. This was one of his last wishes, and it will be arranged by his friends Robert Reed and Jake Simmons of New Orleans.

## Cymdeithas Gymreig Cincinnati a'r Cylch

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## St. David's Day '91



From left, David Perry, president of the Niles Gwynfa Genu Association, Gladys Williams of the Cambria Women's Welsh Club, Paul Stevens, immediate past president of the Welsh National Gwynfa Genu Association, Ann Yancura, director of the Niles McKinley Memorial Library, Nelson Lewellyn, secretary of the Welsh National Gwynfa Genu Association, Rev. David Tilly, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge, Leonard Holloway, vice president of the local Gwynfa Genu, and Elizabeth Lewellyn, past national president of the Women's Welsh Clubs of America. (Photo by Ronald A. Cavell)

## Niles, OH Dedicates Collection

By Elizabeth Lewellyn

Members and friends of the NILES GYNFA GENU ASSOCIATION gathered at the McKinley Library on March 1, 1991 (ST. DAVID'S DAY) to honor the Patron Saint of Wales, St. David, and to dedicate a collection of books, records and tapes presented to the library by Margaret Thomas Hammar in memory of her father Homer Thomas.

Mr. Thomas was a charter member of a Welsh Men's Club formed in the mid 20's known as THE DRUID CLUB. The club was formed to assist the members and to also enter into civic activities that would carry on the Welsh activity brought from Wales and this help to preserve that part of their heritage. Mrs. Hammar has been very much aware of the need to establish a collection of Welsh resource material and make it available for students and the public so that all will be aware of the part that people of Welsh extraction played in the history of this community.

The "WELSH COLLECTION" has been presented to the library and is now dedicated as a memorial to Homer Thomas. Members and friends of the Niles Gwynfa Genu Association gathered in the library for this dedication with the following organizations represented: Officers of the Gwynfa Genu Association, Davis Lyle Perry, president, Leonard Holloway, vice president, Ann L. Jenkins, treasurer, Gladys Williams represented the Niles Gwynfa Genu as its president, The Women's Welsh Clubs of America was represented by a past president, Elizabeth Lewellyn, Those representing the Welsh National Gwynfa Genu were Paul F.

Stevens, the immediate past president and Nelson L. Lewellyn, executive secretary. The meeting opened with a prayer by the Rev. David Tilly, the dedication by Nelson L.

## Harrisburg

The Welsh Society of the Greater Harrisburg area celebrated St. David's Day with a luncheon at 12:30 on March 2, at the Holiday Inn, located in Grantville, PA. The guest speaker was Dr. Peter Williams, who spoke on "The History of the Welsh," highlighted by a slide presentation. We were entertained by the *Arwen Reed Band playing Celtic music on a dulcimer, guitar and penny whistle*. They played some Irish and Scotch tunes along with the Ash Grove. All thru the night and other Welsh songs. After the entertainment we had a mini gwynfa game led by Mr. Frank Hughes with Mrs. Mary Gumpson on the piano. A hand made alphabet was made by member Mrs. Peg Gordon was chosen and a cross stitched Celtic cross. There were also Welsh Crafts and home made goodies for sale made by the members of the society. A good Welsh time was had by all.

On April 1991 the Society held their regular meeting in Mechanicsburg. After lunch a business meeting was held opened by a prayer by Chaplain Grove Shinde, minutes were read by the Sec. Owen Oter and the Treas. Report was given by Thelma Freed. Plans for the Delta, Pa. trip were finalized, the only trip this Spring that the society would take. It was announced that Past Pres. Malinda Savage was ill and to send cards. Also bring "A Thinking Of You

## Sun City

By Edie Steving

Bright sunshine greeted guests attending the Sun City area St. David's Day luncheon March 2 at the Lakes Club. Hayden Jones greeted at the door, close to one hundred guests. At each place, guests found miniature replica's of Welsh hats, cleverly made by V.P. Elizabeth Jones, Evelyn Jones, Evelyn Planner, Miriam Hay and Alva Williams. As luncheon guests were seated, Emily Faust played Welsh Folk Tunes on her flute, enhanced by daughter Gwen's piano accompaniment.

Elizabeth greeted all present, in the absence of President Glen Barclay, who with husband Marvin, was at that moment docked aboard ship in Sumatra, on their way to China, suggesting to the Captain of the cruise ship that they organize a celebration of St. David's Day aboard ship. Will be interesting to learn if this determined Welsh lady was successful.

Evan Barrowclough gave the invocation and Elizabeth introduced those at the head table. Among them were Celia Thomas, widow of the great Welsh bard Thomas L. Thomas, for many years "The Voice of Hibernia" on radio and TV and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Davis of Scottsdale, Albert O. Davis was Thomas' accompanist and arranged the last twenty years he performed. Celia Thomas said there are plans to produce cassettes of some of Thomas' albums, for distribution in the U.S.

House guests of this writer, Sue and Nick Martenson of Long Island, N.Y. and Millie and Walter Radke from Milwaukee, were also introduced, with Jessie and Ilyd Herricks of Prescott

also seated at the same table. The entertainment was by tenor Ken Kiel, who sang old favorites, *Ar Hyd A Nos* (in Welsh) and *The Ash Grove*. Evan Barrowclough talked about St. David and his beliefs, and related the legend of how the leek became a symbol to Welshmen. He also spoke of the Welsh pride in their part in drafting and signing the Declaration of Independence and the eleven Presidents of Welsh heritage.

New member Edith Crabtree, newly arrived from Wales, did a very animated rendition of *Washing Day in Welsh*. We who have not availed ourselves of the Welsh classes offered through the club, wished they had. Billing himself as "The shorter hall" of the Crabtree couple, a Scotsman from Australia, Al then gave a touching monologue of "Somebody's Mother" and "Leisa and Me", both very well done.

Song sheets were passed out and the afternoon ended with the singing of Welsh Hymns and anthem.

## Minersville

By Joan Edwards

The First Welsh Congregational Church of Minersville, Pa. held its annual St. David's Day Gwynfa Genu March 17. A Welsh prelude was presented by Joan Edwards, organist and Edith Perry, Pianist.

Card next meeting for Past Pres. Mrs. Winton, who will soon be 100 years old. Grove Shinde read "Spring Morning" and then we watched a tape of the "Fragrant Gwynfa" on Wales and Welsh cooking. Tape was furnished by member Ruth Smith. This was enjoyed by all. The pig in the joke was won by Millie Glover.

## Berks County

By Jane L. Cwyns

Williams of Newark, Delaware who sang "Erening Prayer" from "Dylan Thomas' Under Milkwood" and directed hymn singing. He was accompanied on the piano by Mr. Glenn Miller. Mr. Miller is organist and music director at Allentown Lutheran Church in Wyomissing. In September Mr. Miller will present an organ concert in St. Paul's Cathedral in London, England.

The next meeting will take place at Allentown Lutheran Church on May 20 at 7:30 p.m. and the annual picnic will be held on Sunday, July 21, at the home of the president, Ruth C. Cwyns. If you're interested in Wales and the Welsh, plan to join us and call the president at 215-777-7168.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by Dr. Peter

Mary Price served as greeter for the program. Rev. Russell Hepler opened with prayer and introductions. Dr. Carlton Jones Lake, Philadelphia conducted the standing. Only one congregation in their favorite Welsh Hymn. He is the founder-director of the Academy Boys Choir and enjoys an international reputation as a choral and music educator.

Highlight of the musical program was the 11 voice St. David's Day Choir organized by Mrs. Edwars.

They presented several Welsh Anthems "Sanctus" and "Llan-fair". Also a stirring rendition of The Battle Hymn, in which the congregation joined in singing. Noted in the audience were 3 sons of the Church, Merlyn Jenkins, WPAF Post President, and Crest Court Judge William Hinchman.

The church was honored by having WPSA PBS from State College, Pa. spend the weekend filming activities of the Welsh 108 year old church.

The film is part of a series commemorating the 300th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' trip to America.

It will be shown in 1992 on all Pa. PBS throughout the state.

"Te Bach" followed the Gwynfa, giving members and friends of the church a chance to get reacquainted.

90 minute VCH tapes of the Gwynfa are available. To order 717-944-2447 Rev. Charles Adams.

## St. David's Day '91



President George Davies Jr. escorting his wife Nancy to the dance at the annual St. David's Day celebration of the Montreal Welsh Society.

## News and views from Montreal

By Owen C. Roberts

"WALLES - LAND OF SONG" was the theme of the 80th annual St. David's Day Dinner-Dance held in the ballroom of the Delta Hotel in downtown Montreal. In honour St. David, the Patron Saint of Wales.

Prior to the dinner, the head table guests were entertained at a reception by the President of the Society, George Davies Jr. and his wife Nancy. Representing the sister Societies were the Presidents of the Saint Patrick's Society, the Saint Andrew's Society, the Royal Commonwealth Society, the German Benevolent Society and the Irish Protestant Society of Montreal.

Afterwards the head table guests were escorted into the ballroom by Marty Jones, carrying a large Welsh flag. The decorative committee had greatly enhanced the hall room and the Red Dragon flag of Wales was in the honoured centre position, making a most colorful and attractive background for the head table.

Cor Meillon Cynraeg Montreal provided choral music during the morning, terminated a most happy evening of good food and good fellowship. The traditional informal singing afterwards was greatly inspired by the enthusiasm of the many members of the Cor Meillon Cynraeg Montreal.

## Vancouver, BC

By Anne G. Jones

St. David's Day celebrations in Vancouver this year were highlighted by a most enjoyable banquet followed by dancing at the Holiday Inn on Broadway. In spite of inclement weather, one could feel that Spring had arrived, as the Arabian Ballroom was filled with daffodils and the head table displayed three flower arrangements of white and gold carnations and freesias.

Due to the weather, ill health and members out of town, fewer members attended the function than usual. However, as one member who has attended the Banquet since the "Forties" remarked, "this year it is like a rare delightful house party of good friends." I am sure all who attended agreed with her. The food was delicious, plentiful and well and quickly served and enjoyed by everyone present.

The Society was pleased to have Mr. Anthony Joy, British Consul General and his wife, and Senator Ray Ferrall and his wife, and Alderman Libby Davies as the Honoured guests. All of the speakers were in

teresting and humorous - particularly our member Mr. John Pritchard, who proposed the Toast to Wales. John hailed from North Wales - and his speech was educational and interesting - we could have listened to him for much longer as the applause from the other guests attested. The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir were in fine voice and entertained us after the formal part of the evening was over. We were sorry that time did not permit them to sing longer. Community singing followed led by Mrs. Nerys Haqq, who is herself a fine soloist and the music director of the Cambrian Circle Singers.

The rest of the evening was spent dancing to the music of Dance Party and whilst many couples took to the dance floor, others spent time socializing with friends.

The quality of the evening was such that we could hardly credit how the time had flown and midnight was upon us. Much thanks and praise for arranging the evening are due to our young and popular President, Mr. Jeff Owen, his wife Gaynor and our always efficient and hard working secretary, Mrs. Gaynor Evans.

The unlucky people who were not able to attend missed a great evening. The flowers from the head table were later presented to three longtime members who are not in the best of health at this time. These flowers were purchased from the Estate of the late Mr. Jack Davies in memory of his wife, the late Mrs. Kate Davies.

## Wilkes-Barre

By W. Craig Peters

Rev. Dr. Neal C. Lipton, Interim Executive Presbyter of the Lackawanna Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church USA, presented an address entitled "Price Make of the Welsh Colonization of America" to the parents of our President, George Davies Jr. and his wife Margaret present. They are the parents of our President, George Davies Jr. His father, George Davies Sr. served as President in the years 1947 and 1948, succeeding his late brother Edgar Davies, who was the President in 1946 and 1947. The entire late Davies family have always been most active in the Welsh community of Montreal. It is the first time to have a Canadian born son, follow the footsteps of his Welsh born father to become President.

Dancing till the small hours of the morning, terminated a most happy evening of good food and good fellowship. The traditional informal singing afterwards was greatly inspired by the enthusiasm of the many members of the Cor Meillon Cynraeg Montreal.

The program opened with the Welsh Hymn "Land of West Pittston" and the invocation by Rev. Donald Nulton, pastor of the First Welsh Baptist Church of Wilkes-Barre.

Following the dinner the group participated in group singing under the direction of David Martin of Courville, with Glenn Bynan at the keyboard. John O. Rymann sang several selections in Welsh.

As has been the custom for 56 years, various groups were called from the audience to participate in the program. An evening of song and good fellowship with a well received address, the assemblage closed with "Cwm Rhonda" and the benediction of Rev. Kenneth George, pastor of the Puritan Congregational Church of Wilkes-Barre.

Rev. George H. Johnson is pastor of the host church. The committee on arrangements included Cecil Ann, Robert Anthony, James Anthony, Merle Baker, John Owens, John O. Rymann, Harold Snyder, John Strobel, and Herbert Trevelyan, with W. Craig Peters as Chairman and Toastmaster.



## First for Boise, ID

A very pleasant first meeting of Welsh American friends, interested in "Yr Hen Wlad" was held on St. David's Day in Boise, Idaho.

The leading lights were Thomas Penny and John Baker. Among those present were the Owens family, spanning three generations, Mrs. Margaret A. Owens, age 91, daughter Margaret, son John and wife Eileen, and granddaughter Kristin. Wales is still the spoken language at home. They left Byers, South Wales 40 years ago but still cherish "Yr Hen Wlad Py Nhadus."

Following dinner, a travellike of a trip to Wales was shown by Julia Wynman, which was as good as a visit there. Made up all a bit homesick. It is hoped that this first meeting will flourish and become a regular happening.

## Georgia

By Betty Graham

The annual St. David's Banquet was held on March 2 at Chuck Steakhouse in Dunwoody Georgia. The tables were decorated with daffodils prepared by Owen Pumberton. The walls were draped with the Welsh flag and our very large red dragon. Our program was printed by Fred Jones - done up on green paper with the dragon and leeks as decorations. Menu for the evening featured leek and potato soup.

Betty Aston Graham read the Preamble from Governor Zell Miller of Georgia declaring March 1, 1991 St. David's Day of Georgia. Greetings of welcome was delivered by Carl Wigmore.

## New Mexico

By Rhianwen

Our Society is now much involved in preparations for the Rio Grande Celtic Festival and Highland Games, which will be held in Albuquerque on May 10th and 11th. This is a joint venture of the Scots, Irish and Welsh societies of New Mexico, each of which takes turn in hosting the event.

In 1980 the Scots were host with the chief of Clan Macdonald as guest of honor. In 1990 the Irish had pride of place, led by the Mayor of Galway, Ireland. This year the Welsh are the hosts, our guest of honor, naturally, is a singer - the renowned Welsh baritone, David Gwynn Smith. This Festival keeps getting bigger and better every year, with bands of pipes coming in from as far away as Winnipeg, Canada.

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## St. David's Day '91



Elaine Larson with John and Virginia Jehu, who probably deserve the award for being the visitors who came the longest distance to the St. David's open house celebration. Photo was taken in 1987.

## Iowa Welsh Celebrate

For the fifth straight year, the Traveler Gene (a store devoted to travel supplies and information and genealogical materials) and the Iowa Welsh Society co-sponsored an open house in celebration of St. David's Day. This time we were only one day off, on Saturday, March 2.

The whole idea was started by Warren and Elaine Larson, the owners of the store, and Sandra

Jones Irwin, then in Ames and now on Prince Edward Island. As has been the custom, members of the society provided Welsh food and the Traveler Gene provided tea and coffee, and as usual about thirty to forty people — both Welsh background and not — arrived during the day despite the rather icy weather.

The proclamation by the governor of Iowa was on display along with other items of Welsh interest, provided by the Welsh society and the store.

## Visit from Mayor of Caerwys, Wales

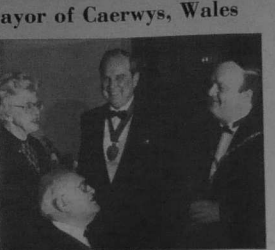
By Peter N. Williams

The Welsh Society of Delaware held its annual St. David's Day Cymadau Gŵyl at Immanuel Episcopal on the Green, New Castle Delaware, on Sunday, March 3, 1991. Mrs. Ruth Gardner, of Immanuel, was the organist for our lovely Welsh hymns, conducted by Dr. Peter Williams of Newark.

A special guest this year was the Honorable Phillip Parry, Mayor of Caerwys, Chwyd, a town with close links to Philadelphia in 1780 of what later became the National Estetad of Wales.

Councilor Parry read a proclamation from Princess Margaret in honor of the accomplishments of Welsh Americans. The lesson, in Welsh was read by both Philip Parry, of Media, and also recited, Gweddol Arghwyl.

The special invitation and benediction in honor of St. David were read by the Reverend David Golden, of New Castle.



In conversation at the 36th Annual Banquet of the Welsh Society of Philadelphia are: nonagenarian Dr. Charles Davies, Society Past President (seated), Mrs. Ruth Davis Smith, Society President Emrys P. Lewis, and Counselor R. Phillip Parry, Mayor of Caerwys, N. Wales. Caerwys was the home of Parry, Mayor of Caerwys, N. Wales. Caerwys was the home of Parry, Mayor of Caerwys, N. Wales. Caerwys was the home of Parry, Mayor of Caerwys, N. Wales.

Dr. Thomas Wyn, William Penn's personal physician who was instrumental in the colonial Welsh settlement of Philadelphia, and was also the ancestral home of the Penn family. Mayor Parry was an honored guest at numerous functions hosted by the Philadelphia Society. The Philadelphia Society, the Welsh Society of Delaware, and the N.W.A.F. during the recent celebrations for St. David's Day. On the evening pictured, he was given an honorary membership in the Welsh Society of Philadelphia which is the oldest Welsh organization of its type in the world.

## Social Scene

### California Heritage

St. David's Day for the Welsh Heritage Club of California meant a celebration at the historic Miramar Resort Hotel, where many years ago both presidents Woodrow Wilson and Herbert Hoover spent holidays alongside the Pacific Ocean.

Club president and founder, Mary Thomas Lawrence, opened the meeting, welcoming people to the third St. David's Day dinner since the club's start in late spring of 1988. Later in the program, Thayer Manton gave a summary of the club's progress. Entertainment spanned the ages, beginning with 15th-century music. Master of ceremonies, How H. Hughes, who has been the club's emcee in the past, presided over the Welsh festival in Wales during "Owles 1991". Vocal solos were offered by 75-year-old Eisteddfod winner

Howell Wyn Jones, whose long-time touring, penitential singing, never misses a beat. Peter Alan Mason, formerly with the Welsh National Opera, sang a set of three lovely songs. Connie Thomson accompanied at the piano.

The Rev. Canon Getha Hughes was the keynote speaker, managing to hold his audience spellbound as he spoke about Wales and the mysterious quality of the Welsh people. He referred to the Welsh as "dark people: people of the mist." Hughes, who hails from South Wales, is the pastor of the All Saints by-the-sea Episcopal Church in Mendocino.

After the reading of a greeting from California Governor Pete Wilson, Colin Stephens conducted a lively rally that had organized, raising \$36 for the club.

Earlier in the program, emcee How H. Hughes drew applause when he commented that two miracles occurred this year on



Raffie winner Virginia Merrill proudly displays Welsh Miner's Lamp won by St. David's Day celebration.

St. David's Day. One, he said, was peace in the Middle East, and the other was rain for drought-stricken California.

## NY Congregational Church

By Annette Kamada

Following the Welsh Congregational Church Service on March 10, 1991, the members and friends reported updates to the 9th floor of the Church House for the Church's Annual St. David's Day Dinner.

As usual on the Sunday of the Dinner, a guest minister is invited to give the sermon. This time the Minister of the Carroll Presbyterian Church, Ohio, Aaron Davies, shared church services and dinner with the members of New York's Welsh-American Community. Mr. Davies, born in Farnham, Wales, came to New York as a pastor in the United Church of Canada. Later he spent 14 years at the Helicon Welsh Presbyterian Church in Chicago and 5 years in Michigan. No stranger to New York, he said that he always enjoys returning to the city. Mr. Davies wife, Carolyn and their

son Aaron Elwyn accompanied him to New York and were warmly welcomed.

One everyone had found their place at long tables prettily decorated with Welsh flags and bright pots of daffodils. It was time for relaxation and pleasant conversation. As a first course, delicious plates of hors d'oeuvres, smoked salmon, pate and cheese had been set out. Together with carafes of red and white wine as well as a huge bowl of cranberry juice punch.

Dinner was once more provided by the Church's in-house singer cum chef, David Gwynn Smith, and his very able and devoted staff. Bowls of beef soup laced with cream, slices of roast leg of lamb, peas, carrots and asparagus were dispensed, accompanied by bowls of mashed potatoes, bread, mint sauce, and sauce au jus already waiting on each table.

Dr. Jenkins, presiding as host, urged everyone to have second

helpings, since there was ample food. Dessert, a frozen strawberry mousse and cream sauce was served along with coffee or tea.

Just when everyone had tucked up, the band began to play. Many boudoirs (all details can be obtained from local tourist information centers) but perhaps the most dramatic long-distance walk can be found in the Pennsylvania Coast National Park in the south-west. The 180-mile path, easily divided into manageable stages, has tree-lined and tree-lined estates — soaring to 300 feet, hidden cove and spectacular coastlines, and are well known for their wild and scenic beauty.

Another unique footpath goes from north to south, the full length of Wales. The 108-mile Oke Dyke Path follows the route of an earthwork constructed in the 8th century by King, King of Merca, passing

## Social Scene

## NY Welsh Women's Club

by Annette Kamada

An early summer day brought a good assembly of members and friends to the New York Welsh Women's Club Meeting on April 6, 1991. The gift table, always a very popular spot, was crowded with many shoppers inspecting (and buying) a lot of very nice new items. Recently added to the jewelry, small items such as make-up, perfume, candles, porcelain and glassware has been an excellent choice of looks of all types, including nametags, historical notes, mementos, aprons, teapots, and more. Importantly, all very cheap. With an opportunity, with even just cover looks now being priced ever more expensive.

Co-treasurer Audrey Roberts and Linda Elsworth, along with their Committees, offered a splendid tea. Each, attended to by church folk, with many thanks and crumbs at the end of the meeting.

The up-coming National Convention of the Women's Welsh Club was discussed at length at the business meeting, and hopefully there will be a good turnout of members taking part. Everyone was once more reminded of the Welsh Congregational Church of New York City will present its annual Gŵyl Cymadau on May 2 at 3:00 P.M. at Rutgers Presbyterian Church. Since the conductor, Dr. David Davies, is a great favorite, there will assuredly be many people attending not only for the joy of singing but to have an absolutely splendid time.

May 4th will be the Club's Fundraising and it was decided that besides the ever-popular Welsh Auction, Bake Sale and Welsh items offered, there will be a High Tea, a large selection of delicious dishes offered by the Club at the low price of \$3.00 per ticket. In addition, the Welsh Church's own David Gwynn Smith is planning a very special music program, details of which have not as yet been revealed.

Dr. Davies, who has been a member since 1958, is now 70 years old, but is still very active. He has recently celebrated his birthday and is content in his new life. Long time member Wyn Jones is now 93 years

old and wanted to be remembered to everyone. Linda Elsworth brought her grand-nephew, Jason John, to the meeting, a youngster surprisingly poised for his tender age. (Girth Marks also made an appearance — bright, sparkling, trim and putting his parents, Paula and David, through "the Terrible Twos".)

Lynnda Jordan Elsworth and her husband Glen, known personally as "The Musical Elders", presented a charming program dedicated to Love. They had really chattered, and though she insisted that she was from again, she still seemed a little pale and not quite as buoyant as usual. Trapper that she is, however, the show went on, and a delightful one it turned out to be. Playing the guitar, Lynnda blended her soprano with her husband's tenor in duets of "Love Walked Right In" "People

Will Say We're in Love" from "Oklahoma." "Today," a song that they had first heard in Nashville, as well as Edith Piaf's beautiful "Et Moi, Je M'en Vais." With a Song in My Heart," made famous by Jane Fonda, was quickly followed by "That's Amore" The solos, too, were enjoyed, and while Lynnda was "Falling In Love With Love," from Lynne & Lynne's "Paint Your Wagon." Glen called the wind "Maria."

The songs were from another era, life was not easy then either, but somehow the gifts of love, romance and poetry were more easily available to those who stepped to listen.

It was a well-attended meeting, a most pleasant way to spend a Saturday afternoon, a sunny Spring day to raise new spirits and end with an excellent cup of tea.

## Heritage Days

By Bees Grace

The Cardigan Club of southern Ohio will again host Welsh Heritage Days on both Evans Farm at Rio Grande, Ohio, Saturday, June 1-2. The morning will begin at 10:30 with a memorial service to be held at the replica of Ty Ithor Church in honor of the Welsh people.

Classes will be held at the Homestead at 10:30 with her Welsh teaching members, Lloyd Savage hymn singing and the Welsh Country dancers teaching Country Dances. There will be two sessions of genealogy and singing and one at 11:15 of dance.

Dan Evans of Union, Ohio will be the Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon session of Patriotic music. Also, there will be a presentation of the pro-life poster "Stephanie Anne" by Dan Evans, Ohio.

Parvill, Connecticut, Oxford, Ohio, Ellis, Maryland, Chichester, Wales, will be the speaker for the afternoon session of "The Grace United Methodist Church, Gallopia, Ohio. A tea will be served at 3:00 P.M.

Heritage Days, a native of South Wales, will direct the May 5 cymadau Gŵyl in Kansas City, Missouri.

Sponsored by the St. David's Welsh Society of Greater Kansas City, the event will take place at Second Presbyterian Church, 30th and Oak Streets, beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Thomas was born and raised in the Swansea Village of Clydach, Wales. He was educated at the London College of Music and at Swansea University, with postgraduate studies at universities in Oxford and Buffalo, New York.

He presently serves as Minister of Music at Calvary Baptist Church in Newsha, Missouri, where he has been since 1987. He became a music minister in 1980, beginning with an assignment in Buffalo, New York. Thomas has been a cymadau Gŵyl conductor throughout Wales, at Welsh Heritage Week in the U.S. and in several states in the U.S. and Canada.

Participating with the staff of Second Presbyterian Church, including the Revs. Cecil Abright, senior pastor, Ben Roberts and Gladys Roberts, associate pastors.

On and Martin Smith, Bagpiper, Irwin, Ohio, will be visiting us. There will be singing by the audience led by Roger Williams, a well known Chronicler from Centerville, Ohio.

The evening will be spent at the Welsh Museum in Oak Hill, Ohio. They will have a Nones Llawen at 7:30. This is always one of the highlights of the weekend, as many unusual programs have been presented by the Curator and her staff. Dr. David Mandy is usually the Master of Ceremonies.

Church service will be at 10:30 Sunday morning with Rev. John D. Davis the speaker. There will be a hymn singing and a Welsh solo to complete the service.

A Gŵyl Gŵyl will be held at 1:30 in the Homestead area. Lloyd Savage, popular Chronicler from Chichester, Ohio will lead the music. Guests for the afternoon will be a speaker from the Grace United Methodist Church, Gallopia, Ohio. A tea will be served at 3:00 P.M.

## Kansas City, MO

## Scranton Singers

By Liane Satterthwaite

The St. David's Welsh Male Chorus, conducted by Nicholas, Pennsylvania Saturday, April 6 to present a concert for the enjoyment of the women and friends of the United Methodist Church. The affair was the 82 annual Spring Luncheon, sponsored by the ladies of the church. Following the delicious lunch, those attending gathered in the church auditorium for the concert. Poles attending came from many neighboring villages, Factoryville, Hopkinton, Welsh Hill, Montrose, Allford, Spriggville and the city of Scranton.

Those in charge of the luncheon and entertainment were, Jodi Evans, Eunice Shuman, Eleanor Evans, Arlene Sorak, Ruth Conover, Jane Beigel, Alice Holmes, Louise Darling, Betty Lord, Edna Switzer, Evelyn Schumacher, Evelyn Adair, Jennie Welsh, Donna Lane, Virginia Hink, Assisting were, Lois Miner, Jean Seaman, Dorothy Talon and Beatrice Koehler.

Wales' unique network of ancient rights-of-way are well worth discovering on a walking holiday, and simple pleasures such as chatting with fellow walkers, negotiating stepping stones across streams, discovering wild flowers and finding country pubs combine to make it a magical experience.

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## Scranton Area Represented at

### Sarasota, Fla., St. David's Day

Liane Satterthwaite, Scranton, Pa., reports that Jack and Marjorie Simpkins and their traveling friends, Edgar and Virginia Matthews, attended the St. David's Day dinner in Sarasota while on vacation, and found others from Scranton present and even active in the program.

Guest speaker was Ithryn Thomas and the conductor for the community singing was Hylis Hughes was also present.

Liane Satterthwaite

## Photography of Wales

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MAY 15, 1991 NINNAU PAGE 13





# One term at Aberystwyth

By Peter N. Williams

In the fall of 1960, I announced that, following recent open-heart surgery, I wasn't going to sit around the house doing nothing but had decided to return to Wales to see how fluent I could become in spoken Welsh, after having studied the written language at my home in Newark, Del. for a number of years. So off I went to enroll at the University College, Aberystwyth, for the Michaelmas Term, so just 10 weeks, finishing just before Christmas. I am now back in Delaware, trying to put all the pieces together of my extended working vacation and, in general, analyzing what occurred or what failed to occur during my return to Welsh University life as a student after many, many years as a teacher in the U.S.A.

There were some problems. These were mostly as a result of my having lived for over 20 years away from "home." I found that, in many instances, though outward appearances seemed to indicate many great changes in Wales, in others, nothing had changed at all.

It took me a while to get used to the Welsh way of doing things. I had to keep reminding myself that I was a guest in Yr Hen Wlad. I had to remain patient and understanding; and I had to accept my utter foreignness after being away for so long. This included resigning myself to the college library's being closed from noon Saturdays until 5 a.m. on Mondays; there being no book drop for weekend return of books, and the language lab's being closed every day at 5 p.m. and not being open at all on weekends. At the National Library of Wales after I had asked for the latest copy of NINNAU (this was in mid October), I had to wait over 20 minutes and was then handed the July edition. (Perhaps NINNAU could do something about this.)

I was ready to give up and come home long before mid-term. It seemed as if every obstacle is put in the way of someone who wants to undertake a serious study of the spoken language of Wales, or, simply, had become used to American efficiency and technical availability.

First, I had not been to Aberystwyth before, my college days were spent at Swames, a much larger town, and one with

many more amenities, not the kind of which was an excellent transportation system, including the now defunct but much lamented Mumbles train. Aberystwyth's position on the far West of Wales, and in the middle of the coast, meant that movement was limited without possession of a car. So I drove or less than myself "black" in this little Welsh seaside town, enjoying its magic and experiencing its disappointments. There were many of both.

Upon my arrival, a few days before term began, I discovered that no provision had been made for my accommodation. I had expected a room at a residence hall, but there was none to be had. The whole town was full to the brim of students from all parts of Wales, all parts of the United Kingdom, and a second, all parts of the world, including the U.S.A. I had to settle for bed and breakfast for the first week but by constant badgering the warden at Nant-y-celyn (Pant-y-celyn Residential Hall), who was able to get a room the second week of term when an Indonesian student failed to arrive.

This was very fortunate in some ways, a disaster in others. It was great to be in residence with over three hundred Welsh speaking students. It was not so great to share accommodation with so many freshmen who obviously had not been away from home before and had never given a thought to noise level, tidiness, or respect for property. Trying to take a bath in a tub constantly filled with mud or other unimaginable materials is no fun; it is even more difficult when the stoppers (bath plugs) keep disappearing. But I soon learned to take my own stopper with me and to get up an hour before anyone else to bathe. Because of my severe hearing problems I was assured being kept awake every night by the constant barrage of noise, but during the second week some of my close neighbors moved out to try to find quieter accommodation in or near town.

After a few weeks I got quite used to my small, sparsely furnished room, the bare hallways, the rugby playing in the lounge, the constant attempts of the evangelists to convert me to their beliefs, the monotonous diet (baked beans or "Ffa pob") will never go out of style in Wales, but you can now get a baked potato

with ketchup, and the long, bare tables and benches in the dining room. Once the kitchen staff have of my heart problems, they did their best to provide the with fresh fruit, salads, and baked food rather than the beans, liver and porridge of the regular students. I



PETER N. WILLIAMS

was even provided with skim milk, but no decaffeinated tea or coffee, an experience also found in town where teas were still provided with lashings of heavy cream and where seconds cost as much as the first cup.

Prices were high for most items, much higher than those back in Delaware. I bought most of my meals at the residence hall, at specially subsidized prices, but in town had to pay about double for clothes, meals, drinks, etc. This was a surprise I never really got used to, especially after I had bought postcards at 28 cents each. There seems to be no "five for a dollar" items in Wales!

Most restaurants, however, were quite full, and all, without a single exception were full of smoke. None believed in separate smoking sections, and none believed in fans, open windows, or fresh air in general. The pubs were impossible, just about the unhealthiest places imaginable. Because I didn't smoke, I was regarded as some kind of American health nut or weirdo. It was sad to see so many young people smoking away diligently as if their lives depended on it. Two hours in an Aberystwyth pub is a nightmare for a non-smoker; the walls and ceilings in most of them are black with stale smoke. I dis-

covered that even the College nurse delighted in her cigarette.

As a teacher, I was quick to notice other "problems" taken in stride by the locals. Because streets are narrow, drivers come right to the very edge of the intersection before entering a main road and then pedestrians all have to walk behind waiting traffic, and in front, as we are used to doing in the U.S. Because most of the gasoline is leaded, you have to breathe in dirty automobile smoke whenever you cross a street. I tried walking in front of traffic, but that is a death wish in Wales. I also found that traffic was far too fast, especially in front of the college, which is situated on a very steep hill. The slow sign is positioned close to town, so that drivers speed down the hill at around 70 mph, past all the colleges, residence halls, etc. before slowing down to enter the town. I can only surmise that the signs were posted many years ago, before the building of Penguin Campus and that no one has bothered to realize that the hill is now a death trap. Apparently flashing yellow caution signs outside schools, hospitals, etc. have not yet arrived on the Welsh scene.

But there were other disappointments (or frustrations) in store. One of these was my inability to get any member of the post office staff to speak Welsh. I had gone to Aberystwyth to immerse myself in the Welsh language and wished to practice using it on every occasion, but this wish was denied so many times. Many of the accents in town were Welsh, but many were English Midlands, Birmingham or Liverpool, even the traffic wardens were non-Welsh speaking.

Though many stores have "Siaradwr Cymraeg Yma" on their doors, many do not. And can you imagine stores in Italy or France or Germany having not "We speak English here," (to aid the visitor), but "We speak Italian or French or German here" (to aid the local inhabitants). The situation is depressing.

Each day, too, I heard dozens and dozens of high school students returning home and all talking English. Apparently English immigrants to Wales insist on having their children educated through the medium of English, not Welsh, (as if this

would hinder their ability to speak and understand their mother tongue). There was even a court case in Dyfed where five English families were refusing to have their children educated in Welsh in primary school, and they were being supported by that county's director of education. One family had decided to move back to England because of Welsh "bigotry" in trying to preserve their ancient tongue!

Things were different at chapel, however. There I found many of the congregation interested in my studies and anxious to help me. I was even able to borrow a small black and white TV set from one chapel member, and thus could watch Sianel 4C (the Welsh language channel) in my college room. All efforts to rent a TV set in town had failed because the minimum borrowing period was far longer than my single term of 10 weeks (so much for Welsh business hours). It was gratifying that there were about 30 young Welsh-speaking children attending chapel regularly. The pastor and his wife were very kind to me and I will miss them both.

As far as learning to speak Welsh fluently is concerned, it depends on how you define "fluently." Perhaps my biggest sense of satisfaction came during the ninth week when I was interviewed on BBC Wales by Hwyl Gwynfryn, one of the country's top radio personalities. The interview lasted about 15 minutes and was conducted entirely in Welsh. Upon my return to the dining hall, I was greeted with a round of applause from the kitchen staff who had been listening diligently. Mr. Gwynfryn told me I should stay in Wales because the country desperately needed an influx of Welsh-speaking immigrants, those who not only could testify to the possibility of learning the language but who would be willing to help others learn as well.

I was certainly well ahead of my classmates, some of whom had been in Wales for years, at were married to Welsh speakers, or who had children enrolled in Welsh schools, but who were not willing to spend more time than mere class time to practice the language, nor in many cases, to do the required homework.

To be continued in the next issue with Part 2, "The Possibilities of Becoming Fluent in Welsh."

## Coming Events Calendar

### May

#### TOWSON, MD

May 3 - Baltimore St. David's Society business meeting and potluck supper, 6:30 p.m., ByKola Center in Towson.

#### NIAGARA FALL, ONT.

May 3-5 - Welsh Festival sponsored by the Ontario Gymnast Gann Association. For information and registration package, contact Lowri Taylor, 8 Guernsey Dr., Elmhurst, Ontario, Canada M90 3A8 or phone 416-426-1591.

#### SACRAMENTO, CAL.

May 4 - May Day Nason Lawen ("Festival Evening"). Traditional celebration, and perhaps some lively discussion about the future of the Sacramento Welsh Circle.

#### KANSAS CITY, MO.

May 4 - Hywel Thomas, a native of Wales and minister of music at a Baptist Church in Neosho, Mo., will be teaching a Welsh folk dance workshop. Interested persons may call Ann McFerrin 444-6837 for information.

#### DELTA, PA

May 4-5 - Homecoming weekend, Capel Cymraeg Rehoboth Delta, Pa. BALTIMORE, MD  
May 9 - Cangen Y Dysgwyr o'r Chesapeake at Frs, 7:30 p.m. 3813 Juniper Rd.

#### BOARDMAN, OHIO

May 5 - Gymnast Gann, Calvary Baptist Church, 1465 Shields Rd., 3 p.m. Conductor: Mrs. Thomas R. Barber of Altoona, Pa. Sponsored by Calan Llan Welsh Church. Tea to follow in Fellowship Hall. Donation \$2.00.

#### NEENAH, WISCONSIN

May 5 - 58th Annual Wisconsin State Gymnast Gann, Congregational United Church of Christ, 1511 Nicolet Blvd. Singing sessions at 2:30 and 6:00 p.m. Director and Soloist Mr. Geraint Wilkes of Aberystwyth and Mui Waukeke Organist Steven Jensen of Sheboygan, Harpist Angus Fallon-MacGregor, Milwaukee.

May 5 - The St. David's Welsh Society will sponsor a Gymnast Gann. The Rev. Hwyl Thomas, a native of Wales now residing in Missouri, will be the guest conductor. The 150th birthday of Dr. Joseph Parry will be observed. For additional information, contact Jack Nesbitt, 416-556-7272.

#### NEENAH, WIS.

May 5 - Annual Wisconsin State Gymnast Gann at Congregational United Church of Christ, 1511 Nicolet Blvd. Services 2:30 and 6 p.m.; supper served between sessions. Geraint Wilkes, director and soloist; Steven Jensen, organist; Angus Fallon-MacGregor, harpist.

#### FOULTNEY AREA, VT

May 5 - 1 p.m. potluck luncheon and entertainment. We expect it will be held at the Foultny Welsh Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share and your own place settings.

#### CHILLICOTHE, OHIO

May 8 - Gymnast Gann. Guest conductor: Lloyd Savage of Chillicothe, Ohio.

#### ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX.

May 11 - Fourth Rio Grande Celtic Festival and Highland Games. Welsh, Scottish, Irish, and Galician (Hispanic) Cell societies with food, games, art and music, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Menual School, 301 Menual Blvd. NE; \$6: 881-5852 or 889-4545. Ceilidh (Kavice): Celtic party featuring food, drink, and bagpipes! 7:30 p.m. - midnight. Shrine Temple, 6600 Zuni SE; \$6: 881-5852 or 889-4545.

#### SANTA BARBARA, CALIF.

May 12 - Bi-monthly meeting of the Welsh Heritage Club of California at 2:30. All-Saints by the sea Episcopal Church parish hall in Montecito. Special Mother's Day program to be taped by HTV-Wales and shown in Wales. Te bach. For information call Myra Thomas Lawrence (805) 967-3229 or Huw Howells (805) 492-9420.

#### WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 19 - St. David's Society business meeting, 2 p.m. St. David's Episcopal church, 5130 Macomb St. NW. Program by Sue Richards, community singing and te bach.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

May 19 - 2:30 p.m. Annual Business Meeting of St. David's Welsh-American Society of Washington, DC. For information, call Cheryl Mitchell, (301) 559-3766 (evenings), (202) 787-7886 (days).

#### LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

May 19 - GYMANFA GANU, Sunday May 19, 2:30 p.m. Sponsored by Welsh Presbyterian Church, to be held at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 3366 Wilshire Blvd. Te bach follows. For information call (313) 463-1381.

#### PLYMOUTH, PA.

May 19 - The Plymouth Cambrion Club Gymnast Gann, 3:00 P.M. at the Welsh Baptist Church, Plymouth, Penna. Master of ceremonies, Merritt Hughes, Wilkes Barre. Songleader Robert Jones, New Jersey; Soloist, George Powell, Trucksville, Pa. and the Ladies Cambrion Chorus, Plymouth, Pa., directed by Lois Leeds. A Te Bach will follow. Betty Evans, President, Harveys Lake, Pa.

#### WASHINGTON, DC

May 19 - 2:30 p.m. St. David's Welsh-American Society of Washington, D.C. St. David's Episcopal Church, 5150 Macomb St. NW. Business meeting followed by harp music by Sue Richards. Welsh folk songs and te bach.

#### TORONTO, ONT.

May 25-26 - Eisteddfod Dewi Sant, sponsored by St. David's Society will be held from 10 a.m. to evening, Saturday, and continue at 2 p.m. Sunday. This is a bi-lingual event with a special section for learners of Welsh.

#### JOHNSTOWN, PA.

May 26 - The Memorial Baptist Church, Johnstown, Pa. will hold its 10th annual Gymnast Gann on May 26 at 4 p.m. A Te Bach will follow the session. Director: Tom Barber.

### JUNE

#### MILWAUKEE, WIS.

June 1 - 12 noon Welsh women's Club of Milwaukee Area, Grace Presbyterian Church, 2501 S. Kenickie Ave., WELSH MELODIES, Ken Dodge of Wales, Wisconsin.

#### RIO GRANDE, OHIO

June 1 and 2 - Welsh Heritage Days, 9 to 5 both days, with Noon Laven at Welsh Museum in Oak Hill, June 1 at 7:30 p.m.