

June '91

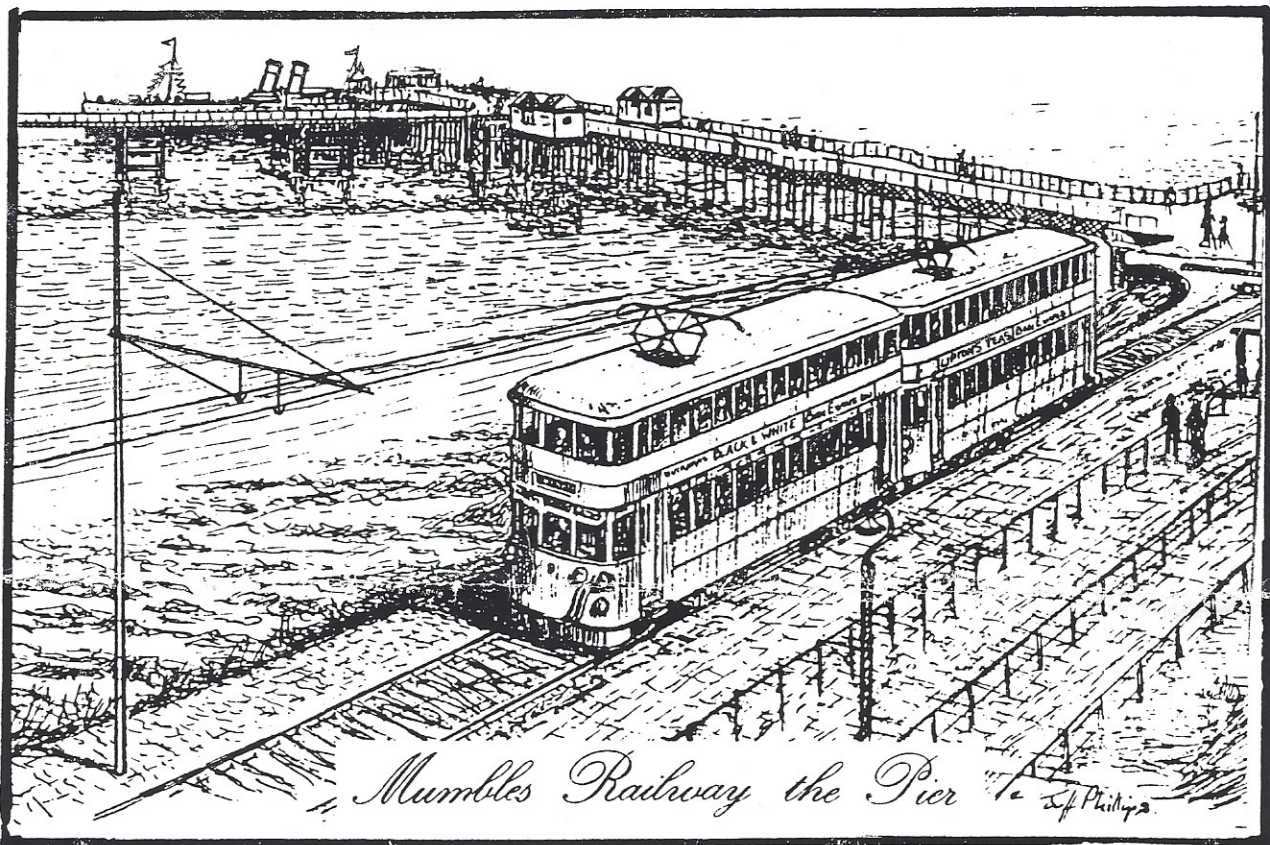


Cymdeithas Gymkaeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg

MUMBLES AND SWANSEA ARE PLACES WORTH VISITING IN SOUTH WALES.



The Mumbles Railway, was in fact the oldest passenger line in the world, with passengers first being carried in March 1807. The railway extended from Oystermouth to Mumbles Head, and the famous MUMBLES PIER opened in May 1898. The line was closed (regrettably) in January 1960. No one who has ever travelled on the MUMBLES RAILWAY will ever forget those rolling monsters!

CAMBRIAN HALL. 215. EAST 17th AVE, VANCOUVER. B.C. V5V 1A6. Telephone (604) 876-2815.....

SUMMER BREAK

Many of the committees of the Welsh Society, take a break over the summer holiday season. This will be the last newsletter until September. PLEASE NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR THE DATES OF THE MANY EVENTS ALREADY PLANNED FOR THE FALL. The Red Dragon will be open on Saturday evenings through the summer so that the society can welcome summer visitors and the regular members can continue to enjoy the hall.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

by Jeff Owen, President

On Friday, May 31st, thirty-three members of the Society went on a very scenic boat trip arranged by the Social Committee. The boat, called the Rainbow Lady left the harbour by the Bayshore Hotel for a 4 hour trip up Indian Arm. Fortunately the rain held off for the evening and with excellent boating weather the members enjoyed excellent food and companionship in a beautiful water setting.

The Social Committee regret the fact that this trip was not advertised in the newsletter, but as soon as it was announced at the May General Meeting, it was immediately sold out. I suppose this could be seen as a fringe benefit of attending the meetings. However, all is not lost. We enjoyed ourselves so much that we hope to book another boat trip in the near future.

We are now busily planning the events for the fall schedule of the Society. Now is the

time to plan ahead. Please note the following on your calendar.

ANNUAL PICNIC - July 21st will be held at the home of Jeff and Gaynor Owen. 5456 Paton Drive, Ladner, from 11am onwards. Everyone is welcome. There will be two big barbecues provided so just bring your own food and lawn chairs. For more information call Gaynor at 946-4956. See directional map following.

HALLOWEEN DANCE - SATURDAY OCTOBER 26TH at the Red Dragon.

MULLED WINE EVENING - SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30TH at the Red Dragon.

CHRISTMAS DINNER AND DRAW - Saturday, December 7th, upper hall.

Effective July 6th, we will start selling Christmas draw numbers every week at the Red Dragon. This is the way that we raise money to buy the excellent prizes that are given away at the dinner dance. The more numbers you buy the more chances you have of winning.

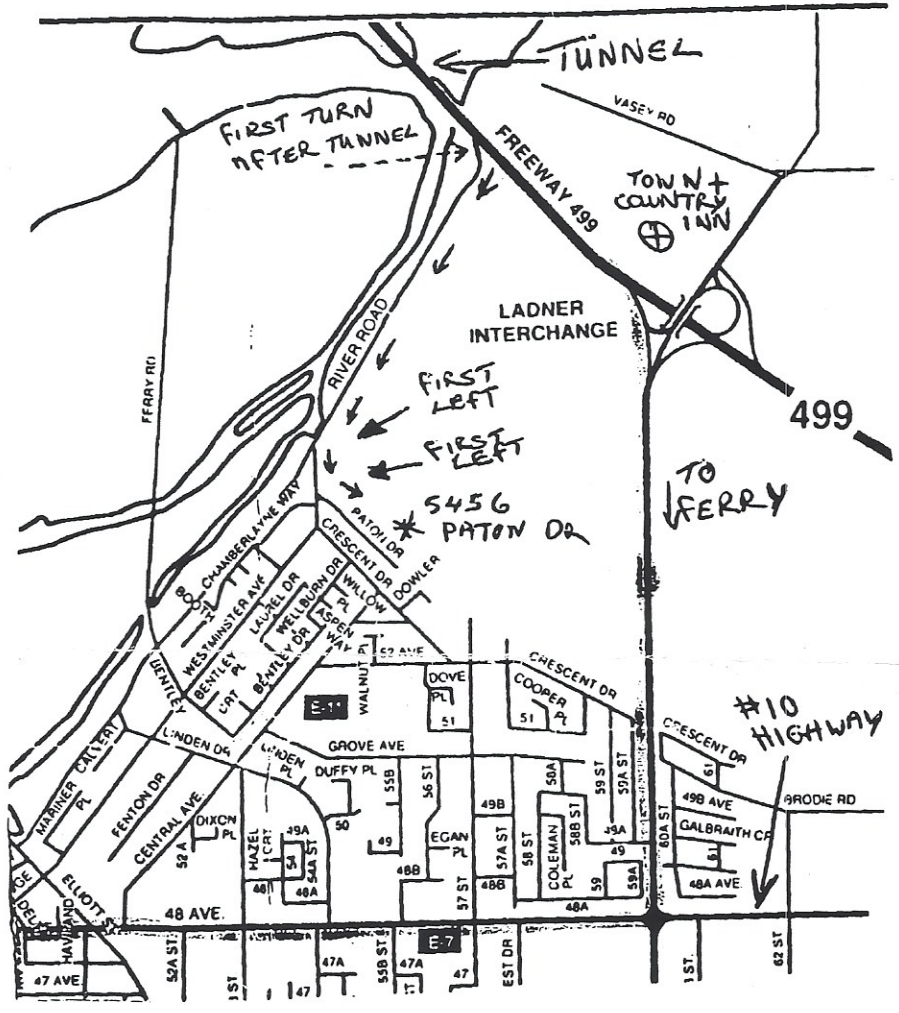
The Social Committee is pleased to announce that we now have three more members that have passed the Serving It Right examination which is now compulsory for anyone involved in the alcoholic beverage industry. The successful members were Gaynor Owen, Gwen Tonack and Joan Thomsen. This brings the number of certificate holders in the Society to six with Jeff Owen, Veronica Gilder and Tony Tonack holding license

certificates. Eliah Farrell has also applied for the course and anyone else who might be interested in taking the exam should contact the social committee who will arrange for the exam and provide coaching. The social committee is in desperate need of volunteers so please try to help out in any way you can. We need help not just on the bar, but in making arrangements for events. Many hands make light work and lots of fun for everyone!

WELSH SOCIETY ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The Anniversary of the founding of the Welsh Society will be held on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH** in the Lower Hall. Cost is \$15 per person. The meal will be catered by Jordan's. Arrival at the hall 6:30pm, dinner served promptly at 7:00pm. For tickets call Gaynor Evans at 271-3134.

MAP TO THE PICNIC ON JULY 21ST



SPECIAL VISITORS

On Saturday, June 8th the Society welcomed three special guests in the person of Mr. Gwylm Jenkins from Llanmartin, Newport, Gwent, and his associates Dr. and Mrs. John Morrison of Minnesota. They were in Vancouver to attend a Moral Rearmament seminar at which Mr. Jenkins made a presentation on the Llanwern Steelworks. According to Mr. Jenkins, "17 years ago the Steelworks were due to be closed because of the difficult relationship between the union and management. However, using the principles of Moral Rearmament we were able to rebuild the relationships so that today Llanwern has been declared the most profitable steel company in the world, and its methods are used as examples world wide."

Dr. Morrison notes that Moral Rearmament is a non-denominational organization dedicated to putting Christian values to work in the community to creating change in society. Dr. Morrison is a full time volunteer with the organization in Minnesota, and

is dedicated to teaching computer software skills to Cambodian-Americans. "Only through recognizing and healing pain within ourselves, can we move toward healing society," notes Morrison.

Mrs. Louise Morrison (Phillips) is descended from Welsh immigrants who settled in Iowa. As she notes, "no one in the many generations who immigrated or were born here has been back to Wales. I'm determined to go." With that in mind she has been trying to trace the family's roots in Pentrch Wales.

VANCOUVER CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Vancouver Children's Choir will present a free concert on **Thursday, July 4th** at 7:30 pm in Christ Church Cathedral prior to their departure on July 7th for the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen Wales. Everyone welcome. Come and encourage the children on their way.

Jack Williams of the Welsh Society has been coaching the children in singing Welsh songs in preparation for the Eistenddfod.



WE GET TO LIVE IN A TENT AND GO FISHING AND CANOEING! WON'T THAT BE FUN??



THE WELSH IMPERIAL SINGERS

1926-1939

by Ellis Griffiths

In previous editions of our Cambrian News newsletter, we requested from our readers information about the above captioned group of singers, who toured North America during the '30's. We were successful in receiving some details and memorabilia about the group which we ultimately sent to Wales to Mr. Alun Trevor who was compiling data about them for the publication of a book entitled "Cafid Cantorion, The Welsh Imperial Singers."

The book has now been completed and is published by Gnasg Carreg Coch in North Wales. The text is in two languages (Welsh & English) and gives the story in words and pictures of their many tours and concerts. Many of the singers were soloists in their own right, having won at National Eisteddfodau in years gone by.

One of them was Jabez Trevor, father of the author, and a tenor of renown (1888-1972).

The sale of the book which is now on the market will be in aid of this years National Eisteddfod in Wales, Held in Mold North Wales in August.

The book can be purchased through Siani Flewog (Jane Hughes), 329 Qucenston Street, St. Catherines Ontario L2P 2X8. (Tel. 416-684-5913) Cost is \$10.95 Cdn Incl. Postage and Handling.

PORTLAND GYMANFA GANU

On the weekend of June 16th, Phyllis Owens, Lynn Owens-Whalen, accompanied by an English friend who is a lover of Welsh music, travelled to the Portland Welsh Society Gymanfa Ganu. Phyllis reports that the event was held in a wonderful setting in a 108 year old white clapboard chapel which was filled to overflowing. Many of the guests were accommodated outside under the canopy of a huge Maple tree. Everyone joined in singing the Welsh hymns of praise. A hot lunch served after the morning church service, was followed by the afternoon session of the Gymanfa at 2pm. Phyllis, Lynn and their friend stayed to enjoy the Te Bach, but had to forego the evening session in order to make the six hour return trip home. In all a lovely Gymanfa, and Phyllis offers her many thanks to the Portland Welsh Society for their great weekend.

IN MEMORIAM - ELLA ROBERTS

The Welsh Society is saddened by the death of Ella Roberts in early June. She is remembered as a accomplished pianist and singer, and an enthusiastic participant in the activities of the Society. We offer our condolences to her daughter Mrs. Elizabeth Murray.

WELSH MAY BE AS OLD AS THE
PYRAMIDS

excerpts from an article by
Clive Betts, Welsh Affairs
Correspondent

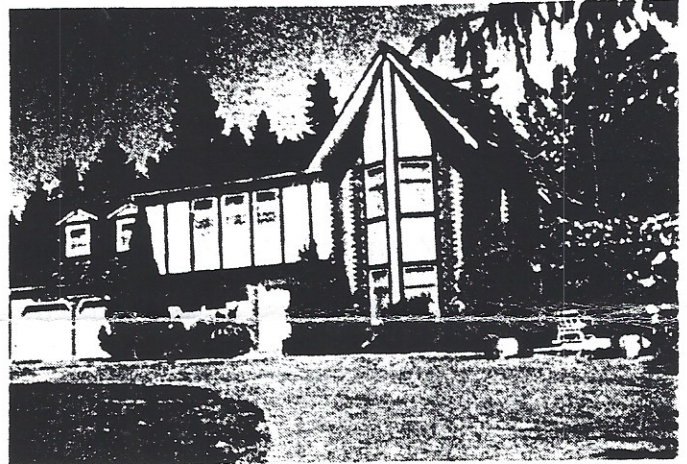
Archaeologists are rejecting
the traditional view that the
Welsh language reached Wales
only 500 years or so before
Christ on the tongues of
hordes of sword-waving
warriors.

They now believe Welsh has
been spoken in Wales for
almost 4000 years, since not
long after the days when the
great pyramids were built in
Egypt and Stonehenge was built
and rebuilt in Britain.

This makes Welsh one of the
most resilient languages of
Europe, defeating the efforts
of invader after invader to
impose their alien tongues.
Although it does not make it
Europe's oldest language -
that honour must presumably go
to Finnish or Basque - it does
mean that few tongues have
been spoken in the same area
for so long.

The latest view on when the
predecessor of the Welsh
language reached Wales is
given by Bangor archaeology
lecturer Miss Frances Lynch.
She believes that 2000 BC, the
end of the Neolithic period
was the date when the Celtic
language which developed into
Welsh first arrived in
Britain. Quite what language
was spoken before the Celts is
unknown.

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We Look Forward to Meeting You!

Your Hosts Greta and Peter Taylor.

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Courtenay, B.C. V9N 7J3

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