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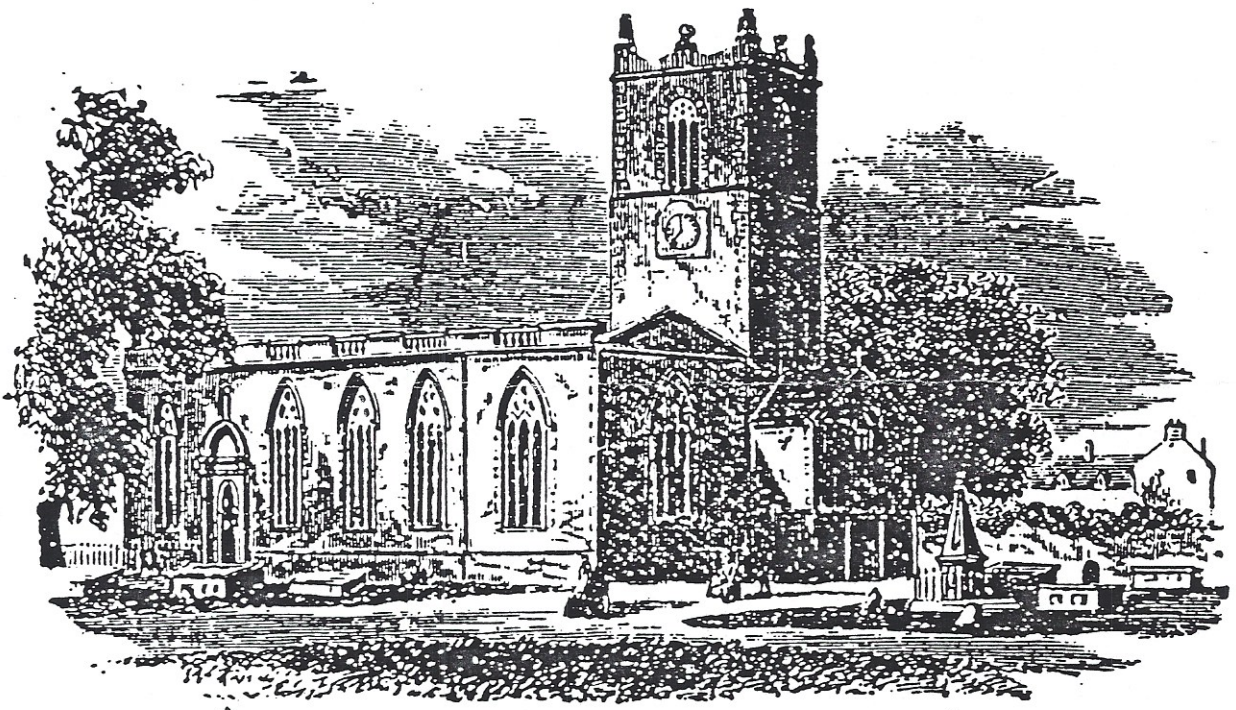


November to December
1997

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



RUTHIN CHURCH BEFORE 1859.

Cymanfa Ganu, November 1997

The Fall Gymanfa Ganu took place as usual on the first Sunday of November at 2pm on the upper floor of our Cambrian Hall. A substantial congregation had gathered, including some of our American friends, as Ann Roberts, chairperson, initiated the proceedings. She read a passage in Welsh from the works of Gwenallt Jones who likened Christ's work to that of an architect who left his church as an everlasting legacy on earth.

The baton was in the very capable hand of the Rev. John Davies, a native of the Llanelly area, who thrilled and entertained us with his humorous warm personality. This gifted precentor was able to educe the very best singing possible out of us, and we left the hall with a glowing aftermath secure in the knowledge of having accomplished yet another successful gymanfa ganu. As usual, Enid Lewis provided the perfect accompaniment through her stirring piano performance.

The soloist on this occasion was our own Nerys Haqq accompanied at the piano by Margaret Airey. Nerys sang four delightful songs with verve and feeling that complemented the mood of the congregation. We are so fortunate to have such talent as Enid and Nerys in our membership. I cannot let this opportunity pass without complimenting and thanking Margaret Airey also for her prowess at the piano, and for being so willing to fill in for Enid at some of our Sunday services on those occasions when Enid is unable to be present. Our Society is indeed grateful and fortunate, to be able to secure an alternate pianist of such high calibre in our hour of need.

In the second half of the gymanfa, Ann reminded us that one of the hymns that we were about to sing— In Memoriam— had a poignant significance. The scene was at a national eisteddfod, and in the midst of it word came that Japan had capitulated and that World War 2 was over. Upon hearing this, Elfed, one of our beloved poets, went down on his knees and prayed in the large auditorium. Then the huge congregation rose spontaneously and sang the second verse of In Memoriam: it was an emotionally-charged atmosphere that was unforgettable to those that were present. Ann went on to state that today we were going to sing it to remember all the sons and daughters who had not returned from past conflicts; and that it would also be a fitting tribute to the memories of four of our members who had passed away during the last year: Sally Highet, Ros Thomas, Olive David and Margaret Howells.

Mrs Phyllis Owens addressed the congregation and stated that she and her daughter Lynn Whalens-Owens were faithful attendees at the annual North American Gymanfa Ganu, and that they had decided to donate annually four copies of the new revised North American Hymn Book to the Welsh Society. I am sure our Society will formally recognize these thoughtful donations.

But all good things come to an end, and, in time-honoured fashion we joined hands and sang the closing hymn God Be With You with much feeling and conviction. Finally, after being suitably primed by our precentor, we sang Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau with much gusto — a fitting end to a memorable afternoon of Welsh community singing of the best tradition.

Translations from the Net

Words from WebSite <http://curiad.wales.com/zone/scw/6.html#4-1>

Welsh Translator at <http://www.cs.brown.edu/fun/welsh/LexiconForms.html>

June 1997

Myfanwy

Paham mae dicter, O Myfanwy,
 Yn llenwi'th lygaid duon di?
 A'th ruddiau tirion, O Myfanwy,
 Heb wrido wrth fy ngweled i?
 Pa le mae'r wen oedd ar dy wefus
 Fu'n cynnau 'nghariad ffyddlon ffol?
 Pa le mae sain dy eiriau melys,
 Fu'n denu'n nghalon ar dy ôl?

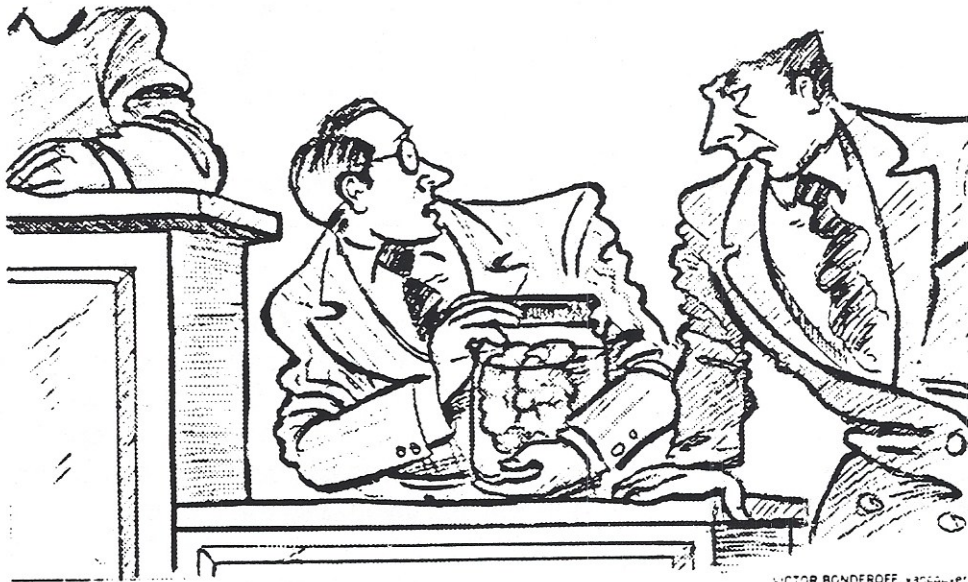
Pa beth a wneuthym, O Myfanwy,
 I haeddu gwg dy ddwyrudd hardd?
 Ai chwarae oeddit, O Myfanwy
 Â thanau euraidd serch dy fardd?
 Wyt eiddo im drwy gywir amod -
 Ai gormod cadw'th air i mi?
 Ni cheisiaf fyth mo'th law, Myfanwy,
 Heb gael dy galon gyda hi.

Myfanwy boed yr holl o'th fywyd
 Dan heulwen disglair canol dydd.
 A boed i rosyn gwridog ienctid
 Ddawnsio ganmlwydd ar dy rudd.
 Anghofiais oll o'th addewidion
 A wnest i rywun, 'ngeneth ddel,
 A rho dy law, Myfanwy dirion
 I ddim ond dweud y gair "Ffarwel".

Why is it anger, O Myfanwy,
 That fills your eyes so dark and clear?
 Your gentle cheeks, O sweet Myfanwy,
 Why blush they not when I draw near?
 Where is the smile that once most tender
 Kindled my love so fond, so true?
 Where is the sound of your sweet words,
 That drew my heart to follow you?

What have I done, O my Myfanwy,
 To earn your frown? What is my blame?
 Was it just play, my sweet Myfanwy,
 To set your poet's love aflame?
 You truly once to me were promised,
 Is it too much to keep your part?
 I wish no more your hand, Myfanwy,
 If I no longer have your heart.

Myfanwy, may you spend your lifetime
 Beneath the midday sunshine's glow,
 And on your cheeks O may the roses
 Dance for a hundred years or so.
 Forget now all the words of promise
 You made to one who loved you well,
 Give me your hand, my sweet Myfanwy,
 But one last time, to say "farewell" ..



VICTOR BONDAROFF, Vancouver Sun

"It is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law somewhere."

THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW

Allen Lynch says these were recently reported in the Massachusetts Bar Association Lawyers Journal and are questions actually asked of witnesses by lawyers during trials and, in certain cases, the responses given by insightful witnesses:

1. "Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?"

2. "The youngest son, the twenty-year old, how old is he?"

3. "Were you present when your picture was taken?"

4. Q: "Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?"

A: "No."

Q: "Did you check for blood pressure?"

A: "No."

Q: "Did you check for breathing?"

A: "No."

Q: "So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?"

A: "No."

Q: "How can you be so sure, Doctor?"

A: "Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar."

Q: "But could the patient have still been alive nevertheless?"

A: "It is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law somewhere."

5. "Was it you or your younger brother who was killed in the war?"

6. "Did he kill you?"

7. "How far apart were the vehicles at the time of the collision?"

8. "You were there until the time you left, is that true?"

9. Q: "Mr. Slatery, you went on a rather elaborate honeymoon, didn't you?"

A: "I went to Europe, sir."

Q: "And you took your new wife?"

10. Q: "Can you describe the individual?"

A: "He was about medium height and had a beard."

Q: "Was this a male, or a female?"

11. Q: "Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?"

A: "No, this is how I dress when I go to work."

12. Q: "All your responses must be oral, OK? What school did you go to?"

A: "Oral."

13. Q: "Do you recall the time that you examined the body?"

A: "The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m."

Q: "And Mr. Dennington was dead at the time?"

A: "No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy."

Bats in the Belfry

Three pastors got together for coffee one day and found all their churches had bat-infestation problems. "I got so mad," said one, "I took a shotgun and fired at them. It made a lot of holes in the ceiling, but I didn't hit a single one."

"I tried trapping them alive," said the second. "Then I drove 80kms before releasing them, but they beat me back to the church."

"I solved the problem very quickly," responded the third. "I simply baptized and confirmed them, and I haven't seen them since!"

Wonderful Political Boners

Yes, we have no bananas

At the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919, Lloyd George of Great Britain advised Italy that it could make up its commercial losses by increasing its production of its banana crop. The Italians were not heartened—bananas are not grown in Italy.

The Swiss Navy

William Bryan Jennings, when serving as U.S. secretary of state, invited Switzerland to send its navy to the opening of the Panama Canal.

Princess Diana's Funeral

Watched by two billion on television, commentators around the world talked of the immaculate precision and dignity of the eight young Welsh Guardsmen who formed the pallbearer party which escorted the coffin, borne

on a gun carriage, through the streets of London.

Their names were as follows:—

Phillip Bartlett (Brecon)
Patrick Dewaine (Haverford West)
Carl John (Cardiff)
John Jones (Caerphilly)
Llyr Owen (Talysarn)
Ken Sweetman (Rhyl)
Gareth Thomas (Bridgend)
Chris Treharne (Llanelly)

In command of the pallbearers was Capt. Richard Williams, adjutant of the battalion, who had received the Military Cross from the Prince of Wales in 1994, for protecting civilians from Khmer Rouge guerrillas in Cambodia, where he was serving as a United Nations observer in 1992-1993.

Extracted from a newspaper article submitted by David Ll. Davies (OTM)

REAL ANSWERS FROM MUSICAL EDUCATION TESTS

Back to the drawing board to get a Hendel on it

- Agnus Dei was a woman composer famous for her church music.
- A refrain in music is the part you better not try to sing.
- A virtuoso is a musician with real high morals.
- John Sebastian Bach died from 1750 to the present.
- Handel was half German, half Italian and half English.
- Henry Purcell: a well known composer few people have heard of.
- Aaron Copeland is one of your most famous contemporary composers. It is unusual to be contemporary. Most composers do not live until they are dead.
- I know what a sextet is but I had rather not say.
- When a singer sings, he stirs up the air and makes it hit any passing eardrums. But if he is good, he knows how to keep it from hurting.
- Caruso was at first an Italian. Then someone heard his voice and said he would go a long way. And so he came to America.
- Most authorities agree that music of antiquity was written long ago.

An Assembly for Wales

by Graham

On September 18, I was in Edinburgh watching British television as the results of the vote for a Welsh Assembly appeared on the screen. It was not like the latest Quebec Referendum. I fell asleep at one a.m. as, apparently, did thousands of Welsh residents. Tomorrow would be soon enough to find out what happened!

Here is a summary of the results:

Districts for:

Anglesey, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Gwent, Gwynedd, Heath Port Talbot, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Swansea

Districts against:

Cardiff, Conwy, Denbysire, Flintshire, Vale of Glamorgan, Monmouthshire, Newport, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Torfaen, Wrexham

Votes for: 559,419..Votes against: 552,698

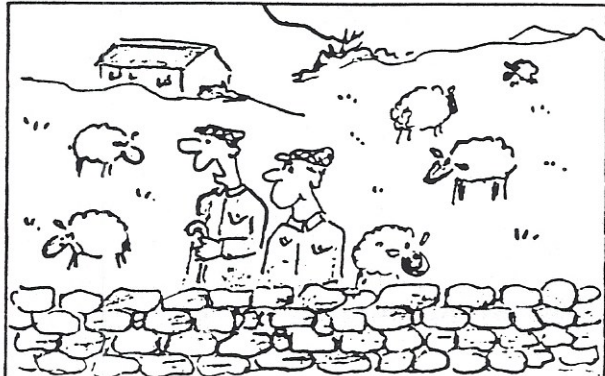
There will be a Welsh Assembly.

Dates For Your Calendar

1. Nov. 15th at 8:30pm the return of the popular Chepstow Races.(Lower Hall)
2. Nov. 29th at 8:00pm Mulled Wine and Carol Singing at the Lower Hall.
3. Dec. 6th at 6:30pm Christmas Dinner Dance and Draw(Lower Hall).
4. Dec. 14th at 11am Church Service followed by the Children's Christmas Party at 2:00pm.

An Assembly for Wales (Continued)

On Sunday, two days after the results of the vote had been published, Gaynor noticed this cartoon in the *Sunday Telegraph*.



Future generations will take the Welsh Assembly for granted, but we were the ones who nearly bothered to vote for it.

I have watched on television and spoken personally to some disappointed proponents of the Assembly. They sound a bit like Jacques Pariseau blaming money and the ethnic vote for the poor YES vote. In Welsh politics money and the ethnic vote becomes: the cities, the rich areas and the border counties. Unlike the Referendum, however, separation was not an issue and the YES voters were in a majority.

Tony Blair's political party probably had many motives in recommending an Assembly for Wales, but what appealed to many Welsh people was the possibility that with an Assembly, Welsh affairs would no longer be in the hands of a Secretary of State for Wales and the many existing quangoes; that is non-elected government councils.

Here is what Tony Blair intends to arrange now: An election for the Assembly will be held in May of 1999. The Assembly will meet for the first time in May 1999. The Secretary of State will chair the first meeting to allow for the election of senior members and a Leader. The first task will be to agree to Standing Orders which will govern its proceedings.

Then securely located within the framework of a strong United Kingdom, the Assembly will give the people of Wales a real chance to express their views and set their own priorities. It will reinforce Wales's distinctive place in the United Kingdom and provide leadership to reinvigorate all aspects of Welsh life and culture. (Let's hope so! - Ed.)

Note: Some NO voters see the Assembly as an expensive quango which will tear Wales apart.

QUANGOES - Quasi Non-governmental Organizations

A Snippet Of Welsh History : the Chartist Movement(1836—42)

Whilst the Rebecca Riots were raging in south-west Wales another movement —the Chartist Movement— was taking hold in the woollen towns of Montgomeryshire, Camarthen town and the south-east coalfield. However, the whole of the industrial community throughout Britain was involved in this movement, but it found its most violent expression in south-east Wales. Several factors were germane to its creation : bitterness caused by a severe depression; iniquities of the new Poor Law legislation ; anger at the uselessness of the Reform Act to the working man ; and finally, sheer frustration at being unable to form a viable trade union movement.

Most Chartists sought ways to promote their cause by peaceful means, such as propaganda, petitions and demonstrations. But a few advocated physical force and this sentiment grew and finally erupted in violence in Llanidloes, where local Chartists controlled the town for a week. This sparked more militancy in the Newport area, and on Nov.4, 1839 a force of 5,000 attacked a hotel in which a group of soldiers were stationed. At least twenty Chartists were killed. Subsequent court trials condemned eight men to death as traitors : five were later commuted to life sentences and the other three were banished to Van Dieman's Land.

This fiasco was a severe blow to Chartism and the members found themselves assailed on all sides by religious leaders. Thereafter, Welsh Chartism resorted to propaganda through periodicals to advance their causes. In 1850, remnants of the movement were taken over by men of specifically socialist views, and a tenuous link may be traced to their efforts and the successful creation of a working-class political party at the end of the 19th century.

Janis Foster

Times Reporter

The Welsh have long been noted for their beautiful singing.

The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir is gaining a similar reputation. Under the able musical direction of Robin Thomas, the choir has become one of the premier male voice choirs in B.C.

Formed in 1980 as a non-profit society by members of the Vancouver Welsh Society to foster and advance the great tradition of male choral singing, the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir has grown from less than 30 to more than 100 members.

One of those members is Langley resident Hank Vanderveen — a decidedly unlikely name for a Welsh man.

"To get better, they had to bring in foreigners, I guess," he jokes. "Now, you name it, we got it: Chinese, German, Dutch . . .

What? No Joneses, no Mr. Williams, no Mr. Davies? Aren't there any *real* Welsh expatriates?

"Well — if you push it, maybe a dozen," he laughs.

What the ethnically diverse membership does have in common is a great love of singing and a shared commitment to excellence.

"It becomes like a fraternity," says Vanderveen, who has been in the choir for eight years. "It's a long way to go to rehearse in Vancouver but it's worth it. I'm slightly prejudiced, but they're very good."

The choir's repertoire is as varied as the men's cultural backgrounds: from opera choruses, Welsh hymns, Russian folk songs and African American spirituals to contemporary music and show tunes.

Their touring destinations are no less exotic: Washington, California, Australia, New Zealand, England, Wales,

Holland and Germany. The choir has performed at two World Expositions and in the International Festival of Male Choirs (Vancouver 1990), with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and major military bands, with the County of Cornwall Choir, the Morrision Orpheus Choir in Swansea, Wales, the Harvard Glee Club, the Dowlais and Dunvant Male Voice Choirs.

In 1995, the choir was flown to Victoria, courtesy of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be the opening act at the 'Past Forgetting' concert at the Royal Theatre. This recreation of a World War II troop show toured across Canada starring Holly Laroque and the Canadian Forces Band. The Vancouver Welsh Men's participation came as a direct result of their performance in the memorial service at the Canadian Military Cemetery in Groesbeek, Holland, attended by Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok and Princess Margriet. The choir toured and sang in Holland during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of VE Day.

Members are looking forward to performing at Royal Albert Hall in London in the year 2000.

The choir has also sung throughout cities and towns in B.C. Next month, they are coming to Langley to do a benefit concert for Cascade Christian Counselling Association.

We were sorry to learn of the sudden illness of Mrs. Beverly Thomas, our hard-working membership secretary, who was hospitalized for a few days. However, we were glad to see her make a rapid recovery, and return to her favourite haunt, the Cambrian Hall.

**ARIAS BY BELLINI, VERDI,
RESPIGHI, DONIZETTI, ROSSINI
AND WOLF-FERRARI**

Rebecca Evans, soprano; Michael Pollock,
piano
EMI 69706 ★★★★★

Tiny Wales is a vocal land, almost routinely turning out great singers, mainly men. Now we



Lloyd
DYKK

**COMPACT
CLASSICS**

have Rebecca Evans, whose voice is as rare as her surname is a Welsh commonplace.

This is a superb soprano in command of the full spectrum, as lustrous at full power as in the pianissimos that she floats so ethereally. Technically flawless, she has a noble, formal quality that enhances her heartfelt approach to this collection of Italian art songs by composers mostly celebrated for their operas.

For lovers of voice, this release is a promise of thrills. Unfortunately, no lyrics are provided in the booklet.

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There are millions of adults who can't read or count. If you don't believe me take a look at the folks in front of you at the express checkout!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"There's a new home cholesterol kit," says David Letterman. "You put a drop of blood on the special paper. If the paper turns pink, your cholesterol is fine. If it turns blue it could be a little high. But if you see a picture of Elvis, better put down the bacon and get to the hospital immediately!"

*Rhiannon Bowen would like to announce
the birth of her sister*

SERENA TANWEN BOWEN

on the twenty-third of July, nineteen ninety-seven

Bellingham, Washington USA

Mother: Sandra Rees-Bowen

Father: Eric Bowen

*Seren syw, yn disgleirio'n dlos,
Tân wen y nefoedd, hyd y nos,
Yn goleuo ein bywyd ni,
Serena Tanwen, dyma di.*

*Star bright, shining in the sky,
Fire white, as night passes by,
To light our lives, our little star,
Serena Tanwen, here you are.*

The V.W Society Officers

President — Jeff Owen (604) 946-4956

Im.P.Pres. — Ann Roberts(604) 925-4662

Secretary — Mary Slaney(604) 888-6563

Treasurer — John Morris (604) 536-9556

Mem. Sec. — Beverly Thomas(604) 738-0680

Editor — Gwilym Evans(604) 274-3794

.....
Cambrian Circle Singers

Rehearsals will take place on Nov. 15th, 19th and 26th.

A performance is scheduled on Dec. 4th. at 7pm at the Minoru Chapel, Richmond.

Alexander Cordell

Wordsmith worthy of the Welsh

In 1959 Alexander Cordell, who has died aged 82, published his bestseller *Rape of the Fair Country*. It was

the first in a trilogy, followed by *The Hosts of Rebecca* (1960) and *Song of the Earth* in 1969, which identified the writer with the lost past of the Welsh working class during the industrial revolution: it detailed the struggle for human and trade union rights in the iron works of Dowlais, the battles of the Chartists, and the 1840s Rebecca Riots, when bands of farmers and farm labourers destroyed the toll gates of west Wales.

Cordell, born in Sri Lanka of a military family and partly raised in China, was an Englishman who became a poet and a patriot for Wales. Born George Alexander Graber, he arrived in Wales as a quantity surveyor in 1936, after four years in the army. He was back in uniform as an officer in the Royal Fusiliers for the second world war, but he had fallen in love with the borderland of Gwent, or Monmouthshire as it was then known.

Apart from a brief time on the Isle of Man, he remained in Wales. Gwent, Pembrokeshire and finally Wrexham for the rest of his life. His first novel was published

in 1946 but it was not until 1963 that he retired from surveying to devote himself to writing.

In 1972 Cordell began another Welsh working class trilogy. *The Fire People* was based on the story of Wales's first working-class martyr, the miner Richard Lewis, known as Dic Penderyn, who was hanged for the alleged killing of a soldier during the 1831 Merthyr Riots. Six years later, *The Sweet and Bitter Earth* dealt with the militancy of the north Wales quarrymen and the Rhondda miners, which culminated in the 1911 Tonypandy Riots and in 1982 *The Land of My Fathers* was published.

Cordell was accused by some within the Welsh literary establishment of creating stereotype characters, of sentimentality, and of giving the impression that he was an authority on the industrial revolution in Wales, rather than a novelist who used the period as background. Yet Professor Gwyn A Williams, the great Welsh Marxist historian, argued that Cordell's representation of the working-class under the Iron masters remained a shining example of scholarship.

As a child Cordell spent seven years in Tianjin, China,

where he was educated by the Marxist Brothers. China was the location of his *The Streets of Love* (1965), an account of an orphaned girl in Hong Kong. Two years later, a spy thriller set in China and the United States, *The Bright Cantonese* was published.

In 1980 came *To Slay the Dreamer* which was based on the Long March of the Chinese communist leader Mao Tse-tung and his followers.

Another strand in his writing was revealed in *Race of the Tiger* (1983) which dealt

with Irish emigration to the United States, while *Peerless Jim*, in 1984, had an Irish-Welsh background, with its brilliant portrayal of the boxer James Driscoll of Cardiff. "My mother told me that on the night I was born, the moon was like a quarter Dutch cheese lying on its back over Cardiff Bay, and the dawn rose in a marmalade sky." It opens, "that the day was filled with the flying of coloured birds and the tolling of bells." *Peerless Jim*, one of Cordell's most enjoyable

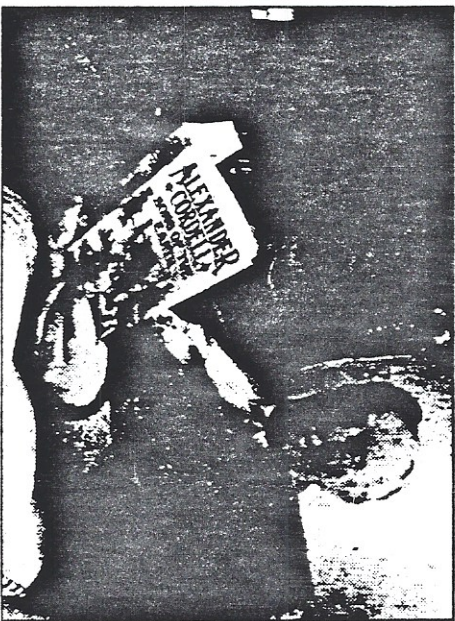
fact-fiction books, contains the essence of his Anglo-Welsh style. As an Anglo-Welsh historical novelist he had few equals. Richard Llewellyn's *How Green Was My Valley* gave Cordell impetus to pursue writing, and he combined the sentimentalism of Llewellyn with the realism of the writer Jack Jones. Cordell wrote more than 20 books, plus poetry and a children's trilogy *The White Cockade*, *Witch's Sabboth* and *The Healing Blade*. He was still writing in the 1990s.

His body was recovered from a stream near Llan-gollen. One of his last grand gestures was his conversion to full-blooded Welsh nationalism and to identify himself with the Welsh nationalist party, Plaid Cymru, in the Wrexham constituency.

He was very private person. He married twice: his first wife died in 1972 and his second wife died in 1985. He had a daughter from his first marriage and three grandchildren.

D Ben Rees

Alexander Cordell (George Alexander Graber), writer, born September 9, 1914, died July 10, 1997



Made in Wales ... Alexander Cordell with one of his novels

November 1997

Mis Tachwedd 1997

Nov 15
Chepstow Races

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	7:30 p.m. Welsh Lessons		W.A. (Noon) APEC Traffic Nov 19 to 26	Welsh Speaking Night Welsh Folk Dancing		Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	"					Mulled Wine and Carolling Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.

30

December 1997

Mis Rhagfyr 1997

Cymdeithas Cymraeg Puncouer Welsh Society
Cambrian Hall, 215 E. 17th Ave, Puncouer, B.C.

7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Welsh Men's Choir Concert Surrey Arts Centre	7:30 p.m. Exec. Mtg	"	Welsh Men's Choir St. Andrews Wesley Church	Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m. Red Dragon Closed till Jan 3
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Xmas Church 11 am Service 2 pm Childrens Xmas Party		W.A. (Noon)	Passo!C	Welsh Speaking Night Cancelled		Welsh Men's Choir @New Life Church Abbotsford
	1	2	3	4	5	6
					Cambrian Circle Singers	Xmas Dinner Open 6:30 p.m. Dance 9:00 p.m. By tickets only

to January 1998 Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!

Jan 3, 1998 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm