

synopsis & transcript

MAERDY 7

INFORMANTS

A: Male, 32 years old Welsh: fluent/some/slight/ <u>none</u> Mother's Birth: Ferndale Father's Birth: Ferndale	B: Male, 31 years old Welsh: fluent/some/slight/ <u>none</u> Mother's Birth: Maerdy Father's Birth: Ferndale
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They look at a picture of a group of miners and try to identify them. [00.00 min - 01.50 min]

A describes his work as a miner, and talks about modernizations that occurred at the coal faces, although he himself did not see them: [01.50 min - 03.50 min]
transcript

B: . . no I've never worked down a pit . . . I wouldn't

I: what about you
=====

A: . . oh . there's

B: like to either . . no . I don't think it would suit me

I: . . no
=====

A: nothing like it to be honest . yes

B: . . it's what you get used to isn't it
=====

A: . . a marvellous experience . . (coughs)

B: . . no

I: . because~ because of
=====

A: . . yeah . not only that . you know . . you~ you go in

I: the comradeship

A: and erm . . . you're your own workman . you know what you've got

A: to do every day . and you've got no bosses hanging over you you

A: know . . if you've got a fall there you know it's . . . it's up to you

A: to safeten it up . you know to protect everybody else you know

A: you've just got to . . be very careful you know it's it's

A: one man for each-other you know it's all looking after

A: each-other sort of thing

I: so it was the~ the . . life you know the

A: yeah . . of course it was yes oh I'd work down

I: respon[sibility]

A: there again if I had a choice . to be honest

I: but it was a hard

A: . . no well . . . not the last few years you know

I: job I expect

A: everything was . modernized so much it . . made life a bit easier
=====

A: under there you know the . . faces underneath there . . .
=====

A: you're talking about ten foot high . you just walk through them . .
=====

A: electric lighting . . remote control machines . . . you know . it's
=====

A: quite easy when {that's} going off . . . the last three years I worked
=====

A: down the colliery . or four years . . I worked on the surface so . . .
=====

A: I never seen these modernized faces you know . . (coughs)

I: . . . was
=====

A: . . . well . . it would only be dangerous you know if

I: it dangerous
=====

A: you made it dangerous you know if as you say if

I: . . . mm
=====

A: if you look after eachother and erm . . . you make sure everything's
=====

A: ready for your next shift to come in make sure it's safetened up .
=====

A: and {if} they'll come in they'll do it for you the following shift and
=====

A: . you know it's . . . accidents do happen you know what I

B: . . yes

A: mean I've seen many . . . through negligence most of them you

A: know but erm . that's how it goes you know

B talks about problems in getting labouring jobs. A & B say it is difficult to find any work at all. [03.50 min – 05.30 min]

They discuss whether they would go out of the Valleys to work, either by commuting or leaving the Valleys altogether. [05.30 min – 07.30 min]

They look through some more pictures. Then they talk about the miners' strike in Maerdy in the 1980s. [07.30 min – 11.20 min]

They remember their school days and teachers. [11.20 min – 14.30 min]

They look at a picture of a local colliery site and discuss the changes to the site, including landscaping, that are planned. [14.30 min – 15.30min]

TAPE ENDS