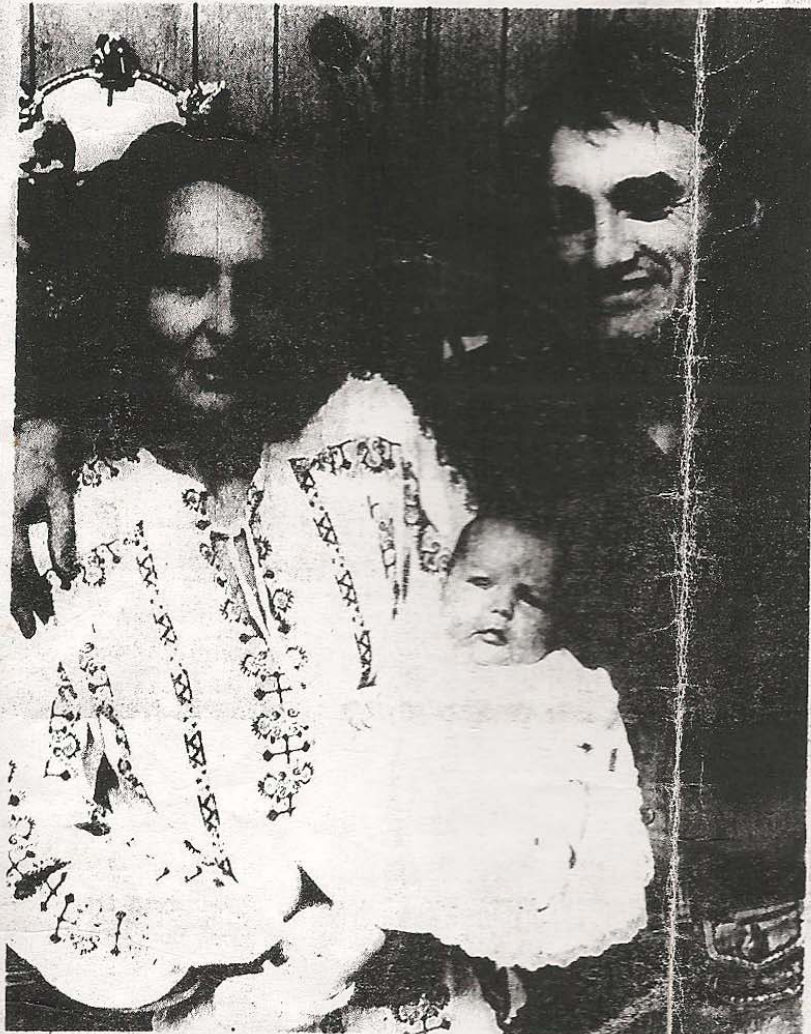


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Girls!"



Angela and Terry Serpelli overjoyed at the birth of daughter Louisa.

Workshop aid for jobless

UNEMPLOYED youngsters in Ferndale confined to life on the Dole may be given a helping hand.

For the organisers of the Rhondda Enterprise Scheme are asking Rhondda Borough Council to lease them a small advance factory in the area for another training workshop.

So successful is the workshop already set up in Porth — where youngsters who would otherwise be on the dole learn a skill and have a taste of work experience — they now hope to expand up into the Rhondda Fach.

With unemployment in the valley especially high — particularly among female school leavers — the Rhondda Enterprise organisers hope to mop some of it up with a training workshop for around 40 young people.

The Porth training workshop based in a renovated old school building already employs 45 youngsters under the Youth Opportunities Programme.

The youngsters make a variety of products in carpentry and machine workshops, selling to local industrialists and local authorities.

All money made is ploughed back into the scheme.

Paid £23.50 a week by the Manpower Services Commission — a Government Arm — the youngsters are employed for a year by which time it is hoped they will have had sufficient job experience and

training to find a job in the "real world".

Although hit by the recession which has meant diversifying into making toys etc., the Enterprise Scheme has already expanded into an annexe behind Porth hospital for a horticultural training workshop.

Another 15 green-fingered youngsters will be employed on that project which starts very soon.

And next year to coincide with the Year of the Disabled, in conjunction with the Social Services Department, the youngsters at Porth will be making aids for the elderly in the workshop and installing them in their homes.

Secretary of the Rhondda Enterprise Scheme, Mr. Angus McGaughey said he was hopeful of getting a Rhondda Borough Council go ahead for the proposed scheme in Ferndale.

He said they were particularly concerned at the high level of unemployment in the valley particularly among young girls.

And he had also heard that a number of advance factories in the area had not been taken up by private enterprise.

Playgroup

PARENTS interested in bilingual education for their children might be interested in two local events staged by Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin, the Welsh Nursery schools movement.

The first is a Welsh playgroup, which is due to open shortly at Sioch Vestry, Pentre, for children up to the age of three. Further details can be obtained from Mrs. A. Port, 19 Elizabeth Street, Pentre.

A social evening is also being planned for parents attending, or wishing their children to attend Welsh playgroups or schools.

It will be held at the Pentre Hotel on Wednesday, October 15, beginning at 7.15 p.m.

MP's surgery

RHONDDA M.P. Mr. Alec Jones, will hold a surgery on Saturday, October 11 at the Ferndale Labour Club from 10 a.m. till midday.

Welcome as firms move in

Two of the three tenders, all move into small factories at Highfield, Ferndale and the Gelli Industrial Estate.

Two of the three tenders, all of which were accepted at the borough council finance committee, were received after the closing date.

But the committee were glad to accept them because there had been an "extremely unsatisfactory response" to the adverts in the press.

Two units at Gelli are to be taken by Regency Enterprises.

Specialise

The two companies who applied after the closing date are to have two units each in the Ferndale site. One form is Universal Homes, from London, who are makers of cutters for cartons.

PD Brine are the second company, who specialise in sheet metal fabrication. They anticipate employing 12 to 14 people in their first year's trading.

Finance committee chairman Coun. Tom Jones was relieved at the late response. "We thought we would not lease them at all", he said.

But borough secretary Tony

Drugs appeal date still not known

THE parents of the Ton Pentre man being held in a Spanish jail on drugs offences still do not know the date of his appeal.

Although they were told a couple of months ago that the appeal would be in November, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Jones of Wyndham Street, Ton Pentre, say they are still in the dark over the actual date.

Their 37-year-old son Alan was sentenced to seven years imprisonment a year last June after being found guilty of smuggling 23 kilos of hashish — worth about £30,000 on the open market — over the Spanish Moroccan Border.

Alan — who always maintained his innocence — had been arrested a year earlier at the Spain/Moroccan port of Ceuta.

He is currently being held in a jail near Santander in

northern Spain.

Immediately after his trial he put in an appeal for leniency through Spanish lawyers.

The cost of the appeal and the lawyers' fees — estimated to be about £500 — are being met by the British 'Release' organisation which helps people in trouble abroad.

Alan's father, Mr. Jim Jones, said all he and his wife Beryl knew was that an appeal would probably be heard in November in Madrid.

Alan would not be able to appear in person to plead for clemency. The case would be argued by lawyers although he would be able to have a statement read out in court, he said.

If the appeal is lost, they say both they and Alan's brother Norman who lives in Porth will be writing directly to the King of Spain — Don Carlos — for mercy.

The year long wait for an appeal has put considerable pressure on both Mr. and Mrs. Jones.

Mrs. Jones was in hospital before Christmas with heart trouble and a doctors' note on her condition will be put to the appeal court in Spain.

"If it wasn't for the fact of the appeal, we would have resigned ourselves to it by now but it's been looming over our heads for so long now it's made us both unsettled," said Mr. Jones.

Mrs. Jones commented: "I did resign myself to it in some way but I have found that time goes longer now. It's going on and on and nothing is being done."

The couple have appealed to both local MP Mr. Alec Jones and the Foreign Office to intervene but there is little they can do as the matter is wholly in the hands of the Spanish Authorities.

But they are grateful for what help they have had, particularly from the British Release Organisation which is leading the money for the appeal.

Said Mr. Jones, a retired teacher, Ceuta is a small town with a population of 10,000. It is a very remote area and we are

Slur on officers slammed by council

ANGRY Rhondda councillors This week's borough

WIN
£500