

Mayor fights to save case

'IN THE THIRTIES 12,500 LEFT MERTHYR'

AS Hoover management and trade unions continue their fight for Government action to cut cheap imports, Don O'Neill finds out what worries people in the town...

Foreign attacks on 'Bank of England'

The notice on the board in the social club on Merthyr's vast Gurnos Estate announced a cricket match to come between the Lord's Taverners and Hoover Ltd.

"Those hoping to include Max Royce, Gareth Edwards, Colin Millar, Ed Stewart, Tony Lewis, Barry Norman, etc."

You can easily spot the trouble facing the company nationally by examining one of this year's autumn mail-order catalogues.

In it is a picture of a neat and compact little vacuum cleaner. It comes from Poland and costs about £20 less than its nearest British equivalent.

In the first three months of this year 31,000 of them came to Britain. Another 40,000 arrived from Switzerland where they were alleged to have been made — although Switzerland has no vacuum cleaner manufacturers.

There, then, are 71,000 reasons to help explain why 200 South Wales workers plus another 200 in other Hoover factories will be out of work, while 8,600 workers in

A PLEA FOR a stay of execution for the 'unique' Roman naval base discovered at Barry has come from the mayor of the town, Coun Don Whitchurch.

A group of about 20 councillors from the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council, South Glamorgan County Council and Barry Town Council visited the site with the mayor last night.

The history of the site and the excavation work being carried out was explained to them by Mr Gareth Dowdell, director of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.

RECORD SAFETY IN UK MINES

THE number of accidents in British coal mines in 1979 was the lowest ever recorded, says a report out today.

There were 46 deaths and 473 men seriously injured compared with 63 deaths and 494 injuries in 1978.

The report from the Health and Safety Executive, says: "This was a commendable achievement in view of the fact that the year was marked by the explosion at Golborne Colliery on March 19, 1979, where 10 men died and one was seriously injured."

The Health and Safety Commission in its annual report, says that reported accidents throughout industry in 1979 fell to approximately 319,000 — the lowest recorded in the decade.

Act Works

The report for 1979-80 says the first five years of the Health and Safety at Work Act also brought a substantial reduction in fatal accidents at work.

These decreased from 651 in 1974 to 544 in 1979, and there were marked reductions in overall accident rates.

The forward states that comparison of the figures for 1975-79 with the previous five years, 1970-74, shows that the fatal accident rate fell by nearly a quarter in construction, and by a fifth in manufacturing.

It adds that comparison between the two periods for non-fatal accidents is more difficult.

In manufacturing, the reported accident rate fell only slightly between the two periods, and in construction by much less than the fatal accident rate.

ARMY MOVES IN

The armed forces in Surbiton, formerly Dutch Guiana, last night indefinitely suspended parliament, a Surbiton Foreign Ministry statement said.

A state of emergency was declared five days ago amid allegations of a coup threat.

GRIFFITHS AND SON

High rate of interest hits bank's profits



HIGH interest levels absorbed £3.9m of the Commercial Bank of Wales's profits in the first six months of this year, leaving a group profit before taxation of £537,000.

Profits before interest payments and tax stood at £4,431,000 compared to £2,415,000 for the same period in 1979.

The six month profit is slightly down on the figure for 1979, but Sir Julian said the first half of 1979 (£926,000) but Sir Julian said: "Growth throughout the period had been satisfactory, particularly in view of the fact that our customers have felt it prudent to postpone until the current recession abates."

Assets employed have been increased by more than 50 per cent since June last year, he added.

Aid to jobs

Sir Julian referred to the crisis in the Welsh economy and fear for the future of the steel industry.

They would also try to play a role in encouraging new private enterprise to provide employment for those made redundant in the nationalised industries," he said.

He said that the bank would also try to play a role in encouraging industries which could offer jobs to school leavers.

"We know from our own experience that the lead time in establishing an undertaking and expanding its workforce is a long one and the provision of finance alone is only a part of the answer."

The financial advice and help which the executives and staff of the bank are able to give to our customers and potential customers is of equal importance," Sir Julian added.

In his statement to shareholders he says the bank are in close contact with local authorities and other institutions in Wales — "for it is our avowed intention to continue making as large a contribution as possible to the promotion of new enterprises in the Welsh economy which we are dedicated to serve."

GUARD KILLED

El Salvador's Public Works Minister Javier Alberto Morales Guillen survived an assassination attempt today when his car was machine-gunned, but one of his bodyguards was killed and two others were injured, police said.

Detectives hunt city rapist

DETECTIVES INVESTIGATING the second rape in Cardiff during the past two weeks there may be more than 100 people who might have been in the area at the time.

As a team of 40 detectives continued house to house inquiries today Detective Chief Inspector Bob Evans said police were still anxious to trace a group of three people seen on Saturday by the back lane road between Partidge Road and Elm Street.

The 26-year-old victim of the assault passed the group shortly before she was attacked.

"It is possible the three people seen in the land could have been making their way home from either the Four Elms public-house, the BBC club or the Roath Conservative Club," said Det Chief Insp Evans.

"There were about 80 people attending a folk night at the BBC Club and there were other people at the public-

Shotgun found next to body

SOUTH WALES Police are investigating the death of a 29-year-old married man whose body was found at his home yesterday.

Mr Michael Brett Phillips, who had one child, was found by a friend, Mr Robert Russell, in the front bedroom of his home in Penybryn, Glyncoch, near Pontypridd.

Mr Russell, of Gwyn Road, Rhydfod, was slaying with Mr Phillips at the time. Mrs Phillips was not at home.

A police spokesman said Mr Phillips had extensive head injuries and a 12-bore shotgun was found beside the body.

The Mid Glamorgan North coroner has been informed and a post-mortem examination was due to be carried out today at East Glamorgan Hospital, Church Village. Foul play was not suspected.

Just beginning

"I have a three-year-old son, Lee. I can't see him ever growing up and getting a job in Merthyr." Then, like old John Powell, she makes the comparison that is no longer valid.

"We always thought Hoover was as safe as the Bank of England."

The feeling repeated over and over is that this is just the beginning. In the context of national unemployment figures 200 redundancies and a three week month are not catastrophic.

Merthyr is not in the position of an isolated village which sees its only pit close something that has happened 100 often in South Wales over the years.

"But it's coming, predicts Mrs Gladys Williams, a cleaner in the Gwinger Social Club. Her son works at the factory and she is not optimistic about his future."

"We thought Hoover was for life. If you got a job there that was it. But not any more and it'll affect all the town. The shopkeepers will suffer. And the youngsters leaving school — well, what is there for them?"

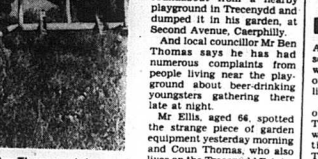
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Surprise find in garden



Mr Sidney Ellis, left, with Coun Ben Thomas and the round about dumped in his garden. An arrow points to the playground from where it was taken.

Sea warning

LIFEGUARDS at Porthcawl have repeated their appeal to people not to use inflatable dinghies and airbeds at sea after two people were rescued off Rhyeh Point yesterday.

The couple, Mark Jones, aged 24 of Wellington Close, Gurnos, Merthyr, and Jeanette James, aged 18 of Pine Grove, Gurnos, were in difficulties after their inflatable raft drifted out to sea on an ebb tide driven by strong winds.

The pair had been swept off the raft when they were picked up by the RNLI inshore lifeboat. Both were later released from Bridgend General Hospital where they were treated for shock.

Mr Gareth Lloyd, one of the lifeguards at Conest Beach, Porthcawl, said lifeguards swam out to save the couple and were assisted by two surfers under the inshore lifeboat arrived.

"We would repeat our appeals to people, especially with the present strong winds and strong currents, they should not take anything inflatable into the sea. Even beach balls are dangerous because they tend to blow into the sea and then people are tempted to follow them," he said.

Dad and lad are colleagues at Velindre Hospital

Mr Denis Griffiths and his son, Huw, have teamed up at Cardiff's Velindre Hospital.

Huw, now 27, was just a babe in arms when his 55-year-old father joined the hospital staff in 1956.

But 24 years later his son has started work in the same department as his Dad. Father and son are pictured above in the technicians' workshop at the hospital.

Huw joined the hospital 14 days ago after spending several years working for the weather research flight section of the Meteorological Office at Farnborough.

Prior to completing a physics degree at Bristol University and later a PhD in X-ray astronomy he attended Cathays High School.

Mr Griffiths, senior, of Heathwood Road, Heath, Cardiff, spent eight years of Cardiff Royal Infirmary before assuming his present post. His son lives at the family home.

"I will not see a great deal of Huw because our jobs do not run on parallel lines. It did not occur to me that one day I might be working with one of my own children" he said.

"I find my job rewarding and useful," said Huw.

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Teacher in rail death

A 60-year-old Rhondda schoolteacher died yesterday when he was struck by a train on the Treherbert to Treorchy line.

Mr Stephen Teitfyn Parry, of Tynnedw Terrace, Treorchy, was killed when he was struck by a diesel locomotive near the Tylacoch, Treorchy, footbridge at 10.32am.

The Mid Glamorgan North coroner, Mr John Morgan, has been informed and a post-mortem was due to be carried out today.

Baby panda dies at zoo

THE world's first panda born naturally in captivity died today, Mexico City zoo officials said.

The eight-day-old panda, named King Li (Chinese for Triumph), had been born at the zoo to Yin Yin and Po Po, presented by Chinese officials to former Mexican President Luis Echeverria when he visited Peking in 1973.

Zoo officials said Yin Yin must have fallen asleep while nursing the cub and accidentally crushed it.

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