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Alan Jones (right) now in gaol on the Moroccan Coast, pictured about five years ago with his two brothers Norman (left) and Phillip (Middle).

Patients pay tribute to retiring doc

THE RETIREMENT of local GP, Dr. E. J. Williams was marked by a meeting of Recognition and a Presentation which took place at Treberondda Chapel, Ferndale on Sunday evening last, January 6th.

Despite the atrocious weather a large number of former patients of the doctor attended and the occasion was a most enjoyable one for the residents of North Rhondda. With many an eye dimmed and handkerchiefs discreetly used, the doctor's own words of thanks.

The Rev. W. C. Thomas, president for the evening opened the proceedings and read a letter of appreciation which had been signed by the community. He then presented Dr. Williams with a certificate of appreciation and a presentation of a framed portrait of the doctor. Dr. Williams, who has been practising in Rhondda since 1952, had served in a hospital at Stone, West Lancashire, and in 1952 he was awarded an M.B. for his services during the war. He has since been awarded the D.F.C. for his services during the war.

The presentation was made by Mrs. E. J. Jones, B.A. (Tavernham), Mrs. A. W. Thomas on behalf of the Red Cross and Coas. Colles Morris speaking for the R. G. Jones.

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Message for Rhonda man in Spanish jail

A RHONDDA MAN imprisoned in Spain is deeply touched at a message of sympathy sent to him after his story appeared in the Rhondda Leader on November 3.

Allan Jones, of Ton Pentre, was arrested on July 11, 1978, for allegedly attempting to smuggle over 60lb of hashish over the Spanish/Moroccan border. Allan says he is innocent and had the drug planted on him.

Just before the turn of the year, Allan's mother, Mrs. Jim Jones, received a letter from her son. He said he was in good spirits considering the time he has already spent there.

Allan said he had received a Christmas card from an unknown Rhondda resident. This touched him very deeply and he has asked the Rhondda Leader to convey his thanks to the writer for his or her kind wishes.

"It is touching to think that there are people in the Valley thinking and praying for me", he said.

By J. T. CAMPBELL

Allan is at present in Cordoba prison on the Spanish mainland, but he was originally in a jail in Spanish Morocco.

He was one of a party of 12 Europeans who tried to escape from the jail. The attempt failed, and Allan wrote to his parents that he was beaten up by prison guards holding rifles and machine guns.

He tried to escape because of the foul conditions and the brutality of the guards at the prison, he said.

He wrote to his parents: "On the night we tried to escape I was forced up against a wall in the exercise yard by

guards with rifles and machine guns.

"Because I have plenty of meat and looked strong enough they beat the hell out of me from head to foot."

"I was black and blue from the clubs and rifle butts and one of them had a chain with a padlock on the end."

Allan suffered rib injuries but was not allowed to see the British Consul or a doctor.

Since then he has been moved to Cordoba and, he says, better off and his health improved.

No date has been set for his trial and it is thought it could be a year away.

Allan's two brothers, Norman, who works at Lewis Merthyr Colliery as a ventilation officer, and Phillip, a civil servant, have both been keeping in touch with the

Foreign Office. They have also asked Rhondda MP Alan Jones for help.

Norman told the Rhondda Leader: "No news of the trial has been forthcoming and I have written to the Vice-Consul in Spain requesting information. I haven't heard anything yet."

If Allan is found guilty he would face a sentence of up to eight years.

Vandals cause ban on Rhondda Christmas trees

"IT is unlikely that the Rhondda Council will place Christmas trees in public places in the Valley next Christmas - due entirely to the damage done by vandals during the recent festive season," said the Mayor, Coun. Rufus Ashman, at a meeting of the Ward 5 Labour Party at Llwynypïa last Thursday.

The Mayor went on to speak of the theft machinery from parks, the despoliation of parks and bowling greens and the desecration of cemeteries on Halloween night, when police had to be called out.

Coun. Ashman said the ward had been instrumental in drawing attention to the dangers existing at Pandy and Partridge Squares and had protested to the authority about the state of The Hall Cinema in Tonypandy and there were now hopes of something being done. The Council have put a demolition order on the cinema. He urged members to take equally strenuous efforts in the fight against vandalism.

The Mayor then gave some statistics about the Valley. For instance, in 1925 the population was 163,000, but latest figures show it is now approximately half that number at 84,000.

Another disturbing feature Coun. Ashman mentioned was the fact that, once again, the figures for births and deaths are causing concern. He said that while births were 219 (117 boys and 102 girls),

deaths were 280 (141 males, 139 females). He also gave figures relating to the incidence of infectious diseases occurring in Rhondda and how the Health Inspectorate are constantly watching food supplies and testing for unfit meat, milk etc.

Finally, Coun. Ashman said a highlight of his year of office has been helping charities. He referred particularly to the "Pile-o-Fennies" Campaign for the blind, which would culminate in a presentation evening at the Sports Centre in April when he and the Mayor of Taif Ely would be present, together with Max Boyce and a prominent Male Voice Choir.

The Chairman Mr. Alan Trotman thanked Coun. Ashman for the Report and wished him and the Mayoress a pleasant time at the Civic Reception that evening to a party of soldiers of the Welch Regiment serving in Germany.

At the commencement of the meeting the chairman spoke of the great loss sustained by the Ward in the sudden death of Alderman Herbert Jones. Mr. Trotman said it was also a great loss to Rhondda as a whole.

He thanked the many who in 1978 had served the community, especially during his many years as councillor and as chairman of the Hospital League of Friends, also his dedication to the 'Kidney Machine Service', to the Co-operative movement and as a councillor for which he was known as "The Golden Voice of Rhondda". He had also been an adjudicator at Miners' Eisteddfodau.

Mr. Trotman said that only six months ago they had mourned the loss of Mrs. Jones. He said the sympathy of the Ward was extended to Mr. Alan Jones, Alan Jones' only son, and his family. Members then stood in silent tribute.

Arising from the reading of minutes was the question of The Hall Cinema. This had been deferred after receiving an appeal from the Tonypandy Women's Section for support for their proposed protest against the state of the cinema, now vacant and dilapidated. This had been referred to in the Mayor's report and it was agreed that any member of the Ward who wished to join in their protest may do so.

In the discussion following Coun. Ashman's Report, some members were of the opinion that Rhondda was under-policed. One member said he lived adjacent to Pandy Square and one evening he had occasion to ring the police, because of a disturbance in the Square. He was given to understand that there was only one policeman on duty in Rhondda that evening.

It was agreed to discuss the question of police supervision at the next meeting.

£52,000 towards access road

NOTIFICATION has been received from the Welsh Office by Rhondda Borough Council that the sum of £52,000 has been approved as a contribution from the European Regional Development Fund in respect of the access road to the Ynyswen Industrial Site.

The total estimated cost of the project is £160,000, and work will commence and terminate in the year ending December, 1979.

Industrial Sites - Progress Reports: Within the past months there has been a certain amount of activity in connection with various industrial sites within the borough.

The Welsh Development Agency are presently negotiating with the Council for the acquisition from the Council of the Abergorki Industrial Site, comprising some 11 acres.

It is understood that the Agency has already reached a stage of commitment for the development of the area. The Rhondda Council has given to the Welsh Development Agency rights of entry upon the site at this time in order to minimise delays.

Negotiations are proceeding through the District Valuer for two possible leases of land at the Gelli Industrial Estate - one to Porth Textiles Ltd., the other to Caemwr Systems. Should these negotiations bear fruit, then the whole of the land to be developed will have been leased.

Work on bottleneck starts

WORK has started on getting rid of a Rhondda traffic bottleneck when Mid Glamorgan County Council begin improvements to Aberhondda Road between Porth Street and Tynswydd Square, Porth.

The scheme involves straightening and widening the road, and rebuilding the Rheol Bridge across the Afon Rhondda Fach. It is being undertaken to improve a busy stretch of the main A.4058 road up the valley, and in the interests of road safety.

The County Council warned today that although delays will be kept to a minimum, some congestion was bound to be caused by the work of rebuilding the bridge. Traffic signals will be used while reconstruction proceeds, and on some week-ends or Sundays it will be necessary to close the bridge entirely and divert traffic.

Rhondda Fawr motorists have been advised to avoid Porth whenever possible while work is in progress, by keeping straight on at Britannia Bridge, Porth, and using

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READER'S LETTER

Decision making in Rhondda

SIR—Your readers will be interested to learn about one particular aspect of decision-making in the Rhondda. It often happens that the word CULTURE echoes from the mouths of our representatives in the Municipal Offices, and truly they are regarded as spokesmen / women for Rhondda's citizens.

They were either chosen or elected to maintain or enhance social matters

Perhaps I should mention that the project was partly motivated by the changing ecological patterns in our valleys due to the wide-spread planting of conifers and its closures. Needless to say I have intrinsic faith in the Survey as a piece of Rhondda history. This is only one of its kind; hopefully, some like-minded naturalists in the next century will record new findings when the

was reached. At this point it is worth remembering the sum of public money involved, and what it would have produced as a token of Rhondda's culture - taking culture as defined in the O.E.D.

I quote Mr. Roberts' final letter: "The appropriate committee of the Council has now given further careful consideration to your request that the Council publish your Survey. The committee appreciates

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