SN 645 922

Dyna'r cyfeirnod ar fap 127 yr Arolwg Ordnans lle gwelir 'Angler's Retreat' ger Llyn Plas y Mynydd. Mae'r llyn yno o hyd ond does dim sôn am y plas. Tŷ haf bach sydd ar lan y llyn, yn awr, wedi ei godi ar ôl i un o'i flaen o fynd ar dân.

Ganwyd a magwyd Edgar Hymphreys ym Mwlchystyllen heb fod ymhell o Blas y Mynydd. Mae'r cartref erbyn hyn wedi hen ddadfeilio. Yr oedd hi'n dlodi mawr yn y tyddynod mynyddig yn y 20au a'r 30au. Gadawodd Edgar yr ysgol yn 11eg oed. Gweithiai fel bugail ar fferm arall am hanner sofren yr wythnos. Byddai hefyd yn mynd o fferm i fferm yn yr ardal a threulio diwrnod ym mhob un i dorri mawn iddynt ar gyfer y gaeaf. Pan yn 18 oed aeth i fyw i Rydyronnen i ofalu am y lle i'r perchennog, Prifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth. Yr oedd yno rhyw 300 o ddefaid, gwartheg godro a ieir. Câi ef ddwy fuwch a dau gae o wair i'w cadw. Un o'i orchwylion oedd mynd ag wyau i'r Emporium yn Nhal-y-bont. Mynd â chant ar y tro mewn basged fawr a phob un ohonynt wedi ei lapio mewn tamaid o *Baner ac Amserau Cymru* (papur newydd wythnosol o safon yn cael ei olygu yn Aberystwyth gan Prosser Rhys). Yr oedd y pum swllt a geid amdanynt yn help i brynu anghenion fel te a siwgr a blawd i'r ty. Yn 22ain oed aeth i fyw i Bencae, Tal-y-bont. Bu yno am 16 mlynedd efo dwy fuwch a chael rhentu dau gae gan deulu fferm gyfagos, Penpomprenuchaf, am ddeg swllt ar hugain y flwyddyn.

Er bod nifer yn anfodlon gweld Y Comisiwn Coedwigo yn prynu tir i blannu blociau unffurf o goed ar y mynyddoedd deuai hyn â gwaith sefydlog i weithwyr lleol. Cafodd Edgar a llawer eraill waith gyda'r Comisiwn Coedwigo yng Ngwm Einion; câi bysgota yn yr afon (wedi bod yn dilyn y grefft er pan yn blentyn). Mae'n wir ei fod wedi dal 110 brithyll afon un tymor yn y 30au. Erbyn hyn mae'r afonydd bron yn wâg o bysgod. Daeth y gwaith gyda'r Comisiwn Coedwigo i ben yn 1947 a bu raid iddo adael cartref i chwilio am waith. 'Mynd ar y beic wedyn'. Bu'n gweithio ar hostel Pantycelyn a Phlas Gogerddan, cartref i'r Fridfa Blanhigion. Treuliodd 4 blynedd

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This is the reference number on the Ordnance Survey Map 127 where you will see 'Anglers' Retreat' besides Llyn Plas y Mynydd. The lake is still there but there is no trace of the house. A small summer house stands on the site now, built after a previous one was burnt down.

Mr. Edgar Humphreys was born and bred at Bwlchystyllen not far from Plas y Mynydd. The home has long since become a ruin. Those who lived on small mountain farms in the 20s and 30s knew what it was to be very poor. Edgar left school when he was 11years of age. He worked as a shepherd on another farm for a half-sovereign a week. He also went from farm to farm to cut a stack of peat for the winter. When he was 18 he moved to Rhydyronnen farm to work the property of the University at Aberystwyth. There were some 300 sheep, dairy cows and poultry. He was allotted 2 cows and 2 fields of hay for himself. One of his duties was to take a hundred eggs at a time to the Emporium at Tal-y-bont each one wrapped in paper torn from pages of a well-respected Welsh weekly called, *Baner ac Amserau Cymru* published in Aberystwyth and edited by Prosser Rhys (a well known literary figure). The 5 shillings which he received for them helped to buy necessities like tea, sugar and flour for the house. When he was 22 he moved to Pencae, Tal-y-bont. He lived there for 16 years again with two cows and renting two fields from the adjoining farm, Penpomprenuchaf, for thirty shillings a year.

Although many were opposed to the Forestry Commission's scheme to purchase land for the purpose of planting uniform blocks of trees on the hills it had to be conceded that this provided steady employment for local workers. Edgar and many others found work with the Commission in the Einion Valley where he could indulge in his life-long passion for fishing. He caught 110 brook trout in one season in the 30s. By today the streams are almost empty of fish. Work with the Forestry Commission came to an end in 1947 and he had to leave home to look for work. It was a case of 'on your bike'. He

gyda chwmni o Lanelli yn adeiladu tai gwydr yn Llundain. Bu hefyd yn gweithio yn ysbyty West Park yn Epsom. Na, ni allai gweithiwr bach o Gymru fforddio mynd yn agos i'r Cae Ras enwog. Braf oedd cael dod yn ôl i Braichgarw, Tal-y-bont at y pysgotwyr.

Yr oedd tŷ ger llyn Plas y Mynydd wedi ei adeiladu gan deulu Gogerddan ac wedi ei adael i Capden a Mrs Briggs (un o ferched Gogerddan). A dyna i chwi 'Anglers' Retreat' – lle i bysgotwyr cyfoethog i 'ymneulltuo' i fyw yn fras a threulio'r dyddiau yn hela a physgota. Daeth Edgar Humphreys yn bur gyfarwydd â'r lle oherwydd y byddai yn mynd yno ar benwythnosau i dorri mawn. Deuai ymlaen yn iawn gyda Mrs. Briggs. Adnabu hi fel gwraig ddymunol a gwirioneddol fonheddig. Yr oedd y tŷ yn un helaeth a byddai nifer o westeion adnabyddus yn dod yno yn ystod yr haf. Un ohonynt oedd perchennog Haig Whisky, hwnnw a werthid mewn potel panylog unigryw. Yr oedd ganddynt dair morwyn yn gweithio yno ym misoedd yr haf a chauffeur o'r enw Sanford. Yr oedd ef yn gyfrifol am gario holl anghenion y tŷ i fyny o Blas Penwern ger New Cross; siwrne hir a brawychus iawn i fyny ochr serth Cwm Ceulan.

Daeth tro ar fyd ac ar y gymdeithas a fynychai'r plas. Bu farw y capden a dechreuodd y dirywiad. Y pysgotwyr yn awr oedd Edgar Hymphreys ac eraill o'r ardal. Gadawyd y tŷ i 'ddistaw ymddadfeilio' a daeth estron i gymeryd meddiant o'r llyn.

Yr oedd yna dri llyn nid nepell o Blas y Mynydd sef, Conach, Dwfn a Nant y Cagal ar dir y Comisiwn Coedwigo. Mentrodd tri physgotwr i'w prynu. Cyfrannodd Edgar £20 a dau arall £20 yr un i gael meddiant ar Conach, Dwfn a rhan o Nant y Cagal. Dyna ffurfio Cymdeithas Bysgota Tal-y-bont gyda'r bwriad o ddarparu cyfleusterau pysgota am bris rhesymol i drigolion Tal-y-bont a'r cylch.

Wedi gwneud dipyn o waith i gael y llynnoedd yn barod stociwyd hwy â physgod yn y gwanwyn a gwahardd pysgota tan yr haf. Ym mis Mehefin 1972, wedi cychwyn ar y pysgota, daliodd Edgar Hymphreys yn Conach bysgodyn yn pwyso 13½ pwys. Hwn oedd y brithyll mwyaf a ddaliwyd yn holl ddyfroedd Cymru y flwyddyn honno ac mae gan

worked on the new Pantycelyn Hostel and at Plas Gogerddan, home of the Plant Breeding Station. He spent 4 years with a Llanelli company building glasshouses in London. He also worked on West Park hospital in Epsom but, of course, could not afford to go near the famous Race Course. He was glad to return to Braichgarw in Tal-y-bont to be among his fellow anglers.

A house had been built by the Gogerddan family beside the lake and left to Captain and Mrs. Briggs (one of the Gogerddan daughters). And there you have 'Anglers' Retreat' where rich anglers could retreat to a life of luxury and spend days hunting and fishing. Edgar became familiar with the place because he used to go there at week-ends to cut peat. He got on well with Mrs. Briggs who was, he said, kindly and ladylike on all occasions. It was a substantial house and accommodated many well-known guests during the summer. One of them was the owner of Haig's Whisky which is sold in the unique dimpled bottle. They had three maids working there in the summer months and a chauffeur called Sanford. He was responsible for bringing all the household necessities from Plas Penwern near New Cross; a long hazardous journey up the steep side of the Ceulan Valley.

Times changed for the occupants of the Retreat. Captain Briggs died and that was the beginning of the end. The anglers now were Edgar Humphreys and other locals. The house eventually became a ruin and strangers bought the lake.

Not far from Plas y Mynydd, on Forestry Commission land, were the lakes Mynach, Dwfn and Nant-y-Cagal. Three anglers ventured to buy them from the Forestry Commission. Edgar put down £20 and two others £20 each to obtain possession of Conach, Dwfn and a part of Nant y Cagal. They then set about establishing the Tal-y-bont Angling Association with the intention of providing good angling for the district of Tal-y-bont for a reasonable fee.

After doing some work to get the lakes ready they were stocked in the spring for summer fishing. In June 1972. shortly after opening the season, Edgar Humphreys caught a 13½ pound trout in Conach. This fish turned out to be the biggest trout caught in all Welsh waters that year and Mr. Humphreys was presented with a certificate

Mr.Humphreys dystysgrif swyddogol i brofi hynny. Yr oedd yr hanes yn y *Cambrian News* gan ddod â cyhoeddusrwydd rhad i'r Gymdeithas ifanc.

Mae'r Gymdeithas yn dal i fynd rhagddi ond fod nifer yr aelodau yn llai. Caiff y llynnoedd eu stocio'n gyson yn y tymor. Mae'r cyfleusterau wedi'u gwella ac mae'r gymdeithas wedi rhoi cwch ar bob llyn. Dibynnir yn helaeth ar dwristiaid ac eraill yn prynu tocynnau dydd. Mae'r Gymdeithas hefyd yn dal yr hawl i bysgota rhan o'r Leri a'r afon Einion. Rhoddwyd 30,000 o frithyll ac eogiaid bach yn y Leri rai blynyddoedd yn ôl; felly mae'r rhagolygon am y dyfodol yn obeithiol. Mae sôn fod sewin wedi eu gweld yn y Ceulan amser claddu.

Ithel Jones

authenticating the catch. The story appeared in the *Cambrian News* thus securing good publicity for the newly formed association.

The Association is still alive and well albeit with fewer members. The lakes are stocked regularly during the season. Certain improvements have been made to the banks and each lake has been provided with a boat. With the decline in the number of members the Association is largely dependent on tourists and others buying day tickets. The Association holds fishing rights on sections of the rivers Leri and Einion. Some 30,000 small trout and salmon parr were released into the Leri some years ago. Future prospects therefore are good. Sewin have been seen coming up the Ceulan to spawn.

Ithel Jones

Edgar Humphreys a'r pysgodyn 13½ pwys.

Edgar Humphreys and the 13½ pound fish.