

BARRY GI BRIDES MAGAZINE

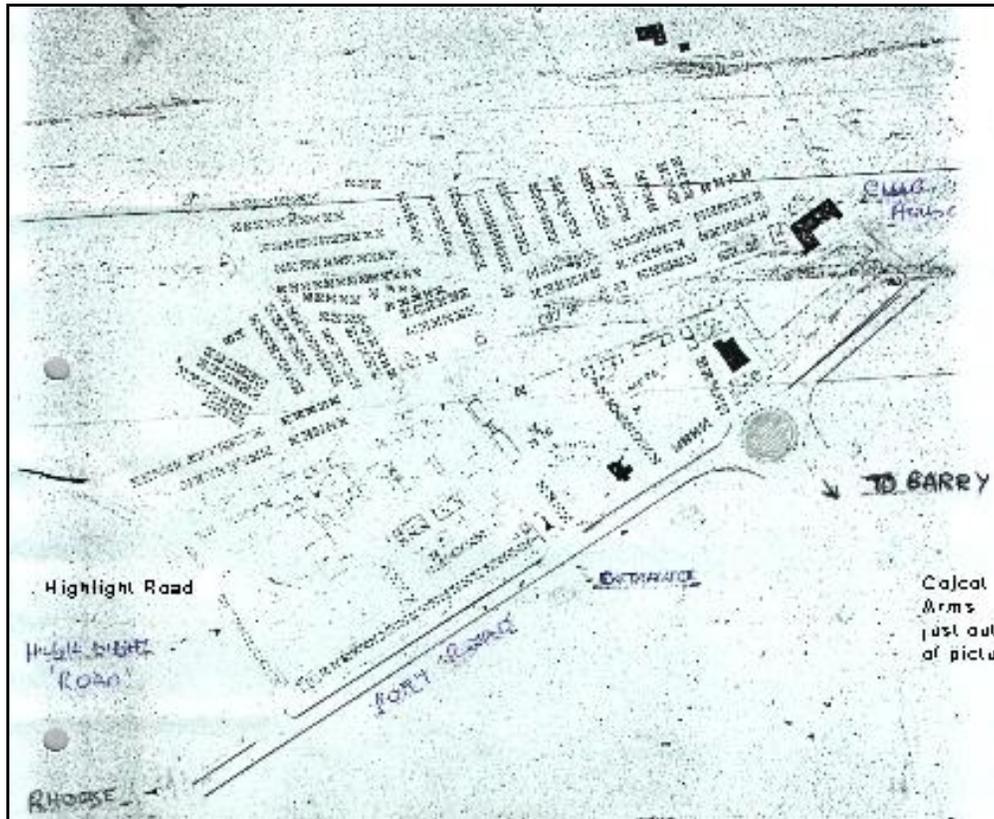
Number Five

March 2010



Kate, Teresa and Mary – See Back Page

Brynhill Golf Course, just north of Barry, WW2



The quality is not brilliant but it is clear that it was mainly a canvas camp



“We were quartered just outside Barry at Bryn Hill in a temporary tent city” – Richard Jensen, Oregon, USA, 115th Field Artillery Battalion”



Glenn Booker, Barry, Wales, UK

Welcome to Number Five!

In this issue:

- **Brynhill Golf Course** on the outskirts of Barry played host to various US Army units during the war, especially the 500 or so members of the 115th Field Artillery Battalion. (Prior to D-Day this camp was temporary home to 285 officers and 2621 enlisted men of the Second US Infantry Division.) **At least four GI's from the 115th** married *locally*:
 1. **Lofton – Marinan** – mentioned last time. The groom was “arrested” by MPs ☺
 2. **Coup – Hicks** – I was eagerly anticipating their visit to Barry in ‘97, but, tragically...
 3. **Goward – Clements** – This wedding takes us beyond Barry to Cardiff. Tragedy struck them early on...
 4. **Cook – Jenkins** Mrs Cook is referred to in a letter about America below...
- The continuing Saga of the **“Impetigo Impediment”** – The obstacles that **Mr. Oren Crowe** encountered when he came back to Britain after the war to try to marry his fiancée. Mr Crowe flies in – and promptly flies back to the US! Last month the story in the Barry & District News, this month the account is from the Barry Herald
- And then there is more about the **Williams sisters** in Richmond, Virginia
- **Mary Hopkins** who married **Van Foxworth** is on the front and back pages

BARRY HERALD**Friday August 24th, 1945****COUP – HICKS**

The marriage was solemnised at Holton Road Methodist Church, Barry Dock on Wednesday of last week, between **Miss Hilda Ruth Hicks**, only daughter of Mr Ralph Hicks, butcher of Holton Road, Barry Dock, and **Private First Class Robert Lee Coup**, US Army, only son of Mr. and Mrs. J O Coup, Milton, Pennsylvania... The bridegroom returned from Germany four days before the wedding.

BARRY HERALD**Friday August 1st, 1947**

COUP – On July 27th, to **Mr and Mrs Robert Lee Coup** (nee Ruth Hicks), at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA, God's gift of a daughter. (By Cable).

Bob Coup was in the 115th Field Artillery stationed at the Brynhill Golf Course. According to the late **Miss Peggy Giles**, Bob first saw Ruth when she was in her father's butcher shop in Holton Road. G-40 used to store their ice cream in Mr Hick's fridge!

Sadly, Ruth Coup died suddenly in August 1997 just before they were due to fly home for a visit. Miss Peggy Giles had told me of this impending visit and I was *really* looking forward to meeting them – but it was not to be. Bob Coup returned to the UK at the end of that month with her ashes to be interred at Barry cemetery.

According to **Mr. Jim Parks** of Murfreesboro, near Nashville, Tennessee, whose late father was a captain in the 115th FA Battalion, "Coup was apparently one of the regular army or draftee replacements received by the 115th after the unit was called to active duty. The original unit was made up entirely of National Guard members from the state of Tennessee. Out of state replacements began arriving almost as soon as they got to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, in order to get the unit up to full strength."

Noteworthy:

Private Robert L Coup was awarded the Good Conduct Medal for Exemplary Behaviour, Efficiency and Fidelity on 29th April 1944.

BARRY & DISTRICT NEWS**August 6th, 1953****BARRIANS MEET IN THE UNITED STATES**

"AMERICA is nice, but England is much better"¹, said Mrs. A. C. Bumford, of Porth-y-Castell, (Barry) on returning from a two-month holiday in the United States. And she should know. During her stay she travelled extensively visiting 18 states, and leaving by way of Canada...

While on tour she paid a visit to several former Barry girls including Mrs. J Cook, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W Jenkins, 28 Porth-y-Castell...

Jim Parks informed me that **Cass Cook** was also from Murfreesboro..."As the story goes, Barbara Jenkins came to this country to marry Cass Cook (I think his name was **James C. Cook**) after the war. Her parents moved here in the late 1940's and spent the remainder of their lives here. "

(You will recall, reader, that **Betty Nelson's parents** followed their daughter over the Pond.)

SOUTH WALES ECHO**Tuesday August 28th, 1945****GOWARD – CLEMENTS**

On August 20th, at St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church², **Staff Sergeant Paul Goward**, youngest son of Mrs and the late Mr Goward, 79 Wachtung Avenue, East Orange, New Jersey, to **Julia**, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J Clements, 73 Pentrebanne Street, Cardiff.

July 2nd, 1946

At St Mary's hospital, West Orange, New Jersey, USA, to **Mr and Mrs Paul J Goward** (nee **Julia Clements**) a daughter.

¹ I suppose she would say that, wouldn't she? ©

² In Grangetown, Cardiff, I assume, not far from Pentrebanne Street.

Mr. Richard Jensen, a member of Headquarters & Headquarters Battery, 115th FA Battalion, recalled that one of his best friends, **Paul Goward**, of the same battery, went back to Wales after the war and married a local girl.

“She died in childbirth not too long after they were married. They had two children, a boy and a girl. They lived in Chatham, New Jersey. He died about a year and a half ago.” (That would have been in the mid-Nineties.)

I imagine that other members of the 115th married Barry women. They were camped locally for half a year. They would have had lots of leave in that time. But they were gone by May.

Location, Location, Location

In May 1944 units of the **Second US Infantry Division** moved into their encampment. The 2nd did not have the same freedoms to move in the community as did their predecessors. Prior to D-Day other elements of the “*Second to None*” were encamped further east just off the road to Wenvoe and Cardiff. These soldiers were quarantined for security reasons. **I think that it is unlikely** that any of these “*Indianheads*” (**another** name for the 2nd infantry Division!) would have married local lasses! Barbed wire and armed guards would have tended to deter **any** relationships with the locals.

Although by the end of May 1944 there were 4-5,000 combat soldiers of the Second Infantry Division in **two** camps north of Barry, the main concentration of US military personnel from 1942 – 1945 was at G-40, roughly to the **south east of the town**.

G-40, the US Army General Supply Depot that mushroomed around Barry and Barry Docks, included **five** camps: **Ridge Camp, Farm Camp and Hayes Lane Camp, Barry Depot Expansion, and G-40 Officers’ Quarters**.

The subject of the camps, their locations and their capacities, together with a closer and more detailed description of some of the men who lived and worked in them awaits a fuller treatment in: **OVER HERE in BARRY** another magazine that is currently under construction. ☺In the meantime please see the aerial photo on the front of **Number Two** and I will put another one in **Number Six**.

BARRY HERALD**Friday May 2nd, 1947****American Sent Back****HARSH TREATMENT OF BARRY WOMAN'S FIANCÉ**

Awaiting the arrival of her fiancé from the USA at her parents' home in Morel Street, Barry Dock, on Sunday evening, Mrs. Irene Havard was informed by a reporter that he had landed at London airport, was found to be suffering from impetigo, a mild skin infection, and sent back to America.

Mrs. Havard and her parents are angry that Mr. Oren Crowe, who flew over here to marry her at Court Road Methodist Church, Barry Dock, on **Whit Sunday**, should not have been given facilities to see his future wife or even to phone her. He was allowed to send a telegram which did not arrive until **Monday morning**.

Mr. Crowe, who flew from Boston, Massachusetts, where he was employed in a Boston insurance agency, had been saving for the past two years to fly here and start a catering business in Cardiff. When he arrived at London airport and was found to be suffering from impetigo the authorities sent him back. This harsh action of the Immigration Authorities, under a 1928 Act, is believed to have been taken to force the American authorities to carry out more stringent medical examinations before travellers leave for this country.

Mrs. Havard met Mr. Crowe in Plymouth about four years ago when she was a Civil Defence ambulance driver and he a cook in the US Navy. Since his return to the USA, she has received three air mail letters a week from him.

It was Mr. Crowe's intention to become a naturalised Britisher as his grandmother was a Welsh woman. He has an aunt and uncle living in Old Tredegar. His only American relative is a sister.

Mrs. Havard, whose marriage was recently dissolved, has two sons, one a steward and the other an assistant steward on board tramp steamers.

She said that on **Friday** she had a letter from Oren saying that he would arrive in Britain and would travel to Barry either **Sunday night** or **Monday morning**.

"On **Sunday**," she said, my father rang up Croydon airport to ascertain whether Oren had arrived. He was told the authorities had no information because the staff on duty at the time of the arrival of the airliner had been changed. Surely there could have been made available some information instead of my having to get it from reporters. The telegram said 'They won't allow me to land. Leaving for U.S. 10 o'clock **tonight**. Letter follows.'"

"Why," asked Mrs. Havard, "could they not have put him into hospital until he got over the infection which, I understand, can be quickly cleared up. It is hard lines on me but doubly so for Oren who has gone to endless trouble to get through all the formalities over there and then to spend so much of his savings flying here. It was his first air trip and had he come by boat he would have had to wait until September."

Mr. Crowe said he could not understand why he was sent back. "I am not a rich man and this has cost me a lot of my savings. It will be a job to get the dough together to make another trip, but I shall be back." Croydon airport authorities said he was refused admission on a technicality.

Mrs. Havard received a letter from Mr. Crowe on **Tuesday morning**. It had been written at Croydon airport at 7.30pm on **Sunday evening**. It said:

"They claim I am not in perfect health, but I was on **Friday** as I went to the doctor and had a stiff check-up. I am wondering who is going to pay for my return passage. I am so mad right now that I don't know what I am doing. I will be back as soon as possible as I want to be with Mom and Pop (Mr. and Mrs. William Chick) as they are the only ones I have.

"I guess I will have to wait a little longer so let's hope for the best, but being in London and having been sent back I can't understand. I can't even see a doctor here and it is the Customs Officer who is sending me back. I am going to have a good physical examination in the British Consulate in Boston **the day I land** and I am going to bring a doctor's certificate with me."

TO BE CONTINUED...

BACK TO MRS BUMFORD'S VISIT TO AMERICA IN 1953:**(See page 5)**

While on tour she paid a visit to several former Barry girls including Mrs. J Cook, daughter of Mr and Mrs W Jenkins, 28 Porth-y-Castell and **Mrs. Conrad and her sister Gwyneth, of Richmond, Virginia, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Tan-y-Fron, and their American husbands and families.** "They seemed exceptionally happy there," said Mrs Bumford, "although they were very interested in any news of Barry."

Mrs. Bumford's visit to America is also referred to in a letter received by the "Barry & District News" last week from Mrs Conrad. In her letter Mrs. Conrad states: "Mrs Bumford made a special journey to visit my sister and I here in Richmond, Virginia. What a wonderful thing it was for us two girls to have an old Barrian coming to see us.

In spite of our very happy marriages and lovely children, Barry will never be out of our hearts. How we long to walk to walk to Cold Knap when the temperatures soars to 100. I have yet to come across anything that beats our Welsh beauty spot. Daddy sends us "Barry & District News" regularly and I read everything – even the advertisements!"

A request for more information regarding GI Brides and their stories:

PHOTOGRAPHS: Wedding pictures are always popular

LETTERS: So contemporary, personal... carefully selected quotes could be insightful. In the days before texting and emails when people actually wrote letters!

POSTCARDS to HOME or SENT from HOME

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS: War Bride arrivals in the US were often noted in the local press

Also: are there GI Brides still living in Barry? I know of one, to be sure...

Are there others?

Do you have American cousins?

The truth is out there

Glenn.booker501@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01446 741886 Mobile: 07790998405

First mention for another Barry GI Bride: **Mrs Sheila Poulosky**. More on this couple in the next few months...

BARRY HERALD

Friday 5th July, 1946

POULOSKY – WILTSHIRE

Miss Sheila Wiltshire, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alec Wiltshire of Princes St. Barry, was married in St. Joseph's Church, Sioux City, Iowa, USA, recently to **Mr. Jack L Poulosky**, second son of Mr and Mrs J. Poulosky, of Sioux City.



St. Joseph's Church, Sioux City, Iowa

Miss Wiltshire arrived in New York on June 1st, and she was met by her fiancé. They travelled to her future home by way of Chicago and since her arrival she has been the guest of honour at several parties given by her husband's relatives and friends. The couple met while Mr Poulosky was serving in this country with the US Navy.



The Nelson Family:
(See Number Two)
Peter and Betty,
Patricia and Joy,
Christmas 1969.
Thanks to Stuart
Farmer for the picture.

BARRIAN IS PLAYING TRUMPET IN U.S.A. SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

THE FARMERS, of Longview, in the State of Washington—they have strong associations with Barry—are quite a musical family and one of them has hit the headlines in his home state.

He is Mr Stuart Farmer, who plays second trumpet with the South - west Washington Civic Symphony, and an American newspaper states that he "isn't exactly typical of the musicians in the group — but he isn't untypical either. The route he took to get to the symphony is different, but his desire to work and perform he shares with the others."

Stuart, who was born in Cardiff, emigrated in 1957 when he was 27. His father, Mr William Farmer and his mother followed several years later and have now made their home on Columbia Heights. A daughter, Mrs Betty Nelson, who married an American Army officer, also lives in the vicinity. She emigrated first.

The father will be remembered as proprietor of a garage in Broad Street, nearly opposite the Theatre Royal, now owned by Willis Motors.

Stuart, as soon as he finished school, was apprenticed for five years in his father's garage. He also attended the Cardiff Technical College and served two years in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers where he took and taught auto mechanics courses.

He played for Barry R.F.C.'s 1st XV from the time he was 18 until the week before he left the country.

Mr Chas. H. Farmer, the well-known photographer, who lives at Trem-y-Don, Marine Drive, Barry, is the uncle of Stuart.

The startling thing about Stuart's entrance into the symphony is that he has only been playing the trumpet for nine years. Few men take up the trumpet seriously when they are 29 years of age. He did study the violin for seven years as a youngster, but according to him he didn't try very hard.

Stuart, when he arrived in Washington, looked for a new hobby to do instead of playing rugby. He chose to play a cornet, but realised he needed a teacher and this turned out to be a man who is first trumpet in the symphony.

He played briefly with the Lower Columbia Concert Band, but when it folded he did too. He didn't play for about a year, but when the "soft lip" band was formed three years ago for players who hadn't touched their horns since school days, he joined and has been playing ever since.

His two children, Chris and Shelly, are also musically minded, playing the trombone and piano respectively.

Stuart, who lives at 2724 Florida Street, Longview, Washington, is a driver-salesman.

His mother, Mrs Ella Farmer, visited Barry last year for one month.

I was browsing the old newspapers in Barry Library the other day and lo and behold! This did I find in the **Barry & District News**.

This piece – dated **January 1st 1970** – illustrates how one person's decision to marry a person from overseas could impact upon their family.

Stuart is planning to visit Barry in May. Expect to see photographs the following month.

- GB

Now for the photograph on the front page...



BARRY & DISTRICT NEWS

Friday June 2nd, 1944

FOXWORTH – HOPKINS

Miss Mary Hopkins, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J Hopkins, Merthyr Street, Barry was married at St. Helen's Church, Barry Dock, on Tuesday to **Corporal Van Foxworth** of Mississippi, USA.

The following is from **Mrs. Linda Yasin** of Barry, who also kindly supplied the front page photograph, regarding her aunt, **Mary (Hopkins) Foxworth**:

“The baby in the photo is my aunt **Theresa (now 67)** who is one of the three surviving members of the Hopkins family, the others are: my **Aunt Pat** who is now **70** and my **Uncle Jack** who is **82**.

My grandmother (**Katherine or Kate** on the left) and grandfather (**Percy**) had nine children. Five of them (both their sons and daughters) served during the Second World War. My grandfather was in the home guard and my grandmother won a prize for the best air-raid shelter in Barry.

I had the opportunity of meeting my aunt (**Mary**) in **1970** when I was only ten years old. It was the very first time she had been home to Wales since leaving the UK as a GI bride. She made two other visits in **1973** and **1976** before we sadly lost her in April **1977**.

All of her visits were a memorable occasion for everyone of our family and as for me I always remember it 'as the time when we were the closest of families.' I'm so proud to have known her – she was truly a wonderful courageous woman.”

PS

Thanks to **Tariq** for putting me in touch with his mother, **Linda**, and to **Linda** for this information.