

MORE ON GI BRIDES...



Doreen Heath nee Marley with husband Duane and their children on a visit to Swansea in 1959

Doreen met Duane Heath, her future husband, in 1944. He was a member of the 348th Engineer Combat Battalion stationed in and around Swansea. (See GIM 8)

Doreen describes the impact of the US Army on the small village of Grovesend where she lived:

“To our surprise we all awoke one morning to learn hundreds of “Yanks” had moved in through the night. Great excitement came to the village for a while, the campsite was quite large and Americans were everywhere. Later they caused chaos on our bus services, as they were anxious to see more of the larger towns. It was difficult to find room on a bus once they had come off duty. Some who stayed back around the village mingled with the young Welsh girls. I met one on a blind date and became friends corresponding after he’d been shipped out. I was not classed as a GI Bride, really, as it was after the war he sent an airline ticket and we were married in Washington State. There were newspaper clippings of my arrival and marriage, and ten years later when I returned home to Wales, in the South Wales Evening Post.”

THE GLAMORGAN COUNTY TIMES**Saturday November 4th, 1944****JONES – WILLIAMS**

At Trinity Church, Tonypany, on October 28th, **Petty Officer Darrell H Jones**, Fort Wayne, Indiana, to **Miss Thelma Williams**, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Garfield Williams, 43 Crawshay Road, Penygraig, Rev. Anthony officiating.

The bride given away by her father was attired in a brocaded satin gown, with a headdress of gardenias securing her veil. She carried a bouquet of pink carnations. In attendance were Iris Croad (sister of the bride) and Moira Murray, who wore lavender and pink taffeta gowns with headdress to tone, and carried bouquets of pink chrysanthemums. Duties of best man were performed by Mr Ben Vaughan, uncle of bride.

A reception was held at 4 Crawshay Road, Penygraig, the home of Mr and Mrs Ben Vaughan (uncle and aunt of bride.) The honeymoon was spent in London.

I AM ENGAGED TO SPEAK TO THE PENYGRAIG LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY IN MAY... THIS IS AN INTERESTING WEDDING BELOW, TOO...An American in the Canadian Forces?

THE GLAMORGAN COUNTY TIMES**Saturday March 10th, 1945****TALLON – REES**

At Pontypridd Registry Office, on Thursday, March 1st 1945, by special licence, **James Tallon**, Canadian Forces, of San Francisco, California, USA, to **Marie Martin Rees**, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David J Rees, Hendregwilym, Penygraig.