

Welsh choir in London

ROCK'N'ROLL FANS KEPT A WELCOME

RETURN to Swansea of the Morriston Orpheus Choir yesterday after its triumphant appearance at the Royal Command Variety Performance at the Palladium in London brought to light several interesting incidents in connection with the trip.

It was a sacrifice of wages for many of the choir, but all were convinced the experience was well worth it, particularly when it became known that Harry Secombe, the Swansea-born comedian, who sang with them, had been told by the Queen that she had been delighted with the singing of the choir.

The party went to London on the 9.15 train on Sunday morning.

One member, Mr. Cecil Lewis a dairyman, got up at 3 a.m. to get everything ready for the round.

His brother, an accountant, saw that everyone had their milk as usual.

Another member, living in Gowerton, started out from Swansea on foot at 6 a.m. Fortunately he was able to get lifts towards town.

In London the party learned at the first rehearsal that only 80 could be accommodated on the stage but this happily was remedied just before the start of the great show when all appeared on the stage in the clothing of their callings, in miner's rig, in boiler suits, and in one case, a milkyman's coat.

On Sunday evening a party of 50 of the choir sang in Snow's Piccadilly, and Monday saw more rehearsals. One amusing incident was when the choir arrived at the Palladium on Monday night for the great occasion. In the large crowd outside were youthful "fans" of Tommy Steel, Dickie Valentine some with their favourites' names on their jerseys or coats.

With the arrival of the choir these struck up "We'll give a welcome." Inside the theatre the choir had a tumultuous reception.

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