

1978

Number 45/46 £1

# Planet

## The Welsh Internationalist

The Irish Republican Samurai/Desmond Fennell  
Tourism and the Third World/Underdeveloped Wales?  
On Hugh MacDiarmid/Richard Hughes/Dylan Thomas  
Anglo-Welsh Literature in the Schools  
Stories/Reviews/Poems/Graphics  
Tripp/Garlick/Conran/Fulton/Dressel

# NORTHERN IRELAND

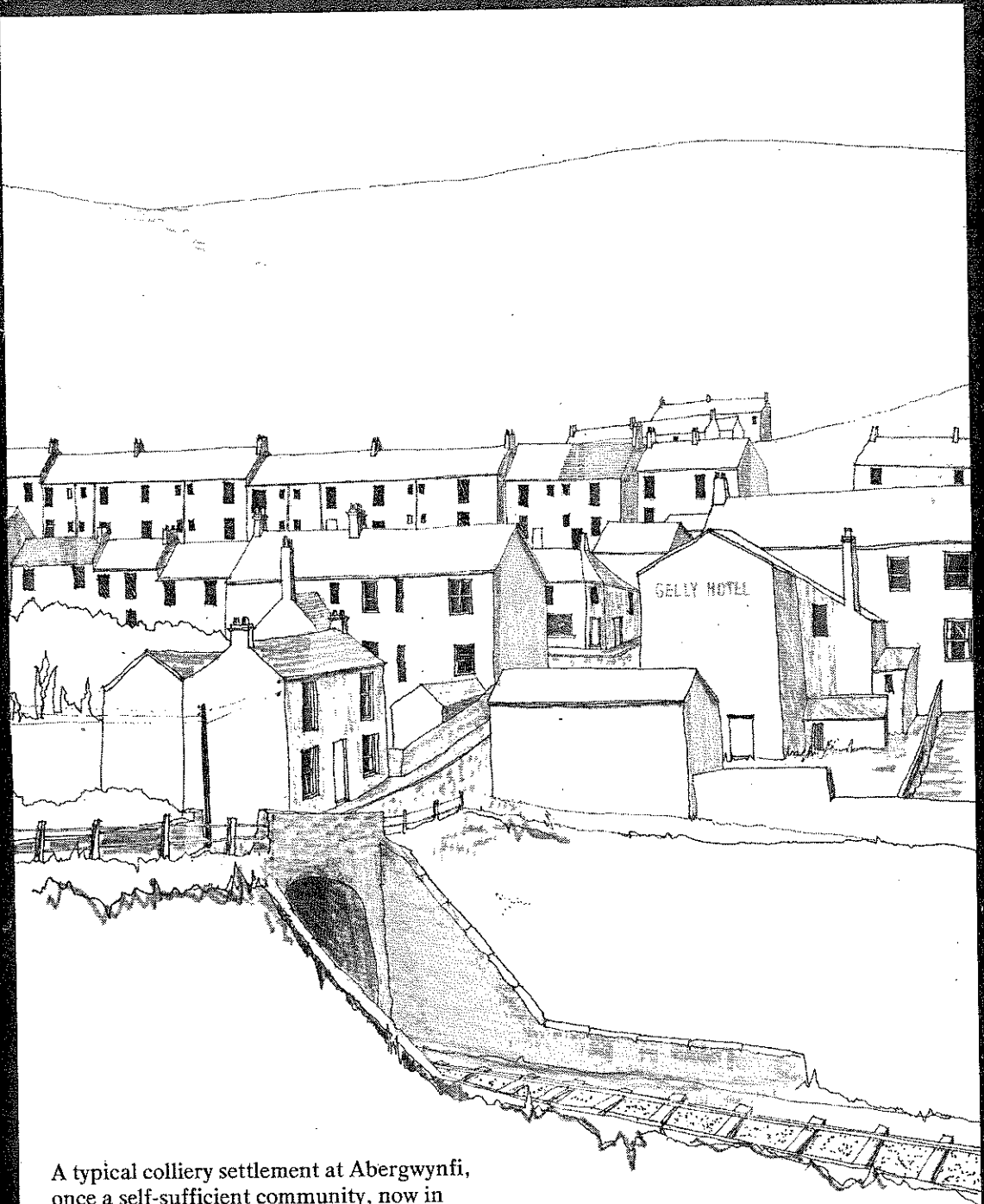
## THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION

# IN THE UPPER AFAN VALLEY

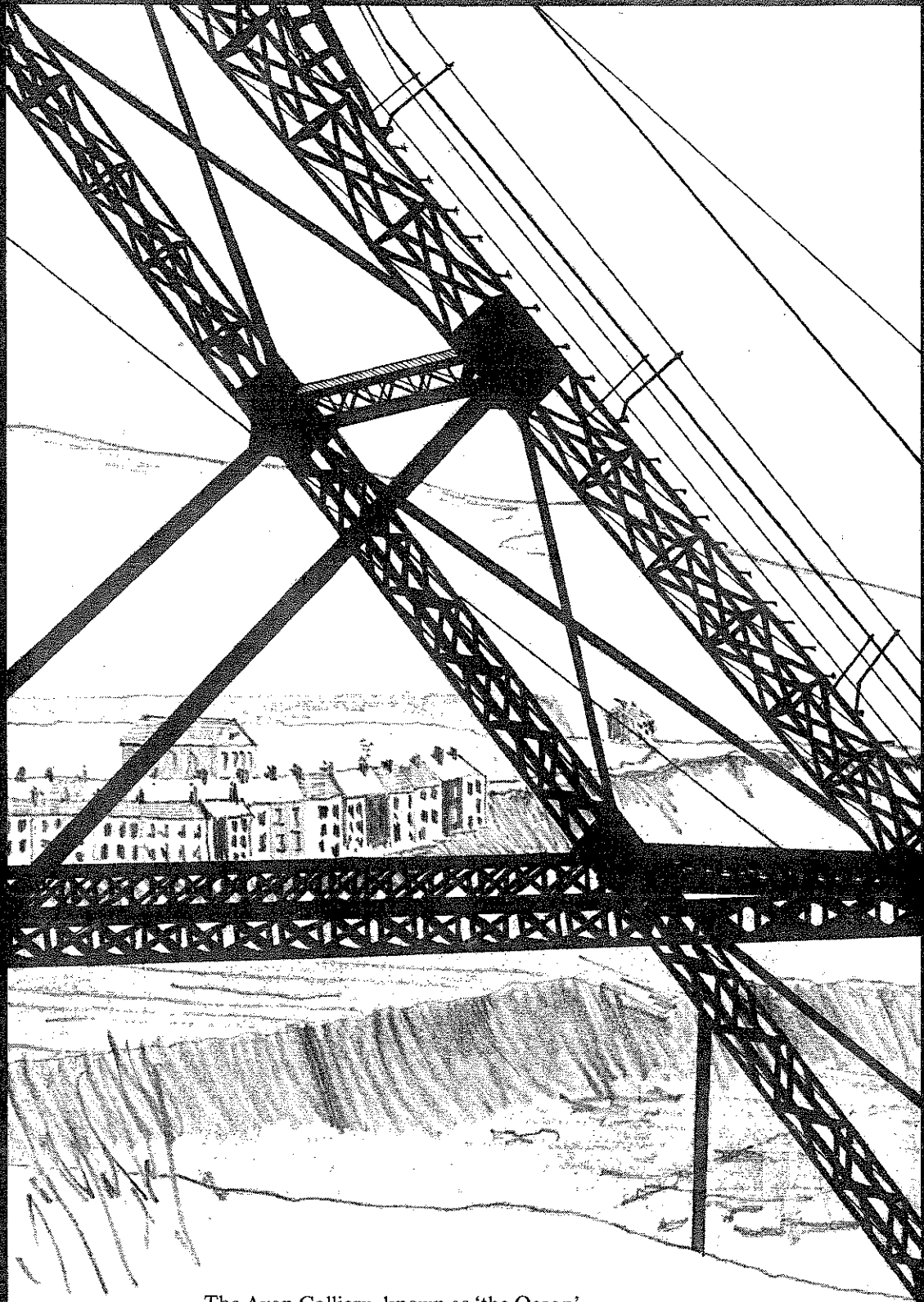
**Howard Riley**

Glyncorrwg, August 1978

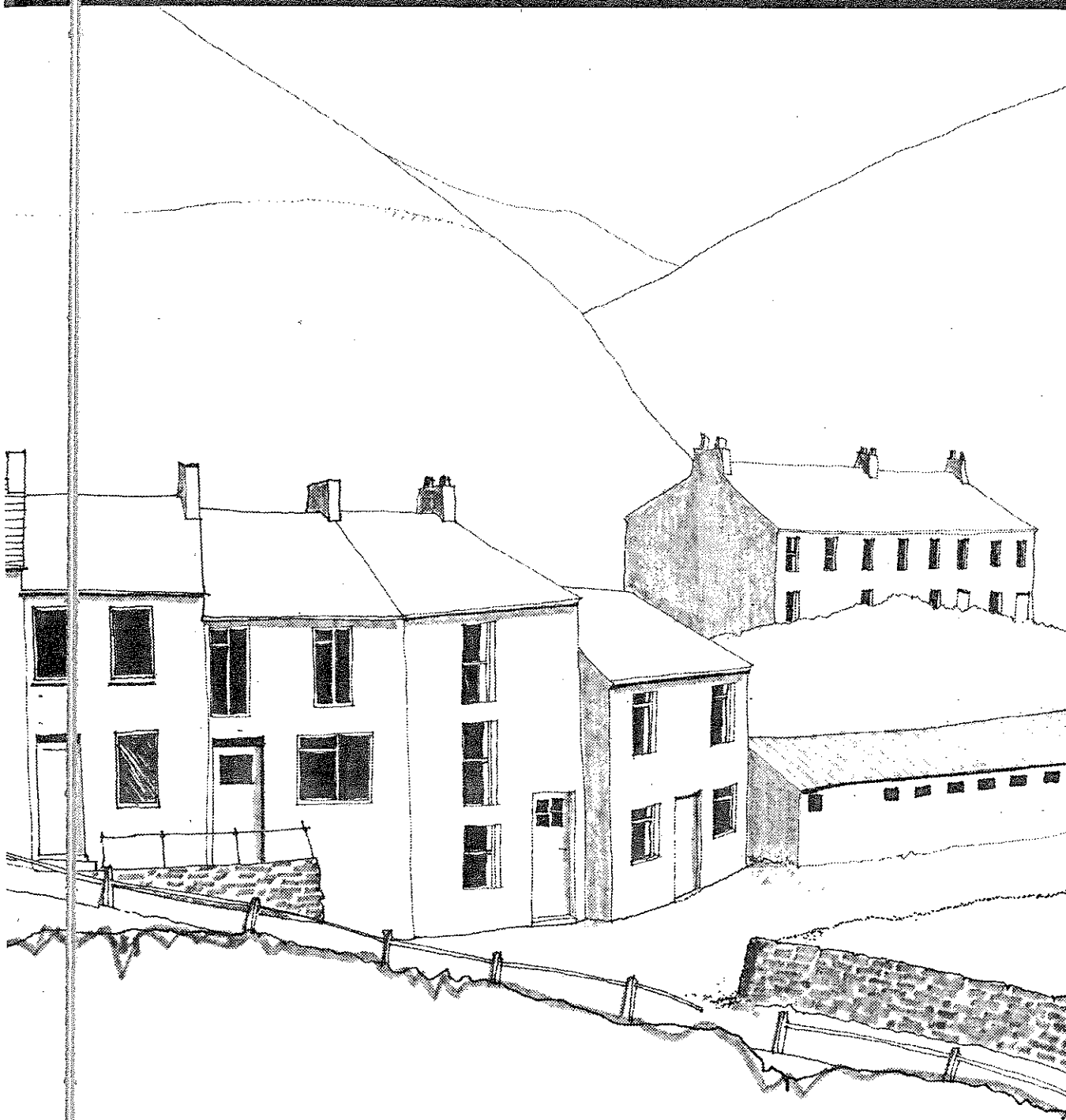




A typical colliery settlement at Abergwynfi, once a self-sufficient community, now in physical and social decay. The geography transforms a rigid grid layout of terraced housing into pleasantly haphazard hillside patterns reminiscent of the hilltop villages in Italy. (But who can survive effectively here now that employment is non-existent and the rail links to the coast have been severed?)



The Avon Colliery, known as 'the Ocean',  
was closed in 1968.



This village attracts the attention of sociologists  
and architectural schools in the way  
pathologists gather round a unique corpse.  
Of course it's easier to handle and dissect now.

*Cymmer Afan.*