



NEWSLETTER

NORTHERN CAVERN & MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY.

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 3 DECEMBER 1972.

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I MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS.

WE extend a welcome to the following new members,

Mrs Mavis Jackson, Family Membership. July 72.

FULL MEMBERSHIP.

Mr Robert Cornwell.F.G.S. 17 Kildale Rd,Greenvale,Stockton, Teeside.

Tel Stockton 580166

M.H.P.Green M.D. Moss View Crag Foot.Carnfoth.Lancs. Aug 72

Mr Geraint Wynne Madoc-Jones,BSc, A.Assoc M,Inst C.E.

The Green, Borthwen, Denbigh. LLI6 5TL. JAN 73. Tel Denbigh 2601.

R I945555 Cpl Landless Jeremy."Ringfield" IO The Park,Baldrine,

Isle of Man, Jan 73.

Service Address,Hittadu Det, R.A.F. Gan.B.F.P.O. I80.

Mr Peter Massingham,The Warden, Buckden House Outdoor Centre.

Buckden, via Skipton. BD23 5JA. June 72.

Mr A.R.Nichols. 51 St Clements Close.Truro. Cornwall.

(FOUNDER MEMBER REJOINING)

Mr Stephen John Thompson.BSc, 4 Langham Place, Barrack Rd,

Northhampton, Sept 72.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP.

Mr Trevor Morris,BSc(Hons) I9 Colebrooke Rd,Chester-le St,

Durham,DH3 2LF, Jan 73.

MEMBERS ADDRESS CHANGES:

Mr Russell Bayles, ESQ HON Member. "Wynton" Bates Lane, Helsby,

Warrington, WA6 9LJ, Tel Helsby 2284.

Mr Justin Brook ESQ. "Chymorvah Vean"Marazion,Cornwall,
Tel Marazion 468.

Mr Peter Cumsty,I Gladstone St,Bulk Rd,Lancaster.

MEMBERS ADDRESS CHANGES, cont.

Mr Rodger Turton, 64, A.M.Q. Royal Air Force, Drifffield, E, Yorks.

Mr T.G. Ziemba, 33, Spencer St, Carlisle, Cumberland. CAI IBE.

2 ANNUAL DINNER

This took place at the Overdale Hotel, Skipton, on the 7th of October, at which event the Society members present were truly entertained by the Chief Guest Mr Hindley, who with his wife had travelled from Oxenhope to speak with considerable wit and a sound knowledge of the Mines in the area of and around Howorth.

His account of the West Riding Gold Rush has I hear, resulted in a private members meet to look the area over.

Mr Hindley is on the staff of the University of Bradford, and is also well known for his work within the W.E.A.

The President of the Year, Mr D, Platt, had next two Trophies to present, these THE FOUNDERS TROPHY, and THE GOLDEN CHICKEN AWARD, were presented to the Society this year, and under the terms of donation the President of the year is to be the sole judge as to the recipients.

Mr Platt stated that through the year he had looked for a member who had shown a considerable devotion to the Society, over a number of years, and further one who would not normally receive official recognition from the Society.

The President thanked the Officers of the Society, for the excellent manner in which they had all fulfilled their tasks, and pointed out, "to serve the Society as you all have done, brought its own reward, the satisfaction of seeing a job well done."

To the many members who have contributed to the Society ; publications, this in itself brings the rewarding thought, that your work is to be found in private homes, librarys, and archives, throughout Gt Britain and overseas. No small achievement, and one in which all of us can feel considerable satisfaction.

The increase in the Society membership from the North East has not gone un-noticed, and I feel that the sustained effort and energy of this devoted group of members should be recognized

Prominent in this rise in membership, one person has over many years being outstanding, looking beyond that one person, however is the member to whom the Founders Trophy is to be awarded tonight, one who has given devoted service to the Society at all times, and who would not other-wise receive our recognition.

The Founders Trophy Winner For 1972, Mrs Guthrie, of Billingham.

The GOLDEN CHICKEN AWARD. presented by members, to be awarded for some outstanding act of ineptitude committed by a member in the year. The President said that this award gave him the opportunity to initiate some "Tribal Ritual" into our dinner proceedings and forthwith called the Clerk, Mr C. Wade to call the roll of Past Presidents, who were pressed into service as BARMASTERS at a sitting of THE GREAT BARMOOT COURT to be held at once, following complaints of ineptitude by three members, (it was made plain to the Barmasters that the first two accused, were not guilty). Visiting Barmasters were Mr Ashmead of the Arnside sett, Mr Bill Harvey from the Leadhills sett, who laid complaint. A rigged trial, resulted in a reluctant Mr David Griffin taking charge of one Golden Chicken for a period of twelve months.

THE PRESIDENTS TALK IN

Held at the Scout H.Q. Skipton, the following day, was again well attended, by members and visitors from other clubs.

Apart from the lectures, the main hall of the Scout H.Q. was well worth a visit to see the many displays of Society Equipment, members interests, library contents, and a know your mud competition.

The first of the days Talks, was given by Mr Downs-Rose, Subject, The Summer School of Industrial Archaeology, held at Wanlockhead Scotland; Excavations at the of Baye Mine showed very clear evidence of the engine floor and boiler house.

Lecture No 2; By Mr D.T. Richardson, discussed the evidence which the analysis of spring waters and cave waters discloses, and how differences revealed can be used to give an indication as to the types of cave passage traversed.

Lecture No 3; By Mr J. Macpherson, took us on a tour of Northern Smelt Mills, and installations;

Lecture No 4; Mr Bill Harvey, re-visited his native Ireland, and discussed the features of some of the caves.

Lecture No 5; Mr Peter Ashmead, of the Lancaster Cavern and Mine Research Society.

Lecture No 6; Mr Peter Cumpsty,

Lecture No 7; Mr Ray Walls, Vice President, pulled every ones leg, with his discussion of Mud Balls, and presented prizes from the know your mud competition (mud Balls);

Lecture No 8; Mr Peter Comer, and Mr John Hodgkins of B.S.A. and N.C.M.R.S. discussed the technique of underground 8MM filming, a tale of woe, floods, roof falls, the tale of woe was continued with blowing of the projector bulb; (did they make a film?)

Lecture No 9; Mr J.M. Dickinson,

4 GREAT ROCK IRON MINE. BOVEY TRACEY. DEVON.

News letter item from, JOHN HUNTER.

Map redrawn and supplied by Peter Jackson.

On the 16th of Jan 1971 I was fortunate to be able to visit the mine situated on the edge of Dartmoor, well known in Devon for its unique deposits of micaceous hematite, or shining ore.

Closed for only two years, this mine has extracted ore known to exist as early as 1812. Formed as an eastern extension of the Mineralising centre of Vitifer-Birch Tar on central Dartmoor.

The late stage Hydrothermal action of the Dartmoor granite mass left two main series of metalliferous deposits in fissure veins, now exposed in the eastern margin of the mass, the first series being hematite lodes with some cassiterite in varying proportions, are entirely within the granite and strike roughly east/west, while the later series were intruded into the later killas and consist of lead, zinc, copper, and manganese deposits contained entirely within the Teign valley, and have been tried by quite a few small workings, while the former deposits are more widely distributed over the granite the amount of tin oxide in the lodes decreasing towards the margin.

The type of hematite varies in these lodes from a hard compact to a soft micaceous ore, and it is this type that is found in Great Rock Mine.

The main workings are on the steep western slope of a valley that follows the North/South granite boundary and drains Northwards. The lodes are in granite but strings have been forced into the surrounding killas. Five lodes are known, between one foot and twelve feet wide, consisting of almost pure, soft, micaceous hematite with little massive hematite; Chalcopyrite and Arsenopyrite are absent and with the exception of a little iron pyrites, sulphides do not occur, the ore is also free from titanium minerals, tin is reported to have been found there, but there is no record of this in later records.

This then confirms the connection with the Vitifer-Birch Tar group of mines, where a good proportion of later stage tin is present, but where it is a useless byproduct, separated from the

tin by amagnet. The brown, compact hematite present is probably formed from the micaceous hematite by hydration.

There are low levels on the main lode, and various adits, cross-cuts, interconnecting the other veins, making it possible to traverse right through the hill underground in the maze of workings.

The level we visited is bottom level on No 1, North Beadon lode. There was a pile of fallen timbers at the entrance, which is rapidly being hidden by the tangled undergrowth which soon buries the scars of mining in Devon and Cornwall. The workings are in granite and fairly safe, but for the water which mixes with the ore forming a thick, dark, glistening mud which covers the walls and roof of the level.

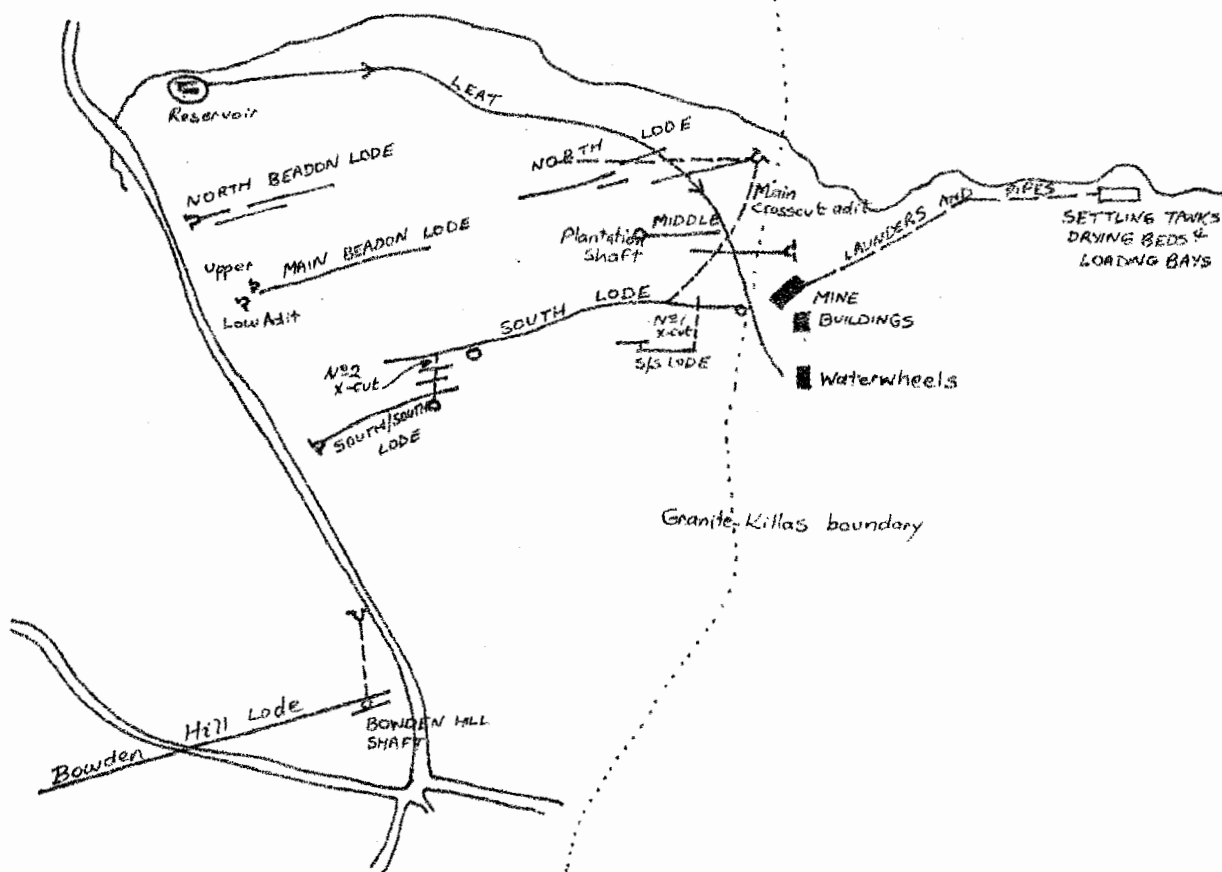
Where the tunnel reaches the lode it splits, one tunnel running parallel to it, and meeting it again some 200 yds further on, where the tunnel splits into two again, the other drifting the stoped lode a thin string vein can be seen running vertically up the wall.

A cross section of this lode is shown diagrammatically. The altered wall rock is a high green colour, and is quite brittle. The actual vein of hematite was the width of one finger and the soft black, sparkling paste could be poked out with ease.

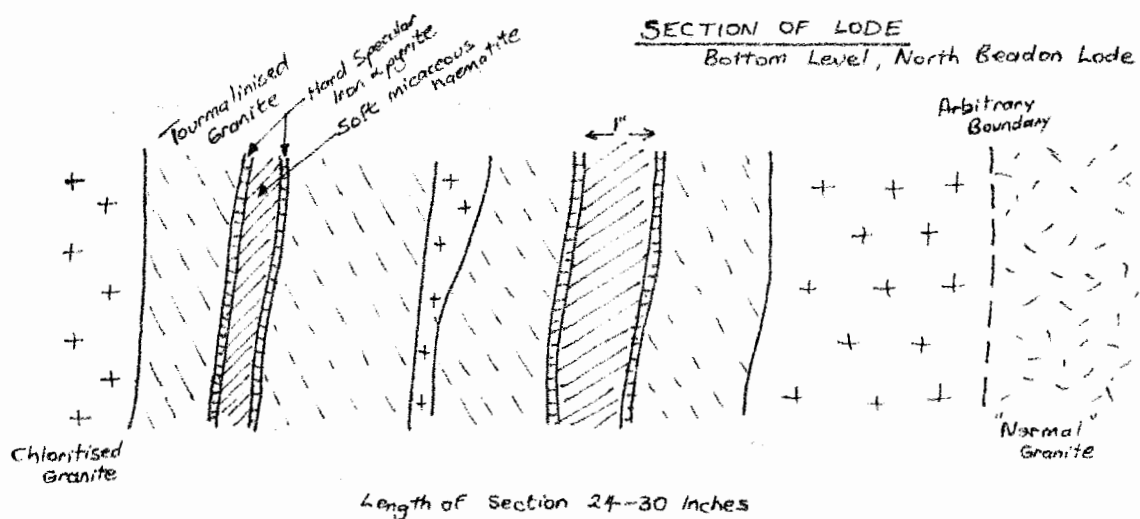
The floor in the drift further along was mainly planking spaced across stemples, covering an understope. Every thirty feet or so we came to a gap revealing a ladder which disappeared into the murky water which filled the stope right up to the level of the floor. These were difficult to cross due to the wet and slippery iron rails, as are the walls, which one is loathed to touch. Spread in between these winzes were rises in the deads stacked on stemples above us, and heavily built ore shutters jutting from the side walls, at the end of the drift where the two levels rejoin again, a ladder led up into a pile of deads, as the first half dozen rungs were missing we did not manage to get up. The level continued for 20 yds, to the forehead which had the date 1968 scratched on it, the length of that level was 600 fms. We returned along the other level which had fewer workings but had iron rails laid most of the way.

So much water entered these workings that operations on the North Beadon lode were confined to the summer months. The miners also had problems with the ore, owing to its soft nature it was easily destroyed by blasting, and so the lodes were worked by

THE LAYOUT AT GREAT ROCK MINE



SECTION OF LODE Bottom Level, North Beadon Lode



"Hulking"-ie the lode is excavated 6' or so in advance of the stope breast. The ore was easily eroded by the water too, and faces not being worked were timbered up.

Processing the ore was a very simple operation, the more solid ore was crushed by a set of Californian stamps housed in breeze blocks and corrugated iron sheds, and then the ore was washed to remove the little sand in it, passing then through a long series of launders and allowed to settle in tanks, then dug out, dried, and packed in 8-10 cwt parcels and sold for the manufacture of non-corrosive paint, and also to chemical works at Swansea.

The earliest reference to any workings in the area was on the 3rd June 1812, to work for tin and copper a lease of 21 years cost £6. The first records of Micaceous hematite are in DE La Bèches writings. He describes its export to London in 1839 for sale as "POUNCE" or writing sand.

An extract from the Mining Journal of 1849 mentions that the mine changed hands to the Hannock Iron and Steel Co Ltd; Quote, (the area is rich and said to be highly productive in metaliferous deposits, having an unlimited quantity of rich, micaceous peroxide of iron, of a very superior quantity yielding 50% of iron, for the manufacture of steel. A lease is held for 21 years at a standard rent of £300 without other dues, From an ore body, averaging 7' wide at a depth of 10 fms, 16,000 tons of iron ore has been raised; and can be continued at a cost not exceeding 2s per ton, and it is estimated that 1000 tons per month may be disposed of, releasing a profit of from £4000-£5000 per annum...) Further mention of the mine in the writings of Richard Mead in 1882 indicate that the mine prospered, production reaching 5712 tons in 1876.

In 1943, 17 people were employed, rising to 24 by Dec 1949, 13 above and 11 below ground, by 1968 only 9 were left, and in the last four years before closure, only 400 tons of ore were brought to grass, together with the output of the Kelly Mine, also owned by the company. Final Shut down came in 1969, July 30th. With the closure of Great Rock Mine, came the final decline of the small mining village communities of Hennock, Teigh Village, and Christow, and the last chapter in Devon mining history.

GREAT ROCK IRON MINE.HENNOCK Nr BOVEY TRACEY. DEVON.

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C/O Dept of Economic History Univ of Exeter.

J, Hunter.

C/O Dept of Geology
Univ of Exeter.

5 News Letter Item. from Bill Harvey.

An Underground Reserve in Scotland.

Last autumn, C. Placido, secretary of the Glasgow Spelaeological Society found a Natterer's Bat in an old tunnel in an old slate quarry near Aberfoyle, Perthshire. There had been no previous authentic records of this bat in Scotland, and his find has now been accepted as the first Scottish record.

Further investigation showed that Daubentons bat and the Long-Eared Bats were also using the tunnel, and the Scottish Wildlife Trust offered their support to preserve the tunnel for the bats.

Negotiations to this end have now been completed, and the Aberfoyle quarry tunnel was one of the three new reserves recently announced by the trust. The Trust also provided funds for a steel grill, which was made by a local blacksmith to a design provided by R. Stebbings of the Nature Consercancy. This has now been installed with the assistance

of members of GSS. The grill is at adit portal, and has a small hinged grating in the centre for access.

A visit shortly after the grill had been installed found a Long-Eared bat ringed last winter had returned to the tunnel, apparently not being put off by any echoes it received from the grill.

A usage and management policy has still to be worked out for the Reserve, but it is hoped to install some instrumentation in due course to monitor the climate in the tunnel. This about 144 meters long, and closed at the inner end by a run in. It is not yet clear whether the tunnel was driven for access to one of the deep quarry pits, or was an attempt to mine the lower part of the slate vein.

6 SUMMER SCHOOL. extract from Glasgow S.S. Newsletter

The summer school in Industrial Archaeology run by Glasgow Extra-Mural Dept at Wanlockhead in July was a great success. Fieldwork was concentrated on the old works at the Bay mine, where members removed vast quantities of debris under a blazing sun, and uncovered some of the mine buildings. The School provided material for a 16mm film being made by members of the staff from Loughborough College, and footage on underground workings was attempted by an ex-officio visit into Milligans Level, one evening. Lighting was provided by car battery and two pairs of headlights, with Welsh members providing the basis of a choral attempt to ward off exposure! Even if the filming was not wholly successful, valuable lessons were learned.

Details of the next Summer School may be had from the Extra-Mural Dept, Oakfield Ave, Glasgow.

7 MINING NEWS. PETER JACKSON.

CARROCK FELL MINE closed during the midsummer of 1972, after working for a short time. It is said that there were difficulties in obtaining concentrate from the ore.

FORCE CRAG MINE closed, after its short reopening. The future of the mine is doubtful.

At CONISTONE MINE a filter bed for a water supply is reported to be in the process of building on the dumps at Paddy End, connected with the damming up of Levers Water. This will effectively stop any

further work there.

LUNEHEAD MINE entrance, which collapsed some years ago, is reported as being rebuilt.

CORNISH HUSH MINE IS REPORTED as suspended underground, all work being transferred to California and Sharnberry.

At YSTUMTUN a small syndicate is reported as developing a large dump of waste material, for the recovery of lead and zinc.

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NEW PUBLICATION'S.

MINERAL DOSSIER NO 2: Barium Minerals. HMSO @ £0-52½.

BOTALLOCK' Cyril Noall. Published by D. Bradford Barton, at Truro.

Price £2.50. (Botallock mine is on the coast adjacent to St. Just)

ESSAYS IN CORNISH MINING. D.B. Barton. £2.25.

GEOLOGY OF YORKSHIRE: Kendall & Wroot. (REPRINT) Vol 2

EP Publishing Ltd, East Ardsley, Wakefield, Yorks. £3.50

Peter Jackson, the hardworking Society Editor, has sent in with the above notes, a request for information, which I trust some of you may be able to help with, please do if you can at all.

INFORMATION WANTED Location of hydraulic piston engines in U.K.

TO P.J. c/o 16 Chapel Street, Calverley, Pudsey, Yorks, LS 28-5PS.

THE SHROPSHIRE MINING CLUB in a re-thatch the club cottage drive, offer for sale a series of surveys, of mines, slate quarries, and caves. A list of S.M.C. publications can be obtained, by enclosing a 2½ p stamp, TO, I.J. Brown, 5, Beech Drive, Shifnal, Shropshire. The area covered, being Wales and the Midlands.

8 MEMOIRS, A NEW INDEX.

A most useful index to past Society Publications has been produced by the Editor, and is enclosed with this newsletter. This provides a speedy method of looking up any past Society work done in areas to which members may be interested, it demonstrates clearly the vast amount of fieldwork members have put in over the years, and also, the reason why all back numbers are now sold out!, other than the last issued Memoirs, which is going fast, with a new electric duplicator

now in service, the task of production is both less costly, (less waste) and just that little easier, it is our aim to increase the number of publications produced, and you in your turn, can help us achieve this aim, by introducing new members to the Society. How about making this your slogan for next year! ENROLL A NEW MEMBER FOR 1973:

9 CAVE FAUNA, 12 YEARS OF PROGRESS.

Mrs Jean Dixon, The Recorder in Biology must be rather pleased to see the latest publication of the CRG. Now in our Library.

Transactions of The Cave Research Group, Vol 14 No 4, 1972.

Biological Records, 1970- 71.

which shows clearly the pains taking work accomplished by herself, in the collection of these now recorded specimens, and in acting as a clearing house for the collections of individual members.

The prominence of N.C.M.R. in the National list, show us as one of the principle groups active in this field of work, it also shows some of the geographical blanks in our area, the North East is one such bare place on the map.

Sampling Bottles and advise are free from Jean, what's more no license is needed to fish underground, in fact there is just nothing to stop you adding to the accumulated knowledge of Life in Darkness, and perhaps finding extra satisfaction from your underground sojourn.

Even the smallest of Mine Levels take on an added interest when armed with a collectors kit, you start a thorough search for underground Fauna, there is also a bonus, the searching eye, sees many items discarded by 'TOLD MAN' which others have missed.

The recent excellent article on 'Bat Observations, in Stump Cross Caverns' by Mr G. Workman, Memoirs Vol II No2, prompted Mr David Griffin to construct a Photo Electric recorder to install at Stump Cross Caverns, it works, but, the heavy power drain, working from a car battery has not been overcome. Perhaps some of the out - lying members who have listed as their interests 'Electronics' would wish to become involved in development work on this Bat Counter for use at Stump and the new Scottish Reserve.

Other aids have now come into use, and could also be constructed, high frequency radios, tuned to pick up the resting signal of the Bat would be most useful.

The whole field of Cave Fauna & Flora studies, collecting, photography, & breeding studies is facinating. Ample publications are in our library on this subject, and some equipment may be borrowed, should anyone wish to start in the coming year, if you do' well then good luck.

10. GENERAL MEETING. SKIPTON. NOV 11th

Present, J, Dickinson. J, McPherson. Mrs H, McPherson. R, McPherson.
R, Guthrie. D, Griffin. Miss J, Golby. P, Jackson. Mrs M, Jackson. K, Makin.
M, Gill. D, Platt. (Non Members, MR Peter Comer, of B.S.A. & Hazel ?)
Vice President Mr R, Walls. General Secretary Mr K, Walls.

Chairman- D, Platt. President.

1. Apologies for absence. Nil.

2. Minutes of last Meeting, (MAY)

Matters arising, The missing copy of ADAM BRUNSKILL had been replaced by a copy given by the Skipton Scouts. An Inductaphone system would cost around £4 and some old transistors. The Society had purchased some electron ladders and stood £1 in credit. Mr Gill would check if the belays had been paid for. This tackle was satisfactory. Mr P, Comer suggested that he could have got similar tackle for less cost.
prop J.D. sec M.GILL. the minutes be passed.

The Chairman then read out the minutes of the last two working committee meetings and the purchase for £55 of the electric duplicator for publications, authorised by the 22nd Sept meeting. He went on to explain that the sale of the 250 model had not materielised, but that the 500 model had been sold for £15, since which its legal ownership had been disputed. In view of the above it was proposed by Mr R, Guthrie, Sec, Mr J, McPherson, "that as ownership of the duplicator was disputed, the Society should as a compromise offer £7-50 in payment to Mr Richardson,

Mr Dickinson, proposed that this be amended in view of the precedent set in the past by members donations to the Society

" That no payment be made " sec Mr P.Jackson. A vote called upon the amendment was 5_5 . The Chairman exercised his casting vote and the amendment was defeated. A vote was then called on the proposal, and again was 5-5. The Chairman was again called to exercise his casting vote and decided in favour of the proposal.

Mr Jackson,prop That the Society take steps to insure Society equipment,sec M,Gill. A long discussion followed upon the merits of the depreciation fund due to the difficulty of obtaining adequate insurance

Mr Jackson could ask about insurance for the duplicator.

Mr Jackson then prop,sec J,McPherson,that the Society has a reserve fund to be credited by agreement annually from the general account" maj in Favour. Mr R,Walls expressed the view(against) that this was unnecessary.

Mr P,Cumpsty had requested the use of a Davey Lamp, Mr Dickinson agreed that the one held by him may be used. Mr Gill also suggested that the Igleton Colliery Plans would only be loaned upon compliance with the Coal Boards Terms,not to go underground:

A form out of date was copleted on show of hands,showing the Meetings attitude to the proposed BSA/CRG. merger.Mr Comer,Hon Sec BSA having explained some of the details involved.

Smallclough was suggested as inclusion for the Meets List.It was suggested that serious research was almost impossible on Society Meets and could not be expected.Such Meets were however,socially desirable were a good means of publicity,and provided membership contact.

A Meet was to held on Sunday 19-II-72,to guide a party of teacher trainees to Buckden Mine,meet 10-30,Car Park.

Mr Guthrie Had established in his visit to Mr D,Richardson,re the duplicator,that the colour slides held by Mr Richarson,were definitely Society Property.

Mrs H,McPherson, urged the Society to take greater care in future over such matters.The Secretary felt that when the Society tackle equipment lists were all to hand,this should not reoccur.

Mr Dickinson,handed over afile to Mr R,Guthrie, one of the Society typewriters was transferred from D,Platt,to Miss J,Golby.

The Meeting Closed at 5-30.Members were then shown the film made in Gunnerside Gill,and brought to the meeting by Mr Comer,this wasmuch appreciated by all,Mr Comer was warmly thanked;

II. THE FRIENDS OF THE CRAVEN MUSEUM

As part of the winter programme a Lecture to be given at Skipton will be of interest to most members, at the Mechanics or Craven Institute, on Thursday, the 25th of January, Dr Arthur Raistrick, will discuss THE RILSTON TILERY EXCAVATION, and other local topics. 7-30PM.

On Thursday, the 8th of March, the Earby Museum of Mines (the Old Grammar School) will be open for a visit of the Friends. This display is well worth a visit, open on Sundays, to the public.

The Local History Soc at Skipton, have also invited members of the Friends to a members only meeting, to hear about a local industry, CLOCK MAKING in SKIPTON. This is to be held in the same Lecture Hall, on Friday the 19th of January, 73. All members of NCMRS, are Founder Members of, The Friends of the Craven Museum:

I2. DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY.

The book, ADAM BRUNSKILL, by T, ARMSTRONG, from the 5th Skipton Scouts.
ONE MEASURING CHAIN, from Mr HORACE RATCLIFFE, Tarn, et, Garonne, France.

I3. ITEMS FOR SALE, members surplus equipment.

ZENITH B. F2 Helios lens. $\frac{1}{30}$ -- $\frac{1}{500}$ Brief. DA.
£20

Write Mr L, Miller, 24, Wyvil Crescent, Ilkley, Yorks.

Talk In, an apology, to Mr P, Ashmead. Mr P, Cumsty. Mr J, M, Dickinson. The brief report of the Talk IN, has blanks, due to the fact that D.P. was called away on Society duties, and with regret had to miss some Talks, the promised fill in did not arrive, my sincere thanks are offered, for your willing support.

My very best wishes to you all for Christmas, and the New Year.

From D.P.

FIN.