

*You Don't really need
this, as you seem to have
written most of it.*

General Meeting 2-5-76.

Only 10 members turned up for this meeting and so the business was soon completed.

The Sec. reported that new club badges were now on order and it was agreed to sell them to members for 30p each if collected from the Sec. or 40p by post to cover postage and packing.

The Editor says that the next publication 'The Bay Mine' is nearly ready. This is being professionally produced this time, as Dick has had a quotation that works out as cheap as if published by ourselves.

The Treas. informed us that we had £239.42 in the bank and 116 full members.

The Librarian would, on behalf of the Society, like to thank Mr. Russell Bayles for his donation of copies of all the past issues of the Plymouth Mineral & Mining Clubs Journal.

The Recorder reported the progress to date at Chimney Shaft - an edited version as follows:-

We have at last reached the boilers and access to them can only sometimes be gained, depending on the state of the tide!

The shaft has been cleared and is approximately 100 ft deep and from the shaft bottom a further 80ft deep pitch allows one to crawl at leisure along and down a series of passages and steps for a few hundred yards. If you like to play in mill chimneys this is the place for you. A final 60ft pitch gives onto the beach. If the tide is out a wet crawl of approx. 10 - 15yards (with 9" or so air space) followed by a climb through the boiler house wall will allow you to sit on top of the boilers.

When seen the boiler house was approx. 50ft square and flooded to within 2ft. of the tops of the boilers. There are 4 levels leading off from this room but so far we haven't been able to enter them. High water mark is gauged to be at about 6ft above the boiler tops - the entrance we use is also at boiler level. We have only managed to enter the boiler house once, every other attempt being thwarted by water. The boilers are calculated to be approx. 350ft down and if you go down once to try to see them it takes weeks of washing and scrubbing to get relatively clean again.

New Members as to 2-5-76.

P.J. Pashley, 30 Cliffe Park Rise, Wortley, Leeds 12.
J.S. Head, 67 Wheathead Lane, Keighley. BD22 6NL. Ph. Hly.2679.
C.J. Schmitz, c/o University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY.
R. Humphrey, 83 Medina Road, Longhill Estate, Hull HU8 9RA.
A. Parker, 63 Hartburn Village, Stokton on Tees, Cleveland TS18 5DY.
M.J. Farrington, Rowan Garth, Brigsteer, Kendal, Cumbria.

Cont'd...

Cont'd.

S.A. Timberlake, 13 South Road, Wandsworth Common, London SW18.
D.A. Greenwood, 5 Thweng Way, Guisborough, Cleveland TS14 8BW.

New Publications

2 new books by Kenneth Hudson,-

- i) Industrial Archaeology 'a new introduction'.
 - ii) A Pocket Book for Industrial Archaeologists.
- Both out in the next few months from Adam & Charles Black, Publishers.

YESTERDAY'S GOLCONDAS notable British metal mines. R.H. Bird.

The book contains many photographs appertaining to the North Pennines and in particular quite a few shots underground in Smallclough, Rotherhope Fell and Brounley Hill mines at Nenthead.

Also included are a number of old pictures taken in and around the mines in Cornwall circa 1880 - 1920 together with a much better coverage of Wales than in his last work.

The estimated publishing date is December 1976, just in time for Christmas presents.

This book is a must for all interested in mines and mining, by our own Editor R.H. Bird. All orders should be addressed to:-

The Sales Office, Moorland Publishing Co., The Market Place, Hartington, Buxton, Derbys. SK17 0AH.

The Lead Industry of Wensleydale & Swaledale

Vol II THE SMELTING MILLS by Arthur Raistrick £2. 95.

A limited supply of copies of this book can be obtained from the Society for £2.45 plus postage & packing. All queries/orders to the Sec. Mrs. L. Finch, 10 Exeter Crescent, Killinghall, Harrogate.

MEET REPORT - Buckden Smelt Mill - 7th March, 1976.

or... "Episode for Four and a Wheelbarrow".

It was rather obvious from the word go that it was going to be one of those days. Most people turned up the usual half to three-quarters of an hour late, including our "esteemed" president complete with wheelbarrow which was destined for the smelt mill dig. With the appearance of this object most people rapidly disappeared leaving only four people, who were either too slow or just plain masochistic, to carry the +!?:- thing up the hillside. The waterfalls proved to be interesting obstacles.

In all about a dozen people turned up and work rapidly proceeded in search of the waterwheel pit. One member, clad in breeches and deerstalker (mentioning no names) thought he would rather look at old bell pits on Starbottan Out Moor and sample the refreshment in the Fox and Hounds. Another took himself off for a look down the Gavel Mine, leaving the remainder to soldier on in the snow.

After removing a considerable quantity of waste material it was decided that there probably had not been a waterwheel inside the mill since no wheelpit had, as yet, been found. A more logical solution seemed to be that there had been a waterwheel in the beck with some form of shaft drive through the wall of the mill.

Returning to Buckden with the wheelbarrow was not without incident

since on the decent it now contained a large rock weighing about one and a half hundredweights. This rock was thought to have been part of the furnace and would therefore have to be placed with the rest of the artifacts in the Bradford Museum of Industrial Archaeology. There were a few worried looking faces in the car park when they saw a "rampant" wheelbarrow hurtling down the fellside towards their cars.

On being questioned what we had got in the wheelbarrow.

"A rock", came the reply.

"Why", they said.?

At least the day made a nice change from the soot down Chimney Shaft.

John H. McNeil.

Mungo Gill Meet - 21st March, 1976.

The usual Greenhow blizzard seemed to have deterred any semblance of a gathering prepared to go down the hole so attention was diverted to the Chimney Shaft which due to the delightful weather was also abandoned in favour of the fizz palace. Some hours later saw a fair number of Society members toasting their knees round the Miners Arms fireplace and under the influence of the warmth and two or three pints it was decided to delve underground. A huge party of four braved the heckles and jeers of some boozy retired members who could find nothing better to do than divert the beck down North Shaft on top of the last man down and undaunted, we had a pleasant grovel through to the Miners series and back.

Adrian P. Finch.

Lancaster Cavern and Mine Research Society Dinner - 27th March, 1976.

This event, held at the Lancaster's hut on Warton Crag, was well attended by the N.M.R.S. (alias Anglo Soot - Greenhow Ltd.) some being members of the L.C.M.R.S. others just invited as guests. To add further amusement to the evening, dress was of the fancy variety and we were represented by the following figures. Our president, Michael Tinkabell Gill and our previous president, the Very Reverend Michael Goth. From the orient we had Won Hung Lo Barnes, and from the northern regions, John McSpocan Neil. Representing the underworld was Al Capone alias Spatts MacAreth and from mediaeval times Jane of Arc Walker.. This left only Derek Platt who appeared as a human being with his friend from St. Trinnians and of course Pete Cumpsty who seemed to attract more than his fair share of attention from all the Oddfellows in the room. Guests of honour were Mr. J. Pickup (chief rescue controller for the C.R.O.) and his wife.

After the meal we were entertained by a sort of Jazz group, followed by the Lancaster Bar Moot Court at which the L.C.M.R.S. president collected the bronze spanner award for the biggest boob of the year.

The remainder of the evening was spent imbibing the local Ale and finding out the secret of what a Scotsman wears under his kilt. (The answer is Yes, but only at parties and Highland Games).

The following day found a few members nursing sore heads and

exploring the "Reddle" pits of Warton Crag.

All in all a good weekend.

John H. McNeil.

Working Committee Meetings.

As from June Committee Meetings will cease to be held at the New Inn at Cononley, as this is considered an unsuitable venue for serious discussion.

Instead they will be held, on a rota basis, at the homes of various committee members. To enable the general membership to attend these meetings the venues will be as follows:-

June 4 - Mike Gill, 38 Main Street, Sutton, Keighley.
July 2 - Harry Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds 6.
Aug 6 - Jennifer Griffin, 19 Westfield Terrace, Baildon, Shipley.
Sept 3 - Adrian Finch, 10 Exeter Crescent, Killinghall, Harrogate.
Oct 1 - Mike Gill,
Nov 5 - Harry Houghton, addresses as above.
Dec 3 - Jennifer Griffin,
Jan 7 - Adrian Finch,

If anyone is unable to attend any of these meetings and has any point for discussion don't be discouraged, either drop me a line at 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4 LY or phone Leeds 758505.

Meetings will commence at 8.00pm. Anyone requiring directions to these places, please contact me at above address,

Harry.

N.M.R.S. Guided Tours Section.

Following a lecture to them, the 'Industrial History Section' of the Yorkshire Archaeology Society had approached us to show them round a mine. So on Sat 1st May we took them down Buckden Gavel Mine. We were expecting about 6 or 8 people to turn up, instead of which 30 arrived of all shapes and ages. Buckden Gill was eventually conquered with no serious coronaries, and the work done by us at the smelt mill explained while lunch was had.

Inside the mine things seemed a bit congested with crocodiles of people wandering about, and so large a party making it impossible to explain things to any but the first 2 or 3 at the front of each queue. However everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and they made a donation to our Society in appreciation.

If anyone would like a similar tour arranging for a Society or body they are in contact with, let me know and we'll see what can be arranged. Also contact me if you would like a lecturer to visit your Society, as that can probably be arranged too - after all it's advertising for our Society.

Harry.

Car Stickers - still available at 40p each if collected or 50p for postage and packing from Jennifer Griffin, 19 Westfield Terrace, Baildon, Shipley.