

Northern Mine Research Society

Newsletter August 1980

NOT TO BE MISSED

Sept. 14th - General Meeting, Village Hall, Sicklinghall at 2.00pm.

Sept. 20/21st Coniston Area .J.T.Crompton as per meets card. For those who wish to camp;- a) I always camp up the Walna Scar Rd near NGR 281 967. This site is basic i.e. bracken toilets and stream plumbing, but free.

b) Sophistication can be found at The Lake Side Campsite NGR 304964 - all mod cons, maddening hords, price unknown.

Oct. 11th - ANNUAL DINNER see booking form attached to this Newsletter and details in May 1980 Newsletter.

Nov 15th - General Meeting, Presidents Talk-in and Pie and Pea Supper - see booking form attached to this Newsletter.

Also of interest:-

Oct . 25th - Heritage Harvest

This "do" is to be held at Skipton Town Hall between 10am and 5pm. We have been asked to provide a display stand (any volunteers to man it, please contact me), but apart from this we do not have many more details. Ivor Brown and Ken Howarth are among the speakers, and Dalesman Publishing have a rather large hand in it (cynic's have suggested to push Eric Richardsons book!!!).

If you're in the area it should be worth a visit.

Whilst on the exhibition circuit, the famous NMRS Mobile Display Unit (Props. Ms Gill & Houghton) will again be on public view, this time in Bradford at the Wool Exchange on 1/2 November from 10am to 5pm.

Reminders.

Dinner. Do you know of anyone deserving of the following awards to be presented at the Dinner?:-

a) Founders Cup - To the person/group who have done most to further the aims of the Society.

b) Presidents Piton - To the person who has made the most outstanding contribution on behalf of the Society.

c) Golden Chicken - For the greatest act/s of ineptitude (real or imaginary) performed over the past year.

Pie and Pea Supper. To make this a success we need people prepared to give short talks (illustrated or otherwise) as well as bringing any specimens, plans, photos or anything else that is thought may be of interest. It is better to have too many speakers volunteering than having to phone round at the last minute making dire threats (or groveling as is more usual).

Photo Competition for the Julian Holmes Trophy will be judged by our President at the above function and the trophy awarded to the entrant who in the opinion of the Judge has submitted the best photo.

Black and White prints only (any size), all pictures must in some way be related to mining; be all the entrants own work and have been taken within the previous 12 months. There is a limit of 3 prints per entrant to be accompanied by 5p worth of usable stamps per pic. All entries will be judged and displayed at the Talk-in, and if you want them returned by post please send a stamped addressed envelope.

All entries to be sent to H.Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY no later than 1st November, 1980.

Insurance

At last we've got it, or more correctly, N.A.M.H.O. have got it for us.

"N.A.M.H.O. have taken up membership of B.C.R.A. and on behalf of member organisations have subscribed to their Public Liability Insurance Scheme. The N.M.R.S. Committee have decided to pay the first premium from Society funds, but in future years this will be added to the Annual Subscription. Cover is strictly limited to members of the Association, (members of Member Clubs who have opted-in), whilst they are taking part in activities which are concerned with the 'business' of the B.C.R.A. For this purpose the business of the B.C.R.A. is interpreted as cave exploration and research in the widest sense, (including disused but not working mines), whether this is carried out above or below ground. Thus the crossing of land in order to gain access to a cave or mine, or attendance/participation at a meeting of the B.C.R.A. will be covered. Hang gliding, orienteering, ski-ing, mountaineering for its own sake is not included. Mountaineering strictly in order to gain access to a cave or disused mine is of course fully covered.

The scheme gives cover for publicliability claims up to a maximum of £500,000.

Any claim should be addressed to the Secretary of N.A.M.H.O. via your Society representative - Mike Gill; N.A.M.H.O. will then liase with the B.C.R.A. Insurance Officer.

Non-members will pay a fee of 50p (payable to N.A.M.H.O.) to obtain temporary cover for the duration of that field meet only. Any member under 16 must be specified in writing to N.A.M.H.O.

Members are reminded that whilst they are covered for non-official activities, they are not entitled to use the name of the Society or N.A.M.H.O. in order to gain access without written permission of the Committee.

North Wales Meet Report

Those who can remember as far back as this years summer, will recall that the Forestry Commission were praying for the weather that we seem to have had since (with that sort of influence ~~we~~ hope have we of curbing their activities on mining sites).

Our Meet could not have been nearer the source of the action if we had planned it that way, so the week preceeding the Meet we found that we had a "slight" problem.

Monday - phone Forestry Commission "should be O.K. but meeting tomorrow, call again Wed."

Wed - "Everything's fine, wish you were here!"

Thurs - Receive phone call from a member who is also a Snowdonia National Park warden "Coming here? Don't be daft! you won't be allowed near!!!"

Forestry - "Llanwrst, no problem"

N/W Police - "Not b..... likely, we're closing Wales".

Q) How do you inform at 24hrs notice 350 members that the Meets off?

A) Phone round anyone you think may possibly be going or even think they know someone who is.

At this stage I must apologise to any member who tried to phone me between 7pm and 12-30am and found my number engaged. Ta also to Bill Davies for running up an equally large phone bill, and Richard Hower for going to Wales and putting up signs saying "Go home" on all approaches to the camp site.

That in brief is the truth, the whole truth and the wot not.

Wot's 'apning at Nent?

In answer to the above, of late, oft asked question, the following may help.

As far as we are concerned all representation, on our behalf, are being handled by the National Association of Mining History Organisations (NAMHO):-

"

Public Meeting at Nenthead 18th June, 1980.

There was a large turnout for the meeting held by the Eden District Council to allow public discussion on the planning application by Mine Tours Ltd., to establish a Mining Interpretation Centre in the Upper Nent Valley.

The meeting was attended by representatives of N.A.M.H.O. on behalf of member organisations.

Unfortunately most of the villagers were asking questions related to the impact on the area of 66,000 visitors, their resultant litter, car parking, toilet and speeding problems. These questions fell outside the jurisdiction of the planning committee and thus remained unanswered.

The two access roads planned for the site raised much comment, one off the A689 and the other up the valley past Rampgill Mine. Both routes were discussed and potential hazards pointed out - again these were not planning matters but the responsibility of the Highways Surveyor.

Private notices had appeared on two footpaths through the site, both of which were claimed to be rights of way, many villagers were very concerned about this and intended taking the matter further.

Many villagers were optimistic about the proposal because of the high unemployment in the area, aggravated by the closure of the Alston Foundry. It was hoped that between 17 - 23 jobs would be provided; some only during the 22 week season, no guarantee being given that jobs would go to the locals.

All parties were agreed that there was a distinct lack of information available on which to base reasonable opinion. It was apparent that the plans for the Smelt Mill area were unacceptable to N.A.M.H.O., the proposal being to construct a large embankment across the mill yard and site of the furnaces, to carry the narrow gauge railway into a 'cut and cover' tunnel. This would of course obscure many important features irrevocably and change the whole nature of the site. The first floor of the row of cottages was to be used as the boarding point and terminus - the embankment running from this building and obscuring parts of it. Plans for the Assay House, the best preserved part of the mill, seemed less drastic, the intention being to make the ground floor into a cafeteria and the first floor into offices.

In view of the need for haste, the following stance is to be taken by N.A.M.H.O. Generally we are in favour of the idea of an Interpretive scheme on the site as the best way of preservation; however, in view of the great importance of this smelt mill to the Industrial Archaeologist and the fact that it is being considered for scheduling, we suggest that Mine Tours Ltd., propose to make unacceptable changes to the site and that they should be given the opportunity to resubmit plans for this scheme after consultation with interested bodies; especially as it was felt that insufficient information had been made available.

The question of access to mines in the Upper Nent Valley remains unsolved - Mine Tours Ltd., maintain that they will permit bona-fide groups to enter workings (which are to be gated). It is hoped that N.A.M.H.O. will reach some agreement for its members - to the exclusion of those elements who in the past have been the cause of hostility. We would also hope to reach a satisfactory agreement for those groups already actively researching this area. It must be stressed that Mine Tours Ltd., have a lease covering all levels in the valley and they are perfectly entitled to deny access to us. The N.M.R.S. Smallcleugh Meet was permitted to continue which is an hopeful sign but some thoughtless act could close this area. Mike Gill, N.A.M.H.O. Secretary."

BOOK REVIEWS

- 1) Stannary Tales: The shady side of mining by Justin Brooke.
Published by Twelveheads Press, Truro. 1980. 92pp., 10 plates, 2 maps.
ISBN 0 906294 02 9 (Hardback) limited quantities only @ £4.50
ISBN 0 906294 03 7 (Paperback) £3.00.

Members may remember a few of Mr Brooke's 'tales' which have appeared in the 1978 NMRS Memoirs, and this book - the author's first - represents a fair cross section from many thousands of petitions presented to the Stannary Courts of Cornwall and Devon during the last century. The information they contain is supplemented from 1818 to 1866. There are 31 extracts - some dealing with more than one mine - and the headings for these are, in themselves, fascinating and lead one to wonder how on earth they could apply to mining. For instance, 'One, Two, Bang! One, Two, Bang!' may give a clue that the extract deals with Gunpowder manufacturers but what about 'And if I stray He doth Convert' and 'Not quite a Gentleman' (which has nothing to do with the following chapter headed 'Good Delivery!'). All these mysterious things will only be revealed when the book is read. Suffice it to conclude that Mr Brooke has done his

homework well and the publishers are to be congratulated for their presentation of this work which, like previous volumes from Twelveheads Press, is clean, neat and beautifully printed. A copy of Stannary Tales is in the NMRS library, but don't let this prevent you from digging in your pocket.

R.H.Bird.

- 2) Mining in Cornwall Vol I by J.Trounson'
Published by Moorland Publishing Co.Ltd., Ashbourne,Derbys, on behalf of the
Trevithick Society. 129 plates with captions, 2 maps,index.
ISBN 0 903485 79 6 £2.95

This is a picture book of Cornish mining scenes from Mr Trounson's collection. The mines depicted are all in the Cambourne-Redruth area. To those who have a fair collection of Cornish mining literature, this book will be rather disappointing since a great many of the pictures have appeared before elsewhere. Moreover, it is very sad that publishers continue to use matt-type paper for illustrations particularly where the whole book is dependant on the latter for its appeal; current high costs of art paper must be blamed for this trend, one would suppose.

Generally this book must be recommended but the author's first work of this nature (published in Truro on 1968) has more appeal since greater space was used for lengthy captions - the present volume would have benefited from less pictures and more background information. Notwithstanding the above, this is a good tome to have on the bookshelf.

R.H.Bird.

- 3) The Shropshire Caving and Mining Club Journal 1979 has recently been published. The latest issue, which follows closely the traditional format, is of A4 size, contains 65 pages and includes 15 illustrations and maps. It includes substantial articles on 'Non-ferrous mining in North Shropshire and Cheshire', 'the Shawfield Colliery Engine House at Madeley', 'Shropshire Caves, Icehouses and Tunnels', 'Identification of Shropshire Minerals' and 'The Tunnels of the Coalbrookdale Coalfield Area'.

An informative short article throws new light on the four lead smelters recorded in the Ironbridge Gorge while another gives details of the claim for the collapse of property against the Snailbeach Mining Company.

Copies of the publication are available from Dr I.J.Brown, 95 Manygates Lane, Sandal, Wakefield, W.Yorks. Price £1.60 post free.

I.J.Brown.

- 4) Mining and Smelting in Teesdale by Harold L. Beadle.
Cleveland Industrial Archaeology Society Research Report No.3.
A4, 40 pages, 10 figs, 39 plates

This recent publication by the Cleveland Industrial Archaeology Society is a follow up volume to their "Lead Mining and Smelting in Swaledale and Teesdale" published in 1979.

This publication deals specifically with Teesdale and is divided into three main sections. Section one deals with the historical and technical aspects of Lead, Zinc and Barytes mining in the area and is well illustrated with plans of the larger mines. (These are much improved in quality on those of last year's publication). The second section of this report is a gazetteer of the mining sites and relics remaining and should be sufficient to wet the appetite of those readers unfamiliar with the area. Part three provides a selection of old mining records of Lunedale and Teesdale giving useful anecdotes on obscure items such as the price of candles and gunpowder in the 1800's.

The whole volume is well illustrated with some (39 to be exact) fine and well produced old photographs of the mines in their heyday. To finish off there is a glossary of mining terms. I'm beginning to get quite a few of these now since nearly all mining works tend to have one and each one seems to be ever so slightly different. I'm not entirely convinced that this type of padding is wholly necessary.

It is always interesting to receive publications on areas which are not well documented and this publication can be recommended to both the expert and the casually interested visitor. It is perhaps a shame that the method of publication by duplicator lets down slightly what is otherwise a good publication.

Price £2.50 inc postage from; A.E.Shayler, 44 Zetland Road, Redcar, Cleveland.
TS10 3QD. Cheques payable to C.I.A.S.

J.H.McNeil.

- 5) Metal Mines of North Wales by C.J.Williams.
84pp, 80plates and 2 maps. ISBN 0 907 157 00 9

This recently published book by one of our members is a collection of mostly unpublished photographs and illustrations of the metal mines in North Wales. The material for the book has been collected from record offices libraries and private collections and each illustration carries a small descriptive caption.

The book deals with the Flintshire and Denbighshire lead and zinc mines, the mines of the Conwy valley, copper mines at Parys mountain on Anglesey, in Snowdonia and at Llandudno. Also illustrated are the gold mines in Merioneth which strictly speaking are in Central Wales.

The whole book is well arranged and the reproduction of the material is of high quality. The book fills a useful gap in the documentation of British mining history and can be well recommended.

Obtainable from:- Charter Publications, Castle Works, Rhuddlan, Rhyl, Clwyd, LL18 5UA. Price £2.75 + 0.45 p&p. Cheques/P.O.s to Charter Press.

J.H.McNeil.

- 6) Subterranean Britain - Aspects of Underground Archaeology. Edited by H.Crawford.
Published by John Baker Ltd., London, Jan 1980. Price £7.95. 201 pages including many illustrations and index.

This book is unusual, its scope covers aspects which the mining historian generally considers either too narrow or too mundane. Each of the six chapters has been written by a specialist and covers a particular subject. Chapter 1 covers Grimes Graves and prehistoric flint mining. It is quite fascinating and the material would probably justify a book of its own. Chapter 2 on the first metal workings and their geological setting is rather shallow, most of the topics discussed are found in all "metal mining" books while the writer obviously knows more about present day accessibility to foreign mines than of those in Britain. Chapter 3 on Roman Mining is short, only 14 pages long (whereas there were 43 pages in flint mining) but has been carefully written in an attempt to keep to the known facts. It includes details of surveys by both the Bristol and Shropshire Mining Clubs in Draethar (Gwent) and Llanymynach (Salop) mines respectively. Chapter 4 on the Irish Souterrains is, like the chapter on flint mining both long (44 pages) and fascinating. Previously this reviewer had given 'burial chambers' only a passing thought but it is obvious now that much more careful examination is called for.

Chapter 5 'the Early Industrial Era' is intended to cover the mining of coal, metals and stone. It is obvious that compared with the details on flint mining and souterrains elsewhere 27 pages on mining generally can but scratch the surface and this is what this chapter does. Much space is given to steam engines, safety lamps and reminiscences of 20th Century miners with very little to underground archaeology. This chapter contains some doubtful statements like "in general subsidence is much less likely to occur where longwall mining (rather than pillar and stall mining) has been practised."

The final chapter is tantalisingly short, only 24 pages, and concentrates on Medieval and Eighteenth Century Curiosities and Utilities. This includes grottos, follies, an icehouse and moling (driving tunnels?). One wonders why all the curiosities mentioned are in Southern England, perhaps they didn't have time to spare for such things in the North or perhaps they still await discovery.

In summary a most interesting book and the detail in the stronger chapters certainly makes it well worth having for, as the bibliography indicates, very little has been written elsewhere on some of the topics covered.

I.J.Brown.

Nenthead Meet Report 21/22 June, 1980.

P.Jackson.

At the time that this event was arranged it was envisaged that access would be possible under the arrangements made by the Alston Moor Mines Research Group with the Catholic Trust (the landowners). However, in May 1980 an exclusive lease of the Nent valley south east of Nenthead was granted to Mine Tours Ltd., who plan to establish a tourist attraction around the smelt mill.

The National Association of Mining History Organisations contacted Mine Tours

Ltd., who agreed that the event could go ahead subject to certain conditions, namely that everyone signed an indemnity form, no specimens were removed, and that a representative of Mine Tours Ltd., accompanied the party.

11 persons went underground on the Saturday, and 6 on the Sunday. Saturday's venue was to enter Caplecleugh Low Level and exit via Smallcleugh Level. The aim was to show the extent of these workings and also to reveal the digging efforts that have been put in by the Alston Moor Mines Research Group in opening up these levels. The trip passed off without event, although one member of the party began to feel the effects of the cold, even though he was equipped with a wet-suit. Points of interest were the waterblast fan seen in situ, and the engine room at Middlecleugh Sump.

Sunday's visit to Carrs Level was a much shorter event, and a visit was made to the flats associated with Smallcleugh Cross vein.

Mine Tours Ltd representative was Mr M.F.Critchley (also one of our members) of Imperial College, London.

I apologise for arriving late for the meet on the Saturday, and hope that it did not detract from anyone's enjoyment.

This contribution from D.R.Neal, could guarantee him a position of a Hon.Member of W.E.L.L.I. Instead of being a lone voice in the wilderness, there are now two of us.

"Wet and Slimey Rules, OK!"

On a recent visit to Hilton Mine and others I came across things which got me in the nether regions of my wet-suit - and a can of Heineken didn't help. In fact, it was the empty cans, soggy newspapers, mildew sandwiches, broken bottles and other beasties which I find obnoxious.

I have no qualms about wading in mucky water, crawling over 'unpolluted' slimey mud, or indeed any other natural hazard that one comes across. But I draw the line at man-made rubbish tips. If you have the strength to carry a full can in, surely you can manage an empty out?

Van Gochs - Bend an Ear

No, its not a Welsh lead mine - It would appear that many undergrounders are budding Picassos. Seems any mine that goes more than 10' provides an excuse for motorway size direction signs, especially if it has more than one passage. Then, at the forehead or any other suitable 'achievement' this is celebrated by 'Jim was here, 1795' in paint spray! These pathetic mining deposits are unnecessary and an eyesore, as portable signs/flags are cheap to produce and can be collected on the way out."

Holywell Wood Mines, Castleford. NGR 44500,24400

These interesting underground sand workings are likely to survive a little longer, a recent application to opencast the site for coal and clay has been withdrawn.

Underground sand workings probably commenced on the site in the early 19th Century and seems to have continued until the present century. The workings being in the Basal Permian Sands are overlain by the Lower Magnesian Limestone, which during the 1960s was almost completely removed by quarrying, the heavy quarry plant collapsing in places into the sand workings. In 1976 a mining company sought permission to opencast coal and clay from the Coal Measures directly beneath the site but this was refused by the County Council. An appeal by the applicant to the Secretary of State has now been withdrawn.

A survey of the sand workings has been published in the Yorkshire Subterranean Society Journal No 2 March 1979.

I.J.Brown.

Caphouse Colliery Meet Report.

On 5th July 1980 some dozen members and friends visited the extensive remains of eighteenth and nineteenth century coalmining, ironstone getting and associated transport facilities in parts of the townships of Flockton and Shitlington, between Wakefield and Huddersfield, under the guidance of John Goodchild, the City of Wakefield Archivist.

The meeting began at Caphouse Colliery, alongside the new (c.1830) line of the Wakefield and Austerlands turnpike road. A shaft is shown on this site on a plan of 1791 and coal has been worked here almost continuously since that time: the present colliery boasts a working steam engine installed (secondhand) in its present engine-house in c. 1876, which is the date borne by the house, along with the initials of Miss Emma Lister Kaye, the then owner of the colliery. The colliery also retains a wooden headstocks and an older wooden headstocks still surmounts an old shaft behind the present working pit.

From Caphouse the party walked up the old (1759) line of the turnpike running past the Reindeer Inn and on to the approach road to New Hall Prison Camp. That road is laid along the line of a colliery railway opened in 1854 and worked until the early 1940s; the railway connected various pits belonging to the Denby Grange Colliery complex with the Calder and Hebble Navigation and the Wakefield and Barnsley branch railway at Calder Grove. The remains of one of its two sets of colliery railway inclined planes were viewed with the aid of old photographs and maps before the party went on to see a much earlier and surviving railway tunnel of c.1791-4. The party was shown diagrams illustrating the royalty areas, the drainage systems and the methods of working of what became known during the later nineteenth century as the Old Flockton Collieries, which were connected by means of this earlier railway with the Navigation at Horbury Bridge. The earliest lease of this area appears to have been one taken in 1772, enlarged in area in 1778 and further extended later: an original lease of 1787 was shown, along with a selection of other original documents relating to the operation of these pits.

After viewing the remains of the tunnel, an early 20-arched railway viaduct and the ruins of an engine house (apparently housing a steam winder until its disuse in 1812), the party walked on down one of the inclines of the 1854 Denby Grange Colliery line before striking off to view New Hall, the centrepiece of this part of the Wortley (latterly Earl of Wharfedale) estates, a site retaining considerable medieval remains including its moat. From New Hall the party returned to the Reindeer, looking at sites of connected mining interest en route and subsequently adjourned for lunch and a more personal chat at the Sun Inn at Flockton.

In the afternoon the party visited mining remains at Emroyd Common, near Middlestown, developed by the same group of coalmasters who opened the Old Flockton Collieries in the 1770s. At Emroyd, a lease of the coal was taken in 1796, of the ironstone in 1798 (a furnace was operated here for some decades) and of the surface in 1799. The route of the waggonway was followed, stone sleeper blocks being seen in various places en route; the original line was laid with wooden rails, later replaced with iron ones (Losh & Stephenson rails at one period) and ultimately with flat-bottomed rails on wooden sleepers to a gauge of 3ft. 9in. The remains of coke kilns, pits, sidings and a long self-acting incline were seen in Emroyd before the party returned to their cars.

The tour was illustrated with original documents, plans and illustrations wherever possible; taking into account the showery nature of the day, a number of photocopies were used along with originals. An industrial heritage walk based upon this area and written by the leader of this tour is soon to be published by the Wakefield M.D. Planning Department.

John Goodchild.

Miners quit over gas

Anybody thinking that they'd heard the last of Radon - hard luck. Seen by Chris Down in the Western Morning News of 19th March, 1980 :- "Underground workers at South Crofty Tin Mine stopped work yesterday in protest at the level of a dangerous gas they claim is in the workings.

The miners believe the radon radioactive gas is emanating from trace elements in underground granite, and has been made worse by an influx from a neighbouring mine."

Further Oil Prospecting in Yorkshire

The Secretary of State for Energy has recently awarded more licences to explore for oil and gas in Yorkshire. The licences authorise the holders (RTZ and Amoco) to search for oil and gas only by prospecting and geological survey, including drilling to a depth of not more than 350 metres to obtain geological information. They do not

confer on the licensees the right to drill for or produce oil or gas. The area included in these new licences is roughly the triangle with corners at Pateley Bridge, Malham and Todmorden.

I.J.Brown.

Embryonic London Section News.

John Keating sent me a very good article on some of the mines in the vicinity of London. (Too long for the Newsletter, but being considered for the next Memoirs). He also arranged a field trip to one of these mines, but news of this came too late for inclusion in the last Newsletter.

Godstone Mines Meet, 29th June, 1980. Leader J.Keating

Around 20 people joined up on a sunny day to explore the workings of these extensive underground mines. Last worked in 1877 they are well preserved with square cut interconnecting chambers and neatly stacked deads. 12 people went down, some for the first time, and spent two hours wandering around endless passages - in fact there were 13 people in all when Roy 'the late' Shambrook finally made it ten minutes before we surfaced!

John took us by the circular route and we stopped to inspect the bottom of a concreted shaft below the Saw Mill, listened to the traffic on the A22 at an old entrance shaft and took many photos. There were plenty of wall drawings and other messages to abuse or insult but generally the mine was bereft of artefacts. In places railway tracks were in situ but horse and cart was the mode of transport for the stone and clay that was mined.

During 1902-1919 the workings were used to grow mushrooms and truffles and the beds are still there today. Abandoned water piping abounds in these areas. The only artefacts recovered were a suspect candle holder (rusty) and a red lamp circa 1970 (Road - Surrey CC).

My four year old daughter thoroughly enjoyed the trip showing the 'grown-ups' how easy it was to clamber over falls! We surfaced at lunch time and in 'Quasimodo' fashion made our way back to the cars.

In the afternoon John took us to an old well nearby. Being close to the Pilgrims Way it was being dug out and at present was down to 30'. John demonstrated the techniques of making a rope descent/ascent and six of us made the two way trip including Roy Shambrook who had just finished his breakfast.

My wife, Gillian, kept the female end up by making the trip - though I cannot understand why she wouldn't let me tie her onto the rope or why John took so long in sending her up!

All in all an enjoyable day and those present hope that other members who live south of Watford Gap might join up on further trips.

D.R.Neal.

Anyone interested in joining the S.E. section will be made most welcome and can contact John Keating at 145 Stonehouse St., Clapham, London SW4.

Wanted

Has anyone got for sale or know where I could obtain the following:

NCMRS ISS No 6 The Teign Valley Lead Mines

NCMRS ISS No 7 The Non-Ferrous Mines of Flintshire

NMRS BM No 1 - 1975

NMRS BM No 3 - 1976

A fair price paid, please contact me evenings on Harlow 415844. D.R.Neal.

The owners of Holm Farm, Patterdale have discovered a new lead mine in the Lake District. In fact the shaft suddenly appeared in their driveway. The local Fire Brigade have pumped it out to about 20' and reckon that it is 30' deep to the level. The above is an extract from the Cumbria and Westmorland Herald of 10th May, 1980.

A party of around twenty had assembled in Turn Village by 10.30am and with the weather promising to be fine, we seemed set for at least a good start. The object of this Meet was to view the surface remains of quarries and collieries above Turn Village.

The quarries are situated in the Upper Haslingden Flags. They have been worked by the Whittaker family since the 1830s when the land was leased from Lord Derby. At its height more than 300 men were employed and a two mile narrow gauge railway was built to transport the stone to the dressing floors in Turn Village. In the 1920s the Whittakers bought the quarries and continued to work them until the 1950s. They then lay idle until 1968 when a subsidiary of the Sir Alfred McAlpine Group leased part of the quarry to provide filling material for several motorway projects. Over a period of 2 years, in a round the clock operation, 1,700,000 tons of the hillside were removed for this purpose. Since this time the quarries have been still, and look likely to remain so.

Coal mining also played a prominent part of the moors industry, with several small collieries working the two economical seams, the Sand Rock Mine and the Lower Mountain Mine. In the early 1800s Lawrence Duckworth formed the Scout Moor Colliery Company, to work the two seams mentioned above, until the Lower Mountain Mine was worked out in 1884, they then concentrated on the Sand Rock Mine. The Whittakers eventually acquired the colliery and worked it until 1927, when the closure of the mill, which it supplied with fuel, forced it to close. By this time the vast majority of coal had been worked out.

The route we followed led up the Public Footpath to New Gate and the foot of the colliery incline, where a steep $\frac{1}{2}$ mile climb led to the main drive of the Scout Moor Colliery on the moor top. This first climb set the pattern for the day, as by the time the leaders reached the top a line of stragglers were stretched out for a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. Several minutes were spent here poking among the assorted ironware that the scrap merchants have left behind. We finally tore ourselves away and proceeded via the Quarry's magazine, over the stream, past several crop workings and into Fecit End Delph, the first of the two quarries. A large pile of curbstones, left behind when the quarry closed, provided a good illustration of the type of product for which this area is famous. A gentle stroll from here brought us to one of the few open drifts still to be found, where by unanimous decision lunch was served.

Following lunch, several of the hardier types scrambled into the drift, where a good view of the Sand Rock Mine is obtained, at this point 18" - 24" thick. The grassy track we then followed led past several crop workings and finally down to the "Coal Road", from which we turned sharp left and headed back across the moor to a fenced-off shaft. This shaft, 110' deep and 8' in diameter, appears to be quite stable, but below the ringing a thick shale band is gradually disintegrating. A stiff climb led to the top of Whittle Pike and then down to the reservoir on the other side. From here the railway line was followed, past more crop workings and up into the Scout Moor Quarry, the extensive workings of which were followed for nearly a mile, ending up back at the colliery incline.

I hope the members who attended enjoyed themselves, at least the walk was pleasant. Many thanks.

Scheduling Important Mining Sites.

N.A.M.H.O. are to prepare lists of mining sites in terms of their surface features in need of preservation on a two tier basis

- a) sites worthy of scheduling - on a national basis.
- b) worthy of protection - by local volunteers.

If YOU know of any site that falls within the above scope, let Mike Gill know. If each member sends a full list of all the sites they know of, we would then, theoretically, be sure of covering them all.

Mike's address is 38 Main Street, Sutton, Keighley. Tel Steeton 35388.

Private Record Collections

Do you own any plans or records?

What would happen to them if you died?

Are there any copies of them in case the originals are destroyed?

Does an index of them exist, if so with whom?

We would strongly recommend that owners of private collections, as a matter of urgency, allow either us, or some other society, to copy them. They should certainly bequeath them to an appropriate Society, Library or Record Office, as they could so unwittingly be lost for all time.

So if YOU own such a collection take action NOW if you have not already done so.

Yet another Book Review

Cornwall's Central Mines: The Northern District 1810-95

ISBN 0 906720 10 9. 216 x 138mm; cased; 392pp; 42 photographs; 19 maps and line drawings. Price £9.50 including p & p from Alison Hodge 5 Chapel St, Penzance, Cornwall or any bookshop.

This work by T.A. Morrison, the author of Gold Mining in Western Merioneth, is a welcome addition to the information available on the mines of the Cambourne-Redruth area, and breaks the trend to the Photograph Album type of book.

The author sets out in some detail to cover specific mines in 30 sections and to resolve some of the confusion caused by the regular name and boundary changes. Each section has its own reference index, which seems to be predominantly from the Mining Journal.

The introduction and Glossary of Terms contain valuable guides to those unfamiliar with general mining practise and terminology.

The book covers such legendary mines as East Pool, Cook's Kitchen and the Carn Brea Mines in what is some of the most extensively mined ground in Britain.

A companion volume to this book, covering the Southern district of Cornwall's central mines, is in preparation.

M.C.Gill.

For Sale

Dieline copies of Plans available from Geoplot Services, The Radleth, Plealey, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury SY5 OXF at £1.00 each.

- C.1. Plan of Rakes & Veins, Dean Hollow, Cromford, 1:2500.
 - C.3. Plan of Mines & Veins of Lead Ore in possession of Plackett Partners, 24th June 1766; by John Nuttall, 25" to 1 mile.
 - C.21. Plan of Cromford Moor Sough (Copy of Bagshawe Collection no. 180)
 - C.23. Plan and section of Ashley Hay Shaft.
 - CO.25. Map of Castleton Enclosures, 1691.
 - CO.26. Another Map of Castleton Enclosures, 1691.
 - C.30. Plan of Veins from Cliffe Stile & Moorwood Sough over the fields to Middleton Dale, 12th August, 1863.
 - C.37. Plan of Principal Veins in Liberties of Haddon, Hartle, Youlgreave, Stanton, etc., and also Principal Soughs; by J. Nuttall, 1768.
 - C.49. Plan of Mawstone Mine, Youlgreave.
 - C.65. Map of Lathkilldale showing position of mines; by J.H. Rieuwerts, 23rd Dec, 1959.
 - C.74. Minerva Ganister Mine, Ecclesfield, 1911; 1" to 1 chain.
 - C.75. Glossop Vale Ganister Mine, Chisworth, Derbys, 1913; 1" to 1 chain.
 - C.76. Minerva Ganister Mine, Ecclesfield, 1913; 1" to 1 chain.
 - C.85. Plan of the veins below Eyam to show the line of Sough necessary to drain them (Bagshawe Colln. No. 199, colours as shown on C.46)
 - C.94. Plan of Alabaster Sough, by Isaac Rince Jnr.
 - C.95. Section showing Meerbrook & Cromford Soughs, 1831; 1" to 4 chains.
 - C.96. Plan showing ownership of Masson Hill, Matlock as at Feb. 1978; 6" to 1 mile.
 - C.97. Plan of Smallcleugh Mine, Nenthead.
 - C.98. Plan of Brownley Hill Mine, Alston Moor; 1" to 2 chains.
 - C.128. Sections of Cromford Sough - Meerbrook Sough Complex, 1838.
 - C.129. Section of Meerbrook Sough from Great Shaft to the Forefield, 6th April, 1843 by Francis Forster.
 - C.N4. Plan of Hazard Mine, 1837 (Bagshawe Colln. No. 665)
 - CN.9. Plan of Milclose Works on Cowlet Knowle, 1758 (Raistrick Ms.)
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All contributions for Nov. N/L to H. Houghton, 29 Parkside Rd, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY.
No SAE, No reply.