

Yorkshire Mineral Statistics.

These are now out and anyone wanting a copy should contact Mrs H.Bird, 41 Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield S31 7EL.

We have been asked to mention that the cover plate credit of this should be to James Smith (c1939), formerly of Keighley. This print was also used as plate 64 in R.T.Clough's book of Lead Smelting Mills.

The Liverpool Dwarf - February Newsletter

Apparently this worthy objects to being referred to by the above title. The following diatribe from him is being included for no more reason than that I found it amusing.

"Esteemed Sir,

I was, Sir horrified, upon receipt of my last NMRS Newsletter to find myself a person, you will doubtless agree of the highest eminence, referred to as (and how I bring myself to quote I shall never know) 'The Liverpool Dwarf'. I can only assume Sir that the non-de-plume should not really refer to my goodself but to some other member of your august Soc. that is had I not supplied the information accredited to the said LD. Sir, I demand a full page apology in the next broadsheet and what's more I demand that it be in multitone colour as befits my stature in the mining history world - I shall settle for nothing less than full grovelling.

Your Humble Servant, The Bionic Gnome."

For Sale

Miners Lamp Motif Notepaper. A4 size. 25p per pkt of 7 sheets. No envelopes. Mixed pack of white paper only. Contact - Avondale Soft Goods, Foundry Warehouse, Trimdon Station.

Future Meets.

May 15/16th Isle of Man. Unfortunately due to lack of response this meet is cancelled.

Wales Meet 29/31st May. Leader Eric Gray-Thomas.

Meet and camp at SH 728232 (on A487 north out of Dolgellau immediately opposite Ty'n-y-groes Hotel between the river and the road. The farmers name is Mr Edwards of Dolmelynlllyn Farm (SH 726240). Do not confuse this site with the Forestry Commission site on the other side of the river. Disregard the 10.30am start time on Meets card. START at 10.00am. Eric has formulated a very varied and interesting programme.

June 12/13th

June 26th/27th as per Meets card.

July 3/5th

July 24th. Leader Richard Hewer.

Meet at Chapel Bridge NY 232 194 at 10.30am. Ample parking. This is near Stair & Little Town, Keswick area, Cumbria. An easy walk, (Approx 6 miles) part of which entails a stiff climb to Dalehead Mine. Digging equipment required. Wives should be encouraged to act as Sherpas, payment to be negotiated. Many levels to explore at all standards of difficulty. Suggest camping at Hollows Farm, Grange, Borrowdale NY251168.

July 25th. Leader Richard Hewer.

Please note change of map ref to meet NY403134 (due to lay-by being full of road repairing materials). This is near Brotherswater, Ullswater. Meet at 10.30am. Natives in the area can be hostile. Lovely walks from the mine for wives and children. The trip entails 90ft incline descent, 2 x 20ft pitches, Sumps, dangerous hanging walls and bad air in places. No mushy peas to be eaten the previous night.

August 14/15th as per Meets card.

August 28/30th NAMHO weekend, as hinted in February N/L this is cancelled on this date

Sept 12th General Meeting - as per Meets card.

Sept 18/19th NAMHO weekend. Hosted by Cumbria Amenity Trust. A plot has been allocated for camping at Inman's Farm (Crook Farm) Torver (NGR SD283943) at junction of A5084 (Greenodd/Torver Rd) & A593 (Ambleside/Broughton Rd) watch out for NAMHO direction signs. Please contact E.G.Holland, Old Stainton Hall, Stainton, Barrow-in-Furness confirming your intention of joining meet in view of Sat.night Hot Pot supper.

Florence Mine, Egremont

Further to Alwyn Austin's snippet in the February Newsletter I received the following from Tony Schnellmann

" Alwyn Austin's snippet brought back many memories. It was there, as a student more than 50 years ago, that I gained my first experience of metalliferous mining. Many years later, having in the meantime mined in West Africa and soldiered in India, I became geologist and later manager of Florence. I resigned in 1951, when the steel industry was nationalised, and started in consulting practice, and was consultant to the company until it ceased operations. The special ore for the West Midlands foundries was known as "kibbles", a name of which I never discovered the origin. Apart from its very high grade it had to be crushed and sized to within very rigid limits. Another special product was "pencil ore". This was sold to manufacturers of costume jewelry in Idar Oberstein (Germany) and your lady members will recognise it under the name "marcasite", which is of course a complete mineralogical misnomer. Again, I never managed to discover how this misnomer originated.

It also interested me to see the name of my old friend Isaac Walker mentioned in connection with boreholes. We at Florence were more successful than the Beckermets company. We established the existence of a substantial ore-body to the west of Egremont. It was never mined, but as Rudyard Kipling would have said, "This, oh Best Beloved, is another story", and a good point at which to stop my reminiscing. PS. Re - "pencil"ore - it was my proud boast when manager at Florence that I sold iron-ore at £3,360 a ton. As the discerning knew, the truth was that I sold pencil-ore at £1.50 a pound, and only a few hundredweights a year!! "

Due to popular appeal Tony's "other story" may appear in a future issue of the Newsletter. He hasn't actually volunteered to write it yet! but now he has some incentive for doing so. Ed.

For Sale.

MINING BOOKS: Dozens of books on British/foreign mining for sale, many out of print/back runs of NMRS/PDMHS Journals etc.

Send sae for complete list to - G.J.Schmitz, Dept.of Modern History, University of St.Andrews, Fife,KY16 9AL, Scotland.

Greenhow Hill Meet Report, 28th March 1982.

About eighteen members, their families and pets etc., turned up at Greenhow for what must have been the best weather which will be seen on Greenhow all year. The sky was blue, the wind didn't blow and the rain didn't.

After a quick car parking re-arrangement the party moved off in the direction of Cockhill Mine and Smelt Mill making a quick inspection of Jack Ass level en route. Further members of the meet were collected at Cockhill and after viewing the now very dilapidated smelt mill and peat store the party proceeded over the moors to the dressing floors at Low Stoney Grooves.

These are in an excellent state of preservation, due mainly to their remote location. This site illustrates extremely well how a typical dressing floor was laid out and operated. The site also contains an excellent example of a circular buddle.

Proceeding further uphill via a tramway led us to the High Stoney Grooves Mine. Surface remains of the wheelpit for the High Stoney Grooves Shaft and some fine bouse teams can be seen here. A kibble was also found, not that it had actually been lost, in the bracken near to the wheelpit. This kibble was not complete enough to warrant preservation, the half that hadn't been buried having now rusted away.

It was now the halfway point of the tour and the party returned down Ashfoldside Gill, picking up wives and children who had been "abandoned" at Low Stoney Grooves.

Downstream we had been instructed by our Society Recorder to locate an old level on the south side of the beck upstream from Gudhamsike Level. A thorough search of the area revealed nothing and the level was written off as having either never existed or well buried.

Proceeding again downstream two members on passing Stoney Level could not resist the temptations of the deep ochreous water and rapidly disappeared underground. In strict fairness to these two individuals we had been going for nearly four hours without leaving daylight and they must have been suffering from withdrawal symptoms.

From Stoney Level it was a quick trip downstream to the Prosperous Smelt Mill and then a short journey over the hill to Cockhill again. The leaders were just about to call it a day when someone mentioned that they had never seen Sam Oon Level or the

.....continued.

Panty Oon Stone, so an extra loop to the trip was rapidly added.

To those who attended, you were very fortunate to be blessed with such fine weather which is not often witnessed at Greenhow.

John H. McNeil.

Arkengarthdale

Trevor Bowland sent me this cutting from the Yorkshire Evening Post of 12th April, 1982.

"Operation lead mine for Dale is mapped.

Minex Ltd which obtained an option in 1978, proposes to move 204,000 tons of mineral rich waste and to extract 99,000 tons of mineral concentrate - lead, zinc, barite, witherite, and fluorite - from an area on the west side of Arkengarthdale. The intention is to restore the cleared areas to grass and heather. No buildings of industrial archaeological interest will be involved.

So far local reaction has been in favour of the plan. At a public meeting it was agreed not to object and the plan has been recommended for approval by Richmondshire District Council. Most of the tailings left after processing - some 100,000 tons - will be used for road work. About half will be available for local farmers, who until the company acquired the concession, used material from the dumps to repair farm roads."

Swatting the 'Flies'.

The following was spotted in December 'Climber' Mag. I must admit that I for one didn't know flies could erect tents.

"The Lake District Planning Board is thinking of buying an area of land in the fells above Coniston, which includes Coniston Old Man, Wetherlam and Coppermines Valley. Apart from being one of the most popular walking areas of Lakeland, the proposed take-over would include many of the mines included in Cicerone Press's recent field guide to the Coniston copper mines.

Reason for the move is that the planners are worried by the spread of "fly camping" in the area and want to introduce tougher action to deal with the problem. Between 60 and 80 tents are regularly attracted to the Coniston side of the Walna Scar area at Bank Holidays and the Board wants greater powers to move on campers to other sites. The owners of Coniston Common at present have responsibility for the area."

"Magnetic Monitoring of heavy metal pollution"

I am researching the above subject, using peat bogs as depositional environments. Initially I am considering influx of cadmium, copper, iron, manganese, lead, zinc, nickel and aluminium.

One of my study areas is the Pitlochry-Blairstown area of Tayside, Perthshire, with peat being sampled at Loch of Lowes (No 042437) Rotmell Loch (No 022472) and Muir of Drumlochry (No 153487). Results for the latter site have proved most intriguing the recorded concentrations of Fe (8000 ug g⁻¹ dry wt.) and Pb (4000 ug g⁻¹ dry wt.) being virtually double that obtained in samples from the other two sites. I am fairly certain that these are not anomalous samples or artefacts of extraction techniques.

I wonder, therefore, if you might assist me in my search for a possible solution. I should be most grateful if you are able to provide any information on possible sources of Pb, Zn, Fe and Cu in particular i.e. mines, surface ore bodies, smelting etc. As these elevated concentrations were obtained in the top 10cm of the core I should think that any information on such activities dating from c. 1830 would be most pertinent. The only source material I have access to thus far has been the Old and New Statistical Accounts of Scotland (1792, 1845) and the Memoirs of the British Geological Society Mineral Report for Scotland (1921)."

If you can follow that and are able to be of assistance then contact Miss Jennifer M. Jones, Dept of Geography, Roxby Building, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX.

Did you know that the largest known Galena crystal, described as "composite cubo-octahedra" originated from the Great Laxey Mine, I.O.M.. It measures 0.25m x 0.25m x 0.25m; and weighs 118Kg. It is now in the BM (NH). Information from "The Largest Crystals", P.C. Rickwood, American Mineralogist Sept-Oct 1981, Vol 66.

Furthermore! and from the same source:-

.....continued

The largest authenticated crystal is a beryl from the Malagasy Republic which is 18m long; 3.5m diameter and weighs 380,000Kg.

An improbable tale relates a mysterious locality in the Urals where a quarry was made inside a single feldspar crystal. However there may be some truth in the tale as there is an undocumented report of an orthoclase crystal in the Ural mountains in a quarry 10m x 10m, of unknown depth and there are 'known' orthoclase crystals of the same dimensions weighing up to 100 tonnes.

P.J.Challis.

Wanlockhead

J.G.Landless.

I approached Geof Downs-Rose in June last year to see if there was anything interesting he wanted doing. He came out with this funny story about a winding engine on Glen Criff shaft, a fair way down. It is supposed to be a 3 cylinder radial water driven thing with double drum to wind from adit to 160 fathom level, so at least we knew where it was on the adit and how far down it was.

Ian Jennings and I started a dig on a level in the right hand side of Glen Criff, the Horse Level. By the amount of waste and the gen from the map this was the best way in. By the end of the day we had gained access, but it was rather wet, and not having wellies we gave up until the following weekend.

We uncovered our hole and went in, the water was about 1' deep but the heading was in good rock, alas after about 160' it had run in. On looking at the map this appeared to coincide with a shaft, so may be, going down the shaft would prove more fruitful! The following weeked found us at the head of a shaft further up the glen. We cleared the head of the shaft and did a descent, all of 15' landing on a heap of soil, with one particularly large boulder above my head. It was decided that this had to go, it did, and it really did fit rather well!! Back to the Horse Level. At this point a bit of muscle was needed, so George Duff and Martin Lewis were persuaded that going into a dirty wet hole was good fun. We started a dig, but for every shovelful we took away, two slithered down! A visit from Bill Harvey convinced us that all was not well, and the dig was abandoned.

We started looking at a rather large pipe crossing the burn lower down the Glen, it had to go somewhere.

We broke into a level on 9/8/81. This time we were stopped by an exceedingly well made plug! A plug, this could be good. It turned out to be 1' thick, a real neat job. It took several weeks and lots of hard work by many people. We were well rewarded, the passage beyond led to the head of a deep shaft, lots of wood, ladders and a cystem.

We needed more information on our findings, with Geof's maps and his nose for bits of gen, we found out we had come across a syphon, apparently put in around 1850 to raise water 19'. The up leg was 30 yards, with the max height just before the portal, which, was also the location of a cystem to bleed the system. The 80 yards down leg dropped 6' along the passage, then 14' down the shaft. What happened after that was, at that time, a bit of a mystery. The passage entered the shaft head at its right hand wall and continued on the opposite side, and appeared to have lots of debris in it. This turned out to be mostly wood, the problem was how to proceed.

It was decided to build a scaffold platform over the shaft head. This was great fun and was completed by 20/9/81, we then measured all the old timbers, ladders etc, and pulled some bits up for Geof.

It was obvious that the down leg of the syphon emptied into the cystem then on down the shaft in a 9" pipe.

It was not until 25/10/81 after removing a good deal of timber and some good ladder for the museum that George made the first descent. The water running into the level is a real problem and it was not until March 82 that we succeeded. With much more digging at the entrance by many more people we put in a drain. However, we will require to do more on the dam to ensure that all the water is going out not in.

We were to be well rewarded in November for all the hard work (even if we had not cured the water problem by then) the first shaft proved to be very sound and 100' deep getting narrower at the bottom. A second shaft displaced by 15' from the first was found. A chamber 20' square and 15' high with the shaft in the floor about 10' square, with the pipe disappearing down it (a continuation of the pipe from the cystem). This shaft head will require as much preparation as the head of the first shaft, but we will not start on that till the Spring. There are also lots of interesting passages, stopes etc., at the 100' level to keep us busy.

Book Reviews.

The Rio Tinto Company: an economic history of a leading international mining concern 1873 - 1954 by C.E. Harvey. Approx 360pp, 26 tables, 10 figures, Cloth. £25 published Nov 1981 by Alison Hodge, 5 Chapel St, Penzance, Cornwall TR18 4AJ.

The story of the Rio Tinto Company is one of the most fascinating in the history of international business, even the company name conjures up visions of metal mining dramas. The mines of Rio Tinto in Spain were already ancient when the company was formed in 1873 and, although the company was spreading internationally from that time, the mines continued to be operated by them until they were sold to local interests in 1954. However the book gives only tantalising glimpses of the technical developments in mining and concentrates very scholarly on the economic development. There is mention in passing of the construction of the railroad (using 3500 men), of early problems with pumping and of open casting. Very little detail is given of how these were overcome. There is personal interest however the work of many early mining engineers and managers is discussed and not all lived up to expectations. The book also touches on developments in smelting practice over the period of company ownership but gives few details of the working conditions of its employees.

This is a very useful reference book one which will become a classic company history to be studied by all aspiring mining historians. It is not a book for those of more practical bent. It is an expensive book, well produced with useful diagrams but its interest could have been enhanced by the inclusion of a few photographs. For these one has to resort to what might be considered as a complimentary publication 'Not on Queen Victoria's Birthday - the story of the Rio Tinto Mines' by D. Avery, which was published in 1974.

I. J. Brown.

The Mines of Devon: North and East Dartmoor by A.K. Hamilton Jenkin. A4 Hard back, 226pp, 18 plates, key maps, index, bibliography. Published by Devon Library Services, Barley House, Isleworth Rd, Exeter.

This volume, which had been long awaited, represents volume 2 of the late Hamilton Jenkin's work on the mines of Devon; vol 1 was published by David and Charles in 1974. Printed in a very limited edition for the library services of Devon and Cornwall, a few copies have been made available to private individuals and, due to the obvious future rarity value, it will become a collector's item. It embodies virtually the last writings on metal mining by this prolific author who died in 1980.

The areas covered by the book are divided under separate heads, viz:- Pt 1 Sydenham Damerel and Collacombe, West Devon manganese and around Lydford; Pt 2, Lifton, Bridestow, Okehampton, Ramsley, Drewsteignton and Chafford; Pt 3, Buckfastleigh, Ashburton and Ilsington and Pt 4, the Teign Valley. Generally the mines discussed were small and obscure ventures, although Wheal Friendship and Betsy are among those whose output and 'fame' are well known. The painstaking research into the history of these workings is self evident and they are treated in a similar format to 'Mines and Miners of Cornwall' another of this author's projects. The book is packed with information and enlivened by glimpses of 19th century mining mania with numerous references to gatherings of cheering onlookers being treated to ponderous orations from captains and agents at the commencement of (supposedly) bonanzas-in-the-making. Many of these latter mines are now overgrown burrows or isolated ochreous adits or else nothing else survives in the field - their one time existence now solely recorded in some obscure minute book.

As to presentation, the large typeface allied to double spacing and copious margins give the volume the appearance of a bound thesis. A condensation of both type and layout would have greatly improved this otherwise valuable book.

Dick Bird.

Coal: A Pictorial History of the British Coal Industry by D. Anderson. 96pp, 100 illustrations, 5 line drawings. £4.95.

Coal has been mined in Britain since Roman times, when it was used for smelting and ranks as the most important fossil fuel in the nation's history. The conditions in which miners have worked and the dangers of their occupation have made it an exceptional industry, both in terms of the communities based upon it and the regard in which it has been held by others. 'Coal' provides an introduction to the history and work of the industry, covering coal and colliery ownership, methods of working, mining villages, accidents, mining unions and the changing uses of 'black Diamonds'. Most of the major coalfields are included in the evocative photographs.

Archaeology & Industrial Archaeology.

Whernside Manor/NAMHO Mining Course - 20/28th August, 1982.

So far the response to this course has not been too encouraging. If anyone wants to go on it, then hurry up and contact John McNeil, 12 Woodville Road, Brierfield, Nelson, Lancs as soon as possible.

N C A Equipment Committee Information Report

The Possibility of Karabiner Failure at Low Loads.

A recent report made to the BMC Technical Committee by D. Hutchinson (U.M.I.S.T.) shows how some karabiners can be considerably weaker along the major axis in certain situations, than the quoted load carrying capacity which is often stamped on them.

A karabiner with the keeper open can be considered as a simple "hook" and is much weaker along its major axis in this condition. The U.I.A.A. (which amongst other things sets standards for mountaineering equipment) require that a karabiner be able to withstand 900 kilogrammes force (approx 1 ton) with the keeper open. This requirement has led to many D-shaped models, as opposed to the generally weaker oval shape. Precautions are usually taken to guard against the keeper being open, by employing a screwed sleeve to secure the gate, and by placing karabiners so that the gate is not forced open by contact with the rock. The possibility of the keeper being open whilst the krab is under load can easily occur through vibration. If a krab is "slammed" against a rock as it starts to support a falling climber, the spine comes to a rapid halt and the momentum carries the gate forward overcoming spring resistance. Thus the krab is effectively a "hook" as it receives a load perhaps greater than it can hold in this form.

The effect can be easily demonstrated by wrapping a layer of insulating tape or some such around the spine of the krab, and then striking the spine of the krab sharply against your thigh. The tape will be marked by the gate striking against the spine of the krab.

Where any karabiner is used in a situation where it may be shock-loaded and impacted as a result, it would be advisable to use a screwgate-type karabiner with the screw done up, especially if the krab is of an oval design.

Emley Moor Colliery Trip.

On March 10th a small private party visited Emley Moor Colliery, near Huddersfield. We were taken to the charging room where we were provided with lamps and self rescuers, half of the members belts would not fit the latter, however after a few adjustments we managed. Harry brought his 'Troll' miners belt, at the shop he asked for a large one, well really, 10ft is a bit much. It wouldn't fit the batteries anyway so he used his trouser belt, now that released his true shape, talk about letting all hang out!

The mine has been in operation for about 150 years, it produces 2500 tons of coal per week, the ash content is only 3% and the coal is mainly exported to Sweden. The target for the year is 108,000 tons but 120,000 tons can be achieved. Emley Colliery supplies the timber and men. The coal is despatched by conveyor underground to Skelmanthorpe where it is washed and graded. The average depth of the Beeston seam from the surface at the point where the mine is now working is approx 360 yards. The mine is in the process of being mechanised on the Whinmoor seam which is now being developed.

We descended 300' to the main roadway where we immediately saw the conveyor system discharging coal onto the internal conveyor to Skelmanthorpe. We followed the roadway till we mounted a staging above a large fast moving conveyor belt. "Now time for a ride," said our guide, "just flop forward and lie down like this." He landed on all fours, then on to his stomach and was whisked off at 20mph into the gloom. Well, I mean to say, what could we do. We all followed. What a sensation! The rollers under the belt fairly rippled us along. My breakfast didn't know where it was going. I did, if I didn't get off that belt. Someone said he felt his loins stirring! What's that? At the end of the roadway there was a blank wall at the base of which there was a pair of hands and a head. When we reached the seam, it was 16" deep plus 4" ripped out at the base. The miners were working by the age old method of picking and shovelling just behind them was a small conveyor belt which ran 110 yds from the top gate to the bottom gate. The coal was shovelled straight onto the belt. When they advanced a yard down the seam they had to erect a pair of props and roof support piece before moving on. They could remove a 17yd long by 1yd wide section of coal per man per shift, then, the men moved onto advance the heading, reset the belt, blast the coal ready for the next shift of fillers. We all crawled down a section of the face and watched the men....

....cont'd

working in such very tight and confined places. We could see the rows of props left after the coal had been removed, like soldiers on parade. It was decided not to crawl all the way down the face, but to have a ride on the conveyor. We crawled out of the seam section and stepped over the belt, all managed it though short legs were a disadvantage, as Harry proved. Straddling a 24" wide belt was not his forte, thank goodness no cobs of coal came along! or, would it have mattered, now? But the agility for diving onto the moving belt was fantastic. Spider man excelled. The belt ran along the floor and returned near the roof of the seam, so that between the floor and the underside of the return belt was only a height of 15". Into this gap I dived, what I didn't know was that the fillers were still working totally unaware of the human load on the conveyor. A shovel full of coal landed in front of my face, a second on my legs. The third filler saw me and said "Hello", the fourth said something else! The traveller behind me lost his self rescuer on the trip and also a prop! We emerged one at a time into the top gate, where a short walk lead us back to the man riding conveyor belt. Our guide once again showed his agility on riding the belt. Harry was not the best (why does his name keep cropping up?). "Just flop on." said the guide. So Harry did, and he bounced, in fact he bounced so hard that for a moment it was touch and go whether he stayed on the belt. The belt was immediately stopped. "Are you alright, sir?" "Of course I am, thank you very much" replied Harry courteously!!! "Next". All went well. "Next". A taller member had a slight centre of gravity problem, finally he managed to take off along the belt. "I hope we don't have to keep stopping the belt for every one" grumbled the guide. "No sir, not for me" I thought. I was determined to get it right. I waited, balanced forward and reached out and dropped cat like onto the moving belt. Perfect take off. The landing ... not too good ... My feet touched first so that feet and legs set off at 20mph up the belt whilst the rest of me stayed behind. I slammed down on my back and my feet flew into the air. Well there it was, 8 travelling up the belt head first and laid on their stomachs, and, 1 feet first on his back. The belt was once again stopped and much bell signalling ensued. The return to surface was completed without further ado. The trip was completed by teacakes and coffee in the canteen.

Many thanks to all who attended and a special thanks to the NCB and staff at the Colliery.

I saw the undermanager in the evening - "I hear you had some trouble on the belt", he said, "the story has been passed round." "How many men know?" I enquired. "Oh, only 291." he replied. I gulped.

Richard Hewer.

Drilling plan at Emley

I have a cutting dated 18/3/82 that follows on nicely...

"The NCB wants to drill a 170 metre deep bore hole at Emley, on land at Church Hill Farm, Warburton Rd, to establish the thickness of the Whinmoor seam. It was part of their exploration programme to establish what workable seams and reserves there were in the Emley Moor Colliery area. The drilling exploration would take three weeks and would then be sealed over."

Out for a dig

We met on a bright, but very cold windy day on this our first dig of the year. The level's correct name is unknown, so we have called it Cleaburn Pasture Level, and lies to the North of the road which runs past Marrick Mills to Marske near Swalesale. The level lies very close to the road. We had taken an oil drum and timber and started to enlarge the entrance to take the drum. This proved difficult as the ground was frozen to a depth of 6" or 7". The leader set off to the dig carrying the timber when he met a rabbit. "Gordon Bennett, I must be in Wonderland", he thought, "it must be all this digging I'm turning into a rabbit." But then he remembered Harry's instructions and chased after it shouting "Hey, where's your 50p insurance money?" Whereupon the rabbit promptly disappeared. Back to reality. After two hours digging during which time the two oldest members surveyed the level, the drum was put in place and we all pushed through into the next section. This passage had a large calcite vein in the roof and ended at a very wet mud fall on the air shaft. We forced a small passage through this and found the level turned at 90° and passed into a shale band, where the roof became very dodgy, also bad air was present. This passage ended in a heading.

Although the level is fairly short, it is well arched as far as the first fall, which is on a cross-cut. The air shaft was probably made to ventilate the level when ...

....cont'd

the shale band was cut into..

L.Tyson.

Special Report by NMRS U.F.O. correspondent.

Early on Sunday morning of 21st February a U.F.O. was reported flying over Widdale near Hawes. Local sheep (and rabbits, again!) reported the alien craft resembled a 45 gall oil drum with remarkable aero-dynamic qualities. It was seen to use a Triumph 2000 as a launch vehicle. This swerved to a halt and a bespectacled earthling was observed haring after the strange craft across the bleak moorland, and on re-capturing the craft stuffed it into the back of his car and sped off muttering about being late. The strange craft was later hidden away in a remote mine near a very famous smelt mill.

More on "Treacle Mining".

"My mothers family hail from the Shrewsbury area and used to tell me of Treacle being mined at Wem in Shropshire. A person named "Ickey" worked in these mines and anything unexplainable in the Shrewsbury area was always attributed to "Ickey". "Who's Ickey?" was always asked by the unknowing visitor and the standard reply was "Ickey from Wem; who worked in the treacle mines". A family named Ickey lived in the village of High Ercall near Wem, and there is a grave in the churchyard for a Mr Ickey but the dates elude me.

This information is not a lot of use, but may lead you onto a new area of research.
Simon Hughes.

Book Review

Journal of the Russell Society Vol 1. No. 1. March 1982.

The Russell Society has been in existence nearly ten years, and this is the first issue of their journal. The Society is named after Sir Arthur Russell, who made an enthusiastic scientific study of minerals over many decades in the early 1900's "going underground in every metalliferous mine in the British Isles which had been worked in his life time", and members continue to describe and record the occurrence of unusual minerals, or of common minerals in unusual places. These two aspects of the Society's interests being well illustrated by two titles, 'A new find of Nickeloan Hydrozincite in Parc Mine, North Wales' and 'Baryte and other minerals from the Isle of Sheppey, Kent'. The journal is well worth reading if only to make clear the enormous gulf between the mineral collector whose sole objective is to collect more and more specimens of the common minerals, sometimes for sale, and those contributing to this journal - the former are as much an anathema to members of the Russell Society as to conservationists in NMRS. Nevertheless, the papers in this journal make it clear that the thorough study, and even identification, of unusual minerals involves removal of samples from site, eg. an unusual deposit of nickel rich minerals from the Hilton Mines at Scordale, because sophisticated laboratory techniques are essential for identification.

The journal is well produced and the articles, written for a specialised mineralogical audience, of high standard. There are eight papers describing original work, six of them being associated with old metal mines. The care use by the authors to identify minerals in the field is illustrated by the identification of pyrrhotine in the Dyliffe tips in addition to 14 other listed minerals which does not even mention the only one the normal NMRS member can identify - galena. The list of the minerals associated with the Ashover veins does include those recognisable by NMRS members, we would score about 6 of the listed 27. We might also be foxed by the explanatory map, where North is not shown and points directly down the page - an unnecessary hazard for lesser mortals.

Potentially, the most valuable contribution to the genesis of minerals and particularly to the sources of colour in fluorite is one describing the amounts of rare earths (at the ppm levels) in fluorites from different parts of England. The paper is termed a preliminary study and is a collection of data, it is the next step of interpretation which is the difficult one. There is no doubt, however, that the paper which any collector will find of direct value is the last on "The cleaning of minerals", full of cautionary tales of how to treat, and how not to treat, collected specimens to preserve them in a truly representative state. This is intriguingly labelled Section 1, it being left obscure whether further sections will deal with more advanced cleaning techniques or the next stages of identification and cataloguing.

.....cont'd

Subscription to the Journal, presumably by membership of the Russell Society, is recommended to members of NMRS with a keen interest in minerals and already having some background knowledge. The average member will only wish to read the occasional article of importance to his/her individual interest, and the Society, in my opinion, should obtain a regular copy to put in the library, including a list of titles of articles in the Newsletter to show members what is available.

To start off this process, in addition to the articles noted above, in this first issue are also:

A new occurrence of Scarbroite in Britain (Northamptonshire)

The Mineralogy of Fall Hill Quarry, Ashover (Derbyshire)

First British occurrence of Cumengeite (Cornwall)

Geoff Greenough.

Arkengarthdale Meet Report 1/3 May. - - - - -

On Saturday a large number of members with families gathered at Langthwaite. From here we walked up to Booze, in sunny weather with ice cold, gale force winds. Proctor Level was explored by a few members, whilst others started hunting for specimens and photographing the large hushes on the Fell End side of Sleighyll. We then walked up to the Washy Green Level dressing floors where we had lunch, after which Washy Green Level (much silted up) was explored.

We then struck out for Fell End Edge, and on arrival there were nearly blown away by the terrific winds. We dropped down to Fell End level, then across the beck, and down to the Booze Level dressing floors. The large water-wheel pit and weight stones for the crusher were photographed, everyone much relieved to be out of the wind. The photographic session was interrupted by young Andrew shouting "Snake, I've got a snake" So the mining tour turned into a natural history discussion on the eating habits of Slow-worms. The 'snake' was put in John Mac's lunch box, and then we walked along to Booze Wood Level. After several members had gone into the level Harry and John proceeded down the adit to ensure that the returning party were well christened by the ice cold water flowing from within. The day ended with the Leader disappearing, having an appointment elsewhere in the Dale.

On Sunday a large party gathered at the C.B. Inn and then drove up to Faggergill in torrential driving rain. 14 members went down Sloat Hole and had a good trip around the interesting series of Flat-workings. The tub and turn rails received much photographic attention, and the rock-tappers merrily tapped away at the deposits of Barytes crystals and Aragonite.

We came out of the hole into even more gale force winds, driving hail, and rain. After finding a rain-soaked maiden wandering the fells, we sheltered at the mine shop and then sampled the squelchy muddy pleasures of Faggergill Horse Level. One member was heard likening the mud to a "pervert's delight." The trip over we all endeavoured to change in the terrible winds and rain.

On Monday the sun was out again, but the wind was even worse, so was the attendance. Only 3 members visited Danby Level, exploring and photographing the massive Barytes Vein, and the underground Horse-whim. On our return we were met by two fugitives from the Lakes, and we all proceeded down to the Red Lion at Langthwaite for a pint, where the meet was concluded.

The only casualty of the meet was when John Mc suffered a mild heart attack after being given a Mars bar by Harry!!! He spent the rest of the trip around Sloat Hole wondering what the cost was going to be.

In view of the terrible weather which accompanied the trip I would like to thank all the brave souls who attended, and I'll try and fix the same for next year.

Les Tyson.

Addition to Meets List.

Chris Williams, that doyen of Welsh mining affairs (perhaps the latter word is misplaced!) is to wed in July. Congratulations to both parties.

Wedding cake will be sent with the Newsletter to save Chris the expense of individual postage!!!

- - - - -
STOP PRESS Rosedale & North Yorks. Moors Meet - 14/15th August. Leader John Stott Sat. Meet 10.30am at White Horse Farm Hotel campsite, $\frac{1}{4}$ m S of Rosedale Abbey (NGR NZ724955). Campsite will not take caravans, but there is a large caravan & camping site in the centre of village. Anyone bringing caravans should avoid the Rosedale.....

...cont'd.

Chimney Bank Road into the village - a hill 1:3, with hairpins. Also there is excellent ale & food in both the pubs, and the village bakery is open on Sundays.

Will visit surface remains at West Mines, Sheriff's Pit and East Mines, 10 miles by Rosedale railway trackbed (weather permitting).

Sun. - Sea shore walk, Staithes to Port Mulgrave, with levels in cliffs, and the Port Mulgrave mine & railway tunnel. Time depends on tides.

Hilton Meet 3/5th July - (sorry about this, but I've only just been told.....)

It is intended that this is to be another 'project' enactment meet, i.e. clearing litter; stacking dead; and surveying levels etc.

Anyone wishing to attend this meet will have to complete an application form in ADVANCE. (This is a condition laid down by the Army, not by us).

IF YOU WANT TO GO

Write to David Neal, immediately, enclosing SAE (no SAE, no reply), complete the application form that he will send you, and return it to him NO LATER THAN 12th JUNE, 1982. Anyone who has failed to comply with the above will not be allowed on the Meet under any circumstance.

Contact David Neal at 'Anatase', 27 Lower Meadow, Harlow, Essex. CML8 7RD.
Tel. 0279 415844.

Ecton Meet 26/27th June.

It now seems that the owner, Mr Cox, will not have returned to this country in time for us to visit his property. If this proves to be the case, then any underground trips undertaken will be "hard" and will involve long electron ladder pitches and all this entails.

If you want to go, but don't fancy ladders, there is a slight chance that Mr Cox will be back in time. Therefore phone Bob Burns (meet leader) a week before the Meet to see if he has heard anything.

Bob's address is - 22 West Hall Garth, South Cave, Brough, N.Humberside.
Tel. North Cave (04302) 2767.

Annual Dinner Saturday 23th October, 1982.

The dinner is again to be held (due to popular demand, after last years good do) at the Royal Oak Hotel, Settle, N.Yorkshire. Time 7.00pm for 7.30pm.
Price £7.00 per head for a 5 course meal comprising:- Appetizer of Melon or Pate; Soup; Fish course; Roast Sugar Baked Ham and Cumberland Sauce with 4 veg; Pie or Cheese & biscuits; Coffee, cream & mints.

All bookings to H.Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY on the booking form provided with this Newsletter as soon as possible, but no later than 9th October, 1982. Full remittance with booking. Go on, do it NOW, then you won't forget and miss out on the 'event of the year'!

There is limited accomodation at the Hotel - Tel Settle (072 92) 2561. Camping at Langcliffe (1 mile). Please make own arrangements.

Society Members List

The tame typist would like to offer her sincere thanks to Mike Gill for playing with his new toy and producing the stencils for the attached members list. So if you've any complaints, see him!!

The next edition of the Newsletter is to be issued in August, hopefully along with the next monograph in the British mining series.

Final date for all contributions for August edition to be in the hands of H.Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY is 1st August, 1982. But please don't leave it till the last date - start your articles now. (Why not post it in along with your booking for the dinner, and save postage?)

Remember in correspondence with any Society Officer - No SAE, NO REPLY.