

Unauthorised Entry of Mines

Access, as most members are aware, is becoming increasingly more difficult. This is not helped by those who persist in going into particular mines no matter what.

A very annoyed official of the Cumbrian Water Authority has recently been in communication with me re a mine on their property at Thirlmere. It would appear that one of our own members is accused of gaining entry, without permission, and doing quite a bit of damage in the process.

What makes this worse, is the fact that CWA are usually accomodating as far as most of the mines on their property are concerned, if you ask permission that is.

In view of this they are now talking of closing for access all the mines on their property - though they are still prepared to negotiate some sort of access agreement with us. More on this when we have something to impart.

In the meantime, anyone with an urgent need to visit this area, please contact me and I'll give you an address to write to.

The second letter I received concerns access in the Tamar Valley.

Someone has reopened the Blanchdown Adit - Devon Great Consols.

Unfortunately, this has led to a great increase in the amount of ochreous water discharged into the Tamar. Every time anyone goes in, the river tends to change colour to that of tomato soup. This has led to the South West Water Authority taking the landowners, the Tavistock Woodlands Estate, to court for causing pollution. It's not known when this case will be heard, but the TWE hadn't given anyone permission to go into these workings anyway.

The Plymouth Caving Group have been asked by the Estate to control the access for them, and so it is strongly advised that no one enters ANY mine on TWE without contacting TWE or the PCG in advance.

It is thought that access to Blanchdown Adit may be possible if the party is going there to do Scientific Research of one kind or another.

There should be no problems regarding access to Eastern Shaft, Wheal Fanny, DGC. Apply for the key - making sure to include a list of all persons in the party to:-

Plymouth Caving Group, c/o Barry Gamble, 50 Church Road, Plymstock, Plymouth.
Tel Plymouth 41649.

Another mine in this area: Ding Dong by Gunnislake Bridge is leased to South West Consolidated Resources P.L.C., who may give permission to visit it. The surface tenent there gets extremely irrate with persons found trespassing on his land. Entrance is via fixed ladders down Dyers Shaft which has a locked cap.

Anyone requiring further information on the Tamar Valley area is asked to contact either Barry Gamble (above) or Alasdair Neill, 20 Raven Lane, Ludlow, Salop. Tel 0585 2772.

I think that I had better re-state here the Society's position with regards to unofficial access, just for the benefit of those who may not have heard it before.

We encourage that any offenders be prosecuted, especially if any property has been damaged. Such persons may then have their membership withdrawn and the matter well publicised.

Future Meets

Sept. 18/19 NAMHO Weekend. Hosts - Cumbria Amenity Trust.

Camp at Inmans Farm (Crook Farm) Torver. NGR 283943.

2 hard trips have been arranged:- Sat. LEVERS WATER- Grey Crag Level. Through trip entailing 413' of abseiling - longest pitch 91'. Sun. FLEMINGS MINE - 150' abseil down and climb out on electrons - 202' in 4 pitches, longest pitch 50'.

Also less strenuous trips for the more sedate persons.

Sat night. Church House Inn - Hot Pot; Slide Show; Socialising; bar extension.

NOTE Please contact E.G. Holland, Old Stainton Hall, Stainton, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria Tel. 0229 62036 to confirm that you are going, and to book your Hot pot.

Sept. 25/26 Gunnerside Gill. Leader L.O. Tyson.
Meet Gunnerside village at 10.30am. NGR SD 951982.

Oct. 23rd ANNUAL DINNER. Royal Oak Hotel, Settle at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Price £7.00 per head for 5 courses (see last Newsletter for full details).

If you've lost your booking form then use a fag packet, bog roll or 'owt to reply on. Bookings will be on a first come first served basis, in case of over booking. Bookings with FULL remittance to me please by 9th October 1982. Ta!

Nov 13th (Sat) General Meeting followed by Presidents Talk-in & Pie & Pea Supper.

Please see attached booking form for details. Fee £1.00 per person as last year.

Please let me know in plenty of time how many peas you want - and also that you will give a talk or do a display.

BRING SPOON & DISH.

1983. Feb 13th Annual General Meeting. The Village Hall, Sicklinghall at 2.00pm.

Don't forget our general meetings are where it all happens. If you don't come along - then you miss all the fun.

I recently received a "manuscript" from Spotty Hewer, our librarian. (Anyone borrowing any books from him watch out - 'cos he's got the pox - the sort kids and chickens get, that is).

I say manuscript - $\frac{1}{2}$ doz sheets of bog roll actually - done proper though - typed, double spaced, but starts off "The IZAL Society", whoever they may be

Wot 'e 'as to say is:-

"The Society would like to see an increase in original work from members of a standard suitable for the next issue of British Mining. It is known that there are many mining sites which have not been thoroughly surveyed and excavated and a great deal of valuable historical information is still awaiting to be 'unearthed'. Would members who have a particular interest in a mine, quarry or historical site please put pen to paper and produce an interesting accurate report. It doesn't matter how long or short, but basically it should be accurate, previously unpublished, typed (if possible - double spaced) however longhand will be accepted if neatly set out. All work should be submitted by the end of January 1983 so that time may be allowed for editing and printing, to R.H.Bird, 41 Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield.

The Society is now moving into a new era with a positive forward motion towards the recording, exploration and publishing of important, relevant material from the history of British mining. Many sites are disappearing into oblivion.

What are the views of society members towards the direction that the society should take? How can we improve? etc etc.

All comments should be sent to R.E.Hewer, 36 Benomley Crescent, Almondbury, Huddersfield HD5 8LU."

The only thing that bothers me is that he says he's got another 400 sheets to type yet!! When he's sat typing on this, where does he a) rest his typewriter? b) what does he do with the leading end after typing?

A husband and wife run guest house in the Tamar Valley is available to anyone interested in a long weekend (or longer) to study the past technology of the area. The husband part, Robert Collins, says that if sufficient interest is shown then he is qualified to, and able to set up a study course with lectures by local experts on Industrial Archaeology, Mineralogy and Geology. There would also be visits to mines and sites in the area - Devon Great Consols is only 2 miles from the house. Interested? then contact Robert C. Collins, Sandhill House, Gunnislake, Cornwall.

The History of the British Coal Industry.

This is one of the short courses run by "The Institute of Industrial Archaeology". Detailed course brochures & booking forms etc can be obtained from them at Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, Telford, Salop. TF8 7AW. Tel 095245 3522.

Beckermat V Florence - Does the Rivalry live on?

Further to the recent article about the Florence mine, an entirely unbiased view (he says) has been written by an ex Beckermat geologist!

"Tony Schnellmann's remark in the May newsletter that "we at Florence were more successful than the Beckermat company" when it came to surface drilling in West Cumbria cannot be allowed to pass unchallenged and prompts me to put pen to paper (actually hands to the keyboard of my word processor). True, in recent times the

.....cont'd

series of holes drilled by Florence at Watson Hill and Ashley Grove in the 1960's were very successful and in the mid 1970's BSC made some preliminary plans to drive out and mine the area - that is before foreign ore prices killed the home-ore industry. Indeed as part of this scheme some additional infill holes were drilled which confirmed the presence of ore in substantial quantities on both sites.

The history of drilling in the area, however, goes back much further and the first indications of there being a concealed orefield south and west of Egremont was proved by holes put down by the original Beckermert Mining Co in 1900. These were constructed close to the site of what became Beckermert No.1 Pit to the south of Winscales Farm. This series of holes proved the tail end of the 25 M tonne Florence-Winscales-Beckermert orebody and Beckermert had to drive north i.e. back towards Egremont to exploit the ore - hence the sinking of Beckermert No.2 Pit slightly later. Subsequent drilling by Beckermert then led to the discovery of the Sheepfields and Robertgate orebodies to the south and the Haile Moor deposit to the east. The latter deposit was exploited from Haile Moor Mine sunk during the 1939-45 war and although there were plans to make an underground connection to Beckermert this was in fact never carried out.

Mention of Haile Moor also reminds me of Isaac Walker who would be quick to point out that none of the above discoveries were made by geologists - but then you always find the easy ore first! Isaac, with his deep local knowledge of the orefield was always something of a scourge to a succession of geologists at Beckermert and his opinion of the profession as a whole is well known in the area. Nevertheless, Frank Johnston, Pete Mellowship (the last resident geologist at Beckermert) and I spent a very merry evening at the Blackbeck Hotel with him just before the mine closed, listening to his fund of stories of the orefield. If you ever meet Isaac, ask him to tell you the story about the Mine Manager, and the Telephone Operator and what she could do with the 'phone.

Finally, to the best of my knowledge, treacle was never found in West Cumbria - but that is also another story."

Dave Greenwood.

Book Review

Coal - A Pictorial history of the British Coal Industry by D.Anderson published by David & Charles, 1982. Price £4.95 (hardback) 96pp, 80 photos and figures.

This is a remarkable book based heavily on the personal experiences of a mining engineer over 50 years and the reminiscences of his father and grandfather. It is centred on the Lancashire Coalfield where the author served his apprenticeship with the Pemberton Co., but the rest of the country is not ignored.

The cover note says the book "provides an introduction to the history and work of the industry." But it is more than this, the text assumes a lot of the reader, it is very technical often with little explanation. The photographs are of excellent quality, they are well chosen for their clarity and richness in detail. It is unfortunate, however, that so many lack any details of their location or date. Similarly no sources of the textual facts are given neither is there a list of references or index. Perhaps however this omission is the reason for the low price, the publisher cutting costs to a minimum. If this is the case, at the price the book is a best buy and should have a wide market, but it is disappointing for the specialist. It is also remarkable that a book which, on page 91, quotes a letter to the Daily Telegraph of 3 August 1981 is available in the shops only 7 months later. Few books pass through the press with such speed these days!

I.J.Brown.

A "little" late John Henry says - still I suppose better now than never.....
Cornwall Meet - Easter 1982.

The meet was again centered on Chacewater in Cornwall, again proving to be an excellent centre for exploration.

The first day of the Bank Holiday weekend commenced with a visit to the St. Just area. A customary inspection of the Crowns engine houses at Botallack was made before attempting a through underground trip from Priest's Cove to Porth Ledden, near Cape Cornwall. Alas! this was not to be so. We were in the right place but unfortunately could not find the right route. Our short legged climber was stuffed up all the rises but was unable to find the necessary connection due to the fact, we found out

.....
later, that he had not climbed far enough. A return was made to the car park and cream taken.

Saturday morning was spent poking about in the rabbit warren of workings in the Cligga Head Granite. Rises were climbed, shafts descended and pictures taken. In the afternoon the area of Poldice mine with its arsenic calciner and the Great Consolidated Mines were explored on the surface. The depth of one particular shaft was measured using a Hotpoint Mk I (or was it Zanussi?) shaft testing device (front loading variety).

To relax from the rigours of mining, Saturday evening was spent at the Camborne School of Mines club where our hosts were the Carn Brea Mining Society. The high spot of the evening, apart from the ale, was a slide show by John Watton of the C.S.M. of mid/late 19th century photographs of the Cornish mines taken by the late J.C. Burrows.

On Sunday morning we were treated bright and early to a trip into Wheal Gorland. Members could not fail to be impressed by the spectacular copper staining on the walls in Davey's Lode (not to mention the timbering of the shaft - I still dream about it on bad nights). After lunch an excursion was made to Wheal Uny, near Church Town. From a fairly uninteresting depression it is possible to descend the Great Flat Lode, which dips here at about 45°. The rope proved most useful for the return to the surface on the "one step up, two back" type of footway. On the descent the leader was frequently bombarded from above by a celtic member, not of English extraction, with rocks varying in size from a house brick to a house. A short and swift dialogue ensued and this sufficed to dispell the practice, which was becoming painful, if not injurious to the rocks. Current exploration of this mine is limited by the water table at a depth of about 150'. For the rock tappers it was a little disappointing, there being very little good mineralisation present. (Oh dear, what a pity!!)

After tea and just before dusk and the "Fox & Hounds" two members skulked about in the Kennal Valley, near Polsanoth, inspecting the remains of the now abandoned gunpowder works. Here there are the remains of several gunpowder mills, their Wheel-pits and water courses. The mills were substantial stone structures arranged in pairs and driven by a central waterwheel. The valley is an Industrial Archaeologists delight.

It was now Monday and the last day of the meet proper. Members were now beginning to do their own thing or were starting to require a rest from mining. The faithful, however, proceeded off in the direction of South Caradon Mine where the adit was explored. After lunch, consisting of an "oggie" and a pint, or for one of the party two "oggies" and two pints, the remainder of the group were met at Hawkswood Tungsten Mine. The entrance to this mine is extremely difficult to locate being situated in the middle of a dense evergreen plantation. Once found, however, the open stope was descended to the lower levels. From the bottom of the open stope at adit level several passages diverged. Following the adit downstream it is possible, by climbing a christmas tree (No jokes about fairies, please) to emerge again in the forest but it is impossible to extract oneself from the forest, even on hands and knees, due to the close planting of trees and bramble bushes. This particular mine was worked by the Ministry of Supply and was active in 1957-8. The tungsten lode can still be seen in the forehead on one of the drives with the next round of shotholes already drilled. On the return to Chacewater the extremely fine engine houses at the Prince of Wales shaft of the Phoenix united mines was photographed.

Monday saw the departure of several members leaving the remainder who were taking a weeks holiday. Tuesday was declared a day off and several members decided to explore St. Michaels Mount. National Trust members explored the monument free of charge but the others, largely of Yorkshire or Scottish extraction, on discovering the cost returned to the mainland and had an ice cream instead.

Following a tip off that a shaft in Killifreth Wood went, on Wednesday we set off armed with ladders and ropes. As the shaft was some $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from our camp site we went by car. The entrance to Unity Wood Mine consists of a square climbing shaft timbered at the top. This shaft we had been informed was 75' deep so three lengths of electron were unrolled and lowered down. It may be worth noting that it is perhaps as well that NMRS ladders are 10m long, and not 25' as favoured by the potholing fraternity, since this shaft turned out to be 85' deep. The party did not linger long at the foot of this shaft, since something had recently died, or was still dying, but proceeded by way of a small crosscut to the lode. From here onwards our descent was by means of fixed ladders of fairly recent origin. Being meet leader I positioned myself conveniently at the rear of the party to be ready for the return trip to the surface. I was awakened, however, from my slumbers by cries of "fetch

.....cont'd

feret, it's got tight". Dragged screaming down the level I was bunged down the ~~steps~~ which at this point was only 1' wide with a chain ladder disappearing down it. This ladder which consisted of 1" diameter wire with 1" diameter solid steel rungs led, after a display of acrobatics, to another of similar construction... The bottom of this ladder led to the bottom of a collapsed and shattered stope with no visible way of progress. Apart from the thing at the bottom of the shaft still dying, the way to the surface was without incident for everyone except our beloved P.R.O. On the surface everything did not appear normal; the lifeline moved tortuously slowly, clouds of sweaty steam ensued from the shaft and these were followed by stange grunting and groaning sounds interspersed by cries of "resting". H.H. did eventually reach the surface even if he was a few pounds lighter.

Thursday was another do it yourself day, until the evening when a visit was made to Rosevale Mine at Zennor. This mine is in the process of being restored privately by a small group. The mine is being preserved and re-timbered in Victorian style and the group are to be highly commended for their efforts. The accesible parts of the mine consist of two lodes, two levels and an interconnecting manway. Next year we have offered our labouring services as a gesture of thanks for the hospitality afforded us.

Friday was our last full day in Cornwall and to round off our visit an excursion was made to Polberro adit at St. Agnes. On our return we were met by a car park attendant demanding money and commenting that during his thirty years at St. Agnes he had never seen anyone go down the mines. He was met with the reply, "You didn't see us last year then either".

I nearly forgot to mention the weather. Well it didn't rain, snow or hail. It was too warm and the wind didn't blow, but apart from that it wasn't a bad week.

J.H. McNeil.

'nother Advert

Have you visited the Earby Mines Museum yet? If not, why not? This is a small museum situated in Earby, just off the A56 between Colne & Skipton. The museum contains items of mining interest mainly from the dales and pennines, and is well worth a visit. It is open on Thursdays from 6 - 9pm and on Sundays from 2 - 6pm and is sign posted from the A56. Admission Adults 25p Children 10p.

The Wanlockhead Museum

The Museum Trust have moved the indoor exhibits from the little cottage in Goldscar Row to more spacious premises in the Old Forge, a building dating from the early 18th century. This had to be re-roofed and much else done besides to make it suitable for a museum. It was opened at Easter, and is sited at the start of the Open-air walk and convenient to the Loch Nell Mine. Features of the new displays include the re-creating of part of a mine, a smelt mill scene with a replica of an ore hearth, and a working model depicting part of the Leadhills and Wanlockhead Light Railway. As before the museum is open every day from 11.00am to 4.00pm.

Coal and Iron at Arigna.

I recently had the opportunity of visiting the site of an iron furnace at Arigna, Co Roscommon, Ireland. The ironworks was built in the late 18th century, and the 6" OS of 1837 shows a large complex. It was perhaps too ambitious for it closed down soon after.

Arigna is now the headquarters of the Arigna Collieries, and their workshops seem on top of the site of the old ironworks. The company work thin seams of a semi bituminous coal in the Lower Coal Measures and the Millstone Grit. The seams outcrop and are worked by drift mines and also by opencast. 60,000 tonnes pa were being produced circ 1979. The iron was found in nodules under the coal, but was high in phosphorous.

Arigna is near Loch Allen and on the southern edge of an area of Namurian shales which, to the north, contains some of Ireland's deepest potholes.

Bill Harvey.

Is any member willing to part with their surplus NMRS Memoirs and BM Journals or part collection? Also other Society's journals are of interest. Please contact Richard Hewer.

Can anyone shed any light on the following?

Trade Unions

Whilst doing some research on strikes among the miners at Leadhills, I found reference to the miners joining the Union of Gas Workers and Labourers in 1910. It seems this odd choice had been urged on them by their 'fellow miners in County Durham', and the branch at Leadhills was set up by a Mr Lynas, the union delegate in Sunderland.

Do any members know why the Durham men had joined the Gas Workers, or know of the Unions joined by leadminers elsewhere? I should be pleased to hear from anyone with an interest in this aspect of leadmining history.

If you can help - please contact Bill Harvey, 23 Orleans Ave, Glasgow G14.

BML9 Memoirs 1982. Chapter 4 Iron Ore Mining Industry in Devon

Roy Shambrook writes:-

"In their otherwise admirable article on the Iron Ore Mining Industry in Devon, by M/s M. Atkinson, P. Waite and R. Burt, I would like to correct a slight omission. Whilst correct in saying that Pawton and Ladock mines - among others were managed by Capt William Hosking in 1872 for the Welsh Iron Works Co. Ltd and the promoters J.W. Marshall and Faithful Cookson, both mines did in fact produce some ore.

From a letter to J.W. Marshall of the Welsh Iron Works Co. Ltd dated Newton Abbot 6th Jan 1872 by William Hosking, it states that "We have brought to the Bank 50 tons of fine, soft oxide of iron, a sample of which I forwarded to your office a fortnight since".

This was followed by a similar report on Ladock mine of the same date stating that "We have now 150 tons of fine oxide of iron awaiting cartage to the port i.e. Tresillian." This was followed by another report of the 29th July 1872 stating "We have raised at this mine (Ladock) 979 tons of iron ore, but at present nearly the whole of our work force is out on strike."

Among the non-ferrous mines in Devon managed by W.H. Hosking, was the Stormsdown and Owlacombe mines, Ilsington Nr Newton Abbot, from which some 348 tons of black tin were produced 1863-1909.

I have in my possession two phials of tin concentrate from these mines, dating from this time - once the property of Capt Hosking, both samples appeared rich in vanning shovel."

Welsh Meet Report - Spring Bank Holiday 1982.

This is the bit of the Newsletter where we tell the ones who came where they've been, and make the ones who didn't wish they had.

Who says it always rains in Wales?

I was at the campsite by 6.30am on Saturday. Having had a careful look around the district early in the year and decided we couldn't do any better - good grass (nor we didn't eat it!), river Mawddach on one side and the main A470 road and Ty'n-y-Groes Hotel on the other, forest picnic site across the river, and toilet.

One member who had trouble getting his camper onto our field last year, didn't get on site this year either, due to his buying an even bigger van. Somebody had been busy fixing NMRS direction signs as additions to the CC road signs, on the A470 at the turn off.

The rest of the members arrived, and after a rather late start everybody was at the parking place at the junction of Afon Gain and Afon Mawddach above the falls. Twelve cars do have problems with parking, so we had to walk a bit further than I had intended.

On the way down, just below a leat, we stopped to have a look at a building amongst the trees above the track to Gwynfynydd. I have passed along this track many times and taken the ruins to be old cottages - its only recently, I found a stone archway in excellent condition, running under the building from one end to the waterwheel pit at the other. This building was the machine shop for the Tyddyn Gwladys Mine, later used by Gwynfynydd.

At the site of the Gwynfynydd Mill, the two falls on the Gain and Mawddach rivers supplied the power for the machinery. A disastrous fire destroyed this mill in 1935, the mine closing shortly afterwards. The mine itself is threequarters of a mile to the north east of here. Also known as Gwyn, Morgan, Mount Morgan and British Gold Fields. Up to 20 parallel lodes were worked in 5 groups called Chidlow, Collett, James, Harvey and Big lodes, the largest being the Chidlow, which

.... cont'd

is 20' thick and strikes East/West and can be traced for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Specimen ore is on display in the Geological Museum in London, as is ore from all the other mines visited. Gold was found in 1863; the lowest workings are 300' below the number 6 adit; best period of production being 1904 and 1915. Totals 98,842 tons of ore produced 40,054 oz of gold. Largest number of men - 189 was in 1891.

Gwynfynydd: Gwyn = White, Mynydd = Mountain.

Mr Robin Daniel was waiting for us and after introducing ourselves, the gate on number 6 adit being open, in we went. The group soon split up - the explorers dashing off as usual, the photographers stopping at the head frame chamber. Looked down the incline, and on along the tramway. Much clearing up has been done, the drain on the left side has been cleaned and the old rails replaced.

We soon reached the Chidlow lode, which is being extended, it is highly mineralised - veins of Sphalerite, Pyrite and Galena everywhere. On to the older workings, beyond the tramway, to the far end - iron stained straws hanging down from the roof, stalagmitic formations everywhere - the type of thing that gets a name in show caves.

Looked at crosscuts and stopes on the way back, some blind, others leading up to higher levels. One crosscut came out in the headframe chamber; in this one we looked down stopes showing red ochre stains where the previous water level, now drained, had been. The explorers had gone up a stope out into daylight, in again at No 8 level and down ladders back to no. 6 and out.

At this point I would like to thank Mr G.W.Hall on behalf of our members for letting us explore Gwynfynydd, and also Mr Robin Daniel for opening up the gate and being so very pleasant and helpful. The trip was very much enjoyed by all. Mr Hall's generous gesture goes to show that it is better to get permission to enter mines, and show the owners that they need have no fear of damage, or vandalism from recognised mining societies.

On to Bedd-y-Coedwr; Bedd = grave, Coedwr = woodman, situated east of Gwynfynydd, it attracted attention in 1934/5 when it produced gold for Princess Marina's wedding ring, hence its other name "Princess Marina". The gold assayed at 2 oz per ton of ore. The Britten Pans, now at Maesgwm Forestry Commission site on A470, come from this mine. It employed 20 men when it opened in 1834, and closed in 1935. There is a nice round flooded shaft in the middle of the track.

Somebody has recently opened up an adit on the left (west) side of the outcrop jutting into the river. It leads into a level with tramway rails and tram still in position with two crosscuts and two sets of turnabouts.

Sandwich time; a few hardy souls went swimming - the sun was hot but the H₂O cold.

A few hopefuls went panning, and although we found no gold one member said it was as relaxing as fishing. I had 5 pans with me, the three Californian plastic ones with their riffles being very popular, the heavy metal ones not so much in demand.

The others were wandering back to the cars and campsite after looking at Roberts Level.

Sunday was to be a walkabout, and all within easy reach of the camp. Twelve cars again. Berth Lwyd and Cefn Coch was our first stop. These two mines, so close together and most of the time worked jointly are situated on the South bank of Nant Las and above Ty'n-y-Groes Hotel. Berth Lwyd was at one period known as the California when it was owned by an American. It was first worked in 1843. Output total - 2,661 tons of ore, giving 1,392 oz of gold. Number of men employed (best period) was 31 men in 1894.

After spending some time pointing out the tips, which could be seen from camp, the member with a yellow VW camper managed to get lost - he claimed that it was because two cars got in front of him and he lost sight of the rest of us. Our motorcyclist also got lost, J.H. Mc spotted him through binoculars, going up a track $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away. Not to worry, all eventually turned up.

One adit was found to come out in an open cut; there are several levels, tips and rakes dotted about the hillside. Lovely views all round.

Got everybody moving again down and past the campsite, then left on forest track very careful this time not to lose anybody. Parked on roadside by Dolfrwynog. This is the famous Turf Mine. A visiting geologist, admonishing a cottager for not putting ashes from his fire on the land, was told that to do so made it worse not better. Samples of the ashes showed substantial amounts of copper. The accumulation of peat was found to contain so much copper that it was dug up and sent without further treatment to Swansea for smelting. Trials were made in the area to try and find the source of the copper - no luck. Gold was however found in a shaft. Total production -

.....Come a

1740 tons of copper ore, 183 oz of gold, and lead/silver. We looked at the site of the flooded shaft, precipitation pan, drainage trenches, old shaft and tips.

Glasdir. Here I sent some members round the bend (in the road) to the bridge over the Afon Wen (White River) to pan for gold. One enthusiast found two tiny specks, and I've just received a letter from Liverpool informing me that gold has been found in some gravel taken home for more careful examination - the stuff is there if you have the time and patience to find it.

The rest of us trooped on to the Glasdir tips, still smelling of oil - the tip I mean, not us! The quarry at the top of the hill has an adit coming out halfway up the hillside - unfortunately collapsed. This adit contains the flooded 500' shaft. During 1896 - 1900 4351 tons of copper metal was sold, not ore. Due to extraction difficulties, in 1895, George Robson tried using oil, to which gold seemed to adhere; it didn't work due to too thin oil being used. In 1896 William Elmer and his two sons bought the mine and changed the name to Hurst's Mine. Using thicker oil, they developed the Elmor Oil Floatation Process. Herbert Hoover of the Zinc Corporation used the method to process vast deposits of difficult ores at Broken Hill in Australia and produced huge amounts of Zinc for the 1914-18 war and afterwards ruining the British mines with his cheaper Australian ores. Oil Floatation is still used today, and all because of an enterprising family in a mine on the Mawddach in N.Wales.

The mine was in German control from 1907 - 1915 when it closed. The efficient Germans reduced the workforce from 180 to 85, without any loss in output. Totals - 1872 - 1915: 13077 tons of copper ore, 8276 oz of Silver, 735 oz of Gold.

We examined the collapsed adit, the least higher up with its iron gate controlling the flow of the water to the mill, round the impressive quarry, two lads finding a crawl, which came out in the quarry. Back down to the tips and on to the campsite. Five of us went for a swim in the river - much talk about brass monkeys. Some of our crowd had been up to the Conwy Valley to have a look at Aberllyn Mine.

On Monday morning the threat of a light shower persuaded the campers who were going home that evening to pack their tents.

A470 South, turn right to Bontddu - a lay-by here enabled us to park and double up, as there isn't much space to park at Clogau. By far the largest and most productive mine in the district, and certainly the best known. It has been supplying gold for the Royal Wedding Rings for many years, receiving much publicity on Jimmy Savile's programme "Jim'll Fix It". Five lodes, the richest being the St.Davids. This mine is very well documented. More than 10,000 tons of ore was extracted annually between 1900 and 1907. In 1904, 14,384 tons of ore gave 18,417 oz of gold. Serious mining ceased in 1911. Between 1862 and 1911 165,031 tons of ore produced 78,507 oz of gold.

While our Editor went to look at a horse whim, walled shaft and the No. 1 level, the rest of us took the path to Llechfraith adit stopping to have a look at a Buddle and the original entrance. After looking down at features below us, and the tips on the other side of the river, we carried on to the Clogau tip, and Vigra Mill site. Some nice mineral specimens being found - Tetradymite (a minor ore of Bismuth and Tellurium) and always associated with gold, Pyrite, Chalcopyrite, Pyrrhotite etc.

Reluctantly we took our leave, and onto the Ty'n-y-Groes Hotel for lunch. Next stop was the Maesgwm Forestry Commission site. No sign of the early morning shower, so we went to Trawsfynydd, turned right onto the Bala Road, and left up to the parking place by Afon Llafar. I would have liked to have heard the comments of the drivers when first uttered as we crawled along this narrow rough track

"He's lost"

"Where the ... are we going?"

"The hot sun's been too much for him"

"Typical Welsh twit"

Trust your Uncle Eric! Four cars, or rather three cars and one VW camper crossed the stream and up the stoney incline on to the level beside the store, laboratory, buildings and tips of the Bwlch-y-Llu Gold Mine. This mine produced the gold for the regalia of Prince Edward at his Investiture in Caernarfon Castle in 1911, hence its other name "Prince Edward". An excellent gold panning site. The adit is across the Afon Llafar. Just inside, on the right, is the gold store where the ore was stored overnight, two crosscuts and flooded inclines, and on the righthand side at the end is a Jackass winch, still working, above a flooded shaft. The level on the left has a steep slope going up past a shaft, turn left and onto an incline leading to daylight ...

.... cont'd

and so ended the 1982 Welsh Meet.

Once again, many thanks to those who came along and I hope you enjoyed yourselves. Commiserations to those who couldn't come, and to those who could come but didn't - try and make it next year.

Eric Gray-Thomas.

Which leads in nicely for the following advice/instructions for leaders of convoys on meets, (or anywhere else for that matter).

a) Make sure that you know which is the last vehicle - and also that the driver knows this fact too.

b) At every turn off, wait or slow down until sure that the last car knows which way to go. A variation of this is for each car to wait until the car next in line has caught up before he/she proceeds. This is useful where only a single car can wait at any one spot.

c) Don't go at too fast a pace - its no good the leading car doing 100mph if the rest can only do 40.

Remember the longer the convoy - the slower the collective speed. The further back down the line - the slower you travel.

Mining Books Wanted

A Treatise on Mining Machinery; G. Andree 1880.

Elizabethan Copper; M. Donald 1953.

A Treatise on Metaliferous Minerals & Mining; D. Davies 1889.

A Treatise on Slate & Slate Quarrying; D. Davies (any edition)

The Superlative Prodigal; A Life of Thomas Bushell: J. Gought 1932.

Atlas of Engravings, Illustrated Manual of Mining Tools; W. Morgans 1871.

Manual of Mining Tools (with above); W. Morgans 1871.

The Metal Mines of Southern Wales; G. Hall 1970.

Memoirs of the Geol. Surv., Special Rep. on the Min. Res. of GB: Vol XIX,

Lead & Zinc Ores in the Carboniferous Rocks of N. Wales.

The History of the Cardiganshire Lead Mines: Absalom Francis 1872, 1874.

The Mines of Cardiganshire, Montgomeryshire & Shropshire; Liccombe & Co. Privately printed c1880.

NMRS Journals:- Newsletters Vol 1963; Memoirs Vol 2 No 1 1971; Ind Surv. Series No 4

Greenhow 1970; No 6 Teigh Valley, to complete my set.

Reasonable prices paid for any/all the above. Please contact P. J. Challis, 43 Fieldway, Liverpool, L15 7LU.

British Micromount Society.

The first weekend Symposium organised by the above Society will be held in the "Pump Room", The Mining Museum, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire on 9/10th October, 1982.

Included in the weekend will be discussions, Guest speakers, practical dems. of mounting techniques, photography, slides, microscopes. A field excursion has also been arranged and there will be provision for micromount exchanges etc.

The fee for the weekend is £2.00, and further information, booking applications etc., can be obtained from - BMS, 15 Whitehall Drive, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 2RD.

The BMS specialises in micromineral collection (small pieces!!) (after seeing how Roy loads his car down with his "small!!! pieces, I wonder what he classes a monster mount? Ed.)

Any Micro collectors (this doesn't necessarily mean little people collecting big rocks) interested in joining the BMS should apply to the above address - It costs you a £1.00 to join.

Must make a note that they now owe me a pint for cluttering up the Newsletter with other Society's doings. Ed.

For Sale

Chelsea Speleological Society Records Vol 11, Caves & Tunnels in S.E. England Pt 4. A further compendium of mines, tunnels, caves and chambers. It includes the longest known natural chalk cave in the area (1/4 mile); a chalk mine in Kent; an abandoned tunnel beneath the Thames at London Bridge; and a horizontal well at Folkestone. 35 major sites & 25 surveys. 70pp, A4, duplicated. Price £2.50 from B. Weaver, 19 Delce Road, Rochester, Kent.

Further to the Book Review (see page 3) I am told that Donald Anderson has also written a set of three detailed articles on the History of the Blundell Collieries, the Orrell Coalfield, Lancashire 1740-1850, and Photo-history entitled Mines and Miners of South Lancashire 1870-1950.

The author is arranging to have a few copies of the, long out of print, Orrell Coalfield bound up. They will be available direct (sorry no price yet) from the author Greenslates, Tanfield, Parbold, Lancs. Tel 02576 3234.

The Latest from NAMHO.

1. NAMHO Mining History Course at Whernside Manor. It is regretted that this course, which was being arranged by members of the Earby Mines Research Group, has had to be cancelled, owing to a poor response.
2. Crowns Engine House Appeal. The Carn Brea Mining Society has launched its Botallack Engine Houses Preservation Project Appeal. The Society has produced a very detailed booklet which outlines the problem and the proposals for renovation. Those members who have seen the Crowns Engine Houses will not need convincing of the importance of these proposals, forming as they do, one of the most spectacular settings for a mine in this country.
The estimated cost of the proposed works is £40,000 and the Society will welcome contributions, of any size. The co-ordinator of the project, and FOCUS FOR DONATIONS, is:- Lawrence R. Holmes, ARIC (Minerals), Whispers, Ladock, Truro, Cornwall, TR2 4PL.
3. Mining Records Office. Following reports that the practice of supplying copies of Abandonment Plans had been stopped, the Association contacted the Mines and Quarries Inspectorate and was told that this action had been prompted by the provisions of Section 28 of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1978. This section restricts access, to relevant information, to a list of prescribed bodies. It is hoped that the H. & S.E. can be talked out of its negative stance.
4. Stonecroft Lead Mine. Mr. Kenneth Brown, of the Trevithick Society, is interested to hear from anyone who has information on the 70" Cornish Pumping Engine, used at this mine. From his researches, he believes that it was moved from the Southwest, as Second-hand plant, in the 1860's. At this time, 1868, a 60" Engine was purchased from Chiverton Mine and erected at the Settlingstones Mine.
Will anyone able to assist, please contact Mr Brown at 5 Chester Court, Chester Rd, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 1BQ.

I have heard that moves are afoot to re-open Cockhill Level and work spar from Cockhill and Greenhow Rake Veins on Greenhow Hill - though nothing definite yet. Also I understand that drilling is going on near Nussey Knot, but again this is not proven.

Request for Information.

Recently I have had a couple of requests from different sources wanting information on Stone Quarrying and Mining in the Halifax area before the 18th Century. The last request also wanted information on anybody called 'Oates' in this trade.

These requests brought out the point that we have very little in the Society records about this area. Maybe someone would like to take it up as a project?

In the meantime if anybody can help at all, please contact me.

The next edition of the Newsletter is to be issued in November, hopefully at the Presidents Talk-in and Pie & Pea Supper.

Final date for all contributions to be in the hands of H. Houghton, 29 Parkside Rd, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY by 1st November, 1982. Please, please don't leave it till the last minute - start your article and get it posted now. Why not save on postage and send it with your bookings for the Dinner and Pie & Pea Supper?

Remember if you want a reply to any correspondence with any Society Officer send a SAE.

Some notes on where to start with a project.....Part 1.

In response to conversations with members of the Society, and the expressed desire of the National Association of Mining History Organisations to form an index to Archival Sources, the following guide has been written. The omission of a possible source from this guide does not demean that source but rather it reveals a gap in the Author's knowledge. For convenience, the guide is concentrated upon the Northern Counties, for those outside this area, simply substitute the name of the Local or County Records Office etc.

Many members feel that they would like to know more about a mining area or specific mine but are immediately faced with the problem of where to start. With this in mind, it is hoped to provide some starting points and some locations where further material may be found. Points to remember are, that everyone comes to blank ends, we all make mistakes, and that often it is advisable to file away your notes for a year, or more, and start on something else. Often, such a pause, and the subsequent new start, gives a clearer view of the work already done and new information may have surfaced.

The most obvious place to start is at the Local Reference Library but, having arrived there, how many of us know how to use it to the full? What are those numbers on the shelves? Can they be of use or did the Librarian have a lot of Dymo Tape to spare? In the next page, or so, Hazel Martell A.L.A. explains the system and some of its failures.

How do I start?

The most obvious way is to ask the person behind the counter. As, however, most people can only go to the Library at the time when most other people go, the person behind the counter is very likely to be rushed off their feet, dealing with two queues, looking for lost tickets and answering the telephone when you arrive and, though your project is important to you, it'll come a long way down their list of priorities at that moment.

I will therefore try to explain the machinations of the Dewey Decimal System, the numbers on the spines of most library books, or the most relevant parts of it.

To those who have worked it out for themselves, I'll apologise for wasting your time - to everyone else, I'll just say that I hope it doesn't make you more confused than ever!

INTRODUCTION.

Melville Dewey, inventor of this great scheme, was an American who lived in the last century. This is why some of his spellings and priorities seem somewhat strange to us and why his allocations of classification numbers to certain subjects seem either over-generous or sadly too few. In the Society in which he lived, it would seem logical to allocate 100 numbers each to Philosophy and Religion and only 10 numbers to the whole of Engineering!

His idea was to separate books into 10 main groups according to subject as follows:-

- 000-099 General Works (including Encyclopaedias).
- 100-199 Philosophy.
- 200-299 Religion.
- 300-399 Social Sciences.
- 400-499 Languages.
- 500-599 Pure Sciences.
- 600-699 Applied Sciences.
- 700-799 The Arts.

800-899 Literature.
900-999 Geography/Biography/History.

Each group was then split into 10 again (and again and again and again!) to give narrower and narrower subject groups, until eventually specific numbers were allocated to specific subjects and not just chosen at random by a librarian with nothing better to do. For example, the class number for COAL MINING is 622.33 which is made up as follows:-

600	Applied Sciences.
620	Engineering.
622	Mineral Industries.
622.3	Mining.
622.33	Coal Mining.

Class numbers for other sorts of mining are made up in the same way, e.g.:-

Copper Mining	622.343
Lead Mining	622.344
Tin Mining	622.3453
Zinc Mining	622.3452

If you find nothing at these class numbers, however, don't despair, for Dewey also allocated numbers for the economic aspect of mining and these are as follows:-

Coal	338.272
Copper	338.2743
Lead	338.2744
Tin	338.27453
Zinc	338.27452

Information on different aspects of mining might also be found in books at other classification numbers. These include:-

330.942	Economic History of Britain.
331.7522	Economic History of the Working Classes.
331.88	Trade Union History.
385	Railway History and Economics.
385.5	Narrow Gauge Railways.
553	Economic Geology.
554	Geology of Specific Areas.
609	History of Inventions.
609.42	Industrial Archaeology of Britain.

Also, check out the the bibliographies which are to be found in most non-fiction books and see if anything is listed there which is relevant.

Finally, if you want a specific book which doesn't seem to be in stock in your local library, try to give the librarian as many appropriate details as possible. These include Author, Title, Publisher and date of Publication - the fact that it had a red/green/purple cover doesn't matter to anybody!

This article will be continued in the next Newsletter and will give details of Records Offices and Societies.