

I must apologise to all those impatiently waiting for this erudite tome as advertised as ready in August. Blame Dick Bird:- Because the Printers were behind with the back-up Publication for inclusion with this Newsletter, we have had to hold it all back. Sounds a plausible excuse though dunn-it.

Annual Dinner - October 15th at Royal Oak Hotel, Settle at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

If you're intending to go to this year's dinner, hurry up and send your booking to Barney. Don't worry if you've lost the original booking form, the price is £7.00 per head. Full money to be paid when booking.

Send your details to H. Barnes, Castle Hill Farm, Higher Westhouse, Ingletton, N. Yorks before 1st October, 1983. Hurry, hurry, hurry.

Full details are given on page 8 of the May Newsletter.

Another Meet to add to your diary.

Sat/Sun. 1/2 October, 1983. Martholme & Bridge Hey Colliery, Burnley.

Meet 10.30am Saturday morning at entrance to Bridge Hey Caravan Park situated 1/2 mile west of the village of Read on the A671 road, NGR S.D.758343. Camping facilities arranged with the farm owner, Mr. Hanson for this surface and working meet.

Saturday. Surface Meet, covering the remains to Martholme Colliery, The Billy Fly Pit, The Constant Mary Drift Mine, also to nearby 'Bell Pits' which prompted the sinking of shafts for coal and then Bridge Hey Colliery and inspection of its engine house to excavate on the following day. Walking distance 3 to 4 miles of easy terrain.

Sunday. Meeting again at 10.30am at Bridge Hey Caravan Park. Volunteers are most definitely required and would gratefully be appreciated. We have this one weekend to excavate the small collapsed area of the engine house, known to be standing in 1890. Please help, provide your own tools and shovels, but give me a ring before the above date. Enquiries to Bernard Bond on Ingletton 41857.

At long last the Meet Report you've all been waiting for. John Mc reckons it's taken such a long time to appear in print 'cos I wouldn't just do a reprint of last years!

Cornwall Meet - Easter 1983.

The annual Easter pilgrimage to Cornwall was, as usual, well attended. Again we set up base camp at Chacewater, this being ideally situated for easy access to all the mining areas.

To break the party in slowly a leisurely walk was taken round the Great Consolidated Mine on the Friday. Since the previous year many of the heaps had been levelled and a programme of landscaping commenced. Several of the shafts, including the one with last years Zanussi fame, were also being capped with Clwyd Caps. After a swift pub lunch at Mithian (it was here that we discovered that the only thing special about the "special" was that you didn't get it) the adit and engine house at Wheal Coates were inspected.

Saturday saw the party disappearing underground at the St. Just United Mines. Entering the mine at Priest's Cove to emerge some time later halfway up a cliff in Porthledden Cove. On the way back to Chacewater several members went to inspect the Cornish Stamps at Nancledra to find that they had now been removed by Geevor Tin Mine for preservation at their Museum. I would like to thank Geevor for thoughtfully leaving a photograph of the stamps in situ and thus helped to dispel clucking noises from several of those present.

Sunday saw an abortive trip to Wheal Rinsey Adit. A nasty low, wet place full of flotsam and jetsam up which no one would follow the leader. The adit behind the lower engine house at Wheal Trewavas was explored unstead. An interesting manway was noted but having no tackle a hasty retreat was made.

After yet another pub lunch the afternoon was spent rock tapping at megilgar rocks.

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A magnificent slide show was the climax of the day in the residents lounge at the campsite.

Monday dawned and thank goodness the last day of the Meet (official). One member suggested that we visited a level he had heard about at Pentire Glaze beyond Wadebridge. In earnest he set off in advance to locate the adit. The remainder of the party arrived sometime later complete with a meet leader definitely under the weather and suffering from some form of flu (or too much imbibing the night before). We were greeted by the intrepid member who informed us that he could not find the adit but suggested the rest of us should get changed and then we could go and look. None of this for me, ordinary walking gear would be sufficient. Looking straight down a vertical cliff (well nearly) we spotted what could have been an adit about half way down. All other volunteers lacking, some even ran away, I was tied to a rope and ejected forcibly downwards. Half way down the rope ran out but lo and behold another was discovered under a large boulder. A hairy trip to the beach and the level was located. No one followed, (though the Newsletter Editor did come to the bottom of the 1st rope to talk me down the second!!!).

Tuesday was declared a day off.

On Wednesday we met members of the Plymouth Caving Club and had an excellent trip to Devon Great Consols where we explored the large stopes in the Wheal Fanny and Wheal Anna Maria section. A grotty adit at South Wheal Crebor was also explored looking for something called Childrenite. I think it's a sort of mineral.

On Thursday we were treated to a visit to King Edward Mine near Troon. This mine is now used by the students at the Camborne School of Mines for training. After a short lecture on the history of the mine, by lecturer Tony Brookes, we were escorted underground into the King Edward Mine Workings where students practise drilling and surveying.

At the surface again we were shown a set of Californian stamps which were housed in the old mill. These would merit preservation if the money could be found.

Friday arrived and also our last day in Cornwall. Geoff Greenough had arranged a visit to the offices of South West Minerals at Kellybrae (near Callington) where Geologist Clive Newall, outlined the work carried out to date together with a brief description of future development plans. We were also shown the several hundreds (I think it was hundreds) of kilometres of drill core. Quite impressive.

Finally thank you to all who came and helped make it a good weeks holiday.

John H. McNeil.

Richards Conference Thanks.

May I take this opportunity through the newsletter in sincerely thanking all the members, organisers and stewards who helped to produce a most successful 1983 NAMHO Conference. A special thankyou to Peter Brears and his staff for their help and allowing freedom of access to all facilities.

Many thanks also to:-

Mr. H. Barnes (Barney) for his firm and authoritative control over the proceedings. Without Barney I'm sure the conference would not have run as efficiently as it did.

My wife who lost her voice during the weekend and was unable to shout at me. Unfortunately 'the voice' has returned. The husky sounds from her seemed to activate a normally dormant signal within Mike Goth and whose attentions to my wife have been noted. I will remember.

Geoff and Eleanor Greenough whose mathematical abilities left me befuddled. (I'm thick anyway -- please ignore Harry's comments). Their work in allocating conference packs, receipts and paying bills was a daunting task I should not have wished to be responsible for and which, they controlled effortlessly.

Harry Houghton. Harry, as we all know, is a generous person, who had the resolute strength to pull 432 pints of beer, unselfishly testing every other pint to ensure the quality. Who constantly gave that cheeky little grin with glazed eyes. Well what more can I say. Several members from the South stated

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that they had never tasted beer like this before. I must admit I quite agreed with them. Mind you the River Aire was in spate at the time.

Sue who kept calm and unruffled all the time, whilst Harry buzzed around in a spin!

John McNeil who says he doesn't like dogs or children. But we know otherwise. He was seen surrounded by children organising stone throwing competitions into the river - - then encouraging them to retrieve the stones. He was also seen treading the water wheel, inches above water line showing the children how to start it and, of course, encouraging them to have a go. As a special reward for his services as Security Officer he was presented with a guard dog (on four wheels) and a sub-machine gun (plastic barrel glued).

Dick and Hilary Bird for their sterling efforts selling their wares on the Aftersales Stall.

Big Malcolm, whose size alone daunted all who came in contact with him.

Mike Gill and Hazel. Mike for his support of Mrs. Thatcher the day before, we knew he would do the right thing. Also for his work both before in preparation and at the conference. Thanks also to Hazel. Have you finished knitting that jumper?

John Hodgins for his excellent slide shows in the Cinema, and all the Lecturers for their time and trouble, and without whom it would have been a complete flop.

Once again thank you to all those mentioned and to anyone not mentioned, for my memory it not as good as it used to be.

'When do I get paid?'

'What no money?'

'But Harry said....'

There were lighter moments during the conference such as when someone in the Display Area shouted "I need help with an erection", instantly drawing a crowd; or in the Exhibition Hall when a voice sounded out "Will the person with the large nuts please come and see me?" - Funny how all the personnel checked their flies. Many eyebrows were raised.

'At last, a cheque has come.'

'But... it's made out to my wife.'

'You do know I've got holes in my shoes?'

R.E. Hewer.

Dick Bird has recently placed an ad. in the Newcastle Journal for old books on mining and geology. He has had several replies, all offering old books dealing with coal mining, and since he is not interested in the latter thought coal mining buffs may like to follow up the offers which have turned up.

Below are listed the names and addresses of those who have contacted him and the volumes they have for sale. Hasty jottings on his telephone pad may be responsible for slight errors in the names of the titles. If interested, please contact these people direct and make your own arrangements as to prices etc.

Conversely, should anyone know of any old metal mining books that may be on the market, please let him know. (41 Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield.)

Practical Coal Mining. 6 Vols by W.S. Bolton 1907 (mint)

Mr Poulter, Gurnard House, Main Road, Ryton. Tel. Tyne & Wear 4133389.

Hadfield Stanley Colliery Account Book 1873-1908. Hand written accounts etc.

Mr. Jubb, 23 Parkside, Tanfield Lea, Stanley Co. Durham. Tel. Stanley 32649.

Coal by E. Mason

Surveying. Holland, Wardle & Webster.

Coal Mining. I.C.F. Stathan

Physical Geology. A. Holmes

These 4 titles offered by McCarthy. Tel. Burnopfield 70602.

Mining by Greenwood. Published in 1869. (2 volumes). It is understood that there are only 4 in existence, two of which are still in this country.

Contact Mr. Millburn, Stonecroft, Broom Lane, Newcastle. Tel 091 488 7335.

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Record of Durham Collieries. John Barnes?

Coal Mining. R. Peel 1910?

These 2 titles offered by Mr. Smith, 49 Northumberland Ave, Gosforth, N'castle.
Tel. 0632 853342. (He could be mistaken with these two since the books and seller are on different pages of his telephone pad!!! If in doubt, give a ring.)

For next years NAMHO Field Meet - The Welsh Mines Society has volunteered to do the organising and leading.

That's also what our tame Celt from Caernarfon thought - till he saw in their Newsletter that he was down to do it for them!!! This will no doubt cause a stampede to borrow copies of Foster-Smith's series of books that cover the appropriate area!!!

Whilst on the subject of our tame Celt, he has just sent me the following:-

Had your holidays yet? Fancy visiting a Tin Mine? then read on -

The Tin Mine is 15,000 feet up in the Mountains. Population of the area 30,000. The Mine is Government owned, but leased to a mining company. House rents are fixed and very high, compared to wages received by the miners. Sanitation is NIL. Elections are fixed and only people passed as suitable by the Government can try for election.

Land is poor and stoney and under Government control - crops often fail. T.B., Malnutrition, Dissentry and Pneumoconiosis are prevalent. 1 in 4 of the miners has Silicosis. 1 baby dies every day. 38 men die every month.

The miners are paid £1 per day, $\frac{1}{2}$ the wages are paid in tokens, to be exchanged in the Company shop for food - plenty of food but people cannot afford to buy it. The Mine has 500 miles of tunnels, and miners have to walk $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles underground to the workings. The old worked out parts of the mine is leased to miners too poor, or too old to work in the Company mine. These older workings often work at a loss. If a miner is out of work due to age, illness or strike he is evicted from his home with his wife and children on to the streets.

The Mine has 1,000 accidents per year, 1 for every 2 miners. There is a Medical Centre, but no drugs, and no sanitation, and people usually go there to die if they can afford the fee - if not they are simply turned out to fend for themselves.

300 tons of ore produces 1 ton of tin. If miners, driven to desperation go on strike - no money, no tokens and the Army is brought in, the miners being forced back to work often at gunpoint. Refusal means being shot. The army receives very little training and low pay, which is supplemented by looting.

Miners work 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. Anyone falling ill is laid off and there is a queue of men ready to take his job. When he gets over his illness he has to go to the back of the queue. So miners tend to work on although ill, and many die underground. Few live beyond the age of 37, many contracting Silicosis during their 20's.

Where is this paradise? Siglovente (translated means 20th Century) is in Bolivia, South America.

Eric Gray-Thomas.

Wanlockhead - The Discoveries. Our 53rd Trip.

On the 1st May this year our luck changed. We had settled down to the task of a years digging on what we now know as Samvals Level, at the bottom of the 100' shaft. However we really wanted to know what went on at the bottom of the cast iron pipe on adit, so we did a small dig. We discovered a stop cock, presumably for the winding engine, it was disconnected at one end but still connected to the down pipe and was issuing water (it always appears to do). Unfortunately we could not dig onto the floor of the adit due to water, so it was decided to photograph the stop cock and call it a day.

Digging, as most of you well know, is hard, boring work, so as a small diversion we took a look at a small collapsed stope some 30' up the adit. This is a long collapsed, stable area and a way under a large block was found. This ended in a small mud and silt blockage which was forced and a way on was clearly visible. A little more "gardening" and a hole just big enough to squeeze through was made.

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The character of the adit changed quite dramatically after this point, and it was in good rock and was well protected at any stoped areas by rails and some RSJ's. The floor of the adit is made up of a tail race over which is the sleeper, rails and walk boards, so it was with some relief that we found the rails still in place, after 30' or so we were out of water and the going was easier. From the blockage the adit is clear all the way up to the engine house at South Glencrieff Shaft.

On inspection we had found 3 engines. Since the 1st May we have done a considerable amount of homework, Geoff especially, so I will try to give you an idea of how important the find is, not only to Wanlockhead, but to Mining Historians and Industrial Archaeologists everywhere.

The oldest engine is a water balance engine called a "Jerry", and was used to bring up ore. It was originally used in the 2nd shaft below North Glencrieff and may well date to the mid 1700's, it is probably here in case the main winder broke down. The most impressive engine is a double acting pump engine, although it only had a 6' stroke, the whole thing is some 40' long and is held in place by an astonishing number of timbers. It is undoubtedly this engine that the siphon was installed for. It will probably turn out to be an early Dean of Hexham engine, but no name could be found. Its main interest is that it has been mounted horizontally and has no air receiver. The 3rd engine was indeed the three cylinder winding engine. This was made by John Hastie of Greenock, and again is an early model, probably about 1876. It is a double drum winder, and like both the water pressure engines has been partially dismantled.

The site is now protected by a steel door, and at present, due to access restriction placed on us by the landowner, we cannot take any visitors to see the site. A preliminary survey of the engines has been done, and it is hoped that working drawings will be produced by Bill Harvey. The floor and all shelves have yet to be surveyed, but this will be done shortly.

In the long term it is hoped to remove these engines for display at the Wanlockhead Museum and to this end our next few trips will be going down the adit to find out what condition the rest is in. We do know that there is a good deal of water backed up, due to falls outside the adit portal, but we have no knowledge of the condition of the rest of the adit. With the very dry summer it is hoped that the first trip will be soon. We know that the adit floods in winter and may well do so after thunder storms, so the weather will have to be watched very carefully.

There are still many questions to be answered and the previous site of the pumping engine to be properly looked at (this is just opposite where we enter the adit at present). So there will be a good deal of fun to be had for some time to come.

Jerry Landless.

Dales Meet Report.. Spring Bank Holiday.

Saturday morning dawned overcast and rainy, and by the time we left the campsite 5 members and families had arrived. After making our way to Cogden Gill Bridge, near Grinton in Swaledale, we changed and walked up the track to Devils Hole Mine.

Upon reaching the 6' deep dug entrance shaft, it was decided that the meet leader should be the first to enter. At the foot of the shaft I spread out my 6' 7" length and proceeded to crawl the 40' to the infamous 15" oil drum and was followed by 3 other stalwarts. I reached the oil drum, looked at it, pondered a second, entered it, wriggled, and slid through with surprising ease. Of the rest of the party, 2 managed it, and the third, the largest (diameter) had to be pulled through.

We then set off up the main level to the main junction. The workings on the east level were explored first and the various sub levels were looked into. After "depth testing" the shafts on the South East level, we made our way along West level negotiating the roof falls and "hanging death" of great slabs of limestone peeling off the roof in 12" layers, until we reached a 15' drop, which barred further progress. Back at the main level for lunch. We then divided, with John & Richard exploring the shorter natural passages off the main level, whilst

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Paul & myself decided to venture into the heart of the central maze. This is a complex series of phreatic passages, over 1 mile in total length, crammed into an area of 400' x 150'. The two parties met and explored Pearsons level on the way out.

Sunday - was the day when Aysgarth Church clock struck 25, John swore that he had seen a green bird with a red head, (poor chap, he must have had too much last night) and David Heaton & Co. arrived with the mobile universe. At 10.30 plus a bit, we set off for Raygill Mine, near Hawes. We made our way along the level through waist deep water reaching the fossilised ladder accompanied by sounds of "Ooh" and "Aah" and the clinking of cameras. When all the budding David Baileys' had been satisfied, we proceeded up the level to the next rise. Here the leader exercised his powers and elected a member to climb with a ladder, make his way through the upper levels and then fix the ladder at the next rise for the rest of us to climb up. Eventually we all set off in the direction of the South East Flatts where we encountered a maze of passages. After exploring various ones, the meet leader set off confidently along a level, turning right at one junction and left at another, till a voice from behind enquired if I knew where I was going. Instantly there were shouts of "Help" "Don't panic" "We're lost" "Doomed" etc. I ignored all this and 5 minutes later we were back in familiar passage again. After exploring the rest of the upper workings we made our way back down the rise, and on the way out had a quick look into the North East Flatts. When we emerged the sun was shining and we decided to call it a day.

Monday - There we were standing in the car park at the campsite, having a right good natter, the sun beating down (ouch!), when Richard arrived, all in a fluster. "I thought you were meeting us in Richmond today?" I asked. "I was", he replied, "but" and the story came out - it seems that we had picked the only day in the year when Richmond has its Annual Gala. Our usual parking place had "no waiting" signs and a large contingent of "the boys in blue" on it. "No problem", I said opening the map, "We'll meet here". Half an hour later we all met "here" (approx 1 mile from Hudswell) and after changing we walked down through the wood to the entrance of Billy Bank Mine. We entered, intending to head straight for the rise that connects to the high level series. However after about 300' the water started to get deeper. "Are you sure this is the way?" one person asked. "Of course", I replied, "although I don't remember this deep water". We held a brief conference and unanimously elected our sole wetsuited member (Fool) to go and explore and look for a "slanting rise". He disappeared to return 5 minutes later with the news that he had found it. 4 of us then braved the waist deep water and spent 10 minutes looking for the rise that our scout had found and then lost again. Eventually it was located and after scrambling to the top we decided it was lunch time. After this we explored the few upper levels, descended the rise and looked into various levels on our way out. Can you imagine the looks of pure disbelief on the faces of picnickers as 4 fully clothed men walked into the Swale and proceeded to wash. The meet officially ended at 3.30pm.

May I thank those few who turned up and hope that they had a good time.
P.S. Anyone finding a carbide lamp in Billy Bank Mine, please note that it belongs to John Stott - but more about this at the Annual Dinner.

Malcolm Street.

Craven Cross Engine House, Greenhow Hill.

Following development work at the University of Bradford, by Mr. Mike Kelly, a post graduate student, of a resistivity meter coupled to an Epson HX20 micro-computer, via an "analog voltage to digital signal" converter, the Society was fortunate in obtaining the opportunity to test the instrument.

Basically, the machine reads the ability of various sub-soils to resist electrical charges, and registers them on a VU meter. In the past it has been necessary to book down each reading and then calculate the resulting data long-hand or feed it into a computer. For each 20 metre quadrat this means 400 entries. Mike Kelly's device obviates this need, as the information is fed directly into the micro-computer and stored. On completion of each quadrat, which takes about 1½ hours, the computer will produce a small print-out of the results in the form of a dot density matrix. On this, the denser areas usually represent features

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like buried walls. The results can also be fed into a main-frame computer, which will produce a contoured plan of each quadrat.

The survey gave positive indications of wall foundations on the site, without the need for digging trial holes etc. The Society would like to thank the Mountgarret Estates for granting permission to execute the work.

Mike Gill.

Next Society Project.

Just to give you advance warning.

Following the above piece, I understand that Lord Mountgarret has given permission for a small dig at Craven Cross Mine. It is proposed to do this next summer.

NAMHO Conference Report. Conference held at Leeds Industrial Museum 10/13 June '83.

A full and informative report was supposed to have been compiled by the two white haired gentlemen, but both now deny all knowledge (which is what many have said all along - they have no knowledge) and blame the other for the oversight!

As luck would have it though all is not lost. It just happened that the Newsletter of the Industrial History Section of the Yorkshire Archaeological Soc. carried a report by one of their members. Using this and a report by Mike Gill, and the rest plagiarised from PDMHS July Newsletter, I've managed to cobble together a suitable narrative:-

It was with some trepidation that I attended the NAMHO Conference on Saturday morning but I was relieved to find among the intrepid underground explorers some more sedentary historians. The Conference opened on Friday afternoon with a walk along the canal finishing with a look round the old Kirkstall brewery. There were some 120 delegates during the weekend, only a brave few camped since the venue made it easy to commute. The display area was to a high standard with the various groups obviously becoming used to selling their wares. The collections of photos, artefacts and publications made a good venue to congregate between lectures and just chat. Many new friendships were made and old ones renewed. When a few minutes could be snatched in the full programme, the museum itself was well worth seeing with displays from everything from steam engines to spinning looms.

There was a separate lecture theatre where Mr J. Hodgkins showed a series of slides of old photographs of Greenside Mine at times over the weekend. This innovation was a useful addition this year since there are times when a particular lecture may not be of personal interest and it was nice to have an alternative.

This did not, however, detract from the main programme of lectures which were varied in content and presentation and well put over. Each lecture lasted in the region of 45 minutes which was a reasonable time to get a subject across to the audience, without dragging on too much. The timetable was strictly kept to, thanks to the control of the Master of Ceremonies, Mr H. Barnes (NMRS President) who was seen to make the appropriate gestures to the lecturers as time ran out!

After the opening address, Mr. J. Bushell gave a talk on "Carrying Coal from Middleton", being an impassioned case for the Middleton railway being the first commercially viable steam railway in the world. There was little mention of mining but no one seemed to mind, except for some North East supporters of George Stevenson, who objected to slighting references made to that gentleman. Accusations were made that the Blenkinsop rack and pinion system was very unreliable, but these were felt to be sour grapes.

Following this, three members of Norpex gave a talk on "The Nentforce Level and Environs". The level was begun in 1777 at Alston and finished in 1839 at a cost of something like £88,000. The purpose of the level was to drain the lead mines of the Nent valley which was apparently successful, and also to discover further ore bodies which was not, as only one viable ore body was found. The Norpex group are currently surveying the level and showed some very interesting underground pictures.

After lunch Dr. Roberts, a member of staff of the Health & Safety Executive at Buxton, gave a talk on "Explosions in Coal Mines". The talk was fairly technical but very interesting. Dr. Roberts was somewhat taken aback at the knowledge displayed by some delegates of coal mining disasters. He was rash

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enough to criticise the Davy safety lamp which brought defence from the audience and again aroused the Stevenson lobby.

The next lecture was by Mr. J. M. Dickinson on "20th Century Fluorspar Mining on Greenhow". This was a fascinating and entertaining account, from personal experience, of the re-working of spoil heaps and lead mines on Greenhow for fluorspar. This mineral originally regarded as waste by the lead miners, was initially exported and then used in this country as demand increased from our own steel industry. Mr. Dickinson's tales of hair raising escapes from collapsing workings, and of using obsolete or unsuitable equipment made excellent listening.

Following a welcome tea break Mr L. Holmes of Carn Brea gave a lecture on "The Wheal Owles Disaster - A Technical Error". The disaster occurred when tin miners broke through into old flooded workings and 20 men were killed. This was due to cumulative inaccuracies in plans of the workings because successive mine surveyors failed to allow for variations in magnetic north during the existence of the mine (1812-1891). A large amount of documentary evidence exists from the court case which followed the disaster, when the mine owner was charged with failure to maintain accurate underground plans. Mr. Holmes gave his lecture in documentary style which added an element of human interest to the story.

The final lecture of the day was "The Scottish Gold Rush" by Mr. R. M. Callender a very droll account of real and imaginary Scottish gold leading up to the Kildonan gold rush of 1869. The gold rush was started by Robert Gilchrist, a veteran of the Australian gold fields and lasted some 2 years. However, gold is still to be found and Mr Callender described some methods for extracting it from the Kildonan and Suisgill burns, while being careful not to give away too many secrets. He did mention the Halfords car mat as being a useful device for collecting flakes of gold.

Sunday morning bright and early with a lecture on "The Selby Coalfield" by Mr. D. Randon of the NCB. This was an account of engineering and environmental features of what the Yorkshire Evening Post described as the 'Yorks Super Pit'. Environmental considerations were particularly important due to the risk of flooding from the river Ouse and some waste from the shafts had been used to build flood barriers. The NCB have also had to guarantee a maximum of 0.9 metres subsidence at any point, which limits the amount of coal which may be extracted. Of interest on the engineering side were the techniques of freezing the water bearing measures while driving shafts through them. In response to one questioner the reply was that "This will be an exceptionally dry mine and very little pumping will be required".!!! Ah well, time often proves us all wrong.

This was followed by "Finding out about Collieries - Source for Research in the West Riding" by John Goodchild. This lecture was linked to a visit to Caphouse Colliery on the Monday and I believe John's book on the history of Caphouse Colliery is now available.

The next lecture was "The Metal Mining Remains of Western Europe" by Mr. R. Vernon, a rapid series of slides showing remains in Norway, Sweden, the Hartz Mountains, Austria, France and Spain accompanied by a very amusing commentary.

After another excellent lunch, we had "The Leadhills Company 1903-1914 - Innovation and Unrest" by Mr. W. Harvey, an account of the social effects of changes in the industry with particular reference to strikes, in the lead mining village of Leadhills. Mr. Harvey compared the history of Leadhills with the relatively strike free history of nearby Wanlockhead, now home of the Scottish Museum of Lead Mining.

Next was "South Eastern Mines" by Mr P. Sowan of Subterranea Britannica, an idiosyncratic and very amusing investigation into the long history of a small but widely used building stone quarry near Box Hill.

Dr. I. Brown then gave "The Mining Industry and the Enthusiast" - here we had a different slant where it was shown how other countries (mainly America and India) treated mining. There, the mining companies have a much better public image because they welcome the public to look around working mines. Also they appear to have a conscience about redundant miners when mines close, because they leave sufficient funds in the community to preserve the mine remains for tourism to replace the jobs lost. It was then shown how this principle was beginning to appear in Britain with help given by NCB to such projects as Caphouse Colliery preservation.

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Next we had Mr.G.Downs-Rose with "Wanlockhead - A Descent of Syphons". We were shown how digging was carried out to trace what was on the other end of cast iron pipes disappearing into a collapse. The result, so far, was the discovery of a hydraulic pumping engine underground.

After this we had "Mining in West Devon & East Cornwall by Mr.O.Baker. - Most people associate the South West with Cambourne etc., but we were shown with an illustrated talk that there are numerous remains near Plymouth which are well worth visiting. Richest of these was the Devon Great Consols which mined vast deposits of copper.

Last item on the programme Mr.D.Greenwood told us about "Iron Ore Mining in West Cumbria". This concentrated on the deposits mined around Beckermeth where haematite was found under a deep layer of sandstone. The mines were once famous for mineral specimens but these are now lost since the mines stopped working and flooded.

To balance the lectures, several field trips were organised. On Sunday evening several people explored the Castleford Sand Mines and a trip took place on Monday to Gaphouse Colliery led by John Goodchild to tie in with his lecture.

Much hard work was done by NMPS members in providing refreshments over the weekend and a social evening was held on Saturday night.

Obituary

It is with regret that we have to report the death of Trevor Morris. Trevor, who had been a member of the Society since 1972, died of a heart attack in July.

We extend our sympathy to Trevor's family.

Meets 1984!!!!

Ever hopeful that we might have a few more field meets next year and get details in time for inclusion for the membership card I'm getting a plug in good and early, to give you all lots of time to get your details sorted out.

This year's programme has been a little spartan and I would like to see an improvement next year. If you haven't led a meet before don't be put off. It's really quite easy, you don't even have to go underground if you don't want. Offers for one day meets are equally acceptable as ones for the whole weekend.

Please volunteer to lead a meet and start thinking about where it will be NOW.

Having written the above rather tongue in cheek, I will probably be overwhelmed with meet leaders now. But I will meet that problem when it happens.

John H. McNeil.

Courses at Losehill Hall, Castleton, Derbyshire.

The following may be of interest to members:-

Oct. 21/23 Minerals, Rocks & Fossils. Ron Hill & Betsy King.

Nov. 18/20 Caves of the Peak District. Dr. Trevor Ford & Betsy King.

Mar. 2/4 '84. Mines of the Peak District. Dr. Jim Riewerts, Dr. Ford & Betsy King.

Details & booking form from:- Losehill Hall, Castleton, Derbyshire S30 2WB.

Help Wanted

- 1) Copy of Dines "The Metalliferous Mining Region of South West England" both volumes. If you have these surplus to requirements contact Damian McCurdy, 111 Barn Lane, Golborne, Warrington WA3 3PR.
- 2) Talargoch Mine, Flintshire. Jamie Thorburn (The Hollies, Bryniau, Diserth, Rhyl, would be interested in hearing from anyone who knows the whereabouts of any photos of this mine or its workforce or has any other information about the mine.
- 3) The Library would still appreciate donations of post 1979 Journals.
- 4) Would anyone who can aid two of our researchers with information regarding the following items please contact Alan Blackburn, Rookhope Nurseries, Rookhope, Weardale:- Four Cornish Pumping Engines a) Shildon Mine Engine, b) Ramshaw Mine Engine c) Beldon Mine Engine all these owned and installed by Easterby Hall & Co. 1804 & d) Stotsfieldburn Mine, Plowden & Bere OR Rookhope Valley Mining Co.
- 5) The Dyfed County Council is to sponsor a project under the Manpower Services

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Commission Community Programme to investigate the range of potential uses for derelict mineral workings and related industrial sites in the county.

It is intended to produce a register of information about various sites, and in particular to show relative amounts of potential which different sites have for reclamation compared to other activities, in the hope that any future conflicts of interest can be minimised.

It is up to Society members to detail any sites with mining or quarrying connections in the county of Dyfed and advise Mike Gill of them, in order that he may channel them to the County planner in a suitable form. It is important that features like watercourses, pump-rod tracks and dressing floors and not just "holes in the ground" are included!

6. Nigel Chapman of Brum! Brum! (14 Dorset Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B17 8EN) would like any information available with regard to Minera Mines. Contact direct.

7. Referring to lovable cuddly me as a "little hairy moron" isn't usually the best way of getting a free add. in this august publication, must be getting more tolerant with age? Will have to do something about it!!!:-

For Sale - 4 Berth Frame Tent with inner bedroom. Excellent condition. Must be seen to be believed. Including double air bed, ground sheet and cooker. £120. Tel. Richard Hewer 0484 33943.

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The Mineral Statistics of the British Isles. Part IV Lancashire & Westmoreland including the Isle of Man. Following the order form for the above in our last Newsletter, I am informed that this publication is now available at the lower price of £3.75 (including post & packing). So if the price put you off & you haven't already ordered it, send your order today to:- Mrs. H. Bird, 41, Windsor Walk, South Anston, Sheffield S31 7EL.

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Coal Mining Miscellanea.

If you happen upon anything relating to coal mining, e.g. share certs, photos, books etc., don't just ignore it as not your subject.

John Goodchild, Archivist with Wakefield Library Service, Balne Lane, Wakefield, could be interested. If you don't want it, give him a ring and let him have first refusal.

John has several items of interest to the metaliferrous mining historian, frequently coming across these in with "mixed lots". He won't sell any of these, valuable or otherwise, but he will SWOP for coal mining material. If he's nothing to swop he may be interested in buying. Phone him at work 0924 371231.

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Life and Work of the Northern Lead Miner

Somewhere within the envelope that contains all this bumph, you should find - if you have not already done so - details of, and booking form for, a book entitled "Life and Work of the Northern Lead Miner".

If we don't get enough advance bookings, then we won't be able to proceed with the publication. All those who are frightened that we will be banking your cheques and fleeing to the Bahamas on the interest, "Fear ye not". No cheques will be presented to the bank until after the closing date for orders (31st October, 1983 at the pre publication price of £11.45 including post & packing), and only then if we decide to go ahead.

Please note - make all cheques payable to NMRS.

Order your copy NOW from Geoff Greenough, 22 Elmhurst Road, St. Annes-on-Sea. Lancs. FY8 3JH.

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The next edition of the Newsletter is to be issued in November, hopefully at the Presidents Talk-in & Pie & Pea Supper. (see booking form for details of this 'not-to-be-missed' event.

All contributions to H. Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY.