

The Book"Life and Work of the Northern Lead Miner".

Members who have ordered copies of "The Book" will be concerned that they have not yet arrived. Mid-May is scarcely "early 1984" and is certainly later than the forecasts made in the last Newsletter.

In November 1983, when we decided that the interest justified going ahead with publication, we anticipated that the books would be available by, at the latest, the end of April 1984. We were foolish optimists - due to circumstances beyond our control, it has taken far longer than we expected to complete all the details necessary for the production of a first class book. The book has now been printed and has gone for binding. We sincerely hope it will not be long before the copies are available. We can only apologise for the delay and assure customers that their orders will be met shortly.

Geoff Greenough would still welcome orders (12.95 + p & p to be paid upon receipt of the book). If you need reminding of Geoff's address it is - 22 Elmhurst Road, St. Annes-on-Sea, Lancs FY8 3JH.

Future Meets

June 2/3 West Arkengarthdale. Leader David Heaton.

Meet in Lay-by opposite CB Inn NZ000031 at 10.30am. See last N/L for itinerary.

\* June 16/17 As advertised on its card, due to access difficulties but at Cwmorthin Slate Quarries and Lland Slate Quarry. Leader Damien McCurdy.

Meet in Lay-by at NG SH6 2441 at 10.30am. Damien's tel. no. is 0942 718172.

\* Above retype not clear - see Page 8 for revised details.

July 7th Murton Mine. Leader David Heaton.

Exploration of the mine with possible connections with White Mine in Gasdale. Big internal caverns with shaft work. Meet HILTON village Town Head 735206 10.30am. Those wanting to attend this meeting should apply for a form 'To enter Private Army Property' (enclose s.a.e.) from F. David Heaton, Bramham Lodge, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, and upon completion this should be returned to him for documentation. Members who do not comply with the arrangement will, unfortunately, be unable to accompany the meeting. Hilton Village, 4 miles NE Appleby, Westmoreland.

July 22/29 Greenhow Excavation. Leader J.M. Dickinson

This is a week long archaeological excavation - camping is available for those wanting it. Meet at Craven Cross NGR SE 102639 at 10.30am onwards. Those interested should phone Dicko for more details. His telephone No. is 0535 34075.

Sept. 9th General Meeting Sicklinghall Village Hall at 2.00pm

Sept. 29/30 Cwm Pennant Leader Damien McCurdy

Meet at Dolbenmaen SN507431 at 10.30am. No more details yet - again contact Damien.

Oct. 27th Annual Dinner. Newsholme Manor Restaurant, Slaymaker Lane, Four Lane Ends, Oakworth, Keighley. NGR SE028395 7 to 7.30pm for 8pm. Full details elsewhere in N/L.

Nov. 10th General Meeting and "Talk-in" with Pie and Pea Supper.

Weardale Miners and the Gas Workers. (It must have been the present activities of the N.U.M. that prompted Bill Harvey to send in this item).

Some time ago, August 1982 to be exact, I posed a query in the N/L about trade unions and the lead miners in Co Durham. The coal miners there are well served by writers on social history, but I was unable to find any references relating to the lead mines. I had no response to the query, but if one beavers away there is always the occasional breakthrough, and I have found references to what I am after in the reports of the Weardale Lead Company in the Mining Journal. They may be of interest to other members.

At the Company's AGM in 1908, it was stated that some of the miners had joined the Union of Gas Workers and General Labourers, and the directors had met a Union delegation. The Company seem to have taken a very positive attitude to the presence of the first of the 'new unions' among its workforce. They not only agreed to set up a fund to aid the men - it was registered as the Miners' Union & Benefit Society; but they also agreed to setting up a Conciliatory Board with members drawn equally from the Company and the men.

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The report to the AGM the following year commented that the Conciliatory Board had met several times, and 'various questions between the Company and its men.... arisen during the year... had been amicably adjusted.'

The situation at Weardale was very different from that appertaining at the Leadhills mines at the same time. Encouraged by the Durham men, the Leadhills miners joined the same Union, and looked for discussions with the Leadhills Company about pay and conditions. Instead, they were told there could be no Union representation, and no Union members would be employed at the mines. By October, 1909, most of the workforce had been locked out for refusing to comply. The dispute lasted until June the following year and, though now forgotten, was something of a cause celebre at the time.

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#### Rusty Pressure-Bonded Caving Ladders

(This article is condensed from a much longer report from the N.C.A. Equipment Committee)

In December 1980 some ladders were brought to the attention of the NCA Equipment Committee which appeared to have gone rusty and in some cases to have failed. All had wires which were rusty throughout their length, including inbetween the strands, and several had broken wires; the breaks in all cases being immediately on the 'C'-link side of the end rung. There appeared to be no obvious manufacturing defects in the ladders. The tests indicated that the rusting was due to the zinc galvanising being stripped from the steel wire by some chemical process. It was suggested the nitrate in fertiliser was a possible chemical agent which could be capable of having this effect and with which caving ladders might come into contact. (Irwin & Reid, 1982)

Recommendations. (Will members who borrow Society tackle please note)

1. It is essential to clean ladders thoroughly after use by scrubbing them. They should be left to dry in airy conditions, preferably unrolled, and should not be left stored in fertiliser bags or closed cupboards.
2. It can do no harm to follow industrial practice and soak wire belays and ladders in a lanolin/white spirit bath every few months.

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#### Study Courses

Plas Tan -y- Bwlch Summer courses 1984

June 16/23 - Mining in N. Wales. Course No. 840611.

July 28 - Aug 4. Mines, Mills & Furnaces. Course No. 840718

For further details contact the centre on Maentwrog (076 685) 324.

#### The Irish Association for Economic Geology

Sept. 14/16. International Conference on the "Geology & Genesis of Mineral Deposits in Ireland"

There are planned tours for the days preceeding and following the Conference. These will cover both underground & field trips. Further details and prices from John Ashton, Sec. IAEC, Tara Mines Geology Dept., Knockumber, Navan, Co. Maeth, Ireland. Tel. 046 21927 Ext 274. Telex EI 24568 Tara EI.

#### Field Studies Council

Sept. 14/21 Mines Quarries and their Railways. N. Wales.

For details contact The Drapers Field Centre, Rhyd-y-crenau, Betws-y-coed, Gwynedd LL24 0HB. Tel Betws-y-coed 494)

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#### Sygun Mine

Since members of the Society visited this mine last year on Eric's meet I understand that the farmhouse and mine have been bought with a view to the latter being opened to the public. The new owner has removed the rubbish (i.e. an old van) from outside No. 1 adit and drained the level, which is now dry. Several hundred metres of adit reach large stopings via 80' of rope into original wooden ladders. There is access via another short level and a new wooden ladder to the No. 2 level.

Both these levels are now gated, but access seems possible if you contact the owner, Mr. Phil Amies, who is keen for working parties to do work at Sygun. Anyone wanting to volunteer can contact him at the farm.

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The Mining Records Office has had a set back to its idea for getting shut of its old mine plans. Subsequent to its proposed dissemination of plans to the County Records Offices, this has been found to be illegal. The "Mineral Workings Bill" was to be put before Parliament, in an attempt to remedy this. For the present, the plans remain in London.

The Shropshire County Council had placed a temporary gate on the Somme Tunnel, near Snailbeach. During the cold weather, bats had taken up residence and moves were now afoot to make the gate permanent. As this had originally been a temporary move for public safety, and the level was the only one accessible in the area, NAMHO is to write to the Council opposing such a move.

On the instruction of the Lake District Special Planning Board, the Glencoyndale entrance to the Greenside Mine is about to be securely gated by members of C.A.T. The entrance is on land which is the subject of an ownership dispute between the Board and the National Trust - the future access position is unclear.

The current phase of shaft capping operations on Alston Moor is nearing completion. It is anticipated that the next move would be the gating of levels which were near footpaths. The Eden District Council intends to use top-pivot gates, which would be bolted shut, but not locked. The situation will require careful monitoring, to ensure that land owners do not provide their own locks!

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A long time ago, I promised to write something for this newsletter. It's probably nothing like you expected, but here goes. It's in four parts by the way, so don't say you haven't been warned in case you want to cancel your subs!  
Dave Carlisle.

#### Copperbelt Memories

##### Part One - "On Being an L.M.O."

October is known as suicide month on the Copperbelt because it's hot and humid. Needless to say, that's when I arrived in Mufulira, but that particular October, in 1964, was very special for some people as it contained Zambian Independence Day - "Sing a song of Zambia, brave and free" etc, etc.

There were four of us fresh out from the UK that year, all Learner Mine Officials, new graduates, ready to find out all about a hole in the ground which was at that time (and may still be) the biggest underground copper mine in the world.

Having established ourselves in single quarters with single bed (one) stove (one) table Dining (one) chairs dining (two) and chairs easy (two), we spent the first six months in the different mine technical departments - stope planning, mine planning, survey, ventilation, draw control and R & D. The only one of these which may need some explaining is Draw Control, which involved sampling the Black and Sub-Level Cave drawpoints and predicting when the cut-off grade of (I think) 1.5% Copper metal would be reached. The object was to work the stopes in such a way that the hangingwall produced the minimum dilution of ore.

Perhaps the most interesting department at that time was Stope Planning because they were developing layouts for "Cascade Mining" - a sort of mechanised sub-level retreat stoping. The ore was taken off the sub-levels in echelon, using fan drilling with drifters, retreating from a caving hangingwall. Caterpillar 950 shovels took the ore to the main passes on a load-and-carry operation.

On the lighter side the R & D department under an aggressive little Scotsman (where are you now, Bob?) was involved in the practical development of a long-hole raising technique copied from Swedish practice. Holes were drilled from top to bottom using a Halco D.T.H. rig for the centre hole (4") of a five-hole burn out, with the remainder of the round drilled 2" diameter by "Bar machine" (drifter). By the time you had got these holes down 70ft or so, you can imagine the loss of accuracy, even with the most careful setting up, so it followed that the rounds, fired off in 6' "slices" from the bottom were often very difficult to get off. The method of charging (about 6ft per round) was to tie a piece of 1" dia. bamboo to a long piece of chord, attached to the centre point of the bamboo. The bamboo was then let down the hole on the chord until it cleared the bottom. At this point, it assumed a horizontal mode and could be pulled up against the bottom of the hole and the chord tied off at the top. A few small lumps of mud dropped down generally formed a base for the pills, so the holes could then be charged, using top initiation with SD Electric dets.

We got one of these damned raises up about 40' out of a planned 75' and found that we just couldn't charge the holes from the top anymore. We suspected massive sockets and probably a lot of cracks as well. There was nothing for it but to set off up from the bottom by conventional means with jackhammer raise pins and plans - all with the whole lot hanging above like dog's bollocks! Now this is the sort of time when you don't see too much of our African friends - especially after Independence of course, so I had to borrow my mate J.B, another L.M.O. - and we did it together. We had to tidy up with a couple of conventional rounds from the bottom before long-hole charging was resumed. My two Africans came back then, I never did find out where they'd been!

Anyway, after about six months, I'd got to know the mine reasonably well. At that time,  
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the East-West trending A, B and C orebodies had been developed to depths of about 2400 ft. a four mile strike length in a country rock of quartzite. There were two main hoisting shafts, No. 7 (Storke) and Muf. West (Prain) - can't remember the number of this. Between the two was 14 shaft which, if I remember right, was going to be enlarged and re-equipped.

(End of Part One)

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### Book Reviews

The Alum Farm by A.B. Turton.

Includes description of alum mining in Yorks. £8.75 inc Postage. Published by George Kelsall, The Bookshop, 22 Church St. Littlebrough, Lancs OL15 9AA. I.J. Brown.

Caving Practice and Equipment Edited by David Judson. Published by David & Charles. ISBN 0 7153 8155 5, pp238. Price £12.95.

What? Mike Gill reviewing a potholing book - read on.

This is a valiant attempt by David to assimilate articles by specialist authors, from the B.C.R.A., with the intention of presenting a review of caving practice and equipment in use in the early 1980's.

It is a book that all those venturing underground would do well to study in detail. There is discussion and analysis of topics ranging from: suitable clothing, equipment, digging, scientific techniques, expedition organisation, mine exploration, access, through to cave archaeology. It also has the advantage of being lavishly illustrated with a large selection of excellent monochrome photographs and diagrams.

The book is very much in line with B.C.R.A.'s long standing policy of promoting higher standards in all aspects of caving. Which, in view of the increasing numbers of inexperienced people taking advantage of SRT etc. etc, to participate in trips that they strictly should not, then the protection of standards must be paramount - buy it!

### Industrial Archaeology in Gloucestershire

The 3rd edition of the above has just been produced by members of the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology & has been well received locally. They feel that some of our members might be visiting their area some time, particularly on holiday and might welcome having their gazetteer of some 126 IA sites and 18 museums beforehand. The new edition has been completely revised up to late 1983 and is edited by Rev. W.V. Awdry, the well known author of Railway and Childrens books. Size 10" x 7", 36pp, 23 photos, 3 maps. Price £1.75 inc. postage from their Hon. Sec - Dr. R. Wilson, Oak House, Hamshill, Coaley, Dursley, Glos. GL11 5EH.

And now, as they say, for something completely different, or is it? The next two reviews I feel are worthy of mention.

This first item I think is by Ivor Brown, although I received it from Mike Gill, so if there is any dispute over royalty payments I had better hold money in trust.

### Postcards

A set of 16 b/w postcards showing early coal mining photographs has been published by The Yorkshire Miner newspaper and is available from them at 2 Huddersfield Road, Barnsley S. Yorks. Price about £1.50.

The photographs are believed to have been taken by the distinguished mining engineer W.H. Hughes prior to 1892. He used some of them in a book on coal mining published at this time. They are thought to have been taken in the thick seam in the Black Country particularly at Coneygar Colliery at Dudley and are an excellent record of mining methods of the period.

(Further research by I.J.B. indicates that the above is correct, the original collection of glass slides contains several underground shots in the Dudley limestone mines and others of Cornish and Derbyshire Mining areas. There is a reference to the collection in Barton's reprint of 'Mongst Mines and Miners by Burrow & Thomas p 9)

I.J.B.

The next is a bit from Kamisole Kate - he grovels so sweetly how can I refuse him anything? I think it's a bit stingy though to just send a photostat (black & white too) and not the real thing. This is an Isle of Man First Day cover and supporting blurb which accompanies them. I'll have to take his word for it about how good they are in full colour. The stamps depict the Great Laxey Wheel: The 20½p one shows a picture of the wheel in all its working splendour in a magnificent rural setting. The 10p one is a copy of the working drawings of Robert Casement. This review would seem to be overdue somewhat - the date of issue being 18 May 1983 but no doubt it should be possible to obtain these covers from the I.O.M. philatelic Service. (The blurb with this cover makes a good item by itself as follows:-

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### "Great Works of Human Genius - The Great Laxey Wheel

The selection of one particular work to mark the achievements of human genius and appropriate for representation on a set of stamps was difficult to make. However, in the Isle of Man we have a striking and effective reminder of the ability and foresight of a Manxman, Robert Casement, who was Engineer to The Laxey Mining Company during a period of its prosperity in the last century. The Great Laxey Wheel "The Lady Isabella" is perhaps one of the best known examples of industrial archaeology of its period in the British Isles and is certainly one of the largest water-wheels ever built. It was designed by Robert Casement who supervised its construction.

Archaeological evidence suggests that iron ore was mined in Man in the Dark Ages but the earliest accounts of mining at Laxey date from about 1781. The most productive years were between 1848 and 1890, and it was during this period, when shafts were being deepened and drainage problems became acute, that The Great Laxey Wheel was conceived and built for the purpose of draining the mine workings.

To run a water-wheel of the power capacity required for the task at Laxey, a complicated system of lades or mill-races was evolved using water from a wide catchment area. The water is fed through a cistern in the hillside to a pipe which arrives at a level 18m. below the top of the wheel and by means of a kneebend the water then shoots through the circular tower supporting the spiral staircase and arrives at the top of the wheel. The wheel itself is of the pitch-backshot type and is constructed of 2 x 24 cast iron segments, each segment accomodating 7 buckets. These segments are connected to a central plate or hub of cast-iron by 2 x 24 arms and 4 x 24 tie rods. Half the straps lie in plane with the arms, the rest are crossed to give the wheel sideways stability against wind pressure. Midway between rim and hub there is a cast-iron bracing, intersected like the rim in 2 x 24 parts, assembled at the arms. The rim, however, is assembled at the spokes, the arms being fastened to the centre of each section. The outside of the hub contains mortices into which the arms are tenoned and securely bolted from the side. Then follows a perforated and crossbraced part, and finally the hub ends in a massive ring, wedged on to the main axle which lies in two cast-iron bearings supported by oakwood blocks. A system of rods was employed to transfer the power generated by the wheel to drainage pumps down the engine shaft of the mine. After its acquisition by the Isle of Man Government certain modifications were made to strengthen the fabric of the wheel but visually it remains true to its original design.

The Great Laxey Wheel was opened on 27 September, 1854 by the Governor, the Hon. Charles Hope and named "The Lady Isabella" in honour of his wife. It is many years since the mine workings were closed but the Wheel is maintained in perfect working order and is a constant source of interest and wonder to visitors and a memorial to the genius of its designer."

Seeing as how I'm dealing with Kates correspondence I may as well use one of his other points here. (Fear not, there's only one more after this and its not at all painful).

"I'm endeavouring to compile a catalogue and list of illustrations of GB metal mines, i.e. paintings, engravings, prints. My own collection now numbers 50+ prints and I have some 170 additionally listed. Should any member have in their possession or know the whereabouts of such material in public or private collections I would welcome as much information as possible. To save me being inundated (such would be my good fortune?) with info. re those already reproduced in modern mining literature, it may be said that my listing includes these."

His last is his usual plea for NMRS Publications to complete his set. These are:- Newsletters Vol. 1. 1963; Memoirs Vol. 2. No. 1. 1971; Individual Survey Series No. 4 - Greenhow, 1970 and No. 6. Teign Valley, 1973.

He says that if anyone could supply him with these he would be eternally grateful

"Oh! You should be so lucky". If anyone can relieve his frustrations, so to speak, then he/she can be contacted by their alias:- P.J. Challis, 43 Fieldway, Liverpool L15 7LU Tel. 051 722 9754.

You won't beleive this but "it" has the audacity to address me as Toad!!

### For Sale

A possible source of releif for the above could be this ad from Mr. F. Hockley of 61 Disraeli Terrace, Leeds LS11 6NT.

He has 33 volumes of our Publications plus 5 Statistics that he wishes to sell at a reasonable price. Also Bob Clough's "Lead Smelting Mills". He wishes the buyer to view and collect if possible to save him listing them. (There are Committee Members who live in Leeds and who attend Meets who may be persuaded to collect these on behalf of any prospective buyer etc!)

For Sale cont'd.

Alan Winrow is preparing A Series of mining photos of present day mining remains: Postcard to 10"x 8" size, black & white; and also 7" x 5" mounted, Sepia toned, ready for framing.

List available - Phone him on Doncaster 27600 and he'll send you one.

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Alan also would like to hear from anyone who can help him with an article he is preparing for publication by the Society. He is after information about 2 subjects:-

- a) re the development of rock drills in metaliferous mines
- b) Dry stone arching in lead mines - particularly London Lead Co.

If you can help Alan's address is 1 Raby Road, Wheatley, Doncaster DN2 4BZ.

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#### More on Cattish Mine, Brough

Further to David Heaton's note in the last N/L about a collapse of the Cattish Mine, Brough, Mr. W.J. Houston adds :-

"Mr. Heaton states that this mine closed down 100 years ago; whereas this may be technically true, it certainly opened up again not long after this closure and was a very successful producer of barytes under the Reynoldson family of Brough until about 1923.

I think it is worth mentioning this in case someone uses this reference in a book or article in future - it does go to show how these sort of inaccuracies can start and once accepted in print, they are then taken as "historically correct". "

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For some reason Damien McCurdy seems embarrassed because he reads the Financial Times. The following snippet goes to show though, that its not all dry figures and finances. As Damien says "a somewhat different picture to that painted by the Daily Post as quoted in the February N/L". This is from the FT of 14 January, 1984.

"The news that a Welsh Mine will soon be producing commercial quantities of gold is likely to excite a great many people in Britain - but not Mr Bill Hall, owner of the Bontddu Hall Hotel in North Wales. "The gold is up there alright," he says, pointing to the hills behind his hotel. "But it's in pockets. I've seen it before; and they come here, find a pocket, get on tele, and then boom, the money's gone and they've left."

This time, however, the men working down the mine behind Mr Hall's hotel say they are not leaving. Carnarvon Mining, which went to work on the 130-year-old Clogau St. David's gold mine early last year, is now crushing ore at the rate of 8 to 10 tonnes a day. More importantly, it estimates a yield of around  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce of high quality gold for every tonne crushed.

"They seemed to have solved the puzzle of how to locate the rich pockets of gold in the veins," says Mr. Michael Long, mining analyst at Sheppards and Chase, the London stockbroker which is expected to handle Carnarvon's entry to the Unlisted Securities Market this summer. Unlike Mr. Hall, Mr Long is keenly enthusiastic about Carnarvon's work.

According to Mr Alan Grierson, the Crown Mineral Agent, who grants mining leases, Carnarvon is not the only group in the UK moving into commercial production of gold. "There is a marked resurgence in interest in gold in this country. Many companies are looking for it and I reckon we'll have half a dozen mines, each employing between 20 and 30 miners, in the fairly near future."

Traditionally, gold mining in this country has been left to itinerant greengrocers and postmasters in Wales. The medium-sized companies have not been interested in high-risk ventures and the big companies, like RTZ and Anglo-American, have concentrated on large overseas mines. "This is changing," Mr. Grierson says. "With all its warts, Britain is a relatively stable economy. Many of the big oil and mineral groups have become less obsessed with 10,000-tonne-a-day mines in countries where their future doesn't look so secure. A lot of companies are thinking that half a dozen little ones in Britain isn't such a bad idea."

But the unhappy history of gold mining in Wales makes the British fascination with overseas mines understandable. Since the middle of the last century, scores of companies and miners have scoured the old Welsh county of Merioneth. In 1862 & 63, for example, some 12 gold mining companies were floated in London, raising nearly £700,000 at a time when £1 paid a miner's wage for a week. By the end of 1863, however, results from the mines showed that City expectations had been too high on output and the share prices collapsed. Rampant fraud and corruption were blamed for many of the failures. Since then, some 13 companies & individuals have worked the precise spot which Carnarvon is exploiting, near Barmouth. The last and most successful was Saint David's Gold and Copper Mines set up in 1898. Between 1900 and 1907, it mined 1.5 tonnes of gold. But according to local histories, a similar amount left the mines in workmen's pockets.

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Today, five Cornish miners work for Carnarvon under an agreement which calls for everyone to be sacked if one miner is found stealing. Security, however, has yet to be fully organised. The mine's first output, 4.5 ounces of rough gold, was delivered to Blundells, the London gold refiners, in a jam jar. Carnarvon has a few more points going for it than honest miners and reputable backers. It has Mr John Ruttenbury, a seasoned geologist, helping to guide the miners toward the rich pockets of gold. It also has Mr. Jock Williams, a genuine "old man of the mountains", who along with his father and grandfather helped to dig the 4.5 miles of tunnels which burrow through the acreage leased by Carnarvon.

Mr Wyatt says that the Clogau mine has produced 2.5 tonnes of gold in its 130-year life. "We think the old men were right; they just didn't have the right financial support to keep at it." He also says that drilling with diamond bits will begin later this year, once some £1m to £2m is raised through a sale of about 25 to 35% of the company's shares. "We aim to prove reserves for 5 to 10 years' production before installing a major production plant" he says.

The company envisages a throughput of around 300 tonnes of ore per week which, assuming a yield of half an ounce of gold per tonne, should give an annual output of around 7,500 ounces. With overheads and mining costs of about \$100 per tonne, this would give the mine a rough operating profit per year of around \$1.2m (£858,000).

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Annual Dinner more details as promised on page 1.

This year is to be held at The Manor Restaurant, Slaymaker Lane, Four Lane Ends, Oakworth, Keighley. NGR SE028395. Road directions:- From the A629 roundabout in the centre of Keighley, take the Oakworth road into Oakworth (1 & 9/10th miles), look out for turn to the right signposted 'Crematorium' (this is Slaymaker Lane), follow to cross roads, where Restaurant can be seen.

There will be space for caravans and a field for camping, any dues to be settled by campers with the restaurant. Bed and Breakfast is available at £10.50 per head. Book this direct with the Restaurant - Tel Haworth 42964.

As to the Dinner itself:- Price £8.00 per head. Appetizer of Soup du Jour or Fruit Juice; Main Course either Menu No. 1. Fillet of Pork, served in sauce of Apple, Cider, Cream & white wine or Menu No. 2. Coq-au-Vin. Chicken in a red wine sauce with mushrooms and button onions; Choice of sweet; Coffee & chocolate mints.

NOTE Your choice of the main menu is to be shown on the booking form attached.

Time 7 to 7.30pm for 8pm. (Traditional Ale by Taylors).

All bookings (with full remittance) to J.M. Dickinson, 8 Hazel Grove Road, Sutton-in-Craven, Nr. Keighley, W. Yorks BD20 7QT, on the booking form provided with this N/L as soon as possible, but no later than 6th October, 1984.

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Wanlockhead - Winter '83/'84

In the last Newsletter I said that I would tell you more about the Adit, past the Engine House - well I can't. In November we did manage a very wet trip down the adit again. This was most useful, the water level had dropped to that of the summer, so we pushed on as far as we could, managing to get to a cross cut (Hard Cross Cut), but unfortunately no further. From the 1953 plan we know that the adit dropped 2' from where we were to where we wanted to get, (the other end of the Hard cross cut). Unfortunately the water level was still too high to allow us to do so. With only 3" air space, and a drop of 2', going on did not make a lot of sense! A good deal of photography was done, the results of which were very good and gave Geoff a bit more information.

Water, as in days of old, is still a real problem. Hopefully, if funds permit, a drag line can be put to work on the adit portal and our real water problems will be over.

Since the trip down the adit, ski-ing has been very much the order of the day, even at Wanlockhead! However, one weekend in February found us once more at the mine entrance. The level we use at present is very old in origin. It struck the vein about 70' from the head of the shaft we are using to get into the mine. A dig was decided on, to see if we could get direct into these old levels. Our first task was to dig our way into the mine through 6' of good snow. Once inside we took another look at the collapse we had dug at on two previous occasions, but with no real enthusiasm. The level has been used as a dump for many years, and at the collapse its about 2½' high. It appears that we are digging into a collapsed slope. You clear a small hole, then listen to everything moving, and filling up your hole. After 5 hours of this we had a hole big enough to look in!! Not very nice, but at least its stopped falling about our ears. We also have a slight? problem of where to put all the

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muck. Our passage is about 6" higher now! Our next task is to make our hole safe (comparitively) from stuff coming from above, and clearing the immediate area to start timbering forward.

I had to go to Fort Augustus to collect our mobile field station ( a posh way of saying a big caravan). Overnight several trees fell down! We now have the timber to get started. Equipped with a small box on wheels, and galvanised steel in the floor, we are now set to get the job really going.

ST P PRESS The adit should be dug out early in April, using a digger with a two ton bucket.  
Jerry Landless.

### Constitution

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a copy of the proposed new constitution. This will be presented to the September General Meeting on 9th September, 1984 for acceptance by the Society.

For the benefit of anyone who isn't aware, we have applied to the Charity Commission for charitable status and, as far as we can see, they are viewing our case in a favourable light. As part of the process, we had to submit, among other things, a copy of our constitution; about which they recommend that certain amendments ought to be made. We, therefore, took the opportunity to update and simplify the whole constitution, the result is now presented.

### Library Photocopying Service

Richard Hewer, the Society Librarian, had recently started a photocopying service for members wishing to borrow certain articles from the Library. Just as this was developing, and gaining a regular following we have found that we cannot continue to offer this facility. The reason:- Copyright. Although NMRS publishes the various articles, the author retains copyright, and it has been pointed out to us that we would have to obtain their permission for each copy that we do. Sorry to all concerned, it was a good idea, but.....

### Changes

Since the typing of pages 1 - 7 we have been at the General Meeting of the Society held today at Sicklinghall. At this meeting certain changes were mentioned. I have tried to correct details on Page 1, but this didn't appear to be a great success - so here goes with a retype, of relevant items.

### Meets

June 16/17th NOT as advertised on Meets card but, owing to access difficulties, at Cwmorthin Slate Quarry and Manod Slate Quarry. Leader Damien McCurdy.

Meet in Lay-By at NGR SH692441 at 10.30am. If more details are required contact Damien on 0942 718192.

Also Greenhow Excavation. The meet will start on the Sunday 22nd July, and not as per Meets card (21st), and will continue all week and finish on the following Sunday (29th). This should help all - those who have to work during the week can go at weekends; holiday makers for as long as suits; and day trippers when they can. Limited camping is being arranged - but be sure to contact Dicko first. Tel No. 0535 34075.

### Address

Will all members please note that John Macs post code, as printed on the Meets Card, is the wrong one and his mail is arriving by devious routes. It should be M31 3NB.

The next edition of the Newsletter is to be issued in September, hopefully along with our next publication BM25 Memoirs.

Please send all contributions for the Newsletter in good time please to H.Houghton, 29 Parkside Road, Meanwood, Leeds LS6 4LY. Tel 0532 758505.

Please note for any correspondence with Society Officers requiring a reply, enclose a SAE.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION OF THE  
NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY.

1. The Society shall be called the Northern Mine Research Society, hereinafter referred to as "the Society".
2. The aims of the Society shall be to advance the education of the public in, and encourage the study of, all historical and technical aspects of mining and associated subjects.
3. The Society shall publish its findings for general issue at least once per year.
4. The income and property of the Society shall be applied solely to the pursuance of the aims of the Society as set forth in this constitution.
- 5.0 Membership of the Society is open to all those interested in furthering its expressed aims.
- 5.1 Applications for membership of the Society shall be made on the official Society membership application form.
- 5.2 The Committee reserve the right to refuse an application without giving a reason.
- 5.3 A person may apply for membership in one of the following categories:
  - 1 - FULL. Normally aged 18 years or over. Minors may be accepted, with written parental approval, at the Committee's discretion.
  - 2 - FAMILY. Being a member of a family in which there is one Full Member. Those under 18 shall have no voting rights, and none shall receive publications.
  - 3 - OVERSEAS. Aged 18 years or over, and living outside the U.K. and Eire.
  - 4 - ASSOCIATE. Organisations interested in the aims of the Society. They shall receive all of the publications issued to Full Members. The organisation and its members shall have no voting rights and shall have no insurance cover on Society field meetings.
6. The Committee shall advise any General Meeting of proposed changes in subscription rates.
7. Members are entitled, except where otherwise stated in this constitution, to vote at General Meetings, to make application to use Society equipment, to receive one copy of each Secretarial notice. Also, one copy of each publication shall normally be provided from the Annual Subscription, except at the Committee's discretion for reprinted or specially funded works. These said works shall, however, be offered for sale to members at preferential rates.
8. Members shall keep the aims of the Society in mind, at all times, and any work done in its name shall be executed in a responsible manner.
9. A leader shall be appointed for each of the Society's field meetings, both above and below ground. Any member failing to comply with a leader's reasonable request shall be reported to the next Committee Meeting.
10. Any member not behaving in a responsible manner shall be liable for expulsion from the Society. Membership shall cease if, at a General Meeting of the Society, of which the member shall have twenty one days' clear notice, and at which the member shall have been given the opportunity of being heard, a resolution, on which a ballot shall be taken, agrees that it is against the Society's interests that such membership be continued.
11. Subscriptions are due on the 1st of January. Having received a reminder, those members whose subscriptions remain unpaid by April 1st, shall cease to be members and have their names removed from the membership list.

12. On the recommendation of the Committee, Honorary members may be elected by a majority vote at a General Meeting, adequate notice having been given to all voting members. Honorary Members need not already be a Society Member, and shall have all the rights and privileges of Full Membership.
13. The Society officers shall be, a President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Recorder, Librarian and Public Relations Officer. They shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting, and shall form the Committee. All Officers, at their discretion, may appoint such assistants, as are required, for fulfilment of their office.
14. Nominations for the election of officers, must be sent in writing, with a proposer and seconder, to the Secretary, at least twenty eight clear days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
15. The management of the Society shall be conducted by the Committee, three shall make a quorum. Full minutes, of all such meetings, shall be taken and brought before the next General Meeting.
16. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt any person of special knowledge.
17. The Committee shall have power to deal with any matter that is not covered by this Constitution.
18. The Committee shall not jeopardise the solvency of the Society by incurring potential and foreseeable debts on behalf of the Society.
19. The Society shall maintain all financial accounts in its name. All cheques drawn on those accounts shall be signed by two of the designated officers.
20. The Editor shall be responsible for the whole of the finance, production and sale of the Society publications with which he is concerned.
21. The Society Treasurer and Editor shall keep proper accounts and submit them, after auditing, to the Annual General Meeting.
22. The Society shall appoint an independent auditor.
23. A General Meeting shall be held every quarter. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the first quarter of the year.
24. A General Meeting shall consist of at least three officers and six voting members of the Society.
25. Officers shall submit written reports to all General Meetings.
26. Alterations to this constitution shall normally be made at an Annual General Meeting. Proposed amendments must be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary, not less than twenty eight clear days' before the date of the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary shall give fourteen clear days' notice to members of such proposed amendments. No alteration shall be made which shall cause the body to cease to be a charity at law.
27. An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of the Society may be called by 20 voting members, giving the Secretary written notice of the proposal and including details of the proposer, seconder and the requisite number of petitioners. The Secretary shall fix the date of the meeting, which must be held within three months of the date of receipt of the said proposal, and give at least fourteen days' clear notice to members. An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting shall have the same powers as an Annual General Meeting.
28. The Society shall not be dissolved or terminated, except at an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting called for that purpose. Any property remaining after the satisfaction of all proper debts and liabilities shall not be distributed among the members but shall be given to such similar charity or charitable purpose as the meeting, subject to the approval of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, shall decide.