NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY
Newsletter September 1989.

"Oops! I've done it again" (bragging or hoping ?).Its nowhere near my birthday so must be something to do with the last Newsletter. Oh yes, I've remembered what it was, I'd put the wrong date for Roy Paulsons/John Jones meet,(is 9/10 Sept.) and then someone pinched the details of Malcolms meet of 24/25 June out of the said periodical. It had been mentioned in the Feb. edition so this could account for some members turning up for it. Not that I've been told officially, like, 'cos I'm still waiting for a meet report.

To prove that this hard-hitting rag is not afraid of naming names, meet reports are still wanted from :- Malcolm Street (again); Geoff Greenough; N.A. Chapman; Nic Catford; Alen McFadzean; John Dodds and Jamie Thorburn (as his meet was only last weekend it could be argued that it's not fair to include Jamie. It could be, pity it wasn't.)

After saying all that however, I can sympathise with any who feel let down by a poor turnout after all their efforts in organising a meet in the first place, if they say words to the effect of "if you'd turned up on the day I'd have no need to tell you what you'd missed. So...."(Puts out tongue and makes rude sign)

Now somebody, somewhere must be telepathic. I'd just finished typing the above when the phone rang and John Mc said, "Hello". He also mentioned his feelings on this subject. In the first post next day, the following was unfolded:-

"*Field Meetings*

Having just returned from an interesting meeting around Talargoch mine, I feel compelled to make some observations about these field events.

The leader travelled some 80 or 90 miles from his home to attend (even hiring a car to avoid letting members down when his own vehicle broke down) and arrived replete with photocopies of maps and plans to distribute to the "assembled multitudes".

Attendance? John McNeil - who organised the field calendar - and self. Blanchland - Similar state of affairs, but this time with only John Mc to accompany the leader. A two day programme, mark you! Black Country? Leader plus one other and self. And so on.

What a truly miserable state of affairs! What a disappointment for those who take time, trouble and expense to organise and lead these events and only two members turn up. Sure, I am throwing stones in a glasshouse, but even allowing for those who would have to travel unacceptable distances, who have no interest in a certain area, who have been there before, who are on holiday, who are working etc., etc., surely, for goodness sake, we have over 400 members? Could we not expect half a dozen to put in an appearance? Seemingly not so.

Well! if the Secretary <u>does</u> manage to find willing leaders for 1990, he may as well throw in the towel, judging from the abysmal response to this year's wide ranging and varied programme.

If he does, then there should be nobody quick to winje and carp about lack of events. The Society will have got what it deserves. Strong stuff? Perhaps. What are we going to do about it? The answer I feel sure, will be the same as always - deafening silence!

Dick Bird.

Enough said. Ed.

<u>Vacancies and Appointments.</u>

By this time next year N.M.R.S. could be just a fond memory. John Mc. retires as Hon. Sec. at the AGM and so far we haven't exactly been trampled underfoot in the rush by budding administrators. Truth be known, no interest whatsoever has been shown by volunteers to take on the post. As well as little Johnnie going, there is getting to be a desperate need for a transfusion of new blood onto the committee. Most of us nowadays have too many other commitments using up what little free time we have. Coupled with this is the fact that we have held the posts for so long that we have grown stale. Why then you may ask, do we keep on doing the job ? Simply because we can't get anyone to take it over.

I would urge all members to give this matter serious thought.

Most positions would be relinquished to the right applicant.

Future Meets.

Sept.9/10 - Derbyshire. Leaders R.Paulson Tel 0629 534775 & J.A.Jones Tel 0509 672125.

Sat. Meet at Cromford Market Place NGR SK295569 at 1.30pm.

Sun. Meet at Godfrey Hole, near Wirksworth NGR SK270538 at 10.30pm

See May newsletter.

(Note ye well ! - Give Roy a ring if you intend going so he has an idea of numbers).

Nov.11 - General Meeting followed by Talk In and Pie & Pea Supper. Sicklinghall Village Hall NGR SE364484. Starts at 2.00pm.

Don't forget- Mushy Peas make your hands terribly messy if you don't bring a dish, and most folks can't pick many up in their fingers if they forget a spoon.

For the uninitiated then. As soon as we can decently hurry through the General Meeting we spend the rest of the afternoon and evening being entertained; drinking tea; chatting; looking at exhibits; drinking tea; lecture listening, etc. etc.

Never getting 'owt fer nowt', for all this to happen someone has to be prepared to do it. Therefore, if you've any slides to slide (subject content can be anything at all), exhibits to exhibit, dances to do ? then feel free.

You should have got the message by now, so fill in the booking form that should be enclosed elsewhere amongst this bumph, and let me have it back forthwith. Ta !

Further To.

The bit about underground mountain biking in the last newsletter seems to have been quite a conversation piece up and down. One member even informs me that now you can buy motorised skateboards. There's an idea.....

Book Reviews

1.Coal,Crisis & Conflict, The 1984-85 Miners Strike in Yorkshire by J. & R.Winterton. Pub. Manchester University Press, March 1989. Price £45 (hardback) £13.95 paperback. 360pp, 15 tables, 7 figs, no photos.

The Wintertons are both local college lecturers who were fortuitously researching the coal industry in Yorkshire even before the strike commenced. They already had close contact with the local miners and continued with this through the strike and its aftermath. In this study they trace the origins of the strike to the crisis which continues to afflict the industry, they analyse how the strike was mobilised, organised and maintained as well as the factors which ultimately led to its defeat. It is a concentrated work full of facts and figures, a work of obvious dedication but unfortunately slanted to the "left". It forms a record which will, in future years, be indispensable and the figures in particular are very clear and tell their own story.

To one, like the reviewer, who was heavily affected by the strike, although admittedly on the fringe of the action, the book is a little disappointing. We all knew that what has happened to the industry over the last five years was inevitable but without the strike it might have been done more orderly. We all knew that in the 10 years 1979 to 1989 many mines would close (in fact in West Yorkshire alone the number fell from 29 to 8 with 2 more to close before 1989 is finished). Many, however, wouldn't believe the professional advisers and that is why, for example, West Yorkshire Council actually commissioned the Wintertons in 1984 to put these figures down on paper. The data was available to everyone but politicians on both sides chose not to believe it. So the miners were led into a position where they made the biggest mistake of all time, and completely ignores the facts that coal stocks were high, demand was falling and in front lay the summer months. It was a strike born to fail.

The book sticks to the basic details, the endless meetings, the conflicts, deaths on the picket line, murder on the motorways, the soup kitchens, the scabs, the mounted police and the beating of the shields. Only in the last chapter does it consider the involvement of other influential movements such as local and national Government. The Yorkshire authorities generally came out completely in support of the industry (not necessarily the 'miner'). After the 1982 Leeds Conference on Mining and the Environment it became immediately obvious that the environmental problems were about to diminish rapidly but for other reasons - pit closures and the whole emphasis was changed to support for the industry. Most persons involved have their own views on what happened, but this is a fine book, full of facts, well considered and better balanced than any other book seen on the

strike. One point annoys however: the references to coal mines in Calderdale on pages 180 and 217 are completely incorrect, the Calderdale collieries closed many years ago. The writers do in fact mean the collieries of Kirklees!

I.J.Brown.

Footnote

A selection of books containing sections on the miners strike in Yorkshire is normally available in the shop of the Yorkshire Mining Museum at Caphouse Colliery. The list of books on Yorkshire coalmines continues to grow slowly. Another recent title from Wakefield Historical Publications deals with Lofthouse Colliery 1872-1921. This and other WH Publications are also available in the shop.

2.The Mines of the Gwydyr Forest. Part 1 Llanwrst Mine and its neighbours. John Bennett and Robert W.Vernon. Gwydyr Mines Publications, 7 St. Johns Way, Cuddington, Cheshire CW8 2LX. ISBN 0 9514798 0 6. A5., soft covers., 60pp., maps, plans etc. Price £4.95 (+37p postage).

This little book, by members John and Robert (usually 'Rob'!) is the first of seven individual volumes which have been gestating for some time. Part 1 deals essentially with the Llanwrst, Alltwen and Gorlan Mines and is the first successful attempt to chronicle these mines' histories, often only lightly touched upon in previous published works.

Apart from the obvious descriptions of the geology and mineralisation, the story of the companies which worked here is a fascinating indictment of their principles, men mining gullible investors' pockets rather than lodes. Super stuff it is too, a sort of 19th century "Dallas"!

Those who have ventured (before the Forestry Commission's days of course!) into the subterranean depths here and have seen the complex pumping arrangements in Llanwrst Mine, will appreciate how it all worked since Fig. 6, for example, shows this perfectly.

The final part of the book outlining the current remains, goes to some length to emphasise that much of the surface here is out of bounds, (other than the engine house) since this district continues to be one where access is extremely restricted and sensitive.

John and Rob are to be congratulated on this, their first 'baby' and the arrival of the remaining 'offspring' is eagerly awaited.

Dick Bird

3.Elizabethan Copper. The History of the Company of Mines Royal 1568-1605 by Professor M.B.Donald. A reprint of this classic work. Pub. Michael Moon, 41/43 Roper Street, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 7BS. 405pp. Price £25 (+£2 p & p) till 1/1/90 when it will increase to £30 + p & p. Limited edition of 1000.

The Company of Mines Royal was the first company formed in England to manufacture an article - copper- as opposed to trading abroad.

Elizabeth's chief adviser, William Cecil, used the Letters Patent system to build up a technological background for his preparations to meet an attack from Philip of Spain some 25 years before the Armada set sail.

The mines were located in Cumberland and Cornwall and a smelter in South Wales near Neath. A series of contemporary letters provides a very clear picture of mining practice at this period.

German scientists were brought over to England and were financed by the famous commercial banking houses in Augsburg. They used the techniques which had been laid down in Agricola's *De Re Metallica* and their notebook, which is now in Alnwick Castle, provides a useful commentary on the details of copper smelting in this book. As a result of litigation between the Crown and the Earl of Northumberland regarding the mining rights of the company in Cumberland the legal position was thoroughly considered and this analysis was of great use when the Statue of Monopolies was drafted in 1624.

Biographies of the shareholders and details of the finance, production and cost accounting make an interesting commentary on the structure of the company and of the reasons for its development and which have affected all subsequent thought.

The book tells the very human story of the fight of men against unequal odds to make a success of the first venture of its kind and how, however ill they fared, they never gave up the struggle.

4.The Iron Moor by Alen McFadzean. Published by Red Earth Publications, 7 Silver Street, Marton, Ulverston, Cumbria. 148pp, 16 plates. £6.90 + £1 p & p.

An extremely interesting book which is absolutely packed with information. Alen chronicles the history of the mines around Lindal Moor and Marton, near Ulverston, Cumbria, from the earliest times. He details the local mining entrepreneurs and their rise to power. The overall geology, the mines, the local geological peculiarities and haematite curiosities. The story line flows fluently drawing all these aspects together, binding them with the movement of the working population to produce an exciting narrative which positively bounds along and in doing so carries the reader with it.

The text is very complicated and obviously Alen has taken considerable time to unravel the complex and overlapping history of each small mining area, mine and mining company. This, Alen has accomplished with true professionalism. The story is told with enthusiasm and this makes for compelling reading, however, the reader must have his wits about him in order to keep up with the narrative flow yet still be able to enjoy the contents. Two grumbles; I would have liked to have seen one or two old large scale OS maps amongst the text, and further details of recent exploration in the workings. Otherwise, very good value for money.

Richard E. Hewer.

NOTE. I understand from Alen that NMRS members are offered a discount of 10%. The price, therefore, to members is £6.20 + £1 p&p. Ed.

Cwt-y-Bugail

Having read in the May Newsletter that Nick Catford's July Meet to Wales was to visit the above mine, Peter Hay of Hove, put pen to paper with some information of the said mine.

"One approaches the mine from the Rhiwbach tramway, coming first to the ruins of the mill on floor B. Beyond the mill a wet level leads into the South twll (=pit) and there is an incline up to this twll at floor A. On the left the twll has been worked as an open quarry, while a short level leads to the North twll. On the right there is a large pit and one can descend in it to floor B, where three levels can be seen. Anti-clockwise, the first is the other end of the wet level to the mill. Next the pit continues down and then we cone to two more levels, the first of which leads to the North twll at floor B. The other leads through two chambers to a window looking out into chamber 4 which is open to daylight and extends down to floor D. To reach the window one has passed from chamber 1 (the pit) through chambers 2 & 3 which have holes in the floor down to floor C below.

From floor B it is possible to descend the South twll (which now assumes the size and shape of a chamber worked to daylight) to floor C where again there are three levels. Again anti-clockwise they are: a well-made adit mouth to the now blocked level to the long-abandoned floor C mill; a corresponding level reached by a perilous scramble round the wall, out of which flows the drainage from the North twll. It was blocked by the great fall of 1908, with interesting results. Lastly, at floor C a level leads to chambers 2 & 3, and another window onto chamber 4.

Next we can drop down to floor D. Here there are only two levels. One passes under the incline just descended and, though blocked by silt, still lets the whole workings drain out under the tips. A little way along it an incline rises in the solid up to floor C, but its head has been buried. The other level has track and a truck (rides are free) and leads to chambers 4 - 6 at floor D. There is a water-filled sink in chamber 5, the site of the half-developed floor E, which was reached by an incline. Beyond chamber 6, chamber 7 comes down only to floor C.

Returning to floor B, one can now pass into the North twll which is much more of a quarry. At the far end open chambers lead down to floor C and there is the flooded other end of the C floor adit, blocked by the fall but still draining the North twll. When this adit was blocked an incline was made from the twll floor down to floor C in the open chamber. It was powered by some kind of lorry engine latterly, but the rails were buried in the aftershocks of the recent earthquake.

As with all slate workings. disposal of waste rock (at least 9 times to finished product) was a problem, and it seems likely the first use of the incline up the south side of the North twll, powered by a portable steam engine still in position, was to raise waste from the twll floor (see the case of Burrows v. Hay as reported in recent NMRS Newsletters). After the 1908 fall, North twll slate could no longer go out to the South

twll via C adit on its way to B mill but used B floor inter-twll level instead. No problem. The steam engine in its house high on the ridge between the two twllau (pits) was given a second function. Now that no slate was coming from the North twll via C adit (blocked) the C floor in the South twll could be quarried away. The old D - C adit top was buried and its work taken over by a new D - B incline. How it was first powered is not known, but by about 1912 the 'high level' steam engine was winding the D -B incline. The rope from its second drum was carried across the hillside to a crudely made sheave, then through thin air to a sheave west of the South twll, and lastly down the twll into the depths of chamber 1. No attempt seems to have been made to achieve any kind of self-acting motion on the D-B incline; all was haulage. How the hookers-on down on floor D signalled to the engine driver, high above and quite out of sight, must be conjectural. A man strategically placed in the South twll at floor A could have communicated with both, though the potential for error would be great. But it was done: see the rope burns on the floor A lip of the South twll. Of such ingenuity was the Welsh Slate industry made.

Two points to end with. I played only a small part in working out the history of operations at Cwt-y-Bugail and I must record my debt to more experienced and knowledgeable members of the National Park Study Centre course which surveyed the place. Secondly, Cwt-Y-Bugail is private property and it goes without saying that permission is needed to visit it."

Peter Hay.

Regarding Peter Claughton's query on page 6 of May Newsletter we have had the following reply:-

Crown Mines in Dorset/Hampshire

"There has never been any metal mining in the S.E. apart from iron mining and no sites have been located at the sites mentioned. There was chalk and stone mining in the area but, again, it is unlikely at this location. What I think he has discovered is a reference to the production of 'Copperas'. This is ferrous sulphate which was made from the oxidation of iron pyrites, nodules of which were found on beaches or estuarine mud. The process involved long immersion in water and the works were sited by the sea. There is no space to go into detail but Copperas was used in the dyeing process (there is mention in Agricola's *De Re Metallica*.

Up to the 16th Century, Copperas was imported from abroad and it was an expensive commodity. In 1561, Queen Elizabeth I "....sent for some Germans experienced in mines... and granted privileges to Cornelius de Voz for mining and digging in our Realm of England for Allom (alum) and Copperas". By the 1570's, Copperas works were set up at several sites in the S.E. and they were operated under Royal patent. Despite the reference to 'mining', it was all surface extraction thus these were never Crown mines. If you want more background to the industry, I wrote an article in the Kent Underground Research Group Annual Report 1988. *FREE PLUG (!*Copies available from Rod Le Gear - Tel.01 304 1781.

Adrian Pearce

More on Divining rods

" I have been a dowser for caves and for water for about three years now, and seem to have most success in the tracing of sink - rising routes. However, I have also undertaken some work in the location of veins and soughs in the Derbyshire mining area. It does not matter what material is used in the rods (I use rods made out of wire coat hangers, others use welding rods, twigs or pendulums) since it is not the rods which are doing the detecting; they are acting as amplifiers for movements of the arm muscles, and it is the body and brain which is doing the detecting. I would emphasise that there is nothing mystical or magic about dowsing; it is a physical phenomenon which may be magnetism. I would agree that most people can do it if they try, and have faith in their sixth sense! I would warn that it is difficult to discriminate between reactions caused by veins, faults, dry caves, caves or soughs with water, and lines of springs - it comes with practice, and it is often possible to estimate depth as well. I give below publications which I have made on the subject, and would be interested to receive requests for field work on mining sites.

1987 "The Cheddar River Cave: A hypotheses" Caves & Caving 38, pp18-19
British Cave Research Association.

1988 "Dowsing the Dales. Part 1: The Malham System" Caves & Caving 40, pp21-22.

1988 "Dowsing the Dales. Part 2: Penyghent & Fountains Fell" Caves & Caving 42, pp 11 - 13.

1989 "Tracing the Wye Head Systems" Caves & Caving 43, pp 31-32.

Dr.J.D.Wilcock"

of 22 Kingsley Close, Stafford ST17 9BT.

AND

"I had a short article on divining published in an early Transactions of the Society,(Vol.1. No.1. 1960/61. Ed.) but it is likely to be of little use with mines.

Our experience of dowsing for mines was generally unsuccessful although I could detect drainage levels down to 250 feet. With caves or caverns I was much more efficient having once found a dry chamber which did not exist on our survey so we did the survey again and found the missing bit.

I found the 'water' influence much greater than the 'hole' influence and unfortunately we were working in a tightly jointed and faulted area which made digging somewhat hit and miss.

I used the gamma type wire, usually eighth brass welding rod, but I have in my possession a 'Revealer' kit. This double L shaped type seems to give most people a reaction but of what value remains to be proved. Those with the knack seem very efficient down to 10 to 15 feet. The requirement seems to be disturbed ground because public amenities, i.e. gas pipes, water mains etc. I have even been able to pinpoint the blockage in a drain. The shallow depth is not really useful in a geological sense.

Caleb Wade."

The last word should go to the instigator of this whole issue, but before that, my youngest ankle-biter having read about dowsing persuaded his elder sister that they should try it out (we were on holiday at the time). The instrument chosen was a forked hazel stick, but maybe, on reflection, they should have tried metal rods 'cos even when knee deep in the loch the stick still refused to react.

"The response to my query on the use of dowsing in the exploration of mine sites was marvellous. I should like to thank all who contacted me with advice, particularly John Holmes, of Clayton, who provided practical 'hands on' experience over Pan Holes at Harden; and if anyone finds a pair of brass rods in that area, they're mine, having fallen out of my jacket pocket.

It is hard to believe, but it is possible to determine direction of flow and depth for underground water, to locate shafts and establish their depth by concentration of the mind; the rods acting as an indicator. My task is now to put the information gained to practical use at Llanfyrnach Mine; more of that in a later Newsletter."

Peter F.Claughton.

Items from a notebook.

Early Coal workings, near Newcastle upon Tyne.

A commission was established in 1395 to investigate a trespass on the King's lands at 'Fenhamfeld or Fenholmfeld', near that town, where miners had raised coal and without a licence cut a 'watergate' to drain the workings. However, the investigation was obstructed, and two of the commission, Ralph de Ever knt. and John Mitford, never received the King's instructions. It was not until 10 years later that further action was taken, but the outcome is, as yet, unknown.

(Cal.Pat.R. Rich.II, vol.V,p.654; Cal.Close R. Hen.IV, vol.II, p.486.)

17th Century mining at Torquay; a document recently noted in the Clwyd Record Office, at Hawarden. An agreement dated 1695 respecting the working of copper, lead and other minerals under the Manor of Tormohun and the demesne of Torwood and Ilsham, co.Devon; land which now form part of the resort of Torquay. The mine was to be divided into twenty shares and the agreement details the number to be held by each of the adventurers. Perhaps the site of the mine is the same as that later worked by the New Torwood Manganese and Silver-lead mine.

(Clwyd Record Office D/KK/729; MJ 1882 p.1502).

Combe Martin Mines.

To be published soon a short history of the Combe Martin Mines, 1292 - early 20th Century (in North Devon), as part of a book produced by the Combe Martin Local History Group - off-prints should be available. Details to follow.

Peter F.Claughton.

Never let it be said that we don't try to cater for all tastes. This is probably a first for the NMRS Newsletter, so let the culture begin;-

"A couple of years ago I bought your book "The Cwmystwyth Mines". This week I was most saddened to see that a firm from South Wales is demolishing the derelict building. It lends real character to the area, so much so that I wrote the following poem, which I thought may be of interest:-

Tribute to Cwmystwyth Lead Mine

The old tin rattled in the wind,
Rattled and crashed and shook,
The barn owl hooted in the tree.
Scenes from a haunted book.

The old beams creaked and swayed and broke,
The rain began to pour,
The stream gushed past the old lead mine,
The wind broke off the door.

Old miner's voices cried and groaned,
The stream brought down some rocks,
T'was like a whirlwind blowing through,
It tore off all the locks.

Large heaps of lead were washed away
And sprawled across the track,
The owl screamed round and round the roof,
The walls began to crack.

It was a night of storm and fear
Along this drovers track.
The miner's spirits still live on,
But peace has now come back.

Miss Wendy Dedicott. DPSE.

Mines in S.W. Spain and Portugal.

No details are final yet but, as in previous years, the tour itinerary will include visits to working and abandoned mines in S.W.Spain and Portugal and will be based in Rio Tinto itself.

Depending on people's wishes and general demand, there will be a 7 and/or 10-day itinerary. The price of £400-470 will include airfare, half-board accommodation and transport etc.

In the past advertising the tour in a later Newsletter has been quite tight, so I would like people to contact me now if they're interested, and I can send out more details later on.

Please write to Jamie Thorburn, Ceirionfa, Penglais Terrace, Aberystwyth SY23 2ET.

Help Wanted

Currently I am compiling a serious research on the mineral Rhodochrosite, a manganese carbonate; with the hopes of writing a book on the subject.

Would you please advise me of any known locations of this mineral in the U.K.

Please contact Lawrence DeMars, 5017 York Avenue SO, Minneapolis, Minn. 55410,USA.

The Bookshop

The Cornish Mineral Industry 1937-1951 by J.H.Trounson.

This book commemorates the work of Jack Trounson, who was one of the leading 20th Century authorities on Cornish mining and the greatest exponent of its future potential.

He had an unparalleled ability to marshal a wealth of detail on the past workings of the mines and used it to point to places where minerals might still be worked at a profit.

The articles collected here were first published during the Second World War, but remain an up-to-date guide for historians, prospectors and planners alike.

This book is being collated and produced by the University of Exeter, the works themselves being edited by Roger Burt and Peter Waite - of Mineral Statistics fame!

As with the latter, the Society is acting as agent in the sale and distribution of this book, with profit from the books we sell going into NMRS funds.

The book runs to 219 pages and is illustrated. The cost to members is £9.30 POST PAID. An order form is enclosed elsewhere in the Newsletter, which should be returned to our Aftersales address after you have filled in the appropriate places. Cash with order please, although your cheque will not be presented until the closing date of 30th September 1989.

Radon

After all the hoo-ha in the past about how Radon can damage your health and do a nasty to your whatnots, I've been sent an advertisement for the Sanatorium Behouner in Czechoslovakia.

If you suffer from Rheumatics and other such aches and pains, they will cure you (they say). The basic treatment is a daily dip in the Radon tub bath. Not yer old tin bath in front of the fire mind, but a technical looking gizzmo with lights and guages stuck on the end. This is filled with 'natural radioactive thermal spring water where Radon produces alpha radiation'. No less.

Sounds impressive anyway, the crumpet posing in it looked all right too.

Mining Courses

Sept.22 - 24 1989. Mines and Minerals of the North Pennines. Course Fee : £79.00
Sept.29 - Oct.1 1989. Ice, Floods, Mining and Man. Course Fee : £79.00
Oct.27 - 29 1989. The Industrial Landscape of Alston Moor. Course Fee : £79.00

For more details contact Barhaugh Hall, N. Pennines Study Centre, Kirkhaugh, Alston, Cumbria, CA9 3NJ. Tel.(0498) 81978.

Hey up! Whats this? A poster touting for clients for mountain bike tours around Swaledale. You've got to be joking Geoff, at your age you'll break your neck. Besides which it makes no mention about underground .....!

The Caernarvon Celt, as is his want, has again sent a boat-load of cuttings for *someone* to knock into shape. Thanks Eric!

These snippets from the Land of Harps and Woad cover three subjects, the first and largest pile concerns the Clogau Mine and Mr Roberts woes thereat.

As most of you will by now be aware, William Roberts wants to turn Clogau into a show mine. He proposed that he build an aerial ropeway to take the punters to the mine, and a large carpark in the valley. Although Snowdonia National Park Planners were not opposed to the scheme, the planning application was "called in" by the Secretary of State for Wales because of opposition from environmentalists. A public enquiry was held in April this year.

There was also strong opposition from the Countryside Commission and the Council for National Parks, who said it would be damaging to the landscape and that the scale of the proposal was too large. Their point of view found favour with the Welsh Office planning inspector who conducted the enquiry. He concluded that the development would have an unacceptable impact on the area as well as the Welsh culture. "In a village where nearly 70% of the inhabitants speak Welsh, the larger influx of English speaking visitors making use of local facilities would put the continuation of the language at risk, thereby harming the fabric of the community." He also said that priority should be given to the preservation of natural beauty, which would be undermined by the plan.

The Secretary of State (Wales) has backed his inspector, and so now Mr Roberts is back to square one. He is now thinking of starting to extract gold from the mines again.

Another prospective tourist mine has suffered a similar setback, this time on the Great Orme, Llandudno. Great Orme Mines Ltd has been told it will probably be November

before they hear whether the scheme can go ahead.

The company wants to create a visitor centre which is expected to attract up to 200,000 people a year, but the council is worried about the impact of an ever increasing flow of traffic up the Great Orme. There are already complaints about congestion caused by Llandudno's ski slope.

Anglesey Mining - An update. Anglesey Mining's A.G.M. revealed that work on the Parys Mountain zinc/lead/copper/gold property is on schedule and that results to date have been encouraging. Work on the first level 280m depth has commenced while shaft sinking continues.

The main headframe is being erected now. This means that the winding gear and shaft are already at the capacity which will be required for final production. The company has been fortunate in locating a suitable pilot plant which is now on site. This will enable trial production to commence from November onwards at a rate of 10,000 tons/year once the orebody has been intersected. Supporting diesel generators and other infrastructure are now in place.

Initial mineralogy shows that the orebody is relatively homogenous and that recovery should be better than those assumed in the prospectus. We would be forecasting 90%. The installation of the pilot plant will provide accurate information in this regard and will enable various smelters to take bulk concentrates for trial smelting. This should also reduce the risk in the stage 2 financing as well as providing some cashflow.

Due to the speed at which all relevant information will be coming together in the fourth quarter of this year, the company expects that project finance will be required earlier than forecast. We can expect the construction period to be shortened by six months with production commencing in 1992. It is also possible that the production rate could be raised to optimise the returns from the project. The shaft could handle 600,000 tons/year and, when the mill tenders are let next year this throughput could be specified.

Once underground drilling can commence further ore reserve estimation and detailed mine planning could be conducted. We confidently expect ore reserves to be increased and near surface continuation of existing orebodies to be discovered.

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The mining Magazine of Feb.1989 contained a bit more information, albeit slightly out of date by now.

"The 4.75m diameter production shaft has already been sunk past 30m, using conventional drill and blast techniques and is on target for the 540m depth completion date of June 1990 when two lateral tunnels totalling 580m in length will be developed to provide access to the ore bodies. Close-spaced diamond drilling and bulk sampling from these tunnels will provide further geological and mineralogical information that will be instrumental in formulating the ultimate mine and plant design."

The latest information is that the shaft is sunk to 300m, and that Anglesey Mining are hoping to carry out detailed testing of its ore quality.

Gwynfynydd Mine has notices warning vandals, and anybody else, not to go within twenty feet of the adit and buildings or a bell goes off in the local "Nick" - and prosecution follows.

No doubt the local Mr Plod (or should it be Ppllodd ?) finds it great fun charging back and forth to see for whom the bell tolls. "Me officer ? Never went near it"

Meet Report.- Annual Dinner and Lectures.

This years Annual Dinner and Lectures took place on the 6th. May at a different hotel from the last two years, even though the venue was the same. Between last year's dinner and this, the Hotel Italia had come under new management with a change of name to the Ascot House Hotel.

Following a fairly brief General Meeting, three invited speakers treated us to excellent dissertations on mining subjects of their own choice.

Rob Vernon gave an authoritative talk on surface remains in the Llanrwst area. He illustrated his talk with slides of what there is to be seen at the present time, with explanations of how these remains fitted into the mining scene during the mines active period, ranging from hand dressing to oil flotation.

Alen McFadzean followed with a talk "In The Old Ground". Alen's area of interest is the Furness Peninsular in Cumbria, and he gave a very interesting account of the crushed

and badly disjointed strata of the Lindal Moor iron mines. We heard how early inefficient mining techniques had left huge subsidence craters, and that these collapsed workings were tunnelled through by tributers at the end of the last century and the beginning of this. A most precarious way of earning a living.

Lastly, John Jones gave us a fascinating insight into the industrial archaeology work being carried out by the Wirksworth Group at Bage Mine, Bolehill. He showed us that industrial archaeology of mines does not just consist of digging out old mines, but much skilled detective work, painstakingly comparing finds with old records and plans and the correct interpretation of the relics found.

Following the very successful lectures, there was a short adjournment for tea before twenty seven members and guests assembled for a very enjoyable dinner, followed by socialising over drinks.

Tourist and Heritage Centre at Shallee Mine, Co.Tipperary, Ireland.

During the past year a Dublin based company (Silvermines Heritage Ltd) have been undertaking a detailed study of the old Shallee Mine, near Silvermines, Co.Tipperary. The aim of this study has been to record the history and heritage of the site and also to assess its suitability as a tourist development.

The area has a long history of mining dating back to 1289, when the oldest known records detail the working of the mines by Italian miners. Shallee Mine was worked in the 19th Century for lead and silver with an extensive period of re-working in the 1950's. The nearby Mogul Mine commenced operations in 1968 and closed in 1982 (at one time being the largest lead-zinc mine in Europe).

There are extensive surface remains at Shallee, including a 19th century beam engine house and mine captain's house. Most of the accessible underground workings date from the period of re-working during the 1950's. These workings were on two levels, but the lower level is now flooded. There are several large and spectacular stopes within the mine, some pierced by shafts of daylight from the opening in the roof.

Plans for a tourist development at Shallee are well advanced and will include an underground visit as well as surface attractions. It is expected that the underground visit will not only highlight the mine workings, but will include realistic displays of mining throughout the centuries; emphasising the sounds and sights of the miners at work. It is hoped to commence development work at the site during early 1990.

In July of this year a weekend seminar was organised by Shannon Development as a celebration of the 700th anniversary of the first recorded mining at Silvermines. A short publication is being prepared which will describe the history and mining remains (surface and underground) in the Silvermines area. More details of this will be available soon. In the meanwhile, anybody requiring more information on the Shallee Mine or Silvermines area can contact me at : Silvermines Heritage Ltd, 5 South Leinster Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Dr Martin F.Critchley.

Additions to Library List.

Books

Rieuwerts J.H.	A History of the Laws and Customs of the Derbyshire Lead Mines.
Adams J.	Mines of the Lake District Fells.

Miscellaneous Booklets, Pamphlets, Magazines, Leaflets etc.

Anglesey Mining PLC Prospectus. 1988

Society Publications (other than N.M.R.S. Publications).

Association for Industrial Archaeology. Industrial Archaeology Review Vol.10 No. 1 & 2.

P.D.M.H.S. Vol.10 Parts 3 & 4. 1988.

Mining Survey No.4/4.1986.No.1/3.2/3.3/3.1987. No.1/3.1988.

Next Edition.

With a bit of luck the next thrilling instalments of these edifying sagas will be out around the middle of November(ish), so if you've anything to include please let me have it long before then. In fact, the sooner the better.

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