



No 44
October 1995



The Newsletter of the
Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society

Diary Dates

The next CATMHS Meets List is enclosed with this Newsletter.

The 16th CATMHS AGM and Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday the 9th of December, at the Yewdale Hotel Coniston.

The A.G.M. to commence at 4.30. The Annual Dinner is at 7.30

Any motions and nominations for officers and committee posts must be sent in writing to the Secretary one month before this date.

Dynamic Society members should apply now for these rewarding positions

29th October Photographic Meet at Coniston Slate Mines. ML Jon Knowles.

5th November Ding Dong Mine - Furness. ML Paul Timewell.

19th November Coniston Copper - Exploration/Survey- South Vein Area- ML. Peter Fleming.

The meets meeting on the 18th of September was very poorly attended so those that did come had to devise list without benefit of what must be 90 percent plus of the membership. It was an open meeting, so if CATMHS activities are not to your liking and you said nothing -well what can one say!!.

Jon was not impressed!

Notes for Meet on 29th October

Those who have bought ADIT publications latest book on Cwmorthin Slate Quarry (plug) need no introduction to the results obtained by light painting, however as that at present covers very few people in CAT perhaps a few notes are in order.

Taking good underground pictures requires large amounts of light and for big areas this cannot be achieved using flash guns. With light painting the camera is mounted on a tripod and the shutter held open with a cable release. Assuming that you have turned your caplamp off there is then no light and even with the shutter open the film will remain unexposed for an indefinite period. The area to be photographed can then be progressively lit, with a powerful lamp, in a series of painting type strokes until the whole area has been exposed. The real trick, which only comes with practice, is in correctly guessing the exposure and allowing for the fact that the amount of light required increases with the square of the distance to the object being photographed. The best results are obtained when the air is clear (no steam), the light is kept a reasonable distance from the camera to give -depth+ and the lighting is even. Moving the angle of the lamp - but not its position gives the best definition.

Equipment needed is limited to :-

A camera on which the shutter can be held open A tripod A powerful lamp - don't worry if you don't have one of these I will bring mine

For the real experts an 80B filter will correct the orange tinge given by halogen lamps.

The results obtained improve with practice so don't expect perfection on your first attempt.

Jon Knowles

Newmembers

Mr David G McAnelly, 92 Regent Farm Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3HD

Mr Richard J.Eley, The Willows, Recreation Road, Burghfield Common, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 3EN

Mr Alan French Middle Cottage, Coupland Beck, Appleby, Cumbria, CA16 6LN

Mr David G Waller 25 Cambrian Drive, Rhos On Sea, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd. LL28 4SL.

Meets Reports

STONEYCROFT GILL

Evening meet, 5th July

As rain swept across the steep spoil-covered slopes of Barrow Fell five mine enthusiasts left the exposed car park above Uzzicar for the more sheltered recesses of Stoneycroft Gill. Some 200 yards above the road the gill enters a deep gorge where it follows the Stoneycroft lode. Here lead was extracted from the bed of the gill in the late 17th century and again in the mid 19th by the Keswick Mining Company when the workings were sunk to a depth of at least 20 fathoms. During both of these operations the gill was diverted to the west via an extensive water-cut whose various branches indicate different periods of working, for example to supply a 22 ft water wheel which was erected in about 1850 for pumping out the shaft in the bed of the gill. Sometime during the earlier period of working the mine suffered a dam burst which flooded the shaft and was said to have buried some of the workmen beneath the sand and mud, though their bodies were never discovered by later workers. Earlier still during the years 1564 to 1566 the Elizabethan Germans had spent a small sum (£58) working the vein.

Normally the gill becomes a raging torrent in the gorge but on this occasion we were able to follow the workings up through the gorge from the shaft at the east end to the point where the gill swings away from the vein. In the rock walls we found stemple holes and in one place guttering chiselled across the hanging wall. At

the west end of the workings a little-known coffin level which is deep in the gorge and difficult to reach posed an entertaining problem. This narrow level appears to have been a trial on the continuation of the vein and possibly represents the £58 spent by the Germans. (There is a more recent trial beside the water-cut above).

Further up the gill we inspected the site of the Stoneycroft smelter which is best known as a lead smelt mill but was also used for smelting copper and later was rebuilt as part of the abortive cobalt adventure. The smelter is at the focal point of ancient tracks from the direction of Newlands and Braithwaite as well as the track from Scar Crag indicating its importance over the years, though little remains today other than a large slag heap and the course of a flue which rises 45 yards up the fellside to a collapsed stack with a 70 yard extension to a further stack. A leat from higher up the gill (presumably built to feed water-powered bellows) leads to the site of a second smelter which is marked on the 1862 OS map but is now hardly invisible on the ground - little more than a patch of what appears to be baked rock.

At that point the weather pulled out all its stops and forced us down to the road. We abandoned the circuit of Barrow Fell and quickly inspected the dressing floors at Stoneycroft and the surface remains of Barrow Mine near Uzzicar before retiring to more comfortable surroundings at Braithwaite - where the landlord mistook us for bat counters!

Dave Bridge

Coniston Copper Mines joint meet with The Russell Society 15 July

We all gathered around a rather insignificant looking block outside the youth hostel. After 15 minutes of enthralling comment by Brian Young, the word insignificant was undoubtedly a gross understatement!

So began one of the most interesting and informative talks on mineralogy at Coniston that it is possible to have. Having bored people for the last 18 months singing the praises of Brian Young, it was a personal ambition fulfilled to see him at Coniston for the weekend

enabling C.A.T.M.H.S members to sample his unique bran of knowledge and humour.

After discussing "the Block" which consisted of wall rock, comb texture quartz, chlorite, magnetite and chalcopyrite all laid out in a perfect section through the sample we moved on to the dressing floor dumps. At this point a rather inconsiderate downpour occurred but the hardy 18 continued fossicking and were rewarded when a member of the Russell Society showed Brian what he confirmed as Bismuth. Though not difficult to find at Coniston (if you are experienced enough!) the quality of this specimen was considered exceptional.

A casual stroll up to the Old Engine Shaft

wheel pit followed, where lunch was taken. We then moved on to the fenced off area and up the Thriddle Incline where, it was now becoming apparent that the most important piece of equipment on this trip was a portable tape recorder! Crossing over the dam spillway at Levers Water it was pointed out that the slabs with large pink crystals are in fact Shap Granite. Not a lot of people know that.

At the Back Strings Brian discussed the main types of rock that exist in the area. Contrary to popular misconception there is not a true rhyolite in the area. They are in fact ignimbrites (welded tuffs). These were formed from a rather nasty and violent type of volcanic eruption, a nuée ardente (glowing cloud). The internal heat was so great that the component particles welded together to form a very hard and characteristic rocks. It is though, though not confirmed that the copper veins have formed in these ignimbrites. The term rhyolitic may be used as a broad definition.

We made our way round Levers Water and started the steep pull up to the Black Scar workings. Some of the group had to return home at this point but 10 of us pressed on up the wet slippery grass. Not surprisingly by this time comments to Brian, on what minerals had been found where or anything that was not cast iron certainty, were decidedly lacking. Looking across to Great How Crag we could see that there had been a recent rockfall. Huge blocks and rubble littered the slope. Ian Matheson and

myself (to the amusement of others) recounted conversations we have had with various quarry men etc., who say that this sort of thing always happens during the night. Whether this is true or not I do not know but I must remember not to be in earthquake passage at night.

Upon arrival at the workings mineral hunting began in earnest. There were plenty of the blue and green deposits which are characteristic of this area. These (we were informed) are chrysocolla, chalcocite and malachite. The copper oxide cuprite was also identified, as were tiny specs of native copper. Also of interest in this area is a rare copper secreting Lichen.

Time was now getting on so reluctantly we started carefully descend and make our return to Coniston, As the saying goes "All good things come to an end".

At 6.30pm the meet finally did come to an end. It had been a great day, one which I'm sure everyone thoroughly enjoyed, however it would be some time before the voice in my head would stop repeating those words -- why didn't I take a tape recorder.

P.S. After the Sunday meet Brian convinced the warden of the Youth Hostel that "The Block" was much too important to be left where it was. He has taken it to be sawn in two, one to remain with the B.G.S. and the other to be exhibit in the Ruskin Museum

Jeff Wilkinson July 1995

CONISTON COPPER MINES

16th July

The second day of the joint meet with the Russell Society involved two underground trips - Leverswater Mine and Hospital/Grey Crag Level. The descent to the Leverswater mine entrance safely executed, the group split into several parties so that the various 'stations' could be visited without undue crowding. The main interest here were the post-mine supergene deposits for which this mine is a good example, and it was encouraging to see how soon the 'Blue Lagoon' has reverted to its former glory after some recent visitors had unwittingly churned up its milky blue water into a brown mud.

While folk were extracting themselves from the Funnel a splinter group inspected the adjacent workings in the Crater as far as Arcte Chamber

with a view to joining in the next CAT through trip of the Paddy End workings. Then the group made its way to Hospital Level where there was no alternative but to get ones feet wet. The whole of the open part of Grey Crag Level was inspected, apart from the Puddingstone branch which involves a crawl, and particular interest was shown in a narrow stringer containing what was thought to be cobalt ore. This was found a short way beyond waterfall stoep. Samples were taken for analysis the results of which we hope to learn in due course. We have often remarked on the secondary cobalt mineralization which can be seen here and in other parts of Grey Crag Level, and it will be interesting to hear the expert's story.

Dave Bridge

Peak District Trip -

29th & 30th July

A blisteringly hot weekend saw messrs Hay, Goldsack, Deane, Geddes and Knowles in the Peak District. The Clan Thomas was expected on the Sunday but they arrived the following day, this must be regarded as something of a record even for them.

Saturday morning saw an exploration of some of the Mines in the Slingtor Wood area of the Via Gellia near Cromford. This is an area abounding with small old workings all of which require a fair amount of clambering about since the levels have been driven to minimal dimensions. After a -discussion+ with a cafe owner about local parking issues we made our way into the wood.

The first mine to be entered was Owlet Hole Gate which is entered from above down a tight cork screw type free climb with barely enough room to turn around at the bottom. After this the vein can be followed for approximately 70 metres where the way on is down. A convenient scaffold pole made a good belay and a bolt was installed as a back up. At the bottom of the pitch space is at a premium and the way on is an immediate flat out crawl into area where all further ways on are either run in or blind.

For full details of the Mines in the Slingtor Wood area reference should be made to the Bulletin of the Peak District Mines Historical Society volume 6 number 6.

In the afternoon we moved up the valley and explored the Merry Tom and Spinney Levels. Merry Tom has little of merit whilst Spinney Level is very interesting. Despite the blistering heat members Hay and Geddes could not be persuaded to enter the chest deep water and I suggest their membership status be reviewed. Once inside there are many good flow stone effects all along the sides of the level which in places has deads supported on stone stemples. A tempting piece of dubious looking string leads up a slippery and muddy stope which was free climbed for a fair distance until it runs in. At this point the surface must be very close.

Most people spent Saturday night at Magpie Cottage which in the hot weather is an idyllic location.

On Sunday the group, less Ken Geddes, visited the Long Rake Spar Mine near Youlegrave.

This mine was worked until fairly recently and the majority of the machinery remains. The mine together with its neighbour Arbor Low worked the same vein for approximately 1 mile along the strike. Two levels the 240 foot and the 300 foot are accessible and whilst it was hoped that the dry weather would make access to the flooded 375 foot level possible this proved not to be the case.

The mine is entered by the simple expedient of walking and scrambling down the end of the rift until the 240 foot level is reached. Walking along the level, which has almost continual roof support, eventually brings you to the head of an incline leading down to the 300 foot level. Passing beyond the incline the shaft station is reached complete with wooden board to indicate the necessary bell codes for operating the winding equipment. Adjacent to this is a small workshop and battery charging area. Beyond the shaft it soon becomes clear that there are vast stopes beneath you since there are many holes in the floor some of which are covered with timber.

Descending the incline is interesting due to the number of artefacts. Since the incline is not straight in the horizontal plane there are a number of vertical rollers to prevent the haulage wire from rubbing against the sides as the wagons were hauled up. At the bottom is a crude signalling device. Walking back in the direction of the shaft a short ladder gives access to the pump room where two pumps remain in situ. Progressing further the head gear for an underground shaft, complete with ladderway, is reached.

Bruce descended the ladders but found that the water level on the 375 foot level lying two feet above the arch of the level. Further along the 300 foot level the immediate way forward is halted by a fallen floor. It is necessary to back-track ascend into the stope above and descend beyond the fall. At the far end of the level a complex area of workings is entered through which it is possible to descend until you are immediately above the 375 foot level. This involves the use of a ladder the fixings for which are not long for this world.

Jon Knowles

THE MINES OF BLENCATHRA

13th August

It is impossible to cover many of the Blencathra mines without a good deal of fell walking and this meet, which included a traverse of Blencathra to the head of Glenderaterra, was no exception. Starting at the Salutation Inn in Threlkeld five members made their way first to the upper workings of Threlkeld Mine in Gategill which are said to date back to at least the 17th century. To the left of the gill (facing uphill) one first encounters Woodend vein and the collapsed Smithy Level. Nearby is a well-preserved powder house with what appears to be a separate compartment for storing detonators. Further up the gill Gategill vein converges from the right. We explored the accessible parts of Gategill Bottom Level across the gill - about 150 yards in all - finding an open ventilation shaft at the vein intersection which we later located on the fell. A collapsed tramway for dumping spoil which ran high along the left bank of the gill led to Gategill Middle Level which was gained by climbing a rock step but found to be collapsed. Higher up the valley we explored the 500 ft Level which ran to a dry sump of unknown depth promising greater things, but we were not equipped for SRT. The intersection of Gategill vein with Woodend vein, where the main orebody occurred and was worked for lead and zinc up to 1928, is expected to lie about 150 yards inbye of this sump. It may have provided ventilation to the workings and would be worth another visit.

The long sporting ascent of the south ridge of Hall's Fell then took us over Blencathra to the wide expanse of Mungrisdale Common and down to Sinen Gill where, having searched out the celebrated junction between the Skiddaw Slate and the intrusive Skiddaw Granite which is exposed in the gill, we descended to Brundholme Mine. This mine was worked intermittently during the 19th and early 20th century mainly for lead, although copper and barytes also occur. Near the bottom of Sinen

Gill were the remains of what may have been a bothy roofed with Bannerdale slates, and further down a deep cutting (prospecting trench or trial?) led to an open vein working with a hand-dressing floor complete with large bucking stone. Brundholme Top Level, which is no more than a trial on two branches of the Tebay Lode, has been sufficiently drained to allow exploration without too much discomfort and we followed this for a total of 110 yards to a blind heading. The main Brundholme Mine workings which reached a depth of 39 fathoms are inaccessible, but some shaft top structures remain, including a wheelpit at the Old Shaft and what appears to have been a winder with concrete engine bed in the vicinity of the New Shaft. This was fed from a leat high up the fellside and the bases of the stone pillars which supported the feed pipe remain. We debated whether the head of water would have been sufficient to drive a pelton wheel but decided that a turbine was more likely, particularly as W H Borlase would have been managing the mine during this period of development (1907 to 1910). In 1890 he had become manager of Greenside Mine by which time most of the waterwheels at that mine had been replaced by turbines (12 in all).

At Blencathra Mine further down the valley there was little to see but a narrow building or structure of unknown purpose and a wheelpit. This mine was largely worked from a 25 fathom shaft but there is a wet open level on the west side of the beck which, after a short cross-cut, leads to a flooded sump. In the 1850's the mine was developed by J Crosier, and to round off the day we took the road back to Threlkeld which passes "The Riddings", once the residence of that manager whose name is carved on the gateposts. Regrettably the house now stands empty and because of its secluded position is a target for vandalism.

Dave Bridge



Hudgill 26th & 27 August

Not much to report, more digging and putting of timber, the turnout on the Saturday being limited to Sheila Barker, Alistair and Ian Cameron.

Sunday was much better support and the works made ready for the next push on the 22nd of October.

All being well and with a following wind the next headframe and set of spial boards will be put in position then.

M.W.T.S.

Still Life - Hudgill August 1995

Taken by Peter Fleming

—————→



Cornwall Trip -- 2nd - 9th September ----- Report to come

Furness -- 17th September

Posponed Indefinitely- The FMA being fully engaged with the Woodbine Chimney project, the efforts of the demon bricklayer, **Rolf Fisher** being greatly appreciated. (Anton said that he was not overwhelmed with calls from people wishing to see what the area had to offer.) M.W.T.S.

FROG SHAFT 24th September

It was over two years since CAT had pioneered the route into Smalleleugh via "Frog Shaft" and almost two years to the day since the first through trip. Since that time all of CAT's effort in the Nenthead area had been concentrated on the Hudgillburn dig, so now was a chance for those who missed out the first time to make the 400 ft descent and the journey out from Barron's sump. The meet turned out to be a popular one with five members (plus meet leader) opting for the descent and seven others going into Smalleleugh. The lower party planned to prussik up to the Top Flats where we hoped to rendezvous and decide at that point the best plan for derigging. The bottom

two pitches, from the Top Flats downwards, had been left rigged from the earlier visits and it was hoped that the ropes would still be in place.

Fortunately the cloud had cleared and there was little difficulty in locating the shaft top below Nag's Head. The top party descended the two pitches to the Firestone Level which they inspected before making the 130 ft descent to Middleleugh Level. All of the accessible parts of this level were visited, including the long trudge through the irony mud of Cowhill Cross Vein to Barron's Shaft. On the way we located the graffiti left by the London Lead Co miners, re-interpreting one of the inscriptions as 'Isaac Archer 1949'. Despite

recent rain the level here was much drier than we had found it previously - which couldn't be said of pitch 2 above the Firestone.

At the bottom of pitch 4 we met up with the lower party waiting patiently in the Top Flats. During the wait they had rigged a safety line across the shaft to explore the workings beyond. There is still some exploration to be carried out in that area but it requires a stemple belay to be fitted. Clive and Pete who had been up at the shaft collar earlier in the day had hoped to catch up with the lower party but despite an extensive search for the connecting hopper (when they apparently covered almost the whole of Smalleleugh!) they eventually gave up looking and never appeared. The parties re-grouped at this point, Mark and Angela volunteering to continue upwards to de-rig the shaft while the remainder (excluding the meet leader who also prussiked back up)

headed for the Smalleleugh portal with the spare ropes and bags etc. Five of the party thus completed the through trip from top to bottom while Mark and Angela achieved the same in reverse. By 6 pm both parties were safely out of the mine and, for various personal reasons, all agreed that the day had been an unforgettable experience.

Dave Bridge

I have to say that I have nothing but admiration for the CATMHS members to first explored this shaft before the through trip was established. Pitches 2 and 3 are distinctly damp and not a little draughty, and the shaft top is in the middle of moorland and thus no shelter. Wet is what you are when you come out and cold is what you soon become if you have to stay for any length of time at the shaft top. (and this is in September!!) M.W.T.S.

Coniston Copper Mines.

"I'd like to do the through route" said new member Keith Blackledge during the Russell Society weekend. Having been indisposed for 6 months the through route was something I quite fancied myself. There's nothing new about doing route from Levers Water to Grey Crag Level of course but this trip would give me the opportunity to carry out a job that had been on my mind for sometime.

In 1981 a 23m shaft had been descended from top level and a discovery was made of what was described at the time as "thick bright green mud - liquid malachite". Unfortunately the need to explore the tunnel has left a deep trough through the mud which I've always thought has detracted from the beauty of the place. On this trip I intended to restore the mud back to its former glory so that anyone who visits this area in future will see it as it appeared to it's original discoverers.

We lowered a couple of pieces of wood down this shaft and then followed down, the descent being muddy and gritty. While Keith went to take a photo of the beautiful green pool in a small alcove I walked through the mud to the end of the tunnel. I then started to level out the mud which was a cross between levelling concrete and icing a large cake. A beautiful shade of blue lay under the top crust. It is now known that this cocktail of copper minerals are predominantly sulphates not carbonates, however I can't see names like posnjakite or

brochantite mud catching on. The job was completed in half an hour, and, looking back along the tunnel to take photographs the improvements were obvious to see.

Lets hope that future visitors will refrain from wading through the mud. What would be the point? There nothing to see at the other end.

We continued our way down the through route in the usual uneventful fashion. That is until we came to the last abseil. Then just when I thought it was safe to return to the water a sharp sever pain, recognisable to all sufferers of lower back problems, shot down my spine. In that instant I knew that this really was the end of regular visits to my beloved copper mines. So as I carefully exited Hospital Level for what would probably be the last time this year I thought of the words to that anthem of all fatalist's, Che Sera Sera, Whatever will be will be. How true!

A Personal Note. The final abseil anchors are still in an awkward position. Although this is not a problem to experienced campaigners, anyone showing round individuals or groups would be wise to assess their ability to carry out manoeuvres safely. Taking someones word that they are competent just will not do!. If there is any doubt then someone with experience should stay at the pitch head to supervise the safety.

Jeff Wilkinson. Coniston 22 July 1995

DR DESCENDER

Dear Doctor

I feel that other members should be told in full about the large amount of solo exploration I have undertaken recently. This has been in a new area which has many interesting possibilities, however the committee say that I should not be doing this alone. What do you think ?

Washermender QC

Well this certainly is a predicament but I think it best to stay away from the bar - legal or otherwise.

Dear Doctor

Recently when venturing north to a meet in the Peak District I was stopped for doing 38 mph on the M40 which I found puzzling since everything else was overtaking me. Is there a lower speed limit in Warwickshire ?

Anon, Brighton

It is clear to me that you were stopped under section 2.7.5 clause 5.2 paragraph 7 of the Vehicle External Decorations Act 1957 which states that -vehicles with less than four wheels permanently in contact with the highway shall not have doors of differing colour to each other or the remainder of the bodywork+. In addition to the above it is possible that you were stopped for contravening the Motorways Regulations 1959 clause 6.5 which clearly states that -vehicles powered by steam shall not be driven on the motorway+.

Note. Dr Descender reserves the right to completely change any written queries and to introduce, slander and/or complete fabrications as appropriate.

FOR SALE. Reliant Robin 1975 c/w two tone colour scheme and spare drivers door. 3 months tax. Minor work required to cooling system hence FREE. May include some mineral specimens. Apply Hay & Sons Brighton.

Photography in mines

On October 29th Jon Knowles is leading a meet, which will probably be the first of a number, to practice photographic techniques underground. Jon has been perfecting his light panning technique and has produced some remarkably good results. The venue for this exercise is the Moss Head chambers on Coniston Old Man. This brought to mind a series of photographic meets which were held in 1900/1991 around Cumbria to develop basic techniques of underground photography. Although never progressing to light panning, the meets help a large number of people to progress from the usual flat, fuzzy images to good contrasting photographs. A series of notes were produced which, although distributed to those on the trips, were never published. In preparation for Jons exploits in October we have decided to reproduce part of them in the news-letter.

PHOTOGRAPHY UNDERGROUND

Essential requirements for good underground pictures.

Camera fitted with a wide angle lens (30-35mm)

A reliable slave flash unit. for multiple flash pictures:
Tripod Facility for holding the camera shutter open for (eg) 1 minute .

Additional points which can help considerably:

Compact camera

Camera fitted with automatic focus Slave flash unit fitted

with a light sensitive trigger Camera designed to resist a certain amount of water (usually referred to as splash-proof) Automatic exposure control

Try to avoid the following :bulky and heavy single-lens reflex cameras, especially ones with large zoom lenses. Cables connecting the camera to the flash gun(s). Wet and mud. Forgetting to carry spare batteries and spare film. Delaying ones companions for too long when taking pictures.

Techniques

Three main points to bear in mind when taking pictures underground **Hold** the camera away from the body to **avoid** water vapour from a tired, sweating body from fogging the picture. **Always** have a second light source as well as the cameras own flash. A second flash gun is called a slave unit. Use of a slave ensures shadows are created which gives depth to a photograph. **Always** ensure that the focus is set to the correct distance. (not always easy in the dark) This is not a problem with a camera equipped with automatic focus.

Other techniques to bear in mind

Avoid weather conditions which can cause misting to take place in underground areas. Also **be aware** that many bodies in a confined space will quickly create a humid atmosphere. **Always** consider which way shadows from the second flash gun will fall - to give the best effect. **Avoid** flooding parts of the picture with too much

light. Try to avoid the second flash gun being too evident in the picture. Always have the camera well secured to you by its strap. Avoid getting too much mud on the camera and keep muddy fingers away from the lens.

In addition to these notes some real-life examples were published of photographic scenes which were shot during the photographic trips. Because it was not possible to reproduce the photographs satisfactorily, they were re-drawn as pen drawings.

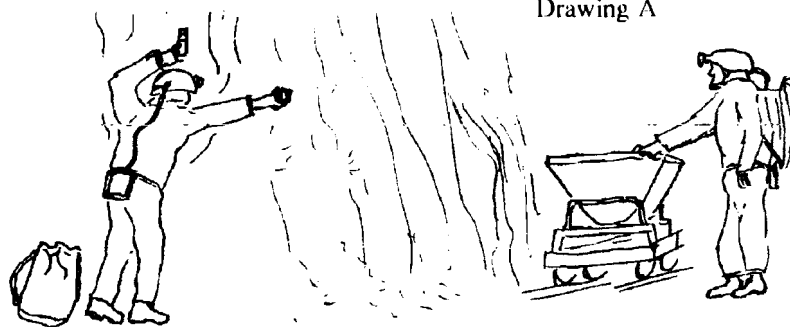
General method of taking "spot" photographs of artifacts or other objects

The subject is a side-tipping waste truck (drawn from an actual truck in Honister No 4 Level). The photographer has a figure in the scene to complete the picture and give scale.

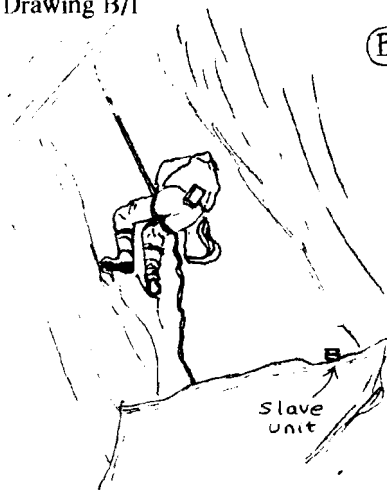
The photographer holds the camera (e.g. an Olympus Compact Auto focus) in his right hand away from himself to prevent humid rising air from his body or mist from his breath fogging the picture. The slave flash gun operated by light sensor is held in the other hand as far away laterally from the camera as possible to give the greatest shadow.

The photographer quickly considers whether the flash from the camera or the slave will excessively "flood" any part of the picture (e.g. the rock face in the foreground to the left of the truck) and position himself and the flashgun so that this does not happen. He then takes the photograph and asks the

Drawing A



Drawing B/1



companion to confirm that the slave flashgun has gone off.

The whole process of getting the camera out of the tackle bag, setting up, taking the picture and repacking the equipment need take no longer than 30 seconds assuming a fully automatic camera is used.

Occasionally it is important to put (or hold) the slave unit some distance in front of the camera. In the upper sketch, B/1, taken from a photo of Ian Matheson descending from Top to Middle Level in the Coniston Mine, the slave flash unit (fitted with a light sensitive cell) is placed on the top of the collapsed flake and will not be very obvious in the final picture.

Drawing B/3



Drawing B/2



In the bottom picture, B/2, from a photograph taken in Cobblers Hole, Coniston, the companion is holding the slave unit pointing so that it will light up the stopes above.

Unfortunately the slave unit is quite obvious and this has reduced the effect of the picture. If possible, a slave unit held like this should be avoided. In the bottom right hand picture, B/3, the flash was held out of sight in the subject's left hand. The light sensitive cell has been removed from the flash gun and re-connected to it using a 2 metre length of cable, the cell being stuck to the helmet using bubble-gum, the only 'glue' available.

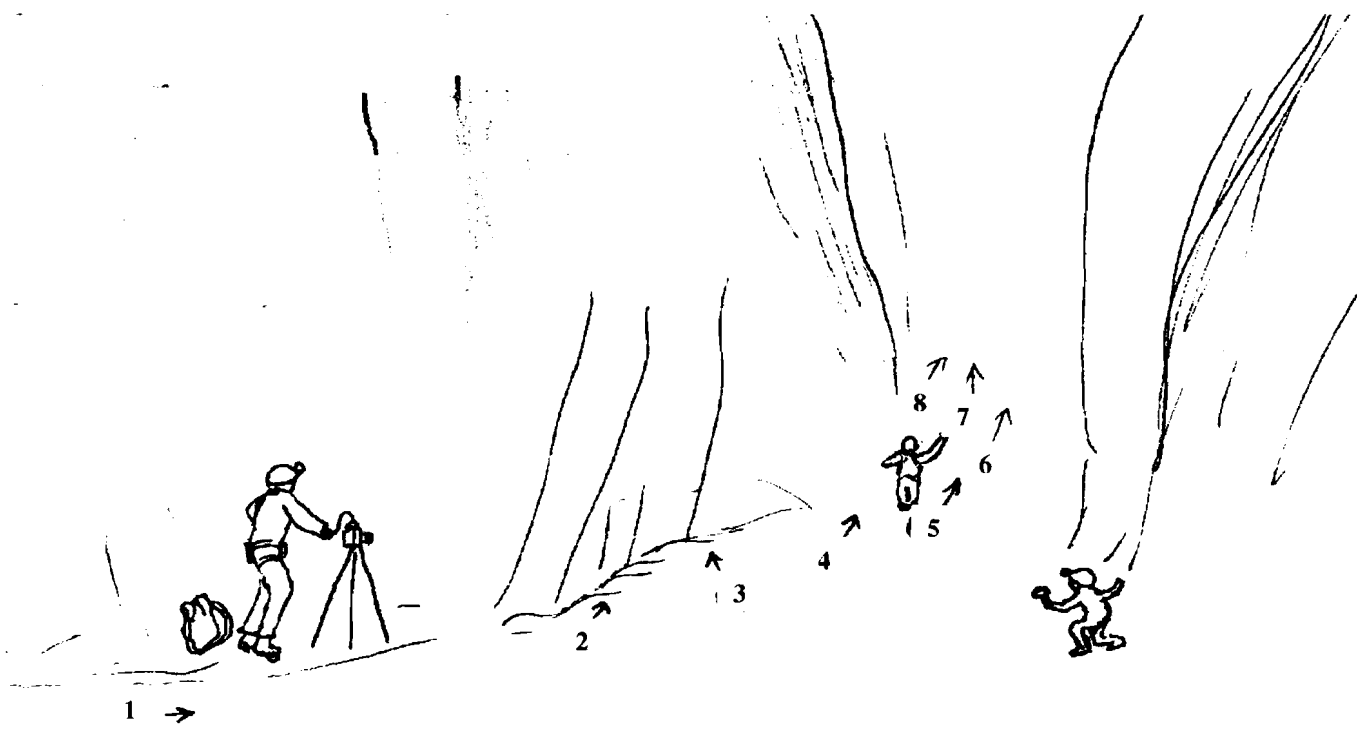
This produced a much improved effect. The flash gun is now out of sight behind the subject but is still triggered by the camera's flash and the subject becomes silhouetted against a background which is bright and full of contrast and detail.

General method for taking multiple flash pictures

The sketch is taken from an actual photographic session in the Saddlestone Caverns at Coniston. The single lens reflex camera, which on this occasion, was an Olympus OM4, is set up on a tripod, the photographer having fitted a cable release to open the shutter.

The camera is set to 'B' and the shutter opened. The flashgun operator fires his device, first in position 1, then 2, 3, 4, 5, etc with the gun always pointing away from the camera in the direction of the arrow. The final firing of the flashgun will be beyond point 8 round the rock pillar, out of sight of the camera.

The flash operator then stays out of sight and another companion (seen to the right), switches on a powerful hand-held light and "pans" over the rock pillar, roof etc, for about 20 seconds. The photographer then closes the shutter.



The contrast on the photograph between the white light of the flash and the pale yellow of the hand-held light is very pleasing.

For this type of picture, all the camera functions should be switched to "manual". On this occasion a wide angled lens was fitted and set to F8, focus was set to 40m, and Fujicolour 100 ASA film was used.

Take care to ensure all cap lamps are on low light.

A.D.Cameron.

Printing of Scanned Photographs.

This article is a continuation of an article printed in CATMHS 39 and is designed to spread information about reproducing photographic images for this publication.

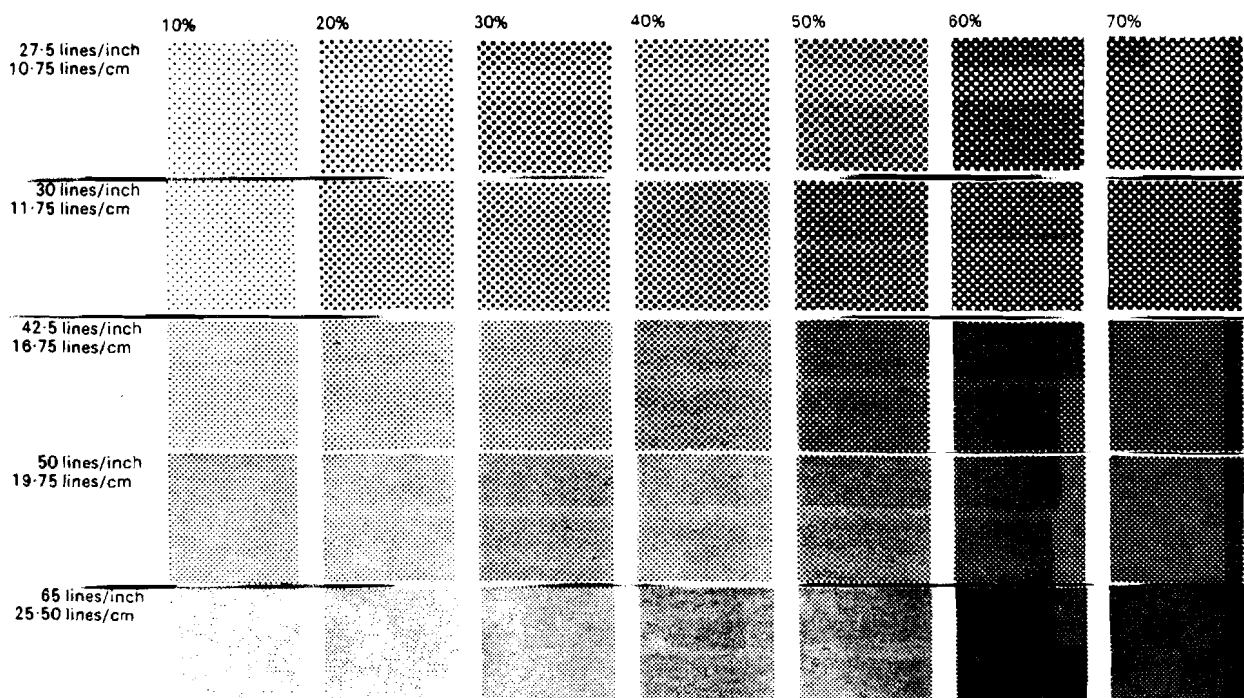
Since printing is monochrome, (printing black dots), colour is not covered, apart from anything else systems requirements are too onerous for my machine. (a '386dx 40 with 4Mb Ram) There appear to be two standards - dpi (dots to the inch) which is what monochrome computer printers deal with, and lpi (lines to the inch) which has its origins in the traditional printing of half toned images. The half-tone method, the invention of Meisenbach in 1881, the picture to be copied is photographed through a glass screen containing a grating of fine lines dividing the area into tiny squares of clear glass. The image was transferred to a zinc or copper plate coated with a light-sensitive, acid resisting coating. This was exposed and developed like a photograph, washed and etched with acid. On any square that has been exposed to light, the acid resist disappears and, during etching, the acid will eat into the square, thus reducing the amount of inked area on the picture. The development of the half-tone was carried on by Max Levy in 1890. The type of optical grating used, as was said in the previous article, depends mainly on paper and the printer. The resultant dots being made to run diagonally, as the eyes are less efficient at picking up them up. Your average 300 x 300 dpi printer can manage about 40 lpi, Newspaper images are printed at 65 to 85 lpi, which in computer printer terms is at least 600 dpi.

For good quality work you are talking of 115 to 150 lpi.

Compare the cover photograph done with traditional methods with the Hudgill photo on page 6 scanned at 400dpi and reproduced via 360 x 360 dpi bubblejet printer. The first appears to be at a resolution of 90 - 100 lpi whilst the second is about 40 - 50 lpi. The reproduction in both cases is at 1 : 1. There is one more thing that you ought to think about. The Hudgill photo file size is 253Kbyte for a 256 grayscale 400dpi image 100 mm x 150mm, saved as a PCX image file. For a 1:1 reproduction scanning at printer resolution is normal, it will be readily apparent that scanning at greater resolutions has considerable computer hardware requirements. Colour, well things start to be really serious, which is why Apple Mac's have been the machine to have for this business, for it is only recently that your average Pc is now up to the job. So if you are serious about reproducing photographs it would appear that a printer of at least 600 x 600 dpi resolution is a must, not forgetting of course the thing at the other end of it. (A professional Linotron imagesetter can produce 150 lpi screening.) Oh by the way in case you were wondering why your image looks good on VGA monitor at a 1 : 1 aspect ratio. The display is at 640 x 480 dpi and by extension, on a SVGA monitor using a good quality say 1Mb video card the graphic looks even better.

Mark Simpson October 1995

Screens showing their lpi at various percentage of shading.

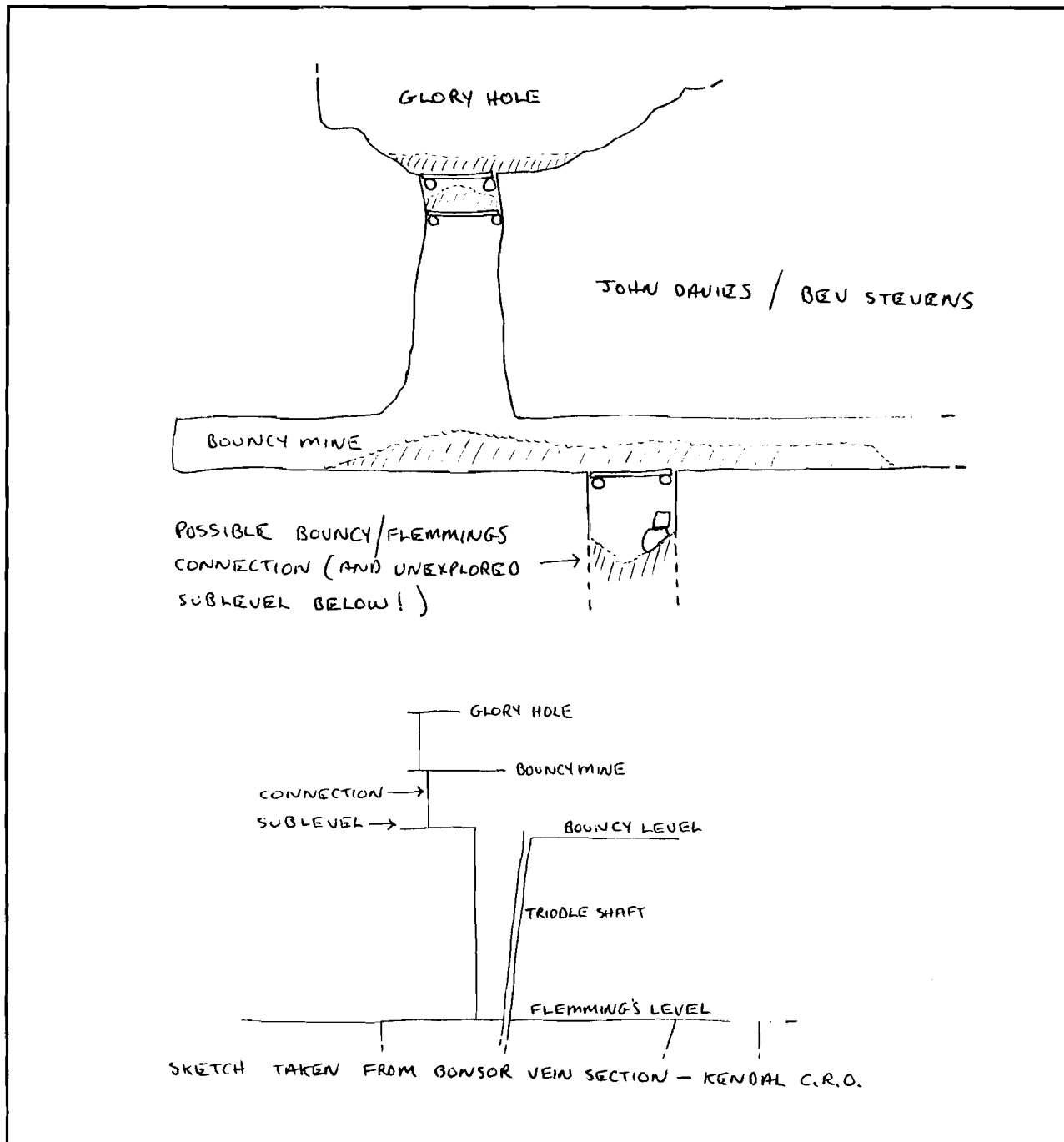


A Bouncy Mine to Flemmings Connection?

According to the mine plans from Kendal C.R.O. the connection should be a few feet outby of the base of the shaft coming down from the Glory Hole to the Bouncy Mine. Also upon inspection the tunnel appeared to have been slightly widened here. At this point we started to remove rubble and it was not long before we noticed that the tunnel outby was dry even though water was running into the dig site. This was encouraging and after a bit more work a false floor, with a gap on one side, was found. A few days later and with better equipment (a bucket) we returned and took a further 5 - 6 ft of rubble from below the wooden flooring. We were without doubt in the top of a rock shaft driven on the inclination of the vein. Unless there is another adit (unlikely) then the water must surely find its way into Flemmings Mine and thus eventually Deep Level.

John Davies September 1995

John is requesting active help and more information with this project. (Ed)



Incident in Red Dell, Coniston, 22 July 1972. A.D. Cameron

I have written up this account for the simple reason that I can't remember it having been recorded fully anywhere else. It describes an incident that happened 23 years ago and one which turned into quite a notable epic. The incident is still talked about today. As I was involved to a certain extent I felt I should put down, for the record, what I remember.

The story concerns the events of the evening of Saturday 22nd July 1972. Those distant student days are a haze of pleasant memories. Life was great. Rock climbing was my love. Coming from Coniston, during college vacations, there were endless long lazy days on the crags. Looking at my old diaries it would seem that we spent virtually every weekend climbing somewhere. On that particular Saturday morning four of us headed for Dow Crag. Originally we had planned to climb Murray's route, a classic on Dow which we had done a few times before. However I seem to remember that one of our group was just getting over a long illness and was still a bit weak. So we satisfied ourselves in doing a number of easier climbs.

Later in the afternoon we clattered down the rough track to Coniston. Plans for the evening were being made. We would start off in the Crown Hotel and then move on to the Sun. Little did I know that my pint in the Sun would not be enjoyed until 7am on the following morning!

It was while I was in the bath that I heard the phone ring. Soon after my dad banged on the door. 'There's been a call out; at the Coppermines. Someone's fallen down a shaft. My mini van bounced and banged its way up the Coppermines track as I tried to keep up with the mountain rescue teams Landrover. There was a faint drizzle and I remember thinking that the job shouldn't take too long. Hopefully I would still manage an evening's drinking. Bill Barnes was standing outside the Barrow Mountaineering Club cottage, looking very serious. At that time Bill lived at the cottage, acting as unofficial warden. There were a number of other youths around. "He's fallen down the open shaft up in Red Dell. His name is Alexander Peters and he is 17 years old. These are his mates, they are all from America".

We each picked up our prescribed rucksack and started up the track towards Red Dell. It was shortly after six pm that we fixed ropes close to the open stope ready to descend. There wasn't much to attach anything to, apart from old fence posts, so it was decided to lower the chosen two down on a rope held by a long line of rescuers. Bill Barnes descended first. He seemed very fired up and, anyway, he wasn't actually a member of the rescue team, so it didn't really matter what happened to him. He was followed on another rope by Roy Cooksey. Suitably protected, I leaned over the edge relaying

messages. Roy met up with Bill on a sloping bank about 120ft down. There was no sign of the victim and the stope descended on, beyond the range of their lights. Roy, who was on the longer rope, started to descend further but it was clear that another rope would be required. Bill shouted up for someone to bring down another rope. Full of bravado I volunteered.

Up on the surface the team had ample climbing rope, but most of it was no longer than 200ft. It was felt that the victim could have fallen much further. They started to lower me down. After about 50ft my light went out. It was difficult to reach it, let alone give it a thump, with a heavy 200ft of rope round my shoulders. Eventually I managed to bang it against the rock face and it came back on again. In about 10 minutes I had joined Bill on the bank. Bill had belayed himself to an old wooden sleeper. As I arrived my foot hit it and it broke into a million splinters. We needed to find a good belay very quickly, both to protect ourselves and to allow the new rope to be fixed. But there was absolutely nothing there; no crack to insert a piton, no boulder or secure iron bar. We hunted around for some time. We could hear Roy dislodging stones and rubble from the depths. In the end he shouted up to us that he wanted to be hauled out. We relayed the message to the surface. "He must be still alive, I can hear him down there. It's too dangerous to try and get nearer. Rubble keeps falling on him and I can hear him groaning". Roy was hauled past us and on to the surface.

We waited on the bank for the next stage in the proceedings. Some time later a light appeared above us. Someone was descending. Unknown to us the Coniston team had been joined by the Langdale and Ambleside team. One of their members, Maureen Penman, was cooking a meal when the call-out came. Unfortunately, in her haste, she had grabbed the wrong pair of climbing trousers. They were a very old pair that had a habit of falling down. She was a keen caver and it was decided, as soon as Roy was up, that she should descend on the longest rope we had which was about 300ft. She decided to abseil even though she only had a simple waist belt. As she started off she was having great difficulty operating her figure of eight and keeping her trousers up at the same time.

Down below we were still hunting for a better belay. We found a length of disused railway track sticking out from an old level (which was probably part of Taylors Level). It seemed fairly secure. We attached the rope as best we could and I leaned back on it to see if it moved. At that point two things happened. Adrenaline flowed profusely as the rail came out of the bank, and something soft and warm landed on me. Bill manhandled me back to the safety of the bank and removed the trousers from my head. We shone our lights up the stope. They reflected off two white

legs. We just couldn't believe what we saw. There was a girl coming down in her knickers! Maureen was very apologetic as she put her trousers back on. "They just kept coming down, so in the end I kicked them off". A short length of thin climbing line did the trick.

She continued on down and hung from the rope for some time to survey the scene. In the end she asked to be pulled back up. I looked at my watch. It was well after 10pm. We shouted up to the surface and they pulled us out as well. We couldn't believe what we found at the surface. Instead of the 15 or so people that had been there when we descended, there were now over a hundred. Several ark lights had been set up, there were at least two tents from which soup and food was being handed out, one of the Brossen quarry Landrovers had managed to get up to Red Dell bringing with it rolls of electron ladder, more rope, lights, refreshments and additional rescue equipment.

We all gathered to discuss tactics. A group of Coniston team members had waded up Taylors Level but had found the way blocked by a major collapse and had come back out. The Cave Rescue Organisation at Settle had been contacted and they were on their way. Both Roy and Maureen felt that the descent line should be a few yards along the top of the stope because the drop would then be free and there was less likelihood of debris falling on the victim. The quarry Landrover had brought up some light weight scaffolding poles. A start was made to install these as an anchor point. Within an hour the CRO had arrived. They had managed to get their large Bedford truck half way along the access track from the Coppermines Valley.

Bill and I sat drinking coffee watching the organised chaos. We were pretty well done-in after our exertions. We both agreed that, for the rest of the night we would try and keep low profile. It didn't look as if I was going to get to the pub and to make matters worse it had started raining steadily. We even considered descending back to the Cottage for an hour or two. Bill was almost certain that he had some beer in the fridge. Unfortunately our anonymity wasn't to last long. We were soon routed

out and summoned to a high level meeting. A plan had to be put together quickly. The victim was obviously alive, although most likely very badly injured. It was important to get a doctor down, or at least close to him. It was decided to lower the Coniston team doctor (Dr Armstrong) down by rope to our bank. He would be at least within calling distance. A separate descent would be made from the scaffolding poles by electron ladder. If it was safe another doctor would descend also on the ladder, hopefully right down to the youth.

Dr Armstrong and another team member were lowered to the bank. The descent of the electron ladder was then made by a member of the CRO followed by Maureens husband, Eric (Spider) Penman. The new line of descent worked perfectly. A phone cable belonging to the CRO was also taken down. Alexander was located lying on a bank of rubble about 250ft below the surface. It was felt safe to allow the Ambleside team doctor, Dr Earnshaw, to descend as well. Alexander was clearly badly injured with limb fractures, possible fractured skull and was suffering from hypothermia.

After attention from Dr Earnshaw he was put in survival equipment, placed on a stretcher and hauled very slowly to the surface. Team members and remaining equipment were then hauled out. We then carried the victim down the track to the Barrow Club cottage to be taken away by road to Barrow hospital. It took a further hour to clear up the site and extricate the CRO truck from the Red Dell track. The quarry Landrover was loaded up to the roof with everything that needed taking down - rescue equipment, tents, tea urns etc. and was driven with great skill by Norman Woolcock down to the cottage.

Inspector Brunskill from the Ulverston police was heard to say that, so long as we made no noise, he didn't mind the Sun Hotel serving a few pints of beer to us when we got down. In the bar of the Sun, John Handcock, one of the Coniston Rescue Team members, looked at his watch. It was 7:15am. He suddenly realised that in 45 minutes he was on. It was Sunday morning and he was Conistons vicar.

Extract from the Millom & Askham Haematite Iron Co Annual Report

From the Chairman's Report.

It was Tuesday 21st December 1896 when Mr G Mure Richie addressed the 7th AGM of the Millom and Askham Haematite Iron Company at the Askham offices of the the Company. The Millom and Askham company had been formed from the ruins of the Askham and Mouzel Iron and Steel Company and the Cumberland Iron Mining and Smelting Company. It had yet to pay a dividend. There had been technical problems and labour

disputes, but the news was not,all bad. They had invested heavily in relining the furnaces, and if only the price of pig iron would rise, there was the prospect of dividends in the future.

The Whicham Mining Company (in which the M & A Co had a large stake) had finally been allowed to go into receivership, after large sums had been spent on development. The companies mines at Highfield, Thwaite Flat and Holmes Green had not worked since

the amalgamation, and would not work again. At Askham, Mouzel and Dalton (Crossgates) the Chairman remarked that the cost of mining was high, due to the ground having been partly worked through before. He does not mention the mines at Goldmire and Lindal Moor

He needed some light relief, and the locomotive stock provided it:

" In 1894 we found our locomotives (of which, when the company was formed we were supposed to have 19) mostly in a state of hopeless inefficiency - sometimes because the type was unsuited to our class of work, but usually because of what ever the type, they were unfit for good work - it being of common occurrence for some to stick whilst pulling a small load, until another engine, also more or less a cripple, was got to shove behind. One of these "Sodgers", as I heard them styled, was sold for what it would fetch, a dear bargain it turned out for the purchaser: luckily it was clear away from our works before it collapsed. Other so-called locomotives found for

a time a quiet resting place on the scrap field, disturbed only by the scornful incredulity with which one anxious enquirer after another would decline to believe that such a grotesque wreck could ever have been an engine; but, seriously, we have from time to time during these three years thoroughly repaired the old locomotives thought worth repairing, and have also purchased six works locomotives which, I think, will bear comparison with any similar plant.we have paid about £4,400 for new locomotivesthis company at its works, mines and quarries, employs about 1,050 men, handles per annum about 1,310,000 tons material - ore, coke, limestone, slag, pig iron; owns about 17 miles of private railways, 15 locomotives, and 370 wagons; that last year at our works, excluding own rolling stock, about 19,000 foreign wagons got dispatch, and at our Millom wharf about 335 steamers carrying cargoes that amounted to about 108,000 tons.....

P. Sandbach July 1995

Rescue on Coniston Old Man

Extract from - *Slate From Coniston* by A.D.Cameron

C.A.T.M.H.S. new book

The New Years Honours list of 1939 carried, amongst its list of names, that of Mr George Frederick Coward, quarryman, of Coniston, who was awarded the British Empire Medal for leadership and courage during a rescue of a colleague on Coniston Old Man the previous winter. George was foreman at the Mandalls Quarries. Although he had spent most of his working life at the Old Man, he actually originated from Langdale. He was particularly modest person, a keen member of Coniston bowls and cricket teams and also a bandmaster of long standing.

On 13th December 1937 heavy snow had fallen at Coniston. The roads into the village were blocked for several hours and snow continued to fall during the following night. The next day quarrymen started work at the Old Man Quarries as usual. In those days they walked from the village to the quarries each morning. But snow continued to fall and the wind started to increase. Conditions were clearly becoming serious and by late morning most of the men working at the high Spion Kop workings decided they should beat a retreat quickly.

Two of the younger men, Matthew Walker who lived at the Coppermines and Jim Long from Coniston village, decided to stay up at the high workings. Within the closehead at Spion Kop conditions were relatively comfortable. There was little indication of the gale and blizzard blowing on the mountain outside. But by 2pm even these two began to realise that they should get down quickly. They didn't realise the prospect of being stranded up at Spion Kop for several days.

The track down from Spion Kop is narrow and traverses

a steep slope below the ancient tips of Scald Cop. Above them snow had compacted in the high wind and a large cornice had formed. As they descended an avalanche started. A huge mass of snow swept down engulfing them both. Matthew Walker was carried some distance down the mountainside and ended up on a small ledge. When he finally forced his way out from under the snow he realised how far he had been carried. Jim Long was nowhere to be seen. Matthew managed to descend down to the main bank at Saddlestone. George Coward and a few other quarrymen were still there.

George immediately organised a search of the mountainside below the Spion Kop track. The wind was rising all the time and the blizzard conditions were becoming more serious. After an hour and a half of searching George called a halt and ordered the men to return to the village. He would then organise a larger search by lantern light. At 7.30pm a large group of men assembled in the village and started back up to Saddlestone. Not a single person who had been contacted failed to turn up. In Coniston, wives and families gathered waiting for their return. It was optimistically felt that they might be back by midnight. By 3am most started to get worried. It was to be another three and a half hours before the rescuers returned, to everyone's great relief, and were able to recount the night's events. The group had struggled back up to Saddlestone and had lit a fire in one of the buildings. The search then commenced. Details were reported graphically in the following days *Evening Mail*:

' They found that the wind and snow conditions had worsened since the afternoon, but that some moonlight was getting through. The foreman, with wisdom, so

placed his men that they could take such shelter as was possible during the worst periods, and make a rapid search during the lulls. Somewhere about 2.30am, after a gust of great violence, the rescuers heard an answer to their cries.

Conditions were extremely bad, and there was a visibility of about nine yards only. At the end of a quarter of an hour an outstretched arm was seen emerging from the snow, off which a great weight had just been lifted by the last terrific gust. With great difficulty Jim Long was carried to the lower quarry by the rescuers who were often in the snow up to their necks. During the descent the foreman continually called the roll of the party to assure himself that no one had disappeared.

At Saddlestone, Long was dried in front of the fire, rubbed, put into warm clothing, and given restoratives. When sufficiently recovered he was put on a stretcher

and carried down the mountain, again a long and difficult matter. This last journey which is normally done by the average quarryman in twenty minutes, occupied the rescuers over three hours, the village being reached about 6.30am.'

As one can imagine, there was great relief in the village that all had returned safely. Jim Long was an extremely lucky lad. It is very unlikely that present day mountain rescue teams would risk a search in such conditions under darkness. They would probably wait until first light. The incident clearly demonstrates the ties, loyalties and team spirit of a closely knit community such as Coniston. Jim Long returned to work in the quarries for a number of years after the war ended. George Coward was not too keen about being awarded the British Empire Medal. He felt that it should have been presented to all the men who had taken part.

Book Review

Mines of the Gwydyr Forest. Part 6. Pandora and Other Mines in the North West Gwydyr. By John Bennett and Robert W. Vernon. A5. 116pp. ISBN 0 9514798 5 7. Price £6.50 Post free from Gwydyr Publications c/o John Bennett, 7 St. John's Way, Cuddington, Cheshire. CW8 2LX.

This the sixth and penultimate volume in the series "Mines of the Gwydyr Forest". The authors Messrs. Bennett and Vernon have continued with their now recognisable style to produce another very readable book. The workings described cover a period of activity from mid 16th century to the early decades of the 20th century. These were largely concerned with lead mining, with a revival for zinc in the later part of the 1800's, and the area includes one of the last lead ventures in Gwydyr in the early part of the 20th century.

As the title suggests the mine which dominates the north west of the chosen area is the one which has become generally as the Pandora Mine although it has had in its time been known by at least a dozen different names. The main workings discussed area all based around Llyn Geronedd, mainly to the south with some very small ventures to the north of Llyn Crafnant.

The book is laid out as earlier volumes and the lesser ventures are described first, which in fact only takes up

some 17 pages out of the total of 116. There are 3 fold out plans and sections of the Pandora mine and a fold out plan of the Eagle Lead Mine (Pandora) Oil Flotation Mill of C1930. It is difficult to see how anyone other than the promoters of the various ventures described managed to make any sort of return on their investment, it certainly did not take the mineral owners long to realise that receiving royalties was a much safer bet than actually getting involved in the "digging".

There are some fascinating stories of the promotion of the Pandora sett over the years and one in particular based on the disused New Pandora Lead Mill which became known as the Klondyke Mine needs to be read to be believed. The authors have in this case managed to get first-hand information on this "classic" confidence trick concerning a "mountain" of silver.

There are 10 fairly recent photographs of the Pandora Mine and 21 maps and diagrams, all well presented. Unfortunately as in previous volumes there is a scarcity of photographs taken at the time of mining activity. This volume maintains the standard already achieved and readers will I am sure be looking forward now to the final edition Vol 7 Cae Coch - Coed Gwydyr - Treceastell, to complete this series.

Damian McCurdy 12th September 1995



CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 10th December 1994 at the Yewdale Hotel, Coniston, commencing at 4.30 p.m.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence.
- 2 To approve the minutes of the 14th AGM, held on the 11th of December 1993.
- 3 Matters arising from those minutes.
- 4 Chairman's report.
- 5 Treasurer's report, and approval of Balance Sheet, (to be distributed at the meeting).
- 6 Secretary's report.
- 7 Journal Editor's report.
- 8 Tackle Master's report.
- 9 Meet Secretary's report.
- 10 Membership Secretary's report.
- 11 Report of Publicity officer.
- 12 Archivist's report.
- 13 Notices of Motions.
- 14 Election of Officers & Committee for 1995.
- 15 Any other relevant business the chairman may allow.

Attendance - 27 members as follows:

D. Bridge	S. Barker	J. Helme	A. Sibbald	C. Barrow
P. Blezard	D. Parsons	D. Borthwick	C. Jones	A. Cameron
A. Danson	C. Hancock	J. Helme	J. Knowles	I. Matheson
B. Mitchell	M. Mitchell	T. Oulton	P. Sandbach	M. Simpson
P. Fleming	J. Scott	A. C-P-Thomas	S. C-P. Thomas	P. Timewell
A. Westall	H. Wilkinson			

1 Apologies for absence

The secretary reported that she had received apologies from R. Calvin, I. Cameron, J. Hext, P. Hay, R. Seton, D. Sewart, M. Scott, J. Wilkinson & A. Wilson.

2 To approve the minutes of the 14th AGM, held on the 11th of December 1993

The minutes of the 14th AGM had been previously circulated to all members.

Amendment. C. Jones wished the words "he would then arrange for it to be there" (Item 8) to be removed. On completion of this amendment, it was PROPOSED by A. C-P. Thomas and SECONDED by J. Helme, that the minutes be signed by the chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings. This was carried unanimously.

3 Matters arising from those minutes

Nil.

4 Chairman's report

The Chairman's report included the following points:

The joint dig at Lucy Tongue was looking promising and draughting strongly. The Greenside Appeal was still open and contributions would be greatly appreciated.

In Furness steady progress had been made with the CIHS on the restoration of Newlands Furnace. The survey of mining relics in the Furness iron-field has continued throughout the summer, now aided by a generous grant from the CCC. Also in Furness we now have use of a commodious mine building at Roanhead for the storing of timber etc. Unfortunately conservation work on Woodbine Chimney is at a halt, until a source of scaffolding is found.

At Coniston more work had been done on Mandall's slate office. Conservation work has been carried out on the Old Engine shaft wheelpit and pump rods and in Taylor's level.

The latest venture was to open the horse level at Hudgill Burn mine in the Nent valley, which was progressing. The Chairman stressed that ALL the ongoing projects needed support and too often the effort was spread thinly amongst a small band of keen workers.

The chairman commented on other events in CATMHS's year, meets, conferences, etc.

Again literature sales had proved to be an important source of revenue and in due course it is hoped that CATMHS's list of publications will include A.D. Cameron's next work 'Slate from Conlston'. This will follow on the heels of Journal No. 4.

The chairman remembered Dave Blundell whose company and contribution is now sadly missed. He recorded our gratitude to Cathy for the donation of his mine plans and caving equipment to the society.

Finally thanks were given to all those willing hands who have been active on projects throughout the year. Also to the hard working committee, who he was sure would join him in conveying their very best wishes for 1995 to all members.

D. Parsons informed the meeting that the papers given at the 'Mining Before Powder' conference would be available on the 2nd January 1995.

The full version of the Chairman's report is to be printed in the next newsletter.

5 Treasurer's report

The treasurer reported the total income for the year was £3,673 and the total expenditure was £4,807, which produced a deficit of £1,200 after paying for the printing of Journal No. 4. He explained how the income was derived and gave details of expenditure. Literature sales are now the largest source of income. He did not believe that an increase in subscription levels would be of overall benefit to the society. We must therefore look towards literature sales for the income required. The Treasurer PROPOSED that the society's subscription remained at the same level this year, SECONDED by A.D. Cameron, all were in favour.

Hopefully the successful distribution of Journal No 4, (225 copies had been sold to date) will ensure the funding of 'Slate from Conlston' and eventually Journal No. 5. These revenues should ensure the continuing financial health of the society. Several members expressed ideas regarding future publications. H. Wilkinson suggested a Slate trail leaflet similar to the Conlston Copper trail leaflet, as a fund raising venture. All agreed with this idea.

D. Parsons thought we placed a lot of emphasis on raising money through publications, should we not think of general fund-raising and increasing the membership. Discussion on how to do this followed. The general consensus was that the best way of making money was through publications. C. Jones said we should not only produce popular literature but also cater for more specialised readership. D. Borthwick said publications could be produced more cheaply, e.g. as in ADC's Honister book. D. Bridge said it was important to have a broad base of literature in the pipeline and encouraged members to think ahead and plan their writing programme.

The treasurer was making a real effort to obtain the members subscriptions early this financial year. Please help this initiative by paying as soon as possible, so far about half last years members had rejoined.

He said we have come a long way since the days when Christmas cards were sold and members 'busked' at tourist centres in the Lakes, to balance the books. With patience, co-operation and understanding the financial success of the society, and its projects should be safe for the next few years.

A. Cameron asked if it was possible to anticipate any further expenditure required for the Greenside project. P. Blezard replied there was a substantial amount of materials now stored at Greenside, to carry on with the work of opening Lucy level. It was hard to predict what else would be required, as they were pushing into unknown ground.

Acceptance of the balance sheet was PROPOSED by J. Helme and SECONDED by A.D. Cameron. All were in favour.

6 Secretary's report

There were six committee meetings this year, all of which were well attended. In January John Hext agreed to become Honorary Vice President of the society. In February we objected to the closure of the BGS office in Newcastle, letters were written to all the local MP's, only one reply was received (from Michael Jopling). In any case the closure went ahead in August, we now have to get information

from the Edinburgh office. We have had a significant amount of correspondence with RCHME. Originally they were to carry out a survey of the Coniston copper mines in the Spring. This was delayed for various reasons and is now to take place next year. This delay made way for the survey of the early iron industries of Furness to be brought forward, hopefully to start in the very near future. This will coincide with the Furness Adventure's survey of the mines of Furness and should release a lot of new information.

Cathy Blundell has donated Dave's gear to the club, a list of which will be printed in the next newsletter and bids invited.

The 1995 NAMHO conference will be organised by the Shropshire Caving and Mining club and will be held in Lilleshall on the 14th/17th July.

7 Journal editor's report

The Journal Editor reported that the printers (Lamberts at Settle) had been very helpful and friendly and had done a good job quickly once they had the final copy. There had been some delay over the new wording of the copyright and 'The Society'. The latter is the single, public, widely distributed statement for the existence of our society. It was hoped everyone agreed with the statements made. Gratitude was expressed to authors for their patience and forbearance.

Steps being taken to advertise the Journal were outlined. Thanks were expressed to those members actively developing sales outlets for the Journal. The success of our publishing activities also depends on their efforts.

D. Bridge asked about word processing software, it was agreed that the move by more and more authors to PC's with compatible systems reduced the type-setting burden.

P. Timewell asked when the next Journal would be published. J. Helme thought that the time to decide would be when the Editor had received enough articles. J. Helme thanked the Journal Editor on behalf of the meeting, stating that the quality of the finished journal reflected well on the standing of the society.

8 Tackle Master's report

C. Jones reported that the equipment was being returned to him in good condition, with no damage to ropes. He asked the committee to discuss the purchase of some new hangers and karabiners at their next meeting. J. Knowles suggested we use Dave Blundell's gear. The re-bolting of the Paddy End through trip had been delayed but hopefully would be completed by the end of the year. D. Parsons had collected the old karabiners discarded by the Tackle master on the last Paddy End through trip and sent them to DMM in Wales to be tested, he would send him the results.

9 Meets Secretary's report & Newsletter Editor's report

The Meets Secretary thanked those people who have come on meets and particularly those who volunteered to be meet leaders. Attendance has varied from twenty, to very small numbers on two of this years 20 meets. The twice yearly meets planning meetings continue to work well, the next is to be held on 13th March, all are welcome to attend.

The Project meets continue to make steady progress. The split of meets was discussed. All agreed the programme of 1/3 exploration, 1/3 project and 1/3 of general interest meets appeared to be working well and should continue. The long weekend in Wales had worked very well and would be repeated at the following Easter.

The meets secretary asked members if they would be interested in a week long summer meet in Cornwall. Generally this was thought to be an excellent idea, to be discussed at the next committee meeting.

The Newsletter editor apologised for the late arrival of the last newsletter and for any omissions. He receives articles at very erratic intervals. He asked members to please send their articles before the copy dates to prevent delay. M. Simpson thanked those members who had contributed to the Newsletters.

10 Membership Secretary's Report

A. Sibbald reported that the society had 107 members this year, we had not lost as many members as last year, mainly due to John Helme phoning old members and persuading to them re-join. P. Timewell asked for ideas on how to recruit younger members to the society. I. Matheson thought

that as the societies interests had progressed from SRT to more conservation work and publications, it was not so attractive to the younger generation. Suggestions were made regarding this problem including: to send out a questionnaire asking old members why they failed to rejoin, or make a sympathetic phone call. J. Knowles thought we should encourage new members, not "dig up" old ones. D. Bridge reminded the members there are now three other mining history societies in Cumbria.

11 Publicity officer's report

A.D. Cameron felt the Society had now changed its image from being a group of 'cavers', to one of the leading societies in the North of England. The Newsheet had gone out every two months and had improved communication within the society. The Easter exhibition in Coniston had been very successful and had contained a much larger collection of photographs.

He had started work on 'Slate from Coniston' in June, it will contain three sections: A) Historic (17th to 19th century) B) Working practices C) Gazetteer and trails around Coniston Old Man and Tilberthwaite. It will hopefully be ready for printing at the end of 1995.

A new publicity poster is being produced to be distributed around the county. The Coniston library has been booked for the annual mining exhibition in early May. The proceeds will again go to the John Ruskin museum (JRM) fund. H. Wilkinson updated the progress report on the refurbishment of the JRM. The Trustees of the JRM are officially launching their appeal for the museum extension in 'Heritage Week' to be held on the week of 6th/13th May. The plans have gone to the NPSPB, it is hoped they will be passed by February. CATMHS still hope to be able to establish a permanent exhibition at the museum.

M. Simpson asked if we should change the names of the newsletter and the Newsheet. B. Mitchell suggested 'Bulletin' instead of Newsheet. Please send any ideas to the Newsletter editor.

12 Archivists Report

The library continues to develop, its rate of growth this year has been exceptional. This was mostly due to Cathy Blundell's donation of a lot of Dave's books and maps. The rest of the Blundell collection was put up for sale at the Embsay Steam Railway book shop and the CATMHS library made purchases. The library now contains some 600 items. Our library has now matured to be a worth while port of call for serious researchers.

A. Sibbald said he thought 'away members' were excluded from using the library. To help solve this problem M. Simpson intends to publish a list of the library contents in next Newsletter, the list will also be available on disc. D. Borthwick said the NMRS have a well laid out postal system of lending books to members, which could be copied. This subject to be discussed at the next committee meeting. The full version of the Archivist's report will appear in the next newsletter.

13 Notice of Motions

None received.

14 Election of Officers & Committee for 1995

All posts were open for election.

A. Sibbald had indicated that he did not intend to seek re-election to the post of Membership Secretary in 1995. All other officers and committee members were willing to be re-elected.

No nominations had been received by the Secretary.

Nominations for officers from the floor were as given below:

POST	NOMINATION	PROPOSED	SECONDED
Chairman	D. Bridge	A. Thomas	J. Helme
Secretary	S. Barker	J. Knowles	C. Jones
Treasurer	J. Helme	A.D. Cameron	C. Barrow
Membership Secretary	D. Parsons	H. Wilkinson	C. Jones
* Newsletter Editor	M. Simpson	A.D. Cameron	A. Thomas
* Journal Editor	D. Borthwick	C. Jones	D. Bridge
* Tackle Master	C. Jones	M. Mitchell	J. Helme
* Meets Secretary	J. Knowles	C. Barrow	J. Helme
* Publicity Officer	A.D. Cameron	J. Knowles	D. Bridge
*Archivist	A. C-P-Thomas	J. Helme	I. Matheson

* Non committee posts.

All officers, (with the exception of Membership Secretary) and the four non-committee posts of: Newsletter Editor, Journal Editor, Meets Secretary and Tackle Master, were all elected unanimously, see list above for proposers and seconders. D. Parsons was elected to the post of Membership Secretary.

Nominations for the remaining 8 committee posts:

NOMINATION	PROPOSED	SECONDED
A.D. Cameron	D. Bridge	J. Knowles
P. Fleming	A.D. Cameron	M. Mitchell
I. Matheson	J. Helme	C. Barrow
M. Mitchell	D. Bridge	J. Helme
J. Knowles	D. Bridge	H. Wilkinson
M. Simpson	J. Knowles	S. Barker
A. C-P. Thomas	P. Timewell	J. Helme
A. Wilson	S. Barker	D. Bridge
J. Wilkinson	H. Wilkinson	D. Bridge
S. Thomas	A. Thomas	J. Knowles

As there were 10 nominations for the 8 committee posts, a ballot was undertaken, the first 8 on the table were successful.

D. Bridge thanked retiring Membership Secretary Andrew Sibbald for his help in the past.

16 Any other relevant business the chairman may allow

16.1 D. Parsons asked if members under the age of 18 years were insured. S. Barker answered under 18's were family members and only the head of family was insured.

16.2 A. Cameron asked if the voting procedure could be amended before the next AGM, this subject to be discussed at the next committee meeting.

D. Bridge thanked all members for attending.

Chairman

S.B. 17/12/94

At the conclusion of the dinner following the AGM. The following awards were presented.

Chairman's Award
 Boot of Merit
 Broken Crab Award

Jointly Sheila Barker & Don Borthwick
 John Helme
 David Bowers

BRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on the Monday 23rd July 1995
 BMSC Hut, Coniston.

da

Apologies for absence
 Minutes of the last meeting

Matters arising

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Membership Secretary's Report

Meets Secretary's Report

Publicity officers Report

Furness Projects

Hudgill Burn Mine

Newlands Furnace

Greenside Ladder way

Coniston Coppermines Site

Library

Date and venue of next committee meeting

Any other business

nt D. Bridge,

A.D. Cameron,

8 Members in total.

J. Helme,

J. Knowles,

D. Parsons,

A. Wilson.

Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

ologies for absence

M. Simpson, I. Matheson, A. C-P-Thomas, M. Mitchell.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 22nd May 1995 had been previously circulated to members.

It was PROPOSED by P. Fleming and SECONDED by D. Parsons, "That the minutes be signed by the chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings". This was carried unanimously.

Matters arising

Item 4.B The Secretary had written to the LDSPB objecting to the erection of a mineral water bottling plant in Kentmere.

Item 3.6 J. Knowles had purchased ladders.

Item 3.7 J. Knowles had received an answer from the National Trust regarding Cathedral Cavern. They hope to do sufficient work to allow its continued use, and in the mean time, they are asking groups to avoid the area.

4 Secretary's Report

The secretary had received:

- Letter from the National Radiological Protection Board, which included a draft of proposed advice on the limiting of exposure to Radon during caving and similar activities. The society's comments were invited. Action J. Knowles.
- Programme of the CGS which included details of their current Proceedings. The secretary to contact them, hopefully to arrange an exchange of the former with a copy of our Journal No 4.
- Letter from MOLES and LMQT who have now combined their museum displays at the Threlkeld Quarry. The committee welcomed this news and wished the venture every success.

5 Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented a balance sheet (which had previously been circulated) covering the period since the last committee meeting. He made the following comments:

- Journal sales had slowed down, only 15 sold since the last meeting. Total now sold 468 copies producing £1750 (including p/p), (production cost £2145).
- Blundell Bequest of equipment had now raised £275
- An opportunity had arisen, due to the end of the trading of 'Red Earth' to purchase 70 copies of 'Beneath the lakeland fells' for £250, i.e. discounted price of £3.57 per copy (retail price £14.99). P. Fleming PROPOSED "That the society should take this opportunity to buy the books", SECONDED by J. Knowles, all were in favour.

13 Coniston Coppermines site. (This item was brought forward).

P. Fleming reported on the recent successful joint meet with the Russell Society at Coniston. CATMHS members knowledge of geology and metallurgy was greatly increased by listening to the experts and the often quite heated discussion on rock and mineral types. P. Fleming PROPOSED "That the secretary to send a copy of Journal No 4 to Brian Young (BGS) to express the societies thanks", SECONDED by D. Parsons, all were in favour.. Brian Young has offered to write an article on the minerals of the Coniston copper mines area, to be published in our journal.

Nothing to report from the NPSPB regarding conservation work at the Old Engine Shaft launder tower.

The society had received a letter from Mr P. Johnston's solicitors threatening court action for libel. This followed a submission (Item 13 22/5/95) of evidence by the society to the D of E Inspector conducting an enquiry into a breach of planning application by Mr Johnston. This relates to the conversion of the former carpenter's shop into "four inter-linked cottages". Several committee members consulted their solicitors. All were advised that in the best interest of the Society we should formerly withdraw the original submission and replace this with another. S. Barker and P. Fleming did this through Kendal and Fisher Solicitors of Dalton in Furness. There had been no further developments to date. J. Knowles PROPOSED " That no further letters to be sent without consulting all the committee members" SECONDED by

J. Helme. All were in favour. D. Parsons PROPOSED "That all the Solicitor's fees should be met by the Society" SECONDED by A.D. Cameron. All were in favour.

Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership secretary reported that there were 109 members at present, including three new members. A current membership list would go out with the next Bulletin.

Meets Secretary's Report

J. Knowles expanded on the details of the meet in Cornwall. The next Meets Meeting will be held at Coniston at 7-30 pm on 18th September. Any ideas would be very welcome. The 6th August meet was put forward to the 13th of the same month.

J. Knowles had copies of the newly published book 'Cwmorthin Slate Quarry' for sale, for every copy sold, CATMHS funds would receive £1. J. Knowles apologised for putting two copies of some of the minutes in the last newsletter.

Publicity Officer's Report

A.D. Cameron reported it took him quite a while to sort out the panels after the Whitsuntide mining exhibition held in Coniston. He now has the laminating facilities he required. Thanks went to D. Parsons who had given the society some display boards. A weekly What's On article in the Evening Mail was discussed, it gave the impression that non members could attend our meets. As this not so, A.D. Cameron will contact the editor giving him the correct information.

8.1 John Ruskin Museum Project

Rust had been noticed on the kibble at the exhibition. The secretary to contact Newcastle museum service and ask their advice.

Furness Projects

9.1 Woodbine Pit, Newton. A. C.-P-Thomas was unable to attend, he sent a verbal communication via J. Helme. The chimney was now laddered to the top and is ready for the next building stage.

9.1 Furness survey. Eric Instone of the LUAU (Newcastle Office), had contacted member P. Sandbach asking for more information on the Furness iron mines for the MPP.

Hudgill Burn Mine

At the last HCB meet we became aware that Mr William Walton (landowner) had sadly died during the winter months. We will all miss his visits to us at the mine, he was very helpful and we always enjoyed hearing his tales of Rotherhope Fell mine where he used to work. On the last meet the usual amount of mud was removed to enable the next set of headtrees to be positioned. The present landowner Mr Walton junior agreed to our suggestion of gating the level.

Newland Furnace

The work of replacing the brickwork is proceeding slowly. Some difficulty in transporting the heavy corbelling stone's from the quarry is being experienced. The CCC Archaeologist requires photographs for his report. Next meet is on 26th July.

12 Greenside Ladderway

No progress, D. Parsons will assess the condition of the shaft. He thought CATMHS must make a greater effort there next winter, all agreed.

14 Library and Mine plans

No report.

15 Date and venue of next Committee Meeting

This was arranged for 7.30 p.m. on Monday 25th September 1995 at the BMSC Hut at Coniston.

16 Any other business

16.1 A.D. Cameron asked if his book 'Slate from Coniston' could go on the next agenda as a separate item, as he was making good progress and decisions will have to be made.

16.2 P. Fleming asked if there were any copies of Journal No 3 left as he could sell some more. J. Helme would give him the remaining copies.

16.3 P. Fleming noticed a paragraph from his newsletter article had been missed out. A.D. Cameron to put it in the next Bulletin.

16.4 When J. Helme receives the copies of 'Beneath the lakeland fells', he will deliver them to the secretary.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10-00 pm.

SB 4/08/95

Chairman

CATMHS Financial Statement July. 1995

ance May 1995		3252.70
criptions 4 @ £10 & 1 @ £12	52.00	
Tax Rebate (Inland Revenue)	108.16	
ature sales Journal 4 (15 copies)	49.50	
Others	32.10	
Current	0.49	
est	68.00	
ell Bequest: (Parsons)	310.25	310.25
		<u>3562.95</u>
enses		
letter Editor (Simpson)	26.98	
Meeting Room (BMSC)	3.00	
b. Sec. Expenses (Parsons)	106.94	
Expenses (Barker)	25.00	
e Extended Ladder	172.75	
JECTS:		
dall (Usher)	25.98	
Survey	84.82	
	57.10	
gill (Thomas)	19.48	
gill (Knowles)	4.97	
	527.02	-527.02
		<u>3035.93</u>
Balance		
ance held as:		
Building Society	2660.63	
Bank	375.30	
	3035.93	
TOTAL		

CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

HONORARY PRESIDENT Lord Egremont

VICE PRESIDENT Major Hext

Officers for 1995

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Committee Members

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Anton C.P.Thomas
Mike Mitchell
John Helme

Mark Simpson
Ian Matheson
Angela Wilson
David Parsons

Jon Knowles
Dave Bridge
Sheila Barker
Alistair Cameron

Honorary Members

John Marshall

Mike Mitchell

Peter Fleming

Cover Photograph

October 1938. Joe Jackson of Coniston despatches a clog of slate down the aerial flight from High Blue Quarry to the Bonsor Mill, Coniston Coppermines. Joe had worked at High Blue for a number of years. The following year the Blue Quarries closed and he went to work at Coniston Old Man where he remained until he retired.

Slate was processed at the Bonsor Mill from 1925 to 1939. Madalls took over the mine's pelton wheel and compressor for a sum of a £1 a year. They constructed a processing shed and installed an electric saw. Eventually the processing shed and equipment were dismantled and taken to Moss Rigg Quarry in Tilberthwaite where they were re-assembled.

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- 1 **Diary Dates**
 - 2 **Meets Reports ---**
 - Stoneycroft Gill - 5th July**
 - Coniston Copper Mines Meet**
 - with the Russell Society. - 15th & 16 th July**
 - Peak District Trip -- 29th & 30th July**
 - Mines of Blencathra -- 13th August**
 - Hudgill -- 26th & 27 August**
 - Frog Shaft - 24th September**
 - 8 **Dr Descender,**
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 - 12 **Bouncy Mine to Flemmings Connection?**
 - 13 **Incident in Red Dell, Coniston, 22nd July 1972**
 - 14 **Extract from the Millom & Askham Haematite Iron Co Annual Report.**
 - 15 **Rescue on Coniston Old Man.**
 - 16 **Book Review**
-

Cwmorthin Slate Quarry

ADIT Publications has now published its second book "Cwmorthin Slate Quarry by Graham Isherwood". This is a second edition of a book originally produced in 1982 in limited numbers and in "photocopy quality". The second edition is 106 pages including 8 pages of colour photographs together with a fold out underground plan and numerous diagrams. The book is in uniform style with Rhosydd Slate Quarry. Cover price is only £11 plus £1 P&P.

When CATMHS members buy a copy £1 is donated to Society funds.

Available from the Meets Secreatary who took some of the photographs. Note that 4 of the 5 Adit partners are CATMHS members.
