

PEAK DISTRICT MINES HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No.8.

JANUARY 22nd, 1963.

Next Meeting

Saturday, February 9th, 1963. Department of Geology, Mappin Street
Sheffield, 1. Time: 3.0pm.

P. W. Crabtree, B.Sc., talk on "St. Francis Mine, Swaledale".

J. A. Robey, B.Sc., colour slides on "Caving".

Proposed Programme for Period up to June.

- March 23rd Talk by Mrs. M. L. Oakley on the Snitterton Area (it is hoped to hold this meeting in Bakewell - details in next newsletter).
- April 7th Field Meeting to Hucklow - Mr. R. N. Tune (Mrs. P. E. Lunn).
- May 5th Field Meeting to Jugholes, Oxclose - Mrs. M. L. Oakley.
- June 9th Field Meeting to the Shropshire Mining Area - Mr. A. Ashwell.
- June Talk by Mr. R. Howard on the Gouffre Berger Expedition.

This programme is only tentative and subject to alteration and addition. Other meetings are at present being arranged details will appear in the next newsletter.

Society Officers for 1963.

The following Officers and Members of Council for 1963 were elected at the A.G.M. on December 1st at Bakewell. The Council appointments were made at the Council Meeting on January 11th at Sheffield.

Chairman: Mr. H. Sarjeant

Deputy Chairman: Mr. H. E. Chatburn

Secretary: Mrs. P. E. Dixon

Treasurer: Mr. A. E. Wiles.

Recorder: Mr. G. Lunn

Members of Council: Mr. G. Lunn

Mr. M. Luff

Mr. H. Parker

Mr. J. A. Robey

Mrs. M. L. Oakley

Mr. R. Steele

Ex-Officio Member of
Council:

Mr. J. H. Rieuwerts.

Council Appointments: Cottage Warden: Mr. M. Luff

Preservation Secretary: Mr. J. A. Robey

Editor: Mr. M. E. Smith

Taoklemaster: Mr. R. Howard.

The A.G.M. was followed by the 3rd Annual Dinner at which 79 people were present despite the weather.

Peak District Mines Historical Society Prize in Geology.

As stated in the Council's Annual Report at the A.G.M. this has been offered to the University of Sheffield in appreciation for the assistance given to the Society since its formation, and the facilities which have been made available for the Society's use, without which the progress of the Society would have been seriously retarded, e.g. the Bulletin is produced in the Department. The conditions of the prize are listed below. The first award will be made at the Degree Congregation in July 1963. The prize has been offered for a period of 5 years and may be renewed after that period.

"The Prize will be awarded annually by the Senate to the First Year student in the Honours School of Geology, whose work has shown most distinction and promise. Recommendation for the award of the Prize will be made to the Faculty of Pure Science by the Examiners in Geology. The Examiners may recommend the division of the Prize between candidates who are deemed to be of equal merit, or withhold the Prize if no candidate reaches the expected standard. The value of the Prize is £5, in money or books, at the option of the prize winner or winners."

Binders or Binding for Bulletins.

Following a question on binders at the A.G.M. enquiries have been made to obtain a spring folder to take the first volume. Several binders have been tried, none would take the full volume. Two volumes have been sent privately for binding in Sheffield; prices as follows: Northends Ltd. rexin bound, lettering on spine, 35-40/-; Wm. Townsend Ltd., 25-28/-.

Should anyone require further details, please contact the secretary or editor.

New Members:

The following have recently applied for membership of the Society.

- P. F. Dagger Esq., A.R.S.M., B.Sc., Rock Head House, Cowdale, Buxton.
 A. L. Allen Esq., 107, Algar Road, Trent Vale, Stoke on Trent.
 A. J. Lowndes Esq., 28, Cotton Hill, Withington, Manchester, 20.
 A. C. Huntington Esq. Ford Castle, Berwick on Tweed, Northumberland
 (or 146, Duffield Road, Derby).
 B. M. Hardman Esq., F.I.M. 59, Cambroen Cres. Westlands, Newcastle, Staffs.
 Miss J. S. Singer, 268, Haughton Green Road, Denton, Nr. Manchester.
 N. Bannerman Esq., Froggat, Nr. Sheffield.
 Dr. B. T. Warwick, Dept. of Geography, The University, Birmingham, 13.
 D. Gill Esq. 106, Stannington View Road, Sheffield, 10.
 E. P. Daybell, 53, Broomgrove Road, Sheffield, 10.

Additions to the Library:

- Cave Research Group, Occasional Publication No.8, "Wire Rope Splicing" by N. Pratchett.
 White Rose P.C. Newsletter No.27, December 1962.
 Shropshire Mining Club Year Book, 1961-2.
 British Regional Geology - Pennines and Adjacent Areas, 1954. Presented by Mr. L. O. Ford.
 Geological Survey Map, Sheet 100, Sheffield Area, Presented by Mr. Ford.
 Allen, J.R.L. - "Preliminary notes on fauna and palaeoecology of Goniatites Bed at Cow Low Nick, Castleton" Presented by Mr. L. O. Ford.
 Cave Research Group, Publication No.11. by members of South Wales Caving Club, "Some Technical Aids for Cave Exploration."

Mr. Leslie Bryan Salmon

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. Leslie B. Salmon, who died in hospital on Sunday, January 20th, at the age of 37. Mr. Salmon was the secretary of the North Midlands group of the British Speleological Association and a member of the central committee. He is perhaps best remembered for his work in Peak Cavern, and his part in the unsuccessful attempt to rescue Neil Moss in 1960, for which he was awarded the B.E.M.

"Mines and Miners of Cornwall - II. St. Agnes-Perranport" by A. K. Hamilton-Jenkins. Published by the Truro Bookshop, St. Francis St. Truro. Price: 8/6d.

This publication although small (60 pages) gives a very concise account of mining activity in the St. Agnes-Perranporth region, north-west coast of Cornwall. The author, A. K. Hamilton Jenkins, may I think be considered an authority on not only Cornish Mining but also in the fields of Cornish Engineering and local history, as is evident in this valuable publication. Not only are some 47 mines described in great detail, but what is equally important, as is so often lacking in work of this nature, is that the precise location is given in terms of National Grid references as well as those for the 6" and 2½" Ordnance Survey Sheets. Also included is a map showing the relative positions of the mines described. Another extremely useful feature of this publication is the way in which the information contained is referenced (some 180 references). Several unique photographs are included, as well as three line drawings, one of which is a reproduction of a map dated 1838, of the Goonlaze Downs area. For anyone interested in the area this publication is the ideal guide and used in conjunction with Part I, entitled "Around St. Ives" (cost 7/6d) will along with the rest of the series, which is to be published in the not too distant future, form a useful and very full account of the bygone Cornish mining scene. My only criticism of the publication is that I consider this work warrants a better type of cover, since as a reference book it will be in continuous use by those people who take an interest in Cornwall and its mining and economic history.

M. E. Smith.

Publications in Stock:

Revised prices as from January 11th, 1963.

Bulletin, P.D.M.H.S. Volume 1.

Nos. 1 & 2: 3/6d. (4d. postage)

Nos. 3 & 4: 5/6d. (6d. postage)

Nos. 5, 6, & 7: 7/6d. (6d. postage)

KIRKHAM, N. "Ecton Mines" P.D.M.H.S. Spec. Pub. No.1. 3/6d.(inc. post.)

RAISTRICK, A. "Mines & Miners in Swaledale" 5/- (inc. postage).

News of Members:

Congratulations to Mr. Sam Murphy on his marriage to Miss Christine Heald. Sam says, "I am not giving up caving" - we shall see !

We are sorry to hear that Mr. David Thornton (Fred) will be leaving the district. He takes up an appointment in the Department of Botany, Royal College of Science and Technology, Glasgow on February 1st. We wish him every success in his new sphere.

Congratulations also to Mrs. Margaret Sarjeant on becoming a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives. (F.I.L.Ex.)

Review: Magpie Mine and its Tragedy - by Miss N. Kirkham. Derbyshire Miscellany - (Bulletin of the Local History Section of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society), Vol. 2, No.8, 1962, price 2/6d. plus postage, from Mrs. F. Nixon, Southlea, Hazlewood Road, Duffield, Derbys.

This article, by Miss Kirkham - now a regular contributor to our own Bulletin - is especially welcomed by many members due to our association with the Magpie Mine via the Society's Cottage. (The cottage incidentally figures prominently on the cover of this paper.)

Here we have a full account of a bitter struggle between rival factions, which led to a murder charge against the Magpie miners.

Miss Kirkham is to be congratulated on this, probably her best piece of writing to date, as an example of how a fascinating story, complete in all its details can be built up from this complex legal case.

Two points of interest arise which are of note: one being the disregard the Magpie and Red Soil miners seem to have had for the ancient mining laws and traditions, and for the Barmaster's Rulings, which were normally held in such high regard; the other being the fact that the names of the nineteenth century miners' are still to be found in nearly every house in Monyash and Sheldon, showing the closely knit lives of these communities.

This paper is highly recommended to all those interested in the legal and mining history of Derbyshire.

J. A. Robey.

On the Occurrence of Gold in Derbyshire.

Throughout the world, whenever gold is found it starts a fever, men are willing to abandon all else in an effort to "get rich quick". It is true that sometimes fortunes have been made overnight, but there are many gold trials that have been anything but successful and many thousands of pounds have been lost. This country has never been famous for gold mining although the Welsh mines have produced considerable quantities over a period of many years. Small veins and grains have been located in several other counties but it is not generally known that gold was mined in Derbyshire, or at least mining operations were carried out in search of that metal.

The principal working was at a former lead mine called Cow Close situated on the hillside above the River Lathkill, between the village of Over Haddon and Conksbury Bridge. In 1854 gold was detected in iron pyrites in the toadstone at this mine. Various samples were taken and sent for assaying. Other samples were taken from the Wheels Rake Mine, nearer to Alport where this same toadstone had been encountered many years before. Upon assay some of the specimens failed to produce any gold, but it is

recorded that some of the samples from Cow Close gave about 5 ozs of gold per ton of ore. What is meant exactly by a 'ton of ore' is not quite clear, whether a ton of pyrites or a ton of toadstone. Permission was obtained by the newly formed Company to erect expensive extraction machinery but everything seems to have been a failure. No machinery was erected and the mine closed in 1856. Little is known of the mine itself. Today the mounds are barely visible, being almost overgrown, but to stand here makes one wonder how near Lathkill Dale was to becoming a "Derbyshire Klondyke". Some newspaper reports of the time claim the whole thing was a swindle the gold ore being placed there so as to deceive the miners.

Some years ago a slender vein of gold was found in a basalt quarry in Via Gellia, just below Ible. A shaft was sunk following the vein but this soon disappeared and no further trace being found the trial was abandoned.

One thing is certain. These two mines add to the already fantastic story of Derbyshire mines and mining and provide interest and speculation to the geologist and to the mining historian.

The author would like to thank Mr. J. Warren Pearce of Over Haddon, for giving permission to copy a notebook in his possession. This book contains much information on the minerals found on the Estate and I hope to be able to incorporate more of it in a later article on the Lathkill Dale lead mines. Thanks are also due to Mr. J. Morten of Matlock who supplied me with the information on the Ible Mine.

James H. Rieuwerts.

Copy Day for the next issue of the Bulletin

FEBRUARY 28TH

To avoid disappointment, contact the Editor NOW !

Addresses of New Officers:

Cottage Warden: Mr. M. Luff,
3, Wye Grove,
Buxton.

Preservation Secretary: J. A. Robey, B.Sc.
13, College Street,
Sheffield, 10.

Tacklemaster: Mr. R. Howard,
c/o 12, Whitecross Street,
Derby.

For those who have not yet paid their subscription for the current year the Treasurer's Address is as follows:

38, Watt Lane,
Crosspool,
Sheffield, 10.

P. E. LUNN (Hon. Sec.)
28, Kenbourne Rd.
Sheffield, 7.
(Phone 50170).

M. E. SMITH (Editor)
310 Derbyshire Lane,
Sheffield, 8.