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Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

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Editorial

It might come as a surprise to those who have followed the progress of mining history over the last couple of decades to learn that we do not as yet have a formal International Mining History organization. One attempt to form such a body at Golden, Denver, a few years ago fell by the wayside and since then there has been a loose arrangement whereby Conference committees have either been elected or have formed in an *ad hoc* fashion. Following the recent Milos Congress, because of time constraints, even that process didn't take place but it was decided by the last committee that they would continue as a communicating group to keep things going (the committee consists of Roger Burt, Exeter; Bob Spude, Jay Fell and Bill Culver - USA; Alma Parra & Ines Herrera - Mexico; Koko Kato - Japan; Jeremy Mouat - Canada; and yours truly from the land of OZ) However, the time has come to change this, and the crunch came when we realized that to negotiate with the Japanese authorities we would have to formalize our activities. Currently we are working on a constitution and hope to have this ready

long before June when it can be presented to the American Mining History Association Conference at Butte and also to the mining history group at the International Science & Technology Conference being held in Mexico in July. I'll also attempt to get the opinions of all those members on our e.mail list before the draft is forwarded to Butte where it will hopefully be sanctioned and a committee formally elected. I'm sure that everyone will agree that the formation of such an organization is long overdue and hopefully we will receive full support from all those with an interest in our goal of promoting mining history.

Privacy

Some members with e.mail addresses recently received a message from a business firm that stated details had been obtained from the Mining History page at Exeter University. This is an old list, though we do have an up-to-date list on our own web page. If anyone would like their email address and/or postal address deleted, please let me know.

Forthcoming Conferences

AMHA

As noted in the enclosed registration form, the planning for our **AMHA** Conference is now well on the way. To be held Kalgoorlie/Boulder from 24-27 September 2001 (four days), it promises to be an entertaining event, and by the response to date, I should think that attendance should beat all previous conferences. As you'll note on the enclosed registration form, we are also organizing for the Australian Historical Association and the Australian & New Zealand Economic History Society. One of the major features on the social side will be the Conference dinner to which all groups are invited. However, we have also decided to keep some separate identity by arranging a special 'boutique' dinner at 'Flanagan's' on the evening of Wednesday 26th. The economic historians have also been invited to join us for the evening. It will be informal but we have asked our good Patron, Geoffrey Blainey to say a few words. Also, the AMHA has its own Plenary session on the first morning at which Geoffrey will give the keynote speech to open our proceedings.

Our President Patrick Bertola, Wendy Carter and self have hopefully provided an interesting programme. First, the basics: The conference theme will be 'Empire, Nation, Region and Identity' (AHA only) and the action will mainly take place at the School of Mines. There will be a civic reception and registration at Kalgoorlie Town Hall on the evening of Sunday 23rd that will see the accompaniment of a student ensemble from the School of Mines. On Monday morning, following registration, we have the main conference Plenary session at the Western Mining Conference Theatre.

We are currently negotiating with the Governor of WA to open the conference. There will also be a welcome by a local Aboriginal spokesperson, accompanied by Aboriginal musicians. This will be followed by the AHA Keynote Speaker, Professor Tom Stannage of Curtin University, who has kindly agreed to perform that duty. While all sessions will

take place at Curtin University's, Kalgoorlie School of Mines, both the AHA and our plenary session will be held at Western Mining's Conference Centre.

There will be a smorgasbord of optional social activities. On Monday evening there is an invite to dine at the historic and prestigious Hannan's Club where the Hoover's and de Bernales' of this world once dined. Tuesday evening will be one of the highlights of the week with the Conference dinner being held at the old Loco shed at Hannan's Mine. This sounds austere but having dined there myself at another function, I can assure everyone that the ambience is something to be remembered and the food superb.

Wednesday evening, the Mining Historians and Economic Historians will dine at the well-known 'Flanagan's' and no doubt Wendy will do her best to get us dancing on the tables! All historians of Australia will have some knowledge of the unique nature of Kalgoorlie in relation to its toleration of prostitution - well, the famed 181 Hay Street has recently been refurbished and conference members will have the opportunity to take lunch on Thursday at the 'House of Pleasure's' opulent restaurant where, at their leisure, they will be able to ponder over Hay Street's nefarious activities and the murals in the various 'theme' rooms - reports (second hand) indicate that the food is excellent too!

For those who wish to take the opportunity of sampling the lore of the goldfields, there are a number of tours that are being arranged. On Sunday 23rd, there will be a coach tour led by local historians and prospectors that will visit Ora Banda - Kununalling - Coolgardie and places between. This is your chance to see mining sites that you might have read about but didn't dream you'd ever get the chance to see. Realize your fantasies - book now! The trip will mean clogs and rough denim rather than dancing pumps and suits - so be forewarned.

On Thursday afternoon, AMHA member and heritage historian, Gerry McGill, will lead a visit to King Battery near Kambalda where among other delights there will be a B/Bque.

Walking tours have also been arranged to take in the history and architecture of Boulder and Kalgoorlie and to visit and say hello to past inhabitants at the local cemetery. No doubt, everyone will take the opportunity to see the spectacular 'Big Pit' and to visit the local museums. As a special concession, members of our association have been invited to have a sneak preview of the Miners & Prospectors Hall of Fame that will be officially opened by the Prime Minister a month after our conference ends (apologies, but originally we believed that it would be fully open to the public by the time our conference came along). A visit to the premises of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society to look at their holdings will also be arranged.

Those who arrive before Saturday 22nd and wish to be entertained should either contact our local AMHA representative, Wendy Carter, or the local Tourist Board office. All details re contacts, travel arrangements and accommodation can be found in the enclosed form. Hope to see you there.

Don't forget – If giving a paper, **Abstracts** (200 words maximum) should be sent to reach me by **1st June** at the latest - preferably by e.mail.

XXI International Science & Technology Conference 2001

To be held in Mexico City between 8th-14th July. This prestigious event hosts a section 'Trends and watersheds in mining and metallurgy technologies'. Sorry for the short notice but if interested in giving a paper, abstracts should be delivered by 31 April. Organizers are our Mexican mining history colleagues, Alma Parra and Ines Herrera. For further information, registration forms, accommodation and excursion information, contact:

XXI ICHS Organizing Committee, Apartado Postal 21-873. 04000 Mexico City, Mexico.

Email: xxichs@servidor.unam.mx

Fax: (525) 519 98 10

Or, view the web page: www.smhct.org

You can directly contact the section organizers Alma Parra and Ines Herrera, respectively at: alcaparra99@hotmail.com and iherrera@conactyt.mx

NAMHO 2001

The National Association of Mining History Organisations, UK, will be holding its 2001 conference at Avondale House, C. Wicklow, Ireland from Saturday 22nd to Monday 24th September. As well as the usual paper sessions, a number of field trips and a conference dinner will be arranged. Mining tours will also be arranged in the week following the conference.

Avondale house is near to Avaco/Ballykissangel, and was owned by Charles Stewart Parnell, who as well as being renown as a politician was also involved in mining.

For further details, contact:

Martin Critchley, MHSI, c/o GSI. Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4, Ireland, or, on web at www.gsi.ie/mhsi

NAMHO 2002

Long-term planners might like to note that the 2002 NAMHO conference will take place in July of that year at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. It will be organised by the Welsh Mines Society and the theme of the conference will be 'The Application of Water Power to Mining'. Papers on this aspect of mining are invited from mining historians across the world.

With the 2000 conference of NAMHO having been held in Cornwall, it appears that the Celtic influence is alive and well in that organisation!

International Fossickers (Rockhounds) Convention and Festival, 6-15 September 2002.

This Inaugural convention will be held at Newman, WA. The event will include forums, hematite carving and jewellery competitions, exhibitions of gems, minerals, fossils and jewellery, plus fossicking trips and tours. For information on competitions schedule and other activities, contact:

Patrick Murphy, 59 Harvey Road, Elizabeth Grove, SA 5112.

E.mail: jmurphy@picknowl.com.au

International Workshop, "New Frontiers in Reclamation: Facts & Procedures in Extractive Industry"

Those who missed out on the delights of last September's International Mining History Conference will be able to rectify their misfortune by taking the opportunity to visit the island of Milos, Greece, where the workshop will be held between 19 - 21 September 2001. The aim of the workshop is to provide a forum for the presentation and constructive discussion of state of the art and emerging issues on technologies and practices associated with reclamation and procedures of extractive industries.

The main topics of the workshop will be: environmental laws; updating of environmental regulations; examination of new technologies and procedures in designing land reclamation; environmental impact assessment as a key tool for the reclamation of disturbed sites; creative design for new uses of disturbed land; transfer of mining reclamation techniques linked to other activities; and the economics of mining sites reclamation. For further information, call for papers and pre-registration please visit:

www.heliotopos.net/conf/refapro2001

or contact Stella Valvi, Project Manager.

Heliotopos - Professional Congress Organisers. e-mail: stev@heliotopos.net

Information Wanted

Shares

If you want fame (I doubt fortune) then perhaps someone might be able to respond to the following request?

"I produce a daily live programme on the Money Channel in the UK, it acts as a television bulletin board for investors to air their opinions on various stocks and shares.

Recently I received an email from a viewer who holds two shares certificates for 'Australian Consols Gold and Copper Mines', dated 1852. The viewer has not been able to find out any information on the company and so contacted us. We have been doing our own research, contacting people both in the UK and Australia and as yet have come up with nothing either. Have you ever heard of this company or do you know anyone who may be able to help me? I have photocopies of the certificates which I could fax to you if needed.

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you, all the best

Salma Siraj

Producer, Live and Clicking

The Money Channel PLC

<http://www.themoneychannel.co.uk>

Tel: +44 (0) 20 77943 2962

Should you chance to visit the UK or thereabouts, The Money Channel can be viewed 24 hours a day on Sky Digital Channel 516, Telewest Digital Channel 614 and Isle of Wight Cable Channel 86).

Robert Logan Jack

The following request is self-explanatory and if you can help please reply directly to Felicity Jack.

'I have just read your newsletter on the internet which I found on searching for Robert Logan Jack, my great grandfather. I am in the process of writing his biography, and if any of your readers/colleagues/acquaintances have anything to contribute, I would be most interested.† The period I know least about is the period 1904 - 1907 when he was based in Perth. I should be grateful if you could circulate this in any future newsletter. † His grave is in the process of restoration, and there will be a graveside ceremony in August to which any of his present-day friends are invited.† Details are not yet finalised, so anyone interested should contact me'.† †

Felicity Jack, 86 Courtney Street, North Melbourne Victoria 3051.

Tel.:† 03 9326 9654

e.mail: fjack@melbpc.org.au

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Those with e.mail addresses might have noted that they recently received a message from a business firm that stated that addresses had been obtained from the Mining History page at Exeter University. This is an old list, though we do have an up-to-date list on our own web page. If anyone would care to have their email address and/or postal address deleted from our web page, please let me know.

Research Awards

David Carment wishes to announce availability of The Northern Territory History Awards Program. This is designed to encourage research relating to the Territory's history. Single awards range from \$500 to \$5000. Applications are invited from individuals and groups throughout Australia to take up Awards after July 2001. The closing date for applications is 4 May 2001.

For further information and application forms, please contact:

nt.archives@nt.gov.au

Book Launches & Publications

John Shoebridge reports that NSW Department of Minerals and Energy have published a reprint of Mineral Resources Series No 6, "The Copper Mining Industry and the Distribution of Copper Ores in NSW " by J. E. Carne (Second Edition 1908). This 425-page publication comes at the very reasonable price of \$8.25.

Just published (March 2001), A book that presents a cultural history of gold and its impact on the development of Australian society since 1851.

Iain McCalman, Alexander Cook, Andrew Reeves, (eds), *Gold: Forgotten Histories and Lost Objects of Australia*, Cambridge UP, 2001, pp. 400. Cost: \$49.95 H/B.

Among the contributors you'll find many of our current members: Margaret Anderson; Patrick Bertola; Bill Bunbury; Anita Callaway; Ian Coates; Alexander Cook; Carol Cooper; Ann Curthoys; Graeme Davison; Derek Elias; Dorothy Erickson; Charles Fahey; David Goodman; Tom Griffiths; Suzanne Hynt; Susan Lawrence; Barry McGowan; Iain McCalman; Kim McKenzie; Hank Nelson; Paul Pickering; Alan Platt; David Raftery, Andrew Reeves; Dianne Reilly.

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BITS & PIECES

Ore-crushing by the big bang method

The following piece submitted by Peter Bell, will no doubt inspire some of our more technologically-minded members to get down to the drawing board so as to perfect the system. Read on:

In the history of military technology, the name of Lieutenant Henry Shrapnel is very well known. As a clever 23-year-old artillery officer in 1784 he invented the "spherical case shot" shell, an artifice which, instead of merely knocking over one or two enemy soldiers as a bouncing round shot did, showered the opposing infantry with a hail of iron balls from above, efficiently causing a dozen or more French casualties in a single bang. It took a while for him to become famous; only in 1852 did the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich officially adopt the shorter name Shrapnel shell for these useful devices. In the twentieth century the word has commonly and inaccurately been used to describe the metal fragments of any exploding object, and in Australia the laconic slang of returned diggers from the First World War gave the word the additional vernacular meaning of loose change, or small pieces of metal found in the pocket.

It is less well known that the Shrapnel family went on to repeat their reputation for ingenuity - although not alas, their competence - in the field of mining technology. Early in 1853, a small crowd gathered outside London to watch the application of artillery to ore treatment:

"New Method of Crushing Quartz - We witnessed yesterday an experiment made by Capt. Shrapnel's new method of crushing quartz.... The method adopted is by discharging a gun, loaded with the quartz, into an iron chamber; it is proposed to fix the chamber in such a position that the back shall be banked in the earth. The experiments were made with a 3-lb gun, which was charged with 2ozs. of powder and 4lbs. of Californian quartz, and upon discharging it into the chamber it was reduced to powder, with the exception of a few pieces about the size of a pea.... It is calculated that a chamber, capable of crushing 50 tons a day, will only cost £500, and that 16 ozs. of gunpowder will be sufficient to crush 5 cwts., and if gun-cotton can be brought safely into use, the expense will be considerably reduced. From the simplicity of the invention, much satisfaction was expressed by all present, and in a short time the method will be tested upon a large scale." (*Mining Journal* 22 January 1853, p.61)

It is not clear exactly who Captain Shrapnel was, but he was obviously not humanity's earlier benefactor Henry, who had long since been promoted to Major-General, and subsequently died in 1842; this may have been a grandson, or even a great-grandson. Undoubtedly the Woolwich decision the year before had bought his name to prominence. His idea is not quite as loony as it sounds; in 1853 the infant gold mining industry was greatly exercised by the problem of finding an economical means of crushing the hard quartz ores of Bendigo and other places, and any possible method was potentially of interest; the all-iron "Californian" gravity stamp which became the mainstay of the Australian industry was only being adopted in Victoria the following year. Unfortunately the cost of the explosives needed - an estimated four pounds of gunpowder per ton of ore (on a very, very good day!) - the haphazard comminution achieved and non-continuous nature of the process (all that unloading and re-loading) doomed it commercially in an

industry which was looking for ways to put thousands of tons through a mill each day. Those considerations may not have weighed heavily on the ingenious Captain Shrapnel, in whose profession it was not necessary to obtain shareholders' approval before spending money on either explosives or labour. For a short while, the proposal no doubt looked attractive in an era which believed any problem in the Empire could be solved by firing big enough guns at it.

Be a friend – prod a geologist!

Taken from the web: with no disrespect to members of a noble profession!

Sunday Mercury, Calgary, Alberta, 7th January 2001.

‘Worker dead at desk for 5 days’

Bosses of an oil company are trying to work out why no one noticed that one of their employees had been sitting dead at his desk for FIVE DAYS before anyone asked if he was feeling okay. George Turklebaum, 51, who had been employed as a geologist at an oil company for 30 years, had a heart attack in the open-plan office he shared with 23 other workers. He quietly passed away on Monday, but nobody noticed until Saturday morning when an office cleaner asked why he was still working during the weekend. His boss Elliot Wachiaski said "George was always the first guy in each morning and the last to leave at night, so no one found it unusual that he was in the same position all that time and didn't say anything. He was always absorbed in his work and kept much to himself. Besides he was a geologist, they never really do much anyway." A post mortem examination revealed that he had been dead for five days after suffering a coronary.

Congratulations

Our heartiest congratulations to Brian Hill, who has recently received his doctorate from Flinders University. The title of his thesis is “‘The Little Man’ David Ziman, mining giant: The biography of an entrepreneur’. You can learn something about the man and his New Zealand mining ventures at our forthcoming conference where Brian will be presenting a paper.

Obituary - Ruth Edgecombe

We sadly record the death of South African mining historian Ruth Edgecombe who died of cancer towards the end of January. Ruth was known to many of our members, not only through her works but also personally, as she had visited Australia and had attended all the International Mining History Congresses previous to the Milos Congress last September. She also contributed to our pages, having last March written a review of Ray Dumett's book, *Elderado in South Africa*.... As Ray recently conveyed to me, "She was a fine scholar and person and a real contributor to mining history".

From my personal contact with Ruth, I would add that she had a strong social conscience, was friendly and sociable and always prepared to give advice and a helping hand.

Her ex-colleague, Ian Phimister (now at St. Giles College, Oxford University), writes: "A mining historian of great professionalism and passion, she wrote exhaustively on South African mining history, particularly on the coal mining industry of Natal. Her magnum opus, *The Constancy of Change: A History of Hlobane Colliery, 1898-1998*, was published in 1998. She will be sorely missed by us all".

Ironically, only a couple of months ago Ruth asked that her book be reviewed in this newsletter. That task was being undertaken by Diane Menghetti when news of Ruth's passing became known.

Her passing will mean a big loss in South African mining history circles, and we extend our sympathy to her family, friends and colleagues.

Book Review

Richard Hartley (Compiler), *A guide to Printed Sources for the history of the Eastern Goldfields Region of Western Australia*, Centre for Western Australian History, University of Western Australia, 2000, pp. vii, 311, ISBN 0 646 39116X (soft cover). Price from publishers.

When Richard Hartley's book arrived on my desk for review in the newsletter, difficult questions arose – who could be approached and what has to be done to critically appraise a bibliography? As I was in the throes of finalizing my own bibliographic compilation, it occurred to me that perhaps I should masochistically inflict the task on myself.

After long periods of going blind with my own work while poring over catalogues, microfiche and computer lists from various depositories, my first impression of the 'Goldfields' bibliography was one of awe. Not only had Richard catalogued in excess of 1,600 titles, but he'd actually read 99 per cent of them – or at least had skimmed them sufficiently so as to be able to precis the contents. Thus a catalogue with a difference, in that it provides sufficient detail to help the researcher know what's actually beyond the title – a great boon to the time-strapped reader and an added delight when considered that the structure of presentation and the detailed index allows easy direction to specific areas of interest.

The bibliography covers all aspects of literature on the Eastern Goldfields. Readers of this column will be delighted to know that the titles tend to be heavily geared towards mining topics. Perhaps,

not surprising in the 'Golden West' where even a large part of the fiction and many of the works on agriculture, infrastructure, exploration, etc., invariably contain some reference to mining.

Richard has managed to unearth a large number of published titles that lie hidden from most catalogues and I couldn't help noting that there was much in the work that won't appear in my forthcoming publication. One of the difficulties found in selecting titles for the mining history bibliography is that of trying to discriminate between what is mining history and what is not. Richard has an advantage here in that the aim of the text is to provide blanket coverage of all the literature of the region and not necessarily that linked to topics on history. Thus he has license to list many titles that I have been tempted to include in my own work (but have not). In particular, those readings under the headings of metallurgical innovation that open up much that is valuable to support the general historian (for example, descriptions of early work on cyanide and flotation processes that are technical but invaluable if you are delving into mining development or are interested in the chronology of discovery).

While there is a wealth of information for the miner, Richard's text is, however, light on the geological side, though this is not a criticism, for as anyone familiar with the field will be aware, there is a vast amount of material on this subject. In fact, much too much to be included in a catalogue of this nature, apart from the rare exception where there is some background historical detail that reflects on other facets of the region's development or history.

There is little to criticize and much to praise in this work that is one of a series on various regional areas of Western Australia being documented by the Centre for Western Australian History (the others to date being coverage of the Kimberley region by Cathie Clement and the South Western region by Ronald Richards). Perusing carefully for mistakes, only one entry was found where the year of publication had been omitted (I suspect a proofing spoof) and only one where the publication didn't contain a space between entries. The only exclusion of note, I found to my surprise, was the well known work of Sean Glynn, *Government Policy and Agricultural development: A Study of the role of government in the development of the Western Australian Wheatbelt, 1900-1930*, UWA Press, 1975. This should have been entered, if for nothing else, because of its reference to railway development that had great impact on the Eastern Goldfields Region. However, the compiler does state that he has had to be selective in terms of inclusion in some sections, in order to produce a balanced presentation and this criticism might reflect bias on my part. Small errors aside, the book is nicely presented, though in one or two places the print was a little faded but that was only a very minor problem in an otherwise excellently constructed and presented publication (re the faded printing, was I sent the lemon of the pack?).

The division of the bibliography into specific topics has allowed the presentation to avoid too much overlap, though invariably this is unavoidable where authors delve into more than one area. The classification is broken down into major areas and sub areas, the major headings being: Reference and General; Environment; Exploration; Aboriginal People; Exploration; Social History; Fiction and Verse; Economic History (except mining); Mining History; Political and Labour History; and Local History. Mining History takes up one-third of the book and, as already mentioned, mining is also linked to many items listed in other areas in the publication. Despite the alleged exclusion of mining from the

Economic History section, this is really not the true picture, for there is much under the sub headings in this section, especially 'Service Infrastructure' and 'Transport ' that impinge on the subject. For example, a substantial amount of information on the Kalgoorlie water supply and also on railways, without which the fortunes of mining in the region would have been poor indeed.

Overall I'd like to congratulate Richard for his tenacity in tracking down the titles and especially in detailing the content that will prove invaluable to future researchers and students of the area. While it should prove of great import to the general historian, it will be of particular use for those with a bent for mining.

As a bonus, the text contains an excellent classification of material and a comprehensive alphabetical index that not only references the authors but also cross-references with all topics and even characters contained in the readings. For example, anyone interested in miner, Curly Garbellini, is directed to A153, which is the number set against the book by Trish Ainslie and Roger Garwood, "*Chook on Sundays*". *A Celebration of the Centenary of the Goldfields*, Plantaganet Press, Fremantle, 1992.

The publication should prove of value to all, and of great benefit to academic supervisors and students alike when seeking a topic for research. It will also prove valuable to yours truly when expanding the forthcoming *Mining History Bibliography*. Thank you Richard.

Mel Davies,

University of Western Australia

Susan Lawrence, *Dolly's Creek: An Archaeology of a Victorian Goldfields Community*, Melbourne University Press, 2000, ISBN: 522 84912 1. Price \$32.95(inclusive GST)

The term used by Susan Lawrence, 'poor man's diggings', has for so long created a romantic pioneering image of the often poverty stricken miner, eking out a living on mining fields through backbreaking work. This miner is usually single, male and of British descent. The contribution and impact of the presence of women and children, and the multicultural nature of most mining fields, has until recently been ignore. Increasingly more historians reject the myth of the male dominated mining fields and wider research now offers a broader perspective on the life of all the members of a mining community. As Lawrence correctly points out in her book *Dolly's Creek*, mining history has until recently failed to look at the daily life and work of the subsistence miner from the 'inside out'. Through extensive research and the excavation of four areas at *Dolly's Creek*, Lawrence's book explores the now vanished communities of the Moorabool diggings during the great Victorian gold mining days of the 19th Century.

The Moorabool diggings are made up of three communities, Dolly's Creek, Tea Tree and Morrison with the social structure and settlement patterns of each of the communities impacting on each other. The number of physical remains still at Dolly's Creek led Lawrence to select this site for excavation.

The story begins with the introduction of William Glasscock who in 1859 was a miner at Dolly's Creek. Little is known about the individual miners from this period. Early mining life was difficult, dangerous and rough, and the typical mining family left little in the way of personal written records. Unfortunately for William Glasscock and his family, and perhaps it could be said fortuitous for those keen to know more about life on the goldfields, William met an untimely death from falling down a mine shaft on his way home from shopping and a few drinks with his mates at the pub. It is the inquest into this tragedy that sets the scene for Lawrence's book and provides an insight into people at Dolly's Creek.

It is well known what motivated early mining families to venture into the frontier, risking their lives and those of their families'. The hope of making a quick fortune was always at the heart of travelling to unknown regions. The first wave of miners believed that the realisation of this dream was not a difficult task. But Lawrence reminds the reader that those travelling to the Moorabool diggings did not have the same expectations as the early miners and were better informed. By the time gold was first discovered in 1857 at Dolly's Creek, miners had a more realistic understanding of what mining could offer. From the 1860s, families were no longer moving to a frontier area but to established communities. The less formal institutional structures and services encountered by earlier miners such as town halls, schools, post offices and banks were now gradually being replaced and life had improved. It is the closure and amalgamation of these public institutions, particularly the schools and post offices, that allows Lawrence to map the growth and decline of mining and the movement of the population on the Moorabool diggings.

Between 1990 and 1992, Lawrence and her team excavated four houses at Dolly's Creek settlement. To the archaeologist at the same diggings as William Glasscock more than a hundred years later, the hunt for more information on the people of Dolly's Creek was to be rewarding but hard work. Moving from the comfort of research in libraries and archives and visiting a site adds another dimension to a research project. For archaeologist the aches and pains from the long hours of bending and digging and the Victorian weather of soaking rain and baking heat kept the team in touch in a small way with just some of the realities of early mining.

Lawrence describes archaeology as 'essentially about digging up the rubbish thrown away by people of the past'. It is this 'rubbish' that provides a wealth of information about the people and their lives and leads to well research and informed speculation by the author. The discovery of a wedding ring is intriguing and asks many questions about the owner. Although this particular object could not be dated, Lawrence and her team produced many other artefacts that could.

The excavation team uncovered and catalogued 13,000 artefacts from four separate sites at Dolly's Creek. Throughout the book Lawrence has taken the time to explain mining terminology and does the same in the section on the excavation to allow the reader to understand the requirements and process of archaeology. The large number of artefacts found were able to be dated and provided more information community. Lawrence had

discovered through documentary evidence that changes to mining during the 1860s and 1870s was affecting settlement patterns in the region. Research indicated that Morrison had become the main centre for the diggings. By the end of this period Dolly's Creek had disappeared from documentary sources leading to the belief that Dolly's Creek was no longer occupied.

Archaeological results revealed that Dolly's Creek was occupied between the late 1850s until the 1890s correcting the gap in archival sources. Research also led to the inference that Chinese miners were the main residents at Dolly's Creek by the 1880s. As only three Chinese-type objects were uncovered along with the distinctly European structural remains of the buildings, this points to the assumption that few Chinese were in residence at Dolly's Creek.

From the excavation and the assemblages of artefacts, Lawrence has been able to piece together more information on the daily life of the European subsistence miner.

Structures uncovered reveal that accommodation during the 1860s and 1870s was simple in style and constructed from material that was easily transportable to the diggings. The author gives a very detailed description of what was discovered. Household goods were minimal and practical with only a small number of ornamental objects such as the remains of a brass mantel clock case. Lawrence considers that minimalist has often been mistaken for poverty on 'poor man's diggings'. What the excavation did reveal was that regardless of the need to consider a mobile lifestyle, the type of artefacts found revealed the houses were furnished in a manner that gave comfort and indicated decent respectability. Samples of domestic building materials, what people ate and wore and how they constructed their social lives is revealed.

Lawrence has produced an interesting and informative narrative and a major contribution to a better understanding of the mining life of subsistence miners of the mid-19th Century. By utilising a wide variety of research the author has brought to life the now deserted landscape that once was home to many hundreds of families. I recommend this book to anyone interested in social history.

Sue Harlow

Museum and Art Gallery of the NT

MJD/March'01



**AUSTRALIAN
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Newsletter No. 2

JUNE 2001

Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

ABN 96 220 329 754 **Issue 25**

Editorial

No great insights as to the state of the world in this editorial, but merely a matter of pointing to the enclosed questionnaire that was requested by some of the members at the last Annual General Meeting in Adelaide. The question is, whether we wish in future to go it alone to organize our meetings in a University environment, or whether we continue with our present and past arrangement of associating ourselves with the wider academic community. Rather than place items in a for-and-against format, it has been decided to publish the minute on the issue, that was recorded in Adelaide. As this is an important issue, and if you feel strongly one way or the other, then it would be greatly appreciated if you could respond by post by the end of August at the latest. The findings will be tabled and discussed at the Kalgoorlie AGM in September.

While on the subject of the AGM, as all positions of officers and committee

members will be declared vacant at the AGM, would anyone interested in nominating or in seeking another term, please forward their names to the Secretary by the end of August.

Any suggested **changes to the Constitution**, or substantive motions for discussion, should also be forwarded by that date.

Forthcoming Conferences

AMHA, Kalgoorlie/Boulder

24-27 September 2001

An interesting selection of 24 mining history papers has been received for presentation at Kalgoorlie. However, if you still wish to make a presentation, its not too late and your offering will be graciously considered if despatched before the end of July. Abstracts will appear in the September newsletter. I'd also like to ask those who want to be present at the conference to please register sooner rather than later, as this will make it easier for our planning and organization.

Web Pages

Coal mining

Members might care to look at a website recently put up by Mark McShane and Brian Sheldon that records the history of the Illawarra coalfield. A great deal of work has gone into the site, which is an ongoing project that records the history of the field and individual collieries from the early colonial period until recent times. There is an excellent index that is broken down into numerous links that enable easy access to material on individual mines and companies, personnel, technology, transport, historical timeline development, plus other features. Examine the site at:

<http://www.illawarracoal.com>

Moving Mountains - Hydraulic Mining

Craig Crouch (California) has drawn attention to his web pages on hydraulic mining that will undoubtedly appeal to some of our members. The pages contain lots of historical, technical and other information on such activity in the Sierra Mountains of California between 1850-1900, a time when about one-third of all Californian gold was sluiced from the hills. There are numerous photographs and many links that will appeal. The site can be viewed at: <http://www.cwo.com/~ditches/>

Robin Bailey states that the following three websites are well worth perusing and offers the following information:

Lead Mining in the Yorkshire Dales:

<http://www.mroe.freerve.co.uk/>

Halifax: A Study in Industrial Archaeology:

<http://www.mroe.freerve.co.uk/halifax.htm>

Created and maintained by Martin Roe, a native of the Yorkshire Dales and a prize-winning amateur historian, these two sites offer text and images about the industrial history of the region, focusing primarily on the nineteenth century. Lead Mining in the Yorkshire Dales, features tours of three different mining sites, and includes maps and numerous photographs with explanatory captions, on

these now defunct smelts and mines. A brief history of mining in the area from Roman times to 1900 is also offered, but undoubtedly the most impressive section is the one discussing in detail the extraction and processing of the raw ore. Halifax: A Study in Industrial Archaeology offers numerous photographs and textual history of the main industries of Halifax during the industrial revolution, namely textiles, quarrying, clay mining, and coal. Both Websites are laid-out well, and feature evocative photography and a detailed knowledge of the topics. [DC]

<http://www.mcпитz.com/>

A site dedicated to Scottish Mining, with information on mines, areas, housing, conditions, disasters and lots more besides. This is a nicely designed site, although unfortunately using frames which detract from the nice look of the site. The information on many of the pages is sketchy, but often extremely useful and very interesting, especially if your ancestors were miners in Scotland. I suspect you might also find this site interesting if your ancestors were miners in England or Wales. There is limited genealogical content, although there is a page of submitted interests which is worth a browse. Overall an interesting site that could do with a little development but otherwise good.

Book Launches & Publications

In newsletter Issue 23, No. 4, December 2000, Keith Johns drew attention to a series of new publications on Cornish mining that would be of great interest to Australian historians and archaeologists. He linked that interest to the association of Cornish technology and practices with those adopted in Australia in the nineteenth century. The project continues and attention is drawn to the fourth volume in the series that not only covers tin, copper, lead and silver mining but also ancillary industries such as engineering and railways. As with earlier volumes, the pages contain many hitherto unpublished photographs. See:

L. J. (Jeff) Buller (compiler), *Mining in Cornwall, Volume Four: Hayle to Kerrier & Carrick*, Tempus Publishing, Stroud, 2001. 128pp. £10.99 (Paperback), ISBN: 0752421336. Available from: Liz Mabley, Tempus Publishing Ltd., 'The Mill', Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL 5 2QG.

e.mail: emm@tempus-publishing.com

Obituary – Frank Cusack

Ralph Birrell kindly provided the following obituary to AMHA member, mining historian and good friend, Frank Cusack, who recently passed away.

“It is with sadness that we record the death of Frank Cusack of Bendigo who died at Bendigo on Easter Sunday, 15 April last at the age of 81 years. He was born at Redbank, a small town in the Central Victorian Goldfields, where he received his early education before moving to Bendigo in his teens.

He enlisted in the Australian Army early in World War II, trained as an artilleryman and was posted to Western Australia to defend that State against invasion. Fortunately that did not happen, but Frank always retained an interest in the West, its flora and fauna and its mining history. When the danger had passed he transferred to the Royal Australian Air Force but again was not involved in fighting.

After the war he studied for an Arts degree at the University of Melbourne, one of his tutors being Manning Clark. He believed strongly that historians should tell a story that would interest all levels of society and that people were all important in that story, not only the major players but the many who were minor contributors.

Frank then travelled overseas and worked in Europe to gain experience before returning to work for the ABC for some years. He finally returned to Bendigo and joined the staff of the Education Department, teaching at the Bendigo Junior Technical School before transferring to the staff of the Bendigo School of Mines where he taught English and History, both to Diploma students and to adult evening classes. His love of history was infectious and he encouraged many of his adult students to research and write about many aspects of the development of Bendigo and its region.

He resigned from the staff in the early 1970s and worked as a freelance writer for newspapers and wrote and edited many books on local history including *Bendigo - a History*, and several volumes of the continuing Series, *The Annals of Bendigo*. He also lectured on many occasions on Painting, the Pre-Raphaelites being of special interest to him. Although not of German ancestry he was actively involved in the formation of the German Heritage Society in Bendigo. He was a contributor to *Encyclopaedias of Art*, to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* and literary journals. In between times he passed the examinations for the Diploma of Gemnology. With his fellow member of staff of the School of Mines, Redvers Eddy, he recorded bird songs from the Central Victorian area, with such success that many overseas authorities on bird songs travelled to discuss techniques and make their own recordings of the many songbirds in the area.

Frank was a humble man who never sought to impose his ideas on others but encouraged them to develop their interests and talents over a wide range of subjects. He was interested in debating ideas and seeking explanations on why Australia developed as it has done. He is mourned by his relatives and the many friends he made during a long life.

Ralph Birrell, Victoria

An Appeal to Victorians

John Woodland and Ralph Birrell have drawn attention to a problem that needs concerted action from those interested in research into mining in Victoria. This will be an item of obvious concern and we ask that as many members as possible respond to their appeal.

“The State Library of Victoria has microfilm copies of the Mining Journal, London, from the early 1840s to 1859, neither microfilm or the original journals from 1860 to 1867, and the original journals from then onwards. The microfilm copies have deteriorated badly in recent years and are now mostly illegible. The Library staff have refused to take any action on the grounds that this journal was not printed in Victoria and contained little of relevance to mining in the colony of Victoria in the nineteenth century.

They agreed to reconsider this decision when it was pointed out that this journal is the only reference available dealing with the formation and operations of companies floated in London to mine in several Australian colonies from 1852. Regular shareholders meetings of these companies were reported in detail and many letters to the editor were written about the shortcomings in the Australian operations and the fraudulent practices of some of them. Also from the 1840s the Journal reported regularly on technical advances that were later introduced to Australian mines, giving details of the inventors involved and their work. Other engineering journals were printed from 1866 but the Mining Journal is the only earlier source I have been able to locate.

Being told that one voice is not sufficient, concerted action is urgently needed. Thus this appeal to Victorian members with any interest in this period to write to:

T Hogan, Librarian,

Australian History and Literature Team,

State Library of Victoria

Swanston Street, Melbourne 3000

Email: THogan@slv.vic.gov.au

Your assistance will be appreciated.”

Ralph Birrell

PS – having myself found this journal invaluable when researching South Australia, I can understand the concern of Ralph and John in making this appeal and am somewhat perplexed that the importance of this journal should be underestimated by anyone in an archival position, Ed.

Information Wanted

Joseph Will

Member, Peter Brown is trying to trace information on Joseph Will, from 1908 until his death in Tasmania in 1921. Joseph Will prospected in northern and western Tasmania in the 1880s and 1890s. He made substantial discoveries at Zeehan, Lefroy, Barn Bluff and Mount Read. His most important find was the Hercules Mine at Mount Read near Rosebery in 1894, where he was a director until 1908. This mine operated continuously until the 1980s.

It is believed that Joseph moved to Victoria at some period after 1908. He was residing again in Tasmania at the time of his sudden death during a fishing trip in the Tasmanian highlands.

Please send any correspondence to PO Box 392, George Town Tasmania, or e.mail: PBrown@BILLITON.COM.AU

Brian Harvey Hodgson Hooker

Member, Dick Hooker, is conducting research on his grandfather - Brian Harvey Hodgson HOOKER. He was a mining engineer and assayer and arrived in Melbourne in 1885 (from England). From 1886 to 1889 he was a Mineralogical Lecturer for the Qld Dept of Mines at Gympie, Maryborough and Bundaberg, and from 1889 to 1893, Mine Manager for an English company - Qld Minerals Exploration Co Ltd at the Old and New Long Tunnel Mines at Kilkivan in Queensland.

Dick would be particularly interested to know if any members could shed any light on his activities in :

1. NSW - Assayer / Manager for the Cumingar Gold Mining Co (in Southern NSW near the Victorian border) from 1885 to 1886.
2. WA - Kalgoorlie – Manager for Ivanhoe Gold Mining Co (Ivanhoe & Ivanhoe South Mines) in 1894, and at Kanowna - Manager for North White Feather Consol. Gold Mining Co (White Feather Mine) in 1896. Also Cyanider for Southern Cross in 1903.
3. SA - Assayer for Kapundi Mines in 1906

4. A long shot, but any activities in NZ (Manager for Longwood Sluicing Co at Riverton, and Stewarts Island - tin claim, both in 1893?), and Borneo (Engineer for Bengkayang Gold Mining Co in 1900 and Kahayan Gold Mining Co in 1901).

Please direct any information to:

Dick Hooker, 41 Cyclades Crescent, Currumbin, QLD 4223.

e.mail: dickhooker@mail2me.com.au

Book Review

Gerard MacGill, *Mining Heritage Manual (Western Australia)*, Ministry of Planning, Perth, Western Australia, 1999, pp. ii, 107 (soft cover), obtainable from Heritage Council of Western Australia (HCWA), 108 Adelaide Terrace, East Perth 6004 [(08) 9221 4177], \$22 (postage extra).

The *Mining Heritage Manual (Western Australia)* has been adapted by Gerry MacGill from Michael Pearson and Barry McGowan's, *Mining Heritage Places Assessment Manual*, which was prepared for the Australian Council of National Trusts and published in 1998 (reviewed by Tony Webster in this Newsletter in December 2000). I should start this review by confessing to have had a minor part in the compilation of those sections of the manual dealing with gold mining. However, the editor of this Newsletter in his usual persuasive manner (more blackmail than rhetoric) refused to accept that as a valid excuse to decline his invitation.

Gerry MacGill's manual ('the WA Manual') is designed specifically for use in Western Australia, whereas Michael and Barry's ('the original Manual') is for more universal guidance. Why do Western Australians require a special manual for their own use, you may well ask. Well, firstly, the WA Manual is aimed primarily at helping non-specialists who wish to make nominations of mining heritage places for inclusion on the State Register of Heritage Places. This can be done most readily by providing guidance on local sources and on the specific needs of the Heritage Council of WA, which the WA Manual does admirably.

The original Manual is a resource which all Australian mining historians and heritage professionals will find invaluable. However, it has to be admitted that the Manual is strongly orientated towards the identification and interpretation of Australian mining heritage where it is most plentiful and can be, and has been, most readily sought out, that is, in Australia's eastern states. One of the great ironies of Australian mining heritage is that in Western Australia, where mining has played such a vital part in the economy for over a century, a significant proportion of its mining heritage has been lost due to re-mining during the 'long rush' of the last twenty years. Even more significantly, there has been no systematic effort to identify the remaining heritage (and this can probably only be done by a programme which is carefully targeted, mining district by mining district). The funds provided by the Heritage Council each year for the assessment of mining heritage represent hardly more than a token gesture. The need to encourage much more extensive nomination of sites is therefore of vital importance.

When asked to assist Gerry in preparing the gold type profile in the WA Manual, I read again the admirable model type profiles for coal, gold and copper mining places in the original Manual. This brought home to me the extent to which the difference in the historical development of mining in the eastern colonies and in WA has been reflected in differences in their mining heritage. This is, of course, most striking in gold mining, where the late start in Western Australia, the significant technological changes in processing in the 1900s, and the survival of the industry on the 20th century roller coaster, has produced very different remains to those in the east. On the other hand copper

mining in Western Australia has had little significance on the national scale, and in the copper type profile in the original Manual scarcely rates a mention. Yet in Western Australia, the small copper mines, especially when associated with gold or lead have the potential to produce some of the most interesting mining heritage in the state. The second reason for the WA Manual is therefore to develop mining type profiles which reflect more truly than the original Manual the type of mining heritage remaining in Western Australia.

The WA Manual is arranged in a similar manner to the original, and a useful table (p.7) indicates where there have been changes to the original and where new text has been provided. The Introduction also outlines these variations and discusses the status of the four heritage lists used in Western Australia with an emphasis on the only one which has any significant legal power at State level, the HCWA's Register of Heritage Places.

The main part of the manual consists of six 'Guidelines', three advising on the recording and assessment of mining heritage, and three providing supporting sources of information. The remainder of the original Manual consisted of the four model type profiles of places relating to the mining of coal, copper, alluvial gold and reef gold. In the Western Australian manual a single section has been provided for gold containing largely new material, the copper section has largely been rewritten and a new section on lead has replaced the section on coal (as coal mining heritage sites are rare in Western Australia).

Recording and Assessment Guidelines

The first Guideline is largely taken from the original Manual and gives a clear explanation of what is meant by heritage significance, the scope of places which could be regarded as mining heritage, and broadly how to go about researching, recording and assessing mining places. To this Gerry has added a good practical checklist of things to remember when researching and recording sites which even the most experienced of practitioners would find useful. He includes hints on how to draw a map of the site and what equipment to take with you (Though pegs, sledge hammer and saw have been forgotten). He also provides some typical example

of the end products of site surveys (including quick sketches and an illustration of how to work from a baseline).

Guidelines 2 and 3 deal with the assessment of the cultural heritage significance of historic mining places in Western Australia and with the documentation required for the entry of places on the State Register of Heritage Places. Both contain substantially new text. Instead of the extended discussion of assessment criteria included in the original manual, Guideline 2 discusses the criteria set out by the Heritage Council of Western Australia (HCWA) (aesthetic, historic, scientific and social) and hints on how to assess their degrees of significance (in terms of rarity, representativeness, condition, integrity and authenticity).

Guideline 3 provides a useful commentary on the HCWA's Registration Form (while the original Manual dealt more broadly with typical registration requirements). This is, however, the Form used for the actual assessment documentation, which the WA Manual assumes will be carried out by heritage specialists. As the Manual is intended to be mainly used by non-specialists wishing to nominate heritage places for inclusion in the State Register, which is done by means of the Heritage Referral Form, it might have been useful to have also included in Guideline 2 a commentary on the Referral Form, in a similar manner to the commentary provided on the Registration Form in Guideline 3. Instead of including the Referral Form as Appendix 3 in the Manual, a sample of a completed Form could also have been usefully included in Guideline 2.

Supporting Guidelines

Guideline 4 contains the same useful list of contacts in each state which was included in the original Manual (Heritage Agencies, Mines Departments, Governments Archives etc), while Guideline 5 repeats a useful general discussion on mining sources (though you would be lucky to find information on WA mining in some of the nineteenth century periodicals from the eastern colonies which are mentioned). Three pages of very useful material have been added to Guideline 5 giving details of mining-related material held by mainly Government sources in WA. I am sure that most mining history researchers will find some useful new items of information in this section. I certainly did.

Guideline 6 contains one of several features in the manual which could interest readers outside Western Australia. This guideline is titled 'A Guide to Common Mining Terminology' and it combines the glossary of terms contained in the original Manual with the glossary contained in my 1998 PhD Murdoch University thesis on Kalgoorlie metallurgy (1895-1915), plus some additions made by Gerry himself. Where a term is contained in both glossaries (and I would have expected a far larger number than there is) someone less diplomatic than Gerry might have been tempted to combine the two, but he has printed both. This has produced some interesting comparisons. The 'reverberatory furnace' in my list is for roasting sulphide ores and concentrates whereas in the original Manual it is for smelting concentrates.

The space used in the original Manual's glossary for illustrations has been saved in the WA Manual by the ingenious device of quoting against glossary entries the relevant photo number in Keith Quartermaine's classic book *Technological Survey of the Golden Mile* (1981), in which Keith presented nearly 2000 photographs of the Golden Mile from the earliest period (900 of which he took himself in 1979-80). Incidentally, surely it is about time that this irreplaceable book was reprinted? (Curtin University, I believe, still hold the plates).

Of course the combined glossary still has its limitations. The few commonalities between our two lists reflect the original Manual's emphasis on the nineteenth century and the limited period of twenty years covered by mine, which contains mainly terms relating to Western Australian gold extractive metallurgy and very few relating to mining. To extend the glossary to fully cover mining to the present day and also metallurgy from the 1930s would probably double its size.

Type Profiles

The three type profiles in the WA Manual, for gold, copper and lead mining places in Western Australia in addition to providing valuable compendiums of information on mining for these minerals in Western Australia also provide useful overviews of their history. Some of the background to the lead and copper type profiles was obtained during a pilot heritage survey of the Northampton Mineral Field undertaken by Gerry in 1997.

One of the difficulties in dealing with Western Australian gold mining heritage is that mining extended over such a large part of the state. It is often difficult to associate mining activity in one particular district with the overall state picture. To assist in this, a map is provided which shows the main waves of prospecting activity within Western Australia in the 1890s and the dates of the principle discoveries. Two time lines have also been included one containing the main activities in each major field and the other the development of gold extraction technology in the state.

Despite our joint efforts on the timeline for gold extraction technology, errors in two entries slipped in to make nonsense of their meanings. In Great Boulder Main Reef's 1900 'dry crush and roast' sulphide ore plant, the key process, roasting, is omitted from the text, and the term 'roasting' should be added after 'dry crush'. In 1913, zinc dust replaced zinc shavings in the cyanide process at Yuanmi, not the other way round.

Databases

The bibliographies, which were a distracting feature of the original Manual, have wisely been omitted from the WA Manual, and notes on the two HCWA databases on mining documents and mining places are included instead as Appendix 2. This is a section of the Manual in which I was particularly interested as I have been trying to stretch my limited computer skills to produce a data base from some revived research notes. Gerry's 'guide to the form, content and use' of databases certainly seems much more user friendly than

some of the commercial manuals. However, I would really have liked to have heard some more about what the HCWA data bases were intended to be used for. For example, what does a minesite database related to production data tell us about mining heritage at the sites?

My only real complaint about the manual is that it is bound with plastic ring binding, the sworn enemy of all librarians. Surely another five dollars on the price could have provided it with a decent binding?

In summary, I would recommend this manual to those people it was intended to assist, the non-specialists considering the nomination of mining heritage places. Most specialists in mining heritage would also probably benefit from Gerry's site assessment hints. The manual also contains a number of items of interest to mining historians and heritage professionals both within Western Australia and elsewhere, and will, I hope, encourage them to investigate the mining heritage potential of a number of lesser minerals and other extractive industries. Would it be too much to hope that it might also lead to the eventual adoption of a systematic programme for the assessment of mining heritage in Western Australia?

Richard G. Hartley,

Perth, June 2001

MJD/June'01

VISIT TO LAURION, GREECE

Australian students of mining heritage and archaeology must look with envy at the fertile fields that lay on other continents. Nowhere is this more forcefully exhibited than in the Elysiium fields of Greece where it's possible to trip over artefacts that would make any of our local pundits drool with envy. Below are depicted a couple of ancient cisterns and a silver ore preparation workshop at Laurion, that were drawn to the attention of those attending the 2000 International Mining History Congress, by Professor G.D. Papadimitriou. These are about 2,500 years old, and, stated Professor Papadimitriou, the site was one of about **thirty** such complexes consisting of workshops and living quarters known to exist in the area. The amazing point with respect to the cisterns is that the mortar is still water proof. The 'authority' pointing towards one of sluices in the washer concentration shop and pretending to look as if he knows what went on long ago, is yours truly, who was fortunate enough to attend this fascinating visit to this ancient and historic field.





**AUSTRALIAN
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Newsletter No. 3

SEPTEMBER 2001

Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

ABN 96 220 329 754 **Issue 26**

Web page: <http://www.econs.ecel.uwa.edu.au/AMHA/amhamain.htm>

Editorial

As this comes just before the annual conference and yours truly is up to his neck in trying to make last minute arrangements (that have not been made easier by the collapse of Ansett Airlines), this edition will be shorter than usual. For the edification of those not able to make the conference the fare to be offered in Kalgoorlie can be examined by reading the enclosed abstracts. It looks like another interesting programme with a record number of papers being offered on a variety of mining and mining related topics. Hopefully we'll see a full house and those who do attend will be able to hear and meet our patron Geoffrey Blainey. We've been hoping for a number of years that he will be able to find time in his busy schedule to address us and he assures me that he is looking forward to meeting AMHA members at the proceedings. Wendy Carter has done a great job in organizing the social side of affairs and I'm sure that some of the proceedings will be a source of gossip and wonder for years to come. You can be sure that your intrepid reporter will have his ear to the ground and that all

will be revealed in the Christmas edition.

Forthcoming Conferences

Bendigo - Nothing but gold

On Friday 26 October through to Sunday 27 October 2001, a conference will be held to celebrate the 150th anniversary. It will be held in the recently restored Bendigo City Hall. Designed by William Vahland, the Bendigo City Hall is one of the finest examples of architecture on the Victorian goldfields. The conference is jointly sponsored by LaTrobe University, National Parks Victoria, Infrastructure Victoria and the North Central Goldfields Library. A major facet of the conference will be to explore the built heritage of the Central Goldfields. Speakers include Tony Dingle, Robyn Anear, Jane Lennon, Allan Mayne, Susan Lawrence, Peter Spearitt, David Dunstan and Lionel Frost. A special guest will be Professor Sam Ham, Idaho University. Registration, which includes a reception at the new federation museum, is \$80. There is a choice of three conference dinners underground at the Central Deborah Mine or at the Conference Centre at the Central Deborah or on Bendigo's Cafe Tram.

Interested participants should contact Charles Fahey LaTrobe University, Bendigo. Tel. 03 54447491

Email: c.fahey@bendigo.latrobe.edu.au

Web Pages

The Australian Fossickers Association

The Australian Fossickers Association's Web Site is now up and running at <http://www.users.bigpond.com/murphyjim/>

Check it out for information on Lapidary, Rockhounds, Fossickers, Mineral Collectors and Allied arts and Crafts. For further information our AMHA member James Murphy will be happy to oblige. He can be contacted at e.mail: murphyjim@bigpond.com

MiningLife

If you want to keep up with up to the minute reports on all facets of current mining, metals, technology, forums, etc., then tap into the pages of *MiningLife* at: <http://www.mininglife.com/> The contents include a history page with links to various sites around the world.

Information Wanted

Member Noreen Jones requires information on James Waterhouse KING

His mining background is as follows:

1884-1887- .at Silverton & Broken Hill. After a period as a publican there he was in partnership with Thomas and Gaffney. The business included mine management and Assaying. He also had an assay office in Broken Hill, described by the Assayer, W.H.Corbuld in his autobiography.

1888 - Battery manager of the Mammoth Quartz gold mine at Upper Dargo, Gippsland, Vic.

1889 - Manager of the Concentrating Works Co. Fryerstown.

1893 - Manager of Mt. Reid Gold & Silver Mine co. Zeehan Tas.

1895 - Manager of Brookfield Mine Qu,

1899 - Metallurgist and Assayer, Woodley,s Reward GM Co., Rothsay, W.A.

1908 - With the Baron Carl C. Schroeder expedition to search for Copper deposits, Prince Regent River, King Sound, Kimberly region W.A.

1910 - With Jack Nelson & party, McArthur river N.T. for N.T. Mines & Exploration Co.

1912 –1923, including a period of time in business as Assayer in Kalgoorlie/Boulder, W.A.

1923-24. Prospecting for W.A. syndicate at Mt. Ridley (between Norseman & Esperance) W.A.

1926 - Prospecting for Syndicate at Redmond, (near Albany) W.A.

J.W. King,s father, Dr. James King had mining interests in Inglewood & Bendigo from the 1860,s, and his sons were prospectors and miners in various locations on the Eastern Goldfields of W.A. from the 1890,s.

Please direct any information on J.W. King to: Noreen Jones, 3 Glenvale Cross, Dunsborough 6281 W.A. norn@netserv.net.au

Silver Valley Minerals

Vlada Tkach, International Editor at Investors Chronicle magazine, which is part of Financial Times Business, in London makes the following approach:

I am writing to you with an unusual request: one of our readers sent us a question regarding a company called Silver Valley Minerals, in which he purchased shares in the early 1970s. The company, I assume, no longer exists - all I was able to find on the Internet was the reference to certain Mr Mawson,

"a Swansea hotel-keeper and businessman," who "gave impetus to the development of Caves Beach. He then involved a Japanese consortium (Marubeni) in a mining venture

called Silver Valley Minerals but it failed to develop. The breakwater at Spoon Rocks constructed to load coal into ships stands as a reminder of this venture."

I was wondering whether the Australian mining history association has any record of this company.

If anyone has any information Vlad would be grateful. His contact is:

Vlada Tkach, Acting International Editor, Investors Chronicle,

Financial Times Business, London

Tel: 44 20 7896 2064

Fax: 44 20 7896 2078

e.mail: Vlada.Tkach@ft.com

Noel Butlin Archives

Some time ago we highlighted the threat to the Noel Butlin Archives and asked members to petition for their retention. You will be pleased to know that this valuable resource is to be kept intact as explained in the following information received from Dr Sigrid McCausland, the National University Archivist,

"The Australian National University has announced the establishment of the ANU Archives Program, bringing together the University Archives and the Noel Butlin Archives Centre (NBAC) from 1 August 2001. The University Archivist heads the Archives Program, reporting to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Chris Burgess. Recurrent funding for the Program has been allocated, ending uncertainty about the future for the NBAC and its staff. Funds have also been made available for capital works.

The decision will enable the University Archives to improve its services to the University community and to the public. For the NBAC, it means there is now a stable base from which it can continue its role of promoting the national record of Australian business, labour, rural and industry activity. Administrative arrangements for the change are being finalised at the moment. A meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held after mid-September when Chris Burgess returns from leave, as he has indicated he would like to chair.

The staff are deeply grateful for the support they have received over the last year from the Friends of the NBAC, the NTEU and their professional colleagues.

As we get more details they will be passed on to the Friends. These new arrangements give the NBAC a fresh start. With an assured future at the ANU, the Archives can now get on with its excellent work as in the past. However, this fresh start could not have been achieved without the dedicated and vigorous support of all the Friends of the NBAC

throughout the country and overseas. It's been a long haul since 1997 and there have been times when all seemed to have been lost. But determination, and some luck, have pulled us through. Thanks to every member of the Friends.

However, under our Constitution, the Objects of the Friends are:

"(i) to help preserve and extend the Noel Butlin Archives Centre at the Australian National University in such ways as the Association may determine;

(ii) to foster among members of the Association and other interested parties a sense of involvement with, and

understanding of, the collections, objectives and operations of the Noel Butlin Archives Centre;

(iii) to publicise the resources and facilities of the Noel Butlin Archives Centre and to stimulate greater awareness within the community of the role of the Noel Butlin Archives Centre."

We have achieved the preservation of the NBAC. Now the role of the Friends will be to achieve our other Objects."

MJD/Sept'01

ABSTRACTS

AMHA CONFERENCE, KALGOORLIE

24 – 27 September 2001

Peter Bell - Sons of Gwalia: the mine that was too good to be true

The Sons of Gwalia gold mine, just south of Leonora on the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia, produced gold from 1896 until 1963, an impressive lifespan for an Australian mine. It was one of the richest and one of the deepest gold mines in Australian history, and in 1898 its first general manager was Herbert Hoover, who thirty years almost to the day after he left Gwalia was elected President of the United States.

The purpose of this paper is twofold, first to identify and comment on some of the historical issues surrounding the Sons of Gwalia mine, and then to review it as one of the major case studies in Australian historic site conservation in recent times. For the Sons of Gwalia has been back in business again as one of Australia's great gold mines since the 1980s, and in the last fifteen years its operations have destroyed much of the physical evidence of its earlier career.

The subject matter of this paper is both an exercise in mining history and a study in cultural resource management. The heritage conservation issues raised here have been canvassed many times: how much can the community afford to keep from the past? The question is of course unanswerable; the community will always find means to keep things if it places enough value on them. The underlying question then is: how much should the community value things it has inherited from the past?

Ralph Birrell, - Pthisis and Clean Air

The first reliable, compressed air, percussion rockdrills were developed in the 1860s during tunnel construction in the U.S.A. and Europe. These machines doubled productivity compared with a hand drilling party, but as several machines were operated together, rates of advance increased rapidly. The mining industry adopted the new technology and many new machines were patented, including one by Ford in Victoria in 1867. All these were piston operated with integral piston and drill steel, all were heavy and required at least two operators. By the early 1880s rockdrills were in use worldwide and there were many manufacturers, including several in Victoria.

Miner's phthisis increased rapidly in the 1880s. In 1898, Geo. Leyner patented a rockdrill with water injection through the bit to minimise dust and which separated the piston from the drill steel. In the 1900s medical studies showed the need for better ventilation underground and most countries legislated for this; phthisis was eliminated. Improved metallurgical techniques overseas further reduced the weight but led to the demise of rockdrill manufacturing in Victoria, where secondary metallurgy was poorly developed.

In the 1940s the development of tungsten carbide inserts increased bit life. Air legs were in common use in the 1950s allowing one man operation. Modern machines operate from hydraulic rigs and are controlled by computers.

This presentation will examine the simultaneous development of the percussion rockdrill in Europe, USA and Victoria, Australia from the 1860s, the failure of the Victorians to compete after 1910 and subsequent developments in Europe and the USA.

David Branagan - Seeking Hidden Millions - Metallurgists and the Broken Hill Lode

The Broken Hill Orebody, with its complex mineralogy, provided treatment problems, and there was always interest in improving the recoveries of the metals. Little systematic study of the history of the treatments or of the metallurgists of Broken Hill appears to have been done.

This paper outlines the work of three metallurgists: William John McBride (1879-1970), Thomas Andrew Read (1886-1972) and George Kenneth Williams (1896-1974), who made significant contributions. Their work was interwoven, McBride and Read through the Broken Hill South Company, McBride and Williams through Broken Hill Associated Smelters.

McBride's contributions over 15 years (1900-15) included both experimental work on the ores and practical changes to the operations. He worked briefly at Broken Hill Associated Smelters in 1915 and postwar for some years.

Read, trained by McBride, spent all his professional life at Broken Hill South between 1901 and 1955. He continued McBride's laboratory and plant experimentation, particularly on selective lead and zinc flotation methods.

George Williams's work is perhaps better known. He carried out research for Broken Hill Associated Smelters between 1919 and 1948. The continuous operation he designed was "one of the great achievements in modern non-ferrous metallurgy".

Mel Davies - Heritage and Entrepreneurship – What motivated Claude Albo de Bernales?

While the entrepreneurial activities of Kalgoorlie based Claude Albo de Bernales (1876-1963) have received some attention by historians in recent years, little has been revealed as to his background. Using family papers and information found in British and German archives, and in US and British newspapers, it is possible to suggest what motivated this flamboyant character in his search for fame and fortune. The story that emerges makes it apparent that the traits of the fathers are often passed down to succeeding generations!

Greg Dickens - 50 Sluice-Heads: The Story of the Mount Cameron Water Race

The 1874 discovery of tin in Northeast Tasmania by George Renison Bell, attracted a steady influx of miners to the region. Within three years, there were numerous alluvial tin mines working, while at the same time, supporting communities were beginning to establish themselves. As a result, the region became known as Tasmania's tin province. Central to the area, the Ringarooma River provided the most productive source of alluvial tin, with mines at Branxholm, Derby, Moorina, Pioneer, South Mt Cameron and Gladstone. At Gladstone, many of the operating mines were struggling due to the lack of a permanent water supply. Therefore, the Mount Cameron Hydraulic Tin Mining Company decided to construct a substantial water race to carry water from the Great Musselroe River to its mining leases near Gladstone. However, the responsibility for the completion and operation of the water race was taken over by the Tasmanian Government, mainly for the benefit of the many small mines along its route. Since 1881, when construction commenced, the 50 kilometre long Mount Cameron Water Race has operated continuously to the present day. This paper looks at its fascinating history.

Warwick Frost - Historic tourism in the Victorian Goldfields: a reflection on the 150th anniversary of the Gold Rushes

Australian tourism is usually discussed and promoted in terms of natural attractions. With the very minor exceptions of Aboriginal culture, the outback and convicts, historical themes are generally rejected as having no more than local interest (and Aborigines and the outback are mainly depicted in a 'timeless' ahistorical manner).

This paper argues that such a view neglects history-based tourism in the Victorian Goldfields, which already exists as a major and successful tourism sector. Over the last twenty years, against a background of general rural decline, a number of Victorian gold towns have been highly successful in attracting tourists. Their success is the more remarkable given that they lack beaches, rugged scenery and other complementary attractions. Instead they have relied almost solely on gold and its heritage.

The paper outlines recent developments in attractions, comparisons with development in California and recent research on the type of tourist who visit the goldfields.

Anthea Harris - The British Royal Mint and the Australian Gold Mining Industry

Every man and his dog can find gold, but converting the gold pieces left in the pans into products for the world gold market takes considerable expertise. In the Californian gold rush, many 'mints' sprang up to treat gold, in the American spirit of free enterprise. In Australia, that great British institution, the Royal Mint, established its first branches. Gold was converted into sovereigns, coins worth exactly one pound that were legal tender throughout the British Empire. The first branch Mint opened in Sydney in 1854, a conversion of the old Rum Hospital and the first prefabricated factory buildings in Australia. Victoria opened the second branch Mint in 1872, a large, state-of-the-art facility in Melbourne. Gold discoveries were made in Western Australia and The Perth Mint opened in 1899.

The London Mint ensured that the products and operations of the Australian Mints were up to standard. The State Governments provided an annuity and collected surplus revenue. Miners and prospectors knew that they received a fair price for their ore. Today, only The Perth Mint survives to mint gold coins in its original premises. Its wealth of archival information gives new insights into the history of gold mining in Australia.

Richard G. Hartley - Western Australian Gold Smelters in the 1900s and the Northampton connection

The smelting of Kalgoorlie ores and concentrates played an important, though often overlooked, role in the development of the Kalgoorlie mines between 1897 and 1904. Nearly a third of the 0.8 million ounces of smelted gold bullion produced was processed in three Western Australian smelters, two successive ones at Fremantle and one at the Golden Horse-shoe's Boulder mine. Charles Kaufman, the controversial

American engineer, financed all three, and two of Kalgoorlie's most celebrated metallurgists were associated with their design and management, John Sutherland and George Klug. Though built within three years of each other, the Kalgoorlie smelter and the second one at Fremantle operated on different principles. This reflected the rapid changes in contemporary smelter technology and the large difference in capacities of the two smelters. The smelters were part of Kaufman's strategy to diversify into base metals for the armaments industry. Although his copper mining ventures failed, the Fremantle smelter was adapted to lead smelting, and during the First World War, assisted by the Commonwealth's export embargo, it operated very profitably treating ore from the Northampton lead mines.

Richard G. Hartley and Gerard MacGill - The Baddera lead Mine, Northampton Mineral Field

The authors will present an illustrated account of their heritage assessment of the mines, which were entered into the State Register of Heritage Places in 2000.

Baddera Mine was Western Australia's largest lead producer in the early decades of the twentieth century and was closely linked with early attempts to establish a works to smelt Kalgoorlie gold ores. Due to the state of preservation of their evidence, the Baddera Mines are important reference sites for the understanding of other sites on the Northampton Mineral Field, and illustrate the development of mining and processing technology over the first half of the twentieth century.

The Baddera Mine contains rare evidence of the application of steam power to mining and processing, and rare, and probably unique in Australia, evidence of the application of a Frenier pump. The North Baddera Mine contains a rare, and possibly the State's only, surviving in situ example of a once-common Huntington mill. It was the site within living memory of a tragic mining accident. The mines have links with important figures in the early development of the state's mining industry, including George Klug, W.G. Sutherland, and E. Protheroe Jones.

Brian R. Hill - Forgotten New Zealand mining entrepreneur – David Ziman (1862-1920)

Little known South African mining investor, David Ziman (1862-1920), played a vital role in the restructuring and modernisation of the gold mining industry at Reefton, New Zealand's second biggest gold field, in the late 1890s. Born in Czarist Poland, which he fled as a teenager, David Ziman was a barrow boy before emigrating to the Cape Colony where he became a trader in ostrich feathers. He was a founding broker of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in 1887. He soon amassed considerable wealth, but was bankrupted in a collapse of the Rand market in 1890. With adroit trading, in a few years he restored his fortune.

On a holiday trip to New Zealand in 1895 to visit his wife's family, his attention was directed to Reefton by the Prime Minister, R.J. Seddon. The contemporary world-wide surge in gold mining investment, which was fuelled by the London share market boom, had bypassed Reefton which was in a slump and had been for twelve years. This was despite the favourable economic conditions for gold mining with deflation in New Zealand during most of this period.

Ziman devised an audacious plan to gain control of the main mines in Reefton, for floating in London. Denied the promoter's profit he sought by the collapse of the Kaffir Circus boom in gold shares, Ziman formed a substantial company, Consolidated Gold Fields New Zealand Ltd with Rothschilds, in which he had a founder's profit share. Ziman's company modernised and transformed the industry in Reefton. Although it operated for 55 years, Consolidated Gold Fields of New Zealand was financially successful in only its first fifteen or so years when it was able to mitigate cost increases due to domestic inflation, with improved methods and the introduction of new technology.

Ziman plunged the company into oil exploration and other ventures which failed. Forced out of the company, he became embroiled in protracted court actions, which he unsuccessfully appealed to the House of Lords. Ziman spent the last six years of life struggling to prove his disputed assertion that the orebody in the Blackwater mine extended at depth into the contiguous Prohibition lease, that he controlled. Vindication of his vision came only after his death.

Roger Kellaway, Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania, Hobart

Tin, jam, spice and brass: financing the Tongkah Harbour Tin Dredging Company 1905-1911

The IXL Prospecting Syndicate was established in 1905 as a partnership between Captain Edward Miles, Henry Jones and Khaw Joo Tok. Miles was a disgraced politician and shipping identity, Jones was an up-and-coming jam baron and Khaw was the Penang head of a prominent Straits-Chinese mercantile clan. Their objective was to explore the practicalities of dredging for tin in shallow waters near Phuket. The problems they faced were immense. The individuals involved had minimal mining experience; the technology of ocean dredging was unproven; and the company was working in areas previously off limits to European mining companies.

The aim of this paper is to examine the financial history of the public company that was floated in Hobart in 1906. The initial shareholders were almost exclusively Hobart businessmen. Mainland capital was soon required to finance the construction of better dredges and to cover the costs of beginning operations. The volatile price of tin, scepticism about the deposit, and the behaviour of market interests manipulating share prices tested the resolve of the Tasmanian directors. The first of many dividends was paid in 1911. This established Tongkah Harbour as a major company, the precursor of a dozen other Australian companies that were to dominate the Siamese tin dredging industry until 1941.

Ruth Kerr - The Life of a Mining Historian working in the Field of Native Title and the Mining Industry

Ruth Kerr has worked in the area of Native Title in the public service for nearly 15 years, five of those years in the Department of Mines in Queensland. The purpose of this paper is to outline the role that historians, particularly mining historians, can play in the field of native title within public administration and the world of native title litigation and the progress of native title claims - the modern history of the mining industry.

Sandra Kippen - Dr Walter Summons and the health of Bendigo Miners

In 1906 Dr. Walter Summons was commissioned by the Committee of the Bendigo Hospital to report on the condition of the goldmines in Bendigo Victoria. The first of the reports, *Miners' Phthisis: Report on the Ventilation of the Bendigo Mines*, which was forwarded early "owing to present public agitation about this important question" found that there was "insufficient provision made for ventilation on the Bendigo field" and that the clearest indication of this was "ill health amongst the miners". This report, with that following in 1907, has been represented as a watershed in mining in Bendigo. Much later, on his retirement from the Health Department, Summons reportedly claimed that he had been credited with the closure of the Bendigo mines and, if this was true, he was glad of it.

This presentation outlines the events leading up to the Summons' reports, when the concerns of the medical profession began to be reflected in the local media. The findings of the reports and the events following are then examined, and the judgement is made that, although the closure of the mines cannot be directly attributed to Summons, his work did have a profound effect on the lives and health of the Bendigo miners.

Leonie Knapman - Want to know more about the ghost town of Joadja Creek Southern Highlands of NSW?

The year 1878 marked the beginning of the Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Company, possibly the largest and richest of NSW pioneering industries. Retorts and refining plants for the extraction of oil from shale were set up with buildings erected to house the machinery and Scottish workmen. The company introduced large-scale production methods to produce kerosene, candles, wax, oil and other products that had earlier been imported. It solved its transport problems by building its own 61-km narrow gauge railway to Mittagong. A village was established and labour shortages overcome by enlisting experienced workmen and their families from mining areas of Scotland. After arriving in Australia they were taken by horse or bullock team to Joadja Creek where, they retained their Scottish habits and customs. Because of its isolation the village became self-sufficient and was one of the first country areas to have the telephone

connected. In particular, the 6,700 fruit trees', that supplied local and export markets proved a successful sideline. Over the next 12 years it seemed as though no influence from the outside world would deter this industrial community from achieving success. But it did! Production ceased in the early 1900s when the newly formed Federal Government dealt it a deathblow by removing the duty on imported kerosene, effectively killing another Australian industry in favour of overseas trade. By 1911 it was gone. Today only ghostly remainders remain to tell of the 2000 people who once lived in this remote valley.

The intention of this paper is to examine, through slides, 27 years of research into the story of Joadka Creek. Two books and a half-hour video have already been produced on the subject but there is still more to be recorded on an industry that has disappeared from our landscape..

Ronald H. Limbaugh - There is a game against us: W.J. Loring's troubled Australian years as Bewick-Moreing Company's general manager and partner, 1905-1909.

Brought to Australia in 1902 by Herbert Hoover, Loring proved his worth as manager at the Sons of Gwalia mine in Leonore, and by 1905 was supervising all B.M.C. operations in Western Australia.† Unfortunately, Loring's rise coincided with a period of decline in Australian precious metals mining. Deeper mining of lower-grade orebodies, increasingly complex milling problems, financial difficulties and upheavals in management personnel within the organization, all contributed to Loring's distress. Caught in the middle during the personal conflict between Hoover and C.A. Moreing, Loring was under heavy pressure and wrote agonizing letters to friends and even underlings in the firm. His papers provide first-hand accounts of the technological problems facing Australian mine and mill managers during the crucial first decade of the twentieth century. They also reveal the emotional strain of mid-level management in this important transitional period. My paper relies on personal correspondence as well as Bewick-Moreing files at Stanford University, the Hoover Presidential Library in Iowa, and other manuscript collections.†

Gerard MacGill - The King Battery and Mr Lidgley's grand vision for the Hampton Plains.

Though it operated for less than two years, the King Battery stands as a monument to an early attempt to establish a major goldmining enterprise on the Hampton Plains. Only the durable elements of the original battery survive, principally retaining walls and foundations, but the physical evidence clearly shows how the battery functioned. Features of particular note are the setting of the battery, built as it is into the hillside on the shore of Lake Lefroy, and the pillars of the giant tailings wheel. The pillars are the sole surviving of a form of bulk material handling once common on the Western Australian goldfields. The site is closely associated with the early development of the Eastern Goldfields region, and in particular with the various companies associated with Hampton Plains Estates Ltd, the successors to which remain influential to the present day. It has links to the early explorers Lefroy and Hunt; to the distinguished English mining engineer, Ernest Lidgley, sometime President of the Australasian Institute of Mining Engineers, who went on to pioneer an early, if not the earliest, application of geophysical mineral prospecting Australia; and to W.G. Manners, an engineer prominent in the development of the Eastern Goldfields. The battery site is in good condition for a site of its type. Localised repairs to fretting brickwork and crumbling concrete, combined with measures to minimise human impact, should ensure the survival of the remnants for the indefinite future. As a tourist attraction and local recreation spot, the site will benefit from unobtrusive interpretive signage and properly constructed barbecue facilities. A local management body should be established to oversee this work and to generally monitor the use and condition of the site. The King Battery is considered to be of sufficient significance to warrant entry into the State Register of Heritage Places.

Barry McGowan - Abstract. Subsistence men, entrepreneurs or proletarians: The working miners of southern NSW

Miners in the colonial and post Federation period worked in one of three ways: independently on their own account, in co-operative groups or as wage employees of companies or syndicates. The term working miners was used by contemporary observers and will be used in this paper to describe both those working on their own account and those working in cooperative groups. The paper discusses the relationship between working miners and their wage based colleagues and the relationship between the mining fraternity generally and other occupational groups, particularly in rural Australia. It is suggested that miners generally, but especially the working miners, and possibly many other 'working class' occupations, were

imbued with a measure of entrepreneurial ambition. It may be timely, therefore, to review some of the more popularly held assumptions on 'working class' attitudes. Examples will be drawn primarily from southern New South Wales during the period 1850 to 1914.

Glen McLaren - . The School of Mines: why and how it came about

In November 2002 the School of Mines celebrates its centenary. The factors underlying the formation of the School, which was originally based at Coolgardie, makes fascinating reading. Safety problems, "Shonky" engineering qualifications, and an educated minority within Coolgardie and economic concerns, gradually led to calls to establish a mining school in Western Australia. The Government was reluctant to commit itself financially and a circuit breaker was required. The Coolgardie International Mining Exhibition, which provided a handsome stone building, filled the bill and the Government reluctantly agreed to provide the necessary additional finance. Thus in November 1902 the School of Mines commenced classes at Coolgardie, but within a year the School had been transferred to the site it still occupies in Egan Street, Kalgoorlie. The intention of this paper will be to examine the factors underlying the foundation of the School.

Naomi Segal - Mining Employers, the Cost of Labour and the State Arbitration System, 1900-1915

Prior to the inception of arbitration in Western Australia, industrial disputation in the mines was mostly enterprise specific, or, in rare cases, district specific. While mining employers acted collectively in non-industrial matters since at least 1896, their collective approach to labour emerged fully only once a system of conciliation and arbitration had been established in Western Australia in 1900. This paper will focus on the collective strategies the Western Australian gold mining industry employed through the Chamber of Mines of Western Australia between 1900-1915 to reduce the labour component of the cost of production. The paper will examine mining employers' use of the State arbitration system, for example in classifying workers, work, and districts and in encouraging contract and piece work, and will evaluate the overall success of mining employers' strategies in seeking to reduce the cost of labour to them.

Sachiko Sone - Child labour: the dynamics of the family labour system in Japan's coalmines

Scholars of modern Japanese labour history have tended to underestimate or ignore the value of family labour. Even the most recent studies on Chikuho coalmining by non-Japanese scholars deal only briefly with the relationship of child labour as distinct from family labour. One of the problems associated with this research is that reliance solely on government statistics would leave wide gaps in the information. Though the labour of women and children was without doubt indispensable to the industrial development of Meiji Japan it is only in the 1990s that researchers of family strategies have turned their attention to the place of women and children in the workforces throughout the world. The work of UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) and the Istituto Degliinocenti, which have conducted case studies in Europe, Japan and Colombia, has been particularly valuable in providing a better understanding of the exploitation of child labour. The only detailed analysis of the role of children in early Japanese industrialisation focuses on industries other than coalmining. Its conclusions are nevertheless of importance to an understanding of the role of child labour in the Chikuho, the Japan's largest coalfield. The work reveals, for example, that children of destitute parents were not subjected to the national survey conducted in Meiji Japan, and that workplaces where there were less than five employees (ten in 1899) were ignored in the surveys. Since a large proportion of industries would have been small workplaces, such an omission compounds the problem of accounting for the 'invisible' workers. This is certainly the case in Chikuho, where there were significant numbers of small workplaces (mines), and where children of the destitute featured prominently as workers in the coalfields. This paper looks at the similarities and differences between the coalmining and other industries, and endeavours to reveal some of the realities of family life lying behind the statistics.

Previously invisible workers are revealed through records of school attendance and mine accidents. Specific matters addressed include: whether child labour did or did not increase with industrialisation in the Japanese coalmining industry; the influence of child labour laws and national compulsory education policy on child labour; why family labour, including child labour was utilised in the coal mines of the Chikuho region until the 1920s, and why it disappeared within less than a decade.

Anne Beggs Sunter - Creating a nation; the golden thread linking Ballarat and Kalgoorlie.

This paper will examine the important links between Ballarat and the Western Australian goldfields, showing how the radical democratic tradition established on the Ballarat goldfield in the 1850s was taken to Western Australia in the 1890s by miners from Ballarat. Ballarat's influence on Kalgoorlie is demonstrated in a number of ways - through graduates from the Ballarat School of Mines who applied their metallurgical knowledge to problems on the WA goldfields; through the establishment of the Australian Natives Association, and through the transmission of the story of the Eureka Stockade, and its use to inspire political activists in Western Australia. I will contend that Ballarat exercised a powerful influence on the favourable vote for Federation from the Western Australian goldfields in 1900. Further evidence of the relationship comes from the 50th anniversary of Eureka Stockade celebrations in 1904, when Western Australia organised a series of special events. In particular I will examine the role of Monty Miller, radical socialist and youngest veteran of the Eureka Stockade, who became a leading activist in Perth during the early years of the 20th Century.

Michael MacLellan Tracey - The Mining Pick: Archaeological evidence for the identification of Chinese metalworking processes

Often the details of the tools of the mining industry are ignored amongst the social and political rhetoric currently dominant in the histories of early Australia. During the period of European colonisation it is arguably the design and nature of tools of iron coupled with human ingenuity and ability to adapt to confronting environmental conditions that encouraged settlement and enabled industrial development. The analysis of lithic technology is firmly established as the primary investigative tool of the prehistorian. Identification and the technical appreciation of iron tools are as equally important to the historical archaeologist. However, detailed physical descriptions, processes of manufacture and specific utilisation are often overlooked. Familiarisation with such utilitarian artefacts may cause the researcher to take such tools for granted.

The 'official' 1851 discovery of gold led to new settlements. To these goldfields came miners, blacksmiths and tradespersons of many ethnic backgrounds who plied their skill and influenced others. Chinese were known to be in the Shoalhaven area as early as 1848. It is arguable that metal working practises were introduced by Chinese metalworkers using methods employed in China as early as the 16th century.



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Editorial

A Happy New Year to everyone. Nothing startling to report on the Mining History front and everything seems to be plodding along steadily. Our membership continues to grow and arrangements are in hand for the next Conference in Brisbane. Also, as noted below, plans for the 6th International Mining History Congress to be held in Japan in 2003 are well in hand.

Talking of conferences, it was mooted at Kalgoorlie, that members be approached for suggestions as to future venues. This will enable us to project our meetings so as to allow the committee and members and to better plan for the future. Any suggestions, with an outline of known facilities, attractions, etc, would be greatly appreciated.

At Kalgoorlie, we were sorry to see Patrick Bertola give up the position of President because of work commitments, but were delighted to welcome Peter Bell to that position. Peter has an encompassing knowledge of Australian Mining history and we are sure that his expertise and vision will

help move us along the path of growth in our activities.

Its also pleasing to announce that the long awaited *Conference Proceedings* have been published and that these can be ordered from the Secretary on the membership renewal form. Yes, the time of year to dip into your pockets has arrived again and we look forward to receiving your renewals. As you'll note, our very generous membership fees still apply.

AMHA Conference Report, Kalgoorlie September 2001

Well, everything seemed to go right for the conference which embraced not only our own organization but also the Australian Historical Association and the Economic History Society of Australia & New Zealand. This happy conclusion occurred after a couple of weeks of worry that followed not only the terrible happenings of the now notorious 11 September but also the collapse of Ansett airlines. As a result, we lost out on the company of some of our American colleagues and also on a number of interstate attendees and partners. Thus, numbers were considerably down on what had been anticipated. However, with over 70 bottoms on seats, there were enough people present to keep the presenters happy – especially so in our sessions where every paper attracted a full house. The numbers also meant that there was quite a lot of interaction between the groups with the cross-fertilization being one of the positives of the occasion. At the end of the day there was a slight financial loss because of the lower than expected numbers but at a time when some conferences had to be called off, we consider ourselves extremely fortunate.

Once more the presentations were of excellent quality as was the standard of debate and we believe that everyone went away with the feeling that they had contributed or learned much from the proceedings. Following a welcome by the WA Minister for Mines, the Hon. Clive Brown, and by Aboriginal representative, Jamie Murphy, Chairman of ATSIC, Wongatha, Professor Bob Reece of Murdoch gave a most excellent and very entertaining keynote speech on Daisy Bates, and this was followed by our illustrious Patron, Geoffrey Blainey, who had everyone rooted to their seats with a casual but fascinating keynote talk on his writing, adventures and personalities that he met on his way during research into his mining material.

On the social scene, everything went off marvelously well, with lots of plaudits being received for the programme. The indefatigable Wendy Carter was in the thick of things and everyone went away with the warm glow of having experience the atmosphere of what is, a unique mining town.

Early birds enjoyed a conducted tour of the towns of Boulder and Kalgoorlie with a half-way stop to partake of tea and bickies at the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society building (which just happened to be opposite Wendy's home). There was a full complement on the coach on Sunday morning for one of the highlights of the conference, a conducted tour of many of the mining areas in the goldfields, including calls at Kanowna, Broad Arrow, other 'legendary' locations including the remarkable wide-streeted Coolgardie with its eye-catching architecture. Expert commentary was made by local AMHA member Scott Wilson (President of the Eastern Goldfields History Society), and coach driver Harry Argus, who as well as being an authority on the local dead and numerous burial plots was able to breath authentic life into the tour when recalling his childhood days in the outback areas of the goldfields. The only blot on the tour occurred in its final moments when yours truly while giving a vote of thanks, had a mental block,

and flustered and blustered while trying to squeeze out Scott's name from his frozen brain (goes down as one of my most embarrassing moments!). But life would be dull without a few hiccups.

That evening, the local Council generously put on a civic reception at the Kalgoorlie Town Hall – itself worthy of a visit, with its marvelous exhibits and grand old theatre, and for many this set the tone for the rest of the stay. Another highlight was the conducted tour of the yet to be opened Miners & Prospectors Hall of Fame. Work was still in progress and only some of the exhibits were in place (two weeks before the official opening) but enough was seen to persuade those who attended that

this was a just excuse to again visit Kalgoorlie in the future. From the Hall it was only a one-minute walk to the Old Hannan's Mine Loco Shed where a marvelous spread was put on for the Conference dinner. Speeches were kept to a minimum and everyone seemed to really enjoy the conviviality of the evening.

The dinner at Flanagan's which had originally been restricted to AMHA members was opened up to all and again the food and drink flowed freely as befits a mining town. More-so than the previous dinner, many of our most prominent members made exhibitions of themselves by taking to the floor and giving voice to Celtic and other chants, and the occasion again saw our patron, in relaxed mood, entertain us with an entertaining recall of past experiences. It must be added that all was conducted with extreme decorum!

The final day saw the concourse descend on the famed Hay Street's, 'Langtreys' House of Salacious Delights. A fascinating conducted tour of the premises (with question time), followed by another excellent meal and lots of incriminating photos within the bordello (that may be used in future editions of this newsletter) proved a telling finale for those who took the evening flights to other parts of the realm. However, for some, the grand finale was the coach tour conducted by member Gerry McGill, to Kings Battery, where we whiled away the couple of hours before sunset exploring the vicinity. Capping the occasion was a barbeque 'neath the stars and full moon that played on the silver foliage of the tingle trees, before we were called away by the plaintiff calls of bugle and flute - a poignant reminder that the activities were at an end!

Forthcoming Conferences

Australian Mining History Association Conference 2002

Our next national conference will be held in conjunction with the AHA national conference in Brisbane, between **3–7 July**. Location for sessions will be the Mercure Hotel on Brisbane's North Quay. Registration forms are enclosed and should be returned to the organizers at Griffith University. Please endorse the box at the bottom of the page containing the rates, with your AMHA affiliation, so as to qualify for the members' rate.

Please note that mining history abstracts should be **sent to me** at the address at the head of this newsletter. Abstracts should be restricted to **250 words** and the deadline for acceptance is **1 April**.

We will be arranging a dinner for mining history members (probably Friday evening) and Ruth Kerr is now working to organize a day tour to Gympie on Sunday 8 July. Details in the next newsletter.

Australian Forest History Society

The Australian Forest Society will hold a conference at Hobart between 18-20 February, followed by a study tour from 20 – 22 February. For programme and registration information contact:

John Dargavel, 20 Laidley Place, Florey ACT 2615. Tel: 02-062589102

For accommodation and tour information contact our AMHA member, Denise Gaughwin, Forest Practices Board, PO Box 180, Kings Meadows Tas. 7249. Tel. 03-63365384.

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6th International Mining History Congress 2003

The 6th Congress will be held at Akabira City, Hokkaido, Japan, between **26–29 September 2003**. There will be an optional four-day mining history tour from 30th September. With the Yen weakening, the tour looks more attractive by the day. A website is soon to be installed and further information on this and other aspects of the Congress will appear in the next newsletter.

Book Awards

A call goes out from National Community History Awards, initiated by South East Book Promotions, South Australia, for entries for their bi-ennial awards for books published in the last two years. The awards are distributed according to literary merit, quality of research and documentation and the ability to convey the historical, geographical and social framework in which they are set. The only restriction is that they must be based on Australian history - where the majority of events recorded took place in Australia. The awards are not exclusive of small publications and major themes may not necessarily be addressed. Entries will be accepted for the following awards:

The Christina Smith Award – for a book on community history published since 1 January 2000. Length should be in range of 50,000 to 150,000 words.

The Ebenezer Ward Award: for a short book on community history, not exceeding 50,000 words.

The Historical Society of South Australia's, John Tregenza Year 2002 Award: for the best entry in either length category, on a South Australian subject.

The awards are supported by The History trust of South Australia and the South Australian Writers Center, each of which supplies a judge. An independent convenor and a judge representing publishers, booksellers or libraries constitutes the rest of the adjudicating panel. **Entries close on 8 February 2002.** If interested, contact me for further details and entry form, or contact Nancy Pearson PO Box 1517, Mount Gambier 5290,

e.mail: murdoch@rbm.com.au

Web Pages

Gerry MacGill has forwarded the following sites that might be of interest to some of our members:

British Mining Database:

<http://www.ap.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/bmd.htm>

Shropshire Mines Trust

<http://www.ap.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/smt.htm>

Snailbeach Mine

<http://www.ap.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/sbeach.htm>

Tankerville Mine

<http://www.ap.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/tanker.htm>

Bersham Colliery Trust

<http://www.ap.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/bct.htm>

Information Wanted

Bette McIntosh of the USA is researching the activities of her great-great grandfather George Bell Straughan and his brother William Straughan who were actively involved with the mining industry. They were both born in England circa. 1833-1837, and after emigrating to the USA and Australia respectively, died in 1905 and 1906 in California. In particular, she wishes to obtain information on William Straughan. Her understanding is that he was an individual of some notoriety and success in this country. William was married to Margaret Lynn, daughter of Robert H Lynn of Chico, and had a daughter, Lizzie, and two sons.

Perhaps the references below from Californian newspapers will trigger some clues on the Straughan's. Bette has been unable to locate any material in the USA to support their occupational history†or their personal data and if you can help, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Bette McIntosh at:

bmcintosh@new.rr.com>bmcintosh@new.rr.com

Chico Record, October 27th 1905

'Straughan Mine May Soon Start Work'

For several months, since the death in San Francisco of George Straughan, the Straughan mine near Berdans has been practically closed; at any rate, it has been worked only in a desultory way by Superintendent Mason. It had been presumed that immediately upon the death of Mr. Straughan, his brother in Australia would take steps toward either further development or the closing down of the mine, but it had on the contrary been impossible to obtain word from him of his intentions. This mine had been reputed to have produced considerable gold during the last few months of its owner's life, and quite a number of men found employment therein, consequently its future is of much importance to people in that vicinity and the uncertainty as to its future a cause of much anxiety to many in that section. Mr. Straughan also left property in San Francisco. It is now thought that an understanding will soon be arrived at, as William Straughan, the brother, accompanied by his family, arrived in San Francisco Wednesday last from Auckland on the liner Ventura. Inasmuch as he is reputed to be one of the wealthiest men in the antipodes, it is likely that he will either resume operations upon the property or dispose of it to those who will do so. If the reports which have been made of its output be true, there is no likelihood of its lying idle for any length of time, with the demand there is for productive property of such character.

Chico Semi-Weekly Record, 5th January 1906

'Wm Straughan of Australia Dead'

William Straughan, a wealthy Australian who came from the Antipodes during last November to settle up the estate of his deceased brother, George Straughan, whose interests in this locality consisted of the Old John Dix mine, near Berdans, passed away at the home of his father-in-law, Robert H. Lynne, near this city, Sunday, from the effects of chronic bronchitis. From the time of arrival in this country Mr Straughan had been quite ill and under the care of a physician, but lately he had been much improved, consequently when a relapse occurred his relatives were not prepared to realize that his demise was at hand.

Mr Straughan was a native of Northumberland, England, aged about 69 years. He had for years been prominent as a mining engineer and as such had visited many parts of the globe. More recently he had operated in Australia, where he had amassed a considerable fortune. He leaves a wife and two sons, and a number of other relatives in this locality.

The funeral took place yesterday afternoon ...the service being conducted by rev. L.R. Pulmer of the First Methodist Church....

Publications

'Australia's Paydirt'

'Paydirt' is a journal that will interest all those who follow the fortunes of modern day mining. It covers events (with some historic content) from around the world and deals with all facets of mining from market prices to production, technology, and exploration, environment and what is happening in various boardrooms. It's well set out and has sections on Australia, New Zealand, Africa and other mining countries. It came to our attention as the official mining industry magazine associated with the opening of the Mining Hall of Fame in October. It's produced by Lothean Media Pty/ Ltd., at PO Box 1589, West Perth, WA 6872 and sells for \$7.95

Siberian nights and days

The excitement of research and the surprises that come with it are well illustrated below by this report from our intrepid SA Committee member, Bernie O'Neill, who recently ventured where few of us have dared venture before!

“As a result of an invitation to attend an ‘International symposium recognising the contribution of the work of the German natural scientists Johannes Menge, Gustav Rose and Alexander von Humboldt to the Ural Mountains’, I travelled to the southern Ural

Mountains at the start of September 2001. The symposium was held at the Institute of Mineralogy, Russian Academy of Science (Ural Branch) in Miass. Only five weeks elapsed between the invitation being issued and my departure – without e-mail it would not have been possible to arrange the journey and the necessary documentation.

At the one-day event I presented a paper on the life of Johannes Menge in Australia. At this association's conference in Adelaide in 2000, I had outlined the work in progress on the extraordinary life of Menge, South Australia's pioneer geologist and mineralogist. Amazingly, in 1825–26, Menge was also a pioneer in the remote industrial Urals. Other general talks focussed on his life in Europe and his activities in the Ural Mountains. The high regard for Menge in the Urals may equal his reputation in South Australia! In part, this is because the few articles by him (published contemporaneously in Russian) contain descriptions of, and references to, the numerous minerals that he discovered throughout the Urals. So his efforts have continued to be important to the work of modern scientists in the region. For example, one of the talks focused on the difficulties, mineralogically speaking, of comparing Menge's descriptions of miaskite with the specimens that have been found since his. Fieldwork associated with the symposium included visits to sites where Menge collected specimens. The touring party included a direct descendant of Menge. He was especially enchanted with the realisation that he was visiting places where his ancestor had been 175 years before.

The journey from Stuttgart to Moscow (via Berlin) was more interesting than usual because of an extra emphasis on security and passport examinations – at one airport check-in point, boots were removed and sent through the x-ray machines, while canisters of photographic film were opened for inspection. Such precautions 10 days before the tragedies in America suggested that something was waiting to happen. In these situations a traveller does not know whether to be more reassured or more apprehensive than 'normal'. Hindsight being what it is, returning to Germany and watching the television reports from America, and being in Adelaide in early October when a passenger plane was shot down over the Black Sea (a route I had flown on twice, a few weeks earlier) is pretty sobering stuff.

We Australians are aware of how big our island continent is. Even so, I was surprised at the vastness of the Russian Federation – something like 7500†km across. From Moscow to Ekaterinburg (where the Tsar's family was murdered in 1918, and where the remains of a daughter were exhumed in 1994) was about 1700km. From there, the party of seven Germans and the one Australian were driven 240†km south to Miass. Apart from the symposium, we made several field excursions (including a BBQ on one afternoon) in the surrounding Ilmen Nature Reserve so that the rockhounds could examine and collect minerals. On the return to Ekaterinburg, we stopped briefly at Kyshtim (near Karabash and Smirnoff!) where not only had Menge been but one Leslie Urquhart also had connections. Urquhart had held mining estates at Kyshtim until 'the revolution,' after which he became involved with Mt Isa Mines in Queensland: a still-operating copper mine at Kyshtim dates back to the 1750s. In another of life's curious coincidences, our newly elected president, Peter Bell, was the researcher for Kett Kennedy's biography of Urquhart (a copy of which accompanied me on the journey)! Ekaterinburg was the stop for our overnight accommodation: the Trans-Siberian railway passes through this large city (population c.1.5 million people). But our next port of call was Nizhny Tagil, some 140†km to the north, where we spent a day as guests at a museum combining local history and technology (the first locomotive in Russia – copying Stephenson's 'Rocket' –

was built here). Another 24-hours of travel, including several hours in Moscow as tourists in the Kremlin and the Red Square precinct and an after-hours session as guests in the Museum for Natural History in Berlin, completed the Siberian escapade.

While a lack of the Russian language and unfamiliarity with the Cyrillic alphabet were barriers to preventing a deep understanding, it was a fascinating experience to meet the people and to see a small area of one gigantic region. Given the parameters of the trip's itinerary and the protocols usually needed for arranging to undertake research in museums, libraries and archives, it was not possible for me to examine personally material for the Menge biography. But the ongoing research benefited, mainly by way of new contacts and discussions with interested scientists (which includes historians, geologists, mineralogists and museum staff). In addition, there was the opportunity to foster interest in Russian–Australian connections with staff at the Institute. Until now the Russian and Siberian chapter of Menge's life were likely to have been written up in a few paragraphs only. The opportunity to participate in the symposium means a better assessment of his ventures there can be made.

As the modern slogan goes - Seize the day!"

Bernard O'Neil

Conference Proceedings

We are pleased to announce that the Proceedings of Conferences from 1997-2000 have been published and are now available in bound and edited form. The cost to members is \$22 inclusive of postage (an extra \$4 for overseas) and can be obtained by contacting me, with cheques or money-orders being made out to the AMHA. Thanks to Patrick Bertola for undertaking the task.

Note: you may order on the enclosed membership form.

The Proceedings contain papers (some multiple) by Sue Harlow, Richard Hartley, Nic Haygarth, Roger Kellaway, Barry McGowan, Lyndon Megarrity, Rebecca Parkes, Glynn Roberts, and Gilbert Ralph.

Mining History Bibliography

The very last call for titles to be included in the upgraded edition of the Bibliography that will be published very soon. Journal articles, local publications, dissertations and theses titles published since 1997, especially requested.

Tenders Called

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines (Qld), has called for tenders from qualified consultants to submit expressions of interest to carry out projects at Mt. Morgan. Deadline for receipt of such interest is 12 Noon, Friday 25 January. For information, contact Varee Smith, Senior Support officer, at vsmith@dme.qld.gov.au

AMHA Officers and Committee

The following members were elected to office at the 2001 Kalgoorlie Conference:

Patron, Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

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MJD Jan'02