

THE TREVITHICK SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 24

FEBRUARY 1979

Edited by Colin Yelland, 'Trereifel', 45 Chough Crescent, St. Austell

NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- FRIDAY 30th MARCH 1979 A talk to be given by Mr. David Tew M. A. on Man Engines in Cornwall at The Lecture Theatre, Cornwall Technical College, Redruth at 7.30 p. m.
- 13th - 16th APRIL 1979 Our Member Roy Shamrock and a colleague are leading members of the Northern Research Society on a tour of mining sites in East Cornwall both above and below grass. Meeting places as follows:-
- | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13th April | Luckett Village at 10 a. m. |
| 14th April | St. Mary's Church, Callington at 10 a. m. |
| 15th April | Newbridge at 10 a. m. |
| 16th April | Tokenbury Corner at 10 a. m. Camping available at Butterdon Mill. |
- FRIDAY 18th MAY 1979 "THE TANGYE BROTHERS OF ILLOGAN". An illustrated talk by Nigel Tangye (Chairman of the Water Wheel Preservation Society and whose latest book "Voyage into Cornwall's Past" was published in 1978) at Camborne School, Cranberry Road, Camborne at 7.15 p. m.
- SATURDAY 19th MAY 1979 A field trip to COTEHELE where there will be an opportunity to see Cotehele Mill with waterwheel, corn grinding machinery, cider press, wheelwrights and blacksmiths shop, the Maritime Museum and the S Shamrock and to MORWELLHAM where there are numerous features of interest including the waterwheel, underground railway and the dock which is at present being restored.

Programme

Depart by coach
10.00 a. m. from CAMBORNE SCHOOL, CRANBERRY ROAD, CAMBORNE; (where car parks are available); via POOL.

10.20 a. m. (approx.) Pick up at UBM HARVEYS, TRURO.

12.00 noon (approx.) MORWELLHAM
Lunch facilities available.

3.00 p. m. (approx.) Depart for COTEHELE.
Restaurant open until 5.30 p. m.

6.00 p. m. Depart from COTEHELE.

7.45 p. m. Arrive CAMBORNE SCHOOL.

COST: £2.50 to include:

1. Friday evenings lecture by Nigel Tangye.
2. Coach travel.
3. Party rate admission to MORWELLHAM but DOES NOT include:-
 1. admission to COTEHELE as a) Party rates apply to mornings only and b) Trevithick Society members may well be members of NATIONAL TRUST.

(1978 charges were:-

1. House, garden & COTEHELE MILL £1.00
2. Gardens, grounds & COTEHELE MILL only 60p.

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

Please adhere to the following which, from experience save unnecessary time and expenditure:-

- PLEASE
- 1) book no later than 8TH MAY 1979
 - 2) make cheques payable to:- THE TREVITHICK SOCIETY and NOT to individuals.
 - 3) enclose a stamped, addressed envelope.

All tickets will be sent out AFTER the closing date so that up-to-date information may be included if necessary. Applications will, however, be numbered and dealt with strictly in the order in which they are received.

Bookings to: D. Ingham
25 Barrripper Road
Camborne.

TREVITHICK MEMORIAL - ABERCYNON



Photo by permission M. J. Messenger.

On February 21st 1804, Richard Trevithick had a wager with a Merthyr industrialist, a certain Mr. Anthony Hill, that he could transport by rail through the medium of a steam powered engine, freight wagons of ore down to the Basin in Abercynon.

The stakes were indeed high for those days, 500 Guineas. The young Cornish genius won the wager when, after leaving Merthyr, his steam engine, not only hauling 10 tons of ore but passengers as well, arrived at the Basin, four hours and five minutes later.

So that the world should not forget this epic rail journey, a memorial sited near the spot in the Basin where the journey ended was unveiled by retired engine driver, octogenarian, Mr. Wilfred Bowden J. P.

The memorial has been designed by a local production engineer, Mr. Brian Jones. Appropriately enough it consists of a seven hundredweight slab of local blue pennant stone, four railway sleepers and a bronze plaque which bears an engraving of the famous steam engine used by Richard Trevithick and also details of the journey.

At 2 p. m. Cadfan Hughes, one of the Trevithick Memorial committee, arrived at the Abercynon memorial site having walked from the memorial site in Merthyr. He completed the walk in three hours and five minutes.

as reported in the Mountain Ash Leader
by John Miles.

Minutes of The Annual General Meeting of the Trevithick Society
Held at 12 noon at St. Johns Hall, Penzance.
on September 1978

1. Present:- President (In the chair) Chairman, Secretary, and about 35 members.
2. The President welcomed members to the A. G. M. of the Society which this year took place during the Annual Conference of the Association for Industrial Archaeology for which the Society was acting as local organising Committee.
3. Apologies:- The Secretary presented the apologies of Messrs. Trounson, Ian Wright, Dr. Hollingworth, Mr. L. Wallace, W. M. Symons, T. R. Harris, and Mr. Gordon Richards.
4. Minutes of the 1977 A. G. M. - The President referred to the minutes which had already been printed in the Society's Newsletter and there being no matter rising they were accepted and signed by the President as a true record.
5. There were no matters arising.
6. Secretary's report:-
Members will have read my printed report in the previous Newsletter, but in addition on the occasion of my passing over the mantle of the Secretaryship I should like to express my particular thanks to Jim Hodge as President and Rodney Law as Chairman of the Society who have always been such a help. In addition although I am sorry to say that Raymond Thomas has asked that the Society think in terms of finding a volunteer for his task of membership Secretary I feel that I must take this opportunity to thank him for all his help and particularly to point out that his work above all others helps the Society to run smoothly and is perhaps the most vital but least appreciated.
7. The President then expressed the thanks of the Society to Paul Stephens for his work as Hon. Secretary of the Society for some six years after he had initially agreed to take on the job for only two or three years. The President made the point that most of the organisation for the Conference week had fallen on his shoulders.

The President pointed out the certainty of some change at Holmans Museum as Compair had decided not to continue their Museum in its present form. Various suggestions had been made and a list had been compiled of the exhibits made on loans by individuals and our Society. The major problem of course was the Rostowrack Engine which was owned by the National Trust A Council meeting of the Society would be held to consider the situation shortly.
8. Curator's Report:-
The President reported that Mr. Trounson was unfortunately ill and therefore could not be present at the A. G. M. He had however spoken to Mr. Trounson who reported that the preserved engines

were being looked after by the National Trust perfectly adequately and that the National Trust could be trusted to act in the interests of the Society and the future of the engines without reservation, although the Society would obviously continue to have a particularly close interest and always be deemed to offer help when requested.

9. Hon. Treasurers Report:-

The Secretary reported that the Treasurer Mr. John Batters had tendered his resignation during the year on being moved from the Pool branch of Barclays Bank. His successor Mr. Robert Haynes had agreed to continue in his place for the time being but ultimately wished to be relieved of the responsibility. There was therefore a need for a new Treasurer. On the proposition of Mr. John Robinson and Seconded by Mr. Marcus Trennick, Mr. Haynes was elected as Treasurer of the Society for the ensuing year. It was then proposed by Mr. Stenglehoffen and Seconded by Mr. Holmes after discussion that Mr. Marcus Trennick be invited to accept the nomination as Treasurer and to take over the Treasurership of the Society at a date to be agreed with Mr. Haynes. This was carried nem con. The meeting agreed that the membership Secretary should be given back up support wherever possible.

10. Chairman's Review:-

Mr. Rodney Law in his review referred to the report of the Hon. Secretary which had already been circulated.

Of particular note was the demise of Holmans Museum which came into existence to save artifacts as had our Society. It might be felt that we had lost our *raison d'être* on the handover of the engines to the National Trust and were left looking for a role. The preservation and display of artifacts was particularly important and it should be remembered that our exhibits were the cream of the Holmans display and that this would be a strong bargaining counter.

During the year the Society held a successful brains trust at Cornwall Technical College and is planning another in November 1979. It is hoped to have the tape recording transcribed in due course.

The Society will inevitably change emphasis and direction with a new set of officers, including the Chairman himself, Treasurer and new Secretary.

It was emphasized that it was essential for the material to be sent to Colin Yelland for insertion in the Newsletter as the Society's members could only expect as good a Newsletter as they were willing to provide from themselves.

It was agreed that the Society should send a special message to Mr. Trounson who through the Chairman's knowledge had only once before not been able to attend the A. G. M.

The progenitors of the Society were undoubtedly Treve Holman, Jack Trounson and Tregonning Hooper, Jack Trounson's work in the preservation was immense and in no circumstances should be underestimated or neglected. On his Doctor's orders he had been trying to rest which members would know was almost the most difficult thing to ask of Jack Trounson.

The Secretary wished to record how grateful the Council of Management was to Mr. Law for taking over as Chairman.

11. Elections of Officers:-

(a). Hon. Secretary - The President reported that the Society was particularly pleased to have found a volunteer in Mr. Alan Pearson who members would know was the author of "Robert Hunt" and an officer of the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies in the past. He therefore had experience of Secretaryship of voluntary Societies and was the nomination of the Council who had already co-opted him so that he had been able to attend one or two meetings. He therefore had some experience of the procedure and workings of the Society. His election was put to the meeting carried nem con after being proposed and Seconded.

(b). Election of Treasurer:- As referred to above Mr. Haynes was elected treasurer for the ensuing year and Mr. Marcus Trennick elected to succeed him at a date to be agreed. The accounts of the Society as published in the last Newsletter were approved as drawn.

(c). Members of Council retiring by rotation - Messrs. Bullen, Michell and Thomas retiring by rotation proposed and seconded for re-election which was carried nem con.

12. Any other business:-

(a). Mr. Michael Rix asked for information as to the current address of Mr. Stanley Opie the former Librarian of the Duchy of Cornwall office in London and it was generally felt that he was still at the Duchy offices or at least could be contacted through them.

(b). Mr. John Robinson expressed the appreciation of the Association for Industrial Archaeology for the Council of Management and Secretary of the Society for the exemplary way in which the weeks' proceedings had been organised.

- (c). The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Carn Brea Mining Society for its contribution.
- (d). Mr. John Corrin referred to the condition of the Sennen Cove Capstan House which was falling into a bad state of repair and which was believed to belong to Lord Falmouth. Mr. Stenglehoffen asked if the building was scheduled and was asked to investigate at once it was discovered that this fact was not known.
13. Mr. Carter reported that Geevor had apparently cut up the ruins of the Levant Mine, and particularly the Man Engine Shaft and were removing the calciner and tin yard. The Secretary was asked to write to the Company. It was suggested that a tour of the mining remains in the area could perhaps be published jointly with Geevor and the opportunity taken of pointing out that various areas were forbidden for access and dangerous.
 14. A vote of thanks was proposed to Penwith Council and in particular the Caretaker of St. John's Hall for all their respective help. This was proposed and seconded and carried unanimously.
 15. Date of next A. G. M. :-
For various reasons it was agreed that this would not be held on the 14th/16th September but would either be the 8th/9th of September 1979 or 22nd/23rd of September 1979. It seemed impossible to avoid clashing with the A. G. M.'s of the Metallurgy Society or Royal Institution of Cornwall and the date therefore provisionally agreed was the 22nd/23rd of September 1979 at a location to be advised to members in a subsequent Newsletter.

Report of the 1978 Conference of the Association of Industrial
Archaeology at Penzance

The Society has been planning this Conference for more than two years in conjunction with the A. I. A. following the Conference at Manchester last year and Ironbridge in 1979 which will celebrate the bi-centenary of the World's first Iron Bridge.

Our Society had always envisaged that the focal point of the Conference would be the celebration of the bi-centenary of Sir Humphry Davy and this was the subject of the L. T. C. Rolt Memorial Lecture given by Dr. A. R. Griffin.

The Conference was formally that of the A. I. A., though Trevithick Society Members were allowed to register as delegates on similar terms to A. I. A. Members themselves. This involved a concession of some £3 on the non A. I. A. Members usual registration fee. To this extent our members were welcome and a considerable number attended. However, the only part of the week's activities which were directly our Society's was the A. G. M. which was held on Saturday the 16th of September and which is reported elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The week started on Monday the 11th of September with a field trip to North Cornwall, and then two lectures in the evening - a pictorial Survey of the Industrial Archaeology of Cornwall by John Stenglehoffen and the place of Richard Trevithick in Engineering History by our President Jim Hodge. The weather started magnificently and remained so throughout the week. Bright blue skies, very little wind, and long hot summer days. This made all the difference. When there were problems - for instance with the acoustics of St. John's Hall and the microphone system - almost always we could count on being forgiven in the slight "pick ups" because all the delegates were finding Penzance in September 1978 a truly enchanting town. It seems that our choice of Cornish towns and the venue for the Conference was vindicated. Almost everybody commented how pleasant it was, and without wanting to deny the virtues of other Cornish towns Penzance was extremely convenient. If it meant that coach trips for field days were slightly longer, this was readily forgiven. The architecture and amenity of Penzance complimented the weather to make sure that everyone enjoyed themselves.

This was the first year in which the A. I. A. Conference (Normally the Friday, Saturday, Sunday only - have been extended with a pre-conference programme. Our Society found no difficulty in filling a programme for a week, and indeed details of the programme have already been given in the previous issues of the Newsletter. I would apologise for members who found that there had been amendments in the programme even from the last Newsletter, but it seems to be one of the immutable laws of Conference organisation that alterations to the programme always have to be!

As might be expected the visits underground were appreciated by all those delegates who did not know the nature of Cornish Mining. The visit to South Crofty particularly was received with much acclaim. There was a wide variety of other visits, from obvious sites such as The Preserved Engines and Tolgus Tin to Wendron Forge, The Redruth and St. Austell Breweries, and Pentewan and

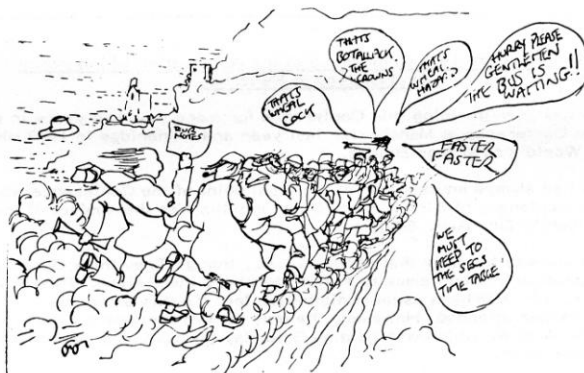
Charlestown Harbour. The evening lectures hopefully had a similarly wide range and in particular Mr. Michael Whetter speaking on the importance of modern industry to Industrial Archaeology was thought to be both stimulating and relevant to the way Industrial Archaeology may develop. The Members contribution had the usual intense quality, and the contributions of the Japanese contingent were enlightening.

Of all the field trips perhaps those to the St. Just Mining area guided by Clive Carter was the most popular, while Brian Earl's address on the Cornish Explosives Industry was acknowledged by delegates to be one of the highlights of the Conference.

The delegates themselves - who came of course from all over this Country and from Japan (via Germany) - ended the week as it had begun, with perfect weather, and were kind enough to pass a resolution of thanks to our Society for the organisation of the Conference.

The Conference has proved an end to which the Society has been working now for two years and while I think we can take pride that all went well and as a bonus the Society's publications were brought up to date and extended, it will now be pleasant for the society to be able to channel its energies into new fields.

A. P. F. Stephens.



Sketch by Clive Carter

Justin Brooke has extracted the following from various editions of Mining World.

MINING WORLD, 10th September 1927 p. 258:

(Editorial; only part quoted)

"WHEAL SETON. This ground was formerly owned by Dr. Cock, who lived in the house now the residence of Mrs. Murdoch, adjoining Mr. Glanville's farm at Rosewarne . . ."

MINING WORLD, 17th September 1927 p. 282:

(Editorial)

"Last week, in an article entitled 'Revival of Cornish Mining', reference was made to the house of Mrs. Murdoch. A subscriber resident in Aberdeen, who has an extensive knowledge of Cornwall, Cornishmen and Cornish mining, has sent us a few particulars in regard to this house. Murdoch is a name of which every Cornishman is proud, for, as all the world should know, William Murdoch, a

Cornishman (sic), was one of the pioneers of locomotive engineering. Our correspondent alluding to the house referred to in the article states that the edifice is pretty old as houses of that type go, but the front and the side wall next to the road have been rebuilt. The side wall was originally 4 ft. or 5 ft. thick, but the new wall is much less so; and this makes the rooms large. On three of the walls of the drawing-room (which is a pretty big one) there is a remarkable wall-paper, depicting an Italian scene with figures. It is signed and dated (1815). There is an old mine shaft in the back garden. This has a shed over it; but the shaft is now choked up. Recently some miners tried to clear it by means of explosives, but had no success. In a field, about 100 yards from the back garden, there is another old mine shaft.

"The farmhouse mentioned in the aforesaid article had been the manorhouse. It is a beautiful old house, and has, or had, many curious nooks and corners, etc; but some of these have been done away with or altered. The road in the vicinity of the two houses is very prettily planted with trees. Our correspondent, rather unkindly, adds: 'Here is one of the very few pretty spots in Camborne'. What has Camborne to say to this? Cambornians, arise, and declare the beauties of your world-renowned town! Few people know what is the name of the mine under "Largimore", which is the nomenclature of the house first indicated above. This is the name of a Lochfyneside village. The pronunciation of it is a puzzle to English people!"

MINING WORLD, 24th September 1927 p. 312:

"Sir,

William Murdoch and Cornwall

"Your article about an old house in Cornwall somewhat exaggerates my limited knowledge of Cornishmen and Cornish mining. But there is also a serious mistake in it. The celebrated Wm. Murdoch was by no means a Cornishman; he was born and brought up in Lugar, near Cumnock, Ayrshire. Some few years ago I visited the pretty little place, and went into the old building that was his father's mill and millwright workshop; also the house, part of which is kept as a museum, containing some of the family belongings. I also went into the cave, which, it is said, William enlarged, and probably used for some of his experiments . . . The late Mr. Murdoch, of "Largimore" ("g" hard) was no relation of the celebrated Wm. Murdoch, the engineer . . . Yours truly, Wm. A. Murdoch, Aberdeen, September 17, 1927."

If anyone has any further information on Mrs. Murdock's house, would they please contact Justin Brooke, Chymorvah Vean, Marazion.

Phoenix United Mine, Linkinhorne
by Roy Shambrook

Summary

This is the chief mine, and also by far the most productive of the Phoenix Group - the deepest shafts being Seccombe's - named after James Seccombe - an adventurer in the mine who lived nearby at Pendowery, on the Launceston road - sunk to 225 fathoms (1,350'); Old Sump Shaft 212 fathoms (1,272'), and Prince of Wales shaft - dimensions 17' x 7' within timbers - sunk to 200 fathoms (1,200') vertical 1907 - 1912 during the last re-opening which ended inconclusively in August 1914.

Mining, as opposed to surface working, began in 1836 by Cornwall Great United Mines, which at that time also leased other sets in the Caradon area. About 1843 the mine was restarted as Phoenix United Mines, very rich copper ore being found on the 100 fathom level, this and other rich shoots yielded large tonnages of copper ore until 1866-1867 when with increasing depth, tin became the major product.

Between 1877 and 1897, the amount of tin ore raised ranged from 34000 tons 1877-1888, to 22,000 tons 1888-1907 average recovery being 40 lbs black tin per ton (2%) to 27 lb (1.35%) respectively, a total value of £890,000 for tin, and £440,000 for copper.

Restarted in 1907, Prince of Wales shaft was sunk to the 200 fathom level and further development was carried out in the bottom eastern part of the sett, where at 1,250' west, and 1495' east of the shaft, winzes were sunk, and short levels driven at 1193', 1250', and 1300' depth - a high value of 62 lb black tin (3.1%) was found on the 1250' level over a width of 5 feet.

Phoenix United Main Lode

The lode has an east to west strike from West Phoenix mine, through Witheybrook, Phoenix United, to East Phoenix - a distance of 2 miles. This lode with a southerly underlie of 20° was

worked at Seccombe's shaft to 1,350' below adit. In the Clannacambe portion of the sett - east of the great north to south crosscourse, gossan - hydrated oxide of iron - was found to a depth of 200 fathoms with tetrahedrite Cu 12 Sb 4 S13, the lode being 1 - 12 feet wide.

Near surface, the lode consisted of jasperoid iron ore and limonite, with drusy quartz and chlorite, with both tin and kaolin ore - as veins and also mixed together. This in turn was veined by melanconite, copper carbonate, iron pyrite, vitreous copper ore - chalcocite, copper chloride, massive cuprite and chalcotrichite (1)

(1) specimens in the possession of the author, exhibit malachite in rich, fibrous green masses, intergrown with whitish, granitic quartz with minor tenorite and chalcotrichite.

Cavities of cellular quartz were frequently found lined with malachite, oxides, and araeates of copper, native copper also occurring. The copper lode was separate and had a different matrix from the tin lode - the latter being heavy chloritic peach with disseminated caseiterite.

Phoenix United Mines (Cornwall) Ltd was registered on the 14th June 1909 with an authorised and issued capital of £160,000 in £1 ordinary shares. The first Directors were: John H. Gretton Chairman; G. C. Baker; R. J. Hoffman; H. J. Moir; Horton Bolitho; and F. Harvey. Secretary - H. Milner-Willis (who later became a director of the West Somerset Mineral Railway Co in 1916). Accountant - W. Hadley Harris.

In June 1909, Prince of Wales shaft was officially opened by H. R. H. The Prince of Wales (later becoming King George V) and the Princess of Wales (later becoming Queen Mary). The 80 inch Prince of Wales engine was built by Holman Bros. Ltd. of Camborne, designed by Nicholas Trestrail, and was erected by T. Rowe of Redruth, who had previously been in charge of the Severn Tunnel pumping engines on behalf of the G. W. Railway.

In 1911, the management of the mine was taken over by Bewick, Moreing & Co, mining engineers of London; a partner in the firm being the late Captain Algernon Henry Moreing, of Bures, Suffolk, who later in 1922 became National Liberal M.P. for the Camborne Division of Cornwall, and in 1925 married into the Holman family of Camborne.

From 1907 - 1914, all the tin ore produced from Phoenix was sampled at the Tin Ticketing held at Tabb's Hotel, Redruth (the site later becoming a supermarket) and smelted at Chyandour (Penzance), Mellanear (Hayle), Carnkie (Redruth), Redruth Smelting Works, and Point Smelting Works at Devoran, near Truro.

The most productive single year was 1886, when 679 tons black tin were sold - realising £32,738 most of the production coming from Trelawney lode.

In the prospectus issued by the Phoenix company in 1909 to raise additional capital for developing the mines, it was stated that it was planned to haul 12,000 tons tin ore per year, at a market price of £78 per ton, giving an estimated profit of £90,000 per year, from a recovery of (1.8%). Subsequently it was found that this forecast was grossly over estimated, for at no time between 1907 to 1914 did production come near 1000 tons per year - let alone 12,000 tons, the revenue accruing being insufficient to cover current operating costs, therefore the creation of self-generated capital (capital and revenue reserves) from existing resources for development was impossible.

This attempt to re-open an extensive and deep mine, must be considered highly speculative, although if based on sound financial forecasting, the mine might well have proved an extremely viable undertaking. Later years 1911 - 1914 were to prove that the mine was seriously under-capitalised and further heavy investment was necessary. On January 3rd 1914, Bewick, Moreing & Co. - the managers of the mine, obtained a £15000 Debenture secured as a floating charge on the assets and undertaking to extend developments eastwards (towards East Phoenix), as a result of high values being found in a winze on the 212 fathom level (103 lbs black tin per ton - 5.15%) and (76.71 lbs tin - 3.83%) over widths of 5.4 feet, and to drive a crosscut south to intersect Prosper lodes which earlier in 1888 - 1892 had yielded 309 tons black tin.

Accordingly at Seccombe's shaft, a crosscut was driven from the 220 fathom level, 20 fathoms east towards East Phoenix, to cut the eastwards extension of Phoenix Main Lode, very rich patches being found at 40', 72', 146', and 192' along the drive giving 64.8, 76.2, 85, and 110 lbs black tin per ton respectively - signs of a consistent run - indicating rich values in depth - following the 15° easterly pitch of the ore channel into East Phoenix.

The "bunchy" nature of Phoenix lodes was well known, rich strings of tin ore had been found 50' or more from the lodes - in Hamilton's shaft between the 50 and 60 fathom levels, strings of tin ore had formed a "Carbona" - a solid body of ore - 60' wide.

Before the eastwards extension of Phoenix United Main Lode could be proved or the existence of New South Lode (estimated to lie 100 feet further east) ascertained, the capital of the Phoenix company had become exhausted; pumping costs from West Phoenix, and Phoenix United, the refurbishing of Seccombe's shaft and Old Sump shaft, and the re-equipping of Prince of Wales shaft, had absorbed all available capital (August 1914). The subsequent inability to meet the debenture interest when it became due, the scarcity of labour and the impossibility of raising further capital - the first World War being imminent - Bewick, Moreing & Co recommended the suspension of operations - Phoenix closing in September 1914. (1)

(1) In 1872 - East Phoenix then working as a separate company, operations were suspended over a dispute in connection with mineral rights; but in 1871 it was reported that tin had been encountered on the bottom levels 185 fathoms - 1,110 feet. East Phoenix workings had just met the ore channel in depth - following the 15° easterly pitch from Phoenix United, lending substance to the theory that future exploration in depth would locate further ore bodies.

COMING IN 1979

Justin Brooke's first book, STANNARY TALES, dealing with some of the more interesting cases and people, heard in the Stannary Courts between 1818 and 1866, sub titled "The Shady Side of Mining".

NOTICE FROM CORNWALL COUNTY RECORDS OFFICE

In 1965 the first year in its new building the Record Office had 1095 searchers. By 1975 the number had risen to 2056 and by the end of this year the total will be nearly 4000.

Further responsibilities in the supervision of certain records, particularly mine plans, and an expected increase in the number of records deposited mean that the number of searchers will continue to rise.

It is often forgotten that the first principle of Record Offices must be the security of the documents entrusted to their care.

Increases in the number of searchers and a corresponding increase in the number of documents produced have brought serious problems concerning both security and the overcrowding of the search-room.

From 2nd January, 1979 all persons visiting the Record Office will be required to fill in a request form for any document they wish to consult.

From 1st April, 1979 the system of appointments in use for maps and microfilms will be extended to all classes of documents. This means that persons visiting the Record Office must make an appointment.

We realise that these developments are far reaching and that there will be some initial difficulties, especially in the making of appointments.

To allow for confirmation appointments by post should be made at least a week in advance. Appointments by telephone should be made at least two days in advance. There will be some flexibility to cover emergencies. It is also to be noted that appointments in the months April to September and during school holidays will be much in demand.

With the co-operation of the public it is hoped that it will be possible to solve both problems of security and of overcrowding and provide an efficient service.

P. L. HULL
County Archivist

OPENING HOURS: Mondays to Thursdays: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Fridays: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Record Office is closed on Bank Holidays and the preceding Saturdays.

MEMBERS QUERIES

From G. A. Rowe, 3020 Lansdowne Road, Victoria B.C. Canada V8R 3R4.

He is interested in obtaining any old prints or postcards of railways in the west country, particularly of locos, stations and other associated railway scenes.

From A. Smith 7 Rue Pierre Cherest, 92200 Neuilly sur Seine, France.

He is undertaking research into the history of the steam engine and wishes to know when and where the first Newcomen Engine was erected in Cornwall.

I have in my possession an article entitled "St. Just Foundry" but unfortunately I do not have the author's name. I would like to include the article in the next Newsletter and I would be grateful if the author would contact me. ED.

LATE NEWS

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death, on February 15th, of Mr. T.R. Harris of Camborne.

Tom Harris was a member of the Trevithick Society and of the Cornish Engines Preservation Society for many years. An indefatigable searcher after facts, he was a mine of information on Cornish engineers and engineering. He will long be remembered and the Society's most prolific author. Besides his books on Arthur Woolfe, Sir Goldworthy Gurney and Dolcoath he contributed to the journal a number of articles of great interest. To his widow we offer our sincere sympathy.

J. H.