

Kendal Oral History Group Interview R0043

Male born 1912

Interviewed c. 1984

SUMMARY SHEET (23pages)

P.1 Born in Hyde, Cheshire 1912. Member of Salvation Army.
Wife from Keswick. Worked at Honister Green Slate quarries.

P.2 Worked at Greenside mines, Ullswater.
Catering in "barracks". Pastimes. Pushing cars up Honister Pass.

P.3 Dole 19/6d per week. Interview at Greenside mine.
Married in 1938.
Acetylene lamps.

P.4 Inside the mine.

P.5 Drilling and firing.
Communion plate in Patterdale Church made from silver from Greenside.

P.6 Getting the rock out with punch bars; crowbars; jim crows; pneumatic machines.

P.7 Dangers in the mine.

P.8 Bad fire in the mine, 1952.

P.9 Rescue teams from West Cumberland used protos (self-breathing apparatus).
Military funeral at Patterdale for accident victims.
Rescue team formed at the mine.

P.10 Using explosives.
Hoppers, landings and ladderways made from timber.

P.11 Mining terms originated in Cornwall. Miners from Cornwall, Northumberland, Durham, Scotland, Italy and Spain.
200 men worked three shifts.
Run by Basinghall Miners syndicate.
40 men lived in hostel.

P.12 Lead been mined continuously since 1759.
Taken over in 1960 by Atomic Energy people.
Atomic Energy fired 500lbs of TNT in two lots inside mine.

P.13 Rescue unit went in; canaries.
Unit found 250lbs had not fired. Sandbag walls had to be rebuilt.

P.14 Two men went off to north shafte and didn't return - found dead with carbon monoxide poisoning.
Respondent and one other got Queen's commendation.

P.15 Local character has a drop too much.

P.16 Taking a chap to the dentist.
Following a cortege to St. Catherine's, Penrith.

P.17 Band of Hope.
Harvest supper at Matterdale; Methodist teas after services.

P.18 Joined Salvation Army in Kendal as bandsmen.
Interested in history of Salvation Army - Captain Ebbs sent to House of Correction for obstruction; visit of General Booth; Citadel in BlackHall Yard.

P.19 Moved from New Inn to old Methodist Mission.
Writing up the history of the Salvation Army.
Worked as auxilliary nurse at County Hospital, Kendal.

P.20 Went as signalman at Kendal; learning the rule book.
Accident on railway at Lambrigg.
Worked on railway at Burneside; then 15 years at Burnside Mill as embosser.

P.21/22 Papermaking.

P.22 First home at Gilside Farm Cottage.
Glow worms.
Lived at Glenridding.

P.23 Tuning church organs.