

CABAN

FEBRUARY 1951



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THE MAGAZINE OF THE OAKELEY AND VOTTY SLATE QUARRIES

CABAN

THE OAKELEY SLATE QUARRIES CO. LTD.,
THE VOTTY AND BOWYDD SLATE QUARRIES CO. LTD.,
BLAENAU FFESTINIOG, NORTH WALES,
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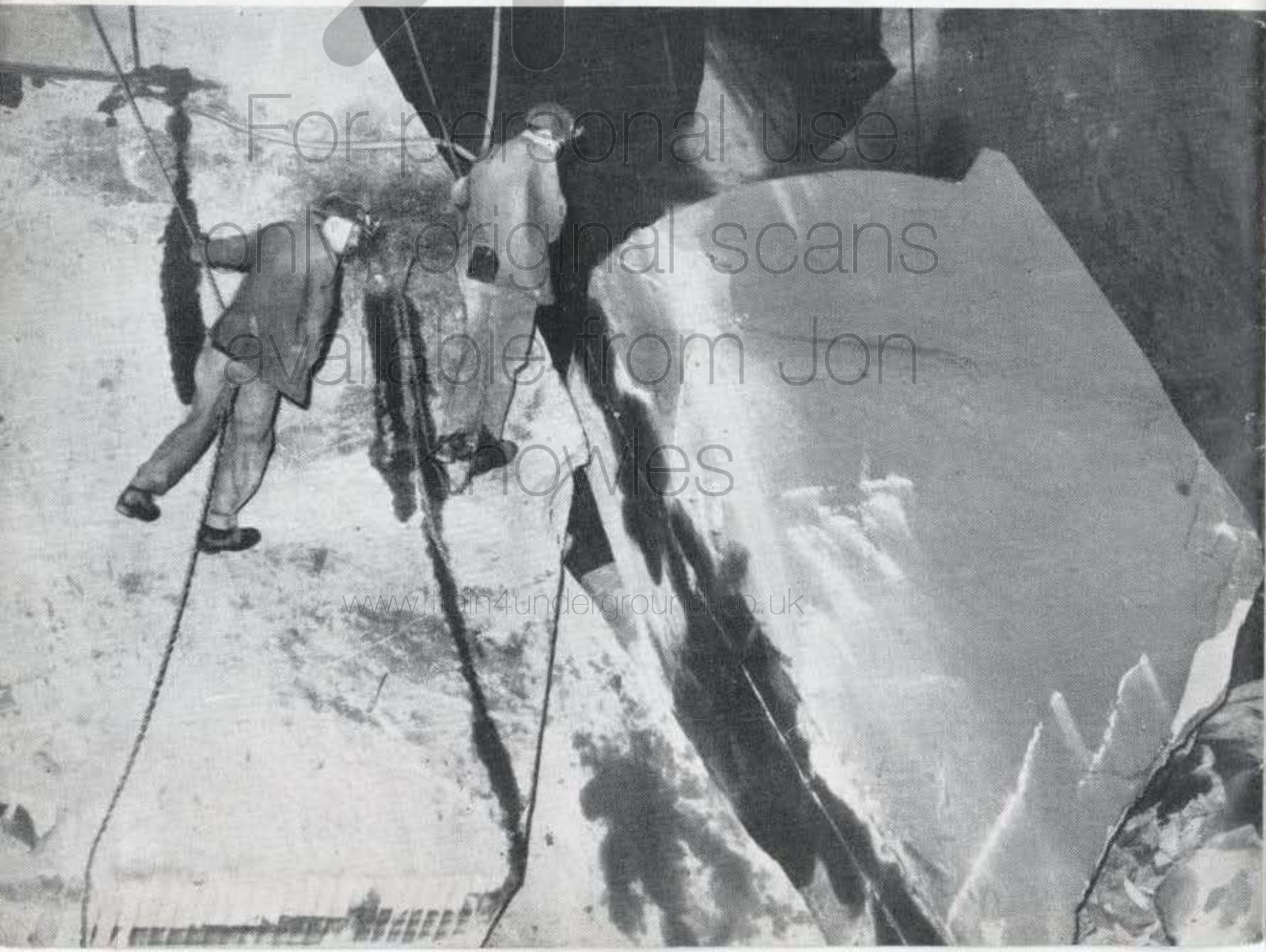
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"CABAN" is the name of the type of mess-room in which the men of Oakeley and Votty meet for their meal-break... and which is also the centre of social life and passing of information throughout the quarries, hence the title of this magazine.

● Front Cover: Five fingers of rock.

● Below: A sixty tons block

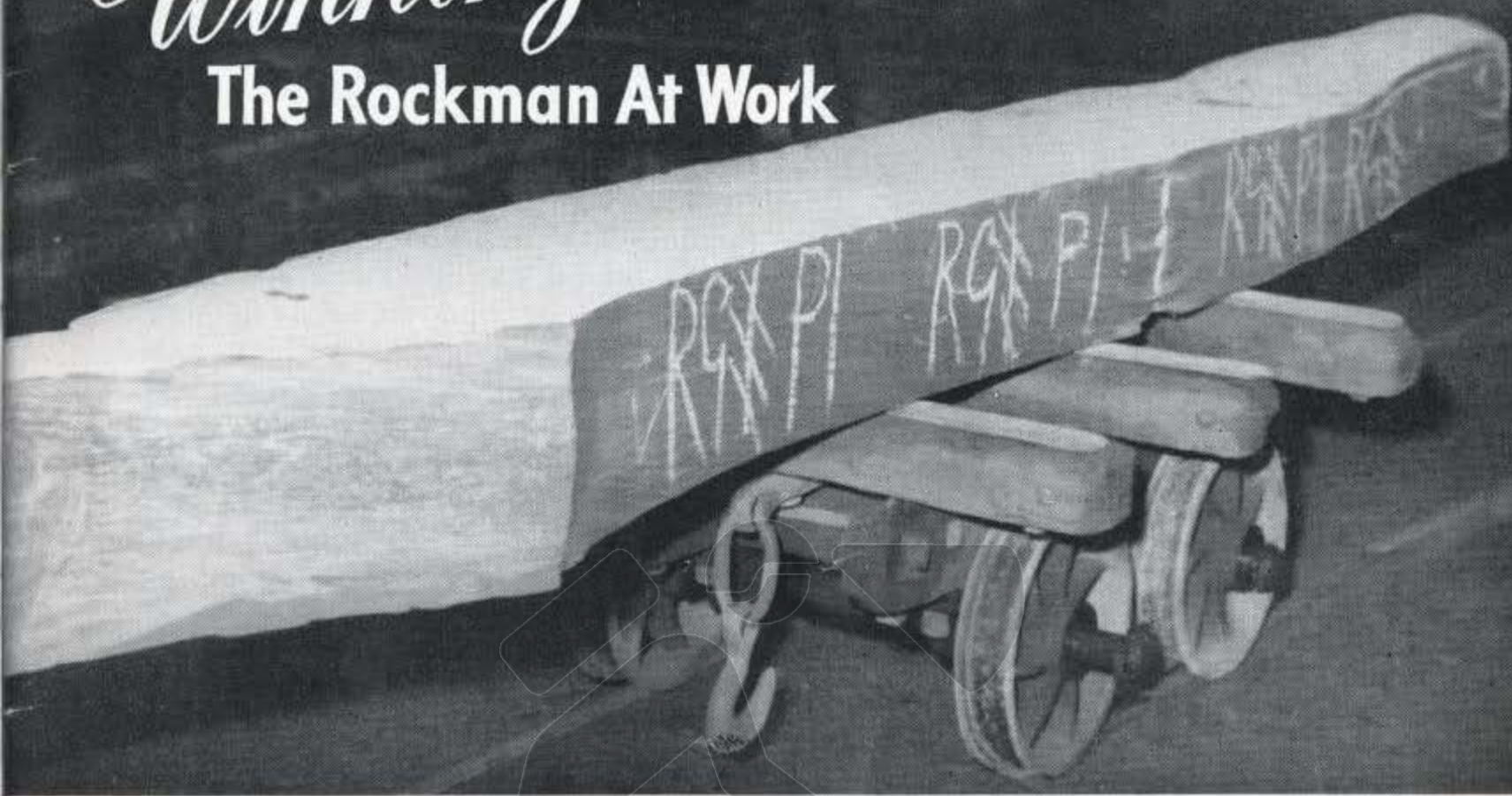


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Winning The Slate

The Rockman At Work



IN THE WINNING of slate the governing factor is the slate itself, as we pointed out in our previous issue, describing the opening of an underground chamber. To Slate, the rockman, is a live and lively rock. Speaking its own language to him, it rings "true as a bell" when conditions are right, and booms sonorously in the lower registers when the moment has arrived to expect the parting of a slab from the mother rock. It has qualities and faults, even foibles, which must be reckoned with.

Slate reacts only to its own particular manner. A thickness of slate is split or divided on the halving principle. First into two, then four, eight, sixteen and, if necessary, into further multiples in like proportion. It is not practical to split or slice a given thickness, say one-eighth or one-sixteenth, as one would measure and slice a piece of cheese. However large or small the block or thickness it is cut down on the halving principle.

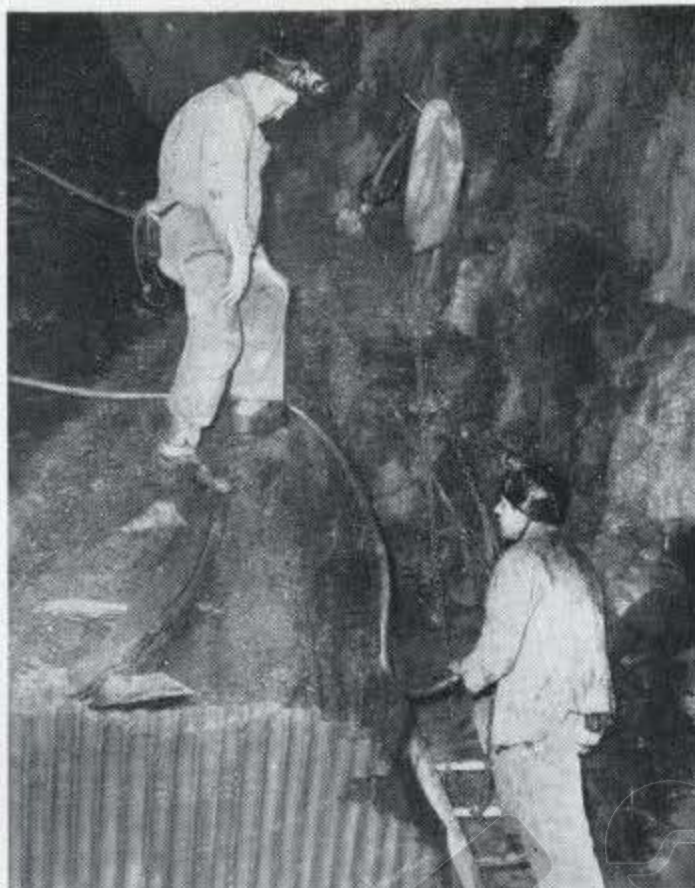
That is a fundamental point to be remembered. It applies equally in the rockman's job in the chamber and in the

slate-making process above ground in the mills.

Amalgam of Skill

The sleek-faced, sharply-sloping vein of virgin slate hides few secrets that cannot be fathomed by Oakeley and Votty rockmen. The faults and foibles—the rockmen call it "stupidity"—are not so readily predictable, but, by virtue of the amalgam of skill, intuition and a knowledge based on years of practical experience, which is the stock-in-trade of all who work the rock, the snags, invariably, are overcome.

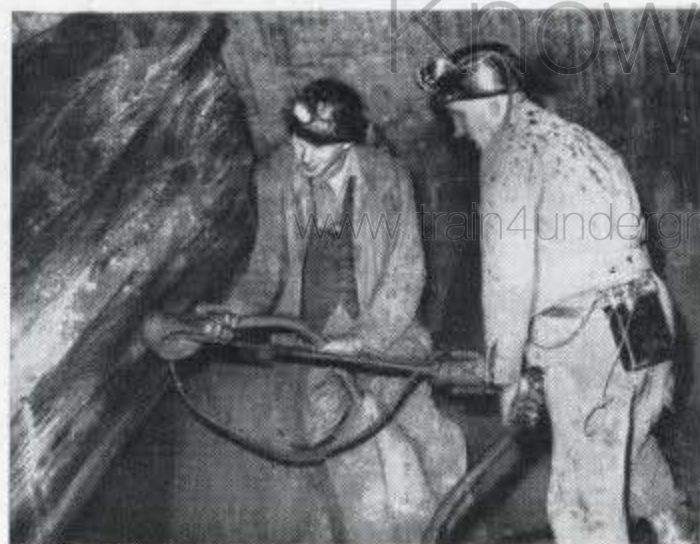
Rockmen work in pairs. Their tools are the power-drill, gun-powder, a hammer, crow-bar and wedges. Perched on a short ladder, or suspended over the sloping face of the rock by a chain deftly wound round one thigh, the rockman will ease out a block of slate weighing anything from 30 to 130 tons. From this block he will split slabs in carefully proportioned thicknesses weighing up to ten tons apiece from which, in turn, he will fashion the smaller "pillars" of slate, the raw material of the mills.



Cutting a free side



A "channelled" foot joint



Drilling on the cleavage

The Step-by-Step Process

The task of taking out the "pillars" is methodical in the extreme, as every rockman knows. The law to be observed is "first things first." A visitor watching the process for the first time could not be blamed for feeling puzzled, though he could not fail to be interested. Those of us who ride daily down the "Old Robey" incline 500 feet into the Votty mine workings, or who infiltrate into the maze of floors dropping down nearly 1,000 feet to "P" at Oakeley, may regard it as hard, unspectacular work, but the visitor, who, having overcome the awe which marks every first encounter with the cavernous approach to a well-worked underground chamber and waits to see what goes on, invariably is most impressed.

The step-by-step process begins, as we have described, with the miners who prepare and open the chambers. The rockmen start their production assault on the slate by cutting a "free side"—or, as they term it, "Torri ochor rydd." This channel, or opening, follows the acute-angled slope of the vein of slate upwards on the right of the chamber and alongside the thick wall which the miners had left to secure the side and roof of the chamber. Having bored, blasted and cut away a passage upwards sufficient to afford elbow-room in which to work and to uncover a free side or thickness in the vein, the rockmen make ready to take out the first big slab for rough fashioning into "pillars," as the smaller blocks are called.

Primary Attack

A short ladder may be sufficient in the first instance to provide a foothold for the primary attack on a new chamber, but in the well advanced workings at Oakeley and Votty, such as the chambers on Oakeley "P" floor, where most of the photographs illustrating this article were taken, the rockmen select their own foothold on the rock itself, secured always by the trusty chain. In some chambers the chain may be anchored at a height of 90 feet. The fall is not vertical, of course; it is at the angle of the vein, a matter of from 30 to 40 degrees.

That is the angle at which most of the rockman's work is done. He hauls himself up by the chain, his tools, secured to the belt of his partner, are brought up to the foothold and are hung on bars driven into the rock face. One turn of the chain round one thigh, leaving the loose end free, not only secures the rockman firmly with both hands free for the job, but is also swiftly and readily adaptable for a quick sliding descent to the floor of the chamber.

Natural Aids

Conditions in the chambers vary. The differences, broadly, are accounted for by the presence of joints or cracks in the vein, or by the fact that these are not developed, or that they may be non-existent. The presence of a known joint is of considerable advantage to the rockman who is always on the look-out for a natural aid to the winning and removal of a good, clean block of slate.

It is by taking advantage of this jointing, cleavage (the way the rock splits parallel to the face) and pillaring (the capacity also, though less readily, at right angles to the cleavage) that rockmen succeed in winning the largest blocks.

On "P" floor at Oakeley, where we happened to make this survey, the rock is known as "big stone," solid from the bottom to the top of the chamber with scarcely any of the helpful natural joints so eagerly sought.

Artificial Joints

What nature has neglected to provide man must provide. Down on "P" the all-important "foot joint," or deep crack at the bottom necessary to the provision of a thickness up to six feet to give freedom for working down the first big slab, is inserted across the full width of the chamber by channelling machines. This process was described in our issue of May, 1950, but to recapitulate briefly, these machines are heavy power-driven drills which bore a line of holes close together across and into the rock face. A cutting tool completes the job by breaking through the partitions between the holes, leaving a deep channel, or cleft, or



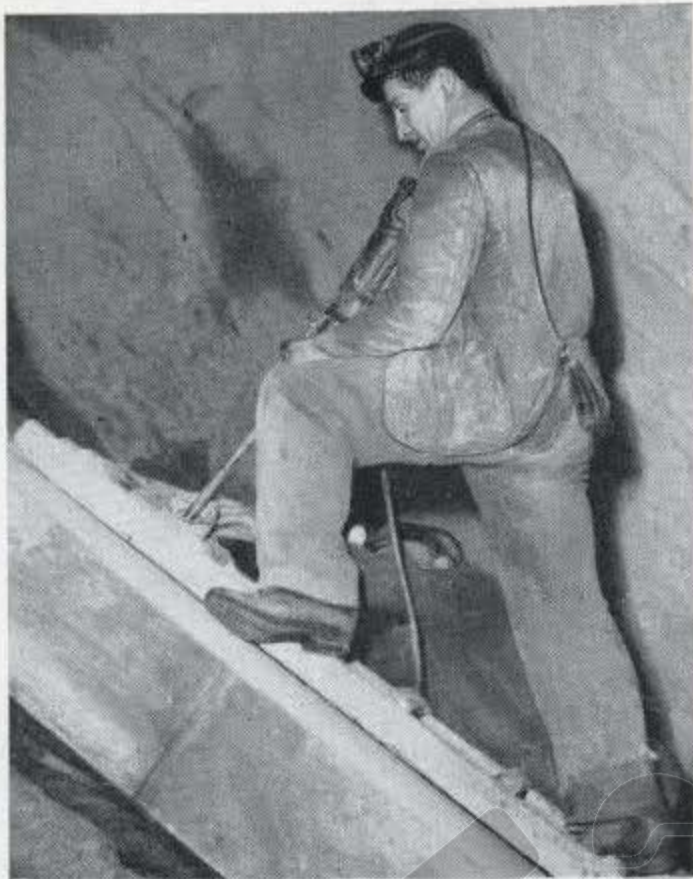
"Pillaring" hole



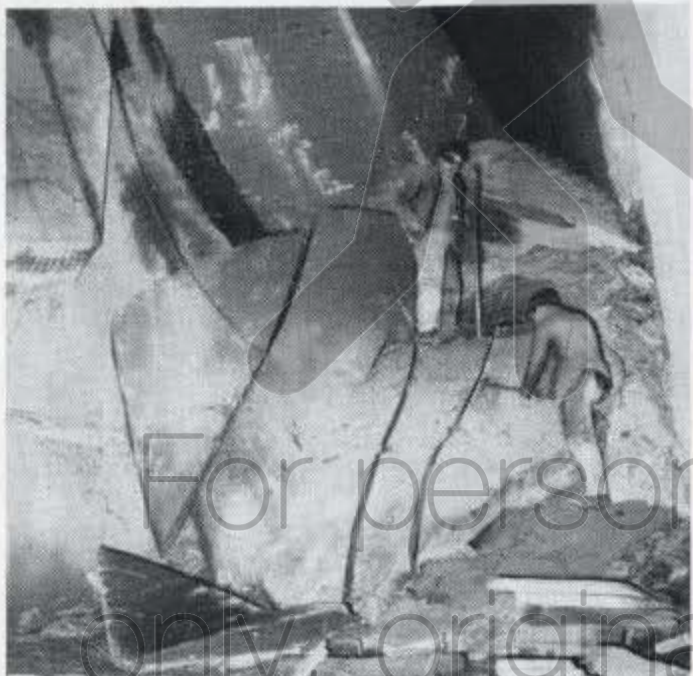
Hammering the "plug and feathers"



The big "split"



Breaking down a slab



Slate "pillars" take shape



Hoisting a block

more technically, an artificial joint. Having cleared the slate on the floor of the chamber in front of the foot joint the rock now has two faces—the natural inclined face reaching up to the gloom of the chamber top, and the new one at right-angles formed by the channelled joint.

Sixty-Ton Block

With the free side excavated and the channelled foot joint completed, the rockman is at liberty at last to go in and win real slate. In "P 1" chamber, where Jack Parry, the Oakeley club secretary, and his partner, Morris Roberts, were at work, we were fortunate to find both the artificial and natural factors in double harness.

Exploiting the advantage of a "back" or "cross" joint, formed by a natural crack running at a tangent towards the top of the face, the two rockmen neatly split and eased out a triangular shaped block weighing anything up to sixty tons. Its position, lying at the angle of the vein half way up the face of the rock, is shown in an accompanying illustration and in a way which, from the point of view of the stranger to our craft, reveals graphically the uncommon, even spectacular nature of the work leading to the production of the commonplace roofing slate.

"Humouring" the Rock

How is it that two men suspended by a length of chain could have cleft so cleanly a block of such dimensions and weight? The answer is contained in the methodical approach, and the adaptability of the persons concerned. As the rockman said: "The rock would like to be the boss; we have to humour it." In this particular instance the policy paid, admirably. Poised in the free side, the rockman first bored a splitting hole sideways along the plane of the cleavage. This carefully sited bore-hole is intended for "working the thickness"—in this case a thickness of six feet all the way across to the naturally formed "back" joint. The foot joint at the base, made by the channellers, was already free. Standing, feet wide apart on the sloping face,

the rockman's next operation was to bore at right angles to the "splitting" hole, a "pillaring" hole on the line on which the rock will split at right angles to the face, and more or less parallel to the freeside. The juxtapositioning of the holes is the measure of the rockman's skill.

Reducing the Block

The firing of a charge of gunpowder—not too much, not too little, but exactly enough—is calculated to complete the job. Usually, and as on this occasion, the big block should slide away from the strata with the minimum of persuasion, the bottom being true and smooth.

To reduce a block of the kind we have illustrated to manageable proportions calls again for the exercise of considerable skill, care and patience. Uppermost in the minds of all rockmen is output—good, clean stuff of the right dimensions to feed their appointed partners, the slatemakers in the mills. A near-perfection in the production of "pillars" is a guarantee of maximum possible output in the production of superfine slates.

The basis of all work is the "bargain," or piece rate. Production counts always, and there is, indeed, a whole lot of slates locked up in a sixty tons block. The massive piece of slate, lying securely high up above the chamber floor, had thus to be "quarried" afresh. For the uninitiated this process means slicing it down *in situ* in carefully proportioned slabs, of some nine to ten tons each.

"Plug and Feathers"

The pictures show the operation, the hammering in of "plug and feathers," or balanced wedge, a device which gives just the necessary extra squeeze to start the crack in the cleavage. The thickness to be obtained is measured on a standard chisel to the traditional dimensions for the production of sixteen slates. The splitting occurs audibly. An unmistakable "ping" signals that the split has occurred, that the crack has run right across and that the slab is now ready for sliding away from the parent block. The work is not always smooth running. It was not so while we watched the rockman

A block reaches daylight



Rockmen's "Caban"

toil with crowbar and then with hammer to overcome what he termed the "stupidity" of the rock. He had levered it upwards and had moved it by gravity a handspan downwards. The hammering rang resonantly on the one note round the lofty chamber. But the slab would not give way. We were witnessing a demonstration of "temperament" which, because of the values involved, reacts on the rockman as a signal for extreme care and caution.

"Ring of the Rock"

"She'll go any second now" was the optimistic remark of the rockman as, with his safety chain slung clear of possible danger and his stance deliberately placed, he heaved and hammered.

The ring of the rock changed dramatically to a low boom. The wedges had done their work. The slab was free and it slid down in a flash, exactly as was intended, to the floor at the bottom of the



free side, all ready for separating into "pillars." The rockman was down and upon it, trimming off a scaly unwanted piece from the upper surface, before the echo of the parting had subsided.

From this point the reducing process appeared to be almost mechanical. A bore hole through the centre of the face, the deft application of "plug and feathers," and the slab cracked like a whip and split in two from top to bottom this time. The rockman measured a further division across the slabs—the full width of the hammer, plus one inch to make room for trimming and dressing the slates—and repeated the process twice to make four "pillars." One of these was a double width, which he split again to make the total extraction from the ten-ton slab five full-length "pillars" of slate.

"Five Fingers of Slate"

Five fingers of virgin slate, they lay fanwise accurately and conveniently

placed for hauling to the tramline and truck. A compressed air winch efficiently did the job of hauling the slate into position for placing on the trolley. There remained the final operation—the marking of the block with the name and number of the chamber and its destination. In the picture we have chosen, the chamber is "P 1." The destination is indicated by the three chalked initials preceding it, which, believe it or not, spell "R.G.J.," for Oakeley rockmen write "J" with a single stroke intersected by three diagonal strokes. The reason is logical enough. There must be no mistake in the destination of the pillar, and no confusion between the letters "J" and "I." Tradition is carried a step farther in the choice of this particular inscription. The initials "R.G.J." are those of one Robert Griffith Jones, a rockman of repute, who has now passed from the ken of the present generation. It was a good name, and a lucky one. Jack Parry and Morris Roberts liked it and retained it.

Rockmen's day is done



The Big Snow...

How Oakeley and Votto fared *



IN "Conversation Piece" in the last issue we ventured to record the remarks of a roofing contractor as, on the 'phone, he rhapsodised on the beauties of the autumn tints observed during what he described as a memorable trip up the valley.

The particular autumn he recalled has now been succeeded by another,—not to mention a summer distinguished by a total rainfall of 59 inches recorded at Oakeley in the three months July, August, September. When it is realised that the average *annual* rainfall in a seaside area like Merseyside is only 28 inches, our weather lot up here on the roof of Merioneth must admittedly take some beating!

Arctic comes to Blaenau

Quarrymen take it all in their stride, slopping through rain in the summer; shuffling through snow in the winter. Snow, did we say? In common with the rest of the country winter came early to Blaenau Ffestiniog and, with it, deep snow which persisted under arctic conditions for five weeks.

The false thaw at Christmas was followed by further snow and severe frost undoing for a space the difficult, painstaking and prolonged process of keeping open the inclines and the all-important dispatch route from the mills in the mountains down to the mainline sidings. While it succeeded in impeding the flow

of slates finished for dispatch, the conditions, though extremely severe, did not stop output.

The photographs we have reproduced offer a fair impression of those conditions particularly where the snow had drifted and frozen over the finished slates in the outdoor bays at Oakeley. The average snowfall was between six and seven inches, but drifting occurred in many places.

Conditions were tough while they lasted but were never insuperable.

Reynard called at Votto

What convinced us most of the real toughness of the situation were two entirely extraneous factors observed in the passing. Calling at Votto early in the New Year we cautiously climbed the steep approach road on which children from Blaenau Ffestiniog were gaily tobogganing, to find, cutting across our path, the unmistakable footprints of a fox.

Following the dainty tell-tale imprints in the snow, which are instantly recognisable by the fact that they proceed in single line ahead, we were able to retrace reynard's track right to the Votto office door. He had come down the mountain, traversed the long tramroad, had nosed round the office buildings, crossed the road and incline and, apparently unconcernedly, had continued on his daylight quest over the tip and down to the town.

Others who examined the "sign" were equally impressed and equally certain that we were in the midst of one of the hardest winters to be experienced at Blaenau Ffestiniog. Thinking it over on the way back to Oakeley, we saw a sheep emerge from deep snow and stagger back to life. Here was winter, indeed, and the year scarcely started.

Back to normal

On the road into Oakeley men were unloading gunpowder from a lorry which had floundered in the deep snow and stopped. Everywhere men were de-icing points, shoring up snowbanks and, most difficult of all, prising out slates from the frozen stockades.

The view across the open quarry from the ledge where, last summer, goats were grazing, was chilly in the extreme. It was Oakeley in the grip of winter, and no occasion for rhapsodising. The sun had fought a losing battle with glowering fog and we retired that night to dream of foxes patrolling the ice-bound environs of the town.

... In spite of this we carried on



... All-important communications

With the dawn came mist—warm, enfolding and clammy from Cardigan Bay—which swiftly cleared snow from vast stretches of the countryside. That night, driving over the Crimea Pass, it rained heavily. Blaenau had loosened from the grip and was back to normal!



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On Duty—Off Duty

THE keen eye and the strong, safe pair of hands caught by the camera in this workaday picture of Orthin Roberts, rockman in "P" 9 at Oakeley, are the stock-in-trade of the man on duty and off duty. Orthin is goalkeeper for Pwllheli Welsh League First Division XI, and a footballer of wide experience.

Before linking up at Pwllheli with Tommy Jones, the ex-Everton and Welsh international centre-half, in a spectacular defensive combination, Orthin Roberts shone in English League football as goalkeeper with the Notts Forest Second Division team, making 24 first team appearances in seasons 1947-48. A product of Welsh football, having begun his career with the Blaenau Ffestiniog town team, and continuing it in the army, he exhibited an early promise which was fulfilled in the war years. His father is John Roberts, slatemaker at Bonc Coed-an, and will be remembered as a dashing goalkeeper for the town team twenty-five years ago.

The pictures show Orthin Roberts at work in his chamber and at play, staying

Orthin Roberts, rockman



Alfred Hughes, fireman

off a determined header in a recent match against Colwyn Bay.

Some of our readers may be surprised to learn that the fire services in the rural and remoter areas are still largely manned by volunteers. Merioneth is no exception.

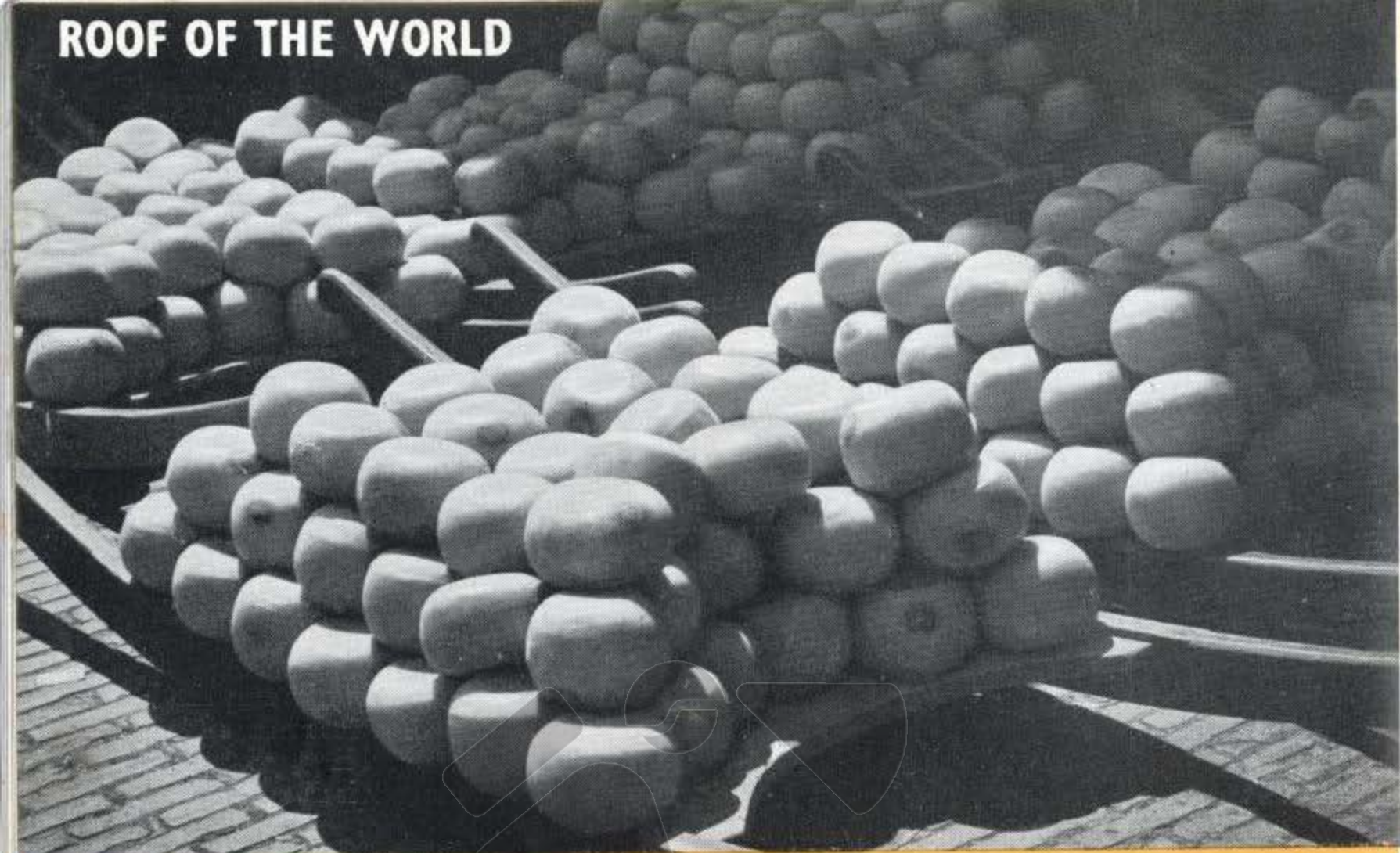
Alfred Hughes, rockman on "P" floor, Oakeley, who volunteered for the original Auxiliary Fire Service in 1939, and who passed through the transitional phase remembered as the National Fire Service, is still a fireman, retained in off-duty hours for service anywhere within the wide scope of his division. He is summoned by a bell alarm system installed in his own home. The "drill" for attendance has been so perfected in practice that the maintenance of a full crew on permanent duty at the conveniently situated stations has been deemed to offer little advantage over the successful routine still being observed.

Alfred Hughes is seen standing fourth from left in the back row of a group which contains many who will be recognised by our local readers.

Orthin Roberts, goalkeeper



ROOF OF THE WORLD



“With Compliments” — From the Netherlands

A MOUTH-watering array of cheeses, if you like that kind of cheese—we do

It was Mr. J. de Koster of our very old friends, Messrs. van Wijngaarden & Co., of Rotterdam, who set us off on this departure from our usual style of “Roof of the World.”

borrowed some similar photographs, we here pass on a glimpse of that country to which we have sent slates for so many years.

Members of the Club can enjoy the whole collection by getting the book from the library. It was difficult to make

The Square—De Ryp

With “Best compliments for 1951” he sent the Company a copy of a book—“The Netherlands.” It consists almost entirely of photographs, a fine collection of 240 pictures, showing the Dutch countryside, life and architecture. We were delighted with it, so, having





Working Windmills

a selection, but look at these well-kept windmills, at this landscape with the black-and-white cattle grazing on land lower than the nearby waterway.



Polder Landscape

“Typical,” one might say, even bearing in mind that some of the Netherlands provinces are very different. Again, the picture of the market at ancient Leiden emphasises the ubiquity of the canal in so many parts of Holland. With the photograph of the little square at De Ryp we get back in a sense to our job, for it shows a diversity of roofs, including varied types of slating—although, unfortunately, these are not easily seen in the small reproduction.

As for the cheeses, they are at the famous Cheese Market at Alkmaar.

Photographs by courtesy of Netherlands National Tourist Office.

Ancient Leiden



Wednesday Night at the Club



Tight corner, tight fit!

CLUB activities this winter season have been devoted largely to recreational and social pursuits. There has been a lapse in the educational programme, but this may be restored later. It is not to be inferred that the Club has stood still. Far from it. There are, in fact, several instances of enterprising innovation.

Mindful always of the interests of young, new members, the committee promoted a Junior League snooker team for apprentices and improvers under eighteen. The boys have made an excellent first impression and promise big things.

The senior team continues among the leaders in the Blaenau Ffestiniog and District Billiards League, and are equally adept at snooker. On this page we see a match in progress versus the British Legion team. Head well down taking a shot is Idris Evans, rockman at Oakeley, and standing coolly by, eyes concentrated on the object ball, is his opponent, Griffith Jones, a stalwart of the Legion team and, incidentally, another Oakeley rockman.

Dead centre!

Carnival Queen

Another piece of enterprise by the committee, commending itself to all, is their decision to nominate an Oakeley and Votty "Quarries Queen" as a candidate for the title of "Carnival Queen" at the forthcoming Blaenau Ffestiniog annual summer carnival. Applicants for the title of "Quarries Queen" are restricted to girls between fourteen and eighteen years, whose kinship with Oakeley and Votty is that they have a father or brother working with us. The final selection will be by secret ballot, and the winner, in addition to being sponsored as the Club candidate at the Town Carnival, will receive a prize of £1.

Concert Arrangements

The Club concert, to be held in March, will feature the Quarry Choir (who are pictured here specially posed after practice at the Club) and a miscellaneous programme provided by the winners in the Club Eisteddfod last year. This last decision is a happy gesture, in keeping with the new practice of the National Eisteddfod.

To complete the "happy family" atmosphere of the proceedings, the chairman at the concert will be selected from the ranks of our own veterans—in fact, the Oakeley or Votty employee with the longest record of service.

Music Makers

There are six of our improvers playing in the Royal Oakeley Silver Band, a fact which has encouraged the Club to foster among other apprentices a study of music. Humphrey Lewis, of Votty, is taking it in hand, teaching tonic solfa to half a dozen boys—potential material for the Quarry Choir.

The Club whist drives offer unabated pleasure to members and their wives and continue regularly. There are vivid and pleasant memories of the "bumper" drive on December 14 last, when there were thirty-three prizes to be won.

The Men in Office

In office now, keeping up the spirit of the club, are the following officials and committeemen.

Executive Committee :

Chairman, Edward Jones.
Treasurer, Dennis Roberts.
Secretary, John G. Parry.

Committee : D. Lewis, J. W. Barlow, J. E. Jones, Robert Thomas, G. W. Humphries, H. G. Jones, Trevor Davies D. G. Lewis, Ronnie Williams, H. T. Jones, D. Roberts, T. H. Jones, J. J. Williams, H. Morris, R. Jones, D. G. Jones, Harry Hughes and W. L. Owen.
Librarian : Harry Hughes.

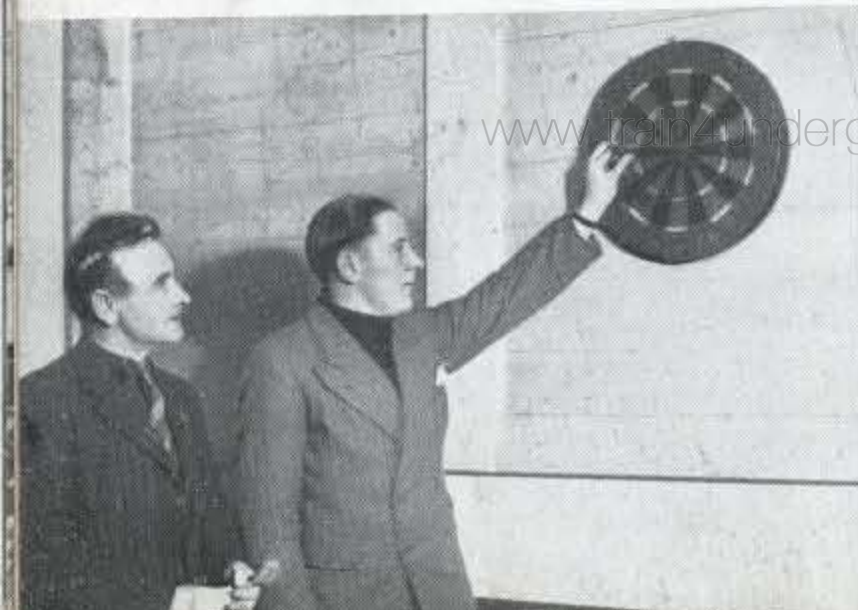
Whist Committee : Chairman, Thomas H. Jones ; treasurer, Thomas Hughes ; secretary, Dewi Lewis, and H. Morris, R. Jones, G. Brookes and Trevor Davies.

Sports Committee : Chairman, David Hughes ; vice-chairman, W. L. Owen ; treasurer, Trevor Davies ; secretary, John J. Williams, and J. Evans, H. Morris, Thomas H. Jones, D. Lewis, D. G. Jones, R. Jones, H. Roberts, M. W. Morris, O. Roberts, J. Roberts, O. Evans, Robert Thomas, Austin Jones, D. B. Jones, J. E. Jones. Representatives on the District Billiards and Snooker League Management Committee : Humphries Morris and Richard Jones.

Oakeley Club Choir



The match is on!





Gwilym Humphreys, Oakeley Manager

GWILYM W. HUMPHREYS manager at Oakeley since 1948, and who is seen at his desk at the Oakeley Quarry Office, is a "third generation" producer of slates. Like several of the apprentices now at the Middle Mill, Gwilym Humphreys followed his father and grandfather into the Oakeley service, coming straight from school in 1918. His first years in the industry were spent at the Portmadoc wharves, and in the shipping, dispatching and sales departments.

In 1934 he entered quarry work, and there followed a long and thorough course of development which, beginning with two years spent in the office and a further eleven years on the underground staff, commencing as time-keeper, earned him his chief executive position as quarry and mine manager in succession to Mr. J. W. Williams. Married, with two daughters Gwilym Humphreys' home recreations are reading and a little gardening. Outdoors he is liable always to drift back to the mountains, there to engage in his favourite pastime—hill-walking and scrambling.

Bob Goodman, "C" Mill

"Between OAKELEY Who's

A potent factor contributing to the make-up of the undoubtedly is tradition. Family history and com- together in the skilled job of winning slate for the

In this new series, introducing some of the men who with the respective quarry managers and two others

SLATEMAKER Bob Goodman, whom we show "hard at it" in "C" mill, Oakeley, is also in the thirty-third year of his service, starting as a boy of 14 in 1918. Bob is married and has a son and a daughter. The trained eye and the skilled blows essential in slatemaking came readily to this genial occupant of the corner bay in the big "C" mill. The reason? Because he, too, "had it in the blood."

Bob Goodman is a "doggie" man of repute. For many years he was a successful breeder of show fox terriers. It was with some surprise that, at the turn of the year, we learned he had given up this long-established hobby of his in favour of budgerigars. "I've taken a fancy to the little birds, and J. T. Jones, the slate inspector, who breeds them, is going to set me up," he told us.



Ourselves"

VOTTY

Who

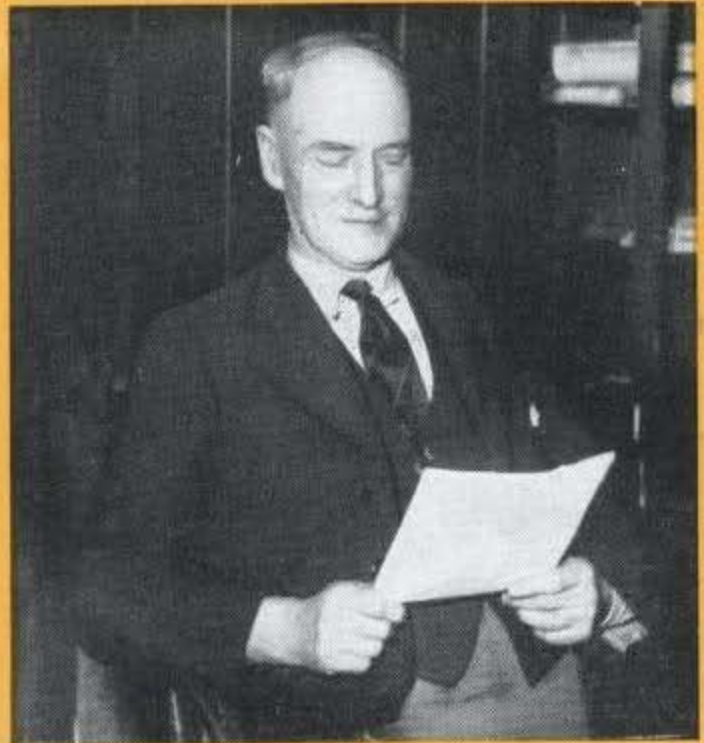
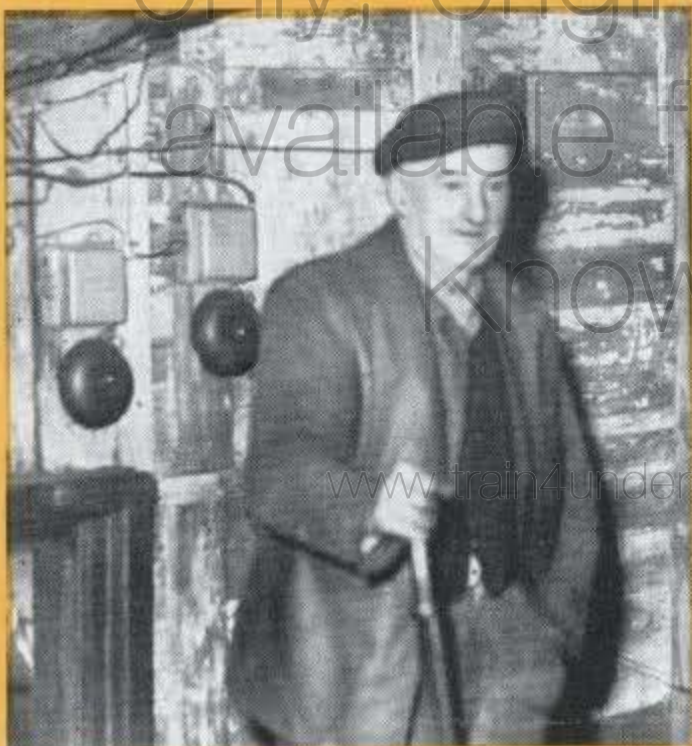
man people designate as a "typical slate quarryman" community environment bring us together and keep us roofs of the world.

typify the industry at Oakeley and Votty, we start who fit equally into the scheme of things.

THE career of Edward Jones, manager at Votty and Bowydd, ranges back over half a century. He started work in the industry as a slatemaker rubbisher at the age of fourteen, exactly 52 years ago. For half of that period he has been at Votty, where, in fact, he now lives, high up at Quarry Bank. Edward Jones had three years experience of mill work before proceeding underground as a rockman, aged seventeen.

Six years after entering the service at Votty he was promoted an official, a position which he has continued to occupy, and in the last three years as quarry manager.

Edward Jones lived for many years at Llanfrothen where, in the fashion of others, who work at winning slate, he practised farming as an off-duty hobby.



Edward Jones, Manager, Votty

With the aid of a son he developed a sizeable mixed farm. Removal to Quarry Bank and larger responsibilities has meant the abandonment of his hobby.

JOHN Jones ("Cannon"), seen here at the lever of his winding gear, has presided over the fortunes of the Old Robey incline at Votty for forty years—and without mishap. Never late and absent only on the rare occasions when bereavements called him out of town, he proudly proclaims that up to date he has never been ill enough to qualify for National Health Insurance.

John Jones has been 51 years at Votty. His father was the Old Robey winder before him, and John started by firing the boilers of the original steam plant which operated the winding gear. This has long been superseded by electric motors. Younger men and, may be some contemporaries, will be pondering the reason for the well known "Cannon" now in his name. John's own explanation is this: "Forty odd years ago I played for the Town Team. I held the record for penalty goals. Goalkeepers said I shot like a cannon, and the crowd came to cry 'Give it to Jack Cannon' and the name stuck."

John Jones—"Old Robey," Winder

"Smit" . . .

THE contributor of the article in Welsh, which follows, discusses and reveals the origin of the picturesque quarrying expression "Smit"—an all-embracing term dating from long ago and used by our quarrymen to describe the rare occasions when very severe weather conditions or other untoward circumstances intervene to stop all normal work.

The word is coined from the contraction of a remark by an English-speaking official of the quarry who had said to his men, following a surprise stoppage—"You must *submit* to the weather." The operative word was "submit." It was a matter of moments before it became abbreviated to "smit," and the abbreviation adopted as a symbol of all that the term conveyed.

The two major "smit" events at Oakeley were the prolonged freezes of 1895 and 1947. The pictures show the "crystal palace" effect produced by icicles in one of the upper levels—some of the icicles being two feet thick—during February, 1947. In that year work at the quarry was stopped for over a month and icing persisted in the middle of the level until the beginning of the following June.

YN ddiweddar digwyddais weld rhestr o eiriau perthynol i'r chwarel, a daeth i'm meddwl air arall o eirfa'r chwarel nad oedd yn y rhestr honno, sef y gair "Smit." Anaml y cofir clywed gair am y tro cyntaf, ond cofiaf y tro cyntaf i mi glywed y gair "Smit." Cerddai fy nhad a minnau i'r chwarel rhyw fore; yr oedd cnwd o eira ar y ddaear a daliai rhagor i ddod i lawr, a cherddai pawb yn araf a golwg drwm-bluog arnynt. Wedi cyrraedd Penybont a chychwyn i mewn i'r lefel-galed, rhedodd rhyw fachgen i'n cyfarfod gan waeddi "Smit." Trodd pawb yn ol a

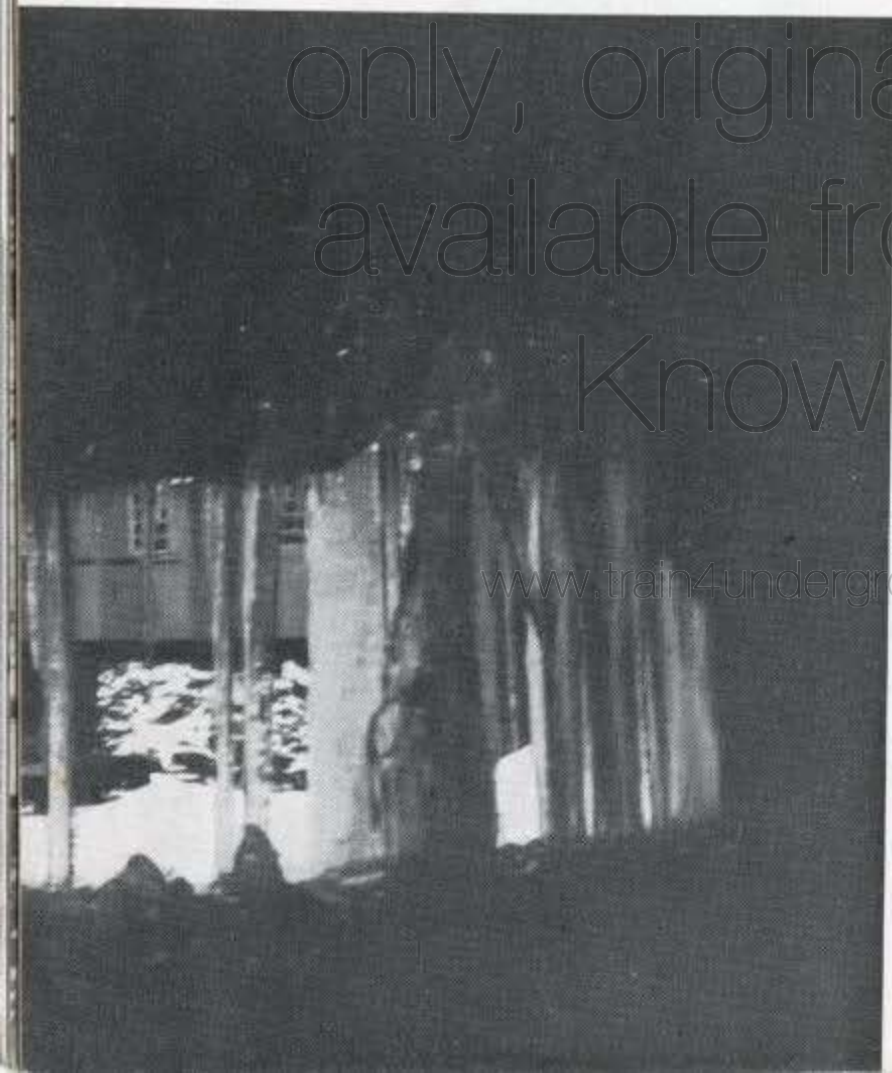
daeth gwén foddhaus ar wyneb pawb yn arwydd fod cyfnewidiad mawr wedi cymeryd lle. Am dro torasid ar undonedd y mynd a'r dod i'r gwaith. Taflai rhai o'r bechgyn beli eira at eu gilydd, gan beri hwyl i'r gweddill, ac aeth pawb adref am y dydd mewn tymer dda. Methwn ddeall ar y dechreu beth oedd ystyr y gair a achosodd y fath gyfnewidiad, ond buan y deuthum i wybod beth a olygai "Smit."

Y ddau "Smit" mawr

Clywais i'r gair hynod hwn ddod i fodolaeth fel hyn: Ar un adeg gweithiai nifer o Saeson yn Holland (rhan o Chwarel yr Oakeley); rhyw ddiwrnod glawiai yn drwm, ac wrth gwrs yr oeddynt hwythau'n segur. Aeth y *manager* atynt i'w hysbysu na fuasent yn derbyn cyflog am y diwrnod hwnnw gan nad oeddynt yn gweithio. Nid oeddynt hwy a'r goruchwiliwr yn cytuno ar hyn o gwbl, ac i ddiweddu'r ddadl dywedodd y manager wrthynt: "*You must submit to the weather.*" Trwy dalfyru'r gair "submit" y daeth cin gair "Smit" i fod.

Er i lawer "Smit" ddigwydd o'r adeg hwnnw ymlaen, ni sonir ond am ddau "Smit" mawr. Mae'n debyg mai am y ddau "Smit" hynny y bydd son am flynyddoedd ymhellach, os na ddaw un mwy eto i gymeryd eu lle yn sgwrs y chwarel-

. . . Dwy droedfedd o drwch.



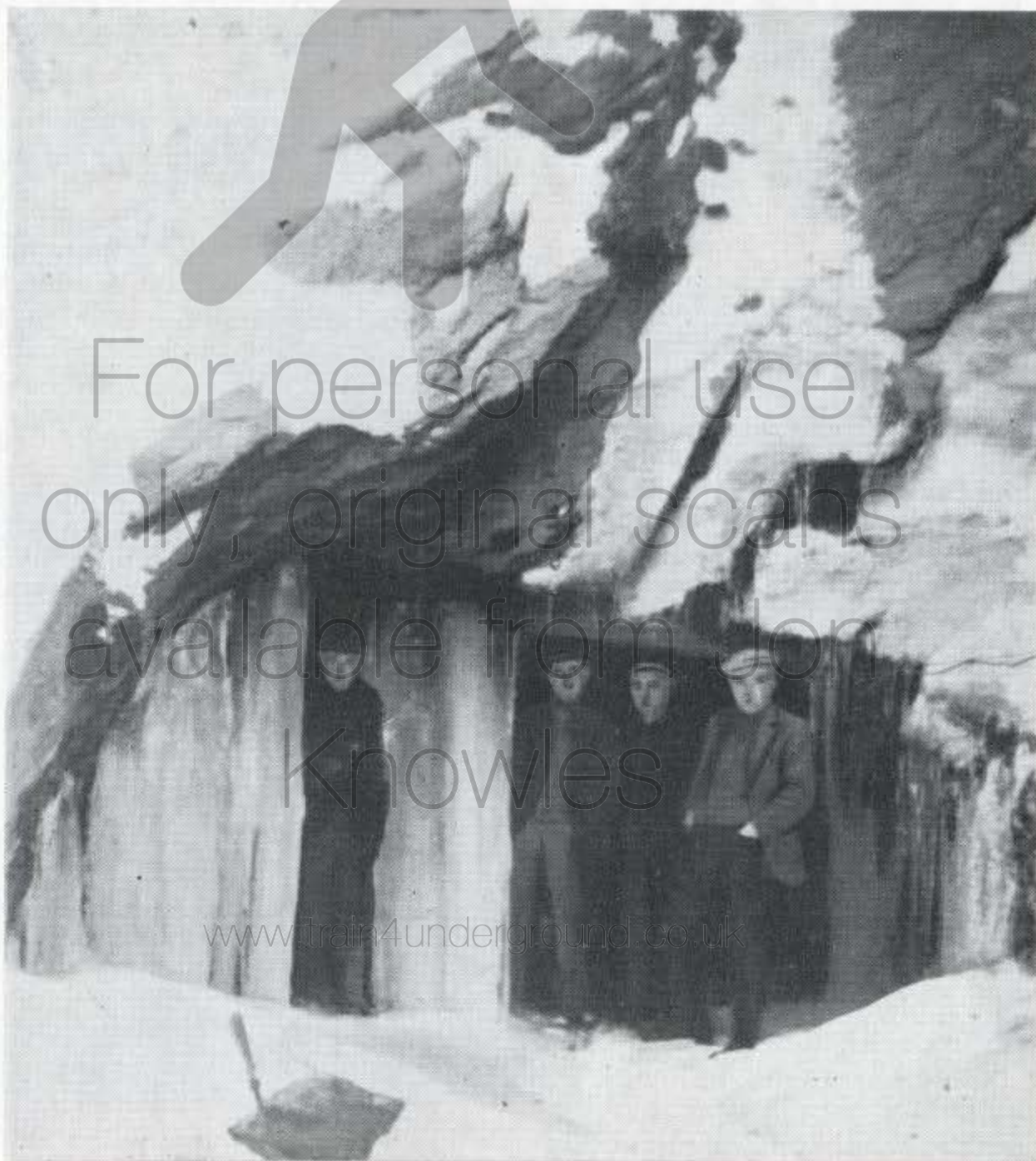
wyr. Digwyddodd y cyntaf o'r ddau "Smit" enwog yma yn y flwyddyn 1895, pan fu'n rhaid i'r gweithwyr aros gartref trwy fis Chwefror. Digwyddodd yr ail ohonynt, a'r mwyaf diweddar o'r cwbl, yn y flwyddyn 1947, pan gaewyd y chwarel o Chwefror 13 hyd Mawrth 18. Yr oedd wedi rhewi mwy adeg y "Smit" hwn na hyd yn oed yn 1895 yn ôl a glywais gan bobl a gofiai'r "Smit" cyntaf.

1895 a 1947

Yn 1947 gellid cymeryd enw y lefel galed yn Chwarel yr Oakeley yn hollol llythrennol, canys yr oedd wedi rhewi ar ei hyd, ac felly'n colli hynny o "fedd-alwch" a fu ynnddi erioed. Rhewodd mor galed fel yr arhosodd peth o'r rhew yng nghanol y lefel hyd ddyddiau cyntaf

Mehefin. Yr oedd y diferion yn y pen nesaf i mewn wedi rhewi'n golofnau tua dwy droedfedd o drwch (fel y gwelir yn y darlun), a'r lefel yn edrych fel palas hardd, gyda cholofnau o wydr yn dal y nenfrwd. Yr oedd hefyd wedi rhewi yn isel i'r gwaith; yr oedd rhew pedair modfedd a hanner o drwch ar waelod trwnc y "K." Rhaid oedd ceibio'r rhew yn galed yno er mwyn clirio'r ffordd. Gwelwyd hefyd dalp o rew tua llathen o hyd yn llawr yr "L," a chlywais i rywun weld ychydig rew hyd yn oedd yn llawr yr "M."

Rhydd yr engreiffiau hyn syniad pur glir pa mor galed y bu iddi rew i flwyddyn honno. Y mae'n sicr, pa dywydd bynnag a ddigwydd eto yn y dyfodol, y bydd son am aeaf caled 1947 a'r "smit" mawr.—J.P.



. . . Fel palas hardd.

The Origin of Slate

In earlier issues we have made a few scanty references to the geologists' fascinating story of the origin of slate. Now we can expand these with authority behind us, for Dr. F. J. North, Keeper of the Department of Geology in the National Museum of Wales, has most generously given us permission to base a few articles on his book, "The Slates of Wales," and to reproduce some of his diagrams. Dr. North's book, the third edition of which was published in 1946, is undoubtedly the most up-to-date and detailed work on the subject.

THE word "slate" comes from the old English *slat* (or *sclat*) and through it from the French verb *esclater* (now *eclater*), meaning "to split." (It is interesting to compare the Welsh *ysglatus*, *ysglats* or *sglatys* with *esclater*). The very name, therefore, denotes the distinctive property of slate—*cleavage*, or the property of splitting readily in one direction.

The majority of slates originated as mud; but mud also gives rise to rocks, like clay, mudstone or shale, which do not have "slaty cleavage," so we shall have to consider the formation of such rocks in general, and later the special conditions that led to the production of slate.

Action of the elements

In the weathering of rocks, mechanically by the action of the elements, chemically by the gases dissolved in the rain water, loose rock particles varying greatly in size and composition, are formed. It is, of course, a very slow process. These particles, carried by rain and wind into streams, find their way gradually along rivers until they come to rest eventually at the bottom of the sea, or of lakes. Here also will be material produced by the action of waves on the coast.

Meanwhile, a sorting-out process has taken place. Generally speaking small particles tend to be carried farther and more quickly than large ones. Thus, the sediment tends to be deposited in bands, more or less parallel with the coast, with the coarser material, such as pebbles and gravel, nearer the shore, followed by sand, and farther out the finer particles. If this finer material consists principally

of the hydrous silicates of alumina—and alumina is a very common element in the earth's crust, and an essential ingredient of clay, and slate—the deposits will be in the form of mud.

Figure 1 illustrates this arrangement diagrammatically. Of course the nature of the land in a given locality will affect the precise nature and extent of the deposits. (The calcareous deposits shown would arise from the hard parts of small sea creatures).

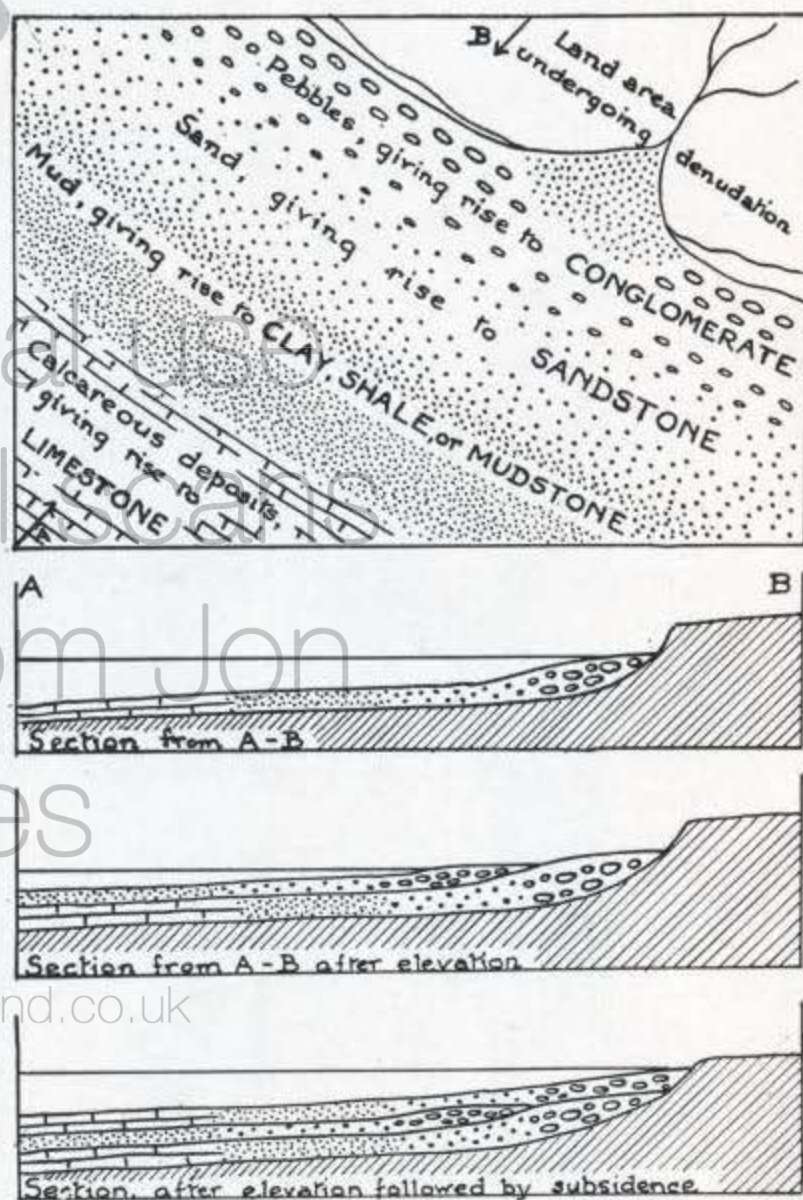


Fig. 1.

Sea-floor deposits

Uplift and subsidence of land have constantly occurred in geological time. If the land region rises, the sea retreats and the deposits we have been considering will move seawards. Thus, for instance, sand may rest upon the earlier mud and pebbles rest upon the earlier sand. If the land sinks, the reverse process will occur. After several changes there may be results somewhat like those shown in the lower part of Figure 1, where we see, for instance, mud covered by sand, which in turn has been covered by a later deposit of mud. It will be understood that this is a simplified description. The depth of sediment will depend on the period during which conditions are favourable to deposition.

Sooner or later movements in the earth's crust will bring about changes in the distribution of land and sea. The sea-floor deposit of one age will constitute the dry-land rock of the next, and what accumulates as mud will give rise to rocks like clay and shale—and perhaps to slate if certain conditions to be described later occur. Figure 2A shows a series of layers or strata as deposited on the bed of the sea or lake. Earth movements produce folding, lifting parts of the strata as shown at B. These in turn tend to be worn away by weather, as in C.

The processes of denudation and deposition have been in operation ever since conditions on earth permitted the formation of oceans and rain. Every part

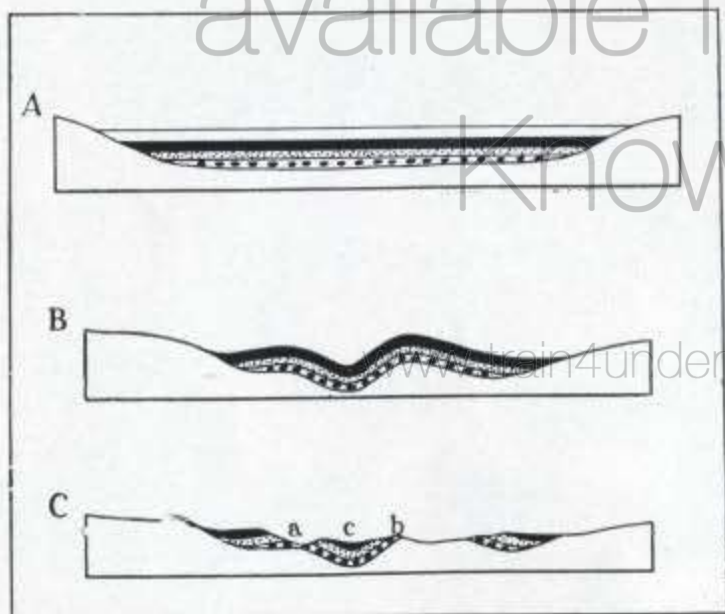


Fig. 2.

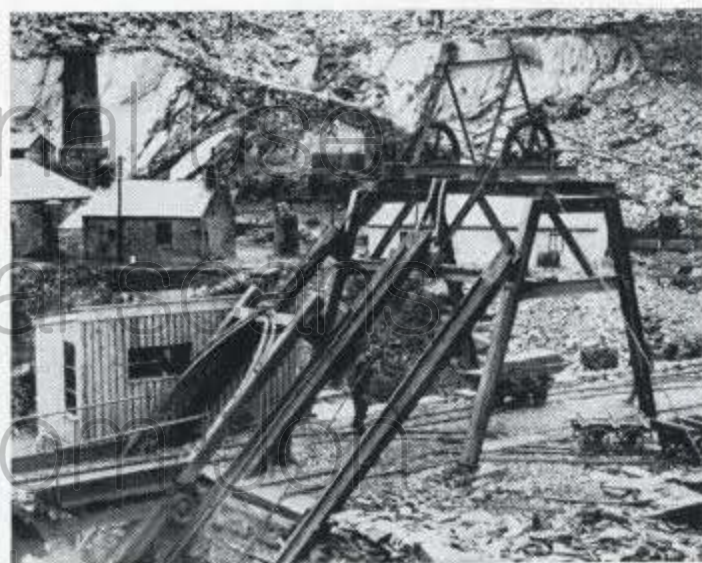
of the earth's crust has been subject to movements which have led to the elevation of land masses to provide material for denudation, and the formation of sea-basins in which sediments could accumulate. Clays and similar rocks have therefore been formed in various places, and during different parts of the earth's history.

400 Million years ago

It is now generally agreed by geologists that the sediments which were to give rise to the slates of Blaenau Festiniog, including Oakeley and Votty slates, were deposited some 350 to 400 million years ago.

Thus far Nature has collected her material under water, and then brought it to the surface. Next time we will deal with the question of what then happens to it to produce slate, the rock with those distinctive characteristics that enable us to turn it into so remarkably fine a roof covering. *(To be continued)*

“K” Balance



Just before the summer holiday week the old “K” Balance winding gear at Oakeley underwent complete renewal at the hands of our engineers. The familiar stout wooden structure, which had done service for so many years, was demolished and a slender but sturdy steel framework took its place. The hut housing the winding controls was reconstructed at the same time, and the whole was ready for use when work resumed after the holiday.

Quarry Choir Personalities

THE Choir conductor, T. O. Thomas—who is seen in our picture of the choir on pages 14-15 seated in the centre, front row—worked in the quarries until the outbreak of war. He left to serve with the R.A.F., and after the war entered the Manchester College of Music, where he gained the L.R.A.M. Keen and enthusiastic, and well pleased with the material to hand, his leadership promises big things.

Mrs. Hilda Evans, daughter of Robert John Jones, who worked with us at Oakeley for 58 years, is our soprano soloist, travelling with the choir on its various engagements. Mrs. Evans is a National Eisteddfod winner and a B.B.C. artiste.



*Mrs. Hilda Evans,
Soloist*



*John Ll. Williams,
Accompanist*

Mr. John Ll. Williams has been accompanist to the choir since its inception in 1947. A quarryman, too, he says his chief delight is practice and preparation for another concert. During the war John served with the Quarrymen's Unit.

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A "C" Mill group, 1900—1905 (See "Fifty Years Ago," page 27)

TIPPER'S VIEW



Elsewhere we record that a total rainfall of 59 inches occurred in our area during last July, August and September. We all have vivid recollections of the snow and ice before and during the turn of the year. By way of contrast—and to prove that Blaenau has her moments—we take pleasure in presenting this summer “interlude.”

SPREAD-EAGLED on a high plateau, Blaenau Ffestiniog stands out crystal clear in this summer scene secured by a *Caban* photographer from the crest of the big tip at Oakeley. The dispatch wharf is clearly visible in the centre of the picture. Other landmarks, familiar to all at Oakeley and Votty, stand out with rare precision as far distant as Manod and the range of hills beyond.

And now, turning to the picture on the right, we see the photographer's actual vantage point on the brink of the big tip, occupied this time by Terence P. Stead, a Yorkshireman, who says that the majestic view and the ever-changing weather moods help to overcome the



. . . Up from “P” floor

Books...

A new book available in the Club library is "A History of Modern Wales" by David Williams of the University College, Aberystwyth. The term "Modern Wales" in this case covers approximately four hundred years, from Tudor times to the beginning of the second World War, but we are given an introductory chapter sketching the story up to that period.

The scope of the book is best described in Professor Williams' own words. It is "an attempt to trace, in broad outline, the main lines of development in the political, the religious, the economic and the social history of modern Wales." A tall order this for a book of 300 pages, one would say, even in broad outline, and it is therefore all the more remarkable the amount of detail that the author has managed to incorporate in following his themes, so that what might have been otherwise a somewhat stark outline is shaded in with more intimate incidents and personalities and thus made all the more interesting to the general reader.

For those who would then care to turn their attention to some pages of local history there are available the two published journals of the Merioneth Historical and Record Society.

The contributions on Merioneth

affairs in these journals are many and varied. At the risk of being regarded as unfair, however, we should like to select for special mention the reprint of a most fascinating paper on "Ancient Meirionydd" (c. 400 to 1284 A.D.) read to the Society by Professor T. Jones Pierces (incidentally a colleague of Professor Williams at Aberystwyth).

We understand that the Society was formed in 1939, but for obvious reasons was unable to function actively until 1948. Two of its several aims are "to study the history of the county, including family history, literature, folk-lore, archaeology," etc., and to publish records. The secretary is Mr. B. Maelor Jones, M.A., County Offices, Dolgelley, and the annual subscription is 7s. 6d., members receiving a copy of the Journal.

Among the never-ending stream of books from the Penguin Press was recently a new "Pelican" by Wyn Griffith—"The Welsh." Mr. Wyn Griffith, Secretary to the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, is of course well known to our readers, particularly at the Votty Quarry. His new book has already been reviewed in the press—at length in some cases—and no doubt many club members already have it. The only remark we need make, we think, is that those who were unable to get it and take advantage now of the copy in the library will find it absorbing and a most provocative source for discussion and argument.

In another page of this issue we offer some attractive glimpses of town and countryside in Holland and, as we point out, a comprehensive view of the Netherlands scene as presented by the handsome publication "The Netherlands," with 240 illustrations, which is now available to Club members at the library.

Tipper's View—Continued

loneliness of his eyrie. Terence lives with his wife and baby boy on the Oakeley Quarry top. An ex-corporal of the Coldstream Guards, with over four years service in the war, he married into an Oakeley quarrying family while overseas, his wife being then a member of the wartime A.T.S. The young couple left Rotherham to make a home at Blaenau. What was more natural than that the ex-Guardsman should try his hand at the quarries? He is there at this high point, happy in his work and in the knowledge that he will soon learn

enough Welsh to become a "Ffestiniog man." "My boy, aged two-and-a-half, is teaching me fast" he says.

By the way, Terence is not required to heave that heavy load over by main force, neither is the waggon as dangerously poised as it appears. There are very simple tipping arrangements, but these are hidden in the photograph. The chalk markings on the truck show that it has come from "P" floor, deep down in the mine, and many hundreds of feet below the tipping point.

News Exchange



"Ronnie Humphreys, newcomer"

THIS dark young man, whom we see pausing to look up from his work, "came in with the New Year" at Votty.

He is Ronnie Humphreys, son of a Votty rockman, and nephew of another

rockman. Ronnie came to us straight from the Blaenau Festiniog Modern Secondary School, a determined young man, eager to follow the family tradition, but as a slatemaker. We are glad to have him and, as the youngest member of the whole company at Votty, we wish him luck.

Although only 15, Ronnie may be introduced as a former member of the Royal Oakeley Silver Band. Like several of his generation, also sons of our quarrymen, he was singled out and succeeded as a boy member of the band.

Having started work, however, he is content for the present to become an "ex-member."

Ronnie has another interest—fishing—which he does not propose to abandon. His speciality is fly-fishing in the mountain lakes and streams, particularly on overnight excursions. His aptitude in this direction is rather above the average. A member of the Cambrian Angling Association, which has many devotees from Oakeley and Votty, Ronnie's record of success has already been marked by the award of a fly fishing rod.

"My hobbies are fishing and making flies for more fishing" he told us quite definitely.

I lawr yn Caban "P"

The interesting and full report of news and events associated with the rockmen at "Caban P," which follows, is very welcome. We look forward to the opportunity of publishing reports on similar lines from other cabanau at Oakeley and Votty.

Pe cerddai dieithryn o'r ddinas i mewn i Gaban "P," un o'r amryw gabanau yn Chwarel yr Oakeley, at yr hanner awr a ganiateir i ginio, efallai y synnai weled o'i flaen ugain ohonom ni'r creigwyr a labrwyr, pob un a'i dun bwyd o'i flaen, ac yn sipian tê poeth allan o bot jam neu fwg.

Fel pob cymdeithas mae i'r Caban ei rheolau a'i swyddogion. Nid llywydd am

dymor a geir yma, ond llywydd am wythnos, pob aelod yn ei dro; a diddorol yw sylwi ar wahanol ffyrdd o lywyddu'r tŷ. Ni dderbynia y trysorydd ddimai goch o dâl. "Rivets my boys," gwaedda Robin y Soldiwr yn awdurdodol wrth ei blant bob bore Llun, a thalai pob un am ei ysgol am yr wythnos. Felly hefyd yn Caban P. Gofelir fod pob aelod yn cyfrannu ceiniog bob bore Llun am ei dê am yr wythnos. Cyfrennir ceiniog yn fisol hefyd tuagat roi cyfraniad i unrhyw aelod o'r Caban a fyddo'n wael tua'r Nadolig. Tâl yr ysgrifennydd penodedig yw cael ei dê yn rhad ac am ddim. Cyfraniad arall a wneir yn fisol yw at y Royal Oakeley Silver Band.

Gwaith pwysig yw eiddo'r Amserydd a gura am ugain munud i hanner dydd i bawb a fydd yn smygu, a thrachefn am hanner dydd i roi terfyn ar yr egwyl fer a dychwelyd at waith.

Er more debyg yr ymddengys bob un ohonom i bob golwg allanol, a llwch y lechen yn ein gwisg o'n pen i'n sawdl, eto unigolion ydym, ac â pob un i'w flordd ei hun yn ei oriau hamdden; o'r hynaf i'r ieuengaf y mae gan bob un ei hoff ddi-fyrwch ei hun.

Cymeriadau . . .

Ers rhai blynyddoedd bellach Mr. Robert Hughes yw tad y caban. Wrth ei alwedigaeth creigiwr ydyw a threulia ei oriau hamdden yn darllen yn y gaeaf ac yn cerdded y mynyddoedd ar fin nos hirfelyn yr haf. Cwmnïwr dihafal ydyw ar un o'r teithiau hyn, a mantais fyddai i ddi-cithryn gael ei gwmmi a derbyn o ffrwyth ei feddwl a'i sylwadau. Morris Jones, Llanfrothen, yw un o gymeriadau Caban P. Sylwch arno'n taro bargaen gydag un o'i gyd-weithwyr, a buan y barna sylwedydd go graff mai flarmwr yw Moi Coed y Fron yn ei galon. Beth am ei bartner Arrhur Williams? Mwynha ef ei hun gydag unrhyw ddarn o declyn neu beiriant; gall ei dynnu'n ddarnau a'i roi yn ôl drachefn. Os bydd un ohonom mor anffodus i dderbyn damwain wrth ein gorchwyl, y mae gennym feddyg yn y fan a'r lle ym mherson Harri R. Hughes, sydd yn aelod o St. John Ambulance. Un da ei law ydyw ac un da ei lais hefyd, oherwydd cydnabyddir ef yn adroddwr penigamp. Dau bartner yw Robert C. Davies a David Emlyn Lewis. Ond os tebyg yw eu gwaith yn y chwarel, anhebyg yw eu ffridd wedi hynny. Chwarae cardiau wrth fyrddau'r *whist drives* ac yng Nghlwb yr Oakeley ar nos Iau a hoffa R. C. Davies, ond chwarae cardiau mewn modd arall a fyn ei bartner. Prynnu a gwerthu tai yw pleser D. E. Lewis, a manteisiodd aml aelod o'r caban ar ei wybodaeth yn y cyfeiriad yma. Os digwydd i rhywun sylwi ar "Bychan," "five-foot nothing," yn mynd a sach fawr a'i llond o rhywbeth ar ei gefn, wel, Robert Jones, Gelli, yw hwnnw. Magu moch yw ei orchwyl fin nos, ond mae byd o wahaniaeth rhwng rhochian y moch a'i lais tenor swynol ef.

Peldroed . . .

Yng Nghaban P y mae defnydd tim peldroed, a gwnaeth rhai ohonynt enw iddynt eu hunain ar faes y beldroed. Bu Orthin Roberts, creigiwr wrth ei alwedigaeth, yn cadw goal i Nottingham Forest pan oeddynt yn 2nd Division yr English League, ac ar hyn o bryd gyda Phyllheli yn y Welsh League. Mawr ydyw diddordeb Ieuan Williams hefyd yn y bel droed, a bu'n chwareu i Flaenau Ffestiniog amryw o weithiau yn 1948-49. Chwareu pel droed i rai—chwareu *snooker* i eraill. Tra pheryg yw Hugh Owen, Penrhyn, pan chwareua yn *league* y cylch, er fod magu jeir yn agos at ei galon hefyd. Chwareu *bowls* i'r lleill, a'r pencampwr yn y maes hwn yw Gwilym Brookes, a enillodd yr "Edward Jones Memorial Cup" allan o nifer fawr o chwareuwyr penigamp ar y *bowling green* yn Blaenau Ffestiniog y tymor diwethaf.

Un o drefnyddion y *Billiards* a'r *Snooker League* ydyw John Parry, ac mae ei llwyddiant yn glod mawr iddo.

Diddordeb min nos Charles Griffiths yw chwarae *darts*. Ef oedd un o gynrychiolwyr y Blaenau ym Mangor, a chadwodd ei goron yno. Un arall sydd yn mwynhau ei oriau hamdden gyda *darts* yw Robert John. Am John Davies, ein hysgrifennydd, gwnaeth yntau enw da iddo'i hun fel *left back* y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, a mawr yw ei ddiddordeb yn y bel droed.

Cerddoriaeth . . .

Plisman? Oes, y mae un o'r rheini gennym hefyd, ac fel pob plisman arall y mae Cyril Humphreys yn helynt i gyd ar ôl yr ystorm. Un o'r rhai cyntaf am stori neu ysgyfarnog yw y pen contractor, Lewis Williams, a ofala am roi tē yn y tegelli bob dydd. Ein hamserydd yw John Jones, sydd adref yn wael ers misoedd bellach, a balch iawn ydym o ddeall na fydd yn hir cyn dod yn ôl atom. Os bydd tân yn rhywle gwelir Alfred Hughes, fel aelod o'r Frigad Dân, yn gwneud ei ran i'w ddiifoddi. Prif bleser Robert Ll. Williams a George Woolford yn eu horiau hamdden yw cerddoriaeth, a dyma bleser sydd yn ddiderfyn ac a bery byth.

Mawr yw'r galw ar William Owen fel M.C. mewn *whist drives*. Trysorydd ceiniog y mis tuag at rai mewn gwaeledd yw Meirion W. Morris, a dyma *critic* mwyaf y caban o dim pel droed y Blaenau. Y diwifr a â bryd Morris Roberts, a gall drin a thrafod yn ddyddiol brogram y noson gynt. Er mai Aneurwyn Williams yw'r ieuengaf ohonom o ran oed, nid ef yw'r lleiaf o ran maint. Crwydro hyd a lled y wlad ar ei feic yw ei ddiddordeb ef, a mynych y gwelir Aneurwyn yn gwibio fel y wennol allan o'r Blaenau ar ôl gorffen ei waith. Gofala Aneurun Hughes, sydd yn yrwr ar yr incline, fod y dwr yn berwi at amser cinio, a mwynha ei hun yn ei oriau hamdden gyda'i fodur.

Pysgota a son am bysgota, heb anghofio hefyd son am y pysgod a gollwyd, ydyw prif ddiddordeb Dafydd Hughes.

Gwelwch felly fod diddordebau oriau hamdden Caban "P" yn amrywiol iawn. Er hynny, mae undeb yn y caban a phawb yn byw yn gytun.

Reader's Note

"Caban" has a wide circulation among a host of appreciative readers in all parts of the country. Writing from Winchester Mr. H. W. Complin, Branch Manager, Messrs Hooper & Ashby Ltd., Builders Merchants, says:—"We should like to say that we are extremely interested in 'Caban,' and all our staff enjoy reading it; in fact, we look forward to its arrival. Some years ago the writer and his son were allowed down into the quarry, which was an experience we both thoroughly enjoyed.

"On behalf of our staff here I would like to wish all the employees the compliments of the season, and hope that the coming year will be peaceful and profitable for them." The good wishes are heartily reciprocated.

APPRECIATION . . .

A Note from The Directors

THE DIRECTORS have heard from Mr. Cutts of the conditions that you had to face towards the end of last year and have been very much impressed by the efforts made by everybody at the quarries and wharves to keep things going.

The dreadful epidemic of influenza followed, and we sympathise with all the many who suffered from it. This, too, added greatly to the difficulties, casting additional burdens on those at work in all sections.

We should all like to express our deep appreciation of the way in which all these troubles were met, and of the determination which overcame them to the greatest extent possible.

Congratulations and thanks

CHARLES OAKELEY,
Chairman.

Fifty Years Ago

We are indebted to Owen Arthog Jones, Bonc Shafft Mill, for the identification of the group in the "C" Mill photograph reproduced on page 22. Our "memory man," who is seen in the back row, tells us that the period of the picture is between 1900—1905.

Here is the list, reading from the back row, left to right:—

(*Top*) Evan Woods, Talyweunydd; David Jones, Talyweunydd (killed in 1914-18 war); Robert Hughes (late Brynbowydd, now U.S.A.); John Roberts, Penmorfa; John Owen, Penrhyn; Owen Arthog Jones, Blaenau; John Hughes, Talyweunydd; Stephen Roberts, Harlech; Rowland Roberts, Peny-cefn; William Humphrey Williams, Festiniog; Owen Davies, Tanygrisiau; Rowland Hughes, Brynbowydd; John

Jones, Tanybwlech, and Hugh Hughes, Blaenau.

(*Second row, seated*) David Jones, Tanygrisiau; Richard Jones, Rhiwbryfdir; Hugh Hughes, Rhiwbryfdir; Robert O. Jones, Blaenau; Herbert Jones, Blaenau; Edwin Jones, Penrhyn; William J. Thomas, Blaenau; W. Eleazar Williams, Tanygrisiau; Edward Williams, Festiniog; Griffith A. Jones, Blaenau; Edward James, Penrhyn (later Blaenau).

(*Seated between the rows*) Richard Williams, Tremadoc.

(*Front row*) George Williams, Blaenau; William Stephens, Festiniog; John Edwards, Blaenau; Thomas Williams, Blaenau; William Hughes, Penmorfa; Thomas Griffith, Blaenau; John Jones, Tanybwlech; John T. Williams, Blaenau, and William Williams, Blaenau.



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CHANNELLING A FOOT JOINT AT VOTTY

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