

# CABAN

JULY 1952



*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,  
4 OLD MITRE COURT, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

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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: "I" Floor Caban, Votty (see p. 21)

Below: Caban Bonc Shaftt, Oakeley (see p. 25)



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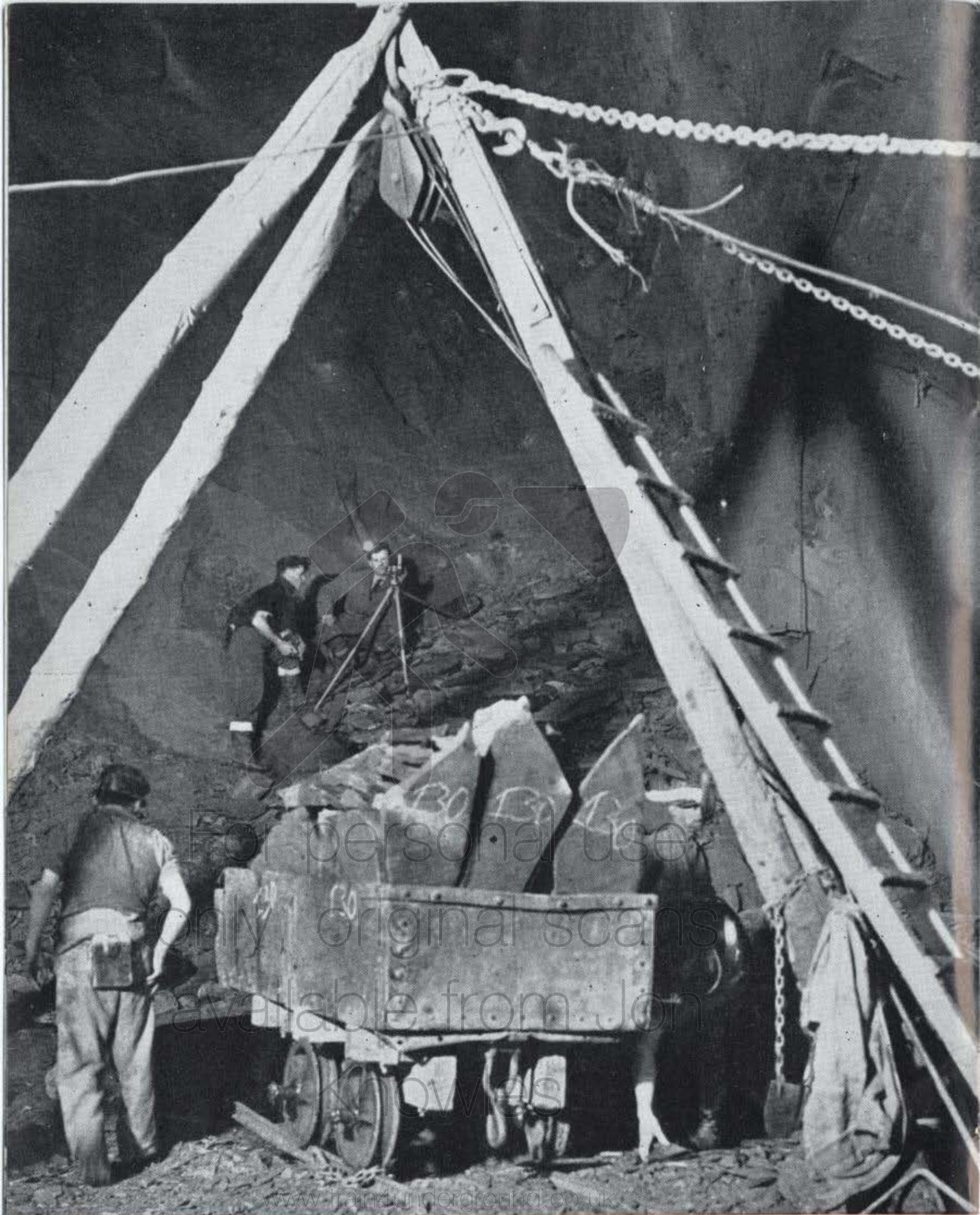
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## **CHECK** and **COUNTER-CHECK—** *For personal use* **The Surveyors at work**

**T**HE FINE STUDY in concentrated attention we picture above epitomises a fundamental function in the process of slate mining. It is a surveyor's conference actually on the ground of new workings, a vital preliminary to any development in our task of slate winning. The scene is near the heading on Floor "I" at our Votty mine. The central figure closely examining a checking point on the plan is

the surveyor, Mr. E. H. Tabbenor with whom is his assistant, Mr. M. R. Myatt, and, equally intent on the accuracy of the check is the Votty undermanager, John H. Williams. In the background, none-the-less interested are the miners, Iorwerth Jones and William Harker Jones, whose previous work of opening another chamber, forming another wall and driving a level further ahead, is by the linear and geometrical calculations of the surveyors recorded on the mine plan.



*Taking the Magnetic Meridian in Chamber 30 ; and commencing traverse to fixed base line.*

## *Fixing the Course*

The survey fixes finally and irrevocably the outline and dimensions of all excavations made in the actual winning of slate. The surveyor also defines in the mine the agreed direction and extent of future workings which have been agreed with the management. This must have regard to safety, as well as productivity, not to mention the strict observance of the boundary lines which, though unseen, are nevertheless there, defining the company's underground holdings.

A mistake in the pillaring line may jeopardise the whole course of the future developments as well as restricting work above and below the level directly affected. Happily, such an eventuality is now more of a hypothesis than a reality. Routine surveys by ex-

perts, the counter check of daily examination, plus the native caution, skill, and experience of the miners themselves, ensure that the going is in accordance with the technical requirements of the situation.

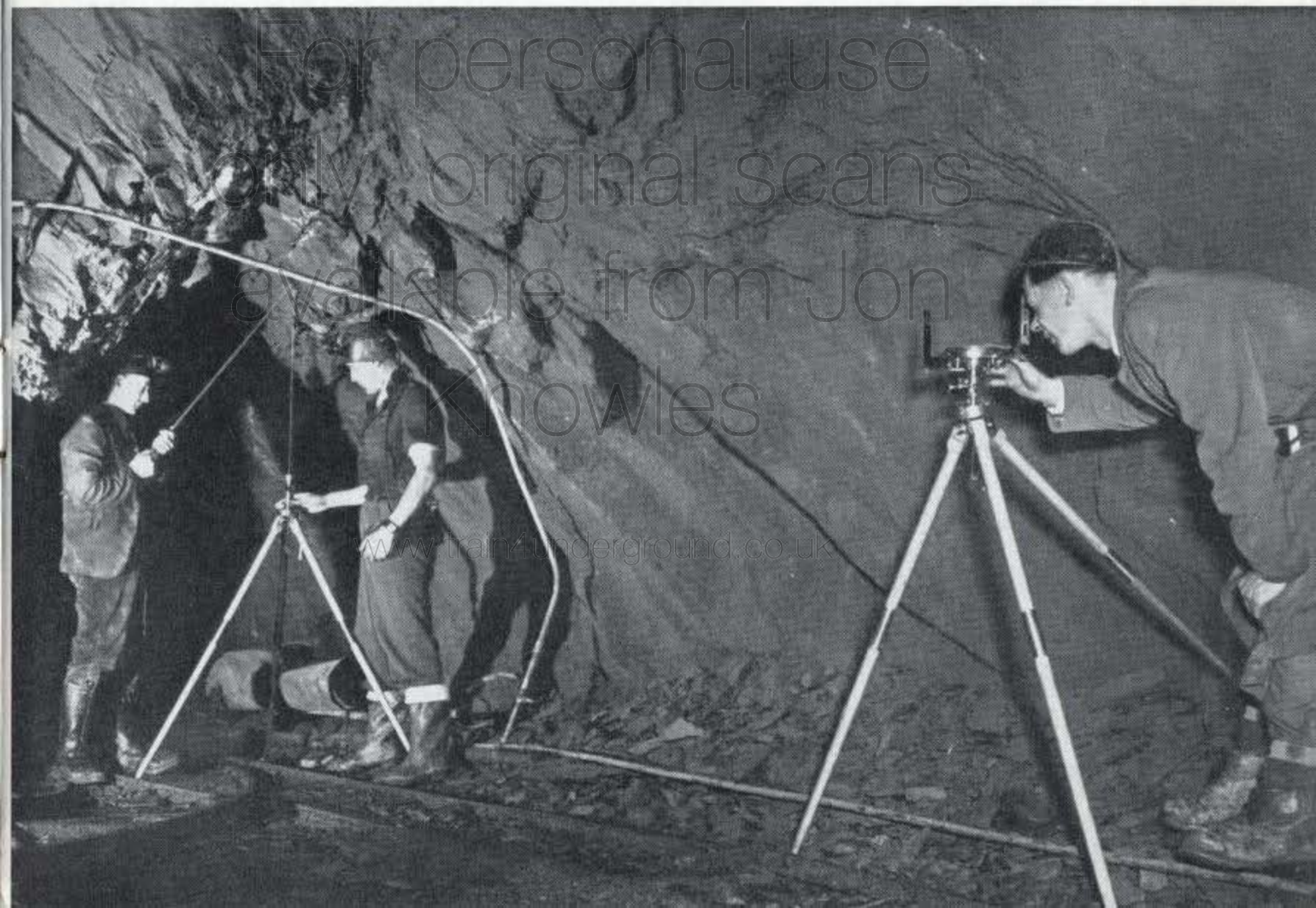
In a word, the boring down and through the bedrock of the mountain leaves nothing to chance. Every cubic yard of the vast excavations, both at Oakeley and Votty, is transferred in diagram to the master plan so that the expert eye may read at all times the full story of progress and development underground.

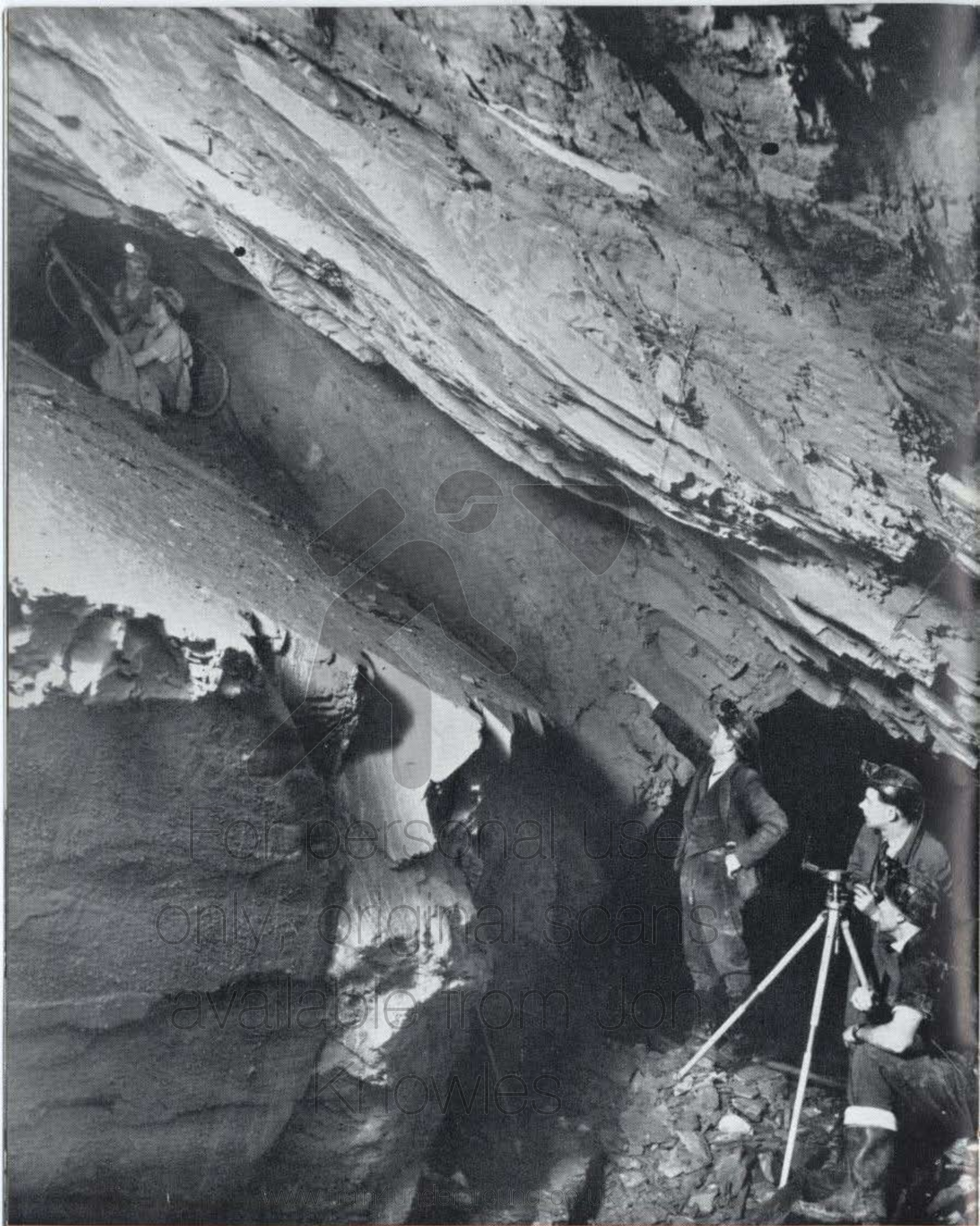
## *The Day's Work*

Our arduous day out with the survey party took us half a mile inside the Votty workings, to the

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*A traverse to the base line.*





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*Roofing must be parallel with pillaring line.*

farthermost point on Floor "I." There, at chamber number 30 the surveyor began the task of checking the accuracy of work proceeding on the development of three new chambers each promising upwards of fifteen years' productivity. Graphic proof of the potential productivity is shown in the picture of chamber 32, in its partly widened state where the uncovered slate bed, with its clean face, stands man-high awaiting the eager onslaught of the rockman.

The surveys at this mine are referenced to known fixed base lines, both on the surface and fixed in the mine. On this occasion, however, as a further check the surveyors began operations in chamber 30 by observing a Magnetic Meridian in a remote part of the chamber. This is a further check to determine the angle of deviation between the various fixed base lines and the Magnetic Meridian. The picture at the head of this article shows the check taking place and accounts for the calculated concentration which our camera has caught.

### **Basic Points**

The fixed base, usually marked by a pegged hole in the roof of the level or the neighbouring wall, is, as its name implies, a basic point in the measuring-up. It has a known relation to the line of pillaring which, as stated, is probably the most important feature of the mining, both from the points of view of practical working and safety. The pillaring line is a



*Correlating Magnetic Meridian with fixed base line.*

fairly constant line of natural breakage in the strata, and it is necessary that this line be correctly located and recognised by all concerned before fresh chamber development and drivage is commenced.

It is of great importance that chambers in the various veins are correctly sited one above the other in a vertical plane and, similarly, that the great pillars of rock, which flank the chambers for support, and which run upwards right through the veins, are sited vertically above one another.

### **Check and Counter-check**

When the careful task of observing the Magnetic Meridian was completed the surveyor made a



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*A new pillaring line point is fixed.*



traverse to the underground base lines between marks installed during previous surveys. Three such base lines were traversed during which the angles were checked between the base lines and the line of pillaring, as well as the angles between adjacent base lines. The layman in these matters will detect the proof that nothing is left to chance in the expert business of mining for slate.

### *Pillaring Lines*

The method of surveying was by (fast needle) continuous azimuth, and it was thus that pillaring lines in the partly opened chambers 31 and 32 were marked. They were established and marked, as our pictures show, by means of small wooden plugs placed in the roof between four and six feet apart and into which staples were driven on the correct line of bearing. These simple devices represent the cues from which all further work in the chambers are taken. In the development of the chamber the rockmen, who will later follow the miner, must take care to keep the roofing tunnel parallel to the pillaring line. The roofing tunnel is the initial drivage to the floor above and is required both for the purpose of ventilation and for the "widening," or opening up of the chamber proper. On another page the miners responsible for the new development on

Floor "I" are to be seen at work in the roofing tunnel of chamber 32, the angle of which it will be noted, runs parallel with the line of the pillar wall on one side of the chamber.

Having defined the pillaring lines, the survey was carried out to the full extremity of the heading on this floor. Six months' work required to be checked. Numbered bases, or stations checked as to bearing or azimuth to serve future surveys, were marked on the roof at each individual setting. Transferring the findings to the plan was work for another day, and we left the development zone to the throaty rumbling of explosive charges set by the miners who now had both the signal and the bearings on which to go straight ahead.



*A base-line hangs true.*

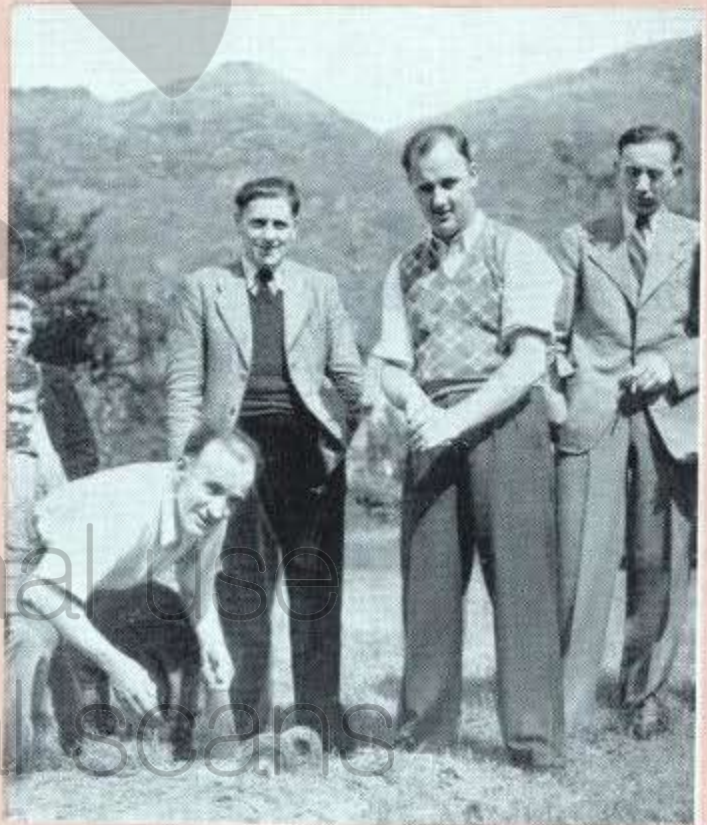
# QUARRY CLUB



*Start of the*



*T. Hughes Jones is home in a canter in the veterans' race.*



*Howell Williams (Votty) checks his winning throw in the quoiting competition, with Ieuan Thomas (Oakeley) runner-up, also in shirt sleeves, looking on.*

*Morris Owen and Arthur Evans "dead heat" in the 100 yards sprint.*

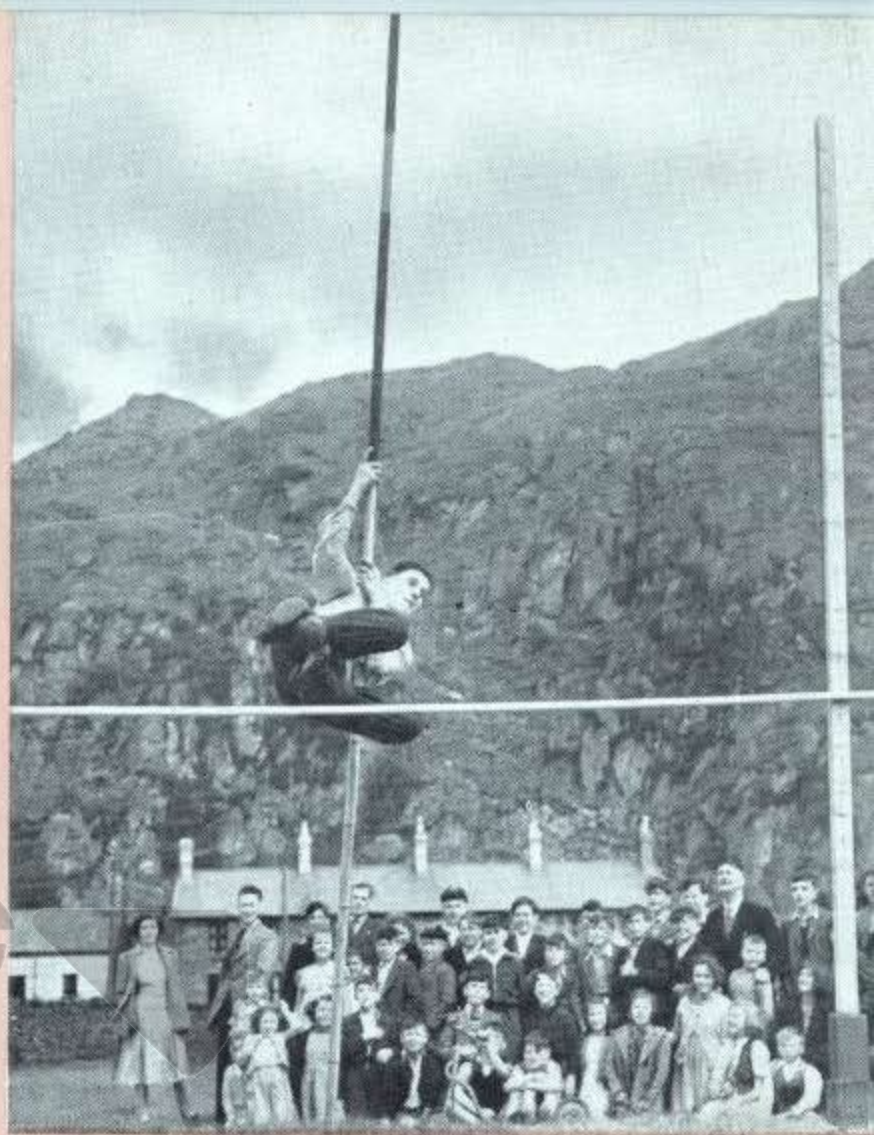


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# SPORTS DAY



*half-mile race.*



*Seemingly as high as the hills goes Cyril Wyn Hughes to win the pole jump for boys.*



*All smiles, Meirionwen Jones hops to victory over fourteen contestants in the sack race for teenagers.*

*A successful day ! First prize winners and officials pose for "Caban." (See "News Exchange" for full results.)*





*E. E. Jones, Votty Clerk-in-Charge.*

**N**EARLY A CENTURY of unbroken family association with Votty and Bowydd is marked with the completion of twenty-six years uninterrupted service with the company by E. Emlyn Jones, our Clerk-in-Charge at Votty. Presiding at the Votty office, Emlyn Jones represents the third generation of his family to climb the clip to Votty. His grandfather served as slatemaker with the old company; his father, the late Mr. J. Jones, had a record of forty-four years service up to his death in 1937. In the last twenty years of that period he was the company's secretary.

In addition to the work at the office entailing a large measure of commercial management, Emlyn Jones also makes the "rounds of the quarry." His lifelong interest in mechanical matters he finds of great practical value in those aspects of the work necessitating a day-to-day knowledge of the progress of production.

Married, and with two daughters—the elder a student at Bangor Normal College, the younger still at the Ffestiniog Grammar School—Emlyn Jones follows the true tradition of the industry by devoting as much spare time as possible to a

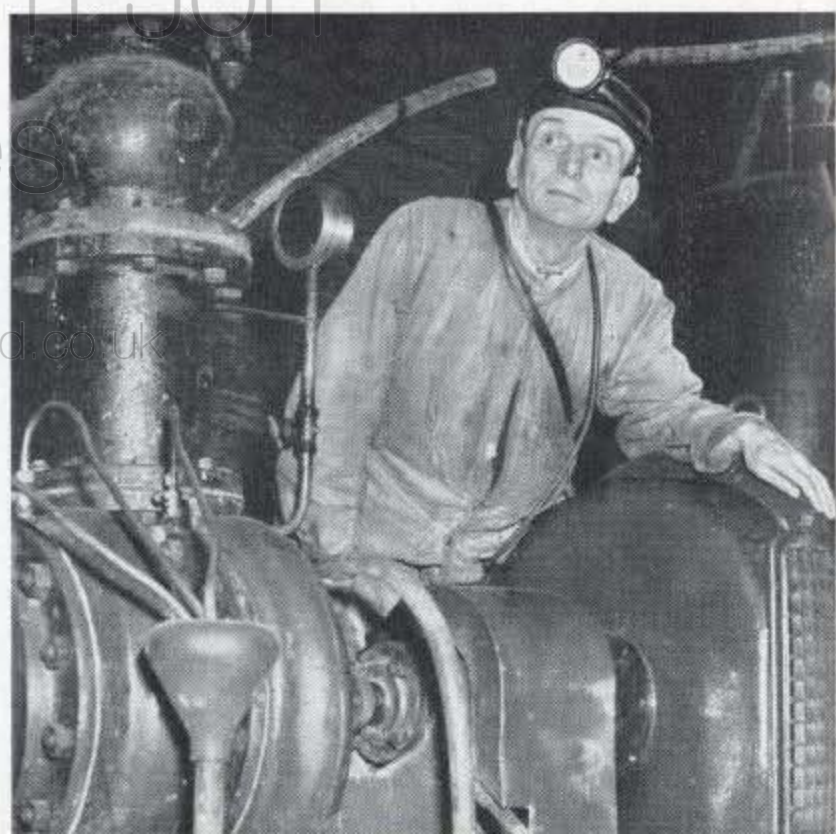
wide variety of hobbies. He combines a keen interest in the mechanical aspect of motor-cycling with fishing in the rivers, and, in the winter months at Manod, his home, he presides over the local W.E.A. class. A W.E.A. member for many years, and chairman of the Manod branch, he assisted in organising the present flourishing class of twenty-seven students, most of them colleagues in the industry, who are studying Welsh literature under the tutorship of Mr. Alun Llewelyn-Williams, Director of Extra-Mural Studies, University College of North Wales, Bangor.

*Between*  
**OAKELEY**  
*Who's*

**A** LONE FIGURE, driving and maintaining the Tangye centrifugal pump on floor "H," half way down the main incline at Votty, Robert Thomas is in a key position of responsibility. His pumping station copes with the flood water on five floors and discharges it at the rate of 700 gallons a minute against a 300 feet lift to the surface, and into the main discharge running into the Dwyryd river.

Votty, like Oakeley, has its besetting water problems. The big hydrostatic pump and other electric pumps play their big part in keeping the mine dry, though the pumping station on floor "H" is

*Robert Thomas, Votty Pumpsman.*



probably the more strategic point; it is a collecting point for further lifting and final dispersal. The big Tangye, a 6-inch "F" type three-throw centrifugal pump, is direct coupled and driven by a

100 h.p. Crompton Parkinson electric motor. The whirr of the motor and noisy thrusting of the pump is music to the pumpsman, particularly in the quiet of the weekend, when he is on special de-

watering duty and can follow the tell-tale rhythm of events by sound alone while inspecting his other charges two or three floors below.

Robert Thomas has been pumpsman for eight years. His term of service at Votty embraces thirty years and includes eight years working on the haulage system passing the open door of his pumping station.

**T**HE SUNNY SMILE worn by Hugh Gwilym Jones, the quarry cashier at Oakeley comes readily despite the complexities of P.A.Y.E. and attendant problems. Hugh Gwilym Jones has been cashier for five years but, starting as a junior clerk, he has in fact been thirty-four years in the office, making up the pay and the "contract money."

*R. Jones, Saw-Sharpener, Oakeley.*



*Hugh Gwilym Jones, Oakeley Cashier*

Married, and with a daughter in the grammar school, our cashier's off-duty pursuits follow the pattern of many at the quarries. In earlier years a stalwart of the "Black Stars" football team, finalists in both the senior and junior cup competitions, Hugh Gwilym Jones gravitated to the league billiards championships, with the Y.M.I. Club. A love of singing—he is first tenor in the Oakeley and Votty Male Choir—brought him in touch with Yr Urdd, the Welsh League of Youth, and in 1936, when the Urdd National Eisteddfod was staged at Blaenau, Hugh Gwilym Jones was joint secretary. The Eisteddfod was a great success and its memorial is the Urdd Hall at Blaenau Ffestiniog. Our cashier is also a deacon and secretary of Jerusalem Congregational Church, one of the biggest places of worship in the town.

**C**ASTING AN EXPERT EYE over the blade and teeth of a newly-reconditioned circular saw for use in the slate mill is Ryfinias Jones, saw sharpener at Bonc Coedan, Oakeley. Ryfinias, whose name is a derivation of Rufus, has had a varied career, most of it associated with the quarrying industry, and at other times in factory work at Birmingham, Llanfairfechan, and in engineering with the

*Continued on Page 24*



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*The Quarries in  
their Setting*

(See page 24)

# Time off for Tempo



**H**EARING somewhat strange intriguing sounds from the choir practice room at the Oakeley and Votty Club we entered to find the intent and businesslike scene pictured above. The Oakeley Club Choir was in session, with Mr. T. Owen Thomas, L.R.A.M. (Hons.), their conductor and music adviser, engrossed in the study and practice of the actual mechanics of the tonic-solfa modulator.

The rhythmic DOH-doh-doh-DOH, and its multiplicity of variants beaten out on the board by Mr. Thomas, was intoned by the choir with all the verve and attention accorded to the much more musical demonstrations which are their wont.

Choir practice is not all singing, as we know. The Oakeley Choir is for ever bent on improvement, which is the reason for this special advanced study group. The technicalities of sight-reading, the extreme importance and value of correct tempo in all the parts, and a full appreciation of the music being taught and sung are the raw materials of success.

## Oakeley Choir Study Circle

Oakeley Club Choir, which all must agree, have already acquitted themselves well in the field of choral singing, mean to attain full success.

Their music master, Mr. Thomas, has a bent for the modern composers, notably the rising Welsh composers, and it is his aim to widen the scope of the choir's repertoire by including special performances of some of the modern works. The choir is obviously enthusiastic. The comparative monotony of the basic practices do not deter them, for their reward is a better performance and a more rounded programme. We look forward to enjoying the results of this special labour by the skilled choral singers of Oakeley.

Mr. Thomas has favoured *Caban* with a special note on the Male Voice Choir which we give on the next page and to which we direct the attention of all music lovers and would-be choral aspirants, particularly the younger element in our midst.

# Y CÔR MEIBION

gan yr arweinydd T. Owen Thomas, L.R.A.M. (Hons.)

**M**AE blwyddyn wedi mynd heibio er pan gytunais â chais y pwyllgor i ym gymeryd ag arweiniad y côr. Cytunais ar y pryd, gan i mi ddeall fod W.M., yr arweinydd, yn cwyno. Oherwydd methiant iechydol, ymddiswyddodd, ac fe gytunais i gario ymlaen y gwaith. Gan fod arweinyddion yn mabwysiadu dulliau gwahanol o ymarfer, yn naturiol ddigon dilynais innau fy llwybr fy hunan ac fe adrefnais y côr.

Fy mwriad ydyw datblygu lleisiadaeth y côr i'r graddau fel y bydd ei ganiadaeth yn cymharu â'r ddelfryd sydd gennyf o wir ganu corawl. Yr ydym, hyd yn hyn, wedi trafaelio dipyn ar y llwybr hwn, ac mae brwdfrydedd yr aelodau, yr hyn sydd yn ymddangos yn eu presenoldeb cyson, eu hymdrech diffino, a'u parodrwydd i ufuddhau i gyfarwyddiadau, yn brawf i mi nad ydyw y dydd ymhell pryd bydd gan Gôr Meibion yr Oakeley le i ymfrostio ar safon eu canu.

Mae hyn yn golygu amynedd ac ymroddiad i wir waith ac ymarferiadau fydd weithiau yn llafurus a sych, ond trwy ddyfalbarhâd a phenderfyniad i ganolbwyntio ar yr addysg a gynnigir, fe gawn fedi ffrwythau melys cyn hir.

Dyma gymdeithas sydd yn wir ddemocrataidd ei chyfansoddiad, lle mae pob aelod yn bersonol gyfrifol o'i llwyddiant, lle mae llais beirniadaeth yn rhydd i fynegi ei hun, yn gerddorol, ar unrhyw bwynt a fyn, lle mae camgymeriad yn cael ei ddangos allan, boed y camgymeriad yn amlwg yn yr arweinydd, yn yr aelod unigol, neu yn y côr yn gyffredinol. Mae hyn yn foddion llesawl i buro a glanhau, ac mae yr ysbryd a'r teimladau sydd yn treiddio drwy hyn oll yn gyfeillgar, hapus a hwyliog.

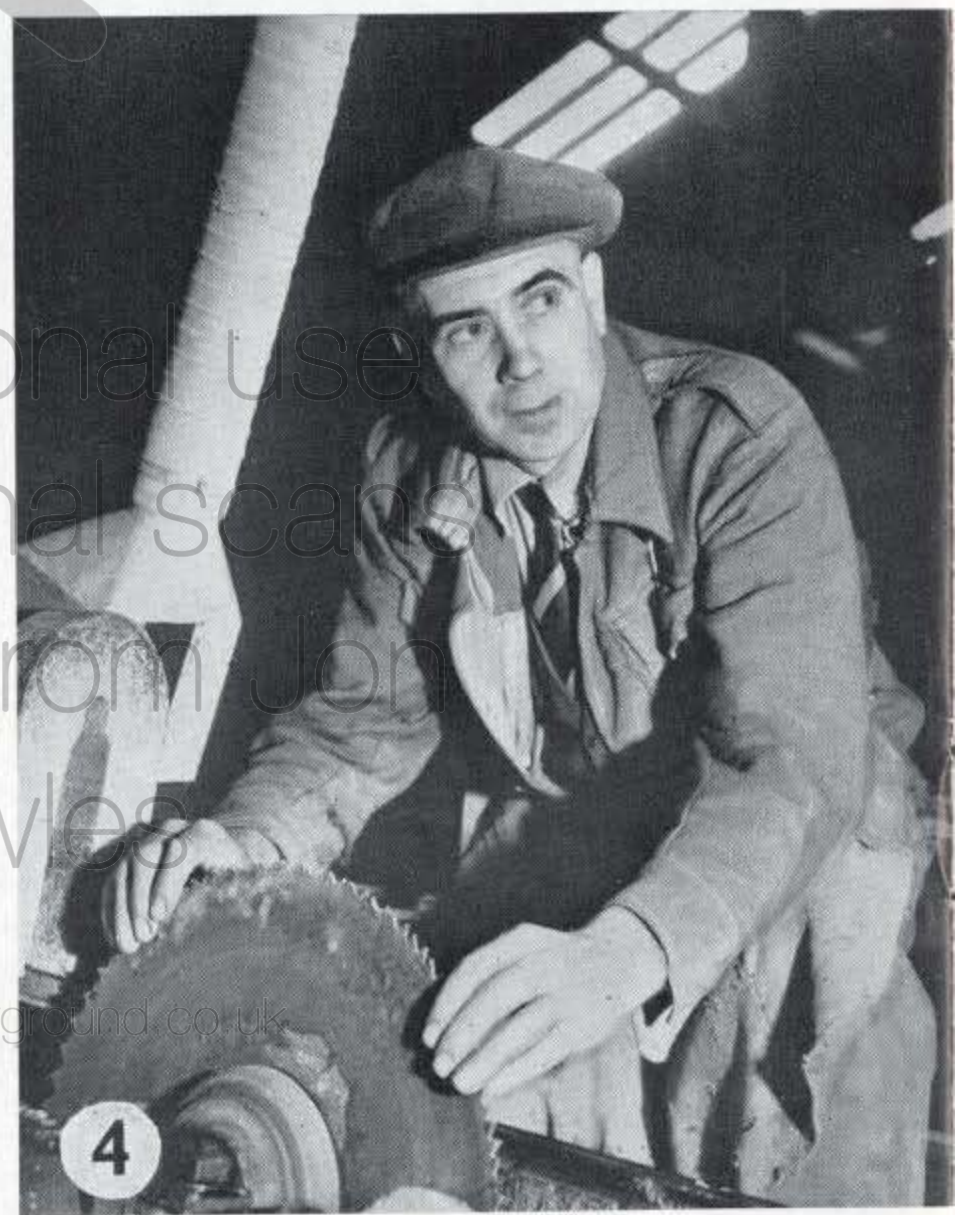
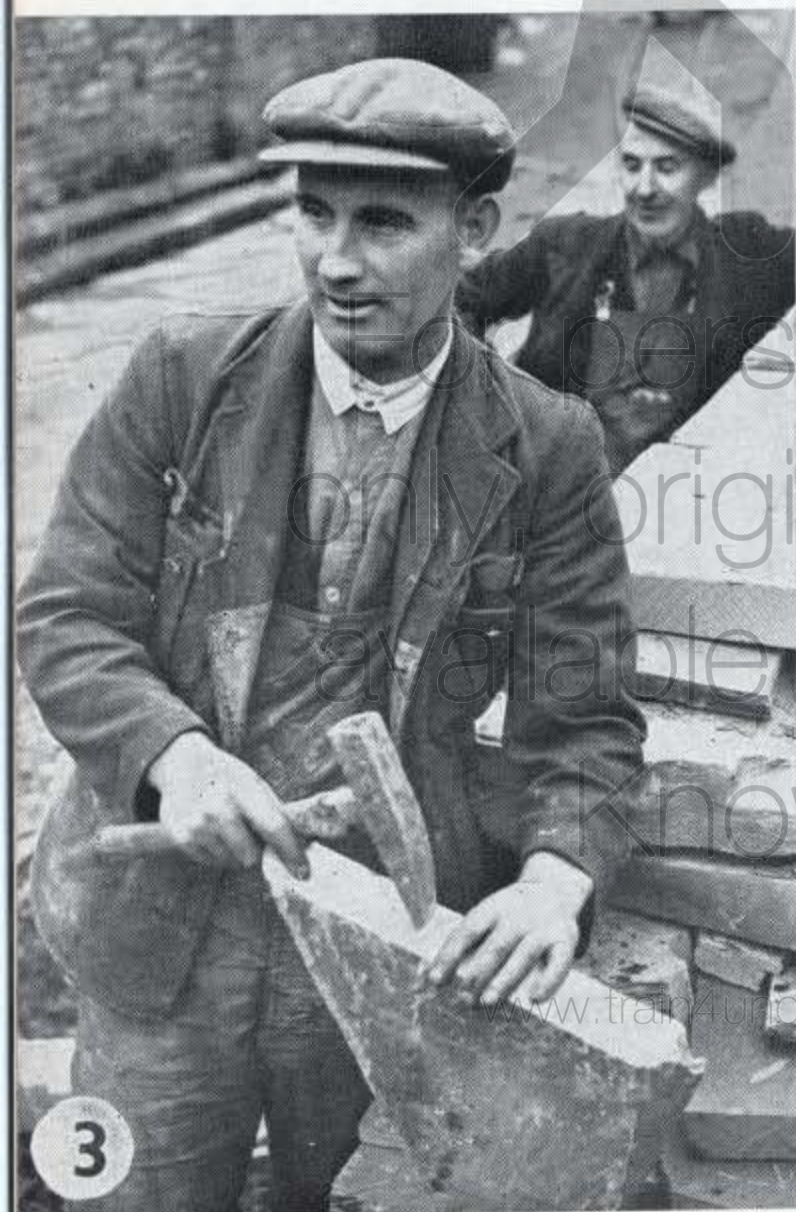
Yn ogystal a dysgu cyfansoddiadau corawl, mae gennym ddsbarth cerdd. Pwrpas hwn, wrth gwrs, ydyw dysgu

darllen solffa yn arbennig, a golyga hyn ddatblygu yr ymwybyddiaeth donyddol fel ag i allu seinio y raddfa, ac i adnabod y gwahaniaeth cydrhwng uchder a dyfnder traw. Hefyd meithrin y gallu i "gadw amser." Y peth pwysicaf yn y gelfyddid gerddorol ydyw y curiad, ac yn y dosbarth dysgir ei adnabod a'i ddarnio yn wahanol adrannau. Hefyd rhoddir hyfforddiant yn y gelfyddid leisiol, y modd priodol i ddefnyddio yr organau er cynhyrchu sain bur.

'Rwyf yn bryderus iawn ynglŷn â chaniadaeth corawl yng Nghymru. Mae safon gerddorol ein cenedl yn dirywio o oes i oes, gan fod diffyg ymroddiad i ddysgu darllen cerddoriaeth ym mysg yr ieuainc yn amddifadu trefi a phentrefi rhag meithrin cymdeithasau corawl. Sylwer a gwrandawer ar ganiadaeth y cysegr fel y mae yn mynd yn fwy unseiniol, nemawr fawr gynghanedd i'w glywed. Sylwer ar gorau, cyn lleied o rai ieuainc sydd yn aelodau ohonynt. Sylwer ar ein cymanfaeodd mor frith yw'r cantorion. Dwn i ddim yn iawn a oes lle i anghymeradwyo trefniadaeth yr ugain mlynedd diwethaf gyda golwg ar gyfleusderau priodol i amryw ddisgybl fuasai yn cofleidio cyfle i ddysgu cerddoriaeth pe bae paratodau priodol wedi eu gwneuthur gogyfer a'i anghenion. Mae modd trin y broblem yma yn fwy trwyadl, ond hyn yna ar hyn o bryd.

Dyma chwi, fechgyn ieuainc yr Oakeley a'r chwarelau eraill os mynnwch, fe drefnaf ddsbarth arbennig i chwi eich hunain, ac mae amryw ohonoch a lleisiau rhagorol gennych. Estynaf wahoddiad i chwi i ymuno—na hitiwch am y diffyg gallu i ddarllen solffa, ceuwch ddysgu hwnnw. Os gellwch seinio nodyn gweddol bêr, dyna'r anghenraid mwyaf—gwelwch yr ysgrifennydd a holwch ef ynglŷn â'r côr, dyma i chwi gyfle, gwnewch ddefnydd ohono.





(1) John Douglas Jones, slate packer, Cyril W. Hughes, apprentice slate maker.

(3) Hugh Owen Jones, slater and plasterer.

(2) First aid by W. R. Edwards.  
Patient: M. Jones.

(4) John G. Hughes, slate maker, C Mill

# Our First-aid Experts

**T**HE SCENE on the previous page (number 2) at the Votty ambulance station showing, against the background of the eight-pointed star of the St. John Ambulance Association, slate-maker William R. Edwards treating a minor casualty in the person of Meirion Jones, Votty slate-packer, would serve to illustrate the whole relationship of the voluntary first-aid organisation which operates so successfully at Votty and Oakeley.

The fact is that the quarrymen themselves furnish their own experts in first aid and we are particularly fortunate in having, at both our quarries, some of the most skilled and experienced members of the Blaenau St. John Ambulance Brigade on the voluntary roll.

The senior members of this ever-willing group are competent to deal with most emergencies both on the surface and underground and, in those fortunately infrequent cases when injuries are of a particularly painful or serious character the ambulance men, in the absence of a doctor, are qualified and empowered to administer morphia.

The eight points of the ambulance cross represent eight qualifications requiring the first-aider to be observant, tactful, resourceful, dextrous, explicit, discriminating, persevering and sympathetic.

Having acquired and practised these qualities and demonstrated the physical skill which they govern, the first-aider who is also a St. John Ambulance man, must give proof of it by examination and test year after year. The badge of efficiency is one thing. The bars to that token of proficiency are the factors that point to the specially skilled and experienced. Our senior first-aiders all fall into the latter category.

All those we have pictured and who are content to practise first aid "for the love of it," stress the need for young recruits to the service. Proficiency in first aid, they say, imparts the quality of self-reliance and encourages coolness in thought and action, characteristics which are also of great importance in the everyday work of slate winning.



*Harry Hughes  
(Rockman Floor P)*

*David Thomas Williams  
(Incline Driver Floor K)*



*T. O. Hughes, foxhunter*

county authorities are glad to reward the hunters and T. O. Hughes' record stands high on the county list.

Foxhunting is not the only off-duty pursuit of the rockman. He assists his father in the management of a forty-acre dairy farm at Manod and each morning, before starting work in his underground chamber he is out and about in his motor car completing a milk-round at Manod and Blaenau Ffestiniog.

### *Council Chairman*

**A**NOTHER MAN of parts is Oakeley Slatemaker Evan R. Jones seen at work at Bonc Shafft, whom we all congratulate upon his appointment as this year's chairman of the Ffestiniog U.D.C., after only six years as a member of the council. Councillor Jones represents the Diphwys Ward. He is Vice-chairman of the Deudraeth and Ffestiniog Food Committee, and has been chairman of the council's gas and water committee. He has also acted as assistant secretary of the North Wales Quarrymen's Union. Aged 53, he served in the 1914-18 war with the Pembrokeshire Yeomanry. In the last war he was a special constable and member of the Home Guard.

## *Men of Parts*

**O**NE OF THE "personalities" of Votty is Thomas Owen Hughes, rockman at "K" 26, whom we picture above in his off-duty role as hunter of foxes. With him are his faithful companions in the chase and the "kill"—Judy and Vick, two of the gamest little animals ever to run a fox to earth. Judy, herself, has had to be "unearthed" on more than one occasion.

The shot gun, which has gained T. O. Hughes an enviable reputation as an exterminator of the marauding vermin, may be heard at any time on the Mignaint hills between Manod and Bala. Tommy hunts from his motor car. More than once he has returned with the ears and brushes of several foxes, official symbols of an evening's "bag." The



*Ffestiniog Council Chairman*

# Jankers!

or

## ● The Law of the Cabanau

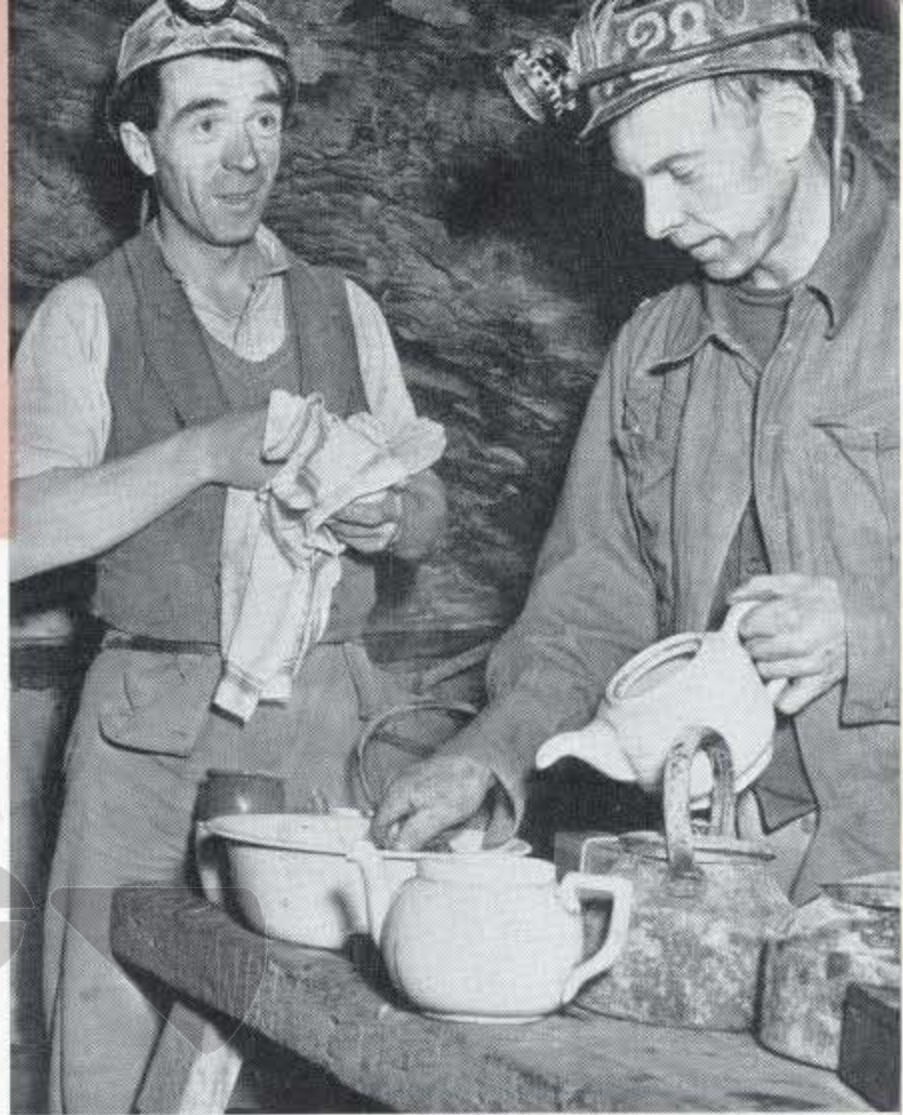
IN our last issue we stressed the community of interest which is traditional among quarrymen, and which is marked especially in the cabanau at our Oakeley and Votty mines. Discipline, no less than discussion is a ruling feature of the meal-breaks and, in this amusing "problem picture," showing a domestic scene in the "I" floor caban at Votty, we illustrate one aspect of the emphasis placed on the dignity and discipline demanded by the quarrymen when the cabanau are in session.

The two men carrying out the homely chores are members of the smiling group of rockmen, pictured on the front cover, who are to be seen taking their midday meal in a tiny caban carved from the solid rock on one of the more distant levels fully half a mile from the main Votty incline.

To the uninitiated the faraway look in the smiling eyes of William Hugh Jones (shown drying dishes, left), and the complacent appearance of his colleague, Eric Hughes, may present a problem. But, to the others of the caban, who will have departed to resume work in the chambers, the facts are crystal clear—it is a typical picture of men "on jankers!" William Hugh Jones is good-humouredly starting a month's penance for a light-hearted breach of the caban rules. Eric Hughes dips the tea-pot lid into the washing water for the last time, knowing his month of "jankers" is over.

### Jankers!

Caban "I" specialise in "Twenty-Questions," and tournaments of dominoes and draughts. Occasionally, they hold their own eisteddfod. It is normal experience to find an eisteddfod specialist in each caban. Caban "I" have Eric Hughes who, as "Cymro," a talented elocutionist, has triumphed at many of



the North Wales local eisteddfodau, and at the Lewis' Eisteddfod, Liverpool. The rules of conduct of the caban are sustained by a chairman, secretary and "law officer," and are strictly enforced. Breaches carry with them the penalty of "jankers," by which the caban chores are taken care of, or by fines, which are placed in the caban funds and held for distribution in the form of Christmas gifts to the children of ailing or injured colleagues, and to absent fellow-workers themselves.

It is all formally regulated by rule and resolution, and no quarryman would have it otherwise. The actual caban we have illustrated was mined from the solid by its chairman, Iorwerth Jones, who, incidentally, had to "pass sentence" on William H. Jones, his partner in the extensive mining development on Floor "I."

### Front Page Picture

The men pictured in the caban group on the front page are: David Morris Jones, Hugh Jones, Roderick Roberts, Robert Edwards, W. B. Jones, J. B. Williams, Eric Hughes, Iorwerth Jones (chairman), Cyril Lewis and W. R. Jones.

# News Exchange - - -

## **Cyfnod i'w Gofio (2)-gan Richard Jones**

*Richard Jones, retired under-manager, regales us again with memories of places and personalities at Oakeley sixty-two years ago.*

**Y**N FLOOR 9 'roedd efail y gof. Yno byddem yn myned bob dechrau mis i roddi min ar yr arfau. Y ddau of oedd Owen Evan, Tanygrisiau, a Hugh Price o Benmachno. Efail Owen Evan y gelwid yr efail, ond buan y daeth yn Efail Hugh Price a Cadwaladr Price ei frawd yn gweithio iddo. Aeth Cadwaladr i'r America, a daeth Rees Price at ei frawd, a bu'r ddau yn cydweithio gyda'u gilydd hyd nes iddynt roi goreu i'r chwarel. 'Roedd Hugh Price dros ei bedwarugain pan yn gorffen, wedi rhoddi blynnyddoedd o waith caled. Pan awn i'r efail byddai'n rhaid taro i wneud llafrn plwg, ac fel y gwyr llawer fod Hugh Price yn gampwr am wneud plwg a chyn manholtt. Byddai amryw o bobl y twll yn bwyta eu cinio yn yr efail hon, a byddai Hugh Price y goreu am dynu coes rai ohonynt, a weithiau yn creu ystorm garw.

### **Mr. Dunlop**

Yn y cyfnod hwn gwnaeth y General Manager, Mr. Dunlop, lefydd mwy cymwys i'r gweithwyr gael lle i fwyta ei cinio. 'Roedd y Caban yn Floor 8, a'u tebyg yn rhannau eraill o'r chwarel. Ty Canol, y rhes tai wrth yr injan, oedd caban y chwarelwyr, a ty oedd yn yr injan isaf o'r enw Clogwyn Hall.

Rhoddaf yn awr ychydig hanes a gofiat am yr injan uchaf. Yma 'roedd efail y cwmni gyda phedwar gofaint, Evan Rowland, pen gof, William Jones, John Evans a Lewis Jones, a thri streikwyr, Richard Roberts (Llan), wedi hynny a ddringodd i fod yn Inspector Police yn Swansea, William Ellis a Humphrey Edwards. Yn ymyl yr efail yr oedd gweithdy y seiri, William Lewis, Gwyn-

dy, John Jones, Maes y Neuadd, y ddau o Tanygrisiau, ac ar brydiau gwelais y saer Ellis Jones, Talwaenydd, yn dod i helpu pan fyddai galw am hynny. Eto, yr ochr arall i'r gweithdy saer yma yr oedd y ffiting shop, Thomas J. Williams, Robert Edwards, James Williams ag apprentis o'r enw David Hughes o Rock Terrace. Ar dalcen yr injan yr oedd y cwt hogi, William Roberts a Elias Odynbach, Maentwrog Uchaf; un doniol iawn, a phan fyddai hwyl arno adroddai hanes caledi bywyd yn Odynbach pan oeddynt yn blant. Dywedai eu bod wedi byw pan oedd llygod yn marw yn y cybyrddau. 'Roedd brawd i Elias yn gweithio ar ben domen; yr oedd hwn yn hynod am ei atebiad parod, ac yr oedd yn un drwg iawn am fod ar ol yn y boreu, a dyma'r swyddog yn ei dweud hi yn go hallt un boreu, a Sadrach yn un ohonynt: "Yr ydych yn poeni dyn fel chwain," ebe'r swyddog. "Wel," ebe Sadrach wrtho, "pe bawn i yn chwanen yr wyf yn siwr y buaswn yn chwilio am dy wely di."

Dyma enwau y ddau ddriver. Yn drivio yr injan roedd Jonah Roberts, a oedd yn byw yn Tai Bwlch Main, a Harry Dauncy yn drivio y loco. Erbyn heddiw nid oes dim o'r adeiladau yn aros, ond yr hyn a elwir yr injan newydd, darn newydd a adeiladwyd wrth dalcen yr hen injan. A dyma fi yn awr yn rhoddi enwau y chwarelwyr oedd yn gweithio 62 mlynedd yn ôl. Injan Newydd: Griffith Evans (Llongwr) a Harry Ephraim, Richard Williams, Doppog, a John y mab yn naddu, John Williams, Foel, Thomas Wm. Lewis yn naddu iddo, John Jones, Blaencefn, Penrhyn, Ted Roberts (Teds) yn naddu iddo, Robert Williams,

Foel, John Richard Jones, Canol Cae, Penrhyn, yn naddu; Robert Jones, Trefriw (Lord Street), John Ty'npistyll yn naddu, pa un sydd yn fyw heddiw yn Utica, America; yna Thomas Parry, Leeds Street, Cadwaladr E. Williams, Beudy Mawr, yn naddu; Thomas Williams, Park Square, Richard Jones, Fron Haul, a Ellis Jones, Penycefn, yn naddu. Ar dalcen yr hen injan yr oedd dau fwrdd, a dyma y ddau oedd yn gweithio yno, William Lloyd, Tanygrisiau Terrace, a John Thomas, Bond, Tanygrisiau. A dyma yr hen injan, lle'r oedd y byrddau o bob tu i'r ffordd oedd yn rhedeg drwyddi, ac 'roedd byrddau yn yr eiliau ar hyd y ddwy ochr.

### Chwarelwyr

Dyma enwau y chwarelwyr: Joseph Ephraim, Manasick ei frawd yn naddu; William Jones, Ffridd Uchaf, Penrhyn, Elias ei frawd yn naddu; John Hughes, Penybryn, William, Hafod Talog, Penrhyn, yn naddu; William yn fyw heddiw, rai blwyddi dros ei bedwar ugain; Owen Parry, Dorvil Street, a John Jones (John Minffordd) yn naddu; Dafydd Pierce, un o deulu Cangenal, Maentwrog Uchaf, Ellis Glynne a Richard Glynne, John Penycefn a Hugh yn naddu; John Rich-

ards, Trawsfynydd, William Williams a Manoah Williams, Fron, Dolwyddelan, Ned Bach Llan yn naddu iddo; John Morris Jones, Llan, hen fandmaster y Llan, Richard Owen, Dolau Las, Rhys Jones, Blaencefn, Penrhyn, John Ellis Roberts, Bryn Goleu, Tanygrisiau, John H. Morgan, Hugh Williams, Penycefn, Robert Williams, Dolwyddelan, William Williams, Foel, Thomas O. Williams yn naddu; Bob Morgan, Owen Roberts, Crossing, Glanypwll, a John Davies, Fron Wen, Robert Griffith, Llan, Llanfab yn naddu; Griffith Williams, a arferai fyw o flaen Capel Garregddu, William R. Davies (Wil Bach Foel), James Roberts (James Maentwrog), Ephraim Ephraim a Owen Owens (Sychnant) yn naddu; Robert J. Davies a Michael Jones yn ddau bartner. Dyma'r cwbl allaf gofio sy'n fyw heddiw: William Hafod Talog, John Ty'npistyll yn America, John Jones Williams, cyn brif gyfrifydd Chwarel Oakeley, John Lewis, Gwyndy, a minnau. Yn yr Injian Isaf yr oedd Hugh Lewis, Fron Oleu, Tanygrisiau, a John Lloyd, Leeds Street.

Y mae llawer iawn mwy o hanes diddorol am a ddigwyddodd yn y cyfnod hwn, ond ofnaf y bydd hyn yn dreth arnoch i'w ddarllen, felly terfynaf gyda diolch eto am y *Caban*.

### June Williams

The young lady wearing the sunny smile is June Williams, aged fourteen, the Oakeley and Yotty Club candidate for the title and honour of Quarry Carnival Queen of Blaenau Ffestiniog, 1952. June, who is seen pictured at the Club after her nomination from eight competitors, is the only daughter of Robert Williams, rockman in PB.1 Oakeley, and Mrs. Williams. She attends the Blaenau Ffestiniog Central School. All members of the club will wish her well on Carnival day. Readers may like to be reminded that *Caban* will be there to record the event.

Quarry Queen Candidate



## Quarries in their Setting

THE STRIKING aerial views of Oakeley and Votty featured in previous issues of *Caban* have appealed to many of our readers, particularly those with little knowledge of the land in which we work. The panoramic view of our home in the Merioneth mountains, shown on the middle pages of this issue, we feel, should serve to consolidate the impression given and, at the same time, place ourselves and our town in proper perspective.

The viewpoint is on the south-easterly slopes of Cwm Bowydd, the coombe from which our Votty and Bowydd mine, marked by a shale tip on the extreme right, takes its name. The exact connotation of "Votty and Bowydd" is fully descriptive of an ancient situation. The Cwm Bowydd farm of long ago maintained summer quarters for sheep on the

slopes occupied nowadays by the Votty mine and estate. This was known as "Hafod-ty"—meaning "summerhouse," a term corrupted colloquially to "Votty." The ancient farming link and tradition is thus perpetuated in "Votty and Bowydd."

The town of Blaenau Ffestiniog spreads from the foot of the mountain ranges along on a lofty shelf to the lip of Cwm Bowydd. The Blaenau Ffestiniog hospital looks directly down the valley. In the trees outlying the brink, to the left, is the Blaenau Ffestiniog Grammar School, and further along the shelf in the background is the council housing estate. The Oakeley Slate Quarries dominate the scene at this point, with "Domen Fawr" buttressing a shoulder of the rolling hills running off to the left. Above and behind the "domen," at an altitude of 1,000 feet, are the open floors and the mine.

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## Cyfarfod y Clwb

CYNHALIWIYD y cyfarfod blynyddol nos Lun, Ebrill 21, 1952. Llywyddwyd gan Mr. Hugh Griffith Hughes, is-lywydd y Clwb.

Dewiswyd y canlynol yn swyddogion am y flwyddyn yn diwedd Mawrth 31, 1953: Llywydd, Syr Charles Oakeley; is-lywydd, Mr. Hugh Griffith Hughes; ysgrifennydd, Mr. G. E. Woolford; is-ysgrifennydd, Mr. R. D. Williams; trysorydd, Mr. Dennis Roberts.

Pwyllgor Gwaith: Mri. Trevor Davies, Humphrey Lewis, John Ed. Jones, Robert Thomas, Richard Evans (Votty), G. W. Humphreys, Thomas Roberts, Hubert Lewis, D. Gwilym Jones, Edward Jones, H. Gwilym Jones, Dewi Lewis, David Hughes, J. O. Williams, Eifion Roberts, Peter Owen, Iorwerth Jones, T. Hughes Jones, J. Owen Williams, W. L. Owen (Oakeley).

Cafwyd gair gan Mr. J. O. Williams, llywydd y Pwyllgor Gwaith. Diolchodd i aelodau y pwyllgor am eu cydweithrediad a'u ffyddlondeb am y flwyddyn.

Diolchodd hefyd i bob aelod a phwyllgor am eu cyfraniad er gwneud y flwyddyn ar y cyfan yn llwyddiannus.

Cafwyd lluniaeth ysgafn yn ystod y cyfarfod wedi ei drefnu gan Mr. Dewi Lewis.

Yn ystod tymor y gaeaf nesaf trefnir cyfres o ddarlithoedd, a disgwylir y sicrhau rhai o gewri Cymru i'n hannerch.

Cynhelir *sports* yn ddôl Dolawel ar yr 28 o Fehafin, a *whist drive* yn y Clwb ar ôl y *sports*.

Cynhelir arddangosfa amrywiaethol yn y dyfodol agos, y dyddiad i'w hysbysu eto.

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## Between Ourselves

(Continued from page 13.)

R.A.O.C. He has been back at Oakeley a few months. The intervals abroad took him to the Middle East, where, in Palestine, he was enabled to visit most of the holy places.

An eye injury has not impaired the keenness with which he views both his

job and his chief hobby—billiards. His quite exceptional skill in club and league billiards tourneys is widely known, largely, one would say, for his ability to “run out” with a hundred break. He was this year in the semi-final of the North Wales Snooker Championship, a side of the game to which he proposes to pay rather more attention. Next season Bonc Coedan may be saluting their saw sharpener as the North Wales snooker champion. Ryfinias does not devote all his spare time to the hobby. He is to be seen also behind the counter helping in the shop of his brother-in-law.



## Retirements

John Roberts, Sawsharpener, aged 69 years, service, 45 years.

Hugh Williams, aged 66 years, service 23 years.

## Wedding

The happy picture is of J. Ivor Thomas, loco. driver at Votty, seen with his bride, Miss Dorothy Jones, after Whitsun wedding at Ffestiniog Parish Church.

## Caban Bonc shaft

On page 2 we picture some of the company of slatemakers in their new caban at Bonc Shaft. In the picture are : Arthur C. Thomas, David R. Jones, William Evans, John S. Williams, Hugh Roberts (Band), Goronwy Williams, Ieuan Thomas, John Roberts, Thomas Hughes, George Penny, Alwyn Jones, Hugh Gth. Hughes, Owen Williams, Thomas Davies, John Jos. Williams, Thomas H. Jones, Iorwerth Roberts, David O. Williams, Evan R. Jones, Hugh I. Roberts, Robert Hughes, Alun Roberts, Idwal G. Davies, Richard H. Jones, Meurig Humphreys, Evan L. Evans, William Griffith, William Jones, Cyril W. Hughes, Anarawd Jones, Philip Owen, Robert T. Jones, Oswald Evans, David W. Thomas, Gwynfor Williams, Gwyn Morgan, David Griffith.

## Taming a giant

(See picture on back page)

“D.E.” FLOOR, one of the open quarrying levels at Oakeley, continues to deliver its quota to the mills, though it is not often that a block as large as that depicted on the back page requires to be tackled. The block seen being broken down to manageable proportions weighed over 200 tons. It was brought down in a controlled fall. Its original dimensions were 29ft. long, 21ft. wide and 13ft. thick. Caban’s cameraman snapped this tussle with the giant in the fleeting sunshine of the “April showers” which reached Blaenau early in May! The cloud rolling over the Crimea throws out in sharp relief the rugged outline of the rising cliffs dominating the “D.E.” floor.



# Oakeley-Votty Sports Club

**I**DEAL WEATHER conditions, a sufficiency of entries, smooth-running organisation, and a happy concourse of onlookers combined to make the Oakeley-Votty Club Sports at Dolawel Field on Saturday, June 28th, one of the most successful and memorable of club events.

The younger element, for whom the Club had made special provision in the competitions, turned out in strength. The result was a mounting interest sharpened by a keen competitive and sporting spirit. Everyone was agreed, even the ice-cream vendor, that a good time was had by all, and the officials are to be congratulated on the wide variety of their programme. It was, in truth, a full sporting day out for all members of the family.

The prizes, distributed by Mr. Gwilym Humphreys, Oakeley manager, were augmented by a generous gift from the Directors, and £2 from Mr. Idwal Jones. After the sporting events most of the club members adjourned to the Club for an evening whist drive.

Officials at the Sports were:—Judges: Mr. G. W. Humphreys, J. O. Williams, Edward Jones and Robert Thomas. Starters: W. L. Owen, T. Hughes Jones, Humphrey Lewis, Iorwerth Jones. Announcer: John Edward Jones. Starters: J. O. Williams, Thomas Roberts, Dewi Lewis, Hubert Lewis, Richard Jones. Secretary: Eifion Roberts. Treasurer: Trevor Davies.

## SPORTS RESULTS

50 Yds. for Boys and Girls (under 8).—1, Geraint Roberts, Hafan, Rhiw; 2, Arthur Cook Thomas, 1, Pantyronen.

50 Yds. Egg and Spoon Race for Boys and Girls (under 10).—1, Arwyn Evans, 6, Tanyfron; 2, Meinir El. Jones, 134, High Street.

60 Yds. for Boys (under 12).—1, R. Elwyn Jones, 5, Oakeley Square; 2, Gareth Jones, Talywaenydd.

60 Yds. for Girls (under 12).—1, Meinir Wyn Jones, Fair View; 2, Nia Williams, Glanypwll Villa.

60 Yds. for Boys (under 15).—1, Glyn Jones, 42, Fron Fawr; 2, R. Elwyn Jones, 5, Oakeley Square.

60 Yds. for Girls (under 15).—1, Eurwen Roberts, Talywaenydd. 2, Brenda Thomas, 1, Pantyronen.

80 Yds. Egg and Spoon Race Boys and Girls (under 15).—1, Eurwen Roberts, Talywaenydd; 2, D. Wyn Owen, Dulas Villa.

100 Yds. for Boys and Girls (15—18).—1, Gwynedd Owen, 13, Fron Fawr; 2, J. Lloyd Jones, Towyn Road.

Half Mile for Boys (under 18).—1, Glyn Jones, 42, Fron Fawr; 2, Gwynedd Owen, 13, Fron Fawr.

Three-Legged Race for Boys and Girls (under 12).—Ellis O. Jones, Glanypwll, and R. Elwyn Jones, 5, Oakeley Square.

Three-Legged Race for Boys and Girls (under 15).—Meirionwen Jones, 55, Fron Fawr, and Eurwen Roberts, Talywaenydd.

Three-Legged Race for Boys (under 18).—Elwyn Powell, 3 Fron Fawr, and Ronald Owen, Dulas Villa, Rhiw.

Three-Legged Race for Girls (under 18).—Meinir Wyn Jones, Fair View, and Brenda Thomas, 1, Pantyronen.

Sack Race for Boys and Girls (under 12).—1, Kenneth Roberts, Hafan, Rhiw; 2, Arwyn Evans, 6, Tanyfron.

Sack Race for Boys and Girls (under 15).—1, Meirionwen Jones, 55, Fron Fawr; 2, Kenneth Roberts, Hafan, Rhiw.

Sack Race for Boys and Girls (under 18).—1, Cynan Roberts, 11, Fron Fawr; 2, Hugh Hughes 32, Lord Street.

High Jump for Boys and Girls (under 18).—Donald Owen, Dinas Villa, Rhiw.

Pole Jump for Boys (under 18).—Cyril Wyn Hughes, 48, Fron Fawr.

440 Yds. Relay for Boys and Girls (under 18).—Gwynedd Owen, Selwyn Jones, Roy Williams, and Arwyn Williams.

100 Yds. Men (30—50).—1, Arthur Wyn Evans, 6, Tanyfron; 2, Morris Jones, Gellilydan.

80 Yds. Men (over 50).—1, T. Hughes Jones, Fron Fawr; 2, Iorwerth Jones, High Street.

Special Race for Boys and Girls (under 6).—all competitors received a prize.

Egg and Spoon Race for Mothers.—Mrs. T. Davies, 1, Penbryn Llwyd, Glanypwll.

Quoiting Competition.—1, Howel Williams, Llan Ffestiniog; 2, Ieuan Thomas, Tanygrisiau.

## WHIST RESULTS.

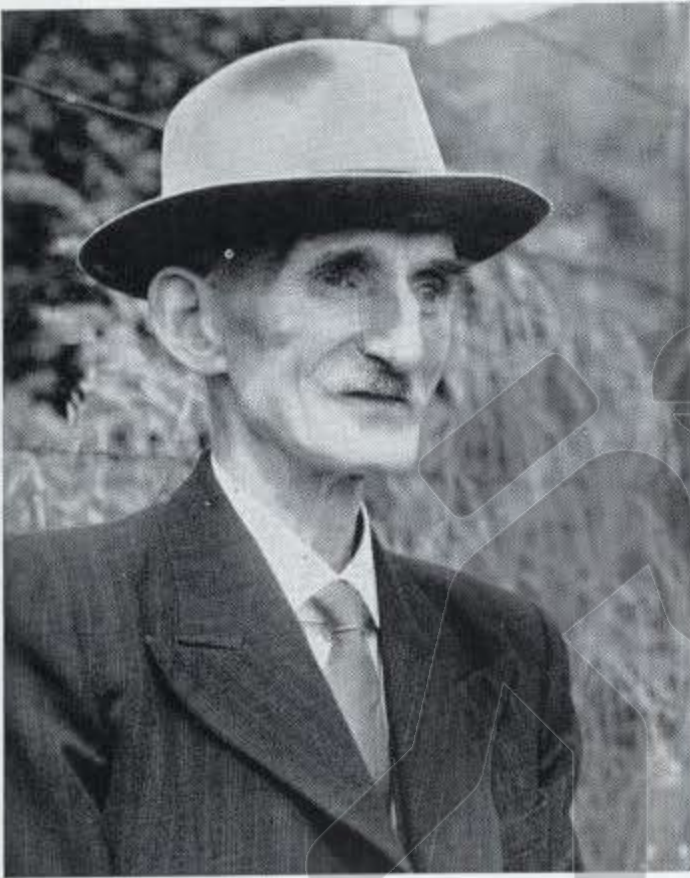
**Ladies.**—1, Mrs. R. D. Williams, Tabernacle Chapel House; 2, Mrs. R. Evans, Bodafon; 3, Mrs. T. Davies, 1, Penbrynllwyd.

**Gentlemen.**—1, Mr. John Williams, 14, Fron Fawr; 2, Mr. J. O. Williams, Manod Road; 3, John J. Williams, Bowydd Street.

**Knock-out.**—1, Miss Beryl Williams and Mr. R. C. Davies; 2, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Williams. M.C.: W. L. Owen.

## Ymddeol

Y flwyddyn hon, cyflawnodd Mr. Griffith Griffiths, Ferlas, Wynne Road, hanner can mlynedd yng ngwasanaeth y Cwmni. Ar achlysur ei ymddeoliad cynhaliwyd cyfarfod arbennig yng Nghaban Mawr y Foty, ddydd Gwener, Mehefin 27, i ddymuno'n dda iddo, ac i



Griffith Griffiths

gyflwyno "fountain pen" hardd iddo gan ei gydweithwyr. Llywydd y cyfarfod oedd Mr. Sam Roberts, a chyflwynwyd yr anrheg gan Mr. Robert J. Jones. Cafwyd anerchiad barddonol gan y gŵr awengar o'r Llan, Mr. Hywel Williams, ac yn dilyn, dywedwyd gair byr gan yr oll o'r gweithwyr, pob un yn dymuno'n dda i'w hen gyfaill yn ei ffordd ei hun. Diolchodd Mr. Griffiths mewn geiriau pwrpasol a datganodd ei ofid o adael y gymdeithas y bu'n hapus iawn ynnddi am gyfnod mor faith. I derfynnu'r cyfarfod cafwyd unawdau gan y Mri. William Ifor Thomas a Sam Roberts.

Ar ran darllenwyr "Y Caban" dymunwn hir oes a phob dedwyddwch i Mr. a Mrs. Griffiths; carem hefyd ddal ar y cyfle i dalu teyrnged uchel i Mr. Griffiths ar derfyn cyfnod maith o wasanaeth nodedig o onest a theilwng.

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## Pysgota

Enillydd y wobr gyntaf a'r gwpan am 1952 yng nghystadleuaeth bysgota y Gymdeithas Enweiriol nos Iau, Mehefin 19, yn Llyn y Morwynion, oedd Mr. John Evan Roberts o Chwarel y Foty. Llongyfarchion calonnog J.E.!

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## Holiday "Snaps" Competition

Readers of *Caban* are invited to enter their best holiday photographs for competition and reproduction in our autumn issue. Provided the holiday atmosphere is retained there is no limit to the choice of subject.

Prizes of £1, 15s., and 10s. will be awarded.

A prize of £1 is also offered for the best holiday essay or story. The subjects are open and may be written in Welsh or English.

Entries for both competitions should be handed in at the quarry offices before September 8 next.



[www.train4underground.co.uk](http://www.train4underground.co.uk)

**TAMING A GIANT ON THE "D.E." FLOOR**  
(see bottom p. 25)

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