GEMBOREE 2017

INFORMATION E-NEWSLETTER

July 2016 – Edition 4

Tony Luchetti Showground, Lithgow – Easter – 14th – 17th April, 2017

FROM THE E-NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Lithgow is steeped in history and surrounded in beauty, with a friendly and growing community that will be hosting the 53rd National Gem & Mineral Show that will be held from Friday 14th to Monday 17th April, next year. The GEMBOREE 2017 will be held at the Tony Luchetti Showground in Lithgow.

As time moves on, with just nine months to go, more plans are coming together for the event that will draw a large crowd of lapidaries, collectors and hobbyists, as well as the general public from throughout the region.

There is a great deal of history and tradition behind the GEMBOREE in Australia which is the largest event of its type and is held annually. It is a national event that is staged by the Gem & Lapidary Council of N.S.W. Inc. under the auspices of the Australian Federation of Lapidary & Allied Crafts Association Inc.

The small town of Coonabarabran near the Warrumbungle Ranges in New South Wales has the honour of conducting the first GEMBOREE in 1965. It came about after some suggestions were made to the editor of Australian Lapidary Magazine, Mr. Norm Patison. Norm had the vision and organised the GEMBOREE which has sustained every year since as the national gathering of lapidaries. There were only a few lapidary clubs at that time and there was little thought about interaction and communication.

The GEMBOREE was held the following year, again at Coonabarabran, with even greater success and again it was organised by Norm. Norm then laid down a challenge "for any, one, two or three clubs to host the following year's GEMBOREE". Three Sydney Clubs took up the challenge with the 1967 GEMBOREE held at Nundle in northern N.S.W. Then in 1968 it was organised by four clubs at Gundagai on the Murrumbidgee River, in the south of N.S.W. Its future appeared set.

The newly formed Combined Victorian Gem Clubs Association decided to start a Gemkhana to bring their state members together in 1968. It was held in March to avoid clashing with the Gundagai GEMBOREE. Buoyed with the success of their Gymkhana the Victorian Association sought permission to conduct the 1969 GEMBOREE. One of their objects was to seek that the GEMBOREE should be held in a different state or territory of Australia each year.

With the support of the Australian Lapidary Magazine and previous organisers the first GEMBOREE held outside N.S.W. was organised at Beechworth in northern Victoria. The result was the largest gathering of lapidaries and the general public witnessed to that time.

Since 1969, the GEMBOREE has been staged in all of Australia's states and territories. 1972 was the first year for South Australia, and Queensland's first was in 1974. 1980 was the debut for Western Australia, and Tasmania hosted their first event in 1981. In 1988, the GEMBOREE was staged in Canberra and in 1993 it was held in the Northern Territory at Alice Springs. Sadly, due to Western Australia's very small lapidary population combined with distance forced Western Australia to withdraw as a GEMBOREE host - at least for the time being.

Norm Patison lived to see the GEMBOREE become a truly national event, and his name is commemorated on a perpetual trophy at the National Gem & Mineral competitions held in conjunction with each GEMBOREE.

From the following list one can see the various towns and cities that have hosted the annual GEMBOREES. These include:- 1968 Gundagai, 1969 Beechworth, 1970 Nundle, 1971 Coleraine, 1972 Tanunda, 1973 Inverell, 1974 Nambour, 1975 Broken Hill, 1976 Gunnedah, 1977 Shepparton, 1978 Gympie, 1979 Tanunda, 1980 Wanneroo, 1981 Devonport, 1982 Glen Innes, 1983 Broken Hill, 1984 Mount Isa, 1985 Wanneroo, 1986 Loxton, 1987 Shepparton, 1988 Canberra, 1989 Devonport, 1990 Bundaberg, 1991 Loxton, 1992 Midland, 1993 Alice Springs, 1994 Ballarat, 1995 Glen Innes, 1996 Toowoomba, 1997 Launceston, 1998 Gawler, 1999 Rockingham, 2000 Ballarat, 2001 Wagga Wagga, 2002 Rockhampton,

2003 Gawler, 2004 Warragul, 2005 Bathurst, 2006 Hobart, 2007 Townsville, 2008 Murray Bridge, 2009 Horsham, 2010 Devonport, 2011 Bathurst, 2012 Bundaberg, 2013 Murray River, 2014 Gatton, 2015 Horsham, 2016 Ulverstone and next year 2017 in Lithgow.

Don't put off getting tour plans organised for next year as time will get away from you. Accommodation will be in peak demand by Christmas, or before, I would expect, so consider your accommodation needs and if you are staying on-site or off-site. Remember if you need accommodation or other local Lithgow information you are advised to contact the great staff at the Lithgow Visitor Information Centre, 1137 Great Western Hwy, Lithgow. NSW 2790 or you can telephone 1300760276 or send an email tourism@lithgow.com or www.tourism.lithgow.com

There are many great attractions, historic tours, events, arts and galleries, picturesque views and activities for you to participate in whilst in the Lithgow and Blue Mountains region when attending the GEMBOREE 2017.

Alan McRae, FAIHA – GEMBOREE 2017
e-newsletter Editor and Publicity Officer

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COAL FEATURED ON POSTAGE STAMP

Australia is known for its coal and there is an Australian 5½d green postage stamp that features coal being loaded onto a coal carrying ship, seen right.

Newcastle township began after Naval Lieutenant John Shortland in a small whale boat, named the "Reliance", was used to do a survey of the Hunter River in 1797. Ironically Lieutenant Shortland came across the river after being sent in search of escaped convicts. It was at this time he noticed numbers of seams of coal about.

It seems that the first 'discovery' had already taken place at Port Stephens in 1796 with finds of coal recorded in the Illawarra district on the southern side of Sydney the following year. The coal mines at Newcastle were the first in the colony of New South Wales, in fact Australia.

In 1798 Lieutenant John Shortland found good layers of coal near the entrance of the Hunter River. After the Lieutenant reported his findings to Sydney, convicts were soon mining the coal from vertical shafts and loading from 60 to 250 tons of coal onto shipping vessels. Before long the area was known as Coal River.

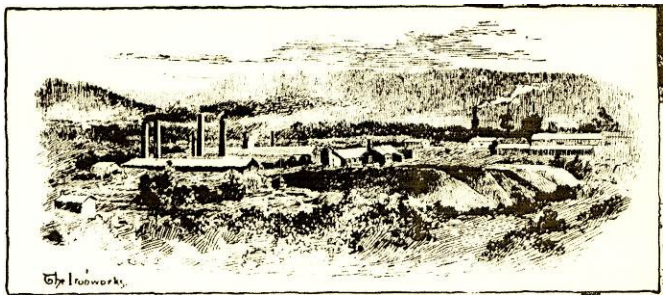
It was not long before some Sydney entrepreneurs applied to the Governor to bring supplies of Coal River coal to sell in Sydney. Simeon Lord, who arrived in Sydney in 1791 after being transported to New South Wales, was one entrepreneur known for retailing spirits and general merchandise amongst other things and his partner, sea captain Hugh Meehan, applied to get involved with the coal distribution. The Government Domain concentrated on coal seams at Nobbys Island and on Colliers Point.

In 1804 Governor Phillip Gidley King ordered that a permanent settlement be established for convicts primarily to mine the coal seams. Governor King had John Platt, an experienced miner, sent to inspect the coal at the Hunter River and he soon established several mine shafts.

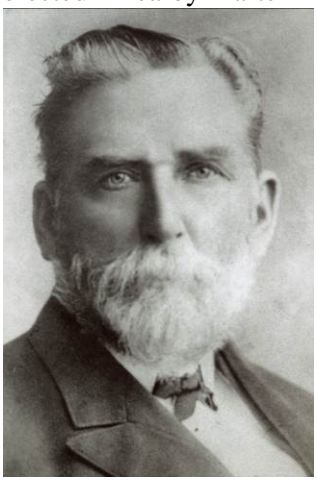
In 1947 the Postmaster General Department issued a red 2½d stamp inscribed 'Lieut John Shortland R.N.' (left) but erroneously it showed his father (how embarrassing). These two stamps, part of a set of three were issued for the 150th anniversary of Newcastle. It was later learnt that the stamp designer had been given a painting of the father to use which was easy to do as the two men bore the same name. The stamp below shows the crane gantries lifting aboard great buckets of crushed coal into the bowels of the ship for export.

LITHGOW STEEL WORKS

Lithgow's association with its iron and steel works was another of this city's big manufacturing eras. Lithgow's Iron and Steel works commenced in October 1875 when the first iron smelting took place.



Ore had been discovered on Eskbank land which was then owned by Enoch Hughes. The foundry was erected nearby after Enoch convinced James



Rutherford of Cobb & Co fame (left) from Bathurst. Ironically the other principal shareholders were the N.S.W. Minister for Public Works, the Honourable John Sutherland and Dan Williams, an engineer from Canada who worked on the Zig Zag railway project.

The Eskbank Ironworks then consisted of a blast furnace, foundry and two bar rolling mills with the necessary fitting and smiths' shops. About 20,000 tons of pig iron was made initially from the local ores, which was converted into rails and bars. Work was carried on intermittently, until it was decided to pull down the blast furnace and convert the castings into merchant iron.

In May 1880 in the "Lithgow Report" it stated that the Eskbank Ironworks were working at the rate of four miles of rails per week. The new rails stood the test of forty tons, the required standard being thirty tons. The blast furnace was in full swing and 100 tons per week of iron was anticipated.

After a layoff the mills at the Eskbank Ironworks were restarted on Monday morning 30th July, 1894. The old system had been discarded, and the mills had now commenced on a partially co-operative principle, which it was expected would cheapen production and give better results generally. During the cessation of work the plant was added to and improved, in this way the sheet mill now starts equipped to produce nearly double its former product.

A week or so previously it was reported that no work had been done either in the sheet or bar mills at Eskbank ironworks but it is expected that a start would be made the following Monday in all three. An order for 100 tons of spike iron, was to be supplied at the rate of 10 tons weekly, having been obtained from the Railway Commissioners. During the period of stoppage considerable alterations and improvements have been made at the works. A large pair of housings (15 tons) had been put in the sheet mill train. This and other improvements would enable the output to be considerably increased, if necessary, and would also permit taking orders for larger plates for boilers or tanks. Under the new arrangement, with Messrs. Milier, Turley and Bladen, Mr. Sandford anticipated better results, and is hopeful that they would be able to run three or four days a week at least.

The company soon found themselves with an overdraft of about £60,000, and had decided on closing the works when Mr. Sandford took them on lease in 1885. He added mill after mill, with powerful shears, furnaces, boilers, and rollers, so that now the mills were fully equipped for the work they had to do. The output of the works of all classes of finished iron and steel for the three years ending 31st December, 1901, averaged over 7000 tons per annum. The output did not cover more than a small percentage of what was imported into Sydney.

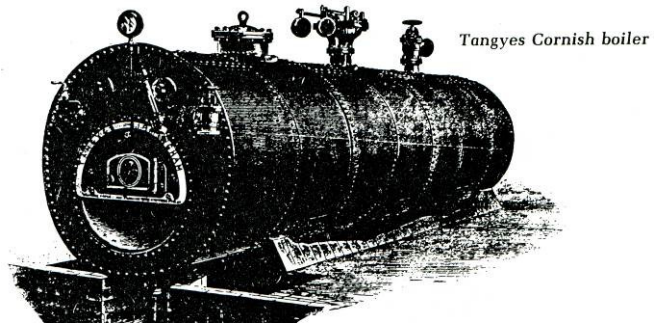
The works and sidings occupied a space of about 12 acres, and were situated between the Main Western Railway Line and Farmer's Creek, being connected with the main line at Eskbank Station, with sidings all round the works. Sand for the works was obtained from Farmer's Creek, close by, and the loam for the foundry from a paddock adjoining the works.

Within the ironwork's fence is a colliery adit, where the coal, (left), was drawn out by an engine, and the same skips drawn round the works, so that the coal was only handled once, into the skips; and the same skips were tipped into the furnace bins in the ironworks. The coal was thus used fresh from the colliery, and bore comparison in heating properties with most of the English coals. On the siding to the works was situated the steam sawmills, where timber of any ordinary size could be cut and delivered to the works.

The large 18 inch bar mill was driven by a powerful horizontal engine of 65-horse power, with a flywheel of about 20 tons on main shaft. Three sets of rolls were for train tracks with heavy standards. It is driven off the main engine shaft. There are two sets of massive shears for cutting the bars cold, which are made in the mill to the lengths wanted. This mill was capable of rolling flat bars up to 12in wide. Some thousands of tons of iron rails, 70lb to the yard, have been rolled in

the Lithgow Works.

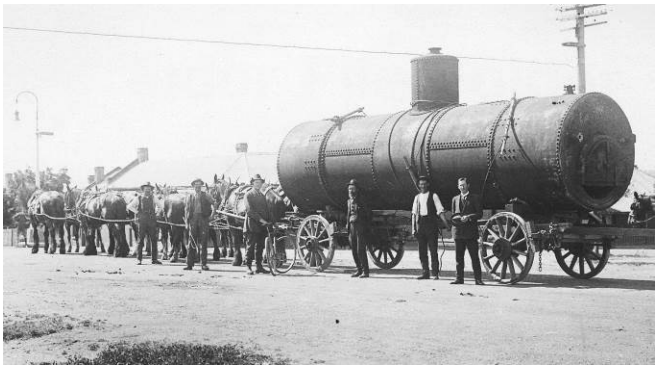
At the time Mr. Sandford said: “When I took the works nothing wider than 6in wide flat bars were made. Now we make when required 6½in, 6¾in, 7in, 7½in, 8in, 9in, 10in, and 12in flat bars. To heat the iron for this mill four large furnaces are used, each capable of heating from five to six tons of iron per shift. Attached to the various furnaces are large horizontal boilers for raising steam by the waste-head from the furnaces.” At this time the Steel Furnace was idle.



Tangyes Cornish boiler

There was a great deal of equipment on site including immense Cornish boilers, seen above, weighing 22 tons for raising steam by the waste heat from the furnaces. There was a 1½-ton steam hammer, massive shears for cutting up double-head 75lb per yard rails into lengths, a large gantry, a 36in horizontal condensing 175-horse power engine and giant fly-wheels with a 30ft diameter and weighing 40 tons.

The No. 2 Sheet Mill had a 35-ton flywheel and had been finished about six months, but had only been running half-time. In the fitting shops were lathes, screwing, drilling and punching machines, nut and bolt machines, and a complete spike making machine, where the spikes for the Railway Construction Department had been made during the previous three years.

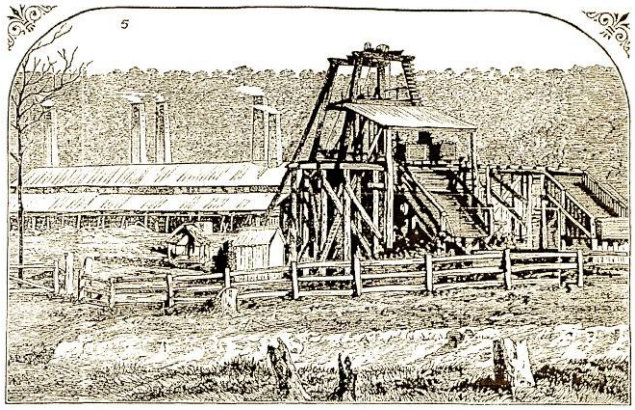


Above, boilers were large items of necessary equipment, their sheer size made them difficult to transport.

Passing out to the foundry department, where there were two large travelling cranes, a large and small cupola, also an air furnace. Castings up to 11½ tons weight had recently been turned out at the foundry.

There was also a large Siemens melting furnace, for dealing with steel, scrap and pig iron. It was complete with a steam travelling crane capable of lifting seven ton cast iron moulds and large wrought iron ladles. It had been erected at a cost of £4000. The cement used in the works was mostly made at the Cullen Bullen Company's lime and cement works, about ten miles distant from Lithgow.

There was another mill principally for rolling sheets for galvanising and corrugating sheets up to 12ft long and 27 gauge were produced in this mill. The justification for initially erecting the mill at Lithgow was the probability of a duty on galvanised iron of 30 shilling per ton, as proposed by the Federal Ministry. The implemented duty of 15s per ton, or about 5 per cent., was not enough, and the machinery mainly remained underused.



Above, the nearby Lithgow Eskbank Colliery & Mr. Lloyd's Smelting Works.

Finally the steel works were taken over and reopened by an Englishman named William Sandford who had been appointed as the blast furnace manager of the Lithgow Iron & Steel Works from 1907 until 1921. He convinced the Government of New South Wales in 1907 to accept his steel proposal and contract. Shortly after though the purchasing of an improved blast furnace left him in financial strife and the works were taken over by two brothers, George and Cecil Hoskins, the next year. They relocated their works to Lithgow to meet the greater production.

As time went on it became a rocky road for the Lithgow Iron and Steel Works with lack of sales and labour problems with strikes which were reported in the newspapers of the time. In one report:- “As was feared, the trouble in regard to Sunday overtime at Hoskins’ steel works resulted in the dismissal of two men, and has extended to the whole works.” On Thursday morning, 10th April, 1924, “none of the members of the Ironworkers’ Union, numbering about 430, put in an appearance. All the ironworking departments are idle, as well as others, where through the ironworkers’ action there is automatically no work.”

“Moulders, engineers, carpenters, blacksmiths, etc., worked on Thursday, but meetings to consider their position were to be held at night. Two collieries are

idle as a direct result of the stoppage, about 60 men being affected. Negotiations on the matter are not considered likely this week, but the union's case is being prepared for presentation to the company."

Another report stated that, "Mr. J. Dooley, Premier of New South Wales, announced in late March 1925 that he had been advised that Hoskins' Lithgow steel works would reopen three mills within three days, taking back all the men previously employed in the mills."

Then in early December 1927, "the men employed at the 27-inch mill at the Lithgow steel works have decided to resume after a week of idleness. This decision was reached at a meeting of the men affected. They are to resume work pending the sitting of the Conciliation Committee, when the question at issue the 'slicing' of bars on the continuous furnace will come before it. When the decision was conveyed to the management, the men were notified to present themselves for work to-day."

As the Depression hit in 1930 it was announced in April that operations would be curtailed at the steel works following the slackening of operations with the "A" steel furnace being closed down. This meant the dismissal of nearly 100 men. It was also officially stated that the furnace had outlived its usefulness and was not going to be replaced.

Much of the 'ingredients' for the steel works was sourced locally, all adding to the employment of local labour over the years. Iron ore, limestone and coal were needed to make coke, the plant having its own coke works. Even the refractory bricks were made locally. As the depression neared the smelters were closed down in 1927 and some five years later removed to Port Kembla.

Other major industry at the time included a brick and pottery works in 1877 after suitable clay was found in the Lithgow Valley. Another large concern was the opening of the Small Arms Factory in 1908 after the Commonwealth Government announced plans to build a factory to manufacture various military and civilian small arms at Lithgow.

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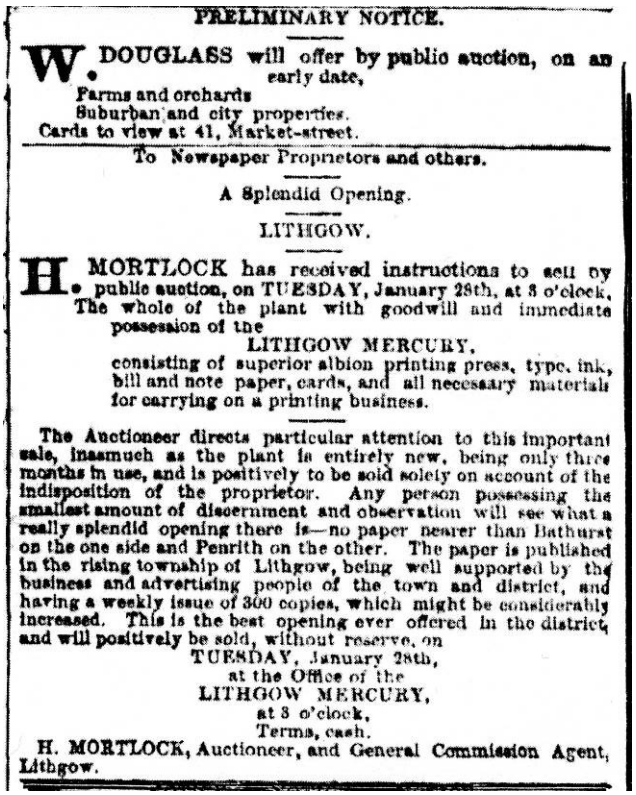
LITHGOW MERCURY NEWSPAPER

The Lithgow Mercury first began publication in October 1878. One Englishman that worked there as a compositor was Walter Scott Targett (1849-1918). He had migrated to the Southern Colonies in 1854 with his family, when he was aged about five having been born in Surrey on 3rd April, 1849. After leaving school Walter worked on several newspapers in the Colony before arriving in Lithgow.

Within three months of its first issue Walter made an offer to purchase this town newspaper – he was successful and he was now the editor and publisher of The Lithgow Mercury. It came out once a week and some 300 copies were printed on new printing machinery. Not only did the newspaper serve Lithgow but went on to include towns and areas such as Wentworth Falls, Katoomba, Blackheath, Mount Victoria, Hartley Vale, Little Hartley, Lowther, Mount Wilson, Bowenfells, Wallerawang, Ben Bullen, Capertee, Rylstone, Mudgee, Rydal, Sunny Corner, Tarana, Oberon and Rockley as well as other villages.



PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

W. DOUGLASS will offer by public auction, on an early date,
Farms and orchards
Suburban and city properties.
Cards to view at 41, Market-street.

To Newspaper Proprietors and others.

A Splendid Opening.

LITHGOW.

H. MORTLOCK has received instructions to sell by public auction, on TUESDAY, January 28th, at 3 o'clock, The whole of the plant with goodwill and immediate possession of the
LITHGOW MERCURY,
consisting of superior albion printing press, type, ink, bill and note paper, cards, and all necessary materials for carrying on a printing business.

The Auctioneer directs particular attention to this important sale, inasmuch as the plant is entirely new, being only three months in use, and is positively to be sold solely on account of the indisposition of the proprietor. Any person possessing the smallest amount of discernment and observation will see what a really splendid opening there is—no paper nearer than Bathurst on the one side and Penrith on the other. The paper is published in the rising township of Lithgow, being well supported by the business and advertising people of the town and district, and having a weekly issue of 300 copies, which might be considerably increased. This is the best opening ever offered in the district, and will positively be sold, without reserve, on
TUESDAY, January 28th,
at the Office of the
LITHGOW MERCURY,
at 3 o'clock,
Terms, cash.

H. MORTLOCK, Auctioneer, and General Commission Agent, Lithgow.

Unfortunately things were not right as Lithgow auctioneer Mr. H. Mortlock placed a large advertisement (above) in the Sydney Morning Herald on 24th January, 1879. He had been instructed to sell by auction the "whole of the plant with goodwill and immediate possession of the Lithgow Mercury, consisting of superior Albion printing press, type, ink, bill and note paper, cards, and all necessary materials for carrying on a printing business" and all without reserve.

Mortlock pointed out that the printing press was just "three months in use". The reason for the sale was stated as "on account of the indisposition of the proprietor". It seems that while he had some experience he was unable to pay his accounts as he had no saved enough capital. Possibly he had some health problems which were interfering with the production of the newspaper.

I can't find what actually took place immediately after the sale but it seems he continued on somehow. Walter Targett definitely stayed in Lithgow becoming the secretary for the Lithgow School of Arts later in the year. Several years later he decided to stand for Parliament.

Mr. Targett began his electioneering in mid 1882 and

took on two partners, Messrs. Gilbert and Lawson, to keep the newspaper operational. By December he had been successful as he was voted in to become the Member for Hartley and sitting in the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales. He was again successful for a second time with Hartley residents pleased with how he represented them however his parliamentary career ceased in January 1887.

About two months before he retired from Parliament Walter Taggart divested himself of The Lithgow Mercury to new owners.

The Lithgow Mercury.

ESTABLISHED 1878.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1898.

Commercial Stores, WALLERAWANG.

My First Shipment of SPRING GOODS

BROCADE, DIARTE, & SHOT LUSTRE.

Look for my Grand Display in Windows on Saturday First, 18th Inst.

THOS. DAVIS

WALLERAWANG.

Eskbank Cheap Stores.

CHRISTMAS 1897 & NEW YEAR 1898.

BEVERIDGE & CO., Limited,

BEVERIDGE & COMPANY, Limited, Universal Providers, LITHGOW.

XMAS AND NEW YEAR PRESENTS.

R. and M. REID

Purchaser of 5s worth and upwards

A SPECIALLY SELECTED TEAPOT

CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR Goods in endless variety

Mrs. BENNETT'S Best & Cheapest House for BOOTS & SHOES

YOUR BOOTS REPAIRED

HENRY H. GODWIN

DON'T FORGET

H. J. Gripper,

CLOUT'S ROYAL HOTEL

EVERY TUESDAY.

T. SUTTON

WILLIAMS and McCALL

Exquisite Bakery.

PRICE OF BREAD

MRS. DR. LLOYD

THE IMPERIAL HOTEL.

H. MORTLOCK, Proprietor.

THIS PICTURE TOM NAYLOR.

Corbett's Great Western Zigzag Brewery.

THE VALE HOTEL

CHAS. BRIGGS

Wm. SMITH,

The Lithgow Mercury went on to successfully serve the city of Lithgow with many local advertisers supporting the newspaper. It came out Friday each week and in January 1898 had advertisers such as John West's Cosmopolitan Hotel in Main Street, H. Mortlock's The Imperial Hotel opposite Eskbank Railway Station, Tom Naylor's Court House Hotel near Eskbank Railway Station, Corbett's Great Western Zigzag Brewery, Charles Brigg's The Vale Hotel at Hartley Vale, William Forbes - Farrier and Blacksmith near Clout's Royal Hotel, Mrs. Bennet's Boots and Shoes, W. Barlow's Shoe Repairs near Palace Emporium in Main Street, Beveridge & Company Drapery, Williams & McCall's Excelsior Bakery in Main Street, T. Sutton's Butchery & Bakery in Lithgow and Wallerawang as well as Mr. J. Flack, Coach Builder, Undertaker and General Smith with horse-shoeing a specialty.

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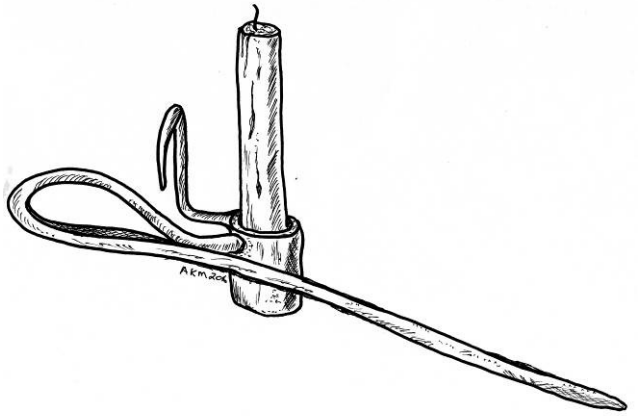
EARLY MINER'S CANDLE HOLDER

Early miners used a special candleholder mainly in mineral mines as it was too volatile in coal mines. They were almost standard equipment in the gold mines that dot the landscape in the Central West of N.S.W. since the discovery of payable gold near Bathurst in 1851. However, once the alluvial gold petered out and miners and prospectors were forced underground these candle holders soon became needed and popular.

Most were made of cast-iron with the candle holder allowing the miners to illuminate a small area in front and each side of them. These candle holders (below) have a sharpened spike that could be driven into the timber framework or pushed or hit into an appropriate crack in the rock. They also had a hook that could be hung on a nail, crack of a rock or on some appropriate surface within the miner's work space to hold the candle away from the mine wall or flammable log supports.



Some of the early candle holders were simply just a spike and miners used cotton thread, cloth tape or wire to attach a tallow candle. Later top hooks, 'handle' and candle holder, sometimes a thumb lever to push up the candle or push out the last bit of candle, these types being made by a blacksmith. The Americans often referred to these mining 'tools' as a 'Tommy Stick' or 'Sticking Tommy' to hold a candle though they had some that could hold a lamp as well.

Though not that common I have seen commercially made units that have a small brass label onto which the manufacturer has their name, where the business is located and the name they have given their product.

I have an American made "Best Belcher Mining Company - Tommy Stick Candle Holder" in my collection which would have been imported into Australia during the gold rush in 1860s.

Some had decorative detailing on it with hearts in particular used as decoration. Some of the candle stick holders could be folded up so it could be carried in the pocket. Very rarely does a date appear on the unit although several are known. There appears to be no standard length though around 10 inches seems more common. Sometimes a miner would use a file to put decorations on the stick. Candle holders for mining were made commercially in at least Germany, Great Britain and America.

GERMAN SILVER

Silver has been one of those precious metals that has been sought after since its mining commenced around 3,000 B.C. in an area that would be found in Turkey these days. It was traded throughout the Near East and to Greece. The Romans also used silver for their coinage, parts of officer's uniforms and household items for the richer classes.

By 1200 B.C., the main silver mining had been taken over by the Laurium silver mines in Greece. Around 100 A.D., the Spanish mines had the greatest output, much of their output going to supply the Roman Empire and other trading partners.

Probably the greatest event to effect the supply of silver was the discovery of the New World in 1492 by the Spanish which led to a massive increase in silver from mines in conquered South America.

Fortunately the German Empire had adequate silver mines to be able to produce large impressive silver coinage. Commercial grade fine silver is at least 99.9% pure silver though most of the early German silver was not this pure initially.

Right – the obverse - Germany, Saxony, Albertine line, 1592 silver thaler, showing Christian II, Johann Georg & August. Below it is the reverse or back of the coin.

Many of the early silver mines were controlled by the Crown if the land belonged to them, or to the landowner. They claimed rights over the mines and took a share in the output though many were often, in the earliest days, just small scale activities. Ore was usually mined from shallow mines with most generally associated by a village or town as it was too difficult to transport.

As early society's needs changed there was more demand for metals to be used for agricultural tools, weaponry, wheeled vehicles, buildings and numerous other items as wooden items were replaced.

After the 10th century there was an increase in the knowledge of metallurgy. The Germans especially discovered new mines and were soon exploiting them though they often found that they had no real means of drawing off the water from the mine's shafts and tunnels, a problems that still plagues underground mining today.

Smelting sites were multiplied and new mines were discovered and exploited by German miners, like the well-known Mines of Rammelsberg, close to the town of Goslar by the Harz Mountains. Open-cast mining and metallurgical activities were mostly concentrated in the Eastern Alps, Saxony, Bohemia, Tuscany and the Rhineland.

By the early Middle Ages metallurgists had discovered a way to refine the silver-lead ores, however by the 14th century workers had learnt how to use the 'acid process' to separate gold from the silver ore. By the same time the most suitable mines had been where the silver ore was near the surface but they had been exploited, so suitable mines were becoming scarce. By now German miners had learnt more about mining methods and metallurgists had become so important that they began organising themselves into Guilds, especially in the German region.

It was the German metallurgists who lead the search to discover areas where this rich silver ore could be found. They were not just looking for silver metal ores but any ore that money could be made out of, especially in Southern and Eastern Germany before expanding their area into the Eastern Alps, and afterwards, much of Central Europe.

One area in Germany that became a prominent mining area was in the Upper Harz in the Hartz Mountains which encompassed several mining towns where miners were predominately involved in vein mining using chisels and hammers. Included were Grund, Zellerfeld, Lautenthal, Sankt, Altenau, Andreasberg, Wildemann and Clausthal where they mined lead, silver, copper and iron and later zinc. By the middle of the 1800s almost half of Germany's silver came from here, supplying their official mints.

Taxes from the mining operations boosted the German Empire and particularly the taxes raised from this contributed significantly to the Hanover and Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel Royal Houses.

In the 1700s some of the mines in the region were considered the deepest in the world at over 1,000 feet, some later mined below sea level. This was a large change from the earliest method of working on surface deposits known as 'open cast workings'. For hundreds of years the miners used ladders to get down to the workface and as mines went deeper they could spend some two hours climbing up or down ladders to work.

Underground it was hard work however the use of blasting powder (gun powder that they used to blast

the rock) made things easier after it was introduced in 1630. It was dangerous business and there were many accidents. The use of explosives also meant that more timber was needed to shore up the mine. Boring the hole was invariably carried out by two men, one would turn the borer whilst the other miner hit it with his heavy hammer.

Many of the silver ore veins were just several metres wide running almost vertically. Much of it was found in greywacke, a grey type of sandstone known for its hardness.

In 1866 the operations of the mines in the Upper Harz was taken over by the Royal Prussian Mining Inspectorate after the annexation of the Kingdom of Hanover by the Prussians.

Initially the silver ore was brought to the surface in woven wicker baskets. As shafts deepened hand winches were introduced to raise the containers of ore. Then wooden buckets were initiated and much later horsepower and a horse whim – a type of winch that was driven by several horses walking in a circle all day. Later larger iron barrels were used, some having wheels to put onto tracks on the surface.

The Knights of the Teutonic Order produced very large and detailed coins such as the 1603 silver one thaler (above). It features Archduke Maximilian III as Grand Master of the Teutonic Order. The coin has a 42 mm diameter and weighs 29.43 grams. These massive thalers quickly penetrated into neighbouring countries, gaining a leading place in circulation. Small hordes of these pieces are occasionally dug up having been hidden in times of desperation.

Struck at the Tyrol Mint this thaler has a milled edge. The Archduke is standing between the Austrian shield and helmet. The reverse of this coin features an armoured Knight in circle of 14 shields plus a large shield of the Order, domiciled at Mergentheim, Württemberg.

The town of Tyrol where the coin was minted is historically known for the production of salt at Halltal, it trading on the Inn River. The town was surrounded by a town-wall.

The first mint was in Meran but in 1477 Archduke Sigmund of Tyrol had it transported to Hall and re-established it in the Sparberegg building to ensure its protection. It was also nearer the local silver mines at Schwaz. In 1486 they minted their first silver thaler establishing this mint's fine reputation.

Here the mint operated until 1566 before it was decided to transfer it to a wing of Castle Hasegg which used rolling-mills on hand operated machines.

Later impressive silver coins were those for the Prussian Coronation issues, this thaler struck in 1861 for the Coronation of Wilhelm & Augusta (Obverse above). Below is the reverse showing the German eagle featured in the centre. All these coins show the superior quality of their mints and their engraver's abilities.

TRADITIONAL LIMESTONE YAP MONEY CALLED 'RAI'

Most people will have never heard of 'stone' money, especially when they can be pieces over 6 to 12 feet across and some over 18 inches thick. Known locally as Rai stones they are hefty, spherical stone disks with a hole centrally placed, that the natives on a number of the islands of Micronesia, and particularly on the island of Palau, as currency. Some weighed several tons, some as much as a car.

Distance appears not to be a great problem as the natives would move these donut shaped limestone pieces by canoe to the Island of Yap to use as currency. Even so it was a hazardous process.

The Yap islanders really used the large stones as tokens as most were of an impractical size to even move thus owners would verbally trade the stones. There are smaller examples which are around 4 inches in diameter and some are about discus size. The hole in the centre of the Yap money would have assisted the native workmen to carry and transport the limestone.

They appear to have maintained their value as the Yapese due to their scarcity. The islander had to make a great effort to get pieces to the expected shape then the danger they went through to sail them to their home island on rafts which were towed behind large outrigger canoes which had sails on them. Once home they would be placed in front of the owner's house, the local meetinghouse, ceremonial grounds or placed prominently along local paths.

The quarried limestone didn't come free they were required to bring trade items to exchange to the stone. The Yapese paid in woven seashell belts, turmeric and other trade beads and coconuts.

This unusual form of money has been used since 500 AD and are still used today but primarily for social ceremonies such as a marriage, a sign of allegiance, to purchase land or to make restitution for killing a warrior in battle.

Yapese quarried the limestone rocks from the islands of Palau some 250 miles away in an easterly direction as there was no deposits of limestone on their own island of Yap. As renowned navigators the Yapese could easily traverse the oceans. Despite this the work and voyage took a toll and lives were lost during these expeditions.

The Rai stones were carved out of limestone which is a sedimentary rock comprising primarily of calcite and aragonite minerals. These are different crystal forms of calcium carbonate. Various translucent white, orangeish or brownish varieties of limestone with its vitreous to dull lustre were worked by the natives.

Limestone which has a hardness of 3.5 to 4 was mined from several quarries where this natural stone was usually carved from vertical cliff faces. The workmen used pumice stone to smooth and polish the giant stone discs.

The Portuguese were aware of the Yap islands as explorer Diego da Rocha dropped anchor there in 1525. Archaeologists have evidence that the islanders worked limestone quarries on Palau for over 1500 years. They used their own shell and stone tools to work the limestone and shape it until they were introduced to European iron tools by an Irish-American man who was shipwrecked near Yap.

The wreck took place during a typhoon in December 1871 and the survivor named David O'Keefe was cared for by the Yapese. Captain O'Keefe decided to trade metal tools in exchange for trepan and copra which he sold to the Middle East and Europe. Ironically the Yapese valued these metal tool made stones at a lower value than traditionally shaped stones.

O'Keefe acquired a Chinese junk he named "Katherine" and helped the islanders quarry and transport the immense stones back to the islands. He also used it to ship products from the island to trade elsewhere, a practice he did for some 30 years until he and his junk vanished in a storm.

The islanders were advised in the late 1870s to determine a value to these easier acquired stone money so it related to the size of the stone. One three hand spans wide was worth 5 bags of trepan and 25 bags of copra whilst a stone 18 hand spans was worth 650 bags of copra.

The Yap islanders were forced to stop quarrying the limestone in the early 1900 after the Spaniards and the Germans disagreed with local trading circumstances the Spanish sold the islands to the Germans in 1899. The German colonial administration then forced islanders to change over to modern metallic currency and forgo many traditional practices.

Whilst the very existence of examples of this traditional form of money was threatened during World War II when the Imperial Japanese Army took over Yap not all were destroyed. The Japanese used the large stones for anchors and to construct defences.

From over 13,000 pieces known to exist in 1929 less than 500 exist today after WWII. Islanders however, still know who owns which piece even today.

The Japanese captors made German coinage illegal and imposed Japanese yen. With US forces capturing the island the United States dollar is now the official currency.

Today Yap is part of the Federated States of Micronesia and this form of Yapese money has become a national symbol. Let's hope these island people never forego their customs and traditions such as Yap money.

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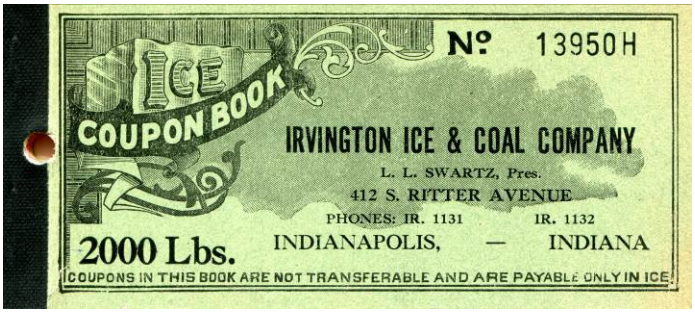
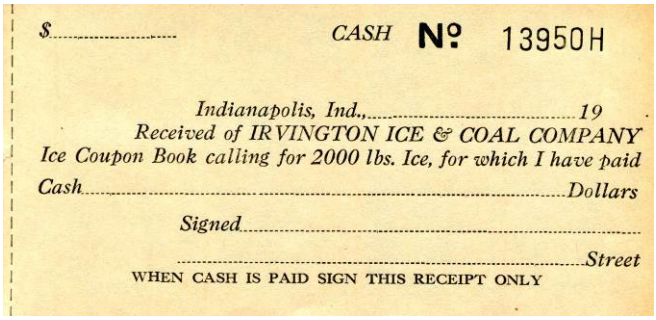
IRVINGTON ICE & COAL MINING COMPANY ICE COUPONS

One would not generally associate ice and coal together in the one business however the Irvington Ice & Coal Company was not the only business to do so. So why would they be associated?



The Irvington Ice & Coal Company was a delivery company rather than a mining company. The business delivered door to door just as the baker, milkman, iceman, as well as the butcher and even the green grocer used to do in Australia, especially in the bigger cities and towns. Thus it meant they had a business all year – ice in the hot months and coal in the cold months, hence the association.



Ironically our nation was amid the forerunners of refrigeration in the 1850s, however the old-fashioned ice chest stayed on well into the 1940s and early 1950s, even later in the bush. My Aunts who lived in the bush some distance from Uralla didn't get electricity until the late 1960s, hence no electric fridge till them.

Many a family had an ice chest or ice box in their home prior to getting firstly the kerosene fridge and then the electric refrigerator. Some of my Canadian relations called their ice chests a 'cold closet'. Some of the ice chests were quite fancy. They were an insulated box lined with galvanised iron that was soldered usually so that water did not leak out. This is where the ice went with the foods to be cooled around it. Some of the fancier units had a piece of rubber hose that drained any melted water into a tray underneath. The only problem was that the tray had to be emptied out at least once a day, especially in summer.

Others had a compartment near the top of the unit which held the large block of ice. Again they were lined with tin or zinc, with the area between the outside timber and the lining filled with some type of insulation material. Typically straw, wood sawdust, compacted timber shavings, cork, sheets of rubber and even seaweed. The lowest compartment or compartments would have a sealed door and a good closing lock to keep the door properly shut. The idea was that cool air sinks so the 'cold air' would circulate downwards and around storage compartment. Some more expensive units had a corrugated iron holding tank either under the unit or under the floor.

Commonly iceboxes were made of timber, most probably for ease of construction, insulation and aesthetics, many were handsome pieces of furniture.

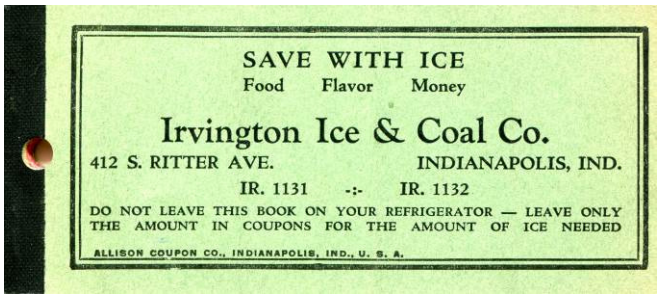
The only down side was that the home-owner or consumer had to replenish the melted ice and pay for it, like electricity. The ice would be delivered by the 'iceman' initially from his horse-drawn ice wagon and later mechanised ice trucks, especially after the Second World War.

To ensure that their delivery men didn't misappropriate any of the money The Irvington Ice & Coal Company had booklets of coupons printed. The consumer would call at their office and pay for a book with coupons allowing a total of 2,000 pounds of ice to be purchased. Two types of vouchers were included – some for 50 pounds of ice and another lot for 25 pounds of ice at a time (below). There were also coupons for 75 pounds and 100 pounds of ice.

The Irvington Ice & Coal Company was managed by Mr. L.L. Swartz, who was the President of the company. They were situated at 412, South, Ritter Avenue, Phone I.R 1131 or I.R 1132, and later I.R. 1133, in Indianapolis, the capital of the State of Indiana in America. The business commenced in 1916, their operations growing as the population increased. Both the Swartz and Thompson families managed the delivery business.

Once the money was paid and the book authorised, the customers booklets unique number was recorded against the customer's name. This book has the No 13950H. Booklets were printed locally by the Allison Coupon Company. Customers could commence using them though they were warned not to leave the book on their ice chest. They were also advised to leave only the amount in coupons for the amount of ice needed.

Basically the instructions were that when the driver delivers the amount of ice required pay him in coupons. The name and address of the purchaser, and the number of the book were recorded at their office and ice would not be delivered at any other place on their coupons. Also the original purchaser of the book had to agree not to sell or transfer coupons to any other party without the written consent of the company. It was also explained to customers that to make their coupon system work effectively, they found it necessary that their customers give a coupon at the time of each delivery. They had issued orders to their drivers to leave "NO ICE" unless they receive coupons at the time the ice was delivered.


SAVE WITH ICE
Food Flavor Money

Irvington Ice & Coal Co.

412 S. RITTER AVE. INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

IR. 1131 -:- IR. 1132

DO NOT LEAVE THIS BOOK ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR — LEAVE ONLY THE AMOUNT IN COUPONS FOR THE AMOUNT OF ICE NEEDED

ALLISON COUPON CO., INDIANAPOLIS, IND., U. S. A.

In case the customer was to be absent when the delivery was made the company suggested that just the necessary coupons be left out on top of the ice chest for the amount of ice needed. Customers were also given cards with their books, in this case separate cards saying '50 Lbs.' and '25 Lbs.', these being put in a front window to match their coupon, so the delivery man knew how much to carry in. Each window card was colour coded, different colours for each amount with the 25 pound card with white numerals on red, the 50 pounds was black numerals on white. (Back cover of the booklet, above.)

Any unused coupons could be redeemed at The Irvington Ice & Coal Company office at any time. Ice could be had directly from their manufacturing ice factory, twenty four hours a day. The Irvington Ice & Coal Company operated until the early 1970s when it was bought out only to be closed down.

Coal and coke could be also delivered randomly. Customers left a request for the iceman who would write the price on the paper to have the money ready for the coalman's delivery.

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LITHGOW 'CODLIN MOTH REMEDY'

In November 1913 Mr. J. W. Berghofer of 'Rosentha' at Little Hartley, notified the readers of The Lithgow Mercury of his very effective remedy for the codlin moth pest.

He prepared a solution consisting of about four spoonfuls of treacle, a similar quantity of vinegar and a gallon of water. This was well mixed up and put into small tins, which were hung on the branches of various fruit trees. The effectiveness of the remedy was evidenced by the fact that in one tin alone 13 moths were found.

Mr. Berghofer stated that the remedy must be used directly the trees began to blossom, when the moths were flying about the flowers and were attracted into the tins. He had given the recipe to various people, who have tried it with equal success. The trouble, however, had been that when one pest was disposed of another and more destructive one came along in the form of thrip, which completely destroyed any prospects of a successful season.

DID YOU KNOW!

That in June 1915 residents learnt that Lithgow was to get a new motor bus service. Messrs. Wright and Frazer, two young local men, are starting almost immediately to run in opposition (by motor) to the present horse busses. This will, no doubt create consternation among the local populace. They had purchased one of the latest Cadillac cars. Their address is New Road, Lithgow.

Turquoise is found in early jewellery with its pale greenish blue colour largely due to copper and traces of iron. The more iron that is present the greener it is which makes it less valuable. The early Persians used turquoise to add colour to their jewellery, ornaments and to decorate some of their household items. The Aztecs used beautiful turquoise to carve ornaments as well as to decorate the many items they made, even sacrificial knives. Montezuma presented turquoise to Cortez when he arrived in the early 16th century.

Blue-green chrysoprase has been a favourite decorative stone since pre-Roman times. It was the Romans who used it a good deal to make rings, cameos and pendants which were worked by artisans and sold especially to the richer people in Roman society.

That clay is used to coat newspaper and magazine pages, brochures, boxes etc. to ensure the ink used in printing on them is bright and won't run. It is also used in toothpaste and medicines.

That by 1860 less than a decade after the discovery of payable gold near Bathurst some 2,000 Chinese diggers had walked to the Abercrombie River near Abercrombie Caves. They began work on the river at the junction of the Abercrombie River and Rocky River Creek. It was reported that five or six stores were soon constructed and another was under construction by Mr. McGuinness.

The discovery of diamonds in the early days often made the local newspapers in Bathurst. When some were discovered nearby at Caloola they were reported as being "about the size of a grain of wheat and of very good quality". One early report of the first diamonds found was in 1873 after they came into the possession of Samuel Evenis, storekeeper of Black Horse Square (near Georges Plains). Evenis took them into the Bathurst jewellery shop of Mr. Edward Curtis to have them identified. From about this time there were continuing reports of quite large diamonds being found at Oberon by prospectors still scouring the district for gold.

Gold Escort Returns recorded by the N.S.W. Government for the Hill End - Tambaroora area show for - 1870 - 18,698 ozs; 1871 - 42,078 ozs; 1872 - 80,592 ozs; 1873 - 62,834 ozs; 1874 - 25,266 ozs; 1875 – 34,306 ozs; 1876 – 17,468 ozs; 1877 – 18,310 ozs; 1878 – 11,583 ozs and finally by 1879 which was only 9,230 oz. These figures only include the Gold Escort returns as there were private buyers on the field also as well as bank buyers.

The beautifully blue lapis lazuli has been traded for thousands of years. Mines located in Afghanistan have been worked for well over 6,500 years and later this richly coloured mineral was traded widely, especially to Egypt where it was popular for jewellery, ornaments and amulets. These are often found during archaeological digs. Papis Lazuli was also used in eye makeup for the Egyptian princesses. It was popular also with the Assyrians and Babylonians to carve their cylinder seals with cuneiform writings or scenes.

The Mount Dudley Gold Mine at Trunkey Creek near Bathurst was found by a six year old boy named Dudley McKellar whilst out with his father doing a bit of prospecting. His discovery led to the formation of the Mt. Dudley Gold Mining Company which moved stampers and other equipment to the site.

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