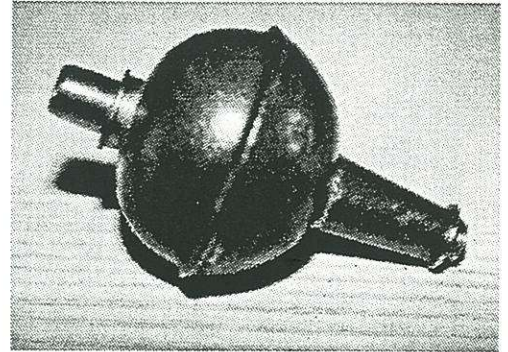


# The “Peg and Ball” Lamps

of  
South Wales

by Manfred Stutzer



Some years ago I found a strange looking oil lamp in an antique shop in Abergavanny, Wales. The antique dealer was not able to explain what kind of lamp it was, though the Colliery “Big Pit” was not far away. After visiting a very good mining museum in Blaenavon, we had lunch in a nearby pub called the “Whistle Inn.”

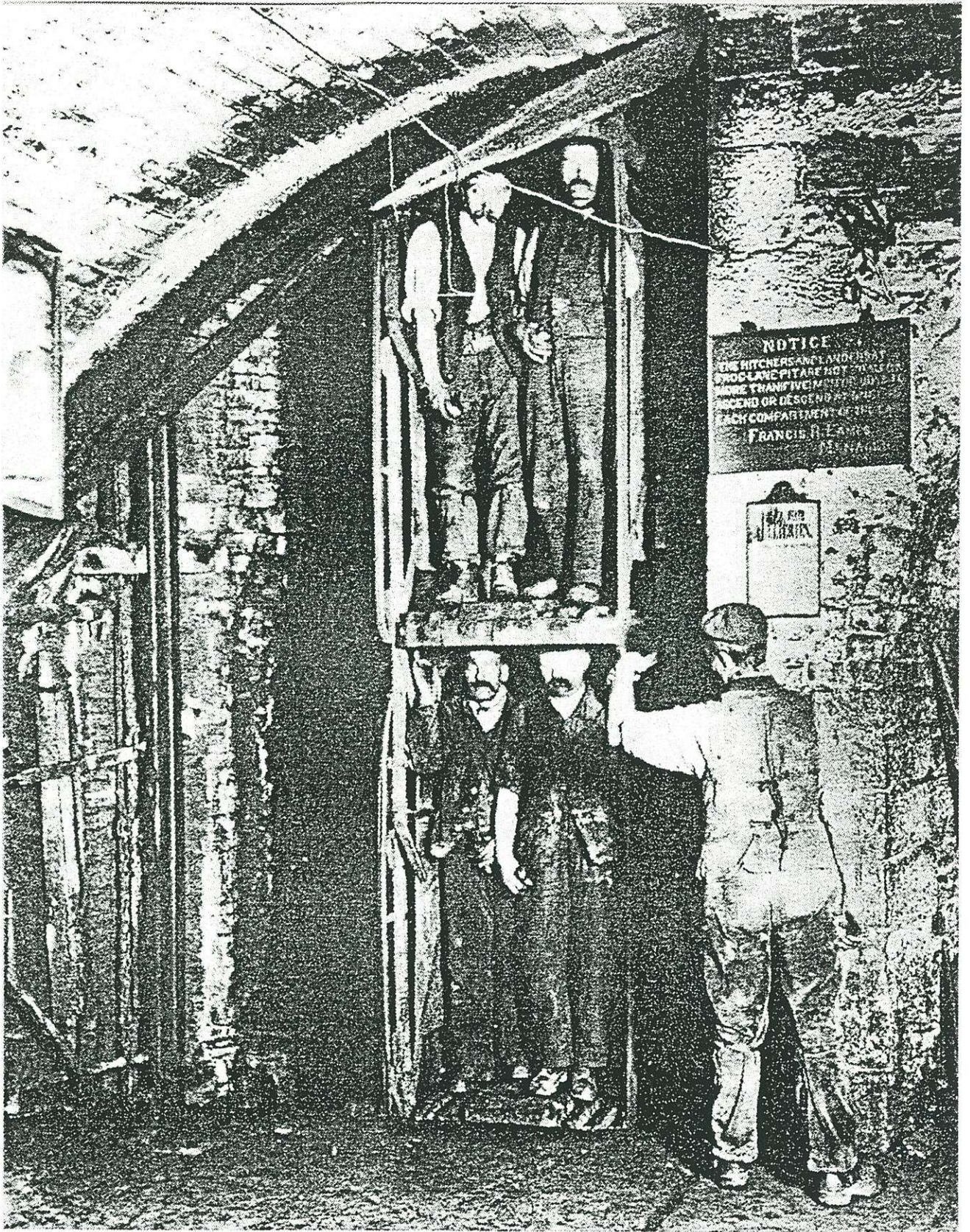
What a surprise to see many miners’ lamps hanging around, including some of the “peg and ball” oil wick cap lamps.

I was told that the “peg and ball” lamps were only used in the coal mines of South Wales, in Collieries without gas. Therefore, “peg and ball” lamps are typical only for South Wales and considered to be very rare.

I went through all of my mining books and discovered several old photographs of Welsh miners carrying “peg and ball” lamps on their caps.

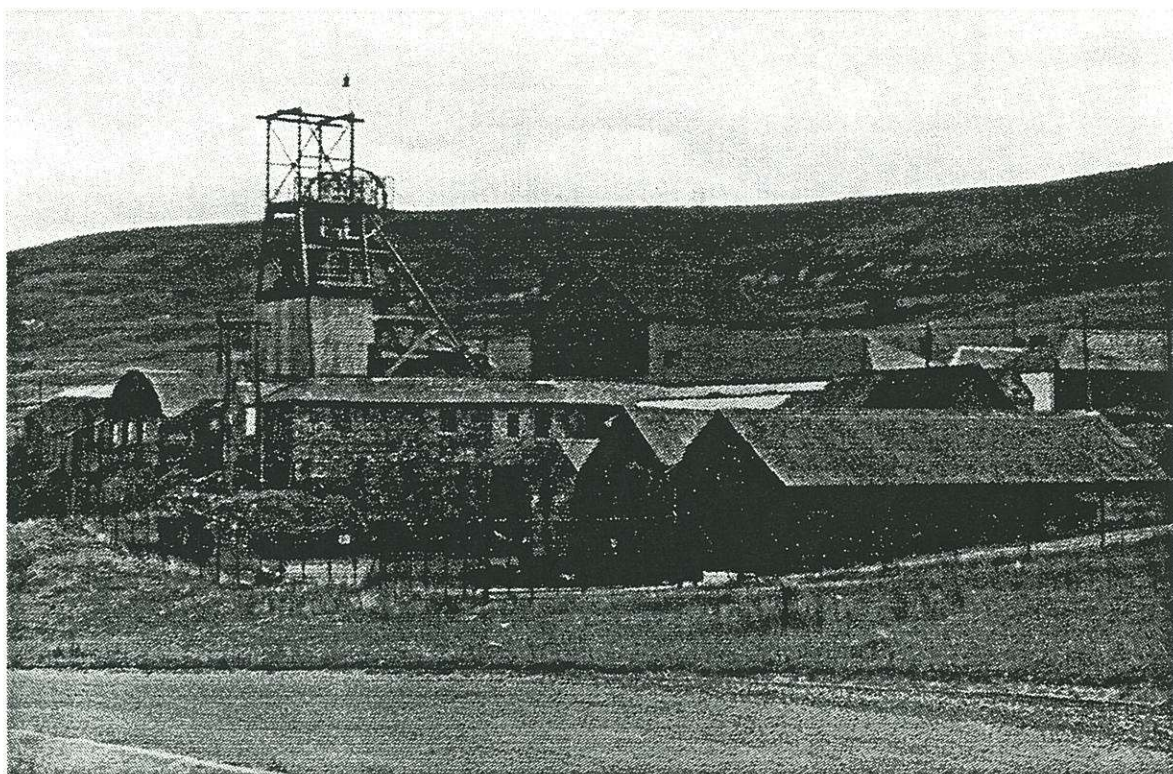


*Old print showing a woman and a young miner near Pontypool, Wales, from the book “Le Tour du Monde” by M.L Simonin, 1862.*

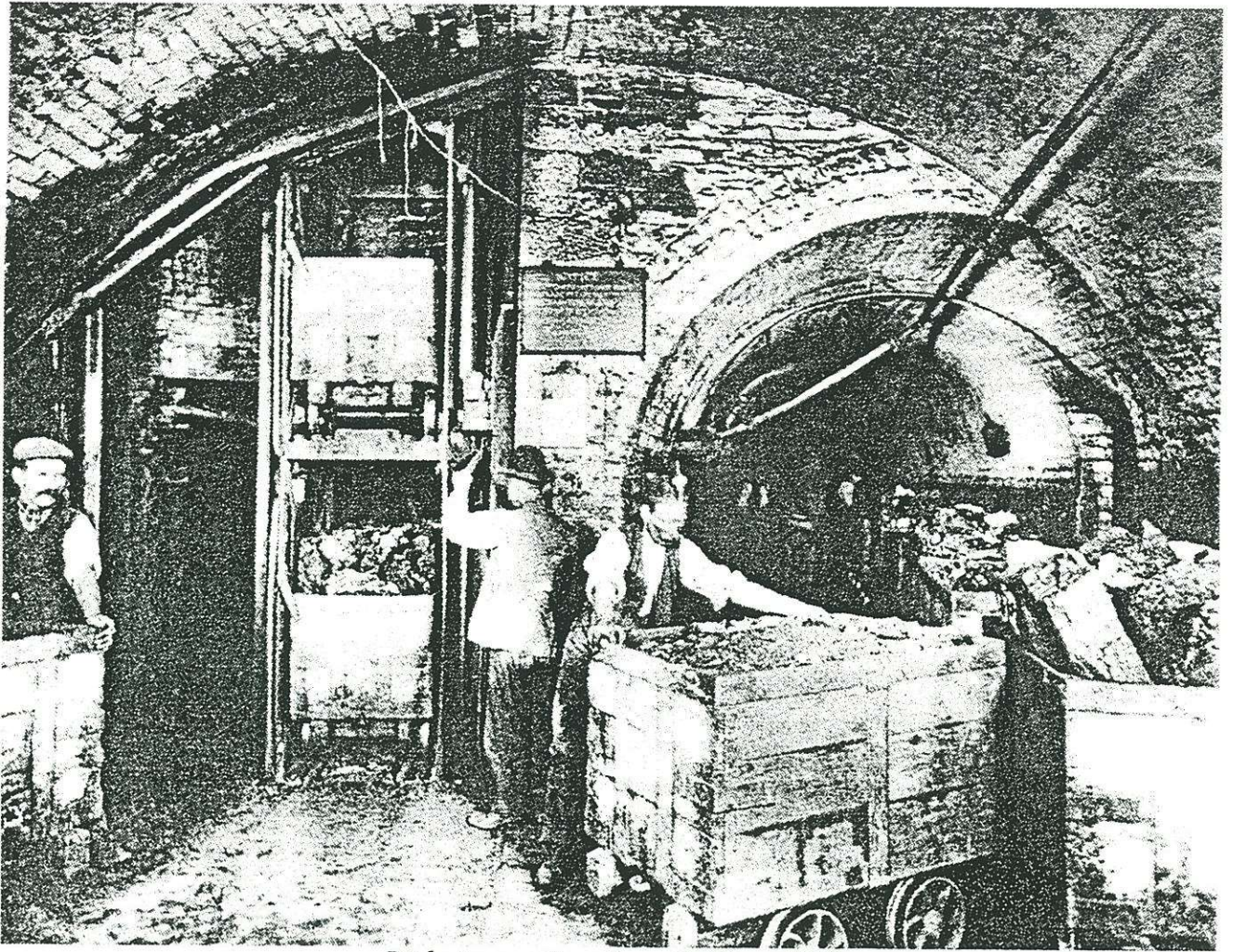


*Frog Lane Colliery, Wales, around 1905. The men in the cage carry "peg and ball" lamps in their hands.*

*Colliery "Big Pit" where the "peg and ball" lamps were popular. It was near this mine that I found such a lamp in an antique shop.*



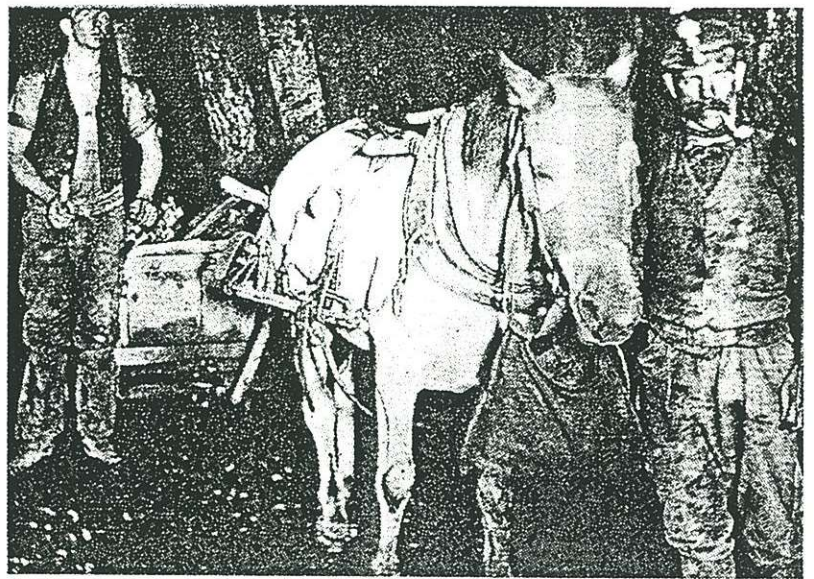
Group of Welsh miners from Gorseinon, near Swansea, 1895. One of them has a "peg and ball" lamp on the shoulder.



*Pit bottom at Frog Lane Colliery, 1905.*



*Two young Welsh miners carrying "peg and ball" lamps, 1903.*



*Photograph taken 1906 in a Welsh coal mine. One miner has a "peg and ball" lamp on his cap.*



*Group of Welsh miners having a lunch break, 1905, Frog Lane Colliery.*



*Group of Welsh miners from Darren Colliery, 1908 fitted with "peg and ball" lamps.*