

Miners Lives



Nettleton Top Mine first cut.

The First Nettleton Miners

Mining was very primitive in the early twentieth century – just a pick and shovel

Extracting the ironstone

Mining was a tradition in some local families, with three generations of men working in the Top or the Bottom mine.

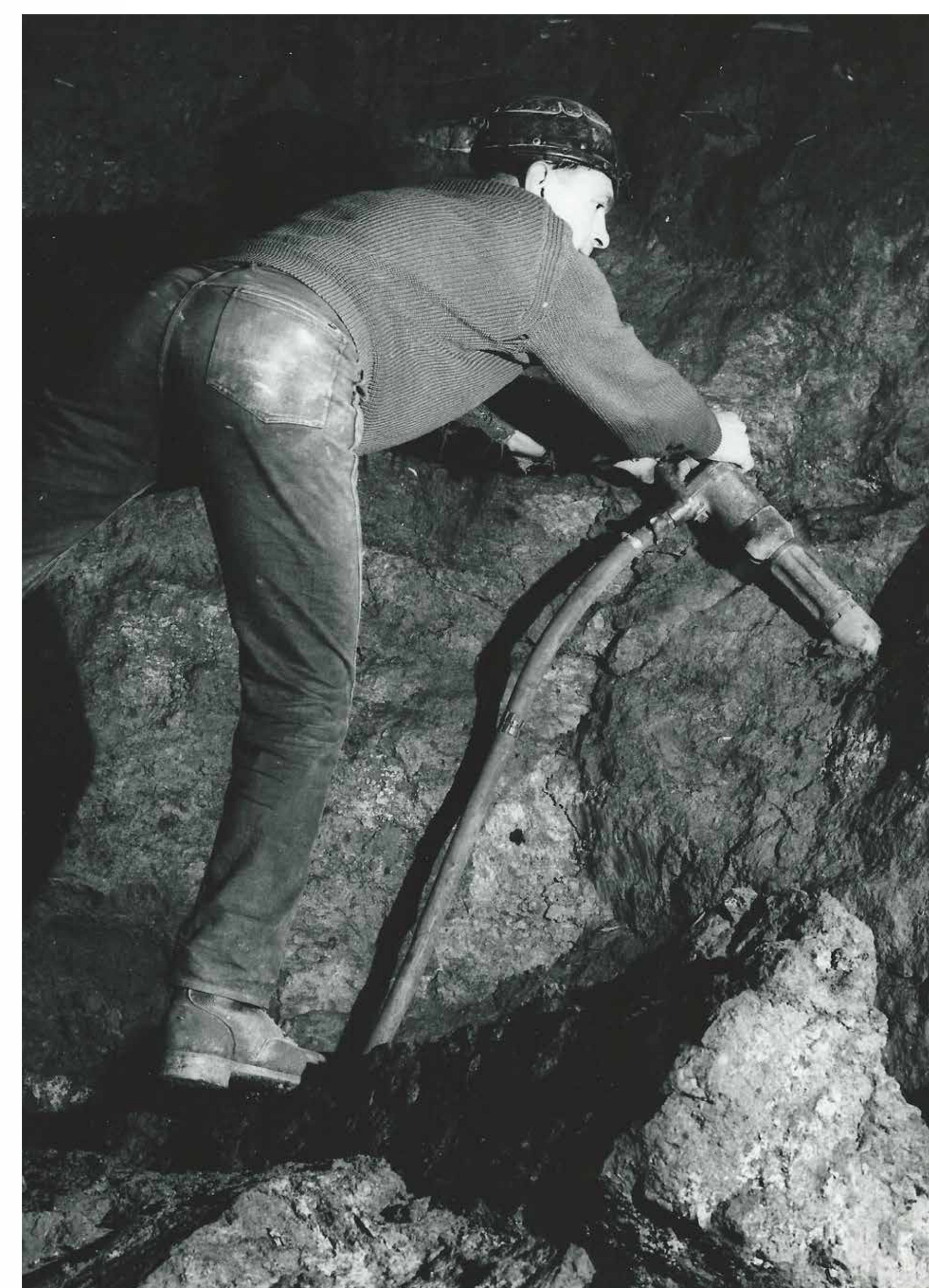
It was hard work at Nettleton Top – just a pneumatic pick and a shovel.

“You always had blisters and cracked hands. You used the pick to loosen the rock, then when it dropped you shovelled it into a one-ton truck. The trammer with a pony would collect the full trucks, take them to a siding and the diesel engine pulled them out.

At Nettleton Bottom we had bigger 4 ton trucks, which were pulled out by locos.”

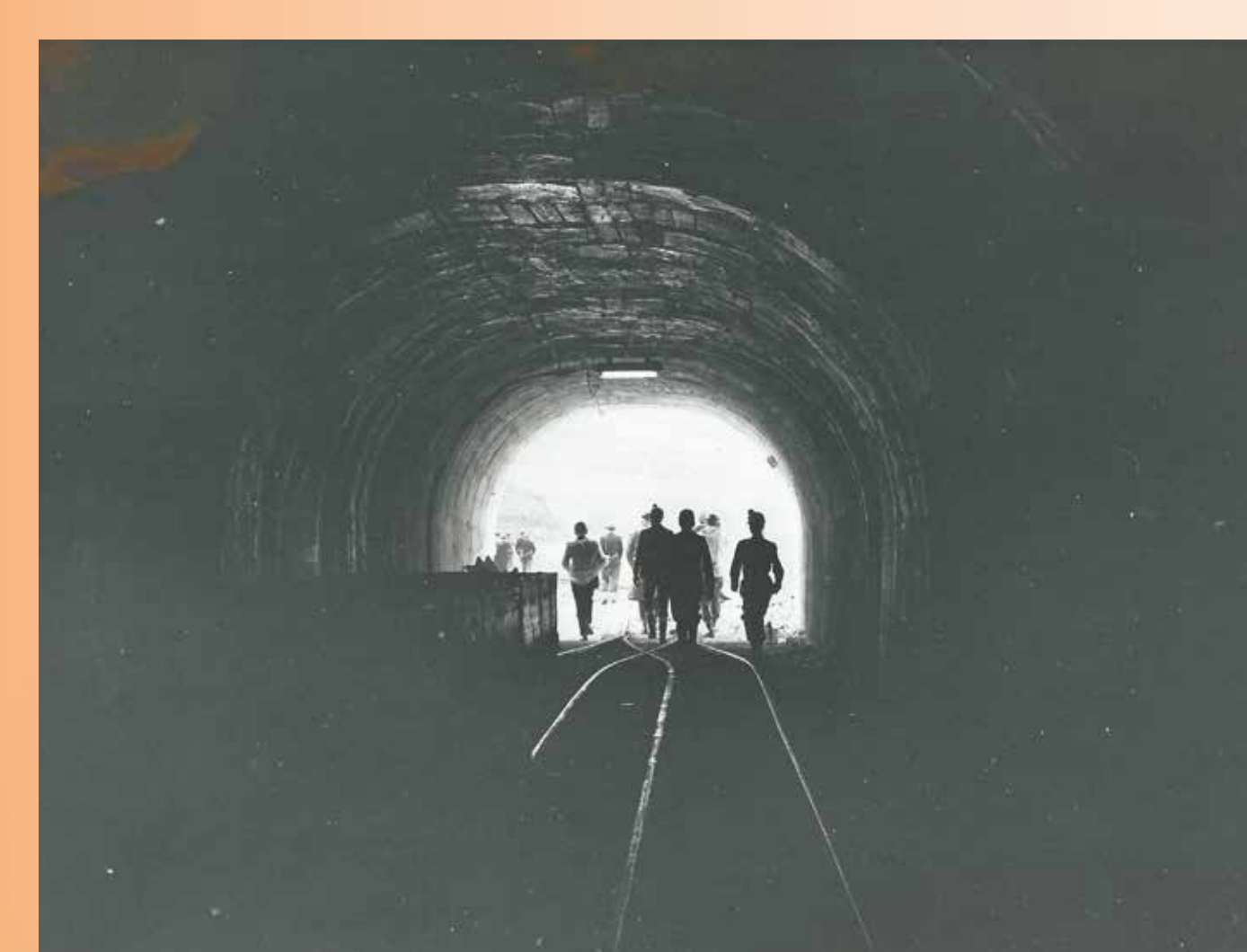


Albert Jacklin & his striker 1940



Miner using a pneumatic pick in Nettleton Bottom Mine

Horse haulage inside Nettleton Top Mine



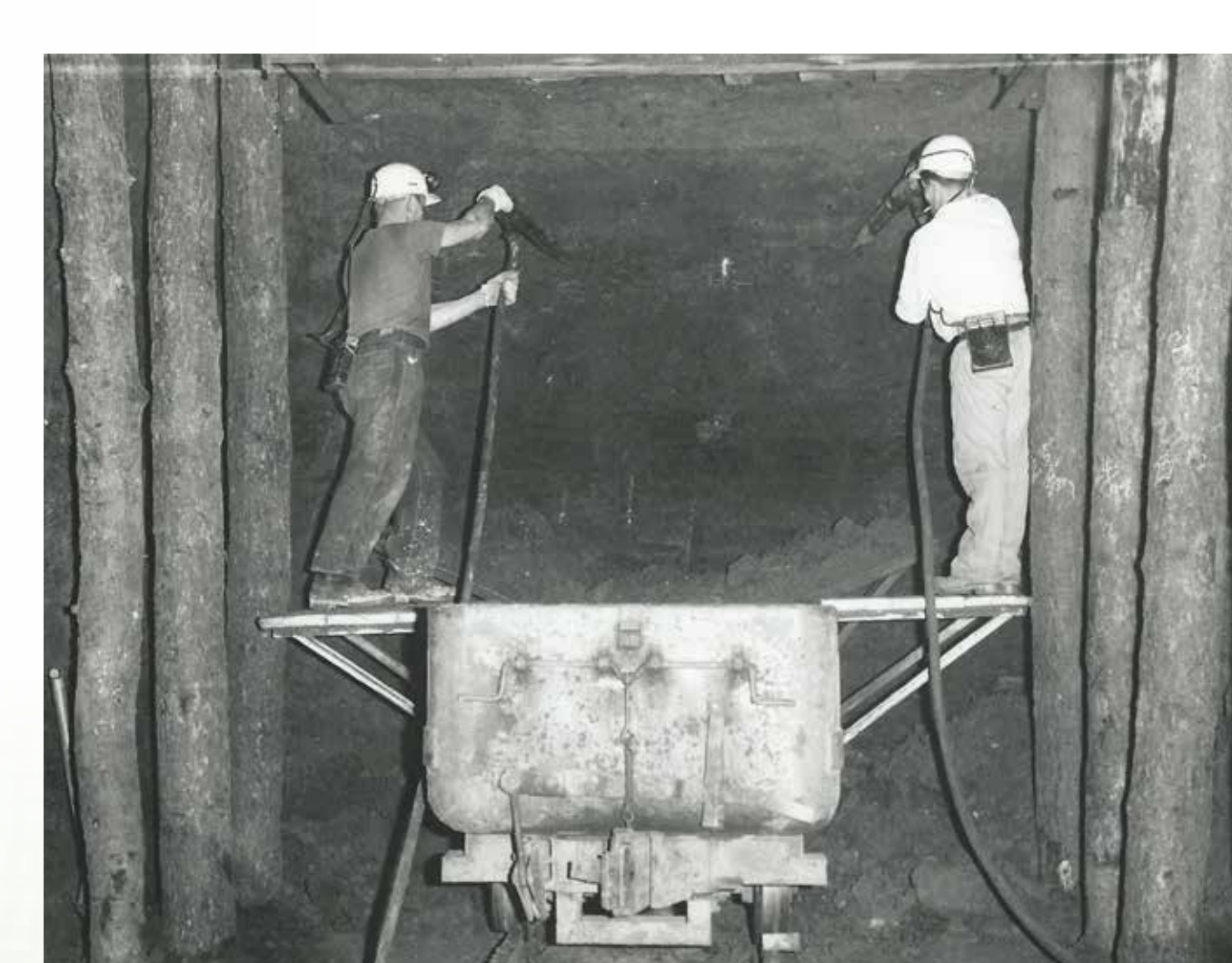
Bottom mine exit before line doubled



Carbide lamp



A train of ironstone coming out of the mine



Two miners digging stone to fill the truck they are standing on

Nettleton Bottom miners on a break, circa 1968



Working underground

“By the time Nettleton Bottom was opened in 1959, there was electricity underground but at Nettleton Top we just had a safety helmet and a carbide lamp.

One of the first things we learned was how to get out in pitch darkness if the lamp went out. We did this by grabbing hold of the horse’s tail and telling it to go. The other way of getting out was to go down on hands and knees and follow the rail tracks. If we reached the rock face we knew we had to turn round and go the other way, to get out of the tunnel.”

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