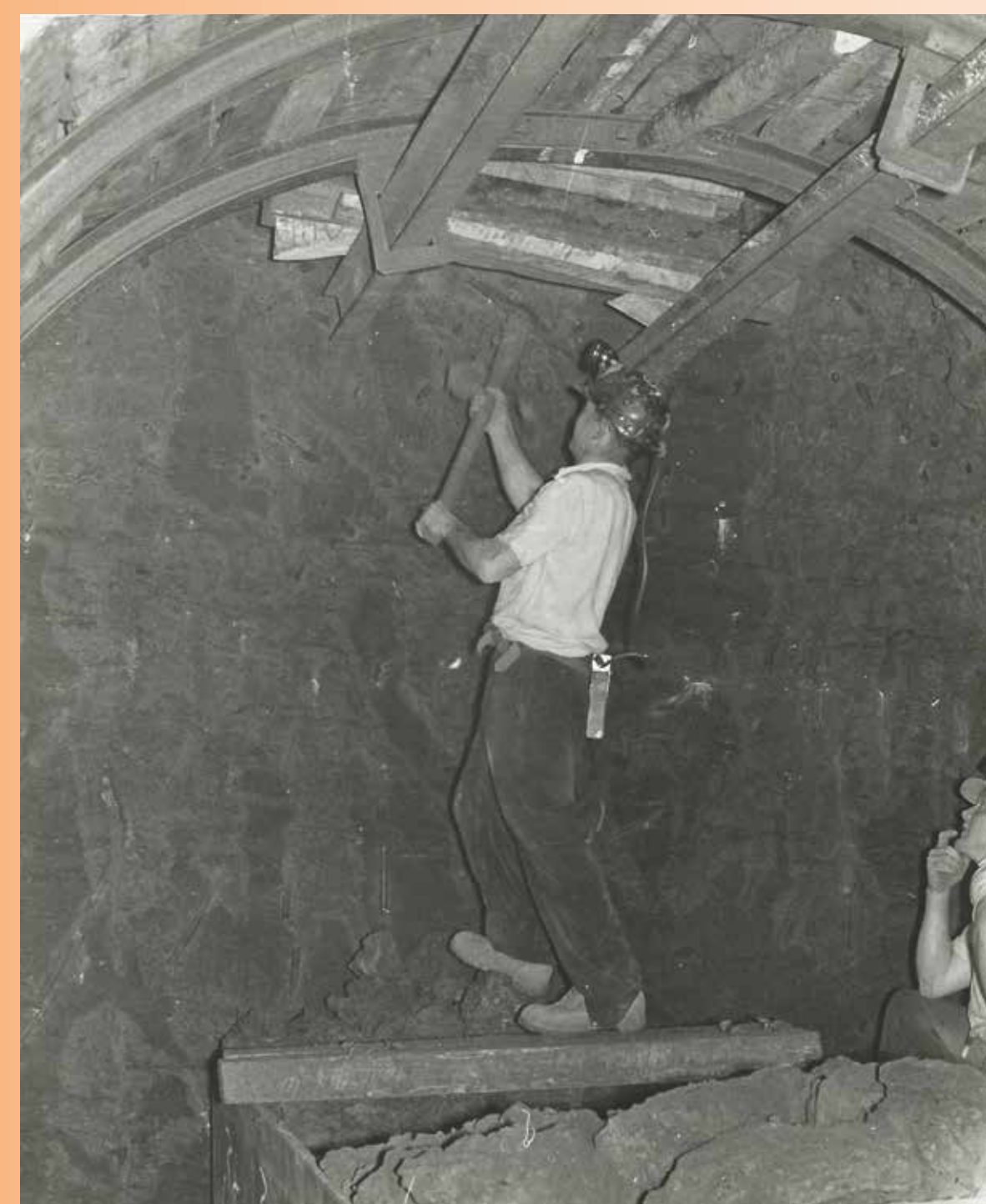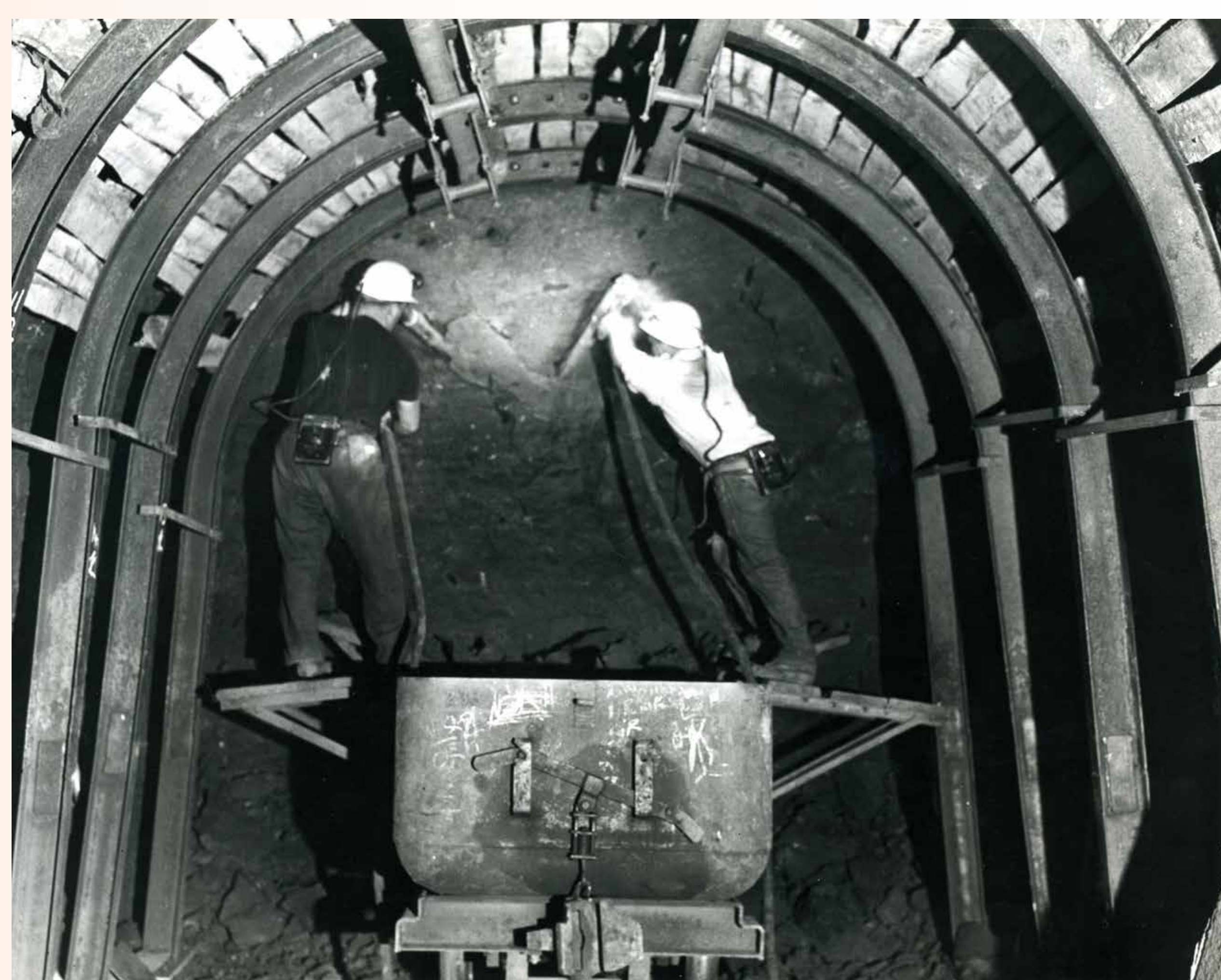# Miners Lives

Face working

Bottom, miner at work fitting roof supports

A landslip on the unstable hillside created problems in the mid 1950s

Safety and Accidents

''It was a dangerous job. We tested for safety with a pick handle – we tapped the roof and if it was solid it was OK. If not, a deputy would come and inspect it. They inspected first thing in the morning then twice during the shift. Usually there were no mishaps though often it was a near thing; sometimes you'd turn away and a heavy piece of rock would drop next to you.

But there were accidents. Just before Christmas I was working a face with my mate and I began to feel that something wasn't right, but we decided to fill one more truck before finishing for the day, to make up a good pay packet for Christmas. Suddenly there was a roof fall. I was completely buried and when I was dug out I was alright but my mate had multiple fractures. After we got out of hospital we went back to the mine but, since that day I've never been able to go underground again.''

Fred Wright with surface machine

The Social Club

The Lysaghts Social Club, near the sidings at Holton le Moor, was popular. As well as the events in the Social Club there was an Annual Gala and Sports Day.

Horseshoes from the last pit ponies were used to make the annual Bowls Trophy.

Social club drinkers

Annual Bowls Trophy

Mine Houses

Houses were built for miners in Cooks Lane, Nettleton. The first and largest house was for the Mine Manager and his Under-Manager lived next door. Housing attracted workers to come from other areas to work in the Nettleton Mines. The name Orb Cottages was a link to the Orb Works in Newport, Lysaghts Head Office in South Wales

The mine manager's house in Cook's Lane

Sports Day Reg Stephenson