

Interview with Mr Robert Sneddon, Blacksmith, Summerlee 1935-1960 12.06.89.

Mr Sneddon served his time at Lochrin prior to nationalisation. Furnace taken down in 1938.

Connell - scrap dealer got grant (National Govt) of £80,000 to take down the furnaces and to create employment. Mr Sneddon believes, Connell would have made this amount alone off the existing scrap before beginning to demolish the furnaces. The whole project is according to Mr Sneddon, thought 'to have made Connell a millionaire'.

Iron Production ceased at Summerlee - 1928.

McGlone - miner, used dynamite to demolish Summerlee Furnaces. Each time a furnace was demolished, shop windows on the canal side of Sunnyside Road were broken by the effects of the blast.

Existing Buildings on site immediately prior to demolition :

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Furnaces      | 3. Cast foundry  |
| 2. Ammonia Plant | 4. Brass foundry |

NB Nationalisation brought about the demise of the Brass Foundry.

NB Prior to Nationalisation, 19 coal pits were owned by Summerlee.

Steam Engines : were made at Summerlee. The engine of the first steam boat on the canal was made here. Mr Mowat, General Manager at Summerlee, who lived (had his home) at Gairlockhead, had a yacht built, the keel of which was cast in the Cast Foundry at Summerlee.

Employees Convalescence - Injured men were sent to Gairlockhead, to the General Manager's Home.

Subs System - a system of providing an advance in wages for up to 3 weeks, was operated. The subs would have been spent in the co-op run by the Company.

Traffic Bridge - existed near the Summerlee Estate Cottages so that lorries could avoid the Fountain Bridges.

Evacuees from Clydebank - During WWII evacuees from Clydebank occupied the offices at Summerlee.

No 1 Pit - ran under railway LMS line = 6' seam of coal beneath it? Cottages at end of site - suffered subsidence as a result?

Sangh Wood - (used for winding engine breaks - since it does not burn) grown on the Summerlee Estate.



Timekeeper at Summedrlee - did the job of storeman and bookmaker as well. Check numbers only were issued to employees and a mental note only was taken by the timekeeper of who was present at work.

See Book. VIGILANTE BUS which gives a picture of pits in the Monklands. (Airdrie Library)

Summerlee Iron transported to Gartsherrie - via a rail bridge. £2 per tonne for the use of the bridge was paid to the owners of the bridge.

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