

The ore is roughly sorted at the working face. Asbestos rocks into one skip and overburden and rubbish into another.

(Mr. Allan says he has the cheapest road-making material on the coast available for councils. Unfortunately it is too far away for general benefit, although full use is made of the rubbish in roads throughout the mining area. As a top dressing, the mine management uses the pulverised ore after it has been through the factory. It contains a small percentage of asbestos and shows up in a distinctive band of white, a useful guide when driving into the bush after dark).

After primary crushing and drying, the ore is stored in an 80-ton bin which feeds the factory. There, the ore is screened, put through a hammermill where the fibre is broken away, aspirated into a cyclone (by mammoth-size vacuum cleaners), the dust is extracted, the asbestos cleaned and finally bagged for shipment to Brisbane.

SOFT "METAL"

The asbestos looks like kapok, and is just as soft.

The metal residue is taken from the hammermill by conveyor belts and dumped.

The Baryulgil mine and its workers form a self-contained unit, with its own power and water supplies.

Machine shops (operated by aboriginal and Norfolk Island "handymen"), stores and maintenance rooms are a necessary part of a venture which is well away from the main centres.

But it is not so far removed from civilisation as the West Australian blue asbestos mine at Winoona.

Winoona is a multi-million pound enterprise where the asbestos is mined underground. Costs soar as workers go beneath the surface and there is no intention of sinking shafts at Baryulgil. The present field will last for many more years and the company has an even larger area ready for operation about half a mile away from the factory.

Of recent years, other companies, including the massive Rio Tinto concern, have made drill tests around Baryulgil and, while little is known of results, it seems that further extensive surveys will be required to find the eight per cent. ore found at Baryulgil.

NEED MORE

There is certainly plenty of room for expansion of Australia's asbestos industry.

The Baryulgil parent company alone imports 30,000 tons of asbestos a year. Chief suppliers are Canada, where the often-married millionaire Tommy Manville has vast interests, and South Africa.

Mr. Allan said little prospecting had been done on the mineral belt and there were great opportunities for development. The opening of a deep sea port at Iluka would be a tremendous boom to mining with attendant easing of freight problems and costs.

But prospecting is not always easy, or successful.

In a face of the Baryulgil mine is a 10 feet by 10 feet tunnel, driven for 400 feet into the rock by some long-ago mineral seeker.

He never got a trace of asbestos yet, when the open cut developed, rich ore was less than five feet away, on both sides and underneath.

—By courtesy of the *Northern Star*.

MOREE NEWS

BURSARS

Congratulations are due to the following Moree High School Students, Misses Barbara Saunders, Zona Craigie, Vivian Waters, and Vivian Stanley, and William (Bill) Hammond, and Bruce Doolan.

These six fortunate children have been granted a bursary from the Board which is tenable for three years subject to their progress and behaviour.

Bruce Doolan was a "find" at Pilliga, and although circumstances have been largely against him, Bruce has really worked hard. The Board adopted him and the Welfare Officer, Mr. Preston Walker, has procured the co-operation of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Draper of Moree, who have decided to give Bruce a chance. Bruce, with the others abovenamed is in Class 1C which is an Intermediate Certificate class. Bruce came fifth in his class of thirty-eight fellow students.

Percy Suey is also doing well at this High School. We congratulate him on attaining a position in the Moree Junior Football Team. Perce hopes to complete his Intermediate Certificate this year, and then, with the aid of the Board's officers here and in Sydney, desires to be apprenticed to the metal work trade in Sydney.

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It is just wonderful to see how the 54 Aboriginal children from the Aborigines Station and Bingara Road Camp have settled into Central High School life! The school teachers are very pleased at their general conduct and approach to their lessons and the life of the school. Oh boy, did they have a wow of a time at the Teentime Ball in the Memorial Hall recently!! Our people can certainly rise to the occasion, and how!