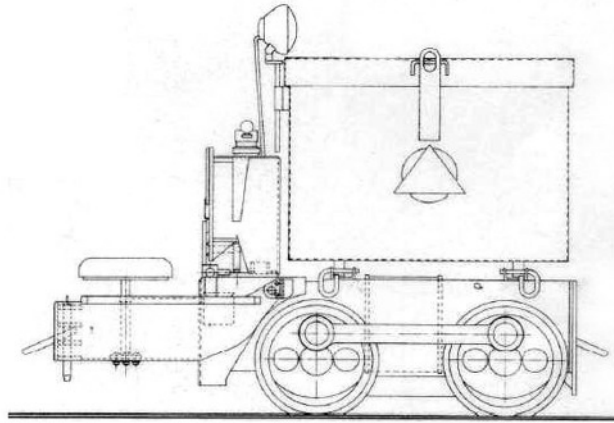


A brief history of W&R L1009

Wingrove & Rogers Ltd. was founded in 1919, as electrical engineers producing control gear for another local firm, British Electric Vehicles Ltd., of Southport, who manufactured electric industrial trucks and mining locomotives. In the early 1920s with the advent of broadcasting, the firm made coils for radio equipment. In 1924 they moved to premises in Old Swan, Liverpool, and made a wide range of electro-mechanical devices. In 1926 British Electric Vehicles Ltd. was acquired, transferred to Liverpool and became known as the BEV division. The firm continued producing fork lift trucks and electric vehicles until the 1980s. Wingrove & Rogers were bought by Pickrose in the early 1990s.



Works number L1009 was built in 1981. It was (is!) an 0-4-0BE of Type WR5, quoted in IRS handbook 'Industrial Railways and Locomotives of South Western England' as of 5hp, but the motor is clearly marked 4hp. Supplied new to Concord Tin Mines Ltd, Wheal Concord, Blackwater, near Truro, Cornwall, where it was given the identity 'No. 3'. Work at the site had commenced in 6/1980 to assess the viability of the project. This phase was completed in 11/1982, and production was then halted. In 6/1983 (after 15/6/1983) it moved to Carnarvon Mining Co. Ltd., Clogau Gold Mine, Bontddu, Gwynedd. In c1986 the mine operator was Clogau St. David's Gold Mines Ltd. (Wm. Roberts etc) to c1987, then from c1987 to 1990 the mine was not commercially worked. From 1/1990 it was worked under license by Mr & Mrs Bob Gunn. Final date of closure not known, and date of movement of loco is also not known. However, it apparently moved to Devon where it was to be used for a planned copper mine near South Molton, but the miner died and the loco was bought from his son and moved to Clearwell. At some point after moving to Clearwell, the battery failed and was scrapped. It then remained out of use for at least 5 years until it moved again under the power of four 12v batteries on 9 March 2014.



W&R loco L1009 stored out of use at Clearwell in November 2012



L1009 running at Clearwell on 9th March 2014 for the first time in at least 5 years.