

Cultural Resources, points out that "thus in a rather primitive way, the managers of the McComb were dealing with two of the problems traditionally facing underground mining operations, that is, hoisting the ore to the surface and removing water from the mine".

## A GREAT BURST OF ACTIVITY

Bissel's innovations in mining and milling of gold had made the mining of lode deposits very profitable 65 and, by the year 1830, the amount of gold being produced in the area was no longer so small that it was unimportant. Even though there was very little population growth, history records a great burst of activity occurring at this time in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Mining "was a stimulus and encouragement to all industrial pursuits. There was an increase in trade and of employment of mechanics, new buildings were erected and all the vacant ones were filled, and as a consequence of the new inhabitants and the temporary speculations, the circulation of money was more general. Value of property increased all over the country, and those who did not wish to sell their lands and buildings could easily rent or lease them on good terms". The newspapers were debating whether or not mining activities would have injurious effects upon agriculture. In 1830 the Miner's and Farmer's Journal began publication in Charlotte superseding the Catawba Journal, 67 and "the local scene was embellished with the sight of crinolined ladies walking beside rough-clad men carrying picks and shovels". 68 That same year, Charlotte purchased its first fire engine; the price was \$100.69