

hoisted bodily over the three feet high northern end and each slid downwards to the southern end of the wagon. Here they remained on their knees, in an attitude of prayer, foregathered together in a loud squealing group, to be joined by the men-folk, who also arrived on their knees and added to the boxed-in confusion. Then followed a twisting of the two bare signal wires and away went the assemblage to the civilised regions far above. At the brow of the incline the wagon was stopped and the hoisting of squealing females repeated. It was quite an experience for the party and the management of the colliery looked pleasantly on the episode and also perceived that the untoward journey had financial possibilities. Henceforth movable seats were provided and fixed securely to the sloping floor of the coal wagon and thereafter sight-seers or tired bush-walkers were charged six-pence per trip, either up or down, in the afternoons, whilst the morning journeys, minus the seats, were devoted to the requirements of the coal trade.

Then came the dread "Depression" years and coal sales dwindled and ceased when the Katoomba Electric Power-house was closed. About 1933 the coal company concentrated its efforts on catering for the tourist traffic and provided a fully seated low-sided vehicle appropriately named "MOUNTAIN DEVIL". Bill Kennard has mentioned that on one occasion two elderly ladies approached the vehicle with great caution, examined the haulage rope carefully, and said to the attendant "What would happen if this rope broke?". He replied very courteously "Madam, if that rope broke this car would stop within three seconds". Thus reassured the ladies took their seats, blissfully unaware that the stop would occur rather abruptly at the bottom of the steep grade. The former coal haulage, now known as "THE SCENIC RAILWAY", is still most popular but only those who know its early place in history can appreciate the reasons for its continued existence.



*The horse tramway to the Ruined Castle in the Jamieson Valley.*

*G.H. Eardley colln.*