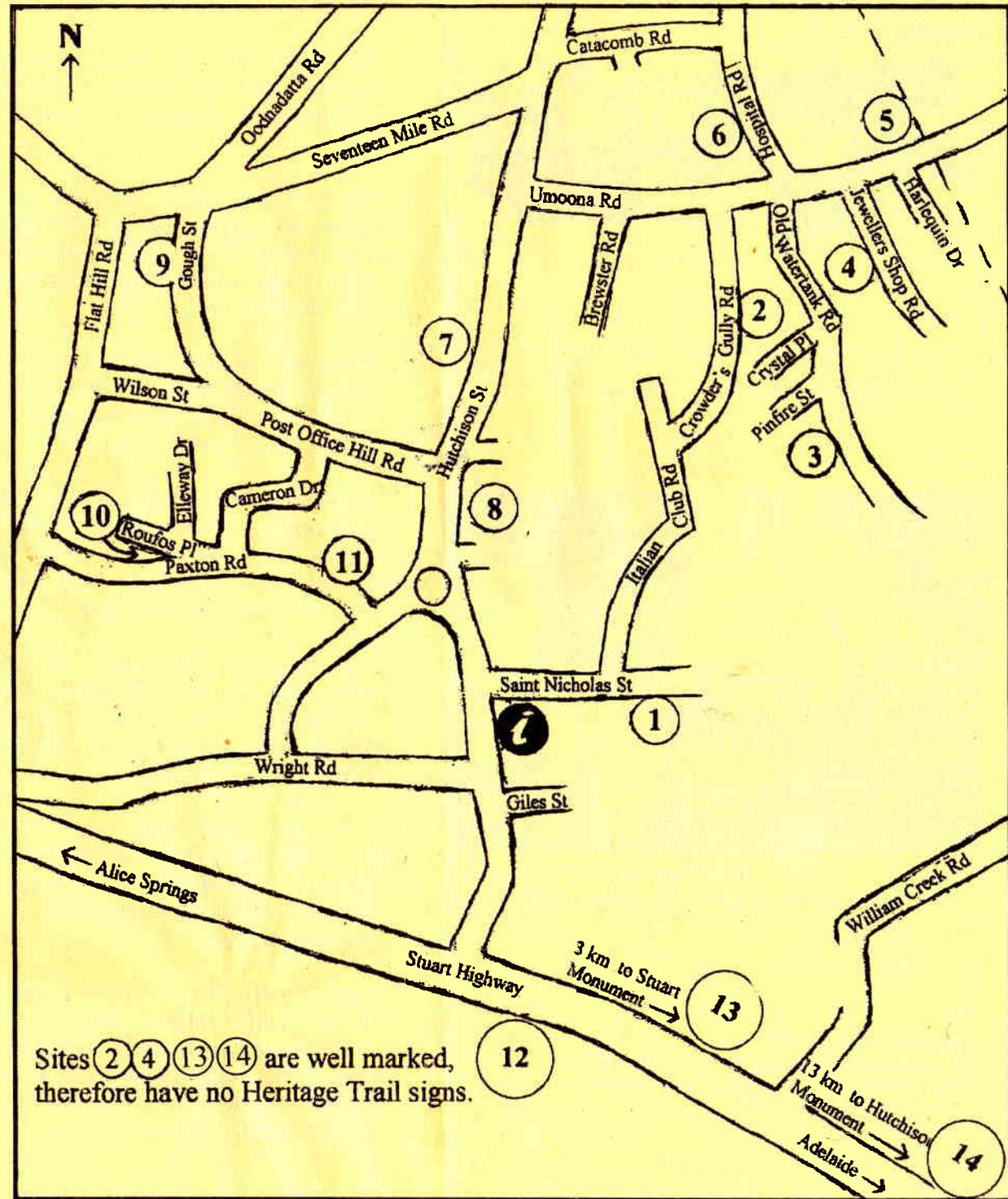


COOPER PEDY HERITAGE TRAIL

- 1 **Old Cemetery**
Visit the graves of pioneers and read the colourful account of the first burial in 1921.
- 2 **Old Timers Mine & Dugout** (*entrance fee payable*)
An original 1916 hand-dug mine, very early dugout, and displays.
- 3 **Old Water Tank & Water Reserve**
The story of the important 1922 underground water tank.
- 4 **Jeweller's Shop Opal Field**
Try your luck fossicking for opal in a field first mined in 1916. There are also interpretive signs and free BBQ facilities.
- 5 **Old Police Lockup, Old Dugout and Umoona Aboriginal Community**
Cooper Pedy's first building, an old miner's dugout and the nearby Umoona Aboriginal Community. (*Visitors must have permission before entering Umoona Community*)
- 6 **Medical Services History**
The medical chest, the Flying Doctor, and the hospital.
- 7 **George Burford's Dugout** (*Private dwelling*)
A State Heritage registered typical early miner's dugout.
- 8 **Cooper Pedy's Churches**
Visit the oldest underground church. Listed on the State Heritage Register.
- 9 **Underground Post Office & Old Dugouts on Post Office Hill**
The first post office and other old dugouts. (*Private dwellings*)
- 10 **The Big Flat Opal Field**
View the first big field, mined from 1915 into the 1980s.
- 11 **Cooper Pedy Area School**
From its 1960 beginnings in a dirt-floored iron shed to the present modern facilities.
- 12 **The Blower**
See how miners developed these useful mining machines
- 13 **John McDouall Stuart Monument**
Stand where our first European explorer struggled through on horseback.
- 14 **Will Hutchison Monument**
Overlook the site where opal was first discovered in 1915.



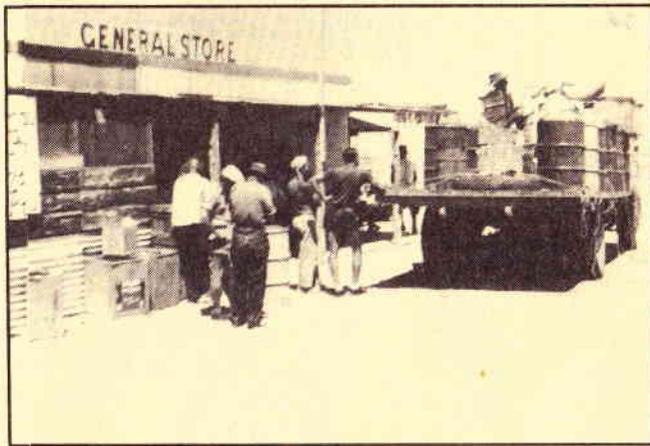


Photo: Ron Gough

Unloading the store truck on a Saturday, 1955

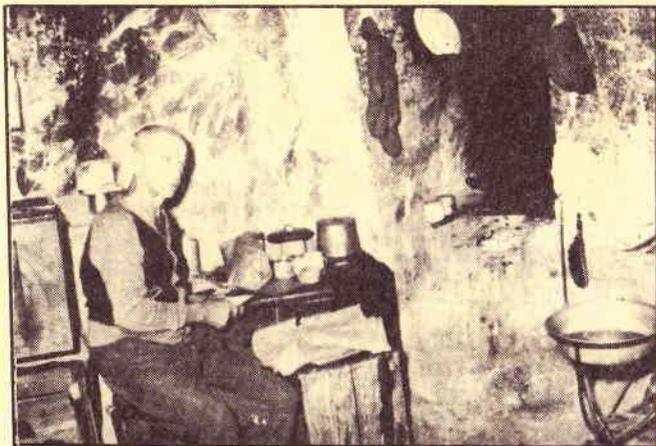


Photo: Primary Industries & Resources S.A.

Bob Koska, an early digger, in his dugout, 1958

A BRIEF HISTORY OF COOBER PEDY

For thousands of years, indigenous people (Anangu) who call themselves Antakarinya, Matu-Yankuntjatjara, Arabana or Kokatha walked this area.

The first opal miners called the place the Stuart Range Opal Fields, but in 1920 they renamed it Coober Pedy. The name is derived from Anangu words "kupa" and "piti", meaning "white man" and "hole in the ground".

Following first European exploration of the area by John McDouall Stuart in 1858, 14-year-old Will Hutchison, with his father's gold prospecting party in 1915, discovered the first opal.

The first six claims were pegged along the Stuart Range from Coober Pedy to 15 kms to the southeast. The pioneering O'Neill brothers made the first major finds on the sixth claim on the Big Flat Field now in the town area.

Early miners dug their shafts by hand with basic tools: pick, shovel, knife, pliers, a hand windlass and bucket. They only had to follow surface vertical traces down into the ground about three metres to mine the opal.

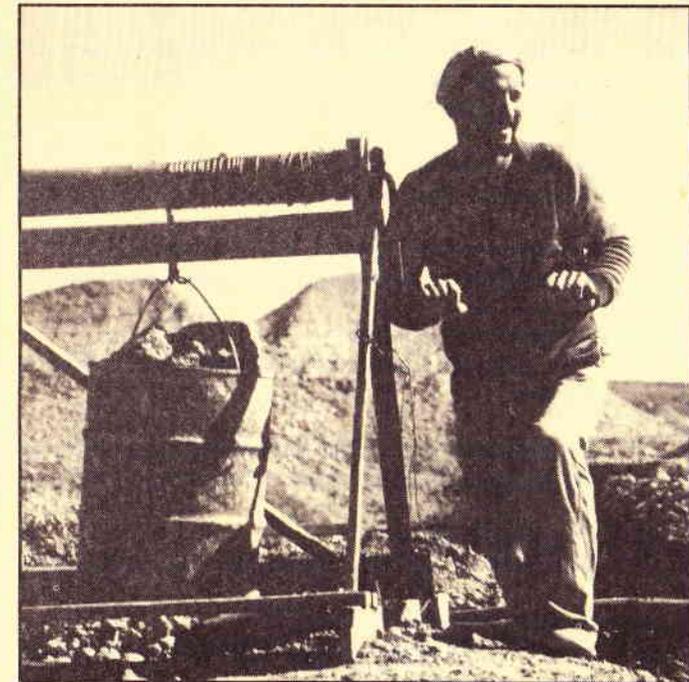
From the early 60s opal mining became mechanised, allowing mining to 20-30 metres deep. Modern machinery now includes blowers, elevators, bulldozers, tunnelling machines and noodling machines.

Today Coober Pedy is known as the "Opal Capital of the World" because more than 75% of the world's commercial opal is mined here.

One of the largest pieces of opal found was the Olympic Australis stone from the Eight Mile Field in 1965, which weighed 3.5 kg.



Discover Old Coober Pedy



Hans Lang mining in the 1960s. Photo: Hans Lang

**FOLLOW COOBER PEDY'S HISTORY
THROUGH OUR HERITAGE TRAIL.
INTERPRETIVE SIGNS ARE AT MOST SITES.**

COOBER PEDY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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