



Diamond drilling is their business

IT'S a long way from a clerks' desk in a busy city office to the directorship of a progressive diamond drilling concern and the probing for hidden mineral wealth in Queensland's north. But that is the way Ron Kitching has travelled in the past 10 years.

In 1949 Ron Kitching was busily pen pushing in the Brisbane Office of Queensland Trustees. One day he decided to head for the open spaces and came to Mount Isa, intending to stay only six months.

His first job was in the Mount Isa Mines Limited warehouse, then in quick succession he transferred underground to the grizzlies, blast hole drilling and

finally in 1950 to diamond core drilling on Northern Leases.

He remained at Northern Leases until 1953 and in the following year in partnership with another Mount Isa Mines employee, Jack Glindemann, started contract diamond drilling.

A native of Townsville, Jack Glindemann spent most of his early life in North Queensland, timber-cutting and dozer driving. He joined Mount Isa Mines in March, 1946. From the machine shop he went to the Blacksmith's shop as a striker, then underground to the grizzlies.

His next job was blast-hole drilling and after 12 months on this he went to Kuridala doing exploratory drilling for another 12 months. Yet another year was spent surface drilling at Mount Isa, and after this, up to his resignation from the Company, he drilled for two years at Northern Leases.

It was at Northern Leases that his friendship with Ron Kitching developed and this led to the partnership and later the formation of the proprietary company of Glindemann and Kitching in 1956.

They were the second contract drillers at Mary Kathleen and also did test drilling on the Leichhardt Dam site in 1956.

They are at present working

on the biggest contract which the Company has ever undertaken. It is at Constance Range near the Queensland-Northern Territory border, undertaken for B.H.P., and is incidentally one of the biggest single drilling contracts in Australia. At Tennant Creek they are drilling for Australian Development No Liability, owners of the Noble's Nob Gold Mine. In Mount Isa they have commenced work on a 5,000 ft. hole for Mount Isa Mines Limited and recently test drilled for Cloncurry Shire Council on the proposed site of the new Causeway across the Leichhardt River.

In their Mount Isa office Ron Kitching introduced Mimag to another Director, and the Company's accountant, Reg. Hockings.

Before coming to Mount Isa, Reg. was in the Pearling business on Thursday Island.

"Over the past few years," Reg. told us, "the firm has co-operated with some of the biggest manufacturers in Australia in the development of new drilling equipment and techniques — firms such as Mindrill Ltd. and Commonwealth Diamond Tools Pty. Ltd. The Company too has spent quite a bit of money on research."

"The result of all this," Ron Kitching explained, "has been very successful, particularly in respect of improved core recovery."



RON KITCHING receives a telephone call at his Mount Isa Office.

Mimag, February, 1960