

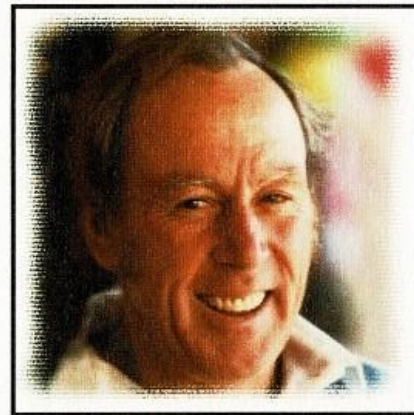
**Opal Miner**

*Deep in the shaft I chip alone,  
Where sunsets sleep in the dry brown stone.  
Scrape of shovel blade, tap of pick,  
Flickering light from burning wick.  
Long ago, before there were clocks,  
A rainbow crept inside these rocks.  
Now in the darkness I burrow and creep,  
Waking that light from its age-old sleep.*

*I may never see the day  
When the stones shine bright as the Milky Way.  
But some other miner, when I'm long gone  
May discover the dream that drove me on.*



*In Loving Memory of*



*"Bill"*

*In Loving Memory of "Bill"*

**William Ellis McDougall O.A.M**

*20. 11. 1923 ~ 3. 1. 2023  
Aged 99 years.*

*Dearly loved son of Donald and Rachel.*

*Dearly loved brother of the late  
Donald (Doug), Aileen, Ethel, Thelma,  
Lindsay and Mary Anne (Mary).*

*Much loved and admired uncle of all  
his nieces and nephews.*

*Opal, shining opal,  
let them call you luckless jewel,  
Let them curse or let them covet,  
you are still my heart's desire,  
You that robbed the sun and moon  
and green earth for fuel  
To gather to your milky breast and  
fill your veins with fire!*

*- William Henry Ogilvie*