

Miami Boneyard

Todd Town, Globe, AZ

The one word heard in the mining industry today, more than any other is reclamation. This refers to the cleaning up of "Unightly mine debris." It includes rock dumps, tailings, and buildings. The Globe-Miami mining district has fallen victim to reclamation events. The way BHP (owner of five properties in the district) goes about it is such: What is the cost to maintain the property for 100 years versus the cost to reclamate the property and walk away? Two properties have just completed their reclamation. In these instances the community has been able to save the main hoist house and headframe. Other sites will not be so lucky. Just this year Phelps Dodge created their own in-house reclamation sector — their first job will be the reclamation of Bisbee properties. That mining district is in for some big changes over the next few years. Hopefully, some historic headframes and buildings will survive. The once mighty Miami Copper Company was started in 1907, in full production by 1912, and shut down in 1959. The underground workings, now flooded with water, are still producing a million pounds of copper per month. Acidic solution is pumped in to dissolve the remaining metal which is then pumped to an extraction plant. Some bones still remain defiant of time, and photos of these are











