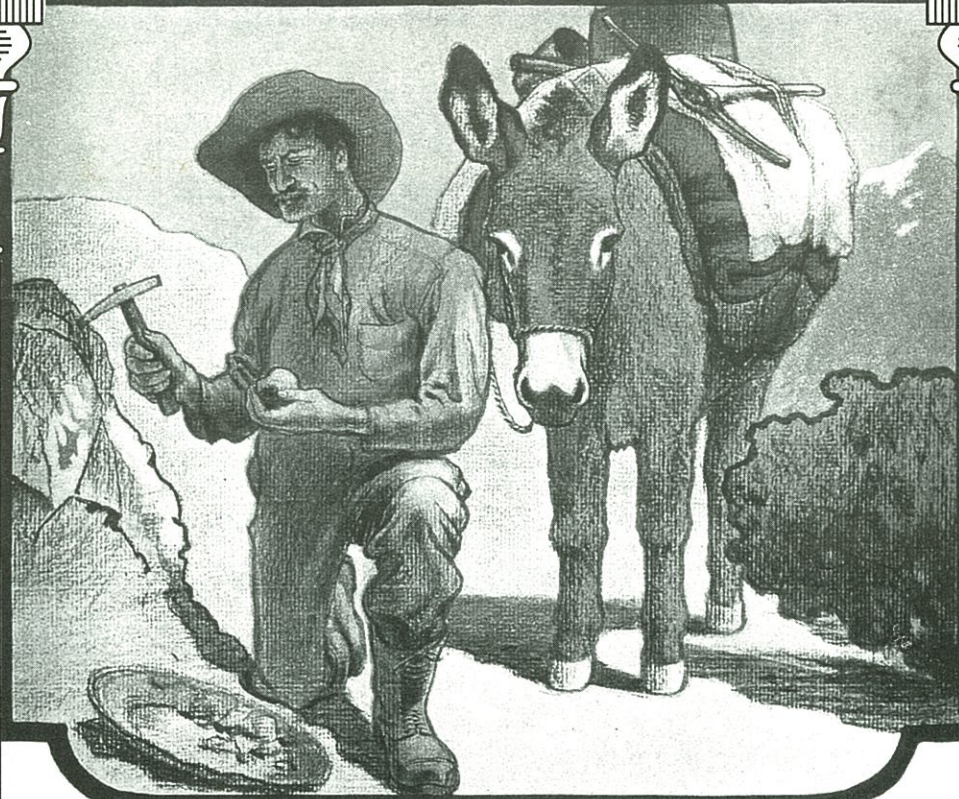


The **M**INING **R**EVUE  
COLLECTORS

ISSUE NUMBER 6

MAY 1998



**NEVADA NUMBER**



**HARPER & BROTHERS NEW YORK**

Earthquake Boxes  
Mitchell Candle Boxes  
B&M Shaft- Homestake Mine  
Sellier & Bellot Blasting Cap Tins

**IN THIS ISSUE**

Vulcan Powder Co.  
Justrite Striker Lever  
Pennsylvania Mine Mules  
Historic Goldfield Nevada

# **\$1,000 REWARD**

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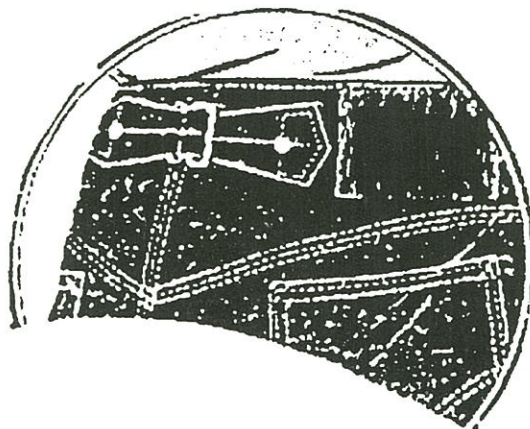
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Copy of the cover from Harper's Weekly,  
Harper & Brothers, New York, June 20, 1903

### **SUBSCRIPTION POLICY:**

"The Review" is published quarterly. Subscriptions are \$30.00 annually. Requests should be sent to Lane Griffin, 1633 Shadow Wood Road, Reno, NV 89523.

### **SUBMISSIONS:**

"The Review" invites all subscribers to submit photos, articles and anecdotes for publication. Changes or enhancement will be done only for clarity and propriety. Send all submissions to Steve Rush, 31112 Shadow Mtn Dr, Conifer, CO 80433

A Beer Reviewed Journal

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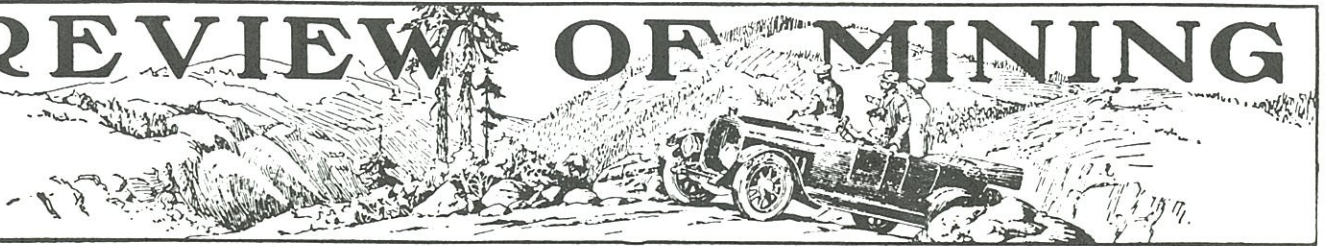
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# REVIEW OF MINING

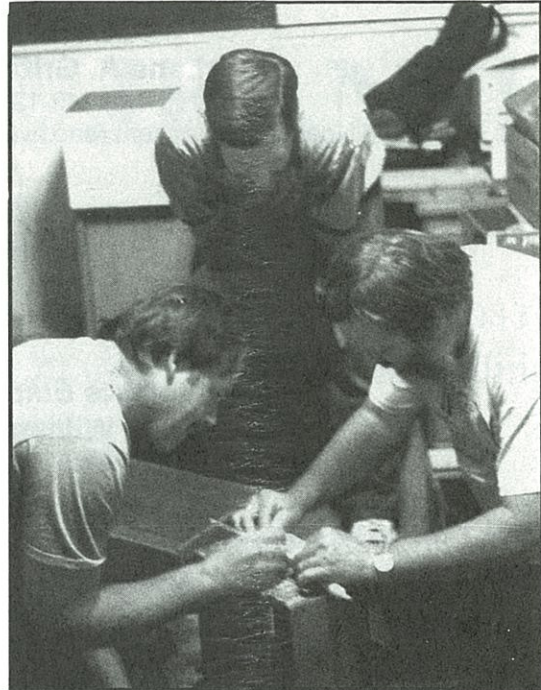


## EDITORIAL

The "Review" has undergone some changes in structure and management which will serve to improve the content and quality of the magazine. Steve Rush will be doing the layout and editing of each issue and I will be in charge of subscriptions and publishing. Of course, everything will be beer reviewed as usual by the staff experts.

The Tucson Gem and Mineral show was held this February and the Mining Artifact show that accompanied it was a great success. Brad Ross had an early morning show at his motel room. Tables for individuals were used later to display items for sale or trade. An auction was held that night with a dinner and the event was well organized. As usual some interesting artifacts were auctioned at bargain prices. This event gets bigger every year and seems to mesh well with the mineral collectors. I just wish they would get some hot weather down there. I can enjoy a good drizzling rain right here in Reno; another El Nino related problem I guess.

The upcoming Frisco show should prove to be a well attended



A rare sight, Andy Martin on left, Mark Bohannon on right and Larry Kuester in the middle, making a pencil rubbing from a candle, Tucson.

event with an even distribution of people from all over the U.S., Canada, Germany and possibly England. I would encourage everyone to get their applications in for tables and lodging as early as possible because this will be the artifact event of the year. Contact Steve Rush, Bob Guthrie or Leo Stambaugh for more details.

# REVIEW OF MINING



As summer draws near, thoughts of traveling to places such as Frisco become ever present. The dream of visiting a certain mining district is the only thing that helps you keep your sanity as the rains and snows of springtime keep you indoors. If you are traveling out west we at the 'Review' would like to offer a service to those traveling in unfamiliar terrain. The staff will provide information about various mining areas, sites, and museums. Please call the people from the list below if you are traveling to an area that they have listed as their specialty:

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Lane Griffin    | Nevada, Southern Utah,<br>NW Washington State                    |
| Steve Rush      | Central Colorado Rockies,<br>Southern/Eastern Calif.<br>Colorado |
| Leo Stambaugh   |  |
| Deric English   | Southern California,<br>Mojave Desert                            |
| Eric Twitty     | Western United States  |
| H. Mason Coggin | Arizona  |

We can give you detailed information on what to see, where to stay and what to avoid about these areas. This will be 'above the surface' information only, because the other is

dangerous and besides, Cap Tin Bob more than likely has already been there.

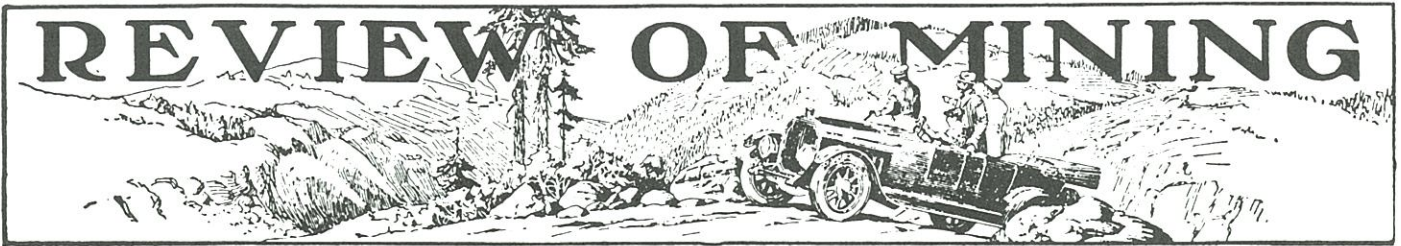


Reg Pattee and his display of cap crimpers.



Mark Bohannon selling Rory Gibson some mining items.

# REVIEW OF MINING



## CARDS AND LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I am a relatively new collector of mining antiques from Georgia. I got interested in this type of item on a recent trip to Oregon, where I found a couple of those miners' lamps and a sticking tommy in an antique store. The lamps both come from different companies. One is stamped Elk Horn on the top and the other is stamped Gee-Bee. The sticking tommy has some letters cut into the stick part and the thumb piece is shaped like a four-leaf clover.

Do these sound like good finds? I think I'll keep them and look for more. If you can give me any information about the things I found, please let me know. Also, I've enclosed a subscription form for your magazine. It has good stuff in it.

Signed, Melvin Dimrodt.

*(Thanks, Mel. You aren't Irish, are you?)*

Dear Editor,

I used to work as a miner in Colorado, and spent years underground in the forties and fifties at Gilman for New Jersey Zinc. Based

upon the articles I've seen in your magazine and others, I sure do wish I had brought home some of those tools and signs that were an everyday part of my working life. I am not an active collector of mining artifacts, but I sure am tempted to become one! From the prices of some items, I believe I could supplement my retirement income.

Even better, though, I like the idea that there is a large group of people who do collect mining artifacts, and are interested in learning the history behind them. Mining was (and is) a big part of what made this country, and I'd hate to think that this information was falling by the wayside. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely, Sam Wilson

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Western Mining Artifact Collector Spring 98 Get Together. May 15 and 16.

Errol Christman's, Cedar Ridge, Calif. For Information contact Errol at 916-273-3268.

Black Hills- Rocky Mountain Mining Collector's Convention. June 12 and 13. Frisco, Colorado. For Information contact Leo Stambaugh at 303-569-2848.

**VULCAN POWDER CO. 1878-1902**

BY ERIC TWITTY

During the 1870's the North American dynamite industry began to blossom. The decade saw many mines and railroads embrace dynamite for blasting hard rock, and the West's dynamite suppliers did a brisk business among a plethora of hard rock mining districts, with prospectors staking new discoveries every season. The potential offered by the expanding Western explosives market was a siren song to venture capitalists, because only two manufacturers, the California Powder Works and the Giant Powder Co. served the region. Explosives pioneer Robert Warren organized the Vulcan Powder Co. in 1878 to take advantage of the lack of competition in the Western dynamite market.

Warren identified Reno, Nevada as the best location for Vulcan because the high desert City was proximal to the Comstock Lode, other mining districts in Nevada, and California's Mother Lode, and it was serviced by the transcontinental Central Pacific and the Virginia & Truckee railroads.

Warren operated his plant in Reno through the fall and into winter manufacturing *Vulcan Powder*, one of North America's first active-base dynamites invented by Warren in the mid-1870's. As the weather cooled, the

plant began experiencing problems with poor nitration and frozen nitroglycerine because of Reno's alpine climate. Making corrections for the cold meant costly renovations to the plant, which spurred Warren to recapitalize and move his operations to San Pablo, east and across the bay from San Francisco, where the climate was conducive to manufacturing nitroglycerine. Vulcan's new plant was generously laid out with plenty of space between sensitive buildings. Nearly each step of the dynamite-making process had its own dedicated structure, and the facility included a power house, a waterfront, storage buildings and offices. In 1880 after the company reached a state of stability, Warren left to involve himself in other high explosives start-ups.

Railroad companies, construction contractors, and placer miners in the West often worked in relatively soft ground not efficiently lasted with dynamite, and they fostered a significant demand for a low-grade heaving explosive stronger than blasting powder and slower than dynamite. Aware of this potential market, in 1881 Orlando Hardy convinced Southern Pacific Railroad officials to back him in his development of such an explosive. Hardy had modeled his product after

Judson Powder, which was a nitroglycerine-coated blasting powder. After discussing his product ideas and marketing strategy with Vulcan officials, they agreed to furnish him with a fully equipped laboratory at the Vulcan Plant. After a period of time, Hardy created a railroad powder under the name of *Improved Judson*, which Vulcan manufactured and sold. Shortly after manufacturing began, Hardy's facility burned down, and Vulcan gave up on Hardy. Hardy borrowed money, bought the defunct Eureka Powder Co. facility next door, renovated it, and carried on his operation there under the name of the Excelsior Powder Works. Vulcan continued to sell a railroad powder packed in kegs throughout the 1880's.

Vulcan hit its peak in the mid-1880's and its dynamite was sold in mining districts throughout Nevada, California and Arizona. The company's most notable customer was the Sutro Tunnel project driven to drain the Comstock Lode.

Competition was heavy between explosives makers in the San Francisco Bay area, and Vulcan was pitted against the California Powder Works, the Giant Powder Co., the California Vigorit Powder Co., and the Safety Nitro Powder Co. The cut-throat competition whittled away at profits among


Bay Area explosives companies, and in response they engaged in meetings from which they quietly forged a cartel in 1884. In 1888 the Vulcan Powder Co. accused some of the cartel's members of violated sales territories and undercutting agreed prices. Feeling betrayed, Vulcan directors withdrew from the cartel and it disintegrated, precipitating a crippling price war. By 1890 the price of dynamite was down from \$.25 to \$.10 per pound, which virtually eliminated profits. Smaller companies such as the Vulcan Powder Co. had a very difficult time fighting the Giant Powder Co. and the California Powder Works both of which were capable of sustaining near-profitless operations. As the Giant Powder Co. and the California Powder Works usurped large portions of the western explosives market, sales for Vulcan began to slow down.

In 1897 Bay Area explosives companies reached another agreement which allotted market portions according to the 1896 sales figures. Of course, in that year the production of the California Powder Works and the Giant Powder Co. Con. was at near-record levels, which gave them a disproportionately high market share, and the smaller Bay Area explosives companies, including Vulcan, received disproportionately low market portions.

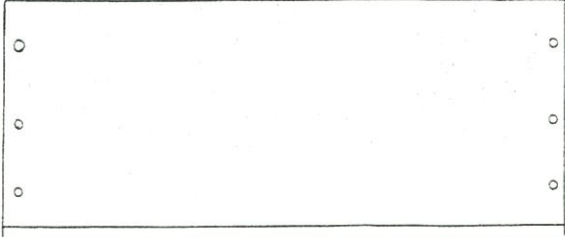


ground, the new arrangement brought Vulcan to its knees, which precipitated sale of the company to the California Vigorit Powder Co.

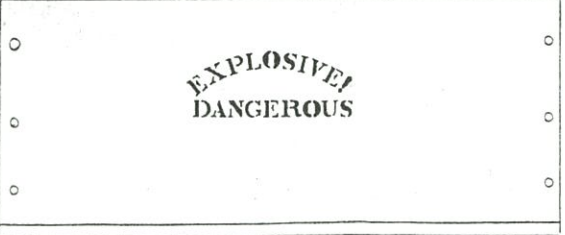
Although Vulcan never produced another case of dynamite, its corporate charter was maintained until 1902.

	<p>THE CONSUMERS' COMPANY.</p> <h2>VULCAN B B AND AJAX.</h2> <p>The Best LOW GRADE EXPLOSIVES in the Market.  <b>SUPERIOR TO BLACK OR JUDSON POWDER.</b></p> <h3>Vulcan Nos. 1, 2 and 3,</h3> <p>The Best NITRO-GLYCERINE POWDERS Manufactured.  <b>SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS IN PRICES.</b>                  AJAX and VULCAN B B POWDERS are Unequaled for Bank Blasting and Railroad Work.                  Caps and Fuse of all Grades at Bottom Rates.</p> <h2>VULCAN POWDER CO.,</h2> <p>218 California Street, San Francisco, Cal.</p>
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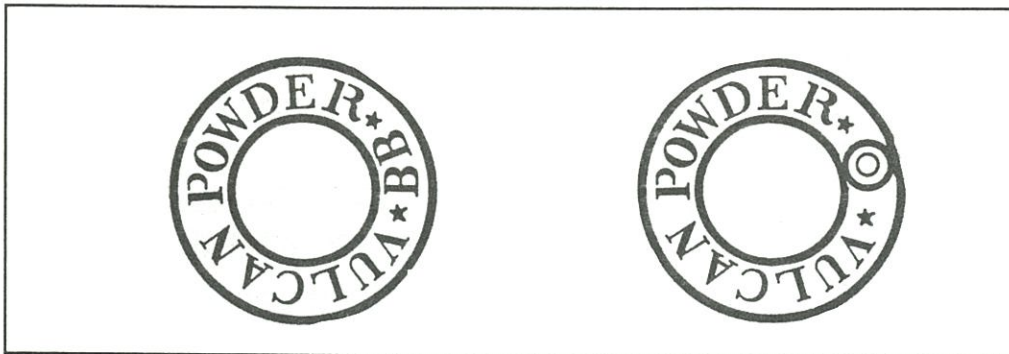
To generate business, Vulcan ran advertisements such as this in mining trade journals through the 1880's. The ads ceased by 1890's, when the company hit financial trouble. The notes Vulcan Nos 1 through 3 as being straight dynamite, and Ajax and Vulcan BB as being railroad powders.

<p>No. 2  <b>VULCAN</b>                  BLASTING                  POWDER                  7/8 X 8 1/2 inch                  50 Lbs Net</p>	<p>No. 2  <b>VULCAN</b>                  BLASTING                  POWDER                  7/8 X 8 1/2 inch                  50 Lbs Net</p>	
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Dynamite Box. Age Range: 1878- late 1880's. Constructed with cut nails. Rarity: several known. Author.

<p>No 1★  <b>VULCAN</b>                  BLASTING                  POWDER                  7/8 X 8 1/2 inch                  50 Lbs Net</p>	<p>Patented May 26, 1868 № 78.312                  Reissued Jan. 9, 1883 № 10.267                  Patented Nov. 17, 1874 № 157.054                  Patented May 24, 1881 № 241.941                  Patented June 14, 1881 № 242.893</p>	
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Dynamite Box. Age Range: Mid 1880's- 1890. Constructed with cut nails. Rarity: several known. The patent dates on the box back panel are the same as dates found on Giant and California Powder Works boxes of the same vintage. Author.



Blasting Powder Keg. Age Range: 1878 - early 1890's. Constructed of steel, and the body has corrugations like most steel kegs. Rarity: One known. Courtesy of Tom Johnson, Elko, Nevada.



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**B & M SHAFT - HOMESTAKE MINE, LEAD, S.D.**

BY AL WINTERS

Very few candlesticks can be traced to the Homestake Mine or mining district despite the many thousands of miners employed during the years candlesticks provided underground lighting. One candlestick presented to me by the Officers and Board on my retirement from Homestake can be traced to the Homestake Mine by the writing on the spike. The candlestick, a well made blacksmith stick 11-1/4 inches long is marked *R.C. Uncer 1905* on the thimble side and *B & M Lead S.D.* on the hook side. Nothing is known about Mr. Uncer or the circumstances under which he received the candlestick, but the B & M Shaft was one of the great early day shafts of western gold mining.

Sinking of the vertical shaft began in 1878, just two years after the Homestake lode discovery and was initially known as the "Old Abe" shaft for its location on the Old Abe and Giant Claims. The B & M name came later when contractors Balantyne and Mortensen installed the steam hoist. Deepening of the shaft continued as mining progressed and by 1905 the three compartment shaft had reached the 1250 foot level. During these early years, the B & M was the principal hoisting shaft and was located just to the east of the great Main Ledge Orebody from which Homestake mined well over

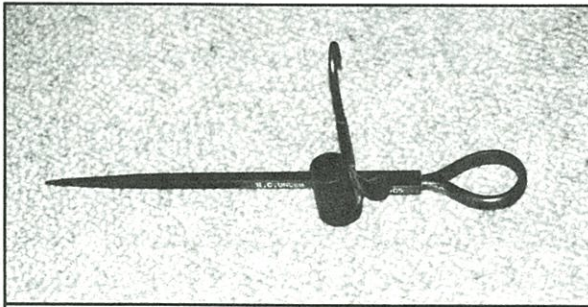
seventy-five million tons of gold ore which ran between 1/3 and 1/2 ounce per ton. This orebody produced the bulk of the mines thirty-eight million ounces of gold production and is still producing today.

The original hoist and boilers were shipped in by ox teams and installed in 1879. The hoist was equipped with double steam drive cylinders- 18 inches in diameter with a 60-inch stroke. The hoisting works had a depth capacity of 2000 feet with 2100 feet of 4 X 1/2 inch flat cable. Self dumping skips were employed making the shaft works one of the more efficient in the country. Improvements were continuous with a new compressor plant installed in 1894, a Cornish pump on the 600 level in 1894 and a 125 HP state of the art light plant in 1895.

The B & M was called on to bail water after an uncontrollable fire occurred on the 500 level in 1907. This fire was finally extinguished by flooding the entire mine and in May 1908, the B & M was fitted with 1000 gallon skips and set to work dewatering along with airlifts and 4 other shafts equipped with bail buckets. The mine was rapidly dewatered once work began and ore hoisting and stamp milling resumed again in July of that year.

In 1914, the original hoist was re-

placed with a new four cylinder Nordberg hoist capable of greater depth, faster speed and higher payloads. Sinking of the shaft continued to a depth of 2000 feet. In 1918, a speed and overtravel device called a Lilly hoist controller was installed



R.C. Uncer marking dated 1905, a rare example of a Homestake Mining candlestick.

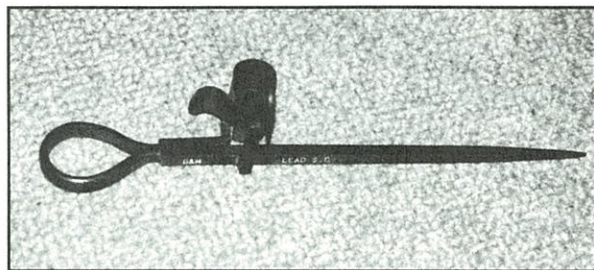
on the B & M skip hoist on an experimental basis. This device, which became the standard for the industry, saved the hoisting engine from ruin on January 2, 1921 when the skip rope broke. Unfortunately the broken rope end came flying back into the engine room killing the hoist engineer, Mr. Burke Lovejoy.

Subsidence from adjacent mining began to effect hoisting efficiency and emphasis was placed on the larger Ellison Shaft and a sister shaft which was commissioned in 1924. This sister shaft reached the 1800 level in 1928 and was named the B & M #2. The new shaft was located just east of the B & M (now known as the B & M #1) in solid ground.

On July 10, 1930, a fatal fire en-

gulfed the Ellison hoist works and completely destroyed the surface hoisting and compressor facilities as well as causing damage in the shaft when the hoist ropes burnt, dropping the cable, cage, and two cage tenders to the bottom. Following the fire, the B & M #1 handled the entire ore and waste hoisting requirements for the mine while the B & M #2 handled the men and materials.

The B & M was Homestake's main shaft and work horse for fifty-six years. The last ore was hoisted on December 29, 1934, and man hoisting ceased operations on March 9, 1935. In 1936, the B & M compressor plant was replaced by the Ross compressors bringing an end to the B & M surface facilities. The site of the old workings and remaining concrete slabs were removed by the Open Cut surface mine in 1985 erasing all traces of one



B & M Lead S.D. gang stamped along spike.

of the greatest gold producing shafts ever. Only a few B & M artifacts such as the candlestick photos and pieces of flat cable remain as reminders of those days.

**References:**

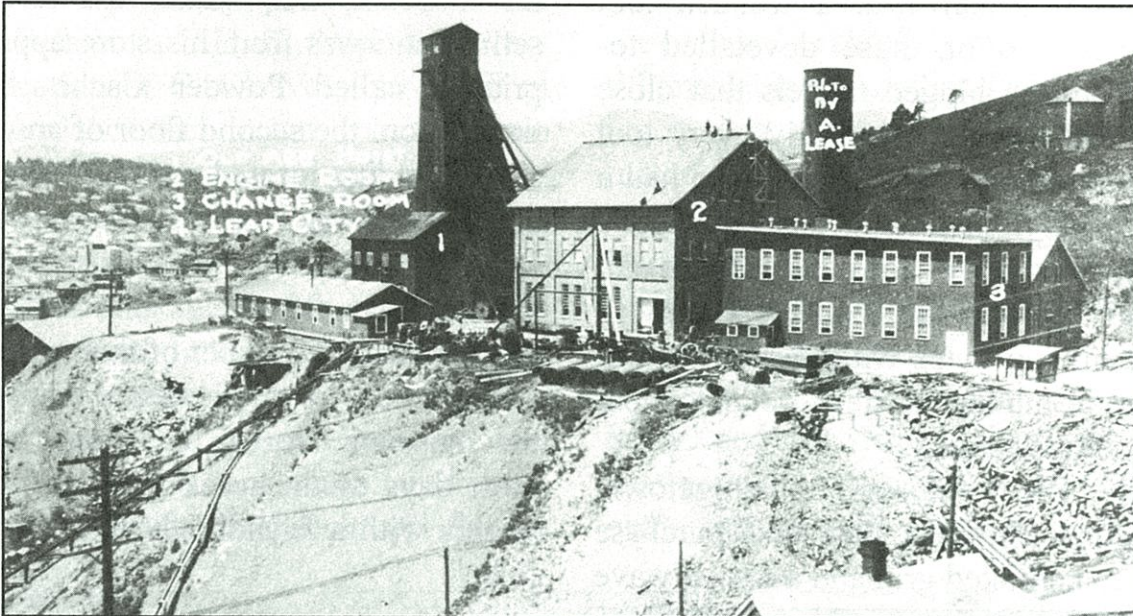
**1. Gold Belt Sites, Lead and Homestake.**

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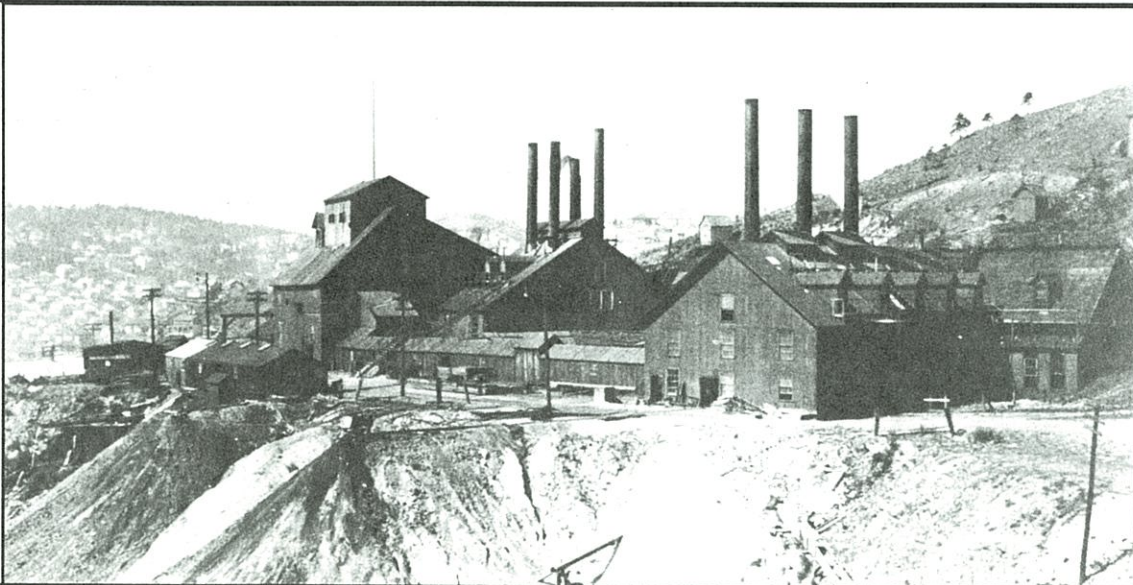
**2. The Treasure of Homestake Gold**

by Mildred Fielder. North Plains Press. Aberdeen, S.D. 1970

3. Personal communications with Chuck Tesch and Joel Waterland. Long time Homestake Employees.



Original B & M Shaft House ( Old Abe shaft) circa 1900 before upgrading hoist and surface facilities.



B & M Shaft after installation of new hoist and surface facilities. Circa 1920.

## COLLECTOR'S FOCUS

by Steve Rush

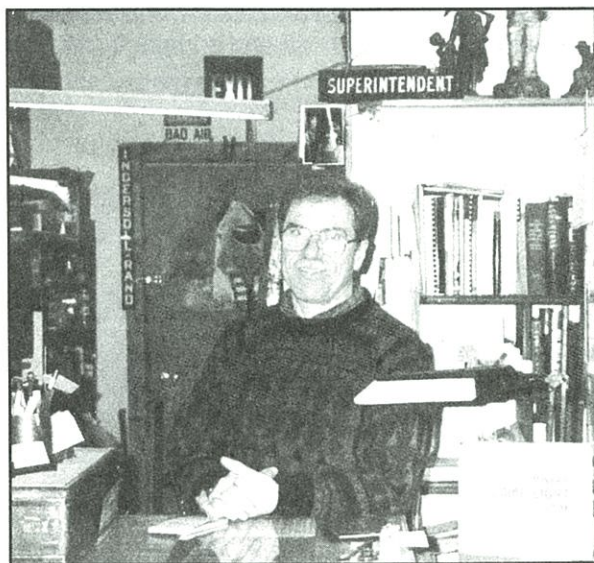
**The Powder Cache**

It began with a wooden tool chest. One of those dovetailed together iron hinged models that close up and contain practically every tool known to man. The fellow also had a few iron mining items that the buyer's appreciative eye for detail caught and held. The old tool collector threw in the mining items with the other stuff, and a mining artifact collector bar none was created.

Leo Stambaugh of Georgetown, Colorado, recalls that first purchase with a crooked grin and a casual wave

of his arm to take in what is now a museum of mining history. Adjoining his museum, Leo makes his living selling antiques from his store appropriately called Powder Cache Antiques from the second floor of an old stone building located at 612 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Georgetown. His is a true antique store, with very few items for sale that are less than fifty years old, and indeed contains a number of fine mining artifacts that are duplicates of items in the museum. He can be found here most days of the week greeting customers with a friendly "how ya doin' folks".

It is his museum, however, that cause many feet to follow a well worn path towards display cases and shelves that exhibit hundreds of candlesticks, carbide cap lamps, blasting caps, and original photographs of mining scenes. Enamel bell signs and elaborate underground signs from several states adorn the walls, along with 19<sup>th</sup> century calendars and advertising from long gone mining towns. Rock drills and assay items mingle with enough blacksmith tools to start a foundry, and dozens of rare Italian pattern hand drilling hammers can be found with bundles of old drill steel.



Leo Stambaugh behind his post at The Powder Cache. His friendly "hi folks" greet people seven days a week in Georgetown, Colorado.

Among the most rare items (where to begin) to be seen is a Justrite 77 carbide stick lamp, a Fort Pitt Blasting Cap tin, and several extremely rare candlesticks. I know of no other place that you can see a Kaba & Pelham, a C.H. Garland, and every variation of C. Cleaves known all in one glance. Leo has at least forty-two folders camped there in his candlestick case, along with brand name sticks of all description. His rare blasting items include a full brass plate H Julius Smith Igniting Dynamo blasting machine, bench cap crimpers from the California Cap Company and DuPont, and a bench fuse cutter from the Coast Manufacturing and Supply

Company. Dozens of rare cap crimpers, including the Silver State Crimper, the Miner's Safety Loading Tool, and other very early patented crimpers are also well displayed.

Extremely rare and colorful souvenir china showing mining scenes fill one cabinet. Another displays mining spoons, mining scrip and ribbons. Included among the ribbons are a number of Western Federation of Miners from obscure mining towns. A future article for the Review is planned for these alone.

Leo, with his wife Mitzi, daughter Stacy, and son Eric, has resided in Georgetown for many years. Mitzi owns and runs the Georgetown Mer-



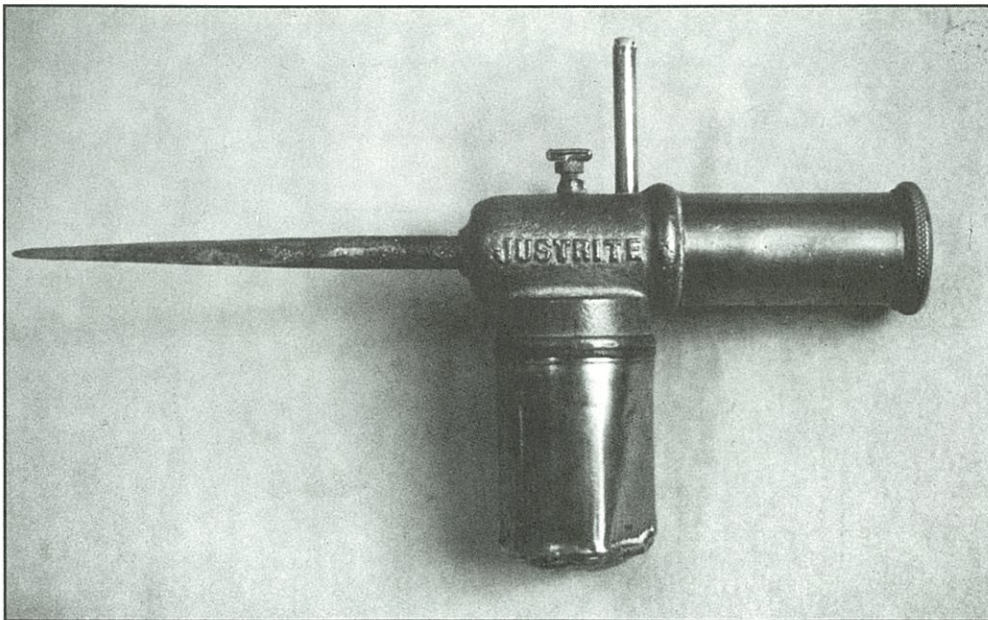
Leo, Stacy, Mitzi and Eric outside their Georgetown home.

cantile, a store which sells everything from stick candy and kitchen wares to Beanie Baby's and Boyd's Bear's. The Stambaugh's live in the upper two stories of the Mercantile, itself a previous boarding house for miners built in the 1880's. Eric and Stacy attend school in Idaho Springs, a Colorado mining town several miles down the canyon. Stacy is on her way to becoming a top-notch skier (living within ten miles of a Colorado ski resort certainly helps) and Eric collects fossils, minerals, and has an eye towards his dad's stuff.

Leo is well known among the mining collector's fraternity, with many of his rare and unusual artifacts having

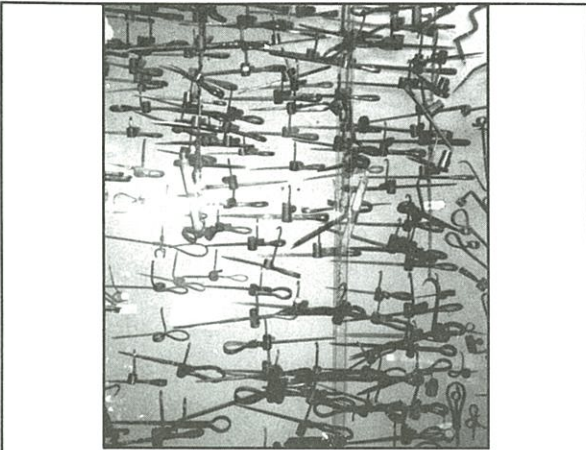
been traded from others. Reviewing and photographing his displays for this article was like meeting old friends again for me, as a number of items once resided within my own cases. I must add that trading with Leo is always fair and equitable for both parties, although some trades take a bit longer than others do!

Have fun viewing a small snapshot of the Powder Cache Mining Museum, and when you're next in Colorado (like June, perhaps) make sure you make time to stop by and say howdy to Leo and his family. Plan on staying a while, though, and it wouldn't hurt to bring a couple of trade items.

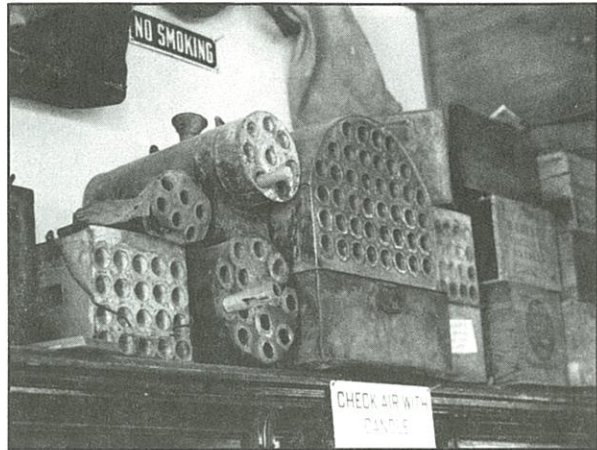


Crown jewel of stick lamps, a Justrite no. 77. One of only 3 known, it originally sold for \$2.50. It was discovered several years ago at a Denver flea market.





Blacksmith, name brand and folders keep each other company in one display case.



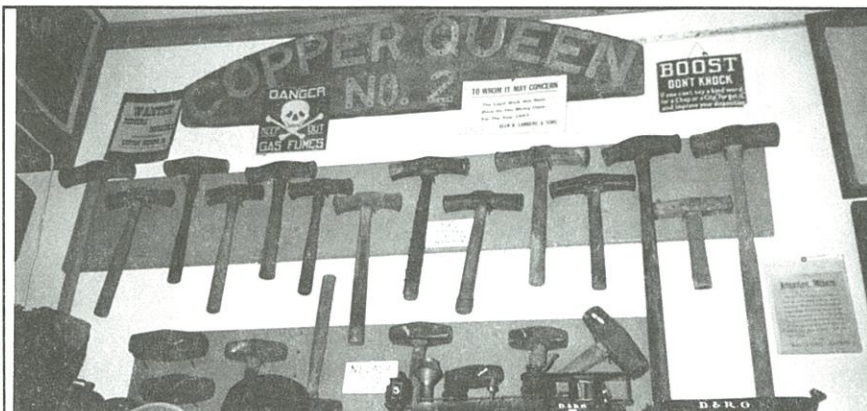
Powder thawers, including an extremely rare 84-stick beehive style from Leadville, Colorado.



Several carbide cap lamps, inspectors lamps and oil wicks. Rare Baldwins, Brite-Lite's, Pathfinders and a Hansen Force-Feed adorn these shelves.



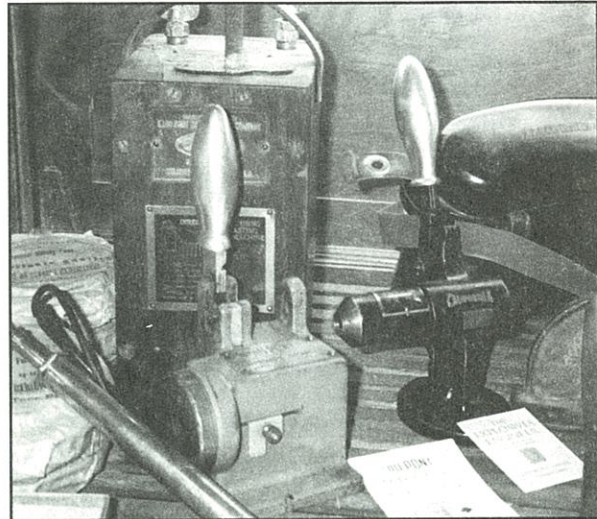
Partial stack of powder boxes. "Muck stick" on right still has a local Georgetown store label.



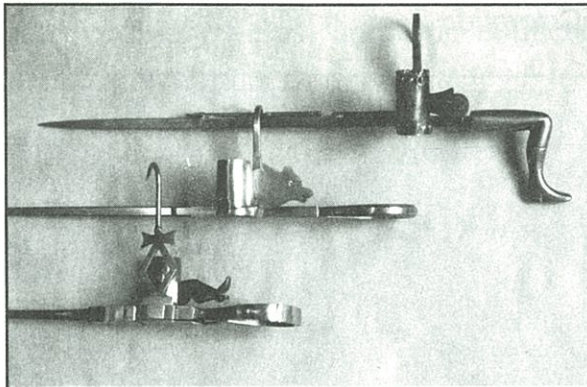
Italian pattern hammers, called "dagos" and Nevada pattern hammers. Four pounders just right for a day of single jacking into hard rock.



Very early blasters handbooks, fuse and DuPont Blasting Supplies handbook, circa 1910.



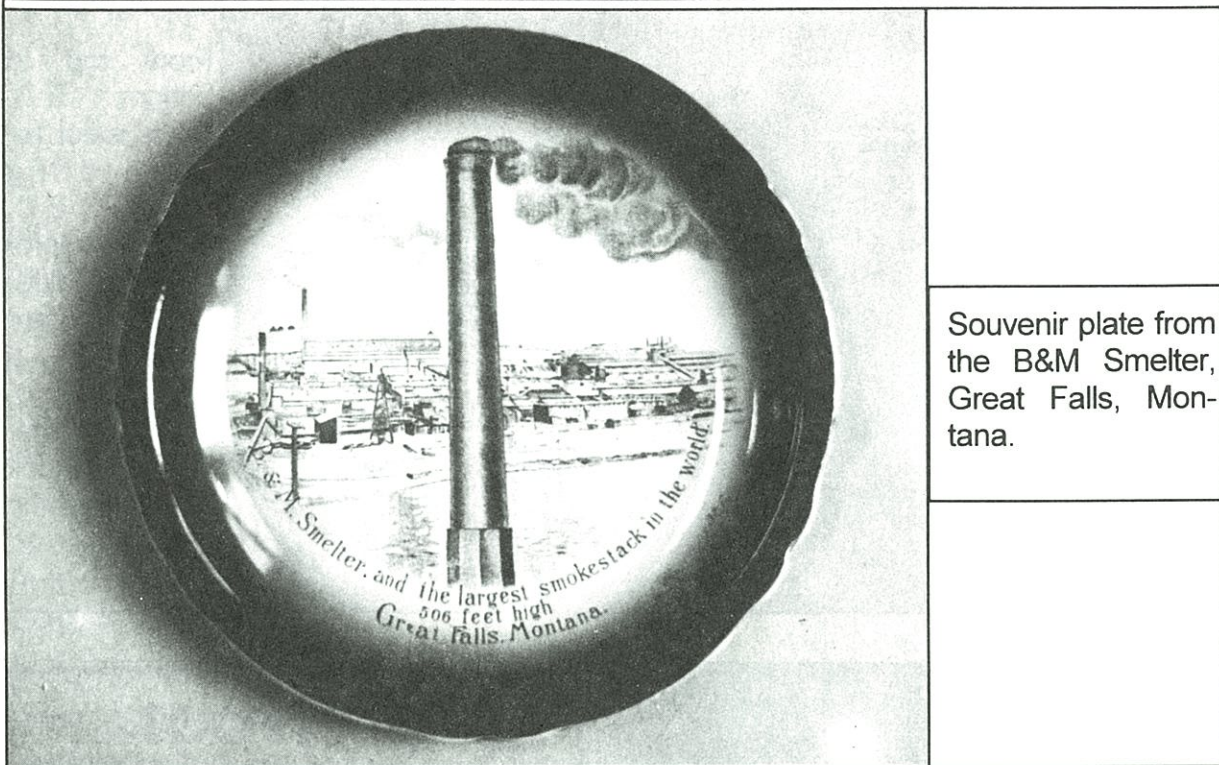
California and DuPont bench crimpers. National fuse cutter on right. German fuse cutter circa 1880's at far left. DuPont blasting machine in background.



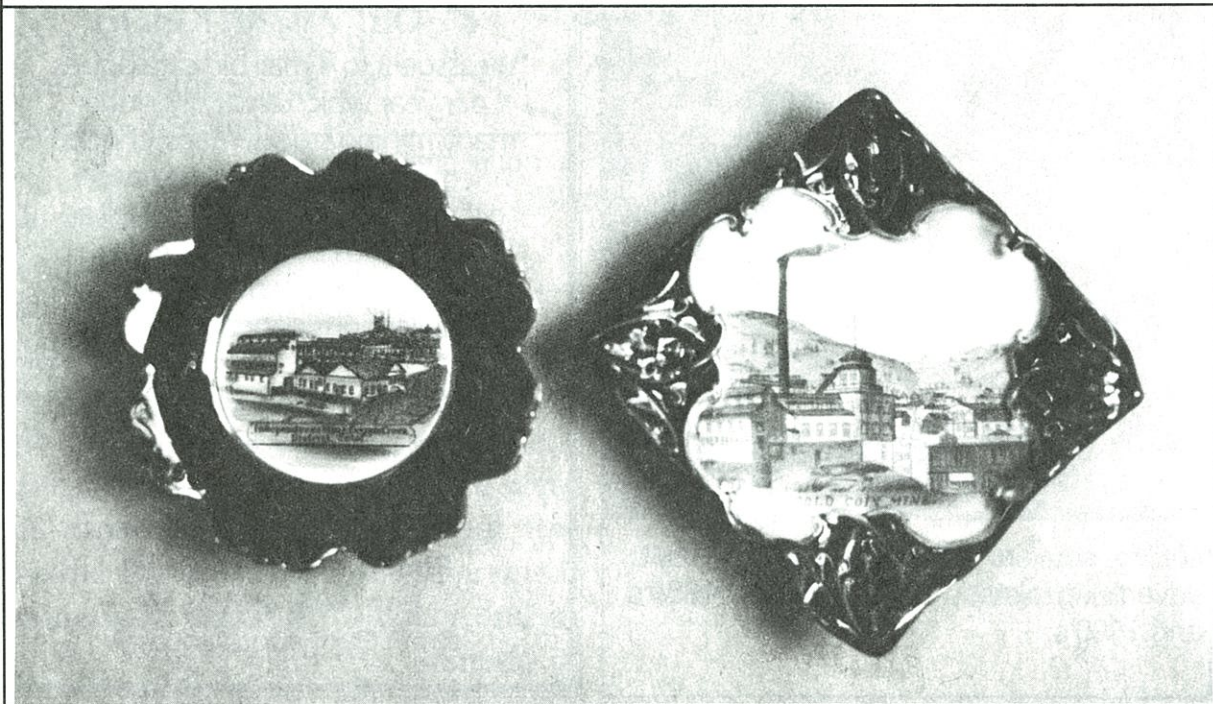
Three fine examples of fancy candlesticks. Wolf's head thumb piece holds a green stone for an eye. Bottom stick purportedly made by C.H. Garland in Silver Plume, Colorado.



A nice display of blasting cap tins. Among the bunch reside a rare Fort Pitt and a rare American Cap Company tin.



Beautiful souvenir china. Plate at left from the Independence Mine in Cripple Creek, plate at right from the Gold Coin Mine in Victor, Colorado.



## EARTHQUAKE BOXES

BY LANE GRIFFIN

The earthquake that devastated San Francisco on April 18, 1906 destroyed the financial and manufacturing community which supplied goods and services to the western United States. Its effects were particularly detrimental to the mining camps of California and Nevada who relied on bay area businesses for their supplies. Like a diastema or hiatus of geological terms creating an unconformity ( a distinct break in the continuity of the rocks), the earthquake caused a break or disturbance in the appearance of manufactured items.

Apparently the manufacturing equipment for mining supplies, including explosives, blasting caps and their containers were destroyed in the earthquake and new or improvised packaging was necessary to identify their products. The most obvious mining related example of this is the California Cap tin paper label that was used to explain the lack of their characteristic embossed lid . See figure 1.

In addition to cap tins, unusu-

ally labeled dynamite boxes whose manufacturers were located in the San Francisco bay area and were encountered in mines being worked in 1906-07 are suspected to be 'earthquake boxes'.

The California Powder Works was located in an area subject to the effects of the quake and an unusual box has been found in several mines (Fairview, Nevada, Manhattan, Nevada) of that era. This box was encountered in association

with an 'earthquake tin' which adds validity to its earthquake related origin. The series of Hercules boxes displayed (figure 3) show the style of labeling just before 1906, the 'earthquake box', and the style shortly thereafter. Another box of this era (figure 2) that is possibly an 'earthquake' is a variant of the older style of box

but with E.I. Dupont replacing the California Powder Works on the logo. This box had no Dupont label on the back and one example was found in the Victor district, Churchill county, Nevada, a mining camp which only



Figure 1: California Cap Tin lid with 'earthquake paper label', 1906, courtesy Andy Martin.

worked during 1907.

The Giant Powder Company was another large powder company from the bay area. Evidence of their change in labeling format as a result of the earthquake can be found in box ends unlike any previous designs. The ends of Giant's earthquake boxes are lightly inked and more crude in design than boxes before or after. One of these boxes is shown in figure 6 with an early box design. The ends of this box are stamped with the standard Giant eagle design but turned inward and one end has a crude inked Giant Powder Company logo unlike any other. This box was found at Goldfield, Nevada which was being extensively worked during 1906-07.

Another unusual box design is shown in figure 4 and is particularly interesting because of the address on the end which is different from any other printed on a Giant box.

Despite the fact that Giant Eagle gelatin box ends were being used

as ends for Giant powder type boxes there appears that there was a need to fabricate an eagle box end as well. Shown in figure 5 is an end that is distinctly different from those before or after and is printed with a purple ink. One of these ends was found at Golden Arrow, Nevada and one at Goldfield, Nevada, both camps active during 1906-07. In comparison, figure 6 shows eagle boxes from before and after the earthquake.

'Earthquake boxes' are unique and quite rare and therefore can be very collectible. They help provide a

glimpse into a past where mining camps were very dependent on the manufacturing capability of a single source. This source was susceptible to the forces of nature, forces which even today are held in utmost respect. If another earthquake equivalent to the 1906 trembler was to hit the bay

area most assuredly a disruption in goods and services would occur that would heavily impact the west.



Figure 2:  
E.I. Dupont earthquake box.

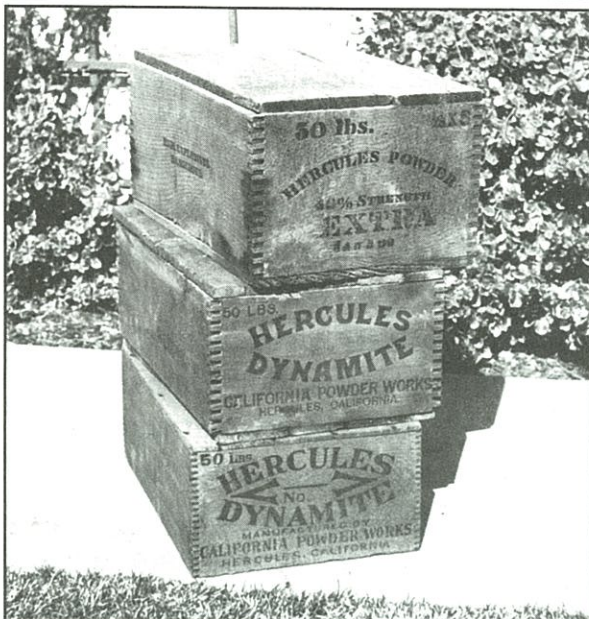


Figure 3:  
 Bottom Box- Hercules dynamite box, 1905, Ray district, Nye County, Nevada.  
 Middle Box- Hercules dynamite, 'earthquake box', note different style of lettering, Lovelock, Nevada. This box was found with 'earthquake cap tins'.  
 Top Box- Hercules Powder, 1908, note that Hercules no longer used the term dynamite for its nitroglycerine based products after 1907, Jessup district, Pershing county, Nevada.

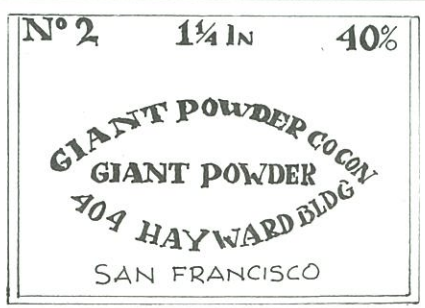


Figure 4: Design of Giant Box, Giant Powder, 'earthquake box', courtesy Andy Martin

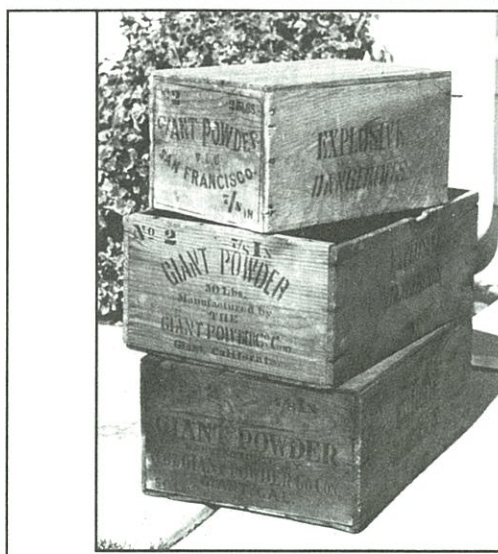


Figure 5:  
 Top Box- Giant Powder, 1905, Goldfield, Nevada.  
 Middle Box- Giant Powder, 'earthquake box', note poor quality of stenciled end, Goldfield, Nevada.  
 Bottom Box- Giant Powder, post 1907 style box end, Goldfield, Nevada.



Figure 6:  
 Top Box- Giant Eagle gelatin dynamite, 1907, Seven Troughs district, Pershing county, Nevada.  
 Middle Box- Giant eagle gelatin dynamite, 1905, Rays district, Nye county, Nevada.  
 Bottom Box: 'earthquake box', Goldfield, Nevada, (this box was nailed).

## THE R.G. MITCHELL & CO. CANDLE BOX

BY MARK BOHANNON

About ten years ago, I bought this billhead from a paper dealer friend of mine. Usually I don't pick up this type of paper item, limiting myself to powder, fuse, blasting cap and candle company letterheads and billheads only. But this piece of paper was interesting in two ways. First, the fact that 200 boxes of "Mitchells" candles were sold— I had never heard of Mitchell candles before. And second, the hand written note at the lower right of the bill.

It was interesting to know that Werk candles were used as early as 1876. What I didn't know then, but found out later, was that Castle Brothers is the same Castle Bros. found on the Comstock mining candle box.

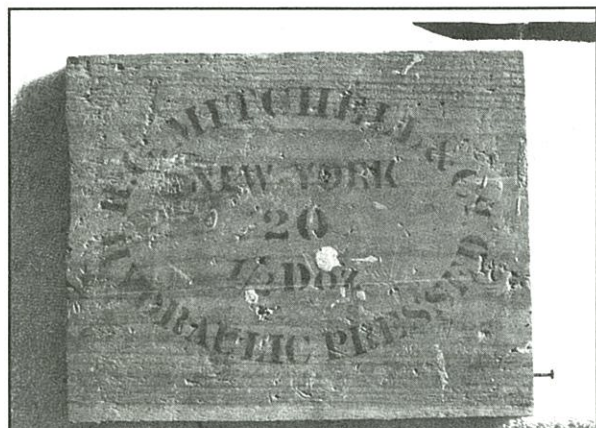
The hand written note at the lower right of the bill reads: This is a far superior candle than "Werks" I have burnt them side by side and we should get #5 1/4 a box for them the next lot will cost more money.

According to the billhead, Mitchell candles cost 17 1/2 cents a set, which would mean that a box of Mitchell candles would cost \$2.62 1/2.

There is an unusual aspect to this billhead and that is in the number of sets per box. According to this billhead, a box of 16 ounce Mitchell can-

dles contained 15 sets. I have never seen a mining candle box that contained anything except 20 or 40 sets. The Mitchell candle box end shown here, again, contains 15 sets. If anyone has, or knows of a candle box that contained 15 sets, or any quantity besides 20 or 40 sets, I would like to know about it.

Recently, I was able to finally get a R.G. Mitchell & Co. candle box. The box is stenciled in black and was marked on the one end only. The box end measures 8 7/8 by 7 inches. The box was constructed using square nails and was found in a mine that was worked in the mid 1870s, which corresponds with the date found on the billhead. There are no wrappers known from this company at this time, and the candles are unmarked. ..



Candle box end found underground in a mine worked in the 1870's. Author's collection.

No Reclamation allowed, unless made within Three Days from Receipt of Goods.

San Francisco, *October 18<sup>th</sup>* 1876.

Messrs. *T. D. Frombridge & Co.*  
 Bought of **CASTLE BROTHERS,**  
 Wholesale Grocers,  
 213 & 215 FRONT STREET.

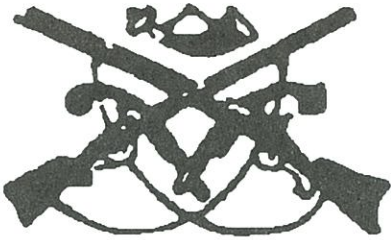
Payable in U. S. Gold Coin.  
~~or~~ Silver received at its Market Value, only.

---

<i>✓ 200 Dzs Mitchells 16oz Candles</i>	
<i>15 Ea 3000 Sets</i>	<i>@ 17 1/2 \$ 525 00</i>
<p><i>This is a far superior Candle than, Werks,</i>  <i>I have burnt them side</i>  <i>by side. and we should</i>  <i>get \$ 5/4 a Box for them</i>  <i>the next lot will</i>  <i>cost more money,</i>  <i>T. O'Keefe</i></p>	

*Nett Cash*

Early billhead for 200 boxes worth of Mitchell 16 ounce candles. Reads in part..."a far superior candle than Werks"... with the writer having tested the burning rate of the candles side by side. Author's collection.



612 6th Street  
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 Leo Stambaugh

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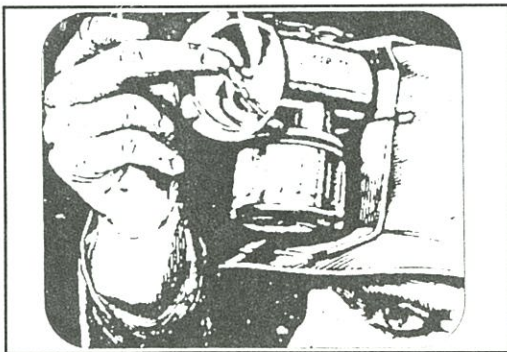
## JUSTRITE STRIKER LEVER

BY DERIC ENGLISH

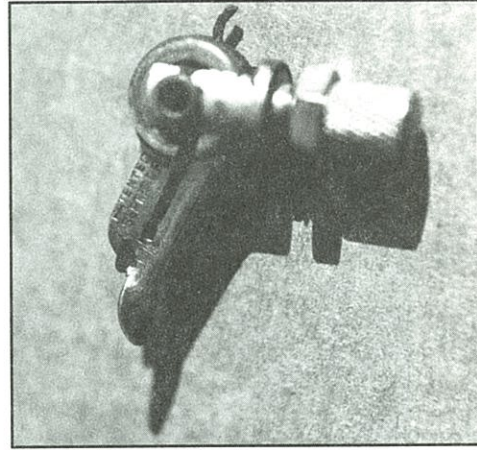
Unusual finds demonstrate why one continues to frequent toy, glass and antique shows- because you just never know what will turn up at these shows. While attending such a show, I noticed a common Justrite cap lamp in a harem of Roseville pottery, depression glass and an assortment of items similar to ones I remember seeing in my grandmother's kitchen. Needless to say, I felt an obligation to rescue "Mr. Justrite" from this den of femininity.

Carbide lamp attachments add a dimension to collecting that make the common lamp something more than common. Two or three lamp attachments and an active imagination can create an intriguing collectible.

The pistol grip lampstick holding "Mr. Justrite" in this illustration is



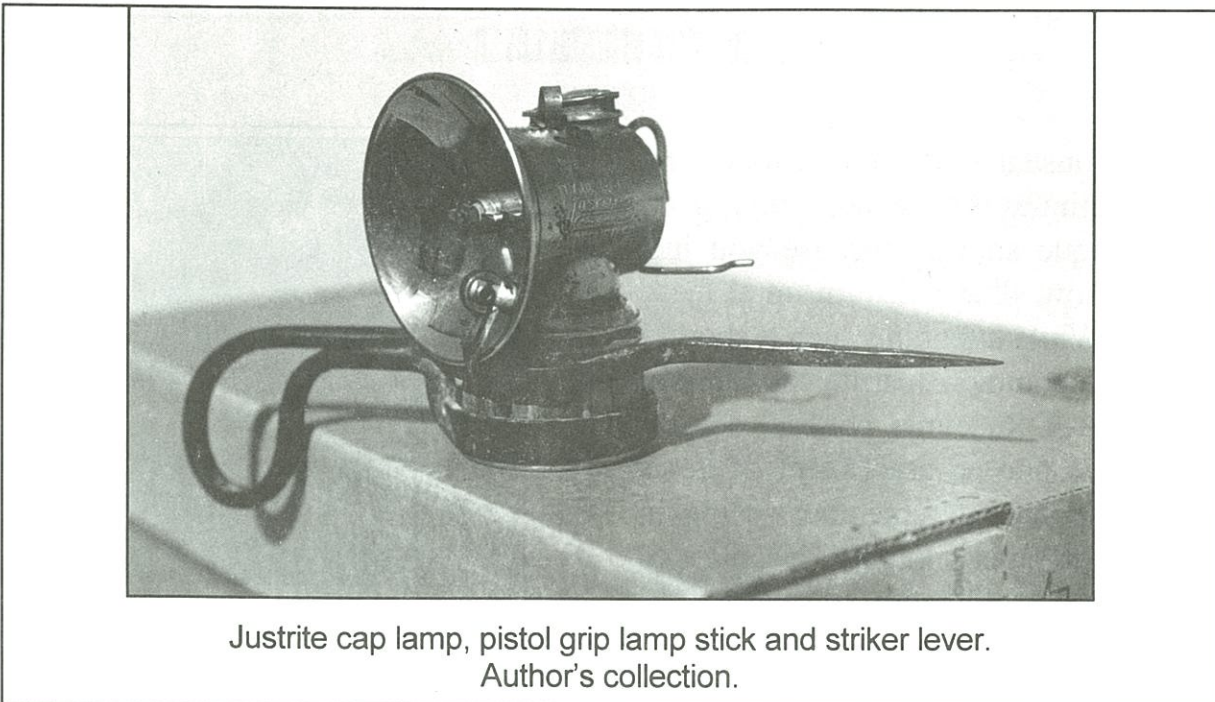
Justrite advertising illustration for a "snap-type striker lever". From a Justrite catalog.



Striker lever or ratchet pawl on the spring-loaded control lever of the striker on a carbide lamp. Patent #1,429,420, September 19, 1922. William J. Frisbie, Chicago, Illinois.

representative of a time then manufacturers were attempting to wean miners from their candlestick holders by offering lamp attachments reminiscent of their trusted candlestick holders. One might think it ironic that this lamp's previous owner, seemingly one attempting to resist change, would willingly agree to use a "new-tangled, futuristic" snap-type, spring-levered striker.

The means by which "Mr. Justrite" and his buddies became attached is actually a mystery, but their union allows one to enjoy speculating the possibilities. Enjoy!

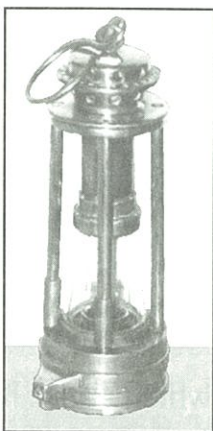


Justrite cap lamp, pistol grip lamp stick and striker lever.  
Author's collection.

References: *The Miner's Flame Light Book*, by Henry Pohs. 1995.

## MINING ITEMS FOR SALE & TRADE

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Rare Safety Lamps  
Wanted

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Tampa, FL 33602

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- Twist Blasting Machines
- Plunger Blasting Machines
- Blasting Powder Flasks
- Carbide Lamps
- Miscellaneous Mining



**1915 Justrite Ad**

*Reproductions available for \$50  
Embossed steel, in color 16½" x 11½" wide  
Genuine original also available*

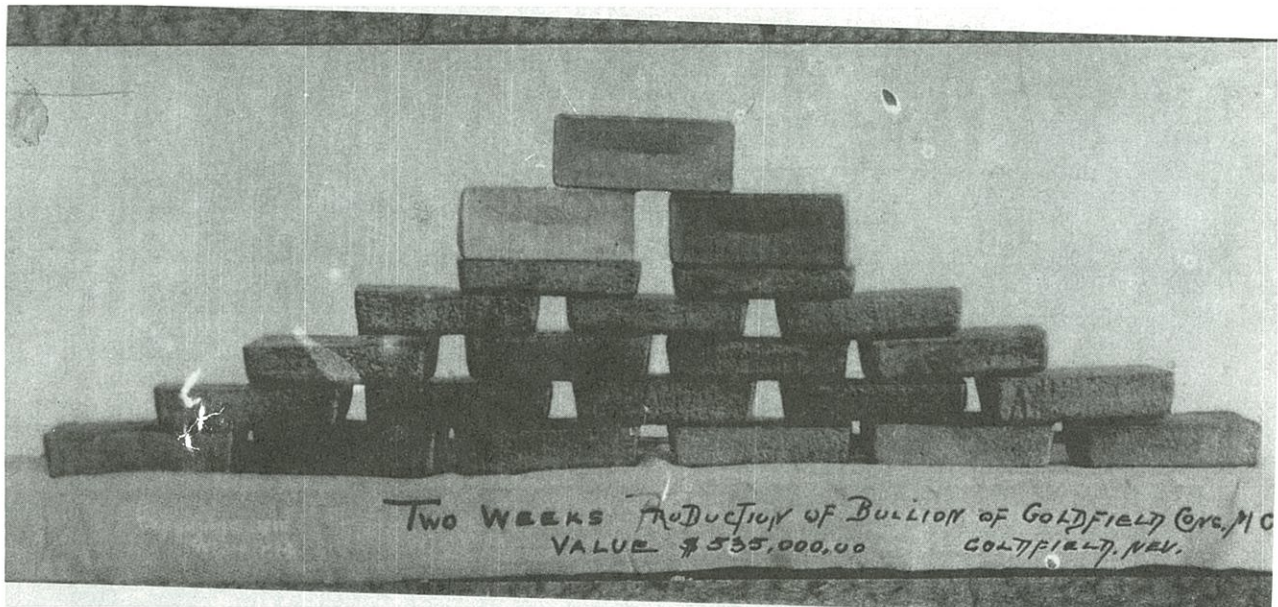
**HISTORIC GOLDFIELD NEVADA**

BY JON AURICH JR.

1911 "Bullion Picture" shows a huge number of bullion bars, all the bars shown total 26,000 ozs. of gold. Goldfield Con grossed 10.4 million dollars in 1911.

Goldfield's mines were the richest gold mines in the world and the record still stands as the richest per ton to date.

The total ozs. of gold taken out of the small main ore zone has exceeded 4.5 million ozs. of gold.



"A note to mother" is one of the best letters discussing a mining town in its boom. The man that is writing to his mother is the secretary for the firm, Thomas & Bryant, Nixon and Wingfield's attorney. (See next pages -)

GEO. S. NIXON

J. M. FENWICK, General Manager

GEO. WINGFIELD

Goldfield Consolidated Mines Company  
 Jurabo Mining Company of Goldfield  
 Sandstorm Mining Company  
 Booth Mining Company of Goldfield  
 Columbia Mountain Mining Company  
 Fairview Eagle Mining Company  
 Goldfield May Queen Mining Company  
 Bullfrog Central Mining Company  
 Goldfield Mining Company

## NIXON &amp; WINGFIELD

Goldfield Mohawk Mining Company  
 Red Top Mining Company of Goldfield  
 Laguna Goldfield Mining Company  
 Kendall Goldfield Mining Company  
 Milltown Mining Company  
 Lena Fairview Mining Company  
 Goldfield Nevada Boy Mining Company  
 Greenwater Copper Helmet Mining Company  
 Combination Mines Company

C. D. WILKINSON, Chief Engineer

J. M. FENWICK, Secretary

July 3, 1907  
 Goldfield, Nevada.

My Dear Mother,

I received a letter from you this morning. In it was the check for \$29.60. I am very much obliged to you for the money and will try to make it go as far as possible. Everything comes so very high here that it will not go far. Last night I went down and bought a pair of Khaki pants. They are cooler and I do not want to wear out my others. The heat here is something terrific. I suppose it is the same in Tonopah. One certainly earns everything that one gets in this country.

This is evening now and across the street the Stock Exchange is booming. They are calling the bids and the Chairman's voice sounds higher than anyones. That is the way here; the people of least importance talk the loudest, everybody is more or less crazy. Mr. Bryant takes everything perfectly easy. Yesterday he went off on one minutes notice to Round Mountain. He told me to tend to things while he was gone and left me with that. Well, I am glad that he is satisfied with me. It will feel better when he has raised my salary.

I did the best I could about that Combination room. It simply came to a question of whether a fellow there would allow me to come into the room with him and he would not do it, so I had to get. The room I have now is perfectly clean and nice but I do hate to pay the rent. I went out to look at some houses this morning and found one that was very nice. It is but three rooms, no bath, no water nor sewer. As to the water and the sewer, it is simply a matter of connect-

GEO. S. NIXON

J. W. FINCH, GENERAL MANAGER

GEO. WINGFIELD

Goldfield Consolidated Mines Company  
 Jumbo Mining Company of Goldfield  
 Sandstorm Mining Company  
 Booth Mining Company of Goldfield  
 Columbia Mountain Mining Company  
 Fairview Eagle Mining Company  
 Goldfield May Queen Mining Company  
 Bullfrog Central Mining Company  
 Goldfield Mining Company

## NIXON & WINGFIELD

Goldfield Mohawk Mining Company  
 Red Top Mining Company of Goldfield  
 Laguna Goldfield Mining Company  
 Kendall Goldfield Mining Company  
 Milltown Mining Company  
 Lena Fairview Mining Company  
 Goldfield Nevada Boy Mining Company  
 Greenwater Copper Helmet Mining Company  
 Combination Mines Company

C. D. WILKINSON, Chief Engineer

J. M. FENWICK, Secretary

ing them with the mains and putting pipes in the house. The place is nice in this that it is well built, plastered, new, cool, clean and sufficiently furnished. The Price is \$3000.00 cash. It is on a good street and there are nice houses going up by it. Another one of four rooms had no more real space, was poorly built, on the wrong side of the street no water nor sewer. That was \$2000.00.

I would favor the first one as the best thing I have seen in town. Of course we would have to raise the money. I would favor the sale of the property in Boise. That will give us some money. I will write to Stanford tomorrow to see if I can sell that Kappa Sigma stock. I will later tell those fellows a few things that I think of them. Talk it over with Rob and ask him what he thinks we could raise by way of mortgage on such a property.

I thought that I told you to tell Rob about that suit against Sutro. Yes, I just wanted to put him next in case he was in a position to lose anything. I did not understand that Jessie was coming by way of Goldfield. That is why I was not down for one reason. Another reason was that I was busy until about eight o'clock. Give my love to all of them. I am going to write to Rob tomorrow.

I remain, Your loving son



This interesting letter "Money advance for Smoot" shows funds advanced for a laborer who seems a little short on everything.

GEO. S. NIXON, PRESIDENT  
GEO. WINGFIELD, VICE-PRESIDENT  
JOHN S. COOK, TREASURER  
J. M. FENWICK, SECRETARY  
JOHN WELLINGTON FINCH, GENERAL MANAGER

GOLDFIELD MOHAWK MINING COMPANY  
RED TOP MINING COMPANY OF GOLDFIELD  
JUMBO MINING COMPANY OF GOLDFIELD  
LAGUNA GOLDFIELD MINING COMPANY  
GOLDFIELD MINING COMPANY OF NEVADA  
COMBINATION MINE AND MILL

THE  
GOLDFIELD CONSOLIDATED  
MINES COMPANY

Handwritten scribbles and numbers, possibly a date or initials.

Goldfield, Nev. Jan. 25th, 1908.

Mr. Geo. K. Edler, Purchasing Agent,  
The G. C. M. Co.,  
City.

*To word  
San Antonio 1914*

Handwritten calculations:  
895  
350  
43750  
62550  
20635  
31483  
157750

Dear Sir:-

The bearer R. B. Smoot is in the employ of the Consolidated on the mill grade and has worked  $8\frac{3}{4}$  (8 3/4) days at \$3.50 per day and has a debit of \$14.85 for board. He wishes to get a little money to make some needed purchases. Kindly fix him up and oblige,

Very truly yours,

*J. B. Fleming*  
Mechanical Engineer,

The G. C. Mines Co.

P.S.

*I shall not make a fracture of doing this kind of business, but he is a fairly good man and is practically barefoot, J.B.F.*

JAN 25 PAID

*R. B. Smoot*

## MEMORIALS TO THE MINE MULES OF PENNSYLVANIA

BY EVE IVERSON

*Reprinted with permission from The Brayer magazine, March/April 1998.*

Coal mining is a dangerous and physically demanding job. For many years men and mules faced the hazards of the underground work as a team. Through their efforts the fuel of the American industrial revolution was drawn from the mountains of Pennsylvania. In the cities of Ashland and Scranton you can visit mines and museums that preserve the heritage of “the rock that burns.”

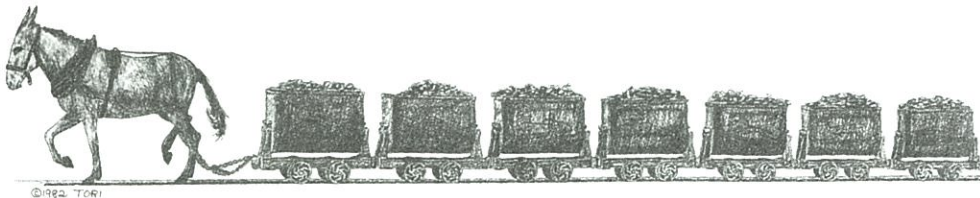
There are two main types of coal. Bituminous coal is brown in color and comparatively soft. It is found throughout the world. Anthracite is black, hard, more rare and more valuable. Anthracite burns hotter and more slowly than bituminous coal and produces less pollution. Consequently, anthracite was pursued underground into the Appalachian Mountains with a nearly religious fervor.

At the turn of the century newly arrived immigrants found ready work

in the mines. They also discovered that in the eyes of the mine owners they were less valuable than the mules they labored with. There was no worker’s compensation or unemployment to help miners when they were injured in the coal fields. Another person was hired to take their place before the dust had settled at their mining station. By comparison, the mules were expensive and required training and experience to do their jobs properly. They were hard to replace, and woe to the miner who injured one in frustration!

I wanted to find out how mules were employed in underground work so I traveled to the famous mining regions in the Appalachian Mountains of Pennsylvania. I have found many articles in various mining journals that describe how animals were trained, fed and housed inside the mines. I am currently working on a bibliography which will give interested longeared enthusiasts an opportunity to discover a new aspect of the mule at work.

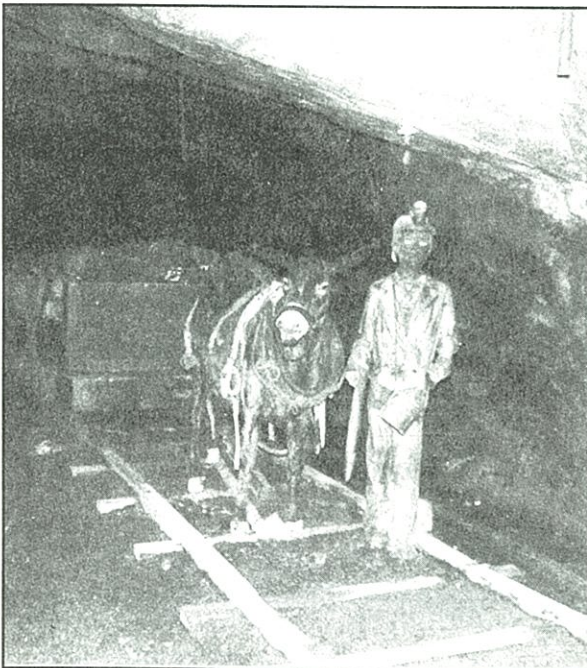
The city of Ashland is in the



southeastern part of the state. The Pioneer Tunnel Coal mine begins with a level tunnel 1800 feet into the side of Mahanoy Mountains. At the entrance to the tunnel a cutout of a mule greets you. Inside the mine an identical mule is waiting patiently inside its stall. Underground mine stables could be elaborate with concrete walls and floors; or simple stalls cut into the tunnel.

The tour concentrates on giving visitors an understanding of how miners worked and how they removed coal from the earth. There is only limited coverage of the mules but the subterranean experience is well worth a trip. Underground, the air is as cold as it was when the mine was operating, but the air is no longer full of dust.

The tour lasts about 40 minutes



and is particularly good for children in grade school or high school. Walking the tunnels makes their American history lessons come alive. Back on the surface the steam train (Henry Clay) gives 40 minute tours of a former strip mine for an additional fee. Downhill from the mine the Pennsylvania Anthracite Museum gives visitors a detailed look at coal mining.

The Lackawanna Coal Mine is in the northeastern part of Pennsylvania Appalachian Mountains on the outskirts of Scranton. In this mine you travel 300 feet below ground and see another example of the work that went into removing fossil fuel from the earth. A mannequin of a boy leading a mule through the dark tunnel represents the conditions under which both worked. The mules often spent their entire lives underground and worked in much less light than the Lackawanna Mine uses now to display the tunnels. The children that worked beside them were often taking the place of their fathers who had been injured or killed in mine accidents.

Just above the mine entrance is the Pennsylvania State Anthracite Museum. The galleries provide a comprehensive overview of coal mining and the culture it produced. While there is only limited mention of mules the subject of coal transportation is well cov-



ered. It is particularly helpful in giving you an understanding of the conditions in the mines that lead to union organizing.

If you are traveling to southeastern Pennsylvania, during the late spring through early fall you can visit any of these sites. To visit the Pioneer Tunnel and the Museum of Anthracite Mining, drive to the city of Ashland off Pennsylvania Road 61. This can be reached from either Interstate 80 or Interstate 78. The phone number for the Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine and Steam Train is (717) 875-3850 or (717) 875-3301. The phone number for the Museum of Anthracite Mining is (717) 875-4708.

In northeastern Pennsylvania to visit the Lackawanna Coal Mine and the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum, take the Pennsylvania Turnpike to Keyser Avenue exit and follow the signs to McDade Park. The phone number for the Lackawanna Mine Tour is (717) 963-MINE. The phone number for the Anthracite Museum is (717) 963-4804 or (717) 963-4845. Contact each attraction for the schedule and prices.

When you enter this underworld think of all the men and mules who went into this and similar tunnels and give a tip of your head in respect for all the work they did to make America

strong.

Each of the museums has an archive which has pictures and records of mining mules. The National Canal Museum at Easton also has an extensive collection on mining.



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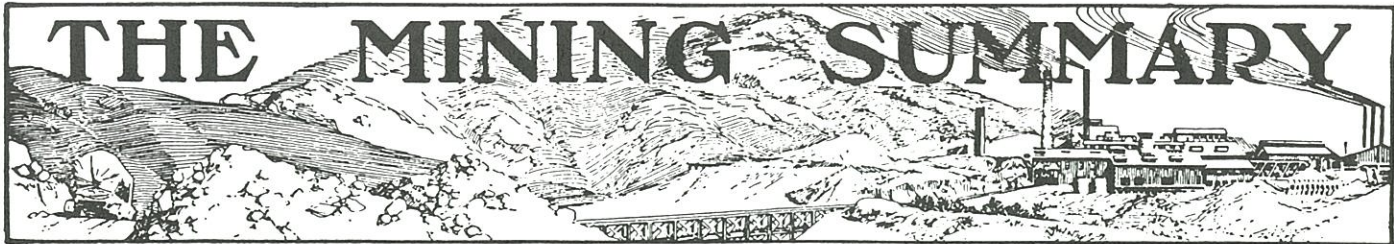
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# THE MINING SUMMARY

## WHAT'S NEW THAT'S OLD

SM 1-31-21

DARWIN SILVER COMPANY  
ASSAY OFFICE

---

ASSAY FOR

Au Ag Pb Zn Cu Fe SiO<sub>2</sub>

---

LOT No. \_\_\_\_\_ TEST No. \_\_\_\_\_

MINE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

SAMPLE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ WT. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Darwin Silver Company assay tag found underground in Eastern California.

250 Pounds N<sup>o</sup> 339

ISSUED BY  
**JOE KNEZEVICH**  
ICE - PHONE 832  
Tonopah, Nevada

To \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Unused coupons are redeemable at their face value at office. No replacement can be made if this book becomes lost or stolen.

**NOT TRANSFERABLE - NOT GOOD IF DETACHED**

Coupon book for ice from Tonopah, Nevada. Special commodity here, you can bet.

CONTINENTAL OIL COMPANY,  
*Albuquerque, N. M.,* APR 15 1901 789

M. \_\_\_\_\_

We quote you \_\_\_\_\_

### Granite Mining Candles,

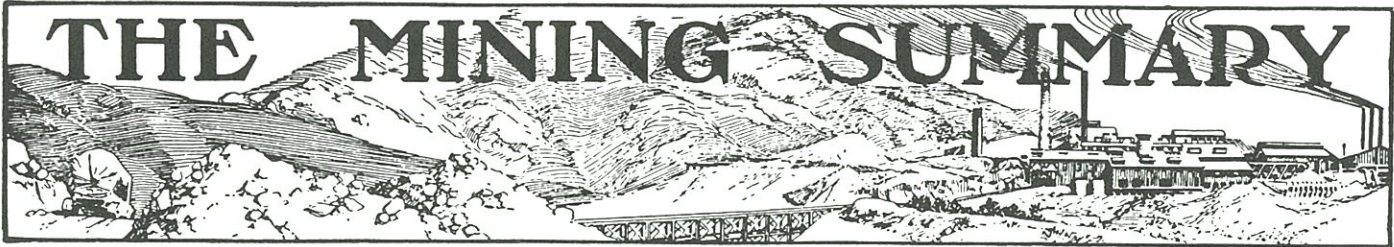
6s-14s-40s at 3.90 per case F. O. B. LAS CRUCES, N. M.

6s-16s-40s at 4.40 " " " LAS CRUCES, N. M.

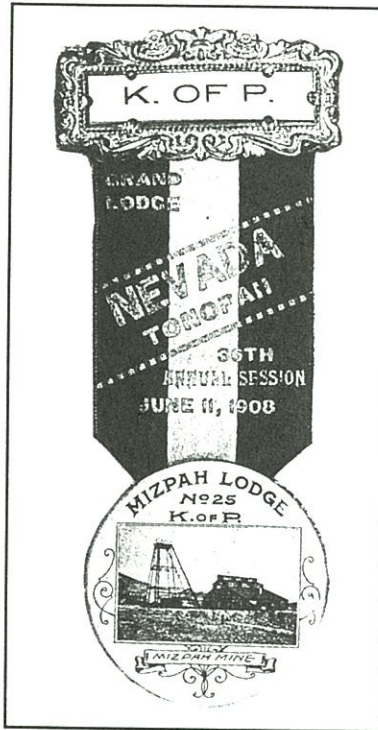
CONTINENTAL OIL CO.,  
By *H. G. Wilson, S. A.*

Postcard invoice for Granite Mining Candles. Note Continental Oil Company logo as opposed to Standard Oil Company on most boxes.

# THE MINING SUMMARY



## WHAT'S NEW THAT'S OLD



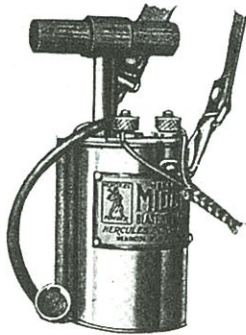
Knights of Pithies grand lodge badge from Tonopah, Nevada. Nice view of the famous Mizpah Mine.



Very early Miner's Protective Association for the Third Invitation Ball. Dancing to commence at 9:00 p.m.

### HERCULES MIDGET BLASTING MACHINE

The Hercules Midget Blasting Machine is of the two-post variety, having a maximum capacity of 4 Blasting Caps with copper wires or 3 Blasting Caps with iron wires. It is operated by a quick twist of the key or handle and is especially recommended for use in coal mines where only one to four shots are fired at a time. This machine has a brass casing, and is strong and light, weighing 4½ pounds. It is small enough to carry in the miner's pocket, or can be swung from the shoulder with a strap.



Midget Hercules Blasting Machine advertisement. Has not yet been seen on Ebay. From 1918 Hercules Products booklet. Courtesy of Leo Stambaugh Collection.

# THE MINING SUMMARY

## WHAT'S NEW THAT'S OLD

JOE DENN and THE PACIFIC POWDER COMPANY say

### High Quality Explosives Reduces Blasting Costs

and

Since you cannot refrain from drinking, why not start a saloon in your own home? Be the only customer and you will not have to buy a license. Give your wife \$55.00 to buy a case of whiskey. There are 240 snorts in a case. Buy all of your drinks from your wife at 60 cents a snort and in 12 days, when the case is gone, your wife will have \$89.00 to put in the bank and will have \$55.00 to start in business again.

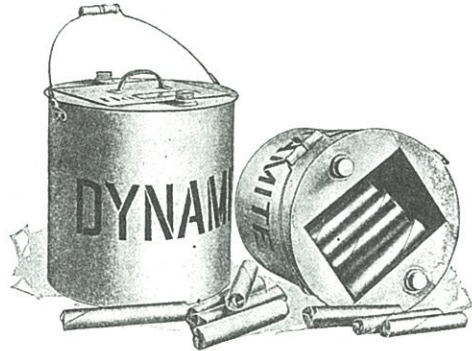
If you live 10 years and continue to buy all your booze from your wife, and then die in your boots from the snakes, your widow will have \$27,085.37 on deposit, enough to bury you respectfully, bring up your children, pay off the mortgage on the house, marry a decent man, and forget she ever knew you.

Pacific Powder Company ad. Almost certainly tongue-in-cheek. Or not?

### HERCULES PRODUCTS

#### HERCULES THAWING KETTLES

Hercules Thawing Kettles are made with a water-tight compartment for the explosive, which is surrounded by a receptacle for the hot water. They are made in one piece, the



dynamite compartment being large enough to allow an eight-inch cartridge to be laid flat. There are two vents to the water jacket: one for the entrance of water and the other for the escape of air.

	Capacity	Weight Empty	Weight of Water	Outside Dimensions
Hercules No. 1...	30 lbs.	12½ lbs.	40 lbs.	14" x 14½"
Hercules No. 2...	60 lbs.	17½ lbs.	77½ lbs.	17½" x 21"

Advertisement for Hercules Thawing Kettles from 1918 Hercules Product booklet. Not your typical dynamite thawers. Courtesy of Leo Stambaugh Collection.

# THE MINING SUMMARY

## WHAT'S NEW THAT'S OLD

**KNIGHT TEMPLAR** ✠  
**SOUVENIR SPOON!**

A Souvenir commemorative of the  
Silver Triennial Conclave  
at Denver, Colorado, August, 1892.  
MADE OF  
**Colorado Silver.**

FROM THE RITES OF  
**Creede and  
Cripple Creek.**

Artistically Engraved with  
Emblems  
of the  
Order.

Protected  
by letters  
Patent dated  
February 16th  
1892. The only  
Souvenir Spoon  
that will be issued  
commemorative of  
this conclave.

Price by Registered Mail,  
**\$3.00 Each,**  
Or \$2.75 each in clubs of 6.  
EXPRESS PAID.

Orange Spoon with Gold Bowl  
\$3.50

Manufactured by  
**THE GREEN-SMITH CO.,**  
Jewelers,  
1735 Arapahoe St., Denver, Col.  
P. O. Box 1220

REFERENCE: Denver National Bank.

Silver souvenir spoon advertisement for Knight Templar Silver Triennial Conclave. From Great Divide, Colorado newspaper dated June 1892. Courtesy of Karen McKenzie collection.

Order now!  
"Cap Tin Catalog", 94-page book illustrates and describes over 200 tins. Order from Andy Martin, 3030 N. Sarsaparilla Pl., Tucson, AZ 85749 for \$10.00 (Shipping included).

**Camp Bird Mining & Milling Company**

**3 CLAIMS** CAMP BIRD LODE.  
AT QUEEN LODE.  
**CREEDE, COLO.** CREEK LODE.

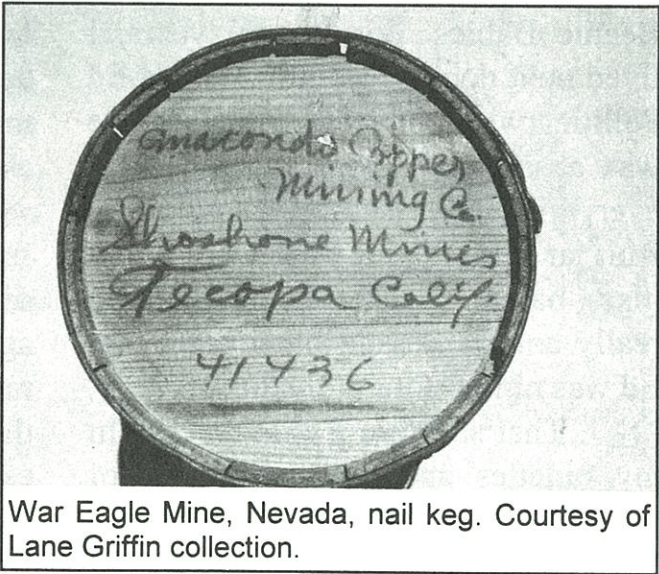
LOCATED ON BACHELOR MOUNTAIN, CREEDE, COLO.

THE COMPANY desires to push work vigorously so as to determine the value of the property this summer, and, in order to do this on the scale proposed, we now offer to the public 100,000 shares of the treasury stock at 10 cents. FIRST COMP. FIRST SERVED. This stock is listed on the Colorado Mining Stock Exchange, and every dollar received from sales as above will be directly expended in actual development. All vouchers for money disbursed will be submitted to the Secretary of the Exchange for his approval, and monthly reports showing in detail the work done and financial state of the Company to date will be faithfully furnished to the public and to the Exchange.

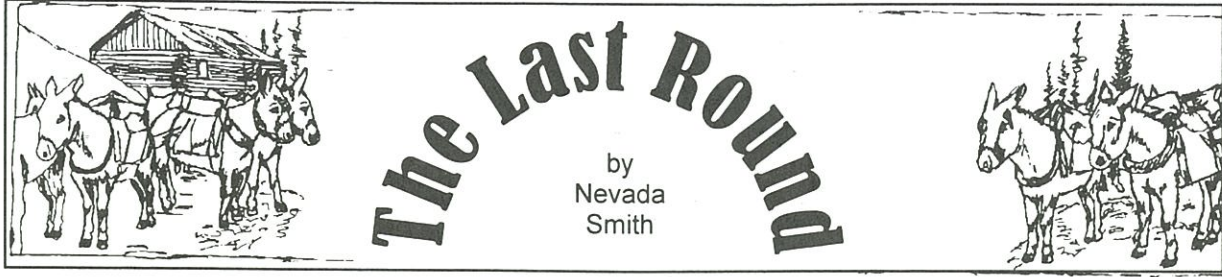
Send for full particulars at once, and by return mail we will tell you all about this speculation and how to take advantage of it. Address  
**C. M. FARNUM, Secy., 520 Mining Exchange Building, DENVER, COLO.**

**The Cripple Creek Gold Mining Co.**  
This Company owns some of the promising mining property in that now famous Gold Mining District of Colorado and offers for sale a limited number of shares at the nominal price of **15 Cents per Share.**  
For full particulars and further information, address  
**J. M. Houghton, Sec. & Treas., 205 Mining Ex'ng Bldg., Denver.**

Camp Bird Mine and Cripple Creek Mine mining property sales advertisements. From Great Divide, Colorado newspaper dated June 1892. Courtesy of Karen McKenzie collection.



War Eagle Mine, Nevada, nail keg. Courtesy of Lane Griffin collection.



Collectors collect for the same reason, it would appear, that mountain climbers climb mountains. Most collectors like to think that they collect for the sake of a hobby, or from a sense of history and attachment to the past. A number of them even collect with the thought in mind that when they're just fed up with what they do to make the mortgage, they can keep themselves in beans and bacon by buying and selling to other collectors.

If, however, we are honest with ourselves, we're not really sure why we act as we do.

Collectors gather everything from glassware to mining artifacts to Beanie Babies. For several years, I lived next door to a fellow named Ed Pellitier who collected fruit jars. He was absolutely nuts about it. Knew everything there was to know about fruit jar makers and what went into a glass batch to color them. Nothing really unusual about this, except that Ed was ninety-four at the time.

That's where I want to be. In my nineties and still in pursuit of rusty stuff and candlesticks. This defines, I think, the meaning of eternal

optimism.

Mining artifact collectors with access to a computer and the web are probably familiar with and participate in miningcollect. If not, contact Dave Thorpe who will add you to this growing list. Recently, Dr. Jim Talley came up with the great idea to invite everyone to fill out a collector's biography form and send it out by E-mail to those of us on miningcollect. A tip of the 'ol felt hat, Jim, for the opportunity to share a little bit about ourselves.

For me, the most interesting feature of the biography is not necessarily the number and variety of artifacts that line our cabinet shelves. I have to admit, however, that some mighty fine and extensive collections are out there among us.

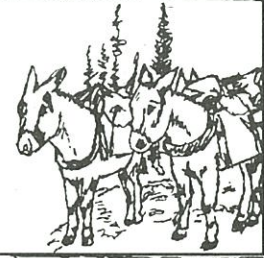
The interesting details gleaned from the list are the brief descriptions of what makes us, well, us. The average age of those who submitted biographies is forty-five, with thirty-three the youngest and sixty-three the oldest. Most of us (rather, ahem, you) are in your early forties.

Most of us married. Most of us



# The Last Round

by  
Nevada  
Smith



with livelihoods that have nothing to do with mining. It is encouraging to see that newcomers to mining artifact collecting are added almost daily; a majority of us have been after it for ten years or better.

After all these years collecting, as I stand before my fine cabinets looking in at what I have amassed, I have come to realize that it is just so much stuff. Things. Startling indeed to think that they are not really even mine, except for the moment. I may keep them the rest of my life, but unless they stick them all in the furnace with me, it will be left behind for someone else to ponder.

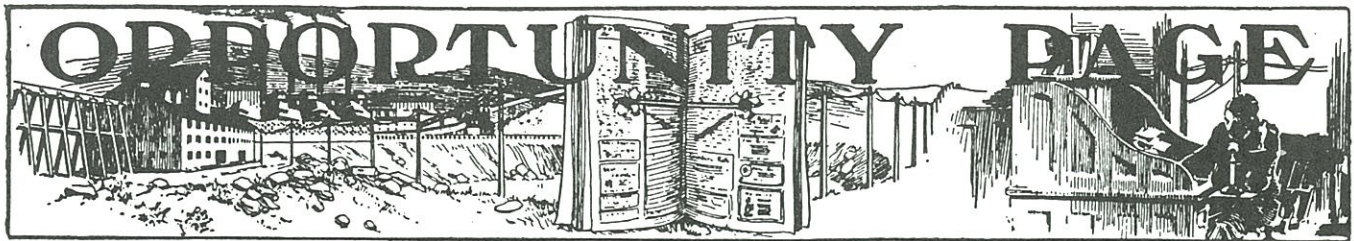
All the other artifacts in all of your cases are as mine. Just so much stuff to dust and worry about how to get more.

Come to think of it, I reckon we can conclude that collectors collect for the same reasons some climb far vistas. Reason being, of course, to be around others who share the same interests. Just as serious climbers seldom go alone, so to do collectors gather among those with similar thoughts and ideas.

An item is of special interest when you have the knowledge of who once owned it. And they do not necessarily need to have been a mine super for the Consolidated Virginia. Could be some fellow like yourself, several states away, which you were able to trade a treasure for a treasure with.

Collecting is about people, of course. No earth shaking revelation, you already knew it. It is just pleasant to be reminded of this, occasionally. As a wise old bird I know has said, it's about the people, not how much you can carry.





## Advertising

### Single Issue Rate

¼ page (business card size) .. \$ 25  
 ½ page ..... \$ 50  
 Full page..... \$ 100

### 4 Issue Rate

¼ page (business card size) .. \$ 90  
 ½ page \$ ..... \$180  
 Full page ..... \$ 350

Conditions: Ads must be submitted each issue in which they will appear unless a 4 issue arrangement has been made. They should be received camera ready 2 weeks before the next publication date. Ads will be accepted on a first come first served basis and the editors reserve the right to refuse any ad. We discourage the use of monetary value in ads and recommend that the buyer and seller contact each other personally for prices. No advertiser will be contacted prior to the publication mailing date.

**Minor Miner Humor:** Two volumes of cartoons and short stories drawn from real life mining situations. Send name and address along with \$12.00 to:

H. W. Foster  
 505 Copper St. #1804  
 Elko, NV 89801



## Images From The Past Photos and Handcrafted Reproductions

January 1997 Price List  
 P.O. Box 987  
 Hawthorne, NV 89415  
 (702) 426-8047

### Photos

All photos are custom printed and mounted on ¼ foam core by a professional photo lab.

	16 x 20	16 x 24	20 x 30
1200 Level - Northern Belle	\$60	\$75	\$125
Ghosts of Miners Past	\$60	\$75	\$125

Dynamite Boxes \$30 ea.  
 Dynamite Box Ends \$7.50 ea. /3 for \$20  
 12" x 18" x 9" h. – Finger-jointed edges. Includes lid.

*Safety Nitro Powder Co. Giant Gelatin  
 Giant Powder (1892) Giant Eagle  
 Candelaria*

Blasting Machines \$ 75 ea.  
 7" x 9" x 15" h. Box edges are finger-joined.  
*Victor Electric Blasting Machine*

### Hats & T Shirts

All hats and shirts printed black on ash gray.  
*Safety Nitro Powder Co.* –Hats - \$12.50 Shirts - \$16.00 ea. (M, L, XL only)

### Shipping Charges

Photos: 16 x 20 & 16 x 24 \$10 ea.  
 20 x 30 - \$15 ea  
 Dynamite Boxes/Blasting Machines: \$7.50 ea

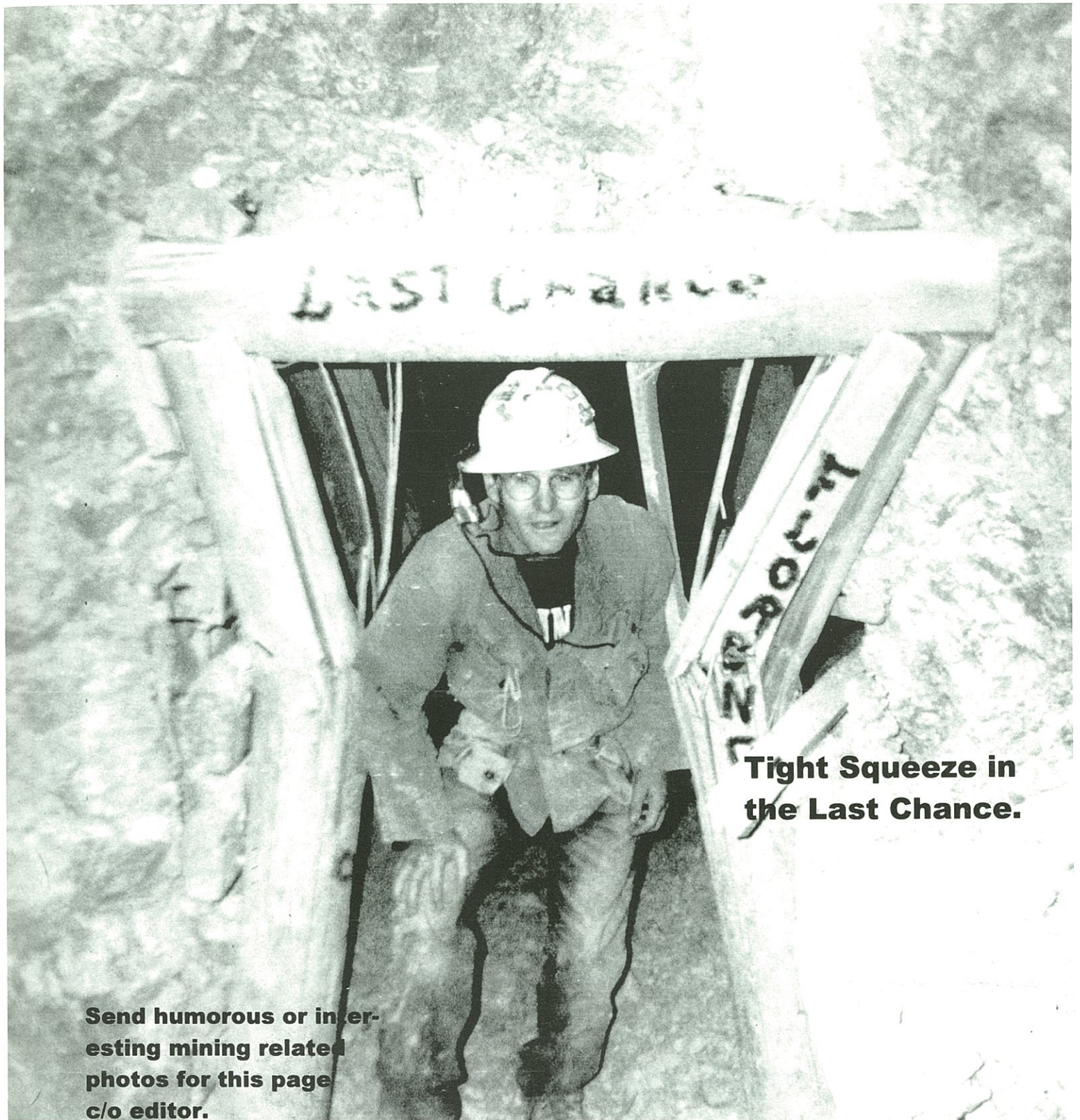
### Hats, Shirts & Box Ends:

Free shipping for orders that include dynamite boxes - provided all items will fit in the boxes(es). Otherwise please include 10% of total charges for hats, shirts & box ends.





# Sous La Terre



**Tight Squeeze in  
the Last Chance.**

**Send humorous or interesting mining related photos for this page c/o editor.**

# Williams Minerals

*Keith and Brenda Williams*

R.R. 1 Box 77  
Dutch Hollow Road  
Rio, West Virginia 26755  
304-897-6003  
Toll Free 888-258-5378



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