

# Girls Do It Too

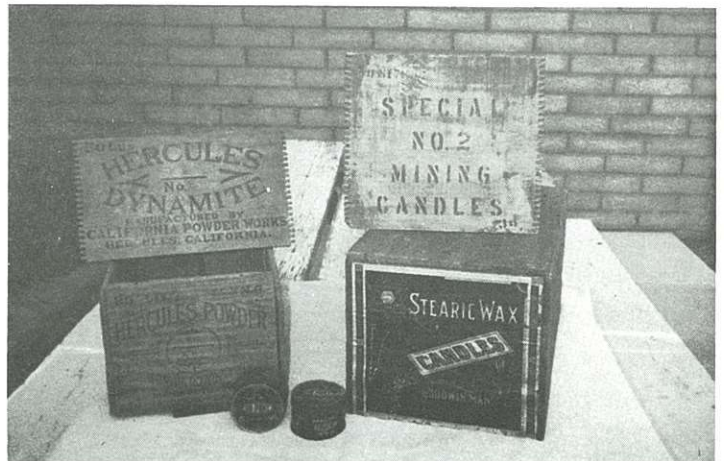
by Todd Town



*Amie Barreras with her 25 lb. Hercules Powder box and Goodwin candle box.*

**R**apelling a hundred feet on rope into a vertical shaft, the first level becomes visible. You swing yourself onto a landing. Back on earth and detached from rope and harness, you proceed down a drift complete with mine rails, timbering and ore chutes. Not far into the passage, a pile of muck has forced you to your hands and knees in order to clear the blockage. On the other side the passage conditions deteriorate with ruptured cribbing, splinted timber and more half muck-filled drift. Your helmet light is bouncing at everything in front of you, then your eyes focus in on the sharp edges of a wooden box lying in the middle of the passage. A paper label at one end can be made out. With a couple of quick wipes of the hand, brilliant colors and lettering appear: STEARIC WAX CANDLES, GOODWIN. A complete candle box. What a find! The testosterone level must be going through the roof at this point...NOT! Amie found it. Yep, Amie

Barreras: rock climber, caver, now successful underground mine explorer. Ducking down a side tunnel for a few minutes, Amie then snagged a nice complete 25 lb. Hercules Powder box. A pretty good day after numerous cap tins, food tins, powder and candle box ends. To my knowledge, Amie is the only active female mine explorer doing vertical shafts.



*Some of the artifacts pulled from the Arizona copper mine near Globe.*