

JIM FINCHE'S MINE REPORT

by Ashurst Whiteside
submitted by H. Mason Coggin

So onward went Jim and onward went Bill,
On up the Sonora, past valley and hill;
On up the Sonora, no thought to turn back-
Sans booze and sans money, sans grub and sans jack.
On up the Sonora and still did not Flinch,
Jim found Judge Stevens and Bill found Jim Finch.

Says Finch; "I've a mine, and, yes, it's for sale;
A heritage priceless, to describe it words fail.
It's as wide as the river and almost as long,
One million dollars? Hell! That's just a song
A mine report? No! But there's plenty of ink,
An engineer nothing, they're all on the blink.
I can romance myself, "says Jim with a wink.
"And I'll write a report to make'em sit up and think."

Jim labored and wrote, and labored and swore,
And started again as sheet on sheet tore,
Till along toward evening, says Jim: "Its complete.
A good full shift's work and all on one sheet.
It sure is a gem and from my own brain,
But by your leave, Bill, ill just read it again."
But the mine was not sold, for said Jim, as he swore:
"That mine's too good to sell" and this too he tore.
Himself he'd convinced, but I question in short
If that mine were as priceless as that mine report.

Ashurst Whiteside

Ashurst Whiteside was a mining engineer who came to Arizona before 1900. He found work in the mines at Bisbee with the Calumet and Arizona Mining Company and then drifted into Mexico and back to the U.S. He was involved with Cananea, Ajo, and finally published his poems in "Desert Odyssey and Other Poems" from Miami, Arizona in 1925. If anyone has more biographical information on this picturesque old scout, I would like a copy.

I have started putting together a collection

of poems, photos, sketches and paintings depicting the life of a miner in the early 20th century. I will be using the material as a slide presentation, an article for this publication, and perhaps an exhibit. If you have anything that you feel might be helpful, would appreciate a copy and permission to publish.

Please send it to **H. Mason Coggin, Director, Arizona Department of Mines and Mineral Resources, 1502 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona, 85007.**