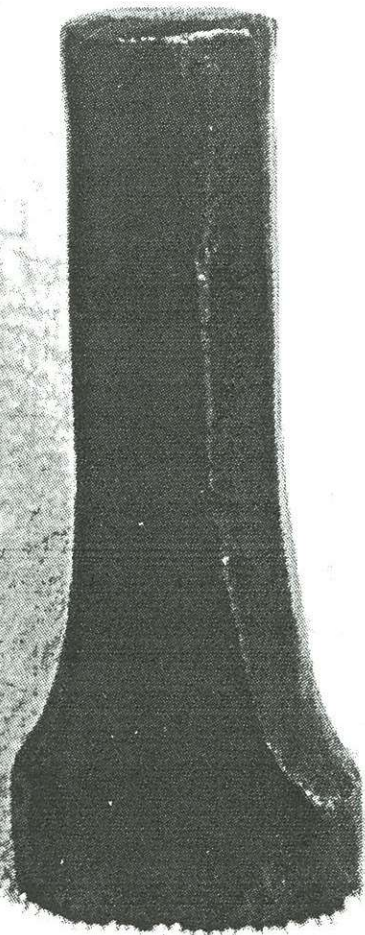


# At the Bottom of the Pile

*by Bruce Beck and Todd Town*

The fantastic artifact pictured here was found in a scrap pile on a ranch outside Mayer Arizona. It was used when Arizona was still a territory. The lettered head was placed on a gold bullion bar, then hit sharply on top of the shank, causing it to leave an ownership stamp on the bar of gold. The Turkey Creek Mill was owned by Murat Masterson. The Weekly Arizona Miner newspaper announced on August 22, 1897 that the Masterson Mill was processing good gold ore from the Goodwin mine and John Hoimes Mine: "the Masterson two-stamp is pounding away with but a slight expense, netting \$100 daily." Exceptional Arizona Territorial mining artifacts are a very rare discovery. Bill Goldman, a collector specializing in early Arizona mining artifacts, lives in Payson, Arizona. He was lucky to uncover this item.



*Gold bullion stamp and its impression left on a gold bar. Bill Goldman collection.*