

Bob Schroth on Deadly Mines

Most people who know me, see that I am an avid underground explorer. I came across a newspaper article (Cour d' Alene Mountain Times) that I hope will emphasize how dangerous underground exploring can be. In this case it was a fatal mistake. While some of us have delusions of finding great artifacts, you have to realize that anything found underground, other than minerals, was trash to the miners. They would not have left it there otherwise. Being trained and experienced in underground exploring is the only way I would even attempt it.

Forest Service Closes Deadly Mine

BAYVIEW - The abandoned mine shaft where two amateur explorers perished in June has been permanently closed.

The Forest Service sealed the entrance of the Vulcan mine off Lake Pend Oreille at the end of June, said Judy Smith, a public information officer.

Stephen Novak, 28, Seattle, and Chris Ost-Homstad, 22, Minnesota, perished about 400 yards inside the mine June 10,

apparently overcome by carbon monoxide fumes and lack of oxygen.

The Bonner County Sheriff's Department strung temporary 'no trespassing' tape around the mine entrance after the incident while the forest Service tried to research the mine's history.

Though Smith said they could not trace the original owner of the abandoned limestone and silver mine, they decided to seal the mine to prevent others from wandering into it.

The mine is off of a sandy beach on the north side of the lake, and only accessible by boat.

She said special Forest Service personnel who specialized in mine closures installed several pieces of rebar in the rock at the entrance, completely blocking it.

Smith said they originally considered placing a charge in the rock and exploding the mouth, but the unstable rocks around the area made this unfeasible.

Mining Match Book Covers

Leo Stambaugh sent us copies of several of his match book covers shown here and on the next page. The fact that he keeps these in his collection tells us something about Leo's sense of humor. His comments are printed below each illustration.

Front



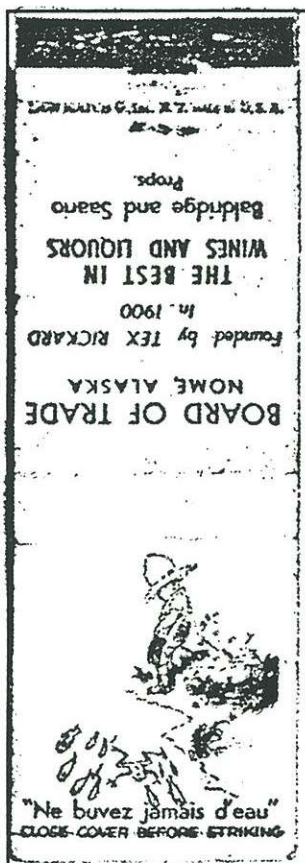
Back



This is the height of safety. The book is stapled shut with a tab to tear off to get a match.



This is the inside cover of the match book. It says it all! Ha Ha.



Tex Rickard was a promoter of Mines and Boxing and everything attached to money. The kid is pissing in the water.



A classic mining town.

For Sale: Two safety lamps. Best offer. 1) "Hailwood's Improved Lamp" Achroyd & Best Ltd. Makers. Moreley Leeds, England 2) "Davis Derby" Davis & Sons Ltd. New York. This Davis lamp has been electrified and turned into a mantle lamp. Jack Rooney, 2413 heather Mill Court, Springfield, IL 62704, (217) 787-2820

For Trade: Several very rare cap tins, ten count Dupont, rd. Silver Medal, Dominion, Canadian Explosives, Kirk explosives, others!!! Also for sale many uncommon tins. I have some interesting sticks and lamps for trade also. Wanted: 10 lb, Sunlite carbide tin, sq. 10 lb Union Carbide can, odd mining related tins, Bob Schroth P.O. Box 687 Twin Peaks Ca. 92391, ph# 909-337-7833 E-mail: bschroth@aol.com

For Trade or Sale: Mining Drawings. 1) Oracle Ridge Mill, a mill for a copper mine in Arizona. Designed but never built. 280 mylar & sepia drawings. Circa 1975. 2) Cannon Mine concentrator, Request for Proposal drawings (5/1984). Set of 31 blueline drawings. Make offer. Prefer to trade for nice condition carbide, safety lamps, oil wicks, candlesticks, blasting boxes, other mining items. John Baz-Dresch, 1214 W. 8th Ave., Apt. 2, Spokane, WA 99204. (509) 624-4497.

Books for Sale: King Coal: A Pictorial Heritage of West Virginia Coal Mining by Cohen \$11.95, Video: The Streets Were Paved with Gold: The Klondike Gold Rush 1896-1899 \$29.95, Fire in the Hole: The Untold Story of Hardrock Miners by Dolph \$30.00, Gold Rush Gateway - Skagway and Dyea, Alaska by Cohen \$10.50, Gold Mining in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan by Fountain \$14.95. Postpaid in the USA Send \$1.00 for complete book catalog. Robert Fox 1235 N. Westfield Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901.

For Sale or Trade: Buddy carbide cap lamp, Bonneted Marsault Wolf safety lamp, Sheffield, England, Varney candlestick, Sholder candlestick ("Lake Superior" pattern), Hughes Bros. Clanney safety lamp, "The Lung Motor" (life saving device for mine rescue). Wanted: Commercially made divining rods (mechanical water/mineral finders) and American Institute of Mining Engineers (AIME) items. Jeff Shanks, 2003 Yardley Rd., Yardley, Pennsylvania 19067, (215) 736-9107.