



Book Review (D. Johnson):

Hardrock Gold, A Miner's Tale

Author: Tom Morrison

This exceptionally well written account of the experiences of a young miner is presented in the third person. Tom Morrison began his mining career in a tin mine in his native England where he was a student at the Camborne School of Mines in Cornwall. Working first as a timberman's mate, he progressed to machineman's mate, and then to machineman. Unlike most mining engineers, the author learned the *practical* side of mining by working underground for 15 years, progressing from shift boss to mine captain, before actually working as a mining engineer.

We follow the author in his travels as a tramp miner from Cornwall, to Rammelsberg in the Harz Mountains of Germany, to Porcupine and Yellowknife in Canada, to Cripple Creek, and finally to New Foundland.

The author vividly brings to his readers the realities of underground mining, the excitement, and the danger. He brings to life the eccentric characters who daily face the uncertainty, darkness, dampness, heat, and cold of underground mining. This book is a must for those who want one man's explanation for what draws men to toil in the depths of the earth.

Published by the University of Oklahoma Press in 1992, this book is available from the Book Lode.

Aurora Mine Cigarette Case

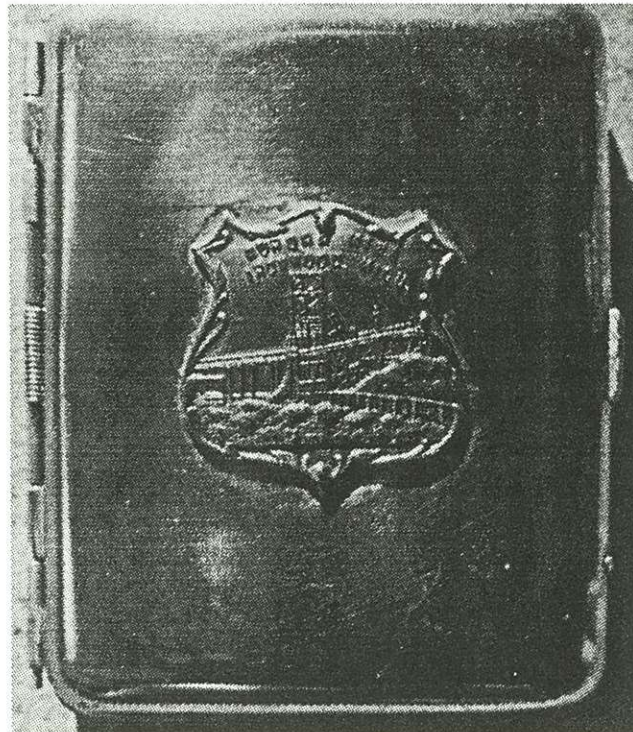
Mining related oddities continue to surface for those willing to really search the deep recesses of the collecting world. Looking closely at items that one generally would not expect to have a mining theme can often reveal an exceptional mining collectible. I have obtained pens and pencils with the names of mining companies, padlocks marked with mining company names, knives, and belt buckles with a mining theme, advertising pocket mirrors from mining companies and any number of other oddities.

I recently purchased this cigarette case in Ironwood, Michigan. The case is made of nickel-plated brass.

Was this item produced as some type of company award or was it something that was sold in local stores as a souvenir?

The raised plaque on the front of the case shows the headframe and ore piles of the Aurora Iron Mine, located in Ironwood, Michigan, on the Gogebic Iron range. The Aurora Mine was owned by the Oliver Iron Mining Co., a subsidiary of U.S. Steel.

I found this particular item buried in a small showcase in a local junkshop, after asking the owner if he had any mining related items and being told that he had recently sold everything that was related to mining.



Cigarette case (Dave Johnson collection).