



INDEPENDENCE MINE

W.S. STRATTON,
OWNER

Victor, Colo.

Brian Levine

SYZYGY GOLD MINING CO.

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A company for historians and collectors who want a share of America's mining past. Whether that be stock certificates, USGS publications, maps, prospectuses, photos, ore specimens, mining hardware, directories -- whatever history has to offer.

On Strike in San Miguel County, Colorado

by Brian Levine

Telluride - location of the Smuggler-Union, Gold King, Cimmarron, Virginius, Tom Boy, Liberty Bell, and Silver Pick mines. The site of the Smuggler lode, which, by 1905, had yielded over \$12 million in gold and silver. A lode that had been traced for at least 4 miles, cutting through a mountain range at the elevation of 13,200 feet.

Telluride - the place where some 700 millmen and miners went on strike in September 1903 over a dispute with the San Juan District Mine Owners' Association ("Association").

Why would these miners quit such a rich mining district? Pay and hours. On November 28, 1901, Miner's Union No. 63 of the Western Federation of Miners ("WFM") made an agreement with the Telluride Mining Association. This agreement fixed the following scale:

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Old Scale</u>		<u>New Scale</u>	
	<u>Wages/day</u>	<u>Hrs/day</u>	<u>Wages/day</u>	<u>Hrs/day</u>
Crusher men	\$3.50	10	\$3.00	8
Battery men	\$4.00	12	\$4.00	8
Concentrator men	\$4.00	12	\$4.00	8
Amalgamators	\$4.00	12	\$4.00	8
Firemen	\$3.50	12	\$3.50	8
Blacksmiths	\$4.00	9	\$4.00	8
Solution men	\$4.00	12	\$4.00	8
Machinists	\$4.00	9	\$4.00	8
Laborers and shovelers	\$3.00	10	\$3.00	8

Note: the revised wage scale did not include millmen. The WFM in 1903 wouldn't have that. Negotiations began, but ended in a fury.

On September 1, 1903, about 100 men quit their jobs at reduction mills and cyanide plants -- after cleaning the sites up and leaving them in good working order. This work stoppage effectively closed the Smuggler-Union, Tom Boy, Liberty Bell, Nellie, Columbia, and Menona mills. These closures didn't appear to affect the Association. So, on September 4th, the Telluride Federal Labor Union called out cooks, waiters, and other service-oriented employees. This shut down the Smuggler-Union and Alta mines.

By September 6, 1903, over 700 men had left Telluride looking for employment in other mining districts. Soon, mill managers thought it best to include their employees in the wage scale agreed upon in 1901. Once that happened, several of the larger producing mines went back into operation. Unfortunately, the Tom Boy Mine opened its mill in October with nonunion men, and the labor strike flared up again.

But now, labor strikes were occurring all over the State of Colorado. In the mills of Colorado City. In the gold mines of Cripple Creek. And in the coal mines of Trinidad. The WFM was flexing its muscle, trying its new power on for size. It wasn't long before the entire state was engulfed in a labor war. A war that cost many lives and ended up breaking the WFM.

NOTICE.

On and after the 1st DAY OF DECEMBER, 1904, employees of the Smuggler-Union Mining Company will be paid according to the following scale:

Mines, Under Ground.

Miners,	\$3.00 for 8 Hours
Machine Men,	4.00 for 8 Hours
Trammers and Shovelers,	3.00 for 8 Hours
Drivers, Caring for Horses,	3.25 for 8 Hours
Drivers, Not Caring for Horses,	3.00 for 8 Hours
Timbermen,	3.50 for 8 Hours
Timbermen Helpers and Laborers,	3.00 for 8 Hours
Nippers,	3.00 for 8 Hours
Hoisters, Engineers,	4.00 for 8 Hours
Station Tenders,	3.00 for 8 Hours
Cage Tenders,	3.50 for 8 Hours

Mines, Outside.

Engineers,	\$3.50 for 8 Hours
Engineers, if Hoisting Men	4.00 for 8 Hours
Firemen,	3.00 for 8 Hours
Blacksmiths,	3.75 for 8 Hours
Blacksmiths' Helpers,	3.00 for 8 Hours
Tool Sharpeners,	3.25 for 8 Hours
Carpenters	3.75 for 8 Hours
Laborers,	\$3.00 for 8 Hours

Tramway.

Gripmen and Loaders,	\$3.00 for 8 Hours
Brakemen,	3.75 for 8 Hours
Linemen,	4.00 for 8 Hours

Mills, Cyanide Works, Etc

Crushermen,	\$3.00 for 8 Hours
Batterymen,	3.50 for 8 Hours
Batterymen Helpers,	3.00 for 8 Hours
Huntington and Chili Millmen,	3.00 for 8 Hours
Concentratormen,	3.50 for 8 Hours
Concentratormen Helpers,	3.00 for 8 Hours
Engineers	3.50 for 8 Hours
Firemen	3.00 for 8 Hours
Blacksmiths,	3.75 for 8 Hours
Carpenters	3.75 for 8 Hours
Laborers and Shovelers,	3.00 for 8 Hours
Canvas Plant Employees,	3.00 for 8 Hours
Solutionmen,	3.50 for 8 Hours

The rate of wages for all labor not enumerated hereon and including Foremen, Shift Bosses, Head Mechanics, etc., shall be subject to special agreement.

Apprentices will be employed under special arrangement.

All Men are required to go to and from their work on their own time.

Contracts, where made, are to be in writing.

One dollar per day will be charged for board and lodging.

The Smuggler-Union Mining Co.,

By BULKELEY WELLS, Manager.

A heavy cardboard broadside from the Smuggler's Union Mine. Ted Bobrink collection.