

Mystery Solved

by Bob Schroth



I received an answer to the nature of the Bisbee ribbon shown in last month's article. John Kynor's friend Kevin Brown translated the language. Additionally, Mr. Ludwig Strah of Ontario sent me a translation along with an additional bit of local history. As it turns out, the language is Croatian and translates as follows:

HR. (abbreviation for Hrvatske, a term meaning Croatia)

D. (Delo)

Društvo (Association or Society)

"Radnik" (worker-miner)

Odsjek 226 (branch or department 226)

Narodne (popular or people's)

Hrvatske (Croatian)

Zajednice (union or fraternal society)

Ustrojeno God[ina]. 1903 (founded year 1903)

Mr. Strah writes: "There was large Croatian Population in the Bisbee area mines. Croatia at the time was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In 1921 it was, along with Slovenia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, united to create Yugoslavia. Now Slovenia as well as Croatia are independent republic nations.

I was born and grew up in Noranda, Quebec, Canada: the home of Noranda Mines Ltd. Horne Mine, an integrated underground mine, mill, and smelter complex. It was discovered in 1921 and developed with the smelter by 1928, at which time my father started with the original Horne Copper Co. He retired from the mining department in 1965. I was born there in 1933 and graduated in Mining in 1955. I am now semiretired and do some consulting work. I worked at the "Horne" during high school and mining school in the Surface Labor Dept., smelter plant, mechanical power house group, and three summers as an underground miner.

There was a large Croatia population in Noranda employed underground and in the smelter. They had a large hall and an "Odsjek" (Fraternal Union) acting as not only a social group, but a benevolent association, life insurance, disability pay, funeral expenses etc.

I trust this clears up your "mystery"!



Many Croatian miners at the Horne Copper Company carried check tags such as this one.