From
The New Klondike
to
The Manitou

Katherine Humphrey
Linda Tymura

Contents

Introduction

The earliest report of mining in the Dryden area mentions an assay of two dollars per ton in gold for a sample of ore taken from Wabigoon Lake area and one of the first listed mines, was that of Oliver Daunais' Wabigoon gold mine, four miles south east of the Barclay station of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. As far back as 1894, government geologists expressed an interest in the region, bringing out "exceedingly fine" specimens supporting this interest and, by 1895, glowing accounts of the gold discoveries were floating out of the northern bush. This rugged country became a new target for a mining "boom" and soon men, with that unmistakable twinkle in their eyes, began drifting in from all over the continent.

The "New" Klondike and the Manitou drew interest from all over. Capital came in from the States and as far away as England, as everybody sought to get a piece of the action. The action, though, in most cases, never came.

Either through mismanagement or poor judgement, many of the mining properties died before they were given life. Many of the so-called mines were merely prospects, as only small shafts were sunk then properly abandoned. But, not before complete surface equipment, including a mill, had been erected on the site. This type of unwarranted expenditure put many a company out of business in those early years. Also, the lack of knowledge shown concerning the structure and nature of the veins, some of them too small or too low in gold content to ever be considered profitable, was another popular mistake that doomed mining prospects. Too much money was spent before properties reached the producing stage and closing them down

was the ultimate alternative.

Between the years 1895 and 1912, at least twenty mines were opened up around the Manitou Lakes are and dreams of getting rich quick in the "Western Ontario Gold Fields" were kept alive by the profits shown from the Big Master, Laurentian and Sakoose Mines. During the entire period, only these three mines ever milled an appreciable amount of ore and the Laurentian's total production led the area's at $141,000.00. However, after 1912, practically all mining had ceased and since then periodic attempts have been made to reopen certain mines, but without success.

Early mining failures in the area curbed prospecting, but each year, a few prospectors returned to do mainly development work on old locations. During the summer of 1932, the government sent out a geologist to do a survey for the region, in hope of obtaining new information for further prospecting of the area. It was reasoned that no actual concentrations of gold existed that would develop a gold body of commercial importance, but despite the long and rather disappointing history of the area, "there is reason to believe that an intensive search may yet reward the investigator."

The material compiled on these pages is an attempt at re-constructing those "golden" years of the Dryden area's mining boom. I cannot express the gratitude that goes out to those area residents who gave invaluable aid to the people researching this topic. Among those on this list, I would like to include, Mr. K. Collins, Mrs. E. Collis, Mr. & Mrs. L. Hampe, Mr. E. Palmer, the Dryden Museum, the Dryden Observer, Experience 76 Kenora, Lakehead University Library, the Ministry of Natural Resources in Kenora & Sioux Lookout. The information was donated freely and with much interest. If this project serves half its purpose, in re-calling those years to the area people, I feel it will be all worthwhile.

Experience 76 & 77, K.H. L.T.

Dates of Mining Operations

Baden Powell 1900-1910

Barker Brothers 1898-1899

Big Master . . . . . .1900-1903, 1905-1906, reopened late 30's closed finally 1948

Bonanza 1918-1921, 1922-1924

Buffalo c.1903

Clark Gold c.1935

Cracker Jack 1899

Detola 1906, 1907-1912

Eagle Lake Gold Location 1900

Eldorado 1900-1906

Foulis Property . . . . . .late 1880's, 1909

Giant . . . . . 1897-1907 intermittently

Glass Reef 1899-1900

Gold Moose 1901-1902

Golden Eagle c.1902-1903, 1906

Golden Park 1907-1910

Ideal 1906-1907

Jubilee 1897, c.1911

King Edward 1903

Last Chance 1913

Laurentian 1904-1910

League* 1899-c.1902, 1904, 1910-1911, 1914
*Also known as Gold Coin

Little Master c.1902-1905, 1906

Lost Mine c.1923, c.1935

Lower Neepawa 1897

Manhattan Gold Location 1900

Maw Gold Property 1898-1901

Meridian 1910

Minnehaha 1908-1910

Northern Queen. c.1898

Orion 1899

Oxford 1899

Paymaster 1904-c.1911

Pioneer Island c.1903, 1905

Quackenbush Location 1898

Queen Alexandra c.1904

Rognon 1916-c.1926

Redeemer* c.1900-1902, 1905, 1906-1910, 1918-1919
*formerly Hermann & Larson Property

Sairey Gamp 1900-1901

Sakoose*. . . . . .1898-c.1902, off & on from 1944-1958
*Also known as Watson & Golden Whale

Swanson Gold Location 1900

Tabor c.1898

Twentieth Century 1900-1903

Volcanic Reef 1904

Victory*. 1896-1897, c.1906-1908
*formerly Upper Neepawa
Wachman Property* 1919-1920
*Afterwards Wabigoon-Contact Bay Mines 1924

Westerfield * c.1898
*Also Independance & Reliance c.1899, 1901-1902, 1903

Other Mines Not Listed:

Gold Standard 1901-1903

Golden Viking 1900-1903

Production Statistics

mine	year	tons	value
Baden Powell	1902-05	163	$ 4,952
Big Master	1902-03-05 1942-43	14,470	75,115
Eldorado	1904	30	251
Glass Reef	1900		171.
Gold Rock	1929	300	727.
Grace	1902-07-08	415	875.
Laurentian	1906-1909	19,950	141,140.
Sakoose	1899-1901	8,028	58,756.
Twentieth Century	1902-03	8,688	43.586.
Van Houten	1940		114.
Redeemer	1905-1918		
Rognon	1916-1917	1,839	7,936.
Bonanza	1920-1929		

-Wabigoon-Contact Bay Mine Co.

The description that follows was taken from a book published in 1929, written by Mr. W. L. Goodwin entitled Geology and Minerals of Ontario. In this passage, Mr. Goodwin explains, in geological terms, the type of gold deposits encountered by early prospectores and outlines the different mineral bands of the Dryden area. The material, being published in 1929, deals with the near-past and present (at that time) mining operations. It is, there fore, a "birds -eye view" of the mining activity that had taken place before and around the 1920s.

Type of Gold Deposits Found in Ontario

The pyrite-gold quartz type in which the chief metallic mineral is pyrite and the main gangue mineral is quartz is the most common form of gold deposit found in Ontario. With the pyrites there may be smaller quantities of copper pyrites, zinc blende, galena, pyrrhotite, magnetite, mispickel, bismuth minerals, tellurides, molybdenite, scheelite, native copper, telluride, etc., and the gangue minerals may be represented in small part by calcite, barite, tourmalin, feldspar, etc. The gold usually occurs with finely divided pyrite, calcite, and chlorite in thin cracks in the quartz, and with small grains of pyrite in the schist. This is the commonest and most productive type and is represented by the Porcupine mines and most of the gold mines of Northwestern Ontario.

1. Lake of the Woods & West Shoal Lake
2. Eagle Lake, Wabigoon or Dryden (Manitou & Sakoose)
3. Sturgeon Lake
4. Mine Centre, East Shoal Lake or Lower Seine area
5. Atikokan or Upper Seine area
6. Huronion and Shebandowan Lake
7. Kowkash & Tashota
8. Red Lake
9. Woman & Narrow Lakes
10. Savant Lake

■ Gold Areas ▨ Paleozoic ⊡ Pre-Cambrian

Manitou Lake Gold Area

The Manitou lakes lie north of Rainy Lake and between the CP and CN lines from Port Arthur to Winnipeg. The area is reached by a water route from Wabigoon station on the CPR with on long portage over a very rough road from the south end of Wabigoon Lake to the north end of Manitou Lake. The journey was made in small steamers on the lakes and a stage over the portage. The gold deposits of quartz veins in schist and mineralized schist carry values. The gold is associated mostly with pyrite. The first discovery was made about 1895 and the area was active until 1905. The Dominion Reduction Company of Cobalt de-waterd and sampled the Laurentian, Big Master and Jubilee in 1916, but did not continue operations. In 1828 the Manitou Island syndicate began the development of a property south of Gold Rock. The Laurentian, Big Master, Little Master, Paymaster, Twentieth Century and a number of other properties form a group around the north end of Manitou Lake.

The Laurentian (HP 371) main ore body consists of bands of quartz in diabase schist, the whole averaging 20 feet in width. The shaft is 480 feet deep and stoping has been confined to small ore shoots near the shaft. Some extraordinarily rich pockets of gold were encountered. The production of the Laurentian was the largest in the area.

The Big Master produced some gold between 1902 and 1905 from ore shoots averaging $17. and 8.35 per ton. The workings went to a depth of 285 feet. The ore shoots, while small at

the surface were much larger with depth.

The Twentieth Century farther south near the west shore of the lake, sank a shaft and built a twenty stamp mill, but only a little gold was produced. The mill was later removed to the Laurentian.

The Paymaster was worked on a bedded quartz vein with schist in diabase and produced some gold with a ten stamp mill

The Glass Reef, farther south on the east shore of the lake produced little gold.

In 1925 some work was done on the Reliance mine by the Dryden Gold Corporation. The Reliance is a mile and a half west of Anzhekumming Lake (Upper Manitou Lake.)

The Sakoose,or Golden Whale, is near Dyment station on the CPR. Mining operations were carried on from 1899 to 1902, the ore being taken from quartz veins associated with felsite and quartz porphyry. The ore was shipped to the Keewatin Reduction Works for treatment.

Dryden-Wabigoon Gold Area

In this area the gold veins occur chiefly in keewatin schists, particularly near their contact with granite. They vary in width from a few inches to 20 feet or more and consist of white quartz, with ankerite, pyrite and tourmaline.

The Redeemer has been in operation at intervals since 1905, when it produced a small quantity of gold. A quartz schist vein with much pyrite was worked to a depth of 235 feet.

The Dryden Gold Corporation has done surface work on the Trap Lake group of claims near Contact Bay.

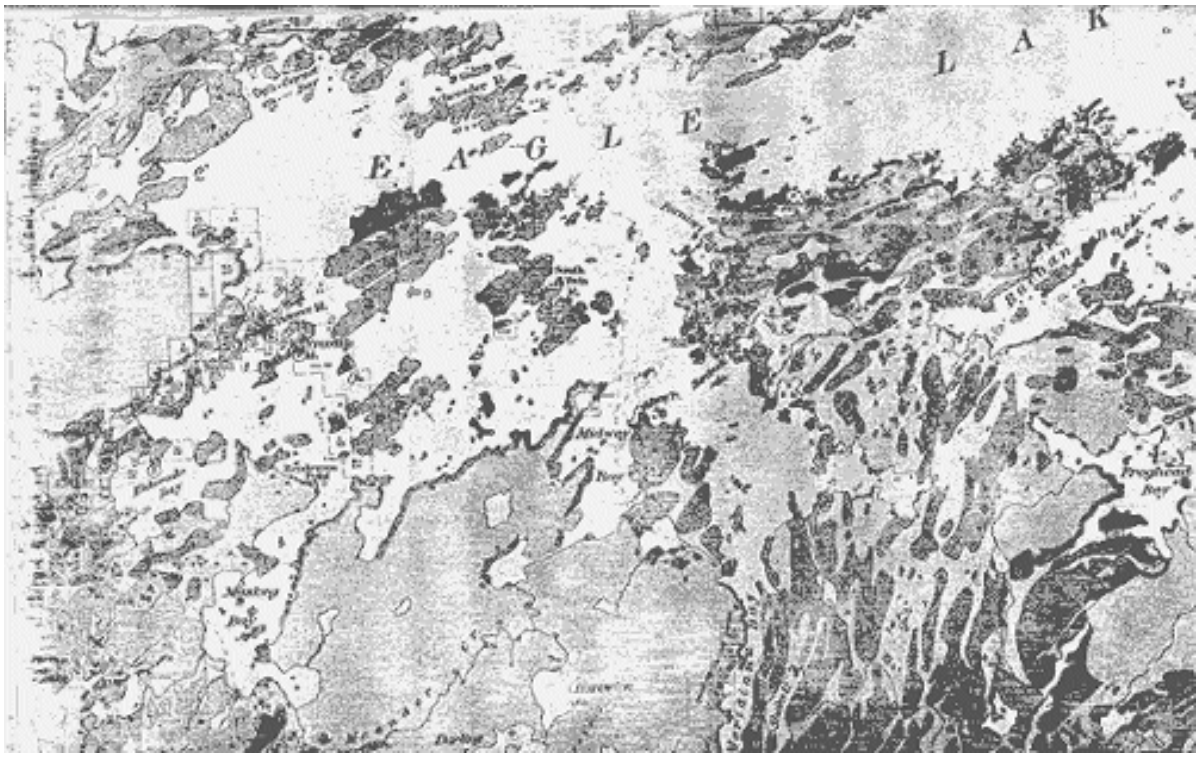
The Contact Bay Mines, Ltd., operated the Rognon and recovered a little gold with a small testing mill. The Rognon vein is narrow but rich in places. These properties are at the west end of Wabigoon lake and south of Dryden on the CPR.

Eagle Lake Gold Area

The Eagle Lake area includes a group of properties on the southwest side of Eagle lake which is west of Wabigoon Lake and south of the CPR. The lake touches the railway at Vermilion station. The important gold-bearing veins, mostly narrow, are in altered granite near its contact with greenstone. A number of properties were developed between 1903 and 1907 and small amounts of bullion were produced, but the shafts sunk do not seem to have gone deeper than about 135 feet.

Lake of the Woods Gold Range

Gold deposition has taken place in a zone of country stretching easterly from the Manitoba boundary and including Lake of the Woods, Eagle Lake, Wabigoon Lake, Minnitaki Lake and Sturgeon Lake, with the Manitou Lake area on its southern edge, and the Savant Lake area to the north of Sturgeon Lake. The length of the gold range is about 210 miles. The country is underlain largely by keewatin rocks and sedimentaries probably of Timiskamian age. These and the accompanying Laurentian gneiss are intruded by a younger granite, probably Algoman. The gold discoveries are clustered around the lakes,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doubtless because of the easy transportation they afford. But there is a large amount of territory with a favourable geology between the lakes. This may yield results when prospected. The areas along the range were prospected during the period from about 1890 to 1905, and a great many discoveries were made. Unfortunately for the success of gold mining in Northwestern Ontario, management in a great many cases was far from skillful. Shafts were sunk on qhartz stringers when more surface prospecting would have been the obvious course. Small stamp mills were built before ore was blocked out to keep them running. The great majority of the properties have been properly abandoned because surface indications and a shaft sunk 150 feet or so did not warrant further work. But others may have been closed down because the money was all spent before the property had been developed to the producing stage. The fact that the depth reached even in the most successfully operated gold mines of Northwestern Ontario is mostly only a few hundred feet may be interpreted as indicating that in that region the gold deposits are shallow. But it may also mean that more skillful mining and larger capital are needed to push operations to greater depths.

Iron in Kenora District

West of Lake St. Joseph is a range of iron formation over 5 miles long. But its shows no commercial ore. About 12 miles southwest of Superior Junction and on the south side of Lake Minnintaki is a range of Iron formation made up of silicious magnetite interbanded with jasper and schist. Along the Wabigoon River near Dryden station on the CPR is a belt of iron formation. It extends eastward for about nine miles. The average iron content

of the megnetite beands is about thirty per cent. Near Bending Lake, 19 miles southwest of Raleigh station on theCPR is a belt of iron formation striking northwest-southeast. Its length is about 10 miles and it contains bands of magnetite and hematite. The Victoria Iron Range, 37 miles north of La Seine station on the CPR may be a continuation of the Bending Lake range.

Identification of Terms:

Hematite: *70% iron, 30% oxygen-preferred because more porous, reducing furnace gases penetrate hematite readily; lower cost of smelting.*
Fe_2O_3.

Magnetite: *72.5% iron, 27.5% oxygen-dark grey-black fine powder, strong (compass) magnetic attraction, Easy to detect with compass*
Fe_3O_4.

Banded Formation: *alternate bands of magnetite or hematite with schists, jasper or silica; sedimentary origin*

Mispickel: *principle ore of arsenic, composition iron, sulphur & arsenic, said to occur in the Northern Queen Mine near Wabigoon.*

Iron Pyrite: *Sulphur content usually very high.*

Northern Pyrites Mine, formerly called the Vermilion Pyrite Mine and also the Michie Pyrite Mine, is situated on the shore of Big Vermilion Lake, a few miles west of Sioux Lookout on the Northern Transcontinental line of the CNR. The deposit occupies a depression and is covered with boulder clay from 8-20 feet deep. The gossan shows only on the lake shore. The ore is solid pyrite with a little pyrrohotite and quartz. It assays 40% sulphur. The mine is owned by the Nichols Chemical Co., which has taken out and shipped large quantities of ore, conveying it by aerial tramway to a siding on the CNR.

Fanning Pyrite Prospect is on the shore of Big Vermilion Lake, 8 miles west of the Northern Pyrites Mine. High grade pyrite occurs in bands from 26 feet thick with bands of graphitic shale. Bordings in the lake are said to have shown a width of 20 feet of high grade pyrite.

Descriptions of Mines

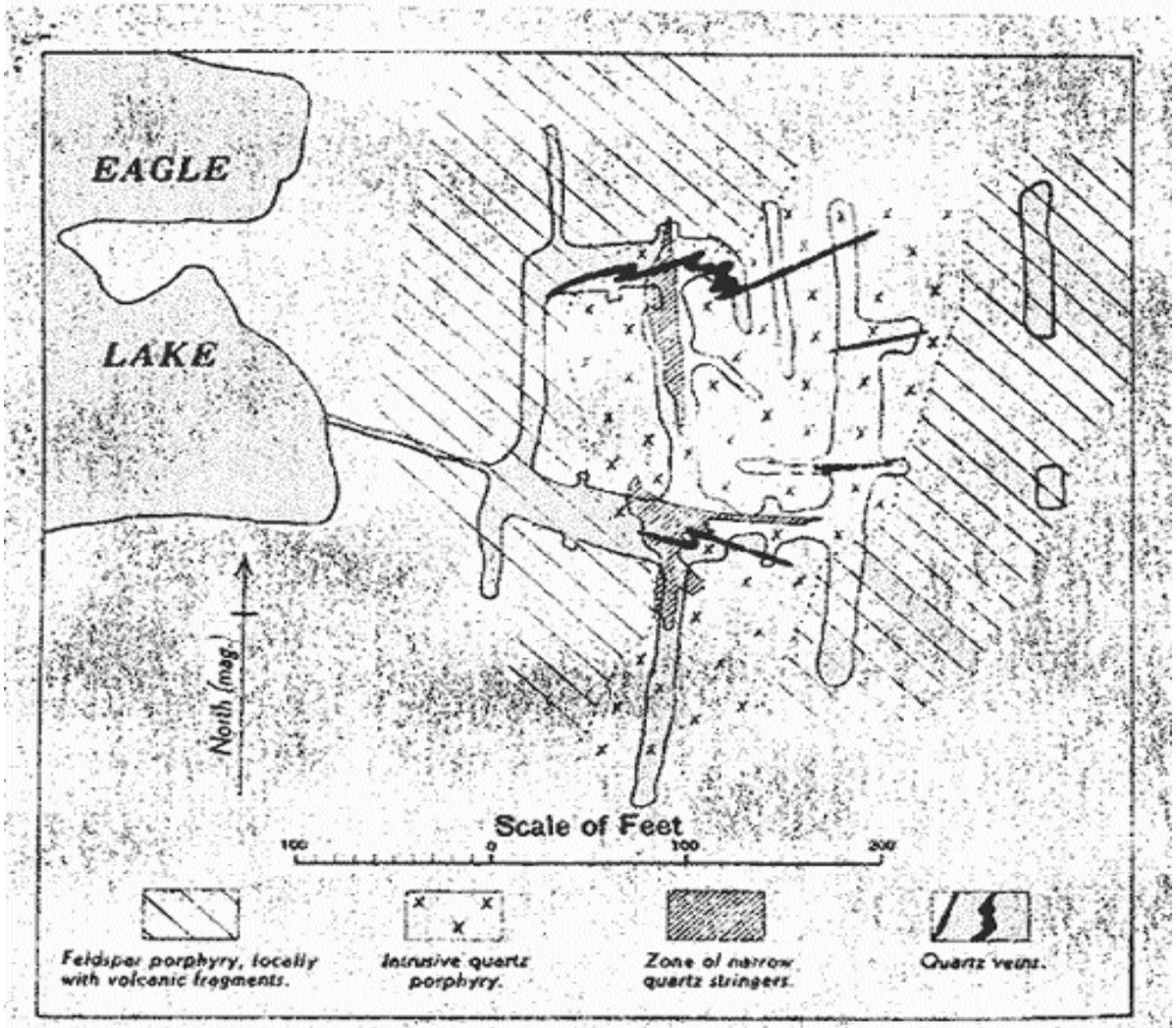
BADEN POWELL MINE

The Baden Powell mine was situated on mining locations FM 167, FM 168, as well as two others, occupying the whole of South Twin Island on Eagle Lake. Work here commenced November 3, 1900 under the ownership and operation of J.A. Partington, E. Appleton, S. Pinchon and S.S. Forneri. Stripping was begun and No. 1 and 2 test pits were sunk to depths of 10 feet and 4 feet by 330 feet long, respectively, along the veins. At this time the working force was merely two and the only building on the site, a boarding house. What spurred interest in this claim was the "uncommonly coarse grains" of free gold found in the fine granular white quartz on the property.

In 1902, Inspector Miller of the Ontario Department of Mines reported that development on the property was proceeding under Mr. R.H. Ahn and that 40 tons of ore had recently been run through the mill at the Eldorado Mine, also on Eagle Lake. Results must have proved encouraging as plans were made to carry on continuous work throughout the winter months also erecting a new boarding house (32 ft. sq.) and the roads on the property were improved.

The Northern Lights Mines Company acquired the property in April of 1903, and work continued with a total force of seven men managed by Mr. Higbee. According to Higbee, two mill runs of 28 tons at Eldorado averaged $40.00 per ton in gold. The men were at this time, engaged in enlarging the open cut to 50 feet in length and the 35 feet in depth. Approximately 200feet southwest of the cut, a new shaft, 6 feet by 8 feet, was sunk to 50 feet, however during inspection it was closed. New camp buildings went up on the east side of the island as well as a

BADEN POWELL MINE



Plan showing the main workings on the Fornieri claims. (Plan of workings and quartz veins by members of the staff of Erie Canadian Mines, Limited; generalized geology by W. W. Moorhouse.)

new camp office near the workings.

By October of 1904 the former open trench had been converted to the main shaft and was timbered solidly throughout to the dimensions of 6 feet by 9 feet down to 98 feet. The level at 60 feet drifted to the north and to the south. Hoisting was done by a bucket on skids and a duplex cylinder drum hoist engine and 20 h.p. boiler in the adjoining shed. Ventilation for workers was provided by a wooden pipe or box and a steam injector. A five stamp mill was still being completed on the north side of the island in 1904. The mill being about 400 feet north of the shaft, it was proposed that the ore be trammed across from the shaft. The mill itself held the usual power plant of gravity stamps, plates, feeder and a 7 by 10 foot jaw crusher with a 40 h.p. return tubular boiler and a 25 h.p. horizontal engine providing the power.

During the year of 1904 the work force was enlarged to twelve men and the management and owners remained the same.

In the annual mine report for 1906 the mine was simply stated to be in operation, however operations ceased after that year. Altogether, production amounted to ~$1,273.00 for the Baden Powell Mine.

BARKER BROTHERS MINE

The Barker Brothers Mine dates back to 1898 as reported by James A. Bow, provincial mine inspector. It was located on the southern part of Lower Lake Manitou and a Mr. Forbes managed the operation of the two stamp Tremaine mill which ran only a few months, working ore from a 50 foot deep shaft.

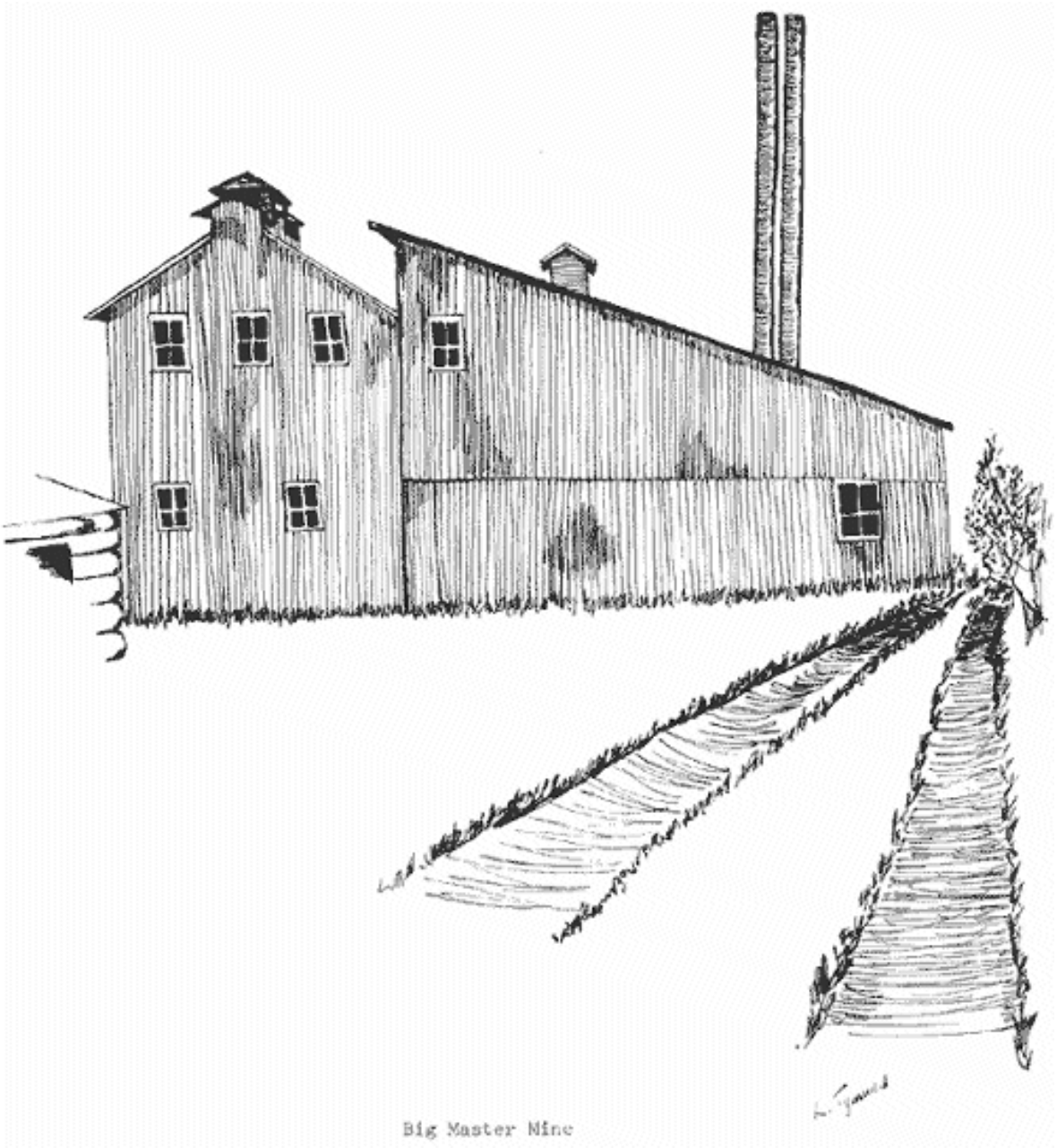
The life of this mine proved to be rather short, as for the following year, 1899, all operations had ceased and only a caretaker remained at the site. The sixty-two foot deep shaft was water filled and the open cut was abandoned at one hundred feet long by four feet deep and three feet wide. There was evidence of stripping and blasting done at the other pits. With the stamp mill shut down, the Gates crusher, horizontal engine and return tubular boiler lay idle, and the boarding house and camp buildings remained empty. The Barker Brothers Mine was never mentioned again in the annual mine report.

BIG MASTER MINE

Big Master Mine was on of the better known mines of the region and, next to the Laurentian, turned out the highest gold production. The Big Master Property included mining locations HP 366, 376, 368, 369 and 373, comprising 200 acres in all, one mile south east of Gold Rock on the upper end of Upper Manitou Lake. In 1900 the mine went into operation owned by Interstate Consolidated Mining Company. The company had a capital of $700,000.00 in $1.00 shares and was located at 63 Erie County Bank Building in Buffalo, New York. The Board of Directors included C. W. Stone, president; Wm. Schaler, vice-president; M. Nellany, treasure; and M. A. Meyers, secretary, with Daniel Simpson as general manager and engineer.

On the property itself there were five parallel veins, each proven by surface crosscuts and test pits and in one case a shaft. At time of inspection in 1901, the shaft was reported as water filled but said to be 50 feet deep, timbered down to 35 feet, 6 feet by 8 feet in size and inclining a few degrees to the east. The test pits on the property showed a grey and white quartz vein from 18 inches to 2 feet wide. In September of 1900 a new main working shaft was sunk on location HP 366 down to 55 feet and timbered to measure 5 feet by 9 feet. Future plans at this time proposed that the shaft go down to 120 feet, cutting a level at 100 feet and crosscutting to veins which had been traced on the surface. The work contract was let and mining to be resumed at once.

As far as working conditions went, sets of stulls were being placed at 4 foot intervals down the shaft to carry the casing for a cage, but until then hoisting by bucket had to suffice. A Cameran pump suspend-



Big Master Mine

ed in the shaft proved adequate for drainage.

In December of 1900 mining was temporarily suspended to install machinery at the new shaft houses. Under the roof of on building existed the engine and boiler rooms, on the east side, and machine shop on the north side. The 18 feet by 30 feet by 35 feet high building held a 40 h.p. return tubular boiler, a single drum 7 by 10 inch double cylinder hoist with 250 feet of $^{5}/_{8}$ inch steel rope and a 5 drill Rand air compressor and receiver. Also on hand were five Rand drills, machine shop outfit and a cage for the shaft. Located 100 feet west of the shaft the pump house sat over the well with a small snow duplex pump raising water for the boiler and other purposes. The "dry" room, where the miners changed after working in the dampness of the shaft, was situated over the boiler. It was fitted with baths, washing outfits. hot and cold water. Being approachable only from the shaft house, its walls, roof and floors were completely lined with sheet tin to insure fire proofness from inside, "against the danger of a possible conflagration from the miner's candled". In the top of the building and over side of the shaft a water storage tank had been built, 6 feet by 12 feet by 5½ feet, and used during previous operations. However, during the mining inspection of 1900 instructions were given to remove it to a safe place or discontinue its use.

The new mine had on order a 10 stamp mill from Fraser and Chalmers of Chicago and in its anticipation, had stone cribbing in place for a mill building.

A saw mill recently purchased by the company was not yet set up, at the time of government inspection, but in the future it would supply lumberfor the remaining camp buildings. Buildings on the premises in 1900 included the shaft house, pump station, blacksmith shop, store and ice houses, boarding camp, office, stable, and explosive magazine. The total work force number thirty-five miners, not yet engaged in mining, under the supervision of Foreman John Joy.

When Inspector Carter toured the Big Master in 1902, he found it to be in active operation with the remainder of the surface plant now completed and future plans to develop the two main veins. So as to bring the mine quickly into good shape, management had "unusual methods adopted of paying high western wages and working eight hour shifts." This accounted for the rapidity in sinking the main shaft. Original plans to haul ore from the mine to the mill by wagons, a total distance of one quarter mile, were dropped at the last moment and a Hallidre aerial tram was to be installed for this function. Additional machinery was to be in place and ready for work by July 1st of 1902 when crushing in the new mill was planned to begin. A change in management brought a Mr. W. H. Pickering in as new manager and Mr. Shovells was foreman over a total force of twenty-five men, fourteen of who were miners. In changing hands the business also acquired an additional one hundred acres of adjoining property.

For 1902 the mine reported that the main shaft had been sunk to 170 feet at the dimensions of 5 feet by 9 feet and that No. 2 shaft had reached 99 feet. The old test pit "Helena", one half mile north east of the main shaft, was continued down to 52 feet at 5 feet by 8 feet but had since been abandoned. The stamp mill had been completed in November of 1901, and a pumping station

was to be built on the lakeshore in front of the stamp mill. The saw mill, then in operation, was also located on the lakeshore and averaged 10,000 feet per day capacity, cutting lumber for numerous mine buildings, and more recently, two private dwellings new to the camp.

For November of 1902, it was reported that Big Master was still owned by Interstate Consolidated with Mr. W. A. Blackstone of Jamestown, New York as president and that the oly change of personel had been Mr. Harry Hook, the new assayer. The men now employed totalled forty-two, twelve being miners.

The main shaft was only 15 feet deeper than last inspection and the aerial tramway from the mine to the mill was now completed. The Helena shaft remained unchanged, but there was a new assay office and other buildings added. There had been no further development on the big east vein because the present plant was not adapted to treat ore which was of refractory nature. The gold was occuring in pyrite and being extracted by the cyanide process. In closing the report, Miller noted that the stamp mill was not running at the time of the visit because of lack of fuel and that the ore of last season was said to have given high returns.

Inspector Carter wrote, in September of 1903, that W. Shovells was acting manager over approximately thirty men and that the mine foreman was Malcom Speer and mill foreman G. R. Vary. There were two separate mill runs made in the fall of 1902, each of 16 days length. From each of these, the manager claimed to have produced $5,000 in bullion. Since May of 1903 the mill had run continuously but the mine was idle from January to April, however since then it had been more or less active. All the ore had been removed from the shaft and once a continuous mill run was under way, it was expected that with such a small amount of ore to process, the mill would soon be forced down.

It was obvious to the inspector, if not the management, that a more businesslike plan of development in blocking out the ore in advance, was needed.

As far as the camp went in 1903, the surface plant remained unchanged except for the additon of a boarding house and one private dwelling.

From January 1st of 1904, owing to financial difficulties, the Big Master mine lay idle. Bondholders had foreclosed on the former owners, Interstate Consolidated, bid on the property and formed themselves into the Big Master Mining Company. The president was Benjamin Hammond and the offices were located at Fishkill-on-Hudson, New York, and Gold Rock, Ontario. W. Shovells was still in charge and a few men had commenced renovating machinery and strengthening the head frame over the shaft with the intention of resuming mining soon. Additional plant by way of pumps, air drills and hoist was to be installed also. Recent assays on the larger east vein had returned $8.35 per ton in gold.

After being idle for over a year, the property resumed work in April of 1905 and was worked continuously until January 4th, 1906 and then closed again. During that period, the main shaft was sunk another 100 feet for a total depth of 285 feet, but no work was done on the 1st and 2nd levels. On the 3rd level a drift of 110 feet to the north east was worked and raised to the 2nd level. A crosscut east was closed off before the vein was reached.

The ten stamp mill ran 83 days producing $9,800, the ore being taken from between the 2nd and 3rd levels.

For the report of 1907, it was said that no work had been done since the last inspection. and by 1910 the shaft was water filled and Mr. A Kay was the only person remaining on the property, employed as caretaker.

BONANZA MINE

The Bonanza claim was staked by the Contact Bay Mines Limited on the north east quarter of the south half of lot seven concession one Van Horne Township. The 15 foot deep shaft had two compartments and thirteen men worked there under the supervision of E. S. Henlye.

On the claim property there was a log power house and a blacksmith's shop built. The power was supplied by a Rand 8 inch by 8 inch air compressor, gas or kerosene driven, that had just been set up in December of 1919.

In 1920 prospecting continued on the Bonanza claim, but work stopped on the last day of the year to be resumed in the spring. That year there were twenty-two men employed at Bonanza with Mr. Henlye remaining in charge, and a Mr. Badger acting as foreman. For 1920 the shaft reached 88 feet.

The Bonanza shut down operations on December 31st, 1921, again to resume work in the spring.

On March 9th, 1922 the shaft had reached down to 170 feet with drifting at the 80 foot level, to the east and west. Also at the 160 foot level more drifting was in progress. Badger left the employ of Contact Bay Mines in March of 1922 leaving E. R. Rognon as managing director. The superintendant, Mr. Henlye resigned the following September and was succeeded by Charles W. Riley.

For the next year, 1923, work was stepped up considerably and by 1924, the shaft had a third level at 268 feet, where a station was cut and a hoist installed for further sinking.

In 1923, the Redeemer stamp mill was put into operation at Bonanza and the ore treated there. Water for milling purposes was pumped from the Redeemer workings. Production went downhill from there, however. On June 21st 1929, it was reported in the Dryden Observer that no new geological maps or reports were to be made of the area and that mines both at Contact Bay and on Lake Manitou were struggling for survival.

The Buffalo Mine, as mentioned in the report of Inspector Carter for September of 1903, was located on the west shore of Eagle Lake between the Eldorado and Grace mines. It was owned by the Northern Lights Mine Company and, during the summer months considerable amounts of exploratory mining under the charge of Mr. Higbee was undertaken. There were several camp buildings on and near the shore.

The mining work itself consisted of a tunnel driven 30 feet west crosscutting the lode, and then following it south west for 78 feet or more. Located 558 feet west of the tunnel was No. 1 shaft, 28 feet vertical and south west of this, a pit 15 feet deep called No. 2 shaft. Whatever future this mine had was uncertain in 1903, as mining had ceased previous to the Inpector's visit.

CLARK GOLD MINES

The Clark gold mines were quite profitable in the late thirties, R. S. Douglas was the manager at that time.

On December 20th 1935, the Clark Gold Mines reported that they received a new shipment of drilling and drifting equipment with which to improve the mining possibilities. On March 20th, they reported to the Dryden Observer that they had sunk to a new depth of one hundred and ten feet. This was bettered at the end of the same month with a further drilling to one hundred and twenty-five feet.

On August 28th of 1936, the Observer reported that an additional mining plant was to be purchased by the Clark Gold Mines, E.M. McLean being the sponsor.

April 16th 1937 brought a report thatClark Gold had made a new discovery at a deeper level. The shaft was to go down to three hundred and seventy-five feet, and by September of 1937, the men reported the installation of their new hoist.

The Clark Gold Mines were situated on Tabor Lake and first staked by Tabor and Stevenson in 1897.

On April 24th 1936, the Observer said that the results of an exploration into the merits of the Clark Gold Mines had proven the mine successful. Credit for the success of the mine was given to Bob Clark, the resident engineer.

CRACKER JACK MINE

The Cracker Jack mine was located on the south shore of a long arm(known as the Manitou Stretch) of Lower Lake Manitou, about ten miles from the main body. In October of 1899, the property was owned by the Cracker Jack Gold Mining Company Limited, Walter J Keating of Fort Frances, mine manager.

The only work done on this location was during the summer months of 1899 and involved the sinking of two shafts, 40 and 45 feet deep on two different veins. The Ontario Department of Mines was informed in writing by Mr. Keating that a third shaft had been sunk to 19 feet.

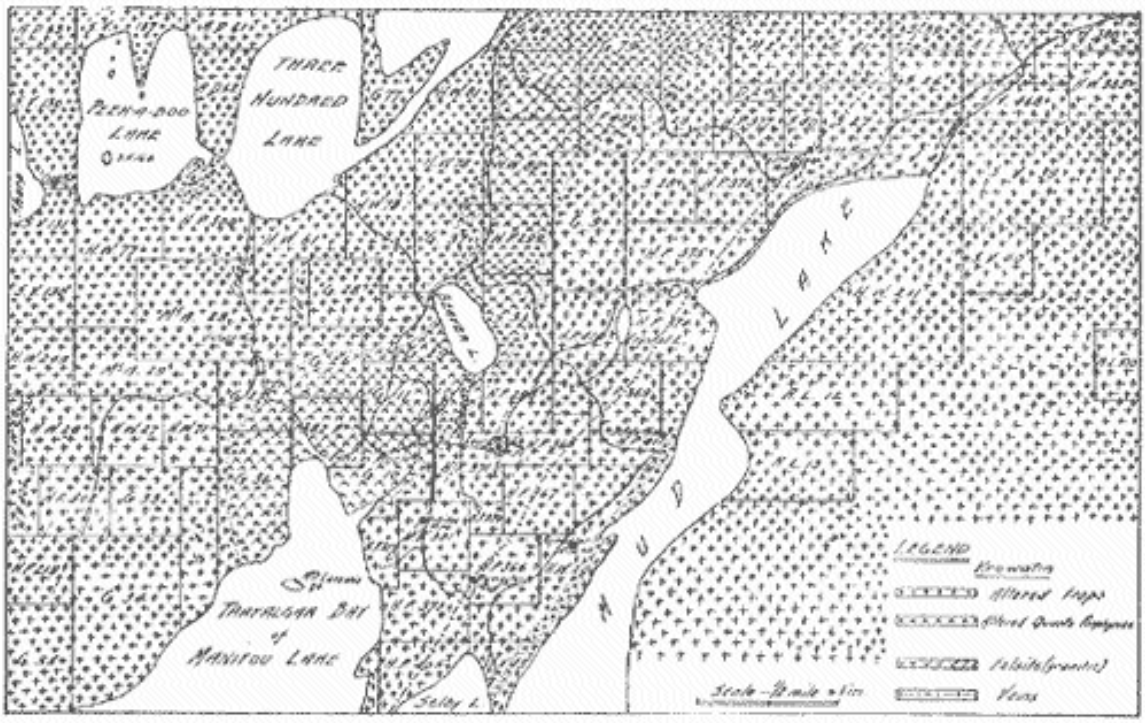


Plate No. 2—Gold Mining area of Gold Ro.

DETOLA MINE

The Detola Development Company commenced work on a location adjoining the Pay master mine to the north east, in the spring of 1906. The shaft at that time was sunk to 57 feet deep and then work was abandoned for the winter.

In the year 1907, the miners were engaged in developing a quartz vein on Location HW 411, one half mile east of the Laurentian mine. The shaft here was sunk to 60 feet and was found to carry considerable iron pyrite. A twenty horse power boiler and hoist was installed and camp buildings erected on the shores of Mud Lake. Mr. Bliss, president of the company, was in charge of the operations.

Development work continued during 1908. Mr. G. R. Earley was the superintendant while the main shaft was deepened to 105 feet, and a new head frame and power plant was installed. The power was supplied by two 50 horse power return tubular boilers, a 3 drill straight line compressor and a 10 inch by 12 inch reversible hoist. At the time of inspection the shaft was being retimbered and preparations were being made to sink the workings to a greater depth.

In 1910, the superintendant was Mr. Dryden Smith and the shaft was then down to 235 feet. There was a second level and crosscuts being developed. The ten stamp mill at the mine was built on the shore of Mud Lake in the summer of 1910 as well as a tramway from the shaft to the mill.

The Detola was last mentioned in the report for 1912 at which time, it was said that the vein carried $12 per ton in gold.

EAGLE LAKE GOLD LOCATION

Situated on an island two miles south west of South Twin Island in Eagle Lake, the Eagle Lake Gold Location was in operation most of 1901. The owners and operators were the Eagle Lake Gold Mining Company, Manager of Operations, Mr. Higbee, of Rat Portage.

The first year the shaft was sunk to 60 feet with the dimensions of 5 feet by 8 feet. At the first level there was a north west drift 28 feet and a south west drift 28 feet, both of these drifts being 4 feet by 7 feet. For the 1901 inspection mining was only taking place in the drifts.

A rough shaft house was constructed and hoisting was carried out by hand windlass and bucker.

The quartz found at the Eagle Lake Gold Location varied from white to pink and contained very little pyrite. In closing his report, Bow said that in February of 1901 the working force numbered five men and the only building on the property was a boarding house.

ELDORADO MINE

The Eldorado, as mentioned in the mine report of 1901, was located on a point on the south west end of Eagle Lake. That year it was not inspected but the information was given to the Department of Mines by the owner and operator, Mr. E. Gatensbury of Rat Portage.

The workings consisted of an open trench along the quartz vein to a length of 70 feet and 20 feet deep at the face. In the summer of 1900, a two stamp mill with amalgamation plates was installed and during September, all the rock from the cut was being treated. At this point funds ran out and work was suspended with no definite plans for the future.

In 1902 the mine was operating again and the shaft was at 31 feet. There were sleeping and cook camps not far from the mill, but the inspector that year found that they badly needed a powder house and arrangements to that effect were being made.

The mine was now co-owned and a small 40 foot steamer, the Caro, brought in the supplies from the railway to the twelve employees. Under the laws of Arizona, the Northern Lights Mines Company was incorporated in 1902 and at that time took over many of the mines on Eagle Lake, the Eldorado included. President of the company was Joseph E. Gavin and secretary was W. H. Barnhart, both of Buffalo. Newton Higbee of Rat Portage was the newly appointed superintendant.

Inspector Carter reported that mining had ceased since the beginning of 1903 when the shaft was sunk at the mouth of the original open cut to a depth of 60 feet continuing along a vein at an incline of 103° north west. Most of the ore had been milled at the camp's stamp mill using the the two 1,000 pound stamps, amalgamation table and 20 horse power boiler. On the other side of the point in a sheltered bay, was locat-

Eldorado Mine on the Shore of Eagle Lake

the camp site. This consisted of living and board-houses, and office and two private dwellings. N. Higbee remained the general manager for the company in charge.

For 1904, Carter reported that the Eldorado was taken over by yet another company, incorporated under the laws of Ontario. This company, the Eldorado Mining Company, was headed by Walter D. Green, president, and W.A. Barnhart, secretary, and the mining site was supervised by Mr. Higbee.

Mining re-commenced June of 1904 with a work force of eight. The shaft was now re-timbered with a ladderway and skid road for a bucket. The total depth was 95 feet with a level at 70 feet that swung south west 53 feet. The shaft was covered with a headframe and there a hoist rope continued 100 feet, or more, to a new hoisting engine. The plans were that the first level was to continue along the vein south west for 150 feet to meet a connecting vein. In 1904 there was no milling carried out but there were plans to start on the accumulated ore in a few weeks time while the inspector was there.

For 1905, work began in October under the supervision of Mr. S.S. Forneri, after being suspended for the greater part of the year. Nine men were employed in developing and exporation work. The shaft then measured 140 feet, increasing a depth of 55 feet. A ladderway was also put in, dividing the shaft from the hoistway to the first level. There was a second level at 120 feet that drifted north east 25 feet. The mine was serviced by a two stamp mill then occupied in a run on ore from development work.

The mine ran for the better part of 1906 but by 1910 the shaft, at time of inspection, was water filled and no-one remained at the property. The last information received said the shaft was sunk 20 feet deeper.

FOULIS PROPERTY

The Foulis property was located on Upper Lake Manitou eight miles south west of Gold Rock.

In 1910, Inspector Corkill of the Department of Mines, reported that J.C. Foulis was engaged in prospecting. A shaft had been sunk to a depth of 40 feet and a two stamp mill was taken in just before freeze-up in the fall of 1909. As it was late in the season for beginning anything, work was suspended and future plans were made to open the location on a larger scale. The property never did reach any major development proportions.

GIANT MINE

Known originally as locations HW 74 and 75, this mine was located rear the end of Moser Bay on the east side of Upper Lake Manitou, about five miles south of Gold Rock. It was operated under option by Paul Paulson who was in charge of digging several test pits and trenches and sinking one shaft 25 feet deep. A tunnel was cut in from the foot of a hill, 50 feet below the shaft, and directed towards it and a crosscut tunnel was driven in also. The latter tunnel was 40 feet of open cut.

The mine inspector advised that the handling of dynamite was very careless as there was no powder magazine built and powder was left lying around without shelter, outside of the blacksmith's shop. The thawing of the dynamite was conducted by placing the dynamite around the stove of the blacksmith shop. It was suggested that the state of affairs be remedied immediately.

The locations were taken over by the Giant Gold Mining Company by November of 1902, employing twelve men, nine of these were miners. The shaft was then down to 50 feet and the tunnel reached 100feet into the hillside. Machinery was placed at the shaft and the camp, three hundred yards distant by the shore of the bay, was comprised of a two storey office, a dining hall, kitchen and barn. The dry room was located at the shaft, as was the blacksmith's shop, and since the last inspection, a new dynamite house had been built.

By September of 1903 a new location was added to the Giant Mine; adjoining to the east. The owners remained the same with P. Paulson supervising a force of seven men. The shaft reached to 212 feet inclining 80° west. The First level, at 200 feet, did not follow the

obvious pay vein, but shot off towards another. The shaft had timbers down to 40 feet and a ladderway partitioned from the hoistway. These ladders extended without platforms from the top of the shaft to the bottom. The open head frame carried the sheave for the bucket hoisting cable, which at that time,ran to the adjoining hoist house. The new camp at the location contained an office, bunk houses and a boarding house built on the newly acquired adjoining location, HW 185.

In 1904 the point of operation at Giant mines shifted back to location HW 75. The shaft on HW 185 had not given sufficient pay rock to warrant further expenditure. The mining plant, had been transported, in part, over to the lake shore below the old tunnel and set up with a one stamp Nissen mill to make small test runs. The other camp remained at its original location and was still in use in 1904. Mining at the old shaft resumed in June of that year, reaching 18 feet under the tunnel and past it. Here the vein filled the walls as much as 16 feet wide, composed of quartz, calcite and chlorite with a high pyrite content. From these workings, a surface tram road joined up with the stamp mill.

The last year , 1904, the mine was mentioned in the government reports P. Paulson was still the supervisor in charge of six men.

GLASS REEF MINE

The Glass Reef mine had been in continuous operation for over a year when it was first mentioned in the Ontario Department of Mines Report for 1901. Very fine and complete hoisting machinery and treating plant was erected, but on December 22, 1900, after about two months mill testing of rock from the mine workings, everythin closed down. No work was done after that date.

The shaft went down to 200 feet at the dimensions of 7 feet by 14 feet. There was a first level at 74 feet that drifted south west 300 feet and was cross cut from the face. A tunnel south east into the hillside measured 28 feet in length with the last 40 feet being an open cut. At 12 feet in, the tunnel's roof raised to a height of 45 feet and from the top of this another drift, south west 6 feet, went on another 45 feet in a drift north west 28 feet. More work was done extensively at the second level at 176 feet. The Shaft divided into three compartments: a ladderway, a hoistway and a spare. It was collared, or timbered, down to 35 feet.

Hoisting was by bucket with a cross head guide bar, and drainage was effective by a No. 5 Cameron sinking pump and pumps from sumps on the first level.

The drifts and crosscuts were found to be unsatisfactory as only scattered stringers seldom were found larger than one and a half feet wide and had no apparent continuity.

The shaft house was 25 feet by 30 feet and fitted inside with chutes leading to waste dumps andalso contained an ore bin, below which was located a terminal station for a surface gravity tram leading to the stamp mill 600 feet north on the lake shore. Cars entered beneath the gate of the bin and the ore was loaded there.

Twenty feet south west of the shaft house was situated the engine house, containing a horizontal returner tubular

a double cylinder hoist with 5/8 inch steel rope and a 3 drill Rand air compressor. An extension of the building included a blacksmith shop and a machine shop and dry room. The tram car left the shaft house and passed on trestle over a 150 foot wide ravine. The trestle, itself was built with three steel rails laid on an easy incline.

In the stamp mill was a Fraser and Chalmers processing plant, consisting of ten 1,000 pound stamps, challenge ore feeder, amalgamation plates and a Brown four compartment classifier, thre Frue vanners, one with corrugated belt, and the crusher. All of this was operated by an 85 horse power 12 inch by 12 inch steam engine. The housing was large enough for a twenty stamp mill but the mine folded before even the ten stamp mill was put to full use.

North east of the stamp mill was located a sawmill that provided lumber for the buildings, among which was found a mine office, an assay office, boarding camps, four private dwellings, a warehouse and stables.

While the mine was working the work force totaled eighty-four men, thirty-three of them being miners. The property was left in charge of Mr. Ross and three others and it was said that as soon as more money was raised, there would be a contiuation of work in sinking the shaft further and developing the underground explorations in hopes of finding new ore.

The following year, 1901, the Glass Reef was still closed down but the directors were planning to place another block of shares on the market in hopes of securing sufficient capital to carry on work that year, not only on the original location but also on the adjoining one. The mine inspector found the expectation of finding ore thoroughly unwarranted considering the extensive development and failure of the previous year.

The stamp mill at Glass Reef was used by the Royal Sovereign mine to treat 23 tons of the ore produced there and the saw mill was in operation off and on, supplying lumber to nearby mines. George Glass was left in charge of the property in anticipation of further development.

For the Glass Reef Mine that opened up in 1899 with a capital of $750,000.00, the end came all too quickly. The mill was sold to the Detola mine and A. L. Parsons referred to the Glass Reef as a mine "whose history is finished." Its site on the mainland south of Beaverhead Island on Lower Lake Manitou remains, with all the others, a ghostly vision of the Manitou's past.

GOLD MOOSE MINE

The Gold Moose mine was located one mile west of the Hermann and Larson property, six miles south of Dryden, on lot eight concession one Van Horne township. The portion of the property under development in 1902 was the west half of the south one hundred and forty acres. The owners were R.D. & H.G. Hutchison, J. G. Hammond, all of Dryden, and C.J. Seih of New Sharon, Iowa.

Work began in October of 1901 and continued, intermittently until April fourth 1902, at which time it was inspected. The shaft was 64 feet deep and 6 feet by 8 feet, timbered for the first 20 feet and inclined 72° north with wall plates, skid poles and ladders without platforms or partition between the two compartments.

The first level at 62 feet, was the only level and it was planned that further sinking of the shaft would be resumed with a total work force of four men after April of 1902. The hoisting was done by hand windlass, bucket and hemp rope, with no mining machinery installed. There was a blacksmith shop, stable and bunkhouse situated on the property and that coming season in 1902, there was to be erected hoisting and air compressor plants with a power and shaft house. The Hutchison Brothers reported that in February of 1902, a mill test of 67 tons of ore at the Keewatin Reduction Works gave satisfactory results.

The results, however satisfactory, proved to be holding false hopes for the future of the Gold Moose mine. The next time it was mentioned was 1910, being written off as idle at the time of inspection. It has been idle ever since.

GOLD STANDARD MINE

On the south seventy acres of location G340 and adjoining the Sairey Gamp mine, the Gold Standard Mining Company began work on its first mining endeavor. The company, with head office in Morris, South Dakota, was run by Judge C. L. Brown, president,H.L. Smith, vice-president, R.J.Hall, treasurer, and general managers W.F. Cooley and Anton Watzke. The property was said to carry a quartz vein that was to be worked first and if it did not turn out valuable, a second claim was to be turned over and likewise, a third.

In the fall of 1900 a force of seven miners supervised by Paul Gasse began to work the first vein. Gasse was also supervisor of the Sairey Gamp where the men from Gold Standard shared living quarters.

The claim was developed until December of 1901 and the shaft reached 150 feet with 20 feet of drifting. At that time, because of inadequate hand supplies, it was "deemed advisable to suspend operations until suitable machinery could be obtained."

By September of 1903 the point of operations were changed to one mile away on the north west side of Nelson Lake. A steamboat ran down the Manitou Lakes about 35 miles from Gold Rock to a short portage on the swest side of Lower Manitou and from there one had to journey by canoe two miles further to the mine. Mr. E. E. Hall managed sixteen men in October of 1902 and a camp was built in preparation for the shift of operations. They raised a bunk house, office, stable and hoist house, as well as laying a road between Sairey Gamp and Nelson Lakes. The water was raised 21-22 feet that year by a dam at an outlet onto Manitou Lake, for better navigation.

The shaft reached a depth of 95 feet, collared to 15 feet by wood to measure 6 feet by 9 feet. Below that

square frames carrying partions between two compartments and a ladderway hung down 50 feet. The first level was at 80 feet, and in 1902 mining was confined to sinking that shaft. Both sides of the shaft were on outcrops of a quartz vein, on which test pits had been sunk from 6 feet to 15 feet deep. The head frame above the workings was 12 feet high and open. Hoisting was done by bucket and operated from an adjoining hoist house by a small engine and a 30 horse power boiler. There was never very much known of the vein's size or value, and even to the extent that it was developed it never proved valuable.

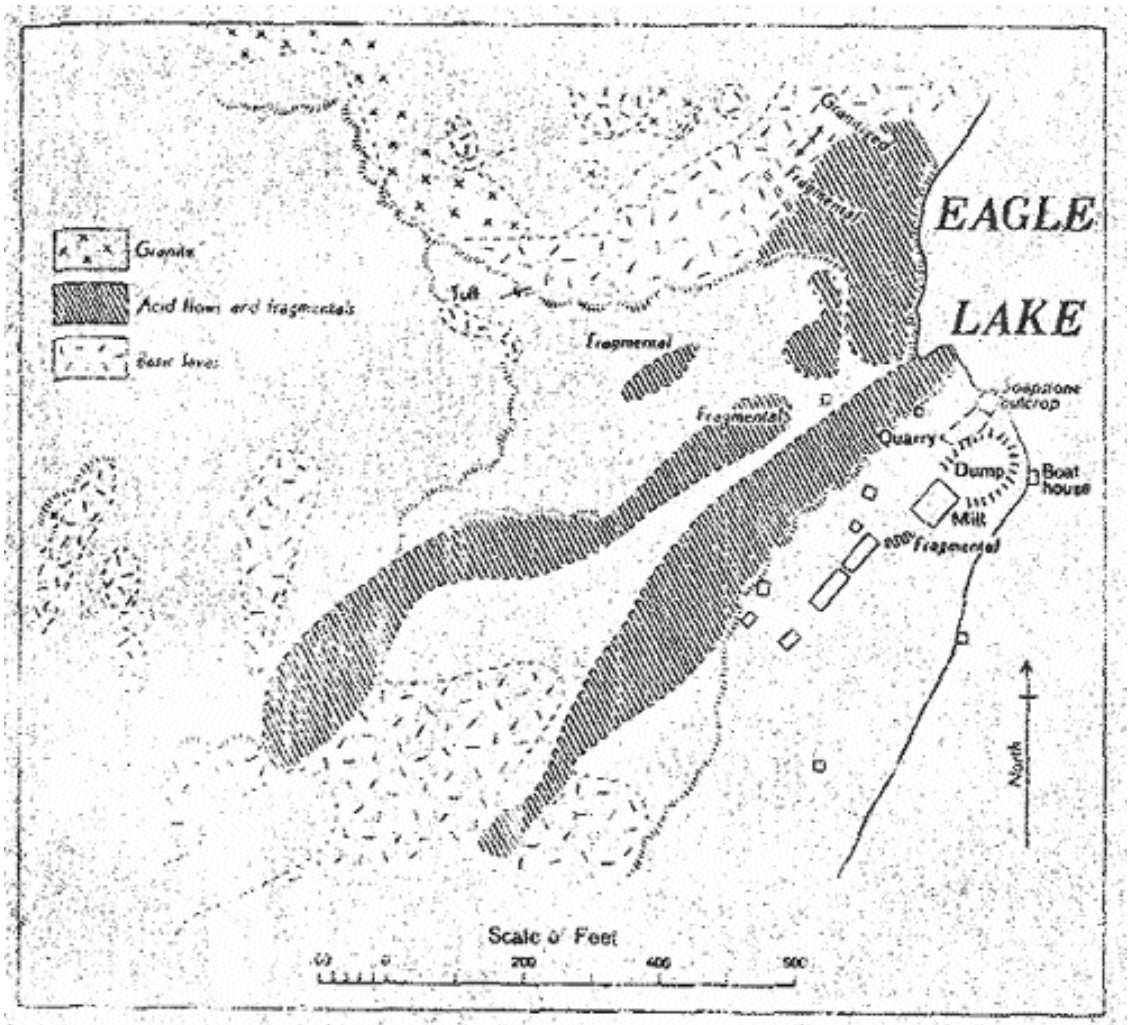
GOLDEN EAGLE MINE

The Golden Eagle Mine passed through the hands of several owners, being developed a little by each. The property was about to revert to its original owner in 1903, Mr. N. Higbee, and it was said that if it did it would probably undergo more continuous and systematic mining than before. In August of 1903, twenty nine tons of ore was run through at the Eldorado mill, producing 307.50 in gold, or 10.60 per ton, according to the manager's statement.

Mr. Higbee finally did re-acquire the property and work was planned to continue the 75 foot deep shaft. However, the work did not last long and after an extension of the drifting was carried out mining was suspended permanently at the Golden Eagle.

GOLDEN PARK MINE

The Golden Park Mining Company owned the south forty-two acres of lot 5, concession two and the south east thirty-five acres and south west forty acres of lot 6, concession two of Van Horne Township. The superintendant, Alex McPhail, managed the workings on a shaft that only reached a depth of 37 feet and a second shaft on the second lot that reached 40 feet. It was said that the latter shaft was sunk on a vein that was 6 feet wide. All this was reported in 1907 and by 1910, the work on this location had ceased entirely.



Sketch map of the geology in the vicinity of the Eagle Lake soapstone quarry.

GRACE MINE

In November of 1902 it was reported by Inspector Miller that the Grace Mine was being worked by a small force of men in the autumn of 1901 and that work on the property consisted of a tunnel into a hillside and a fifteen foot shaft.

The mine was located on the west side of Eagle Lake and owned by the Grace Mining Company Limited of Ridgeway, Ontario and Buffalo, New York. The president and manager wad J. H. Casslor, mine foreman was R. McKinstry and the work force totalled five men. Work progressed fairly steadily for 1902 and 1903. The camp was on the lakeshore and No. 1 shaft was a few hundred feet back from the shore on a hill. It was 28 feet deep in 1903 and measured 6 feet by 9 feet. A mill test of three tons in 1903 was said to have given $83.00 per ton on the plates. It was speculated that this was possible but the question was would the mine warrant further development work on so small an ore body.

The second shaft, No. 2, was 96 feet south west of No. 1 and was 29 feet deep, measuring 6 feet by 9 feet, also. The tunnel that had been driven into the hill near the lake reached in 128 feet, with crosscuts at the face. The camp was a boarding house, bunk house, office, stable, etc., and a dock was built on the lake.

By 1904 the shaft, No. 1, had been sunk to 55 feet but from the first of 1904 mining had been suspended. During the next while, the lower portion of the shaft was allowed to fill with water and no new developments were made on the ore body. The four men working the lot in that year, were busy retimbering the shaft into two compartments before mining was to be resumed. Close to the lakeshore foundations were layed for the new power house and plant that was planned to be constructed. The only real news for 1904, was the installation of a new engine

in the company launch[illegible] that serviced the camp from Vermilion Bay. Mining operations were planned to resume in December of 1905.

Work did resume in December of 1905 but there was ashutdown in February of 1906. During that time the shaft was deepened ten feet making a total depth of 65 feet. The tunnel was a quarter of a mile from the shaft and had been driven in 100 feet. During the time of work a new gallows frame was put up over the shaft and an 85 horse power boiler and a 14 horse power hoist were installed. The boiler house was 300 feet from the shaft and a ten stamp mill was purchased and transported in from Vermilion Bay. The Grace Mine Company still owned the property in 1906 and twelve men were employed under J. H. Casler, the manager.

After putting in new machinery in the winter of 1906, little work was done on the Grace mine and it lay idle, in charge of a caretaker, for several years. The mine was not mentioned further in the annual mine reports until 1911 when it was noted that the camp was very comfortable for the men but that operations had ceased.

In the autumn of 1920 workmen were engaged in preparing the buildings and plant of the Grace in anticipation of further work. The Grace Mining Company Limited was, at that time, owned by business men in Fort Erie, Ontario and Buffalo, New York. The man in charge of operations at the Grace was Captain Walpole Roland of Kenora, a veteran of the Crimea, Indian Mutiny, the Chinese Expedition and the American Civil War.

The mine was worked for nine months that year and Captain Roland was succeeded by Will. J. Richards, also of Kenora, in June of 1921. Work was discontinued on December 15 of 1921 when the shaft reached 187 feet.

In the summer of 1922, eight men under the supervision of W. J. Richards were employed in trencing at the Grace and no underground work was done. It was noted that the results obtained from No. 1 shaft the previous year were not encouraging and future plans were vague.

The company abandoned work in 1922 and in 1923 commenced work on a soapstone deposit on two adjoining claims to the north of the property. More camp accomodations were built and small amounts of the stone, in 12 x 12 x 18 inch blocks, 35 in all, were shipped out for test purposes. These blocks were used in lining the Kraft furnace of the Dryden Pulp Mill and proved to be of satisfactory quality.

Since the results were so promising, a new plant was built consisting of a 40 horse power return tubular boiler, a two drill compressor, a double drum derrick hoist, Sullivan channeler, a Hearst frame and a Patch gang saw capable of handling blocks 13 x 8 x 6 feet. They also built a dock at the quarry and another at Vermilion Bay on the CPR.

Stripping showed the deposit to be sixty feet wide with vertical walls and over six hundred feet long. In 1924 the company had a capital of $5,000,000.000 in shares of $1.00 par value and owned 1,600 acres. Additions were made to the building and two more gang saws were installed, along with a diamond saw for cutting small blocks. Seven to nine men were employed in the summer of 1924 and one shipment of 40 block (12 x 12 x 18) for Kraft mill use had been made. One other shipment had been lost in the sinking of a scow.

In 1925, the Grace shipped out three cars of soapstone for Kraft mill use and in 1926, 110 tons of the stone were sawn and marketed to Ontario mills. For the final year of opertion, 1927, Grace marketed approximately

135 tons of sawn soapstone and sent these off to mills in Dryden and Winnipeg. After the work done in 1927 little was heard of the Grace Mine and, for reasons unkown, the mine ceased operation after that year.

IDEAL GOLD MINE

The Ideal Gold Mine was located six miles south of Dryden in the Van Horne Township. The owner of the Ideal was the Ideal Gold Mining Company of Baltimore. Mr. Burton was appointed manager of the work.

The shaft was sunk 89 feet and drifted north at the bottom 20 feet in the dimensions of 7 feet by 12 feet. The shaft was closely cribbed to 35 feet but there was no real suitable ladderway or divisions. Trenching on the surface uncovered two veins and cross cutting was done on these at the 85 foot level in hopes of encountering them.

The mine was serviced by an experimental stamp mill: "a Charles Wallace." At this time in 1906 this was said to be an "improved stamp mill" that had a five ton capacity every 24 hours. The mill combined crushing and grinding and its plates were narrow,arranged in a series of eight feet for the pulp to pass over. No reports were received on how effective the mill was.

An outcrop of the vein occured 87 feet above the nearby lake and there a site was cleared to erect a stamp mill. The mill was to be erected when the property warranted it, however that time never came. The mine was closed the following year, 1907 and the ten men employed at the Ideal Mine moved on to work in other parts of the territory.

JUBILEE MINE

In 1897 there were sixteen men working under W. M.Caldwell, mine supervisor, at the Jubilee. That year the shaft was sunk to 62 feet with drifting at the 50 foot level to the north and south. The mine shut down shortly after this as the ore tested was found to be too low grade to be remunerative. This was disappointing news as the vein looked very good.

The mine, located at the head of Trafalgar bay in Upper Lake Manitou, was reopened around 1911 and the 6 feet by 10 feet shaft was sunk to seventy-five feet. The power plant was a single cylinder compressor with a capacity of four drills. The compressor, receiver and hoister were installed at the site but the boiler was left at the portage.

No camp buildings were erected on the location and it was just as well; the mine closed down shortly after its second opening.

KING EDWARD MINE

The King Edward mine was situated on mining location HW 171, comprising 240 acres west of the upper end of Lower Lake Manitou, bordering on Carlton and Trout lakes.

The property was acquired by English capitalist represented in Canada by F. Bolton of Wabigoon.

In September of 1903, six men were extensively exploring surface showings of quartz. They had been doing so since June that summer and had sunk many test pits and cross cuts. At the time of government inspection in 1903, all work had ceased waiting to be resume in the comming year, when it was expected that a definite plan of comprehensive development would have been decided upon.

One log shanty constituted the camp. The vein itself turned up very little free gold and the few samples assayed were insufficient to form a realistic value of the vein

LAST CHANCE MINE

Work was started on this location in 1913 by Messrs. Beck, Kay and Smith. The vein caried in width from four to eight feet and was stripped for a considerable distance and several test pits were sunk.

The Last Chance Mine's story is very short, like many area mining hopefuls, and nothing more was heard of it after 1913.

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Laurentian Mine, 1908. Shaft House and Stamp mill

LAURENTIAN MINE

The Laurentian mine was located on mining location HP 371, about 52 acres one half mile by road west of Gold Rock. The owners were the Laurentian Mining Company of 43 Tremont Street, Boston and Toronto. They were incorporated under the laws of Ontario; president, Anthony Blum, secretary, John Molath of Boston, and mine supervisor, Dryden Smith. The total work force in 1904 numbered twenty-one. They also worked additional locations HW 248, 252, 255, 256, 257.

Operations commenced in October of 1903. On the campsite stood a power house, dynamite magazine, oil shed, machine and blacksmith shops, assay office, dry house, cook camp, sleeping camp, mine office and three separate dwellings and stables. Foundation for the stamp mill was also put down in the fall on 1904 and mining and milling plants (20 stamp) had been transported to the camp.

The first shaft was sunk to 220 feet, being inclined at 80° east and measuring 7 feet by 11 feet. At first there was only one level at 80 feet that drifted north and south. The surface vein had been stripped in several places of the shaft and this could be seen. The shaft was collared and a temporary head frame built, but there were no timbers below that and no ladders below the level. On his inspection,the government officer gave instructions to safen the shaft according to the Mines Act and not to allow riding in the bucket. Hoisting was done by temporarily placed boiler and hoisting engine and a bucket on skids. The men also needed to take better care of the explosives.

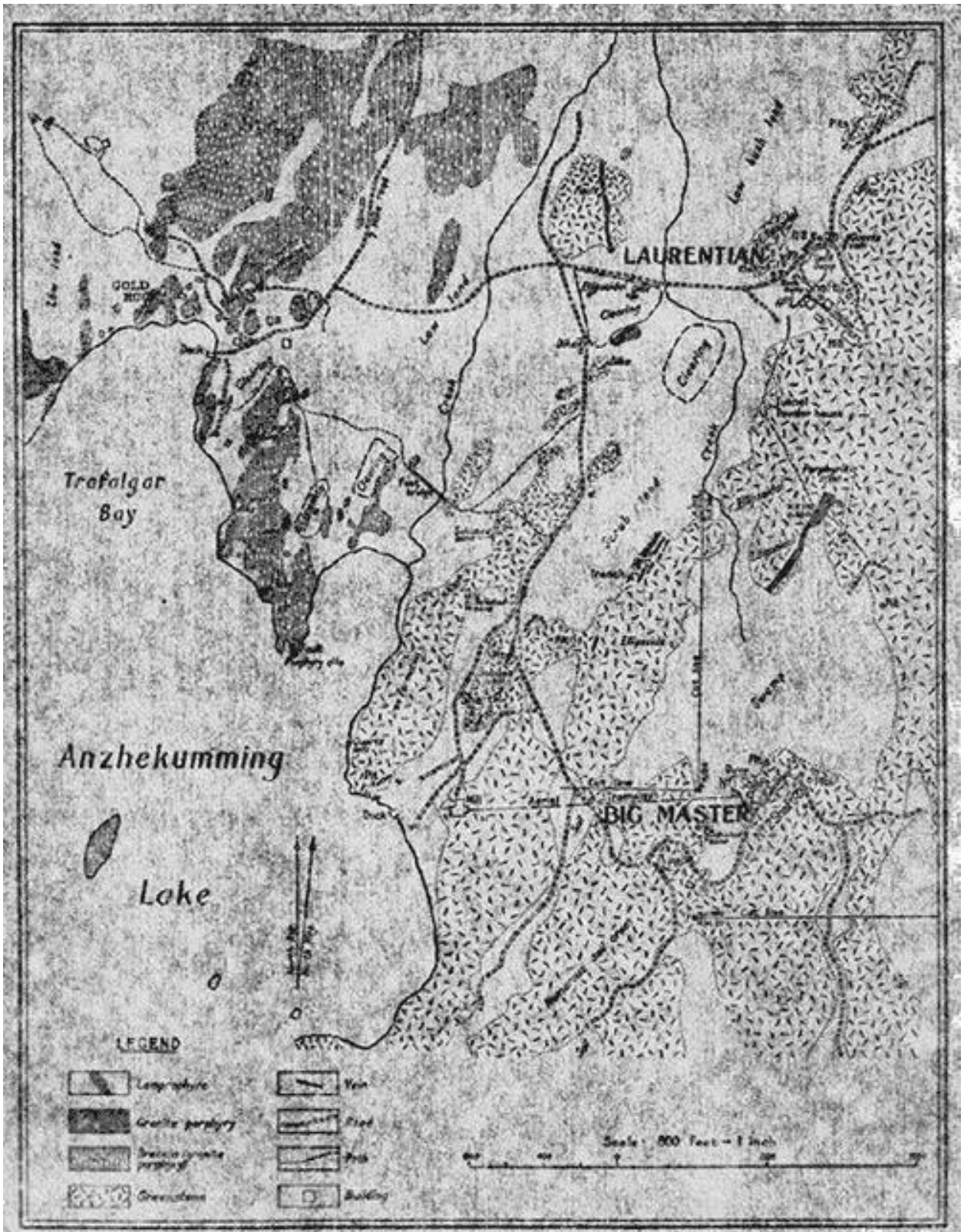
The sinking was following a small dark quartz vein and free goldwas encountered in places, and it was noted that other veins on the property looked profitable.

By 1906, twenty-five men were employed at the Laurentian twelve of these being miners. Work had been suspended for part of 1905 pending a property transfer to the then present owner, Anthony Blum, from the former owners, the Laurentian Mining Company. A very rich strike had been encountered on the first level near the beginning of the year, that caused a renewed interest in the district and the property.

The shaft reached 271 feet, which was an increase of 51 feet since the last inspection. In the south drift cross cut a No. 9 Cameron pump pumped the water from the first level and from the level below to the surface. On the second level, at 200 feet, there occurred a drift to the north for 89 feet. Extensive cross cutting had been carried out to intersect the surface detected quartz veins.

A twenty stamp mill had been obtained from the Twentieth Century Mine and brought to the Laurentian to be put into operation in May of 1906. It was erected 600 feet east of the shaft on the west slope of a hill. A trestle was constructed from the shaft to the mill and ore was hauled by a skip that was operated from the hoist house. Water for milling purposes was brought from the lake, a quarter mile distant. Also installed was a high pressure half of a 12 drill Ingersoll-Seargant duplex air compressor and a double drum hoist, one drum being a 50 horse power Scotch return tubular boiler covered with asbestos. This used a feed water heater to supply steam for the plant. Mr. Blum ordered that a road to the mine be constructed and this was cut from Dinorwic to the Laurentian site, an all land route except for the Wabigoon River crossing.

The mine was worked continuously through till 1907, but only extensive cross cutting, drifting and stoping and no shaft sinking was done. The stamp mill ran for part of the year but was forced down over the winter of 1907 for lack of water. After that time a 5 inch pipeline was laid four feet under the ground surface, below the frost-line, to the lake and a pumping plant installed there.



LAURENTIAN AND BIG MASTER GOLD MINES.

All through 1907 the mine was in active operation and the stamp mill worked for the better part of the year. Shaft work sank to 300 feet and here a station was cut, while drifting was continued north and south.

For 1908 the mine reached a total depth of 400 feet with development on several levels and production from the shaft kept the mill running most of the time. Mr. Nickerson supervised the work of the thirty men employed at the Laurentian in 1908.

Work at the mine continued steadily until 1910 when the ownership changed hands and the purchasers neglected to work the property. Inspector Corkill, of the Department of Mines had this to say about the closing of the Laurentian, "The closing down of this property, which was considered the mainstay of the district, is unfortunate, as it retards the investment of capital in other properties near, and discourages other companies attempting to develop paying mines."

For the next three years there was no mining work done and the only people remaining on the site were there to keep the shaft unwatered and take care of the buildings. In 1913, Great Golconda Mines Limited, appointed Dryden Smith mine manager to supervise a few men in cleaning out accumulated ore from the shaft.

The next attempt at mining the Laurentian was undertaken by Kenbrooke Gold Reserve of Sherbrooke, Quebec in 1922. The mine was worked from March to May, some repairs being made on the buildings and tramway leading to the mill. No actual mining work was carried out and in May work stopped due to stock sales not being sufficient.

Production From the Laurentian

1906	*$26,315.00*
1907	*50,470.75*
1908	*32,248.75*
1909	*32,104.61*
	Total:$141,139.11

It is reported, and is apparently true, that much of the gold (from the Laurentian) was stolen.

LEAGUE MINE*

**also Gold Coin*

The League mine was opened up as the Gold Coin property in the Dryden area. It was the south half of the north half of lot six concession one Van Horne township, a half mile from the boat landing and on the government road that was constructed around 1904 to the newly developing mining properties. The League was due north of the Redeemer mine and owners were the Gold Coin Mining company.

Mining commenced April of 1904 and the shaft was sunk to 55 feet to measure 7 feet by 10 feet, all work being done by hand. By the fall of 1904 operations were suspended as the vein of quartz was found to contain only a small amount of iron and copper pyrites.

The Shareholders Protective Leage Limited of Detroit took over the Gold Coin Mine in 1910 and engaged in mining work in the summer of that year. The original shaft was down to a depth of 80 feet and the second shaft, No. 2, was sunk to 35 feet. Power plant at that time consisted of a 45 horse power boiler and hoist.

Three shafts were sunk while the mine was operated by the Shareholders League, but after the summer of 1914 the mine was closed down and the buildings were left in charge of A. Pitt and G. Larson, of Dryden.

LITTLE MASTER MINE

The Little Master mine had been running for a year previous when it was first mentioned in the annual Mine Report of the Ontario Department of Mines. The company built a two mile road from the mine, north west, to connect with the government road that ran between the Mantou and Wabigoon Lakes.

In 1904, S. V. Halstead was the manager and S.H. Williamson, the foreman in charge of fourteen men.

Work in 1904 was being done on No. 3 shaft, which was then 50 feet vertical and measured 7 feet by 12 feet, having a solid collar to 24 feet, beyond which no timbers or ladders reached. The men entered and left the shaft by bucket and, this being unsafe, they were instructed by the inspector to comply with the Mines Act and construct timbers down to within a safe distance of the bottom and to not use the ladders after that time.

No. 1 shaft, 200 feet north west of No. 3 shaft and 106 feet higher uphill, was sunk to 50 feet, at 7 feet by 12 feet, with a first level at the bottom and a cross cut 26 feet west. Operations were suspended until a connection could be make underground by cross cutting and upraising to reach No. 3 shaft.

No. 2 shaft was 350 feet north east of No. 3 and a few feet higher up hill. The depth there was 100 feet vertical and 6 feet by 9 feet, with a first level at 80 feet and cross cuts east and west at that point. Hoisting was done in No. 3 by bucket, a rope passed over a sheave on the open head frame, descending the hill over a trestle about 400 feet long to the hoist house.

The machinery in the hoist house included a Jenckes hoist, 28 horse power locomotive type boiler.

The camp was located on the lakeshore 400 feet from the workings and included a boarding house, bunk house office and stables.

The vein in No. 1 shaft average one foot wide and was rich in free gold but, because of its smallness it was not considered to be of commercial value. Test pits were opened up all over the property.

For the next year, 1905, the property was developed continually and remained under the same management with a work force of twenty-five men. The main shaft, No. 3, was sunk to reach 175 feet and was timbered most of the way. The first level at 152 feet had cross cuts east and west and a south drift for 105 feet. Hoisting was yet done by a bucket operated by a new power house 60 feet south east of the shaft. Installed there also was a new 2 drill Rand air compressor, along with the same hoist and another 65 horse power locomotive type boiler. The latter was found to be in very unsafe condition and the inspector instructed the men to abandoned it. A new boarding house was built in 1905 and the lumberwas cut on the premises in the company owned sawmill.

In 1906 the Summit Lake Gold Mining Company owned the Little Master and it remained closed for a year and a half. During the winter of that year fuel wood, some 800 cords, was piled up in anticipation of active work.

It was reported that work resumed in the spring of 1906 under the supervision of Dryden Smith and that the power house burned down in the fall of 1905, that being the reason for suspending active work.

The boiler house at the Little Master was never re-built and mining remained suspended, the remaining buildings being left in charge of Mr. John R. MacDonald, as was reported in 1910.

LOST MINE

This mine was located on the north eighty acres of the south half of lot six concession one of Van Horne Township. C. Larson originally sank two shafts three hundred feet apart, to depths of twenty two and fifty four feet, respectively.

It was located on a quartz vein varying in width from two and one half feet to six feet. The Lost mine was owned in 1923 by the Wabigoon Contact Bay Gold Mine Company and in 1934 it was taken over by Northern Mines Incorporated.

On May 24th, 1935, the Dryden Observer reported that the Northern Mines Company was to take over all the inactive mines of the Wabigoon Contact Bay Mining Company and on May 28th it was reported that the take over had been completed. This company also took over inactive Porcupine Mines.

The shafts at the Lost mine were de-watered and renovated in preparation for renewed work, but that was the last report from the Lost mine.

LOWER NEEPAWA MINE

This mine was located on the north west shore of Lower Manitou Lake. The shaft was sunk to sixty-five feet and buildings on the site included sleeping and cooking camps.

The mine opened in March of 1897 and closed the following September with plans to reopen. However, the mine was never reopened and remains listed with many others as a forgotten prospect.

MANHATTAN MINE

The Manhattan Gold Location consisted of two mining locations, DJ2 and DJ3, on a point on the south shore of Eagle Lake, four miles south west of the Indian village.

The claim was owned by theManhattan Gold Mining Company of Manitou, Ontario with its head office at 16 Exchange Place, New York.

During the fall of 1900 little surface work was done, sinking only two test pits. No. 1 pit to the east reached down 8 feet and No. 2 pit, a quarter mile to the west of No. 1, reached a depth of 4 feet.

No buildings were built at the site and testing was as far as the development work got.

MAW GOLD MINE

In 1898 John Maw and S. O. Greening, of the B. Greening Wire Company, acquired the mining rights to five 40 acre locations: HW455, 476, 477, 478 and 479, from C. W. Hale and Captain H. Lowry of the New Klondike. The property was east of and adjoining the Sakoose property.

On location HW479, a 4 foot by 7 foot shaft was sunk to a depth of 40 feet on a vein of dark blue quartz that carried copper and iron pyrites and pyrrhotite. The shaft was said to be neat and a substantial collar reached to 10 feet. It had an 18 inch ladderway that was securely boarded off from the hoisting compartment to a suitable depth. Work was supervised at the Maw Gold mine by C. W. Hale.

On location HW477, the outcrops seemed to suggest a fair sized vein and cosiderable test pitting was done there with good results.

In 1901 a second shaft was sunk to a depth of 38 feet and measured 7 feet by 9 feet and plans were to continue sinking it to 60 feet at an 80° incline instead of following the vein. The only buildings on the property were the blacksmith shop and the sleeping camp, while the men boarded at the Sakoose mine.

MERIDIAN MINE

The Meridian Bay mining location was on the west side of Eagle Lake situated over a vein, 3 feet to 12 feet in width. In 1910, Mr. J.E. Stanton was mine manager and after the vein was stripped to about 200 feet by 25 feet long at the opening, he claimed the presence of nickel, copper and gold values.

The find appeared to be good and the mining inspector said that this was a mine to be watched. A comfortable camp provided accomodations for the men but no work was done at the Meridian after 1910.

MINNEHAHA MINE

In 1908 the Minnehaha mine was owned by the Minnehaha Mining and Smelting Company and was situated on the north side of Lake Minnehaha opposite Beaudro's Landing. All work ceased in May of 1908 after being carried on for about five months.

The main shaft, formerly at 100 feet with a 25 foot cross cut at the bottom, had been the only shaft worked and some prospecting and a test pit had been dug down to 25 feet. Mr. C. Good was in charge of these operations.

In 1909 some mining work was done and a new camp built while surface prospecting was carried on during the summer. On the whole, very little mining was accomplished.

MOOSE LAKE LOCATION

The Moose Lake Location was situated on mining location HW 6, 38 and 63 containing 140 acres ten miles west of Dinorwic, surrounded by Little Wabigoon, Moose and Rice Lakes. The owners and operators were the Moose Lake Mining and Milling Company Limited, head offic at 71 St. Peter St. Montreal. The president was David Robertson, vice president L. N. Depuis and secretary treasurer J. B. N. Chabot.

Previous to their buying the property, the original owners sank two shafts on locationHW 38, one to the west, 20 feet deep and one to the east 40 feet deep. Both of these shafts were water filled at the time of the 1901 inspection. Work done on HW 6 consisted of a surface cross cut 7 feet deep and 18 feet wide. The Moose Lake Company sank a shaft 75 feet north of that crosscut and between it and the old shafts. For 1901 the shaft measured 6 feet by 9 feet by 102 feet deep. Manager Dryden Smith supervised the work on a new shaft on the junction of three arms of the vein.

Mining was temporarily suspended to allow for the building of a new camp; Shaft house, engine house, etc. The engine house held a 25 horse power vertical boiler and a 5 inch by 5 inch double cylinder hoist with 270 feet of 1/2 inch steel rope for hoisting by bucket in the shaft. A pump was planned to be installed at the lake shore, 300 feet distant, to be worked by steam to supply the boiler.

The shaft had a 24 foot collar set in it and a suitable ladderway and hoisting compartment. Upon completion of the construction plans, mining was supposed to resume and a first level developed from the depth of the shaft and driven along the course of the vein. However the mine shut down in February of 1901 due to lack of money but it was hoped operations would be resumed shortly. The mine did not re-open.

NORTHERN QUEEN MINE

The Northern Queen mine was situated one and a quarter miles north east of Wabigoon, and was purchased in 1897 by the Rand Gold Mining Company of Wabigoon. Horace Crawford of Winnipeg was president and William Cowan of Brandon was vice-president.

At the time of inspection in 1897 the shaft was water filled and there was one other pit on the property. The mine was reported to be in operation again in 1899 with the shaft reaching a depth of fifty feet but it closed down for good in the summer of 1899.

ORION MINE

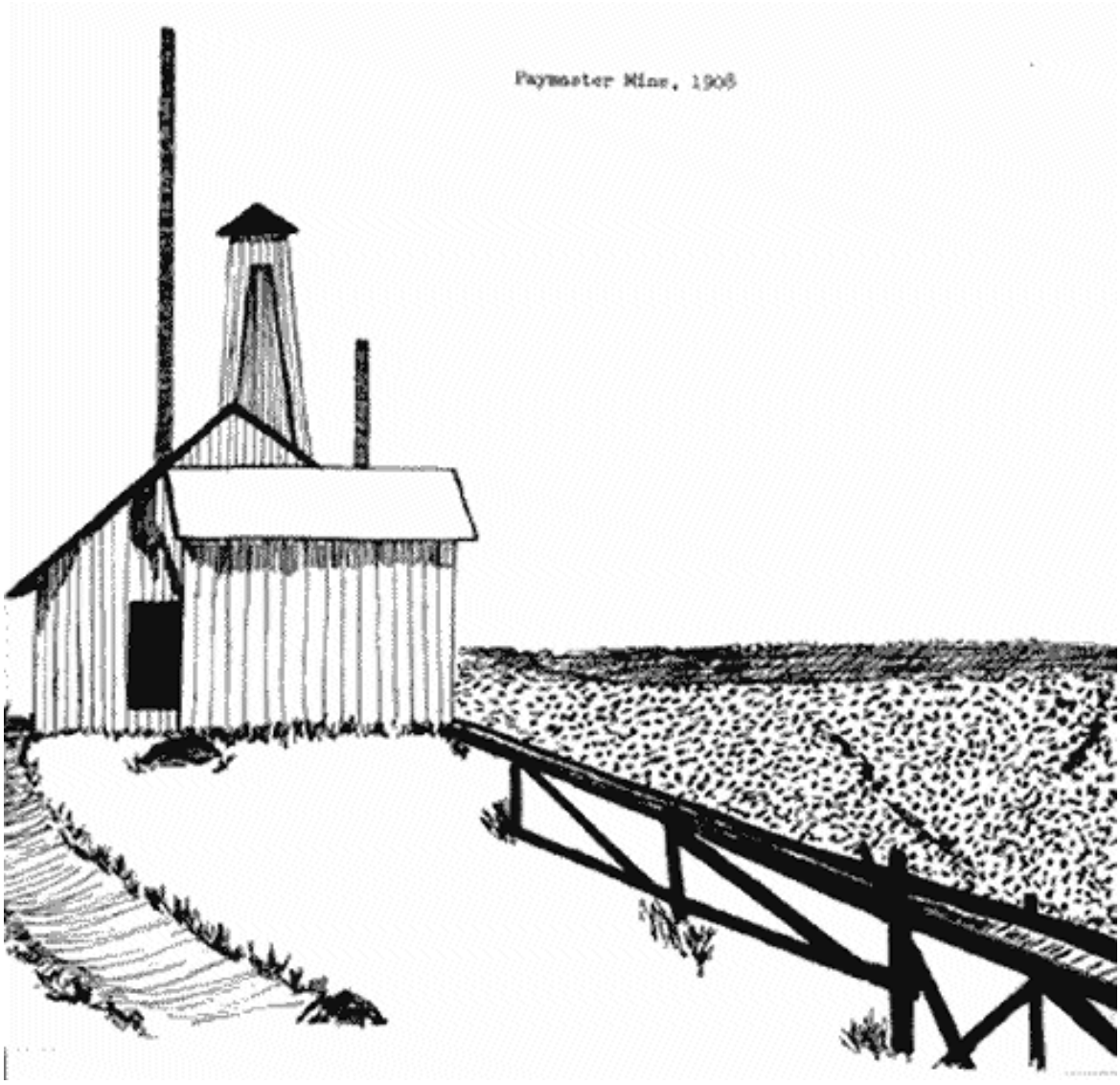
The Orion Mine was inspected on October 8th, 1899 and was reported to be owned by the Orion Gold Mining Company Limited of Rat Portage. The Company earned its capital by selling one dollar shares to accumulate $999,999.00. The head office was in Rat Portage, Ontario and the branch office was at 318-319 Germania Life Building, St. Paul, Minnesota. George H. Fullerton of Rat Portage was president and the secretary was H. C. Peterson of St. Paul. The company was to be reorganized later.

The shaft reached a depth of 50 feet measuring 6 feet by 10 feet and mining was to continue under contract by Alex Gordon. Three miners were employed and the only building on the camp site was the boarding camp.

OXFORD MINE

The Oxford mine was comprised of locations SV128, 129, 131, and 166 about a mile west of Gold Rock on Upper Lake Manitou. The property was owned by Thomas Armstrong, William Pinkerton and Wentworth Sharp. Operators were the Oxford Mining Company of Toronto, Limited who received interest for the expenditure of a certain sum on the development work.

The miners here totaled nine and the shaft on SV 129 was 6 feet by 8 feet and reached a depth of 77 feet with a cross cut at the bottom north 13 feet and south 11 feet. The buildings included boarding camps, a blacksmith shop and stables.


Paymaster Mine, 1908

PAYMASTER MINE

In 1904, the Paymaster mine was a newly opened prospect on mining location HW20, comprising 83 acres of property adjoining the Big Master mine to the south east. It was owned by the Northern Development Company: J. E. Burns, president, E. D. Soudan, secretary.

Operations began in the fall of 1903 under superintendant R. J. Elliot. The shaft was vertical and, that first year, reached a depth of 100 feet with a drift north west of 20 feet from the bottom. Hoisting was done by bucket and a small hoist and 25 horse power boiler in the adjoining hoist house. A couple of neat camp buildings stood on the site and two quartz veins ran about 30 feet apart across the property. These veins were exposed at the surface and appeared to be 18 inches to 2 feet wide.

By the fall of 1904 work had ceased temporarily but resumed shortly afterwards.

In February of 1906, a new 65 horse power boiler, a duplex cylinder hoist and a half of a 12 drill air compressor were installed. During the summer of 1905 the mine worked continuously and the 7 foot by 9 foot shaft reached 200 feet, an increase of 100 feet since the last inspection. Attention at that time, was drawn to the fire danger due to the nearness of the boiler and compressor house to the shaft house.

For the next year, 1907, the mine remained in active operation, the first level reaching out from 200 feet and a cross cut being driven 20 feet to cut the main vein. Continued sinking was planned down to 241 feet.

In 1908 the shaft was sunk to 275 feet and drifting on the first level continued to the north and south. Twelve men carried on this work under superintendant George Thow.

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PIONEER ISLAND MINE

On a small island, a third of a mile from the Grace mine and one half a mile north west of the Golden Eagle mine, was the mining claim of Pioneer Island, location McA245.

The mine was owned by the Northern Lights Mining Company in 1904 and plans were made shortly afterwards to transfer the claim to a subsidary company, the Pioneer Island Mining Company of Buffalo, New York. During that year, Mr. N. Higbee was supervisor for a total force of five men. Previous work was done at this location and there existed plans that operations would be resumed in the summer of 1904 and a small camp built.

The ore pit, then present was squared out to 20 feet for timbering and continued sinking. The vein on which it was sunk was traceable from the shore inland about 400 feet. The company considered acquiring new holdings on a water lot between the islan and mainland and on an adjoining location. The last mentioned of the Pioneer Island property was that it was worked on in the first part of 1905 and the shaft had been sunk to 80 feet.

QUACKENBUSH LOCATION

In 1898 it was reported that mining location HP375 was owned by V. Quackenbush and work had begun on the property to sink two shafts. They, respectively, reached depths of 50 feet and 66 feet. The latter shaft had 18 feet of cross cutting at the bottom where the vein was very wide.

The property went out of operation for a short time in 1898 and the manager, Mr. Glass, said that sinking had commenced on a quartz stringer that was found to be crossing the property from the adjoining location. It was said that this other vein looked to be very promising. The Quackenbush Location, however, never reached any major size.

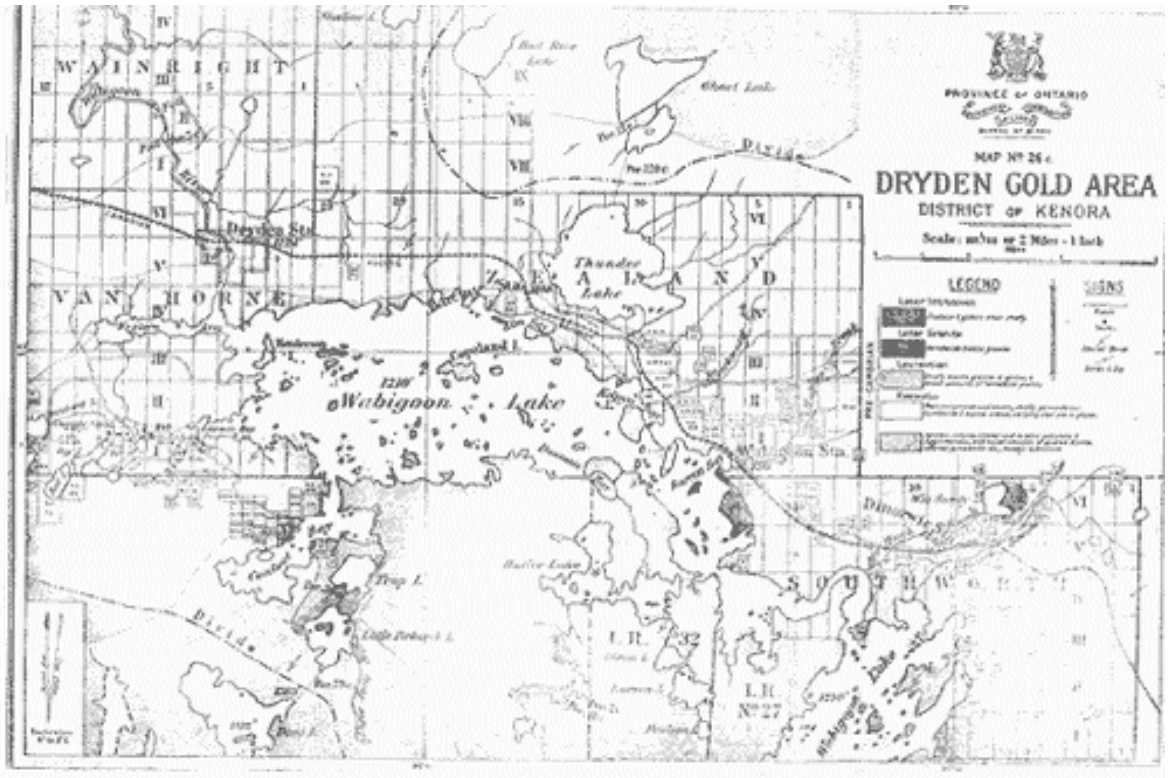
QUEEN ALEXANDRA MINE

In 1904 an new property called the Queen Alexandra, was under development by the contractor T. James. The mine was not inspected as mining operations had just been suspended on location HW270, adjoining the King Edward mine, near Carlton and Trout Lakes.

The shaft at Queen Alexandra had reached 85 feet and measured 6 feet by 10 feet, following a quartz vein.

Machinery servicing this prospect included a boiler and hoist and a two unit Tremaine steam stamp mill. The mill treated 18 tons of ore that the mine produced, averaging $16.80 per ton in gold.

The mine continued working between February and September of 1904 and a small camp with several buildings was built. The men here were serviced by a small steam boat which ran from Lake Manitou. F. Bolton was the supervisor of the camp and the Canadian representative of the English syndicate owners.


PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
MAP No 26 c
DRYDEN GOLD AREA
DISTRICT OF KENORA
LEGEND
SIGNS
WAINRIGHT
VAN HORNE
McIRVINE
Wabigoon Lake
Thunder Lake
Dryden Stn
Divide
I.R. No 27
SOUTH WEST

REDEEMER MINE

The Redeemer mine was originally opened up in 1901 as the Hermann and Larson property,comprising the south west 40 acres of lot six concession one of Van Horne Township, five miles south of Dryden. The holders of the lease were A. S. Hermann, 860 Monadnock Block, Chicago and G. Larson of Dryden. In 1901 these owners let a working option to the Redeemer Gold Mining and Milling Company of Windsor and proceeded with operations under Mr. Larson's management.

Mining was suspended in April of 1902 due to lack of pumps to handle the water and lack of an air compressor to work the machine drills, as the shaft was then too deep for continued steam use.

The shaft then measured 66 feet deep, 6 feet by 9 feet and had a 6 foot collar. There was no ladder or timbering. Besides the shaft, there were several test pits and considerable stripping on the property.

Buildings on the site included a solid 20 foot high open head frame, power house, a boarding house and a bunk house.Hoisting in the shaft was done by bucket and half inch wide steel rope using a small double cylinder hoist engine Four men were employed to install a three drill Rand air compressor and receiver in the power house to accomodate further production.

Development of the Hermann and Larson property slowed down for a few years, being closed down for part of 1905 and at that time the shaft had reached outwards on a new level

at 100 feet. The year previous, the Redeemer produced 200 tons of ore and milled it on the premises. The power plant consisted of a three drill air compressor, two boilers, a 35 and 40 horse power, a small hoist and a ten stamp mill complete and with cyanide plant.

For 1906 the work was conducted under the supervision of Mr. Ames and a second level coss cut was driven 400 feet to cut the vein found to be outcropping west of the shaft's vein. Fifty feet of drifting had been done on the old vein which ran on a quartz ore body with slate carrying pyrites.

By 1909 the shaft was sunk to 235 feet with two levels at 100 and 200 feet.At the time of inspection by the government officer the shaft was water filled, the sole source of drinking water for the camp. A continued drought had dried up all the springs and streams inthe neighbourhood of the mine.

The camp had the following appearance in 1909; the shaft and the mill were 80 feet apart, connected by a covered bridge from the top of the shaft house to the top of the mill. There were two boiler houses, one for the shaft and one for the mill. In the shaft house there was one boiler, the compressor and the hoist engine.

In the shaft, a bucket hoisted the ore into cars at the top of the shaft and then these were pushed over the bridge to the mill and dumped onto the horizontal grizzly, where the fine material was separated from the ore and sent directly to the stamps. The coarse material went through the Blake crusher before going to the stamps. The stamps were ten in all

manufactured by the Jenckes Macine Company of Sherbrooke, Quebec. Experiments were being made in cyaniding using old barrels as the cyanide tanks but no report was given on the effectiveness. When the inspector was leaving the mine site Mr. F. B. Roberts, the mine manager, was just arriving to begin pumping out the shaft and repairing the machinery needed on the first level and he said it would be at least one week before the second level would be open.

The mine did not open again on a major scale and at further inspections in 1916 and 1919 was found to be water filled and the men working at the Rognon and Bonanza properties. The highest value the Redeemer produced was in 1901 giving $2,400.00 for 100 tons of ore.

ROGNON MINE

The Rognon mine was located at the morth end of Contact Bay. The ore from this mine, like that from the Bonanza mine, was sent to the Redeemer mine for milling.

In 1916, a shaft was sunk to 23 feet and two test pits were dug.

In 1917, sixty tons of ore were sent to the Redeemer mine to be milled and the shaft was deepened to 70 feet with 60 feet of drifting done.

By 1919, the shaft consisted of two compartments and was sunk to 106 feet with levels at the 50 and 100 foot levels. On the 50 foot level, 60 feet of drifting to the west was done and 70 feet of drifting to the east & 122 feet to the west was carried out on the 100 foot level.

The mine changed hands twice while in operation, the first time in 1919 when it was sold the the Contact Bay Mines Limited and again in 1926, when the Bonanza United Mines took it over.

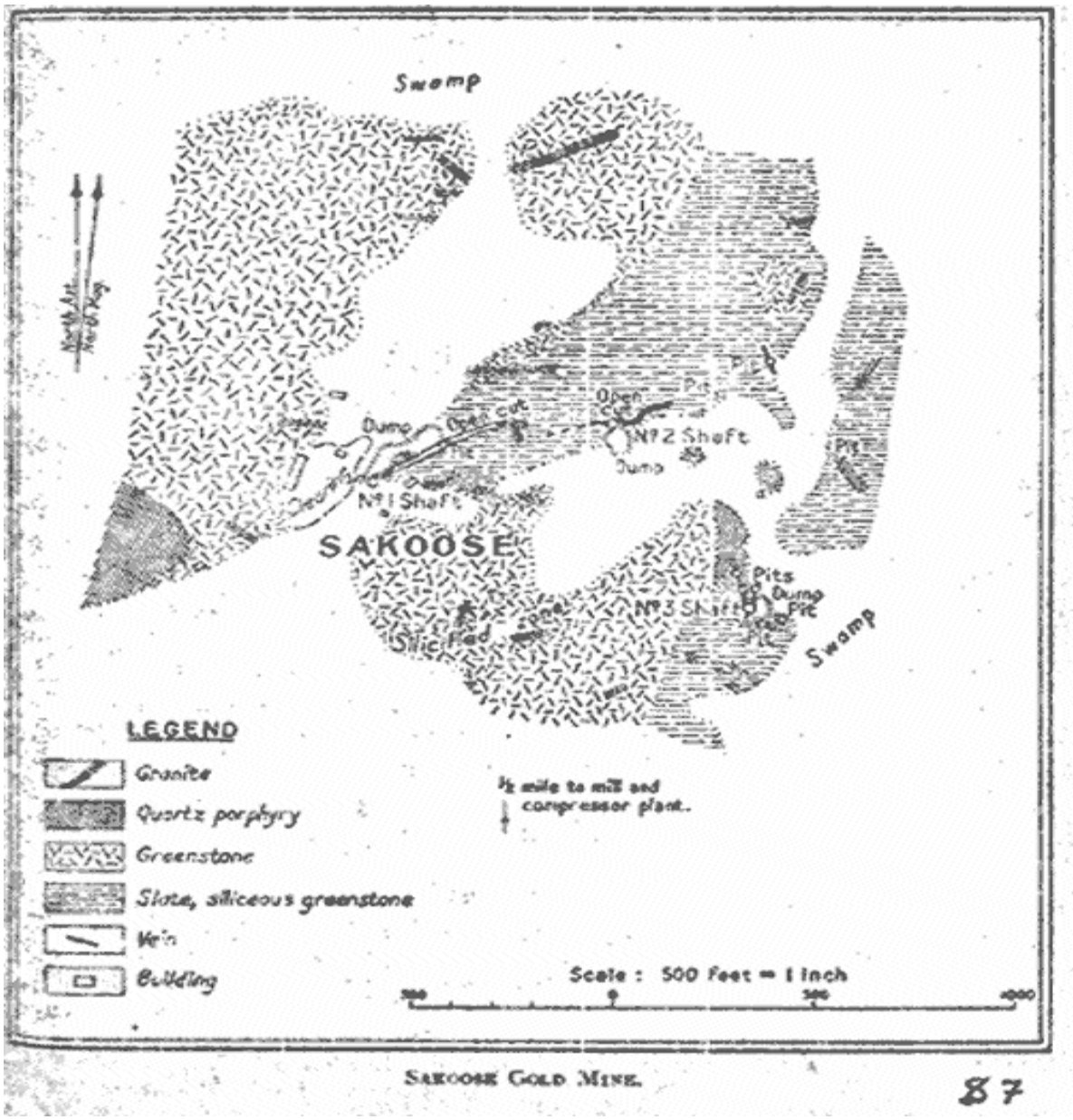
SAIREY GAMP MINE

The Sairey Gamp mine was on mining location G149 consisting of 140 acres on the north side of Sairey Gamp lake, one half mile west of the southern arm of Lower Lake Manitou. The owners were the Rainy Lake Mining and Power Company, with head office in the Wisconsin Building, West Superior, Wisconsin. The presiden and general manager was Mr. O. A. Watzke and the vice-president and treasurer was Mr. I.N. Snider.

Mining operations were carried on for the year of 1900, off and on, sinking the shaft to 75 feet with a level at the 70 foot mark. The shaft collar was 10 feet deep supporting a string of ladders that hung down vertically to the bottom of the shaft.

The hoist house was 30 feet from the shaft and head frame and machinery there included a 25 horse power locomotive boiler and a 5 inch by 8 inch oscillating cylinder hoist engine with half inch steel rope. Two boarding camps serviced the twelve men employed at Sairey Gamp, six of whom were miners.

In May of 1902 a lien was placed on the property and immediate closing resulted from this action. With no alteration in the state of affairs, the Sairey Gamp mine remained closed.



SAKOOSE GOLD MINE.

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SAKOOSE MINE*

**also knwon as Watson or Golden Whale*

The Sakoose mine first appeared as the Watson mine of the New Klodike district south of Dyment, in 1898. It was on mining location HW 416, 40 acres of land owned by the Honorable Robert Watson, Mininster of Public Works for Manitoba, and John M. Munroe of Dinorwic. Fire had cleared much of the location previous to 1898, and there remained 6 and a half acres of clear land, the rest being covered in small dense evergreens.

On the property, which was considered the best prospect in the New Klondike for 1898, occurred large masses of dark blue quartz which outcropped irregularly where the rock was exposed. This was a very promising sign of underlying ore bodies.

Extensive stripping was easily carried out because of the muskeg and soil covering the rock, and the men were engaged in moving earth, loose rock, moss and trees. The 6 foot by 8 foot shaft, dipping 80° east, was sunk to 90 feet and the work continued. Thomas Hogan was contracted to sink to 150 feet with 200 feet of drifting at the 100 foot level.

Statistics of the operation went as follows: the hoisting plant was a 10 horse power hoister, a 9 horse power upright broiler and 750 pound ore buckets which slid on a skidway extending to the bottom of the shaft.
The shaft was covered by a headframe of 22 feet and a ladderway was built to within 30 feet of the bottom. Seven miners were employed and on the camp site there existed a boarding camp, hoisting engine house and stables.

The mine was in steady operation during the year of 1899 but only one out of three shafts was in operation. No. 1. and No. 2 shafts were full of water but both had extensive work done on them previously. No. 1 was 105 feet deep with

a cross cut 15 feet to the south east at the bottom. No. 2 shaft, 470 feet north east of No. 1, was located on a different vein and was 105 feet deep with a cross cut 5 feet to the north west at the 60 foot mark. No. 3 shaft was 200 feet to the south west of No. 1 and was located on the same vein. It was 80 feet deep and had 29 feet of drifting of the 75 foot level. The ladderway consisted of laders suspended from the surface with no divisions or platforms and the manager was instructed by the mine inspector to remedy this and also to fence the other two shafts. All the shafts had suitable headframes and an open cut on the property, seven feet deep on the main vein, necessitated fencing or filling in, as suggested by the inspector.

A half a mile from the shaft stood the mill on the bank of a river, housing a 2 stamp Tremaine mill, with apron plate and gyrating amalgamating plate, a No. 1 Gates crusher, a Frue vanner with 6 foot belt, a 35 horse power boiler, a 16 horse power boiler engine and pump. Other buildings on the property included a mill, a temporary hoist house, blacksmith shop, store house, boarding camps, stables, manager dwellings and two private dwellings. The manager of the mine was John Munroe and the contractor Thomas Hogan supervising ten miners and a total work force of twenty-one men.

In 1901, the Golden Whale, formerly the Watson Mine, became known as the Sakoose Mine and now encompassed locations HW 416, 68, 75 and NT 22 as well as HW 416. In the spring of 1900 the group of locations was sold by Munroe and Watson to the Ottawa Gold Mining and Milling Company Limited. The directors of this company were Mr. H. A. Guess, mining engineer, the Honorable George E. Foster, president , John Mather, vice-president and James Gibson, secretary-treasurer, the office being at 72 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario. This company was also the owner of the Keewatin Reduction Works at Rat Portage. In order to ship ore there from the Sakoose, a spur line was constructed to the mine from Dyment.

Operations resumed under the new management in June of 1900 and the following results of the work were shown on No. 1 shaft: enlarged to 6 feet by 14 feet, depth measured 165 feet, and the first level was at 75 feet. On No. 2 shaft, which at that time lay abandoned, the depth remained at 108 feet, dimensions were 7 feet by 9 feet and the first level was extended out from 35 feet. No. 3, also abandoned, had no further work done on it since the last inspection.

In the main shaft, No. 1, timbers extended down to the first level and these were divided into three compartments; hoistways, measuring 4 by 4 and a half feet, and a ladderway , 3 and a half by 4 and a half feet. There was no timbering after the first level and ladders hung in a continuous string to the bottom. There was a sheet steel chute lying across the floor of the first level and the ore was dumped into a bucket hanging over the shaft.

The mine inspector took special note in the careless safety measures taken in the camp. Namely, there was no safe passage around or over the steel chute and one had to be built, in No. 2 manway there was no partition between that and the hoistway, and the ladders hung suspended from one another all the way to the bottom. Negligence was also evident in the care of explosives with the powder, fuses and caps found lying side by side near the tram road on the working levels. The men were instructed to observe the Mines Act for storage of powder underground.

The buildings on the property, in 1900, then included an 18 by 20 foot shaft house against the west side of the main shaft, with skidways continuing up from the mouth to the top of the building where an automatic device dumped the buckets of waste into a tram car and, if they contained ore, they were dumped onto a flat grizzly to receive a rough sorting of gangue and then drop into the bin below. From there this was trammed 150 feet along a trestle to the railway cars.

No. 2 shaft had a small double oscillating cylinder hoist that used a one half inch steel rope. Both of the hoists, as well as all pumps and drills, were operated by compressed air brought through a 5 inch pipe from a new compressor plant 3,500 feet southwest of the shaft. The old stamp mill was converted into a compressor house and the old plant was removed with new machinery being put in its place. This consisted of two horizontal return tubular boilers, each of 80 horse power, half of a 14 drill Ingersoll air compressor and a receiver. The water supply was obtained from a small creek crossing the locations near that point.

For 6 months of 1900 ore from the Sakoose was shipped to the Keewatin Reduction Works but the mine did not produce sufficient quantities to supply,regularly, more than one of the two stamp batteries. Lumber was brought in from rail by Rat Portage and was used for new buildings on the property, a boarding house, the manager's and several private dwellings, a blacksmith's shop and machine shop, store rooms and a stable.

In the last report the total work force numbered forty-six men, twenty-seven of those being miners, all under the supervision of foreman Gordon and manager H. A. Guess.

Little was heard of the Sakoose mine in later years, but hope lingered on. In 1935 it was taken over by the Nordic Sturgeon Mines and plans were made to deepen the shaft to 500 feet. It changed hands again in 1944 and became the property of Van Houten Syndicate and was re-staked by G.L. Pidgeon in 1958 and oprioned to the Brewis and White Company Limited of Toronto. It was never opened on a larger scale than it had operated on in the early 1900's.

SWANSON GOLD LOCATION

The Swanson Gold Location occupied the south half of lot 15 concession five of Aubrey Township and the adjoining 38 acre water lot, on the north shore of Eagle Lake.

The owners, in 1901, were George Swanson, L.Lawson and J. McAree, of Rat Portage. In the summer and fall of 1900, a 6 foot by 10 foot shaft was sunk to a depth of 57 feet. However, at the time of inspection the shaft was partially flooded and the were no ladders present. The shaft being considerably deeper than the lake level, 50 feet away, had filled with water too fast and had to be abandoned until equipment, other than hand windlass and bucket, could be procured. At last report the problem was trying to be resolved so operations could be resumed the following spring.

TWENTIETH CENTURY MINE

On two hundred and sixty-nine acres on Upper Manitou Lake, nine miles south west of Gold Rock, was located the Twentieth Century Mine. In 1902 it was found that the only development work done by the previous owners consisted of stripping the veins and sinking at different points along the veins during the past two or three years. At the beginning of 1901, operations began under the new owners, the Twentieth Century Mining Company, Limited, president, Anthony Blum. On the average, 24 men were employed but relatively little underground work had been done,concentrating mainly on surface construction.

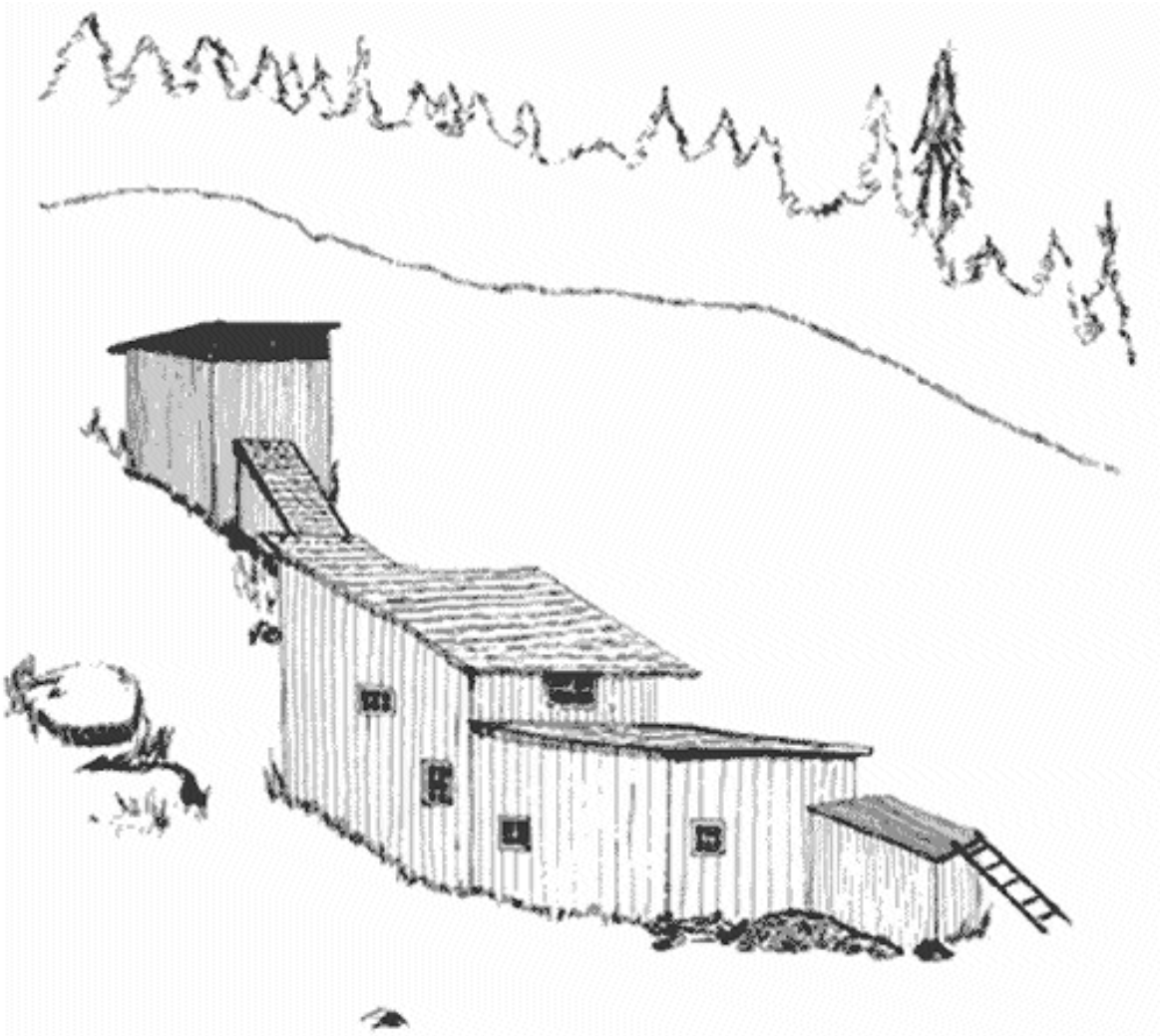
The shaft was 175 feet and measured 7 feet by 11 feet, or 5 and a half by 9 feet inside the cribbing, and was inclined 38° south. The first level was made at 80 feet and on the second level, at 160 feet, drifting was underway. However much work had been done, the mine was not ready for full scale production in 1902. A No. 5 Cameron pump in the bottom of the shaft and a No. 9 pump over the sump on the first level, kept the mine free of water. It was expected in the fall of 1902 that a stamp mill would be brought in along with the accessory machinery.

Buildings on the property included and office, an assay office, boarding and bunk houses, a warehouse, a stable, a blacksmith shop and plans were made to construct an ice house and another bunk house.

In November of 1902, the mine inspector reported that no mining was being done as the managment wanted to concentrate on building and completing the new mill, skipway and surface plant before severe winter weather set in.

By 1903 the surface plant was active but there was only enough ore to keep one or two of the stamp batteries running for two to eleven hours a day. At that time, there were 32 employees, 8 of those were miners. The main shaft reached a total depth of 340 feet with a new third level at 240 feet

and a fourth level at 320 feet. The new developments were not too encouraging and all work ceased in November of 1903 and the entire plant was dismantled and taken up the lake for the company's other properties, the Laurentian and the Volcanic Reef, in February of 1904.



Ten Ton Mill of Van Houten Syndicate
1940, South Shore of Alston Lake

VIKING GOLD LOCATION

The Viking Gold Location was situated on 25 acres of an island in the west end of Eagle Lake, mining location S 446. The owners and operators were E. Stevenson, L. Stevenson, F. Blackie and J. D. Curran of Rat Portage.

Here two men were engaged from October of 1900 in stripping and tracing veins and sinking test pits and a shaft. At a point near the shore where two veins met, a shaft was sunk to 15 feet but there was no sign of a quartz vein or continuous fissure.

In 1902, the contract was let on the property for the sinking of an 80 foot shaft and in 1903, the operation changed owners, being sold to the Viking Mining Company of Toledo, Ohio. These owners let a new contract out for the development of the location but, whether it was picked up or not, the property was closed in the spring of 1903.

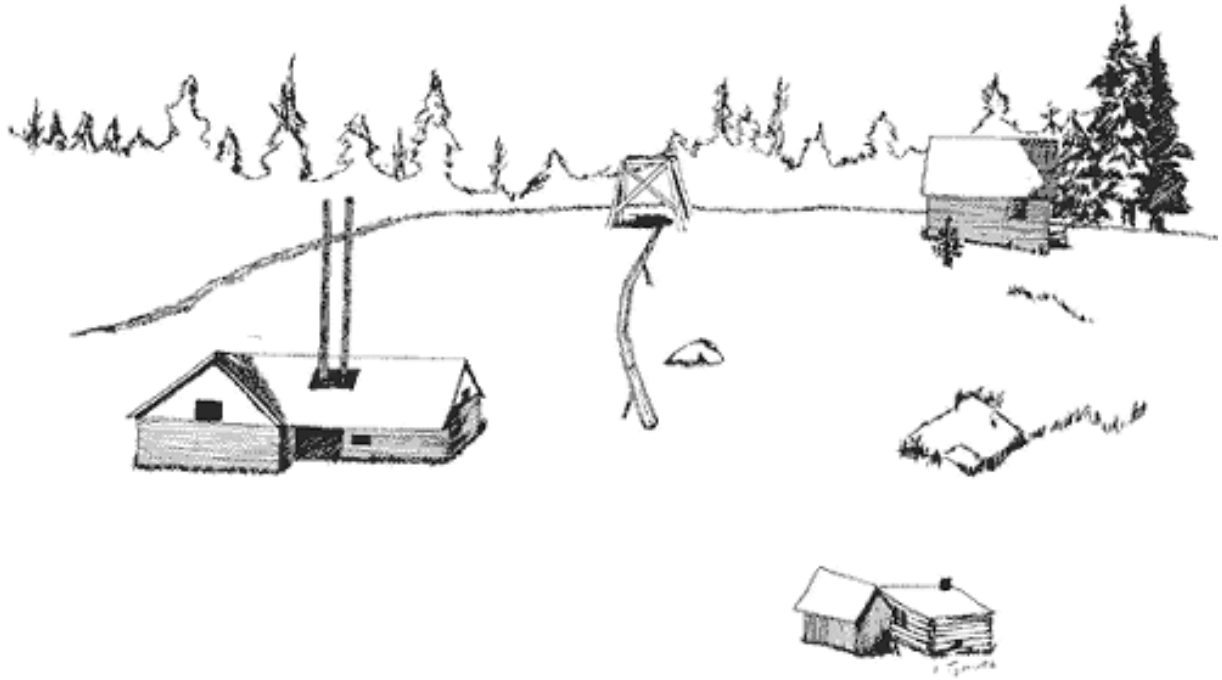
VOLCANIC REEF MINE

The Volcanic Reef Mine was under the same management as the Laurentian and Twentieth Century mines, and was owned by the Volcanic Reef Mining Company of Boston and Toronto. The president was Mr. Anthony Blum, secretary Mr. John Molath and the manager, Mr. Dryden Smith. Fifteen men worked of the location HP 377, S39, 40 and 41, near Mud Lake on the eastern end of Upper Lake Manitou.

A one and a half mile wagon road was constructed around 1903 from the Laurentian to the Volcanic Reef mine as a continuation of the road from Gold Rock.

On the property itself, a quartz vein, one foot wide, outcropped on top of a hill about 168 feet above Mud Lake and 600 feet north of that a shaft was sunk to 130 feet with a level at 100 feet. The shaft was completely timbered and the management had plans to install a cage. Until that time, hoisting was done with a bucket and small hoist operated by compressed air brought in by a three inch pipe from the power house on the lake, 1,400 feet away.

Machinery at the plant on the lake, included a 50 horse power tubular boiler and a three drill Rand air compressor. A new shaft house had just been built previous to the inspection of 1903 and other buildings on the property were two log houses and a stable.



Victory Mine, 1906

VICTORY MINE*
**also Upper Neepawa*

The Victory mine was originally known as the Upper Neepawa mine and was situated on mining location McA 28, a half a mile north west of Gold Rock. In 1897, under the ownership of the Neepawa Company, development work was done and two shafts were sunk to 46 feet and 25 feet. It was found, at that time, that the ore was rather low grade on the average.

Mining was suspended at the Victory until 1906, when it was worked for a short time. In 1908 the property was taken over by the Manitou Mines Limited, managing director, H.D.Alston and superintendant J. Beck. The shaft reached down to 100 feet and considerable surface prospecting was done on parts of the location. A new plant had been installed with a 50 horse power return tubular boiler, a hoist and a straight line air compressor.

The buildings present were a blacksmith shop, a boiler house and the usual camp buildings. The mine was shut down for good after 1909 and no profit was listed.

WABIGOON SOAPSTONE COMPANY

In 1922, the Wabigoon Soapstone Company Limited, with head office in the King Edward Building, Toronto, had been incorporated to work a soapstone deposit on the north shore of Wabigoon Lake. Known as the Pidgeon Property, the land consisted of mining location HW 133, in the Zealand Township, District of Kenora. Ninety acres in size, the property was bought by the company from E. Pidgeon of Wabigoon. Their capital was $500,000.00 divided into 50,000 shares of $10.00 par value. Company directors included president, H. H. Sutherland, Toronto, vice president, E. Pidgeon, Wabigoon, secretary treasurer, R. E. Evans, Toronto and Robert Fennell and F. C. Sutherland, both of Toronto.

In the Mines Branch Report No. 583, the deposit was described by Hugh S. Spencer as outlined below:

> Notes on the occurence of an interesting and extensive soapstone deposit were made during a visit to the locality in October of 1921. The rock found here is termed soapstone for lack of a better name, though it possesses few of the outward characteristics of the stone. It resembles closer the Alberene stone that is mined in Virginia and used extensively for purposes normally served by soapstone. The mineral composition, under analysis, shows that they correspond closely.
>
> In Wabigoon stone there is a high compostion of talc with some chlorite and dolomite giving it a dark greenish-grey colour. It is fine to medium grained and soft enough to be scratched with a fingernail. There are two well-defined bands, separated by roughly 100 feet, which tend to run northwest. Where the bands are situated, the CPR is a mere 500 yards distant and the ground in between, level and ideal for laying a spur track.
>
> After testing the stone it was found that the most suitable use would be for bricks for the smelting furnaces of sulphate-pulp mills. Those furnaces called for a refractory material structurally strong enough to resist cracking under high heat temperatures.

Being, at that time, more than a dozen sulphate-pulp mills in Canada, the total number of soapstone bricks used was considerable, as Mr. Spencer noted. Seeing as all these bricks were imported from the United States, specifically Virginia, a Canadian source would lessen the cost of such bricks to the pulp mills, keeping in mind the Wabigoon stone for this purpose, if it held up under actual working conditions. Further uses of the stone might also have been for bake oven bricks, which proved to be superior to ordinary fire bricks on account of their higher heat retention, but their use as such was limited owing to the difficulty in obtaining and high cost of soapstone.

Economically speaking, Mr. Spencer found the Wabigoon deposit to be most promising. The amount available was considerable, within a short distance of the railroad and in an excellent location for a quarry site. As it turned out, in 1922 work was done on this property in the way of stripping and sampling, clearing timber and building road access.

WACHMAN PROPERTY

The Wachman Mining and Milling Company Limited was formed in 1919 with a capital of $500,000.00, and had plans to work the gold claims west of the Rognon mine, six miles due south of Dryden.

Two men were engaged insinking the 16 foot shaft by hand and a total of eight men occupied the camp, consisting of sleeping quarters, a cook house and stables. The president, Mr. Robert Wachman of Chicago, moved his residence to the village of Dryden for the duration of the work.

All the men were paid off in December of 1920 and work ceased on the two compartment shaft that had reached the 100 foot mark.

WESTERFIELD MINE*
also Independance or Reliance

The Westerfield mine was located between Upper and Lower Manitou Lakes, near the narrows where the steamboat landing connected with the small lake, Lake Charlton. The mine was approximately one mile from there by foot trail and a half a mile further by canoe across Lake Carlton. The mine took up locations HP 355, 386, 387 and G 31, each forty acres in size. Originally it was operated by the Manitou Lake Gold Mining Company Limited, whose head office was in St. Paul, Minnesota. Work began in April of 1898 employing seven miners.

They worked on an irregular quartz vein that was two to two and a half feet wide, branching in one or two places but being traceable from the surface outcroppings. Three shafts were sunk; No. 1 reached 43 feet, No. 2 went down to 22 and a half feet and No. 3 went to 40 feet with 20 feet of drifts in each direction at the bottom.

During the inspection of 1898, Nos. 1 and 2 were not being worked and were partially full of water. It was proposed that No. 3 shaft be given a tramway to Charlton Lake a quarter of a mile away and that a mill be built there. At that time quartz samples were taken from the shafts and assayed weekly on the premises.

In 1899, the Westerfield became known as the Independance mine and operations were suspended owing to a lawsuit pending for some time regarding the property title. No work was done that year in shafts 1 or 2, and the main shaft, No. 3, was partially water filled. Mr. Gordon was in charg of the operations previous to the sutdown and he said that all the machinery for a ten stamp mill was at the mine landing on the shore of Lower Lake Manitou and ready for transportation over the new wagon road.

As reported in 1902, five men had been engaged since July of 1901, in building up the camp site in anticipation

of further mining. One hundred thousand feet of lumber had been cut at the Glass Reef Mine sawmill on the other side of the lake for building a stamp mill that was brought in in 1900. The man in charge, Mr. A. E. Botterell said that the future plans for the mine were not very settled.

In 1903 the mine became the property of the Reliance Gold Mining and Milling Company Limited of Detroit, Michigan. Mr. T. Armstrong was the superintendant of eight men, who were working on sinking No. 2 shaft and No. 1 shaft to 97 feet. The shaft of the latter was timbered and had a good ladderway. Hoiting was by means of a bucket, block and tackle and horse, with a good brake on the rope. Not much was heard of the mine after the Reliance company took it over the property.

Mining Accidents

The personal risk involved to miners in the early days of mining cannot be stressed enough. In those years, while not necessarily the fault of the workers, the conditions they worked under, the equipment they used and the unavailability of medical attention placed the men in a certain element of danger. Although there were not that many instances of major accidents, possibly due to the fact that active mining was only carried on for a few years collectively, the following reports are taken from investigations into these mishaps by the Ontario Department of Mines.

Sakoose Mine: August 23, 1901

Andy Yoemans, while climbing up the ladderway from the sub-level to the first level, was struck with the descending bucket and knocked down to the sub-level, being partially caught by another miner. He was taken to the hospital at Rat Portage but the injuries did not prove to be severe and he was released in two weeks time.

Gold Moose Mine: December 18, 1901

After a blast being set off, miner Peter Peterson, went down to "muck" out the loose ore. In believing all the charges had exploded Peterson went to work with a shovel. In so doing his tool struck a small amount of powder-dynamite that had been left in the explosion. The following blow up caused damaged to his eyesight. A month or six weeks later, Peterson was reported almost well and ready to resume work.

Big Master Mine: August 20th, 1903

At 10 am that day, Albert Johnson, while working underground was fatally injured. He was oneof the machine crew engaged in stoping between the 1st and 2nd levels. His working partner climbed to a stope platform a short height above and in doing so, dislodged a wooden bucket or box used for lowering steel. This struck Johnson on the head resulting in the fracturing of his skull. Five hours later he died. The coroner at Wabigoon did not consider an inquest necessary, the cause of death being accidental. The careless placement of the box on the platform was to blame this time, being placed so a slight movement would knock it off.

Big Master: March 17th, 1902

Four men were injured on one of the eight hour shifts who were working on the main shaft beginning at 3 pm. Their previous workers had completed drilling about 16 holes and it remained that the following shift load blast and "muck out". The centre 8 of the holes were blasted, 8 charges counted and mucked out. The remaining holes were then loaded and fired but only six blasts counted. When removing the muck the two missed holes were located with burnt fuses still in place. John Archibald and John St. Amand began picking the loose rock at the bottom of the shaft. while co-workers Malcom Spear and George Robinson stood back out of the way. While using his

pick Archibald struck and exploded loose dynamite which resulted in his leg being broken, two fingers being blown off, eyes cut and eyesight destroyed. St. Amand suffered a broken jaw, face and eye injuries. Spear had his face and one eye cut and bruised; Robinson, hand and face bruised and cut, not seriously. Those on the surface who heard the blast rushed below and brought up the injured men,, giving them the best possible care under the circumstances. The nearest doctor, Dr. White of Wabigoon, came in 13 hours and Dr. Blair of Dryden came 9 hours after hime. On March 19th the men were taken to Wabigoon and from there to hospital in Winnipeg. It was not certain how the loose dynamite came to be in the bottom of the shaft but the remaining stock of the explosive proved to be in poor condition and it was ordered destroyed.

Laurentian Mine: April 26th, 1910

Jacob Nymen, a machine operator, was killed while loading a hole with gelignite. Isaac Nyman, who was about twelve feet from the deceased, took the paper off the gelignite and handed Jacob two sticks, one of which he put in the hole. It stuck about four and a half feet from the collar of the hole and the deceased was trying to push it when the explosion occured. The hole was about seven feet deep. The drillers of the hole said they had had difficulty with the drill at this depth which accounted for why there was trouble with it sticking and why Jacob Nyman, by using too much pressure in trying to get it to the bottom of the hole, set off the explosion. The coroner's jury ruled death by accident.

The Early Manitou Country

Description and Hazards

In 1894, in his report of the Rainy Lake region, that is including the area of the Manitou Lakes, Dr. A. P. Coleman noted the favourable conditions available for further exploration. He and his party discovered that thousands of miles of shoreline had well exposed rock, quite convenient for the geologist and prospector. In frequent cases rocky slopes and walls rose right out of the water and could be examined without having to get out of thecanoe. However, in some areas, the forest came right down to the shore and rock could not be seen.

Away from the lakes and further inland,soil and forest vegetation covered the surface of the ground. Rock crops were to be seen only here and there as weathered ridges or, as in many instances, fires had swept away the Norway and white pines, leaving them in a tangle of trunks on the forest floor. The geologist also observed that when fires swept over and area for the second time, as had occurred at some points on the Lake Manitou shoreline, the soil would be cleaned off, fallen trees and all, leaving only bare rock slopes and ridges. He stated the unlikeliness of plant re-generation for years to come. Coleman proposed that the fires were immediately helpful to the prospector but would prove, in the

long run, to be injurious to the mining industry as the area would be robbed of timber for fuel, building and mining purposes.

The land itself was highly attractive to the geologists of those years, being an ideal region for canoe navigation and the lakes being so numerous, providing easy routes in any direction with few long portages in between. The lakewaters were abundant in pickerel, whitefish and jackfish and the Manitou and Clear Water lakes, having exceptionally clear water, were the home of trout also.

Coleman was highly concerned with the extensive loss due to forest fires in the area, remarking that without forest fire preventation tactics in the near future, the great pine stands of the region would be lost. He related an account of his personal experience with forest fires in report of 1894 for the Ontario Department of Mines. During the month of August on a field trip to the Manitou area, Coleman and his party came in direct range of a raging fire while travelling in the chain of lakes betwee the Atikokan River and Lac des Milles Lacs. The smoke became so dense that even on the narrow lakes they were forced to steer the canoe by compass or otherwise coast slowly along the shoreline. He stated that on Baril Lake, August 29th, the air became so thick with smoke and falling ashes and cinders that the sky was dark by

noon and they had to land and wait on the charred shore till a shower cleared the air. They were careful to camp at night in spots where the fire had previously passed, leaving nothing more to burn. The loss of forest life was immeasureable; birds were killed in the very air in which they flew and in one small lake all the fish floated dead on the surface. While not all the larger trees were completely burned, they were, for the most part killed and in a relatively short time the men noticed larvae tunnelling into the wood and destroying it. They claimed to hear the incessant sound of the raspy jaws up to a quarter of a mile away at times soon to leave little heaps of sawdust at thebase of the trees.

Mr. J. Watson Bain conducted mining classes for two weeks at locations in Port Arthur, Wabigoon, Rat Portage and Mine Centre, the object of which being, to increase the knowledge of local geology and mineralogy, thus assisting in miners' work. In Port Arthur on May 5th, 1898 twelve students were in attendance and the class was considered a success, that is until the ice on inland waters broke up and almost everyon went into the field to work. Seeing as there were not enough remaining,classes were cancelled and the school moved on to its next stop at Wabigoon. From May 25th to June 7th there was a good general attendance totalling thirty-two in all. Continuing on to Rat Portage for the 14th of June until the 29th they enrolled fifteen

students there and moved along to Mine Centre until August 3rd taking in twenty students. In closing,the classes were said to be a considerable success and "a lively interest was shown by all."

Mining Classes such as these were carried over the mining "circuit" for several years beginning with those taught this particular year. The idea materialized when the Ontario legislature gave one thousand dollars towards the summer mining classes to be divided betwee the Toronto School of Practical Science and the School of Mining in Kingston, both of which sent out the professors to teach the classes.

The following historical data has been compiled from the collection of Ontario Department of Mines Annual Reports dating back to 1894.

In January of 1894, Dr. A.P. Coleman was appointed Geologist and Mineralogist to the Bureau of Mines of the Province of Ontario and, as such, received orders from Director Archibald Blue to prepare for summer field work in the Rainy Lake Gold Region. Dr. Coleman and his appointed assistant, Dr. John Burwash of Victory University, Toronto, a former mineralogist to the Province of New Brunswick, left Toronto on June 17th, 1894 for Rat Portage (presently Kenora, Ontario).

In Rat Portage they further supplemented their supplies and engaged as canoeman Mr. William Margach, Jr. They began work by visiting the Sultana Mine and other geologically interesting points on Lake of the Woods and then took a steamer, the Monarch, to Fort Frances, where they completed their party by engaging two half-breeds, John Vincent and Pierre Mainville, as cook and canoeman.

Early inspection of Manitou area

For the next month the men travelled extensively in the Rainy Lake area visiting gold mining locations, studying veins and rock and collecting specimens. After re-fitting his party, Coleman turned northwards passing through Lake Despair and Clear Water Lake into Pipestone Lake, after which they travelled eastward through Strawberry and other lakes into the southwestern end of Manitou Lake. Mining locations of Upper Manitou Lake were visited and the party proceeded on to the CPR station of Wabigoon. Here the party disbanded. The two hired men from Fort Frances were paid off and returned home in a bark canoe and those remaining returned by rail to Rat Portage. Dr. Burwash then going on to Toronto and Dr. Coleman remaining in the area to undertake small expeditions on Lake of the Woods, travelling as far east as the Atikokan River via Lac des Milles Lacs and completing his work at Savanne on September 1st.

Coleman concluded that the season had been favourable for geological work, despite the fact that unusually high water on Rainy Lake in early summer had covered many interesting outcrops along the shore, and low water near the end of the summer interfered with canoe navigation. He also cited

the fact that the prevalancy of forest fires in the area in that year of 1894.

In closing his report, Coleman noted the necissity for geological maps covering this region of Ontario that he found "so interesting and important from the economic side". His final paragraph acknowledged the help he received, reflecting greatly upon the early pioneers of Northwestern Ontario.

Manitou's pioneers

"The writer of the present report wishes to express his gratitude to the many friends who have aided in the work, officials of the Crown Lands of the Department of the Province, members of the Hudson Bay Company at Rat Portage, Fort Frances and Savanne, and many miners and prospectors; the latter, generous and hospitable men, rarely overburdened with this world's goods, but perennially hopeful for the future. They are a class who are of much importance to the province, and yet who seldom reap the full reward of their labors and privations.

Manitou mining c.1894

In his report of 1894 Coleman pointed out that of the two Manitou lakes the majority of the mining locations were on its upper part, numerous locations being on islands and one of particular promise, Location 150P, had started blasting at this early date. Regardless of its appearance, assys from this location turned out negative.

Another of the earliest locations was situated on a point at the southeast end of Upper Manitou. This was location 131P taken up by a prospector named LaCourse. Blasting to a depth of approximately 12 to 15 feet turned up assays of 186.00 of gold per ton, which proved to be to be the best in the Manitou region up to this point in time.

During the month of August, 1894, Coleman noted the operation of only one mine on the Manitou, that of Mr. Rochon, of the firm Lillian and Rochon of Keewatin. His location, 133P, was near the northeast end of Upper Manitou, a mile north of the entrance. Here a small party was developing a bedded vein of quartz. Mr. Coleman took out a specimen of free gold received from one-half pound of the ore being crushed in a mortar then panned for gold content.

Up to the summer of 1894 Coleman related that the Manitou lakes had revealed only specimens

of gold, some of them being very fine indeed. There were no mines or stamp mills in operation and the deepest exploration had only gone down 25 feet. There had been ten assays made from various claims, four of which carried gold running from a trace to 186.00 per ton. Gold yielding samples had been taken from the south-west end of the lake, one from the lower expansion and the remaining two from the Upper Manitou lake. Coleman concluded that the Upper Manitou was by far yielding the richer prospects, however, the outcome of mining this region could be only speculated upon until further development could be carried out.

He also wrote of accesibility to the Manitou by two seasonable means; canoe in summer and dog train in winter. The two canoe routes used were one from Rainy Lake on the south, which required a long day's paddle, and a shorter one from the Canadian Pacific Railroad line at Wabigoon. The latter route appeared shorter in miles travelled but usually meant extended portages, six in all, some long and one quite bothersome because of muskeg. When Coleman's party came through from Wabigoon the low water level lengthened one of the portages quite drastically and the wild rice had grown so tall and thick at the narrows on the upper end of Little Wabigoon, that the men wasted much time forcing their canoes through it. After citing this experience, Coleman stated a proposal of the Ontario government to cut a wagon road from the northeast end of Manitou Lake to a smaller lake six or seven miles north to the navigation point on the Wabigoon chain of lakes. Also stated was the possibility of small steamers (stern wheelers) being able to make passage up to the point of the proposed road. However, Coleman reflected the low water level could make this a difficult task and especially taking into consideration the rice field at the Little Wabigoon Narrows.

Accessibility to Manitou country

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From his report on the mines of Northwestern Ontario in 1898, James A. Bow made three trips over the western area, visiting all working mines and most of the developing properties. He was accompanied on his first tour by Mr. J.W. Bain, an instructor of the School of Practical Science of Toronto who was holding summer mining classes throughout the area. The second tour was made in the company of Professor Courtnay DeKalb, Inspector of Mines for Eastern Ontario who travelled over the whole province. And the final tour began in November, During which trips to mines were made conveniently while compiling the annual report at Rat Portage.

*****please note a passage taken from 1897 is inserted on the following page in report of 1898*

Coleman and his associate, Professor Willmot, in their inspection of the region in 1897, reached Wabigoon late on July 1st and here parted company for a time. Coleman commented that Wabigoon was the newest town in the district and "expects to win the trade of the Manitou to the south as well as of various mines nearer by." On July 2nd Coleman boarded the steamer, the Wm. Whyte, heading south and then eastward into Little Wabigoon and followed the course south-southwest to the mouth of Grassy River. From here he noted navigation became bothersome. Repeatedly in the bends of the narrows the boat had to cut its engine and be pushed through with poles and even in high water, weeds were continually clogging the propellor and it had to be reversed to disengage them. Although troublesome rocks had been removed by the boat owners, some very dangerous ones remained and near the head of the creek, before entering Lake Minnehaha, Coleman's boat ran aground. However they did manage to get off again. The dam at Wabigoon River, Dryden station, was raised during that season by a force of men under government orders, owing to the dry season, though, navigation remained difficult.

Early trip to Manitou from Wabigoon

Coleman, upon disembarking from the boat at the north end of the government road, found a "village of eight or ten tents and two or three shacks, including a store and a hotel." This town occupied about five acres of land cleared from the bush. Seeing as no dock had yet been built, the steamer tied up at a large rock which served for a landing spot. At this time the government road was still under construction having large members of men employed straightening the old trail, grading and laying down corduroy in the swampy places. While Coleman was present the first wagon passed over the new road, whereas previously all stores were carried in on the back. In reaching the south end of the portage Coleman found another small village of tents and one or two log houses and people employed in building a small steamer for travel on Lake Manitou. This tiny cluster of buildings would soon come to be known as Goldrock.

Way back when

This old photograph of Gold Rock came to light recently and belongs to the Hampes, of Gold Rock. The site isn't very photogenic but gold is where you find it. Manitou Lake is one of the most beautiful lakes in the country. The picture evidently dates back to the turn of the century.

1. Home of Jack Joy, later of Mr. A. Johnson of Wabigoon and later, Mrs. M. Merrill.

2. Home of E. B. Martin, owner and operator of the general store, also post master & Justice of the Peace. Mr. Martin read the church service when there was no student minister.

3. Residence of Roy Martin, son of the above.

4. Home of Dr. Denmark, sold to John Beck in 1902.

5. Village store.

6. Hotel operated by Mr. Kershaw. The hotel had rooms, meals & a bar.

7. Home of Mr. & Mrs. Anderson.

8. Blacksmith shop, operated by Robert Reid.

9. Home of Mr. L. Nymark, Sr., later of Dryden.

Note: Later, other houses were built as well as a one room school. Teachers were Dr. McCullis, and Miss Kirkland. Doctors were Dr. Denmark, Dr. Naysmith and Dr. McCullis. All mines contributed to services a set amount from their salaries. The mines also provided a home for them. The cemetary of of approx. 20 graves was on Portage Road.

centre.

"New Klondike" south of Dyment

Twenty miles east from Wabigoon, where the Bear Creek crossed the CPR tracks, the flag station of Dyment with a half mile of side track had been established and the townsite surveyed. A hotel had been built with first class accommodation by Mr. D. A Larson,who was influential in founding the station. Mr. Bow stated that the Dyment station was quickly becoming the most convenient point to enter the mining country to the south and a nine mile wagon road led into the New Klondike. The road was initially cut by Walker and Brown and others who had a general interest in the region, and the government widened and continued the road for six miles. It was reasoned that the countrywas fairly level and tree growth relativelylight, therefore, easy roads could be cut at no real expense. As an alternative the New Klondike region could be reached from Wabigoon or Dinorwic by a steamer that ran up the Little Wabigoon River to within three miles of the mine area. Inspector Bow stated that a road had been cut out so as to establish connection with the railroad by this route. Mr. Thos. Hogan had done most of the development work under contract in the area and was highly productive in road cutting, spending as much as 500.00 in that work, as he told Inspector Bow.

Steamer service for area

From the report of his inspection tour of 1899, Mr. Bow expressed wonder in the fact that the Manitou country had not been more successful progressing in relation to the rest of the district. Accessibility did not account for this because, as he reasoned, the Manitou was not as accessible as the Lake of the Woods, but was definitely more easily reached than other parts of the district, which seemed to be moving ahead favourably. There was now regular steamboat service on Wabigoon and Manitou Lakes; three for Wabigoon and two for Manitou, as well as a stage(in truth an ordinary wagon) on the seven mile portage between the two lakes and the stage road was usually reliable, unless the weather became wet. Mr. Bow saw a possible boost in the industry with the possible arrival of new stamp mills.

In the mining report for January of 1901, Inspector Bow wrote that the mines then working in the Manitou had practically all been opened up within the previous year, 1900, and most of the older properties had been closed with the exception of the Independance Mine, at which a small force was found to be "preparing timbers for the erection of a stamp mill" that was taken in there about two years ago. A new wagon road about three quarters of a mile long had been cut in the winter of 1900 at a point between Wabigoon and Little Wabigoon lakes. This shortened the winter route from Wabigoon to the Manitou by five miles. Mr. Bow made his inspection of the area "during the early days of January, 1901."

Mining progress c. 1900

As for the New Klondike region for the year of 1901, a seven mile spur line of the CPR had been constructed from Dyment station down into the district. It had been intended initially for the Sakoose Mine but was available for use by other area mines. The rapid development of the Sakoose property was a major factor in establishing a name for the region, even though during January of 1901 only Sakoose and one other location were being worked.

For the next six years the mining inspectors concentrated their reports on the individual mines being developed in the region, as the area itself had been previously described. Until 1910 little was mentioned of the area's residents or progress, other than the statement from 1907, that in the Eagle Lake area, with the exception of prospecting, no work had been done on any veins save at the Grace Mine.

A.L. Parsons, in ending his report of 1911, for 1910, gave the following acknowledgements for favours and the hospitalities extended to him during the summer; Mr. Dryden Smith, manager of the Detola mine, who assisted in locating claim lines and in moving the party's equipment. Mr. Dixon was also thanked for helping transport the men from Minnehaha Lake to Dryden.

Acknowledgments

During the months of June, July and August of 1916, Mr. Ellis Thomson, as instructed by T.W. Gibson, Deputy Minister of Mines, carried on a geological field work study in the Dryden area. Because of the recent discovery of gold ore at

Contact Bay on the soutwest corner of Wabigoon Lake, special attention was turned to this region. He had, during July and August, hired on Charles W. Merrill, of Wabigoon as cook and canoeman, and on a special trip to Gull Lake, C. D. Coates of Dryden as his guide. In closing his report, the author gave special acknowledgements to Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Rognon with whom he stayed during the first month afield. Also thanked were A. Pitt, G. Larson, A. McPhail and D. Hutchison of Dryden and J.Aaron of Wabigoon for help given while in their respective vicinities.

Excursion to Dryden area

Through his time spent in the Dryden area in 1916, Mr. Thomson compiled notes on the region of the past. He described the area as having a "smooth and undulating" surface, especially to the north, but being broken here and there by rough hills as in the vicinity of Trap Lake. The land of the townships of Zealand, Wainwright and the northern half of Van Horne, was covered with heavy clay, much as it is today, on which wae located many prosperous farms. As seen by him in 1916, much of the northern section had been cleared and only the eastern part of Zealand township remained wooded. In contrast, the southern parts of the region were covered with moderately dense growth of deciduous trees, like birch and poplar,with the odd evergreen and rock outcroppings being fairly numerous. The entire area was overburdened with stratified clay, as Thomson saw it, characterized by the shores of Wabigoon Lake. He described these clay banks as coming down to the water level, or within a few feet of it, and being easily eroded by wave action. He noted that the contours of the lake changed considerably, even within the course of a year and that numerous small islands disappeared as frequently as new ones are formed, while the ends of peninsulas and points are cut off. Noted also is the fact that erosion was hastened when the level of the lake had been changed at different times through Dryden Timber and Power Company to aid in logging operations.

Description of Dryden area cerca 1916

The Wabigoon River at that time had two falls in its course running through the Town of Dryden. They supplied the power for the operation of the plant run by the Dryden Timber and Power Company. It was not doubtful that more power could be developed for the operation of mining plants, however, no such use of this power had been contemplated up to that time.

The Eagle Lake area was also covered by Inspector Bow in his report of 1901 outlining the country and its development. Bow noted that the area could be reached by Canadian Pacific Railway from either the Vermilion Station or Eagle River Station. Nothing was done in the way of mining, other than a little prospecting until 1900. Some good surface samples had attracted the attention of prospectors and investors and during the preceeding winter of 1900, several properties had been opened up. Inspector Bow stated the probability of a steamboat service on the Eagle Lake waters being initiated in the spring running from Vermilion station down past Vermilion and Portage Bays to greatly facilitate the passing of supplies. He expressed the possibility of the coming season, 1902, being a "lively" one for this region.

Eagle Lake area c. 1900

For his report of 1901, Inspector Carter said that activity had subsided in conparison to the previous year's work done in the region. His explanation for this lay in the fact that there was a lack of capital available and workers had been forced to slow down. However, he stated that capital had picked up and working options were let on the Baden Powell and Gold Eagle Mines, and that in July, 1901, 19 tons of ore from the latter, was treated at the small stamp mill at the Eldorado mine. The author did not make inspection of these mines due to the ice breaking up in April of 1902.

- The following is a résumé of the progress in the Manitou district as recorded by The Dryden Observer from 1928-1937.-

1928

August 31- A report was made on a visit to Gold Rock. It stated that the Laurentian mine was ready to be opened.

September 7- headline- Wabigoon Gold Field Attracts Much Interest

The article said that a new stamp mill had been purchased for the Gold Rock Mining Syndicate and that it was to be in operation in six weeks. It was anticipated at this time that the revenue from this would assist in purchasing more property and machinery. The Gold Rock Mining Syndicate held eight groups of claims, seven hundred and fifty three acres, formerly known as Brading-Mitchell property. They also had other claims adding up the acreage to one thousand two hundred acres.

November 2- headline- Gold Rock Mines To Ship Bullion Before End of This Month

This article said that the activity taking place at Gold Rock, initiated by the Gold Rock Mining Syndicate Ltd., could cause this area to be the next Canadian Gold Rush area. Shares were selling at one hundred dollars per unit.

1931

July 24- Mines of this area sent a mineral exhibit to the C.N.E.

August 28- Samples from the Lost Mine a section of the Wabigoon Contact Bay Company's property taken by Gus Larson and sent to Winnipeg to be assayed had high averages.

1) 7.94 oz.- $158.00/ton
2) 6.86oz.- $137.20/ton
3) 7.04 oz.- $140.80/ton

1931 ctd.

September 25- headline-Manitou Property Proves Its Worth

- value of ore assayed by the Hailebury Assay office of J.W.Bell varied from $1358.60-$809.40 per ton.
- Big Master and Laurentian mines famed in the Gold boom days made approximately $30,000,000.00, much of the gold, approximately 40% was left in the tailings. This gold was of $5.00 or $6.00 value.
- It was said by some that mining inNorthern Ontario could not be profitable because of inaccessibility but, Porcupine was making a profit with $6.00 ore. Power was available at a low cost for the Manitou area by harnessing the Turtle River.
- Manitou was quite accessible because the lake is a tributary of Wabigoon Lake and the C.P.R. runs through Wabigoon.
- "developments are more likely to be made in the Manitou area than at Red Lake"
- Big Master and other Manitou area mines did not run out but were producing in paying quantities after the wild cat panic of 1898 had swept through. Mining history records that the final blow came in 1914 when wasteful methods and timidity of shareholders made mining in this area possible only with an urgent need of ore.

1935

July 19-headline- Detola Mine Latest Property In Region Where Work Resumed

- This mine owned by Fox Lake Gold Mine Incorporated under the name of Germanica Mines was to be developed under the supervision of George Babcock. The president was

1935 ctd.

July 19 ctd.- J.P.Delphy. The Detola had run thirty years earlier but closed on account of insufficient funds. Prospectors foresaw a great future for the Manitou area. Development was also in progress at Contact Bay, Tabor Lake and Dyment.

October25- Murwood Gold Mines took over Big Master. The mine was renovated in 1934 and new equipment was brought in. Thirty thousand tons of ore were available and the gold value was high.

November 22- A record was set here for the greatest number of claims recorded.

1936

January 31- E.B.Knapp was named director of Big Master. Thirty three mines were then under the Murwood Mining Company.

February 21- Big Master was to receive forty percent interest in the Murwood Company.

May 1- The Dixon Prospecting Syndicate was formed to develop three Manitou claims.

June 5- Big Master mine purchased the entire interests of Murwood Gold Mines. Big Master now holds fifty eight claims in the Manitou area.

July 31-Elora Gold Mines of Montreal took over the Jubilee and Laurentian mines.

- The Maniwabih Mining Syndicate also had holdings at Gold Rock and were developing claims there.

August 28- More diamond drilling was undertaken at Big Master.

October 2- The Orareef Company now operated in Lower Manitou having taken over the north group of Barker Reef Mines(30 claims) J.C.Finnan was the mining engineer.

1936 ctd.

October 2 ctd.- headline- Promising Effort At Upper Manitou

H.J.Emery and Thayler Lindsley had plans for the installation of a new mining plant. Consolidation of Laurentian Jubilee and Keating mines planned.

November 13- A government road from Dryden to Gold Rock was urged. The road was to go from Dryden to meet the Contact Bay Road, then from Contact Bay to the Gold Rock portage.

November20-The Honourable Peter Heenand Minister of Lands and Forests approved the road to Gold Rock.

1937

January 15- The Lindsley Company showed interest in the Elora mines of Laurentian, Jubilee and Keating. Shaft sinking and fully modern equipment were being implimented by Emery and Lindsley. M.F.Faulie was the consulting engineer.

- Tecumseh Gold Mines of Fort Erie took over the Detola mine.

- The Selby Lake Mines Company of Toronto was doing explorations on the Gaffney claim adjoining Big Master and the first Selby Mine.

March 5- Mines of the Manitou Area

in use-Big Master Consolidated Mines
-Elora Gold Mines
-Selby Lake Mines
-Tecumseh Mines
- Clark Gold Mines

prospects- Gaffney claims
- Orareef Gold Mines
-Maniwobie Gold Syndicate
- Valloc Mines
-Mankirk Gold Syndicate

prospects ctd.- Wabic Gold Syndicate

-Robin Hood Mining Syndicate

April 2- With new finds, the Elora Mines were able to enlarge. A twenty stamp mill was installed to handle seventy five tons a day.

1938

January 7- More drilling was planned for Big Master. A consultant reported three ore sections totalling about one thousand two hundred feet.

August 26- Selby Lake Mines were to buy out one million shares of a new mining company and be given options on the remaining two million.

The Wabigoon Star reported that pleasure cruises could be taken on the Gallatea, Wm. Whyte and WM. Cross every day but Sunday. The boats left at eight a.m. from Wabigoon for Beaudro's Landing.

note- The Elora Mine ran out in 1949.

Interviews

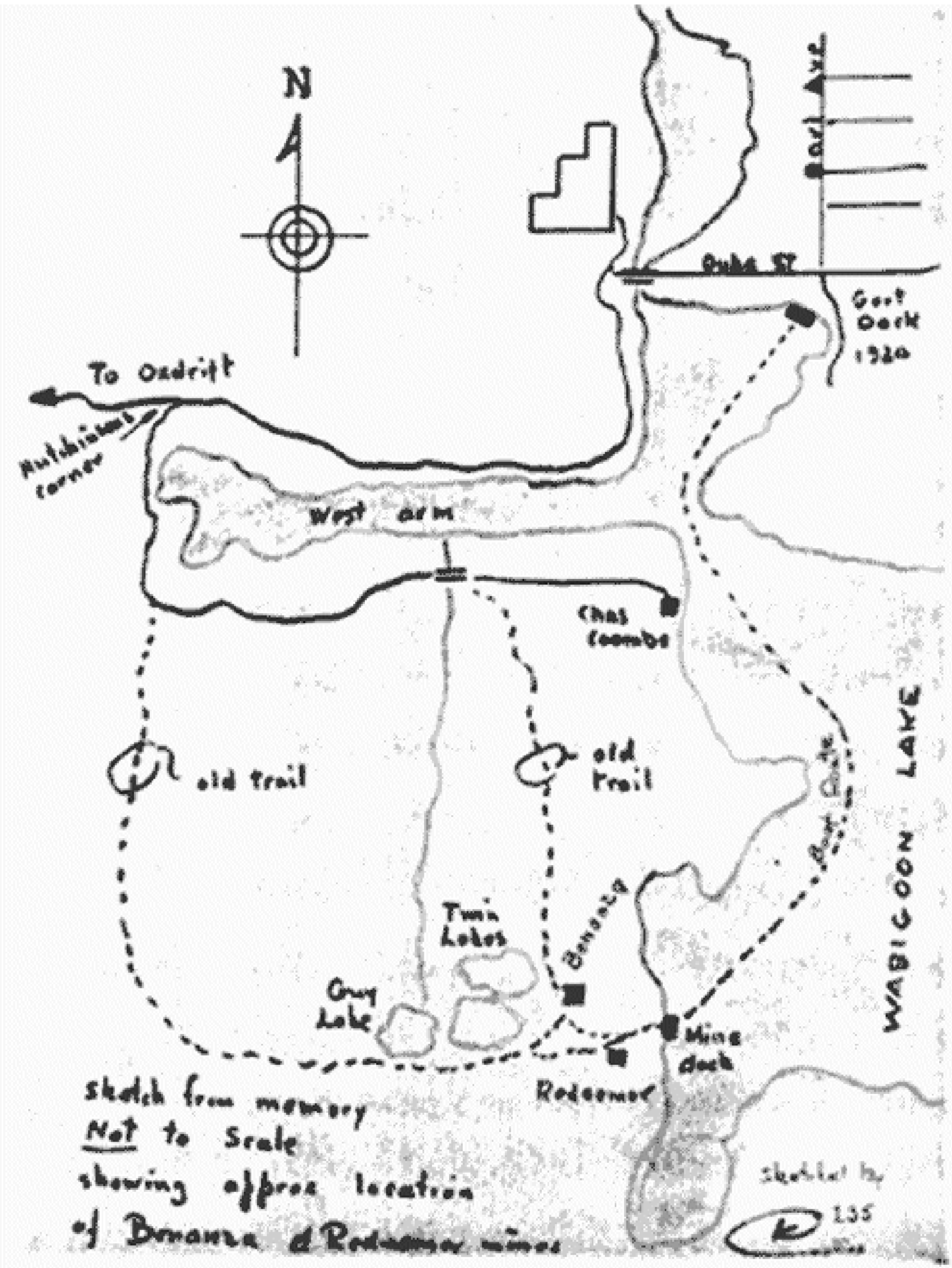
The following account is a short description of the gold mining operation as carried out in 1922 and 1923 as well as I can remember. I remember it in considerable detail, in general, how the operation was carried out. This text will help to understand the drawings of the mine sites and other details of equipment, etc., which I have drawn from memory.

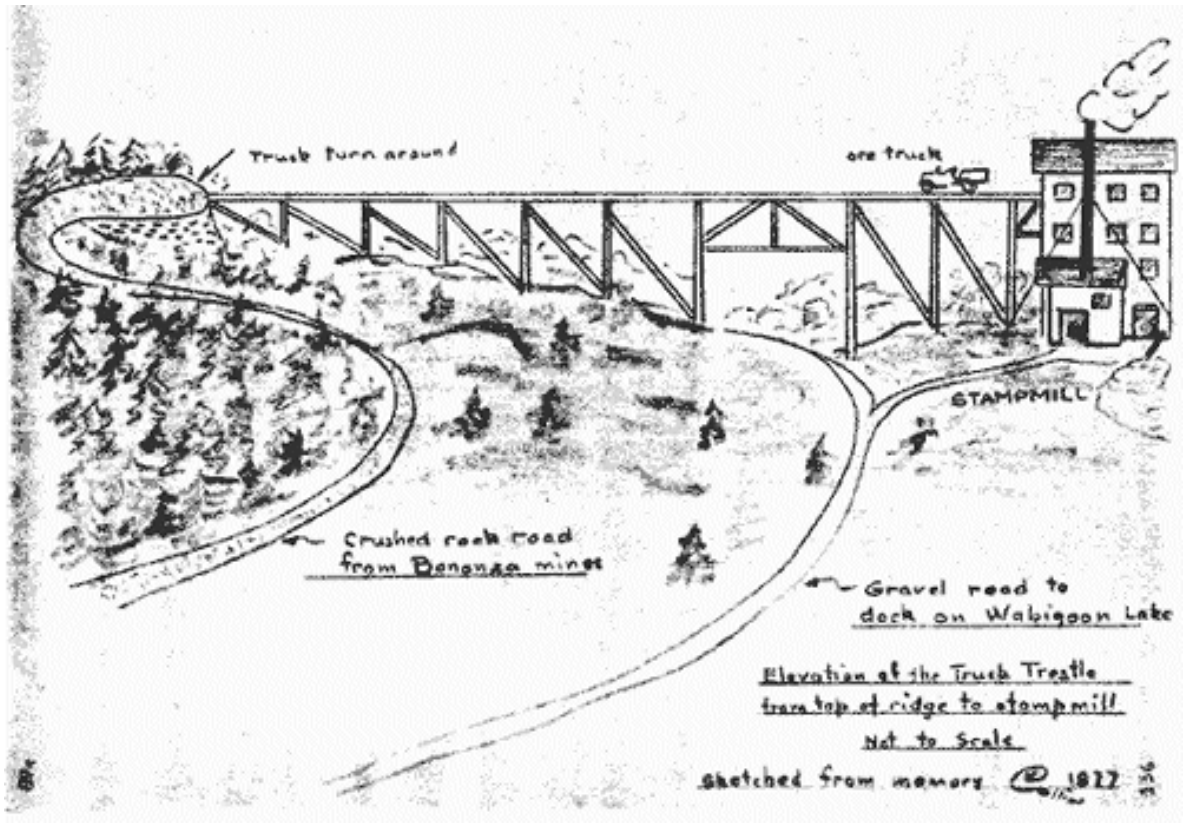
The mining operation in 1922 and 1923 consisted of an ore produding shaft at the Bonanza mine, the management and workers quarters at the Bonanaza and,secondly,the operation of the stamp mill, located at the site of the old Redeemer mine, approximately three-quarters of a mile from the Bonanza.

The following should be noted . . . I do not know the year that the shaft at the Redeemer mine was sunk or what year it was abandoned, when I worked in the stamp mill in 1922-23, all the old buildings at the Redeemer were gone. The head frame was still there and there was also a hoist house building still there complete with a boiler and a hoist engine and one or two old Cameron pumps still around. A lot of scrap pipe, rails, etc., were on the site.

But the stamp mill was operational. It was complete with a building housingan ore bin, rock crusher, ten stamp mill, a ball mill, the plates and riffle plate, an engine to drive the mill and a boiler plant.

At that time I was not interested enough toask how they got the ore from the Redeemer shaft when it was being operated, into the stamp mill, but since the two units, that is to say, the shaft and the mill, are side by side, in all probability it was dumped into a


N
Boat Ave
Duke St
Govt Dock 1920
To Ozdritt
Hutchinsons corner
West arm
Chas Coombs
old trail
old trail
Boat Route
WABIGOON LAKE
Bonanza
Twin Lakes
Guy Lake
Mine dock
Redeemer
Sketch from memory
Not to Scale
showing approx location
of Bonanza & Redeemer mines



Elevation of the Truck Trestle
from top of ridge to stampmill
Not to Scale
Sketched from memory © 1977

hand pushed ore truck and then pushed into the mill ore bin across some form of trestle connecting the head frame and stamp mill. This system, however it had actually been arranged, was all torn out when I worked there and the Redeemer shaft was full of water within 20 or 30 feet of the surface. In passing it should be noted that the shafts at both these sites were very wet. All underground work was carried on by the men working in oil skin clothing, and the shafts and drifts had to be kept pumped out at all times. Failure of a pump meant a flooded area in a very short time.

When I worked at the Redeemer stamp mill, the ore came from the Bonanza shaft and was hauled to the Redeemer by a Ford truck. Incidentally, this was one of the first, if not the very first truck in the district and was driven by Morris Jones of Dryden.

In order to get the load of ore into the top of the stamp mill, a trestle of approximately 250 yards, or perhaps 300 yards, in length and at the highest point the trestle was a good 60 feet, was built from the top of the rock ridge, north of the mill across the gully and into the stamp mill.

A crushed rock road with a reasonably gradual incline was built from the Bonanza to the Redeemer terminationg in a truck "turnaround" on top of the rock ridge. From this point, the load was backed across the trestle and dumped into the orebin in the top of the stamp mill. The drawings supplied with this text make the picture clearer.

In 1922-23 the trees around the mine site were very small. The pines there at the time were only about 8 or 9 feet high as was the scrub poplar etc., and there was considerable tag alders in the area. I left the area in 1925 and was never back into the area until September 26, 1971, some 48 years later when together with Gerrie Noble I had a chance to visit the old site.

In spite of the fact that the old headframe at both mines had collapsed and that the area is now covered with a heavy growth of more or less mature timber. Nevertheless, the old Bonanza shaft, the remains of machinery foundations and old buildings were not too difficult to locate. And at the Redeemer the shaft, the remains of the headframe and the stampmill and all the machinery foundations and other items were readily found.

The old road was now much overgrown. We could find evidence of the existence of the crushed stone road (the truck road) and also of the previously mentioned trestle. Positive proof of the existence of the trestle was found at the top of the ridge, north of the stamp mill site, where still one can see the truck turn-around and the rip rap rock wall which was the point where the truck started across the gully. This structure was substantial as shown on the drawings made from memory of this particular phase of the operation.

The mine camp at the Bonanza is still very clear in my mind and from memory I can draw , basically, what the camp looked like at that time and a perspective view plus a plan view but not to scale has been made to accompany this text.

Unfortunately, many of the photos I took when at these mines have become lost through the years and, while I remember much about the physical layout of the mine camp, my memory fails me to draw in exact detail, how the ore was dumped into the orebin but it was illustrated in the drawings.

We had no form of electricity at the mine. All underground work was carried out by the light of carbide lamps the miners carried in their hats.

Work in the camp buildings, hoist house, etc., was illuminated by coal oil lamps and lanterns.

The crew in those years was as follows:

Mine Manager: 1922, Mr. Riley 1923, Mr. Whitock

Assayman: Mr. Dowman (he came from the South African gold fields)

Time Keeper: Jimmy Woods and wife from Winnipeg

Foreman Underground: Jim LaForrest (later lived in Quibell)

Miners and Muckers: approx. 25 or 30 men-this fluctuated.

Blacksmith: Alex Maney from Wabigoon

Blacksmith Helper: Bob MacIntyre-well known in the district.

Hoistmen: Sandy Grant and Dick Weightmau-two well-known "characters"

Firemen: Fred Edwards and two others I cannot remember their names.

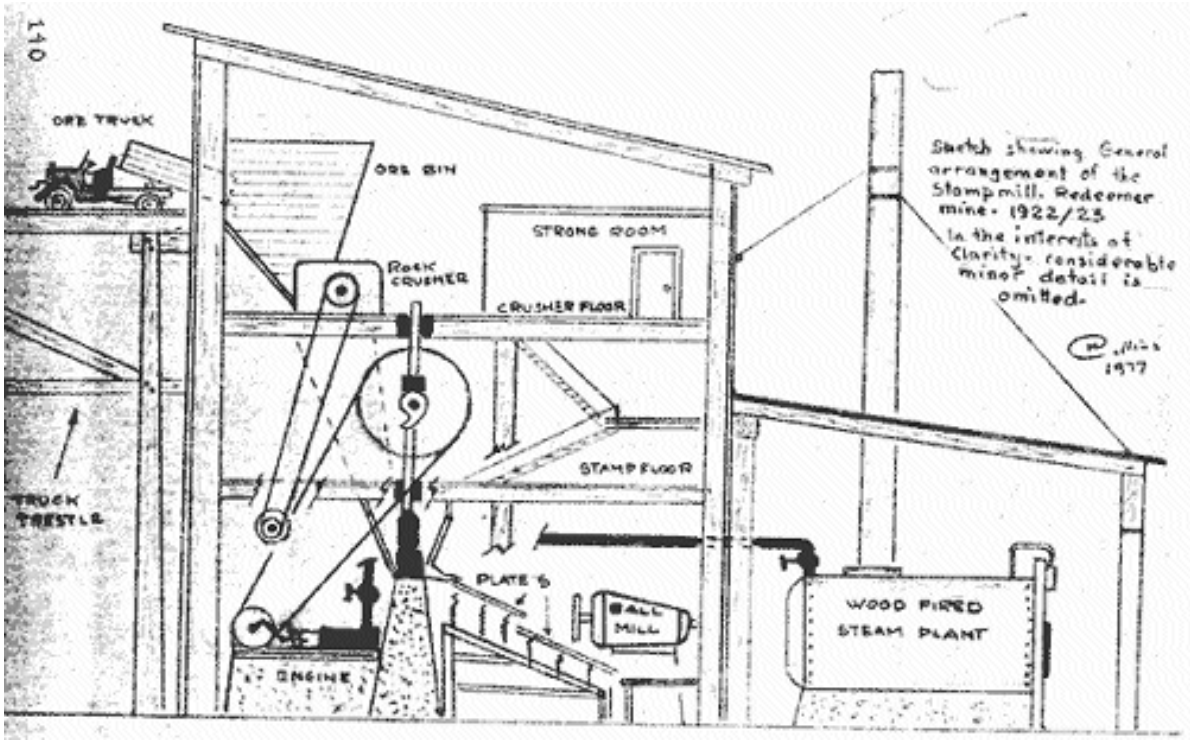
Wood Handlers: three men(one per shift) refer to drawing.

Millwrights: Anthony Maynard, a very skilfull man with an axe, lived in Minnitaki, he usually had two or more helpers

Cook and Cookee: Mrs A. MacCallum and another lady.

Bull Cook: The famous Joe Peel

Teamsters: Archie MacCallum and Cy Byinton, both of Dryden


ORE TRUCK
ORE BIN
STRONG ROOM
Rock CRUSHER
CRUSHER FLOOR
STAMP FLOOR
TRUCK TRESTLE
PLATES
BALL MILL
ENGINE
WOOD FIRED STEAM PLANT
Sketch showing General arrangement of the Stampmill. Redeemer mine. 1922/23
In the interests of Clarity considerable minor detail is omitted.
1977

General labour: any where from four to ten men, this fluctuated.

Stamp mill: two engine room men, they acted as firemen engineers

Stamp mill men: two men per shift (Ben Robinson and myself worked on of the shifts, I forget the names of the other men.

Two other well known men connected with the gold mining days were Mr. Jack Beck and Mr. Jack Bowman, but I cannot recall what duty they filled at the Bonanza. They did a great deal of prospect work, etc.

At the Bonanza both shaft sinking and drifting were carried out in 1922 and 1923. The shaft was a little over 400 feet deep and drifts were present at 100 foot and 200 foot levels drifting was being done at the 300 and 400 foot levels following the vein.

As stated before, the mine itself was very wet and sumps were drilled out at the various levels and the water pumped to the surface by Cameron Pumps.

There were steam driven pumps and a steam line ran down one corner of the shaft to feed them and a water line also ran up the shaft to surface to get rid of the water.

These pumps were basically as shown in the sketches attached. They had a "steam end" and a "water end" and the slide valve arrangement was such that the piston worked back and forth thus pumping water out. At the sumps, the pumps were more or less stationay but when sinking the shaft, the pump was suspended on a cable and the pump intake was flexible and the last 20 feet or so of the steam line was flexible.

This arrangement permitted the pump to be hoisted out of the way when a series of charges were fired to blow out the rock after it was drilled.

When the rock was drilled by the use of air driven jack hammers. The holes were loaded and the fuses were so arranged that there was a time lag in the firing. The centre blew out first then the next round would blow in all the remaining rock around the sides of the shaft.

After the were fired, compressed air was blown into the shaft(blowing smoke was the term) and this got rid of most of the fumes of the dynamite.

Crews of men called muckers then started to lead the are into the bucket for housting to the surface.

The hoistmen were very skillful. They had marks on the cable and could spot the bucket at any level almost as though they could actually see it end and they hardly ever missed. They were equally skillful at raising the bucket just enough at the headframe so that the the "dogs" would catch the bucket and so dump it when the cable was slacked off a little.

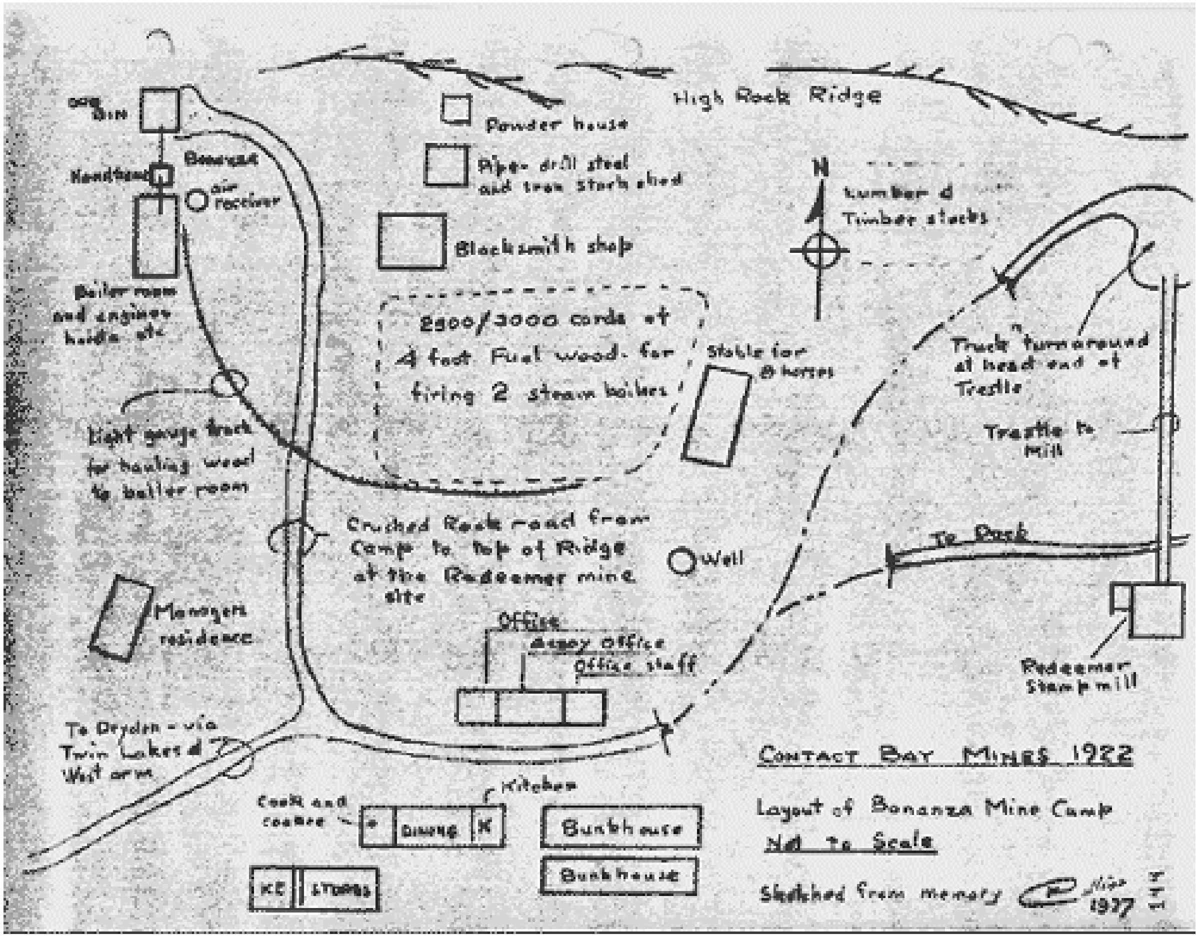
Communication between the hoistmen and the miners in the shaft was kept up by means of a wire cable that operated a bell in the hoist house when the cable was yanked.

When the ore was hauled up to the surface, the bucket dumped into an ore bin and then the ore was loaded into the truck and hauled to the Redeemer mine site and the load was backed across the trestle mentioned earlier and dumped into the ore bin in the top of the stamp mill.

From here it fed into the crusher which broke it up into pieces. This rock then passed on to the stamp mill and went through the stamps.

At this point the rock was hammered by the stamps until it was as fine as flour almost. It had to be fine enough to pass through a screen in front of the stamps. Water was constantly flowing into this trough that caught the powdered rock and the flow through the screens carried the rock and the minerals onto two large copper plates set at a slope so that the water carrying the powdered ore and minerals contained in it, flowed over these plates. The plates had a coating of mercury and the gold would stick to the plates, adhering to the mercury and the residue passed on to thenext plate which was called a riffle plate. This plate vibrated all the time and the idea was that any gold or other heavy minerals would work over to one side and the lighter powdered rock would tend to go to the opposite side. It was possible to see this line of demarcation on this plate when it was running. The heavy minerals and any gold that had escaped the first plate would show up as a distinct dark line and this dark residue was caught and put back through the mill again. The powdered rock was carried through a flume and caught in a tailings pond. This residue was from time to time put back through the mill.

The plates had to have just the right amount of mercury on them to affectively catch the gold and some skill was needed to know when they were just right. The plateman determined this mostly by touching the plate. If it felt too "soft" too much mercury was on the plate. If it felt "hard" then more mercury was needed to stop the gold from passing on over the plate. When additional mercury was needed it was added at the trough below the stamps just a few drops at a time until the plateman was satisfied that the plate "felt" just right.



High Rock Ridge
Powder house
Blacksmith shop
Boiler room and engines hoists etc
air receiver
N
Lumber & Timber stocks
2500/3000 cords of 4 foot Fuel wood for firing 2 steam boilers
Stable for 8 horses
Truck turnaround at head end of Trestle
Trestle to Mill
Light gauge track for hauling wood to boiler room
Crushed Rock road from Camp to top of Ridge at the Redeemer mine site
Well
To Dock
Managers residence
Office
Assay office
Office staff
Redeemer Stamp mill
To Dryden - via Twin Lakes & West arm
CONTACT BAY MINES 1922
Kitchen
Cook and cookee
DINING
K
Bunkhouse
Bunkhouse
STORES
Layout of Bonanza Mine Camp
Not to Scale
Sketched from memory
1977

Once a day stamping ceased and a team of two men cleaned the amalgam off the plates. Cyanide was shaken from a bottle onto the plates and then working from planks approximately six inches above the plate, the cyanide was worked into the mercury and the gold adhering to the plate. This loosened it up and the plate could be scraped clean of the amalgam of gold and mercury.

All the power at both the Bonanza and the Redeemer was steam power. Boilers fired with four foot cord wood provided the steam.

I do not recall themake of the steam driven hoists and the air compressor engines and the steam engine at the stamp mill.

A fairly large wood yard existed at the Bonanza site, holding approximately 2,500 to 3,000 cords.

This wood was delivered to the boiler house on a light gauge rail track (movable as required-refer to sketch). A four wheel truck running on this light gauge track permitted the wood handlers (3 shifts a day) to load wood on the truck and push it to the boiler house.

The wood was supplied by contract, the winter I was at the Bonanza, by the Hutchinson Brothers, Sandy and Jim, under contract to deliver 2,500 cords of mixed wood. They had a camp fairly close to the mine site on the shore of a small lake, the name of which I have forgotten.

Dewey Monty was the cook at that camp and there was any where from 12 to 15 wood cutters at this camp and I forget how many teamsters who drew the wood to the mine site.

Along toward spring in 1925 I went to this camp to work in the kitchen with Dewey Monty and in spring when the camp closed down I went with an assessment crew to do some assessment work at

a claim just off the shore of Trap Lake.

This camp was made up of four men ; the boss, I cannot recall his name, came from New York, Ben Robinson, Harry Thompson and myself, all of us from Dryden. While at this camp I was badly injured by ice falling from the roof of the two storey shack at the mine site which hit me in the back and resulted in my being crippled for a period of 5 months.

After I recovered I never went back to the mines until September 26, 1971, some 48 years later.

KC

In the fall of 1922 I had signed on as "cookee" at the Bonanza mining comp at the wage of $40.00 per month and board. While I was by no means keen at the prospect of working in the kitchen, I had to admit that the wages were fairly good pay for those times and at least I would not have to work in the bitter winter cold cutting pulp and fuelwood.

Mr. Riley, the manager, had told me to report to him at the Central Hotel and the mine boat was available to take myself and some other men he had employed, out to the mine some seven miles by water, to Larsons Bay on Lake Wabigoon, the site of the mine.

The only other way to get to the mine was by a long round about route that went around the exteme west end of the "arm" on Wabigoon lake and this road terminated at the farm owned by Chas. Coombes. From there on to the mine, there was only a rough trail through the bush, almost impassable in summer but could be traversed by sleigh in winter, but this route was twice as far as by the water route. The mine boat was a gasoline engine driven boat some twenty feet long and could carry eight persons but more could be taken on any trip by means of a fairly large boat that was towed behind. In summer almost all supplies were hauled out to the mine site by this method and in winter supplies were hauled out by sleighs over the ice and sometimes by the long road via Coombes' farm.

Arriving at the mine dock we walked the remainder of the way over a bush trail about one mile to the mine site and there

Mr. Riley took me to meet the cook who would be my boss. We went into a largebuilding which had a kitchen at one end and a bedroom for the cook and dookee at the other end.

The kitchen was large and had three huge cook ranges along one wall and a pantry at one end. Two large work tables, and a large sink which simply drained outside occupied one wall and on the other wall were shelves for pots, pans, dishes and other utensils.

The dining room had two big tables with benches on either side and were capable of seating seventy men, at that time there were about sixty men at the mine.

The cook's name was Fred Greaves whose home was in Winnipeg. He had been a camp cook all his life and, like most camp cooks he was acantankerous old fellow and not easily pleased, but he was an excellent cook and knew his job thoroughly. I learned later he had worked only in mining camps and hotels. He told me, and I found out later he knew what he was talking about, that mining camps served the best meals, much superior to those served in railway camps, road camps, or lumber camps. Experienced miners were in great demand and could always get work, and the first thing they demanded was good food and they would not stay long at any mine camp if they did not get good meals.

The meals served by Fred Greaves were very good, there were some limitations as to variety since in those days there were no refridgeration facilities. There was a very large ice house at the rear of the cookhouse and meat was kept on ice

as were other perishables. Supplies came in regularly supplied on contract by Pitt's store in Dryden. Meat came cut into huge roasts, bacon came in "sides", eggs by the crate, butter in 1¼ lb. boxes, lard in twenty pound pails, sugar and flour in 100 lb. sacks, tea and coffee in ten pound cans. Raisins came in 10 lb. boxes and we got our pie fruits, such as apples. peaches, etc., in gallon cans. Two other popular pie fillers were pumpkin and cherries and these too we got in one gallon cans. Lemon pie filler came in powder form in large cartons, and we also got apricots, pears, and pineapple in gallon cans and these were served in lieu of fresh fruits. Potatoes came in 100 lb. bags as did carrots and the cabbage came in crates. From time to time fresh lettuce would come in crates and somtimes fresh tomatoes, although most of the tomatoes used came in the large gallon cans. I might add that these gallon cans were put up especially for concerns catering to feeding large crews.

A good deal of chees was used for making sandwiches for the night crews and this cheese came in wooden boxes each containing 5 lb. and was of excellent quality.

The mine management knew almost to a penny how much it cost to feed a man per day and, although on of the cook's jobs was to order the supplies, he required, he was expected to keep his costs within the allowable figure set by management. Fred Greaves had much experience to fall back on and he knew almost to the ounce, how much to prepare each day, and he could and did prepare a well balanced diet at costs within the amount allowed.

The daily menu was varied as much as possible and a typical day's menu would by something of this order.

For breakfast he would serve oatmeal porridge or corn flakes, bacon and eggs as the main dish one day, boiled eggs a second day and sausage the third day. But every day, hot cakes and syrup were served, bread and butter, tea, coffee or milk.

For the main meal at noon, roasted beef one day, roasted pork the second day, and cutlets on the third day. Soup made right in the kitchen was served at all noon meals, also lots of mashed potatoes and two vegatables, canned green beans or corn or peas. For the evening meal Fred served cold cuts one day, hot meat pies the second day and Boston baked beans which he made himself in big brown glazed dishes the third day. At the evening meal there was always fried potatoes and more pie and in addition two kinds of cake; one dark fruit cake and the other a light cake, lots of cookies of various kinds, gingerbread and doughnuts. Canned fruit was available, also cheese and jams or honey, with tea, coffee and milk as always.

On Sundays Fred almost always served veal cutlets at dinnertime and these were always enjoyed and every so often he would buy a bunch of chicken and serve a chicken dinner.

I soon learned to recognize his skill and I had great respect for his ability to figure out how much to prepare each day with little or no waste and he knew the miners did not appreciate left-overs.

The camp employed a "bull cook" in the person of old Joe Peel, a grizzled old Irishman of uncertain temper, even the mine manager used to stay clear of Joe and not give him any orders.

Joe had charge of a big, fat, pampered old horse called Jimmy and the two were inseparable, although if you heard Joe talking to Jimmy, which incidentally he did constantly, you would have come away with the idea that Joe would slaughter Jimmy at the the first opportunity.

Joe was constantly threatening to beat Jimmy to death or stop his oats or sell him for dog food. But if anyone else said a word about Jimmy, Joe would turn on the offender, like a tiger.

Joe spent most of his waking hours with Jimmy, they were a great pair. The main task Joe had as "bull cook" was to haul water in barrels from the well on a stoneboat and dump it into barrels at the cookshack and also at the bunkhouses. He also had to keep the kitchen supplied with stove wood and get the required ice. Periodically old Joe would go on a "bender" with little or no warning.

When Joe decided to go on a bender, he knew there was no use asking to go to town by boat. Previous experiences had taught Mr. Riley that if they took Joe to town by boat it could be days before they could get him back on the job. So when Joe felt the "urge" coming on he would quietly hitch up old Jimmy to the light spring wagon and the two of them would disappear down the bush trail, that led around the arm of the lake to town, thirteen miles distant.

Once in town, Joe would take old Jimmy to the livery stable and pay for his stabling and a feed of hay and oats, and Joe took off for the bootlegger of his choice, where he would imbibe considerable of the moonshiner's product and windup by having the man fill up a one gallon coal oil can he carried for this very purpose, and sticking a potatoe on the spout he would boldly stride down town to the livery barn and I don't remember him ever being stopped by the local police.

Joe was one of the well known local characters and if the police knew of his strategy, they never bothered him, but we like to believe he simply had them outwitted. Usually by the time Joe got back to the livery stable, he would be very well "dilled" and the livery stable owner would hitch up old Jimmy to the spring wagon, load Joe into it usually sleeping by this time,and then lead old Jimmy across the mill bridge and start him off home. Now old Jimmy knew his way home and would plod along home usually arriving back in camp after dark and quite late. He would stop at the bunkhouse and someone would unload Joe into his bunk to sleep it all off and take old Jimmy to the barn and feed him. Mr. Riley used to get furious and kept firing Joe. Only thing was, Joe paid no attention to this and kept right on working as though nothing had happened.

Many a time I heard the story told of Mr. Riley's first encounter with this old character. When Mr. Riley first came to the mines as manager, the retiring manager decided that he would introduce him to the crew while they were at supper, so the two

of them went into the dining room at supper time and the retiring manager, Mr. Badger, said,"Boys, this is Mr. Riley, the new manager." no one made any reply to this statement, obeying the NO TALKING rule of the dining room and Mr. Badger took Mr. Riley down to the end of the table, where Joe Peel was busy stuffing down his supper. "Mr. Riley," said Badger, "I would like you to meet Joe Peel, who is rather a privelaged character around here." Old Joe didn't even look up and Riley felt he should make some reply so he said, "Peel, heh? Now that's a good Irish name, now isn't it?" Still Joe ignored him so he continued to say, "You know Joe, back in ould Ireland the Peels and the Rileys were always fighting." And before he could say more old Joe looked up and said, "Yis and Be Jasus the Rileys allus got licked!" From that day on a feud existed between Joe and Riley. It was strictly forbidden to bring any liquor into a mine camp, but quite often Joe would smuggle in a bottle for his own use and Riley spent a lot of time trying to catch Joe with it but Joe was a very wiley old Irishman and Mr. Riley never succeeded.

While the pay and the food were good, I very soon found out that I would earn every penny. The day's work started at 5:30 am getting ready to serve breakfast at 7:00 am and the morning was completely filled washing dishes, setting tables, washing the cook's pans and pots, mopping the dining room and kitchen floors and peeling spuds and any other jobs Fred the cook found for me. Dinner was served at twelve noon, and supper at six pm. No talking was allowed at the tables and the men,

always hungry, made short work of their meals. Usually the dining hall was cleared fifteen minutes after they had sat down. I hated thekitchenchores but realized at least I was inside out of the bitter winter cold and the work was easy compared to cutting wood. I did take interest in cooking and Fred was willing to show me and teach me a little at a time;how to make pies and pastries and after that he started me in on making breads and rolls and all day he would tell me how to roast meats and prepare vegetables. He was proud of his skills and was a good teacher and liked to show an interested person how to cook. So, as the days went by, I became quite a bit better than a raw hand with a skillet and around a cook stove. But I did begin to wonder what it must be like in the kitchen in summer, with no electrical power and fans, and began to think I would look for something else to do when spring came. In later years I had on many occasions, cause to be very glad for the instructions I had received from Fred.

The mining company had a claim staked at Trap Lake about ten miles from our camp, on Lake Wabigoon, and in order to retain this claim in their name, they were required to do so many days assessment work on the claim. Mr. Riley sent out a work party of six men to do this work and sent me along to cook for them. This was to be a two week job at the claim site. We were all loaded onto the two sleighs together with two week's supplies, tools and a case of dynamite and were driven to Trap Lake. A two storey house was located at this claim and it had a kitchen and dining area and bunks on the upper floor.

One of the men assigned to this work was a young fellow named Ben Johnson, who was my close friend. Ben owned a pony and a cutter, which he kept at the mine camp and used to drive this pony home almost every week end to see his people in Dryden. Ben elected to take the pony and cutter to Trap Lake with him since he knew that a stable was availabe at the claim site. The sleighs with our supplies and our work crew crossed the lake over the ice; there was little snow on theice surface that spring, so the travel was pretty good. Arriving at the claim site, the tools and supplies were unloaded and we set up camp and the two teams and sleighs went back to the mine camp, and were to come back in two weeks time to take us all back.

The man in charge of this work crew was an American mining man who came from New York. He was a real character who spoke with a Brooklyn accent, but he got along good with the men.

He owned a heavy Colt 45 revolver and he had agood deal of ammunition and he loved to fire this thing off at targets.

At the end of the first week, a Sunday afternoon, he decided to quit work at noonand let everybody have an afternoon free. The evening before he had told Ben to take the pony and cutter and drive to Dryden to get some important mail he said he was expecting. We had all finished a big meal at dinner time and the boss was just outside the door, in the warm spring sunshine, enjoying the thawing snow and engaged in setting up a target on a tree and getting set to tuse up some ammunition, shooting that big 45 Colt. We were all standing around watching him and finally he

said each one of us could shoot off two or three shots each.

He was standing quite close to the door and I was standing in the doorway, as he loaded the gun before handing it to one of us to try our luck. One of the shells slipped from his fingers and as it fell, it hit the toe of his shoe and bounded towards me coming to rest almost at my feet. I moved a step forward, and bent down to pick it up, and heard a roaring sound, and someone yelled "look out!" and that was the last thing I heard for a long time. I learned later that a huge chunk of ice that had gathered and froze to the eaves of the house in the spring thaw, had suddenly came loose and fell about ten feet in distance, directly above me as I bent over to pick up the shell, and it struck me across the base of the spine and knocked me out cold. I was told I was unconcious for a long time before coming around and when I did I found myself on a cot in the dining area and unable to move my legs, and in great pain. There were no first aid supplies on hand, not even and aspirin tablet, and the boss was very worried at this since it was the rule that a first aid kit and basic medicines and salves, etc., must be on hand at all camps.

The fellows tried to undress me but each time they moved me I lost conciousness so they simply piled blankets on to keep me warm.

That Sunday night, it started to snow; the weather had changed and the wind blew hard and it looked as though thingswere getting serious. Since Ben had the pony in town for the weekend

we did not expect him back until about Monday noon. As it turned out it was Tuesday before he showed up. Of course, he had no way of knowing what had happened. Late Monday when it became apparent to the fellows that Ben was not going to show up that night they cut two small birches and bent them to make rough sleigh runners and mounted a platform on this to hold a mattress that I was laid on and they loaded me onto the sleigh. It had stopped snowing but there were many deep drifts, luckily there was an old pair of snowshoes in the camp and the fellows started out to pull me into town on the sleighs, taking turns at breaking trail with the snowshoes. I learned later that they worked all Monday night until early Tuesday morning fashioning the sleigh from the few boards they had and the birch poles for runners, and did most of this work with an axe and a hammer, a few nails and lots of haywire, of which there was a good supply laying around the camp. I was told later that around 4:00 am Tuesday they were ready to set out for Dryden, putting the matress on the sleigh and piling all the blankets they could on me as it was fairly cold outside and wind blowing but the snow had ceased to fall. They took turns at breaking trail with the one pair of snowshoes they had, and the other fellows hauled the sleigh. I remember coming to from time to time and in a lot of pain. They had almost reached the bay where the mine camp was located when they met Ben coming back out to Trap Lake. The matress was loaded onto Ben's cutter and soon after we arrived at the mine camp. There another large

sleigh was quickly get ready and a team of horses hooked up and I was taken in to town.

The doctor was waiting, for Ben had gone ahead with his pony and cutter and told him what had happened and had arranged for a room at his mother's home since there was no hospital in Dryden in 1921. It was about 45 hours since the time the accident occured before the doctor was able to see me and he said he did not want to move me to Kenora hospital. There was a district nurse employed by the government and she came and looked after me at the Robinson home. For the next two weeks the doctor came twice daily and the nurse spent a great deal of time looking after me. The mine manager came up to see me a few days later and told me he had wired New York about the accident and he seemed very concerned about the fact that there were no first aid supplies at Trap Lake. About a week later he came to see me again and showed me a telegram he had received from New York telling him to pay all the Doctor's bills and other expenses and to keep me on the pay roll at full pay until I was able to get around again. In those days with no medicare or hospitalization plans, this was a Godsend to the family. The accident happened in early March and it was the end of April before I could walk again using crutches and mid-June before I could do light work. And I received my pay in full during that period.

K. C.

MEMORIES FROM THE ROGNAN MINE

The Rognan Mine was located on a hilltop about ½mile from a shore facing south in Contact Bay, nine miles south of Dryden. The boarding house, cook-camp and a small stable were located near the shore.

A goldbearing vein had been found and a pit 17 feet deep had been excavated on this hilltop. It was said that $10,000,00 in coarse gold and nuggets had been taken out of this pit. Storekeepers in Dryden had nuggets on display. When I worked there, the winter of 1918, there was a boiler house built of frame and sheathing, which contained a small one-cylinder air compressor, one boiler, a small hoist and a big heating box stove that took wood four feet long. Also a 1-stamp mill located about 20 feet south of the shaft house. The shaft house was constructed of squared timbers and sheeted with round poles.

At this stage, the shaft was sunk 50 feet deep and a drift driven to the north about 50 feet, and a raise driven to the surface and a ladder installed. A few rounds were taken to lengthen this tunnel, but no vein was visible there, so this was terminated. The shaft was sunk another 50 feet and tunnels were driven both north and south and a vein showed at both ends. About 20 feet in on the north end some coarse gold and a few nuggets the size of beans were found.

At this point, the miners got into a hassle with the management. The manager wanted the miners to take a contract drifting at a certain price per foot, and the miners refused because the blacksmith made a poor job of sharpening the drill steel, and would have had to be replaced. The manager then slashed the miners' wages, and the miners pulled out, because a man could get a job anywhere, anytime, in those days.

The mine captain decided to run the drill machinehimself until they could get a new crew, and he had told someone later that he could understand why the miners quit. An article appeared in the Dryden Observer afterwards, proclaiming that there had been labour trouble at the Rognon Mine, caused by some agitators who had tried to organize a labour union.

The mine was still operating after New Year's 1919, but the steam boiler and air compressor had been moved down to the lakeshore, and an airline installed all the way up to the shaft house and hoist room.

One day they had an explosion in the hoist-room that killed two men and injured a third man. There were a number of shelves fastened to the wall

above the big box stove, and firebricks were heated on top of the stove. The hot bricks were placed on the bottom shelf, dynamite on the shelf above, then bricks on the next shelf, in that order, until all the shelves were filled. A whole box of dynamite had been on the shelves. Somehow, the dynamite exploded, one man was killed while sitting on a bench, another thrown through a wall into an adjoining room. The third man had come in from outside, stooped down to pick up something off the floor, and was blown backwards out through the door. He managed to walk down to the shore to tell the rest of the crew about the explosion. He was bleeding from mouth and nose, and spent some time in a hospital. A fire started after the explosion and flames played on the air receiver located by the shaft-house, and the end of it blew off and sailed over the burning building and was found about 100 yards away in a ravine.

Between the shafthouse and the stamp mill, a patch of quartz existed. One day during an idle period, I took a chipping point and hammer and broke out some quartz and in the seams, thin flakes of gold appeared.

The rumour was that some mining company had offered the owner $50,000.00 outright for the property, but the owner asked for $75,000.00 and a one-third interest in profits made, which was refused. Instead the company took an option, which likely included the installation of machinery and other equipment sinking a shaft and ~~ash~~ lateral work. This man was cutting fuel wood for the steam boiler when we worked there.

Nothing was ever heard about this mine after 1922.

MEMORIES OF A MINING OPERATION AT MINNITAKI LAKE

In 1917 a mine called Northern Pyrites, also St. Nicholas Copper Company, was operating about two miles south of the C.N. Railway in the vicinity of Hudson. This mine was shipping twenty carloads a day, forty tons per car, of an ore called pyrite or sulphide, to some place in the United States where it was used for making ammunition during the first World War. This ore also carried a small amount of gold. This operation was terminated when a surface deposit was discovered in the U.S.A. Some time during the years 1915-1916 another deposit was discovered on a shore facing west on Lake Minnitaki, south of Sioux Lookout. The story around this discovery is that an Indian had a campfire on a flat rock about ten feet from the water's edge and when putting out the fire, saw that the rock had turned red. He told a commercial fisherman (I believe his name was Theodore Lyons) about this and Lyons staked a claim and had the stuff analyzed. He later sold the claim for $15,000.00 to Julian Cross and James Whelan of Fort William. The story was that Lyons handed the Indian $1,000.00 for his part.

A fellow by the name of William Threateway took a contract to diamond drill the deposit and he also sunk a shaft eighty feet deep on the exact spot where the deposit was first seen and started a tunnel under the lake to check on the width of the deposit. His equipment consisted of two small upright steam boilers, a small air compressor, a 2 cylinder water pump and a small hoist. He also had a pump standing on a crib or platform about seven feet from the floor of the shaft, with a suction hose with its lower end in a pit about four feet deep under the crib. This pump was for the purpose of keeping the mine dry. The tunnel extended out under the lake about forty-five feet and as there was only thirty-five or forty feet of rock above the tunnel, the tunnel was pretty wet, water was oozing out of every seam.

In the later part of the summer of 1917, Threateway's miners quit and he went to Fort William to hire a new crew. He left the cook, a fellow with a horse to haul wood, and a man to keep the boilers operating and look after the pump to keep the mine from flooding. Evidently Threateway did not get any miners, but he brought back his younger brother Garnet as stationary engineer. The fellow that was supposed to keep the mine dry had fallen asleep, the fire went out in the boilers, the pump stopped, and when the man woke up the water had risen above the pump. When he got the steam up in the boilers, the steam just condensed and the pump did not move and the mine filled level with the water in the lake. Threateway then came to Kenora to look for men. He hired Emil Hubner, (the original owner of the property where Barbara Machin's tourist camp is located),a tall Scot whose name I cannot remember, and an Irishman we called Bill. I cannot remember his second name, he used to live at the old Albion House, and I believe he was caretaker at the Coney Island Beach later on. He was sporting a big white moustache. I was the youngest of the gang.

We travelled by boat to Minaki and by train to Sioux Lookout, then by train to Alcona on the Port Arthur branch line. We had about a mile walk from Alcona to the lake, where the four of us were transported to the mine in a fourteen foot flat bottom boat powered with a small outboard engine. The distance must have been about six miles. The boat was heavily loaded and Bill and the Scotsman were pretty nervous, but Hubner tried to calm them. The operator must have had a bad time too.

When we got to the mine our first job was to overhaul a small two-cylinder steam pump and renew all packing. We then rigged up a sling on the pump, attached the sling to the hoist cable and after fastening a twenty-foot suction hose to the pump. we lowered the pump down in the shaft. We then screwed a three-inch pipe twenty feet long into the discharge hole in the pump, with a 90 degree elbow on top, and a short horizontal pipe and started the pump. When the water dropped close to the checkvalve in the suction hose, we stopped the pump, lowered it twenty feet,

added another twenty foot length of pipe and continued the operation. We were running short on three-inch pipe, so Threateway paddled off in his 18 foot prospector canoe and in a couple of hours came back with another twenty-foot length of pipe lashed on top of the canoe. Try that some time.

After the mine was dry, Hubner and Bill started driving the tunnel again, Hubner operating a number two piston rock drill, Bill as helper, the Scot sawing and splitting wood for boilers, and I was chosen to look after the boilers at night and keep the pump going. I had a close shave one night. I had a lunch around midnight, and then I went down the shaft, filled the lubricator with oil, clambered up, filled the boilers with water, stoked the fires, and stretched out on my back through an opening in the wall that was used for heaving the wood through. The ground outside was level with the bottom log in this opening. It was a wonderful September night, with a full moon shining. There were the usual night noises and you could hear the rabbits rustling amongst leaves and dry bark. I woke up about three hours later. The water in the glasses was just showing, the fires low, not enough steam to work the injectors to add water to the boilers. The pump was barely moving and not pushing a drop of water to the surface. The water in the shaft was about four feet below the pump. I shut the pump down, got the fires going and as soon as the pressure was at 60 lbs. I put in enough water to be safe and started the pump again. When the engineer and the rest of them arrived at 8 o'clock I had the tunnel dry, but, boy, was I worried for a spell.

A couple of weeks later, the boss hired another man to look after the night job, and I went to the job I was hired out for, helper on the rock drill, and Bill did the mucking. We had a couple of near accidents. When we went down in the mornings, we loaded all the sharpened steel in the bucket and stood one on either side of the bucket holding on to the cable,

and the engineer would lower us down in the shaft. In October it started freezing at night, and hoist room was fairly cool, the chinking having fallen out from between the logs so you could see out between the timbers. One morning we were ready to go down, and Bill was preparing to walk down the ladders, eighty feet, no landings and the ladders slippery and wet. I told Bill, ' You go down on the bucket, and I'll take the ladders'. I was about half way down, when the bucket and the two riders came sizzling past and finally stopped about two feet from the bottom. The engineer came out and peered down the shaft and inquired if everybody was alright. What had happened was that the ice had formed on the brake drum. The brake band had wooden cleats bolted on with about eight inches of space between them, and when the brake was released, the cleats just skidded on the ice until the ice wore off, and the brake finally took hold.

The following morning the same procedure was repeated. We loaded the drills in the bucket, but first I went over to the hoist room and asked the engineer about the hoist and he thought it would be alright, so we stepped on the bucket, it started to move, and all at once it took off again, and again stopped about two feet from the bottom. That put an end to riding down on the bucket.

Later on we had another brush with the grim reaper. Usually we would drill seven or eight holes, what was called a cut, we would blast this cut, muck the broken ore back far enough so we could set up the machine again, and drill and blast the rest of the 'round'. Then one day Hubner decided to drill and blast the whole round, and it took seventeen holes. After clearing out our equipment, we went up on top and prepared our fuses and blasting caps, then brought this and the dynamite required down in the tunnel. We proceeded to load the holes, and as each hole was finished, the fuses were coiled close to

the collar of each hole. Before lighting the fuses, we would go out to the shaft and ring a certain number of bells, the blasting signal, and the engineer would stand by the hoist to haul us up when we rang one bell. Then came the procedure of lighting the fuses, which had been split at the end to expose the powder inside. We were using candles for light, as carbide lamps had hardly come into use at this time. Hubner would hold one lighted candle in his right hand, grasp a fuse in his left hand and apply the flame to the cleft end of each fuse. It took a little time to ignite the fuses, as water was dripping and the fuses were wet. He finally had six burning and I was watching tarspots appearing close to the collar of the first hole, and I am sure my hair must have been standing on end. I said 'Let's get out of here', and he said 'I am going to get this one', the seventh. Finally, the fuse ignited and he said 'okay, let's go'. I was young and fond of life, and ran like a deer, jumped up on the bucket and it started as soon as I rang the bell, and Hubner was left on the floor. He grabbed the bellcord and rang, the bucket stopped and he had to climb a few rungs on a ladder to climb on the bucket, rang the bell again and the bucket started to rise. The bottom of the bucket was a few feet above the roof of the tunnel when the first hole blew, and a stream of rocks shot out of the tunnel and hit the rock wall under the bucket.

A few amusing incidents happened too. Our cook got bloodpoison in one finger and the boss had to take him to Port Arthur and also get another cook. He came back on a Saturday evening with a young fellow who let it be known that he had been short-order cook in a restaurant in Chicago. The first meal he prepared was breakfast on Sunday morning. There was a bowl of oatmeal porridge and after we had a helping of that we attacked a stack of pancakes on a platter. There were only three of us at the table, the boss sitting beside me and Bill sitting

opposite me on the other side of the table. Bill was sawing away at his pancakes, and finally he exploded, 'What Christly kind of cook is this!!'. The boss said 'You have complained about a pain in your side, you should try some of these heated gaskets'. The cook was told on Tuesday by the boss 'You better get your things together and I'll take you into Alcona because I'm afraid this gang will lynch you'. We got another cook a few days later.

The bunkhouse where most of the crew slept had no screen windows or screen door, and the place was full of houseflies, which were crawling all over us. Hubner suggested that maybe dynamite would work. So we got a stick of dynamite, a cap and a short piece of fuse. We suspended the dynamite in the centre of the room, hung blankets over the windows, lit the fuse and went out and shut the door. After the bang, we went in and every fly was on the beds and the floor. We shook the blankets and swept the flies off the tables and chairs and then swept floor. We collected about half a gallon of stunned flies and disposed of them in the heating stove.

The Scot left about three weeks after we got to the mine. I believe he developed a chest ailment. Bill quit the second week of October and it started to get cold and messy, so Hubner and I pulled out about the 15th of October. Our means of transportation was the canoe, and the boss told us 'You two paddle the canoe. I'll be Hudson's Bay man this time'. Hubner paddled stern and I paddled bow and the boss sat in the centre. We cashed our cheques at Sioux Lookout and we met Percy Williams there, I believe he was working at the Hudson's Bay store. We took the train going west the next day and got off at Quibell and hired a livery rig to take us to Vermilion Bay. There was four inches of snow on the road by the time we got there, the 17th day of October, 1917.