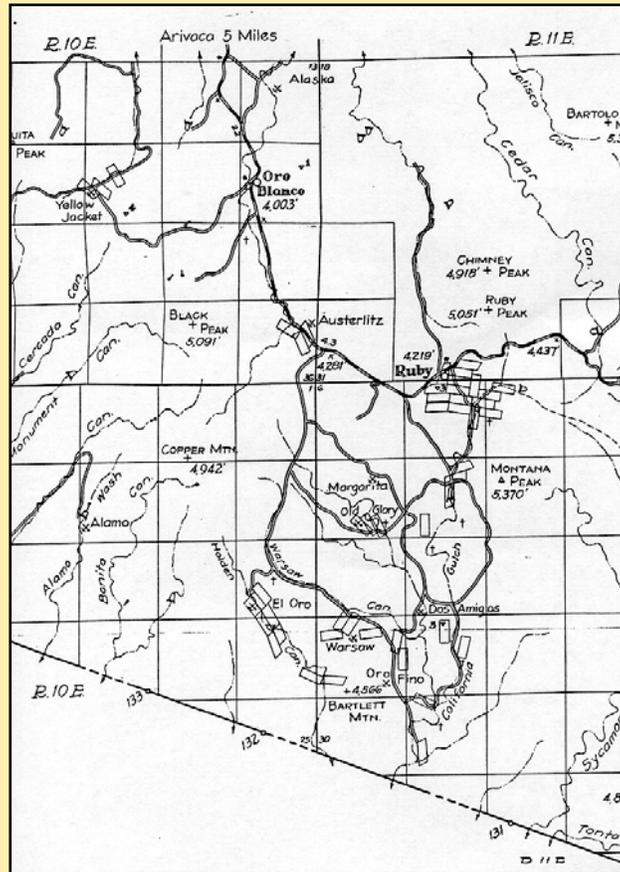


Summary of Mining in the Oro Blanco Mining District



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This write-up by Bob and Al Ring collects and summarizes information about mines in the Oro Blanco Mining District (OBMD). The OBMD, just 40 square miles in size, is located just north of the Mexican border, about 75 miles southwest of Tucson, Arizona in the Oro Blanco Mountains. The area was named for its characteristically white-colored gold (oro blanco), resulting from significant silver content in the gold ore. The Oro Blanco area, at elevations between 3,600 and 4,600 feet, was a beautiful setting for mining, with valleys and mountains covered with rich abundant grasses and live oak forests.

This paper begins with an overview of district mining and then summarizes mining activity (from initial American location to the present) of several of the OBMD's most important and successful mines, the (Old) Oro Blanco, Yellow Jacket, Ostrich, Old Mine/Commodore, Warsaw/Pittsburg, Austerlitz, and Old Glory. The Montana mine is not included in this summary because we have fully documented that history in other projects.

This particular write-up does not contain reference notes. The authors can supply detailed sources if requested.

Oro Blanco Mining District

Spanish prospectors, drifting north from the Planchas de Plata silver strike in Sonora in 1736, probably first started working gold placers and shallow lode deposits in the Oro Blanco area about 1740.

After the Gadsden Purchase in 1853, the first Americans in the area found open trenches and ruins of arrastras and old mining camps scattered over the mountainous Oro Blanco area.

Early American prospectors quickly determined that their Spanish and Mexican predecessors had worked out most of the old placers and left the Americans with primarily complex gold lode ores that did not offer opportunity for quick exploitation. The Americans also found that the mineralization of several of the larger veins changed at shallow depths to zinc-lead-silver sulfides.

The first American gold mining claim in the Oro Blanco region was located on March 20, 1873, by Robert N. Leatherwood, John Bartlett, and others, of Tucson. Leatherwood fittingly named the mine the Oro Blanco (white gold in Spanish) because of the high amount of silver combined with the gold, giving the ore a whitish color.

Following Robert Leatherwood's location of the Oro Blanco gold mine, American prospectors rushed to locate good mines in the neighboring hills. By the early 1880s, several small mills with steam-powered rock crushers processed ore in Oro Blanco.

But the mills could operate only when water was available. In some cases, miners constructed dams to trap drainage water (from springs and seasonal rains) in the creeks above the mills. Under contract, those mines with mills often processed the ore of their neighbors.

Mine owners officially "organized" the Oro Blanco Mining District (OBMD) on July 2, 1877. The 40 square mile OBMD was situated between Arivaca and the Mexican border.

If there was a "golden age" for American gold mining in Oro Blanco, the early 1880s was it. By the end of 1886, miners had found and extracted most of the gold placer deposits and nearly exhausted the higher-grade gold lode ore.

A severe draught in 1885-1887 dried up the reservoirs that stored water to run the mills.

So with the lack of higher-grade gold ore and the lack of water to process the more complex ores, most of the mines closed.

Through 1886, the gold produced in the district probably did not exceed \$700,000.

The OBMD saw only intermittent mining activity until 1893, when the U.S. Congress repealed the Sherman Silver Purchase Act. The corresponding drop in silver prices stimulated gold mining. So in 1893, several of the old gold mines reopened with new mills. A period of relative prosperity began.

Copper prices peaked during the period from 1899 to 1901. Copper mines in Bisbee drew development capital away from the gold and silver mines of the OBMD. Once again, many mines shut down.

Activity revived again in 1903 when several eastern companies organized to operate the mines and provided capital to build new mills that employed a new cyanide process to recover gold and silver from low-grade ores.

However, from 1903 to 1912, the Oro Blanco mines were able to operate only periodically due to water shortages, a most serious disadvantage of the district.

An assessment of OBMD mining through 1912 in *The Engineering and Mining Journal* concluded that: “most of the money was spent on reduction works rather than on underground development. As usual, this kind of mining met with financial disaster in almost every case.”

By the end of 1912, prospectors recorded over 1,650 mining claims in the OBMD. Many mines were worked for a while, abandoned and then reopened later, some several times, and often with a different name. Sometimes a particular mine would go bankrupt and start up again later with a new name.

In competition with mining in Tombstone and Bisbee, some promoters exaggerated Oro Blanco mining expectations to attract capital necessary to develop the mines. This often resulted in quick sales and subsequent mine name changes. More money was probably made buying and selling claims than in developing the mines. In fact there was an old miners saying that “mining the investors pockets” was the real financial activity going on.

Of the 1,650 mining claims recorded through 1912, the mines” owners judged that only 19 were valuable enough to be patented. This group of patented mines included the Montana Group of ten mining claims. Two of the remaining nine patented mines were the Yellow Jacket and the Commodore.

Since Arizona became a state in 1912, the mines of the OBMD operated only intermittently. Most mining efforts consisted of exploratory drilling, assaying, and development. There was very little production.

During World War II, scavengers stripped anything made of iron or steel from the mining buildings and equipment for the war effort. This included boilers, pumps, rails, steel roofs and siding.

The Arizona Bureau of Mines estimates total production value through 1949 in the OBMD as \$10,498,025. Most of that production was from the Montana mine.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the U.S Forest Service cleared the Oro Blanco area’s national forest lands of old mining buildings and equipment. The Forest Service also sealed mine shafts. The reasons for these controversial actions were "safety" and to discourage settlement by transients, during America’s “hippie” period. The Forest Service literally kicked small miners off their claims if they couldn’t prove that they had a moneymaking mining operation.

Since the 1980s, several Canadian companies have been doing exploratory work in the OBMD, but no production has resulted.

The years without successful production and the rather dismal forecasts by geologists did not slow the pace of mining claim locations in the OBMD. Incredibly, from 1873 to 2000, wildly optimistic prospectors located a total of almost five thousand mining claims in the tiny 40 square mile district.

(Old) Oro Blanco

The Oro Blanco gold lode mine was located on March 20, 1873, by Robert N. Leatherwood, John Bartlett, and others, of Tucson.

The mine operated only intermittently. In 1896, miners built a small mill to process the ore.

The Sierritas Mining Company Mining boosted operations in 1903, building a new mill. The main shaft reached 235 feet depth. But by early 1904, almost all work had stopped. Inefficient gold recovery and lack of water were continuing problems.

In late 1904, the Arizona Consolidated Mining & Milling Company (ACMMC) restarted operations at the Oro Blanco mine. George W. Tower was General Manager. By early 1906, the main shaft extended to 350 feet depth, 40 men worked the mine, and the company talked about splendid milling ore.

But, by 1908/1909, the ACMCC found itself embroiled in a number of suites by unpaid creditors. So the ACMCC achieved little production for the balance of the Arizona territorial period.

A group from San Francisco expressed interest in taking over the mine in 1913, and another group from Philadelphia did the same in 1915, but nothing came of either effort.

Leslie Moore, superintendent of the Mayo Engineering Company of Los Angeles, California, purchased the Oro Blanco mine (now a group of ten contiguous mines) in 1931. He and his associates installed buildings and mining equipment, including a 75-ton mill. They planned to reopen the old Oro Blanco shaft, sunk almost 60 years previously, and begin mining gold and silver. The entire group of mines, including the Oro Blanco mines, became known as the Legend Group. Moore expanded to a 150-ton mill and hoped to make regular ore shipments. However, the mine achieved only small-scale production, and by 1942, the Oro Blanco group of mining claims was inactive again.

Arizona Western Mines incorporated under the laws of the State of Arizona in 1969. The Company acquire the old Legend Group of Oro Blanco mines, including the original Oro Blanco gold mine.

Arizona Western leased the Oro Blanco mine to Rayrock Resources, Inc., a Canadian Corporation to undertake local mining operations. In July 1985, workers finished setting up a cyanide mill and started the first ore processing at the mine in 44 years. However, the operation soon folded because of insufficient financial return.

So the old Oro Blanco mine, the first American mine to produce gold in the OBMD in 1873, became the district's last gold producer 112 years later.

In 1986, the Oro Blanco Resources Corporation, a Canadian Company, acquired the Oro Blanco gold mine for exploratory drilling. That exploratory work at the Oro Blanco mine did not convince the Company to restart a mining operation.

Yellow Jacket

Thomas Roddick located the Yellow Jacket gold mine on the Ostrich “lode” on July 31, 1874. From the beginning, Robert Leatherwood, John Bartlett, and Doctor John C. Handy operated the mine through “indenture” agreements with Roddick. There was a flurry of successful mining activity throughout the rest of the 1870’s, with great expectations for the future.

Dr. John. C. Handy owned the Yellow Jacket mine from 1881 to 1889, with Leatherwood and Bartlett as partners. During most of that period, the mine was idle, although Leatherwood patented the Yellow Jacket in 1887.

The Yellow Jacket resumed operations in the 1890’s and produced intermittently for many years.

By 1890 the 20-acre Yellow Jacket mining property had a shaft of 50-foot depth. A school and a bar served the mine. Mining operations began with arrastras, but in 1892 miners build a 20-stamp mill. The Yellow Jacket shaft depth was 250 feet, working four levels, with 1,200 feet of tunnels. Water for the Yellow Jacket mill came from a spring deep within the mine at a rate of 40,000 gallons per day, more than twice what the milling operation required. This on-sight critical water resource was unique in the district. But the mine closed in 1896 with the ore virtually worked out.

A Philadelphia company reopened the Yellow Jacket gold mine in 1915. Edward E. Noon, a grandson of Adolphus Noon, owner of the Austerlitz mine, was the foreman of the work.

The new miners planned to overhaul the mill, clean out the shaft, and put the mine on a paying basis. But the mine operated only intermittently.

In 1930, Charles L. (Abe) Farra looked for rich values in the old workings of former well-known producers in the OBMD near the Mexican border. Farra obtained gold concentrate samples from the old Yellow Jacket mine showing values of \$38,000 to \$58,000 per ton. Farra and his associates obtained rights to the mining, began pumping water from the shaft and tunnels, and planned to reopen the mine. After months of idleness during the Great Depression, 18 men started work at the Yellow Jacket in June 1933.⁵ But, as with the Oro Blanco mines, this reincarnation of the Yellow Jacket achieved very little production

The Yellow Jacket gold mine showed renewed life briefly in 1959. Owner C. A. Johnson of Lakeside, Arizona leased the mine to the Canadian Gold Mining Company to perform exploratory work on mining feasibility. The Canadian company worked a three-shift operation to repair the old shafts and crosscuts. They cleaned out and retimbered the main adit, 500 feet in length and started to do geological examinations. They sampled the ore at depths of 150, 200, and 250-feet, however, indications were not favorable so the Canadian Gold Mining Company terminated operations.

In 1972, 40-year Arizona prospector Charles Lemons bought the Yellow Jacket gold mine. Lemons retimbered the main tunnel and built a small mill to process ore. In a labor of love, the old prospector made daily trips to the canyon to work the mine. Lemons’ one-man shoestring operation lasted until his death in 1997. Lemons’ wife Mildred took over ownership of the mine until she sold it to Stealth Enterprises of Chicago in 2000.

Stealth Enterprises immediately started an aggressive marketing campaign to sell “Southern Arizona’s Richest Gold Mine.” Stealth Enterprises web site for the Yellow Jacket currently offers the both the Yellow Jacket and nearby Phoenix mining claims for a bargain \$40 million.

Ostrich

Less than a half mile south of the Yellow Jacket, McGornish, Burrow and Hogg located the Ostrich mine on July 15, 1874. But by 1875, Robert Leatherwood, Dr. John Handy, and John Bartlett negotiated “indenture” agreements as tenants with the owners.

The Ostrich mine was never very successful. There is no record of production after 1886.

But the Ostrich mill, where raw ore was processed, was another matter. The mill was situated about 2 ½ miles to the east of the Yellow Jacket and Ostrich mines. In 1875, the mill became the first Oro Blanco operation to utilize an important improvement in the mining process – a stamp mill to crush the ore. The Ostrich mill processed ore from many nearby mines, including the Yellow Jacket.

Old Mine/Commodore

On July 30, 1874, Lamorel, Allen, Ferguson, and Abbott located the “Old Mine.” The mine was about 1 ½ miles southwest of the Oro Blanco mine and about seven miles southeast of the Yellow Jacket and Ostrich mines. Again, Leatherwood, Bartlett, and Handy immediately negotiated indentures.

Legend says that the “Old Mine” was the old Tumacácori mine, a very old silver mine worked by the padres of the Tumacácori mission.

In October 1875, the Old Mine Company (with members Dr. J. C. Handy, John Bartlett, Robert Leatherwood, and others) “purchased the Ostrich mill, all the buildings, lands, roads, etc. connected with it and also their interests in the Ostrich lode, for \$15,000.

On July 23, 1877, James Holden relocated the “Old Mine,” at the request of Robert Leatherwood, and renamed it the Commodore mine. Like the Oro Blanco, the Commodore mine operated over a long period, but was only intermittently successful.

In 1884, Leatherwood patented the Commodore mine. However, the Commodore mine, and James Holden along with it as the on site manager, struggled to “make ends meet” during the balance of the 1880s.

Finally in 1892, after several years of negotiating, General J. M. Tuttle of De Moines, Iowa leased the Commodore mine. However, beset with lack of water and financial problems that plagued the entire district, the mine achieved little production during the balance of Arizona’s territorial period.

There was no further production at the Commodore mine.

Warsaw/Pittsburg

John Kirkpatrick recorded the location of the Warsaw mine on March 4, 1878. The Warsaw was about three miles southwest of the Montana mine, and became one of the more important and successful of the Oro Blanco mines.

By 1882, the Warsaw had its own mill operating. This was a custom 10-stamp mill, with two amalgamators, where workers added mercury to the pulverized ore to help extract gold and silver. By now, the Warsaw mine reportedly was the “best developed in the district.” There were three shafts, one reaching 212 feet depth.

Prospects for both gold and silver production looked very promising. Warsaw Camp was the “center of life and attraction” and was said to have “infused fresh life into the district.”

In 1888, John Bartlett relocated the Warsaw mine. But the mine could not maintain the successful operations of the late 1870s and early 1880s.

In 1895, after years of being idle, the owners sold the Warsaw mill and moved to another property.

In 1903, along with several other mines in the district, the Warsaw mine experienced a rebirth with an infusion of new capital. The Warsaw’s owners built a new mill, but operations continued for only a short while. Louis Zeckendorf was one of a series of unsuccessful Warsaw mine owners in the 1900s.

The old Warsaw gold mine, productive in the late nineteenth century, remained inactive for many years, until John Maloney relocated the mine in 1924 and renamed it the Pittsburg mining claim. Maloney dug new shafts and tunnels and constructed a flotation plant. During the late 1920’s the mine produced and shipped small amounts of silver concentrates.

During 1930 and 1931, Maloney added six additional claims to the Pittsburg group, Pittsburg Nos 1-4, Pittsburg Extension, and the Gold Leader. Maloney died in 1931 and his wife Emma took over the management of his mining operations. Then Emma died in 1935, just after applying for a patent on the original Pittsburg claim (formerly the Warsaw claim). On August 8, 1936 the U.S. government granted the patent and rights to the Maloney’s mining properties passed to their daughters. Throughout the 1930s, the Maloney daughters renewed annually the locations of the all the properties in the Pittsburg group, per the requirements of the 1872 Mining Law. But there is no record of any meaningful production from the Pittsburg group during this period.

In 1954, John Maloney’s daughters leased the mine to Roxy Enterprises of Arivaca, Arizona for exploratory mining operations. Lead, zinc, and copper were the principal minerals. Roxy Enterprises repaired the shaft to its depth of 263 feet. They performed exploratory diamond drilling on the mine’s five levels. By May 1957, five workers had started construction of a 100-125 ton ore bin and a 90-to-100-tons-per-day flotation mill to crush and separate the ore concentrates. In December 1957, operators reported “considerable difficulties” in constructing the mill but they were moving ahead with plans to mill ore from a dump before tackling underground ore.

Apparently, the difficulties and increasing costs caused the operation to close down before achieving success. There is no record of production from this effort.

In 1963 John Maloney’s daughters leased the mine to the Bruce Mining Company of Tucson, Arizona. For a couple of years, two men, working days dug out ore from one of the existing tunnels. The principal minerals were copper, silver, lead, and zinc. The Bruce Mining Company hauled the ore in leased 10-ton trucks to Magma Copper Company, Superior, Arizona. The Company received no pay for the lead and zinc, only the copper and silver. Though the Company planned an expanded, long-term mining effort, the operation was not profitable and the mine soon closed down.

Austerlitz

There is speculation that Jesuits from Tubac first worked the Austerlitz mine, about two miles northwest of the Montana mine, as early as the late 1700s. Mexicans reportedly mined there in the early 1800s. In the 1870s, two Frenchmen prospected the mine and named it the Austerlitz for one of Napoleon’s victories in eastern Europe in 1805.

The first American location of the Austerlitz mine was by Captain E. P. Voisard in 1877. He obtained promising gold and silver specimens from a 40-foot wide cropping along the whole length of the claim. But development proceeded slowly. By 1880, they were just sinking preliminary shafts. They expected much gold, but early production didn't match expectations, so they abandoned the mine's and its location lapsed.

Doctor Adolphus H. Noon located the Austerlitz on the first day of 1890. By 1894, there was a working mill at the Austerlitz.

By 1907, the Austerlitz mining property occupied 75 acres with three shafts, and over 1,500 feet of tunnels on two levels. The greatest depth reached was about 100 feet. But in spite of this extensive development work, the mine was basically inoperative and unproductive.

The mine reopened in 1912. Adolphus Noon optioned the mine to Todd Woodworth and W. R. Layne, who formed the Border Mines Company to work the mine. Prospectors discovered a new vein, called the Crawford stope, that produced copper sulfide ore carrying high values in gold and silver.

Forty men worked the property. Miners built a tram line for ore cars to carry ore from the mine to the nearby mill. The ore cars carried a ton each. Wagons hauled fifty tons of ore concentrates per day to Amado in wagons, pulled by a stable of 350 mules. From Amado, the miners shipped the ore concentrates by railroad to El Paso for smelting.

Over a two-year period the mine produced about \$96,000.

By the middle of 1913, the mini boom was over. The Border Mines Company ceased operations. In doing so, the company violated the terms of the lease agreement with Adolphus Noon, so after a court suite to settle the matter, the mine once again returned to the full possession of the Noon family.

Adolphus Noon and his sons operated the mine until 1916 when they leased it for sale for \$50,000 to Joseph W. Bible from Silver City, New Mexico. Bible satisfied the terms of the agreement and became the owner of the mine in December 1917. Bible and his associates formed the Austerlitz Gold-Copper Company and attempted to sell \$2 million worth of common stock. But, Bible's venture never got off the ground – there is no record of any significant production.

In 1933, A. Wilmot of Nogales and John D. Mitchell of Chandler leased the old Austerlitz gold mine. The new miners hoped that they could make money from processing the "large tonnage of good milling ore" that previous operators of the mine exposed. They estimated that "over 100,000 tons of second class ore is already mined and piled up on the surface." This venture soon folded.

In May 1935, Eagle-Picher acquired the famous old Austerlitz mine. But, Eagle-Picher did not uncover a "mother lode" and with the closing of the Montana mine in 1940, Eagle-Picher lost all interest in the Austerlitz.

In September 1963, the Austerlitz gold mine's owners, Horton E. Noon and Muriel B. Noon, leased the mine to the Platoro Corporation of Tucson, Arizona. Platoro took ore from five different places on the surface of the ground and shipped the "test shipments" to the A.S. & R smelter at Hayden, Arizona. The Company also built a number of access roads. But the "test" results were apparently inadequate for sustained production and the exploratory operations at the Austerlitz shut down.

Old Glory

The most successful territorial period gold mine in the Oro Blanco Mining District was the Old Glory, situated

about two miles southwest of the Montana mine.

The Derre-Townsend Syndicate of Arivaca first located the mine in 1875. But this mining group never got around to doing any work on the mine.

A Frenchman named Amedec Blanc then relocated the property. In 1883 Blanc negotiated a sale to a group of Boston investors.

Now named the Esperanza (means “hope” in Spanish), the mine had an active development and production period for several years. But in 1887, the owners abandoned the property because they couldn’t make the money they expected and they thought all the gold was gone.

After a year of inactivity, another prospector relocated the mine as the Diana, but soon abandoned it.

In 1889, 57-year old Frenchman, Pierre Peyron relocated the mine as the La Francia. Peyron demonstrated that all the good ore had not been taken from the La Francia. He explored in a different direction from the Esperanza miners and found good ore left in great quantities. For four years Peyron worked the ore with three arrastras. In 1894, Peyron sold his interest in the La Francia mine to the Old Glory Mining & Milling Company of Los Angeles.

On April 11, 1894, the Company recorded the Old Glory mining claim.

A period of intense activity started immediately. Miners dug a tunnel into the ore-bearing plateau to tap the ore body from underneath and brought in two Griffin mills of 35 tons per day capacity.

An Arizona Geological Survey (AGS) report on Old Glory from that period stated that there were newly built houses, one large adobe general office building, one frame building for mill men, and one frame building for assay, retorting and melting, with full equipment. Also mentioned were a large frame store and boarding house, two blacksmith shops, and four cottages. There was a thirty-stamp mill in a very substantial 40 foot by 80 foot frame building.

Mining developments included several open cuts and about 500 feet of underground workings, mostly tunnels. There was a double-track steel rail inclined tram, 850 feet in length, leading downhill from an ore bin at the southeast end of the plateau to the ore bins and automatic ore feeders in the top of the mill below. Along the plateau, there were 1,300 feet of steel railway with a dozen self-dumping iron ore cars. The tram operated by gravity, controlled by an automatic pulley. The powerhouse was a stone structure. Machinery included two rock crushers.

The AGS report also described the dam blocking the narrow gulch upstream from the mill. “The dam was built of stone and hydraulic cement and was 20 feet thick, 38 feet high, and 125 feet long. The dam formed a storage reservoir 1,500 feet long, with a capacity of 12,000,000 gallons of water. The local watershed and drainage were such that one rain of a few hours duration would fill the reservoir. The water flowed through steel pipes down to the mill.”

At peak activity, the Old Glory treated 35-40 tons of ore daily, the largest operation in the district.

But the Old Glory mining operations did not continue to go well. The ore was so hard that the Griffin mills were hardly suitable for handling it. Miners recovered a disappointingly low percentage of the gold. Also, the steel shoes and dies were very expensive and wore out rapidly. Responding to urgent requests, the stockholders repeatedly supplied more money. But there came the day in 1895, soon after operations were fairly underway, when the stockholders denied a request for more cash. With many debts outstanding, Old Glory mining

operations stopped.

Over the next several years, while creditors, including Louis Zeckendorf for mining supplies, argued in court over recovering their money, the Old Glory went through several owners, mill equipment changes, and unsuccessful attempts to resume efficient and moneymaking operations.

From late 1898 to 1902 the Old Glory lay inactive due to lack of financial backing.

In 1902, Louis Zeckendorf bought the Old Glory. Zeckendorf operated the mine briefly with a 20-stamp mill. By 1903, the Old Glory employed a 30-stamp mill under a new owner.

In 1904/1905, the Gold Mining Assurance Company of Indiana and Michigan owned the Old Glory.

After 1905, the owners and milling operations of the Old Glory mine changed several times more, with only intermittent mining operations, until 1912, when the owners abandoned the Old Glory.

The estimated total production value from the Old Glory through 1913 is \$500,000.

The Old Glory mine was leased in 1914 by Sid Kempton, a well-known mining man in the area. Not only was Kempton's Old Glory mining operation not productive, but he himself was accidentally killed in 1918 in an explosion of a gas tank that he was soldering because it had been leaking.

The Post Office at Old Glory (actually at the nearby Warsaw Camp store) closed in 1915 because mining operations shut down. For the next 14 years, several owners operated the Old Glory. There were frequently leases for renewed production, but not much resulted.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, the Oro Blanco district's best-known old gold mine began to grow, as additional contiguous mining claims were located and added to the group. On April 7, 1929, M. J. Elsing bought Old Glory No. 1 and Old Glory No. 2 from B. H. Worthington and the S. E. Cox estate. In February 1930, Elsing located Old Glory No's 3-18. From that group of 18 mining claims, in 1935, James D. Culbertson of Santa Paula, California bought Old Glory No's 1-5. In 1938, in expectation of future production value, Culbertson patented Old Glory No. 1 and Old Glory No. 4. This included the original mine, mill site, and dams. Though the owners performed annual "labor and improvements" over the years to 1940, the Old Glory achieved no significant production.

The final round of significant mining interest at the Old Glory occurred in 1982, when Robert Johnson, acting as agent for the owners of Old Glory No. 1 (original mine) and Old Glory No. 4 (mill site), leased the claims to the Apache International Mining Company of Tucson, Arizona. But limited testing and mining feasibility studies convinced Apache International to pass on the opportunity to restart mining at the OBMD's best-known gold mine.

All that remains at the Old Glory site today are the rapidly deteriorating stonewalls and foundation of the stamp mill powerhouse built in the 1880s. And the only formal visitors are rangers from the Coronado National Forest making periodic site inspections.