

## **RUBY**

# **THE MONTANA MINE BECOMES THE LARGEST PRODUCER OF LEAD AND ZINC IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA**

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## PREFACE

This paper is one of three papers prepared for the Spring 2002 New Mexico–Arizona Joint History Convention special session: “Ruby, Arizona: From Four Star Mining Camp to Ghost Town.” The first paper, “Montana Camp: Gold and Silver Mining at the Montana Mine in the Arizona Territory Borderland,” covers the history of the Montana mine from the mid 1800’s to 1912, when Montana Camp was renamed Ruby. This paper, the second of the group, “Ruby: The Montana Mine Becomes the Largest Producer of Lead and Zinc in the State of Arizona,” covers the period from 1912 to the present. The third paper, “Ruby: From Its Heyday in the 1930’s to Ghost Town,” covers the author’s recollections of her life in Ruby in the 1930’s and a description of today’s ghost town.

These papers on Ruby are one product of continuing research by the authors on the history of mining in Southern Arizona, primarily in Santa Cruz County’s Oro Blanco region. Several major sources of information on early mining records and activities should be mentioned. These include the State of Arizona, Department of Library, Archives and Public Records; Pima County Recorder’s Office; Santa Cruz County Recorder’s Office; Santa Cruz County Assessor’s Office; and microfilm records of the *Arizona Daily Star* and *Arizona Daily Citizen* at the Arizona Historical Society. The authors have spent literally hundreds of hours compiling a detailed history of Oro Blanco mining from these sources.

## **RUBY: THE MONTANA MINE BECOMES THE LARGEST PRODUCER OF LEAD AND ZINC IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA**

*This paper covers the transition of the Montana mine from low-payoff gold and silver mining to high-return lead and zinc mining. It covers mining history from 1912 to 1961, including the 1930's when the Montana mine became the largest producer of lead and zinc in Arizona. The explosive growth of Ruby from fewer than a hundred people to a maximum population of about 1,200 in 1938, is discussed. The paper highlights the stories of Phil Clarke, prominent Arizona businessman, politician, and Ruby general store owner; two famous murders of general store proprietors; and Hugo Miller, mine assayer and one of the last Montana miners. Finally, the paper traces the decline of Ruby from a successful mining operation to a ghost town.*

Seventy miles southwest of Tucson, near the Mexican border, lies Ruby, Arizona, now a mining ghost town. Settled at 4,200 feet altitude, amongst beautiful rolling hills and rugged canyons west of the Atascosa Mountains, Ruby lies at the foot of 5,370-foot Montana Peak, the most

### *Important milestones for the Montana mine. (1)*

Year	Event
1877	First location of Montana mine by James Kirkpatrick. Gold and silver are mined.
Mid 1880's - 1896	George Cheyney operates the Montana mine. Significant mine development, road and water resource improvements.
1887	Earthquake reshapes Montana Peak.
Late 1880's - 1927	Louis Zeckendorf finances and/or owns the Montana mine. Leases mine to various operators.
1897-1914	Julius Andrews operates Montana Camp general store. Store is profitable as mine.
1907	Louis Zeckendorf patents Montana Mine Group of 10 individual mines.
<b>1912</b>	<b>Post Office established. Montana Camp renamed Ruby after Julius Andrews' wife.</b>
<b>1914-1921</b>	<b>Phil Clarke owns and operates Ruby general store.</b>
<b>1917-1919</b>	<b>Goldfield Company operates Montana mine. Modern mining methods introduced. Significant production of lead, zinc, silver, and gold.</b>
<b>1920</b>	<b>Brothers John and Alexander Frasier murdered by Mexican bandits at Ruby store.</b>
<b>1921</b>	<b>Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pearson murdered by Mexican bandits at Ruby store.</b>
<b>1927</b>	<b>Eagle-Picher Lead Company buys Montana patents. Extensive development for lead and zinc mining.</b>
<b>1928</b>	<b>Eagle-Picher acquires/patents 9 additional near-by mines; adds to Montana Group.</b>
<b>1929</b>	<b>Seventeen-mile pipeline built to bring domestic water to Ruby from Santa Cruz river.</b>
<b>1935-1939</b>	<b>Ruby is largest producer of lead and zinc in Arizona. Ruby reaches maximum population of around 1,200 people.</b>
<b>1940</b>	<b>Eagle-Picher mining operations suspended.</b>
<b>1941</b>	<b>Ruby Post Office closes.</b>
<b>1945-1957</b>	<b>Hugo Miller owns mineral rights of the Montana Mine Group.</b>
<b>1961</b>	<b>Ruby bought by five Tucsonans for recreational use.</b>
<b>1971</b>	<b>U.S. Forest Service evicts transients (hippies) from Ruby.</b>
<b>1972</b>	<b>Ruby Mines, Incorporated formed. Includes 19 patented mines around Ruby.</b>
<b>1975</b>	<b>Ruby is listed in National Register of Historic Places.</b>
<b>1984</b>	<b>Ruby tours started by Pima Community College.</b>
<b>1993</b>	<b>Arizona State Parks Board grant for limited restoration of Ruby.</b>
<b>1993</b>	<b>Regular reunions of former residents begin at Ruby.</b>

distinctive landmark in the Oro Blanco Mining District. Today, Ruby is 300-plus acres of wonderful memories of gold, silver, lead, and zinc mining. But Ruby wasn't always named Ruby, not until 1912. Before that it was known as Montana Camp, with one of the most colorful histories of the early Arizona Territory mining camps.

From 1878 to 1912, the Montana mine produced mostly silver and gold. But silver and gold mining were not very profitable due to the generally low-grade ore, the scarcity of water to process the ore, and inefficient recovery of silver and gold from the ore. So, if the Montana mine had to rely on silver and gold mining for lasting fame, it would have been forgotten long ago. With Arizona statehood in 1912, and the rapidly growing value of lead and zinc, the Montana mine was about to be reborn.

### **The Montana Mine Transitions to Lead and Zinc Mining**

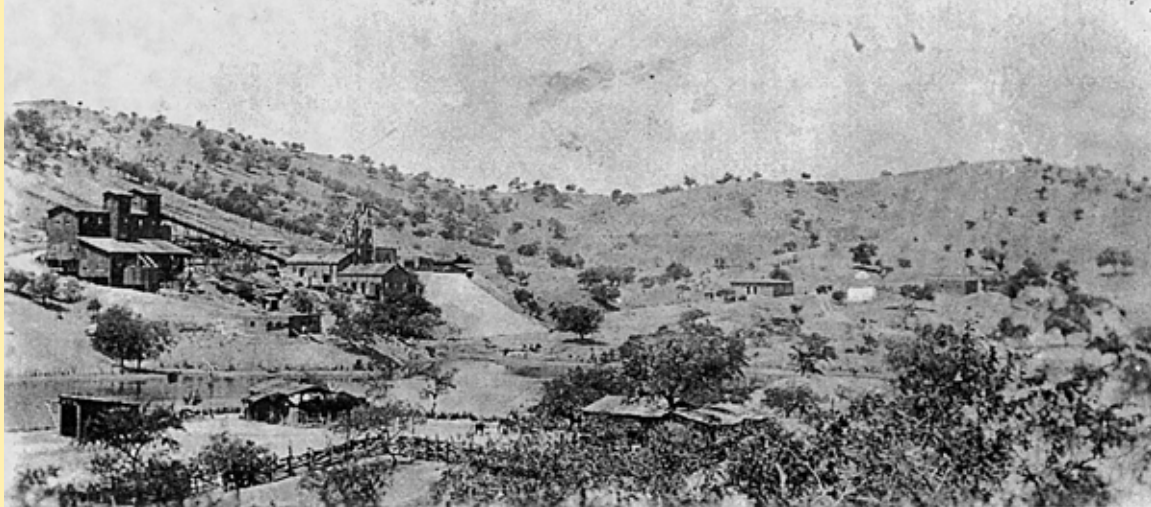
Along with statehood for Arizona in 1912, a post office was established in Montana Camp, with Julius Andrews, general store owner, named as Postmaster. Montana Camp was renamed Ruby after Andrews' wife, Lille, whose family name was Ruby.

As Ruby was born and the success of the general store continued, a series of unsuccessful operations at the Montana mine foreshadowed the dramatic switch from the mining of silver and gold to the mining of lead and zinc. Louis Zeckendorf, prominent Tucson merchant, owned the Montana mine since 1907, leasing it to various operators. In 1912, the Montana was operated by Col. L. W. Powell of Bisbee. New shafts and new roads were planned, but Powell died and mining operations were suspended pending the settlement of Powell's estate. In 1914, the Pownott Mining Company leased the Montana mine. Captain W. S. McDermott, a mining engineer, did a great deal of exploratory work. Upon his recommendation, the first deep shaft was sunk to a depth of 400 feet. But, his venture soon folded. In 1916, F. L. Sizer and J. M. O'Brien, from San Francisco, leased the Montana mine. The mine had been idle for some time and they had planned extensive development. As with so many of their predecessors, the Sizer and O'Brien operation was not successful.

Finally in 1917, the Goldfield Consolidated Mines Exploration Company began operating the Montana mine. George Wingfield, Sr., who had made the famous Goldfield strike in Nevada, was in charge. It was during his tenure that most of the adobe houses that still stand in Ruby today were built. The Goldfield Company built a new mill using the flotation process for the first time. Mine shafts were extended to a depth of 700 feet. Lead, zinc, silver, and gold were all mined successfully, but the trend towards lead and zinc mining, for which Ruby would be known, had begun. (2)

In 1917 and 1918, 1,000,000 pounds each of lead and zinc were milled. The mine produced ore worth \$265,000, including \$20,000 of gold and \$43,000 of silver. (3)

During this productive time, there was usually work for everyone. According to the *Arizona State Business Directory of 1916-1917*, the population of Ruby was 150.



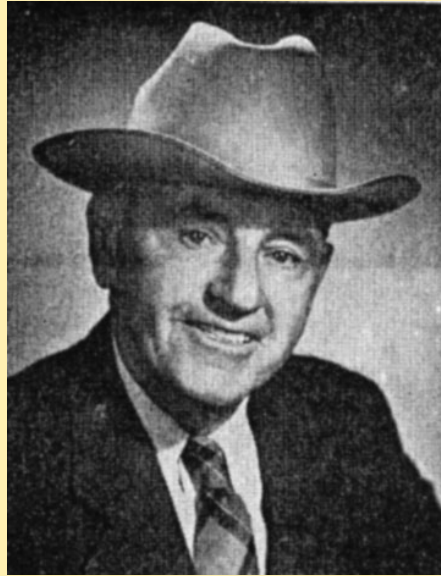
*By 1917, Ruby's Montana mine had begun successfully producing lead and zinc.  
(Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon private collection)*

### **Phil Clarke Expands the Ruby General Store**

With mining operations growing and Ruby's population increasing, the general store needed to expand. In 1914, Irish immigrant Phil Clarke, who came to the Oro Blanco region in 1906, bought Ruby's general store from Julius Andrews. Clarke was one of the first frontier promoters to offer free drinks and pool tables for his customers. For individuals without cash, Clarke would provide clothing, foodstuffs, and hardware in trade for beans, corn, gold dust, and hides.

In 1916, Clarke built a new store and post office of adobe, farther up the hill to the north, from the Andrews' store site. (4) He included living quarters for his growing family. Ever wary of bandits from nearby Mexico, Clarke kept loaded guns in every nook and cranny of the store.

**Phil M. Clarke's American dream started in the slums of New York. Clarke was born in Ireland in 1888, but his parents emigrated to New York city in 1892. Arriving in Arivaca in 1906 at age 18 years, Clarke worked at odd jobs, including helping out at nearby farms and cattle ranches and working at stores in Arivaca. By 1910, he had managed a store, served terms as Arivaca Postmaster, notary public, and Justice of the Peace, and was a school trustee. In order to raise the money to buy the Andrews store in Ruby, Clarke and his school-teacher wife, Gypsy, "had to sell our chickens to add the money to what we had saved to make the purchase." (5) Many years later, in Tucson, after his sensational experiences in operating the store in Ruby, Phil Clarke became president of the Rotary Club and served three terms on the Tucson School Board. Clarke also had a career in banking, becoming a vice president of one bank in 1926 and president of another in 1932. Clarke was also in the cattle business during this period, buying and selling over 62,000 Mexican cattle. Clarke died in Tucson in 1963 at the age of 75.**



*Phil Clarke, well known area businessman, rancher and banker, owned the Ruby general store when the Frasier and Pearsons were killed by Mexican bandits in 1920 and 1921, respectively.  
(Photo courtesy Pioneer and Well Known Cattlemen of Arizona, Vol. 2, Roscoe Wilson, 1951)*

### **Ruby's Infamous Murders**

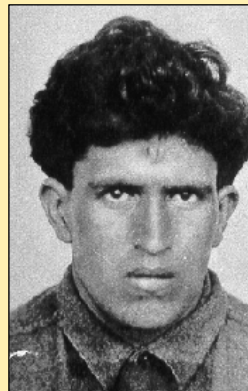
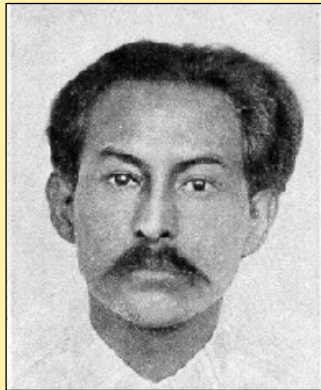
In 1920, Phil Clarke leased the Ruby store to two brothers, John and Alexander Frasier. Less than two months later, the Frasier brothers were murdered by two Mexican bandits during a robbery at the store. One of the bandits was later shot by a Sheriff's deputy and the other was reportedly seen in a Mexican prison for another crime.



*This store was the scene of both the Frasier and Pearson murders.  
(Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon private collection, circa 1920)*

Then Clarke further distanced himself from the Ruby store by selling it to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pearson. But this was not to be the end of trouble at the store. In 1921, Frank Pearson and his wife were killed, and Mrs. Pearson's sister wounded, in another robbery at the store, this time by seven Mexican bandits. The two leaders of the bandits were caught, tried, and convicted of murder. One of them was eventually hanged, after escaping and being recaptured. But the second bandit leader, after escaping twice, in a bizarre series of events, was never caught. The other five Pearson murderers were never captured.

Both of these Ruby store robberies and murders were sensationalized in newspapers and magazines of the day.  
(6)



*Top left to right – Pearson murderers Placido Silvas and Manuel Martinez.*

*Bottom - One of the posses that chased them.*

(Silvas, Martinez photos courtesy *Startling Detective*, March, 1936.

Posse photo courtesy *Arizona Police*, April, 1950.)

*Timeline of Frasier/Pearson murder events – February 1920 to December 1928.*

Date	Event
Feb. 27, 1920	Alexander and John Frasier killed at Ruby store. Bandits Ezequiel <b>Lara</b> & Manuel <b>Garcia</b> are identified as killers.
(Unknown)	<b>Garcia</b> kills Deputy Holliday and Deputy McClure kills <b>Garcia</b> in western “shootouts.”
Aug. 26, 1921	Seven bandits kill Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pearson, wound Miss Elizabeth Purcell. Leaders of bandits are Manual <b>Martinez</b> and Placido <b>Silvas</b> .
Sept. 2, 1921	<b>Lara</b> reported in prison at Hermosillo, Sonora for another killing.
Dec. 1921	<b>Silvas</b> (captured earlier) goes on trial; convicted of killing Pearsons. Given life in prison.
Dec. 1921	<b>Martinez</b> confesses and names all seven Pearson bandits. Five are never captured.
May 18, 1922	<b>Martinez</b> convicted of murder, sentenced to hang Aug. 18, 1922.
July 13, 1922	Sheriff George White and Deputy Leonard A. Smith killed in car crash outside Tucson while transporting <b>Silvas</b> and <b>Martinez</b> to Florence prison. Both prisoners escape.
July 18, 1922	<b>Silvas</b> and <b>Martinez</b> recaptured by Sheriff Harry Saxons about 2 ½ miles southeast of Amado.
Aug. 10, 1923	<b>Martinez</b> hanged at Florence prison.
Dec. 3, 1928	<b>Silvas</b> escapes again – never caught.

**Eagle-Picher Takes Over – Both the Mine and Ruby Grow Dramatically**

For about eight years, after the successful Goldfield Consolidated Mining Company operations ended in 1918, the Montana mine was closed down, except for minor operations under a number of lessees. A contributing factor was the complex nature of the ore, which was difficult to treat at that time and efficiently extract lead, zinc, silver, or gold. By 1925, considerable progress had been made in the treatment of complex ores.

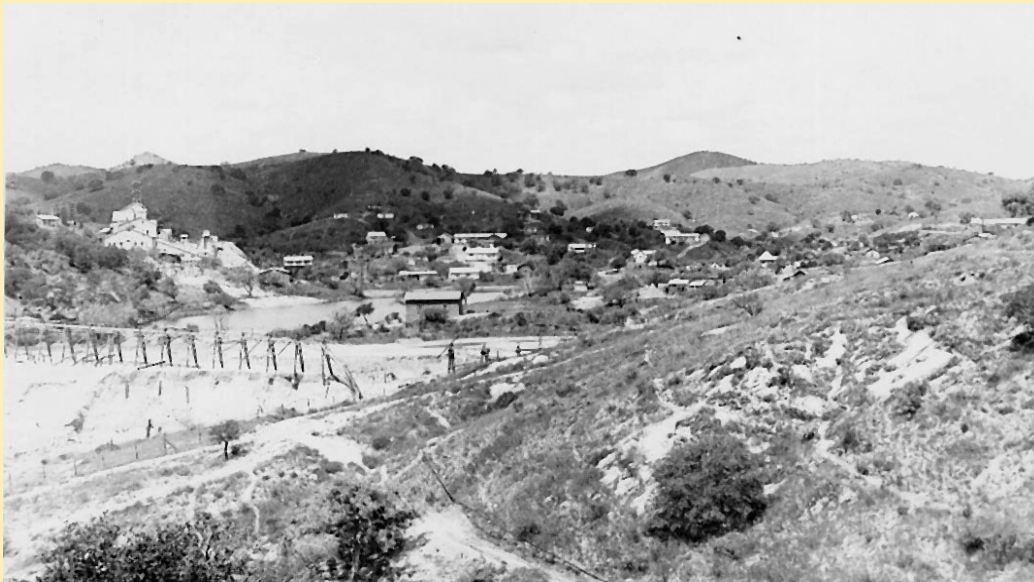
In 1926, the Eagle-Picher Lead Company of Joplin, Missouri took out an option to buy the Montana mines. In 1927, the company bought the patents from Louis Zeckendorf and the serious mining of lead and zinc began.

Eagle-Picher built a 200-ton-per-day ore concentrator and several dams to obtain sufficient water for mining operations. (7)

**Bringing Water to Ruby**

Obtaining sufficient domestic water for Ruby’s growing population became a serious problem. In 1928, planning began for a pumping station and a 17-mile long, 4-inch diameter pipeline to bring water from the Santa Cruz River through the Atascosa mountains to Ruby. Walter Pfrimmer was the Ruby mine engineer in charge of this critical water supply project. (8)





*A trestle brings the tailings from the mill's ore processing to the dump, circa late 1920's.  
(Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon private collection)*



*By 1928, the Eagle-Picher Lead Company had begun major mining  
of lead and zinc at the Montana mine.  
(Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon private collection)*

A well site, La Noria, near Calabasas on the Santa Cruz River was selected for the location of the pumping station. From there the line was to go through Peck Canyon, through Hell's Gate Canyon in Corral Nuevo, and end in Ruby.

Twenty-foot lengths of four-inch pipe purchased from the Texas oil fields arrived on flatbed railroad cars at Amado, Arizona. From there the pipe was trucked as far as the narrow rough roads would allow. Pack burros then carried the pipe the remainder of the way to the work site. The pipeline was snaked along canyon walls to allow for expansion and contraction as opposed to being placed in the bottom of the canyon where rushing water from summer storms would tend to destroy the line. Trestles were constructed to carry the line across deep canyons where necessary. Heavy cables, sometimes suspended from trees, helped secure the pipeline. Water pressure as it left the pump house at La Noria was 750 pounds per square inch. The lift was 1,500 feet through the Atascosa Mountains. After the 17 mile trip, the water was deposited in a 5,000 gallon tank south of the mill. (9) Project completion was early in the year 1930 at a cost of \$100,000.

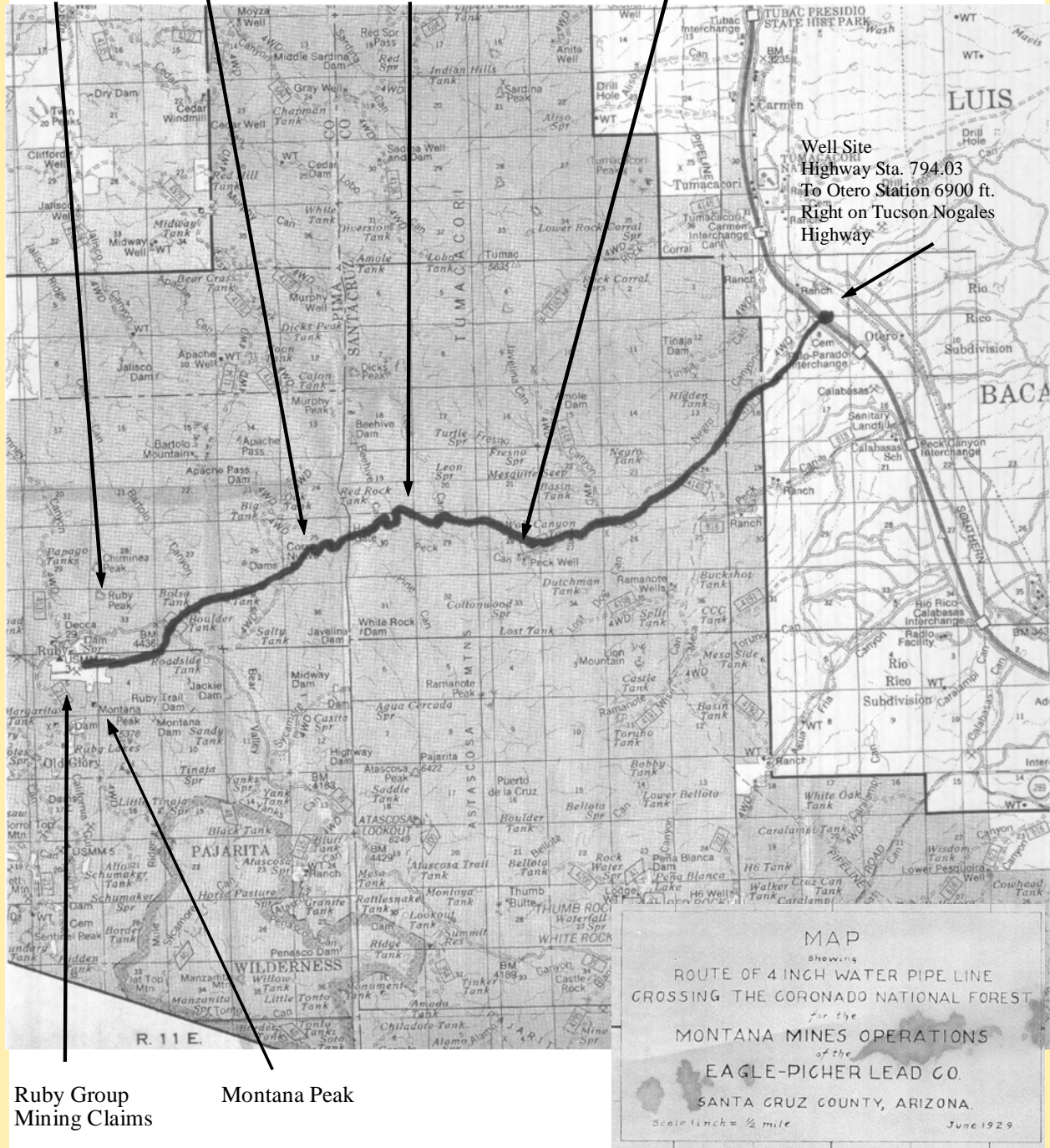


*The 17-mile long, 4-inch pipeline was completed in 1930.  
(Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon private collection)*

### **The Montana Mine Becomes a Successful Operation**

During a mining slowdown in 1930-1934, Eagle-Picher enlarged the ore concentrator to process 400 tons of ore per day. As the United States pulled out of the "Great Depression," the Montana mine was now poised to become the Oro Blanco Mining District's first and only large-scale mining operation.

Ruby Pk. Corral Nueva Hells Gate Eagle Picher Lead Co's 4 inch water pipe line



Ruby Group Mining Claims

Montana Peak

The pipeline route extended from the Santa Cruz River through the Atascosa mountains to Ruby. (Map courtesy Coronado Forest Service. Pipeline route and callouts by Al Ring.)

In 1933, the Eagle-Picher Lead Company obtained and patented nine additional mining claims to add to the Montana Group of mines. The new additions included the Ruf and Ready, Protection, Excelsior, Lerchen's Fraction, Laddie, Spear, San Miguel, Ruby No. 1, and Ruby No. 2. This brought the total to 19 patented mines in the Montana Group. (10)

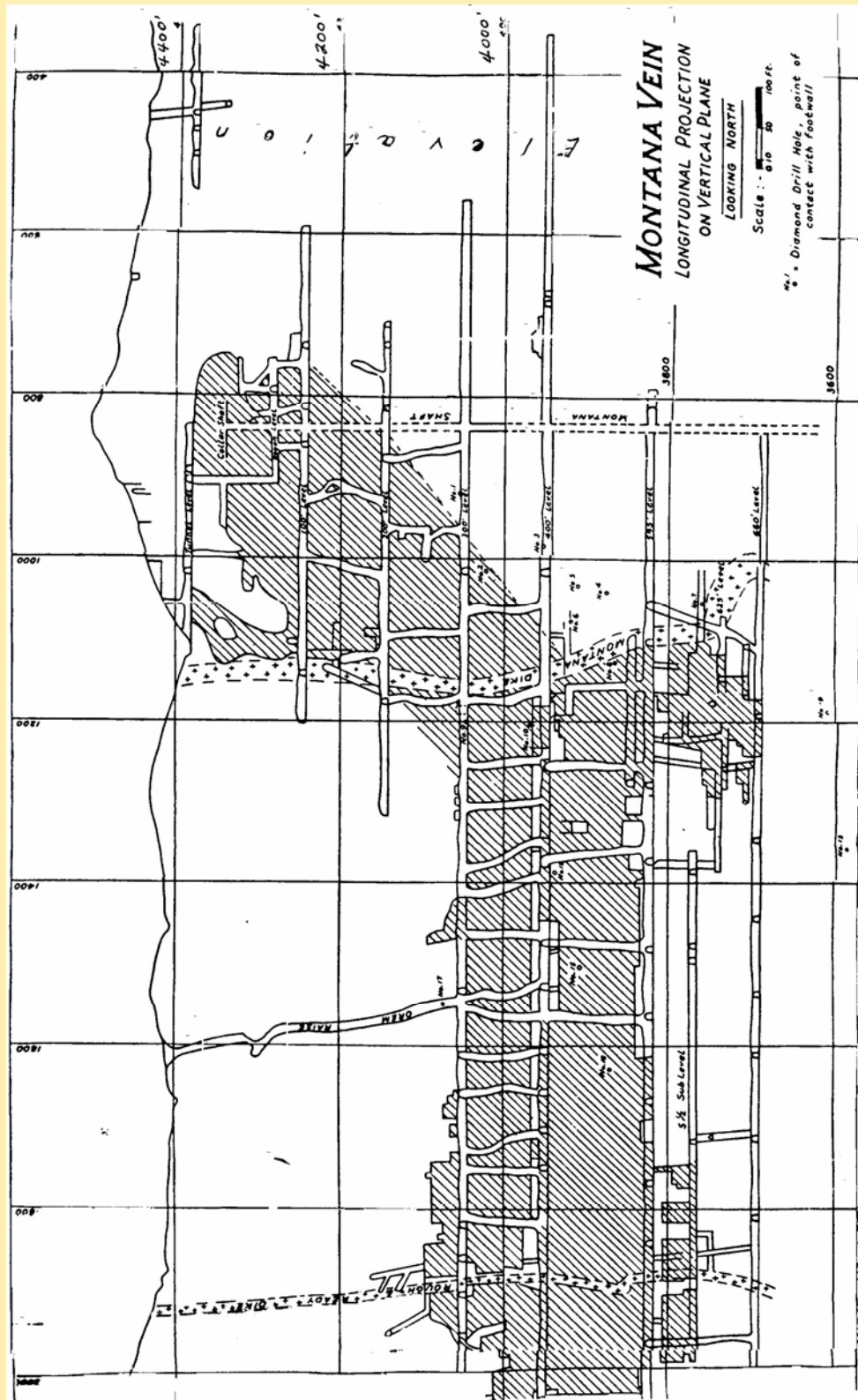
The mine at Ruby became the largest producer of lead and zinc in Arizona in 1935-39. (11) During that period, the mine processed 773,000 tons of ore worth \$7,000,000. (12)

The mine now had a vertical shaft 700 feet in depth with intermediate working levels at 100, 200, 300, 400, 525, and 660 feet from the surface. Lateral drifts extended up to 2,000 feet on some levels. Unprocessed ore was extracted through the main shaft. The mill implemented a froth flotation process using oil, which finally solved the problem of recovery of lead and zinc ore from the rock. The processed ore was hauled to Amado, on the Santa Cruz River, in diesel trucks and loaded into railroad cars. In 1935, a car and a half of ore was shipped daily. On the return trip, the trucks carried timber and support equipment for the underground mining. (13)



*By 1934, the Montana was ready to become the largest producer of lead and zinc in Arizona.*  
(Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon private collection)

At its peak, the mine was operating seven days a week with 300 men working three shifts per day. In 1934, miners earned \$3.00 per day; pay increased to \$5.25 per day by 1940. (14) The mine was shut down only on Christmas day and the Fourth of July for scheduled maintenance.



By the 1930's, the Montana had a 700-foot vertical shaft with six intermediate working levels. (Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon private collection)

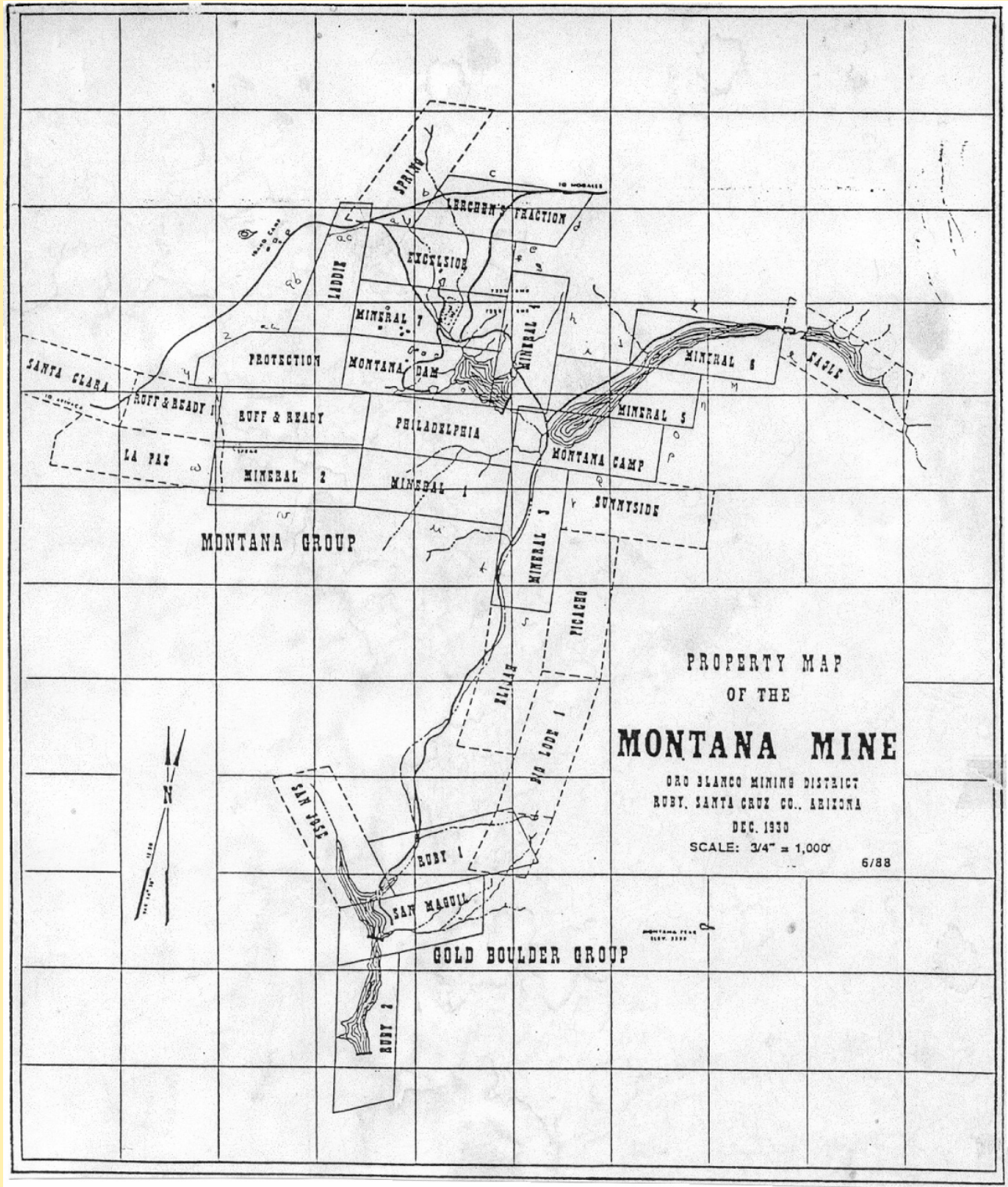
Ruby reached a maximum population of about 1,200 people in 1938. There was a hospital with a doctor and a nurse. The children went to a school with eight grades and three teachers. Electricity was supplied by six big diesel engines. Stores, bars and a post office were at hand. Those who lived in Ruby during those secure years remember it as a place where life was wonderful – a community where doors were never locked. (15)



*Ruby reached a maximum population of about 1,200 people in 1938.*  
(Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon private collection)

By the 1930's, the Montana was not a single mine but a group of 19 patented mines and 22 unpatented mines, known as the Consolidated Montana Mine Group. The patented mines included the 10 mining claims patented by early developer Louis Zeckendorf in 1907, and the nine claims patented in 1933 by the Eagle-Picher Company. These 19 patented mining claims covered a total of 362 acres. The northern Montana Group, of 16 contiguous claims, covered 302 acres. The southern Gold Boulder Group, of three contiguous claims, covered 60 acres. The size of each claim was generally the maximum permitted by the 1872 Mining Law, i.e., 1,500 feet by 600 feet. An exception was the much smaller Spear claim, which filled a narrow wedge between the Ruff and Ready and Mineral No. 2 claims. (21)

The Philadelphia claim was a relocation, by George Cheyney's father, of the original Montana mine, the Montana Silver and Gold mine, first located by James Kirkpatrick in 1877. The Philadelphia, Montana Camp, and Montana Damm claims formed the original Montana Group of mines, operated by the Cheyney family. (22) Over the years, the mining camp, first named Montana Camp, and from 1912, Ruby, developed primarily on the land covered by the Montana Dam, Excelsior, and Mineral No.'s 4 and 7 claims.



*The Consolidated Montana Mine Group consisted of 19 patented (solid lines) and 22 unpatented (dashed lines) mining claims. (Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon private collection)*

The Consolidated Montana Mine Group's 19 patented mining claims represent 31% (19 of 62) of all mines ever patented in the Oro Blanco Mining District, an indication of their relative value.

*These are the 19 patented mining claims making up the Montana Mines Group.*

No.	Mine	Original Location Date	Located By	Patent Date	Patented By
1	Philadelphia	May 13, 1889	W. J. Cheyney	April 23, 1907	Louis Zeckendorf
2	Montana Camp	January 4, 1893	George Cheyney		
3	Montana Dam	November 2, 1894	George Cheyney		
4	Mineral No. 1	December 29, 1898	J. N. Curtis		
5	Mineral No. 2	December 29, 1898	J. N. Curtis		
6	Mineral No. 3	December 29, 1898	J. N. Curtis		
7	Mineral No. 4	December 29, 1898	J. N. Curtis		
8	Mineral No. 5	November 6, 1899	J. N. Curtis		
9	Mineral No. 6	November 6, 1899	J. N. Curtis		
10	Mineral No. 7	November 6, 1899	J. N. Curtis		
11	San Miguil	February 6, 1878	J. J. Miller	February 3, 1933	Eagle-Picher Company
12	Protection	April 16, 1894	George G. Mullins		
13	Ruff and Ready	November 21, 1894	O. A. Hyatt		
14	Excelsior	March 7, 1895	A. E. Bogan, et al		
15	Ruby No. 1	December 8, 1915	C. A. Hartman		
16	Ruby No. 2	December 8, 1915	C. A. Hartman		
17	Laddie	January 13, 1928	Sam J. Hayhurst, et al		
18	Spear	January 13, 1928	Sam J. Hayhurst, et al		
19	Lerchen's Fraction	February 17, 1928	Frank H. Lerchen		

### **After 1940 – From Four-Star Mining Camp to Ghost Town**

By 1940, the mining boom was over. The population of Ruby in 1940 was 1,100, but quickly declined (16). Mining production continued, but on a much-reduced scale. Total value of Eagle-Picher production is estimated at roughly 10 million (year 1940) dollars. (17) Eagle-Picher operations were suspended in May of 1940 and the mill and 400-ton flotation system were dismantled and reinstalled in Sahuarita, about 60 miles to the northeast. Ruby's Post Office was closed in 1941.

Hugo Miller, an assayer from Nogales, bought the surface rights to the Montana Mine Group in 1945. Ore was shipped for several years from the old tailings and old ore pockets.





*Hugo Miller was one of the last of the Ruby miners.*  
(Photo courtesy of Hugo Miller's son, Hugo Searle Miller)

**Hugo W. Miller was associated with mining all his life, continually being tempted away from his regular job, assaying ore for others, to develop and manage mining operations himself. Miller was born on July 10, 1889, in Ballinger, Texas. He graduated from the University of Texas in 1910 with the degree of Engineer of Mines. Miller spent several years in the western United States and Sonora, Mexico working engineering, geology, chemist, and assaying jobs. He came to Nogales in 1914 and set up his own assay office. Over the years, Miller's "reputation for assay work was known throughout northern Mexico and southern Arizona, and in two World Wars, he was instrumental in the tungsten and manganese ore fields." (18) While a Nogales resident in 1922, Miller was a juror on the trial of Placido Silvas, convicted of the murders of Ruby store proprietors, Mr. and Mrs Frank Pearson. (19) He was also active in politics, as a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Nogales Chamber of Commerce in 1914, and Santa Cruz County Supervisor in 1924 and 1926. From World War I on, Miller was frequently involved in mining himself, including tungsten, manganese, molybdenite, copper, and lead. He leased mines, managed mines, and promoted mines. Miller's mining interests turned to the Ruby area in 1939 with the nearby Rubiana, Brick, and Miller-Hanson claims, which he worked until 1944, and the Montana Mine Group at Ruby itself in 1945. Hugo Miller survived a horrible automobile accident on the Ruby Road in 1951, recovering from four pelvic fractures and internal injuries. (20) Miller died on March 16, 1963 at the age of 74.**

In 1957, the Matador Oil and Maravilla Minerals Corporation bought the old town of Ruby and the patented mining claims. Sporadic work continued until 1958. The colorful mining history of the Montana mine ended in 1961 when Ruby was sold to non-mining private interests.

In 1961, Ruby and the surrounding mines were sold to five Tucsonans. The new owners had an interest in the outdoors and used Ruby as their private playground, a retreat where they could relax and fish for bass at a relatively short distance from their homes in Tucson.

Later in the 1960's, another group of "settlers" moved in. They were called "hippies" by most. The Forest Service had another name – squatters. They were ordered out and the evidence of their eviction can still be seen

on one of the town building doors: “Eviction Notice – As of this day March 22, 1971 this house will be evacuated as prescribed by law.” One of the hippies apparently penciled in the reply, “We love you.”

In 1972, Ruby Mines, Incorporated was formed by the five owners and/or their heirs. Ruby Mines, Inc. included all 19 patented claims from the Consolidated Montana Mines Group.

Because it had contributed so much to the economic, cultural and historic development of the region, Ruby was listed with the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

Pima Community College of Tucson started regular tours of Ruby in 1984.

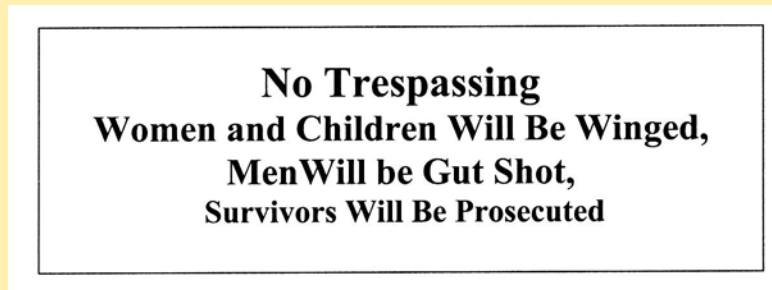
The natural history of Ruby was featured in the 1991 BBC and PBS Television Nature series of television documentary, *The Ghosts of Ruby*.

Ruby’s owners began a project to restore the old mining camp to some of its original form. To support this objective, in 1993, the Arizona State Parks Board awarded Ruby a \$28,000 grant to begin the restoration. Phase I, funded by the 1993 grant, was to re-establish perimeter fencing and to stabilize the remaining buildings. Actual restoration was to start in Phase II. (Not funded to this date.)

In order to sustain interest in Ruby and sustain its glorious history, the owners have sponsored a series of on-sight reunions for those who worked or lived in Ruby. The first reunion was in 1993. Other reunions were held in 1996, 2000, and 2001. Typically, over 200 people have attended the reunions.

Today, Ruby is still owned by Ruby Mines, Inc., the Tucson consortium of the children of the five 1961 purchasers. (23) There has been further talk about restoring the old mining camp and turning it into a collection of museums and a center for ecological research and interpretation. Alternative ideas include a golf course, tennis courts, a swimming pool, and other recreational facilities. Some owners talk about a bed and breakfast facility. To this date, no significant action has been taken to realize any of these dreams.

Meanwhile Ruby is fenced and guarded. One of the more colorful no trespassing signs that was posted at the gate to Ruby in 1963 is (24):



Two lakes and 700,000 tons of mining tailings remind visitors of Ruby's unique history. Only about a dozen buildings remain. This rapidly deteriorating ghost town can be seen by the public, either privately through the owners or the caretaker, or on the regularly scheduled tours from Pima Community College. Since 1994, these tours have been hosted by Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon, who grew up in Ruby in the 1930's. (25)

## NOTES

1. This paper discusses the events listed between 1912 and the present. For the early history of the Montana mine, the events prior to 1912, see Bob Ring's 2002 History Convention paper, "Montana Camp: Gold and Silver Mining at the Montana Mine in the Arizona Territory Borderland."
2. The series of Montana mine operations between 1912 and 1917 was traced through newspaper records of the *Tucson Citizen* and mining files of the Arizona Geological Survey, Tucson Office.
3. "Arizona Zinc and Lead Deposits, Part 2," *University of Arizona Bulletin*, Arizona Bureau of Mines, Vol. 22, July 1951, pp. 41, 42.
4. This was actually the third general store built in Ruby. In the late 1880's, George Cheyney built the first store, just west of Ruby Lake. This store was operated in turn by Cheyney, Louis Zeckendorf (and others), and finally Julius Andrews. Andrews built a second store to the north, along the entrance road to the Camp. The original store then became a residence. After Clarke built the "expanded" third store, the second store was abandoned and later burned down.
5. For Clarke's own recollections of life in Arivaca and Ruby, see the Phil M. Clarke File, MS0990, at the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson, Arizona.
6. At least the following newspapers ran articles throughout the 1920's on the two Ruby murders: *Arizona Star*, *Bisbee Daily Star*, *Nogales Oasis*, *Tombstone Epitaph*, and the *Tucson Citizen*.
7. Lead was used in paint and bullets, and zinc was used in rust-resistant galvanized iron and calcimine coatings. The information on the Montana mine's shutdown between 1919 and 1926, the complexity of lead and zinc mining, and the startup of Eagle-Picher operations was traced from newspaper records of the *Tucson Citizen*, Tucson, Arizona, 1925-1927.
8. For additional details, see Tallia Cahoon's 2002 History Convention paper, "Ruby: From Its Heyday in the 1930's to Ghost Town."
9. Some of the information on the water line project, particularly the water tank arrangement, comes from several discussions during the period 1992-1996 between Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon and Fred Noon. Fred Noon (1908-1996) was a third generation native of Oro Blanco. He owned and managed the Noon Ranch, and wrote articles on Arivaca and Oro Blanco history in the local papers (*Connection* and *Arivaca Briefs*) from the 1940's through the 1990's. For several years in the 1970's, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Arizona Historical Society. He had an intense interest in local history and had a great memory for all those folks and stories from his childhood.
10. A provision of the 1872 U. S. Congressional Mining Law was that unless a mining claim was already privately owned (patented), a claim would be subject to relocation by another party if "not less than one hundred dollars' worth of labor shall be performed or improvements made during each year." Such unpatented mining claims established the claimant's mineral rights only, not a title to the land. (So, unpatented mining claims that languished, or were abandoned, could be claimed by someone else. This became a common practice in the Oro Blanco Mining District.) Therefore, Eagle-Picher, realizing the continuing value of their claims and wanting to protect their investments, established their ownership (title) to the Montana Group of mines by patenting them. A copy of the Congressional Mining Law of 1872 can be found in "United States Mining Laws and Regulations There under," Catalog A, Library No. 360, pp. 3-19, at the Arizona Historical Society in

Tucson, Arizona.

11. Frank J. Tuck, *History of Mining in Arizona, revised 1963*, Department of Mineral Resources, Phoenix, Arizona, p. 38.
12. These production figures come from a March 29, 1996 discussion between Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon and Fred Noon. See note 9 above.
13. These mining process details came from the 1992-1996 discussions between Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon and Fred Noon. See note 9 above.
14. Ruby miners' wages data came from a mid 1990's discussion between Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon and Leo Neal, who worked and lived in Ruby during the 1930's.
15. For additional personal details, see Tallia Cahoon's paper.
16. Fred Noon, "About Ruby," Arivaca Yesterdays, *The Connection* (Arivaca, September, 1986).
17. Sam Negri , "Ruby in the Rough," *Tucson Monthly* (Tucson, February, 1998).
18. Jane Jastram, "Know Thy Neighbor," University of Arizona Library, Special Collections, AZ175, March 23, 1951.
19. For a newspaper interview of juror Hugo Miller, about the difficulties of reaching a verdict because of the number of Silvas trials, see the *Tucson Citizen*, July 13, 1922.
20. According to Hugo W. Miller's son, Hugo Searle Miller, in a January 3, 2002 E-mail to the author, "He was able to go back to work after his accident and diamond drilled several development holes on the Hanson and Brick claims. He leased the Brick Claim to G. Sturdivant in 1952 and about 10 tons of high-grade ore was mined. A heavy rain washed out the mine and none of the ore was shipped."
21. For additional details, see document 5-120A, 1956, in the Santa Cruz Recorder's Office in Nogales, Arizona.
22. For additional details, see Bob Ring's paper.
23. Contact for current owners of Ruby: Howard and Pat Fredericks, 6202 West Ina Road, Tucson, Arizona 85743, 520-744-4471.
24. Chick Hagerty, "Ruby Ghost Town," *Arivaca Briefs, Vol. 14, No. 2* (Arivaca, September 10, 1963). See the interesting recollections of a former Ruby Ghost Town caretaker.
25. For additional details, see Tallia Cahoon's paper.

## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Carol Clarke Meyer, "The Rise and Fall of Ruby," *The Journal of Arizona History*, (Tucson, The Arizona Historical Society, 1974). *The daughter-in-law of Ruby store owner Phil Clarke recounts the colorful history of Ruby.*
2. Tom McCurnin, "Ruby Arizona," (University of Arizona, December, 1997). *A term paper from a University of Arizona graduate student who made numerous trips to Ruby. A copy of the paper can be found at URL: <http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/az/rubypapers.html>.*
3. Tallia Pfrimmer Cahoon and Bryan Lee, "Remembering Ruby," *Tucson Citizen*, (Tucson, April 23, 1999). *A Pima Community College tour guide recalls her days in the once-vibrant mining town of Ruby.*
4. "Ruby to Paradise – And the Legends In Between," Video Tape, 1995, Dragoon Productions, Tucson, Arizona. *A sixty-minute video featuring Ruby in a presentation of the history of Southeast Arizona. Includes an interview with Fred Noon.*
5. "Remembering Ruby, Ruby, Arizona – 1939 and 1993," Video Tape, 1996, Distributed by Anubis Productions International, PO Box 50859, Tucson, Arizona 85703. *A sixty-minute video featuring archival Crabtree family movies from their life in Ruby in 1939, and video interviews with former residents conducted at the reunion in 1993.*
6. Ruby – Arizona Ghost Town Website, URL: <http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/az/ruby.html> *Features Ruby history, a circa 1996 map, recent (ghost town) photos, and restoration plans.*
7. Bob and Al Ring, "Life in the Oro Blanco Mining Camps in 1900." *Presented at the Spring 2000 Arizona History Convention in Yuma, Arizona. The Arizona Historical Society in Tucson, Arizona maintains a paper copy file of convention papers.*
8. Bob and Al Ring, "The Forgotten Gold Mines of Oro Blanco," publication in preparation. *The complete history of mining in Santa Cruz County's Oro Blanco Mining District.*