

Helen "Beaver" Warner

① 75 yrs old

Circle Mining District 7-2-13
Parosipine Creek

2014-10-01

Steve Masterman - antiline of Tintina Fault

Jim Barker Bur of mines - all creeks in Circle

Deadwood - Ketchum - those creeks

all lined up

When we first got there we were placed oriented,
1964.

Del McFee - Founder AK Airlines

drilled at Por. Creek in Circle Dist.

wanted water rights at Toffy

gold was 35. The area was pretty
stagnant. Walter Romay was mining.

cost me 110,000 to do it

My mother + step fa had been up to look at a
property on Miller Creek. Mo was pretty

impressed w/ it. And this guy said he had
a lease on Por. Crk. And there were drill logs.

Henry's family had been miners. His grandpa
had been a hardrock miner for Wales who had
gone to Mexico to silver lode mines.

mining did not seem out of place to him.
mining was cert. not out of place to me. I had

users in my fam. Dad found gold in
Amador County in 1849. They made so

much money - They came out in the spring
to CA - able to send - got an old journal -

\$252 cash to his wife + 2 child in Illinois -
Told fam. to come out west. Plus he bought

1000 acres. It's in the files.

I was working at the Law. Radiation lab
in Radio Chem. + Henry was principal research
Tech in chem. - Mo mentioned this man
who had a lease + drill log - cautious

prudent - we decided...

(2)

man, w. drill log - called man who owned the
drill log who was Del McGehee wintering in Reno,
we drove to Reno -

Let's talk business. He handed us
the drill log; we had it evaluated

That was the Circle Dist. It was a placer
dist. There'd been one hard rock claim in
the dist. way back in 1938. (on the fr. & antichron)
east flank of Pt. Some

That was the only hard rock - ...

We had some, NEPCO had some

was project Helen Foster - struct. work
Paul Metz brought students

Jim Barker - ... Karen Clantire - ran soil
tests, good survey stuff

Some Antimony -

small pinpoints in placar rocks.

No largely deep overburden. You don't have
a lot of exposures. No infrastructure out
there. The price of gold when I went out there
was \$25 an ounce. In 1964 - roads.

people had successful hard rock - even
close to town you had to have at least
\$20 an ounce. That was close to 3 oz a ton.

^{.04}
we dug holes. we didn't have any equip.
old fashioned manual labor. we looked. There
was a nice little camp there.

We didn't have any money. We had \$250 cash.
750 down and a qt of Ball. Scotch
\$6 left -

use each other's bank. There were times when the creek owed us money, and times when we owed it no money.

I was 26 and Henry was 31 - old enough to know better but young enough to still do it.

To W. Roman ... going to Fish Crk

Freddie W. hadn't come back to Miller Crk yet

Frank + Vic ^{Pierce} ^{little} store in Central

Frank + Gracalia Miller at Miller House

Doctor

Hot Sp. were active - it was on the road to Circle City. It was the only road to the year.

I had to walk in the 1st time, 11 miles

1st day walked in 6 mi - decided we could

drive in 6 mi -

Leg, Por. Pine Hill -

I'd been wearing 4" heels and mini skirts working in D.F. I had blood blisters by the time I walked in and I still had to walk out.

We were not well funded. It took 2 good jobs to support one placer mine. In 88 after Bretton wood, price of gold - it went up to about 400, then 800. You didn't have to sell it to the mint either, and that made a big difference.

All this info -

The N. Slope was the big thing. We were working for R + M in the winter and in the camp in the summer.

Those years 88 to 94 were very much

✓ dominated by the pipeline north. That made money available for buying equip, and we had drill logs on a track creek. Mrs. Miller told us, she was the post-mistress. She shipped all of the Dutch kid's gold - He had one of the 1st cuts in the dist and it didn't even have a blade on it. It was only used for moving hydraulic around on it - pumps. He sub-graded with it. He was a hydraulic miner + he had a lease. He mined out what he had and left for Rampart. Albert Martin -

✓ Mrs. Miller had shipped all the gold that they'd produced thru the po there at Miller House - so she could tell me approx. what kind of years they'd had, how much gold they were producing. It made you sure that there was something there, because we certainly didn't know anything about mining.

The 1st yr we sluiced, we panned everything out of the sluice box.

panned the box.

✓ took to set of mines because we didn't have any fines. We didn't have anything under 40 mesh. We had gold but we didn't have any fines.

✓ I was a grad student then - the rest (undergrads) all came out ... at the end of a couple of days, nobody found fines. That wasn't sig at the time but it became sig recently 35-40 yrs later, because it seems

we're close to the source

Legend - thought Porc, was source of gold for Uncle Dist - Por. Dome source - early 80's, price, slaver price had hit 800 - increasing interest in finding gold. an oz of gold would look good if you had tonnage, 1/2 oz would

- ✓ slavers hit hard in the 80's in Uncle Dist 72-82 started to swell up. peaked, and ~~fell off~~ slowly. This also meant the places were getting worked out.
- ✓ because these slavers weren't being hit by the old mat & sa method. People
- ✓ They started w/ surplus military & and they were rolling out there w/ D9's (Caterpillar) soon 2-10s - it has relatively shallow placers, wouldn't support dredges. It takes a lot of sandage. These placers are substantially bedrock placers. There had been a dredge on Mastodon - down to Bedrock Creek. There had been a dredge of Deadwood one the problem on road. well, the bedrock was so wavy and so hard the dredge wouldn't recover the gold. Crooked creek - 2 young men - drilling? lots of ground -

1st year - no equip. we did sluice - we were on Yankee Creek that was one of those innocent mistakes you can make.

(6)

we tried the pup creek that had a good drill line. We had a little by and we got enough gold to pay the fuel bill - Rex Thomas worked for us and he got half pay.

Henry was working & I had a job -

✓ year after that we got an 8 - things were getting better, and then we got hit by the '67 flood. The 8 was ruined and our dam was gone, and our boxes were somewhere, and our cleanups was where ever that all was.

I was in town defending my thesis when the flood hit -

caretaker in camp

creek came up, and rains hit

He sat in the cookhouse & watched -

It was a 100 yr flood

✓ That was a huge set back, but we dug it out the next yr - we found the boxes - they were good steel

not

by '70 ~~was~~ we were ready for another effort

✓ Henry worked all winter long on thermocouples for the pipe line & I went to work for Rm Computing, then data, and we saved money to go back

Those 1-2 years were hit & miss. We couldn't do anything unless we had \$2000 to open the door. You had to have start up money.

There were people coming out then Del Ackles, Freddie was there George Seuffert + Ken Manning were trying over on Eagle Creek.

The guys could work on the slope in the winter and make big money and then go out & develop their passion, their mining. The romance of gold has always been there. And almost everyone I know would rather work for himself than the other guy.

There was this idea that you could do it. Other people had made money mining in this country. The roads were getting better, trucks were better, the equip. was more available.

Picnic - awesome

We had the water fight w/ the state starting about '84. The miners formed their advocacy council and took on the EPA + DEC. We didn't win.

(recycling water)

based on 6 fish - thesis -

It was a point of unity statewide for placer miners - Big companies - lode mines

independant - inc. - fund a suit against DEC

we had - (pond, recycle)
56 claims

They used our property - we had the pond when they were done.

we had a D-9 -

we weren't the biggest, & we weren't the worst -

we never had enough money - ~~and~~ ^{+ this is a common} ^{outsight,}
to get everything all at once so it was balanced - we would have a big sluiceway and a little K.H., or a big K.H. and a little shaker screen, but there was always a bottleneck somewhere

Doug Colp -

Strip for a buck a yard

Sluicing cost 6 buck a yard

make money stripping -

we were thin on equip - we didn't have a lot of backup

The lick Dist for everybody was a dirt show ^{one} you had to know

how to move dirt - and two, you had to keep your up-time, & down-time

day was just - it cost as much as any other day, but it didn't produce anything.

we always valued our ground in dollars per yard and took the stripping ratio into account. others evaluate

their ground by how many ounces they are getting in their sluiceway. So if they sluice 17 hrs they want to know how much they got per hour which is a very diff. concept.

(9)

Earl P. Grim
started handrock claim

They wanted to hot rod through the sluice,
through the recovery process
you've got to know what rock you're
washing, " " " " expected leads
were. and when you figure out what
you've got, it should compare favorably
with what the leads were. you better go
look at every place you discharged and
see where you put it.

went through the sluice
~~before~~ or if you had big rocks &
they weren't thoroughly washed, ~~or~~
if you didn't get what you basically
thought you'd get, you better look
around

Doug Cole

He was practical & done the mining

Tintina -

The Canadians are the ones who really nailed it.
We got it first. It was a no-brainer. People had
been kicking on those rocks for years. It was
close to town, students could go out there -
there was some placer production & some
high grade gold prod.

Folk Sequence -

Phone Kings

Milt Wiltsie - Feliner - John Sims recruited Bertie

Bundtzen -

gold, molyb, H. emm, Demarke - Res. Assoc.

Governors like Hickie that were resource oriented

Now we are seeing the results of all this research + successes coupled w/ Canada -

~~the~~ now the Tin. Belt

now we're seeing proactive development

They're looking for large deposits at lower grade -
The metallurgy + ^{recovery} ~~mining~~ technologies are better

Sulfides were first killing it

They've now ... found some other way...

To get recovery -

I'm really happy about how things are going out in my district -

you could get a rich sample float, but not compact + mineable

NERCO recon BT-P - incl. Table Mt JV w/ West. Aust. + IRW Assoc.

There were little snuffings

We had staked our fed claims w/ state claims to protect lode -

The St. had sel. - so you couldn't put a fed claim over it - so we had to put a state claim

They were hard rock claims to keep the hard rockers out of there.

hard rock started in the mid 80s

metz, vector staking

people were trying to find hard rock.

I think the Circle Dist is going to boom. If we finally figure out where it's coming from, I'm sure we'll make grade.

Sometimes there's not an engineering solution. quite frequently there's no solution that's economic.

80's BLM inspection - after Henry died - we hit an artesian spring in the middle of our cut. He said you've got to do something about it. We'd tried several things. Do you have a solution? The only thing we can do is get past it and cap it.

We were small. It was already in full run. we'll get past it & cap it.

I was here in the 80s & we had one dollar per mile for maintenance - so there wasn't any maintenance of roads, all the money was for new roads.

Diff between potential energy and kinetic energy

Ring? got a diamond.

Henry designed the setting & carved it. I had - engagement ring - - -

S.2
 1979 set nugget - put at dining, lost
 nugget - gold was 35 when we mined it
 so it was a \$10 nugget & I'd had it for
 14 yrs

matters day - found this nugget - about 5 yrs ago - friends float Mackenzie - canoes took my trunk - boys gave me the diamond fr. my niece - Canadian diamond. Nolan the nugget - we had had a gold shop - They didn't think this was pretty 1st clean up -

I've worn it every day for a long time - I have some more nuggets - all except the big one - at Kangaroo's Long Creek - w/ ruby

the oblong nuggets - from porcu. ck this was stolen - I got it back 13 yrs later I had a clean up in an egg carton under a clothes basket in the bedroom. (The thieves didn't find this)

Oh yes nugget creek - we didn't have any fence. We had some awesome nuggets, we didn't get big, big nuggets - The biggest one we got was a 4 ounces that looked like an egg - 76 - not a particularly pretty egg. 75 - 74? we got one that looked like a pig. It was very nice.

Kicking tires

2.1. The early people were 80% - We staked a all of pr. & the ridges for hardrock 1st 6 claims in '66 w/ the gen + Joanne Horner. We had found a hot spot. Bonanza + Porcupine intersect - the Dome - A MAX had a crew

AT Kona getting started - heap leach in NV.
There had always been hot samples, always
been gold.

AERCO - Paul metz. Work at Gnamya
advertised for JV - Hecla showed up - SB
Baley, Morrell, Duncan - A MAX

By now, I'm staking around my hot spots -
Everybody ~~was~~ ^{walking} up the creek and breaking
visible gold. I've got a staking crew out. (Laughs)

Now you're seeing senior explor. geologists
in the field, actually kicking tires, not just
no place guys - who aren't exactly sure
what they're looking for. They're also
talking theories and this is where this
Trotter fault starts to play - Next 10 yrs.

AERCO

State starts charging 6% -
claims were open - we put prospect sites
on them - and incorporated.

I was at the old Gordon's office -
I was reading the state drop list -

I've got 2 properties in Oule Dist.
A MAX put in a grid over her hot spot -
she had her cat operator dig a trench -
had great samples, sold everywhere -
and she couldn't get a deal. The price of
gold was sinking like a rock.

We kept on placering -

leased - operator brought in some rocks -
I called Arne - I some samples fr. Pore. - could
you run them for me? a few months later,
how much of this stuff do you have -

Next year. Lee found another area - brought samples in -

I called Arne + invited them up for lunch - 4-4-wheelers. 5 geologists + Arne arrived for lunch. After that the story was, how do you write the contract

I've never been affluent. I was the one who bootstrapped herself into the mining business

It took us an hour + a half to make a deal

It's a road of which legends are made. after the fire in 2004 - mudslides - it's a deeded state road. They don't maintain it.

The DT took the 1st 8 mi, and Kinross took the 2nd 8 miles

We were left to lease the placer rights last year they had a big camp. They were doing drilling.

24 people - I think they put in a 20 man camp and this was not that style program. I think they're stepping and looking for other things -

I had a rock library at Poru. Every geologist that went on recon - I got the rocks - I would have numbers, rocks, + some maps. George said I was a good salesman.