

# Chapter 8

## A Woman's Place

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### Introduction

It was a fact of life in the western mining camps of the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s. Women, regardless of who they were or what they did, were scarce. A mass migration of Easterners began to claim the mineral wealth in the Western Territories starting with the great gold rush to California in 1848. Miners, experienced or not, converged upon the mountains and streams in droves. There was talk of great riches waiting to be claimed by those ambitious enough to give it their best shot.

### The Men

The men came alone. It was not the kind of work for someone with a weak constitution. It took more than just a minimal amount of energy and determination. And it was certainly no place for a woman. After the men arrived, they complained of the drudgery, and the harsh and unsafe conditions that yielded such small returns. While some struck it rich, others were reduced to paupers in their efforts to gain the wealth they hoped would better their stations in life.

Most of the men who came west were single. Some preferred to travel alone because they could not be burdened with the added responsibility of a family. And because of the uncertainty of striking it rich, they never knew when they would acquire the fortune necessary to keep a wife and family. Their quest was for gold. If they found it, their lives became easier. If they didn't, the men were faced with a lonely existence in a society without women.

Because of anticipated hardships, any married man would generally leave his wife and family behind and set out in search of fortune in the western mining camps. If his labors proved fruitful, he sent for those he left behind. Living in the western mining camps was not what a married man's life was like in the East. He enjoyed the company of his wife and family, and the comforts of a home life. It was a completely different situation in the West. If and when he could afford to send for his family, it helped make western living more hospitable.

### The Wives

If a wife joined her husband at the onset, she had to accept the fact that it would not be an easy way of life. She was in wild, untamed surroundings with little or nothing to set up a new home, and she had to contend with the fear of becoming a widow left to raise a family alone in the wilderness. A misfire from a drill hole, an accidental loss of footing at an open mine shaft, or a single blow from a rock hammer could turn her fear to reality. It happened to many.

They endured in spite of it all. Their presence meant the difference between a temporary camp and a real town. The wives had to accept the fact that life was considerably different in the West than it had been in the East. Their homes were tents or miner's shacks. Although the shacks could easily accommodate some eastern comforts like curtains, table cloths, and decorative wall paper, the tents presented other problems. The presence of tents in a mining camp generally meant the home, as well as the camp, was temporary. A wife had to be ready to pack up and leave when the ore played out and her husband moved on to the next mining camp.

There was no clean water and no sewage system, and so, there was rampant disease. Diphtheria and typhoid were the most common. Many diseases, extinct or easily cured in the present, took lives with few exceptions in the past. The women often handled the injuries of their miner husbands without the aid of a medical doctor – broken limbs, disfigured bodies, and torn flesh. They nursed family illnesses. Finally, the hardships of poverty, drought, fire, and Indian attacks remained real threats. And yet many endured.

Those who survived the initial shock and the rigors of living in the mining towns, proved to be an important influence on everyone. They organized social events, raised funds for hospitals and schools, and volunteered their time to work in them. While their men withstood the rigors of working in the mines, the women shouldered the job of establishing communities that provided as many refinements as the environment allowed.

Such women in Arizona included Sallie Davis Hayden, Mrs. T. C. Hayes, Mrs. Huston, Mrs. Percy Ramsden, Mima Tune, and Mrs. Mary E. Wood. They were wives

or girlfriends who endured the hardships to stay at their men's sides. Some of these women are casually mentioned in the early annals of the mining camps. They appear in obscure chronicles, or are briefly mentioned in stories handed down by word of mouth. Many have no first names.

Mrs. Mary Wood moved to Charleston, west of Tombstone with her husband, who managed a mill there, in the 1880s. She left behind a lively account of living in what some called "wicked Charleston". She said, "If you came to Charleston looking for trouble, there were plenty of citizens who would gladly supply you with any amount of it."<sup>1</sup> Her husband was manager at the mill in August of 1881 when it produced more silver bullion than any month in its history, \$151,279.15, according to her recollections.

Mrs. T. C. Hayes, her husband, and several other Anglo and Mexican families were responsible for establishing a small settlement south of Tucson that would become Arivaca. Mrs. Percy Ramsden, a long time resident of Signal, northwest of Phoenix, was of the second generation of mining folk to settle that area. Sallie Davis Hayden and her husband moved to central Arizona Territory in the 1880s. The mill at Hayden was named after her husband, Charles Trumbull Hayden. And there was Mrs. Huston, whose husband was killed at the Vekol Mill. The Walker brothers, who owned the mill at the time of Mr. Huston's death in 1885, bought his widow a home in Los Angeles, as well as provided a good pension for her to live on. We know of these women from brief entries in the many ghost town books that chronicle Arizona history. Unfortunately, that is all we know. But nonetheless, we must continue to speak their names and remember them for the part they played in these mining camps.

Mima Tune's name will live forever in the mining history of Miami, Arizona. Black Jack Newman, a Polish immigrant, is credited with locating a rich prospect along the Big Johnny Gulch. He named it "Mima", after his girlfriend. Other claims were being staked at Bloody Tanks Wash by prospectors from Miami, Ohio. Newman wanted to name the promising community that was arising "Mima", but the others wanted to call it "Miami". A compromise was reached when the town was given the name "Miami" but pronounced "Mima".

Unfortunately, "standing by your man" was easier said than done. There was a much higher rate of divorce in the West than in the East one hundred years ago. And divorce was much easier to come by. All a woman had to do was convince a judge to grant her a divorce because her husband could not properly provide for her. Because women were so few in number, it was just as simple a matter for a divorced, widowed, or single woman to find a husband if and when she wanted one.

## The Prostitutes

"Men who can rough it and ladies of spirit and energy..."<sup>2</sup> were the kinds of people who traveled to the Western Frontier. Some of those spirited and energetic ladies moved west with their families. Some moved because they saw an opportunity to cash in on the wealth. Some

were recruited with promises of a better life. And many of the recruited women came to fill the brothels that were a mainstay in every town, right along with the stores and miners' shacks.

It was a lonely life in the mining camps until the women, any women, came. Sometimes the men were grateful just for a glimpse of a woman. But often times they sought out the "red light" districts for the feminine comfort the West sadly lacked. A well known brothel ballad of the time was.....

First came the miners  
to work in the mine.  
Then came the ladies  
who lived on the line.<sup>3</sup>

Prostitutes were looked upon critically all along the Western Frontier from those of the same gender. They gained reputations as women with no common decency or self respect. And in some cases it was true. But these women suffered the same hardships as their more "respectable" sisters – inclement weather, poor living conditions, disease. Some of them died as hard as they lived. Drug or alcohol abuse, suicide, and failed or unclean abortions took many lives.

The best impressions left by these women come from the miners themselves. "...as the years passed and miners retreated to their rocking chairs to cultivate their memories, prostitutes were awarded a place of honor not far below mother, the flag, and the ten pound nugget of solid gold."<sup>4</sup> Men went to the western mining camps with their minds narrowed and set on striking it rich. They had the outward appearance of worn leather. The prostitutes set out to soften that demeanor. Before wives and mothers took on the task of civilizing mining camps, the prostitutes did it. They brought culture to the uncultured, politeness to the impolite, and pity to the pitiless. They were guardian angels. They were humanitarians.

Talk if you will of her  
But speak no ill of her -  
The sins of the living are not of the dead.  
Remember her charity,  
Forget all disparity;  
Let her judges be they whom she sheltered and fed.<sup>5</sup>

## The Crusaders

On the heels of the prostitutes were women like Mrs. Eliza W. Farnham. She advertised in newspapers in the East for moral women to join her in the West to help cure the evils that were running wild among the men as a result of prostitution. She even demanded references from the women's clergymen before she would sign them on.

Some of the efforts of women like Mrs. Farnham were successful in persuading some of the prostitutes to change their line of work. Those who felt they could "legitimize" their profession married one of their clients. Those who quit before they found a husband might advertise for one. "A HUSBAND WANTED...by a lady who can wash, cook, scour, sew, milk, spin, weave, hoe (can't plow), cut wood, make fires, feed the pigs, raise chickens, rock the cradle (gold rocker, I thank you, Sir!), saw a plank, drive nails, etc..."<sup>6</sup> And she had certain conditions that had

to be met...“Her age is none of your business. She is neither handsome or a fright, yet an old man need not apply, nor any who have not a little more education than she has, and a great deal more gold, for there must be \$20,000 settled on her before she will bind herself to perform all the above.”<sup>7</sup>

### The “Angels”

Often times, a woman's association with the mines and miners was service-oriented. She operated and often times owned the businesses that tended to a man's needs; restaurants and saloons, boarding houses, laundries, supply stores. She grubstaked prospectors and sometimes worked the claims alongside them. She was their surrogate mother or wife, their nurse, their teacher, their confidant. She provided the basics without making a commitment to be a wife. Sometimes she was widowed. Sometimes she was single and chose to stay that way. Included in the list of such business women in Arizona are the likes of Mrs. James Pearce, Jennie Elliot, Mrs. James Daley, and Caroline Ramos.

Caroline Ramos ran a boarding house in Prescott's first building which was called Fort Misery. This same building doubled as a courthouse, so that “misery” was dispensed from several angles – in the meager accommodations and the pursuit of justice. Caroline had a sign posted outside that read “room and board, \$25 in gold, cash in advance”.<sup>8</sup> Boarding house fare was not fancy, and Caroline's menu not very creative. Breakfast was venison and chili, bread, coffee, and goat's milk. Lunch was venison, chili, bread, coffee, and goat's milk. And supper was, you guessed it, venison and chili with tortillas this time, coffee, and goat's milk. In spite of its simplicity, miners always welcomed a hot meal.

Accommodations for the miners in these boarding houses was also very simple. The small rooms, designed for one miner, provided a single bed, a wash stand, and maybe a chair. Before Jennie Elliot became the first woman lobbyist in Arizona, she, too, operated boarding houses for many mining companies about the state.

It was Jimmie Pearce, a Cornishman working in Tombstone in the 1880s, who discovered the rich silver chloride and gold deposits at Pearce, Arizona. The mine was called the Commonwealth. When the Pearce family sold the property to John Brockman of Silver City, New Mexico in 1896, Jimmie's wife, who had one fifth ownership, insisted on a clause in the contract that would give her exclusive rights to run a boarding house in Pearce for the rest of her life! That clause cost her \$50,000, the value of her share, and lifetime security in the business she operated.

Mrs. James Daley advanced her husband the money to do title work on the Irish Mag in Bisbee. With his death, the title and claim went to his widow, Angela. Eventually she sold the claims to Martin Costello of Tombstone for \$1800.

Sharlot Hall, well known for her part in preserving Arizona's pioneer history, can also lay claim to a major role in preserving its mining history. She was born in Kansas in 1870, and moved to Prescott with her family in 1882. Sharlot's uncle was a California Forty-Niner

before he moved to central Arizona. He was working gold placer deposits in the Agua Fria Valley along Lynx Creek when the Halls arrived. Sharlot was “ready to fall off my pony the minute I saw a nugget under foot”.<sup>9</sup> She saw enough gold from the other miners' prospects to start looking for it herself the following spring.

Sharlot's father, James, moved to Prescott to ranch. Several years after they settled there, four years of drought began to shatter his dreams of building a large ranch. He moved the family to twenty acres of gold claims he had in the Walker mining district. For several years he separated gold from the gravels using a hydraulic system. Sharlot cooked for the miners and guarded any gold bullion that was recovered.

Sharlot was many things: a rockhound, a gold panner, a rancher's and miner's daughter, and a poet. But her greatest position in Arizona history was that of Territorial Historian.

It was not an easy task to get that job. She had already been gathering historical information on Arizona for fifteen years. She felt her work should be preserved and that she should be custodian. When the position of Territorial Historian was approved by Governor Kibbey in 1909, he appointed assistant chief clerk of the council, Mulford Winsor, to the job. Winsor held that position for only a few months when President Taft replaced Kibbey with Richard Sloan as governor. Almost immediately, Sloan removed Winsor from his job and replaced him with Sharlot Hall, his longtime friend from Prescott. Sharlot became the first woman to hold public office in Arizona. For fourteen months, she traveled to the far corners of the state, to every town and mining camp, recording Arizona history for posterity and gathering artifacts.

*Sharlot Hall On The Arizona Strip* was written during her journey with guide Al Doyle across northern Arizona in 1911. For more than two months, they traveled by wagon to the Grand Canyon, across the Colorado River, and on to Zion and Bryce. Sharlot wrote in her diary of the geology: “...strange cliffs like broken pie-crust, which are the uptilted edge of the ‘great fault’ where long ago the earth's crust broke up and tilted back.”<sup>10</sup>

Sharlot's first mining interests were in the gold deposits around Prescott, but her journals also speak of her connections with the copper mines in the state. She visited many—from the Copper Queen in Bisbee to the Grand Gulch in northern Arizona—in her attempts to gather as much information as possible, which was a part of her job as Territorial Historian. In 1924, she was asked to attend the presidential inauguration and represent Arizona with an electoral vote. Because of her attention to the copper mines, she was presented with a copper mesh overdress and handbag for the inaugural ball.

Sharlot Hall's life was filled with causes. She spent fifteen years gathering Arizona history. For a decade, she fought for Arizona statehood. And until she died, she devoted her life to preserving the history she accumulated in the restoration of the Governor's Mansion in Prescott. The complex, which includes eight restored pioneer buildings, bears her name.

Sharlot Hall died in Prescott in 1943. In 1981, she became one of the first inductees into the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame.

Probably the most notable of Arizona women who supported and also worked closely with miners was Nellie Cashman. Nellie was born in Ireland in 1844. She was still a teenager when she came to America with her sister in the 1860s. Nellie's sense of wanderlust and adventure took her to Alaska in 1877 in search of gold in the Yukon, then on to Nevada for silver. She arrived in Tucson in 1879 where she operated Delmonico's Restaurant. The next year she moved to Tombstone to oversee the Russ House, a boarding house and restaurant. In 1884, she joined the gold rush to southern California and northern Mexico.

It was not uncommon for Nellie to grubstake miners, visit and work the claims with them, or take care of them if they fell upon hard times. Her nephew, M. J. Cunningham of Tombstone, remembered how she often donned flannel shirts and overalls to join in the hard work of mining in the latter part of the 19th Century.

Nellie went back to Alaska in 1897, this time to the Klondike, where she was a store owner and grubstaker once again. At seventy-nine years, she set a record as a champion woman musher, taking her team 750 miles in seventeen days. Nellie Cashman died in Coldfoot, Alaska's northernmost mining camp, of double pneumonia, in 1925. While her mining activities took her outside of Arizona's borders, she still is rightfully honored with a place in the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame. This "miner's angel" was equally the pioneer, the business woman, and the prospector.

Another "miner's angel" who was not a full-time resident of Arizona was a woman affectionately known as Mother Jones. She was born Mary Harris. After her move with her family to America, she worked as a teacher in Michigan and Tennessee, and as a seamstress in Chicago. She was best known as an "agitator", which perhaps began with her involvement with the labor movement in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Nearly her entire life was spent fighting for miners' rights.

Her involvement with strikes and unions took her from the East Coast to the West Coast. She came to Arizona at least three times in 1907 alone for the cause of the miners. During one visit, she was in Bisbee when she wrote that she was "fighting the common enemy as best I know how."<sup>11</sup> Another occasion found her on the streets of Douglas speaking to smelter workers. She became enraged when a leader in the insurgency against Mexico's President Porfirio Diaz was kidnapped and returned to Mexico. Her reaction to that revolutionary act endeared her to Diaz opponents.

When the Western Federation of Miners (WFM) struck in parts of Arizona in 1915, Mother Jones went to Clifton. She commended then Arizona Governor Hunt for keeping the violence to a minimum.

Mother Jones died in 1930, one hundred years after her birth in Ireland. Her lifelong fight was for the well being of the miner. She championed that cause to the fullest.

## The Entrepreneurs

There were many women who took advantage of the development of western mining camps. They didn't necessarily have to be prostitutes, madams, wives, or crusaders. Some were mine owners like Mrs. H. H. Freeman and Grace Middleton.

Mrs. Freeman was the daughter of Frank Shultz, discoverer of the rich ore deposits that would become the Mammoth Mine at Tiger, Arizona. Shultz left the mine to his daughter who sold it to Sam Houghton after World War I. It was Houghton who renamed the town Tiger, after his alma mater's, Princeton University, mascot. But the town of Tiger, now on property owned by Magma Copper Company, was originally called Shultz after Mrs. Freeman's father.

Grace Middleton lived in Silver King, a small mining camp north of Superior, since 1944. The Silver King Mine was worked for fifteen years in the latter part of the 19th Century, with reported estimates of \$6.5 million to \$17 million in profit. Grace was part owner of what was left of the camp and all that it contained. Until at least the mid-1960s, she was still living in Silver King, making a living from touring occasional visitors through the town.

## The Perceptive

Before the mine owners came the mine discoverers, and there are many such men whose names are well known in mining circles. But there are women, too, who can lay claim to discovering valuable mineral deposits that have influenced the mining community.

Women like Maggie Baker, Mollie Monroe, or Mrs. Young don't appear in the National Mining Hall of Fame or even the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame. But they have several mineral discoveries in Arizona on record.

Maggie Baker homesteaded with her husband on Badger Creek in Houserock Valley, Coconino County in the 1930s. She was a rockhound all her life, and was especially interested in the petrified wood she saw on her horseback rides into the back country. One day west of Navajo Bridge in the Vermillion Cliffs, she collected some exceptionally "purty" wood with an odd greenish-yellow color to it. The mineral that she saw in that wood was carnotite, a uranium ore, and the discovery, which she sold for \$40,000.00, would become one of the first commercial uranium mines developed in the United States.

Miss Mollie Monroe, according to an early reference in Prescott's *Arizona Miner*, northern Arizona's first newspaper, discovered at least two gold mines in the Prescott area. And Mrs. Young discovered the Southern Belle Mine in the Old Hat District (which includes Tiger, Arizona) about 1880 or 1881. These two women, unfortunately, suffered the same fate as some of the wives mentioned earlier. Their names appear in a sentence or two of Arizona mining history, but details have since been lost.

Prior to World War II, very few women actually worked inside the mines. They prospected and assisted the men on the surface, and they worked in support occupations, but going underground for the purpose of mining was

not an accepted practice for women. In 1915, The United States Bureau of Mines published a set of rules and regulations concerning mining activities. Section 38 says, "No woman or girl...shall be employed or permitted to work underground in any mine; and it shall be unlawful for any operator to employ such persons within a mine...Provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the employment of women in the offices and buildings connected with a mine."<sup>12</sup> And Section 131 clearly states, "No woman may be employed in any mine."<sup>13</sup> In spite of the conditions set down about where a woman could work in the mines, some were able to achieve the position of mine operator or owner.

But a woman's place was in the home. If she worked outside the home, it reflected upon her husband, making the statement that he was not man enough to "bring home the bacon". It was considered unbecoming for women to associate with men in matters of mining. The women left to tend to the homes resented that type of independence in those of the same sex. Often times, they justified their resentment with attacks on a woman's character or appearance. Even today, some of the women left at home are not worried about their husbands working with these types of women "...because most women geologists are so ugly they could go lion-hunting with a switch."<sup>14</sup>

Yes, the myths and superstitions surrounding women in the underground mining profession have been around for a long time. Even though universities have been graduating women with mining degrees since the turn of the century, they have been relegated to working on the surface.

### The Academicians

Clara Fish Roberts was the first woman to enter the school of mines at the University of Arizona in Tucson, graduating in the class of 1897. She majored in mining because there was nothing else to study at the time.

A list of alumni from the College of Engineering and Mines at the University of Arizona from 1901 through 1945 shows less than twenty female graduates. Since then, the University of Arizona has graduated hundreds with degrees in geology, mining, and engineering.

There are only a few cases like Ms. Roberts where we are certain of some of the things that spurred women to take up mining as a course of study within the university systems, or to choose mining as a career. We know Viva J. Johnson's story. She went to Courtland in southern Arizona twice. The first time was in 1904 with her parents and their three other children. The second time was in 1916. The mines in Courtland were experiencing a rejuvenation, partly because of Viva's uncle, Daniel W. Brown. He and his brothers, along with Len Shattuck of Bisbee, organized the Great Western Mining Company that brought life back to the Courtland mines. In 1916, Viva, then nineteen years old, took a job as a secretary and bookkeeper at the Needles Mining Company north of Courtland. She talked the assayer into teaching her some of his trade, and the mine surveyor into helping her learn to read and draw mine blueprints.

Before long, she was gathering assay samples from underground and mapping mines. When the Needles Company shut down its mines in February of 1917, Viva took work as a court reporter in Courtland. In September, the Needles Company opened again and rehired Viva for a salary of \$75 a month. For a woman working that closely in mining, the pay was good.

Viva Johnson got involved in mining because that was all that really interested her in Courtland. She liked it. Viva Johnson married after her brief mining career in Courtland and eventually moved to California.

Women have come a long way in the history of mining in Arizona since the Nellie Cashmans, the Clara Fish Roberts, the Viva Johnsons, and the Maggie Bakers. They have, indeed, progressed from their supporting roles in the mining camps of the mid-1800s to the challenging careers that occupy their lives today. A woman's place is no longer in the home. A woman's place is where she chooses to make it.



### Notes

1. Nell Murbarger, *Ghosts of the Adobe Walls*, p. 101.
2. Duane A. Smith, "Rocky Mountain Mining Camps: The Urban Frontier," p. 18, from an article by the editor of the *Virginia City Montana Post*, January 28, 1865.
3. Ronald Dean Miller, *Shady Ladies of the West*, p. 19.
4. Robert Wallace, *The Miners*, p. 157.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 153, poem for a Leadville prostitute Mollie May, printed in the *Evening Chronicle* in 1887 upon her death.
6. William Weber Johnson, *The Forty-Niners*, p. 131.
7. *Ibid.*
8. Marshall Trimble, *Roadside History of Arizona*, p. 329.
9. Margaret F. Maxwell, "A Passion for Freedom: The Life of Sharlot Hall," p. 26, from Hall's *Sharlot Hall on The Arizona Strip*.
10. *Ibid.*, p. 126.
11. Dale Fetherling, *Mother Jones, The Miners' Angel: A Portrait*, p. 79.
12. W. R. Ingalls, James Douglas, J. R. Finlay, J. Parke Channing, John Hays Hammond, "Rules and Regulations for Metal Mines", *Bureau of Mines Bulletin* 75, p. 53.
13. *Ibid.*, p. 157.
14. From a letter to Ann Landers published on January 9, 1978.

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Sharlot Hall, Territorial Historian, c. 1920. Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/Tucson #57047.



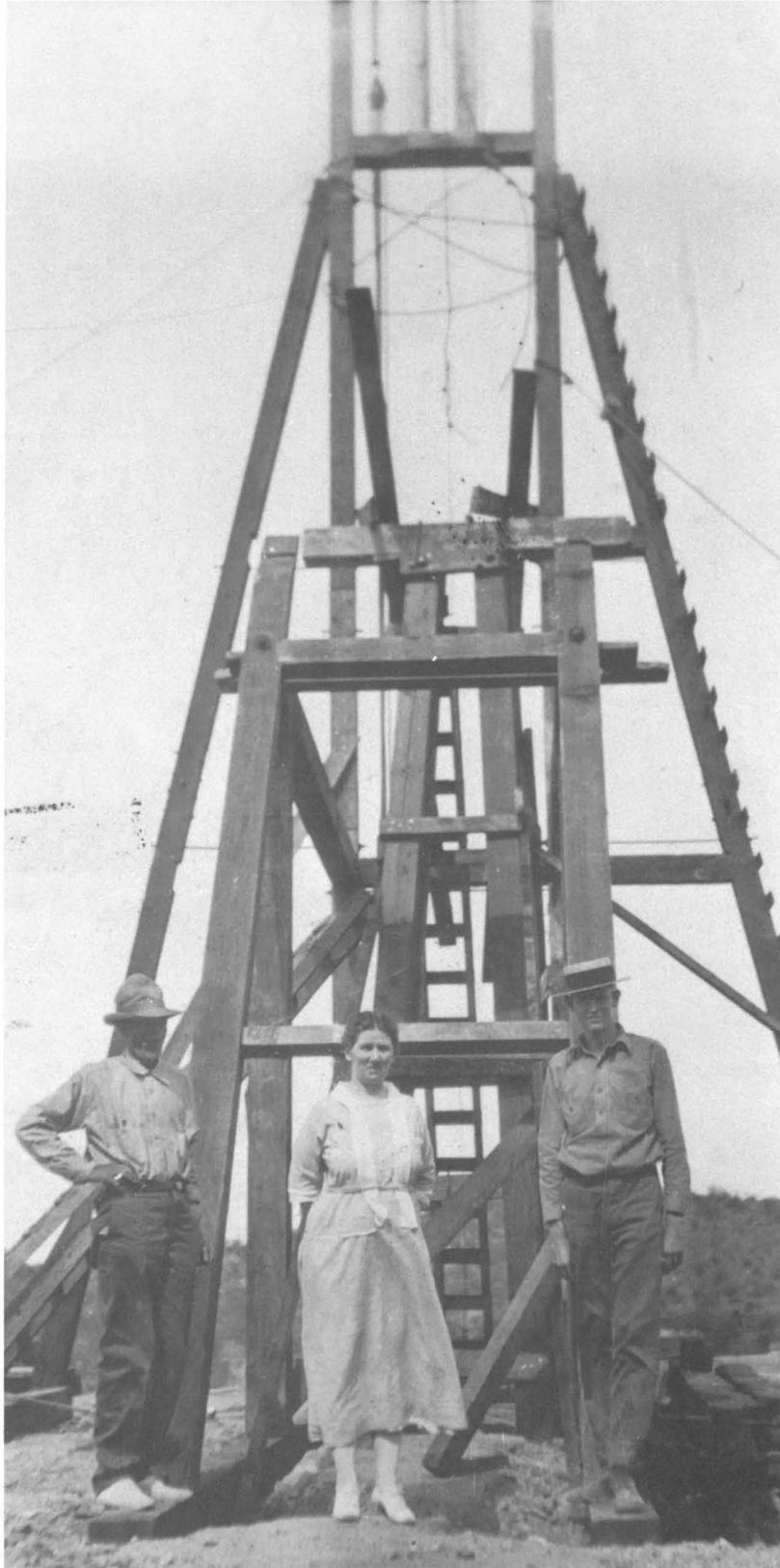
Nellie Cashman, the miner's "angel," c. 1865. Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/Tucson.



Redbird gold-silver mine, Cochise County, c. 1916. Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society #29494.



Bismark Gold Mining-Milling Co. Claims. Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/Tucson #29498.



Headframe at the Roadside copper mine, Pima County.  
Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/Tucson #55816.



Wash day at the Pinto Creek Mine, Gila County, 1902. The woman is Mrs. Delany—"a nice educated woman." Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/Tucson #62407.



Dick Stevens, shift boss at the Summit copper mine, Bellevue (Gila County), with his wife. Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/Tucson #61122.



Johnson Camp School (Cochise County), 1915. Irene (Rena) Wien, teacher.  
Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/Tucson #28675.



Family picnic, c. 1900. Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society #62303.



Nellie Lemons Pearce, 1907. Postmistress of Johnson, Arizona.  
Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/Tucson #61034.



Louise Lowe at Schultz (later renamed Tiger).  
Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/Tucson #40860.



Target practice in the Santa Rita Mountains, c. 1907.  
Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/Tucson #62883.



Relaxing at Sabino Canyon near Tucson. Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/  
Tucson #62885.



A formal picnic in the Santa Rita Mountains, 1907. Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/Tucson #62882.



Ore car at the bottom of Longfellow Incline, Greenlee County. Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/Tucson, Henry and Albert Buehman Memorial Collection #B91357.



Family at Longfellow copper mine, Greenlee County. Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/Tucson, Henry and Albert Buehman Memorial Collection #B91357.



Preparing to enter mine adit. Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/Tucson, Henry and Albert Buehman Memorial Collection #B109434.

From the *Tombstone Daily Prospector*. . .

## **A Rich Strike**

### **☛ Twelve Inches Of Ore Worth One Dollar A Pound.**

February 13, 1889

Van Burt is as lucky a bundle of good humor as ever walked in shoe leather. He enjoys life as few of us do, and this fact probably accounts for dame fortune smiling upon him, while the great majority of us never meet her half way, and never get a glance at her smiling countenance.

Van was induced by some hook or crook to take a half interest in a seam not far from the Emerald. He has owned it for a year or more, in partnership with Pearson of Tucson.

While in San Francisco Van received a dispatch from William Harris, who was working the mine, that they had encountered a rich body of ore while drifting on the 100 level. Van telegraphed back to send samples by express. Harris did so, and the result of the assays was such a stunner to Van that he immediately sent another dispatch to Harris to hoist no more ore, and keep the news of the strike from the public till he arrived.

The result of several assays was an average of 4,032 ounces of silver per ton.

This strike occurred on the 4th of last month. Van arrived in Tombstone the day before yesterday, and at once went to the mine. The sight that met his eyes was a stunner. In the face of the drift between ten and twelve inches of the same rich ore which had been sampled by him in Frisco met his gaze, while on one side lay a pile of ore which had been taken down but not hoisted to the surface.

Van could keep the matter a secret no longer and picking up some of the rock in a sack took it to Well's Fargo & Co's office and soon the news of the find was noised about. Van purchased a hundred sacks and sent them up to the mine. The ore will be sorted, sacked and shipped to San Francisco—the richest of it by express, the balance by freight. It is estimated that there are 50 tons of ore in sight worth \$1,000 a ton. Those who have seen it say that it is the richest strike ever made in the camp and the extent remains to be seen.

Outside of the immediate results the strike has had the good effect to start the owners of property in this section of the district to work their claims and more news of a similar nature may be expected from other claims in this vicinity in the near future.

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