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item 2

Wyoming Mining District, Elko County, Nevada  
Frank W. Lewis, Reno, Nevada

2470 0002

The Wyoming Mining District was organized in 1869. The original minutes of the Miner's meeting were lost but the first deed of record in the County Court House in Elko was December 6, 1869, when James Tate sold to A. M. Cowan 50 feet undivided in McDonald lead.

Only one claim and one mill site were brought to Patent in the Wyoming District, the Mardis Lode and Mardis Patented claim, U. S. Survey Number 37 A, and B.

During the patenting of the claim it was necessary to reform the District and formalize the proceedings. A Miner's meeting was called November 3, 1880, whereat Hugh Martin "deposes and says that he is the Recorder of the Wyoming Mining District, County of Elko, State of Nevada. That he is the keeper of the record and record books of said Wyoming District."

"....On motion of H. G. Catlin, Hugh Martin was nominated for Recorder of Wyoming District to succeed G. W. Mardis, late Recorder, deceased."

R. M. Catlin was a surveyor for many years in Elko County and Hugh Martin was one of the early settlers, and in fact Crystal Creek is now called Martin Creek after him, because of his homestead in the area.

The story of the murder of G. W. Mardis has become a lore in Elko County and is one told in many publications. He was one of the first prospectors in the District. One can reconstruct some of the first Miner's rules of the area after the manner in which the Mardis Mine was located. The mine was located by G. W. Mardis, 400 feet, Will M. Rogers, 200 feet, John O. Brooks, 200 feet, and A. D. Meacham, 200 feet. Among the early rules of many mining camps was that the discovery of a lode was entitled to twice the length of the others, so if 200 feet was the rule, the original

locator would get 400 feet and his associates entitled to only half that amount, 200 feet, each. The mine was located June 1st and recorded June 8, 1871, by Will W. Rogers, Deputy Recorder, Wyoming District, Bruno City, Nevada.

There has been some confusion as to where the Wyoming Mining District is and even as to the location of Bruno City. One of the "Quickie Picture histories of Mining Camps" have erroneously placed the City of Bruno on the Bruneau River.

The location of the Mardis Mine was fixed in the Surveyor's notes, who placed Monument No. 1 in the Mardis Mining District (not to be confused with the Wyoming District), as follows: "Charleston, Elko Co., Nevada, June 21, 1898...Relative to the establishment of U. S. Location Monument No. 1 in the Mardis Mining District.....A prominent peak (now called Cornwall Mountain), pointed out to me as lying southerly from the Mardis Mining claim, Lot No. 37 A in the Wyoming Mining District and on the westerly side of Cornwall Basin, bears N. 71° 25' W., about 8 miles." On February 23, 1875, Henry G. Catlin sold 187½ feet in the Last Chance lode. The claim description was noted as "situated in the Island Mountain Mining District, formerly known as Wyoming District."

There are numerous other references that will fix the location of the Wyoming District as that of what is now known as the Island Mountain Mining District. Martin Creek was then known as Crystal Creek, including that part now known as Penrod Creek, and Rosebud Mountain was then called Silver Mountain. The Gold Creek Ranger Station is now located about on "Brown's Mill", which is just below the Mardis Mill Site.

The City of Bruno was located along Crystal Creek near section 28 T. 45 N., R. 56 E. M. D. B. M. Hundreds of lots were sold in the town in its brief rush of expectancy, and the census of 1870 listed a population of 122 persons. By 1880 the population had dwindled to 20. Where as Sonora Hicks

listed his occupation as "miner", his wife listed her's with a less permanent connotation, declaring for herself, "keeping tent".

The Mardis Silver Company was formed in Chicago, Illinois, and 20 thousand shares of stock, par value 100 dollars each was subscribed to with its first meeting being held January 7, 1875. G. W. Mardis and others had sold the Mardis Mine to the Mardis Silver Company.

The company proceeded to locate the Mardis Mill site in 1875, whereupon they built the Mardis Mill on the west bank of Crystal Creek. By 1876 the mine and mill were sold for various liens to H. G. Catlin. H. G. Catlin in turn sold the mine and mill. R. M. Catlin was the U. S. Deputy Surveyor in charge of patenting the claim.

D. M. Kinney of the U. S. Geological Survey has mapped the area of the Mardis Mine as "slate, limestone, chert and quartzite, locally metamorphized to hornfels and taconite along contact with granodiorite and quartzite." (Bulletin 54, Geology and Mineral Resources of Elko County, Nevada).

The ores are contained in veins, and in quartzites which have replaced under a shale cap, like so many of the other silver deposits in Nevada. The ores are of interest for their silver, gold, lead and copper content.

The principle improvements on the Mardis lode\* at the time of patent were: one shaft, 30 feet deep, one shaft, 60 feet deep, and 430 feet of tunnels with 200 feet of drifts from same. The tunnel mouth is on the southwest slope of Silver Mountain (Rosebud) and runs easterly in under the lode.

\* Diamond Jim Mine