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NYE COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT
HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY

INVENTORY OF: Tonopah
Manhattan
Round Mountain
Rhyolite

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ROUND MOUNTAIN: AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW, 1906-1940

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The central Nevada mining community of Round Mountain is situated on the eastern side of Nye County's Big Smoky Valley, in the shadow of the Toquima Range. It is ten miles north of Manhattan, approximately midway on the road between Tonopah, to the south, and Austin, to the north. The community takes its name from a bare, dome-shaped hill which rises some 700 feet above the valley floor, and at whose northern base, near the mouths of Jefferson and Shoshone Canyons, the townsite is located.

Born amidst a gold excitement in the year 1906, Round Mountain was one of the leading "satellite" camps generated by Tonopah and Goldfield, those spectacular instant cities of south-central Nevada whose emergence during 1900-1904 commenced both the state's twentieth century mining boom and the closing chapter in the story of the Western mining frontier. The recorded production of the Round Mountain mining district, through 1940, was \$7,834,828 (gross yield), far below that of Tonopah or Goldfield for those years, but above that posted by Rhyolite, Manhattan or Rawhide in the same period.

As was the case with many other mining centers, the Round Mountain district's mineral deposits experienced several "discoveries" before that which captured the public's attention and led to creation of the town. Briefly, during the 1870's, the silver mining camp of Jefferson thrived about 7 miles northeast of Round Mountain in Jefferson Canyon. After the camp faded before the end of the decade, a number of Smoky Valley ranchers continued to prospect the area in their spare time. Two of these were John F. Stebbins (1868-?) and his brother-in-law Frank W. Dixon (1852-1920), both of whom went into the cattle business at Jefferson Canyon in 1890. They established ranches at the mouths of Jefferson and Shoshone Creeks, and in the process acquired virtually all the water rights in the future Round Mountain district.

Stebbins located placer claims in Jefferson Canyon the year after his arrival, but did not work them, and in 1901 he found gold in the canyon and on the north side of Round Mountain (the Saddleback claim). However, no rich deposits were uncovered and there was no rush of fortune seekers to Round Mountain or Jefferson Canyon. Over the next four years, Stebbins, Dixon and members of their families continued to prospect and locate claims. At some point, as early as December, 1902, or as late as 1905, they made an agreement with a young mining entrepreneur from Austin, Louis D. Gordon (1885-1964), whereby he financed their exploration work in exchange for having claims they filed bonded to him. It was probably a Stebbins and Dixon claim that Gordon and a crew of men were working in Jefferson Canyon during June, 1905.

It was in late February, 1906, that Stebbins and Dixon located the Sunnyside 1, 2 and 3 claims near the site of an old excavation on the south side of Round Mountain. The ground had been examined and located several years earlier by two other ranchers of the valley, Francis "Frank" Gendron (1848-1935) and George W. Schmittlein (1853-1943)- who by some accounts was Louis Gordon's uncle, but they had allowed the claim to run out, either because they had received a faulty assay report or because they hadn't recognized gold at the site. The three Sunnyside claims, which may have been "relocated" at Gordon's request, were bonded to him.

Early in March, just a few days after Stebbins and Dixon had made their locations, two novice prospectors from Manhattan, Luther "Slim" Morgan and former railroad mechanic L. R. Scott, both of whom had been grubstaked by C. R. Scott of Manhattan (in association with Tonopah mining engineer Arthur H. Elftman), discovered promising "float" at the foot of Round Mountain. The two men climbed up to find the parent ledge and came across Gendron and Schmidtlein's weathered excavation. Noticing gold, they excitedly filed a claim (the Los Gazabo) on the ground and, as the "discoverers of Round Mountain", brought the district to the attention of the mining world. The euphoria of Morgan and the Scotts didn't last long, however, for they were informed almost immediately that the Los Gazabo was situated wholly within the boundaries of the Gordon-Stebbins-Dixon Sunnyside claims. While prospectors flocked to the area and mining promoters and investors - chiefly from Goldfield, whose mines were just beginning to produce investment capital, but also from Tonopah, Manhattan and other places - rushed to get in on the "ground floor" of development, a major legal fight loomed over the first locations.

Court battles, which would surely have delayed development of Round Mountain's mines, were averted when a group of Goldfield investors, headed by prominent mining operators J. P. Loftus (1856-?) and James R. Davis (1872-?) and including John P. Sweeney and banker John S. Cook, purchased the Sunnyside claims. In a move designed to achieve compromise among the contestants, the Goldfield group paid them a reported \$80,000 and one fourth of the capital stock in a company that was to be formed to work the claims; presumably the money and stock was divided among Gordon, Stebbins, Dixon, Morgan and the Scotts to their mutual satisfaction. The corporation that emerged from this deal, with title to the Sunnyside and other claims, was the Round Mountain Mining Company. Its president was James Davis, while Louis Gordon became vice president, and J. P. Loftus and C. R. Scott two of the directors.

The Round Mountain Mining Company began operations in April, being followed closely by dozens of other corporations formed to exploit claims in the district. Although a number of these latter companies, such as the Round Mountain Red Top Mining Company and the Round Mountain Antelope Mining Company. The principal producing mines were the Sunnyside (Round Mountain Mining Company), Fairview (Fairview Round Mountain Mines Company), Daisy (Round Mountain Daisy Mining Company), Blue Jacket (Round Mountain Mining Company), and Sphynx (Round Mountain Sphinx Mining Company). The Sunnyside (with the deepest vertical shaft in the district - 900 feet) was, by far, the most important producer, with the Fairview (whose ore was extracted from a tunnel in the side of Round Mountain) holding a respectable second place, and the Daisy, Blue Jacket and Sphynx trailing well behind. The Sunnyside had a substantial mill on Shoshone Creek (begun as a two stamp "experimental" affair in the summer of 1906 and eventually enlarged to a capacity of 100 tons per day), while the Moore and Chapman mill, also on Shoshone Creek, and the first large stamp mill (20 ton capacity) to begin operating in the district, was erected primarily to treat ore from the Fairview mine. The Sphynx (which boasted the district's first hoisting plant by August, 1906), Daisy and possibly a few other mines had smaller mills.

The discovery of gold at Round Mountain had occurred just as a boom was getting underway at Manhattan, the gold camp to the south. The more spectacular, although slightly less productive, mines of Manhattan would always overshadow those of Round Mountain, but Round Mountain benefitted, nonetheless, because of its proximity to the older camp. The Manhattan boom had drawn investors into the immediate area, most from Goldfield and Tonopah, and, consequently, practically all the Round Mountain

district's first investors and operators were also local. The most important of these came from Goldfield, while a good many others hailed from Tonopah and, to a lesser extent, from Manhattan. Among the prominent Goldfield figures involved in Round Mountain mining, besides Loftus, Davis, Sweeney and Cook of the Round Mountain Mining Company, were Judges Lewis H. Rogers and W. A. Sherman, mine operators Gurney Gordon (no relation to Louis) and Richard L. Colburn, future Congressman Charles R. Evans (1866-1954), stockbroker John T. Donnellan, merchant William C. Ish, promoter A. H. Mayne, and the publisher of the Goldfield Sun, Lindley C. Branson (1865-1946). (Branson, who, with many others, had followed the advance of the mining frontier from Alaska and the Yukon to Nevada, and who would later represent White Pine County in the Nevada legislature, was better known as the proprietor of the Tonopah Daily Sun.)

Notable among the Tonopahans at Round Mountain were Key Pittman (1872-1940), who had been chasing gold since his days as district attorney in Nome, Alaska, and who would represent Nevada in the U.S. Senate from 1913 to 1940; Vail M. Pittman (1883-1964), Key's brother and a future Nevada governor (1945-1951), who was overseer of operations at Key's Round Mountain placer lease in 1911; Cada C. Boak (1870-1954), a mining figure, highway promoter and future Nye County assemblyman (intermittantly between 1927 and 1951); George A. Bartlett (1869-1951), an attorney who was elected to Congress (1907-1911) and later became a famed Reno "divorce judge"; E. B. Cushman, a banking and mining figure, who had been sheriff of Esmeralda County; George B. Thatcher (1882-1946), future Nevada attorney general and associate of the powerful George Wingfield; Herman Zadig (1847-?), a veteran stockbroker who had gained his first fame and wealth on the Comstock; Hugh H. Brown (1872-1930), a prominent attorney; Arthur G. Raycraft, a well-known bank official; Zebezer "Zeb" Kendall (1875-1954), who was a banker and mining man; and Gilbert C. Ross (1878-1947), a former Comstock educator who became lieutenant governor of Nevada (1911-1915) and, in the 1930's, state administrator for the Works Progress Administration.

A few out-of-state investors, operators and mining company officials stand out for the breadth or impact of their activities. Among these are George W. Thatcher, George B. Keyes, a "prominent government contractor" of Boston; and James M. Cordray and Arthur G. Kullberg, officers in San Francisco based companies.

Although northern California investors did become interested in Round Mountain, their involvement was relatively slight. It may have been this circumstance, coupled with the camp's initial heavy reliance on locally available capital, that permitted Round Mountain to weather, virtually untouched, the effects of the April 18, 1906, San Francisco earthquake, a disaster which hurt some Nevada mining centers by interrupting the flow of investment money required for development. Also, Round Mountain development in the months following the earthquake was financed, more than previously, by investors from Los Angeles, Denver, Salt Lake City, and such eastern states as Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New York. The amount of out-of-state capital at Round Mountain increased as non-Nevada interests gradually bought out a number of the original locators and small operators in the district.

Almost overnight, following Morgan and Scott's initial discovery, three towns appeared in the new mining district. The principal one, on the northeast side of Round Mountain, was known initially as Gordon and it developed on the Round Mountain townsite, which owner Louis Gordon had platted in April. The name Round Mountain was almost universally adopted for this community by its residents, although the postoffice there, established in June, 1906, retained the name Gordon until April 1, 1907. Another camp

developed on Shoshone Creek, across which the Shoshone townsite was laid out, and still another, Brooklyn, appeared on a townsite near the mouth of Jefferson Canyon. Neither of the latter towns developed to the extent Round Mountain did, in part because they were subject to periodic flooding, and they languished while their more prosperous neighbor attained stability.

Because Round Mountain had experienced only a moderate rush during the excitement over its first gold discoveries, the camp was not overbuilt, over-specified in, or overpopulated during its early stages of development, and thus escaped many of the undesirable phenomena associated with the "boom and bust" mining camp cycle. Probably never achieving a population of even 600 people (400-600 were there two months after gold was discovered), Round Mountain saw the evolution of a stable, relatively low-volume local mining industry that was able not only to support the individuals and businesses that came to the district, but to encourage moderate growth. Even during the flush times of Round Mountain's mild boom in the spring and summer of 1906, when the future was so bright there was optimistic talk of a railroad connection (something that would never arrive), some mining companies were advertising for additional workers.

Virtually all of the commercial and non-residential buildings on the Round Mountain townsite were constructed during 1906-1908, with most appearing in the first two of these years. Most residential construction, too, occurred during the first three years of the camp, though residences were occasionally built in succeeding years. Like the commercial structures in town, the homes in Round Mountain were of wood frame construction. Only a few adobe houses - and metal-sided mills in the background - interrupted the monotony of Round Mountain's geometrically arranged stick architecture.

Main Street, particularly at the points where it was intersected by Stebbins and Mariposa Avenues, emerged as Round Mountain's commercial center. Some businesses and most of the town's homes were located on the streets that paralleled, on the northwest and southeast, the northeasterly running Main. Leading non-residential structures on Main Street included The Tarbell, a two-story edifice which, as presided over by proprietor Fred Tarbell, was Round Mountain's foremost hostelry, and Chester O. Olive's general store, whose relatively small confines embraced the offices of the Round Mountain Banking Corporation (until 1908) and the town's postoffice. Chester Olive was the cashier of the banking company, and he was serving as the local postmaster when he sold his store and left Round Mountain late in 1909.

In August, 1908, the Round Mountain Banking Corporation erected a building next door to Olive's store-postoffice and transferred its operations to the new structure. The community's first bank building was a one-story frame affair whose interior was "lined with pressed steel of fancy design" and furnished with fixtures from a defunct Manhattan bank. It opened its doors just three months before the corporation folded, due, it was stated, to heavy bank withdrawals, the failure of local mining companies to bank at home, and "other factors." The president of the corporation, Congressman George A. Bartlett, had resigned the preceding November, pleading the press of other duties.

Also prominent on Main Street were the Round Mountain Mercantile Company's building, which had been constructed in 1906 at the corner of Main and Stebbins, and whose proprietor was Fred H. Gove; the Ideal Restaurant and Lodging House; Millett, Shuppy & Myles' grocery; the Walker Saloon (opened in May, 1908); the Overland Hotel of "Coffee" John Harris, which early in 1908 underwent extensive alterations and had a portico added over the entrance; and the clubhouse of the Round Mountain Athletic Club, whose doors opened just in time for a St. Patrick's Day celebration in 1908. Put up by local contractor C. F. Rice, the building faced Main Street for 30 feet,

extended back 60 feet, and contained a "gymnasium." Right beside the clubhouse was the hall of the Round Mountain Miners Union (Local 247 of the Western Federation of Miners), which had been organized in June, 1906; with H. H. Connors as its first president and more than 30 charter members. The union hall, which appears to have been built in 1906 or 1907 on townsite lots donated by Louis Gordon, the Round Mountain Mercantile store, and the athletic clubhouse served as locations for dances, civic and fraternal celebrations, political meetings, and the gatherings of such local cultural organizations as the Round Mountain Social Club and the Round Mountain Orchestra, under the leadership of George Louage.

The principal athletic interest of Round Mountainites was baseball. The town's team, when at home, played such rivals as the Manhattan nine on a makeshift field laid out in the desert below town, near where a scattering of Indian huts had grown up close to the townsite.

Other significant non-residential structures of Round Mountain were the Miners Union Hospital (in existence by 1908); the Round Mountain School, a 20x30 foot structure with three large windows and a seven foot front porch, which was built by John H. McLain for \$1,500, and which opened in September, 1908, for 29 students who previously had attended classes in borrowed quarters; the Morse Investment Company building, location of the modest Round Mountain public library until March, 1909, when it was moved to Dr. Louis Breitstein's Pioneer Drug Company building on Main Street; and the office and printing plant of the town's only newspaper, the Round Mountain Nugget. This weekly journal was established on June 2, 1906, by Henry J. Bartlett and James W. Travers, with the former as editor. Bartlett, who soon emerged as sole publisher of the Nugget, energetically "boosted" Round Mountain, while at the same time prominently joining in its mining ventures as an investor and mining company official, and in a citizens' movement to keep undesirable, labor-threatening elements ("Dagos," "Slavs," "Niggers," "Chinks," "Japs," etc.) out of the "white man's camp." Bartlett was one of Round Mountain's leading promoters until 1909, when he sold the Nugget to W. H. Bohannon and moved to San Francisco. By that date it had become obvious to him and everyone else that Round Mountain, even though it was a steady producer, would never be another Tonopah or Goldfield, and would never make millionaires of its champions. (The Round Mountain Nugget folded in 1910, after Bohannon had been followed by two other editors. No other newspaper replaced it.)

One notable addition to Round Mountain's collection of commercial structures off Main Street was the office of the Round Mountain Water Company, which was located on Mariposa Avenue, between Main and Market. It was finished in September, 1908, just as a 15 inch water main was being completed through the center of town by the water company, which had been organized earlier in the year by local placer mine operator Thomas Wilson and two Tonopah men, William Forman and S. K. Smith. The pipeline, which, it was declared, would carry water from Shoshone Creek and three stone and cement-lined reservoirs, was filled by the end of September, and connections to buildings were made under the supervision of San Francisco plumber Edgar N. Snook.

In not obtaining a water system until two and a half years after its birth, Round Mountain was extremely fortunate that it did not experience any major fires. The community had a volunteer fire department almost from its inception, but without a pressurized water supply the firemen would have had little chance of stopping or controlling any sizeable fire in the business district, where the buildings were close together or actually adjoining. The town was destined to suffer more from floods than fires. Flash floods from Jefferson and Shoshone Creeks periodically swept through the townsite, causing extensive damage to buildings and personal property. Among

the worst torrents were two that struck later in the town's history, on August 13, 1930, and August 30, 1938.

The addition of the water system in 1908 nearly completed Round Mountain's complement of public services and utilities. Already there was a postoffice, a school, a library, and a hospital, there was a constable, a justice of the peace, and a fire department. Churches, however, were scarce; anyone wanting to attend services had to journey to a neighboring town or wait for traveling ministers who held meetings in whatever rooms or halls were made available. Communication with the outside world was effected by stage lines (and one "auto stage line"), which had daily runs to Austin, Belmont, Manhattan and Tonopah, and by the Austin-Manhattan Telephone Company, whose telephone and telegraph lines were strung into the community soon after its establishment. The final "basic" community service to appear in Round Mountain was one of the most vital: electrical power. It wasn't until late May, 1909, that the Nevada-California Power Company completed a line to Round Mountain from Millers, via Manhattan.

The most significant commercial and public structures of Round Mountain have been discussed, but there were dozens of others, usually containing offices and businesses commonly found in the mining towns of Nevada and other Western states. Besides the Round Mountain Mining Stock Exchange, of which Louis Gordon was president, there were general merchandise and grocery stores, laundries, lodging houses, cafes and restaurants, livery stables and corrals, a bakery, meat markets, drug and stationery stores, lumber yards, mining supply stores, barber and blacksmith shops, an ice and cold storage company, a wholesale liquor store, and, of course, the ubiquitous saloons. Notable among these in the early days of the camp were the Nugget Bar, the Sunnyside Club, the Palace, the Second Class Saloon, and the Round Mountain Club, which was opened in June, 1908, by Luther "Slim" Morgan, who obviously hadn't gotten rich from his "discovery" of Round Mountain. (By this time Morgan's co-discoverer, L. R. Scott - "Little" Scott, to differentiate him from C. R. - had moved on to try his luck at Chafey, a mining camp to the north.)

The town's leading (and almost only) attorney, William R. Gibson (1859-1944), a former Coloradan and future Tonopahan who was also an official of several mining companies, apparently had an individual office building. This was not true of Round Mountain's early physicians. Louis I. Breitstein (1879-1933), who had been associated with San Francisco's German Hospital before coming to town, had his office in the Pioneer Drug Company store; he ran the store, sold stocks, and served as a mining company secretary in his spare time. Eugene K. Smith (1880-?) was the doctor for the Miners Union Hospital and had his office there, while Carl Gohlin, who arrived somewhat later than Breitstein and Smith, received his patients in a room at the Tarbell hotel.

Beyond its business and public buildings, Round Mountain possessed a sizeable number of private residences, most of them modest frame structures. These were occupied by the inhabitants of the town who didn't live in the rear or upstairs of the buildings in which their businesses were located. Several houses were erected by the enterprising John Stebbins, who sold them to newcomers during the early years of the camp.

By the time the town celebrated its third anniversary, it had, for all practical purposes, reached its fullest extent; it had been built up as much as it ever would be. In the decades that followed, some new buildings would appear, others would be moved away or destroyed, and others - most often houses - would be shifted on the townsite from one lot to another as they changed owners, but the community would not physically expand. Instead, it would change and, at times, be reduced.

While the Round Mountain community developed, the local mining industry, which created and supported the town, also grew, not only substantially increasing its

production but emerging in diverse forms. Initially, mineral extraction at Round Mountain had been by deep mining of lode deposits; by 1908 this type of activity was joined by hydraulic placer mining, which was conducted on a substantial scale at the base of Round Mountain, in gravel beds containing gold eroded from the slopes above. The hydraulic operations were largely responsible for a great increase in the district's gold output - a more than three-fold increase between 1907 and 1908, alone. They also undoubtedly helped Round Mountain weather the effects of the national financial panic of late 1907, an event which had considerable adverse impact on many other Nevada mining centers.

Round Mountain's placer gold was discovered less than seven months after Morgan and Scott's publicized Los Gazabo find. One day in mid-September, 1906, Thomas Wilson (1868?-1940), a native Norwegian and another erstwhile Alaska gold seeker who had drifted south to Nevada, was driving burros between Manhattan and Round Mountain when he recognized gold in some gravel deposits near the mountain. Without disclosing his discovery, Wilson secured surface leases on the ground, which was owned wholly or largely by the Round Mountain Mining Company and the Round Mountain Combination Mining Company, and set a crew to work. Soon he was reported to be "cleaning up \$800 to \$1,000 a day" by "drywashing" the gravels - running them first over screens, which filtered out large particles, and then over a cloth-covered frame, which was agitated by puffs of air from a bellows so that a concentrate of gold, sand, and fine gravel was caught on riffles arranged across the face of the frame. Because of his success in the Round Mountain gravel beds, Thomas Wilson acquired the lasting nickname "Drywash." Wilson proceeded to expand his placer operations, constructing additional drywashers, and shortly he was joined by other leasers in the gravel deposits.

Although drywashing proved profitable, it was obvious that more of the placer deposits could be worked, and greater profits realized in a shorter time, if hydraulic mining methods were employed. Wilson became interested in using large hydraulic hoses or "giants", but a great quantity of water was needed for these and he lacked funds to acquire such an amount and transport it to the mining site. The problem was overcome, according to former Round Mountain mining engineer George I. Barnett, when local mining promoter Cy E. Johnson got a group of Boston capitalists to acquire control of the Round Mountain Daisy Mining Company. Johnson, along with Henry J. Bartlett and Wilson, then persuaded the easterners to finance hydraulic mining operations through the Daisy company. The Round Mountain Power and Water Company was then formed, again according to Barnett, for the purposes of acquiring water rights and building a pipeline to the gravel deposits. Using Daisy company money, Round Mountain Power and Water purchased water rights to Jefferson and Shoshone Creeks from Stebbins and Dixon.

With financing from the Daisy company, and with help from Loftus, Davis and other mining men, Bartlett and Wilson next organized the Round Mountain Hydraulic Mining Company as an operating company, and that firm leased, in exchange for a 10% royalty on gross production and a supply of water for the Sunnyside mill, all the gravel deposits of the Round Mountain Mining Company through 1914.

It was decided to initiate hydraulicking on ground leased from the Combination company, and a pipeline between Jefferson Creek and that place was completed in October, 1907. The flood season had ended by that time, so it wasn't until April, 1908, that operations began. The results during the first hydraulicking season were disappointing, probably due to the inexperience of the operators and inadequate knowledge of the make-up of the gravel deposits.

Contrary, however, to what production figures might indicate, placer mining activity in the period 1907-1908 was very important to Round Mountain's development.

for it helped the camp ride smoothly through the Panic of 1907. The economic potential of the gravel deposits had already been demonstrated by drywashing, and, thus, the preparations for large-scale working of the gravels was sufficient to keep needed investment capital at Round Mountain. Already in good financial shape because of steady production and relatively little speculation, the camp was even able to advance its mining development during late 1907 and 1908, while growth in such better known mining meccas as Tonopah, Goldfield and Rhyolite was retarded or even halted. (The preparations for hydraulicking also benefitted Round Mountain by enabling the camp to obtain its water system. Thomas Wilson's water company, which extended its pipeline to the townsite in 1908, certainly would not have appeared but for the acquisition of water and construction of a pipeline for the "giants.")

In 1909 hydraulic operations were transferred to Round Mountain Mining Company property and were successful, the increased production helping to boost the district's annual output to its highest level yet - a gross yield of \$422,601.

By 1910 the Daisy company, the principal financier of the hydraulicking, had assumed control of operations from the Round Mountain Hydraulic Mining Company. The next year Daisy granted an operating lease to Key Pittman, who hired David Llewellyn as his superintendent and sent his younger brother, Vail, to Round Mountain to keep an eye on his interests. 1911 proved to be the most successful hydraulicking season thus far, with Pittman making a substantial profit even after royalties were paid to the Daisy and Round Mountain Mining companies. After the season Pittman, who was preparing to run for the U.S. Senate, gave up his lease and it was granted to David Llewellyn, who operated profitably through 1914 - washing an average 700 yards of gravel per day, before moving his equipment to ground leased from the Blue Jacket company.

In 1915 the Round Mountain Mining Company decided to try its own hand at hydraulicking. The previous year the company had leased water rights on Jett Creek, which was located across Smoky Valley from Round Mountain, and during the spring of 1915 had hired the Western Pipe and Steel Company of San Francisco to construct a buried 15" pipeline (in the form of an inverted siphon) to its ground from Jett Canyon. Operations commenced in July.

James R. Davis stepped down as president of the Round Mountain Mining Company in 1916, and was succeeded by Louis Gordon, who had tried to oust Davis from his position as far back as 1909. Under Gordon's direction, the company stepped up its acquisition of neighboring mining properties. After obtaining the Daisy company's assets, which included water rights to Jefferson, Shoshone and Indian Creeks and the pipeline from Jefferson Creek, the Jefferson pipe was extended to the Round Mountain company's placer workings. Thereafter, water from both the Jefferson and Jett Creek lines was used to wash gravel in a single pit. Sometimes, as the pits got deeper, blasting was employed to break up rock so that it could be washed.

Gold production, from deep and placer mining operations, continued at a relatively high level through 1919, but slowed considerably during the 1920's, a period in which the Round Mountain Mining Company continued to absorb its competition until there were only five operating companies at Round Mountain. The population of Round Mountain decreased after its first lively years, but stabilized at a level high enough to insure the community's continued existence; in 1910 there were 362 residents, in 1920 there were 371, and in 1930, just as a new period of prosperity was beginning, there were 231.

The first half of the 1930's saw a return to the production levels (in dollar terms) of the pre-1920 years. In 1929 the active mining companies at Round Mountain had consolidated to form Nevada Porphyry Gold Mines, Inc. (Louis Gordon, president), and virtually all of the mining in the district was thereafter done by that company.

Following the cessation of deep mining by Nevada Porphyry in 1935, production in the district again declined, remaining minimal during the rest of the decade (except for 1939, when a gross yield of \$320,936 was recorded), and hitting a new low in 1940 - \$11,150 gross yield. Round Mountain's population in the latter year was 234, and it would decline to probably less than 100 in the 1960's as the domestic price of gold was kept low by government edict, and as several operators tried, without any great success, to revive mining in the district. It wasn't until the 1970's, with the arrival of the Smoky Valley Mining Division of the Copper Range and Louisiana Land and Exploration companies, and with a spectacular increase in the market price of gold, that a real mining revival occurred and Round Mountain began, once more, to experience substantial growth in its population and built environment.

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The history of mining at Round Mountain is capably discussed in George I. Barnett, "Hydraulic Mining at Round Mountain, Nevada" (1969). Barnett was a mining engineer at Round Mountain, 1910-1917, and his manuscript narrative in the Nevada Historical Society, Reno, examines the early development of the district and mining activity in general, as well as hydraulic placer mining. Other important works dealing with Round Mountain mining are Victor E. Kral, "Mineral Resources of Nye County, Nevada," University of Nevada Bulletin, vol. XLV, No. 3 (January, 1951). Geology and Mining Series No. 50; William O. Vanderburg, "Placer Mining in Nevada," University of Nevada Bulletin, vol. XXX, No. 4 (May 15, 1936), Bulletin of Nevada State Bureau of Mines and Mackay School of Mines; Henry G. Ferguson, "The Round Mountain District," in U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 725. Contributions to Economic Geology, 1921. Pt. 1 (1922); Francis Church Lincoln, Mining Districts and Mineral Resources of Nevada (Reno: Nevada Newsletter Publishing, 1923; reprinted, Verdi: Douglas McDonald, 1970; and Bertrand F. Couch and Jay A. Carpenter, "Nevada's Metal

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Biographical information on individuals involved with Round Mountain's development can be found in such publications as Bessie Beatty, Who's Who in Nevada (Los Angeles: Bessie Beatty, 1907); Arthur V. Buel, Notable Nevadans: Snap-Shots of Sagebrushers Who are Doing Things (Reno, 1910); Alfred H. Dutton, Notable Nevadans in Caricature (n.p., 1915); Alfred H. Dutton, A. L. Lovey and Johnson, Cartoons and Caricatures of Men Who Made Good in Nevada (Salt Lake City: A. H. Dutton and A. L. Lovey, 1907); Boyd Moore, Persons in the Foreground (n.p., 1915); Sketches of the Inter-Mountain States . . . 1847-1909. Utah, Idaho, Nevada (Salt Lake City: Salt Lake Tribune, 1909); Samuel P. Davis, ed., History of Nevada, 2 vols. (Reno: Elms Publishing Company, 1913); James G. Scrugham, ed., Nevada: A Narrative of the Conquest of a Frontier Land, 3 vols. (Chicago: American Historical Society, 1935); and regional and national Who's Who publications.

Additional sources of information are U. S. census reports for 1900-1940 (published volumes and the Soundex index for 1900); R. L. Polk and Company directories for the state of Nevada, 1907-1908, 1912-1913 and 1914-1915; telephone directories for Round Mountain; postal histories of Nevada; U.S. Geological Survey topographical maps; township plats, tax records and other materials in the Nye County Recorder's office, Tonopah; photographs and miscellaneous information in the information, prints, and manuscript files of the Nevada Historical Society, Reno.