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STATE OF NEVADA

No. 41

Box C. UNIVERSITY STATION

Bureau of Mines

MACKAY SCHOOL OF MINES
RENO, NEVADA

11/3/82

309 ITEM
180THE HISTORY OF THE COMSTOCK MINES
JUSTICE

The Justice claim was staked in 1859 having 1600 feet along the Silver City branch of the Comstock Lode; being between the Silver Hill and the Keystone.

The Justice Company was incorporated in 1863 and started sinking a three compartment shaft each compartment being 4 feet by 5 feet in the clear. By 1864, the shaft had been sunk to a depth of 130 feet below the surface and a drift was driven south on the 100 foot level encountering good ore. By 1865, the mine had produced \$100,000 from above the 100 level, but the mine was closed down in 1865 due to the general depression of the camp and the reluctance of the stockholders to pay the assessments levied.

Work was resumed on the claim in 1869, when a tunnel was driven to cut the vein at a depth of 260 feet below the surface where 40 feet of vein material and 11 feet of ore yielding up to \$100 per ton was encountered. A steady production of ore was maintained from above the 260 level and from the Waller Defeat section of the claim while the shaft was being sunk to a depth of 400 feet below the surface. Drifts were driven north and south on the 300 and 400 levels encountering good ore and stoping operations were begun on these two levels.

By 1875, the shaft had been sunk to a depth of 800 feet below the surface changing from vertical to an incline at a depth of 400 feet. Drifts were driven north and south on the 600 and 800 foot levels encountering 50 feet of ore in the south drift on the 600 level.

Recorded production 1875; 7,297 tons, \$16,876; average per ton \$2.31

During 1876, ore was encountered on the 800 level and a steady production of ore was maintained from stopes on the 300, 400, 600 and 800 levels. The shaft was sunk to a depth of 1200 feet below the surface and a winze was sunk in "excellent" ore from the 800 to the 1000 foot level.

Recorded production 1876: 30,730 tons, \$856,591; average per ton \$27.87.

During the fiscal year ending April 30, 1877, the mine yielded 90,563 tons of ore yielding \$22.50 per ton, the cost of milling being \$12 per ton. A drift was driven south on the 1000 foot level encountering ore. A winze was sunk from the 1000 to the 1150 level in ore and a drift was driven south at this depth encountering ore assaying from \$30 to \$35 per ton. By the latter part of the year, the stopes on the upper levels were discontinued because the ore had become too low grade to mine and mill profitably.

How Varied?

Recorded production 1877; 127,379 tons, \$2,539,057; average per ton \$18.36.

During 1878, a winze was sunk from the 1150 to the 1300 foot level and drifts were driven north on both the 1000 and 1150 levels encountering low grade material. A winze was sunk below the 800 level from a point 220 feet north of the south line of the claim. After sinking the winze 60 feet a 2 foot streak of exceedingly rich ore was encountered. Drifts were driven south on both the 1150, to connect with the Silver Hill mine, and the 1300 levels encountering bunches of "fine" ore in both drifts.

Recorded production 1878; 12,252 tons, \$237,443; average per ton \$19.37.

During 1879, the Waller Defeat section of the claim was again prospected and good ore was found near the surface. The winze from the 1150 level was continued to the 1550 level at which depth a drift was driven south encountering streaks of good ore.

Recorded production 1879; 2,677 tons, \$27,649; average per ton \$10.33.

Recorded production 1873 to 1879 inclusive:

Average tons - 183,174

Gross Value - \$3,554,461.69

Average per ton - \$19.40

(Geology of Comstock Lode, G. F.

Becker, page 10)

During 1880, the winze from the 1150 foot level was continued to the 1650 level where drifts were driven west and southwest encountering bunches of ore.

During 1882, a drift was driven south on the 2100 level from the Alta mine in a fruitless search for ore. The lower levels of the mine were flooded in 1884 and work in the upper levels of the mine was begun.

During 1885 and 1886, a small and erratic production of low grade ore was made from the old stopes on the upper levels of the mine.

From 1887 to 1890 inclusive, drifts were driven north and south on the 490 and 570 levels and a ~~raise~~ was put up above the 490 level encountering two feet of good ore. The drift driven south on the 490 foot level encountered ore assaying from \$25 to \$30 per ton. Drifts were driven north and southeast on the 600 foot level encountering ore in both drifts. Drifts were driven north on both the 622 and 685 levels. The north drift on the 622 level encountered fair ore and a winze was sunk 200 feet below the level in good ore. A drift was driven north and a crosscut west, from the shaft, on the 822 level. During this period; approximately 30 tons of ore assaying from \$22 to \$30 per ton were produced daily from the 250, 300, 490 and 600 levels of the mine.

Recorded production 1889; 5,259 tons, \$88,996; average per ton \$16.92.

Recorded production 1890; 9,350 tons, \$196,564; average per ton \$21.02.

During 1891 and 1892, a winze was sunk below the south drift on the 90 foot level encountering fair ore and a crosscut was driven west from the drift. The winze from the main north drift on the 622 level was sunk to a depth of 1300 feet below the surface and a crosscut was driven east, from the bottom of the winze, encountering stringers of quartz. A drift was driven south from an east crosscut

and another north from a west crosscut on the 622 level and raises were put up from both drifts but no ore was found. Drifts were driven north and south on the 822 level encountering quartz assaying from \$15 to \$25 per ton 622 feet north of the shaft. A raise was put up from the north drift on the 822 foot level encountering spots of good ore and a drift was driven north from the raise in ore assaying from \$10 to \$15 per ton. The south drift on the 822 foot level encountered ore five feet in width and assaying from \$20 to \$25 per ton. During these two years approximately 25 tons of ore assaying \$22 per ton were produced weekly from the 822 level of the mine.

Recorded production 1891; 2,474 tons, \$39,519; average per ton \$15.97.

During 1893, two men by the names of Bock and Blowey located the Peerless claim and sank a shaft for 45 feet being in ore all the way. A drift was driven south 12 feet and another north 20 feet, from the bottom of the shaft, on the vein showing it to be from 1½ to 2 feet wide and assaying \$30 per ton. The Justice Company brought suit claiming trespass and won their case. Immediately after the suit was won, the Justice Company started the Blaine tunnel, 350 feet east of the Peerless shaft, to drive under the shaft. The tunnel cut 3 feet of \$20 ore at a depth of 45 feet below the surface after being driven 60 feet and the tunnel followed the vein, which struck east and west, for 56 feet. The tunnel then left the vein and cut it again 85 feet further on and the tunnel again followed the vein for 50 feet, the vein averaging \$5 per ton.

The Justice Company drove a drift north for 900 feet in the Woodville claim on the 490 foot level encountering ore and a crosscut was driven east on the north boundary line of the Woodville claim.

During 1894 and 1895, a stope was started in the Blaine tunnel 145 feet from the portal and about 30 tons of ore assaying \$35 per ton were produced weekly from this source. A raise was put up and a winze was sunk from the tunnel encountering from three to four feet of fair ore 62 feet below the tunnel level.

No report for 1896 and 1897 inclusive.

During 1898, some ore assaying \$40.10 per ton was obtained from

the 55 level. Annual report.

No report for the years 1899 to 1901 inclusive.

During 1902, a few tons of ore were produced weekly having a value of \$12.33 to \$24.00 per ton. The ore was obtained from the 370 and 600 levels working off the south drifts.

Production continued from the 370 level in 1903, 1904 and 1905.

Recorded production 1905; 2,110 tons, \$5,684; average per ton \$2.69.

Between 1906 and 1908, the lack of reports indicates a period of

inactivity.

During 1908, some work was done in the Blaine tunnel.

No reports for the period from 1909 to 1926 inclusive.

Total production, "Geology of the Comstock Lode", G. F. Becker,

	Tons	Gross Value	Average
1873 - 1879:			
	183,174	\$3,554,461.69	\$19.40
County Records			
Company & Leasers-		330,763.00	17.23
1889 - 1905. . . .	19,193	<u>45,811.00</u>	<u>12.02</u>
Leasers - 1922-1924.	<u>3,810</u>		
		\$3,931,036.00	\$19.07
Gross....	206,177		

Note: Production by Dayton Cons. Mines Co. followed in the 30's.

Justice Leasers - By years

Recorded production 1922; 250 tons, \$3,732; average per ton \$14.93.

Recorded production 1923: 3,457 tons, \$39,066; average per ton \$11.30.

Recorded production 1924: 103 tons, \$3,013; average per ton \$29.25.