

The Quartz Creek Miner

Printed to commemorate the Ymir's 101 Reunion

August 1, 1998



The Ymir General Hospital was built in 1909 on the north edge of town. Funding was provided by the provincial government and private subscriptions, including medical fees of \$1 per month deducted from the pay of mine employees. Charlotte Nicholson was the matron until the hospital burned down in 1929.

Courtesy of Salmo Museum

Judge McColl issues restraining order against locators

Nelson Miner, May 1, 1897

Upon the complaint of the Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway company, Justice McColl of the Supreme Court has issued a restraining order against the three Rossland men who recently located the town of Quartz Creek enjoining them from proceeding with the survey of the land, pending the settlement of the dispute.

During the past week a prominent Nelson lawyer has visited Quartz Creek on behalf of the locators.

It is said that the case will shortly be heard before the Supreme Court, but no arrangements have yet been made as to when and where the hearing will take place.

There is reason to believe that the contest will be long and bitterly contested. The locators claim they have a perfect right to acquire the land under the method they have pursued as the railway company has not complied with the terms under which the land was granted by the government. In the meantime, the town of Quartz Creek continues to flourish and promises to become a center of considerable importance.

1860 first mention of Quartz Creek

The earliest mention of people in the Salmon River valley is found in the BC Directory during the 1860's, when placer miners were recorded on Quartz Creek. In 1885, the Hall brothers and their party prospected on Wild Horse Creek. The Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway company laid track through the Salmon River valley in 1893, linking the United States with the Kootenay goldfields. Outcroppings of what would become the Ymir Mine were staked in 1895 and by 1896 the Dundee, Tamarack, Porto Rico and many others had also been staked. Miners were pouring into the area as the news spread.

In 1897 three Rossland men, Powell, Blake and Parker, laid claim to 620 acres around the old settlement of Quartz Creek with an eye to cashing in on the mining boom. The Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway quickly responded by applying for a restraining order against the locators and building a station and train siding north of Quartz Creek. The company claimed all the land along the tracks as part of the government grant they had been given to build the railway in 1893. Within two weeks the land was surveyed and 150 lots were sold.

Ymir . . .

1001 BC Place Names, Akrigg

In 1897 when D.C. Corbin president of the Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway put a station here, he named it after the nearby Ymir Range.

The famous geologist G.M. Dawson had earlier named these mountains after Ymir, according to Norse legend the father of giants.



Looking north to Ymir in 1897 with the Salmon River in the foreground.

Provincial Archive Photo

Deposit at Quartz Creek

Nelson Miner, May 1, 1897

A mining man from Quartz Creek who arrived in the city last night stated that the Nelson and Fort Sheppard railway company will shortly commence the erection of suitable depot buildings and the construction of a side track at Quartz Creek. President D.C. Corbin was there last Tuesday and decided that the station will be built as near the center of town as possible.



Mr. and Mrs. E.P. Anderson
First Arrived in 1897
photo courtesy of P. Anderson

The great Ymir Fire of 1904

By Edward L. Affleck

Nelson's distinctive courthouse, a noble edifice of native stone, projects our heritage of solid British justice. It is true that over the decades many interesting cases have been tried at the Supreme Court Assizes held in the confines of this building. It is also true that a number of controversial Supreme Court trials were held in Nelson's first courthouse, a Victorian Gothic frame building which was moved from the courthouse site to the foot of Ward Street, where for many years it served as Nelson's City Hall. In the Spring Assizes of 1905, two particularly interesting cases were tried in the old courthouse, one which impacted on the community of Ymir and the other which reverberated throughout the entire mining divisions of Nelson and Slocan. The case which set Ymir in turmoil was the trial for arson of pharmacist Thomas Henry Atkinson.

Today's motorist beetling south on Highway 6 towards Salmo may give a passing glance to a road sign indicating a turn-off to the settlement of Ymir but he is unlikely to invest five or ten minutes viewing the remnants of what at the beginning of this century was just about the only bright spot in the somewhat dismal mining economy of the Nelson, Slocan and Lardeau camps. In the immediate vicinity of Nelson, about the only mines working were those leased by the dynamic mining operator Monty Davys, who had a gift for profitable operation of mines which others had closed down in despair.

The Klondike gold rush of 1898 prompted a mass exodus of the hordes of miners, prospectors and entrepreneurs who had created boom times in the West Kootenay from 1895 to 1897. Unrest over the "8-hr day amendment" to B.C. mining legislation served to close most of the remainder of those mining camps which had not already folded up prior to 1900. Activity picked up shortly after in the gold-rich Rossland camp and in the copper belt over in the Boundary district around Greenwood, but a weak market for silver, lead and zinc kept much of the Slocan, Lardeau and Kootenay Lake area in the doldrums. The Silver King group on Toad Mountain, which had earlier seemed to offer an inexhaustible bed of rich copper-silver ore, was already showing signs of playing out. Nelson maintained



Town of Ymir 1904

her status as a distributing center for the West Kootenay, but the mining action shifted south to the goldbelt around Ymir and Salmo.

By 1904 Ymir boasted a population of about 1,100 souls. Those providing goods and services, numbering with their families about 350, resided in the village nestled on the west bank of the Salmon River, while the remaining 750, chiefly single men, boarded in the camps surrounding the village. Ymir did not lack enterprising merchants as well as medical, legal, assaying, undertaking and other professional services, but it must be admitted that First Avenue, Ymir's main street, did not offer an inspiring sight. The Palace Hotel stood demurely on Second Avenue, but the remainder of Ymir's hotels - the Cosmopolitan, the McLeod, the Miller, the Vancouver, the Ross House, the Windsor and the Ymir, hastily constructed false-front frame buildings all, loomed prominently on the First Avenue vista. Their capacious saloons reflected the insatiable thirst of the weary miners who descended on First Avenue after a monotonous shift underground in the various mining works in the surrounding hills.

Pool halls, cigar stores, barber shops and mining brokerage offices, similarly housed in rudimentary

buildings, also catered to the miners' demands. Each cigar store boasted a 'back room' which afforded the miner an opportunity of gambling away his day's wages at cards. Houses of prostitution? Yes indeed, but these did not line First Avenue! The 'Dew Drop Inn', located strategically on the east side of the river, in any event lacked the allure of Nelson's renowned fleshpots. The Great Northern Railway's 'Spokane Express' arriving in Nelson late Saturday afternoon would be jammed with miners boarding at Ymir for the 17-mile run down to the bright lights and the red lights. The same train leaving Nelson early Monday morning for the south would carry a somnolent, pauperized complement of miners bound for another week's grind underground in the Ymir camps. What money had not been spent on wine and women had likely been lost in one of the gambling dens situated in the back of cigar stores and hotels.

Ymir, in short, was a bustling mining settlement. It was certainly no haven of culture, but neither was it an unalloyed den of vice. Its saloons

were certainly prominent, but on the other hand, organized sports were available, a modest church had been erected away from First Avenue for a Presbyterian congregation thriving under the pastoral care of Rev. H. Young, a somewhat shambly one-room school built up the hill housed the school-aged children, a volunteer firefighting force had been formed, and a 50,000 gallon reservoir preserved the residents from the threat of a bathless existence. K.H. Steele, proprietor of a laundry and bathhouse, turned over as brisk a business as any of the saloons. Later improvements included a hospital located at the north entrance to the settlement as well as a Catholic church.

On the west side of First Avenue at the Willow Street intersection was situated one of Ymir's more up-and-coming business buildings, a three-story frame structure housing on the ground floor the post office as well as a stationary store and pharmacy operated by Thomas Henry (Harry) Atkinson. The second floor housed the Forester's Hall and the top floor, the living quarters of Henry Kearns. Harry Atkinson, a small slim mild-mannered man in his early thirties, had article as a druggist in Chelsey, Ontario and had brought his wife and baby daughter Gladys out to Ymir during the 1897 boom. In Ymir he had prospered, as much by his pawn-broking activities as by those in the pharmaceutical line. Much effort had to be expended to recover the debts owed to him by the free-spending miners, and as a result, he was not the most popular man in town.

His spouse was not particularly popular either. A large-boned, angular woman, Mrs. Atkinson never really accommodated herself to the life in a small mining town. She took no part in the Presbyterian church activities which formed a common bond for many of Ymir's married women. On occasion she would drop in for a cup of tea at the

home of an 'acceptable' matron and would invariably, in her voluble manner, inveigh against the stultifying environment of Ymir and express her desire to offer her young daughter Gladys the more promising surroundings of Victoria. "Harry has invested in a business property in Victoria," she would say, "and we plan to move there as soon as we can get a decent price for this good business he built up here. I tell him that if he can't sell out soon for a decent price, he should set a match to it."

Ymir might have continued to pay small regard to Mrs. Atkinson's grumbling, but around the middle of October 1904, both Henry Kearns, the third floor occupant of the Atkinson building, and S.H. Seaneay, proprietor of a produce and confectionery store in the adjacent building, noted that Atkinson had hauled several wagonloads of his stock to his house. Was he planning to set fire to the business block and collect the insurance on the building and stock? Kearns and Seaneay paid a visit to local Constable Fraser and urged him to keep a sharp lookout for any untoward activity, particularly on Hallowe'en night, which traditionally saw a lot of roistering from both Ymir's young fry and many of their elders who should have known better.

Inevitably a sharp wind and sleet struck Ymir on Hallowe'en, causing many of the pranksters to turn in relatively early. All was quiet by midnight but about 1:40 a.m. the fire alarm sounded. Fire was raging up the rear sides of both the Atkinson block and the adjacent Seaneay block. The fire quickly engulfed the living quarters of Henry Kearns as well as those of livery owner Billy Wilson, who, with his wife Effie, and children Rachel and Fergus, occupied the second storey apartment in the Seaneay building. These five individuals were left with nothing but a narrow escape for their lives in their night attire. Fanned by the wintry wind, the fire quickly swept along the west side of Block 19 of First Avenue, destroying the Ross House Hotel and other buildings and contents in its wake until the volunteer fireman succeeded in quelling it before it spread to Campbell's general store and the Ymir Hotel at the other end of the block. Firemen had responded promptly to the alarm turned in by Richard Keep, but on arriving at the firehall they discovered that all the nozzles for the fire hoses were missing. A frantic half-hour search uncovered the nozzles bunched together under the nearby printing office of the Ymir Herald.

A Hallowe'en prank by youngsters was at first thought to account for the missing nozzles which had permitted the fire to gain such a headway, but there were those who suspected it was a premeditated act of Atkinson. In the morning an efficient Constable Fraser proceeded to get a search warrant for Atkinson's house and in short order discovered a mass of stock and records stored in and under the dwelling.

Continued on page 3

YMIR HAS

Two daily trains

Two daily mails.

Telegraphic communications with the world.

GOOD HOTELS.

Good water supply

RICH MINES

Plenty of fuel.

Public School

Church.

Healthy climate.

Unexcelled scenery.

Unrivalled fishing.

Well Stocked Stores

Lumber mill.

NEWS NOTES

Mrs. Collins will be pleased to see any of her Ymir friends when in Erie. The B.C. Hotel is the place.

The front appearance of the Vancouver hotel has been greatly improved by a fresh coat of paint.

Throw away your old pipe and get a 3 B or G B D at Campbell's. He keeps an endless variety to chose from.

Dr. Forin of Nelson will visit Ymir regularly ever Tuesday. May be visited at the Cosmopolitan Hotel between 12 and 5 o'clock.

A fine steel fishing rod was raffled at Wolfords on Thursday evening. Charlie Anderson held the lucky number and all hands smoked his health. It will be off with the fish now.

Mr. J.D. Anderson of Trail, who was in surveying some claims on Porcupine Creek, returned to Trail on Tuesday.

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General Hardware



Original Ymir School,
built in 1897.
Barren hillsides in
background are the result
of a devastating forest fire
in the 1880's.

Iva Lindow photo
Courtesy Salmo Museum

The great Ymir Fire of 1904

Continued from page 2

Opinion wavered as to whether the fire started at the rear of the drug store or in the oil house at the rear of the Seaney building, but Fraser amassed sufficient evidence to warrant Harry Atkinson being charged with incendiaryism. He was released on \$500 bail pending a preliminary hearing in Nelson on November 13 before Magistrate E.A. Crease.

At the hearing it was discovered that Atkinson had insured his drug store stock for \$6,500. He claimed a \$10,000 loss from the fire. Much of the evidence heard centered on the considerable amount of stock which Atkinson had cached in his home. Salmo's respected merchant, Sid Ross, corroborated Atkinson's claim that it was standard practice in winter months to store stock subject to freezing in constantly heated quarters, but it was noted that the contents of the cellar contained items such as pocket watches not subject to freezing, as well as the bulk of the drugstore records. Atkinson was bound over on \$3,000 bail to be tried for arson at the spring assizes of the Supreme Court in Nelson.

Atkinson and his family faced a chill winter in Ymir. Since neither Atkinson nor his wife had ever been particularly popular in Ymir, it would be difficult to state that there was a marked cooling in the attitude of others toward them in the wake of the great sympathy felt for those who had lost all their belongings in the fire. By the middle of March 1905, a spring thaw portending the Supreme Court trial was underway in Ymir. At the noon-hour on Thursday, March 23, Mrs. Atkinson took 8-year-old Gladys into her bedroom and showed the child a number of rings which she had removed, strung on a ribbon and placed in a box in a bureau drawer. "Should anything ever happen to me, Gladys, these rings are yours," the mother cautioned the daughter as the child bent her way back to school. Gladys returned to the house after school to find it cold and deserted. No preparations for dinner were underway.

An immediate search was instigated, and in the failing light of the March afternoon, Ed Peters and R.Schrum discovered tracks leading to the reservoir. A shawl lay at the top of a ladder leading down into the reservoir, and four feet below the surface hung the body of Mrs. Atkinson, wedged into the braces supporting the ladder. District coroner Dr. E.A. Arthur, summoned from Nelson, was quickly satisfied that it was a case of suicide. No inquest was ordered. The body was sent to Nelson, where burial took place the following Tuesday under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church in Nelson. Reports in the Nelson Daily News were interpreted in Ymir to suggest that the uncharitable matrons of the mining settlement had driven the despairing matron to her death. A fierce rebuttal was published in the Ymir Herald thus assuring that there would be little let-up in the discussion of the Atkinson affair prior to the opening of the spring assizes in Nelson on May 9.

The Hon. Auley Morrison, surely one of the most caustic judges in the history of the B.C. Supreme Court, presided at the assizes. The outcome of the two trials preceding the Atkinson case was not such as to sooth his lordship's uncertain temper. The jury had brought down a controversial verdict of "not guilty" in the trial of Union Secretary John R. Roberts for the attempted murder of Monty Davys. A somewhat embittered Roberts, wending his way down Lake Avenue in Silverton, had taken a pot shot at Davys through the plate glass dining room window of the Victoria Hotel but had missed. The second case, the trial of one Fera for fraud, had resulted in a hung jury. In the Atkinson case, much debate went on over the admissibility of evidence, and both W.A. Macdonald, K.C. for the prosecution and S.S. Taylor for the defence were subjected to much tongue-lashing from the exasperated bench. The number of witnesses called was so great that the learned judge at one time asked plaintively if a plan was afoot to call every person who had ever dealt at

Atkinson's store. In the midst of these hectic proceedings, the jury apparently gathered that there was strong evidence that the Hallowe'en fire had started in the oil house at the back of the Seaney building rather than in Atkinson's store, and that it had been standard practice for Atkinson at the onset of winter to remove just about everything but rolls of toilet paper from the frigid quarters of the store. At the conclusion of the proceedings, the jury pronounced Atkinson not guilty of arson. The Judge advised Atkinson that he left the court without the faintest cloud upon his character. The verdict notwithstanding, there were many in Ymir who retained an opinion that the fire which caused such hardship to those who had lost all their possessions resulted from a premeditated act of a henpecked pharmacist.

Atkinson moved to Vancouver, where for 48 years he operated a drug store in the vicinity of Nelson and Nicola Streets in Vancouver's West End. He was the oldest practicing pharmacist in British Columbia when he retired in 1953. One would rejoice in the happy outcome to the Ymir travails of Atkinson, were it not for the obituary, presumably contributed to the Vancouver Sun by his second wife, the widowed Florence Emily, after his death on December 4, 1959 at the age of 87. This obituary credits Atkinson with holding degrees from the University of Toronto in both medicine and pharmacy and relates his experiences in performing emergency operations on kitchen table tops in the Yukon during the period he is known to have been operating a drug store in Ymir. Did Atkinson draw on the experiences of his brother, a medical doctor, in accounting for the span of his life in Ymir? How strong was Atkinson's regard for the truth? Who knows?

Ymir's main street was never completely rebuilt after the 1904 fire, as the settlement was beginning to lose its pre-eminence in the Salmon River Valley. The Davies & Sayward sawmill interests closed their plant at Pilot Bay and centered their operations in Salmo, thus providing that strategically situated distribution center with a stable industry to counteract the shifting fortunes of mining. Bit by bit, Ymir ceded status to Salmo. When mining revived in the 1930's after the collapse of the gold standard, the improved highway built in 1923 to bridge the seventeen miles between Ymir and Nelson discouraged the re-establishment in Ymir of services readily available in the lake-side city. The Ymir Hotel, having escaped the 1904 fire, still stands on Ymir's First Avenue, but there remains little else to remind the viewer of the former glories of Ymir's business strip.

Ymir School Teachers 1897 - 1971

1897 - 1899	Miss E.M. Green
1900	Miss A. McLennan
1901	Miss A. McLennan
1902	Miss I.M. Urquhart
1903	Miss I.M. Urquhart
1904	Miss S.J. Sutherland
1906	Miss B.Moore
1907	Miss Isobel Henderson
1908	Miss J.F. Clark
1909 - 1911	Joseph Irwin
1912	Mrs. J.M. Heales
1913	W.L. Rand
1914	Samuel Acheson
1915	Miss O.A. Macleod
1916	Miss V.I. Macleod
1917	Miss V.I. Macleod
1918	E.T. Oliver
1919	Mrs. A.R. Nicolls
1920	Miss A.E. Imlah
1921	Miss A.M. Orr
1922	R. Boswell, Sr.
1923 - 1925	H.H. Perkins
1926	Earl Marriott
1927	G.T. Harper
1928 - 1929	Miss E. Thompson
1930 - 1932	Miss G. Rendall
1933	Miss E.M. Alm
1935 - 1936	Miss M.H. Grayling
1937	Miss M.V. Webb
1938	F.C. Pritchard
1939	Miss N. Irving
1940	L.F. Spearing
1941	Miss N.A. Irving
1942	Mrs. M.M. Sinclair
1943	J. Campbell
1944 - 1945	Mrs. M. Fleming
1946	Mr. M. Swanzy
1947	Mr. A.E. Halvorsen
1948 - 1950	G.A. Dauphinais
1951	Mrs. A.E. Halvorsen
1952	Miss M.C. Poje
1953	Miss Margaret Orman
1954	Lorna Lee
1955	Miss Nancy Bodnaruk
1956	Henry J. Dougan
1957 - 1958	Theresa Poje
1959	B. Clarkson
1960	Floyd Searle
1961	Helen Maras
1962	Randolph Koenig
1963 - 1964	G.J. Baerg
1965	Mrs. E. Ritchie
1966	Jack G. Denny
1967 - 1970	N.J. Evans
1971 - 1984	Jack G. Denny
	A.V. Stander
	M.L. Leadbeater
	A.V. Stander
	Mary Mang
	Peter Makeiv
	Mary Mang
	Hans Cunningham
	Mrs. P. Floyd
	Mary Mang
	Mrs. B. Todd
	Hans Cunningham
	Hans Cunningham
	J. Field

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YMIR, British Columbia

A brief history of mining in Ymir

By George Murray,
Ymir miner and historian

The placer gold rush on the Pend d'Oreille River came to a close in 1865. The miners started moving north up the Salmon River and other streams, looking for the precious metal. A few men settled at the mouth of Quartz Creek, in what is now Ymir. They constructed log cabins and eked out a living extracting gold from local creeks, no doubt also trapping in the winters.

In the mid 1880's, the Hall brothers, from Colville, Washington, came into the Kootenays, prospecting for lode mines. They discovered outcroppings of what eventually became the Ymir Mine but continued on to Toad Mountain near Nelson, where they located the Silver King Mine which developed into a rich silver, gold and copper operation. The Hall Mines Smelter, in Nelson, and Hall Creek, a tiny hamlet six miles north of Ymir, were both named for these two native prospectors.

In the summer of 1895, Jerome and Joseph Pitre, and Oliver Blair staked the first claims of what was to become the Ymir Gold Mine. On their return to Colville that winter, word spread about their find and the following year, many more claims were staked in this area.

This burst of mining activity in the Kootenays did not go unnoticed by D.C. Corbin, the American railroad magnate. In 1893 his company, the Great Northern Railroad, laid tracks from Northport, Washington to Nelson, B.C. to service the new mining communities springing up. The railroad became known as the Nelson-Fort Sheppard line, and proceeded along the Columbia River from present day Waneta through Fruitvale, Erie, Salmon Siding (Salmo), Quartz Creek, and on to Mountain Station above Nelson.

When the Ymir Mine was staked in 1895, Corbin had a railroad station built just north of Quartz Creek, naming it Ymir after the mountain to the north.

With the completion of the railroad and then the staking of the Ymir claims, Ymir really blossomed as a major mining community. The Ymir Mine started with a forty stamp mill and later added another forty stamps, making it the largest stamp mill in the British Empire. Many other mines started during the ensuing boom, such as the Dundee, Porto Rico, Tamarack, Hunter V, Yankee

Girl, Blackcock, Wilcox and many others. Some of the better known prospectors were Jerome and Joseph Pitre, Alex. Gayette, S. Bywater, E. Peters (Pete the Packer), and in later years, Tom Wilkinson, Joe Dunn, Ed Emerson, Oscar Anderson, Ed Hauk Dahl, John Rankin, Alex McDonald, H. Jackson and many others.

All the above mining and prospecting activities led to the establishment of the booming town of Ymir. By 1897, Ymir had eleven hotels, a bank, a post office, one church, a public school offering Grades 1 to 10, a newspaper (the Ymir Miner),



George Murray

police station with jail, blacksmith shops, mine recording office, mining engineer and assayer, mining broker, notary public, barber, plumber, physician and surgeon, two hardware stores, and a P. Burns & Co. butcher shop.

The Ymir Waterworks was organized in 1897 and headed by J. W. Ross. A system was constructed to supply water to the entire town, to the envy of smaller mining towns of the time. The population of Ymir in 1897 was 800, with at least another 400 living and working in the surrounding mines.

All mining in the Ymir Camp was to recover the gold content. Silver

and lead were also recovered but played a minor part in the overall returns.

The Ymir Mine was by far the most important mine in the area with eighty stamps. Other local mills contributed sixty stamps making a total of 140 stamps in the vicinity of Ymir. Each stamp could crush and pulverize 2 1/2 to 3 tons of ore per hour, or approximately 4000 ton of ore per day. There were also many smaller mines shipping crude ore directly to the smelter in Trail, and Hall Mines Smelter in Nelson. The mills flourished until the early 1900's, when most of the mines ran out of ore reserves.

There were sawmills operating at the mouth of Porto Rico Creek (Barrett Creek?), and Porcupine Creek. These mills provided most of the lumber used in the construction of Ymir's homes and other buildings, as well as the mine buildings. A lot of men were employed in logging and in the sawmills in this area.

An interesting footnote: The Ymir Mine used one cord of firewood per hour, each and every day of the year,

flotation mill was built across the river from Ymir and the Yankee Girl Mine reopened. Other mines that opened in the 1930's were the Goodenough, Wesko, and Durango. Local miners leased some of the old mines and shipped raw ore to the Trail smelter. A second boom occurred in Ymir and by 1936 it was once again a very busy town.

In September 1939, Canada declared war on Germany. Many young miners left to join the Armed Forces. Others went to work at the Emerald Mine, south of Salmo, and in others like it that were producing strategic war minerals. Most of the existing mines closed and by the end of World War II, Ymir's population had decreased to its lowest ever with only 125 people.

During the Second World War a lot of exploration work was carried out in Ymir-Salmo area, resulting in the development of three large lead/zinc mines and one tungsten mine. These mines were some distance from Ymir, but the highway between Nelson and the Nelway border had been upgraded in 1927. With automobiles more available after the



Stope in the Ymir Mine.

Department of Mines photo 1917

just to keep their steam boilers working.

By 1905, poor demand for gold and other precious metals caused the price of gold to drop to \$20 per ounce. At the same time, local mines had depleted easily reached ore bodies so it was no longer profitable to keep operating. Ymir fell on hard times except for the war years, 1914 to 1918, when demand for precious minerals increased.

In 1933 the United States and England agreed to set the price of gold at \$33 per ounce. At the same time, scientists at the Trail smelter (Cominco) developed the flotation method of separating minerals. A

war, many people commuted to work and Ymir's population gradually increased to 350.

While mining is at its lowest point in the past 100 years, there is still a considerable amount of mining exploration in this general area, and hopefully this activity will produce some more operating mines.

In closing, I would like to state that mining is not necessarily finished in this area. There is no doubt that there are still minerals and metals to be found in this area, including: gold, silver, lead, zinc, and tungsten. Ymir, the Norse Earth God, will see to it that Ymir, as a mining town, will not be forgotten.

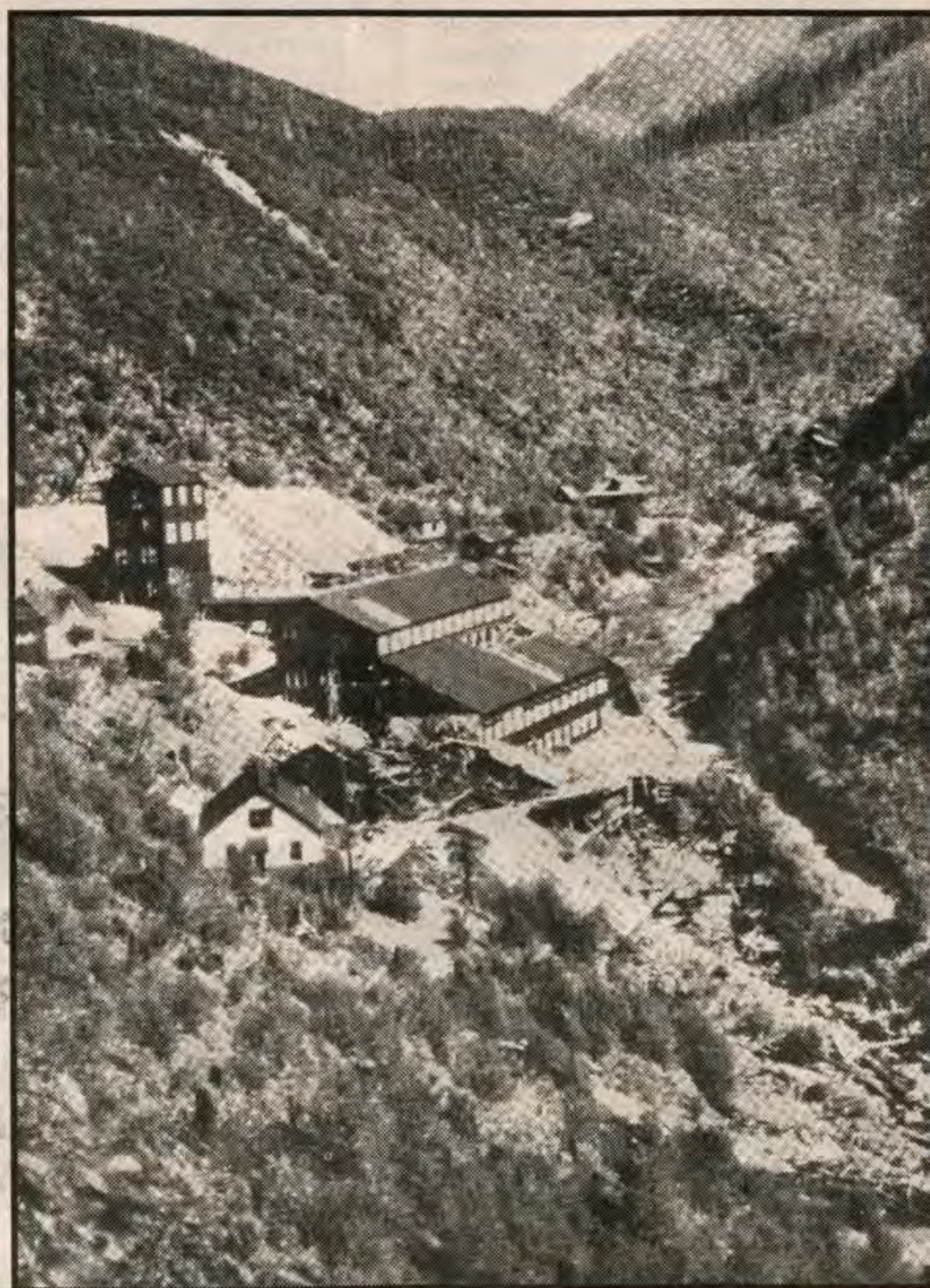
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The Ymir Miner 1900



Ymir 80-stamp mill in 1914. Superintendent's house in the background.

Department of Mines photo 1917

S.H. SEANEY

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S.H. SEANEY

Ymir, B.C.

Ymir Herald 1904

Will Dorey recalls Ymir and area from 1926

November 16, 1997

Mr. Dorey came to Salmo in 1926 or 27. His father was a sawyer and had owned a mill in Kitchener which later became part of Crestbrook's holdings. Will worked in the bush all through high school and knew how to timber cruise, horse log, scale logs and mill lumber. At one time he owned 12 draft horses and 7 pack horses. He worked as a packer and spent 9 months working in the Bayonne Mine. Another time he ran a dairy with 32 head of cattle, delivering milk to Salmo, Sheep Creek, and the Reno Camp.

Will Dorey played ball on the Ymir ball team in 1933. His son Brian played on the Ymir team in 1970.

In the 1950's Swan Lundgren and L. Mousoura cut fence posts up Bear Creek. Swan had come to Ymir to work at the Yankee Girl Mine in the 1940's. Later, Swan worked up Stuart (Stewart?) Creek.

In the early 1960's Will Dorey had a sawmill at 14 mile on Porcupine Creek. A contractor from Fernie had a timber licence in the area and logged, mostly white pine. Trees were 3 to 5 feet through the butt end, and it was like walking through a park in some areas.

At that time there was just a trail up Porcupine Creek and over to Tye. This trail was also used to get into the Bayonne and Spokane mines.

Much of the land up Porcupine Creek belonged to the Great Northern Railway - it had been granted to them in 1893 when Corbin built the railway to Nelson. The road (to the millsite) was in rough shape and they had to fix it up to get in there. Later, Edith Van Marion pushed the road over the top of Porcupine with a twin motor Euclid cat.

There used to be a flume down Boulder Creek to bring logs to Frank Rotter's mill there.

Mr. Dorey did some horse logging up Erie Creek. He used to walk three miles up to the site to tend to the horses. One day a cougar followed him all the way in and all the way out - a creepy feeling!

Louisiana Pacific had a mill on the Salmo River at Porcupine near the bridge.

Noble Gould worked up Porcupine Creek in the 1960s, operating a TD9 caterpillar. He also drove logging trucks for many of the contractors in the area, including Frank Rotter.

Names in the local logging community

John Oreskovich logged with horse and crosscut, and sold the logs to Max Zeeben. Mostly white pine

around 1954 - 55? He originally used a horse named Ruby which belonged to Tony Giza and later he purchased his own horse called Queenie. This operation was called Silent Logging.

1951, Andrew Bowolin operated a sawmill at approximately 10 - 12 miles up Porcupine Creek.

1952 - 1956, Grotowski brothers operated a sawmill further up the road. C.J.A. Logging and Milling?? Transporting crews to work up the rough Porcupine road in a brand new 1956 Monarch.

Around 1955 Allan Kmiecik came over from Fernie and set up a mill at approximately 14 Mile. Logging and milling up there a couple of years. A fellow by the name of Koenig had a Planer Mill at the base of Porcupine Creek and contracted to plane Kmiecik's lumber. Kmiecik later moved the mill down to the bottom of Porcupine, next to a Great Northern Railway spur. At this time he employed about 25 - 30 men logging, milling and planing. Also there was a family by the name of Parrish that lived up Porcupine and he hauled logs for Kmiecik. This operation lasted up to the mid sixties.

Swan Lundgren had a logging show and logged in the area from 1950 - 1965.

Lyle Dickie hauled logs for Swan in the early fifties.

Max Zeeben bought a mill from Louis Robinson and operated from 50's - 70's.

L.D. Moore logged in Porcupine drainage in 60's.

Stu Leverington - Porcupine 50's.

Tony Fernandez logged Porcupine 60's? He owned a pink Cadillac!

Bill Firsky logged Porcupine 50's.

Clark and Hansen logged Porcupine 19--?

Frank Rotter logged Porcupine 19--?

John Waselinko was a well respected local faller and later a miner.

John Dailey - excellent faller, working for local contractors.

Len Zachow hauled logs for area mills 60's.

1970's logging was happening at Dunlop Creek, Oscar Bear Creek, Stuart Creek.

Noble Gould logged in the local area.

Bert Carlson logged in the local area.

1952 - 53 August Williams and Scotty Allan worked the Good Hope claim up Porcupine.

Dates are approximate only and all names may or may not be correct. Use this information to fuel your memory of all activities reminiscent of Ymir from 1897 - 1998.

Submitted by Rudy and Nick Bowolin



Ymir Firehall circa 1955. Many may remember this building when it stood on the edge of the ballfield behind the current hall. The hoses were hung in the tower to dry.
Elsie Turnbull
photo courtesy of Salmo Museum

Below: Ted Tedesco hauling poles for Swan Lundgren in the 1950's
photo courtesy of Liz Lundgren



Pictured at right is Am Tedesco with his father's truck (Jim Tedesco) at the Porcupine Siding, unloading cedar fence posts in 1943.
Florence (Slako)Hodgins photo



Pictured at left is John Slako standing on the log with Steve Denusik in the background. They had been grubstaked by Ymir businessman Smith Curwin.
Florence (Slako)Hodgins photo

Darkwoods in the forestry business in area since 1967

The Darkwoods property began as a crown grant to the Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway (later to become the Great Northern Railway) in the late 1800's. It has had six previous owners before 1967. The majority of the tree farm, which can be accessed by five main roads, drains into Kootenay Lake. Forest management plans must be filed with the Chief Forester of the British Columbia Assessment Authority, to whom Darkwoods pays taxes.

The land forms a part of the Southern Columbia Mountains Ecoregion, supporting three biogeoclimatic zones. Cedar-hemlock forests dominate lower elevations, while Engelmann spruce sub-alpine fir forests are prolific at higher elevations. Alpine parkland and tundra occur at the highest peaks. The property supports numerous species of wildlife, which have been aided by a longstanding no-hunting policy and controlled public access. The company has participated in grizzly bear research as well as cooperative efforts to enhance the woodland caribou population. Other ungulates, small and large mammals, and various birds of prey and song are a few of the many species that call this property home. Kokanee spawn in Cultus Creek and trout can be found in the many creeks and some of the 50 mountain lakes dotted throughout the managed forest.

Darkwoods Forestry is a division of Pluto Darkwoods Canada Inc. which is owned by an old German family, the House of Wuernttemberg. Duke Carl von Wuernttemberg, the present head of the family holding company, was personally involved in the acquisition of this land 31 years ago. In 1967 Darkwoods Forestry made a long-

term investment in the vibrant British Columbia forest industry with the purchase of a large tract of undeveloped private forest land.

"It has been with honour and pride that we took up the challenge of demonstrating the benefits of private land management. Respect for the land and nature has been the cornerstone of our corporate philosophy. We try to work with and not against nature. We have renewed overmature stands, we have protected wildlife, and we have supported the local economy. Our long term planning has designated over 33% of our total land area as protected environmental areas and our earlier reliance on natural

regeneration has been replaced by an extensive reforestation program. These measures, along with various other silviculture systems used in our productive forest areas, ensure the continued viability of this well-managed ecosystem."

JOHN CARROLL
MINING BROKER

Agent for Canadian Fire Insurance Company

YMIR B.C.
The Ymir Miner 1898

Kootenay Hotel

THOMAS FLYNN, Prop.

CENTRALLY LOCATED

TABLE FIRST-CLASS

RATES REASONABLE

The Bar

Is supplied with the choicest brands of wines, liquors and cigars

Next door to the Post-Office

YMIR

B.C.

THE YMIR MINER 1898

THE

YMIR STABLES

J.T. PRICE, Prop.

DRAYING DONE AT CHEAPEST RATES

Special attention given to orders received from the Mines.

HAY AND GRAIN

FOR SALE

The Ymir Miner 1898

Mining history of Ymir . . .

"one of great riches"

Following is a history of Ymir and its surrounding mines and mining activity, compiled by Nelson old-timer Dave Norcross. It was first published in the Nelson Daily News, Feb. 21, 1980.

The Village of Ymir is located 18 miles south of Nelson in the Salmo River Valley. It was first called Quartz Creek until the Great Northern Railway was built in 1893 when it became known as Ymir, to avoid confusion with other existing Quartz Creeks in the West at that time.

In old Norse mythology the name Ymir was that of the progenitor of the giants who arose through the inter-working of heat and cold in the primeval abyss. Ymir was slain by Odin and his brothers Vili and Ve and out of his body they created the World. Ymir's flesh became the land, his bones the mountains, his blood the lakes and streams, his hair the forests, his skull the heavens, and his brains the clouds.

According to early records, the Hall brothers of Colville, Washington located lode claims on Wildhorse Creek near Ymir in 1885. They abandoned these claims the following year and continued their prospecting northward which resulted in their discovery of the Silver King copper-silver lode on Toad Mountain near Nelson in the fall of 1886.

By 1885 the Dewdney Trail had been built up the Pend d'Oreille and Salmo Rivers as far as the South Fork of the Salmo. Here the trail left the main river and turned eastward up the South Fork for a short distance to the junction of Lost Creek, and thence up this creek to the divide and then down Summit Creek to the Kootenay River south of Creston and on to Fort Steele. Prospectors coming in from the south had easy access into the Salmo River Valley.

It is rather surprising that the railway had already been in the valley almost two years before prospectors located claims which became important mines such as the Ymir and the Yankee Girl. The Ymir, located on the North Fork of the Wildhorse Creek in 1895 and developed by the London and B.C. Goldfields Co., was equipped with an 80 stamp mill and became the largest gold mine and mill in Canada by 1900. For a number of years the mill treated 200 tons of ore per day from which gold bricks and gold-silver-lead concentrates were produced. Production ceased in 1908.

DESTROYED BY FIRE

The Dundee Mine, located in 1896 on the north side of Bear Creek on Dundee Mountain opposite the town of Ymir, had a mill operating in 1898. In 1899 both shaft house and mill were destroyed by fire. In later years this property was integrated with the adjoining Yankee Girl mine which had been located in 1899.

The Yankee Girl became a steady shipper of crude ore to the smelters. In the 1930's a modern cyanide flotation mill was built in the town of Ymir and operated for about eight years. The total Yankee Girl production became the largest of any mine in the Ymir Camp.

Other important producers were the Goodenough, Tamarac, Durango, Wilcox, Hunter V, Center Star and numerous smaller shippers whose output contained gold, silver, lead, zinc and cadmium.

HUNTER V

The Hunter V. Mine, on the south side of Porcupine Creek, was located within the important limestone band which, further south, contained the H.B., Jersey, Emerald and Reeves McDonald mines. The ore was in demand at the Nelson, Trail, Northport and Grand Forks smelters, for fluxing purposes in the treatment of siliceous gold and silver ores. The ore also carried small amounts of gold and silver which increased with the silica content in the ore.

GLORY HOLE METHOD

Mining was done by glory hole methods, or open pit as it is called today. In the glory hole operation the broken ore falls to an ore loading chute at the bottom of the pit and is removed either in an underground tunnel or hoisted up the side of the glory hole. This is how it was done at the Hunter V., using a steam-operated hoist for this purpose.

The ore was then loaded into the buckets of a short aerial tramway for delivery to the bin at the head of the main tram. From there it was delivered to the ore bin on the Great Northern Railway at Porcupine Creek Siding 2 1/2 miles away, and about two thousand feet lower in elevation.

Both trams were used to transport mine supplies from the railroad to the camp at 5000 feet above sea level, and also people going up and down. On one occasion, the mine superintendent was riding a bucket on the upper short tram. The bucket was dumped into the ore bin owing to the operator failing to stop before the dump. Luckily the bin was full of ore and the man's fall was only a few feet so he wasn't hurt. When told that he had dumped his boss into the bin, the operator said, "that will learn him to be smart".

The long tramway was built by the Riblet Tramway Co., and my father, John Norcross, operated it from 1904 until June 1906. A comfortable house was provided for us so my mother, brothers, William and Albert, and myself, made the ascent by the tram to the mining camp.

The superintendent was Mr. Marshall, the foreman was John Scoley, the assayer was Cecil Crossley and the blacksmith was William Blewett. G.J. Campbell was the resident manager in Nelson. Monthly inspections were made by S.S. Fowler and A.D. Wheeler, locator of the Krao Mine at Ainsworth.

ANXIOUS MOMENTS

A number of anxious moments occurred such as the time when glazed ice on the running cable packed ice into the cable grips in the upper bull-wheel, allowing the tram to run uncontrolled for some time. Another time the running cable jumped a sheave at the upper terminal, causing several hours delay when passenger Mr. Gill of Ymir was riding the timber carriers and was quite high in the air. Although cautioned against doing so, Gill proceeded to lower himself to the ground by rope but severely burnt his hands from the friction from the hemp rope.

As small boys, we used to go down to the tram house to watch the operation. On one occasion my



Dundee Mine circa 1899

Iva Lindow photo courtesy Salmo Museum

father looked behind him to see my brother Albert ten feet in the air with his mackinaw coat accidentally hooked to the counterweight of the automatic loader. As the passing bucket released the loader he was lowered to the floor.

All sheaves on the entire length of the tram had to be oiled frequently and a most agreeable French Canadian looked after this. Not only was he concerned with the welfare of the tram but also of his own innards. He used to take a daily swig of the heavy black tram lubricating oil.

Another one-man act was that put on by the man tending the lower terminal of the Ymir Mine tramway at its 80-stamp mill. This tram, being of the single rope type, had buckets that held about 300 pounds of ore. It was the duty of this man to see that every bucket dumped its load of ore into the bin, manually tripping the bin if need be. He found that he could accomplish this by giving the latch a kick with his foot - until the time came when the cuff of his overalls caught in the trip mechanism and he ended up being carried upside down up the mountain to the mine where the operator rescued him from his precarious position. Only the good quality of his Turner-Beeton denim overalls prevented him from being dropped on his head from the cableway to the sharp rocks on the mountain side below.

From our home at the mine we had a grand view of the Salmo River Valley and it was interesting to see the daily Great Northern trains, looking very much like toys, slowly making their way to and from Nelson. From this distance the river looked like a ribbon of milk due to the 200 tons per day of quartz tailings discharged from the Ymir Stamp Mill.

I recall Christmas Day 1905 when the superintendent invited our family to have dinner at the cookhouse and the excellent meal that the cook, Mr. Peacord, put up. Before we were finished a blizzard developed that forced us to remain in the camp overnight. The next morning the storm had lessened and we were able to break a trail through the deep snow drifts to our own home. In 1906, the smelter requirements of limestone fluxing ore decreased and the Hunter V. closed down. It reopened in 1927 and the ore was shipped to the Trail Smelter which had become owner and operator of the property. The final closure was

in 1930.

The B.C. Directory for 1897 states that Ymir had 9 hotels, 12 stores, 3 assay offices, 2 barbers, 2 doctors, a teacher, a weekly newspaper and a church. 600 people lived in town and more in the surrounding area. My brother Fred was born in 1905 at the Ymir hospital, built the year before.

During dry years the Salmo river and adjoining valleys used to be the scene of disastrous forest fires, one such being the Wildhorse Creek fire of 1919 which threatened to destroy the mill and camp of the Wilcox Mine. William McIssac was watchman there and Ymir people became greatly concerned over his safety. They asked Jack Sapples (from Salmo) if he thought he could get up there in his taxi car to bring him out. Jack covered the car with wet blankets and made it, although the heat did blister the paint on his car.

PARTY OF FOUR

In the spring of 1932, I secured a working lease on the Wilcox with three partners, Jim Cullianane Sr., Jim Cullianane Jr., and Frank Moline. The Wilcox was equipped with a short aerial tramway to bring ore down to a 10 stamp mill in Wildhorse Creek Valley.

The Wilcox group of claims was located in 1896. For several years small quantities of gold ore were rawhided down the steep mountain and shipped to the Northport Smelter. In 1903 a 4 stamp mill and a tramway were installed with a Pelton water wheel to drive it. In 1902 the mill was enlarged to 10 stamps.

In 1911, new owners acquired the property and sent Arthur Lakes Jr. from Colorado to supervise an extensive development program which involved installation of a small hydro-electric plant to power a mine compressor.

This work put in sight several thousand tons of medium grade ore in the Fourth of July vein. The principal ore shoot was confined to a section of the fissure vein lying in diorite formation. The northerly end of the vein butted up against a roof pendant of schist which had served as a barrier, causing the gold ore to spread out into a tee shape for some distance.

The broken ore required hand sorting to remove most of the barren

diorite which had been broken from the stope walls by the blast. The sorted ore was then trammed down to the mill at the rate of about 15 tons per day where the stamps pulverized it to 40 mesh and the free gold was saved on the mercury-coated amalgam plates.

Approximately 70 per cent of the gold was recovered in this manner and was poured into molds for gold bricks. The bricks assayed 48 to 49 % gold with the balance being silver. Further treatment of the sands in the mill was by Wilfley concentration tables and flotation. The resulting concentrate was shipped to the Trail smelter.

Winter snowslides over the mine entrance and the road to Ymir forced us to close our operation each year in December and reopen in late March. We made use of the frozen crust on the snow to bring down sufficient mine timber for the season's needs. The mountainside was too steep to use a horse or any kind of tractor.

Upon our return to the property one spring, we found two of our tramway towers had been swept away by a snowslide and the cables left dangling high in the air. We were able to hand log several long cedar logs that grew above our tower sites and skid them down over the snow. After a lot of hard work we were able to replace the towers.

By mid-1938 we had mined and treated about 20,000 tons of ore which, by this time, had been exhausted. We were forced to give up our lease. The owners in California congratulated us on a well-run small mine and were sorry that the end had come.

During this time we had been a closely welded partnership with no disagreements and at the end were still in a partnership, looking for another mine. We did suffer a severe loss in 1935 when our elder partner, Jim Cullianane Sr., lost his life by drowning while on a hunting trip. In a partnership and especially so in mining, where the work is often difficult and in a confined space, the need for co-operation is of the utmost importance - as much so as the richness of the ore.

The great increase in the price of gold may bring renewed interest in the gold mines at Ymir. It is to be hoped so as such a well-mineralized area deserves the attention of those who today are seeking the riches of the earth.



Main Photo is looking down from the Yankee Girl Mine 1934 Photo credit Corey Gould
 Insert photo is looking east to the Yankee Girl Mill site Photo credit Fl. (Slako) Hodgins

Ymir Yankee Girl Mines staked in 1899

**Wright, Lawrence B. and
 Morrell, Lester G.**

*American Institute of Mining and
 Metallurgical Engineers.
 Vol. 141. Metal Mining. 1940.*

Little interest was evidenced in this district until the building of the railway in 1893 provided easy access and the discovery of the Ymir Mine in 1896 attracted attention. As a result, the Ymir Yankee Girl group of claims was staked in October 1899.

Discovery was made at an outcrop on the hillside, some 2500-ft. above the village of Ymir. This proved to be a branch vein 20-ft. long leading to two main veins, the Yankee Girl and the Spur.

In 1907 an American syndicate took over the property and subsequently extended the 50-ft drift and opened the present 400 and 540-ft levels. In 1908 the Syndicate, without recording any shipments in the meantime, dropped its lease, which was taken up by H.L. Rogers, who bonded the Yankee Girl group. Rogers shipped 2622 tons of ore, mainly from the uppermost stope in the mine, which is reported to have yielded 1.18 oz. of gold per ton. After further shipments amounting to 4738 tons, ownership of the property was transferred to the Hobson Silver Lead Co. Ltd.

During the years 1912 to 1919 the mine plant was enlarged and a 6000-ft. aerial tram was erected. Several thousand feet of development was done including the 4000 feet of drifting on the 1235-ft. adit level. During the period named 16,500 tons of ore were shipped averaging 0.82 oz. gold per ton, principally from the McDowell stope on the 1235-ft. level.

In 1919, a large operating company became interested and optioned the property for examination. The option was dropped on the grounds that the ore was of insufficiently high grade. It is interesting to note that the final report of that company shows: probable ore, 25,590 tons; possible ore, 63,700 tons. Nearly

twice the combined total has been shipped or milled since.

In 1926, F.R. Weekes, E.P. Crawford, W.T. McDowell and others formed the Yankee Girl Ltd. to operate the property under lease and bond. Their efforts produced 28,358 tons averaging 0.57 oz. of gold per ton. They shipped 1251 tons of ore that yielded 0.43 oz. of gold per ton. Weekes and Crawford again leased in 1932. With the help of the premium on gold, and in spite of low lead and zinc prices, their venture was sufficiently profitable to permit opening much new ore. Under their partnership lease, 32,433 tons averaging 0.57 oz. gold per ton were shipped.

The present company was formed in 1934. Shipments prior to August 1934 were 87,529 tons averaging 0.68 oz. gold per ton. Between August 1934 and July 1, 1937, 94,106 tons have been milled, averaging 0.34 oz. gold per ton. In all, 181,635 tons have been produced, averaging 0.50 oz. gold per ton. Prospecting and exploration are carried on by a combination of drifting, crosscutting, raising, winzing and diamond-drilling. The property has been developed through three adits, the 400-ft., 540-ft. and 1235-ft. levels. At the present time the 1235-ft. level is the main working and tramming level and the mine plant is located at its portal.

In rare instances where roof support is necessary, standard drift sets of round timber and lagging are used. All loading and upper-level tramming is done by hand, using flat-bottomed 16 or 20-cu. ft. cars that dump either end or side. Ore and waste from the 1360 and 1500-ft. levels is hoisted in a 1-ton self-dumping skip. Two 1-1/2 ton storage-battery locomotives are used in conjunction with cars of 1-1/2 tons capacity to transport ore and waste to the surface.

The mine is not unusually wet, normal drainage amounting to about 100 gallons per minute. During the spring breakup the

quantity is increased to three times the normal amount for a period of two months. Water flows to the surface in drainage ditches on the 540 and 1235-ft. levels. Ventilation in the mine is almost wholly natural, aided by compressed air exhausted from drills, pumps and hoists.

Ore brought to the surface is dumped into a bin of 100 tons capacity near the mine portal. This bin is constructed over the upper terminal of an aerial tramway which carries the ore by gravity to the mill. The length of the tram is 6000 ft. and the vertical drop between the upper terminal and the discharge bin is 1210 ft. Seven towers are required to support the tram cables. The longest single span is approximately in the center of the distance and is 2000 ft. long. An unusual feature of the tram is that the unloading bin is at the base of a steep hill while the cable anchors and lower terminal are some 500 ft. farther out across the Salmon River. This necessitates a hold-down tower on the hillside adjacent to the discharge point.

Total mining operation costs, including supervision, are about \$4.60 per ton, of which development accounts for \$0.76, stoping \$1.39, supervision \$0.24 and other mine expenses, \$2.21 per ton. The latter figure includes tramming, pumping, hoisting, supplies, maintenance, air, steel-sharpening and surveying. The average cost per ton milled is \$7.03 calculated over an 18-month period and the cost per ounce of gold produced is \$22.07, calculated over a three-month period.

The mill was built during the latter part of 1934. Originally designed to treat 100 tons, the actual capacity has exceeded this by 45 tons on a number of occasions. The normal daily capacity at the present time is 120 tons. A combination of flotation and cyanidation was selected. Briefly, the procedure consists in making two concentrates: a lead concentrate that is shipped to the smelter at Trail and a

zinc-iron concentrate which is cyanided. The tailing from the combined flotation concentration is discarded. Water for the milling operation is brought from the head-

waters of Bear Creek, a distance of 2 miles in 10-in. wood-stave and 4-in. iron pipe. Electric power is purchased from the West Kootenay Power and Light Company.



Mill Buildings at the Yankee Girl Mine 1934
 Board of Trade photo 1934

Highway to Ymir

Of troubles we all have a plentiful share,
Sometimes they seem harder than nature can bear;
But cheer up for good times are coming, Old Timer,
When we get the darn highway extended to Ymir.

Our bootlegger friends who looked forward with pain,
To a very real slump in their illicit gain,
Will not need the hint of this poor would-be rhymers,
To see golden chances in trade via Ymir.

Our real-estate friends will now come to the fore,
Solving residence woes with suggestions galore,
We'll do business in Nelson as usual Old Timer,
But live in the beautiful suburbs of Ymir.

When you start for the hills with your bacon and ham,
Don't forget to take with you some Nelson Brand Jam;
I don't eat it myself - you'll excuse a poor rhymers,
But there's lots of it spread on the highway to Ymir.

There's a pulp mill projected in Nelson's fair city,
But the pulp that they make is too thin - such a pity -
But when it is made we can use it, Old Timer,
To fill up the holes in the highway to Ymir.

Our fair Alderlady, who's also a Vet,
Is a booster for Nelson's street railway, you bet,
And if you don't watch it, by Jingo, Old Timer,
She'll have her street railway extended to Ymir.

She's got special service as far as the Park,
Where the boys and the girls often go for a lark;
In a very short time they'll be spooning Old Timer,
To musical strains from the bandstand at Ymir.

The soldier memorial is now underway,
And will be quite imposing so some people say;
If they're hard up for rock, you can tell them Old Timer,
There's any amount on the highway to Ymir.

Written by the Nelson Lyrical Syndicate
Donated to the Ymir Arts & Museum Society by Harry & Lois Gould

Ymir Road

Today marks the consummation of many years of effort by the public bodies and public spirited Nelson citizens to secure the construction of the Ymir road now the Nelson - Spokane highway.

This afternoon the road will not only officially be declared open but the opening ceremonies will be participated in by a larger number of citizens from the other side of the line.

The new road cuts many miles from the distance between Nelson and Spokane as compared with the old route. It obviates the ferries and it brings Nelson into direct road communication with a large territory from which it was formerly cut off.

Nelson Daily News Aug. 29, 1923



St. Ann's Catholic Church, built in 1904

Iva Lindow photo Courtesy Salmo Museum

Salesman Shot

Hugh Armstrong, salesman for Godfrey's Limited, Nelson's clothing store, was shot in the neck and robbed of \$1000 in cash by a bandit who surprised him on the Yankee Girl hill near Ymir, B.C. at 11:20 a.m. today.

Armstrong, not seriously hurt, is being treated for a flesh wound below the right ear while police, assisted by a posse of citizens and a police dog, search for his assailant, who is believed to have escaped on foot.

The young salesman, driving in his sedan auto with money to cash cheques for employees of the Ymir Yankee Girl Mine, was accosted in a lonely section of the mountain road. The bandit, unmasked and roughly dressed, sprang from an old mine tunnel by the roadside and fired two shots at the car. The side window near the driver's seat was smashed by the bullets and one entered Armstrong's neck.

D. Craig of Ymir relayed the story to the Vancouver Sun by long-distance telephone.

Armstrong, the bullet still imbedded in his neck, sat beside him in the Ymir telephone exchange, Mr. Craig explained.

Armstrong, dazed by the shock of the bullet, stopped his car and the bandit

leaped on the running board.

"I want your money in a hurry. No fooling now!" he told the salesman as he pointed his revolver in his face. Armstrong handed over the cash and the bandit ran down the road, away from the mine. Suddenly he stopped. "Get going!", he shouted, with a flourish of his gun.

Armstrong 'got', managing to reach the mine which was not far away. There first aid was given to him and he was brought back to Ymir by auto. Const. C. Cohoon of Ymir and Const. C.W. House of Salmo are leading the search in the mountainous country around the mine and town, closing all roads as speedily as possible.

Armstrong described his assailant as about 40. He was of dark complexion and had several days growth of beard. He wore a dark cap and dark overalls with a bib.

Police believe the man is either a former employee of one of the mines in the neighbourhood or someone who knew Armstrong's habit of visiting the mines on paydays to cash cheques.

The salesman had his car filled with mens clothing to offer the miners but none was touched.

Nelson Daily News Nov. 7, 1932



The Presbyterian Church and Manse c1898

BC Archives Photo

ALBERT NEWBOUND
THE BUTCHER!

Ymir, B.C.

Just Opened. Give Us a Call.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.

The Ymir Miner 1898

FOR RENT

Plastered house, eight rooms and cellar \$15 per month
Furnished House, seven rooms, \$20 per month
Furnished Cabin, two rooms, \$7 per month
Cabin, partly furnished, \$6 per month

Apply
PERCY J. GLEAZER
THE YMIR MINER 1898

**R.W. Bacom, Hay
and Grain for Sale**

TinSmith and Sheet-Iron Worker

Camp and Queen Stoves

AIR PIPE AND MINE WORK

Repairing, Etc. at cheap rates

M. TATE

Second Avenue, Ymir, B.C.

The Ymir Miner 1898

Kootenay Mining Standard

An illustrated journal 1899

Ymir is one of the most promising camps in the Kootenays. It was originally known as Quartz Creek-a name which was subsequently changed to that of its first great mine, the Ymir. Quartz Creek had long been known to old prospectors, but the in-accessibility of the district seriously retarded its growth. With the advent of the railway a decided change for the better took place. For a time a regular "boom" was on, and when it burst things got very dull. However, business is picking up again, and the camp is steadily growing with the development of the mines. Townsite difficulties prevented the more rapid building up of the place, but nevertheless there are some creditable structures there today, and a good foundation has been laid for what will doubtless be a big town, and that at no distant date.

The Ymir mine, owned and operated by the London & British Columbia Gold Fields Ltd., is practically the property to which the town owes its existence, although it is by no means the only great mine there. It was, however, the first to demonstrate the richness of the mineral deposits of the district. At the mine there is a 40-stamp mill - the largest in the country - in operation. Last month about 3,000 tons of ore was crushed and some 40 tons of crude material and 250 tons of concentrates shipped to the smelter at Nelson. During the preceding month 40 stamps dropping for 17 days crushed 1,450 tons, yielding 690 ounces - estimated value, \$8,300; gross estimated value of concentrates, \$3,000. Some 6,000 or 7,000 tons of ore are on the dump, and an immense quantity is blocked out. Extensive development work has been accomplished, revealing two very distinct chutes of high grade ore. An aerial tramway connects the mill with the mine. On the outer ore chute the shaft is down 500 feet. It is intended to sink it 150 feet more, and then run a cross-cut tunnel, the mouth of which will be only 500 feet from

the mill. A gravity tramway will then connect the mill with the mine. The mill is turning out gold bricks and concentrates with agreeable regularity, and will continue to do so.

The Dundee is a mine which has done much to establish the good



Miner Office, Ymir
Photo Standard Publishing Company

reputation of the camp. It is a concentrating proposition, developed by numerous drifts and a shaft which is down over 250 feet. A 50-ton concentrator was erected last winter. Everything was in splendid working order when unfortunately a fire broke out, destroying the buildings and part of the machinery. But all has been put in shape again, and the shipping of concentrates has been resumed.

The Porto Rico has a 10-stamp mill in operation, which is kept busy. Everything is looking well at the mine. It is the intention to drive a fourth tunnel, so as to give sufficient stoping ground to keep the mill going.

At the Wilcox they are drifting on the ledge in two places and sinking a shaft. All work is now being done with the view to more thoroughly developing the property and as soon as this is accomplished a mill will be erected.

The Gold Reef Mining & Milling Co. Ltd, are operating the Rainy Day mineral claims on Wild Horse Creek, about eight miles from Ymir. The property is traversed its full length by two parallel quartz veins the shaft on one of which is to be continued to a depth of at least 150

feet, to prove size and dip. Both veins will be developed by adit tunnels from the east side of the mountain, which is very steep, rising to an elevation of nearly 2,000 feet above Wild Horse Creek. The ore averages \$16 to the ton, and it is calculated that \$8 rock would pay well.

There is great activity on Porcupine Creek. On the Big Patch the shaft is down some 15 feet, and ore at the bottom has been found to assay \$32.50. Outward and visible signs are most encouraging.

The Blackcock has been taken in hand by a strong company, whose intention it is to push work. A shipment of 20 tons, recently treated at the Northport Smelter, gave returns of \$43.50 per ton. At the Rio Grande the tunnel is in 115 feet, and in good ore. They are drifting on a rich vein.

The Free Silver group, consisting of five claims, is a property from which much is expected. A fifty foot tunnel has been driven cross-cutting the lead. Recent assays give 78 per

The Iroquis group consists of five claims and is located on Hidden Creek, about five miles from Ymir.



Merchants Bank of Halifax
Photo Standard Publishing Company

A good deal of work has been done, including an 80 foot shaft. "Good ore and lots of it" is the latest news from the camp. Adjoining the Big Horn is the Empress group. So far as work has gone it is very encouraging.

The New Brunswick Consolidated Gold Mining Co. Ltd. own three full claims on Wild Horse Creek, about one and a half miles from Ymir - the New Brunswick, Deadwood and Florence. They

have a continuous quartz ledge of from 10 to 12 feet wide, yielding assays from \$5 at the surface to \$51 in the 300 foot tunnel. It is thought that the Tennessee vein passes into the New Brunswick.

The Tamarac is owned and operated by the Kenneth Mining & Development Co. Some ten months ago the present owners took the property in hand and since then it has been worked almost continuously. At an early stage of the operations there was a shipment of seven tons of ore made. This was treated at the Hall Mines Smelter, and gave returns of \$11 per ton.

Since then considerable work has been done with the result that a large body of ore has been located and of

a higher grade. A shaft has been sunk 232 feet, from which one drift is run in a northerly direction 172 feet, and another southward, which will come out on to the surface. The output is largely fee milling. At present the necessary machinery is in operation to develop the property, but it is the intention of the management to put in a mill and a tramway. There are dozens of other properties being developed in Ymir.



Dundee Mine, Ymir
Photo Standard Publishing Company

cent lead, \$5 in gold, 38 oz. silver, and two per cent copper.

The Big Horn group of claims is being worked by the Simcoe Mining & Development Co. and with good results. A 20 foot shaft reveals a good body of ore which assays as high as \$52 a ton, but a number of pan tests have been made which go to show the ore is pretty fee milling and can be worked to advantage with a stamp mill and concentrator.

On the Nevada some good strikes have recently been made. A bed of rich ore, four feet in width, has been stripped for a considerable distance. It is claimed that there is 2,000 tons of ore in sight.

The Laurel, adjoining the Nebraska on Bear Creek, has a tunnel in some 35 feet, in good ore which assays \$18.

ASSAYING

Gold, Silver or Lead	\$1.00
Copper	\$1.50
Gold, Silver	\$1.50
Charges for other metals on application	

E.W. WODDOWSON

Provincial Assayer

P.O. Drawer A113 YMIR, B.C.
Ymir Herald 1904

DENTISTS

We have none. Therefore use plenty of Tooth Paste, Tooth Powder or Tooth Washes, which are all antiseptics. They not only prevent rot, but keep mouth sweet and healthy, and so allowing the saliva to run into the mouth, aid digestion.

Tooth Brushes of all grades from 15¢ to \$1.00

Can be found at

ATKINSON & CO'S

Druggist And Chemists, Ymir

N.B. - Buy Your Stationery At Atkinson

Ymir Herald 1904

CLOTHING

NICE

NEW

NOBBY

We are selling for almost your own price to reduce stock

SHOES

All prices that cannot be beaten

GROCERIES

In which, we lead in price and quality.

DesBrisay Jobbing Co.

Ymir Herald 1904

World famous Ymir Mine pictures

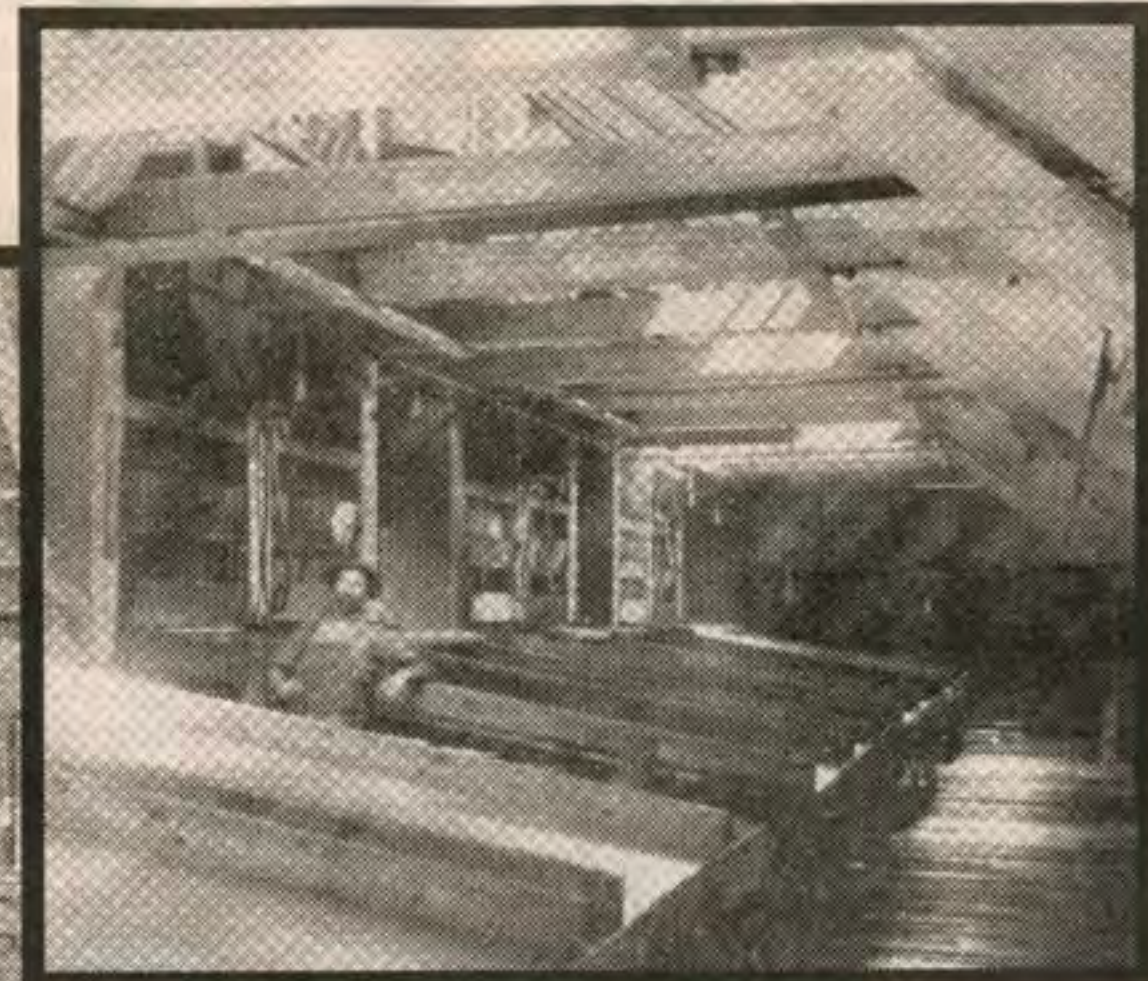
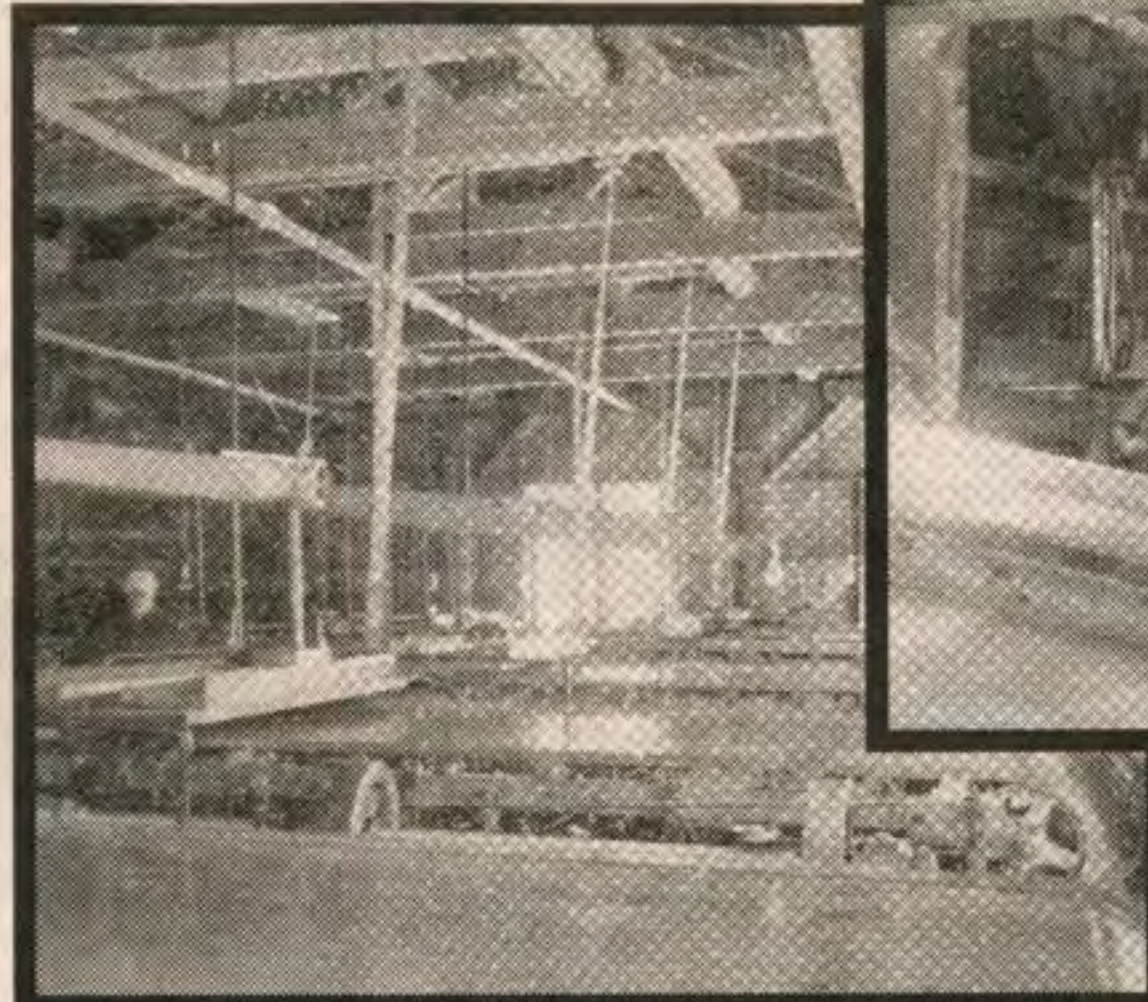


Ymir 80 stamp mill with mine manager's house in back.
Kootenay Standard 1899



Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Turner with granddaughter Ursula. Mr. Turner was manager of the Ymir Mine in its early years. Their home was on the corner of Second Avenue and Cherry Street. William Turner Jr. married Mabel McLeod of the Ymir pioneer family in 1902.
M.J. Turner photo Courtesy Salmo Museum

Interior Concentrator at
Ymir Mine (below)
Kootenay Standard 1899



Interior Stamp Mill at Ymir
Mine (above)
Kootenay Standard 1899



Stamp Mill and Concentrator,
Ymir Mine
Kootenay Standard 1899



World Class Competitors

Les Morrel presents the winning trophy to Sonny Burgess (left) and Ed Emilson (right) for the rock drilling competition. Left two photos were taken in Ymir in the 1940's at the May 24 celebrations. In the photo below Sonny is on the right and Ed is on the left, this photo was taken at the Vancouver PNE where they won the World Championships in the hand rock drilling.

photos courtesy of Evelyn Murray



WALDORF HOTEL

Headquarters for
Mining
and Commercial Men

Most comfortable hotel in
the district.
Everything first - class
YMIR, B.C.

Ymir Herald 1904

MILLER HOTEL

SAM MILLER, Prop.

Headquarters for
Mining Men

Best supplies of best
brands of wines, liquors
and cigars
1st Ave. Ymir, B.C.

Ymir Herald 1904

Excerpts from the Quartz Creek Miner 1897



BOARD OF TRADE, YMIR

5 S. De Brisay, President • 4. K.E. Mackenzie, Vice President • 6 A.B. Buckworth, Justice of the Peace and Secretary • 1. W. Delany, Justice of the Peace • 2 C.F. Mathers • 3 J.W. Laird

A. Bernard Buckworth, our young justice of the peace, has since his arrival here directed a considerable energy to the maintenance of the peace here. He was born and educated in England and came to this country in 1887, located at Hamilton, Ontario. Nine years later he came west and took an appointment under the C.P.R. He subsequently traveled for a wholesale house between Calgary and Vancouver. He finally came to Ymir in June last and turned his attention to the mining business. As justice of the peace it is well-known how impartial and fair he has been in dealing with cases. He is more to be congratulated as many considered it somewhat impolitic to appoint so young a man to so responsible a position. Mr. Buckworth was formally instrumental in obtaining a public school for Ymir and is now secretary and treasurer to the board. In other ways he has done much for the advancement of the town.

Captain W.C. Forrester, the provincial police officer resident in Ymir, was born in 1872 at Port Elgin, Ontario. At the age of 15 he enlisted as a bugler in the 32nd regiment of Canadian Infantry. At 17, his application having been accepted, he entered the Royal School of Infantry where he obtained a first class certificate. During two years he rose from 2nd lieutenant and at the age of 21 was appointed captain. Having six months leave, he came west to Rossland. At the completion of his leave he retired from service, retaining the rank of Captain. In the spring of this year Capt. Forrester was appointed provincial officer of the peace in the Ymir district, his duties taking him to any point between Nelson and Waneta. Capt. Forrester is deservedly popular, where duty calls he is no respecter of persons and it is through his conscientious work that the rowdy element is practically extinct. Capt. Forrester is, we may mention, a crack rifle shot and has quite a collection of cups and prizes testifying to his skill.



E.M. Peters, was born in Winzoe, Holland in 1846. At the age of 10 he came to America, locating at Port Huron, Michigan, and was there for seven years. He then went to New Mexico and resided in that country for one and a half years, returning to Port Huron, Mich., then went into the lumbering region at Saginow, from there went to Portland, Oregon, completing this trip on horseback, the journey occupying eighteen months, then rode east to Dakota and ever since then has been in the mining regions. He is known here as 'Pete the Packer'. Mr. Peters has a large pack train here and has always done a flourishing business.

Granny Peters pictured at left ran a boarding house out of the St. Charles Hotel and in later years had a small store at this location.

Photo: Laurence Bond
courtesy Salmo Museum



John McLeod and Family. Photo: M.J. Turner Courtesy Salmo Museum

McLeod family pioneer merchant

Mr. John McLeod's name will always be associated with the coming prosperity of Ymir in that he was the pioneer merchant of the camp, and at the present time no one will dispute the fact that he is the most prominent and respected

citizen that we have. Born on Brooksdale, Township of West Zora, Ontario, his early days were spent mostly in farming. At the age of 27 he migrated to the state of Washington, where for six years he was engaged in farming and poultry raising. In 1895 we find him in Northport, where for some time he had been in business as a general merchant. That year Mr. McLeod will look back on with mixed feelings, a disastrous fire burning him out of house and home. In the August of last year Mr. McLeod came to Quartz Creek, now known as Ymir. How successful he has been both as a hotel proprietor and a business merchant we all know. Mr. McLeod is our postmaster and his appointment has given unani-

mous satisfaction. We feel we cannot conclude this very meagre sketch without paying tribute to the qualities which have gained for Mr. McLeod so many friends. A modest and genial disposition, tact, generosity and straight dealings. This edition would be incomplete without mention of Mrs. John McLeod, the pioneer lady of the town. Born in the year 1865 at Kincardine, Ontario, daughter of Alex McLeod, who is one of Bruce county's most successful farmers, she spent her early days at the old homestead. During the year 1885, at her home, she was married to Mr. John McLeod. Mrs. McLeod was the first lady to come to Ymir, and she is one of the most popular ladies in the city.

Ymir Mines - Tonnage and Mineral Values

This chart was compiled by Ken Murray of Nelson

Property	Tonnes	Gold	Silver	Lead	Zinc
Wilcox	14,555	241,982	526,635	98,224	30,649
Blackcock	2,600	31,850	97,260	43,163	36,821
Ymir	327,646	3,410,319	14,283,898	4,778,178	813,341
Protection p	14,788	33,391	2,576,104	688,614	703,233
Tamarac p	346	8,040	404		
Spotted Horse	47	1,649	2,083		
Porto Rico	9,459	286,553	77,508	138	51
Gold Cup	24	1,244			
Yankee Girl	370,616	3,850,118	22,036,290	6,198,334	6,474,173
Myrtle	25	528	2,053	122	183
Porcupine p	109	134	18,507	1,130	2,633
Clubine	3,616	123,293	239,463		818
Caribou	1,992	511	829		
Howard	20,091	212,121	1,613,871	1,059,009	343,307
Hunter V p	56,820	31,413	8,464,402		
Dewey	40	156	4,915	1,700	1,786
Centre Star	51,458	386,145	2,995,219	966,401	475,628
Fern	11,277	196,448	16,515		

TOTAL 885,509 9,115,898 52,915,956 13,835,013 8,882,623

Equivalent Values at October 13, 1997

Tons	Ounces	Ounces	Pounds	Pounds	
	975,831	292,083	1,701,287	30,506,204	19,586,184
U.S.\$		330	5.25	0.27	0.59
Can. \$	X1.4	462	7.35	0.38	0.83

Grand Total 175,757,696 \$135,404,346 \$12,504,459 \$11,592,358 \$16,256,533

MCLEOD HOTEL

HEADQUARTERS FOR MINING MEN
AND THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC

Newly furnished throughout. Sample rooms in connection.
Rates \$1.50 to \$2.50 per day

FINLAY McLEOD Proprietor

Ymir Herald 1904

Pictures of our past

List of persons in the Ymir Cemetery

The following list of persons buried in the Ymir Cemetery was compiled by Lyle Ward in 1985.

Alice Anderson	June 21, 1925
Edwin Anderson	Sept. 12, 1923
Edwin and Alice Anderson came to Ymir in March 1897. There was no room in any of the 13 hotels in town so they dug through six feet of snow and set up a tent.	
Clarence Anderson	
Mary Bremner	Nov. 29, 1911
Died at the Northport Hospital after becoming ill with bronchial pneumonia.	
Jessie Burgess	Aug. 15, 1909
Parents Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Burgess. Mary died after a short illness and was buried in a white casket.	
Andrew Burgess	Feb. 24, 1911
Died in Vancouver from a growth on the brain, while there for treatment. Age 60.	
Annie Burgess	July 12, 1918
Died of pneumonia.	
Murdo Campbell	Oct. 20, 1912
Aged 26 years Native of Harris, Scotland Killed in a landslide outside the Queen Mine, Sheep Creek	
George S. Coleman	Jan. 14, 1918
Lived in Ymir since 1897 and owned the Waldorf Hotel. He was arrested in 1908 for attempted murder and theft but was acquitted.	
Frank Crowe	Feb. 21, 1904
A well-respected citizen of Ymir.	
Mary Curwen	Mar. 29, 1927
Infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Smith Curwen	
Arthur G. Eldridge	1922
Kate Evans	May 18, 19--
Alexander Jones	Dec. 21, 1910
7 mos old. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Jones, owned the Palace Hotel. Alex died in a Northport Hospital where he had gone for an operation.	
Mary E. Kneeland	May 27, 1914
Well-respected wife of Great Northern Railroad agent Newton L.	
Loring E. McIsaac	July 3, 1910
Died as a result of a horse-racing accident at July 1st days in Salmo.	
M.B. McIsaac	
Father of Loring McIsaac - mentioned in Loring's obituary. Also mentioned was Muriel, a daughter and Clarence, a young son.	
Athol McIsaac	
Ura J. Mathers	1897
Donald R. Mathers	1898
Mary E. Price	Sept. 15, 1899
Nelson Daily News July 3, 1910 - parents adopted a little girl after losing Mary back in 1899.	
Mary Stewart	June 1, 1929
William Stewart	Mar. 9, 1925
Effie Sutcliffe	April 17, 1914
Possibly married around May 14, 1913, she died in childbirth.	
John Viala	April 9, 1915
18 years old. Died at the Queen Mine, Sheep Creek when he fell down a 175' mine shaft.	
Ernest Belanger	Dec. 4, 1904
Albert Y. Bowers	Oct. 23, 1912
Charles Clark	April 15, 1911
Age 19 Died in the Ymir General Hospital of heart failure put on by rheumatism.	
William F. Edgar	Sept. 1908
Joseph Kileel	Sept. 22, 1915
Henry Larsen	June 28, 1911
Alan McDonald	July 19, 1910
Collapsed from heart failure in front of the Northern Hotel in Salmo.	
Hugh McDonald	May 27, 1915
One of Ymir's first pioneers.	
Mrs. R. McDonald	Sept. 4, 1912
Of Sheep Creek. Died of tuberculosis.	
William McDonald	Oct. 26, 1915
Age 60.	
Alexander McDermid	Mar. 21, 1904
Died after a fight with Murdo Campbell in front of the Cosmopolitan Hotel.	
W.J. Murphy	Sept. 29, 1909
Died when a bridge collapsed under a load of ore.	
Emmanuel M. Pelland	Aug. 18, 1913
Stanley Pigeon	Nov. 9, 1911
David Saigen	Aug. 20, 1912
A Sheep Creek miner who died in the Ymir Hospital of heart failure.	
Ursula Turner	1925
Died of pneumonia at age 11.	
Jack Turner	19--
George Walker	July 17, 1914
John Williams	Jan. 10, 1915



Ymir Public School, June 1926
Evelyn Murray photo

Ymir Public School,
June 1926 Grade 8
L to R: Matt Burgess,
Ray Gill, Muriel
Anderson, Margaret
Rankin, unknown, Joe
Chernoff

Evelyn Murray photo



Salmo
Museum
Photo



Ymir baseball team in the 1930's. Clarence McIsaac front right

Salmo Museum photo



Ymir Post Masters 1897 - 1991

Mr. John McLeod	Aug. 1, 1897 - April 25, 1904
Mr. Arthur O'Neil	July 1, 1904 - June 11, 1910
Mr. William Rand	Nov. 1, 1910 - Aug. 25, 1911
Mr. George Coleman	Dec. 1, 1911 - Jan. 4, 1918
Miss Mamie O'Neil	April 1, 1918 - July 18, 1918
Mrs. Agnes Dowling	Sept. 16, 1918 - Sept. 10, 1925
Miss Edna Burgess	Nov. 21, 1925 - Sept. 22, 1945
Mr. Smith Curwen	Jan. 12, 1925 - Sept. 22, 1945
Mr. John Beck	Oct. 23, 1945 - Jan. 15, 1946
Mr. Charles McDonald	May 18, 1946 - Dec. 9, 1947
Mr. Alex Ferworn	Dec. 16, 1947 - Mar. 23, 1963
Mr. George Murray	May 10, 1963 - June 30, 1972
Mrs. Evelyn Murray	June 30, 1972 - July 31, 1987
Mrs. Pat Gould	August 1, 1987 - June 23, 1991



John Voykin Jr. and John Slako
1934.

Florence (Slako) Hodgins photo

Special Thanks to:

The Nelson Daily News
Darkwood Forestry
Heritage Inn
Ymir Hotel
Murray Family
Clem & Bernette Grotkowski
Allan Nord
Dave & Sherri Banner
Bowlin Family
Minister of Forests
Ymir Community Association
Ymir Fire Department



From the Reunion Committee

This reunion has been brewing in the minds of Nick Bowlin and Lorraine (Murray) McGregor for at least 8 years. These two former Ymir-ites kept meeting at funerals and Memorial Services for Ymir people and the idea of a reunion started simmering. The idea came to a boil last summer when one of our own era, Dianne Gray, passed away. A small committee was formed on Sept. 3, 1997 and the first meeting was held on Sept. 16 in the old Ymir School. This committee has grown and the meetings have become reunions in themselves.

We hope everyone attending has a great time, you will renew old friendships, start new ones, and for some it will also be a family reunion. It has been a real pleasure putting this shindig together - Have fun!

Sincerely, Nick, Lorraine and all the Reunion Committee

Nick Bowlin, Lorraine (Murray) McGregor, Carol (Oreskovich) Lang, Gloria (Burgess) Mahar, Marilyn Edwardson) Konkin, Alan Nord, John Bruno, Jim & Trudy Murray, Hans Cunningham, Phil Verigin, Pat (Gallie) Gould, Evelyn Murray, Florence (Slako) Hodgins, Gloria Currie, Ken Murray, Ethel (Bowlin) Carmichael, Jim Helgren, Vicky Gowing and all the others who have given time and ideas towards this project.



May 24 celebrations 1958. Left to right in the back: Anne Kosinec, Marion Mottl, Lorraine Murray and Audrey Ekstrom. In the front left to right: Pat Gallie and Diane Ekstrom.
Pat (Gallie) Gould photo



George Murray escorting Marilyn Edwardson in 1960.
photo courtesy of Marilyn (Edwardson) Konkin

Ymir's Victoria Day Celebration 1904

As on previous occasions the heavens conspired with the celebration committee to make the day as perfect and pleasant as possible. The town was profusely decorated with flags and bunting and presented quite a gay and festive appearance when the train from Nelson pulled in.

The Nelson band lead a procession to the baseball ground where Mr. Patrick Daly, the president of the celebration committee, formally opened the days proceedings.

Footraces and jumping contests were the order of the day until noon. After dinner the first item of interest was horse racing on First Avenue.

Following the races, the crowd adjourned to the baseball grounds to watch the match between Nelson and Ymir, the end result being the trophy stayed in Ymir.

The drilling match followed at the rock placed for that purpose in front of the Miller House. McGillvray and Brown won the \$100 purse with a record bore of 42 3/4 inches.

In the evening, after a fine display of fireworks, the day's fun was wound up by a grand ball in the Union Hall at which a large attendance was gathered and enjoyed first class music and dancing until the small hours.

Ymir Herald, May 28, 1904



In the back left to right: Diane Gray and Wendy Anderson. Driver is Lawrence Parrish with Linda Ferworm sitting beside.
photo courtesy of Lorraine McGregor



Silver tea service won in May Day's raffle 1939 or 1940.
Photo courtesy of Evelyn Murray



May Day Celebration 1928. Katherine Rankin (Queen), Maids of Honor: Standing behind Queen: Mauriel Anderson, Ethel Green. Master of Ceremonies: Sonny Burgess.
Photo Courtesy of Evelyn Murray



Retiring May Queen 1958 Lorraine Murray with father George on her right and extra gun man Mike Poznikoff on left.
Photo courtesy of Lorraine (Murray) McGregor

May Day faces from the past



Rock Drilling Competition May 24 1926
photo courtesy of Lorraine McGregor



Back row left to right: Thelma Edwardson, Margurite Beaulieu. Front row, left to right: Judy Ferworm and Violet Wasilenko. *Florence (Slako) Hodgins photo*



Flower girls: Lorraine Murray and Jackie Daly. Dancer facing camera: Violet Wasilenko.
photo courtesy of Lorraine McGregor



May Queen 1939. Evelyn Emilson (centre). Maids of Honor (l) Sigrid Nord and (r) Florence McIntyre. Master of Ceremonies: Dan Mackay
Evelyn Murray photo



Photo at right: May Day Queen Fern Thomas
photo courtesy of: Verna (Chernoff) Beaulieu



May 24 celebrations 1961 or 63. Left to right in the back Pat Gallie, Donna Martin and Katheen Bowlin. In the front left to right: Janice Hudec and Brenda Giza
Pat (Gallie) Gould photo

Ymir faces from the past



Sam Sr. and Mary Verigin came to Ymir in the mid 1920's.
photo courtesy of Gloria (Burgess) Mahar



Andrew and Julia Burgess,
1904 or 1905.
photo courtesy of Gloria (Burgess) Mahar

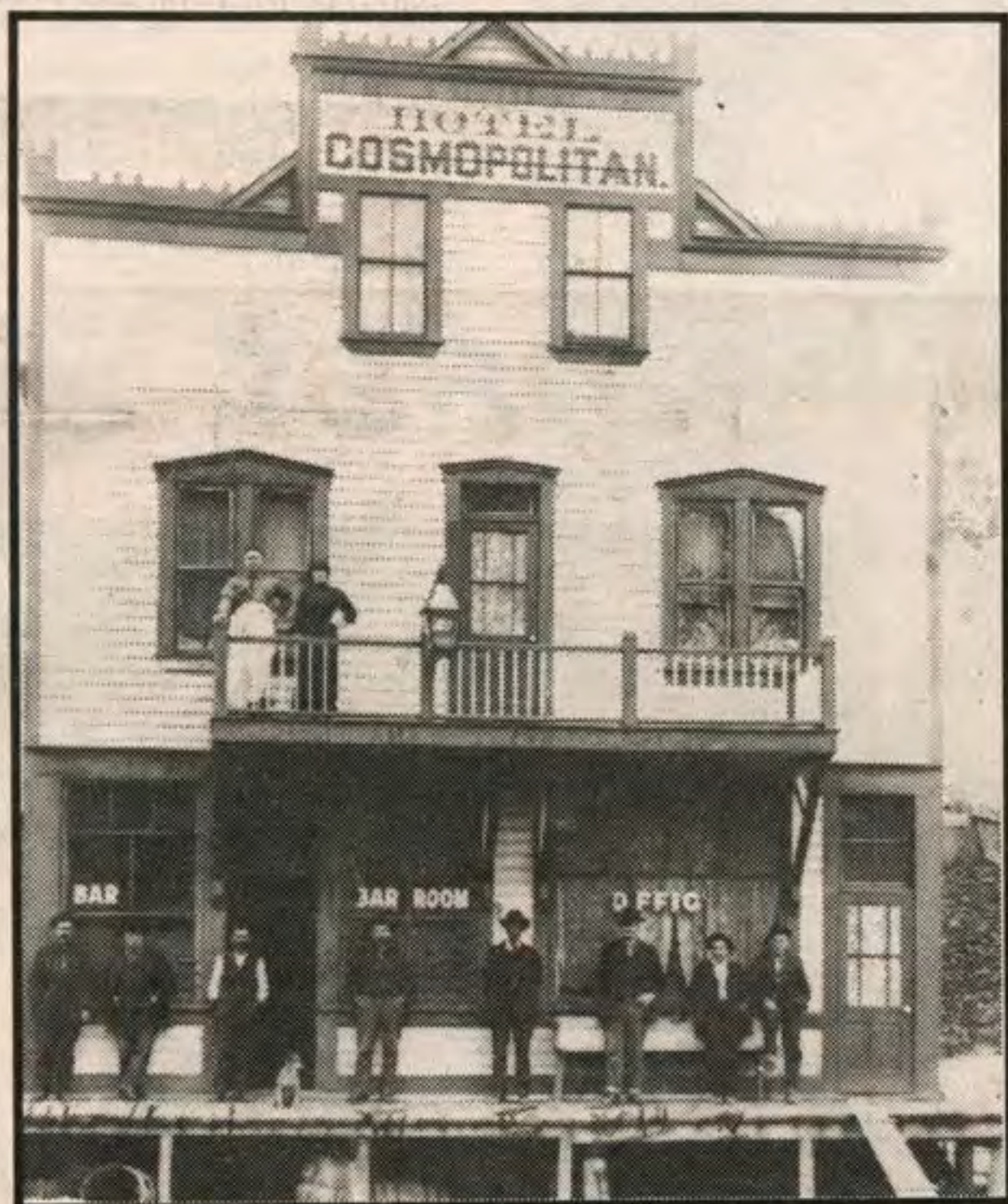


Harry Stevens with the
mink, weasel and martin
he trapped.
*photo courtesy of Evelyn
Murray*



Woodro and Perry Anderson 1923.
William Clark Funeral Home in background.
photo courtesy of Perry Anderson

Iva (Schrum)
Lindow
*photo courtesy of
Salmo Museum*



Cosmopolitan Hotel 1898. Left to right in front of Hotel: Mr. Shay, John Campbell (blacksmith), J. Broult (Proprietor), J. Gill, John Dewan (miner), "Red", Old Chestnut and unknown. The girl on the balcony is Mae O'Keefe and the bartender.
BC Archives photo



Marcie Voykin, Beverly Grotowski, Della Bowolin, Marilyn Giza, Jannet Bowolin and Peter Bowolin Jr.
photo courtesy of Nick Bowolin



Ymir Ladies Guild
photo courtesy of Salmo Museum



Grandpa (Claus) Nord
*photo courtesy of Marilyn
(Edwardson) Konkin*



Jimmy Turk second from left.
Lawrence Bond photo courtesy Salmo Museum



Aunt Ema and Uncle Alex with Margaret, Kathy and Diane in the 1950's.
photo courtesy of Nick Bowolin



Rock Drilling Competitions. *Lawrence Bond photo courtesy Salmo Museum*



Nick Bowolin with Folke Ekstrom
1970's.
photo courtesy of Nick Bowolin



Cook at the Wilcox Mine feeding chickens.
photo courtesy of Salmo Museum

Ymir faces & places from the past



Left: Fred Larsen and Harry Jackson
photo courtesy of Salmo Museum



Mrs. Coleman
photo courtesy of Salmo Museum

Below: left to right: Granny Jones, Liz Lundgren and Virginia Lundgren
photo courtesy of Liz Lundgren



Florence, Dad and brother Jack Slako - 1932
photo courtesy of Florence (Slako) Hodgins



Far right Ella McIsaac
photo courtesy of Salmo Museum



Mary Stewart with the Cosmopolitan Hotel to the left and train station at the right.
photo courtesy of Salmo Museum

Liz and Swan Lundgren
photo courtesy of Verna (Chernoff) Beaulieu



Riverside Motors
photo courtesy of Verna (Chernoff) Beaulieu



Left to right in back: George Murray, Gary Gee, Bud MacDonald, David Lundgren, Pete Beaulieu, Lorne Ekstrom, Alan Ferworn. Front row, left to right: Brad, David Martin, Jerry Ekstrom, Wayne Tetz, Ken Murray and Frank Gowing.
photo courtesy of Lorraine (Murray) McGregor



Ymir children in Halloween costumes 1932.
photo courtesy of Evelyn Murray



Back: Mrs. Ferworn, Liz Lundgren, Mary Gillis, Elsie Zeebin. Middle: Unknown, Winnie Kraft, Pat Wells. Front: Unknown, Judy Ferworn.
photo courtesy of Gloria (Burgess) Mahar

Ymir faces from the past



Evelyn Emilson, Cassie Cawley, Percy Cawley 1927 or 1928. Jack Daley's log store on the right. Note wooden sidewalk in background.

photo courtesy of Evelyn Murray



Ymir Superior School
1938
photo courtesy of Florence (Slako) Hodgins



Photo at right:
Ymir Superior School 1943
photo courtesy of Florence (Slako) Hodgins



Pictured at left is Gunner James P. Blaine. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Blaine of Ymir.

photo courtesy of Nelson Museum



Pictured at right: is Gunner John MacDougall of Ymir.
photo courtesy of Nelson Museum



Pte. W.W. Anderson of Ymir is a member of the 2nd CSR, CASF at Mary Hall Det., Victoria. He is the son of Mrs. G.J. Anderson of Ymir.

photo courtesy of Nelson Museum

Hans and Anne Edwardson 1940
photo courtesy of Marilyn (Edwardson) Konkin



Ymir School 1979 - 1980
photo courtesy of Verna (Chernoff) Beaulieu



Ymir School 1937
photo courtesy of Evelyn Murray



Ymir School 1952
photo courtesy of Evelyn Murray



Ymir School 1932
photo courtesy of Evelyn Murray



Ymir School 1953
photo courtesy of Evelyn Murray