

MONTANA GHOST TOWNS AND HISTORIC MINES

- Alder. On State Highway 34 at lower end of fabulous gulch. Two of Plummer's gang of Road Agents, Red Yager and G. W. Brown, were hanged at Laurin, near here, on Jan. 4, 1864. Here begin tailings left by dredge which Harvard University once operated to obtain several millions in gold.
- Alder Gulch. On State Highway 34. This was one of the great gold producers of all time. Discovered in May, 1863, it produced \$10,000,000 during the first year. A year later the boom town of Virginia City had a population of 10,000.
- Alta Mine. Inquire at Jefferson City on U.S. 91 between Butte and Helena. Located near the ghost camps of Wickes and Corbin, this mine produced \$32,000,000 by 1892.
- Atlantic Cable Mine. Near Georgetown Lake on U.S. 10-A. Mill machinery was imported from Swansea, Wales, and freighted in from Corinne, Utah, to operate this mine and produce \$7,000,000 in gold.
- Bannack. Montana's first big gold strike on Grasshopper Creek in July, 1862, resulted in this wild and roaring camp which became Montana's first territorial capital. It is now a State Monument, located west of Dillon, off U.S. 91.
- Basin. On U.S. 91 between Helena and Butte, this camp still lives but it's a lot different now that uranium mines are operating. Inquire for information on the old mines of Gray Eagle, Jib and Comet.
- Barker. Inquire at Neihart on U.S. 89. This is an old silver camp.
- Buckeye Mine. Inquire at Jefferson City on U.S. 91. Here on Golconda Creek near the mine are the remains of an old Spanish arrastra, a crude mill for grinding gold ore, used by the mine's first owners. This is an area where present-day prospectors may be found.
- Buffalo Gulch. This is now Centerville, a suburb of Butte. In the middle '60's this was an offshoot of the placer diggings along nearby Silver Bow Creek.
- Butte City. An earlier version of the famous mining city -- the richest hill on earth. Inquire at Butte.
- Beartown. Inquire at Drummond on U.S. 10. This ghost town yielded a cool million in gold and silver in 1866, housed the notorious "Beartown Roughs," sought to be the State Capital, then died. Here there is a steep cliff where, they say, a Chinaman buried a fortune in a five-pound baking powder can. Hundreds have sought it, but it's never been found.
- Castle. This bustling silver camp was once the residence of Calamity Jane and her buddies, but after the panic of 1893 it quieted down. Many of the buildings still stand. Inquire at White Sulphur Springs on U.S. 89.
- Cable. The ground here was so rich that a cigar box of samples assayed \$1,000. Here was found, reputedly, the world's largest nugget, bought by W. A. Clark for \$19,000, and here is the site of the old Atlantic Cable Mine. Near Georgetown Lake on U.S. 10-A.

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Jefferson City. On U.S. 91 between Butte and Helena, the old city is famous as the stage and freight stop between Fort Benton and Virginia City. Nearby, fabulous camps such as Corbin and Wickes produced \$100,000,000.

Karst's Camp. Between Bozeman and Yellowstone Park on U.S. 191 is one of Montana's unusual present-day mining ventures -- an asbestos mine.

Kendall. This camp, out of Lewistown on U.S. 87, along with Giltedge and Maiden poured out \$18,000,000.

Keystone Mines. Off U.S. 2, out of Yaak in the extreme northwest corner of Montana is situated the Keystone Gold Mining Company. Don't seek this one out unless you crave adventure, for it is located in some of the wildest country imaginable. No major gold strike ever occurred there.

Last Chance Gulch. See Helena. The State Historical Library here offers opportunity for research on old ghost towns and mines.

Laurin. See Alder Gulch. Hangman's Tree where two of Plummer's gang died is near here.

Lump City. See Clancy. The Liverpool Mine was a rich producer in the 90's, but nothing remains except a single building.

Livingston. Not a mining town, but you can pick up leads here on nearby camps. Mines and cowpokes rubbed shoulders at the Bucket O' Blood saloon.

Louisville. Sixteen miles along Cedar Creek out of Superior on U.S. 10 is this ghost of the '70's. It was part of the Cayuse Creek stampede which brought 10,000 gold seekers to the vicinity.

Lincoln. Not a mining camp, but the heart of a present-day mining area. This is located on Montana 20, northwest of Helena. In the vicinity are the old camp of Stemple, the old Gould Mine, the Mike Horse, Jay Gould, North Gould, Bachelor and other mines.

Maiden. First camp in the Judith and Moccasin fields, which made fortunes for miners drifting out of Alder Gulch. Inquire at Lewistown. See Giltedge.

Marysville. North of Helena, reached from U.S. 91 over good road. There's more to see here than in most ghost towns. The town is not quite deserted, and some mining still goes on, but it's nothing like the rip-roaring period when Irishman Tommy Cruse's magnificent Drumlummon Mine poured out \$50,000,000. Other mines which produced handsomely included the Bald Mountain, Empire, West Belmont, Bell Boy, Penobscot and Shannon.

Mayville. See Louisville. A ghost of the Cayuse Creek rush, near Superior.

Meaderville. Now one of Butte's famous suburbs, noted for its night life and superb steak dinners.

Missoula Lode. Where Humphrey and Allison found the elk horns used in one of the earliest prospect holes, in what became the richest hill on earth. Now part of Butte.

Monarch. A sleepy village on U.S. 89 south of Great Falls, it once hoped to be a great silver center. Camps of Neihart and Hughesville are nearby.

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West Belmont Mine. Near Marysville, and not the same one as the mine named that at Butte. After Tommy Cruse had made his millions in the rich vein of Drumlummon, he developed this and Bald Mountain, and added another three or four million to the kitty. Marysville is one of the most accessible of all Montana gold camps, reached from U.S. 91 north of Helena.

York. Another of the camps near Helena, this one is across the Missouri. Inquire at Helena.

Yogo Gulch. Site of the famous mines which produced upwards of \$10,000,000 worth of some of the most beautiful sapphires in the world. Jim Ettien sold the claim originally for a paltry \$1600. Turn south from U.S. 87 near Windham, toward Utica.

Zortman. See Ruby Gulch Mine.

Don't miss BUTTE — Montana's modern mining city. Free tours of the famous Kelley Mine are operated daily at 1 p.m. (Mountain Daylight Saving Time). Inquire at Butte Chamber of Commerce for details.

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