

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

BOISE RIDGE MINES

Number 163

1980

Prospecting of the Boise Ridge not far from the Idaho City road disclosed some promising lodes in the winter of 1864-1865. Additional discoveries followed periodically, leading to K. P. Plowman's location of a productive Shaw Mountain mine on Deer Creek in May of 1877. After utilizing an arastra there, he brought a mill in during 1881. Another substantial 1877 discovery in McRay's Gap adjacent to the summit of the Idaho City road accounted for installation of a ten-stamp mill there in 1879. In 1894, an additional stamp mill still closer to Boise began to crush ten to twelve tons of ore a day. James Flanagan employed fifteen miners in his mine and mill, located only five miles from Boise.

After an interesting lode discovery there in 1891, the Black Hornet on the east side of Lucky Peak gained considerable publicity. Denver investors showed interest in that property in the summer of 1895, and finally a \$100,000 purchase was completed that fall. Daily carloads of \$40 ore were shipped to Salt Lake that fall, and a \$69.65 nugget found there two years later helped promote that district. By 1896 a group of Black Hornet mines had produced about \$30,000 with \$24,000 of that amount in 1895 and 1896. Another \$400,000 followed later, raising the total to \$21,400. Farther west, small lode developments on Cottonwood Gulch above Rocky Canyon added slightly to Boise Ridge production. Even though Boise Ridge did not begin to compare with Idaho's major gold producers, mining on Shaw Mountain contributed in a modest way to the state's mineral wealth.

Publications--450 N. 4th Street, Boise, ID 83702--208-334-3428