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Several independent prospectors based at Leesburg began to placer some Salmon River bars at Shoup in 1868 and 1869, but lode discoveries there were delayed for more than a decade. Eventually Samuel James and Pat O'Hara came along late in 1881. Arriving at Pine Creek November 24, they spent more than two weeks prospecting before identifying a major lode--The Grunter. Sam James later described their problems in hunting for gold to Jay A. Czizek (an early Idaho state mine inspector who had lived at Shoup in 1889), who reported their difficulties in detail:

Undaunted by all obstacles which then beset their way, such as being the most unfavorable time of year for mountain travel, having to make their own trails in whatever direction they went, the river freezing and full of floating ice, but these were but trifling annoyances in comparison to a degraded remnant of a most fiendish tribe of Indians which then lurked about the hills.

Actually, Idaho's Indian wars had ended. In any event, local Indians around Shoup were less ferocious than their white neighbors. Unaware of that situation, many prospectors had more than passing fear--not totally unfounded--of an Indian menace.

John Ralston bought O'Hara's half-interest for \$250 before recording this important new claim in Salmon City, March 24, 1882. Then James sold his share for \$5,000 in a much more profitable deal. James did not leave Shoup, though. He went on to discover one new lode after another. In this series of finds, he located the Kentuck (which became Shoup's other leading property) June 17, 1882. That October he arranged to sell his new lode to Salt Lake investors (including a former Utah governor, Eli H. Murray) for \$16,500. H. C. Merritt managed to bring California's prominent mine developer George Hearst into this syndicate, which also included Gilmer and Salisbury, who operated a stage system in Idaho and Montana. A highly successful, professional prospector, James went right on discovering more lodes.

By the fall of 1882, Shoup had a post office (named for Lemhi County's leading citizen George L. Shoup, later to become governor and a United States senator, after the postal service rejected the local name of "Boulder" for that new community) and

a bright future. Testing of ore there commenced in November when a 6,300-pound lot, packed to Salmon for shipment to Salt Lake, returned \$375 in gold. Production in the Kentuck continued for many years after that without interruption--not too common a record in Idaho's mining history.

A substantial number of lesser lode locations followed the Kentuck. In 1886, Robert N. Bell (another later state mine inspector) joined Sam James as a successful prospector at Shoup, and George Hearst came in to make an additional discovery in 1888. By that time Shoup had a couple of hotels in addition to the usual budget of saloons. Culture was represented by an opera house (which ran during the summer and fall) and an art gallery, operated by W. P. Pilliner, a professional artist. Not every Idaho mining camp could support such an array. In the fall of 1889, the Kentuck ten-stamp water-powered mill was grinding out more than \$7,200 a month, and more than three hundred lodes--mostly low grade--had been located. A Salmon River railway (projected by a Northern Pacific main line survey in 1872, but abandoned in favor of a route around Lake Pend d'Oreille) was needed to make more of them productive. Most of Shoup's supplies came in by river freight boats from Salmon City--a service that had commenced when the Kentuck opened. Jay Czizek described what must have been an interesting inaugural trip:

On the first day of December, 1882, five men and fourteen gallons of whisky embarked with a cargo of 7,000 pounds of supplies, which they safely landed on the tenth day out. Now two men will make the trip in two days with a cargo of 24,000 pounds, but whether the quantity of whisky is decreased in the same ratio as the number of men required, we are unable to state.

Aside from Shoup, a small mining community two miles upstream on Pine Creek grew up after 1886 near another group of lodes there. This settlement had not attained all the amenities available in Shoup by 1890. But life there matched that in more than one isolated early Idaho mining camp:

A 10-stamp mill, a saw mill, one arastra and a boarding house are also company buildings. One half a mile further on is the burg of Pine creek, and two miles from here on upper Pine creek is the group of mines owned by James & Brown, and on this property is a one-stamp mill owned by Kenney & Pollard of Salmon City. The town of Pine creek includes the remaining buildings--which are built in a style of architecture similar to that of the raven, only differing in one respect, and that is where the raven has used mud to hold his structure together, mud has been used in this

instance as a protection against the reverses elements of the weather. Crude and uncouth as these habitations may appear, they serve to keep up the illusion called home, but the romance of love in a cottage or in the cot on the mountain is often dispelled by the embarrassing discomfortures of living in one with a family. We have overlooked the company dwelling house which is built of sawed logs and includes the company office and store house. This building bears the only outward semblance of a human abode, inasmuch as it has doors and windows. It also boasts the luxurious dimensions of two sleeping apartments and an attic which is very conveniently reached by a ladder put up to a window on the outside. The present appearance of these camps is by no means a disparaging feature, but makes an era of progress nearing the close of one decade, which has been attained without the spasmodic aid of a boom.

Shoup, for that matter, could not be compared with a more permanent community:

After eight years of growth as a mining town, Shoup now contains two 10-stamp quartz mills, four arastras, one saw mill, one store, two boarding houses, a Postoffice and one saloon. No one has ever settled here with the intention of making a permanent home, therefore houses are an unknown quantity. The first glimpse of town, coming down the trail, is apt to give anyone the impression of a collection of hen-coops, and though bearing the illustrious name of Shoup, the population of Chinese and Italians to be seen in passing through the town, suggests that it might more appropriately be called Pekin or Milan.

But life there went on for another decade or two, supported by large scale lode operations. Mills with a total of 55 stamps had come into production by 1902, when over \$750,000 in gold had been recovered there. By that time, new discoveries not far away on Indian Creek increased production of that area. Although gold lodes had been discovered in 1895 on Indian Creek, their location upstream from Salmon River delayed production there until 1902. Access was far more difficult than at Shoup, although Shoup's river boats sailed right by Indian Creek. Their problem came from lack of a good landing site. In 1899, when machinery was being taken there for a stamp mill at Ulysses, more than a little trouble was encountered. George M. Watson reported their rather interesting trip:

I left the mouth of the north fork of Salmon river in a

boat on the 6th day of July for Indian Creek. The boat was loaded with machinery for new stamp mill that is being built there.

Indian Creek is located down Salmon River, about forty miles from Salmon City. It is now creating great excitement since the recent rich strikes of free milling ores, and I think it will come to the front as one of the best producers of ores in Idaho. They are now building a 5-stamp mill there and are going to prospect the ledes and if satisfactory will build two 10-stamp mills next summer. The ore is free milling, of a very high grade and is glittering with free gold, but after depth is reached the ores will likely turn into refractory or sulpheride ores the same as at Gibbonsville.

There is no road after you leave the mouth of the north fork of Salmon river, the only way to get transportation in there is by boats down Salmon river and that is very risky business, as the bottom of the river is strewn with machinery from recent wrecks.

Salmon river is a very bad river, as the writer knows from experience. Five of us left the mouth of the north fork of Salmon with a big flat-bottom boat loaded with machinery and supplies, and when we got to the mouth of Indian Creek we could not make the landing as the river was very high so we went down the river about a mile before we could stop the boat. Then we had to build a road back up the river to Indian Creek and drag the machinery after us, so you can see what kind of a country this is. It is insulated from every where and all it needs is roads and capital to make it one of the greatest countries in the west.

In spite of such obstacles, a fifteen-stamp mill, which commenced production in 1902, was enlarged to thirty stamps the next year. This operation processed enough low grade (ten dollar) ore to yield a monthly profit of 3% on a large capital investment through 1904. That September, a fire destroyed the plant and set Ulysses back seriously. When burned out, Ulysses had Idaho's largest active gold mine. Even though production resumed, none of the mills there finally managed to operate profitably in the long run. Their \$600,000 production came at a loss, and since much of their low-grade rock could not cover expenses of shipment to a smelter, Ulysses eventually proved to be a disappointment.

Another less than satisfactory operation ruined development of the Grunter at Shoup. In 1903, the state mine inspector

explained that:

The Grunter mine, situated a mile east of the Kentuck on the same vein, is a fine example of one of the most flattering gold enterprises in the State that was butchered by a would-be mining capitalist who, through blundering misconception of the enterprise he was undertaking, started in to put up a first-class ten-stamp concentrating mill for a half interest in the property, and wound up by furnishing a five-stamp mill with a hog-trough mortar and an overshot wheel that was just about as effective as a good sized coffee mill and never gave the property half a chance to show its merits.

Aside from that fiasco, however, Shoup did better, with an eventual resumption of production (close to \$600,000 additional) from 1935 to 1942, when operations shut down during the World War II. Recent interest in molybdenum on upper Spring Creek continues to attract attention to the Shoup area.