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**GERMANIA BASIN AND EAST FORK OF THE SALMON**

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Galena discoveries in Germania Basin expanded mining prospects north from Wood River to the Upper East Fork of the Salmon in the summer of 1879. Two Germania lodes, located about five miles apart, had promising assays during their initial season. Samples of silver running 400 ounces per ton came from a rich fourteen inch seam in a three foot vein in one, while values as high as \$240 came from another ten to twelve foot vein that generally ran twelve dollars in gold with thirty dollars in silver. James Steele and William Short exposed six hundred feet from the latter vein that summer. By October, packers had hauled some of the better ore out to the Utah Northern at Blackfoot for shipment to a smelter.

Work at Germania continued steadily, with 150 tons packed to the Clayton smelter in 1881. Five men got fifty to sixty more tons of high grade ore ready for shipment in the spring of 1882 from Fred Spereling's Germania Mine to a new smelter only eight miles away at Galena on Upper Wood River. That summer a ten ton daily production of ore assaying 150 ounces of silver per ton increased their stockpile while a road was under construction to accommodate teamsters instead of packers. By the next summer, development of the Livingston Mine on Railroad Ridge exposed assays of 100 to 400 ounces of silver per ton in another East Fork property only twelve miles from a convenient smelter at Clayton. In 1890, an eastern company commenced to purchase the Livingston group with a \$100,000 initial payment. By 1902 S. A. Livingston was working this property with some success, although major production was deferred until 1926. Active from 1926 to 1930, the Livingston accounted for \$650,000.

Southern Idaho's major lead-silver-zinc discovery in thirty years revived mining at Livingston in 1925. A new plant and equipment, installed in 1926, made this southern Idaho's largest mining employer and next to largest metal producer within another year. Prospecting for molybdenum led to major discoveries near the Livingston close to Castle Peak in 1968 and 1969, with a reported \$100,000,000 ore body that attracted widespread attention.

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