

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

SOUTH MOUNTAIN

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Two major veins of gold, silver, and lead were discovered in the fall of 1868 on South Mountain, not far from a new freight road from Silver City and Flint to Camp Three Forks and Camp McDermit. One of these veins was listed as from twenty to thirty feet wide on the surface; the other, although much narrower, still was four feet wide. Assays of \$248.15 a ton gave South Mountain favorable notice right from the beginning. Development did not get under way until after 1869, because a smelter was necessary to handle the ore. A small smelter was brought into the area in 1874, and until a financial collapse resulting from the failure of the Bank of California on August 26, 1875, shut down the district, South Mountain attracted a lot of attention. Interest revived in 1906, but production (\$1.67 million) for the most part came between 1940 and 1945, with a lesser amount (\$120,000) between 1950 and 1955. With encouraging silver prices in 1977, additional work was undertaken to develop ore so that South Mountain might be reopened.

(This information has not been edited.)

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