

Gold Mine Trail SUTTER CREEK

EST. 1854



Central Eureka Mine Sutter Creek

Central Eureka Mine

All Amador mines including the Central Eureka Mine were closed in 1942. The Central Eureka reopened in 1947 and continued strong until its August, 1958 closure. The City of Sutter Creek received the 17-acre site as a gift from private owners, and walking trails will be established around the preserved headframe and stamp mill.

Gold Mines of Amador

After the placer gold rush of 1848-50, miners began to dig into earth and rock to uncover gold imprisoned in quartz rocks' deep veins. The largest vein was the Mother Lode between Yosemite (Oakhurst) and Georgetown in El Dorado County. The 20-mile stretch from the Mokelumne River to the Cosumnes River was the richest, producing some \$160 million in gold between 1851 and 1942. (Current value \$5 billion)

The first hard rock mines were found in Amador City in 1851. The original Ministers' Claim and the Spring Hill were soon followed by many others: Lincoln, South Spring Hill, Keystone, Original Amador, and Eureka.

By the 1870s-80s Amador County was working 300+ mines. There were some tunnels, but later incline and vertical shafts reached down a mile into the ground. The Kennedy and Argonaut were close to 6,000' deep. Headframes crowned shafts and stamp mills processed and crushed the ore. Some mines were worked by their founders but most were sold time and again and were improved or went bust. Large American and foreign



Argonaut Mine

companies traded in stock and ran the mines from afar.

Workers came from all over the world to look and work for gold. Most were from Europe: Italy, France, Yugoslavia, and Cornwall. Many stayed on to settle towns, marry, and raise families.

Some mines vanished over the years; others still exist. Of the 300-400 mines, only eight headframes still stand, but many foundations, shafts, and surface works remain.

Creative Design, Text & Mine Drawings by Robert Richards; Revision Editor, Marcia Oxford; Map Art, Andy Fahrenwald



THE CITY OF
SUTTER CREEK
CALIFORNIA

Booklet Courtesy of Sutter Creek Promotions Committee.

www.suttercreek.org / info@suttercreek.org

Million Dollar Gold Mine Road Tour

This map is NOT to scale. Look for posted signs at each numbered location. The map intersections have been carefully drawn. Most mines 1/4 to 1/2 mile apart. Total trip about 15 miles. Between Sutter Creek and Drytown and on Sutter Hill Rd. and Jackson Gate Rd., this tour follows the narrow, twisted wagon road originally connecting the mines and towns. Please drive carefully! The articles on the reverse of this flyer list ruins and remains surviving at each mine location; the drawings on the map show some of these. Observe the "made landscape"; landforms shaped by tailing piles, holding ponds, canals and the terraces where the mines and mills once stood. Where access is provided, do get out and explore on foot, but please do not trespass on private property.

LIST OF GOLD MINES

- 1 Moore: Fuller & Hwy. 49, Jackson
- 2 Zeile: Broadway, Jackson
- 3 Kennedy-Argonaut view: Hwy. 49 Vista Points, Jackson
- 4 Oneida: Jackson Gate Rd., Martell
- 5 So. Eureka: Ridge Rd., Sutter Creek
- 6 Central Eureka: Sutter Hill Rd., Sutter Creek
- 7 Old Eureka: Hwy. 49, S.C.
- 8 Emerson: Randolph-Cole, Sutter Creek
- 9 Wildman: Gopher Flat Rd., Sutter Creek
- 10 Mahoney: Gopher Flat, S.C.
- 11 Lincoln: Amador Rd., S.C.
- 12 So. Spring Hill, String Bean Alley, Amador City
- 13 Keystone: Hwy. 49, A.C.
- 14 Original Amador: Water & School, Amador City
- 15 Bunker Hill: Bunker Hill Rd., Amador City
- 16 Treasure: Bunker Hill Rd., Amador City
- 17 Fremont-Gover: Bunker Hill Rd., New Chicago
- 18 Plymouth Consolidated: Pacific St., Plymouth



1 MOORE MINE

Active in the 1880s with a 10 stamp mill. Reopened in



1921 and worked off and on until 1934. Shaft was 2291' deep; Production over \$564,624. Many foundations remain on Fuller Road. Tailing dam ends at Raleys on Hwy 49 in Jackson.

2 ZEILE MINE

Worked in 1860s with a 16 stamp mill.



Operated continuously from 1875-1914. Shaft depth, 1865'. Total production over \$5 million. Powder house remains.

3 KENNEDY-ARGONAUT VIEW POINT

Kennedy was one of the deepest, 5,912', and largest producers of gold: \$34 million.



Worked until 1942. Argonaut founded in 1871, produced \$29 million. Its shaft over 1 mile deep. Headframes and buildings remain. Kennedy surface buildings on tour weekends.

4 ONEIDA MINE

Founded in the 1860s. A new mill built in 1890s.



Mine worked until 1914 with a production of \$2,500,000. Had a 2280' vertical shaft and a 1350' incline. Many buildings and powder house remain at the site.

5 SOUTH EUREKA

Opened in the 1870s. Major development 1891-1917. Explored by Central Eureka in 1924 until after WW II.



Production \$5,300,000. Shaft 2900'. Dump and surface work remain. Site no longer visible.

6 CENTRAL EUREKA

Founded as the Summit Mine in 1855. Longest working mine (until 1957). Produced \$39 million in gold in consolidation



with Old Eureka and South Eureka. Shaft 4900' deep. Headframe & stamp mill remain.

7 OLD EUREKA

Founded in 1853 as the Badger and Wolverine Mine. Connected to Wildman Mine. Shaft 4000' deep.



Produced \$12 million until 1924. Joined with Central Eureka and reopened after WW II until 1957. Buildings and water tower remain.

8 EMERSON SHAFT

Eastern shaft of Wildman Mine 900' deep. Joined to Wildman as an air shaft and hauling station for waste rock.



Used as a quarry in 1900s. Rock foundation and open shaft remain.

9 WILDMAN MINE

Founded in 1851. Had 70 stamps. Consolidated first with Mahoney and later with Lincoln Mine.



Produced \$3,500,000 to 1924. Shaft, 1500' deep, encased under post office bell tower. Powder house remains.

10 MAHONEY MINE

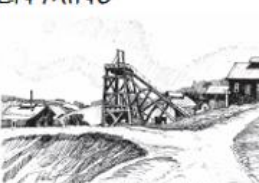
Operated from 1852 until 1924. Ran 70 stamp mill with the Wildman Mine.



Produced \$3,500,000 in consolidation with the Wildman Mine in 1900. Shaft 1200' deep. Shaft depression and surface workings atop hill above the post office.

11 LINCOLN MINE

Founded in 1851 as the Union Mine. Owned by Leland Stanford who changed the name.



Worked until 1924, producing \$2 million. Consolidated with Wildman-Mahoney. Foundations and dump remain.

12 SOUTH SPRING HILL

Located in 1851 and worked until 1893 with a 30 stamp mill. In 1920 purchased by Keystone Co. and worked until 1942.



Value \$1,092,472. Waste rock, foundations, and surface work remain on String Bean Alley.

13 KEYSTONE MINE

Founded in 1851 from many claims. Joined with Spring Hill and consolidated in 1933. Closed in 1942. Wonder shaft reopened until 1952. Patton shaft 2656' deep.



Produced \$24 million. Shafts, headframe, stamp mill, foundations, and buildings remain.

14 ORIGINAL AMADOR

Opened in 1852 from 6 claims. As Original Amador, it worked until 1918.



Reopened, worked 1935-37. Mill used by Keystone Mine until 1942. Produced \$3,500,000. Shaft 1238'. Foundations and dump remain.

15 BUNKER HILL MINE

First worked in 1853 as Rancheria Mine. From 1899 until 1922 operated as Bunker Hill Consolidated,



producing \$5,154,382. Shaft 3440'. 40 stamps. Headframe, open shaft, dump, and surface workings remain.

16 TREASURE MINE

Founded before 1867. Worked from 1907-1922. Total production was \$1 million.



Shaft 3030' deep. Connected to Bunker Hill Mine. Ore frame, open shaft, mill, foundation, and dumps remain.

17 FREMONT-GOVER

Founded prior to 1867. Worked from 1872-1890 when Fremont shaft was sunk 2950'.



40 stamp mill; produced \$5 million. Headframe, mill, foundations, and tailings remain.

18 PLYMOUTH CONS

Founded in 1852 from several claims. Consolidated in 1883. Mine worked until 1947, after closing during WW II. Total production was \$13,500,000.



Pacific shaft was 4450' deep on a vertical incline. Foundations for stamp mill remain; enclosed in concrete yard.