SAN JUAN TRIANGLE MAYFLOWER MILL

MAYFLOWER MINE

The Dives and Shenandoah mines were opened in the early 1890's and are an extension of the North Star lode. The mine was worked until at least 1947. The ore and country rock are very similar to that of North Star. The pay ore was generally Grey Copper, Galena, tetrahedrite, Chaleopyrite, and pyrite with a gangue of quartz and barite For the most part, the Shenandoah-Dives was low grade grade ore but the occasional pocket of high grade ore could run as much as 200 oz silver per ton. In 1926, the Shenandoah-Dives Mining Company was formed and it consolidated the Shenandoah, Dives, Highland Mary, North Star, Mayflower mines. It also built the Shenandoah-Dives Mill. The work done on these mines was extensive. They were all connected except Highland Mary. In theory you could enter the Mayflower Mine in Arrastra Gulch and stay underground all the way under Little Giant Peak and come above Cunningham Gulch at the Shenandoah shaft, a distance of just under two miles. ((Mines of the Alpine Loop, William Bowling)

Shenandoah-Dives Mining Company had revived the Mayflower Mine from dormancy in the late 1920s and built the massive Mayflower Mill in 1929. Silverton's biggest employer for over twenty five years, the mine survived several fluctuations in metal prices, a major strike, and the Crash of 1929 that ushered America into the Great Depression. With low-grade ores, Manager Chase was able to keep the mine open by keeping costs down. (San Juan Publishing)


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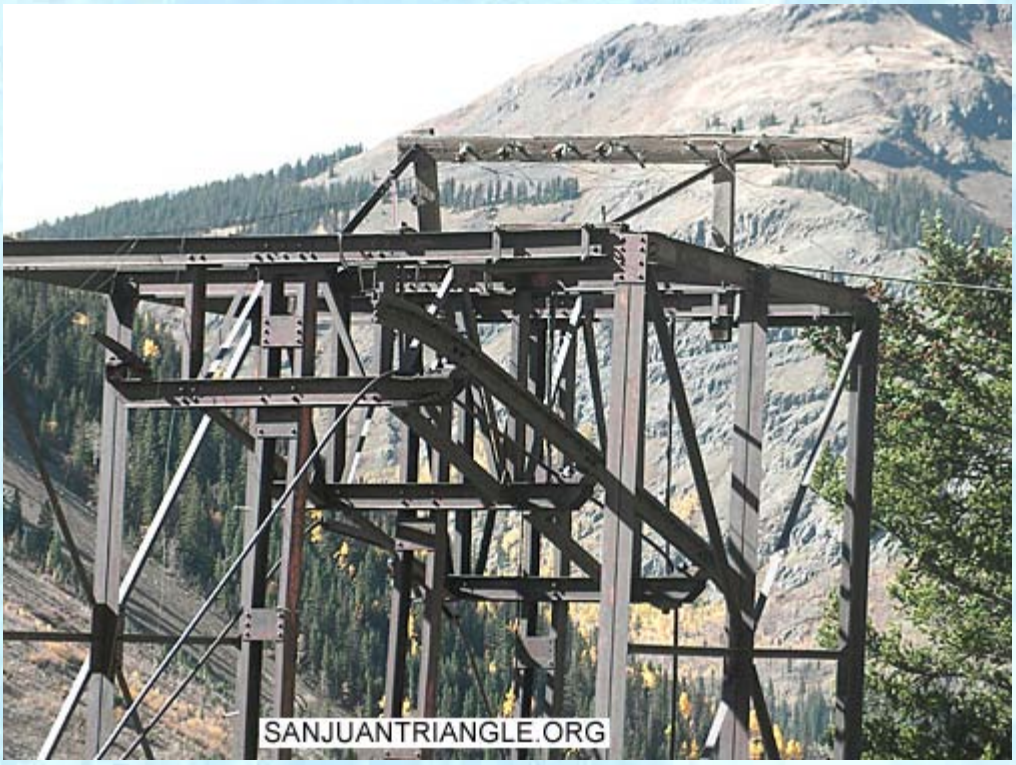
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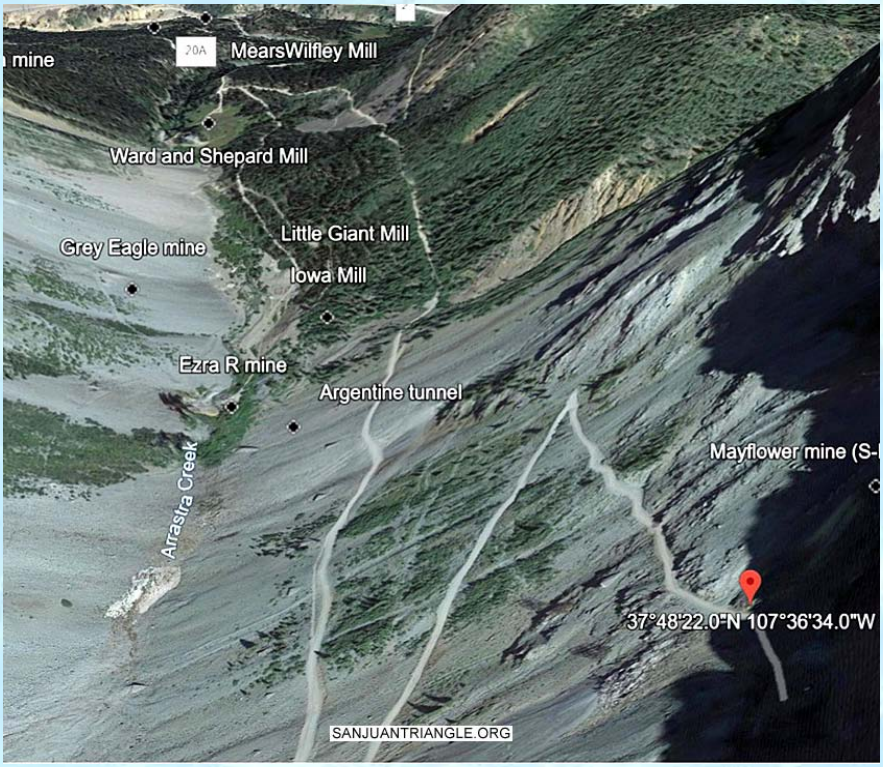
MearsWilfley Mill
Ward and Shepard Mill
Little Giant Mill
Grey Eagle mine
Iowa Mill
Ezra R mine
Argentine tunnel
Arrastra Creek
37°48'22.0"N 107°36'34.0"W
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SAN JUAN TRIANGLE MAYFLOWER MILL

SUNNYSIDE MINES

The Sunnyside Mines started about 1875 by George Howard and R.J. McNutt. Overall they consisted of several mine sites and mine town site, three trams, the Midway Stamp Mill, the first Terry Mill at Eureka, the Sunnyside Mill at Eureka.

Mining began in1875 and by 1879 the mine was producing some very rich gold ore which was amalgamated and sent to the smelter. By 1881 the mine was said to have earned $385,00, mostly from gold. In the early 1880's the rich gold ore was beginning to give out and lower grade silver ore was the prominent ore. Still over the years it continued to find rich pockets of gold ore and some free gold. Because the ore was now a lower grade, a small 10 Stamp Mill was erected at the base of Lake Emma. However the mill turned out to be a financial failure. The remnants of the mill may be still there. In 1890 J. H. Terry built a mill at Eureka that proved profitable and by 1896 an air tram was in place to carry the ore from the mine down the valley to be concentrated at Eureka. Terry built another smaller mill next to the big one in 1899. A small air tram was built from one mill to the next and the smaller mill was used to treat the lower grade ore that did not require amalgamation.

In 1917 the Gold Prince mine, Sunnyside and several others were consolidated under the U.S. Smelting and Refining Co. That same year a new 500 ton mill was built in Eureka. Much of the material to build the mill came from the Gold Prince Mill in Animas Forks. It was the first commercial lead/zinc flotation plant in North America and was in full operation by 1918. By the year 1922, the mine had 216 employees and was processing 500 tons of ore a day. The mine was closed in 1930 due to the Depression but reopened in 1937. Ore reserves began to dwindle, and the mine was again shut down in 1939. That same year the Silverton Railroad stopped service to Eureka and points north. The Sunnyside mill at Eureka continued to operate until 1941 but was later scrapped in 1948.

In 1959 the Sunnyside and other properties were leased, and the American Tunnel was started in Gladstone. The tunnel was dug to reach the Sunnyside lode below Lake Emma, as well as other veins along its 2-mile route under Bonita Peak. The company had mined and stopped to within 90 feet of the bottom of Lake Emma. In 1977, the lake

began to leak into the tunnel. Sunday June 4, 1978 the lake broke through. The American tunnel was connected to just about everything (except the Sunnyside mine). Millions of gallons of water came through the tunnels, pouring out through the Terry Tunnel in Eureka Gulch and out of the American Tunnel in Gladstone. The tunnel closed for the last time in 1991. In 118 years the mine produced over 7 million tons of ore. (Mines of the Alpine Loop, William Bowling)

NOTE- There were several mines at the Sunnyside mines district. Also need info on ore moving to the Mayflower Mill as the Eureka mill closed in 1941. Assume Sunnyside was one of several ore suppliers to Mayflower 1941-1953. Mill closed 1953-1960.






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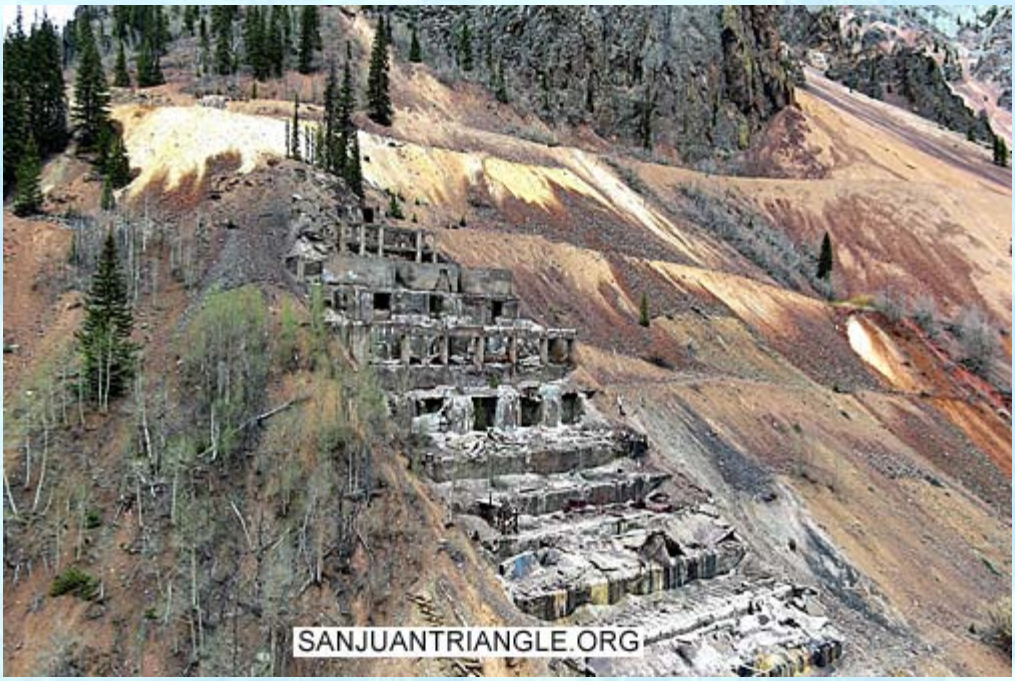
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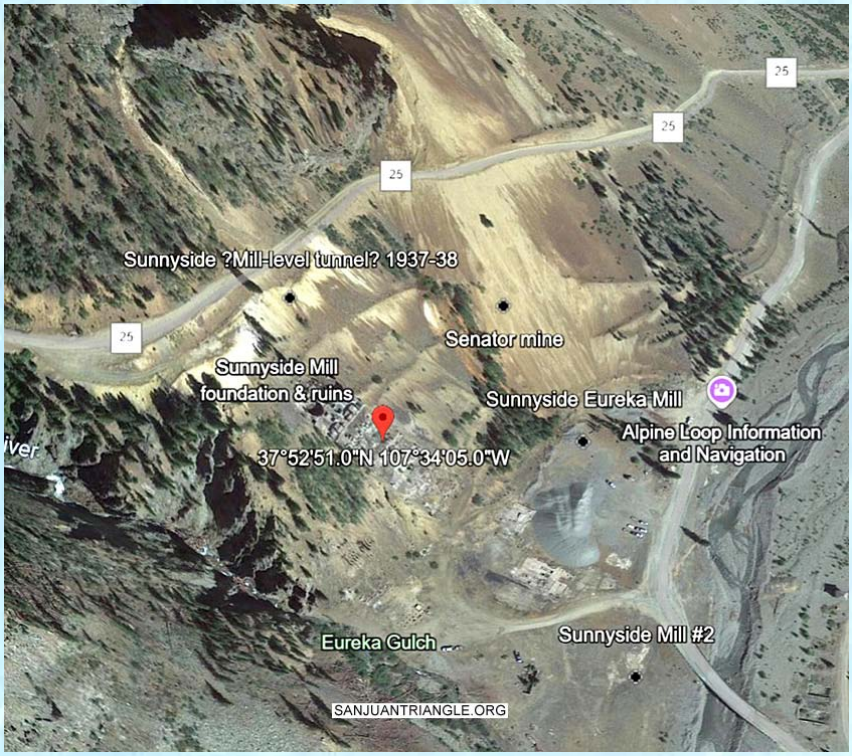
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Sunnyside ?Mill-level tunnel? 1937-38
Senator mine
Sunnyside Mill
foundation & ruins
Sunnyside Eureka Mill
Alpine Loop Information
and Navigation
37°52'51.0"N 107°34'05.0"W
Eureka Gulch
Sunnyside Mill #2
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