



21ST ANNUAL TOUR
 Grand Encampment, New Rambler & Keystone Mining Sites
 Sunday August 1, 1971

1. Oldman Ranch just west of Encampment.
2. Old Rambler Townsite & Mine. Also known as Doane Mine.
3. Thomas A. Edison Monument
4. Encampment Museum and City Park. LUNCH STOP
5. Ralph Platt Residence and Museum
6. Bonanza King Copper Mine
7. Golden Clover Mine
8. New Rambler
9. Keystone

Additional mining site locations. Roads to these places are all gravel roads & some are passable only to Four-Wheel-Drive vehicles.

- A. GOLD HILL (Stamp Mill Lake). 3 miles from Jct. in Headquarters Park. Township 16 north, Range 80 West.
- B. ALBANY PLACERS. Sections 2, 3, 9, 10, 15 & 16, Township 14 north, Range 79 west.





STOPS ON THE 1971 TOUR OF MINING SITES

GRAND ENCAMPMENT AND NEW RAMBLER-KEYSTONE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 1971

MAP SHOWING STOPS

1. Oldman Ranch
2. Old Rambler townsite and Mine
(Also known as Doane Mine)
3. Edison Monument
4. Encampment Museum and City Park
5. Ralph Platt Residence and Museum
6. Bonanza King Copper Mine
7. Golden Clover Mine
8. Vermiculite Mine
9. New Rambler
10. Keystone

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL TOUR
THE 1971 TOUR OF MINING SITES
ALBANY AND CARBON COUNTIES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 1971

This tour is sponsored by the Albany County Historical Society, the University of Wyoming Summer School, the Kiwanis Club, and the Laramie Westerners. The tour has been arranged by Bob Burns with the help of Dr. S. H. Knight, Ben Bellamy, Judge J. Reuel Armstrong, Vera and Bert Oldham, Ralph Platt, Jr., and Dorothy and Ronald Wolfard. The help of Kiwanians John Paulsen, Bill Riedl, George Berges, Jim Nelson, Al Robbins, Daryl Deane, John Adams, Ted Gertsch, and other volunteers is gratefully acknowledged.

The route is for the most part over well-paved roads, taking Wyoming Highway 130 west from Laramie, over the Snowy Range to the Junction with the Saratoga Road, thence south to Riverside and Encampment; thence west over gravel road 0401 to the Edison Monument west of the site of Battle; then retracing to Encampment and the Encampment City Park where we will have lunch. Then a visit to the Encampment Museum and thence to the Ralph Platt Ranch over Wyoming Highway 230 and back over gravel road up French Creek to the New Rambler Mine and then on to Keystone, where the tour will end.

Bring your car, your family and friends, lunch, plus some water or other beverage, and be at the ALBANY COUNTY COURT HOUSE SQUARE BY 7:30 A.M. on Sunday, August 1, 1971.

Those who do not have transportation should report to the Parking Area west of the Court House Building by 7:30 a.m. with their lunch, etc. Many people going on the tour have room for any extra passengers and rides will be arranged. The tour will depart promptly at 8:00 a.m. after a few instructions. We have arranged for a Wyoming State Highway Patrolman and a city patrolman to escort our tour from the Court House to the city limits. The rate of speed is set at 60 miles per hour on Highways 130 and 230 and around 30 miles per hour on the gravel roads up French Creek from Encampment to the New Rambler and Keystone. Keep a distance of 200 yards between cars in the caravan to avoid danger on the highways and to keep out of the dust on gravel roads.

This tour will cover the mining areas of the Grand Encampment and Keystone areas which were the sites of extensive mining activity in the latter part of the 19th century and the early part of the 20th century. Some interesting publications have been issued concerning the prospecting and mining of minerals and a bibliography is included. The South Pass and Black Hills areas are included in the bibliography as many Laramie residents participated in these rushes.

A short summary of the mining activities of Albany and southern Carbon counties might be summarized as follows:

MEDICINE BOW MOUNTAINS:

First reported discovery of gold was in Moore's Gulch in 1868.

The Last Chance (Douglas Placer) was exhausted in 1870, but yielded \$10,000.

The Centennial area was discovered in 1875 and opened in 1876 and its name is indicative that it was discovered just 100 years after the Declaration of Independence. The Centennial area yielded \$50,000

The Cummins camp at Jelm opened in 1879.

The Keystone area was discovered in 1878 and closed in 1892. Two stamp mills were constructed--one of ten and one of twenty stamps. Total gold produced from Keystone and Florence Mines totaled around \$135,000. Gulch Placers produced approximately \$40,000.

The Rambler was the most important copper mine in Albany County. Inasmuch as the original mine of this name was located in Carbon County at Battle Lake this mine is known as the New Rambler as it was developed later. It is 40 miles southwest of Laramie and began producing copper in 1900. From 1900 to 1923 the New Rambler produced approximately 1,750,000 pounds of copper.

The late Joe Madigan gave the writer the following information from which this excerpt about the Douglas Placer is taken:

"Victor Carlin, an old-time prospector, was postmaster at Keystone for about 35 years. His mine was close to the Camp. He died in 1943 and left his money to the Salvation Army. Bill Roper had placer claims on Douglas Creek and his buildings are across the Creek just above where Lake Creek flows into the Douglas. He came West from near Albany, New York, in 1870 and hauled freight from Cheyenne to Sherman; then got the mining fever and went down to Nederland, Colorado. There, he and two partners operated a mine for years until he got Miners Consumption. He came up to a more heavenly altitude and filed on placer claims on the Douglas. He sold out to a Boston Company that built a saw mill on Lake Creek, and with the lumber from this mill, built a flume down to the Jackson Placer some three miles downstream. Their dream failed of realization and Roper took possession again. (The writer in August, 1925, spent a vacation at Benton's Cabins at the mouth of Lake Creek and remembers seeing the wreckage of the old flume, portions of which were still intact.)

With the lumber stacked at the sawmill, he (Roper) built, during the winters, a two-story, six-bedroom house. Here he kept his library which had a collection of books that would do credit to a college professor. He lived in a log cabin close by and the two-story house was used in the early summer by ranchers bringing their cattle to graze in the forest during the summer. In the winter he would visit Vic Carlin and remain there until they got into an argument and could find no agreement. They would ignore each other until the spring thaw melted down their hard feelings. Roper never obtained a title to his claim. He would come to town once a year and make a proof of labor completed on his claim. He did not like to pay taxes. Each year he would buy some new books for his library, and would read them during the winter when the Creek was frozen over and placer mining was impossible. (In 1925 the writer, while on vacation at the Lake Creek Benton Cabins, had some delightful visits with Mr. Roper at his cabin. He was extremely well-read and had a wonderful sense of humor.) He died in 1938 and is buried in a meadow at the edge of the timber overlooking his house. They were rugged individualists in those days."

Mrs. Agnes Wright Spring, whose father ran the Vee Bar Ranch now owned by George Crouse and the site of a buffalo ranch, in a letter to the writer, gives some interesting information concerning the mining area of Keystone and New Rambler mines:

"When I was a youngster my father, Gordon L. Wright, had a mail contract and hauled mail, passengers and freight to the mines in the New Rambler area, including Holmes, Keystone, Florence, the Cupright, etc. My aunt, Mrs. E. A. Vincent, lived at both Holmes and Keystone at various times, and my sister, Lucille, and I used to go up and visit her. Once I went with my father to Holmes with a freight team. He had a freight wagon with four horses in the lead with a load of dynamite. I followed him with a load of freight and drove the team by myself. It was the only time he let me haul freight, but as I recall it, one of his drivers did not recover in time from a 'spree' to take up the load, so I, after coaxing and begging, was permitted to do the job. Night fell soon after we left Albany and I still can feel the terror that almost made my hair stand up when my near horse slipped in a rut and fell down. He finally found his feet and we arrived with load intact. My uncle, by marriage, Ed A. Vincent, hauled the big boiler from the Rambler Mine near Encampment, up over Mullen Hill, to the New Rambler Mine near Holmes. Holmes, as I recall it, had one main street--more like a trail in the timber. There were cabins scattered all through the timber. Quite a few were in a gulch between Holmes and the Rambler Mine which was called 'Poverty Gulch'. My aunt's cabin was there. I think the post office was named for A. T. Holmes, an uncle of George Holmes, a Canadian who married Fannie Hance, a sister of 'Cap' Hance. Later a family named Sawyer had the store and perhaps the post office. The oldest boy was named Archie. Then the McGraw's ran the post office. Mr. McGraw was an elderly man who married a woman about sixty. I recall that they stopped at our ranch on

the Little Laramie River to have dinner on their way up to the mines. This little, old lady--or so it seemed to me then--climbed down from the stage and said to my mother, 'I'm Mrs. McGraw, a bride of a week.' That was a family expression of ours for years. Bill Benton was at the Cupright Mine. He had a cub bear, which was a great attraction. One Fourth of July my sister and I were at the Cupright for a dance and celebration. But, before the dance began, some frolicsome miners set off a charge of dynamite that broke most of the windows in camp and caused a general furor. We went up to the mines on one trip in the winter--it must have been during the Christmas vacation--as we attended school in Laramie--and were not at the ranch in the winter except during vacations. The snow in the timber was about five feet deep on the level with the trail packed hard. If a horse or man got off the trail, there was nothing to do but flounder until the trail could be gained again. I can see vividly the blazes on the trees to mark the trail. And, I can hear the bells on the teams jingling through the timber. Sounds were so vivid up in that rarefied air and carried far. I can now hear men chopping wood in the timber--or calling back and forth along the trails. I can smell the fresh dampness along those mountain streams and see the lovely columbines, Indian paint brush, and gentians vividly.

At Holmes there was a group of young miners always playing practical jokes. They buried a drunken man one evening and left only his face uncovered. He stayed in his 'grave' until he woke up the next morning. These fellows called themselves 'The Jobbers Union'. One day when they were 'well-oiled' they decided to build a platform up on one of the big pine trees. Two men climbed the tree and built a platform some fifty feet (or so it seemed to me) from the ground. They carried up a small cookstove and put it on the platform and then carried up the dummy of a woman and put a broom in her hand. They wired everything in place and that dummy woman was there for some time. Only through super-human strength could they have accomplished such a feat.

My aunt had been married previous to her marriage to Mr. Vincent and took to her mountain cabin things which she had used in her city home. There was lovely Haviland china decorated with small purple violets, beautiful Navajo rugs, battenburg doillies, geraniums, and feather beds, plus handpainted pictures which she had painted herself. The miners enjoyed coming to her home for a breath of 'back East'.

I did not spend any time at Keystone--just rode through--but it seems to me most of the freight was hauled in there--and my father paid huge grain bills for the horses, big bills for the wagons and equipment, in addition to grocery bills for his men. When the mines closed he was not paid thousands of dollars, owed him for hauling. That was really the cause of many of his financial worries which he carried for years.

Since we maintained a stage station at our ranch on the Little Laramie River--and previously for a time at the old Hall Ranch where we had a small stage station near the Hall Bridge--men of all professions came back and forth through the ranch. Some stayed overnight and some stayed all winter. The

names that I remember best are: John Hughes, Roper, Stoll, Murphy, Vic Carlin, Al Richards, Bill Benton, Billy Class, etc.

My father had a station for change of horses at Albany, above McNealy's place. The large McNealy ranch house was just then being built."

Mrs. Spring gives some interesting jottings taken from the Laramie newspapers of the early days:

FROM LARAMIE REPUBLICAN:

Placer mines in Albany County in early '70's--being worked in 1878--Keystone Company by M. N. Grant in 1877---Douglas Creek in 1878---a ten-stamp mill. N. K. Boswell was engaged this morning (October 11, 1878) pounding up and panning out some quartz samples from the Martha Befrod Ledges, a few miles from the Keystone, on Douglas Creek, Brush Creek or Gold Hill. There were 50 to 150 colors in each pan. The boys came down late in the fall and concluded to organize a stock company, which has just been consummated, and articles of incorporation were last week filed with the Secretary of Wyoming Territory under the title of "The Douglas Creek Placer Mining Company" with the following named parties as incorporators: Jerry Igley, S. L. Barnes, Faris Barnes, Sam Barnes, and William P. Ogden of Loveland.

LARAMIE DAILY SENTINEL OF AUGUST 10, 1889:

The sale of the Keystone Mine, together with some others, by Colonel S. W. Downey, to a party which has the means to go at it and work them and also understood the business, is going to result in a large addition to our resources here, a thriving mining camp right at our door which is employing a large number of men and taking out gold, is next thing to a competing railroad to give us a big boom.

LARAMIE WEEKLY SENTINEL. NOVEMBER 5, 1887:

The Keystone: The old reliable Keystone Mine is now being run in full blast, some forty men being employed. The mill is running and from the character of the ore being taken out and from the appearance of the place, good returns are assured. Arrangements have been made to prosecute work vigorously all winter. Twenty-five wagon loads of goods have been sent, including 2,000 pounds of dynamite, \$4,000 worth of provisions and other things in proportion. M. N. Grant is in charge, and all he wants now, to ensure the success of the winter's work, is his boy, a cow and nursing bottle. Colonel Downey will send these by next mail. (Note by A. W. S. - This boy referred to, must have been Mortimer Grant, whom I knew well.)

LARAMIE WEEKLY SENTINEL. FEBRUARY 4, 1888:

The Douglas Creek Mines. The Sentinel has a well-earned reputation for being cautious and conservative in its statements and particularly on the subject of mines. Twenty-eight years of experience and observation in this country has taught us this lesson. It is, therefore, with considerable confidence, and after careful investigation that we predict a genuine mining boom in the mountains adjacent to Laramie this summer. It was long ago, a well established fact that the mines on Douglas Creek and its tributaries were rich. Years ago, as a result of superficial, boyish work there, quarts of nuggets were brought into town here, coarse gold, the nuggets weighing from one to twenty dollars each. Everybody conceded that there must be lots more where they came from. Last summer parties went in there quietly and mysteriously prospected Douglas Creek, Lincoln Gulch and other streams, and it now develops that they have purchased all the ground that they could get hold of amounting to some six miles in length on these gulches and are now making arrangements to work them with a large force of men this summer. A letter received here last week inquiring if fifty men, with outfits and provisions, could go into the mines now, and the parties want to go to work at once to prepare for the summer work. They have already secured a vast amount of lumber there for building and mining purposes, and parties who know the plans of the syndicate say there will be 1,500 men at work there by the first of June. In the meantime, a small company is at work there on the Keystone Quartz mine, taking out ore and running a little stamp mill, getting out from \$150 to \$200 a day, which about thrice pays expenses even when worked at quite a disadvantage. During the past summer several thousand dollars were taken out in Lincoln Gulch and it is expected big work will be done there the coming season. As all this section is immediately tributary to Laramie we may expect it to make a large addition to our business and resources this coming summer.

LARAMIE WEEKLY SENTINEL. OCTOBER 27, 1888:

Gold Discoveries. The Douglas-Willan, Sartoris Company has been engaged for some months in constructing an extensive irrigation canal, taking water from the north fork of the Little Laramie. In carrying it across the divide toward Mill Creek they worked through a big bar, or bed of gravel, which upon prospecting it, was found to contain gold in paying quantities, each pan showing from ten to a dozen colors. The matter was kept rather quiet for awhile, but it gradually leaked out and for the past week several parties from Colorado and Cheyenne, as well as our own citizens, have been on the ground prospecting and staking off claims. Old miners are of the opinion that with a large deposit and the facilities for hydraulic mining, they have a regular bonanza. The gravel has been prospected to a depth of 15 to 20 feet and is found to grow richer all the way down. It is scarcely likely any extensive operations will be carried on this fall, but from present indications next season will see a big rush there and lots of mining done and a good deal of gold taken out.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF LARAMIE. NO DATE GIVEN:

In 1888 to 1892 the Keystone Mine was managed by Wilbur C. Knight, noted geologist. The mine was owned by Douglas Willan, Sartoris Company, a group of Englishmen, who expended large sums of money for the advancement of the mine. Lionel Sartoris was resident owner. A mill was operated. V. Knight (Everett Knight) has the certificate of location signed by his father. (Note by R.H.B. - The Douglas Willan, Sartoris and Company owned the famous Millbrook Ranch where Mill Creek empties into the Little Laramie.)

LARAMIE WEEKLY SENTINEL. FEBRUARY 9, 1889:

Professor Knight, assayer and mineralogist, has been engaged for a few weeks past, in developing the asbestos ledges a few miles from the city, the property of J. H. Douglas-Willan. They have opened up the ledges in a dozen different places and developed a vast quantity and very superior quality of this mineral fiber. Arrangements are being made to ship some of it east. Asbestos is used for packing in steam engines, for fireproofing and mineral paints, for packing safes, etc. It is valued from \$100 to \$300 per ton and the demand has been greater than the supply. There is no doubt but this find will prove a valuable addition to our mineral resources.

LARAMIE WEEKLY SENTINEL. APRIL 13, 1889:

Will H. Reed received this week a lot of specimens from the asbestos mines, including some very fine specimens of this mineral, besides a lot of fine garnets, some pipes made from a pipestone found there, and also a 9-foot mountain lion which the boys captured there.

LARAMIE WEEKLY SENTINEL. MAY 1, 1889:

Colonel S. W. Downey has a small force of men at work in the mines, and though there is little being said about it, and he doesn't furnish a single item, yet we learn incidentally that they are doing well. They are opening the Florence lode and what they take out they are crushing in the little stamp mill out there on the Keystone. The last return they made amounted to a take of some \$1,500 in 15 days as they are only working a few men. We think this very encouraging.

LARAMIE WEEKLY SENTINEL. MAY 18, 1889:

Among the first things which is going to give Laramie a "boom" is the development of the gold mines just west of us. And this is going to happen very soon, too. There is no unoccupied territory in the whole Rocky Mountain region which presents so promising a field for the miner and prospector as this. There are a hundred miles in length of good gulch placer mines, and rich float blossom rock can be picked up all over the mountains!!!

The Keystone Mine Accounts February 12, 1878 to August 30, 1880, are in the University of Wyoming Archives. When Isaac Van Horn and Company started to publicize the Laramie, Hahn's Peak and Pacific Railroad late in 1902, their publicity said that the railroad would "start from Laramie and is to traverse and develop rich mineral, stock, agricultural and timber regions of Colorado, etc." "From Centennial the line will pass, via the great New Rambler Mine, to the yellow ledges of the Gold Hill district--a district in which the Van Horn Syndicate owns, under the operating name of the One Million Dollar Capitalized Wyoming Development and Transportation Company, fourteen patented gold properties." They had elaborate plans for a Country Club at Centennial... I remember seeing the bright, yellow lumber walls on the hillside above Centennial. Their publicity read, "The Douglas Gold and Copper Mining Company, property located on Douglas Creek immediately adjacent to the great Rambler Mine, is now working 15 men under the management of W. Allen of Cripple Creek. The property has a 150-foot slope, has a seven-foot vein; shows 15% copper and \$15 a ton in gold; is owned by L. C. Hanks of Denver, B. S. Johnson of Greeley, Colorado, Albert Matheson of Holmes, Wyoming, A. E. Miller, C. E. Blair, and George E. Phillips of Laramie, Wyoming. Large amounts of ore from this mine are now being sacked for the Rambler smelter. This mine has been examined by several well-known experts, the concensus of opinion being that the property is fully as valuable as any copper and gold mine in the state of Wyoming. In the immediate vicinity of the great Douglas Mine is found the Empire, the Phoenix, the Balsam and the Unexpected; properties which bid fair for an early rivalry of the rich deposits of the Douglas itself, the Balsam especially being an apparent twin sister of the Douglas, while the Empire has recorded some heavy golden assay returns."

THE DENVER TIMES. OCTOBER 10, 1901:

How the Great Rambler in Wyoming was found. Charles Kuster, the Laramie young man who discovered the ore body in the great Douglas Creek Rambler Mine tells an interesting story of the manner in which the discovery was made. He says that the Rambler had been located and worked a number of times for gold and silver, the first location having been made away back in 1876. Several persons and companies had owned the property at different times and the shaft had been sunk to a depth of about forty feet. Three or four years ago an Eastern expert visited this property and said that it was not worth a grub stake and that it would never amount to anything as a copper mine, as the formation was unfavorable. So the mine was abandoned. Mr. Kuster is an expert assayer, having graduated from a leading school in Chicago. He established an office in Laramie, where his father had for many years conducted the Kuster Hotel, and it was not long until he discovered a process whereby he could treat ore much cheaper than by methods then in use. Desiring to obtain samples of various kinds of ore, he went to the old abandoned shaft of the Rambler and while sacking pieces of rock at the bottom of the shaft he made the discovery that the hole had cut a vein of copper ore, being in plain view on either side of the shaft. Securing samples from the vein he assayed them and was surprised to find that the discovery was a rich one, the ore

running in excess of 30 per cent of copper. Keeping this discovery to himself, young Kuster borrowed \$1,000 and set at work to develop the mine. People in Laramie thought the young man had gone crazy, for no one for a moment doubted the expert opinion of the Easterner who had said the country contained no copper. Kuster's \$1,000 was soon spent and in order to secure aid he made his discovery known to A. T. Holmes and a few others. Operations were continued and it was not long until the mine began to ship, the owners receiving upwards of \$1,000 profit per car load. Kuster is now one of the best fixed men in the state financially. He is not yet 30 years old.

These newspaper reports are a little on the optimistic side, but some extremely rich veins of ore were found which pinched out after the pocket of ore had been removed. Anyway this is a fine example of the old saying that "Hope springs eternal in the human breast."

The Jelm District or Cummins City area, named from its promoter, was at one time celebrated for its rich gold quartz. Copper was also reported in a large vein of pyrite. Reported yields from this mine are: a 500-pound ore sample from a depth of 100 feet which on broken mill run yielded 6.3 per cent of copper. Assays of ore broken from the two-foot high-grade streak at a depth of 135 feet gave copper values of 29% and gold values of \$2.30.

Serious efforts were made to produce copper from an area 1.5 miles south of Tie Siding between 1917 and 1934. A mill was built in 1927. Some native copper and copper ore were shipped in each of the years 1917, 1918, 1930 and 1934. There has been little or no activity for several years.

The Strong Mine is located northeast of Laramie some 12 miles. It was developed about 1905-1907, but there is no record as to the character or value of the copper occurring there. The mine shaft house was burned in 1907 and no further work was done.

The Gold Hill area covers practically all of the camps lying along the west side of the Snowy Range and the Albany-Carbon County line. The Acme Consolidated Gold & Copper Mining Company of Laramie and Boston did the work on this area. Development began about 1889 and ore in sight was appraised at \$200,000. However, no great activity has been under way in recent years although some claims have been renewed and filed. The writer visited this site in 1934 and walked a short distance into the horizontal tunnel with solid rock walls. At that time the mine was not operating, but some assessment work had been carried out.

The Red Feather Mine was a prospect operation about 1925 and the shaft structure is still visible just south of the Libby Flats where the highway drops into the valley around Lake Marie.

A short summary of the mining activities in the Grand Encampment area of Carbon County might be summarized as follows:

The Encampment District is crossed diagonally from southeast to northwest by the irregular line of the Continental Divide, which is the crest of the Sierra Madre Mountains. The waters which fall upon the eastern and northern side of the mountains flow to the North Platte by way of the Encampment River and Cow, Spring and Jack creeks; while the drainage of their southwestern face finds an outlet by way of the Little Snake River and its tributaries, Battle, Sandstone and Savery creeks. The minimum elevation indicated is about 6,650 feet, while the highest point is Bridger Peak at 11,007 feet.

The first serious attempt to develop the minerals of the Sierra Madre region seems to have followed the discovery, in 1872, of quartz veins on the ground later held by the Kurtze Chatterton Company. According to Mr. Frank O. Williams, of Saratoga, the veins were first noted in 1868 by J. W. Southwick, but no work was done. Messrs. Boney Ernest, Tom Sun and Bill Wavage took up claims about 1872 and assessment work was done on these claims until 1876 when they were surveyed, and application was made for patents. However, the issue of the desired patents was delayed and the enterprise was abandoned by the original locators, but the claims were relocated several years later by Kurtze Chatterton and held until they were purchased by the company which bears his name.

The present Doane or Old Rambler Mine was originally located in 1878 by a man named Harper who endeavored unsuccessfully to locate the vein from which a large amount of copper float had been found. The mine was abandoned. In 1881 it was taken up by George Doane and associates. Valuable ore was found which led to systematic mining of this region which has continued up into the present century.

The Ferris-Haggarty or Rudefeha, as it was formerly called, is the largest mine in the region and it has produced a fair amount of rich ore since 1899. By 1904 this mine had produced over \$1,400,000 from a series of ore bodies varying in length up to 250 feet and having a width of 15 to 40 feet. A tramway line was built from the mine to the tramway ore bins where it was but onto the tram buckets for a sixteen mile trip to the smelter at Encampment. The Smelter at Encampment was built by the North American Copper Company in 1902, and was in operation by the end of the year. The plant was enlarged in 1905. The concentrating mill was destroyed by fire in 1906 and a second fire in 1907 burned a part of the old smelter. Both portions were rebuilt, at least in part, and operated for a short time. The final shut-down came in 1908 and neither the mine or the smelter operated again. Financial difficulties were responsible for the collapse of this enterprise, one of the largest operations in the Encampment area.

In connection with the smelter construction, a famous pipeline was built on the South Fork of the Encampment River. This pipeline, about four miles long and four feet in diameter, was located some three miles south of the town of Encampment and was made entirely of wood. Its purpose was to supply water for the big dynamos at the smelter. In 1970 nothing remains of the Rudefeha or Ferris-aggarty mine except the scattered, weathered boards from the shaft entrance house. The town of Dillon was located about two miles west of the Rudefeha or Ferris-aggarty copper mine. This town was named for Malachi Dillon, former soldier, who operated a boarding house and saloon there and later built the Dillon Hotel. Today little remains of this town of Dillon. The writer remembers visiting the site some years ago and not much remained. However, one striking structure still remained--a "Chick Sales out-house" standing some 15 feet high, evidently built in the winter on top of the deep snow-drifts. By the way, the name Rudefeha was coined from the first two letters of the four locators of the mine: J. R. RUmsey, Robert DEal, George FErris and Ed HAggarty. The Ferris-Haggarty Copper Mining Company was organized in January 1899 by Haggarty, Ferris, Deal, Bernard McCaffey and Willis George Emerson.

Although not as well known as the Old Rambler and Ferris-Haggarty mines, the first permanent work was done in the Kurtz-Chatterton property on Copper Creek west of where Encampment now stands; in fact, the road from the new highway to Whisky Park direct to Encampment down Copper Creek goes right over the ore dump of this property.

In 1896 some large boulders containing free gold were discovered by Al Huston and Ben Cullerton in Purgatory Gulch, a small tributary of the South Fork of the Grand Encampment River. This discovery led to the establishment of the town of Grand Encampment, and great numbers of people came to the area to prospect for gold. In 1898 the discovery of the Ferris-Haggarty mine with rich copper deposits changed the trend of prospecting to copper rather than gold. The source of the free gold found in the original boulders in Purgatory Gulch was never found in rich deposits, although some gold was found.

In recent years some deposits of vermiculite have been found and developed in the Encampment district. These deposits are found in three properties; two of these are situated near the Encampment River about 6 to 7 miles northeast of Encampment; the third is about 12 miles southeast of Encampment on the Ralph Platt ranch. This mineral is a group of micaceous hydrous silicates. The principal characteristic of vermiculite is its expansion or exfoliation when heated or acid-treated which produces long, worm-like shapes. The name is derived from the Latin term vermiculari--to breed worms. The volume of vermiculite is increased, when heated, as much as 20 times.

1971 TOUR OF MINING SITES
 GRAND ENCAMPMENT, NEW RAMBLER AND KEYSTONE

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Sunday, August 1, 1971

<u>PLACES, LOCATIONS, STOPS</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ELEV.</u>	<u>MILEAGES</u>	
			<u>LOCAL</u>	<u>TRIP</u>
Laramie Courthouse Square	8:00	7165	0.0	0.0
North on Sixth to Clark, then left over Viaduct to Highway 130 and westward				
Junction or Y: Turn right on Centennial Road Highway 130 on right: Highway 230 on left	8:05	7200	2.4	2.4
Vee Bar Ranch on Right	8:25	7300	21.6	24.0
Little Laramie River Bridge	8:26	7300	1.3	25.3
Entrance to 91 Ranch on left	8:28	7500	1.9	27.2
Centennial	8:31	8076	3.8	31.0
North Fork of Little Laramie River Bridge	8:35	8200	3.1	34.1
North Fork of Little Laramie River: Second Bridge	8:36	8400	0.3	34.4
Entrance to Medicine Bow Ski Area, on left	8:38	8800	8.6	43.0
Green Rock Camp Ground on Nash's Fork, on left	8:40	9200	2.0	45.0
U.W.S.H. Knight Geology Camp on left	8:41	9400	0.5	45.5
Libby Flats Lookout Point on left. Snowy Range Pass	8:48	10800	4.7	50.2
Red Feather Mine on left	8:50	10800	0.6	50.8
Carbon County Line	8:52	10000	1.2	52.0
Mirror Lake on right	8:52	10000	0.1	52.1
Lake Marie on right	8:53	10000	0.5	52.6
Silver Lake on left	8:57	10000	2.5	55.1
Gold Hill sign and Twin Lakes sign on right	9:00	8800	1.9	57.0
South French Creek Road on left	9:08	8000	6.9	63.9
Ryan Park road on left	9:09	7900	1.2	65.1
Medicine Bow Lodge on left	9:11	7600	1.9	67.0
Ten Mile Trailer Park on right	9:12	7500	0.8	67.8
Ponderosa Camp	9:12	7500	0.2	68.0
North Brush Creek Bridge	9:13	7400	0.6	68.6
Brush Creek Ranch on left	9:18	7200	4.3	72.9
Elk Hollow Bridge	9:22	6600	4.5	77.4
North Platte River Bridge	9:24	6500	1.5	78.9
Railroad Crossing	9:24	6500	0.4	79.3
Junction with Highway 230. Turn left	9:26	6500	0.6	79.9
Cow Creek Bridge	9:27	6500	2.0	81.9
Riverside Junction. Turn right	9:34	7137	8.3	90.2
Encampment	9:38	7323	1.0	91.2
Oldman Ranch STOP	9:40 -- 10:10	7100	1.2	92.4
Junction: Wyoming 0401. Turn left	10:13	7200	0.6	93.0
Golden Sun mine on mountain to right	10:17	7500	1.9	94.9
Cattle Guard	10:19	7700	1.3	96.2
Site of Elwood City on left	10:23	8100	1.9	98.1
Transfer site from wagons to sleds in winter				

<u>PLACES, LOCATIONS, STOPS</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ELEV.</u>	<u>MILEAGES</u>	
			<u>LOCAL</u>	<u>TRIP</u>
Cattle Guard. Entrance to Medicine Bow Forest	10:26	8200	1.0	99.1
Bottle Creek Bridge	10:27	8300	0.2	99.3
Slaughter Pen Gulch on left. Also Hidden Treasure Gulch and George Pierce Cabin site	10:37	8900	3.9	103.2
Site of city of Battle on both sides of road Existed 1889 - 1908. Lots now selling \$160 to \$1000. Spring on left of road furnishing water Town of Battle, then deserted, was burned at time of C.C.C. 1933 - 1935	10:40	9873	2.0	105.2
Continental Divide. Sign reads 9.916 Ruins of log cabin on right was a powder house	10:42	9916	0.2	105.4
Old Rambler Mine Dump to left at end of old road We will see Battle Lake and the Rambler from the Edison Monument.	10:43	9900	0.1	105.5
Junction at Sign Silver Lake (Hansen Lake): Turn right	10:44	----	0.4	105.9
Junction at Sign Battle Cemetary: Turn right: Near STOP	10:45-11:00	----	0.2	106.1
Return to Highway 0401 and turn right	11:01	----	0.2	106.3
Road to Rambler Mine & Battle Lake on right	11:05	----	1.6	107.9
Edison Monument. Will go on and turn around	11:07	----	0.4	108.3
Old Campsite with one cabin. Swede Ole said this was a place to work in the winter.	11:09	----	0.5	108.8
Smith Creek Bridge	11:12	----	0.7	109.5
Road to Rambler Ranger Station site on left	11:15	----	1.0	110.5
Haskins Creek Camp Ground. Rest Stop and turn around	11:16-11:30	----	0.2	110.7
Return to EDISON MONUMENT STOP Inscription Reads: Thomas A. Edison camped near this spot in 1878 while on a fishing trip. It was here that his attention was directed to the fiber from the bamboo fishing pole which he tested as a suitable filament for his incandescent electric lamp. Born Feb. 11, 1847. Died Oct. 18, 1931. Age 84. Placed by the Historical Landmark Commission of Wyoming, 1949.	11:35 -12:20	----	2.4	113.1
Return to Encampment City Park for LUNCH STOP VISIT TO ENCAMPMENT MUSEUM: The Oldmans and Judge Armstrong	13:18 -14:20	----	16.2	129.3
Riverside Junction	14:24	----	1.0	130.3
Junction with Road to Ralph Platt Jr. Ranch	14:40	----	10.0	140.3
Turn right to Ralph Platt Ranch STOP	14:44 -15:14	----	1.0	141.3
Return to Highway 230 and turn right	15:18	----	1.0	142.3
A-A Ranch Junction. Turn left	15:20	----	0.5	142.8
Bonanza King Copper Mine	15:40 -16:10	----	6.5	149.3
Return to Highway 230 and turn right	16:30	----	6.5	155.8
Gate: Turn right	16:50	----	6.0	161.8
Golden Clover Mine STOP	16:55 -17:25	----	1.5	163.3
Return to Highway 230 and turn right	17:30	----	1.5	164.8
Junction French Creek Road: turn right	17:50	----	7.0	171.8
Follow French Creek to Rambler Mine Site STOP	18:50-19:10	----	35.0	206.8
Keystone Mine Site. END OF TOUR (7:14 P.M.)	19:14	----	1.0	207.8

THE 1971 TOUR OF MINING SITES

Another recent development in the Encampment area is the discovery and use of the pegmatites which contain all of the minerals of economic value that have been found in this area. From the economic standpoint, two types of pegmatites occur--a copper bearing type and a rare-earth bearing type. The only pegmatite that contains these minerals in economic quantities is the Platt pegmatite. We shall visit three Platt mines, each producing a different type of mineral.

The following publications will provide much interesting reading for those interested in further details concerning the Grand Encampment and Medicine Bow mining areas. All publications listed are in the University of Wyoming Geology Library unless otherwise stated, and in some cases they may be in both sources.

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