
Mining on the Periphery: The Lost Dutchman of the Chemehuevis

Mike Dunning

Mining by small operators, though collectively an important aspect of the Western experience, has been relegated to the periphery of western scholarship. Far removed from the center of study, the Chemehuevis Mining District, located in the southwestern corner of Connecticut-sized Mohave County, Arizona, in the hinterland of modern Lake Havasu City, has been one of the lost sisters of mining history. This in spite of the fact that mining began in the area as early as the 1850s and continued commercially until World War II and recreationally up to the present. The tale of the Lost Dutchman of the Chemehuevis exemplifies the heart of many a Western mining experience.¹

The first Anglo miners to work the mountains back of what would become Lake Havasu City found gold in the gulches along the Colorado River possibly as early as 1857. The gold digging operations grew during the general rush to Arizona Territory in the 1860s. Initially called the Fischer or the old Hannigan diggings, the placers were about 17 miles south of the present town of Topock on the Colorado River. Nuggets from the tunnel at Fischer Hill ran from \$2.50 to \$20.00. Some of the nearby shallow diggings carried beautiful flat nuggets that showed that they had traveled only a short distance. Their edges were sharp and unworn.²

Prospectors worked up the placer gulches into the hills, which led to the location of the first lode mine in the Chemehuevis Mountains in 1870. The district, however, was soon abandoned for a variety of reasons, except for an old German miner. One of the

abandoned claims would become known as the Lost Dutchman. As the story goes, according to the Kingman *Mohave County Miner* in 1909, "a good many years ago this property was found and worked by a prospector who took this bunch of ore, half rock and half gold, to San Francisco. He was a Dutchman and liked his lager beer. 'Money' he used to say, 'is good only to spend' and he had a 'bank of it in his mine.' On his return from San Francisco, some time later, he outfitted himself with a bottle of Duffy's best at Needles, but forgetting water, on the road to his mine, he died from the heat. The mine became known as the Lost Dutchman. Many a prospector has his tongue swell searching for the mine."³

After the completion of the transcontinental Atlantic & Pacific Railroad in 1883, the isolated region had access to rail service, albeit 20-30 miles across the desert to the north to intersect the line between Kingman and Needles, California. It was the location [or relocation] of the Sunrise lode near the top of Crossman Peak in 1890 by Walter Scott and Clay E. Smith which marked the beginning of sustained lode mining operations in the Chemehuevis.⁴ The next year a railroad worker, who not only had worked on the replacement cantilever bridge at Red Rock but then left Needles to operate the coal chutes for the railroad at Kingman, finally made the rich strike which would commence serious hard rock mining in the Chemehuevis. On September 13th *The Eye of Needles* reported that Billy Hutt "has struck it rich . . . We hope so, and if he has our readers will hear from him soon."⁵

Hutt returned to the "mountains to commence operation on his claims" in October.⁶ By the end of the month *The Eye* announced that "Huff is doing good work in the Pittsburgh mine." The report continued, "he has a wagon and team at the mine now,

Mike Dunning teaches at the University of Alaska Southeast-Ketchikan Campus. An earlier version of this paper was read at the 1999 Mining History Association conference, Ouray, Colorado.

and is hauling ore to the river, a distance of about four miles. He hopes to have a large shipment for the steam boat on her next trip to Needles."⁷ Riverboats plying up and down the Colorado River began stopping at newly established Pittsburgh Landing. The editors of the *Miner* boasted "that Mohave county will boom as she has never boomed before."⁸

At some point during the early operation of the Pittsburgh, experienced miner Cass Hite became Hutt's partner. The *Miner* touted Hutt & Hite's lode claim "in the Needles range of mountains, or more properly the Chimihuaves," as "coming to the front as one of the best mining prospects on the Pacific coast. Their shaft is down a depth of twenty feet and shows a regular vein of ore three feet in width. The ledge is also 'stripped' for a distance of eighty feet in length, showing up the same class of ore for that distance. An average assay of the whole ledge gives a return of \$250 per ton, while the assorted product, of which they have about a carload on the dump, will go away up in the hundreds." Once again the *Miner* reminded its readers that "Mr. Hutt refused the snug little sum of \$5,000 before any work was done on the claim."⁹

In February assayer William Rumpf became closely associated with the workings at the Pittsburgh. When in Kingman he told the *Miner* that "at the mine of Hutt and Hite work is progressing nicely and large quantities of ore being put on the dump. The shaft is now down twenty-eight feet, the vein keeping the same width as on the surface. A force of men will be put on and the shaft driven down as fast as possible."¹⁰ A week later when Frenchy Peters, Tobe Wilkinson and Al Eaton came in from the Chemehuevis they told the paper that "Huff and Hite have forty tons of rich ore at the river landing for shipment to the [Kingman] Sampler as soon as the upriver boat arrives to take it to Mellon. The claim is looking better every day, and the boys succeed in taking out over a ton of clean ore every day." The success of the Pittsburgh prompted the paper to conclude that "this strike has been the means of reviving the mining business in Chimahueve district, as a large number of prospectors are in there seeking the hidden treasure."¹¹ River steamers once again had a reason to stop at the point once called Liverpool Landing, but now known as Pittsburgh Landing.

Toward the end of the month when Fred Dawson

trekked out of the mountains he told the *Miner* that "the Pittsburgh mine now has a shaft about fifty feet in depth and shows up ore that will average \$125 per ton without any assorting whatever."¹² In Needles *The Eye* received a letter informing them much the same, as well as claiming that "the ore body continues strong, with a marked improvement in quality. Drifting will soon be commenced along the vein from the bottom of the shaft, and Messrs. Hyde [sic] and Hutt, the owners, expect within 30 days to have the mine in shape to produce from 5 to 10 tons of first class ore per day." They "now have at the river awaiting transportation, 50 tons of ore. The steamer Gila will bring it up."¹³

Hutt, Hite and Rumpf accompanied "the four car load lot of fine ore" to the Kingman sampler in March. They claimed to "still have plenty in sight, and will now make regular shipments."¹⁴ When Hutt and Rumpf stopped off in Needles on their return to the mine they told *The Eye* that the "shipment of 50 tons of Pittsburgh ore assayed 102 88/100 ounces of silver, 11-100 ounces of gold, and 9 27/100 ounces of lead to the ton. The ore grows richer as the shaft goes deeper, and the five men now at work down there are piling up the bright, shiny silver for the owners of the Pittsburgh." *The Eye* was especially happy to report that "all this ore can be worked to advantage in the [new] mill here in Needles."¹⁵

The Pittsburgh was still going strong in May. Word had reached the *Miner* "the Pittsburgh mine of Hyde and Hutt, in the Chemehueva mountains is steadily producing high grade ore. There is now on the dump about twenty tons of ore ranging in value from \$250 to \$500, besides a large quantity of ore of a lower grade. The ore is being assorted with a view of getting only the high grade for shipment."¹⁶ A week later the total had jumped to "about 25 tons of ore on the Pittsburgh dump awaiting the arrival of the steamer when it will be shipped to the Kingman sampler. The ore will run from 400 to 600 ounces per ton in silver and a few dollars in gold."¹⁷

Like most miners in this part of Arizona, those at the Pittsburgh summered elsewhere, planning to return "once the weather moderates." Then, when Hutt returned from an extended visit to Southern California in October, he apparently was confronted by an offer he could not refuse. Under the front-page headline "An Important Mining Sale," the Needles

newspaper announced “*The Eye* learns that the famous Hyde and Hutt ‘Pittsburgh’ mine has been purchased by Monaghan and Murphy, the Needles merchants. It has been known that negotiations for the sale of this valuable property have been pending for some time, and the bargain was finally closed yesterday. The exact amount paid for the property was not learned but it is understood that something like \$10,000 cash closed the bargain.”¹⁸

While Hutt and Hite’s Pittsburgh Mine generated the initial excitement behind the Chemehuevis’ boom of the 1890s, it was Fred Brawn’s discovery about two miles northwest of the Pittsburgh in January 1892 which turned it into a frenzy.¹⁹ The Kingman *Mohave County Miner* on January 30th, reported that Brawn had just returned from a ten day prospecting trip in the Chemehuevis, “that lonesome range of mountains lying about sixty miles south of this place and in an easterly direction from the Needles. The Colorado river cuts through the range in a canyon, the scenery of which is grand and awe inspiring.” Brawn had teamed up with an unnamed Mexican he found camping at one of the few springs in the area and together they had

discovered a small vein of copper stained rock and in the pieces free gold was to be seen. . . . Concluding that they had made a valuable find, they put in two or three hours work in cutting across the vein, which was but two feet thick, sacked up about fifty pounds of the ore and returned to camp. Back in Kingman Brawn picked out some of the best looking pieces and gave them away, then the balance was crushed and sampled. The result of the assay was one hundred and six-tenths ounces in pure gold to the ton. The tremendous result of this assay was soon noised around town, and at once groups of two, three or five men could be seen making up and talking over the find, also fixing and planning for business. In a few hours’ time all the idle donkeys, mules and horses for saddle or pack was engaged for a trip of a few days to a month’s prospecting trip to the Chimihueva mountains. Within a few days not less than twenty or thirty men, among these several first-class prospectors will leave Kingman prepared to thoroughly explore

and hastily prospect that rough unexplored and unprospected part of Mohave county.

According to the *Miner*, Brawn’s discovery was what prospecting was all about. “The fact that a man leaving his home with ten days’ rations and finding not less than one hundred thousand dollars in pure gold, or its equivalent, in so short a time drives the old prospector wild. This kind of a find is what keeps so many hundreds of prospectors in the mountains and running over the desert wastes of Arizona, California, Nevada and other mineral countries.”²⁰

The discoveries of Hutt and Brawn were especially important for Mohave County, since much of its previous mining success had depended upon silver and the 1890s were not kind to silver. As the *Miner* explained, “Several of the best mines of Mohave county have within the past two years been sold to eastern capitalists and shut down, and times were never so dull since the first discovery of mineral in the county, over thirty years since, as now. We really need a boom. Some very flattering prospects have been found about sixty miles north of Kingman. Several loads of ore that had been hauled in worked from twenty to fifty ounces in gold per ton,” but these were nothing compared to Brawn’s discovery, “this last find rather knocks the persimmon.” And the implications for the future of mining in Mohave County were significant. “The roar made by the owners of national bank stock against the white metal will not effect the late find. It is gold, pure gold. It is claimed by some that the ore being telluride that a loss in assaying has been made and the ore brought in by Fred Brawn is really worth more, but \$2,067 per ton is good enough. To pick up tons of ore that is worth one dollar per pound is pretty good.”²¹

By the first week of February Brawn had started a shaft on a three foot ledge and it was “showing up well in coarse free gold,” according to William Rumpf of the Pittsburgh, who had visited the site.²² Toward the end of the month Fred Dawson reported the “shaft is being sunk down as fast as possible and in ore as rich as any found on the surface.” The shaft was chasing a body of quartz about three feet in width, and as the *Miner* kept reminding its readers, “this is a recent discovery and proves to be very rich. The ore shows free gold throughout the entire body,

and assays runs up to one hundred ounces per ton of the precious metal."²³ In March Brawn himself reported "his gold mine looking better and richer with every foot in depth. Samples from the bottom of the shaft show gold from the size of a pin head to a pennyweight all through the rock."²⁴ The last we specifically hear of Brawn & Co.'s operations in the Chemehuevis was in May, when the *Miner* reported that they "have a small shipment of ore at the sampler from their Chemehueva mine. The boys will return about the first of the week to the mine and commence running a tunnel to tap the ledge below the broken formation. The ore is rich in gold, but the top formation is very much broken up."²⁵ By May the gold prospects of the Chemehuevis no longer needed to be fueled by reports of particular mining operations.

The "boom of large dimension" in southern Mohave county continued sporadically into 1896. The gold lodes of the district proved more "blow-outs" than bonanzas. Short-lived operations removing high grade of the shallow deposits caused editors to gush about possibilities, but production statistics were limited. The *Miner* continued its boosterism; it advocated booming "our county and mines as they deserve. Once get capital coming our way and the fortunes in our mines will do the rest. No country on the face of the earth has produced the amount of money turned out by Mohave without attracting greater attention."²⁶

The boys were still out in the Chemehuevis in 1897. A bunch gathered to celebrate the holidays at Henry Strawbell's cabin in the new town of Belleville. Things were pretty tough. The camp had recovered from its Christmas dissipations, which "was no difficult matter" since "there was nothing stronger than snow water nearer than Kingman." They'd made do with an "eggnog concocted out of Worcestershire sauce, lemon extract, condensed milk, and case eggs." They still had hopes that the longed for bottle would show up before New Years.²⁷

While the gold lode activity diminished, the placer operations picked up. Newspaper reports provide glimpses of the diggings. The claims being worked by James Daughtery and Thomas Bliss, as well as that recently purchased by Berry and Breece from Parker in the McClintock gulch were too wet for dry washing. Thomas Wisdom, Arthur Hamilton

and Mr. Derrick, just back from Phoenix, were using the time to build a couple of dry washers so they could commence operations on an extensive scale. Another 30 men were waiting at Gill camp. While defiance went to Needles to celebrate New Years and to "imbibe mineral water", his partner Latin was "laying off waiting for the ground to dry sufficiently" so they could "again move a few thousand out of their rich gulch." "Drywasher," who was reporting these happenings to the *Miner* concluded with the comment that "the Chemehuevis placer mines are not enjoying a Randsburg boom, but nevertheless everybody in camp appears to be making money, and the camp is slowly but surely growing. A number of good quality quartz veins are producing rich ore and reports of new mines being found are of daily occurrence. A steady growth is to be preferred to a boom which leaves the country poorer than ever."²⁸

Rain wasn't the only problem faced in mining the Chemehuevis. When a Mr. Bumgartner came into Kingman with several hundred dollars worth of gold dust in August, he told the *Miner* that although the mines were producing considerable gold, "owing to the intense heat, the boys are working short time." Among those sites, Printers Gulch continued to produce large amounts of placer gold.²⁹ Among those venturing into the mountains was Henry "Harry" Strawbell, whose camp in the Chemehuevis had become the center of the new town of Belleville in 1897.³⁰ There and at Gill's camp the intrepid drywashers and lode prospectors gathered; men like James McCabe, who was working a gold ledge at the head of Hunter's Canyon. Nearby in the same canyon, "Arkansaw" Davis worked on a two foot ledge of almost solid galena. Even County Recorder Joseph W. Morgan was down in the Chemehuevis doing assessment work on his claims. William Bailey, who was mining some distance below Mellen (Topock, today) in the Chemehuevis had just sold two tons of very rich gold ore to the Arizona Sampling Works in Kingman. Temporarily, they all had to take a back seat to Jimmy Raul and Joe Marinas who had uncovered a rich streak of gold ore at their Blackeyed Susan Mine. According to the *Miner*, the boys had been about to abandon the claim when they struck "eight inches of the richest gold ever uncovered in the Chemehuevis mountains." The overjoyed duo was about to pack three tons of ore into Franconia.³¹

When A.G. Grossman [or Crossman] showed up in Kingman at the end of June 1898 after a year in the Chemehuevis, he told the *Miner* a different story about life in this remote section of the county. While he agreed that it was "too warm to work there now," he felt that "the placer ground was pretty well worked over." Grossman, one-time printer of the *Needles Eye* newspaper, mined the gulches and outcrops of the Chemehuevis until he earned the nickname the "Gold King of the Chemehuevis." According to the *Miner*, he would come to Kingman every few days with nuggets making the editor suspect that he had quite "a cache of gold over in those mountains."³² The most prominent peak of the range would be named for Grossman. Unfortunately, the G was mistaken for a C, giving it the name Crossman Peak. Mistaken identity was common in the Chemehuevis.

The next mine to gain prominence in the region was the Lost Dutchman, named after the mythical mine somewhere east of Phoenix. In 1902, two lucky prospectors staked the claim on the slopes of Crossman Peak. Lost can be a relative term even in the desert regions of Arizona. Could the abandoned lode mine of the dead Dutchman of 1870 remain undiscovered and unprobed by the intrepid prospectors seeking treasures in the various crevices and ravines of the Chemehuevis Mountains through the 1890s? The media attention given to the "lost mine" of Jacob Waltz suggests the name may have been appropriated from his tall tale. Waltz had died in 1891 at the home of Julia Thomas in Phoenix. After an unsuccessful hunt for the Dutchman's gold in the Superstition Mountains, she had told the story to freelance writer and lost mine hunter Pierpont C. Bicknell in September 1892. Bicknell's first major article on the Lost Dutchman appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle* January 13, 1895. Thereafter, the legend found a way of weaving itself into the local mining lore of every region. The Chemehuevis proved no exception.³³

Dick Cleve and John Blakely "rediscovered" or relocated the mine that would be called the Lost Dutchman in 1902. They had been quite busy atop Crossman Peak that fall, apparently checking on who had been keeping up their assessment work on what mines. They did try to jump the claim of the Sunrise North before stumbling upon the Lost Dutchman.³⁴

On October 12th of that year the *Miner* recorded how Cleve had shown up in Kingman with 400 lbs of ore from the Chemehuevis. According to Cleve he discovered the mine when he paused in his meanderings to pursue a rattler wiggling among a pile of brown rock. He left his burro Saalam, went to the pile, seized a rock to fire at the snake, but as he hefted it to fling it, became curious about its weight. Instead of throwing, he called his partner John Blakely over to examine it and Blakely pronounced it gold. Naturally, they called the mine the Rattlesnake. Four hundred pounds was all their burros could carry out. It was enough, however, for the *Miner* to pronounce "the Chemehuevis a real gold country."

Cleve and John Blakely worked the mine intermittently. At intervals they took out golden rock, but generally did little work. Before it was extensively worked, the Dutchman took another toll. On February 14, 1907, John Blakely wandered into a field outside of Kingman and shot himself, a victim of too much drink and too little success. In fact, the property stood in 1909 much as it had "when the Dutchman took out his beer stake," according to the *Miner*. At some point during these years the Rattlesnake/Dutchman became the property of John's father, Judge William G. Blakely, and of the dry goods mogul of Kingman, O.D. Gaddis.

Judge Blakely had been an original '49er and enjoyed enough success in the first four years of the Gold Rush to pay his debts, get his girl and study law. His return to California with his two brothers in 1857, however, was a disaster. On Valentine's Day thugs attacked the unarmed Blakelys in their cabin near Sonora. One brother was killed outright. William was shot three times and soon lost an arm to gangrene. Unable to continue mining he decided upon a theological career and became a Methodist minister. But it was again the call of mining that took him to the Comstock Lode to set up his first church. In Carson City his acquaintance with Territorial Governor James W. Nye led to his appointment as the Territorial Superintendent of Education. The governor's absence meant Blakely worked often with the governor's secretary Orion Clemens. Like Orion's more famous brother and former clerk, Samuel, Blakely soon found his attention drawn to the newer strikes in southwestern Nevada. He resigned as superintendent and moved to Austin in the Reese

River Mining District. Besides looking after his mining investments, he helped raise a Methodist church in the new town of over 2,000 souls. As the Reese River boom collapsed, Blakely went to the new silver areas in southeastern Nevada near Pioche, a debauched town responsible for at least 60% of the murders in the state. Pioche's ore was very rich, but like so many others it also proved to lie only near the surface. As it played out, Blakely and many others moved on to the new silver strikes in Mohave County. He arrived in Cerbat in 1871. By 1874 Blakely was practicing law and preaching to the over 500 souls in what had become the largest mining camp in the Wallapai Mining District and the new county seat. Government followed the economic fortunes in the county and by 1877 had shifted to Mineral Park. When Blakely returned to Mohave County after a short stay in San Bernardino in 1883, he took up residence in Mineral Park, where he became probate judge. He soon followed the government to the new railroad town of Kingman and organized and built the Methodist church there. Besides continuing his highly successful careers as county judge and minister, he again pursued his first love of mining and traveled extensively about the county to investigate new mines and to invest in those he considered worth the risk.³⁵

The Lost Dutchman, relocated by his unfortunate son, was only one of several mining properties the Judge was developing in the Chemehuevis. He had had men working gold properties in the area since at least 1903.³⁶ In 1908 the nearby Little Wonder group of mines were drawing all the attention in the district. According to the *Miner*, "the Little Wonder mining company operating the old Wild Cat vein in the Chemehuevis mountains have a shaft down 95 feet and have a vein running four feet in width. This ore is said to carry 14 per cent copper, ten per cent lead, \$8 in gold and 20 ounces in silver per ton. The company is to thoroughly exploit the vein and expect to prove up a good property. A whinze [sic] is to be placed on the mine at once and the shaft sunk to 100 feet, where drifts will be run off."³⁷ This favorable press continued into the following year. The *Miner* pronounced that the Little Wonder in the foothills of the Chemehuevis was indeed a wonder with "plenty of concentrating ore." Seventeen miners were engaged in the mine "piling out the ore."³⁸

Such activity drew the attention of the Judge and it was, in fact, the Judge's pending visit to examine the site of his nearby Lost Dutchman in the company of W.D. Grannis, Bill Carleton and J.D. Jordan that was the occasion for the *Miner's* 1909 history of the Lost Dutchman.

Not to be outdone, the Judge took the next step to facilitate the further development of the mineral wealth of the district. He had a mill hauled out to the mines of his Chemehuevis Gold Mountain Mining Company near Scott's Well in 1910. When George Groescup and Jack Simpson went out to do the assessment work on the company's mines in 1911 and to try some milling they had to stop in March because of the lack of water. They did find a new spring, however, about half way between the Sunrise and Schoolma'am. They felt it had enough water to run a five stamp mill and supply all camp uses. By August they had moved the mill to the spring and begun processing ores from the company's various claims which showed free gold throughout. They were averaging about \$48/ton in free gold in the battery and plates, which they estimated to be 50% of the value of the ores. "The boys were quite enthusiastic over the showing." They also talked of building a catch basin for the spring so that they could operate nearly year round.³⁹

In spite of John's earlier misfortune, the Judge's family also continued to become involved in Chemehuevis mining. In 1911 J.C. Minge, the son-in-law of the Judge's only surviving son, Ross H. Blakely of Kingman, came down from San Francisco to check out the placer mines of the Chemehuevis valley currently owned by J.P. Jacobson and others. If his examination revealed what the owners claimed, Minge was prepared to install a large plant to work the deposit. Whatever Minge's decision, the *Miner* pointed out that the diggings were "among the oldest placer mines of the territory and had produced large sums of money by dry washing processes."⁴⁰

In 1911 A.V. Kampff and R.J. Fredericks acquired the Lost Dutchman. Their claim filed at the Mohave County Recorder's Office in 1912 was the first to officially use the name the Lost Dutchman. The Kampff brothers, according to the *Miner*, also erected a mill in the Chemehuevis in 1911. Miners returning from the mountains told the newspaper that the brothers were putting up a three stamp mill

at their mines near Fall Springs where they had been working the past year. They had opened up a nice body of gold ore and taken out a great deal of it to test as soon as they'd finished the mill. What they had opened up so far had only yielded \$25/ton, but there were other streaks which they expected would run about \$40. There was a small spring near their property which they hoped to conserve in order to have a sufficient supply to run the mill at least part of the time. The mine and mill were on the west side of the mountain, some distance south of the School Marm. They accessed the site by wagon road from the railroad to Scott's Well and then over a good trail via the Sunrise.⁴¹ The *Miner* noted in January 1912 that the Kampff brothers had almost completed their mill south of Fall Springs. Their mines were now indicating "a splendid showing of ore running in value to \$50 to the ton in gold."⁴²

Within a short while after acquiring the Lost Dutchman, Kampff and Fredericks had laid claim to much of the surrounding area. When Los Angeles mining engineer W.B. McPherson examined much of the property on the south face of Crossman Peak for the Pioneer Mining and Milling Company in 1913 much of the activity seemed to have been consolidated under Kampff's control. McPherson described what he called the Pioneer group of mines as being about 20 miles from Franconia station. A good wagon road led the 16 miles to Scoffs Wells, from whence pack animals took over the journey over a fairly good trail across the divide to the property. According to McPherson, it was also possible to reach the mines by a route of 35 miles from Yucca, which would enable one to reach within 1000 feet of the property by wagon, or automobile. The bulk of McPherson's report consisted of a description and analysis of the Germania, Little Maude, Ida May, Ophir, Pioneer, Lost Dutchman and Evening Star mines. McPherson linked the Little Maude to the Germania [Osiris, Little Wonder] at the north of the property. They were joined on the south by the Ophir. Most of the work in the group, however, had been done on the southernmost mine, the Lost Dutchman. A 65 foot tunnel had been run on a 12" vein under 200 foot backs. Its ore fire assayed at \$39.27 for a recovery of \$35/ton. Even the tailings showed \$16/ton. Most of the samples from the other claims in the group showed only \$3 to \$6/ton.

Equally significant, the well by the Evening Star had been sunk to fifteen feet and had never gone dry. Sunk even deeper, McPherson felt it would supply a small mill, as well as provide for camp use. Apparently Kampff had acquired Blakley's property [or at least the Evening Star] and possibly the Little Wonder [Germania], if he was the Pioneer Mining and Milling Company.⁴³

Existing mines in what became known as the Dutch Flat group are the Lost Dutchman, Gold Band, Little Maude, Pioneer, and Gold Crown or Evelyn, as well as Jupiter East. [Light #s 30-38]. In addition, a claim map [#2186] from the 1920s at the Mohave County Historical Society shows claims called Morse & Beswick, Pine Hill, Silver Pick, Big Chief, Gold Eagle, Tom Gill & Sam Ingle, Ida May, Kampff, Scott's Hope, Evening Star, F & K, Glory, Gold Star, Big Jake and Moon. The map also shows wells and three mill sites about the camp, as well as proposed roads and pipelines. Existing roads lead from the camp vicinity 12 miles to the Colorado, 20 miles to Franconia, 43 miles to Yucca and 54 miles to Topock. Kampff and Fredericks hoped to link up with the Franconia Road and create a shortcut to Yucca on the Santa Fe Railroad.

Kampff operated intermittently through the 1910s and 1920s. Under the title "Bullion From Chemehuevis" Kingman's new and short lived *Western Mines Reporter* reported how

Albert Kempf [sic] and wife were in Kingman yesterday from their mining camp at Dutch Flat, in the south end of the Chemehuevis mountains, bringing with them a good size bar of bullion and a ton of high grade concentrates. The concentrates are recovered from the ores from their properties, after about \$12 per ton in gold is taken off on the plates. The little mill handles about 3 1/2 tons of ore every eight hours and the recovery is reported to be quite high. Mr. Kempf [sic] has done an immense amount of work on his claims during the past several years and now have them in shape to produce many thousands of tons of good mill ore.⁴⁴

When Kampff and his wife, Ida May, were in Kingman in December 1928 to get supplies for the

camp, they caught the attention of the *Miner*. The Kampffs told the reporter that operations of their mines on the south end of the Chemehuevis were going ahead with considerable success. The camp was ideally situated in the range with good water available for both camp and mill purposes. A small mill had been installed some time ago and was then running steadily on ore that averaged \$30/ton in gold, as well as "securing considerable lead concentrates." The reporter went on to note that Kampff and associates had a considerable number of claims in the district, all of which carried important values in gold, silver and lead. At the head of the canyon they had opened up a 3 foot wide vein heavy in the base metals, as well as carrying better than \$30 in gold and silver. Other veins in the area ranged from 18 inches to two feet. All had been prospected to some extent to show their possibilities for ore production. Good saving of values at the mills was also obtained from the free gold portions of the veins. In fact, as the report concluded, "The whole territory in which this camp is situated is gridironed with veins carrying gold values, these being deeply cut by ravines and canyons, making it possible to acquire considerable depth at backs drifting on the veins."⁴⁵

Things changed dramatically for the Dutch Flat group of Mines in 1933, when Kampff leased his holding to Mrs. Isabella Greenway of Tucson. Isabella was the widow of General John C. Greenway, the former Roughrider, former manager of the Calumet & Arizona Company of Bisbee, and developer of the New Cornelia Copper Company at Ajo.⁴⁶ Operating as the Best Bet Mining Company she brought immense capital to the operations of these mines. She purchased the mill from the Century mine and had it shipped down the Colorado to a site six miles west of the Dutch Flat group. She then hired Mohave County's best road builder, Brice Covington, to connect the mines to the mill. Under Superintendent Potter shafts and tunnels were driven on the old veins, and under their 600 foot backs. Considerable ore was developed awaiting the arrival of the floatation mill, which was delayed by a severe winter. When Isabella visited the mines, she flew into Kingman from Tucson with her children for a quick one day visit. At the same time she announced her candidacy for U.S. Congress, which she won. The mines were again idle within a year.⁴⁷

By 1935 the mines, or at least the Jupiter Mine of the Dutch Flat group had reverted to Kampff's control. According to the *Mohave County Miner*, three bullion shipments had recently been sent from the Jupiter.

The 20-ton ball mill and amalgamation plant, followed by concentration, on the Jupiter mine, owned by Albert Kampff in the Dutch Flat country, has been working steadily since first starting. Three shipments of bullion have already been made to the mint and the concentrates are being stocked for later handling. Prior to starting the mill, a shipment of 24 tons of crude ore to the Tom Reed mill in Oatman brought net returns of \$752.00. The development work from its first inception under the present management has been productive of mill ore. Ore reserves are also being made as the development work continues. Mr. Kampff has been a persistent and patient developer of this property and the conditions at the present time appear to emphasize his good judgement. For a number of years he worked almost alone, with Mrs. Kampff, on this property and succeeded by his determination in making the mine pay its way as well as offering him a profit. Under the present organized plan of operation it is apparent that the property has entered the productive class and promises to continue to produce.⁴⁸

Kampff continued to work the mines for both gold and silver through the 1930s. The mines were leased again in the early 40s. J.E. Smith operated at least the Gold Crown [Evelyn]. At that time ore was crushed, run over a table to separate gold and scheelite from the gangue prior to shipment 60 miles to the Boriana Mining Company mill. Before being forced to cease operations due to World War II they had recovered some 400 ozs. gold and a fair amount of tungsten.

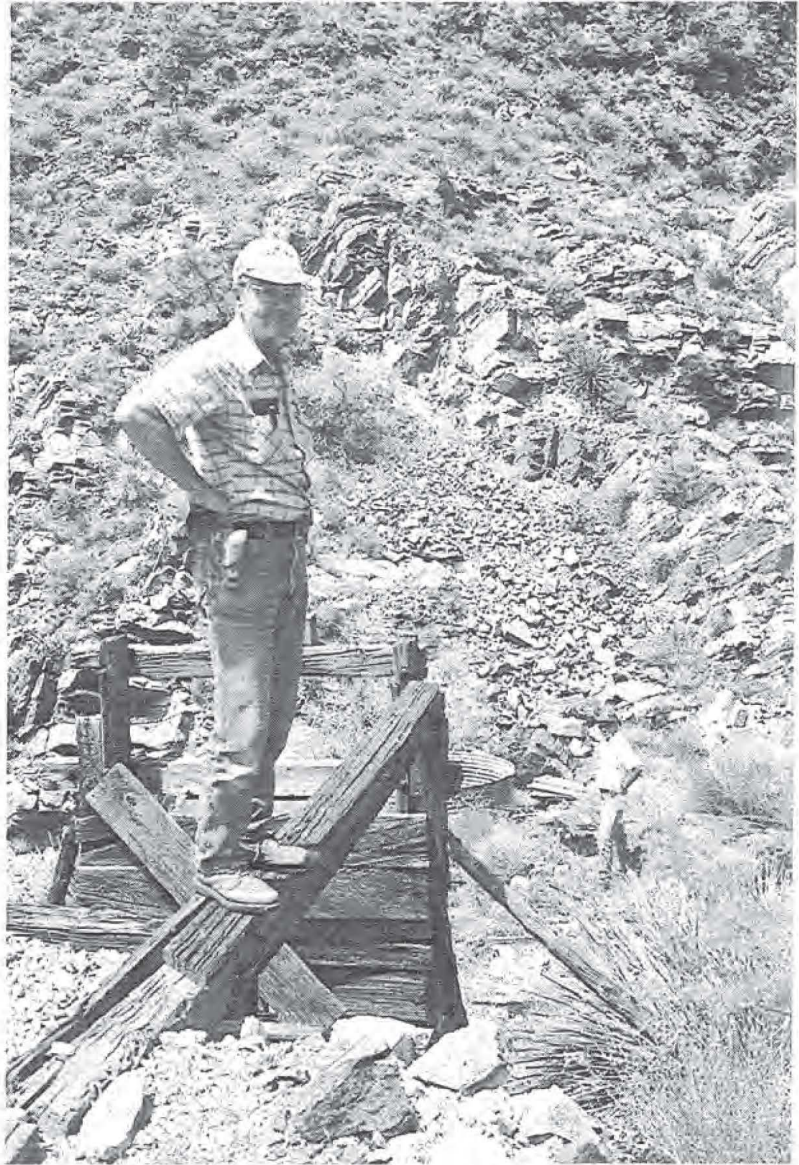
When Kampff reported on his mines in 1946 he claimed that the mines had produced some \$30K for the present owners to date, mostly in gold. Kampff described his mine workings as containing five shafts of 455 feet, five raises of 121 feet, twenty-three tunnels of 2365 feet, and six crosscuts of 931 feet. These

were located in T.14 N., R.18 W., in sections 2, 9, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 30, so he must have been referencing the entire Dutch Flat group. Unlike what befell the Sunrise while Crossman Peak was part of the Yucca Aerial Gunnery Range, mill, water tanks and pipes were still intact after the war. The property was for sale.⁴⁹

Robert C. Hoff of Sutter Creek, California, then took over under bond and lease agreement all the Kampff claims. The War Department had closed the mines for three years. Hoff hoped to get permission to reopen soon so that he could step into the Kampff's 30 year development of gold, silver, lead and tungsten. He seemed particularly excited about the Ida May group, where there already existed sufficient blocked out ore to operate the 50 ton mill he planned to build on the site for a year. Pending permission to commence, he continued to salvage gold mines in California.⁵⁰

In the early 1950s Sheldon A. Heath leased the property from Julius Eaton. Heath sought an exploration loan from the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration to mine tungsten. He felt the property could be put into immediate production with a reconditioned road and either developing water or moving the mill to water. His request was denied. The government was not impressed by his estimate of tungsten production capabilities.⁵¹

Arizona Department of Mines & Mineral Resources Field Engineer Mark Gemill reported in 1957 that the mines had been idle most of the time in recent years. Some action had occurred in 1954 and 1955 when lessees produced some tungsten.⁵² Slow to keep abreast of changes at the mine, the department's request for a Mine Owner's Report to Kampff in 1958 was returned as undeliverable because of Kampff's death, November 4, 1947.⁵³ Z. Soldinski and L.M. Donnell owned the claim in 1959.



Bill Mulder, the leader of the Dutchman revivalists in the 1980's, standing on what remains of the ore shoot at the mill site.

Sometime later Kenneth P. Hodgson filed a claim on the property, but nothing really happened until the 1983 mineral investigations as part of the Crossman Peak Wilderness Area Study. An assessment produced assay samples on the Lost Dutchman ranging from 0.006 to 8.82 oz. gold per ton and up to 2.0 oz. silver per ton with inferred resources of 610 tons that averaged 1.35 oz. gold. Saratoga Mines, Inc., had located more than 300 acres in the area including the Lost Dutchman, as part of a large, low-

grade copper deposit. Needless to say they made great use of the government report on their property. Saratoga's own geologists had sampled what it called its Jupiter claims and they had shown values ranging from .02 oz. per ton to 4.19 oz. per ton in gold. According to Saratoga's president Arden L. Larson, "it is difficult to assess the true economic significance of the find" at this time. The mine contains high grade gold values, in fact, visible gold was observed in several hand specimens from the ore zone. The high grade ore zone appears to be at least thirty feet or longer. The zone has been mined to surface, but not below the tunnel level.⁵⁴

Saratoga did nothing further with the property. Late in the 1980s a group of local mine enthusiasts from Lake Havasu City acquired the Lost Dutchman and several nearby mines. Under the leadership of Bill Mulder and Bill Engle the partners used equipment from Nelson Meringola's rental company to reopen the road to the mine and to replumb the spring to the campsite. After Alaskan miner John Lackey took up permanent residence, the improved grounds included not only a cabin, but an enclosed shower and vegetable garden. On the more technical side, Mulder worked with Lackey to set up a chain mill to process the ore that had been left on the

dump since World War II and to string lights into the main adit of the Dutchman. During 1994-96 the author used the site as a field trip destination and demonstration for his "Havasus Gold" mining history classes at Mohave Community College. In 1998 the claim was transferred to the Havasu Gold Seekers prospecting club.⁵⁵

The Chemehuevis District has not yet become a part of the proposed Crossman Peak Wilderness Area. Nor was the more recent Bureau of Land 23

Management effort to deny renewal of mining claims in this stretch of mountain range and desert east of the Colorado because of their location within the Bureau of Reclamation watershed successful. The proposals to protect this wilderness, like so many desert proposals, fail to recognize the full history of use of the region, especially by the mining fraternity. The isolated camps at the Pittsburgh Mine, at Belleville, the Lost Dutchman and the Kampff operations were marginal desert operations, but they still reflect the widespread nature of mining in the Far West. Recreationalists still pursue the outdoor experience and dreams of amateur mining, while the illusory gold of yet another Lost Dutchman continues to provide a romantic allure. Had Cleve and Blakely really found it?

Endnotes

1. For the most comprehensive look at Mohave County History, see Dan W. Messersmith, *The History of Mohave County to 1912* (Kingman, AZ: Mohave County Historical Society, 1991).
2. Maureen G. Johnson, *Placer Gold Deposits of Arizona* (orig. pub. 1972, Baldwin Park, CA: Gem Guide Books, 1987), p. 27; Thomas D. Light and John R. McDonnell, Jr. *Mineral Investigation of the Crossman Peak Wilderness Study Area, Mohave County Arizona MLA 82-83* (Denver: US Dept. of Interior, US Bureau of Mines, Intermountain Field Operations Center, 1983), p. 4; Anson Smith (Kingman, AZ) to E.A. Shaw, June 15, 1932, in E. Ross Householder Papers, Mohave County Museum of Art and History; and Hiram C. Hodge *Arizona As It Is; or, The Coming Country* (New York: Hurd & Houghton, 1877), pp. 63, 66-67.
3. Kingman *Mohave County Miner* (hereafter *MCM*) June 18, 1909.
4. Re: relocation sec, Notice of Money due Scott from F.A. Goodrich, dated June 25, 1894, recorded Dec. 8, 1894 in Book 4 of Miscellaneous Records, pp. 86-87, Records of Mohave County Ariz. Ty.; and also a copy as Item 17 in Sunrise Mine Papers [copy in the author's possession], where reference is made to the Sunrise as "formerly known as the Douglas, and a portion of the ground was the Lion."
5. *The Eye of Needles*, September 13, 1891, and G. W. Simpson (Needles) to Howard O. Welty, May 31, 1933, in Arda M. Haenzel, "The Topock Maze: Commercial or Aboriginal?" *Quarterly of the San Bernardino County Museum Association*, 26 (Fall, 1978): 48. Hutt's testimony to Simpson offered conclusive proof that the Topock Maze was in existence prior to the bridge and had not been made by Mohaves in 1890 scrapping sand and gravel for the construction of the bridge abutments as had been argued by S.M. Rowe, "Red Rock Cantilever Bridge," *American Society of Civil Engineers, Transactions*, XXV (1891): 692-693.
6. *MCM*, October 10, 1891.
7. *The Eye of Needles*, October 25, 1891.

8. *MCM*, November 7, 1891.
9. *MCM* Jan. 30, 1892. In order to give a flavor of the multiple spellings of Chemehuevis encountered even in the most prominent local paper, I've retained these varied spellings when they occur in quotations. Also, at some point about mid-20th Century, the mountains in Arizona referred to as the Chemehuevis became the Mohave Mountains. The mountains across the Colorado in California switched from being the Mohaves to become the Chemehuevis.
10. *MCM*, February 6, 1892.
11. *MCM*, February 13, 1892.
12. *MCM*, February 27, 1892.
13. *The Eye of Needles*, February 28, 1892.
14. *MCM*, March 19, 1892.
15. *The Eye of Needles*, March 27, 1892.
16. *MCM*, March 7, 1892.
17. *MCM*, May 14, 1892.
18. *The Eye of Needles*, October 23 and 30, 1892.
19. Fred Brawn had been working in the Cerbats in 1891. According to the *Miner* he was shipping ore from the Infallible Mine in September. Perhaps the same Brawn was the owner of a large draft team that was reported doing various drayage chores in the county's mines as well. The same issue of the *Miner* reports the team at work also hauling ore from the C.O.D. Mine. *MCM*, September 19, 1891.
20. "A Prospect and Discovery," *MCM*, January 30, 1892.
21. "A Prospect and Discovery," *MCM*, Jan. 30, 1892.
22. *MCM*, February 6, 1892.
23. *The Eye of Needles*, February 28, 1892.
24. *MCM*, March 5, 1892.
25. *MCM*, May 7, 1892.
26. *MCM*, Jan. 25, 1896.
27. *MCM*, Jan. 2, 1897.
28. *Ibid.*
29. *MCM*, Aug. 21, 1897, and Sept. 25, 1897.
30. *MCM*, March 2 & 9, 1895.
31. *MCM*, Jan. 2, 9, & 23 and Oct. 9, 1897.
32. *MCM* June 30, 1898; Roman Malach, *Lake Havasu City: Land of the Chemehuevis* (Kingman, AZ: Mohave County Bd. of Supervisors, 1974), p. 9; and Malach, "Chemehuevis District in Mohave Mountains," *MCM* May 23, 1974.
33. Tom Kollenborn, "The Lost Dutchman's Mine - History and Bibliography," URL: <http://ajnet.ci.apache-jct.az.us/ldm.htm>
34. Siegel Beckner to F.A. Goodrich, Jan. 9, 1903, Sunrise Mine Papers. "You remember Blakely & Cleave who tried jumping the Sun Rise North. A letter from Rosenberger under the date the 30th says Blakely has not been there for two months but that Cleave is still in the Mts. However they have done no work on our ground. I am of the opinion that the affidavit I procured and recorded and the work I had done has discouraged them to the extent that they will not bother."
35. Mary G. Stano, "William G. Blakely: From Sierras to Arizona Sage," *True West* (Nov., 1988):46-49.
36. *MCM*, Nov. 27, 1903.
37. *MCM*, Dec. 19, 1908. The Little Wonder may have been one of the earliest lode mines worked in the Chemehuevis Mining District. See Walter Scott (Powell, AZ) to Siegel Beckner, Aug. 14, 1891, the Sunrise Papers, extract copied in 1894 with margin notes by Beckner. The text and notes reference the \$7600 investment the Bull Bros. made in a mine on the Wild Cat vein.
38. Malach, "Chemehuevis District In Mohave Mountains," *MCM* May 23, 1974. Which of the 43 mines identified as part of Crossman Peak Wilderness Study Area by Light and McDonnell is the Little Wonder? By comparing the 1923 "Map of the Little Wonder Group of Lode Claims" by L.H. Foster on file in the map collection of MCMAH with diagrams in Light and McDonnell, it is obvious that the Germania #2 of the Little Wonder Group is identical to the Osiris (#28), p. 58. Light and McDonnell seemed to think that the Osiris was the historical Schoolma'am. That conclusion does not seem to fit the data.
39. *MCM*, Dec. 3, 1910, and March 4, 1911; and "Chemehuevis Gold Mountain Mining Company," *MCM*, Aug. 5, 1911.
40. Johnson, pp. 26-27; and *MCM*, July 29, 1911.
41. "Three Stamp Mill for Chemehuevis," *MCM*, Dec. 16, 1911. Was this perchance the Lost Dutchman? Probably not, or at least not at this time. A.V. Kampff and R.J. Fredericks did not file their claim on the Lost Dutchman until March 29, 1912. They recorded the claim June 8, 1912 (Book DD, pp. 631-632), the same day they also recorded the North Star Lode, which they had located March 15, 1912. On the other hand, A. Kampf 1911 has been chiseled on a rock leading to the main camp site at the Lost Dutchman.
42. *MCM*, Jan. 13, 1912.
43. W.B. McPherson, *Report Of the Pioneer Mining And Milling Co. property* (March 27, 1913), manuscript copied by IMK (Ida May Kampff?), Mohave County Museum of Arts and History.
44. "Bullion From Chemehuevis" *Western Mines Reporter*, 1 April 25, 1926.
45. "Mill Running, at Kempf Mine," *MCM*, Dec. 21, 1928. At some time during 1927 Kampff and Colin McIntosh poured the foundation for one of the more substantial buildings in the camp.
46. When Greenway died in 1926, he left Isabella a substantial fortune. The mines were worth \$18 million in 1938. Isabella, herself, was no slouch. She teamed up with Bill Gilpin to form Greenway-Gilpin Airways, one of the first commercial airlines in Arizona. Her San Marcos Hotel in Chandler was a pioneer of the winter visitor business, as was her Arizona Inn in Tucson. Then in 1933 after leasing the Dutchman, she was appointed to the US Congress as a Democrat, where she held a seat serving her friends the Roosevelts until retiring in 1936. See Marshall Trimble, *Arizona: A Panoramic History of a Frontier State* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co., 1977), pp. 78, 227-228,

- 337-338, 368; Stephen C. Shadeegg, *Arizona Politics: The Struggle to End One-Party Rule* (Tempe: Arizona State University Press, 1986), p. 16; and Lisa Schnebly Heidinger, "An Inn For All Seasons," *Arizona Highways*, 70 (March, 1994):35-37.
47. Century Mill Being Moved," *MCM*, Jan. 20, 1933; "Snow Halts Work of Transporting Dutch Flat Mill," *MCM*, Jan. 27, 1933; "Road to Colorado River From Best Bet Mine Built," *MCM*, Feb. 17, 1933; "Visits Best Bet By Plane," *MCM*-March 17, 1933; and "Isabella Greenway Is A Candidate for Congress for Arizona," *MCM*, March 17, 1933.
 48. "Three Bullion Shipments Go From Jupiter," *MCM*, Oct. 25, 1935. Kampff's operation of the Jupiter contributes too much of the confusion about which mine was which in the Dutch Flat Group. All of the material in the Arizona Department of Mines & Mineral Resources hereafter ADMMR files is in the "Kampff Mine File" whether it refers to the Jupiter, Lost Dutchman, or other related mines.
 49. Albert V. Kampff, "Mine Owner's Report: Kampff Mine, Sept. 23, 1946," in ADMMR Kampff File.
 50. Unidentified clipping in ADMMR Kampff File.
 51. Sheldon A. Heath, "Status of Dormant Mines: Dutch Flat Mining Claims, Sept. 15, 1950," ADMMR Kampff File. Heath later moved over to help on one of the efforts to reopen the McCracken mine.
 52. Mark Gemmill, "Memo: Kampff Mine, May 27, 1957," in ADMMR Kampff File.
 53. Frank P. Knight to Owner of the Kampff Mine, Oct. 21, 1958, in ADMMR Kampff File. Kampff was born Dec. 21, 1879 and died in Yucca Nov. 4, 1947.
 54. *Engineering & Mining Journal*, [May, 1984]:11; "USGS Reports Gold on Arizona Claims," *California Mining Journal*, [June, 1984]:8; and "Saratoga Confirms High Grade Gold on Arizona Properties," *The Mining Record*, [April 25, 1984]:16.
 55. Besides Mulder, Engle and Meringola, the partners included Joe Spencer, Alan Brady, Bob Fraser, Bob Garver, George Hunter, and Vito Palazzola.