

Guajalotes, Zopilotes, y Paisanos

Newsletter of the Hillsboro Historical Society

February 2014. Volume 7 Number 1



**The Rise (?) and Fall (?) of a
Hillsboro, New Mexico Mining Venture**

Board

President: Sonja Rutledge

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Secretary: To be determined

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Newsletter Editor: Harley Shaw

Advisory Board

Karl Laumbach, Chris Adams, Craig Springer, R. D. Brinkley, Patricia Woodruff, Penny McCauley, Mark Thompson

Comments, HHS Reports and News from the Editor

The Board accepted with deep regret the resignations of Jamie Lee, Matti Harrison, and Robin Tuttle. Matti Harrison is an HHS founder and has been a valuable member of the Board since 2009. Due to her considerable effort, along with sister, Patti Nunn, the HHS now has a collection of important historical photos and documents. Many of these were featured in ***Around Hillsboro***, of which Matti was a co-author. Matti and her husband Bill hauled the historic fire truck from Edgewood—no small task. She served as treasurer of HHS for two years, and she and Patti have kept the HHS historic files in order. The Board acknowledged Matti's many contributions and expressed the hope that she will continue to assist where she can.

Jamie Lee organized the Ladder Ranch field trip, which raised \$1000 for HHS. He spearheaded securing space for the HHS Museum Shop and Education Center; and spent long hours working solo, painting and preparing the space. Jamie is best known, however, for his portrayal of prosecuting attorney Thomas B. Catron in last year's Fountain Trial reenactment. We truly hope he is up and running in time to fill that slot again this year.

Robin Tuttle handled publicity for last Labor Day's events. She has been our Secretary for the past year and was a major force in establishing our Education Center. She also brought in our first outside exhibit—Kathryn Flynn's New Deal Photography.

Replacements for Matti and Jamie are Garland Bills and Margie Stewart. Garland lives in Lake Valley and is a retired Professor of Linguistics from the University of New Mexico. He supervised the presentation of the Fountain Trial, all the while playing the role of Albert Fountain, Jr. We are excited to have him on board. Margie is a resident of Kingston and a retired attorney. She has a deep interest in history of the Southwest. A replacement for Robin will be discussed at the March meeting.

We want to invite HHS members to serve at the store and education center. Barbara Lovell is our store manager. She moves to Colorado during the summer months, so we will be looking for someone to take her days at the store come May. In addition to the shop volunteers, we now have a group planning to help decorate the Education Center. Becky Porter, Jan Haley, and Janie Dobrott have volunteered to begin by painting a "rug" for the Ed center floor. It will have a southwestern theme, and, considering the artists involved, we anticipate something very special.

We have other needs, not the least of which might be help on this newsletter. Now that I've been relieved from the Presidency, I plan to focus on improvement of this quarterly missive. It is in its seventh year. I've recently gained access to better publishing software and am like a kid with a new toy learning to use it. However, I have all the artistic talent of your average chimpanzee, so am seeking ideas about design. I'd like to keep the respectability of a scholarly publication, but I'm sure that we can make our pages more inviting. Also, I'm always looking for new articles.

We have a host of amateur historians in our area, and I'm sure many of you have tales that would brighten these pages. Don't hold back. Fear of writing is no excuse, because Hillsboro and Kingston are loaded with talented editors who can help you clean up your copy. Get your story or thoughts on

paper (or audio-tape); we can help you make them presentable. The worst possible outcome would be that we would have to expand our pages to include more than a single feature per issue.

I might mention that winter resident Steve Elam has taken on studying the history of the Kingston (Hillsboro) Masonic Lodge and has promised us an article in the future. I don't know much about the lodge, but I once accompanied a tour of its upstairs meeting room. There are fine portraits of many of our most significant early citizens up there. Those who have read *Zopilotes, Guajalotes, y Paisanos* since its inception may remember the story of the role the Masonic building played during the 1914 flood, when a high percentage of Hillsboro's female population was trapped there until the waters receded. Had the building not resisted the floodwaters, losses would have been much greater than the single unfortunate death of Sheriff Murphy, who died trying to rescue the trapped women and girls.

Past HHS Vice-President, Stretch Luna, has copies of his *Hillsboro, New Mexico: recollections of its historic buildings, scenery and family history*. Stretch is a native of Hillsboro. The small book contains stories of the area passed down through his grandmother, Romelia "Romie" Chavez Luna-Bird and his father Frederico C. "Tony" Luna. Mrs. Luna-Bird died in 1994, six months shy of her 100th birthday. Tony Luna is still with us at age 95 and still drives across the Black Range from Santa Clara to Hillsboro to visit Stretch. In addition to presenting much unpublished lore of our area, the book is well illustrated with photographs and Stretch's own drawings of historic structures. Price is \$20 while they last. This will be a collectable, and we're proud of Stretch for his persistence in nursing it through to print. We might also mention that layout and production of the book was done by Gale Hector's Percha Creek Press. The talent present in our small town is unending.

As a result of past turnover in the HHS board and difficulties involved in tracking the staggered board member system, we recently voted to modify our bylaws, making elected board members permanent until they resign or are removed. Replacements will be elected as openings occur. We hope this allows smoother transitions over time and will provide us opportunity to recruit board members who can play specific, needed roles within HHS.

The Board would like to create separate working capital budgets for the Gift Shop and Education Center to improve the exhibit space. The primary function of the Gift Shop is fund raising for the activities of HHS. The function of the Education Center is to inform the public through exhibits and special events. Its expenses will include the cost for installing exhibits, some of which may be from other museums and institutions and require a fee for use. The Education Center does not charge visitors, although a donation jar is maintained at the entrance.

Patti Nunn, Judy Majoris, and Harley Shaw have agreed to serve on the Education Center Committee, which will identify potential exhibits and events. This Committee held its first meeting January 3 to identify potential exhibits for the coming year. The Committee agreed that following the planned late winter/early spring exhibit of "Apache Warfare in Hillsboro and Lake Valley," future exhibits will include: Aldo Leopold and the Gila National Forest (Harley to take the lead); and The Geology of Black Range (Judy to lead). Other possible subjects will be the Chinese residents during the mining era and history of the Ladder Ranch.

The current exhibit at the Center is **Around Hillsboro and Kingston**, featuring old photos and historic artifacts from our area. Barbara Lovell and Patti Nunn traveled around the county rounding up materials for this exhibit. Those who contributed display items include Black Range Museum (June Anders), Gloria Spellman, Patty Bason, Sonja Rutledge, Bruce Cosper, Matti Harrison, and Patti Nunn. This exhibit will serve as a standing display to fill in between special exhibits.

Sales from the gift shop for the first six months were \$3,594. The gross profit after deducting \$2,219 for the purchase of inventory and commissions was \$1,374. Given the newness of the business and interruptions by the summer weather and fire events, the Board felt this was a good beginning. Treasurer Susan Binneweg noted that future profits from sales must average at least \$600 per month in order to meet HHS expenses for the shop. Susan reported a sum of \$33,149 in the HHS bank account; \$250 cash in hand; and \$2000 in the HHS checking account. At the February meeting the board passed a resolution saying that it will set aside a 30% minimum of the net profit of any fundraising efforts to go into the property acquisition fund.

Feature Article

This month's feature article is a continuation of detailed and scholarly history of Hillsboro's mines. Mark Thompson (shown at right) has contributed to our newsletter before. He is an attorney in Colorado, but has deep roots in SW New Mexico. His grandfather, Mark B. Thompson I, practiced law in Dona Ana County before moving on to Arizona.

Played Out in Minneapolis: The Rise? and Fall? of a Hillsboro Mining Venture

Mark B. Thompson, III
Centennial, Colorado

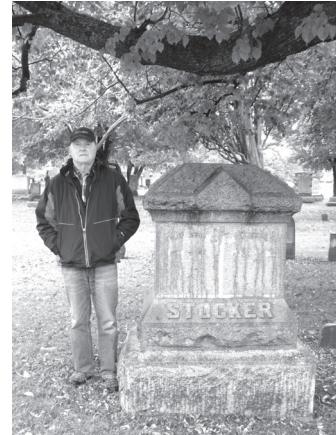
*After the Ball is over . . . Many the hopes that have vanished,
After the Ball.* From the 1892 popular song

On November 29, 1890, six men, including Nicholas Galles of Hillsboro and his father-in-law, the Minneapolis lawyer, Henry D. Stocker, filed articles of incorporation for the Standard Gold Mining & Milling Co. (Standard Gold, hereafter) under the laws of Minnesota. Moses Thompson of San Francisco, California, apparently the title holder of some or all of the New Mexico mining property conveyed to the corporation, was one of the incorporators. Nicholas Galles was designated as Manager of the New Mexico property and Stocker and three other Minnesotans were the initial officers of the corporation. (The initial list of officers and directors is found on the promotional booklet.) As we shall see, it is Thompson and the Minnesotans who play the major role over the four years following the creation of Standard Gold.

Who was Moses Thompson? He does not show up in the early Hillsboro mining stories from 1877, and it is unclear when he came to Hillsboro. I found an 1879 public record in San Francisco for a Moses Thompson in the mining business, and he may be the Moses Thompson born to John and Arabella (Gilmore) Thompson in Mercer County, Illinois in 1853. The Standard Gold promotional booklet says that he and Nicholas Galles, who had been involved in Hillsboro mining for several years, acquired the property in 1888. The promotional booklet, and allegations in the subsequent litigation, indicates that Galles had an "equitable interest" in the property before the Standard Gold incorporation and implies that he would take stock in the new corporation for his interest in the property. Notwithstanding the reference in the promotional booklet to a "branch office" at "25 Thompson Block" in Hillsboro, it was stated that Thompson's health would prevent him from taking an active role in the business. (Full disclosure: I am a descendant of both Galles and Stocker. There is a remote possibility that I share a common ancestor with Moses Thompson based upon his father's Ohio birthplace in 1825, but I was unable to confirm any relationship. My direct surname ancestor, a grandfather, did not come to New Mexico from Kansas until 1906.)

Although the exact "division" of prior ownership is unclear, the stock promotion booklet lists eight mining claims plus the then-extant gold stamping mill as becoming the property of Standard Gold. The promotional booklet also contains diagrams of two mines, the "Snake" and the "Opportunity," together with photos of both mines and the mill. We can also, perhaps, use two recognized secondary sources to pin down the "facts on the ground." Those two sources are Fayette Alexander Jones, *New Mexico Mines and Minerals* (Santa Fe; World's Fair Ed., 1904) and George Townsend Harley, *The Geology and Ore Deposits of Sierra County, New Mexico* (Socorro; New Mexico Bureau of Mines, 1934).

Neither Jones nor Harley mention Standard Gold, Moses Thompson or Nicholas Galles and those omissions may be significant in the "big picture" history of Hillsboro mining. Nevertheless, Jones, for example, notes the discovery of both the "Rattlesnake" lode (hard rock mine) and placer gold in the Snake Gulch in 1877. (pp. 81-82) (The names "Rattlesnake" and "Snake" were interchangeable.



See also, Harley, pp. 141 & 155). Jones also mentions the “Opportunity” claim as being in the general vicinity of Animas Peak, along with the “Snake” and two other claims identified by Harley as part of the Opportunity Group, the Morning Star and the Moccasin. Harley specifically names 13 claims as part of the Opportunity Group, (p.155), six of which are named in the Standard Gold promo book. All of this evidence places the Standard Gold operation in the Hillsboro/Las Animas Mining District just northeast of the town of Hillsboro (See also, Joe Diel’s recent essay in the Hillsboro Historical Society newsletter, November 2013, which details the current status of the mining district).

The creation of Standard Gold was reported in the St. Paul *Globe* on November 30, 1890, p. 11, and it reads more like a press release. “These names [officers & directors] assure able, judicious and economical management.” “Mr. Galles comes to the company with the highest recommendations from the governor, prominent bankers and business men of New Mexico and other men of national prominence.” And my favorite, “Mr. Matchan . . . says: ‘I have personally inspected this property in company with a prominent and competent expert . . . and there is no question as to its lasting and producing properties.’” George Leslie Matchan was identified as secretary of the corporation and one would expect that sort of “puffery.” Unstated in the newspaper article is the fact that Matchan had been the law partner of Henry Stocker since their Lake City, Minnesota days. Stocker and Matchan had represented Thompson and Galles in forming the corporation and also had a close relationship with the investors.



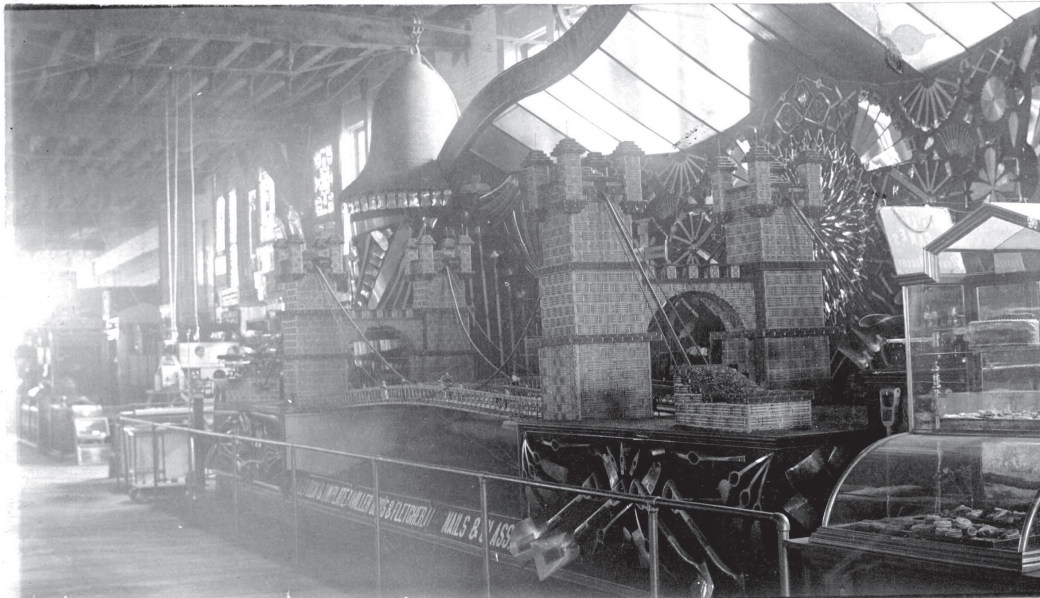
Rattlesnake Mine. Date unknown. Courtesy of Black Range Museum.

An honest representation in the *Globe* article was that it was the purpose of the company to sell a portion of its stock to enable it to equip the property for operating on an extensive scale. On the stock promotion booklet the Standard Gold headquarters are shown at “208 Century Building, Minneapolis.” Located at 1st Avenue and 4th Street in downtown Minneapolis, the building housed the Century Investment Company of which Matchan was secretary. Also found in the Century Building were the law firm of Stocker & Matchan, the Century Piano Co. and The Farmers and Merchants State Bank. With the addition of the man designated as president of Standard Gold, James Cooper Stout of St. Paul, these businesses and the law firm would provide the key players.

The addition of James Stout adds to the Lake City, Minnesota connection. Henry Stocker and Tamezin (Kimball) Stocker had moved there soon after he mustered out of the 16th Illinois Cavalry in late 1864, apparently to be closer to her parents who were living in Goodhue County, the county just north of Lake City. George L. Matchan’s family had emigrated from England to Goodhue County in the

late 1850s and he had moved down to Lake City at some point and had joined Stocker in the practice of law by at least 1881. Even Nicholas Galles had a connection to Lake City; he was sent there by his parents from New Ulm, Minnesota to attend school in about 1872. Galles moved to New Mexico in 1875 and he and Harriett Stocker married in Chicago in 1881. James Stout was from a prominent Lake City family that had moved there after his birth in 1842 in New Jersey. The 1884 History of Wabasha County describes Stout as being in the insurance, loan and real estate business in Lake City. The Stout heritage is still visible in Lake City; the home built by James and Agnes Stout on South Oak St. in 1872 is on the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition to issuing the slick promo booklet, Century Investment Company purchased a advertisement which appears on page 15 of the January 25, 1891, edition of the *Globe*: “TONS OF GOLD.” My favorite “puff” from the ad claims that the company “owns eight mines, 12,000 feet of True Fissure Vein, which never fails . . .” A newspaper story in the Las Vegas, New Mexico *Free Press* on August 23, 1892, states that returns from the first Standard Gold shipment to the Boston Smelting and Refining Company “have exceeded the most sanguine expectations.”



Stamp Mill at Snake Mine. Date Unknown. Courtesy of Black Range Museum.

What might also have been expected was the litigation.

On December 23, 1892, Moses Thompson filed an action in Hennepin County Minnesota District Court against Standard Gold, Century Investment Co., Galles, Stocker, Matchan and Stout, as well as Morton F. Scofield and Robert T. Lang, the latter in their capacity as officers of the Farmers and Merchants Bank and as members of the Standard Gold Board of Directors (*Globe*, Dec. 24, 1892, p.3). Thompson had originally filed the action in Chicago on July 1, 1892, which I suspect was dismissed for want of jurisdiction. Thompson in essence alleged that he had been defrauded by not being paid for his interest in the mining property conveyed to Standard Gold. According to Matchan, the amount owed Thompson had been “garnished” in legal proceedings by pre-incorporation creditors who had extended credit to Thompson in connection with his (pre-incorporation) development of the mining property.

As the Minneapolis *Tribune* eventually described it, this case was a “mixed-up affair,” more than just a claim by Thompson that he did not get paid for his property. He also claimed that he had been fraudulently induced to transfer his stock in Standard Gold to Century Investment Company. Matchan claimed that Thompson had decided that “tons of gold” were not present and he just wanted out of the entire deal. But the obvious conflicts of interest by the lawyers and investors gave Thompson a reasonable sounding argument. He was no doubt disappointed when Judge Hicks in March of 1893

ruled that he was not entitled to an injunction, probably his attempt to maintain the “status quo” in his favor pending trial (*Minneapolis Tribune*, March 7, 1893, p. 8).

It would take another year for Thompson’s lawyers to get the full case to trial, but, in the meantime, on May 15, 1893, the other shoe dropped with the Farmers & Merchants Bank closing its doors. As the general history by economics professor, Brandon Dupont, on the Hillsboro History Blog (July 24, 2011) indicates, the collapse of Farmers & Merchants Bank puts it right in the middle of the bank failures during the so-called Panic of 1893. The economics of money and banking were intertwined with the politics of “Gold Standard,” “Bi-Metallism” and “Free Silver” and Professor Dupont’s essay gives us a good overview plus the specific impact on mining in Kingston, New Mexico, where silver was the main metal extracted at its mines. Perhaps the difficulties of its Minnesota investors may account for the eventual demise of Standard Gold, because, if Colorado is a good comparison, gold as a commodity does pretty well. Certainly the discovery of a large deposit at Cripple Creek, Colorado in 1890 may skew the statistics, but as one student of Colorado history points out, “[g]old was the one bright spot during the panic of 1893” (Forest L. White, “The Panic of 1893 in Colorado” Boulder: U. of Colorado, Master Thesis in History, 1932, p. 100).

The failure of the Farmers & Merchants naturally spawned some interesting litigation with an immediate impact on Standard Gold and its Minnesota backers. Depositors sued claiming they were misled by the bank officers (*Globe*, July 27, 1893, p. 3). The effort to control the receivership of the bank led to a claim by creditors that Henry Stocker had a conflict of interest in representing the receiver (*Globe*, August 13, 1893, p. 10). Then, on September 18, 1893, Robert Lang testified in the receivership case that the bank had lost \$10,000 “through the failure of the Standard Gold Mining and Milling Company” (*Globe*, September 19, 1893, p. 10). The bank had loaned that amount to Standard Gold and the implication was that Standard Gold had defaulted on the loan (*Minneapolis Tribune*, “Affairs of the Defunct Bank Again Brought to Light,” March 19, 1893, p. 5). Given the subsequent history, such as it is, Lang may only have meant that Standard Gold defaulted on its loan, not that it had completely failed as a business.



Horse team hauling heavy machinery to Snake Mine. Date unknown.

In August of 1893, the receiver (“assignee”) of Farmers & Merchants sued Lang and Scofield on promissory notes given the bank by both officers (*Globe*, August 20, 1893, p. 10). On November 22, 1893, the Hennepin County grand jury issued criminal indictments against Morton Scofield, Robert Lang, George Matchan and Willis James for their “fraudulent” conduct in the administration of the bank (*Globe*, November 23, 1893, p. 3). I have not been able to follow all of those criminal cases to a conclusion, but I did find that Robert Lang was acquitted by a jury on June 4, 1895 (*Globe* June 5, 1895,

p. 7). In August of 1893, Hennepin County realized it was not going to recover its deposits in Farmers & Merchants and sued the sureties who had promised to back up the bank's obligation. The sureties included Scofield, Lang, Matchan, James and Stocker, as well as A.C. Schuknecht who had also been a late addition to the Standard Gold board. The sureties were able to use legal procedures to their advantage and the county had to re-file its legal action against the sureties in July of 1895 (*Globe*, July 31, 1895, p. 3). Even the Century Piano Company eventually went bankrupt (*Globe*, October 24, 1897, p. 2).

While the difficulties for the Century investors were ongoing, Thompson's legal action came to trial in March of 1894. Various described by the *Globe* as an "important" or "famous" case, the trial lasted 36 days, alleged to be a Hennepin County District Court record at the time. The non-jury trial focused on whether or not Stocker and Matchan had, with the others, defrauded Thompson. It took Judge Robert Jamison about four months to render a decision which mostly pleased the defendants. Jamison apparently held that payment for Thompson's property had been properly "garnished" by a (pre-incorporation) creditor with a claim against Thompson relating to the property itself. The court also found that Thompson still had his stock, i.e. had not "transferred" it to Century. Based upon those two conclusions, the court then ruled that Thompson was entitled to an accounting to determine his exact interest in Standard Gold (*Tribune*, August 23, 1894, p. 5). Finally, and no doubt to the relief of Stocker and Matchan, the court found that the lawyers were not guilty of fraud but had in fact done more for Thompson than the situation required (*Globe*, August 22, 1894, p. 3).

A report of shipments from the Standard Gold mines in June 1894 appears in the July 21, 1894, issue of the *Arizona Weekly Citizen* published in Tucson, the last such report that I could find online. The losses by the investors in Minnesota resulted in litigation but in New Mexico the venture may just have "faded away." The Secretary of the Territory in the 1905 edition of the "Blue Book," page 254, includes Standard Gold in the list of corporations operating in New Mexico. Given that a representative of the corporation would have had to file articles of dissolution for Standard Gold or formally "withdraw" from New Mexico to keep it out of the Blue Book of 1905, I do not see its inclusion as evidence of continued existence of the business. Based upon the description in both Jones (1904) and Harley (1934), it seems likely that some of the mines were continued by one or more unnamed miners although probably none made themselves rich.

In the 1894 election, Nicholas Galles was elected to the 31st New Mexico Territorial Council (today's state senate) from Sierra and Socorro counties, his last venture into electoral politics. In both the 1895 Minnesota special census and the federal census of 1900, Galles and his family are found in Minneapolis. During the second half of the 1890s, Galles was apparently involved with at least two separate mining ventures in Arizona. That may have been Henry Stocker's excuse for moving to Prescott, Arizona about 1897-98, apparently abandoning his second wife in Minneapolis. Stocker died in Prescott in May of 1900 and Galles dutifully took his body back to Minneapolis for burial in the Hillside Cemetery.

Galles kept his political ties to New Mexico and, in 1902, he was appointed by President Theodore Roosevelt as a Register of Public Lands for New Mexico. After confirmation by the U.S. Senate, he moved his family to Las Cruces, New Mexico. He was unsuccessful in his attempt in 1905 to obtain a presidential appointment to serve as Governor of New Mexico Territory. Also, in 1905, he was one of the founders of the First National Bank of Las Cruces and served as its first president. Nicholas Galles died of cancer in December of 1911, but, following the Standard Gold story, it is his occupation designation in the 1910 federal census that seems most appropriate: "unemployed miner."



Lonely remains of the Rattlesnake Mine. 2010. Photo by Marg Myers.

A Modern Day Miner's Comments on the Standard Gold Mining and Milling Company – December 1890.

By Mark Wood, M. E.

There are several interesting things to note in reviewing the information soliciting investors in 1890 for the Standard Gold Mining and Milling Company.

In the market places of today such a solicitation for investment would be accompanied by a much more detailed description of the resource, which is the material in the ground that will be excavated. It is very interesting to note that the resource for the Standard Mine is cited to be between two and three feet. At two feet it is virtually impossible for a man to work. This requires extra excavation that is going to dilute the value of the ore since it typically carries no valuable minerals. It would appear that the promoters did not really consider this fact in the calculation of the value of the material in the ground.

Determining the continuity of the veins is also something that a more determined reader might question when the depth of the pay zone is quoted as "like the Comstock lode" without there really being any physical evidence from the workings that such a thing was indeed true. Without the vertical height of the vein it becomes very difficult to develop enough material to sustain a very large production base since much effort must be expended for continuing advance in the horizontal direction.

The venture expected to have a margin of "profits" of around \$17 per ton based on the selling value of ore at \$25 less around \$8 for costs. What seems to be missing in the description of these values is how much money was going into the sustaining costs of the mine and process facility for things like development or replacing worn out plant. These are major costs in modern day mining. It is hard to imagine that not anticipating them was not a major burden for the Standard operation.

It is interesting to note that the prospectus offering is to raise \$2 million dollars. The property is described to require \$500,000 for working capital required to operate the property and acquire some new milling equipment. The use of the additional funds is interesting, with an assumption that the property owners may have received a substantial sum from that difference. This is where modern day experience again is relevant. Typically when looking retrospectively, the original property owners tend to make the best return on investment.

As the property was described the discussion of the various resources used in the area are given about a one paragraph discussion. This is certainly a vast difference from the circumstances today when environmental impact statements, acquisition of permits and gaining community acceptance are long-term investments of effort, money, and time which may take five to ten years.

The description of the Standard Mine venture value ranges from \$15 to \$100 ton. It is difficult to understand what metals were actually generating this value. For some perspective, gold price in the 1890s was about \$19 per ounce. This infers content of ore between one to five ounces per ton. Ore in this concentration are very rare in today's world and would have been very spectacular even in that time. This is likely why the venture ultimately overreached, it seems as though the basic understanding of the value in the ground is missing. When considering the ore value range, it was most likely that the bulk of material was closer to the low end of the range.

I would imagine that many hard working and diligent men worked during the years at the Standard Gold properties. They would have ultimately been challenged to find enough material along the veins of sufficient quality to support the 100 tons per day mill. Their better judgment possibly clouded by too much optimism or the fact that easy money from Midwestern investors allowed them to be so.

-Mark Wood has been employed in the mining industry for the past 35 years by two large U. S.-based metal mining companies. He has a variety of experiences in surface and underground mines both domestic and international. A graduate of Colorado School of Mines and a Colorado native, Mark has a historical connection to past mining activities in that his grandfather worked in a stamp mill near Breckenridge, Colorado in the 1900s. A portion of his career was spent in the Creede, Colorado district, a very prominent silver play in the 1880s.

Neat Stuff and Odds and Ends

Mr. Bob Wilson of El Paso was kind enough to share the following poem with us. He bought the original of this strange little poem several years ago at a booth at an Apple Festival in Hillsboro. HHS president Sonja Rutledge, who appears in the poem, tells us that it represents Mr. Burke just the way he was. Bob Burke was born in the big house that now belongs to Patsy King. He later lived in the Burke-Porter house now owned by Asa and Becky Porter. We thank Becky for the photographs of Mr. Burke. From all appearances he was truly a character.

When I grow to be an
old man I'll do things like wear
funny hats, and play tricks and make
people laugh. I'll drive up and down the
roads I'm familiar with I'll stop and
pick flowers for the girls... or maybe... take
polaroid pictures of the bramers (brahma cattle)
I'll drive up towards Kingston and look at Star
Peak and think of Katherine and talk to her for
a little while. Sometimes, I'll drive on the wrong
side and sort of scare people a little... Almost
every day I'll go by Barbara's and have a meat pattie
with a slice of pie and coffee I'll always have
a dollar in my pocket so I can go to Jack's and
have a shot of whiskey. And I'll take the papers
from Sonja's over to Carlene's and honk and honk and
honk.... Everyday I'll try to meet
the school bus and count the kids...
because it's the kids that really
count. And I'll take candy to the
pretty young girls and some not so
young.... Whenever someone takes me to town I'll
tell them all the stories.... about Mrs. Hatcher's
curve..... and the little house overlooking Animas
Creek.... and as we drive back we'll see the Wicks
mine and then I'll tell about an old arrastra
and a place that no one else knows about but
me..... I'll take all my bills to Sonja to write
for me and every night I'll call Alice and
Paul Jones and Nell and Jim and Click to
talk about the weather and the day's happen-
ings.....

**Bob
Burke**

And finally when I lie down.. I'll
think about all my friends and
how good they've been to
me....



Museum Store and Education Center



Hours: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 11am to 4pm. **Phone:** 575-895-3321.

Interesting Hillsboro Links

Hillsboro History: <http://hillsborohistory.blogspot.com/>. Hillsboro blog maintained by Craig Springer. Lots of good stories about our area.

Barbershop Cafe: <http://barbershopcafe.com/>. Check ahead for hours and menu.

Black Range Vineyards. <http://www.blackrangevineyards.com/>. Wine, tapas, and good conversation.

Aldo's Attic. <http://www.aldosattic.com/>. Fine bird prints and literature of nature.

Black Range Rag: http://www.blackrange.org/The_Black_Range_Rag/The_Black_Range_Rag.html. Created by Robert Barnes. Local history and natural history. Lots of links to other sites.

Hillsboro: <http://www.hillsboronm.com/>. Community organizations and functions around Hillsboro and Kingston.

Black Range Lodge: <http://www.blackrangelodge.com/>. Historic bed and breakfast with accommodations in the pines.

Hillsboro General Store Cafe: <http://www.hillsborogeneralstore.com/>. Breakfast and lunch six days a week.

Hillsboro Historical Society: <http://www.hillsboronmhistory.info/>. Latest on HHS activities.

Vacation Rental
Historic Miller House
HistoricMillerHouse.com
Craig: 505-423-2501





Historic Homes: Burke-Porter House

Built by a Mr. Lewis in 1886, this house passed through several owners. Bob Burke owned it 1967-1985, Asa and Becky Porter purchased the house in 1995 and lived in it for several years. They have restored it, keeping as close to original construction and decoration as possible. The house is now available as a vacation/weekend rental. Phone 575-895-5139.

MEMBERSHIP

OUR MEMBERSHIPS ARE ON A FEBRUARY 1 TO JANUARY 31 ANNUAL BASIS. ANY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS WE RECEIVE AFTER NOVEMBER 15 WILL BE CONSIDERED 2014 MEMBERSHIPS VALID FROM FEB 1, 2014 TO JANUARY 31, 2015. .

The Hillsboro Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to collect, preserve and share the history and historical artifacts of the Hillsboro, Kingston and Lake Valley communities in New Mexico. Its membership comprises supporters and volunteers who may choose to participate in many aspects of the Society's mission including fundraising, collection and conservation, oral histories, education and interpretation, special events and programs. Member benefits include the Historical Society quarterly newsletter, priority registration for lectures, summer programs and field trips, and an invitation to our Annual Dinner and Silent Auction. Dues are \$25 annually for individual or family and \$50 for business memberships. Please mail this completed Membership Subscription, along with your check made payable to **Hillsboro Historical Society, P. O. Box 461, Hillsboro NM 88042.**

Member Name _____ Today's Date _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone Number (_____) _____ Email _____

Volunteer interest _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ annual (from Feb to Feb) individual or family membership

Enclosed is \$ _____ annual (from Feb to Feb) business membership that includes ad in newsletter

Additional Donation \$ _____ Gift Membership \$ _____ for _____

Newsletter sent (check one): Digital by email

Hard copy mailed

We prefer to send the newsletter via email. If we have no email address for members, we will mail them a hard copy.