The Phoenix Mine



The mine was discovered in 1871 by a man named Miner, who after making enough money with the mine to return to his home in England as a wealthy man. When he left the country he sold his discovery to a Cornish miner who eventually abandoned the mine.



A Real estate investor bout the mine for the remainder of the back taxes owed (\$20.00) and then sold it to a Minnesota man named Gunderson for \$%000.00.

Mr. Gunderson was forced to close the mine in 1943 due to the war. All U.S. mining operations were stopped because of the Governments need for mining equipment to support the war.



In the 1950's the mine was leased to three men who never really worked it, but were said to have "swept the mine" and mad enough money to buy a new Cadillac.



Mr. Al Simmons acquired the mine in the 1950's and eventually sold the mine to Mr. Alvin Mosch in 1972 for \$500.00.



In the 1980's a group of Bishops and Cardinals from the Vatican visited the mine, who in turn sent thirty Nuns from Cadonia Italy, who were visiting to raise money for Colorado Miner Orphans.



One couple who took the tour came back to have3 their marriage performed at the mine.

A past tourist who died of lung cancer requested that his funeral be at the mine, and his ashes be scattered in the mine. His ashes are in a roped off area just off of the main tunnel.



According to the current owner, the mine has had several fatalities during its many years of operation.

One of the deaths at the mine happened during a collapse that can still be seen at the end of the main tunnel.



Data:

The average temperature in the mine is between 42 and 54 degrees' year round.

In 1871 the mine reached 1000 feet and intersected with the phoenix vein.

In the 1970's a tunnel was completed to reach the resurrection vein. The naming was to represent the resurrection of the mine.

Under the main tunnel there is a lower level known as the "Winze". To access this area there is a latter and a small tunnel.



Ghostly Claims:

On several occasions there have been reports of a "bright light" that would illuminate the main tunnel about half way to the back. This has been witnessed by tourists as well as people working in the mine.

People have reported seeing "old miners" behind them during tours. They said that they thought that it was part of the tour.

Many people have reported being "touched" by unseen hands tours.



Paranormal investigators have reported EVPs of many different voices.

Several ghost hunting teams have brought in "psychics" who have claimed that they communicated with miners from the past.

Many tourists and ghost hunters have reported seeing mists and "orbs" in photos taken in the mine.

Investigation conclusions:

We were in the mine for several hours. We used Still cameras, video cameras, EMF Meters and Seismometers.



Several of the reports of ghostly activity were easily explained.

The bright light in the middle of the mine appears to be caused by an opening to the outside in an upper shaft. When the sun is at just the right spot (based on time and season) there will be a bright light for several minutes.

Seeing people wandering around the mine can cause different perceived paranormal events:

- The mine has several areas that have very low frequency vibrations in them This low frequency vibration can cause sensory experiences of shapes moving in the peripheral vision, cause the feeling of being watched, and in the case of a location like the mine, it can cause loose rocks to fall for no perceived reason.
- The people that have these experiences are in a very unique situation when they are in the mine. The mine itself acts as a kind of sensory deprivation chamber which will cause the mind of the person in the mine to react to things that are not there or perceive sensory input differently than it normally would. This is escalated by the fact that most of the people making these types of reports have been told ghost stories about the mine, so they use the stores to bias their perceptions.



The EVP recordings taken by ghost hunting groups appear to be a classic example of audio paredolia or apophenia which is the natural ability of the human mind to find order in chaos. The use of EVP is something that should not be used as any claim of "evidence".

The ghost hunting groups that are using psychics have the same issue as the ones that are using EVPs, they are using a "tool" that has never been proven to work to find something that has never been proven to exist.



While examining several of the "unusual" photographs that have been taken at the mine, it is obvious that they are the result of normal photographic errors and not paranormal.



The reports of people hearing talking in the mine has several possible answers:

• We tested the acoustics of the mine and determined that when a person ins talking at a just slightly higher than normal volume near the entrance to the mine, it can be easily heard at the back of the mine.



• The psychological conditions due to the sensory deprivation and the suggestibility of people looking for ghosts will create the illusion of voices from the natural sounds of the mine.