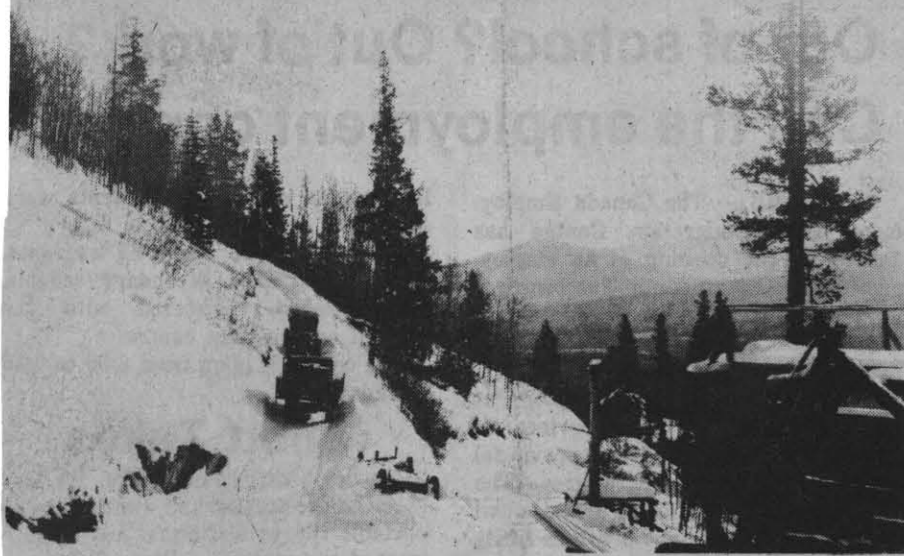
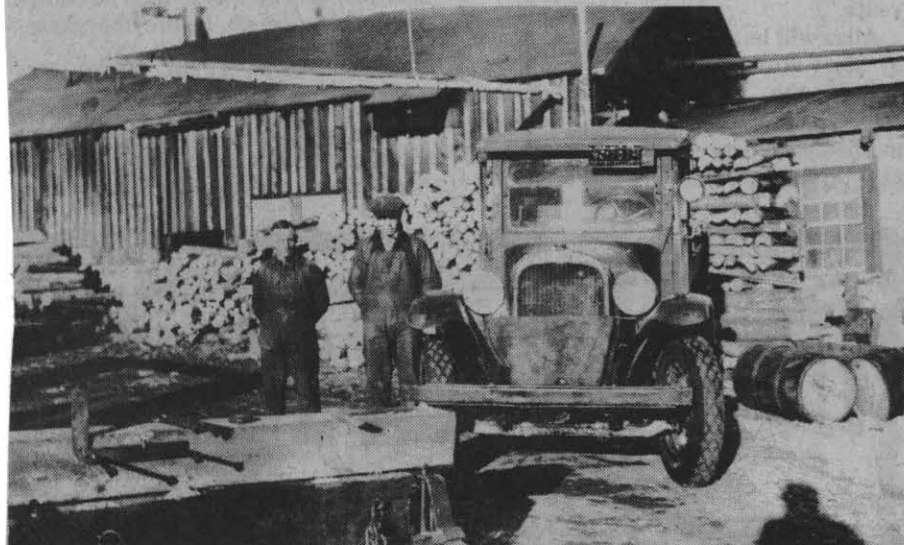


# The Duthie Mine—Threads



The City Transfer climbs the road to the upper mine and meets the mine truck coming down with ore. The buildings are at the lower level

Photo courtesy Irma Bannister



Jimmy Live and Art Simpson have unloaded wood for the boilers at the upper tunnel. The boilers burned 10 to 12 cords a day and supplied steam for the compressor room at the right. Art drove the mine truck and worked at the ore bins. Photo courtesy Art Simpson

When Irma Bannister sent us the picture of the mine road, little did she realize that a chapter of our history would unfold.

Interested people donated pictures and related their first-hand experiences. The Heritage Club has attempted to put together a story of life at the mine.

## Part One:

In the early 1920s two prospectors, Jack and Jabe Ashman, struck a rich vein of ore at timberline on the western slope of Hudson Bay Mountain. They knew it was a good prospect and tried to raise money locally for a road. Druggist, Mason Adams was the only one interested. It was J.F. Duthie, an American mining promoter, who bought the property from the Ashmans and hired Jack Turner of Seattle as head engineer to develop the mine. The upper tunnel yielded good grade ore — lead, zinc, steel galena and silver. The work continued from the upper tunnel at No. six stope into No. two level which assayed very rich ruby silver.

## Another Heritage Club feature

There were about 20 woodcutters, Walter Chapman, Percy Davidson, Fred Bayson, Black George, Bill Hansen, Ben Mueller, Jim Carson were a few. Wages were \$2.70 a cord, piled, and \$9 a day for a man and team.

There were about 20 miners and muckers. George Haggart pushed cars from the mine to the ore bin. Conrad Stordahl and Gawn Moffat, a gifted cartoonist, worked underground. Bill Leach, using horses equipped with carbide lamps, pulled ore cars in the tunnel. He and Al Bannister hauled ore to the CNR with four-horse teams.

## Jas Carson is victim of woods mishap

Jas Carson is a patient at Smithers hospital, being brought down from the Duthie mine on Thursday suffering a broken leg. Jim was employed on a wood-cutting job near the mine. He was bringing down a tree; which lodged, and in freeing the timber he was caught in the fall. He was pinned down for some time before being observed and the mine truck made a fast run to the hospital.

There was so much noise in the bush with all the sawing and chopping that no one heard Jim's shouting. Art Simpson found him and drove him to Smithers. Interior News, 1927.



Gus Lind and Dunc. MacDonal haul the 4' wood to the upper level.

Photo courtesy John Bovill

## NEW RICH ORE STRIKE IN DUTHIE MINE WORK

Another surprise discovery made one hundred feet short of point expected

Duthie mine was closed tight for the double holiday and the entire force came down to Smithers to celebrate Canada's Diamond Jubilee, but they also celebrated the opening up of a strong vein of rich ore in the lower workings of that property. Samples of the new ore brought to town indicate very high silver values with ruby silver standing out prominently. The latest discovery is important and highly enthusing around the mine from the fact that it proves the high values continue at depth, but the particular showing was encouraging through its discovery at a considerable distance short of the point to which they are driving the long tunnel for the purpose of tapping ore showing in strength in the higher levels.

The new ore was encountered in the course of driving the long tunnel from the mill site, this tunnel to have a total length of 800 feet and a raise of 200 feet for the purpose of tapping the big ore body being developed simultaneously by shafts from the compressor tunnel. The work had progressed about 700 feet when the new ore came in to give further promise to that property.

Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Duthie are expected to arrive at the property in a few days and will spend a couple of weeks on the hill.

Clipping from Interior News, 1927. From Phil Davidson's scrapbook.

