

# **Discover A Love Affair with Mining**



## **Experience Colorado's Glory Days**

H. Court Young

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## **Explore Colorado's Glory Days**

### **in The Orphan Boy, A Love Affair with Mining eBook**

**By: H. Court Young**

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ISBN: 1-893478-02-5

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October 2007



The author - H. Court Young on the dump of the Orphan Boy mine looking east toward the Continental Divide.

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<http://www.orphanboymine.com>

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Sincerely

H. Court Young

Geologist, author & publisher

Promoting awareness through the written word

<http://www.hcourtyoung.com>

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<mailto:solarpower@getresponse.com>\*

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The author - H. Court Young near the upper portal of the Orphan Boy mine. Gray's Peak and Torrey's Peak are in the background. This was also near the upper end of the tramway built in the 1880s to move ore between the upper and lower portals of the Orphan Boy.

## About the Author

An only child, Herbert C. Young (H. Court Young) is a native of Colorado. His parents were living in the mining town of Idaho Springs at the time of his birth. Growing up, Court spent a lot of time with his dad. He was first underground at the Orphan Boy mine when he was 6 months old.

Some of his first memories of spending time with his dad were at the Peabody mine, above Idaho Springs. Court spent the summer days making up the primers and fuses for the dynamite used to shoot the rounds. Court graduated from the University of Arizona as a geologist. While his Dad's degree was in hardrock geology and mining, Court's degree was in soft rock geology and oil.

After college, he worked with his dad on the private development of land and water rights. Court also worked with W. W. Wheeler and Associates, a water engineering firm in Denver, Colorado. Water issues continue to be a topic dear to Court's heart today.

Court's dad completed the Vidler Tunnel, a private water diversion project. The final 2,500 feet of tunnel were completed in 1968. Court notes, "One of the thrills of my life was walking through the mile and one-half long Vidler Tunnel for the first time in November 1968 with Dad. I was also able to work underground with Dad during those years. I saw the love he had for being and working underground."

Court joined Diana Burg to form BurgYoung Publishing in 2002. He had written a book entitled Understanding Water Rights and Conflicts about ten years after the death of his father. "I wrote the first book both as a tribute to Dad, and because I wanted to help educate the public about water issues," says Court.

He started exploring his dad's files and records with the idea of writing the Orphan Boy book about the time he started BurgYoung Publishing. However, because of the developing drought and lack of public education, he updated and republished his original book about water rights. With the attack on America on September 11, 2001, Court wrote and completed two books about the threat of terrorism to our water supply systems.

Early in 2006, Court again returned to his work on the Orphan Boy. "I wanted to complete this book while my mother was still living, as it is a tribute to both her and Dad, as well as their generation. They are one example of why that generation is very aptly named the Greatest generation."

Court added, "Because Dad died before my son, William, and my daughter, Laura, could know him, I wanted to give them a sense of this great man, their heritage and connect three generations. I also wanted to preserve a part of Colorado's dynamic history."

Sincerely,

H. Court Young





Court, sitting on the dump of the Orphan Boy mine, making some notes on the Orphan Boy book manuscript.



Court taking some samples of ore from the lower dump of the Orphan Boy mine



My daughter, Laura Kay, my son, William and my daughter-in-law, Emily above the Orphan Boy mine



Orphan Boy book signing at Buckskin Bookstore in Ouray, Colorado - June 2007

## **Introduction**

One September afternoon I sat on the dump of a small mine in Colorado with a unique man, my dad, Herbert T. Young. Even at 12,000 feet, the sun was bright and warm, and the sky was so very blue. Below, the aspen leaves were just starting to turn gold, and there was a hint of fall in the air.

We had talked on the way up the rocky, steep road about the mines and the history of the area, as we often did. I never got tired of the many stories Dad told about his experiences and information he gathered in researching the mining district.

Arriving at the Orphan Boy mine, we sat down and had a cup of coffee from Dad's ever present thermos. Even though I had previously heard many of his stories about this mine that started his love affair with mining, they seemed much more real as I sat with him in that remote and peaceful basin.

My eyes were drawn to the rugged splendor of the high peaks; Brittle Silver Mountain, Grizzly Peak, Revenue Mountain... Along the horizon were Gray's and Torrey's, two of Colorado's fourteeners. The air was so clean I felt like I could almost reach out and touch the peaks across the Warden Gulch basin. Morgan Peak, behind me, and Santa Fe Peak to the south looked so close it seemed like I could hike to them in just a few minutes.

Everywhere I looked were evidences of the mining and prospecting that went on in a different time. I noticed the reddish brown and yellow gossans that streaked the mountain slopes in several places. All the while, this remote valley was very quiet, almost as if our thoughts themselves interrupted the solitude. This scene stirred something in my soul that words cannot begin to explain.

I thought of Dad and the many experiences he related to me. I noticed he was also scanning the mountains, deep in thought. He turned and smiled at me, with his brown eyes shining. I knew we were thinking, feeling and experiencing the same closeness to God in that moment.

The feeling of kinship I experienced while sitting on that mine dump were similar to the feelings I had during the times Dad and I worked underground together. Working underground brings a special sense of closeness where everyone looks after one another. Even with 30 years difference in our ages, we were kindred souls.

I worked with Dad during the summers and after college graduation until his death and had the fortune to experience firsthand why his generation was named the "greatest generation."

He was typical of the World War II generation whose lives were interrupted by that war. When they came back home, they changed both America and the world in a special way.

## **Mines and Mining History in Peru Creek and Warden Gulch**

The Peru Creek Basin is in the Montezuma Quadrangle. This quadrangle covers an area of 230 square miles and is in the heart of the Colorado Rocky Mountains. The Peru Creek basin is part of the Montezuma Mining District. This area was primarily a silver, lead and zinc producing district, with very little gold. When silver became an important economic mineral the mines blossomed. Ores of galena (PbS), Sphalerite (ZnS), Chalcopyrite (CuFeS<sub>2</sub>), native



Silver (Au) and Argentite (Ag<sub>2</sub>S) were prominent and very important. In addition to the many prospects in the basin, there were several major mines that produced large quantities of lead, silver and zinc. Among these are the Paymaster Mine, the Peruvian Mine, the Pennsylvania Mine and the Shoe Basin Mine.

The Paymaster Mine was first developed in the 1860's. It was worked throughout the 1870's and 1880's. During the period of most activity, 1882 to 1892, the Paymaster had a three story mill and a 1,300 foot tramway. The tramway was an elevated bucket system similar to a modern ski lift.

This system transported ore from the mine to the Peruvian mill. The Peruvian Mine was located in 1874. It is on the eastern slope of Ruby Mountain approximately 2 miles upstream from the confluence of Warden Gulch and Peru Creek. It was active until 1893. It was reported by the Georgetown Courier newspaper on August 20, 1891 that "production averaged 65 tons a month for this year; ore from 19 to 63 ounces of silver a ton and from 7 to 20 percent lead."

The Pennsylvania Mine was one of the largest producers in the basin. It was discovered by J. M. Hall in 1879 and was slowly and steadily developed until 1910-1911. The main vein strikes North 20° 35' East.

As with all of the mines in the Argentine District, production at the Pennsylvania Mine varied widely with up to 12,000 tons of ore treated in 1911. Production exceeded \$3,000,000 over the years. At one point, the Rothschild Company built a 3,000 foot cross cut tunnel.

## **WHY DID I WRITE THE ORPHAN BOY, A LOVE AFFAIR WITH MINING?**

In promoting my latest book, [The Orphan Boy, A Love Affair with Mining](#), I talk to many people. Many of them ask me "Why did you write your book?"

### **Some of my reasons for writing The Orphan Boy, A Love Affair with Mining**

1. I wanted to preserve the history that my dad handed down to me. He left many photographs, deeds, reports and stories that either needed to be thrown away or organized in a book.
2. I wanted my son, William and daughter, Laura to know my dad. My dad died when my son was 9 months old and my daughter had not been born.
3. I wanted to honor a generation that helped make this country the world power that it is today and has been for the last 60 years. They truly were the "greatest generation."

I knew and worked with Dad for my entire life. He was my best friend and best man at my wedding.

With this book I have tried to honor the accomplishments of Dad's generation and keep alive the spirit that they had. This is one way of passing that spirit down to the next generation.

4. I wanted to reflect what can be done by one man for both his own economic good and the good of our country.

What Dad did was entrepreneurship at its finest. He saw a way to pursue his passion for mining while creating his own business.

5. I wanted to convey the sense of wonder and awe that I have and get every time I go up into the spectacular Colorado Rocky Mountains.

The stark beauty and serenity of the Colorado High Country is in my soul. It is one of the reasons that I became a geologist and I have been so blessed to be able to work out in nature most of my life. While I love to write, I still cherish the times that I can get into the high mountains. It is a very cleansing experience for me.

6. I wanted to give my readers a sense of the dynamic history that I feel every time I see an old prospect, mine, mining cabin or mill.

The Peru Creek basin and the Montezuma Mining District is full of old mines, mine dumps, miner's cabins, mills and smelters. All of these represent someone's dreams, aspirations and hopes for a better life. The high elevation and weather extremes made this a very harsh working environment.

The men and women who lived and worked in these mining districts had many of the same hopes and dreams that we have today. They were very human and often do not come across that way in our books, movies, plays and other media.

By showing what Dad went through just 40 years ago, I wanted to give my readers a sense of what the same type of people went through 100 years ago. In some ways, Dad mined the Orphan Boy the same way as those who came into the Colorado High Country in Colorado's Glory Days in the 1880s.

7. I wanted to preserve the history of the region and convey it to my readers, many who hike, bicycle, 4wheel and ATV in the area each year.

The Peru Creek basin is very popular as a weekend destination because it is short drive from Denver (1.5 hours). While up at the Orphan Boy in the summer, I have met a number of people who wanted to know the history of the mine and the area.

It is hard to visit such a dramatic and spectacular area and not wonder about the history. Many of the stories Dad told me reflect the history and the character of the people who worked and mined in the Montezuma Mining District.

The maps, reports, historic documents and mining plats on the DVD that is included with the Orphan Boy book give a very good sense of the history of the area. They can also be viewed and printed from your computer to help plan and better enjoy your excursion into the Peru Creek basin.

8. I wanted to connect three generations, my dad's, mine and that of my son, William, and my daughter, Laura.

As I sit and eat lunch on the Orphan Boy mine dump with William and Laura, the memory that comes back most often is a sunny September afternoon with Dad. As I watch and listen to my children, I see in them the same fascination with life my dad had. They look from one high peak to another with shining eyes and a sense of wonder that I saw so many years ago. These are the gifts passed from one generation to another.

## **Some Reasons Why You Should Write a Book**

There are many reasons why people write books. I wanted to list some of the most common and, in my opinion, important reasons.

1. I want to share and preserve family history, stories, photographs or abilities.

As with my dad, the photographs and documents may be labeled and dated. However, the Orphan Boy mining stories would not have been recorded if something had happened to me. It is these stories that tie the photos and documents together and give us a sense of who the people really were. We begin to understand them as individuals living lives in much the same way as we live our lives, with many of the same kinds of choices and options. Knowing and preserving some of these stories makes family history very real and the photographs and documents come alive.

2. I want my children to know something of their heritage.

While many of us are interested in genealogy and even have family histories, the people are not necessarily as real to us as they could be. Without some of the stories and some personal information, our past relatives tend to be just statistics on a chart or diagram. Many of us knew our grandparents and even great grandparents, but how many of us have talked to our kids about them. Writing some of our feelings, emotions and stories about these people makes them more real to our children.

3. I have lived through a historic event and want to leave a record of my feelings, emotions and perspectives of that period of my life.

For example, my grandmother arrived by train in San Francisco one day after the 1904 earthquake. She was only seven years old but did remember much of what she observed. I was able to talk to her about these experiences only briefly and wish that she would have left a journal or some written account about the event.

When I talk about books, I don't necessarily mean the traditional book in a bookstore. Your writing may be in a photo album, with a few paragraphs or even pages about the people that are in the photos. It may be in a journal or notebook that is dated and signed. It may even be in a computer file archived on a CD or DVD.

## Writing Resources

The following are some books I found useful in my writing career.

The World is Flat, A Short History of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by Thomas L. Friedman

Strategic Writing by Charles March et. al.

Write It Down, Make It Happen by Henriette Klauser

How to Get Ideas by Jack Foster

## Some Quotes

"When we view every action as increasing our knowledge, there are no failures, only learning experiences."

Listening to Your Inner Voice, Douglas Bloch



"He who dies following his heart wins."

Listening to Your Inner voice, Douglas Bloch

"Although you can temporarily hide from yourself, you can never lose connection to your purpose."

Listening to Your Inner Voice, Douglas Bloch

"You can't fill a spiritual void with a physical object."

Listening to Your Inner Voice, Douglas Bloch

"Peace is not the absence of the storm, but serenity within the storm."

Alcoholics Anonymous

"Wherever a person's deepest wounds exists, that is where his greatest gift to the community lies."

Robert Bly

## Article - Colorado Glory Days

I have included the following article as a free resource.

### **Colorado Glory Days** by H. Court Young

Gold was discovered in Colorado in 1859, and drew over 100,000 men and women to the state in hope of finding their fortune. These became the gold rush days of Colorado; the days of the instant millionaire, like Horace and Baby Doe Tabor, Colorado's Glory Days.

The earliest gold deposits found were the placer deposits in the gravels along the streams. Gold was mixed among the stream alluvium and in some cases could be literally picked from the streambed. At first, the gold was washed from the gravels by using a shallow gold pan. Later, the sections of streams that yielded gold from panning were staked as placer claims under the Mining Law of 1872. To wash larger amounts of gravel and find more gold, water was diverted from the stream for use with sluice boxes. Large amounts of gravel were put into the upper end of the sluice box and water washed the gravels down the sluice box back into the stream. As in the smaller gold pan, the heavier gold settled out of the gravels into the bottom of the sluice box along boards on the bottom called riffles. Many of these placer deposits played out quickly.

Later, minerals like lead, zinc and silver, as well as gold, were discovered in mineralized outcrops, ledges and small surface veins in the higher peaks of the Colorado Rocky Mountains. These mineral outcrops were often the source of the downstream placer deposits, and when the miners found this out, the race to find the mother-lode was on. With each discovery, boom towns like Central City, Georgetown, Leadville, Cripple Creek, Chihuahua and Telluride sprang up overnight. Populations swelled and then rapidly fell as the veins were found and then played out.

Small mines and prospect holes dot almost every high peak in Colorado. Each one is the result of the dream of finding wealth under the ground. The work was often brutal and back breaking. Many were at high elevation, where the weather was both cold and snowy much of the year. John L. Jerome Hart notes in his 1931 booklet entitled Fourteen Thousand Feet, A History of the Naming and Early Ascents of the High Colorado Peaks:

"Miners will go to any place where they think they will find ore; A fact which is shown by the finding of prospect holes on almost every mountain in the state."

Many of these small workings and prospects were not accessible by road. Developed before automobiles, the miners used horses, mules or walked to their claims. Because of the transportation difficulty, they spent a lot of lonely hours at a small cabin or tent near their mines. Some of the more productive mines had the money to upgrade the transportation to allow wagons to access the mine and haul the valuable ore to a mill or smelter.

Despite the difficult working and living conditions at many of these small mines and prospects in the high peaks, the beauty was often spectacular. Shaped by wind, water or glaciers, these high mountain basins were very rocky, steep and rugged. The gray granite slopes are resplendent with red and yellow streaks indicating the presence of valuable minerals below the surface. The high mountain peaks shine in the sun under a clear blue sky. The air was crisp and clean and the silence was deafening. Many of these prospects were located above timberline or on very steep, rocky slopes and the views were incredible. In the spring, summer and fall, the high mountain meadows were alive with the color of mountain flowers like the Colorado columbine, Indian paintbrush and primrose.

As a geologist and mining engineer, my dad came to Colorado after World War II. Looking for mining opportunities, he and a partner discovered one of the many small mines in the Rocky Mountains which was discovered in the 1880's. This small mine was located at 12,000 feet in a small, glaciated mountain basin near the Continental Divide. The first year, Dad and his partner walked into the mine, just like many of the prospectors of Colorado's gold rush days. They wanted to make sure the ore values were as described by earlier reports prior to spending limited

capitol resources on rebuilding the old wagon road. Once they reopened the old workings, they found a very rich vein of lead, zinc and silver and rebuilt the original wagon road so trucks could haul the ore to smelters in Leadville or Denver. Reopening the mine, Dad and his partner worked the Orphan Boy for 4 years amid some of the most spectacular scenery in the world.

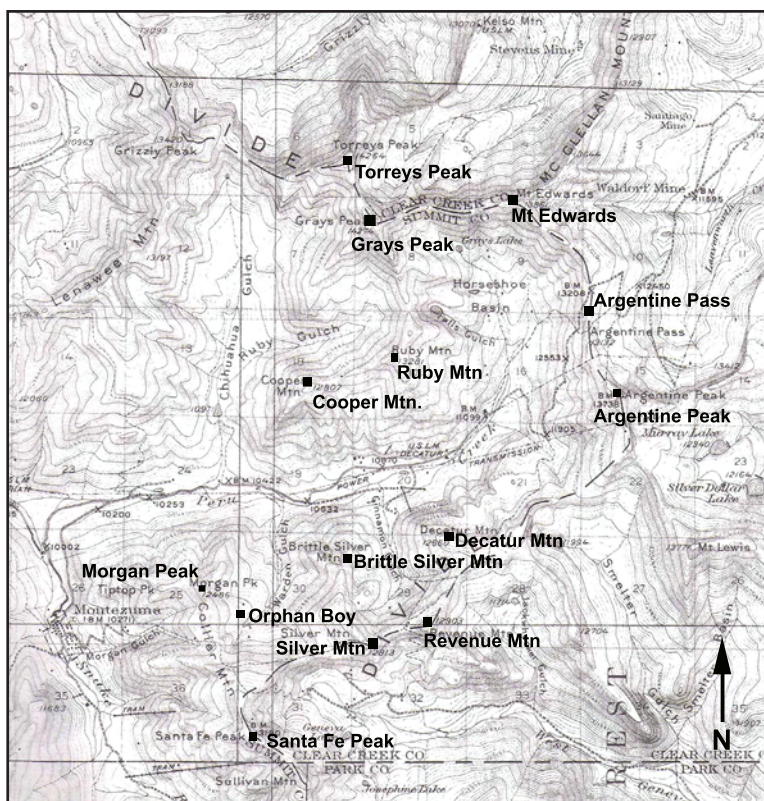
My family and I visit this mine during the summer or fall each year. It is a way of reconnecting with a past generation as well as being an excellent day trip into the Colorado mountains. Looking out from the dump of the Orphan Boy, a camera just does not reflect the true beauty I see with my eyes and my soul.

I worked with my dad for over 20 years, and we visited the Orphan Boy numerous times. Our discussions about his days working at the mine conveyed his true love of mining. He visited most of the small prospects and mines in the area because of his fascination with mining. Dad loved life and the Colorado Mountains, and like many before him, felt at peace in them. My dad and his partner, while working the Orphan Boy mine, were able to experience some of the same feelings, emotions and joys the first miners did who came to Colorado during Colorado's Glory Days.

H. Court Young, Publisher and author  
Promoting awareness through the written word  
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<http://www.orphanboymine.com>

## Orphan Boy Maps and Photographs

The following maps and photographs from my book The Orphan Boy, A Love Affair with Mining are included for your reference. The following map shows the Orphan Boy Mine and the surrounding mountain peaks.





This photo is a view of the lower and upper dumps of the Orphan Boy Mine in 2006.





View from the Orphan Boy lower dump looking east toward the Continental Divide





Herbert T. Young in front of the Orphan Boy mine compressor house - 1949





In front of the Orphan Boy portal and compressor house.



Carrying timbers to the Orphan Boy while opening the mine



A mine car and the compressor house in front of the Orphan Boy portal

## Mining and History Resources

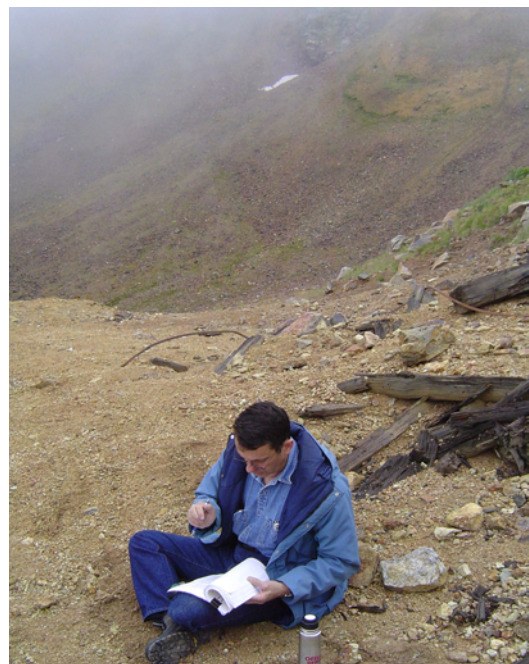
Name of Site	Web Address
United States Geological Survey (USGS)	<a href="http://www.usgs.gov/">www.usgs.gov</a> <a href="http://www.usgs.gov/">http://www.usgs.gov/</a>
American History	<a href="http://www.americanhistory.com">www.americanhistory.com</a>
U. S. History	<a href="http://www.ushistory.net">www.ushistory.net</a>
Museums Link	<a href="http://www.museumlink.com">www.museumlink.com</a>
Museums	<a href="http://www.museumassociation.org">www.museumassociation.org</a>
100 Top Map Sites	<a href="http://www.100topmapsites.com">www.100topmapsites.com</a>
CD Maps	<a href="http://www.cdmaps.com">www.cdmaps.com</a>
Map Trade Association	<a href="http://www.maptrade.org">www.maptrade.org</a>
American Alpine Club	<a href="http://www.americanalpineclub.org">www.americanalpineclub.org</a>
American Hiking Society	<a href="http://www.americanhiking.org">www.americanhiking.org</a>
Backcountry Skiers Alliance	<a href="http://www.backcountyalliance.org">www.backcountyalliance.org</a>
Colorado Mountain Club	<a href="http://www.cmc.org">www.cmc.org</a>
National Forest Recreation Association	<a href="http://www.nfra.org">www.nfra.org</a>
Colorado Avalanche Information	<a href="http://www.caic.state.co.us">www.caic.state.co.us</a>
Colorado	<a href="http://www.state.com.us">www.state.com.us</a>
Colorado Historical Society	<a href="http://www.history.state.co.us">www.history.state.co.us</a>
Colorado Library Net	<a href="http://www.aclin.org">www.aclin.org</a>



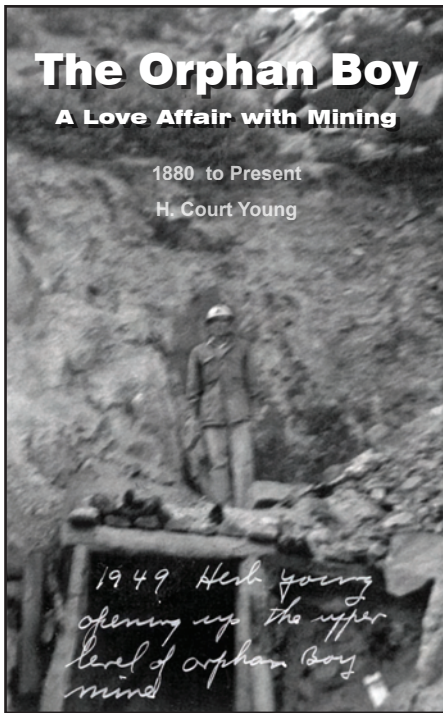
Name of Site	<a href="#">Web Address</a>
Denver History Museum	<a href="http://www.dmnh.org">www.dmnh.org</a>
Mining Museum	<a href="http://www.wmmi.org">www.wmmi.org</a>
Museum of Western Colorado	<a href="http://www.wcmuseum.org">www.wcmuseum.org</a>
Colorado State Parks	<a href="http://www.parks.state.co">www.parks.state.co</a>
Snow	<a href="http://www.snow.com">www.snow.com</a>
Smithsonian Natural History Museum	<a href="http://www.mnh.si.edu">www.mnh.si.edu</a>
Library of Congress	<a href="http://www.loc.gov">www.loc.gov</a>
LibWeb	<a href="http://sunsite.Berkley.edu/libweb">sunsite.Berkley.edu/libweb</a>
Continental Divide Trail	<a href="http://www.cdtrail.org">www.cdtrail.org</a>



Court taking some samples of ore from the lower dump of the Orphan Boy mine



Court, sitting on the dump of the Orphan Boy mine, making some notes on the Orphan Boy book manuscript.



**Experience one man's love affair with mining in the spectacular Colorado Rocky Mountains.**

**The Orphan Boy, A Love Affair with Mining** is about a mine the author's Dad reopened, after World War II, which was first mined in the 1880's during the glory days of Colorado's mining history.

This mine is located along the Continental Divide, surrounded by 14,000 foot peaks, in one of Colorado's richest mining districts. The history of the Orphan Boy mine is a remarkable and unique segment of Colorado's and our nation's past.

It is a story of how one man, a member of the "Greatest Generation," started to make his mark on history by pursuing his passion. It demonstrates how his generation not only created wealth, but made the United States a world power.

***"This is a very, very good story; well written and from the author's own family experiences. It is also from the heart. A truly good read."***

***William James Dunn, Mining Engineer***

***"A great tribute to Court's Dad and to Colorado mining history. An interesting read and remembrance of our mining roots."***

***Richard Kunter, Consulting Metallurgical Engineer***



Sample of hi-grade lead silver ore from the Orphan Boy mine



View from the Orphan Boy Mine east toward the Continental Divide

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