

RAY DONDERO
on
THE SHANGHAI MINE

Interviewed by
Diane Magid

May 15, 1974

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(60 min.)

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Copy

RAY DONDERO
History of the Shanghai Mine
Taped Interview May 15, 1974
By Diane Magid

Dondero Family Background:

My grandfather came here in the early days when he was fourteen years old, and he mined Woods Creek from Sonora to Yankee Hill. He put in monitors up here--he had four of them running at Yankee Hill--the Yankee Hill Gravel and he took out alot of gold there, bought a home in San Francisco, and he had a store out here at Yankee Hill.¹ His name was Louis Dondero. And in 1906, he quit and stopped mining and went to San Francisco to live and took all his daughters with him. And he turned the mine over to his sons, but they no sooner got started when a law went through prohibiting hydraulic mining because it was filling up the rivers. So, they were shut down. That was the end of hydraulic mining here.

The store was started somewhere in the latter 70's or 80's, somewhere in there. He started that right off. He first lived right down here. This was called Martinez. There was a little town, a little settlement right down here where my road comes in. That's Martinez, right there, that flat there below the road coming in here, and he had a boarding house there for his men. There was a Yaqui Indian that lived in a little house right down across the creek here and he had a big stone fireplace, one whole part of the end of his cabin. Part of it is still there yet. And people went down there, dug a big hole

¹The location of the store and the Yankee Hill claim is at the intersection of Sawmill Flat and Yankee Hill Roads. One of the monitors is still there.

down there, thought there was alot of gold buried down in there. But the old man, he didn't have much, and he worked for my grandmother in the boarding house there, taking care of the vegetables and one thing another. And he was a friend of Joaquin Murieta. And when Joaquin would ever come through this country, he would always stop and visit, his name slips me now. Anyway, he would always stop and visit him. When the law got after Joaquin Murieta one time, they came in here. There's a ditch that brings the water in here, that was in the early days, why, he was hiding in that ditch right over the hill until they got away from here.

Q. Was that about where the vineyards were, across from Lorimer's? All of that in there was Martinez, and on this side now there's a wall down there--you can't see it unless you went down in there, you can still see where the boarding house was, just below where Lee has his trailer, where that trailerhouse is. And where the trailerhouse sets now was a reservoir, and he filled it up and put that trailer in there. The ditch comes out from here and run around the hill and put the water in there to irrigate the garden and one thing another across the road from there, in that flat down there. Maybe that name'll come to me, he was right down here, right across here, and the remains of part of the fireplace are still there, but it's been dug out. In the 30's or late 20's, a man by the name of Oliver came into this country. I had owned this place here at that time, but I didn't live here because I was working in

the woods. I leased to him to work in the creek there. He kinda heard that story there, I guess, and I think he's the man that dug the hole down there to see whether there was gold in there or not. But there wasn't any there.

Personal History:

I was a lumberjack. I run logging camps. I run the logging camp for the Yosemite Lumber Company, which doesn't exist any more, that's over next to the Valley, and for the Northern Redwood Lumber Company in Humboldt County. And then, I went from there to Washington, on Hood's Canal, for the Webb Logging Company and I put in a winter up there, rained every day. I heard that they were looking for me, so I came back to San Francisco and they had a job up there at Feather River Lumber Company, as superintendent, and I went up there and run there until the Depression came and stopped the sale of lumber. Had the yard full, over 40 million feet of dry lumber there when sales went off, and the old man that owned it said, "It's all right--there'll be a break coming, I'll sell that and make my money," and he did, too, he sold it, but the thing never got started up again. That was in the town of Delaker there across the river from Portola, and the highway goes through there now and there's no sign of a town ever being there anymore, except perhaps a pond from the log. There was a roundhouse there, had four or five locomotives. And then, of course, during the war, I went in the machine shop as a machinist, machining valves and fittings for ships and from that I went

into foundry to make them, and to make some high pressure valves. I was instructed on that by the McCaulay Foundry in Oakland, which was very good, and they had some men there that was really good in how to cast these things and feed the iron as its cooling. So I done that, and then when I came out of there, I went to work for Pickering Lumber Company. I was running a logging camp up here--I built the logging camp up at Beaver Creek, that camp up there, I built that. Put everything in. Then I got paralyzed there. And they gave me a year's leave of absence, but I still couldn't walk yet. It was about four years before I finally came out of it. I had to have an operation. Some of the doctors wanted to lift the top of my head, because they thought it was my brain, and I knew a few people that had that done and they never talked again. They weren't able to walk, either. I just had a lot of gallstones, that's all, and they got on the nerves. Had a lot of doctors, giving me a lot of examinations. They sure worked me over for a long time. They couldn't find it, and then everything pointed to cancer of the liver. And a young doctor told me one day, they thought it was infectious hepatitis, and I didn't have that, and this young doctor said no, it's something else. So he came to my room and he sat on the bed that night and he said, "There's only one way to find out what's wrong with you, and that's to open you up and look inside!?" I said, "Go right ahead, go right ahead right now!" I was in lots of pain. Well, I had one as big as an avocado seed got in there and plugged everything up, and it broke the

ducts and everything went through my bloodstream. I was yellow as an orange. And that very night they put me to sleep, cut me open, and the next day when I woke up, I was feeling good! That's all there was to that! And I was hungry, and I hadn't been eating for quite a while. They put a tube in, connect me up from the liver down to the digestive tract so that the bile could go down there. When I got out of there, I came home. I could walk. She made me walk, I didn't want to, it hurt. So I had to walk across the room and back couple of times a day, and finally I got so I could get outside, and walk maybe 25 or 30 feet, sit down on the bench and then go back. Pretty soon, I got so I could walk from there up to here, rest and go back, and then I got so I could walk up and back. Then I took a trip down to the well one day, went down fine, but then on the way back, why, I had to sit down three times to make it back. But each day I kept getting more strength. It wasn't very long before I could climb all over these hills. There was one thing about me, and that was my heart, nothing was ever wrong with that. It was good all the time. And then I had tests---once a week, then finally two weeks, and then once a month, I'd go up for a check up. And then twice a year and finally I didn't go anymore, and in two years I didn't go back for a check up. The doctor said, "Alright, you're all right," and whne I left the hospital, he says, "If you're very careful, you might have three years." It's been eight or nine years ago. Let's see now, 1961.

I've been mining ever since I was in my teens, off and on. Course I'd go over on the claim there to get gold when we was going to school and my brother, my brothers are all gone now, that was the Yankee Hill Placer right there across from the monitor. Course there was no brush and everything was washed off and we could always go out there and find gold, you know when it rained, look around and see it, pick it up. We had one place to go with a pan, and on weekends we could make four or five or six dollars, sometimes ten or twelve. Then we'd take it down to Wells Fargo on a Monday and sell it and we always had money, because we could go there and get gold. Buy things, anything we wanted to. Now it isn't very easy, the brush grows up and then you have to know where's a likely place to find it.

My brother had the Arnold Mine for years, and he finally gave it to Vernon Ray. He didn't want it anymore. All he wanted was his Fords out of there, and his little anvil and Kress stole that.

Q. What was the name of the other mine your brother worked?

That's the Ford, the Ford Mine. Now Ford, he was a rough character around Sonora in the early days. I have a book on that, it's Perkins' Journal. So he almost killed Ford one night. The Mexicans found that mine up there and Ford come a-ong and run them out of there. Took the mine away from them. And of course, he took alot of gold out of there. He went down where the Mexicans left off. Then, my brother went and run a

tunnel in there and hit that old works, they had a shaft down. He went in there three or four hundred feet, and he hit that shaft, but he wasn't to the bottom of it. It was still going down, full of dirt. So he came back aways and started to sink down, but he was sick. He had cancer. Then Tuffy Harthorn put it down twenty feet further. He told me he didn't see any gold, but the last day my brother worked there, I went down there and I saw the gold in the bottom of the hole. If he didn't see it, he just drilled there and blasted and threw it away. But anyway, Hawkins has it now and he's not a miner, but he has alot of fun on weekends, coming up there, and gets away from the pressures of a law office. He and his brother have the Hawkins and Hawkins firm there. Course it was three of them, his grandfather and his father and Louis, now. And he has three sons, but they didn't go for the law. They're doing other things.

I worked the Shanghai. I opened that Shanghai up in the 30's. I started a shaft, I went down I think about 50 feet and I hit a tunnel coming in and I wasn't very far from the end of it, and then the ground was stoped out below that so I went down that stope--that's a shaft, next to the wall where they came up. Course everything was full of water and I had to pump it, was pumping that out and I went out into part of this stope and in where it took down a little bit, and I picked up a rock about that big, and oh, it was heavy, but I threw it in the car and when I got out of there, I looked at it. That thing was

just full of gold. The old timers probably just set it on that shelf there and then just forgot it, that's all. But there was a vein about that wide coming up there and it had lots of gold and evidently, it's still there unless somebody went in there and stripped it out. Because everything was stoped out South for a hundred feet wide, you know, outside of a pillar here and there to hold the earth up. But I went down from one tunnel to another until I finally got to the bottom. Hit the bottom tunnel, and then cleaned that out and went back all the way to the shaft. But on the way back, there was a cave where they'd stoped out above and everything came down and I tried to go through that, but it was too heavy, it would just break the timbers. I put in 12 X 12's and it would just break them. So I went into the wall and went around it and came out on the other side. And I wasn't very far from the shaft then. Then I hit this tunnel again in hard ground and some of this information that we got was passed down from Morgan, and Piper got it from Mrs. Moss, I guess, over there, Mrs. Ora Moss Morgan. And it worked out pretty good, the information, and then I went on over to the bottom of the old shaft, and saw the pump that they'd had in there and then came back and there was this big pillar in there that had gold in it. Course that was known that they left it to hold up the country there. That's the one that Piper wanted me to take out, cause he wanted that gold. I said that's the end of your mine--oh no, I wasn't going to do it. That's when I quit. That was in the 30's.

The man that found that mine, he was a colored man. He was placer mining up that creek and run onto this pocket where it came out at the surface there, and then he took out, supposedly, 60 thousand dollars of gold there. And then it went to, I don't know who the next owner was after that, I think there was someone had it before Morgan, but Morgan built the mill there. A five stamp-mill run by water power, and of course, he used the old original shaft and went down there. His water came from the old Tuolumne Ditch and that's the ditch crosses the road going up just below the house. Piper's house, it crosses the road and it comes around and it went into a reservoir there and then the pipe was from the reservoir down to the mill that run the pelting wheel. A pelting wheel is a water wheel. That ran the crusher in the mill. Everything was water power.

- Q. You say you went to school with Phil Morgan? [Morgan's son] He was the superintendent of the schools here, yes. At the Columbia Schoolhouse, the red schoolhouse up on the hill here. He lived in Columbia there, and the Morgan House that he lived in is now Filiberti owns it. You know where that is? It's right next to the Ice Cream Cottage. To the right. And the hotel Belonged to his father, the G. Morgan Hotel, and his brother Phillip was running that, a bar and a hotel there. Till the fire came and burned it down, I forget, I was pretty small then when that burned down, but I was there. They were

throwing cases of soda water in there, and us kids was into that. It was rebuilt. There was a big dance hall there to, on this side from the hotel there and above that was a wheel-right shop where they made wheels, wagon wheels and buggy wheels and all parts and that was owned by a man by the name of Nelson. That dance hall was there where they held their dances and all other civic things. A big place. A brother that married Mrs. Moss built that Morgan House in Sonora [Virgil Gunther home presently] He was from down in Sullivan Creek. Ora Moss Morgan.

Piper's wife, I can't remember her name², her family were cattle people, from down around Bakersfield. They had alot of cattle there and he married her, he met her down there. He was drilling oil wells down there. He brought in an oil well down there. So he married her and he come up here and he wanted to go under the channel down here, work in there, and of course when he was younger he worked in there and had ot some gold. That's underneath the lava, below Springfield, under Table Mountain. And I've forgotton the name of that mine now--and it came in from the other side. But anyway, he got some gold out of there and then he got alot of stockholders. He took it to San Francisco, he had a pint jar full of it and he used that for bait he took out. He got people to put up some money, and something happened, it blew up. So he kept looking around for something. And he finally got on to the Shanghai. But in the meantime, he met me. My brother and I. We were

²Gertrude Todd

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pocket mining over the hill, on the Arnold then. And we were taking out some gold. And I showed it to him, he came two or three times. I was living over there in that white house there that stands there now.³ And one time I had a can full of gold there, and he saw that and he was thinking about the Shanghai, and when he saw that, that just touched him off, and he said, "Well, I'm gonna get the Shanghai." So he did, he got the Shanghai, had the brush cleaned off, had this Roy, his name gets away from me now, anyway, they cleaned the brush off there then. He had no house there then, he didn't build that house until after they started the shaft.

Q. Piper purchased the Shanghai from Morgan?

Yes, he was living in that house, they had some apartments in that house, in the back of that red house over there. Upstairs. Anyway, he started in and then it was stoped and came on up to the surface and he was gonna make a shaft out of that, you know. He was gonna go right down through that. It was wide open on both sides and then it was filled up with dirt that caved in that was holding it up. But he decided he was gonna go down right through that until he got to the bottom. Course he couldn't do it.

Q. Could the tunnel that Morgan dug horizontally gone 900 feet in? That tunnel never got in there. It would have went directly underneath that house. It came from the Tuolumne side, from the Tuolumne Mine. I don't know whether you know about the Tuolumne Mine or not. It's over in the next gulch and that ran over the hill to Wet Gulch. They had a mill on that, a

³Two story house on Yankee Hill Road past Sawmill Flat turnoff.

fice stamp mill and that was water power also. This tunnel run from there in, and I don't know how far it is, but they had a shaft there that did connect up with that shaft, but its West of the house up there, down the hill. I could walk right to it yet. I was in that old works. But it caved in, the tunnel caved in, it was pretty heavy ground. There was a guy here in the 30's tried to open that up, but he just didn't make it. He hit this ore on the way in and stoped it on up and came out for air and hauled that ore around the hill in a wagon to the mill at the Shanghai site and milled it. But the tunnel is probably not in as far as the house. That shaft is directly down the hill in the brush there. It'd be pretty hard to find unless you knew where it was, and at the same time, anyone going down through that brush is gotta be very careful that they don't fall into it. There's a little cross cut tunnel that goes into it, from the side of the hill there and there's the dumps that show where its run in.

Side B

Q. You sunk that main shaft they had the ore car running out of?

Yes. I went down about 450 feet and it was the end of the tunnel running North from the ^{old} shaft. There's a tunnel every hundred feet level from the old shaft over. And then they worked it between these levels from the bottom up. That's called stoping. The water was filled up to within fifty feet of the top. I had two air pumps working down there till I hit the stope, and then it was no use, they couldn't take the water

out. So we got two electric pumps, two four-inch lines pumping there, day and night. There was a river of water coming out of there, but we took it down there till we went clear to the bottom. See there was a big storage of water there in all these stopes. And when we got to the bottom, we had to keep one pump running all the time, cause it was coming up pretty fast. Had that pump on a car so that we could pull it up and get it out of the water. That water would raise up awful fast. / ^{With the air pump,} it didn't matter if the water went over the top but you couldn't let the water go up over the top of an electric pump, it'd short it out. There was just one track.

Q. What equipment did they have working up there when you were there?

Just the compressor and a hoist, and the mill. The stamp mill, well, the rock went through a crusher to crush it down to break the big pieces down to one, two-inch pieces, and that went into the stamp mill and the stamp mill would beat it down to 40 mesh, it would splash it through a 40 mesh screen in front of the batteries. That's called a battery, where the stamps are in. The rock is fed into the back of the battery and it goes out at 40 mesh in the front. Mercury is fed into the back of the mill in a proportion that keeps it just very stiff with gold as it comes out the front and runs over the copper plates. The copper plates are silver plated and they catch the gold as it runs over the top of it. And then when it goes off of the plates, it goes onto a concentrating

table to catch the ore that's the sulfides. That's base ore, there's gold in that, but they have to be smelted. The amalgam is the mercury and gold mixed together. And then after it goes through the retort and you got the bright gold comes out of the retort, it's called a sponge. The retort separates the gold from the mercury, and that gets the mercury back so you can use it again, see. The battery plates were four feet wide and six feet long, and we used two of them, so it was about a twelve foot run. Then from there it goes into a distributing box where it runs over your concentrating table where it concentrates everything out except for your sulfides. When you clean up, you scrape the plates and take the amalgam off it. When you get enough of the sulfides, you send it off to the smelter. That's a whole different process. You get the amalgam off the plates and out of the battery, in the mill. There's where the most of it is. 80% of the gold stays right in the battery and just builds up in there. If there's very much gold coming in there, why, sometimes you might only be able to run eight hours and you have to take it out because it plugs the screen up, it'll build up behind the screen and you can't mill anymore. So you have to take the slabs of mercury out of there.

Q. Piper was connected with the Shanghai Mining Corporation?

Yes, he started alone and then he got a guy to put \$10,000 so I understood into it. And they had a four-stamp mill there and it burnt down and he built a ten. Built a ten stamp mill there and then that burned down and I know who burned that

down. I know who stole the motors and burned the mill down.

You know, it wasn't the punk, ----- We ain't got that on there, or have we?

Q. Who were some of the fellows you worked up there with?

Gosh, I just can't remember the names, they've all left this country and of course, most of them are dead. There was Pagani, course he's dead now, too. He ran the mill. He was the mill man, the father of Dario. Dario's father. He lived out on the chestnut ranch. He's an old-time mill man. He run the mill there. And Melvin Kemble, he worked there. He married Pagani's daughter, afterwards.

Q. Some of the names I remember, maybe they mean something to you are Coates, Wayne Coates, Frank McCormick, Jack Bhend?

If Jack Bhend worked there, he worked there after I was there, not while I was there. Was a fellow from Tuttle town, I've forgotton his name now, he was a miner. Jack Page worked there. He was a miner, and Bimbo Reed, Bimbo's dead now.

Q. Starks? There was a Dan Foster too, that I'd heard about. Muse?

Boy, I'm sure in a hell of a shape. There was one fellow that was married to Rose Nash, I don't know whether you know about the Nashes or not. They're an old family in Columbia. He was constable for many years in Columbia, old man Nash. He had a daughter, she was a nurse and she was a nurse in San Francisco and this Whitey, I forget his name, anyway, Whitey married her and they came up here during the Depression and he came out there and worked. Frank Greer, a German, he lives down here,

he's still alive. He worked down there for awhile. But he couldn't get along with anybody else. Finally I just had to get rid of him. And he was broke, too, badly broke, needed the money, but just couldn't get along with anybody. I let him work in the creek here then, and he used to make a couple of dollars a day, he and his wife out here, taking out the gold.

Q. How many people worked at the Shanghai at one time?

Three to a shift. Had a machine man and a mucker, driller, and a hoist man - on the other shifts. And on the day shift you had an extra man around then. Three shifts a day. You had to keep those pumps a going. You had to keep that water out of there. One man in the mill and one man on the crusher. Melvin Kemble run the crusher and Pagani was running the mill. And he would just run that mill one shift and then they had that cabin there, a watchman to watch it at night. And even at that, somebody got in there one night and stripped it. Cleaned the place up. The mucker shovels the broken rock up and throws it in a car. He's down below. The machine man drills the holes. He drills the holes and blasts them. And the mucker puts down a steel sheet and ^{he} blasts it over on that sheet and then the mucker shovels it off of that and throws it in the car. And he sends the signal up and the hoist man hoists the car up and hooks another one on and drops that one down and while they're filling that one up, he runs that one out and either dumps it over the dump or puts it into the mill, if its ore, or if its waste. The hoist was run with a gas

engine. There was a big single-cylinder gas engine that pulled the hoist. The shaft went down at about a 60° pitch.

Q. One of the fellows that worked up there, I heard, took a Model A Ford for pay.

As long as Piper was there, nobody lost their money. Now if somebody else, they had leased it afterwards when he was there, and I talked with this man and I just can't think of his name now. And he told me that he went in there and took out \$60,000. Now I don't know whether he did or not because he was a first-class liar anyway. He was a bootlegger from Oakland. And he had some people working there for him, and of course, he wasn't there for very long. He drifted North, so I don't believe--I know the formation going North and the veins are pinched down small--the Arnold and another one that goes off to one side, so I know that he didn't take out much. Three veins come together there and form the big vein in the Shanghai, the Arnold, right down through the center, and off to one side there's a vein on each side of it. One of them cuts out across, which is part of the Remington. The Remington comes across through there.

Q. This is in the Middle Belt of the Mother Lode?

There's the East Belt and the West Belt, and then you're Middle Belt--that's here. The West Belt, the main Mother Lode vein that goes out through Carson and out through there till it comes into the ocean up there in Oregon, and on down through this side of Fresno and goes by Madera and goes out into the

desert there. And that's the Mother Lode over there, and this is the East Belt up here. Through Tuolumne and up through Confidence. The Confidence Mine is on the East Belt. And the Middle Belt is in between here where all the pocket veins were. There is no depth on these. Their values pinch out at around 400 feet. Some of them go a little deeper. Most of them are just close to the surface, though.

Q. How deep was the Bonanza down there in Sonora?

I've forgotton just how deep that was, but it wasn't too deep. It was a gigantic pocket. The Bonanza vein, it put lots of them out, it went through to, oh, what's the matter with me, I just can't, oh another one over there, doggonit, I know the guy so well, they're all dead, but he took out over a million dollars on the Bonanza vein, but coming this way where it's coming across into Bald Mountain. And he finally died broke. Bob Watson. He had a partner by the name of Smith. They were sure taking gold out. And he used to have about \$100,000 in gold buried in his woodshed all the time. A rock fell down from the top of the shaft and hit Smith and killed him. Then Bob went on alone. Now Bob's father had the mine before him, and some people was gonna run his off of there, and take that mine. And Bob's mother, she went out there with a rifle and killed them. That settled that. And then Bob took over the mine, he was just a boy then, then he got old enough he started to mine and he took this Smith as his partner, and they sunk this shaft down. Now it's over four hundred feet deep. There's

still lots of gold down there, lots of water, too. I don't know who owns it now. But some Swedes got it in the Depression and they went down in that shaft and drifted out away, just a little ways, and they took out just big clusters of gold there. Bob's too old though. He used to come here, and just to talk, but he couldn't do anything any more. He just got too old.

Q. What kind of money did the miner's make back in the 30's.

Wages? 50¢ an hour you could hire all the men you wanted. 50¢ an hour. When I built my boat, all the rest of these guys that had dredgers, doodlebugs, we called them, that's a dredge that's fed with a dragline, and none of them paid over 50¢. And I got their wrath down on my head because I didn't pay less than a dollar. I figured as long as I could make it and if they could do the work, they're making it. I can't go and do it myself, and I paid a dollar. And one time, I got a little short of money and I finished up one of the jobs, and I had to move all the equipment, and I had to hire a truck from San Francisco. You had to go down there to get a truck to move a dragline, Ray Conway, he had a big truck that would move them. And I was gonna wash the dump over there in Calaveras, I told the guys, I said, well, do you want to go to work till I get set up, and I knew I could make it once I got set up, cause I already run the tests, I said, I'll pay you. And every man went to work without pay. The money that I had I had to use that to hire this truck and other things that I had to do and pay out, and for a cable. \$400 or \$500 for an electric

cable that I had to get. They moved it, loaded up that machinery, moved it and set it up and the first four hours, it was just before the Fourth of July, the first four hours that I run and cleaned up \$1800 dollars, sent it right to the Mint. Those guys all had money for the Fourth of July. Some of them, they liked to drink beer, and they had their money. That sure came fast. Well, you take it out of the ground, and then you put it back again! Six weeks, sixteen thousand dollars, I took out, that was a dump, that was gold that was lost. Hard rock mining is a long chance, you might and you might not. Placer mining, every night there's some gold there.

The vein in the Shanghai was about five or six feet in the bottom down there and it looked like glass and there wasn't a dime in a million tons of it. The pastry's cut out. There's nothing to feed it. Maybe in depths it might come in again. Maybe. But it's all above that, where it was. It had feeders that cut into it, that fed into this vein that caused the gold to be there. The vein wasn't so big, you know, sometimes 18 inches, sometimes only five or six inches.

Q. It looks like its about ten inches across the top where you started in.

Yes, ten to twelve inches up there.

Q. What was it like down in the shafts?

It was warm in the winter and cool in the summer. It never got cold down there. The temperatures don't change. Doesn't change

very much. Your cold air can't get down there from the top.

Q. Weren't you ever afraid?

Oh no, you could always come up if you ^{broke} / into alot of water. We had a wire to signal the fellow up at the top, and it had a bell on it. You pulled that wire and the bell rang. He got to stay right on his hoist there, he had to stay there all the time. He ain't got no business going anyplace. Course you can walk up.

Q. It didn't look to me like anybody would want to climb out of that shaft.

Oh, I used to go down there and walk back again. I seldom rode. There was plenty of room.

Q. What shape were the timbers in when you got down there?

Well, the old timbers, soon as the air got to them, they started to fall into dust. They were protected from the air by the water. Being under water for years. It protects them because it takes air to rot them. You have to have air with it. So they stayed right there, but just as soon as the air hit them, they were gone quick. We didn't go in them old works at all. We just stayed away from them. If it wanted to fill up and alot of rubble run down there, it was OK. Because alot of those mines, they'd backfill. You'd get down deep enough and then let all the wastes below them backfill it to hold the ground up. And just keep the working shoots open , one place for the rock to come down, and a shoot down there so you can open the gate and draw it off into the car. Along side of that

another compartment with the ladders to go up, the manway. Had a manway and another one for the rock to come down. You worked on top of the muck pile so that you could stay close to the top and everything stayed full with your ore below you, and you drew off, but you didn't draw it all off, enough so that you could keep working as you're blasting and you keep drawing off. Until you were through with that. Then you could throw it all out. If you didn't go ahead and take everything out, you have to leave some until you're through with it. When you don't want the mine anymore, that part of it, then you can draw it all out and let it fold up.

Q. You said there was a pillar there that Piper wanted you to go after?

Yep. He blasted that, he had it drilled and he was gonna take it out. Bynum is the name I was thinking of. Bill Bynum worked up there. He was the man that blasted the pillar. He didn't drill it. Jack Page drilled the pillar but he wouldn't shoot it. He said, cause that's the end of it, cause he was an old-time miner, too, and he knew it would collapse. Bynum loaded it and blasted it. And so the ore is down there yet. The ore that was in that pillar.

Q. And you didn't have any air problems, just water?

Yes, just the water. Because from the old works, you see, it circulated. There was no air problems at all.

Q. As far as you can remember, someone mentioned a man killed there.

No, it would have had to be back in the early day. It was not during Morgan's time and he done the most of the work.

- Q. Now you say the first fellow that had the mine took out how much? \$60,000. He was a Negro. Morgan took out over \$400,000. And of course there was a lot of gold stolen, you know. Mill men would take the amalgam and hide it. Perhaps there's some buried around there yet. You can't tell. They claimed that where they lived up there, they would bore holes in their wooden bunks and / ^{stick} the amalgam in that.
- Q. That wasn't in the little office cabin they had?
Oh no, that wasn't that there. No the buildings that they lived in are long since gone. They were down the creek further.
- Q. Why did they finally close the Shanghai.
Just couldn't find any more gold I guess. Piper leased it to I can't think of this guy's name from Oakland. He used to call me up all the time till it made me mad, to come down there. He went in there, and he told me he took out this gold, but I doubt it. He had a bunch of guys that he was working all the time, but I don't think he did. But he told me he did anyway. He worked there for a while. And then when he closed down, nobody's touched it since. It was about the time of the war.
- Q. How much do you think the Government will have to offer before it will be worthwhile to go back and open up some of these mines?
Oh well, if they get \$100 an ounce for it. Course, there are guys around here that are buying gold for London prices. Equipment and powder and wages. Now where would you find the miners, now that's the problem. I don't know where you would find them

now. Just anybody can't go down there and dig, that's all,
you just can't do it.