

## [Ray Green]

Mabel C. Olson

Superior, Montana

TOPIC: William Beach, Prospector

Interview with Ray Green, Superior, Montana

Bill Beach came to Superior from Colorado in the early 1890's. He had been a soldier in a Colorado company of cavalry during the Civil War. He worked periodically at the Iron Mountain Tunnel, burning charcoal, used to sharpen tools. When he had a month's wages coming, he would get supplies and set out on a prospecting trip. The Lucy Ellen and the Lookout were his best claims.\*

The ore was base, with too many other minerals, hard to separate from the gold. The wall rock was too hard to make much headway.

In 1902, Beach interested Harry Gregg, of Leeds, South Dakota. Gregg got Fred Finney, a Wallace, Idaho engineer, superintendent of the Golden Chest at Murray, Idaho at the present time, to build a mill. This mill, however, proved not to / be type to save the ore values. Gregg operated the mine for a short period, then gave it up.

Good roads lead to all the claims. Poston Brothers, of Kalispell, at one time interested in the mine, built the road to truck ore to the mill, as the gravity tram formerly used was too worn out for service.

\*The Lucy Ellen Lode was originally located in August 11, 1892, by C. F. Carver, William Teson, and John H. Jackson. It was relocated in December 1, 1905 by Richard Wilson. It is about six miles in a westerly direction from the mouth of Deep Creek. ('mining

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Locations'), Book H, page 7 2 Pat Maila, from Butte, located a string of claims on Maila Gulch, adjoining Deep Creek, and reached by a branch of the Flat Creek road.

In the 1890's, any man with a sack of ore on his back could ride on the Coeur d'Alene branch of the Northern Pacific railway free. So Beach got his sack of ore, secured free transportation to Butte, and there contacted Marcus Daly. He interested Daly to the extent of a \$5000 grubstake and started back for Deep Creek. He got as far as Missoula with his money, and there spent it on a drunk, with crowds following him about on the streets.

Daly grubstaked Beach for a number of years, then grew tired of it. At that time he employed a clerk, Walter Mackay, to whom he made a present of the stock. Mackay came to look at the property, liked old Beach, and backed him in locating a number of claims, beginning about 1900. [?]

Another of the co-owners of the mine was Richard Wilson, of the Mammoth Mine, out of Wallace, Idaho. Others who had grubstaked Beach at various times were Charles Stillinger, an Iron Mountain (now part of Superior) grocer; L. L. Gregg, the father of Harry Gregg; Theodore H. Thomas, who ran the Thomas Hotel (now the Ordean). Stillinger was interested with Finney, also with Mackay.

(For supplementary material; see interview with Lee Roach, who knew Beach as quite an old man.)