

## Site 9: Brown Gulch and the 7:30 Mine

Over a century of floods and avalanches have left Brown Gulch with few remnants of its mining past, however, it is easy to imagine the volume of mining by looking at the number and size of remaining piles of mine waste as well as the alluvial fan at the base of the gulch. The largest mine at the top of the gulch was the 7:30, reportedly named for the fact that the miners had to walk a long distance to get to the mine which meant the shift started at 7:30 a.m. instead of 7:00 a.m. The largest operation at the base of the gulch was the Terrible Mine, accessed by the Union and Silver Ore tunnels. The Dunderberg Mine sits about halfway up the eastern side of the drainage. All three of these major properties were owned by British investors for most of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The gulch was named after William Brown, discoverer of the Brown lode, on Brown Gulch, above the town of Brownville—anyone think there is a trend here?

According to USGS Professional Paper 63, “The Seven-Thirty mine was first located about 1870 as a single claim. Numerous other claims were acquired by the owners who, in 1896, transferred the entire group to the owners of the Dives-Pelican mine.” A report in the same publication gives the approximate value of ore produced as follows:

Prior to 1879	\$151,617.00
From 1879 to 1887	\$743,024.54
From 1887 to 1896	\$914,079.43
During 1896	<u>60,000.00</u>
Total	\$1,868,720.97



Buildings at 7:30 mine at turn of the century. Chappel family photo