

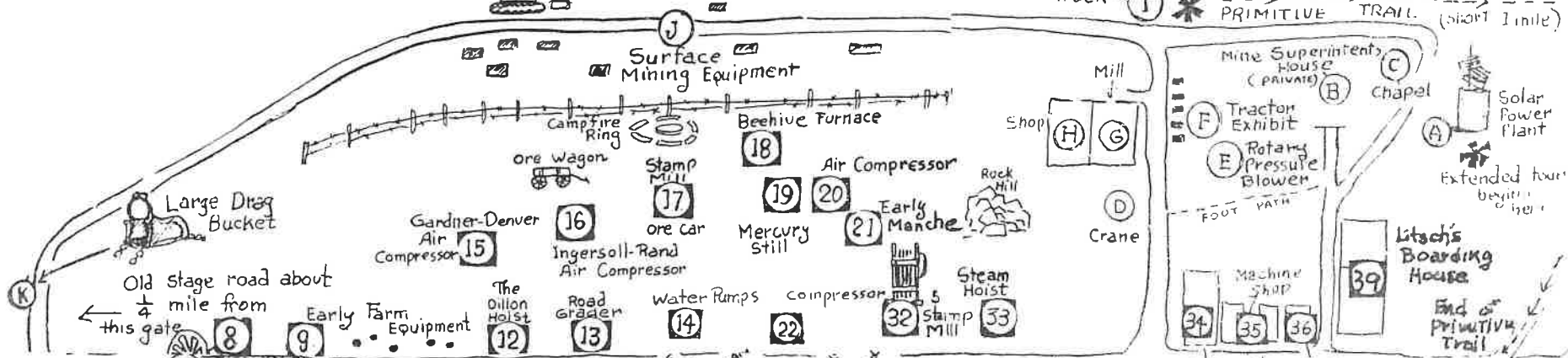
G Most of the tour is accessible to the wheelchair traveler

ROBSON'S ARIZONA MINING WORLD

WALKING TOUR

Northwest Shovel → Sterling Truck

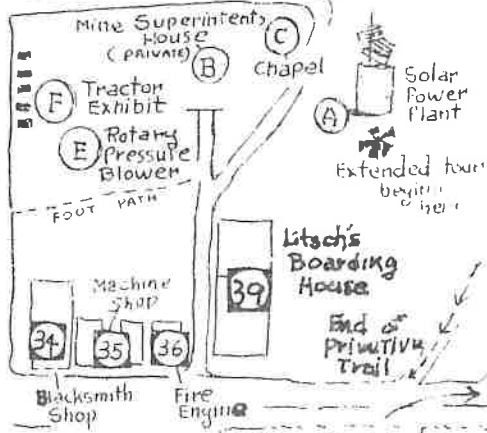
I * PRIMITIVE TRAIL (short 1 mile)



Large Drag Bucket
Old stage road about 1/4 mile from this gate

NOTE Walk behind wagon wheel with

- 3** Rock Arrastra
- 4** Iron Arrastra
- 5** Davis Whim
- 6** Chilean Arrastra
- 7** RIX Compressor
- 8** Early Farm Equipment
- 9** Early Farm Equipment
- 10** The Fairbanks-Morse Trading Post
- 11** (short) Tour starts Here
- 12** The Dillon Hoist
- 13** Road Grader
- 14** Water Ramps
- 15** Gardner-Denver Air Compressor
- 16** Ingersoll-Rand Air Compressor
- 17** Stamp Mill
- 18** Beehive Furnace
- 19** Air Compressor
- 20** Mercury Still
- 21** Early Manche
- 22** Water Ramps
- 23** Rest Rooms
- 24** Gold Leaf Restaurant
- 25** The Mercantile
- 26** Nella-Meda Opera House
- 27** Early Tools of Prospectors on Porch
- 28** The Mercantile
- 29** Barber Shop and Assay Office
- 30** Hillside Press
- 31** Generating Plant
- 32** Stamp Mill
- 33** Steam Hoist
- 34** Blacksmith Shop
- 35** Machine Shop
- 36** Fire Engine
- 37** Cook Shack
- 38** Miners' Cabins
- 39** Litsch's Boarding House
- 40A** CONESTOGA WAGON
- 40B** CONESTOGA WAGON
- 40C** CONESTOGA WAGON
- 40** CARRIAGE HOUSE



Hiking Trail to the Black Tanks (about 1 1/2 miles) Ask for map at office



The Rocker

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 928-685-2609 Fax: 928-685-2343

Map by Rose Mary Goodson

L The Sputter Wheel Well Driller Rig

M The Fairbanks-Morse First Generating Power Plant in Wickenburg

FENCE

PARKING

GATE

MANCHE JUMBO AIR TRAIL

Rest Rooms

Gold Leaf Restaurant

The Mercantile

Barber Shop and Assay Office

Hillside Press

Generating Plant

Rest Room and Drinking Water

Ferrier Display

FOOT BRIDGE UNFINISHED

Wash

Wash

Wash

ROBSON'S MINING WORLD

Welcome to our.....Mining World

Robson's Mining World is a step back in time at the site of the Nella-Meda Gold Mining Camp.

The mine sits in a notch in the Sonoran Desert's saguaro covered hills. Trails around the mine lead to an ancient Indian campsite, an old stage stop and miles of untouched, desert wilderness! This is a land of stunning vistas, star-filled skies and is home to many species of birds and animals.

The Westly Rush family operated a large ranch out of Aguila. They filed a mining claim in 1917 to develop what they called the Gold Leaf Mine. In 1924 Ned Creighton acquired the mine and renamed it the Nella-Meda in honor of the two Rush daughters, Nellie and Alameda. The mine operated until 1942 when the Federal Government closed all gold mines.

The mining engineer at the mine, Harold Mason became the caretaker and eventually received the deed to the mine. Charles purchased the mine from Harold in 1979. In the late 1980's Charles & Jeri Robson embarked on the restoration of the mine. Fourteen of the original buildings were restored. Old buildings were moved from other locations, new buildings were built looking old. Slowly the town, once again, came to life.

The town is home to thousands of pieces of antique equipment and 26 artifact-filled buildings. The displays show how the equipment was used.

1. Hand Operated Winch

This winch was used to haul buckets of ore from the shaft of the mine.

2. The Whim

The whim was used to haul an ore bucket from the shaft of the mine. The vertical drum, on which a rope wound, was usually turned by a horse or mule.

3. Rock Arrastra

In Spanish "Arrastra" means to haul or drag. The Mexican prospectors used this device long before the 1863 Anglo American prospector did. There was a large round stone or two fastened to a horizontal wooden arm which was attached to a large vertical center timber embedded in the ground and used as a pivot. Power was obtained by hitching a mule to the pole and walking the animal in a circle. The large stones dragged over the lode ore, crushing it and freeing the gold.

4. Allis Chalmers Iron Arrastra

This iron Arrastra was operated by early steam or gas engine. This arrastra used water in the process of crushing the ore and flushing the gold to separate it from the ore.

5. The Davis Whim

This whim was burro operated and hoisted buckets of ore from the shaft of the mine. It also hoisted the cage for men being lowered or hoisted out of the mine shaft.

6. Chilean Arrastra

This arrastra was operated by two horses walking in circumference of the arrastra causing the huge wheel to grind and crush the ore. The crushed ore fell to the lower level, and at times mercury was used directly in this lower level to pick up the particles of gold. It is told that at times barefoot men worked inside the arrastra when mercury was being used. Eventually, as the relatively easy pickings were exhausted, large mining concerns entered the picture. They had both the capital and expertise to dig deep tunnels into the hills and exploit the veins of gold to the fullest.

7. Rix Compressor

This compressor was a forerunner to the Gardner-Denver, the modern air compressor. It has a Climax tractor engine made in the early 1900's. It operated the air drills in the mine.

8. Huge Fly Wheel

The huge fly wheel at the gate came from the Live Oak Mine in Globe, AZ. The halves displayed at the gate were at one time bolted together making one wheel and used to secure uniform motion in working parts of a machine.

9. Farm Equipment

Old farm equipment from the 1800's to the early 1900's.

10. Office & Antiques

This structure is a railroad house. It was the trainmaster's house in Aguila, AZ in the early 1900's. (At that time the town was called "Eagle", English for the Spanish word Aguila.) The trainmaster operated the Santa Fe Depot. Inside has been restored and visitors may buy antiques.

11. Fairbanks-Morse Engine

The engine is from Pearce, AZ and drove the generator and compressor at the Commonwell Mine.

12. Dillon Hoist

This hoist was electrically operated and came from Signal, AZ. To the right of the hoist is a rectifier. The drum with the handle is a switch that controlled the speed of the hoist. This hoist is unique in that it raised one bucket of ore from the mine shaft while lowering an empty bucket.

13. Road Grader

This grader was built by the Adams Manufacturing Co. and called the "Square Deal". It was the first road grader to be used in Phoenix, AZ in the 1800's. It was pulled by mules and later a truck.

14. Water Pump

A row of steam and hydraulic pumps used to pump water from the mines.

15. Gardner-Denver Compressor

This is the more modern compressor used in the early 1930's at the Magma Copper Mine in Hayden, AZ.

16. Ingersoll-Rand Compressor

This compressor was made in 1928 and used in the Harcuvar Mine. Notice that the engine was hand cranked. Just down the hill from this compressor is a very old ore wagon used in 1863 at the Lincoln Mine in the Bradshaw Mountains. It was built for heavy duty work.

This was during the time that Abraham Lincoln was President of the United States.

17. Two Stamp Mill

When gold is still in the host rock, it is known as "Lode" gold and its' extraction is called "hard-rock mining". After the gold-bearing ore, usually quartz, has been dug out of the mine shaft or tunnel, it must be crushed to free the gold. The stamp mill is used and operated as its name implies. The stamp acts as a giant pestle, rising and falling by means of a cam driven by a power shaft which pulverizes the material being fed into it. The ore car was used at the Hillside Mine in Bagdad, AZ in the late 1800's. It was used to transport crude ore from the shaft of the mine to the stamp mill. These cars were pushed by the miners and sometimes pulled by burros.

18. Charcoal Beehive Furnace

This furnace made charcoal to be used in the furnaces that melted gold so that it could be poured into brick form.

19. Mercury Still

Mercury is a heavy silver-white metallic element remarkable for being liquid at ordinary temperatures. It was used in mining because gold would adhere to it. This still was used to separate the mercury from the gold bearing ore or cinnabar. The cinnabar was placed in the upper over, a wood fire below heated the cinnabar to a point that vaporized the mercury. The mercury vapors exited by the pipe, cooled, dropped and was collected in a vat containing water. The mercury was used to reclaim the gold and returned to liquid state to be used again.

20. Air Compressor Engine

This engine came from Harrisburg, built about 1918 and had to be cranked by hand to start. When it was necessary to be moved mules were used. Later it was converted to be pulled by a motorized vehicle.

21. Early Manche

This engine was built in the early 1900's to replace the work of the mules in the mine tunnels. It was powered by electric DC current and pulled the ore cars. It also transported the miners to and from the mine. This Manche was the first generation of the Manches.

22. Compressor

Using an old car frame and the engine of a Model T Ford (notice the three foot pedals), an old prospector made a compressor. This is a reflection of the ingenuity and inventiveness of the men who mined Arizona Territory. To the right is another car engine used to make a winch.

23. The Manche

This engine was powered by electricity and ran very much like a street car on tracks. It had a trolley wire overhead to conduct the current. This engine replaced the work of the mules and pulled the ore cars out of the mine tunnels and pulled small cars transporting the men to and from the Copper Queen Mine in Bisbee, AZ.

24. The Jumbc

In the big mines air hoses run throughout the tunnels. This machine would hook up to one of the air hoses and drill holes and could also be used as an air hammer.

25. Air Tram

This engine is unique in that it ran on compressed air. Air was compressed into the large tank at various stations throughout the mine...like today's "filling stations". This tram transported ore and men to and from the mine on a track. It was used in Bisbee, AZ after the copper mine was partially closed down.

26. Nella-Meda Opera House

This building houses a first-rate collection of mineral specimens and memorabilia from the early part of the century, in addition to the theatre seating area.

27. Gold Leaf Restaurant

The Gold Leaf is a fully operational restaurant serving fine home-cooked meals in the 1800's setting.

28. The Mercantile

This was Dick Wick Hall's Grocery Store in Salome for many years. It closed in 1950. Robson purchased the building and dismantled it board by board and reassembled it here...something, they say, they will never do again. The merchandise came from another historic store in Solomonville. Most of the unsold items had been packed away in boxes for fifty years before once again becoming part of this store.

29. Barber Shop & Assay Office

The red stripe on the pole indicates that the barber was also qualified to perform medical procedures. The assay office was where many of the prospectors found out the value of their "strike".

30. Hillside Press

This is an old newspaper office with an antique linotype machine and hand press. Also, an ancient telephone exchange complete with a glamorous operator.

31. Generating Plant

This store houses a steam-run electric generating plant that once powered the lights in Kingman, AZ.

32. Five Stamp Mill

This mill was in operation at the Congress Mine, Congress, AZ and previously at the Vulture Mine, Wickenburg, AZ.

33. Steam Hoist

In the late 1800's this steam hoist was used at the Christmas Mine in Christmas, AZ to hoist large buckets of ore that were dumped into open railroad cars and then transported to distant smelters. At times the hoist was used to lower or hoist a small cage that carried miners to and from the depths of the mine.

34. Blacksmith Shop

This was the heart of the mining operation. Machinery and tools were made and repaired. On exhibit are forges, anvils, trip hammers, etc

35. Machine Shop

This shop houses antique engines built in the late 1800's. Six engines have been restored and are in running order on a line drive.

36. Fire Engine

This 1941 Seagraves fire engine with a Pierce Arrow Motor was used in Bagdad, AZ.

37. Cook Shack

When the Nella-Meda Mine was in operation this building was the "cook shack". Harold Mason, caretaker of the mine, lived in this house for a total of 50 years.

38. Miners' Cabins

These four cabins were built to house the miners employed by the Nella-Meda Mine. They were well ventilated, (note the double roofs) simply furnished but comfortable.

39. Litsch's Bed & Breakfast

The boarding house was constructed for the Mining World in 1992. It was built on the same location as the one-story frame boarding house that served the Gold Leaf Mine. It has 26 units. Litsch is the maiden name of Charles Robson's Mother.

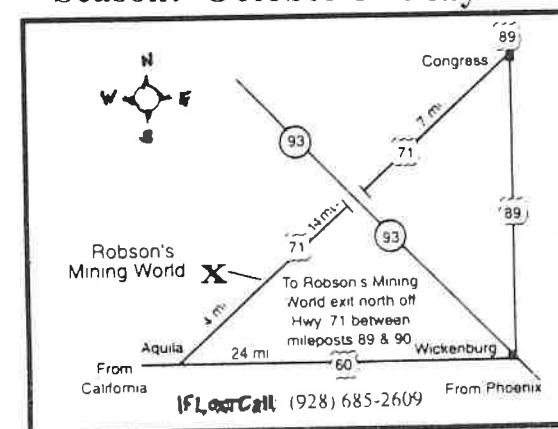
40. Carriage House

All of the trucks, engines, wagons and farm equipment in the Carriage House have been restored and are in running or working condition. Paint and parts used in restoration are as near to the original as possible. See that tour pamphlet for more information.

41. Ice Cream Parlor/Admission & Gift Shop

The fountain came from an old mining town in Colorado called Aguilar, est. 1896. In addition to ice cream, soup & sandwiches; gifts and fine antiques are for sale.

Season: October 1 - May 1



THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

1. This diesel engine was the power source at the Nella-Meda Mine which operated here from the 1920's until 1942 when it closed. It is labeled "**The Chicago Pneumatic**" Chicago - New York.
2. The **Fairbanks Morse 34** horsepower came from a mine at Cherry, AZ and is a mining machine that ran a generator or a compressor.
 - 2a. **A Compressor.**
 - 2b. **Borax Wagon.** This huge wagon originally was used in Death Valley to haul Borax ore, pulled by a 20 mule team. Then a gentleman purchased the wagon to haul freight from Los Angeles to Las Vegas where Charles Robson purchased it. A water wagon was pulled behind the wagon for the mules.
3. Mining engine used to crush ore from the mine. Note the ore bins in front of the machinery.
 - 3a. This air compressor the **RIX-SIX** was made by the Straub Mfg. Co. around 1917.
4. A three-ton **1914 International Truck** owned by the Budweiser Beer people and used to haul and deliver kegs of beer. At one time there were side bars on the truck's bed.
5. The **1912 BULL DOG 5 MACK** is an interesting truck. It was made before the hydraulic system was invented. It is a chain-driven dump truck. Note the chains used for dumping. It hauled cement up the Apache Trail to the construction site of the Theodore Roosevelt Dam east of Phoenix, Arizona. It was made by MAX Trucks in Allentown, PA. It bears the slogans: "Performance Counts" and "The Greatest Name in Trucks".
6. **1919 WHITE TRUCK**, a flat-bed truck used to haul mining supplies in Colorado. Notice the C cab in this truck and on the Bull Dog Truck.
8. This **1926 Model T Ford Delivery Wagon** was used to haul produce and household supplies for mercantile. It runs and is driven in parades representing Robson's Mining World.
9. This **1926 Model T Ford Truck** was used in the Colorado mining town, Aguilar (Spanish for Eagle.)
10. **Fairbanks Morse Mine Hoist** was patented in 1893 and again in 1899. A hoist was used to lift large buckets of ore that were then dumped into open railroad cars or trucks and then transported to the smelters. At times the hoist was used to lower or lift a small cage that carried miners to and from the depths of the mine. It came from the Zulu Mine near Payson.
 - 10a. This **Engine** (in the rear of the Fairbanks Hoist) was used to pump water from the mine floor.
11. This is a **Portable Air Compressor** was used at the Nella-Meda Mine, Class ER1, made by the Ingersoll Rand Co., N.Y.
12. **Fairbanks Morse** is a 30-horse power stationary engine used to drive mining equipment came from the Zulu Mine near Payson.
13. Root and Vandervoort Engineering Co. built this **Engine** in East Moline, IL. It was purchased by a mine in Osler, Pomona, CA.
14. At the turn of the century the **Fuss** operated mining equipment near Wickenburg, AZ at the Swallow Mine.
15. The **John Deere corn crusher** was used to make feed for chickens.

16. The **60-Horse Power Commercial Engine** ran mining equipment for the Swallow Mine.

17. The **Marion 25** has an interesting feature. The mesh compartment served to keep the engine cool. Water was pumped over the mesh and air flowing through cooled the engine. Note the large piston. It came from a Texas mine.

18. **1948 John Deere Tractor.**

21. A **McCormick Deering Tractor** called the Farmall was used around 1928. It was made by International Harvester Co., Chicago, IL.

22. The **Conestoga Wagon**. At the time of General Braddock's drive against the French and Indians in 1755 these wagons were ordered and built in a small shop in Conestoga Valley, PA. Only 150 were built. Each piece of iron was made by a blacksmith of high skill. The wheels were designed to carry heavy loads over rough terrain. In later years pioneers found the wagons suitable and these wagons made their way into the wagon trains going west and earned the name "Prairie Schooner."

24. This wagon, called **The Huckster**, was used by peddlers who traveled the towns selling pots and pans, food produce or whatever the townspeople needed. The huckster did his best to get a good price for his wares. His appearance was always a welcome sight.

25. This **Mini-Stagecoach** was built to scale exactly one-half the size of the traveling stagecoach. It was used in parades during the 1880's and pulled by Shetland ponies. It was used as an attraction in Las Vegas, NV. In 1952 it was auctioned off and purchased by a man in New Mexico for his children. Purchased in 1989 by Robson.

26. This **Yellow Spring Wagon** hauled people and farm supplies around 1900.

27. A **John Deere Tractor** built in 1932 was used by farmers replacing the team of horses for the plowing and care of the crops at Casey's Corner near Cornville, AZ.

Gold... Among its unique physical properties, gold is the most malleable and ductile of all metals. With the ability to be stretched or drawn, it has been estimated that one ounce of gold can be drawn into a wire over 40 miles long without breaking. It is also an extremely dense metal with a gravity of 19.2 (19 times heavier than water). No substance that appears commonly in nature will destroy it. It does not corrode, tarnish, or rust. Caches of gold coins and objects have been unearthed after centuries of being lost to the sea or land, and remain as brilliant as the day they were lost. Is it any wonder millions of people have succumbed to "Gold Fever".

The first tool was nothing more than a shallow pan the miner filled with the "diggings" and washed out with water. Shaking the pan vigorously will settle the gold and cause the lighter material to rise to the top washing the stones and mud over the side, leaving only a tablespoon of fine black sand or concentrate left in the pan. Swirling the pan in a circular motion any gold flakes or nuggets will "hang back" in the pan.