Stevens County Mining History 1852-1883

Glacial till in the Columbia is where gold was first discovered in 1854

The discovery of gold by Hudson Bay employee Joseph Morel in 1854 touched off a gold rush of former 49ers from California. Forty years later, this mining camp at Boundary became another gold rush boom town. This picture is from the Old Towns Map on the CrossroadsArchive.org website. Information on over 100 ghost towns is linked to that map.
The First Gold Discoveries in Stevens County continue to produce to this day. Over 150 years after the first gold discoveries we still pan the Columbia River near Waneta. The first gold rush ignited conflicts with Native People which in turn prompted the establishment of Military Fort Colville just north of the present city of Colville.
Chinese Miners

from California followed the Gold Rush and worked harder and longer than White Miners. In 1864 the county put a tax on Chinese Miners.
Almost 30 years later, the Eagle Mountain and Dominion Mt lodes were discovered.

In 1883, Military Fort Colville had just been moved to Fort Spokane. John Hoffstetter had donated land in Colville for a courthouse. W.E. Embry discovered copper ore at Eagle Mt. Just east of Chewelah. Two years later, after visiting Embry Camp, E.E. Alexander, Albert Benoist and Pat Kearney discovered a vein of 35% lead and up to 1000 oz per ton of silver at the Old Dominion Mine east of Colville. Colville immediately became a boom town. Over the next 100 years it produced millions of dollars in value to the county.
The Old Dominion Mine
was a mainstay of the Colville Economy for 100 years
The Cleveland lead Silver and Zinc mine near Hunters

The Cleveland Mine, discovered in 1890 was a part of the Kootenay Arc. It increased the economy of Hunters Washington but was considered part of the Springdale Mining District.

Below is an excerpt from the 1980 Hunters Centennial Flyer about the production at the Cleveland Mine found in a search of the CrossroadsArchive.net

The Department of Geology report says the mine was discovered in 1892.

Smelter returns from 1903 through 1948 indicate that the mine produced 2.7 million pounds of lead, 0.5 million pounds of zinc, and 100,000 ounces of silver from 27,000 tons of raw ore. Most
Until 1911 Pend Oreille County was part of Stevens County

The Yellowhead Mine, discovered in 1889 was part of the huge Metaline lead, zinc and silver district.
The Belcher Mine near Chewelah was part of the United Copper Group.

Assessment records for the Copper King Mine are in the Crossroads Archive. The one shown below shows W.W. Dickson as having 4467 shares.

A further search for W.W. Dickson finds a portrait of him as the first Mayor of Chewelah.
The United Copper Group is discussed extensively in Department of Geology reports. United Copper Co. produced over 9 million pounds of copper and 1.6 million ounces of silver during the period from 1906 to 1920 (Fulkerson and Kingston, 1958). The last year of any significant production was 1920.
A Google search for the Copper King mine has the Crossroads Archive on the first page.
One of the sources for mining photos is the City of Chewelah website.