

Ouray County

Camp Bird District (aka Imogene Basin District)

The Camp Bird Mine is considered by some as its own district. Hill (1912) used this name for the Imogene Basin District. Vanderwilt (1947) named the Camp Bird the most famous mine of the **Sneffels District**. He pointed out that, while the main feature of the Camp Bird Mine was its gold, the mill was redesigned in 1942 to recover zinc for the war effort. An additional reference is Dunn (2003).

Ransome (1901) discussed the Camp Bird Mine in his section on the lodes of Canyon Creek. He described the large Camp Bird vein as crossing the head of the Imogene Basin at N80W, with a dip averaging 70° S. It was traced into the Marshall Basin to the west and possibly is equivalent to the Pandora lode in the Telluride Quadrangle.

Eberhart (1969) relates a tale of Thomas Walsh, who made his fortune on the Camp Bird Mine. It was discovered, maybe by Walsh himself or by a prospector Walsh hired, in 1896 by recognizing rich ore on the dumps of the Ura and Gertrude Claims. Walsh subsequently purchased most of the claims in the basin and ended up making the Camp Bird the largest producer of gold outside Cripple Creek.

The mine itself is truly famous. Rosemeyer (1990) featured the history and minerals of the mine in *Rocks and Minerals Magazine*.

Ransome (1901) describes the vein as occurring in an andesite breccia of the San Juan Formation. It is mostly massive quartz (Moore, 2004), ranging from 5 to 10 feet thick with numerous ore shoots in and around it. The richest gold-bearing zone averaged 1.4 oz. gold and 2 oz. silver per ton.

Mines listed in the district (mindat.org and others) include:

- Camp Bird

Minerals listed in the district (mindat.org) include:

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|------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Altaite | Dickite | Hessite |
| Anglesite | Digenite | Hübnerite |
| Anhydrite | Dolomite | Kaolinite |
| Ankerite | Epidote | 'K Feldspar var: Adularia' |
| Baryte | Ferrimolybdite | Kutnohorite |
| Bornite | Fluorapatite | Magnetite |
| Calcite | Fluorite | Matildite |
| Cerussite | Galena | Muscovite |
| Chalcopyrite | Gold | var: Illite |
| 'Chlorite Group' | Greenockite | var: Sericite |
| Clinocllore | Grossular | Orthoclase |
| Clinzoisite | Gypsum | Petzite |
| Covellite | Hematite | Piemontite |

Powellite
Pyrite
Pyroxmangite
Pyrrhotite
Quartz var: Milky Quartz

Rhodochrosite
Rhodonite
Scheelite
Siderite
Sphalerite

Tetrahedrite
Uraninite
'Wad'
Zoisite

References:

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