

Kennecott Copper Mine

What is Kennecott?

The Kennecott Copper Mine is a group of five different mines that are all located in the same valley in the Kennecott Glacier. The mines are Boronite, Lumber, Mother Lode, Erie, and Glacier.



The Discovery

Copper was discovered near the Kennecott glacier by two prospectors, Jack Smith and Clarence Warner, who stumbled across copper ore that was oxidizing on the surface. They and nine other friends created the Chitina Mining and Exploration Company. The ores they found soon proved to be composed of 20% copper mixed with other elements such as gold and silver. This made this plot of very valuable and likely to produce large profits.

The Railway

There was only one major problem with the Kennecott Mine and that was location. The mine is located in an extremely remote area that is difficult to access and even harder to export thousands of pounds of ore from. The only plausible solution to this issue was to develop a railway. The Chitina Mining and Exploration Company partnered with the Alaska Syndicate and hired Michael J. Heney to construct the White Pass and Yukon Railway. This project took four years of hard work but was finally completed in 1911.

Life of a Miner

Kennecott Mine is located in a very isolated area and due to the miners who did make it their home became a very close community. Many miners also brought their families with them. For entertainment, there were regular movies and dances. However, the miners' time was mostly dedicated to work.



The Shutdown

In 1975, a geologist predicted that there was not much ore left to be mined. By 1978 Kennecott was a ghost town and remained that way for years.



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By Hallie Moore

Thecasesolution.com

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Copper was discovered near the Kennecott glacier by two prospectors, Jack Smith and Clarence Warner, who stumbled across copper ore that was oxidizing on the surface. They and nine other friends created the Chitina Mining and Exploration Company. The ore they found soon proved to be composed of 70% copper mixed with other elements such as gold and silver. This made this plot of very valuable and likely to produce large profits.

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Bibliography

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"Kennecott Mines." (1926) n. pag. Web. 19 May 2015. This website was extremely useful when I was trying to get a better idea of what life looked like inside Kennecott.

By Hallie M

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★Fun Fact★

Some of you may have noticed the different spellings of 'Kennicott' vs. 'Kennecott'. This is actually a mistake that was made on some paperwork during the construction process. The original spelling was supposed to be 'Kennicott' after the same naturalist that the Kennicott glacier was named after. However, in some paperwork the 'i' was replaced with an 'e'. So, today all man made structures are spelled with an 'e' and the natural features are spelled with an 'i'.

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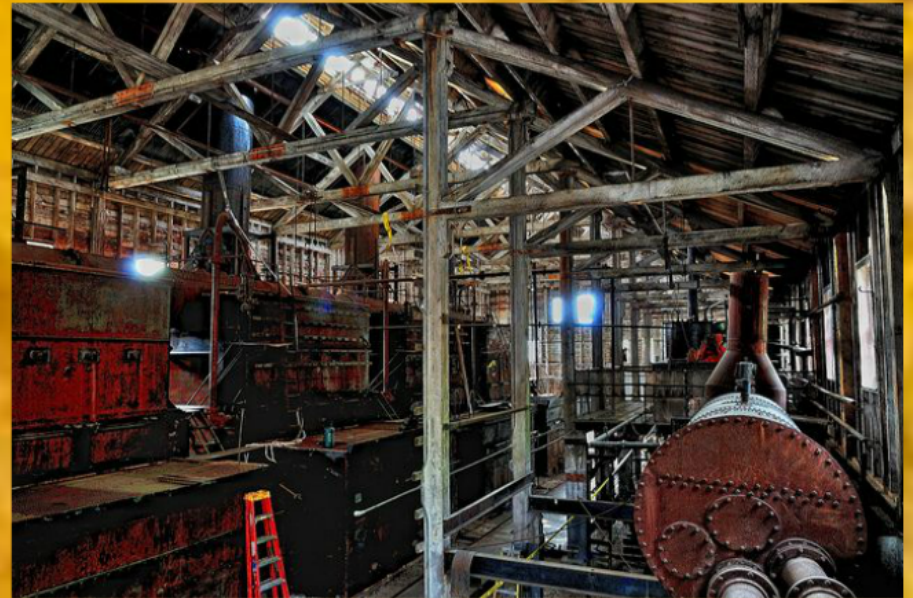
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Kennecott Today

Today the Kennecott Copper Mine is protected by the National Park Service and much of the town is open for the public to tour. Many historical buildings have been preserved and restored.

