

commonly known as "Peg", having but one leg and a wooden peg serving as the other. At the mine he was recognized as the bright young fellow and was the boss driver of the sixth level north.

The break of day was ushered in this morning by moans and wails of wives and relatives of the dead. At the improvised morgue in the incomplete Masonic Temple were thirty-seven white shrouds. While grief-stricken men and a few women walked mournfully among the dead to the morgue, there were three or four white men sitting up with their dead. But of the colored men, eight or ten sat around all night scarcely speaking a word, not even yawning, just sitting and watching the dead.

This morning nineteen coffins arrived about daylight from Seattle by freight train, and the other eighteen reached here during the afternoon. Of the eleven dead colored miners, nine were buried this evening at 6 o'clock, and the other two, Ike Chambers and Ed Maxwell, will be buried tomorrow morning. Jim Gibson and Frank Willis, the two colored Masons, were accorded a Masonic funeral. The nine bodies were carried by pallbearers to the little cemetery half a mile back on the hill, and the procession was composed of nearly all the colored men and women in the town.

The men were buried side by side in one big grave, and it is said, "One big tombstone will mark their last resting place." The lamenting of

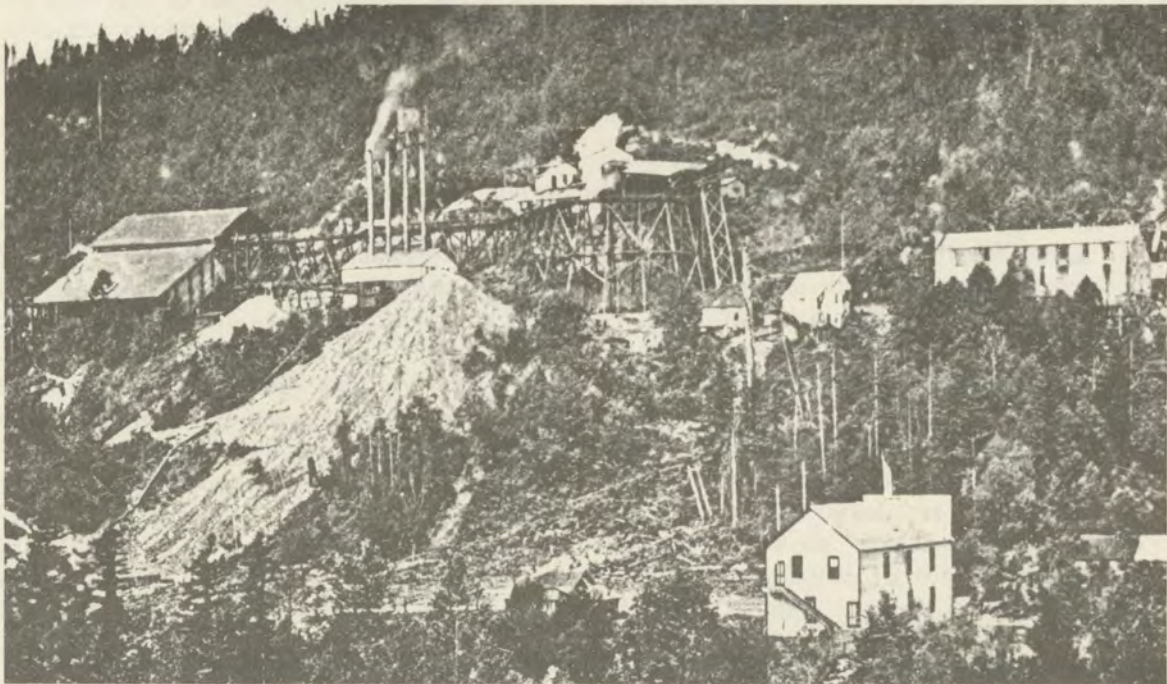
the women was most painful. One colored girl remarked between her sobs as she watched the line of coffins, "It seems like there isn't enough alive to decently bury those who are dead."

In going into the level the coroner's party was stopped just 1,350 feet from the foot of the main slope by gas tester Morgan. He called attention to a dinner pail and a miner's cap lying in the gutter on the side of the gangway on the left hand side of the track, which indicated the spot where J.L. Snyder, the only man to get out alive, was found by the rescue party. Snyder, who is a 230 pound man, is almost insane, and he is still so far overcome that though he walks around town, he speaks incoherently. He suppressed the fear he would be insane.

List of Miners -

These are the names of the miners that were killed in the mine explosion August 24, 1894:

Frank Williams, colored, married,
wife and one child
R.W. Jones, colored, single.
John Proustille, colored
H.R. Roberts, colored
A. Jackson Jones, colored, single
Edward Maxwell, colored
John Irvin, colored
John Dixon, colored
Andy Greer, colored
Jay Clements, colored



Franklin, perched on a steep hillside above Green River gorge, was a busy place in the 90's.
PHOTO: Renton Historical Society, donated by Mrs. Joseph Saptich, Black Diamond