

The story of
Dividend
and the
Tintic Standard Mine

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Looking West across the heart of the East Tintic Mining District. From 1907 to 1949 a mining camp was located here and had at its height a population of over 500. Rapidly growing from 1916 on, Dividend sprung up to support the Tintic Standard Mine, remnants of which are visible on the right. The Tintic Standard encountered and developed a large and profitable ore body after 9 years of unprofitable investment, and became one of the best producing mines in the entire Tintic area.

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Few Utahns today know the story of the Tintic Mining District, but over its long life it produced enough precious metals to have made it one of the richest mining areas in the state. In total production it was an equal to Park City, and in 1959 the district was ranked 20th in the top 25 gold mining districts of the United States with 2,648,000 ounces produced.¹ Figures for other metals are equally impressive, with 250 million ounces of silver, 250 million pounds of copper, 350 million pounds of zinc, and 2.2 *billion* pounds of lead produced district wide.² By 1976, the estimated value *at the time of production* of all metals mined was an astounding \$568,620,003³, a figure which places the Tintic district second in state production behind Bingham Canyon.

On all sides of the long, North- South Tintic Mountain Range, several mining camps sprung up, lived, and died during the 133 year period mining took place. Unlike some of Utah's better known mining districts, the lower and drier Tintic mountains are geographically unsuited to be revived by ski development, and have like so many other West Desert mining camps faded into near-obscurity. Historically the largest town in the district, Eureka, is today a shadow of its former self with approximately 600 residents and a weak local economy. Over a ridge, Mammoth clings to life with only a few dwellings occupied year round. The other towns are today entirely deserted with only a few foundations and structures remaining to park their passing. This is the story of one of those towns, the town that would be known as Dividend.

Precious metals in the Tintic Mountains were first discovered by cowboys in 1869, who found surface outcroppings of ore at what later became the Sunbeam mine on the West side of the range. By the 1890s numerous ore bodies had been located and developed in the Eureka, Mammoth, and Silver City areas. Business was booming, and from a comfortable position many derided as foolish the efforts of independent prospectors exploring the East end of the the mountain range. That all changed on August 6, 1896 when Jesse Knight, a man without great mining experience, proved the naysayers wrong when he broke into a rich body of ore in the hills above Eureka. He defiantly named his claim the "Humbug", and rose to become an important figure in Utah mining history. His success inspired others to look harder in less likely places. In the following years, prospecting brothers John and August Bestlemeyre would stake and patent several claims of their own even further East, where little ore had previously been found. In the summer of 1907, John Bestlemeyre found himself in Ely, Nevada at a conference regarding railroad development. It was there he met a Utah mine manager by the name of Emil J. Raddatz, with whom he shared his interest in the potential of East Tintic. That fall, Raddatz visited the area himself, and with great eagerness examined the Bestlemeyre claims.

"The Man Who Has Absolute Faith..."

Emil J Raddatz had been born in Germany in 1857, from whence he emigrated to America with his family at age 12. First settling on a farm outside of St Louis, Emil and his brothers had tragically lost both parents within three years of arriving. After some years working in town as a clerk, Emil's first visit to the Rocky Mountains came after he agreed to join a cattle train bound for Colorado. Once there, Emil was impressed with the stories he heard about the riches being discovered in the mountains. Returning to Leadville with his brother in 1874, Emil worked as a miner for the next several years in Central and Southwest Colorado. Whenever he had enough saved up for a grubstake, Emil would prospect independently as long as he could. The experience he gathered in this time, along with his rich and self – taught understanding of mining law and methods, allowed Emil to find work in several different mines in Colorado, Mexico, and eventually Utah. Coming to Utah for the first time in the late

1880s, Raddatz first found work in the growing mining center of Stockton. Soon he was working as a manager with the Calumet, Muscatine, and Silver King Mines. After a few years of successful operation, Raddatz moved on to a position as superintendent of the Honerine Mine. In addition to his professional mining life, Raddatz was elected town president of Stockton, and in 1906 represented Tooele County in the state legislature as a Republican.

On his visit to East Tintic, Raddatz was impressed by the geology of the area, whose faults and hydrothermally derived breccias suggested the forces responsible for large ore deposits on the West side of the range may have also been at work on the East. Raddatz eagerly bought several claims from the Bestlemeyres and by October of that year he had organized the Tintic Standard Mining Company to develop them. It would take *nine years* for these claims to begin shipping ore, which is not a short time to wait for a return on an investment. The survival of the company and the success of the mine would owe more to the personal drive and faith of Raddatz than to any other factor.

The first attempt at development took place in December 1907 just East of the location of the later productive Eureka Lilly Mine. A shaft was dug to a depth of 400 feet at a place where a "conspicuous outcrop of iron-stained baritic jasperoid containing scattered minute grains of argentiferous cerussite" showed strong ore potential. No ore, however, was found.⁴ In 1909 the unproductive shaft was abandoned and work commenced anew on another shaft just a few hundred yards further East, which was named the "Tintic Standard No 1." Instead of quickly entering the Paleozoic dolomite and quartzite where ore was expected to be found, miners first had to dig their way past 400 feet of unproductive rhyolite. By February 1910 the 700 foot deep shaft was deeper than anyone had previously dug in the East Tintic District. Finally, and "in very small quantities" ore was encountered.⁵ It was enough to keep hope alive, but not enough yet to begin shipping. Work continued, down to 925 feet by July, and by 1912 a 450 foot drift had been dug at the 1,000 foot level. By 1913 the *Eureka Reporter* had been optimistically reporting on the progress of the Tintic Standard for 6 years, and saw fit to comment, "It is an expensive matter to operate almost any kind of mining property and where several years work are needed to change a prospect into a producing mine. It is an uphill fight in which there is no place for anyone except the man who has absolute faith in the ground."⁶

The "absolute faith", in this case, prevailed, as the article in which the above words were written announced a discovery of galena and carbonate ores containing silver, gold, and lead. The same discovery, however, was frustrated by dangerous gases which over the next several years would periodically shut down work for days at a time. Mostly Carbon Dioxide and Nitrogen, the gases had formed long ago by the subsurface decomposition of limestones and dolomites as they were effected by underground magmatic intrusions. The deeper mining went, the more sulphide minerals in shafts and drifts were exposed to atmospheric oxygen, resulting in even more non-breathable gases being released.⁷ Adding to miners' difficulty were increasingly high temperatures, which reached 90-95 degrees at the 1000 foot level (and would increase up to 130 degrees in subsequent years as the mine was developed deeper). Networks of hot springs extend throughout the Basin and Range province, filling in the gaps in subsurface fractures and, over time, often leaving rich deposits of precious minerals. The active springs below the Tintic Standard were of much more recent (contemporary) age, though created by the same processes that had formed ore bodies elsewhere. And they were making for intolerable working conditions in a mine without any natural ventilation.

A productive end was in sight, but Raddatz knew more work and more capital investment were needed. A winze, or downward sloping horizontal shaft, was developed into the body to a depth of 1200 feet by the end of 1914.⁸ The next Spring a stronger hoist was ordered to allow it to be worked deeper. Periodically enough ore accumulated at the face of the mine to make a shipment, but such intermittent output could be delayed for weeks due to winter conditions and bad roads between the Tintic Standard and the nearest railroad.⁹

Not yet "in the paying class of mines", workers at the Tintic Standard suffered from irregular wages. When paid in cash wages were lower than those expected elsewhere in the district, and often they were paid in company stock. As had occurred in many other mining camps throughout the West, stores and saloons in nearby Eureka for a long time accepted stock certificates in lieu of cash payment. Mining supply companies for a while did the same, and Salt Lake City banks were offered stock as collateral in exchange for loans. Years later, many who had been able to hold onto the stock were made quite rich. That time, of course, could not have been foreseen, and gradually as the years went on merchants became less and less willing to accept it. Raddatz, and the Tintic Standard Mine, became the bunt of jokes in Eureka.



Above Left: Emil J Raddatz

Lower Left: Mine Superintendent John Westerdahl Used by permission, Utah State Historical Society, all rights reserved.

Above Right: Improved road leading from Eureka to the Tintic Standard Mine, circa 1926. In the early days, all mining supplies and materials were hauled to the mine along it. Ore was also hauled for several years by mule-drawn wagons along the same road. In winter, mud and ice could make the road nearly impassable. Used by permission, Utah State Historical Society, all rights reserved.

In 1915 a company report described "without qualification" a great ore body which had been found, and ended with a plea for every stockholder to increase his or her holdings "by buying as much additional treasury stock as is possible."¹⁰ The plea apparently did not inspire sufficient investment, and later that year the mine and a number of other claims were mortgaged.¹¹ In April 1916 a delinquent sale of the property was scheduled and then averted by Raddatz at the last minute, who around this time even mortgaged his own house in Salt Lake City to keep work going at the mine.¹² When more stock could not be sold or accepted in lieu of cash, periodic assessments were levied on stockholders. By June of 1917 no less than nineteen had been made.¹³

"One of the Big Producers"

By April 1916, nearly "1600 feet of shafts... 300 feet of tunnels, 600 feet of winzes, 220 feet of raises and 6185 feet of crosscuts and drifts"¹⁴ had been dug, at the astounding cost of \$407,000.¹⁵ By that month, nearly a decade of work began to look like it might finally pay off. Rich ore at the 1,560 foot level had been dug through for 140 consecutive feet with no end in sight.¹⁶ The mine was now finally able to send occasional shipments, but the aforementioned problems of ventilation meant that these were few and far between. In May, it was decided to sink a new shaft, 1,700 feet East of the one already sunk. While the Tintic Standard No. 2 was being dug, work continued sporadically on the existing shaft, with about one car load of lead- silver ore being brought to the surface each week by late August. Underground, mules drew cars of ore from horizontal drifts to the main shaft, from whence they were brought to the surface with electricity provided by Utah Power Company. Electricity also allowed more powerful fans to be used to blow fresh air down into the mine.¹⁷ By late September a total of 9 car loads of ore had been shipped, averaging about \$1,500 a car.¹⁸

From a crew of 9 workers in the spring of 1916 Tintic Standard began expanding its workforce, as well as the support structures near the mine that were required to house and feed them. A new boarding house was built, with the potential capacity to the house seventy men.¹⁹ Production accelerated steadily through 1917, with 2420 tons of ore shipped at an average price of \$25.81 per ton in the first quarter of that year.²⁰ In September a 1,200 ton capacity ore house was built in anticipation of large shipments.²¹ And perhaps most exciting of all, in 1917 the Tintic Standard Mining Company paid its shareholders their first dividend. The first, for 2 cents a share, was paid on June 27. A second at the same price was paid October 25th. Each of these payouts totaled \$24,000. Those who had managed to hold onto their stock certificates by paying assessments during the long years of dubious anticipation began to perk up. Numerous creditors rejoiced as long held debts were finally repaid.²²

The real boom came in 1918, with the new shaft sunk into the heart of the ore body, and connected with the old one which was maintained to provide ventilation and emergency access. Soon 100 tons of ore were being shipped daily.²³ The railroad was still several miles away, and teams of horses as well as 2 recently purchased trucks were working 18 hours a day in two shifts to carry ore to the railroad.²⁴ In March a \$35,241 dividend was paid out at 3 cents a share, and by April monthly output was up to 3,500 tons.²⁵

Following the prosperity of 1918 came two great capital investments. In December, the Goshen Valley Rail Road was incorporated by the Tintic Standard along with investors from Salt Lake and Provo. The new line connected Dividend with the Denver & Rio Grande Western tracks about 10 miles to the East, and was built and operated by the D&RGW in exchange for a 4/5ths interest. By mid- 1920 it was complete. A much larger amount of ore could now be shipped, but the high prices charged by mills and smelters in Salt Lake City were still eating into the company's profits. Having foreseen this problem, Raddatz ordered the construction of the Tintic Standard Reduction Mill at Warm Springs, two miles East of Goshen, at a cost of \$580,000. Built from 1919 to 1920, the mill utilized the Augustin Process of roasting ores with salt, leaching them in a brine solution, and precipitating metals with copper. The mill worked 24 hours a day, employing 25 men per shift, until the fall of 1925. A small town that grew up at the mill was named "Harold", after Raddatz's son, Harold Raddatz. While effective for several years, the mill's large size made it difficult to operate steadily, as large quantities of ore had to be continuously supplied. By 1925 Salt Lake smelters had lowered their prices, and the decision was made to ship unmilled ores there instead.

Steady output of the Tintic Standard mine through the 1920s was accompanied by exploration and mining in other nearby locations. Investments were made and directly overseen by Raddatz in the Iron Blossom, Eureka Standard, Beck Tunnel, Colorado, Colorado Consolidated and Iron King Mines. One of the most profitable of these endeavors, and one whose ruins are the first ones passed by modern day visitors traveling to Dividend, was the North Lilly Mine. Work began in 1926, undertaken as a joint venture between Tintic Standard, the Silver Shield Mining Company, and the North Lilly Mining Company (then controlled by International Smelting). The North Lilly area was targeted after diamond drilling in the area broke into ore bodies, and soon two drifts from the 700 and 900 ft levels of the Tintic Standard Number 2 shaft were heading towards the North Lilly.²⁶ These drifts soon encountered a large ore body, and by March 1927 International Smelting was at work sinking a new shaft, as the main shaft at Dividend was already so busy with Tintic Standard ores it was unable to extract additional material from the North Lilly area.²⁷ The North Lilly went on to become a major area producer, reporting for the year 1928 a net income of \$857,182.28.²⁸ Such high outputs would be maintained for many years to come. Today, the site of the North Lilly Mine is marked by a small concrete structure just on the left of the road, and is the first ruin you see when driving East towards Dividend from Eureka after leaving Highway 6.²⁹

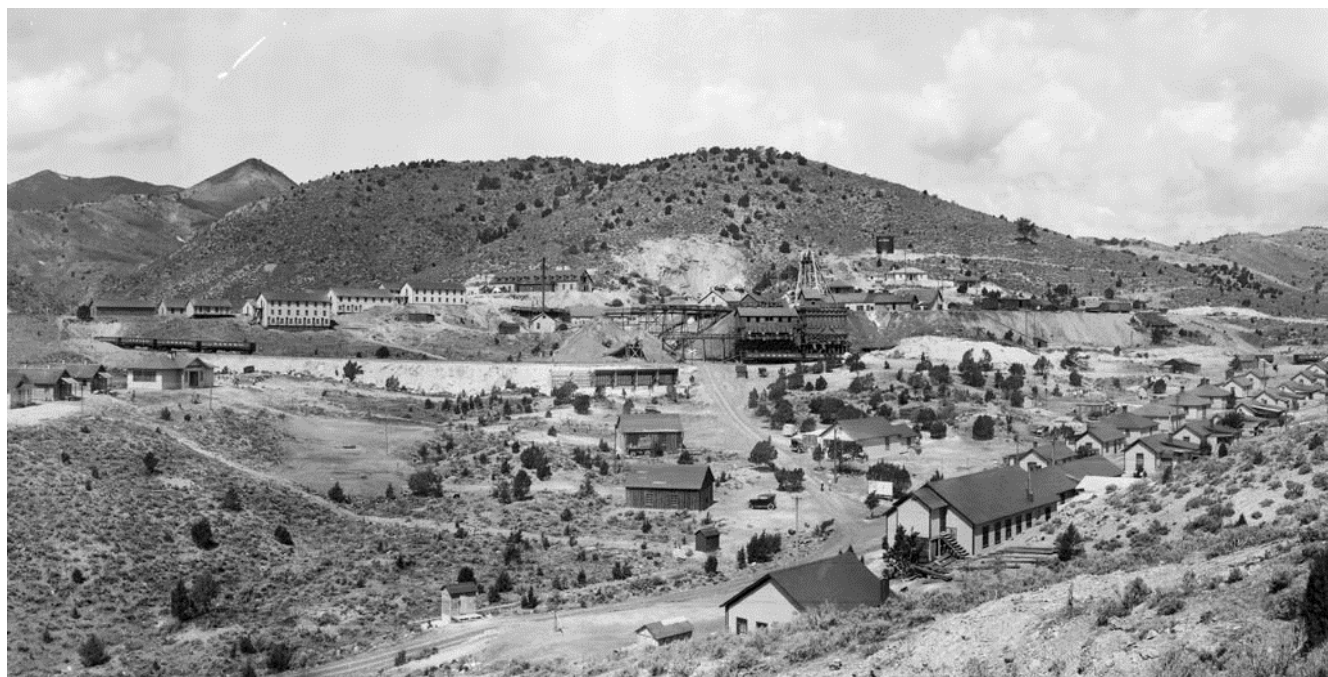
Life in a Mining Camp

The small camp around the Tintic Standard Mine had for many years been known as "Standard." Conditions were primitive in the years before the 1916, with many men living in tents and no indoor plumbing. The nearest water was a mile away and had to be hauled to camp by mules. Conditions improved rapidly after 1918. In June one of the first commercial buildings was constructed when the Manson Brothers Company of Eureka opened a grocery store³⁰, and by fall the camp had a population of about 200. Miners' housing improved that year with the construction of 11 single family houses, which featured three to four rooms each and running water. Later, more houses of the same design were also constructed, with the upgrade of indoor bathrooms. Above the miners' houses, and on what became known informally as "Snob Hill," separate houses for the Superintendent and other managers were completed. These and other homes were built atop a foundation of pilings to maximize stability, as dynamite blasts and cave ins from mining beneath the town could cause the ground to shift. 1918 also saw the construction of a post office building, a 12 room lodging house, and a school. There were no churches constructed in town, but religious groups were allowed to use company buildings to hold their services.³¹ The increasing population motivated the Postal Service to ask the company to pick a new name to avoid confusion with the town of Standardville in Carbon County. It was then, and after many large pay outs to shareholders, that the name of Dividend was chosen.

Mine offices were located near the Number 2 shaft, and their concrete remains are today the best preserved ruins of the town. Residential and commercial structures, which eventually included 75 single-family houses, a school house, a hotel, an amusement hall, a barber shop, and a pool hall were laid out on the flatter ground to the South and East of the mine itself. In 1924 the small grocery and general store in town was taken over by a company subsidiary, the Dividend Trading Company, which greatly expanded the stock, increasing the shopping options available to residents. This store was run at a financial loss to the company for many years, and was kept going for the sake of the convenience it provided.

Transportation from Dividend to Eureka remained difficult for many years, particularly during the winter months when an already rough road turned to mud. Many residents felt they were being neglected by Utah

County, which they accused of appropriating Tintic Standard taxes to build roads elsewhere. Finally in May 1921, the Tintic Commercial Club organized a "Good Roads Day" where volunteers from across the Tintic District contributed a day of labor to improve the road. The Club also brought organized pressure to bear on Utah County, finally getting the new road a surface of gravel. Merchants in Eureka as well as miners and their families in Dividend benefited greatly from the improved transportation, as did students, who in subsequent years were bussed to Goshen for Junoir High and Payson for High School.³²



Above: Dividend in its heyday, as it appeared circa 1923-25. Used by permission, Utah State Historical Society, all rights reserved.

Life in Dividend had much in common with other hard rock mining camps of the era. While the dangers of mining work were ever present, a miner had numerous diversions at the end of a shift to look forward to. Most employees of the mine paid a 25- 50 cent annual fee to be part of the Tintic Standard Club. This organization put on free dances, weekly movie showings, and maintained the town baseball diamond. The team's annual progress was avidly followed, with weekly games becoming the focus of town life on Sunday afternoons. In 1934 the Dividend's team even became the state amateur champions. Later improvements to recreational facilities in Dividend included a golf course, a shooting range, and two tennis courts.

Mine Dangers and Accidents

Life in booming Dividend was not without the presence of dangers common to mining communities of the era. Mining accidents periodically occurred, several of which were serious enough to make it to the pages of the *Eureka Reporter*. In May 1920, an empty mine car began rolling down hill towards the opening of the shaft. The station attendant was not there at the time and the car fell for 850 feet, bouncing off mine timbers and tearing out wall plates before finally lodging itself between some timbers deep in the mine. If anyone was coming up the shaft at the the time they would have certainly been killed, and fortunately this was not the case. Only a few shifts were lost to repair the damage.³³ Over the next two years, several more accidents would occur where miners were not as lucky. Effective safety consciousness and practices would, as elsewhere, take years to develop.

Falls were one of the most serious dangers to underground workers in the District's deepest mine, and three such accidents occurred in the first half of 1922. In January 52 year old Lawrence Girgen was operating a machine drill on a staging when the structure underneath him gave way. In the fall he sustained several injuries, including a serious cut in his neck. He was rushed to Salt Lake in the company of a doctor where he arrived in serious condition.³⁴ A second and fatal fall happened less than a month later. On Saturday afternoon of February 4th, 1922, 23 year old Wisconsin native and former assistant chemist John J Ambrose was working as a mucker on the 1,100 ft level. In the course of his work he managed to slip and fall an estimated 40 feet, during which time he sustained injuries that rendered him unconscious. Extracted from the mine, he was brought to the offices of Doctors Laker and Howell in Eureka, where he died a few hours later. With the assistance of Dividend Deputy Sheriff Coates, Ambrose's body was shipped back to his parents and relatives in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.³⁵ The third fall took place on a Monday, May 8th, when 32 year old miner John E Strand "stepped backward into a chute and fell a distance of about 60 feet sustaining injuries which may result fatally." Strand incurred a scalp wound, several deep cuts, and internal injuries. There is no further mention of Strand in the *Eureka Reporter* and it is unclear whether he recovered or died.³⁶

Another inherent danger to underground mining was falling rock. In April 1922, such an accident resulted in the death of 50 year old married miner Robert M Crosby after he was hit by a rock just below the left scapula while mining underground. Crosby continued working for a few days after the accident, evidently over worked himself, and soon became bedridden with pneumonia. He was treated at a hospital in Salt Lake but requested to be released to his home where he died shortly after his arrival.³⁷ Two months later, a second miner was injured by another rock fall. 45 year old Charles Malloy was working underground when a rock fell and fractured his thigh. Malloy was treated in a Salt Lake Hospital, where he was pleased to discover his injuries would not result in permanent disability.³⁸ 23 year old Canadian miner John Van Passel was not so lucky in January 1923 when another rock fall fatally crushed his body.³⁹

Above ground, the loading, unloading and use of mining equipment could also be dangerous. In December 1922, Mexican miner Rumaldo "Joe" Valdez was unloading mine timbers when one fell and rolled over him, fracturing his thigh. He was taken to Salt Lake, where amputation was recommended, but vigorously refused by the patient. He died a few days later, probably of blood poisoning, at a time when "it was too late [for amputation] to save the man's life". Valdez was buried in Salt Lake.⁴⁰

The non-mining residents of Dividend were spared the threats of runaway mine cars and deadly falls. This did not, however, prevent several mortal and dramatic tragedies from affecting life in the early years. In the summer of 1918, Mr John Aho, a shift boss, had been living at Dividend for about a year with his wife and two young girls. Mr. Aho was well known and liked and had worked in different Tintic mines for several years. Just after one o'clock on the morning of July 8th, Mrs. Aho was at home alone with the two girls. Suddenly, a coal oil lamp which had been left burning all night awoke Mrs Aho with thick smoke. It is believed that she was in the process of trying to remove the lamp from the room in order to prevent a fire when it exploded, covering her body and clothing with the burning oil. Dr. Hensel in Eureka was summoned and arrived to treat the young mother, who in spite of his efforts passed away a few hours later, having been badly burned all over her body.⁴¹

Early injuries were difficult to treat, as medical help had to be summoned from Eureka. It was not until 1921 that the town got its first resident doctor. In that year Dr. Callahan set up shop on the second floor of a

bunkhouse. He and his nurse delivered babies, removed tonsils, gave children an annual physical, and of course, treated injured miners once they had been brought to the surface. Workers paid 50 cents a month for medical care, which also covered more advanced treatment in Salt Lake if needed. In later years, two other resident doctors would live on site and fulfill Callahan's role.

While several miners were injured and even killed on the job at the Tintic Standard, the mine did take early steps to organize mine rescue teams and train miners in first aid. By the mid 1930s miners from Dividend were even assisting rescues in other states.⁴² A great appreciation of the sacrifices of miners in early 20th century American can be gained from the understanding that, as compared to other mines, the safety record of the Tintic Standard Mining Company was not extraordinarily abnormal.

"Gruesome Killing at East Tintic Camp"

In 1920 and 1921, two instances of murder occurred at Dividend that rocked the community and inspired headlines across the state. Like mine accidents, one sensational violent act that directly involves as few as two people has a way of embedding itself within the historical record far better than, say, a hundred small daily acts of kindness, joy, or tranquility that may have effected an entire town. It is unfortunate for the memory of historic mining communities that journalists skilled at producing pacific articles experience, on average, greater difficulty retaining employment than do those whose expertise with grisly details and sensational adjectives do a better job selling papers. In proceeding, then, with this skewed historical record, it is important for us to remember that everyday life in 1920s Dividend only rarely involved a murder. Working with what we have, the types of problems that resolve themselves violently, the backgrounds of the people they effect, and the way they are subsequently handled by society can still tell us much about the way life *was* in the old days.

Conducted in a manner "gruesome and revolting in the extreme", the first recorded murder undertaken by a citizen of Dividend was preformed amid fiery passions. The circumstances surrounding the death of Joseph Veal in the early morning hours of Sunday, May 16th 1920 merit a complete description. Fortunately, we have just such an account, printed in that week's copy of the *Eureka Reporter*:

Peter A Bargo, employed for some time at the Standard Mine in East Tintic is now in Jail at Provo awaiting trial for the murder of Joseph Veal. Both are Italians and the killing which took place at the mine early Sunday morning was the result of trouble over a woman.

The details of the murder are gruesome and revolting in the extreme. Lying in wait for Veal when the latter was returning from work on the night shift and striking him three or four times with the sharp edge of an ax. Almost any one of the blows would no doubt have caused death and it is stated that Bargo was still chopping away at Veal's body when other employees of the Tintic Standard mine shouted at him to stop. He then gave himself up.

As near as can be learned at this time Bargo moved to Dividend... some time ago having a woman who was presumed to be his wife. Veal went to board with them and it appears won the affection of the woman who Bargo claims has been living as his wife for seven years, during which time a daughter was born now 4 years of age. The first serious trouble in the household was a month or two ago when Bargo left and went to Nevada. While he was away Veal and the woman were married and within a few days after Bargo's return the killing took place.

The story which Bargo told the officers of Utah County indicates that he is not sorry for his crime. He says that while he was not married to the woman he had lived with her for many years and thought a great deal of her... While he was away from Dividend and after Vea had won her from him he learned that the woman was being cruelly treated and he returned for the purpose of squaring up accounts. He waited a day or two for an opportunity and when he saw Vea approaching the house after his shift's work of Sunday night Bargo surprised him and used an ax, which he had hastily picked up with deadly effect.

Pat Kelly the deputy sheriff at Dividend took charge of Bargo while awaiting for the sheriff of Utah County... Both Bargo and Vea are between 35 and 40 years of age..."⁴³

A version of the story reported by the *Manti Messenger* emphasized that Bargo left town for Nevada sometime after Vea and Bargo's former common-law wife began their romantic relationship, and it was only after stories of domestic abuse circulated back to him that he returned with a vengeful intent.⁴⁴ Following the murder, Vea's body was brought to Eureka and buried in the city cemetery. Bargo was arraigned in Provo in late June, and was soon after convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to 15 years in Utah State Prison, which he began on October 25th.⁴⁵ In December 1921 Bargo made headlines again after a successful escape attempt. He was "said to have resented the fact that the board of pardons failed to grant him a parole."⁴⁶

Dividend's second murder involved more victims and a furious search for the culprits. March 9th, 1921, began as a quiet Wednesday evening for Tintic Standard Superintendent John Westerdahl. Stopping in to the Manson Bros general store in Dividend just before closing time, he encountered a strange scene. Four masked men were pointing revolvers at a lined up group of patrons. Perhaps thinking the scene some kind of joke, he reportedly mentioned that a real robbery wouldn't bother him as had no money on him. An attempt to purchase a cigar in spite of the strange scene was rebuffed with a few words and a gun pointed in his direction.

While Westerdahl and four others were held hostage in the main room, one of the robbers accompanied storekeeper John Manson to the back room where the safe was kept. There were no witnesses who saw exactly what occurred next, but it was speculated afterwards that the robber may have thought that Manson was reaching for a gun. Three shots were fired. In the ensuing grappling, Manson was shot in the left arm, with the bullet coming to rest non-fatally below his shoulder blade. Hearing the shots, the remaining three bandits began shooting at the patrons they were holding hostage. Westerdahl was shot through the head and was almost instantly killed. L.P. Peterson, proprietor of the Dividend pool hall, was shot through the stomach and died some minutes later as he was trying to make his way home, a short distance away. A fourth hostage, Jesus Hernandez, a former barber who was currently employed as a miner was also shot. The bullet entered his mouth and lodged in the back of his head, a wound he miraculously survived. Two other men present, Bloom and Weber, managed to escape uninjured.⁴⁷

The robbers appeared to be Hispanic, and while posses fruitlessly searched the hills for them, suspicion fell upon several members of Dividend's large Mexican-American population. Most were questioned, and several were detained. Hernandez, survivor of the shooting, named several suspects, a few of whom were arrested. There was never any proof that stuck however, and the exact identities of the murderers remains unknown to this day.

The deceased Westerdahl had come to America from Finland in 1896, had worked in various mines in Utah and Idaho, and first started to work for Tintic Standard as a laborer in 1907. As a highly motivated and dedicated worker, Westerdahl was soon promoted to Superintendent. While Emil Raddataz would always get most of the credit for developing the mine, it was Westerdahl whose daily supervision and enthusiasm ensured an effective use of the company's early resources. It is not known at this time where the bandits had purchased their ammunition from. It was determined, however, that the bullets they fired were made of lead. It will forever be a mystery whether or not, in the moments just before his death, Mr. Westerdahl appreciated the irony of having his life unceremoniously ended by the very metal he had spent most of his professional career making abundantly available to society.

In the wake of Westerdahl's death, the Tintic Commercial Club passed a resolution affirming his "honorable and high minded" character. His body was shipped to Salt Lake and he was buried in the Mt Olivet Cemetery, services being arranged by his brethren in the Odd Fellows.⁴⁸ Adding to the grief of the widowed Mrs Westerdahl, the Utah State Industrial Commission decided almost a year after the murder that she and her daughter were not entitled to compensation under the Utah Workmen's Compensation Act. Mrs Westerdahl had held that as Superintendent, her former husband was on duty all times of day, and as the murder occurred on company property, the death was work-related. The commission based its decision on Westerdahl's intention to buy a cigar, an act the commission rejected as one that arose "out of or in the course of normal employment". Mrs Westerdahl appealed the court's decision and was heard before the Utah Supreme Court, which upheld the lower court's decision and rejected her claim for a second and final time. Much local sympathy existed for the widow and the Eureka press denounced as "devious" the courts' logic.⁴⁹

Compensation to the dependents of miners killed in accidents continued to be considered on a case by case basis throughout the 1920s, though there were no further cases filed with on-the-job murder as a cause of death. In March 1929, a group insurance policy was finally purchased that covered all miners. With the company paying the balance, 550 men agreed to pay 80 cents a month for a policy that paid \$1000 to the survivors of any fatal accident.⁵⁰

The 1930s and Beyond

The Tintic Standard Mining Company, and the many families at Dividend who depended on it for their livelihoods, bucked the general trend of the Depression and continued to produce large profits throughout the 1930s. A year into the Depression, Dividend was still going strong with a population of 499.⁵¹ In 1933, perhaps the decade's leanest year, the company reported a net profit of \$383,438.97, and the four quarterly Dividends paid by the mine during that year totaled \$230,633. Profits were maintained in part by shifting the focus of mining to lower grade gold ores, which had been unprofitable to mine before the price of gold was raised in the early 1930s. Thus, even with a lowered overall output, the Tintic Standard managed to stay in business and even increase their operational personnel by 13%.⁵² From 1935 to 1940 over a hundred thousand tons of ore were produced by the East Tintic District every year. Though not quite as high in output as the peak years of the 1920s, this period represented a steady era of prosperity for Dividend.

This success, however, was perhaps made bittersweet by the passing of the company's founder, Emil Raddatz, of heart trouble on November 1st 1933. Under Raddatz's leadership, the Tintic Standard had produced enormous profits, even earning it the honor of becoming the state's 7th highest taxpayer in 1923.⁵³ Raddatz personally and glamorously embodied the "rags to riches" potential of Western mining- a potential that was a dominant (if rarely realized) motivating force in all of the region's great mining rushes.

A 1938 article in the Millard County Chronicle describes an editor's visit to Dividend. The "clodhopper" was very impressed to see "miles and miles" of underground workings mapped out, a tramway that delivered ore to cars, and "mechanical bookkeepers" at work in the offices. Lumber was stacked in "huge piles" for use underground, and "the best head frame in Utah"- today long since torn down- was hard at work pulling ore out of the deep No. 2 shaft.⁵⁴ At the height of its development, miners getting off work could look forward to heated locker rooms with hot and cold showers, with plenty of overhead space to hang drying clothes. While many miners still lived at Dividend, the day of the company town was rapidly being usurped by the automobile. Many miners were now commuting in from Eureka or cities and farms in the Goshen Valley.⁵⁵ In June 1940, there were enough miners living in Payson to hold a large "Tintic Standard Day", celebrating 24 years of paying mine operations. The event was anticipated to draw 2,400 visitors, and featured the presentation of service buttons to employees, a concert by the Payson Band, and a welcome address by the Payson Mayor. Additional activities included a beef barbecue, a baseball game, a screening of a film, an evening band concert, and a dance. This large event was organized by the Tintic Standard Club- the same organization that had been providing camp entertainment since the early days of Dividend.⁵⁶ That summer, a \$57,004.50 dividend was paid on 1,140,000 shares of stock. The payment was announced by Emil Raddatz's son, Harold E. Raddatz, who was now acting as company Vice President and Treasurer.⁵⁷ It was to be the mine's last best year.

In the early 1940s, a man power shortage was responsible for decreased output in mines throughout the state. At Dividend this led to an over 50% reduction in average mine output.⁵⁸ In 1943, the Tintic Standard, along with 9 other Utah mining companies, was placing ads in county newspapers appealing to farms to consider off-season mining employment, assuring them that it would "in no way change" their present draft classification, and that they would be free to return to their farms in the spring.⁵⁹ The subsequent interest of county farmworkers notwithstanding, many operators continued to struggle. 1944 ended with the Tintic Standard having operated at a loss of \$95,184.⁶⁰ After the war the labor situation improved, but a more local and permanent problem did not: the mines were running out of ore. Diminishing outputs led to the decision to close the Tintic Standard, as well as the near by North Lilly and Eureka Lilly mines in June of 1949. With them went the town of Dividend. Most original dwellings were hauled away after this date, and a few more were claimed by arson in subsequent decades. The railroad into town lay idle for the next twenty years, until the line was terminated by the Denver & Rio Grande Western in June 1967.⁶¹

Life After Death

In 1952 and 1953, attempts were made to remove pillars of ore from the depths of Tintic Standard, which had been left in place in the days of active mining for structural support. Some ore was recovered, but their lower

grades, combined with the problem of cave ins, led to the abandonment of these efforts. Activity resumed after much of the Dividend area was leased to Kennecott Copper Company in 1956, which subjected the East Tintic area to exploratory drilling and active mining from 1963 to 1975. In 1970 much drilling near Dividend was undertaken, and the old Tintic Standard mine buildings were used to store core samples. Once neatly organized, today countless boxes of the smooth, cylindrical rocks are collapsing in on themselves, leaving a mess of someone's careful, forgotten work. The labels on the boxes- "Burgin"- identify the mine the drilling was used to develop. Just over a mile away from the Dividend town site, the Burgin and Trixie mines became a rich producers, and were two of the last to close in the entire district.



Above and Left: Abandoned core samples taken and stored at Dividend by Kennecott in 1970.

Below: Remains at Dividend of a railroad long forgotten.



In 2002 the Burgin was one of the last hardrock mines in the Tintic area to close- and not for lack of ore! The Chief Consolidated Mining Company had been very successful in living up to its name, consolidating titles to most of Tintic's historic mines. This success was in that year transformed into a great liability, as Chief Consolidated was served by the EPA with a \$60 million fine for cumulative environmental damages resulting from 133 years of mining. In addition to having one of the highest concentrations of historic mine head frames in the West, much of the land surrounding the town of Eureka had over the years been contaminated by lead, and to a

lesser extent arsenic. The area was added to the EPA's Superfund list in 2001, and an extensive clean up of tailings and mine debris took place over the next decade. In the face of the hefty lawsuit, Chief Consolidated declared bankruptcy, halted operations, and shuttered the recently completed Trixie Mill.

While East Tintic's glory days are certainly in the past, the final chapter has yet to be written. In 2008 Andover Ventures, a mining company specializing in purchasing and re-opening bankrupted mines, bought a 78% stake in Chief Consolidated, including the Trixie Mill, for \$13 million. Conditions of the purchase included assumption of the environmental liabilities, which were settled in June 2010 at great benefit to Andover, with the \$60 million being reduced to only 5 annual payments of \$225,000.⁶² Andover - Chief Consolidated has plans to start up production again in 2012. In addition to re-opening Burgin and Trixie, Andover is partnering with Rio Tinto / Kennecott to explore the Big Hill area in Tintic for its potential as a porphyry deposit. If such a deposit was located, it would mean big changes for the sleepy historic district.



Above: Concrete ruin at Dividend, one of several remaining structures.

For now, few signs exist of any impending development, and a drive through the heart of old East Tintic promises to be a most tranquil experience. Passing the ruins of the North Lilly, the Dividend road turns sharply down a hill and past some brick foundations overlooking a beautiful view of Utah Lake and Mt Timpanogos. At the bottom of the hill, ore bins and foundations of the Eureka Lilly Mine are on the right. Finally, the road arrives at the site of old Dividend.

Several concrete structures remain, along with a few wooden cabins. Inside historic artifacts lay intermingled among the nests of contemporary packrats. A collapsed bridge of the old railroad is half buried beneath mine tailings. From a small roofed hut, two ravens emit a cry and fly out at the sign of a visitor. As dusk settles, an owl swoops across the valley and deer emerge to graze across a sagebrush flat where miners' cabins once stood. Tin cans, broken china, and other historic trash lies scattered about the hillsides, working their way slowly downhill, protected as much by remoteness as by the Antiquities Act. Leaving Dividend, two men in hard hats on an ATV pass the author, bound, most likely, for a look at the Trixie Mill. The serenity of this unvisited and largely forgotten place may soon prove to be illusionary after all.

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