

Argonaut High School
Oral History Interview
Biographical Sketch

Subjects full name: Edward Swift

Address: 60 Church St Sutter Creek

Telephone: Home: 267-5158 Work: 267-5241

Date of birth: 8-11-28 Place of birth: Oakland CA

Date of marriage: 1949 Place of marriage: San Rafael CA

Name of spouse: Margaret Swift

date of birth: _____ Place of birth: Santa Clara, CA

Subject occupation: Self employed

Spouse occupation: Secretary + book keeper to self-employed

Name of mother: Mildred Allen Swift

Date of birth: 1902 Place of birth: Sutter Creek CA

Occupation: House wife

Name of father: George Harold Swift

Date of birth: 1897 Place of birth: San Francisco

Occupation: Lumber Man

Subject's children and dates of birth: George

Jim John Katie Bettie

Subject's brothers and sisters and dates of birth: _____

1 sister Elizabeth Schaber

Subject's primary and secondary education: (Schools attended and dates) JK

Subject's higher education: (Schools attended, graduation date, majors, degrees) Degree in Arts

Subject's profession or occupations: (Job, dates, where)

Military service: (Branch, rank, dates of service)

Civic and community activities: (Offices held, activities, etc.)

Sutter Creek City Council 1962-64 1970 - today
President Rotary Club twice
Board of Directors Key Stone Mine Post Director for Bank of America

Miscellaneous information:

Prepared by: Nathan Miller

Sally Blademan

Date: 3/9/97

Project: Kennedy Mine Research

Information on the Amador County Mines for 1897

The Kennedy Mine is located off of Hwy. 49-88 in between Jackson and Sutter Creek, near present day Martell. As of April 1897 the Kennedy Mine had produced about \$7,000,000 in gold bullion. Due to its massive production of gold the mine was nicknamed the "Rich Kennedy Mine."

The mine was established in 1860 and is made up of 27-35 acres. The Kennedy Mine was incorporated on December 22, 1886 under the name of Kennedy Mining and Milling Co. (There was a reference to the Kennedy Mine Co. before it was incorporated in the April 15, 1871 issue of the Amador County Ledger).

A meeting in 1891 between the directors of the Mine resulted in the decision to increase the depth of the shaft. The idea is to build a steam hoisting plant which could raise a loaded cart at 40 feet per second. As of 1897 the stamp mill consists of 40 stamps, built by Fulton Engineering and Ship Building Works. There is also, at this time, a chlorination works, a sawmill, offices, a superintendent's house, and two hoisting plants, each with water and steam power.

The officers are: John Barton, president and E.C. Hutchinson, secretary. The directors are: John Barton, Joth Taylor, Daniel E. Hayes, M.W. Belshaw and George Goodman. The current superintendent is J.F. Parks.

Amount of Gold Ore Produced by Amador County Mines from 1880-1895

1880.....	\$1,497,000
1881.....	\$1,451,000
1882.....	\$1,500,000
1883.....	\$1,590,000
1884.....	\$2,002,000
1885.....	\$2,145,997.63
1886.....	\$1,880,198.71
1887.....	\$1,982,025.50
1888.....	\$1,753,500
1889.....	\$1,165,374.43
1890.....	\$1,469,309.81
1891.....	\$1,409,858.66
1892.....	\$1,218,391.44
1893.....	\$1,511,204.54
1894.....	\$1,332,196.81
1895.....	\$1,393,018.60
16 year total.....	\$25,301,080.93

Interview of Edward Swift

I'm going to start in the year 1854. I'm going to show you some information on mining that was done by the State Legislature. It (the information) was Document 9 of the California State Legislature, in the year 1854. Early in 1854, there was no Amador County, it was Calaveras County. This (Document 9) shows the mines that were in this part of Calaveras County, in 1854. It was the Amadore, the Springhill, another Amador spelled differently (Amidor), the Herbertsville, the Mokelumne Ridge, the Sutter, the Jackson and that was about it on the main mines in Amador County (reads from Document 9). The Kennedy Mine was not started by Mr. Kennedy until, I believe, 1856. Along with that (referring to the various mines) there are explanations of what the various mines were: such as the Springsville, the Jones and Davis Mine at Herbertsville. Herbertsville, Calaveras County was half way between Sutter Creek and Amador City, on the back road, called Stringbean Alley. The Springhill mine is described. That (Document 9) says you go down the hill into Amador City, from Sutter Creek. Half way down the hill you look to the east and you see a flat on the side of the hill where there used to be a mine, in 1854. Then there was a Ranchoree Mine, the old Amadore Mine in Amador City, and the Keystone Mine in Amador City. You look up the hill (to find the Keystone Mine), as you go into Amador City now, looking towards the east, and you'll see the gallice

frame. Then in Sutter Creek there is the Eureka Mine. All these (the mines), as I said, were (in) Calaveras County. When you get the State Legislature's report, called "The Report on the Geology of Northern and Southern California", you find that all these same mines are now in Amador County, because Amador County was formed from Calaveras County, late in 1854. The next thing I'm going to give you is a report of "The Commissioner of Mining Statistics west of the Rocky Mountains" for the year ending December 31, 1871. That's in this book right here, even though it says 1870 (points to book). In there (indicating the report) the Kennedy Mine is mentioned, it's just a paragraph or two. When they want to start a mine, the geologist will come and look and start back. Say if they wanted to start the Kennedy Mine as a mine again, the geologist would come and go back and try and find all these original reports and bring it forward so you could get the history of the mine. Let me explain "Mineral Resources West of the Rocky Mountains". In the 1860's, 1870's, 1880's, it was still quite a trip to get to California. With the lack of communications, Congress would give a man a certain amount of money to visit all the mines that he could in the West of the Rocky Mountains. He would then write a report to Congress and that's what these reports are (pointing to the reports). These are not reproductions, these are all the original books. In 1870, it (the report) was done by Rossiter W. Raymond. In 1871 it was done by George S. Boutwell. There's a mention of the Kennedy Mine there (referring to the 1871 report) and the Oneida Mine, the adjoining mine. The Oneida Mine is located in the valley, near Martell, below Warner Ready Mix. There used to be a trust manufacturing plant down there, it's on

Jackson Gate Road. After that I have the "West of the Rocky Mountains", for February 21, for the year 1882. Statistics for the year 1882. One of the reasons I gave you this one is because (it has) the annual report on Amador County for the year 1882. If you read through it, it states that, "Amador County is now accessible at all seasons of the year by rail from Oakland to Ione City in about 8 hours travel. About the first quartz mines opened and mills erected in the State were in this county." Then it goes ahead and explains just about every mine, except the Kennedy. I thought the fact that you could now get from Ione to Oakland in only 8 hours was kind of interesting when it takes 2 hours now. The next thing I have is the "Eighth Annual Report of the State Mineralogist." In 187-, the State Mineralogist study became an annual report. The books that are important are number 2 through number 15 (indicating the books he has). They gave extensive reports on the mines throughout the State of California and prepared for the State Bureau of Mines, which was located in Ferrville, in San Francisco. The first report I am giving you is the "Eighth Annual Report" for 1888. It shows the Kennedy Mine and a picture of the hoisting works at that time. It (the Eighth Annual Report) gives information on the altitude of the mine, the vertical depth, the character of the hanging wall, the percentage of gold saved on plates, the various types of machinery they used to try and recover gold, and a lengthy report, the number of men working in the mine at 60, the men working outside the mine, the average wages of the mill at \$3.00, the average wage paid for work outside \$2.50 to \$4.00, and the cords of wood used per day, (they used) four cords of wood because they had to generate steam to run the equipment. At this time all mines that

were near a water ditch were water powered. The major mines had steam stand-by power. Water in the summer would get low and it would take less water to generate steam and run the equipment by steam then it would by water. When they had plenty of water available, that was the cheapest way to generate power, through water wheels. Many of those water wheels were made right here in Sutter Creek at Knights Foundry. Then I have the "Tenth Annual Report of the State Mineralogist" which again covers an area on the Kennedy Mine. It also covers an area on the Summit Mine. The reason I mention the Summit Mine is because I have a little shopping center at Sutter Hill. I opened it in 1959. It (Summit) was always just the name of the market. It opened as a T and A and ended up as a One Stop Shopping Center. I recently decided it was time to give it the name of area the that it was. That area was named after the Summit Mine. At one point in time it was known as Summit, California. The next thing that comes is the "Eleventh Report of the State Mineralogist" in 1893. It has the usual comments on the Kennedy Mine. (The Kennedy Mine) run by water or steam power. (Read from the Eleventh Report of the State Mineralogist) "The Kennedy Mine works are run by 150 inches of water taken from the Amador Canal and delivered at the two hoisting works under a pressure of 150 and 175 feet." And of course, the pressure was gained through what they called penstock. That's a pipe coming down from the reservoir from the top of the hill, building up pressure and, of course, it gave power to run the Pelton type water wheels, which are what Knight designed. The next thing that I have is two years of a "State Mineralogist Report" ending in 1894. It shows a cross-section of the Kennedy Mine to

the underground, where it goes into the slates. This cross-section is somewhat interesting because it shows the old original shaft and it doesn't show the east shaft. There's the south shaft, the north shaft and east shaft, I believe. If you read all these it will tell how deep the mine was to those various points in time. Then we come to the "Thirteenth Report of the State Mineralogist." It's not on the Kennedy, but for the first paragraph in the article on Amador County, it says, "the general revival of interest in mining has noticeably affected this county during the past two years. Several new mines have been opened and numerous properties, after years of idleness, have been rehabilitated and are in a fair way to once more become bullion-producers. Some of the propositions inaugurated prior to our last report have since been placed on a paying basis, and at least one prominent mine then operating with small success has developed into a large and profitable enterprise. The deepest operating mine," in 1896, in Amador has reached a, "vertical depth of 2150 feet," and will soon be deep or deeper. "One very commendable change has been made in the sinking of new shafts. Until recently all the deep shafts in the great mines have been sunk in the veins, and it has been the general experience that when these fissures were not filled with solid quartz, great expense always attended the maintenance of these shafts, by reason of the heavy swelling ground, which continually displaced, and crushed timbers." All the mines on the Mother Lode from over head are all in a straight line. And the Mother Lode is like a big dam. The upheaval of the Earth, which came up from underneath, through a crack, and just broke everything all up. It's just a conglomerate of broken pieces of rock and soil and gold bearing rock. The way all mines got started is,

they would find gold on the surface of the ground. The first mine that did it, and the oldest mine is the Keystone in Amador County. That's the mine that I am still on the Board of Directors of and it's (the mine) still active in that we receive royalties upon it to hold it for people that want to mine it in the future. We take care of the minerals. All the mines essentially have shafts that are facing towards the east from about a 62 degree angle (from the horizontal). The further down those mines went, including the Kennedy, the harder it was to keep the shaft from caving in. They put timbers in it (the shaft) and the ground would swell and just keep closing them up. The Central Eureka Mine went down in 1942 by war production order L-208, in November, the same as the Kennedy Mine. The miners were being brought in and out of the Old Eureka shaft because that mine wasn't swelling shut. After World War 2 the Central Eureka reopened and they would have to keep replacing the timbers in the Central Eureka Mine. That's the one (the mine) on the top hill where you see all those antennas. The Old Eureka is down toward Sutter Creek where all the surplus junk is now. The only man that was riding (in the mine shaft) when they finally closed around 1949, 1951, was the skip tender. He's the guy that went up and down on the skips when the ore was empty, tended the skips and tended the shafts. They (the skip tenders) would have to stop and notch out the timbers that were squeezing in to get the buckets up and down. The next thing I'm giving you is the souvenir edition of the California Mining Association's annual meeting, in San Francisco, in 1899. At that point in time, I believe it's this thing that mentions, that the Kennedy is getting a new shaft. That would be the east shaft. That's what you see in this illustration, right here in this

cross-section (referring to the drawing). Here's the south shaft and here's the north shaft (referring to the drawing). There they (the north and south shafts) would be toward Highway 49. The new shaft was several thousand feet east of the old shafts which went down on that approximately 62 degree angle. Then they put the vertical shaft in that's there now. That (the vertical shaft) goes down in the country rock, mostly greenstone. It went straight down. It was out of that area of upheaval of the Mother Lode. What they would do is they would put in a vertical shaft, then they would go over and get into the (Mother) Lode. Then they wouldn't have to do as much timbering. The shaft was essentially maintenance free, and it should be possible today to pump this shaft down, put your tracks back in, rehabilitate your tracks, and the mine should be in good shape. It (the Kennedy Mine) has been closed since November 1942. I gave you this (indicating the paper), from the California Miners' Association which is this book right here (indicating the book). It is very, very interesting. It tells a lot about Amador County. The next thing is the "Register of Mines and Minerals in Amador County" for the year 1903. It gives you a map of Amador County, where the mines are located. It gives you a little bit of history of Amador County. It gives you the elevations of Amador County. This is the statistics page that covers the Kennedy Mine. It (referring to the statistics page) tells what (the mine's) section, township, range, whether it's patented or not, elevation, the number of veins, the width of the veins, the strike of the veins, (and) the dip of the veins. It (the Kennedy Mine) happens to be free milling ore. It (the statistics page) goes further more to tell you what (about) the hanging wall, the foot wall, the shaft incline, open cut, tunnel

development, (and) the drifts. The greatest depth below the outcrop, what the mill consists of, the power used in the mill, the number of men employed and where the main office is (are also included in the statistics page). Next comes the "Mining Review" for 1897, published by the Amador Record and it contains a map showing all the mines in Amador County. It (the map) is on very fragile paper, it's deteriorating rather fast. You can see it's rather a complete map as far as hard rock mines go. The Kennedy would be probably right here (indicating the map). They're all listed by number (indicating the legend). This is rather a rare volume now but it gets into the Kennedy Mine, has a lot of great advertisements, in Amador County, who the doctors were, that sort of thing. Here's Dr. Giles in Sutter Creek (indicating the advertisement). He lived right up here in Skunk Hollar, right behind our house. (Here is) the Rich Kennedy Mine. It gives a description of that. The superintendent at that point in time (for the Kennedy Mine) was J.F. Parks and it goes through and covers a lot of other mines in Amador County, all of them in fact. There are three belts of mines in Amador County. The west belt is the copper mines and the clay pit areas in Ione. Where ever the copper mines were, like when you come from Ione you go past the Newton Copper Mine where the creek is all red. A lot of the Copper mines produced more gold and silver than they did copper. Then the main Mother Lode is, we're sitting on it in this room. The east belt is an area of hard rock mines, and they're called pocket mines because they don't find the gold continuously in the veins. There was a gentleman by the name of Elcasanelli in Volcano who was a merchant. If you read the article I'm giving you, you might enjoy reading it. From his daughters, they were in their

90's, I bought one of the mines that he owned and I still own it, called the Golden Gate, out of West Point. The chances of it ever being mined are extremely rare. Here's the map, (and) here's the whole book (indicating his book). The next thing we're going to is the California State Mining Bureau. It changed from the earlier name of the "Annual Reports of the California State Mining Bureau." It gives you a report on Amador County. It includes pictures as well as a report of the Kennedy mill and the Kennedy wheel housings that took the slurry up from the mine and deposited it over the hill. Then it shows the Keystone and Amador. The next thing is the report for April 1927 for the California Mining Bureau. It shows the head frame and the timber pile of the Kennedy Mine and it gives a report of the mine. The next thing I'm giving you is the milling methods and costs of the Argonaut Mill in Jackson. This was prepared by the U.S. Government. I imagine that they made one on the Kennedy Mine at some point in time but I don't have it. The information that you get out of here (the "Annual Reports of the California State Mining Bureau") would also apply to the Kennedy. The Kennedy and the Argonaut were running on the same water. In fact, are you aware of the lawsuits that went on between the Argonaut and the Kennedy. They were working on the same veins. Next would come the report in 1939, again on the "Mother Lode Gold Belt." There's one page that tells about the cyaniding at the Kennedy Mine. There's a picture of the tailings disposal from the mill of the Central Eureka Mine. As you know the City of Sutter Creek just went through the Environmental Protection Agency, cleaning up horrible, dangerous, arsenic, contaminated sand pile where the houses are built at the Gold Courts Terrace.

That's the pile, right there that the houses were built on (pointing towards Gold Courts Terrace). Then it came across the field, went across what is the present state highway and the balance of it is at the Allen Ranch to the west. The last thing I have in the way of reports from the State is the mineral resources of Amador County in 1954. Again the Kennedy Mine is featured. The wheels are featured. Next is a copy of the 1982 "Fun Times" which shows a drawing of the wooden head frame. It took the artist 2200 hours to draw it out. It is a great, great picture. The work he did is extremely accurate. As I told you earlier, I was born and raised in Oakland. When I was 10 years old, in 1938, everybody subscribed to Life Magazine. In the back (of the magazine) they always had a letters to the editor pictures. On the June 13, 1938 issue there is a picture showing the "underground sunshine" at the 2000 foot underground level of the Fremont Mine, the bottom of the shaft. The sun would hit just right that one day a year, to the bottom of the shaft. This picture was taken by a photographer by the name of M.J. Pierce who had a photo studio in Jackson. This is the sheriff of Amador County, and his name is Sheriff Lucot (indicating the picture). This picture was submitted by a guy named O. Farnesi. On June 8, 1938 he received this (points to letter) letter from Life Magazine thanking him for donating his picture and he was getting a check for \$5. Then that picture was picked up by John Hix who used to be in articles in the paper every day, like "Strange as it Seems" and it would show the two headed goat and that sort of thing. He was interested in using that (indicating the photo) in his "Strange as it Seems." Then a friend looked at these pictures and he immediately wrote that out for me (indicating a paper) as to who the

various people were in the picture. I realize it doesn't have anything to do with the Kennedy Mine, but it shows that from 1848 on until the mines were shut down by War Production Order L-208 in November of 1942 that mining was the life blood of Amador County. Lots of news was distributed through the "Mining and Scientific Press" and they put out a paper for a number of years. This is a copy of it (indicating the copy) in 1893. I paid \$8.00 for it. This was the one I have taken some pictures out of, December 23, 1893. Then you can see how the format changed in 1916 (indicating the new copy from 1916). This just happens to show the Fremont head frame over at Bunker Hill. If you go from Amador City to Dry Town over the back roads you go through Bunker Hill, you'll see that shaft there. I climbed all this wooden stuff (pointing to picture), but it burned down in a big fire in, I believe, 1962. The reason I'm giving you this article on the Gover is, they didn't know whether taking pictures under ground would work or not with photo flash. This explains that they did work. These two pictures and this picture (points to the pictures in the "Mining and Scientific Press") were taken by, not flash bulb, but they just mixed the chemicals there and held it up and took the picture. This (points to picture) was the Mayflower, and that was later combined with the Bunker Hill Mine. There is still remnants of the cement gallace frame, ore bin area of the Bunker Hill Mine. Another very interesting article that was in the "Mining and Scientific Press" was the "Mother Lode of California," that was in 1913. I'm including that in the 1897 Mining Review, and it's in two parts. This will give you a lot of interesting things on the development of mining in Amador County. Along with the 1897 "Mining Review", I have included a copy of the

"Great West Magazine", it is the "Great West Magazine" all right, but it doesn't tell what year they put it out, I think it was about 1913. It has things on Preston School, the assets of Amador City, Ione, Sutter Creek, and a lot on California mining including the Kennedy Mine, the copper mines and the clay plants around Amador County.