

ELY'S MINING HERITAGE: SIBLEY MINE



Courtesy of Archives and Special Collections, Kathryn A. Martin
Library, University of Minnesota Duluth

In a five part series, Mine Reader is exploring Ely's mining heritage by recounting the history of the five iron ore mines which were actively mined for nearly 80 years and included: Chandler, Pioneer, Savoy, Sibley and Zenith mines. These mines all resided within a one and a half mile radius in the eastern Vermilion Iron Range located in Ely, Minnesota. Today the history of these mines is told along the Trezona Trail, which circles Ely's Miners Lake, a recreational lake formed after the closing of the Pioneer Mine in 1967. In the fourth installment of the series we explore the story of Ely's Sibley Mine.

The Sibley Mine was owned by the Oliver Mining Company, a subsidiary of the U.S. Steel Corporation. The mine began shipping ore in 1899 from the No. 1 shaft. This shaft was later abandoned and further mining operations continued at the No. 2 shaft until 1954. The mine's Miners Dry House can still be seen along the Trezona Trail. The Sibley Mine reached depths of 1,278 feet and produced more than 9.8 million long tons of iron ore throughout its operation.

Sources:

The commemorative mine signs around the Trezona Trail were made possible by a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society to Ely Greenstone Public Art, with assistance provided by the City of Ely. The Trezona Trail was created by the City of Ely and the Mineland Reclamation Division of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board.