

## Timber and the Mines

The mines of Amador County greatly effected the timber of the area. The timbers that held up the shafts, the wood to fuel the fires and the many outbuildings of the mines cleared the hills. And all that was left were large piles of tailings. A fire in 1928 destroyed most of the outbuildings and the headframe of the Kennedy. And all of these had to be reconstructed. Some of the logs for the Kennedy were logged off the Fregulia ranch in Jackson. And their trees have never grown back the same. All the trees in the Jackson area were logged for the mines. Ponderosa, Sugar pines, and Cedars were used for timbers in the mines. And Digger Pines were used to fuel the fires. Some of the mines had their own sawmill. Eventually mines went to oil. With the fire going all the time the wood went fast. It took twelve to fourteen cords of wood a day. And many of the skips in the mine were also made of wood. They first loaded the logging trucks with horses and cables. Loaders made the logging much faster. The first actual sawmill was opened after the mines were shut down. Mike Fregulia of Jackson worked in the the sawmill for twenty seven and a half years. The sawmill he worked at is located where the civic center is in Jackson.

## Trees Used For the Mines

The Ponderosa Pine is common throughout the Rocky Mountains and the Southwestern United States. This hard pine grows 150-200 ft. tall. It is the most widely used of all the pines in California for its lumber. Its needles grow in bundles of three and its cones are about five inches long. It was widely used in the mines, for timbers in the tunnels, and for the various outbuildings.

The Sugar Pine is found in middle elevations in the Sierra Nevada. It is the largest of known pines growing 200-220 ft. tall. It bears slender bright green needles in bunches of five. The cones sometimes reach thirty inches in length. It is still lumbered extensively and had many of the same uses as the ponderosa pine in the mines.

The Digger Pine grows 50-80 ft. tall in the lower elevations of the Sierra Nevada and the Coastal ranges of California. The needles grow in bunches of three and the cones grow to ten inches in length. The Digger pine seed was once important food to Indians. It was only used for firewood in the mines.

There were other pines used for the mines, as well as other types of trees such as Cedars and oak trees, and so on. But these are the three main types that grow near the mines in Amador County.