



# DEER LODGE AND FAY



## Mining Town Life on the Nevada-Utah Line

The 1890s were tough years for Nevada's miners. The Big Bonanza days of the Comstock and other prosperous mining districts across the state were over. The few new discoveries could not break the depression's grip on the mining industry.

But the search for the next big strike went on as always. In late 1895 prospectors discovered gold in the Mahogany Mountains along the Nevada-Utah border. They organized the Stateline

Mining District in Utah and the Eagle Valley District in Nevada and built the towns of Deer Lodge and Fay near the Eagle Valley mines and mills.

The next twenty years were a time of boom and bust—until the mines finally closed in the mid 1910s. Many local residents tried their hand at mining and returned to cattle ranching when the boom ended. Whether life revolved around mining or ranching, educating the children was always important.

### DEER LODGE AND FAY

Deer Lodge made headlines in 1896 when the main section of town burned down. But a year later Deer Lodge was home to about 100 people, with a saloon, livery, and a general store. A post office soon followed. In 1899, more promising discoveries were made about 1 1/2 miles to the south, and activity shifted to what became the new town of Fay. Fay prospered until mining ended in 1914. The town included four saloons, a barbershop, stores, a post office, and stage service. The Fay post office continued serving the surrounding area until 1924.



Deer Lodge, with the Hackett house in the foreground. Photo courtesy Lincoln County Town History Project

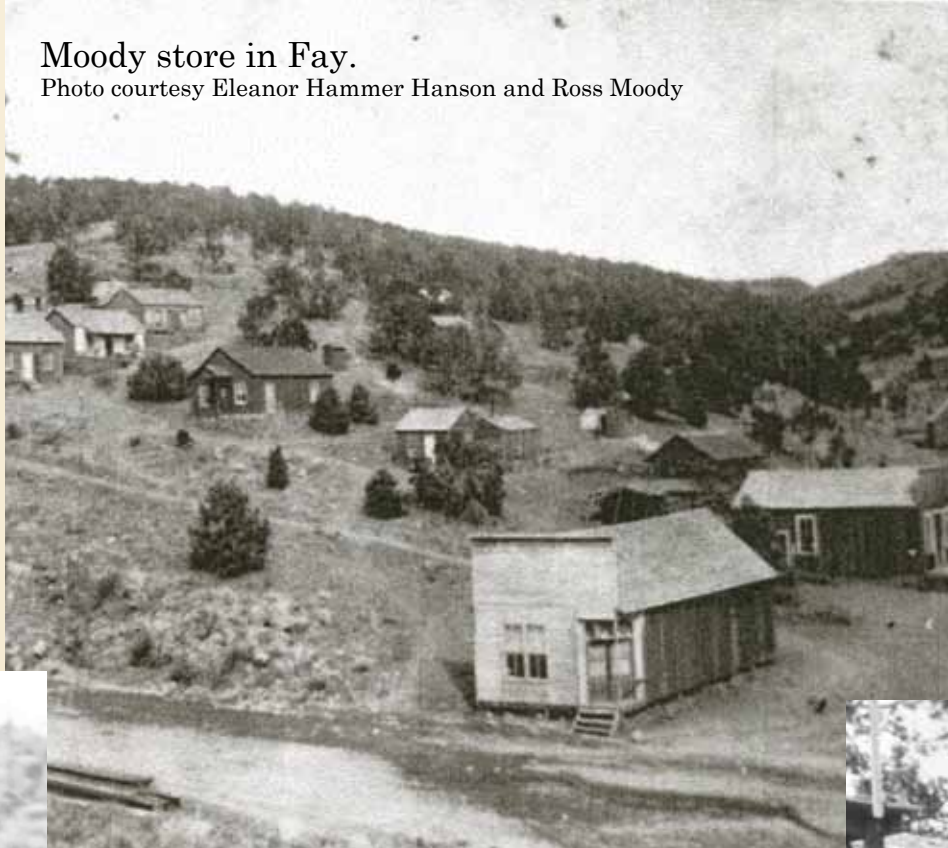
### THE MOODY AND HACKETT FAMILIES

George Moody, one of the leading citizens in the Eagle Valley District, was among the first successful prospectors. He helped write the district bylaws and served as recorder for fourteen years. His family opened a general store in Deer Lodge and later moved the store to Fay. Moody also served as deputy sheriff, school trustee, postmaster, and local census taker for the 1900 Census.

Edward Herbert Hackett began prospecting in the Deer Lodge area in 1896. He was involved in a number of mining operations, including the Homestake Mine. The Hacketts built a log home in Deer Lodge, where the family continued cattle ranching once the mines had shut down.



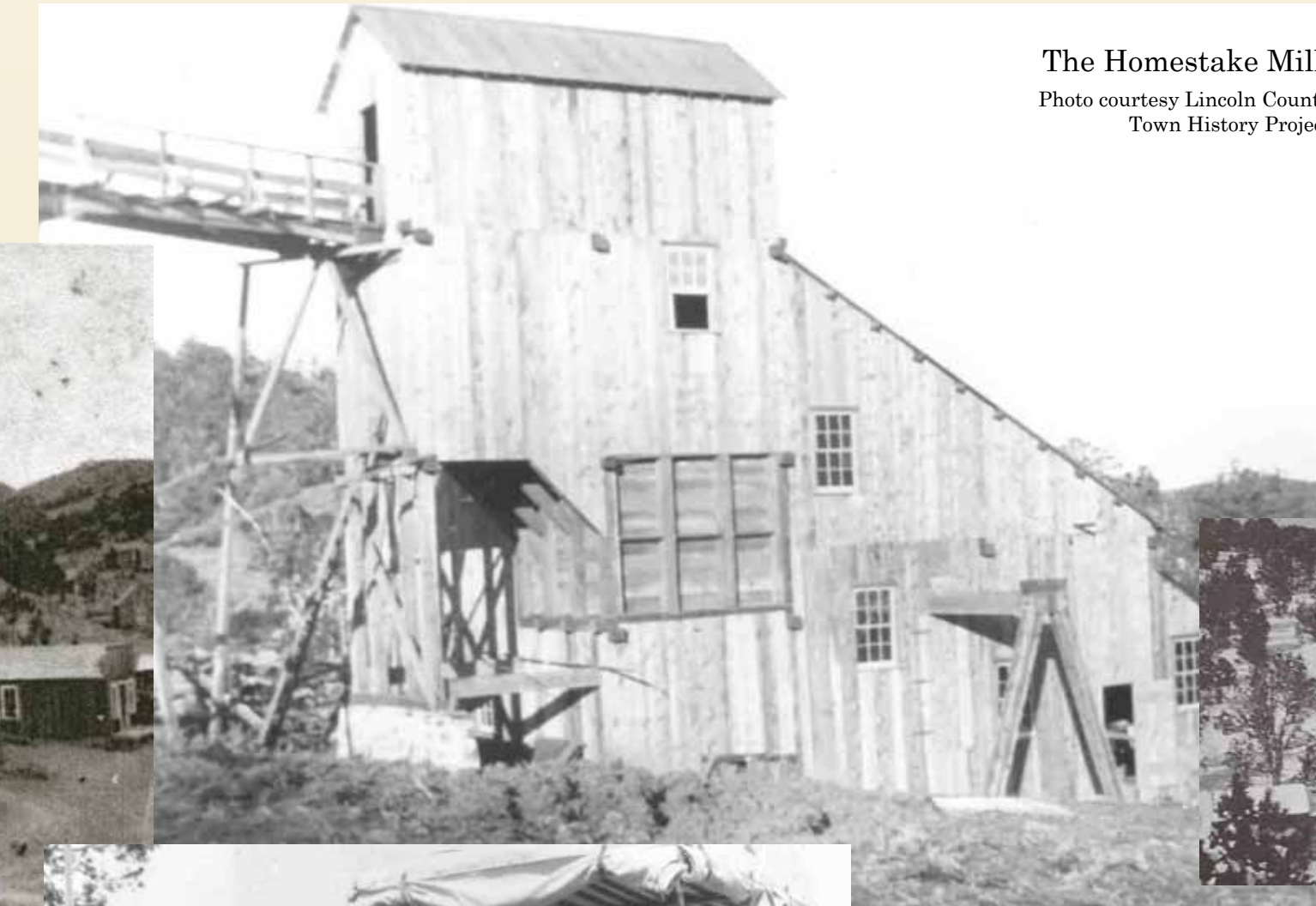
George Moody in his Deer Lodge store. Photo courtesy Eleanor Hammer Hanson and Ross Moody



Moody store in Fay. Photo courtesy Eleanor Hammer Hanson and Ross Moody

### THE HOMESTAKE AND THE HORSESHOE

The Homestake Mine in Deer Lodge and the Horseshoe in Fay were two of the most prominent mines in the Eagle Valley District. The Horseshoe Mine was the only major producer in the district, but the area never lacked optimistic promoters. An early 1900s newspaper article found it beyond understanding "that a region so rich in the precious metals as State Line and Eagle Districts should so long remain unnoticed . . ."



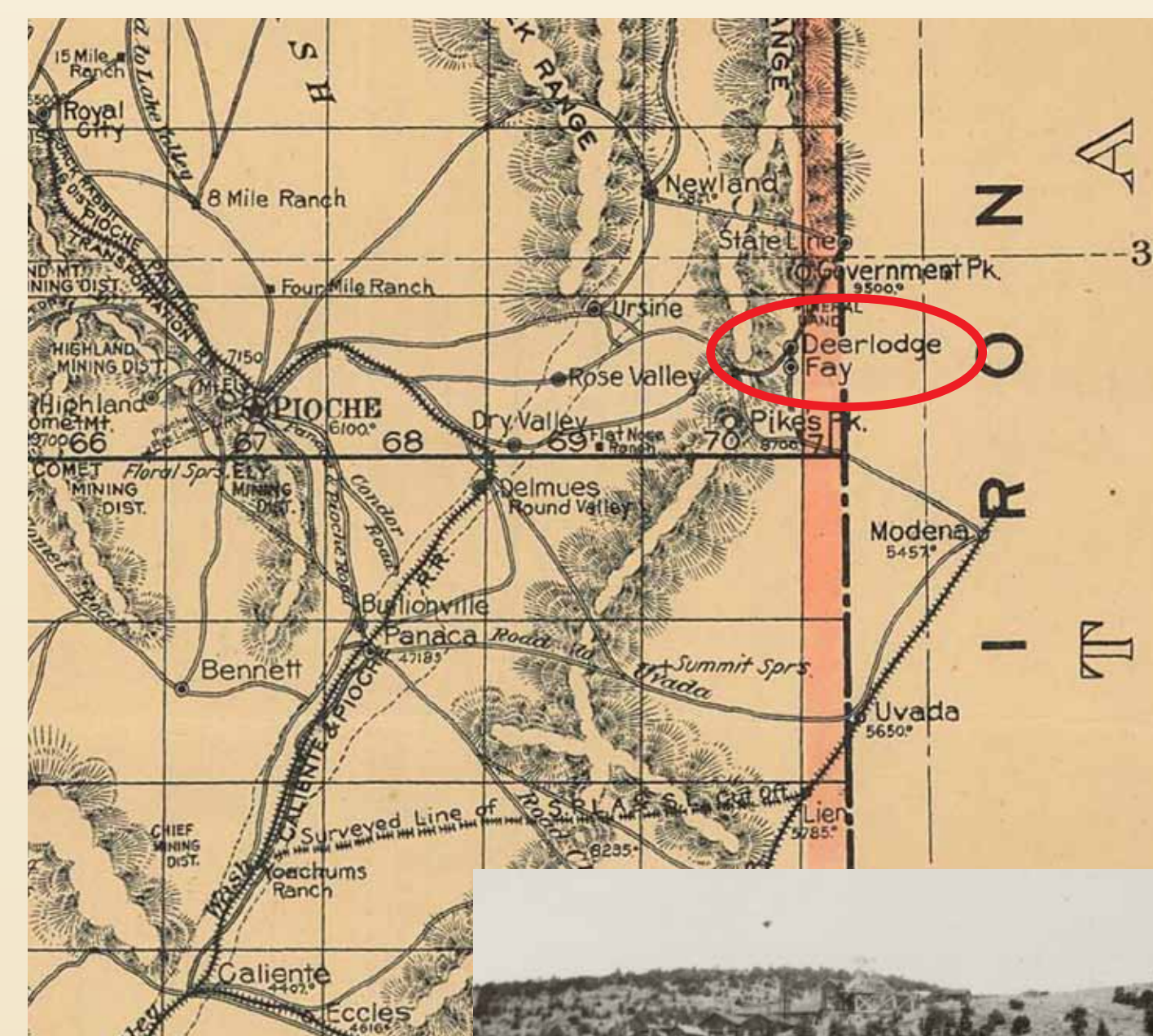
The Homestake Mill. Photo courtesy Lincoln County Town History Project

### DEER LODGE AND FAY SCHOOLS

Education was an important, valued part of life in remote places like Deer Lodge and Fay. Communities built their own schools and went to great lengths to recruit teachers and stretch the funding they received from the state.

Veronica DeVany Elliott described the Deer Lodge School, where she took a teaching position for the 1926-1927 school year. *Mr. Everest Hackett had been looking for someone to open a school there because they had managed to get 5 children together—that's what it took to [open a school then]. So they let me know and I went up to Deer Lodge to teach. The Deer Lodge school was a two-room log building, with blackboards salvaged from the abandoned Fay schoolhouse, and a bedroom in the back with a little woodstove. I really lived more in the schoolroom than I did in the bedroom. All I had in the bedroom was a bed and a small chest of drawers. It was tiny.*

Deer Lodge School, second log building from the left. The Hackett house is first from left. Photo courtesy Mary Scott and Pete Cole



The Nevada-Utah Line in 1897. Map courtesy Special Collections, University of Nevada Reno Library



Miners near Deer Lodge. Photo courtesy Lincoln County Town History Project



Emma Hackett standing alongside exposed ore body, Homestake Mine. Photo courtesy Lincoln County Town History Project



The Hackett family and two Homestake Mine investors. The Hackett house is in the background. Photo courtesy Lincoln County Town History Project



Mr. Russell, a Homestake investor, and an unidentified woman holding amalgam (gold and mercury) from the Homestake Mill. Photo courtesy Lincoln County Town History Project



Students at the Fay school, 1908. Photos courtesy Lincoln County Town History Project



Deer Lodge students 1930. Photo courtesy Mary Scott and Pete Cole

Deer Lodge in 1921. Map courtesy Mary B. Ansari Map Library, University of Nevada, Reno



Fay. Photo courtesy University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Special Collections