

Alvord Mine, San Bernardino County, California

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The Alvord Mine, located in the Alvord Mountains, was wishfully named after the lost Alvord lode. In 1860 Charles Alvord while with a group searching for the Lost Gunsight silver lode, stumbled onto manganese ore infused with wire gold. After repeated attempts, he was never able to relocate his find.

Rich coarse gold was discovered in Alvord Mine located on the southwest side of Alvord Mountain sometime before 1881. Some reports indicate an arrastre was used to mill the ore early during the mine's life. In February of that 1881 the Alvord Consolidated Quartz Mining Company, issued 75,000 shares of stock to raise money to develop their newly found mine, located about 20 miles east of Calico.

On June 25, 1883, H. S. Loveland leased the mine for a period of two years, agreeing to construct a Huntington mill to work the ore. A month later, it was reported that the mill had been "bought and active operations are beginning on this rich mine."

From 1884 until 1887 the mine was worked by J. B Osborn of Daggett. In May 1885 ore was daily hauled to Camp Cady, on the Mojave River, where a 5-stamp mill had been erected to help the existing Huntington centrifugal mill process ore. During this time \$36,973 was recovered.

During the late 1880s ore was reduced at Hawley mill, in addition to Camp Cady.

In the early 1890s, a mill was built, probably at Alvord Well, at the mouth of the canyon below the mine, which ran until it burned in September, 1891. During the last 10 days before the mill burned, \$1,430 in bullion was produced from ore that assayed between \$6 and \$18 a ton. Total production of gold from the Alvord Mine up to that time was placed at \$50,000.

In 1895, considerable prospecting was done on the property and in order to test the ore, the Alvord Mining Company of Pasadena erected a five-stamp mill 2 miles from the mine, probably at the site of the burned mill.

From 1906 to 1910, the Alvord Mining Company of San Diego operated the mine and installed a six-stamp Nisson mill near the mine. Perhaps this was C. L. Roseberry's operation. He was reported to have shipped 4 railroad cars of ore to the Selby smelter (located across the bay from San Francisco). In November 1910 he sold the claims to A. C. Stanley who had planned to erect a 10-stamp mill. Two years later the Barstow Printer reported that Roseberry and Frank Ryerse were to build a 10-stamp mill at the mine. A brief note in June 1913 reported the mine and mill were active.

Six months later it was reported that the mine was running steadily, a half dozen mine working the mine tailings.

The Tintic Bonanza Mining Company of Salt Lake City operated the mine from 1916 to 1920. Charles McCormick, a resident of Yermo, was the owner in 1923. He reopened the mine and in 1924 two men were working the mine. In 1925, the Dell'Osso Gold Mining Company acquired the property and in 1931 patented 6 claims. The property was active for several months during 1932 and 1933. From December 1950, to January, 1952 the mine was under lease to Roy Waughtel of Manix. The mine has been idle since 1952. The mill built in 1906 was used to treat ore intermittently until 1952. The mill was still on the property in 1955. The mill has been removed and one of the wooden buildings and a small bridge were burned in the early 1970s. Two stone buildings remained in the early 1970s.

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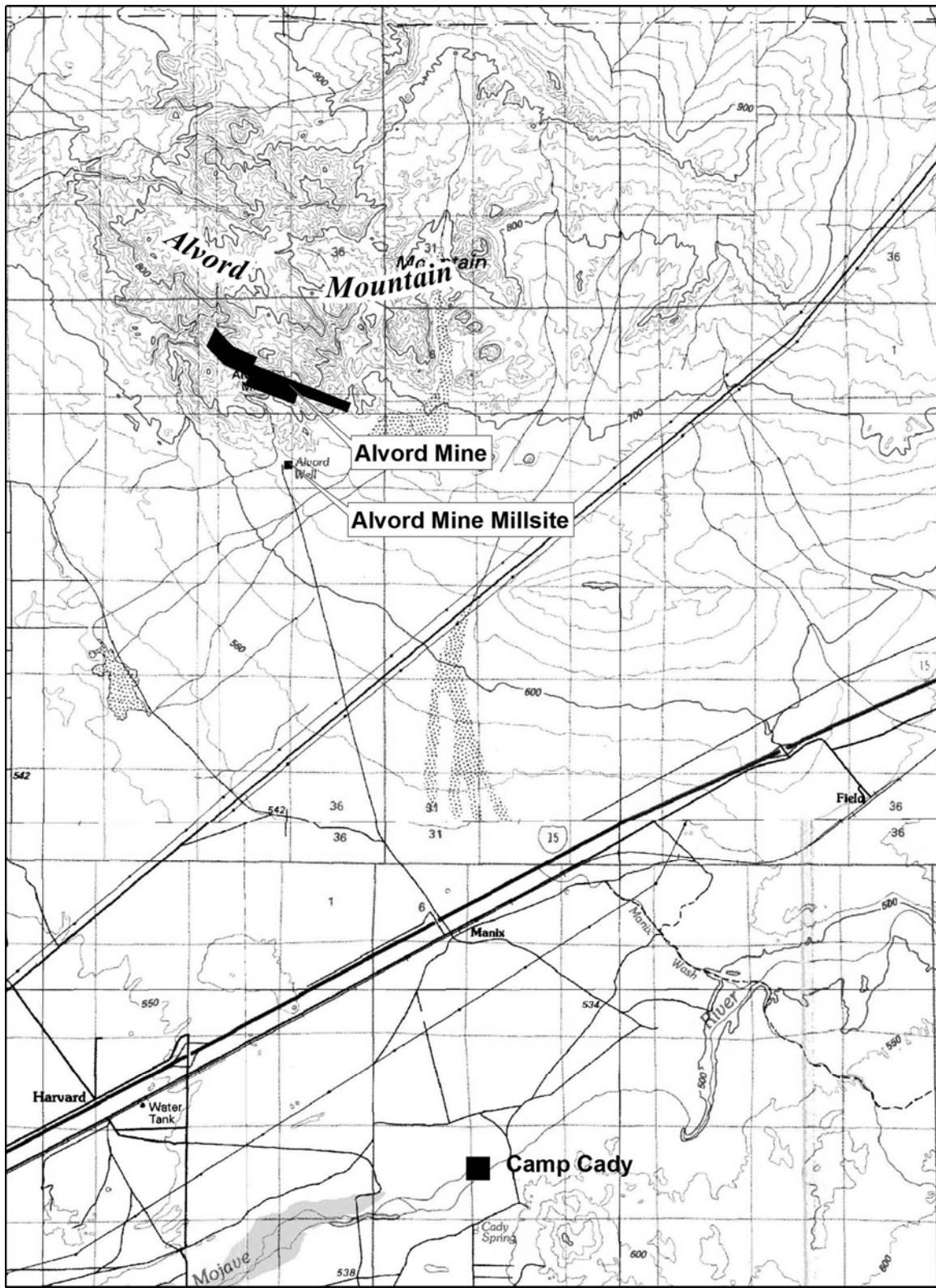
Stone structure at the Alvord mine. Photo taken 1970 by Larry Vredenburgh



Wooden structure at the Alvord mine. Photo taken 1970 by Larry Vredenburgh



Stone structure at the Alvord mine. Photo taken 1970 by Larry Vredenburgh



Map Showing the Location of the Alvord Mine and Camp Cady (site of the original mill).