

# Lambert Mine

The Lambert Mine, situated at nearly 11,000 feet in a glacial cirque high on Mt. Tom, is the most remote of the Pine Creek tungsten deposits. Little is known of the mine's history, but government reports state that scheelite was discovered near the head of Elderberry Canyon by Stanley Lambert in 1940. He may have been attracted to the area by news of recent discoveries at the Hanging Valley and Tungstar deposits to the west of Mt. Tom.

In 1941 the property was leased by Kenneth Irons. Irons and associates constructed a six-mile trail up Elderberry Canyon from a roadhead near the canyon mouth. The trail had numerous switchbacks and climbed 4,600 vertical feet to the mine. The mine workings, consisting of some trenches and three adits, were cut into a steep slope on the east side of the cirque. A camp was built below the workings on a glacial moraine which provided the nearest flat ground. A compressor for running the drills was packed in on muleback along with lumber for the construction of camp buildings. This trail was used to haul out a few hundred tons of high-grade ore, averaging 2.0%  $WO_3$  via mules in 1942-43. Most of the ore body was mined out during this period.

In the early 1950s an attempt was made to build a road all the way to the mine. The road was pushed through to nearly the 8,000 foot level before developers gave up on the proposition. This road is easily recognized, switchbacking up the next draw to the east of Elderberry Canyon.

The remains of the pack trail can still be followed up Elderberry Canyon to the old mine workings. It is not an easy climb, but one that rewards the hiker with excellent views of the northern Owens Valley and Wheeler Ridge.