

since 1908 at which time it may have been acquired by W. S. Clanton who served as assayer of the Mint from 1897 to 1903. The property was in his family and owned by Mrs. Clanton Kennemer in 1975.

It is not known why the St. Catherine - Rudisil Gold Mining Company of New York City became financially troubled and was forced to close and sell out in 1908. The record does suggest that the company existed for the legitimate purpose of gold mining rather than the dishonest purpose of "stock-jobbing". Unfortunately, southern gold mining was, at that time, once again getting a tarnished image on Wall Street. Two organizations were especially notorious; the Mogul Mining Company and the Gold Hill Copper Company.

The Mogul Mining Company owned properties at Rawhide, Nevada and a gold mine about 18 miles east of Charlotte, North Carolina. "The shares of the company were skyrocketed on the curb in 1917 by raw and rank manipulation. The men named as directors in the company's prospectus do not admit any connection with the company."²⁰⁷

The Gold Hill Copper Company was located at Gold Hill about 40 miles northeast of Charlotte. Gold Hill was one of the largest and certainly the longest lived of the southern gold mines. It is little wonder, then, that it not only attracted the more serious scientists, engineers and investors but also the more serious con-artists. Referring to the Gold Hill Copper Company that existed in the early years of the 20th century, Weed says that it was "a notorious promotion that caught many wall street operators".²⁰⁸ The Gold Hill Copper Company was operated by Mr. Walter George Newman who was one of the

most colorful, if not trustworthy, characters in the annals of southern gold mining. When the financial world of the Gold Hill Copper Company began to collapse, Newman called in the stock (figure 27) and issued new stock in the Gold Hill Consolidated Company. This latter company lasted for less than a year, went bankrupt and the property was sold at auction on January 27, 1910. Weed concludes "Mr. Newman evidently used this property solely for stock-jobbing purposes".²⁰⁹

DEPRESSION INSPIRES REVIVAL

The Rudisill would probably never have been reopened had not the Great Depression of the late 1920's and 1930's caused such large scale unemployment. Skilled men were willing to work long, hard hours for meager wages to be able to support their families. It was during the worst years of the depression that the U.S. Government officially raised the price it paid for gold from \$20 per ounce to \$35 per ounce. This had the effect of almost doubling the value of ore in the Rudisill mine, and it was again put into operation, thereby providing some relief for those fortunate enough to be hired.

The Rudisil Gold Mine, Incorporated, a North Carolina corporation, leased the property from J. H. Carson in October of 1934²¹⁰ and proceeded to clean out and stabilize the main or pump shaft and erect a head frame (figure 28). The headframe was located approximately in the center of the block bounded by Cliffwood, Summit, Westwood and Southwood Avenues. In 1935 a flotation mill was constructed at the intersection of Remount Road and Dalton Village Drive (east side) to process the ore (figure 29 & Appendix B). The Rudisill Gold Mine, Incorporated was