

Figure 32. Rudisill Mine Office for the 1930's Operation was Located at 1513-1515 Cliffwood Place. (then South Mint St.). (photo courtesy Fred Challis, Chattanooga, TN)

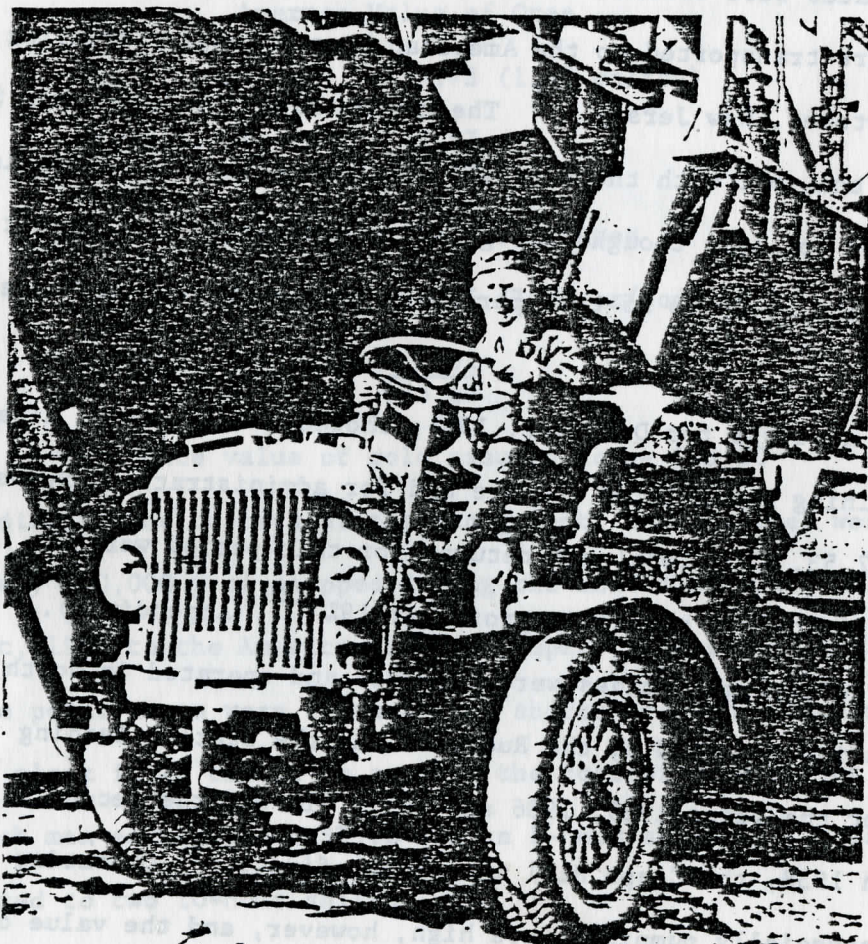


Figure 33. Ore Truck at the Rudisill Mine, 1930's. (photo courtesy Fred Challis, Chattanooga, TN)

recovered was not much more than mining costs during late 1937 and 1938. A letter written by Joe Brown to Fred Challis on October 7, 1937, relates that "the old Rudisill is still producing a small amount of high grade ore, averaging around \$150.00 per ton, and the mill is operating one shift on mill heads from \$3.00 to \$10.00 per ton".<sup>229</sup>

It is probably fitting that the last mining for gold on the Rudisill lode was to retain some of the same flamboyancy and intrigue of earlier operations. "The Rudisill's demise (1938) was finally signaled by the sudden disappearance, one fine day, of its colorful manager, A. W. (sic) White. Sensational stories of a kidnapping circulated throughout Charlotte, but none was ever substantiated. When White reappeared in Charlotte, almost a year after his disappearance, and claimed amnesia, the Rudisill--had long since been closed."<sup>230</sup>

When operations were suspended in 1938, the Rudisill Gold Mine, Incorporated had produced \$130,000 in pure gold (then selling at \$35 an ounce).<sup>231</sup>

#### EPILOGUE

Throughout their entire operation it is estimated that the Rudisill and St. Catherine mines yielded between 50,000 and 100,000 ounces of gold,<sup>232</sup> a volume equivalent of between 3.5 and 7 cubic feet. While this amount of gold has been a relatively insignificant contribution to the overall economy of Charlotte, it was being produced and inspiring activity at times critical to Charlotte's growth.

In the period 1825 to 1835 when cotton was king and plantations