

2018 Victor Heritage Calendar – Photo Captions & Descriptions

Cover: Souvenir Postcard from Victor, Colo. – The enlarged 1910 color souvenir postcard on the calendar cover features photos of Victor Avenue Looking East, the Portland Mine, the Granite Mine (former Gold Coin Mine), a Birdseye View of Victor, Colo. and the Independence Mine.

January: The Vindicator Mine and Ore House – The 1910 Julia Skolas photo postcard shows the new steel head frame, surface plant, and large dumps of low-grade ore at the Vindicator Mine.

February: Looking down on Victor – The enlarged, high-resolution Julia Skolas photo postcard (after 1907) looks down on the City of Victor, Colorado from Squaw Mountain toward the Southeast with Brind Mountain in the background. It shows in amazing detail part of the Gold Coin Mine, structures along Victor Avenue from 4th to 6th Street (including many no longer standing—Donnelly Hardware, Ovren’s Book & Stationary, McCarville Hall Dancing Academy, Methodist Episcopal Church, LaVeta Hotel), more distant landmarks such as the Baptist and Catholic Churches, hundreds of homes in densely packed residential neighborhoods, and much more.

March: Gold Coin Club – This photo shows a Celebration at the Gold Coin Club, prior to 1905, with hundreds of people gathered on the two-story, open-air galleries. The Gold Coin Club, located across Diamond Avenue from the Gold Coin Mine, was a part of the vast Woods Investment Company Empire. [For more information and photos of both, see the Photo Gallery of Historic Underground Gold Mines near Victor on the Victor Heritage Society Web Site.](#)

April: Looking East down Victor Avenue – This enlarged, high-resolution Young photo postcard circa 1920’s shows the structures lining both sides of Victor Avenue—from a vantage point in the 700 block of Victor Avenue, all the way east to the Victor School. Also identifiable are residences and the Episcopal Church located on South 6th Street, and some buildings on 4th Street (Bank/Hotel, Masonic Hall, and Christian Science Church).

May: Interesting facts about the district – The billboard next to the Victor City Hall has been a longstanding fixture with many reincarnations. This enlarged Sanborn picture postcard from the 1940’s or 50’s features many “Interesting Facts about the Mining District” as well as “The City of Gold Mines”.

June: Vindicator and Lillie Mines – This historic photo shows the massive low-grade ore dumps and the surface facilities for the Vindicator Mine (left & center) and the Lillie Mine (upper right). A hiking trail that now meanders through the Vindicator Valley provides up-close views of the most prominent remnants of the Vindicator Mine surface structures. Only a small part of the foundation of the Lillie Mine is still visible.

July: Gold Coin Mine – This close-up photo of the massive Gold Coin Mine surface facilities in downtown Victor shows how the complex was rebuilt of brick and steel after the Great Victor Fire of August 21, 1899. In the background are densely populated residential neighborhoods. In the foreground are commercial buildings along North 4th Street.

August: Vintage fire engine in front of Victor City Hall – This late 1920's photo shows the pride of the Victor Fire Department, outfitted with a brass bell behind the driver's seat and chains on the rear tires, parked in front of the Victor City Hall.

September: Fourth Street, Labor Day 1911 with Mary Cashen to the right. The photo shows a large crowd at the Victor Labor Day Celebration in 1911 gathered around a speaker's platform in front of the Oxford Hotel & Bar (near the corner of North 4th Street and Diamond Avenue). In the upper left is a two-story house with an arched second-story balcony that still stands on the NW corner of Granite Avenue and North 4th Street. In the upper right is the headframe for the Mary Cashen Mine (note the faint sign on the structure further to the right).

October: Strong Mine – This 1903 photo shows surface facilities for the Strong Mine with railroad cars for shipping ore in the foreground. Sam Strong, original owner of the mine, was killed in a gunfight resulting from a dispute over a gambling debt in a Cripple Creek Saloon.

November: Victor High School Football Players—This photo shows the 1913 Victor football team with Myrl Ray (team manager, standing with hat) posed in front of the Victor High School building. Photo shared by Paula Ray Schommer.

December: Ajax Mine – This enlarged Julia Skolas photo postcard (after 1907) shows the Colburn-Ajax Mine and Mill located in the foreground on Battle Mountain. On the horizon (top, center) is the Portland 2 headframe. The Portland 1 headframe is to the right of the Ajax.