

The **IDAHO HOTEL** was originally established in Ruby City, Idaho Territory in 1863. In 1866 Ruby City lost the county seat to its two-year-old rival, Silver City, a mile up Jordan Creek. Soon, many homes and buildings were moved from Ruby City to Silver City in order to capitalize on the business generated in the new county seat. Later that year, the hotel's new wing was dismantled, loaded piece-by-piece onto sleds and skids, and pulled up the snow and ice covered road by oxen to its new site in Silver City. It was reassembled, and a three-story addition was built.

Spring water was piped to the hotel by 1868. A bar room and "piazza" were added in 1871. The interior woodwork was hand-grained in 1882, and a billiards parlor-gambling room was added in 1889. In front of the icehouse, "A fine stone cellar" for storage of food and drink was completed in 1890 – the same year Idaho became a state. A five-story addition containing a new dining room with two stories of bedrooms above was finished in 1898, and a storage tunnel connecting the cellar with a mine tunnel beneath the street in front of the hotel was excavated in 1903.

Numerous businesses had offices in the hotel through the years: stagecoach lines, telegraph and telephone companies, doctors, dentists, lawyers and a jeweler.

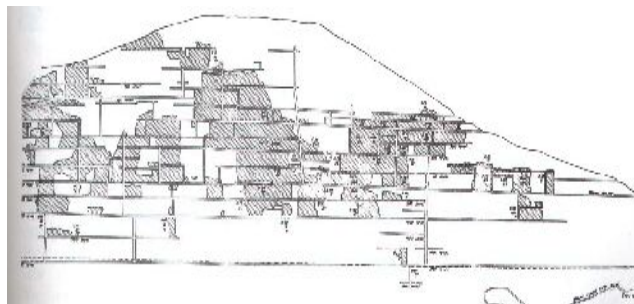
A great many functions were held in the hotel, including balls, weddings, funerals, musicals, literary club meetings, socials and banquets. Functions of an "unsocial nature" also occurred, mostly in the form of verbal altercations, fistfights and shootings, the most famous of which was the fatal J. Marion Moore - Samuel Lockhart shooting that occurred in front of the hotel in 1868.

The hotel was closed around 1942 and then fell into disrepair. In the spring of 1972, Edward Jagels purchased the building and the creaking old front doors once more swung open for business. The Idaho Hotel became Ed's personal crusade and he dedicated the rest of his life, nearly 30 years, to restoring this grand hotel and preserving its place in history. The hotel was sold again to its current owners in 2001. Their dream is to continue Ed's

legacy and preserve the old hotel as he had intended for future generations to enjoy. Many sections are still closed to the public though, as they have yet to be restored.

Rugged and picturesque, the 8,000 foot-high Owyhee Mountains surround Silver City, elevation 6,200 feet. The history-filled town contains about seventy-five structures that date from the 1860's the early 1900's. During its "heyday", Silver City had about a dozen streets, seventy-five businesses, three hundred homes, a population of around 2,500. Silver City was the Owyhee County seat from 1866 to 1934. Some of the largest stage lines in the West operated in the area, and Silver City had the first telegraph and the first daily newspaper in the territory in 1874. Telephones were in use here at least by 1880 and the town was "electrified" in the 1904. There are two separate burial areas in town, with a few very interesting stones remaining, some quite large and elaborately carved. All are well worth the hike to see and photograph.

Section of Florida Mountain mine tunnels.



More than two dozen camps provided shelter, supplies and amusement for the thousands of people who came to the mountains seeking their fortunes in one way or another. The ruins of some of these can still be found though nature is reclaiming most of them at an accelerated rate. Almost a dozen cemeteries and many more remote burial sites attest to the hard and sometimes dangerous and violent lives led by many. Hundreds of mines pock-mark and honeycomb the mountains; one had upwards of seventy miles of

tunnels laboriously hand-dug through it. Between 1863 and 1865, more than two hundred and fifty mines were in operation and hundreds more were developed thereafter. Through the seventy-odd years of mining, more than twelve ore-processing mills gleaned rich rewards in tons of gold and silver. Large stacks of gold and silver ingots were photographed for posterity. More than \$60 million dollars worth of precious metals were taken from the area between 1863 to 1934. The price ranging from \$13 to \$20 an ounce for Gold and \$.78 to \$7. an ounce for Silver. The Kenross Mine Co. began mining on top of Florida mountain operation in 1990, shut down in 2004, is one of the largest open pit gold and silver mines in the U.S. Reclamation is currently underway. The Silver Falcon Mining Co. is currently processing ore from the top of War Eagle.

Snacks, short orders, soft drinks, beer and wine, are served in the dining room. Family-style meals are available with reservations one week in advance. Please call to request family style dinner menu choices and prices. The restaurant is open 8:30-5 for the regular menu, with reservations required for dinner on the weekends and varies during the week days due to restoration projects, please call ahead of your visit.

Overnight guests should make reservations several days to a week in advance. Silver City has been without electricity since the 1940's. 12-volt lights, three showers, hand-washing sinks and several flush toilets have been added for overnight guests. The bedrooms are furnished with vintage furniture. Several rooms have propane heaters. Staying in the hotel is a first hand experience of life in the nineteenth century.

**2008 room rates from \$75.00 to \$150.00
per room - See Room Pricing insert.**

There is absolutely
NO SMOKING
allowed inside the hotel

No pets please

Directions to Silver City

To reach Silver City from the east, Exit State Highway 78 to the west, five miles south of Murphy, the present Owyhee County Seat. (If your route takes you through Murphy, be sure to visit the Owyhee County Historical Society Museum there.) Upon turning off the highway, you will encounter a few miles of paved road, then graveled road (rough in places) that winds twenty miles through desert, foothills, spectacular canyon lands and forest-covered mountains, before reaching Silver City. If you are coming from the west, exit U.S. 95 to the east through Jordan Valley, Oregon. Twenty-five miles of travel include a few miles of paved narrow county road, a few miles of improved oiled gravel road, and then a narrow, rougher dirt road that for about the last half of the trip follows Jordan Creek through canyons and mountains to Silver City.

Check locally, preferably by calling into Silver City: **IDAHO HOTEL (208) 583-4104** for road and weather conditions. The roads are closed by heavy snowfall from about November until May. Make certain that your vehicle is in good running condition, since there are no repair shops or towing services in Silver City. There are no gas stations in town, so fill your tank in Jordan Valley, OR. Dan's Ferry Service, Murphy or in Grandview, ID. Properly prepared, you will have a safe and very enjoyable visit to Silver City.

Special Dates of Interest

Opening: Saturday of Memorial weekend.

July 4th: Town celebration, horseshoe tournament, old-fashioned games. A great family get together.

Owyhee Cattlemen's Association: The last weekend in July.

Labor Day Weekend: A local tradition to be stopped by the traffic light by the local self appointed law. A judge is on hand for any disputes, fines are donation – all proceeds help fund the water system.

Silver City Open House: Ten or more private buildings open to the public for tours the second weekend after Labor Day.

The Idaho Hotel is open on the weekends from Memorial weekend to mid October, depending on the weather conditions. Restaurant & hotel operation hours vary during the weekdays. Please call ahead to check schedule.

The roads are not maintained in the winter (November to the end of May), so traffic is limited to snowmobiles, cross country skiers or ATV's only.

Silver City Area Phone Numbers:

Sinker Creek Outfitters 208.863-7960

Pats' What Not Shop 208.583-2510

Cell 208.850-5679 or 208.375-0162

Silver City Fire & Rescue 208.890-6718

Silver City Property Owners Association

P.O. Box 1196, Nampa, ID 83651

Our Lady Of Tears c/o Father Gerald Funke
at St. Pauls in Nampa 208.466-7031

Winter message phone for the Idaho Hotel
208.853-2161



Idaho Hotel circa 1890

IDAHO HOTEL

In Historic

Silver City, Idaho

"Queen of the Old Mining Towns"

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 75, Murphy, Idaho 83650

Telephone: 208.583-4104

We accept VISA and Master Card.

Please check out our web site:

www.historicsilvercityidaho.com