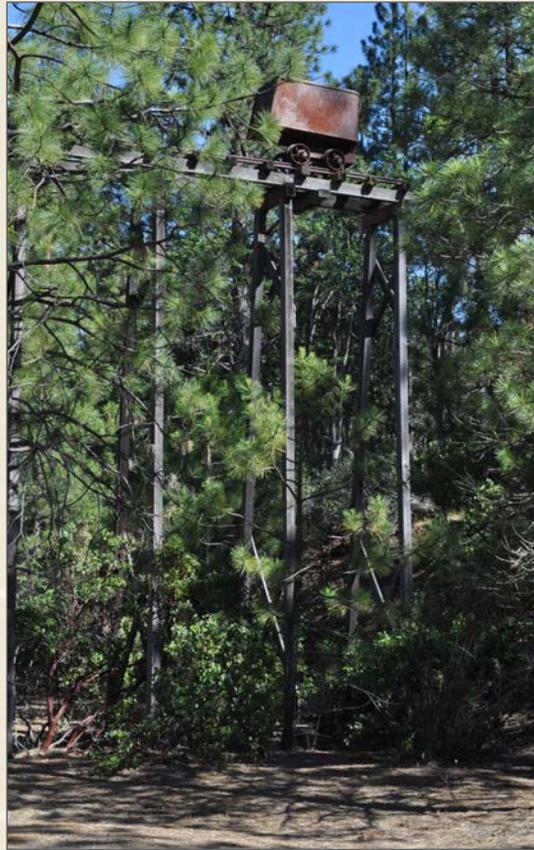


**California's gold rush** famously began in 1849, and it was only two years later, as swarms of gold-seekers poured into the state, that a traveler noticed gold flecks in the grass near what is now Discovery Park in Yreka. Mere weeks later, thousands of miners descended on "Thompson's Dry Diggings." The gold rush town they built was made of tents and shacks, but for a while was touted as the richest square mile on earth.

Greenhorn Creek had been prospected earlier, but was thought to be less productive than the Diggings--except for one lucky newcomer who did well on a claim previously abandoned by others. In his honor, the creek was named Greenhorn.

An 1881 history of Siskiyou County described activity on the creek as gradually decreasing until there were only a dozen small claims, mostly in the hands of Chinese miners. By the time new technology allowed even more gold to be extracted from the canyon, the community had found other ways to build and sustain itself.



An ore cart rides the rails to the stamp mill in the park's collection of mining equipment and historic buildings.

#### WHO CAME BEFORE?

A COMMUNITY PRIDE PROJECT OF  
SISKIYOU GARDENS, PARKS AND  
GREENWAY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 36, Yreka Ca 96097  
on the web at [www.sgpga.org](http://www.sgpga.org)

on Facebook as SiskiyouGardensParksandGreenwayAssociation



## Who Came Before?



Photo © Siskiyou County Museum

## Greenhorn Park's Mining History

## GUIDE TO THE MINING EQUIPMENT & BUILDINGS



Photo © Siskiyou County Museum

### A Water War on Greenhorn Creek

The infamous Greenhorn War of 1855 was a contest over water rights waged by two mining factions, the Yreka Flats Ditch Association and the miners on Lower Greenhorn. The miners started the fight when they cut the Ditch because it was diverting water from their claims. A local court took the side of the Yreka faction, but the Ditch was cut again. When the guilty party was arrested, Greenhorn miners sprung their compatriot from jail in a breakout. The decision of the court stood, however, and the Yreka Flats Association continued to use the water of Greenhorn Creek.

For more on the history of mining in Yreka and Siskiyou County, visit the Siskiyou County Museum and County Courthouse. Thanks to Richard Sylva and Roy Manley for information on the equipment and buildings of Greenhorn Park.



Left, a blacksmith shop and carriage house were salvaged from downtown Yreka.



The water cannon, right, was used to flush large amounts of rock and soil into sluices.



Left, from top to bottom: ore buckets hauled ore up from the mines; a one-cylinder engine was used to power a ball mill; and a gold processor was part of the ball mill process. Below, the ball mill vibrated ore to settle out the heavier gold particles.



Above, the arrastra is a primitive mill for grinding gold-bearing ores. Flat stones in the rock pit were dragged in a circle by horse or man-power. Found in Long Gulch.

Right, the stamp mill was used to crush ore before refinement in a mercury or cyanide process prior to smelting. This one came from the Mt. Ashland area.



Narrow-gauge rails carried this cart at left from the mine shaft to the mill. The water cannon, ball mill equipment, rail & cart were donated from the Osgood mine in Humbug Gulch, north-west of Yreka.