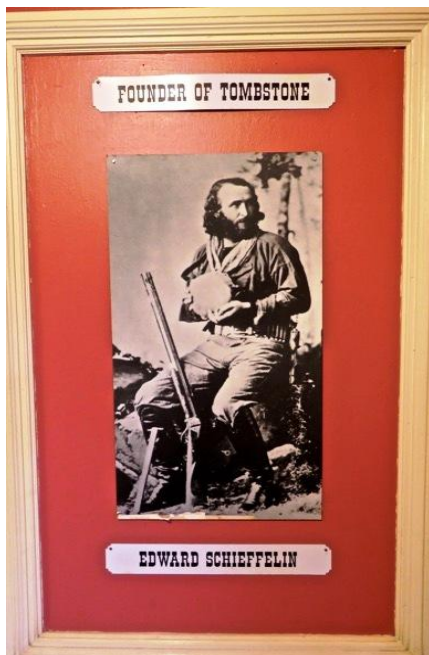




Arizona Rocks 61

Text and photos by Ray Grant

In Arizona Rocks 42, I described the mineralogy of Tombstone. After Bisbee, it is the Arizona mining district with the most different mineral species. Tombstone was mainly a silver district with 22 mines in an area of about four square miles. Over 150 different mineral species have been recorded from the Tombstone area. Today it has become a big tourist attraction mainly as an old west town and of course the home of the OK Corral. But if it wasn't for the mining the town would not be there. A really interesting tour that I did a few weeks ago was the Good Enough Mine Tour. It is right in town, goes every hour, and lasts about an hour. It is an underground walking tour and gives you a good picture of the life of the early miners.



Ed Schieffelin discovered the first silver claim in 1877 and a silver rush followed with the town and the mining activity growing fast. Millions of dollars of silver was mined in a relatively short time and when the mines got down to the water table, mining became a

problem. They tried pumping the water out, but had problems and eventually the mines shut down. But because it is “to tough to die”, Tombstone is still going strong.



Entrance to the underground mine tour



Going down in the Good Enough Mine on the tour



Tour guide demonstrates early mining methods and describes the life of the miners