



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Anderson's Map of Mt. Baker or Nooksack Mining District Whatcom County, Washington. . . .

Stock#: 71792
Map Maker: Anderson
Date: 1897 circa
Place: Seattle
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 32 x 24 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Gold Mining Near the Mount Baker Ski Area

Rare blue printed map of the mining regions of the Mt. Baker or Nooksack Mining District.

The map was drawn by a young Oliver P. Anderson, who would go on to become one of the most influential Washington mapmakers, and published here by the Kroll Map Company, who has added their label to the map.

Centered on the area north of Mount Baker and the region around the Nooksack River, the concentration of gold mining is in the area northwest of Ruth Mountain and Mt. Shuksan.

Nooksack Mining District

In 1896 the first significant discovery of lead, zinc, and silver was made in what was then known as the Shuksan or the Nooksack mining district of western Whatcom County. Near the 18 mile post on the Cascade State Trail, H. C. Wells discovered the Silver Tip vein. This discovery was followed by discoveries of gold bearing quartz to the east along the Trail, as well as in the surrounding area.

On August 23, 1897, the most important discovery of gold in the Mount Baker area was made by Jack Post, of Sumas. While prospecting with R. S. Lambert and L. G. Van Volkenberg, Post discovered the Lone Jack vein, on the southern slope of Bear Mountain above the West Fork of Silesia Creek. Gold-bearing quartz



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from the discovery assayed as high as \$10,000 per ton, and a gold rush followed; Sumas became the main outfitting town.

In the Nooksack mining district, tent cities of miners sprang up almost overnight. Gold Hill was established at the present site of Shuksan; Trail City was 2 miles east, at Swamp Creek; Wilson's Townsite was at the confluence of Ruth Creek and the Nooksack River; Gold City was at the 18 mile post on the Cascade Trail; and Union City was at the headwaters of Swamp Creek.

In 1898, at a miners' meeting in Sumas, the Mount Baker mining district was established. At that time, claim staking in western Whatcom County was not confined to the upper reaches of the North Fork of the Nooksack River. In the vicinity of Baker Lake, prospectors roamed the hills, and many claims were recorded in New Whatcom. The most well known prospector of the Baker Lake area was Joseph Morovits, who staked many claims south of Mount Shuksan and east of Mount Baker and established a homestead north of Baker Lake.

Blueprint maps

Blueprint maps were among the most popular means for the swift printing of maps for which there would be a limited demand. A blueprint map could be made and/or revised much more quickly than a lithograph, cerograph, or other printing method, and at a much lower cost.

Blueprinting as a method was invented in 1842 by John Herschel, a chemist, astronomer, and photographer. A cyanotype process, one starts by drawing on semi-transparent paper, weighted down by a top sheet of paper. The paper would be coated with a photosensitive chemical mixture of potassium ferricyanogen and ferric ammonium citrate. The paper would then be exposed to light, wherein the exposed portions turned blue and the drawn lines, protected from exposure, would remain white.

The blueprint process was an improvement on the expensive and time-consuming method of hand-tracing original documents. The technique was particularly popular with architects; by the 1890s, a blueprint was one-tenth the cost of a hand-traced reproduction. It could also be copied more quickly.

Blueprint maps began to appear as early as the 1850s and 1860s, but they really began to become the standard for mining and similar limited-purpose maps by the 1880s. The ability to create these maps quickly and at a low cost made them the standard for short-run prints, ideal for mapping mining regions in the West and for similar purposes.



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The method still exists today, but in a very limited fashion. In the 1940s, diazo prints (whiteprints or bluelines) became more popular, as they were easier to read and faster to make. The blue lines on a white background of these prints are now what most people call blueprints.

Rarity

The map is apparently unique.

Detailed Condition:

Remnant of tape around the map. Some fading at the right.