

Hi Margie:

Thanks for your reply. I've attached Mr. Marquez to this email in case he might be interested in how this all turned out.

It took some digging but I think I have come up with a reference or two for you. The fact that the Co was organized in Arizona tends to throw one off the mark as there WAS a Socorro Gold Co in Yuma Co, AZ at the same time.

SGMCo owned and operated (for a very brief period) in 1903-04 a group of mining claims in the Cat Mountain District which is located about 12 miles west of Magdalena, NM on US Highway 60. The Cat Mountain area lies north of the highway and encompasses many small veins and mineralized fault fissures, some of which do show meager gold values. The claims were among the earliest locations in the area, originally staked by E. L. Smart and Pat McLaughlin in the 1870s. The latter failed to attract development capital and the effort failed.

McLaughlin later relocated some of the claims and this time succeeded in selling them to the Socorro Gold Mining Co. SGMCo added a few claims of their own (one source says 14, another 18) and in 1902 erected a 20-stamp amalgamation/cyanide mill. The property was locally known as "The Cat Mountain Mines" and it appears SGMCo expended a considerable effort to make the enterprise pay. There were three shafts aggregating 350ft plus 2,000 feet of tunnels. Several hundred tons of ore were processed and although a small amount of gold and silver bullion was produced, the returns were insufficient to sustain the operation. After operating for a time in 1903 the mill was shut down permanently. No reason was given but its likely the ore produced was not well-suited to the amalgamation process. This was confirmed by Fayette Jones (p 125): "the Cat Mountain proposition is low grade and mainly a refractory (ie, difficult to treat) ore; the trouble appeared to be in not being able to save the values." This is born

out by noting the kinds of ore minerals present in the Cat Mountain area -- which is to say copper, lead, and zinc sulfides which show small amounts of gold and silver when assayed. However very little of that gold and silver is in the free or metallic state and is notoriously difficult to treat by amalgamation. There is no record of any successor company and SGMCo probably died a quiet death as was the case with hundreds of similar enterprises.

Now about the certificate itself: you will note in the lower left corner the inscription "GOES." This indicates that the document was printed by the Goes printing co. -- I recall the first name was Adolph. A. Goes was one of the biggest suppliers of "off-the-shelf" certificates from the mid 1890s into the early 20th century. Goes simply added the company/corporate details and whatever "stock" vignettes selected by the company. This type of cert was much less costly than those specifically and individually engraved by the various bank note outfits. Regardless your cert. appears to be in good condition, is fully signed and executed, and represents a very obscure New Mexico mining company. It would likely sell for between \$50 and \$100 on the collector's market. However since the document is issued to your grandfather it is a family heirloom and should be carefully preserved in your collection of papers.

I hope the above is of some use and interest to you. The Jones reference is as follows: Jones, Fayette, 1905, "New Mexico Mines and Minerals," NM Bureau of Immigration, Santa Fe, 346p + appendix & bibliographic section.

regards,

Bob Eveleth  
Sr. Mining Engineer



Mark and Margie Harwich wrote:

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your time into researching my stock certificate. It was a very exciting discovery among my Dad's papers. Albert Keller is my grandfather. I



INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE

TERRITORY OF ARIZONA

Shares 100

## THE SOCORRO GOLD MINING COMPANY

CAPITAL STOCK, \$500,000

500,000 SHARES

This Certifies that Albert Keller is the owner of  
One Hundred Shares of ONE DOLLAR each of the Capital Stock of

THE SOCORRO GOLD MINING COMPANY, FULLY PAID AND NON-ASSESSABLE  
 transferable only on the books of the Corporation by the holder  
 hereof in person or by Attorney upon surrender of this Certificate  
 properly endorsed.

In Witness Whereof, the said Corporation has caused this Certificate to be  
 signed by its duly authorized officers and sealed with the Seal of the Corporation.

John W. Thomas  
 SECRETARY



J. W. Thomas  
 PRESIDENT

SHARES \$1.00

EACH

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# CERTIFICATE

FOR

100

SHARES



38

OF THE

## CAPITAL STOCK

THE

### SOCORRO GOLD MINING COMPANY

ISSUED TO

*Albert Keller*

DATED

*June 6, 1903*

THE M. M. MCHEN CO., PRINTERS, PHOENIX, ARIZONA

NOTICE: THE SIGNATURE OF THE ASSIGNED  
MUST BE VERIFIED BY THE ASSIGNED  
AND THE ASSIGNED MUST BE VERIFIED  
BY THE ASSIGNED AND THE ASSIGNED  
MUST BE VERIFIED BY THE ASSIGNED

*My father, Albert Keller, being old, weak and infirm,  
has by the will of the said Albert Keller, executed by the said  
Albert Keller, and by his duly authorized and approved  
attorneys, transferred the said shares of the said mining  
company with full power of substitution in the premises,  
to me, the undersigned, to have and to hold to me, my heirs,  
executors, administrators, assigns and assigns forever.*