

Santa Fe Weekly Gazette
June 20, 1868
Elizabethtown, N. M.

NM Mine File No. 519

Dear Sir:-Much of the gold taken out is sent by the owners direct to the mint in Philadelphia, some is taken to Denver or sent to the States by express, and a good deal is held by the owners. Some of the ground is exceedingly rich.

Elizabethtown, grown up like a mushroom, in a little while, is now quite a town, with many good buildings and a decent, orderly and industrious population. It is about halfway between Cimarron and Taos, making trips regularly every second day. is a stage line connecting the two places.

A discovery of quartz lead has been made within the last few days some miles east of here, on Ute Creek. The discoverers describe the lead about 6 feet wide and say it can be traced for over 2,000 feet on the ground. Doherty showed me a specimen of the quartz. It is certainly the richest specimen I ever saw. If all is like it, one or two tons of this rock would be a fortune for anyone.

Yours truly,

M. Bloomfield

Oct. 28, 1868
Elizabethtown, N. M.

Dear Sir:- I hear today that Mr. Maxwell's quartz mill on Ute Creek is in successful operation. A Mr. Bartholomew is also engaged in putting up a quartz mill in Humbug Gulch within a mile of town. This mill is expected to be ready for crushing in about two weeks from now, and will prove a great convenience to miners, as many leads of good looking ore have been discovered in the mountains around here and this mill will serve to prospect the ore cheaply. Mr. Maxwell's mill will crush only ore from the Maxwell lead; Mr. Bartholomew's mill is intended only for custom work.

There is no mining going on now except in Willow Gulch and Spanish Bar, there being no water in the other gulches. The principal claim on Spanish Bar has changed hands and is now owned by Col. Bergman and one of the former owners.

The big ditch is progressing finely and if the weather will keep as favorable as it is now for four or five weeks longer, it will be completed this year.

Yours truly,

M. Bloomfield

In 1867 Elizabethtown got its name, grew rapidly and became a place of much importance. The chief obstacle toward progress was the lack of water to further the placer mining. The water taken from Moreno River and Comanche ~~was~~ highly insufficient. The line of the "big ditch" was surveyed and work commenced, resulting in completion of the ditch in 1868.

Santa Fe Weekly Gazette
July 18, 1867
Fernando de Taos, N. M.

Dear Sir:-Since you have manifested so much interest in the progress of these diggings, by giving publicity to all communications concerning them, I now will endeavor to give you more minute and further details of the result of a few days experience at the placer, trusting that this good news may afford some satisfaction to those that peruse the columns of your journal and also to those that have the welfare of our Territory at heart. Miners are still pouring in from every direction and going right into work. The main ditch, upon which most of the miners depend for their supply of water, will be completed by the 29th instant, when operations will commence in earnest. They are advancing with the work, very rapidly, as they have increased the number of hands from 15 to 30. This consolidated ditch company is composed of the most enterprising men of our Territory; men that have been residents here for many years and reputed for their honesty and integrity; they have been working on this ditch, under many pressing disadvantages, not having had much capital to invest on the same; but at the present writing, they are congratulated upon the success which has crowned their efforts. The dimensions of this ditch are as follows; Four miles long, five feet wide and three feet in depth, with a capacity of nearly 2,000 inches of water. The water that supplies this ditch is taken from the Moreno and Mills creeks, both of which are permanent streams. Several parties that are sluicing in this locality with a small head of sluice water, are taking out quantities of the precious metal, averaging from 10 to 15 dollars per day to each man. Another ditch has been taken out of the main stream, half a mile below the town, to supply the Spanish diggings; this is said to be now completed and full blast. Some ten days ago a party of prospectors from Colo. discovered other diggings, about three miles below the town, on Willow creek, the gold being rather coarse, and paying better than the Spanish diggings. Every foot of ground has been taken up on this new discovery. A few days ago, a party of miners went over the range into what is claimed to be Maxwell's Grant, and in prospecting near Mr. Maxwell's Saw Mill in the Cimarron Canon, they struck a very good prospect; they had staked off claims and were about to commence to take out a ditch when Mr. Maxwell ordered them off his land; they left there, but to return again at no distant day, as most of them are men that understand the miner's privileges, under the U. S. mining laws.

Yours truly,

M. Bloomfield