

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

It has been said history is written by the victors.

What is also true is that in the writing and telling of history, it is the exceptional, the different, the defining people and events that are narrated.

Britannia's history suffers this affliction. The stories of the people that founded and shaped the Mine and its Communities are well represented.



What has been lacking is the recounting of our history through the eyes of everyone else that made Britannia into what it was.



With 'In Their Own Words' we are presenting excerpts from the aural histories of people that called Britannia home and historic documents.

The histories selected capture the wide range of people found at Britannia to the best of our abilities.

We are presenting the memories and opinions of a wide range of people that called Britannia



home on topics that reflect the uniqueness of this place as well as the attitudes of the times in which these people lived.

WOMEN UNDERGROUND

THE REQUEST TO ALLOW WOMEN IN THE MINE

In the last year of the Mine's life, the possibility of women working underground was just beginning to be considered.

Anaconda (the Mine's owner at the time) made a request to the provincial Mines Inspector (representing the Minister of Mines, responsible for mine regulations) to employ a woman as a geologist underground.

The request was approved with the requirement for more frequent medical examinations since the effects of the underground on women were not known.

The letters are included in this document. Read them with your class.



What do these letters tell us about the attitudes of the era?



Discuss how attitudes towards women in mining have changed.

For more information on women in mining today, visit our Careers in Mining blog at:

<http://www.bcmm.ca/careers-in-mining>

Other examples can be found at:

<http://www.miningaustralia.com.au/features/q-and-a-with-a-dump-truck-driver>

<http://barrickbeyondborders.com/2012/06/women-making-strides-in-mining/>

http://www.beyondthemine.com/2012/inspiring_our_people/diversity_and_global_inclusion/women_in_the_workforce



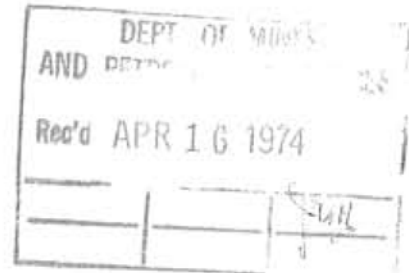
ANACONDA BRITANNIA MINES

DIVISION OF ANACONDA CANADA LIMITED

BRITANNIA BEACH, B.C. V0N 1J0 PHONE (604) 896-2221

April 9, 1974.

Mr. J. W. Peck,
Chief Inspector of Mines,
Department of Mines and
Petroleum Resources,
1837 Fort Street,
Victoria, B. C.



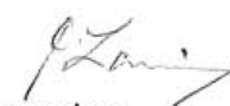
Dear Mr. Peck:

We wish to make application for your approval under Section 17(3) of the Mines Regulation Act to employ a female underground.

She is Mrs. Catherine Taylor Aimone, aged 25. Mrs. Aimone will be employed as a Geological Assistant, and it is not anticipated that her duties will require her to work underground more than once a month, and in all probability considerably less. Mrs. Aimone holds a B.Sc. degree in Geological Engineering and has been previously employed as a Geological Technician at Steep Rock Iron Mines, Atikokan, Ontario.

We trust that you will be able to give us the necessary approval.

Yours very truly,


J. Lovering,
Manager.

RDC/je

April 19, 1974.

Mr. J. Lovering,
Manager,
Anasconda Britannia Mines,
Britannia Beach, B.C.
VON LJO

Dear Sir:

With reference to your letter of April 9th I would advise that it is in order to employ Mrs. Catherine Taylor Almone as a geologist assistant underground at Britannia.

For the employment of women underground our Department is asking that they be medically examined on an annual basis rather than two years which is permitted under Section 18 of the Mines Regulations Act. We do not know if environmental conditions underground such as high humidity, lack of sunshine, possible fumes, have any different effect on females and thus we should set up a record to determine this.

Yours very truly,

JWP:ln

J.W. Peck, P.Eng.
Chief Inspector of Mines.