

Library Branch Mines (Bob Ciminell ©2012)

Continuing beyond Montour No. 10 mine at Library, the Montour Railroad continued eastward to Gould (Milepost 39.42) where it entered the Pennsylvania Railroad's Peters Creek Branch. The Montour used the Peters Creek Branch as far as Penmont (Milepost 39.97) where it diverged back onto its own tracks to reach the B&O interchange at Snowden (Milepost 40.77).

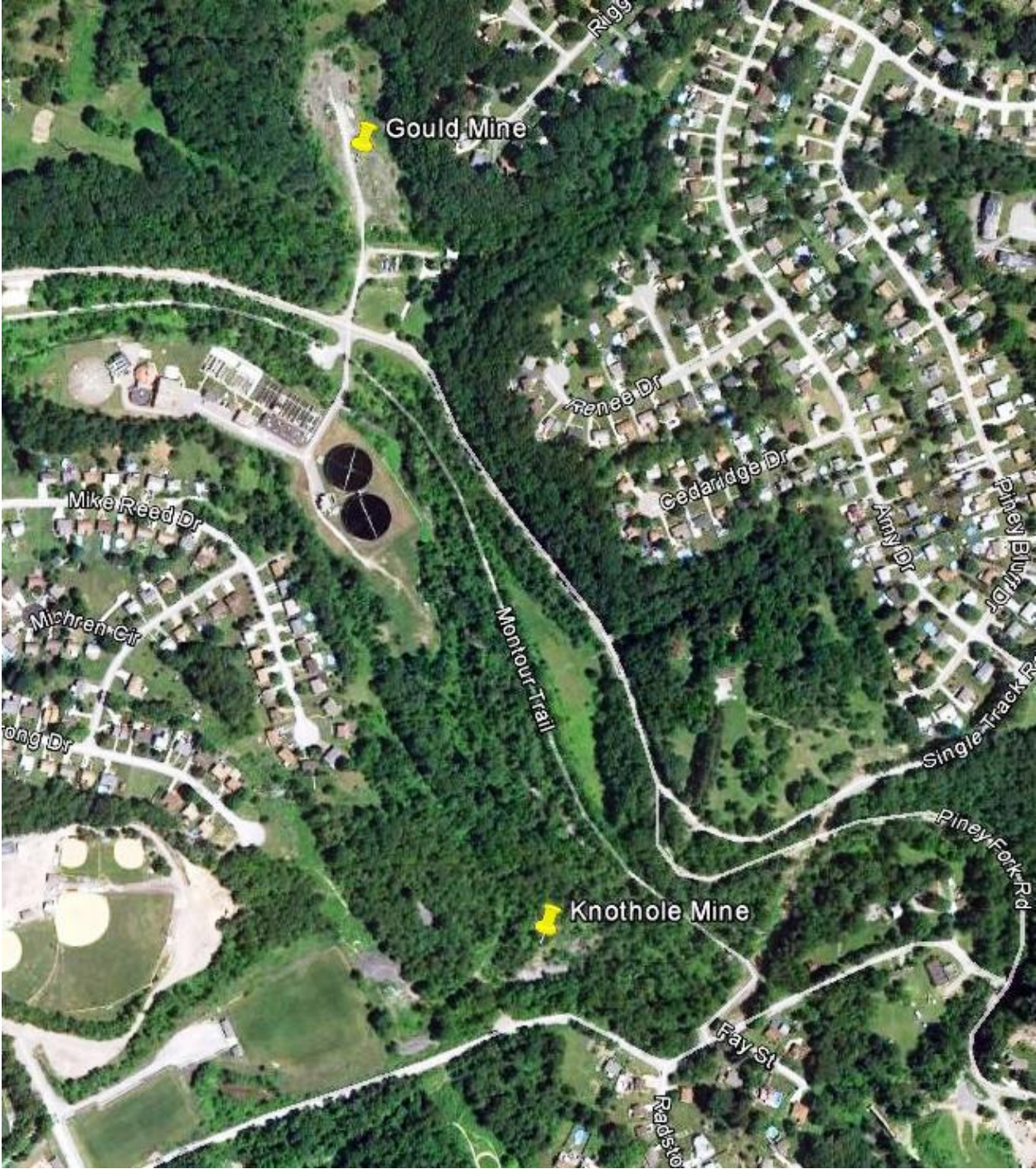
There were two mines along this portion of the Montour, but they were serviced by the PRR.

The Gould Mine was operated by the Consumers Fuel Company in 1919, which changed its name to the Bertha Consumers Fuel Company in 1923.

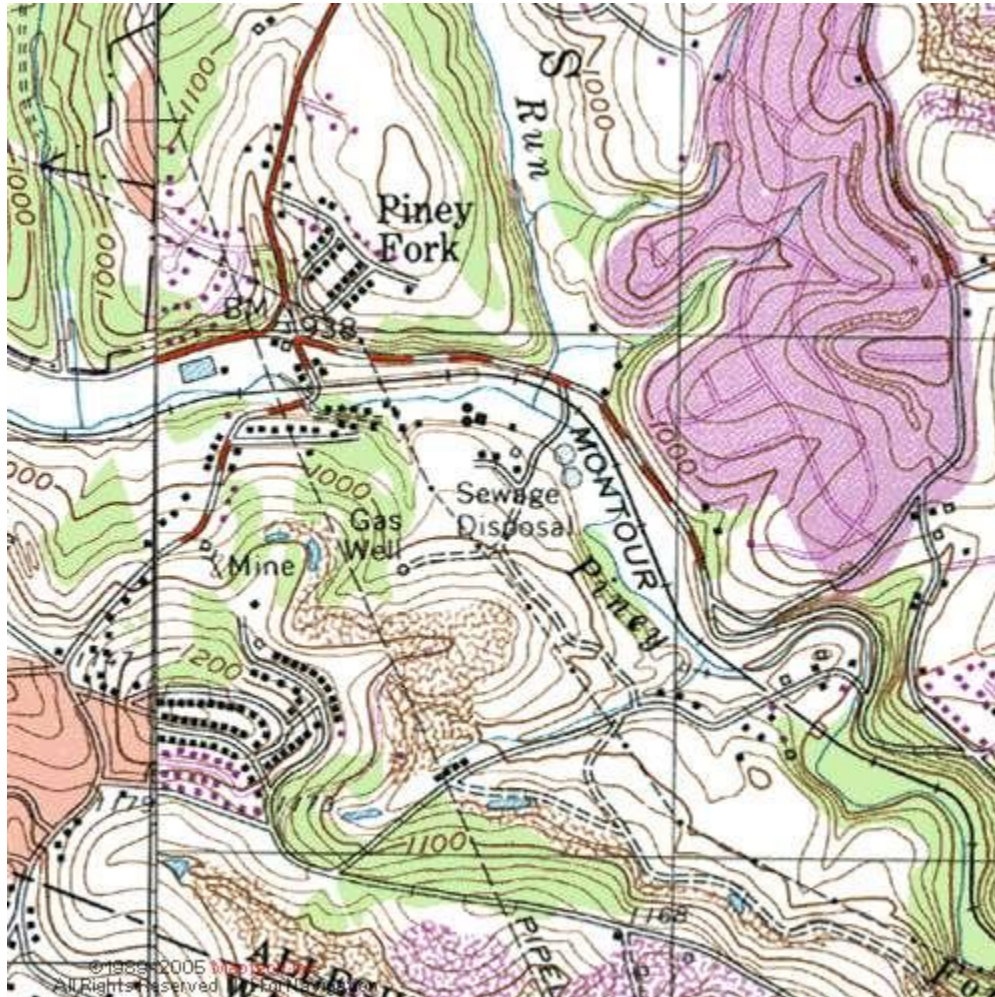
The Knothole Mine, which was independently-owned and operated by the Breznell family, also had a tipple on the Peters Creek Branch on the section of track used by the Montour. Knothole operated between 1913 and 1939. The miners' village was called Knothole and consisted of 16 company houses in the "upper and lower patches." The former Knothole Mine site is now South Park Township's Evans Park. (Source: "Living in ... Knothole," Margaret Smykla, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, December 1, 1999)

The following maps and images describe these last two mines on the Library branch.

This Google Earth image shows the area where the Gould and Knothole mines were located. The thin white line next to the sewage treatment plant is the former Montour Railroad right-of-way.



This is a topographic map of the area shown above. The village of Piney Fork was the miners' village for Gould Mine. Along the Montour tracks, below the "y" in *Piney*, you can see the siding for the Knothole tipple. The actual entry for the Knothole Mine was above the small cluster of houses on the northwest side of Triphammer Road.



This 1938 aerial photo shows the village of Piney Fork and two of the waste dumps for the Gould Mine. The Montour tracks enter at the lower right, curve around Piney Fork and exit and center left. The Knothole siding and tipple are in the lower right. Knothole's "lower patch" is at the curve on Triphammer Road at lower right; the "upper patch" is the cluster of homes at lower center.



This enlargement shows the Knothole tipple with a string of coal cars in the siding.



This mine map shows the Montour/B&O interchange at Snowden and the Knothole and Gould Mines.

