

Cedar Wax Wing
"The Berry Birds"

California Quail

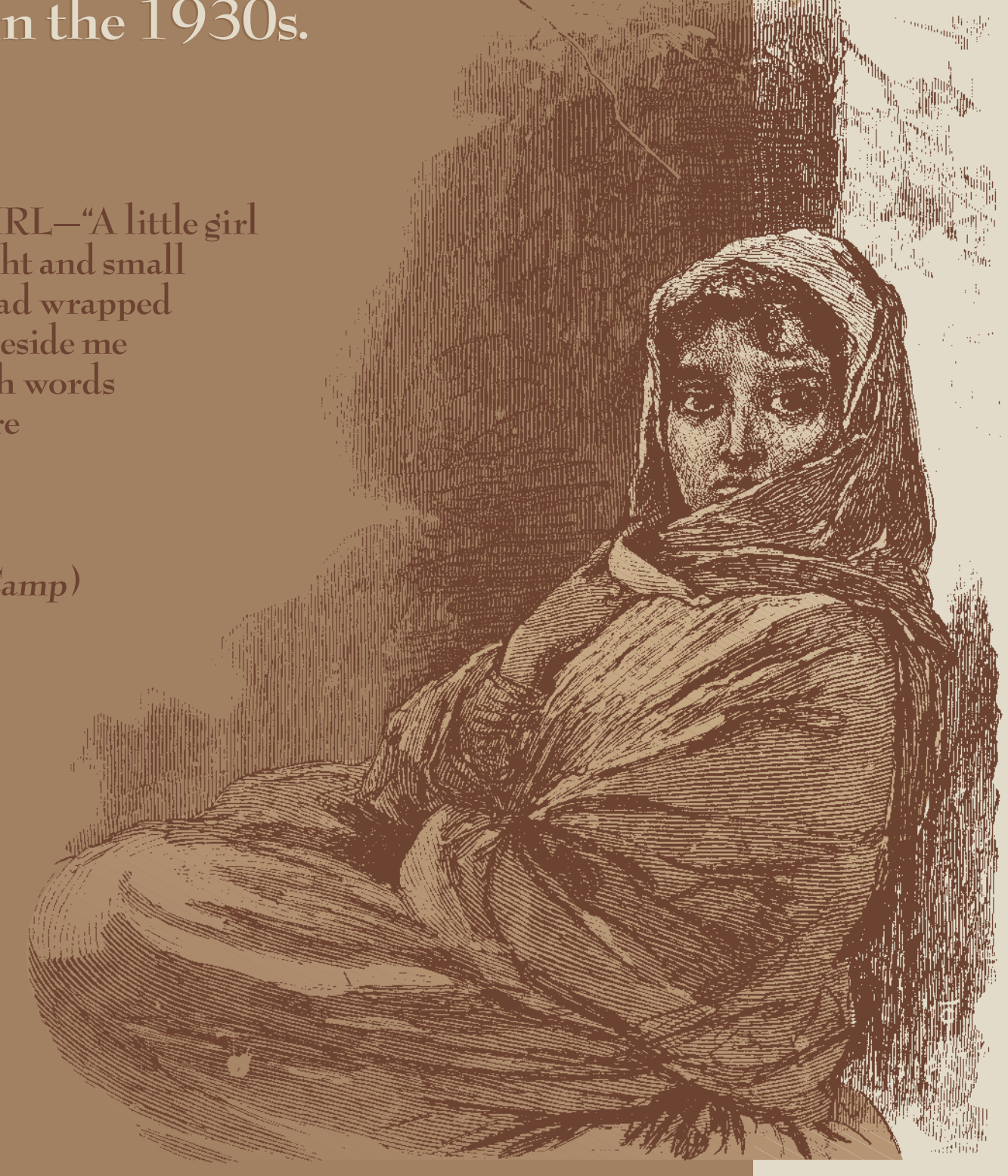
NEW ALMADEN'S FIRST MINING SETTLEMENT

Established in December, 1845, Spanishtown developed as Indians, Californios and immigrants from Peru, Argentina and Mexico built their homes on the hill above Deep Gulch. Cinnabar was first mined from a nearby cave known to local Indians. Later, in 1850, Mine Hill's Main Tunnel was built about 200 feet below this cave.

As Spanishtown grew, the Catholic Church, general store and boarding houses occupied the top of the hill. All buildings were company-owned, though many families embellished their cottages with white fences, vegetable and flower gardens. Where space would allow, yards also contained chickens, a cow, mule or burro. Less fortunate homes clung to rocky slopes, accessible only by a narrow footpath.

The town was abandoned about 1912 when the Quicksilver Mining Company entered bankruptcy. The Army Corps of Engineers removed most traces of Spanishtown in the 1930s.

MEXICAN CAMP GIRL—"A little girl named Amelia, too slight and small to carry the child she had wrapped in an old shawl, stood beside me and told me the Spanish words for rock, sky and picture and the names of her brothers and sisters."
(Mary Hallock Footé's *A California Mining Camp*)



SPANISH TOWN



HOME OF A MEXICAN MINER, 1885—These redwood dwellings are typical of homes that accommodated miners and their families. Miners paid \$5.00 per month to live here. On the knoll in the background is the Guadalupe cemetery. (Bulmore Photo)



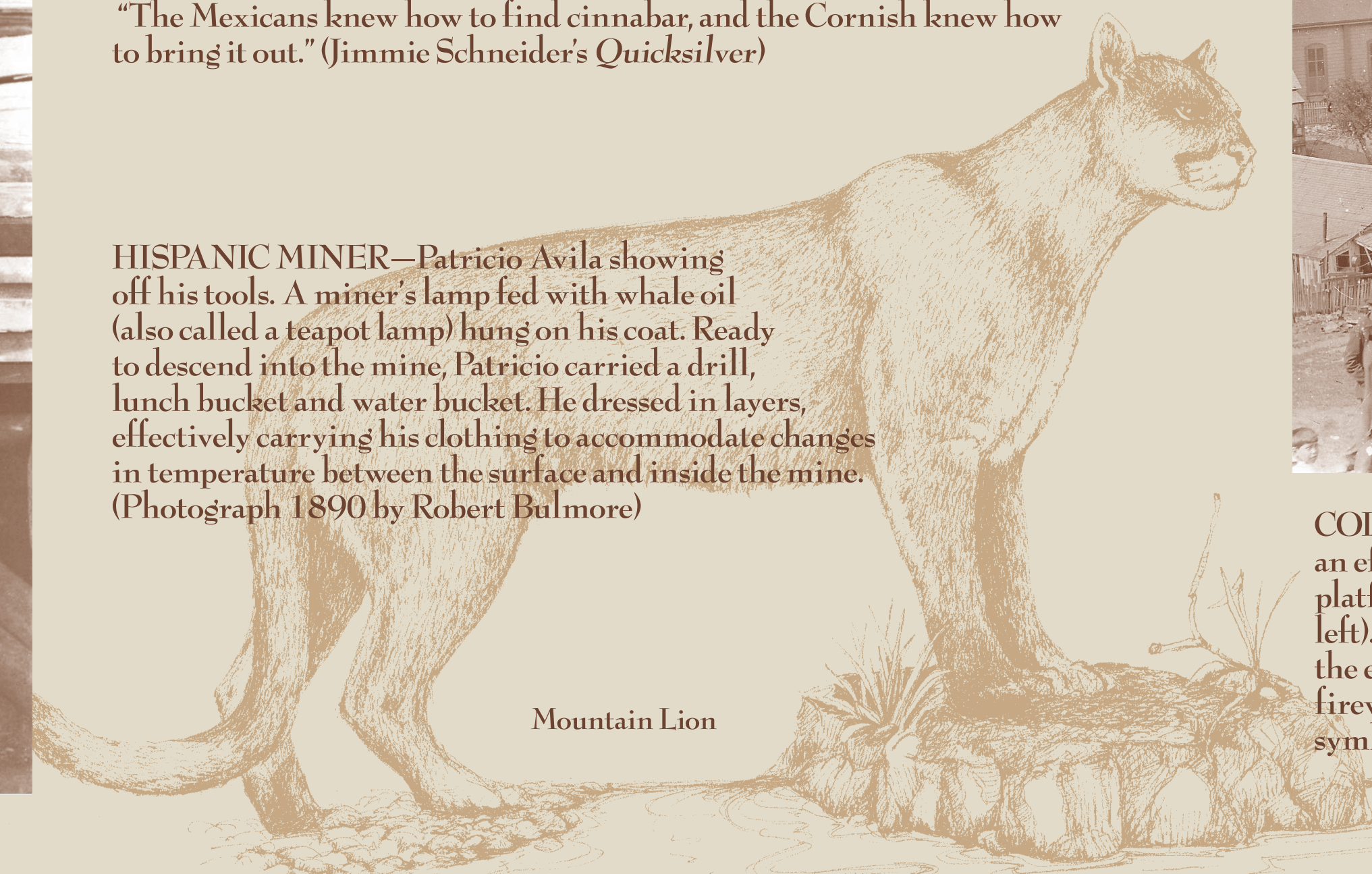
SPANISHTOWN—Deep Gulch, to the left, is situated at the base of Mine Hill. The Catholic Church is at the upper center. Early inhabitants were workers transported from Mexico by Barron, Forbes and Company. "The Mexicans knew how to find cinnabar, and the Cornish knew how to bring it out." (Jimmie Schneider's *Quicksilver*)



HISPANIC MINER—Patricio Avila showing off his tools. A miner's lamp fed with whale oil (also called a teapot lamp) hung on his coat. Ready to descend into the mine, Patricio carried a drill, lunch bucket and water bucket. He dressed in layers, effectively carrying his clothing to accommodate changes in temperature between the surface and inside the mine. (Photograph 1890 by Robert Bulmore)



COLGANTE DE JUDAS—Each year Mexicans paraded an effigy of Judas through Spanishtown, ending at a platform near St. Anthony's Catholic Church (upper left). After the crowd gathered around, they strung up the effigy, filling with it fireworks and a cat. The fireworks were lit and the frightened cat released, symbolizing the release of Judas' soul. (Bulmore Photo)



Mountain Lion



SANTA CLARA
COUNTY PARKS
parkhere.org