



Placer Miners Prospecting New Strike
pen and ink, circa 1922

THE YOGO SAPPHIRE / THE GREAT AMERICAN SAPPHIRE

A century ago, no one went to the Little Belt Mountains looking for sapphires. The interest was so strong for gold and gold alone that most miners who found the little blue pebbles in their diggings simply threw them back into the creek without further thought. But Jake Hoover enters the picture again...picking the stones up almost as an afterthought to gold-mining operations, Hoover and his partners eventually packed them in a cigar box and sent them to Tiffany & Company, where they caught the attention of America's foremost gem authority, Dr. Frederick Kunz.

The Yogo Sapphire mines have a long and colorful history and to this day continue to produce these beautiful gems. While many sapphires from around the world are heated to turn blue, the Yogo sapphires are renowned and treasured for their natural cornflower blue color. Yogo sapphires are featured in the British Crown Jewel Collection.

If the urge to prospect strikes you, the Yogo dike that bears these beautiful gems is on private property! Please don't trespass.

