

# Vernon Pick



## Two Rivers Mill to Delta Uranium Mine

by  
Mary Warner

Vernon Pick: Two Rivers Mill to Delta Uranium Mine  
© 2021 Morrison County Historical Society

All rights reserved. No portion of this work may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews.

All photos are from the collections of the Morrison County Historical Society, Little Falls, MN.

[www.morrisoncountyhistory.org](http://www.morrisoncountyhistory.org)

Layout & design by Mary Warner

# **Vernon Pick**

## **Two Rivers Mill to Delta Uranium Mine**

**by**  
**Mary Warner**

Published by the  
Morrison County Historical Society  
Little Falls, Minnesota  
2021



## Vernon Pick and Popular Culture

I recently asked Grace Duxbury, museum assistant for the Morrison County Historical Society, if she had ever heard of Vernon Pick. I was surprised and delighted to find out that she had, but the source of her knowledge on Pick was unusual. She had heard his name on the video game “Fallout 4.”

I was intrigued. Having run across Vernon Pick’s name in conjunction with the Two Rivers Mill in Morrison County and his subsequent discovery of a uranium mine out west, I was curious as to how he ended up in a video game. Grace explained that he was mentioned in an old song called “Uranium Fever” that was used in the game.

“Well I took my Geiger and I started to climb  
Right up to the top where I thought I’d find  
A hunk of rock that would make it click  
Just like I’d read about Vernon Pick” (1)

“Fallout 4” is part of the series of role-playing games that started with “Fallout: A Post Nuclear Role Playing Game,” created by Tim Cain and released by Interplay Productions in 1997. (2) “Fallout 4” was developed by Bethesda Game Studios and released in 2015. (3)

Because the games are based on the aftereffects of nuclear devastation, they use 1940s-1950s Atomic Era styling and music, including the song “Uranium Fever” by Elton Britt, an American country music singer, songwriter, and yodeler. The song was originally released circa 1955, only a few years after Vernon Pick found the Delta uranium mine that would make him a very wealthy man. (4, 5)

Where did Vernon Pick come from and how does his uranium mine

discovery intersect with Morrison County history? Let's back up a bit and tell that story.

## Vernon Pick's Life Before Two Rivers

Vernon James Pick was born October 25, 1903, in Columbus, Wisconsin, to Fred and Dora Pick. (6, 7) The family lived in Wisconsin for the early years of Vernon's life, with the family appearing in Warroad, Minnesota, by the time Vernon was 16, according to the 1920 U.S. Federal Census. (8)

Vernon completed one year of high school, then left home at the age of 17. "He tried a little of everything. Mostly they were jobs in which he could use his already good practical knowledge of electricity." (9) He enlisted in the marines in December 1921, serving in South Carolina, New York, Haiti, Virginia, and Connecticut. He was dishonorably discharged and court martialled in c. 1924/25 due to "BAD" character and served time in Naval prisons in California and New Hampshire. (10) Upon reading later descriptions of Vernon's approach to life, I suspect his independent nature was incompatible with the Marine Corps' expectations.

In 1927, after his time in the military, Vernon "returned to the far north and got a job as an electrician with the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. at Flin Flon, Canada. He got the job by being able to repair the company's radio transmitter at The



### VERNON PICK

#### Does What He Likes

Here's a man who does what he likes to do—because he has six million dollars "cold and clean." Vernon Pick, now 53, came by the money by selling a uranium mine in Utah for nine millions. His take-home net was six millions.

**The iconic photo of Vernon Pick from when he was mining for uranium.**

**This appeared in the Little Falls Daily Transcript on March 20, 1957, but also appears in numerous sources online.**

Pas [Canada], it's only contact with the outside.” (11) Flin Flon was founded in 1927 so the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company could mine copper and zinc, which means that Vernon was in the town from its beginnings and tangentially around mining operations while working as an electrician. (12) He stayed three years, saving the money he earned “with the idea in mind of setting up a motor rewinding shop in some eastern [United States] industrial center.” (13)

Before putting that dream into action, he stopped at his parents' house, appearing on the 1930 census in Fred and Dora's household with his wife Ercyl. Try as I might, I could not find documentation of this marriage, which was Vernon's first. The 1930 census indicates he was 24 at the time of his first marriage, which would put the approximate wedding year at 1928. (14)

Ercyl (Squire) Pick was born February 28, 1908, to Sylvester B. and Isabel Squire in Roseau County, MN. Both the Squire and Pick families were living in the small town of Warroad, MN, during the 1920 and 1930 censuses, so proximity likely played a role in bringing them together. (15, 16, 17)

On November 4, 1930, they had a daughter, Virginia Ruth, who was born in Hennepin County, MN. (18) Virginia's birth location shows that they had moved on to start Vernon's next venture, a motor rewinding shop. According to an article recapping Vernon's life, even though 1930 was on the cusp of the Depression Era, the business did well because “[o]wners of electrical equipment who in better days would have thrown away their old motors and bought new sent them to Pick to be rewound.” (19) He eventually purchased a building at 215 East Lake Street in Minneapolis for his business. The Pick family lived at 4432 Aldrich Avenue, Minneapolis at the time of the 1940 census. (20)

“About 1940, Pick became enamored of an idea that was to grow into one of the most unusual enterprises in the country. He thought [sic] of developing his own self-sustaining community, akin in some ways to some of the old communal setups like Oneida community and the Amana society but without the socialistic trimmings. ... He began looking for a mill-site, where he could develop his own power.” (21)

The mill site he found was in Morrison County at Two Rivers, “an abandoned flour mill, dating from just after the Civil war, and a dam, long since broken down, a generous parcel of land and three old houses.” (22)

## Two Rivers Mill Site

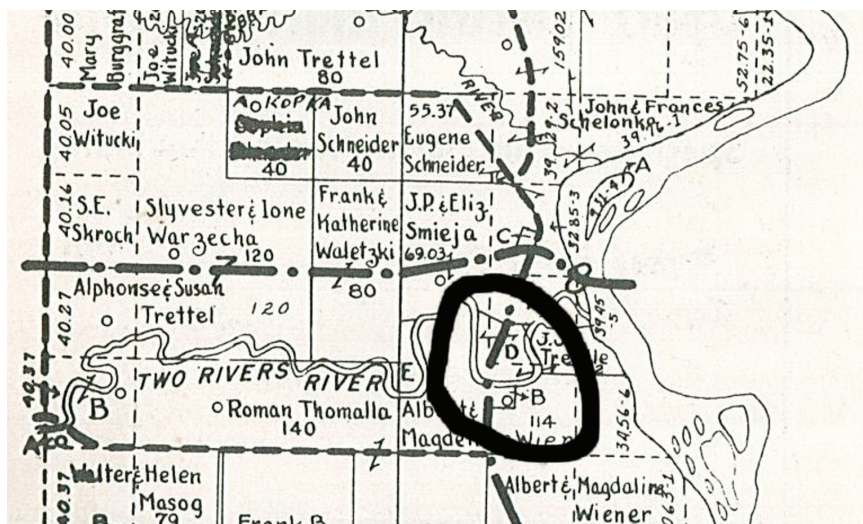
Vernon Pick purchased his first piece of property, fifteen acres, in Two Rivers Township, Morrison County, MN, on June 22, 1942. It was in Section 8 of the township (T127N, R29W), and he bought it from William B. Hall for \$1,100. He purchased another fifteen acres from Royal Hall a few days later, on June 26, 1942, for the same amount. (23) In 1943, 1946, 1950, and 1951, he bought additional pieces of property in the same section, selling a small portion in 1951 for \$1,500. (24) It appears that much of the property in this section was divided into smaller lots and that Vernon was attempting to bring together contiguous properties on both sides of the Two Rivers River. This would make operating a dam across the river more convenient.

Though these property purchases were filed at the County Recorder’s Office on the above dates, the *Little Falls Daily Transcript* reported that Vernon had “purchased the 65-year-old Carnes flour mill at Two Rivers” a month earlier, in mid-May of 1942. The tiny item in the newspaper went on to say that Pick “plans to tear down the mill and build a residence for himself and family and a locker plant. He plans also to rebuild the Two Rivers dam and utilized the water power to generate electricity to operate the locker plant.” (25)

Vernon started on his plans to create a self-sustaining property immediately, without tearing down the mill. After his purchase, “[d]uring the summers for the next few years, Mr. Pick made his own cement blocks and erected a small power house. He built a 60-foot dam to raise the water level of the old mill pond. He installed a 60-horsepower turbine and other electrical-generating equipment. He cleaned and repaired the two mill buildings. He installed a steam heating system for his shop and woodworking plant.” (26)

The July 2, 1949, issue of the *Little Falls Daily Transcript* reported, “About three years ago, he and Mrs. Pick moved into one of the three

old houses on the 30-acre tract. And there they began living the life they had dreamed about for many years.” (27) This Mrs. Pick was Vernon’s second wife. He married Ruth Fredrika Elvira Johnson, daughter of Carl P. and Fredrika Johnson, in Hennepin County on June 13, 1947. Ruth was born in Warba, MN, on April 11, 1911. (28, 29)



Portion of 1958 Two Rivers Township, Morrison County, MN, plat map showing property owned by Vernon Pick. Letters “B” and “D” in the circled area are Vernon’s property. “Plat Book of Morrison County, Minnesota,” published by General Land Company, Pierz, Minnesota, July 1958.

Together, they had ambitious plans for the Two Rivers property. On April 13, 1946, Vernon registered his business name, Two Rivers Company, with the State of Minnesota. (30) Along with operating a motor repair shop, he started a furniture factory in “a three-story mill structure,” and made a loom out of oak trees, “following a plate in one of the books in his library” as inspiration. Vernon and Ruth planned to make draperies and other fabrics using the loom. Vernon was also interested in having a potter’s wheel. Ruth took care of the gardens and canning, putting up fruits and vegetables for the family. They were also reclaiming materials from one of the old houses on the property in order to build a new house. (31) In addition, Vernon and his daughter Virginia ran a printing press on the property. (32)

## History of the Two Rivers Mills

News articles discussing Vernon Pick's ventures at the old Two Rivers mill are clear and consistent in stating that he had purchased the old grist (flour) mill formerly owned by Robert K. Carnes, but there were actually three mills in close proximity in Section 8 of Two Rivers Township.

The first mill, a sawmill, was built by Calvin A. Tuttle in the late 1860s. For those familiar with the beginnings of Little Falls, MN, Tuttle's name

might ring a bell. He was partners with James Fergus and William Sturgis in founding the Little Falls Company in 1854. Fergus, Tuttle, and Sturgis took over the Little Falls dam and sawmill operations begun by James Green and his copartners. (33) When this company went bust, Fergus went to Montana to search for gold. This story is told in "The Gold Rush Widows of Little Falls" by Linda Peavy and Ursula Smith.



**Two Rivers Mill, copy photo by W.E. Christnagel. Photo from Morrison County Historical Society Collections, #0.0.357.**

Tuttle was a millwright by trade

and had built mills in Maine, Illinois, and at St. Croix Falls, St. Anthony Falls, and Minnetonka before coming to Little Falls. The failed Little Falls project left him destitute. "Having lost heavily by high water & through association with those who deserted him & left him to pay all debts, he was obliged to start again as a poor man in a small place called Two Rivers, Minn. 12 miles from Little Falls, where he built another sawmill & his wife was appointed post mistress from 1867 to 1881." (34)

## **YOUNG BROS.' FLOURING MILL,**

**TWO RIVERS, MINN.**

We give notice to the citizen of Morrison county that we have our Flouring Mill refitted and in good running order and are prepared to

**Grind Your Grain**

**on Short Notice.**

We will endeavor to give satisfaction to all who favor us with their custom.

**YOUNG BROS.**

**Young Bros.' Flouring Mill, Two Rivers, Minn. -**

**Advertisement from Little Falls Transcript,**

**October 26, 1883.**

According to property records at the Morrison County Recorder's Office, it was Calvin's wife, Charlotte (Minkler) Tuttle who purchased the property at Two Rivers, acquiring 233.97 acres in April 1864 for \$200. (35) Why the property was in Charlotte's name rather than Calvin's is an open question. He did not gain any ownership of her property until after her death and received it through probate. (36, 37) Far more historical information is available on Calvin than on Charlotte. Even her obituary has more space devoted to Calvin's achievements than hers. (38)

In September 1875, Charlotte sold sixteen acres of the Two Rivers property to Thomas M. Young et. al. The following year, Thomas Young sold this acreage to Milo N. Young et. al. Charlotte sold more property in this section to James and Thomas Young in 1878 and 1879. (39) According to the *History of the Upper Mississippi Valley*, it was the Young family, headed by Captain Robert B. Young, with his sons

Thomas, James, and Milo, who built the Two Rivers flour mill in 1875. (40) About five years after constructing the flour mill, the Youngs built a sawmill at Two Rivers. (41)

The Young family ran their mills for many years. In 1885, they made “[a] large number of improvements costing several thousand dollars” in the flour mill, including “a system of rollers” and new machinery of “the latest kind,” putting the daily capacity at about 60 barrels of flour. (42)

In April 1894, the newspaper reported a new owner of the Youngs’ mills.

“Royalton Banner: Rob. Carnes came up from St. Paul last Saturday and remained till Monday. His mother has come in possession of the Young grist mill at Two Rivers and Robert contemplates putting it in running repair. The reporter was unable to see him and get the details of his plan, but we learn from others that the old saw mill, which is a part of the property, will also be repaired and put in running order and a starch factory built. Warren Milberry, of this village, will go into business with him. Both boys are hustlers and we have no doubt will build up a good business.” (43)

Robert’s mother, Elizabeth A. Carnes, first acquired property in Section 8 of Two Rivers Township from the Sheriff of Morrison County on March 11, 1893. (44) When looking through Morrison County’s property ledger for Section 8 of Two Rivers Township, it soon becomes apparent that specific pieces of property are difficult to follow because they change ownership quickly and/or family members are transferring pieces to one another. Such was the case between Robert and his mother Elizabeth, with Elizabeth also acquiring property from several different people. It also appears that Robert is buying and selling property in the same section. Some of this is borne out by news reports regarding the mill.

After Robert got the mill started, it was subleased to C.D. Boom & Son by 1898. (45)

“The time of Mr. Boom’s lease on the Two River [sic] mill

# FLOUR and FEED, Baled Hay, Etc.

We have just opened a first-class Flour and Feed store and solicit a share of the public patronage. We manufacture the popular brands.....

North Star, Fancy Patent, best in the city.

Viola, B. and B's Leader, equal to any 80 per cent patent.

Wild Rose, guaranteed Honest Straight.

Piekarski, Fancy, clear.

Bakers.....

Also Corn Meal, Graham, strictly pure Rye and Buckwheat flour. Ground Feed, Bran and Shorts, Screenings, etc.

We offer our goods both wholesale and retail for Cash as low as the lowest.....

## Two Rivers Milling Co.

Remember the place, **VASALY BLK.** Next to **Diamond Sign.**

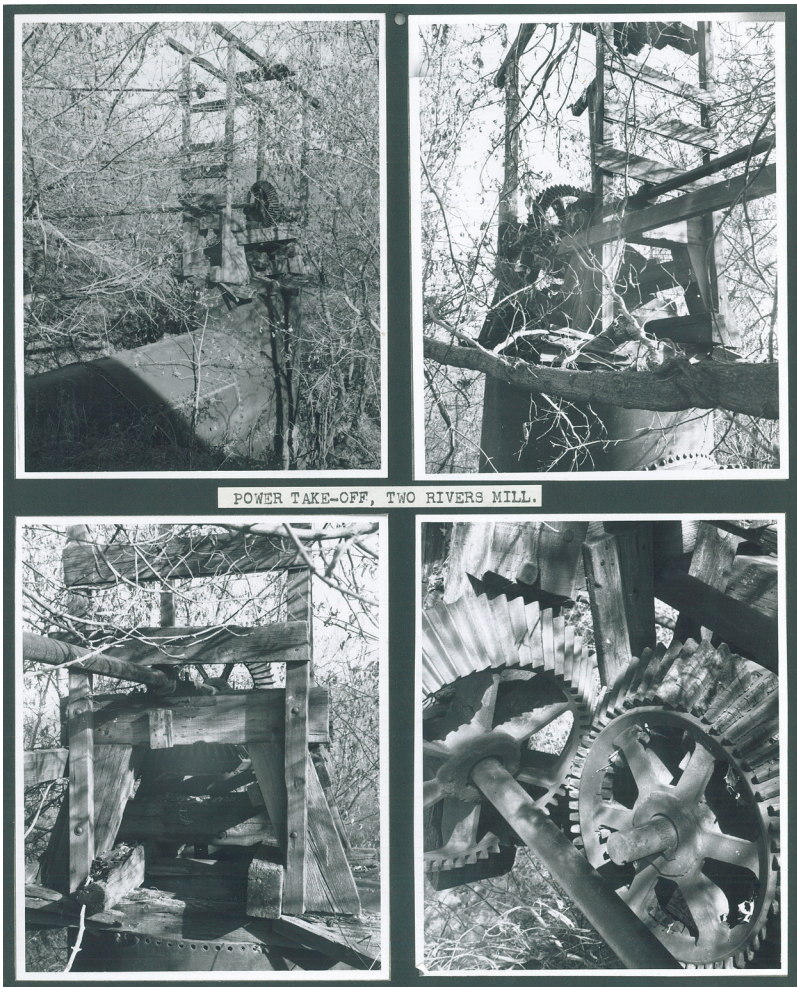
Two Rivers Milling Company ad announcing the opening of a flour and feed store in the Vasaly Block, Little Falls, MN. Ad from the Little Falls Herald, January 28, 1898.

expires on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. [October 1898] As to who will run the mill hereafter is uncertain, but it is likely that Boom will renew the contract. The mill has a very good location in fact, the location itself is worth \$1,000 every year, because it gives the manager a chance to economize on account of its excellent water facilities.” (46)

News reports in December 1898 show that Robert was still involved in the mill, “[making] two daring attempts last Tuesday in trying to get a load of flour to Royalton but was obliged to return each time on account of snow drifts” and through his “[intention] to purchase some new machinery to be placed in the Two River [sic] mill.” (47) The same month, it was reported that “Andrew Olson will run the engine in the Carnes’ flour mill at Two Rivers, this winter.” (48)

Other millers at the Two Rivers mill included Joseph Wiener, a Mr. Masz, Arthur B. Love, and a Mr. Carpenter. (49, 50, 51)

In the spring of 1905, Robert Carnes moved back to Two Rivers from Royalton in order to run the mill and expand into producing



**Power take-off, Two Rivers mill, copy photo by W.E. Christnagel. Photo from Morrison County Historical Society collections, #0.0.358.**

electricity using power from the dam and a dynamo to light the mill, and the house and barn on the property. (52, 53)

By 1907, he had completed a “farmers’ telephone line between Royalton and Little Falls,” which included “25 miles of telephone lines, centering at his mill in Two Rivers, and operating in four different towns.” (54)

In January 1908, “John Wiener [had] taken charge of the Two

Rivers flour mill engine, which [had] not been run for the past two years.” (55) In June of 1909, it was reported that the “Weiner [sic] saw and planing mills at Two Rivers were destroyed by fire early Thursday morning of last week.” (56) It would take more research to figure out whether the sawmill was the one built by Calvin Tuttle or the Young family.

In September 1909 it was reported that “R.K. Carnes has sold his flour mill at Two Rivers to Andrew Hingen [also spelled Hinjen and Hinjum] and John Sjoberg of Royalton, who will take possession at once.” (57) Carnes and his family moved into John Sjoberg’s house in Royalton while Hingen and Sjoberg moved to the mill site. (58, 59)

The next owner of the Two Rivers mill was Martin Lober, who purchased it in 1917 from John Sjoberg. (60) Martin paid \$9,000 for the 16.7-acre site. (61) Martin appears to have turned around and sold the property back to Robert Carnes in 1918, whence Robert and his family moved

back to the mill site and he continued his efforts to bring electricity to the area, including investigating electrifying the village of Bowlus. (62, 63, 64) In 1920, electricity from the Two Rivers mill was brought from Bowlus to North Prairie. (65)

---

### **BOWLUS MAY GET POWER FROM TWO RIVERS MILL.**

**Bowlus Advance:—**The commercial club held its regular meeting Monday evening and matters of some importance were considered. Mr. R. K. Carnes, owner of the Two Rivers mill is willing to furnish this village with electric lights from his dam at the mill and the club decided to look the matter up. A number of the members are going down to the mill Sunday afternoon to acquaint themselves with the situation.

---

Article on Robert Carnes’ efforts to furnish electricity to Bowlus, MN, from the Two Rivers mill dam, Little Falls Herald, March 15, 1918.

Robert Carnes couldn’t seem to quit the Two Rivers mill property, being drawn back again and again. He was born in Missouri in 1872 and moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, with his family when he was four. He

graduated with a law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1894. He became familiar with the Royalton area through his grandfather Jewett Norris, who dealt in real estate and owned property in Morrison County, including in Section 8 of Two Rivers Township. He bounced between practicing law and running the mill, living at the mill site for the last time between 1936 and 1943, after which he moved to Royalton, where he remained until he died in 1955. (66, 67)

This brings us to the point at which Vernon Pick purchased the Two Rivers mill property, the first piece of which he bought in 1942, and none of it directly from Robert Carnes, so there is a discrepancy between his purchase date and the last reported year that Robert lived on the property (1943).

## Disaster and Unexpected Opportunity

Vernon Pick and his second wife, Ruth, and his daughter, Virginia, were living their dream life running their own creative enterprises at the Two Rivers mill site when disaster struck. The mill burned May 9, 1951. “The fire was discovered about 5:30 [p.m.] by Albert Wiener, who spread the alarm that brought volunteer firemen from both Bowlus and Royalton.” (68)

**ROYALTON**      **OHOTTO—ZIMMERMAN 11**

# DR. ALAN MORROW

## VETERINARIAN

LITTLE FALLS      (TOLL CHG.)      *Call 961W*

**O**

Ohotto John r RFD 1.....9-W-2  
Ostrowski Peter r Bowlus.....2-J-4

**P**

Parkins W E r.....69  
Petron Jerome r.....130  
Pick Vernon J RFD 1.....10-W-2  
Pierzina Richard r Bowlus.....9-J-3  
Pieterek Frank farm RFD 1.....8-F-110

**SHORTY'S MARKET**

GROCERIES--MEATS  
MILK and CREAM

Royalton .....62

Skroch Cletus J r.....	103
Skroch Mike A r.....	73
Smejja Roman r.....	106
Smieja Clarence RFD 1.....	45-F-310
Smieja Frank farm RFD 1.....	8-F-30
Smieja John F r.....	13
Smieja Peter farm RFD 1.....	45-F-13

Listing (by arrow) for “Pick, Vernon J, RFD1, 10-W-2” in the 1948 Little Falls phone book, Royalton area.

“Housed in the old mill building were a complete woodworking shop, equipment for repairing and rewinding motors and generators, forms for boat building, a small job printing shop, and other miscellaneous equipment, stocks of copper wire, lumber and other materials, and all of the company’s office equipment and business records.” (69) The loss was estimated at \$15,000 to \$20,000. (70)

The following month, Vernon decided to close his motor repair shop. The newspaper reported that he “[had] been unable to get supplies and equipment to replace those destroyed by fire.” (71) There was more behind the decision to close the shop and mill site than was initially reported. The insurance payout was only \$13,500, not enough to replace all of his equipment and rebuild. (72) We may never have known this bit about the insufficient insurance check if it hadn’t been for what happened to Vernon Pick next.

In two separate three-part series of articles appearing in the *Little Falls Daily Transcript* and *Royalton Banner* and a dramatic article in *LIFE* magazine, all published in the latter half of 1954, Vernon’s life from his time at the Two Rivers mill through his discovery of a massive uranium mine was dissected. That’s the sort of attention sudden wealth will bring.

Vernon and Ruth decided to use the insurance money to take a vacation out west. They purchased a house trailer and truck, packed up and left. (73) The Atomic Energy Commission was encouraging people to prospect for uranium, particularly in the Four Corners area of Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. “From Denver to Phoenix the inhabitants began to develop “uranium fever.”” (74)

Along their journey, Vernon caught wind of this activity and decided to try his hand at prospecting for uranium. He had spent most of his life learning by reading and figured he could do the same with uranium mining. He got himself outfitted with maps, a Geiger counter, camping supplies, and some advice to search the Hanksville, UT, area. Then, he “established Ruth and the trailer in a trailer park and was on his way along the trail that connects Hanksville with the world.” (75)

“For nine months he roamed the desert, the mountains, and the

canyons without success, then on June 21, 1952, he made a strike which has become one of the most fabulous in the nation. That prospecting trip almost cost Pick his life. Alone in a canyon for 10 days, with only poisonous alkali water to drink, he lost 45 pounds and was partly delirious when he finally made his way back to his truck.” (76) The water of Muddy Creek, near his newly-found uranium mine, was actually full of arsenic.

To provide a sense of the grueling terrain Vernon was exploring, Hanksville is near Canyonlands National Park, where the incident of hiker Aron Ralston occurred. Ralston fell into a crevasse in 2003 and had his arm pinned to the wall. He had to sever his arm in order to get out of the crevasse, a story that was told in the movie “127 Hours,” starring James Franco as Ralston. (77)

Vernon was down to his last \$300 when he took the final prospecting trip that would lead him to discover the Delta mine, as he called it. He had actually found a smaller mine, the Alpha mine, in January of 1952, but did not have the capital to properly explore it. (78) He sold the Delta mine, which was “regarded as one of the richest deposits of uranium ore on the Colorado Plateau,” to the Atlas Corporation for \$9 million. (79) He also got \$500,000 in Atlas Corporation stock and an airplane. (80)

A lot of articles have been written about Vernon Pick, including one on how his Royalton neighbors felt about him (81), precisely because of the dramatic way he came into sudden wealth. It’s the sort of story that would make a good movie. In fact, Hollywood did consider making a movie about his ordeal, to be sponsored by the Atomic Energy Commission, no less. (82) Whether the movie ever materialized is unknown.

*LIFE* magazine followed up with a story on how Vernon and Ruth dealt with the changes in their life from the millions they had made. After being hammered with requests for money, Vernon started a foundation, putting his friend Rev. Alan Humrickhouse in charge of it. The foundation’s “aims and resources were left undefined except for a general interest in promoting education and good works.” (83) The Vernon J. Pick Foundation, which is based in Hopkins, MN, continues to

operate, providing “scholarships to MN high school seniors majoring in science or engineering.” (84)

Aside from the foundation, the Picks used their money to create a self-sustaining property similar to the Two Rivers mill property, but on a larger scale. Vernon wanted “a full-scale research and development laboratory devoted to electronics and electromechanics, from industrial “automation” of machinery, for instance, to electronic computers. There would be a special department for studying and utilizing solar energy.” (85) The lab, along with “a modest ranch style” house that cost \$80,000, were built in the Santa Cruz Mountains near Saratoga, CA, on an 830-acre site. (86) On the property, “[t]here was a knoll that could be leveled for the lab buildings and a glade that could be graded to make an airstrip for light planes [Vernon’s newest hobby was flying]. Further, the forests offered good possibilities for profitable tree farming, and the lower slopes could be converted into vineyards and the grapes sold to a local winery, so the property could support itself.” (87)

Like Robert K. Carnes, in a sense, Vernon Pick just couldn’t quit the life he had built at Two Rivers mill. Neither wealth nor renown changed that.



**Ruins of the dam at Two Rivers mill, Section 8 of Two Rivers Township, Morrison County, MN, off of Great River Road. Photo by Gwen Berg for the Morrison County Historical Society’s Uncommon Focus photo project, March 15, 2003.**

**#2003.1.685 UF.**

## Vernon Pick: Two Rivers Mill to Delta Uranium Mine

### Sources:

- 1) Elton Britt, *Uranium Fever* Lyrics, SONGLYRICS, <http://www.songlyrics.com/elton-britt/uranium-fever-lyrics/>, accessed 7/20/2021.  
Elton Britt, *Uranium Fever*, YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acMqxcdxEoE>, accessed 7/20/2021.
- 2) Wikipedia, *Fallout* (video game): [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fallout\\_\(video\\_game\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fallout_(video_game)), accessed 7/14/21.
- 3) Wikipedia, *Fallout 4*: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fallout\\_4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fallout_4), accessed 7/15/21.
- 4) Wikipedia, Elton Britt: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elton\\_Britt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elton_Britt), accessed 7/15/21.
- 5) Wikipedia, Music of the *Fallout* series: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music\\_of\\_the\\_Fallout\\_series](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_of_the_Fallout_series), accessed 7/15/21.
- 6) Death Certificate Index: 1986-MN-000643, Pick, Vernon, J., Minnesota Historical Society.
- 7) Ancestry.com, U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947, [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.
- 8) Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.
- 9) "Star Features Vern Pick's Story," *The Royalton Banner*, September 23, 1954.
- 10) U.S. Marine Corps Muster Rolls, 1798-1958, <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/imageviewer/collections/1089/images/T970245>, accessed 7/22/2021.
- 11) "Star Features Vern Pick's Story," *The Royalton Banner*, September 23, 1954.
- 12) Wikipedia, Flin Flon: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flin\\_Flon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flin_Flon), accessed 7/24/2021.
- 13) "Star Features Vern Pick's Story," *The Royalton Banner*, September 23, 1954.
- 14) Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002.
- 15) Birth Certificate Index: 1908-23172, Squire, Eyrcl [sic], Minnesota Historical Society.
- 16) Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.
- 17) Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census [database on-line].

- Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002.
- 18) Birth Certificate Index: 1930-40361, Pick, Virginia, Ruth, Minnesota Historical Society.
  - 19) "Star Features Vern Pick's Story," *The Royalton Banner*, September 23, 1954.
  - 20) Ancestry.com. 1940 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2012.
  - 21) "Star Features Vern Pick's Story," *The Royalton Banner*, September 23, 1954.
  - 22) Ibid.
  - 23) Property record books, Two Rivers Township, Township 127 North, Range 29 West, Section 8, Morrison County Recorder's Office, Morrison County Courthouse, Little Falls, MN.
  - 24) Ibid.
  - 25) "Two Rivers Mill, 65 Years Old, to Give New Service," *Little Falls Daily Transcript*, May 15, 1942, page 5.
  - 26) "Vernon Pick Realizes Ambitions: Has Own Power Plant, Shops," *Little Falls Daily Transcript*, July 2, 1949.
  - 27) Ibid.
  - 28) Minnesota Official Marriage System, <https://moms.mn.gov>, accessed June 18, 2021.
  - 29) Entry for Ruth Elvira Johnson, Ancestry.com, U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015.
  - 30) Two Rivers Company, Vernon J. Pick, State of Minnesota Certificate of Business Name, April 13, 1946, Box 2, District Court Papers, Morrison County Historical Society.
  - 31) "Vernon Pick Realizes Ambitions: Has Own Power Plant, Shops," *Little Falls Daily Transcript*, July 2, 1949.
  - 32) "From Ashes to Riches: Fire Near Royalton Sent Vernon Pick West to Uranium," *Little Falls Daily Transcript*, September 13, 1954.
  - 33) Warner, Mary, "Four Dams at Little Falls," Morrison County Historical Society newsletter, Vol. 20, No. 3, 2007.
  - 34) Notes on The Life of Calvin Austin Tuttle compiled by his youngest daughter Mrs. Cora M. Elwell, photocopied document in Tuttle Family File at the Morrison County Historical Society.
  - 35) Property record books, Two Rivers Township, Township 127 North, Range 29 West, Section 8, Morrison County Recorder's Office, Morrison County Courthouse, Little Falls, MN.
  - 36) Tuttle, Charlotte M., Probate File #411, State of Minnesota, County of Morrison, on file at the Morrison County Historical Society.
  - 37) Property record books, Two Rivers Township, Township 127 North, Range 29 West, Section 8, Morrison County Recorder's Office,

- Morrison County Courthouse, Little Falls, MN.
- 38) "All in Her Life: Mrs. C.A. Tuttle Saw Minneapolis Grow from Nothing to a City," copy of uncited 1895 obituary from Tuttle Family File, Morrison County Historical Society.
  - 39) Property record books, Two Rivers Township, Township 127 North, Range 29 West, Section 8, Morrison County Recorder's Office, Morrison County Courthouse, Little Falls, MN.
  - 40) Winchell, N.H. et. al., "History of the Upper Mississippi Valley," Minnesota Historical Society, Minneapolis, 1881, pg. 636.
  - 41) Biographies of Mr. & Mrs. Milo N. Young, submitted by Mrs. Young for the Morrison County Historical Society, December 15, 1936. (WPA biography on file at the Morrison County Historical Society.)
  - 42) *Little Falls Transcript*, October 23, 1885.
  - 43) *Little Falls Transcript*, April 13, 1894.
  - 44) Property record books, Two Rivers Township, Township 127 North, Range 29 West, Section 8, Morrison County Recorder's Office, Morrison County Courthouse, Little Falls, MN.
  - 45) *Little Falls Herald*, February 4, 1898.
  - 46) *Little Falls Herald*, October 14, 1898.
  - 47) *Little Falls Herald*, December 2, 1898.
  - 48) *Little Falls Herald*, December 9, 1898.
  - 49) *Little Falls Herald*, September 13, 1901.
  - 50) *Little Falls Herald*, December 20, 1901.
  - 51) *Little Falls Herald*, March 31, 1905.
  - 52) Ibid.
  - 53) *Little Falls Herald*, May 19, 1905.
  - 54) *Little Falls Herald*, January 25, 1907.
  - 55) *Little Falls Herald*, January 3, 1908.
  - 56) *Little Falls Herald*, June 4, 1909.
  - 57) *Little Falls Herald*, September 17, 1909.
  - 58) Ibid.
  - 59) *Little Falls Herald*, September 24, 1909.
  - 60) *Little Falls Herald*, March 9, 1917.
  - 61) Property record books, Two Rivers Township, Township 127 North, Range 29 West, Section 8, Morrison County Recorder's Office, Morrison County Courthouse, Little Falls, MN.
  - 62) Ibid.
  - 63) *Little Falls Herald*, March 22, 1918.
  - 64) *Little Falls Herald*, March 15, 1918.
  - 65) *Little Falls Herald*, July 2, 1920.
  - 66) "Late Robert Carnes' Life Closes Chapter of Royalton's History," *Royalton Banner*, March 24, 1955.
  - 67) Property record books, Two Rivers Township, Township 127 North,

- Range 29 West, Section 8, Morrison County Recorder's Office, Morrison County Courthouse, Little Falls, MN.
- 68) "Two Rivers Mill Burns Wednesday," *Royalton Banner*, May 10, 1951.
  - 69) Ibid.
  - 70) Ibid.
  - 71) "Pick to Close Plant at Old Mill Site," *Little Falls Daily Transcript*, June 22, 1951.
  - 72) "From Ashes to Riches: Fire Near Royalton Sent Vernon Pick West to Uranium," *Little Falls Daily Transcript*, September 13, 1954.
  - 73) "Vernon Pick, Former Royaltonite, Sells Uranium Mine for \$9 Million," *Royalton Banner*, September 2, 1954.
  - 74) Coughlin, Robert, "Vernon Pick's \$10 Million Ordeal," LIFE, November 1, 1954, <https://books.google.com/books?id=qVIEAAAAMBAJ&pg=PA112&dq=vernon+pick&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwin-s6o3oDwAhX2ETQIHbglAgoQ6AEwAXoECAUQAg#v=onepage&q=vernon%20pick&f=false>, accessed August 26, 2021.
  - 75) Ibid.
  - 76) "Vernon Pick, Former Royaltonite, Sells Uranium Mine for \$9 Million," *Royalton Banner*, September 2, 1954.
  - 77) "'127 Hours' Tells True Story of Man's Determination to Survive After Hiking Accident," *Voice of America*, <https://www.voanews.com/arts-culture/127-hours-tells-true-story-mans-determination-survive-after-hiking-accident>, accessed August 26, 2021.
  - 78) Coughlin, Robert, "Vernon Pick's \$10 Million Ordeal," LIFE, November 1, 1954, <https://books.google.com/books?id=qVIEAAAAMBAJ&pg=PA112&dq=vernon+pick&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwin-s6o3oDwAhX2ETQIHbglAgoQ6AEwAXoECAUQAg#v=onepage&q=vernon%20pick&f=false>, accessed August 26, 2021.
  - 79) "Atlas Pays Prospector \$9,000,000 For Utah Uranium Strike of 1952," *The New York Times*, August 31, 1954.
  - 80) "Star Features Vern Pick's Story," *Royalton Banner*, September 23, 1954.
  - 81) "From Ashes to Riches: Friends, Neighbors Noted 'Different' Qualities in Pick," *Little Falls Daily Transcript*, September 15, 1954.
  - 82) "Hollywood May Make Movie of Vern Pick's Uranium Find," *Royalton Banner*, October 1, 1953.
  - 83) Coughlin, Robert, "Vernon Pick's Struggle To Be Himself," LIFE, March 19, 1956, <https://books.google.com/books?id=6FYEAAAAMB AJ&pg=PA179&dq=vernon+pick&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwin-s6o3oDwAhX2ETQIHbglAgoQ6AEwAHoECAAQAg#v=onepage&q=vernon%20pick&f=false>, accessed August 26, 2021.
  - 84) 2019 IRS Form 990-PF, Return of Private Foundation, Vernon J. Pick Foundation, accessed through Guidestar, <https://www.guidestar>.

[org/search](#), August 27, 2021.

85) Coughlin, Robert, "Vernon Pick's Struggle To Be Himself," LIFE, March 19, 1956, <https://books.google.com/books?id=6FYEAAAAMB AJ&pg=PA179&dq=vernon+pick&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwin-s6o3oDwAhX2ETQIHbglAgoQ6AEwAHoECAAAQAg#v=onepage&q=vernon%20pick&f=false>, accessed August 26, 2021.

86) Ibid.

87) Ibid.