

Fiori Del Tedesco was a mica miner in the Harts Range NT until 1951, then owned a market garden in Campbelltown for 10 years. In 1961, acquaintances from the Harts Range lured him to Coober Pedy where they were successfully mining for opal. He built his own hoist and brought the first electric drill to Coober Pedy, converting a 240 volt drill to 32 volt, made his own augers and 32 volt generator. In 1963 Fiori and partners bought a cable operated D8 bulldozer, and for 3 months worked with it at White Cliffs then brought it to Coober Pedy. This bulldozer had been used by the allied war effort, in the construction of the Alice Springs to Darwin road as well as air fields in the NT.

1967, Fiori's son Bob arrived in Coober Pedy to work with the dozer and Fiori's partners while Fiori and son-in-law Armando went hand mining with Charley the Butcher.

1968, another son, Steve arrived to go mining. Bob, Armando and another relative, Perfecto, built the walls of the new Italian Club.

1969, Fiori bought out other partners shares of dozer and 3 brothers, Bob, Steve and Eric mined with dozer. Fiori went into cutting opal in Adelaide.

1971-72, Sold dozer, Steve and Eric take on dozer driving.

From 1967 to 1973, Bob involved in building Motel and the new Miners Store.

1973, all 3 boys left Coober Pedy.

1975, Hotel fire.

1979, Bob returned to Coober Pedy, straight into building.

1980, Bob worked Investigator Drill for Dot Bowlie and Glad ? Fiori died.

1982, Bob had spinal fusion operation after years of back pain, then spent 6 months in Adelaide. Returned to Coober Pedy and worked in hotel.

1985, Mother sick. Bob spent 6 months in Adelaide with her.

1985, Bob Coro died in car accident. Bob Del Tedesco flown back to Coober Pedy to run the hotel, then worked casually in hotel at night while building in day. Building of the Desert Cave took 2 years. Bob is a qualified Building Inspector and fully licenced builder.

Following completion of the Desert Cave, Bob was part of management at the Hotel and was mining during the day with Coro's fully hydraulic Cobweld drill.

There was a close association between the Del Tedesco and Coro families. First at Harts Range and later when Fiori sponsored Bob and Atillio Coro as new immigrants after which they lived with the Del Tedesco family for their first 5 years in Australia.

CROSS REF