

OCTOBER 10, 1995M

MY NAME IS GEORGE E. COX, I RESIDE AT 2365 MEADOWS LANE, MEDFORD, OR 97501. TELEPHONE 776-3344

MY SCHOOLMATE, STUART T. WHARTON OF MEDFORD, ASKED ME TO RELATE SOME EARLY MEMORIES OF THE "BLUE LEDGE MINE", A RICH COPPER OUTCROP OF THIS AREA..

THE MINE IS LOCATED ABOUT THREE MILES ACROSS THE OREGON BORDER INTO CALIFORNIA AND IS ACCESSED BY WAY OF THE "BIG APPLGATE RIVER VALLEY". THE MINE CONSISTES OF SEVERAL TUNNELS HIGH ON THE WEST SIDE OF A NARROW CANYON. THE ORE WAS BROUGHT OUT OF THE MINE IN SMALL MINE CARTS AND DUMPED INTO LARGE STEEL BUCKETS WHICH RAN ON CABLES ACROSS THE VALLEY TO BUNKERS WHERE TRUCKS LOADED AND HAULED TO THE RAIL HEAD AT MEDFORD.

IN ADDITION TO THE BUNKERS ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE CANYON THERE WERE MANY MINERS SHACKS, A COOKSHACK AND AN ASSAY OFFICE. THE MINERS RODE TO WORK ACROSS THE CANYON IN THE EMPTY ORE BUCKETS WHICH RAN ON THE CABLES SEVERAL HUNDRED FEET ABOVE THE GROUND. THERE WAS ALSO A BOARDING HOUSE AND REPUTED SALOON TWO OR THREE MILES DOWN THE ROAD FROM THE MINE. ALL IN ALL IT WAS A BUSY VILLAGE.

MY FATHER DROVE A DODGE DUMP TRUCK FOR H.W.WEBBER CONSTRUCTION CO. AT CRESCENT CITY, CA. WEBBER HAD A ROCK CRUSHER AND DID MUCH OF THE ROAD WORK IN DEL NORTE COUNTY. IN THE FALL OF 1929 WEBBER OBTAINED THE CONTRACT TO HAUL THE COPPER ORE FROM THE BLUE LEDGE MINE TO MEDFORD WHERE IT WAS DUMPED INTO GONDOLA CARS AND HAULED BY RAIL TO A SMELTER. WEBBER MOVED HIS OPERATION TO MEDFORD, RENTED A TRUCK SHOP ON SOUTH RIVERSIDE NEAR MAIN STREET (SKINNER'S) AND SOON HAD A DOZEN OR MORE TRUCKS HAULING ON A 24 HOUR BASIS. MY FATHER WAS GIVEN A NEW "REPUBLIC" TRUCK WHICH HE DROVE DAYS AND MY UNCLE, CLARENCE E. SMITH, DROVE NIGHTS. MY UNCLE, INCIDENTALLY, IS STILL ALIVE AT 102 YEARS OF AGE. THE BIG, RED REPUBLIC TRUCK WAS THE "STATE OF THE ART" AT THAT TIME AND I MADE MANY RIDES TO THE MINE IN IT.

THE SUMMER OF 1930 WAS MEMORABLE TO ME. I TOOK MY 22 RIFLE AND HUNTED AROUND THE CAMP WHILE WAITING FOR THE TRUCK TO BE LOADED, GOT PELTED WITH PEBBLES FROM A DYNAMITE BLAST, ATE WITH THE MINE CREW AT THE COOKHOUSE (I WAS HUNGRY AND LIMA BEANS WERE DELICIOUS), ONE OF THE OTHER TRUCKS BROKE AN AXLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NARROW, MUDDY ROAD AND ALL THE TRUCKS WERE STALLED UNTILL PARTS WERE OBTAINED IN THE WEE HOURS OF THE MORNING. I WENT TO SLEEP IN THE CAB OF THE TRUCK WITH COYOTES HOWLING NEAR BY.

TOWARD THE END OF THAT SUMMER THE NATIONWIDE DEPRESSION AFFECTED THE PRICE OF COPPER AND THE MINE SHUT DOWN AT ONCE.

THE TRUCKS WITH LOADS WERE FLAGGED DOWN AND TOLD TO DUMP THEIR ORE WHERE THEY WERE ALONGSIDE THE ROAD WHICH THEY DID. WEBBER WENT BACK TO CRESCENT CITY. MY FAMILY SETTLED IN MEDFORD. WHEN I WAS FOURTEEN YEARS OLD A FRIEND AND I WENT BACK TO THE BLUE LEDGE AND STAYED A WEEK. NO ONE HAD BEEN AROUND THERE FOR SEVERAL YEARS, THE CABINS WERE OVERGROWN WITH BLACKBERRY VINES. WHEN WE COULD GET THE DOORS OPEN THE PACKRATS WOULD JUST STAND UNAFRAID HAVING NEVER SEEN A PERSON. WE SLEPT ON THE FLOOR OF THE ASSAY BUILDING AMONGST DOZENS OF CORE SAMPLES. DURING THE NIGHT WITH THE AID OF A FLASHLIGHT WE SHOT TWENTY-TWO PACKRATS OFF OUR GRUB BOX. DURING THE DAYS WE CLIMBED THE TAILING PILES ACROSS THE CANYON TO THE TUNNEL ENTRANCES. WE DID'NT GO IN FAR SINCE THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF SLIDES ETC. WE WERE CAPTIVATED WITH THE BLACKSMITH SHOP WHERE THE DRILLS AND PICKS HAD BEEN SHARPENED. MANY WERE LAYING AROUND AS WELL AS MINE CARTS, CABLE AND OTHER HARDWARE. MOST MEMORABLE WAS THE BELLOWS FOR THE FORGE. IT WAS ABOUT THREE BY SIX FEET, HUGE.

DURING THE WEEK WE WERE THERE WE NEVER SAW ANOTHER PERSON UNTIL THE LAST DAY WHEN AN OLD PROSPECTOR CAME ALONG WITH HIS PACK. HE SAID HE HAD A "DIGGINGS" A FEW MILES AROUND THE MOUNTAIN AND HAD BEEN OUT FOR SUPPLIES.

A FEW YEARS LATER I WAS TOLD THAT ALL THE THE STEEL AND OTHER HARDWARE HAD BEEN SALVAGED. THE MINE HAS NEVER BEEN REOPENED TO MY KNOWLEGE ALTHO ORE SAMPLES THAT I HAD FOR YEARS WERE ALMOST SOLID COPPER.

George Cuf



NEW 1930 RED REPUBLIC TRUCK
MY DAD DROVE DAYS / CLARENCE NITES
HAULING ORE FROM BLUE LEDGE COPPER MINE.
(GEORGE MADE SEVERAL TRIPS)

Copper Mining Continues In The Sou. Oregon.

Part 5....Mining Wealth Series

The Blue Ledge Mine

The month of June witnessed the consummation of what will probably prove to be the most important mining transaction Southern Oregon has ever known---the sale of the Blue Ledge copper mine at the head of the Applegate. To be exactly accurate, it may as well be stated that the blue Ledge is not really in Southern Oregon. It lies in Siskiyou county, California, about four miles south of the Oregon-California line, but the relief of the country is all into Southern Oregon, so much so, that while several different possible routes into Southern Oregon are under contemplation as outlets for the camp, there has not been even the remotest consideration of a plan of connecting with the Southern Pacific Railway at Hilt, the nearest point in California and hardly half so far away. Either Grants Pass or Medford will land the prize and the contest may become an interesting one. Grants Pass has the advantage of a water grade (the basin of Applegate river) and also the argument of the projected railroad to the coast. Medford, on the other hand, has the argument of the shorter distance. The difference in distance, however is not very great. The length of such a road to Grants Pass would be forty-five to fifty miles.

The Blue Ledge district has the latent possibilities of becoming one of the greatest copper districts of the country. In its five years of existence known to man it has been visited by many capable geological men, who expressed great faith in it, and some of whom enthusiastically declared it to be the greatest copper showing extant for the amount of development work done. A thing acting as a deterrent against its earlier sale was the unusual formation, micaceous schist, in which the ore is formed. The pay is in the form of chalcopryite, lying in immense lens-shaped masses in the huge laminations of the schist formation. Additional work, however, has shown their tendency to go down, and it is a reasonable prediction that in this highly mineralized area, say ten miles square, there will

be unearthed in the next few years some of the greatest bodies of copper ore in the west. At least the careful reports of no less than a dozen authoritative investigators defer to that conclusion, and the fact that there were numerous big operators after the property at the time of its recent sale affords some evidence of the esteem in which the property is held.

The Blue Ledge property is located at the head of Joe creek, a tributary to Elliot

creek, the latter in turn emptying into the east fork of the Applegate. There are eleven claims in the group, and while not patented, they have all been located by survey. They are given on the accompanying map under the names of Malone, Cooper, L. F. Cooper, McVay and Adams, W. H. Hamilton, Brown Bear, Malone, Hamilton, L. H. McVay, Lake, S. G. Adams, D. Malone, and Adams. There is a new wagon road up the Applegate and up the east fork to within four miles off the Blue Ledge.

The Blue Ledge is in the center of a district fully six to eight miles square, whose geological features in matter of structure, strike and dip are everywhere identical. The formation is classified as a micaceous schist, which is sometimes decidedly black in color and other times of a lighter or more silvery hue. The Blue Ledge vein itself, whose croppings are from fifty to three hundred feet wide, is

sometimes described as a contact vein because of the variation of the walls in this respect. The vein strikes with the formation whose general direction is ten degrees east of north and also dips with the formation, the angle being about fifty degrees from horizontal and the dip to the west. In other words, the Blue Ledge---and all the other veins of the district, for that matter, appear to occupy rifts in the laminations of the schist, which laminations are like fissures in their general character. There are probably ten distinct fissures in this belt, the Cook and Green vein ranking second to the Blue Ledge. The Bloomfield claim, owned by Jeldness & Co., is a part of the Cook & Green lead: IT IS A FINE PROSPECT.

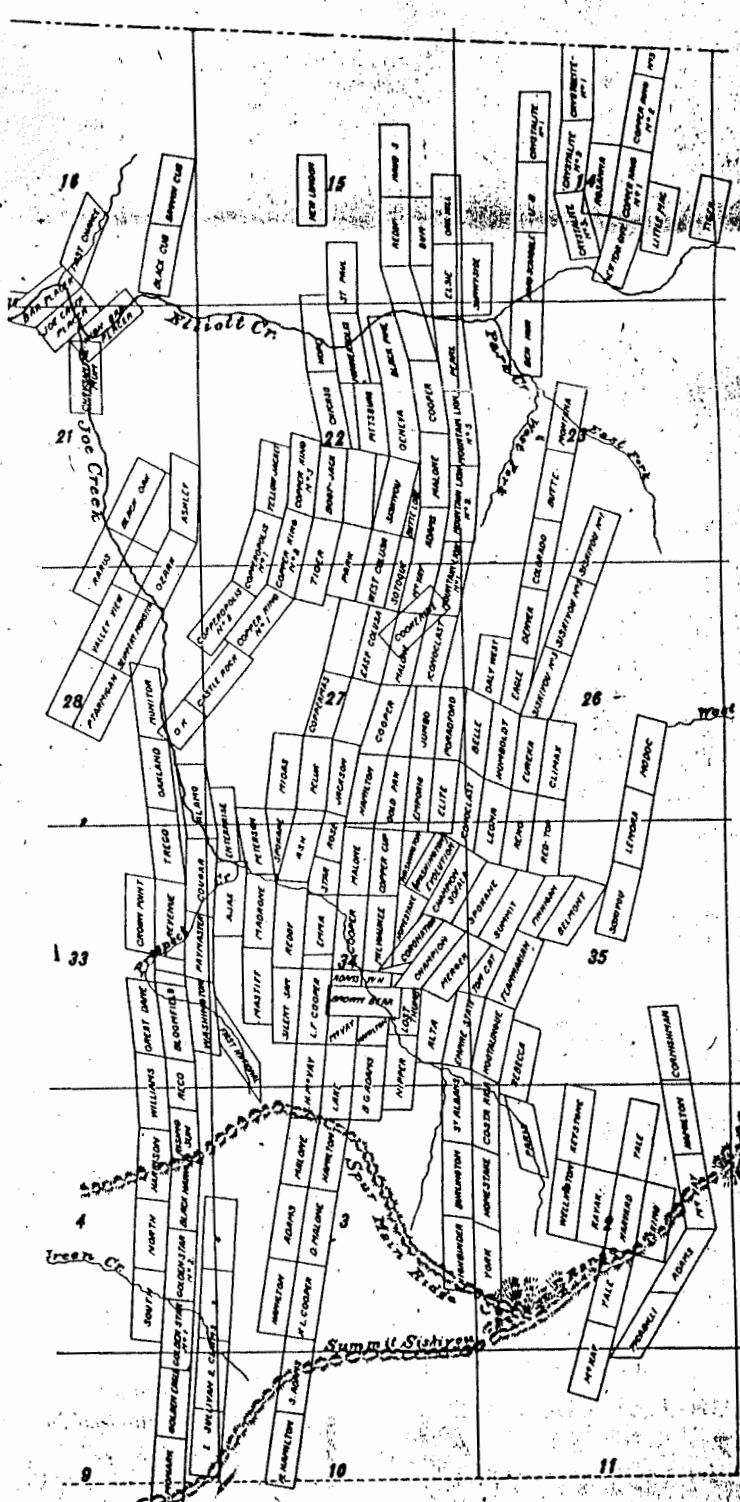
The Nabob, of which considerable is heard as being one of the best showings of the camp, is owned by the Blue Ledge Company and is probably an extension of the Blue Ledge itself.

While the surface croppings or gossan are in themselves a great showing, taking the whole district over, the work on the Blue Ledge and Bloomfield claims has shown up some immense ore bodies, and depth is the desideratum with copper mining investors.

The most important work on the Blue Ledge is a drift seventy feet long starting in a narrow streak of gossan and running for the first third of that distance in a body of ordinary pyrite. The pyrite there is replaced to some extent by chalcopryite. The ore is cross-cut at several points and a width is determined of twenty-two feet that will average five per cent in copper, \$5 in gold and silver. Aside from this there is a three foot streak of chalcopryite that averages fifteen per cent copper.

The situation of the mine, aside from remoteness to the railroad, is ideal. Water and timber facilities are unsurpassed, and the topography of the country lends itself ideally for tunnel operations and development. A depth can be reached in this manner of 2,200 feet. Although the depth today is not to exceed 300 feet, yet it is computed that there are upwards of 100,000 tons of ore exposed averaged not less than \$15 per ton, or a total of upwards of \$1,500,000.

Development work on a big scale has already been inaugurated, and another of the big base ore deposits of Northern California-Southern Oregon can be said to be safely started upon its career as a mine.



MAP OF BLUE LEDGE DISTRICT.

Next...More In The Applegate District....

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Part 5....Mining Wealth Series

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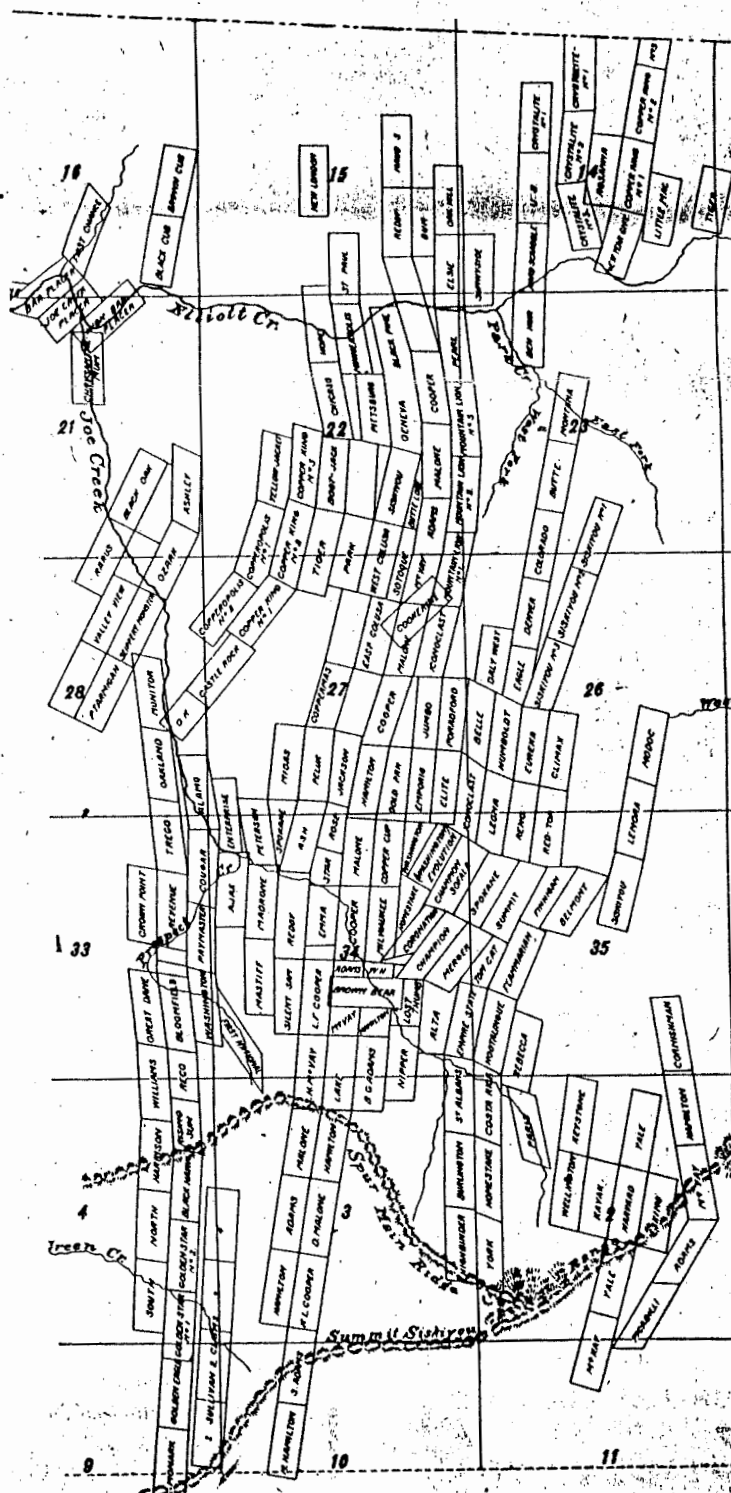
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Next...More In The Applegate District....

Copper Mining In Southern Oregon Continues.....

Part Three From Mining Wealth 1904.

The Bloomfield Group

A surface showing and underground development that is a good second to that of the Blue Ledge Mine, is the Bloomfield. This property is owned by a partnership of three individuals--Peter Larson, O. Jeldness and A. Jeldness, all of Spokand, Washington, and was located by the latter named partner shortly after his arrival in the district, two years ago last April. Mr. Jeldness was attracted to this field while in Reno, Nevada, en route to Tonopah. He first gave his attention to Squaw creek, but afterwards transferred it to Elliot creek. On the divide between Elliot creek and Joe creek he examined into the conditions surrounding the Blue Ledge to learn what he could of the nature of the mineral deposits of this field. His experience in copper has been in such camps as Republic, Rossland and Okanogan, and when he took hold of the present mine he very apparently knew what he was about. On the Bloomfield lead he has two claims and two fractions, on the Blue Ledge he has some claims, and half a mile east of the Blue Ledge he has located a group known as the Wellington group. This group is on the same mountain as the Blue Ledge, but on the Dutch creek tributary of Elliot creek, and presents the best surface showing of any of the partnership's properties at the present time.

The development work consists of a drift on the ledge, beginning at a point where the gossan capping has a width of forty-five feet. This drift has been extended southward 150 feet, gaining a back of eighty feet, and towards a point where the capping has a width of ninety feet. A cross-cut has been commenced which will tap the ledge at a point where drifting on it will give an increased depth. This cross-cut is now thirty feet and near the ledge. Specimens of native copper have been gotten from the wall rock in this cross-cut. In the upper drift a streak of iron ore, lying against the hanging wall, has been followed the entire length of the drift. This streak has been crosscut at intervals, and in every instance has shown a width of not less than fifteen feet.



SHOWING TUNNEL MOUTH AT THE BLOOMFIELD.

In all, Mr. Jeldness and his associates own less than ten full claims, but these claims are on five different ledges. The work done on them is what miners everywhere would call first-class, and this helps to give this property its position in the front rank of Southern Oregon copper prospects.



The Anderson Claim

Immediately adjoining the Nabob on the east is a claim called the Siskiyou and owned by E. W. Anderson. It is a sister lead to the Nabob and, therefore, supposedly of the Blue Ledge proper also. It is controlled by Mr. Anderson for two claims, for he also has a north extension called the Oak Hill.

Mr. Anderson came early into the Blue ledge district. He has staid persistently and therefore deserves the success that is to-day coming his way. He puts his greatest faith in what he calls the Rising Sun claim, which parallels the Blue Ledge to the west. The Rising Sun, in fact, is on what is known as the Cook & Green lead, which includes the Jeldness & Co. prospect, the Bloomfield, on Joe creek. The croppings show for fifty to sixty feet wide for almost the entire length of the Rising Sun claim, and at one point, a forty-foot tunnel, to-day breaking through the oxidized croppings, is showing up some fine ore.

Preston Park District

On a copper-gold prospect in the Northwest corner of Siskiyou county, George W. Young, president of the New York Mortgage and Trust Company, has spent thousands of dollars and has developed some great bodies of high grade ore. A four-foot trail, twenty miles long, connects with Waldo.

Eight miles northwest of Preston Peak and in Del Norte county, J. F. Sanger is slowly developing a group of twenty-seven claims, and gets good encouragement in what he is bringing to light.

Four claims north of the Sanger is a group of claims called the Ivanpaw and owned by C. L. Mangum and J. R. Reeves. The ore bodies are described as being large, 200 feet wide, and lie in highly mineralized diorite, whereas the Sanger and Preston Peak deposits are in serpentine. The Ivanpaw is about twelve miles south of Waldo.

In Next Issue, The Blue Ledge Copper Mine...



Open
By
Appoint-
Only Till
Spring...



Don's
Diggin's

180 E. Calif.
Downtown
Jacksonville



Call
773-7039
Days...

Man Shot At Local Bank Not True

A rumor reported around town that a man was shot in front of the local bank last Wednesday was nothing more than that, "just a rumor."

Concern was expressed by some citizens that if it were true why was it not reported immediately.

The Nugget has checked out the details and are happy to report that the shooting referred to was in another city and a long time ago.

LEGG'S SHELL

THE SERVICE STATION TO
PROVIDE YOU WITH THE
BEST FOR YOUR CAR...

TUNE UPS—OIL CHANGES

SHELL GAS PRODUCTS

EXPERIENCED MECHANIC AND

WELDER ON DUTY....

CORNER CALIF. & 5th. J-ville

Wrong man gets credit for exploding outhouse

The exploding outhouse, pictured in the July 6 Prime Times in connection with the story about Blossom House of Shady Cove, was made by Lan Dusenberry, and was a gift to her.

The story said that it was made by her son, Pete Flury of Eagle Point.

House explained that her son has copied the original, but the one pictured was the work of Dusenberry.

The story about House recalled her year of working at the Blue Ledge copper mine.

Blue Ledge

from Page 7

The Blue Ledge mine was about a quarter of a mile up the steep mountain on the opposite side of the stream from the miners' camp. When snow was deep, the workers would walk single file up the mountain, the lead man holding a chain to whack the snow to break a trail. When he tired, he would pass the chain to the next man.

Tailings from the mine were dumped down the hillside, narrowing the creek at the bottom.

Blossom was fascinated by the cable car that carried the ore down the mountain to where the trucks loaded near the creek. The single bucket was for ore only, although an occasional miner tried to hitch a ride, she says.

"Ted and I had a cabin above the cookhouse. It had a tin roof and when the snow built up it slid off with a roar," she says.

The cabin was a bedroom and porch with a path out back. All of their meals they ate at the cookhouse.

They had a blue Model A roadster and the first time she rode after being at the mine for two months, the driver went 20 miles per hour.

"I thought he was a speed demon," she says.

Things have changed through the years, however. Caught speeding several years ago — "I was going almost 70" — Blossom told the officer she was "keeping up with traffic."

"He told me 'you were catching up with it.'"

Even with that incident, she's proud of the fact she gets a refund on her automobile insurance for safe driving. Today she drives mainly in the Shady Cove area, unless she has to come to town. Her daughter-in-law then takes over the driving.

When she visited the Blue Ledge site in 1965, the trees where the cabin once stood were a foot through. During the visit she found an Indian head penny, circa 1906.

During the years that the family — their son Pete was born in 1931 — lived elsewhere

in the county, Blossom would return to the Applegate. She'd spend the day with her feet in the Applegate River "crevicing" — taking the gravel out of the crevices in the bedrock looking for gold.

"Ted made a little rocker which I used if I had enough dirt.

"It didn't take much to keep me happy," she says. "Besides, it was so much fun, I grew up on that river." She traded the \$400 worth of gold she found for a gold chain.

In 1964, the Flurys moved to Rene Drive in Shady Cove where they built a house on the Rogue River. The flood of that year sent 30 inches of water flowing through the house.

Ted, later manager of the Eagle Point Irrigation District, died in 1974.

Blossom moved into town. In 1979 she married Harold House and they made the Nork Street house their home. He died in 1989.

Today, Blossom keeps busy tending her flowers, stopping by Loaves and Fishes — she takes something to eat with coffee while gossiping — and joins Eagle Point seniors on gambling trips to Reno.

"Only costs \$75 and is a two-night trip," she says. "I like the slots, stick with quarters. Won \$1,250 once, put \$1,000 in the bank."

She has visited England twice and Australia once. "I would move there (Australia) if I was younger," she says. "It was one of my best trips (because of) the friendly people."

Active in the Order of Eastern Star for many years, Blossom has dropped it, but occasionally goes to dinner with some of the members.

And when "I can't think of anything else to do, make potholders." She gives 100 each year for the Eastern Star's annual sale.

Blossom enjoys remembering happenings of the past, but admits "I like thinking about the future."

If you stop by, Blossom will offer you a cranberry nut muffin — they are "soooooo good", she

will tell you. But beware of the exploding outhouse!

The little rough lumber outhouse was made for Blossom by son Pete several years ago.

Complete with crescent moon cut in the front door, it appears to be a child's bank.

Two quarters lie on the coffee table beside it waiting for an

unsuspecting visitor.

Drop in a quarter and WOW, the outhouse explodes into six pieces, the mousetrap inside firmly holding the quarter.

Remembering Blue Ledge

Blossom House is among Rogue Valley residents who witnessed or participated in events that had a significant role in the history of the Blue Ledge copper mine

Blossom House, nearly 90, says she doesn't remember much about her days working at the Blue Ledge mine near the Oregon-California border.

But sit awhile in the cheery kitchen of her Shady Cove home and the visitor will soon discover she remembers a lot about the spring and long winter of 1929-1930 when she was at the Blue Ledge.

Just married to Ted Flury, Blossom considered herself lucky to be able to accompany him to the copper mine where he worked. One of two women there, she assisted the other, who was the cook.

The Etna, Calif., native is among Rogue Valley residents who witnessed or participated in

events that had a significant role in the area's history.

The remote copper mine had had its time after the turn of the century, but its ore was insufficient to make it profitable for its Eastern owners and the mine closed in 1918.

"It was a wildcat affair," Blossom says of the mine's re-opening and her time there. But the timing couldn't have been worse. The stock market crash triggered the start of the Depression.

Flury, a pipefitter, got ten

lowed the Applegate River, then Elliott Creek, into California and to Joe Creek.

Records about the second try are skimpy.

This time around, Blossom recalls, the ore left the mine by trucks, not wagons — around the clock — headed to the railroad in Medford. The freight yard was along the west side of what is now Front Street between Ninth



Blossom House at her home in Shady Cove.

and 10th.

The mine was not foreign to Blossom. Her father, William Head, worked at the Blue Ledge starting in 1909.

The Head family left Etna when she was 6 months old, heading to an uncle's place on the Applegate. "Six kids in a wagon over the Siskiyou," Blossom says, shaking her head at the idea.

Her mother used to fret about how isolated the children were, not having the opportunities of living in town.

She was well prepared for the life at Blue Ledge in 1929.

In the cookhouse, Blossom was the "flunky." She did the vegetables and picked over the dried beans that came by the sackful. She took out the rocks and put them to soak before simmering them for hours on the oil stove.

There were boxes of salted cod that had to be parboiled before creaming — "the men really liked it," she says. There was bacon, ham, pasta, rice. "Things that would keep. Always had canned fruit. The apple pie you got, the apples came out of a can."

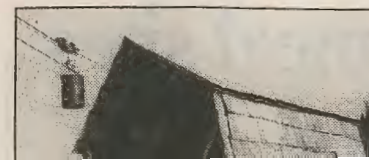
Blossom remembers the most the old wooden sink — "nasty" she called it — even after all these many years. It had a cold water faucet.

"You couldn't get it clean, it wasn't sanitary," she says.

"After I got the dishes washed, the day was over," Blossom says. "I went home and went to bed."

There was little social life since work was seven days a week.

see **BLUE LEDGE**, Page 9



Deep snow at the Blue Ledge mine is well remembered by Blossom House, Shady Cove. Miners, climbing up the steep mountain to the mine would break the trail by hitting the snow with a heavy chain. At lower right, is the bucket that carried the copper ore down the mountain to the ore dump where trucks waited.

Historical photos from the Southern Oregon Historical Society

Story by
PEGGYANN HUTCHINSON
of the Mail Tribune

Photo by
ANDY ATKINSON

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Blossom House at her home in Shady Cove.

Deep snow at the Blue Ledge mine is well remembered by Blossom House, Shady Cove. Miners, climbing up the steep mountain to the mine would break the trail by hitting the snow with a heavy chain. At lower right, is the bucket that carried the copper ore down the mountain to the ore dump where trucks waited.

Historical photos from the Southern Oregon Historical Society

Remembering Blue Ledge

Blossom House is among Rogue Valley residents who witnessed or participated in events that had a significant role in the history of the Blue Ledge copper mine

Blossom House, nearly 90, says she doesn't remember much about her days working at the Blue Ledge mine near the Oregon-California border.

But sit awhile in the cheery kitchen of her Shady Cove home and the visitor will soon discover she remembers a lot about the spring and long winter of 1929-1930 when she was at the Blue Ledge.

Just married to Ted Flury, Blossom considered herself lucky to be able to accompany him to the copper mine where he worked. One of two women there, she assisted the other, who was the cook.

The Etna, Calif., native is among Rogue Valley residents who witnessed or participated in events that had a significant role in the area's history.

The remote copper mine had had its time after the turn of the century, but its ore was insufficient to make it profitable for its Eastern owners and the mine closed in 1918.

"It was a wildcat affair," Blossom says of the mine's reopening and her time there. But the timing couldn't have been worse. The stock market crash triggered the start of the Depression.

Flury, a pipefitter, got top wages — \$5 a day at the mine; Blossom \$50 a month. "When I got a raise to \$75," she recalls, "the mine stopped working."

The road to the mine fol-

lowed the Applegate River, then Elliott Creek, into California and to Joe Creek.

Records about the second try are skimpy.

This time around, Blossom recalls, the ore left the mine by trucks, not wagons — around the clock — headed to the railroad in Medford. The freight yard was along the west side of what is now Front Street between Ninth



Blossom House at her home in Shady Cove.

and 10th.

The mine was not foreign to Blossom. Her father, William Head, worked at the Blue Ledge starting in 1909.

The Head family left Etna when she was 6 months old, heading to an uncle's place on the Applegate. "Six kids in a wagon over the Siskiyou," Blossom says, shaking her head at the idea.

Her mother used to fret about how isolated the children were, not having the opportunities of living in town.

"We had a river to play in, an old horse to ride and who could ask for anything else," Blossom says of her childhood.

"We grew up kinda rough."

She was well prepared for the life at Blue Ledge in 1929.

In the cookhouse, Blossom was the "flunky." She did the vegetables and picked over the dried beans that came by the sackful. She took out the rocks and put them to soak before simmering them for hours on the oil stove.

There were boxes of salted cod that had to be parboiled before creaming — "the men

really liked it," she says. There was bacon, ham, pasta, rice. "Things that would keep. Always had canned fruit. The apple pie you got, the apples came out of a can."

Blossom remembers the most the old wooden sink — "nasty" she called it — even after all these many years. It had a cold water faucet.

"You couldn't get it clean, it wasn't sanitary," she says.

"After I got the dishes washed, the day was over," Blossom says. "I went home and went to bed."

There was little social life since work was seven days a week.

see **BLUE LEDGE**, Page 9



Deep snow at the Blue Ledge mine is well remembered by Blossom House, Shady Cove. Miners, climbing up the steep mountain to the mine would break the trail by hitting the snow with a heavy chain. At lower right, is the bucket that carried the copper ore down the mountain to the ore dump where trucks waited.

Historical photos from the **Southern Oregon Historical Society**

Story by
PEGGYANN HUTCHINSON
of the Mail Tribune

Photo by
ANDY ATKINSON

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Historical photos from the Southern Oregon Historical Society





Blue Ledge mine - OXLEY - STEWART
Kelloff

GHHS 1937

95.13.36

1907



Photo from Southern Oregon Historical Society

Back in time

Gold was not the only metal that exerted its lure on those seeking their riches from the soils of southern Oregon and northern California. In 1898 the Blue Ledge Mining Company located a ledge of copper ore in the mountains above the Applegate a few miles south of the California border. Over \$2 million was spent developing the property, and two daily stages from Medford hauled out the crushed and sacked ore, which was sent to the smelter in Tacoma for processing.

The four terraced mining camps boasted the Hotel Eileen, a dance hall, cook house, bunk house, offices, machine shops and homes. Low prices for copper, however, prevented the Blue Ledge from maintaining its profitability, and the mine closed by 1919. Copies of this image (No. 5553), or any of the thousands of historical images in the Southern Oregon Historical Society's collections, can be viewed or purchased at the research library in the History Center.

95.13.35

- M O L E S -

on the

BLUE LEDGE COPPER MINE

by

C. W. GEDDES.

February 28th, 1905.

LOCATION:

Northern part of Blakely County, California, just across the Oregon State line. Access via Jacksonville, Oregon, by good wagon road, River grade from Jacksonville to foot of mountain, a distance of 28 miles, thence by trail 4 miles to main camp.

PROPERTY:

27 claims, 16 claims on strike of vein covering a length of about 4 1/2 miles, other claims on side lines, and 3 on a parallel vein, which vein is simply prospective.

TITLE:

Perfectly clear to all property, prior to the time that John R. Allen and associates obtained a bond on the property, May 16th, 1904. Little to two-thirds interest perfectly clear at present, but the other one-third controlled by Blue Ledge Copper Company, at present clouded. I have personally examined these titles.

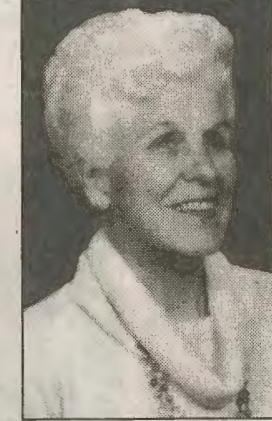
LE I N:

The vein occurs as an extensive fissure in schist, conforming in a general way to the stratification. Mineralization has extended into the wall rock, making the vein zone, as shown on surface, 50 to 300 feet in width. The ore occurs as shoots, containing both massive and disseminated sulphides. The surface outcroppings indicate 2 shoots, but only one has been determined by



NEW 1930 RED REPUBLIC TRUCK
MY DAD DROVE DAYS/CLARENCE NITES
HAULING ORE FROM BLUE LEDGE COPPER MINE.
(GEORGE MADE SEVERAL TRIPS)

Obituaries



Blossom Flury - House

Blossom was born March 12, 1909, at Scotts Bar, Calif. While she was born Susan Carolyn Head, her mother, always called her "Blossom." By the age of one, her family moved to the Applegate area. She graduated from school in Jacksonville and went on to receive a teaching degree from Southern Oregon Normal, which is now Southern Oregon University, and then taught elementary school at Wagner Creek.

On March 12, 1928, she married Ted Flury and took up residence in the Phoenix area. During their forty plus years of marriage, they had many adventures from living in a tar paper shack at Crater Lake, working at the Blue Ledge Mine, owners of "The Spot" tavern in Medford, ranching in Eagle Point and finally retiring in Shady Cove.

In 1974 Blossom lost her beloved Ted in a riverboat accident and remained single for many years. In 1984 she reunited with her high school sweetheart, Harold House, who became her second husband. She and Harold had a good life together until 1994 when Harold passed away. Since the loss of Harold, she remained single, often telling her family that she had two good husbands and didn't think she would get three.

Blossom was very active in the Eastern Star where she was a lifetime member. She was always a strong supporter of local causes including the Wildflower Association, Fire District #4 fundraising and the Upper Rogue Community Center. She is also well remembered for her love of digging for arrowheads and old bottles, panning for gold in the Applegate River, picking berries and gardening.

Blossom is survived by her son, Peter Flury; her grandchildren, Craig Flury, Cameron Flury and Glenda Owens; seven great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. She is also survived by a large extended family and an abundance of friends who will always remember her smile, laughter and graciousness. Even though she has been taken from us at this time, we know we will see her again "down the creek."

A memorial service for Blossom will be held at 12:00 p.m. Saturday, April 25, 2009 at Siskiyou Memorial Park in Medford. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be sent to Jackson County Fire District #4, P.O. Box 1400, Shady Cove OR 97539.

Medford man recalls a day at the Blue Ledge mine in 1930

By PEGGYANN HUTCHINSON
of the Mail Tribune

Sixty-eight years ago, an 11-year-old boy wolfed down several helpings of lima beans as he and his father waited for truck repairs at the old Blue Ledge mine.

George E. Cox, 79, of Medford, recalled the incident recently after reading the story about Blossom House of Shady Cove, in the July 6 issue of Prime Times. House worked at the Blue Ledge after the mine reopened in 1929 and 1930.

He learned that the woman who served him and the men was House.

Cox's father, Sol, drove a truck for H.W. Weber in Crescent City, Calif. When Weber got the contract to haul copper ore from the mine just over the border in California to Medford, Weber moved his operations to Medford, including the Cox family.

"We came late in 1929. I was 10 years old at that time. In the spring and summer of 1930 I made several trips to the mine with my dad.

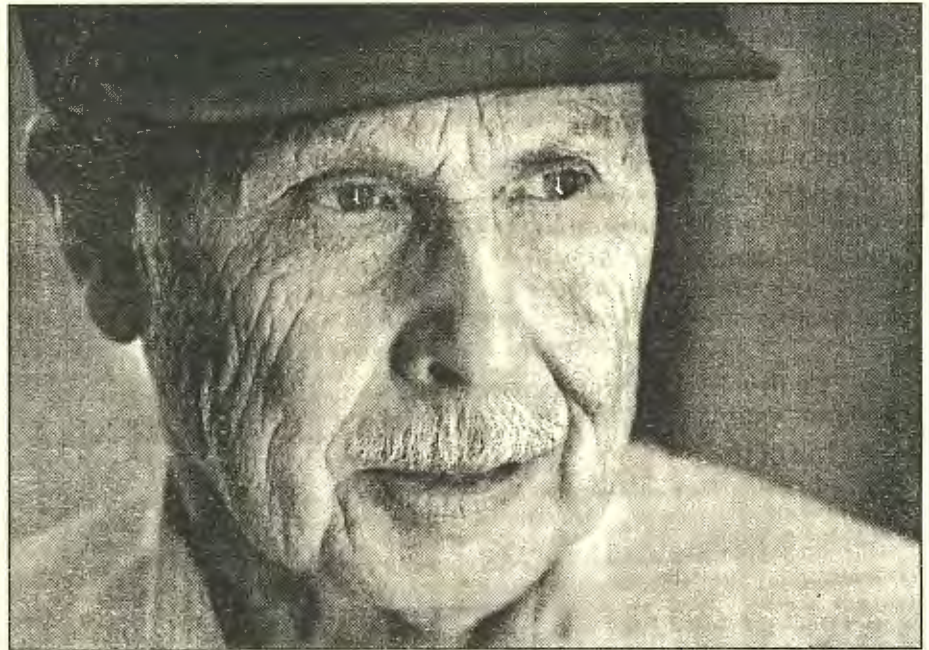
"He drove the newest of Weber's trucks — a big red Republic — that impressed me a lot."

His father drove it during the daytime and an uncle, Clarence Smith, drove it at night. Smith died last year at the age of 104.

In his letter to House, Cox recalled one trip.

"One trip one of a string of dump trucks broke an axle on the one-way road into town. Since no trucks could get by till repairs were made (hours later), father and I ate with the men at the cookhouse.

"It was late and I was very



Mail Tribune / Jim Craven

George E. Cox

hungry and wolfed down several helpings of delicious lima beans much to the amusement of all.

"They were served by a lady (family style), she must have been you! I still love lima beans!"

Today, Cox well remembers sitting "in the truck, the coyotes were howling and the men built a big fire. It was cold."

The letter continues: "We finally unloaded into the gondola on Front Street (in Medford) and got home (on Laurel Street in Medford) about daylight.

"When the copper price went down, Weber flagged the loaded trucks and had them dump their loads wherever they were and came in empty.

"Five years later a friend and I stayed a week at the mine. We slept in the assay building and

shot 21 pack rats off our grub box the first night. Climbed the tailings to the mine and went in tunnels a short distance. Saw nobody all week."

Cox recalls that the pack rats, apparently not familiar with humans, just sat and stared at them when the two boys came into a room. Cox had never seen one before.

But he remembers the enormous bellows in the blacksmith shop at the copper mine. The heavy cable that held the big iron bucket that carried the ore from the mine down to the dump site was gone, he says.

Cox didn't leave without a souvenir.

"The copper ore was so rich," he recalls, "that it looked golden in the sun." He picked up some of it. He has since given it away.

Clarence Edward Smith

A private memorial service was held for Clarence Edward Smith.

Mr. Smith, 103, of Medford, died Thursday (Feb. 6, 1997) in Central Point.

He was born July 23, 1893, in Vancouver, Wash.

On Dec. 15, 1914, in Independence, he married Ivy Cox, who preceded him in death.

Mr. Smith moved to Medford in 1928, where he was a salesman, a bus driver and taxi driver.

Survivors include a nephew, George Cox, Medford; and several nieces.

Arrangements: Hull and Hull Funeral Directors, Grants Pass.



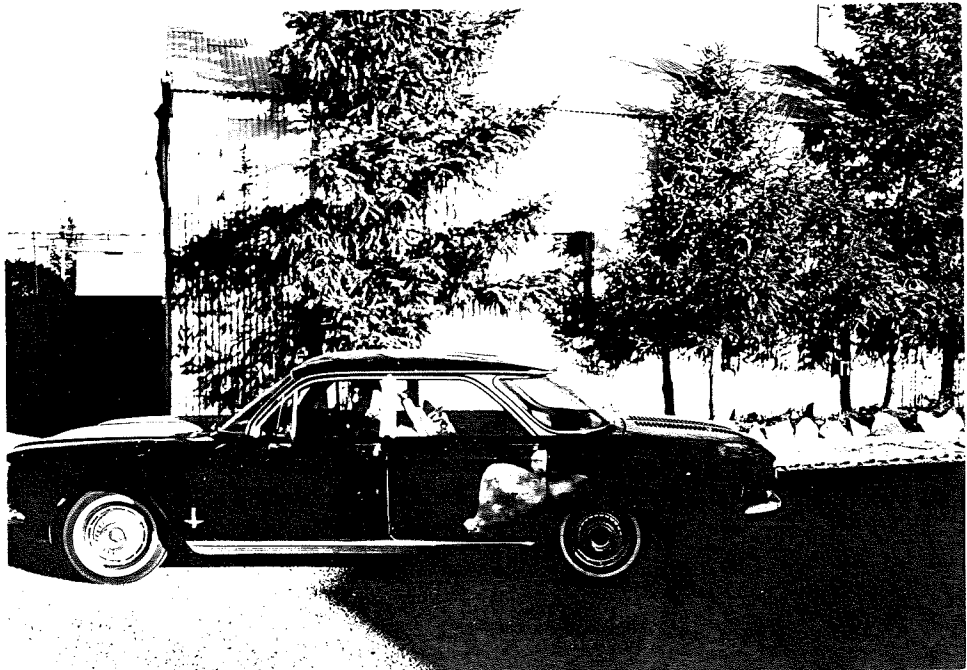
NEW 1930 RED REPUBLIC TRUCK
MY DAD DROVE DAYS/CLARENCE NITES
HAULING ORE FROM BLUE LEDGE COPPER MINE.
(GEORGE MADE SEVERAL TRIPS)



CLARENCE YELLOW CAB DRIVER
MEDFORD



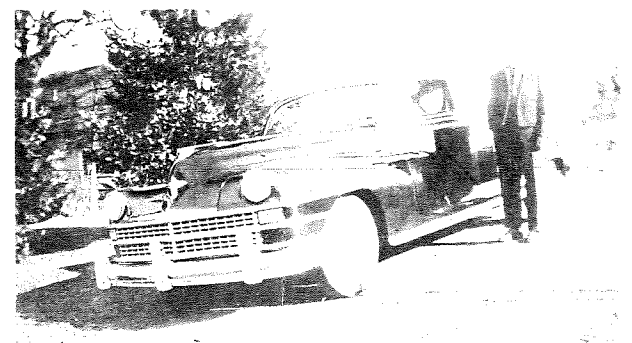
CLARENCE, MAY 1991
DIED FEB 6 '97, AGE 103
27 MOS.



CLARENCE LAST VEHICLE/62 CORVAIR (GEORGE HAS IT,
(ROUGH)



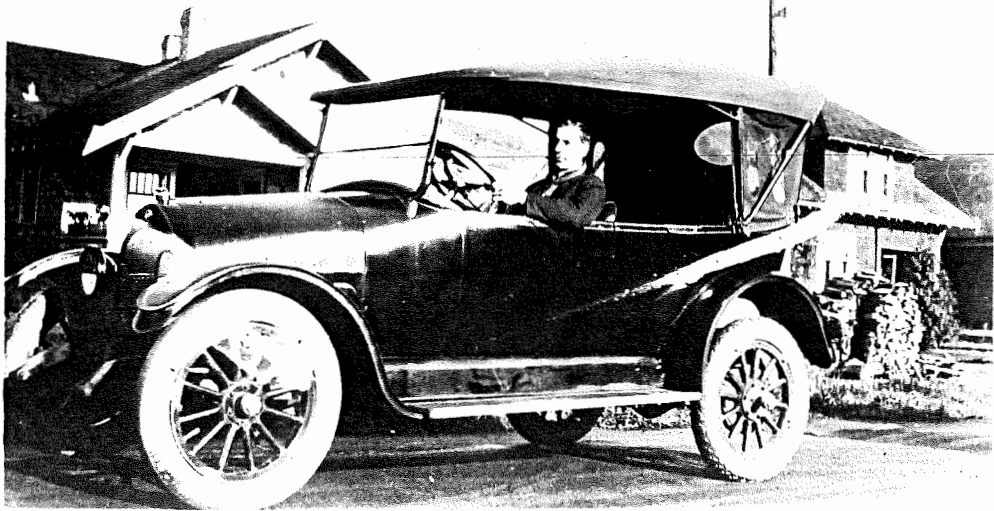
CLARENCE DROVE AIRPORT LIMO.
6 AM/6 PM - 1945-1953



C/DROVE YELLOW CAB



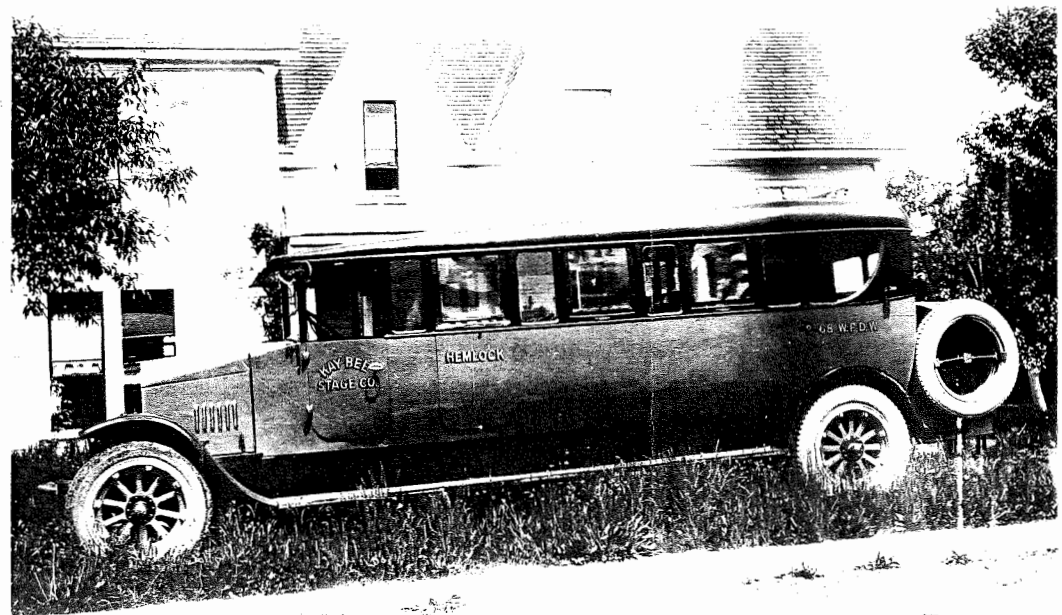
EARLY CHEV ('26?) GEORGE'S GRANDMOTHER (L) GRANDFATHER (R) GREAT AUNT (C)
(MAGNIFYING GLASS APPEARS 1925 LICENSE)
& FATHER'S PARENTS - INDEPENDENCE, OR.



CLARENCE IN NEW 1918
OVERLAND - HOQUIM, WA.
←



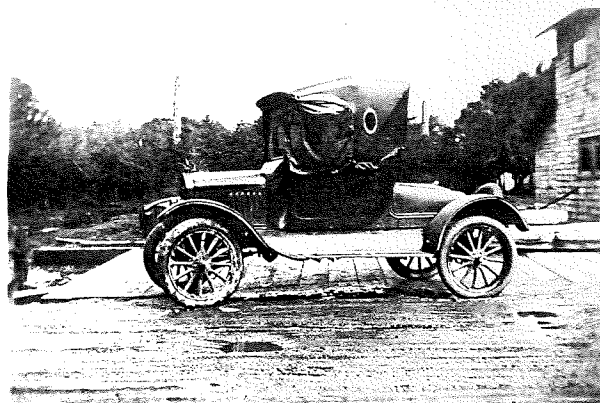
1921 ABERDEEN / HOQUIM WA.



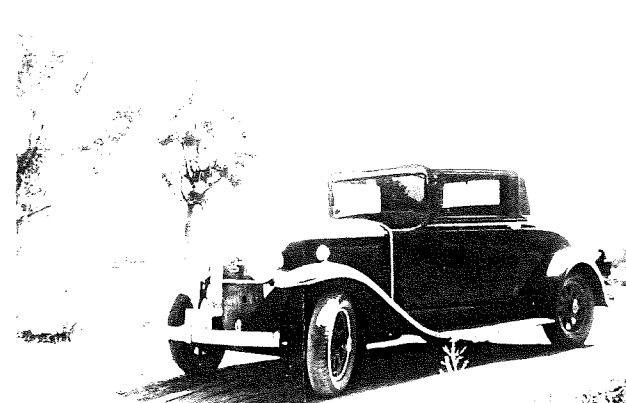
16 PASSENGER BUS CLARENCE DROVE FROM ABERDEEN TO ELMA, WA.
(22 MILES 1920-'24)



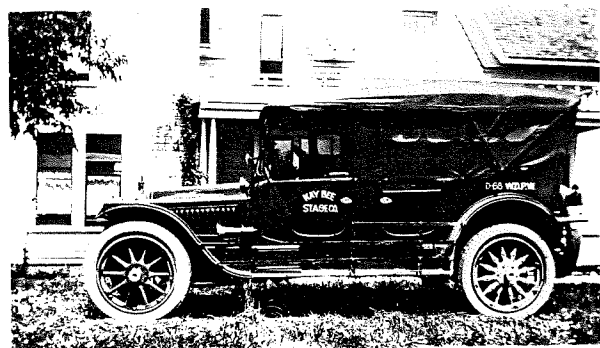
CLARENCE '53 PACKARD



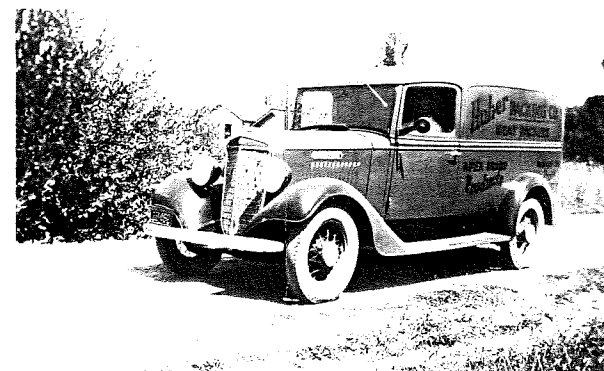
1915 MODEL T FORD (COST \$295.00 NEW)
(TAKEN IN WASHINGTON 1919)



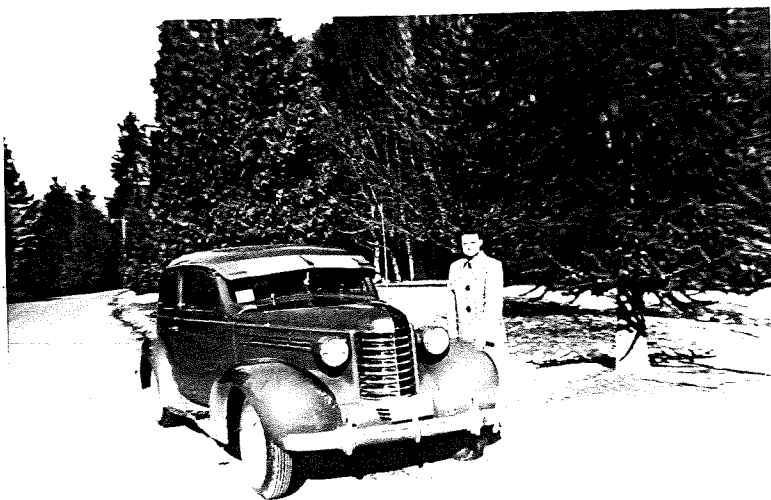
HIS 1934 GRAHAM PAIGE



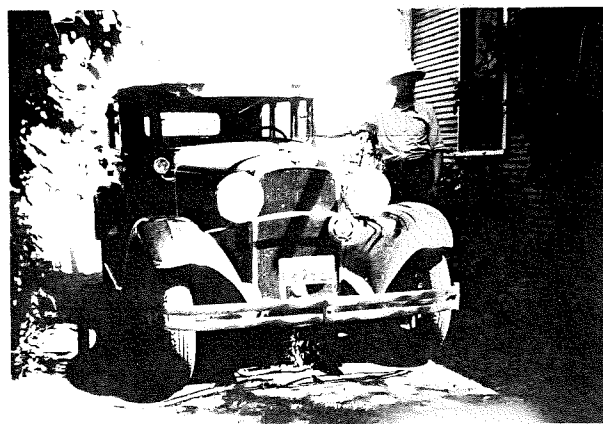
1923 PACKARD (KAY BEE STAGE CO,
ABERDEEN TO HOQUIM WA)



CLARENCE DROVE MEAT TRUCK
TO CRATER LAKE & OTHER SO. OREG.
BUSINESS
FOR HUBER PACKING CO.
1934



TAKEN 1953 OLDSMOBILE
CLARENCE'S WIFE (GEB'S AUNT, IVY,
FATHER'S SISTER)



'38 DODGE



FADE-OUT

VOLUNTEER RESEARCHES BLUE LEDGE MINE

This article, the first in a series, was prepared especially for the Society by Lee Dufur. Lee has worked as a volunteer in the SOHS research library, and as a hostess at the Beekman house. She has written articles on local history for Frontier Times and other publications. We very much appreciate the effort she put forth to provide our members with a regular feature on southern Oregon history in the Newsletter.



High up in the Siskiyou near the Oregon-California border in an incredibly beautiful setting are the remains of the Blue Ledge copper mine. The mine flourished from about 1900 to 1910, and closed in 1913. During the time copper ore was being mined and brought out to the railhead at Jacksonville by wagons, a town of several hundred grew up at the site.

The vegetation is lush, unusual plants grow there and the air is crisp and still. But during those days, the ferns were covered with dust from the endless line of freight wagons over the dirt road, and the sounds of a bustling mining camp filled the air.

The Blue Ledge seems not to have had all the rowdiness of earlier mining towns. There was the Eileen hotel (pictured here) and a dance hall. There were baseball games and a music shop in a tent where records were made and played on an Edison recording and talking machine.

By 1913, the mine closed, and the buildings began to decay and the machinery to rust. But in 1916, there was a great debate over

STAFF SEEKS DATA ON LOCAL ARCHITECTS FRANK CLARK INVENTORY BEGINS

The staff of the Jacksonville Museum is seeking information on architects active in the area.

In connection with this, an inventory has been started on Frank C. Clark, Sr., an architect active in the area from his arrival around 1904 until his death in 1957. Mr. Clark was active in commercial and residential design, and two of his landmarks in Medford are the Medford Hotel (pictured at right) and the Elks Temple. From Louise Patterson, Mr. Clark's daughter, the museum collection contains some of his architectural plans, his seal, drawing table, and family photographs. She also provided a biography which contains the following: "He was a prominent member of the Elks Lodge of which he was a life and 50-year member. He was particularly proud that he had submitted the plan that was chosen for the design of the Elks building. Most people remember him for his gentle ways and the kindness he extended to all people he met."



Mr. Robert Keeney, pictured at left with Bill Burk and John Hood, is shown with his recent donation of thirteen boxes of architectural plans, specifications, and a catalog of these materials covering his career as an architect in the area from 1936 through 1979. In addition Mr. Keeney worked with Mr. Clark, and this donation included Mr. Clark's plans for the Medford Hotel done on linen. The donation also included Mr. Clark's plans for the Craterian Theater Building, 1925; Medford Senior High School, 1931 (now

Mid-High); Community Hospital, 1925; blueprints and working drawings for the Elks Lodge, Medford, and the Elks picnic and casino area.

The Frank Clark architectural inventory presently contains around 125 photographs ranging from the many building he designed for Hillcrest Orchard, residences on East Main and South Oakdale, the YMCA, the Holly Theatre, and the Fluhrer Building, all in or near Medford. Mr. Clark also designed Twin Plunges and many homes on Siskiyou Boulevard in Ashland. The inventory will include information on contractors, materials used, owners, use, and architectural features. (See story on facing page about the Frank Clark-designed hotel, in Jerome, Arizona.)

COMMITTEE ISSUES HISTORICAL MARKER

On March 29, 1979, SOHS granted a house marker for the Charley House, 305 North Grape Street, Medford, and from Mr. Martin Burk's application the following is taken:

"In 1895, Joseph Shone purchased two lots at the northwest corner of Fourth and Grape Streets, Medford, Oregon. Tax records tell a real, if sketchy, story of the improvements made, [the] sheds and [the] out buildings, and finally the Waverly Cottage. . . completed in 1898.

"In May of 1901, William Charley, a prominent Antelope area rancher, purchased the Waverly Cottage for his town house and retired there.

"The Charley House exterior remains virtually unchanged from its beginning. The house interior has a number of distinctive features such as the ornate carved archway into the parlor, the transom windows over the interior and exterior doors, still in good working condition and lending added design to the original natural finished casings and doors. Not seen now is the horsehair plaster hidden by new wallpapers throughout. Interior restoration has been the project of our sons, Dennis and Daniel, my wife, Leona, and myself."



MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFIED

Both Anne Billeter, an SOHS member from Grants Pass, and Pauline M. Shier, secretary of the Josephine County Historical Society, have identified the mystery photo in the November/December 1979 issue of the SOHS Newsletter. A photograph, identical to the one in the Newsletter, was recently published in the book, JOSEPHINE COUNTY HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS, II. The picture is identified as a Grants Pass street scene, the west side of Sixth Street, between G and H streets. The central building has a hardware store downstairs and the Blackstone Hotel upstairs. At the far right of the picture is the Southern Pacific passenger depot.

HISTORICAL SITES INVENTORY COMPLETED

Among recent additions to the SOHS research library is the Jackson County Historical Sites Inventory, published by the Jackson County Department of Planning and Development. The inventory, compiled by Scott Clay and photographed by Marjorie Edens, describes over 400 historic structures and sites located outside incorporated cities and Federal lands. The negatives of the photographs taken for the study were also deposited with the Society. The work has already proved valuable to researchers wishing to trace the history of their homes.

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION SOUGHT



If any of our readers can identify this photograph, please call Richard Engeman.

PHOTO ENLARGEMENTS OFFERED FOR SALE

The SOHS research library has a number of photographic enlargements of Jackson County scenes, some of them sepia toned, for sale at one-half of the regular price. Many of the prints have very minor imperfections, but all are suitable for framing and display. Among the pictures are views of Ashland plaza in the 1880's and in the 1920's, the United States Hotel in Jacksonville about 1880, logging, the Good Friday mine, the Nunan house, and Lithia Park. Prices are \$3.50 for an 11 x 14 inch print and \$5.00 for a 16 x 20 inch print. Come and take a look at these and other stock photographs for decorating your living room or office, or as gifts for friends and family.

THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 480

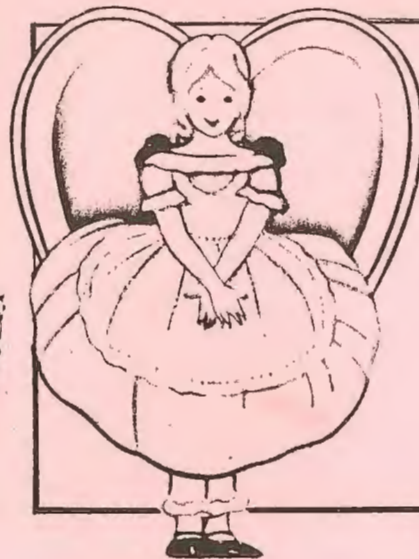
JACKSONVILLE, OREGON 97530

503-899-1847

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1980

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Perm 1 No. 13
Jacksonville,
Oregon 97530



ASHLAND TIDINGS REPORTS EARLY SNOWFALL

January in southern Oregon sometimes means snow, as it did in 1980, and as it did in 1911 as depicted by this photograph of the Britt Park.



Heavy snow periods were reported in 1881 and 1883, and in 1888 the Ashland Tidings declared the time the "longest period of continuous cold since settlement of the country by white people."

Director's Corner

The year 1980 will see some new and interesting direction in the activities of the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

As you read this Newsletter, the collections department is transferring most of our artifacts (not on exhibit) to our new storage building. After thirty years of collecting, the Society is, at long last, able to provide adequate storage space. There will be more information about this facility in later Newsletters.

While the transfer is under way, an appraisal of the collection is also taking place. It has been some time since this was done, and our insurance company has made gentle but persistent requests that we submit an accurate appraisal.

The scope, responsibility, size, and direction of SOHS has changed a great deal since its beginning in 1946. Our written policies have not always kept pace with these changes. The Board of Trustees' Policy Committee has been directed to draft a new policy statement. Much of our new policy will be concerned with our collection procedures. To be decided also are the areas of emphasis in the 1980's.

Too often in the past the objectives of SOHS have been a year-to-year commitment. We can no longer effectively operate in that manner. New written guidelines will assure completion of objectives with better cost effectiveness.

In the future SOHS will have to provide more service to a greater number with very little extra manpower. Since our resources are finite, we cannot expect to heap more money into the budget to solve all our problems, particularly that of inflation.

Tax revenues simply cannot fill all the expense of our organization. In the future we will have to secure additional funding from other sources. That means we must go to the private sector.

Actually we have already started the practice of seeking additional private funding. Most notably was the conversion of the museum annex into a children's museum with a \$40,000 grant from the Ben B. Cheney Foundation, a private foundation.

New challenges provide new opportunities, and I look forward to the challenges of the 1980's. You can help to address the challenges by increasing the size of your membership, getting others to join SOHS, and/or volunteering your time. You can also share your thoughts. What should your historical society accomplish in the 1980's?

Bill Burk

VOLUNTEERS DONATE TIME

The staff of the Jacksonville Museum is very grateful for the 643 hours of volunteer help given during the months of November and December. Museum volunteers gave a total of 5,607 hours for the year 1979.

THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robert Higgins	President
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STAFF OF THE JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM

Director	C. William Burk	899-1847
Administration Assistant	Dottie Ellen Bailey	899-1711
Curator of Collections	Donald Draisner	899-1847
Librarian	Richard Engeman	899-1847
Programs Director	Ethel Ackerman	899-8203
Restoration Coordinator	Ruth Preston	899-1847
Curator of Exhibits	Renee Bush	899-1711
Historian/Newsletter Editor	Marjorie Edens	899-1711

SOHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The following became members of the Southern Oregon Historical Society in the months of November and December, 1979, and we welcome them.

Janet L. Crawford, Portland
M. Jessica Taft, Portland
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Cunningham, Medford
Steve & Janet Erickson, Jacksonville
Donald L. Sanne & Beverley Lacrone
Lois Reinking, Jacksonville
Thomas A. Emmens, Eugene
Salina Caruso Talavera, Salt Lake City, Ut.
The Robert Pearce Family, Jacksonville
J. P. Busby, St. Helena, California
Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Firth, Central Point
L. H. Applegate, Healdsburg, California
Glenn & Mary Birdseye, Gold Hill
Curtis Nesheim, Seattle, Washington
David & Kathleen Thompson, Medford
Peggy Klett, Glendale, California
Mr. & Mrs. Rupert Maddox, Jacksonville
Mr. & Mrs. G. Greising, Akron, Ohio

John H. Bagley, Modesto, Calif.
Ted & Sheri Birdseye, Gold Hill
Dorothy M. Caton, Medford
Forrest D. Collins, Medford
Edith M. Hays, Medford
Betty Jones, Medford
Beulah Kee, Aurora, California
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Orr, Medford
Nancy Peterson, Ashland
Terri Lynn Johnston, Portland
Jane N. Gorrell, Jacksonville
Fay Foster, Central Point
Jan Miller, Medford
Kandy Scott, Medford
Holly Arnold, Ashland
Janet Fagg, Medford
Donald E. McCoy, Medford

CHANGES OF ADDRESS REQUESTED

Because SOHS is a non-profit organization we are able to take advantage of bulk-mail rates. This saves a great deal of money, and most of our mailings are sent in this way. Bulk-mail, however, has one disadvantage: it is not forwarded. Therefore, please notify Dottie Bailey, 899-1711, as soon as possible of any change of address.

NEW DONATIONS FEATURED ON ROTATING BASIS

One of the front entrance display cases in the courthouse building is now being used for new donations, and the exhibits will rotate on a monthly basis. The following story is on the first exhibit which appeared in the new donations display case.



Pictured at left is Velma Johnston Wilson with the Marine Corps uniform of her late husband Lt. Col. Arthur A. Wilson, retired, 1904-1979. It had been Mr. Wilson's desire that the Jacksonville Museum be the repository of his uniforms, medals, and other insignia that belong with the uniforms. This donation, presented by Mr. Wilson's youngest son, Robert B. Wilson, spans a military career of both active and reserve duty.

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

WANTED: A select group of people who would like to host adult, youth and special group lecture tours of the courthouse, children's museum and/or other SOHS managed properties in Jacksonville. Ethel Ann Ackerman, programs director, is looking for a small group of dedicated and reliable individuals who will meet for regular educational seminar sessions and compile a docent handbook. The requirements for this new pilot docent program are:

- Physical fitness (an ability to climb stairs);
- a desire to explore southern Oregon history as it is represented in the museum exhibits;
- a desire to meet with visitors and share local history; and
- an approximate twelve-hour a month commitment to lead group tours during the spring and summer months of 1980.

If you are interested in becoming part of this new pilot program, please write to Ethel Ann Ackerman, Programs Director, Box 480, Jacksonville, 97530, and state your interests. Please include your name, address, and telephone number.

REPAIRS MADE ON BEEKMAN BANK NEW HEATING-COOLING INSTALLED



Bill Bergen is pictured making repairs on the dry rot damage to the Beekman Bank. This was the first phase of a rehabilitation of the bank; the second phase, the installation of a heating-cooling system, has now been completed.

Currently, the third phase, is the refurbishing and making available to public view, the office in the rear of the building. This will include a viewing porch to show Mr. Beekman's office area as it might have appeared during his active years. The interior work is being supervised by Ruth Preston, restoration coordinator.

HANDWEAVERS GUILD SCHEDULES EXHIBIT

The Southern Oregon Historical Society and the Rogue Valley Handweavers Guild will sponsor a weaving show from March 5 to March 9, 1980. On exhibit will be a variety of newly woven articles made by Guild members and furniture from the SOHS collection. The show will be in the Ballroom of the U. S. Hotel, and on the afternoons of March 8 and 9 the Armstrong House and the Catholic Rectory will be open.

Archaeological gem in danger

Historic Harlow Cabin under threat of vandalism

By SARAH LEMON
of the Mail Tribune

APPLEGATE DAM — The historic Harlow Cabin near the headwaters of the Applegate River on Elliott Creek Road has stood unlocked in recent years.

The U.S. Forest Service has left the former prospector's home in the Rogue River National Forest open to convince visitors there is nothing valuable inside.

But the two-story 1920s structure — a victim of ongoing vandalism — is a gem to U.S. Forest Service archaeologist Jeff LaLonde. A gem that may need a little polishing but is well worth protecting.

Forest Service agents identified three local men who vandalized Harlow Cabin in April 2000. In September, Lucas Jordan Gerlitz, 30, Jeff Gerald Burk, 22, and Chad Thomas Shepard, 23, all pleaded guilty to destruction of government property in federal court. Gerlitz's and Shepard's last known addresses were in Medford, and Burk lived in White City in 1999.

A Medford federal magistrate sentenced all three men to 24 hours in jail, a \$200 fine and a restitution payment of \$900, which will go to the Forest Service to repair and preserve Harlow Cabin.

The men admitted to cutting down a nearby tree, destroying a custom-built road gate and damaging parts of the cabin. The vandalism was a "party situation," LaLonde said.

"It's just heartbreaking the kind of waste and stupidity that goes on out there because of vandals."

By prosecuting Gerlitz, Shepard and Burk, the Forest Service hopes to send the message that vandalism will not be tolerated, LaLonde said.



U.S. Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service is struggling to preserve and maintain the historic Harlow Cabin at the headwaters of the Applegate River. It was originally the home to a prospector named William Harlow, who built it himself in the 1920s and lived there with his wife. The structure is on the National Register of Historic Places, but that hasn't stopped vandals from tearing the place up, the Forest Service reports.

trolling an area where vandals are at work, the sheriff's department relies on the public to report the crimes, he said.

In addition to littering and making mischief while under the influence of alcohol, vandals most often target gates and fences on BLM land, King said.

Replacing a custom-crafted gate

of peeled wood poles is just one of the tasks on the road to restoring Harlow Cabin. The cabin needs a lot of new windows, which are not standard sizes and will have to be custom-built, LaLonde said. Repair costs could approach the \$30,000 the Forest Service already has spent on restoring the cabin, he said.

But if these repairs are made — and if the vandalism stops — LaLonde said the cabin has a lot of years left in it.

Reach reporter Sarah Lemon at 776-4417, or e-mail slemon@mailtribune.com

Reporter Jill Briskey contributed to this story.

The history of the cabin

Gold prospector William Harlow built the two-story Harlow Cabin in the early 1920s and lived in it with his wife when his gold claim was the end of the line on the road from Jacksonville to the Blue Ledge copper mine.

Harlow's use of hand-hewn logs and split boulders makes the construction techniques impressive and the cabin unique for the Rogue River National Forest, said U.S. Forest Service archaeologist Jeff LaLonde. The cabin is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Forest Service acquired the cabin in the early '90s when Harlow's original mining claim was found to be null and void, LaLonde said. Since then, the Forest Service has replaced some of the cabin's rotting sill logs, put on a new roof, cut "danger trees," planted native shrubs around the structure and put up a gate to prevent vehicle access to a clearing behind the cabin.

A target of vandalism since its appropriation by the Forest Service, the cabin has been dying the "death of a thousand cuts" and is in need of heavy repairs, LaLonde said. If vandalism to the cabin were curtailed, the Forest Service could combat deterioration from water and soil with a little ongoing maintenance, he said.

Forty years ago, there were dozens of pioneer cabins in the forest, LaLonde said. But they are becoming more and more rare. The Kruse Cabin built in 1845 near Graylock Mountain burned to the ground in June. An unattended campfire too close to the cabin started the blaze.

By SARAH LEMON
of the Mail Tribune

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The case was reported a few days after it happened, which was most likely the key to solving it, said Jackson County Sheriff's Deputy Mike King.

King said he investigates about 40 cases of vandalism a month on Bureau of Land Management lands. But only about 10 to 20 percent of those are ever solved, mostly because there is no suspect information. When they aren't pa-



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Photographer:

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LIFESTYLES

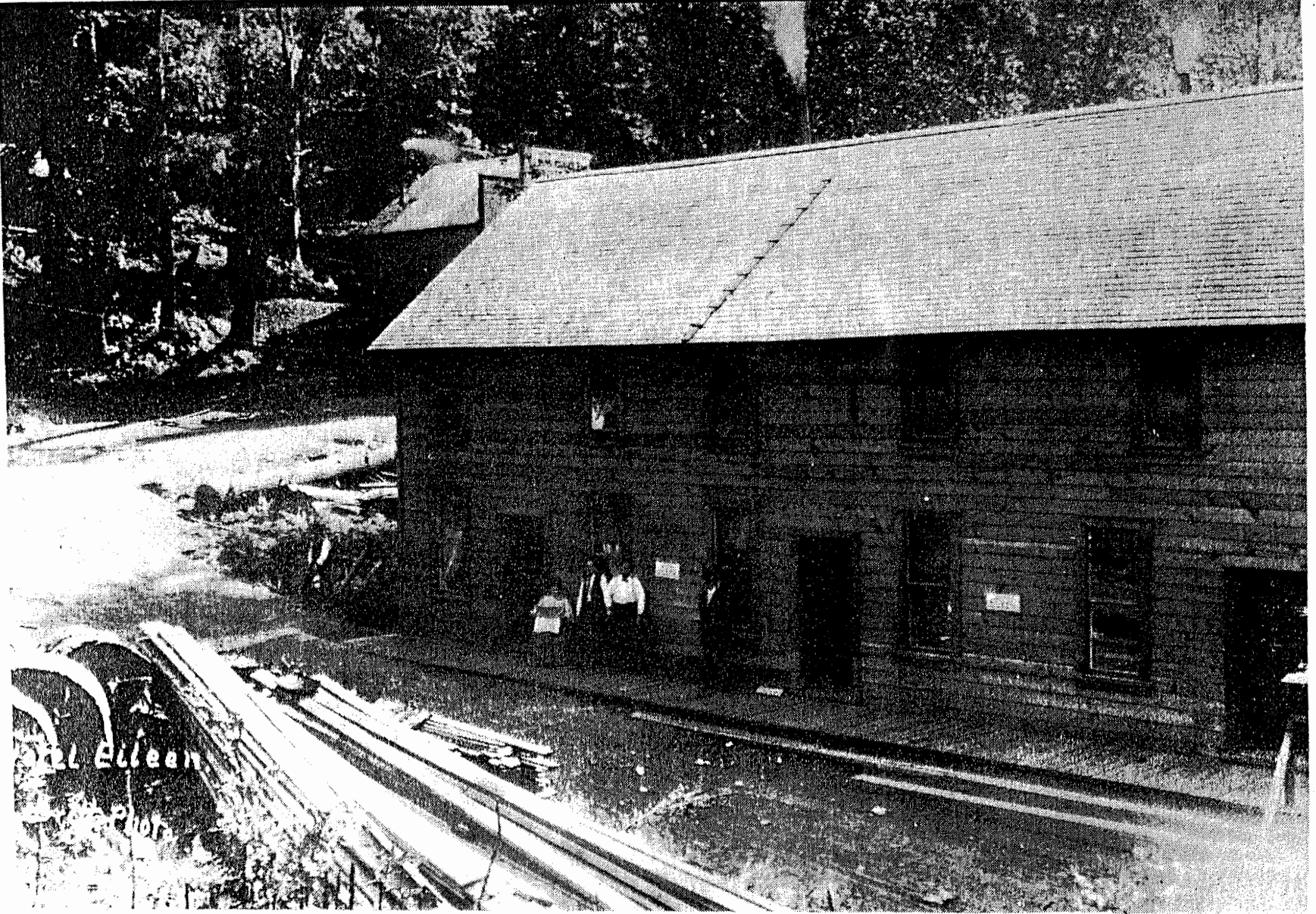


Photo from Southern Oregon Historical Society

Back in time

Gold was not the only metal that exerted its lure on those seeking their riches from the soils of southern Oregon and northern California. In 1898 the Blue Ledge Mining Company located a ledge of copper ore in the mountains above the Applegate a few miles south of the California border. Over \$2 million was spent developing the property, and two daily stages from Medford hauled out the crushed and sacked ore, which was sent to the smelter in Tacoma for processing.

The four terraced mining camps boasted the Hotel Eileen, a dance hall, cook house, bunk house, offices, machine shops and homes. Low prices for copper, however, prevented the Blue Ledge from maintaining its profitability, and the mine closed by 1919. Copies of this image (No. 5553), or any of the thousands of historical images in the Southern Oregon Historical Society's collections, can be viewed or purchased at the research library in the History Center.



People relaxing on the front walkway of the famous old Hotel Eileen located in the Blue Ledge Mine area.

The little settlement was a bustling enterprise in the late 1800's due to the heavy copper mining in the area.

Courtesy: Southern Oregon Historical Society.

Copper Mining In Southern Or. Continues...

Part 6...Mining Wealth Series

Applegate District

SQUAW CREEK—THE PROSPECTS OF SPENCER, SPIKER, NEUBER & WAITS.

Squaw creek is a tributary of the Applegate, coming in below Elliot creek, and in respect to geological formation is identical with that of Elliot creek, Joe creek, Cook & Green creeks and Middle Fork. In other words, the schistose or sulphide

ore bearing formation of the Blue Ledge district extends over on the Oregon side far enough to embrace Squaw creek, and to include some excellent looking prospects on that stream.

The best prospects today shown up are these of Bruce Buck and the Spencer-Neuber Company.

The latter company's operations in this region had their beginning in the arrival of Mr. E. Spencer in this country in 1901. Mr. Spencer is an experienced prospector and was attracted to this district from Idaho and Montana by the accounts that had gone out concerning the Blue Ledge. The year 1901 was spent in comparing the various properties and points of interest of the various streams and mountains that make up the whole district, and in January, 1902, he was prepared to locate for himself and associates a series of nineteen claims on Squaw creek. These claims do not lie in a group, but, on the other hand, represent the careful selection by a competent prospector of what were at that time the best surface showings on the stream. And bona fide development work on each claim has improved that showing each year.

The first claims located by Mr. Spencer were near the granite-schist contact. Later on, the more southerly locations were made and on the other side of the stream. On this side of the creek, namely, the south side, the Jumbo, Butte and

Boston give the best showings. These ore bodies vary from thirty to one hundred feet in width, and the largest is the Jumbo. They assume the general dip and strike of the whole country, namely, a north and south trend, with an angle of forty to fifty degrees to the west.

The divide on which these claims are located, between Squaw creek and Elliot creek, presents ideal topographic conditions for mining operations. On almost any of the above named ledges backs of 2,600 feet can be gained by a three-quarter mile tunnel.

Since the location of the original nineteen claims on the part of this company in January, 1902, there have been nine additional locations, making a total of twenty-eight claims, and on every one of these twenty-eight claims has the discovery and assessment work to date been fully done.

On Squaw creek the best individual showing is that on the claim known as the Iron Hand, located on the north side of the creek, not more than a mile and a half or so from its mouth. The ore body crops from the surface for a width of one hundred feet. Assays give gold and silver returns of \$5 and upwards, and with less than twenty feet of depth the copper values run one and one-half to two per cent. There is a fine showing of ore on the dump.

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Copper Mining Continues In The Sou. Oregon.

Part 5.....Mining Wealth Series

The Blue Ledge Mine

The month of June witnessed the consummation of what will probably prove to be the most important mining transaction Southern Oregon has ever known---the sale of the Blue Ledge copper mine at the head of the Applegate. To be exactly accurate, it may as well be stated that the blue Ledge is not really in Southern Oregon. It lies in Siskiyou county, California, about four miles south of the Oregon-California line, but the relief of the country is all into Southern Oregon, so much so, that while several different possible routes into Southern Oregon are under contemplation as outlets for the camp, there has not been even the remotest consideration of a plan of connecting with the Southern Pacific Railway at Hill, the nearest point in California and hardly half so far away. Either Grants Pass or Medford will land the prize and the contest may become an interesting one. Grants Pass has the advantage of a water grade (the basin of Applegate river) and also the argument of the projected railroad to the coast. Medford, on the other hand, has the argument of the shorter distance. The difference in distance, however is not very great. The length of such a road to Grants Pass would be forty-five to fifty miles.

The Blue Ledge district has the latent possibilities of becoming one of the greatest copper districts of the country. In its five years of existence known to man it has been visited by many capable geological men, who expressed great faith in it, and some of whom enthusiastically declared it to be the greatest copper showing extant for the amount of development work done. A thing acting as a deterrent against its earlier sale was the unusual formation, micaceous schist, in which the ore is formed. The pay is in the form of chalcopryite, lying in immense lens-shaped masses in the huge laminations of the schist formation. Additional work, however, has shown their tendency to go down, and it is a reasonable prediction that in this highly mineralized area, say ten miles square, there will

be unearthed in the next few years some of the greatest bodies of copper ore in the west. At least the careful reports of no less than a dozen authoritative investigators defer to that conclusion, and the fact that there were numerous big operators after the property at the time of its recent sale affords some evidence of the esteem in which the property is held.

The Blue Ledge property is located at the head of Joe creek, a tributary to Elliot

creek, the latter in turn emptying into the east fork of the Applegate. There are eleven claims in the group, and while not patented, they have all been located by survey. They are given on the accompanying map under the names of Malone, Cooper, L. F. Cooper, McVay and Adams, W. H. Hamilton, Brown Bear, Malone, Hamilton, L. H. McVay, Lake, S. G. Adams, D. Malone, and Adams. There is a new wagon road up the Applegate and up the east fork to within four miles off the Blue Ledge.

The Blue Ledge is in the center of a district fully six to eight miles square, whose geological features in matter of structure, strike and dip are everywhere identical. The formation is classified as a micaceous schist, which is sometimes decidedly black in color and other times of a lighter or more silvery hue. The Blue Ledge vein itself, whose croppings are from fifty to three hundred feet wide, is

sometimes described as a contact vein because of the variation of the walls in this respect. The vein strikes with the formation whose general direction is ten degrees east of north and also dips with the formation, the angle being about fifty degrees from horizontal and the dip to the west. In other words, the Blue Ledge---and all the other veins of the district, for that matter, appear to occupy rifts in the laminations of the schist, which laminations are like fissures in their general character. There are probably ten distinct fissures in this belt, the Cook and Green vein ranking second to the Blue Ledge. The Bloomfield claim, owned by Jeldness & Co., is a part of the Cook & Green lead: **IT IS A FINE PROSPECT.**

The Nabob, of which considerable is heard as being one of the best showings of the camp, is owned by the Blue Ledge Company and is probably an extension of the Blue Ledge itself.

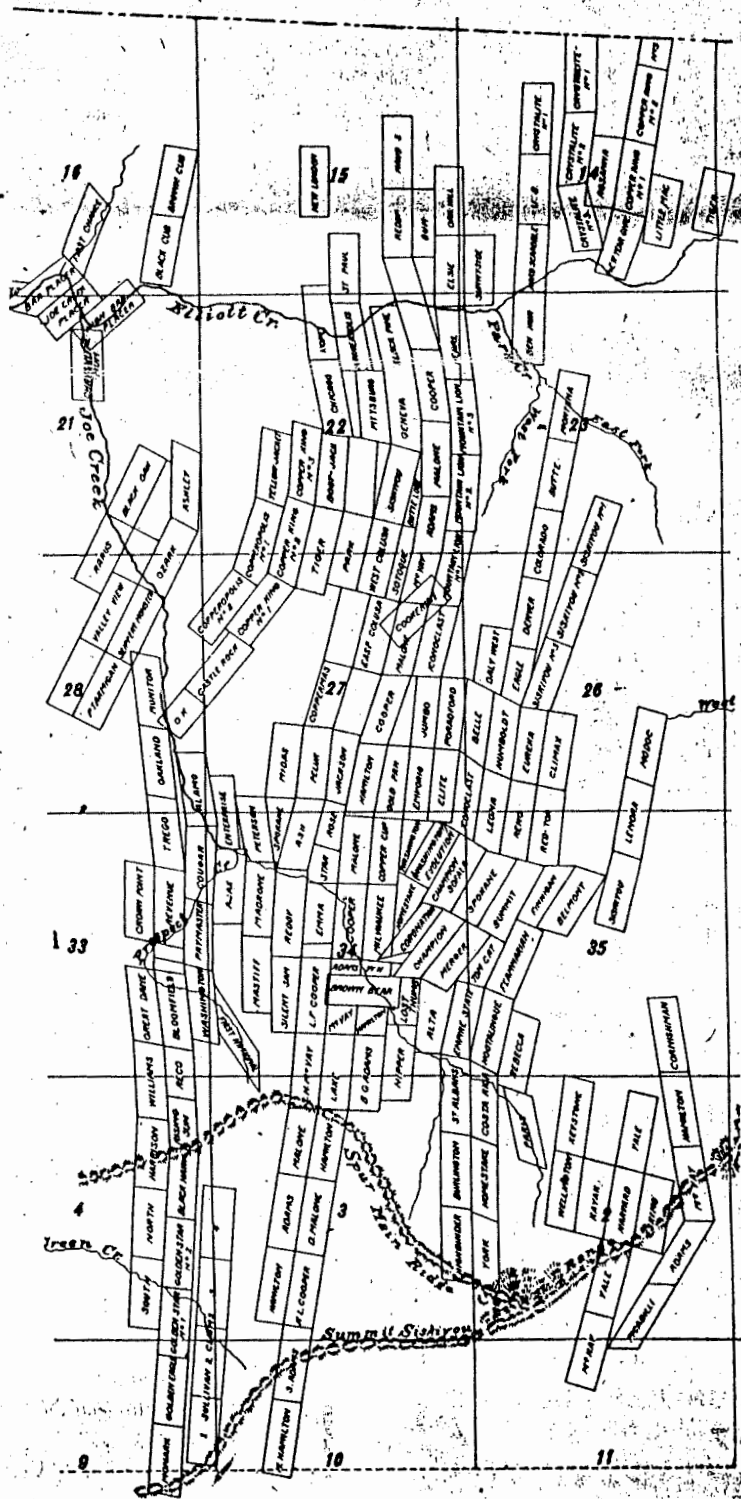
While the surface croppings or gossan are in themselves a great showing, taking the whole district over, the work on the Blue Ledge and Bloomfield claims has shown up some immense ore bodies, and depth is the desideratum with copper mining investors.

The most important work on the Blue Ledge is a drift seventy feet long starting in a narrow streak of gossan and running for the first third of that distance in a body of ordinary pyrite. The pyrite there is replaced to some extent by chalcopryite. The ore is cross-cut at several points and a width is determined of twenty-two feet that will average five per cent in copper, \$5 in gold and silver. Aside from this there is a three foot streak of chalcopryite that averages fifteen per cent copper.

The situation of the mine, aside from remoteness to the railroad, is ideal. Water and timber facilities are unsurpassed, and the topography of the country lends itself ideally for tunnel operations and development. A depth can be reached in this manner of 2,200 feet. Although the depth today is not to exceed 300 feet, yet it is computed that there are upwards of 100,000 tons of ore exposed averaged not less than \$15 per ton, or a total of upwards of \$1,500,000.

Development work on a big scale has already been inaugurated, and another of the big base ore deposits of Northern California-Southern Oregon can be said to be safely started upon its career as a mine.

Next...More In The Applegate District....



MAP OF BLUE LEDGE DISTRICT.

Portrait & Press

Margaret Thompson, 100, Gold Hill Native

By MARJORIE O'HARRA
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Petite, coquettish, still fond of pretty dresses and fancy hats, Margaret Thompson, the daughter of a young Irishman who came to the Rogue Valley in the 1850s to seek his fortune, observed her 100th birthday last Wednesday.

An accomplished pianist, Mrs. Thompson seems to have bounced over the years like a grace note.

"I play classical music," she said, "but not much anymore. Friends bother me here to play jazz. That's because they like to dance."

She was speaking of the residents at the Southern Oregon Convalescent Center in Medford where she has lived for the last two years.

Gold Hill Home

To Margaret Thompson, however, Gold Hill, will probably always be "home" because that is where her roots are.

Her father, Tom Chavner, came here from Tipperary, Ireland, 120 years ago. He established a donation land claim, built a crude log cabin, and began to work the land, both farming and mining. He

married a pretty young girl named Margaret, who had also come from Ireland — and shortly thereafter, he found the fortune he had been searching for — gold. The Gold Hill pocket was considered one of the richest strikes in the entire area.

Chavner laid out the townsite of Gold Hill and donated it as such so that the railroad company would choose this as a stop along the valley route. He built the first bridge across the Rogue River and part of the road that became known later as the old South Pacific Highway.

Five Children

Margaret Thompson remembers much of this history, because she was born to Tom and Margaret Chavner on April 26, 1872. They had four other children, Michael, Peter, Anthony (who died as a baby) and Mary Ann.

She remembers when "Gold Hill was lively because of the mines and the quartz mills." She remembers how the Chinese miners worked the river beds for gold, and how the white miners "passed a law to keep them out because

they didn't like them shipping the gold back to China."

She describes Chinatown and the Joss House (place of worship) in Jacksonville, and recalls seeing the Chinese carry food to the cemetery as part of the ritual for their dead. Later, after the law was passed, many of the Chinese dug up their dead and sent them back to China.

Attended Academy

Margaret's mother died when she was six, and her father sent her and her sister to Saint Mary's Academy in Jacksonville. It was there she started to study music, piano and dancing. Later after her father died in 1888, she went to study at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and the New England Conservatory of Music at Boston. Mary Ann went East too, to study art. Both girls made many friends, but Margaret remembers enjoying the company of the "Southern girls" at the conservatory.

After she returned home to the Rogue Valley, she remembers playing the piano for one Chautauqua season at Ashland — driving a horse and buggy along muddy or dusty roads — and the good

times she and Mary Ann had "... going to picnics and fairs." "Of course, we had beaux, too." She indicated a preference for "polished gentlemen."

Lively Town

On July 23, 1906, she married W. E. Thompson, a man who was traveling through Gold Hill on the train, saw one man throw another out of a saloon, thought he'd like this lively town, and stayed.

"We spent our honeymoon at Mr. Thompson's mining claim, the Blue Ledge Mine, in the Siskiyou," she said. "About a year later, we moved back to the ranch near Gold Hill."

She talked a bit about Mox Jacoby, a man from Germany who she said was deaf, but a wonderful musician.

"He had a store in Gold Hill where he carried everything, and we could get nice hats." She also talked about the millinery store in Jacksonville where "a lady from the East would trim hats with beautiful birds and feathers and everything else."

"My sister and I always had pretty hats and fancy dresses and many of the

ladies in the valley had their nice dresses fitted in San Francisco."

As we visited, Mrs. Thompson wondered where her pretty things were now.

Built Home

"In your own home, on the ranch, just as you left them, dear," said her daughter-in-law, Ruth. (Her home was built in 1907, and she lived there until she came to the convalescent center.)

Mrs. Thompson has a daughter, Mrs. Jack (Hortense) Mayer, who lives in Portland and a son, Chavner, who with his wife, Ruth, lives in the three-story, Queen Anne style house that Margaret's two brothers and sister built in 1871. Standing in a grove of laurel trees adjacent to Oregon 99 south of Gold Hill, the house has become a landmark in the area.

The big square grand piano made of rosewood that Tom Chavner bought in Jacksonville (it had been shipped around the Horn to Crescent City, then brought to Jacksonville by pack mule) for his musical daughters is there, as is the family clock.

"They must be getting kind of old, too," Mrs. Thompson said.

Rocking Chair

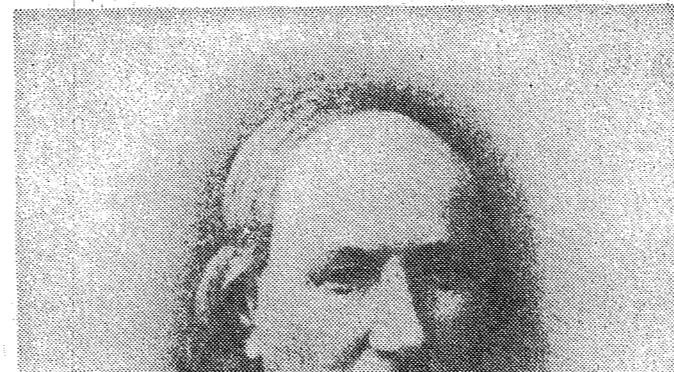
Another treasured possession is the rocking chair Tom Chavner ordered from Boston some 120 years ago after he received word that Father Blanchett, the missionary priest, would be visiting this western wilderness. The chair was carved out of New England walnut and shipped around the Horn. A pack train brought it to the Chavner cabin in time to receive Father Blanchett, who later became the archbishop of Oregon.

So much for the past.

Mrs. Thompson keeps up with the present. Using a cane, she walks and visits other members of the center, gets the Mail Tribune which she reads regularly, enjoys television news, goes to the dining room for lunch and



Margaret Thompson greeted guests during a party held at Southern Oregon Convalescent Center last Wednesday to observe her 100th birthday. Hosts for the event were her son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Chavner Thompson, Gold Hill, and her daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mayer, Portland. (Holman Photo)



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"In your own home, on the ranch, just as you left them, dear," said her daughter-in-law, Ruth. (Her home was built in 1907, and she lived there until she came to the convalescent center.)

Mrs. Thompson has a daughter, Mrs. Jack (Hortense) Mayer, who lives in Portland and a son, Chavner, who with his wife, Ruth, lives in the three-story, Queen Anne style house that Margaret's two brothers and sister built in 1871. Standing in a grove of laurel trees adjacent to Oregon 99 south of Gold Hill, the house has become a landmark in the area.

The big square grand piano made of rosewood that Tom Chavner bought in Jacksonville (it had been shipped around the Horn to Crescent City, then brought to Jacksonville by pack mule) for his musical daughters is there, as is the family clock.

"They must be getting kind of old, too," Mrs. Thompson said.

Rocking Chair

Another treasured possession is the rocking chair Tom Chavner ordered from Boston some 120 years ago after he received word that Father Blanchett, the missionary priest, would be visiting this western wilderness. The chair was carved out of New England walnut and shipped around the Horn. A pack train brought it to the Chavner cabin in time to receive Father Blanchett, who later became the archbishop of Oregon.

So much for the past.

Mrs. Thompson keeps up with the present. Using a cane, she walks and visits other members of the center, gets the Mail Tribune which she reads regularly, enjoys television news, goes to the dining room for lunch and dinner. She says she has a wonderful roommate, Mrs. Marie Fagin, who is confined to her bed, and that they are real pals.

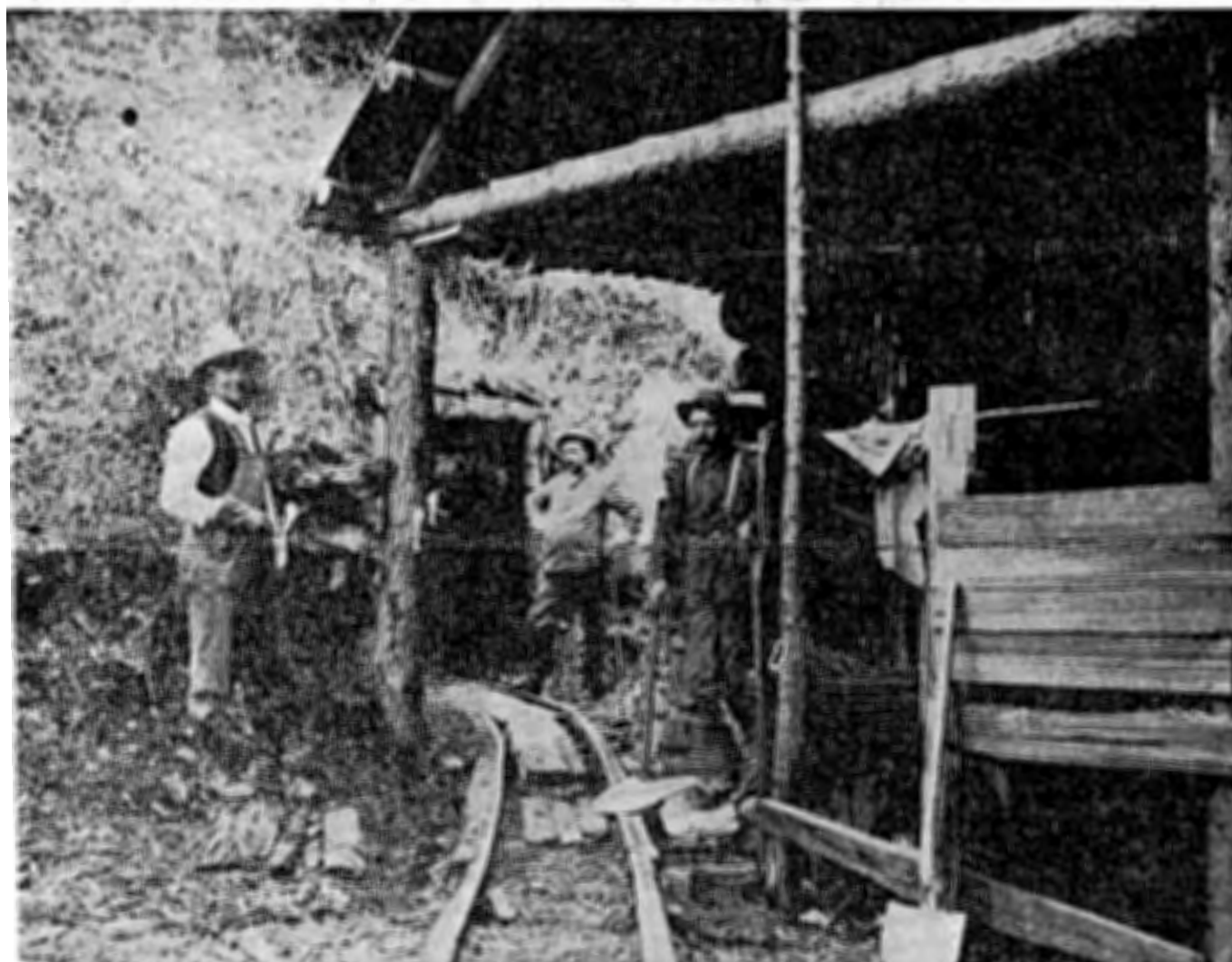
Classical Music

She plays classical music at the piano in the dining room but says, "lots of the members would like more modern music."

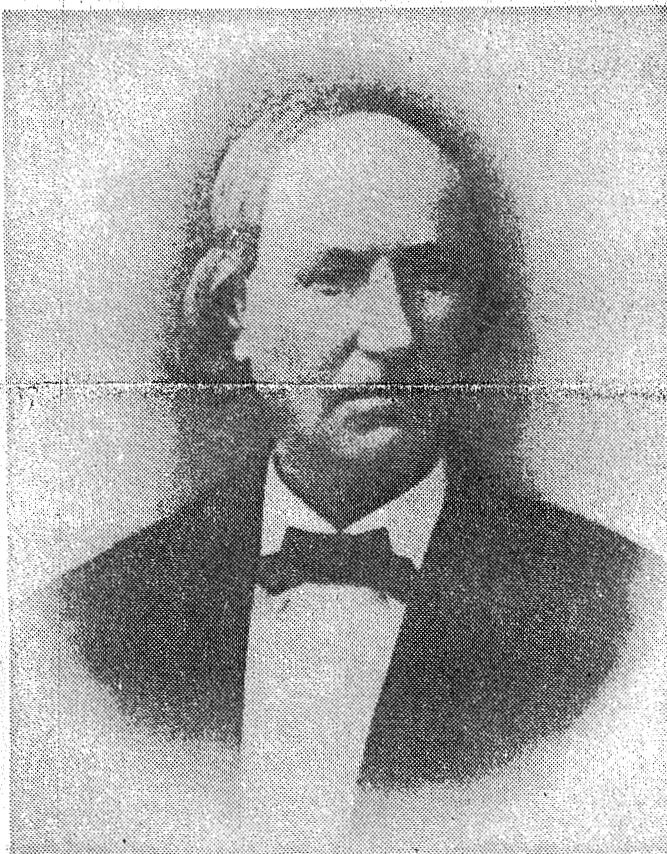
She brought to a close our birthday visit by sharing with us a confidence now mellow with age "... he was her sweetheart and she set her trap for him." Then she observed, with a twinkle of merriment in her pretty blue eyes, that while many things have changed in the last 100 years, she doesn't think girls have changed so very much at all.



Margaret Thompson greeted guests during a party held at Southern Oregon Convalescent Center last Wednesday to mark her 100th birthday. Hosts for the event were her son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Chavner Thompson, Gold Hill, and her daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mayer, Portland. (Holman Photo)



W. E. Thompson, the man who got off the train in Gold Hill and stayed because it looked to him like a lively town, stands at the left of the entrance to his claim at the Blue Ledge Mine. The cabin is where he and his bride, Margaret Chavner, lived for the first 1½ years of their marriage.



Tom Chavner, Margaret Thompson's father came here from Ireland in the 1850s. He struck it rich in gold.



Margaret Chavner had this picture taken in Boston when she was in the East studying music.



TED WHARTON
3278 Britt Ave.
Medford, OR 97501

8-3-10

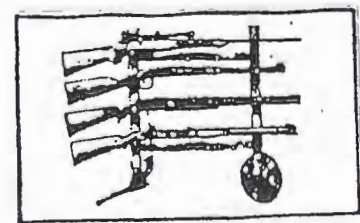
Janet,

Please add the enclosed news clipping to our file on the Blue Ledge mine if you don't already have it.

Perhaps a writeup in our news letter would be appropriate. It looks like the end of the historic old mine.

Thanks

Ted



Stimulus funds will help detoxify Blue Ledge mine site

By PAUL FATTIG
Mail Tribune

A major construction effort to remove toxic metals in tailings left from the long-inactive Blue Ledge copper mine on a private parcel in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest has received a \$2.5 million shot in the arm.

The stimulus funds are in addition to the \$11.1 million already received for the cleanup that was launched early this summer, said forest spokesman Paul Galloway.

The additional funding will allow the U.S. Forest Service to keep the roughly 50 people and heavy equipment working on the site, officials said.

The goal is to remove 48,000 cubic yards of hazardous materials from the mine area and place it in a nearby sealed repository in an effort to prevent the toxic chemicals from leaching into the watershed.

The mining tailings are laced with a heavy-metal mix of arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, sulfuric acid and zinc.

The mine, which was most active during World War I and has been dormant for decades, is about 33 miles south of Jacksonville in the Siskiyou Mountains just inside California. It is about half a dozen miles upstream from Applegate Dam.

The chemical ooze over the

years violates the federal Clean Water Act. Seepage from the mine goes into Joe Creek, which flows into Elliot Creek, which in turn flows into the reservoir behind Applegate Dam on the Applegate River.

"They are doing great out there, but they will probably be shutting down due to winter weather in a couple of weeks," Galloway said. "They don't want to be working on those steep slopes when it gets slick."

The mined area left a large yellow scar on the side of Copper Butte, which rises to about 5,000 feet above sea level. The highest point is nearly 1,000 vertical feet above the lower portion.

After the snow flies this fall, the work will stop and the remainder completed in 2011, Galloway said.

Engineering/Remediation Resources Group Inc. of Martinez, Calif., has been contracted to do the bulk of the work.

Named for the characteristic blue sheen of weathered chalcocite, also called copper pyrite, the deposit was discovered by prospectors in 1898.

Because the nearly 700-acre mine is patented, making it private property, the Forest Service is working with the Environmental Protection Agency, which has jurisdiction on private land when it comes to

environmental pollution. The Forest Service's concern is the environmental effect on the adjacent public forestland and the watershed.

The mining area includes several miles of horizontal tunnels and vertical shafts, called winzes.

Heavy metal grates will be installed at each adit in the mine to prevent unauthorized human access but still allow bats and other small night creatures to use the site as a home, officials said.

After the toxic material is removed, the area will be planted in native vegetation to reduce erosion and speed up the natural healing process.

JUST KEEPING UP
WITH THE BLUE
LEDGE HISTORY
A WASTE OF MONEY
They can't remove
The entire mountain
Yed

D.P. Mines & Minerals resources

7875-
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Southern Oregon Historical Society

The Blue Ledge Is Story of Mining Prosperity of the Past

KOLKO Future of Claims Still Patented Is Uncertain

By MARJORIE O'HARA
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Dynamite explosions rumbled along the misty blue skyline of the Siskiyou mountains.

The year was 1906. The word was copper.

In a bustling mining camp known as the Blue Ledge, miners were drilling into what was believed to be the principal copper lode in a district that encompassed more than 2,000 square miles.

Freight wagons, pulled by teams of six and eight horses, stirred up clouds of dust as they hauled machines and supplies from Medford through Jacksonville, the Applegate country, and up Joe Creek to the mining camp site three miles into the California country. Two stages a day carried passengers and mail.

'Greatest Body of Copper'

The roadway was the only outlet to what was said to be "beyond any question the greatest body of copper in the West."

The quantity of ore blocked out in the district was described as "beyond calculation—only a prospect of what is in the future."

There was talk in Medford that a railroad would be built to the area where more than 1,000 claims had been located on 10 parallel ledges which occupied a strip 10 miles wide and 25 miles long.

Medford was booming. There were three new bank buildings in the city built at a cost of \$100,000; aggregate deposits \$900,000. There were eight new business blocks.

Rivers furnished an abundance of water for power and mining.

The Blue Ledge was expected to employ several thousand men.

There was mining in the Bloomfield, Copper King, Blue Canyon, Reddy and Rodgers, Callaghan's group, Tom Cat, SE Albans, Morris and Wakefield, Tin Cup, Eglo, Kyiak, Jeldness, Silent Sam and other mines.

Hotel Built at Camp

The Hotel Eileen was built near the Blue Ledge camp, a boarding house that boasted steam radiators and gas chandeliers. There were other buildings — a bunkhouse, cookhouse, headquarters offices, essay office, diamond drill testing shop, a dance hall, homes for the superintendents, engineers and workers. Tent houses sprang up on the four-terraced mountain-side and a big barn was erected to shelter the teams and pack mules.

Nearly \$2 million was spent to develop the copper ledge which had been dormant and unexplored since it was first located in 1898 by the Blue Ledge Mining Company.

Vouchers from November, 1906, through 1916 showed the pattern of rise—and decline—of the Blue Ledge. The monthly payrolls grew to \$17,775 in February, 1907, and remained relatively steady through 1908.

Buys More Claims

Freight bills ran to \$3,000 and \$4,000 per month. Groceries and supplies (including items such as \$5.75 for liquor and \$6.30 for washing) were duly noted in the voucher. The company bought more mining claims.

The Blue Ledge mine was developed by...

Southern Oregon — including the Blue Ledge — were not quite rich enough to pay for development. It was found the deposits were big—but not big enough. The country was too broken up. In Arizona tops of mountains were being removed and ore mined with power shovels—560,000 tons of ore and waste could be taken from a single open pit before the ore body was exhausted.

The year 1908 brought trouble to the entire nation, and to the Blue Ledge mine. Banks across the United States closed. The government did what it could to help develop the West, but the next few years were not years of general prosperity.

Dr. J. F. Reddy, a geologist, promoter and mining engineer, was sent to Southern Oregon to consider further development of the Blue Ledge.

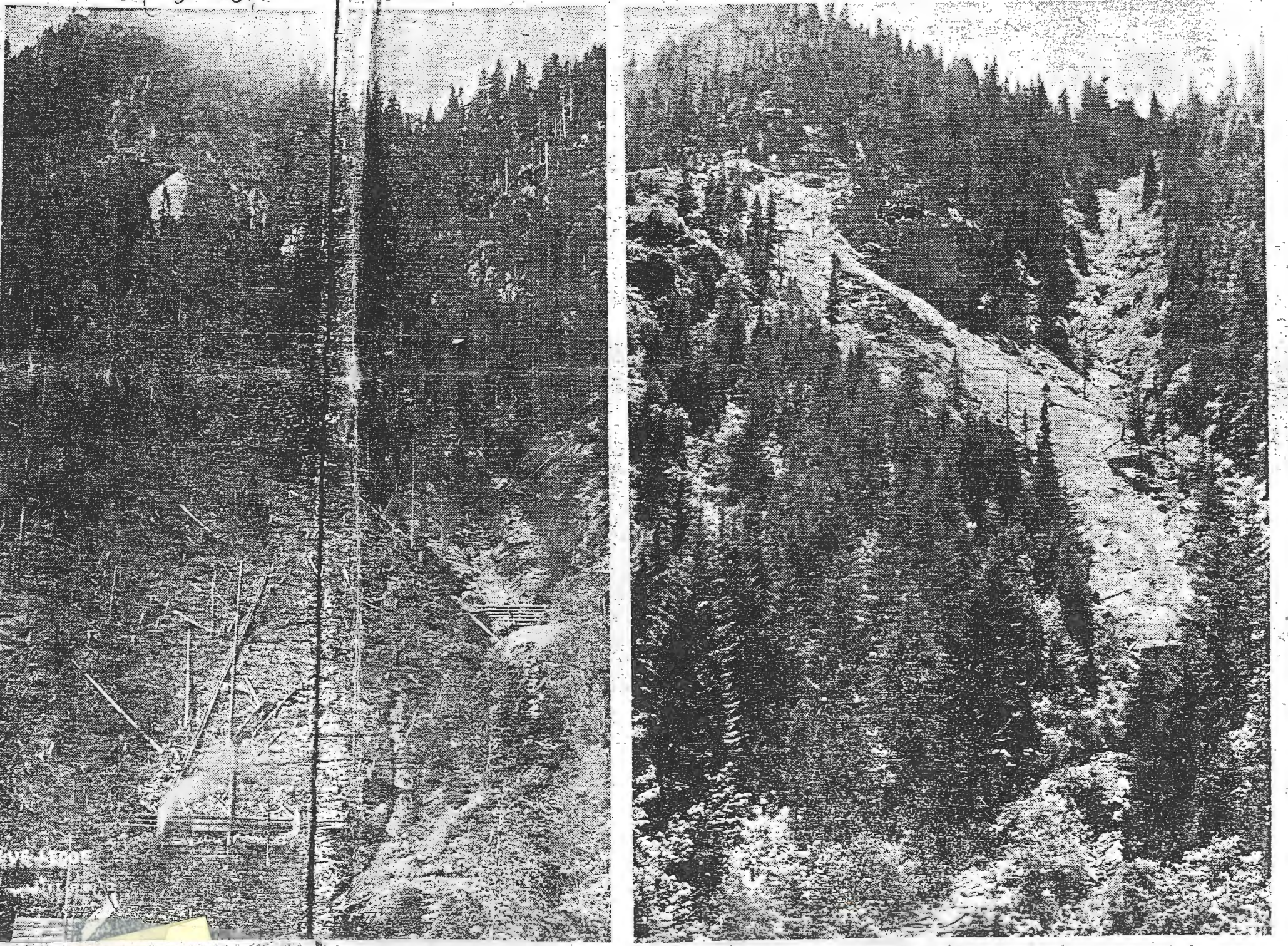
Two Types of Ore

Two types of ore were found — a low-grade pyritic and a better grade copper-zinc. More diamond drill holes were made and some crosscuts but the main body of the pyritic ore was never opened.

Freight rates were high, labor costs were high, the price paid for copper remained the same.

There was a brief surge of re-newed interest but not enough to warrant a full-scale operation. By 1919 the mine was closed—buildings, machines and equipment were dismantled.

A great deal of ore was, however, left blocked out in the Blue Ledge or stored in dumps. Assay maps indicated there was still more than 150,000 tons of ore available in the mine.



"The Blue Ledge contains ore which will be valuable when metal prices rise again enough to offset the costs of mining, smelting and transportation." This statement was made by the U. S. Department of Interior in a geological survey published in 1933. The pictures show, at left, the Blue Ledge as the mining operation appeared in about 1906 when nearly \$2 million was spent to develop the copper lode in the Siskiyou Mountains, and, at right, the abandoned mine as it appears today. Log dikes holding back tons of ore are now rotting and weak, and trespassers are cautioned about the tram-car cable anchorage and the spring and creek waters which are not fit for drinking. Copper compounds are poisonous.

Copper mining was expected to further boost the economy of Southern Oregon.

The Blue Ledge Mining Co. let it be known that it would spare no expense or effort to fully develop the property which would ultimately have a smelter and reduction works capable of processing at least 500 tons of ore daily.

Besides that, the copper vein carried good value of gold and a fair share of silver. The entire copper region was covered with forests of pine and fir to give the needed construction materials. Joe Creek, Elliott Creek and the Big and Little Applegate

feet of diamond drill holes.

Shipped to Smelters

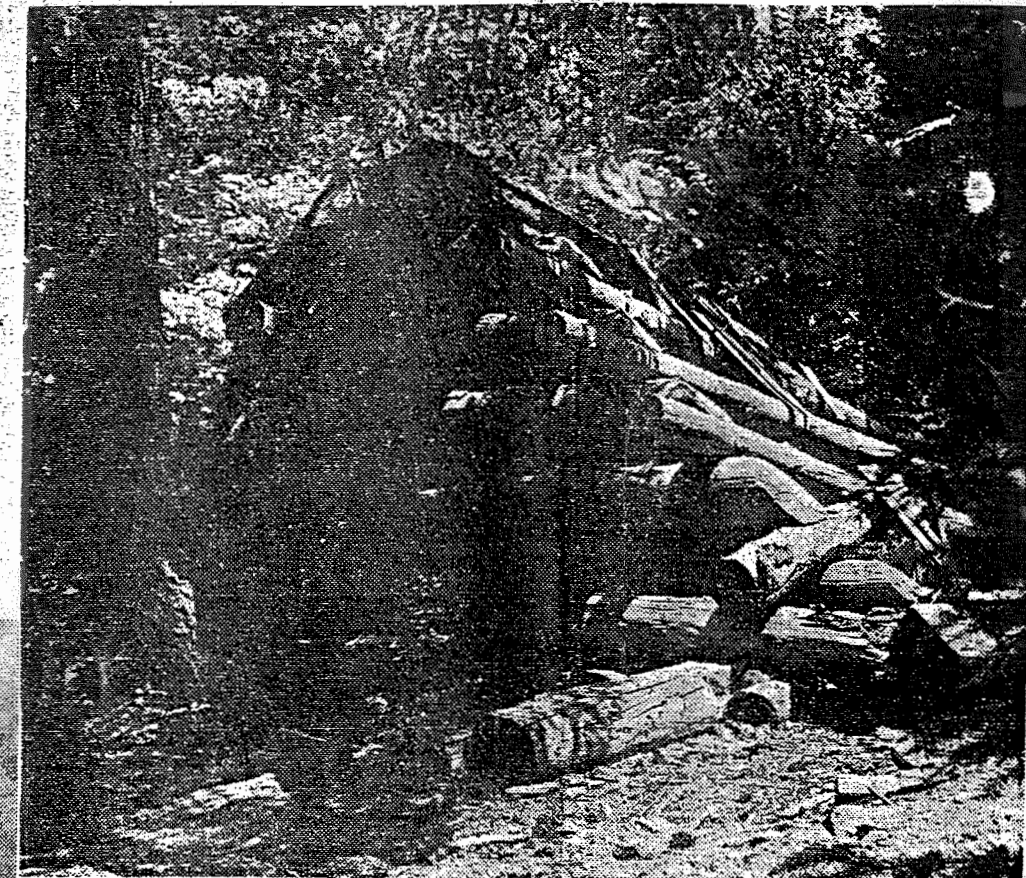
Copper ore from the Blue Ledge was crushed, sacked and shipped to smelters in Tacoma, Wash. The mine was in the Squaw Creek mining district which was credited with producing about \$181,000 in copper ore. Estimates made by the U.S. Department of Interior geological survey later determined that approximately \$2 million in copper was produced from mines in Southwest Oregon and Northern California just after the turn of the century.

But, the copper mines in

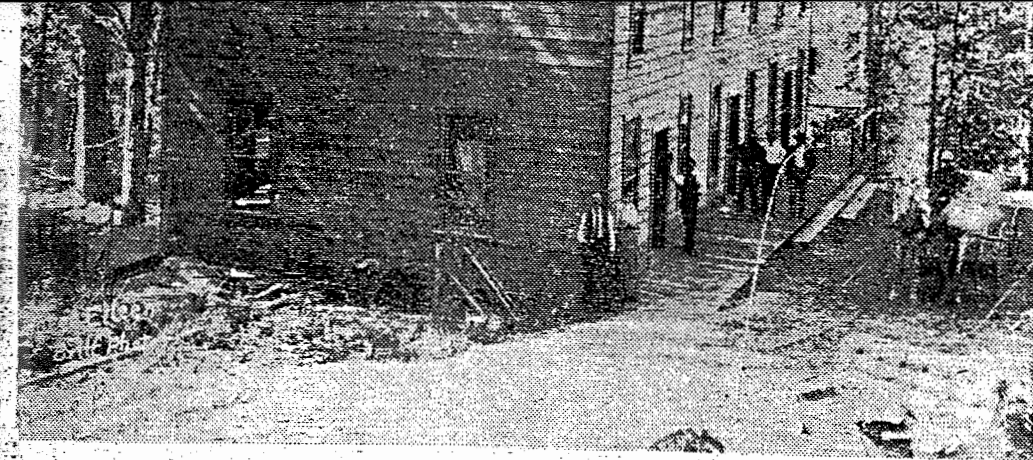
been interested in mining developments over the years, have a variety of ideas. "The Blue Ledge has been kicked around by several big companies—it has been held off the market on purpose as a sort of reserve deposit—if the mine is ever opened again it will be for zinc—sure, minerals will be important here again in the future."

There are 23 patented claims still held in the Blue Ledge area under one ownership.

But whether or not the skyline of the Siskiyou mountains will ever see renewed interest in copper mining remains a question.



The forest is fast reclaiming the Blue Ledge campsite. The once wide pack trails that led to it are now hard to trace. In 1906—after 1,000 mineral claims had been located in a Siskiyou skyline strip 10 miles wide and 25 miles long—the four-terrace mining camp boasted a cookhouse, bunkhouse, store, offices, machine shops, superintendent's and engineers' homes, 20 or more tent houses, and a dance hall. It is difficult now to find the site. Only a few ruins, one of which is pictured above, remain to mark the spot.

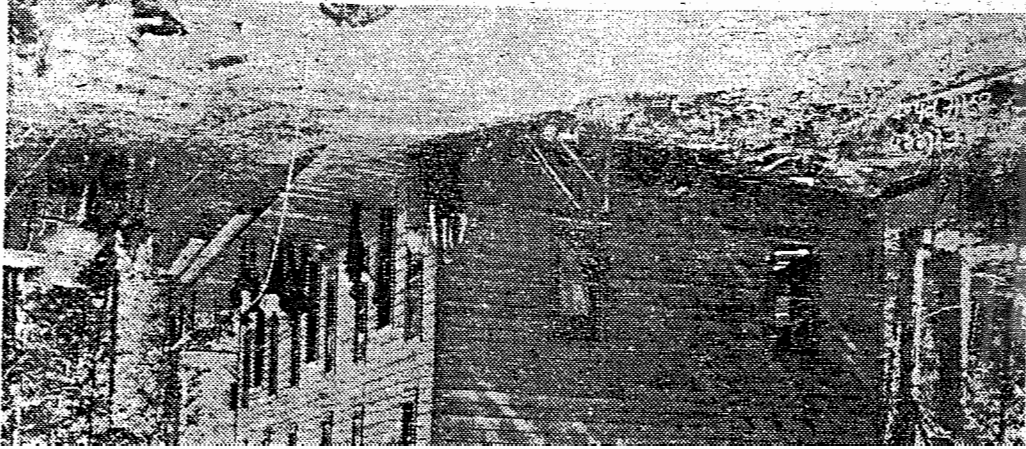


The Hotel Eileen stood about two miles south of Hutton. In the early 1900's, it offered some of the conveniences of the valley below—good food, steam heat and gas lights—to those who traveled the 35 miles from Medford, through Jacksonville, the Applegate country, and up Joe Creek to reach the Blue Ledge, a bustling mining camp.

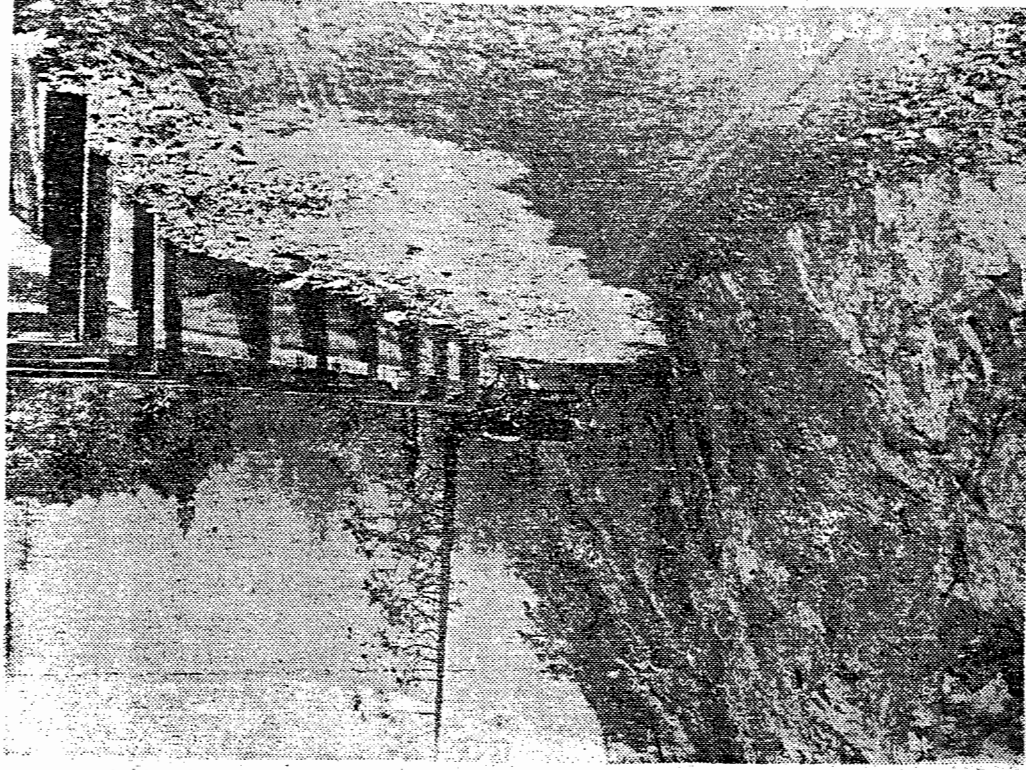


Freight roads to the Blue Ledge mine were cut through rugged country. Rattlesnakes were a menace. When activity was at its height at the Blue Ledge, freight wagons hauled machines and supplies from Medford and copper ore to the railroad shipping point in return. Two stages a day carried passengers and mail to the campsite which was three miles over the Oregon line in California.

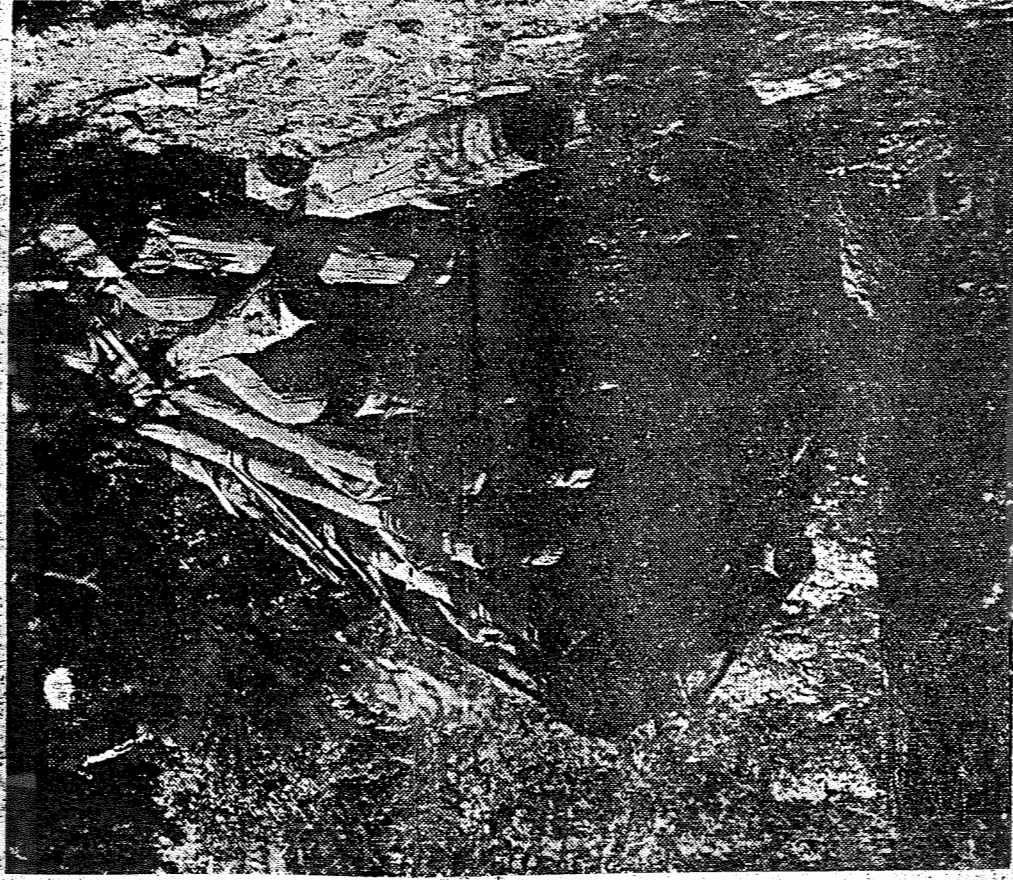




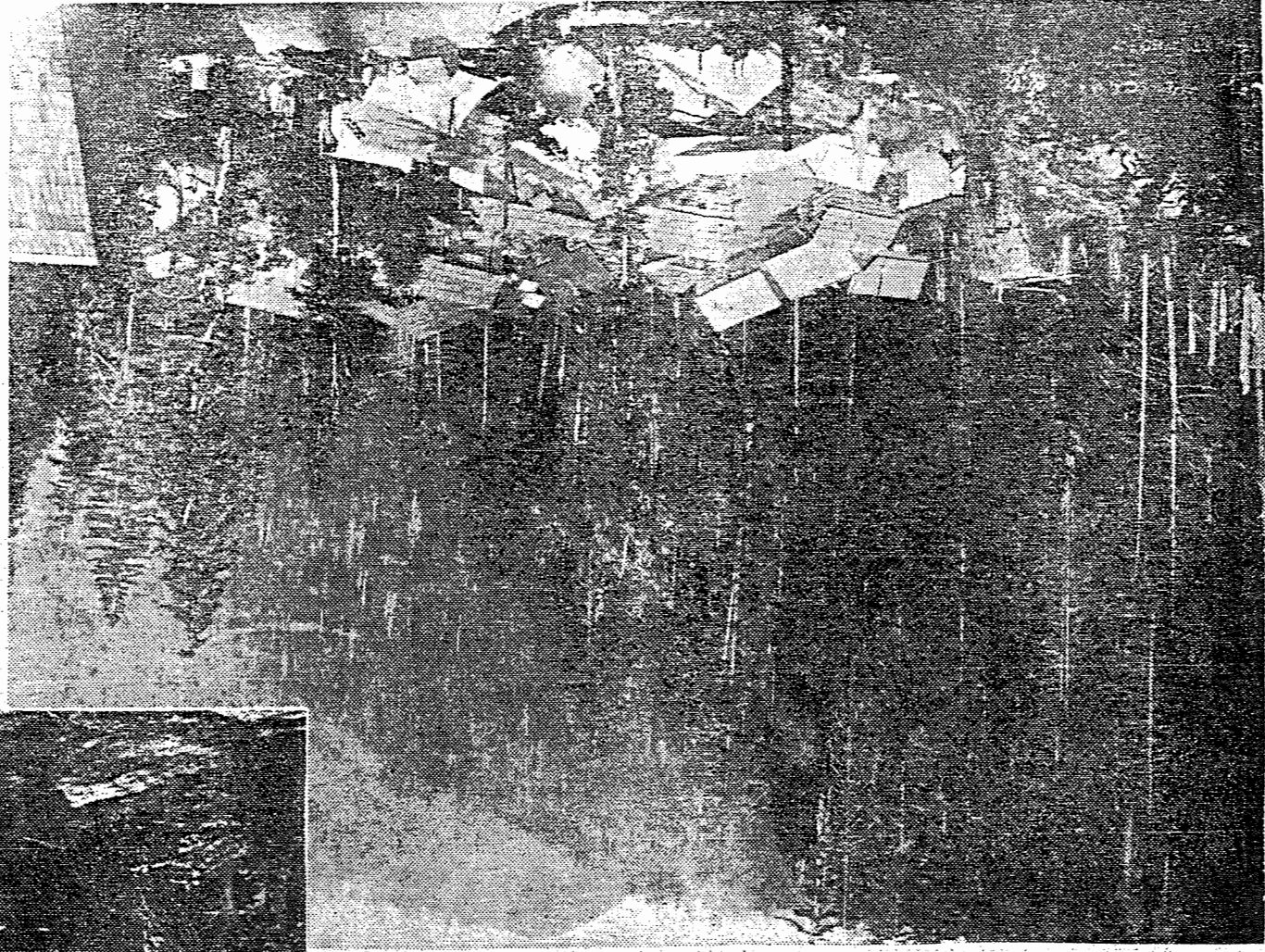
The Hotel Elleen stood about two miles south of Hutton. In the early 1900's, it offered some of the conveniences of the valley below—good food, steam heat and gas lights—to those who traveled the 35 miles from Medford, through Jacksonsville, the Applegate country, and up Joe Creek to reach the Blue Ledge, a bustling mining camp.



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Shipped to Smelters

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- N O T E S -

on the

B L E L E D G E C O P P E R M I N E

by

C. W. GEDDES.

February 28th, 1905.

- - - 0 - - -

LOCATION:

Northern part of Siskiyou County, California, just across the Oregon State line. Access via Jacksonville, Oregon, by good wagon road, River grade from Jacksonville to foot of mountain, a distance of 28 miles, thence by trail 4 miles to main camp.

PROPERTY:

27 claims, 16 claims on strike of vein covering a length of about 4 1/2 miles, other claims on side lines, and 3 on a parallel vein, which value is simply prospective.

TITLE:

Perfectly clear to all property, prior to the time that John R. Allen and associates obtained a bond on the property, May 15th, 1904. Title to two-thirds interest perfectly clear at present, but the other one-third controlled by Blue Ledge Copper Company, at present clouded. I have personally examined these titles.

OPINION:

The vein occurs as an extensive fissure in schist, conforming in a general way to the stratification. Mineralization has extended into the wall rock, making the vein zone, as shown on surface, 50 to 300 feet in width. The ore occurs as shoots, containing both massive and disseminated sulphides. The surface croppings indicate 3 shoots, but only one has been determined by

underground development. In the case of the massive sulphides, the ore is evidently a thorough replacement of the original rock, and occurs as iron pyrite, pyrrhotite and chalcopyrite. In most cases being a mechanical mixture of either pyrite and chalcopyrite or pyrrhotite and chalcopyrite.

In some cases the deposition of chalcopyrite has been so complete as to leave no visible trace of either the original original rock or of any of the iron ores. This pure chalcopyrite generally occurs in splits ^{from} in the main vein, as is shown in both of the east crosscuts on the assay plan. The entire mineralized zone is a very highly siliceous schist, with disseminated iron and copper pyrite, the extent of which has not been determined by development.

In No. 1 west crosscut (shown on the assay plan) this mineralization is developed for a width of 50 feet, while a Diamond drill hole driven horizontally from the breast of this crosscut, shows the same character of mineralization (that is, quartz and schist mixed with iron and copper sulphide) a length of 147 feet without encountering the hanging wall of the vein. The general dip of the stratification is about 55 degrees to the west. The sulphide ore so far encountered lies on or near the foot wall of the zone and more or less conformable.

The surface cropping of gossan would indicate that the ore shoot developed by tunnel No. 1 does not extend much further north than the mouth of this tunnel. Then an ~~apparently~~ apparently barren zone occurs for about 1000 feet north, at which point we find again the heavy gossan, also quite an amount of silicates and carbonates. From this point some surface ore was shipped when the property was first discovered. About 500 feet still further north from this, where the vein is cut by the deep canon of Joe Creek, the surface showing of gossan is very fine, about 8 feet wide, lying on the foot wall of the zone, and apparently of the character which denoted the presence of copper ore. From this point north the vein, which is covered by locations for a distance of about 2 miles, shows nothing of any moment. The vein zone

continues, but the gossan changes its character, being light in a majority of cases and showing at times simply an iron sulphate on the surface.

Going south from tunnel No. 1, conditions are very much better, in fact about 3000 feet south of the present breast of tunnel No. 1, occurs the best surface showing on the property, both in extent and indicative values of the gossan. The outcrop between these points is very large and practically continuous.

ORE EXPOSED:

In speaking of ore, I only refer to the solid sulphides and have taken no account of the disseminated sulphides which may be available for concentration.

The ore so far exposed in tunnel No. 1 shows continuous for a length of about 230 feet. It will average about 9 feet in width with average values (derived from foot dollars and foot per cent) \$3.53 gold and silver values and 4.95% copper, or figuring copper at 13¢ a pound, a gross value of \$16.40 per ton.

All of the other workings on the property are on a lower horizon than this tunnel, and all of them are outside of the ore shoot as exposed in this tunnel. The section on the strike of the vein, will show that they have not yet reached any point vertically under the ore exposed in No. 1 tunnel.

Tunnel No. 4 is driven on the foot wall of the vein zone and exposed a very heavy deposition of iron pyrite, varying from 6 to 8 feet in width. The vein in this tunnel is faulted as is shown on the section, and while the iron pyrite as a rule carries no values, either in copper, gold or silver, very rich ore does occur in bunches along the fault plane, occurring as red and black oxides and native copper. At times the iron pyrite shows some chalcopyrite but nothing of value. The present breast shows about 8 feet of nearly solid iron pyrite, which in my opinion will gradually grade into pay ore as the ^{ore} shoot is approached.

There has been no work done on the showing made where the vein crosses Joe Creek, but from this point an adit tunnel could be driven on the vein attaining a maximum depth of about

2000 feet, with a length of 2500 feet, and very probably an average depth of 1500 feet for the claims lying south of the creek, or a length of the vein of about 1 3/4 miles.

Previous to the time that John R. Allen and associates obtained a lease and bond on the property, Patsy Clark, a well known operator of Spokane, Washington, had a bond on the property and did quite a little work, principally, however, with a Diamond drill. His results were said to have been very satisfactory, obtaining in some cases cores showing a width of 20 feet with values as high as 16% copper and \$5.00 on gold and silver, as an average of the ore drilled.

At the time Clark was doing this work, he and Charles Sweeney, who afterwards formed the Federal Consolidation in the Coeur D'Alenes, were bitter enemies, resulting from a lawsuit over some mining property in the northwest. Clark had previously floated the Republic Mine in Washington, which was said to have been a "Wild Cat" scheme; while Sweeney, owing to his connection with the Federal Consolidation, stood very well with financial men in New York, and it is claimed that Clark abandoned the property owing to the fact that Sweeney was preventing him from raising the necessary money. At all events, Clark ~~never~~ ~~know~~ knew nothing about the property to speak of until the last three Diamond drill holes were drilled, and his orders to his superintendent to discontinue were given before the best ore was encountered. Previous to that time he had drilled 8 holes in the vein zone, but in each instance was drilling all around the ore body,- on top of it, out of it, on its dip, etc.

According to the Diamond drill records, which were obtained by J. F. Reddy, a promoter connected with the deal, from one of Clark's men, the last three drill holes determined the ore to be about 300 feet ahead of the then existing breast of the upper tunnel, and about 180 feet below that level. If we can assume that these drill ~~records~~ records are correct, it would make the ore body so far determined 430 feet long and 180 feet deep, containing 77,400 square feet.

Development work in the upper tunnel shows the ore body to have an average width of about 9 feet, so that if we assume a dimension for the ore body based on the record of Clark's Diamond Drilling, and use the width actually exposed in tunnel No. 1, it would give us about 70,000 tons of ore, which with the values shown on the assay plan, will have a gross value of \$1,148,000., probably 60% of which would be net.

Attached to this is the record of the diamond drilling done by Clark, but I cannot vouch for the accuracy of same. It is true, however, that the old core boxes of the diamond drills are still left at the upper tunnel and show a great quantity of cores representing a better grade of ore than anything we have so far exposed. Clark's men were said to have taken the best of the cores when they left the property. J. F. Reddy took two sacks of them to New York when he placed the property with Allen. Visitors and prospectors were always taking more or less and still there are sufficient cores left to thoroughly demonstrate the fact that Clark got some very rich ore cores with his drilling. The reports are all very favorable, and I understand that Clark still speaks very well of the property but gives as his reason that it was one requiring too much capital for him to handle.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS:

This property was formerly owned through possessory title by six individuals, living in Crescent City, California, each one holding an undivided one-sixth interest. After Clark abandoned his bond, J. F. Reddy, Charles Prim and George Neuber, all of Jacksonville, Oregon, purchased a one-sixth interest in the property. Reddy then presented it to John R. Allen of 25 Broad Street, New York City. Just at the time this property was presented, the firm of Berger and Seibert was established, with John R. Allen the financial backer. Mr. Seibert made an examination of the property and reported very favorably on it, and it is my understanding that the firm of Berger and Seibert undertook the floatation of the property. A one-sixth interest

was purchased from Cooper, one of the Crescent City owners, for \$9,000. This formed the basis of the Blue Ledge Copper Company. Reddy and associates then deeded their one-sixth interest to John R. Allen, who in turn deeded it to the Blue Ledge Copper Company, paying Reddy and associates one-sixth of the issued stock of the company. This gave the Blue Ledge Copper Company an undivided and clear one-third interest in the property. They then obtained from the other owners in Crescent City, an option at a purchase price of \$100,000 for the Crescent City two-thirds interest, for which they paid \$5,000 cash. The Blue Ledge Copper Company was formed with a capitalization of 400,000 shares, 51% in the treasury, leaving issued stock to the amount of 196,000 shares. This stock was divided as follows:

Berger,	47789	shares
Allen,	47789	"
Seibert,	47789	"
Reddy, 1/6 interest,	32667	"
C. Shields,	3630	"
Reddy, Commission,	16336	"

Shields, who was at that time general manager of the Pierre Marquette Railroad at Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, (formerly of Spokane) knew of this property and purchased the above number of shares for cash. The stock delivered to Reddy for commission was his promoters' commission on the deal.

The terms of the option held by the Blue Ledge Copper Company were as follows:

May 15, 1904, (cash)	\$5,000.	
February 15, 1905,	10,000.	
August 15, 1905,	10,000.	
February 15, 1906,	33,667.	
August 15, 1906,	<u>41,333.</u>	\$100,000.

Later a cash price was obtained from the Crescent City owners of \$75,000 payable February 15, 1905. After running two months (July and August, 1904) something happened to the financial end of the floatation, so that although the property was kept running until December 26, 1904, no funds were furnished. This resulted in the loss of the option by the Blue Ledge Copper Company on the two-thirds interest held at Crescent City. Suits for debts aggregating \$8,600 were filed against the interest held by the Blue Ledge Copper Company, and at the time I left

Jacksonville, it was the intention of Reddy and associates to file suit against the Blue Ledge Copper Company and Allen for the return of their original one-sixth interest in the property, as Allen had not carried out his contract with them, in which the Blue Ledge Copper Company was to obtain full ownership of the property. Reddy and associates will in all probability, win this suit. That will leave the Blue Ledge Copper Company owning only a one-sixth interest, which is at present incumbered with \$8,600 indebtedness. I think at present the Crescent City two-thirds could be obtained on very favorable terms, for say \$95,000 with a cash payment of \$5,000, and the balance extending over a period of from a year to 18 months, or it could probably be obtained on a cash basis of \$75,000. The one-sixth interest held by Reddy and associates could be handled, no matter what the outcome with Allen is. This would, therefore, give anyone handling the property at present, control of five-sixths, and it is possible that the one-sixth left to the Blue Ledge Copper Company will be sold by the sheriff, under execution, when judgment is granted in the present suit on the debts.

Of course, much of the above, especially in relation to the financial affairs of the Blue Ledge Copper Company, is hearsay, and while there may be some discrepancies in the exact division of the stock, or in the payments on the option, the general statement, as a whole, is correct.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE PROPERTY:

With the exception of the distance from the railroad, the general conditions, especially from an economic standpoint, are ideal. Timber in abundance, water power within 5 miles of the property, sufficient for all purposes. The property will be worked to say an average depth of 1500 feet with tunnel, and should the ore persist in depth, this would be the method of working for years and years to come. The topography of the country is such as to insure very cheap handling of the ore. An ideal smelter site is located just at the foot of the mountain at the confluence of the three forks forming the Applegate River,

from anyone of which could be developed 500 H.P., at the lowest water season of the year. On this smelter ~~XXXXXXXX~~ site there exists an enormous deposit of lime. The surrounding country will furnish all of the necessary silica, so that with the exception of coke, everything necessary for smelting purposes is at hand. With proper equipment, the ore could be mined and delivered into ore bins at a tramway loading station, for not to exceed \$1.25 per ton. Freight by team from Jacksonville (the end of the railroad) to the smelter site, would probably cost \$6.00 a ton each way under large contracts, while on the other hand the building of a railroad, almost the entire length of the road would be on the natural river grade up the Applegate River, but even with conditions as they now exist, hauling the coke in and the bullion out by team, a very large profit could be shown on the ore. The property is just at that point where a very little expenditure would prove the persistence of the ore body.

Tunnel No. 4 is within 100 feet of where we know the ore to exist in the upper workings. Tunnel No. 2, the lowest tunnel, would not have to be driven over 250 or 300 feet to determine whether the ore persisted with depth to that horizon.

The property is thoroughly equipped with bunk and boarding houses, large enough to handle 25 or 30 men, superintendent's house and office, assay office and all necessary blacksmith shops and equipment, so that within a very short time and with comparatively little money the permanency of the ore body could be established.

If the persistency of the orebody is determined, the future possibilities of the property are absolutely unlimited, for if the horizontal continuity exists, it is certainly an enormous deposit of ore. Together with this, there is quite a possibility of parallel ore shoots within the vein zone.

The initial expense for the thorough equipment of the property would be very large, owing to the roughness of the topography and the distance which the ore would have to be conveyed by aerial trams to a suitable smelter site.

Before any equipment whatever, even of a power plant, could be made, it would be necessary to build a wagon road from the foot of the mountain to the present main camp, which is just about at the point where the ledge is cut by the canon of the Joe Creek. This road would cost about \$3,000. After that would come the equipment of a compressor plant at this point, with the erection of a power plant on one of the streams, distant probably 4 miles.

The property being one of such evident size, hand steel work is entirely too slow to demonstrate it.

Attached to this are the records of the Diamond drilling done by Clark.

Below is an analysis of the ore made from the combined samples taken by Fred J. Seibert at the time of his examination:-

Silicondioxide	4.31%
Copper,	4.15
Arsenic,	.05
Iron,	35.42
Aluminum oxide,	2.42
Zinc,	6.94
Calcium carbonate,	1.44
Magnesium carbonate,	.63
Sulphur,	45.55
	<u>99.91</u>
Gold, Silver, loss, etc.,	.09
	<u>100.00%</u>

This represents the ore up to the time that I took charge of the property. Since then the average analysis would probably show a higher percentage of copper, higher percentage of sulphur and less zinc.

The last 125 feet of drifting, together with No. 2 east and No. 2 west crosscuts, have been done since Mr. Allen took hold of the property.

I append herewith, a report of the diamond drill work done on the property by P. Clark. I do not vouch for the correctness of this report, and do not know who compiled it.

"DIAMOND DRILLING,- No. 1 hole has a dip of 55 degrees, starts in ore and continues in ore 56 feet when its dip carries it out of the ore body. This is the continuation on its strike of the ore exposed by the tunnel. The ores of this hole assayed

6 per cent copper and \$5.00 in gold and silver.

No. 2 hole has a dip of 10, on the dip of the vein, and runs out of the ore body and into the hanging wall at a depth of 40 feet. This ore also assayed 6 per cent copper and \$5.00 in gold and silver.

No. 3 hole is practically a cross cut hole, and shows the ore for 19 feet of the same assayed values.

No. 4 hole starts in ore, but on account of its dip loses the ore in 8 feet, and is running in white schist for a total depth of 68 feet.

Hole No. 5 is a down hole, both on its dip and the strike of the ore body, looking towards the mouth of No. 1 tunnel, and which also runs out of the ore body at 20 feet.

Hole No. 6 continues the course of the west crosscut for 147 feet and shows the same kind of quartz schist mixed with iron sulphides, the same as the crosscut exposes.

Hole No. 7 starts from the face of No. 2 tunnel, and attains a length of 172 feet without encountering any ore, being apparently out of range of the ore body indicated by the showing near the mouth of the tunnel.

Hole No. 8 starts from the surface, on the level of and 120 feet east of No. 1 tunnel. It has a total depth of 212 feet. At the 128 foot mark it encounters the continuation of the ore exposed in the east cross cut of No. 1 tunnel, about 3 feet in width, averaging 16 per cent copper, and \$4.00 in gold and silver.

At the 166 foot mark, the hole encounters 10 feet of copper sulphide ore, assaying 16 percent copper and \$6.00 in gold and silver.

Hole No. 9 attains a length of 289 feet. At the 256 foot mark, it encounters again the east ore body, showing 3 1/2 feet of copper sulphide, running 16 per cent copper and \$4.00 in gold and silver. The hole filched before it reached the main ore body.

Hole No. 10 is a down hole from the surface and is

420 feet long. At the 159 mark, it encounters the east ore body again 3 1/2 feet wide, assaying 6 per cent copper and \$6.00 in gold and silver. At the 212 foot mark it shows 20 feet of copper and sulphide ore assaying 5 per cent copper and \$5.00 in gold and silver.

This latter showing is 120 feet lower (perpendicular-ly measured) than the hole of No. 1 tunnel, making about 180 feet on the dip of the vein. The drill holes from the surface prove the ore body about 300 feet ahead of the face of No. 1 tunnel as well as 180 feet below the level of the tunnel.



The overpass at Blackwell Road and I-5, scheduled complete in 2008, could be completed by summer's

Local, Page 1B

SOUTHERN OREGON'S NEWS SOURCE

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Mail Tribune photos / Jim

Geologist Pete Jones, who is in charge of cleaning up the Blue Ledge copper mine, stands at the entrance, or adit, to the main tunnel. The Forest Service hopes to have the toxic tailings removed and buried by winter.

OUT OF THE BLUE

AND RETURNING THE GREEN



Cleanup at Blue Ledge copper mine is aimed at restoring life to the desolate Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest area

By **PAUL FATTIG**
Mail Tribune

As Pete Jones climbed the steep trail carved out by miners more than a century ago, he paused to look down from near the top of the roughly 5,000-foot peak.

"You can see the life and death line right there," the geologist observed of the rugged path to the long-abandoned Blue Ledge copper mine in the southern tip of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

The trail serves as a demarcation separating the green vegetation from the barren, orange tailings on the edge of the mountain's north face.

over in the mining tailings, it's dead any vegetation," Jones said.

"After 110 years, there is still life down there."

An \$11.1 million cleanup effort is under way to restore life on the mountainside and in the immediate drainage left sterile by the mining tailings laced with a heavy-metal mix of arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, sulfuric acid and zinc.

Roughly 1,000 vertical feet below, Volvo dump trucks grumbled under their 60,000-pound loads of dirt and a rumbling D-6 bulldozer carved a bowl out of the earth which will serve as a repository for the toxic tailings.

Cleanup

from Page 1A

A Spider excavator, resembling a monstrous mechanical yellow arachnid, slowly crawled its way up a steep scar of tailings stretching some 500 feet down on the mountain's southwest side.

Named for the characteristic blue sheen of weathered chalcopryite discovered by prospectors in 1898, the mine is about three miles south of the California state line high in the Joe Creek drainage of the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District.

The peak is on a spur ridge angling north off Copper Butte. It is some 33 miles south of Jacksonville in the upper Applegate River watershed, upstream from the Applegate Dam.

"Right up Joe Creek from this site we've found Pacific salamanders, frogs — every kind of bug and critter you can imagine should be in a mountain stream," Jones said. "But down below us is a nuked site. It's all orange and sterile."

"My hope is once we control the source of acid by removing the waste rock that is causing it, that all the stuff that would ordinarily live in the ecosystem will come back," he added.

Jones, 53, is a former forest geologist now in charge of cleaning up abandoned mines for the Forest Service throughout Oregon and in far Northern California.

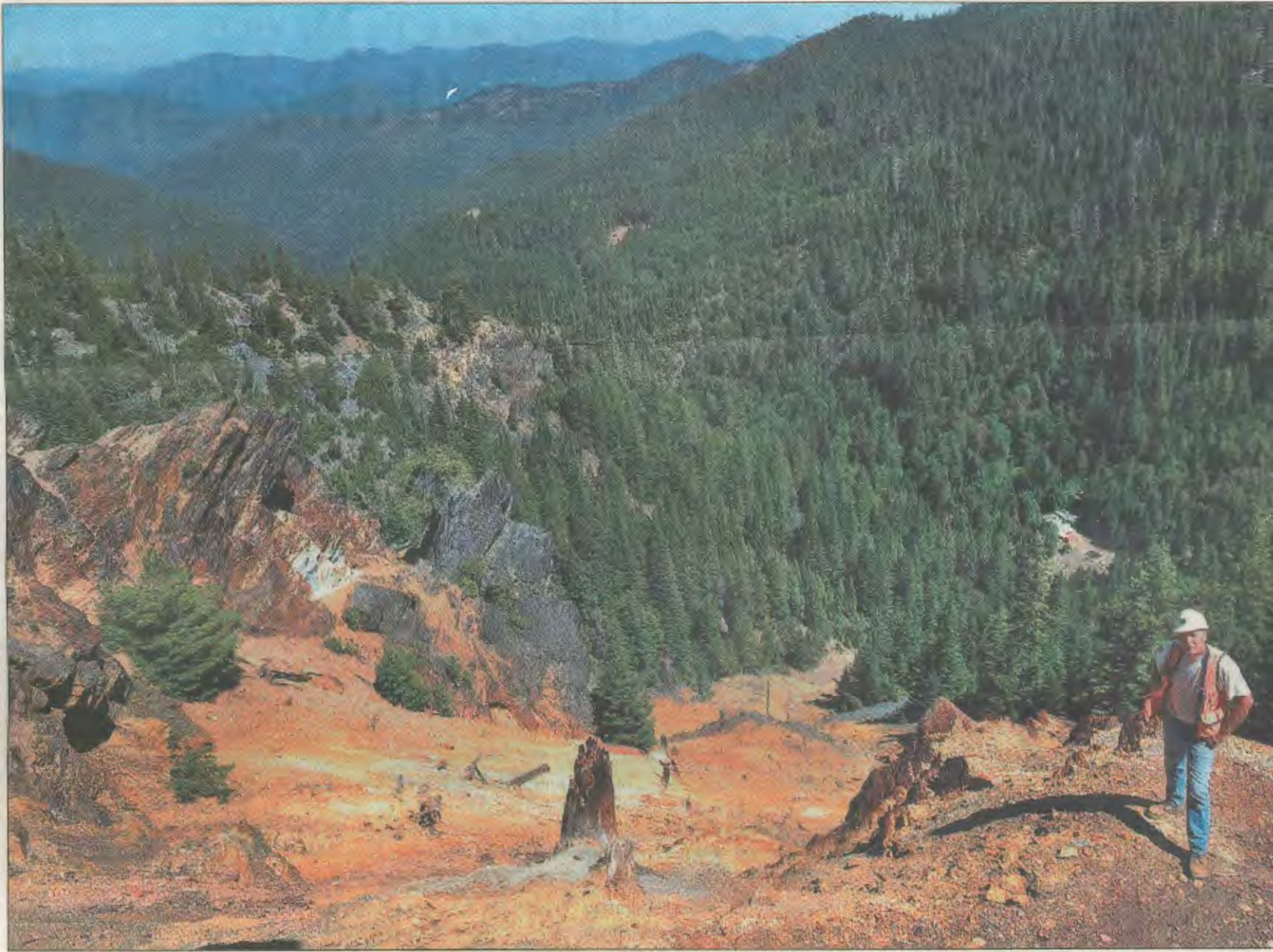
Because the nearly 700-acre mine is patented, making it private property, the Forest Service is working with the Environmental Protection Agency, which has jurisdiction on private land when it comes to environmental pollution. The Forest Service's concern is the environmental impact on the adjacent public forestland and the watershed.

The repository will be large enough to hold the 48,000 cubic yards of hazardous material expected to be removed from the mine, whose most productive days were during World War I, Jones said.

"Volume-wise, it's really not that much," he said. "It's just the complexity and the access and removal and reclamation and site-working characteristics that make it expensive and difficult."

He won't get an argument from Brian Wetzsteon, 48, regional construction manager for Engineering/Remediation Resources Group Inc., the Martinez, Calif., firm contracted by Uncle Sam to do the work.

"Environmentally, it's not that hazardous of a project," Wetzsteon said of the earth-moving work, which began early this month. "Cleaning up mine sites like this is really common. The challenge here is the terrain and logistics."



Pete Jones stands at the top of the mountain that is barren of vegetation because of copper and zinc tailings left by the Blue Ledge

The highest point on the mine is nearly 1,000 vertical feet higher than the lower portion.

"You've got the steep ground, big trucks going up and down narrow roads and the concern about (wild)fires," observed Tom McGinty, 58, an engineer and project superintendent for Granite Construction Inc. of Sacramento, which has been subcontracted for the bulk of the earth moving.

"But getting the mining dirt off that steep ground on the mountain is going to be the challenging part," he said.

Taking on that challenge is Brian Pombo, operator of the Spider excavator. Pombo, 36, of Breckenridge, Colo., is the owner of All Mountain Construction, a firm specializing in working on extreme slopes.

"This slope is steep but the challenge is the tailings are spread so far," he said during a lunch break. "It's a real technical ascent going up."

Powered by a nearly 150-horsepower engine, the 23,000-pound Spider has extendable steel pads, adjustable wheels and a back hoe for gathering the tailings. The environmentally friendly machine employs

biodegradable hydraulic fluid and grease along with biodiesel.

"We'll go clear to the top, then pull the tailings down to where they handle them with bigger equipment as we come back down," said Pombo, who first began manning the mountain-climbing machines in the late 1990s. Hand laborers will clean up tailings he can't reach with the machine.

For safety's sake, the Forest Service requires a stout cable be attached to the Spider to anchor it to the mountain. The slope is 76 percent where Pombo is now working, Jones said.

The goal is to remove all the waste rock before the snow flies this year, place it in the repository and cap it, Wetzsteon said. However, it will take about two years to replant the site, he added, noting the plants must be native to the region.

The firm will have about 30 people working at any one time throughout the project's life, he said, including 10 local residents now in training to begin waste-rock removal this coming week.

A tiny trailer town has popped up at the bottom of the mine, complete

with a satellite dish for communications. The lion's share of food, tools and other materials needed throughout the project will be purchased locally, he said.

Project administrator Jones, who has worked on mining projects in the private sector, began studying the Blue Ledge hazardous waste problem for the Forest Service 15 years ago.

"When we did the watershed analysis in '95, we found records from '91 in which the hydrologist had done a water sample of both the Blue Ledge outlet and Joe Creek which showed the excessive metals and high acid content — sulfuric acid essentially," he said. "That was our cue that this was a point source of pollution that was impacting the watershed."

While ascending the mountain, climbers smell the pungent odor of sulfur wafting up from the tailings. The tailings are from the estimated 12,000 feet of adits and shafts miners dug into the mountain early in the 20th century, Jones said.

"Think of an ant farm you had as a kid — it looks like that," he noted after climbing to the top of the mine just

below the peak.

Overlooking the north face are remnants of a wooden structure once used to harness a cable system that hauled equipment and supplies up the mountain and ore back down. Railroad ties in the main production adit are what is left of a rail system that delivered ore in carts to the loading platform.

"Whatever wasn't good ore got dumped over the edge," Jones said. "And that's the legacy we are cleaning up now." But the historic aspects of the mine will be preserved, including what is left of the old loading platform and cable system, said Jones, noting he has a lot of respect for those who labored in the mine.

"Working on the edge of that with the 75- to 100-foot vertical, somebody must have gotten hurt back in the day," he said.

Just inside the main tunnel is a vein of the blue ore that gave the historic mine its name. The folds in the rock were created eons ago when the Earth was young, he said.

"Part of the fascination as a geologist is being able to see stuff that was once part of a sea floor that is now nearly a mile high," Jones said.

"This used to be hot springs. 2 years, squeezed up from the bottom, bring it up 6, and you get to the top."

Farther into the mountain, timbers built to support a tunnel, standing guard the way they did.

Heavy metal detectors are installed at the mine to prevent human access. Bats and other creatures to be kept out of the mine, Jones said.

"It's very hard to get there," he said. "There are mine gas rocks."

There are vertical shafts covered by rock.

To demonstrate, Jones tossed a winze located from the entrance, bounced off the rock and splashed into the water seconds later.

"Some of the down hundred pools of acid," Jones said. "You don't want to be one of them."

Reach reporter at 541-776-4496 or pfattig@mailtribune.com

Violation

from Page 1A

For years, the tailings have been leaching toxic materials in violation of the Clean Water Act, severely impacting the aquatic biology of Joe Creek, Jones said.

Some three miles downstream from the mine is the remote community of Joe Bar, a historic hamlet of half a dozen homes near where Joe Creek flows into Elliott Creek.

The stream sediment and fish will be tested all the way downstream from the mine to Applegate Reservoir a half-dozen miles distant to see how

far the toxins have migrated, he said. An estimated 20,000 tons of the tailings have gone downstream, he noted.

Plans call for the contaminated tailings at the mine to be removed and placed in a 3.5-acre bowl being carved into level land on the lower end of the mine.

"We will be laying a clay liner down in there first," Jones said. "It has a very low permeability. The next layer will be crushed limestone. The limestone will react with any fluid that may pass through and neutralize the acids."

In addition, there will be

a collection system installed which will include a tank to catch any waste that may escape, he added.

"We will be able to detect those fluids and monitor them for their toxicity and volume," he said.

Once the waste rock is in the bowl, another clay layer will be slathered on top to encapsulate the hazardous material. A 6-foot-thick layer of soil removed from the bowl will be placed on top of the clay.

"Then we will put two feet of topsoil on top of that," he said. "We want the grasses and shrubs to get back on it as

quickly as possible."

The Forest Service is growing 15,000 plants for reclamation of the site, he said.

"Nature is the best defense against erosion," he said.

Long-term maintenance will include cutting small trees every decade or so to prevent tree root systems from weakening the seal, he said.

"We are working with the EPA

now to see if this site qualifies to be on the Superfund list," he said, adding that determination likely will be made next spring. If it is selected as a Superfund site, the Environmental Protection Agency and the state of California would then be responsible for long-term maintenance and monitoring, he said.

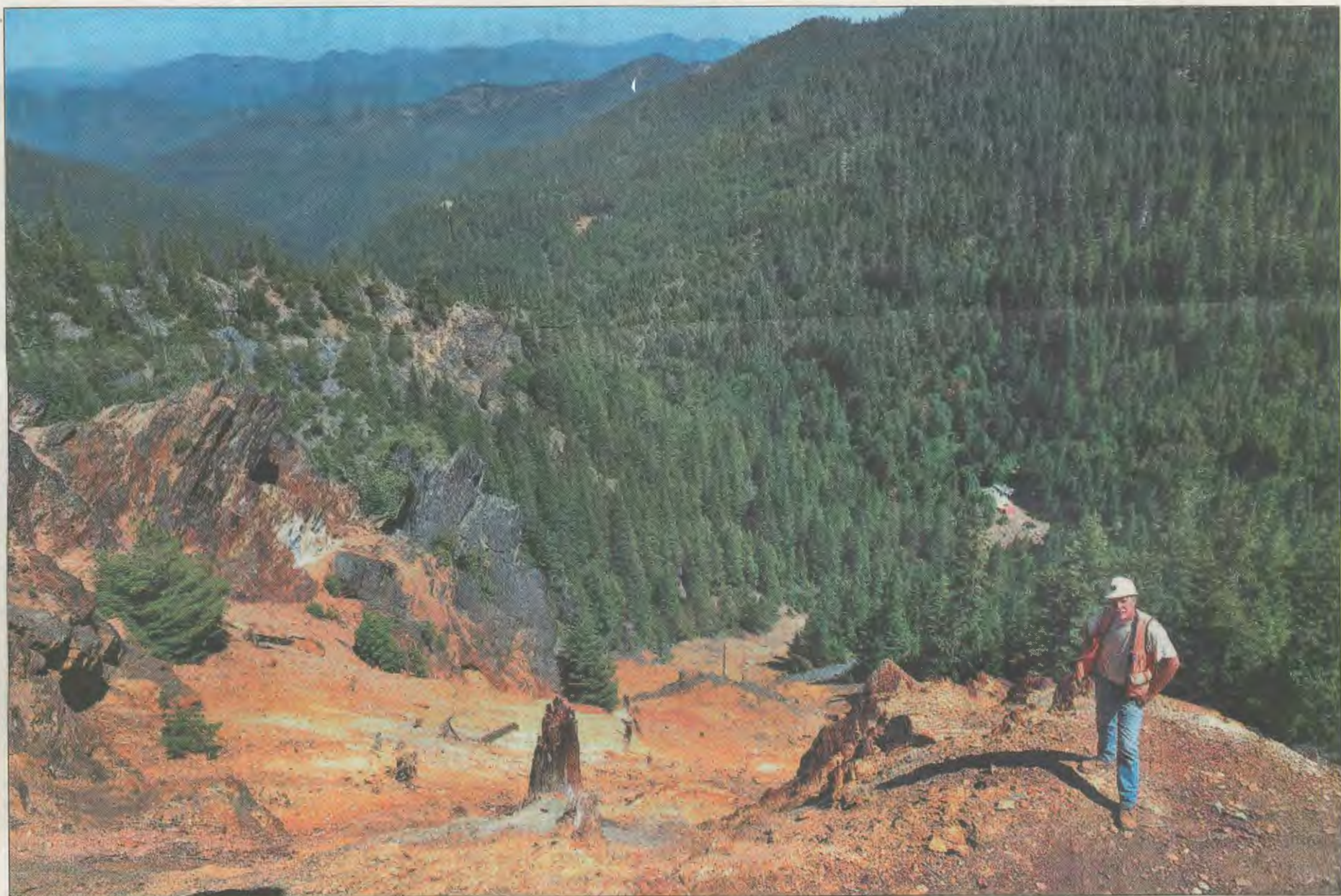
How long will the repository be safe?

"For the future, Jones said. The product which is self-seal if it is not."

Forest Service leads to the closed temporary safety concern.

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Mail Tribune / Jim Craven

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"Part of the fascination as a geologist is being able to see stuff that was once part of a sea floor that is now nearly a mile high," Jones said.

"This used to be a submarine hot springs. Add 220 million years, squeeze everything up from the ocean floor and bring it up 6,000 feet or so and you get this."

Farther inside are thick timbers built inside the main tunnel, standing as sentinels guarding the past.

Heavy metal grates will be installed at each adit in the mine to prevent unauthorized human access but still allow bats and other small night creatures to use the site as a home, Jones said.

"It's very hazardous in there," he said, noting there are mine gases and falling rocks.

There are also winzes, vertical shafts only partially covered by rotting timbers.

To demonstrate the danger, Jones tossed a rock into a winze located some 30 feet from the entrance. The rock bounced off rock walls, then splashed into a pool nearly 10 seconds later.

"Some of these winzes drop down hundreds of feet into pools of acid water," he said. "You don't want to fall into one of them."

Reach reporter Paul Fattig at 541-776-4496 or e-mail him at pfattig@mailtribune.com.

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How long will the repository be safe?

"For the foreseeable future," Jones said. "Clay is a natural product which has the ability to self-seal if it is punctured."

Forest Road 1060, which leads to the mine, has been closed temporarily because of safety concerns.

Reach reporter Paul Fattig at 541-776-4496 or e-mail him at pfattig@mailtribune.com.

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B L U E L E D G E C O P P E R M I N E

by

C. W. GEDDES.

February 28th, 1905.

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LOCATION:

Northern part of Siskiyou County, California, just across the Oregon State line. Access via Jacksonville, Oregon, by good wagon road, River grade from Jacksonville to foot of mountain, a distance of 28 miles, thence by trail 4 miles to main camp.

PROPERTY:

27 claims, 16 claims on strike of vein covering a length of about 4 1/2 miles, other claims on side lines, and 3 on a parallel vein, which value is simply prospective.

TITLE:

Perfectly clear to all property, prior to the time that John R. Allen and associates obtained a bond on the property, May 15th, 1904. Title to two-thirds interest perfectly clear at present, but the other one-third controlled by Blue Ledge Copper Company, at present clouded. I have personally examined these titles.

VEIN:

The vein occurs as an extensive fissure in schist, conforming in a general way to the stratification. Mineralization has extended into the wall rock, making the vein zone, as shown on surface, 50 to 300 feet in width. The ore occurs as shoots, containing both massive and disseminated sulphides. The surface croppings indicate 3 shoots, but only one has been determined by

underground development. In the case of the massive sulphides, the ore is evidently a thorough replacement of the original rock, and occurs as iron pyrite, pyrrhotite and chalcopyrite. In most cases being a mechanical mixture of either pyrite and chalcopyrite or pyrrhotite and chalcopyrite.

In some cases the deposition of chalcopyrite has been so complete as to leave no visible trace of either the original original rock or of any of the iron ores. This pure chalcopyrite generally occurs in splits ^{from} in the main vein, as is shown in both of the east crosscuts on the assay plan. The entire mineralized zone is a very highly siliceous schist, with disseminated iron and copper pyrite, the extent of which has not been determined by development.

In No. 1 west crosscut (shown on the assay plan) this mineralization is developed for a width of 50 feet, while a Diamond drill hole driven horizontally from the breast of this crosscut, shows the same character of mineralization (that is, quartz and schist mixed with iron and copper sulphide) a length of 147 feet without encountering the hanging wall of the vein. The general dip of the stratification is about 55 degrees to the west. The sulphide ore so far encountered lies on or near the foot wall of the zone and more or less conformable.

The surface cropping of gossan would indicate that the ore shoot developed by tunnel No. 1 does not extend much further north than the mouth of this tunnel. Then an ~~apparently~~ apparently barren zone occurs for about 1000 feet north, at which point we find again the heavy gossan, also quite an amount of silicates and carbonates. From this point some surface ore was shipped when the property was first discovered. About 500 feet still further north from this, where the vein is cut by the deep canon of Joe Creek, the surface showing of gossan is very fine, about 8 feet wide, lying on the foot wall of the zone, and apparently of the character which denoted the presence of copper ore. From this point north the vein, which is covered by locations for a distance of about 2 miles, shows nothing of any moment. The vein zone

continues, but the gossan changes its character, being light in a majority of cases and showing at times simply an iron sulphate on the surface.

Going south from tunnel No. 1, conditions are very much better, in fact about 3000 feet south of the present breast of tunnel No. 1, occurs the best surface showing on the property, both in extent and indicative values of the gossan. The outcrop between these points is very large and practically continuous.

ORE EXPOSED:

In speaking of ore, I only refer to the solid sulphides and have taken no account of the disseminated sulphides which may be available for concentration.

The ore so far exposed in tunnel No. 1 shows continuous for a length of about 230 feet. It will average about 9 feet in width with average values (derived from foot dollars and foot per cent) \$3.53 gold and silver values and 4.95% copper, or figuring copper at 13¢ a pound, a gross value of \$16.40 per ton.

All of the other workings on the property are on a lower horizon than this tunnel, and all of them are outside of the ore shoot as exposed in this tunnel. The section on the strike of the vein, will show that they have not yet reached any point vertically under the ore exposed in No. 1 tunnel.

Tunnel No. 4 is driven on the foot wall of the vein zone and exposed a very heavy deposition of iron pyrite, varying from 6 to 8 feet in width. The vein in this tunnel is faulted as is shown on the section, and while the iron pyrite as a rule carries no values, either in copper, gold or silver, very rich ore does occur in bunches along the fault plane, occurring as red and black oxides and native copper. At times the iron pyrite shows some chalcopyrite but nothing of value. The present breast shows about 8 feet of nearly solid iron pyrite, which in my opinion will gradually grade into pay ore as the ^{ore} shoot is approached.

There has been no work done on the showing made where the vein crosses Joe Creek, but from this point an adit tunnel could be driven on the vein attaining a maximum depth of about

2000 feet, with a length of 2500 feet, and very probably an average depth of 1500 feet for the claims lying south of the creek, or a length of the vein of about 1 3/4 miles.

Previous to the time that John R. Allen and associates obtained a lease and bond on the property, Patsy Clark, a well known operator of Spokane, Washington, had a bond on the property and did quite a little work, principally, however, with a Diamond drill. His results were said to have been very satisfactory, obtaining in some cases cores showing a width of 20 feet with values as high as 16% copper and \$5.00 on gold and silver, as an average of the ore drilled.

At the time Clark was doing this work, he and Charles Sweeney, who afterwards formed the Federal Consolidation in the Coeur D'Alenes, were bitter enemies, resulting from a lawsuit over some mining property in the northwest. Clark had previously floated the Republic Mine in Washington, which was said to have been a "Wild Cat" scheme; while Sweeney, owing to his connection with the Federal Consolidation, stood very well with financial men in New York, and it is claimed that Clark abandoned the property owing to the fact that Sweeney was preventing him from raising the necessary money. At all events, Clark ~~never~~ ~~did not~~ knew nothing about the property to speak of until the last three Diamond drill holes were drilled, and his orders to his superintendent to discontinue were given before the best ore was encountered. Previous to that time he had drilled 8 holes in the vein zone, but in each instance was drilling all around the ore body, - on top of it, out of it, on its dip, etc.

According to the Diamond drill records, which were obtained by J. F. Reddy, a promoter connected with the deal, from one of Clark's men, the last three drill holes determined the ore to be about 300 feet ahead of the then existing breast of the upper tunnel, and about 180 feet below that level. If we can assume that these drill ~~records~~ records are correct, it would make the ore body so far determined 430 feet long and 180 feet deep, containing 77,400 square feet.

Development work in the upper tunnel shows the ore body to have an average width of about 9 feet, so that if we assume a dimension for the ore body based on the record of Clark's Diamond Drilling, and use the width actually exposed in tunnel No. 1, it would give us about 70,000 tons of ore, which with the values shown on the assay plan, will have a gross value of \$1,148,000., probably 60% of which would be net.

Attached to this is the record of the diamond drilling done by Clark, but I cannot vouch for the accuracy of same. It is true, however, that the old core boxes of the diamond drills are still left at the upper tunnel and show a great quantity of cores representing a better grade of ore than anything we have so far exposed. Clark's men were said to have taken the best of the cores when they left the property. J. F. Reddy took two sacks of them to New York when he placed the property with Allen. Visitors and prospectors were always taking more or less and still there are sufficient cores left to thoroughly demonstrate the fact that Clark got some very rich cores with his drilling. The reports are all very favorable, and I understand that Clark still speaks very well of the property but gives as his reason that it was one requiring too much capital for him to handle.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS:

This property was formerly owned through possessory title by six individuals, living in Crescent City, California, each one holding an undivided one-sixth interest. After Clark abandoned his bond, J. F. Reddy, Charles Prim and George Heuber, all of Jacksonville, Oregon, purchased a one-sixth interest in the property. Reddy then presented it to John R. Allen of 25 Broad Street, New York City. Just at the time this property was presented, the firm of Berger and Seibert was established, with John R. Allen the financial backer. Mr. Seibert made an examination of the property and reported very favorably on it, and it is my understanding that the firm of Berger and Seibert undertook the floatation of the property. A one-sixth interest

was purchased from Cooper, one of the Crescent City owners, for \$9,000. This formed the basis of the Blue Ledge Copper Company. Reddy and associates then deeded their one-sixth interest to John R. Allen, who in turn deeded it to the Blue Ledge Copper Company, paying Reddy and associates one-sixth of the issued stock of the company. This gave the Blue Ledge Copper Company an undivided and clear one-third interest in the property. They then obtained from the other owners in Crescent City, an option at a purchase price of \$100,000 for the Crescent City two-thirds interest, for which they paid \$5,000 cash. The Blue Ledge Copper Company was formed with a capitalization of 400,000 shares, 51% in the treasury, leaving issued stock to the amount of 196,000 shares. This stock was divided as follows:

Berger,	47789	shares
Allen,	47789	"
Seibert,	47789	"
Reddy, 1/6 interest,	32667	"
C. Shields,	3630	"
Reddy, Commission,	16336	"

Shields who was at that time general manager of the Pierre Marquette Railroad at Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, (formerly of Spokane) knew of this property and purchased the above number of shares for cash. The stock delivered to Reddy for commission was his promoters' commission on the deal.

The terms of the option held by the Blue Ledge Copper Company were as follows:

May 15, 1904, (cash)	\$5,000.
February 15, 1905,	10,000.
August 15, 1905,	10,000.
February 15, 1906,	33,667.
August 15, 1906,	<u>41,333.</u> \$100,000.

Later a cash price was obtained from the Crescent City owners of \$75,000 payable February 15, 1905. After running two months (July and August, 1904) something happened to the financial end of the floatation, so that although the property was kept running until December 26, 1904, no funds were furnished. This resulted in the loss of the option by the Blue Ledge Copper Company on the two-thirds interest held at Crescent City. Suits for debts aggregating \$8,600 were filed against the interest held by the Blue Ledge Copper Company, and at the time I left

Jacksonville, it was the intention of Reddy and associates to file suit against the Blue Ledge Copper Company and Allen for the return of their original one-sixth interest in the property, as Allen had not carried out his contract with them, in which the Blue Ledge Copper Company was to obtain full ownership of the property. Reddy and associates will in all probability, win this suit. That will leave the Blue Ledge Copper Company owning only a one-sixth interest, which is at present incumbered with \$8,600 indebtedness. I think at present the Crescent City two-thirds could be obtained on very favorable terms, for say \$95,000 with a cash payment of \$5,000, and the balance extending over a period of from a year to 18 months, or it could probably be obtained on a cash basis of \$75,000. The one-sixth interest held by Reddy and associates could be handled, no matter what the outcome with Allen is. This would, therefore, give anyone handling the property at present, control of five-sixths, and it is possible that the one-sixth left to the Blue Ledge Copper Company will be sold by the sheriff, under execution, when judgment is granted in the present suit on the debts.

Of course, much of the above, especially in relation to the financial affairs of the Blue Ledge Copper Company, is hearsay, and while there may be some discrepancies in the exact division of the stock, or in the payments on the option, the general statement, as a whole, is correct.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE PROPERTY:

With the exception of the distance from the railroad, the general conditions, especially from an economic standpoint, are ideal. Timber in abundance, water power within 5 miles of the property, sufficient for all purposes. The property will be worked to say an average depth of 1500 feet with tunnel, and should the ore persist in depth, this would be the method of working for years and years to come. The topography of the country is such as to insure very cheap handling of the ore. An ideal smelter site is located just at the foot of the mountain at the confluence of the three forks forming the Applegate River,

from anyone of which could be developed 500 H.P., at the lowest water season of the year. On this smelter ~~XXXXXX~~ site there exists an enormous deposit of lime. The surrounding country will furnish all of the necessary silica, so that with the exception of coke, everything necessary for smelting purposes is at hand. With proper equipment, the ore could be mined and delivered into ore bins at a tramway loading station, for not to exceed \$1.25 per ton. Freight by team from Jacksonville (the end of the railroad) to the smelter site, would probably cost \$6.00 a ton each way under large contracts, while on the other hand the building of a railroad, almost the entire length of the road would be on the natural river grade up the Applegate River, but even with conditions as they now exist, hauling the coke in and the bullion out by team, a very large profit could be shown on the ore. The property is just at that point where a very little expenditure would prove the persistence of the ore body.

Tunnel No. 4 is within 100 feet of where we know the ore to exist in the upper workings. Tunnel No. 2, the lowest tunnel, would not have to be driven over 250 or 300 feet to determine whether the ore persisted with depth to that horizon.

The property is thoroughly equipped with bunk and boarding houses, large enough to handle 25 or 30 men, superintendent's house and office, assay office and all necessary blacksmith shops and equipment, so that within a very short time and with comparatively little money the permanency of the ore body could be established.

If the persistency of the orebody is determined, the future possibilities of the property are absolutely unlimited, for if the horizontal continuity exists, it is certainly an enormous deposit of ore. Together with this, there is quite a possibility of parallel ore shoots within the vein zone.

The initial expense for the thorough equipment of the property would be very large, owing to the roughness of the topography and the distance which the ore would have to be conveyed by aerial trams to a suitable smelter site.

Before any equipment whatever, even of a power plant, could be made, it would be necessary to build a wagon road from the foot of the mountain to the present main camp, which is just about at the point where the ledge is cut by the canon of the Joe Creek. This road would cost about \$3,000. After that would come the equipment of a compressor plant at this point, with the erection of a power plant on one of the streams, distant probably 4 miles.

The property being one of such evident size, hand steel work is entirely too slow to demonstrate it.

Attached to this are the records of the Diamond drilling done by Clark.

Below is an analysis of the ore made from the combined samples taken by Fred J. Seibert at the time of his examination:-

Silicoid oxide	4.31%
Copper,	4.15
Arsenic,	.05
Iron,	35.42
Aluminum oxide,	2.42
Zinc,	6.94
Calcium carbonate,	1.44
Magnesium carbonate,	.63
Sulphur,	45.55
	<hr/>
Gold, Silver, loss, etc.,	99.91
	.09
	<hr/>
	100.00%

This represents the ore up to the time that I took charge of the property. Since then the average analysis would probably show a higher percentage of copper, higher percentage of sulphur and less zinc.

The last 125 feet of drifting, together with No. 2 east and No. 2 west crosscuts, have been done since Mr. Allen took hold of the property.

I append herewith, a report of the diamond drill work done on the property by P. Clark. I do not vouch for the correctness of this report, and do not know who compiled it.

"DIAMOND DRILLING,- No. 1 hole has a dip of 55 degrees, starts in ore and continues in ore 56 feet when its dip carries it out of the ore body. This is the continuation on its strike of the ore exposed by the tunnel. The ores of this hole assayed

6 per cent copper and \$5.00 in gold and silver.

No. 2 hole has a dip of 10, on the dip of the vein, and runs out of the ore body and into the hanging wall at a depth of 40 feet. This ore also assayed 6 per cent copper and \$5.00 in gold and silver.

No. 3 hole is practically a cross cut hole, and shows the ore for 19 feet of the same assayed values.

No. 4 hole starts in ore, but on account of its dip loses the ore in 8 feet, and is running in white schist for a total depth of 68 feet.

Hole No. 5 is a down hole, both on its dip and the strike of the ore body, looking towards the mouth of No. 1 tunnel, and which also runs out of the ore body at 20 feet.

Hole No. 6 continues the course of the west crosscut for 147 feet and shows the same kind of quartz schist mixed with iron sulphides, the same as the crosscut exposes.

Hole No. 7 starts from the face of No. 2 tunnel, and attains a length of 172 feet without encountering any ore, being apparently out of range of the ore body indicated by the showing near the mouth of the tunnel.

Hole No. 8 starts from the surface, on the level of and 120 feet east of No. 1 tunnel. It has a total depth of 212 feet. At the 128 foot mark it encounters the continuation of the ore exposed in the east cross out of No. 1 tunnel, about 3 feet in width, averaging 16 per cent copper, and \$4.00 in gold and silver.

At the 166 foot mark, the hole encounters 10 feet of copper sulphide ore, assaying 16 percent copper and \$6.00 in gold and silver.

Hole No. 9 attains a length of 289 feet. At the 256 foot mark, it encounters again the east ore body, showing 3 1/2 feet of copper sulphide, running 16 per cent copper and \$4.00 in gold and silver. The hole filched before it reached the main ore body.

Hole No. 10 is a down hole from the surface and is

420 feet long. At the 159 mark, it encounters the east ore body again $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, assaying 6 per cent copper and \$6.00 in gold and silver. At the 212 foot mark it shows 20 feet of copper and sulphide ore assaying 5 per cent copper and \$5.00 in gold and silver.

This latter showing is 120 feet lower (perpendicular-ly measured) than the hole of No. 1 tunnel, making about 180 feet on the dip of the vein. The drill holes from the surface prove the ore body about 500 feet ahead of the face of No. 1 tunnel as well as 180 feet below the level of the tunnel.