

# Lifestyles

The Mail Tribune Sunday, June 24, 1979 Pages 1-12 Section B



They scour  
Sailor's Gulch  
in search of  
gold. They're

## care- takers of a dream

By DENISE STANLEY  
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

JACKSONVILLE — When Art Linebaugh was just 15 years old he followed his mother into a

After breakfast he goes to the service station across the street, pulls a can out of the old burlap sack slung over his shoulder and puts kerosene in the can. He uses kerosene for the lamp in his

July 28, 1904, the pocket produced \$32,000 worth of gold in a two-week period from a narrow cut 10 feet long and 7 feet deep (figure 52). Large slabs of porous gold about 1 inch thick and 2 or 3 feet across were reportedly mined. The pocket is credited with an additional production of about \$18,000 before it was cleaned out.

Other important producing lode mines in the Gold Hill-Applegate-Waldo area are the Sylvanite mine with \$700,000; Oregon Belle, about \$250,000; Lucky Bart and Opp mines with about \$100,000 each; Boswell, \$79,000; Rainbow, \$46,000; and the Braden and Great I Am, \$30,000 each. Other mines in the group that have had significant production but no reported records are the Humdinger and Jewett.

### Placer Mines

The area has had a number of important hydraulic and dredge operations as well as extensive areas that were worked by various hand methods (see figure 35, in pocket). Some of the more important areas where placer mining was done and the types of equipment used are described below.

#### Rogue River and tributaries

The Rogue River and its tributaries, Kane Creek and lower Fooths Creek, were the sites for some of the earliest gold dredging in the area. In later years dredges worked gravels in upper Fooths Creek, Pleasant Creek, and Sardine Creek.

The first dredge was set up on the Rogue near Tolo, upstream from Gold Hill, in 1898. According to Winchell (1914), this was a short-lived operation. In 1903 the Champlin Electric Gold Dredging Co. purchased property on lower Fooths Creek and constructed a steam-powered bucket-line dredge. Electric power from the Ray plant near Gold Hill was installed in 1905, thereby reducing the operating cost by one half (Diller, 1914, p. 107). The capacity of this dredge, which was equipped with 36 eight-foot buckets, was 2000 yards per day.

In 1908 the Electric Gold Dredging Co. worked a tributary of Kane Creek in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 36, T. 36 S., R. 3 W. (Diller, 1914, p. 106). The operation made use of an electric power shovel which fed a washing plant at the rate of 500 cubic yards in 10 hours. Power for this dredge also came from the Ray dam on the Rogue River.

The area above the forks of Fooths Creek, for a distance of about 2 miles on each fork, was dredged over a period of 7 years by the Rogue River Gold Mining Co. before its 1000-ton boat was moved to Grave Creek near Leland in September 1935 (see description of dredge in Greenback-Tri-County area). Dredging on Fooths Creek apparently had several periods of inactivity and new starts. In late summer and fall, low water often necessitated the shutting down of operations until after rainfall again replenished the supply.

In January 1941, after dredge construction, the Murphy-Murray Dredging Co. (see photograph, fig. 12-a, p. 37) started digging on Middle Fork Fooths Creek above the area dredged by Rogue River Gold Mining Co. and covered an area about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles up stream. In March 1941 the dredge was dismantled and moved to Ditch Creek, where digging began June 1941 and was discontinued in the same year and moved to eastern Oregon (Department Bulletin 14-C [Jackson], 1943, p. 97).

The Pleasant Creek Mining Corp. dredge, a steel-hulled, 3-cubic-foot connected bucket-line, diesel-powered, flume type, operated in secs. 22 and 27, T. 34 S., R. 4 W. during the period from 1939 to 1942. Testing reportedly showed a little better than 17 cents per yard values. This dredge was never reactivated after being shut down in 1942, and can still be seen on Pleasant Creek (1967).

A 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -yard shovel and washer plant ("doodlebug"-type dredge) began operation on lower Sardine Creek in April 1939 and completed about a 1-3/4-mile stretch in September 1940. The operation was known as Gold Hill placers. The dredged area has been leveled and resoiled.

A number of other creeks which drain into the Rogue River should be mentioned for their placer-gold operations. From east to west they are Sams, Galls, Birdseye, Ward, Savage, Greens, and Bloody Run Creeks. Of these, Galls Creek, south of Gold Hill, was perhaps the most productive. The Blockert mine on Galls Creek was, until a few years before being reported on by Diller (1914, p. 106), the most important placer mine in the Gold Hill district. A few other placers were also worked on Galls Creek at that time.

Capital stock, \$100,000; par value 10 cents; all subscribed, issued and paid up. (1916 report).

"This company has 80 acres of patented placer ground 3 miles north of Golden on Sardine Creek. There is no activity at the property."

Reference: Parks and Swartley, 16:108 (quoted).

GOLD HILL PLACERS (dry land dredge)

Gold Hill area

Leasers: Gold Hill Placers; M. L. Howell and Raymond Calhoun.

Location: sec. 5, 7, 17, T. 36 S., R. 3 W., along 1 3/4 miles of Sardine Creek channel from the highway bridge upstream.

Area: The Company leased 1 3/4 miles on Sardine Creek, starting at the railroad bridge over Sardine Creek and running northerly. Maximum width of gravel near the railroad is 500 feet and at the upper end is 150 feet. Quantity of gravel was estimated to be 750,000 cubic yards.

History: Dredging began on April 20, 1939 and discontinued Sept. 3, 1940. The upper portion of the creek channel was narrow and only the immediate stream channel was dredged. The equipment was moved to Council, Idaho.

Equipment: Loraine gas shovel with a 1 1/4-yard bucket. Washing plant was a dry land Bodinson electric washer; trommel was 54 inches by 21 feet with 12 feet of 3/8-inch perforations; 50-foot swing belt stacker. At first, water was pumped from the Rogue River but later, the normal stream discharge was used. Plant worked 12 hours a day.

General: The gold was 860 fine. Gravel averaged 6 feet deep and there were few large boulders.

Informant: J.E.M., 1939; R.C.T., 1940.

GOLD HILL PLACERS

Gold Hill area

These placers were described by Parks and Swartley as covering a group on Kane Creek southeast of Gold Hill, and are not the same as the Gold Hill dredge placers.

"The placer deposits 5 miles southeast of Gold Hill are all closely associated with existing streams, being either in the present stream beds or on terraces not many feet above them. Mining is carried on chiefly during the wet season of winter or early spring. A few of the placers have been equipped with dredges, but hydraulic mining is the prevalent method.

"On Kane Creek placers have never been extensive, but an electric dredge was under construction in 1908 for use in the SE 1/4 sec. 36, T. 36 S., R. 3 W. The capacity was 500 cubic yards in a 10-hour day. The power was obtained from the dam on Rogue River at Ray Gold; the material of the deposit is fine grained clay and gravel with few boulders; the bedrock is an altered slate. Since 1908 very little has been done on this project."

Reference: Parks and Swartley, 16:108 (quoted)

GOLD HILL "POCKET" (gold)

Gold Hill area

Location: SW 1/4 NE 1/4 sec. 14, T. 36 S., R. 3 W.

"The Gold Hill "Pocket", 2 miles northeast of Gold Hill, is near the top of the hill of that name in the SW 1/4 NE 1/4 sec. 14, T 36 S., R. 3 W., at an elevation

9-27-14  
Pete Myers, the almost indispensable factotum of Merritt Company's store, was confined to his room by a slight illness several days the present week, while Manager Bob Moore played ev part in the comedy-drama of running a general mercantile busine

A.L. Hartley, of Eugene, now a laborer at the Beaver Portl cement plant, has received notice from his attorneys at Washing that letters of patent will be issued to him upon an ingenu combination instrument of his invention, and that he may soon en the manufacturing class. The patent will cover a combined spi level and compass, a highly practical instrument that may subjected to all the uses of either instrument separately, may used in determining grades or angular work, is equipped w folding sights for surveying, and designed for use upon a trip Hartley has been for two years engaged upon the evolution of idea, and the construction and improvement of the model.

R.L. Polk & Co., directory publishers, have a force of men the field taking the information for the 1914 Jackson Cou directory. The new directory will contain a complete list everyone over 16 years of age, including the wife's name, a feature, on account of the equal suffrage law.

Tom Lawrence, of the Blackwell, was in Gold Hill Wednes showing a characteristically rich specimen of ore taken from 100 foot level of the old Bowden mine, now operated by Jim Dav of Willow Springs. An eighteen inch vein of similar ore, assay \$100 to the ton, is now being worked, with three tons of the r rock already upon the dump. The specimen was liberally pepper with minute particles of free gold, easily apparent to the ey The Bowden, altho one of the oldest mines in the Gold H district, its discovery dating back to the '60's, has been continuous producer of wealth, and among the old-timers is clas as a real high-grade property.

Unsatisfactory disposition of sewage by the septic tank at high school building, led to a forceful request from Leigh Hu tenant of the Applegate residence opposite the school, for remed measures by the city council. At a special session of the cour on Monday evening a motion to extend the sewer system two blo up Fifth Avenue, for the accommodation of the school and residence of that district, was unanimously adopted. Engineer Dodge will be in charge of the work, which will be constructe the city without contracting. Extension of the fire main to protection to residences on upper Fourth Street, above the pri school building, was also discussed and ordered to be immedia accomplished.

January 31, 1914 Vol. 16 No. 39

Mrs. May Greene, of Medford, is spending the present wee the home of her brother, A.E. Kellogg, and family.

Cass Higinbothan, of Monmouth, arrived the first of the summoned by the serious illness of his brother\*William, of Creek.

Bert Darling went to Ashland Sunday, visiting his mother, W.E. Darling, who is recovering satisfactorily from a r operation for appendicitis at the Granite City hospital.

Upon lots owned by Dr. R.C. Kelsey, at the rear of the church, Messrs. Kelly and Homan, employed at the cement plant erecting a dwelling where they will keep bachelor quarters. Homan is son of Rev. Homan, the well known president of Will: University.

Applegate River and tributaries

The Applegate River and its tributaries were very productive, and placers were extensively worked by hydraulic, dredging, and various nonmechanical methods. Some of the more important tributary streams placered were Sterling, Forest, Humbug, and Thompson Creeks.

The Sterling Creek placer was worked upstream from the mouth at Buncom, a distance of about 7 miles. The lower 3 miles of the Sterling channel is narrow, then it widens out considerably. Gravels being worked about 1908 were 20 to 40 feet thick, and gold was found across a width of nearly 200 feet.

The first hydraulic mining was done by the Sterling Mining Co., incorporated in 1877. The Sterling ditch from First Water Gulch on Little Applegate River is about 23 miles long and was completed in one year, 1877 (Haines and Smith, 1964, p. 49). After about 25 years of laborious seasonal hand mining along Sterling Creek by a large number of operators, during which time water was nearly always a precious commodity, the new ditch enabled a large-scale hydraulic operation to take over. The creek has been worked up to the level of the ditch terminus, about 2600 feet. Some power equipment was used to move the gravel in the later stages of operation during the 1930's. Diller (1914, p. 110) reported that value of the gravels was about 40 cents per cubic yard, at \$20 per ounce, and that total production of the mine to that time was said to exceed \$3,000,000.

Most of the area placered on Little Applegate River below Buncom belonged to the Sterling mine holdings and was served by the 6-mile China Ditch on the south side of the river. Part of the area is known as the Federal (Aurora) placer and was operated seasonally until recent years (about 1954). Bedrock is altered volcanic rock (greenstone) with some interbedded argillites of the Applegate Group. The main channel and bench gravels have been extensively mined. The recovered gold is coarse. Operation was seasonal, since water rights were shared with farmers. The giants were operated with a 200-foot head of water (Department Bulletin 14-C [Jackson], 1943, p. 160).

Forest Creek placers have been extensively worked by both hydraulic and dredging methods. Diller (1914, p. 110-111) describes three hydraulic placers on Forest Creek: the Spaulding mine in section 4; the Sturgis mine in section 10; and the Pearce mine in section 11. Diller reports values of from \$7,000 to \$12,000 per acre of recovery from Forest Creek gravels, which ranged in thickness from 10 to 60 feet and averaged about 25 feet. A number of other small placers were active on Forest Creek and the creek was among the most productive in the early days.

In 1940 and 1941 the B-H Company operated a 1½-yard dragline dredge and 150-yard-per-hour diesel-powered washing plant mounted on a steel frame and wooden pontoons on upper Forest Creek. The Hayfork dredge also operated for a brief period near Ruch in 1940-1941.

Total output of the Forest Creek area is not reported, but an estimate of more than \$1,000,000 is suggested for the combined production of the hydraulic placers and dredges that operated on it.

Humbug Creek was another important placer-gold producer in the Applegate area. Several small placer operations, including some drift placer work, hydraulicking, and various other nonmechanized methods, have been active on Humbug Creek since the early days. Operations were seasonal due to limited water. Bedrock is metavolcanic. Gravel is generally small in size, with only a few large boulders and considerable clay. The ground is reported to run from 35 cents to \$1.14 per cubic yard, at \$35 per ounce, and an estimated 1,500,000 cubic yards are present (Department Bulletin 14-C [Jackson], 1943, p. 165-166).

The Hayfork dredge operation on Thompson Creek was a dragline "doodlebug"-type washer equipped with the usual trommel, stacker, and sluices. It was rated at 2500 yards per day. The operators began work on Thompson Creek in January 1940, dredged through the ¾ mile of leased property, and in April 1940 moved to Forest Creek near Ruch (Mining World, September 1940, p. 19-20).

One of the larger hydraulic mines in the area, the Layton placer south of Provolt near the Jackson-Josephine County line, worked gravel deposits on Ferris Gulch as well as nearby Whiskey and Bamboo Gulches. A 21-mile upper ditch and an 18-mile lower ditch served the property. Extent of the area worked and total production are not reported. Parks and Swartley (1916) state that the mine had been a good producer for years. It was still being operated in 1940 (Department Bulletin 14-C [Jackson], 1943, p. 168-169).

A number of small placer operations were active in the early days along the upper Applegate River, especially on bench gravels adjacent to the principal channel. The area of placer activity extends on up

# THE FINDING OF GOLD HILL

HOW FAMOUS GOLD POCKET WAS DISCOVERED RACK. IN 1859

All that remains to mark the place of one of the richest pocket discoveries of gold ever made on the Pacific coast is a shallow depression, about twenty-five feet in diameter, near the summit and on the north slope of "Gold Hill," a mountain just across Rogue river, east of the city of Gold Hill. This famous pocket yielded an enormous amount of the precious metal within a few months after its discovery. An accurate record of the gold taken out was not kept, and is known only by conjecture, but old-timers say that it must have been several hundred thousand dollars, some placing it as high as half a million. The following account of the discovery of the great pocket is taken from the first issue of the Gold Hill Miner, a paper printed by T. K. Roberts and dated May 3rd, 1895:

"In February, 1850, a youth, while engaged in hunting for horses for the late Thomas Chavner, picked up a piece of quartz from the Gold Hill pocket, which upon examination proved to be wired together with gold, in casting about every piece proved to be rich. The youth proceeded to Chavner's and made known to him his find.

"Chavner's quick eye and his ready, practical horse sense suggested to him to make a dicker with the youth. A bargain was soon made, and Thomas Chavner was one of the principal owners in what proved to be one of the richest pocket possessions on the Pacific coast.

"Notwithstanding Chavner's circumspection and secretiveness, the news reached Jacksonville during the night or evening of the discovery. The next morning the road between Jacksonville and Gold Hill was lined with excited prospectors. Among the number was George Ish, who in passing Willow Springs, where at that time old uncle Dan Fisher was carrying on a blacksmith shop, made known to Fisher the discovery of the evening before. Fisher briefly related to Ish his discovery of a quartz ledge one evening in 1852 and directed Ish just where to find it. Ish proceeded as directed and found the ledge as Fisher had described it. Although Ish had promised in case the discovery was as uncle Fisher had pointed out, that he, Fisher, should have an interest in the find. Ish, however, did not keep his word with the old man.

"At this time Jacksonville was the metropolis of southern Oregon, and was one of the most prosperous mining towns on the Pacific coast.

"Gold Hill was a great producer. Nearly a half million dollars were taken from the mine in a few months."

JACKSONVILLE POST  
5 FEBRUARY 1907

## MINING DAYS RECALLED CHAVENAR FOUNDER GOLD HILL FARM BOY FOUND GOLD

Gold Hill Ore History

By MAXWELL MARTIN.

People read and talk about old placer miners, prospectors and other men, but they hardly ever think of the man who settled or founded the cities and towns. There is someone who started almost every town, by discovering gold, or building his cabin in a suitable location, and there is always an interesting story attached to it.

The West was a place where a man had either a good reputation or a bad one. There is history for both. This made the West harder to settle as the whites were split by the bad men, and the Indians that fought against them.

You have read of the famous gold days of "49" in California and of Pike's Peak in Colorado, but you very seldom hear of the small gold rushes that started towns also, as happened in the Rogue River valley.

Carson Trapped Here

Kit Carson trapped all through this valley, but most likely never thought of the gold, both placer and quartz, that was to be found, and of the cities and towns that would start from it. So when you go back into the history of the Rogue River valley in the fifties you will find some of the founders of it.

One of them was Thomas Chavener. Thomas Chavener was born in the year of 1814 at Tipperara, Ireland. When he was a young boy of eight years he came to America, wandering around in the East till he came out West to the Rocky mountains at the age of 13. He lived 20 years in the Rocky mountains, during the time he was a guide for the scout Kit Carson and Colonel Fremont. As Mr. Chavener was a born woodsman and was not content in a city, he gradually moved farther west as civilization advanced till at last he settled in Oregon in the Rogue River valley.

Bridged Rogue

In 1857 he built the first bridge that was constructed across Rogue river. The bridge was found to be unsafe, so after a cowboy and his horse had slipped and plunged to their death in the river, Mr. Chavener finally tore the bridge down, and sent for a bridge builder, James McKinney of Portland, Oregon, who constructed a large

covered bridge that Mr. Chavener named the Centennial after the Centennial exposition that was being held in Philadelphia. The bridge was finished in 1876. He made a good bridge out of it and owned it until he sold it to the county a week before his death. The bridge was used till 1912; then it was torn down, and the bridge that has been just recently torn down was built near Gold Hill.

Mr. Chavener owned a ranch across the river from where Gold Hill is now situated, and during the year of 1859 a chore boy on his ranch named James Hayes, was riding horseback on the mountain back of the Chavener ranch, in search of some Cayuse horses, when the cinch of his saddle broke, and while sitting on a rock repairing the break, he noticed the rock was quartz, which was found to be carrying gold. The mountain was covered with tall grass, and it took the people nearly a year to discover the whereabouts of the gold. When it was found there were three men, John X. Miller, Mr. Chavener and Mr. Ish, who were nearly ready to give up the search, while in a conversation one of the men happened to stick his pick in the ground and broke off a chunk of rock that contained gold. They tried to keep the secret, but three days later some of the men that were involved under Mr. Chavener were drunk over in the town of Jacksonville (at that time the biggest town in this part of the country) and told the news, and within the next few hours there were around 400 people on the mountain.

Wealthy Mine

There has never been an accurate account of how much gold was taken out of the mountain, but it ran into hundreds of thousands of dollars. This mountain was named Gold Hill on account of the rich amount of gold there was found in it.

There are some interesting tales attached to some of the men that were in this gold rush.

Saved Labor

One instance was of an Irishman who, breaking off a chunk of quartz larger than he could carry, rolled the rock down to the

(Continued on page 5)

## MINING DAYS ARE RECALLED

(Continued from page 1.)

river a distance of a mile and half. He then mortared it up and panned it.

In the year 1878 Mr. Chavener's wife died, leaving four children, Peter, Mickel, Mary Ann and Margaret.

In 1881 a large number of Chavener's men came to the country and started sluicing gold out of the river. This proved to be very profitable, as there was a large amount of gold in the gravel of the river that they were sluicing. The usual method they had of getting the gravel out of the river was by making wing dams, the turning the water away from that section of the river they were working in. Most of these Chavener's men were killed by the Indians, as they did not understand the Indian ways, therefore thinking that the Indians would not kill them.

Rates High

Mr. Chavener owned a large hotel called the Dardenel, situated about a mile from the present city of Gold Hill. The hotel was built over a large spring, a hole being made in the floor of the hotel so that the water could be drawn up through it. When this place was going in full swing they charged \$10 for a dance ticket. An ounce of salt cost an ounce of gold. The hotel was a very modern one for its time. It was destroyed by fire in a couple of years. During the year of 1926 Mr. Hittle, digging around the old spring, found the corner posts of the old hotel that were preserved by the mud and water.

In 1883 the California and Oregon Railroad company was running its railroad through the country, and upon an agreement with Mr. Chavener he gave the a hundred-foot strip through the place where Gold Hill is now situated. The station would have been built at a spot called Rock Point, two miles below Gold Hill, but as the company and Mr. Chavener, the owner of a large ranch where the station would have been built, could not agree, the station was built at Gold Hill. Mr. Chavener, seeing that this would make a good place for a town to be situated, gave every other block around the railroad to an body who would build a house store. In that way the town of Gold Hill was founded.

Medford, Oregon, is also situated almost entirely on a large ranch that Mr. Chavener owned. He sold it to a Mr. Phil for \$700, a span of horses, a harness and a wagon.

Mr. Thomas Chavener died the year of 1883 on his large estate close to Gold Hill. He left two sons and two daughters, whom the sons, Peter and Mick Chavener, and one daughter, Mary Ann Price still live on the place.

## History and Production

Early history of the area centered around its placer-mining operations. Rich placer deposits were discovered at Jacksonville late in 1851, and for several years thereafter would-be miners and fortune hunters flooded into the region (Spreen, 1939). Soon after the Jacksonville discovery, highly productive diggings were found on Sterling Creek (Haines and Smith, 1964). Early in 1852 the famous deposits known as "Sailors Diggings" were found in the headwaters of the Illinois River. The resulting settlement at this site was later called Waldo. Shortly after this discovery was made, there was a rush to Althouse Creek where the stream bed, which soon became known for its large nuggets, was uniformly rich.

In the years immediately following the above discoveries, Jacksonville and Waldo became the most populous settlements in the area and the mining centers of Jackson and Josephine Counties, respectively. Jacksonville has survived as a small town, but scarcely a brick remains to remind us of the once bustling town of Waldo.

As in the other areas, the first work was done mostly with a pick, shovel, and pan. Rockers and long-toms were also used and streams were often diverted for short distances. A few years after the "cream" of the rich placers had been "skimmed" by concentrated hand work, large-scale hydraulic mining with ditches, pipes, and giants was developed.

The Sterling Creek placer south of Jacksonville, one of the largest hydraulic operations in the area, is reported to have produced about \$3 million by 1914, and the Esterly placer near Waldo about half a million dollars. Production records are not available for the other placered areas, but it is estimated that the Foothills Creek and Forest Creek dredged areas taken together probably produced well over one and a half million dollars, and that the output for the dredged area on Pleasant Creek was probably in excess of half a million dollars. Values recovered from dredged gravels on Forest Creek were reported to range from 6 cents to 36 cents per yard. During 1940 the Murphy Murray Dredging Co. produced 4253 ounces of gold and 616 ounces of silver from 627,261 cubic yards of Foothills Creek gravel (Minerals Year Book for 1940, p. 433) which amounted to about 24 cents per yard recovery at \$35 per ounce. In 1940, which was a peak gold-production year for Oregon, there were seven operating dredges in Jackson County and one in Josephine County.

Shenon (1933c) estimates that the rich, shallow gulch gravels in the vicinity of Takilma and Waldo, which were worked by the early miners beginning in 1852, paid as much as \$2 per square yard of bedrock uncovered. He estimates the total minimum placer production for the Waldo-Takilma area at \$4,000,000.

Lode mining in the Gold Hill-Applegate-Waldo area began in the 1860's after the richer and more easily obtainable placer deposits had been worked over. Exceptions were the rich pocket deposits discovered and quickly mined out in the early days. The area is particularly well known for its gold pockets, some of the more famous of which are described by Libbey (1963) as follows:

"Hicks Lead: The first gold 'pocket,' also the first gold lode, discovered in Oregon was the so-called Hicks Lead found on the left fork of Jackson Creek above Farmers Flat in Jackson County. Sonora Hicks, the discoverer, working with his brother, took out \$1,000 in two hours, according to the Jacksonville Sentinel of that time. Walling (1884, p. 328) relates that Hicks sold his claim to Maury, Davis, and Taylor, owners of the adjoining claim, who then built the first arrastra in Oregon in order to treat the Hicks ore. The yield from the Hicks claim was \$2,000.

"Gold Hill Pocket: The most famous of all was the astonishing Gold Hill Pocket (map no. 18) discovered in January, 1857 by Emigrant Graham and partners near the top of the hill 2 miles northeast of the town of Gold Hill in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 14, T. 36 S., R. 3 W., Jackson County, at about 2,000 feet elevation. According to available records (Oregon Dept. Geology & Mineral Ind., 1943, p. 70), the outcropping rock was so full of gold that it could scarcely be broken by sledging. The crystallized quartz associated with the gold was not honeycombed as it generally is where sulfides have leached out of the rock, leaving sprays of gold in the cavity. The gold in this pocket went down only 15 feet and occurred in a fissure vein striking about N. 20° W., dipping about 80° E., with a vertical gash vein cutting the fissure nearly due east. The fissure vein averages 5 feet between the walls with 1 to 2 feet of gouge on the

the river into northern California. Carberry Creek, Squaw Creek, and especially Palmer Creek were all worked extensively.

On the lower river other creeks with significant placer-mining activity were Keeler, Williams, Powell, Slagle, Carris, Miners, Rocky, and Miller in the Missouri Flat area, Oscar, Board Shanty, Grays, and Murphy Creeks. The history and production records of these areas is scanty, but one can still see evidence of the early-day mining and a few small, seasonal operations continue in the area. A one-yard diesel shovel was operated on Oscar Creek in 1933 and gravel was transported about 1 mile from the shovel to a sluice by five-ton trucks.

#### Waldo area

In the southern part of the Gold Hill-Applegate-Waldo area the bulk of placer production has been along Sucker and Althouse Creeks and in the vicinity of Takilma and Waldo.

Diller (1914, p. 118) states:

"From the gravels of Althouse and Sucker Creeks a large amount of gold was washed in the early days of placer mining in Oregon, but for several years the production has not been great, as the best ground was worked many years ago. During 1907 the production of the streams of this district probably did not exceed \$6,000. There are no large mines, but numerous small ones. . ."

Placers in the Waldo area were along a number of small gulches which cut across old cemented bench gravels that are partly decomposed. These gravels, mapped by Shenon (1933c) as coarse "Tertiary conglomerate" and by Wells (1949) as early Pleistocene "auriferous gravels of the second cycle of erosion" are apparently the intermediate host rock for much of the placer gold in the area. Some of the more important early-day placers that were worked by a large number of individuals on closely spaced claims were on Scotch, Allen, Sailor, Waldo, and Fry Gulches, all within a two-mile radius of the town of Takilma.

Hydraulic mining: Large operations in the Waldo area that were mined by hydraulic methods after the ditch system was developed during the 1870's include the High Gravel mine, the Llano de Oro (Esterly) mine, and the Deep Gravel mine.

The High Gravel mine at the head of Allen Gulch in secs. 33 and 34, T. 40 S., R. 8 W. includes several pits covering an area of approximately 150,000 square yards. The mine, which operated to 1917, is estimated to have produced about \$90,000, not including production from the old workings along the bottoms of Allen and Scotch Gulches. The gold is found in the old cemented and partly decomposed gravel deposit. The average value was estimated at about 3 cents per cubic yard, at \$20 per ounce.

The largest mine in the Waldo area was the Llano de Oro or Esterly mine situated in secs. 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22, and 27, T. 40 S., R. 8 W., which included more than 3000 acres of land. Mining was done on Carroll Slough at the head of Logan Cut in secs. 10, 15, and 16, and on French Flat in secs. 22 and 27. Hydraulic elevators were used to mine from pits below the water table on French Flat (Figure 36). These pits, which cover an area of more than 30 acres, are now called Esterly Lakes. The mine was operated by various groups up to 1945. Value of the gravels worked ranged from 12½ cents to 33½ cents per yard, at \$20 per ounce. Total production to 1933 was estimated at about \$500,000. Production since that time may have been as much as \$100,000. The U.S. Bureau of Mines Minerals Yearbook review of 1939 (1940, p. 431) reports that during the year (operating season was generally from 4 to 9 months) 75,000 cubic yards of gravel were hydraulicked at the Esterly mine and 421 ounces of gold and 25 ounces of silver recovered. Some platinum-group metals are also recovered from the mine concentrates in this area. The ratio of platinum to gold in the Llano de Oro mine is estimated at about 1 to 50 (Shenon, 1933c, p. 187).

The Deep Gravel mine was on Butcher Gulch in secs. 16, 17, 20, and 21, T. 40 S., R. 8 W., just over the low ridge west of the Llano de Oro mine. In 1933 four deep pits and an aggregate of shallow pits covered an area of about 65 acres. The mine was operated from year of discovery in 1874 to 1933; the estimated total production was about \$276,000. Recorded production between 1907 and 1933 was \$26,316 (Shenon, 1933c, p. 188). Kay (1909, p. 74) reports that the average value of pay gravel over



welcome to the elegant balls, with their pockets full of gold nuggets, they were greeted with open arms by the businessmen.

The Gold and the Diggers. In 1853, Herman Francis Reinhart took a walk up the two forks of Jackson Creek. He was impressed with what he saw. *"The gold, in some quantity, is exhaustless. New diggings are discovered somewhere every day. There is gold enough--more than can be washed out....saw some rich claims of \*Shively, Amos Blue and Newt Bramson, who had a rich claim on the left-hand fork. Blue and Bramson took out over \$2500 in one day. One piece weighed \$1000 and more, the largest ever taken out of the Southern Oregon mines."* (31)

Gold was being found on every stream around the countryside. As early as the fall of 1852, Robert Blackwell, his partner Kersey, and others, dug a water ditch near Willow springs to the Blackwell Gulches for mining purposes. In May 1853, Robert Blackwell sold his share to Harry Brown of Siskiyou County, but Blackwell's son, and others, kept mining. It later became Blackwell Hills Mining Company. (32)

The Chinese had come to Jacksonville in the early 1850's and Welborn Beeson Sr. mentions them being there in 1854. The Chinese dug ditches and tunnels and became the main work force of the mining community. In the beginning, they lived in tents and make-shift shacks. Later, they established a string of shack houses on Main Street in Jacksonville. The Chinese had their own laundry, gambling houses, boarding houses, and later a bawdy house. They had opium dens where both Chinese and whites gathered. The Chinese could buy opium and other similar drugs through mail order. The Chinese worked as miners, cooks, servants, gamblers, and later, they helped build the railroads. (33)

The Hawaiians, called Kanakas, Sandwich Islanders, Owyhees and Blue Men came to mine for gold. They were brought under contract to the Pacific Northwest from Hawaii as laborers to work for the Hudson Bay Company. When gold was discovered in California, the Kanakas worked the gold fields. (34)

Prejudice against the Kanakas, Negroes, Chinamen, and Indians was obvious when the early Territorial laws were being written. In Oregon, Samuel R. Thurston, the first Territorial delegate



Methodist Preacher, Fletcher Royal, Wife Mary Ann, and four of their children, 1860. They came to Oregon Territory in 1853 on the 'Preacher's Wagon Train.

Courtesy Southern Oregon Historical Society # 467

a period of five years was about 25 cents per yard, at \$20 per ounce.

Dredging: Dredging in the Waldo area has been limited to a few short-lived operations on lower Althouse Creek, Sucker Creek, and along the East Fork of the Illinois near Takilma. A shovel and washing plant owned by Von der Hellen Brothers worked the Leonard placer in sec. 4, T. 40 S., R. 7 W. on lower Althouse Creek from 1936 to 1938. This area and down stream a short distance was also dredged by the Atlas Gold Dredging Corp. during 1940 and early 1941, using a 5-yard dragline that could handle 6000 yards daily and was the largest dragline washing plant in southwestern Oregon. Their work disclosed that much of the area had been drift-mined in the early days by Chinese (W. J. Cannon, oral communication, 1968).

In 1945 and 1946 B. H. Oregon, Ltd., ran a 3-yard dragline and washing plant on Sucker Creek a short distance above Grayback Creek.

A dragline and washing plant was operated intermittently by the Takilma Mining Co. along East Fork Illinois River just north of Takilma during the period of 1947 to 1950. Another dragline and washing plant was active at the Bailey mine on Fry Gulch west of Waldo during the same period. Production of these properties is not reported.

#### Principal Lode Mines

Sylvanite mine: The main workings of the Sylvanite mine (map no. 10) are on 80 acres of patented land about 3 miles northeast of Gold Hill. The property is under sales contract (1966) to Daniel Jones from the owner, George Tulare of Gold Hill. Libbey (1963) describes the mine as follows:

"The discovery and early history of the mine are not of public record. Various published reports show that, beginning in 1916, owners and operators were, successively, E. T. Simons, with Stone and Avena, Denver, Colorado, lessees who found scheelite (tungsten ore) associated with the gold ore; Oregon-Pittsburg Co. in 1928; Discon Mining Co., A. D. Coulter, Manager, discoverer of the high-grade ore shoot along the Cox Lyman vein in 1930; Western United Gold Properties; Sylvanite Mining Co.; and finally Imperial Gold Mines, Inc., in 1939. This last company built a concentrating mill of 140 tons daily capacity and cleaned out underground workings to expose the openings where the rich ore shoot had been found.

"The Sylvanite vein or shear zone occurs between metaigneous and metasedimentary (largely argillite) rocks. It shows intense shearing and alteration and is intruded in places by basic igneous dikes. It trends just east of north and dips southeasterly at about 45°. The Cox-Lyman shear zone strikes at right angles to the Sylvanite vein and stands nearly vertical. No certain sequence of faulting in the two shear zones has been established. Ore shoots are said to be from 5 to 12 feet thick and have averaged from \$5 to \$15 a ton. They have a gangue of quartz and calcite and carry galena, chalcopyrite, and pyrite. A fracture zone roughly parallel to the Sylvanite vein cuts the Cox-Lyman vein and at the intersection a rich ore shoot was found on the hanging wall, producing \$1,000 per lineal foot of winze in sinking 600 feet. Discontinuous pockets of ore were found in the hanging wall of the shoot for 200 additional feet of depth. The winze reached 900 feet below the surface. This ore shoot was reported to have yielded about \$700,000.

"A total of more than 2,560 lineal feet of underground development work has been done. In addition, numerous surface pits and cuts, now caved, have been dug by pocket hunters.

"Seemingly little effort has been made to explore the scheelite possibilities, although it is known that the Imperial Gold Mines Co. had such plans. They ran into difficulties underground because of caving ground, and presumably war-time conditions finally forced them to close down."

Lucky Bart mine: Lucky Bart Group (map no. 6) is about 6 miles northwest of Gold Hill, west of the left fork of Sardine Creek. Workings are between 2080 and 2900 feet elevation. There were 11 claims, and at least one in NE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 29 is patented. The mine was worked intermittently by various operators

since discovery in 1890. Diller (1914, p. 38) reported on the group as follows:

"Ore has been mined from five veins which run in a general direction a little south of west. These veins are on the average less than 2 feet wide. The country rock is metamorphosed sediment, mainly mica slates and micaceous quartzites. The general strike of these rocks in this vicinity is somewhat east of north; the dip is to the southeast and is in general at fairly high angles. The total amount of ore that has been milled exceeds 14,000 tons, which yielded from \$4.80 to \$100 a ton of free-milling ore. The ore from the Lucky Bart claim carried an average of 3 per cent of sulfides, which ran from 4 to 8 ounces of gold to the ton and a like amount of silver. Nine tons of ore from the deepest workings of this claim were shipped to the Tacoma smelter and gave returns of \$130 to the ton. Practically all the ores from the group have been treated at a mill on Sardine Creek; the sulfides were shipped to the smelters at Tacoma, Wash., and Selby, Cal."

Extent of the workings on the Lucky Bart group is not described. Total production may have been as much as \$200,000, but it has not been accurately reported.

Opp mine: The Opp mine (map no. 38) is situated about 2 miles west of Jacksonville. It contains workings that total about 7000 feet. It was discovered in the late 1800's and its major period of development was in the early 1900's. A total of 18 adits exposes three main veins which strike northwest to west and dip south. The ore shoots are reported to be where the veins are thickest. Thickness of the veins varies from a few inches to 12 feet. The country rock is siliceous argillite containing some chlorite and pyrite. The rocks belong to the Applegate Group. Their major trend is northerly, with steep dip east. Gangue minerals in the vein are quartz and calcite. Ore minerals are pyrite and gold. The ore was treated in a 20-stamp mill. Amalgamation, gravity concentration, and cyanidation were used. Total production is reported to be a little more than \$100,000.

Braden mine: The Braden mine (map no. 12), situated 2 miles south of Gold Hill, was discovered about 1885. The first ore mined was ground in an arrastra. Total production of the mine is not known, but during the early 1900's it was equipped with a 10-stamp mill and for the year 1907 reported \$30,000 production. In 1916 the mill was sold to owners of the Ashland mine. The workings total more than 3000 feet, but have reached less than 250 feet of depth. Winchell (1914) and Parks and Swartley (1916) report several quartz veins opened by six adits and an inclined shaft. The important veins strike about N. 30° E., dip 25° SE., and have an average width of about 18 inches. The country rocks are mapped as metavolcanics of the Applegate Group. The mine report describes the rocks as interbedded sediments and andesites altered to a calcareous hornblende schist. The ore is described as mainly quartz with a little calcite, some pyrite, and minor amounts of arsenopyrite, chalcopyrite, and galena. About 65 percent of the gold and silver was recovered on amalgam plates and 25 percent as concentrates. Ore mined averaged about \$8 to \$10 per ton.

Oregon Belle mine: The Oregon Belle mine (map no. 36) is near the head of Forest Creek, a mile south of Mount Isabelle at about 3000 feet elevation. Development work, started in 1890, totals about 1750 feet of underground workings plus stopes. Most of the workings are caved and inaccessible. Total production is believed to have been in excess of \$250,000. Two parallel veins mined are the Oregon Belle and the Roberts. The Oregon Belle vein strikes N. 70° to 75° E. and dips 50° to 60° N. It was extensively stoped and portions still exposed are from 2 to 4 feet thick, with an average value of \$10 to \$15. This vein characteristically pinches, swells, and changes direction of dip. The Roberts vein is about 100 feet south of the Oregon Belle. It has about the same thickness and it strikes N. 80° E. and dips 60° N. Wall rocks are mostly volcanics of the Applegate Group with some interbedded argillite. The formation strikes in a north-northeast direction and dips at high angles. Transverse (northwest-striking) faults are common in the area and have offset and complicated the vein structure. A map of the accessible workings is available in Department mine files.

Jewett mine: The Jewett mine (map no. 27) is at about 2000 feet elevation on the south side of

evidenced Thursday when J.A. Perry brought in \$2,000 to the Gold Hill bank and deposited it from the past eight months under a lease for Col. F.H. and Dr. C.R. Ray, the present owners of the hill, and last fall took over \$700 from a "bunch" or pocket. The \$2,000 which he brought in Thursday was recovered from the rock by means of a hand mortar and pestle, which shows that the Gold Hill ore is rich enough to attract attention in any country, and would probably start a boom if discovered in any country but southern Oregon, which persistently refuses to have a mining excitement, no matter what happens.

July 8, 1911 Vol. 14 No. 10

#### Local News Notes

Mayor Beeman was a Wednesday visitor at Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. J.V. Stickel were Medford visitors Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Rosenisch, of Turtle Rock ranch, left for their home at Minneapolis last Saturday.

G.L. Haff returned from his mining claims on Forest Creek Monday and like many other local folk celebrated the Fourth at Medford.

A.C. Nininger arrived yesterday from Santa Ana, California, and is looking after his farming interest. Mrs. Nininger accompanies him, and they will visit relatives in Sams Valley.

Wm. H. Searle has served his connection with the Gold Hill Bank, of which institution he has been assistant cashier for several months. He may engage in business in Medford.

Perry Hulbert came up from Auburn, California, last week, where he has been chaperoning the calves on his father's farm. He says that his parents are well pleased with their new home.

G.W. Wood was at Medford Wednesday to have some dental work done by Dr. Deane. Mr. Wood leaves next week, for Weaverville, California, in which district he will engage in mining.

L.B. Avery, of Eugene, who operated the diamond drill for the Portland Cement company on the ledge owned by the Gold Ray Realty company last winter, is spending a few days in Gold Hill.

Mrs. Geo. Miller and daughter Winnie, who have been visiting Mrs. Miller's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Riedel, and brother, Fred Riedel, and family, left Wednesday for Los Angeles, where they will visit relatives for a time before returning home at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Commercial men are beginning to make Gold Hill their headquarters. They are delighted with the cuisine and general service of the Gold Hill Hotel, and Capt. and Mrs. Gale are receiving many compliments from the knights of grip, who say that Gold Hill has one of the best hotels on the line.

The Home Telephone company now has a very neat central office in the Beeman building on Main Street, next to the Gold Hill cafe. The work of building the local exchange line is almost completed, and it will not be long before Gold Hill has two telephone systems in operation within her gates. Misses Johnnie Glenn and Francis Smith are the Home "central."

Mr. and Mrs. Luke Jennings returned Monday from a visit with friends at their former home in Lebanon.

Miss Bernice Carder, of Medford, visited her friend, Miss Francis Smith several days last week.

P.L. Peterson, late of International Falls, Minnesota, is visiting his brother C.A. Peterson, of the firm of Lance & co.

H.D. Reed, who was confined to his room with a severe attack

evidenced Thursday when J.A. Perry brought in \$2,000 to the Gold Hill bank and deposited it from the past eight months under a lease for Col. F.H. and Dr. C.R. Ray, the present owners of the hill, and last fall took over \$700 from a "bunch" or pocket. The \$2,000 which he brought in Thursday was recovered from the rock by means of a hand mortar and pestle, which shows that the Gold Hill ore is rich enough to attract attention in any country, and would probably start a boom if discovered in any country but southern Oregon, which persistently refuses to have a mining excitement, no matter what happens.

July 8, 1911 Vol. 14 No. 10

#### Local News Notes

Mayor Beeman was a Wednesday visitor at Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. J.V. Stickel were Medford visitors Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Rosenisch, of Turtle Rock ranch, left for their home at Minneapolis last Saturday.

G.L. Haff returned from his mining claims on Forest Creek Monday and like many other local folk celebrated the Fourth at Medford.

A.C. Nininger arrived yesterday from Santa Ana, California, and is looking after his farming interest. Mrs. Nininger accompanies him, and they will visit relatives in Sams Valley.

Wm. H. Searle has served his connection with the Gold Hill Bank, of which institution he has been assistant cashier for several months. He may engage in business in Medford.

Perry Hulbert came up from Auburn, California, last week, where he has been chaperoning the calves on his father's farm. He says that his parents are well pleased with their new home.

G.W. Wood was at Medford Wednesday to have some dental work done by Dr. Deane. Mr. Wood leaves next week, for Weaverville, California, in which district he will engage in mining.

L.B. Avery, of Eugene, who operated the diamond drill for the Portland Cement company on the ledge owned by the Gold Ray Realty company last winter, is spending a few days in Gold Hill.

Mrs. Geo. Miller and daughter Winnie, who have been visiting Mrs. Miller's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Riedel, and brother, Fred Riedel, and family, left Wednesday for Los Angeles, where they will visit relatives for a time before returning home at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Commercial men are beginning to make Gold Hill their headquarters. They are delighted with the cuisine and general service of the Gold Hill Hotel, and Capt. and Mrs. Gale are receiving many compliments from the knights of grip, who say that Gold Hill has one of the best hotels on the line.

The Home Telephone company now has a very neat central office in the Beeman building on Main Street, next to the Gold Hill cafe. The work of building the local exchange line is almost completed, and it will not be long before Gold Hill has two telephone systems in operation within her gates. Misses Johnnie Glenn and Francis Smith are the Home "central."

Mr. and Mrs. Luke Jennings returned Monday from a visit with friends at their former home in Lebanon.

Miss Bernice Carder, of Medford, visited her friend, Miss Francis Smith several days last week.

P.L. Peterson, late of International Falls, Minnesota, is visiting his brother C.A. Peterson, of the firm of Lance & co.

H.D. Reed, who was confined to his room with a severe attack

Master Nolan Hammersly was the guest of his cousins, the Chisholm children, at Woodville last Sunday.

J.C. Neff and party, of Medford, who were seeing the valley by automobile, were guest at the Gold Hill Hotel Monday.

Mrs. and Mrs. J.N. Fountain arrived Monday from Tacoma, where they had been visiting with their daughter for several weeks.

Mrs. Nina M. Smith was the guest of Mrs. E.M. Newton at the pleasant Sardine Creek home of the latter several days the present week.

Labor is at a premium in Gold Hill, as E.G. Perham has taken all available for work on the Prospect power line which he is building for the Rogue River Electric company.

Wm. R. Hammersly, of Lakeview, government hunter, is visiting local kinsmen. It was he who was sent to Wallowa County last winter to exterminate hydrophobic coyotes.

C.F. Young, Geo. F. Merriman and Court Hall were a party of Medford fans who, with their wives, took dinner at the Gold Hill Hotel when returning from the rose show at Grants Pass Tuesday.

Ward Hopkins, of Central Point, an expert orchardist, arrived Wednesday and went to the Blackington ranch on Galls Creek, where he assisted Mr. Blackington in selecting some new ground for planting trees.

Elam R. Gall and Mrs. Nettie Fleming, well-known residents of Sams Valley, were married at Jacksonville Wednesday. They will make their home on Mr. Gall's ranch in Sams Valley. They were accompanied to Jacksonville by Mr. and Mrs. S.T. Hodges.

Mayor Beeman left for Portland last night on a business mission.

James Robbins and family took in the rose festival at Grants Pass.

N.C. Shaver, barber, of Ashland, was in town on business Thursday.

Mrs. J.W. Hays and daughter Edna were at Grants Pass Tuesday for the rose carnival.

Dr. C.H. Smith attended the grand rose festival ball at Grants Pass Wednesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. E.E. Roenisch, of Turtle Rock ranch, are spending a few days in San Francisco.

J.L. Hammersly now has his law office very comfortably located in an apartment in the rear of the postoffice.

Edwin Struble made final proof before the U.S. land office at Roseburg yesterday on his homestead three miles north of Gold Hill.

The new steel bridge across Foots Creek was completed Wednesday. Its span is sixty feet, and it is a type of the splendid modern structures that are replacing old bridges throughout Jackson County. District Supervisor J.W. Hays who had charge of the erection, was the first man to cross it.

To dredge Rogue river for the gold which it is believed has been deposited in its rocky bed for ages is the plan of J.W. Lane, late engaged in mining in California, and Medford associates. A lease has been secured from the Chavner estate to operate a dredge in the river in the pool below and the channel above the railroad bridge at Gold Hill, the land on both sides belonging to that estate. The dredging process, which is of Mr. Lane's invention, will have its first trial here, and if it proves successful it means that miles of Rogue river's bed will be worked for its yellow treasure. A boat will be built from which to operate the dredge, either electric or gasoline power to be used. Before actual

*moly  
Blackington  
?*

operations begin, however, the bed of the river will be thoroughly prospected.

With the intention of sinking 500 feet from the 125-foot level, gaining a total depth of 625 feet, a new company, organized last week in Portland, has leased the Grey Eagle mine on Sardine Creek from the Oregon-Gold Hill Mining company. The new company will be known as the Grey Eagle Mining company, of which Ward B. Stevens will be manager, with headquarters at the mine. J.R. Wolfe will continue as engineer. Foremen Manager VanHouten will remain in the Gold Hill district, which he believes is soon due to come to the front in a mining way. The Grey Eagle has a new and complete milling equipment. A two-machine air compressor is now being installed, which will operate the two drills that will be used in sinking. The mine will be developed by drifting from the 625-foot shaft, which may be sunk even deeper if it is deemed advisable.

June 24, 1911 Vol. 14 No. 8

#### Local News Notes

Miss Blossom Beeman visited Ashland friends Tuesday.

Mrs. C.F. Bowman was at Grants Pass Wednesday.

Fred Witt was at Grants Pass on business Wednesday.

Verne Blue, of Ashland, has been visiting his father the past week.

D.C. Wilson and wife of Sams Valley, were Monday visitors in Gold Hill.

T.J. West made a trip to Ashland by team Tuesday, returning Wednesday.

Mesdames M.M. Avery and R.C. Kelsey were at Medford on business Tuesday.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Rueben Cain at their home in Medford on Friday of last week.

Mrs. Lynn Purdin and infant son, of Ashland, were visiting her parents, Mrs. and Mrs. Walter Dungey.

D. Haight, late of Dubois, Nebraska, has bought Jas. Robbins residence opposite the Davidson property.

J.M. Alnutt was here Monday to remove his cigar-making equipment to Ashland where he will open a factory.

L.S. Noe left Tuesday for Klamath Falls, where he has a merry-go-round which he will operate through the summer.

Miss Fannie Smith went to Jacksonville Tuesday to take the teacher's examination in progress there this week.

Wm. R. Hammersly and wife left for their home at Lakeview the first of the week, after a visit with relatives here and at Woodville.

Miss Ruth and Lois Britt returned this week from a three months stay at Klamath Falls with their uncle E.S. Copper. Miss Audrey Britt went to Klamath Falls last week and returned with them.

Work is progressing rapidly on C.A. Peterson's new eight-room bungalow, which is being built by Contractor D.P. Blue. When completed the Peterson bungalow will be one of the coziest homes in the city.

T.A. Fifer, of the Jackson County Bank, was in the city Tuesday with L.E. Hoover, the Quaker nursery man, who was touring this end of the county looking for those who will need young fruit trees this season.

Bids have been asked by the county court for the erection of

### Another Instance of Newspaper

As an example of the unexpected use or value that a newspaper article may have many months or even years after its publication, the following letter addressed to "Lynn Purdin, editor of The Gold Hill News," received this week, is of interest. It was written by Will Light, and is dated at Troutdale, Oregon Jan. 8, 1912:

"I have been reading one of your papers given to me by John Humphrey, a former resident of your town, of Oct. 9, 1908. In it is an article telling about Gen. Lane giving battle to the Indians in the spring of 1853. There was a man by the name of Armstrong killed. I had an uncle, Thomas Armstrong, that went to California in '48 or '49 -- from Columbus, Ohio -- and the last heard from him was in '52 or '54. He was mining then at Negro Bar, on the American river. Is there any way for you to find out who this Armstrong is that was killed under Gen. Lane? If so I would be pleased to have you do so, and I would pay you for your trouble. He would have been about 24 years old at the time of the battle."

The article which prompted this letter was written by Andrew Jackson Barlow, and published in the Gold Hill Miner of May 3, 1895. It was republished in the Gold Hill News of October 8, 1908, Lynn Purdin then being editor of the paper, and a copy of that date has undoubtedly been retained by Mr. Humphrey for its historical value. It relates to the discovery of the famous Gold Hill pocket, and the paragraph which refers to the Indian fight, and which brought Mr. Light's letter, follows:

"In the spring of 1853 the Indians, smarting under the castigation given them by the miners at Big Bar the year before, determined to have revenge. Active preparations for a general war were quietly made, which, late in the summer, broke out with such bloodthirsty fury that it causes us to shudder when we recall it to mind. Houses were burned, women and children were mercilessly slaughtered and pandemonium reigned. But retributing was swift. General Lane, who had just been elected to Congress, was soon at the scene of the hostilities, and with a large body of soldiers and volunteers attacked the Indians on Battle Creek, a tributary to Evans Creek, and gave them an unmerciful chastising--not, however, until after Armstrong, Evans, Songer, and others had been killed, and the general himself had been wounded."

"While many of the volunteers who served under Lane enlisted so hurriedly that they were not properly enrolled--Judge C.C. Gall, the pioneer Sams Valley justice, was one of these men it is possible that Mr. Light may be able to learn the identity of the Armstrong who was killed on Battle Creek in '53 by applying to the war department at Washington, giving all the facts available, which are probably contained in this article. Editor News.

### News of Near Neighbors

#### Kanes Creek Nuggets By Cynthia

Paul Lake of Central Point spent Sunday with Kanes Creek relatives.

Mrs. Swinden of Galls Creek was a pleasant caller on Kanes Creek Thursday.

Mrs. Blowers is enjoying a visit from her daughter, Mrs. Shelley of near Eugene.

Quite a few from here attended the Galls Creek dance Saturday night. A dance is given every two weeks by Eaton Brothers.

There will be a social dance at the Maybelle mine in Blackwell on Saturday night. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

Jan. 13, 1912



Colorado, and located in Sams Valley, was -- expressed himself as well pleased with his new location, and considers southern Oregon the best part of the west.

Master Floyd and Miss Gladys Darling entertained a number of their playmates at the home of their grandparent's, Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Darling, on Friday of last week. Refreshments were served on the lawn, consisting of sandwiches and strawberries, cake and ice tea.

Miss Leda and Opal Harvey had a party Tuesday afternoon at their home on Sunny Slope ranch on Rogue river, a mile north of Gold Hill. The event was in honor of Leda's birthday, and the little folks who attended had all kinds of fun. They feasted on strawberries and cream, and had lots of other good things besides.

William Pauley, who was arrested in March for carrying concealed weapons and fined \$75 and given sixty days, was arrested in Woodville Saturday on the charge of beating his wife. He was sentenced to a term of two months in jail. The sixty days sentence in the former conviction was suspended on a promise of good behavior. He must serve it now.

According to the latest bulletin of the government geological survey, the height above sea level at a point in front of the Gold Hill depot is 1084.1 feet; Central Point 1273; Medford 1543.7; Ashland 1868.8; Jacksonville 1568.5; Woodville 994.1; Grants Pass 964. The water level of Crater Lake is given as 6177.3 and the lowest point on the rim of the lake 7043.6 showing that it is almost a thousand feet from the rim of the crater to the water's edge.

J.A. Baxter and family arrived from Walla Walla Thursday, and will pack their household goods here for removal to that place. Mrs. Baxter brought the news that the deal whereby the Portland Cement company was to take over the holdings of the Gold Hill Railroad & Lumber company and the Hughes lime kiln and property has fallen through owing to the inability to reach terms satisfactory to the Portland Cement company of which Aman Moore is president.

A San Francisco dispatch dated June 20th declares that a railroad is to be built from Crescent City to Grants Pass, to be part of a new route from Frisco to Portland, which will soon be completed as far as Eureka. The dispatch states that the new line will follow the California coast from Eureka to Crescent City, and that in building from there to Grants Pass the Siskiyou will be tunneled and much costly engineering involved. The route to Portland will be completed from Grants Pass over the present line of the Southern Pacific.

Mr. and Mrs. H.G. Gilmore, of Seattle, have taken up their residence here for the summer, at the home of Mrs. Blackburn. Mr. Gilmore is a musician of much more than ordinary attainment. He was for some years instructor of music at Racine College, Wisconsin, and was for some time principal of the department of music at Trinity college, Toronto. He served as organist and choir master in St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo, and was for twenty-two years musical and dramatic critic for the Detroit Free Press. Mr. Gilmore has consented to take charge of the music at the M.E. church at tomorrow's services, and will sing a solo at each service, morning and evening.

That the famous old Gold Hill, from which this city derives its name from and which a pocket said to have contained from a quarter to a half a million dollars were taken in the late fifties, is far from being in the also ran class as a gold producer was



Figure 52. Photograph taken in 1904 of Briggs Pocket showing David Briggs, father of discoverer, holding a chunk of nearly pure gold. (Photograph courtesy of Grants Pass Courier.)

footwall, which contains calcite and quartz mixed with a little pyrite, in spots containing free gold. A mass of granite, about 5 feet wide by 200 feet long, crops out in the footwall side of the fissure. The country rock is pyroxenite. It is said that this pocket produced at least \$700,000.

"Revenue Pocket: Another large 'pocket' was named the Revenue (map no. 25). It was found and mined out (date unknown) by the Rhotan brothers 5 miles south of Gold Hill on Kane Creek in sec. 11, T. 37 S., R. 3 W., Jackson County, at an elevation of about 2570 feet. Reportedly it produced \$100,000 (Parks and Swartley, 1916, p. 193) and was one of the larger pockets discovered by Rhotan brothers, who evidently were well-known pocket hunters.

"Steamboat Pocket: This important enrichment in a network of quartz veins in andesite was found in the Steamboat mine (map no. 48) about 1860. The location is on Brush Creek, a tributary of Carberry Creek, 2 miles west of Steamboat and 42 miles by road west of Medford. It is in sec. 20, T. 40 S., R. 4 W., Jackson County. The property has had several names and once was known as the Fowler mine, derived from the name of one of the owners of the Fowler and Keeler Trading Post on the Applegate River, 17 miles distant, and under this name was a litigant in long and costly law suits over title. The yield from the pocket (Parks and Swartley, 1916, p. 212) is reported to have been \$350,000.

"Johnson and Bowden Pockets: Two pockets (map no. 39) in the Jacksonville locality are described under the name of Town Mine by Parks and Swartley (1916, p. 136). Date of discovery and extraction is not recorded. The deposits were discovered at points about 600 feet apart, approximately 2 miles west of the reservoir on Jackson Creek in sec. 25, T. 37 S., R. 3 W., Jackson County. The Johnson deposit yielded \$30,000 and the Bowden \$60,000.

"Roaring Gimlet Pocket: Diller (1914, p. 46) described a rich deposit known as the Roaring Gimlet pocket, discovered in 1893. It was found at the mouth of China Gulch, Jackson County, about 2½ miles south of the Gold Hill pocket. The high-grade ore was apparently liberated from oxidized sulfides, leaving very little quartz, and formed an enriched gouge seam from a quarter of an inch to 6 inches thick between a porphyry footwall and a slate hanging wall. At a depth of 40 feet the vein continued down between dioritic walls and contained some small kidneys of calcite and quartz with pyrite - a gangue looking very much like that of the Gold Hill pocket. Several small pockets were extracted just east of the large Gimlet pocket. The combined yield is said to have been \$40,000."

Another dazzling, but short-lived, discovery was the Briggs pocket (map no. 52) found in 1904 at the head of Thompson Creek in Josephine County by Ray Briggs. According to the Grants Pass Courier for

# THE FINDING OF GOLD HILL

HOW FAMOUS GOLD POCKET WAS DISCOVERED BACK.

IN 1859

All that remains to mark the place of one of the richest pocket discoveries of gold ever made on the Pacific coast is a shallow depression, about twenty-five feet in diameter, near the summit and on the north slope of "Gold Hill," a mountain just across Rogue river, east of the city of Gold Hill. This famous pocket yielded an enormous amount of the precious metal within a few months after its discovery. An accurate record of the gold taken out was not kept, and is known only by conjecture, but old-timers say that it must have been several hundred thousand dollars, some placing it as high as half a million. The following account of the discovery of the great pocket is taken from the first issue of the Gold Hill Miner, a paper printed by T. K. Roberts and dated May 3rd, 1895:

"In February, 1850, a youth, while engaged in hunting for horses for the late Thomas Chavner, picked up a piece of quartz from the Gold Hill pocket, which upon examination proved to be wired together with gold, in casting about every piece proved to be rich. The youth proceeded to Chavner's and made known to him his find.

"Chavner's quick eye and his ready, practical horse sense suggested to him to make a dicker with the youth. A bargain was soon made, and Thomas Chavner was one of the principal owners in what proved to be one of the richest pocket possessions on the Pacific coast.

"Notwithstanding Chavner's circumspection and secretiveness, the news reached Jacksonville during the night or evening of the discovery. The next morning the road between Jacksonville and Gold Hill was lined with excited prospectors. Among the number was George Ish, who in passing Willow Springs, where, at that time old uncle Dan Fisher was carrying on a blacksmith shop, made known to Fisher the discovery of the evening before. Fisher briefly related to Ish his discovery of a quartz ledge one evening in 1852 and directed Ish just where to find it. Ish proceeded, as directed and found the ledge as Fisher had described it. Although Ish had promised in case the discovery was as uncle Fisher had pointed out, that he, Fisher, should have an interest in the find. Ish, however, did not keep his word with the old man.

"At this time Jacksonville was the metropolis of southern Oregon, and was one of the most prosperous mining towns on the Pacific coast.

"Gold Hill was a great producer. Nearly a half million dollars were taken from the mine in a few months."

JACKSONVILLE POST  
5 FEBRUARY 1907

## MINING DAYS RECALLED CHAVENAR FOUNDER GOLD HILL FARM BOY FOUND GOLD

Gold Hill or History

By MAXWELL MARVIN.  
People read and talk about old placer miners, prospectors and other men, but they hardly ever think of the man who settled or founded the cities and towns. There is someone who started almost every town, by discovering gold, or building his cabin in a suitable location, and there is always an interesting story attached to it.

The West was a place where a man had either a good reputation or a bad one. There is history for both. This made the West harder to settle as the whites were split by the bad men, and the Indians that fought against them.

You have read of the famous gold days of "49" in California and of Pike's Peak in Colorado, but you very seldom hear of the small gold rushes that started towns also, as happened in the Rogue River valley.

Carson Trapped Here.  
Kit Carson trapped all through this valley, but most likely never thought of the gold, both placer and quartz, that was to be found, and of the cities and towns that would start from it. So when you go back into the history of the Rogue River valley in the fifties you will find some of the founders of it.

One of them was Thomas Chavener. Thomas Chavener was born in the year of 1814 at Tipperara, Ireland. When he was a young boy of eight years he came to America, wandering around in the East till he came out West to the Rocky mountains at the age of 13. He lived 20 years in the Rocky mountains, during the time he was a guide for the scout Kit Carson and Colonel Fremont. As Mr. Chavener was a born woodsman and was not content in a city, he gradually moved farther west as civilization advanced till at last he settled in Oregon in the Rogue River valley.

Bridged Rogue.  
In 1857 he built the first bridge that was constructed across Rogue river. The bridge was found to be unsafe, so after a cowboy and his horse had slipped and plunged to their death in the river, Mr. Chavener finally tore the bridge down, and sent for a bridge builder, James McKinnen of Portland, Oregon, who constructed a large

covered bridge that Mr. Chavener named the Centennial after the Centennial exposition that was being held in Philadelphia. The bridge was finished in 1876. He made a toll bridge out of it and owned it until he sold it to the county a week before his death. The bridge was used till 1912; then it was torn down, and the bridge that has been just recently torn down was built near Gold Hill.

Mr. Chavener owned a ranch across the river from where Gold Hill is now situated, and during the year of 1859 a chore boy on his ranch, named James Hayes, was riding horseback on the mountain back of the Chavener ranch, in search of some Cayuse horses, when the cinch of his saddle broke, and while sitting on a rock repairing the break, he noticed the rock was quartz, which was found to be carrying gold. The mountain was covered with tall grass, and it took the people nearly a year to discover the whereabouts of the gold. When it was found there were three men, John X. Miller, Mr. Chavener and Mr. Ish, who were nearly ready to give up the search, while in a conversation one of the men happened to stick his pick in the ground and broke off a chunk of rock that contained gold. They tried to keep the secret, but three days later some of the men that were employed under Mr. Chavener were drunk over in the town of Jacksonville (at that time the biggest town in this part of the country) and told the news, and within the next few hours there were around 400 people on the mountain.

Wealthy Mine.  
There has never been an accurate account of how much gold was taken out of the mountain, but it ran into hundreds of thousands of dollars. This mountain was named Gold Hill on account of the rich amount of gold there was found in it.

There are some interesting tales attached to some of the men that were in this gold rush.

Saved Labor.  
One instance was of an Irishman who, breaking off a chunk of quartz larger than he could carry, rolled the rock down to the

(Continued on page 5)

## MINING DAYS ARE RECALLED

(Continued from page 1.)

river a distance of a mile and a half. He then mortared it up and panned it.

In the year 1878 Mr. Chavener's wife died, leaving four children, Peter, Mickel, Mary Ann and Margaret.

In 1881 a large number of Chinamen came to the country and started sluicing gold out of the river. This proved to be very profitable, as there was a large amount of gold in the gravel of the river that they were sluicing. The usual method they had of getting the gravel out of the river was by making wing dams, thus turning the water away from the section of the river they were working in. Most of these Chinamen were killed by the Indians, as they did not understand the Indian ways, therefore thinking that the Indians would not kill them.

Rates High

Mr. Chavener owned a large hotel called the Dardenel, situated about a mile from the present city of Gold Hill. The hotel was built over a large spring, a hole being made in the floor of the hotel so that the water could be drawn up through it. When this place was going in full swing they charged \$10 for a dance ticket. An ounce of salt cost an ounce of gold. This hotel was a very modern one for its time. It was destroyed by fire in a couple of years. During the year of 1926 Mr. Hittle, digging around the old spring, found the corner posts of the old hotel that were preserved by the mud and water.

In 1833 the California and Oregon Railroad company was running its railroad through the country, and upon an agreement with Mr. Chavener he gave them a hundred-foot strip through the place where Gold Hill is now situated. The station would have been built at a spot called Rock Point, two miles below Gold Hill, but as the company and Mr. Chavener, the owner of a large ranch where the station would have to be built, could not agree, the station was built at Gold Hill. Mr. Chavener, seeing that this would make a good place for a town to be situated, gave every other block around the railroad to anybody who would build a house or store. In that way the town of Gold Hill was founded.

Medford, Oregon, is also situated almost entirely on a large ranch that Mr. Chavener once owned. He sold it to Mr. Phipps for \$700, a span of horses, a harness and a wagon.

Mr. Thomas Chavener died in the year of 1883 on his large estate close to Gold Hill. He left two sons and two daughters, of whom the sons, Peter and Mickel Chavener, and one daughter, Mary Ann Price still live on the old place.