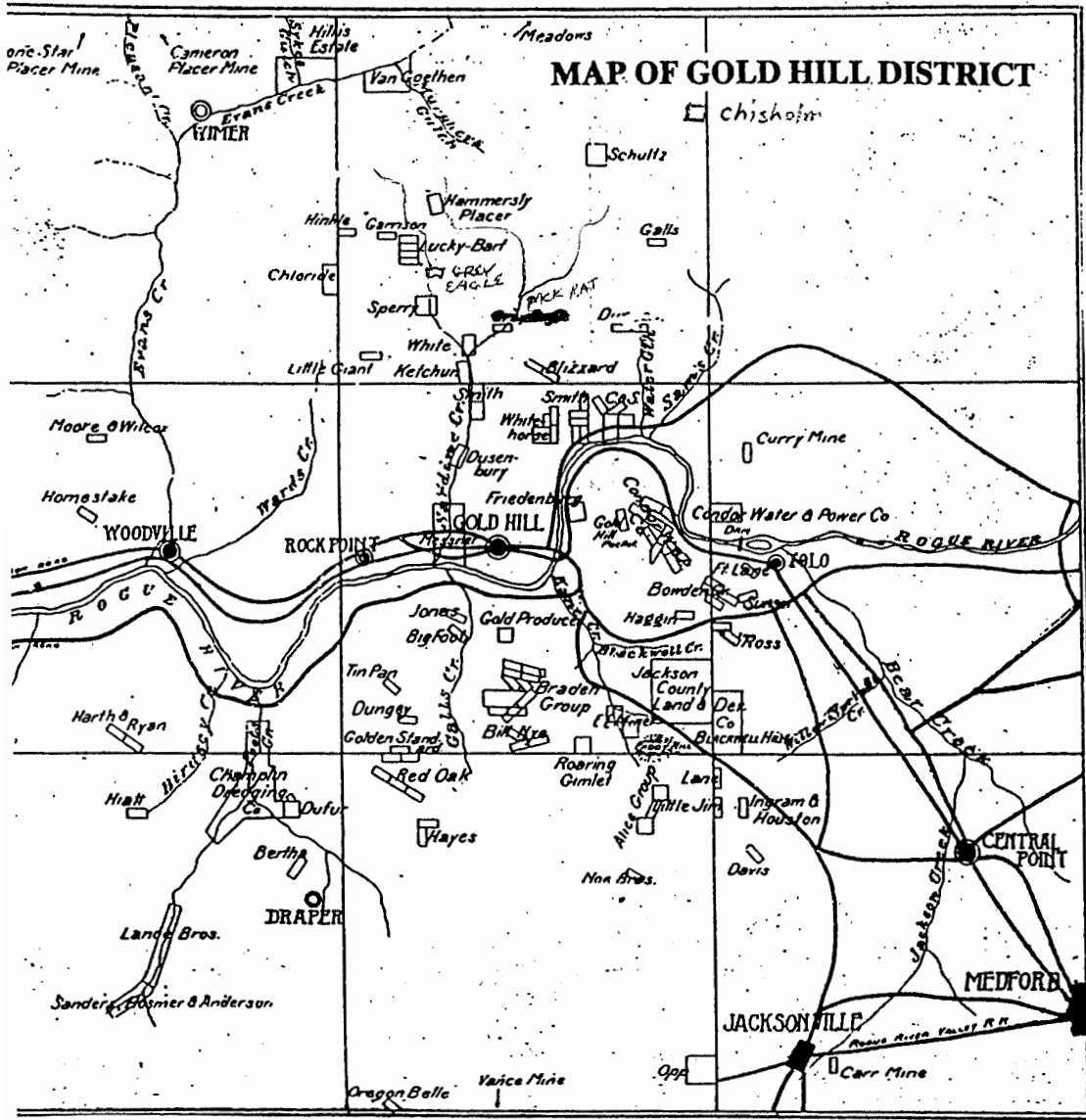


Dec. 30, 1911



**T**HE following is a list of mining properties in the region contiguous to Gold Hill, classified as to their respective districts:

**Kanes Creek:** Revenue, Alice, Mendenhall, Roaring Gimlet, Braden, Millionaire, Centennial placer, and many others; also the Hughes and Householder lime quarries.

**Galls Creek:** Bill Nye, recently purchased by a powerful French syndicate, operating mines in all parts of the world; five stamps will soon be in operation. Gold Standard, Red Oak, Rattlesnake, Kubli, Tin Pan, Burns & Duffield, H. D. Jones, Last Chance, and Big Foot.

**Fooths Creek:** Champlin Dredging Co., Black Channel placer, Lance Bros. placer, Dixie Queen, Bertha, Horseshoe, Swaker, Hummingbird, and many others.

**Sardine Creek:** Little Giant, Black Hawk, Grey Eagle, Lucky Bart group, Corporal G, Garrison, Haff group, Hinckle, Smith placer, Dusenbury placer, and many others; this creek placers its entire length.

**Rogue River Hills:** Fairview, Blizzard, White Horse, Sylvanite, Trustbuster, Pactolian, Garfield (iron), Fleming-Ward (iron).

**Gold Hill Mountain:** Gold Hill ledge, Copper Queen, Whitney, Fisher, Dikeman and many others.



# Mining beats at the heart of county history

By Michael L. Oaks

There are six mining districts within the confines of Josephine County, as follows: 1. Galice 2. Grants Pass 3. Greenback 4. Illinois River 5. Lower Applegate 6. Waldo.

## 1. Galice District

No factual records are available but common historical information has it that gold mining began on Galice Creek in 1852. The name of Galice Creek was derived from the fact that Doctor Louis Galice, a very popular miner of that period was killed by Indians on this stream. Old placer operations and hardrock mining is evident as one explores the various lodes where mining occurred. Lodes are held by mining men to be the alignment of ore deposits throughout their lineal extent. There are three lodes in the Galice district where mineralization seems to have occurred. The most easterly is the Almeda, aka the "Big Yank Ledge." Next to the west is the Chiefton "lode," cutting through the California claims found on Mt. Reuben. The most westerly is the General Grant "lode" that cuts through the Benton Mine on Whiskey Creek. Names such as "Old Channel" mine on Pea Vine, "Little Chiefton," on Chiefton Creek, Sugar Pine, Lost Flat, Golden Wedge, Black Bear, Gold Plate, California Mine, Ajax, Oriole, and many others too numerous to mention are found in this district.

## 2. Grants Pass

The Grants Pass area is in east central Josephine County and contains all of the drainage of the Rogue above the mouth of and including Jump-Off-Joe Creek. Its area is about 245 square miles. It includes the old mining districts known as Jump-Off-Joe, Winona, Merlin, Louse Creek, Rogue River, Dry Diggings, Pickett Creek and Grants Pass. Jump-Off-Joe, Louse and Pickett creeks are the principal tributaries of the Rogue River in the area, although there are many lesser, but albeit important creeks. Mines of this district are many but a few of them are: the Jewett mine on Baldy Mountain, Lucky Queen on Jump-Off-Joe, Swastika placer, Daisy mine, Granite Hill mine, Ida to name just a few of the noted producers.

## 3. Greenback

The Greenback mining district is an area comprising about 100 square miles in northeastern Josephine County, in T. 33S. and the north half of T. 34 S., Ranges 5 and 6 west. Parts of this district have been known as the Wolf Creek, Grave Creek, Coyote Creek and Leland districts. King Mountain is also in this district.

Little is known of the early history of this area or the date of gold discovery. It is known that the Grave Creek placers produced \$20,000 in gold in 1883. In 1895, many other mines were producing, some more or less on Grave Creek, as well as Coyote Creek, Wolf Creek and quite a bit of activity near Leland. As early as 1898, the soon-to-be-famous Greenback lode mine was treating their ore with an arrastra. Of all the mines in the district, the Greenback was the most famous producer of all. Other mines in the district include; The Martha, The Columbia placer, the Goff mine, The Yellow horn, Steam Beer placer, the Jim Blain, and Dorthea. Grave Creek is still mined by serious as well as weekend panners. Check with the BLM for recreational panning information.

## 4. Illinois River

The Illinois River mining area includes the drainage of the Illinois River and its tributaries in Josephine County above the mouth of Indigo Creek, with the exception of the area lying north of T.36 S. and south of T. 38 S. The area comprises about 356 square miles. Most of the district is in the Siskiyou National Forest. Mines of the area fall under three classifications, namely gold placers, gold quartz, and chromite. From the standpoint of value of production, the placers have historically been the best producers. The rare mineral, Josephinite, a natural nickel-iron alloy (FeNi<sub>3</sub>), is found in the alluvial material of Josephine Creek. This mineral is valued by collectors. The largest pieces are about the size of a walnut. Attempts have been made to find the source but so far without any luck. Gold was discovered in the Briggs Creek district at the mouth of Red Dog Creek in 1868 bringing an influx of miners to this extremely remote area. Some of the most famous producers in the Illinois district are: the Independence Placer at the mouth of Josephine Creek, the Gold Blanket. The area was one of the hot beds for chromite and during WWII this area produced a lot of chrome ore. There is a rich deposit of nickel in this district also. Some of the more known producers in this district are: Oak Flat placer at Oak Flat, the old Glory mine (gold), Red Dog Gold Placers on Red Dog Creek and Briggs Creek, Lightning Gulch had prospects.

## 5. Lower Applegate

The Lower Applegate mining district includes that part of the Applegate River drainage in Josephine County south of the south line of T.36S. It has an area of approximately 210 square miles. Within it are the old mining districts called Applegate, Davidson, Missouri Flat, Murphy, Oscar Creek, Powell Creek, Slate Creek and Williamsburg or Williams Creek. Mining began in the Lower Applegate Districts very soon after the discovery of gold on Josephine Creek in 1852. The first mining was probably in the gravels of Williams Creek. Lode mines were discovered in Slate Creek Valley around 1860, however most of the chief mining methods were by placer mining until around 1870 when it was necessary to start going underground chasing after the discovered surface ledges. Some of the more important producers were: The Mountain Lion mine near Davidson, the Layton placer near Provolt, the Oregon Bonanza near Powell Creek, the Bone of Contention near "Old Williamsburg," the Horsehead Placer on Water Gap, the Powell Creek placers, the Williams Creek placers, the Marble quarries off Water Gap Road, just too many to list.

## 6. Waldo

The Waldo mining district is about 380 square miles and includes all of Josephine County lying south of T.38 S., with the exception of the small area drained by Williams Creek and its tributaries. It contains the mining districts variously known as Sucker Creek, Browntown, Althouse Creek, Holland, Sailors' Diggings, Takilma, Bolan Creek and Indian Creek. Mining began in the Waldo area in 1852 when a group of sailors deserted ship at Crescent City, Calif., and headed for Jacksonville in search of gold. Waldo was the name given to the town they established at the original strike called Sailors' Diggings. Gold was discovered

continued



# Vincent Tells of Brothers Who Mined, Fought and Died On Rich Galls Creek Claim

By Dale Vincent

Southern Oregon's gold rush days began with the discovery of gold in Jacksonville in 1851.

The "real boom" centered around this little town, but there were also many "forgotten" miners, quietly extracting gold dust and nuggets from boulder-strewn gulches all over southern Oregon.

Today's descendants of these old-time miners are now "Old-timers" themselves and they are the sole repositories for many a stirring tale. Some of these tales have entered the realm of folklore, but although time-mellowed, they are nevertheless based on certain facts.

### Drama of Gold Rush

"Jake" is 70 now, and still lives in the vicinity in which he was born, where he witnessed years ago, a tragic drama of Oregon's gold rush days.

The gulch and the cabin sites that once were two prospectors' homes, have long since grown up in brush, but to Jake the desolate scene is fraught with drama.

Somewhere, not far from those two sites, are buried reputed thousands of dollars in gold coins. The story of that lost gold began more than 80 years ago.

It was evening and two middle-aged men, be-whiskered, carelessly dressed and with the un-cared-for look of bachelors, emerged silently from the rocky gulch and walked toward a small open shed nearby.

In silence, this oddly alike pair headed for a bench on which rested a pair of crude gold scales. They poured their coarse yellow gold, fruit of days of toil, until the pans balanced and they repeated this process until all the gold was divided. Still silent, each poured his share of the spring clean-up into identical leather pokes, pulled the drawstrings and, without a word, marched in opposite directions toward almost identical log cabins built about 100 yards apart in a little clearing.

### Brothers Stolid

The men were brothers; stolid, set in their ways, and known to be a "little peculiar." By day, they worked their diggings as partners, side by side, no more communicative than was absolutely necessary. By night, weary of each other's company, they retired to their respective cabins. In that lonely surrounding they avoided all unnecessary contact with each other as most

It tucked away somewhere."

That night, the older brother crept out of his cabin with his gold coins packed tightly in a tin can. As noiseless as the shadows around him, he moved off into the blackness with a shovel in his hand. He buried the can beside countless others and took a good deal of time pressing the clods carefully into place with his boots.

A round-eyed little boy, hiding in the bushes and trembling like an aspen in a gale, was his only witness.

Only a few hundred feet away, the younger brother was burying the latest addition to his cache. Neither man knew the location of the other's hiding place and, except for the fact that they were so oddly alike in all their ways, it is doubtful if either knew that the other was hiding his gold at all.

### Costly Decision

It was late spring. The rains necessary to working their claims would not arrive until fall. The weeks that followed were hard on the bachelor brothers who had little to do and lots of time to do it in. One alleviated the boredom by repairing his cabin. The other decided to build a new privy and that decision was to cost him his life.

He chose his spot and swung his pick at the rocky ground. He had swung it at the most four times when his brother rushed toward him, took one wild-eyed glance at the spot of earth chosen for the outhouse, blanched and spun him around viciously by the shoulders.

"What the hell you doin' here?"

The privy-digger's eyes had the light of new discovery in them. Suspicion of what the site represented left no room in his mind for fear.

"What's it to you? I'm building me a privy."

The brother's eyes were murderous. "Oh, no, you're not."

They glared at one another in cold fury and the fight was on. One brother swung the pick and the other, ducking the weapon, drew his gun and fired. It was over as quickly as it had begun, with one man dead beside his pick.

The survivor left him there and limped, shaken to his boots, to his cabin. Remorse and fear of the law laid hold of him and in the dead of night a pistol shot rang out.

By morning a prospector from across the creek who had been intrigued by the shots came over to find the cause. It was



Poland

"This is what I like about football—anything"

## LATEST METHODS IN WEED CONTROL WILL BE SHOWN

Latest ideas in machinery for controlling weeds on Oregon farms will be displayed in an afternoon exhibition at the Central Point grange hall Tuesday, November 4. It has been announced by Assistant County Agent Earle Josay. Sprayers, dusters and fumigator-injectors will be shown.

The local exhibit is one of a series of 14 being held in western and southern Oregon during November. In addition to the equipment display, the day's program will include talks by M. G. Huber, OSC extension engineer, Rex Warren, extension crops specialist; and possibly Virgil Freed, Oregon experiment station weed control authority who is president of the Western States Weed Control conference.

Widespread interest in the event is expected because of the growing seriousness of the weed problem in this county. The problem will grow steadily worse unless effective control steps are started, the county agent asserts. "Once established, noxious weeds never die out of their own accord," he adds.

The agent explains that even with chemicals, cultivation and proper cropping it is difficult to completely eradicate some weed pests. The roots of many peren-

phone at the way.

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Dayton Glenn (Central Point, wa senger in the K riding in the Jo the accident occ Jones, Frank B of route 4, and W. Seymour, 61 son street, none injured.

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until all the gold was divided. Still silent, each poured his share of the spring clean-up into identical leather pokes, pulled the drawstrings and, without a word, marched in opposite directions toward almost identical log cabins built about 100 yards apart in a little clearing.

**Brothers Stolid**

The men were brothers; stolid, set in their ways, and known to be a "little peculiar." By day, they worked their diggings as partners, side by side, no more communicative than was absolutely necessary. By night, weary of each other's company, they retired to their respective cabins. In that lonely surround- ing they avoided all unnecessary contact with each other as most men avoid the plague.

Their habits and personalities were so alike that almost simultane- ously this night, as on every other night, smoke ap- peared from the rock fireplaces that snuggled at the end of each cabin's log wall.

Though each cooked his meal alone and ate alone, the method of preparation and the choice of fare were identical; sourdough biscuits, venison, boiled beans and coffee.

Their solitary meals over with, these cross-grained brothers, as though by some telepathic sig- nal, prepared their packsacks for the morning's rare trip to town. They had worked hard all winter. The diggings had been good and their pokes were full.

The sun was barely up when they made their way, still silent, down the winding trail that fol- lowed Galls creek to the toll bridge that crossed the Rogue river at Rock point, where Ben Haymond ran a general mer- cantile store.

Ben Haymond knew the brothers. He grinned at their un- responsive faces and walked over to his gold scales.

"How you boys been this sea- son?" He asked the stock ques- tion.

True to form, the two men merely grunted. They took the raw gold out of their packs and laid it on the counter. The both- ers disliked raw gold. It spilled easily and was inclined to sift away when handled. According to the custom of the times, Ben exchanged their dust for \$20 gold pieces.

**Purchases Small**

The brothers purchased little Deer meat was plentiful in the hills and their palates had never become accustomed to "fancy vil- tles."

The exchange and the pur- chasing over, they shouldered their packs, left the store, and trudged silently back across the bridge and back into their hills.

"Those fellows," remarked the men idling by the barber shop, "sure must have a pile of

mind for fear. "What's it to you? I'm building me a privy."

The brother's eyes were mur- derous. "Oh, no, you're not."

They glared at one another in cold fury and the fight was on. One brother swung the pick and the other, ducking the weapon, drew his gun and fired. It was over as quickly as it had begun, with one man dead beside his pick.

The survivor left him there and limped, shaken to his boots, to his cabin. Remorse and fear of the law laid hold of him and in the dead of night a pistol shot rang out.

By morning a prospector from across the creek who had been intrigued by the shots came over to find the cause. It was frontier country and the pros- pector did the only thing he knew to do. He dug a shallow grave and put the brothers into it, side by side, and the incident was forgotten—temporarily.

**No Witnesses**

There had been no witness to the fight and none to the sui- cide, but that freckle-faced boy in the bushes had seen the burial of the tin can. The child was only knee-high to a grasshopper. He had sneaked off from his folks place on a nearby claim, which meant, if discovered, a trip to the woodshed and anyhow, some- thing in the digger's attitude had scared him out of his wits. Nat- urally, Jake told no one of his nocturnal discovery.

Years later, when the young- ster was a man grown and the violent deaths of the two broth- ers were common talk around the campfires, memory of that secretive digging returned to him. It was known that the brothers had hoarded plenty of gold, yet none had been found in their cabins. To Jake the two and two suddenly made a very obvious four. Though the coun- tryside had changed somewhat, it shouldn't be difficult to find the site of that privy.

**Search In Vain**

For 50 years he searched and he searched in vain. The site, so clearly imprinted on the small boy's memory, seemed to fade out when the man went treasure hunting.

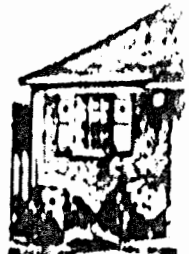
That the gold is there, prob- ably thousands of dollars worth, Jake has no doubt, nor do other pioneers in the community, who verify his story. Those tin cans, locked in the dry gulch on Galls creek, have become the favorite subject for wishful thinking of local boyhood.

The small boy in Jake is still hopeful, but he is a trifle elderly for sustained treasure hunting. Telling the story, though, and speculating about the site served to keep him young—and there is always the possibility that someone will be lucky enough to unearth the cache.

will include talks by M. G. Huber, OSC extension engineer, Rex Warren, extension crops specialist, and possibly Virgil Freed, Oregon experiment sta- tion weed control authority who is president of the Western States Weed Control conference.

Widespread interest in the event is expected because of the growing seriousness of the weed problem in this county. The problem will grow steadily worse unless effective control steps are started, the county agent asserts. "Once established, noxious weeds never die out of their own accord," he adds.

The agent explains that even with chemicals, cultivation and proper cropping it is difficult to completely eradicate some weed pests. The roots of many peren- nial noxious weeds are capable of going dormant when deep in the soil and reviving later when conditions are right for their growth. Also, many weed seeds are long-lived. One seed crop of mustard, for example, is enough to produce an infestation of mus- tard on that land for the next 25 years. Morning glory lives even longer. The farmer whose land is free from noxious weeds, therefore, has special interest in keeping it that way by immedi- ately stamping out any patches that start.



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**C. P. LADY HURT IN AUTO MISHAP**

Lola Tabor, 20, 220 South Amy street, Central Point, received minor cuts and bruises Saturday while a passenger in a car driven by Henry B. Kilburn Jr., box 1351, Central Point, which was involved in an accident in the 800 block of North Riverside avenue.

According to the police report Kilburn started to pass a car operated by John W. Jones, route 4, box 346-D, Medford, when he collided with the side of the Jones car, and then hit a tele-

Savi

Investments Made by the 10th of the Month Earn Dividends as of the First



HALLOWE'EN QUIET

other man, Harold Adams, 420 South Grape street, reported that someone had put a car in his garage, that did not belong

G.D. The gentleman on the  
gangplank was my  
grandfather.  
Remembered my father was  
still working on the dredge  
in 1932. Dats escape me after  
that.

P.O. Box 14

Hamilton, Mt. 59840

Feb 16 - 1998

Dear Mr. Harton:

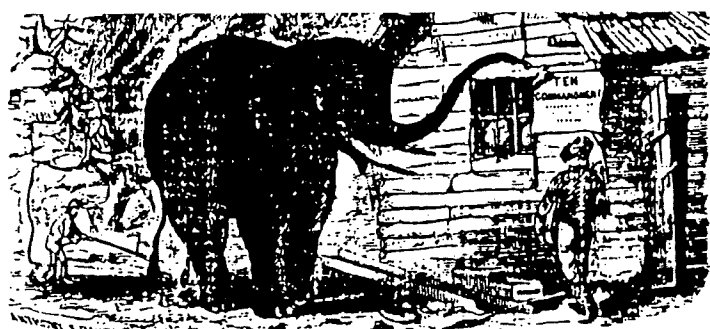
I thank you for sending me a copy of your  
newsletter, and I am glad you could find suc-  
cess for the pictures.

My father's name was Lucy Wm. Dats. As I  
recall he started work when they began to  
build. The date would be around 1927  
when he started, and as I recall he was with  
them until the dredging ended. Can't give  
you a date on that.

My grandfather was John Edward Dole,  
and I can't say how long he worked. My  
uncle Edward (Ted) Dole also worked  
for the Co.

I think it was Sugganheim (spelling?)  
Mining Company, and it seemed they were  
eastern based. The superintendent on Foote  
Creek was a man named Douglas Gerry.  
His home was about a mile up Foote  
Creek on the right hand side.

My grandfather was the retort man, and  
it seems that was done at the Gerry home.  
I recall one time after Clean up they sent  
an armed car to Medford, but it was a  
blind. Actually my father took the bar  
wrapped in gummy sacks in a company



**THE MINER'S TEN COMMANDMENTS.**

A man speaks these words and said: I am a miner, thy neighbor, I am from away down east, and came in search in a strange land and "see the air-plant." And behold I saw him, and here written, that from the key of his trunk to the end of his tail, his whole body has passed before me; and I followed him until his huge feet stood still before a signboard shanty; then, with his trunk extended, he pointed to a confounded lickered-upon aborigine, as though he would say, and I read the **Miner's Ten Commandments.**

**I.** Thou shalt have no other claim than one.

**II.** Thou shalt not make unto thyself any false claim, nor any likelihood in a mean mine, by jumping one; whatever thou findest on the top above, or on the rock beneath, or in a crevice under the rock — or I will visit the miners' wound to invite them on my side; and when they decide against thee, thou shalt take thy pick and thy pan, thy shovel and thy black bag, with all thy tools, and go prospecting, to seek good diggings; but thou shalt not mine. Then, when thou hast returned, in sorrow shalt thou find that the old claims are worked out, and yet so little made there, to hide in the ground, or in an old hole beneath thy bank, or in bushes or bushes under the water, but best of all, that they have not yet gone away, worn out thy tools, thy pick, thy shovel, thy black bag, and thy pants; and at last thou shalt find the body out to make thy board and save thy bacon.

**III.** Thou shalt not go prospecting before thy claim is staked. Neither shalt thou take thy money, nor thy gold dust, nor thy good name, to the gaming table in vain; for monte, twenty-one, roulette, faro, lanquet, and poker, will prove to thee that the more thou puttest down the less thou shalt take up; and when thou thinkest of thy wife and children, thou shalt not hold thyself guilty, but —

**IV.** Thou shalt not remember what thy friends do at home on the Sabbath day, lest the remembrances may not compare favorably with what thou dost here. Six days thou mayest dig or pick all that thy body can stand under; but the other day is Sunday; yet thou wastest all thy dirty shirts, darnest all thy stockings, sew thy boots, mend thy clothing, clean thy whole week's bread, make up and bake thy bread, and boil thy pork and beans, that thou wast not when thou returnedst from thy long-ton, weary. For in six days' labor only thou canst not work enough to wear out thy body in two years; but if thou workest as hard as Rube's boys, thou canst do it in six months; and thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, thy male friend and thy female friend, thy morals and thy consciences, be once in better for it; but presently thou shalt have thee ever scarce with thy worn out body to thy mother's friends; and thou

shalt to justify thyself, because the trader and the blacksmith, the carpenter and the merchant, the tailor, Jew, and bootmaker, daily (and on the Sabbath day, nor wish for a day of rest, such as memory, youth and home, made halt wed.

**V.** Thou shalt not think more of all thy gold, and less of the dust in thy pocket, than how thou wilt enjoy it, after thou hast ridden, rough shod, over thy good old parent's words and examples, that thou wilt have nothing to reproach and sting thee, when thou art left alone in the land where thy father's blessing and thy mother's love hath sent thee.

**VI.** Thou shalt not let thy body by working in the rain, even though thou shalt make enough to buy physic and attendance with. Neither shalt thou kill thy neighbor's body in a dust, for, by "keeping cool," thou canst save his life and thy conscience. Neither shalt thou destroy thyself by getting "light," nor "slewed," nor "high," nor "corned," nor "half-sewed," nor "three sheets in the wind," by drinking smoothly down — "brandy-sloggs," "gin-cocktails," "whisky-punches," "rum-toddlers," and "egg-nogs." Neither shalt thou suck "mint-julips," nor "sherry-cobblers," through a straw, nor gurgle from a bottle the "raw material," nor "take it out" from a doctor, for, while thou art swallowing down thy perspiration, and thy sweat from the back of thy stomach; and if thou considerest the houses and forts already lying there — "a huge pile" — thou shouldst feel a choking in thy throat; and when thou shalt find that the storked, walking and hiccupping talkings, of lodgings in the water, of brallings in the sun, of prospect-holes half full of water, and of shells and ditches, from which thou hast feared like a drinking rat, thou wilt feel disgusted with thyself, and inquire "Is thy servant a dog, that he doeth these things?" "Nasty I will say, Farewell, old bottle. I will kiss thy going, but not return." And thou, stinn, cocktails, punches, smashes, cobblers, — yes, toddies, saignees, and jellies, forever farewell. Thy remembrance shames me, henceforth, I cast thy acquaintance," and headaches, tremblings, heart burnings, blue-devils, and all the unbody catalogue of evils that follow in thy train. My wife's smiles and my children's merry-hearted laugh, shall charm and reward me for leaving the meanly feminine and coarse to say NO. I wish thee an eternal farewell.

**VII.** Thou shalt not grow discouraged, nor think of going home before thou hast made thy "pile," because thou hast not "struck a lead," nor found a "rich cravie," nor sunk a hole upon a "pocket," lest in going home thou shalt leave four dollars a day, and go to work, salaried, at fifty cents, and serve thee right; for thou knowest by staying here, thou mightest strike a lead and fifty dollars a day, and keep thy family

self-respect, and then go home with enough to make thyself and others happy.

**VIII.** Thou shalt not steal a pick, or a shovel, or a pan, from thy fellow miner; nor take away his tools without his leave; nor borrow those he cannot spare; nor return them broken, nor trouble him to fetch them back again; nor talk with him while his water rent is running out; nor remove his stakes to enlarge thy claim, nor undermine his bank in following a lead, nor pan out gold from his "riddle-box," nor wash the "tailings" from his sluice's mouth. Neither shalt thou pick out specimens from the company's pan to put them in thy mouth, or in thy purse; nor cheat thy partner of his share; nor steal from thy partner his gold dust, to add to thine, for he will be sure to discover what thou hast done, and will straightway call his fellow miners together, and if the law binder them not, they will hang thee, or save thee fifty lashes, if they have the lead and brand thee, like a horse thief, with R upon thy cheek, to be known and read of all men, Customhouse in particular.

**IX.** Thou shalt not tell any false tales about "good diggings in the mountains" to thy neighbor, that thou mayest benefit a friend who hath no such pretensions, and tools, and blankets, he cannot well get in prospecting thy neighbor, when he returns through the snow, with his pants over his rifle, he cannot get the "good diggings," and like a dog, thou shalt fall down and die.

**X.** Thou shalt not commit unlawful matrimony, nor covet "single blessedness"; nor forget about maidens; nor neglect thy "girl love"; — but thou shalt consider how faithfully and patiently she awaiteth thy return; yea, and coveteth each epistle that thou sendest with kisses of kindly welcome — until she hath thyself. Neither shalt thou covet thy neighbor's wife, nor trifles with the affections of his daughter; yet, if thy heart be free, and thou love and covet each other, thou shalt "pop the question" like a man, less least, or covet more, in any way, should step in before thee, and thou love her in vain, and in the anguish of thy heart's disappointment, thou shalt quote the language of the great and say, "such is life," and thy future lot be that of a poor, lonely, despairing and comfortless bachelor.

A new commandment give I unto thee — if thou hast a wife and little ones, that thou livest dearer than thy life — that thou keep them continually before thee, to cheer and urge thee onward; and thou canst say, "I have enough — I will bless them — I will return." Then as thou journeyest towards thy much loved home, with upon thee shall they come forth to welcome thee, and falling upon thy neck, weep tears of unutterable joy that thou art come; that in the fullness of thy heart's gratitude, thou shalt kneel before thy Heavenly Father together, to thank Him for thy safe return. AMEN — so mote it be!

**FORTY-NINE.**

No. VII.



No. VIII.



No. IX.



No. X.



No. V.

OUR PRINT, SAN FRANCISCO

No. VI.

No. X.



During the period from 1856 to 1880, 5,438 mines were registered in Jackson County. 16 were copper, 1 tin, 124 cinnabar and all the others were silver and gold. The Jacksonville area itself had 1,468 mines.

Panning is the simplest of the methods. The gold, heavier than any other substantial material in the pan, sinks to the bottom as the soil is sloshed around and the waste goes over the sides. Panning, however was profitable only where the soil was richest. Production amount is very small.

The basic kind of mining in this area was placer mining, this means moving earth with water in some fashion. The greater the distance it has traveled the finer and more scattered it becomes and the more smooth or rounded. The average size of gold recovered through placer mining ranges from a mustard seed to a wheat grain. A ground sluice or sluice box was usually used. Water continually ran through the long box or ditch which had cleats on the bottom to catch the heavier metal.

The rocker system was developed with a cradle-like motion much like a baby's cradle. It was rocked while soil and water went through in much the same manner as panning.

Hardrock mining was quite different. When gold was encased in quartz, it either had to be dynamited or chipped apart with a pick. Load mining was underground mining, hauling minerals from levels in the underground shafts. The ore is drilled and blasted from the vein, loaded into carts and taken to the surface.

Hydraulic mining and dredging were used only after most of the easily obtainable gold had been removed. Machinery enabled huge piles of earth to be broken away from the landscape and shoveled over and through.

Recovering the gold from the ore first required crushing or fine grinding. Early operators used the Arrastra, a device that ground ore by dragging a heavy stone around a circular bed. The mainstay of ore reduction was the stamp mill which used heavy iron pestles (stamps) working mechanically in a huge iron mortar. The stamps ranged up to 2,000 lbs in weight rising and dropping 6 or 8 inches a hundred or more times a minute. The pulverized ore was then brought into contact with mercury which combined with free gold to form amalgam.

Free gold and gold bearing sulfide (sulfur & metal) would be removed from the finely ground ore by one of the following methods:

Amalgamation-to mix or alloy with mercury.

Flotation-different minerals are separated by agitation in liquids of oil, water, and chemicals that cause differential wetting. Unwetted particles being carried by air bubbles to the surface for collection.

Cyanidation-to extract gold or silver from ore by treating with a solution of sodium or calcium cyanide.

Jigging-cleaning or separating ore by agitation in water.

The mines continued to be worked throughout the rest of the 19th and into the twentieth century. The onset of the depression brought a new aspect in mining, right in the middle of Jacksonville. There was enough gold in the people's own property to help a family suffering from hunger. "Farmers leased rights on their land on a royalty basis to the new gold seekers and a good many farmers actually turned to working their own ground in order to make expenses and pay taxes as the economy of the country plunged down into the dreadful cataclysm of 1931.\* Shafts were sunk under buildings in town and people who dug seriously threatened the stability of the town.

The history of mining in our area is the history of the beginnings for us. Mines meant wealth, with satisfaction of physical needs and the possibility to make a lot of money.



1. ALICE GROUP (gold) NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 11, T. 37 S., R. 3 W. El. 2300 to 2400 ft.  
Contact zone between argillite and andesitic intrusive.
2. ARGONAUT MINE (gold) Secs. 1 and 2, T. 35 S, R. 4 W.; secs. 35 and 36, T. 34 S., R. 4 W. El. 1300 to 2800 ft.  
Eastern side of property is in slates and schists with a small area of greenstone. Western part is quartz diorite. Veins are in schist and slate and roughly parallel to the contact line.
3. ASH PROSPECT (mercury) Secs. 35 and 36, T. 33 S. R. 1 W.; and sec. 1 T. 34 S., R. 1 W.  
South side of Rogue River, across river. Altered volcanic flows. Irregular iron ribs cut the rock (1  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches at times in width).
4. BAILEY PROPERTY (gold, manganese) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 1, T. 37 S., R. 3 W.  
Country rocks: old metamorphics. Four foot fracture zone contains manganite and psilomelane with traces of rhodonite.
5. BAXTER LIMESTONE (limestone) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 2 and SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 1, T. 37 S., R. 3 W.  
Metasediment of Triassic age. 97 per cent CaCO<sub>3</sub>. The rock is crystalline and could be classified as marble. Bluish color, alternating bands of dark and light limestone.
6. BEEMAN LIMESTONE (limestone) NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 11, T. 37 S., R. 3 W.  
Several gold pockets have been removed from contact zone of argillite and limestone. The mine on this property has been known as the Alice group. Country rock: metasediments. 96+ per cent CaCO<sub>3</sub>. Silica content too high for the production of paper rock.
7. BERTHA CLAIM (gold) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 12, T. 37 S., R. 4 W.  
Country rock: Schistose quartzite. Some limestone, small andesitic intrusions.
8. BIG BUCK CLAIM (gold) Center of sec. 1, T. 37 S., R. 4 W.  
Country rock is massive blue quartzite containing some vein quartz and sulphide of iron.
9. BIG CHIEF PROPERTY (gold?) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 19, T. 36 S., R. 4 W. El. 1200 ft.  
No production record. Dacite porphyry country rock.
10. BILL NYE MINE (gold) Sec. 4, T. 37 S., R. 3 W.  
Production, 1907-09: \$12,000. Gold in metallic form between porphyry walls in quartz vein. Impure quartzite. Mine idle, since August, 1914. One pocket taken out in 1940.
11. BIRDSEYE CLAIM (gold) East of Rogue River, small vein, not active.

12. BLACK GOLD CHANNEL MINE (gold, placer) Sec. 12, T. 37 S., R. 4 W.

13. BLANCHE OF MAY BELLE CLAIM (gold) Sec. 24, T. 36 S., R. 3 W.

Adjoins the Schaffer. Part of the Millionaire group.

14. BLOSSOM MINE (gold, copper, lead) Sec. 19, T. 35 S., R. 3 W. El. 2400 ft.

Near head of the left fork of Sardine Creek. Andesitic greenstone country rock. Production since 1928: \$2,000 (1943 figures).

15. BONANZA PROSPECT (gold) Sec. 22, T. 36 S., R. 4 W.

16. BONITA MINE (mercury) Sec. 13, T. 33 S., R. 3 W.

17. BOWDEN CLAIM (gold) Sec. 19, T. 36 S., R. 2 W.

Southeast slope of Blackwell Hill, quartz vein in tonalite.

18. BRADEN EXTENSION (gold) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 27, T. 36 S., R. 3 W.

19. BRADEN MINE (gold) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 27, T. 36 S., R. 3 W.

In 1907 the mine produced more than \$30,000. Country rocks: Paleozoic sediments and interbedded andesites.

20. BRISTOL LIMESTONE (limestone) NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 6, T. 37 S., R. 3 W. and SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 31, T. 36 S., R. 3 W. El. 1800 to 2200 ft.

Country rock: Mesozoic (Triassic?) metasediments and metavolcanics.

21. BRISTOL SILICA COMPANY (silica) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 30, T. 36 S., R. 3 W. Discovered, 1930

Elongated body of creamy white quartz. Exposed surface is roughly 1000 ft. in length; width, approximately 350 ft. Flanked by limestone, greenstone. Miller gulch. Uses: chicken grit, metallurgical flux.

22. BUCKSKIN MINE (gold) SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 7, T. 36 S., R. 2 W.

Reported to be the old May Belle mine.

23. BULL FROG PLACER (gold, placer) Sec. 22, T. 36 S., R. 4 W.

Mined in 1939. Between railroad and the river. Inactive, April, 1942.

24. BULL OF THE WOODS (gold) NE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 15, T. 36 S., R. 3 W. El. 1200 ft.

Country rock: diorite. 1934-36 production: \$5000.

25. BUNCE PROSPECT (gold) Sec. 9, T. 33 S., R. 4 W.

26. CARBONATE MINE (gold) Sec. 17, T. 35 S., R. 3 W. El. 2100 ft.

Quartz vein in altered diorite.

27. CARTINELL MINE (copper) Center of sec. 9, T. 36 S., R. 4 W. El. 1250 ft.

Country rock: andesite.

28. CASCADE VIEW MINE (gold) Sec. 35, T. 35 S., R. 3 W. El. 1700 ft.

1936 Production: \$215. Country rocks: slate and metavolcanics.

29. CHISHOLM CLAIMS (mercury) Secs. 17 and 20, T. 34 S., R. 2 W.

Country rocks: Umpqua formation, although the May creek schists are a short distance west.

30. CHISHOLM COPPER (copper) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 19, T. 34 S., R. 2 W.

Country rock: quartzitic rock. Ore is partly the primary constituent of a basic igneous rock, partly as vein filling. Rock is a norite. "It seems clear that the copper at this place was derived from the norite magma."

31. CHROME KING PROSPECT (chromite) NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 3, T. 34 S., R. 4 W. El. 2500 ft.

Production during World War I: 100 tons of chromite. Located near edge of serpentine belt that traverses an area of greenstone.

32. CONGOR LODE (gold) Sec. 18, T. 36 S., R. 2 W.

33. COOK MINE (placer gold) S $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 13, T. 37 S., R. 4 W.

Stream bed mined for  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. Bedrock: greenstone and slates cut by numerous greenstone dikes.

34. CORPORAL G. MINE (gold) S $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 19, T. 35 S., R. 3 W. El. 2600 ft.

Country rock: micaceous slaty quartzite cut by andesite and spessarite. Some galena found.

35. COSTER AND CATTON'S CLAIM (gold) SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 21, T. 37 S., R. 4 W. El. 2550 ft.

Aplite intrusion near N $\frac{1}{2}$  corner sec. 22.

36. C. R. C. COMPANY INC. (placer gold) Sec. 13, T. 37 S., R. 4 W. El. 1550 ft.

Dredged in 1939. Bedrock: blue diorite, some slate.

37. DAVE FORCE MINE (mercury) NE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 20, T. 34 S., R. 2 W.

South of War Eagle. Umpqua-quartz diorite contact zone. Colors of cinnabar. The croppings on the surface are in a greatly decomposed and altered rock and, to judge by pannings, may constitute low-grade ore.

38. DAVIS LEDGE (gold) Sec. 13, T. 37 S., R. 3 W.

39. DIXIE QUEEN MINE (gold) NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 18, T. 37 S., R. 3 W. El. 1850 ft.

Country rock: calcareous argillite.

40. DORIS LEDGE (gold) Sec. 13, T. 37 S., R. 3 W.

41. DUNCAN AND WILLIAMS WASHING PLANT (placer gold) Sec. 12, T. 36 S., R. 4 W.

Metasediments and metavolcanics.



42. DUNROMIN MINE (gold) SW $\frac{1}{4}$  corner sect., 36, T. 36 S., R. 2 W. El. 1500 ft.

Production: 1937, \$200; 1935, \$900; 1897, \$4000. Wall rock, quartz diorite. Besides the gold the mine exhibits small amounts of galena and a trace of silver.

43. EAGLE MINE (gold) Sec. 25, T. 36 S., R. 3 W. Adjoins Millionaire on west.

Country rock: black argillite and andesitic material. Said to have produced very high grade ore.

44. ENTERPRISE MINE (gold) W $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 16, T. 36 S., R. 4 W.

45. FAIRVIEW CLAIM (gold) NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 5, T. 37 S., R. 3 W. El. 2950 ft.

Some galena observed in mine.

46. FIRST HOPE (gold) SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 7, T. 37 S., R. 4 W. El. 3000 ft.

Discovered in 1934. \$1700 pocket taken out in 1934. 1935 production: \$500 pocket. Since 1935 to 1943: \$100. Country rock: andesitic porphyry.

47. FLYING SQUIRREL (gold) Sec. 7, T. 33 S., R. 4 W.

48. GALLS CREEK PLACER (placer gold) Sec. 4, T. 37 S., R. 3 W.

49. GLEN DITCH PLACER (placer gold) Near head of the Right Fork of Foots Creek.

Property may be the same as the Boling and Koster placer previously reported.

50. GOLD CHLORIDE PROSPECT (gold) NE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 25, T. 35 S., R. 4 W. El. 3000 ft.

Diller and Kay call country rock May Creek schist. USGS has mapped similar rock  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south as part of the Applegate (Paleozoic) metasedimentaries.

51. GOLDEN CROSS MINE (Sec. 35, T. 35 S., R. 3 W.)

Country rocks: metasediments and diorite.

52. GOLD HILL PLACER (gold, dry land dredge) Sec. 5, 7, 17 T. 36 S., R. 3 W.

Sardine Creek channel from highway bridge upstream.

53. GOLD HILL PLACERS (gold, placer) SE $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 36, T. 36 S., R. 3 W. Kane Creek.

Bedrock: altered slate.

54. GOLD HILL "POCKET" (gold) SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 14, T. 36 S., R. 3 W. El. 2000 ft.

Discovered in 1857. Outcropping rock was so full of gold that it could scarcely be broken by sledging. Country rock: pyroxenite. A mass of micaless granite about 5 ft. wide and possibly 200 ft. long outcrops in the footwall. It is said that the pocket produced at least \$700,000.

55. GOLD NOTE (mineral rights only) Sec. 30, T. 33 S., R. 3 W.

56. GOLD RAY GRANITE COMPANY (granite, brick) Sec. 18, T. 36 S., R. 2 W.

Plagioclase rock. Petrologically the rock is a tonalite or quartz diorite. The alluvial clay deposits have been used to make bricks.

57. GOLD RIDGE MINE (gold) NE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 3, T. 37 S., R. 3 W. El. 2100 ft.

Country rock: schistose. Fissure: andesitic rock.

58. GRANT POWELL PROSPECT (gold) SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 32, T. 35 S., R. 3 W.

59. GREENLEAF RANCH PLACER (placer) Lot 14, sec. 35, T. 37<sup>6</sup> S., R. 3 W.

Country rock: metavolcanics and metasediments. It is presumed that the placers of the locality were derived from the breakdown of gold pockets.

60. GREENS PLACER (placer gold) Sec. 20, T. 33 S., R. 4 W.

Bedrock: slate and diorite.

61. HANCOCK CLAIMS (gold) Sec. 9, T. 37 S., R. 4 W., on Little Birdseye Creek.

Gabbro outcrops on ridge north of the creek.

62. HARTH AND RYAN MINE (gold) Sec. 33, T. 36 S., R. 4 W. El. 2350-2600 ft.

Country rock: greenstone.

63. HAZEL GROUP (gold) South center of sec. 27 and north center of sec. 34, T. 36 S., R. 4 W.

Production: 1916-1924; \$2000. 1924-1942; \$1000. Andesite-porphyry contact. Limestone-porphyry contact. Andesitic dike. Limestone is 50 ft. thick.

64. HIDDEN TREASURE (gold) NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 16, T. 36 S., R. 4 W. El. 1600 ft.

Country rock belongs to the metavolcanic series. Small amounts of galena and chalcopryite in bluish quartz vein. Sphalerite and tellurides are report. Country rock: impure quartzites and argillites.

65. HIGHLAND CLAIM SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 22, T. 37 S., R. 4 W. El. 2600 ft.

Country rock: micaceous sandstone.

66. HOGAN PLACER (placer gold) sec. 20 or 28, T. 33 S., R. 4 W. Upper Grave Creek.

67. HOLCOMB MINERAL SPRING (magnesia and lithia) NW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 23, T. 35 S., R. 3 W., El. 1800 ft.

Small amount of gas given off that has the odor of stong hydrogen sulphide.

68. HUGHES GROUP (limestone) Sec. 2, T. 37 S., R. 3 W. on Kane Creek.

69. IRON MOUNTAIN PLACER (placer gold) On Sams Creek.

70. IRWIN MOLYBDENUM PROSPECT (molybdenum) NE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 16, T. 36 S., R. 4 W.

Country rock: metavolcanic. Quartz in vein is glassy and brittle. Molybdenite is found in plates that range from 1/8 to 1 1/2 inches across. Copper stain is abundant. Tellurides of gold are reported.

71. JOHNSON PLACER Sec. 15, T. 34 S., R. 4 W., on Pleasant Creek.

Water rights from 1862. Production: 1943 owners report \$4500.

72. JUDSON CLAIM (gold) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 25, T. 36 S., R. 4 W.

Contact zone between greenstone and limestone. Some silver.

73. KUBLI MINE (gold) NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 5, T. 37 S., R. 3 W. El. 2700 ft.

Tonalite and contact hornblene in nearby gulch.

74. LANCE (placer gold) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 22, T. 37 S., R. 4 W. El. 1800 ft.

Bedrock: Limestone in slates, cut by dikes of greenstone. Some medium hard porphyry.

75. LAST CHANCE GROUP (placer gold) Secs. 11 and 15, T. 33 S., R. 4 W. Upper Graves Cr.

76. LAST CHANCE MINE (gold) Sec. 17, T. 33 S., R. 4 W., on Last Chance Creek.

Veins occur between limestone, porphyry and serpentine contacts.

77. LEE MANGANESE (manganese) NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 6, T. 35 S., R. 3 W. El. 2700-3000 ft.

Manganese is replacement in quartzite, and was derived from rhodenite. Schists. Highly combined with silica. Part of Applegate series? May Creek schists.

78. LENHERT PLACER (placer gold) Sec. 7 or 8, T. 35 S., R. 3 W.

79. LIBERTY ASBESTOS (asbestos) Sec. 36, T. 32 S., R. 4 W. El. 4500 ft.

Amphibole asbestos. Some shipments made during World War II. All country rock is serpentine. Some of the localized areas exposed would be classified as metavolcanics; on Cedar Springs Mountain.

80. LIKEN'S PROSPECT (gold) SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 26, T. 36 S., R. 4 W. El. 1850 ft.

Country rock: greenstones. Possible tellurides.

81. LILLIE GROUP (gold) Sec. 33, T. 36 S., R. 4 W.

82. LITTLE JOHNNY (gold) Sec. 28, T. 36 S., R. 3 W.

Country rocks: granite and metagneous rock. Tellurides present. Possible ore connection with nearby Braden mine.

83. LONE EAGLE MINE (gold) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 29, T. 35 S., R. 3 W. El. 1850 ft.

Vein associated with an andesite dike in recrystallized quartzite.

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84. LONE STAR PLACER (placer gold) Sec. 10, T. 34 S., R. 4 W. El. 1600 ft.

Bedrock: granite.

85. LONG BRANCH (mercury) Sec. 24, T. 34 S., R. 2 W.

86. LOST CABIN MINE (gold) Sec. 18 (?), T. 36 S., R. 3 W.

87. LUCKY BART GROUP (gold, silver) Secs. 29, 30, T. 35 S., R. 3 W. El. 2200-2900 ft.

Country rock: argillite and quartzite; metamorphosed sediments, mainly slates and micaceous quartzite. Small outcrop of granite observed just north of the point where the Lucky Bart vein seems to cross Sardine Creek.

88. LUCKY TOVELL (copper) Sec. 28, T. 33 S., R. 4 W.

Small masses of copper sulphide in serpentine. Small shipment: 1915.

89. MAGERLE PLACER (gold placer) Sec. 36, T. 35 S., R. 4 W.

Bedrock: metasediments.

90. MAMMOTH LODGE (copper) NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 28, NE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 29, T. 32 S., R. 2 E.

Country rock: May creek schists, metavolcanic series. Mainly hornblende schist. Small red garnets available in one place. Some gold is reported. Ore is a chlorite mica schist in which occur sulphides, principally chalcopyrite. Masses of solid chalcopyrite up to 2 inches in diameter have been found in knots. Some silver. Further development warranted.

91. MANSFIELD MINE (placer gold) Center of sec. 30, T. 36 S., R. 2 W.

Famous pocket country. Bedrock: metavolcanic; Granodiorite outcrops  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the northwest. Production: \$5000 have been taken from pocket miner shafts. Property has never been placered (1943 statement). Millionaire mine just over hill to southwest.

92. MAPLE GULCH PROPERTY (gold) Sec. 27, T. 34 S., R. 3 W.

Country rock: Granite with quartz vein.

93. MCLEMORE AND HAMPSON'S CLAIMS (gold) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 7, T. 37 S., R. 3 W.

Quartz vein carrying free gold, pyrite, pyrolusite, and galena.

94. MCPMAHON'S CLAIM (gold) NW $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 6, T. 37 S., R. 3 W. El. 1850 ft.

95. MILLIONAIRE MINE (gold) W $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 31, and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 30, T. 36 S., R. 2 W., and E $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 36, T. 36 S., R. 3 W.

Country rock: argillite with bands of andesitic material. Some manganese. Tonalite outcrops about a mile northward.

96. MCTIMMONS PLACER (placer gold) Sec. 19, T. 33 S., R. 4 W.

97. MOUNTAIN KING MINE (mercury) Sec. 36, T. 34 S., R. 3 W. El. 2500 ft.

Ore occurs along a granite-sandstone contact where the granite is in part represented by pegmatite. Ore contains cinnabar, native mercury, and a heavy black rock resembling metacinnabarite. Principle country rock is a metasediment which has been altered to a rock that contains considerable hornblende, pyroxene and some mica, and a little quartz.

98. MOUNTAIN VIEW MINE (gold) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 17, T. 34 S., R. 4 W. El. 4600 ft.

Formerly called the Copper King Mine. Country rock: diorite and serpentine. Well defined fissure vein in andesite. Quartz vein with chalcocopyrite and gold.

99. NEATHAMER PLACER (placer gold) Sec. 28, T. 34 S., R. 4 W.

100. NELLIE WRIGHT (gold) SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 24, T. 36 S., R. 3 W., South slope of Blackwell Hill.

Country rock: Siskiyou tonalite which is cut by a dike of andesite. Pyrite, chalcocopyrite and possible galena sulphide mineral.

101. NO NAME MANGANESE (manganese) Sec. 25, T. 35 S., R. 4 W. and sec. 30, T. 35 S., R. 3 W., on Ward Creek.

Country rock: Applegate series of metavolcanics or sediments. May Creek schists. Quartzite and cherts. Ore: weathered rhodonite.

102. NO NAME PROSPECT (gold) SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 23, T. 34 S., R. 4 W.

103. NORTH STAR GROUP (gold) Sec. 9, T. 37 S., R. 4 W. El. 2500 ft.

Country rock: Gabbro mineralized at fractures.

104. OLD FORT LANE (gold) Sec. 24, T. 36 S., R. 2 W.

105. OREGON PLACER MINES, INC. (dredge, gold) Secs. or parts thereof of 21, 28, 33, T. 36 S., R. 3 W. and Sec. 4, T. 37 S., R. 3 W.

106. OWL HOLLOW MINE (gold) Sec. 32, T. 36 S., R. 2 W., near source of Little Savage Cr.

107. PACIFIC SYNDICATE MINE (mercury) NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 34, T. 34 S., R. 2 W.

North-trending fault in Umpqua sandstone is mineralized.

108. PERKEYPILE MINE (gold) SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 5, T. 37 S., R. 3 W.

109. PLEASANT CREEK MINING CORPORATION (placer gold) Secs. 21, 22, 27, 28, T. 34 S., R. 4 W.

Bedrock: decomposed granite.

110. POOLE PROSPECT (mercury) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 25, and NE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 36, T. 33 S., R. 1 W. El. 1500

111. PORCUPINE MINE (placer gold) Sec. 22, T. 34 S., R. 4 W. El. 1400 ft.

Property worked periodically for 75 years (1943). Bedrock: decomposed granitic rock.

112. RATTLESNAKE MINE (gold) SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 5, T. 37 S., R. 3 W.

Country rock: metavolcanic material. Small dioritic masses. Some breccia.

113. RED OAK MINE (gold) Sec. 34, T. 36 S., R. 3 W.

114. RED OAK MINE (placer) 3 miles north Golden on Sardine Creek.

115. REDFERN MINE (gold) Sec. 17, T. 36 S., R. 4 W. El. 1100-1300 ft.

Country rock: strongly altered greenstone.

116. REED MINE (gold) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and NE $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 1, T. 35 S., R. 3 W.

117. REVENUE POCKET (gold) NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and E $\frac{1}{2}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 11, T. 37 S., R. 3 W. El. 2570 ft.

Pocket is located 100 feet east of an outcrop of limestone, interbedded with arillite. Production: said to have produced \$100,000.

118. ROGUE RIVER GOLD MINING COMPANY (dredge gold) Secs. 1, 2, 11, 12, T. 37 S., R. 4 W.

119. ROSE PLACER MINE (placer gold) W $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 13, T. 36 S., R. 4 W. El. 1500 ft.

120. ROXANA GROUP (mercury) E $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 5, T. 34 S., R. 2 W.

North of War Eagle property. Ore occurs in fractures of May Creek schists. Cinnabar in heavy crystalline variety. Production: 7 flasks in 1942.

121. SCHAFFER CLAIM (gold) Sec. 24, T. 36 S., R. 3 W.

Country rock: tonalite.

122. SCHMIDT MINE (unknown) NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 5, T. 37 S., R. 3 W.

123. SCOTT'S PLACER (placer gold) Sec. 15, T. 34 S., R. 4 W.

124. SEAMAN BAR (placer gold) Sec. 20, T. 36 S., R. 4 W., south of railroad track.

125. SEVENTY-THREE CINNABAR GROUP (mercury) Sec. 1, T. 35 S., R. 3 W.

126. SMUGGLER MINE (gold) Sec. 2, T. 36 S., R. 3 W.

127. SPARKS MINE (gold, feldspar) NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 2, T. 35 S., R. 4 W. El. 1700 ft.

Contact between pegmatite dike and gabbro. Unconfirmed presence of tin in gabbro reported.

128. SPRAGUE PLACER (placer gold) Sec. 6, T. 37 S., R. 2 W.

129. SUNSET MINE (gold) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 3, T. 34 S., R. 4 W. El. 2050 ft.

Country rock: serpentine.

130. SWACKER FLAT MINE (placer gold) NE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 12, T. 37 S., R. 4 W.

131. SYKES CREEK MINING COMPANY (placer gold) Sec. 1, T. 35 S., R. 4 W.



132. SYLVANITE MINE (gold) Sec. 2, T. 36 S., R. 3 W. El. 1360 ft.

Country rock: metavolcanic and metasedimentary. Partly altered argillite, near chlorite and serpentine. Some galena and pyrite in quartz. Scheelite: some samples run as high as 40 per cent tungstenic acid. Tungsten resources not as yet determined. Granitoid outcrop 1 mile north.

133. TELKAMP PLACERS (placer gold) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 21, T. 34 S., R. 4 W.

Bedrock: smooth granite.

134. TIN PAN MINE (gold) SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 31, T. 36 S., R. 3 W.

Country rock: andesite porphyry. Slates, limestones, and greenstones also present. Greenstones are apparently intrusive in sediments. Some pyrite and galena.

135. TOLMAN IRON PROPERTY (iron) SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 3, T. 36 S., R. 3 W.

Contact between limestone and basic igneous intrusion on east. Iron mineral is chiefly magnetite, mixed with some hematite. Rock has schistose appearance. Almost mica schist. Serpentine intrusive.

136. TRUST BUSTER MINE (gold) NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 36, T. 35 S., R. 3 W. El. 1700 ft.

Country rock: Tonalite with quartz vein.

137. UNITED COPPER COMPANY (copper) Head of Slate Creek, 18 miles east of Leland.

Country rock: andesite with fissure vein. Chalcopyrite and gold.

138. UTAH QUICKSILVER COMPANY (mercury) May be what is known as War Eagle claim.

Cinnabar in shear zone of andesite. Vein in black quartz. Chief showing on Rainier claim.

139. VROMAN PLACER (placer gold) Sardine Creek. 1901.

140. WARD CREEK MANGANESE (manganese) SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 36, T. 35 S., R. 4 W. El. 2000 ft.

Quartz dike cuts May creek formation, carrying associated manganese minerals. Small amounts of manganese oxides and rhodonite. Highly siliceous.

141. WARD CREEK PLACER (placer gold) T. 36 S., R. 4 W.

Ed. Baerlocker Placer: sec. 1  
Duncan Placer: Lower Ward Creek  
Old Placer: 2 miles below Magerle property.  
No gold above Gold Chloride Mine in NE $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 25

142. WAR EAGLE MINE (mercury) Sec. 17, W $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 16, W $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 9, S $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 7 and 8, NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 20, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 21, T. 34 S., R. 2 W.

Country rock: May Creek schists. Coal seam located, lignite. Coal with cinnabar content. Located in Eocene-Umpqua formation siltstone and sandstone. Ore is the only arsenitic cinnabar ore in the United States. Total production to 1937: 640 flasks. Mine's total output equals about \$69,000.

113. WARNER PROSPECT (gold) Sec. 4, T. 33 S., R. 4 W. El. 4000 ft.

Vein in contact between porphyry and serpentine.

114. WHITE HORSE MINING COMPANY (lode and placer gold) SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 3, T. 36 S., R. 3 W.

Country rock: metavolcanic; some limestone observed on dump.

115. WHITNEY MINE (gold) NE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 13, T. 36 S., R. 3 W. El. 1375 ft.

Located in subsiliceous rock not far west of the tonalite border.  
Some chalcopyrite.

116. WILLIAMS PLACER (placer gold) Sec. 32, T. 34 S., R. 4 W. El. 1500 ft.

Bedrock: granite.

# The Sylvanite mine recalls colorful gold mining history

By Janet Sessions

Gold Hill has long been known for its wealth of gold mining history. Some notable signs of that bygone era still linger today, tucked away, preserved mainly because souvenir hunters and vandals have not had easy access to them. One such majestic relic is the weathered three story stamp mill of the Sylvanite mine.

Named after a combination silver/gold ore, the Sylvanite really blossomed during the late 1920's and early 30's. When George Haff had the property under the Discon Gold Mining, Co., the mine produced 970 ounces of gold in its first 150 hours of free gold recovery work.

Though the boards nailed to form the walls and ceiling are slowly falling down, the main beams and original timbers still stand, as stout as the day they were put into place. This tall building was erected on a steep hillside, just below one of the main tunnel entrances.

Tracks from the mine led to the top level of the mill, where a tram delivered the chunks of ore into the "jaw crusher." Pine ore chutes brought the material to the ten Hammond stamps where it was pounded into bits at the second level. From there another chute led to the first level where a Wiflev

shaker table did its vibrating work, separating the ore.

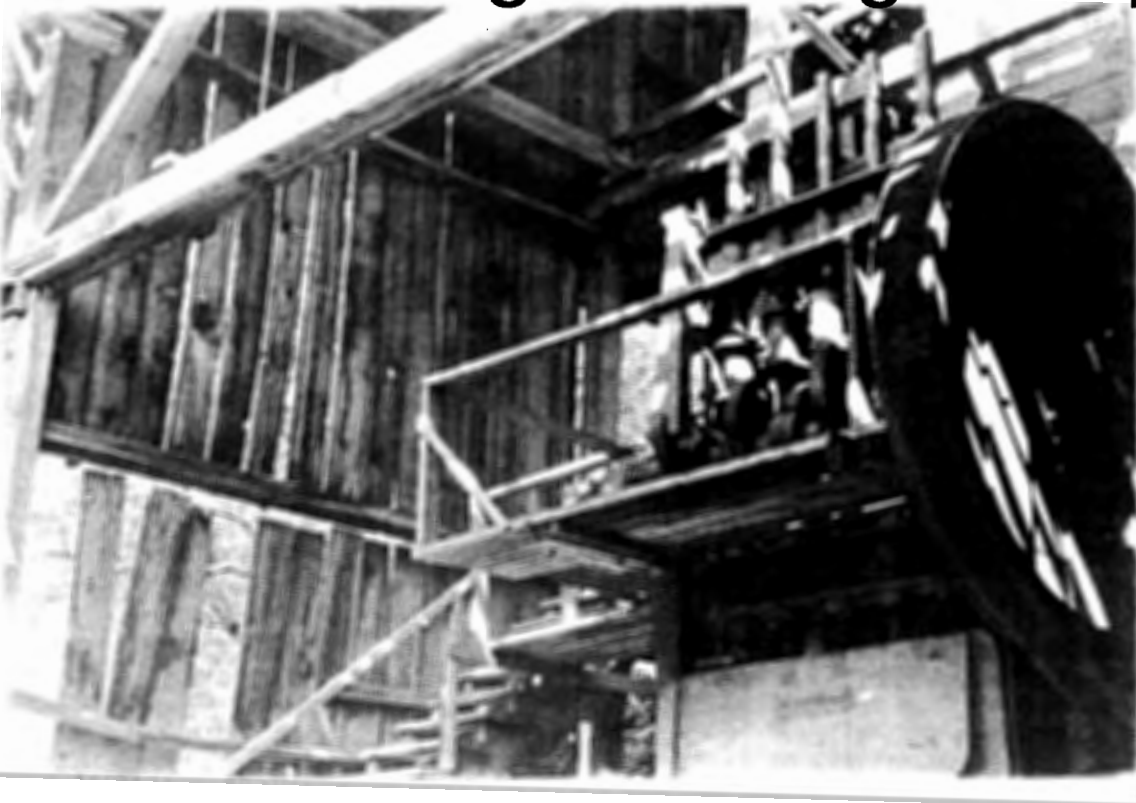
Twin faucets fed water to the ore on the table. Water for the mill was pumped from the base of the hill to a wooded water tank above the mill.

George Tulare and his partner Sam Kikman owned the mine in the early 30's. Ninety-one year old Tulare recalls, "We bought the mine, intact and in running order, from the County for taxes. There was a big labor bill against it too, which we had to pay off. During our first three weeks of operation we recovered \$14,000 worth of gold."

He laughs, "That was at 1933 prices. I laid new mine tracks then, because the old ties were rotten. And the power line was my project, too. I got the transformer and insulators from CopCo. See, there was 300 feet of water in the shafts and we used an electric motor and sinker pump to bring it out." The power source was on a rheostat with a slate backing.

"When we bought the land there was only a trail running up to the mine. I grubbed out the trees and built the roadway up there."

"We killed several rattlesnakes around the mill. I built our house at the base of the hill and one day a rattler was in the yard. My wife got it into a section of stove pipe,



The stamp mill at the Sylvanite mine.

closed the ends, then waited for me to come and kill it."

One of Tulare's most exciting times was when he lit a short powder fuse before the long one. "Boy, when I realized what I had done, I dove headfirst out of there."

When wages got too high, and the old miners were all dying off, the partners could no longer find any "real men" to work, and they were having problems between themselves, they closed the mine.

In later years Tulare leased a chrome mine in Galice and hauled the ore to Grants Pass where it was sold to the government.

The dirty ore was trucked to Gold Hill and taken to the Sylvanite stamp mill to be washed down. "To tell you the truth," says the spry 91 year old, "I made a lot more off of the chrome than I ever did off of gold." These words were spoken by a man who did very well in gold even before his Sylvanite days, back

to when he spent eight years placer mining at Sawyer's Bar.

In 1963 George Tulare sold out to Daniel Jones who hopes to one day have the funds to restore the magnificent edifice.

"If I win the Oregon lottery, the first thing I'll do is fix this place up." Meanwhile the mill building, powder shed, and blacksmith shop peacefully sleep away their twilight years. They've earned their retirement.



## Dragons invade Gold Hill Library

QUARTZ  
MINING

POSSIBLY OMIT

Possibly the veins are equally rich at all depths, and rich pockets may exist in the lower portions of veins as well as near the surface.

The quartz veins which were first met with by the miners frequently were found to contain pockets of decomposed rock with gold, which being accidentally found upon the surface, the gold was extracted by crushing in a mortar, and no further thought was given to the subject of quartz containing gold, though the theory of that mineral being the "original matrix" of the precious metal had had previous currency. The idea of sinking upon and exploring the veins was not entertained until the quartz mania broke out in California and spread across the border into Oregon. The first quartz lead which was prospected in Jackson county was the Hicks lead, on the left fork of Jackson creek, above Farmer's Flat. Sonora Hicks and brother, the discoverers, worked this vein in a necessarily imperfect way and took out some gold, getting, said the *Sentinel*, \$1,000 in two hours! Theirs was a pocket vein, and no mill or arastra was thought of in connection with it. Maury, Davis and Taylor owned the adjoining claim, and put up an arastra upon it, the first apparatus of the kind in Oregon. The latter firm purchased the Hicks claim and worked its rock in their arastra. The total yield of the original claim, the first quartz lead worked in Oregon, was about \$2,000.

ON Blackwell Hill

The ~~next~~ quartz discovery of importance was that of the famous Gold Hill lode, near Fort Lane. This took place in January, 1860, the discoverer being one Graham, known as "Emigrant," who, with George Ish, James Hayes, Thomas Chavner and John Long, as partners, located this astonishingly rich lode and began to work it. There was an abundance of float rock, found lying upon the surface of the hill, which yielded fabulously in gold, and as soon as the news of the strike became known the whole hill was staked out in claims, the boundaries marked sometimes by stretching ropes, and men were busily at work picking up float and crushing it in mortars, whereby much money was realized. Mr. Henry Klippel, the father of quartz mining in Southern Oregon, found a piece of mixed gold and quartz weighing thirteen ounces, which yielded \$100; and others reported as good results. Excitement ran high. Jacksonville, previously dull, began to bloom. Men who were notoriously "broke" began to put on airs of wealth. Money circulated with facility and every one partook, in spirit, of the good fortune. A daily stage was put on the route between Jacksonville and the new mines, which was crowded with sight-seers, speculators and prospectors. An eating house sprang up near the mine, and Morgan Davis inaugurated a trading post. Quartz stock was up; prospecting seized as a fever upon the whole country; and fabulous discoveries were reported in every direction. As for the original owners of the Gold Hill lead their fortunes seemed boundless, but dissension broke out in their camp. James Hayes, becoming dissatisfied, sold out to Henry Klippel, John McLaughlin and Charles Williams, for \$5,000. Graham sold also to Messrs. Klippel and John E. Ross, for the same sum, the use of the money costing those gentlemen ten per cent. per month. Two arastras were put up to reduce the quartz, mules being the motive power, and armed men guarded the apparatus, mine and quartz wagons from the envious and predacious crowd. Weekly clean-ups were in order and 1,000 ounces of well retorted gold was frequently divided on Saturdays. For some time this extraordinary out-put continued, when the desires of the owners

SOUTHERN OREGON.

The Blackwell lead was discovered a short time subsequent to the finding of the Gold Hill vein. This mine proved far less rich than the other, yielding altogether but a few thousand dollars, though having a very promising appearance. It was actively worked and produced at first a good supply of beautiful specimens worth some thousands. In the summer of 1860 and subsequently, it was owned by C. C. Beekman, William Hoffman, Dr. L. S. Thompson and U. S. Hayden, who made a contract with the proprietors of the Gold Hill quartz mill to work the mine and crush the ore, turning over to the owners of the lead the amount realized above necessary expenses of working. The deposit of quartz gave out, however, and the attempt failed. At later times the Blackwell lead has been worked, but to no apparent purpose. In 1882 a rotary quartz crusher was put up at the mine and is being experimented with. The total yield of the Blackwell has been from ten to twenty thousand dollars.

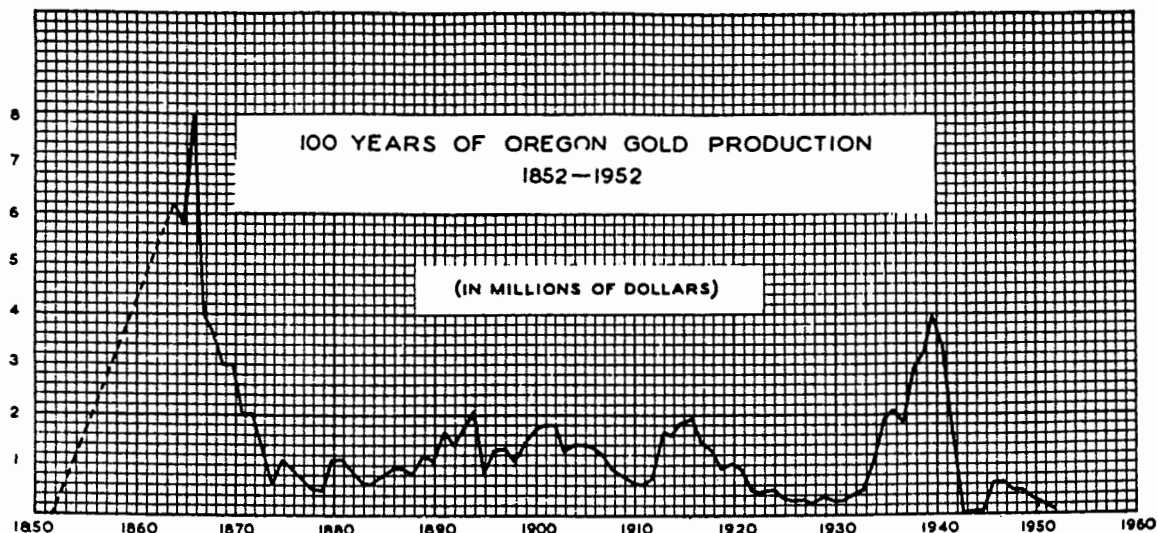
The Jewitt ledge, situated on the south side of P... in township thirty-six, south, range five, west, was first prospected by the Jewitt brothers, who had caught the quartz fever in the population of Jackson and Josephine counties. They associated themselves with their vein. They were having exhausted the first clean-up, the work on the claim has been favorable for another Beekman, having two steam arastras and a prospect of success. The vein is said to average twenty-one or twenty-two feet in its average width now being the...

See 1994 Calendar  
July pages for  
follow up of the  
Search for Third Gold

Next in order is the claim of John... and in 1862 at... The vein was to... it is thought, the... half feet thick and... other veins which... The McDonough... of quartz locations... been extracted, with... quartz mines were... and soft, with specks... ledges were particula... leads were mentioned... realized. On Jackson... considerable promise has... done in 1860, directly... designate as the epoch of...  
... in the donation... pected in 1860, ... in an arastra. ... ove expenses, ... is two and a ... are several ... as valuable. ... e a number ... wealth has ... ot's creek ... ed as dark ... Peebler's ... 31 these ... n being ... of quartz of ... ter part of the work being ... discovery, and at a time that we may







The death blow to gold mining came in 1942 when, in October, War Production Board Order L-208 was put into effect. Gold mines were shut down without recourse and remained closed until July 1, 1945, when L-208 was somewhat tardily rescinded. Since that time a few dredges and hydraulic operators have resumed work - a very bare skeleton of the pre-war industry. In early June 1948 there were five producing dredges, and during the season when water was available there were sixteen hydraulic operations. A small number of "snipers" have worked sporadically during the year. High costs of exploration and operation, together with the fixed price of gold, are effective in throttling gold mining, both lode and placer.

#### Placer activities

During 1941 a total of 49 gold dredges of all types operated in the northeastern and southwestern parts of the State. In 1948 only seven gold dredges were operating in the State and not all continuously. Only one dredge operated by the Powder River Dredging Company in Sumpter Valley was active in 1954.

Hydraulic mining activities are centered principally in southwestern Oregon. Hydraulicking is used on gravel banks which are so situated that gravels may be broken up by water under pressure from nozzles, washed down, and carried beyond the pit, usually through sluices. The method is cheap but, of course, water under a high head is required. The efficiency of a hydraulic operation depends upon the amount and head of the water available and ease of tailings disposal.

Ground sluicing is a method of excavating placer gravels by flowing water, and, when plenty of water is available, it is a cheap method of washing gravel away leaving the gold behind. Various adaptations may be used depending upon the conditions of gravel bank and amount and fall of water. Essentially, in ground sluicing a stream "is diverted to flow against or over a bank of placer ground, eroding it and washing it to and through box sluices." \*

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\* U.S. Bur. Mines Inf. Circ. 6611R, 1938, Small-scale placer mining methods, by C. F. Jackson.

## Where to pan

The first and most important step in prospecting with a pan is to select a good sample. In panning streams, one must remember that Nature is roughly sizing and concentrating the rocks and sands that she has eroded from the hills. In fast water the sands will be swept along and, if they do not drop in the little eddies behind the boulders, they will be carried downstream to rest as a bar where the water is quiet. The heavy sands - the ones you are interested in - will drop first. They will be ones that are more likely to be caught behind the boulders and the ones that will be found at the upstream end of the bars along with the pebbles. In the summer when the streams are dry, it is very easy to select your sample, but when the stream is running bank-full, about all you can do is dig out the sands between the boulders along the bank. The heavy mineral sands tend to work towards bedrock in the stream. However, where the stream exposes patches of relatively smooth bedrock, don't expect to find rich pannings in the potholes and bedrock crevices. During high water, when there is the greatest movement and sorting of material, the bottom velocity of the stream will be greater on bedrock where there is no boulder-covered floor to impede its flow; the cobbles will be churning round and round in the potholes; there will be no chance for the sands to come to rest. An exception would be a pothole that had become "dead" by being choked with boulders - in this case the sands between the boulders should give an excellent sample.

In panning the dry washes in an arid country, it is a simple matter to get a good sample if you remember that desert gullies are usually formed under cloudburst conditions. Right after the worst of the storm, when the gullies are running bank-full, the boulders and cobbles will be moving. As the main force of the water passes, the boulders will become quiet and serve to catch the coarse sands and pebbles. When the rush of flood subsides, the silt will drop out. To select a good sample, you must dig down below this silt and fill your pan with the sands ledged between the boulders in the center of the wash.

Other places to select a sample for panning are: Iron-stained outcrops, clay-gouge areas in regions where there has been considerable faulting or magmatic intrusions, and old mining dumps. In samples panned from mining dumps, you can find valuable clues as to the character of the mineralization in the district. Also, there may be minor minerals in tailing piles that were of no value to the old operation but which, due to new techniques or uses developed, may now have sufficient value to make reworking of the dump profitable.

## Prospecting tools

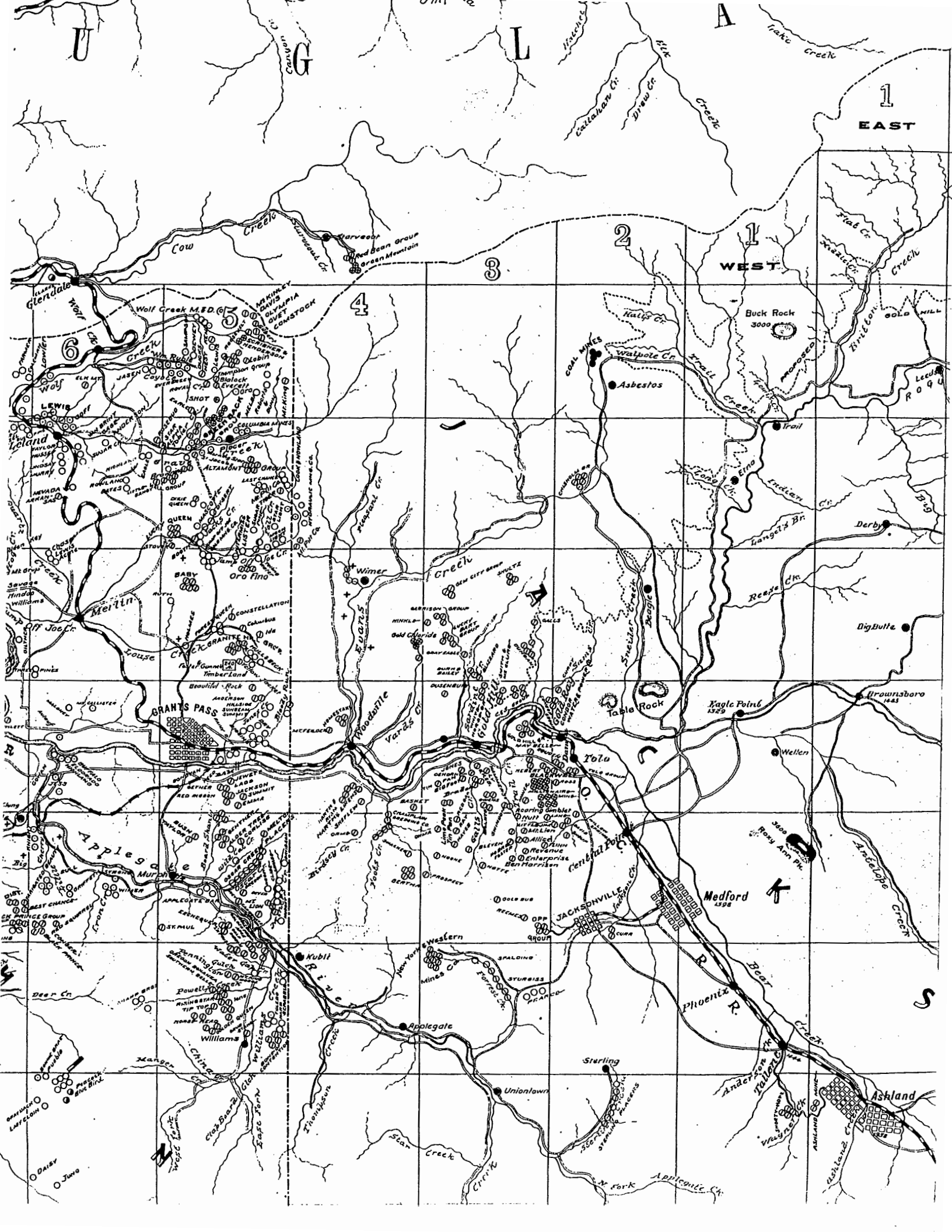
The common miner's pan (the one you see in the pictures of the grizzled prospector and his burro) is approximately 2½ inches deep, has flaring sides, and varies from 10 to 16 inches in the largest diameter. A 10-inch tin frying pan with the handle cut off makes a quite serviceable pan. Desert prospectors cut the handle off a "one-egg" frying pan and do their panning in a kettle of water. The panning rejects are scooped out and discarded as they collect in the bottom of the kettle, but the same water is used over and over. In this manner a two-gallon can of water and a kettle can be made to serve a whole day's prospecting.

It might be noted here that dirty water does not hinder the panning. As a matter of fact, the suspended sludge increases the specific gravity of the water, resulting in a greater relative difference in the specific gravity of the minerals.

Besides a pan, you should carry a prospecting pick and a trowel for digging the samples, several sample sacks, and a large-diameter inexpensive hand lens. The writer found that a simple 1½-inch length of 2-inch pipe made a very useful mortar for crushing rock specimens so they could be examined by panning. The piece of pipe is placed on a flat boulder, the sample dropped in and crushed with the prospecting pick.

In conclusion, prospecting with a pan is one of the fastest ways of checking the mineralization of a district. The mechanics of the actual panning are very simple, but care must be exercised in selecting the sample and interpreting the results.





# GOLD HILL HISTORY

The first settlement was a log cabin built by Col. T. Vault in the immediate area at the Dardenelles, which is across the river from the present location of Gold Hill.

In 1853, gold was discovered in the Gold Hill area on Gall's, Sardine and Kanes Creeks. Kanes Creek was originally called T'Vault Creek, but the name was changed to honor Dr. Kane who settled there. Gall's Creek was named after a pioneer and Sardine Creek was named because of the many miners which were packed along it's banks. In 1857, the Gold Hill Lode was found by "Immigrant" Graham, who took in as partners George Ish, James Hayes, Thomas Chavner and John Long. The first quartz mill in the valley was brought in at a cost of \$12,000 and installed near The Dardenelles. The Swinden Ledge was also discovered in 1859. Total gold production reported in the area was approximately \$400,000.

The first post office was built in 1857 by J.B. White at Rocky Point and L.J. White built a hotel there in 1864. The old hotel is presently being used as the headquarters for Del Rio Orchards.

As the gold rush subsided, the community gradually moved to it's present site. In 1884, Thomas and Rose Chavner deeded the land for the city. The blocks were laid out 320 feet by 200 feet and the lots 50 feet by 100 feet. With the coming of the railroad stimulating it's growth, the city was incorporated early in 1895. The section from Roseburg to San Francisco was completed by 1887, and in 1911, 182 adults lived in the city.

Several events followed that shaped the course of Gold Hill history.

The first school was held in the Methodist Church in 1895; on August 14th, 1895, Rogue River Telephone Company received permission to erect poles and wire in the city; The Gold Hill News was established in 1897 and was moved to Rogue River in the early 1900's; and the fire protection was provided by the Gold Hill Hook & Ladder Company which was organized on December 28, 1898, and composed of volunteers.

Construction on the Gold Ray Dam and powerhouse was started in 1903, and by 1904, production of electricity had begun. The plant is unique in design, being only one of two plants in the United States using rope drive from the turbine to the generator. When the plant became too costly to maintain, Pacific Power & Light deeded the dam, powerhouse and 27 acres to the County with the stipulation that it be used as a public park area.

The Ideal Cement Company; a subsidiary of Portland Cement, was started in 1914 and closed in the mid-1960's due to automation.

The last passenger service from the Gold Hill railroad depot occurred on July 31, 1936. In 1948, Gold Hill, along with Tolo, Willow Springs, and Table Rock districts, voted for consolidation with School District #6.

Presently Gold Hill has a population of approximately <sup>1,000</sup> people.





Products: Poultry grit and minus 3/8 inch industrial silica. Nine sizes carried in stock.

Raw Material: Trucked five miles from deposit in Miller Gulch (see Bristol Silica report).

Informant: F. I. Bristol, April 15, 1940.

Report by: R.C.T.

BUCKSKIN MINE (gold lode, placer)

Gold Hill area

Owners: Tom Hagen and C. D. Standiford, Central Point, Oregon.

Location: sec. 7, T. 36 S., R. 2 W.

General: Reported to be the old May Belle Mine. There is a tunnel 90 feet in length. Surface cuts over a distance of 150 feet show white, glassy quartz. A small "pocket" was mined. These owners have a placer claim in the  $W\frac{1}{2} SE\frac{1}{4} SW\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 7, T. 36 S., R. 2 W. Gold here is reported to be coarse and may have come from the Curry "pocket". No water is available.

Informant: J.E.M., 1938.

BULL FROG PLACER

Gold Hill area

Owners: E. A. Lewis, Medford; James Lothus, Rogue River, Oregon.

Location: sec. 22, T. 36 S., R. 4 W., about a half-mile east of the town of Rogue River, between the railroad and the river.

General: Recent Rogue River gravel deposits on the first terrace above the river were worked with a steam shovel and trommel screen in 1939. Water was pumped from the river. The gold was very fine and there was considerable black sand. The operation was discontinued in 1939. Since then several people have looked over the ground and some drilling was done. Inactive in April, 1942.

Informants: J.E.M., February 10, 1939; R.C.T., April 3, 1942.

BULL OF THE WOODS (gold)

Gold Hill area

Owners: Mrs. Vella Hays, Gold Hill, Oregon, and Mrs. Rena Davis, Fort Klamath, Oregon. Leased to J. A. Clement, Gold Hill.

Location: On the east bank of the Rogue River about 2 miles northeast of Gold Hill, in the  $NE\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 15, T. 36 S., R. 3 W.

Area: 31 acres patented land.

History: Little is known about the history of this property before 1934. In that year Mr. J. A. Clement leased and operated it for two years, producing \$5,000. Mr. George Tulare operated it in 1936 and 1937, obtaining no production. In the fall of 1938 Mr. Clement again secured a lease and started sinking a new shaft 50 feet SE. of the old one.

Development: 100-foot vertical shaft with 35-, 50-, and 95-foot levels. The 35- and 50-foot levels connect with old workings; the 95-foot level runs N. 55° W., 25 feet to face. About 60 feet southwest of the vertical shaft is a tunnel which trends N. 5° E. for 105 feet and having 8 drifts. Aggregate length of drifts and tunnel is 266 feet.

# **WARNING! DANGER, In And Around Abandoned Mines**

**SHAFTS** a fall down an abandoned mine shaft can be deadly. The ground around the openings is often loose and inside the shaft you can bounce off the walls on the way down. Frequently rocks and timbers knocked loose by a fall can hurt or even kill. Stay away from old shafts, they are sometimes ready to collapse and take you down. Many old mines have a shaft inside a tunnel, these can be especially dangerous as you often can't see them until its to late.

**WATER** is another hazard. Many times there will be standing pools of water inside tunnels which can conceal holes in the floor. You cannot tell how deep that water is by looking. Also there may be water at the bottom of a shaft so if a fall doesn't kill you, you still could drown.

**LADDERS** in old mines are not safe.

The rungs may be missing or rotted. Ladders attached to the walls of a shaft can be very deadly as they may pull away.

**BAD AIR** contains poisonous gasses or not enough oxygen. Gasses can collect in low areas or along the floor. When you walk you can stir up the mixture and create a mix lethal to you on your return trip out of the mine. It takes little effort to go down into a shaft but the effort to climb out can cause dizziness, followed by unconsciousness. In either case if the gas doesn't get you the fall it causes may.

**TIMBER** in old mines can be weak from decay even when it looks like it is in good condition. Mines can look solid but falling timbers are a constant danger.

**CAVE-INS** are always a danger. In a cave in the possibility of being crushed

to death is only a little scarier than being TRAPPED.

**EXPLOSIVES** may have been left behind when the mine was abandoned. Never handle anything that looks suspicious. Even old pros are afraid of old explosives, old dynamite sticks and caps can explode if stepped on or even touched.

**RATTLESNAKES** may have made the old tunnels home, to cool off in summer; or maybe to hunt other animals. Remember any hole or ledge, especially near a mine shaft, could hide a snake, and even baby rattlers are poisonous.

**FINALLY**, don't try to rescue someone yourself, if you get hurt or stuck in the process then there will be two in danger and no one will know where to look for you.



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.

*Blue Ledge Mine.*



# Mining beats at the heart of county history

By Michael L. Oaks

There are six mining districts within the confines of Josephine County, as follows: 1. Galice 2. Grants Pass 3. Greenback 4. Illinois River 5. Lower Applegate 6. Waldo.

## 1. Galice District

No factual records are available but common historical information has it that gold mining began on Galice Creek in 1852. The name of Galice Creek was derived from the fact that Doctor Louis Galice, a very popular miner of that period was killed by Indians on this stream. Old placer operations and hardrock mining is evident as one explores the various lodes where mining occurred. Lodes are held by mining men to be the alignment of ore deposits throughout their lineal extent. There are three lodes in the Galice district where mineralization seems to have occurred. The most easterly is the Almeda, aka the "Big Yank Ledge." Next to the west is the Chiefton "lode," cutting through the California claims found on Mt. Reuben. The most westerly is the General Grant "lode" that cuts through the Benton Mine on Whiskey Creek. Names such as "Old Channel" mine on Pea Vine, "Little Chiefton," on Chiefton Creek, Sugar Pine, Lost Flat, Golden Wedge, Black Bear, Gold Plate, California Mine, Ajax, Oriole, and many others too numerous to mention are found in this district.

## 2. Grants Pass

The Grants Pass area is in east central Josephine County and contains all of the drainage of the Rogue above the mouth of and including Jump-Off-Joe Creek. Its area is about 245 square miles. It includes the old mining districts known as Jump-Off-Joe, Winona, Merlin, Louse Creek, Rogue River, Dry Diggings, Pickett Creek and Grants Pass. Jump-Off-Joe, Louse and Pickett creeks are the principal tributaries of the Rogue River in the area, although there are many lesser, but albeit important creeks. Mines of this district are many but a few of them are: the Jewett mine on Baldy Mountain, Lucky Queen on Jump-Off-Joe, Swastika placer, Daisy mine, Granite Hill mine, Ida to name just a few of the noted producers.

## 3. Greenback

The Greenback mining district is an area comprising about 100 square miles in northeastern Josephine County, in T. 33S. and the north half of T. 34 S., Ranges 5 and 6 west. Parts of this district have been known as the Wolf Creek, Grave Creek, Coyote Creek and Leland districts. King Mountain is also in this district.

Little is known of the early history of this area or the date of gold discovery. It is known that the Grave Creek placers produced \$20,000 in gold in 1883. In 1895, many other mines were producing, some more or less on Grave Creek, as well as Coyote Creek, Wolf Creek and quite a bit of activity near Leland. As early as 1898, the soon-to-be-famous Greenback lode mine was treating their ore with an arrastra. Of all the mines in the district, the Greenback was the most famous producer of all. Other mines in the district include; The Martha, The Columbia placer, the Goff mine, The Yellow horn, Steam Beer placer, the Jim Blain, and Dorthea. Grave Creek is still mined by serious as well as weekend panners. Check with the BLM for recreational panning information.

## 4. Illinois River

The Illinois River mining area includes the drainage of the Illinois River and its tributaries in Josephine County above the mouth of Indigo Creek, with the exception of the area lying north of T.36 S. and south of T. 38 S. The area comprises about 356 square miles. Most of the district is in the Siskiyou National Forest. Mines of the area fall under three classifications, namely gold placers, gold quartz, and chromite. From the standpoint of value of production, the placers have historically been the best producers. The rare mineral, Josephinite, a natural nickel-iron alloy (FeNi<sub>3</sub>), is found in the alluvial material of Josephine Creek. This mineral is valued by collectors. The largest pieces are about the size of a walnut. Attempts have been made to find the source but so far without any luck. Gold was discovered in the Briggs Creek district at the mouth of Red Dog Creek in 1868 bringing an influx of miners to this extremely remote area. Some of the most famous producers in the Illinois district are: the Independence Placer at the mouth of Josephine Creek, the Gold Blanket. The area was one of the hot beds for chromite and during WWII this area produced a lot of chrome ore. There is a rich deposit of nickel in this district also. Some of the more known producers in this district are: Oak Flat placer at Oak Flat, the old Glory mine (gold), Red Dog Gold Placers on Red Dog Creek and Briggs Creek, Lightning Gulch had prospects.

## 5. Lower Applegate

The Lower Applegate mining district includes that part of the Applegate River drainage in Josephine County south of the south line of T.36S. It has an area of approximately 210 square miles. Within it are the old mining districts called Applegate, Davidson, Missouri Flat, Murphy, Oscar Creek, Powell Creek, Slate Creek and Williamsburg or Williams Creek. Mining began in the Lower Applegate Districts very soon after the discovery of gold on Josephine Creek in 1852. The first mining was probably in the gravels of Williams Creek. Lode mines were discovered in Slate Creek Valley around 1860, however most of the chief mining methods were by placer mining until around 1870 when it was necessary to start going underground chasing after the discovered surface ledges. Some of the more important producers were: The Mountain Lion mine near Davidson, the Layton placer near Provolt, the Oregon Bonanza near Powell Creek, the Bone of Contention near "Old Williamsburg," the Horsehead Placer on Water Gap, the Powell Creek placers, the Williams Creek placers, the Marble quarries off Water Gap Road, just too many to list.

## 6. Waldo

The Waldo mining district is about 380 square miles and includes all of Josephine County lying south of T.38 S., with the exception of the small area drained by Williams Creek and its tributaries. It contains the mining districts variously known as Sucker Creek, Browntown, Althouse Creek, Holland, Sailors' Diggings, Takilma, Bolan Creek and Indian Creek. Mining began in the Waldo area in 1852 when a group of sailors deserted ship at Crescent City, Calif., and headed for Jacksonville in search of gold. Waldo was the name given to the town they established at the original strike called Sailors' Diggings. Gold was discovered

continued



later that same year on Althouse Creek, the gravels of Sucker Creek were found to be very rich about the same time. In 1860, the Waldo Copper mine was discovered, quartz veins were also being developed on Althouse Creek that same year. In 1861, work in the gravels of Scotts Gulch near Waldo began and continued for about 35 years. The Waldo Hydraulic Mining Company began work in 1877, the Gravel mine, the Logan/Simmons placer. In 1878 Wimer and Sons bought a half interest in the Deep Gravel mine, and in 1888 secured the remaining half of the property. The Esterly mine was the greatest and longest operating mine in the Waldo District, although the Queen of Bronze Copper mine operated from about 1904 until about 1929 producing about \$1,350,000 in copper ore. All of the districts had their share of Chinese mining activity, and much of the hand-stacked boulders can be found to this date where the Chinese worked the claims.

Information on these and other mines can be found at the Historical Society. See Mike Oaks for further information and, if enough interest is generated, perhaps field trips to the various districts. He will answer your questions and explain just what you are looking at.







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the police that he had pur-  
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ST FIRES DEMINISHING

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"out."



Newest picture of Charles G. Dawes Republican Vice-Presidential nominee, upon his arrival at his Chicago home. He and his wife were greeted by their children, Virginia and Dana.

# Smelter Is Under Active Construction

The organization meeting of the Sunset Smelting Company builders mission and it is announced that as of the Gold Hill Smelter was held in Grants Pass at the office of A. C. Hough, attorney, last Saturday. J.M. Lively is due to arrive Thursday from Portland to make permanent headquarters in Gold Hill. H. C. Diers returned from Portland on Tuesday of this week and has been spending much time at the smelter site where a crew of men is busily engaged preparing the ground for future construction. It is understood that a saw mill is an early prospect for Gold Hill, to be erected on the site adjoining the smelter site. The refuse and mill waste from the saw mill will be utilized by the smelter in making charcoal for fuel.

## City Dad's Bills and Receipts

PERMISSION UNTIL 1 A. M. IS GRANTED—FINANCIAL STATEMENT

At the regular meeting of the City Dad's last Monday night discussion over the dance ordinance became quite acrimonious at times, and caustic remarks were interchanged.

There was quite a fair sized boquet of citizens, both men and women, in attendance and at one time the presiding officer rapped loudly for order in order to quiet a bedlam of voices, no one individual having the better of another in voice strength so no one could be distinctly heard in the conglomeration of vocal noises.

There were present, Mayor Miller, Councilmen Cook, Ham, Ross, Jacobs, Childers and Recorder Kellogg. Councilwoman Mrs. Pankey, absent.

The following claims against the city were approved and ordered paid.

General Fund	
E. R. Davis, chief of police, July	\$ 25.00
Wm. P. Chisholm, health officer	10.00
A. E. Kellogg, recorder for June	25.00
M. S. Johnson, street light supplies	4.76
C. & O. P. Co., lights for June	31.00
Gold Hill Garage, fire Dept. expense	26.38
D. L. Pruitt, supplies	1.05
Total	\$123.19

Water Fund	
M. S. Johnson, supplies	\$54.50
E. R. Davis, pump operator for June	100.00
Toney Ross, supplies	41.25
Gold Hill Supply Co. supplies	2.50
Cal. Filter Company, equipment, etc.	382.50
O. Snyder, labor	11.50
Investors Syndicate, sinking fund	148.00
P. H. Myers, auditor	20.70
Southern Pacific, freight	8.69
Total	\$769.64

Sewer Fund	
M. S. Johnson, supplies	\$ 42.50
T. J. Cook, labor	30.00
Chas E. Barg, labor	20.00
Total	\$ 92.50

General Fund	
Terry A. Talent, police	\$115.00
Terry A. Talent, expense	11.50
W. C. Hawk, police	40.00
A. E. Kellogg, court fees	225.00
Gaylord Cycle Shop, supplies	15.00
P. D. Cunningham Co., supplies	6.09

M. S. Johnson, supplies	1.50
Merritt Davis, labor	15.25
T. E. Pankey, labor	6.50
Theron Pankey, labor	2.50
J. B. Pankey, labor	2.50
T. J. West, special police	12.00
W. A. Cook, labor	22.50
Total	\$475.59

The request of Lillian B McIntosh, for the vacation of a part of Second street, west, near Second avenue north, was granted.

Recorder Kellogg submitted the appended statement of the street fund as of date of June 12th, showing cash on hand, \$385.25 and the sum of \$675.70 received in fines and license between June 12 and June 30.

The statement of the water fund is:	
Cash in Fidelity State Bank	\$82.63
Investment Sinking fund	298.00
Cash in Sinking Fund	107.00
Water Collections	199.50
Water Collections	114.75

The financial statement of the recorder and approved by Auditor P. H. Myers, shows that there is a cash balance in the street fund of \$365.23; sewer fund, \$59.77; general fund, \$198.26.

After the routine the members of the Gold Hill Parliament sat back with an air of evident relaxation while those of the audience jerked up in close attention. A numerous signed petition asking that dancing be permitted until one o'clock Sunday was read.

And then the race was on.

It appeared that the majority of the citizens, or seemingly so, had signed the petition and the principal speakers in favor of granting the permission were Messrs. Reed and Bowers, who presented several reasons to support their contention that an innocent form of amusement was far safer for the young folks than many other pleasures and that parents always knew where their sons and daughters were. The petition was opposed by Mayor Miller and Councilman Childers. Those voting in approval were Cook, Ham, Ross and Jacobs.

A representative of a Portland trust company was present to ask for consideration of a plan to provide a sinking fund for the redemption of water bonds.

Council adjourned until Friday night with instructions to the trust company to prepare an ordinance and submit it at this time.

The time limit upon which the smelter concessioners were to commence building will expire Thursday July 10. Friday evening the land grant and permit will be revoked and granted to the new corporation which has already commenced clearing the ground for the erection of machinery foundations.

Gold Hill in the olden days was a roaring prosperous place and was known far and wide for its richness, wetness, gambling houses and wild women. The mining has lapsed into nothingness in the past year until the smelter idea revived the memory of more prosperous days (in the mines) and the prospector and mine owner found offered to him a new lease on life and Gold Hill now shows indications of belittling its former reputation with a world-wide reputation as the richest mineral center on earth. No fooling, that great statement is possible and very probable.

Gold Hill Mining district, described in detail below, is limited to a small territory that formerly seemed vast and promising. Without extensive changes at Gold Hill that would centralize the mineral industry at that point that small district would stand intact for all time unless absorbed by the development of some nearby town. The location of a smelter at Gold Hill makes that point the real center of the greatest mineral district on the Pacific slope and really extends from a point north of Eugene in Oregon to Dunesmuir in California and from the coast to the eastern slope of the Cascades. This widening of the boundary covers the territory that will be served by Gold Hill based on the transportation cost on the railroads. The mineral wealth of this great district will come to Gold Hill economically and of necessity. The competing smelters and refineries are at Tacoma and San Francisco and Denver. A look at the map will prove our assertion that the Gold Hill mineral district, with the development of the smelter here is now, of necessity, enlarged to cover the territory served. It will probably be more advisable to call this district the Gold Hill Smelter district for history has carried the boundaries of individual districts down to date and absorption would cause confusion.

The immediate Gold Hill mining district embraces the whole Rogue River valley from Central Point and Table Rock westward to Josephine county. It is limited on the south by the divide between Rogue and Applegate rivers and including tributaries of Rogue river from the south, namely Kanes, Galls and Fooths creeks, and from the north, namely, Sams, Sardine, Wards and Evans creeks. There are many placer and auriferous quartz mines in the district and other mineral resources of various kinds. There are no large cities in the area, but the town of Gold Hill situated on the Rogue river and the main line of the Southern Pacific railway, is headquarters for the most active part of the district. The Gold Hill district is a mountainous region cut by one narrow east-west valley and its tributaries from the north and south. The elevations vary from less than 1000 feet at the head of Evans and Savage creeks to nearly 4000 feet on top of Fielder mountain, and similar elevations both north and south of Rogue river.

The history of the Gold Hill mining district really dates back to the year of 1851, when gold was first discovered in Rogue River valley on Jackson creek ten miles south of Gold Hill. This applies to placer mining, but the rich pocket from which the town of Gold Hill, Oreg., takes its name was not discovered until January 1859. It is said that \$400 000 was taken out the first year and the aggregate yield of this pocket with its exhaustion the following year was over \$700,000. This was the beginning of the auriferous quartz mining in this region. On the whole the production of the placer mines has been maintained for a long period, but is slowly decreasing, while the auriferous vein deposits are now making up the major part of the gold output in this region.

The Gold Hill district is a region occupied chiefly by old Paleozoic sediments interbedded with sills and flows of andesite and greenstone. Everywhere the sedimentary rocks strike northerly, usually about N. 15 degrees E. dip eastward at angles ranging from 65 degrees to nearly 90 degrees. According to Diler, the Jurassic beds in the western part of the district have been overturned so that the oldest strata now overlie the younger formations. It seems probable that the Paleozoic sediments are also overturned, and limestones found on Kanes creek are probably of early Paleozoic age, and fossils found in limestone lenses on this creek indicate that they are not Devonian; it is suggested that they are Silurian rather than Carboniferous in age. Accordingly the Paleozoic sediments west of Kanes creek in the Gold Hill district are referred to the Devonian or Carboniferous or to both periods.

Long after the formation of these Paleozoic sedimentary rocks the region was intruded from below by a mass of molten igneous rock; at about the same time and perhaps by the same agency the bedded rocks were folded and overthrust to the westward. The intrusive rocks solidified beneath a considerable thickness of sediments or other rocks which has since been removed in some places. Thus the igneous mass is now exposed to view in the mountains at the head of Kanes creek, and extends thence northward nearly to Central Point and thence north westward past Tolo and Gold, Ray to the west side of Blackwell Hill; the same rock outcrops on the west side of Sams Valley; a similar rock of aplitic texture outcrops on the north fork of Fooths creek, and it seems probable that it underlies at considerable depth a large part of the Gold Hill district.

This igneous intrusion and intense folding seems to have elevated the region enough to cause a new cycle of erosion and the formation of coarse sediments, which could not be transported far by ordinary agencies. Therefore conglomerates were produced, and these were succeeded by feldspathic sandstone during part of Cretaceous time. Rocks produced in this way are found between Evans creek and the headwaters of Sams and Snieder creeks; similar rocks are doubtless covered by lava flows near the Table Rocks. Along Evans creek from the "Meadows" northward these Cretaceous sandstones are overlaid by a considerable thickness of Tertiary sandstones which contain beds of coal.

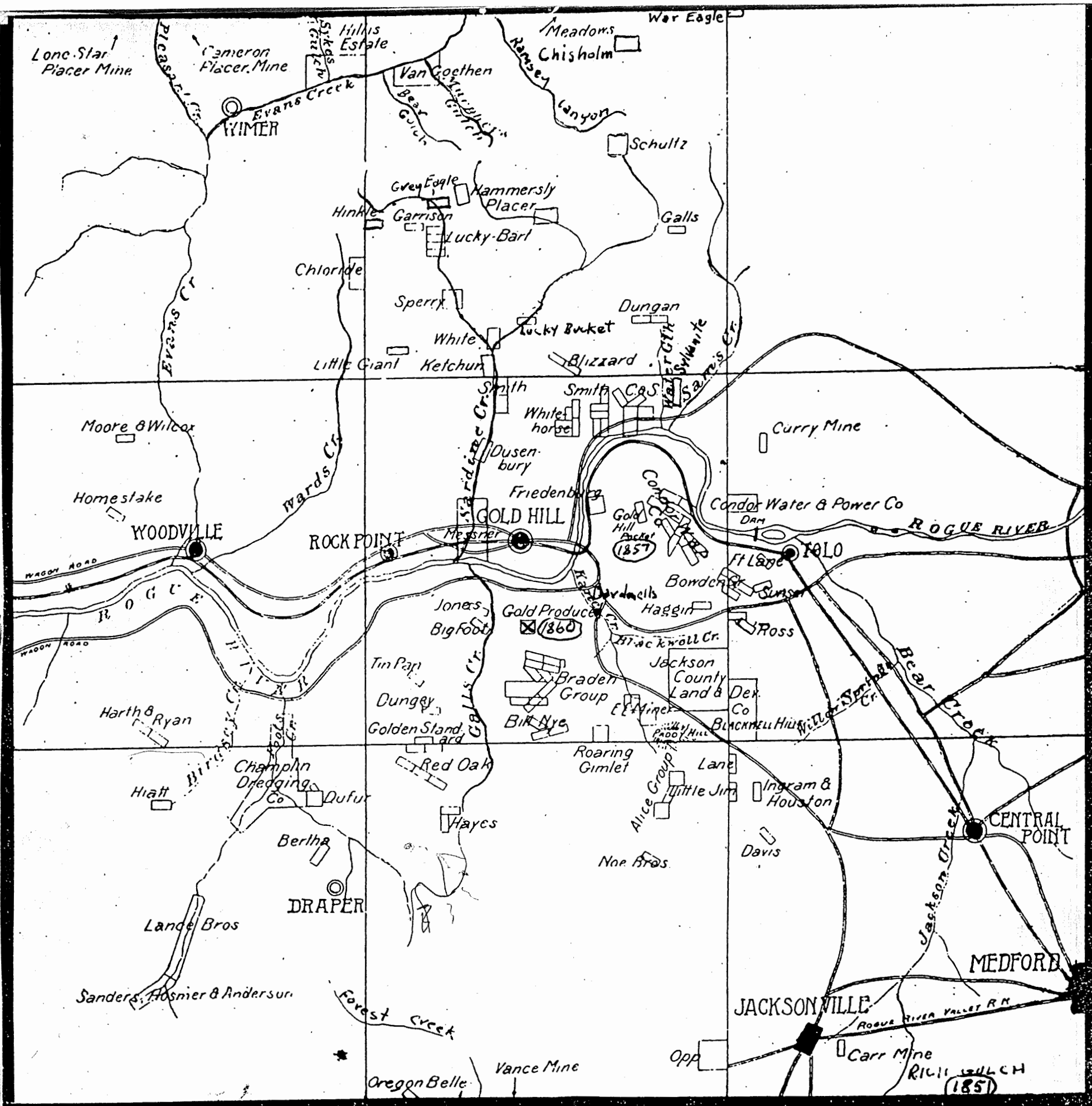
The latest rock formation in the district consists of stream deposits some of which are very valuable on account of the gold and platinum they contain. They are formed along the streams of the district but are not abundant along Rogue river in this region, because the latter is herein a narrow rock cut portion of its course to the sea.

It is believed that the ultimate source of the gold and platinum placers in this region, like those of California, is in the serpentine and the olivine bearing rocks of the Sierra Nevadas and tributary mountain ranges, which are in a portion of the drainage basions of the streams.

According to C. B. Watson and Thomas Condon, a large area of southwestern Oregon and northwestern California, which has been by the United States Geological survey, designated as an island in the ocean was formed during Cretaceous times, long before the Cascade mountains rose from the surface of the water. This land has been by Winchell termed, the "great Siskiyou batholith." It is, perhaps one of the oldest terra firma on the continent. The greater part of its mass is granit, or granitic in character, accompanied with other intrusive igneous rocks such as diorite porphyry and other intrusions having lifted from the depths of the ocean the sediments that had settled there. These elevations have in places reached an altitude of 8,000 feet. The sediments thus lifted were changed from their original horizontal character, to various angles of inclination, accommodating easy erosion. Hence we now find only fragments of these earlier sediments at the tops of the higher elevations, such as limestone often metamorphosed into marble.

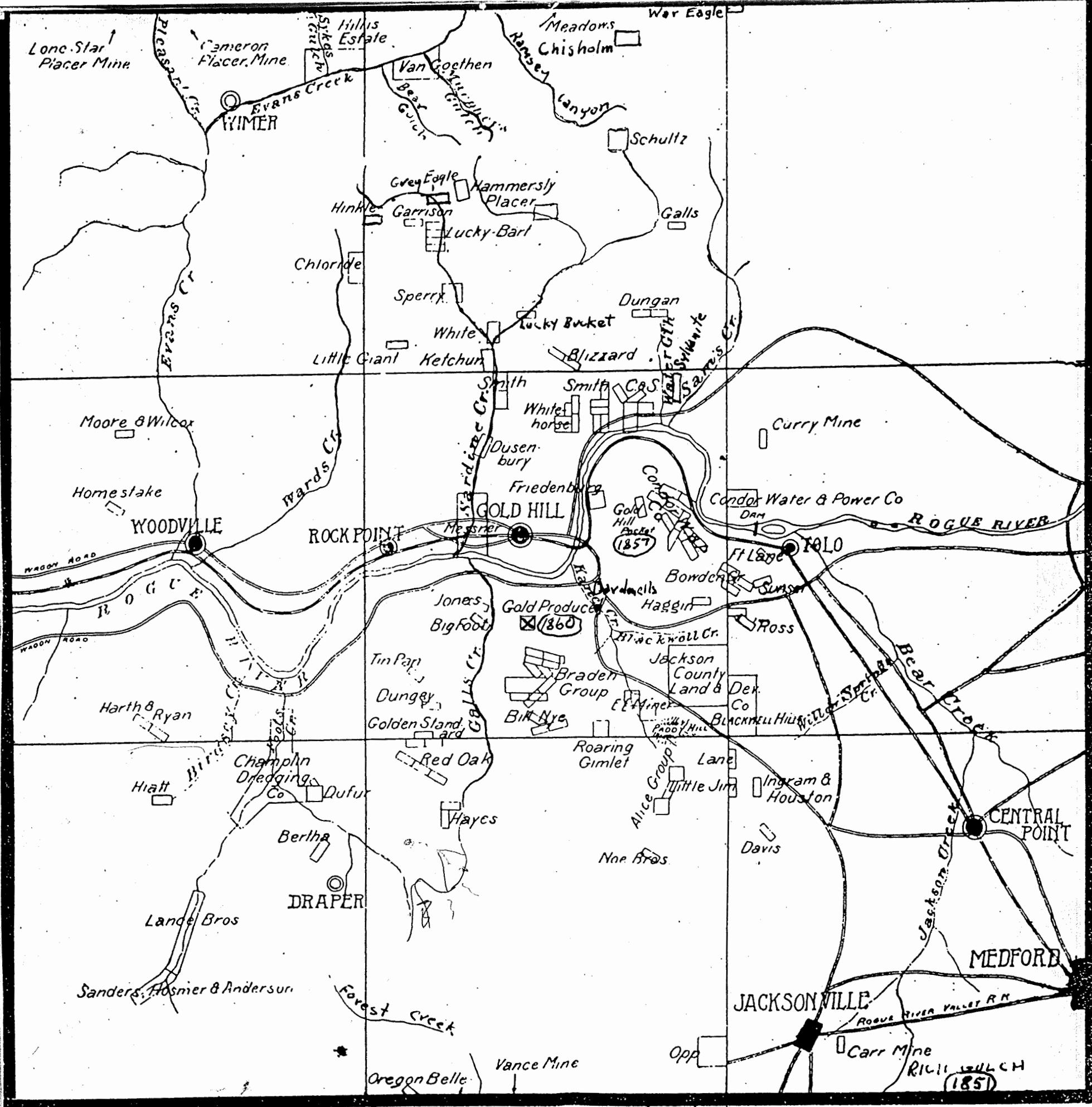
These sediments were originally very deep and erosion has carried them away; some back to the ocean others deposited in the valleys as they have been formed. These intrusions and the necessarily broken and fissured conditions, in which they and their beddings have been left, facilitated the setting of such materials as were held in solution, or suspension were carried downward into seams and fissures as the mass slowly arose. After the whole had arisen above the water and valleys were formed, much of the residue resulted from this disintegration was deposited around the shore line of this old island, resulting in the heavy placer deposits, which employed the pioneers. Observations will show that all of these placer deposits were along the shore line of this island, and that the gold and other meal deposits came from it.

Rogue River valley lies to the east and northeast of these Siskiyou mountains, and the more recent Cascade range of mountains lie to the east of the valey and the placer mines have been and are along the shore line of the old island. No mineral is found along the Cascade side of the valley. The finding of mineral contents in these old seams and fissures are attributed to the early uplift and the fissuring of the "Siskiyou batholith."

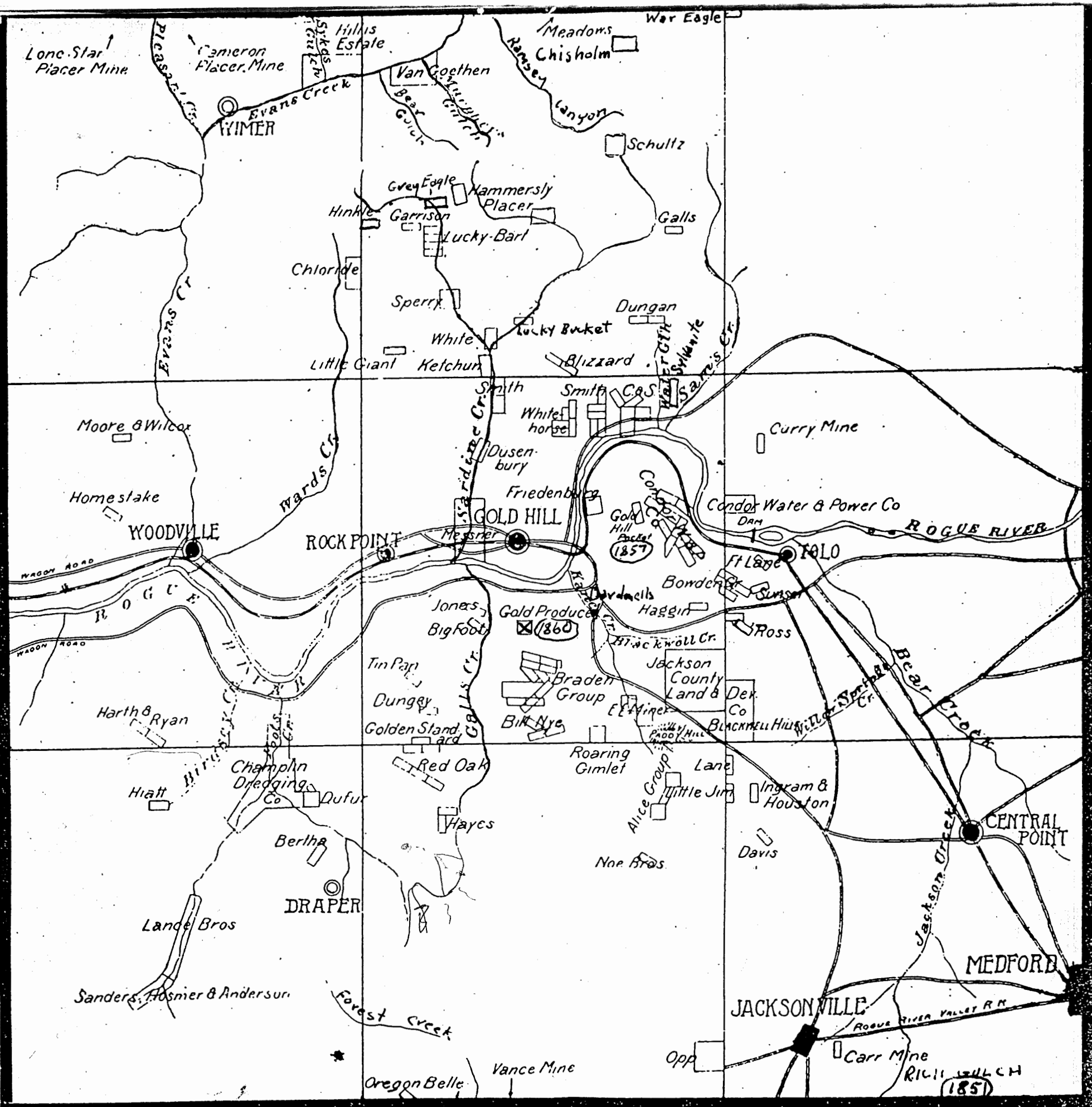


1904 map of early mines in the Gold Hill area



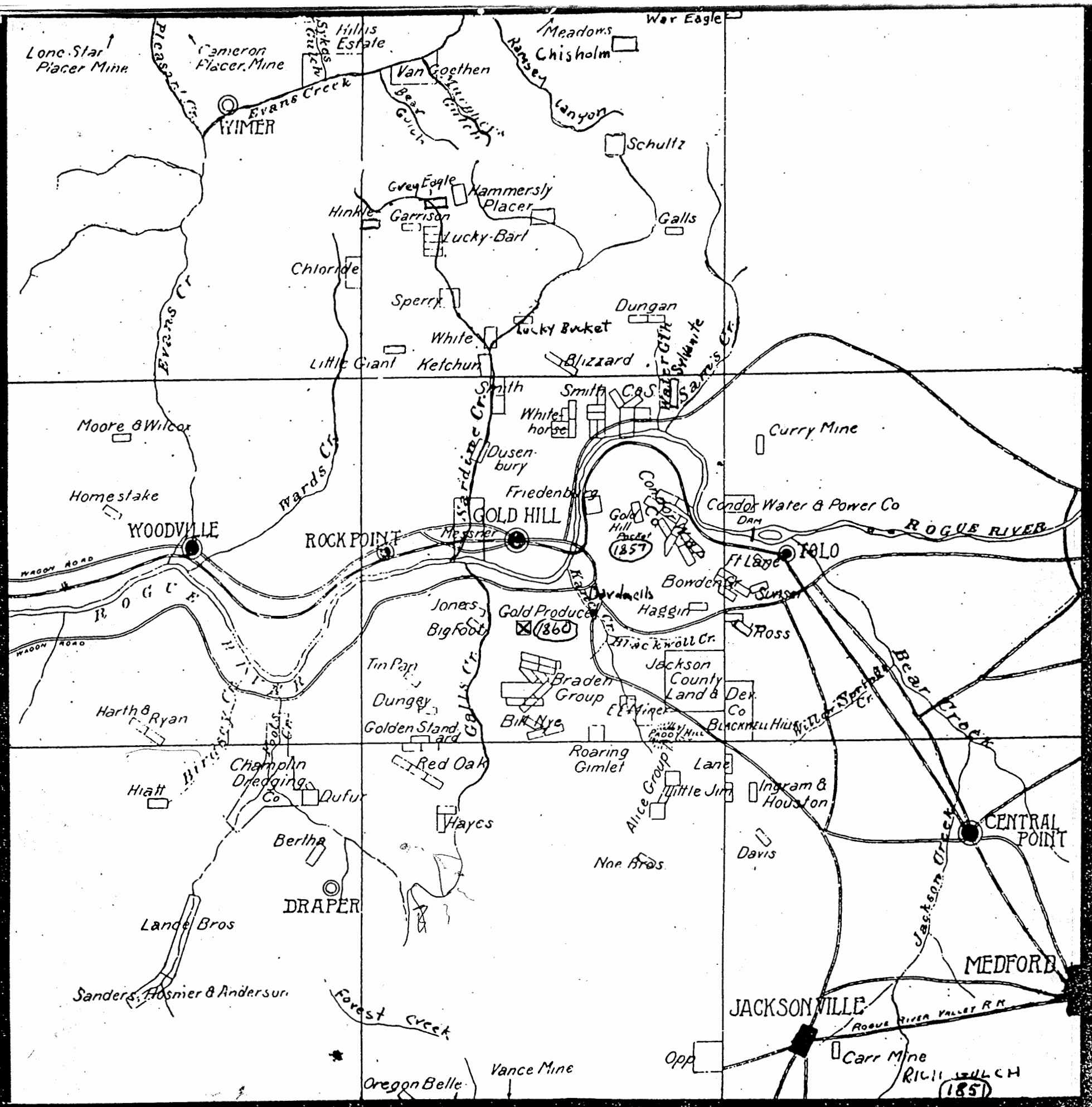


1904 map of early mines in the Gold Hill area

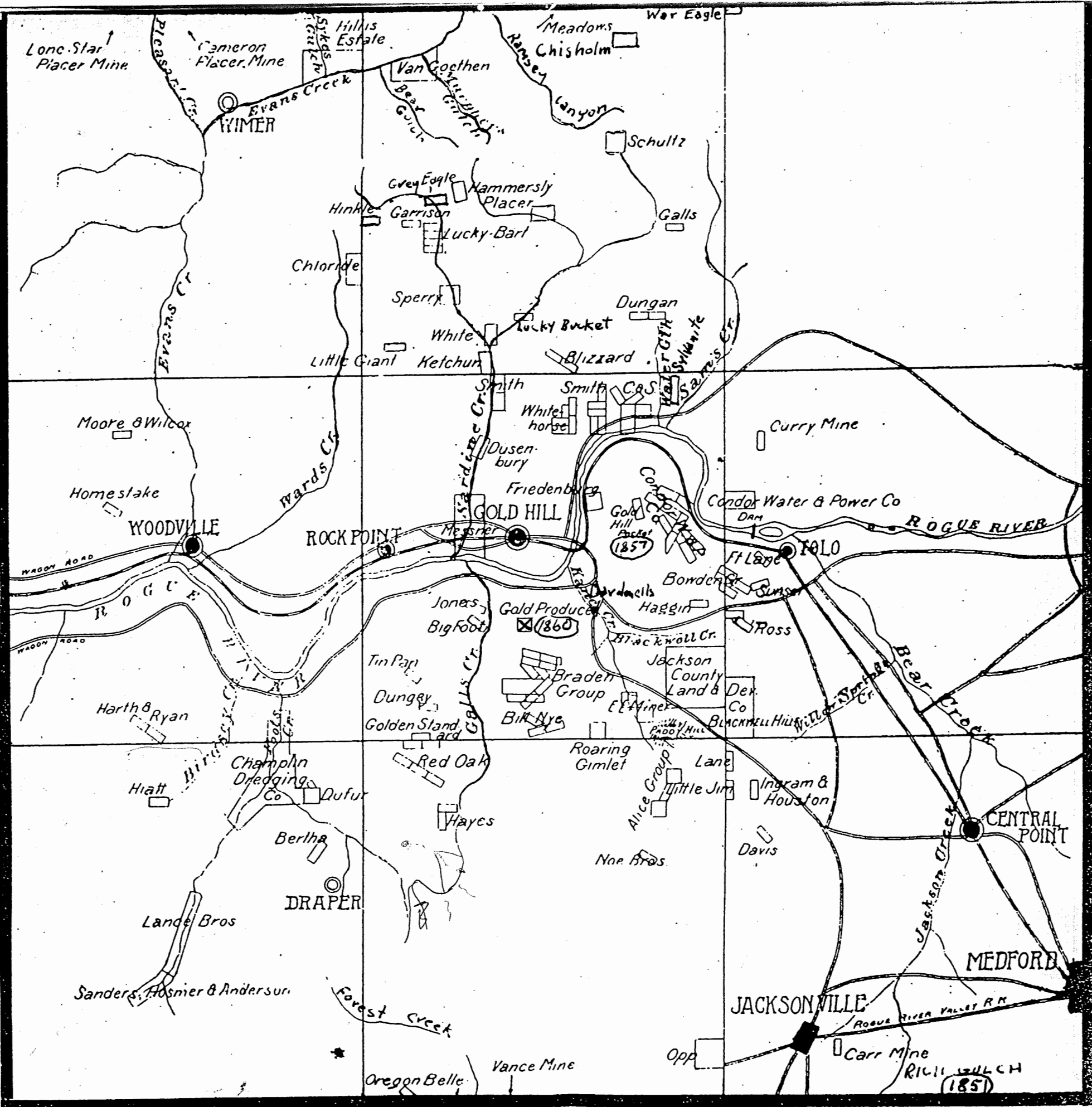


1904 map of early mines in the Gold Hill area

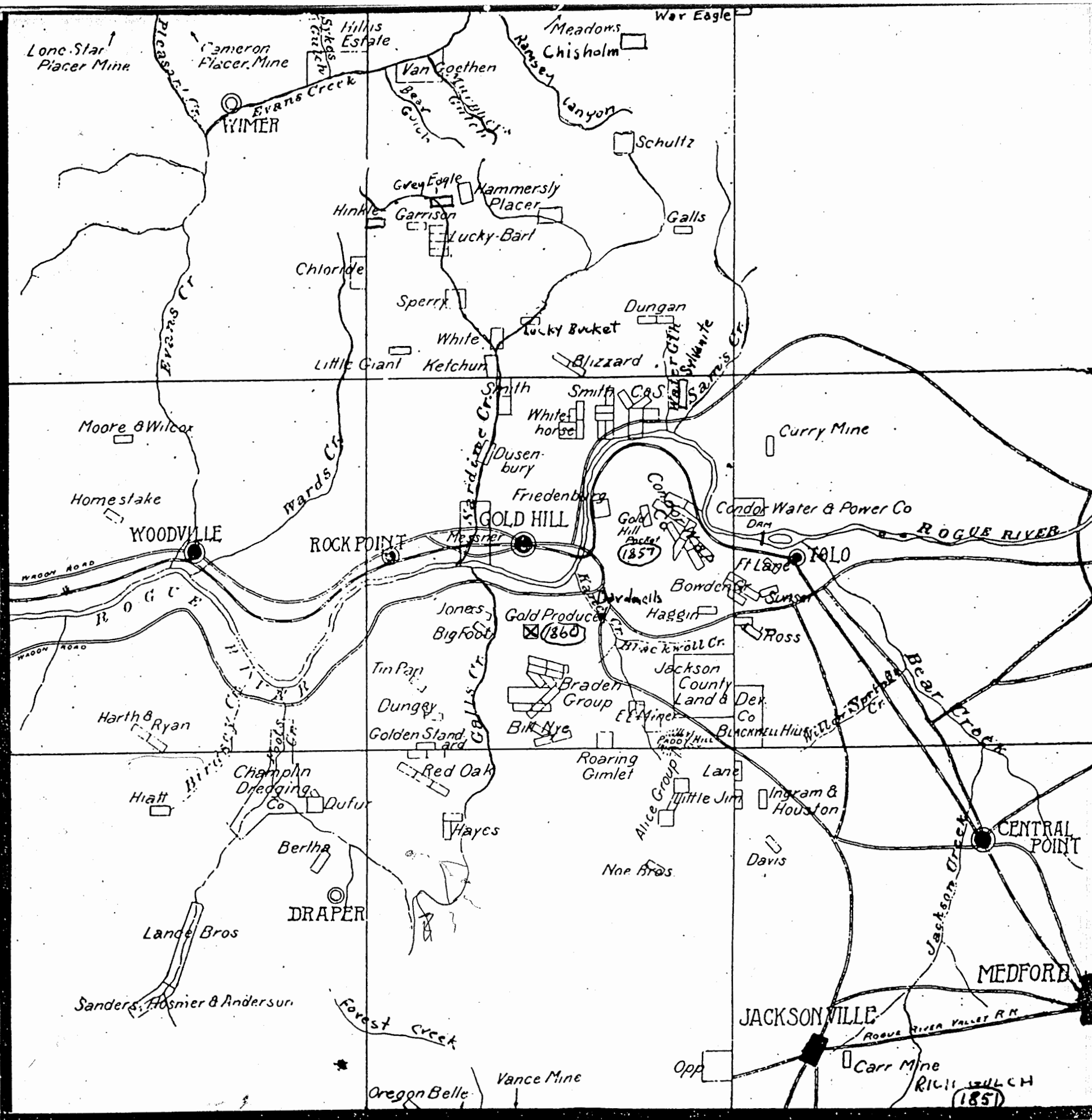




1904 map of early mines in the Gold Hill area



1904 map of early mines in the Gold Hill area



1904 map of early mines

in the Gold Hill area



# Mother Lode: The Lore, Lure of Gold Mines

By Brian Mortensen  
Rogue River Press

There might still be gold in them thar hills!

There may be even now, said a local historian whose upbringing centered around his father's mining efforts in the Foothills area.

But as rich as the local hills could be, there might be some danger involved.

The Bureau of Land Management reports nearly 400 abandoned gold mines across Southern Oregon. The BLM is barricading, even filling them to keep people out of them, and there may be as many or more than that on U.S. Forest Service-managed lands or private property.

Roland Prefontaine lives not too far from some of those mines, just downhill from them, in fact.

In the summer, his father, Ed Prefontaine had a quartz mine, and in the summer he'd use the rush of the water to placer mine in the days just before World War II. He had water rights on the east fork

"A lot of the Chinese would come in and re-work the ground where the white man worked," Prefontaine said. "About three to four of them, and they'd have a whisk broom, and they'd be sweeping the bedrock, all the little cracks and crevices where the gold could hide, working it down."

It sounds like hard work, and that's exactly what it was. Prefontaine admits it.

"It's nothing but labor-intensive," he said.

While his father mined, Prefontaine said he never did. Wages were better working other professions. He worked in the woods instead, and had long career with Weyerhaeuser before he retired in 1992.

"Now, guys are out of a job, and you can make more money mining than you can on a street corner (looking for work)," he said.

Prefontaine said he's lured to the history of the craft.

"I was raised with it," he said. "Granddad was here on the creek when my dad was



RRP/Brian Mortensen

Roland Prefontaine shows off a tie tack that includes a gold nugget maybe 3/4-inch long mined sometime in the 1950s by his father.

of Foothills Lyons Gulch and Brushy Gulch.

Roland Prefontaine can name off eight mines up Foothills Creek alone, including the one his father worked — Little Giant.

About \$35,000 was pulled out of Foothills Creek. A lot of it, he said, came from pocket gold; gold mined out of quartz pockets.

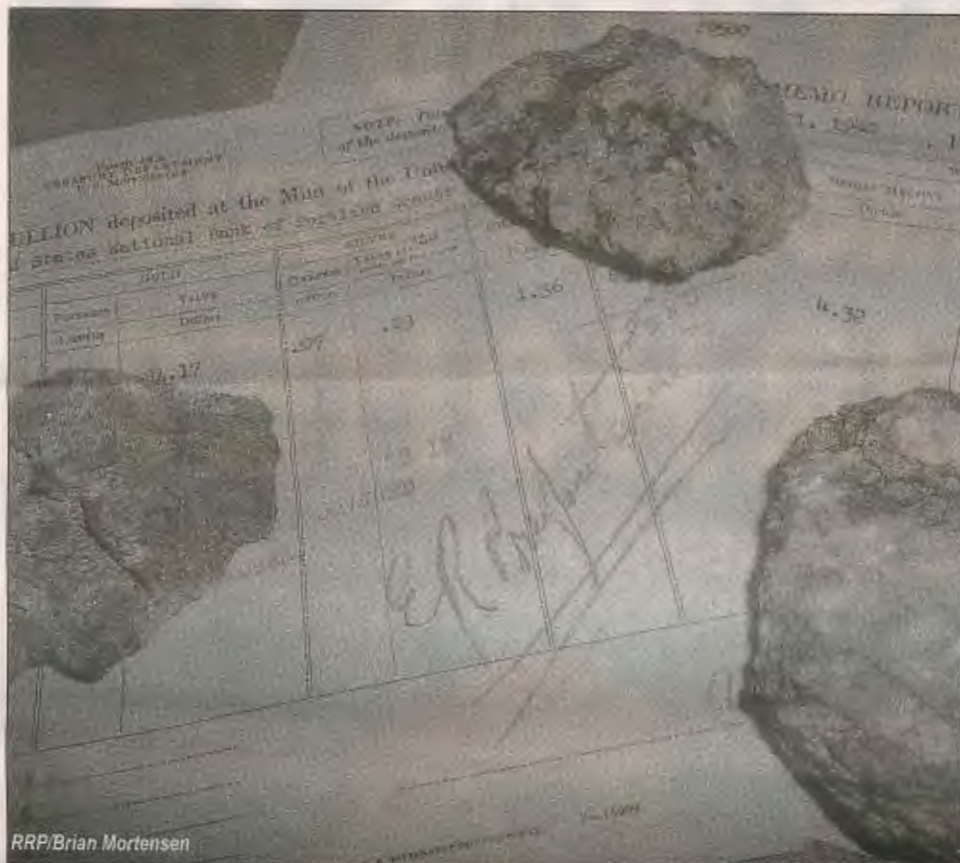
The mining in the area started around 1848. Chinese miners began mining sometime afterward; tediously brushing away at the bedrock, looking for veins their white predecessors may have left behind.

born. And, Grandmother's family, the Neals go way back."

The mines were up Foothills Creek, where it wound down the hill north toward the Rogue River, mines like the Horseshoe, the Grant Matthew, Vencill's and the Little Giant.

There may be about 200 mines in the hills between Grants Pass and Gold Hill, just on BLM-managed lands, Duane Ericson, a mining historian from the Medford office of the BLM, said.

"We're still finding them," he said. "There's a lot that aren't documented. They're



RRP/Brian Mortensen

Ed Prefontaine pulled out about \$35,000 in gold from a quartz mine he worked on Foothills Creek.

spread all over, little pockets here and there."

Hunters and firefighters, in fact, alert the BLM to a lot of the new, unseen mine shafts.

While some of the mines in Southern Oregon were profitable, Ericson said most of the area's worth has already been extracted from the hills.

"I joke that I'd rather invest in Bernie Madoff," he said. "You look at the Chinese miners that came in, with no laws, and no rules, they used cyanide, mercury, and had no environmental considerations, and they didn't make any money."

"There was a lot of gold, but gold doesn't replace itself. Once it's gone, it's gone, especially from the streams. Most of it's been found," he added.

Another problem, Prefontaine and Ericson stated, is the geologic make-up of the area, both describing the land as "broken up."

Ericson said that as the land rises from the Pacific Ocean, it's undergone millions of years of earthquakes and volcanic activity.

"The geology is just a mess," he said. "It's not like those neat little layers you have in other places."

And that means veins that start can end in just 50 feet.

"You can get a quartz vein and start following it," Prefontaine said, "and you go down, and all of a sudden, it just comes to a blank wall, just chopped off. Where the other half would be, how do you find it in the rock?"

"That's why the people that have done the best," Ericson said, "are the ones that mined the pockets and moved on...the small miners."

The more prolific and profitable mines in the area, included the Greenback, the Ashland, Sugar Pine and

Robertson mines near Galice, and some around Gold Hill, Ericson said.

But the area never produced the big digs, like the Comstock Lode, just because of the fractious quality of the land.

Some of the mine shafts are as deep as 300 feet, like the Horseshoe Mine, Prefontaine said. His father's mine had tunnels 100 and 150 feet deep.

Prefontaine said he remembers his father sleeping near his sluice box after he did what was called clean-up.

"You try to gather all your gold," he said. "It would take you two or three days, and you'd hose it down, all the pillings down through your sluice box."

"Dad would take the dog down there and then sleep right there, (or) people would go down in there and take

your sluice box," he recalled. "They'd come down in there with 25-gallon buckets, and in 10 minutes, they could get all the gold that you worked for three weeks, to get in the sluice box."

Prefontaine remembers having gold fever of sorts as a kid, panning for gold, and tossing way rocks that didn't look quite as valuable.

"Nowadays, a guy gets color in his gold pan, he goes crazy," he said.

The Neal brothers' mine was on Neal Gulch, and the Ray Mine was at Galls Creek. Prospectors had worked a tunnel at the MacMain place clear into the 1950s, he said.

The Porcupine mine was on the northern ridge of the middle fork of Foothills Creek.

"I can't remember any more names," he said. "I know where the mines are, but I don't know what they

were called."

He said Foothills Creek was "chocolate brown" from the mud disturbed through the placer mining. The turning over of the rocks and dirt helped create clean spawn-

teeming numbers of gold nuggets that would be found through the creek.

Prefontaine said tailings from the mines on Foothills Creek make up the road construction of the section of Interstate 5 in the 1950s.

Prefontaine drags out a box and pulls out a tie tack. The tie tack includes a gold nugget maybe 3/4-inch long. It was mined sometime in the 1950s before his father passed away.

"This was in the last clean-up of Mom and Dad's mining that they did," he said. "Us three boys all got tie-tacks made like that. All the nuggets were basically just about the same (appearance and size)."

His mother had a locket of a heart with a nugget inside, and had her wedding ring fitted with nuggets all around.

The gold from the cleanup, he said, was enough to take care of his father's burial expenses.

The biggest nugget Prefontaine said his father got was what he called "The Preacher Knocker," after the itinerant ministers who would come calling at people's houses in those early days. The nugget was the size of his father's hand — a broad, flat, thin piece of gold. Prefontaine said his father sold it.

"There is gold out there," he said. "Nuggets like that, that's pretty good gold. Not a lot of impurities in them."

## History Preserved Effort to Seal Abandoned Mines



BLM is working to seal abandoned (and dangerous) mine shafts like this one throughout Southern Oregon.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has sealed as many as 45 mines in its efforts to seal abandoned mines in Southern Oregon, with about 30 left to work on, Dennis Seipp, a BLM archaeologist at the Medford district office, said.

What the BLM is not doing, historian Duane Ericson said, is taking mining

claims away or closing active mines.

"We're only sealing straight-down shafts, and making sure they're clearly abandoned," he said. "We tell people they can keep them open, but they're responsible for them."

Ericson said he grew up as the kid interested in the old mining sites, curious

enough to investigate them.

"I talked to the old miners, and they'd say, 'We never go into them,'" he said.

A lot of misinformation about the remediation program is being spread, Ericson said, and that BLM is working with mine operators and is only concerned with the mine shafts themselves.

He said the BLM is trying to catalogue the history of the mining sites, as well, and that means preserving buildings and structures near the mines.

"We're not going in and bulldozing things," he said. "We're not doing that at all."

The U.S. Forest Service hasn't yet begun taking inventory of the mines on national forest land, but will do so during this fiscal year, USFS spokesman Kevin Johnson said last week.





# LOST CABIN MINE

By Ted Wharton



Publication courtesy Gold Hill Hist. Soc.  
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# LOST CABIN MINE

By Ted Wharton

"The cabin wasn't lost, it knew where it was, it was just that down thru the years the prospectors, miners, crooks, scoundrels, gamblers and opportunists couldn't find it."

Our story begins in 1853, when gold was first discovered in various parts of Jackson County. Miners and prospectors fanned out onto all the streams in the county, panning for free gold (placer gold). Extra rich pickings were found in the smaller streams flowing into the Rogue River, near the site of the present day city of Gold Hill, Oregon. One such stream that was especially rich, drew hundreds of miners. They were so thick, they were elbow to pants' pockets, which prompted one extra mouthy miner to proclaim they were "as thick as sardines". Thereafter, it was called Sardine Creek. By the 1870's, the free gold and easy pickings began to peter out, with the boom dying down and the multitudes fanning out to other promising areas. A few diehard prospectors, sourdoughs, so to speak, didn't give up so easily. Some with knowledge of geology and geography deducted, and correctly, that the source of the free gold had to be in the mountains. Then began the search for veins of gold in the rock formations, such as, quartz and granite. As a result, several rich ledges were found.

One such prospector, Barney Kirkpatrick, ventured up stream on Sardine Creek, beyond the last placer dig, and blazed a trail thru dense undergrowth and among heavy, old growth virgin forest. He followed the ever dwindling trickle of water, of the West Fork of the creek, prospecting the channel and likely veins on the steep, nearly vertical hillsides, as well as, into shallow side gulches. Traces of gold prompted him to continue the search. Working his way from one camp to the next, Barney and his burros finally broke out into a small basin, with beautiful open glades, springs of fresh water and green grass, for his burros. There was much wild game in evidence, so he made a semi-permanent camp and began prospecting the surrounding draws and ridges.

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"The cabin wasn't lost, it knew where it was, it was just that down thru the years the prospectors, miners, crooks, scoundrels, gamblers and opportunists couldn't find it."



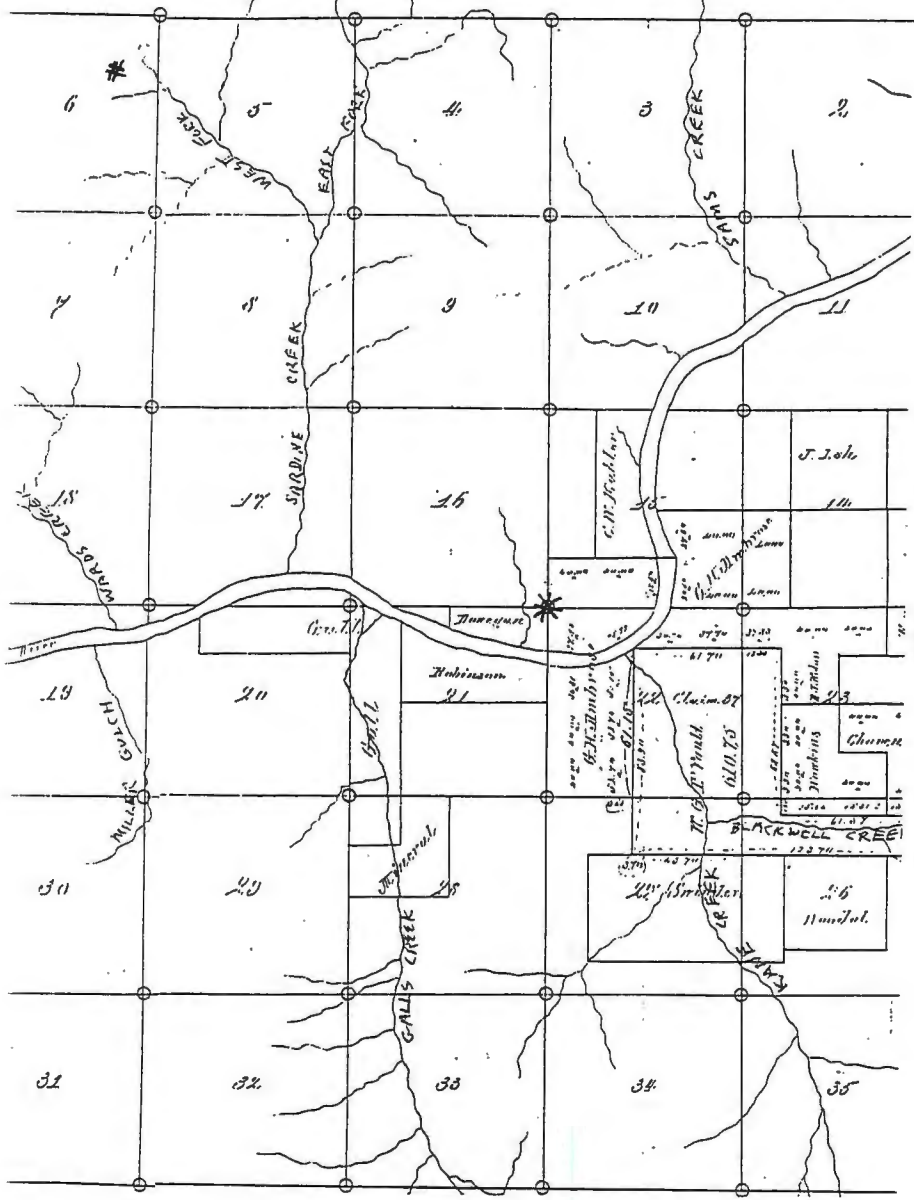
The word "CABIN" has a mystique all it's own. Close your eyes and visualize a cabin. They come in many sizes, shapes and description. The cabin most often associated with miners and prospectors is a small log structure with a shake or bark roof, tucked away in a shady grove of trees, with a bubbling brook flowing by. Douglas fir logs & poles, sugar pine shakes & slabs, mud and cedar bark were the materials of choice by most cabin builders. Some cabins, built in the 1850's still stand and are useable to this day.



"Elbows to pants' pockets" like sardines."

Author's comments: History loses it's focus as the years roll by. Exact dates, names & places become sketchy as stories are retold, but the general basis of events are as they were told to me. It is my main intent to recount one of the many chronicles of the early pioneer and gold rush days.

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# Approximate location of the cabin  
 \* Location of the present city of Gold Hill

Within a few days, miraculously, as he had visualized, but never dreamed, would happen, he discovered the rich vein from which, down thru the centuries, the bulk of the Sardine Creek gold had broken off and was washed downstream. His elation was without bounds, but at the same time, a grim foreboding seized him. With the fear his discovery would become known, he did not rush to town to file a claim. It was taking a chance, but he felt it would avoid his little basin being crowded, like the "sardines" on the main creek a few months before.

Foreseeing these possibilities even before his strike, he had been very evasive during his trips to Jacksonville for supplies, and when quizzed, he gave out sketchy and erroneous leads as to where he was mining. As winter closed in, Barney realized he wasn't prepared to spend the winter in the area, so erasing all evidence of activities as best he could, he moved down into the valley near Jacksonville for the winter. Panning in the streams and keeping calm so as not to reveal his strike. The next spring, eager to get back to his mine, he returned by a roundabout route.

Studying the small basin, he found a spot, near a spring of fresh water, that was so situated that it was hidden from view in any direction. The ridges and natural draws would veer in any visitors away from the spot. Here, he started a cabin, a sturdy log, shake and cedar bark structure, dug into the hillside among a large grove of Douglas Fir trees. Working alone with only hand tools, it took him 2 years to complete the snug little cabin, with periods away from the site to dig on the gold vein. By the time the cabin was finished a second winter was upon him, but he had opened up enough tunnel to allow him to work in it in the foulest weather. His stash of gold was building up, so he hid it some distance from the cabin, in a stout canvas bag, in a crevice behind a small waterfall.

During the ensuing years, his snug little cabin with rock fireplace served him well and the abundant wild game provided plenty of fresh meat. It also enabled him to make jerky and with the staples he packed in, it would carry him thru the winters. Still fearful of discovery, it was said he continued to travel devious routes to and from his mine.

At times he realized he was being followed, but always was able to lose them around Wilcox Peak, the highest point near the cabin and in rugged terrain.

After a few years and after the gold fever around the, then established settlement of Gold Hill, died down, a few people learned where the cabin was located, but not knowing about the gold, thought nothing of it. His only regular visitor in those years was a government trapper named Riley Hammersley, who kept Barney's secret. In about 1884, Barney married a shy local lady named Sarah, who was older than he and who had, due to a buggy accident, lost her arm. She was beautiful, but very self-conscious, so the remote cabin, with few visitors, suited her fine. They lived there many happy years. Then in about 1898, Sarah fell ill and died.

Broken-hearted, Barney turned to drink and spent time in local saloons getting drunk with other miners. During this period he, while under the influence of drink, had let his tongue slip, leaking out some information about his cabin and the mine. Realizing then that he had let the cat out of the bag and knowing he had enough gold stashed away, Barney decided to close up the mine and quit mining. It was about 1900 when he blasted the mouth of the tunnel shut, camouflaged it with brush and limbs, then closed up the cabin. He gathered up all his gold, sold the burros in Gold Hill and caught the next train out of town. As time went by people began to realize Barney Kirkpatrick was gone and had not returned. He was never seen or heard from again. Thru the years curious people hunted for the cabin, but few, if any, ever found it and search as they would, no one ever found the mine.

Around 1901 the Smith brothers operated a sawmill on Sardine Creek. They sent their teenage sons onto the woods in search of good saw timber. One son, Lee, who years later became my uncle, had as a boy in 1896, accidentally came upon the Kirkpatrick cabin and met Barney and his wife, Sarah and remembered the big grove of fir trees. He, therefore, went in search of the cabin, which he soon found. Still intact, but empty and vandalized of it's contents. The big trees were still there. Later roads were built and the timber was cut, but not much thought was given to the cabin, which was used by an occasional hunter, trapper or prospector.

In 1946, my uncle told me about the cabin and I knew I had to see it. That fall we made a hunting trip to the headwaters of West Fork and camped for the weekend. After some search we found the old cabin, intact, but showing the ravages of time. The tunnel we could not find, like so many others before us. The years since have not been kind to the once snug little cabin. In 1967, when my son, Dave, got his first deer tag, we drove up and camped by the cabin. By then there were holes in the roof, the porch had fallen off, litter was scattered around, the spring was polluted and a logging road passed within 50 yards. Around the campfire that night we talked about the two hardy souls and their life in the basin and cursed those who had defiled his home. At that time I decided to learn all I could of their lives from the few old-timers left, so I talked with all I could locate.

During my last visit to the area in 1994, I found the little cabin gone. All that remains is the spring of water, trampled by cattle, a few cornerstones and a rotten log or two. Along with Barney Kirkpatrick, nearly a century ago, the proud little cabin has taken to the grave the secret of the location of the tunnel and the rich vein of gold. Occasional prospectors and treasure hunters still search for the vein. A few tunnels and shafts were dug during the years, but to our knowledge no one found the rich lode. Perhaps modern metal detecting technology could trace the precious metal, but to me it seems more fitting that the remaining gold stay locked in the mountain in honor of Barney and Sarah and their snug little cabin, which is now truly "the lost cabin". The young Douglas firs are now growing back and were spared the ravages of fire in recent years. Soon nature will take it's course and the little meadow will again look like it did when Barney and his burros broke out of the dense undergrowth and into the glades 125 years ago.



# Them Thar' Hills!

by Larry Waggoner

*It's been said that only one-tenth of the gold  
has been discovered in Oregon.... Find out how easy  
it is to experience your own "Gold Fever"*

**I**f you have ever wanted to reach back in time to the days of the Gold Rush Era, it is still possible to do so today. Though you may not find the hussel and bussel which occurred in the towns that sprang up wherever gold was discovered, towns such as Nome, Sumpter, Sutter's Fort, and Jacksonville, you will still get the feeling every old prospector had searching for that one big strike.

Recreational gold mining is very popular and has grown by leaps and bounds from the days of yesteryear. New methods and equipment have improved ways of finding gold, which allows for more gold to be found in less time. Equipment such as compact dredges, sluice boxes, and metal detectors make gold mining a lot easier.

Even though mining has become somewhat easier, the most popular method is panning for gold. Panning for gold is a simple process that is very relaxing and can take your mind off the worries of every day life. Your first step is to purchase a gold pan. These can usually be found at hardware stores or a store that deals with mining equipment.

Take your pan to a location along a stream in a well-known gold-bearing area. If you are not sure where to go, contact your local B.L.M. office. They can give you locations where you can pan for gold. Once you have purchased your gold pan and have decided on your location, following these 6 easy steps will help you get started.



1. Fill the pan between about half and two-thirds full of soil, gravel, and small rocks from the stream bank or stream channel.

2. Put the pan under water, break up lumps of clay, and discard the stones.

3. Still holding it level under water with your hands on opposite sides of the pan, rotate it halfway back and forth rapidly to wash out the clay and concentrate the heavy material at the bottom of the pan.

4. Still holding the pan under water, tilt the pan forward slightly, away from your body. Rotate and shake it to let the light gravel and sand dribble out the front. Push top material and large chunks of rock out with your thumbs.

Repeat steps 3-4 several times until a deposit of fine-grained dark material overlain by a smaller layer of light material remains at the bottom of the pan.

5. Take the pan with the residue and some water out of the stream. Rotate the pan in a circular motion and watch carefully what is happening. The water is separating lighter from heavier material- and gold. If it is present and you are doing the panning properly.

6. Stop the rotation. If you are lucky, you will see a few flecks of gold in the dark material that remains in the bottom of the pan. Carefully drain out the water and let the black sand and gold dry. Lift out most of the black sand with a magnet, and separate the gold from the remaining sediments with tweezers.