

## Seventy Years Ago

From the files of the Oregon  
Observer June 3, 1893

Strawberries are quite plentiful now, and ere another week has passed the market will be filled to overflowing. This is a product to which the soil of Josephine county is adapted and many crates will be shipped away this summer.

Three men from San Francisco have bonded mining property in Josephine County for the purpose of making a thorough prospect. They have bonded the Anderson & Holyke "Horsehead" mine for \$19,000, also the S. Messenger & Son "Rising Star" mine at \$10,000, the Stylus and Schrimp extension of the "Tiptop" at \$500, also four acres of land belonging to Alex. Watts for \$1200. These mines all carry gold bearing quartz and are located in a group on Williams creek.

The scarcity of gold in the US treasury is causing the administration a good deal of worry, and it ought to worry. If it will persist in paying out gold coin for silver bullion when there is no need of it, what better can it expect? The law does not require that it should be paid for in gold coin,

but in coin, and if more than 400,000,000 silver dollars stacked up in the treasury is not coin within the meaning of the law, what is it? Why buy silver bullion at all if it cannot be used?

The Waldo correspondent reports that three miners who started for the mountains had the misfortune to lose their pack animals. The horses got away, leaving the men to foot it to the railroad. They report too much snow for prospecting.

Dick Crosby found a nugget in an old mine he was working on Sucker creek last week which weighed \$365.

In 1860 Waldo was the scene of wild excitement and the gold fever raged. The town was thriving with about 3000 inhabitants who had come to make their fortune in the new gold fields. The mountains were full of prospectors and a great deal of gold was taken out with sluice boxes and by panning. A large number of saloons, three hotels, stores, stables, etc., all were coining money and business ran high so long as they could skim the gold from the earth with little labor.

## Sixty Years Ago

From the Rogue River  
Courier, June 3, 1903

The Mystic Midgets, a juvenile fairy spectacle comprising a cantata in two acts will be presented by a cast of 100 children for the benefit of the school library fund, June 8 and 9 at the opera house.

Brick are being delivered for the Hansen brick building on G street between 6th and 7th and the work of erection will begin immediately.

H. Thornton has begun the operation of moving the wooden building so long known as the

men's clothing in a full page advertisement lists men's suits ranging in price from \$3 to \$16.50, and boys' suits from 65c to \$6.

Another rich strike is reported from the Gold King mine on Josephine creek. Gold taken from an open cut on the ledge shows wire gold in gratifying profusion.

The quartz strike on Baby Foot, a tributary of Chetco river, made a few weeks ago by John B. Griffin and Ben Miller, is developing into an immense proposition. The ledge is traceable on the surface for some 1500 feet.

90-105-2

## Seventy Years Ago

From the Oregon Observer  
July 21, 1894

Few people are aware that the streets of this city are paved with gold, yet such is the case. A short time ago a lady in walking along Sixth street noticed an object which excited her curiosity. She picked it up and took it to the bank and was informed that it was gold. It weighed 75 cents. She went back to the same place and on close inspection found another piece, though smaller than the first. The gravel had been taken from a bar on Rogue river near town. The bar has been located and prospects well.

The city is paying 40 cents per yard for the gravel hauled to Sixth street.

Robert Niel is said to have lost \$500 in gold dust last week from his house on Williams creek. He had cleaned up a pocket and had not yet brought the dust to town.

That the railroad trainmen are the best paid for their services of any of the many classes of labor on this coast can be seen by the following wage scale: Passenger conductors get \$125. per month and brakemen \$60; engineers \$4.70 per day, firemen \$2.70 per day;

freight brakemen \$80 per month and conductors \$100.

Both lumber factories here have shut down for want of orders. The delayed trains and unsettled conditions of traffic have shut off a good deal of revenue that would have come if the San Francisco railway strike had not been taken.

The Roseburg Review reports that Capt. Graham of Co. A. O. N. G. has purchased all the cartridges within the city suitable for the guns of the military men, upon orders from his superiors. This action, coupled with the rumor that the company had been ordered to Ashland for duty, caused some excitement.

Smith's Racket Store advertises to sell "for the next seven days a ladies gondola goat, buttoned, "patent leather tip shoe for \$1.30."

W. J. Wimer of the Deep Gravel mine at Waldo came to Grants Pass Tuesday with 190 ounces of gold, the result of a test run of seven days and nine nights with a 2-inch nozzle and 180 feet pressure. There have been several cleanups this season, all of which gave splendid results.

## Seventy Years Ago

From the Oregon Observer  
June 22, 1895

Thursday morning about 9 o'clock the stage bound for Coos Bay was held up on the Hoover hill, four miles east of Olalla post office. A lone highwayman stepped out of the brush and commanded a halt at the muzzle of a gun. The driver threw out the pouch, telling the highwayman there was nothing else but papers, thus saving the letter pouch in which there were at least six registered packages. The robber cut open the pouch and secured two registered packages, probably merchandise. There were two passengers, one of which contributed \$30 in currency. The robber had a mask on the lower part of his face, wore a dirty duck suit and striped cotton trousers.

In Roseburg June 15 a pioneer reunion was held with some 500 in attendance. In the parade led by the Knights of Pythias band, were the National Guard, G.A.R., IOOF, KP, Ben Holiday's coach with six mules, two ox teams of six oxen each,

hauling emigrant trains, followed by citizens in wagons and carriages, forming a procession a mile long. In the afternoon the sham battle of Table Rock took place on Mount Nebo, in West Roseburg. The day wound up with a dance in the armory.

Quite a crowd of students of the Drain Normal School returned home Friday morning. Those from Grants Pass who were in the graduating class were Misses Maggie Chiles, Stella Paddock, Alice Pool, Mary McCarthy and Florence Day.

The Bristow boys were in from their Powell creek mine bringing in the results of 110 days work with pick, shovel and sluice. It was a bottle full of coarse gold valued at \$552, the gold running as high as \$50 in a piece down to fine dust.

An unknown tramp, while attempting to board the brake beams at Glendale Wednesday, fell to the track and was cut to pieces.

From the Rogue River Courier  
November 24, 1904

The Thanksgiving issue of the Courier has 10 pages with title page in three colors, 14 columns of writeup of "Grants Pass—Its Past and Future," illustrated with 13 halftone cuts of local scenes and buildings.

This issue lists the equipment of 26 quartz mines in operation within the territory. "Aside from the quartz mines of southern Oregon there are some 125 hydraulic placer mines in this district which produce from \$1,000 to \$60,000 each annually."

From the Files of the Oregon  
Observer, Sept. 9, 1893

Wimer Bros. Mine near Waldo evidently carries a very fine grade of gold. After their recent cleanup they shipped a 40-pound piece of bullion which went \$31 at the mint. This is a good showing and is far above the average.

## Seventy Years Ago

From the Oregon Observer  
March 7, 1896

The total receipts for the school year last past ending March 1, 1896, was \$7032, of which \$4400 was raised by taxation in the city, while the balance was from state, county and other sources. The total expenditure amounted to \$6,874.

The latest advices from Kerby are that the snow is 32 inches deep in that town, while higher in the mountains it is sure to be much deeper. This gives hope that the season will not turn out so disastrously to the placer miners as was expected, and it may be that the mining season will be extended far into the spring. In the meantime the young folks in and around Kerby are having lots of fun by taking large dry beef hides, hitching horses to them by the horns of the hides and going sleigh riding. What an original idea—sleigh riding on an ox hide.

The Williams correspondent reports that on Monday last Jim Wiggins and George Sparlin picked up a gold nugget weighing five ounces, in the old placer near Williamsburg. It is also reported that the Messenger boys have struck another pocket from which they took \$600 in two days.

DEC. 1899

Frank South, superintendent of the Victor mine, came into town Saturday night with three gold bricks, valued at \$12,000, the result of 15 days' run of a five-stamp mill. The mill has been running about six months, and in that time has turned out enough gold to pay for the mine and equipment.

The sewer system which is

fairs has been abandoned and the only end sought by this country is adopting the present policy with Spain is the desire to add Cuba to the United States."

Spain has 126 war ships, the United States has 50, including 11 iron clad battle ships to our six. Spain has 26,000 sailors while our country has 7000. The cities and ports in Spain are impregnable, our rich cities are much more numerous and nearly defenseless. Of course in the end we would conquer but, in the language of the street, "what is there in it for this country"

From the Daily Courier  
July 23, 1927

Fiddler's Gulch in the Illinois Valley near Kerby is the scene of another rich gold strike. A Walker, one of the owners of the Brittany mine at which a real discovery was made last season, has some fine specimens of ore taken from a six foot vein which will average \$100 to the ton. Some specimens of ore taken from the vein were so heavy with gold they would assay \$121,000 to the ton. The strike was made by Lawrence Milks and Bert Gallagher, workmen at the Brittany mine. The latest find is only a few hundred feet from the George mine where a rich strike was made last year.

From the Oregon Observer  
April 16, 1892

Jackson and Josephine counties, of which Grants Pass is the trade center, have turned out over \$42,000,000 worth of placer gold in the past 40 years. And the quartz ledges from which this came are as yet untouched.

1917  
W. S. Copley, watchman at the California mines on Mt. Reuben was badly bitten by a 2½-foot rattlesnake July 25 having stepped on the rattler. Copley being alone successfully doctor-ed himself by applying poultices made from beaten egg mixed thickly with salt. When the first poultice was removed in 20 minutes it had turned green. The fourth poultice showed only slightly green. A cloth saturated with turpentine was then bound on the wound. Copley reports that he now feels no ill effects from the bite.

## Sixty Years Ago

From the Rogue River Courier  
February 11, 1897

Landlord Booth of the Western hotel has enclosed 100 square feet with a tight board fence eight feet high to keep his chickens from bothering the neighbors.

A petition was circulated around the streets last week praying Messrs. Benson and Harmon not to vote for Mitchell for senator.

There is no need of the city buying new lumber for cross walks when those 4x12 planks on the edge of Sixth street side walks can be utilized for that purpose. These planks were put down a few years ago for no purpose but to run the city into debt for lumber and they ought to be taken away, as they are only an eye sore.

A hobo who had his toes frozen off up north was begging around town. Some \$6 was raised for him and he celebrated the event by getting drunk. Next day he called on Judge Chiles for help to get to Roseburg, but didn't succeed in drawing on the county. He then asked for something to eat, which was given him.

Petition of H. A. Rotermund for a sidewalk on E street and remonstrance by J. K. Pigney against the same were received by the city council and referred to the street committee.

James Evans returned last week from Spirit Lake, Iowa, where he had been visiting friends. He like all others coming from the frozen East is glad to get back to warm showers and pleasant sunshine of Southern Ore-

gon, where the frogs holler all through the mild winter. His visit back home resulted in missionary work in inducing several Spirit Lakeites to think of locating with us. There is plenty of room here.

The Legislative blockade still continues. Monday night an attempt was made to ballot for senator, but only 39 responded.

A good audience confronted the participants in the "Smoked Pearls" entertainment at the opera house Tuesday night and the spectators were well repaid for their presence. The band of colored minstrels composed of leading ladies of the town must have had a master hand for a tutor, judging from the way they rendered the various plantation songs, jokes and glees. There were 13 of them in the first part, colored with burnt cork, and in the height of Darkey fashion, broadcloth and gorgeous neckwear, though of course retaining the regulation ladies black skirts. The audience was kept busy guessing at the identity of the minstrels, although most of these are well known in our city's social life.

Belding and Dowell are in 100 feet on their tunnel at the head of Green's creek, about six miles from town. The ledge is so wide that a 4-foot tunnel only makes a hole in it. A stamp mill will be erected on the ground soon.

An \$85 nugget was picked up on the Hayes-Jewell mine on Oscar creek last week. This claim has become noted for the size of its nuggets.

Carrying a coffee tin filled with 76.86 ounces of gold, worth about \$2,250, C. R. Stout of the Esterly mine travels to Grants Pass to turn the gold over to a local bank to be sent to the mint.

William Robertson and Virgil E. Hull, with their crew, come to Grants Pass to "cash in" on 640 ounces of gold, valued at about \$20,840, produced in about four days from a ledge uncovered at their Bunker Hill quartz mine near Galice.

## Sixty Years Ago

From the Regue River Courier  
March 18, 1897

Spuds are being shipped from Portland for Josephine county use. They retail at 1 1/4 cent per pound. It looks as though we ought to be able to raise our own potatoes, but we didn't do it last year.

Hogs have been wintering well on the Applegate this year without other feed than they could rustle for themselves in the woods — acorns and manzanita berries. The porkers keep fat.

A school house is to be built near the east line of the Gorham place on Jump-off-Joe this spring. A post office to be called "Green" is to be established on the Gorham place with Mr. Gorham as postmaster.

A hunter named Reeser with a companion killed a pair of cougars near the Ore-Fino mine at the head of Jump-off-Joe Sunday. The "varmint" had just finished eating a deer they had killed when the hunters appeared upon the scene with their dogs and guns. The trophies created quite a sensation Monday afternoon when they were hung up in front of the Ahlf butcher shop to be skinned.

Carson & Son are drifting in at a depth of 300 feet on their Oscar creek placer. They run the pay dirt out on cars and wash it in sluice boxes at the creek. They have struck an old channel, rich in coarse gold.

Bill Flamme, the pocket hunter, is following a rich seam of gold on the side of a hill in Dry diggings, within three miles of

town. He has already taken out several hundred dollars and the pocket is by no means exhausted.

Charles Sexton Saturday brought in a 4-ounce vial nearly filled with coarse gold from the Wines places at the head of Jump-off-Joe. They have been running two monitors during the wet spell, but the water has given out for the present.

There are 11 paupers at the poor farm at present. Four of these are old and helpless and have to be handled like babies. Nels Johnson tries to run away every chance he gets and gives his keepers lots of trouble.

F. H. Schmidt is preparing to build a neat dwelling house on his farm across the river from town (Pacific - Redwood junction). It will be two stories and a brick basement, provided with modern heating apparatus.

School election at Wolf Creek resulted in making a director out of G. W. Kearns, and re-electing M. C. Davis clerk.

The prize fight that took place at Carson, Nev., on St. Patrick's day is the first one that ever occurred in the United States under protection of the law. A pavilion has been erected equal in seating capacity to the old Coliseum at Rome, which accommodated over 20,000 semi-barbarians to witness the brutal combats between prisoners of war and wild beasts. Fitzsimmons knocked out Corbett in the 14th round by a hard blow over the heart.

## Sixty Years Ago

From the Rogue River Courier  
April 22, 1897

The proposed reduction of salaries of city officials will bring the pay of marshall down from \$70 to \$55 per month; street superintendent from \$60 to \$45; recorder from \$25 to \$15 and treasurer from \$12 to \$7.50. These figures, it is said, will enable the city to scrape along without getting deeper into debt each year while absorbing the saloon licenses and the 5-mill levy.

A prospector picked up a \$140 nugget at the head of Jump-off-Joe creek last week. It was shaped like a piece of strap four inches long and rather thin, and was found lying right on top of the ground.

An "Old Channel" rich in gold, crosses the Siskiyou at the head of Althouse creek and has been

traced across the Illinois valley in a north-west course, thence across Rogue river below the Sherer placer, and then into Douglas county, striking the rich diggings of Cow creek. In the early days striking this channel meant pounds, not ounces of nuggets, but it takes digging and piping to uncover them now, although the old channel is exceedingly rich wherever dug into. Modern methods will make it yield more gold than ever in the near future.

It is high time Grants Pass city authorities adopt measures to prevent bicycles running on the sidewalks. Almost daily collisions occur with pedestrians who have the right to the sidewalks, while the wheels have not. Before some lady or child is injured, steps should be taken fixing the penalty for bicycle riding on the sidewalk.

From the Daily Courier  
Week Ending March 27, 1914

With his grip weighed down with 11½ pounds of pure gold, H. A. Corlis wooed fate Monday by walking into the Courier office and coolly exhibiting the brick of precious metal. The day's run on the Corlis and Dean Dry Diggins mine a mile and a half below Galice, the property recently sold to Martin and Daniels, Alaskan miners who are now operating it. The value of the egg shaped gold brick was considerably over \$3,000.

J. W. Lucas came in from his mining property on Sucker creek Thursday. He says that there is the greatest interest throughout the Illinois valley in mining and that there are more men in the district than have been there for many years. He visited the rich strike recently made by R. Boswell and Son on

Sucker creek and reports the quartz the best he has ever seen. Estimates of the amount of the rich ore now in sight run as high as \$25,000, with every indication it will continue back into the mountain.

Great crowds have been going out to the head of Louise creek the past week to gather yellow lamb tongues. As many as a dozen different parties may be counted at one time on many days. This variety of lamb tongue is quite uncommon in this vicinity.

C. A. Hervey lost one of his team of grey horses on Thursday by drowning. While attempting to ford near California bar, the horse reared and threw himself on his back. Will Hervey who was driving, cut the harness from the horse but could not get him out of the water in time to save his life.

## Sixty Years Ago

From the Rogue River Courier  
May 13, 1897

The Southern Oregon Medical association met in Grants Pass Tuesday evening. Several physicians from Jackson county towns were in attendance.

Several four-horse teams have been busy this week hauling baled hay to Kelly's mill from the warehouse at the Grants Pass depot. The heavy log wagons of the mill are used and the distance the hay is hauled is nine miles.

The business men's carnival at the opera house Tuesday evening was quite a success, 33 firms being represented. Mrs. J. H. Booth, as Queen of Commerce, made the opening address. Proceeds were for the benefit of the Epworth League.

The city council of 1896 closed its career May 6 in inducting Major J. W. Howard into his office. ex-Mayor Abe Axtell delivered a short farewell address, and with characteristic generosity at-

ter presenting our new mayor with a fine rosewood gavel, extended to both outgoing and incoming officers an invitation to a farewell banquet at the cafe of Richard Walker.

Frank Hayes brought in 40 ounces of gold dust from his Oscar creek diggings, the result of a short season's run in the canyon of big nuggets.

Davidson & White are running an arrastra by horse power on their big quartz ledge three miles west of Kerby. The primitive mill has been in operation three weeks, but no cleanup has yet been made, as a cleanup on an arrastra is a serious matter and means the tearing up of the whole stone foundation of the circular basin in which the stone drags travel.

The proposed annexation of Hawaii will put a quietus on the duty which the proposed Dingley bill is about to put on Hawaiian sugar.

## Seventy Years Ago

From the Oregon Observer  
February 3, 1894

Capt. A. B. Smith and J. Henderson were in from the Caves Wednesday, the former laying in supplies and gathering a force of men to commence work on the wagon road along the Williams creek route. They propose to open a wagon road through from the end of the old road to the Caves and run a line of stage coaches until the electric road is built. They are also building houses at the Caves for the accommodation of the public in general and the San Francisco Examiner party, who are taking such an interest in the exploration of the Caves.

a small mill. They have about 75 tons of ore on the dump and propose to put in a five-stamp mill.

Swinden & Hayes are working their placer mine near the Carson nursery. Last week they picked up a nugget worth \$155.

A number of changes have recently been made in the freight schedule between here and Portland. It has settled down to an every other day freight, and lays off from 30 to 40 trainmen between Ashland and Portland. The freight division has been retained for Grants Pass instead of continuing through to Ashland.



band JAN 23, 1900

L. L. Jewell bought and shipped about 500 ounces of gold during the year 1899. At the average price this amounts to \$85,000. The gold production of this locality finds its way to the mints through various channels.

On Monday W. G. Wright melted up \$140 worth of gold for W. H. Lee of Jacksonville, who extracted it from a pocket near the Applegate.

**From the Daily Courier  
Week Ending April 8, 1921**

Bullion, nuggets and dust, representing a money value of more than \$20,000, from the mines of Josephine county, are on display at the International Mining Congress which opened at Portland Tuesday. Guards are maintained over the display all the time it is open for inspection, and at night it is taken to the police station where it is guarded. The local display also includes valuable recoveries of platinum taken from the placer mines along with gold.

M. Norden came in from the Boswell mine with three magnificent bricks of pure gold, the result of the most recent clean-up. During the past two weeks the Boswell has yielded five bricks of the combined value of \$10,000.

1898

It is no uncommon thing for miners to come to Grants Pass with nuggets ranging in size from \$2 to \$20 and even larger. Jack Hokum came in from Jump-off Joe with an eight-ounce nugget of \$170 gold. Hogtie, who resides 10 miles down Rogue River, came in with a \$200 nugget which he picked up in a gulch near his home. Some parties came in from the Dry Diggins a few days ago bringing 16 ounces of gold dust, the result of 14 days work.

APRIL 1919

Edward Hottenroth, Selma merchant, brought to Grants Pass some very rich specimens from a new and very rich strike

of free gold, which is heavily mineralized and assays between \$15,000 and \$20,000 per ton. This comes from the claims of Dailley and Casey, located on Briggs creek and reached by the chrome road from Selma.

Ever since the days of '49 mining has been going on in the Grants Pass section and many millions have been taken from the placer diggings of this locality. It is a fact that in the early days this part of Oregon was classed with California and much of the gold taken out here went to swell the reputation of the golden commonwealth that overshadowed this section. Placer mining still continues in this vicinity and more than \$1,500,000 in gold is taken from the placer grounds of southern Oregon annually.

APRIL 1909

**Sixty  
Years Ago**

**From the Daily Courier  
Week Ending March 8, 1912**

Charles Burkhalter of Grants Pass is exhibiting one of the most handsome chunks of gold ever taken from a placer mine. The mass of yellow metal weighs \$120, and came from the Oscar Creek Mine. Not only the big nugget but other gold from this mine will be placed on exhibit at the Josephine County bank.

The richest gold strike in southern Oregon since the days of '52 has been unearthed two miles from Central Point, and the entire county is wild with excitement. On the Hershberger strike the rich pay streak continues to grow richer. Within two hours more than \$500 in coarse gold was taken from the ledge. This mine is in the famous Willow gold producing history dating back to 1852. Within a radius of

one mile from the Hershberger claim there are no less than six rich pockets being worked, and from \$50 to \$100 being taken out each day by a single miner.

From the Rogue River Courier  
June 19, 1908.

The Takilma smelter at Takilma blew in last Monday and about 25 large wagons are now hauling coke out from here, with all the way from two to eight horses to a wagon. The distance from Grants Pass to the smelter is 45 miles and it requires five days to make the round trip, taking out a load of coke and bringing in a load of copper matte. This slow time is largely due to the heavy roads over a portion of the route.

## Sixty Years Ago

From the Rogue River Courier,  
April 16, 1903

The well known Simmons-Cameron mine of the Waldo district, one of the largest hydraulic placers in Southern Oregon, has had this season the most profitable run of many years. J. T. Logan, the manager, has initiated a number of improvements since he took charge of the property, the most notable being a hydraulic elevator which was installed last year. This mine has a water supply which is almost unlimited and the efficiency of the elevator is emphasized by this circumstance.

Wimer Bros., in their mine near Waldo, have unearthed and secured at various times, a number of mortars which are beyond question relics of a prehistoric race. They are found in the old gravel of an ancient channel 50 or 60 feet below the surface firmly imbedded in a cemented gravel near the bedrock. The mortars are made of hard granite and ironstone. There is no similar rock in the formations of the immediate vicinity though both varieties of stone are found plentifully on Rough and Ready Creek, some two miles away.

Some of the mortars were probably used for grinding food, while others seem to have been used as quartz mortars.

A new series of limestone caves were discovered last week on Deer creek by Roy Bunion and Guy Wetherbee while hunting in that locality. The caves are situated on the mountain lying between Deer creek and Chaney creek, and are in all likelihood an extension of and connected with the Chaney creek caves. The boys were out hunting and by chance discovered the entrance which was covered by a thick growth of manzanita and chinquapin brush. They returned to their camp for candles and made an exploration of the interior. They penetrated into the mountains about 150 feet but were afraid to venture too far as they had no string or wire to insure their safe return to the surface. As far as they went and still continuing, it was a labyrinth of chambers and passage ways, with openings extending high above or deep down into the mountain. There is a strong current of air in the caves making it difficult to keep a candle lighted and indicating the existence of another opening.

## Sixty Years Ago

From the Rogue River Courier  
February 4, 1904

John Ranzau last week sold his hop crop, consisting of nearly 60,000 pounds to San Francisco parties at 28 cents a pound, the top price for hops this year. The bulk of the Josephine county crop was contracted early in the season at prices ranging from 15 to 17 cents, while growers who had not contracted their crop received from 18 to 24 cents. Already many growers have contracted their coming crop the ruling price being 17 cents.

Services in connection with the dedication of the new Baptist church will be held on Sunday, March 6. Rev. C. A. Woody, district secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission society of New York will preach in the morning.

Improvements are steadily being made in the Grants Pass railroad yards and there are more to follow. The new 30-ton steel turntable has been completed and a gang of men has

been busy filling in about the new roundhouse with granite and leveling the yard.

L. L. Jewell received this week from his Oscar creek mine a handsome bunch of nuggets, the largest of which weighs nearly \$40. This is not the same \$40 piece reported found last week. Nuggets of this size are found so frequently on Oscar creek that they cause little comment.

The biggest nugget ever taken out in this county came from Althouse. It was found in the early days and old miners place its value at somewhere near \$3,000. Years ago Daniel Miller of Miller creek on Missouri Flat, found a nugget valued at \$400. The largest piece taken from Oscar creek weighed over \$400 but contained some quartz.

A special school election was held on Tuesday to vote bonds to pay for the new school house. The amount is \$12,000 and the vote stood 35 to 0 in favor of bonding.

## Sixty Years Ago

From the Rogue River Courier  
April 26, 1900.

A visiting correspondent called on L. L. Jewell and was shown a plate of gold nuggets valued at \$2000. One of the nuggets, nearly as large as a man's fist, valued at \$242, came from Oscar creek. Oscar Creek mine brought in \$85,000 in gold last year and other parties brought in \$75,000. One gold mine sent out \$150,000 direct, so that \$500,000 is a conservative estimate of the gold output tributary to Grants Pass.

J. P. Tufts, "the true story is that when a postoffice was wanted here and a petition was sent back to Washington, it contained no name, and the authorities sent back word to fill out the petition with a name. Mr. Croxton, an old man, simply named it Grants Pass, after a local name he had given a pass here" (General Grant never was here.)

The graduating class held its commencement exercises on Thursday, the speaker being Judge H. L. Benson, former principal of the Grants Pass school.

# Fifty Years Ago

From the Weekly Courier  
February 8, 1907.

The Golden Drift Mining company has completed extensive improvements and added more heavy equipment to its monster power and hydraulic pumping plant in the Dry Diggings district.

One of the most peculiar of the placer mines in Josephine county is that of Archie Tyner near Holland. The ground lies high upon the divide between Sucker creek and Althouse. The only available water for working comes from two or three short gulches that yield a flow only during the wettest weather. The gold occurs in nuggets so uniformly coarse that pieces of less than \$1 in weight are classified by Mr. Tyner as "fine gold."

The Murphy correspondent suggests that L. M. Mitchell will probably know how to unhitch a horse from a buggy by the time he gets that rubber tire repaired that he tore up last Sunday night. He tells us that for education the

school of experience is best, but the tuition is what we might call extravagant.

The Queen of Bronze people have more ore in sight than ever before and the prospects are that the smelter will have a long, steady run the coming season. Mining experts say we have a great copper belt through here and one cannot help believe it with the good showing made by the numerous mines around here, states the Deering correspondent.

As James Parks with a four-horse team and load of hay, with Parks riding the wheel horse and Dick Sowell and Frank Kelly riding atop the load, crossed the Chapman creek bridge, four miles from Kerby on the Holland road, the bridge, weakened by high water washing out the underpinning of one of the piers, tipped and the team and load slipped into the water, with the bridge on top of the horses. Three of the horses drowned. Parks was slightly hurt, the others were scared but not injured.

1910

W. H. Lee brought in a fine lot of gold and quartz this week from his Mt. Sterling mine to be melted for shipment. He had pieces which prospected as high as \$300,000 a ton, being half gold, and \$5,000 rock in his collection was no rarity.

S. N. Butters of the Althouse Tunnel Hydraulic company, came in from Althouse this week with a \$1,000 gold brick, a partial cleanup from the mine.

DECEMBER 1900

John Hall has recently made a remarkably rich gold strike at his mine on Grave creek, which would create a great deal of excitement in any country but this. On one side of a two-foot ledge, the ore of which gives high values, he has a seam of decomposed vein matter several inches wide which is literally full of gold, and he has already taken out several hundred dollars with a pan.

At the city council meeting

## Fifty Years Ago

From the Daily Courier  
Week Ending March 6, 1914

A swat-the-cigarette campaign was inaugurated by the city council when an ordinance restricting the sale and use of the "coffin nail" was passed. Under the new law it is unlawful to sell, barter or give tobacco, cigars or cigarettes to minors under the age of 18 years. Another provision makes it unlawful for minors to smoke or use tobacco in any way upon the streets, alleys or other public places of Grants Pass.

The Ladies' Auxiliary has had for some days a force of men busy beautifying the grounds of the Central school and a transformation has been effected which will make this one of the beauty spots of the city. The ladies have taken up this work with a view of town

improvement and in order to meet the necessary expenses they are giving an entertainment on Friday in the Commercial Club rooms, having secured Charles Riley McCalley, an entertainer of ability.

Two more farm names have been officially registered at the courthouse, the E. J. Wilcoxon place at Murphy to be called "Applegate Acres" and the George Seebach place on the Lower River road to be called "Rio Lado."

News was phoned to town last evening that another large nugget was found at the Oscar creek placer where the \$184 nugget was found last week. The new find is said to weigh in the neighborhood of \$130. It was found embedded in the gravel several inches above bedrock.

## Sixty Years Ago

From the Rogue River Courier  
April 26, 1900.

A visiting correspondent called on L. L. Jewell and was shown a plate of gold nuggets valued at \$2000. One of the nuggets, nearly as large as a man's fist, valued at \$242, came from Oscar creek. Oscar Creek mine brought in \$85,000 in gold last year and other parties brought in \$75,000. One gold mine sent out \$150,000 direct, so that \$500,000 is a conservative estimate of the gold output tributary to Grants Pass.

There is a story going the rounds that seems to meet the popular taste, that when General Grant came through the valley in early days he engaged in a game of poker with some of his friends and in the course of the game said, "pass," hence they call it Grants Pass," but said Pioneer

J. P. Tufts, "the true story is that when a postoffice was wanted here and a petition was sent back to Washington, it contained no name, and the authorities sent back word to fill out the petition with a name. Mr. Croxton, an old man, simply named it Grants Pass, after a local name he had given a pass here." (General Grant never was here.)

The graduating class held its commencement exercises on Thursday, the speaker being Judge H. L. Benson, former principal of the Grants Pass school. Members of the class were: Mamie Paddock, Myrtle Williams, Mary Jenkins, Nellie Graff, Lida Fyfield, Ina Lister, Ellen Keyes, Roy Hackett, Roy Kremer, John Winders, Water Keyes and Clyde Hockett. An admission charge of 15 cents was made in order to defray necessary expenses.

## Fifty Years Ago

From the Daily Courier  
Week Ending March 10, 1916

Two bricks of gold weighing 290 ounces and valued at \$5,510 were brought to market by J. T. Logan as the harvest of the Logan-Cameron placer mine at Waldo for the month of February. The mine was not operated this year until the first of February because of the necessity of making extensive repairs and improvements. The first National Bank has also received the February clean-up of the Anderson mine on the Illinois river, this amounting to a brick weighing nearly 100 ounces. It is a matter of daily occurrence during the mining season for the various banks of the city to receive the clean-up of the placers around the district, of which dozens are now in operation. Many of the bottles and cans full of the precious metal that find their way

into the channels of trade here are never recorded in the public press, and the federal estimates of the amount of gold mined here are also far short of the actual amount.

Josephine county leads counties of the state in the number of minerals, according to a bulletin published by the University of Oregon. The bulletin lists 47 minerals found here, platinum being the most valuable.

Three bricks of gold that weighed 485 ounces were brought to the First National bank, this being a part of the monthly clean-up at the Logan placer mines at Waldo. The value of these bricks was more than \$9,000. Not all of the sluice boxes were cleaned up and the total output for the month is expected to reach \$14,000.

AUG. 1, 1916

## Big Finds Listed In Southwestern Oregon

The largest nugget ever found in the Southern Oregon district was discovered in 1859, by Mattie Collins on the east fork of Alt-house Creek. This piece of gold weighed 204 ounces, 17 pounds troy and was valued at approximately \$3500. The present price of refined gold would have brought its value up to more than \$6000.

Some of the other finds in local properties have been:

1858—Vaun nugget, \$800., found on Slug Bar near Browntown.

1892—Oscar Creek nugget, \$365, found by Boardman Darnelle.

1904—Klippel nugget, \$500 found in McDowell Gulch.

1919—Oscar Creek, in the early

1900's several large nuggets, \$240, \$125 and \$100.

1934—Burns nugget, 34.37 ounces approximately \$1000, found in the Stovepipe Mine on Brimstone Gulch, near Leland.

1934—A piece of float found on Foots Creek by E. R. Prefountain while placer mining, weighing out more than \$450.

There have been several notable "pockets" strikes from which large amounts were realized, among them by Scribner and Henderson, Wolf Creek district in 1900; \$50,000; the Briggs strike, Sucker Creek district in 1904, approximately \$35,000; and the Robertson, in the Galice district in 1926-27, variously estimated at \$100,000.

## Fifty Years Ago

From the Daily Courier  
Week Ending April 16, 1916

Lester Layton came in from the Layton mine on upper Althouse river bringing to market the product of a three-weeks' run of the placer mine. The two bricks that represented the clean-up weighed 50 ounces each and were valued at about

From the Daily Courier  
July 6, 1916

A recent discovery in the sluice boxes at the Logan mine in the Illinois valley of a Spanish coin bearing the date 1784, is held to establish the approximate date of the gold seeking operations of the Spaniards in southwestern Oregon. Findings made in the deep gravel during the past generation have confirmed the belief that Spaniards visited this section of Oregon in quest of gold antedating any local history. The Logan property, then the Simmons mine, was first worked in 1852. A small crucifix, much worn and corroded was washed from a gravel bank into the sluices and still later a small metal pendant bearing the Latin legend "Mater Dolorosa — Ora Pro Nobis." This surrounds the figure of a saint whose heart is pierced by seven daggers. On the reverse side is a likeness of the crucifixion. This and the crucifix are thought to establish the early work of the Franciscan friars who founded the mission at Monterey in 1770 and later founded the mission Dolores in San Francisco.

Sunday O. A. McAllister was vigorously plying a hoe in the sluice boxes at the Watts mine. He made several jabs at a rock in an effort to hurry it up in its travel down the sluice box but it refused to be hurried. He picked up the rock. One look was enough. The rock was pure gold 3½ inches long and almost as wide, with a thickness of a half inch. It weighed 11 ounces, 11 pwts and 11 grains, and its value was \$205.

Gold brought in by W. W. Lawton from the Higgins strike weighed 125 ounces and was worth more than \$2,000. It does not represent the season's run by any means for there will be other marketing days for the fortunate owners of this mine.

## Forty Years Ago

From the Daily Courier

Week ending June 19, 1925

Shipments of gladioli blooms from the Gladioli gardens of the Redwood highway, six miles west, started Monday. P. H. Jewell, who conducts the ranch, states that within two weeks he will be shipping a hundred dozen blooms a day.

A checkup on Dollar Day shows that the merchants who participated in the event had a big day, certain lines such as the dry goods stores doing exceptionally well.

The city council of Jacksonville took action which it is hoped will start a local, county, state and nationwide movement in the interest of putting more gold in circulation. The resolu-

tion urged the merchants and people of Jacksonville community to use as much gold as possible in all business transactions, rather than paper currency, the object being to stimulate the circulation of gold and thus help out the mines of the Pacific coast section, from which it is said much of the present output of gold comes.

The Crater Lake Highway is now open and in fine condition to Annie Springs camp, states J. G. Bromley, resident engineer. He reports that this is the best time to make a trip over the highway as the scenery is at its best and the road is not yet dusty. From Annie Springs the hike to the lake is not hard with the hikers going over seven or eight feet of snow in places.

From the Daily Courier

Week Ending December 12,

The bureau of mines reported Josephine county produced in gold 10,015 fine ounces valued at \$350,507; silver 1,021 fine ounces, valued at \$734; copper 167 pounds; lead, 50 pounds during 1935.

## Seventy Years

From the Rogue River Courier  
February 11, 1887

T. J. Kenney, the largest dealer in hides in southern Oregon, informs us that he has purchased in two months, 3,078 pounds of deer hides. It would require about 1300 deer to make that weight. We may safely say that the same amount was purchased by other parties, which would require 2,800 deer.

K. J. Kubli, one of the owners of the Kubli-Swinden mine in the Applegate section, brought with him to town a nugget that was picked up on the bed rock recently. It was 4 3/4 inches at its greatest length and 1 3/4 inches wide. It is flat and very thick and its value is about \$125. It is almost pure gold and shows hardly a trace of quartz or other degrading matter.

From the Files of the Oregon Observer, May 27, 1893

The city council is considering an ordinance aimed to close all business houses on Sunday except hotels.

Never were the indications more flattering for heavy yield of agricultural products in the valley. Fruit trees of every variety are loaded with fruit. Strawberries, raspberries, blackberries are plentiful, and the late rains insure good hay and grain crops.

Central Point was aroused again on Wednesday by a rich pocket strike in the Willow Springs district. Bob Swinden started out prospecting in the morning, and finding a particular spot that seemed to attract his eye, he began digging. He didn't go far until he struck glit-

tering metal in a pocket of formation. By noon he had out \$800 in coarse gold, in the afternoon was struck out quartz that contained gold. The pocket was found in an accident, as no surface indications led to its discovery.

## Seventy Years Ago



**From the Daily Courier  
Week Ending July 3, 1926**

People of the city are using great quantities of water this summer, with consumption averaging 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 gallons daily, R. W. Clarke, of the Rogue River Water company reports. The hot, dry weather at present is increasing the use. There have been 75 absolutely new connections since the first of the year.

There were eight days in June when the people of the valley really felt like summer was here, with the temperature on these days above 100 degrees. The hottest day was June 6 when the mercury sailed to 108½, the hottest June day ever recorded in the city.

Two new rich gold strikes Thursday are causing gold fever in Southern Oregon to assume new proportions. From the hills

on Fidler gulch, associated with some of the early mining history of Josephine county, comes word of another strike which may rival that of several weeks ago in the Galice district. Specimens of gold ore were brought in from the Brittany mine eight miles west of Kerby. Rich free gold showing in every piece of rock. Some of the ore appears as rich as that of the now famous Robertson mine. Rich free-milling ore was also brought in at the Afterthought mine on Thompson creek.

Strike is following upon strike in the Southern Oregon gold fields. The latest find is that of W. C. Barker, who is operating a mine on Grave creek, and who has placed some of his quartz on view at the office of the Southern Oregon Mining bureau. He has found quartz shot full of gold. The gold is from a six-foot vein, all-bearing free gold.

**From The Daily Courier  
Week Ending September 9, 1917.**

The first of America's conscripted army reached Camp Lewis September 5. The first detachment included 93 men from Seattle and 2500 from all parts of the Northwest. America's first 34,350 drafted men bade home goodbye and marched away to war.

Within the last few days the sale of the Logan placer mine at Waldo has been consummated, the purchase price being \$140,000. Geo. M. Esterly and associates of Seattle are the purchasers.

It is reported that the season's output at the Logan-Simmons placer mine near Waldo was \$40,000 in gold. The yield in platinum was also large.

About 1300 tons of copper ore was shipped from the Queen of

Bronze mine near Takilma during July, when 85 men were employed.

The Greenback mine is in operation. New machinery has been installed and will be in operation this fall. The entire plant has been electrified.

Saturday afternoon Sheriff Lewis, in the presence of a number of spectators, emptied the contents of a five-gallon keg of whisky into the gutter at Sixth and B streets. The booze trickled down the gutter giving off a strong odor which reminded old-timers of the early days in Grants Pass when everything was wide open.

Tucker and Fife, of Takilma, who have the Cow Boy, Maybelle, and Little Copper mines leased, are shipping about two carloads per week. The ore runs 10 percent to 36 per cent copper.

## Sixty Years Ago

From the Files of the Rogue River Courier, June 23, 1964

The most wonderful gold discovery ever reported in Oregon was made a week ago Sunday by Ray Briggs by pure accident. The boy, who is 18 years of age, was hunting on a mountain near Thompson creek and stumbled onto a ledge of almost pure gold cropping out of the surface. The find was of such magnitude that the boy, miner that he is, could not realize that he had made a record breaking strike. He carefully gathered up a double handful of the best specimens and secured a chunk of the quartz about the size of a candle box, which he took home to his father's placer mine. The rock was quickly crushed in a hand mortar and it yielded nearly \$800. The next morning found the Briggs families, David Briggs and two sons, George Briggs and Charles Howard and son at the place of the find and three claims were staked out. Then began active mining with a hand mortar and in two hours they had secured \$2000. By night rich quartz was stacked up in piles. By Thursday night they had mortared out \$25,000. An additional \$7,000 has been

taken out Saturday. The gold is found in decomposed quartz, in some instances the gold being in layers of inch or more in thickness and standing on edge with a layer of decomposed quartz sprinkled with chunks of gold along-side. Already prospectors are scouring the hills and a stampede is expected.

One of the most daring hold-ups and robberies carried out in this section in years occurred at 8 o'clock Thursday evening at the Roswell mine five miles from Holland. The robbers secured three gold bars worth \$6,000, and made their escape. R. Boswell and his son were melting down their dust of the past two days' pannings when two men suddenly entered their home and ordered them to throw up their hands. The Boswell's were bound and gagged and tied to trees. Young Boswell worked himself free and released his father. The robbers had camped some distance away and watching through a telescope the operations at the mine had timed their actions.

Messrs. Cook and Baysie, two experienced miners, in sinking a hole for a well on Missouri Flat Wednesday, struck a six-inch quartz vein at a distance of four feet below the surface, and in going down four feet further they took out \$300. The vein is rich and promises to be continuous.

Browning and Hannum of Grave Creek brought in two gold bricks Monday, one weighing \$2,500 and the other \$1,500. This was the return from 16 1/2 tons of ore. The ore was crushed with an arrastra.

From the Daily Courier  
Week Ending May 18, 1916

A jar containing 72 ounces of gold, the cleanup of the Layton placer mine on Applegate, was brought to Grants Pass. The value was around \$1600 and was the second harvest within the past 60 days. The later recovery of dust and nuggets from the bedrock will be of even greater value.

From the Rogue River Courier  
May 26, 1898