

90-51-3

Activities of Oregon State Geology Department in Josephine County Area

The State of Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries maintains field offices in Grants Pass and Baker for the purpose of conducting its activities directed toward encouraging the development of Oregon's mineral resources. Duties of the department are defined in Oregon revised statutes and itemized in each of the biennial reports of the Department. They are mainly as follows:

1. Conduct geological and mineral resource studies.
2. Carry out economic studies for utilization of mineral raw materials.
3. Cooperate with federal and other public agencies in studies of value to the state.
4. Serve as a bureau of mineral and geological information, compile and keep up to date a mines catalog, prepare and publish reports of investigations and mineral statistics.
5. Collect specimens and develop a museum.
6. Collect a mining and geological library.
7. Make qualitative and quantitative analyses of rock, mineral and ore samples.
8. Administer Oregon's oil and gas act and participate in administration of tide and submerged lands act.

The main office of the department, located in Portland, includes the chemical laboratory facilities and spectrographic laboratory. Assays of various ores are made by the department and a limited number of chemical and fire assays can be obtained on samples originating within the state, free of charge. Rock and mineral identifications are also done without charge at all offices.

Persons wishing to obtain geologic information of a general or specific nature will find it helpful to call at either of the field offices or the Portland office of the department. Arrangements can also be made (more easily during the off field season) to have department geologists examine your prospect or mine in order to

\$3,200 Nugget Found in 1854 In Althouse

1885 Courier
From Althouse

On the claim of Chas. Felt and George Gleason, known as the "Old Sling Claim," a nugget of gold was recently picked up which weighed seventeen ounces. On the same claim in the year 1854, one weighing nearly \$3,200 was found. A few weeks ago a Chinaman on the claim immediately above found a nugget weighing fourteen ounces. The ground in this vicinity is noted for its great richness, and is quite extensive, and also for the large nuggets found. There is scarcely any fine gold in this vicinity.

Oregon Observer
August 29, 1903

help you solve problems of a geologic nature.

The department is presently engaged in its third season of a state-wide geochemical sampling program. Samples of fine sand from streams and their tributaries are collected and analyzed for trace amounts of copper, zinc, molybdenum and mercury. The samples are being collected by student geologists from Oregon universities. Information of the results of the geochemical sampling program is available to the public at any stage of completion and may be obtained on request.

Special area studies being conducted by geologists stationed in the Grants Pass field office include a geologic and mineral potential resource study of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness area by Len Ramp and a regional study of recent volcanic features in Central Oregon designed to encourage its utilization as a lunar research facility by Norm Peterson. A special lunar geological field of vulcanology and lunar geology the world over will take place August 22 to 29, 1965 in Central Oregon. Department personnel have been instrumental in preparing for this special event and the guide book for the conference is edited by N. V. Peterson and Ed Groh.

\$300 Nugget Found on Wagner Creek

The Courier
May 28, 1886

A Nugget weighing \$300.00 was recently picked up by McDonald on Wagner Creek. It is said to be a beauty.

Thomas Gilmore of Waldo came in to see us on Saturday last. He reports the miners in that section preparing to clean up.

Rich Mine; Loses Mind

The Courier
May 29, 1885

Mr. H. P. McNevens, the expert on the Big Yank Ledge at Galice Creek, was brought to this place yesterday in an insane condition. The mine is a grand paying property, and it is reported that his being interested in it has caused him to become deranged. He has a large force of men at work there and the developments are such as to surprise the most sanguine.

BEAR AND ELK HUNT

The Courier
Aug. 27, 1886

A. S. Barnes and Mr. Asher, of Lucky Queen precinct, gave this office a call on Tuesday. They have just returned from a pleasure trip in the mountains in the vicinity of Galice creek and report having killed two elk and some bears besides some smaller game. That must be delightful sport.

Present Mining Activities In Josephine County Region

GREENBACK MINE

The 10 ton ball mill at the Greenback Mine can often be heard these days grinding ore from the outcrop of the main Greenback vein. The gold is caught in the form of amalgam and concentrates. Some of the ore is rich enough to show free gold visible to the unaided eye.

It is hoped that a more favorable climate for gold production will see the operation expanded in the near future.

BUNKER HILL MINE

The portal of the lower tunnel at the Bunker Hill Mine has been retimbered and several hundred feet of track laid. This work has been done in preparation for extending the tunnel far enough to intersect the high grade ore chutes found in the upper workings.

BENTON MINE

A test run of several tons of ore from a newly discovered outcrop of ore on the Benton Mine is being run through the Greenback Mill. The ore shows good sulfide mineralization and some of it shows a considerable amount of free gold. Most of the gold at the Benton Mine is locked in the sulfides and had to be recovered by the cyanide process.

DOODLEBUG QUICKSILVER

Joe Inman and Joe Fitzpatrick, veteran placer miners, have teamed up with Chauncey Florey of Medford and are working the Doodlebug Quicksilver at the head of Bailey Gulch off Palmer Creek in Jackson County. Ore is coming from an open cut and a lower

adit in altered greenstone that contains disseminations and fracture coatings of cinnabar.

OAK MINE BEING EXPLORED

Oak Mine Inc., of Grants Pass under the direction of Lloyd E. Frizzell, local consulting geologist, is presently exploring the Oak Mine. The mine is north of Grants Pass near Jump-Off-Joe Creek in sec. 4, T. 35 C., R. 5 W. Frizzell with Bob Shannon, Ernest McTimmonds, and Francis Adams have

reconditioned the road, opened up 60 feet of caved adit, retimbered the portal, installed 400 feet of track, and put in air and water lines for drilling. The present workings have been ample and preparations are being made to raise 122 feet following an ore shoot exposed in the south drift near the cross-cut adit. Frizzell says there are four known ore shoots and he hopes to prove sufficient ore to develop a small profitable mining operation. The ore is massive and fine-grained disseminated sulfides, consisting of sphalerite, pyrite, pyrrhotite, chalcopyrite, and some galena. The main values are in copper, zinc, gold, and silver. Earlier Bureau of Mines tests show that the ore can be concentrated by selective flotation.

TURNER-ALBRIGHT EXPLORATION:

The Turner-Albright Mine southwest of Grants Pass has been explored during 1964 and 1965. In 1964, the McPhar Geophysics, Ltd., Company made an Induced Polarity study of several gossan-covered areas.

One anomaly between the north and south workings has been drilled during the winter of 1964 and spring of 1965. The drilling indicates a massive brecciated sulfide zone from 88' and still present where the drilling ceased at 127'. The drilling was done by Bob Shannon, Grants Pass driller, supervised by Lloyd Frizzell, local consulting geologist.

RED DEVIL CINNABAR

Vern Shangle and Ed Pease of Medford have recently taken an option on the Red Devil Cinnabar prospect. The Red Devil, discovered in 1963 by Everett McTimmonds of Grants Pass, is near the head of Diamond Creek in secs. 8 & 9, T. 41 S., R. 10 just north of the California border.

Lloyd Frizzell has conducted a preliminary investigation of bulldozer trenching and shallow drill holes. Sampling of the trenches and drill holes shows low grade cinnabar mineralization over a considerable area.

VALLANDIGHAM MILL

Dave Vallandigham has recently completed constructing a small gold concentrator mill situated near his home on Powell Creek west of Provolt. He is milling gold ore from his Dark Canyon mine. Mill equipment includes a 8 x 15 primary jaw crusher, 25-ton ball mill, clark cone, sand classifier, a four-cell Denver flotation unit, and a 15-foot Wilfley concentration table. He has been working ore from the dump and is preparing to mine new ore in the near future.



VERN POLK AND FAMILY display a crystal-encrusted bucket found in an old gold mine tunnel in Josephine County, in the Sucker Creek region. The bucket was part of the mining and ore display in Sourdough Gulch.

Sourdough Gazette

Published By
JOSEPHINE COUNTY
SOURDOUGHS, INC.

Harvey Dickey, President
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Advertising

Who Are Jos. County Sourdoughs

The Josephine County Sourdoughs is an organization of persons interested in the development of the mineral potential of Southwestern Oregon. Some of the members are prospectors and miners. Some are business men who can remember the important part that mining played in the development of this section of the country when the comparative price of gold and other minerals was sufficient to give an incentive to men to develop the mines of this area. We are all looking forward to the time when mining will again play an important part in the economy of this area.

There are two membership classes — active and associate members. Active members are those who are directly involved in mining and pay a yearly fee of five dollars; Associate members, who do not vote, pay a \$2 membership fee and are not presently engaged in mining.

Sourdough meetings are held the second Tuesday of the 1st, the second Tuesday of each month at the Community building in Grants Pass.

BRICK CLAY FOUND

Oregon Observer
Feb. 23, 1910
Workmen at Gold Ray are now engaged in opening up a deposit of clay that is to be used in the manufacturing of brick and pottery and it is said that within a short time a machine with a capacity of one hundred thousand bricks per day will be installed.

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Old Mine Cabins Disappearing

By JACK HAWKINS

The great flood of 1964, the heavy snow that followed, and the building of new roads have destroyed many cabins on mining claims in the last year. At least 30 cabins were lost in the flood alone. Many of the estimated 300 habitable cabins in Josephine County have been damaged to such an extent that no repair can be expected.

The approach to the new bridge proposed at Hellgate Canyon on the Rogue River was responsible for the removal of a cabin that had been perched high above the river for many years. This cabin could be seen by any traveler to Galice, just upstream from the present bridge and across the river. Another cabin that no one failed to notice was upstream another quarter mile from the bridge. It had been occupied for years prior to the flood, and only the demolished woodshed now remains as evidence of a miner's home.

Downstream from the bridge, and again across the river from the road can be seen faint signs of several homes that the flood

carried away. The cabins that remain are becoming more and more a rare thing. Only one cabin has been built from scratch in the last three years on a genuine mining claim, and it is doubtful if there will ever be another.

About half of the cabins in existence at this time in the County are lived in the year around. Some of the rest are used during the winter placer season, some during the summer panning season, and a few are bolted shut by their owner's in the hopes of future use.

A mining cabin has a value to its owner far above that of mere roof, walls and floor. No one has ever heard a miner belittle his home. Every cabin built in these hills and valleys has a character that can be literally felt by the discerning observer. One can not fail to see pride looking out from every window, even if boarded shut. Pride founded on faith, hope, hard labor and a glorious independence.

One has only to go around Eight Dollar Mountain and across the Illinois to Josephine Creek to get the flavor of the miner's way of life. Never was the air so pure, nor the creek so crystal clear. Drive to the end of the road, along the several creeks to the very foot of the mountain. You are welcome to look at the remains of cabins that are obviously abandoned but be careful not to destroy the slightest thing. If there are warning signs beware, and continue on to another. If there are signs of habitation give a loud "hello" and probably a miner will come up from the creek to pass the time of day.

There are cabins in the unlikely places. There is a cabin on Triller Lane, another one right alongside New Hope Road. There are cabins on Grave Creek, Wolf Creek, Coyote Creek, Sucker Creek. There are many cabins scattered along Althouse Creek on the way to, and beyond Browntown. There are probably a greater number of cabins on the 25 mile stretch down the Illinois below Selma than anywhere else in the county. There is a cabin within a quarter mile of the foot of Hayes Hill. Don't bother to drive down Snailback Creek to the Illinois. That cabin was destroyed by the recent flood, as were several more upstream all the way to the mouth of Josephine Creek.

One Cabin that can only be reached by trail was assembled by its owner in town out of light metal. It was then taken apart piece by piece and packed in by burro and reassembled at the mining claim site. Many of the cabins are made of logs. Many are made of poles and split cedar shakes. Some of the larger ones are made of logs that have been squared with an adze or broadaxe. All of these buildings are very precious to their owners who are the friendliest people you will ever find. One only needs to drive until he meets a miner, ask him about his cabin and others, and he will hold in his memory history that soon will be a thing of the past. Shakespeare felt the same way about his bones as the true miner feels about the timbers of his home when he wrote in his epitaph "blessed be ye who spares these bones, (timbers) and cursed be ye who moves these stones."

GOLD OUTPUT

Oregon Observer
Feb. 2, 1910
The estimate of the mint indicate a gold output in Oregon in 1909 of \$712,900 against \$905,900 in 1908, and a silver production of 71,100 fine ounces in 1909, against 56,100 fine ounces in 1908.



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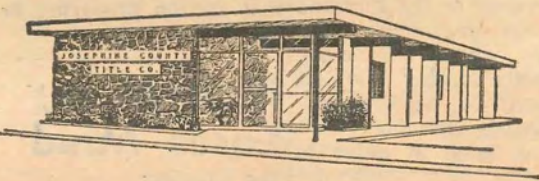
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Events of Early Gold Mining Days

WILLIAMS CREEK MINERS REPORTED DOING WELL

The Sentinel
Jacksonville, Feb., 12, 1859
Mines on Williams Creek
We learn from a correspondent that the miners on this creek are doing extremely well as a general thing. The diggings are paying from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per day to the hand and there is now plenty of water to work them. Mr. Kendall & Co. took out on the 27th one piece that weighed \$15.00 and \$26.00 in fine gold in one claim they were prospecting and many more prospects have been struck that will pay full as well. Our Correspondent thinks that claims will average from \$8.00 to \$10.00 per day for all work done. On this creek where these diggings are being worked no prospecting had been done until last fall. There are now 200 men on the creek and ditches are being brought in to supply mines with water during the dry season.

OLIVER MARTIN NUGGET LARGEST OF CONTINENT

Oregon Observer
Nov. 9, 1910
Story of the
Of all the romantic stories told of gold discoveries in California not one is more remarkable than that of which Oliver Martin and a companion named Flower had been prospecting for gold to no purpose. Worn out by hardships and half dead from starvation, they were

on the point of abandoning the quest in despair when fate administered the last crushing blow.

They were overtaken by a terrible storm, in which Flower was drowned. Martin, weak though he was, set to work to dig his fallen comrade's grave at the foot of a tree and had dug down barely two feet when his spade struck a hard unyielding substance, which to his amazement and delight, proved to be an enormous nugget, the largest ever found on the American continent. The "Olive Martin Chunk," as it came to be known the whole world over weighed 151 pounds and 6 ounces and was the nucleus of a fortune of a million dollars which Martin accumulated in later years—
Cassell's Saturday Journal

NEW CRUSHER ARRIVES

The Courier
Aug. 20, 1886
Among the freight received in this city Wednesday via the Oregon Pacific railroad was a quartz crusher consigned to J. Riddle at Grants Pass. It was a new variety of quartz mill, resembling very much a mammoth Missouri steam washer. It consisted of a large hollow wheel with a 400 lb. roller inside, which takes the place of the stamp in the ordinary quartz mill. There is much activity in Southern Oregon mining at present, and there is reason to believe that many industries of that region are yet in their infancy.

RUN-AWAY HORSES CAUSE SERIOUS ACCIDENT

Oregon Observer
Dec. 9, 1889
Mining News
Victor M. Clement, of Salt Lake City, who is here in the interest of Utah capitalists to examine the St. Peters mine near the Greenback mine, met with a serious accident on his way out to the mine. While descending Grave creek hill, the

horses could not hold the carriage and began to run, throwing out Mr. Clement and his friend bruising and cutting him up. Mr. Clement thinks he has broken one of the small bones in his foot.

Winter Flood Hits Galice;

Oregon Observer
Dec. 2, 1899
Old Rogue River is on a tear, and the rain still increasing his fury. The creeks are booming and unfordable. As there are no bridges over Taylor or Galice creeks, our stage cannot get here tomorrow, so if we get any mail it will have to come afoot-back, or follow the river down on the other side and cross in a big boat at the Post Office. Some experts came down yesterday to look at the Big Yank and had to cross the river here and foot it up to Merlin on the other side this morning.

BIG STRIKE CLAIMED

The Courier
Sept. 17, 1886
Galesville, Sept. 14, 1886
Mr. Marshall, Dear Sir: I have a surprise for you. We made the biggest strike last night that has been made on the Pacific Coast in the last twenty years. The second blast last night broke and threw out upwards of seven thousand dollars. Jack, it is a fact, some of the ribbon rock that is from one at four inches is almost solid gold. Rube starts for Portland tonight and will come see you before starting for Europe. Look out in the Oregonian in two or three days.—John Cayle.

SOUTHERN OREGON PRINT SHOPS PRAISED

The Courier
March 9, 1906
Quotation from W. J. Wimer's Historical Sketch of Grant Pass
"The Mining Journal published by the M. J. Publishing Co., Arthur Conklin, editor is a zealous friend to the miner and has been established about 9 years. The Courier, Observer and Mining Journal all have job printing and book binding plants complete and their press rooms are full of the latest appliances in the art preservative.

BIG SILVER VEIN

The Courier
Aug. 27, 1886
Jacob Miller has returned to this place bringing with him some very fine silver ore which has been assayed and gave entire satisfaction. The ledge is sixty feet wide. This ledge is six hundred feet of the Yank ledge on Rock creek. Mr. Miller has known of it for a long time, and says dryly that it will make a mining camp of this section such as it never dreamed of. The native silver is to be seen all through the rock. We of Josephine, are prepared for all the prosperity that may be in store for us and have confidence to believe in its coming ere long.

From the Oregon Observer August 17, 1895

The Coos Bay stage enroute from Myrtle Point to Roseburg August 14 was stopped on Camas mountain by a lone highwayman. Three men and one woman were passengers and the men were forced to contribute. Although two men had several hundred dollars each they succeeded in hiding all but a few dollars. The robber, although wearing a mask revealing only his eyes, was recognized by the driver as a highwayman who had previously held up the stage.

VETERAN MINER DIES; CASKET TOO SMALL

Oregon Observer
Feb. 23, 1910
George Rhoten, one of the veteran mining men of Southern Oregon, died last week at his home on Kane's creek. The undertaker at Gold Hill did not have a casket large enough for

his remains, he being six feet six inches tall. He was one of a family of six, all over six feet tall and all miners. They are what is known as pocket hunters and have in their time taken out some very large pockets four years ago it being claimed that they took out one pocket in the neighborhood of \$75,000.

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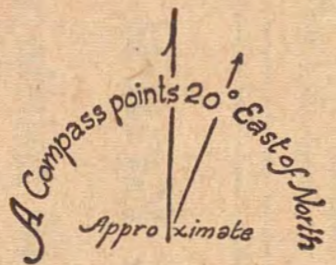
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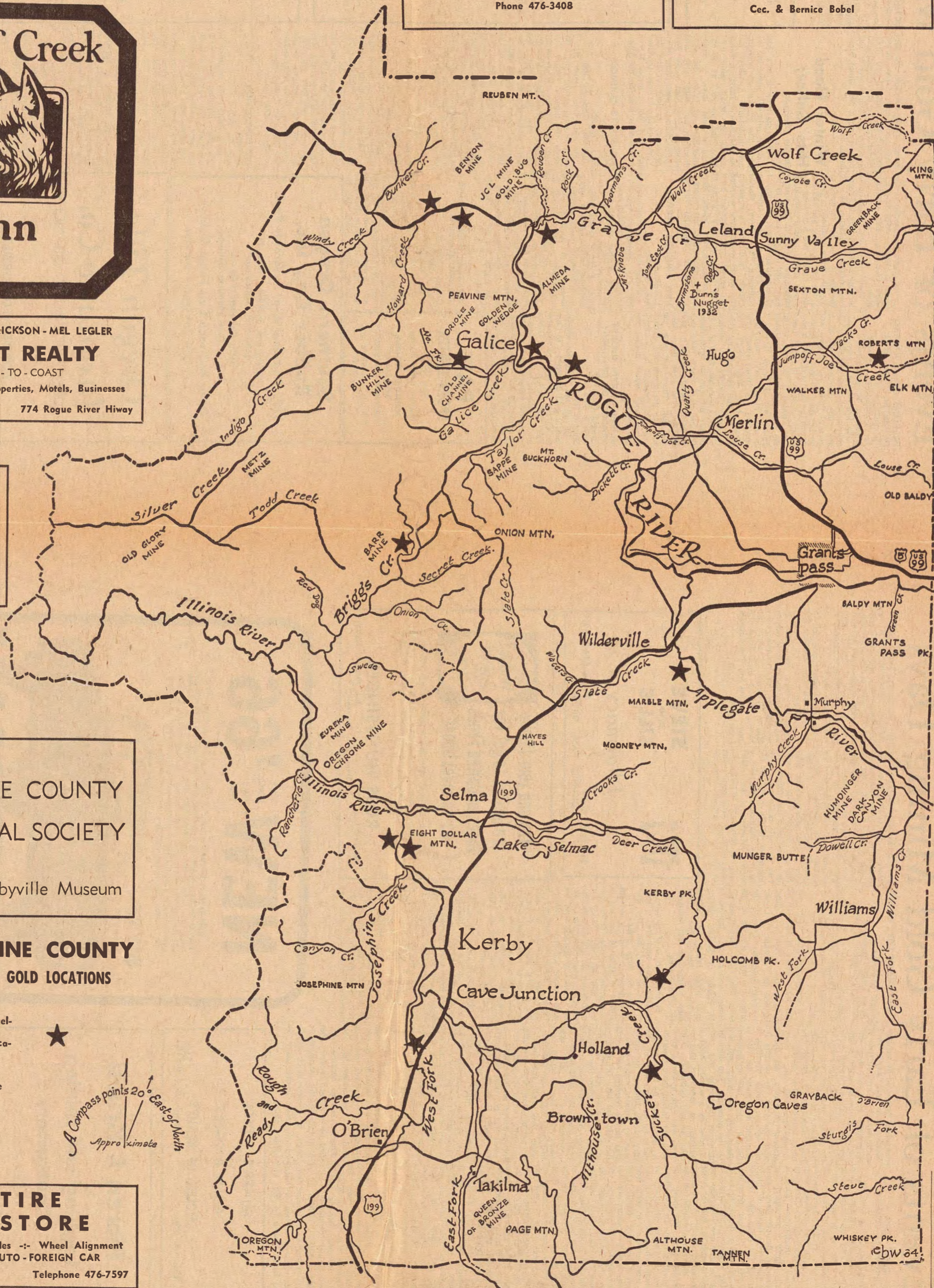
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Events of Early Gold Mining Days

LOST CABIN MINE IN JOSEPHINE COUNTY

Four men, David Rich, E. L. Stovel, Horace Wright and Walter Karth left Benicia in April, 1850 to prospect the mountainous country lying north and west of the Sacramento River. Each was provided with two good pack horses, plenty of firearms, ammunition and a goodly supply of provisions. The diggings at Benicia were good and many were taking out large fortunes, but these men were not satisfied. Love of adventure, coupled with a desire to make a big discovery and create a rush to some new Eldorado, led them to push out into the great unexplored country north, which they believed abounded in the precious metal. The party was detained two days by Pitt River, where they were surrounded by Indians, whom they kept at bay by frequent shots of their long range rifles, and finally concluded that the Indians were too cowardly to make a direct attack, they broke camp and continued on their way without further molestation. They passed around the southern base of Mount Shasta, crossed the Siskiyou north of the Pilot Rock and keeping near the summit of the mountains, left Mount Pitt at the right and continued north to the low divide between the Klamath Country and the Rogue River, and having found nothing turned down the decline west and camped for a few days on the Rogue River, deliberating as to what to do or where to go next. Finally they decided to cross the river and turn west toward the Coast. They were represented as close observers and men of much practical information.

The party reported having passed over much pumice, slag and volcanic matter down the decline to Rogue River, and from the river across the rough breaks to the west they encountered a porphyritic district with moraine, breccia and a finely-ground composite the exact nature of which they were unable to determine. Farther on in a section of rough and badly broken up hills and

mountains separated by streams flowing west and south they came across a large district of serpentine. Here in a deep and heavily timbered gulch, which put into a stream flowing south, was the first gold discovery of the party, and here was built the "Lost Cabin," which so far has refused to be found. The party mined here for about two months and took out a large amount of money. An Indian who was seen one evening by one of the party tracking a wounded deer along the side of the hill, which had just passed, discovered the camp and fled up the mountain. Two days afterwards the camp was surrounded by a howling band of Indians, so numerous that escape seemed impossible. The siege was kept up for a week with the Indian force constantly increasing. As there appeared to be no abatement of the fury of the Indians, the crowd growing greater every day, it was finally resolved to secret the gold and take the chances of escape after night. They decided to go down the stream south and strike the overland road from the Willamette to Sacramento. They left camp about 10 o'clock at night and had gone but a short distance when they were met with a shower of arrows from a nearby ambush. Two of the party were killed and a third so badly injured that he could not travel. The fourth E. L. Stovel escaped unhurt, and made his way to Scottsburg, where he took a boat to San Francisco. Stovel was a lawyer by profession, and a man of much ability. He was in San Francisco but a short time when he was employed by a wealthy friend in the east to examine into the status of certain lands in Mexico claimed under an old Spanish grant, but which claim was denied. While pursuing his researches he contracted a fever, from which he died. It was during his last illness, when he became satisfied he could not recover, that he detailed to his attendant, to whom he became much attached, the route of the party described above.

FRENCHMAN'S LOST LEDGE

Oregon Observer:
Grants Pass, Oregon
Saturday, February 21, 1903

Rich discovery in Gold King Group thought to be the re-discovery of long sought treasure.

A sensational gold strike has just been made in the Gold King group of quartz claims, located on Josephine Creek, Western Josephine County, the pioneer mining district of the state. The Gold King group of claims was recently bonded to M. Marks, a Seattle mining man. Since taking hold of the claims Mr. Marks has given them a thorough and systematic development.

In the process of running a tunnel he has uncovered a body of ore in which the free gold glitters in large grains. The rock gives assay returns of from \$100.00 to \$1,000.00 per ton in free gold. The ledge is ten feet wide and has been traced for a distance of 1200 feet up the mountain from Josephine Creek. Mr. Marks is jubilant with his good fortune and firmly believes he has found the bonanza of Josephine County. He will give the Gold King a thorough development and when sufficiently opened up a mill and complete equipment for the working of the mine on a big scale will be put in.

Old miners here contend that this late strike on Josephine creek is but the re-discovery of a rich ledge that was found and lost nearly 50 years ago. The Frenchman's Lost Ledge was the name of the find, or at least that was claimed to be a remarkable find on Josephine creek. Lewis Belfills, a Frenchman, who mined and prospected through the pioneer diggings of Oregon during the early days and who died in Willamette Valley two years ago

made a discovery on Josephine creek, while coming over the mountains by pack pony from Crescent City in April, 1852. He stopped to take a drink of water from the creek and while so doing was attracted by the glitter of gold from the bed of the stream. He gathered up a quantity of fragments of float quartz that were rich in gold, but was driven from the spot by a band of hostile Indians before he could make a thorough inspection of his find. In his haste he neglected to take a mental inventory of the ground and was never able to locate the spot again. In after years, and in fact up till a short time be-

fore his death, Lewis Belfills searched from end to end of Josephine creek and completely over the hills of Waldo County, but never again could he find even a trace of the treasure that he was given a glimpse of in the early days.

The Frenchman contended to his dying day that sometime the "Frenchman's Lost Ledge" would be found and that it would astonish the whole mineral west by its richness. Mr. Marks believes, at least he hopes, that he has found the long - looked for Frenchman's Lost Ledge.

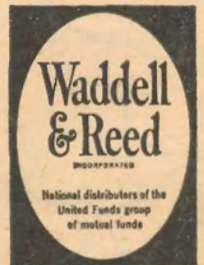


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Gold May Be Found in Most So. Oregon Streams

By ROLAND PRIESTLY

Raw gold can be panned in nearly any of the Southern Oregon all year streams, tributary to the Rogue and Applegate Rivers.

The floods of this past year have opened many new fields of raw land to the delight of the avid panner.

It is a great pleasure and surprise to the panner to see the results of his efforts show in the pan as real gold. The art of panning is not hard to learn.

A few minutes of instruction plus the willingness to make an effort is all that is needed.

There are very few sports that offer so much satisfaction and just pure enjoyment of the outdoors as panning for gold.

The past days of having a full string of gold in your pan is not over. The richer ground that was prevalent then is not as profuse now.

Like anything else that is worth an effort the joys of panning cannot be had without a good application of muscle.

The dirt is still shoveled by hand into the pan. But if you enjoy cooling your feet in a clear mountain stream while you "Pan", the joys of the outdoors are yours for the asking.

Smallest Indian Reservation Is Now Called Indian Mary Park

By LOUIS GARRISON

Indian Mary was the daughter of Umpqua Joe and his wife. It was Umpqua Joe who gave the alarm that saved the whites from a planned massacre. Mary was born soon after that episode. In recognition of the debt of gratitude Umpqua Joe was permitted to remain in the Rogue River valley when the other Indians were sent to the reservation at Siletz. Their home was on a tract on the lower Rogue river below Hellsgate bridge.

Mary was married to Sebort Pico. In a drunken brawl Pico and Umpqua Joe fought a duel, each one being killed by a bullet from the other's gun.

MARRIED AGAIN
Mary afterward became the wife of Indian Joe Peters, who was associated in hunting and fishing with a German of a covetous nature, who, it was reported, made Joe leave the country and he became owner of the home and Mary.

In 1885 the government of the United States gave Mary a grant to the home she had occupied on Rogue river and the tract was known as the "smallest reservation ever

created." It was considered a valuable property.

In 1896, Mary, then in her 30's rented the reservation and with her children, Rosetta about 7 and Richard 5, a small boy 3 and Lilian 1 came to Grants Pass and lived in a quite comfortable house. As the years passed the children were in school. They attended the Presbyterian church, Sunday school, and Christian Endeavor, and particularly enjoyed the Bible stories and occasional special programs in which they took part. People were kind to them, remembering the service Mary's parents had rendered the whites.

This "smallest reservation ever created" has become Indian Mary Park. It is one of the finest parks in Josephine County.

RIDDLE NICKEL ORE BEING TESTED IN 1899

Oregon Observer
Dec. 2, 1899

George K. Quine is in this city from Riddle. He is now engaged in hauling nickel ore from the mines to the station for shipment east to be tested.

MINERS WARNED TO WATCH FOR PLATINUM

Oregon Observer
Dec. 9, 1899
Mining News

C. O. Baker Jr. of Baker and Son New York, one of the leading platinum dealers in the world spent Tuesday in the Pass with W. P. Wright & Son, their agent, making arrangements to buy the platinum of Southern Oregon. At present platinum is selling for \$13 per oz. which is the highest point it has ever reached. Like all mineral products, platinum has made great advance going from \$7 to \$13 an oz. Messrs. Baker & Son annually purchase 50,000 oz. of which over 95 per cent comes direct from the Ural mountains, Russia. It should be borne in mind by the placer miner that platinum can be made a valuable by-product worth as much as gold. So many of the miners do not know platinum. A sample of their sands carefully panned down and sent to W. P. Wright & Son will give them the requisite information.

CLAIRE ENGLE SAID NATURAL GOLD EXEMPT FROM TREASURY ORDER

The late Claire Engle, Senator from California, mine-owner, and longtime champion of the miner's rights, was the man who discovered and asserted that natural placer gold is exempt from Treasury Order which requires gold to be sold directly to the Mint. The wording of the Order which described "milled and minted gold" was taken by Engle to mean that gold in its natural state, not processed, did not come within the meaning of the law. He asserted this right so convincingly that now it is generally accepted that gold dust, flakes and nuggets can be bought and sold freely as any other commodity.

THAR'S GOLD YET IN THEM THAR HILLS!

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Josephine County First Gold Mining Site in Oregon

The first gold mining in Oregon was that done in July 1850 by a party of prospectors from Illinois at the mouth of Josephine Creek, so named by them for a small girl with the party. The Althouse brothers, for whom the Althouse district was named, were in this group.

Soon after a party of sailors, reputedly deserters, from a ship at Crescent Bay located gold gravels on the Illinois River and started the Sailors Diggins camp. One strange legend of this site is that as they dug into the gravel they uncovered white man's tools — especially a shovel — left many years before.

The big strikes near Jacksonville in December 1851 were the ones, however, which brought the first real gold rush to Oregon — coinciding with the fact that the richer grounds in California had all been taken up and some even worked out. Before long mining towns had sprung up over Southern Oregon: Jacksonville, Buncom, Phoenix, Allentown, Willow Springs, Browntown, Waldo, and Kerbyville. The first miners to work these fabulously rich placers were impatient for rich rewards and often abandoned a claim as soon as the gravel dropped in its yield of gold, moving rapidly to any reported new strike. Intent upon working only the very richest ground by crude hand methods, they were unencumbered and could easily move on and set up again in a new field.

The earliest miner's councils to organize into mining districts — embryo governments — were Sailors Diggins and Althouse in April 1852. These early day districts governed by a miner's council were the law of the land in the absence of any formal government.

By 1854 districts had been formed at Gold Hill, Upper Applegate, Lower Applegate, and Galice. The Ashland district was organized in 1858, Grave Creek, Coyote Creek and Wolf Creek followed in 1860. The Grants Pass district — the first of the hard rock miners organizations — as formed in 1863 at the time the Jewett mine on Grants Pass mountain had built an 8-stamp mill.

By the 1870s mining had necessarily settled down to the orderly development of the lower grade, but widespread placer gravels. This required the building of long ditches and flumes for large-scale hydraulic operations. At this time many Chinese, recently released from the Transcontinental railroad, were brought in as construction laborers. — The Chinese usually worked in large gangs, or "companies" headed by a boss-man manager, but before long broke up into small parties who left the construction jobs to "work over" the depleted placers deserted by the original miners. At this many of them were successful, eventually incurring the jealousy and hostility of the white miners.

Many of the big placers reached the peak of activity in this period — the largest — the Old Channel Mine, near Galice, in 1876 was being worked around the clock.

Lode gold mining became of importance in the 1890's, the Greenback in 1897, the Silent Friend in 1900 and the Eureka and Granite Hill in 1901. The Benton Mine, developed in 1911, became the biggest producer, and was the largest industrial employer in Josephine County

until its closure in 1942 — closed by War Production Board Order L-208, which ordered all non-essential mining closed down. Gold mining was then considered non-essential.

The records of the U.S. Mint, are not always an accurate yardstick of Gold production, since much gold has been retained by the finders, much has been kept as specimen and show pieces, some has been made into jewelry, and a lot of it was used in its natural state for exchange and often hoarded. Mint records, however, show nearly seventeen million dollars produced in the State of Oregon from 1848 to 1882 — at the then prevailing price of gold this represents an even million Troy ounces of pure gold. The following sixteen years the record production for Southwestern Oregon was \$5,800,000, and the period from 1900 to 1912 — \$5,500,000 nearly, the peak year of 1906 produced \$600,000. Gold production then declined steadily except for a small increase following World War I.

In January 1934 the Mint price of gold was raised from \$20 to \$35 per fine ounce by an Act of Congress. With improved machinery and mining methods, more efficient dredges and the higher price production increased dramatically in Southwestern Oregon — reaching a peak of \$1,050,000 in 1940.

World War II effected a major set-back in gold mining activity. Higher wages lured many miners into Defense industries, many went into mili-

Were the 'Gallese' Indians Descendants of Welsh Group?

Galice appears on the early maps as "Gallese" an Old English name for the Welsh, and a name given to a fabulous tribe of lost Indians.

Now, one of the most persistent legends about the early settlement of North America centers around a Welsh prince, Maidoc, who left Wales with a large party of adventurers in a fleet of ships sometime in the 11th century. Legend has it that these people settled in North America and became assimilated into the native Indian tribes.

After the American revolution — and the cession of the Northwest territories to the new United States, the legend had a popular revival in England — no doubt sponsored by those who were still trying to re-establish English ownership of the territory.

One learned Society in London posted a reward of twenty thousand pounds (about \$120,000) for the discovery of the descendants of the Gallese, who it was reasoned, could be identified by the remnants of Welsh speech they would retain.

Lewis and Clark were well aware of the legend and once hearing of a tribe who spoke a strange tongue — investigated. Lt. Whitehorse to investigate. So it was — there are dozens of stories among the early explorers who almost found the ancient Gallese.

Now, the Indians of Galice

tary service, and material shortages crippled many operations. The War Production Board Order classifying gold mining as non-essential and ordering closure of the mines was a blow from which mining has never recovered. Since then, the post-war rise in wages and prices and the frozen price of gold have created a situation not likely to encourage production.

creek spoke an exceedingly intricate language unrelated to their larger neighbors the Chasta Costa and Takelmas. One disturbing feature of the language was the infixing of "tun" or "tun-tun" in the middle of a word evidently at random. From this the natives were often called "Tootemies" or "Toontoonies."

Although no record of it exists, it is quite possible that some early visitor dubbed them "the Gallese," perhaps recalling Lt. Whitehorse's description of his encounter with another tribe: "They might well be the Welsh for they speak with such a burr upon their tongues."

The Courier
June 25, 1886
From Missouri Flat

P. Buckhalter has just cleaned up after a three months run. His mines paid him \$103.00 per month. Good work and good pay. Peter

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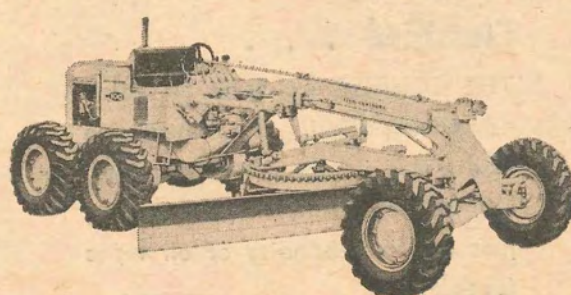
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