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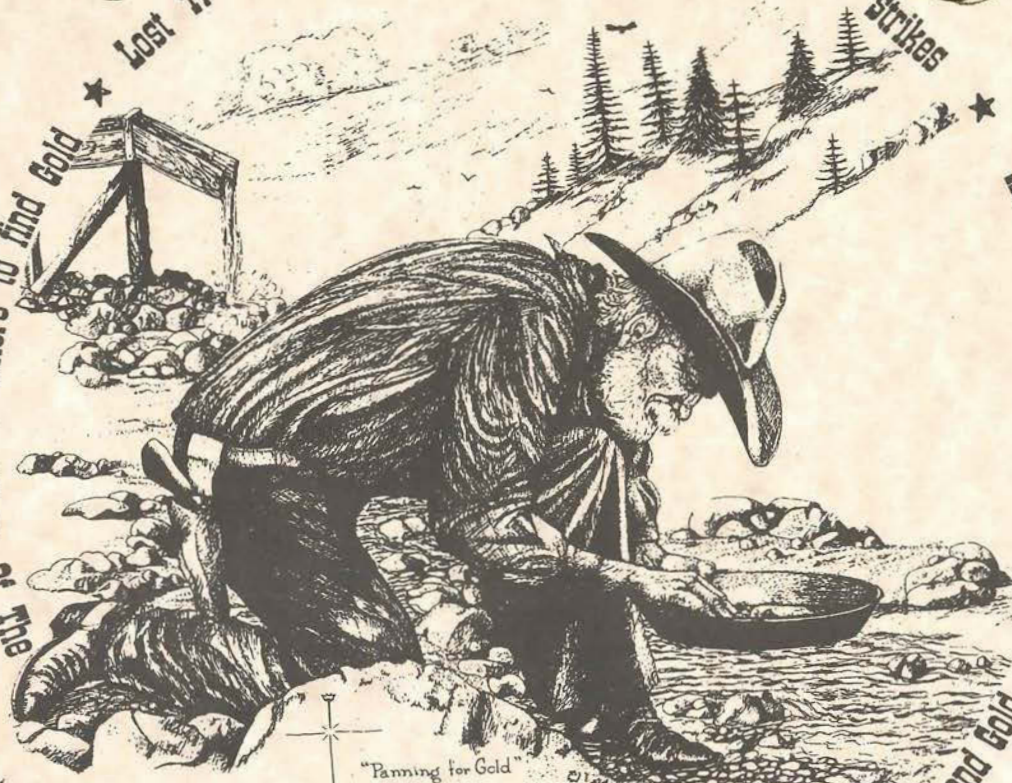
GO WEST

★ Lost Treasures

★ Historic Ghost Towns

★ Gold Strikes

★ Where to find Gold
★ Maps of the West



★ How to Find Gold

★ Weekend Gold Panning

★ West

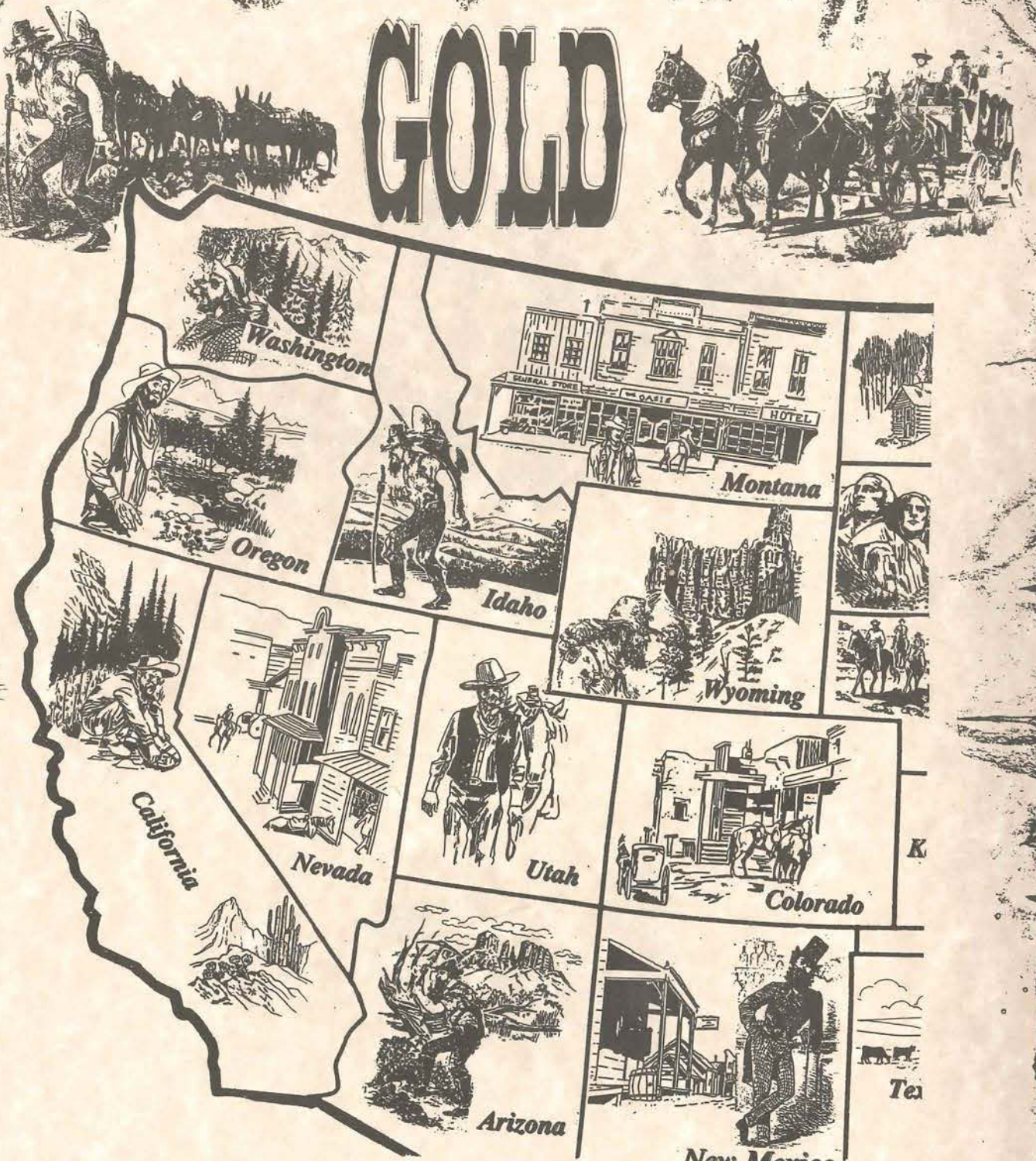
Historic Western Trails

★ Vol. 2 ★

★ How to Stake Your Own Gold Claim ★



GOLD



Gold is all around us though we're not aware of it. Gold is a trace element in many plants and animals. Soil contains 0.005ppm average, fresh water contains 0.00003ppm, sea water 0.000012ppm, even the ash of some coals are slightly enriched in gold, 0.05 to 0.01ppm. In nature gold occurs predominantly in it's native state or as a major constituent of various alloys containing silver, copper or platinum. Gold deposits have been discovered in most of the western states.. With modern technology it is likely that 100 times more gold will be discovered and recovered than what has been mined since the 1849 gold rush in California. Opportunity still awaits the treasure seekers, in the vast unclaimed Lands of the West.

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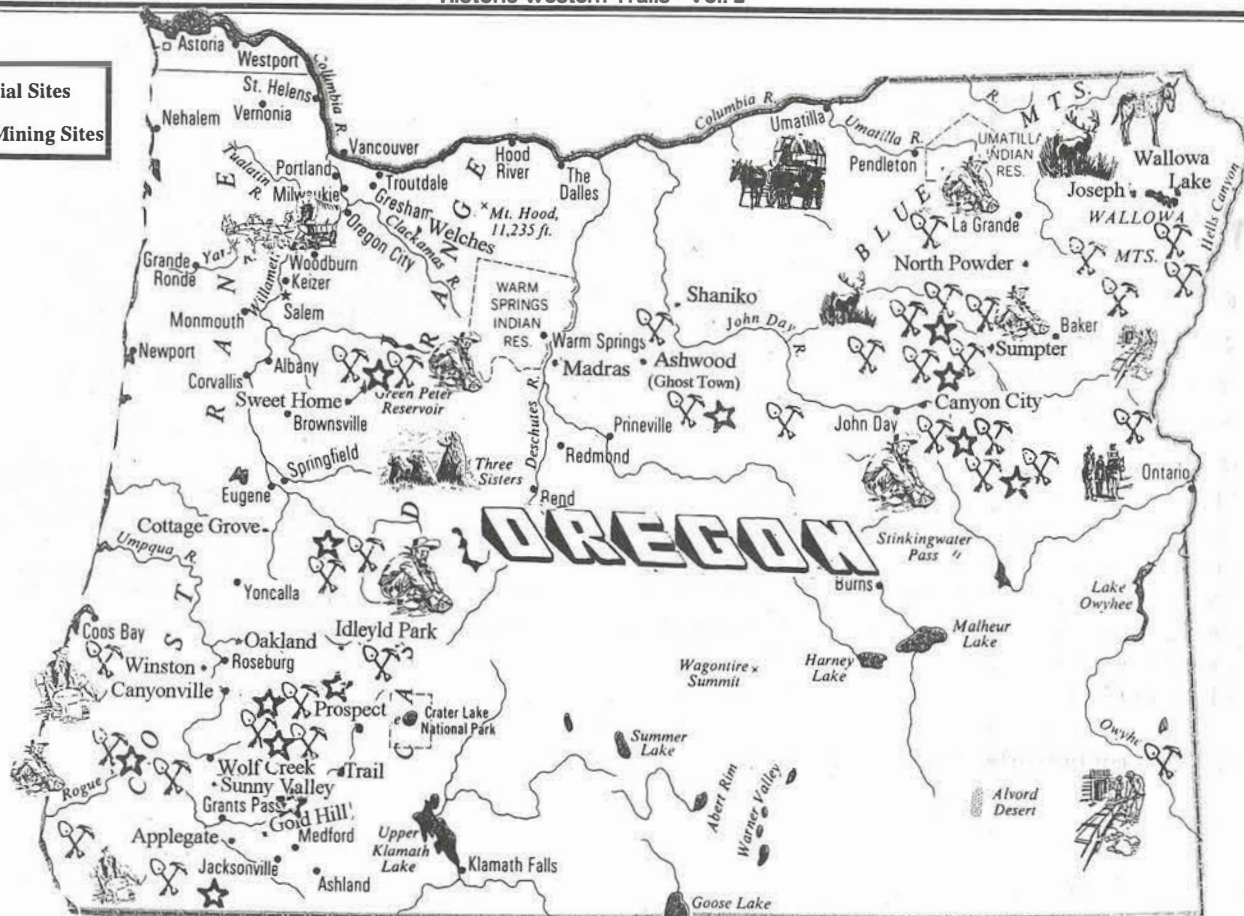
Crown art works

Gold Panner on front cover is original work titled "Panning For Gold" by Marge Mayes, artist

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Screened art this page by Marge Mayes

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- 2- Butte Falls Recreational Area
 SW Oregon
 Medford District BLM
 3040 Biddle Road
 Medford, OR 97504
 (503) 770-2200, Free Site
- 3- Applegate Ranger District
 SW Oregon
 6941 Upper Applegate Road
 Jacksonville, OR 97530
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- 4 Fee Sites Charge is \$1.00
 per day for panning
- 4- Wallowa-Whitman National
 Forest NE Oregon
 Forest Supervisor
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 Baker City, OR 523-6391, Free Sites

- a - Eagle Forks Campground
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- b - McCully Forks Campground
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Gold has been used throughout history. It was used for jewelry cups and ornaments for centuries. Gold has been found in the tombs of ancient Egypt dating back to 3,500 B.C. The coffin of Tutankhamen was made of gold and weighed 242 pounds.

Gold was the treasure that spurred the explorations of the early Spaniards and even Columbus. The early Spaniards sent ships loaded with iron pyrite back thinking it was gold. Iron pyrite is commonly known as "fools gold." They learned "All that glitters is not gold" first hand.

Gold has been found in every state. In America one of the first "gold rushes" occurred in 1799 in North Carolina. A 12 year old by the name of Conrad Reed found a 17 pound nugget in a stream just 40 miles northeast of Charlotte. His father sold the nugget to a jeweler for \$3.50. The Georgia gold rush was in 1829 and of course the 1849 gold rush in California helped settle the west.

Gold. After the California gold rush there were more, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Washington and Oregon followed. The gold rush in Colorado in 1859 at Pike's Peak opened Colorado to settlement. Thousands went to Nevada in the 1860's, then to Idaho and Montana from 1861 to 1866, and the Black Hills of South Dakota occurred in the 1870's. The last great gold rush was to Alaska in 1897.

Gold today is used for many things, jewelry and dentistry use the most. Many other industries use gold as well, for computer circuits to radiation shields on the helmets of astronauts.

One third of the gold ever mined, about 1.1 billion ounces is in government vaults around the world. The mint in Fort Knox, Kentucky is the home of most of this nations gold reserves.

GOLD FEVER, it gets into your blood and inspires you to search for treasure, always hoping to strike it rich. Maybe its your turn, you'll never know unless you try, its still out there somewhere.



The Gold Prospector

drawing by Frank Murdock, P.O. Box 2406, Missoula, MT 59806-2406

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Quartzville

Written By
Martha Steinbacher, Director
East Linn Museum

An August 14, 1960 copy of the Sunday Oregonian had an interesting article about Quartzville. It said "Oregon's State Highway map shows Quartzville to be located in the mountainous region of Eastern Linn County about 34 miles from Foster. A good scenic but crooked black-top road leads to the locality, but where when you get there, is Quartzville....Now the place is so very dead that even the ghosts have fled". The Oregon Spectator for February, 1849 reported discovery of gold in the Santiam Country. This yielded \$4.00 a day for those who panned along the streams. "Small pickings."

In 1860 Asahel Bush's Salem paper reported 500 miners were panning gold in the Santiam country forty to fifty miles from Salem, "color up there up to \$2.00 a pan." About this time a reporter for Bush's paper, perhaps Bush himself, returned to Salem from this alluring region of potential riches along Quartz Creek. He acknowledged that there was "Some gold, less grub and no whiskey at all and the lack of stimulant was a great calamity. Really, it was unsafe to drink chilly Santiam water without addition of the warming influence." He had departed the auriferous region, he said, not because panning failed but for "reasons of his health".

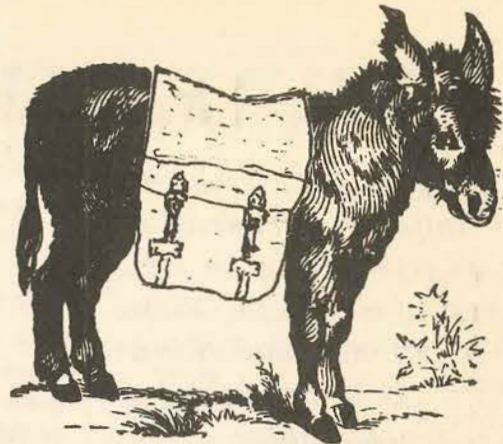
There was a big problem - how to get to the Quartzville mines. A new route to the Santiam mines and Quartzville at the base of Gold Mountain, 90 miles from Portland was proposed. The new

road would take those who had determined to enhance their fortunes to Oregon City, Sublimity, across Potter's Ferry on the South Santiam and thence by way of Fox Prairie and Meadows to the summit of Gold Mountain. But the road was not even partially completed until September, 1865 when the stage delivered Miss Dimick and M. Keller, the first ladies to travel the route, and 600 pounds of freight to Quartzville and Bryant City (the first red-light district in East Linn County).

August 25, 1864 a poster appeared in Salem that almost shouted, "Ho! for Quartzville." All persons wishing to go to this region of riches were to meet at the courthouse armed and equipped. Also every man would furnish his own rations for the four days, a horse and other necessities gratis.

Quartzville was platted, at least on paper, in 1865. No records of that plat can be found in Linn County Courthouse. Notices on trees named those who claimed lots on vague streets in an unidentified area of brush and stumps. But after 1866 came cold reality and a host of warm expectations were painfully chilled. Santiam mining stocks came to be regarded as nothing more than waste paper. Those who held stock got it out of sight and tried to just forget. Two men who were badly afflicted visited Quartzville in 1869 to haul away wrought iron from the quartz mill as the only salvage worthy of the cost of transportation.

When J. Henry Brown, the historian, visited Quartzville in 1871 he observed the place to be in decay, a ghost town where the bats and owls roosted in vacant buildings and where gaping, exhausted tunnels had the appearance of hideous bores. Col. J. W. Redington, a mining expert summarized the Quartzville boom of the 1860's by saying "There was gold there all right, but



The story of the Lone Burro Express was so unusual that it published in Ripley's famous Believe It Or Not. The faithful old burro traveled the 12 mile trail between Quartzville and Robert's Station, Oregon alone carrying the supplies and daily mail for the miners there.

it was so mixed with antimony, controversy and acrimony that it couldn't be separated."

Then in 1894 W. B. Lawler started to construct a twenty mile road from the rail head at Gates to Quartzville where he planned to build a twenty-stamp mill, establish a post office to be called Amiden to escape the stigma of Quartzville and build housing for 100 miners. Quartzville was back in business. Their initial outlay was \$100,000 and during the first year they made most of this first cost. In 1896 production of gold was reported as being in excess of 3,000 ounces.

"Legless" Jim Church, whose frozen limbs were amputated as a consequence of trying to get outside and bring relief to snowbound and starving miners, drove the six-mile freight wagon from Gates to Amiden over Lawler's steep and dangerous road. Late in 1897 Lawler's enterprise failed. The saloon and red-light district at nearby Bryant quit too. Amiden post office closed June 16, 1902. The second gold rush to South Santiam country was over.

During the Depression unemployed men moved to Quartzville and mined as extensively as their limited resources would permit. And now the miners are active again in the Quartzville area still chasing that elusive mineral called GOLD.

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Bohemia, There's Still Gold Here

by John Watson

In 1858 Frank Bass and William Oglesby discovered the first gold in the Bohemia District near what is today Cottage Grove, Oregon. In the late 1800's and early 1900's mining reached its peak in this area. Millions of dollars worth of gold has been extracted by both small time prospectors and major mining interests.

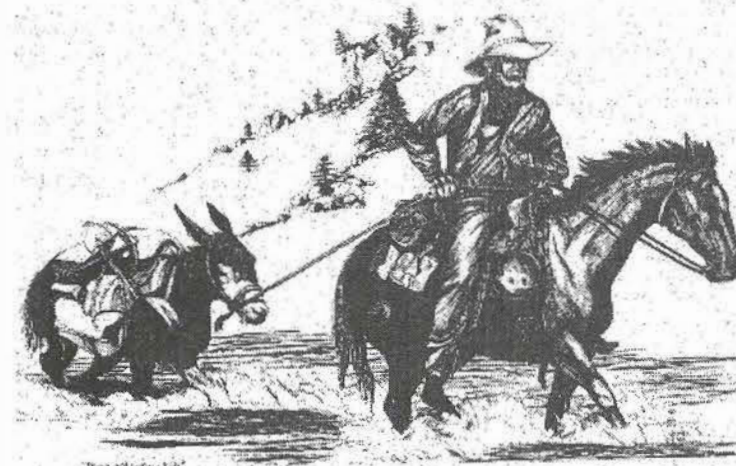
Before the gold rush school was in only part of the year and even church services were not held every Sunday. Gold changed all that, soon there were churches of several denominations and school a full term. A livery stable, blacksmith, general store, flour mill, and saloons, a hotel, even a sawmill soon sprang up to supply the miners. The population swelled to some 3,000 people. Soon there was a doctor, tailor, and more. Slabs of wood were laid end to end to serve as a main street so that the wagons could negotiate through town. Those slabs gave rise to the towns nickname of Slabtown.

It isn't booming now but you can still find gold. The old timers leading their horses or burros laden with treasure

may be gone, but the historic mines are still here. More importantly you can still find gold here. There are approximately 60 patented gold claims on private land and some 300 unpatented claims on public land in the district, its important that before you start you make sure you are panning in an area where there are no active claims. Be sure to check for claim stakes as most claims are well marked. You might not hit a bonanza but you just might get lucky.

According to the Cottage Grove Ranger District Brice Creek is very good for recreational panning. If you stop at the District office you can get a guide listing regulations and suggestions for the amateur prospector. Always keep in mind that there is danger around both active and inactive mining areas, so use good judgment. Remember that any equipment you see should be considered private property and "claim jumpers" are not popular.

For information before you start contact the Cottage Grove Ranger Station at (503) 942-5591



"Thar's Gold in Them Hills" — The rough and rugged life of an early prospector was often lonely, but the romantic lifestyle was rewarding.

Original artwork titled "Thar's Gold in Them Hills" by Marge Mayes, Artist, Crown Art Works in Haines, Oregon.

Follow 10 Simple Rules

- 1 - If you are not sure about the area or the land status where you are interested check with the closest State, BLM, or USFS office first.
- 2 - Be sure if you open a gate that you close it behind you.
- 3 - Get permission first if you wish to cross private land
- 4 - Take your trash out with you, don't leave it behind.
- 5 - Stay on the open roads if you drive in.
- 6 - Don't disturb the plant life, if its growing, let it grow.
- 7 - Remember public land belongs to us all, enjoy it, use it, love it and share it.
- 8 - Do not disturb sites of historic or scientific value. If in doubt leave it alone.
- 9 - BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE. If you light it put it dead out before you leave it.
- 10 - Enjoy yourself

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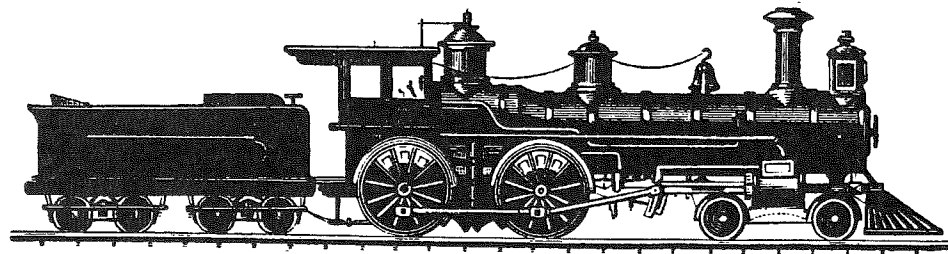
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The Town Came To The Railroad

by Louise Stearns, Director
Oakland Museum

In the late 1860's an agent for the O&C Railroad arrived in Oakland, Oregon and informed the merchants of the few stores that the Railroad would be built thru the country in a year or two and he wondered who owned the land it would occupy. One of the merchants volunteered to take the agent to the farm and introduce the agent to the man, a Mr. Barnett. Mr. Barnett said he wasn't interested in any railroad and didn't want one coming thru his property. The merchant, Mr. Alonzo Brown, being a true capitalist, saw a splendid business opportunity and offered to buy out Mr. Brown on the spot for \$5,000.00.

The problem then facing Mr. Brown and the other merchants was that the

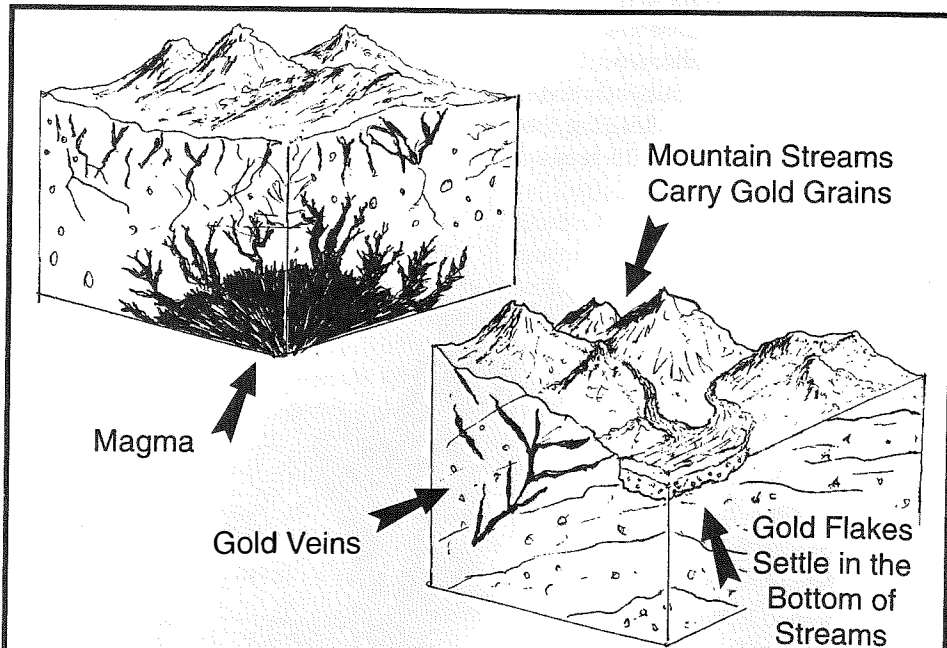


town of Oakland was located about a mile north and east of where the railroad would be built. Mr. Brown then made another deal. He offered the merchants a free lot for their businesses if they would move to the new site and proceeded to plat the rest of the land into lots to sell for houses. The buildings were loaded on sleds and dragged to the new site and a new town sprung up at its present day location.

The railroad arrived in 1871 and the town prospered into a thriving shipping center and mail terminus. Fires in 1892 and 1899 destroyed the wood buildings and were replaced with locally made brick. These buildings stand today and although some have

been altered, most retain their 1890's look and appeal. Two boast cast iron fronts with fancy work. The town is on the National Historic Register and efforts are made to retain the historic flavor of the town.

Typical of many small towns in the Pacific Northwest, Oakland has lost the lumber mill once in town and is now relying heavily on tourism. The town has thousands of visitors each year and efforts are under way to provide more for tourists to do. In the meantime, residents are still enjoying the quiet life many small towns provide with good schools, churches, and organizations for all ages.



Illustrations show how earth's molten core moves gold toward the surface of the earth. Then erosion and water move the gold down mountain streams and ravines.

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The Ed Schieffelin Story

From material submitted by Stanley R. Osborn, Caretaker, Canyonville Pioneer Museum

Ed Schieffelin made the first big silver strike that resulted in the founding of Tombstone, Arizona. In his "The Ed Schieffelin Story" printed in Pioneer Days in Canyonville, Vol. 2, Lawrence Boyle tells of Schieffelin's continued search for gold after Tombstone.

According to Boyle's report Schieffelin returned to Oregon the for last time in 1897. "Canyonville had had its days of gold fever - reputed strikes, placer mining, the works. One of the most talked about is still the placer diggings of Coffee Creek and its short tributary, Texas Gulch. Coffee Creek was discovered in 1852. The name has an interesting origin. The story goes that a group of renegade Indians was causing trouble among the peaceable Indians. The settlers organized a posse to drive away the troublesome renegades. During the chase one of the pursuers became violently ill, and the posse stopped at the small stream. The sick man kept moaning, "Oh, God, I wish I had a cup of coffee!" So the men named the stream Coffee Creek."

Gold was later discovered in Coffee Creek. A vast amount of gold - several millions of dollars in gold dust is said to have been taken out of Coffee Creek and its tributaries, Texas Gulch, Graham Gulch, and Granite Creek. Texas Gulch was the largest producer."

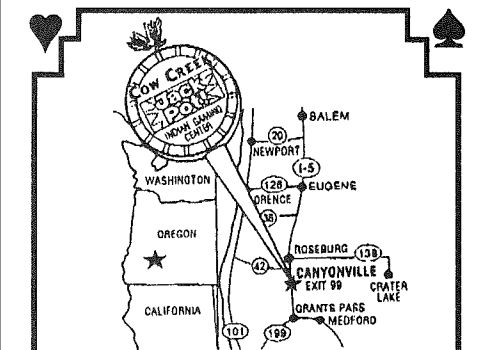
Boyle goes on "The Coffee Creek camp had been deserted for years before Ed arrived in Canyonville. But Schieffelin, the prospector, was interested. He is reported to have told local residents he came to Douglas County to find the "lost channel" that carried the gold from the ledge to the creek -to him, the mother lode".

Much of the information about Schieffelin's search was told to Boyle by local residents, descendants of pioneer families who remain in the area. Ed was often the topic of conversation and the stories are well remembered. Boyle continues " Ed Schieffelin chose his new camp wisely. From it he could now easily reach the headwaters, not only of Days Creek, but also Myrtle Creek, Deadman Creek and especially Coffee Creek and Texas Gulch. He could prospect streams, tributaries and gulches in all directions, and with a minimum of hiking. This vast expanse of mountain wilderness must have been a challenge to him.

Tough old prospector that he was, he accepted the challenge and found it exciting and satisfying and -difficult. "Found it at Last," he wrote in his diary, words for other prospectors to remember and heed. "Richer than Tombstone." This was no chance discovery of a rich prospect. To Ed Schieffelin it must have been the culmination of a lifetime of searching - a prospector's dream come true."

Ed Schieffelin was found dead on the steps of his cabin, slumped over his gold pan. He had apparently died as he was assaying some ore. The official cause of death was listed as a heart attack although one of his brothers believed the chemicals he used in the assay might have been the cause. Others speculated that the excitement of his gold discovery might have led to his death. Whatever the cause Ed Schieffelin took the secret location of the mother lode with him to his grave. Many have looked long and hard for Ed's treasure but it is still out there just waiting to be found.

Editors Note: To read about Schieffelin's Arizona discoveries turn to page 35. The books' Pioneer Days in Canyonville Vol. 1 & 2 are for sale at the Canyonville Museum. Funds are used to support the museum and park. See ad on this page.



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Gold Coins "The Beavers"

By Nancy Wilson, Curator
The McLoughlin House

Early pioneers who came to the Oregon Country brought little cash with them. Many different items were used as a medium of exchange - beaver pelts, cattle, tools, grain or anything else they could find to strike a bargain. This way of doing business was quite unhandy and not very practical. Often the men could not agree on the quality and value of the medium of exchange, and a bitter argument might occur.

The population of the Willamette Valley was about 13,000 in 1848. When gold was discovered in California, many men left Oregon to seek their fortunes. Since the men were some of the first to reach the gold fields, they were in on the ground floor and many prospered. On returning north they brought back virgin gold dust and nuggets which resulted in large quantities of raw gold in the Oregon Country.

A group of Oregon City businessmen decided to sponsor their own mint - the Oregon Exchange Company - and produce coins made of unalloyed gold. One of the men was a

metal worker and die maker. The dies were made from old steel wagon tires since no other metal was available. Another member was a blacksmith who melted the raw gold into sheets which could be rolled out to make the gold coins. Kellog, McGregor, Taylor, Rector, Campbell and Smith's initials are on one side of the coin along the edge with a beaver on a log in the center and "O.T." for the Oregon Territory and the date 1849 below. On the flip side - the name Oregon Exchange Company around the edge, and the value of the coin in the center. The coins were



The unique \$5.00 Oregon Beaver Coin. 6000 of these were struck with homemade dies in the Oregon City private mint in 1849. The replaced the beaver skin as a medium of exchange.

minted in a building along the Willamette River where a paper mill stands today. The money was called "Beaver Coins".

Meanwhile the Oregon Country was becoming a territory of the United States. Because the coins would not be legal tender, 8% more gold than face value was included in the coins so no one would be cheated if they were to accept the coins in trade.

Five and ten dollar beaver coins were struck; 2500 ten dollar coins and 6000 five dollar coins. When a mint was established in San Francisco in the 1858's to coin Califor-



The very rare and valuable \$10.00 Oregon Beaver Coin. About 2500 of these were made at the Oregon City mint. The last one found in the demolishing of the old Masonic Temple at Salem, Oregon, was sold to a California Coin collector recently for \$13,500.

Courtesy of The McLoughlin House

nia gold into legal tender, many of the beaver coins were taken south and melted into gold bars. A nice profit was made by the seller of the coins with many cashed in by the Federal Government.

Few of the total number of beaver coins are left today. The Oregon Historical Society owns several, some are in private collections. But you just never know where a beaver coin might turn up! In 1988 a family in Gladstone was having a garage sale to sell off items that had once belonged to the man's mother. A number of pieces of jewelry were placed in a basket, including an 18 carat gold bracelet with a charm. Luckily the first patrons at the sale were friend, because they recognized that the charm was a \$10.00 beaver coin. Being good honest friends, they told the seller, and he immediately removed the bracelet from the sale. The beaver coin was banded, it had not been pierced, and was in excellent condition. When the man had the bracelet appraised, he found it to be worth between \$30,000 and \$40,000. He tucked it away in his safety deposit box to perhaps help his grandchildren go to college.

So remember, when you're out and about - history is always surrounding you, and special treasures can often be found in unexpected places!

Finding Gold Is Simple? Maybe!

Well so it is said. All you need to do is to go where it has been found before. And of course it helps if you know a little about what you are looking for.

Not all that glitters is really gold. Iron pyrite known as "fools gold" has fooled many a novice prospector into dreams of wealth. When looked at closely pyrite does not really look like gold at all, it is brassy in color and changes color as it reflects the sun. Sometimes it even looks tarnished. But GOLD ah, it never changes, it ALWAYS looks like gold.

Gold is also heavy, it sinks to the bottom of the gold pan, if it floats or washes out of the gold pan easily it may be mica. Mica comes in several colors and is sometimes mistaken for gold by inexperienced panners.

Gold can come in many different shapes and sizes, nuggets like odd shaped seeds of varying sizes, wires, crystals shaped like feathers, fragile and beautiful, or even just flat flecks of color. If you were to get very lucky you might find a nugget as big as your fist, it doesn't happen often but it could and that is the fun of prospecting, the dream of striking it rich.

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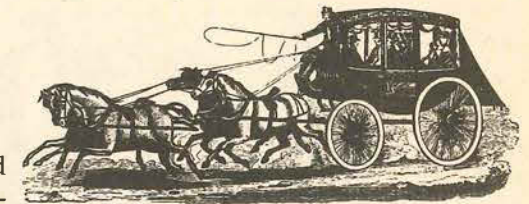
Roseburg Stages Victim of Black Bart

By Art English

The California Stage Co. completed the first overland link between Portland and Sacramento in 1860. This 710 mile road closely paralleled today's I-5 corridor. It took 500 horses, 30 wagons and 28 coaches to keep the stage road operating. Way stations and overnight stops were about every 12 to 15 miles. The trip took 6 dusty, tiring, bouncing days to complete.

There were stage robberies on the line believed to have been committed by the infamous Black Bart, known as the gentleman bandit. Three of the coaches he robbed were from Roseburg and one from Lakeview. They were robbed close to the Oregon California border. Black Bart, whose real name was Charles E. Boles, was finally caught. Boles had served honorably in the Civil War, prospected for gold in Montana, and in about 1875 started robbing stages in California where he had professed to be a mining engineer. He was sentenced on November 21, 1883 to 6 years in San Quinton. When he was released he disappeared, not to be heard from again, although 3 other stage robberies occurred.

Bart left a note in the strongbox from the stage robbery of July 25, 1878 that said;



"Here I lay me down to sleep to wait the coming morrow. Perhaps success, perhaps defeat and everlasting sorrow. I've labored long and hard for bread, for honor and for riches, but on my corns too long you've tread

You fine haired sons of B——s!. But come what will, I'll try it on, my condition can't be worse; and if there's money in that box its money in my purse.

Black Bart"

Bart didn't want to prospect for gold anymore, he let others do that, he found his own way to get his gold.



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Following "Golden" Footprints

By Roger Ramsey

My great-grandparents Joe and Amy Dysert, purchased 7 mining claims on Coyote Creek in 1879, for \$600.00. In 1890 this became the town site of Golden, Oregon, which is located 3½ miles east of I-5 at exit 76, Wolf Creek. One hundred ten years later, I bought the Golden town site for \$42,000 dollars. When I give tours and entertain people here I feel as if I'm following in my great grandparents footsteps.

One miner named Pettengill wrote in his diary in 1880, that he and three other miners walked for three hours to attend a dance at Joe Dysert place on Coyote Creek, and then danced until 2 A.M..

I have worked in the timber industry for thirty years, which provides me with a comfortable living here in Golden. However I realize that I'm riding upon the shoulders of my great great grandparents Stephen and Mary Dysert, who came to Oregon from Missouri with their son Joseph, who later married Amy Inman. They all endured many hardships that have made my lifemucheasier and more comfortable.

When Joe was 16 years old, his father Stephen's hound had pups. Joe said "I'll train them for you dad." One day Joe was working the pups and they went after a cougar. When Joe caught up with them the pups had the cougar cornered up against a large log. The cougar had already hurt one of the pups, but Joe couldn't get a clear shot



1915 Esterly Mine near Waldo, Oregon. Don Cameron at left wearing a gold pan for a hat. My grandfather Clay Ramsey, at right, was a foreman at the Esterly for 16 years. Photos courtesy of Roger Ramsey

at the cougar, with all the pups fighting it. Stephen had given Joe charge over his pups, so there was only one thing to do. Joe waded into the fight and proceeded to beat the cougar to death with the barrel of his rifle. In the process the cougar clawed Joe on his back. Over the years when Joe would tell this story, he would remove his shirt and show the scars on his back as a witness to any doubters.

One day, Joe was digging a mining ditch for his placer mine. A stranger rode up on horseback and says "Hey, you can't dig this ditch here and run water in it." When Joe saw that this man was a stranger to the area he cocked his shovel back, came boiling up out of the ditch like a badger and said, "Stranger, I'll run

blood or water in this ditch, now you just take your pick." The man rode away and wasn't seen again and Joe went back to work.

Now, what was Joe's wife Amy doing while Joe was working so hard in the mine to provide for his family? My grandmother answers this question with a poem that she wrote about a day in her mothers life.

Mama's Mama

By Mabel Dysert Ramsey

*Mama's Mama on a winters day,
Milked the cows and fed them hay.
Slopped the hogs, saddled the mule,
and got the children off to school.*

*Did a washing, mopped the floors,
washed the windows and did some
chores.*

*Cooked a dish of home dried fruit,
pressed her husband's Sunday shirt.*

*Swept the parlor, made the beds,
baked a dozen loaves of bread.*

*Split some firewood and lugged it in,
enough to fill the kitchen bin.*

*Cleaned the lamps and put in oil,
stewed some apples she thought
might spoil.*

*Churned some butter, baked a cake,
then exclaimed, "For mercy's sake,
the calves have got out of the pen."
Went out and chased them in again.*

*Gathered the eggs, and cleaned the
stable,
returned to the house and set the
table.*

*Cooked a supper that was delicious,
and afterwards she washed the
dishes.*

*Fed the cat, sprinkled some cloths,
darned some socks that were full of
holes.*

*Then she opened the organ and
began to play,
"When You Come To The End Of
A Perfect Day"*

Here at Golden, Oregon I have a 1/2 hour video in the church, built in 1892, for people to watch when I'm not here. When I'm home, I have a lot of fun showing people around. For instance, one day a brand new Mercedes pulls up with California license plates. It was a mom and dad with their 2 young sons who were dressed for downtown L.A., more than Golden. When I mentioned beaver dams on Coyote Creek, well these 2 boys weren't going home without seeing a beaver dam. Earlier I had explained to the boys the difference between hardrock mining and placer mining. I showed them a piece of quartz ore, explaining how the gold leaches out of the rock into the streams. On our walk



1915 ESTERLY MINE "CLEAN-UP" - The photographer used a mirror to get into the picture. In the gold pan are 3 pieces of solid gold, after they came out of Grandpa Ramsey's retort pot, which I have here at Golden. The center piece of gold filled the pot, which holds 3 measuring cups full of water.

they would bring every piece to me and ask if it had gold in it.

The youngest boy found something interesting and showed it to his brother, who said "I don't know what it is, but I will find out for you." He came up to me and said "What is this?" I tried not to smile too wide when I said "Well son, here in Oregon we call that deer poop."

Editors Note: Be sure to stop by and see

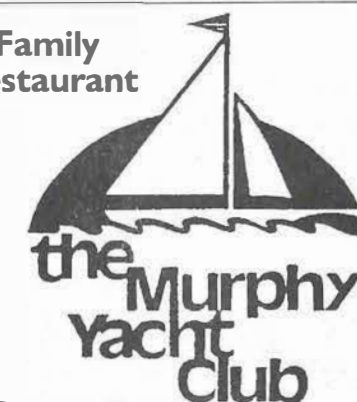
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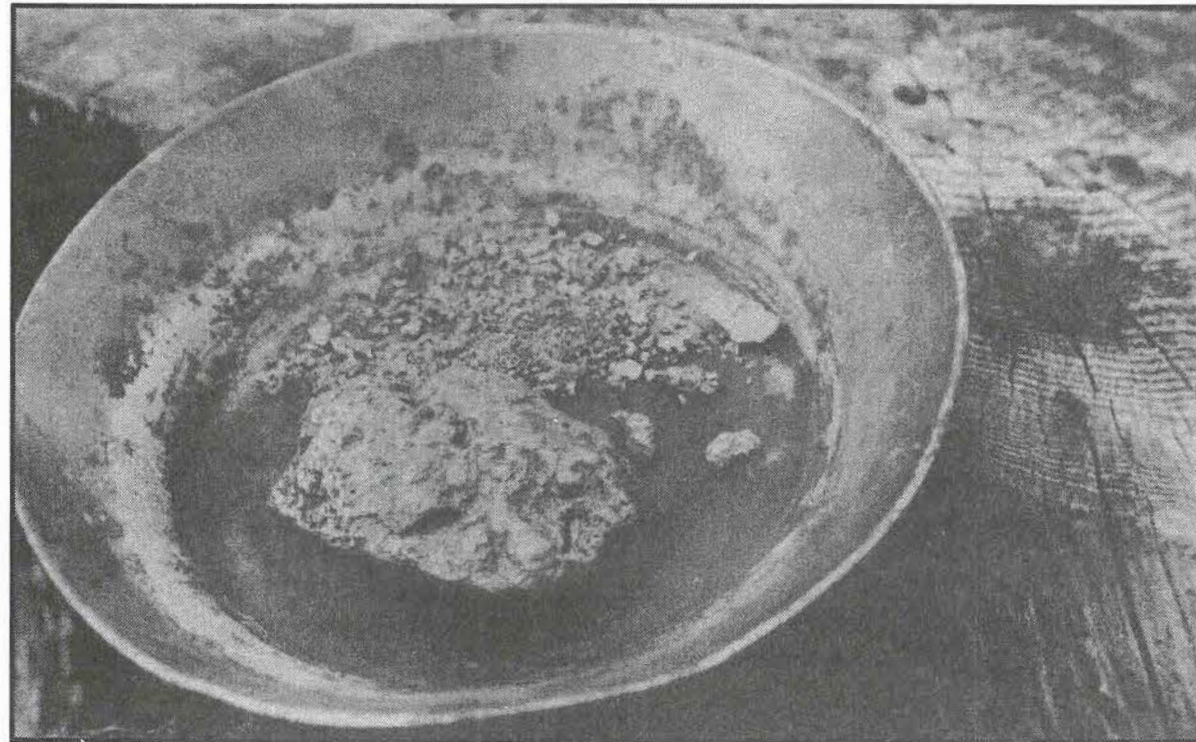
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The Thousand Dollar Nugget

By Larry L. McLane, Author of "First There Was Twogood, a Pictorial History of Northern Josephine County"

Grave Creek and its tributaries in Northern Josephine County, Oregon, are well known and documented as having been very large producers of Gold, both in placer and hardrock mining for over one hundred years.



Nugget from Stove Pipe Mine at Leland.

Photos courtesy of Larry L. McLane

However, it was nearly eighty years after gold was discovered on Grave Creek that in the summer of 1934, during the Great Depression, one of the six largest nuggets ever discovered in Southern Oregon was found at the Stovepipe placer mine, one of the older yet lesser known mines on Brimstone Creek, a tributary of Grave Creek, that

sluice box.

This mine sat idle for many years until it was purchased by Robert Burns. He and his wife were previously employed in the oil fields of Oklahoma City. As they were greenhorns to the mining trade, they employed Bob Goff as mine foreman to teach them the art of gold mining and

lies approximately four miles west of the present Interstate 5 freeway in Sunny Valley, Oregon.

The mine more accurately described was on a hillside somewhat higher than the Creek. The old time miners long since gone told of how the Stovepipe Mine got its name. It seems that prior to the coming of the O & C Railroad, mining pipe was too expensive to transport long distances, so this mine locator improvised by joining stovepipe joints to carry water around the hillside from up Brimstone Creek to supply water to his mine. However, as water pressure was lacking he used the available water to run through his

help set up a full fledged hydraulic mine. Water was pumped from a dam on Brimstone Creek up the mountain so a hydraulic giant could be used.

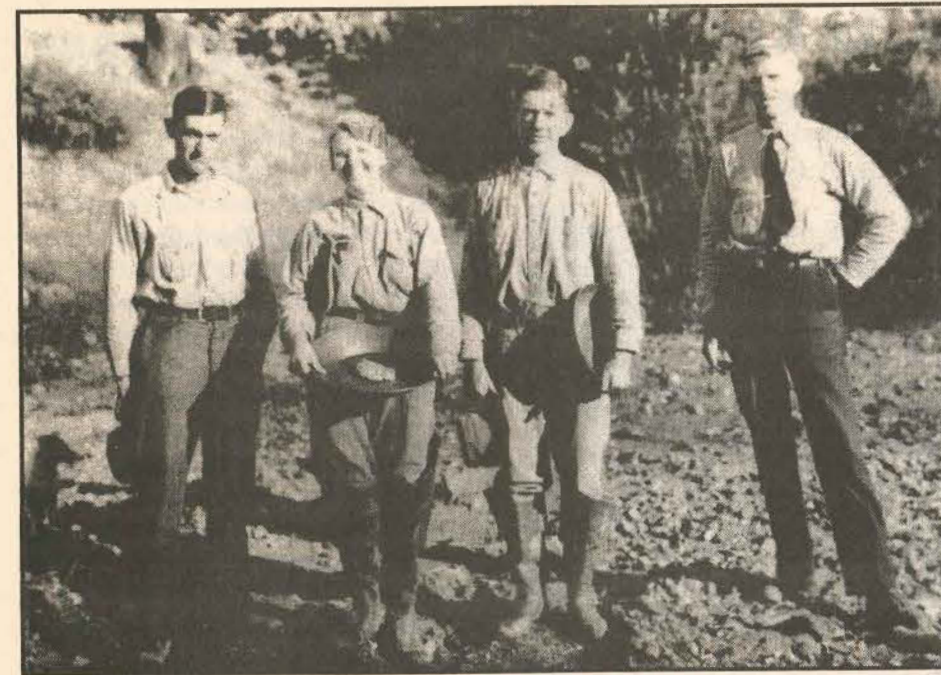
One of Bob Goff's tasks was to teach the Burns how to properly pan for gold. When it came Mrs. Burns turn to learn this art, Bob picked up some loose dirt and gravel for the gold pan, as he was putting dirt and gravel into the gold pan he discovered what looked to be a rock covered with red mud, but, as he went to throw it out he knew by the weight that it was no ordinary rock. Bob, keeping a poker face then took the gold pan and its contents to a panning area and instructed Mrs.

Burns in washing anything that appeared to be rocks clean before discarding as they may be gold just covered with mud.

The inevitable happened. As she was hunkered down washing the large hand sized rock, the more she washed the brighter it got, until it finally dawned on her that this was no ordinary rock, in fact it was a huge nugget. The realization caused her to let out a scream that echoed up and down the Brimstone Canyon. Bob had

known from the start what this mud covered rock was, but wanted her to have the thrill of discovering the huge nugget.

This nugget weighed nearly three pounds troy weight and contained 34 ounces and 7 penny weight of gold. Gold at the time was about \$30 per



Left to right: Earl Morrison, Mrs. Burns, Robert Burns, and Bob Graff

ounce depending on the purity and was valued at \$1,015. At this time, 1995, the New York gold market varies from \$388 to \$390 per ounce making this nugget worth something over \$13,000 dollars in today's market. In today's market of specimen gold it would be anyone's guess as to its value possibly exceeding the \$13,000. Many other nuggets were found during this period, some as large as chicken eggs, but none held the thrill of the big one.

Editors Note: This story was written by Larry L. McLane who has written "First There Was Twogood a Pictorial History of

Northern Josephine County" This work is a history of the settling of Northern Josephine County from 1851 until the demise of some of the original towns. It includes early mine discoveries, homesteading and pioneers. There are maps of mines, homesteads and towns. There are 775 photographs including early mining activities, towns, merchants and homesteads. Larry's book is 432 pages of text and photos in an 8.5 x 11 format and is well worth the \$29.95 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling. Please see ad on this page for the address.

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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.

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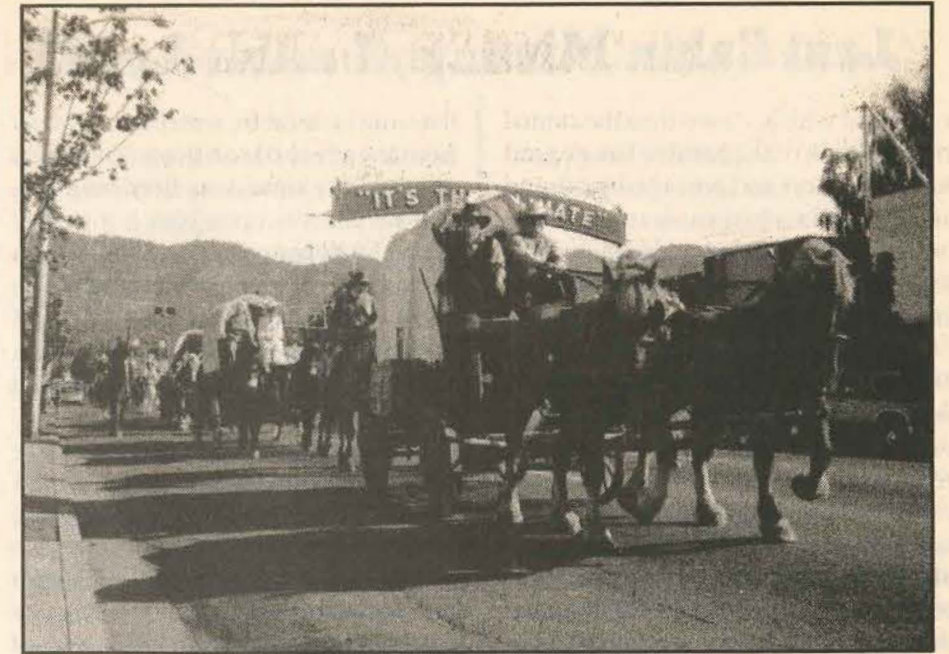
Lost Cabin Mine

By Ted Wharton, Secretary
 Gold Hill Historical Society

"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 city of Gold Hill, Oregon. One such stream that was especially rich, drew hundreds of miners. They were so thick they were elbows 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 areas. A few die-hard 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



Josephine Applegate Wagon Committee
 Wagon Master - Jack Gundlach and Quarter Master - Linda Beauchamp

Photo courtesy of Linda Beauchamp

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.

Within a few days, miraculously, as he had visualized, but never dreamed would happen, he discovered the rich
continued on page 18

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Lost Cabin Mine ... continued from page 17

vein from which, down thru the centuries, the bulk of the Sardine Creek gold had broken off and was washed down stream. 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 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 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 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.

Brokenhearted Barney turned to drink and spent time in local saloons

continued on page 19

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The Golden Rogue

by Bonnie Easley

It was 1898 when gold was discovered on Elk Creek, a tributary of the Rogue River. Between the year of 1909 to 1918 almost \$24,000 in gold with some silver and lead was recovered.

The McDonalds brothers came to the Rogue River country in 1913 and knew they were home. Norman McDonald purchased 600 acres on the river and soon there were three homes on the property. The road to Crater Lake ran right past the McDonald land and in 1915 Will McDonald decided to build a summer resort hotel for travelers on the long, dusty trip to Crater Lake from Medford. The resulting hotel had its grand opening on July 22, 1916, it became the main stage stop for Crater Lake travelers.

The McDonalds purchased 22 unpatented mining claims, the Al Sarena or Buzzard Mines on Elk Creek from the Applegates. This was an incorporated claim which allowed the family to log the land. When that right was challenged the case went to court and the family won. It is no longer possible to incorporate a mining claim but it did work once. Will McDonald offered tours of the mine to visitors, saying "Visit the famous Al Sarena Mines. See

continued on page 19

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Lost Cabin ...

continued from page 18

getting drunk with other miners. During this period, 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 the 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 into 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

continued on page 21

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The Golden Rogue ... continued from page 18

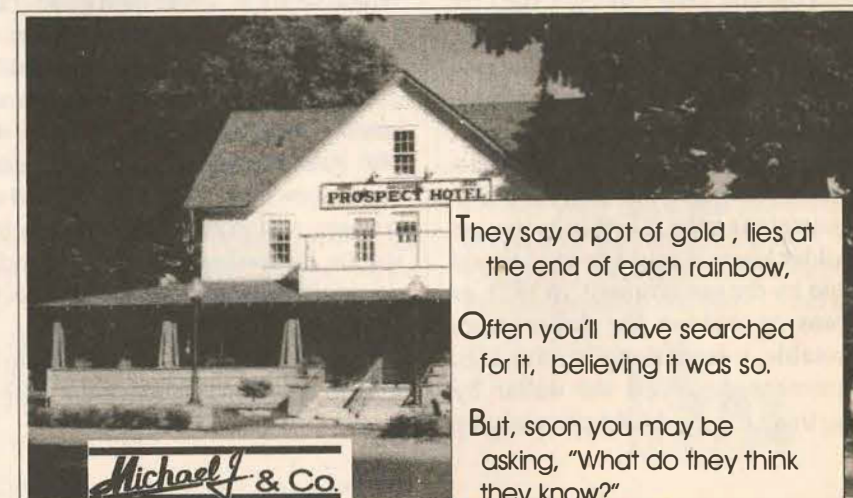
how gold, silver and lead are mined and milled, over one mile of tunnels. Mill fully equipped with the latest machinery." Gold in the Rogue River extends its length, all the way to the Pacific Ocean at Gold Beach where you can pan gold dust in the sand.

The Rogue Elk Hotel fell into disrepair after McDonald died in 1945. Today the Rogue Elk Hotel is owned by the Hazeldons and is open for business as work on the restoration continues.

Another stage stop on the road to Crater Lake was the Prospect Hotel. Construction started in 1890 and the hotel opened in 1892. By the 1970's the old hotel had fallen on hard times, even though it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1985 John and Carol Record purchased this grand old hotel and with much hard work and dedication to detail it was

completely restored. Today, surrounded by green lawns this lovely old hotel has regained all its charm. The dining room is noted for its Oregon cuisine. Today there is a new owner and host at The Prospect Hotel and its tradition of excellence continues.

The Rogue River country has lured miners, fishermen, hunters and tourists from all over the world for many years. Zane Grey, Jack London, William Jennings Bryan, Herbert Hoover and Teddy Roosevelt all loved this area. Movies such as the River of No Return and the recent River Wild show off the beauty of the Rogue. Who knows, this could be where you will strike it rich. Gold is here just waiting to be discovered, and if you don't find it the first trip its a place that will call you back time and time again.



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But, soon you may be asking, "What do they think they know?"

You've looked until you've given up, and still it wasn't so.

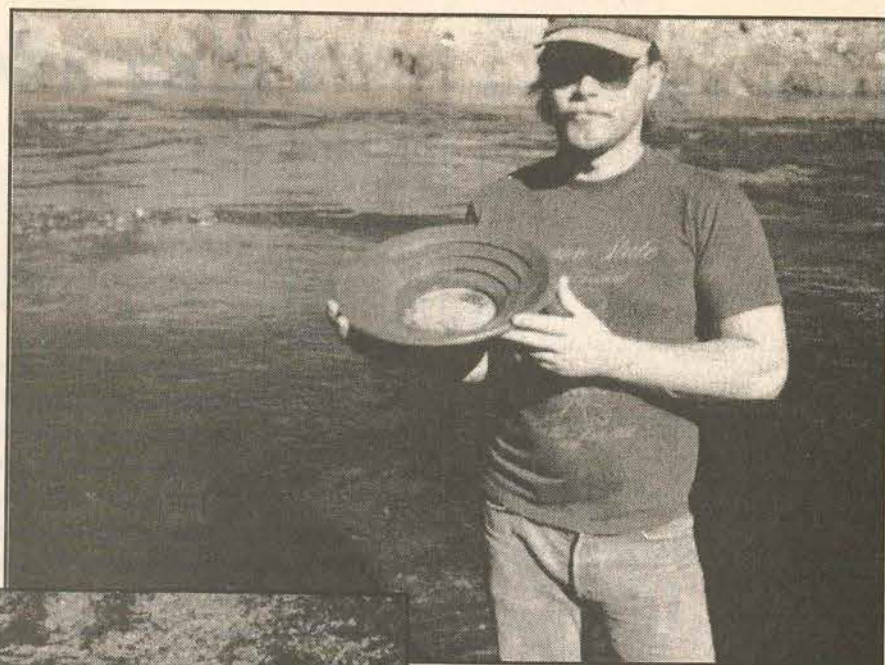
☆☆☆☆

So, when you start to tire, then just say what the heck,

Us locals know the rainbows end in a place they call Prospect.

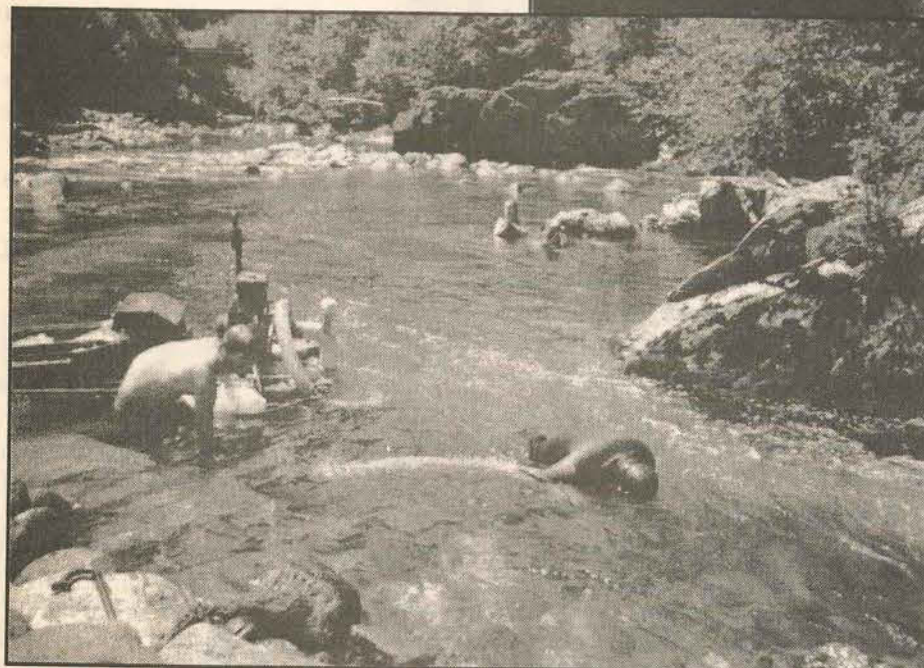
Klamath River still yields treasure

Jim Britton of D&K Equipment in Portland likes to get away to do a little prospecting of his own as often as he can. An eleven day trip last year to the Klamath River in Siskiyou County of Northern California produced some nice gold. Jim enjoys the great outdoors and getting away from the hustle and bustle of the city, sitting on a river bank, thinking about the old timers



Jim Britton with his gold pan and "pay dirt" on the banks of the Klamath River. Jim won't tell us exactly where on the river he goes, he just grins.

Photos courtesy of Jim Britton



Using a surface dredge for his own prospecting helps Jim in his business as well as in his mining. It helps you too, because Jim knows what works and how it works. He sure knows how to make this equipment pay.

and the tales they could tell, how they mined, where they mined, did they really get it all.

He reminds us that some of the stories miners tell, like the one about the gold being gone, are just tales, maybe to keep others from finding the gold. Jim decided on this trip to just have at it and that decision paid off for him. It could pay off for you too, if you've been dreaming about it, wishing you could go, remember gold has been found in all fifty states. No matter where you are there is an area nearby where gold has been found before. So, as Jim says, "what the heck, just go for it". After all if you don't find gold, at least you get to spend a day outdoors. And maybe, just maybe you too will hit "pay dirt".

Buried Treasure Near Pendleton?

There are tales of buried loot from several stage robberies that occurred in the vicinity of Pendleton. One such tale, recounted by John Vert and Mrs. Lee Moorhouse in a book titled Reminiscences of Oregon Pioneers reads:

"A stage robbery that created a good deal of excitement occurred at or near Prospect Farm in 1880. An employee of Wells Fargo was accused of the crime. On the day that some very valuable express was sent from Baker City, H. P. Page, who was an official of the company, announced his intention of going to Portland

As the stage was rumbling along in the dusk over the sage-covered hills, northwest of Pendleton, Page, who was on the box seat beside the driver, decided to have a nap in the boot. A cozy, sheltered place was the boot of the old Concord coach and the mail sacks a sufficiently comfortable bed for

the weary traveler.

While the horses were being changed at the barn across Stage Gulch, at Prospect Farm, someone in a shed nearby was busily sorting express papers by the light of a candle. The following morning it was discovered that the place was strewn with burnt matches, torn waybills and other papers.

Some place down the line, the robbery of the valuable express was discovered.

Page was apprehended and brought to Pendleton for trial. The jury took a charitable view of the circumstantial evidence and the defendant was acquitted. The position with the Wells Fargo Express was the last place of trust that Page ever had."

According to old timers the loot may have been hidden or buried in or near Stage Gulch. There is no proof of that, but it might be worth looking into.

Another stage robbery was said to have occurred at Dead Man's Hill between La Grande and Pendleton. In this one some \$6,000 was taken and never recovered. Is it still hidden somewhere? Who knows.

A stage robbery on the Umatilla Indian Reservation in 1876 resulted in another story of hidden gold. The robber got away with approximately \$3,000 in gold dust and were said to have buried it close to where the robbery occurred.

Is there gold in the hills around Pendleton? Maybe, at least it seems some has been buried here. There is certainly a rich history in the area, the Oregon Trail passed right through what is today the center of the town. Go find that buried treasure and be the one to prove the stories of long buried treasure are true.

Canyon City, Born in a Gold Rush

In June 1862 a company of miners from northern California were heading east over the Strawberry Mountain Range, when one of the men discovered gold on Whisky Flat, half a mile south of Canyon City. Miners from all over flocked into the area and the new settlement quickly became called Canyon City. According to historical records, more than \$26 million in gold was taken from Canyonville Creek and the nearby mountains during the gold rush of 1862-1880.

One of the earliest churches, St. Thomas Episcopal, built in 1876 still stands near the center of town, as does

the old Sels Brewery, a former saloon and brewery which operated in the late 1800's. The yellow former schoolhouse on Rebel Hill marks where early settlers loyal to the Union tore down a Confederate flag erected by sympathizers to the south during the Civil War. The old '62 Hall on the south edge of town hosted decades of rowdy dances and community celebrations.

The information above is from the sign pictured. Canyon City has a fine museum containing much information about the town's past. Above all, there is more than likely gold still here to be found by those willing to seek it out.

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The Blue Mountain Crossing

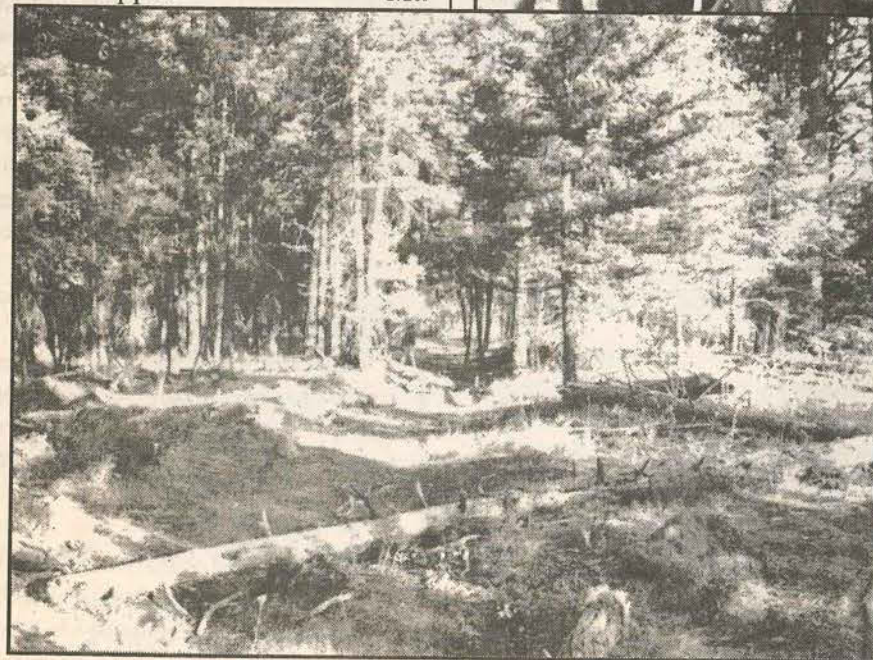
The Grande Ronde Valley had been a welcome site the the pioneers of the Oregon Trail, but now they must face the Blue Mountains, a formidable challenge. The wagons had already crossed 1,751 miles, the valley of the Willamette, still ahead, so on they went. The steep trail strained the oxen, horses and pioneers.

In 1844 Lee's Encampment was established by Major H.A.G. Lee, and, in 1863 a stage station was built by brothers Harvey and Alfred Meacham. There was good water and plenty of grass at Emigrant Springs. At Emigrant Hill the pioneers could, on a clear day see snowcapped Mt. Hood and Mt.



Bill & Billie McClure of Sumpter present Living History demonstrations at Blue Mountain Crossing Interpretive Park outside LaGrande, Oregon.

(Left) Oregon Trail ruts are clearly visible at Blue Mountain Crossing site.



Adams. Their journey was almost done.

The Grande Ronde Valley was described by John C. Fremont as a place "where a farmer would delight to establish himself", Captain Bonneville had earlier explored the area and was enthusiastic about its beauty. Some twenty years after the first wagon trains passed this way the town of La Grande was named, some of those pioneers had returned to the beautiful valley of La Grande Ronde to settle, agreeing with the earlier explorers.

There are several areas where you can still see the Oregon Trail ruts in this area. Blue Mountain Crossing easily accessible from the I-84 and is open to visitors. Here you are at the gateway to the mining areas of the Blue and Wallowa Mountains.

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The Lost Blue Bucket Mine, Fact or Fiction

By Jonathon Bissett

On August 25, 1845 history was made when one thousand people with some two hundred wagons and 2,000 head of livestock, cattle, horses and mules, voted to take a "cut-off" from the Oregon Trail. Stephen Meek had convinced this group that he knew a short cut to the Willamette Valley by way of trails that had been used by trappers and Indians for years. Meek even went so far as to draw a map of the route. On the banks of the Malheur River near where the town of Vale stands today, they separated from the rest of the train and started out on the unknown trail.

The train followed the river for about 20 miles over some of the worst ground they had yet traveled. Wagons and animals broke down and some had to be left behind. There were several deaths among the group and several burials were held. They ran the wagons over the graves, hiding traces of them from the Indians.

The most credible of the stories

In Pursuit of Historic Trivia

By Nancy Wilson, Curator
The McLoughlin House

*How many ways were there to reach the gold fields of California or to come to Oregon?
See the answer of page 27*



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about the discovery of gold relates that one William F. Helm and his family, including five brothers, one sister, his mother and father, were members of the Meek party. Helm stated that his family had painted all their camp utensils blue in order to identify what was theirs. One day as they were camped on a tributary of the John Day River many small, shiny yellow pebbles were found at the waters edge. No one knew these pebbles were gold, it was still three years before gold was to be discovered in California. The pretty pebbles were gathered in a blue bucket, but when the wagons moved on they were forgotten and left behind. The pioneers thought the stones were worthless and the ones that were left were tossed away, except for a few, which had found their way into tool boxes. If it had not been for those few stones the story might have ended there.

The men who were said to have seen the remaining nuggets include some very familiar names, William G. T'Vault who became the Editor of the Oregon Spectator, the first newspaper on the Pacific Coast. He was later to be Postmaster General, and a member of the territorial government. Mr. James

continued on page 27

Ashwood, Home of The "Red Jacket" Mine

Located about 20 miles south of Shaniko is Ashwood, a mining town whose history goes back to the 1870's. Thomas Brown was tending sheep near Trout Creek when he picked up a piece of quartz containing gold. In short order over 400 ounces of gold and about 6,000 ounces of silver were recovered. The "Oregon King" mine claim was staked and operated for several years off and on under different owners.

Ashwood itself became a busy mining town with the normal array of saloons, hotels and livery stables. Growth was due not just to the first mine but by the continued search for gold and silver in the hills. The "Morning Star" mine was located and stock in it was sold all over the United States. More notable perhaps was the "Red Jacket" mine. Prospectors named it that because of the reddish ore that occurred there.

To the miners the red ore was just waste, to be thrown away in their quest for gold and silver. It was only many years later that this reddish ore was determined to be cinnabar, the source of mercury. The cinnabar was mined for use in two world wars. This could be a good area for the modern prospector with a gold or metal detector.

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Wallowa Lake

North Powder

The town of North Powder was established in the 1870's at the site of the Powder River crossing and the main street of the town is the Old Oregon Trail.

It was near here, on December 30, 1811, that the Astoria Party of Wilson Price Hunt party was trapped by winter. A Iowa Indian woman, Marie Dorian, the wife of Pierre Dorian, a French-Sioux scout, gave birth to the first part white child born in the Oregon Territory. This party helped establish a route, followed in part, by the pioneers who came later.

The I.O.O.F. building, a local historic site constructed in 1889, is being restored to its more original appearance, today it houses the Odds & Ends Shop a local antique and craft store.

Little did the pioneers know that the Blue Mountains they crossed near here were rich in gold.

Hell's Canyon Massacre

By Wayne Westfall

The recent discovery of court records by County Clerk Charlotte McIver from 108 years ago, document the massacre of anywhere from 8 and 31 Chinese in Hells Canyon.

The discovery has created quite a stir in Wallowa County. Many theories exist about what actually happened in late May of 1887 and each time new information is released it draws more interested treasure hunters, history buffs, and even looters to the area between China Bar and Deep Creek, where the alleged atrocities took place.

The story is that a group of Chinese miners were murdered by seven Wallowa County outlaws. It is important to stress here that the men who committed this crime were not repre-

sentative of the people of Wallowa County. The canyon at that time was a hide-out for horse thieves and outlaws. The killers were looking for the gold dust the miners, who were working the mine tailings at Robinson Bar, supposedly had hidden away. It is unlikely there was or is any such cache as according to experts Hell's Canyon has little gold and what there is, is so fine it's called 'flour gold' and its almost impossible to recover.

The exact details of the crime may never be discovered but some things are known, the outlaws killed Chinese miners, hacked up the bodies and dropped them in the Snake River. Bodies and body parts washed up on the shore of the river for months, some say years. The Chinese may have been tortured as their killers were trying to find the location of the gold, and the events may have occurred over several days.

According to a quote attributed to F. K. Vincent, the federal official who conducted the investigation "It was the most cold-blooded, cowardly treachery I have ever heard tell of on this coast, and I'm a California 49er". News of the event caused a national commotion and strained relations between the United States and China. Of the seven alleged villains, three left the Wallowa country and were never tried. Those tried were acquitted and the crime was never punished.

There are no interpretive signs or markers in the area as yet, but if you are interested in looking around its alright. Please be sure to remember that its illegal to dig or remove anything from an archaeological site so all you can do is look.

The massacre was shocking by any standards, today or in 1887. It does however point up how attitudes toward immigrants, especially anyone perceived to be different, were largely negative at the time. It would be nice to believe that time has changed attitudes, since our world gets smaller every year.

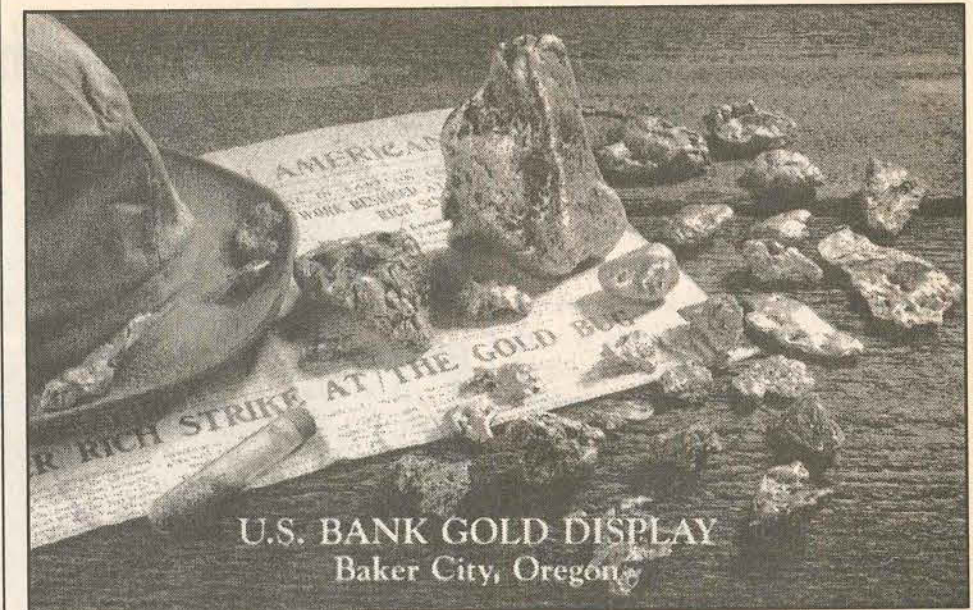
Lost Bucket ...

continued from page 25

Terwilliger, who built Portland's first frame building. Terwilliger Boulevard is named for him. Thomas R. Cornelius who served twenty years in the state legislature. Cornelius was named a Colonel in the Indian wars, and the town of Cornelius is named for him. William Helm himself became a Methodist minister as was another of the people to have seen the nuggets, Theophilus Powell. There were others equally reliable to have seen them.

The "lost" mine was never found. Me. Helm became convinced that the little stream where the stones were found were in fact the sight of one of Oregon's major gold strikes on Canyon Creek Where Canyon City now stands. In three years time \$15,000,000 in gold was discovered, or rediscovered. Mr. Helm spent several years mining there. According to Hubert H. Bancroft, a Western historian "The first gold discovery in Oregon made by an American, if not by any person, was made near the headwaters of the Malheur River by what is known as the 'Lost Wagon Train' in the year 1845" published in his history of Oregon Vol.1, page 512.

So if you want to hunt for a bonanza it may have been found or maybe not, who knows for sure? All that is known is that it was there for the taking, perhaps by you.



Collection of Gold Nuggets found in vicinity of Baker City, Oregon — on display in lobby of U.S. Bank, Baker City Branch. In center top is the famous "Armstrong" nugget, weight 80.4 ozs. found June 19, 1913 by George Armstrong. It was this type of shiny yellow stone that was thrown away by travelers on the "Lost Wagon Train." The gold display can be viewed during normal banking hours. Courtesy U.S. National Bank, Baker City.

Trivia Answer

from page 25

Through the years we have all been taught in school that the miners and pioneers had three ways to come West - the Isthmus of Panama, around the Horn, or the Oregon Trail. But - there were three other ways to travel - especially by the gold seekers headed for California. An easy way to come was to travel across Nicaragua. A ship took you about 75 miles up a river where you did have to walk several miles to a portage, then you boarded a boat for a 75 mile or so trip across a lake to the Pacific Ocean. The fifth way was a long, dusty trek across Mexico! Free land and gold enticed many thousands of men, women and families to move west to Oregon or California. For whatever their reasons, we owe them a debt of gratitude for helping create a United States that would then reach from shore to shore.

The sixth way was the trail promoted by the citizens of Fort Smith, Arkansas, a southern route into California.

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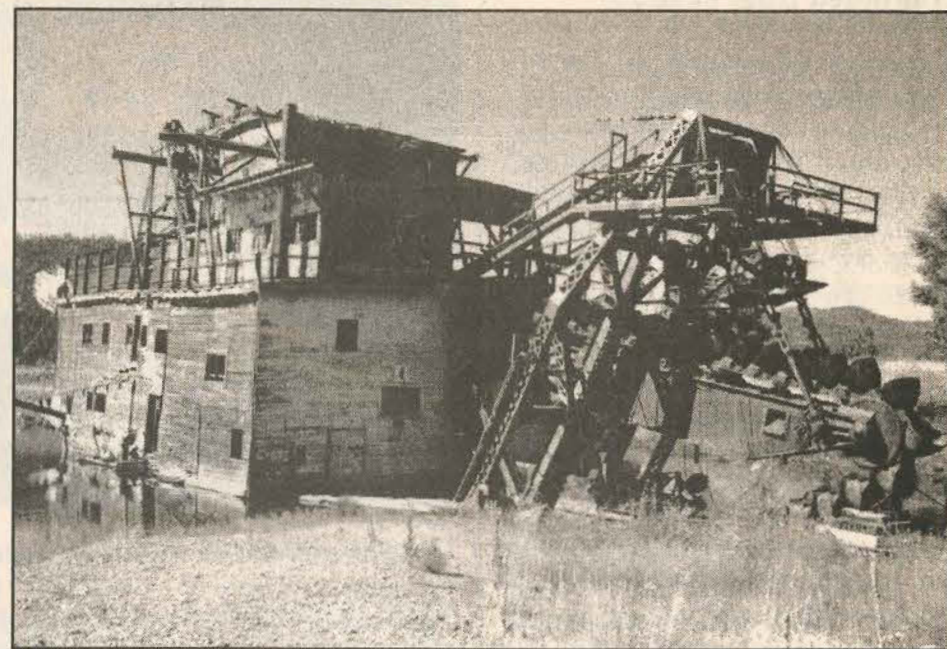
"The Ghost Of The Dredge"

Written by Stephen R. Alford,
Park Ranger
Sumpter Valley Dredge State Park
Toriana E. Vinson, Crew Member
Oregon Youth Conservation Corps

The lights used to flicker, footsteps were heard, unknown sounds would emerge in the still of the night making the people of Sumpter aware of a presence, a presence known only as Joe Bush!

It goes back to one horrifying accident. An oiler aboard the Dredge #1 was working hard at the job at hand, the gears that he worked so hard to keep in good working order would seem to reach out and grab him, leading him to his death. Quite some years and two dredges later, the young man would seem to return to take his rightful place aboard the Sumpter Valley Dredge guarding the same gears that took his life, preventing the same twist of fate.

Christmas Eve, 1945, would be an unforgettable night for the graveyard shift of the Sumpter Valley Dredge. Two men would watch the dredge over the holiday. As it has been told, the men did their rounds and were settling in the winchroom to take a break. Their break was soon to be interrupted by footsteps. Was it the dredge-master coming back to check on them, or someone bringing supplies from town? No matter, the two young men were not gonna let this opportunity



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pass them by. They would hide around the corner and wait, expecting someone to appear. They then planned to pull the hat over the ears of their victim. The steps had come within four feet. Much to their dismay, as they peered around the corner to see who was coming to visit, there was no one there. No snow tracked in from outside, no marks from where snow should have melted off onto the floor, nothing at all, except for the fact that the door was left wide open. Now the question was, who left the door open? If it was neither of them, then who? Who left in such a hurry as to leave the door open on such a cold night? So many questions. This was not the only time "Joe Bush" had proved his presence.

Joe Bush had now become well known to all of the dredge workers, and it seems as accepted his presence. They just wished they had some way of knowing when he was around. On another occasion, a splash was heard coming from the bucket line, followed by footsteps venturing down the gang-plank and towards the stern of the ship. Deciding to investigate, the night

workers followed the sound, which was now being heard climbing out the stacker. A large chunk of ice broke loose and fell into the pond making a large splash. "Nothing to worry about, Joe Bush just ran off the stacker." The other gentlemen shouted, "Joe Bush, if you're anywhere around here give us a sign." Just as the word "sign" left his mouth, the overhead light bulb burnt out, just like that, causing their neck and arm hair to stand on end. The stories go on and on, but to this day Joe Bush still lives somewhere aboard the Sumpter Valley Dredge. As personal experiences have happened to quite a few people, we have had our own while working. While cleaning up the front deck of the dredge, with a bit of sarcasm, we would peer through a hole in the front door, calling out to Joe Bush, as if to egg him on. As boredom soon struck us, we laughingly went back to our duties. We soon decided on one last attempt to call him before quitting time. Calmly looking through the hole once again, we yelled out one last time for the day. As his name was yelled, echoing through the dredge, a sudden splash of water hit near our

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faces, luckily blocked by the door. Without even wanting to find out what had splashed, or even wondering where the water could have possibly have come from, we ran across the deck, and to safety not

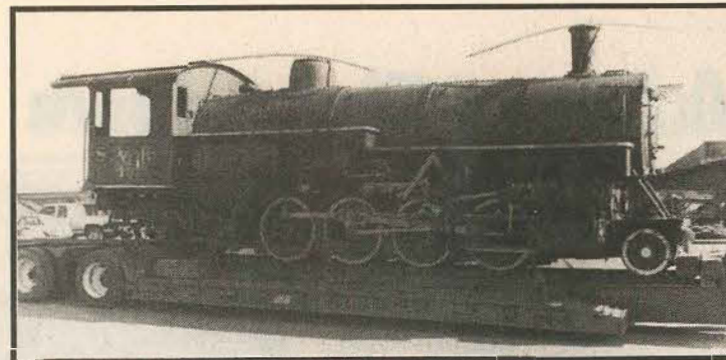


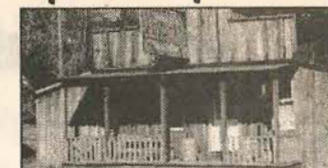
Photo courtesy of Sumpter Valley RR Resoration, Inc.

caring if we got wet, and most certainly not ever looking back.

While working late one night, pounding at the keys of this very same computer, darkness had seemed to come without warning. Something caused me to pause. As the hair on my neck did a back flip, I turned to face the window directly behind me. Opening the door, I saw a silhouette of a man standing somewhere around thirty yards away, staring straight at me. I called out, "Who's there?". No answer.

He subtly turned and walked into the darkness. Calling out again, I, without thinking, began to follow. After me taking a few steps off the back porch, he seemed to vanish into the night air. I assessed the situation and without further hesitation I decided to go home. Joe Bush seems to be a friendly ghost, but as we further the renovation efforts on the Sumpter Valley Dredge, we hope we have his approval, and we hope that one day Joe Bush can finally rest in peace.

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Granite, A Living Ghost Town

From information supplied by Andy Mash of the Granite Store.

Located on the 106 mile long Elkhorn Drive Forest Scenic Byway, Granite is right in the very heart of the gold belt of the Blue Mountains.

Gold was discovered here early in 1862. A group of 50 miners had left the gold fields of Marysville, California heading to the Boise Basin of Idaho. They were joined by others as they revealed. Stopping in The Dalles, the group purchased all the available horses. Still when they headed out many of the miners were still on foot. The route they traveled from The Dalles followed the south side of the John Day River from its mouth at the Columbia River. This area had not yet been settled by white men.

Following the North Fork of the John Day to the mouth of what is now Granite Creek, then up to the mouth of Clear Creek (which they named). The men traveled about two miles further, onto a "heavily wooded flat" and made camp. One of the men A. G. Tabor suggested test holes be sunk in the area.

GOLD was struck On July 4, 1862.

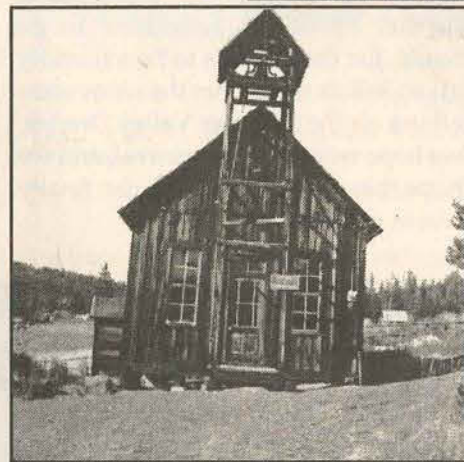


The Granite Store

Some of the group stayed on in the area while others headed on out to the Boise Basin. Rough cabins were built, and a route to the nearest trading post (at Walla Walla) was located. The mining continued until the ground froze. "Along about



Gold Marker and sign found in Granite, Oregon



Granite City Hall

March you could see small groups of men coming into camp on skis to trade for supplies. In a short time, for quite a distance along Granite Creek, it looked like a one street town, they called it Independence.

Rich placer mines supported Granite and in the late 1890's several operating quartz mines caused Granite to boom. By 1900 the town had 2 hotels, 3 stores, 5 saloons, 1 drug store, a livery stable and many permanent homes.

With gold valued at between \$20.67 to \$35.00 per fine troy ounce some \$2,000,000 was recovered by placer mining by 1914. Lode mining produced another \$2,200,000. Between 1938 and 1951 dredge mining on Granite, Clear and Bull Run Creeks is estimated to have recovered well in excess of \$5,000,000 at \$35.00 per ounce.

Yes, "there is gold in them thar hills". All it takes is a little knowledge, a little hard work and a whole heck of a lot of luck, and you may have it.

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Auburn - A Town Lost in Time

By Nancy Wilson, Curator
The McLoughlin House

In 1845 Stephen Meek convinced a group of Oregon Trail pioneers to take a short cut across eastern/central Oregon from the snake river to The Dalles. About two hundred wagons joined up and later became lost. Some of the pioneers died from starvation or from thirst, and many hardships had to be endured by the survivors. Somewhere along the way some of the children picked up several shiny pebbles along a creek bed and placed them in a blue bucket. They were lost along the trail, only to be remembered after gold was discovered in California.

Henry Griffin and some friends formed a small company in 1861 to go into eastern Oregon to seek out the "Blue Bucket Mine". Not having any success, the men split up, and Griffin and David Littlefield journeyed on to the east. Some eight miles west of Baker City - as the crow flies - the men discovered gold in Blue Creek Canyon. The area became known as Griffin's Gulch.

Thousands of miners poured into the mountains to seek their fortune - and of course, gamblers and ladies of question followed. It is said that in 1862 two Frenchmen working the creek found about \$100,00 worth of gold nuggets and dust.

Soon the population in Blue Canyon reached close to 5,000. The men called a meeting and resolved to plat a town called Auburn. The name possibly came from a town in the Sierra Nevada where many of the men prospected during the gold rush in California. A main street was laid out and building lots were sold on both sides of the street. The claims in the area were called the Auburn Mines.

A reservoir was made high in the mountains above the town, and a ditch was dug to move the water to the mining areas. The town became the second largest in Oregon and was the county seat for Baker County from 1862-1867. A post office was established in No-

ember of 1862 - the first post office in all of Northeastern Oregon.

The Chinese followed the miners to the gold strike - working in restaurants and in laundries. They were hired as laborers to work in the mines and were inaccurately called "coolies" - a corruption of a Chinese term "ku-li" or muscle strength. There were some of the residents in many areas of the west who resented the Chinese workers. The Chinese were very frugal and managed to save some money to send home to China and also to establish their own business. In 1857 a special tax was levied on the Chinese for the "right to mine". In 1858, the tax was extended to include selling, trading, or any means the Chinese used to make a liv-

ing. They stayed on in the Auburn area to work the tailings left by the original owners of the claim to take out the last traces of gold.

In a number of different areas of the Elkhorn Mountains curious walls of stone can be found. The Chinese stacked the rock as they moved along the beds of the creek. The most impressive area can be found north of the ghost town of Granite where the "Chinese Walls" cover many acres of ground.

Today, all traces of Auburn have long disappeared. A few tombstones are said to still remain in the cemetery as a reminder of those who caught "Gold Fever". Henry Griffin who helped to start the gold rush was buried there in 1883. The ditch that once served the miners now is used for irrigation.

But have all traces of gold disappeared from "them there hills"? No Way! There's still gold to be found in small quantities, and many people still mine the area - my husband and I have the mineral rights to one hundred acres of land just over the hill from the site of Auburn. We will never be wealthy, but its fun to find small nuggets large enough to pick up with your fingers and dust in the bottom of the gold pan. Believe me when I say - one can still get "GOLD FEVER"!

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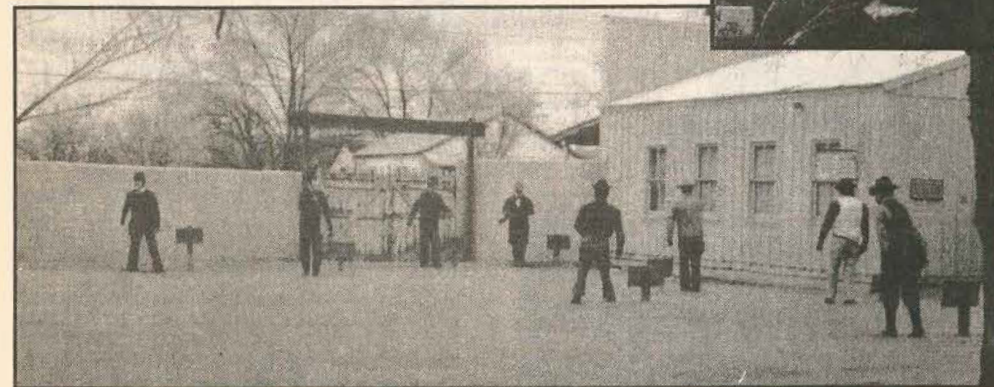
Wyatt Earp, The Man of Legend

By Sarah Brent

He was a man not to be trifled with but his fame followed him wherever he went, even the remotest areas of the California desert. Wyatt Earp and his wife Josephine, after leaving Tombstone, Arizona, wandered the west. They even traveled to Alaska where they made their fortune. They followed the gold rush to Tonopah, Nevada in 1903, where he had his last fling at the big time. Wyatt and Josie drifted south after that in their camp wagon, into Arizona

Wyatt and Josephine loved prospecting for gold and they did discover min-

Grave markers of Billy Clanton, Frank McLaury and Tom McLaury killed at the gunfight at the OK Corral on Oct. 26, 1881.



Life size mannequins show visitors what happened at the OK Corral.

erals in the Whipple Mountains near Parker, Arizona. Josie told friends "prospecting was in my blood", she loved to reminisce in later years about roughing it with Wyatt out there on the desert they both loved. Eventually they headed back to California, built a little cabin and settled in a little town called Vidal, later the name of the town was changed to Earp in honor of Wyatt.

Though Wyatt and his wife only wanted to be left alone to live out their years in peace, prospecting for gold, his background followed them. The literary world found him, and eventually Stuart Lake's book "Wyatt Earp, Frontier Marshal" was written, partly from material dictated by Wyatt to his good friend John Flood. The book made Wyatt even more famous.

Maybe, had there not been a gunfight in Tombstone, Arizona on that fateful day, October 26, 1881, supposedly at the O.K. Corral, Wyatt and Josie might have been able to live a normal life of the times, meeting the challenges of life. It wasn't to be, fame followed him always, but in his later life he did manage to live a life he loved. Jimmy Mitchell a newspaper man with the Los Angeles Examiner is quoted as saying "When history ain't like the myth, I go with the myth". Seems like many writers did, still do in fact.

Wyatt Earp died 48 years after the famous gunfight, peacefully, on January 13, 1929 in a small tourist cabin at 4004 W. 17th St. in Los Angeles, California. Josephine lived to be 83 years old, passing away in Los Angeles on December 19, 1945.

Pack rats, vultures and cold hinder prospectors

But nothing can keep them from working the find of a lifetime

Reprinted by permission from Fisher World Treasure News

Cold winter nights, two legged vultures and even cactus-rolling pack rats weren't enough to keep Pat McCormick and a friend from working their find. And after 18 nights of hard work the two prospectors came away with thousands of gold nuggets - the find of a lifetime.

"One hundred fifty, 200, 300 nuggets in one night was not uncommon" McCormick said. "It was a heck of a lot of fun."

They struck it rich in the Bradshaw Mountains around Prescott, Arizona on a cold, winter night in 1991. McCormick prefers prospecting at night be-

continued on page 34

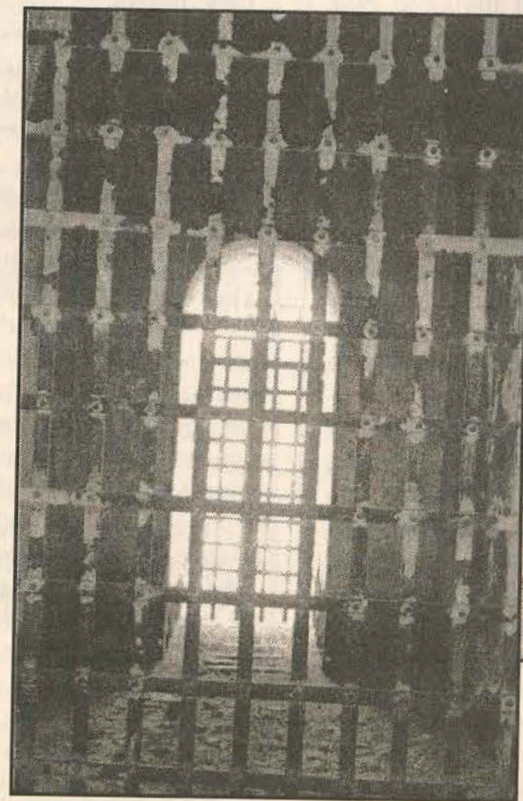
Lost Gold Treasure of Flagstaff

by Art Miller

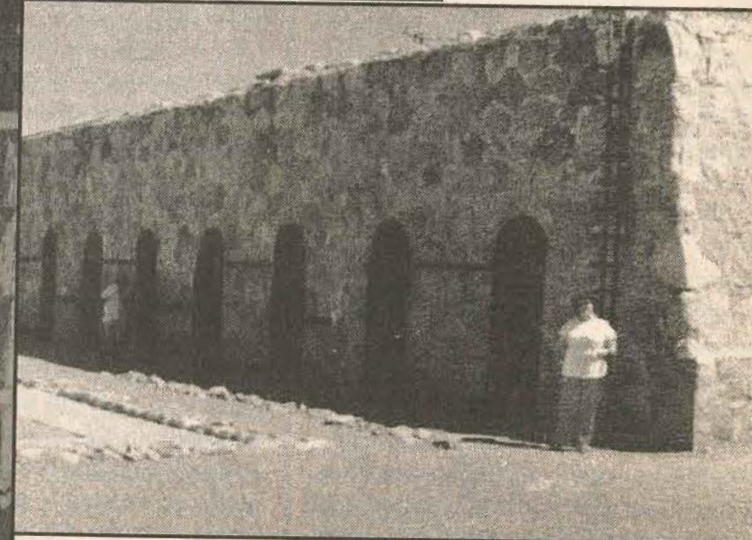
In 1913 on a summer day, one of the local men of the Flagstaff area said he had found the money from the Lost Stage Coach Robbery of 1881. He was buying drinks for the house in Flagstaff's Black Saloon and said he "witched" for it with a willow fork. He had a lot of money in his pocket when he collapsed and died after his fourth drink. A doctor pronounced him dead at the scene.

Treasure seekers rushed to his campsite near Veit Spring and found no trace of any diggings. The stage had been robbed between Diable Canyon and Flagstaff, the loot was \$125,000 in gold and silver coins and bars. The United States Army tracked the outlaws and killed them in a gun battle, but no money was ever recovered. Captain Hentig led the fight with the outlaws and he was later killed by Indians.

The lost treasure may still be buried out there waiting for someone with a lot of determination and perhaps a good gold detector to find. At today's values its worth could exceed one million dollars.



☆ Potential Sites ⚒ Gold Mining Sites



Territorial Prison in Yuma, AZ is now empty of prisoners and open to the public. An awesome experience that can cause goose bumps as you read the stories of the prisoners here.



By Sam Johnson

The land south of the Gila River was a natural shelf of gold, silver and copper. The task of supplying miners and transporting supplies across the great Southwest desert was a major problem in the early days of the west. So rough was the terrain that it tore up the feet of the horses and mules in a short time. Feed was unavailable and had to be packed in by the mules and water was very scarce.

Jefferson Davis, the Secretary of War, who later was to become President of The Confederate States, suggested to Congress that camels be purchased for the task as a solution to the transporta-

Camels in Arizona?

tion problem. Camels could carry 800 pounds and live on most types of forage, they could also travel up to 75 miles a day without water. After appropriation of funds by Congress, the purchase was made, the camels arrived in Texas and were a great success.

Homely beasts with very bad breath and a bad temperament, the camels were hard to handle. The skinners and packers hated them traveling along with the horses and mules. Another problem was soon evident, the Americans could not speak Arabic and the camels refused to learn English. The government soon was forced to import Arabian camel drivers for the task. One camel driver named Hi Jolly became well known in the Southwest. He died in 1902 and is buried in Quartzite. The inscription on his tombstone reads

"The last campsite of Hi Jolly".

The validity of using camels over mules was challenged. Six camels and twelve mules, both groups to carry 1/4 tons over a 60 mile run set out, the camels arrived 2 and 1/2 days before the mules showed up.

The Civil War brought the end of camels supplying the mines and miners. Some camels were sold to the mining operations, many were just turned loose to fend for themselves, roaming the deserts of the Southwest. It is imagined that an old prospector, after a long days search for gold, relaxing and watching the evening sun go down, sipping his homemade mash might have seen the silhouette of a camel off in the distance and remarked to himself "This homemade brew really has a kick to it"

Pack rats ... continued from page 32

cause the "two - legged vultures" (claim jumpers) can't see him.

"I must assume at all times that other prospectors are watching, only too willing to clean my nugget patch for me...at no charge!" McCormick said.

To avoid detection while working, the prospectors wore small adjustable-beam flashlights fastened to their heads with elastic bands. The small lights limited the visible search area - a benefit when nugget hunting at night.

"Since you have a smaller area to see, you work that area much more thoroughly," McCormick said. "If you use a lantern, you tend to get distracted because you see more features. Besides that, the 'vultures' are able to see you."

As the two prospectors swung their Fisher Gold Bugs at the bottom of a promising wash, cacti began rolling down the slopes. Pack rats, responding to some instinctive, territorial urge, were chewing off the round, cholla cacti, and rolling the spiked balls down into the wash at the two men.

They were hoping this tactic would

scare us off," McCormick said

Moving on, McCormick dragged his detector coil and left his Gold Bug turned on as he walked. In an unlikely spot, between the first wash and their destination, McCormick's detector went beep.

As he swung the detector, beep after beep was heard. Nuggets started turning up by the dozens. By the end of the night, the excited prospectors had close to 300 nuggets. All were small, all were 4-8 inches deep, and all were sitting on end, protruding from fissures in the bedrock.

The two prospectors didn't get much sleep during the next three months; they were busy working the find of a lifetime. Caught in the grip of gold fever, they got off work at 5 p.m., jumped in a pickup truck, grabbed a thermos of coffee and drove 40 miles to the patch.

Still far from their nugget patch, the two men would exit the pickup, load up all-terrain vehicles and head for the work area. with only the moonlight to guide them. Their lights were off to

keep the "two-legged vultures" from finding their gold patch.

They rested on weekends when it was more likely the "Vultures" might see them working. All their work was done under the cover of darkness, and so far, the location of the gold patch has remained a secret.

"We had to quit showing the nuggets to our friends," McCormick said. "They kept trying to find our spot."

The two prospectors also found nuggets in three other nearby washes, but these nuggets were lying down and were far less plentiful than the nuggets taken from the first spot. McCormick believes the first spot, with its nuggets sticking up on end, is the open end of an ore vein that could extend some distance into the ground.

McCormick is hoping a winter freeze will crack open the bedrock that holds the tiny nuggets in their upright position, uncovering more nuggets underneath. But for now, the patch is played out, and McCormick is happy with his take - the find of a lifetime.

TOMBSTONE, "The Town Too Tough To Die"

By JoAn Jackson

The very sound of it calls to mind the Old West in all its garish, glorious and infamous splendor. Tombstone lies on desert hills 4,539 feet above sea level between the San Pedro Valley and the Dragoon Mountains. The climate is dry with warm, some would even say hot, summers, and plenty of sunshine in the winter.

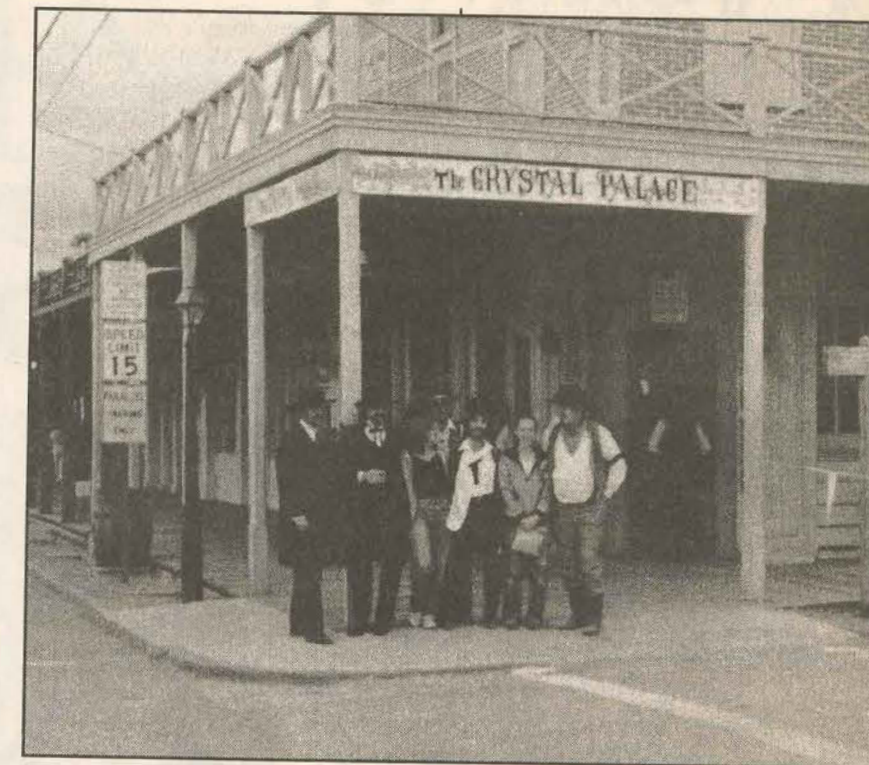
When you first see Tombstone today you find that most of the buildings still in use were built between 1879 and 1882 with a few new homes and businesses thrown in for good measure. Benches along the main street are under the shade of roofed sidewalks that invite you to sit a spell and ponder the past, and if you're very lucky, an old timer will stop to talk about the old days. The Tombstone of today is not the town it used to be.

A fellow soldier said "Instead of a mine, you'll find a tombstone." to Ed Schieffelin in 1877 as Ed left Fort Huachuca. Ed was aware of the danger posed by marauding bands of Apaches, but he was determined to go "looking for stones." When Ed came across rich looking ore, he remembered the warning and said to himself "Here is my Tombstone." That's the name he gave the place when he recorded his claim, then he headed north

Arizona

by Tom Bisset

Arizona's first gold rush was in 1858 about 20 miles from the junction of the Colorado and Gila Rivers, on the Gila. It was a rich find of placer gold and soon the town of Gila City sprang up. Miners were panning up to \$20.00 a day in 1861. By 1864 the town was being torn down by lumber robbers because the placers had played out and lumber was so valuable.



Gunfights are staged in the streets of Tombstone today giving visitors an "Old West" experience.

to obtain funds and to persuade his brother, Al, and Richard Gird, an assayer and influential mining man, to join him in his venture.

They were quite disappointed when, after arriving back at Tombstone, they found the claim to be a shallow pocket. They named it "The Graveyard" because "they buried their hopes". Perseverance paid off however, and soon Ed did strike it rich. His brother noted

"You're one lucky cuss" and indeed he was because the "Lucky Cuss" turned out to be one of the richest mines in Arizona. Mine after mine was staked out, such as Tough Nut, Goodenough, East Side and West Side. The town of Tombstone was laid out in 1879 only about a mile from Ed's first camp. Ed Schieffelin and his partners sold out after the first million. To find out the rest of his story see page 9.

F.X. Aubrey

In 1853 Francis X. Aubrey, who became famous for his longest ride, led a party heading for California across Northern Arizona. During the crossing they met a group of Indians using golden bullets to hunt rabbits and other game. Aubrey traded a mule for a pound and one half of the gold bullets, and got more gold, about \$1500 worth, for some clothing.

F. X. Aubrey was killed in a knife fight in a Santa Fe saloon over a newsletter that may have suggested his story of that journey might not have been the truth. F. X. was definitely a mountain man and a spirited pioneer. As long as the tales of the history of the southwest endure Aubrey's name will appear many times.



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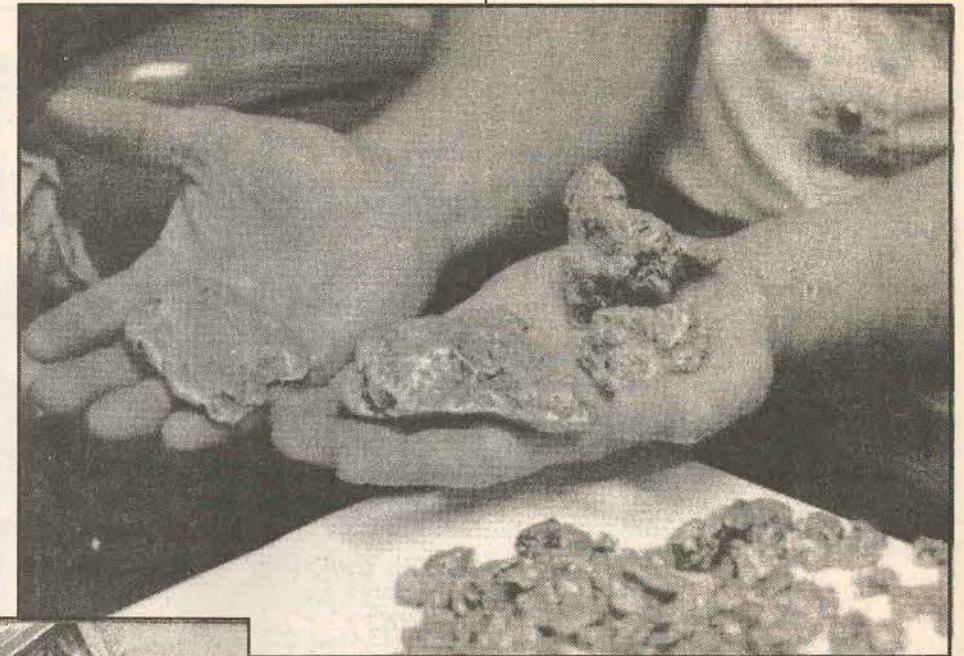
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A Brief History of GOLD in Tuolumne County

By Ralph "Sierra" Shock
 Owner & Operator of Gold Prospecting Expeditions -Jamestown, California

In the summer of 1848, Benjamin Wood of Oregon led a party of miners up a creek. Just south of what is now Highway 108/49 bridge over the present Wood's Creek, they discovered a 75 pound nugget. A mining camp called Wood's Crossing was the first gold camp in Tuolumne County. It is sometimes referred to as the Plymouth Rock of Tuolumne County and is located just one mile down the highway from Gold Prospecting Expeditions of Jamestown.

It has been reported that \$15 million of gold has been taken from Wood's



Gold brought into our store to sell, Jan. 2, 1985;
 11 pounds of nuggets worth \$140,000.
 Photos courtesy of Ralph Shock



Home of Gold Prospecting Expeditions,
 Jamestown, CA.

Those who became rich during the Gold Rush were mostly suppliers of mining tools, provisions and general merchandise which included liquor. A plate of pork

and beans cost an average of \$1, a shovel cost as much as \$20, and a pair of blue jeans were \$23. Gold dust, which served as a medium of exchange, was not usually measured by accurate means. The amount of gold which could be held between the thumb and forefinger was called a pinch and was about a dollar's worth. A teaspoon passed for an ounce, a wine glass full was \$100 and a full tumbler was called \$1000.

Creek (the dollar amount taken from reports written in 1849 when gold sold for \$8 in coin or 16 per ounce in trade). Later that same year, a miner was looking for his lost jackass when he found several gold nuggets. Now called Jackass Gulch, the miner took 1,000 ounces out of 100 square feet! By the spring of 1850, nearly 12 tons of gold had been taken out of the area. No accurate records detail all the great finds because only a small percentage of the notable finds were ever reported.

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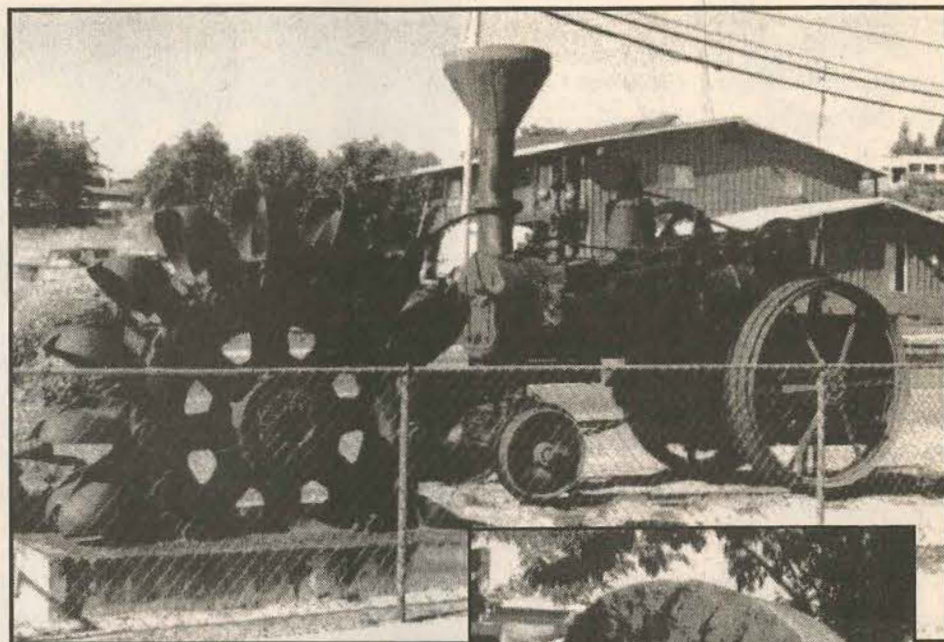
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Californias Famous Argonauts

by Glen Turner

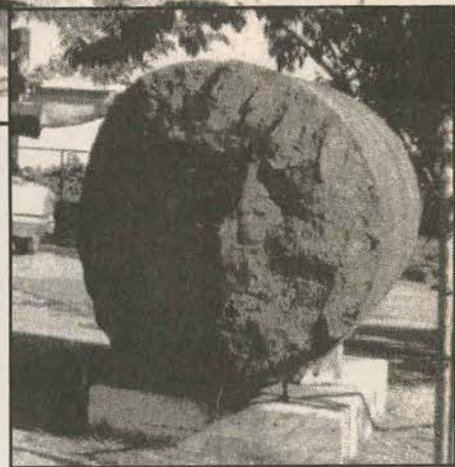
In the early days of the 1849 gold rush many of the hopeful Argonauts (miners) seeking treasure in the gold fields, rushed to the gold camps, places with false front buildings, boardwalks, and muddy streets. Some came to mine the miners like Philip Armour with his butcher shop in the Mother Lode area. A grocery store in Placerville helped Mark Hopkins get his start. Levi Strauss, a young immigrant, decided to make long wearing pants to stand up to the hard wear of the miners. Strauss used canvas from the covered wagons and tents which was very durable and the pants lasted longer than anything that was available in the mining camps. Mr. J. M. Studebaker didn't get his start building cars for the American public, it was building the wheelbarrows, needed by the miners in the gold camps, that started his fortune.

Because of the lack of gold coins before the mints were producing them, a man wanting a drink would simply open his gold pouch and let the bartender pinch what gold he could get between his thumb and forefinger as payment. This method was called "pinch" or "pinch for payment". The usual payment was about 75 cents to \$1.00 average depending on the size of the bartender's fingers and thumbs. It was rumored that a bartender had a good chance of being hired if he had



Mining equipment on display at Angels Camp

(right) Core from mine drilling



large hands. The extra gold he could "pinch" might pay his wages. Some were a little careless by spilling a little gold dust on the floor while taking it to the money box. One enterprising bartender supposedly put on his rubber boots and went out the back door and walked in the mud several times during his shift. Upon returning to the bar he walked where he

had spilled the gold, he then cleaned his boots in a bucket. The story goes that he "panned" \$100 a week from that bucket with this novel method.

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Tales of Colorado Boom Days

by Todd Moyer

The glorious boom town days in the mining districts of the Colorado Rockies are filled with stories of humor, tragedy and community spirit. The American West of 1840 to 1899 was wide open territory where anything could happen.

Pass the salt please

Alfred Packer is the only man ever tried for cannibalism. In the winter of 1873, Packer led five men on a gold prospect scouting party, into the San Juan mountains near Lake City, Colorado. He was the only one to return.

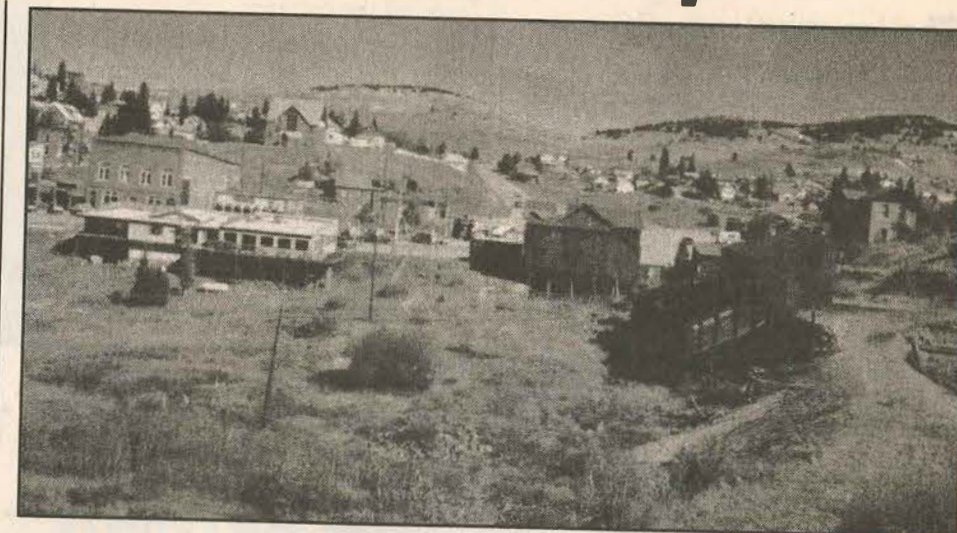
Packer claimed everyone left him and he was forced to live off the land. Several weeks later an Indian came into town with strips of human flesh he found along Packer's trail. The townfolk were increasingly suspicious over Packer's story. That spring, a *Harper's Weekly* photographer discovered a gruesome, grisly sight when he found the remains of five bodies; their heads crushed and strips of flesh cut from their bodies.

Packer was arrested and escaped. He was recaptured in Wyoming several years later and returned to Lake City for trial. He was convicted. The judge was a Democrat and reportedly said, "Packer, you rotten so and so, there were seven Democrats in the county and you ate five of them I sentence you to be hanged."

Colorado

by Bob Roberts

Cherry Creek in 1858 (Downtown Denver). A rich placer strike made on Clear Creek sent 50,000 people to the Pike's Peak area in 1859. Rich gold bearing quartz was also found along the Continental Divide, founding the town of Central City.



Cripple Creek, Colorado

by the neck until you are dead, dead, dead."

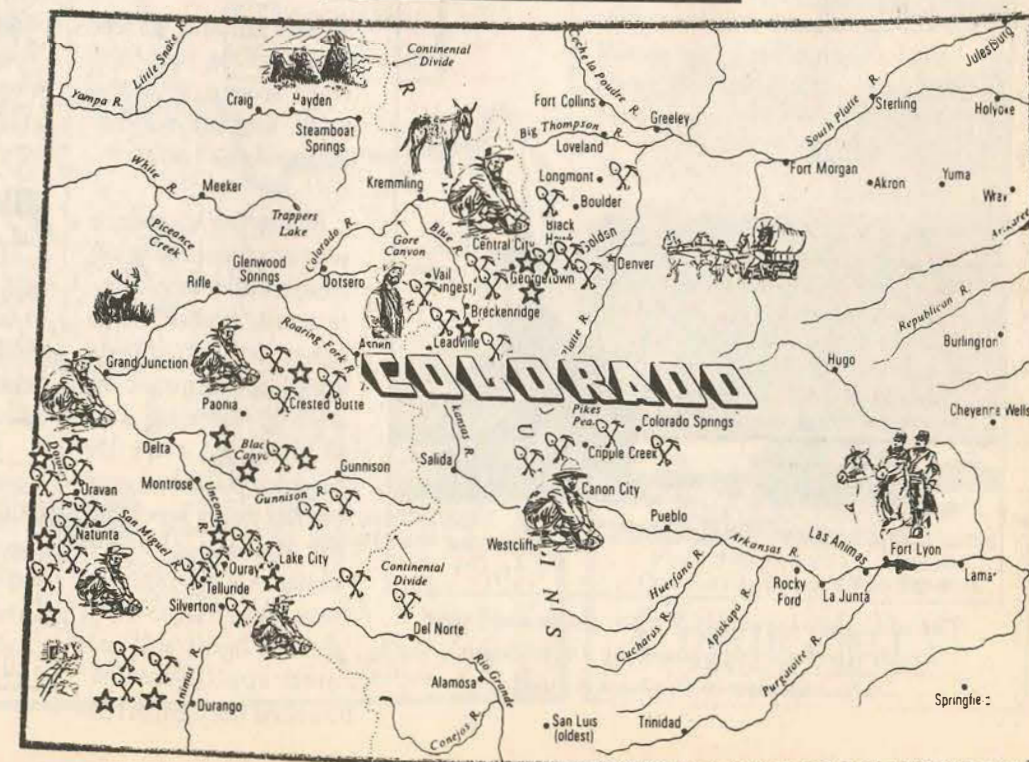
The hanging did not take place. Packer was granted a new trial and sentenced to 40 years for manslaughter.

But wait, there's more! In later years, a group of Denver Republicans organized the Alfred Packer Club. Two plays

were written. Several poems. And a Colorado university, disgruntled over the quality of the cafeteria food, renamed it to the "Alfred Packer Cafeteria." Little did Packer know that his name, and appetite, would live on through history.

continued on page 40

★ Potential Sites ✂ Gold Mining Sites



Tales of Colorado ... continued from page 39

The ice man cometh

The Leadville Ice Palace was built in the most majestic setting in the world; overlooking the upper Arkansas River valley with a sweeping view to Mt. Massive and Mt. Elbert. Located at 10,200 feet in elevation, Leadville is the highest incorporated city on the continent, and the Ice Palace was just as unique as the town.

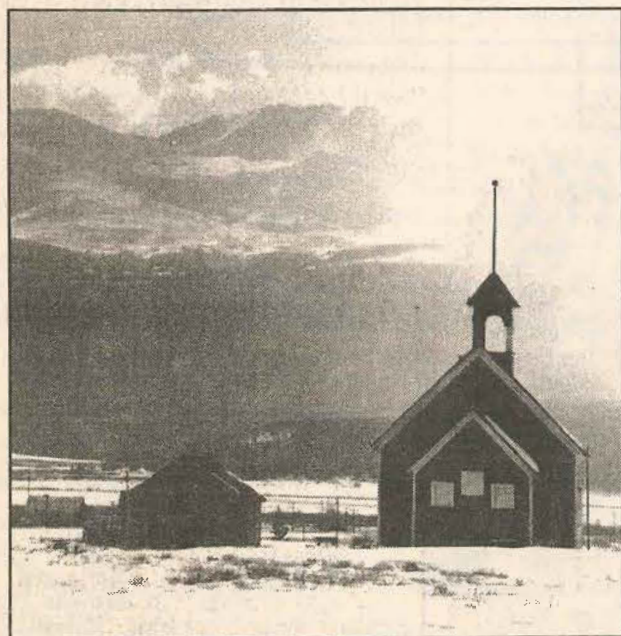
It was erected during the winter of 1895-1896 by the citizens and businesses of Leadville in an effort to get out of the slump caused by the repeal of the Silver Act in 1893. Towns and mining camps dependent on silver ore were suddenly tossed into a depression. The ice palace would be part of a winter carnival designed to bring in locals and tourists from

around the country.

The ice palace covered five acres (that's four-and-a-half football fields!), had eight foot thick walls and was 50 feet high. The design was similar to a Norman castle with arches, buttresses and battlements. Walls, floors, ceilings were all ice blocks mortared with water. The octagonal corner towers were



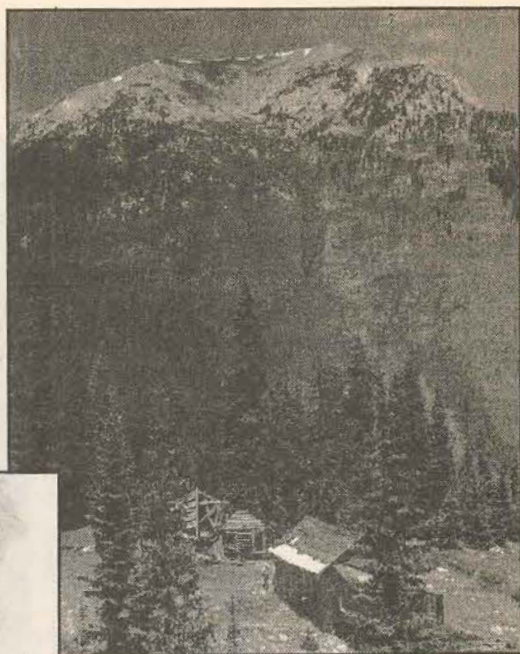
Cabin in Ruby, Colorado. So named for the iron ore deposits that gave the surrounding peaks their reddish appearance.



The old schoolhouse of Malta, Colorado (near Leadville) in an approaching snowstorm. Mt. Massive in the background.

90 feet tall and 40 feet across. Ore samples were frozen into the walls and ice statues adorned the hallways.

Inside the icy palace was a large ice skating rink, a ballroom, a restaurant, and various other rooms. Bands supplied the music for dining, dancing and skating. Leadville hosted parades and parties every weekend for the out of town visitors. The interior was illuminated with electric lights and colored spotlights that bounced the light off the



The remains of Romley, Colorado. Every winter takes it's destructive toll on ghost town buildings. (Photos by Todd Moyer)

frost and ice described as, "like the glistening of a large bed of diamonds." Outside at night the lights turned the ice palace into a dream of beauty.

But alas, like an ice cube in warm weather it melted. The carnival committee that had built the ice palace had hoped it would last until July, but summer came early that year and the Leadville Ice Palace was closed by April. Three months of festivities had come to an end and so to did the largest ice structure ever constructed in the world.

Glad it wasn't a fly

The town of Mosquito was first settled in 1861 and elaborate plans were made for its future. A meeting was held to pick a name. But the 250 residents couldn't decide on a name after several had been suggested.

At the next meeting, the secretary opened the book of the minutes from the previous meeting and found a mosquito squashed between the pages. In fact, the mosquito was crushed right on the blank space they had left for the new name of the town. They liked it, and the name stuck.

Florence, Not On Other Maps Today

by Samantha Worthington

On the western edge of the Gospel Hump Wilderness Area lies one of the richest gold finds in North America.

This area yielded so much gold in 1860 that it has been said it was weighed by the pound instead of the ounce.

The area is south of Lewiston on State Road 14 which leads to the Ghost Town of Florence which was created by, and flourished during, the gold rush. Its not on any map today so you might need to check with the Historical Society or Department of Geology for information.

This area has not become as famous as some for its deposits of gold but it should have. In 1860 a placer miner

using a "rocker" supposedly rocked out \$4,600 in one day, and at that time gold was worth \$8.00 an ounce, today that would amount to over \$200,000! A gold pan of Florence gravel could net as much as \$500 worth of gold.

The bones of this old ghost town are still there for the modern prospector with his modern metal detector or old fashioned gold pans and diligent work. With the equipment available to prospectors of today this area could be where you find your Bonanza!

Orofino Creek, A Bonanza

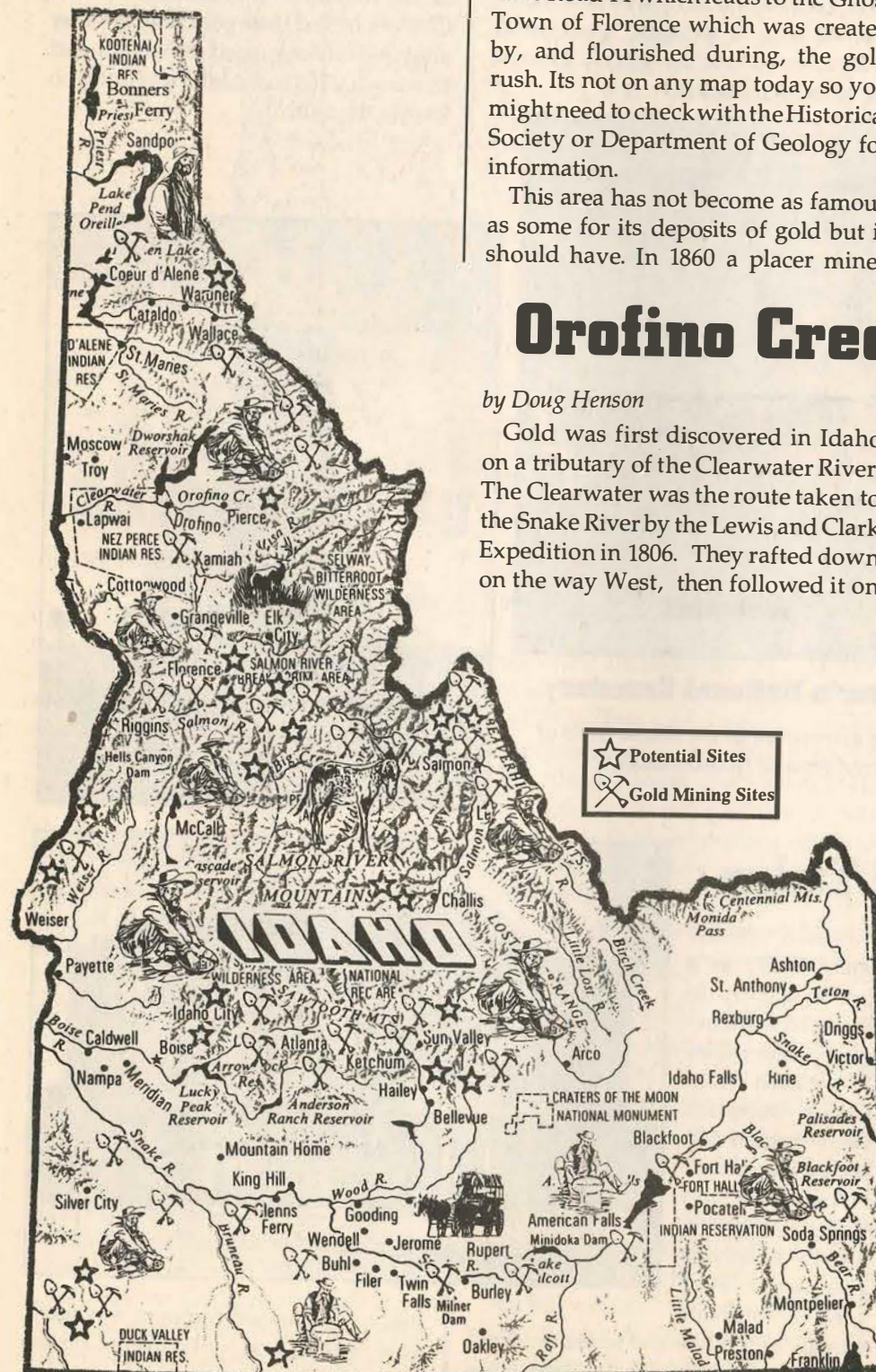
by Doug Henson

Gold was first discovered in Idaho on a tributary of the Clearwater River. The Clearwater was the route taken to the Snake River by the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1806. They rafted down on the way West, then followed it on

their return East. This was the area of Idaho's first gold rush. Idaho was being settled by Mormon pioneers in the south while at the same time thousands of gold hunters came in searching the streams for their fortunes.

It wasn't until 1858 when the Coeur d'Alene Indians were finally defeated by the U.S. Army and placed on a reservation that the exploration for gold in Northern Idaho really began. In 1861 Lewiston became a supply and outfitting center for the miners. Elk City and Pierce had gold strikes in 1866 worth about \$7 million. It was 1861 when very rich placer mines near the Salmon

continued on page 42



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Orofino Creek ... continued from page 41

River at Florence and Warrens started producing, \$16 million in gold was recovered there between 1861 and 1867. By early 1863 the Boise Basin at Idaho City had a gold strike that created the towns of Placerville, Rocky Bar, and Atlanta. By 1866 these strikes had produced over \$20 million in gold. The population of the area had grown to 16

thousand by 1864 and the wooden town of Idaho City burned and was rebuilt four times by 1871.

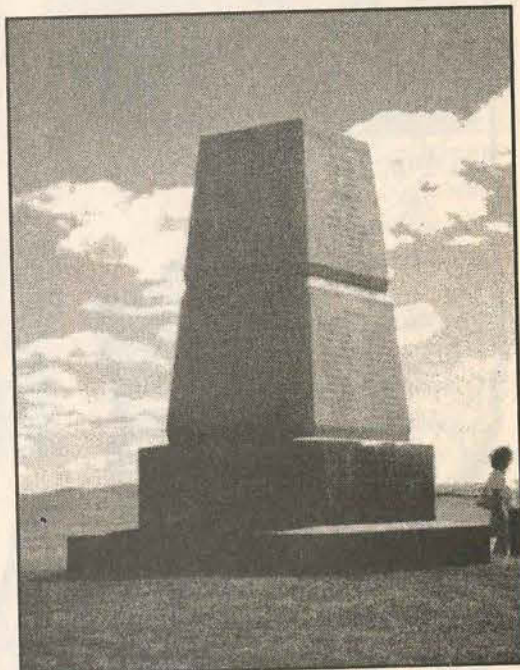
The gambling halls were famous for their notorious Madam's' and dancing girls. Shakespearean plays and melodramas were a welcome break from everyday toil and the grizzly grungy life of the gold fields.

By 1870 one third of the territory and one half of all the miners were Chinese. The animosity was great and in the years of 1866 and 1867 many Chinese were lynched and the killings blamed on the Indians. It was claimed that the Chinese mixed their gold with another alloy, which enhanced its weight and that is what led to the killings - but who knows the truth.



Little Bighorn Battlefield & Custer's National Cemetery

This battle was the result of gold being discovered in the Black Hills of Montana and South Dakota, sacred ground to the Indians.



Grand Union Hotel Today

This hotel was visited by nobility from Europe and by wealthy Americans. The dining room of the hotel was famous for the fine linens, & crystal they used and of course the gourmet food.

Quote from historic Marker at Fort Benton " Captain Clark with members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition camped on the site of Fort Benton June 4, 1805.

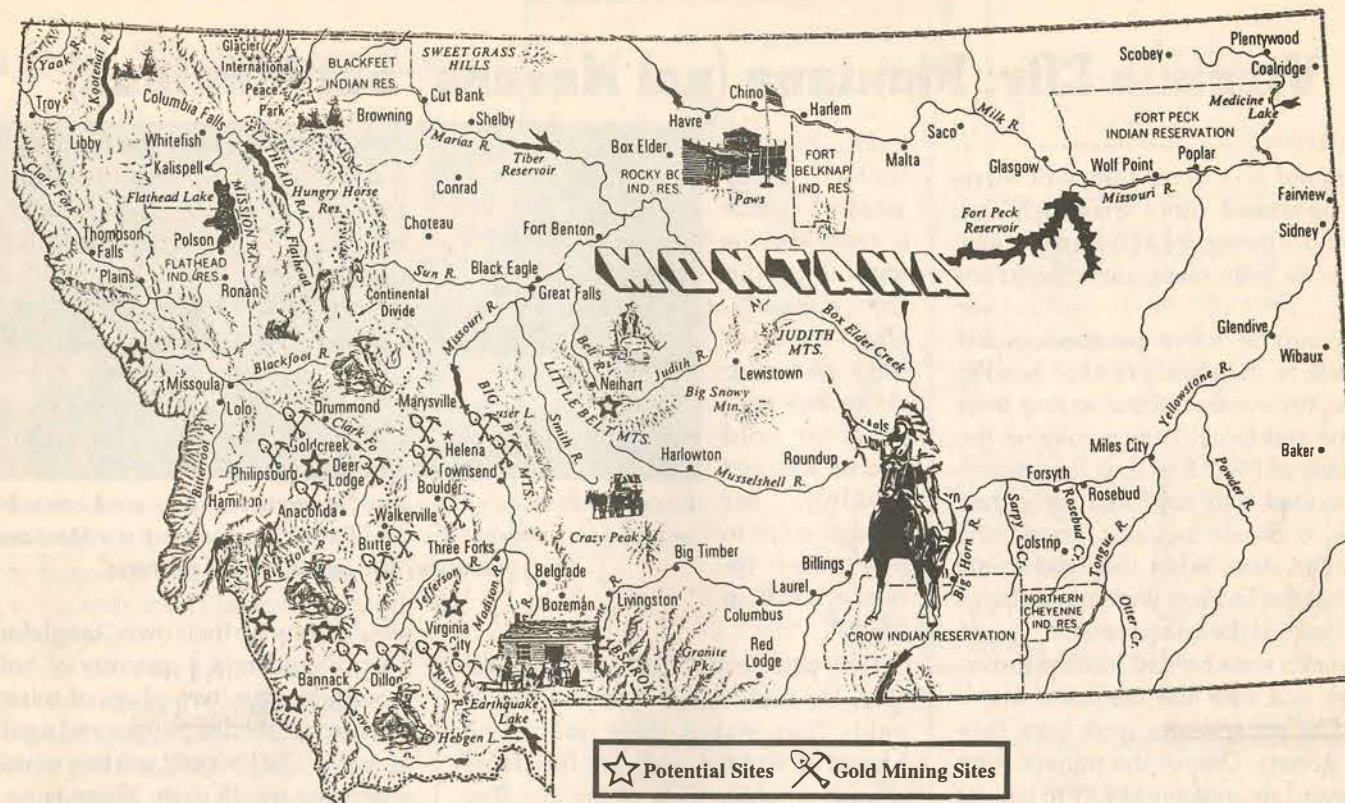
Originally a trading post of the American Fur Company it became head of navigation on the Missouri River with the arrival of the first steamboat from St. Louis in 1859. She

boomed in the early 1860's as a point of entry to the newly discovered placer mines of western Montana. Supplies were freigh-ted out by ox teams.

An early observer stated 'Perhaps nowhere else were ever seen motlier crowds of daubed and feathered Indians, buckskin-arrayed half-breed no-



bility, moccasined trappers, voyagers, gold seekers and bull drivers....on the face of the boating season'..."



Sheriff, Gang Leader, Thief & Murderer

By Dennis Richards

Henry Plumber was one of the West's most polished and dangerous villains. Plumber was a gambler, he was elected Sheriff of Bannack during the 1860's. He was the secret leader of a gang of outlaws that robbed the stage line that ran regularly between Bannack and Virginia City. The gang killed most of the passengers on board the stages to avoid being identified.

Bannack became the capitol of Montana. It has been said that in the area around the town there were countless bodies of prospectors that the Plumber gang had robbed, killed, and buried, to hide their crime. These bodies were never counted when the crime spree was tallied up. In a little over 200 days of crime the Plumber gang was blamed for killing over 100 people, that's better than one each day and that is only the bodies that were found!

Because the Sheriff and his deputies were all thieves and crooks the people were afraid to speak out against their attackers even if they lived through the experience until after a long period of

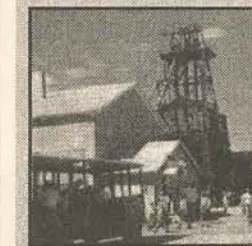
abuse, a Vigilance Committee was formed. Now the tables were turned and 24 men were appointed to an advisory jury. Immediately the most brazen of the outlaws and a known killer, one George Ives was arrested. Ives was a cool customer, and fearless from living a life of danger and violence. He was quickly found guilty and was hanged less than an hour after the verdict, justice was very swift. His last words "I'm not guilty". Within two weeks five more heartless souls were hung and sent on the way to their destiny.

Henry Plumber fell to his knees in tears when he was arrested and said he would leave the country forever, if they would just spare his life. Plumber confessed his many murders and declared he was to wicked to die and he wanted a jury trial. His begging and begging did him no good, he was hanged on the gallows that he himself had built earlier as Sheriff.

All this wouldn't have happened if it were not for William Fairweather's gold discovery at Alder Creek. While

trying to elude a band of Indians he and some other men stopped for a bite to eat. The others scoffed at William for going to the creek to pan for gold while waiting for lunch to get cooked. His discovery led to the recovery of \$70 million in gold by 1893 and the birth of the first capitol of Montana, Bannack and to the founding of the gold towns of Virginia City and Nevada City. William Fairweather was penniless when he died.

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Virginia City, Montana (not Nevada, but Montana)

by Todd Moyer

The gold and silver camps of Montana produced more than rich ore, sometimes they gave us colorful stories to pass on from one generation to another.

A group of seven prospectors left Bannack in the spring of 1863 headed for the Yellowstone River to find their fortune and fame. They awoke on the morning of May 1 to find themselves surrounded and captured by either, Crow or Sioux Indians, know one knew for sure. What they did know was that the Indians were more than a little upset at the trespassers.

The men were herded into the Indian village and into the medicine man's tent. The prospectors were sure they were goners. One of the miners, who possessed an uncanny ability to handle

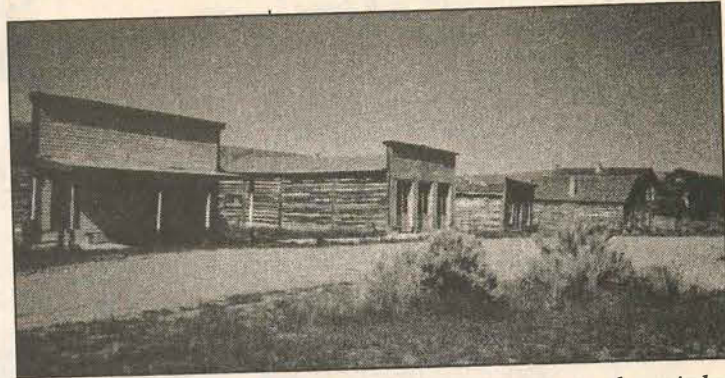
nack. Feeling lucky they stopped beside a creek for the night to try out the panning. Only one of them ended up doing any panning for gold and he was just looking for enough color to buy some tobacco back in town.

That prospector made mining history. He found gold; lots and lots of gold. They staked their claims and named it Alder Gulch for the dense growth of alder trees at the site. The men agreed to say nothing of their discovery when they arrived at Bannack the next day. They wanted to stock up and return to work their claims in secret.

Sure. While in town they ate well, dressed well, and drank well for men who before they left had done nothing well. The lucky prospectors tried to slip out of town the next morning but were followed by three to four hundred men. Before reaching Alder Gulch the prospectors

gave in and held a meeting with the followers. It was decided that everyone would stake two claims each, there would be no claim jumping, and they would all live happily ever after. Two out of three ain't bad. For want of tobacco money Virginia City was born.

Speaking of tobacco...In Virginia City's heyday years, the 1860s, one out of three businesses was a saloon. Sometimes the whiskey supply would run low and the supply wagon was a few days out yet, so the tavern keepers



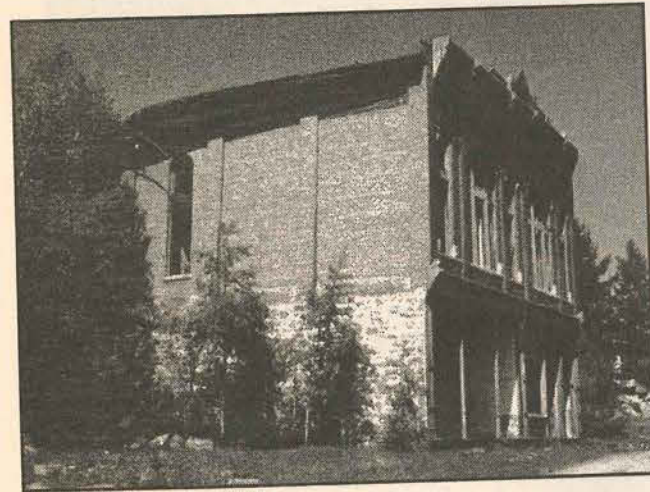
Bannack, Montana's main street is empty today - a stark reminder of the boom or bust of the Gold Rush days. Bannack is a Montana State Historical Site and is open to visitors.

would brew up their own "tanglefoot." They would mix a quantity of boiled mountain sage, two plugs of tobacco, one box of cayenne pepper and a gallon of water. They would sell this whiskey substitute for 25 each. There is no report of how many tavern keepers were shot, so it must not have tasted too bad.

Cats, horses, and mules worked deep in the mines of Montana. The cats hung around to get the mice that were eating the feed for the horses and mules. They loved it down there.

The horses and mules, of course, were used to haul out the ore. They lived underground with clean stables, feed and fresh water. At one point, there were at least a thousand horses and mules living in the Montana mines. They would pull up to six ore cars at a time; each car with a ton of ore. They worked at different levels and pulled to the main shaft where the ore was transported to the surface. Each animal had its own driver who would tend to the animal and handle the ore car train. Frequently the animals would become attached to their drivers (or vice-versa) like pets. A deep affection grew between them; and one wouldn't go to work without the other! An old miner's ballad said it best:

*My sweetheart's a mule in the mine.
I drive her with only one line.
On the dashboard I sit
And tobacco I spit,
All over my sweetheart's behind.*



Granite, Montana Miners Union Hall built in 1870.

Photo by Todd Moyer

poisonous snakes without danger to himself, discovered two live rattlesnakes kept for ceremonies, and stuffed them into his shirt. When the Indians threatened the miners with their lives, the crazy one (miner, not Indian) pulled out the snakes and threatened the Indians. The Indians thought he was evil and released the whole group fearing evil spirits would invade the tribe.

The prospectors high-tailed it out of there and headed back toward Ban-

In Utah Silver was King

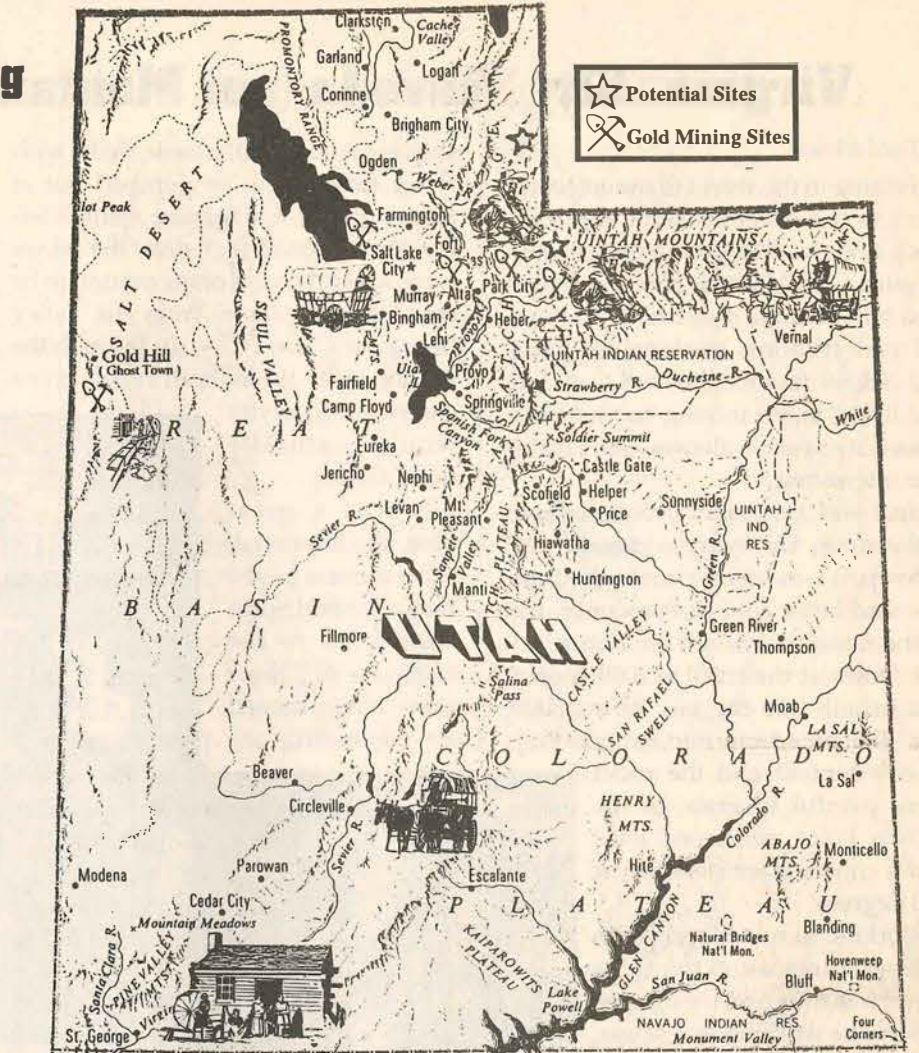
By Wendall Hall

Col. Patrick Conner's regiment of Federal soldiers were assigned to Indian control and map making, but they often went prospecting instead. The boom town known as Park City was the result of one of their finds. The soldiers reported "We tied a red bandanna to a bush where it could easily be seen to mark the place". When the assay report was done it showed there were 96 ounces of silver and a lot of gold and lead to the ton. When the find became public in 1870 it started a rush. Soon makeshift housing went up, lining the muddy road that ran the length of the canyon.

Within ten years this rough camp had become a city with churches, its own water system, and stages traveled between town and Salt Lake City. During this period mining continued at a hectic pace. It wasn't to last. As the first discovered shallow mines began to play out it was necessary to go deeper and deeper into the earth. When the miners reached the level of the water table mining became impossible, the mines flooded, and one by one they were being shut down. The biggest mine owners worked together to build drainage tunnels and the miners were able to return to work.

Another mining area Conner's regiment is credited with discovering was at East Canyon. The soldiers had heard tales told of silver bullets used by the Indians and ran the Indians away from the area. The soldiers named it St. Louis and by 1870 it became necessary to plat a town and form a mining district. The name was changed to Ophir after the fabulous mines of King Solomon. The individual mines had names like Miner's Delight and Wild Delirium giving you an idea of the prospectors view of their discoveries.

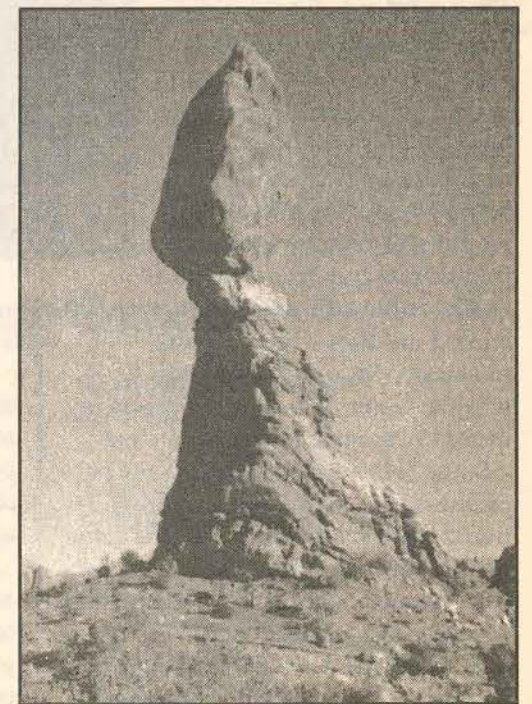
The boom really took off on August 23, 1870 when a "horn" of silver was found. The lodes at Silveropolis, where the ore assayed at \$24,000 a ton in ten car lots, and Shamrock and Chloride Point were staked. When the ore finally



ran out and Ophir died many of the fancy stone and brick buildings, built in boom days, became the towns tombstones.

At Alta, Utah legend has it the wife of the regiments surgeon picked up a chunk of quartz and said "Is this what you're looking for". It was and the discovery touched off a wild rush of prospectors. This was in Little Cottonwood Canyon at an elevation of over 8,500 feet. The snow in the winter would get so deep that miners built towers atop their cabins to provide a winter entrance.

Today copper and zinc have taken the place of silver and are mined in the region. The old mine tailing are being worked as well. But remember, you find gold where it has been found before, and there was gold in those hills along with the silver. You can be sure somewhere in these mountains there is gold to be found.



Balanced Rock, outside of Moab, Utah.

Virginia City, Nevada (not Montana, but Nevada)

by Todd Moyer

Nothing in the world of mining compares to the silver strike of the Comstock Lode at Mt. Davidson, beneath Virginia City, Nevada. Nothing. It created millionaires, publishing empires, railroad tycoons, banking magnets, and helped finance the civil war. Life and living in the mining camp of Virginia City wasn't always easy, but it was interesting.

Heat was a constant problem down in the mines. Up on top at ground level in town, it was boiling hot in the summer and bitter cold in the winter. But in the mines it was always hot, sticky hot. Down at the 1500' to 2000' level it was usually 110 degrees. At the 3000' level you could run into temperatures of 130 degrees and the rocks were painful to grab. In the Crown Point mine, one level had a constant temperature of 150 degrees!

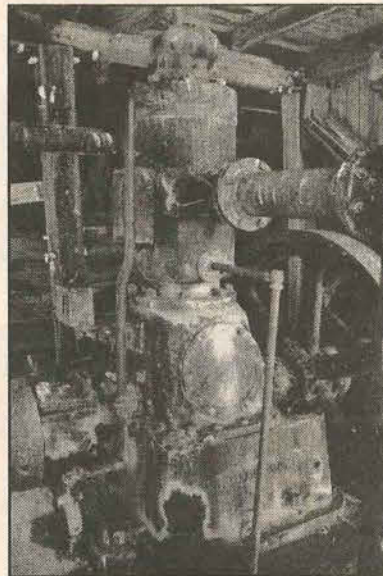
Working in mine levels with temperatures as extreme as these, was rough on the miners. It was like working in a sauna. The miners had barrels of ice cold water, somewhat adequate ventilation, and relief periods from a double-gang system, where two men did the work of one. In spite of dressing down to their shorts in the heat levels, the perspiration would still remove their body impurities and leave them a chalky white each day. Men assigned to these levels were physically fit and would only work a week at a time before being moved to a more comfortable level.

Some of the miners would make pets of one of the many mice infesting the mines (sounds like they needed some of the Montana cats). The rats, however, served a purpose: they would warn the miners of cave-ins when they were squeezed out of hiding by ground shifting.

Flooding water was always a problem. Underground springs and natural

seepage would fill the mineshafts with water that had to be pumped out at great expense. Along came Adolph Sutro. He reasoned that since the mines were way up on top of the mountain he could drill a tunnel from the valley floor near Carson City, up through the mountain to the bottom of the mine shafts, and gravity would naturally drain them.

It was a great idea, and it worked! Mine owners paid him a fee and Sutro connected to the bottom of their mine. If they missed a payment, he



Abandoned mine equipment
Photo by Jim Hathaway

air ventilation, and an escape route for miners in case of a disaster. But the project took too long to complete and the mines had as deep as they needed and production was slacking off.

Besides the gambling halls, saloons and hurdy-gurdy houses, there were other forms of entertainment in Virginia City. Among them wrestling, prize fighting, cockfighting, badger contests, greyhounds chasing coyotes, target practice, bear fights, bear-bull

fights, even bear-dog fights. One time a bear broke loose and chased its owner around the ring. The audience sitting on the main floor scattered and climbed the poles. The folks sitting in the stands cheered the bear on!

Comstockians drank enough liquor to float a battleship. Really! Most of the saloons were known as "bit houses," because they would charge a bit for a drink. A bit is twelve and one-half cents. Some places were two bit houses, but they included a free lunch.

The stagecoach in and out of Virginia City was specially built by John Studebaker. The roads were rough and rugged and needed a comparable wagon. He called it the Washoe Wagon, and it was made out of wood, wrought iron and came specially equipped with very powerful brakes.

The road was so wild that one of the wagon drivers kept mending his clothes with copper harness rivets instead of thread and buttons. This, allegedly, gave the idea to Levi Strauss for his famous pants.

Samuel L. Clemens came to Virginia City and ended up working for the *Territorial Enterprise*. This was not one of the mainstream newspapers of the day, never was. The paper was well known for embellishing the truth, sometimes even concocting whole stories. When Clemens first started, he signed his articles as Josh. He soon substituted a Mississippi River steamboat phrase meaning "two fathoms deep" as his name, mark, twain. The new moniker stuck and Mark Twain was born.



Mark Twain's desk at
the Territorial Enterprise.
Photo by Todd Moyer

would close the door and re-flood the mine! Not only did it cure the water problem, but it added fresh

Gold In Nevada 1993

Fact: Nevada led the nation in precious metal production, producing approximately 60% of the gold. Production was 6.7 million ounces.

FACT: Estimated geologic gold reserves are over 132 million ounces. If 100 million ounces are recoverable, this represents \$35 billion (at \$350 per oz.)

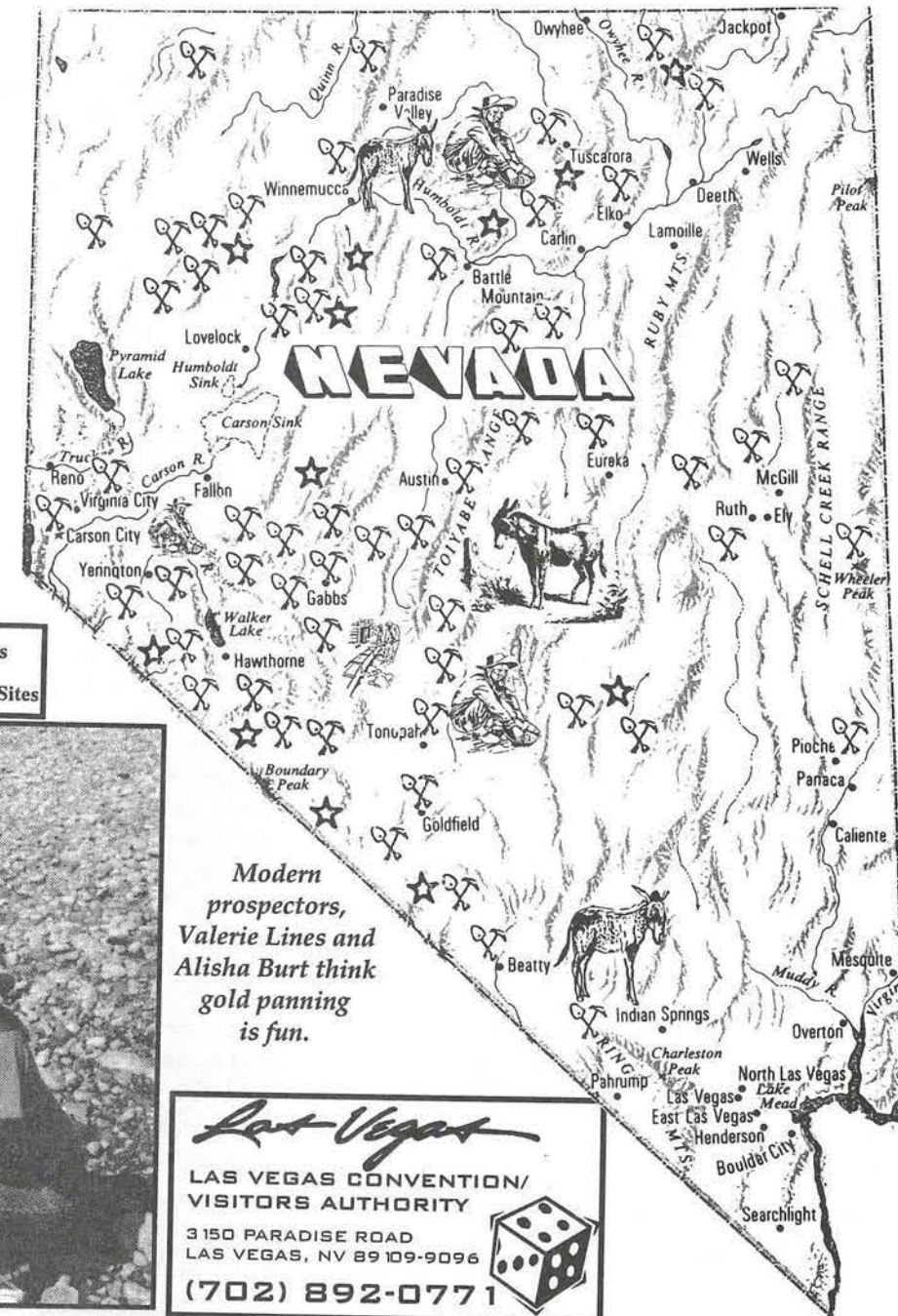
Information from Nevada Minerals
Industry Fact Sheet 1993
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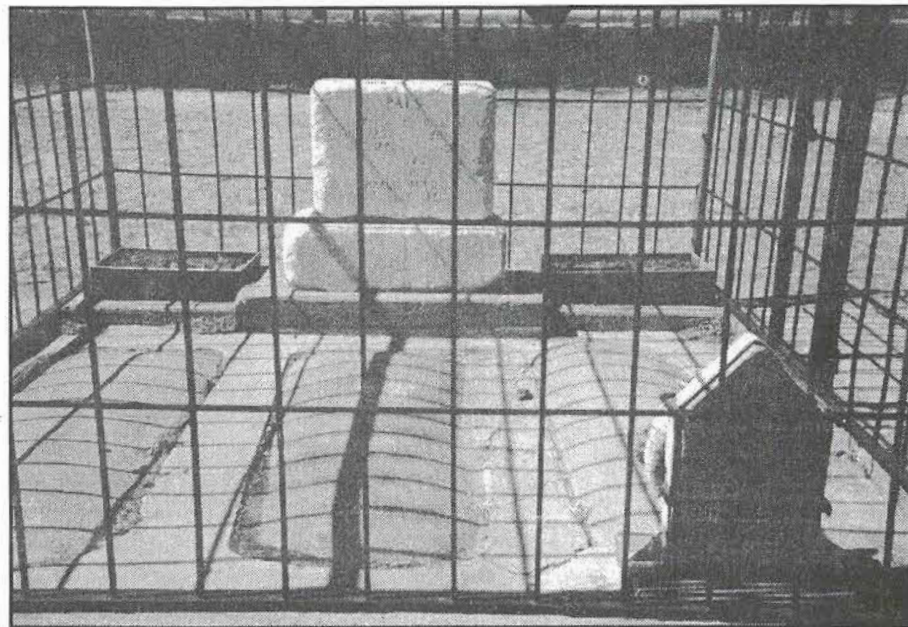
True or False a Hair Raising Tale

By Dusty Rhodes

A mine explosion in Virginia City probably saved the life of one of its miners. He was badly hurt in the explosion and lost an eye, all his teeth and as a result of the medication he was given in the hospital, he even lost all his hair. When he recovered he got false teeth, upper and lower plates, a glass eye, and he even a wig.

He took to stage driving in the 1870's (mining didn't appeal to him any more) and his stage was stopped by hostile Bannock Indians during the Bannock Indian War. While the Indians were contemplating his fate, which was probably his demise, he removed his wig and gave it to one of the Indians. Without hesitation he removed his teeth and gave them to the Indian as well. The Indians were stunned to say the least, (they probably had never seen a white man with removable parts). When he pulled his glass eye out of its socket and offered it too, the Indians broke and ran, dropping his wig and the false teeth.

Its hard to know if many white men told this tale in the 1870's but its for sure the surviving Bannocks probably did.



The Elusive Tombstone of Billy The Kid

Billy the Kid's tombstone was stolen in 1950. For 26 years it remained a mystery until 1976, when Joe Bowlin recovered it in Granbury, Texas. Stolen again in February of 1981 it was recovered February 12, 1981 in Huntington Beach, California. Governor Bruce King arranged for Sheriff "Big John" McBride to personally return the marker via Texas International Airlines. Chamber of Commerce officials, with Jarvis P. Garrett, son of Pat Garrett officiall reset the marker in "iron shakles" May 30, 1981. As you can see by this photo it won't be going anywhere now.

The Comstock Lode

By Ross Maguire

An old hand at prospecting, Henry Comstock was out just riding his mule one day when he stopped at a spring known locally as Old Man Caldwell's. Watching two prospectors, Peter O'Riley and Patrick McLaughlin work, Comstock got off his mule to take a look around their diggings. What happened next is became legend; Comstock quickly saw the unusual amount of gold that was in sight. Soon he was running his fingers through the gold, and picking into strange looking "stuff". Realizing immediately what a discovery this was he proceeded to inform the miners that they were working on his ground.

Comstock claimed the land for himself and his two old friends, James "Old Virginny" Finney and Manny Penrod. Comstock surely must have been silver tongued because soon there was a five man partnership. Old Virginny soon sold his share to Comstock for a bottle of liqueur and a blind horse.

The partners mined for several days and recovered quite a bit of gold, but they soon ran into a vein of heavy bluish quartz. In June they sent a sample of this odd material to an assayer in

California who found that, based on the sample he received, the ore contained almost \$1,000 in gold and \$3,000 in silver per ton. The two miners, McLaughlin and O'Riley had found one of the richest sources of precious metal ever to be found in the world. Soon the entire area around the original claim became known as the Comstock Lode.

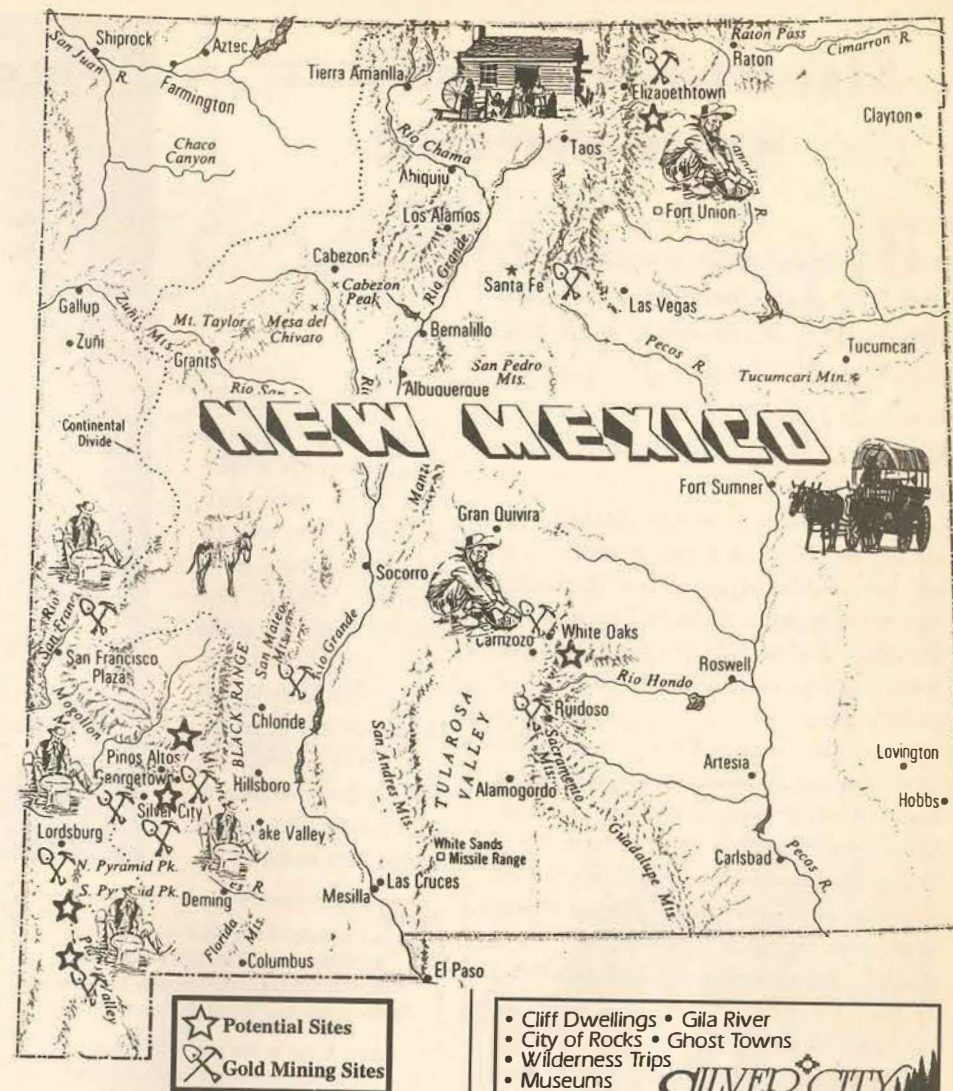
News of the strike set off a stampede as miners from California rushed in to stake claims. By June of 1860 there were 10,000 people in the little mining town of Virginia City, Nevada which was named after Old Virginny. One of the very first Californians to arrive was George Hurst, father of William Randolph Hurst, later of newspaper fame. George had heard of the fabulous strike from the assayer in California and arrived in Nevada ahead of the assay report. Hurst bought out McLaughlin's share for only \$3,500. Other Californians were equally quick, Comstock sold his share for only \$10,000 and O'Riley, perhaps a better business man, sold his for \$40,000. Hurst continued to buy other rich mining claims throughout the West, increasing his wealth.

New Mexico Gold

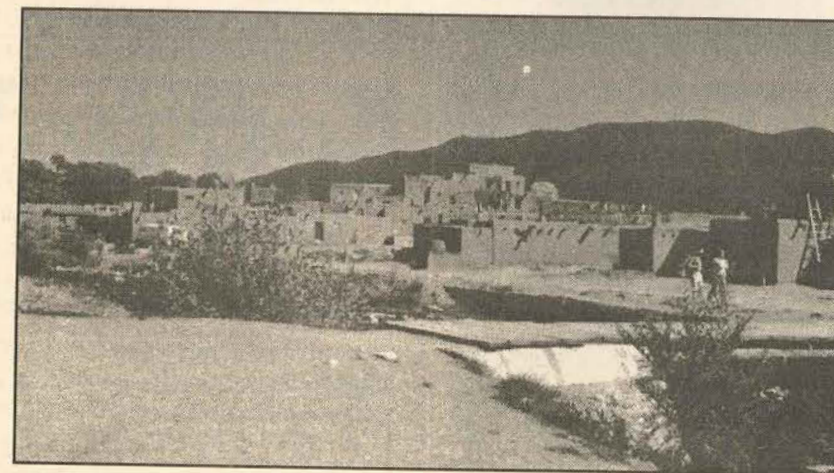
As early as 1828 there was gold mining reported in New Mexico. The Spanish and perhaps the Indians had probably sought the treasure of gold many years earlier. Between the years of 1848 and 1977 there were approximately 2,394,900 troy ounces of gold recovered in New Mexico, ranking the state 12th in gold production. In 1915 production in New Mexico peaked at 70,681 troy ounces. The Chino and Continental copper mines have been the source of most of the gold production in recent years.

The gold belt of New Mexico is 50 to 100 miles wide, running from Hachita in Hidalgo County to Elizabethtown in Colfax County. The area includes not only Elizabethtown but the Central, Lordsburg, White Oaks, Pinos Altos, Nogal, Cochiti, Organ and Old and New Placers, Hopewell, and Las Animas districts. There are several active mines in New Mexico today. Some gold is being recovered as a by-product of copper in Grant County. Some cyanide heap leech mining is occurring in Caton County and also at the Ortiz mine in Santa Fee County. In the Steeple Rock district in Grant County as well as the Bluebird mine in Santa Fe they are lode mining.

There are many small operations producing varying amounts of gold. The thing you must remember, you will find gold where gold has been



found before. You could be the one making the next big strike and if you don't and you just have fun trying, well seeing beautiful New Mexico, will have made your trip worthwhile.



Taos Pueblo, New Mexico

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Alabaster Model of Crazy Horse Memorial

Blasting into a mountain, creating a monument that will dwarf Mt. Rushmore, men are making the dream of a memorial to Chief Crazy Horse, Oglala Band, Lakota Sioux, come true.

Crazy Horse was born in Rapid Valley about 1840. He was a leader in the eternal warfare of his people. His fights against Fetterman in 1866, Crook at the Rosebud and Custer on June 25, 1876 were classic examples of his tactical judgment.

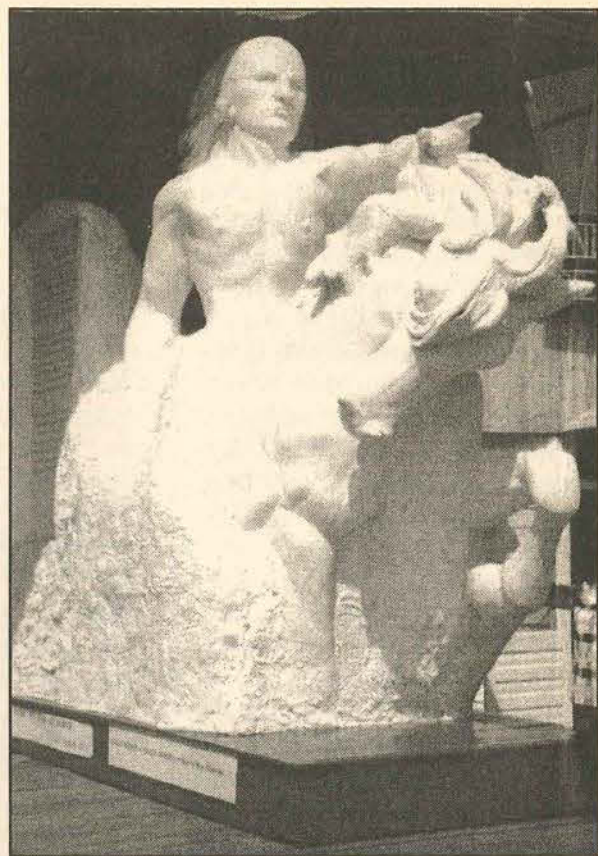
Crazy Horse signed no treaties, lived in the outlands, spurned the soft life of the reservation and remained independent of the white man. When Crazy Horse surrendered in April of 1877 he vowed to fight no more. Crazy Horse was stabbed fatally in the back by a guard while he was struggling with a friend.

Crazy Horse was a great warrior, a hero to his people. He lived his life with purpose and he lived very modestly.

His tragic end set him free and because of it he will remain forever in the hearts of his people.

The monument dwarfs Mount Rushmore. The face of Crazy Horse is 22 stories high, his outstretched arm will be almost as long as a football field. The project is being done with private donations. You can watch the work in progress.

Be sure to visit the fine Indian Museum of North America while you're here.



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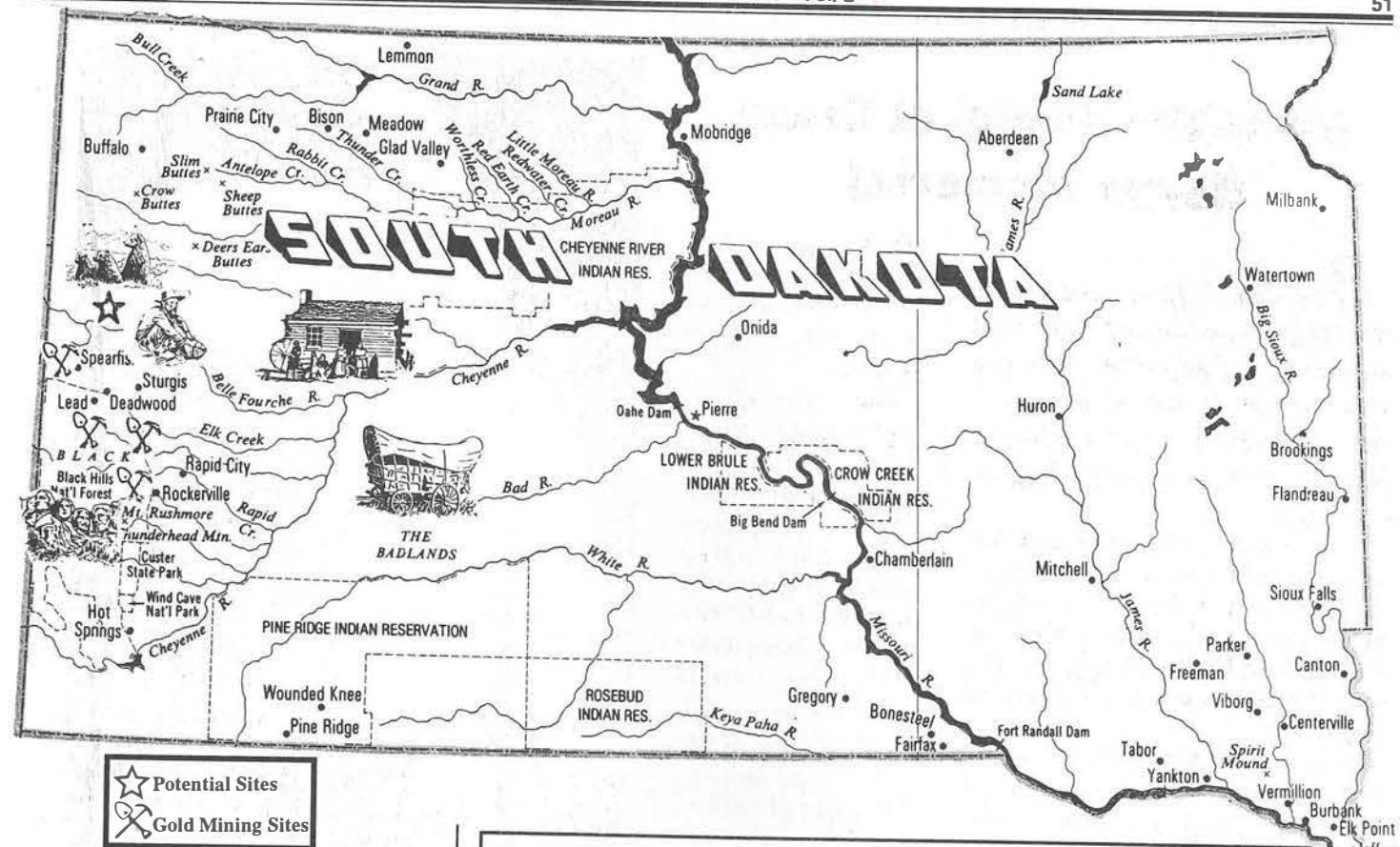
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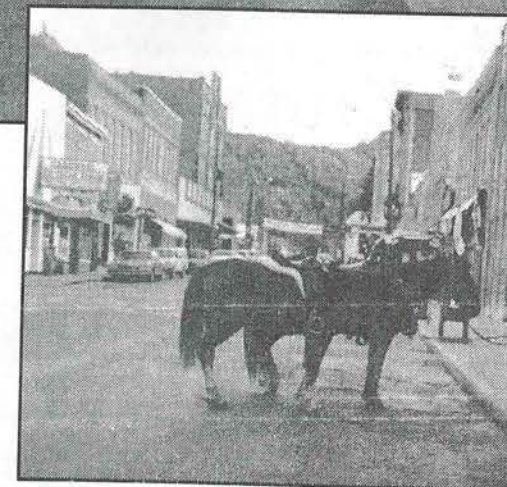
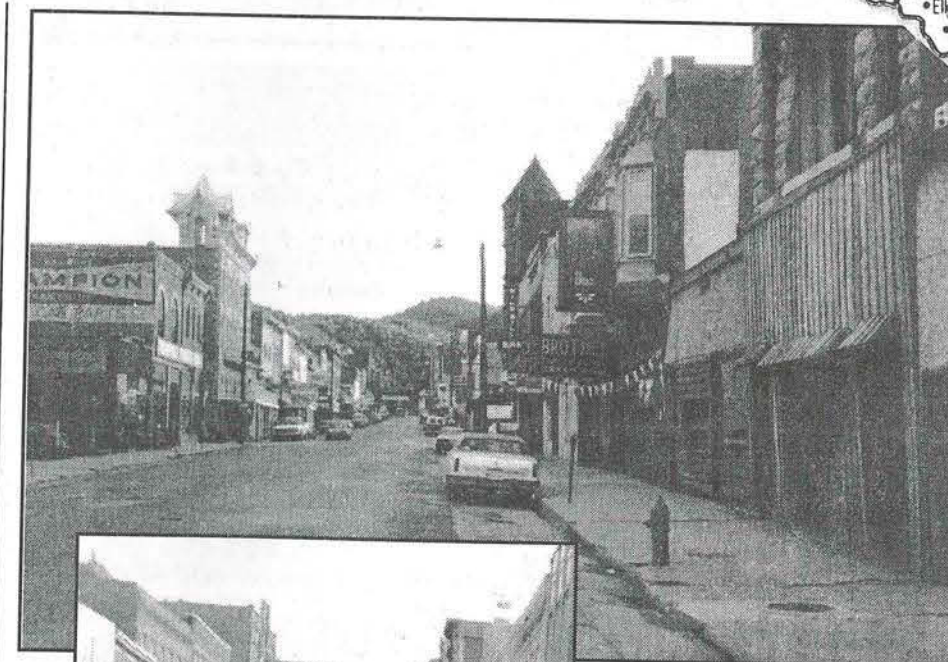
Gold was discovered here in 1876! Homestake is the longest continuously-operated gold mine in the world. A modern hardrock mine, Homestake produces over 350,000 ounces of gold annually. Six to seven tons of ore must be milled to get a single ounce of gold!



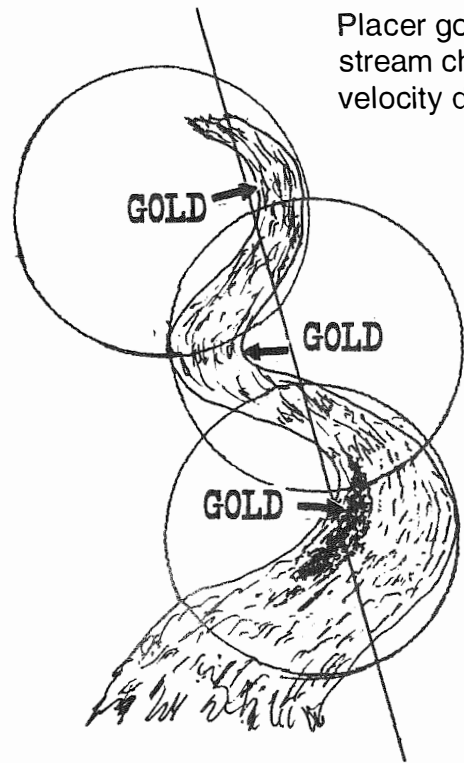
Deadwood, South Dakota

by George Harvey

In 1876 the J. B. Pearson party located the first gold claim in Deadwood, it yielded \$20,000 in gold dust. In June of the same year the #6 mine yielded \$2,300 in gold in one day. The Home Stake Mine at Lead in the Black Hills has yielded over \$20 million in gold a year for over 100 years. It was first discovered by two brothers from Minnesota named Moses and Fred Manual along with Hank Haney and Nex Engh. They sold their discovery in 1876 for \$70,000 to George Hurst of California and Lloyd Tevis of the Central Pacific Railroad and Wells Fargo Express Company and James Haggin. These men already owned two other large mines and later bought the Anaconda Mine in Montana. This was the beginning of the Hurst family fortune that was later expanded by George's son William Randolph Hurst of newspaper fame.



Deadwood, South Dakota doesn't look too much different today than it did 100 years ago - except for cars.



Placer gold accumulates along stream channels where the velocity decreases rapidly.

Gold usually moves in a straight line, a law of physics.

Gold always moves toward the center of a circle because the flow of water is slower there. Raised sandbars in the stream from high water indicate slower water at the time of flooding. Good possibilities for gold panning.

Stevenson

On the Columbia River and among the mountains and cliffs of the Columbia Gorge. It was in this area that pioneers had to drag the rafts, carrying their wagons down the Columbia River, out of the water. Here the water route of the Oregon Trail, had to portage past the Upper Cascades of the Columbia which were just west of today's town. These rapids presented a major barrier to river travel. When Bonneville Dam was built the Cascades were drown in the resulting lake.

The Stevenson family settled in the Gorge in the 1880's and founded the town on the old Shepard donation land claim, Stevenson had purchased the townsite for \$24,000 in 1893. By 1900 the town had grown and had many business establishments. In 1893 the county records were clandestinely taken from the town of Cascades, because of a dispute over rental fees, and Stevenson became the seat of county government.

There is gold mining today just out of Stevenson in the foothills of the mountains. You can be sure that there is still more gold to be found by ambitious individuals willing to get in and hunt for it. More information about the area is available at the local Chamber of Commerce.

While you are in Stevenson and Skamania County be sure to stop at the new Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center.

Liberty is historic gold mining area

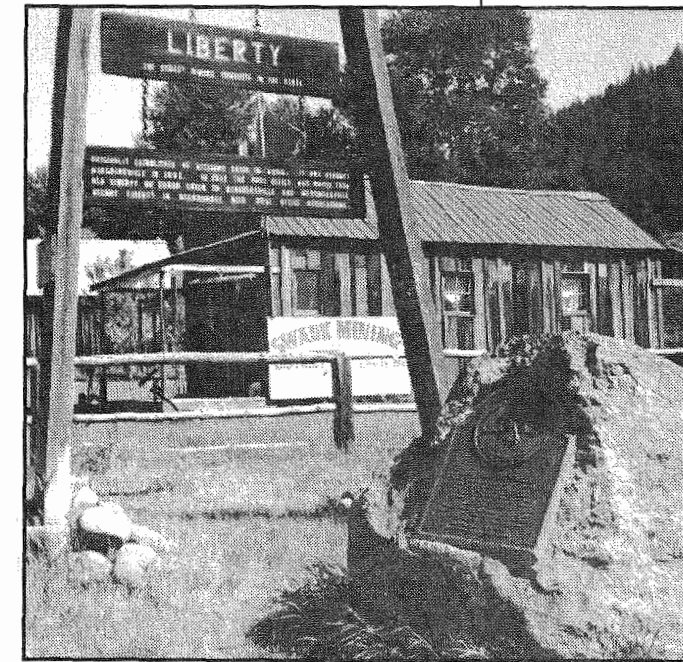
Reprinted from the 15th annual Visitors Guide for Upper Kittias County, Courtesy of the N.K.C Tribune

Liberty is the center of a year around recreation area. Hunters, rockhounds, campers, snowmobilers, bikers all find Liberty one of their favorite places.

One of the more important attractions to Liberty is the lure of GOLD. Gold was discovered on Swauk Creek almost by accident when a prospector from the Okanogan mines camped there and while dipping water from the creek found a nugget. This happened more than 100 years ago and gold is still being found on Swauk Creek and its tributaries.

Gold is found in the form of nuggets and the highly prized wire gold. This is also one of the few places in the world where gold may be found in its crystalline form.

The area shows evidence of many geologic changes over the centuries. That this area was once a lake is shown by the sandstone and shale common throughout the area and by conglomerate



Originally established as Williams Creek in 1880. It was renamed Meaghersville in 1897. In 1912 the Post Office was moved from Old Liberty on Swauk Creek to Meaghersville and Meaghersville became Liberty in accordance with Post Office regulations.

(Photos courtesy of N.K.C. Tribune)

These melting glaciers formed a river 600 to 800 feet wide and in many places the bedrock of this old channel is far up the mountain side above the present creeks.

Lode gold is found in various formations. Quartz and calcite seams have yielded large amounts of gold. Many stamp mills and arrastras were built for crushing this ore. Wire gold is found in pockets of ochre along the outcropping of basalt.

The Red Top Mountain agate beds are well known for the blue agates found there. Quartz crystal

specimens, jasper and agates may be found at Crystal Mountain.

erate formations near the summit of Blewett Pass.

The excellent campgrounds in the area are very popular, with many families spending their vacations and weekends there. Many miles of logging roads are used for summer pleasure driving and in winter are used for snowmobiling and snowshoe hiking.

Volcanic activity is shown by the basalt formations or "iron dikes." The area was covered by ice during the glacial period. It was the melting of these glaciers that formed the rich placers found along Swauk, Williams and Baker Creeks.

Visitors to the area today may view relics of the early mining days and gain a better understanding of the conditions under which early-day miners and their families lived. There is a small museum and other buildings which are preserved in their early-day state, as well as mining equipment which can be viewed.

And be sure to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Guse at the Liberty Grocery and Gift Store. They are happy to fill visitors in on the history of the area.



You can buy gold prospecting supplies at the Liberty Gift Shop.

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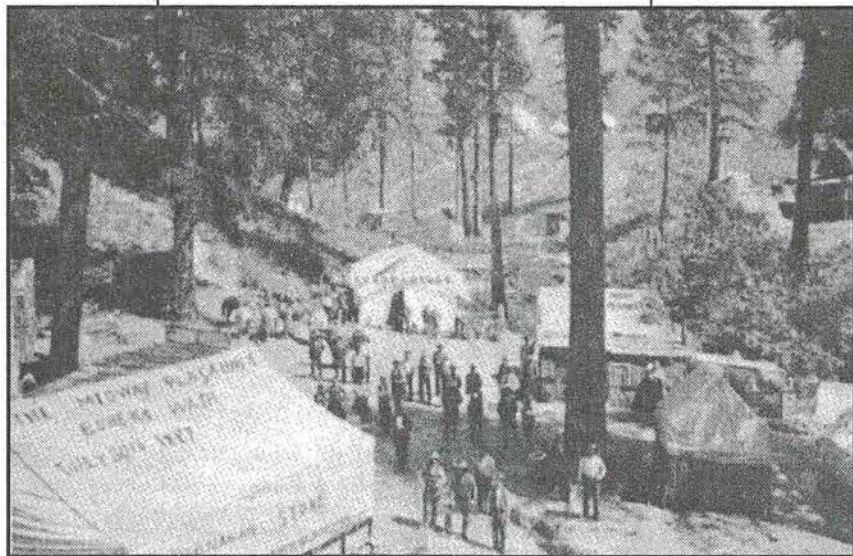


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Gold Is Discovered In Washington Territory

By George Greely

It was during 1853 that Major Isaac I. Stevens was appointed governor of the new Washington Territory. He was assigned the duty, while on his journey west to his new post, of finding a route suitable for the railroad, between St. Paul, Minnesota to Olympia, Washington. The new Governor had assigned the task of finding the best pass over the Cascades to Captain George B. McClellan (later to be General McClellan). Governor Stevens and McClellan met at Fort Colville in October of 1853. At that meeting McClellan told of finding traces of gold on the Yakima River but said "though not sufficiently abundant to pay for working, it caused considerable excitement in the camp" In 1860 in a report to the War Department, Governor Stevens said "Gold was found to exist, in the explorations of 1853, throughout the Cascades and the main



The Gold Camp of Eureka in 1897. Today it is the town of Republic and the county seat of Ferry County.

Photo courtesy of State of Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources

Columbia River north to the boundary, and paying localities have since been found at several points, particularly on the southern tributary of the Wenachapam (Wenatchee). The gold quartz is also found on the Nachess (Naches) River. The gold bearing rock, crossing the Columbia River and stretching eastward along Clark's Fork and the Koutenay (Kootenai) River, unquestionably extends to the Rocky Moun-

tains."

In 1859 Okanogan City swelled to a population of almost 3,000 within a month after gold was discovered on the Similkameen River. Within months there was word of discoveries in Canada, at Cariboo and Frasier and many of the Washington prospectors moved on to what they believed were better diggings.

Placer gold was found in Chelan County in about 1860 and at Swauk Creek

in 1868 near Liberty in Kittitas County. According to the U. S. Geological Survey and the U. S. Department of mines placers produce \$935,252 between 1900 and 1957 although \$350,541 of that was produced in the years of 1900-1909.

Lode mining during the same 57 year period accounted to \$52,106,982, quite a different story. Lode gold was discovered in Oaknogan County about 1871. By 1936 there had been 125,000 mining claims filed. Not only gold but silver, lead, coal and tungsten, and copper, were discovered. Gold King mine in Chelan County produced \$16 million in gold between 1949 and 1967.

Much of the Washington Cascades remain wilderness with no easy access. The possibility of a major gold strike remains what it was in 1853.

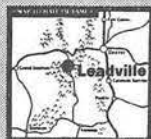
Those who perservere may find it by panning their way up stream to The Mother Lode.

The National Mining Hall of Fame & Museum



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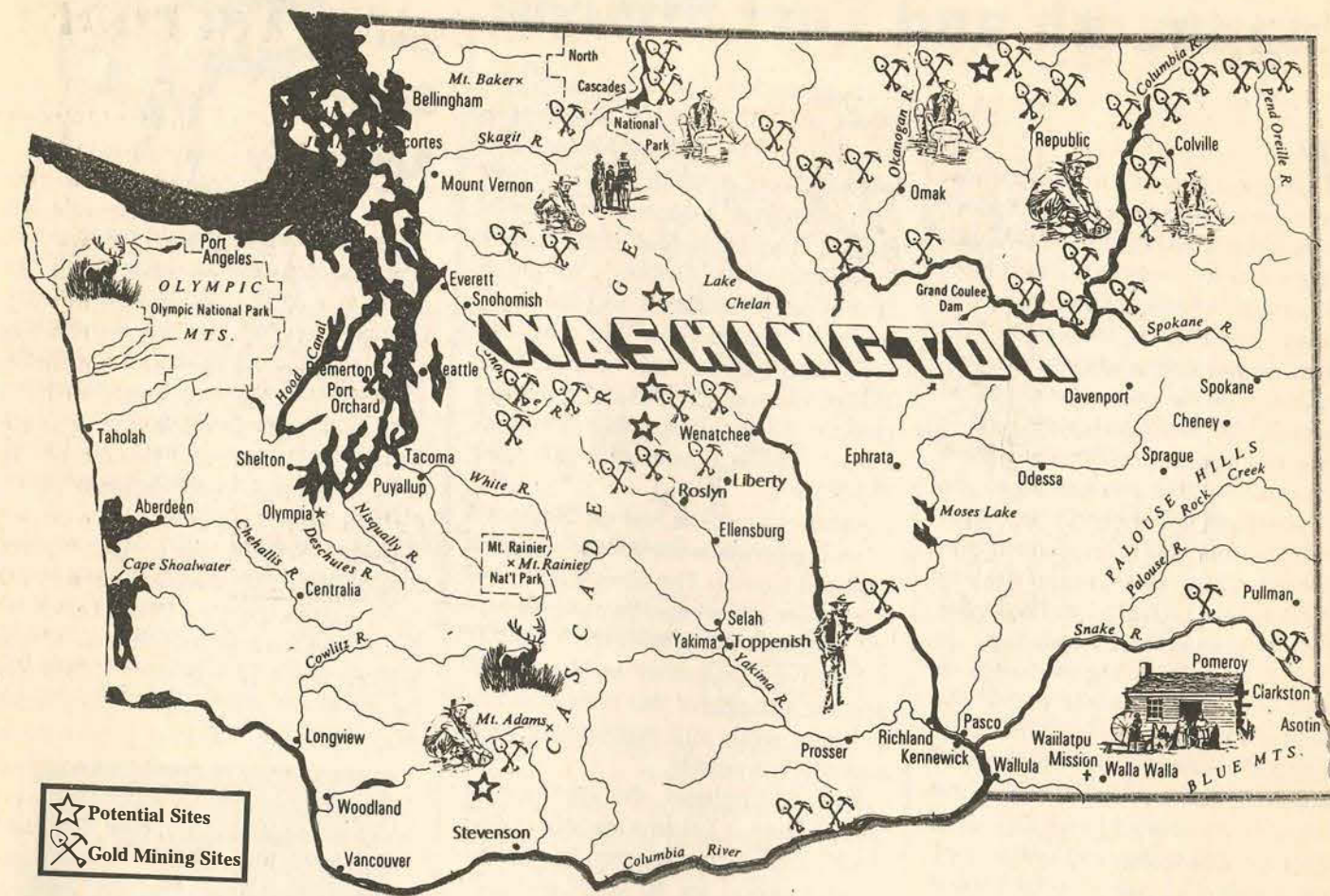


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Washingtons "Lucky Lady"

by Randy Jackson

In 1896 at a place called Wardner Junction a restaurant owner, Mrs. Hutton, was in the right place at the right time, almost like winning the lottery today.

Mrs. Hutton met a man who went broke and wanted to sell his mining claim. She bought a 1/6 share in the claim for \$500, a lot of money in 1896. She and her new partners picked blueberries on the mining claim to buy tools

for mining and digging a tunnel. It took five years to dig the tunnel 1600 feet into the mountain and find rich ore. This was the richest silver ore in the Coeur d'Alenes, it was 30% solid silver. The Huttons received \$750 that year as their share. Soon it was half a million.

This is a true rags to riches story. Mrs. Hutton had been raised poor near Youngstown, Ohio and had heard the stories of fabulous gold discoveries in the Coeur d'Alenes. In 1883 she bought a ticket on the Northern Pacific Railroad and came west at the age of 24. She was lively, intelligent and a good

cook and by 1885 she owned a restaurant, a cow, and a stove, she was determined to be rich in life somehow, now her dreams had come true.

In 1890 Mr. Hutton was able to start his own bank, the Scandinavian Bank of Spokane. Mrs. Hutton spent money on everything from limos to a mansion, she bought everything she dreamed of when she was a poor girl. She gave a lot of her wealth for the blessing of others, organizing and supporting many charities and worthwhile causes including the women's right to vote. She became well known figure in Washingtons history.

Toppenish and Fort Simcoe

By Steven Davies

The site where Fort Simcoe stands today was used by the Yakama Nation as a camping area because of the cold spring water in a very dry area. There was grass and timber close by and the weather was good in the valley. The name comes from the Yakama Sim-ku-ee or Sim-kwee the name for a spot on a ridge 3 miles northeast of the fort.

Construction on Fort Simcoe started on August 8, 1856 and served as the advance post for the 9th Infantry Regiment. The fort was built as hostilities between white settlers and Indian tribes increased. The fort at The Dalles could not protect the entire region.

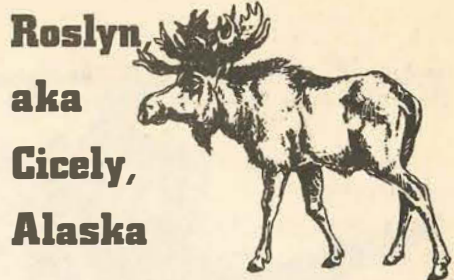
The 34 murals on the buildings of Toppenish reflect the era of the old west, portraying events from that time. Guided tours owned and operated by Mike Ring are available. Horse and mule drawn covered wagons, stage coaches, even a trolley and a wagonette with interpretive narration by knowledgeable guides are available. Toppenish offers a real Old West flavor to the visitor. Every Friday Marshall Drillum (AKA Dave Foster) checks out the local business people, anyone not dressed in Western garb is fined \$5.00 on the spot. Toppenish is a must see place for travelers in this area.

Today at the fort there are five buildings remaining for you to visit. Fort Simcoe State Park is at the western end

of Highway 220. The park was established in 1953. The 200 acre site is leased from the Yakama Nation. The Interpretive Center depicts history with displays, artifacts and photographs. The park is open daily April 1 to September 30. October 1 to March 31 it is open weekends and holidays. For more information you may call Fort Simcoe State Park at (509) 874-2372 or Washington Parks Information Line at 1-800-562-0990 inside Washington or outside Washington call (206) 753-2116

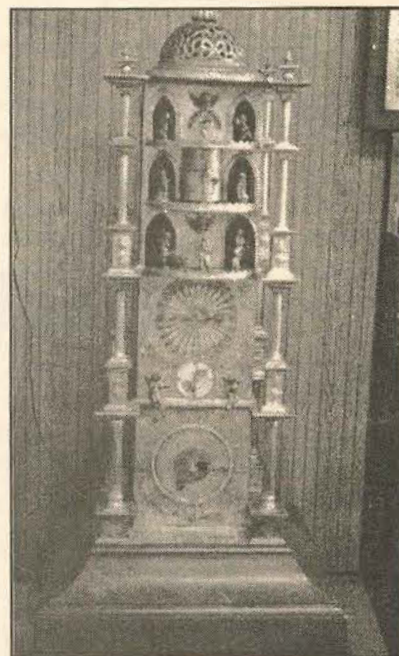
Another must see just off Highway 97 in Toppenish is the Yakama Nation Cultural Center. The Center acts as a storyteller, allowing visitors to see history through the eyes of the Yakamas themselves. The story is of survival and the struggle of this native culture to adapt while still maintaining their identity as a people.

Nipo Strongheart, the grandson of Ta Chi Num, a Yakama leader, became a well known movie actor, he worked in Hollywood for 40 years and was seen in many films. Strongheart, who grew up in White Swan and called the Yakama Reservation home, was an authority on American Indians. His legacy of more than 10,000 volumes of books and artifacts was the basis of the Centers museum and library. Visitors come from all over the world to learn more about Yakama Indian culture.



The museum in Roslyn became the recipient of Augsberg clock, made famous in a 1992 episode of Northern Exposure, on April 1, 1995. The clock is a replica of the Habrecht Carillon of 1589, a small version of the great Strassburg Cathedral clock in Austria. The replica contains many items not found in the original, a soup can and a dinner plate to name a couple.

There are many other items on display. Roslyn was a coal mining town with a rich history. While you tour Washington's gold country be sure to stop in and visit Cicely and meet the folks that live and work in this friendly little town.



Roslyn Clock (Photo by NKC Tribune)

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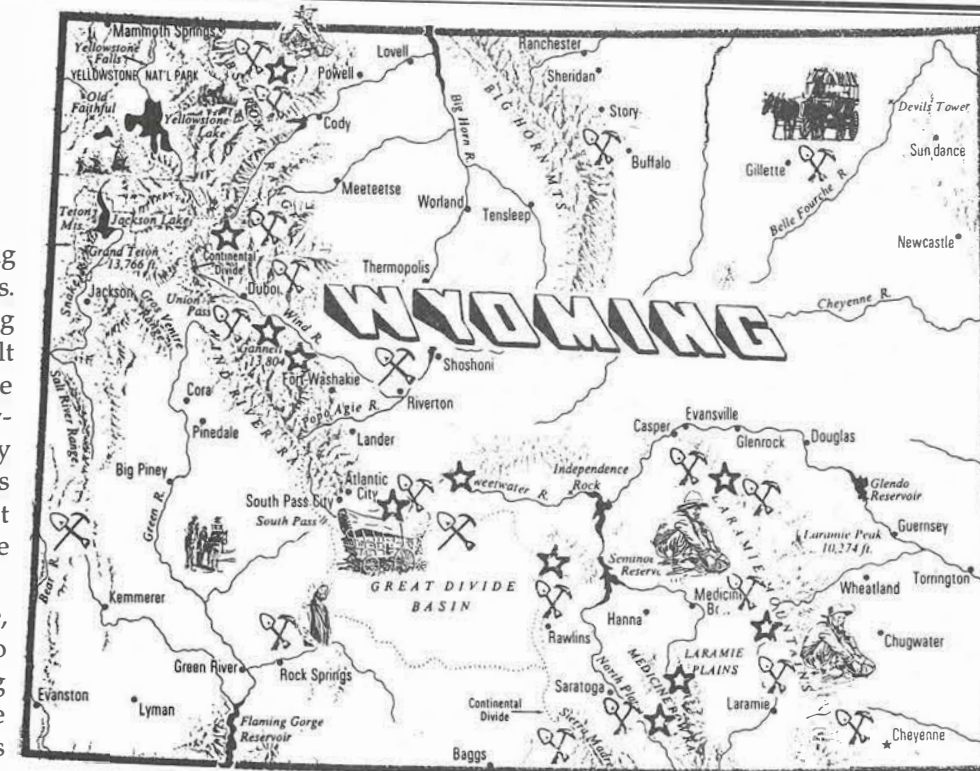
The Wyoming Trails

by Henry Young

The wagon trails through Wyoming were full of hazards to the pioneers. There were many hardships in living outdoors for months and the difficult terrain slowed, but didn't stop the great migration west. The wagons averaged between 15 and 20 miles a day while they were on the plains but as they proceeded west, past Fort Laramie, the mountains became more numerous and higher.

The Indians, Sioux and Cheyenne, feared what was happening due to so many wagons and people crossing their land. Game was becoming scarce on their traditional hunting grounds and grass they needed for their horses was being trampled or eaten by the stock pulling the wagons or being herded west with the pioneers. Frequent Indian raids on wagon trains occurred as they tried to protect their land from this invading horde of white men. Finally a series of treaties signed between 1851 and 1865 gave the wagon trains safer passage.

Hostility resumed anew when gold was discovered in Montana 1866 and the Bozeman Trail was opened. The

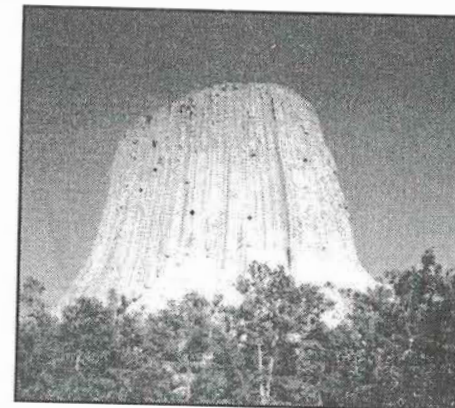


★ Potential Sites ✂ Gold Mining Sites

trail went through the favorite hunting ground of the Sioux of the Powder River country, northwest from the North Platte River past what are today the towns of Buffalo and Sheridan. Forts were built to protect the trail including Fort Reno and Fort Phil Kearney in Wyoming. The Indians were so hostile to the Bozeman Trail that finally, in an effort to restore peace, the government was forced to accept Chief Red Cloud's terms, close the trail and abandon the forts that protecting it.

Gold was discovered in the Black Hills of Wyoming and Dakota in 1874.

This was sacred ground to the Indians and land that had been granted them by treaty. This last blow to their way of life led eventually to the battle that was to become known as "Custer's Last Stand." A stage line, the Cheyenne and Black Hills Stage & Express Company started service to the gold fields. Twenty four stage stops on the 237 mile run between Cheyenne and its last stop in Wyoming at Canon Springs. From there it went into Dakota Territory to Deadwood. The route followed roughly today's Nebraska - South Dakota border.



Devils Tower, Wyoming was an important landmark for Plains Indian tribes long before the white man reached Wyoming. It was called Mateo Tepee or Grizzly Bear Lodge by the Sioux.

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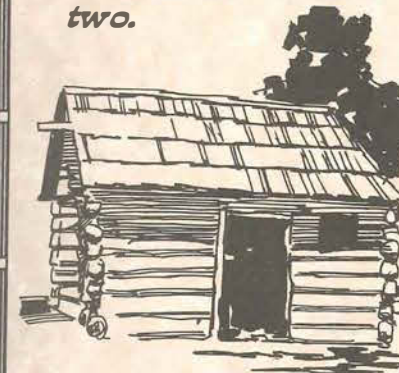
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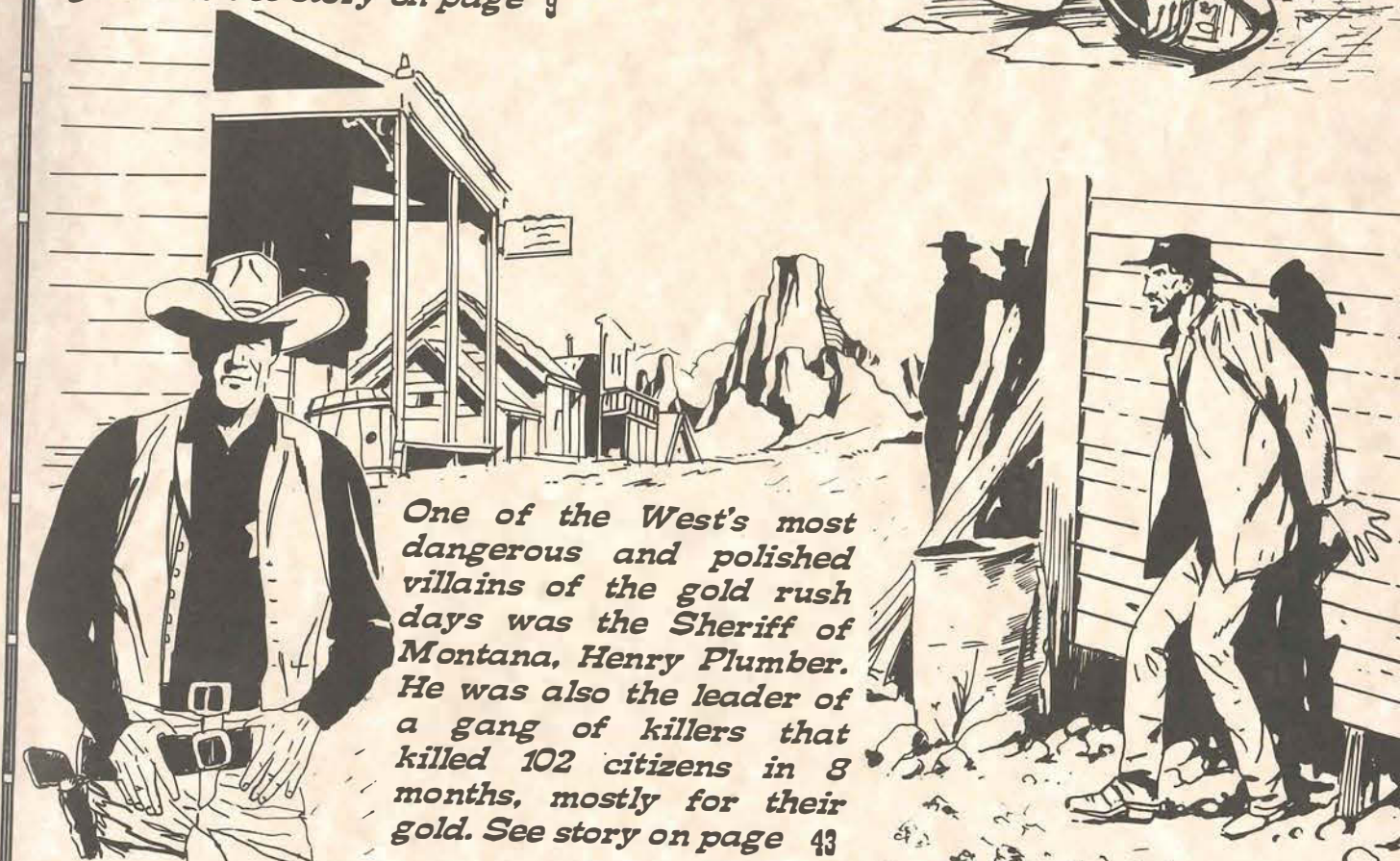
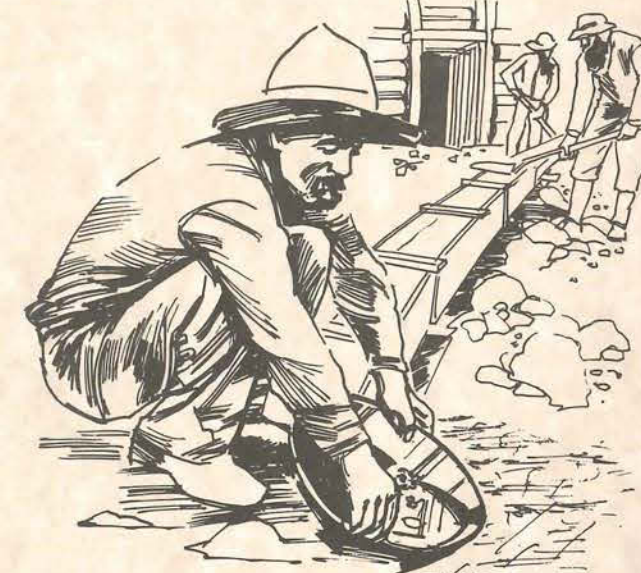
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News of gold strikes in California fanned the flames of desire to search for gold throughout the world. Thomas Jefferson, one of our most intelligent Presidents once remarked, "It will take 40 generations to settle the West". After gold was discovered in California in 1849 it took only two.

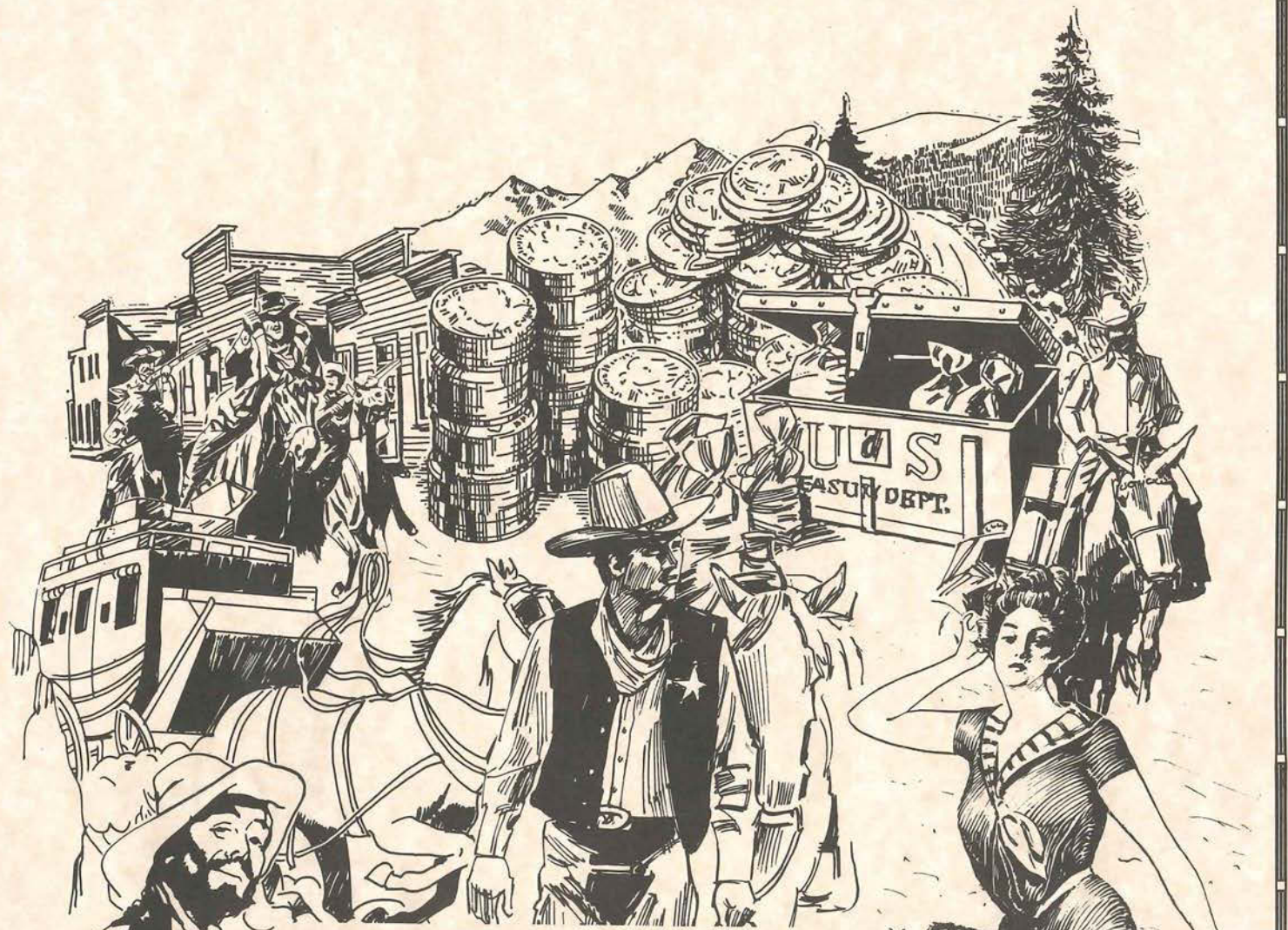


Probably the luckiest prospector to search the wilderness for gold and silver was Ed Schieffelin, the discoverer of the Tombstone, Arizona fortune. He died May 12, 1897 in Southern Oregon searching

for gold and left a diary stating he had found a rich vein of gold, richer than Tombstone and took the location of it to his grave. He was found dead on the steps of his cabin slumped over a gold pan of rich gold ore. See story on page 9



One of the West's most dangerous and polished villains of the gold rush days was the Sheriff of Montana, Henry Plumber. He was also the leader of a gang of killers that killed 102 citizens in 8 months, mostly for their gold. See story on page 43



GOLD, GOLD GOLD, the inspiration and determination to find gold or own gold, crazed the imaginations of prospectors, gamblers, thieves, stage robbers, gunfighters and women of the bawdy houses.

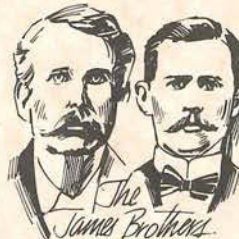
GOLD FEVER spawned the great migration of thousands westward and their gold discoveries left behind the ghost towns, left like the tombstones in a cemetery across the west, as a remembrance of the wild and untamed era of our past.



WANTED



Jesse James



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