

Section Two

First Annual Mining Display Edition

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DAILY COURIER

# GRANTS PASS COURIER

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WHOLE NUMBER 7066



# Esterly Mine One of County's Biggest Placers



Two "giants" in operation in one of four large pits. Man in background is hosing down bedrock into sluice. Flood lights in all the pits allow continuous operation night and day.

## NIXON INVESTS LARGE SUM IN NEW EQUIPMENT

One of the largest placer operations in Josephine county and perhaps one of the best equipped is the old Esterly mine, now actively operated by Earl K. Nixon. It is not far from Takilma, at the old town of Waldo.

Although in normal years the mine is operating by Thanksgiving or shortly after, no work has been done there this season because of the low water. The hydraulic method is used and a large volume of water is necessary to work the four large pits where the bedrock is hosed down by the "giants" into the sluice boxes.

Mr. Nixon has operated the mine since June, 1934, and up to the present time has taken out \$31,000. A large amount of development work has been done during this time and the investment in equipment and expenditures for labor and supplies totals close to \$75,000.

The year of most activity during Mr. Nixon's operation was 1935 when \$27,000 was spent for labor alone and the total expenditure was close to \$45,000. In other years between \$15,000 and \$20,000 was spent for labor and between \$9,000 and \$10,000 for supplies.

One of the above photographs, taken last season when the mine was in full operation, shows a view of one of the pits with a man in the background hosing down the bedrock into the sluice. The flood lights for night operation and piping may also be seen.

A hard freeze in the early part of January resulted in heavy damage to pipe lines on the property. (Continued on page 5.)

## BERYLLIUM FOUND HERE; WAITS ON CHEAPER POWER

Pointing to the possibility of a vast new field in the Southern Oregon mining industry, extensive deposits of beryllium bearing ores have been found here and are awaiting only the advent of economical electric power for development.

Lighter than aluminum and stronger than steel, this metal is used chiefly as an alloy for iron, steel, copper, aluminum and other widely used metals. Too rare as yet for extensive use as a metal in itself, the beryllium alloys find wide adoption in the industrial world.

In Germany a man built a six cylinder engine with the metal and carried it under his arm. The need for extremely light but extremely strong metal in the construction of Zeppelins and other mammoth airships has brought the demand for beryllium and its alloys to the fore.

Copper alloyed with beryllium becomes immune to effects of nitric acid, throwing open a vast new field for manufacturers of copper plate. Steel alloyed with beryllium can be driven through ordinary steel plate.

Deposits of the ore having sufficient percentage of beryllium oxide for shipping to extraction plants are rare, and there is a great need for available cheap electricity at the location of deposits for development. It is felt that the coming of economical power from Bonville will throw open the southern Oregon deposits to development, because the electricity can be brought here, according to Mr. Derwent.

Following is an account of the

history of beryllium, together with its recent developments and a description of the type of rocks in which it is to be found, written by Mr. Ernest Derwent:

By E. Derwent  
Analytical Chemist

L. N. Vauquelin in 1797 undertook to prove the chemical identity of the emerald and beryl stones, and in the course of his analytical research discovered that a portion of the precipitate which had previously been supposed to be aluminum hydroxide was thrown out of its solution in potassium hydroxide on boiling.

He also found that this new hydroxide was soluble in ammonium carbonate, formed no alum, and was in many ways different from alumina.

He called the new oxide "La Terra du Beryll", translated into German as "Beryllerde," and hence the name beryllium.

The metal was not produced until 1828. At that time Wohler separated the metal in a very impure form. In 1885 the metal with a high degree of purity, 99.2, was produced.

In 1898 Lebeau developed a process for production of the metal in a very pure state. Little has been done since.

The coming of the aeroplane which demanded a lighter and stronger metal for its construction, revived the metallurgy of beryllium. During the last 12 years an

intensive search for ore and the economical extraction of beryllium and beryllium oxide. There have been gratifying results, so that 1936 saw beryllium copper alloys, beryllium iron combinations, cobalt-beryllium copper alloys.

The beryllium industry is just a small one at present, but with the new sources of supply appearing in increasing and encouraging numbers the industry will grow.

Beryllium metal is a hard, dark steel-gray metal which when in a crystal form has a bright metallic luster. It has a specific gravity of 1.75 to 1.85 as compared to 7.86 to 8.14 for iron.

At ordinary pressures and in an inert atmosphere it volatilizes without fusion.

The chief form in which beryllium is found in nature is the silicate. The first sources from which investigators derived their material were the beryl, the emerald, and the aquamarine.

Since then sources of supply have been found in monazite sands, aluminous schists, and beryl bearing pegmatites.

As the production of metallic beryllium from its ores is an electro-metallurgical process, the advent of cheap electricity is necessary for its economical production.

Beryllium would have been found more frequently in rock analysis if some simple method of separating it from aluminum had been known earlier.

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Grants Pass

# Hydraulicking Starts With Warmer Weather

## FREEZE DAMAGES NIXON PIPE LINE

(Continued from page 4.)  
snow covered the entire site for a depth of several feet.

Mr. Nixon and a crew of men worked night and day during the worst of the freeze, using every available method to prevent the pipes from freezing and bursting. Jumping on the pipe from the bank was one method employed to keep the ice from forming. This served to dislodge the ice formation and keep the water flowing. It was an unpleasant vigil which the party will not soon forget but resulted in saving several sections of the pipe line. Breaks occurred in some places in spite of all the crew could do to prevent it.

To the rear of the attractive Colonial type mansion which marks the Esterly property are the machinery sheds, work shop, chemical laboratory, and drafting room. The buildings are situated on the upper side of a slope with platforms built out a distance of some 30 or 40 feet. A small sawmill is on the property for cutting timbers in building sluices, etc.

There are four pits on the site, all on quite level ground. Due to the regularity, elevators have been installed to speed up operations. Three of the four pits are being sub-leased by Mr. Nixon at the present time. Three men are employed in each pit, making a total crew of 16 to 20 men when the mine is in full operation, counting night crews and the men in the shop. All pits are equipped with flood lights for night work.

The Esterly mine has been a rich placer and a good producer for many years past. It was developed to a high state of efficiency by the late George Esterly who installed a large part of the machinery used at present. A wild life enthusiast, Mr. Esterly would allow no hunting on his property and ducks and other wild fowl used to seek refuge there, also attracted by food which was provided for them. They became tame to an amazing degree and would come to be fed when summoned by a blast on a tin whistle.

There were several operators of the Esterly mine, formerly known also as the Llano de Oro mine, previous to Mr. Esterly's ownership. Jim Logan is said to be one of the first to operate it on a large scale with high-pressure streams or giants. Logan was financed by George Simmons, his father-in-law, and an interest was sold to a third man, Cameron. The three formed a company known as Simmons, Logan and Cameron.

## ALTHOUSE CREEK ONCE CENTER OF FIGHTS, GAMING

William Mackey, well known in Josephine county, particularly to old time residents, compiled several of the most interesting articles which appeared in the Golden anniversary edition of the Daily Courier in the spring of 1935. Prominent among his stories was the interesting one in which he related tales of the Althouse creek mines—incidents which occurred years ago.

Now a resident of Crescent City, Mr. Mackey recalls many events which in the days of the early and middle parts of the nineteenth century were every day occurrences but which to the people of today seem very daring and almost unbelievable.

The largest piece of gold ever taken out on Althouse creek was discovered by an Irishman named Mattie Collins in the year 1859 on the east fork of the creek. The piece, which weighed 17 pounds,

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Re-washing concentrates in sluice box at Esterly mine during past year's operation on Nixon property. Operating crews ready to start again as soon as weather and water permit.

was found in the face of a high bank about 12 feet up in the dirt, under a big stump above the water in the creek. This particular bank was situated in the front of a small flat which lies at the foot of a high mountain on the north side of Althouse creek, according to Mackey's account of the discovery. Collins, who was in constant fear lest some one should rob him of his valuable nugget, cleverly contrived with the help of a fellow worker to pack the piece of gold out of the country to a safe place of shipment on the outside.

Gambling was prevalent in the early mining days, according to Mr. Mackey's article; and the presence of gamblers was a sure sign of prosperity of the mining camps. A brief resume of the story includes many thrilling tales of the gaming tables found in the camps, around which serious and humorous battles were waged between quarrelsome gamblers. Such men as Dan Lanigan, Pony Young, Bill Nicholas and Joseph Wall, whose names now are but a dim memory even in the minds of old residents of the county, were mentioned often in the article. Bowie knives were as commonly used as weapons of defense in those days as were the guns which were brandished without discrimination. In fact, it might be said that "survival of the fittest" was the code of the early mining days on Althouse creek.

One of the most highly mineralized sections mentioned was the ridge between Bolan creek and Althouse. It extends from the east fork of Althouse nearly to Holland, a distance of nearly 10 miles. Especially noted for its large yield of heavy gold was McDonnell gulch which empties into Bolan creek.

The year 1859 was recalled in Mr. Mackey's reminiscences as one of the most eventful years in the history of mining in the Althouse region. Gold dust was plentiful and money flowed freely, a condition which brought with it much unrest as well as prosperity. Greed and a craving for power were qualities which caused the most trouble among the miners of the early days, although men of sterling character and integrity undoubtedly outnumbered the men of more questionable character.

Rich Bar, one of the mining sections written of by Mr. Mackey, is a part of the famous Leonard, Beach and Platter claim, a deposit of gravel near where Althouse empties into the Illinois valley. Democrat gulch which lies over a

low hill from Rich Bar and empties into the Illinois valley near the Smock store at Holland, in the early days yielded the sum of \$300,000.

By 1870, many of the richest claims on Althouse had been worked out, according to Mackey's article, the result being that the gold excitement was perceptibly on the wane and many of the miners had gone to hunt new fields. Only a few remained, those few probably men who hesitated at the thought of leaving a country they liked even though it would no longer prove profitable to remain.

John Sherman, brother of General W. L. Sherman, was the author of the Sherman silver purchase act and the Sherman anti-trust law.



## MINING—A Great and Growing Industry in this Section

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# Little Dandy Mine Has Interesting History

## EARLY DAYS OF OPERATION TOLD IN OLD JOURNAL

**THE LITTLE DANDY MINE.**  
Grave Creek.  
Discovered and Operated by  
John Hayden.

John Hayden came to Grants Pass in 1896 from Tacoma, Wash. He and John Hall went into partnership in the Hall mine on Grave Creek, now known as the Barker group. During their work, they built a small arastra on Burgess creek, across the mountain from the mine proper, and sledged ore down from the Rough Nugget, one of the claims on the top of the ridge.

While engaged in this work, he did some prospecting in the surrounding hills and found Burgess creek from Grave Creek found a prospect. Becoming interested in it, he uncovered a small but fairly rich ledge of quartz running slightly north of east in the same general mineral belt as the famous Greenback mine. Thereafter, the partners spent part of their time in further developing the new claim, which they named the "Little Dandy".

As the work progressed, they centered their attention entirely on the Little Dandy, having the ore they took out hauled the quarter mile down to the arastra. During the following few years (1898-1903), he sold his part of the Rough Nugget to Hall and bought out Hall's interest in the Little Dandy, also buying 80 acres of railroad land adjoining the claim. With the need of a larger, more convenient mill, he cleared about one and one-half acres of land at the mine and built a new and larger arastra, with a substantial mill building and house, as well as a log ore bin and storehouse. With the planting of garden, orchard and vineyard, the mining camp became the home it remained until his death in 1935.

During these first years, he and the one or two miners he employed drifted on the veins and stopped to the surface on the level where he first made the discovery. His records show a total of about \$10,000 worth of gold in that work, an average of about \$17 a ton at the price of gold at that time. During the summer months they worked in the mine taking out ore and filling the bin. In the winter, when the water was high, they ran the arastra, grinding the ore in four or five "runs of about 15 to 20 tons each, "cleaning up" between each run.

Although the arastra, using one of the most "primitive" methods of extracting gold, is slower in operation than the stamp mill and modern ball mill, it is conceded to be as efficient, if not more so, than either in the percentage of values it saves. The one at the Little Dandy was one of the most complete and well built in this part of the state, and was often visited by miners who wanted to learn the principles of its construction.

A ditch, coming from the creek several hundred yards above the mill turns into a flume supported on a trestle, which brings the water to the top of the wheel, some 24 feet from the ground. The waterwheel, then 24 feet in diameter, turned the shaft by means of two large cogwheels which Hayden himself made with seasoned oak timber. To the four arms extending from the shaft "drags" (large boulders with wooden handles stuck in drilled holes) were tied, following one another around the bed of the tub with the turning of the shaft. Other large stones, turned flat face up, fit in the tub as closely together as possible in a bed of closely packed clay, a concrete foundation forming the base of the tub. The ore is fed into the tub by shovelful, being ground with a small amount of water and a little quicksilver at the rate of about five tons each 24 hours. Screens at one side allow the finely ground ore, or tailings, to pass over the copper plates, coated with quicksilver where the free gold is



Old water wheel which was used on Little Dandy Mine in early days of operation by John Hayden who discovered the property and operated it for many years. This wheel replaced the one shown in the etching on page one of this section.

caught. Not having a concentrating table, some values were lost in the tailings, which are pooled below the mill.

In an ordinary clean-up, the plates are scraped free of amalgam and the crevices between the stones scraped out to a depth of about an inch and a half and the amalgam "rocked" out of this material. In a thorough clean-up, the entire bed is torn up, the stones are washed clean and all the filling material down to the base is run through the rocker.

After working in the upper level for some time, he decided to prepare for the more thorough development of the mine by driving a tunnel to cross-cut the vein at the creek level, a point 77 feet lower than the level of the upper works and to the west. Driving this tunnel through the tough porphyry formation was a slow and laborious task with the use of hand drills. Except for finding a small vein about 80 feet from portal, there was no noticeable change in the formation until the tunnel struck the main vein at almost right angles, 240 feet in the mountain. At this point it was about 12 or 14 inches wide and the values did not run as high as they did in the upper level, but when they had drifted eastward 57 feet on the vein, its average width increased to two feet and the average value per ton, at present rates, to about \$15.

On this level, however, the rock became very hard, and finding the going too slow for hand work, he devoted most of his time for the next few years to his trade of carpentry, hoping to secure later the means to install air compression drills and an ore crusher.

During these early years of the century, however, mining had come into such disrepute, honest mining men were so hard to weed from the "promoters" and so hard to interest in a property, that interest lagged until after the war. Even after that time, though a number of deals were considered, the mine was found too small for a large company, but too large for an individual

without sufficient capital to handle, so the Little Dandy remains in the hands of his family, Mrs. Florence Hayden and Doris Hayden of Grants Pass.

The following excerpts taken at random from faded ink of the daily journals of John Hayden, kept during the first years of work in the Little Dandy, from 1897 to 1905, offer some interesting comparisons between the problems and methods of quartz mining 40 years ago and now:

Friday, Nov. 19, 1897. John Hall made boards almost all day. I worked on the arastra wheel and fitted up the bed, put in the two heavy drags. Got one-quarter of beef from Will Light, 117 pounds at 6c, \$7.00.

Saturday, Nov. 20. Ground ore today for the first time. The arastra works well outside of making an ungodly noise. Pulls 1000 pounds of drags with ease with less than the buckets one-third full of water. Will have plenty of power to turn two tubs. Bright and cold today.

Monday, Nov. 29. Lowered one set of the screens, also the plates, trap-box and V-flume. Took us all day. Sent \$3.00 to Clemens, Grants Pass, for 5-pound can of cyanide and 50c for ammonia to come by express to Leland care of S. Espey. Should be here by Wednesday. Rained almost all day.

Monday, Dec. 6. A stormy, blus-

tering day. The creek is higher than it has been this season. John Hall saw a large salmon come over the wheel. We shut the water off and caught it in the race. Will put in a screen at mouth of race and see if any more come down. We put in new drag this morning; works first class. Made new screen this afternoon and ran the wheel until 9:30 p. m.

Sunday, Dec. 19. We ran through the 600 pounds of rich ore. It took us a little less than three hours. John Hall's week to cook again. Ran the arastra all night; shut her down at 5 a. m. Monday. John was getting uneasy, afraid someone would clean up on us, so we are watching her pretty close. A fine day, clear and cold.

January 1, 1898. I cut up and salted the meat and tried out the lard in forenoon. Started the arastra about 1 p. m.; the water was too light to run with, closed her down and did some repairing on same and mended ore sacks balance of afternoon. A foggy day.

Tuesday, Feb. 15. Ross and I surveyed the L. D. ledge in forenoon and went to the Rough Nugget. Repaired the wheelbarrow and brought all the tools down and worked afternoon in the L. D. The tunnel was in 47 feet when John Hall left it. There is 23 feet to run yet if the ledge is perpendicular, but if it dips into the hill the same as on the surface, it will be 39 feet yet to the ledge. A foggy day.

Monday, Feb. 28. We struck the ledge at the L. D. tunnel this forenoon, 77 feet from the first set of timbers. It prospects pretty fair, but can't tell how wide it is yet.

Friday, March 4. Ross and I worked in the L. D. tunnel in forenoon and cut timber for ore bin afternoon. Shot four large Rain-bow trout under bridge at noon. A fine day.

Tuesday, March 15. All hands to Grants Pass. John Hall has agreed to lease his interest in the mine and arastra to Ross Williams for three years. Consideration, 25% of the gross output of his interest which is one half. Got returns from the last shipment of dust, \$154.67.

Paid return charges of \$2.70.

Paid J. Wolke back bill, \$8.80.

Paid J. Wolke for goods purchased today, \$9.65.

Paid T. B. Cornell old account, \$14.55.

Friday, April 8. Ross and I worked at L. D., took out 1200 pounds of ore. John Hall sowed clover seed in yard and worked at garden. A showery day.

Monday, April 11. Three tons of ore on dump now. Ross worked at Little Dandy. Took out 1200 pounds ore. John went prospecting. I ran the arastra. Water is very light, had to put in a small drag in order to run at all. Made gate for the garden and hung same and finished fence. A bright warm day. Shut down at 9 p. m.

Sunday, July 17. Ross and I went hunting today, took bucket along and went through the berry patch. A bear had been there ahead of us, had the bushes pretty well torn up. We got about a quart. Were not many ripe ones. Did not see a deer, but saw several flocks of grouse. A warm day.

Thursday, July 21. We worked at crosscut until about 4:30 p. m. We then took the guns and dog and went to the west slope of Sexton mountain to look for a deer. Camped there all night.

Friday, July 22. Got back this noon at 10 a. m. with a buck, killed by Ross. Both worked at tunnel. Ross went to a dance above Makins on the ditch. Got horse from Blacklock. A warm day.

(Continued on page 7.)

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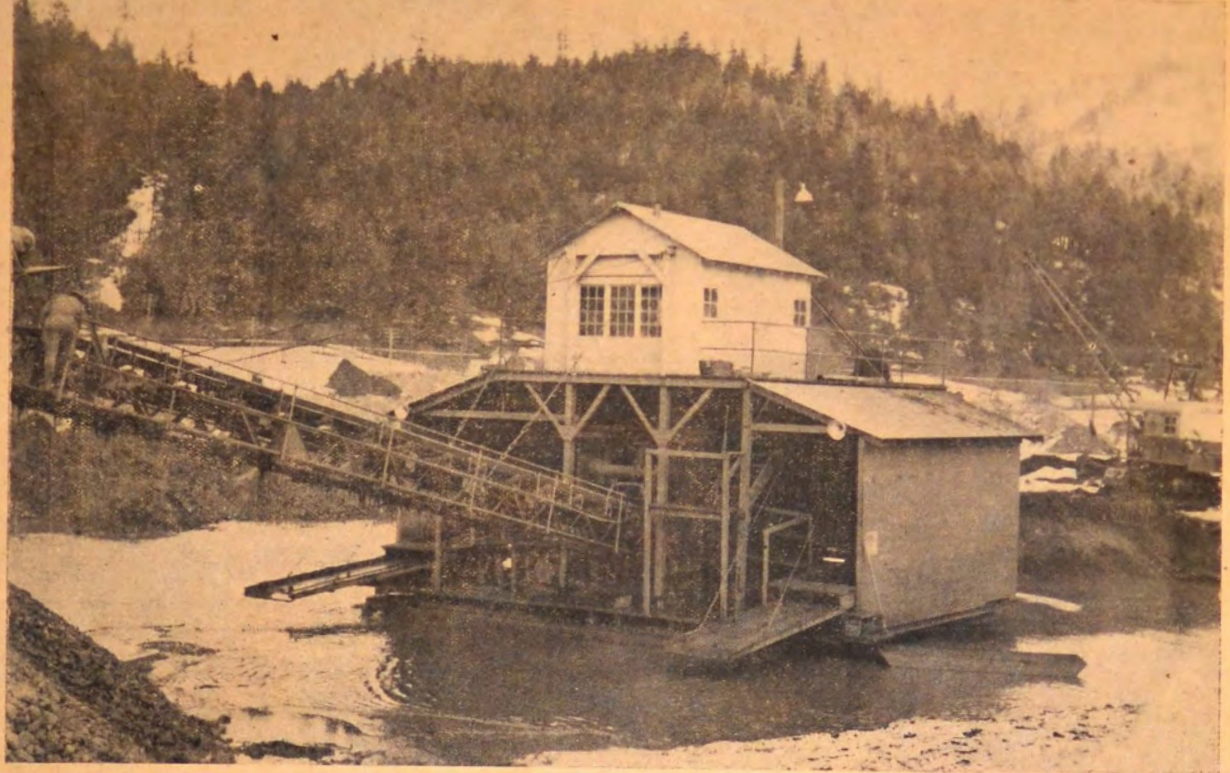
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# Coyote Creek Operation Well Under Way



View of Bodinson dredge operated by Carlson and Sandburg on Coyote creek which operators claim loses only five per cent of gold. Twenty men are employed in the operation. A similar dredge will start a "cruise" on Wolf creek this spring.

## Another Dredge Planned For Wolf Creek Project

Newcomers to Josephine county who are spending large sums in mining developments here are Carlson and Sandburg, operating a Bodinson dredge on Coyote creek, above Laurel Camp, just off the Pacific highway about 22 miles from Grants Pass. The equipment represents an investment of approximately \$75,000 and an average of 20 men are employed on the dredge, working three shifts of eight hours each. Charles O. Smith is foreman in charge.

Louis D. Carlson and John Sandburg, principal owners, have a similar dredge operating at Olney Creek, Calif., near Redding. The same number of men are employed there and the investment is about the same as in the plant operating here.

Negotiations have been completed to start a similar mining project on Wolf creek, a few miles above Coyote creek. Mr. Sandburg stated, as a result of the successful operation on Coyote creek. The latter dredge has been in operation only a month. Construction and development work started at the site about the middle of last September. Carlson and Sandburg began their explorations and tests in Oregon last June and have carried on their developments since that time, selecting this locality after looking over other fields.

The proposed Wolf creek dredge will be the same type, but slightly larger than the Coyote creek dredge and the same number of men will be employed when operations get under way. More than \$75,000 is being invested in the equipment alone, which will bring the company's total investment, including land, to approximately a quarter of a million dollars here in Josephine county. It is hoped to have the new dredge operating by spring.

There is only one other Bodinson dredge in this part of the country, according to Mr. Sandburg. That one is in Baker county and is a somewhat different design than the one on Coyote creek. The outstanding feature of the dredge is its high degree of efficiency in gold saving. Only about 5 per cent of the gold is lost. Mr. Sandburg stated, which is an unusually low percentage. A loss of 10 per cent is considered low in most dredging operations.

No previous operations have been carried on at the Coyote creek site. From present indications Carlson and Sandburg will be able to make the operation pay there for at least two years and possibly three or four before moving the dredge to a new location. As may be seen in the picture it is a floating type dredge and moves ahead as the

ground is worked before it, throwing the worked gravel or tailings, out behind. The tailings are so clean when they come out of the stacker that no particles of gold could be recovered by any method. Mr. Sandburg declared.

The visible portion of the dredge, as shown in the photograph, is similar in construction to other types in operation in this county. The riffles and screens, however, differ in many respects.

The entire plant is powered by electric energy. It has the advantage of high speed and may be operated almost continuously with few stops for repairs. It handles on an average of 3000 yards of material in a working day of 24 hours, operating seven days a week.

## MINES INTEREST MRS. BIGELOW, WIFE OF MINER

By Helen Turner Sparlin

"I cannot imagine any life more fascinating than that of a miner's wife," remarked Mrs. J. W. Bigelow, when interviewed in the Kerby Confectionery, which she and Mr. Bigelow operate. "If it were possible I would be content to spend the rest of my days in the hills."

During the 32 years which the Bigelows have spent in Josephine county, they have mined at intervals, spending a few months at a time in the mines, then returning to their home in Kerby. Mrs. Bigelow, before her marriage in October, 1904, was Miss Maud Winters. A native of California, she came as a young woman to Kerby where she met and wedded Mr. Bigelow, who was born in Kansas.

After spending about five years in various mines throughout the county, the Bigelows had charge of the Kerby postoffice for 10 years. In 1930 they gave up the postoffice and answered the call of the hills, spending the next several years pocket hunting in a number of different mining sections, among them Fall creek, Hoover's gulch, Fiddler's gulch, Canyon creek and Lightning gulch.

"One incident which occurred while my husband and I were prospecting at Lightning gulch remains vividly in my mind," Mrs. Bigelow

recalled. "During the heavy snow of 1914 or 1915, I am not sure of the year, two men, Ralph Stearns and a companion named Lutzenheiser, were killed in a snow slide which completely covered the cabin in which they were living, near the mouth of Lightning gulch. My husband and I worked alone for three days in an attempt to find the bodies of the men, before help came from Grants Pass. Their broken bodies were finally recovered from the snow covered debris of the cabin. I remember that we had 17 days and nights of constant snowing at that time. It did not let up for an hour in all that time."

Mrs. Bigelow told of finding a large nugget worth \$59.25 while mining on Canyon creek. She has worked side by side with her husband in the thrilling search for gold and is as experienced as many men in the various ways of taking the orevious metal from the ground.

When asked if she thought she and Mr. Bigelow will ever mine again, Mrs. Bigelow replied, "probably we will never mine to any great extent again as my husband's health has failed during the past few years, making the heavy work necessitated in mining impossible. I am sorry to say that we have decided to give it up as we are both ardent lovers of the outdoors and when once one gets mining "in one's system" it is impossible to recover from it."

After Judge Whit Boyd of Houston, Tex., married a couple using the word "obey," Mrs. Boyd marked "obey" out of his printed ceremony.

The Ohio legislature in 1812 enacted a law which made bringing into the state a deck of cards an offense punishable by a fine of from \$5 to \$25.

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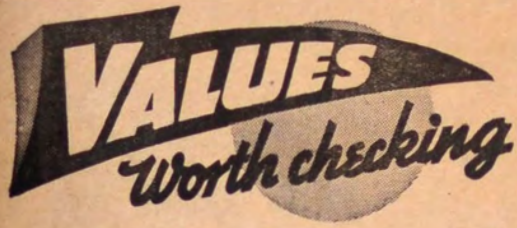
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**MONEY SAVING BARGAINS FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, JANUARY 29 AND 30, 1937**



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**SHOVELS**

\$1.50 value \$1.25

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# Waldo-Kerby Once Leading Towns of County



Old townsite of Waldo, which is being gradually torn away by the giants of the nearby placer mines, except the site where the store built by A. B. McIlwain in 1863, still stands in a state of decay.

## SAILORS DISCOVER GOLD AT WALDO

(The following story, submitted by George Harrison and C. E. Harmon gives historical facts and data surrounding the early history of the Old Channel, Esterly and other mines. Both Mr. Harrison and Mr. Harmon are well known miners. Mr. Harrison came on the Old Channel mine in 1891 and has had a part in its development since that time.)

(By George Harrison)

Gold was first discovered at Jacksonville near where the present town of Jacksonville is located during the summer of 1832. About the same time some sailors from a ship that had called at Crescent City, having heard of the rich discovery at Jacksonville, deserted their ship and journeyed over the mountains on almost the route which is now the Redwood highway trying to reach Jacksonville. When they reached what was later known as the Simmons Placer mine (still later the Esterly mine) some of them while getting water from a nearby stream for cooking, discovered gold.

They did not go further but established camp there and for many years it was known as "Sailors' Diggings", from which more than \$10,000,000 have been taken. It has been known as Waldo for many years.

The discovery of gold at Jacksonville, "Sailor Diggings", Allhouse, Canyon and Josephine creeks, Applegate and Galice started the first settlements of any size in southern Oregon, during the years 1852 to 1855, the beginning of the Rogue River Indian war. Among the arrivals during the spring of 1852 was one Louis Galice, a Spaniard from Mexico, who brought with him a party of about 10 men of his own nationality. When they arrived at Jacksonville, finding so many men already there and all the ground located, they proceeded on down the Rogue river until they arrived at the present site of Galice. They mined in the creek beds for a distance of several miles, finding this section fabulously rich, and they named the stream Galice in honor of Louis Galice, its discoverer.

There have since been numerous finds of gold in this vicinity such as Thoss Flat, discovered by Dan and George Green and Nick Thoss, who mined several years on Rich Gulch, now a part of the Old Channel mine.

The Indians attacked the miners of Galice in 1856, the latter having built a log fort near where Galice crosses into Rogue river, but the miners repulsed them with heavy loss and were not bothered any more.

Other strikes in this mineral belt included one at the old Sugar Pine quartz mine from which Dan and

George Green took more than \$100,000. This was the first quartz mine operated in southern Oregon. In 1895 a strike that was quite rich was made by a man named Jackson but it was soon worked out.

The Bunker Hill in more recent years was discovered by John Robertson and sons, in the Galice district. More than \$100,000 has been recovered and it is still being worked. Robertson came to Galice in 1896.

The Oriole, which lies adjacent to Galice creek, was discovered about 1900 by J. C. Mattison and is composed of a very large body of ore. It has been worked more or less successfully ever since its discovery.

The Golden Wedge was discovered by Henry Hutchins, an old miner of this district, and has been worked successfully since that time.

The Old Channel mine is composed of several old-time mines that were bought up and patented by an English corporation and worked as one unit. It comprises more than 700 acres of ancient river channel containing more yardage of gold bearing gravel than any other mine in the state of Oregon.

The writer has worked at pipping and other labor in the Old Channel for its different owners since 1891. Frank Ennis was owner of the mine in that year. It is now operated by Mr. McGuire and associates, who have newly equipped the property at an expense of more than \$50,000.

In the early history of this property, when it was first equipped with pipe and giants, the pipe was packed on mules from Crescent City, Calif. There are now more than 100 men working at Galice and vicinity.

The Alameda quartz mine, an immense quartz property on Rogue river near Galice, at one time was equipped with a smelter but because of the isolation and lack of rail facilities or other means of transportation, it has been closed for several years.

Galice, in its early days, was reached by wagon road to Hoag creek and 16 miles of pack trail down Rogue river, but as a result of the cooperation of all the miners of that district in the year 1898, a road was opened to the Galice store so that it could be traveled by freight teams and outfits.

There has been a general store at Galice since its earliest history, and at the present time there are two stores, a postoffice and a school. The district is entirely within the Siskiyou forest section, to whose workers should go praise for the good roads, bridges and many other improvements which otherwise could not have been obtained.

One of the best camps in the Siskiyou forest is the Rand camp near Galice on the Rogue.

Mining has been one of the principal industries of this part of Oregon for more than 80 years and at the present time provides a means of support for several thousand men.

## DISPUTES WERE OFTEN SETTLED 'OUT OF COURT'

A colorful history surrounds this Waldo district, which gets its name from one of the early settlers, Judge Daniel Waldo, who held court there, acting as district judge under the first provisional government. The town of Waldo is said to have been the original county seat of Josephine county. In 1858 it was moved to Kerbyville which was then the largest settlement. Lyman H. Guthrie was the first postmaster at Waldo. He was appointed September 4, 1856.

An authentic record of some of the stirring events in the lives of the early miners of the district has been compiled by James T. Chinnock, historical lore as full of action as a western thriller.

One account tells of the conviction of two men, G. W. Crafts and A. J. Pope, for robbing sluice boxes of gold and quicksilver at Allen Gulch near Waldo, on March 21, 1859. Crafts was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary and Pope was given three years.

There are several instances in the records of challenges to fight duels. Coastland & Company had a store at Kerbyville. Coastland gave a man named Ford ten minutes to leave town and sent him a challenge demanding satisfaction by the code of honor. This challenge was delivered to Ford, whereupon the latter caused Coastland to be arrested. Coastland succeeded in having the charge dismissed by declaring he had only intended the challenge as a practical joke.

According to a lien notice filed of record in September, 1857, Samuel Hicks and Thomas Reed

claimed a lien on lot 6 in block 3 at Kerbyville for materials furnished for the construction of a livery stable. This was probably one of the first buildings constructed in Kerbyville.

## Only Known Deposit Of Oregonite Here

Known for years to residents of the Illinois valley but only recently recognized for its commercial possibilities, Oregonite is the newest mineral mined in Josephine county. The only known deposit in the world is in the Illinois district where Bert Barnes, Grants Pass jeweler, has operated the River-view mine for the past four years.

Walter Talmadge, an agate cutter who formerly lived in Grants Pass, polished a few pieces of the stone and first showed them to Mr. Barnes merely as interesting specimens of native rock. Barnes was immediately impressed with their unique beauty and saw in them commercial possibilities. One impressive feature is the distinctive marking which occurs in the form of a flower. The coloring shades through pink, red, brown to almost black, with white or creamy edging. The name of the stone is derived from the fact that it is found nowhere else in the world, as far as is known.

Mr. Barnes filed on the claim where his mine is now in operation four years ago. The gem material is found in a narrow seam having an extremely hard matrix on either side and occurring in very hard ledge matter. It is quite expensive to produce.

The stone, obtainable only through Barnes Jewelry store, already is gaining a wide reputation among jewelers for its unusual qualities. Its variety of markings makes each stone an individual specimen. As its popularity grows it will contribute to the advertising of Oregon and its mineral resources.

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 Bleached and Hemmed

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Look at these low Sale prices and figure how little it will cost you to make those new sheets you need . . . of reliable "Druid" quality sheeting.

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# FEDERATED STORES

# Early Records Tell Tale of Dangerous Living

## RACE QUARREL ENDS FATALLY; BATTLES MANY

Early records chronicling events in the lives of the miners who first settled Josephine county tell a story of hard living, hard drinking and fighting with a simple code of justice. Many of the characters with whom the court records deal came to violent ends and, while legal action was taken, most cases were dropped with a plea of self defense winning freedom for the person charged with the deed.

One of the records tells of a race quarrel at Frenchtown on Althouse creek which resulted in the death of a Frenchman known as Francois on June 14, 1858. Francois and Julius, a countryman, Irish Frank and one John Hagg were operating a placer mine on Althouse creek as partners. They were known as the French company. Francois, a large man of quarrelsome nature, accused Hagg of being friendly to the Irish and Americans and unfriendly to the French. He also accused him of robbing sluice boxes and of selling him an interest in a mining claim that would not pay.

When Hagg started putting water in the sluice boxes Francois seized him by the neck, shook his fist in his face, and said that he would not let him pick in the claim and that one or the other of them would "kiss the bedrock" if he did. Hagg got free of the big Frenchman and ran into the cabin. Francois close on his heels. Hagg, seeing the latter meant to pursue the argument further, took his gun from the cabin wall, stepped out of the door and opened fire at his tormentor. Francois dropped, dying almost instantly.

From the testimony in the case it appears that "kissing the bedrock," in the miners' vernacular of the time, meant to kill or be killed. Hagg was indicted for murder but later was acquitted on the ground of self defense.

Another incident is that of a card game at Callicott's in September, 1857, in which a man named John Lyons met his death.

Broughton & Company ran a store and saloon at Galice at this time and Lyons and one Demic were playing poker in the back room of the saloon. A dispute arose over the money on the table and Lyons snatched a part of it, saying he had been cheated. Demic demanded the return of the money and Lyons, in answer, drew a knife. Demic drew his pistol and pointed it at Lyons. The latter dropped his knife but said he would go and procure a fire arm.

He called for a pistol at the bar and the bartender gave him an unloaded one. Lyons then left the place but returned shortly afterward and again was confronted by Demic who told him to draw his fire arm if he had any. Lyons replied that he had no pistol but continued to advance, calling Demic a coward. Demic fired, killing him instantly.

At the inquest it appeared that Lyons was a quarrelsome person and had stated that he intended to kill two or three men before he left the saloon. He had also been in previous difficulties, it was said. The witnesses all agreed, on the other hand, that Demic was not a quarrelsome person and had had no previous difficulties. The coroner's jury released Demic, finding that he had acted in self defense.

A colored man named Alfred Lorry was killed on the 27th of July, 1862, by James A. Abbott of Kerbyville. The negro was intoxicated and after riding his horse up and down Kerbyville's single street in a wild manner, attempted to ride into the front door of Sawyer's saloon, without the formality of dismounting.

Being unable to get the horse into the saloon, he tied it to the nearest post, entered, and helped himself to a tin cupful of liquor. Abbott, who was in the saloon at the time, followed the negro outside and cautioned him to go home. Then Abbott got into a wagon and prepared to drive away.

Before he could get under way, however, the colored man walked toward him in a threatening manner, whereupon Abbott struck him with the small end of the buggy whip. The negro seized the whip from the white man's hands and struck repeatedly at him while the latter jumped to the ground, fending off the blows, and finally drew a large bowie knife. The enraged negro refused to be intimidated, however, and in his next rush received the blade in his side its full length.

The fatal encounter caused Abbott to be brought before the grand jury but he was not indicted. The



This is the way the old timers hit the trail for the gold fields back in 1872 when digging was easy along the creek beds in Josephine county. Gold was cheap and merchandise was high and the miners disposed of their pokes with a lavish hand.

## HEAVY SNOWS BURY HOWLAND MINE IN WINTER

Continuous operations have progressed on a small scale for more than eight years at the Howland mine, situated in the high mountain ranges between the Rogue and Illinois rivers. Shut in by snow which falls to a depth of from four to eight feet in the winter, the mine is accessible only by a circuitous trail during the summer months.

From two to five persons have been employed during the eight years the mine has been in operation, prospecting and developing the property which consists of a group of 11 claims.

George L. Howland, an experienced prospector and a practical engineer, discovered the mine and, with his son, Leonard, has actively engaged in its development ever since.

Like many others of his profession, Mr. Howland has been at the scene of many big gold strikes in different parts of the world. He believes now, however, that his roaming days are over, for he has at last found what he has searched for and dreamed of during the years of his travels.

During the operation of the mine more attention has been given to determining the extent of the deposits and testing the values of the ore bodies in various ledges and veins that have been opened, than in actual production. But as a sort of by-product, sufficient gold has been extracted in a small ball mill installed several years ago to pay practically all costs of operation. The mill is run by water power which is available only a month or so in the spring.

Some three hundred feet of tunnel has been drilled during the past several months which should cut one of the lower ore shoots on the hillside, about a hundred feet deeper than has been reached heretofore.

grand jury held that he had acted in self defense.

for. As the tunnel is extended further into the hill the other veins will be cut at much greater depth.

Geologically, the rocks are chiefly serpentine or greenstone and gabbro, a dark grey, intrusive rock that has a texture like that of granite and is equally as hard. The veins are composed chiefly of quartz and near the surface iron oxides are abundant.

N. W. Williams, of the Pick N' Pan hardware store, who was a successful mine operator in California and Alaska before entering the hardware business, investigated the property a year or so ago and became so enthused with the prospects that he purchased an interest in the mine and has been associated with its development since that time.

Last winter a small hydraulic plant was installed and, with the aid of a storage reservoir, sufficient water was available to wash off a lot of the hillside dirt that is from three to 20 feet deep, in order to uncover new veins.

The water gave out before the objective was reached, but some \$400 worth of very rich gold bearing quartz apparently broken from a rich ledge that had worked down into the dirt, was picked up on the exposed bedrock. It is planned to explore this ground at an early date.

Transportation of provisions and mine equipment by muleback has retarded exploration work. It is hoped that a forest road, now partly constructed, will be completed this year. As soon as this is done truck transportation will become available, and it is the intention of the owners to install mining and milling machinery on a large scale.

Judging from the values recovered in the prospecting stages of the development this mine has every indication of becoming one of the large gold producers of the state, in the opinion of Mr. Williams and others who have appraised the mine.

The total value of the principal farm crops in Virginia harvested during 1936 is estimated at \$107,075,000, or 3.3 per cent more than the 1935 valuation.

Secretary Woodring predicts the upper Mississippi river canalization will be completed "in its entirety" during the fiscal year beginning July 1.

## TACOMA MEN BUY "GRANITE HILL"

Tacoma interests have purchased the Sunbeam mine, 16 miles south of Grants Pass in the Williamsburg district, and the Granite Hill mine, nine miles north of Grants Pass in the Granite Hill district, with William F. Hayden as consulting engineer in a proposed development program. Both properties are under the management of E. C. Amnes, formerly of British Columbia.

The Sunbeam mine, located on the Applegate river, has undergone considerable development and the new owners expect to spend not less than \$60,000 to \$70,000 in further development. It will be placed in operation within the year, according to Mr. Hayden.

The Granite Hill mine comprises both quartz and dredging deposits. It will be extensively developed during the next year. The owners expect to expend at least \$100,000 to \$150,000 in equipping the dredging areas, which will include the installation of a large drag line dredge and also in de-watering the Granite Hill main shaft, rehabilitating the underground workings and placing the quartz deposits in operation.

During the past few months the company's engineers made a complete survey of the property, as well as extensive examinations, preliminary to the actual development program to be carried out.

Harpo Marx is learning to play the piano, but Chico, the pianist, isn't learning to thrum a harp.

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G Street

Phone 52

# Lime Important Mineral Found in Josephine



## 25 EMPLOYED AT OREGON LIME PLANT, WILLIAMS

Gold is not the only mineral in Josephine county which contributes to the industrial progress and development of this section of the state. Lime is also found here in abundance and the rapid growth of the Oregon Lime Products company of which James W. Pinniger is vice-president and manager, shows the possibilities in this industry.

The company's plant is located at Williams, 20 miles from Grants Pass, where 16 men are employed. A total of 25 men are carried on the company's payroll, including truck drivers. The plant consists of five buildings, all connected, forming a single unit. The various departments include the machine shop and engine rooms, screen room, kiln room, quick lime processing plant, bagging room and quick lime sorting department.

The company specializes in agricultural limestone products, carrying a complete line of poultry grit and calcium minerals for livestock and poultry feeding. Quick lime products manufactured are lump, pebble and processed lime. Limestone for building purposes is also manufactured at the plant.

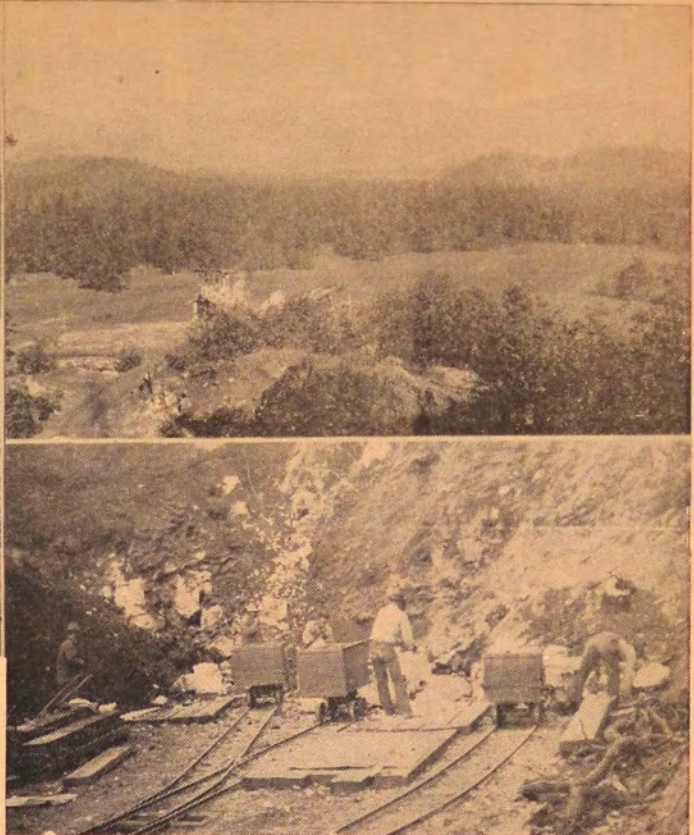
The quarry is an open-face cut, having a face 100 feet in height and 80 feet wide at the present time. The material is shot out of the cut and trammed to the crushing plant and lime kiln. Plans are now under way to install a hydraulic system to remove the dirt and overburden. The plant has a burned lime capacity of 15 tons daily, working three shifts. The eight-hour capacity for crushed stone is about 50 tons a day.

A primary jaw crusher reduces the stone to from two to three-inch size, then it is dropped into the hammer mill and the conveyor takes the "fines" to the screen. The other material is raised in the elevator, reground in the second mill and from there goes to the screen, which screens it into five sizes. The poultry drip, sand and fine material is reground in two other hammer mills. It all leaves the plant in sacks. The product is 99.32 per cent pure calcium and is white in color.

Burned lime for building and chemical purposes is also an important product of the company, although for several years during the depression there was little or no market for building stone. With the increase in building construction, which started about two years ago, the market has improved and a considerable quantity was sold in 1936.

The plant was originally constructed to deal mainly in burned lime for building but turned to production of agricultural products, for which there is always a ready market, when the construction industry declined to such low levels that building everywhere practically ceased. Business has shown a

Oregon Lime Products Company plant at Williams, 17 miles from Grants Pass, where agricultural limestone products, as well as building stone, are manufactured.



steady gain each year of the five years the plant has been in operation, despite the depression. The best year, by far was 1936.

The company operates two trucks for delivering its product to the closer markets, shipping large amounts by rail. It serves all of Oregon and Washington and the northern part of California.

## LITTLE DANDY WAS GOOD PRODUCER

(By Helen Turner Sparlin)

Interesting facts concerning the Little Dandy mine on Grave creek were related in a recent interview with Mrs. Florence Hayden, 251 West I street. Mrs. Hayden, widow of J. G. "Jack" Hayden who passed away two years ago last September, has been a resident of Josephine county since 1913.

In making a brief resume of the early life of Mr. Hayden, Mrs. Hayden stated that her husband's family came west from Boston in 1861, via the Isthmus of Panama railroad and up the coast in the old steamer, the Jonathan, shortly before Jack Hayden's birth. The Hayden family first made their home in Salem where he was born, moving later to Portland.

"My husband's father was an intimate friend of Gov. Grover, fourth governor of Oregon", Mrs. Hayden stated. "When my husband was born, the governor named him christening him John Grover after the governor's father."

"Due to poor health, the elder Mr. Hayden was forced to move from the city to the country, so with a partner he purchased 2200 acres of land on the MacKenzie river near Eugene and with three of the older sons, Jack, Charles and Will, went into stock raising.

"My husband's mother and the younger children had remained in Portland for a time, following the others' move to their new home. On the day of her arrival in Eugene to join them, her husband was killed by a runaway team on his way to the station to meet his family."

"Following his father's death my husband worked at various occupations, learning the carpenter trade which he later followed to a considerable extent. It was during the panic in Tacoma where he was living 40 years ago that he decided to come to Grants Pass, having heard of the mining possibilities in this section of the state. He became acquainted with a man named John Hall, with whom he bought a small partly developed mine on Grave creek, known as the Hall

mine. They built a primitive type of mill for grinding ore, known as an arastra, and worked this mine for some time."

"It was while Mr. Hayden was prospecting at the Hall mine that he discovered what became known as the Little Dandy or Jack Hayden mine. He sold his interest in the Hall mine to his partner and began to work his newly discovered mine. He built a little home, set out fruit trees and planted a garden. Over a period of several years Mr. Hayden took \$10,000 in gold from the mine without a y machinery."

At various times when interest in mining would wane Mr. Hayden went to San Francisco where he followed carpentering as a vocation. On one of his trips to the city he assisted in the building of the Emporium, Mrs. Hayden stated.

It was in 1913 that Mr. Hayden married Florence Lacy Fleming in San Francisco. With his bride he returned to the Little Dandy mine on Grave creek, where they made their home for many years.

"I had never seen a mine and knew less than nothing of mining, except what I had read", remarked Mrs. Hayden. "It was not long,

however, until I had taken a keen interest in our mine and I spent a great deal of time digging around in the hills. I discovered eight different out crops where the top edge of stringers came near the surface of the ground, and as a result of my discovery my husband took out several tons of extra good ore from these spots."

"Often, while digging around in the rocks, I would find what I thought was a piece of quartz rich in gold. Closer observation, however, would show me that was only mica. Thus I discovered that "all is not gold that glitters", said Mrs. Hayden with a smile.

"Only a person who has mined knows what a thrill it is to strike quartz while prospecting", Mrs. Hayden said. "It feels so different from ordinary rock that one can tell the moment the pick or shovel hits the quartz."

Following Mr. Hayden's death two years ago last September, Mrs. Hayden remained at the mine for about a year.

Since Mrs. Hayden has lived in Grants Pass, the mine has not been operated. Doris Hayden, employee of the Courier, lives with her mother at 251 West I street.

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"If Men Wear It We Have It"

# Elkhorn Mine Ready to Open on Large Scale

## PREPARATION OF PROPERTY TOOK YEAR AND HALF

After a year and a half of preparation, another of Josephine county's old-time heavy producing placer mines is ready to be opened on a large scale program.

The Elkhorn mine on Briggs creek, near Ferren ranger station, has for 30 years yielded fortunes in gold. Now a group of Seattle mining men have taken a lease with contract to purchase the property and after 18 months of repairing ditches, pipelines, flumes, roads and other equipment and developments they have been awaiting a thaw to provide water for their work.

R. T. Davison, secretary-treasurer and general manager for the Seattle group said that when the mine opens it will put 20 men to work with a daily payroll of about \$75. Mr. Davison's closest associates are C. J. Sims, vice-president; and H. C. Payzant, general superintendent.

It was about 50 years ago that Abe Ferren discovered the Elkhorn property. After several years he sold to a man named Bain. Davison said it is reported both men took out sizeable fortunes.

The property was acquired about 10 years ago by E. E. Young. For the following nine years he operated on a small scale at a profit, then a all necessary hand tools.

During the past 18 months no mining has been done. The Seattle men have concentrated on preparing the mine for a large scale operation, and have spent about \$1500 on wages, with about \$11,000 on equipment, supplies, and payments on the lease.

There are now two ditches, one 3 1/2 miles long with a capacity of 30 cubic feet per second, and one one-mile long ditch with a capacity of six second feet.

There are 3,000 feet of pipe on the property, with three monitors aimed at the gravel bank in which there is an estimated 5,000,000 cubic yards of "pay dirt".

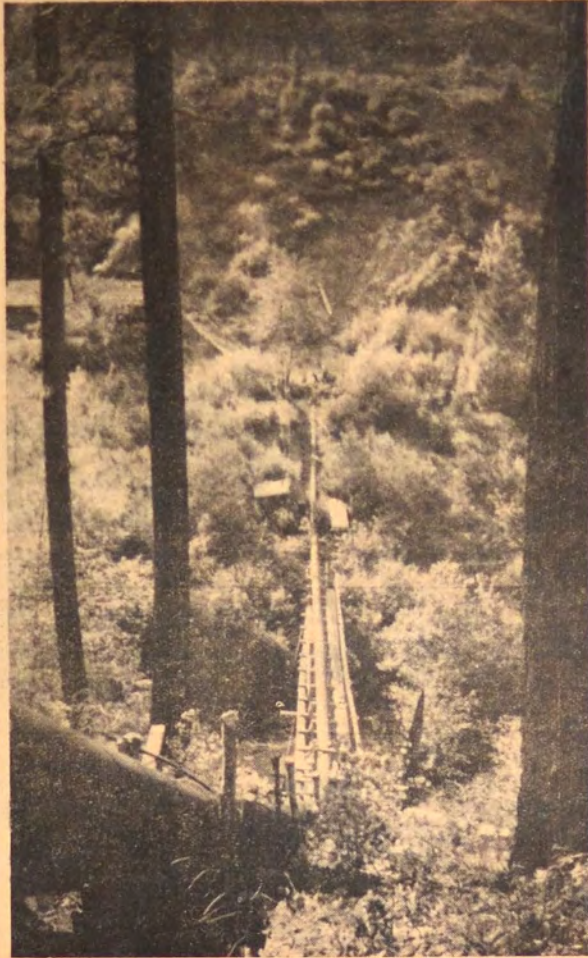
Other equipment includes a saw-mill, a hydro-electric plant, bunk-house, mess hall, dining room, and all necessary hand tools.

In preparing for the "run", it was necessary to build one-half mile of road, build and rebuild pipe-line bridges across creeks, improve the ditches, pipelines and flumes, repair and re-lay pipe lines. They have been waiting for water since the first of the year, when the last of their preparations were made.

When they begin operating, Davison figures, it will be possible to move 3,500 cubic yards of gravel a day. Prospects are based on a figure of 30 cents per yard, but on the property are pits from which the gravel averaged 88 cents per yard.

The snows have blocked the road to the mine, and to get to the property it is necessary to go by way of Selma to Oak Flat, then hike up Briggs creek.

Davison has had considerable experience in operating mines. Thirty five years ago he was in the Salmon river country of Idaho. He has worked near Skykomish, Wash., and as a youth lived among the mines in the rich Burnt River district of Baker county, Oregon.



View of Elkhorn mine, old-time heavy producer, showing part of pipe-line laid through rugged Briggs Creek section of Josephine county. The mine is now ready to operate again after a year and a half of construction work, including new flumes, ditches, roads and pipe lines to carry water for hydraulicking.

The Haviland mine, which is located seven miles west of Kerby at the fork of Canyon and Josephine creeks. During an interview at her home at 719 K street, Mrs. Haviland smiled as she told the writer of her first rocking chair which her husband carried seven miles on his back to their little cabin that his bride might have a rocker.

"I was as happy in those days in my little cabin with its meager furnishings as any bride of today who begins her married life with every modern convenience. I remember that I had just a few dishes and no chairs except my rocker and stools made of white cedar," said Mrs. Haviland.

"We spent about 14 years at the Haviland mine, which is seven miles below a quartz mine where approximately \$100,000 was taken out many years ago. The later mine is now being worked by Bert Adams.

"I loved my life at the mine and always took on active interest in my husband's work. I was the only woman on the creek and sometimes months would pass when I would not see another woman. But three of my four children were born at the mine, and, needless to say, I was very busy," Mrs. Haviland said.

Mrs. Haviland was her children's sole teacher for about six years. From the time her oldest daughter was six years old, until the Havilands moved to Grants Pass, she held daily classes that her children might have a chance to learn.

In 1893 the Haviland family moved to this city, later moving to Fruitdale where they lived in a small house on the spot where Fred's Auto Camp now stands. For five or six years, Mr. Haviland and a partner, George K. Fowler operated the Keystone quartz mine, on Green's creek.

Mr. Haviland passed away in August, 1913, at their home in Fruitdale. Mrs. Haviland has lived in Grants Pass for a number of years. Her three children are Mrs. Cora Oden, Dairy, Ore., Mrs. Adelia Bechard, Vancouver, Wash., and George K. Haviland, Long Beach.

In conclusion, Mrs. Haviland said, "Many women would have found life at the Haviland mine lonely but I had my husband and my children. The children and I set a day aside each week to go prospecting and we found several quite valuable nuggets during our digging, some of which were worth \$25 or more."

"While the children were small it was difficult to get away from the mine very often as horses were the only means of transportation we had and it was no small task to get three

children ready to go somewhere and then take them horseback."

Of the eight McDaniel children who came to Josephine county so many years ago, Mrs. Haviland is the only survivor. Her brother, Perry McDaniel, passed away in Los Angeles, January 17.

Horse and dog racing devotees who picked winners at Florida tracks last season collected \$33,830,818.90; track operators received \$3,830,519.14 and the state \$1,164,783.96 in taxes.

Once a week—Thursday night—Una Merkel prepares her family's dinner. Southern chicken gumbo is the dish.

Victor Moore, the comedian, writes poetry in a serious vein.

## D. EVANS PLAYED ACTIVE PART; HAD BAD REPUTATION

Davis Evans is said to be one of the first settlers in the Rogue river valley. Although his reputation was not of the best, he seems to have played rather a prominent part in the early history of this section, when the rush for gold and encounters with Indians made life exciting and uncertain. He was not himself a miner, finding it easier and more profitable to get the miners' gold by exercise of wit or games of chance.

In the summer of 1851 Davis Evans settled at the mouth of what is now known as Evans creek. There were only two settlers in the valley when he came and the Indians were still in control of their domain, undisturbed by the advancing whites who so soon were to wrest from them their natural inheritance.

One of these settlers was a man named Joel Perkins who lived near what is now Grants Pass. He later operated a ferry when the settlers became more numerous. The other, a man of very bad repute, lived among the Indians at Gold Hill. His name was Bills.

After the Indian War in 1853 he filed a claim for reimbursement for damages done by the Indians and sold a land claim to which he owned title across the river from the mouth of Evans creek in October, 1853. He then moved down the stream to a point below Savage Rapids dam, where he established a place which became known as Evans Ferry and later, Evansville. Here he operated a ferry and ran a tavern until the year 1858.

While so engaged he was appointed administrator of the estate of John K. Jones, who was killed by Indians October 9, 1855, in his home at what was known as Tokay Heights, near the city limits of Grants Pass. Evans himself was attacked by Indians at his ferry the morning of the same day but succeeded in repulsing the attack without being wounded.

Evans was commonly known among the early settlers as Coyote Evans. He was removed as administrator of the Jones estate by reason of misconduct. In the year 1857 the records show him to be operating a gambling house and saloon at Sterlingville on the upper Applegate. While thus engaged he was indicted for selling liquor without a license.

In 1859 he moved to Kerbyville when the mining operations were beginning to flourish there and succeeded in having himself appointed coroner, a rather prominent public office in view of the frequency of violent deaths at the time. He was, nevertheless, active in private business too and was indicted several times for violating the liquor law and for operating illegal gambling games, but seems to have been acquitted each time.

Fred Astaire keeps a working supply of 30 pairs of dancing shoes.

## MRS. HAVILAND LOVED OLD LIFE; HARDSHIPS MANY

(By Helen Turner Sparlin)

The hardships of early mining days in southern Oregon did not discourage Mrs. Elnora Haviland, who has lived in Josephine county for 67 years. Even the fact that four years often elapsed between visits with her family, named McDaniel at New Hope, did not daunt Mrs. Haviland's true pioneer spirit. Only 30 miles lay between the Haviland and McDaniel families when Mrs. Haviland lived at the Haviland mine, but it was not always an easy matter to travel even that short a distance.

When a child, Elnora McDaniel came to Josephine county from Linn county with her parents, brothers and sisters. The McDaniel family settled at first on Deer creek, at what is now known as the Messinger place.

In June, 1881, she married John Haviland, who although a native of Ohio, was raised in Indiana. He came to Oregon when a young man.

Mrs. Haviland's first home after her marriage was the little cabin at



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# Nuggets Found on Althouse Worth Thousands

## MRS. FLOYD CITES MANY CONTRASTS IN MINE METHODS

Born in Holland, Oregon, and a resident of Josephine county all her life, Mrs. Harry Floyd is probably as well versed on mining conditions as any woman in that section of the mining area.

Mrs. Floyd, before her marriage to Harry Floyd in 1923, was Miss Lucille Smock, only child of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Smock, pioneer residents of Holland. The Smocks built the first store in Holland in the year 1898 and in 1935 they constructed the modern store building which is operated by Mr. and Mrs. Floyd.

"My recollections of mining conditions when I was a child are vastly different than present day activities in that field," Mrs. Floyd remarked. "Now most of the miners take their supplies to their claims by automobile whereas I can remember the days when all supplies were taken in by means of pack trains."

"An interesting character who used to visit Holland when packing supplies through to his mining claims at Happy Camp, from Kerby and Holland, was China Bow, an old Chinese. I was just a child at the time and I always looked forward to China Bow's visits as he would bring me candy and trinkets," Mrs. Floyd added.

The well remembered Briggs strike, which was discovered in the early part of the 1900's, is recalled by Mrs. Floyd as being one of the richest strikes of that time. The mine was soon worked out but a great deal of gold was taken out. This mine was located about 12 miles south of Holland. Another strike mentioned by Mrs. Floyd as having been one of the richest in her recollection was the Boswell strike which occurred just before the World War. This quartz mine is located four miles east of Holland and was at that time owned and operated by Robert Boswell and son, Mr. Boswell, who now lives at 915 East D street, Grants Pass, is still owner of the mine but does not work it.

When questioned in a recent interview as to late mining developments in the vicinity of Holland, Mrs. Floyd stated that one of the largest finds of recent years has been made at the Althouse mine, one and one-half miles from Holland on Althouse creek. This mine, which is owned by R. S. Leonard and operated by William Von der Hellen, is at present still in operation.

"During the last four years there have been a greater number of prospectors in the surrounding hills than I can remember seeing come and go in many years," Mrs. Floyd said. "However, I do not believe there are as many prospecting around here this year. During the depression it has provided a cheap living for many men, as well as an adventuresome one, as the thrilling part of mining is that one never knows but what he will make his stake any day."

"Many of the prospectors stay in the hills for months at a time, taking supplies sufficient to last from fall until spring. There are some, however, who come down into Holland frequently, making the store their headquarters, a spot where they can talk over their varied experiences in the hills."

Asked whether there are many women miners in the hills in that vicinity now, Mrs. Floyd replied that Mrs. Wesley Young of Holland, is the only woman who has spent any time in the occupation during the last six months or so. Mr. and Mrs. Young, who have several claims on Althouse creek, make their home in Holland during the time they are not engaged in their loved work, mining.

"Miners find the hills much more accessible now than in former days," Mrs. Floyd said. "The new road which is going in by Bolan Lake from the Caves highway and the extension of the road up Althouse creek past Tiger Town will doubtless open up more mining in this region."

"Although some miners continue their work throughout the winter, the most suitable time of year for mining is the early spring, as deep snows and freezing weather are against placer mining," stated Mrs. Floyd. "Quartz mining is almost as extensively pursued in the surrounding hills as placer mining, however."

In conclusion, Mrs. Floyd remarked, "Some people think that life out here must be lonely and uneventful, but I do not find it so. We are always busy here in the store because we have as our customers the men of the hills as well



Nugget found in June, 1934, by Robert Burns at Stovepipe placer near Leland, worth \$1015.

as the people who live in the valley. Our most quiet months are January and February."

"Yes, miners have their ups and downs and it is all just a gamble, but I think men and women who follow the quest for gold lead a

happier and more thrilling life than many people who have secure positions, as there is always the possibility of making a big strike and this fills them with an ambition to go on and on," was Mrs. Floyd's closing statement.

## 'BIG FINDS' LISTED FROM PAST YEARS

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

Some of the other finds in local properties have been:

1858—Vaun nugget, \$800, found on Slug bar, near Browtown.

1892—Oscar creek nugget, \$365, found by Boardman Darneille.

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

19—Oscar creek, in the early 1900's, several large nuggets, \$240, \$125 and \$100.

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

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

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



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