

25. Did you know?

The Jewett Mine is located at 2500 ft on the west side of Baldy mountain. Baldy mountain is just north east of Grants Pass and can be reached by Summit Loop off of Cloverlawn. In 1863 it was provided with an ore crushing devise powered by water. The water power turned a huge gear attached to 8 big stamping hammers continuously moving up and down and crushing the ore fed under the hammers into a fine powder. When ever you hear or read of the term 5 or 8 stamp mill, in connection with mining, this is what its all about. Jo. Co. Hist. Soc

27. Did you know?

Gold is deposited by nature in out of the way places in Josephine County, as well as other parts of the world. Many times down deep in some mountain mass, or in beds of abandoned water courses filled with loam and gravels forced down by erosion or glacial action many many years ago. Water under pressure is directed at the side of a mountain and the underlying gravels are washed over a riffle box designed to capture the gold. Many miles of ditches were dug by hand in this county to transport the water to the gravel deposits, and finally forced into a pipe and out the end of a small nozzle. with enough water pressure to split a mamouth boulder. This nozzle was called a Giant. and came in different number sizes .

Jo. Co. Hist. Soc.



Josephine County Historical Society
512 SW Fifth Street ~ Grants Pass, Oregon 97526
Phone 479-7827 ~ Fax 479-7827

March 26, 1998

Subject: The Jewett Mine

December 15, 1926 Ore. Observer

J. McFadden was in the city Friday from the Jewett Mine, which he is operating with Mr. Coats. They have a ledge of five feet of rich Gold ore and are putting in machinery to handle it.

February 2, 1927 Ore. Observer

Work on the Golden Mary mine near this city will be resumed within a short time according to P.X. Johnson former manager of the property who has returned from Portland where he has been in conference with interests back of the developement.

I certify that these are copied as presented from
the Oregon Observer newspaper of Grants Pass.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael L. Oaks".

Michael L. Oaks
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March 26, 1998

Subject: Jewett Mine being reopened in 1922

The following is an exact copy of the information derived from the Oregon Observer newspaper in Grants Pass. The Oregon Observer was the competing newspaper to the Grants Pass Courier. It was started in 1890 and was purchased by the courier in 1929.

May 3, 1922 Ore. Observer

JEWETT MINE BEING REOPENED


After years of idleness, the old Jewett mine on Jewett creek is again being worked, with the prospects of becoming one of the biggest producing mines in Southern Oregon. Dr. A.M. Knapp and William G. Tait of Medford are associated in the enterprise. Dr. Knapp being on the ground superintending the work.

Dr. Knapp states that ore has been blocked out which will yield \$100,000 at the least. A seven stamp mill is being erected and will be completed within the next two weeks. Ore is being mined and dumped in the bins ready to start work as soon as the mill is finished. About 25 ton can be treated a day, the ore running from \$20.00 to \$124 per ton in gold values. There is also some value in platinum but this is not to be saved until later.

Twelve men are at work on the property and are putting a dam across Jewett creek for a reservoir, Dr. Knapp having filed on the water of the creek. The main ore body consists of two veins, extending far into the mountain. One tunnel has been run into the mountain 350 feet and a drift 200 feet has been cut. The other tunnel is 200 feet with a drift of 200 feet. The mountain is the most undisturbed that he has ever seen. Dr. Knapp stated, the vein being well defined. He also stated that there is nearly a whole mountain of low grade ore which will ultimately be milled.

The present mill is only a starter, which will be used to demonstrate that the ore can be mined profitably said Dr. Knapp. Plans include a large mill ultimately on Rogue River where the ore can be treated and where the power of the river can be utilized. Dr. Knapp has visions of opening a producer which will be second to none in the state. Mines can be profitably operated on low grade ore running as low as four dollars a ton and with thousands of tons of high grade ore in sight, he feels that the property is a "mint". The mine is not over four miles from the city and is located near Fruitdale. Dr. and Mrs. Knapp are living in Fruitdale having purchased a 10 acre tract under the ditch. They expect to do a little farming on the side.

I certify that this is a true copy of the above information.


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March 26, 1998

The following is extracted from the Grants Pass Daily Courier dated **February 18, 1927** "Southwestern Oregon Mining News" section.

February 18, 1927 Grants Pass Daily Courier

Samples of high grade ore from the old Jewett mine have been shown about the past week, assaying over \$30,000 per ton. The present leasees are continuing their development work, no great surprise being shown at the discovery of the pay chute. Those who worked the mine two or three decades ago predicted that the seventy dollar rock was only leading up to higher grade ore. Further work will determine the volume and doubtless open up other pay chutes.

From the same section of the paper, it states:

Development work was started the past week on the Blue Jay, and the Golden Mary has been busy on stringing the cable for the tram. The installation of the machinery at the Consolidated has been temporarily held up because of an accident to J.R. Farleigh, who has charge of the installation. Mr. Farleigh is at present in the hospital with a broken leg.

I certify that the above information has been copied exactly as presented.



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3/19/99

From the Rogue River Courier

February 18, 1927 both items below:

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January 16, 1897 Oregon Observer

George Dorwin superintendent of the Jewett mine, has put a force of men at work driving a lower cross-cut tunnel to cut the lead at a depth of 160 feet below the present workings, this is a move in the right direction as it will bring the ore out much nearer the mill, and save hauling over a bad road.

May 15, 1897 Ore. Observer

THE JEWETT MINE

1897

This mine is situated four and one half miles southeast from Grants Pass, Oregon, and at an altitude of about 2,000 feet above the sea level. The Jewett mine has been worked for years with varying degrees of success. It was discovered in 1861 and several thousand dollars taken from surface pockets. Then a tunnel was run into the hill, which opened up what is now known as the big chamber, from which ore was extracted of a value estimated to be between \$50,000 and \$100,000, and from the looks of the chambers where the ore was taken from and the ore that was left here and there and on the same side of the chamber, the larger amount is most likely case.

After this chamber was worked out, the mine was not worked much for several years, and passed through the hands of several different men, no one of whom made anything out of it. Then it was abandoned and was subject to location for several years, when T.D. Jewett located it and began work again. Jewett ran a tunnel about 200 feet long to tap the veins under the big chamber, but when he reached the vein he found only low grade ore, running from \$4 to \$10 per ton, and a drift which he ran and a shaft which he sunk failed to find any better ore., and quit work there. In running his tunnel to strike the vein, he had struck a blanket vein which showed the full length of the tunnel, and although very narrow, only two or three inches wide, the ore was very rich and he started work on this vein, taking out several thousand dollars worth of ore and doing fairly well, Jewett held the mine until 1894 when he sold it and the Huntington mill, which he had put up to treat the ore, to C.A. Plummer. Plummer did not know how to mine and made a failure, quitting the mine owing for supplies and most of his men for work and took a trip to California for his health.

George W. Dorwin, one of his largest creditors secured a deed to the property in 1895, but as he could not stay at the mine, leased it for a year. During the year the mine was under lease, a considerable amount of ore was taken out, and the vein under the big chambers was partly opened showing a large body of ore, milling about \$15 per ton in free gold and producing about 30 lbs of concentrate per ton, worth \$125 per ton. In October of this year Mr. Dorwin took charge of the mine himself, and is now sinking a shaft on the vein under the big chamber, he is now down about 100 feet, and has ore on all sides of the shaft, which is five and one half by seven feet. How wide the vein is he does not know, but will soon run a cross cut to find out. The Huntington mill has been thrown out and a five stamp mill is being put in place, with concentrators to treat the sulfates contained in the ore. Two hundred and fifty tons of ore are now on the dump. Benjamin Heely, of San Francisco is interested, with Mr. Dorwin in this property.

CONT'D FROM PAGE 2 MAY 15, 1897

(3)