

## OUT OF THE PAST

\*The following are newspaper articles that appeared in the Grants Pass Daily Courier.

June 12, 1904

Word had been received here of a rich strike at the head of Sucker creek by two sons of David Briggs. The story goes that they had shot a deer and were trailing it by the blood when they ran onto a ledge of quartz spotted with gold. They took specimens home to their father and uncle, George Briggs, went immediately to the place and staked out claims. The rock is immensely rich and in a few hours they had pounded out several thousand dollars and there is now \$25,000 in sight.

June 20, 1904

The most wonderful gold discovery ever reported in Oregon was made a week ago Sunday by Ray Briggs by pure accident. The boy, who is 18 years of age, was hunting on a mountain near Thompson creek and stumbled onto a ledge of almost pure gold cropping out of the surface. The find was of such magnitude that the boy, miner that he is, could not realize that he had made a record breaking strike. He carefully gathered up a double handful of the best specimens and secured a chunk of quartz about the size of a candlebox, which he took home to his fathers placer mine. The rock was quickly crushed with a hand mortar and it yielded nearly \$800. The next morning found the Briggs families, David Briggs and two sons, George Briggs and Charles Howard and son at the place of the find and three claims were staked out. Then began active mining with a hand mortar and in tow hours they had secured \$2,000. By night rich quartz had been stacked up in piles. By thursday night they had mortared out \$25,000. An additional \$7,000 had been taken out Saturday. The gold is found in decomposed quartz, in some instances gold being in layers an inch or more in thickness and standing on edge with a layer of decomposed quartz sprinkled with chunks of gold alongside. Already prospectors are scouring the hills and a stampede is expected.

January 28, 1904

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

March 1, 1903

The estimate of gold output of Oregon for 1902 given out by the director of the mint was \$1,864,465. This is much below the actual output, as Josephine County alone produced \$1,070,000. Nearly all of Southern Oregon's gold output is sent direct to the mint at San Francisco and California gets the credit for production. Grave Creek produced approximately \$400,000; Briggs and Soldier Creeks, \$15,000; Mt. Reuben and Northern Josephine, \$200,000; Galice \$120,000; Williams, \$100,000; Althouse \$50,000; Grants Pass district, \$50,000.

May 7, 1903

There is gold in a county where the clean-up of an arastra will yield 96½ ounces of the yellow metal worth \$18.30 per ounce. That is the amount of the dust brought to Grants Pass by Mr. and Mrs. H.G. Siskron of "January First" located four miles from Holland. This amount of gold represents the putting of 21.1 tons of ore through the arastra providing the grade character of the pay streak.

In 1914

C.L. Mangum, Thomas E. Lacey and H. Jesse returned thursday afternoon from Silver Creek county, where they have been working the Old Glory mine. They shipped 33 sacks of high-grade ore and have more ready for shipment. This ore had to be packed on horse-back 20 miles, hauled by wagon 15 miles and shipped by freight over 500 miles to Tacoma, and must be high-grade in order to warrant the expense of shipment.

In 1914

With his grip weighed down with 11 1/2 pounds of pure gold, H.A. Corlis waded Monday by walking into the Courier office and coolly exhibiting the brick of precious metal. The gold was the result of a 10 day's run on the Corlis and Dean Dry Diggins mine a mile and a half below Galice. The property recently was sold to Martin and Daniels. Alaskan miners who are now operating it. The value of the egg-shaped gold brick was considered well over \$3,000.

In 1934

A nugget worth \$32.10 was sold to Pat Doneen, gold buyer, Tuesday by Mrs. L. Johnson, placer miner of Pickett Creek. Miners transacting business in Grants Pass Monday include Robert Wade of Little Applegate river, and J.W. Gabrielson of Louse Creek.

In 1944

Two thousand tons of high-grade chrome ore will be shipped from the Metals Reserve stockpile here in the near future, D.C. Beyer, engineer in charge said today. It is the first shipment to go out this year from the stockpile. Approximately 15,000 tons of ore are now stockpiled here, it is reported. Some of the ore was mined during 1942, the majority in 1943. This is said to be the largest SMALL LOT stockpile of high-grade ore in the United States.

In 1923

Considerable excitement was caused this morning in Talent by the report that oil had been discovered on the Tim Burnett place near that city. The discovery was made in a well about 12 feet deep, which was being cleaned out. For some time the water has been unfit for household purposes, and steps taken to find out what was the matter. The water was reported covered with oil. An oil expert looked over the situation and as the result of his report, which was favorable, steps will be taken to develop the prospect.

In 1913

There is gold in a county where the clean-up of an arastra will yield 96 1/2 ounces of the yellow metal worth \$18.30 per ounce. That is the amount of the dust brought to Grants Pass by Mr. and Mrs. H.G. Siskron of JANUARY FIRST mine located four miles from Holland. This amount of gold represents the putting of 21.1 tons of ore through the arastra, proving the high-grade character of the pay streak.