

Chinese Labor In Oregon Mining History

By JERRY EASTERLING

High in the mountains 32 miles northeast of Baker is a mound of dirt and a pit about eight-feet deep. According to the tale that is told, that was once the entrance to a mine where 100 Chinese died.

They died underground while digging for gold in the Lily White mine, so the story goes, when the mine was blasted shut. It was not sealed by accident. It is said that the charge of dynamite was set off deliberately.

According to the tale, which has become a legend in that country where prospectors still chip around the hills for gold, the Lily White Mine was playing out and the owner decided it was cheaper to buy the Chinese than pay them wages. In those days the Chinese received 25 cents for a 10-hour day.

Few people in that part of the country doubt the authenticity of the story. Not far from the mine, the U.S. Forest Service has erected a small wooden sign on which the story is told. And Ralph Makinson, who has lived all of his 65 years in a country that lured thousands with promises of golden riches, accepts it as gospel.

THERE IS LITTLE reason to believe otherwise. The Chinese who came to the United States in the 1800s to build the railroads and work the mines were treated as harshly as any minority that ever felt the sting of discrimination.

In his book, "Oregon's Golden Years," Miles F. Potter relates the story of a drunken white miner who shot a Chinaman in Jacksonville, Ore., when it was running hot with gold fever. According to Potter, the miner was "brought to trial and fined for shooting a gun within the city limits." And with that, the case was closed.

A story in the Sept. 18, 1893 issue of the Oregon Journal has this chilling story to tell about a group of Chinese miners who were working a claim on the Snake River in Eastern Oregon's Wallowa County in 1886.

As they worked, seven renegades ambushed them with long-range rifles. When the last shot had been fired, 30 Chinese miners lay dead. Although wounded, another Chinese miner "ran to a small skiff and pushed off down the river." But he didn't escape. The bandits killed him by rolling boulders off the cliffs along the river.

"Then they wrecked the camp, hacked the bodies of their victims with axes and threw them into the water," the Journal says.

THE IDENTITY OF THE

murderers was established, and part of the gang was arrested. But they escaped, and no one was ever prosecuted for the death of the 31 hapless Chinese miners.

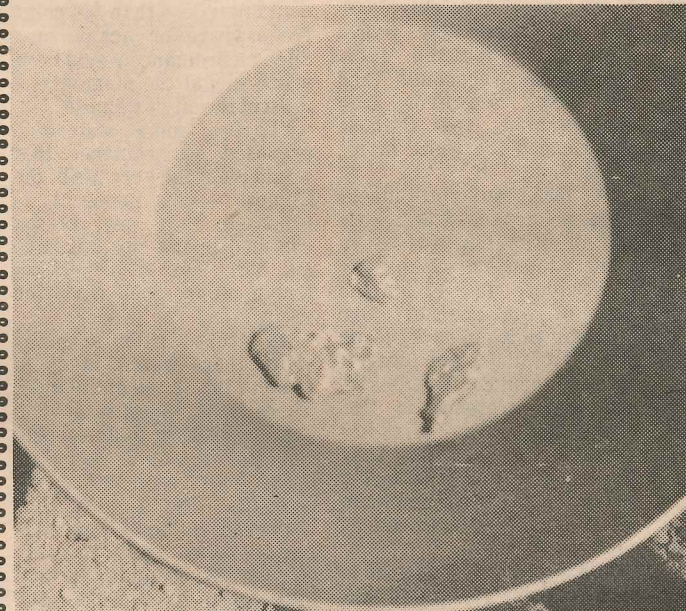
Winding through the timber in the hills 30 miles northeast of Baker there are still traces of the ditch that was dug for 32 miles from Eagle Creek to supply water for mining operations at Sparta, where gold had been discovered sometime around 1873. The ditch was dug with picks and shovels by Chinese laborers, who received 25 cents a day.

They supplied the labor, but the Chinese could not share in the riches. During those years of the big gold strikes, an Oregon law enacted in 1851 said:

"No Chinaman not a resident of the state at the time of the adoption of this Constitution shall ever hold

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You don't need a magnifying glass for this pan of gold, or a pair of tweezers to pick it up.



Gold in the pan, smile on your face, makes the world a happy place.



Development of So. Ore. Resources Painfully Slow

By TOM BRENNAN
of The Oregonian staff

Development of Southwestern Oregon's mineral resources — nickel and several other ores — has been painfully slow. Nickel ore was discovered around the time of the Civil War, but not until 1954 did the first major mining and smelting operation get under way.

The tempo may pick up in the next few years however. In the past few months there has been increased activity by prospectors taking samples out of shallow diggings. Less

visibly, stock promoters and lawyers up and down the West Coast have been talking about and stitching together deals involving Oregon's nickel.

Investors who probably haven't stepped foot in Oregon have caught the fever. The stock of one Canadian company tied to the state's nickel action has skyrocketed from 60 cents a share to \$17 since it came out in 1976.

Even a six-week shutdown of Hanna Mining Co.'s nickel mine and smelter at Riddle near Roseburg earlier this year didn't halt the buildup of

interest. Hanna's operation, the only nickel smelter in both Oregon and the United States, closed because of an oversupply of nickel in the world market.

Mineral men say that oversupply and the consequent low price of the commodity could change relatively quickly. Further, any new mineral operation has a gestation stage of five to 10 years, authorities add.

Mining on the whole hardly constitutes a bump on the Oregon economy. But Hanna's operation since 1954 furnishes

rock-hard proof that Oregon has mineral lodes worth tapping given the right combination of circumstances.

According to Hanna's latest annual report, the company processed 23.9 million pounds of nickel worth about \$50 million last year at Riddle.

The surge of exploration activity centers along U.S. 199 between Grants Pass and Crescent City, Calif. Areas said to have deposits of nickel laterite ores are Josephine and Curry counties in Oregon and Del Norte County, just

across the border in California. As highgrade ore bodies in Canada and elsewhere are exhausted, low-grade deposits become more attractive.

Exploration crews are at work at various sites in this three-county belt, two of the major exploration companies in the region are reported close to a merger and some residents wonder if development would scar the landscape or ruin wells.

One of the digging sites is

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Mankind Dependant on Mining Industry

By LEE I. ROWLAND
P.O. Box 616,
Mariposa, Calif. 95338

Lee Rowland has been a mining engineer for many years. He is one of the best boosters the mining industry has ever had, and an outspoken foe of the many influences which are trying to stifle or destroy legitimate mining activity in the Western States.

Mr. Rowland is actively engaged in mining at the age of 84. Also, he is the energetic National President of the Western Mining Council this year.

Abraham Lincoln's message to the miners of the western states, given to Schuyler Colfax who was preparing to leave for the Pacific Coast the day Lincoln was assassinated, was, "I want you to take a message from me to the miners whom you visit. I have very large ideas of the mineral wealth of our nation. I believe it is practically inexhaustible. Tell the miners for me that I shall promote their interests to the utmost of my ability; because their prosperity is the prosperity of the nation, and we shall prove in a very few years that we are indeed the

treasury of the world." Lincoln was a thinking person. As guest speaker at a mining meeting in Sacramento, California, in the early nineteen thirties, Governor Stephens opened his address with the following statement — "There are only two basic industries: they are Mining and Agriculture. We might exist without mining but we would return to savagery almost over-night. When these two basic industries are in a healthy condition our economy is in a healthy condition."

Without mining there would not, and could not be either

industrial prosperity of any kind of progress of, by or for the human race. In order to verify the foregoing irrefutable statements it is perhaps necessary to present at least a partial analysis in considerable detail with reference to the various phases of man's activities, but first let it be thoroughly understood that it is the Mining Industry which produces the many and various types of minerals and metals used in all industrial activities of the human race.

TRANSPORTATION: Transportation is one of the

most important of our daily needs and activities, yet if it were not for the iron, lead, zinc, copper, aluminum and other minerals produced by mining, there would not, and could not be the hundreds of thousands of automotive vehicles, nor the highways over which they travel. It would be interesting to know the number of persons traveling the highways in an automobile who have never realized that if it were not for the mining industry they would have neither the automobile nor the highway.

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Chinese Laborer

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real estate or work for himself in any mining claim therein." That barred most of the Chinese from sharing in the wealth, because most of them came to Oregon after 1850.

History of the Chinese migration to the United States is sketchy. Chia-Lin Chen, a Portland State University student who wrote a paper on the lives of the Chinese in the Northwest during those rough and rugged days, made this observation:

"THEY (THE CHINESE) left their mark on the United States but, unfortunately, not much of the mark was in the form of written records. Thus their history on this continent is still cloudy. Perhaps this is due to the fact that most Chinese laborers were illiterate, or they could not write in both English and Chinese. Therefore, no real written literature was left behind for scholars to study. The articles that were written about the Chinese were written mostly by Americans and for the most part reflected their prejudices and misunderstandings for they really do not give a very clear picture."

The Chinese came by the thousands during the mid-1800s to work on the railroads that were tying the nation together with rails of steel. And when they were completed, they were hired to work in the mines that were exciting the nation with visions of quick riches in the West. They were good laborers. They worked hard — they worked cheap — and they were much easier to handle than the hard-drinking white roustabouts who preferred wine, women and song to long hours on the end of a pick or shovel.

While they were an economic asset, it appears that the Chinese were tolerated, although most whites considered them nothing more than "heathens." But the day came when the railroads were finished and most of the gold that had excited thousands of fortune seekers in California gave out. Many of them drifted from the gold fields of California northward into Oregon, where gold was being discovered in the eastern and southern parts of the state.

THEY WERE NOT GREETED with open arms. Instead of an economic asset, they were considered an economic threat. It was titled "An act to tax and protect Chinamen mining in Oregon," but the law passed by the Oregon legislature in 1860 did more to tax than protect the Chinese.

The law declared that after Dec. 1, 1860, no Chinaman could mine in Oregon unless he had paid a license fee of \$2 per month. But it was a sweeping piece of legislation, which also included this language:

"All able-bodied Chinamen residing or remaining within

any mining district of the state, unless they are engaged in some other lawful business, are also subject to the same tax."

But it didn't end there. The law contained a section which required that "all Chinamen or Kanakas" pay \$50 a month for the privilege of "trading, buying and selling goods, chattels, merchandise and all kinds of livestock; and every kind of trade and barter among themselves."

In addition to that, all Chinese and every non-white were required to pay a \$6 poll tax every three months while they resided in Oregon.

THAT LAW WAS REPEALED just before the Civil War ended in 1865 because there was a feeling among lawmakers that it was unconstitutional. It was only on the books four years, but that law illustrates the alarm with which Oregonians witnessed the growing number of Chinese laborers.

The alarm did not diminish with repeal of the law. If anything, it increased. On March 4, 1886, twenty years after it had been stricken from the books, "50 masked, armed men drove 200 Chinese woodcutters out of the Mt. Tabor district . . . and forced them to take the ferry to Portland's Chinatown." That incident was reported in the Oregonian, which had reported four days earlier that a "masked mob had driven 180 Chinese woodcutters from the Albina district," which was also in Portland.

Later, on Feb. 7, 1959, in a column called "Conservation Makers," the Oregonian observed:

"Oregon escaped the worst of the rioting, but there were isolated cases of Chinese being dynamited or burned from their homes and of being beaten by mobs. They were fair game for children, who pelted them with rocks, and of missionary groups, who took their children from them to ward off a heathen upbringing."

In 1882, laws were passed which barred further immigration of Chinese to the United States. But by then there were 105,000 Chinamen in the United States, which represented quite a reservoir of common labor. As they had left the railroads when they were completed, and drifted to the mines, they now left the mines and began drifting to the cities on the West Coast. Their presence in Seattle touched off a violent anti-Chinese campaign in 1885, and quickly spread to Tacoma. There, said the Oregonian, "a mob of 500 shepherded 197 Chinese out of town, then burned their shacks."

AGITATORS MOVED into Portland and Astoria. The Oregon City woolen mills were closed when Chinese workers were forced out and none could be found to replace them. Resentment against the Chinese was still running high two years after the wood-

cutters had been driven from Mt. Tabor and Albina. To give whites what he apparently considered an even break, Portland Mayor John Gates vetoed an ordinance which would have restricted use of steam saws on certain streets during certain hours to reduce noise. He did so, he said, because he wanted to protect an "American enterprise that was in competition with Chinese hand labor."

The intense resentment is surprising because there weren't many Chinese in Oregon and Washington. In 1880, only 9,500 of Oregon's 175,000 inhabitants were Chinese. In Washington, which had a total population of 75,000, there were only 3,000. But upon them the whites apparently focused their frustrations, economic and otherwise. Wherever they concentrated, the Chinese experienced the white man's wrath.

In 1885, an anti-Chinese Congress convened in Seattle and an ultimatum was issued at its conclusion which gave all Chinese in Washington west of the Cascades one month in which to pack up and get out of the state forever. Many of them could not leave, and their presence in 1886 precipitated the riots in Tacoma and Seattle. They also fueled the fires of hatred which flared in Portland when the woodcutters were driven out of business.

THERE WASN'T MUCH to keep the mob from doing as it pleased. For the time in its 20-year history Company B, 1st regiment, 2nd Brigade of the Oregon State Militia was called up to keep order. But the company's heart wasn't in it. Although it had subsisted for 20 years on money received from the state, 15 of the 25 members refused to take the oath of duty required of them, and the company was disbanded. They apparently were not dedicated to the defense of the Chinese.

To prevent further violence during the troubled 1880s, Mayor Gates called a meeting to organize a vigilante committee of men dedicated to law and order. But the radicals had done their homework, and Sylvester Pennoyer, who was to become Oregon's governor, was elected. From him the Chinese received no sympathy. As far as he was concerned, they had to go.

Stewart H. Holbrook, one of Oregon's foremost writers, had this to say about the situation in an article written for the Oregonian on Feb. 28, 1937:

"Oregonians who are sure of their tolerance and immunity to public hysteria might like to know of the legislation

proposed . . . in Portland and elsewhere.

"One bright idea was a law to prohibit 'the carrying of baskets suspended from or attached to poles borne across or upon the shoulders.'" This was the manner in which Chinese transported the soiled laundry of three-quarters of the City of Portland.

"ANOTHER PROPOSAL would have prevented the disinterment of bodies. The proposers were probably not unaware of the immemorial custom of shipping Chinese dead for permanent burial in China.

"Still another would have imposed a fine on 'any person found sleeping in a room containing less than 500 cubic feet of space for each person.' Such an ordinance would have made illegal the slumbers of most of the city's Chinese.

"Lastly, some statesman proposed an ordinance that would hit at the very life of the Chinese — his queue. It is proposed that any person confined in the city jail have his hair 'cut to a uniform length of one inch from the scalp.'"

As far as written accounts show, there wasn't much to redeem the action of the mob. There is no record of anyone coming forward to defend the Chinese. In their terror, they drew upon each other for strength. Despite all that happened, Holbrook concludes that "by and large" Oregonians handled "a bad situation with considerable promptness and ability." Hatred of the Chinese had been fanned by a small, wild and vindictive group, he says. But they were reacting to a condition created by another, even smaller group, he says, that had imported the Chinese because they were a cheap source of labor. From beginning to end, it appears that the Chinese were victims of changing economic conditions which they had no way of influencing.

FROM THE RECORDS available, it appears that most of the Chinese came to the United States willingly. In some articles it is implied that they were brought forcibly to work in America. That, however, does not seem to be the case. In most instances, they came to the United States for one thing: money.

In his paper, "The Golden Flower of Prosperity," Chia-Lin Chen dwells upon the love most Chinese had for their homeland. They felt a strong obligation to their ancestors, he says, and most prayed that they would be buried with their families. Often the dead were disinterred from graves in the United States and shipped back to China for a proper burial among their

relatives.

This, according to Chia-Lin Chen, was the way the immigrant Chinese felt:

"So if a Chinese was compelled to leave his home, driven by poverty, natural disasters or deteriorating politics, his first goal was to seek wealth so he could go back home as a success, that is, able to demonstrate his wealth. If he was lucky and he made it big, he would return home immediately to the admiration of his relatives and acquaintances. If after becoming rich he still stayed outside of his motherland, it would be as if a person who was dressed in colorful silks was walking in the dark night. That was why the Chinese laborers in the U.S. were sojourners and anxious to get back to China. Of course, not everyone who returned home had been so lucky: many merely saved a little money by hard work and thrift. Even after a long time and great labor, some did not have enough money for the return ticket home. The most heartbroken were those who died penniless and their bodies were left for their relatives to carry back or buy temporarily in this land."

IN A POIGNANT PASSAGE, Chia-Lin Chen describes his visit to a Chinese cemetery near John Day, where a large Chinese community lived after gold was discovered in 1862 at Canyon City, about three miles to the south.

"We climbed through the tall weeds, small trees and

barbed wire. Then we reached the place which Gordon Glass (a longtime John Day resident and former city councilman) believed was the burial ground. He pointed to some spots and told me that those were once graves, but the dead were later carried back to China. The morning breeze blew up gently from the valley, as I stood there silently. The wild flowers bloomed here and there. The small town of John Day was lying quietly below us; the little river that once was known for its gold was gurgling away to the canyon among the rolling hills. Where was the gold? Where were the Chinese? 'Are you ready to go, Mr. Chen? There are a lot of rattlesnakes.' I heard Gordon Glass's voice, but I was still deep in my own thoughts."

The number of Chinese who struck it big and returned to their homeland is nowhere recorded. The number was probably small. With discrimination, fear and violence the white man kept them near the bottom of the economic heap. But they survived, and with quiet tenacity they carved out a place for themselves in a "corner of a strange land."

Without whimpering they did so.

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Farm Improved by Mining

**RALPH S. MASON AND
JERRY J. GRAY
(The Ore Bin)**

This is a story about a farm that was improved by mining. It is a success story with a cast of only three — a landowner, a mine operator, and the State Mined Land Reclamation Division. Of the three, the landowner and the operator are by far the most important. The State played a minor, but legally necessary, role by helping out from time to time. Great credit must go to the landowners, Jack and Mary Chapin of Salem, who insisted that the utility and livability of their farm should not be permanently lessened by the mining operation. Much credit is also due to Gordon H. Ball, Inc. of Danville, California, the firm responsible for the entire mining and reclamation program. The firm worked closely with the Chapins and the State, exceeding the requirements of the contract with the owners and the reclamation plan submitted to the State.

The locale is gently rolling farm land in the Willamette Valley 9 miles north of Salem, the State Capitol. Figures 1-A and 1-B show how the Chapin farm looked before the Gordon H. Ball company started its work. At that time, an old gravel pit, scattered mining refuse, and an adjacent

swampy area made quite a bit of the land useless for farming. Here are the highlights of the story:

1. Prior to July 1, 1972: As 7 acres of the Chapin farm had been mined for sand and gravel prior to enactment of the Mined Land Reclamation Act, they were not covered by the Act and, therefore had not been reclaimed.

2. April 1973: Gordon H. Ball, Inc., successful bidder for improving Interstate Highway I-5 between Salem and Woodburn, submits application for a provisional operating permit from the State Mined Land Reclamation Division.

3. May 1973: Mining contract is signed between the Chapins and Gordon H. Ball, Inc. for 50 acres, including the old gravel pit.

4. July 1973: Marion County issues conditional use permit for mining sand and gravel on the Chapin property.

5. July 1974: A performance bond of \$25,000 is received by the Chapins from the Gordon H. Ball company.

6. August 1974: Reclamation plan is submitted to the Mined Land Reclamation Division.

7. November 1974: Reclamation Division is made co-holder of performance bond with the landowners.

8. December 1974: Surface Mining Permit is issued to Gordon H. Ball, Inc. by Reclamation Division.

9. October 1976: Mining and reclamation of the site is completed and operator is released from bond by landowners and the Reclamation Division.

And now for the program notes. You have already had a bird's eye view of the mining site before it was opened up by the Gordon Ball company. Figure 2 shows what it looked like during the peak production period. If you are confused by all the changes, keep your eye on the trees at lower left of the pond. They are part of the reclamation plan and are on stage in all three scenes. The scene is reminiscent of an Army proving ground when viewed from this angle, but please note that a dense line of trees along Wheatland Road forms a most effective visual barrier. Only the tip of the tall boom on the dragline by the edge of the pond was ever visible from the road.

The Chapin property was underlain by more than 40

feet of excellent sand and gravel, and the mining contract was written to encourage the operator to excavate as deeply as possible in order to gain the maximum amount of gravel per acre mined and to leave a viable lake. Since the aggregate processing would disturb good farm land and since the reclamation plan required restoring that land, the Chapins required that the topsoil in all areas to be disturbed had to be stockpiled and subsequently replaced and smoothed. In addition to restoring the disturbed areas, the operator had to grade the beach area around the lake to slope not greater than 2:1. A strip in front of the home site was leveled with a 4:1 slope to form a bathing beach.

Figure 3 shows things all tidied up. Where once there were useless odd-shaped pieces of farm land, there are now usable areas. The brushy, swampy land has been filled in and replanted. A gently undulating heavy-duty access road leads to the home site. The Chapins' new home will command a view across a 24-acre lake fringed by tall trees. The lake is an esthetically pleasing private recreational facility, a fishing hole, and a handy source for water during the dry season. Furthermore, the beaches have a slope of 3:1 and 5:1 — better than the contract called for.

Finances are often a painful subject, especially for artistic productions like this one. Not here. The Chapin property happened to be 2.4 miles closer to the center of the I-5 highway project than an existing commercial pit nearby. Approximately 700,000 cubic yards of gravel were delivered to the highway project, with a royalty of 21.8 cents per cubic yard paid to the Chapins. At a cost of 10 cents per cubic yard per mile of haul, the 2.4-mile savings amounted to \$168,000 for Gordon H. Ball, Inc. The reclamation work is estimated to have been worth about \$50,000 to the Chapins; but since it was accomplished on a rolling basis as the work progressed, the actual ex-

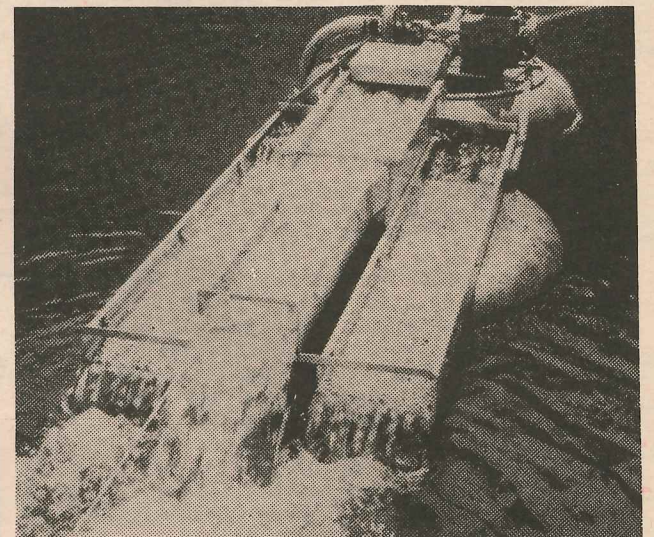
pense to Ball was considerably less. A total of about 1,000,000 cubic yards of gravel was involved in the total project.

In a program such as this, the tax man cometh sooner or later. In this instance, he was ever present; and the following figures for the assessed valuation of the Chapin farm are of interest. In 1973 the Chapins' farm land was assessed at \$24,470. During the first year of the Gordon H. Ball operation, the value climbed to \$76,610, declining to \$69,130 the next year. In 1976, after the mining was completed and the farm reclaimed, the assessed valuation was placed at \$57,550. In other words, the farm land increased in value over the 3-year period by \$33,080, which amounts to 135 percent.

Ironically, a July 1973 letter written to the Marion County Planning Commission regarding the operations at the Chapin farm asked, "When will the raping of good farm land for mineral extraction stop?" This is a classic example of the way uninformed observers misinterpret what they see.

As we stated at the beginning, the Mined Land Reclamation Division played a small part in this entire program. If any credit is to be given to the agency, it would be for its role in making periodic inspections, assisting both the landowner and the operator from time to time, and, more importantly, recognizing that here was an excellent example of how good farm land underlain by valuable sand and gravel can be treated so that the farmer not only enjoys an economic advantage but ends up with a greatly improved farm, with a higher value and increased productive capacity.

If you are interested in learning just what the Mined Land Reclamation Act is all about, please write the Mined Land Reclamation Division, P.O. Box 1028, Albany, Oregon 97321, c/o Mr. Stan Ausmus, Administrator.



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Oregon Resources

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at Eight Dollar Mountain, a 4,000-foot peak 20 miles north of the California-Oregon border.

Doug McLenna, resource specialist for the U.S. Forest Service at nearby Cave Junction, said a small crew working for geologist Lloyd Frizzell is prospecting with a backhoe and drilling rig on Eight Dollar.

Oregonian correspondent Mark Kirchmeier, taking pictures of the drilling this past week, was told by geologist Charlotte Kautzer that 62 holes have been drilled and 40 more will be drilled, with some positive indication of nickel laterite ores to date.

She is employed by Frizzell's Grants Pass-based mineral exploration firm, which has done work for a number of companies in the region.

McLenna said another crew has done sampling a few miles to the south for an Arizona-based mining firm while another person estimated as many as 10 companies are scouring southwest Oregon for nickel-bearing ores.

McLenna said a group of residents of the Eight Dollar Mountain area recently called a meeting in an attempt to learn what might happen to their area.

One of those who spoke at the meeting was Jack White, a mining man who has spent six years checking out local mineral prospects.

White now lives in Oregon about seven months a year but in the winter returns home to Vancouver, British Columbia, because "you can't work on those slippery hills when the weather is bad."

In a telephone interview, White styled himself "an amateur geologist" who first learned about nickel laterite ores during some years spent in Colombia, South America. White said he formed Inter American Nidel Inc. and "owns a good part of the stock" in the company.

Inter American, which is incorporated in Nevada but retains a Portland legal firm, owns 170 mining claims in the three-county region, White said.

White told the Cave Junction group his company is doing preliminary research on opening up a \$100 million nickel plant in the area. He said his company may buy 100 acres and build a plant at Eight Dollar Mountain or at another site, Woodcock Mountain.

Several days ago White estimated that such a plant could be built and operating in three to four years if various studies prove it is feasible.

White explained that a new electrochemical processing system would be used to extract the mineral from the ores, a system he called self-contained and non-polluting.

With the ores said to be 30 feet or less below the ground the company would employ surface mining methods, stripping the soil and later reclaiming the land.

Len Ramp, state geologist for the Grants Pass mining district, put the development prospects in a longer time perspective.

"This mining operation is not going to happen in the next

couple of years," Ramp said. "There are too many things that need to be proved up. All the exploration crews are doing now is trying to check the tonnage available and the grade of ore."

"I'd say this is the distant future," Ramp said.

The state geologist said chromium and cobalt are found along with the nickel and these could turn out to be even more valuable. He figures there are four potential mining sites in Josephine and Curry counties.

Ramp discounted fears of pollution of wells in the Eight Dollar Mountain area, saying the springs that feed wells flow from bedrock well below planned mining levels.

"The only problem would be the visual pollution of the surface mining but this would be temporary as state law requires eventual mining reclamation," he said.

The need for a new method metal from ore rocks was confirmed by Don Hull, director of the state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

"It is quite likely that future nickel processing operations will be different than those at the Hanna Smelter," Hull said, "because of the high energy consumption of present methods."

Hull said a pilot project under development at the U.S. Bureau of Mines research laboratory at Albany may furnish the answer. "It would be a more energy-economic way of processing the ores," he said.

Richard Siemens, leader of the project at the Albany lab, said the bureau has been working on the new process for seven years. The bureau has run a one-ton-daily capacity pilot plant using the new electrochemical technology and "the results are encouraging."

The next step, Siemens said, is to build a plant to run five tons daily, a project now in the bid advertising stage. Targe date for starting up the bigger plant is early next year, with two more years after that needed for a feasibility study.

If the new method proves to be a breakthrough, the idea could be adapted by private industry for a plant that could process up to 5,000 tons a day, Siemens said. But the cost of such a plant could be \$150 million to \$200 million, he predicted, or up to twice the cost mentioned by White.

A sidelight is what White's company owns foreign patent rights to the process being developed with federal money at Albany. That was disclosed by Portland attorney Thomas Landye and confirmed by White.

White explained that U.S. patent right will be in the public domain because a federal agency is doing the research.

Landye is a partner in the Portland firm that represents Inter Americans, the firm of

Keane, Harper, Pearlman and Copeland.

White's patent rights and the 170 mining claims apparently are factors in the speculative boom of a mining stock of a Canadian-based company. The company is Ni-Cal Developments Ltd., and its stock is traded on the Vancouver (British Columbia) Stock Exchange, a hotbed of North American mining stock speculation.

The Inter-American-Ni-Cal connection was cited by both Landye and White and also outlined in documents on file with British Columbia provincial authorities. The connection is simply that Ni-Cal has an agreement in principle to acquire Inter American in exchange for 380,000 shares of Ni-Cal stock.

That would make it a deal worth about \$6.5 million at the current stock price, a tidy sum of money considering that neither firm has any operating mines.

There has been a fast run-up in the price of Ni-Cal. It came on the market in September 1976 for 60 cents a share and now sells for about \$17 a share,

White said.

White said five legal firms are involved in the negotiations over sale of Inter American but he is hopeful the transaction will be completed in a matter of weeks. The man who would then be in charge of the nickel venture would be Los Angeles financier William H. Carter, the Ni-Cal founder who was described by a Vancouver source as a veteran promoter of Canadian mining stocks.

Ni-Cal has options to purchase two sizable blocks of mining claims in the area and plans to spend \$1 million this year on claims exploration and sample testing. Carter, contacted by telephone, declined to discuss his plans "just yet," but White said a combined company should find no problem raising capital to open a mine and build a plant.

"Both companies are in the exploratory phase of mining development," Landye remarked. "But it's fair to say there is a great deal of interest in mining by a number of people on both sides of the California-Oregon border."

Statutory Right To Enter

"THE PROSPECTOR AND MINER HAVE A STATUTORY RIGHT (NOT A MERE PRIVILEGE) ... TO ENTER UPON THE NATIONAL FORESTS ..."

This interesting paragraph is excerpted from the June 4, 1975 Forest Service Manual, Emergency Directive No. 5, distributed to In-Service Holders of FSM 2800, Chapter 2850 — 1872 Act Use Regulations. The prospector and miner might be well-advised to carry it in their pockets for an occasional showing to Forest Service personnel. (From California Mining Journal.)

"One or more court suits challenging the authority to regulate are expected. The prospector and miner have a statutory right (not a mere privilege) under the 1897 Organic Act to enter upon the National Forests for prospecting and mining. Their rights to do this cannot be unreasonably restricted or made excessively burdensome. Unreasonable demands made as conditions for approval of operating plans will hazard court challenges. Administrators

are expected to use sound judgment and where critical matters of proof are involved in applying the test of reasonableness, the advice of the Office of the General Counsel should be sought early in the decisionmaking process. Success in defending attacks on the regulations will depend on how well administrators develop and analyze facts, draw conclusions and apply those conclusions in decision-making."

"It must be kept clearly in mind that it is not intended that the 1872 Act use regulations be enforced through criminal sanctions. The regulations do not prohibit specific activities, which cause adverse environmental effects. On the other hand, operations that are unnecessarily or unreasonably causing, or threaten to cause, injury, loss or damage to surface resources are subject to court action for relief. Also there are other remedies in Federal and State standards for air and water quality and the disposal of solid wastes. A court may award damages to the extent of the value of the property damaged."

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By Len Ramp

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Boil three medium potatoes in 5 cups of boiling water to which you have added one teaspoon of salt. Cook until mushy, then add one-half cup of sugar. Put this through a ricer, and add enough cold water to make two quarts. After this mixture has cooled to lukewarm, add one cake of yeast, or the equivalent of baker's yeast. Then add enough flour to make a thin mix.

Warning — be sure to use an exceptionally large bowl to combine the ingredients, as the starter increases itself many times. Start at noon and let stand until six p.m. before using. Some cooks prefer to wait 12 to 48 hours before using a new starter. This allows ample time for the new starter to "work."

If you do not plan to use the starter immediately, put in refrigerator after it is cooled and leave it there. Do not worry if the starter seems

stiff. Starter can have as much flour as needed to form into a semi-hard ball. Hop leaves may be cooked with the potatoes to give the starter unusual flavor.

When removing a quantity of starter for use, replace it with a like amount of flour. Add yeast only when the starter needs it — a level tablespoon of baker's yeast or one cake of dry yeast. Amount of starter for use in baking or pancakes should be removed from the refrigerator the night before use. Starter removed should be placed in a glass, pottery or stainless steel bowl

and set in a warm place having an even heat. If the room cools, cover the bowl with a blanket or large towel.

The starter may be kept in the refrigerator indefinitely. After a length of time a liquid will rise to the top which need only be stirred back in. However, if the starter smells particularly sour it may be too tart for your taste in either pancakes or bread. In that event, add a cup of warm water and a cup of flour to it and mix thoroughly. Then dispose of all but a cup of this starter. This one cup is the new starter. This is known as

freshening or sweetening the starter.

If your starter is not too sour it can be sweetened by use of a little soda or baking powder. Care should always be taken when adding anything to the starter because of varying quality of flour, an addition of soda and baking powder will kill the starter. It is best to sweeten it or start anew. Some starters have been known to last for 70 years.

Never put back into the starter any dough or pancake batter as they contain ingredients which will kill the starter.



Believed to be a scene from the old Greenback Mine, are the remains of an old mill building.

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Government Paper Work

The following article appeared in "Whistle Punk." We thought you'd like it!

THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS: One of the best examples of how ridiculous government paper work can be illustrated by a recent case in Louisiana. A company president was trying to buy some land for plant expansion and he wanted to finance this new facility with a government loan. His lawyer filled out all of the necessary forms, including abstract — tracing the title of the land back to 1803. The government reviewed his application and the abstract and sent back the following letter in reply: "We received title. We have observed, however, that you have not traced the title previous to 1803, and before final approval, it will be necessary that the title be traced previously to that year."

As a result, the lawyer sent the following letter to the government: "Gentlemen: Your letter regarding the title received. I note that you wish the title to be claimed further than I have done it. I was unaware that any educated man failed to know that Louisiana was purchased from France in 1803. The title of the land was acquired by France by right of conquest from Spain. The land came into possession of Spain in 1492 by right of discovery by an Italian sailor, named Christopher Columbus. The good queen took the

precaution of securing the blessing of the Pope of Rome upon Columbus' voyage before she sold her jewels to help him. Now the Pope is the emissary of Jesus Christ, Son of God. And God made the world. Therefore, I believe it is safe to assume that He also made the part of the U.S. called Louisiana and I hope to hell you're satisfied." (Lifted: Unidentified Source.)

WE CAN'T DO IT

Some Americans would like to go back to the good-old days — back to the energy-saving days when farm power came basically from the horse.

A study by economists estimates that in order to produce today's food supply with methods of 1918, American farmers would need 61 million horses and mules. It is estimated that we have only 3 million left in this country. It would take until 1992 to breed enough horse power to replace the tractor and about 180 million acres of farm land would have to be diverted from feeding people to produce feed for the animals.

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U.S. Marshals Help in Claim Disputes

Recently, a lot of you saw on television U.S. marshals escorting U.S. Forest Service employees on mining claims in northern California. The object of this armed outing — to take samples on the individual claims, prove them worthless, and kick the so-called claim owners off U.S. Forest land.

The claim owners, on the other hand, swore that it was all rigged. They said soil samples were taken from worthless areas on each claim, instead of where there was pay dirt. They charged the government wanted them out at any cost, even to the point of cheating.

In this connection, something from the Seminar Committee, P. O. Box 1125, Pacifica, Calif. 94044, caught my eye some months ago, and I have been curious about developments since. Here is the gist of it —

"Small miners can force the

Federal Government to provide unlimited funds for their defense in certain types of legal disputes with the Bureau of Land Management and the National Forest Service. Anyone damaged by a misleading or inaccurate statement, made by an expert Government witness under oath, can seek civil damages from that witness. And Administrative Law Judges as part of the Executive Branch of Government, can be held responsible, as individuals, in Civil Court, for decisions that deny the miner his legal rights or clearly are not in accord with the evidence presented in an Administrative Court. Few miners have ever availed themselves of these rights or many others that exist as a protection against potential abuse of the Administration Code..."

I have been waiting for some followup on this, but beyond the announced for-

mation of a small miners group of some sort, there has been little.

My interest stems from the fact that I think somewhere, somehow, sometime, we, the ordinary citizens, who want to continue to prospect, prowl and even mine on public lands, have to make a stand. We have to defend our rights. I have written reams about it, but it has been like standing on the doorstep and throwing pebbles into the wind. Virtually nothing has come back.

But here, it seems to me, is a chance to do something concrete.

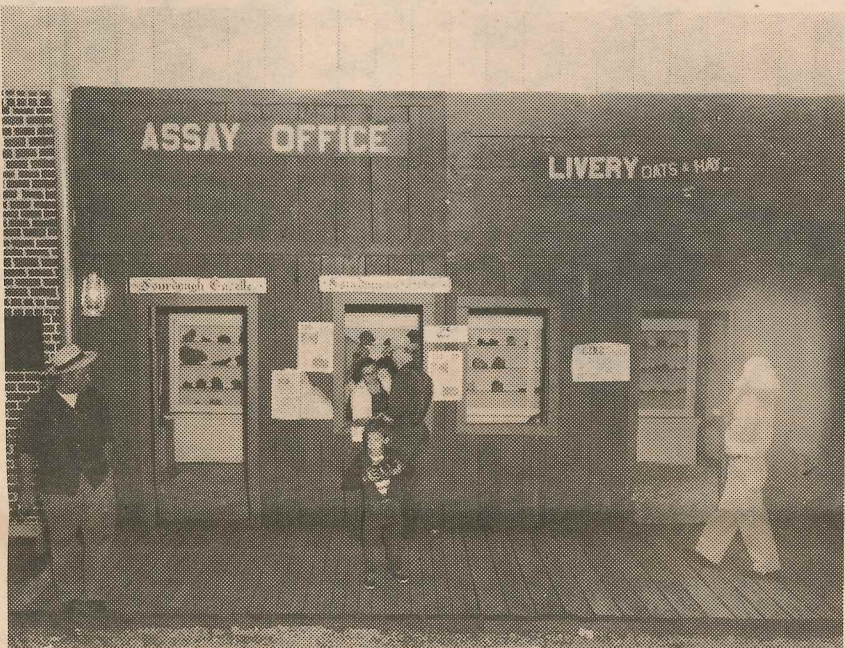
We have a national organization behind us — Treasure/Rockhound Ranch Club. The press is behind us. At least Lost Treasure, Rockhound and Camper Adventure will stand up and squawk on our behalf. And many of our other readers will support us. They have only been waiting until they could

see definite action.

The action we need is to acquire a block of claims somewhere for the use of Treasure/Rockhound Ranch Club and the public on a daily fee basis. The fee — which will be kept small — is important because it proves income. Someone values whatever the claims produce enough to pay to collect there, or mine there, ergo the claims are producing something of value.

So, we'll have everything needed for a drawn-out, knock-down, noholds-barred battle with one of the federal bureaucracies that should be a test case and set a pattern for anyone else who wants to stand up for his rights.

Now, all we need is a block of gold claims or something like that somewhere, with potential but which the government is possibly already eyeing with the idea of taking them away. If you have any leads, send them to Mining Claims, c/o Long John Latham, P.O. Box 328, Conroe, Texas 77301 — and let's get the struggle started!



Early days at Sourdough Gulch in the Josephine County Fair.

No Amendment to Law

**BLM REVISION
KEEPS
"HANDS-OFF"
1872 LAW**

The latest revision of the proposed Bureau of Land Management Organic Act Keeps hands off the Mining Law of 1872. Some of the more significant features of Print No. 2 of the public lands subcommittee of the House Interior Committee were described as follows:

It is stated that "no provision of this Act shall in any way amend the Mining Law of 1872 or impair the rights of any locators of claims under the Act in-

cluding, but not limited to, rights of ingress and egress."

The Declaration of Policy states that it is the policy of the U.S. to "recognize the nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food and fiber from the public lands, including implementation of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 as it pertains to the public lands."

Your Editors, — Carol & Lee

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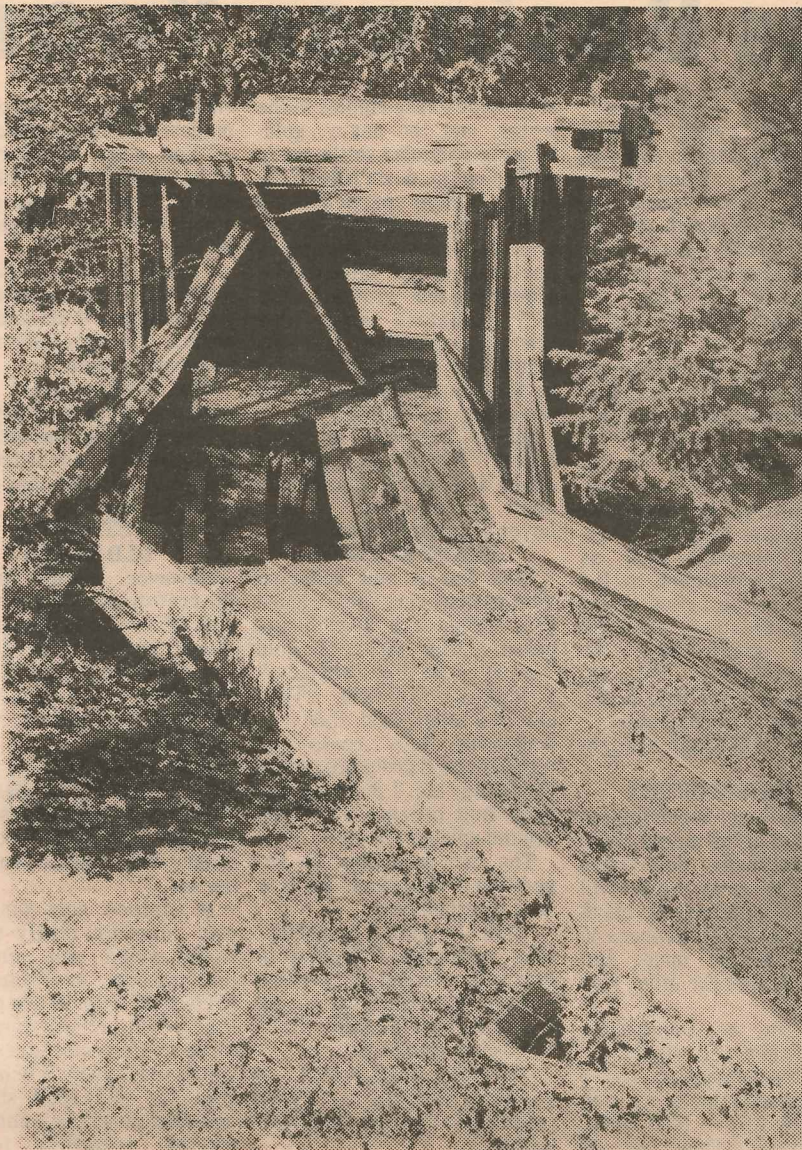
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- 1/3 Cup butter
 - 1 Cup sugar (half brown)
 - 1 Egg
 - 1 Cup sourdough starter
 - 1 Cup mashed banana
 - 2 Cups sifted all-purpose flour
 - 1 Teaspoon baking powder
 - 1/2 Teaspoon soda
 - 1 Teaspoon salt
 - 1 Cup chopped pecans or walnuts.

Cream butter and sugar together until fluffy. Beat in egg. Add sourdough starter and banana and mix well. Resift flour with baking powder, soda and salt into mixing bowl. Stir just until blended. Stir in nuts. Turn into a greased 9x5 inch loaf pan. Bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees) about 1 hour 10 minutes or until loaf tests done. Cool on wire rack before slicing or storing. Makes 1 loaf.

No Gold No Money

History tells us that when a nation doesn't have gold as a basis for money, it has the only other alternative which takes many different names in different places but always means that money is no more than a "Politician's promise." There really isn't any alternative if you look behind the hollow, but sweet sounding, words.

I don't know how we can get push-pull politics out of money excepting with gold. Over a thousand years attempts to do it by any kind of government planning, however benevolently phrased, have failed and a suffering country goes back to gold. There are no exceptions.

When Napoleon came into power, one of the things that he did was to establish gold as a money base.

Britain went on a gold base in 1816. The result of the prosperity that ensued caused Britain to become Great Britain.

After a spree on greenbacks after the Civil War, the United States established a gold based money which set the stage for the greatest commercial growth in history.

After consultation with many persons in the mining industry, AMC definition of a small miner is as follows: A small miner is an individual, partnership or corporation which is not listed on a major stock exchange, which has capitalization of less than \$1,000,000, which employs fewer than 50 persons, or which produces less than 200,000 tons a year.

How many of you miners fit that definition? What percentage of the various locatable minerals produced in your area or state are produced by persons in that small miner category? What personal success stories could we hear from the individual miner and associations? What minerals are small miners in your area or state producing that would be unprofitable for a large mining company to get involved with and would thus be lost resources if it weren't for those small miners?

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Serious Business Years Ago

By VINCE KOHLER
Staff Writer

Gold mining was once serious business on Oregon's South Coast. Miners from all over the world sifted the fabulous black sands of the coastal beaches to pick a usually-meager living from collection of the yellow dust.

But those times are gone now, and no one takes gold mining very seriously any more.

Which is why Pearl Buck Purdin does it.

"Working on the beach has made me well," the long-time Wedderburn resident declares. He took up placer mining on the local beaches as a non-stress recreation after suffering a massive heart attack two and a half years ago.

Now Purdin gallops spryly along the precipitous and slippery cliffside paths to the site of his sluice boxes.

Purdin even has a pupil — Mason Anderson, a retired logger from Nehalem. Purdin persists in calling Anderson "Gold Dust."

Both are gold miners strictly for the fun of it.

Anderson says, "I've wanted to do it for 30 years. I guess a lot of people have wanted to do it."

The two use homemade sluice boxes about six to eight feet long, "the same as they did it a hundred years ago," says Purdin. "You have a sluice box, you have some copper plates with quicksilver in 'em, and below that you have a burlap screen. You set the sluice box at a certain angle, take your sand, and shovel it in."

The modest methods are the best, according to Purdin. "All kinds of big ways have been tried. All failures . . . All kinds of machinery along this beach never got nothin'."

A winter's net take from the little operation might be \$400 or \$500 worth of gold suitable for tie clasps, Purdin says.

But many passers-by, "especially young people, want to know if they can make a livin' off it . . . When I was a young'un, I used to watch 'em mine. Used to watch one old guy and ask him how much he made. All he used to tell me was, 'About two bits.' . . . None of them ever got rich."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the black sands are a blend of many dark-colored minerals including magnetite, titanium, platinum, zircon, and garnet, as well as gold. These minerals are separated from lighter-weight, gray-colored minerals such as silicon and aluminum, by the natural sluicing action of the sea. This creates a beautiful marbled effect along the beaches; Purdin and Anderson search for gold in the black areas in the marbling.

This is harder than it might seem.

AT MERCY OF SEA

For one thing, beach miners are always at the mercy of the sea's generosity. Sometimes the lighter gray sand will cover the gold-bearing black entirely; when this happens no mining can be done. But sometimes, it's the other way around.

Once, in the Depression, "when people were starving," a huge storm deposited a layer of gold-bearing black sand on the beach two feet deep, Purdin said. "They took out \$1,000 in three days," before the sea covered the black sand again. "In three days she was all over and gone that's the way she works."

For another thing, sluicing is "a delicate operation," according to Purdin.

Sand is shoveled into a stream of running water at the top of the sluice box, Purdin explains. "You don't let the water rush through like you might think. Otherwise, she'll carry everything right through."

Slats in the bottom of the

sluice box cause ripples in the water, and the heavy, gold-bearing particles settle out in eddies on the down side of the slats. Lighter particles are carried over and out by the action of the water. The heavy particles settle onto copper plates coated with mercury and sulphuric acid. The resulting chemical reaction causes the gold and mercury to form an amalgam which adheres to the copper plate.

"If it's real rich — an ounce a day," Purdin says. "Or an ounce a week. Or maybe you don't get anything . . . I've never had a rich beach."

HEADY EFFECTS

Both Purdin and Anderson admit, however, that a good day mining can have heady effects. The sight of gold "affects you like whiskey," according to Purdin. "They call that the 'Gold Bug' . . . Anderson, he's really interested, he'll probably get the Gold Bug. Me, I don't get the Gold Bug because I've been around gold all my life."

The two men plan an expedition to the Illinois River to seek riverbed gold.

"Hell, he makes nuggets," says Anderson, referring to Purdin's amalgams, which are boiled down to separate the mercury from the gold. "But I want some real ones."

"Be lots of nuggets there as big as corn, beans . . . big as your thumb, Purdin says with a grin.

"It's better than hanging around the tavern all day," Anderson replies.

The gold is separated from the mercury in an exacting process called "retorting."

The gold-mercury amalgam is scraped from the copper plates and kneaded into a ball. Continued kneading — usually for about 30 minutes — separates the amalgam from random sand and other particles, says Purdin. For his efforts, he usually winds up with a silver dab of gold and mercury about the size of a marble.

Purdin places the dab in a small metal retort connected by a rubber tube to a vessel of water. "You make the retort hot as heck for 30 minutes." The heat boils off the mercury, which collects in the water vessel. A little goblet of refined gold is left behind in the crucible — perhaps

enough for a tie-tack or modest cuff link ornament.

"You gotta do everything right," says Purdin. "The first winter kept me busy spillin' quicksilver and burnin' my gold."

"In the old days, they used a ladle. Then they cut a potato in two, hollowed it out and put it on top. The quicksilver went up into the potato."

The thrifty miners would then scrape the mercury from the inside of the burned potato for re-use, according to Purdin, who adds that it was all before his time.

'AUTHENTIC OLD MINER'

However, Purdin learned the craft from an authentic old gold miner who taught him much as he now teaches Anderson. "My teacher was 90 years old, and most of that 90 years had been spent minin' gold."

Now that breed is gone. Rising factory wages and changes in economics have left the gold beaches to hobbyists like Purdin and Anderson.

In addition, gold mining on any commercially-viable scale would run afoul of modern-day environmental protection laws. Sluice mining that would actually pay off a large commercial investment would blast away much of the coastline and spoil streams and seaside with silt and other wastes, according to the Bureau of Land Management.

So Purdin and his pupil haul out their sluice boxes in the mornings and casually prospect until around lunchtime. Some days the sea is generous, some days not. Purdin pans a little sand in his shovel to check the day's prospects. "I always keep prospectin' with a shovel . . . to see if it's any good."

It hardly matters. Purdin counts his hobby, once a vital means of subsistence in the South Coast's pioneer past, as "profitable" — but in terms other than monetary.

He says he asked his doctor whether the exertion of

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"Only yesterday, the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals halted construction on the \$100 million Tellico Dam Project because a three-inch perch which feeds on snails at the bottom of the Little Tennessee River has been placed by Congress on the Endangered Species list," he said. "No one even heard of the 'Snail Darter' when the dam was proposed. This is the third time in five years the Appellate Court has been called upon to resolve a dispute between the Tennessee Valley Authority and Environmentalists."

"Environmentalist lobbies assume that they have a monopoly on pride in the environment," he asserted.

"Building and construction workers have as much pride in their country, as much love of the beauty of this land and the purity of its air and water as the most ardent environmentalist. But it is not mopic pride. We are committed to growth."

WORDS

The Lord's Prayer has 56 words.
Lincoln's Gettysburg Address has 266.
The Ten Commandment's has 297.
Our Declaration of Independence has 300.
The federal government order setting the price of cabbage has 29,911 words!

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● Mining Industry

Continued from Page 1

There would be no iron for the construction of the body and the manufacture of springs, various gears, engine, drive shaft, wheels and other parts of automotive vehicles; no

lead, zinc, copper and aluminum for batteries, wiring, trim, etc., and there would be no bulldozers, graders, compressors, drilling equipment or transportation equipment with which to build and maintain the thousands of miles of highways.

There would be no airborne equipment of any type for transportation of passengers or materials and supplies.

There would be no locomotives, railroad cars or the rails upon which trains travel; there would not and could not be any ocean going vessels such as passenger ships, freight carrying ships, warships or any other type of ship or boat and no bridges over streams or other bodies of water because all are completely dependent upon the removal of various minerals and metals from the earth by the Mining Industry.

COMMUNICATION: Communication facilities of all kinds would not and could

not exist (as we know them) because there would be no printing presses or paper to use in connection with the presses; no telephone or television equipment; no radio or television sending stations or receiving equipment and no transportation for the distribution of newspapers and other printed material. There would not be the thousands of Post Offices throughout the nation and no buildings, equipment, material and supplies for the processing, handling and delivery of any kind of mail. All are dependent upon the minerals and metals produced by the Mining Industry.

FARMING AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES: All agricultural products are very important and necessary in connection with the existence, activities and progress of mankind, yet those products are dependent upon the minerals and metals produced by the Mining Industry and without which there would not be the necessary tools, equipment and facilities to carry on such operations. There would be no farming and other agricultural tools and equipment such as hoes, rakes, plows, harrows, mowing machines, cultivating equipment, tractors, trucks, grain and food processing and packaging equipment; no wire no gardening or lawn tools or equipment and no saws, axes, sawmills, stackers and other equipment for the production and processing of lumber and other wood products, in fact there would be no lumbering industry as we know it.

FOOD PROCESSING: There would be no fruit or

other harvesting equipment, processing, canning or bottling facilities and equipment and no refrigeration equipment for the processing of food — and no transportation or labeling equipment for distribution and labeling.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS: There would be no educational institutions, buildings or equipment and facilities such as printed books, writing instruments or material, typewriters, adding machines and other equipment, even the desks and tables.

HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES AND EQUIPMENT: There would be no household appliances or equipment of any kind, electrical or otherwise such as washing machines, wringers, irons, vacuum cleaners, cook stoves, heaters, motors, tableware, crockery, organs, pianos and all other types of musical instruments, television or radio equipment, furniture or any kind or type, clocks, refrigerators, wiring for bringing in electricity for lighting and appliance and equipment operation, or any and all other household items used by mankind.

CLOTHING: There would be no clothing garments including buttons and shoe laces, shoes, hats or other wearing apparel, articles of personal adornment including watches and jewelry of all kinds — all are either manufactured by equipment constructed from, or made of the minerals and metals produced and made available by the Mining Industry.

SPORTS AND RECREATION: There would be no stadiums for field or other sporting events such as baseball, football, hockey, tennis and the Olympic Games or other types of sports as we know them including hunting and fishing. No golf balls, baseballs or bats, hockey sticks and pucks or the type of protective clothing worn by the players, and no ice or roller skates. No guns of any kind for hunting or target shooting and no fishing poles, reels, lines or other equipment and again — no transportation to hunting and fishing locations or crossing the ocean or flying to various sports festivals. There would be no equipment or facilities for extinguishing fires in the National Forests or recreational areas.

MINING: Even the Mining

Industry itself could not function without the use of picks, shovels, mine cars and rails, drills, pumps and drilling equipment, hoisting equipment, underground mucking machines, ventilating pipe and fans, ore treatment plants, trucks, assaying chemicals, equipment and supplies, explosives and all other types of equipment, appliances, material and supplies used in connection with mining activities which are purchased throughout the United States — and all of which are dependent upon the Mining Industry. Some of the minerals and metals are being used faster than they are being produced. This applies to gold especially which cannot be mined at a profit at a fixed price of \$35.00 per ounce, made mandatory during 1934.

To sum up the foregoing irrefutable facts — there is no single manufactured article that would be available for our use if it were not for the Mining Industry, therefore, the stability of our national and world economy and all the progress that has been made, or ever will be made by the human race — even the discovery of America — has been and will continue to be completely dependent upon the extraction and processing of the minerals and metals from the mineralized deposits

of the earth by the Mining Industry no matter what type of governmental setup — Capitalistic, Republic, Communist, Socialist or whatever.

Has the reader thought about this matter while enjoying the luxuries, comfort, travel, recreational pursuits and the fact that it is not at all impractical so far as time is concerned — to live in San Francisco and work in Los Angeles as compared with ferry boat transportation from Oakland to San Francisco during the early nineteen hundreds?

It is too much to hope that thinking people may lend their support to those of us who are selflessly endeavoring to protect the rights of legitimate mining claim holders and the Mining Industry from the harassment of government employees of the people and other organizations that have no concern for the importance and necessity of the Mining Industry?

In conclusion let me say that the necessities in our everyday activities made available by mining is of basic importance and the vital concern of every individual, not just to those of us engaged in or connected with mining or other extractive operations.

Distributed by: Burbank Chapter, Western Mining Council, Inc. 535 So. Niagara St., Burbank, Calif. 91505.

Prospectors News

By GWEN AUBERLIN

Around 1880 The American Smelter and Refining Co. built a new plant in Omaha. Here gold, silver, copper and lead were refined. Now in 1900, while workmen were doing repair work on the roof of one of the buildings, they noted that the shingles and boards were covered with atoms of metal. They decided to take some of the boards, which had been removed in repair work, to the plant assayer. After listening to their story he burned the boards, retorted the ashes and was able to tell the men that the metal particles were gold, silver, copper and lead.

The mystery deepened as more boards were burned and the ashes retorted with the same result. Back in 1900 there were no air pollution laws such as we now have, and there were great rolling clouds of smoke and gas coming from the giant stacks. One day a man standing on the roof brushed at his coat sleeve to free it of flakes of soot which were dropping from the dense clouds of smoke. As he brushed the sleeve he found bits of metal still clinging to material of the coat sleeve. This small act gave an idea to the men investigating the mystery.

Now we think of air filters as a fairly new thing but what these men did was on the same order. They took sheets of common cheese cloth, cut it to fit the inside of the stacks, while through the center of each sheet holes were cut which were large enough to allow for the necessary free draught. These sheets were fastened at various heights in

each stack. There they remained for several weeks. At the end of this time, the cheese cloth filters or sheets were removed. The chemist subjected them to treatment with the results of several hundred dollars worth of gold, silver, copper and lead.

After this more cheese cloth filters were placed in the smoke stacks, a few feet apart, one above the other; from the base to the top of the stacks. They then proceeded to build a semi-circular steel building, which extended from the furnaces to the base of the stacks. In this building was placed a blower to cool and force the smoke and gas through the flues. Hundreds of pounds of grime was soon deposited in the steel building. The soot which did manage to escape to the flues was in turn caught by the cheese cloth; however, very little managed to escape.

This soot packed into the building was of course of a highly inflammable nature and as soon as the steel building was packed near full a common kitchen match was used to set it off. It was left to burn for several days at which time it was found that there still remained many tons of a peculiar dead-looking cinder, entirely worthless in appearance. However, upon running these cinders through the furnaces, with them receiving the same treatment as the original ores, it readily yielded its precious metals.

So every six months or so the Omaha plant reaped its "Cheese Cloth and Smokehouse" harvest. This procedure yielded them close to 500 tons of cinders twice a year.

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Prospector's Corner

GETTING BLUE CLAYS TO RELEASE THEIR GOLD VALUES

One of the troublesome problems that has plagued placer miners in the past has been the breaking down of gravels cemented with caliche, and getting "gold-robber" blue clays to drop their values.

While the cemented gravels so often associated with old river channels have, to some extent been productive over the years when miners "puddled" the materials, the process was so slow and uncertain as to results that it has been for all extent and purposes discontinued.

The sticky blue clay, similar to Bentonite, usually refuses to break down and release the values it may carry, and consistently balls up in sluices, jigs and rockers, while at the same time gathering any particles of free gold already in the various devices.

Several years ago it was learned by persons working with gravel and/or blue clay that some of the common available detergents have the quality of breaking down the clay, thus freeing the gold they contain. While several of the liquid detergents, such as Joy, react to some extent, Eastman Kodak's Photo Flo is more successful in that it does not tend to create the suds problem and the associated loss of small colors.

For best results a cement mixer may be charged with approximately 30 gallons of gravel, two ounces of Photo Flo added, enough water to form a thin solution, and the resulting mixture turned for 15 minutes. The mixer is then dumped into a sluice box and recharged.

At clean up time some gold will be recovered from the sluice box but the mixer will be "loaded," for it will never completely empty the individual charge.

A number of placer operators who are faced with these troubles, but who work on larger scales, are buying used redi-mix concrete trucks, and breaking up their gravels prior to dumping into sluices, over tables, jigs or other concentrating devices. It is understood that they are generally finding this method satisfactory by handling the different materials.



The riffles, which Hank Speaker is shown explaining above, are of his own design, based on the principle of the Hungarian riffle and are, he says, the finest set in Oregon. Each of the slats is a 5 ft. long Oregon fir 4x6 sawed to a five degree slant on the top edge and clad with a 1/2 in. thick steel plate 4" wide. This arrangement leaves a 3/8" lip over the high side of the slat and it is this lip and the slant which creates a turbulence to make

a swirling trap out of the current. As the water loaded with rich dirt shot from the stream banks by the hydraulic, washes over the riffles a continuous raising and dropping action takes place and most of the gold is dropped to the bottom of the sluice. The riffles were designed for heavy production and will, Speaker feels, enable him to come close to every miner's goal of saving 100 percent of the free gold. He states flatly that even the flow gold will be saved.

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From man's beginnings, gold has been a prized and desirable asset. Gold is the first element mentioned in the Bible, and it is intricately woven into the fabric of mythology, history and literature. Gold has played a principal role in the rise and decline of civilization, spurred the early explorers to discover our continent, and later populate the West.

Gold is scarce. It is heavy in weight, does not tarnish, corrode, rust, acidize, scale, decay or erode. Gold is lustrous, ornamental and easily worked. It alloys well, resists heat and conducts electricity. Gold never wears out nor is it ever discarded or junked; it is stable and imperishable.

The annual industrial usage of gold equals the annual world production, with the largest demand in jewelry, dentistry, electronics and technology.

The demand for gold by

hoarders exists on a large scale. Whenever political and economic instability exists, gold is stashed away. People in countries with histories of war, civil turmoil and currency devaluations have hoarded a staggering multi-billion dollar sum of gold coin and bars.

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currencies are measured. It is universally accepted as a medium of exchange, standard of value and store of value.

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Changing World

ADD ONE — Do Not Change the 1872 mining laws because:

the biggest haymow or attic in town was headquarters for the biggest poker or crap game in the area?

there was no Government money available and people had too much pride to even whisper about a relief office?

button shoes were as popular as lace shoes and a lot cheaper?

most of the family money was kept in a sugar bowl or salt jar in the cupboard?

the father wore the pants in the family and kept his big money (\$10 or more) in a money belt?

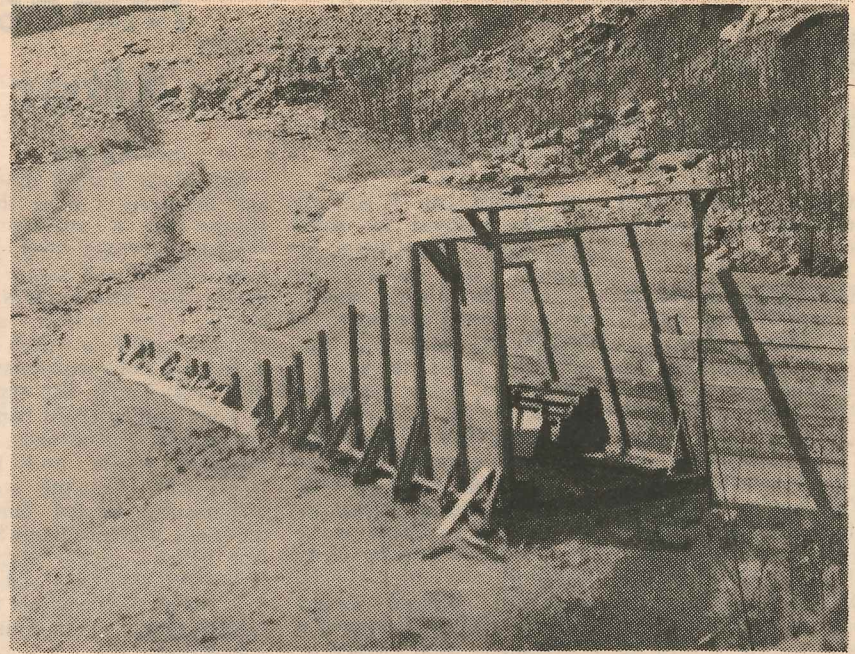
you carried out the ashes and brought in the coal and kindling before dark every lousy day of the year?

you learned to pull weeds and hoe the garden not long after you learned to walk?

It's a changing world and you'd better believe it. These "hardships" you probably can't remember built the roughest, toughest, proudest and most sensible American the world has ever seen. This was before the beginning of the decline and fall of the most powerful nation the world had ever seen.

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Large Sluice Box used for Hydraulic mining.

Rules Told for Skin Divers

The skin diver looking for gold should acquaint himself with the many rules and regulations concerned with placer mineral rights, prospecting and mining operations, and ownership and sales of gold. The Fifty-first Legislative Assembly has just passed a placer mining law which is abstracted below:

...Any individual, a citizen of the United States, or one who has declared his intention to become such, who discovers a placer deposit of minerals upon the unappropriated public domain of the United States, may locate a placer claim thereon by posting in a conspicuous place thereon a notice of such discovery and location. The notice shall contain:

- (1) The name of the claim.
- (2) The name of the individual or individuals locating the claim.
- (3) The date of the location of the claim.
- (4) The number of feet or acres claimed, together with a description, either by legal subdivisions, if practicable, or if not, then by reference to some natural object or per-

manent monument in the vicinity of the claim, which will identify the claim located.

...Unless the claim for placer deposit...is located by legal subdivisions, the surface boundaries of the claim must be marked so that the same may be readily traced. Such boundaries shall be marked within 30 days after the posting of the notice...by substantial posts or other monuments of the same size, materials and dimensions as in the case of quartz claims. The boundaries of the claim shall be marked at each corner or angle, and, when any side or end of the claim extends for more than 1,320 feet without a corner or angle, then at intervals of not less than 1,320 feet along such side or end.

...Where the claim for placer deposit...is taken by legal subdivisions, no other reference in the notice of claim required to be posted and filed...than to the legal subdivisions shall be required and the boundaries of a claim so located and described need not be staked or monumented. The description by legal

subdivisions in the notice...shall be deemed the equivalent of marking the surface boundaries of the claim.

...Within 60 days after the date of the posting of the notice of location...the individual locating the claim shall cause to be excavated an open cut upon the claim, removing from the cut not less than five cubic yards of material, and, if practicable, exposing thereby the placer deposit described by such notice. The individual locating the claim, the individual making the cut or any persons who worked upon the excavation who has knowledge of the facts relating thereto, shall make and attach to the copy of the notice...an affidavit showing compliance with the provisions of this section.

...The individual locating a placer deposit shall, within 60 days from the posting of the location notice upon the claim, file for record with the recorder of conveyance, if there is one, otherwise with the clerk of the county where the claim is situated, a copy of the notice posted by him upon the claim, together with the affidavit of excavation...The fee for filing such location notice shall be the same as required by ORS 517.030 for recording location notices of mineral-bearing rock claims. The recorder or clerk, as the case may be, shall immediately record the location notice and affidavit annexed thereto in a book kept by him for that purpose. No placer location notices shall be entitled to record or be recorded until the work required...has been done and the affidavit in proof thereof is attached to the notice to be recorded.

MARY E. BENEDETTI

For
COUNTY
COMMISSIONER



I am asking the people of Josephine County to elect me for Commissioner because I am the person with the ability to do the job — not because I am a woman.

I have lived in Josephine County for 25 years. From my home in Wilderville, and my business shops in the Illinois Valley and Grants Pass and our trucking operations from Wolf Creek to Williams, I have gained the overall view of the county.

My 28 years in the log trucking business has given me experience in the ECONOMIC BASE of this county.

I ask for your vote because I am concerned about the direction Josephine County is taking. I raised and educated our children here, and now have grandchildren growing up here. I have an obligation to do what I can to make our county a better place to live for future generations.

VOTE BENEDETTI for COMMISSIONER

Pd. Pol Ad, Robert E. Rae, Treasurer,
233 N. E. 'B' St., Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

NEWS ABOUT GOLD

During the next few months Russia will be paying in gold for at least 10 million tons of grain on the foreign market. Something over 8 million ounces of Russian gold will be thrown on the markets of Zurich, London and Paris. Large as that sum sounds, the slack will quickly be taken up by the growing demand for gold jewelry and bullion by buyers afraid of paper money. — (Review of the News).

Where, What & How Of Gold Mining

Answers to questions most frequently asked by "weekend miners."

1. Where can I go to look for placer gold? The southwestern and northeastern corners of the State are the best, although other minor areas have some possibilities. Much of the land in these two areas is public domain and can be entered freely.

2. What are the rules and regulations for gold placers? The Department can supply a copy of the State Mining Code for \$1.25, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has printed "Staking a Mining Claim on Federal Lands" for a free distribution. Most gold panners, however, are not interested in locating a mining claim and desire only to do some recreational panning at varied places. No permits are required and unless they unduly muddy the waters in a stream there will be no problems. **Care must be taken not to trespass on valid mining claims or private property.** Good outdoor manners and a concern for the environment are essential.

3. Suppose I find some gold, what then? Raw placer gold is yours to keep, give away, or sell. There is no limit to the amount, but it must not be melted down. Gold amalgam is considered to be raw gold. The U.S. Government no longer buys placer gold. Placer gold is readily sold to individuals, jewelry manufacturers, or gold buyers. Best prices are received for good sized nuggets which have a collector's value rather than a metal value. There is no fixed price for placer gold with sales consummated between a willing buyer and seller at an agreed upon price.

4. Where can I get my samples assayed for gold? The State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries has an assay service at its Portland headquarters. Samples of black sand concentrates, raw bank run sand and gravel, or ore specimens should weigh at least one pound for best results. The charge for assaying a sample for gold and silver is \$4.00 (payment should accompany the samples). There is no charge for identifying rocks and minerals unless special tests are required. Simple tests for gold are contained in "Oregon's Gold Placers" listed below.

5. Where can I get information on old gold mines and maps of gold producing areas? Here are some selected Department publications on Oregon old mines:

- 1. Gold and Silver in Oregon, a 337-page bulletin plus maps...\$5.00
- 2. Oregon's Gold Placers, 14 pages.....\$0.25
- 3. Oregon Mineral Deposits Map and Key, 18 pages plus 2-color map.....\$0.45
- 4. Detailed topographic maps, 1" equals 1 mi., available for most areas.....\$1.00

The Department maintains offices at 1400 S.W. 5th Avenue, Portland 97201, and field offices at 521 N.E. "E" Street, Grants Pass; and 2033 First Street, Baker. You are invited to visit the field offices to obtain detailed information on local gold diggings. Geologic maps, topographic maps, and a wide variety of bulletins are available at all three of the Department's offices.

File Claim Copy

NOTICE MINING CLAIM OWNERS

Your Mining Claim Will be Void...

unless you file a copy of your location certificate with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)* as well as the county recorder.

If You Located a Mining Claim AFTER October 21, 1976...

you have 90 days to file with BLM.

If You Located a Mining Claim BEFORE October 22, 1976...

you have until October 21, 1979 to file with BLM.

You Are Required to File with BLM...

1. A copy of the notice of location recorded in the county records;

2. A statement providing the legal description, indicating Township, Range, Meridian,

State Section, and Quarter Section;

3. A map showing the survey or protraction grids on which is depicted the location of the claim; and

4. A \$5.00 service fee for Each claim.

Mining Claims in Oregon-Washington Are Filed at...

Mining Claim Recordation Office

Bureau of Land Management

729 NE Oregon Street

P.O. Box 2965

Portland, Oregon 97208

(Telephone: 503-234-3361)

(Complete instructions may be obtained by contacting the above Recordation Office.)

*If your claim is within a National Park, you must record it with the National Park Service.

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Mines Not Named After Women Usually

By ORE BIN

Apparently Oregon miners and prospectors name their claims for a variety of reasons. Perhaps they are motivated by the same impulses that lead owners of boats, race horses, and summer cabins to attach the wide variety of appellations to their possessions. The origins of some mining claim names are obvious. For instance, the Poverty claim and the Depression Breaker were undoubtedly located during the 1930's, while the Bomb Site (for optical calcite) was of World War II vintage, and the Trail's End property just has to be as far back in the hills as you can get.

Miners and prospectors seem to have preferences for colors as claim name prefixes. In Oregon are the Black Bear, Black Beauty, Black Diamond, Black Channel, Black Jack, Black Prince, Black Velvet, and Blackout. Blue appears in the Blue Mud claim, Blue Mule, Blue Pearl, Blue Ribbon; and, best of all, Blue Goo.

Any number of claims were

named for a family member. The Baby claim, for unknown reasons, is also known as the Lamb Tongue. The Daddy Lode recognizes the man of the house, who long ago called the biggest strike of all the Mother Lode.

A menagerie of animal claim names includes Badger, Bald Eagle, Bay Horse, Bear Cat, Baby Elephant, White Elephant, Dodo, Humbug, and Gold Bug. Prospectors' optimism is evidenced in names starting with "big": Big Buck, Big Chief, Bid Lode, Big Shot, and Big Sunshine. Easy Money, Hidden Treasure, and Quick Action connote high hopes. The Come and Get It claim, the story goes, was located merely for the purpose of quick sale.

Gold, of course, appears in many claims names, since most claims are located for gold. The Gold Bullion, Gold Chief, Gold Cluster, Gold Coin, Gold Crater, Gold Leaf, Gold Nugget, and Gold Wedge were examples.

Among the downright fanciful names are Moon Anchor, Analulu, Tillicum, and Cumtillie. More down-to-

earth are Mud Spring, Potato Patch, Poison Oak, Doodle Bug, and Frog Pond. One miner, at once optimistic and realistic named his property the Keg of Gold. Attitudes of owners are reflected in the names Last Chance, Bliss, Cloudy Day, and Miser. Expressing the fiercely competitive life of the gold miner is the claim name, Bone of Contention.

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