

Volcano Eruption Predicted in 1975

Mount St. Helens has been more active and more violent during the last few thousand years than any other volcano in the United States. Dormant since 1857, Mount St. Helens was predicted to erupt again before the end of this century.

Because of its smooth, little-eroded slopes, Mount St. Helens has long been known to be younger than the neighboring volcanoes such as Mounts Rainier, Adams, and Hood. Although its history extends back more than 37,000 years, virtually the entire visible volcano has formed since about 500 B.C., and most of its upper part has been built within the last few hundred years. The knowledge of its formation resulted largely from detailed studies of the origin and sequence of the volcano's eruptive products, coupled with nearly 30 radiocarbon dates from which the volcanic chronology is inferred.

The report in 1975 was done for the purpose of summarizing

THE REPORT IN 1975 was done for the purpose of summarizing the remarkable and generally unrecognized record of recent activity and compared with the history of some other well-known volcanoes. The data then available suggested that, since about 2500 B.C., the volcano had never been dormant for more than about five centuries at a time, and that dormant periods of one or two centuries or less have been more typical.

Even apparently dormant intervals may have been broken by eruptions that did not leave a conspicuous deposit. The eruptions noted in the chronology include only those which produced deposits large enough to be preserved and recognized.

The known eruptions of about the last 4,000 years can be roughly grouped into four periods: 2500 to 1600 B.C., 1200 to 800 B.C., 400 B.C. to 400 A.D., and 1300 A.D. through the first half of the 19th century.

Dormant intervals of thousands of years during the older history of Mount St. Helens can be recognized from buried, weathered deposits that were exposed at the surface for a long time before being covered by products of the next eruption. Radiocarbon dating of the youngest weathered deposit in such a profile, as well as of the oldest deposit above it, discloses the approximate length of a dormant interval. The imprecision of the radiocarbon dating method, which amounts to only a few hundred years, is minor relative to the total length of the dormant interval.

A FORECAST

The repetitive nature of the eruptive activity at Mount St. Helens during the last 4,000 years, with dormant intervals typically of a few centuries or less, suggests that the current quiet period will not last a thousand years, possibly occurring before the end of this century. Because of the variable recent behavior of the volcano, we cannot predict whether the next eruption will be of basalt, andesite, or dacite, and whether it will produce lava flows, pyroclastic flows, tephra, or volcanic domes. But, if the eruptive period lasts years or decades, a variety of eruptive events and lithologic types can be anticipated.

UPDATE

On March 27, 1980, Mount St. Helens, located approximately 35 air miles northeast of Portland, in the southwest corner of Washington State, began erupting.

The first activity sighted was the formation of an



ASHFALL turns day into night after volcanic eruption.

explosive crater, flanked by numerous impact craters and accompanied by ash trailing off to the southeast. The initial crater, located north of the peak, was bounded by two east-west trending fracture zones. While no steam or vapors were visible after the initial discharge, the thermal infrared live scanner aboard a surveillance plane revealed more than 10 gas vents or fumaroles.

By March 30, continued phreatic discharges (ground water explosively flashed into steam) had significantly enlarged the original crater and given birth to a new, smaller crater 100m (300 feet) to the east. Significant ash fall littered the areas east of the activity, and continuing seismic activity, along with thermal melting, triggered a series of debris avalanches on the southeast flank of the volcano.

Harmonic earthquake tremors, possible indicating movement of magma, were sporadically reported by the University of Washington Geophysics Program throughout the first week of activity. Phreatic eruptions yielded ash fall over a wide area. While estimates of ash fall over Portland's Bull Run Watershed reached 55 tons per square mile, the ash was residual pyroclastic material, leached of most solubles and composed mainly of plagioclase feldspar, and was therefore expected to have no significant acidic impact on the

Portland water supply. Juvenile ash, by contrast, could have a considerably sulfur content and therefore an acidic potential.

Activity in the initial crater continued, gradually enlarging it until the wall of the smaller east crater was breached. The cratered area, now extending the full 510m (1,700 feet) width between the flanking fracture zones, has subsided significantly, indicating a "graben" structure. On April 4, 1980, visibility showed the fracture structure of the cratered area. Thermal infrared imagery continues to show relatively localized "hot spots" within the crater, while indicating general, low-level heating of the entire adjacent area.

The first two weeks of eruptive activity have enabled the scientific community to learn quite a bit about the behavior of Mount St. Helens, described by Crandell and Mullineaux (1978) as "more active and more explosive during the last 4,500 years than any other volcano in the conterminous United States."

References cited: Crandell, D.R., and Mullineaux, D.R., 1978, *Potential Hazards from Future Eruptions of Mount St. Helens Volcano*, Washington; U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1388-C, 26 p., and also *The State of Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries*.

WHO ARE THE JOSEPHINE COUNTY SOURDOUGHS?

The Josephine County Sourdoughs is an organization of people interested in the development of mining and the mineral potential of Oregon.

Some members are miners; others are businessmen — who realize the importance of mining and minerals to the economy and welfare of

the entire United States.

Sourdough meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at the Women's Club Auditorium, on 6th Street in Grants Pass, at 8 p.m. Membership dues are \$7 a year. President: Clarence Seever, 476-8014; Vice President: Bud Winters; Secretary: Lela Seever.

Chinese Customs Added Much to Romance of Mining Era in County

No early day history would be complete without mentioning the Chinese and the part they played in the history of Waldo, Althouse and the surrounding territory.

According to the census, 3,500 Chinese were working in the mines around Waldo at one time. Everyone was required to pay a poll tax of \$4. At that time their number never seemed to fluctuate. If some left, new ones always seemed to take their place.

The Chinese never worked alone, but preferred to form companies of five or six men and mine together.

They worked the bedrock and tailings (ore once mined by the white man and then discarded). They were slower and more methodical, and many of them found enough gold to enable them to go back to China rich.

They built their huts in long, straight rows — very close together. One such row was behind the old Waldo store.

Celebrations Amusing

Some of the older residents of the Valley recall with much amusement the activities of Chinese New Year. Some time before they wished to celebrate, they would

send to China for immense firecrackers, hard candy and specially prepared coconut. While they were awaiting its arrival, tin cans would be strung along the eaves of each house, side by side, from one end of the street to the other. Upon the appointed day, a giant firecracker would be placed in each can and someone would go to the farthest house up the street and set the first firecracker on fire. This would set off the next one, and so on down the street to the end. This made just one big bang after another. They also liked to place a large quantity of firecrackers under pans and buckets.

If you were invited as a guest on Chinese New Year you would be met in the doorway and each of you would bow to the other and then turn around and bow the other way. This continued until each one had bowed to everyone.

Then you were given a treat of special hard, white candy that had very bright colors mixed through it, as well as coconut.

The white miners and families watched these festivities with much interest.

The Chinese then continued their feasting, drinking and noise-making. There were several Chinese who played an active part in the Valley history at that time. One was named China Bow. He thought mining was beneath him so he discarded his cue and operated a pack train from Crescent City to Happy Camp. Much of

the first heavy equipment used in hydraulic mining was packed in via his mule pack train. Several of the first giants used in placer mining were brought in by him. Also,

China Fawn owned a large mine over the hill from Waldo. There were also China Get and China E-Long and China Le-Hang, deputy tax collector under the first sheriff

away the devil if he was lurking nearby.

After they arrived at the cemetery there was much bowing back and forth before the ceremony was completed. Then



CHINESE tailing pile shows how hard they labored to recover gold, moving tons of rocks and boulders as they worked the river.

the fruit trees that comprised the orchard on the old Fulk place were brought in by pack train.

Blacksmith

Another Chinese man named China Jim Chow had a blacksmith shop at Waldo. China Jim had two children, Eddie and Susie, of whom he was very proud. Susie attended school with the white children of the Valley. China Jim would slip up to the window of the school and peek in to see how really smart Susie and Eddie were, but no amount of coaxing would get him inside the door. Their teacher was Lucy George Bragdon.

of Josephine County — George Hendershot. Many other Chinese struck it rich and went back to China.

Just below the old Waldo cemetery is a Chinese cemetery. The Chinese buried their dead there, and after a period of time would collect their bones and send them back to China. They also fed the dead on Chinese New Year. This comprised of a small bowl of rice placed on each grave.

Of special interest to the white people was the way a Chinese funeral was conducted.

The casket was placed on a wagon and hauled to the gravesite. Behind the wagon marched the mourners, who each carried long sticks which they swung from side to side occasionally. This was supposed to chase

coins were placed by the body and the rites were over.

The Chinese were considered honest, hard-working people and did not cause trouble if left alone. Of course, there were always a few who were trouble-makers. However, when you consider the fact that many of the miners were continually robbing their sluice boxes and tormenting them in other ways, you cannot really blame them.

According to long-time residents in the area, a Chinaman is buried on a sandbar on the east fork of Sucker Creek, near its head. His body was not taken to China, as were most of the Chinese who died here, because he was the victim of murder. It is said he was beaten to death by an enraged debtor when the Chinaman asked him to pay a bill.

—From the *Golden Anniversary Issue*, Apr. 3, 1935.

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MODERN DAY gold mining operations are flourishing in some parts of southern Oregon, complete with electrical generators, cats, pumps and manpower.

Southern Oregon is Still Gold Mining Country. . .

Seven days a week, 24 hours a day, this Southern Oregon operation is in full swing. During the process of excavation, two old mining shafts were uncovered. Inside the shafts, an old acetylene bottle was found, dated 1943. Crescent wrenches, a sluice box rake and a large assortment of old nails were revealed. But, most amazing was the soundness of the 2" red cedar planking that lined the 14-foot by 18-foot opening.

Long hours and hard work face the 15 people under employment in the mine at various hours of day and night. The large plant is completely run on a 250-kilowatt generator that has over a dozen pumps of all kinds. Two D8 cats and two 988 loaders push and shovel between 500 and 1000 yards of material a day. The loaders dump the rock and dirt in a hopper; it then goes into the grizzly that separates all of the large rock from the smaller rock. The grizzly has a high-pressure spray bar which washes the large rock as well as the fine.

Four-inch rock and anything smaller is put through a trommel which is 15 feet long and 36 inches in diameter. Their trommel has a 3/4-inch screen in addition to a 1 1/2-inch screen to help separate the materials even more.

The recovery system is made up of sluice boxes and one 36" screen to help separate the materials even more.

The recovery system is made up of sluice boxes and one 36" cone. Three large settling ponds help to keep sediment under control as well as recirculate the water that is used in the operation.

For cleanup of the mining process, a rubber-lined Knutson bowl and vibrating sluice box, clean the

material that comes out of the large sluice boxes, to the point that it can be panned. An undisclosed amount of recovery is taken out of this mine.



ROUND-THE-CLOCK "modern mine" keeps 15 people busy in this southern Oregon operation.

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\$3,200 Nugget Found in Althouse

1885 Courier — Althouse Chinaman on the claim immediately above found a nugget weighing 14 ounces. The ground in this vicinity is noted for its great richness, and is quite extensive, and also for the large nuggets found. There is scarcely any fine gold in this vicinity.

On the claim of Chas. Felt and George Gleason, known as "Old Sling Claim", a nugget of gold was recently picked up which weighed 17 ounces. On the same claim, in the year 1854, one weighing nearly \$3,200 was found. A few weeks ago a

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The Workable Metal

Gold has lured men — from the Stone Age to today. Because it is a scarce metal to man, there are today (and always will be) more men seeking it than finding it. There are many reasons why gold is to attractive to man. Besides its obvious intrinsic beauty, it is indestructible, non-corrosive, ductile and impervious to acids and salt water. It is one of the heaviest metals, yet it is malleable. It is not affected by variables which affect and change other metals. Consequently, nearly all the gold which has been mined throughout history is still around somewhere, in some form.

Even though gold is scarce to man, it is — in reality — quite plentiful on this earth. It is even present in sea water, but technology for extracting it is non-existent at the present time. Dr. Harrison Brown of the University of Chicago Institute of

placed over a base metal can sometimes do the same job as a solid gold component at a fraction of the price.

Gold is used in the telephone industry in the transmitter domes in telephones and for plating transmitter electrodes. It is even utilized in printed circuits for radar, computers, and detection devices. Gold brazing alloys are being used now in missiles and aircraft. Alloys in these fields provide good resistance to oxidation.

Gold is used effectively as a building sheath and glass facing in the building and constructin industry. Gold-coated glass cuts down on glare and heat, thus reducing electricity bills. All these uses for gold might seem very expensive, but this is not necessarily the case, for the gold sheaths are of microscopic thicknesses and a little gold will go a long way.

Industrial uses for gold are endless and new uses for it are found each year. In the early 1970s, 68 tons of gold went into electronics, space, and defense areas alone in the United States. Another 23 tons of gold found places in the mouths of America, in the form of gold dental work. Jewelry accounts for three-fourths of the amount of gold going into industrial usage.

There is still quite a lot of "gold in them thar hills". The Homestake Mine in South Dakota — a key producer for almost one hundred years — recovers about 400 ounces of gold annually. One would tend to think that the new gold rush into America's golden west would be producing a massive increase in gold production in the United States, but this is not so. Established mines are dropping the grade of ore which is brought to the surface, and new mines require a long lead-time before going into production. The rising prices make it economical for operating mines to handle lower grades of ore which otherwise might have been by-passed. This reduces gold output but increases ore reserves and so lengthens the lives of mines. Profits may rise because of the higher prices.

There are many United States gold-producing companies of importance. There are also a few hundred small companies which contribute their bits to the overall production total. Added to these are the many thousands of weekend placer miners and hardrock miners who uncover an undetermined amount.

America consumes five times more gold than it produces, depending upon imports (mostly from South Africa) to fill the gap. That consumption is rising considerably now that the United States government allows its citizens to hold gold. Even without this support of Americans, demand for gold is at record levels, much to the chagrin of the anti-gold people who have been saying for years that gold is being phased out of the monetary system.

Many substances have been used to function as money throughout time, but none so indestructible and durable as gold. It remains important today in our economic system, even though the United States no longer mints gold coins. International monetary experts are determining the role of gold in the future. The consistently rising price of gold indicates that many people believe gold still plays an important role in the world's monetary sphere.



Nuclear Studies theorized that precious metals, particularly gold and platinum, are heavily concentrated in the iron-nickel core of the earth.

Gold nuggets may occur in a pure state. They are usually found in alluvial streams in the midst of gravel which might have washed down from prehistoric mountains. Geologists concur that gold was probably lifted from deep within the earth into high mountain ranges by a prehistoric shift in the rock mantle of the earth. Over thousands of years, the mountains eventually eroded away and the gold was washed into alluvial basins. Sometimes, such gold was found very near the surface; other times, nature deposited debris and sediments over the alluvial gold, trapping it into rock as more sediments and weight accumulated over it.

For many years, industrial users of gold have appreciated the versatile metal. The relatively cheap price of \$350.00 an ounce, which had been a standard for almost 40 years, stimulated the usage of gold in many ways. Gold found exotic uses with the expansion of electronics and space technology. Gold is such a wonderful reflector that gold-plated spacesuits became the accepted space attire. Rocket engineers had gold-coated shields, with only 0.000004-inch of gold protecting the spacemen from the tremendous heat. Countless other uses were found for this wonderful metal in industry.

Gold is so very valuable in industry today, because of its characteristics. It is resistant to corrosion; it blocks out 98% of incident light and radiation; it has a low specific heat, and it is an excellent electrical conductor. Gold is an easily-workable metal which can be shaped into microscopic thicknesses. A very thin sheet of gold

Some Local Places to Find Color In Your Pan



Gold panning is fast becoming a very popular hobby. Many vacationers, who have never panned for gold before, are the proud possessors of a gold pan, a prospector's pick and a shovel. They are all hoping to strike it rich but will settle for the flash of a few colors in the pan. For those who are lucky enough to find a nugget, it is a thrilling

and unforgettable experience.

There are many places here in Southwestern Oregon where this new type of miner can find more than an occasional color. The roots of watergrass along the Rogue River, the Applegate River, Lower Grave Creek and the Illinoio River will seldom fail to produce a number of

colors, and occasionally a small nugget. Narrow crevices in bedrock can be rewarding, and in places the loose gravel on the inside bends of rivers or streams will carry a surprising amount of gold.

Let's hope that more people take up gold panning as a hobby. It is a healthy, exciting and rewarding pastime.

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SO YOU WANT TO BE A PROSPECTOR?

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Anyone can become a prospector in the United States. If they discover a rich mineral deposit, they may become owners of mining operations. But not without first taking the proper legal steps.

Mining rights are protected by claims. Except for specified areas along waterways, anyone who mines must stake a claim. When legally registered, a claim is official proof that minerals found there belong to the one whose name appears on the claim. All claims must be filed with the county clerk of the county in which they are located. Before a claim is filed, the claimant must make certain that it is not already registered to someone else.

MINERALS MUST BE PRESENT on any claim that is staked. Later exploration may reveal that the deposit is too small to have commercial value, but that in no way affects the validity of the claim.

After a claim has been officially filed, the one who staked it must spend at least \$100 a year to improve it. The work done must relate directly to



development of the mining operation, such as excavating and drilling. A person who fails to improve his claim each year, forfeits his right to it, and becomes fair game for other claimants.

There are two types of claims: A lode claim and a placer claim. Lode claims usually apply to mineral deposits found in veins, or various types of bedrock. Placer mines refer generally to minerals found in sand, gravel or silt, which can be separated by washing or screening. In placer mining, water is normally used to separate the minerals from the material in which they are found. Placer mines are

the type normally found in Oregon gold mining country.

CLAIMS MAY BE FILED ON FEDERAL lands, except those that have been set aside for uses that are incompatible with mining. Claims can also be filed on some private lands, as well as some state lands. But it varies from place to place.

That, in a very general way, describes the requirements that must be met to qualify for a mining claim today. Actually, the laws and regulations are much more complex than indicated. Anyone interested in mining should write for information to: U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 729 N.E. Oregon St., Portland, OR. 97208.

Oregon's mining code is available at the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, 1069 State Office Building, Portland, OR. 97101. The cost is 50 cents.

Gold Mine Names Show Humor and Imagination

By Priscilla Averill

Early-day gold miners in Josephine County were an adventurous, hard-grubbing, rough and ready lot of rugged individualists. They also had other qualities — as can be seen in some of the names they dreamed up for their mines.

Though the origins of many of the old gold mines are fast becoming overlaid by succeeding layers of history, their names leave ample evidence that the men who found them did not lack imagination and humor. Some of the titles the early miners bestowed on their lucky (or occasionally not so lucky) claims are as colorful as the country and the era in which they thrived.

Some mines — the **Bone of Contention** mine, for instance, have a whole story in their names. Anybody can guess there was a considerable hassle when that one got its start! Then there is the **Toughnut Property**. (Did they succeed in cracking it??) Did it give them as much trouble as the **Holy Terror** mine? Anyway, it's 10 to one that the gold in each of these mines was a lot harder to

come by than that of the **Free and Easy** mine.

Though many various metals, including copper and chrome, have been mined in this area, the vast majority of the more vivid names, as might be expected, are applied to the gold mines. Many hint of luck — such as **Lucky Dog Placer** and **Four Leaf Clover Placer** — but the name of the **Surprise Mining Company** suggests that its discoverers never expected to find it in the first place.

Some pet names, like **Little Dandy**, **Little Gem** and **Little Marvel**, clearly show their owners' affection for the source of their sudden wealth; but the one we like best is the **Humdinger** mine. It must have been!

And then there are those that reveal the miners' typically eternal hopes for vast riches: **King Tut Prospect** and **Bullion Mountains, Inc.** (Now *there* was no piker!). Other miners, apparently more interested in the

end results, hung on such titles as **Ten Spot Mine**, **Legal Tender Group** — and **Greenback Mine**, which is still in operation today, after turning out more than 3½ million "greenbacks" for its owners.

From the very names of these mines, one can't help but suspect that they must have yielded more "pay dirt" than **Hole in the Ground Placer**, **Dry Diggings**, **Lost Prospect** or **Last Chance Placer**.

Some names hint of the miners' joy at the time of the strike, such as **Happy Day Mine**; but one wonders if they hadn't perhaps celebrated not wisely but too well when they christened the **Blue Mule Claim** and the **Red Elephant Claim**. Perhaps they got together with the owners of the **Steam Beer Placer**.

The names of some mines, such as the **Depression Breaker** leave little doubt as to their history and the times during which they were operated. Of these, our favorite is the

Strenuous Teddy Claim — which seems to indicate a physical fitness kick.

Others with intriguing titles are: the **Stovepipe Mine**, the **Silent Friend**, the **Spotted Fawn**, the **Gold Bug** and the **Golden Plate Mine**. One we especially like is the **Doubting Susie**, named by a miner for his wife "who doubted he would ever find anything!" She should have known he'd find a *name*, anyway. When it came to thinking up terse titles, the gold miners were without peer.



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The Most Likely Places For You To Find Gold

The presence of water certainly does not indicate the presence of gold, but it *does* make the search for an identification of it easier. PANNING is the quickest, most practical way to separate small amounts of lighter gravel and debris from the heavier elements and metals... hopefully, GOLD.

Instructing one on where to find gold is like attempting to teach one how to become a millionaire. Why isn't the writer one? However, by describing where gold is or is *not* likely to be found, it is possible to save the novice (and sometimes the professional) many fruitless attempts at recovery. Experience and years of prospecting have enlightened some of us considerably, but still the irrefutable fact remains... **GOLD IS WHERE YOU FIND IT.**

GOLD IS NOT likely to be found in the old dredge tailings, though there are exceptions where the dredge operator was not aware of unusually large nuggets and lost them in the tailings or discards. The dredge ripped up the bedrock by large buckets designed to remove the first foot or so of material, and there are no cracks or fissures filled with gold left beneath the loose tailings. Also unlikely as sources of gold are areas that were worked extensively by early-day miners. They seldom missed any of the small pockets that many look for, particularly in the rich placer zones. Of course, a few spots were missed, but generally you will never have the time nor the equipment to find them. If the small creek or river abounds with loose material, gravel, etc., and the area shows evidence of early-day activities, it is usually safe to assume the ground has been turned over or sluiced by many succeeding generations of miners. These worked-out areas produce only light flour gold.

CONFINE YOUR SEARCHING to places where it is possible to locate small, isolated spots that have been relatively undisturbed. Gravel that has never been worked will be tight and hard packed. Search carefully by digging underneath the overburden to find if waterworn rocks are present (river gravel). Certain deposits will contain different layers of gravel that were deposited many thousands of years apart. Test the deposit at different depths, as gold is sometimes deposited far above bedrock. This, though, is not often the case because gold is heavy and sinks quickly, working its way down into the finest cracks and fissures before becoming trapped. However, many rich and profitable gravel deposits are passed over or abandoned in the mistaken belief that gold is found only on bedrock.

Searches conducted in flowing water are difficult, but not impossible. Some streams contain only alluvial gold that is washed down each year during high water. This type of gold is found throughout the loose gravel with the largest concentrations being stopped by hard packed gravel or bedrock. Of course, natural traps, such as large boulders, tree roots, moss, slower sections of water flow, inside bends, etc., will probably contain the most gold. Dredging is the fastest way to test when exploring beneath flowing water, but it is possible to test with shovel and pan. Use your shovel to rake or remove the loose top gravel. Try to get your material from the firmly packed bottom or on bedrock itself. Gently bring the shovel up out of the water, depositing the gravel into your pan. The water will tend to rob the shovel when this is attempted, so move slowly and carefully. Many dredgers test by the shovel method before bringing their dredge to a specific area. If you can actually see the bedrock, it may be possible to use a prybar and loosen some of the bedrock, to expose gravel and gold that has been trapped for years. Here, the small suction-type dredge is practically the only sure and useful equipment. Whether using shovel or dredge underwater, *always* try to loosen the bedrock and then thoroughly clean even the smallest cracks. Once you have disturbed hard packed gravel the gold will sink quickly to the bottom, making recovery more difficult.

Use the illustrated map as a helpful guide. Do not

depend on gold's being at any given spot. Check the outline of the river or stream course carefully. The channel may have changed over the years, and the



older channel may contain the richest deposits. Try imagining where the stream flowed in past years—the curves or bends, where the water was forced to move fast, where it had a chance to slow down, etc. Gold will settle wherever the water flows most slowly; it will whip around and become trapped in rough sections of bedrock; but seldom is it found in smooth or waterworn sections, especially where the current is fast. Waterfalls and potholes seldom produce because the fast water and rocks create a mill that grinds the gold to dust and returns it to the water flow. Look for feeder creeks and isolated spots where the old-timers could not get water for sluicing. Use your shovel to dig beneath the loose gravel. The major fault of the weekend prospector's method is that he simply scoops up loose gravel with his gold pan, expecting it to contain gold. It rarely does. Dig test holes away from the stream bed, where you suspect the original channel was. You will quickly identify the channel by the presence of waterworn gravel.

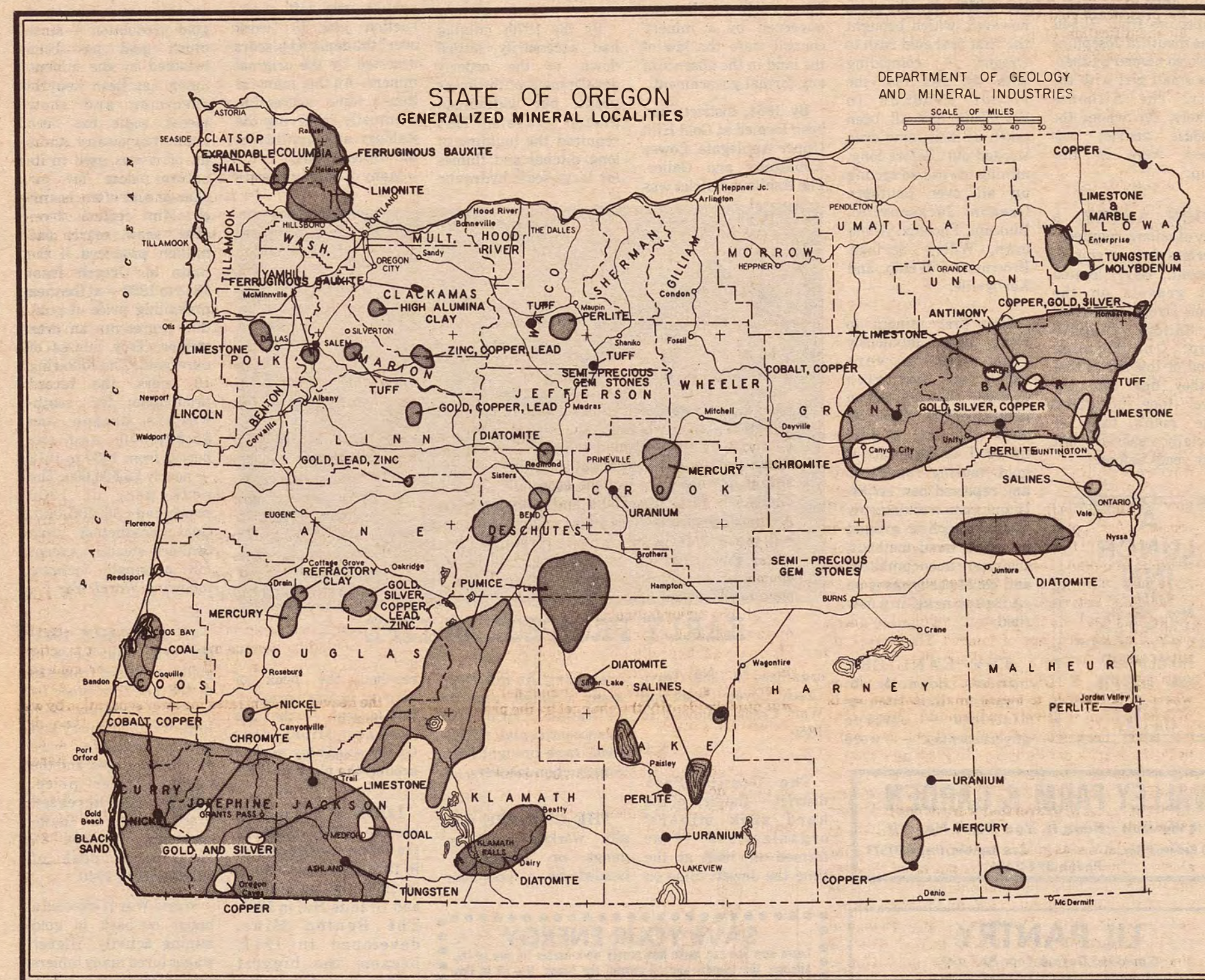
IN DRY AREAS

The absence of water does not prohibit but it certainly does complicate the *location* and recovery of gold. The precious metal is hard to recognize in small flake form and in ore (rock) unless wet. Small

flakes and tiny nuggets can be recovered by dry panning or dry washing methods, yet they are more difficult to see unless wet or clean from small dust. Old prospectors who worked the pocket country used a pail of water in which to dip the ore while sorting out the high grade. Many times, this procedure is impossible; sometimes it is unnecessary. However, the fact remains that water helps the identification process considerably. Unless gold, especially the placer form, was discovered accidentally in the dry areas, most searching was confined to the location of veins (hardrock composition). The working of rich placer areas where water is not available is still in its infancy. The crushing and milling of ore depends on water for separation of the concentrates. There are other methods, but use of water is the most economical and easiest. This presents an important fact: because of the absence of water, **MILLIONS OF DOLLARS LIE IN PLAIN SIGHT** in undiscovered and unworked dry mineral zones.

A FEW AREAS of search are deemed better to avoid. Light, windblown sand seldom contains gold. Even fine flour gold is usually not present in paying quantities. In different states, certain rock formations and mineral zones are generally barren. These can be identified by the study of local geological reports. Black loam soil in farming areas is almost always barren of gold, but does contain some small amounts of magnetic iron oxides. It is not wise to rule out *too* many areas, since the old cliché still holds true... **GOLD IS WHERE YOU FIND IT.**

Searches for gold in placer or alluvial form can be conducted by various methods. The most practical would be to use a small dry washer or gold pan designed for dry panning to spot test an area, saving the heavier concentrates for later separation by wet panning. Wet panning is more sure than dry panning because, without liquid to produce a state of suspension, it is difficult to save light gold. Rarely is gold large enough in dry placer form to be visible with the naked eye, except in nugget form. This fact makes the use of metal/mineral detectors impractical, except for the locating of large nuggets



*There are Gods that guard the treasures
In the mountains high and blue
There are Gods that guard the treasures
From the fools like me and you*

*They will whisper in the evening
As you sit around the camp
You can feel that air of vengeance
Watch the flicker of the lamp*

*At night you will gain new courage
But they will beat you down by day
And they will make you want to wander
From the straight and narrow way*

*They will laugh and they will beckon
They will give you hopes anew
But still they will guard their treasure
From the fools like me and you*

—By George W. Reynolds

or black sand pockets that *might* possibly contain gold. Also, the fine gold is usually scattered and not in sufficient amounts to respond to electronic detection. Dig beneath the overburden whenever possible, especially in ancient riverbed areas. Attempt to reach bedrock, pry loose the surface whenever possible, and use a small screwdriver or ice pick to clean the smallest cracks. Use a small whisk broom to sweep the finest dust into your pan. You can transport the dry material to water for separation or, with practice, you can learn to pan down to the heavier concentrates by dry methods. Spot check any type of desert streambed, low area — anywhere you think gravity could have placed the heavier concentrates.

The search for glacial deposits and bench placers will differ from the search for lighter gold. In this case, it is possible some large nuggets may be present. The visible recognition of waterworn rocks quickly identifies these deposits as being placed by water action and later perhaps moved or displaced by nature. You may follow closely the same instructions and recovery methods used in water. Attempt to reach bedrock when possible, taking care to test the gravel thoroughly at different depths; follow dry panning instructions and save the heaviest concentrates.

Now that there is a possibility of finding nuggets sufficiently large to respond to electronic detection,

your chances of success with a metal detector are much increased. Recent improvements and the introduction of mineral-free operation metal detector types have made the recovery of large gold nuggets simple enough for even the smallest child. All that is required is that you use the correct type of detector and that nuggets be present in sufficient size, and not too deep, to respond to electronic detection. Dry areas provide the most practical situations for metal detectors, and there are vast, unlimited, easy-to-reach mineral zones that are known to contain gold.

The map illustration provides a perfect example of nature and the forces of gravity. Unless trapped or stopped by some natural or man-made obstruction, gold continues to work its way forever downward, eventually into the depths of the oceans. As this action takes place, the gold nuggets continue to be worn, battered and ground until they become pure dust. The knowledge of this gravity force will enable you to follow many forms of placer gold to their sources. Seldom is there a sufficient amount of fine gold scattered over any type of terrain to make recovery profitable. Where conditions permit, however, fine gold may be followed to its point of entry on the surface. Hard work and much panning is required for pocket location. Tracing of fine gold which is being gradually washed from a glacial deposit is hardly ever practical. However, tracing

gold or float from a vein can be both practical and profitable, especially with metal/mineral detectors. High grade specimens are relatively easy to locate with a mineral-free operation type of detector, provided the specimen contains a sufficient amount of metallics to be highly conductive, a factor which depends on the search area and the richness of the ore.

Actual location of the pocket or vein structure can be accomplished with the correct tools: a gold pan designed for both wet or dry panning and a mineral-free operation type of detector or a BFO type with small search coil (5-inch or smaller). There are unlimited opportunities in dry desert areas. The gold has simply lain there in plain sight over many millions of years. It will continue to do so until some enterprising, modern-day prospector takes advantage of the latest detection and recovery methods.

IF THE AREA where you live has not been prospected before, remember that **GOLD** has been found in all 50 states. Play your hunches. Our forefathers did. Many found gold in paying quantities; some made fortunes. Whether you find gold is of little consequence, for the shovel and faithful gold pan will enrich your life by knowledge gained, and provide you with the most interesting hobby you can pursue.

First Gold Mining Site in Josephine County

The first gold mining in Oregon was that done in July, 1850, by a party of prospectors from Illinois at the mouth of Josephine Creek, so named by them for a small girl with the party. The Althouse brothers, for whom the Althouse district was named, were in this group.

SOON AFTER, a party of sailors, reputedly deserters from a ship at Crescent Bay, located gold gravels on the Illinois river and started the Sailors' Diggin's camp. One strange legend of this site is that as they dug into the gravel they uncovered white man's tools — especially a shovel — left many years before.

The big strikes near Jacksonville in December, 1851 were the ones, however, which brought the first real gold rush to Oregon — coinciding with the fact that the richer grounds in California had all been taken up and some even worked out. Before long, mining towns had sprung up all over Southern Oregon: Jacksonville, Buncom, Phoenix, Allentown, Willow Springs, Browntown, Waldo, and Kerbyville.

The first miners to work these fabulously rich placers were impatient for rich rewards, and often abandoned a claim as soon as the gravel dropped in its yield of gold, moving rapidly to any reported new strike. Intent upon working only the very richest ground by crude hand methods, they were unencumbered and could easily move on and set up again in a new field.

THE EARLIEST miner's councils to organize into mining districts — embryo governments — were

Sailors' Diggin's and Althouse in April, 1852. These early-day districts governed by a miners' council were the law of the land in the absence of any formal government.

By 1854, districts had been formed at Gold Hill, Upper Applegate, Lower Applegate, and Galice. The Ashland district was

Grants Pass mountain, had built an 8-stamp mill.

By the 1870s, mining had necessarily settled down to the orderly development of the lower grade, but widespread placer gravels. This required the building of long ditches and flumes for large-scale hydraulic

manager, but before long broke up into small parties who left construction jobs to "work over" the depleted placers deserted by the original miners. At this many of them were successful, eventually incurring the jealousy and hostility of the white miners.

Many of the big placers

The records of the U.S. Mint are not always an accurate yardstick of gold production — since much gold has been retained by the miners; much has been kept as specimen and show pieces; some has been made into jewelry, and a lot of it was used in its natural state for exchange and often hoarded. Mint records, however, show nearly \$17 million produced in the State of Oregon from 1848 to 1882 — at the then prevailing price of gold, this represents an even million Troy ounces of pure gold. The following 16 years, the record production for southwestern Oregon was \$5,800,000, and the period from 1900 to 1912 — nearly \$5,500,000. The peak year of 1906 produced \$6,000,000. Gold production then declined steadily, except for a small increase following World War I.



EARLY PROSPECTING LIFE

organized in 1858, Grave Creek, Coyote Creek and Wolf Creek followed in 1860.

The Grants Pass district — the first of the hard rock miners' organizations — as formed in 1863 at the time the Jewett mine on

operations. At this time, many Chinese, recently released from the Transcontinental Railroad, were brought in as construction laborers.

THE CHINESE usually worked in large gangs, or "companies" headed by a boss-man

reached the peak of activity in this period — the largest — the Old Channel Mine, near Galice, was being worked around the clock in 1876.

LODE GOLD mining became of importance in the 1890s, the Greenback in 1897, the Silent Friend in 1900 and the Eureka and Granite Hill in 1901. The Benton Mine, developed in 1911, became the biggest producer, and was the largest industrial employer in Josephine County, until its closure in 1942 — closed by War Production Board Order L-208, which ordered all non-essential mining closed down. Gold mining was then considered non-essential.

IN JANUARY, 1934, the U.S. Mint price of gold was raised from \$20 to \$35 per fine ounce by an Act of Congress. With improved machinery and mining methods, more efficient dredges, and the higher pricer price, production increased dramatically in southwestern Oregon — reaching a peak of \$1,050,000 in 1940.

World War II effected a major set-back in gold mining activity. Higher wages lured many miners into defense industries, many went into military service, and material shortages crippled many operations. The War Production Board Order classifying gold mining as non-essential, and ordering the closure of the mines was a blow from which mining has never recovered. Since then, the postwar rise in wages and prices, and the frozen price of gold have created a situation not likely to encourage production.

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For A Different Idea Try Gold Coning

THE GOLD CONE is a prospecting tool that introduces a novel technique (called coning) for separating gold, or other precious metals, from sand and gravel. It can be used to work wet and dry placers — along rivers and streams where water is plentiful, and in the dry gullies and washes in arid areas where there is an absence of water.

Since the efficiency of the GOLD CONE is greater using water than with placer material in a dry state, the desert prospector may elect to use packed-in water, because much of the water used in CONING can be recovered for reuse.

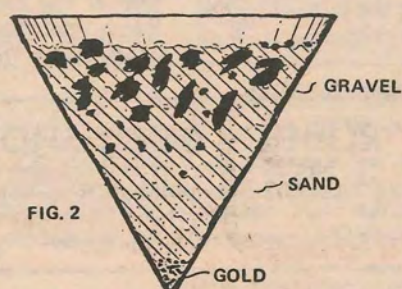
THIS IS THE ULTIMATE in lightweight, hand panning devices. . . ideal for campers, hikers, fishermen, hunters, rock hounds, and treasure hunters to have for that unexpected opportunity to recover "placer" gold. It can be folded or flattened and carried conveniently in the prospector's pocket or packsack. Since it weighs only seven ounces, it is perfect for backpacking into remote regions generally overlooked by prospectors with heavier equipment.

CONING for gold. This new technique simplifies the gold panning process. It is highly efficient and easier to learn than the conventional, old "forty-niner" panning method of gold rush days. Follow the easy, illustrated instructions below, and you'll soon find yourself skilled in the most advanced "hand panning" technique for recovering placer gold ever developed.

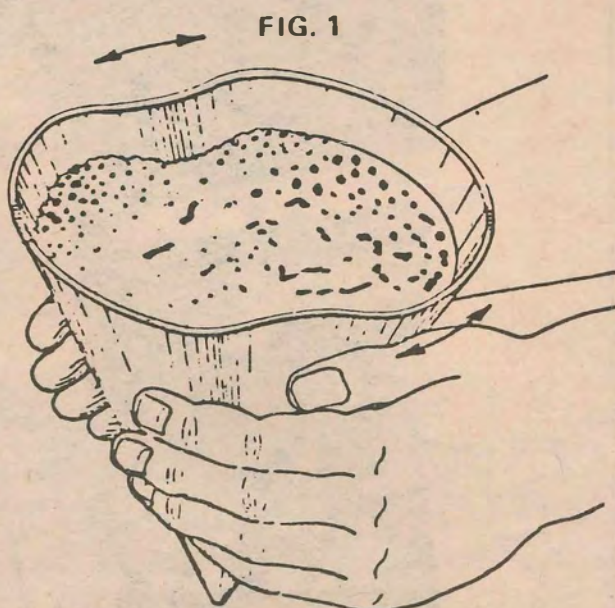
CONING INSTRUCTIONS:

Fill the GOLD CONE about three-fourths full of placer material to be concentrated and, holding it level, submerge it in the stream. When the sample is thoroughly saturated or flooded with water, hold the cone upright between the hands, and roll it back and forth under pressure, as shown in Fig. 1.

Maintain this rolling motion (back and forth 3 or 4 inches) at a rate of about 80 motions per minute. The rate of the rolling motion can be varied to suit the conditions, primarily the density of the placer material and the comfort of the prospector in exerting a sustained effort.



Continue to agitate the work material for a minute or two. During the operation, the dense, heavy-gold particles and nuggets will work their way to the bottom or apex of the CONE, while the lighter materials will work their way upward, as shown in Fig. 2. The CONING process can be accelerated by removing any obviously worthless rocks or pebbles and crushing any lumps of clay or dirt found in the material.



GOLD CONE

SEPARATE THE concentrated material (most often black sand which may contain gold) by pinching the CONE together about 2½ inches from the bottom and dumping the rest of the material. At this point there are a couple of alternatives available: Further concentrate the material by adding a small amount of clear water and checking for gold or "colors" along the side of the CONE as the concentrate is carefully and slowly washed out. (The gold is easily spotted against the earthy, brown plastic.) Or, save the concentrates from several CONES full of material and separate the gold later by coning the accumulated concentrates all at one time.

In summary, remember that CONING for gold is easy. Just:



Use the simulated gold nuggets included in the kit, to get the feel of CONING before going into the field.

THE GOLD CONE is made of thermoplastic rubber which is tough, durable, and virtually indestructible. It has excellent chemical, weathering, and aging resistance, low temperature flexibility, and can be recycled. It is flexible enough to return to its original cone shape after flexure, and strong enough to maintain its shape when full of placer material. Under normal use, the GOLD CONE should last you several years. Your satisfaction is guaranteed.

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water in the small streams to do a little panning, and few places in the "diggings" were rich enough for a miner to make wages by this slow method.

ON AUGUST 9, 1852 the Sailors' Diggin's Water, Mining and Milling Company was organized by B.J. Bell, R.H. Deaderrich, Henry Kenady, George Sam

Rice, Sherman Stevens, James B. Taylor and John Waters, to bring water from the east fork of the Illinois River to the mines. These men used the water to operate their own mines and a sawmill, and they also sold water to the other mine owner. The tax valuation of the company property advanced rapidly. By 1859, it was \$48,090. The company was financially successful, but their success was viewed from two different angles, depending on whether one purchased water from the company or was a stockholder. The customers said that the company gouged them for every dollar they could get, but the stockholders viewed themselves as very shrewd businessmen.

IN THE WINTER OF 1852-3, water was brought into the lower part of Allen and Sailor Gulches from the east fork of the Illinois River by a ditch about 3 miles long. The company finished the second ditch (over 11 miles long) in 1854, and brought water to the upper part of Scotch and Allen Gulches, and by means of a tunnel near the top of the ridge that divides the east and west part of Sailors' Diggin's, carried water to Waldo, Frye and Taylor Gulches. Though the tunnel is caved in, both ends can still be seen from the jeep road that goes over the divide from Sanger Lake Road to Allen Gulch. This road leaves the Sanger Lake Road about a quarter mile from the Waldo Road. There is also an aluminum pointer on a tree on the right hand side of the Sanger Lake Road, pointing to the Allen Gulch Road.



CAVED-IN TUNNEL off Waldo Gulch.

\$300 Nugget Found on Wagner Creek

The Courier
May 28, 1886

A nugget weighing \$300 was recently picked up by McDonald on Wagner Creek. It is said to be a beauty.

Thomas Gilmore of Waldo came in to see us on Saturday last. He reports the miners in that section preparing to clean up.

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RECIPES for Sourdough

SOURDOUGH STARTER

Boil 3 medium potatoes in 5 cups of boiling water to which you have added 1 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 2 quarts. After this mixture has cooled to lukewarm, add 1 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 6 p.m. before using. Some cooks prefer to wait 12 to 24 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 has 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 an 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 1 cake of dry yeast. Amount of starter for use in baking or making 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 one 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 the use of a little soda or baking powder. Care should always be taken when adding anything to the starter, because the varying quality of flour, an addition of soda or

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 certain ingredients which will kill the starter.

Attention: All You Sourdough Lovers!

An old friend came by the other day with a new sourdough recipe that you really should try...

CHOCOLATE CAKE STARTER

1 cup sourdough starter
1 cup sugar
½ cup shortening
2 eggs

1 cup evaporated milk
1 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. cinnamon
3 squares semi-sweet chocolate
½ tsp. salt
1½ tsp. baking soda
2 cups sifted flour

Let your sourdough starter sit overnight in a warm spot. Cream sugar and shortening; beat in eggs. Stir in sourdough starter, vanilla, cinnamon, milk and melted chocolate. Beat with beater about

2 minutes. Blend salt and soda together; sprinkle over batter and fold gently. Fold in flour until batter is smooth. Pour into 2 nine-inch greased and floured cake pans. Bake in 350-degree oven about 25 minutes.

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At one time, Josephine and Jackson Counties were one county. In January, 1856, a bill to separate what is now Josephine County from Jackson County was passed and approved.

Waldo, first known as Sailor Diggin's, which boasted of several stores, a number of saloons, billiard halls and hotels, was named the county seat of Josephine County. Records prior to this date were kept in Jackson County. Recently, the records were found and transferred to Josephine County.

Early Times

Bill of Sale

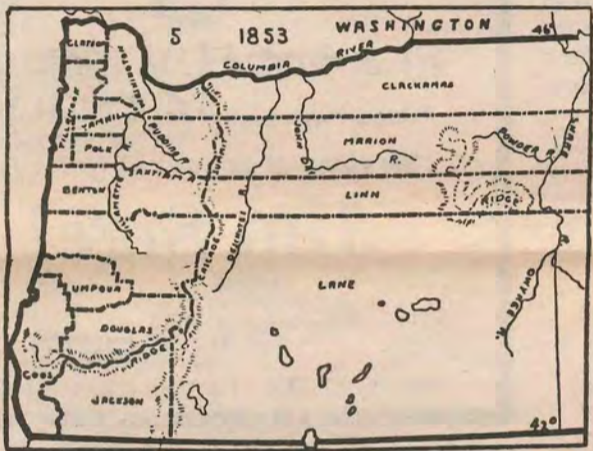
This is to certify that we have this day sold to 1 Bow, a Chinaman all our rights interest and title in and to a certain Mining claim situated at or near the mouth of Deer Creek, with the ditch, houses and all the tools and appurtenances thereto belonging to said claim for the sum of three hundred dollars and we agree to warrant and defend the said claim from all encumbrances

Witness
 Q. Kendall
 John Polk

Mark Lutz ✓
 H. Harpfer ✓

1/2 Revenue Stamp 50¢

Recorded November 3, 1866
 Ralph J. Forbes
 Clerk



Notice
 Notice is hereby given that I the undersigned claim two thousand inches of ^{the} water of Slate Creek, said water to be conveyed in a ditch down Rogue River & to be used for mining milling & irrigating purposes
 Dated this 18th 1846.

Dan I Green

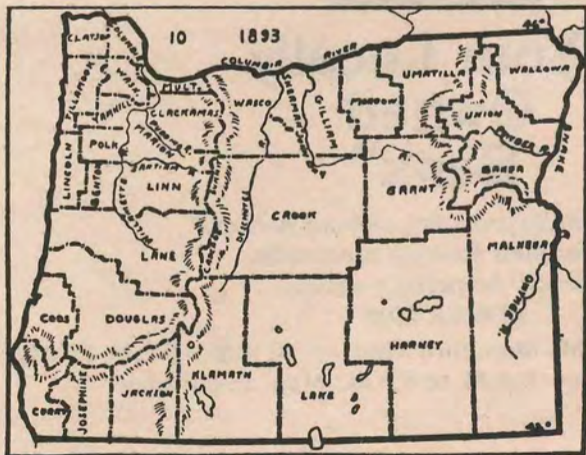
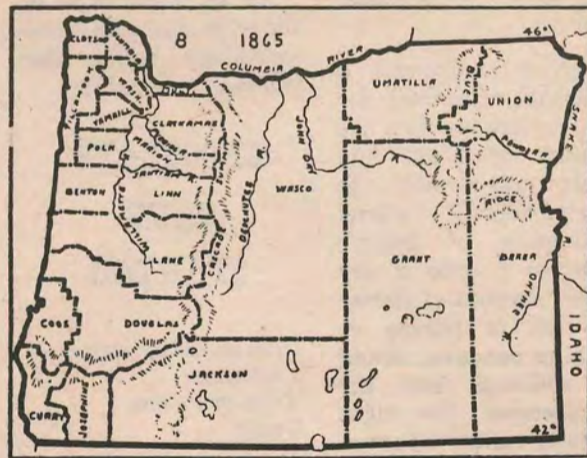
Recorded Nov 18th 1846
 Charles Hughes Clerk

Bill of Sale

For a valuable consideration to me paid I hereby sell and convey to George Grotz forty eight feet in the Fall Creek Copper Mine said sale I guarantee and defend
 Witness March 7, 1867

Thomas Moore ✓

Recorded March 7, 1867
 Ralph J. Forbes
 Clerk



Notice
 Notice is hereby given that I the undersigned claim the right to one thousand inches of water from this creek known as the Evans Creek intending to enlarge the ditch known as the Evans Ditch to capacity sufficient to carry said one thousand inches onto the mining ground extending down the River to Ticker Creek on say grade of one inch to the foot
 Rogue River Co
 March 6th 1867

John V. P. Witt ✓

Recorded March 6th 1867
 Ralph J. Forbes
 Clerk