Aim to Recover Deep-Bedded Gold

Robinette—(Special) — In the most recent undertaking to recover the fine flour gold from the bottom of Snake river, the Submarine Gold Mining company, which plans to mine at milepost 28, Sturgill Bar, shipped in two carloads of lumber last week the first step preparatory to equipping the operation.

The lumber will be used to construct the boat to float the submarine equipment, with which they can mine 40 feet under the surface of the river. It is understood the men carrying on the venture are from Boise. They brought their trucks and trailer-houses for living quarters.

Much work is done annually on Snake river at low water, and many have hoped that some way to work deeper would be developed.
Working on Mining Device; Roads Bad

Robinette — (Special) — The Submarine Mining company received a carload of steel plates Saturday, which are to be used to build 32 pontoons that will support the diving bell being constructed to extract the gold from the bed of the river. The equipment can be used 40 feet below the surface of water. This mining operation is located about four miles from Robinette near Sturgill Bar.
HALFWAY, April 13.—The Submarine Gold Mining company, with offices in Boise, has launched the boat it plans to use in recovering gold from the bed of the Snake River. The launching took place at a point near Sturgill's bar on the Oregon side of the river.

The company intends to work 12 miles of ground between Sturgill's bar and Robinette. Between 200 and 300 persons from Idaho, Utah, and Oregon saw the boat launched and christened.

The boat is a part of the invention of George Neider, formerly of Cornucopia and Baker. The boat, constructed like a large doughnut with an oblong hole in the middle, will be used to support derricks and other necessary equipment. A crew of 16 men has constructed the boat and in the next three weeks plans to make a diving bell, which will be set down on the river bed. The water will be pumped from the bell and when the bed is free of water workmen with electric lights to aid them and a signal system, will work the sands like any river placer miner. The sluice boxes are also a part of the diving equipment. The bell when completed, Neider said, would weigh 24 tons.

The boat, launched and christened early Sunday afternoon, April 10, is approximately 80 by 40 feet in size.

George Neider was in charge of the ceremonies held Sunday. He introduced several other members of the company, Philip Roney of New Plymouth, Leo D. Adamson and Jack Parsons of Boise and L. W. Aldred of Salt Lake City.

Following a talk by Mr. Neider, explaining his invention, Mrs. Neider, formerly Delphia Anderson of Cornucopia, granddaughter of Brigham Young, christened the flat boat “Eureka.”
Gravel From Bed of River Will Be Dug Through a Diving Bell. Large Boat, Launched Sunday.

The Submarine Mining Co., has a boat planned to wash gold off riverbed. Submarine Mining Co. has a boat launched on Snake River.

The boat is the invention of a former Baker man, and the launching of the boat was the big thing of the day. A crowd of between 200 and 300 people gathered to see the launching. Langdon Rand, Baker photographer, was present and secured a number of interesting pictures of the launching.

The launching of the hull was accomplished successfully. It was started down the ways side-wise, but stuck for a time, when 175 men directed by Walter Cundiff of Richland, succeeded in giving it a push that sent it into the water. It was christened "Eureka" by Mrs. Nieder, wife of the inventor.

The hull of the boat is 40x80 feet with a large well in the center over which a crane is to be erected for lowering and raising the bell. The bell will be dropped to the bottom of the river and clean the bedrock in the stream. The bell will be capable of holding about 24 tons when complete. The entire plant is the invention of George Nieder, a well-known mechanic and machinist, a resident of Boise, Idaho for the past several years.

At the program during the launching Mr. Nieder introduced other members of the company, Leo D. Adamson and Jack Parsons of Boise; Philip, W. Alfred, and L. W. Aldred of Salt Lake City, and the other members of the Newcastle group. At the time of the launching Mr. Nieder was giving a short talk explaining the manner of operating the boat. It is planned to work 12 miles of the river bed from the Sturgill bar toward Robinette. A lunch was served during the day to the people gathered to witness the launching.
The Motorloggers Visit an Oregon Mining Area

This newspaper is cooperating with The Oregonian and the Oregon State Motor association in promoting a series of motoring trips, designed to stimulate travel in Oregon and the Pacific northwest. This article is condensed from a hills article appearing in The Oregonian June 19.

By Gerry Weaver

Staff Writer, The Oregonian

For three miles south of the mouth of Powder river in the northwestern advertising company, and a guest of the Oregon State Motor association this trip.

We—the Keyes and I—reconstructed along the Snake river two or three miles south of the mouth of Powder river, and had borrowed a gold pan. It was my companion's first session with the metal disc and "likely" sand.

"Old-timers call it Carpenter's bar. That's where we found the mining belt. Across the river on the Idaho side signs of old hydraulic workings identified Shur- gill bar.

It's 333 miles from Portland to Baker. My traveling companion and I were ready to concede they tell very nearly the truth, but we pulled up at the Baker hotel and signed on the dotted line for a couple of beds to stretch out on later in the afternoon.

It was neither bright nor early next morning, which was a Sunday, when, immediately after breakfast, Keyes and I headed our travel car eastward in the general direction of Idaho. We decided it was the altitude that made us want to sleep in on a Sunday morning in Baker. It's 3435 feet above sea level there.

A good gravel road took us to a point due east of Baker on the Oregon-Idaho boundary—where the boisterous Powder river empties into the racing asphalt Snake.

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It was my companion's first session with the metal disc and "likely" sand. He panned. He panned some more. Then he continued to pan. It was with considerable reluctance that the borrowed gold pan left the new prospector's hands. Without doubt, there were to be had thousands, nay millions, in the next panful. You betcha! Gold, gold...

I picked up Jack Keyes at a downtown Portland hotel at what, to me, was the unseasonably early hour of 8 A. M. and pointed the nose of the motor association's white Travel Development sedan toward the east.

Road maps will tell you that it's 333 miles from Portland to Baker. My traveling companion and I were ready to concede they tell very nearly the truth, but we pulled up at the Baker hotel and signed on the dotted line for a couple of beds to stretch out on later in the afternoon.

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An accompanying photograph shows what we beheld first up to the near shore. The barge, scow, float, poncho, beehouse—well, it was the project of the Sub­marine Gold Mining company, George Neider, inventor. There was only a watchman to show us around and hint at its mysteries. Machinery was slow in arriving, he said, holding up the work on the project, but all and all should be in operation within a month.

The Submarine company has a lease, we were informed, on the 12 miles of Snake river from Carpenter's bar southward, and the government has called that iden­

The concentration is worth about $500.

Carpenter's "hill's" known through flotation processes or a concentration plant, is 11 known veins have been worked to date.

The mine is doing $100,000 monthly gross business, employs 200 human males and the monthly payroll is $20,000. Every ton of the earth and rock brought out by the little mine cars has an average value of $15 or $20.

After this ore has passed through a flotation process—you'll have to consult your expert on flotation processes for an explanation—keyes is removed from the wheat, so to speak, and a ton of the resulting concentrate is worth about $500.

The concentrate is hauled away to a Tacoma smelter, which further reduces it to the yellow stuff Keyes and I were looking for along the Snake river.

By G. Weaver

The Oregonian

Edited above sea level there.

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Experiment With $30,000 Diving Bell
Dredge to Get Snake River Gold

For years it has been a dream of many to be able to recover fine gold from the Snake river. Men who have tried it will tell you it floats right out on the water. Those who have recovered some will say they have had to be content with so small a head that washing great yardage was impossible.

For years, however, it has also been known that the 12 miles above Sturgill bar is one of the richest riverbed deposits in the west—a natural sluice box—if man could only turn off that head of water to clean it up! But Old Man River just keeps flowing.

River Bottom Hold Gold
He came nearest to stopping a few summers ago, receding far back in his bed. Then prospectors went clear out on the bottom, dug through the overburden of rock and gravel and got down to bedrock. The coarse gold they found was evidence that crevices hold the treasure. Combining crevices with fingers, forks, brooms, and devices which hand, is profitable business, the record of a few miners at Robinette and up river reveals. Gold is where you find it.

Diving for gold! That was the idea that prompted R. George Neider to invent and patent certain mechanical devices which would make a diving bell useful to the gold miner. Neider knewsubmarines during the World war and worked and experimented with open-bottomed bells in construction work. The bell idea is an old one. By raising the air pressure within the bell you can keep the water out. Problem No. 1 in all dredging is handling the yardage at a cost that will warrant mining. The Submarine Mining company claims its method of reducing overburden will increase its pay-dirt capacity and make for profitable operation.

Problem No. 2 is to make the bell conform to a very irregular bedrock and boulder-strewn bottom. The inventor says his device will solve this problem and will be mobile enough to evade the impossible places.

Problem No. 3 is to recover the fine gold along with the crevice and coarse gold. The company claims that by proper introduction of water into the sides and by spray from the top of the sluice it can settle the finest yellow metal and that by shipping a concentrate of $1860 to the ton it will let the smelter do the rest.

This enterprise is a stock company with R. George Neider president, Leo Ahnstrom, secretary-treasurer, and T. S. W. Allied sales manager, all of Idaho. If the experiment proves successful it will run on a three shift basis with eight men to the shift.

Diving for gold! If this is possible there will be more dredges or submarines on Snake river, for it is claimed it will take six similar boats 30 years to work the 12-mile channel where gold is known to lie—in the “natural sluice box.”
To Dive for Gold in "Sluice Box"
Still Installing

Robinette — After a delay of perhaps three months the big diesel engine that will operate the submarine dredge several miles above town has arrived and was unloaded Saturday. The engine not only will be used to maintain the air pressure necessary to operate the diving bell on the boat, in which placer mining on the Snake river bottom will be done, but will also raise and lower the heavy steel device when necessary. The promoters of the venture now report it will be in operation in the near future.
MINING COMPANY SEEKING PERMIT ON SNAKE RIVER

SALEM, Oct. 17 (Special)—Officials of the Submarine Gold Mining company, with headquarters in Idaho, appeared before the state land board here Monday and requested a contract permitting it to operate a submarine bell on the Oregon side of Snake river.

The land board was advised that the company already had received a contract to operate on the Idaho side of the stream.

The request was taken under advisement pending approval of a contract by the attorney-general.