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PORTLAND, ORE.

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LOS ANGELES

BAKER, ORE., NEWS

APR 7 - 1933

Testing for Gold Dredging Operation

Charise H. Timms and son, Carl, have started the work of testing gravel along the middle Fork of John Day river for gold dredging. The ground being tested is on the DeWitt ranch, between Bates and Susanville in Grant county. It is expected the work will require about a month.

The Timms Gold Dredging Company, of which Mr. Timms is president and manager, recently completed a five years' successful operation on the same stream, near Galena. The present testing is being done with a view of moving the equipment to the new location should it prove to be pay gravel.

Sunday Hill Mine Will Be Operated on Greater Scale

RYE VALLEY, June 27—(Special)—Operators of the Sunday Hill mine are employing a small crew of men. They expect to operate the mine on a larger scale in a few weeks.

LOS ANGELES

BAKER, ORE.,
DEMOCRAT-HERALD

MINING REGIONS SHOW ACTIVITY

Granite, Greenhorn Districts (Hummingbird)

Mines in the Granite and Greenhorn districts show greater activity this fall than they have in many years, according to John Elliot Allen of Baker, field geologist for the state department of geology and mineral industries, who has returned home from a trip to those districts.

The Consuelo-Oregon dredge which has been in operation since April 16, is now two miles north Sumpter, just below Pole creek.

The crew at the Argonaut mine completing the new road to the property. The 600-foot crosscut the vein has reached the half-way point. The new buildings on the property are practically finished.

John Arthur has had a crew working at Bourne since September 2. According to local reports, he plans to work five or six men this winter.

Ed Forshear has driven a new crosscut on the Central mine (or Shipman claims) four miles north of Granite, a distance of 85 feet and plans to continue it on to the vein this winter.

John Leuck, developing the Standard mine east of Crane flat, has exposed a wide vein in a 200-foot shaft. He will work at Belleview this winter.

R. B. McGinnis plans to reopen the workings in the La Belleview this winter and ship some ore next spring. Harry Cassidy, John Leuck and Mr. Cree are on the property.

Byron Brown and associates, working at the Tillicum mine four miles north of Granite, also plan to develop ore at the Camp Martin property to the north.

Ore shipments from the Buffalo mine are continuing. The development of ore from the Constitution vein is progressing rapidly.

In the Alamo and Greenhorn districts activity is also under way. William Rakestraw of Pendleton and Fred Smith are building a small stamp mill on the Blue Bird property just west of the Red Boy mine.

Matt Thompson of Halfway and associates have been doing development work on the Mammoth group of claims, just south of the Harrison mine.

At the Ben Harrison, William Kliesner and Harry Dutton have been clearing the ground, preparatory to building camp and reopening the mine next spring. Five or six men will probably work there this winter under the direction of C. T. Cousins.

The Harrison group, including Windsor, Psyche and Big John claims, is undergoing active development under the direction of Donald Kempfer and W. C. Fellows. Several tons of high-grade from Windsor is to be shipped soon.

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PIONEER MINER GIVES CRITICS LAUGH IN GRANT

Isaac Cuker ^{7/13} Finds Gold
in Grant County 40
Years Ago

By JOHN W. ELLSWORTH

Nearly 40 years ago a ranch hand named Isaac Cuker labored near Canyon City, Grant county, Oregon. He was good-natured and industrious. When he was not working otherwise he put in long hours prospecting over the old gold diggings of pioneer days around Canyon City, where Joaquin Miller, poet of the Sierras, and thousands of gold miners had circulated many years before.

Jokers poked fun at prowling Ike, calling him a "feather-head," and asking him when he would found a bank and so on. Always in good humor, Ike would grin and retort: "I'll show you that I'm not crazy."

Got Rich Quick

Finally, after talking about making a trip back east, Ike disappeared. After an absence of three weeks, he returned to Canyon City. He was dressed like a dude, wore a \$200 diamond shirt stud and displayed a bank deposit of \$100,000. To his former tormenters he chortled, "Do you think I'm crazy now?"

He had located and sold for cash a share of the Great Northern gold mine.

Financing a Great City

Up to the year 1900, a half billion dollars' worth of metal treasure, by the tax records of Idaho, is known to have been mined out of the limited area in northern Idaho.

That money mostly was used in upbuilding Spokane and other northwestern cities.

Throughout all of the original old Oregon country are billions of dollars' worth of still untouched gold, silver, copper and many other valuable minerals, awaiting the hands of capital and labor to benefit our people and myriads yet unborn. Very few people bear this in mind. The attention of the majority is turned to other great northwestern resources in forested mountains, fruit-bearing and wellers rivers, lakes,

miles in width. Less than 40 years ago, before the town was almost wiped out by fire, the town had a population of several thousand. The little mountain city had excellent electric light and power systems, gravity water system, daily railway passenger and mail trains, a 300-ton smelter, two banks, three newspapers, six hotels, one being a \$100,000 brick structure, a dozen or so saloons and dance halls, graded public schools, numerous merchandise stores, leading fraternal lodges, churches, hospital and a sawmill and planing mill.

prospect hole in the ground, the claim was owned by a worthy, sturdy miner, Geiser. One day a wise chap approached Mr. Geiser and dickered with him to purchase the prospect for a fine team of horses.

Mr. Geiser refused to sell, rejecting the tempting offer, saying: "I think there is something in it, and I'll stick to the job until I find out."

So, Geiser and his three sons did "stick to it" until they struck plenty of gold ore running up to \$20 a ton, and in one blasting of a half-dozen or so "shots," they brought down \$65,000 out of a pocket.

Later, capitalists purchased the

in plains and valleys, rivers, lakes, superb natural scenery and ocean commerce.

To most folk, the fascinating romance, the profitable reality of mining for gold and silver, copper and other metals in this last west is an untold, beautiful story. The chase for passing pleasures obscures nature's hidden, glittering treasures.

Eldorado Pioneer Gold Mining

Thirty miles south of Baker city, on the mountain slopes are miles of gigantic seams and gashes in gulches and gullies, as if the work of the gods. These excavations of 70 years ago bear vivid witness to the toil of thousands of miners, who took from the rich breast of Dame Earth, from surface diggings millions in yellow nuggets and gold dust.

The first gold was washed out in that district before 1870, and in 50 years from the Eldorado district came fifty millions in gold. The now vanished town of Eldorado once had four hotels, six merchandise stores, five saloons and numerous other lively business establishments. It was headquarters for thousands of placer miners. Every man's slogan was:

"In the battle of life,
In the struggle for self,
Let this be your motto:
Rely on yourself."

By crude placer mining alone in districts in fields now easily reached from Baker city doubtless more than two hundred millions in gold have been taken out.

Leading pioneer districts were Auburn, once county seat of Baker county, Eldorado, Mormon Basin, Pochahontas and the later ones around the mountain city of Sumpter.

Succeeding the placer dirt and gravel diggings are our quartz mining, by shafts and tunnels. Yet well lingers on the memories of the work of the prospector, the old pan, pick and shovel, the sluice boxes, the roaring water giants.

Only 17 miles westward from Baker as the airplane or crow flies, is the town of Sumpter, 4429 feet above sea level, reached by highway and 32 miles of the Sumpter Valley railway. It is known that the gold and mineral zone, tributary to Baker and Sumpter, is roughly estimated at least 140 miles in length by some 40

Resources Only Scratched

From Baker's quartz mines, such as the Bonanza, Red Boy, Columbia, North Pole, Golconda, Eureka and Excelsior, there came regularly monthly cleanups, in gold bricks to the banks in Baker, varying from each one in value around \$50,000 to \$100,000 or more.

From those producers has come millions and none are actually fully developed. Not one property in those sections has reached 1000 feet in depth. The field has literally been only "scratched." With more capital wisely invested the best is yet to come.

The famous Virtue mine, seven miles east of Baker, has a romantic pioneer history. In yielding veins, a blast once brought down in a space of a few feet more than \$50,000 in gold.

Up to now, the principal producer at Cornucopia in the Eagle mountains has produced nearly fifteen millions in gold. Four hundred miners are working in that district, mostly in the main old mine, which has made tunnels of 32 miles into the mountains.

A Real Bonanza

When the Bonanza, out from Sumpter, and only 25 miles in a direct line west of Baker, was a little

Later capitalists purchased the Geisers' real Bonanza. Five hundred thousand dollars was paid for that property.

Copper Exposed to View

For 50 miles along the mile-deep canyon of Snake river, in Baker county, Oregon, and Washington county, Idaho, are countless millions in copper, gold and silver. In past years, copper ores, carrying some gold and silver, when shipped from Idaho's Seven Devils mountains, across from the Baker county line in Oregon, to smelting plants in Salt Lake City and Tacoma, have returned net profits of \$30 per ton.

On each side of the mighty canyon of the Snake river, outcroppings of copper ore, with the brilliant rainbow colors of the peacock's feathers, are very common. Eighty-five per cent, or nearly pure copper was taken from croppings 1000 feet above Snake river on the Oregon side, in Baker county. That peacock beautiful ore was exhibited in the Oregon mineral display in the world exposition at Buffalo, N. Y..

In the Iron Dyke mine, on the Oregon side of Snake river, were ~~valuable~~ underground quarries of copper, gold and some silves. In one of the Iron Dyke's mountain-driven tunnels, a ledge of 80 feet averaged

in copper, gold and silver, a value of above \$25 per con.

It is certain that the Mother Lode mine, 20 miles east of Baker, and other copper-gold properties are on vast ledges extending 80 miles westward from the Snake river canyon.

Gold Dredge Boats Used

One of eastern Oregon's first profitable gold dredges was on the John Day river, near the town of John Day. Its cost was \$125,000, and it was busy day and night, profitably for a long period. The present dredges near Sumpter are making good profits.

Tenderfeet Made a Cleanup

Several years ago, two men—"tenderfeet"—without a day's experience in placer or any other sort of mining work, obtained a small cast-out, old "giant," pipe and hose outfit in Baker and took the outfit to lower Burnt river canyon, near Huntington. In just two jolly vacation weeks the pair of tenderfeet returned to Baker with their cleanup. Four thousand and fifty dollars' worth of gold nuggets and gold dust was deposited by those amateurs in the First National bank of Baker. It was a pretty "hat-full."

In that same pioneer bank, I glimpsed a white and yellow-spotted boulder, about the size of a regulation football, on the floor, just outside of the bank's counters. One of the interested bystanders remarked to the nearby owner of that little quartz chunk: "I'll give you in cash \$1000 for that rock."

"No, thank you," answered the owner, "I'm not giving away \$5000 worth of gold."