

# 'Bucket,' pals cling to miner's golden dream



SAILORS GULCH (AP) — Somewhere nearby, believes Rusty Bucket Linebaugh, is a lost gold mine, a relic of the gold-mining heyday of southwestern Oregon.

"That's why I had to go feelin' around these hills," says Linebaugh, whose real name is Art. "And it's going to pay off. It's going to make me and Ed and the old lady the richest people in the world."

Rusty Bucket and his friend Ed Coffman mine Sailor's Gulch west of Jacksonville, near Medford.

They live together in a shack with neither running water nor electricity. Coffman's 95-year-old, wheelchair-bound wife lives with them. They live on Social Security and some money from the state workers' compensation fund.

Because he can't read or write, Linebaugh says it's hard to figure how long he's been in the area.

"I'm past 30. I know that," he says.

When Linebaugh isn't working his own mine, he takes a hammer and chisel and helps Coffman chip rock from another hillside mine. The two men have worked four years sinking the shaft about 20 feet into the mountain.

They haven't found any gold yet.

Each morning, Coffman walks six miles to the Jubilee Cafe in Jacksonville. The cafe operators give him a free breakfast and any leftovers to take back to his wife and partner Ed.

"Yeah, I'm an old miner all right," Coffman says with a nearly toothless grin. In his younger days, he says, he mined the shafts beneath the streets of Jacksonville.

This is the 351st hole Linebaugh has dug. When he strikes it rich, he says, he will buy the whole mountain and build a log house with a dance floor downstairs.

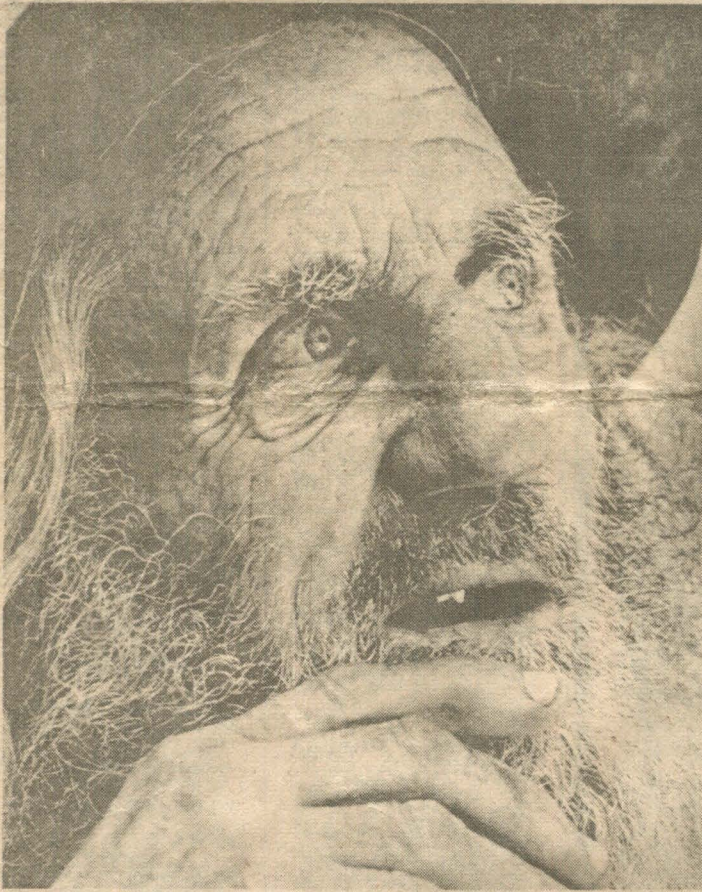
"It won't be long before I start the darn house," he says. "I ain't going downhill. I'm going uphill all the way."

NEVER GIVES UP — Hard-rock miner Ed Coffman still searches for gold west of Jacksonville, and is certain that one day he will hit it big.

ALWAYS LOOKING — Coffman stares at rock formation with intensity of a cat eyeing a mouse. And he just might have spotted a fleck of gold in the Sailor's Gulch mine.

Photos and story  
by The Associated Press

TAKING FIVE — Miner Linebaugh takes a moment out of a work day to dream of rocks filled with gold.





*For Norm  
First Issue copy -  
Best wishes  
Doree & Wendt*

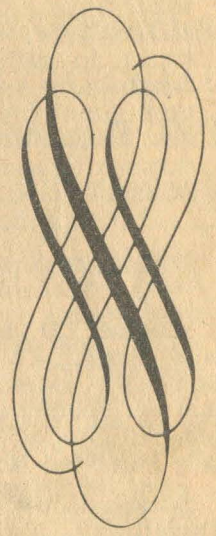
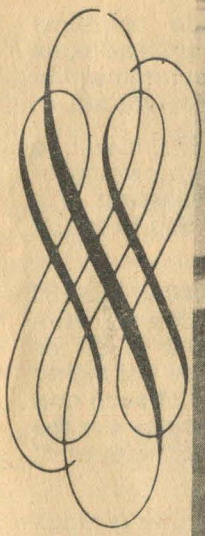
# Jacksonville Nugget

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Early Jacksonville Oregon Scene - California and 3rd Streets.

## Cleanup Drive Underway By City To Sweep Nuggets And Gold Dust From Streets

Clean streets have been guaranteed for Jacksonville for the coming year, according to the latest from City Hall. All gold nuggets and fine dust will be swept clean from the main thoroughfares. Carelessness of miners coming to town and the refusal of residents of Jacksonville to keep their dogs from digging in the streets were given as the two chief causes of so much gold being strewn about the city streets, according to Mayor Wendt.

"If the dogs of this town would do their digging down on the flats or in back yards, instead of in the city streets," stated Mayor Wendt, "there wouldn't be all this gold lying around for people to stumble over. Yesterday, Chief Carter reported that Effie Mc Beth's Cooker Spaniel got out of her yard and started to bury a bone in Katherine Harrell's new garden, and rolled a hunk of gold down the hill as big as your hat. Andy Owings came driving along and nearly busted a wheel on it. Such business has to stop, or people will be afraid to come here to shop.

"These miners around here are Goshawful careless, too," commented councilman Ron McIntyre. "One of them came in from Sterling Creek last week with a flour sack half full of gold dust. He dragged the stuff down the sidewalk, instead of stopping his mule in front of Lucky Lucy's place, he scattered gold dust for two blocks because of that hole."

"It has to be stopped, if we have to pass an ordinance against it," remarked Robert Cosler, another councilman.

"Saturday morning Mrs. Cosler was dusting the house and wiped up eight ounces of gold dust off the piano that blew into the house during the wind storm Friday, and when I took a bath that night there was a quarter inch of the stuff in the bathtub. Some of it got down the drain and I had to call a plumber to unclog the mess."

Possibility that the cleanup campaign would not only apply to the streets, but to some of the miners as well, was voiced by Councilman Graham.

"If these miners don't wash the gold dust out of their whiskers before coming to town, it's going to raise the price of shaves in this town," Graham said. "A couple of miners came down out of the head of Poor Man's Creek last week and got shaved, but Carl, our local barber got bent all out of shape when he ruined two brand new razors when he whacked into nuggets imbedded in one guy's beard. Something should be done about that, too."

So the streets hopefully are expected to be cleaned of hazardous gold nuggets by Saturday morning, thanks to the decisive action taken by the City Council. Visitors and residents will be able to stroll about in the city again without fear of tripping over a gold nugget.

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Bank Official Denies Gold Strike.

U.S. Bank official Que Jameson dispelled the rumor heard around town concerning the removal of the sidewalk in front of the bank.

The new gold strike rumor was started when Superintendent of Construction, Bill Burk was seen picking up some object from the fresh soil and placing it in his pocket.

"Its not true," quipped Que, "the bank does not need the gold. We have enough money in our deposits to last the rest of this year.

He declined to comment when asked if the bank tellers would be excused for a short period of time to pan for gold.

However, the new gold strike will be short lived. A new concrete sidewalk was installed covering up all evidence.

When asked, why concrete, Mr. Burk replied, "Safety sir, pedestrian traffic safety."

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