

Rocky Gulch On February 19

By **JERRY ACKLEN**
Courier Historical Editor
In 1901

Miss Fannie R. Hale, sister of J.P. Hale, of our city is contemplating opening up an art studio. Miss Hale, who has lately arrived here from Iowa, is an artist of ability and culture, whom Grants Pass is pleased to welcome.

In 1911

J.C. Mattison, manager of the Oriole mine at Galice, is spending several days in Grants Pass and told a representative of the Courier that after driving a tunnel in 913 feet a rich ledge was struck in that mine at the 600-foot level. The ore at the 40-foot level nets \$210 per ton, while that at the 600-foot level is better than any yet struck in the mine. A force of 12 men is working double shift on the new tunnel. The Oriole mine is well known as one of the best in Southern Oregon.

Tests Could Reopen Mine

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — The Oregon Transportation Commission approved today a request from Texasgulf Western, Inc., of Golden, Colo., to do exploratory drilling near the Alameda Mine in Josephine County.

The area is in the Rogue River Scenic Waterway. Approval is subject to requirements of the State Department of Environmental Quality, state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, the U. S. Bureau of Land Management, and Josephine County.

Test holes will be drilled to explore for mineral deposits which could lead to reopening of the Alameda Mine.

The exploration is expected to take from four to six months.

The holes will be from 250 to

1,000 feet deep.

Drilling sites will be constructed on a removable pad.

After drilling is completed, the pads will be disassembled and removed. The holes will be plugged and drill sites will be smoothed over.

Homestake Mining Co. also received approval from the commission to conduct test drilling, but the company has withdrawn its proposal.

Additional approval will be needed before actual mining could begin.

The commission also approved a request from Wallowa County to conduct a study to determine the best route for relocating one-mile of the Upper Imnaha River Road through Freeze-out Gorge.

The study would cost about \$26,000.

1-3-87 *Courier*

Almeda Mine no go for now

Associated Press

A geologist for Kennecott Explorations says there's not enough gold in the old Almeda Mine to justify commercial production by his company.

Results of test drilling last September at the mine on the Rogue River 20 miles northwest of Grants Pass showed an average of .05 ounces to .07 ounces of gold per ton, Steve Craig said this week.

"That's not quite good enough for an underground mine," he said. "We no longer feel there is a major deposit for us at Almeda."

Craig said gold showed up in nearly every core sample and smaller companies are likely to be interested in exploiting the mine.

Kennecott, a subsidiary of Standard Oil Co., has contacted some Canadian companies about the possibility of mining the ore, which includes deposits of copper, zinc and silver, Craig said.

Almeda Tests Sought

By PAUL FATTIG
Of the Courier Staff

GALICE — Mining speculators have asked the Bureau of Land Management for permission to punch four test holes near the Almeda Mine in search of precious minerals overlooked by early-day prospectors.

The plan, submitted by Blue Diamond Energy Resources Inc. and Comanche Petroleum Inc., of Vancouver, B.C., calls for diamond core drilling to dig holes 500 to 600 feet deep.

Industry representatives, BLM officials and John Lilly, director of the State Scenic Waterways Division, toured the site Wednesday. The mine is within the scenic corridor of the Rogue River which is administered by the state and federal agencies.

However, Mike Young, recreation planner for the BLM's Medford District, cautions that only the planned exploratory work is now being considered.

"Opening the mine is still real 'iffy,' and a long way down the road," Young said, adding that an environmental analysis on the plan is expected to be completed by the BLM staff within 30 days.

The mine, four miles west of Galice on the north bank of the Rogue River, produced large quantities of gold, silver and copper after it opened shortly after the turn of the century.

However, despite periodic but short-lived interest expressed by firms to reopen the mine, the mine has been idle for more than 50 years.

But Albert Moss, director of Blue Diamond, told the Courier that a recently completed geophysical survey showed that the site may contain richer minerals than were found during the original operation. The firms have leased the mine and located 24 claims in the area.

A 1979 report by Len Ramp

and Norm Peterson, geologists at the local Department of Geology and Mineral Industries office, revealed the mine still contains a substantial copper lode as indicated by massive sulfide deposits.

Moreover, the mineralized zone at the mine "is as much as several hundred feet wide and can be traced both north and south for a considerable distance," the geologists report.

The firms also point to a 1967 report by that office also indicates an average of nearly three-fourths of an ounce of gold in each ton of ore in the mining site.

Geoff Garcia, local geologist for the firm, says the firm is looking for gold, silver and copper as well as barite used in oil drilling processes.

However, Garcia says test holes are required to determine whether the venture is worthwhile.

Said Garcia, "We'll only know that after we drill — we're waiting for the permit."

Environmental concerns could block the plans, Young said.

"We will have to examine the sites to see if there is any resource impact to threatened

and endangered species, or to any of the cultural resources," Young said. "The only way we could turn it down would be if a threatened or endangered species is involved."

Following a botanical survey, the BLM will compile its environmental analysis. "We should have that completed within 30 days," he said. The decision will ultimately be up to district manager Hugh Shera, Young said.

Moss said the project will not damage the "face" of the land or open the mine so that rain could wash the tailings into the river. The BLM has expressed concern over whether the site could be mined without polluting the river or further scarring the ridge in the scenic corridor.

The two firms each control a 45 percent interest in the mine while shareholders own the remaining 10 percent. Local miner Wes Pieren owns the original claim.

note ↓

Almeda Mine Drillers Find Teasing Taste

By PAUL FATTIG
Of the Courier Staff

GALICE — Two Canadian companies looking for precious metals overlooked early-day prospectors working the historic Almeda mine aren't disappointed that assays from exploratory drilling show only low percentages of gold.

Rather, the results have only increased the interest of Blue Diamond Energy Resources Inc. and Comanche Petroleum Inc., two international mining firms based in Vancouver.

The assays showed very low per-

centages in gold and silver," acknowledged Ben Shelter, president of both firms. "But the interesting part is that there is a continuity of mineralization."

Drillers punched two holes this spring, one nearly 800 feet deep, the other more than 900 feet.

"When they got through the major part of the holes, it showed a continual regular assay of .003 percent of gold," he said. "This indicates we could have just missed it.

"Of course, this assay isn't commercially viable for ore production," he added. "On the other hand, we never

expected to find a mine in the small amounts of diamond drilling that we did."

Shelter told the Courier that the firm plans to resume test drilling this summer.

"We are reasonably optimistic," he said. "Of course, the work we've done and the assay does not make a mine. But any company is very lucky the first time to hit it (paydirt)."

Thus far, the firms have spent some \$150,000 looking for paydirt in the venture. However, Shelter says some firms drill as many as 200 holes before finding the mother lode.

The firms have leased the old mine site and tagged 10 claims adjacent to historic mine located on the north bank of the Rogue River about four miles west of Galice.

The last reported production of the mine indicated it was producing 2.1 ounces of gold per ton, .95 of an ounce of silver and .13 percent copper in the mineral removed, according to the firm's statistics.

The firm is also looking for barite — a material used in the oil drilling process.

The Almeda mine operated intermittently between 1905 and 1916. It was

years, several mining firms have expressed interest in the site but none have actively mined it.

Although an exact accounting of precious metal extracted from the site is not available, record kept by the state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries office in Grants Pass indicate miners did well shortly after the turn of the century.

Between 1911 and 1916, miners dug up 1,540 troy ounces of gold, 48,387 troy ounces of silver and 259,800 pounds of copper, according to the report.

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and Teasing Taste of Gold

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posit indicates there is a substantial copper lode with a mineralized zone several hundred feet wide stretching north and south in the hillside.

The two Canadian firms believe the ore is there.

"Our engineering staff believes we could be on the fringe of an ore body," Shelter said.

However, he said the engineers are in Europe and will not return for two weeks. When they arrive, plans for additional drilling will be made, he said.

Said Shelter, "With the small amount of work that we've done, we're not disappointed. We believe there is an ore body — we just have to find it."

On November 14

By **JERRY ACKLEN**
Courier Historical Editor
In 1900

The present foggy weather, while unpleasant in some ways, is a great convenience to the farmers as it is keeping the ground in just about the proper condition of moisture for plowing. A visitor to Williams creek last week reports of that locality as improving to the utmost the present favorable plowing season. The valley of Williams creek and the Applegate contains some of the finest and most productive land in Southern Oregon, which means that it is surpassed in very few places on the globe.

In 1910

The Almeda Consolidated Mines and the forest service have come to an amicable understanding as to a bond required for conducting a smelter near Galice. The bond is for \$10,000 to pay whatever damage may result from fumes given out by the smelter. The company also agrees to pay \$10 an acre for all reproduction and young growth destroyed.

In 1920

E.J. Carillo, general

ogy from the University of California at Berkeley, believes precious metals remain untouched.

"I believe one of the reasons why it stopped was the inefficient recovery method," he observed.

The old mine had a matte smelter which had no primary separation of the metal bearing mineral before it was smelted, he explained.

"They just hand-picked out what they thought was high grade and threw it into the smelter," he said. The remains of the smelter sits rusting by the river's edge.

However, the firms have no plans for installing a smelter at the site, Garcia said.

The firms would also be interested in mining barite — a material used in oil drilling process. "We don't if there is enough of that," he added.

Although the mining technique will be modernized, mining shafts reminiscent of the early days will probably be sunk into the side of the mountain if the mine goes into operation, Garcia said.

"The mineral is probably highly decimated — it would

work, probably underground," he said.

"If the drilling is successful and we find something, it would be a few years before any solid mining plan would be developed," he added. "And that would be susceptible to bureaucratic review."

The Bureau of Land Management was required before the preliminary drilling could be started, because the mine overlooks the scenic corridor of the river which is administered by the federal and state agencies.

Meanwhile, Shelter agrees with Garcia that the mine would be a shot in the arm for the county's depressed economy if paydirt is struck. Local residents would be employed, they say.

Canadian Drillers Taking a Look Underneath Historic Almeda Mine

Courier 3-12-82

By PAUL FATTIG
Of the Courier Staff

GALICE — The historic Almeda mine has been little more than a silent skeleton of by-gone days for four decades.

Rusted rails jut out of the gravel bar like ribs. Rotting railroad ties are returning to the soil. Decaying metal parts lay like dead behemoths on the river's edge.

From across the Rogue River, a portal to a mining shaft resembles a black cavity in the white scar of the old mine.

The sourdoughs who worked the mine and smelter are gone now, of course, but modern-day prospectors have returned.

Two Canadian firms — Blue Diamond Energy Resources Inc. and Comache Petroleum Inc. — are gambling that early-day prospectors have overlooked some of the precious metals.

And a chugging test-drilling rig, powered by a Volkswagen engine, can now be heard in the vicinity of the old mine. The diamond drill is capable of punching a hole 1,000 feet deep.

The two Vancouver, B.C. based firms have leased the old mine site and tagged 10 claims in the area. The mine is located four miles west of Galice on the north bank of the river.

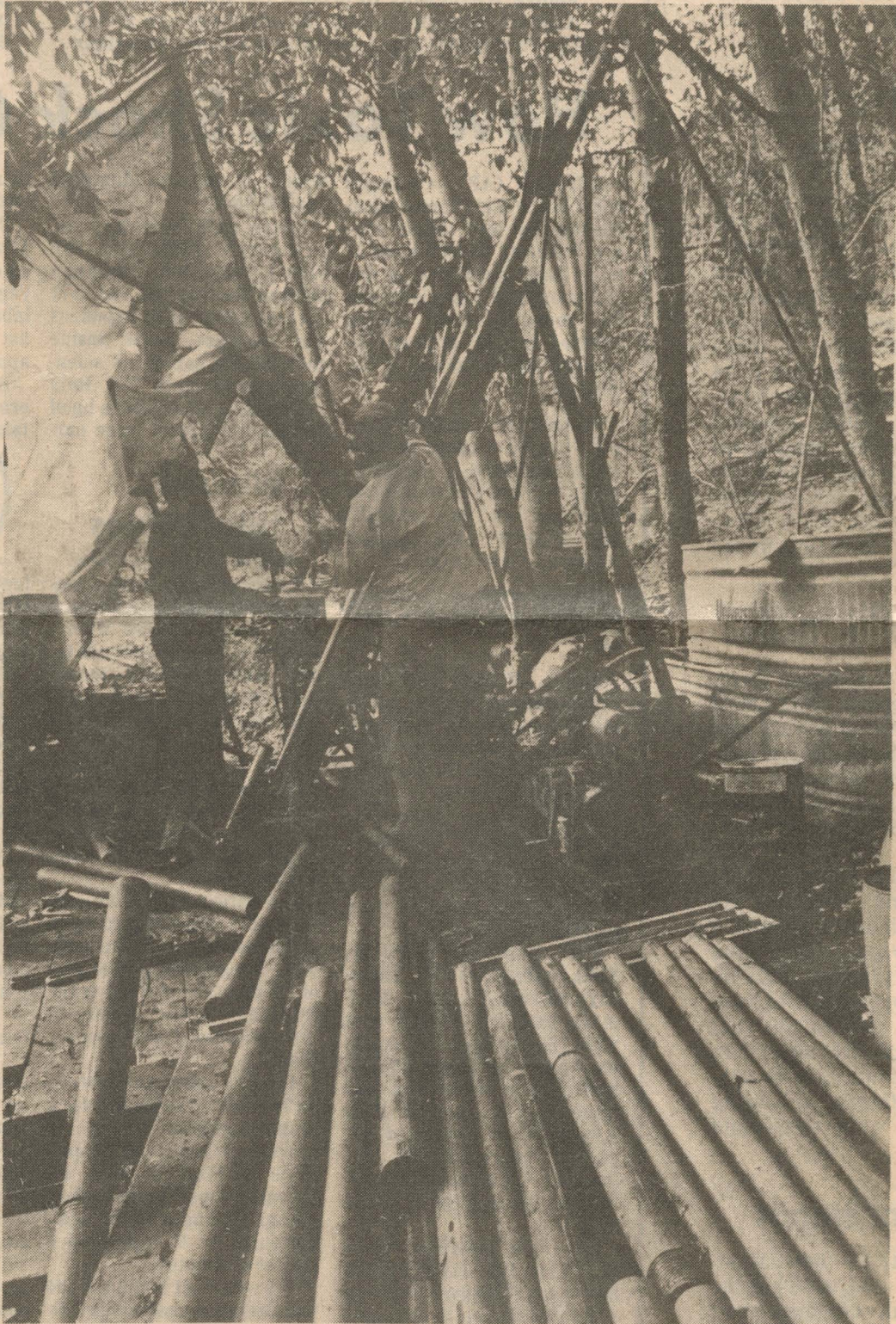
Geoff Garcia of Galice, resident geologist for the mining venture, says they are looking for a massive sulfide deposit that contains gold, silver and copper.

"In the earlier working, they were averaging half an ounce to an ounce per ton — which is extremely high amount in today's mining," Garcia said.

While Ben Shelter, president of both firms, cautions that the core samples from the first hole have not yet been assayed, results from an earlier electro-magnetic geophysically survey showed promise.

"Our engineers and geologists will have a visual look at the core — they can usually tell through an experienced eye if we are in mineralization," Shelter said. "The first hole is showing mineralization."

Four test holes have been scheduled. Each will descend 500-600 feet into the earth



Modern-day speculators punch holes near the site of the historic Almeda

mine in search of precious ore Thursday. — Courier photo by Paul Fattig

"We are very optimistic, very hopeful," Shelter said.

According to the firm, the last reported production of the mine indicated it was producing 2.1 ounces of gold per ton, .95 of an ounce of silver and .13 percent copper in the mineral removed.

If the preliminary test holes strike paydirt, more test drilling will occur, he said. The

price tag for the preliminary drilling is about \$150,000.

A 1979 report by the state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries showed there was a substantial copper lode as indicated by massive sulfide deposits. That mineralized zone "is as much as several hundred feet wide" and runs north and south, the report concludes.

The mine operated intermittently until 1942 after opening around 1905. While several mining firms have expressed interest in the site over the years, none have actively mined it.

A geologist working in the Galice area since 1974, Garcia, who has a degree in geol-

(Continued on Page 2A)

10-26-76

Tests Could Reopen Mine

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — The Oregon Transportation Commission approved today a request from Texasgulf Western, Inc., of Golden, Colo., to do exploratory drilling near the Alameda Mine in Josephine County.

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Test holes will be drilled to explore for mineral deposits which could lead to reopening of the Alameda Mine.

The exploration is expected to take from four to six months.

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Drilling sites will be constructed on a removable pad.

After drilling is completed, the pads will be disassembled and removed. The holes will be plugged and drill sites will be smoothed over.

Homestake Mining Co. also received approval from the commission to conduct test drilling, but the company has withdrawn its proposal.

Additional approval will be needed before actual mining could begin.

The commission also approved a request from Wallowa County to conduct a study to determine the best route for relocating one-mile of the Upper Imnaha River Road through Freeze-out Gorge.

The study would cost about \$26,000.

On June 16

In 1909

The last of the machinery for the Almeda smelter has been taken to Galice, and as they have a large force of carpenters and machinists to work, it will not be long before the big fires are started. All Merlin is preparing to be present at the celebration of the starting up of the smelter, and several automobiles have been engaged for that occasion. The starting of this smelter means everything for Merlin, as its success will make a necessity of a railroad from this town to the Galice district, and as there are so many different parties figuring on taking advantage of this demand there undoubtedly will be a race to see who will get started first.

Miners may have hit paydirt

Almeda may yield gold and silver

By Paul Fattig

of the Daily Courier

GALICE — A Nevada mining firm gambling on finding gold overlooked by early-day prospectors at the historic Almeda mine may have hit paydirt.

But Steve Craig, a mining engineer with Kennecott Exploration, a Reno-based subsidiary of Kennecott Corp., cautions the firm is a long way from kicking up its heels in celebration.

"We're still getting the assays back from the test drilling samples," he said Friday. "Basically, we're finding interspersed significant thicknesses of gold and silver at intervals 50 feet thick."

In September, the firm punched 12 test holes in a three-square-mile area at the site of the old mine located on the north bank of the Rogue River about 20 miles northwest of Grants Pass. Some holes penetrated only 20 feet; others probed 500 feet into the earth.

"We've had some good and bad results," Craig said. "But we're very encouraged."

Some 500 assay samples were taken during the test drilling on the Bureau of Land Management property.

"We're still getting results back," he said. "We have been taking major sections of the samples back for re-assays. We take samples already assayed to other assay office to make sure they are very accurate."

An historic lure for miners since gold was discovered at the site in 1874, the site was first mined by a group of Ashland miners who later formed the Almeda Mining Co.

Over the years, the mine produced large quantities of gold, silver, copper and lead. An historical analysis published in 1979 by the state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries indicates precious metals worth \$108,000 were mined between 1911-16.

Out of the 16,619 tons of ore removed, 1,540 troy ounces of gold were mined. Today, that gold would be worth more than half a million dollars. In addition, miners extracted 48,387 troy ounces of silver, 259,800 pounds of copper and 7,197 pounds of lead, according to the report.

The mine operated intermittently until 1942. Since then, several

Miners

Continued from Page One

mining firms have explored the possibility of reopening the mine but have not pursued it.

Visible from the Merlin-Galice Road across the river, the old mine includes some seven miles of shafts, adits and tunnels. The old matte shelter along with rusting machinery rest along the river bank, remnants of the mine's past glory.

Since the potential mining site is within the recreational section of the Wild and Scenic Rogue River, the BLM closely regulates mining activity, a BLM spokesman said.

Studies by the agency indicated the test drilling would have no impact on archaeological, visual quality or wilderness resources. The firm was required to reclaim the disturbed soil after completing test drilling.

However, an in-depth environmental impact statement and further study would be required before a mining venture could start, according to the BLM.

"We're a long way from making it a mine," Craig stressed. "We're still in the exploration stage."

A decision on whether the firm will pursue the venture is expected by the end of the year, he said.

"We may get a joint venture partner, stay in it by ourselves or drop out of it completely," he said. "But there appears to be enough encouragement to stay in it."

The two mining claims on the site which was test-drilled are owned by longtime Josephine County miner Wes Pieren and Thomas W. Bristol of Chewelah, Wash.

BLM okays plan for test drilling at Galice mine

5018
8/20/86

GALICE — The Bureau of Land Management has approved plans by a Reno-based mining firm for test drilling at the old Almeda Mine on Rogue River near Galice.

A famous mine in the pre-World War I era, the Almeda yielded an estimated \$300,000 in gold, silver, copper and other medals during its last period of major activity from 1900 to 1917, according to BLM spokesman Kurt Austermann.

Now, Kennecott Exploration, a subsidiary of Kennecott Corp., plans to drill 12 test holes in the area around the old mine during a 10-to-12-day period in the fall, he said.

Most of the test holes will be drilled in a wooded area above the old mine, but four will be drilled near the riverside, he said.

The old mine is on the recreational section of the Rogue Wild and Scenic River. Plans call for the drilling to take place after the permit season on the wild section, a few miles downstream, ends on Sept. 15, he said.

Drilling of the four holes along the river will be visible from the Merlin-Galice Road, across the river. The drilling of the other eight holes will not be visible from the river or the road, he said.

It would not be possible for Kennecott to reopen the Almeda mine without extensive reconstruction because the mine's nearly seven miles of shafts and tunnels have collapsed, Austermann said.

A Vancouver, B.C., firm did some test drilling in the same area in 1982 but assays showed that ore was not rich enough.

Canadian firms planning mines

5018

Eugene Register 8-18-81

GRANTS PASS (UPI) — Two Canadian firms have announced their intention to try to open a gold and silver mine on the Rogue River 22 miles northwest of Grants Pass.

used in oil drilling technology) and copper to make the project feasible.

Moss said if initial surveys and testing show sufficient mineral loads, the firms will begin mining.

Blue Diamond Energy Resources Inc. and Comanche Petroleum Inc. of Vancouver, B.C., have leased the mine and located 14 claims in the area.

Albert J. Moss, Blue Diamond vice president, said there appears to be enough gold, silver, barite (a mineral



New Firm to Try Hand at Almeda Mine

By JOHN K. WILEY
Of the Courier Staff

GALICE — Two Canadian prospecting firms say they hope to reopen the historic Almeda Mine on the Rogue River.

Blue Diamond Energy Resources Inc. and Comanche Petroleum Inc., of Vancouver, B.C., have leased the mine and located at least 14 claims in the area.

Geophysical surveys are expected to begin next week at the old mine site, about four miles down the Rogue River from Galice, said Albert J. (Al) Moss, vice president of Blue Diamond, a mineral exploration company.

The group thinks there is enough remaining gold, silver, copper and barite (a substance used in oil drilling processes) to make the venture profitable, he said. The group has begun taking samples and, says Moss, "We're very impressed with what we've seen."

If the initial assays, electromagnetic surveys and diamond core drilling indicate the presence of enough minerals, mining will begin, Moss said.

He said the company plans to extract the minerals through an open-pit mine on the back of the ridge to prevent ecological damage and interference with the scenic Rogue.

Although mining is a prior use at the site, the mine's face falls within the Bureau of Land Management's scenic corridor and any changes could face stiff opposition from environmental concerns.

"It's awful close to the river, but they might think of something . . . probably underground mining," said Galice geologist Geoffrey Garcia, who has been hired to complete preliminary survey work.

Garcia said his work will take two to three months to complete. When the survey is finished, the Canadians will decide whether there is enough high-grade ore in the area to go ahead with the project.

He said initial surveys of the leased property have shown promise.

"It's a big zone that has areas of high grade values," said Garcia. "There's a lot of room for a big ore deposit to occur."

The Canadian investors are betting that earlier workings at the mine site overlooked what could be large amounts of high quality minerals, said Moss. He cites a 1967 Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries report that indicates an average of nearly three-fourths of an ounce of gold in each ton of ore in the mine area.

Southern Oregon is a natural for

large-scale mining operations, Moss said, because it is a mining supply center. Mineral extraction is relatively inexpensive and its climate allows a longer work year than in the frozen ground of Northern Canada.

Blue Diamond and its sister company, Comanche Petroleum, each own 45 percent interest in the mine with the remaining 10 percent going to shareholders. They have begun a copper and silver mining venture near Merritt, B.C., and through Comanche, the group has oil well drilling ventures in Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas, Moss said.

(Continued on Page 2A)

MORE ABOUT:

From Page 1A

Mine

Moss said his firms, which began in 1979, would obtain all required permits for the mining operation.

Some local geologists cautioned that the news of possible re-working the mine should be tempered with economic and environmental realities. Several similar ventures at the mine site have fizzled in recent years.

"The mine has been optioned to a number of mining companies over the past five or six years and all of them have backed away," said Len Ramp, resident geologist with the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries in Grants Pass.

Considerable exploration for minerals has occurred sporadically during that time, he said.

But Ramp said there is no reason to doubt the Almeda Mine could be worked again and said there are unexplored amounts of copper, silver and gold still in the hillside.

He said the developers would face environmental restrictions because the mine lies within the scenic waterway and recreational portion of the Rogue River.

One consideration favoring

the developers is that mining is one of the former uses of the property, he said.

The BLM, which must balance scenic considerations with mineral extrication concerns, would have the final say on whether open pit mining would be allowed, said Mike Young of the agency's Medford office.

"It would be very easy to approve the operation if it were behind the mountain (out of sight from the river)," he said. "It would be something different if they plan to work on the front."

Young admitted that the mine's status as a part of the "scenic" corridor has been questionable for some time. If the BLM can't deny the developers' right to mine the site, it can control the type of mining process used, he cautioned.

Recognizing the potential conflict between mining and scenic interests, BLM officials concede the Almeda, with a bright orange scar of old tailings spilling down its face, is a natural mining site.

Said Brian Robinson, the BLM's scenic waterway manager: "If there is any mining allowed in the river's scenic corridor, that is where I would want it to be."

Test drills begin at Alameda

By Paul Fattig
of the Daily Courier

GALICE — Test drills are probing deep into the old Alameda mine in search of gold overlooked by early-day prospectors.

Kennecott Exploration, a Reno-based subsidiary of Kennecott Corp., began the test drilling Sept. 17 following the end of the float season on the Rogue River.

The site is located on the north bank of the Rogue about 20 miles northwest of Grants Pass.

Although the hillside has more drill holes than a mouth full of bad teeth, the firm hopes to find hidden gold deposits.

Most of the estimated seven miles of shafts, adits and tunnels into the hillside dug have collapsed since gold was discovered at the site more than a century ago. The old matte smelter and chunks of rusting machinery rest like museum pieces readily seen by passers-by on the Merlin-Galice Road.

Those heavy relics will not be moved by the drilling, observed Eric Schoblom, natural resource specialist for the Bureau of Land Management which has jurisdiction of the land.

Since the site is within the recreational section of the Wild and Scenic Rogue River, all mining activity is closely watched by federal officials.

If enough precious metals were found to warrant further mining activity, the BLM would require an indepth study, officials said.

"If they decided they found something, the next step would be more drilling, more exploration," Schoblom said. "They



PAUL FATTIG/Daily Courier

The old mining shaft at Alameda will not be affected by test drilling.

would have to quantify the discovery.

"And we would have to do an environmental analysis," he added. "This is a fairly critical area as far as we've concerned."

Kennecott is drilling 12 test holes in a three-square-mile area, using a rotary hammer drill which sounds like a muffled chainsaw in the distance. Four holes are being punched into river bank while the remaining

eight holes are being drilled away from the river corridor.

Some holes are only 20 feet deep while others are probing 500 feet into the earth, Schoblom said.

Samples from Kennecott's test holes will be sent to Reno where they will be assayed.

The drilling crew is ahead of schedule, and is expected to be complete the work early next week, Schoblom said.

The most recent drill activity occurred in 1982 when two British Columbia firms punched drills 900 feet, but were unable to locate an ore body worth mining. The continual assay from those tests was .003 percent of gold.

A study by the BLM notes that the test drilling will have no impact on the environment, including visual quality or wilderness resources. There are no archaeological resources at the site.

8-19-86

Firm exploring Almeda mine

By PAUL FATTIG
Of the Courier Staff

GALICE — A Nevada-based mining firm is gambling on hitting pay dirt in a historic Almeda mine.

Kennecott Exploration of Reno, a subsidiary of Kennecott Corp., has leased a three-square-mile area covering the old mining site on the north bank of the Rogue River about 20 miles northwest of Grants Pass.

The firm plans to punch 12 drill holes into the site beginning after mid-September. Four exploratory holes would be drilled along the river bank and on the natural bench near the river; the other eight holes would not be visible from the river or the Merlin-Galice Road located directly across the river.

"This project is very preliminary — we're just taking a look to see what's there," cautioned Ken Hochstetler, spokesman for the parent company in Salt Lake City.

"The site has been test-drilled by a couple of firms in recent years," he added. "For every one that is drilled, that doesn't mean you are going to develop the site. We want to see if anything is left."

The firm hopes to locate an ore body overlooked by early-day miners, and that there is enough gold and silver to make a full-scale operation worthwhile, he said.

"It'll take some time to analyze ore samples," he said. "We'll then decide if it's of value to further development."

The mine, now located on public land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, was first discovered by prospectors in 1874 who dubbed it the "Big Yank Lode." A group of miners from Ashland later formed the Almeda Mining Co.

An exact account of the gold, silver, copper and lead found at the site has been lost to history. However, a 1979 report on local mining history by the state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

indicates that the Almeda matte smelter produced \$108,000 in precious metals between 1911-16 at turn-of-the-century prices.

Found in the 16,619 tons of ore mined were 1,540 troy ounces of gold, 48,387 troy ounces of silver, 259,800 pounds of copper and 7,197 pounds of lead. At today's prices, the gold would now be worth more than \$577,000.

The mine operated intermittently between 1905 and 1942. Most of its nearly seven miles of shafts, adits and tunnels leading into the hillside have collapsed.

Wes Pieren, a longtime miner in northern Josephine County, owns one of two mining claims on the site being drilled. The other is owned by Thomas W. Bristol of Chewelah, Wash.

In the spring of 1982, Blue Diamond Energy Resources Inc. and Comache Petroleum Inc., both Vancouver, British Columbia, mining firms, test drilled in the area. However, the holes punched by the firms, 800 feet and another more than 900 feet, found only a continual assay of .003 percent of gold, according to a spokesman for the firms.

"Any test drilling to date has proved not to be economically feasible," observed Kurt Austermann, spokesman for the BLM which issued a permit to the firms in 1982.

Since the site is located within the recreational section of the Wild and Scenic Rogue River, any mining activity is closely regulated by the BLM, Austermann said.

A study by the agency indicates the drilling will have no impact on archaeological, visual quality or wilderness resources, he said.

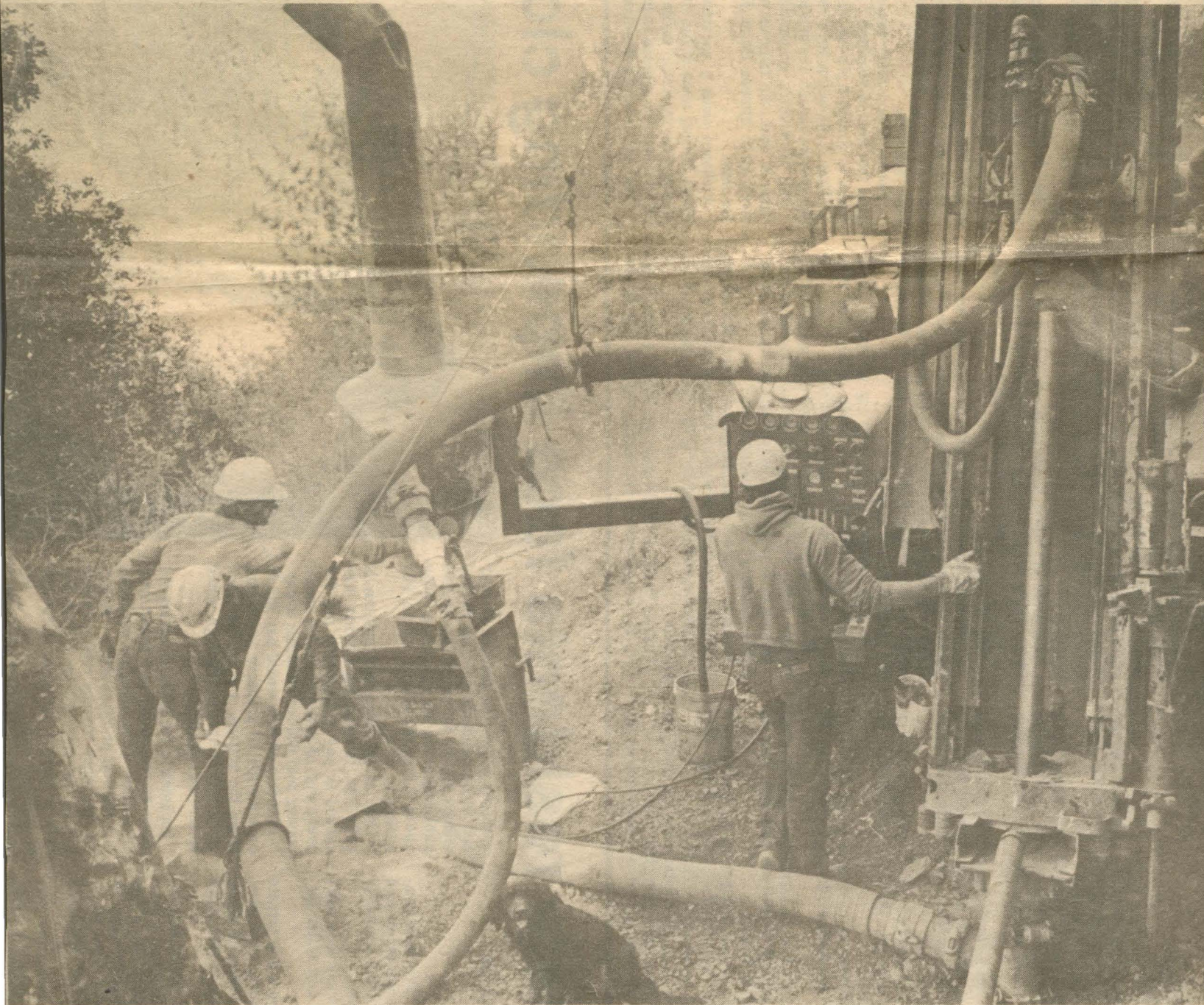
"There would be limited road improvement conducted by Kennecott, but no new road construction would take place and only a few small trees, not visible from the river, would be removed," he said.

Issue No. 436, Oct. 9-15, 1986

Josephine/Siskiyou Edition

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**Almeda Bar
mining site**

Workers operate drill at experimental mining site near wild and scenic section of the Rogue River. See story Page 2.

5018

River³ Regulations Shroud

By PAUL FATTIG
Of the Courier Staff

GALICE — Modern machines may be able to move tons of earth to locate precious metals overlooked by early-day prospectors at the Almeda mine, but they can't budge government regulations and red tape.

Maurice Murtack, a geologist in charge of two Canadian firms hoping to reopen the old site, fears government bureaucracy will stymie efforts.

"What if you come up with a mine?" asks Murtack. "I don't think you could mine it. It's impossible to do anything right there on the river."

Murtack is the new president of Blue Diamond Energy Resources Inc. and Comache Petroleum Inc., both inter-

national mining firms based in Vancouver, B.C., which have leased the old mining site and tagged several claims in the adjacent hillsides.

The the mine is on the bank of the Rogue River within the Bureau of Land Management's scenic corridor which is under the jurisdiction of both state and federal agencies.

And stiff regulations all but prohibit any mining activities within that corridor, Murtack said.

"This is right on the banks of the river," observes Murtack. "You've got to do something with the tailings — you've got to have a place to put it. You are quite limited to what you can do."

"The money could be tied up for years," he observed. "It's so much eas-

ier working in Nevada." The firm has a mining project in that state which Murtack said is more receptive to mining.

Yet Murtack believes the potential for a rich mine is excellent.

The old site was once one of the largest mines in Josephine county.

The Almeda mine, located about four miles west of Galice on the north bank of the Rogue River, operated intermittently between 1905 and 1942. Several mining firms have eyed the old site over the years, but none have yet to reopen the mine.

Miners unearthed 1,540 troy ounces of gold, 48,387 troy ounces of silver and 259,800 pounds of copper between 1911 and 1916.

Plans to Reopen Almeda

The last reported production for the mine indicated it was producing 2.1 ounces of gold per ton, .95 of an ounce of silver and .13 percent copper in the mineral removed.

But a 1979 report by the state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries indicated a substantial copper lode is indicated by massive sulfide deposits. The mineralized zone runs north and south and could be several hundred feet wide, the report concludes.

The firms punched two test holes last spring, sinking one to nearly 800 feet and the other more than 900 feet.

Officials then believed they narrowly missed the mother lode when the assay showed .003 percent of gold. The firms had spent some \$150,000 looking for

paydirt without success.

Since then Murtack and two other geologists have assumed control of the firms.

"We're presently evaluating the work, but I'm not terribly happy with the environmental problem," he said. "With the Bureau of Land Management — it's likely to be pretty difficult."

While the BLM allowed exploratory work, it has expressed concern that mining the site could pollute the river or further scar the ridge overlooking the scenic corridor.

"We like the belt — there is lots of potential there," Murtack said. "But the actual Almeda deposit has to be checked into.

"And I don't know what you would do if you found a mine," he added. "The disturbing thing is that no one has come up with an answer for what to do with the tailings."

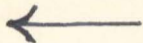
The problem is not geological, but political, he stressed.

"We're evaluating everything done to date to determine if there is an economic deposit," he said. "We're not giving it up — we're coming back and taking another look."

A decision is expected within 10 days after the geologists take another look at the mine and study core samples.

Said Murtack, "We have to study this thing out carefully — the mine is no use to us if we can't mine it."

• Transcontinental Resources is reported to have taken an option on the property of Alameda Mines, 15 mi. west of Grants Pass. Unwatering has been completed to the 350-ft. level. Plans are for checking the possibility of blocking out a tonnage of high grade ore. According to Transcontinental officials, a diamond drill test from the 150-ft. level has intersected a 5.6-ft. vein said to average 1.34 oz. of gold per ton. Copper was the principal mineral taken from the mine in the early 1900's with some gold and silver.



From: Nov. 1953
Engr. & Mining Journal

Southwest Oregon Miner's Association
chapter Western Mining Council



Newsletter

MEETING EVERY THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH 7:00 PM AT GALICE COMMUNITY HALL

VICE-PRES. - BART RECTOR
SEC. - LORRI CRAWFORD

OFFICERS
PRESIDENT
BRUCE CRAWFORD
710 GALICE CREEK RD.
MERLIN, OREGON 97532
503-474-7608

TREAS. - JOYCE RECTOR
SERG.-AT-ARMS - RON BYRD

August, 1988

IN LOVING MEMORY

WESLEY J. PIEREN
1914 - 1988

Wes Pieren, born in Helvetia, Or. Dec. 16, 1914, passed away Saturday, July 30, 1988 at Highland House Health Care Center. He is survived by his wife, Lucile of Galice, 3 daughters, Nancy Tunberg of Galice, Dixie Pieren of Grants Pass, Wendy Duden of Merlin, 4 grandchildren, 2 brothers, and 2 sisters.

He had lived in the Galice area since around 1938, was Honorary Mayor of Galice and was well known for his logging, mining, and music.

Wes will be missed and long remembered by many, many people. He was a friend and neighbor to all he met.

Our sympathies and prayers go to Keith Workman who recently lost his Mother, and to Gil Thomason who lost his sister.

We would also like to send our prayers and support to the Loy Yokum family. Loy's son was injured in a very bad car accident.

We had a very nice potluck at our meeting and all the food was delicious. A great big Thanks to all the cooks.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS; Bela Reiner, Grants Pass, Oscar Johnson, Salem, Dan Johnson, Galice, Jim Dingman, Selma, Allen (Loopy) Line, Gold Hill, and Mr. & Mrs. Earl Knight, Medford. We look forward to working and visiting with all of you.

We would like to Thank visitors, Vince Mohr and friend, Greg of Portland, Glenda Odin & Sharon Lucas, Grants Pass, and Mike Crowell, Galice. We hope you enjoyed it and will come back again.

Thank you Bob Tucker for the opening speech that you made about all members getting along and working together. I know that it came from your heart and we all appreciate what you said and I'm sure that all agree with you.

Our President attended the Western Mining Council meeting at Sacramento, along with Bob & Caroline Tucker. The members appreciate the informative report they made and their efforts to keep all of us informed about these meetings. They brought a copy of an Executive Order, # 12630, March 15, 1988, signed by President Reagan, titled "Governmental Action and Interference With Constitutionally Protected Property Rights." If you have anybody interfering with your property rights, you should read this.

a non-profit organization

They also brought back a Freedom of Information request form, and a copy of A Forgotten Law to Aid Small Firms, the Equal Access to Justice Act of 1981. This says that you are entitled to recover your legal fees from the Government if you win a case.

Copies of these 3 papers will be put in the Law Library at the Armadillo Mining Shop and on the bulletin board at the Galice Community Hall. If you are out of the area and would like copies of these, please notify one of your officers.

In the case of the Klamath National Forest vs the Small Scale Miners, where the Forest Service is attempting to remove 230 miners from their claims, Mike Inman, of The Klamath River Miners Chapter asked that the different Chapters try to have some members come down on Nov. 4 to the hearing and help them out on this. If you would be interested in helping these miners contact Bruce Crawford at 474-7608 for more information. We will be trying to arrange carpools for this trip.

Remember this is the reason we have WMC and our chapters; to all join together to protect the miners rights - to work together to help each other. UNITED WE STAND!

Caroline Tucker commended Greg Ouellette and WMC chapter in Calif. for all the hard work they have done on Senator Cranston's S7 bill. Thanks to a lot of hard working dedicated people this bill has been tabled for this year but Cranston promises to try again next year. Some of us have written letters on this, so keep writing.

At the BLM/Small Miners meeting on July 27, we were very pleased to see that we still have Bob Korfhage, Harold Belisle, Matt Craddock, and Gerry Capps working with us after the BLM re-organization. This group has worked very hard and has accomplished a lot in the past months and it very important that we keep this going. We do have some new BLM people and as soon as we get a list of names and phone #s, you will receive a copy.

There was another discussion on the 5 inch dredge permit on the Rogue River. Harold Belisle stated that he is willing to work with us on this, but reminded us that the 3 inch dredge limit is in the Federal Register, so we have to do this legally, step by step, and will not be able to get it all done this year. If you have any comments questions, or suggestions on this please call Lesa at the Armadillo Mining Shop or Bruce Crawford at home.

BLM asked us to pass on the word to all members and people in the Community that there is a lot of pot patches this year. Some of them are booby trapped and a few BLM people have been threatened, so be very careful when you are out in the woods. As we all know these pot planters are one of the reasons the miners have so many problems. The pot planters and the miners are out there and it is very hard for the average person to look at a man and knowwhether he is a legitimate miner or a pot planter. A legitimate miner will not condone the illegal use of a mining claim. We try to uphold the 1872 Mining Law in every way.

Mary Zuschlag was the guest speaker. She explained the BLM 10 year plan and how we could take part in this. If you want to get involved in the changes, now is the time to do it because you will not be allowed to step in and voice a protest at the last minute. She has offered to attend one of our meetings and work with us on this and we hope to take her up on this when arrangements can be made. Thanks Mary.

Bob Korfhage brought copies from the California Mining Journal on the BLM/FS Mining Claim Residency Polycys. This is very interesting because their policies are quite a bit different. For those of you who did not get copies, let us know. Thanks Bob.

Bob Korfhage gave a report on the occupancy cases that the group has been working on for the past few months. One case, BLM felt the claimant was working hard and trying and they decided to monitor activities but will not interefere. One case, they could find no sign of mining activities going on and sent out an occupancy trespass notice. The 3rd case was given a grace period because the claimant was cleaning up and was mining. BLM will monitor the activities and make another visit later on. Bob stated that he felt the members of the BLM/Small Miners group were a great help to him on these cases.

Harold Belisle stated that he would be looking into a problem on Pickett Creek. Next meeting, August 31.

The by-laws were gone over with some re-wording and voting. Everything was voted on and approved and is now being typed up. When it is ready each member will receive a copy for their files. The members Thanked Bob Barton, Joyce Rector, and Klindt Kendall for the good job they did on these by-laws. As a member of that committee, I personally would like to Thank Bob because he did the majority of the work, and Lesa, who did the typing and copying for us.

NOTICE!

For those of you who were not there, a vote was taken on the dues. The dues for SOUTH WEST OREGON MINERS ASSOC. was set at \$10 per MEMBER per YEAR. For the people who belong to both WESTERN MINING COUNCIL and SOUTHWEST OREGON MINERS ASSOC. your dues are \$20 per MEMBER per YEAR. The due date is SEPT. 1 of EACH YEAR. The reason for this is because we must have our dues in by Oct 1 to be able to vote in Dec. If you pay your dues by mail, please make your check out to SOUTHWEST OREGON MINERS ASSOC. and mail to JOYCE RECTOR, 289 S. FORK GALICE CREEK, MERLIN, OREGON 97532. Please get your dues in as soon as possible so that you have a vote.

The Sourdough Booth at the County Fair was a great success. This was the first year for most of us to do this type of thing and we learned a lot and had a lot of fun. There were some members who put in some very long hours and hard work on this. Keith Workman, John Mohr, and Randy Hinke were the committee on this and they did a great job. Bruce & Lorri put in a great amount of time and work, Wayne Good was there every day, and Mac & Lucille Shay made a long trip from Portland to help out. Other people who worked were Sannaraha Waters, Joyce Rector, Bart Rector, Buni Borreson, Billy Ward, Bob & Caroline Tucker, Lance Thomas, and 2 ladies, Pat and Anna, who are not members but spent a lot of time and effort to help us out. Perry Allen was not able to work but he dropped by and made a donation.

People who donated gold for the panning booth were Bruce & Lorri Crawford, Bob & Caroline Tucker, Mac & Lucille Shay, Loy & Lena Yokum, Bob & Lesa Barton, and Wayne Good.

If I left anyone's name out on any of this please let me know so I can put it in the records. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on this and a special Thanks to Bob & Lesa for the various donations, discounts, and hours spent working in the booth after they closed the shop.

We will be starting now to make the booth bigger and better next year, so everyone start bringing their ideas to the meetings now, so we can be better prepared and have more people take part and have some fun.

Again for those of you who were not present at the meeting, we were invited (with a very short time to prepare) to participate in the Silver Fire Roundup Rally. We set up our panning tub and gold display, and sold lemonade donated by Mary Lou, from the Galice Resort. This was put on to show support for the timber industries, the working people, and multiple use, and to let the environmentalists know that we have had enough. This yellow ribbon rally was started by Bob Slalge and was also a memorial to Wes Pieren and Jack Boling. Rep. Bob Smith gave a great speech, County Commissioner Bill Ford did a wonderful job of singing, and one of the guest speakers was our Pres. Bruce Crawford.

Members who helped out in our part of this were Bruce & Lorri Crawford, Bob & Caroline Tucker, Bart & Joyce Rector, Lance Thomas, Billy Ward, John Mohr, Buni Borreson, Dan Johnson & Wayne Good. Bob & Lesa donated the gold for the panning & Willie Cook took pictures for us. David Hodges from Cave Junction set up his table and demonstrated how to melt gold and make gold jewelry. We would like to work more with him in the future. Thanks to everyone who helped on this and for those who missed it, you missed a truly wonderful event of over 1200 trucks from several states and over 5,000 people all united for one thing.

Everyone is asked to send 1 inch of their yellow ribbon to Senator Mark Hatfield, 475 Cottage NE, Salem, Or. 97301 along with a letter telling him that you want the burned timber cut and the roads to haul it on. Don't forget to mention that you are also opposed to the Wild & Scenic Rivers bill.

If any of you have not received your copy of the WESTERN MINER please let me know.

There is a new WMC Chapter called the Happy Camp Miners & Prospectors. Bob & Caroline Tucker & Bart & Joyce Rector attended their meeting at Happy Camp and presented their Charter to them. Their President is George Creveling, P.O. Box 551, Seiad Valley, CA. 96086. We Thank you people for your friendliness and hospitality to us while we were there and wish you the Best of Luck.

We have some members who we feel deserve some special recognition. These members are Jean Loomis of Roseburg and Margaret Dahl of Dundee. Each year they come to Grave Creek and dredge for a month or two and each year they leave the place where they camped so clean that you would not know that they had been there if you had not seen them.

Another member is Bob Jirucha of Grave Creek who for several years has spent a lot of time and money cleaning up junk cars and trash from many different mining claims.

A special Thanks from all of us. Let's all follow these 3 people's example and keep our lands clean and beautiful!

Congratulations to Bill Plante of Merlin Gas Pump. His ticket won the TV that was raffled off for our legal fund. Thanks to Bob & Caroline Tucker who donated the TV, the Merlin Gas Pump, and Armadillo Mining Shop for selling the tickets, and to all the people who bought tickets. Better luck next time Bruce.

My apologies go to Flo Maddox, the Shasta Miners & Prospectors, and also to the Trinity Miners. I made a mistake and included the Trinity miners in with the Shasta miners with Flo as their President in my last newsletter. If this caused any comments or problems, I am very sorry. I knew better Flo, I just didn't do better.

We have a new video that was loaned to us from the Happy Camp Miners & Prospectors. We will try to show it at our next meeting. It is an excellent film.

Our sympathies to the North Central Cascade Miners Association on the death of their President, Russ Ballard. The new President is Gene Armfield, P.O. Box 322, Cle Elum, Wa. 98922.

The Big Fall

Congratulations to Wayne Good. He won the \$10 doorprize. Doorprize next month will be \$5.

Jim Dingman introduced us to Mr. Paul Dupree from North West Mining Assoc. We enjoyed meeting you Paul and hope to see you back again.

Really enjoyed listening to the music of Buck Harms & Larry Bailey at the Silver Fire Roundup and later at the Galice Resort.

Boyd Peters if we go down in defeat
All your people will fall at our feet

You'll have no paper for your signs
Nor any tissue for your behinds

No plywood on which to sit
While you make a show of it

No newspaper to tell your story
As you try to gain some glory

The home in which you reside
Would be made of poles and hide

No spikes to drive into the trees
No bicycle to ride, if you please

How do you think the owls survived
Long before Columbus arrived

When our old growth was young and small
Before they grew so big and small

Just you remember, if we go in defeat
All of you will fall at our feet.

Caroline Tucker
Josephine County Miner

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Carol Byrd, Lorri Crawford, Eric Farster, and Marilyn Prow! ***** Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Jim Doty. They are the proud grandparents of a baby boy!

I am still working on the picture frame in the Community Hall & the history of our mining Assoc. & members. I have had very little response. Come on people; years from now your friends & family will cherish this part of history which includes you! I NEED YOUR PICTURE!



It is said that if a fly lands on your nose, somebody has something to tell you.

We now have the new tables set up in the Hall. They are really nice and Jim Matney asks that everyone please help keep them nice.

\$150,000,000

DID YOU KNOW OREGONIANS HAVE A \$150 MILLION SHARE IN MINING?

Oregon's rich history includes miners who moved West to seek their fortunes. Their effort showed that Oregon has mineral wealth worth going after. Last year the value of minerals produced in Oregon was \$153 million.



WHY SHOULD WE CUT TIMBER AND MINE MINERALS?

Those items that we produce from the earth, like timber, minerals, and farm products, bring new wealth to the economy. They give us the food and materials that are the basis for our way of life.



WHY ARE MINERALS NECESSARY?

Minerals are called the foundation of society. The ages of mankind's development have been named by the minerals they used- - stone age, bronze age, iron age and so on. Take minerals away, and what do you have?

NO cars or trucks
NO machinery
NO airplanes
NO electric power
NO concrete or wallboard
NO bicycles, nails, saws,
and you can name others

Keeping Our Balance

WHY USE THE PUBLIC LANDS?

Because that is where they are. The same nature that makes mountains makes our mineral deposits. But minerals are rare, and the amount of land needed for mineral production is only a fraction of a percent of our lands, and those lands will be reclaimed for other uses after mining.

DOES OREGON HAVE MUCH PUBLIC LAND?

Yes. 49% of Oregon's 62 million acres, or 28 million acres, are public lands.

WHAT IS MULTIPLE USE?

Multiple use is the system that says we can use our public lands--wisely- for all public needs. That means we can cut timber, hunt, camp, produce oil and gas, mine minerals, raise livestock, and do all those things to provide materials for the nation and jobs and recreation.

Here are some interesting facts about the minerals in your life:

A jet plane engine uses 800 pounds of cobalt and 1000 pounds of chromium. Both are found in Oregon.

Magnets for motors, controls, and communication, and stainless steel for food service and for hospitals also require chromium.

Gold is an important metal in electronics and other industrial uses in addition to jewelry or coins. Oregon mines gold.

Talc is used in powder, paint, insecticides, rubber, paper manufacture, and roofing materials. Talc is mined in Oregon.

Sand, gravel, limestone and shale combine to make cement. All are mined in Oregon.

Pumice is used in roadbeds, polishing grit, and specialty cement. Pumice is mined in Oregon.

Nickel is an important metal in high strength steel. Nickel has been mined in Oregon for many years, and will be mined in the future.

College of Mines and Earth Resources
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Northwest Mining Association
414 Peyton Building
Spokane, Washington 99201

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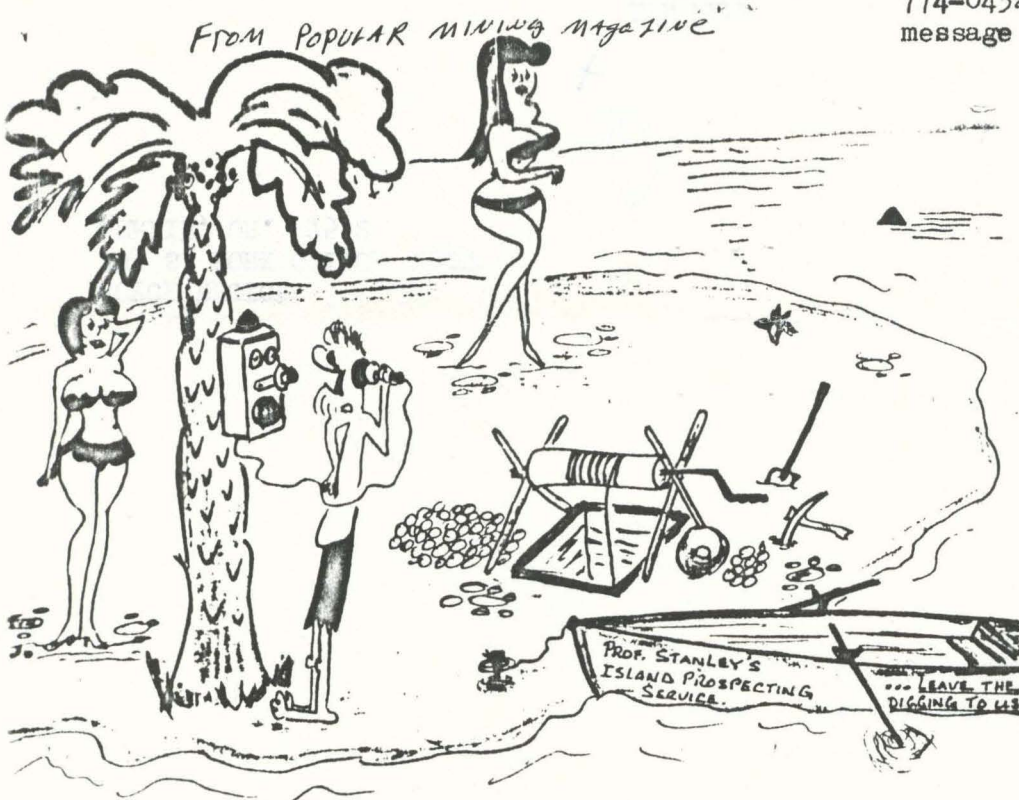
Mr. Reiner offers a 15% discount to
 members. Go in, visit, show your
 membership card and get acquainted.
 Mr. Reiner will be a speaker at one
 of our meetings.

New members, please show your
 membership cards when you visit the
 Armadillo Mining Shop for your 10%
 discount on mining equipment.

JACK OF ALL TRADES: If you have
 trouble and need help, look for Dan.
 Camped by milepost 16, Rogue River.
 74 white Dodge station wagon

FOR SALE: Full size Genie, used 1
 summer. \$300 Call Dennis Palmer,
 774-0432, Portland, Or. Leave
 message on recorder before 7 P.M.

As you can see from the
 newsletter, we have had
 a very busy and confusing
 month. Some of us feel like
 we have met ourselves com-
 ing back when we were still
 going. In spite of all the
 hard work and long hours,
 we really had a lot of fun
 and it does the heart good
 to see friends and neighbors
 working together for the
 good of everybody. I, myself
 am grateful that I have my
 Great Father above, my family,
 the freedom to work and live
 as I please and the chance
 to know some very good
 people. May God Bless all
 of you and remember, IF
 EVERYBODY BECAME SOMEBODY
 THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY
 BODY LEFT TO BE A NOBODY!



I CAN TELL YA HUGH... THERE AIN'T MUCH GOLD HERE!
 .. BUT SOME OF THE OTHER PROSPECTS ON THE ISLAND
 LOOK PROMISING!

Ed Farmer

Joyce