

History of Grants Pass Linked With Mines

HAYDEN JOURNAL RECALLS HISTORY

(Continued from page 6.)

Saturday, July 23. Ross laid off today. I worked in tunnel. A warm day.

Friday, Sept. 16. Frank Steward went to work today at \$1.50 and board. He and Ross got out 2800 pounds of ore. I sacked ore and helped about the mine. John Hall went hunting, killed four squirrels.

Sunday, Jan. 8, 1899. Ross dropped the oil can in the arastra tub last night and the drags mashed it. I put in two cans of concentrated lye and about one half bushel of ashes and ground it for an hour very slow and then went on grinding as usual. Can't tell what damage it has done. A bright day. Ross is grinding tonight.

Sunday, Jan. 22. We have taken out 35 tons in 16 shifts. Frank went to Grants Pass via Hugo this morning. Sent the bullion by him for shipment to the mint at San Francisco. Thirty-six and three-fourth ounces. Value about \$589, out of 35 tons. I ran the arastra today, had some trouble getting started as a rock got loose in the bed and had to put in new one. Bill Church was over tonight; paid him \$20 on account for hauling ore. A fair day.

(Note: This entry was a precaution in case of an unwelcome visitor. Sent the bullion by Ross Wednesday, the 27th instead).

Sunday, Feb. 26. Returned from the Pass last night at 6 p. m., found Steve Fink here. Have agreed to lease him one half of the mine for one year at 25 per cent of the gross output of one-half. I have bought John Hall's interest in the Little Dandy mine, buildings, arastra and tools for \$700 and my interest in the Rough Nugget mine. Paid John \$350 cash and note for \$350 due in one year at 5 per cent interest. The man from Grants Pass got here with a load of goods and lumber at 9 a. m. Paid him for hauling \$3.75. Paid Ross Williams \$10 for his share of the grub on hand. He has signed his lease over to me.

Paid Bins for 2 assays \$2.00.

when he gets his. I fixed up camp afternoon; made a door.

Saturday and Sunday. Worked around the house chinking cracks, etc. Hung the door. Made an elbow out of an oil can as the one I ordered from Leland failed to show up.

Thursday, July 5.

Paid T. B. Cornell in full to date, \$33.15.

Paid Hair Riddle Hdw. Co., \$43.85.

Paid J. Wolke, \$4.25.

Paid S. B. Pettingill, flour, \$6.80. Got home about 9 p. m.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 16, 17 and 18. All hands worked in tunnel.

Paid freight on rails, \$16.90.

Paid H. L. Wilson and Virtue, Leland, \$2.10.

A hot day, 96 degrees in the shade.

August 2, 3 and 4. We cut a stringer of quartz about 77 feet from the first set of timbers. Got out 1½ tons quartz. Prospects pretty fair. Still warm and dry.

Monday, Aug. 27. Went to Grants Pass in morning. Sent to O. and C. R. R. Co., for land, \$180.00.

Saturday, Oct. 6. I worked on house, framed the joist, rafters, etc. A bright, warm day.

Wednesday, Nov. 7. We worked in stone, mucked out seven cars ore. Mr. R. Virtue was here to look at the mine; wants a bond on same.

Thursday, April 25, 1901. Located a claim on west side of Rat creek above Porter's place. Named it the "Bret Harte" mine.

(He worked for some time in a tunnel at this claim but became discouraged with it. During the time he was working there, he returned one morning to find only the tips of the handles visible of the wheelbarrow he had left in the tunnel. Dirt had caved in from the roof).

Friday, Sept. 13. We worked at old shaft, windlassed out a lot of muck and about 1800 pounds ore. A warm day. Will have to sack the ore and roll same down to track.

Thursday, Jan. 9, 1902. M. Houghton came here this afternoon and is running the arastra tonight for the experience.

Thursday, March 13. Gave Burton \$130. returns on dust shipped with my last lot. The returns on the last cleanup was \$109.31, the first was \$808.34, total \$917 out of 86 tons of ore, average of \$16.70 a

ton. Hayden noticed it, however, and called to the man, who, unnerved by his sense of the danger, simply jerked the fuse from the hole and tossed it toward the shaft, instead of reaching the shaft, however, it struck Hayden, wrapping itself three times around his neck, with the cap under one ear ready to explode if the fuse was not removed soon enough. He wrenched frantically at it, finally removing it and flinging it down the shaft, hearing the explosion as it fell.)

Wednesday Sept. 17. Got back from the Greenback mine Saturday night. Worked there on the mill, etc., since July 16. Have been three days burning trash around the mine. Cleaned off around the up-raise and burned the brush. Never saw the smoke so thick as it has been for the last week. Made out the bill of lumber for the arastra, flumes, track, etc.: Also the iron for the arastra and ordered them from Portland, today. Paid John Ant'en in July for one half interest in Bill Nye mine on upper Grave creek. Fought fire night before last for about two hours. Came near burning the shop. There has been no rain for three months and everything is very dry. There has been fire on Sexton mountain for the last two weeks.

Wednesday, Sept. 24. Got here at 10 a. m. from Grants Pass. Found the blacksmith shop burned down. Caught from a stump that was burning up the hill.

Tuesday, Oct. 14. John and I finished the dam, cleaned out the ditch and worked on ditch to get water from the west fork of creek. Sent Wilson Mercantile Co., check for freight on lumber, etc., \$18.80. Sent to First National Bank at Grants Pass \$608.34 for deposit. Cloudy day.

Saturday, Nov. 8. John worked in mine, mucked out five cars ore from shaft. I framed rafters and worked in shaft. It has rained hard for 24 hours. The creek is way up. The largest run of water I have ever seen here in November.

Thursday, Nov. 11. John and I worked on new arastra and ore bin. Put on shakes.

Saturday, Jan. 10, 1903. Al and I worked on the bed of arastra, got it filled up ready for the cement floor. A fair day.

Thursday, Jan. 22. Myers and I

Saturday, February 4. Have been all the week grinding the ore and tailings. Had to repair the big cog wheel twice and move them closer together. Cleaned up today. Fair weather all the week.

Monday, Feb. 6. We fixed up some boxes to sluice the upper dump. I cleaned out the ditch and put in a headgate, all ready for the next rain.

Monday, April 16. Moved tools and part of car, etc., down to the lower level this forenoon and started to work drifting east on the first stringer in the lower tunnel.

Saturday, April 29. Worked in lower tunnel all this week, put two cars ore in the bin, (1 ton). Bright and warm all week, the peas and cucumbers are up that I planted last Saturday.

J. R. Elder Guesses Nugget's Weight

By Mrs. Carrie E. G. Elder

Old timers will remember when George Calhoun operated a men's store at the corner of 6th and G streets where the Club cafe is now located. In the summer of 1911 Mr. Calhoun placed in his window a gold nugget hung by a black thread in a round candy jar, filled with water and set in a coal black background.

For each dollar purchase in the store the customer received a ticket entitling him to a guess at the value of the nugget. The one guessing the exact value or nearest to it was to be given the nugget. It was to be weighed by Roy K. Hackett and others connected with the banks and the value determined on the basis of \$20 per ounce.

The interest in guessing was intense, especially by easterners. The nugget, hanging as it was, looked larger than its real size and many wild guesses were registered, some above \$300 and some as low as \$10.

Among recent arrivals were Mr. and Mrs. J. Robert Elder of Williamsport, Pa. Mr. Elder is a native of Josephine county. Mrs. Elder is a Pennsylvanian and was having her first western experience. Her native state was so far away from stage coach days that the only knowledge that state had of them was a picture in a school book or the western part of a circus. So, while standing in front of the postoffice the day after their arrival and seeing the Crescent City-Waldo stage

Paid T. B. Cornell, \$5.00.
Paid J. Wolke, \$20.75.

Wednesday, March 22. I took up the bed of the arastra, washed off the rocks, scraped up the dirt and partly rocked it out.

Friday, April 28. We worked at mine, got out 1200 pounds of ore. A fair day. Frank Steward was here at noon on his way to the Pass from the Greenback mine.

Monday, June 5. Kasper Nichols and I worked at mine. Got out 1800 pounds ore. Frank is working tonight. George McCormack got here tonight with team to haul ore. A fair day.

Monday, June 14. Frank worked in uprise last night. Kasper and I worked at the upraise, put in a set of timbers afternoon, got out 3500 pounds ore from the shaft.

Monday, July 10. Kasper and I worked in stope, got out 3400 pounds ore. A hot day.

Friday, Nov. 10. Kasper worked at mine. I worked on arastra getting her ready to run. Started to grind ore about 4 p. m. A stormy day.

Thursday, Dec. 21. We cleaned up today after the second run. Got 41½ ounces out of 42 tons of ore. Averaged just three tons per day. Cloudy, but no rain.

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 1900. We worked on arastra. Church hauled ore, eight loads. Steward got here this afternoon to work in mine. Was sent out by John Hall. A fair day. Got returns from the last shipment, \$497.75 net.

Thursday, March 22. Cleaned up after grinding the tailings pile and got about 34½ ounces amalgam, value about \$150.

Tuesday, March 27. Kasper and I started to level off a place for new tunnel near the creek, 77 feet below the first level.

Wednesday, April 11. I finished grinding tailings at noon, tore up about half the bed and washed the rocks. Showery.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 12, 13, 14. I worked cleaning up; rocked out about one foot of the dirt under the bed, retorted the amaleam getting 7 13-16 ounces. Saved out two ounces for dressing plates.

Sunday, May 6. Sent G. H. Andrews, Portland, \$10. payment on R. R. land. Sent letter to Jno. Ems offering him a job at mine at \$2.00 and board. Cloudy. Went to Pettingills afternoon.

Friday, June 22. Church moved me up to the mine today; had three loads at 50c, \$1.50. Tomason helped three hours, 60c. He borrowed 20 sticks of powder, is to return same

(old rate).
(Burton a neighbor, who ran the "postoffice" midway between Grave Creek and Placer, was quite a character, a typical old miner who kept house in typical miner fashion. A young miner moved in with him temporarily, and being somewhat impatient with the old fellow's lack of order, decided to "sweep out". In doing so, he moved the meal barrel from the corner of the kitchen to sweep away sundry chips and paper collected behind it. Finding that one of the crumpled pieces of paper swept rather heavily, he picked it up and found wrapped in it a nugget worth \$125. Burton, when asked about it, leisurely drawled, "well, I've been wondering where that went to, it's been laying around here quite a while, and come to think of it, there's a little bottle of dust around too, but I've forgotten where I put it." After some searching, he found it in the bag of the clock, and had Hayden send the forgotten gold to the mint for him.)

April 24 Sent report to Department of the Interior. Summary of report.

186 tons produced in 1901.
86 tons treated.
52 ounces gold, value \$920.00.
Silver value, \$3.50.

(While working at the Greenback mine, he had one of the narrowest escapes of his mining career. While putting in timbers in a drift leading off from a shaft, he was working near a miner who was preparing holes to blow. The man had attached caps and fuse to the sticks of dynamite and put them in the rows of holes. He was using the light from a candle end placed on the floor as well as from the lamp on his cap. The fuse from one of the holes, curling back to its original roll, passed through the flame of the candle and ignited without attracting the attention of

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finished titration. It was a stormy day. last evening.

Saturday, Jan. 24. I started to grind ore. Got the arastra running smoothly by night. Myers is grinding tonight. Rained hard all day.

Monday, Feb. 2. Myers ground ore last night until about 4 a. m. when the large cog wheel gave out. I pulled it out this morning and turned the cogs end for end. Cleaned out the screens. Everything froze up tight this morning. Clear and cold.

Sunday, Feb. 8. Started to grind ore again today at 2 p. m. Has been frozen up since the second of the month. Myers is grinding tonight. Has been thawing for the last two days.

Monday, Dec. 26, 1904. Got back to the mine from San Francisco this afternoon, found everything all o. k., even the wood rats have trimmed the apple trees. (He was in San Francisco about a year and a half working at the carpenter trade. Had the mine leased for part of that time.)

Thursday, Jan. 2, 1905. Worked in tunnel one half day; went to inspect Bennett's mine afternoon. A good portion of his work had caved in. Could not see much, vein very badly broken up where he could see it. Cloudy day.

Saturday, Jan. 21. Worked in tunnel; the rock is getting harder. A Mr. Doaney was here from Althouse looking for a ledge his brother found 12 years ago. He thinks this is the one that I am working. Showery.

with its four prancing s
up to the curb, it was quite natural that she should exclaim "Oh, there's a circus in town." Of course it was not a circus but the real thing and to be proved on its merits the next day as she was a passenger the next day en route to Waldo to visit Mr. Elder's brother, George. Leaving Grants Pass in the morning, dining at Love's station and reaching Waldo at 4:30 in the afternoon may seem slow to those of us who consider it just a leisurely drive in a modern car to Waldo in an hour or so. But in those days the roads with their mud holes and ruts were a vivid contrast to the present Redwoods highway.

Mr. Archer and Mr. Elder made some purchases at the Calhoun's store and gave the tickets to Mrs. Elder. Mr. Archer declined to make a guess as to the value of the nugget saying that in its surroundings its size was deceptive.

Mr. Elder, however, roughly duplicated the Calhoun window and decided the weight of the nugget was about an ounce. He had 16 tickets, on all of which he placed guesses between \$18.50 and \$20.50, winning with a \$19.92 guess. This ticket, however, was in T. C. Archer's name. Mr. Elder having used his name on the others. Mr. Archer, who was out of town when the contest closed, returned a few days later. He claimed the nugget and gave it to Mrs. Elder, who cherishes it as one of her most valued keepsakes. She frequently shows it to friends who call at her home 817 East D street.

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FREEZE DAMAGES NIXON PIPE LINE

(Continued from page 4.)

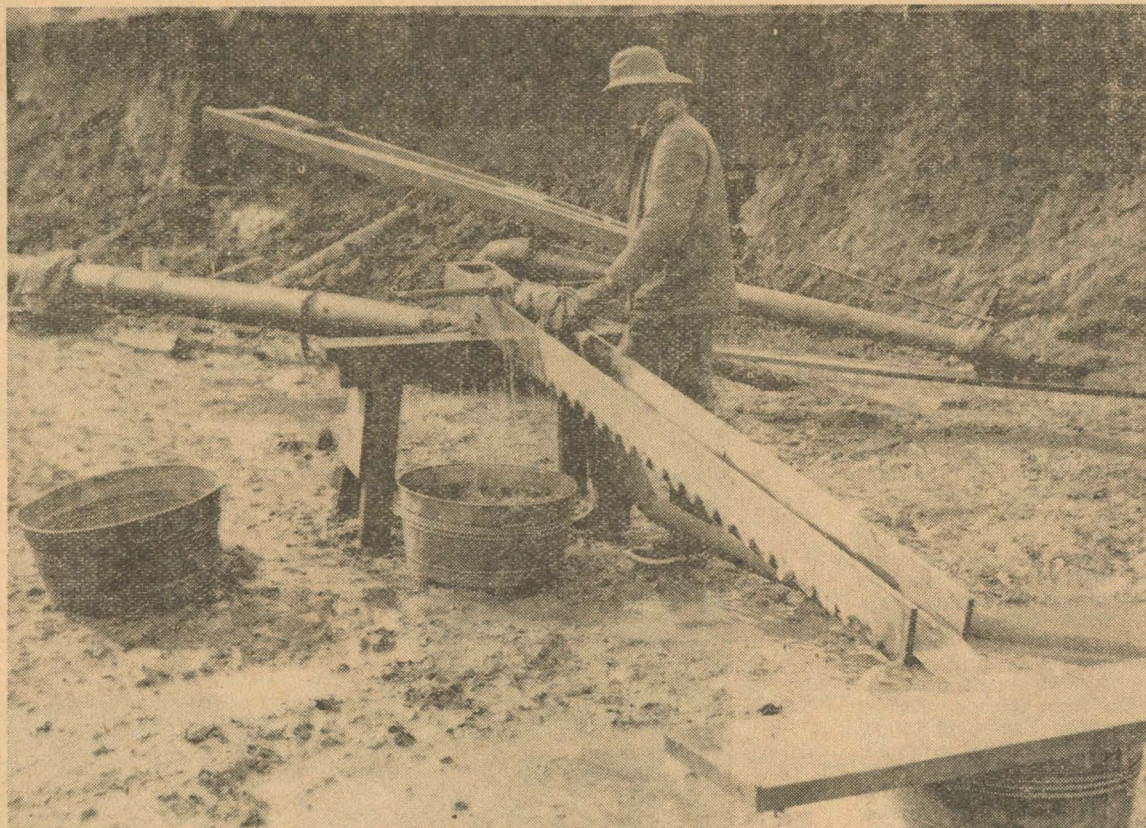
snow covered the entire site for a depth of several feet.

Mr. Nixon and a crew of men worked night and day during the worst of the freeze, using every available method to prevent the pipes from freezing and bursting. Jumping on the pipe from the bank was one method employed to keep the ice from forming. This served to dislodge the ice formation and keep the water flowing. It was an unpleasant vigil which the party will not soon forget but resulted in saving several sections of the pipe line. Breaks occurred in some places in spite of all the crew could do to prevent it.

To the rear of the attractive Colonial type mansion which marks the Esterly property are the machinery sheds, work shop, chemical laboratory, and drafting room. The buildings are situated on the upper side of a slope with platforms built out a distance of some 30 or 40 feet. A small sawmill is on the property for cutting timbers in building sluices, etc.

There are four pits on the site, all on quite level ground. Due to the regularity, elevators have been installed to speed up operations. Three of the four pits are being sub-leased by Mr. Nixon at the present time. Three men are employed in each pit, making a total crew of 16 to 20 men when the mine is in full operation, counting night crews and the men in the shop. All pits are equipped with flood lights for night work.

The Esterly mine has been a rich placer and a good producer for many years past. It was developed to a high state of efficiency by the late George Esterly who installed a large part of the machinery used at present. A wild life enthusiast, Mr. Esterly would allow no hunting on his property and ducks and other wild fowl used to seek refuge there, also attracted by food which was provided for them. They became tame to an amazing degree and



Re-washing concentrates in sluice box at Esterly mine during past year's operation on Nixon property. Operating crews ready to start again as soon as weather and water permit.

was found in the face of a high bank about 12 feet up in the dirt, under a big stump above the water in the creek. This particular bank was situated in the front of a small flat which lies at the foot of a high mountain on the north side of Althouse creek, according to Mackey's account of the discovery. Collins, who was in constant fear lest some one should rob him of his valuable nugget, cleverly contrived with the help of a fellow worker to pack the piece of gold out of the country to a safe place of shipment on the outside.

Gambling was prevalent in the early mining days, according to Mr. Mackey's article; and the presence of gamblers was a sure sign of prosperity of the mining camps. A brief resume of the story in-

The year 1859 was recalled in Mr. Mackey's reminiscences as one of the most eventful years in the history of mining in the Althouse region. Gold dust was plentiful and money flowed freely, a condition which brought with it much unrest as well as prosperity. Greed and a craving for power were qualities which caused the most trouble among the miners of the early days, although men of sterling character and integrity undoubtedly outnumbered the men of more questionable character.

Rich Bar, one of the mining sections written of by Mr. Mackey, is a part of the famous Leonard, Beach and Platter claim, a deposit of gravel near where Althouse empties into the Illinois valley. Democrat gulch, which lies over a

low hill from Rich Bar and empties into the Illinois valley near the Smock store at Holland, in the early days yielded the sum of \$300,000.

By 1870, many of the richest claims on Althouse had been worked out, according to Mackey's article, the result being that the gold excitement was perceptibly on the wane and many of the miners had gone to hunt new fields. Only a few remained, those few probably men who hesitated at the thought of leaving a country they liked even though it would no longer prove profitable to remain.

John Sherman, brother of General W. L. Sherman, was the author of the Sherman silver purchase act and the Sherman anti-

...were several operators of the Esterly mine, formerly known also as the Llano de Oro mine, previous to Mr. Esterly's ownership. Jim Logan is said to be one of the first to operate it on a large scale with high-pressure streams or giants. Logan was financed by George Simmons, his father-in-law, and an interest was sold to a third man, Cameron. The three formed a company known as Simmons, Logan and Cameron.

ALTHOUSE CREEK ONCE CENTER OF FIGHTS, GAMING

William Mackey, well known in Josephine county, particularly to old time residents, compiled several of the most interesting articles which appeared in the Golden anniversary edition of the Daily Courier in the spring of 1935. Prominent among his stories was the interesting one in which he related tales of the Althouse creek mines—incidents which occurred years ago.

Now a resident of Crescent City, Mr. Mackey recalls many events which in the days of the early and middle parts of the nineteenth century were every day occurrences but which to the people of today seem very daring and almost unbelievable.

The largest piece of gold ever taken out on Althouse creek was discovered by an Irishman named Mattie Collins in the year 1859 on the east fork of the creek. The piece, which weighed 17 pounds,

around which serious and humorous battles were waged between quarrelsome gamblers. Such men as Dan Lanigan, Pony Young, Bill Nicholas and Joseph Wall, whose names now are but a dim memory even in the minds of old residents of the county, were mentioned often in the article. Bowie knives were as commonly used as weapons of defense in those days as were the guns which were brandished without discrimination. In fact, it might be said that "survival of the fittest" was the code of the early mining days on Althouse creek.

One of the most highly mineralized sections mentioned was the ridge between Bolan creek and Althouse. It extends from the east fork of Althouse nearly to Holland, a distance of nearly 10 miles. Especially noted for its large yield of heavy gold was McDonnell gulch which empties into Bolan creek.

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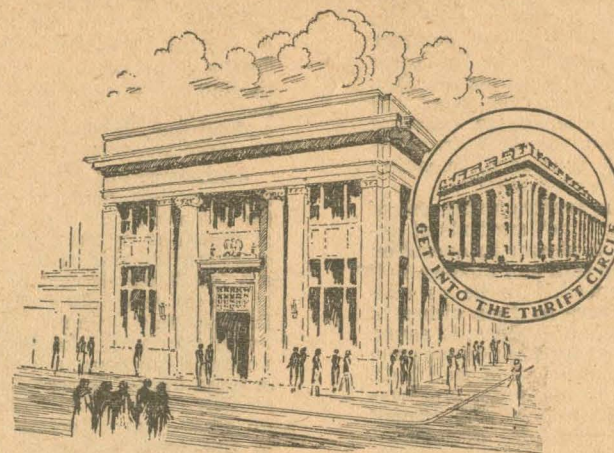
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Little Dandy Mine

Grants Pass Courier, January 27, 1937

EARLY DAYS OF OPERATION TOLD IN OLD JOURNAL

**THE LITTLE DANDY MINE,
Grave Creek.
Discovered and Operated by
John Hayden.**

John Hayden came to Grants Pass in 1896 from Tacoma, Wash. He and John Hall went into partnership in the Hall mine on Grave Creek, now known as the Barker group. During their work, they built a small arastra on Burgess creek, across the mountain from the mine proper, and sledged ore down from the Rough Nugget, one of the claims on the top of the ridge.

While engaged in this work, he did some prospecting in the surrounding hills, and a mile up Burgess creek from Grave Creek, found a prospect. Becoming interested in it, he uncovered a small but fairly rich ledge of quartz running slightly north of east in the same general mineral belt as the famous Greenback mine. Thereafter, the partners spent part of their time in further developing the new claim, which they named the "Little Dandy".

As the work progressed, they centered their attention entirely on the Little Dandy, having the ore they took out hauled the quarter mile down to the arastra. During the following few years (1898-1903), he sold his part of the Rough Nugget to Hall and bought out Hall's interest in the Little Dandy, also buying 80 acres of railroad land adjoining the claim. With the need of a larger, more convenient mill, he cleared about one and one-half acres of land at the mine and built a new and larger arastra, with a substantial mill building and house, as well as a log ore bin and storeroom. With the planting of garden, orchard and vineyard, the mining camp became the home it remained until his death in 1935.

During these first years, he and the one or two miners he employed drifted on the veins and stoped to the surface on the level where he first made the discovery. His records show a total of about \$10,000 taken out in that work, an average of about \$17 a ton at the price of gold at that time. During the summer months they worked in the mine taking out ore and filling the bin. In the winter, when the water was high, they ran the arastra, grinding the ore in four or five "runs of about 15 to 20 tons each, "cleaning up" between each run.

Although the arastra, using one of the most "primitive" methods of extracting gold, is slower in operation than the stamp mill and modern ball mill, it is conceded to be as efficient, if not more so, than either in the percentage of values it saves. The one at the Little Dandy was one of the most complete and well built in this part of the state, and was often visited by miners who wanted to learn the principles of its construction.

A ditch, coming from the creek several hundred yards above the mill turns into a flume supported on a trestle, which brings the water to the top of the wheel, some 24 feet from the ground. The waterwheel, then 24 feet in diameter, turned the shaft by means of two large cogwheels which Hayden himself made with seasoned oak timber. To the four arms extending from the shaft "drags" (large boulders with wooden handles stuck in drilled holes) were tied, following one another around the bed of the tub with the turning of the shaft. Other large stones, turned flat face up, fit in the tub as closely together as possible in a bed of closely packed clay, a concrete foundation forming the base of the tub. The ore is fed into the tub by shovelfuls, being ground with a small amount of water and a little quicksilver at the rate of about five tons each 24 hours. Screens at one side allow the finely ground ore, or tailings, to pass over the copper plates, coated with quicksilver where the free gold is

Drewback

Little Dandy Mine

Grants Pass Courier, January 27, 1937

LITTLE DANDY WAS GOOD PRODUCER

(By Helen Turner Sparlin)

Interesting facts concerning the Little Dandy mine on Grave creek were related in a recent interview with Mrs. Florence Hayden, 251 West I street. Mrs. Hayden, widow of J. G. "Jack" Hayden who passed away two years ago last September, has been a resident of Josephine county since 1913.

In making a brief resume of the early life of Mr. Hayden, Mrs. Hayden stated that her husband's family came west from Boston in 1861, via the Isthmus of Panama railroad and up the coast in the old steamer, the Jonathan, shortly before Jack Hayden's birth. The Hayden family first made their home in Salem where he was born, moving later to Portland.

"My husband's father was an intimate friend of Gov. Grover, fourth governor of Oregon", Mrs. Hayden stated. "When my husband was born, the governor named him christening him John Grover after the governor's father."

"Due to poor health, the elder Mr. Hayden was forced to move from the city to the country, so with a partner he purchased 2200 acres of land on the MacKenzie river near Eugene and with three of the older sons, Jack, Charles and Will, went into stock raising.

"My husband's mother and the younger children had remained in Portland for a time, following the others' move to their new home. On the day of her arrival in Eugene to join them, her husband was killed by a runaway team on his way to the station to meet his family".

"Following his father's death my husband worked at various occupations, learning the carpenter trade which he later followed to a considerable extent. It was during the panic in Tacoma where he was living 40 years ago that he decided to come to Grants Pass, having heard of the mining possibilities in this section of the state. He became acquainted with a man named John Hall, with whom he bought a small partly developed mine on Grave creek, known as the Hall

mine. They built a primitive type of mill for grinding ore, known as an arastra, and worked this mine for some time."

"It was while Mr. Hayden was prospecting at the Hall mine that he discovered what became known as the Little Dandy or Jack Hayden mine. He sold his interest in the Hall mine to his partner and began to work his newly discovered mine. He built a little home, set out fruit trees and planted a garden. Over a period of several years Mr. Hayden took \$10,000 in gold from the mine without any machinery".

At various times when interest in mining would wane Mr. Hayden went to San Francisco where he followed carpentering as a vocation. On one of his trips to the city he assisted in the building of the Emporium, Mrs. Hayden stated.

It was in 1913 that Mr. Hayden married Florence Lacy Fleming in San Francisco. With his bride he returned to the Little Dandy mine on Grave creek, where they made their home for many years.

"I had never seen a mine and knew less than nothing of mining, except what had read", remarked Mrs. Hayden. "It was not long,

however, until I had taken a keen interest in our mine and I spent a great deal of time digging around in the hills. I discovered eight different out crops where the top edge of stringers came near the surface of the ground, and as a result of my discovery my husband took out several tons of extra good ore from these spots".

"Often, while digging around in the rocks, I would find what I thought was a piece of quartz rich in gold. Closer observation, however, would show me that was only mica. Thus I discovered that "all is not gold that glitters", said Mrs. Hayden with a smile.

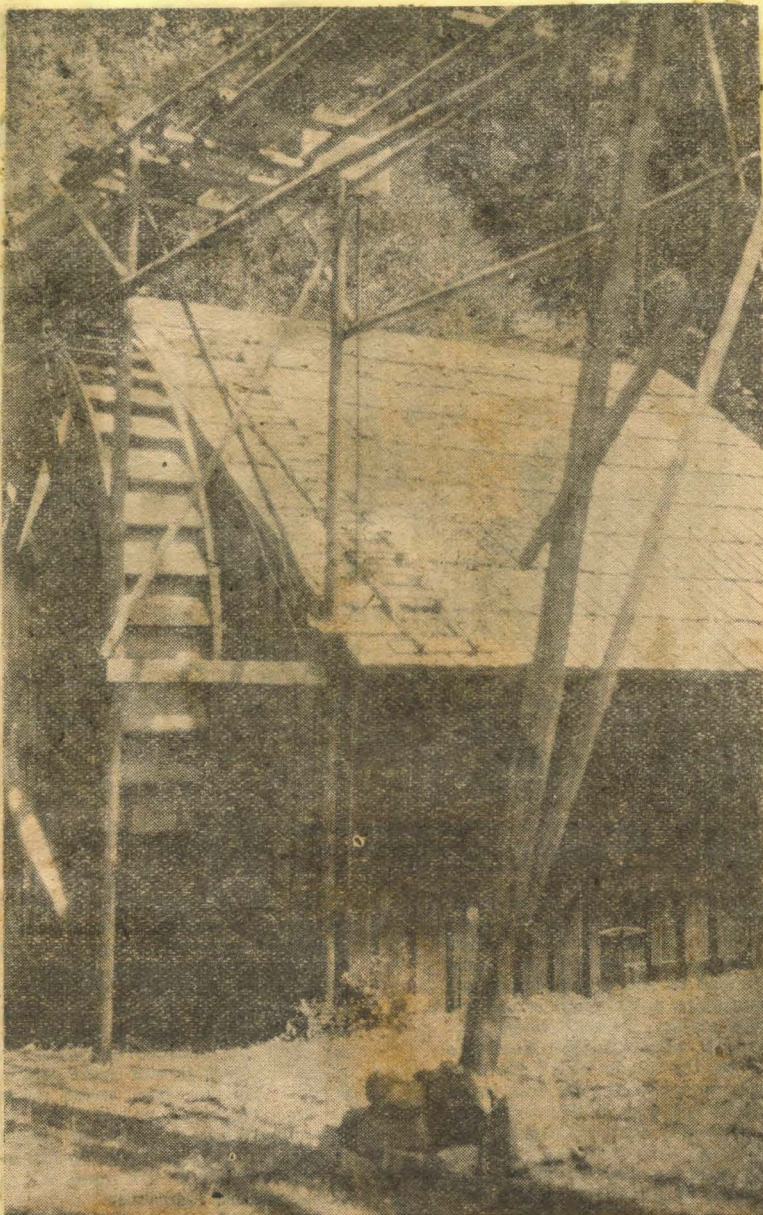
"Only a person who has mined knows what a thrill it is to strike quartz while prospecting", Mrs. Hayden said. "It feels so different from ordinary rock that one can tell the moment the pick or shovel hits the quartz".

Following Mr. Hayden's death two years ago last September, Mrs. Hayden remained at the mine for about a year.

Since Mrs. Hayden has lived in Grants Pass, the mine has not been operated. Doris Hayden, employee of the Courier, lives with her mother at 251 West I street.

Little Dandy Mine

Granite Pass Courier, January 27, 1937



Old water wheel which was used on Little Dandy Mine in early days of operation by John Hayden who discovered the property and operated it for many years. This wheel replaced the one shown in the etching on page one of this section.

Little Dandy Mine

Grants Pass Courier, January 27, 1937

Paid return charges of \$2.70.

Paid J. Wolke back bill, \$8.80.

Paid J. Wolke for goods purchased today, \$9.65.

Paid T. B. Cornell old account, \$14.55.

Friday, April 8. Ross and I worked at L. D., took out 1200 pounds of ore. John Hall sowed clover seed in yard and worked at garden. A showery day.

Monday, April 11. Three tons of ore on dump now. Ross worked at Little Dandy. Took out 1200 pounds ore. John went prospecting. I ran the arastra. Water is very light, had to put in a small drag in order to run at all. Made gate for the garden and hung same and finished fence. A bright warm day. Shut down at 9 p. m.

Sunday, July 17. Ross and I went hunting today, took bucket along and went through the berry patch. A bear had been there ahead of us, had the bushes pretty well torn up. We got about a quart. Were not many ripe ones. Did not see a deer, but saw several flocks of grouse. A warm day.

Thursday, July 21. We worked at crosscut until about 4:30 p. m. We then took the gurs and dog and went to the west slope of Sexton mountain to look for a deer. Camped there all night.

Friday, July 22. Got back this noon at 10 a. m. with a buck, killed by Ross. Both worked at tunnel. Ross went to a dance above Makins on the ditch. Got horse from Blacklock. A warm day.

Saturday, July 23. Ross laid off today. I worked in tunnel. A warm day.

Friday, Sept. 16. Frank Steward went to work today at \$1.50 and board. He and Ross got out 2800 pounds of ore. I sacked ore and helped about the mine. John Hall went hunting, killed four squirrels.

Sunday, Jan. 8, 1899. Ross dropped the oil can in the arastra tub last night and the drags mashed it. I put in two cans of concentrated lye and about one half bushel of ashes and ground it for an hour, very slow and then went on grinding as usual. Can't tell what damage it has done. A bright day. Ross is grinding tonight.

Sunday, Jan. 22. We have taken out 35 tons in 16 shifts. Frank went to Grants Pass via Hugo this morning. Sent the bullion by him for shipment to the mint at San Francisco. Thirty-six and three-fourth ounces. Value about \$589, out of 35 tons. I ran the arastra today, had some trouble getting started as a rock got loose in the bed and had to put in new one. Bill Church was over tonight, paid him \$20 on account for hauling ore. A fair day.

(Note: This entry was a precaution in case of an unwelcome visitor. Sent the bullion by Ross Wednesday, the 27th instead).

Sunday, Feb. 26. Returned from the Pass last night at 6 p. m., found Steve Fink here. Have agreed to lease him one half of the mine for one year at 25 per cent of the gross output of one-half. I have bought John Hall's interest in the Little Dandy mine, buildings, arastra and tools for \$700 and my interest in the Rough Nugget mine. Paid John \$350 cash and note for \$350 due in one year at 5 per cent interest. The man from Grants Pass got here with a load of goods and lumber at 9 a. m. Paid him for hauling \$3.75. Paid Ross Williams \$10 for his share of the grub on hand. He has signed his lease over to me.

Paid Bins for 2 assays, \$2.00.

Paid T. B. Cornell, \$5.20.

Paid J. Wolke, \$20.75.

Wednesday, March 22. I took up the bed of the arastra, washed off the rocks, scraped up the dirt and partly rocked it out.

Friday, April 28. We worked at mine, got out 1200 pounds of ore. A fair day. Frank Steward was here at noon on his way to the Pass from the Greenback mine.

Monday, June 5. Kasper Nichols and I worked at mine. Got out 1800 pounds ore. Frank is working tonight. George McCormack got here tonight with team to haul ore. A fair day.

Monday, June 14. Frank worked in uprise last night. Kasper and I worked at the upraise, put in a set of timbers afternoon, got out 3500 pounds ore from the shaft.

Monday, July 10. Kasper and I worked in stope, got out 3400 pounds ore. A hot day.

Friday, Nov. 10. Kasper worked at mine. I worked on arastra getting her ready to run. Started to grind ore about 4 p. m. A stormy day.

Thursday, Dec. 21. We cleaned up today after the second run. Got 41 1/4 ounces out of 42 tons of ore. Averaged just three tons per day. Cloudy, but no rain.

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 1900. We worked on arastra. Church hauled ore, eight loads. Steward got here this afternoon to work in mine. Was sent out by John Hall. A fair day. Got returns from the last shipment, \$497.75 net.

Thursday, March 22. Cleaned up after grinding the tailings pile and got about 34 1/2 ounces amalgam, value about \$150.

Tuesday, March 27. Kasper and I started to level off a place for new tunnel near the creek, 77 feet below the first level.

Wednesday, April 11. I finished grinding tailings at noon, tore up about half the bed and washed the rocks. Showery.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 12, 13, 14. I worked cleaning up; rocked out about one foot of the dirt under the bed, retorted the amalgam getting 7 13-16 ounces. Saved out two ounces for dressing plates.

Sunday, May 6. Sent G. H. Andrews, Portland, \$10, payment on R. R. land. Sent letter to Jno. Ems offering him a job at mine at \$2.00 and board. Cloudy. Went to Pettinails afternoon.

Friday, June 22. Church moved me up to the mine today; had three loads at 50c. \$1.50. Tomason helped three hours, 60c. He borrowed 20 lbs of powder, is to return same

caught. Not having a concentrating table, some values were lost in the tailings, which are pooled below the mill.

In an ordinary clean-up, the plates are scraped free of amalgam and the crevices between the stones scraped out to a depth of about an inch and a half, and the amalgam "rocked" out of this material. In a thorough clean-up, the entire bed is torn up, the stones are washed clean and all the filling material down to the base is run through the rocker.

After working in the upper level for some time, he decided to prepare for the more thorough development of the mine by driving a tunnel to cross-cut the vein at the creek level, a point 77 feet lower than the level of the upper works and to the west. Driving this tunnel through the tough porphyry formation was a slow and laborious task with the use of hand-drills. Except for finding a small vein about 80 feet from portal, there was no noticeable change in the formation until the tunnel struck the main vein at almost right angles, 240 feet in the mountain. At this point it was about 12 or 14 inches wide and the values did not run as high as they did in the upper level, but when they had drifted eastward 57 feet on the vein, its average width increased to two feet and the average value per ton, at present rates, to about \$15.

On this level, however, the rock became very hard, and finding the going too slow for hand work, he devoted most of his time for the next few years to his trade of carpentry, hoping to secure later the means to install air compression drills and an ore crusher.

During these early years of the century, however, mining had come into such disrepute, honest mining men were so hard to weed from the "promoters" and so hard to interest in a property, that interest lagged until after the war. Even after that time, though a number of deals were considered, the mine was found too small for a large company, but too large for an individual

without sufficient capital to handle, so the Little Dandy remains in the hands of his family, Mrs. Florence Hayden and Doris Hayden of Grants Pass.

The following excerpts taken at random from faded ink of the daily journals of John Hayden, kept during the first years of work in the Little Dandy, from 1897 to 1905, offer some interesting comparisons between the problems and methods of quartz mining 40 years ago and now.

Friday, Nov. 19, 1897. John Hall made boards almost all day. I worked on the arastra wheel and fitted up the bed, put in the two heavy drags. Got one-quarter of beef from Will Light, 117 pounds at 6c, \$7.00.

Saturday, Nov. 20. Ground ore today for the first time. The arastra works well outside of making an ungodly noise. Pulls 1000 pounds of drags with ease with less than the buckets one-third full of water. Will have plenty of power to turn two tubs. Bright and cold today.

Monday, Nov. 29. Lowered one set of the screens, also the plates, trap-box and V-flume. Took us all day. Sent \$3.00 to Clemens, Grants Pass, for 5-pound can of cyanide and 50c for ammonia to come by express to Leland care of S. Espey. Should be here by Wednesday. Rained almost all day.

Monday, Dec. 6. A stormy, blus-

tering day. The creek is higher than it has been this season. John Hall saw a large salmon come over the wheel. We shut the water off and caught it in the race. Will put in a screen at mouth of race and see if any more come down. We put in new drag this morning; works first class. Made new screen this afternoon and ran the wheel until 9:30 p. m.

Sunday, Dec. 19. We ran through the 600 pounds of rich ore. It took us a little less than three hours. John Hall's week to cook again. Ran the arastra all night; shut her down at 5 a. m. Monday. John was getting uneasy, afraid someone would clean up on us, so we are watching her pretty close. A fine day, clear and cold.

January 1, 1898. I cut up and salted the meat and tried out the lard in forenoon. Started the arastra about 1 p. m.; the water was too light to run with, closed her down and did some repairing on same and mended ore sacks balance of afternoon. A foggy day.

Tuesday, Feb. 15. Ross and I surveyed the L. D. ledge in forenoon and went to the Rough Nugget. Repaired the wheelbarrow and brought all the tools down and worked afternoon in the L. D. The tunnel was in 47 feet when John Hall left it. There is 23 feet to run yet if the ledge is perpendicular, but if it dips into the hill the same as on the surface, it will be 39 feet yet to the ledge. A foggy day.

Monday, Feb. 28. We struck the ledge at the L. D. tunnel this forenoon, 77 feet from the first set of timbers. It prospects pretty fair, but can't tell how wide it is yet.

Friday, March 4. Ross and I worked in the L. D. tunnel in forenoon and cut timber for ore bin afternoon. Shot four large Rainbow trout under bridge at noon. A fine day.

Tuesday, March 15. All hands to Grants Pass. John Hall has agreed to lease his interest in the mine and arastra to Ross Williams for three years. Consideration, 25% of the gross output of his interest which is one half. Got returns from the last shipment of dust, \$154.67.

Little Dandy Mine

Grants Pass Courier, January 27, 1937

Thursday, Nov. 11. John and I worked on new arastra and ore bin. Put on shakes.

Saturday, Jan. 10, 1903. Al and I worked on the bed of arastra, got it filled up ready for the cement floor. A fair day.

Thursday, Jan. 22. Myers and I finished fitting up the arastra; a stormy day. Jim Calvert was here last evening.

Saturday, Jan. 24. I started to grind ore. Got the arastra running smoothly by night. Myers is grinding tonight. Rained hard all day.

Monday, Feb. 2. Myers ground ore last night until about 4 a. m. when the large cog wheel gave out. I pulled it out this morning and turned the cogs end for end. Cleaned out the screens. Everything froze up tight this morning. Clear and cold.

Sunday, Feb. 8. Started to grind ore again today at 2 p. m. Has been frozen up since the second of the month. Myers is grinding tonight. Has been thawing for the last two days.

Monday, Dec. 26, 1904. Got back to the mine from San Francisco this afternoon, found everything all o. k., even the wood rats have trimmed the apple trees. (He was in San Francisco about a year and a half working at the carpenter trade. Had the mine leased for part of that time).

Thursday, Jan. 2, 1905. Worked in tunnel one half day; went to inspect Bennett's mine afternoon. A good portion of his work had caved in. Could not see much, vein very badly broken up where he could see it. Cloudy day.

Saturday, Jan. 21. Worked in tunnel; the rock is getting harder. A Mr. Doaney was here from Althouse looking for a ledge his brother found 12 years ago. He thinks this is the one that I am working. Showery.

Saturday, February 4. Have been all the week grinding the ore and tailings. Had to repair the big cog wheel twice and move them closer together. Cleaned up today. Fair weather all the week.

Monday, Feb. 6. We fixed up some boxes to sluice the upper dump. I cleaned out the ditch and put in a headgate, all ready for the next rain.

Monday, April 16. Moved tools and part of car, etc., down to the lower level this forenoon and started to work drifting east on the first stringer in the lower tunnel.

Saturday, April 29. Worked in lower tunnel all this week, put two cars ore in the bin, (1 ton). Bright and warm all week, the peas and cucumbers are up that I planted last Saturday.

LITTLE DANDY WAS GOOD PRODUCER

(By Helen Turner Sparlin)

Interesting facts concerning the Little Dandy mine on Grave creek were related in a recent interview with Mrs. Florence Hayden, 251 West I street. Mrs. Hayden, widow of J. G. "Jack" Hayden who passed away two years ago last September, has been a resident of Josephine county since 1913.

In making a brief resume of the early life of Mr. Hayden, Mrs. Hayden stated that her husband's family came west from Boston in 1861, via the Isthmus of Panama railroad and up the coast in the old steamer, the Jonathan, shortly before Jack Hayden's birth. The Hayden family first made their home in Salem where he was born, moving later to Portland.

"My husband's father was an intimate friend of Gov. Grover, fourth governor of Oregon", Mrs. Hayden stated. "When my husband was born, the governor named him christening him John Grover after the governor's father."

"Due to poor health, the elder Mr. Hayden was forced to move from the city to the country, so with a partner he purchased 2200 acres of land on the MacKenzie river near Eugene and with three of the older sons, Jack, Charles and Will, went into stock raising.

"My husband's mother and the younger children had remained in Portland for a time, following the others' move to their new home. On the day of her arrival in Eugene to join them, her husband was killed by a runaway team on his way to the station to meet his family".

"Following his father's death my husband worked at various occupations, learning the carpenter trade which he later followed to a considerable extent. It was during the panic in Tacoma where he was living 40 years ago that he decided to come to Grants Pass, having heard of the mining possibilities in this section of the state. He became acquainted with a man named John Hall, with whom he bought a small partly developed mine on Grave creek, known as the Hall

mine. They built a primitive type of mill for grinding ore, known as an arastra, and worked this mine for some time."

"It was while Mr. Hayden was prospecting at the Hall mine that he discovered what became known as the Little Dandy or Jack Hayden mine. He sold his interest in the Hall mine to his partner and began to work his newly discovered mine. He built a little home, set out fruit trees and planted a garden. Over a period of several years Mr. Hayden took \$10,000 in gold from the mine without any machinery".

At various times when interest in mining would wane Mr. Hayden went to San Francisco where he followed carpentering as a vocation. On one of his trips to the city he assisted in the building of the Emporium, Mrs. Hayden stated.

It was in 1913 that Mr. Hayden married Florence Lacy Fleming in San Francisco. With his bride he returned to the Little Dandy mine on Grave creek, where they made their home for many years.

"I had never seen a mine and knew less than nothing of mining, except what I had read", remarked Mrs. Hayden. "It was not long,

however, until I had taken a keen interest in our mine and I spent a great deal of time digging around in the hills. I discovered eight different out crops where the top edge of stringers came near the surface of the ground, and as a result of my discovery my husband took out several tons of extra good ore from these spots".

"Often, while digging around in the rocks, I would find what I thought was a piece of quartz rich in gold. Closer observation, however, would show me that was only mica. Thus I discovered that "all is not gold that glitters", said Mrs. Hayden with a smile.

"Only a person who has mined knows what a thrill it is to strike quartz while prospecting", Mrs. Hayden said. "It feels so different from ordinary rock that one can tell the moment the pick or shovel hits the quartz".

Following Mr. Hayden's death two years ago last September, Mrs. Hayden remained at the mine for about a year.

Since Mrs. Hayden has lived in Grants Pass, the mine has not been operated. Doris Hayden, employee of the Courier, lives with her mother at 251 West I street.