

Clip from mine file

# 'Eureka, There It Is:' Discovery of Rich Gold Quartz

(Illinois Valley News)

CAVE JUNCTION — "Eureka: There it is." This was the joyous cry of H. H. Buhne in the latter part of the 19th century. Buhne, pronounced "Boona," was looking at a rich gold quartz ledge that had been found a short time before. He had been seaching for a mine and this was his dream come true, the end of the rainbow.

Two prospectors found the ledge and sold it to the man who had the first grocery store at Selma, Ore. I guess I knew the name of the prospectors and the grocer at one time but

me your sixth husband." This cooled things down enough to allow Jack to escape back to his blissful state of bachelorhood.

The last time I recall seeing Jack was in the 1940s. A friend had a message to deliver to him and asked me if I cared to go along. We left Selma about dark one summer evening and drove down the river to where the trail went up over the mountain to the Eureka Mine. Part way up the hill we stirred up a rattlesnake that

got away from us in the brush. This brought up the subject of rattlers so at the next stop my friend Claud told a snake story he had experienced. (Claud said when he and his wife were first married they lived in a mountain cabin near Galice. He said they got started playing practical jokes on each other some of them pretty rough. Claud said he had kidney trouble and he dreaded that long journey at night out through the boulders and rattlesnakes so he got a bucket to use. He said

he got out of bed nine tenths asleep not knowing his wife had placed two dry Alka Seltzer tablets in his bucket and when those Alka Seltzer tablets made a loud "sizzz" noise he knew he was about to get snakebitten. About the time the pot bounced off the ceiling he heard his wife roaring with laughter and knew he had been had.)

When we got close enough to the mine to see lamplight we stopped till Claud shouted out Jack to look us over. Jack seemed glad to see us and fed us

coffee and limburger cheese and crackers.

Lew Krauss said he and some other boys and girls one time on Halloween swiped Jack Shade's wagon and pushed it into a deep hole of water in the creek. Jack showed up and demanded they return his wagon where they found it or he would have the whole bunch in jail the next day. Lew said he and the other boys told him to jump in the creek but Jack raised such an uproar that the

girls relented and waded out and got the wagon.

In 1932 Roy Hansen and Jack were going to clean out the old workings and continue on from there. They found a rich ore shoot so they worked on that. Roy told me that if they would strike a pick into the rich quartz and pry it loose you could hear the gold tearing loose. Roy said some of the rich ore mortared out \$13 gold per pound of rock. Winnie Shade says some of it was so rich, wires of gold would hold pieces of fractured quartz

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MON., NOV. 20, 1972

# It Is: Discovery of Rich Gold Quartz Ledge Retold

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together until the rock was destroyed in the mortar or mill.

They felt they got cheated out of about \$4,000 on a shipment of rich ore to the mint. Winnie Shade said she had lots of time so she crushed the rest of their supply of rich quartz in the mortar and muller. She said at one time she had 54 ounces of pure gold worked out. She said she kept track of a one pound coffee can full of ore that mortared \$125. She says Roy was right about the gold making a noise tearing loose. A friend

came out from Grants Pass to look at their big strike. He looked at the rich vein of gold and quartz down across the face of the tunnel and across the floor. The man took a pick and struck it into the ore in the floor. Winnie said when the friend pried it up she could hear the gold tearing loose. Winnie offers a tip to anyone who may be mining at the Eureka. She says any time you find a blood-red rose quartz you may be in pay-dirt or soon will be.

(Continued on Page 7A)

bo when I heard these stories. The store owner took Buhnne to examine the ledge so he could buy it for himself and friends if it suited him. The way I remember the story, as told to me years ago, was that the Eureka Mining Company paid the store owner \$180,000 for the unproved ledge.

Today a person may ride in comfort in a passenger car to the portal of the Eureka Mine but then it was all wilderness with no roads or trails. All available horses and men were put to work building a trail a minimum of five feet wide so the heavy machinery could be hauled on sleds from the end of the road two miles west of Selma down the river to Store Gulch then up over the mountain to the Eureka.

The story goes that before they got the mill going in 1890 the Company had \$260,000 invested. In 90 days they recovered their investment. How rich it must have been. (What a joy it would be to me to someday work on a rich strike. I seem to have the ability to find gold, as I take out many pockets, but they are all so small. I hope to someday use my Midas Touch in an area where there is something more worthwhile.)

The Eureka Mining Co. worked the mine for 14 years or until 1904. In that time they made 450 feet of tunnels, shafts, and stopes. Roy Hansen says he saw the mint reports for that period and more than \$800,000 gold was shipped from the Eureka at that time.

I don't know how many men worked at the Eureka but there must have been several as I remember Bert Hogue saying he had the job of supplying the mine with fresh beef. Lew Krauss says he saw Bert Hogue heading into the mine driving 6 head of fat beef in one herd. Krauss says his dad did some packing of supplies to the mine and was paid 2 cents a pound. That doesn't seem like much money to us today but at that time I bet it was a very welcome cash income.

Buhnne was in failing health, so in 1910 he hired Jack and Henry Shade to guard the mine and to allow no one to do any prospecting. They didn't succeed completely as I know several people who claim to have found rich ore on the Eureka and then quickly covered their work. Buhnne died, so the Shades obtained the Eureka on a labor lein in 1920.

In 1921 a promoter came along and offered the Shades \$30,000 for the mine with a check for \$15,000 as down payment. Jack Shade was a stern old boy and mistrusted everyone. Jack refused the check and demanded the promoter go cash it and bring the money to close the deal. The promoter refused and went on his way. Henry Shade and his wife Winnie were so discouraged they moved to Grants Pass.

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I remember Jack Shade as the most ferocious looking person I had ever known. He stood straight and tall and his flashing eyes and full black beard and deep guttural voice made everyone know he dare not be tampered with. One day I was coming home from Selma School and saw him talking to Earl Yirk on the porch of the old hotel at Selma. Jack's deep voice had the quality of distant summer thunder when he was talking but then he laughed and it was like a strike of lightning close at hand. It was not at all difficult for a six year old like me to imagine wisps and bits of lightning dancing about over that black thundercloud of a beard.

My mother tells me at one time there was danger that Jack Shade and I might become related. I had a much married aunt who was single at the moment who became interested in old Jack. One day mom heard Jack tell my aunt, "I know what you want, you want to make

# ● Eureka: Footnotes to History

(Continued from Page 6A)

They shipped \$30,000 gold to the mint before Jack Shade suffered a severe heart attack. Roy Hansen wanted to go ahead working the mine but Jack was so suspicious of everyone he wouldn't give Roy a working agreement. Roy says there is much gold left in the Eureka for the lucky ones.

Francis Adams and his dad worked a while on the Eureka in the late 1930's but didn't get to a rich lens of ore they knew about that had been covered over in earlier years.

Carl Stevens got a lease on the Eureka in the late 1950s.

Carl did extensive drilling and blocked out 500 tons of ore that assayed \$214 per ton. This should have produced \$100,000 gold but Carl didn't mine it as the Eureka was sold to the Hawk Brothers in 1960. Carl Stevens got \$1 for his lease and Winnie Shade says all she got from the Hawk Brothers was \$2,000. The Hawks moved in a ball mill bulldozer and end loader and dumped ore, waste rocks and all into the gulch below. They never did make it pay as there was no way to separate ore from waste rock.

Rough and Ready Lumber Co. brought the Eureka from the

Hawks in April 1972. Now Fred Krauss is in charge of the destiny of the Eureka. We join others in wishing him much success and hope that we play a part sometime that will allow us to gaze upon a newfound vein of rich ore and cry 'Eureka: There it is. My dream come true. The rainbow.'

Winnie Shade says the man who sold the mine to Buhne stayed right there and collected his \$180,000 in gold that was taken from the mine.