



GRANTS PASS COURIER

THIRD SECTION

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SIXTEEN PAGES

Gold is Outstanding Southern Oregon Mineral

GOLD FOUND FIRST IN 1851 NEAR ILLINOIS

By Wm. Mackey

Gold was first discovered in Josephine county in the year 1851 at the mouth of Josephine creek, close to where that stream empties into the Illinois river, near the foot of Eight Dollar mountain, which stands on the north side of the river west of the stage road and rears heavenward like a gigantic pyramid built by nature that overlooks the beautiful little valley extending south. Through this valley runs the Illinois river and in it is situated the town of Kerby, three miles distant from the above named mountain.

Eight Dollar mountain is somewhat of a striking landmark. When viewed from the south from Kerby or other points on the stage road it seems like a great perpendicular high wall standing out in a bold red outline against the sky.

Mountain Named

The mountain is said to have received its name from the fact that a man wore out a pair of new "eight dollar" boots walking over it in one day. Josephine creek, and also Josephine county were named in honor of a girl, Virginia Josephine Rollins, who was the first white woman born in Josephine county, in the year 1851.

The townsite of Kerby, which was formerly called Kerbyville, was laid off in the year 1855 and was named after an old man named Kerby, a well-known pioneer. Kerbyville was the county seat of Josephine county from 1857 until 1886. The county seat was then removed to Grants Pass.

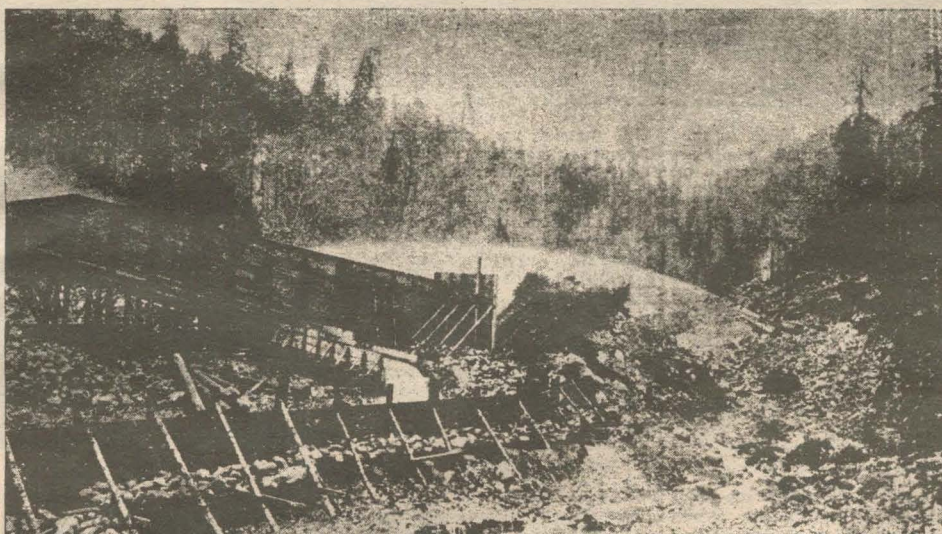
Kerbyville was the chief center of Josephine county for two or three years in the beginning and was frequented by thousands of miners and prospectors who flocked there from California and elsewhere, and thousands of dollars poured into the coffers of Kerby from the surrounding country.

Fast Going Places

In Kerby there were hotels and stores, dance halls and saloons and fast going places in the middle 50's. But the nearby mining camps of Josephine and Canyon creeks, although yielding good returns, were not as extensive and lasting as those of Waldo and Althouse. Kerby was, after a short time, overshadowed and outdone by the flourishing mining camps of Althouse and Sailor Diggings. However, Kerby continued to be a place of considerable importance for many years on account of the circuit court which was held there twice each year.

The noted criminal lawyer, James D. Fay had a law office in Kerbyville and pleaded his first case in that town, as did Dick Williams, who was, in the 80's a law partner of Governor ... in Denton.

A MODERN METHOD OF EXTRACTING PRECIOUS METAL



Above is pictured a Ruble elevator at the Forest Queen mine, in the Louse creek district of Josephine county. It supplies the necessary grade for washing the gravel and recovering the finer gold in the mine's alluvial (gravel) deposits. Fuller description is given on page three.

OLD WAYS PAY



Statement of Acknowledgement

Grants Pass, Oregon.

The Grants Pass Daily Courier;
Grants Pass, Oregon.

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Yours very truly,

(Signed) WM. F. HAYDEN,
Consulting Mining Engineer.

(Editor's Note: In order best to fit Mr. Hayden's article to newspaper columns, The Courier has divided it into several stories. All of them bear Mr. Hayden's name.)

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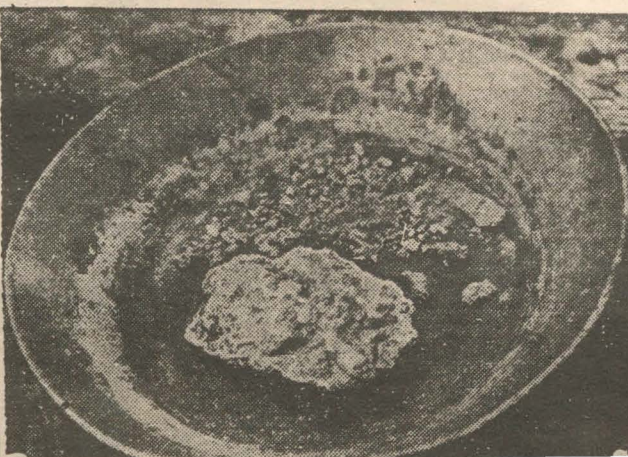
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Carberry Placers

The Carberry placers located in the Applegate mining district, according to reports, have produced some of the largest gold nuggets in the state of Oregon and the production record is reported to be around the \$400,000 mark although we do not have records to substantiate same. The larger mines of the district are owned by prominent Grants Pass mining men.

Waldo District

The first gold discovered in



COPPER, LIME, CHROME ALSO FOUND HERE

**PARTIAL REVIEW
OF MINERAL RESOURCES
OF SOUTHWESTERN OREGON**

Compiled By

Wm. F. Hayden

Consulting Mining Engineer

In reviewing the mineral resources of southwestern Oregon we find that the principal minerals are gold, with copper and chromite occupying about equal proportions as to magnitude.

The non-metallic minerals such as lime, marble, silica, etc., are more or less abundant, particularly the lime.

Southwestern Oregon is prominently known as a gold-producing area where many gold strikes have been made. Evidence of a more profitable "finds" has caused an influx of miners over the years (seeking gold) from all parts of the country. Whenever a large gold strike is made anywhere on the face of this old globe, of ours the announcement of the place of discovery has always drawn hundreds of fortune-hunters. This was true in the California forties when thousands of men traversed the great mountains and plains, crossed the Rockies before transcontinental transportation was made possible, enduring untold hardships. The same was true of the discovery of gold in the Klondyke. This has always been true. Gold will always be man's greatest lure.

Gold Hidden

Nature has chosen to deposit her treasure of gold in out-of-the-way places, many times down deep in some mountain mass or in beds of abandoned water courses filled with loam and gravels forced down by glacial or erosive action from the mountain reaches many, many ages ago. The mining of gold ore (quartz), is comparatively new but washing gold from the earth's beds and from banks of streams is as ancient as biblical history, which portrays the fact that the gold in Solomon's temple was recovered from placer gold deposits.

First, therefore, let us consider what constitutes placer mines and as to what would be a favorable situation in this respect.

Placer mines are the places where gold is obtained by washing an alluvial or glacial deposit of sand or gravel containing particularly, or more usually, particles of gold or other minerals. A placer claim is a mining claim located upon gravel or ground whose mineral contents are extracted or mined by the use of hydraulic or sluicing of the gravels. The deposits consist of gravel, sand or similar materials resulting from the crumbling or erosion of country rock, vein materials, etc., which may contain particles of gold of a size and value that may be recovered.

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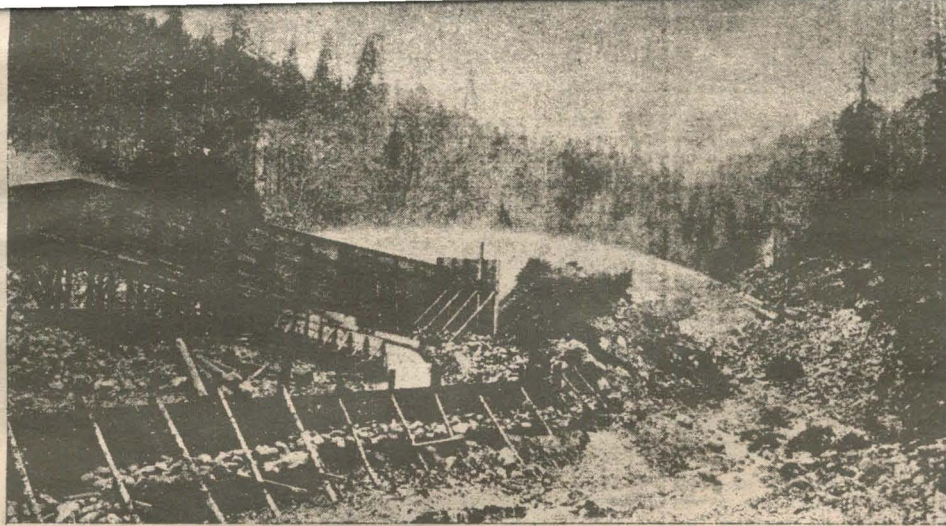
The noted criminal lawyer, James D. Fay had a law office in Kerbyville and pleaded his first case in that town, as did Dick Williams, who was, in the 80's a law partner of Governor Thayer in Portland.

The late B. F. Mulkey, who was the prosecuting attorney and law partner of Judge Caples in Portland 50 years ago, said that Mulkey ran a pack train in and out of Kerby in his younger days, earning money to pay his way while going to school.

Knew Pioneers

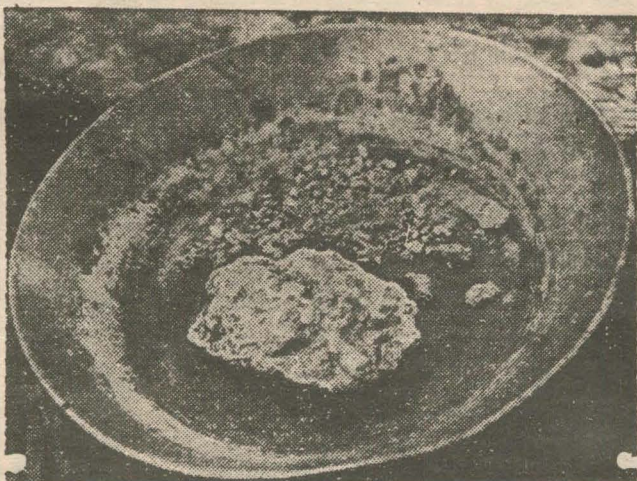
The writer, when a small boy, went to school in Kerby in the year 1869 and knew many of the old pioneers who were living there at that time. Tom Regan, the teacher, had mined on Althouse in early days. He was from South Carolina, a rebel at heart, and sympathized strongly with the south. Tom Regan had a southern temper and when not teaching school often carried a big bowie knife.

In this year, 1869, William



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Mrs. Robert Burns is shown above displaying their \$1015 nugget which she and her husband found at the Stovepipe placer mine near Leland in June, 1934. Panning and small sluice boxes, just as in the days 80 years ago, still pay from "bacon and beans" to small fortunes.

Chapman, an early miner on Althouse creek, lived in Kerby and herded 3000 sheep in the vicinity of Eight Dollar mountain. He was sheriff of Josephine county.

The writer knew Dave Kendal, who kept a saloon in Kerby at that time, and also John Bolt, the pioneer merchant. Sam Sawyer, who had a store at the time in Kerby, Bill Linn, who ran the Union hotel in 1869 and Charles Hughes, who was county clerk during that period and held that office during seven successive

terms were also his acquaintances. The writer was intimately acquainted with Jack Hendershot, the old California miner and Mexican war veteran, and his wife, who was known as Aunt Jenny. They lived on a ranch by the side of the stage road on the first high flat one half mile south of Kerby in 1869. He often saw said Hendershot, who resided at Kerby in the above mentioned year, and whose brother, Jim Hendershot, was sheriff of Josephine county in the year 1859.

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Waldo District

The first gold discovered in 1851 was in the Sailor Diggings in Josephine county, and mining progressed at a high pitch for some years and has been carried on in a desultory manner since that time, but would be called continuous. The mines in this district are at this time still called producers, among which would be the Esterly, one of the best equipped and larger placer mines in Oregon and which has been a producer for many years. The writer has visited this mine upon several occasions and he regards the same as being one of the outstanding in the district. The Sailor Diggings were considered to be richer deposits but not of the magnitude of the Esterly mine. The Esterly mine carries equipment, the cost of (Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

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Hydraulicicking Explained

Hydraulicicking is used when water is employed under pressure to break down the gravels and to scrub them through sluice lines with gold-saving devices contained in the bottom of the sluice boxes which save the gold, the devices being known as different types of riffles.

These deposits should be of a grade sufficient to permit the water to carry the rocks through a long sluice line. If the ground is too level either Ruble or regular hydraulic elevators are em- (Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)