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The Siskiyou Pioneer

1957

IN FOLKLORE, FACT AND FICTION



AND
Guidebook to Siskiyou's Gold Fields

Volume Two

Number Ten



—courtesy Siskiyou County Historical Society

HYDRAULIC MINING NEAR HAPPY CAMP

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READY FOR THE MILL

Logging trailer and traction engine near Mt. Shasta. This type of logging trailer is on display at the Siskiyou County Museum.

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Climbing the mountain



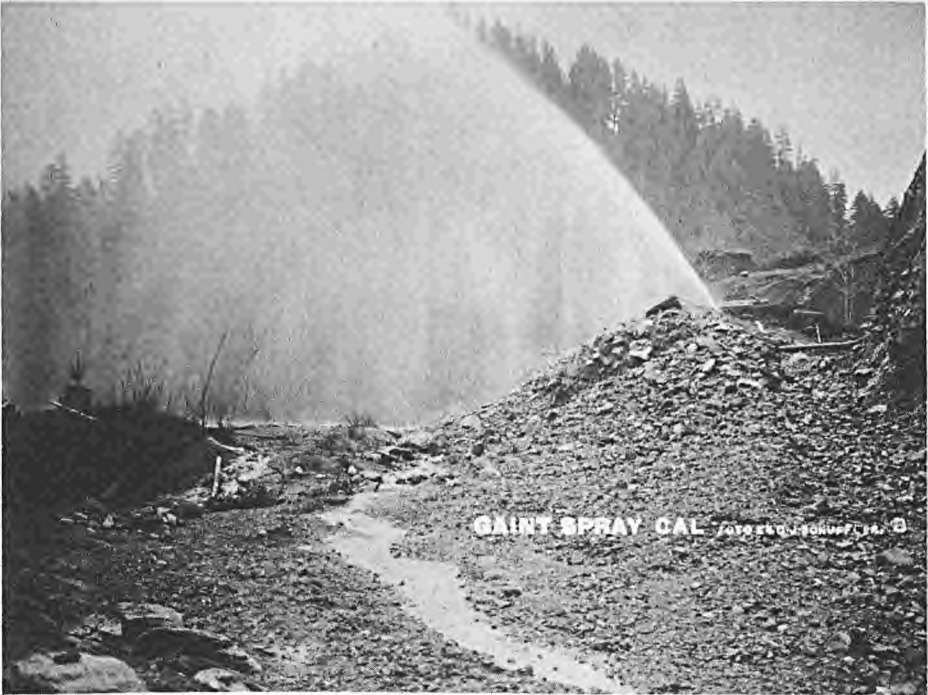
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LUMBER TRAIN AT MT. SHASTA

Lumber train working up Big Canyon by means of switchbacks.

McCLOUD RIVER RAILROAD COMPANY

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—courtesy Siskiyou County Historical Society

GIANT SPRAY

A hydraulic giant sends up a huge plume of water at one of the Siskiyou Mine Company's operations near Clear Creek. Taken about 1900.

ASSOCIATED LUMBER AND BOX COMPANY



DORRIS, CALIFORNIA



—courtesy Siskiyou County Historical Society

GIANT TEARING BEDROCK

The gold often worked down into fractured bedrock making it necessary to tear into the rock as is shown in this picture. Taken at Happy Camp in the early 1900s.

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Sluicing at the Muck-A-Muck above Happy Camp in the early 1900s.

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YREKA, CALIFORNIA



—courtesy Daggett Collection

PROSPECTOR AND DESERT CANARIES

Taken in 1900 at Black Bear.

40 CLUB AND CAFE

● T A V E R N ●

DORRIS, CALIFORNIA



—courtesy Siskiyou County Historical Society

GIANT DUMP

The power of water is shown by the tons of rock washed through the flumes to this dump. Here the dump giant moves the rock to the Klamath River. This mine was located near Clear Creek.

BANK OF MOUNT SHASTA

MOUNT SHASTA, CALIFORNIA



A HOME BANK FOR HOME FOLKS



Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation



—courtesy Daggett Collection

SAWYERS BAR IN 1900

The north end of this famous mining camp as it appeared at the turn of the century. Black Bear Bridge in the foreground.

Randolph Collier

STATE SENATOR

Foreword

For countless ages the seas covered this part of God's earth we call "Siskiyou," leaving in their wake a myriad of fossil-bearing sediments. After some 200 million years the forces of nature manifest themselves in the upwarping of these sediments and the face of *our* part of the world began to change. What had been sea bottom was folded and raised from beneath the sea to become a mountainous land mass known to scientists as the Siskiyou Island. This island extended from what is now Red Bluff on the south to Roseburg, Oregon, in the north and from Eureka to Yreka. (Today this island is the rugged Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains of Oregon and California.)

During the creation of this island, gold-bearing formations were intruding the old sediments as well as adjacent Sierra Nevada Mountains. Later the gold-bearing stratas were exposed to erosion by stream and glacier for countless years. During this time the gold was freed and concentrated and re-concentrated in the stream beds and river bars of Siskiyou. While nature deposited her golden treasure she also carved Siskiyou's canyons into a chaos of ruggedness, and over all this mountain vastness planted a dense forest.

Now at last the stage was set with the riches of the earth to be won in a rugged land of primeval beauty. The land was ready for men to come and prove themselves before God, and come they did. Within days after those first yellow flakes were found, thousands were on the march for Siskiyou. Coming down from Oregon, up the Sacramento Valley, from Nevada's desert trails, and by ship to Trinidad's beaches to fight through the forest and up the canyons to the "digin's".

Thousands came and thousands left, taking riches and leaving riches. There were some that did not leave with their riches but stayed and built and lived, giving us what we have today. It is to those who stayed and built our Siskiyou that this book is dedicated.

Editor's Page

As Siskiyou County faces a necessary reappraisal of its economy it is well to note that there is a latent mineral industry which is awaiting development. Although this book gives an all too brief description of the gold fields of the County it is hoped that the importance of gold as a third and an all year industry may be seen. Twice in our history gold has sustained the economy of the County. First the original development was entirely by gold mining and secondly the great depression of the thirties was felt less severely in Siskiyou County due to the still workable mining properties which provided employment for several hundreds of men who would otherwise have been on relief. It must be remembered that although gold mining is but a small portion of the mineral industry it does nevertheless provide an incentive towards the mining of associated ores of which this County has in quantity.

W. B. P.



Ben J. Fairchild . . .

Since the beginning of the Siskiyou County Historical Society the members have enjoyed both the efforts and friendship of a man who did much to perpetuate the preservation of the history of a land dear to his heart. He saw Siskiyou in the raw as a Humbug miner. He knew of gold's lure, its success, and failures and from it all grew a love of Siskiyou almost beyond description. The man himself has shown this love in these few words. It is Ben Fairchild's finest memorial:

GOLDEN SISKIYOU

I know a place where ferns grow rank
And giant firs shade a mossy bank
Of a mountain brook that rushes by
And fleece clouds that sail on high
Where wildflowers bloom in colors rare
Their fragrant perfume scents the air
Marble Mountains like fairyland castles
With alpine lakes surrounded by perpetual snow
Of veins of ore of wealth untold
The mighty Klamath like a giant free
Rushes Westward to the sea
Nature at her best created Shasta
Pride of the West
Where shadows grow long when day is done
A fairer land I never knew
And when at last I take my rest
May I lie in peace neath skies of blue
In beautiful Golden Siskiyou.



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GLADYS LEEN

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THE COVER

Thompson's Dry Diggin's in first weeks after the gold discovery in March, 1851. The man on the left leaning on the shovel is Abraham Thompson, the discoverer of gold at Yreka. For the discovery he was rewarded with two thirty-foot square claims. This site is now marked with a bronze plaque and is located on the western slopes of Yreka. Note the miners' tools, shovel, pick and sluices.—(Reproduced directly from original daguerreotype. Note scratches.)



NORTH AND SOUTH FORKS OF SALMON

The area lying between Sawyers Bar and Cecilville contains some of the largest and finest mines in northern California. The Black Bear and King Solomon are the two outstanding mines of the area. Both the North and South Forks of the Salmon contain some very rich old channels.

Early Day Mining Camps of the Salmon River

By HALLIE M. DAGGETT



—courtesy Daggett Collection
SAWYERS BAR IN 1900

Looking west across the town. Note the water flumes crossing the street.

Most camps were convenient stopping places for travelers and included a hotel, (sometimes rather primitive) store, and generally a pack train to provide for the store and neighboring miners.

ANDYS. Located on Olivers Flat, at the mouth of Nordheimer Creek. He had no store, but a fine garden and his wife, Caroline, was a wonderful cook.

FORKS OF SALMON. Where Ad Kainbuck held forth and Dorsey built the first hotel of any size. The miners fortified it during an Indian raid. The front door showed the bullet holes for many years after. Later owned by the Bennett Co.

NORTH FORK CAMPS

BESTVILLE. Started by Captain Best in 1850.

SAWYERS BAR. Located in Trooks Flat, where A. Trooks had a large store in 1851.

JIM CARS and BILLIE MURRY. Cared for travelers crossing Etna Mountain. Later known as Snowden. Mrs. Emma Grant was proprietor.

SOUTH FORK CAMPS

YOCUMVILLE. Founded by J. B. Yocum opposite mouth of Methodist Creek. First store and pack train owned by Phil Dunphy. Later store, hotel and post office built by Frank Fyfield who also ran a pack train.

GEORGE SIGHTMAN. A hotel and store at Cecilville, later owned by Denny Bar Co. and last by John McBroom.

PETERSBURG. Hotel, store and pack train, owned by William Bennett, Jock Crawford and Peter Miller in the 1860's.

ABRAMS BROTHERS. Located at Big Flat on the trail to Coffee Creek and Shasta County.

Discovery of Quartz Mines . . .

By HALLIE M. DAGGETT

The first placer gold on Salmon River was discovered in 1850, near the present site of Sawyers Bar. These placers were worked for several years, until in 1860 gold bearing quartz was discovered on the lower end of White's Gulch by four partners. A mill was purchased in San Francisco and quite a sum was taken out. Also the LIVE YANKEE MINE at the head of Eddy's Gulch was discovered by Charles Nash and the second quartz mill was erected.

These discoveries were immediately followed by the Black Bear find and many others which also caused the building of mills arrastras.

The majority of the larger mines are in the primitive black slate formation identical to the mother lode of the Sierra Nevada Range and having continuous veins or pay ore to depth.

There are now so many mines, both quartz and placer, that space permits the listing of only a few.

QUARTZ MINES OF THE SALMON GOLD RUN at Gilta, operated by Dannenbrinks Hanson Mine.

KNOW NOTHING MINE. Worked by various parties. Last owner L. Roberts and A. Heglund. All three were at the head of Know Nothing Creek.

METHODIST CREEK MINES — Several small ones.

KASCH MINE—On Fenal Creek.

LAST CHANCE—Early mine run by John English.

KING SOLOMON MINE. At the head of Mathews Creek. Discovered about 1894 by Harvey Bowerman. Big producer from 1932 to 1940.

BOWERMANS MINE — Worked by H. Bowerman.

NORTH FORK OF SALMON RIVER

MORNING STAR MINE—Head of Jackass Creek.

MULLOY MINE—Tanners Peak, head of

Rattlesnake Creek, worked by Dan Molloy.

KLAMATH BASIN

KLAMATH MINE. Later the Gold Ball. Head of Eddy's Gulch, operated by J. Daggett, 1874 to 1882; a post office and large mill. Yielded over \$500,000 with \$35,000 taken from one set of timbers.

EVENING STAR and CENTRAL MINES. Discovered by J. Keane and later operated by John Daggett.

LIVE YANKEE—Second quartz discovery and second mill to be erected.

MOUNTAIN LAUREL — Operated by F. Gowing.

WHITE GULCH

First discovery and site of first mill.

JUMBO MINE, HICKEY'S MINE, and LANKY BOB MINE.

RUSSIAN AND TAYLOR CREEK VICTORY MINE — Worked by John Nephroncy.

HIGHLAND MINE — Discovered about 1900.

ADVANCE MINE. BIG CLIFF.

CUB BEAR. ZARINA.



—courtesy Daggett Collection
KLAMATH MILL

Looking down the tram of the Klamath Mine at the head of Eddy's Gulch.



—courtesy Gordon Jacobs

WINTER AT THE HIGHLAND MINE

This mine is located near Taylor Lake on the North Fork of the Salmon River. This was a very rich mine, at one time selling to Herman Mattern for \$50,000.

Yield of Salmon River Quartz Mines . . .

1860-1904 — Compiled for Mineral Wealth in 1905

By the Late **JOHN DAGGETT**

KLAMATH AND EDDY'S BASIN:

Black Bear	\$3,000,000.00
Klamath	500,000.00
Evening Star	90,000.00
Mt. Laurel, Stephen, Central	500,000.00
Live Yankee	75,000.00
Fagunders Mine	200,000.00
Star of the West	30,000.00
Fourth of July	10,000.00
Oriental & Wikens	20,000.00
Snowflake, Ball & Others	25,000.00
Bear Den and Roberts	25,000.00
Hibernia & Pattersons	20,000.00

**BLACK BEAR CREEK and
WHITE'S GULCH:**

Mystery and Golden West	10,000.00
White Bear	15,000.00
Uncle Sam	75,000.00
Kleaver & Swain	30,000.00
Hickeys	60,000.00
Lanky Bob	50,000.00

KNOW NOTHING CREEK:

Hanson	20,000.00
--------------	-----------

Know Nothing	150,000.00
Gold Run	750,000.00

VARIOUS SALMON MINES:

Russian Creek Mines	50,000.00
Tanners Peak	25,000.00
Morning Star	75,000.00
Last Chance	50,000.00
Campbell & Bennett	15,000.00
Graham Gulch "Pockets"	30,000.00
Kasch Mine	10,000.00
Indian Creek Mine	10,000.00
King Solomon	275,000.00
Methodist Creek	15,000.00
Various Small Arrastra Companies	15,000.00
Las Perlas & Others at Head of South Fork	25,000.00

TOTAL \$6,250,000.00

Lady Gulch credited production in Quartz and Placer - - -	3,000,000.00
Black Bear credited production in Quartz - - - -	3,000,000.00

Homestake Mine . . .

By RITA BOYLE PRATHER

The Homestake Mine is located on Taylor Creek, tributary to Salmon River, adjoins the Overton Mine and is not far distant from the Highland Mine and the Advance Mine, all of which were active about the same time, and in which John F. Boyle had a supervisory interest, and was consulting engineer for the different groups.

The Homestake was first located by H. B. Wintering and recorded on June 25, 1903 as the Liberty Mining District Ridge—running up from the county road between Taylor and Cow Creeks—2 miles easterly from the county road between Etna

and Sawyers Bar. With him, as partners, were C. L. Willard Jr. and W. H. Parker of Etna. They sold to F. H. Osgood of Seattle, Washington for \$3000 on July 1, 1905.

Then Osgood sold to Pluto Mining Co. of New Jersey, January 26, 1910. On November 25, 1910 the Pluto Mining Co. sold to R. S. Taylor of Yreka who formed the Taylor Mining Co. consisting of R. S. Taylor, George Tebbe and John F. Boyle, who also was the engineer and manager.

The Homestake group now became patented and consisted of the following claims: Homestake, Trusty, Rattler, Buckeye, Seattle, Tacoma and Snowden quartz mining claims.

The Homestake was a producer of pocket gold, some of the output of which was in the Siskiyou County gold exhibit at one time. The ore was of high grade, running about \$8 a pound. It was free gold and beautiful for specimens. One time a Chinaman picked up a chunk of gold, handed it to Mr. Boyle as he tried to read the design of Chinese letters appearing on it. The gold nugget was flat and made a beautiful pin when it was mounted.

The mine's main tunnel was at the top of the gulch, ore stoped and carried by a tram car down to a mill.

The Homestake was under the supervision of John F. Boyle during the years of 1903 to about 1925. It was a beautiful spot in the summer time and his family enjoyed vacations there. He had an old gray mare that carried the children up the trail, hanging on to her tail and then they would walk back. The old mare ate up food scraps from the table, but one day a peach pit got in her food box and she bit it. She practically tore the place apart and all the people ran into the house for protection.

The mine changed ownership again and the present owner is now Mrs. F. Blanche Lundy.



—courtesy Rita Boyle Prather

JOHN BOYLE AT THE HOMESTAKE

John Boyle would take hold of the tail of his white horse to go up the steep trail to the Homestake Mine.



—courtesy Rita Boyle Prather
HOMESTAKE MILL



—courtesy Daggett Collection
EDDY GULCH PLACER MINE
The hoisting works in the foreground operated the crane in the background.



—courtesy Daggett Collection
BONALLY PLACER MINE
A hydraulic elevator at work at this North Fork mine in 1915.



—courtesy Mrs. Margaret Gatlin

MEYER MINE

Sluice box and undercurrent in the Meyer Mine on Whites Gulch.

Placer Mines of the Salmon River . . .

By **HALLIE M. DAGGETT**

MAIN SALMON RIVER

SAUERKRAUT, BLOOMER, CRAPO—

All worked by the Bennett Company.

HORNS FLAT.

MACNEILS.

SOUTH FORK SALMON RIVER

RED HILL

KNOW NOTHING.

TAGGARTS.

KEARNEY FLAT—(Dredged in 1940)

GRAHAM GULCH—Worked from early days. Late records show output of \$40,000.

INDIAN BAR—Worked for many years.

NORGAT BAR—Mined by A. Parker and Fred Smith of Etna who held for China Co.

ORTON GULCH—Worked in early days and later by John McBroom.

SIGHTMANS—At Cecilville.

PETERSBURG—First worked by William Bennett, Peter Miller and Jack Crawford about 1860. Later by Fransworth and Sons.

SUMMERVILLE — First worked by A. Parker and Fred Smith of Etna about 1890 with George Spooner as superintendent. Operated in 1898 by the Salmon River Mining Company.

JORDAN FLAT—Worked by the Jordan family for years.

The South Fork paid uniformly well for entire length as it was more open country but not as rich as the North Fork which had rougher canyons.

EAST FORK SALMON RIVER

GEORGE BROTHERS and JEFFERSON CONSOLIDATED — Both worked by G. A. Ball and Dr. Rhinebold.

NORTH FORK SALMON RIVER

BONALLYS — Worked about 1915, was



—courtesy Daggett Collection

PARADISE FLAT PLACER MINE

This 1900 photo shows the mining at the base of the Catholic Church in Sawyers Bar. This claim was very rich.

originally the Shunnay Brothers Mine in early days.

NEW DIGGINGS — Ed Hickey, C. Thoman and J. Tuerkert mined area.

HICKEYS FLAT—Later the Gallia Mine.

ED CURRANS FLAT—Opposite Bestville. Dredged in 1944 by G. Hager.

JACKASS GULCH—Very rich ground.

BESTVILLE—First large placer in 1850; very rich.

PARADISE FLAT — Site of Catholic Church; worked by Albert Myers for many years and by the Salmon River Mining Company about 1900.

JESSUPS GULCH FLAT — Worked by Bigelow Brothers and others for many years. 1900 was worked by Salmon River Mining Co.; very rich.

SLAPJACK and APPLESASS BARS—Opposite Eddy's Gulch; worked for many years by S. Finley & Sons; later by Mark Elliott.

JUDGES—Discovered by R. Ramsey, J. Woodfil and C. Barry. It was a high

bar at the mouth of Eddy's Gulch overlooked in early days. Later sold to F. Judges.

BURNS FLAT—On Eddy's Gulch. Worked by Bill Burns and later by William Olivier, John Peterson and Louis Toubert. As were all Eddy Gulch placers, this was very rich.

AROMAS — Worked by Frank Mawana and others.

FINLEY'S FLAT—A high bar worked by the Salmon River Mining Company in 1895.

The North Fork had much higher pay than the South Fork in a much shorter space owing to canyons which fed it. It is impossible to give estimates of early yields in both placer and quartz mines as no records were kept at that time. But the yield in one stretch of the North Fork from Russian Creek to below the little North Fork (11 miles) is believed to have been \$25,000,000.



CECILVILLE IN 1890

—courtesy Mrs. Lottie Ball

The first building at the right is the combined Sightman Store, Saloon and Post Office. The second building is a warehouse, and the third is a bunkhouse and the fourth a barn. These buildings and a hotel not shown were all that was left of Cecilville in 1890.



CECILVILLE STORE IN 1897

—courtesy Mrs. Lottie Ball

Left to right: Spenser Featherstone (a miner), Thomas Markham (manager for the Denny Bar Parker Co. Store), George Henry Sightman (retired owner of Cecilville), and Clifford Phares (Cecilville Postmaster).

Two South Fork Trading Posts . . .

By **LOTTIE A. BALL**

Abrams at Big Flat, South Fork of Salmon River, and Buell's at Big Bend Creek six miles down the river, were the first trading posts to appear in the upper South Fork sector of what was part of Trinity County until 1851 when Klamath County was formed. About 1874 Klamath County was dissolved and the South Fork of Salmon River area became a part of Siskiyou County, as it is today.

Both places prospered as the Coffee Creek-Big Flat-South Fork of Salmon trail was the main artery of travel from Shasta and Trinity to Salmon and Klamath Rivers and a steady stream of gold seekers and other adventurers, both going and coming, soon flowed past them.

Abrams lasted about 10 years. James Abrams retired to his ranch home down South Fork four miles, and the post became the stopping place for the mail carrier bringing mail to Cecilville via Trinity Center, Big Flat and South Fork of Salmon River. The store-saloon at Abrams had

burned but other buildings were used by the carrier.

The end of Buell's post came in less than 10 years. As at Abrams, staple items of trade were sold at Buell's but entertainment was provided also. When the place was dismantled saloon fixtures and a billiard table with equipment were moved away. William M. Buell had a ranch home near the trading post. He sold this and bought other property down river at Summerville. In 1866 he was justice of the peace in South Fork Township. By 1870 his estate was being sold by the executor of his estate. The site of Buell's Trading Post disappeared when miners washed away the gravel bar known as Buell's Flat.

The site of Abrams, at Big Flat and one of the original buildings are now in the possession of James Abrams' great granddaughter, Mrs. Ethel Steele. Abrams' ranch and Buell's were the first cultivated areas on upper South Fork of Salmon River.



—courtesy Mrs. R. L. Bottoms

RED HILL MINE CREW

Steve Meek is the little boy on the mule being held by George Meek. The others are not identified.

Richard Powers . . .

ONE OF SOUTH FORK OF SALMON RIVER'S FORGOTTEN MEN

By LOTTIE A. BALL

Although Richard (Dick) Powers was a deputy county recorder in the South Fork of Salmon River country in 1892, no official record establishes this fact, and any books or notes he may have kept have disappeared. However a few old timers remember him as a deputy recorder and mention of it may be found in old recorded documents.

Powers, or Power, lived at Petersburg on South Fork of Salmon River in 1879 and during the '80s. He mined the hard way with pick, shovel and sluice boxes wherever gold-bearing, shallow gravel deposits were available. In 1892 when this writer met him Powers had moved to Crawford Creek near Cecilville and was continuing his mining activities there.

He was past 60 years of age then and his heavy shock of hair and bushy beard, once red, had turned to sorrel gray. The

friendly little Irishman, naturalized in Siskiyou County in 1863, was a familiar figure around Cecilville until the late '90s when he left the Salmon River country.

Having a deputy county recorder in the rugged South Fork of Salmon River area did not seem unreasonable. There were no roads and traveling over the ungraded trails that led through the mountains was difficult and slow. The U.S. mail was brought to Cecilville from Redding via Coffee Creek, Big Flat and the upper South Fork canyon on mules; in the winter the mail carrier used skis for part of the distance and carried the mail sacks on his back. It was convenient to have a deputy county recorder to help miners with their mining claims and water locations (water then being located by posting and recording a notice) and other papers concerning their mining rights.



—courtesy Daggett Collection

CHINA CLAIM AT YORGET BAR

Taken in 1898 by the late John Daggett, this picture shows a water powered hoisting works. The claim was located on the South Fork.



—courtesy Ed Mathews

DEACON LEE MOVING THE BLACK BEAR BOILERS

A spectacular feat for the times was the hauling of these boilers from Callahan to the Black Bear Mine over the trail now known as the Deacon Lee Trail. This picture was taken in 1872 when the boilers were started for the Black Bear Mine.

An Early Black Bear Mine Report . . .

Written About 1885, Compiled for R. S. Knapp of Menominee, Wisconsin

By the Late JOHN F. BOYLE

The Black Bear Mine consisted of three patented claims, a patented mill site, and one unpatented location, covering together some 85 acres in the Liberty Mining District of Siskiyou County, California. They lay at an altitude of 3,500 feet at the head of Black Bear gulch, a mountainous region for many miles around. They produced gold continuously, both placer and quartz since the discovery in 1850.

The Black Bear quartz mine was discovered in 1860 and consisted of two strong veins, nearly at right angles to each other, one running north and south, the other east and west.

Due north of the Black Bear claim was the "Yellow Jacket" containing three veins parallel to each other, running north and south.

South of the Black Bear claim was the "South Black Bear" location, which also had two or more parallel veins in the north and south location.

Most of the work in the mine was done on the two main Black Bear ledges and the three "Yellow Jacket" ledges. These veins varied in width, but all productive and specimen rock apparent up to \$14 a ton.

Two or three miles of drifts and tunnels were run and ore stoped from the surface to a depth of 1,000 feet on the vein.

The veins lay in a belt of slate, a quarter of a mile wide extending for several miles through the district. It was cut by igneous dikes and flanked on one side by serpentine and on the other by granite. In general, the formation is almost identical with that of the well-known California Mother

Lode—the slate being the well-known Mariposa slate of that region. The veins lay either entirely in the slate or with slate upon the hanging wall and so-called "green stone" for the foot wall.

The mine was worked in a small way until 1865 when Mr. John Daggett, the owner at the time this history was written, and two partners purchased it and proceeded to undertake its development in a systematic way. This they did so successfully, that in 1872 they sold it to a company of English and San Francisco capitalists, the price being \$450,000. Prior to this time they had themselves extracted 19,328 tons, yielding \$402,903 in gold from the mine.

The mine at this time had been opened to the adit, or drain tunnel level, tapping the Black Bear ledge some 350 or 400 feet down from the surface.

The new company placed Mr. Wm. A. Farish on the mine as superintendent and it started a most successful career, becoming one of the best known mines in the state at that time. Mr. Farish remained three years making a discovery of new and rich ground in the "Yellow Jacket" and beginning an underground shaft on the vein from the adit level in the Black Bear ground. He was succeeded by five other superintendents in the next seven or eight years who carried the underground shaft to the 600-foot level below the adit or about 1,000 feet below the surface, and sent drifts 800 to 1,000 feet through the country rock to the "Yellow Jacket" ground, working that at arms length, so to speak, from the Black Bear shaft. The mine continued paying well.

In 1881 the pumps were pulled and the mine allowed to fill up to the adit level. There were many reasons for this, mostly due to failure to put more money in the mine. For four years after the pulling of the pump, the company continued to work the old stopes as well as the new ones in the upper levels until in 1885 they sold the mine. Up to this time it had turned out over \$2,250,000 in gold.

The purchaser was Mr. John Daggett, the former owner. He did not reopen the lower workings and has never done so, but

from the upper levels. He has, during the succeeding years, working in a rather desultory way, taken out \$400,000 more. Each of these statements is a matter of record, the bullion having been shipped either to Selby Smelting Works at San Francisco or to the United States Mint there, and the original receipts showing the amount shipped are still on file.

The tonnage of the mine and mill was not kept track of prior to 1865 or subsequent to 1885, but it would appear from evidence at hand that the above output of gold was had from about 210,000 tons of quartz.

The great future of the mine lies in its systematic and thorough development at depths hundreds and even thousands of feet below the lowest point yet reached. For this development, every natural requisite is at hand: timber in great quantity; water for power and general needs; a climate neither rigorous nor debilitating; and a railroad, the Southern Pacific about thirty miles away and a good wagon road from the mine.



—courtesy Daggett Collection

"ROCKIN' AND SLUICIN' "

George Henry and son John operating a rocker and a string of sluices below the Black Bear Mine in 1898.



—courtesy Harry M. Thompson

THE KING SOLOMON ORE BODY

This wide-angle photo shows the ore body and how it was worked. One of the shovels may be seen at the face of the cut. The deposit was located on Matthews Creek.



—courtesy Harry M. Thompson

KING SOLOMON'S PRIMARY MILL

The ore was hauled to this primary mill where it was crushed and loaded into buckets of an aerial tramway. The tram led to the mill where the gold was recovered.

King Solomon Mine . . .

As told to Walter Pollock

By HARRY M. THOMPSON

At the head of Matthews Creek on the South Fork of the Salmon River lies the noted King Solomon Mine. Here, during the depression years, the gold mining industry of Siskiyou witnessed the most ambitious advancement of mining methods since the great La Grange hydraulic operation in Trinity County.

In the 1890s, Harvey Bowerman, a native of Maine, in following up placer deposits on Matthews Creek discovered a wide zone of silicified limestone containing disseminated gold values. This ore was thoroughly oxidized for a depth of 100 feet making mining and milling quite easy.

Bowerman, together with several partners, hauled equipment including three two-stamp batteries and a five-foot huntington mill, boiler and a small atlas steam engine for a mill. They ran several short tunnels into the ore body, then commenced actual removal of ore by "glory-hole" method. Ore was lowered down the steep hillside to the mill by means of an inclined tram. Production continued for several years along these lines.

About 1900 two wealthy young men (sons of the Cottrell Brothers, manufacturers of color printing presses in Westerly, R. I.), passed the King Solomon while on



—courtesy Harry M. Thompson

THREE MINERS OF THE KING SOLOMON

Peter Blake of Etna was superintendent of the mine for the first group of operators. In the center is Harry M. Thompson who put the mine into operation with the introduction of new methods to the industry. At the left is Harvey Bowerman, discoverer of the King Solomon ore body.



—courtesy Harry M. Thompson

JOE SULLIVAN AND BRICK

Joe Sullivan, a prominent miner of Daniels Creek in Alaska and a friend of Thompson, spent much time in studying the King Solomon.

a hunting trip. They were intrigued by the actual production of gold and before leaving the county purchased the property for \$75,000.00. This was followed by the family procuring the services of a good engineer to investigate the mine. He reported that although the property had merit an additional investment of \$250,000.00 would be necessary to develop the mine and build a power plant on the Salmon River before the property would become a paying proposition. The owners then secured patents to several claims, but nothing further through the years. Finally they regarded it as a poor investment.

Around 1920 Henry Carter located several surrounding claims from which he mined some \$10,000.00 from small pockets in seams which radiated from the main ore

body. In 1928 Carter interested Harry M. Thompson who took option on Carter's property upon the recommendation of Peter Blake.

Thompson, after four trips to Rhode Island to negotiate with the owners of the King Solomon, finally obtained an option for \$50,000.00 and permission to prospect. In this venture Thompson, together with an old associate, R. N. Bishop, ran several thousand feet of bulldozer trenches some 42 feet deep which were sampled and assayed in five foot squares.

Sufficient ore was blocked out to run through a pilot mill to determine the most practical mode of operation.

In the depression year of 1930 the original owners of the King Solomon accepted a \$20,000 cash payment for their holdings



—courtesy Harry M. Thompson

OTHER KINGS AT KING SOLOMON

The spectacular operation of the King Solomon Mine attracted miners and engineers of all ranks. Among these was the greatest of all mining engineers, former President Herbert Hoover, and a captain of industry, Richard Hanna of Standard Oil. Left to right: Harry M. Thompson, Richard Hanna, Roy Bishop, former President Hoover and A. S. Murphy. Taken in September, 1935.

and Carter \$25,000.00 for his claims. The new owners then followed up by erecting a 350 ton mill on Matthews Creek. A half mile long aerial tram line was erected from the mill to the primary crusher site near the ore body. The tram line ran at the rate of one 15 cubic foot bucket per minute. It was arranged so that after once starting the tram the loaded buckets would help run a generator which fed power back to the primary crusher. The main power supply for the mine was a 350 h.p. General Electric generating unit.

The actual mining of the ore body made mining history in northern California when Harry Thompson introduced open cut mining, long a coal mining method, to gold mining. Used in this operation were a $\frac{3}{8}$ cubic yard and a $\frac{3}{4}$ cubic yard diesel powered shovel, a caterpillar bulldozer and two dump trucks, which loaded and hauled the ore to the primary crusher. This type of operation was feasible only because the ore body had faulted a hundred feet down hill into the Matthews Creek ravine

and in so doing it became thoroughly broken up, oxidized and weathered. Very little powder was needed during the mining.

The entire operation was handled with a crew of seventeen men including cooks and assay help. The extraction of the 1,000,000 tons of ore ran smoothly throughout the entire operation with a yield of slightly over \$3.00 per ton and a cost of operation of 68c per ton. Tailings assayed 80c per ton. In other words out of a possible yield of over \$2,000,000 cost of mining ran in the neighborhood of \$680,000 with a loss of \$800,000 in tailings giving a net yield of \$1,620,000. The mill handled 10,000 tons of ore a month.

A very complete camp was established which included guest houses and a swimming pool on Matthews Creek. The mine was visited by many greats of the mining world including former president Herbert Hoover. In 1935 two mining engineer friends of Thompson's, Wilbur Grant and George Garry visited the King Solomon. They became very interested in the property,



—courtesy Harry M. Thompson

KIM, CHINESE COOK

Kim, well-liked cook of the mine, holding a typical gold brick shipped from King Solomon. The mill is pictured in the background.



—courtesy Harry M. Thompson

SHOVEL AT THE KING SOLOMON

Pictured is one of two shovels which were used to load the ore for hauling to the primary crusher.

having full access to all records of production, values and costs. In September of the same year a phone call from Yreka requested permission for a Mr. A. O. Smith of the noted Milwaukee corporation of that name to visit the mine. Upon his arrival he gave the information that he had sent Grant and Garry to examine the property and upon their recommendation he wished to purchase the King Solomon. Mr. Smith purchased an 80% interest for \$1,000,000 and ran the property until the government closed down gold mining during the war. The operation was then liquidated.

As for the future of the King Solomon its ore body continues down in depth but the faulted, oxidized zone is worked out leaving only the solid ore which is both difficult to drill and crush. Consequently Mr. Thompson feels that due to the present economic position of gold it is not feasible to operate. However, if there should be an increase in the price of gold it will be interesting to see what technology can again do for this rich producer.



—courtesy Harry M. Thompson

**BILLY SAMUELS RETORTING BULLION
at the King Solomon Mine**



—courtesy Daggett Collection

JOE CRAMER'S ARRASTRA

This arrastra was located at the mouth of Methodist Creek on the South Fork. Photo taken in 1895.



—courtesy Leslie Hyde

GOLD RUN MILL

This mine was also known as the Dannenbrink Mine. This was at the head of Know Nothing Creek on the South Fork of the Salmon.



—courtesy Leslie Hyde

WHITE BEAR MINE MILL

Four Men from Petersburg . . .

By LOTTIE A. BALL

Thousands of men both white and Chinese came to Petersburg, a mining camp in the South Fork of Salmon River sector of Klamath County in the 1850s and '60s but only four of them, George H. Sightman, George Green Brown, George Wohlfert and Francis Abrams stayed to end their days in the South Fork area.

Petersburg on the South Fork above its junction with East Fork was built on a sunny gravel bar between Blue Gulch and Halocks Gulch. It was the largest of several mining camps and trading posts on the 16-mile length of the river between Abrams at Big Flat and Cecilville below the forks of the stream. The others were a Chinese store near Summerville, a store and saloon at Summerville (originally named Somerville and Buell's Post at Big Bend Creek. On East Fork were Brownsville, Shadrick's at what one miner naively called "Mr. Shadrick's Creek," now renamed Shadows Creek; a Chinese camp at Shadrick Creek and another near Six Mile Creek.

There was a boarding house or hotel at Petersburg, stores, saloons, meat shop, blacksmith shop, dwellings, barn and corals as well as vegetable gardens, and orchards made possible by the large size of the site and irrigated by water from nearby gulches and the long Frink and Crumbeaugh ditch from South Fork used for mining purposes and to power the Ritner sawmill in town. At the lower end of Petersburg was a sizable Chinese settlement. All the buildings in Petersburg except a few log cabins were made of lumber sawed in the vicinity.

Petersburg was quite a place in the 60s and early 70s. Charles Kist, half owner in the Kist and Davis packtrain, one of the many trains making regular trips from Shasta said that 60 votes were cast when he voted there in 1866, indicating a large population as few of the men were eligible to vote. An incomplete list naming some of the rapidly changing but indispensable

merchants, packers and other business men includes Arnold Nordheimer, Lentzen & Jentzen, Oscar Williams, Henry Von Bostell, the four men already mentioned, (Sightman, Brown, Wohlfert and Abrams), J. P. Jordan, W. P. Bennett and his partner Peter Miller, John Smith Doten, Joseph Ritner, Frink & Crumbeaugh, A. P. Huhe, John Wenger, Francis Abrams, Willard Wilson, Kist & Davis, P. F. Dunphy and Thomas McGinnis Brown, for 14 years sheriff of Klamath County who kept order in Petersburg and other South Fork camps where excessive drinking was common. A couple of items in an old Petersburg ledger read: "One drunk—\$5. One drunk—\$10," the amounts charged for liquor consumed by customers having a good time.

There was a meat shop in Petersburg, a shop in Cecilville and another at Abrams. Cattle and sometimes hogs were brought from Shasta on foot and later cattle were ranged in the Salmon Mountains. J. P. Jordan, originally from Maine with ranches at Rush Creek and Garden Gulch, supplied local beef.

In the early 1890s a few log cabins dotted the dry flat where Petersburg had stood; the framed buildings except a few in Chinatown had been removed for use of the lumber elsewhere. The Chinese buildings remained because a Chinaman lived there. These houses were littered with bowls, spoons, ginger jars and so on. Two of the spoons and a bamboo basket are now in the Museum at Yreka.

The site of Petersburg was sluiced away by the Salmon River Hydraulic Mining Company after the beginning of this century.

Why this mining camp was called Petersburg is not of record.

James Abrams, who visited South Fork of Salmon River in 1849 and built the first trading post there in 1850, told his chil-

dren: "Petersburg was named for a city in the eastern states." However, it is interesting to note that Peter Miller and his partner, W. P. Bennett with interests in Petersburg and several other South Fork camps, came from the states of New York and Illinois, respectively. Each state has a city of Petersburg within its boundaries, and Miller's given name was Peter.

GEORGE H. SIGHTMAN

George H. Sightman, 45, an Ohioan listed as a miner, came to Petersburg at an early date and mined with pick, shovel and rocker at Blue Gulch. Sightman said he recovered from one to two ounces of gold each day he worked there. In later years he mined on South Fork with hydraulic mining equipment.

As lumber was important in the new mining community, Sightman became a sawmill owner and operator, a business he followed for over 20 years, part of the time in partnership with Joseph Ritner of Petersburg. During this time he owned valuable water rights and at least three sawmills. The cluster of buildings at the Sightman sawmill half-way between Petersburg and Cecilville on South Fork near its junction with East Fork, was locally known as Center-ville.

In 1873 George H. Sightman bought what was left of Cecilville, once second in size and importance to Petersburg, from Bennett and Miller. Cecilville had been founded and named by John B. Cecil who also left his name on Cecil Creek opposite the town. Like Petersburg, it had been quite a place in its day and spread out over a large acreage opposite Cecil Creek with buildings on both sides of the South Fork, as well as on the flat. The billiard-saloon brought from Buell's Post in 1858 and many other framed buildings stood on the flat now covered by rock piles. The average small size of the rocks and several self-dumping water reservoirs or self-shooters (now garden spots) that were used to supply extra water for ground-slucing indicate early mining was done the hard way by hand. Only the row of five Cecilville buildings against the mountain on up-

per side of the flat remained in 1890. The postcard picture shows from right to left, store, warehouse, bunkhouse, barn. The boarding house was to the right of the store with orchard in between them.

Sightman was host, storekeeper, bartender, hostler and U. S. postmaster at Cecilville in the early '90s. He and his boarding housekeeper, Carrie Roff, later Mrs. Clifford Phares, Cecilville's only inhabitants, did all the work with an occasional day's help from oldsters living in nearby cabins. George Green Brown of Brownsville on the East Fork came frequently to keep the books. Each fall Sightman dried apples and made cider for sale in the store. The cider was potent stuff when aged by the Sightman method and sold readily. Sightman's mixed drinks provoked comment. One patron, seeing the old man mix the drink with his thumb, said it was "very interesting," but refused to drink it.

Salmon River merchants bought gold at \$16 an ounce, thus making a profit of more than \$2, as South Fork river gold brought over \$18 at smelters and the U. S. Mint. Sightman handled many small lots of gold dust and as he aged spilled a little as he weighed them. Seeing this, a couple of miners asked permission to clean the counter by the scales and to get the top soil from under the floor. They panned out more than \$200 in fine gold dust.

The Sightman Hydraulic Mine near Cecilville was in charge of Alex Gillis in the 1890s. Mr. and Mrs. Gillis lived near the mine. Water for hydraulic brought from East Fork by ditch and a long flume was supplemented by water from Crawford Creek. When the flume deteriorated, only Crawford Creek water was used for a shorter mining season.

Sightman cattle ran wild in the mountains around Cecilville. He never knew how many cattle he had. He sold beef on foot, the buyer to find and shoot an animal and pay four cents a pound for the dressed meat.

Kind and extremely generous George H. Sightman gave unlimited credit to customers and went into debt for supplies. About

1896 his largest creditor, Denny Bar Company of Callahan took over the store at Cecilville and put Thomas Markham in charge there. Clifford Phares became postmaster. Mr. Sightman lived with the Phares family until his death in 1903. He was buried in the cemetery near Cecilville.

GEORGE GREEN BROWN

George Green Brown, a trader from Connecticut, was 24 years old when Indians raided his trading post at Plummer Creek on South Fork of the Salmon River below Cecilville during the unrest of 1863-64. The Indians demanded liquor and roughed Brown up when he refused to give it to them. When an Indian said: "You Go!" Brown went, and fast! He ran upriver towards Cecilville and hid in a limestone cave above the post. Brown did not know it, but the Indians turned back downstream after destroying everything at the post except what they carried away. Forced out of the cave by hunger and thinking the Indians were near, Brown kept away from the trail and made his way over rough terrain on the mountain side, arriving at Cecilville weak from hunger and exhaustion. Later Brown sent a claim for damages to the Indian Bureau in Washington, as the Indians were wards of the government, but was never paid for his loss. There was no other Indian raid on upper South Fork, although rumors of an Indian raid had alarmed the settlers. Some of the women were sent to Shasta for the winter. Log forts were built at the trading posts. One of these log structures with holes for rifle barrels on all four sides was in good condition at Brownsville in the '90s. The George Green Brown family kept their winter apples in it.

The Cecilville property had changed hands. P. F. Dunphy was the proprietor and employed Brown for a time as clerk and bookkeeper in his store. As soon as he could do so Brown went into business for himself at Petersburg. He was also interested in a store at Brownsville on East Fork with James Ferrell who was in charge there. At Petersburg Brown engaged in

trading and mining. He was interested in the Frink and Crumbeaugh water ditch and hotel. George Green Brown was married at Petersburg to Catharine George. Their daughter, Lillian, was born there in 1873. The couple moved from Petersburg to Sawyers Bar where their second child, Gertrude, was born and returned to Brownsville on East Fork.

When the road across Scott Mountain between Siskiyou and Trinity counties was completed in the early 1860s, Callahans Ranch in Scott Valley became the principal freight depot for South Fork Township and Klamath River. Travel was diverted from the difficult Coffee Creek, South Fork of Salmon trail. Packers starting from Callahans Ranch used the Jackson Creek, Trail Creek, East Fork route. Brownsville, Shadrick's and the two Chinese camps boomed briefly. W. P. Bennett and his partner, Peter Bennett, active for 25 years as packers, traders and miners in every camp in South Fork Township except Abrams, Buell's and Brown's Post below Cecilville, shared the prosperity on East Fork. Bennett lived there with his family. His daughter, Nancy, the late Mrs. George William Smith of Forks of Salmon and Etna, was born in the East Fork home in 1871.

After the George Green Brown family returned to Brownsville, Brown converted the store into a dwelling, and engaged in hydraulic mining near there. In 1892 he was justice of the peace in Liberty Township. He kept the books in the George Sightman store at Cecilville five miles from Brownsville until 1896.

George Green Brown died in his East Fork home in 1903 and was buried in the cemetery on the mountain above his home.

In the 1890s the hewed log foundation of the store at Shadrick's was still intact. George Green Brown of Brownsville said he recovered some gold dust and a \$5 gold coin when he panned the top soil near these timbers.

Instead of commemorating the name of Shadrick, pioneer settler, the creek below his buildings is now called Shadows Creek.

Nothing remains to show that Browns-

ville or Shadrick's once flourished on East Fork. The site of the large Chinese camp below Six Mile Creek could be found.

GEORGE WOHLFERT

George Wohlfert, 34, a German naturalized in Siskiyou County in 1856, came to South Fork Township soon afterward. A blacksmith by trade, he engaged in mining and farming and also followed his trade at Summerville and Petersburg. He had orchards and gardens at both places and might have been called "Applesced Wohlfert" because he planted so many trees. Some of these are bearing fruit today. Wohlfert was in demand as a blacksmith, especially horse and mule shoeing at a time when packers and their trains were indispensable. In the early '70s Wohlfert was married to Christine George, whose sister, Catharine, was married to George Green Brown about the same time. Their only child, William, was born at Petersburg in 1875.

Later Wohlfert moved to East Fork and was interested in property at Brownsville. In the '90s he was living at Spring Gulch on East Fork, still known as "Wohlfert's Point." He raised hay on the point and potatoes in the valley below. He died in his home there about 1897 and was buried on the point above his house. Salvation Army services were conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wetst later of Etna. These devoted people walked several miles to perform this last service for a stranger.

The George Wohlfert ranch in a wide section of the South Fork of Salmon River valley was one of several in the vicinity. All were in Somerville, now Summerville. Unlike the other camps in South Fork Township, Summerville was not a village, although there was a store and saloon there as well as the Chinese camp and store nearby. The name of "Summerville" was loosely applied to this part of the valley. Part of the Wohlfert land had belonged to W. M. Buell who moved his store to Summerville when he left Buell's Flat in 1858. Later it was part of the Bennett and Miller Summerville Hydraulic Mine where Peter Miller was killed in 1883 when a hydraulic

giant "went wild" and the uncontrolled water under pressure swept him and another miner across the bedrock. In 1884 the property was sold to George Spooner, George Smith and R. H. Campbell of Etna, reserving only the Miller home and garden occupied by Mrs. Miller and the six Miller children. Later the mine was renamed the Spooner Hydraulic Mine. George Spooner was in charge and directed operations at the mine for about 15 years. The gravel bank was approximately 30 feet deep. Everything except a few large boulders went through the flume and there was no bedrock cleaning as the giants cut several inches from the top of the granite bedrock. About 10 men made up the crew. There was a bunkhouse and cookhouse at the mine as well as the office and several dwellings. Miners received \$45 per month and board for a 10-hour day. Pipers received more pay.

The trail from the mine via Rush Creek, Trinity Divide and Carters Meadows on East Fork is still called the "Spooners Trail." The 14-mile sign at the forks of this trail and the trail to Cecilville read S.H.M. 14 Miles (Spooners Hydraulic Mine). George Spooner and Mrs. Spooner left the mine in the late '90s. He died in San Francisco in the early part of this century.

FRANCIS ABRAMS

Francis Abrams came from New York in the early '50s when he was about 15 to help his brother, James Abrams, with the packing at Abrams Post on Big Flat, Klamath County. Business was good at the post and Francis had charge of the mule train bringing supplies from Shasta. When business at the post declined, Francis sold his interests to James and engaged in mining, something he had been eager to do. His first venture, that of ground-slucing the bottom of Caribou Gulch on South Fork not far from Big Flat, was very successful as the gulch yielded large gold nuggets fed in from quartz stringers above the sides of the gulch. Later young Abrams engaged in hydraulic mining on South Fork. When pack trains became important to Petersburg, Francis Abrams purchased a pack train and

returned to his old business of packing. He had barns and corrals at Petersburg and was still living there in the late 1880s when Petersburg was already a ghost town. He returned to the Abrams place at Lakeview on upper South Fork and, although still single, built himself a house next to that of his brother James. He died there soon afterward, aged 62, and was buried in the Abrams cemetery above Lakeview.

When the rich but narrow rim placers and stream beds in South Fork Township were exhausted, Petersburg and other camps collapsed almost as suddenly as they had started. Only Cecilville remains because it is the post office for this part of the Salmon River country. When the Callahan-Cecilville road is completed, the story may be different.



BLACK BEAR MINE CAMP

—courtesy Daggett Collection

This 1900 photo shows the mill, sawmill, bunkhouse, dwelling and outbuildings of the Black Bear Mine

The Black Bear Mine . . .

By **LESLIE HYDE**

The Black Bear Quartz Mine is situated near the head of Black Bear Creek, a tributary of the South Fork of Salmon River. It was discovered in 1860 by M. H. Hart, and first operated by a partnership of eight Sawyers Bar men. First ore was crushed in a mule-driven arrastra. Later two arrastras were built two miles downstream where water power was available. A road was built

at this site connecting mine and mill and ore was hauled on carts. One-ton capacity, two trips a day. This was soon superseded by a 12 stamp mill and heavy ore wagons. The road was the first built in the Salmon River country. In 1865 John Daggett, John Coughlan and John Reid bought out other partners and built a 16 stamp mill. The mine paid well, and when sold in '72



—courtesy Daggett Collection

BLACK BEAR MINE

The men are shown bringing an ore car out of the Black Bear adit. Above are some of the dumps of the mine which show the large amount of rock removed from underground. Taken about 1900.



—courtesy Leslie Hyde

PIPED MULES

Mules packing hydraulic pipe down Black Bear Creek.

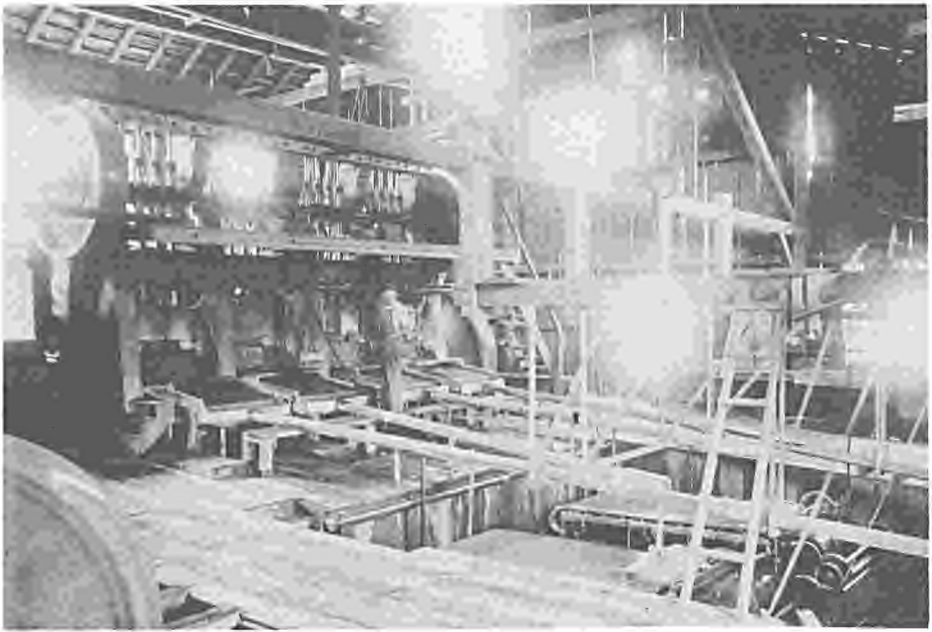
was yielding a monthly clean up of \$10,000. The price paid was \$100,000 by San Francisco capitalists with English backing. This company enlarged the mill to 32 stamps, run by both water and steam power, and did a lot more building at both mine and mill site. There had been a school and post office since '69; but with a payroll of 300 men—some with families—enlarged settlements grew at both locations. This company brought in Cornish miners.

One thing the district lacked was a road. The road over Salmon Mountain from Etna to Sawyers Bar was built about 1892. In 1895 John Daggett built the road from Black Bear to Sawyers Bar. Prior to this time all freight and passenger travel had been by pack train and saddle horse. Machinery for the first mills had come in by pack train from Trinidad on the Humboldt coast. Some of it was brought, though, through the cut-off trail up the lower Klamath River canyon by Indian women in their pack baskets. An earlier Historical Society publication has told of how "Deacon Lee" hauled from Callahan over the trail that still bears his name, all the heavy machinery used by the English Company. An-

other issue of the Society publications has told of the seemingly impossible loads carried by mule train.

The English Company under a number of different superintendents, operated with good returns until 1885. Decreasing values caused the English backers to advise selling. From his share of the sale of the property in 1872, John Daggett had retained enough interest to convince him that the values were still there. Believing this he sold his holdings in San Bernardino Silver Mines and bought controlling rights in Black Bear.

By cutting down the size of the operation from a mill of thirty-two stamps to sixteen, instituting improved methods and eliminating much waste, the mine continued to run at a profit well into 1900. But there was one disappointment. When the mine superintendent, whose ill will John Daggett had aroused, learned that Daggett had bought the mine, he pulled the pumps and let the 600-foot deep shaft fill up with water. The verbal reports of men working in the shaft and the superintendent's reports, found later, told of good ore at the bottom, but the water was never again



—courtesy Daggett Collection

BLACK BEAR MILL

This picture shows the sixteen stamps of the Black Bear Mine mill. Taken about 1900.

drained, money needed for the heavy pumping equipment was lacking. It was a job for electric power and that was both years and miles away—so work was confined to lesser levels.

About 1900 John Daggett was joined by his son Ben and a new shaft was sunk to about 400 feet, on a paying vein all the way. But finances of both men had suffered losses in Mexican mines and capital for mining was hard to get. Finally in 1912, by surrender of part interest in the mine work was begun by some Humboldt men. By 1916 this ended in failure, as all work was done above ground. Part of the big mill was moved to the mine, but only ran a short while on ore from the old dumps.

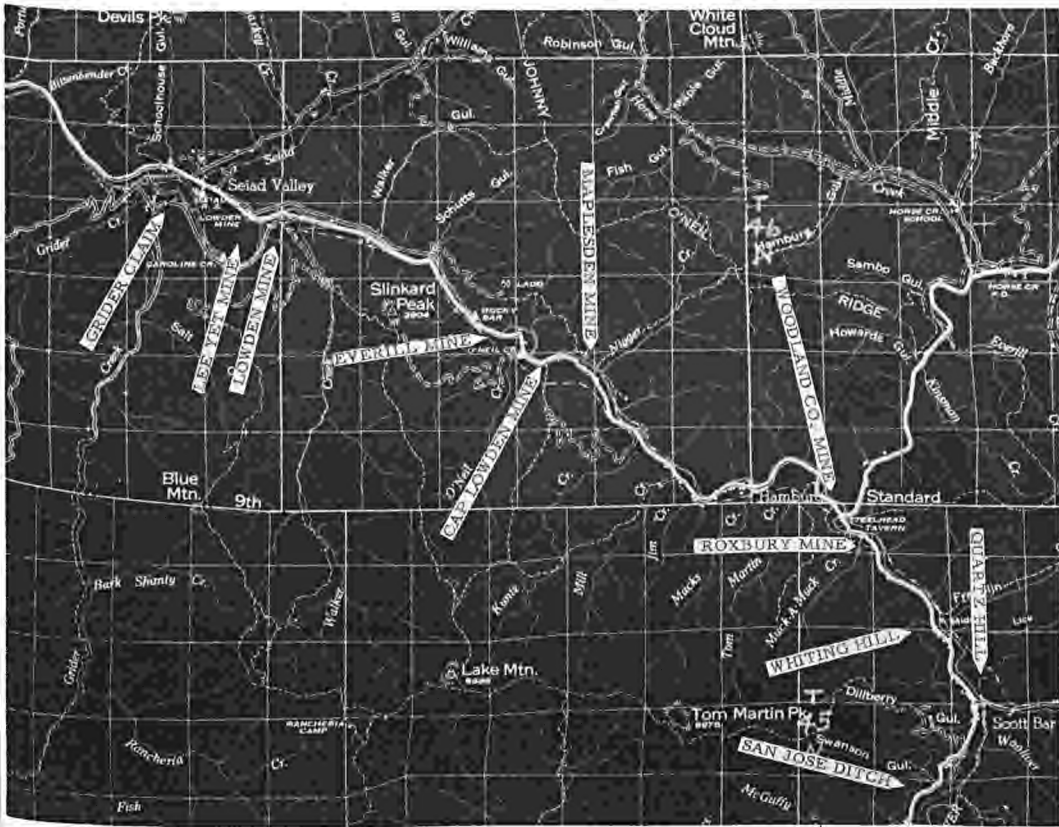
John Daggett passed away in 1919 at the age of 86. Son Ben returned to Mexico where he had great hopes, but unsettled conditions there kept U. S. capital from investing.

In 1928 Ben Daggett tried the Black Bear again with Seattle men. Soon seeing that he could not get along with them he sold his remaining stock for what he could

get and returned to Mexico. This proved to be a bigger failure for the Black Bear than the preceding deal. Some \$175,000 was spent on outside buildings and stock promotion—and about 15 feet of shaft were sunk. In 1932 with all supplies laid in for winter, the mine closed down, reportedly due to some sort of legal trouble—another deserted mining camp—but it leaves a production record of \$3,000,000.

Both men died with a firm belief that the mine's rich values continued a depth. This has proven true with the southern mines of the Mother Lode. So why not here where the geological formation is the same blue slate, according to miners who worked in both areas.

Black Bear was fortunate in never losing any bullion to stage robbers. During the English Company's period much of the other travel from the mine to Scott Valley was by the old Deacon Lee Trail to Callahan. One day the Callahan school children picked up a \$5,000 brick. It was one of a pair lost from the saddle bags of the superintendent's party and not missed.



THE MIDDLE KLAMATH

Scott River to Happy Camp

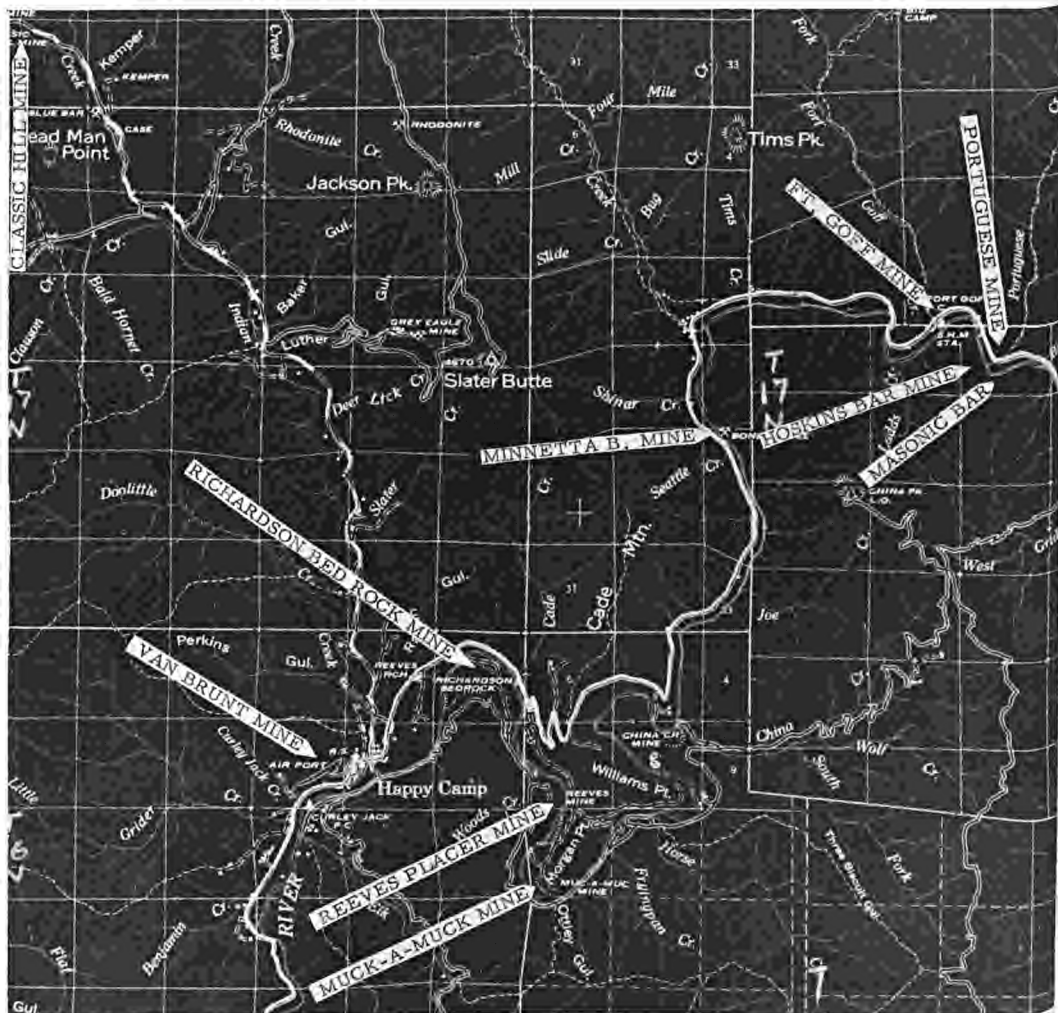
Starting at the fabulous Quartz Hill the placer ground of the Scott River produced the largest and most unusual nuggets in the county. For years miners threw out the pesky black sand which hindered recovery of the yellow flakes. Little did they know that the black sand was actually a high grade telluride—gold mineral. On the Klamath River below the confluence of the Scott River the placer deposits were noticeably richer. Some were quite large and took several years to mine as did the Lee Yet Mine on the east side of Seiad Valley.

Gold Mining from Scott Bar to Happy Camp

By J. B. GRIDER, D. M. D. Emeritus

Quartz Hill at Scott Bar dates from about 1868 and has been in operation off and on since the above date. Quartz Hill, without question, was the mine that produced the gold for the Scott River and many mines down the Klamath.

The great ledge at Scott Bar was cross cut and decomposed by the elements and was washed down Scott River and into the Klamath where it was united, carried and washed downstream which supplied the gold for the mines down the Klamath River.



In the Happy Camp region the largest scale placer mining in Siskiyou County took place. One mine, the Van Bruant, was so large that it serves today as a roomy airport for the community of Happy Camp.

Scott Bar, which was on the opposite side of the river from the present site, altered its location in 1861-62 due to high water. Mining in this area was all placer with the exception of Quartz Hill and that was a quartz mine. The gold was confined in the ore that was crushed in a quartz mill.

The mining was done by pick and shovel; all common labor, i. e., they did not have hydraulic power or dredgers and elevators in those days. The miners used gold pans, rockers, ground sluices for extracting

gold from the gravel. On the bars near the river were Chinese with derricks, which they used to remove and dump gravel into flumes. Charged with mercury or quicksilver to collect the gold to form an amalgam, disguising the color of the gold that it resembled silver in color. When collected, it was placed in a retort and separated by intense heat. The mercury passed through a small pipe that discharged into a porcelain or glass receiver to be used over again if desired for future use.



—courtesy Chester Barton

HAMBURG

Hamburg was the center of a rich mining district in the early days. Several mines can be seen in this photo taken in the 1890s.

A large amount of mining on Scott River was confined to the present river channel as it appears today with an addition of drifting and hydraulic mining by George Nesbit, George Milne and Martin Andrews.

Leaving Scott Bar, I will begin at the mouth of Scott River to Hamburg Bar. This mining district will include Hamburg, where the wingdamming method was used, with dams built in the river like a coffer dam. These extended out into the river at about 75 feet at right angles with the river and turned downstream about 125-150 feet, then back to shore, thus forming a rectangular enclosure. After the enclosure was finished all water in the dam was pumped out and derricks installed to hoist out the gravel and boulders. The boulders were piled to one side by the derrick and the gravel was washed into the flume as it contained the gold. Some of the wing dam operators of Hamburg were: Bill Kettlewood, Tom Miner, Bill Offield, Ben Maples-

den, Martin Andrews and Green Hicks. There was also some drifting and hydraulic mining at Hamburg by Maplesden and Sons.

The Cap Lowden hydraulic mine was about three miles down the Klamath from Hamburg. They derived their water from the Johnnie Oneil Creek. The Johnnie Oneil placer also derived its water from Johnnie Oneil Creek. Across the river opposite Oneil's was the Maplesden mine and it secured water for hydraulic mining from Nigger Creek, on the north bank of the river. The next mine was known as the Johnnie Everill hydraulic mine, located opposite the Ladd Chrome Mine across the Klamath.

After hearing about the mine in Seiad, I wondered where the mine was located. I found it about six miles up the river and it is not in Seiad Valley as our country papers stated. Seiad is located six miles on the Klamath below the Ladd Chrome Mine. Seiad is a small valley two miles



GRIDER MINE

—courtesy J. B. Grider

Looking across the Grider Mine near the mouth of Grider Creek. Seiad Valley is on the right.

long and one mile wide. I was born and raised in Seiad and am well acquainted with the country.

There are two large creeks in Seiad, Grider Creek and Seiad Creek. Grider Creek flows north into the Klamath from the Marble Mountain territory. Seiad Creek flows south into the Klamath from the Siskiyou and Red Mountain.

There were only four families living in Seiad when I was a boy, J. S. Lowden, W. T. Grider, Robert Rainey, and M. B. Phillips.

Walker Bar is on the east side of the Klamath from Seiad. Near the highway bridge two companies of Chinese mined with derricks in separate mines, Upper and Lower companies of about twelve men in each company.

J. S. Lowden's hydraulic mine was located on the south bank of the Klamath, deriving its water from Walker Creek.

Across the river opposite the J. S. Lowden mine was the largest, the Lee Yet hydraulic. About twenty-five Chinese operated two giants night and day, also Sunday, for years. It was a very extensive mine and worked out a large tract of land. They used water from Seiad Creek and had a wonderful water right which supplied the mine during some of the summer months.

Down the river about two miles on the south bank was the W. T. Grider and Sons placer mine near the banks of Grider Creek, from where it derived its water and flowed through our farm land. Two giants—hydraulics—were operated.

Two miles down the river from Seiad was the Masonic Bar Mine on the south side of the river. This mine was operated by Chinese with derricks using water from Grider Creek. About a mile farther down the river was the Portuguese hydraulic mine owned by James Camp and Charles Bailey.



—courtesy Mrs. Kate Bickel

MINETTA BEE MINE

This mine was located about three miles below Thompson Creek on the Klamath River. About 1904.

Across the river from the Portuguese Mine was the Hoskins Bar Mine which was operated by Chinese. They used water from the Klamath by means of a dip wheel, about twenty feet in diameter. Wooden buckets were made to dip the water up from the river and dumped into a flume for washing the gravel. This was a pick and shovel mine operated in a crude manner. In 1890 when the river was at flood stage, a land and snow slide carried the house into the river including the Chinese.

Going on down the river, we next come to the Ft. Goff hydraulic mine owned by James Camp, William Wood and Charles Bailey. They used water from Ft. Goff Creek to operate the mine with giants.

Below the Ft. Goff Mine was the Minnetta B Placer Mine, a hydraulic on the north banks of the river about four miles below. They used water from Thompson Creek. Water was carried over a suspension bridge by means of a twenty-inch pipeline across the bridge and into the mine. The Seattle Placer Mine, a mile below, also used water from Thompson Creek.

All the mines down the river are going to be hydraulic all the way to Happy Camp. We are now in the hydraulic district that

extends from Seiad to Happy Camp and on down the Klamath towards the mouth of that stream. These mines are old river channels located on the mountain slopes above the river channel where it now flows. These channels vary in number from one to three. Some mines have only one high channel, while others have two and three, but most of the mines had two. These are the ancient river channels that were left after cutting down to the present location of the stream. Channel No. 3 cut to No. 2 below, No. 2 cut to No. 1, and from No. 1 to the present river channel, where the water is flowing as you see it today. Being above the river for hydraulic operation with giants, it provided an ideal dump for tailings and drainage.

As for the pioneer miners, they worked the gravel bars along the present river bank by means of gold pans, rockers, long-tom and sluicing into small flumes carrying water to collect the gold. They did not use much mercury in those days, and many of them did not go to bedrock where the gravel was the richest. They did more surface mining, so to speak.

The next hydraulic mine will be about seven miles below the Seattle, the Joe



—courtesy Mrs. Kate Bickel

MINETTA BEE MINE WATER LINE

Water was carried across the Klamath River by means of this suspension bridge for the giants at the Minetta Bee Mine.

Reeve placer mine, using water from China Creek. Between the Seattle and Reeve mines, the river passes through a gorge where the gravel deposit is not visible until the river widens and spreads out again and mining continues.

The Silva and Lee, about two miles below the Joe Reeve Mine, also used water from China Creek. The Williams Point or Jones hydraulic mine below the Silva and Lee, carried water from China Creek over a bridge across the river by means of a pipeline to the mine.

Two miles on down the river we have the Gordon hydraulic using water from Nigger Creek. The Muck-a-Muck, or Minnie Reeve Mine—hydraulic—used water from Cade Creek, a short distance from Happy Camp.

The Richardson Mine across the river from the Minnie Reeve estate is the largest and most extensive of all the hydraulic mines in this district. Their water was derived by a ditch from Elk Creek, twelve miles long on the south bank of the river

and opposite Happy Camp across Klamath River.

The Minnie Reeve Mine and farm was sold to a dredging company for mining purposes.

I would like to mention some of the mines at or near the Happy Camp area. Up Indian Creek that flows through Happy Camp we have the Classic Hill owned previously by James Camp and Jack Titus. It is hydraulic. The Van Bruant, Smart, Lee Grider, later owned by a Chinese named Ock, and the George Temple. Below Happy Camp are a number of old hydraulic mines including Siskiyou, Wingate, China Ock, Heal Bros., Ferguson and Frazier, all closed at present.

Of all the mines I have mentioned, not one is in operation due to lack of mineral land. Quartz Hill is due to open some day in the future and when they do, they will have a wonderful body of excellent ore waiting for development. That may take place any time. This is a good and stable prophecy for Quartz Hill. It has been



—courtesy Klamath National Forest
GRANT LOWDEN

This picture was taken at the Lowden Mine at Seiad.



—courtesy Mrs. Kate Bickel
INVERTED SYPHON

This inverted syphon carried water across this canyon on Indian Creek. The water was then carried several miles to the Van Bruant Mine (Happy Camp Mine).

worked off and on for years since 1868, a record quartz mine of Siskiyou County, located at Scott Bar on Scott River.

Gold is classified by size as it appears at vision: 1. flour gold, 2. fly speck, 3. scale, 4. cucumber seed, 5. melon seed, 6. squash seed, 7. nuggets and upward in various sizes and different shapes.

The largest nuggets seem to have been found in Australia, The Balarat, \$50,000; The Sarah Sands, \$50,500. California nuggets, \$6,545 below Scott Bar, Printers Gulch nugget \$1900, Hawkinsville nuggets, \$2,200 and \$900 at same mine. Classic Hill nugget, \$3,000, up Indian Creek from Happy Camp. Whiting Hill nugget, \$3,504.38—187 ounces at \$18.74 per ounce, shaped like a fish seven inches long, at Whiting Hill, Scott Bar, found by L. L.

Wade and James Lindsay.

Columbia, Poverty Gulch nugget of \$28,000 was found by Charles Jarvis, 132 pounds, El Dorado County in 1855.

Quartz Hill, Scott Bar about 1945, \$85,000 pocket gold was found in quartz. Also George Milne found about \$40,000 in ledge at Quartz Hill. Gray Eagle, about eight miles up Indian Creek from Happy Camp, gold and copper mine found in ore from ledge.

Many of the pioneer miners in early days did not know gold when they saw it. Sutter and his men as you know, did not know for positive for some time after Marshall's discovery at Ft. Sutter. After this discovery everyone was looking for placer gold only, a poor man's mine. Later on quartz mining followed.



HAPPY CAMP

This photo of Happy Camp was taken about 1900.



—courtesy Mrs. Kate Bickel

GORDON MINE

The Gordon family operated this mine near Happy Camp for a number of years. Left to right: Corey Gordon, Morris Gordon, the father, Henry Gordon and Joe Gordon. Photo taken about 1898.



—courtesy Siskiyou County Historical Society

MUCK-A-MUCK MINE

This scene shows the dump, working area and the pipe line suspended across the Klamath River. Taken about 1900.



—courtesy Siskiyou County Historical Society

SETTING BOXES

Setting boxes at one of the mines of the Siskiyou Mines Company near Clear Creek. The blocks of wood were set in the bottoms of the sluice boxes and the gold was caught between them.



—courtesy Siskiyou County Historical Society

VAN BRUANT MINE

This photo, taken about 1900, shows the huge Van Bruant Mine (Happy Camp Mine). This was one of the largest hydraulic mines in northern California. The site is today occupied by the Happy Camp Airport. The town of Happy Camp appears at the extreme right foreground.

Seiad and Happy Camp Mines . . .

(Lowden and Crumpton Reports)

By CHESTER BARTON

Information given by Captain Lowden:

That on the Richardson Placer Mining Claim was taken out about a million and a half dollars.

On the Joe Reeves' Placer Mine near China Creek was taken about, or over, one-hundred thousand dollars. That the men worked the bedrock after mining was through and realized from \$20 to \$150 a day cleaning up old bedrock. One of Mr. Dolittle's boys worked on this bedrock, cleaning with rocker.

At the Big Flat by Happy Camp estimated taken out about a hundred thousand dollars, clean-ups being about three hundred

dollars a day. John Roten made a stake cleaning this bedrock after the regular mining work was through. He also states that on one claim three miles below Happy Camp some parties cleaned up the gravel from below the sluice race and took out \$1750.00. After that the company put in undercurrents and this party did not make so much money.

Chinamen at Lowden's claim at Seiad worked their property for 35 years, estimated to be very rich; one year they cleaned up \$52,000.00. This company is supposed to have made a like amount each year as they shipped an immense lot of Chinamen



—courtesy J. B. Grider

VAN BRUANT DUMP FLUME

A tunnel was run to the center of the huge mine where the gravel was washed into it from all directions. The gravel was carried out in this flume to the dump. The flume at the right was called an "under-current" and captured any gold that had passed through the main sluice boxes.

to China every year.

Another place about 15 miles below Seiad, one company worked the surface ground and it paid them very rich. They quit after that season and another company took the same ground and worked another section of it, which paid better than the first workings. After that another company took it up and took the same out to bed-rock where it paid even richer than either of the previous workings.

(signed) J. S. LOWDAN

Information given by Mr. G. H. Crumpton:

A piece of ground known as the Happy Camp School House Placer Mine operated by the merchant, H. Gasquet, took out about \$200,000. He sold the mine to a New York company for \$45,000, which money they made in a very short time and re-sold

to another company who worked the property three years afterwards. This property was worked 20 years ago.

In the Richardson claim information is supposed to be conservatively given by parties working the mine; supposed to have taken out about \$150,000 and that some days they took out \$1,000 a day by hydraulic mine.

That the Reeves' Placer Mine at China Creek supposed to have taken out \$200,000 and was considered very rich while working, it being a small piece of ground.

Muck-a-Muck was worked for about ten years by Chinamen on percentage. They give in about \$75,000 a year. It can be safely said they took out a good deal more.

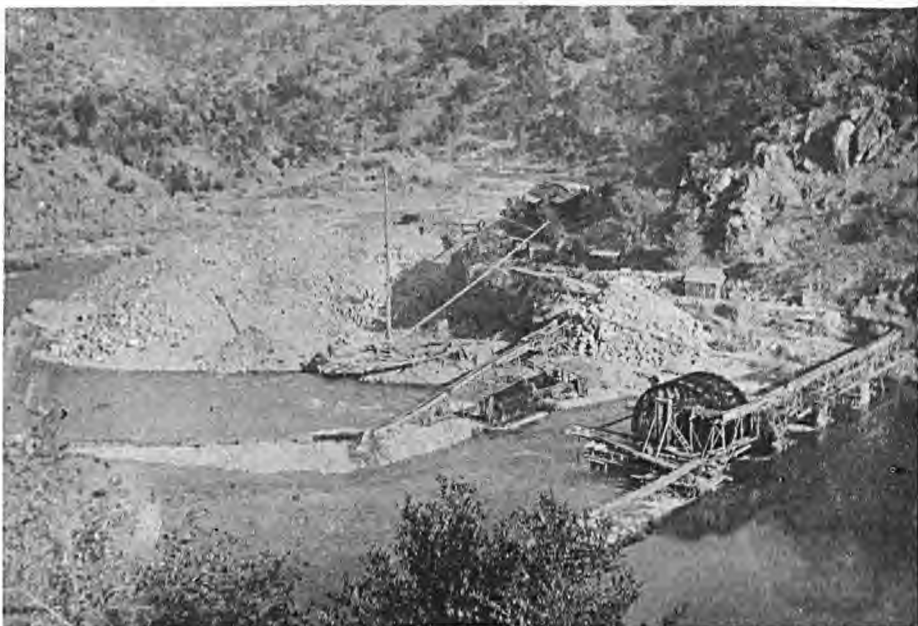
The average depth of these grounds was from 8 to 40 feet.



—courtesy Mrs. Kate Bickel

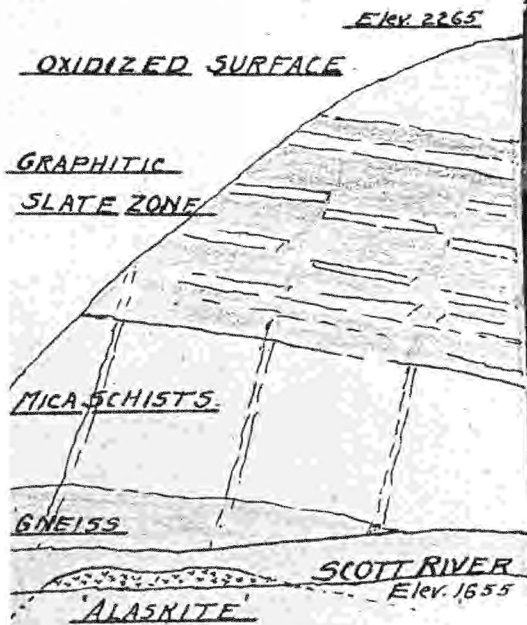
SCOTT BAR

Scott Bar as it looked in 1900. The early mining activity took place between Scott Bar and the Klamath River. Some \$20,000,000 has been recorded as coming from this section of Scott River.



WOODLAND COMPANY MINE

This was mined by a Chinese company in the 1890s. The site of the mine was just below the mouth of Scott River.



MINING METHOD - 1850 to 1940.

—courtesy Harry M. Thompson

GEOLOGICAL CROSS-SECTION OF QUARTZ HILL

This drawing and photo show the five types of rock which make up the rich hill. A giant is shown sluicing.



—courtesy Siskiyou County Historical Society
SCOTT BAR CURRENT WHEELS

The flat to the left of the river provided employment for some five hundred Chinese miners. This photo was taken in the 1890s.

Old Log Store, Oak Bar, Calif.
 John & H. J. Barton

1 Bx China Whiskey
 1 Bx Mehaime Whiskey

INVENTORY

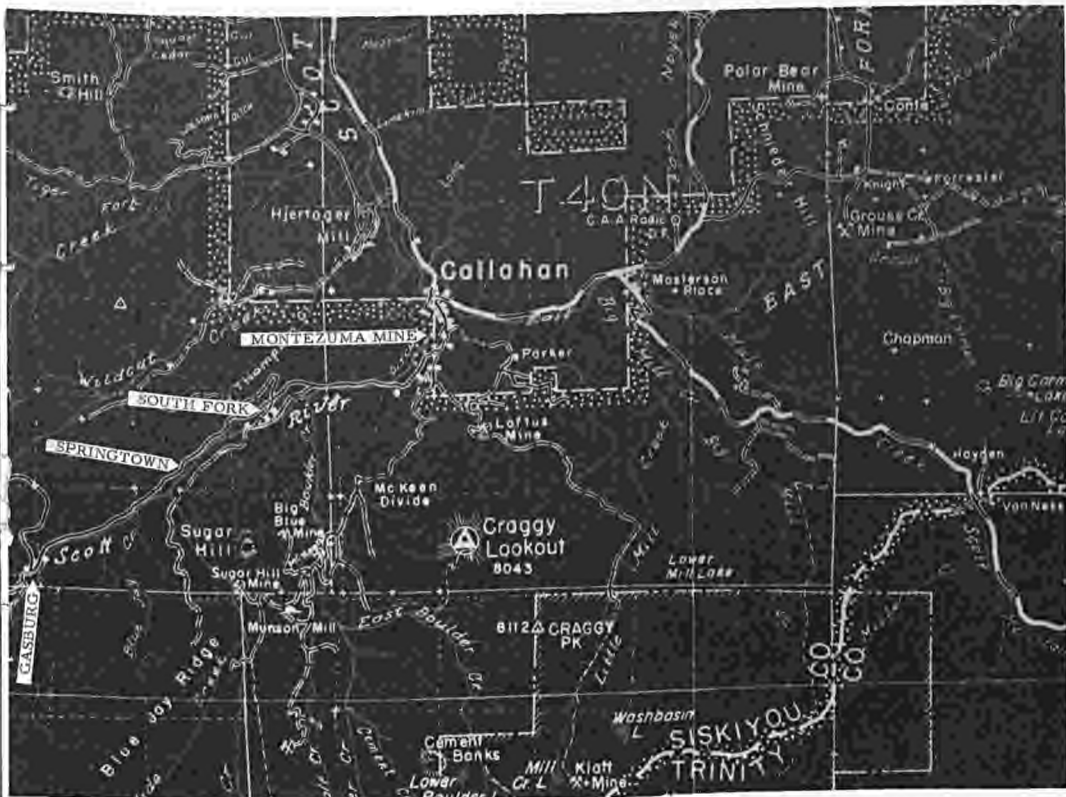
List of merchandise stored in the Old Log Store, taken November 9, 1886:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 Jar china cabbage | |
| 1 Bx Sly Foom | 2 Bx Pot W |
| 1 Bx China Fish | 2 Bx Sly Foom |
| 7 Bx N - Oil | 1 Bx Bro Sugar |
| 7 Bx No My Dew | 1 Bx Fong Lucy |
| 1 Bx No My Foom | |
| 1 Bx Mushrooms | |
| 1 Bx No My Foom | |
| 1 Bx Soon Ah | |
| 1 Bx Mock Guoy | |
| 1 Fish in Oil | |
| 1 Pow Ching | |
| 1 Kim Jim | |
| 13 Matts Ex No. 1 China Rice | |
| 4 Bx Foot Chook | |
| 1 Bx Howchee | |
| 1 Bx Suc Yen | |
| 1 Bx China Sugar | |

THE FLOOD OF 1890 . . .

By J. B. Grider, D.M.D. Emeritus

February 1-4. It began raining in the evening about six p.m., February 1st and continued without stopping until 1:30 a.m., February 4th. There was about five feet of settled snow on the ground and the warm, steady rain made quite a volume of water to be carried off by the many streams and rivers. The temperature registered 42° F. I measured the rainfall at Seiad and found that it was 13 inches deep. The flood of 1861-62 was just 14 inches, one inch higher than 1890 measured, by an old blaze or scalp on a black oak tree near the river bank. The river at Seiad measured 37½ feet above low water mark, about the same as '61-'62. Many deer died from deep snow and high water by starvation and exposure to climatic conditions.



CALLAHAN AND SOUTH FORK

The South Fork of Scott River contributed the majority of the placer gold found on the upper Scott River. The rich mining district of South Fork can be recognized today by the many tailings and old workings lining the stream.

Callahan Mines . . .

By KARL V. DENNY

Mining on South Fork and East Fork of Scott River at Callahans Ranch and South Fork.

The two forks of Scott River come together just after they pass Callahans Ranch.

Charles Hayden, the brother of Jim Hayden, Frank Hayden, and Richard Hayden, who lived around Callahans Ranch, said he mined on Fox Creek in 1852.

Wolfe took up the town of Callahans Ranch in 1849 or 50. It is said that he could feed you a little. M. B. Callahan

came to Callahans Ranch in 1851. Callahan ran a small place where you could get a bite to eat. That fall he went away and found a woman he married. Then he came back to Callahans Ranch and built a place where you could stay all night and eat.

In 1855 Callahan sold out to Asa White, Masterson, and Lyttle, who built the Callahans Ranch Hotel.

The South Fork of Scott River has been very well mined out with all its branches from Callahans Ranch to its very head, a



—courtesy Dorothy Reichman Walker

SISKIYOU'S FIRST DREDGER

This boat was located at Callahan soon after electric power was brought into Scott Valley in 1903.

distance of around twelve miles.

Comstock took up the Montezuma Mine. When Parker and Denny got the ownership of it, I don't know. This I do know: One day I was going from the store up the hill to our house when I met Jim Parker in front of the Loring house. He said to me, "You want to see something?" With that he uncovered a one-pound baking powder can and showed it to me full of coarse gold. This happened around 1885 or '86. This was the gold from the clean-up of the Montezuma Mine which happened once a week. The Montezuma Mine was the best mine ever discovered on the South Fork of the Scott River. The mine started just above Callahans Ranch and went to about where the bridge crossed the river.

Jim Parker was the manager of the mine and Alex Parker was night watchman over the gold riffle or screen. Alexander Parker was the owner most of the time. There was a flume six feet wide and five feet high with sawed-off pieces of logs as bottom. This flume ran a mile and a quarter to one-half. This mine was sold to the China Company at South Fork for \$50,000.

John Schuler lived about one-half the distance from Callahans Ranch to South

Fork. Part of the old house is still standing there. When John's father died, his mother had to be sent to a women's home. John then sold his mining interests and moved to the town of Sisson. John was a very young man. He went into the store business and became very wealthy.

Around 400 to 500 pocket hunters came into the South Fork of the Scott River from Coffee Creek over a number of years. This shows you how rich the Creek was in early days. In those early days there was a tremendous influx of Chinamen into South Fork and vicinity. It was reported around 500 to 800 Chinese—more than in any other town in Siskiyou County.

The big China Mine was just down river from South Fork.

It is difficult to go back 107 years and tell what the miners did then. There is no question that it was gold that drew the men and women to Siskiyou. There was not nearly as much mining on the East Fork of the Scott River as there was on the South Fork.

Mr. Crawford mined very successfully on the East Fork. He raised a family of six girls and one boy. In his later years he moved to Callahans Ranch and lived.



—courtesy Lottie Ball

WADE DREDGER

Built near Callahans in 1907. All machinery, including a fifty-ton spud, was hauled from Yreka by way of Yreka Mountain to Callahans.

Bob Parker sunk a hole on Scott Mountain and worked it for a year or so and finally quit. He was talked to by Jim Patterson. Bob told him he was through, to go ahead and mine if he wanted to. Patterson took out \$2300 in just a day or two which all goes to show how near you can be to gold and never get it.

I have told you something about Scott Mountain. Here is something else: Scott Mountain was the worst mountain to get over the California-Oregon Stage Company had. They kept an ox team on top of Scott Mountain in the wintertime which was used in this manner: When the snow was bad the oxen were hitched to a log sled and worked back and forth over this snow. Denny Brothers, who farmed in Noyes Valley from 1860 on, furnished hay for the oxen. It was a distance of six miles from their farm in Noyes Valley to the Master-son place and six miles up Scott Mountain. Albert Denny loaded up a 4-horse load of hay and had it ready to start early the next morning. He hauled the load of hay the twelve miles to Scott Mountain's top and returned home the same day.

In 1866 Tom and Joe Denny were running a store in Callahans Ranch. They needed more money. They knew Albert Denny had \$3000.00 so they made this proposition to him: Come into the store

business with them. He sold his ranch in Noyes Valley and entered the store business with Denny Brothers. They sent him up South Fork to run the store there. My sister, Mary Denny Parker, was born that year (91 years ago). She is still living in Etna. My father took my mother to my grandparents' farm where the Hjertager sawmill is now operating.

Denny Gulch—Around 1856-58 A. H. Denny fenced in a gulch above the Sullivan Ranch on Wildcat. He bought a few milk cows and sold the milk to the miners during the winter months. During the summer the cows were driven to Coffee Creek to what was known as Denny Farm. Milk was sold there to the Coffee Creek miners.

When A. H. Denny moved to South Fork in 1866 and entered the mercantile business with the Denny Brothers, the mining town was quite a berg with around 50 to 100 men living in the vicinity, besides 200 to 300 Chinese.

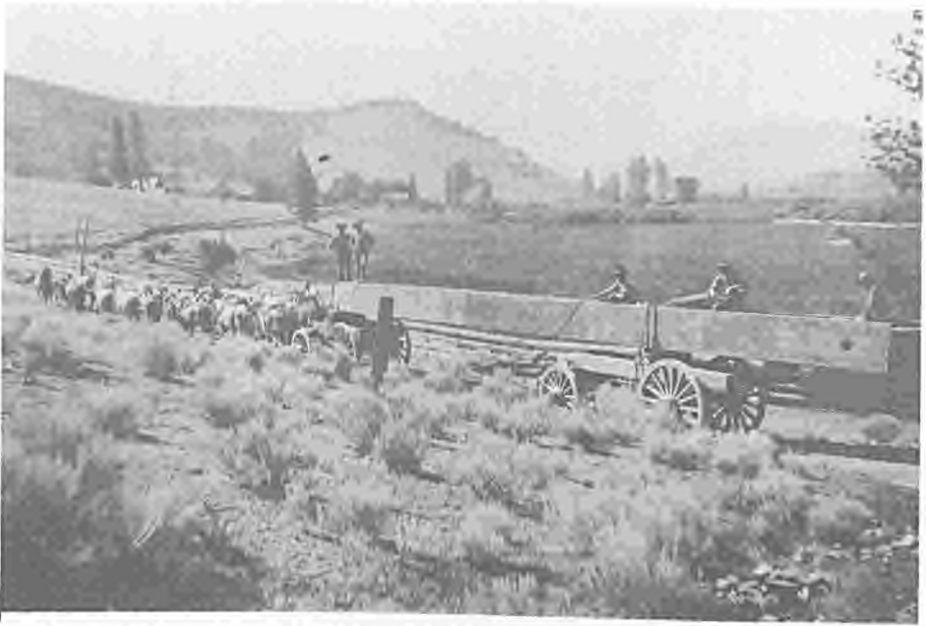
Going from South Fork you had to go through Springtown, which was inhabited almost entirely by Chinamen. Past Springtown came Fox Creek which was the most prosperous of any which flowed into South Fork. This was the end of the wagon road, and a distance of around six miles from Callahans Ranch.

Enos Young's butcher wagon came to Fox Creek twice a week from Etna. The A.B.C. Mine near the mouth of Fox Creek was very prosperous. It was owned by Andrews, Beroy and Coggins. This mine is still operated by the French Company and operated by Alexis Bouvier.

On up the South Fork Grizzly Creek flows into the Scott River on the road side and down a ways from where Jackson Lake Creek comes in. There was a town at the mouth of Grizzly by the name of Gasburg. Jackson Creek was very well mined out.

The French Beaudry Company bought the South Fork section around 1900. They bought 3000 acres of mining property extending to near Callahan and over in Wildcat. They bought the Denny Gulch on Wildcat.

Ed Nolan, who was born in South Fork,



—courtesy Gus Reichman

50-TON SPUD

Gus Reichman took a contract to haul machinery to the Wade dredge at Callahans. Twenty-six horses were required to move this spud over Yreka Mountain. Eighteen horses were used on level ground. Left to right: Sam Parker, Fred Harbaugh, Gus Reichman, unknown, unknown.

bought the piece of property owned by John Foch. This land took in the town of South Fork. Ed Nolan tore down the Chinatown and sold the entire thing to the French Company. Then Nolan and his sister moved to Yreka. He was later elected county surveyor.

There are very few buildings remaining in South Fork. The Nolan house is still in existence and is where Alexis Bouvier now lives; the old schoolhouse where Mrs. Bouvier's father lives; and the old hotel building owned by Helmuth and used by Bouvier for a blacksmith shop. The French Company has done a lot of mining on this 3000 acres of mining property they bought.

This type of mining was replaced by the dredger when in 1907 Mr. Wade started dredger mining. Down the river from Callahans Ranch there was a dredger run by a Mr. Scott. Later the Yuba Dredger Company moved in. This was a much larger operation. They built their dredger at the mouth of Sugar Creek where they built their town. They dredged to within one

mile of Callahans Ranch where the hills on each side of Scott River narrowed down so and in solid rock that the boat was hampered from proceeding any farther upstream. The dredger then turned around and dredged downstream to the Wolford Ranch—a distance of four miles. Then, since Wolfords would not sell them any more land, they again dredged upstream a short distance to the Wm. Munson sawmill where the dredger can be seen sitting inoperative at the present time. This operation covered a period of approximately fifteen years.

The last dredger moved in and commenced operations in 1956 on the Last Chance Mine one mile south of Callahan. This dredger worked up as far as Callahan through the new Cecilville road and shut down in the early part of 1957. Rumor is that the gold ran out but the outfit was too small and could not dig deep enough for the gold. It is reported that the dredger will move to Cecilville when the new road is completed.

The Fore Hydraulic Elevator . . .

By LOTTIE A. BALL

Several years before the first dredger was built in the Scott River area near Callahans, Sidney J. Fore built and operated an hydraulic elevator below the town near what was later the site of a government C.C.C. camp. Fore had prospected the area by sinking several shafts to bedrock and being satisfied as to the gold content of the gravel deposit per cubic yard, proceeded to build approximately six miles of ditch on the west side of South Fork of Scott River to bring its water to his work at an elevation sufficient to provide pressure at the elevator. The ditch was dug by hand and by horse teams. An inclined roadway was made to bedrock and the elevator put in place; a small hydraulic giant was also set up to cut down the gravel bank and drive material toward the elevator. All rocks above four inches in diameter were picked up by hand and loaded into rock boats on skids and hauled to the surface of the bar; boulders were loaded on lizards and also hauled to

the surface. It was expected that these rocks and boulders would be left in the pit when there was room to pile them there. Even with careful hand picking irregular shaped rocks continually clogged the throat of the elevator, causing endless delays and slowing down the moving of gravel.

A flume for washing material lifted by the elevator was built on a trestle above the surface of the bar high enough to give the flume sufficient grade to allow gravel to move through it to the dump. It was built of newly sawed lumber with two wide boards making the bottom of the flume. The riffles were dry wooden blocks wedged tightly into the flume without allowance being made for swelling of the blocks when wet. The result was that the bottom of the flume pulled apart in the center letting out considerable water as well as gravel and gold that happened to be moving down the center of the boxes. It was reported that sniping was very good under the flume.



—courtesy Lottie A. Ball

WADE DREDGE DURING CONSTRUCTION.
Taken about 1907. Note 50-ton spud on right.

Fox Creek Nuggets . . .

By LOTTIE A. BALL



Typical nuggets found at Fox Creek Falls. The coin used for comparison is a fifty cent piece.

While the lower end of Fox Creek, a tributary of South Fork of Scott River, is known to have been the source of fabulous amounts of nugget gold there is no record of their value in dollars and cents.

This steep gulch-like part of the stream is said to gain a thousand feet in elevation in the first mile of its length. The swift water has cut through the serpentine formation to form at one place a narrow cut through which Fox Creek rushes in cascade-like falls. At the bottom of the falls quantities of nugget gold settled into a deep crevice under piled up boulders and were found by the first Fox Creek miners.

According to stories told in 1900 by the then oldtimers of Fox Creek, the fill of boulders and rubble at the bottom of the falls was moved three times by these early comers who went deeper into the crevice, with astonishing amounts of nugget gold being found each time. These tales are believable as the accompanying picture of six nuggets shows. These six and some smaller specimens not shown in the picture weighed about seven ounces. They were taken from a little "new gravel" left behind a boulder because the miners had not moved the rock. Earlier a solitary gold nugget weighing about six ounces was recovered from a little spur on the walls of the falls; no one else had thought to look for gold in such an unlikely place. A small seamlike crevice that

had been overlooked was filled to the top with small gold pellets. The force of the flowing water had kept particles of gravel from settling in the slit, but the heavier little nuggets remained there. One wondered how many larger pieces of gold had passed over the crevice and did not drop into it.

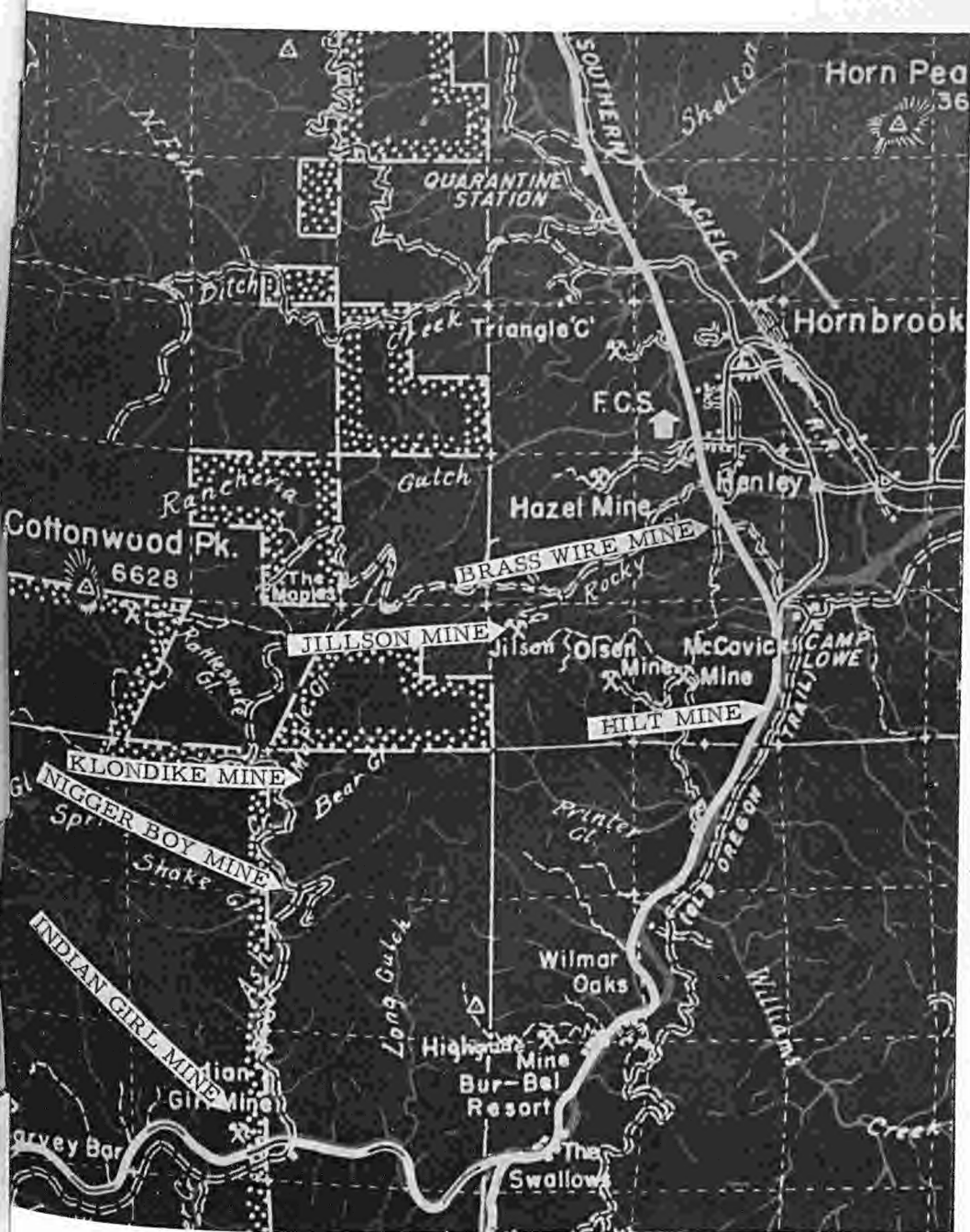
However, while proving the truth of the Midas' hoard taken from the narrow Fox Creek channel, the gold recovered at this time did not pay for several weeks' work, moving large boulders and valueless fill below Fox Creek falls.

Despite the advantages of good values per cubic yard, comparatively light wash and plenty of water with sufficient pressure to operate the elevator, Fore's mining venture was crippled by continual work stoppages and the slow method of handling rocks. The inevitable result was the shutting down of work after a few months of discouraging struggle.

After the mine work stopped the ditch was not kept in repair and a long strip of it on the face of the serpentine bluffs opposite the mouth of Fox Creek soon was filled by hill material that slid into it. The good water right lapsed by lack of use.

The ditch right being abandoned, a trail was cleared on the ditch by the Forest Service about 1913 thus eliminating two fords across the South Fork of Scott and another across Fox Creek that were often made impassable by high water. Later a road replaced this trail and became part of the county road system. When the road was completed the old road from French Flat to Fox Creek with its three stream crossings was abandoned.

Notwithstanding Sidney S. Fore's lack of success with his hydraulic elevator at Callahans in 1897 and '98 his idea was sound and under different management a number of hydraulic elevators have been operated successfully on the Klamath River and other parts of Siskiyou County.



HENLEY - HORN BROOK

The Hornbrook-Henley area mines were all located on the west side of Cottonwood Creek. To the east is the unproductive lava country. The richest single creek was Rancheria Gulch.



HILT MINE

—courtesy Wilmer Hilt

This mine was operated by John Hilt and was located near the mouth of Printers Gulch on the Klamath River.

Mines of the Henley-Hornbrook Area . . .

By GORDON JACOBS

The first discovery of gold near old Cottonwood was made by a man named John Thomas in a little gulch at a point which is now on the farm of Chas. Brunk, in the year of 1851. Shortly there was a rush of prospectors to the newly formed district and it was soon found that many of the creeks and gulches carried gold in paying quantities. Cottonwood Creek seems to have been the dividing line between the gold bearing area and the barren part of the district. The creeks and gulches which entered Cottonwood Creek from the west side between the Klamath River and the Oregon line were more or less gold bearing, while on the east side of the creek gold in paying quantities has never been found. While most of the creeks and gulches from the west paid more or less, the richest of the placer mines were on the flats around old

Cottonwood and were no doubt enriched by Rocky Gulch whose flow during the past had covered that area.

The richest and most extensive of the old time placers was the famous Brass Wire Mine, so named because of the use of brass wire for guying a high flume which conducted water to the higher part of the mine. It was said there were a number of partners in this mine and the operation continued for a number of years, but unfortunately their names and the production figures are not available.

The first fifteen years following the discovery of gold saw the richest of the placers pretty well worked out, but for many years thereafter Chinese continued to rework much of this old placer ground.

Next followed the working of the bars along the Klamath River between what is



—courtesy Gordon Jacobs

BRASS WIRE MINE—1853

The famed Brass Wire Mine, half a mile southeast of Henley, was the most widely known placer mine in the entire Henley area. It was opened in late 1851 or early 1852 by William H. Smith and his eight or ten partners. It was named as a result of brass wire being used for guying the flume which carried water to its highest parts. The owners sent to San Francisco for regular guy wire but none was obtainable, although San Francisco dealers had a surplus of brass wire, so brass wire was purchased. The picture shows the spillway bringing water from Rancheria Creek to Rocky Gulch, from when it reached the mine, which was where Rocky Gulch spilled out onto a flat. After this picture was taken the high ground where the men are standing was all sluiced away. Only a hollow now remains of the once famed Brass Wire diggings. The man in the center foreground pulling a wheelbarrow is Gordon Jacob's maternal grandfather, Thomas Davis, who worked in the mine.

now Camp Lowe and Ash Creek, and even the river bed itself. This was done by building dams partially across the river and in effect fencing the water off a part of the river bed of sufficient size to provide a season's work. Power for pumping and hoisting the gravel to the sluices was provided by current wheels. In some instances where dams were not used the river gravel was mined by sinking a working shaft on the higher ground and tunneling out under the river, in this way removing the gravel for washing. The river mining continued for many years after the flats and creeks had been worked out. In the meantime gold bearing quartz had been discovered in the hills two or three miles due west of Henley,

in Rocky Gulch. The better known of these quartz mines was the Hazel Gold Mining Company's JILLSON MINE. It was discovered during the 1870s. The first work in the mine was done by a man named Mike Bram. He took in a partner named Hays Hazlett but later dropped out himself. Hazlett found rich ore and a quartz mill was constructed and owned by Jehu Jacobs near Henley to mill the ore. Under this arrangement about \$30,000 was produced. About this time the vein had faulted and was lost, and litigation started between Hazlett and Sam Clary who held the surface under a placer mining location while Hazlett held the underground rights, under a quartz mining location. Clary refused to



—courtesy Siskiyou County Historical Society

KLONDIKE MINE

This mine was located on Ash Creek, a tributary of the Klamath River. Miners are unknown. Produced about \$25,000.

let Hazlett have a dump on the surface ground for the waste rock from the underground workings. During the 1890s Jacobs acquired an interest in the mine. This condition continued until 1897 when I. O. Jillson and associates bought out both the Clary surface rights and the interest of Hazlett and Jacobs. Almost immediately rich ore was uncovered at a point on the surface where it was known to exist, and as soon as a new five stamp mill could be constructed the mine went into production. Later an additional five stamps were added and it continued to operate until 1902, when it was closed for lack of ore. The ore came from three veins in the mine, the Hazlett vein which was the original source of ore, the Potato Patch vein, and the "C" vein. The Potato Patch vein was a blanket

vein dipping to the west at an angle of ten or fifteen degrees and was worked for some 1200 feet in depth on its slope. The Hazlett vein was the lower vein and cropped at the creek level, was always badly faulted but very rich and was worked only a block of ore here and there as they were able to find it. The "C" vein was a fault along the north side of the Potato Patch vein and produced some ore.

Following end of operations by the Jillson group the mine has been in the hands of various lessees, the most successful being Fred Gowing, his first effort being as representative of W. P. Hammond who was a dredger operator. Later Gowing operated the mine for himself and some associates; during his two operations and that of the



—courtesy Gordon Jacobs

VICTOR MINE MILL—ABOUT 1895

This mine was about two miles due west of Henley on Rancheria Creek. Never amounted to much. Was operated by a Mr. Frye when this photo was taken. It was opened by Andrew Simpson in the early 1890s. Left to right: Probably Frye, Doc Brown (not an M.D.), Mrs. Frye, John Mackey, Mrs. Mackey, Jehu Jacobs (Gordon Jacob's father), man with hands in pocket unidentified, Buck Edmonds. Two men at upper right unidentified.

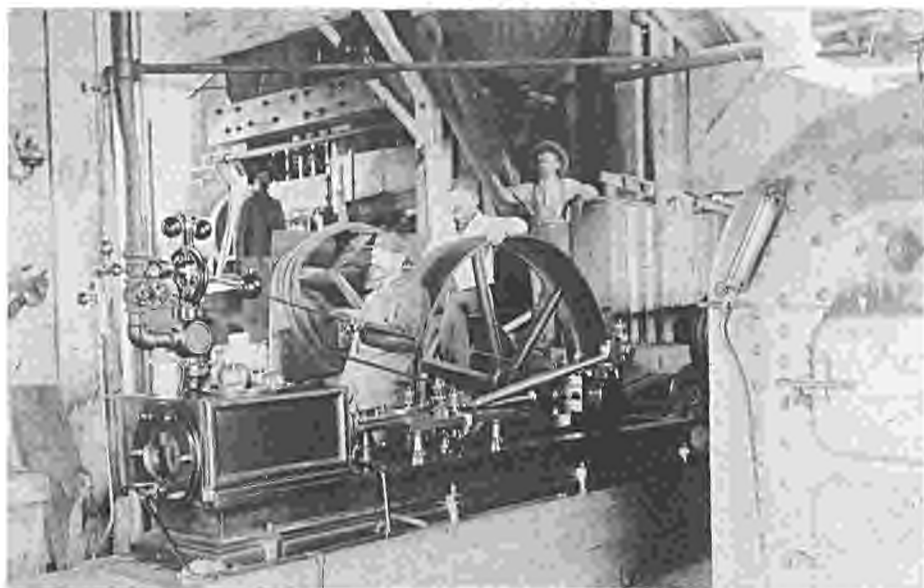
Jillson people total production reached about a million dollars.

Other quartz mines were the Mattern, and the LaFlesch mines, also on Rocky Gulch and near the Jillson. Each produced considerable gold, but records are not available.

The Hicks mine on China Gulch above the present Herman Kurt Ranch, about six miles northwest of Hornbrosk produced a little more than \$30,000 and the Spencer or sometimes called the Mullin Mine, produced a little more than \$50,000.

Pocket hunting flourished for a time about the turn of the century in the Ash Creek area, some ten miles down the Klamath River from Hornbrook. The best strikes were the Indian Girl Mine, which was reported to have produced about \$300,000; and the Klondike with production of about \$25,000. Many other pockets were found in the area which produced lesser amounts.

To the west of Henley and along the foothills there lies a belt of cemented gravel underlying the uptilted sandstones, either the shore wash of an ancient body of water or a prehistoric river channel. It is gold bearing and its erosion provided some enrichment in the creeks and gulches which intersected and exposed it. A number of efforts have been made to work these gravel beds. Two different stamp mills were erected at places where it appeared richest, but neither was able to operate profitably; however at one point near the Klamath River where the overburden was of a lighter nature the Jillson group mined it by the hydraulic process for a number of years and recovered considerable gold. One nugget of more than \$400 was found there. This operation continued until 1897 when Jillson and associates bought the Hazlett mine when it closed down and was the end of any notable placer mining operation in the Henley area.



JILLSON MINE—1899

—courtesy Gordon Jacobs

The right name of the Jillson was the Hazel Gold Mining Company named after I. Oliver Jillson's sister, Hazel MacIntosh of Chico. Left to right: Jehu Jacobs (Gordon Jacobs' father, who was the head quartz mill man for the company); Raynes, engineer; A. W. Cuthbert, Hornbrook saloon keeper visiting mill; and James Bell, Jillson's brother-in-law.

The Late Sam Clary . . .

By CECILE JACOBS

The Jillson Mine three miles west of Henley produced about \$750,000 around the turn of the century which it could have produced earlier if it had not been for Sam Clary. He was a tall raw boned man with chin whiskers who came from New York State, probably in the early 1860s, with his sister Helen, who married Rufus Cole of Cole's Station, just north of what is now the town of Hilt.

Sam soon acquired surface rights to what eventually became the Jillson and took some \$18,000 from the grass roots on the hillside, under which the famed Potato Patch vein of the Jillson was later developed. They called it the Potato Patch because the gold came out in chunks, prompting a miner to observe, "This is just like digging potatoes." But, while Sam was pulling up grass a man named Nesbitt discovered a

rich quartz vein. It led under Sam's claim so Nesbitt got rights to mine underneath. Sam wouldn't let him. Time passed and Nesbitt sold to Mike Bram, as he was called but his right name was probably O'Brannan.

O'Brannan nosed around and became convinced the vein was better than good but Sam would not let him disturb the surface. In 1870 he finally sold to Hays Hazlett whose mother survived the Whitman massacre and wrote a book about it. Her name was Matilda J. Sager Delaney. Hazlett, goaded on no doubt by this redoubtable mother, started to dig. Sam punched him in the nose and then retained an attorney. Hazlett punched back and retained another attorney. Sam would not let Hazlett deposit any waste on the surface. Hazlett beat Sam up with a gun barrel but it did him no

good. He finally started his tunnel away out yonder on the other side of the gulch and so got under the grass roots where he took out about \$30,000 and lost the vein.

The Klondike Rush had started by 1897 when the court ruled both claims were valid. Hazlett sold his lost vein to I. O. Jillson of Sierra County for about \$5,000, thus leaving the way clear for Sam to sell his to them too. He got between \$10,000 and \$12,000 for it. As Sam had been saying frequently since 1870, he would drop dead before he would sell it to Hazlett, that so-and-so and other things far worse.

Now Sam had two dear friends named Joe Dow and Tom Lawler who wanted to go to the Klondike so he loaned them \$1,000 each. Dow came back to Hornbrook in about a year, saying Lawler had struck it rich but Lawler never wrote to Sam or anyone else and so, naturally, Sam never got back his \$2,000. This did not worry him. He acquired what is now the Herman Kurt Ranch on a mortgage and he mined a little, mainly by the grass pulling method. While he was living on the Kurt Ranch he started home from a Hornbrook saloon one night with more than a snootful and a holdup man stepped out of the bushes a mile or so up the road with a rifle. Sam stood up in the buckboard and roared, "You go to Hell! I haven't even got a damn cent!" This statement, hailed in Hornbrook as a barefaced lie, scared the horse out of a walk and petrified the holdup man.

Sam was living in a cabin on a nice fresh claim about a mile below the Jillson when slot machines were invented. All four saloons in Hornbrook had them. He liked them so much that he would go into the Siskiyou Bank in Yreka with his buckskin sack and take out from \$1,000 to \$5,000 in gold coins. This, in turn, he banked with the T. Jones Company store in Hornbrook, keeping from \$25 to \$50 for the slot machines. The machines showed color in those days. Sam could not see very well so he held a miner's candlestick, with lighted candle, to make out the colors that came up. He also tired easily and employed a man at the going rate of wages to turn the crank.

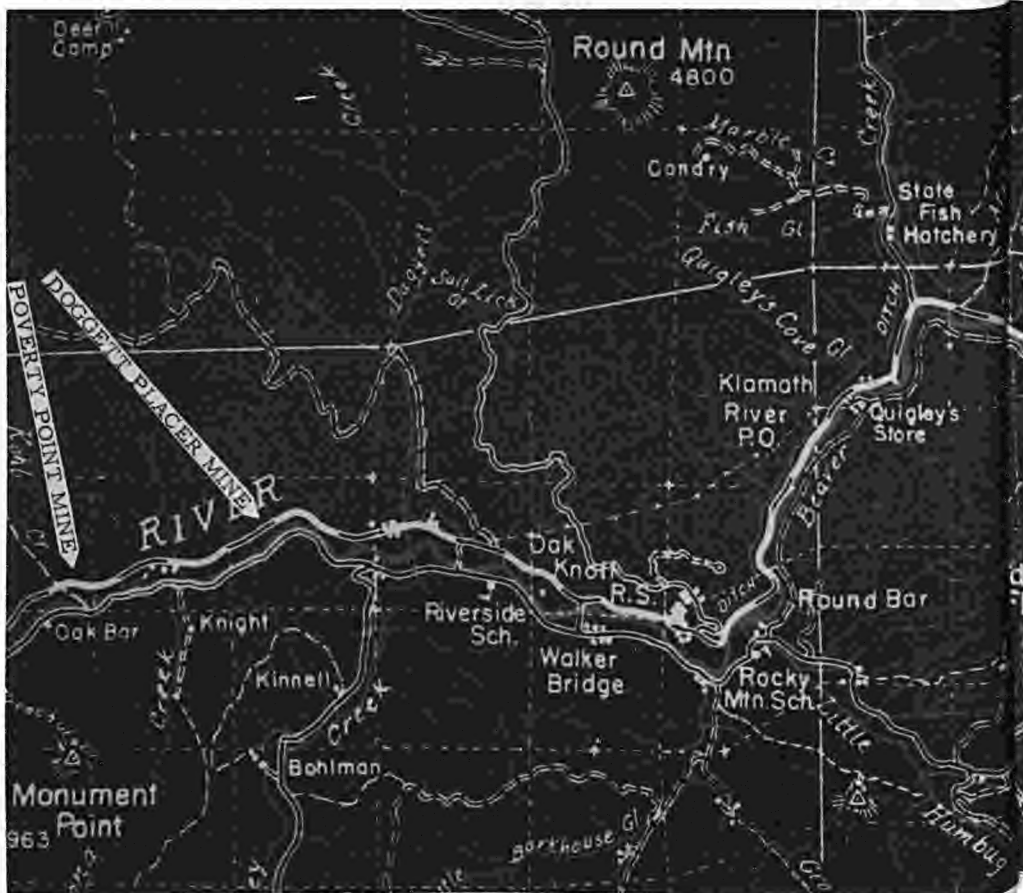
This drew so many customers that all four saloon keepers paid him twenty-five nickels for each dollar.

When he got thirsty, it was against his principles to buy a drink so he would shake dice with the barkeeper, saying, "If I can beat him, it won't cost anybody anything." He did this periodically, retiring to his cabin for a month or more between times to do a little mining. He was doing it early one afternoon when a train pulled in and who should get off but his former pal, Tom Lawler. "Here," said the barkeeper, "is Tom Lawler!" Sam peered at him from close up and said, "You are not Tom Lawler. Tom would have wrote me a letter. Tom Lawler's dead. You are not Tom Lawler." Well, they finally convinced him. The barkeeper did not even wait for the dice but poured the drinks and Sam suddenly remembered a big society event was about to take place. They were burying old Henry Moore from the big Protestant Church which used to stand where the Hornbrook Methodist Church stands now. This was news to Lawler. He had known Old Henry for 30 years. Sam had known him longer. Arm in arm they wavered out, turned the corner, crossed the bridge, climbed the hill and entered the Church as the choir was finishing the last hymn and the only two empty seats were up in front. They did not bother to sit down as people were rising already for the last look at Old Henry. They just went up one aisle and leaned over the pine coffin. Sam leaned over first and took a good look from a distance of about six inches. Lawler fished around in his pockets and finally pulled out an extra large round reading glass. After squinting through it for quite a while he proclaimed loudly, "Did I tell you how an explosion in Montana hurt my optic nerves? It happened this way —". "Go on, Tom," said Sam.

Lawler again focused his reading glass. After a detailed study he declared, "That ain't Old Man Moore." "Go on Tom, that is old Moore, I knew him for 40 years. That's Old Moore." "It ain't," said Lawler.

The mourners had broken into snickers.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 56.)



UPPER KLAMATH

Humbug Creek to Scott River

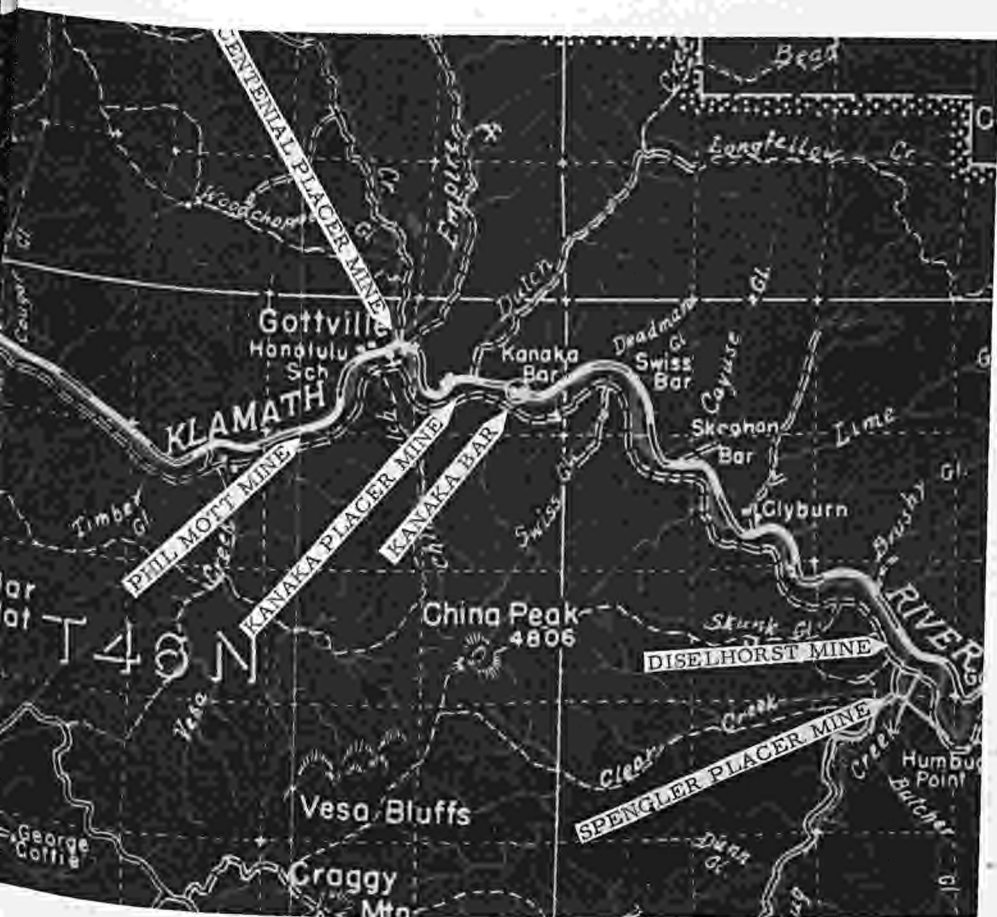
River Mines . . .

By FRANK HERZOG

On the early Klamath River mine it was a task to get the river wing-damed after necessary prospecting of the shores, as the natural flow of the river was high as there was very little water taken from the river for irrigation.

The first problem was to wingdam the river and it was done by making cribs of willow and small trees that grew along the shores. A square frame was made about

6'x4'. One-half inch holes six inches apart were bound in the frame and a top frame was made to match. Uprights of willow or pine four feet long were inserted in the holes. Then willows or small twigs were woven through like a basket. The crib was then filled with rocks, the top fastened on and then sunk in the river. This process was repeated the width and length of the river where it was wished to mine back of



The rich upper Klamath River produced millions in unrecorded gold. From the mouth of Shasta River to Happy camp every bar and channel shows evidence of past miners. Of all the tributaries of the Klamath River above the Salmon River the richest were Scott River (\$20,000,000), Humbug Creek (\$18,000,000), and the Shasta River (\$16,000,000).

the wing dam.

This means of diverting the river in half was an advantage in the power that would be given their water wheels, which ran the China pump at the lower end of the mine to keep the water out of the open cut at the power wheel. This ran the bull drum that furnished the power to the derrick hoist.

One or two water wheels were used to dip water out of the river and empty it into sluice boxes, where the gold was separated from the gravel. Then the gravel was dumped into the river at the lower end of

the wing dam. This kept out any backwash that might occur and fill the mining cut where the men were at work.

This type of river mine was in use all along the Klamath from the Cottonwood Creek, down the river below Happy Camp.

The large amount of gold taken from this river bed is not known. The Phil Mott Mine was owned and run by seven partners, Phil Mott, Chas. Veterline, Phil Conchices, Joe Rose, Manuel Rose, Mary Mott and Florian LeMay.

The life or producing time of these river mines was short. The first two years of the



—courtesy Chester Barton

LUMBER RAFT ON THE KLAMATH

Lumber from Jensens Mill on Doggett Creek being rafted to the wingdams at the mouth of Scott River. Left to right: George Doggett, Bob McCauley, Jesse Hubbard, Gene Morgan, Lew Doggett, Ed McCauley, Iner Linbeck, Frank Williams, Dan Dietrick, Gene Maltby and Mr. Mullen.

Phil Mott mine was discouraging when high water drove the miners out and closed them down in the fall. After two of such years the seven partners were in debt to John Cleland \$35,000.

In the spring of 1892 the partners met at Cleland's store, each man putting up his earnings into the kitty to start the mine again. The mine got under way about March. They had a very successful year from the first week to the end of the season. Their cleanings ran from one hundred and fifty to three hundred ounces per week, with three shifts a day.

When the books were balanced each partner had \$7,500. The Phil Mott Mine was worked out and closed down for good. Now all that is left is a pile of rocks and tailings on the river bank to show for the three years of hard work.

The reported wages at that time for a man called a "mucker" or "pick and shovel man" was \$1.25 for an eight-hour shift. "Bull drum man" or "Hoister" \$1.75, "Derrick tenders," \$1.75; "wheel and flume tender," \$1.75; and "shift boss," \$2.25.

THE LATE SAM CLARY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 53)

Somehow they pushed the arguers aside, loaded Moore's body onto the T. Jones delivery wagon, fancied up a little with black crepe along the sides, and buried him.

Lawler naturally went home with Sam to the cabin. Later he got a job as night watchman at the Jillson Mine, which had shut down again about 1901 after Jillson found the lost vein and two more fresh ones and took out about \$750,000.

About 1909 or 1910 Sam stuck a couple of sticks of dynamite under a stubborn boulder on his claim and lighted the fuse. He retired a safe distance and saw his friend, Chris Wise, a Hornbrook butcher, coming. The pair of them waited quite a while but nothing happened. Sam went up to the boulder. The blast went off, shooting him twenty feet straight up. He came down on his head and was instantly killed. Wise, a fat man and quite elderly, ran all two miles down to Henley with the news.



—courtesy Frank Herzog

PHIL MOTT MINE ON THE KLAMATH

The Klamath River has been crowded over toward the opposite bank to expose this part of the river bottom. The current wheel runs the two China pumps. Another wheel runs the bull drum of the hoist and two others dump water into sluices above the mine for washing the gravel. This mine operated for six months each of three years during low water. Those numbered are: 1. Phil Mott; 2. Fred Veterline; 3. Mary Mott; 4. Charles Veterline.



—courtesy Frank Herzog

OWNERS AND MINERS OF THE PHIL MOTT MINE

1. Fred Veterline. 2. Gene Mott. 3. Phillip Aenchiecs. 4. Mary Mott. 5. Phil Mott. 6. Joe Rose. 7. Fred White. 8. Janette White. 9. Manual Rose. 10. Florian LeMay. 11. Henary LeMay. 12. Charles Veterline. Others not named were not owners but miners. The mine ran from 1889 to 1893.



TOWN OF OAK BAR

—courtesy Chester Barton

This shows the mining community as it appeared prior to the flood of 1890. Notice the mined over ground on the side of the Klamath River.



WINGDAM AT OAK BAR

—courtesy Chester Barton

This scene shows the Klamath River "Wingdamed" at Oak Bar's upper workings. Some \$80,000 was taken out in front of this property. Oak Bar Cemetery is in the background. The man in the black sweater is Ed McCauley. Taken about 1897.

Value of Klamath River Mines . . . 1872 - 1885

By the Late H. J. BARTON

Along the Klamath River, from Humbug to Scott River, by estimate given H. J. Barton of Oak Bar, by owners of the following properties, taking the length, width and depth and approximate amount of gold taken from each claim, as worked by the owners. From 621,843 cubic yards there was taken \$866,158, or an average of one dollar and thirty-nine cents (\$1.39) per cubic yard.

	Size of Ground Worked			No. Cu. Yds.	Value Taken Out	Ave. per Yd.
	Length	Width	Depth			
Kanaka P. M.—Freshour's ranch, Virginia Bar	100 ft.	50 ft.	10 ft.	1851	\$30,000	\$16.19
M. Mott and Co., at head of Virginia Bar	59	16	10	296	8,000	27.00
Centennial P. M.— above Lum Grey Mott & Co.	685	40	40	40,000	97,000	2.42
Manzanita Bar, Mott Co.	1600	200	25	296,296	300,000	1.01
Spengler P.M.—at mouth of Humbug Crk., from 7 acres				203,280	234,858	1.10

MINES BELOW BEAVER CREEK

Yankee Dam, below Horse Creek, Vatinell Co.	100	60	4	888	13,000	14.62
Pierson Co., below O. B.	150	20	3	836	7,300	8.72
Vatinell Co.	150	60	6	1,666	8,000	4.80
M. Mott Co.	150	20	6	10,666	3,300	4.95
Poverty Point drift mine, across from Oak Bar	1500	30	6	10,000	23,000	2.36
Maplesden Wingdam, below McKinney Creek	150	30	30	5,000	30,000	6.00
China Sam Co., above McKinney Creek, joins P.G.P.M.—taken out in one wingdam	250	50	8	3,703	25,000	6.75
Oak Bar P.M.—Kleaver & Portuguese Co.	600	200	10	44,444	60,000	1.12
Buckeye Bar P.M.—below P.G.P.M.	200	50	5	1,851	25,000	13.50
Kols, Wingdam, Oak Bar	100	30	6	666	600	.90
Kols Wingdam below Oak Bar	60	30	6	400	1,100	2.75

621,843 \$866,158

From 621,843 cu. yds. was taken \$866,158 or an average of one dollar and forty-three cents (\$1.43).

Wm. Kleaver & Co. took out with 11 men and use of derrick, by hand shoveling, in one day, 48 ounces, or \$804.00.

Portuguese Co. took out with 11 men and use of derrick, in 3 days, by hand, shoveling, at Oak Bar, \$3000 or \$1000 per day.

China Sam Co. took out in one tub of gravel or one cu. yd., (just below Pine Grove P.M.) 8 ounces of gold, valued at \$134.00.

Wm. McConnel claim at mouth of Humbug Creek took out one season \$34,000; another season, \$28,000; and still another \$22,000. This work was done by pick and shovel and use of derrick and all taken from about one acre of ground.

Since the above summary was made, many other rich claims have been worked, among them is the Doggett Mine, worked with pick and shovel with four men and averaging \$100 per day for many months.

Also the Pine Grove P. M. took out from

a pit about 100 feet square, on bedrock, at an average of 18 feet deep, over \$6,000.

In one day they panned out in this mine nearly \$300, bedrock and gravel pay, four feet above bedrock. The day's work netted over \$300.

H. J. Barton



P. C. AND NELSE LANGE MINE

—courtesy Chester Barton

This property was a good producer run for a number of years by the Lange family pictured here. The mine was located on Barkhouse Creek.



DISTELHORST DREDGE

This dredger operated on the Klamath River about three miles below Oak Bar. It is shown opposite the Johnson Ranch about 1898.



—courtesy Chester Barton

DREDGER ON THE KLAMATH

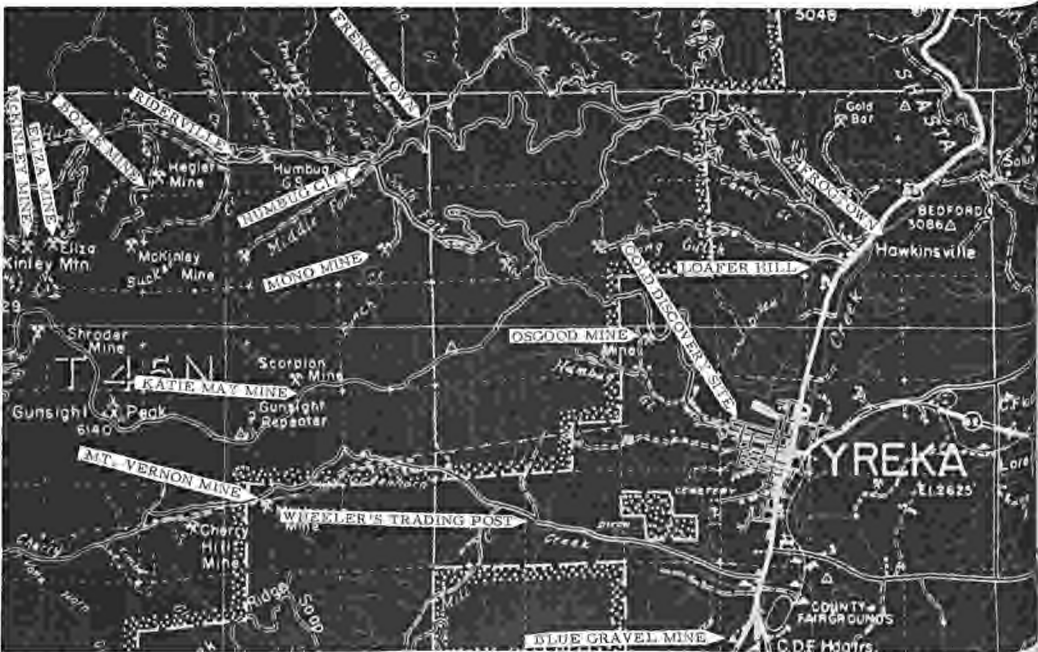
In 1915 the Klamath Dredging Company commenced operations two and a half miles above Oak Bar with this dredger.



—courtesy Chester Barton

McCONNEL BAR MINING—1905

This was the first dragline to be used on the Klamath River. Invented and run by S. T. Wellman of Ohio for two and a half years.



YREKA - HUMBURG - GREENHORN

The fabulous THOMPSON'S DRY DIGGIN'S, located on the west side of Yreka, brought the initial influx of miners which were to later settle and develop Siskiyou County. Close by were the rich Greenhorn and Humberg mines with several settlements, the largest of which was Frenchtown with a population of nearly one thousand. For a time Hawkinsville was the twin city of Yreka with over five thousand inhabitants.

California's Gold Find . . .

By ALEX J. ROSBOROUGH

Few people are acquainted with the fact that gold, first discovered at Colma, in 1848 and gold discovered on the flats above Yreka (Ieka) in March 1851, in California, were made by Oregonians. The flash of information that California, on the west coast was "full of gold" started a great migration to this new, wild section of the United States, which during the year of 1850 is estimated at over 35,000 persons, mostly of men.

The camps in and around Colma soon filled to overflowing, and the crowded-outs, led north by the report of Major Reading that he had discovered gold on the upper Trinity River, added to the miners landed

at Trinidad and Crescent City from barks and schooners coming from San Francisco, and the expeditions moving south from Oregon, had finally centered at Ieka (Yreka), as the base of supplies for all the incoming prospectors digging for gold in Northern California. This booming seat of action, at the time the 96 miles of ditch was completed from the headwaters of Shasta River and Parks Creek to the mining grounds above Yreka and Hawkinsville, a distance of great length, to furnish mining water to thousands of mining locations, was one of the greatest hand-made projects of early days. With its completion the town

of Yreka had reached a population of 5,000 miners.

OREGONIANS DID IT . . .

It was in 1844 that J. W. Marshall came as an immigrant to Oregon. In 1846 he went to California and found employment with General Sutter, working on the construction of a sawmill at Colma, California. The following year, 1847, Stephen Staates and Charles Bennett also left Oregon and joined Marshall at Colma in the sawmill construction job, and were there with Marshall when the first discovery of gold in California was made.

Dr. F. G. Hearn left Kentucky for Oregon in 1850, but coming down with cholera on the way, was delayed at Fort Laramie until the following year when he came on with a party of six to Willamette Valley. From there he became a member of a party coming south over the Siskiyou mountains and while this party was on its way to Scott Bar, where gold had been discovered in November 1850, Abraham Thompson and Judge Day, afterwards on the bench at Jacksonville, Oregon, were also members of this party. Being overtaken with a three days rain storm, they delayed three days at the camping ground on Ieka Creek, driving the horses and mules used by the party up on the flats above camp, to graze. The place where the stock was located is on a serpentine formation, which is only thinly covered with soil, and being water soaked, the roots, filled with dirt, came loose with the bunch grass when an animal pulled on the grass, which caused the critter to spit out both grass and dirt. The hard rain had so washed these grass roots that little particles of gold were released, and Thompson saw (he was on watch that day with the stock), the little yellow pieces. His panning of this soil led to discovery, in March 1851. (I knew Dr. Hearn very well. He afterwards opened a dentistry office in Yreka, and his home was near to ours.)

FORMATIONS OLD AND NEW . . .

In a general way the line of the Southern Pacific Railroad marks the dividing line between the Old and New formation of Siskiyou County; all the mountains, gulches,

valleys and water sheds west of the railroad is of Old formation, while all these conditions, on the territory east of the railroad have been disturbed by volcanic action, with the result that the distribution of gold (as a general rule), is found only in the Old formation.

After the first rush and gold-fever had cooled down, the observing miners began to apply this fact to the situation, over the Siskiyou Mountains in Oregon they found that this gold-belt condition applied also in Oregon, and prospecting led to discovery of rich gold diggings around Jacksonville (gold was even found as far north as the Umpqua River).

There was, however, great uncertainty up to 1854 among the miners in northern California and southern Oregon, as to just where they were at, as both the refusal to pay taxes and voting in two states had led to several contested elections in California. (It had even been previously rumored around that Ieka—Yreka—was in Oregon.) But in 1854 a survey under T. P. Robinson, who was commissioned to survey the boundary line, settled this important issue.

INDIANS AND MINERS . . .

Because there were only two things which clogged the way to seek and find, and work in the newly discovered gold lands—and these were hostile Indians and deep snows of winter—it might be well to take a look at the Indian situation, which followed the miner through all the beginning and following up of his work.

The gold belt ran north and south clear through Siskiyou County, from the northern boundary of Trinity County to the south line of Oregon, or practically from Callahan's Ranch and Sawyers Bar at the south to Cottonwood, just under the Oregon line on the north (as finally fixed by survey), being a line distance of some 62 miles, and all land west of such a line to county's western boundary, Del Norte County, some 40 miles across.

Within this territory there were but two Indian tribes whose lands were being overriden by miners. These were the Klamath River tribe and the Shastas, which tribe oc-

cupied Shasta Valley, Scott Valley and over Siskiyou Mountain into the south portion of Rogue River Valley.

The Klamath River Indians, although designated as upper and lower river Indians, were all of the same tribe, under Chief La Lake; while the Shastas, formerly one big tribe under the leadership of the father of Sub-Chief John whose territory formerly extended also down the Klamath River to a little below the mouth of Scott River, and which section was lost in wars with the Klamaths, up as far as the mouth of Shasta River, after which their tribe was split up and divided under separate chiefs as follows: John, the old chief's son, ruled those who lived in Scott Valley; Old Tolo was chief of those who lived in the flat country around Yreka; Scarface and Bill over those in Shasta Valley; Tipso Tipsoo (the hairy, from his heavy beard), and Sullix, or bad tempered (unfriendly to settlers and miners, and warring with Shastas); that land south of Siskiyou Mountain to Klamath River; and Sam and Joe, of those in Rogue River Valley; and this was the situation when the incoming miners came on the scene. (Note that these names were applied to the various sub-chiefs by the white men.)

SURMISING RESULTS . . .

After carefully considering the matter of just where the placer, or gravel gold was to be discovered, it soon became evident from the results of general prospecting that there was little use seeking to find gold in the new, or lava covered areas, and with determination of this most important situation, all the placer mines began developing in the old formation.

It also was found that as work progressed in the placer claims, just at the joining of the Old and New formations, fossilized mastadon bones were unearthed, deep under ground in a mine near Hilt, a short distance northwest of Cottonwood. Later on elephant fossils were uncovered by a dredger, digging a reservoir a short distance west of Gazelle at the east edge of the Old formation, and furthermore, along the dividing formation line from Cottonwood, south along the west side of Shasta Valley, fossils of sea

inhabitants proved that this north and south sand formation was an ocean shore long before Mount Eddy, Mount Shasta, Goose Nest, Elephant Back, Ball Mountain and all that chain of mountains bordering Shasta Valley on the east were built. It is entirely reasonable to suppose that when this great high mountain chain, which was thrown up by volcanic action, the tremendous hole made in the ground, underneath, was replaced by a great slidein of the Old formation to the west, which might be the answer to—"Where did the lower part of the rich quartz ledges (operation on which followed the gradual closing of the worked-out placers) in the Humbug section go?"

GOLD DUST WAS MONEY . . .

To those unfamiliar with the stories of the pioneer miners of early days in Siskiyou County, it is rather surprising to know that the purchasing exchange was gold dust. Buying of things from the stores was paid for with mined gold, and the little set of gold scales at the end of the counter was a necessity, even in the days when I was a boy in Yreka. The use of silver, which was gradually increasing with time, was mostly confined to "four" and "two bits," any coins of smaller denomination was quite a curiosity, and if anything was not worth two-bits, it wasn't worth having.

Labor of all kinds found its remuneration in gold dust. Tom Orr owned a placer claim just west of the Gold Discovery Monument now near the west boundary of Yreka City on the sloping flats, and every day, at closing time, he paid each man working for him in his mine one ounce of gold. When the trappers and Indians came to bargain with a storekeeper for sale of bear, beaver, otter, mink or other fur skins, a price was agreed on and then payment for them was made in mined gold. Years afterwards, in 1898, when I went to Alaska as a "sourdough," the same use for gold as money was in vogue.

There very many little towns sprang up as new finds of placer gold developed. But finally, like the long distance runner, those gold places which held on until the farms and great lumber industry replaced mining

as chief resources, won out, and became the business centers of today.

HARD ROCK MINING . . .

Newcomers to Siskiyou often ask the question, "Where do all the great piles of gravel we see in every section of your county come from? In traveling over your beautiful country we find scattered all around Yreka, Cottonwood, all along the Klamath River, Happy Camp, Hawkinsville, Humbug, Scott Bar, Callahans, Salmon River and seemingly everywhere, extensive lands whose only covering is by miles and miles of gravel piles." These gravel covered miles of washed gravel are the leavings of the washed away dirt, both by the earliest miners and the dredger wind up of placer mining.

But the placer miners discovered in working their claims that as the pay dirt led up to the mountainsides, the little gold particles were being held by small pieces of quartz, which led into little stringers, and then made into gold-carrying ledges, and from this were developed the great quartz ledges carrying gold, and from these there became developed the quartz, or "hard-rock" mines.

This kind of mining was operated on entirely different lines, for it necessitated the digging from far under ground, the pay quartz which went through treatment in big mills, grinding up the product and separating the gold from, and washing away the tailings.

Like the placer mines before them, the quartz mines surrendered their millions into world affairs; the Black Bear quartz mine, above Sawyer's Bar delivered its millions in quartz-born gold; the Klamath, in the same section; the Quartz-Hill, at Scott Bar; the Schroder, at the head of Deadwood Creek; the Cherry Hill, at the ridge between Cherry Creek and Greenhorn Creek; the Grey Eagle, Boyle, Eliza, Siskiyou, Morning Star, Cornish, Mono (Punch Creek), were among the numerous quartz mines—once in high operation, now closed, when our government fixed the price of gold at \$35 an ounce and prohibited sale of American mined gold to foreign nations.

ANOTHER SAD STORY . . .

In building my trail over the mining sections of California, many stories about the mines and miners have lit the way; many years ago my business took me back to Siskiyou, and having carried from my boyhood recollection of a picture of the tunnel's face in a mine on the Middle Fork of Humbug Creek that reflected the light of a candle (that was ahead of the miners' carbide lamps) shining the whole ledge from wall to wall in sparkling gold, as did the "Den of the Forty Thieves". As this trip took my mining partner, Mr. Jesse W. Churchill, and myself close to the old Cornish Mine, and having carried in my mind from childhood the impressions of that picture of the gold sparkling the whole tunnel face, my partner accepted my suggestion to make an investigation as to what conditions had closed it down.

We went directly to the old tunnel's entrance only to find it caved in and closing out entrance. The up-raises of the rich producer had been carried up through to the surface, and as we climbed up the mountain alongside the open cut and looked down into it, we could see the old stulls still in place, with the bark covered stulls holding and hiding their rotted-away insides. So, knowing that any attempt to crawl down to the long abandoned workings would be but starting a sliding cave-in, we stopped to talk over the situation.

Far down the mountainside and way below the mine's once entrance tunnel we saw a large dump, partly hidden by brush. On descending back below the old tunnel's closed mouth, we found another tunnel partly caved, but on lighting our candles and working down to its floor, the lights burned brightly and steadily, indicating good air, so we started to follow and check as we went along its lead into the mountain.

IT'S SIZE BROUGHT WONDERMENT

This tunnel was unusually large, so large that an ordinary man wearing a plug hat and with arms outstretched would not touch top or sides. It was dug straight as an arrow, evidently meant to cross at an angle

Greenhorn Creek Gold Mining . . .

By FRANK HERZOG

Greenhorn Creek south of Yreka was one of the very early gold producing districts. The creek joins Yreka Creek a short distance below the Sharp sawmill at the entrance of Greenhorn Road to Highway 99. The spur of mountains at the turn of the road are called Greenhorn Buttes, being an east and west spur of the main Greenhorn mountains. This road follows the spur to the top of the mountains at Greenhorn Divide and Cherry Creek down to McAdams Creek into Scott Valley. The distance to the divide or top of the mountains at Mt. Vernon Mine is about five miles, which is very rich in placer gold. This was ground sluiced, panned, rockered and long tommed while the water lasted. During the fall, winter and spring until the Big Ditch was completed in 1856 the creek below that ditch was mined almost the year around until it was thought to be worked out. The mining was done by drift, open cut, wheelbarrow, shovel and other back breaking systems of mining of those early days.

To preserve water there was built a system of reservoirs and dams along the creek to use and re-use the water. Settling ponds

were the full length of the creek because as the water got down to the last mines at the lower reaches it was so thick with sediment it would hardly flow—consequently the settling ponds.

Many stories have been told about how Greenhorn got its name. However, the following story was told to me and my folks by a Mr. Bean and Bill McConnell, who were two of the very first miners of the creek. "A very well dressed traveling Englishman with a good outfit of mules, saddle horses, etc., arrived at the Bean, McConnell workings and watched the boys sluicing and panning, and asked the boys what they were doing mixing the dirt with the water. Mr. Bean told him they were separating and washing the gold from the dirt and gravel. The Englishman seemed quite surprised and asked if he could camp thereabouts and watch them mine and adding that he had always wanted a gold mine himself and asked them where he could go to get a gold mine. By this time the whole crew was interested and Mr. Bean pointed to a most unlikely spot up the hill and told the man that he might find some gold up there under the oak tree. The

any extension down of the former rich ledge above.

We followed this expensive piece of work some 400 feet, when the big tunnel terminated into three small branch tunnels, one to the right, one to the left, and one continuing the big tunnel, straight ahead. Each in turn was very carefully examined, but somebody was just simply "Lost".

Many times following this trip to the Cornish Mine wonderment about that big long tunnel, and the "Why?" of it crossed my mind. The bewilderment of it all was that nobody could advise me about it, until one day I met Al Lash, a miner and at one time city marshall of Yreka. As is always the case when a miner meets a miner, they

talk of mines and mining. In telling Al about our experience at the Cornish Mine I asked him if he knew anything about that big tunnel in the Cornish Mine. "Yes," said Al, "I know all about it. I worked there. After your Uncle Lon (Lon Raynes), and the others interested had worked out that very rich pocket, and had spent considerable money endeavoring to again pick it up, they became discouraged and abandoned their interests, all except Mr. Cornish, who still believed the ledge could again be picked up. Cornish was a spiritualist, so he called on a medium, and back by certainty of the medium's advice, he went "Busted."



—courtesy Lawrence Lee and Frank Herzog

BLUE GRAVEL MINE CREW

Taken in front of the hoisting works. Left to right, standing: Walter Dudley, unknown, unknown, Jordan, unknown, Al Lash (foreman), Gene Parlin, unknown, P. O. LeMay, Jerry Michel, Allen Lee (owner). Sitting: Harry Lee, George Kenyon, and the last man is unknown.

Englishman took Bean at his word and he began scratching around the oak tree and settled down to working the "unlikely spot". There he struck a very rich "lead" or channel which turned him \$7,000 in a very short time." Thus the creek was called GREENHORN, a greenhorn for luck.

Greenhorn was very rich from the 1850s to after the turn of the century. The return in gold from the old system of hard work until the dredges and more modern methods were used for mining, it was claimed that Greenhorn produced about \$11,000,000 in the five mile reaches of Greenhorn Creek.

The last of the old drift mines was the Blue Gravel near where the Grange Hall and old Greenhorn School are located on Mr. Lee's place. This mine was operated for many years with three partners. Lee owned the ground, Tim Austin was mine superintendent and A. E. Raynes was secretary and treasurer. They ran three eight-hour shifts for many years and drifted the property for many hundreds of feet leaving a fine underground system of water storage that Yreka

now owns and pumps for the city use in our homes and industries and fire protection.

The early day miners were not well supplied with the proper equipment to mine and the men who moved in with the miners looking for their fortune in the mines or industry understood this. A tannery was set up in Mill Gulch and this district was known in those days as Tannery Gulch. Shortly after the tannery was operating Mrs. Chas. Abbott opened a glove factory and used buckskin and the like for leather working. Furniture at this time was primitive. A cut-off twelve- or fourteen-inch log stood on end acted as a stool or chair. There was a big market for furniture which could not be had. The beds were bunks made out of logs and what little factory furniture ordered had to come in by mule pack.

Henry Schulmeyer and Henry Heybrook built a factory to make furniture in Greenhorn. They also raised cattle and worked at ranching on the same part of the creek, near the old water trough that used to be

The Big Ditch . . .

By FRANK HERZOG



—courtesy Frank Herzog

THE MAIN STREET DITCH

This photo shows Main Street (U.S. 99) as it appeared in the early 1900s. The locust trees fed by the ditch were responsible for Yreka being known as the CITY OF THE LOCUST.

on the road. They raised row crops and lots of garden produce around their factory and farm and this was well appreciated by people who could not grow their own.

The Tannery Gulch, now Mill Gulch, had a small sawmill in the 1890s and 1880s run by Knute Lamb, B. Lee and Bill Calkins. Oxen were used quite extensively at that time. Lumber was sold to the farmers for fences, barns and homes and other purposes. The mines also used a great deal of lumber for their various operations.

Mr. Robert Cornish had a very large general merchandise store in the area of the Abbott Glove Factory and did a thriving business until the gold petered out. Then he closed shop in Greenhorn and moved to Yreka, where he became chief of police. He was active as police chief until he passed away.

The people of Yreka feel that if the pioneers who built the canal known as the Big Ditch had not sold it that our water supply today would be adequate to care for all our domestic needs. The picture above shows one of the system of ditches from the Big Ditch flowing through the main part of Yreka. This ditch is one of the five of the Big Ditch system which supplied water for all of the ditches when needed. The Big Ditch at the time of its construction was built to supply water for mining when the water reached the gold fields of Greenhorn, Yreka and Hawkinsville placer fields. However, as many of the mines worked out, there was a surplus of water and the ditch company sold the water to the various farmers under the ditch.

The ditch came around the hill west of Grenada to the farms on the west side of Yreka valley and the farmers adjacent to the water were willing to plant apples, peach, pear and plum orchards, also vineyards and alfalfa in order to get the benefit of the five ditches. The Big Ditch came

A number of years after the mines closed down the dredger people started dredging the level fields in Greenhorn at the Ned Schwatka place, where Sharp's Mill now stands. They prospected the ground thoroughly but were in some doubt as to whether the project would pay out at \$500 an acre for ground that had been worked over in the early days. There was little reason to doubt the success of the project because the eight acre alfalfa field back of the Schwatka home yielded them the full cost of the dredge to the amount of \$86,000. The creek was dredged for several years until they hit high bedrock and couldn't float the dredge. Greenhorn was one of the best producers of gold in the county. Now there are many fine homes along the creek and other industry has taken the place of mining.

out of the Shasta River on the property of a Mr. Dobkins. It flowed around the extreme south mountains of Shasta Valley to the west of Gazelle, thence on the west side of the valley turning the corner of the mountains at Grenada, west around the south mountains of Yreka valley, perhaps two miles west of town on Humbug Mountain.

The height of the ditch above the rest of the valley made it possible for four other ditches to receive water from the main feeder ditch.

The first of these laterals to be dug for mining was the Greenhorn ditch, taking water out of Greenhorn Creek about one and a half miles up Greenhorn. The Egbert ditch shown above headed the bridge at the foot of Miner Street and traversed down along Yreka Creek to the rear of the Yreka Motel between the main motel building and Mr. Young's home on Main Street, down Main on the east side in front of Major White's home and across Lennox Street about opposite the State Highway Patrol office and thence to Hawkinsville.

The Portuguese ditch came out of the main Greenhorn Creek on the Ned Schwatka place a short distance above the sawmill of Sharps at the west turn up Greenhorn Road and meandered around through the west side of the valley on to Hawkinsville. It was used for irrigating and mining its full length. The last owners of the ditch were my Uncle Henry Le May and Mr. N. Lawrence.

The fifth and last of this system of ditches was the ditch that runs in the hills on the east side of the Yreka valley to Hawkinsville and was used to mine in Yreka Creek bed near Hawkinsville. This ditch, the Cranson ditch, headed at the big reservoir or Brazzi's pond, fed by the original Big Ditch by flowing the water down the Billy Schack Gulch to the reservoir.

The Big Ditch was a feeder for all of the four other ditches and it is easy to see how this one ditch could do the job by the general contour of these valleys and mountains.

Yreka had its occasional shortage of water after this Big Ditch was sold, but previously the water supply was good. The people

all had wells, also every gulch under that ditch had two or three dams across it and were kept full the year around. The underground seepage keeps springs alive but the springs have disappeared with the drying of the ditch as all three of them have done at the west end of Miner Street. There was one spring in front of George Calkins home at 667 W. Miner and on the south side of Miner and two on west across the bridge on the north side of Miner, above the Howard Hicks home, 704 W. Miner. The bricks to be used for the City Meat Market were burned near this spring because the bricks were mixed with mud from the spring. Grandfather Herzog built the City Butcher Shop in 1854.

When the Big Ditch was running these springs ran a larger volume of water but today are all dried up. We believe if the Big Ditch was brought back the water would return to the springs.



—courtesy Siskiyou County Historical Society
HELLS GATE AT THE MOUTH OF SHASTA RIVER

The rugged Shasta River Canyon as it appeared to the miners in the Gold Rush days. An old hoisting works appears at the lower foreground where the river was mined. The ruggedness of this part of the Shasta and Klamath Rivers prevented the construction of roads until well after the turn of the century. U.S. Highway 99 now is located on the bluff at the right. This photo was taken about 1904.

Discovery of the Osgood Mine . . .

By FRANK HERZOG

Prospecting and hunting for the illusive yellow metal that brought many thousands of our pioneers to the Siskiyou mountains seeking gold, the value of gold has gone to nothing compared to the many other metals later discovered in the county. The picture above shows the possibilities still in the hills of Siskiyou County if it were possible to prospect as the four young men in the picture did about two miles west of Yreka. They are Harry W. Doggett, C. D. Doggett (brothers), and Art and Dell Fiddler.

After a very discouraging winter, 1909, of prospecting, they had some luck taking out thirty-two small pockets ranging from two or three dollars to twenty-five or thirty dollars. Harry Doggett conceived the idea of going back to the pictured cut. Holes like the ordinary frost hole ran uphill a few feet apart for some distance and pro-

duced no gold, so Harry struck a row between the holes and found gold bearing quartz and between that time and January 1, 1910, a period of about six weeks took out about \$2300.

At the beginning of 1910 the partners sold the property to the Osgood Company of Seattle for \$3000. The Seattle company drove tunnels and built mills to take care of quartz ore produced. Some very rich ore was taken out and milled. The company made an excellent strike and in a very short time made about \$40,000, but owing to the many difficulties of mining they closed the property and it has been closed ever since. The people of the county feel that if this property were again in action the payroll therefrom would be of material benefit to the town and the mining industry.

The mining property is at the extreme west of North Street and right near the place Thompson discovered gold in March 1851. The property is lateral to the very rich Yreka flats, where it has been claimed some \$11,000,000 has been taken in a very few years. This street also passes Tillie's Knoll. At the foot of the Knoll and a very short space of digging in the primitive mining process of the 1850s Tom Orr took out forty to fifty thousand in a few days and became one of our honored pioneers and a ranch owner of Shasta Valley and passed away as one of our greatly beloved citizens. Traveling west on North Street the mountain is virtually a mountain of gold. On the extreme southwest it furnished the gold for Cherry Hill, Deadwood and McAdams Creeks. Due west over the hill it was the feeder for Humbug Creek East Fork, Middle Fork and West Fork. It also furnished the gold for Greenhorn Creek, Yreka Flats, Long Gulch, Canal Gulch and Hawkinsville Flats.



—courtesy Frank Herzog

DISCOVERY OF THE OSGOOD MINE

The Osgood Mine, located just west of Yreka, was discovered by the four men pictured above. Left to right: Harry W. Doggett, Charles D. Doggett, Art Fiddler and Dell Fiddler. Early 1910.

Yreka was almost left a ghost town when the Frazer River Gold Strike was made in the 1870s. The easy gold has been taken

Output of the Humbug Mines . . .

Talk given by H. J. Barton at the Miners' Picnic on Humbug Creek

By the Late H. J. BARTON

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pleased to meet you all in this beautiful spot among the pines and nature's beautiful mountain scenery in Siskiyou's gold mines. You probably wonder why this picnic was given. First, my attention was taken through the columns of the Yreka Journal of August 18th, in an article entitled "The Million Dollar Mine," or "New strike at the Andy Thrash Mine on Humbug Creek".

Being president of the Siskiyou Mines Association, many people asked me what I knew about it, to which I could answer nothing. Believing the article a mine exaggeration, of which we do not approve, I considered it my duty to make an investigation which I did on the ground with Mr. John Hodgdon and Jack Horn and we went through the Andy Thrash Mine on the Jack Horn ledges and several ledges nearby. I was well pleased with the examination, with the vast amount of work these old miners had done in opening up and mining the group of mines and ledges in the watershed of the Middle Fork of Humbug Creek, under the many difficulties with which they had to contend and by the old style mining methods and primitive machinery used, expense of hauling the ore at a great distance to be milled, with losses of gold amalgam and values in concentrates not saved. And

out and the fabulous stories of the north excited our miners and they left for easier diggings. The gold mining industry of the county has almost petered out and owing to the low return per ounce and expense today of mining. Mineral always has its place in industry, consequently the mineral wealth of Siskiyou County cannot help but be one of our future assets.

Note: The story of the discovery of the Osgood Mine was given to Frank Herzog by Chas. D. Doggett and his partners, who have all passed on.

yet they mined these ledges at a profit, saving only part of the free milling gold values.

Hodgdon, Ed Nolan and myself, to try and bring these mines to the attention of the mining world, that some strong company may take the properties over and install a milling plant of modern equipment to save all the mineral values of this great deposit, of which I believe rich ore bodies are to be found within a short distance of this natural mill site location, where water and timber can be had in abundance and electric power nearby, all being within a few miles of our county seat Yreka, with good roads to the property.

To help the owners, the old timers owning these properties, the Siskiyou Mines Association, instigated this picnic which I trust you will all enjoy. I believe this the center core of a rich mining field, but that the mining methods have been badly managed from lack of intelligent mining engineering and lack of capital to place efficient machinery to obtain the values.

To particularly verify this assertion I will give you a brief history of the immense gold production taken out of the mines north, east, south and west close to this central location, and I believe upon investigation you will agree, that there is a great opportunity here to install a milling equipment that will give a monthly production of many thousands of dollars for many years to come.

Mining has been a dead issue since the World War, so let us do our best to revive it, and get mining back to its own.

From information given me by several miners in this section who have worked and operated in these mines I have the following data:

ELIZA MINE—Worked and operated in 1860 period, owned by Nort Lash and others. At that time was milling \$30.00

ore, free milling with loss of concentrates that assayed \$55 a ton. This mine operated for many years at an annual production of \$180,000. Total production \$750,000. The property is now being operated by the Bee Hive Company who have a large tonnage in sight and mine well developed. This mine is about three miles westerly from here, and located close to the Spencer Mine.

THE SPENCER MINE—Was in operation in the 1890 period, and operated for about seven years. The average free milling ore ran from \$65.00 to \$115.00 per ton. Supposed production \$8,000 a month; \$90,000 a year or a total production of \$672,000 with a loss in mill tailings of about \$100,000 in accordance with the concentrate assays made by Mr. Dodd, metallurgist, averaging \$26.50 per ton.

THE BOYLE or NORTH STAR MINE was sold for \$7,500. Ten tons of ore were hauled to the McCook mill, the proceeds paid for the mine, and later there was taken out over \$100,000.

THE OLD BLACK HAWK, HIDDEN TREASURE and TRIANGLE MINES—nearby, small ledges of rich ore from which milling gave returns of \$5.00 to \$100.00 a ton and some of the ore was arrastra'd which paid \$146.00 per ton.

THE BROWN BEAR—also near by was worked in 1870 and produced \$40,000. This ledge was lost by a fault in the vein.

CARTRIGHT AND PHILLIPS MINE—nearby. From four tons milled realized \$484.00 and from three tons milled realized \$686.00, small veins of high grade ore.

THE MCKINLEY MINE — on Succor Creek just over the hill, is also a small vein of rich ore. J. J. Perkins mortared out recently \$100.00 in one hour's work. Ten thousand tons of ore milled, gave an average of \$16.00 per ton, or a total amount of \$160,000. Also 21 assays taken gave an average of \$28.63. This property has been worked by many people, much gold has been taken out. It is hard to estimate the full production. It is known to be a good mine now but requires new development by tunnel.

HEGLER MINE—nearby—Ledge is 3 to

6 feet wide, average $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet, was mined and milled for several years. A great deal of the ore averaged \$40.00 per ton, free milling. General average \$10.00 per ton. Owners put in a new mill and realized cost of same from the first month's run. Good mines now require development by tunnel.

GRANITE MINE—on Succor Creek averaged \$50.00 per ton, produced \$50,000.

THE MONO MINE—formerly known as the Old Punch Creek Mine and south fork of Humbug, and worked by John Barton, John Shipp and Jones in the 1860 period. Ledge runs from 2 feet to to feet in width, average 5 feet in No. 3 tunnel and shaft. This property sold and changed hands many times. Estimated production \$2,000,000.

OLD MEXICAN MINE—nearby. Operated in early days by Mexicans, was known to be very rich.

THE SCHRODER MINE—southerly about 3 miles, produced over \$100,000. Now being operated by a San Francisco company. Mr. Stefferer, M. E., is in charge, who in the last two years has expended about \$70,000 in development work. Has a large body of ore, low grade, with many intrusions and small veins of great enrichment. Now erecting a new mill to be run by electric power; about ready to start milling operations.

COMMODORE GROUP OF MINES—to the west about 4 miles, formerly owned by William Quigley and Charles Humphreys, Commodore ledge is 14 in. to 4 ft. average width, 3 ft. Ore averaged \$19.00 free milling, with loss of very rich concentrates. Total production accounted for \$230,000.

THE GOODENOUGH vein runs from 3 ft. to 9 ft., averages free milling \$7 per ton. Is a sugar quartz. In Insurance vein averages 33 inches. Average assays \$20.00 per ton.

THE MAMMOTH COMMODORE VEIN average width 100 ft., assay of \$5.50. With this group are several other ledges.

QUARTZ HILL MINE at Scott Bar about 8 miles distance, consists of a mountain of quartz, which has produced over a million in gold values. In spots very rich. Has been principally mined by hydraulic meth-

ods and at times several thousand dollars would be realized in a very few days.

THE ROXBURY MINE at the mouth of the Scott River has a very rich reputation and one nugget taken out by George Milne weighed \$550.00. In the Scott River from this mine up to the Quartz hill a distance of about three miles, was taken out over nine million dollars in placer gold. Over \$5000 was taken out from behind one rock on the west side of the river bed.

COLUMBIA MINE located on McKinney Creek and Mill Creek ridge runs from 12 inches to six feet in width. Shows very rich specimens in ore and has produced a very great deal of money. J. J. Perkins stamped out one sack of ore containing \$1000, while the mine was working about 30 years ago.

THE MABEL MINE adjoining has produced a great deal of money. Very rich in specimen ore.

THE FISHER MINE adjoining has produced very rich ore in large quantities.

The INDIAN GIRL MINE, Northerly, located on Ash Creek about four miles distance has produced over \$100,000, principally specimen ore. Horace H. Howe and brother took out in three years by hand mortaring \$31,000 and in one day took out \$3,300.

The JILLSON MINE at Hornbrook, one of Siskiyou's leading mines, has produced millions.

The old COBURN AND J. HARMON MINE near Hawkinsville, proved very rich, when mined, and is now being opened by J. Weston of San Francisco. Also from the N. GORDON MINE was taken out very rich ore. In the LITTLE BONANZA a gold nugget weighing 3 pounds was found, and from one gold pan of quartz was recovered \$1,250.

The MIDDLE FORK GROUP OF MINES, consisting of the Andy Thrash, Jack Horn, Old Siskiyou Mines and several other ledges, about twenty different ones, which are located on the east and west side of the water-

shed of this creek and within a distance of a mile square.

These mines have all been good gold producers, the ore averaging from \$6 to \$70 per ton, with a general milling average of \$10.00 per ton, free milling with the loss of very rich concentrates.

Mr. Riley advises me that from one ton of ore milled at the McCook mill from the Siskiyou Mine realized \$3,000 from a three foot ledge in shaft. Ore run from \$40 to \$50 per ton. The operative work on this mine was very poorly managed, as with the majority of the mines working in this locality.

The GREAT NORTHERN, ledge 3 to 5 feet, averaged \$10.00 free milling. From the PORCUPINE MINE owned by Thrash, ore milled averaged \$20.00 a ton. From the six assays, averaged \$72.00 and from twenty assays averaged \$40.00 per ton. Recently two assays made by Ed Nolan went \$6.90 and \$26.00. A telegram received from John Hodgdon, says assay made by John McCabe, chief assayer of the United States Mint, was \$44.00 per ton; \$18.00 in gold, \$4.00 in silver and \$22.00 in lead; pick up dump samples from the Andy Thrash mine.

The PLACER MINING in this creek worked in early days, before and after the discovery of the quartz mines, has produced many hundreds of thousands of dollars in placer gold and Humbug Creek has been worked over in places two and three times and has produced many millions.

The PLACER GOLD was evidently produced from the quartz veins, ledges and porphyry dykes, as feeders, erosion and decomposition on climatic conditions and then washed from the hills by unusual water conditions, forming smooth placer gold.

So it will be noted that this group of mines, in the particular center is the core of the vast enrichment of the different mines I have mentioned, having been worked and operated the many years past and has produced an approximate amount of from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000. So

it looks reasonable that this particular mining section of many ledges should be made to pay good dividends, if operated by one wrong company, with milling plant from 40 to 80 tons daily capacity, and to save with the free milling values the rich concentrates that have heretofore been lost. This loss is part of the reason why these ledges are lying idle today and not being worked.

These good old men and miners you see around you, have had no means to equip their mines and hire labor. Again they have to buy powder and all necessities in small quantities at the highest cost. They have had to haul the ore many miles to have it milled at a heavy loss of transportation. Then to suffer the loss of gold in transit and milling. Further they did not have capital to open up their mines intelligently, suck shafts in many places on the ledges, pumped the water and hoisted the ore at great expense wherein drifts could have been run, water taken out by natural drainage, ore stoped and loaded in the cars by gravitation, which would have been a saving of at least fifty per cent in the mining operations—and in which a strong company could take up, work and operate systematically.

I only look upon these ledges as being prospected, not worked. At least 70% of the ore and values are still left to be taken out, and there is no reason why they cannot be mined at a nice profit.

This is a condition for a mining engineer to determine and I am in hopes the assay values will justify the installation of a 40 to 80 ton mill and modern gold saving appliances and equipment, and that such values may be obtained for them to purchase the mines and give the owners, these old timers who are so deserving, the price of their property, that in their old age they will not want for the necessities of life and to be comfortable and independent, is our wish and desire.

I would like to see the high school students and high school fraternity establish an assay department in the county high schools that the value of ores and precious metals

could be determined at a small expense to the miner, and give a mining knowledge to the students that they may help to determine the values of the previous mineral ores, and assist in the development of Siskiyou's mine and mineral resources.

On Humbug Creek when gold was discovered in the 1850 period, years afterwards there was established four good sized towns, namely, Frenchtown, Forks of Humbug, Humbug City and Riderville, a population of over 300 people, with daily stages running from Yreka and change of horses near the top of Humbug Divide, where the water box is now located, was established as the stage station and saloon and Hurdy Gurdy girls, to give the miners amusement and a chance to spend their gold dust. Also there was established at a point near where Mr. Callick has his Arrastra, a U. S. Military Post, to protect the miners from the Indians who were killing the whites at that time. \$50.00 gold pieces were in circulation and there were good times galore, and now Humbug is dead, as dead as a door-nail. Let us pull together and revive the good old days and get these mines in operation. Not only here but all over Siskiyou County.

Before I close I wish to speak of the Siskiyou Mines Association, which has been the means of bringing this picnic to your attention. This association is using its every effort to help the interest of mines and mining. We have no money in the fund. We need your help. A deposit to its credit in the bank of 10 cents has been there for the past two years, and still remains. Yet a few of us have kept up the good work. We respectfully ask your cooperation and membership. The dues are only 50 cents a month, \$5.00 a year. We desire all businessmen and miners and those interested to become one of us. We need your help for the good of mining and for the development of Siskiyou County's resources.

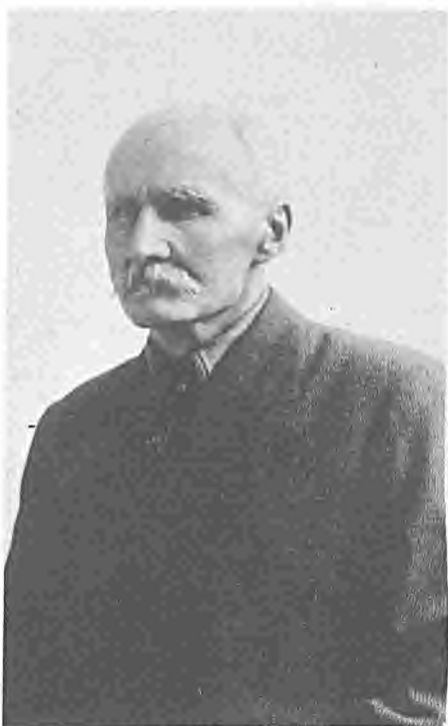
(Signed)

H. J. BARTON

President Siskiyou Mines Association



—courtesy Rita Boyle Prather
MARGARET A. CHRISTIE BOYLE



—courtesy Rita Boyle Prather
JOHN F. BOYLE

John F. Boyle and His Mines . . .

By RITA BOYLE PRATHER

John Franklin Boyle was one of the first and possibly *the* first consulting mining engineer and superintendent of the early Siskiyou County mines.

He was born on a farm near Cincinnati, Ohio, December 1, 1843. His father and grandfather had come down the Ohio River from Pennsylvania on flat boats during the westward movement and had taken up fertile land in the Ohio Valley.

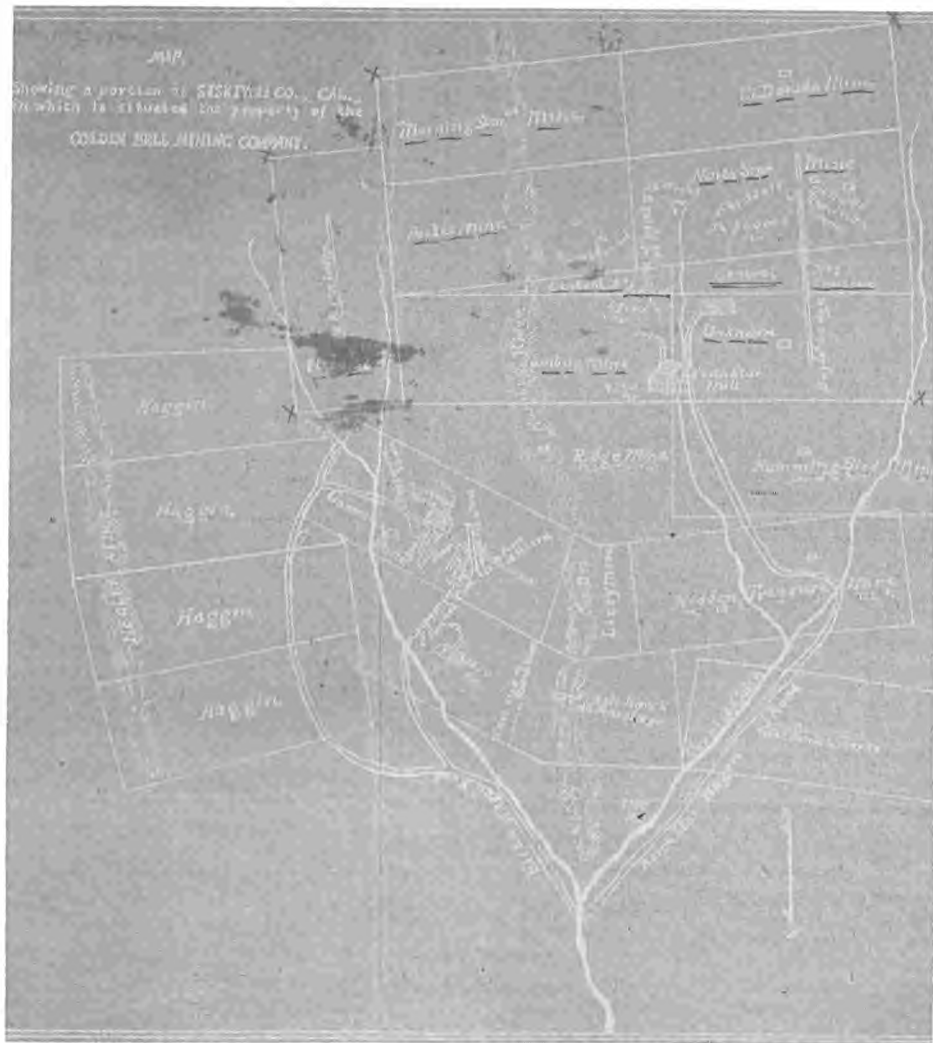
When a boy of fifteen he ran away from home as his mother had died and his father remarried. He joined the Union Navy in the Civil War, acting as a messenger boy to the captain of a gunboat.

He continued in the services of his country through the war and, as he related at one time, was in the Union forces on one

side of the Potomac River, while the late Robert Rankin was on the other side with the Confederate forces.

Mr. Boyle was also with a gunboat patrolling the Potomac searching for Booth at the time of Lincoln's assassination. He had cast his first vote for Lincoln when he was 21. After Lincoln's death, Mr. Boyle went west, rode the plains and knew personally many of the famous scouts, such as Cody or Buffalo Bill and Jim Bridger. Many are his experiences among the Indians in the Bad Lands of the Dakotas and the Mormons and cattle rustlers of Utah.

He finally engaged in mining and had experience in operating and owning stock in some of the world famous mines in Colorado, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, British



—courtesy Rita Boyle Prather
MAP OF MINES OF THE BOYLE MINING COMPANY

Drawn by John Boyle in the 1890s. These mines were all located in the Humbug Basin.

Columbia and Mexico. At one time owning stock in the famous Comstock but selling just before they "struck it rich," which event made millionaires of the "Floods and Fairs." During the years around 1880 he was operating mines in Idaho.

Then in the early '80s he came to California, settled in San Francisco and bought considerable property there. At one time he traded a block on Market Street for a mine he wanted.

In the middle '80s he came to Yreka as a mining engineer and operator. He bought and operated mines in the Humbug area, from 1886 to 1896, such properties known under the name of "The Boyle Mining Co." In 1886 he was married to Margaret Adelmia Christie of Fort Jones. To this union were born six children, as follows: Edmund F. Boyle, John C. Boyle, Rita B. Prather, Anna E. Webb, Isabel Larsen, and G. Fred Boyle. The children were most all

born in Yreka on French Street which comprised the Boyle estate and consisted of fruit trees and a vineyard planted very early in Yreka history by an old French lady, Mrs. Bossonette, who brought the grape vines from France. The old house is still being used.

During the first years in Yreka, Mr. Boyle was interested in the Humbug mines. Later he operated the Dewey Mine and prior to the operation of the Homestake Mine, Mr. Boyle was in charge of a group of mines in Tuolumne County for Cleveland, Ohio interests. Some of his close friends were in Wall Street and referred to him in their letters as "The Governor," or "Friend Johnny," and in a journal from "The United Mines Corporation of Wall Street" 1896, an article telling about Boyle, referred to him as John F. Boyle, the well known Mother Lode Expert of Yreka.

Mr. Boyle was called in for consultations on the operation of many quartz mines in southern Oregon and northern California, particularly those in the Siskiyou Range extending from Hornbrook to below Happy Camp, also in the Trinity Mountains. He was also familiar with all the placer, hydraulic and dredging mining operations, and besides being often consulted about their operations, he occasionally appeared in court as an expert witness.

Mr. Boyle was a fearless and trusting person often carrying gold powder or nuggets from his mines into Yreka, either walking or by wagon. Several times he was shot at by men seeking the gold but he was never hurt in any way. One time a man followed him to his home and tried to get the gold in the night by entering through a window. Mrs. Boyle heard the man slowly opening the window, poked her husband and said, "Wake up, Papa, a burglar." Papa was so startled he jumped right out of bed yelling, "Where, where?" The burglar was so frightened he jumped through the window and ran for his life.

After the Homestake Mine was sold, Mr. Boyle retired from the mining business and lived with his children, as his wife had died in 1918.

His greatest pleasure all through life was his reading. Hours and hours were spent until midnight most nights, reading history, law, politics, and world events. He was an excellent authority on these subjects.

John F. Boyle died at the age of ninety-three on the first day of the third month in 1937. He had lived a long and very healthy life with never a serious illness, almost a hundred years. Although he lived through the century of our greatest development and had opportunities to amass great wealth, he lived as most of our pioneer men, simply, honestly, and valuing character and integrity as the important things of life.

These are some of the mines that John F. Boyle owned and operated or superintended for other people. Actual records and dates are in his old papers.

HUMBUG MINES:

David McCook, Dec. 1, 1888 for \$5,000, sold to J. F. Boyle "Old Dominion" and "Old Reliable"; Humbug Mining District. Contract of sale.

Oct. 10, 1889 O. C. Humphrey and John Hamilton sold to John F. Boyle, for \$5,000, the Quartz Mining Claims, "North Star" and "Humbug Mine".

Dec. 31, 1889, Deed of mines recorded as North Star, Humbug, Pocket, Central, Numbers "One" and "Two," Unknown, Morning Star, and Eldorado (eight claims) deeded by George W. Osborn and John F. Boyle to the Boyle Mining Co.

March 29, 1890 John N. Lindsay sold to John F. Boyle the Quartz Mining Claim, "Relief Mine" situated on the head of Eliza Gulch and located by Lindsay on July 8, 1889, signed by George D. Butler, Notary Public for Siskiyou Co.

Mining location for claim called "Little Belle" on Humbug; March 14, 1896, by John F. Boyle.

There were 14 mines in all in the Boyle Mining Co. and were sold to Golden Bell Mining Co. in 1899. A record shows The Bennington Co. owned them in 1906. Some of these mines are still operating.

GUM BOOT MINE:

The Gum Boot Mine lies at the head of

Mill Creek. This mine was owned and operated by Baker and Boyle. Boyle was also superintendent of it.

"Prospect Hill Quartz Mines" of Orleans Bar, also "Bonanza" and "Fern Leaf" were operated by Boyle in Sept. 22, 1905

THE DEWEY MINE:

The Dewey Mine is west of Gazelle about eight miles, in the Mt. Eddy chain, near the head of Squaw Creek and Willow Creek. It was first discovered by John Harris in the latter 1890's but he neglected to get it recorded and lost it.

Allan and Grant Davis were riding for cattle in the fall and stopped to rest. (This is told by some old residents of the Gazelle area.) The Davis men found the rich ore; let the cattle go and rode all night, horseback, to Yreka to get the claim on record.

The old Finnerty home at the foot of the mountain was used as a hotel for workers going to and from the mine. The house was built in 1850 and still stands in fairly good shape.

The Squaw Creek Mining Co. paid for the mine on Dec. 9, 1904 to the Admiral Dewey Consolidated Quartz Mining Claim, consisting of a group claim. This group lies in Township 41, Section 6, Range 6 West, Mount Diablo Meridian in the Gazelle Mining District of Siskiyou County. These claims are "Lost Treasure, Cuban Beauty, Admiral Dewey, Black Bear, Iowa, Fraction, Black Bear No. 2, and White Float" and the patent was issued July 28, 1905.

In the early years of 1900, John F. Boyle managed the mine for a group of men who bought it. Among the owners were Dr. Dwinell of Montague, John Witherough, formerly with the Highland Mine, and Mr. Southard. The ore ran about \$155 per ton but was base ore and had to be concentrated. The first thing Mr. Boyle did was to build a wagon road in from the county road, a distance of four miles straight up the mountain following the creek bed. It was an ideal road, pure rock base, and good for the horses to haul down the ore in a wagon, then to Gazelle to the railroad and back up the mountain with empty wagons.

Of course, the road was all built by hand labor. The Harris Bros. and others in the area contracted the hauls. The ore went to Kennet and San Francisco for reduction.

John F. Boyle was responsible for operating the mine during this period and carried on until it was sold to San Francisco interests who decided to put in a cyanide plant against Boyle's judgment, so he left the property. The cyanide plant was installed and only operated a short time before the mine shut down.

Previously Boyle had run the mine with a shaft and glory hole, into which the ore was tumbled and carried to the stamp mill and ground up. The mine was finally sold to Mr. F. A. Wright and is still owned by his heirs. During his ownership, the mine was run, the cookhouse and bunkhouse enlarged and a beautiful home built so that Mr. and Mrs. Wright might live there part of the time. Finally a fire burned most everything and then vandals carried away all of the remaining valuables so the place is now utter destruction.



—courtesy Rita Boyle Prather

FIVE HUMBUG MINERS

Left to right: Allen, Lake, Benson, Rockwell and John Boyle. Taken about 1900 in Humbug where the five spent many years at mining.

Commodore Mines . . .

ON MARCH 25, 1898

By the Late JOHN F. BOYLE

The owners at this time were C. S. Humphrey and W. H. Quigley, who discovered and operated this mine since 1894.

The Commodore is situated on Barkhouse Creek, Oak Bar Mining District of Siskiyou County, California. Distance from railroad at Yreka Town, by good mountain wagon road, 22 miles; elevation above sea level, 3,600 feet.

The mine consists of five full claims, each location has one or more ledges parallel to one another and considerable development done on all of them. Outside of these five claims, I understand there are several more protecting or auxiliary claims, that are never recorded locations.

The formation is termed a Porphyritic Granite, very soft, easily picked, scarcely any powder used on hundreds of feet of cross cuts and drifts run on these mines.

The lodes are clear cut, carry always a clay selvage on walls. The ore chute in Commodore as drifted through is 180 feet long.

The ore is clear clean Silica, friable, easily crushed and free gold.

Other claims — "Eastern Star," "Insurance," "Goodenough" and the "Oreata".

The arrastra is a mile from the nearest mine down on the main creek. Water power for same lasts alone 3 to 5 months in the year; the power is rented from the Lang Bros., who own the ditch. That expense with that of handling and transporting the ore is enough to condemn it, in face of the fact that at the mine there is plenty of water for any size stream mill and the fuel for same right on the ground. Tunnels have been run in many places and there is every assurance of the permanency if this ore body and no fault occurs worth mentioning in the entire mine.

The owners of the "Commodore" mine average a yield of \$17.00 per ton. Taking it from a purchaser's standpoint, leave out the ore still to be stoped above upper level and leaving out the fact of a new ore body in fare of lower level, and call it simply 4,000 tons in sight at an average of \$10 per ton, I think anybody will be safe on such a calculation as \$40,000 in sight at the "Commodore".

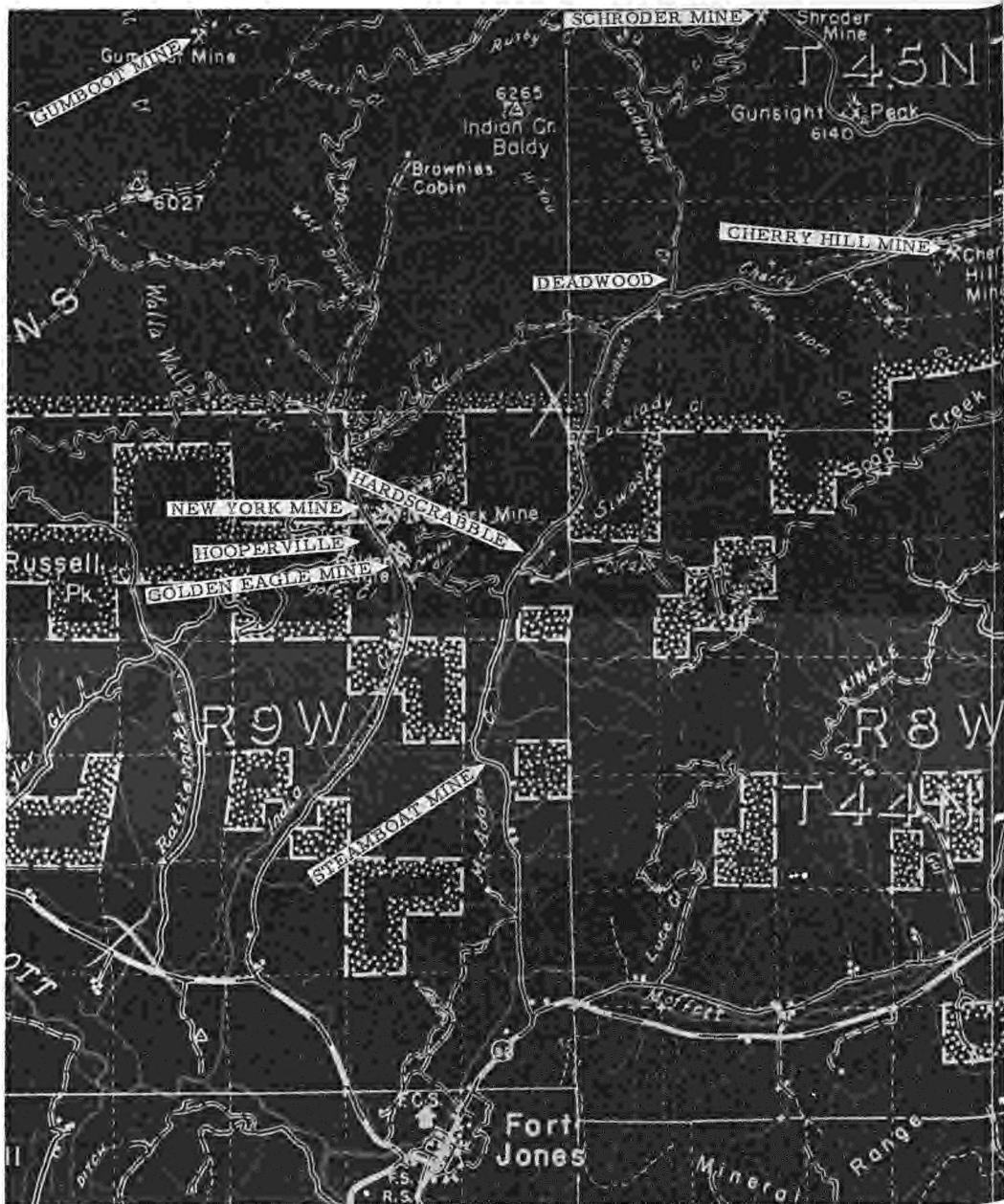
The mines can be tapped and cross-cut tunnels and veins, timber of all kinds in abundance, springs ample for steam, snowfall light, claims are surveyed but not patented, present owners are no miners but have made the property pay its way from the start.

In conclusion, I would say this group of mines with proper work and facilities, should and will become a valuable dividend paying property.

(signed) John F. Boyle

YREKA FLATS . . .

Some idea of the wealth of the "Diggins" on Yreka Flats is given from stories handed down from the first pioneers of the area. The mining claims were limited in size to thirty feet square and contained enough gold that many of the first miners returned home with what they considered to be sufficient for the rest of their lives. In some places the bedrock gravel would lay twenty feet or more beneath the surface of a claim. As a rule the best paying gravel is on the bedrock but in this case the entire depth of the deposits were rich. The most persistent story has been the claim that the Yreka Flats area was the richest square mile on the face of the earth. This was very possibly true until the gold discovery in Australia.



DEADWOOD MINING DISTRICT

The once important district of Deadwood, where three towns once flourished, is today marked only by an occasional ruined building and a myriad of mining dumps. On McAdams and Cherry Creeks the ground was so rich that it has been mined over six times.



—courtesy Siskiyou County Historical Society

CHERRY CREEK DREDGE

So rich was the ground from Deadwood Creek to Hardscrabble that this dredger reworked the gravel at a substantial profit.

The Deadwood Mining District . . .

as told to Walter B. Pollock

By GUS REICHMAN

As this book goes to press a revival of gold dredging is starting on Cherry Creek. Cherry Creek, the hub of the once lucrative Deadwood Mining District, proved so rich that over the past 100 years some of the stream bed has been mined over six different times. In 1851 the first gold seekers with their pans, rockers, and longtoms worked Deadwood, McAdams, and Cherry Creeks taking the easiest gold. This was followed up with ground sluicing and later driftings along the bed-rock. No longer appearing attractive to the white miner the Chinamen commenced their thorough and systematic operations. In the early 1900s

the only placer ground not touched in the District was that too deep for the early miner. It was then that Mr. Boles started a bucket line dredger at the mouth of Deadwood Creek and proceeded to dredge down stream some three miles. He then proceeded to dredge back up the creek through the very same ground he had just finished. The values recovered in the second dredging were almost as great as the first. The total was rumored to be in the millions.

It was not long after the discovery of placer gold that quartz mines were discovered in the Cherry Hill section. Some of the original discoveries are still held and

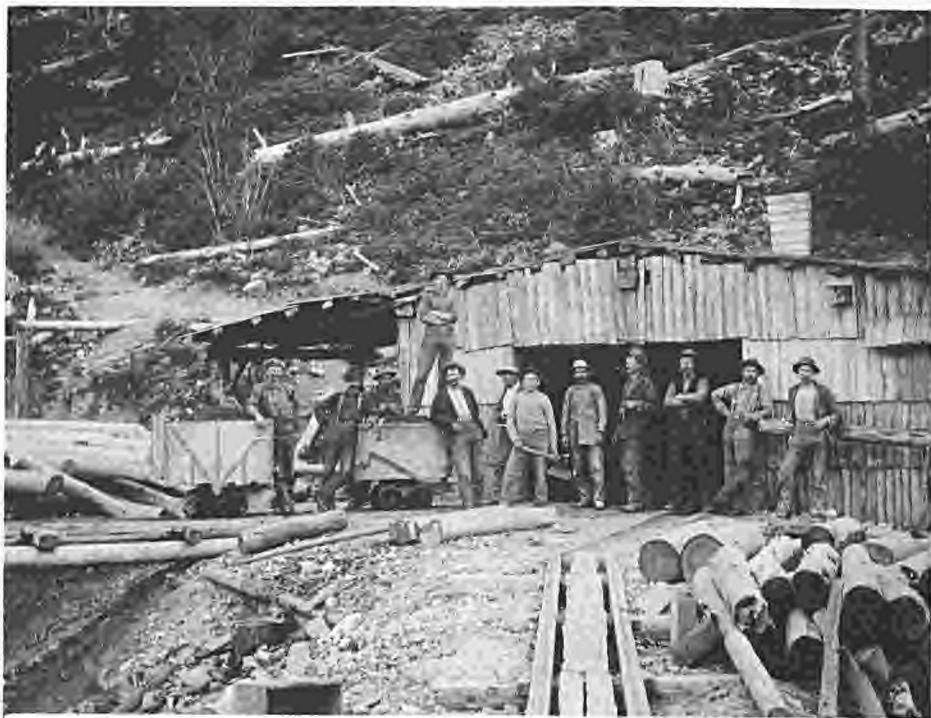
operated by Mr. Gus Reichman. Other mines in the area include the Mt. Vernon Mine on the summit of Greenhorn Mt., the Schroder Mine at the head of Deadwood Creek and the Golden Eagle and New York Mines on Indian Creek. All of these mines are in the same quartz veined greenstone which runs from Indian Creek on the west to Yreka on the east. The total gold output of this particular formation unfortunately is not known as the majority of the mining along it occurred before records were kept. Considering the placer gold that was eroded from it is conservative to say that 40 million dollars were recovered.

As is typical of all the present day mining districts of the western United States there is virtually no trace of the once roaring mining camps. Chief among these was the town of Deadwood so named when a prospector making a new discovery chanced to

look upon a dead tree and named his claim the Deadwood Mine. A few months later Deadwood's population exceeded 5,000 people and their votes came within four of securing the county seat. Many California notables had their beginning in the mines and camps. In Deadwood the illustrious career of the poet of the Sierra, Joaquin Miller, had its beginning.

Of the other mining camps, Hardscrabble on McAdams Creek and Hooperville on Indian Creek were of the most importance boasting emporiums, hotels and countless saloons. Today a row of trees marks Hardscrabble and a crumbling adobe building marks Hooperville.

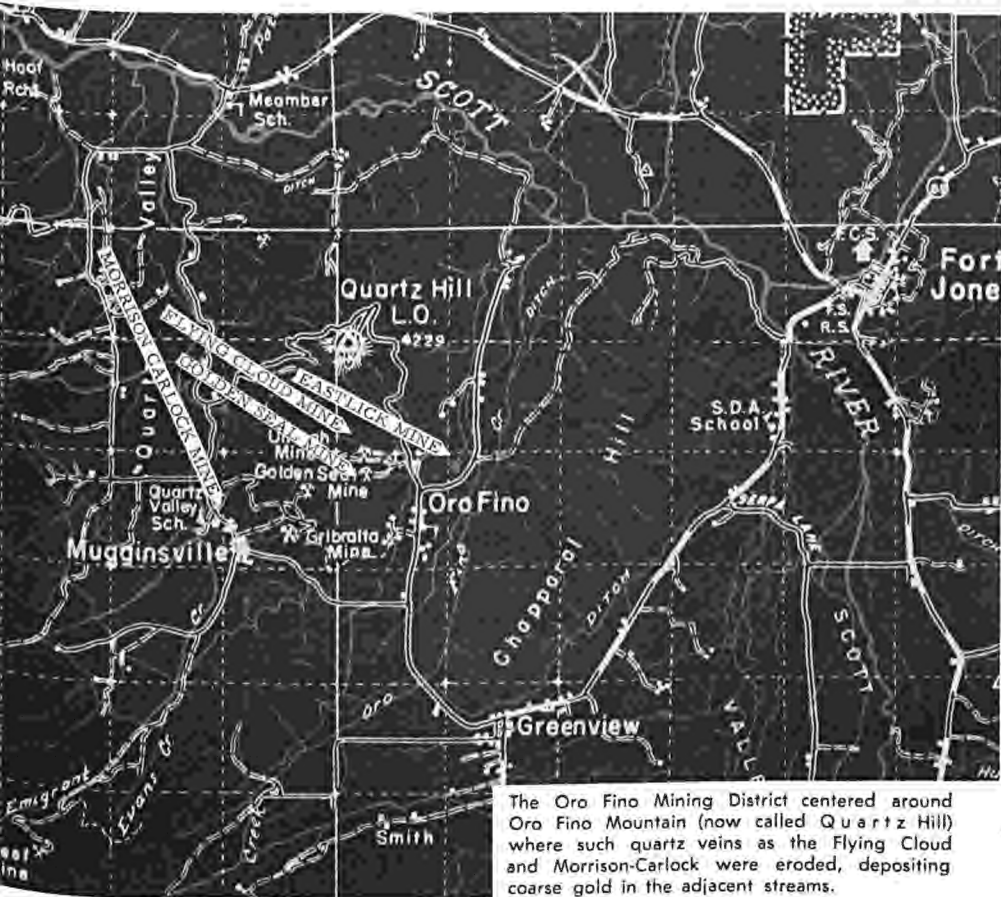
With the exception of a little prospecting the district has remained dormant since the depression. What the future holds, only time will tell.



—courtesy Siskiyou County Historical Society

DEWEY MINE ADIT

Taken in the early 1900s, this photo shows the crew of the Dewey Mine at the adit. The only men identified in this picture are Andy Hansen with the broadaxe and Chris Hansen behind him.



The Oro Fino Mining District centered around Oro Fino Mountain (now called Quartz Hill) where such quartz veins as the Flying Cloud and Morrison-Carlock were eroded, depositing coarse gold in the adjacent streams.

ORO FINO DISTRICT

Morrison-Carlock Mine . . .

By DOROTHY REICHMAN WALKER

(The following account has been taken from a 1904 prospectus.)

The purpose of the Corporation is to operate the following described property: The Little Queen Quartz Mine and the Sheboygan Quartz Mine, both located in the Quartz Valley Mining District, County of Siskiyou, State of California.

The present owners of the property have been operating it for the past three years, and have taken out over Two Hundred

Thousand (\$200,000) Dollars with a five-stamp mill; the total output of the mine up to April 1, 1904, is over Four Hundred and Seventy Thousand (\$470,000) Dollars. This can be verified by Mint receipts on file for bullion and sulphurets produced and shipped from the property. The mine has not been worked to any considerable depth, the shaft being only 215 feet deep on the incline. Considerable exploration and development work has been done and thou-



—courtesy Dorothy Reichman Walker

MORRISON-CARLOCK MINE

This mine had the longest chute of any Siskiyou County mine. It was some sixteen hundred feet long. The vein was faulted and never relocated; however, with present day knowledge of such faulting the vein might easily be relocated.

sands of tons of ore are blocked out ready for milling.

To give an idea of the value of this ore, would say that the gross output in free gold for the month of March was almost Ten Thousand (\$10,000) Dollars for a 31 day run; for April, a 27 day run, the output of gold bullion was \$8,216.80. This amount does not include the sulphurets, which might add five hundred dollars each to this amount.

Many so-called mines are offered to the public with very alluring promises of what is going to be done. The Morrison, Carlock Gold Mining Company's property is not a prospect; it has actually produced over four hundred and seventy thousand (\$470,000) dollars. This immense sum has been taken out of the ground up above a depth of 215 feet. The vein looks better both in size and value than it has ever shown before. To give an idea of the value of the quartz extracted lately, will say that in one month's run of 300 tons of quartz the gross output of free gold has yielded an average of about \$30.00 per ton.

The faith of the present owners of the property is shown by the fact that they have contracted with the Union Iron Works of San Francisco, for an additional five-stamp mill and to remodel the existing five-stamp

mill so as to greatly increase the output of the mill. All machinery being furnished is of the modern design and the results guaranteed with this new machinery will show immense improvement over the present returns.

Some months ago the Morrison, Carlock Gold Mining Company purchased a new engine of capacity large enough to furnish power for 20 stamps if necessary, they having in mind the proposition of adding more stamps to the mill. It will cost no more for power to drive a ten-stamp mill than the present five take. Modern stamp mills crush from three to five tons to the stamp in twenty-four hours, although it is estimated with the character of ore in the Morrison, Carlock mine it will be preferable to crush not more than three tons to the stamp. This would mean that a new ten-stamp mill would crush about 900 tons of quartz per month, so it is easy to estimate the large additional output when the new mill is in operation.

The work of exploration and development of this property has been done under the able management of Mr. Morrison, who is the managing director and superintendent; he has made a study of this particular mine and he can show at the present time of the different levels, thousands of tons of

high grade ore blocked out ready for milling. It is absolutely proven by actual measurement that these bodies of ore exist, and they can be measured with very little trouble. To provide for the future, development is being energetically pushed ahead. The Compressed Air Machinery Company of San Francisco has built a large steam-driven air compressor which will operate air drills and furnish air to drive the pumps to handle the water. The introduction of these air drills will greatly facilitate development work, and the cost of extracting ore for the new ten-stamp mill will be no more than that of taking out the ore for the five stamps heretofore. Taking these facts together with improvements resulting from the rebuilding and additions to the mill, it is readily understood that the net profits obtained by the addition of all this machinery will be far in excess of any previous returns. This is no idle speculation or theory. Figures do not lie. It is readily seen that the mine will be able to produce handsome returns on its capitalization.

The stock of the Morrison, Carlock Gold Mining Company will immediately participate in these dividends. The present owners have become rich from the proceeds of this mine. Several of them are elderly men of ample means who desire to retire from active responsibilities. The object of selling this stock is to acquire their interests. There is no treasury stock for sale, this proposition differs from all of those which are offered to the investing public, as the stock is not being sold for the purpose of buying machinery or development work with the possible chance of finding values. The values are already found. The new machinery has already been contracted for and the responsibility is assumed by the present owners; the mine pays its own way as it goes along. The title is perfect, having been subjected to the most searching investigations.

It is the purpose of the company to retain the valuable services of the present manager, Mr. Morrison, who, as we have mentioned before, has made this mine a special study ever since he has been connected with the company, and this is a valu-

able point which all connected with the enterprise appreciate and makes this mine a greater producer and large dividend payer.

The fullest investigation is desired and open to investors. There is certainly no chance of losing, our claims are beyond dispute as all reports are open for examination and the personnel of the company is of the highest standard.

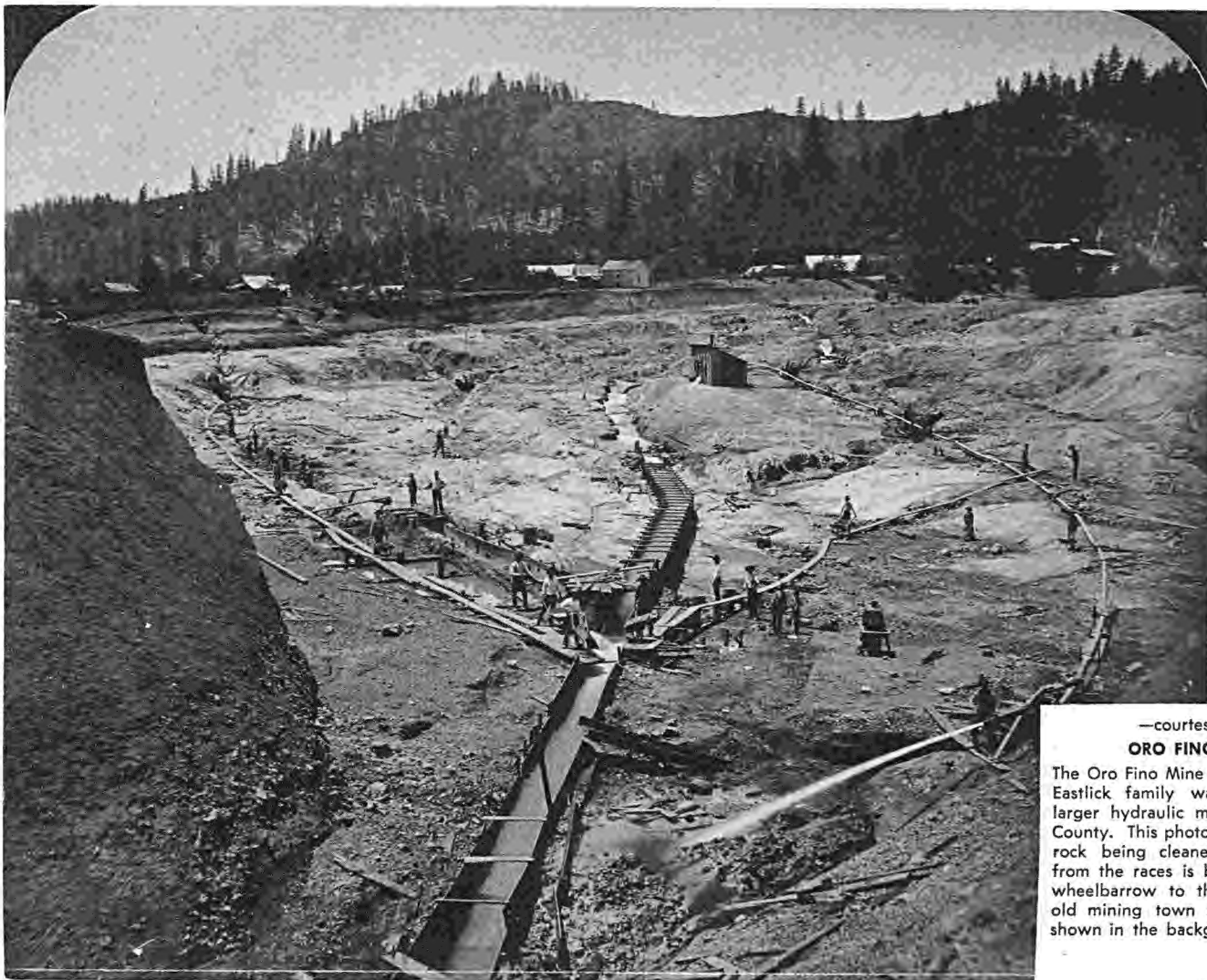
Stock at the present time is being offered at the low price of fifty (50c) cents per share for the first 100,000 shares; the next 100,000 shares will be sold at one (\$1) dollar per share. There will be no other stock sold.

We are offering you a high-class, sure investment, not a doubtful prospect, but a well developed, paying mine with a certain future ahead of it. This mine is well and favorably known among mining men in general in this state; it is well spoken of by experts who have been through the property and made a careful examination. There are other good producing mines in the same district, and this location has received a great deal of careful attention from some of the best mining engineers in California. The location is convenient, there being good roads for the transportation of supplies to the mine and a new railroad is projected from Gazelle to Etna, which will be within a short distance to the Morrison, Carlock Gold Mining Company's property. This will further facilitate handling the supplies.

The mine is well equipped with hoist and steam boilers and first-class general machinery plant, and by the addition of the machinery already contracted for, it will be one of the best equipped properties in the state of California. An electric power line passes by the mine and if desired electric power is available. At the present time steam is being used, as wood is plentiful.

An active demand exists for the stock, and all wishing to purchase the same should do so before the price is raised to a higher figure.

In describing this property to you we feel that it is a departure from the usual practice. We have endeavored to use plain language in describing the property and what may be expected of it.



—courtesy Orel E. Lewis

ORO FINO MINE

The Oro Fino Mine operated by the Eastlick family was one of the larger hydraulic mines in Siskiyou County. This photo shows the bedrock being cleaned. The gravel from the races is being hauled by wheelbarrow to the sluices. The old mining town of Oro Fino is shown in the background.



—courtesy Orel E. Lewis

HYDRAULIC ELEVATOR

When the pay dirt of the Oro Fino Mines went so deep that they could not be drained of their surplus water and tailings, Lafe Eastlick devised what was to become the hydraulic elevator. The rig consisted of a high pressure jet of water which was built into an opening in the bottom of a larger pipe in such a way that water and gravel was sucked up the larger pipe by the jet. Other improvements were made on the rig and soon Lafe Eastlick's invention opened a new era in mining, that of sub-surface hydraulic mines.

Eastlick Mine . . .

as told to Walter B. Pollock

By OREL E. LEWIS

Second only to Humbug as a mining center was the community of Oro Fino in Oro Fino Valley. Oro Fino and the old town of Pinnery served a small district of placer-quartz mining surrounding Oro Fino Mt. Such quartz ledges as the Morrison-Carlock, Flying Cloud, Oom-Paul and Blind Lode ledges fed the very rich placers with a fine gold. Of these placers the most notable operation was the eastlick Mine at Oro

Fino. This placer mine, being extremely deep, made the sluicing of tailings into Scott River very difficult. This prompted the mine owner, Lafe Eastlick, to develop a device for mining below the level of the stream. This became the hydraulic elevator which brought on entirely a new era to placer mining. The accompanying photos show the large scale of the operation of this once prominent mine.



A SINKING PUMP

This type of pump was used to excavate a hole in which the intake of hydraulic elevators could be set. Large rocks would not be allowed to enter this pump, but were thrown to one side.



—courtesy Orel E. Lewis

SINKING PUMP

Bill Lewis stands beside the sinking pump. To go to a lower level another section would be added to the intake pipe.



—courtesy Orel E. Lewis

VISITING THE MINE

Miners and mine owners. From left to right: Unknown, Al Carson, Wallace Eastlick, Ed Eastlick, Lafa Eastlick, A. B. Carlock, Unknown.



REICHMAN'S CREW MOVING 50-TON SPUD TO CALLAHANS

Taken in 1907 as the spud was brought into Fort Jones en route to the Wade Dredger at Callahans.

PETER'S TRUCK LINES

DAILY OVERNIGHT SERVICE

From San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento

GENERAL HAULING

ANYTHING

ANYWHERE

ANY TIME

YREKA—Home Office

907 So. Main St.
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SAN FRANCISCO
1445 Illinois St.
Mission 8-2230

OAKLAND
1688 - 24th Street
Hlgate 4-6286

SACRAMENTO
401 "S" St.
Gilbert 3-5911

REDDING
2362 Athens Ave.
CH 3-1476

MOUNT SHASTA
906 Ream Ave.
WAlnut 6-2195



—courtesy Siskiyou County Historical Society

TERRACE CUTTING

These giants are cutting two terraces in order to speed moving of material.

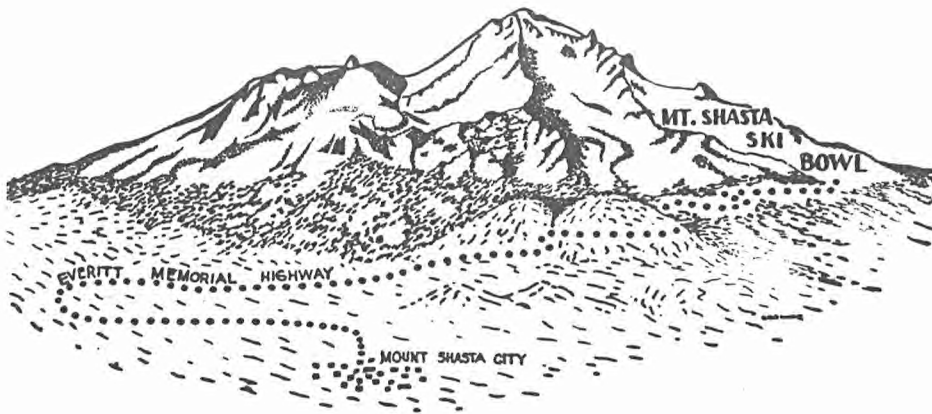
COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY OF YREKA

YREKA

MOUNT SHASTA

Fred J. Meamber & Sons

Established 1897



MOUNT SHASTA

IN THE HEART OF THE SHASTA-CASCADE WONDERLAND
HOME OF THE MOUNT SHASTA SKI BOWL

For Information Concerning
BUSINESS OR PLEASURE

Write to

MOUNT SHASTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

321-A Walnut Street

Mount Shasta, California



—courtesy Siskiyou County Historical Society

CHERRY CREEK DREDGER

This dredge was operated by Major Boles between the mouth of Deadwood Creek and the site of the old town of Hardscrabble on McAdams Creek.

THE CALIFORNIA OREGON POWER COMPANY



A WESTERN COMPANY OWNED AND OPERATED
BY WESTERN PEOPLE



—courtesy Klamath National Forest

RUINS OF AN ARRASTRA

An old water powered arrastra located on Horse Creek.

PEPSI-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY

OF MOUNT SHASTA

Elmer Kennedy

WAlnut 6-2185

302 Chestnut Street



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CASTELLA, CALIFORNIA



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WESTERN PINE TREE FARM

One-half mile east of McCloud, California

**THE McCLOUD RIVER
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McCLOUD, CALIFORNIA

Established 1896

QUALITY WESTERN SOFTWOODS



—courtesy Dorothy Reichman Walker

MORRISON-CARLOCK MINE

This photo shows the hoisting works, waste dump and wood yard of this big producer. Mugginsville can be seen in the distance.

SCOTT VALLEY BANK

FORT JONES

ETNA



—courtesy Henry Schultz Collection

FIRST DREDGER AT YREKA

This dredger was put into operation shortly after electric power became available. It worked on the ground immediately north of Yreka along Yreka Creek.

TOWN OF YREKA CITY

HEART OF SCENIC SISKIYOU

For Information Call
YREKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
At the City Hall

[Handwritten scribbles]

