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GRAVEL THAT CARRIES \$449 PER CUBIC YARD

That is The Hot Air Proposition That
Catches Portland In-
vestors.

F. O. Bucknum, who returned a few days ago with his family from Portland, where they spent the winter, is making preparations to start work on the Merrimac, and other claims owned by the Gold Belt Mining company, in the Greenhorns.

Mr. Bucknum is secretary and manager of the company. Work will be started, he says, about July 1, and if things go as he has planned the company will be shipping ore to the smelter before fall. It is a gold and silver proposition, located near the Tempest, and the showing so far gives great encouragement.

In addition to this, Mr. Bucknum has the Summit Queen property, in the McNamee district, which is also to be operated this summer.

Asked if there is any chance to do mining business in Portland, Mr. Bucknum, replied: "Yes, if you have something like this to offer."

Then he drew from his pocket a folder, telling of the alluring opportunity to make money in an Alaska proposition, that is the prize winning gold brick enterprise: called the Treasure and Midas Creek Gold Association, of Union, Oregon. The ground, of course, is in an inaccessible region, so "every thing geos."

As an opening statement, accompanied by a convincing half tone cut to prove the assertion, it is related that in prospecting the diggings, one man panned \$116 in one day. And right before your eyes is the picture of the nuggets, held in a hand.

But, of course, that is really not a starter. It is alleged that the gravel averages \$449.50 to the cubic yard. By ground sluicing, one man can shovel in eight cubic yards a day, take of about \$3,500 every ten hours.

Then, too, whoever buys \$112.50 worth of this gilt edge stock, representing twenty square feet of this gold dust mixed with a little gravel, will be employed at wages of one dollar an hour. Surely that is very small pay, considering that a

man can take out \$3,500 while earning only ten for his very own.

The whole circular consists of similar impossibilities. It was written by one, E. S. McComas, of Union. If The Miner is not mistaken, this is the same McComas who about two years ago, tried to work a con game, based on the revelation of a dying Indian, for whom earlier in life he did some great service. The chief sent word to him by one of his sons, a stalwart brave, where a fabulously rich ledge could be found in these Blue Mountains. The McComas game at that time was to form a little pool of as many men as he could persuade to dig up a stated sum, with which to buy a pack pony and some grub; in other words, to equip a prospecting outfit.

J. Fisk, of whom more or less has been heard in connection with Portland mining affairs, stands sponsor for this fraud. Mr. Bucknum says that he was told that between three and four thousand dollars worth of this stock was sold there in ten days, adding: "But if you have some legitimate mining proposition to present, you will save money by staying away from Portland. What little capital is being invested in mining, goes to southern Oregon or to the St. Helens district."

TWELVE FEET OF ORE AT BUCKHORN

O. C. Wright, manager of the Blue Bird and Buckhorn, had a message from George Barrett, who is doing contract work at the later property, stating that twelve feet of fine looking ore had been encountered on the No. 2 drift. Mr. Barrett stated that he had forwarded samples, but these have not yet arrived, consequently no determination as to value has been made.

The face of No. 3 drift on a parallel vein is also in ore for the entire

width. One wall is being followed and the vein has not yet been crosscut to determine this width. The showing is regarded as extremely encouraging.

WILL SEEK HEALTH IN MONTANA AIR

Joseph N. Gillis, accompanied by his wife and daughter, will leave tomorrow for Montana in search of health. Mr. Gillis' malady has been pronounced by Sumpter physicians to be consumption, and he has been advised to seek a change of climate. Montana for the summer season is one of the places recommended. He will go to Phillipsburg, spend the summer as much in the open air as possible and drift down into Arizona and Mexico when winter comes on.

Mr. Gillis was lately employed at the E. and E. and formerly did contract work at the Columbia. He has followed mining for many years, having once been with Tom Moffit and J. D. Farrell in the Yak country, Montana. The miners of both the Columbia and E. and E. contributed very liberally toward a fund to help Mr. Gillis to get away. For this Mr. and Mrs. Gillis through The Miner wish to express their heartfelt gratitude. Their son James, who is employed as deliveryman by the Jackson Meat market, will remain in Sumpter.

LARGE ORE BODIES AT THE OVERLAND

M. E. Bain, manager of the Overland, returned last night from a stay of several days looking after operations at the mine.

Double shifts are being worked, Mr. Bain says, and satisfactory progress is being made. The No. 1. and No. 2. veins are being drifted upon, and a crosscut is being driven from the No. 3 from the No. 2.

Mr. Bain says the ore bodies have materially increased in the past few weeks and the prospects of the property look brighter than ever before.

Charles Kirchen, the new superintendent of the smelter, has rented the Stoddard residence on Mill street and will occupy it soon after June 1. Manager Fuller will probably move his family to the Killen residence on North street, though this matter has not been definitely decided.

The North Pole company received a consignment of shoes and dies today, 276 in all, making a car load.

BURNT RIVER ROAD IN GOOD CONDITION

J. N. Doane And F. E.
O'Rourke Drive Loaded
Wagons Over it With-
out Trouble.

F. E. O'Rourke returned this forenoon from the Burnt river country, driving over the new road built by Sumpter people from King's ranch, a distance of fifteen miles, in four hours.

He says that it is unquestionable the best route to that section. There is still about four miles to be graded, that section having only been slashed, and even over this portion of it he came with two wagons without trouble. J. N. Doane was with him and they estimate that \$300 will be needed to finish this work; that when completed there will not be a better road in the county, as is shown by that portion of it that was constructed last fall. There is a summit to cross, of course, as every one knew there would be; but the climb is no steeper than on either of the other routes mentioned. Both Messrs. Doane and O'Rourke are of the opinion that it would be the height of folly to abandon this road, after so much money has been spent on it and being nearly completed; when no advantage whatever could be gained by building a road by some other route. So far as this town is concerned, it would be suicidal business policy to help make the road via Whitney passable.

Mr. O'Rourke took his family down to his homestead Sunday, where they will remain most of the summer. J. N. Doane went along with a wagon load of supplies for the family and had no trouble in hauling it over the new road. A few miles below town, however, he got into a mud hole and had some difficulty in getting out. There are several places in the old road that need reaping. The new grading is now all dried out and is really an excellent thoroughfare, an evidence that J. N. Doane knows how to build a road and at small cost.

The unfinished portion will be completed early this summer.

Back from Wyoming.

Tony Mohr and Joe Reed returned today from a trip to Wyoming. They say they were engaged in looking at coal lands, fishing and hunting during their absence, but more specific information could not be extracted.