

Trip to Mine Near Canyonville Reveals Interesting Data Concerning Rich Holdings

Fifty years ago the mining industry in Southern Oregon and Douglas County was one of the big enterprises of the state. Placer gold was found along the creeks in most any part of the southern end of the county, while on Cow Creek and the west fork of the latter, a lot of gold was taken out by pioneer miners. Along the base of Canyon Mountain, and only a short distance from the old town of Canyonville, rich pockets were discovered which produced \$25,000 to \$40,000 each, and gave to the district wide fame as a mining section. Prospectors combed the section of Southern Douglas county at that time in search of the "mother" lodes or ledges carrying the quartz from which these "pockets" came during the ages past. All of this work was without avail, and finally miners gave up the quest, withdrawing from the field, with the exception of an occasional placer miner, this latter class continuing to work the gravel bars of streams and along the South Umpqua and Cow Creek. These few placer bars were worked at intervals by various groups of men, and to this time some of them are still being operated and pay fairly good wages.

Occasionally, however, some one would, all during the years since the seventies, bring in a report that a ledge had been uncovered at some point in the section under discussion, but while assays were often very good, these reports were so erratic in their nature that little came of any discoveries made. During this time it was discovered that no matter where one attempted to pan out gold along some streamlet in the mountains during the winter when water was abundant, "color" could usually be found. Dirt taken from the mountain side was frequently discovered to be impregnated with fine gold, not in paying quantities, but nevertheless it was unmistakably gold. It was also discovered that it was impossible by any of the known processes employed by the early miners to save this fine gold—"flour" gold, it was called. Old time placer miners cogitated over the problem, constructed a lot of different devices for saving this class of gold, but never were able to do it. It was quite generally the fact that the "tailings" from the sluice boxes were rich in fine gold that had gotten away in the operation of washing the sand. It was also discovered that while the hills were literally full of

quartz that gave every appearance of carrying excellent values in gold, it could not be saved, and reports from assayers were so contradictory and unsatisfactory that no one could be induced to back prospectors in their efforts to develop their holdings.

There were, however, a few men who pinned their faith to southern Douglas county as a locality where gold abounds and that some day some one would drop out the method of saving the gold—of separating it from the rock and make quartz mining in the district a paying proposition. Among these men were L. U. Stenger, of Canyonville, a native son and for years a merchant of the town. Later there came to the locality Mr. J. A. Becker, a chemist and assayer, who was impressed with the evidence found that there was a lot of gold, silver, platinum and other minerals in southern Oregon. Frank Cain, many years ago county surveyor of Douglas County, whose home was at Riddle, is another man who visioned a great future for the mining industry of the county. H. Bollenbaugh, brought up in the county, Messrs. Bayman and Hunter, W. J. Ross, Lodgeson Bros., and others comprise a group of men who have been insistent that there more gold is tucked away in the old canyon mountain and the range that lies between Cow Creek and the South Umpqua River than will ever be found in any other like section of country in North America. In fact, these hills, towering to three thousand feet above sea level, appear, from recent investigation, to literally be honeycombed with ore ledges that are, in many places, known to be from three to four hundred feet wide. In addition, the rock structure of these eternal old hills is fairly permeated with gold and platinum. More than all that, these local miners are not alone in their final analysis and conclusions. Recent surveys of the district by the well known geologist and scientist, Dr. Herschel Parker, corroborate the opinions of this group of local men in every detail, as the late published reports of Dr. Parker's findings indicate—that the mountains in southern Douglas, Jackson and Josephine counties carry rich deposits of gold, silver, platinum and copper. The gold and platinum can only be saved through the new processes. The granite hills of these sections are rich in gold, the granite containing colloidal films encasing gold and platinum, and these metals are attached to the

quartz crystal contents of the rock. Ordinary treatment of the rock fails to separate the gold and platinum, but the new chlorination process effectively does the work.

A recent survey of the section around Canyonville and Riddle revealed that a rich field of ore is lying at the very doors of Douglas county mining interests. These rich deposits have long been neglected or passed up, but the gentleman of the group named previously have undertaken to awaken the public to the remarkable mining resources this section has.

Beginning at a point a few miles south of Roseburg and tributary to Myrtle Creek, is the Red Mountain district. Development work there has unearthed ledges that assay well. The mineral chain appears to be unbroken between Red Mountain and the Jacksonville section in Jackson county, with frequent outcroppings of massive ledges of ore in the hills. These outcroppings are often seen along the Pacific highway, and notably among these showings are the L. U. Stenger claims. The first of these is within a mile of the summit of the highway where it crosses the divide between the South Umpqua and Cow Creek, probably eight miles south of Canyonville. Less than twenty feet from the pavement of the highway at that point is the opening to a short tunnel in the mountain side. Thousands of tourists have seen this tunnel, but none suspected that it uncovers a ledge of ore that runs well to gold. At the surface, where work was begun, the rock assayed \$8.51 to the ton in gold. In another two feet the rock yielded \$8.47 to the ton. At a depth of six feet the assays showed \$14.84, at eight feet the value ran to \$19 in gold, and at twenty feet from the mouth of the tunnel the value in gold to the ton assayed \$48. Another claim of the Stenger group is located down the canyon and probably three miles from Canyonville. This claim is also within a few rods of the highway. It shows assays in platinum of approximately \$1000 to the ton. These ledges in all the claims for long distances, and usually run from 200 to 400 feet wide. Not only are the claims mentioned adjacent to the paved highway, but Canyon Creek flows through them and the mountain side is covered with enough timber to serve every demand in the working of the properties.

On the west fork of Canyon Creek are a group of claims owned by Messrs. Bayman and Hunter. The ore in some of these properties is highly mineralized, assays running as high as \$1000 per ton in platinum having been obtained. The only other known ledge of this metal in North America is said to be in Alaska. Gold and silver are also found in these claims, and the owners are working hard to develop them to a point where capital will be interested in bringing the properties to a high state of production.

A few rods off the highway connecting Canyonville and Riddle, and a couple of miles west of Canyonville, W. J. Ross has a group of claims that show paying quantities of graphite, serpentine or slate ore. This ore is exactly the same as found in the first Stenger claim near the top of the mountain and near the Pacific highway, mentioned in the beginning of the survey. The ledge is extensive, having been traced several hundred feet, and assays showing \$1700 to the ton have been received. Mr. Ross does not claim the ore will run anything like this report indicates, but he does believe that it will pay handsomely when developed. He also has placed claims near that produce some real gold nuggets, and he has plenty of them to show that the pay dirt is there. Some of these nuggets he has taken from the ridge back of his home. The ledge of ore on which he has located a quartz claim has been traced for seven miles westward across the mountains.

H. Bollenbaugh, son of a pioneer in the county, has some placer claims adjoining the Ross properties, and he is preparing to commence operations with a hydraulic just as soon as there is enough water in his ditches for work. So this winter the rain has not supplied the usual amount of water for operating the "giant" on this property. Placer mining along the north slope base of canyon mountain has been carried on for more than sixty years, and pay dirt is still found, a fact that is not generally known by Roseburg people or in other parts of the county.

The Levens mine is located about the center of the district, midway between Canyonville and Riddle. This claim has long since passed the stage of a prospect, and at present there are about 31,000 tons of ore on the dump, which runs well in gold and platinum, some of it as high as \$600 to the ton. However, this is the high peak from the assayers reports, but while most of the ore shows a low grade, there is a whole mountain of gold and platinum bearing rock that is simply awaiting treatment by the new process to make the property a big dividend payer. The property is in charge of Mr. Becker. This property is equipped with air compressor drills, plenty of buildings for all purposes, and has several thousand feet of tunnels. A few miles west of the Levens mine is the Silver Peak group of quartz claims, and the product of the properties is an all-mineral

quartz that assures its developing into one of the most profitable mines in southern Oregon. The outcroppings of the Silver Peak group of claims has been traced for a distance of nine miles, and there are already more than 2000 feet of tunneling completed. In the spring the owners expect to open up work with a force of 200 men. The mine is equipped with air compressor machinery for operating drills. There are sufficient buildings for the men, offices for the management, assay and boarding houses, and much ore now on the dump.

North of Silver Peak is the Beaver Springs group of claims, owned by Roseburg parties. Little has been said about this mine, but a lot of work is being done there right now, a crew of men sufficient to operate the mine being on the job. This property is also equipped with air compressor and all machinery required to carry on the industry.

At Days Creek, east of the properties mentioned, Perry Duncan has done considerable work on his claims. These properties are showing the identical sort of mineral taken from the Stenger claims along the highway and several miles to the west. The assays of rock taken from the ledges by Mr. Duncan show gold and silver in paying quantities, and he is anxious to see the mineral resources of the district developed to the point where capital may be induced to put in a reduction plant that will be capable of handling the output of all these claims.

It is alleged by some of the leading miners in southern Oregon that for some years there has been an undecurrent of opposition to development of the quartz showings of the state. It is charged that big smelting concerns have zealously circulated reports that there is no gold or silver worth mentioning in the southern counties of the state. In fact, it is stated, that agents of some of the big concerns have been kept in the district for the sole purpose of heading off any prospective investors. This work has been so systematic and thorough, it is alleged, that there has been but little accomplished in way of quartz mining in southern Oregon for a number of years.

Within a few months, however, surveys have been made of the gold and silver and platinum ledges in this part of the state. At different times within a year mining engineers and assayers from some of the big mining centers of the west have been looking over the field. A few weeks ago Dr. Herschel Parker completed a comprehensive survey, and after visiting the Stenger group of claims, the Levens mine and other properties in southern Douglas county, as well as investigating the mineral resources of Jackson and Josephine counties, came out with a statement that the southern part of Oregon was rich in precious metals and in his opinion would out-rival the famous Rand, Alaska, or even Montana's great mining section.

It was Mr. Stenger, indeed, who demonstrated to the scientist that platinum and gold were to be found in the same quartz taken from the ledges along the Pacific highway and near the summit of the mountain. It was, in fact, the persistent attitude of these southern Douglas county miners which led Dr. Parker to believe that the rock of the mountains throughout the district carried gold and other metals of value. It has been claimed that this county maintains a peculiar position in the annals of mining. It has a metal of its own, and these men have discovered that the old system of assaying burns out the platinum, palladium, or telluride gold, those values escaping in the fumes or in the slag.

Constant research taught them ore here was rich, and go where they would, the values were always found. Keeping everlastingly at the quest of a way to save the metal proved that hydrometallurgy was the only method. It was described as a combination process, the first step being to roast the ore slowly at a low heat, then the acid solution is administered, precipitating the gold. This process leaves the platinum, acids then being used to precipitate the latter. The consensus of opinion among these various owners is that what Douglas county mining industries must have is a reduction plant or concentrator big enough to handle the product of these claims, and so located that all of them can truck their ores to the furnaces for treatment. These claims just described are within what is known among the miners as the Riddle Triangle, and it is not more than a few miles from the far western boundary of the triangle to the eastern limits of where claims are now being developed. A reduction plant at Canyonville, for instance, would make transportation of ore from any one of these claims a matter entirely feasible, the distance being not more than six or eight miles at farthest, and several of the claims being within two or three miles.

It is the belief of these various owners that business interests of the county might find it profitable to help organize the mining industry so as to bring these mountains to the attention of capital and bring to light the hidden wealth believed to lie dormant in the hills and mountains of this part of the state. In a recent visit to this mining section of Douglas county, a News-Review representative discussed these matters with several prominent men engaged in mining, and all of them are confident that the ore is present, the assays are entirely satisfactory. Nature has guaranteed the living streams and water ways, making certain all the water needed in such enterprises, there is timber in abundance throughout the entire district, and therefore, there is assuredly no good reason why all of the people of the commonwealth should be deprived the prosperity sure to follow the revival of mining.

Wishing You a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year



BIBLE STANDARD TEMPLE (Formerly Bible Standard Mission)

We are building a beautiful new church edifice, which will be complete in a few weeks. Auditorium will accommodate 800 people. Thru the ensuing year and years you are invited to make this your church home.

REV. L. F. BURROR, Pastor
Corner East Douglas and Chadwick Sts.

Leeper Dome Gives Promise of Giving Forth Douglas County's First Oil in Paying Quantities

For more than a year the work of drilling for petroleum at Leeper Dome, a little way west of Sutherlin, has been going on, and while there have been many unforeseen delays, present indications for a strike buoy up the spirits of those men who have pinned their faith to a belief in this enterprise, and it is confidently felt that success will crown the efforts of the promoters.

Some three years ago work was started a mile south of Oakland, but while the well was finally abandoned, men who have made the matter a study from a geological viewpoint, were more firmly convinced than ever that the mistake was in the location of the plant, and that oil does exist underneath the surface of the hills and valleys of this county.

In checking up on the results of the experiment, a group of Douglas county men, associated with another group of Bonanza, California, determined that the prospect of oil near Oakland and Sutherlin was too apparent to be abandoned without a well organized attempt to discover the facts in the matter.

Their faith in the belief of oil deposits here were based upon scientific facts. Government geologists and other competent scientists had repeatedly asserted that petroleum must necessarily exist here. Geological facts bore out the claim, it was alleged, and for this reason these men got behind the enterprise and planned a definite policy.

Leases were secured on properties west of Oakland, including Leeper Dome, and then began the work of installing a plant sufficiently large to develop the prospect. It was a settled policy of the Oakland Oil Company that work would be continued until success was achieved, or until the depth of the well should make further effort useless. The derrick tower and all machinery installed was with this goal in mind, and the equipment now used at the workings is sufficient to sink the hole to a depth of 4,000 feet or more. The steam plant was built massive enough to carry the heavy drills and supply power to the entire plant. Water was brought up from the creek on the north, and since that time the crew has been busy, sinking the hole which it is hoped will soon open up a store of petroleum sufficient in quantity to revolutionize industrial conditions in Douglas county.

Gas and oil have been in evidence since the 500 foot level was reached. At that point water was encountered and bothered a good deal, but was finally shut out with installation of casing. The oil indi-

cations were marked at that depth, and gas came up in sufficient quantities to burn at considerable length when ignited. Reaming out of the hole and lowering of the casing was a work that occupied a good deal of time, and this process was continued until a 1200 foot depth was attained. Again water interfered, but the difficulty was successfully met and the drill continued to go deeper each day. However, at the 1200 foot depth oil made its appearance in considerable quantities, but not sufficient to warrant stopping at that depth. The flow of gas at the 1200 foot depth was very marked, and in fact bothered the operators a good deal in prosecuting the work.

Successful in shutting out the water at the 1200 foot level, the drill was sent on down through sandstone formation and other strata, sometimes very hard and again soft enough to work easy, when at 1500 feet below the surface it became evident that gas had been struck in remarkable quantities. Men in charge of the drill, whose experience led them to believe that a stronger pressure might be opened up at any time, declared that it was unsafe to work at night unless electric lights were installed, and this was done. At the present time the work is progressing slowly and with great caution, but there are evidences presenting themselves which experienced operators look upon as preceeding a discovery of great magnitude and potential possibilities.

During the past year the Oakland Oil Company has been plunging away at the development work without making any great demonstration or saying very much as to the ultimate conclusion of their effort. No one has been asked to buy unlimited quantities of stock in the enterprise. In fact, purchases of large blocks of stock by individuals have been frowned upon, as it has been the policy of the company to finance this work with a little chance of final loss as possible. The company has been fair in explaining to everyone that the work attempted is to prove or disprove the claim that oil does exist in this county. It has been explained that if the fact is demonstrated, stock holders will share in the gains. If nothing comes of the venture, the investment is a loss. For this reason men who were unable to take any financial chance have been discouraged from investing money they might need in other lines of endeavor. It has been claimed that in event this development work discovers oil, then every man, woman and child in the county will share in the benefits in this section, two of the

effits. Those who have bought stock, directly. Those who have not invested in the well, indirectly.

There are no paid officials drawing handsome salaries; there is no preference stock—there is nothing about the whole affair that needs to be covered up, it is claimed, and for this reason the public has so far liberally supported the development of this oil prospect at Leeper Dome.

During December the work was temporarily held up by the loss of a "reamer" in the hole. The accident to the tool was occasioned by breaking of a bolt that held it to the drill shaft. The reamer is used to enlarge the hole so that casing can be lowered. Two different devices were sent for before the "reamer" could be lifted from the depths of the earth, but it was finally accomplished. To the untold gratification of the promoters, a comparatively small piece of steel at the bottom of a 1500 foot 14-inch hole would appear an unsurmountable task, but with men familiar with oil drilling operations, it is not of so much importance. But these mishaps are always encountered in the various oil fields, and are looked upon as merely an incident in the gigantic enterprise of boring into the very bowels of Mother Earth for these latent resources that have lain dormant for ages past, but now must be developed to add their quota to the herculean task of carrying on the world's stupendous activities.

The Oakland Oil Company is in the hands of men who are giving of their best effort and time to show that there is a hidden wealth in this county, aside from the agricultural and horticultural industries, that means a great deal to the prosperity of the people, not only of the county, but of all Oregon. With a proven oil industry, capital will be invested and payrolls established, while the population of the county will be greatly augmented. California and Oklahoma oil men are even now watching this Leeper Dome project with intense interest. Several of these oil experts have visited this section within recent months, and all of them have expressed the opinion that the prospects are alluring. People from over the northwest are deeply interested in the work in hand at Leeper Dome, and residents of the county are anxiously waiting for the news that they certainly hope for—that the well at Leeper Dome has "blown in."

most widely known men in county, are the executive of the Oakland Oil Company. Stearns is the president. Cobb the general manager, their guidance the affairs company have been prospering these gentlemen are striving about an early conclusion of the efforts to bring in a well at the workings near tin and Oakland.

Visitors are always welcome to the well, and any interested will find there much to their vision of what it is to drill for oil. They will see evidences of oil, and the of natural gas is present enough to prove that down a depth of 1500 feet below face there must be considerable quantities of it, modities that have vast value in these days of revery, when every commodity is being sought to use as unthought of of memory of the adult population of the county today.

Livestock grazed on ran out their feed twelve in the year.

Knudtson JEWELRY STORE

EXTENDS A CORDIAL NEW YEAR W TO ITS MAN FRIENDS AN PATRONS MAY THE COMING YE FIND US CLOSER TOGETHER IN SERVICE AND FRIENDS

We extend a hearty
New Year Greeting
to our friends, patrons and the
general public

PICKENS GROCERY

Cass Street

One of Roseburg's Pioneer Stores