

FANCIFUL STORIES TOLD OF PLACER GOLD FIND

Writer from the Park Relates Interesting Stories Told by Miners of \$40,000 Operations in Eastern Oregon About 42 Years Ago.

(By JACK HUNTER)

In the summer of 1915, Lars Larson and Morten Mortenson of Telocast told the writer that they knew of an old placer mine up on the south fork of Catherine creek. They gave a story of a good strike some forty-five years ago, saying \$40,000 had been sluiced out of the bank of the little stream and that an old dilapidated cabin, a pile of shacks not used, a few logs peeled as if the miners meant to build a larger log house, and old sluice boxes were in evidence.

The digging had been done on a second bench from the creek, the water having been ditched

from some distance above.

Did Not Investigate

They intended to come and look for the place, but failed to do so. By this, the story was classed as another gold find in the dreams of some ideal get-rich-quick propositions, heard so much of in the west.

Then three men, with their packs, including a gold pan, went up the fork, in the summer of 1917. They remained up there seven days.

Upon their return and on inquiries they told that they had found the supposed diggings and that there was good prospect of fine gold. But they had not succeeded in getting to the pay streak that yielded coarse gold that had been taken out from the place forty some odd years ago. They told that they were satisfied that gold in quantity had been taken out, for the old diggings showed much work. They were to come back again.

Another Failure

But again these men never showed up. This left another impression of a rainbow chasing story.

Not believing much about these fantastic tales of finding gold here and there, no real investigations were made by the writer. But on several occasions the hunting and fishing trips afforded some observations, but no such signs have ever been found.

Last summer Fred Perkins, who was formerly connected with the flour mills at Portland, and now employed by Ed Miller of Union, asked information about a placer mine on the south fork, or at the heads of some streams this side of China Gap and Sand Pass.

And this is the story that he told:

Story Told by Aged Miner

In Portland, an old man had told him that forty years ago,

while prospecting on the Minam river, his provisions ran out. He undertook to make his way out by the way of Sand Pass to Medical Springs.

But after he went through the pass, he lost the trail leading to Medical and found himself going down toward Union instead. So he made up his mind to continue in that direction.

In crossing a little stream it was that he came upon a small cabin and signs of activities not over two or three years old. Upon further investigations he discovered diggings close by. They were on a bench from the creek. Much work had been done. Sluice boxes were well in place, and a pile of good shacks were neatly piled close to the cabin. Also a number of logs here and there had been cut and peeled ready to use to build a house.

Found Gold Signs

He undertook to wash some of the dirt, in the diggings and found at one place where they had cleaned up some of the gold that was left. He gathered enough gold, and coarse gold, that on his return to Portland he had it made into a ring which he showed as evidence.

He always wanted to come back to the place, but never could realize enough for a grubstake for the expedition.

And Mr. Perkins states that the man told him upon leaving that place, that he followed the river, always on the south side of Catherine creek, landing in Union.

To Look for Place

Mr. Perkins declares that he will some day, as soon as he can spare the time and money, come up and look for this most alluring place.

Again the story sounded false. Mr. Perkins unquestionably heard the story, but what source it came from is not altogether very clear.

But here comes another story, which seems to connect the whole together, thereby forming a more plausible account of this placer mine. And when things can be connected in a complete circuit, as a general rule there is something to it.

Another Link

Bert Taylor, picker for the Forest Service this summer had this to say:

A few years ago, he says, the acquaintance of a man by the name of Lockwood in Portland. This man, who was extremely old, told him that in 1882, with two other fellows, he followed an old river bed from Cornucopia around and into the Minam river. They were prospecting along this ancient bed.

At the head of a little stream they found a good quantity of coarse gold. There they set to work.

Profit Was \$10,000

They built a small cabin. They worked for two months, taking out \$10,000 worth of gold.

They had sluice boxes and a fairly good outfit, as it were. But their grub was running short so they decided to go down after some more. Two of them started for Walla Walla. Lockwood stayed there and made 5,000 shacks and cut and peeled some logs while he waited for his partners to return. It was intended that they should build a new and larger cabin for the winter.

Liquor Victorious

The two men never returned. They drank some of the money and went east with the rest.

Lockwood was starved out of the place.

He finally reached Walla Walla and there learned of the departure of his two partners. Lockwood was a drinking man. And he told that he never could gather enough money since to make the trip. He had never told of this place to anyone until this particular time. He had money enough to go and had induced Mr. Taylor to come with him, but Mr. Lockwood again got drunk and lost his money at gambling.

Taylor Dubious

Mr. Taylor, not placing great stock in the story and being short of funds himself, relegated the tale to a back part of his memory.

Then two years ago Mr. Taylor, when in Walla Walla, ran across Lockwood. He found him in a deplorable condition, very old and a very sick man.

Two hours before Lockwood died he gave him a map of the country where this placer mine is located.

Crude Map

This map is a crude affair, but gives the true points plain enough. But there are no names to anything.

Mr. Taylor claims that he has found some signs that look a good deal like the map is showing but it is on some small tributaries of the Minam. There are no signs of cabin, shacks or peeled logs and sluice boxes. And further, the stream that Mr. Taylor believes to contain gold in great quantity, runs northeast to southwest, while the map shows the stream to run southeast to northwest.

Now then, this almost verifies that there is gold placer somewhere at the head of these streams. All of these streams, the South Forks, Buck creek, the Middle Forks, Squaw creek and Jim creek all run south and east to north and west.

And the indications of these connected stories point, more or

Young Ideas



Mrs. T. L. Kimball, at 83, has young ideas. At the Virginia Hotel, in Long Beach, Calif., she ruled as queen over the annual costume ball. Her home is in Omaha, Neb.

orably to the South Forks. Stories Jibe.

In 1882-42 years ago. That is a long time and the workings of a placer mine can be easily obliterated in that time.

Everything had a chance to rot away, especially the sluice boxes. Then the continuous change of the creek itself could have easily carried most of the stuff away and buried the rest.

Then the heavy growth of underbrush that has taken place the last twenty-five years could easily have surrounded the whole affair on that "second bench," and only a chance that would lead anyone on the abandoned place. It would be a hard place probably to find even if one was looking for it.

Answers Question

In my other article on quartz mining around this part of the country one reader asked the question:

"If there is good prospects there, why not the writer go and hunt for it?"

I have been a miner but never a prospector.

While I have both the practical and technical education on the mining done in Montana, Idaho and Oregon, I am not spirited with that searching for the mines.

But I am, nevertheless, positive that some lucky person will some day strike it here around these rocks and when they strike it, it will be a rich strike.

LANE FAIR MAKES MONEY

EUGENE, Ore.—The Lane county fair, held last week, came out ahead financially, according to W. A. Ayres, secretary. He said yesterday that he had not made up his final report, but he estimated there would be a profit of \$1000 or more above all expenses.

Lane county gives \$2000 and the state \$2150 to the fair each year to help meet expenses. The attendance was good every day except the last, when the weather was cold and a light shower fell. Mr. Ayres said that had this day been pleasant the receipts probably would have been \$1000 greater.

LINEN MILL IS PROPOSED

SALEM, Ore.—A series of meetings in Marion and Polk counties to consider the establishment of a linen mill was suggested in letters received by the Salem chamber of commerce.

The letters were sent out by the Portland Chamber of Commerce and stressed the necessity of early action.

It was set out in the letter that the Willamette valley had a satisfactory climate for the growing of flax, but that a linen mill was needed to work up the raw materials.

The meetings probably will be held next month, it was said.

A SNAP

One of the best 16-acre tracts of land in Fruitdale. Must be sold to settle the estate of the late Frank Coykendall, deceased.

Come in and get full particulars from

La Grande Investment

Company

BONDED REALTORS

Reliable Agents for Reliable Insurance Companies.

1201 Adams Ave. Main 768

YOU MAY WIN:

The Better Home Lighting Contest, will open in La Grande October 15th and will close November 15th.

Every school boy and school girl in La Grande, ten years or older is entitled to enter the contest--

and try for the prizes totaling over \$18,000.

Be ready to register in this national event and get your Home Lighting Primer. This little book will give you full details of the contest.

Besides the international prizes there will be a

Medal awarded to the winner in La Grande

and electrical prizes.

In addition to the lessons in the Primer, lessons in home lighting will be printed in this paper during the contest.

Watch For Further Announcements

LA GRANDE HOME LIGHTING CONTEST COMMITTEE

BAKER PASTOR RESIGNS

BAKER, Ore.—Rev. E. Temple Starkey, who has been pastor of the Calvary Baptist church here since June, 1918, has sent in his resignation to accept a call to the First Baptist church of Oregon City. He will go to his new field of labor about November 1.

During Mr. Starkey's pastorate here the church has doubled in membership and the Sunday school has tripled. He came here from a pastorate in Kansas City. It is understood that the church in Oregon City, of which Mr. Starkey will become pastor, has under contemplation the construction of a \$100,000 edifice which he will carry through to completion.

Bond Infraction Case Heard

CLATSOP, Ore.—Judge Percy H. Kelly of Albany heard the argument of attorneys on the defendant of the city of Eugene to the complaint of W. T. Campbell, who seeks to enjoin the city from issuing \$500,000 bonds for a municipal auditorium on the campus of the University of Oregon. The judge took the case under advisement.

Hungarian Pheasants Protected

PENDELTON, Ore.—Warning to hunters in Umatilla county not

to shoot Hungarian pheasants this year was made here by W. H. Allen, deputy game warden. For two years the season has been open on the birds by virtue of a ruling by the game commission, but the rule has been nullified by decision of the attorney-general that the Chinese pheasants will be open for the season this year, October 5-12, in the birds by virtue of a ruling by when legislative enactment covers elusive.

DODGE BROTHERS SPECIAL TOURING CAR

Exceptional beauty now characterizes the car that has earned so enviable a reputation for modest upkeep and long life.

There are no extras to buy. The Special Touring Car is completely and smartly equipped.

Five Balloon-Type Tires

The price is \$1055 f. o. b. Detroit; \$1250 delivered.

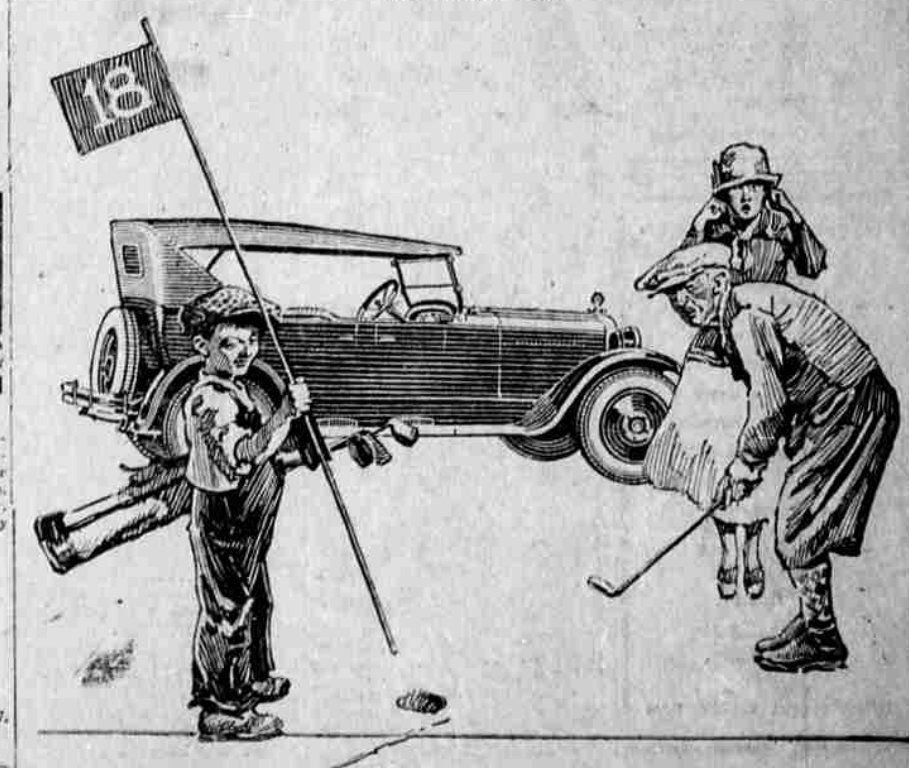
L. C. SMITH
La Grande, Oregon



CLAUDE C. PRATT

We have an acre of good Netted Gem Potatoes. We will deliver to your door for \$2.00 per cwt. They are splendid potatoes, fresh from the patch each day. Shingles \$2.10 and \$3.65. They are going fast.

The Claude C. Pratt Lumber Co.
"The Poor Man's Friend"
Opp. Foundry. PHONE 245-W.
No Sunday Business



The Wise Man Does Not Wait

Until he is forced to lose time because of illness. He insures his working capacity and happiness by ASSURING his health through regular physical examinations.

Such examinations are of value only when scientific and when made where all modern diagnostic facilities are complete.

The Hot Lake Sanatorium

Dr. W. T. Phy.

Owner and Director.

Easy to Tune the HEACOCK Radiophone

It is the easiest radio to tune on the market to day. A slight turn of the dial and the result is startling. Perhaps the second sketch in this advertisement might seem overdrawn but operators of one of our radio sets have heard stations as far away as Havana, Cuba.



The Heacock Radiophone is as near perfection as they can be made at the present time. O. M. Heacock, who has over 15 years experimental experience, personally supervises their construction and many features that make it so perfect, are his own design. You must hear one to appreciate its value. Call us for a demonstration today.

We also handle other standard makes of radio.

Prices range from \$30 to \$300.

Heacock's Radio Service

Enterprise, Oregon.