

Mining Possibility Reported Great In Curry County, Or.e

County Started Out With Mining As Big Industry of Area

Curry county history begins with mining. For a half century it held a prime hand in county interests and will eventually be thought forward as one of the county's first interests.

Earliest semblance of government is recorded in the agreements wrought by miners in their violation of the laws of their mining districts, under the provisions of territorial legislatures. These local bodies were formed by men who, for the most part, left the California diggings to be diverted from them on their way overland. Some of them, more than suspected, came to the region to escape a probable infusion of lead or an application of hemp in the neighborhood of their Adam's apple.

It was the prospect of gold that guided them here and the words are eloquent in statements of their ambitions, successes, or failures. Secondary, agriculture followed them. Jim Hunt took up claim on which the north end of Rogue River bridge, at Gold Beach, now sits, put himself in a large garden, and got his poke of dust from ready sales to the miners.

Old Man Grizzley (and no other name for him is mentioned and whom the mountain is named) wrapped meat for gold and did handsomely. Chinese flocked in, leaving as monuments to their sports pits frequently met with the low, back beach benches even around Chetco-Winchuck area. And gold has been the metal most sought, not without occasional handsome returns, even up our own times. In heavy storm times of January, 1935, four young men, working both tides, in a

week, too seven pounds (San Francisco mint record) from a nearby beach, but the seas sluiced back the tailings before they could be re-worked for their other precious metals: platinum, iridium, etc., all intermingled with the gold in the beach's black sands.

Pockets of gold have been taken out, to the tune of five figures per pocket, and there are reported to be several shots of well-paying yellow metal in the hard rock of the area. It is a certainty that much of the gold that has been found must have eroded from the fissures formed after our old volcanic upheavals. Back of Red Mountain there's an old volcanic blow-hole—Vulcan Lake—14-mile hike over a splendid trail from the end of the upper Chetco road.

Even if we cut in half the stories we hear of the wealth in gold that lies untouched in the back country, make due allowances for the probity of the tale-teller, there's still an attractive take in gold to be had. An old and experienced miner of excellent reliability is authority for his statement that many a summer he put in in the local hills with a hired pack string and always came out with a bit over his expenses with the gold he had taken. Stock in the operating gold mines of the Baby foot country, on our eastern border, isn't for sale.

Silver has been taken out of our hills in paying quantities. Here and there small deposits of cinabar have had paying dribblings of mercury squeezed out of them. Back of Winton mountain may be traced several miles of brush overgrown pack trails over which came many tons of rich chrome ore and there are a respectable string of claims filed on large and small kidneys of this rare metal up and down the backbone of Large quantities were trucked out large quantities were trucked out of the back country to rail, at Grants Pass, during the last war.

The positive transfer of heavy industries out of the far eastern

states toward the west and the economic urges that have brought these migrations about is not only a stimulus for the extension of mining and smelter operations already established on the Pacific slopes but is really forcing eastern operators and capital into recognition of the area's rapid rise through healthy stages to a plane where it must be accorded its proper place in national affairs. This trend has already forced its way into prominence and still has not been even casually explored. Another prod worrying eastern heavy industries is the unlooked-for rapid depletion of the famed Mesabi iron deposit, due to war demands and the subsequent interest in the deposits of extreme northern Canada where, even though the reported source seems almost inexhaustible, it is a very long and expensive transportation interval to the furnaces of the Pacific slope.

In previous articles, we mentioned a scenic drive eastward from the Pistol river store toward Pyramid Rock. After "topping out" just beyond the Harley Gardner ranch, this road passes thru a couple of miles of reddish dust in very minute particles where the route crosses an unexplored, enormous deposit of ore containing, principally, iron although scanty assays have shown traces to paying quantities of other elements of high commercial value. This lode extends in an easterly direction for several miles. The whole area is known as Red Flat and, with the increased demand for pig iron, the handy deposits of chrome, and tremendous hydro-electric facilities in the neighborhood, possibly this enormous deposit will play an interesting factor in the migration of post-war industry.

A little over a mile west of Brookings, in the neighborhood of Lone Ranch, the Pacific Borax Co. has considerable holdings, on which they have been paying taxes for many years and upon which much exploration work has been done, some years ago. This big outfit isn't hanging onto this property without some tangible reason and some day, they probably figure, whatever they have underground there should pay off well enough to justify the project to the stockholders.

Here and there are out-croppings of pretty good lignite (a low-grade of coal) and there's Josephinite, in peculiar triangular crystals, rich in nickel and low in iron; there's sulphurous springs—long known even to the Aborigines for their curative waters; interesting assays of tantalum have been turned up.

In fact, there are probably sufficient pay metal deposits within the area to justify prediction that other components will bring themselves into the picture so that they can play their very important part in producing a handsome revenue.

But, as in other phases of the economic development of the area, transportation plays a controlling part however, considering the millions now being expended in northern Canadian iron ore to the depleted eastern market sufficient capital will be freely used when further exploration proves, as it probably will, the actual need of rapidly growing western industries for the wealth of materials hidden in our hills.

Harbor Womens Club Met Last Friday

The April meeting of the Harbor Womens club was held Friday afternoon at the Grange hall, with Jessie Judkins, president, in charge. Mrs. Eleanor Koehler and Mrs. Lillian Matthews joined the club during the meeting.

It was decided to put the afghan blocks together with a volunteer committee, under Mabel McVay

to do the work at her home on Tuesday, May 7.

Following the business meeting an interesting and hilarious recreation hour was spent under leadership of Hazel Hendry and Ethel Olsen. Paper plates and appropriate floral trimmings were given to those present and unusual and wonderful creations were later modelled with Mrs. Koehler receiving the prize for the best hat and Tora Gustafson receiving a special prize for her inspired creation.

Refreshments were served by the hostesses for the afternoon: Regina Haggerty, Jessie Judkins and Estella Guerrettaz.

Mrs. Harry Payne Honored By Shower

Mrs. Walter Essley, Mrs. John Wilber and Mrs. William Hempel were hostesses for a stork shower in honor of Mrs. Harry

Payne, at the home of Mrs. Wilber, Tuesday afternoon. The time passed quickly with conversation, with Mrs. Payne receiving many gifts. Refreshments of upside-cake, with whipped cream, sandwiches and coffee were served by the hostesses.

Besides Mrs. Payne and the three hostesses, present were: Mrs. John Miranda, Mrs. Nick Baumgartner, Mrs. Luis Stoller, Mrs. Everett Reekman, Mrs. Fred Gardner and Mrs. Gerald Myers.

Local News Items

Mrs. Van Hevelenger Copeland, of the VanHevelenger Rose Gardens of Portland called on Mrs. May Stafford early this week. Mrs. Copeland reports that she has 30 acres of Croft lilies planted at the VanHevelenger Rose Gardens.

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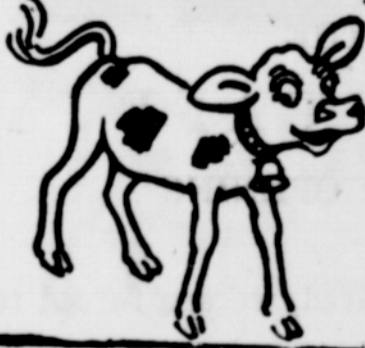
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