

Fabulous Riches in 'Lost' Oregon Mines

Gold Sparks Search for Other Wealth

(Editor's note—Following is the second of three stories regarding the 100th anniversary of the famous Sutter's Mill gold strike of the 1840s.)

By Marguerite Wright
Staff Writer, The Statesman

No one knows how much gold was taken out of Oregon in the big booming era between the '50s and 1900s. It has been estimated that Jackson county alone yielded an average of one million dollars in gold every month during the heyday of prospecting and mining.

But while the total monetary value of the state's gold is unmeasured, the over-all contribution the gold rush made to the development of the state is even more in the realm of conjecture.

Gold brought the great immigration trains from the east, Europeans around the Horn and thousands of Chinese and Kanakas first imported by General Sutter. The "Celestials," shuffling along behind the prospectors, scraping around the old diggings, were very unpopular with miners because they spent little money and sent their gold back to the orient. Later they bought the essential as cheap railroad construction labor and a vital place in the building of the west.

Search Prompted

Gold also prompted settlers to search through the primeval mountains—men first lured by the promise of precious metal were later rewarded by the benefits of precious timber when they discovered the vast stands of fir fairly bursting their seamed bark.

Late in the '50s gold was being brought down from the Santiam regions in the Cascades and rich finds on Gold creek, a tributary of the North Santiam, resulted in the plating and quick growth of Quartzville. Several companies went into the field, one of the first being the Salem Aurora company which bought a stamp mill and went broke when deposits petered out before the mill was put into operation. About 150 claims were recorded in Marion county and some of the diggings netted thousands of dollars.

And gold is responsible for Oregon's own heritage of priceless legendry—the dramatic gaudy technicolor-movie stories, full of drama and pathos, of fortunes won and lost and fabulous Eldorados found and misplaced.

Mine Probably Exists

The legendary Blue Bucket mine, already mentioned, probably does exist but all efforts to locate the hidden treasure have failed. Old Dan Herren, who said he'd found it first, died in Washington county in 1908. One story has it that a member of the Chambers immigrant train which settled in Benton county also found Blue Bucket gold. At any rate, there it is, somewhere in the alkali wilderness of Malheur county, tantalizing as the Lorelei.

In 1860 the Gold Hill lode was discovered in surface ledges of quartz. By 1911 there were still 52 mines in operation in that area but no one has found the rest of the vein of almost solid gold which suddenly disappeared into the mountain.

Big Strikes Netted

Ed Schieffelin of Woodville (now Rogue River) went prospecting for silver in Arizona despite warnings that he'd only find his tombstone in the scrubby mesquite. But he discovered the Lucky Cuss, Tough Nut and other silver mines, founded the city of Tombstone, Ariz., and came back to Oregon a millionaire with a hankering for raw gold. He was prospecting alone in the Canyon creek country when he died drinking whiskey on an empty stomach while grinding ore with his mortar and pestle. His last words in a diary were "Struck her rich again, by God," and the ore he was grinding assayed \$2,000 to the ton. His mine was never located.

Another legendary strike is the Lost Cabin mine or Old Frenchy mine, said to be located between Bohemia and Diamond lake somewhere near the north fork of the Umpqua. The mine was worked by two Frenchmen who took out \$50,000 in one year and when there was not enough money in Eugene to buy the gold, they deposited it in San Francisco. These men reportedly kidnapped a squaw from the Klamath Indians, mistreated her, and were killed by Indians. No one ever found their mine or their cabins.

(Concluded Tomorrow)



Much of the gold mining in Oregon was on a small scale. Prospectors washed and panned gold alone on their claims in secluded canyons. Sometimes settlers accidentally struck it rich in their own backyards, resulting in the kind of mining operation shown here on a town lot in Jacksonville (Picture from the WPA writers' project, Oregon state archives.)

Valley News Briefs

Stayton — Annual Valentine dance by the Stayton Knights of Columbus will be held Friday, February 6.

Turner — Mrs. Ilma Thumb, Cottage Grove, associate grand matron, will make her official visit to Victoria chapter Eastern Star, Wednesday, January 28. Covered dish dinner will be served at 6:30 p. m.

Union Hill — Mrs. C. E. Heater has returned after six weeks with her sister who is ill in California.

Turner — Thelma Killinger, daughter of the Don Killingers, fell while playing at school and fractured her arm.

Scotts Mills — Lawrence Hilton, seriously injured in a logging accident a week ago, is showing some improvement and is at Portland Emanuel hospital.

Silverton — Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Larson and Mrs. Bertha Morley, left Saturday for a month's visit in California. Mrs. Larson will visit her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Larson in Oakland, and Mrs. Morley will visit her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John Mosher, also in Oakland.

Scio — Scio Fruit and Berry Growers association will meet Tuesday to discuss the pooling of the 1948 crop. Pooling of the association members has not been practiced since 1942 and that year a total of 158 tons were pooled. Directors elected at the recent annual meeting are Roy Goar, Delbert Bynum and Roy Bates. Goar was later elected president and J. S. Ruby secretary.

Silverton — Mrs. Mayo Robinson will entertain Thursday for the afternoon sewing club members of the American Legion auxiliary. Mrs. A. J. McCannel, unit president, reports two sewing club meetings each month will be held in the afternoon on Thursday succeeding the regular bi-monthly Monday auxiliary meetings. Those who are employed and unable to attend the afternoon meetings may

later form a small group for evening meetings.

Brush Creek — Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Reed and her mother, Mrs. Marie Bunnell of Seattle, were week-end guests of the latter's brother and sisters, Alfred and Alice Jensen and Mrs. Martha Isaacson.

Bethany — Harry Benton is at Portland Veterans hospital for treatment for a stiff leg, result of an accident more than a year ago.

Scotts Mills — John Jacobson, local sawmill, purchased the residence property of Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Fountain and will add it to his mill extension.

Silverton — The Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Bates returned Friday from a two-day conference of the Oregon Christian churches held in Eugene. Bates is pastor of the local First Christian.

Sublimity — Donald Toepfer has gone to Washington, D. C. where he will enter George Washington university and specialize in art.

Mt. Angel — At the annual election of St. Anne's Altar society, Mrs. Joseph Faulhaber, was elected president, replacing Mrs. L. A. LeDoux, who served the last two years. Mrs. Kate Plennett, vice president; Mrs. Henry Zollner, secretary; Mrs. Frank Meissner, treasurer.

Independence — Mrs. Adolph Reba left Sunday for Highmore, South Dakota, where she will care for her daughter, Mrs. Leslie Lusk, just released from the hospital.

Silverton — Walter Sheirman, Silverton foundry owner, is at the hospital following a major operation. He is reported as improving.

Gervais — First annual meeting of the members of Gervais Cooperative Telephone association will be held Friday, January 30, 8 p. m. in the high school auditorium for the purpose of amending the by-laws and transaction of other business.

Dallas — C. A. Syas, owner of the Dallas Maid Sausage business, has sold the business, including equipment, labor and rights, to Perkel Food Products of Portland, a concern that makes pickles and relishes for the restaurant trade.

Silverton Hills — Rural mail boxes in this area are to be painted and lettered as a project sponsored by the Silverton Hills grange. Actual work will be by the Silverton Future Farmers chapter under the direction of Leonard Hudson. The committee in charge of getting the work done is composed of Oscar Lee and Mrs. E. A. Beugli.

Marquam — Robert Seaman, local hopgrower, is improved following a severe attack of pneumonia.

Stayton — The Stayton Garden club is again sponsoring a petunia planting contest, the eighth successive year the petunia, the Stayton flower, has been planted here as a beautification project.

Turner — Wallace Riches has been at home with the mumps. Wallace, Jr., a freshman at Oregon State, recently recovered from them.

Mrs. W. R. Hogsed has been ill at her home with influenza.

Klampe Holiday in Los Angeles

LABISH CENTER — Mr. and Mrs. Orville Klampe left Tuesday morning for a vacation in Los Angeles. Mr. and Mrs. Jean Parkins are living at the Klampe home and caring for their family. They plan to be away about three weeks.

The Kum - Join — U.S. class met Tuesday at the Clyde Leedy home. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harris and Mr. and Mrs. Pete Russ were in charge of arrangements. Elected as officers for the coming year were Frank Weinman, president; Art Rasmussen, vice president; and Vera Pugh, secretary. The February meeting will be at Harvey Akers' with Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Boehm and Connie Weinman on the committee.

Mrs. Steve Rentz is in the Woodburn hospital receiving treatment following a stroke at her home in Drain. She is a sister of the Harrises, Mrs. G. C. Zenger and Mrs. Glen Wadley.

Valley Obituaries

Rollie Lanson Shaw — LEBANON, Jan. 26 — Rollie Lanson Shaw, 4½ year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Rollie Shaw of Lacombe died Sunday at the Lebanon General hospital. The little boy was born Aug. 14, 1943. Graveside services will be held at 2 p. m. Tuesday at the Providence cemetery with the Rev. E. F. McClain, of the Lacombe Baptist church officiating. Survivors are parents; sisters Virginia, Rowdeana, Mae, and one brother, Alanson, all of Lacombe.

Jake Bilyeu — ALBANY — Jake Bilyeu, 81, son of the late William and Catherine Turner Bilyeu, Oregon pioneers, died in an Albany Nursing home where he had spent the past five years. Funeral services were held Saturday, Jan. 24, with the Rev. Orville Mick conducting the services, burial in Franklin Butte cemetery.

Born at Scio June 16, 1866, Jake Bilyeu had spent his entire life in the Scio community until coming here in 1943 five years ago. He never married. Survivors are a brother, Ott of Scio, and two sisters, Mrs. Sarah Conn and Mrs. Lizzie Hockspier both of Albany.

Zulah Blackwell — JEFFERSON — Zulah "Bud" Blackwell, 67, died January 22 at Seaside hospital, Crescent City, Calif., where he had lived for several years. Born in November 1880 at Boise, Idaho, he lived as

a young man in Jefferson. He had been a commercial fisherman in Del Norte county where he had lived for a number of years. He had also been connected with a lumber concern.

Survivors are two brothers, J. L. Blackwell, Jefferson; Lester Blackwell, Alameda, Calif., two sisters, Mrs. Florence Reeves, Salem; Mrs. Alice Thompson, Oakland, Calif.

Funeral services were held in Crescent City, Calif., and burial will be in Jefferson at some time in the immediate future.

Little Garden Club Hears of Maryhill

SALEM HEIGHTS — The Little Garden club of Salem Heights met Thursday with Mrs. Paul Griebel for dessert luncheon.

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Mrs. Carl Harris was assistant hostess.
Mrs. W. B. Johnston gave highlights of the Maryhill museum, and Mrs. J. M. Douglas spoke on "Native Flowers and Shrubs of Kansas." Mrs. Griebel read a paper on "Soil and Fertilization of Acidulous Shrubs."
Next meeting will be February 12 with Mrs. W. B. Johnston.

Valley Calendar

TUESDAY
Thomas extension unit, Hazel Lorenzen's, 10:30 a.m.
Edna Lane extension unit, 9 a.m.
4-H leaders conference, MU building, Corvallis.
WEDNESDAY
Salem grange, basement Woman's club house, 6:30 p.m. covered dish dinner.
Silverton Hills extension unit, community hall, 10:30 a.m.
Labish Center extension unit, Mrs. Willard Akers, 2 p.m.
4-H leaders conference, Corvallis.

THURSDAY
Polk County School Masters, 6:30 dinner, Todd hall, OCE, Monmouth.
FRIDAY
Polk cotton workshop, preliminary meeting, Rickell grange hall, 10:30 a.m.
SATURDAY
4-H training meeting, Mt. Angel, 10 a.m.



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