Bohemian Gold Once Lured Pioneers to Wealth and Death

Knights of the Round Table learned Tuesday evening that there is something about gold mines", perhaps an atmosphere of fatality as one of the oldest members, Sir Algernon C. Dixon, took them back to "the good old days of Bohemia."

Of 10 men who were once associated with Sir Algernon in a mining venture in the Bohemia district near Cottage Grove, eight met sudden death. Hearts could not stand the excitement (or worry); cars leaped mountain grades; one jumped off a bridge.

Relates Tales

Knight Dixon wove an interesting account of the Bohemia mining boom around the misadventures of his various associates under the title of "The Long Arm of Coincidence," for he maintained in the teeth of sociologists, psychologists and economists that it was merely coincidence and not fate.

How did one get into the mining business in the good old days (1910 onward)?

Well, there was always the temptation of a bargain. In the case of Knight Dixon he knew a machinery man who knew a mining man who had carried a shaft in the Bohemia to the point where he was low in funds and. . . . So they put in $5000.

"Some few days after that, we went to the property by auto and horseback, where the assayer cleaned up two $800 bricks and we came out on horseback late at night, each with a brick in his hip pocket and the need for an extra pair of suspenders.

"Eight hundred dollars nowadays does not weigh so much. We were feeling quite happy until the foreman sent down the payrolls and bills. . . ."

So, on and on! Unpaid judgments popped up—incurred by previous owners. It did not take long for Dixon and partner to decide that they would sell the mine or trade it for any valuable consideration, if buyers or traders could be found, and that is where the long series of adventures got under way.

Sales and trades would be negotiated; some key person would die suddenly. The mine in those days was an attractive property; it had its own hydro plant for power, an electric railway, several miles of tunnel, all the other necessary equipment. And, it produced gold—but only about enough to pay expenses.

There was $3000 a year minimum expense for assessment work to hold the claims, the struggle to hold off claim jumpers and high-graders.

"Regardless of how much bedding, how many cooking utensils and tools we took up each year and left over each winter, everything was cleaned out by spring. One day Knight Dixon's partner came down from Portland, pumped his hand and declared:

"We will never spend another blankety blank cent on that mine."

And Dixon relates:

"A soon as I had the import of what he said, I suggested that we shake hands again."

But they did, because it takes much time and many picturesque characters to deal in mines, and Dixon described at some length the personality and performances of a certain dapper promoter who in those days frequented Eugene—always on the point of culminating enormous deals, but in this case he actually made a deal, with a man whose name was actually Sapp, and the partners got their money out of the ground, at last, and stuck by their oath.

There were not many questions or arguments during the discussion period but the paper brought forth a number of statements and "confessions" from older Knights, for it would seem that in "the good old days" no businessman in Eugene could claim to have "seen the elephant" without participating in at least one mining venture.

No process has yet been devised for the profitable handling of the low grade ores of the Bohemia and other mining areas in Lane County. Much gold has been taken out but mostly by high-grading (that is, from scattered pockets).

According to Knight Dixon the money invested in Bohemia would probably just about balance the money taken out.; a few have done fairly well; others have lost. He did not touch on the decline of gold as a medium of exchange and the economists declined to be drawn into battle on this point.

There is gold in "them thar hills," but modern industry has turned to other metals and minerals. Bohemia has its ghost camps; it is still picturesque; it is famous for its rhodendrons, its huckleberries, its views. It is historic.

SINGER—Joan Stern, who studies opera singing in New York, vacations on a beach at Boca Raton, Fla.

Weapons Taken From Japanese

TOKYO—(U.P.)—Security officers at Sugamo prison posted an anti-suicide vigil Thursday after a search of cells disclosed dozens of potential suicide weapons hidden on major war crimes suspects, including ex-Premier Hideki Tojo.

The all-out vigil was touched off by the attempted suicide early Wednesday of Yutaka Sagae, on trial before the Eighth Army military tribunal charged with atrocities against American prisoners of war. Sagae slashed an artery with a pen point but prison physicians patched him up.

Cyanide—the instantaneous poison which Hermann Goering used to cheat the gallows at Nuernberg—was found on at least two suspects. One had hidden the poison in the toe of a shoe while the other concealed a vial in the seam of his coat.

Prison Commander Col. Francis W. Carey of St. Louis, Mo., said the potential means of self-destruction taken from his 1073 charges in the prison included needles, broken buttons, bits of glass, scissors, spools of strong thread, wires, ropes, nails, pen points and jagged pieces of pottery.

Guards found a "haramaki"—a long Japanese sash— on Tojo's person. They said the former war leader "could have hanged himself" with the sash.

Security officials found themselves in a tense situation comparable to that of guards of the Nazi war criminals in Nuernberg jail. They were determined to prevent any war criminal from killing himself.

The gauge of a stocking refers to the number of needles used to knit an inch and a half; the denier of the stocking refers to the thickness of each thread.

Radio Logging In Envisaged

PORTLAND — (AP) — The Paul Bunyons of the big woods want to use more radio communication to help yank the logs out to the mill in jig time.

The Pacific Logging Congress closed its annual convention Wednesday with a resolution asking the Federal Communications Commission to grant permanent suitable wave bands for use of the lumber industry.

Other proposals urged more forestry training in schools, a state-federal campaign on forest diseases and insects and opening of all timber tracts possible under sustained-yield programs.

Greater attention to labor relations and wage ratios and safety programs were urged by speakers earlier in the closing meeting.

Enough milk is produced annually in America to fill a river 3000 miles long, 40 feet wide, and three feet deep.

Chief Justice to Speak To Political Science Club

Chief Justice George Rossman of the Oregon State Supreme Court will meet with the University of Oregon Political Science Club at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the alumni room of Gerlinger Hall.

He will discuss the early development of administrative agencies in America, including a review of the present trends and the role of the courts in connection with the agencies and departments.

The meeting is open to the public.

NO HOME WEEK

ST. PAUL, Minn. —(U.P.)— The University of Minnesota farm school's most popular short course is its annual Farm and Home Week, which annually attracts nearly 4000 persons. The 45th annual meeting, to be held next Nov. 3-6, was postponed from mid-January because of the critical housing shortage in the Twin Cities.

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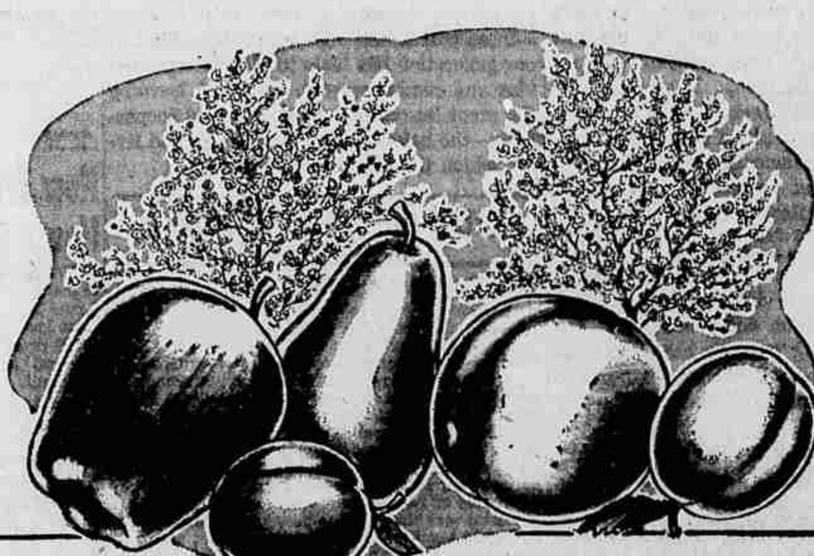

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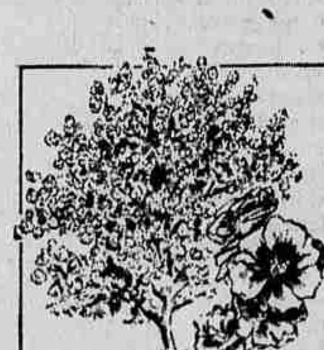

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