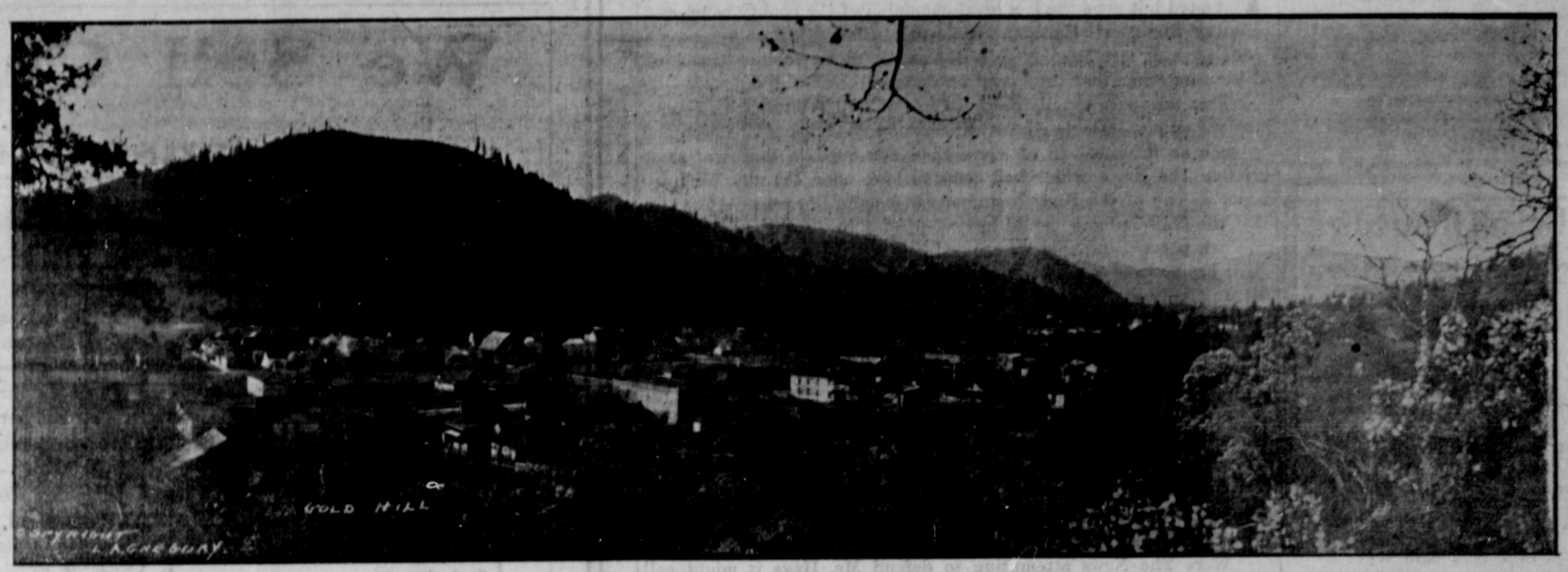
Gold Hill — Rich Mining and Orchard District

(By D. H. MILLER.)

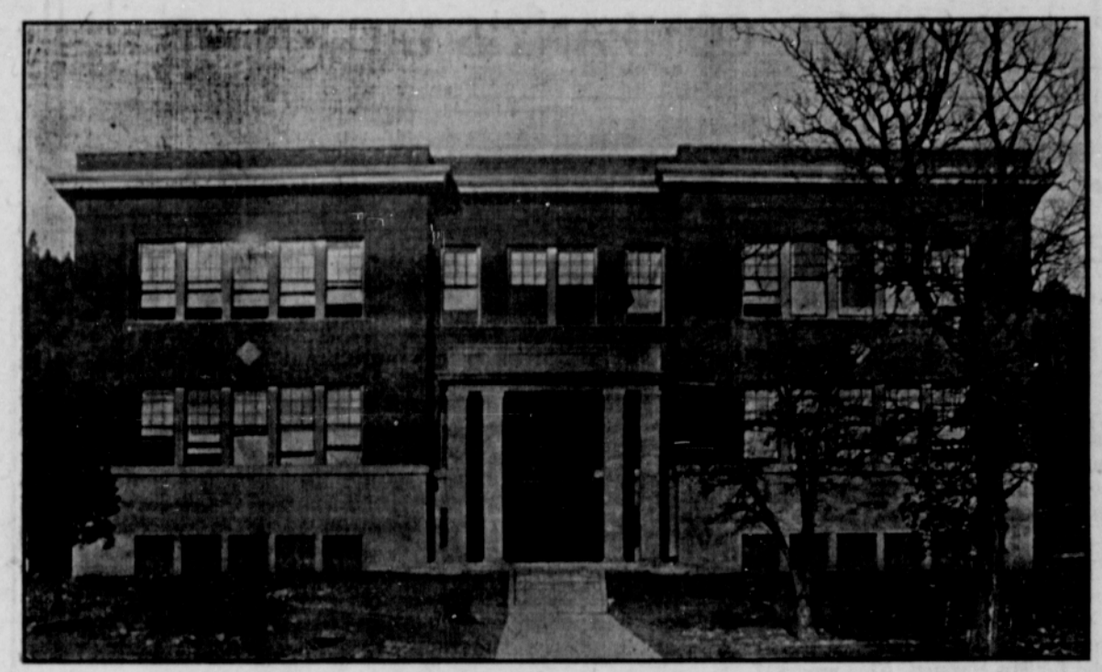
My eyes first beheld Gold Hill, or the present site thereof, September 21st, 1876, and the only thing then that marked its identity was the quartz mill that pounded out the rich gold from the quartz rock that came from the old Gold Hill mountain. This quartz mill stood then where now the famous Godlove orchard is. There was little else but a forest of timber and brush to be seen. But the hidden treasures of nature were abounding here then undeveloped, except in the case of the gold that came from the old Gold Hill mountain. I was much pleased then as I looked upon Gold Hill in the wilderness, and I have become more and more infatuated with it as the years have gone by.

Nature planted certain facilities and opportunities within a radius of fifteen miles surrounding Gold Hill possessed by no other section of southern Oregon. Within this fifteen miles circuit there is one of the greatest mineral belts west tof the Missouri river. This mineral belt consists of deposits of gold, silver and other metals, with iron, lime, cement stone and granite for building purposes and artistic work, and clay for brick and sewer and terra cotta pipe that cannot be excelled.

Very promising prospects for coal have been discovered north of Gold Hill and within the fifteen mile circuit. There is no doubt that a great body of coal will be developed. As a matter of fact, in digging a well on the Shipley farm, some five or six miles north of Gold Hill, this summer, a vein of coal eighteen inches thick was struck at a depth of twenty-five feet, which on analysis proved a very good grade of coal. Within the fifteen mile circuit are thousands of acres of sugar pine, yellow pine and fir timber awaiting the saw and factory. To set the wheels and belts in motion here is one of the most beautiful, picturesque and powerful streams, the great and magnificent Rogue river, running right through the center of Gold Hill and the fifteen mile circuit. There is scarcely a limit to the power already developed and that can be developed from this great river.



Panorama of Gold Hill.



Gold Hill's New High School.

And this great stream is part of the southern Oregon sportsman's paradise. It is the greatest trod stream known today. It has within its waters the gamest fish that the man with rod and reel ever hooked—such species as the cut-throat and rainbow trout, the steelhead and the Chinook salmon. These are the fish that give the sportsman the worth of his money and time. Coming back to the city of Gold Hill: The soil that lies on the sloping foothills surrounding Gold Hill is deep and very rich and productive. It is now mostly covered with a heavy growth of timber and brush, but there can be hundreds of excellent homes made here at reasonable prices. North and northeast of Gold Hill and within the fifteen mile circuit lies the famous Sams valley, which is known for its rich productiveness in the lines of fruit and grain, alfalfa and truck gardening. By cutting up the large farms in this famous valley into tracts of from five to forty acres, and with the unoccupied and unimproved properties surrounding the city of Gold Hill, we can take care of 10,000 homeless homeseekers.

Gold Hill was not thought of as a townsite until 1883 or 1884. The Southern Pacific chose it for a depot site in 1884. It was then in the wilderness, nothing to speak of, for it had only what nature had placed here, and that never has been developed and brought out as the location and resources deserve.

The business and professional interests are represented by one bank, two general stores, one drug store, one agricultural implement house, one jewelry store, one hardware store, one furniture store, one second hand store, one hotel, one restaurant, one lunch counter, several boarding houses, one bakery, two saloons, two barber shops, two confectionery stores, one shoe repair shop, two blacksmith shops, one livery barn, one planing and finishing mill with saw mill six miles from town, one weekly paper, the Gold Hill News, two doctors, one civil engineer, one undertaker.

Gold Hill has a local telephone exchange, with rural lines radiating from the town, and connection with two long distance systems.

Since Gold Hill was established in 1884 it has grown to a population of five or six hundred. A handsome brick and cement high school building, of which a picture appears with this article, was recently completed at a cost of $20,000. The school itself, which included complete high school and business courses, is in a flourishing condition. Gold Hill has cement sidewalks, electric lights, sewers and city water. The sewer and water systems, however, are not exactly to our liking and desire, as they are both more or less imperfect. We have now under headway the eradication of both systems and the putting in of two new and up to date systems, which will be up to the standard with any of the water and sewer systems along the line from Portland to Sacramento. The city has voted bonds to the extent of $25,000 for the water system.

Nineteen hundred and twelve is going to see Gold Hill get a move on that will take the rust and dust off everything rusty and dusty, every place and everything within the city, and make it a bright and shining light to all who may come in sight of the beautiful city which is to be the result of the present campaign for improvement. Remember that Gold Hill is the natural place for factories, for Rogue river has the power that can turn every belt and wheel within the state, and remember that this beautiful river runs right through the center of Gold Hill. Watch Gold Hill grow!

COUNTY ELECTION OFFICIALS FOR 1912

Willow Springs

R. F. Dean, chairman; Oscar S. Blackford, 2d judge; Geo. Hurshberger, 3d judge; J. S. Pardee, 1st clerk; T. C. Law, 2d clerk; A. J. Braasch, 3d clerk.

Woodville

J. W. Jacobs, chairman; J. E. Robins, 2d judge; Geo. W. Wilcox, 3d judge; T. H. B. Taylor, 1st clerk; Mark Whipple, 2d clerk; Harry E. Palmer, 3d clerk.

Trail

Dave Pence, chairman; W. T. Houston, 2d judge; A. A. Hall, 3d judge; Geo. Cusick, 1st clerk; Fred Sturgis, 2d clerk; W. A. Harrell, 3d clerk.

Phoenix

A. S. Furry, chairman; J. E. Roberts, 2d judge; J. M. Rader, 3d judge; T. J. Fish, 1st clerk; Lloyd Colver, 2d clerk; W. S. Stancliff, 3d clerk.

Sams Valley

H. I. Pelton, chairman; W. W. Eddington, 2d judge; C. E. Jones, 3d judge; E. W. Cooper, 1st clerk; J. F. Rowe, 2d clerk; S. C. Collins, 3d clerk.

Talent

H. H. Goddard, chairman; J. L. Garvin, 2d judge; Jay Terrill, 3d judge; E. E. Ross, 1st clerk; Peter Vandersleus, 2d clerk; R. E. Robison, 3d clerk.

North Central Precinct

J. E. Watt, chairman; B. P. Theiss, 2d judge; W. E. Phipps, 3d judge; D. T. Lawton, 1st clerk; J. T. Summerville, 2d clerk; James Kent, 3d clerk.

South Central Precinct

A. C. Hubbard, chairman; F. Ossenbrugge, 2d judge; E. D. Elwood, 3d judge; J. H. Cochran, 1st clerk; Chas. Talent, 2d clerk; Fred Strang, 3d clerk.

North Main Precinct

J. L. Demmer, chairman; A. S. Bliton, 2d judge; J. A. Perry, 3d judge; H. M. Whetsel, 1st clerk; C. W. Davis, 2d clerk; W. C. Murphy, 3d clerk.

South Main Precinct

J. E. Stewart, chairman; Jesse Houck, 2d judge; David Muir, 3d judge; A. L. Cusick, 1st clerk; Walter Kentner, 2d clerk; W. G. Davidson, 3d clerk.

Medford-Oakdale Precinct.

A. K. Ware, chairman; Tom Moffet, 2d judge; Geo. Garrett, 3d judge; H. U. Lumsden, 1st clerk; H. H. Tuttle, 2d clerk; Howard Hill, 3d clerk.

Northeast Precinct

L. G. Porter, chairman; Will Humphrey, 2d judge; E. E. Kelly, 3d judge; Geo. R. Lindley, 1st clerk; Verne Cannon, 2d clerk; Clarence Pierce, 3d clerk.

Southeast Precinct

M. L. Lyon, chairman; Peter Barneburg, 2d judge; Tom Kahler, 3d judge; W. B. Jackson, 1st clerk; Tom Williamson, 2d clerk; T. E. Daniels, 3d clerk.

The judges and clerks of election for the ensuing two years in the following precincts have been appointed by the county court:

Antioch

W. J. Scott, chairman; George W. Stacey, 2d judge; Monroe Gordon, 3d judge; C. F. Case, 1st clerk; Theo. A. Glass, 2d clerk; T. E. Jones, 3d clerk.

Applegate

C. E. Rose, chairman; M. A. VanGorder, 2d judge; T. R. Rock, 3d judge; C. R. Hill, 1st clerk; Chester Kubli, 2d clerk; Geo. Hoffman, 3d clerk.

Central Point

J. W. Jacobs, chairman; C. S. Sanderson, second judge; T. J. O'Hara, 3d judge; W. J. Freeman, 1st clerk; Paulus Olsson, 2d clerk; Harry Lindley, 3d clerk.

Medford (Northwest Precinct)

W. H. Gore, chairman; Clem Parker, 2d judge; Ira J. Dodge, 1st clerk; E. H. Janney, 2d clerk; Bert Hooker, 3d clerk.

Eagle Point

R. G. Brown, chairman; Gus Nichols, 2d judge; J. W. Grover, 3d judge; John W. Smith, 1st clerk; Geo. F. Owings, 2d clerk; Geo. W. Stevens, 3d clerk.

Gold Hill

William A. Cook, chairman; W. H. Stickel, 2d judge; Ralph Darling, 3d judge; John Hammersley, 1st clerk; H. D. Reed, 2d clerk; L. C. Applegate, 3d clerk.

North Jacksonville

J. W. Bybee, chairman; W. C. Kitto, 2d judge; Geo. N. Lewis, 3d judge; E. E. Omen, 1st clerk; Roy Ulrich, 2d clerk; W. H. Bowen, 3d clerk.

South Jacksonville

Emil Britt, chairman; Chris Ulrich, 2d judge; W. C. Deneff, 3d judge; Lesley Stansell, 1st clerk; Joe Wetter, 2d clerk; David Cronemiller, 3d clerk.

Southwest Precinct

Polk Hull, chairman; Chas. Heimroth, 2d judge; N. D. Kime, 3d judge; W. S. Hammond, 3d clerk; J. J. Skinner, 2d clerk; James Campbell, 3d clerk.

We have a car of special extra Star-A-Star red cedar shingles, $2.50 per M. Lance & Co.

THE OLD ARMCHAIR.

I LOVE it, I love it, and who shall dare
To chide me for loving that old armchair?
I've treasured it long as a sainted prize;
I've bedewed it with tears; I've embalmed it with sighs.
'Tis bound by a thousand bands to my heart.
Not a tie will break; not a link will start.
Would you know the spell? A mother sat there,
And a sacred thing is that old armchair.

In childhood's hour I lingered near
The hallowed seat with listening ear.
And gentle words that mother would give
To fit me to die and teach me to live.
She told me that shame would never betide
With truth for my creed and God for my guide.
She taught me to lisp my earliest prayer
As I knelt beside that old armchair.

I sat and watched her many a day
When her eye grew dim and her locks were gray,
And I almost worshiped her when she smiled
And turned from her Bible to bless her child
Years rolled on, but the last one sped—
My idol was shattered; my earth star fled!
I learned how much the heart can bear
When I saw her die in her old armchair.

'Tis past, 'tis past, but I gaze on it now
With quivering breath and throbbing brow
'Twas there she nursed me, 'twas there she died,
And memory flows with lava tide.
Say it is folly and deem me weak
Whilst scalding drops start down my cheek,
But I love it, I love it, and cannot tear
My soul from a mother's old armchair.

—Eliza Cook.

CROSSING THE BAR.

SUNSET and evening star
And one clear call for me,
And may there be no moaning of the bar
When I put out to sea.

BUT such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

TWILIGHT and evening bell
And after that the dark,
And may there be no sadness of farewell
When I embark.

FOR, though from out our bourne of time and place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

—Tennyson.

The guinea pig holds the odd record of being full grown when only six weeks old.

KANES CREEK NUGGETS

(By Cynthia.)

Art Boggis, who is staying in Gold Hill, spent Thursday on Kanes creek.

Mr. Greenleaf was making another survey of the Byrley place, of which he has bought a part.

Tom Norris of Medford is doing some development work on his mine at this place, which is showing up some very good prospects.

Rev. Mack Davis will hold a meeting at the school house on Sunday, January 14 at 10 o'clock. Everybody come and hear Mr. Davis, as he is an able speaker.

Superintendent Henry paid a visit to the Dardanells school Monday.

Elmer Higinbotham and wife were Hub City business visitors on Wedday.

John Knotts spent a day recently at the county seat on business and pleasure combined.

Grandma Rhoten has returned to her home at the "Braden," after spending several weeks on upper Kanes creek with her son and family. Although being quite well advanced in years, she is still remarkably spry and walks the distance, which is over five miles.

Mr. and Mrs. McConchie of Medford, who have been spending the past week as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Householder, have returned home.

The placer miners are all jubilant over the recent heavy rains, which enables them to commence mining in earnest, as no rain had fallen this winter which would encourage the nesday.

Robert Cook of Falls creek was transacting business here on Thursplacer diggers to any great extent.

Messrs. Lewis and Byrley were Gold Hill business visitors on Thursday.

Nellie Stineburg of Gold Hill, who has been the guest of Mrs. Mardon for several days, has returned home.

Mr. Byrley and sons are doing considerable grubbing and clearing, which decidedly improves the appearance of the place.

The dance in Blackwell Saturday night was a most decided success, as reported by those in attendance.

Mrs. Taylor and daughter were Gold Hill visitors on Tuesday.

Mrs. Swinden of Galls Creek was a pleasant caller on Kanes Creek one day recently.

Rev. Davis did not hold services at the school house on Sunday as was his intention, on account of the funeral of the late Mrs. Ritter, who was buried on Sunday at Rock Point.

Mrs. Avery was visiting in Gold Hill on day recently with her friend, Mrs. Kelsey.

News items are scarce these days, as there is nothing curious or otherwise to write about.

THE HUNTER OF THE PRAIRIES.

AYE, this is freedom—these pure skies
Were never stained with village smoke.
The fragrant wind that through them flies
Is breathed from wastes by plows unbroke.
Here, with my rifle and my steed
And her who left the world for me,
I plant me where the red deer feed
In the green desert—and am free.

For here the fair savannas know
No barriers in the bloomy grass.
Wherever breeze of heaven may blow
Or beam of heaven may glance I pass.
In pastures measureless as air
The bison is my noble game.
The bounding elk, whose antlers tear
The branches, falls before my aim.

Mine are the river fowl that scream
From the long stripe of waving sedge.
The bear that marks my weapon's gleam
Hides vainly in the forest's edge.
In vain the she wolf stands at bay;
The brinded catamount, that lies
High in the boughs to watch his prey,
Even in the act of springing dies.

With what free growth the elm and plane
Fling their huge arms across my way.
Gray, old and cumbered with a train
Of vines as huge and old and gray!
Free stray the lucid streams and find
No taint in these fresh lawns and shades.
Free spring the flowers that scent the wind
Where never scythe has swept the glades.

Alone the fire when frost winds sere
The heavy herbage of the ground
Gathers his annual harvest here
With roaring like the battle's sound
And hurrying flames that sweep the plain
And smoke streams gushing up the sky.
I meet the flames with flames again,
And at my door they cower and die.

Here from dim woods the aged past
Speaks solemnly, and I behold
The boundless future in the vast
And lonely river, seaward rolled.
Who feeds its founts with rain and dew?
Who moves, I ask, its gliding mass
And trains the bordering vines whose blue
Bright clusters tempt me as I pass?

Broad are these streams—my steed obeys,
Plunges and bears me through the tide.
Wide are these woods—I thread the maze
Of giant stems, nor ask a guide.
I hunt till day's last glimmer dies
O'er woody vale and grassy height,
And kind the voice and glad the eyes
That welcome my return at night.

—William Cullen Bryant.

There was a remarkable reformation of drunkards in England during 1834. They adopted at Manchester the total abstinence pledge and were called teetotalers from the stuttering of one of their number, who stammered at the "t" (tee-tee-total) while uttering the terms "total abstinence."