

**FAME OR DESPAIR?**

**Is Latest Gold Rush a Boom Or a Bust? Answer Soon**

By JACK DAUM  
(Fairbanks News-Miner Staff Writer)

Fishwheel, Alaska, Oct. 28 (AP)—The future of Fishwheel balanced on a knife edge today. On one side is fame, fortune and riches; on the other—disillusionment and despair.

We should know in a few days whether the pea-sized nuggets of gold found by Clifton Carroll last week touched off a boom or a bust.

Prospect holes now being sunk have reached coarse sand at about six feet. Sand usually covers the gravel which lies on top of the all-important bedrock. If gold is here, it will be on the bedrock.

The holes are dug by building a fire on top of the ground for about six hours. This thaws the ground about foot down, and the prospector digs out the moist earth and starts another fire. It's a slow, tortuous process but the only possible method here where no heavy equipment is to be had.

Ed Farrell, a veteran of the Dawson gold rush, has been prospecting the streams of Alaska since 1900. He has his hole down five feet and should hit bedrock in about two days.

"Why this is nothing," said Ed as he walked away from the hole where he had just lit a new fire. "In the Dawson rush there was a line of holes two miles long with fire and smoke coming out of each one. In those days a man didn't mind a little work."

Farrell thinks the modern prospector is lazy—"expects to have the gold jump up and hit him in the face."

He also remained optimistic despite the absence of even an ounce of gold in commercial quantities.

"That doesn't indicate a thing. In the Fairbanks strike years

ago there weren't one-tenth the indications shown here so far," he explained. "We are finding color consistently and a few nuggets have been taken out—that's enough to warrant a few days' work singing a hole."

Meanwhile, dozens of newcomers are pouring in each day.

Three planes landed on Magoffin field before 8 a.m. yesterday. The field—a quarter mile stretch of river sufficiently frozen to support 450 horsepower planes—was named after Jim Magoffin, first bush pilot to land on it.

Cold water—and it's all cold hereabouts—was poured on the gold prospects by several men from Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Several would-be prospectors returned to the coastal city and expressed the belief the Fishwheel area is not good gold strike terrain.

"Amateurs and professionals are pretty well convinced," said Bill Lund, an Anchorage airline pilot, after his return from the scene, "but they're afraid to leave for fear they'll miss something."

Lund and Robert Stevenson, another pilot, said they got two nuggets from their digging.

Lund said they caused some excitement among nearby prospectors, but that they were among the few nuggets they saw at the camp.

**CRIES OF 'HOAX' HEARD**

**One of Gold Strike Nuggets Found to Be Brass**

By AL BRAMSTEDT

Fairbanks, Alaska, Oct. 28 (AP)—One of the original nuggets of the Fishwheel gold strike is brass, University of Alaska geologist Richard Ragle said today.

Acid tests and microscopic examinations also revealed that two of the other nuggets of the original find were "pocket worn" or had been carried in a "pocket" for several months, he said.

Ragle's revelation came as cries of "hoax" echoed through the territory from embittered prospectors who returned empty-handed from the strike scene.

But the hardy gold-seekers remaining at the claim site were still enthusiastic and hopeful. Some said they intended to brave the rigors of winter and possibly bring in heavy equipment to work the claims.

A test-tube of the original nuggets unearthed two weeks ago on the Yukon river 165 miles north of here was brought to the university yesterday and given to Ragle for microscopic and chemical examination.

In Washington, meanwhile, the bureau of land management said its Fairbanks district manager, Fred J. Weller, reported the value of all gold actually taken from the Fishwheel strike "probably wouldn't exceed \$50."

Veteran Alaska prospectors said the total amount of gold taken at Fishwheel could be duplicated at "any of a million points on the Yukon river."

At least six men in Anchorage were of the out-spoken opinion that the nuggets had been "salted" by persons standing to gain financially by such a rush.

Meanwhile, Anchorage Police Chief Charles Stowell reported not a single crime had been



**HANDY**  
...as a woman's bag

—that's

**PRES-TO-LOGS**

THE CONVENIENT, CLEAN, EFFICIENT FUEL



—GET 'EM FROM—

**CAPITOL LUMBER CO.**  
N. Cherry Ave.  
Phone 28862 or 24421



**Flight Deck Crash**—A British naval airman aboard the aircraft carrier H.M.S. Illustrious rushes into the flaming wreckage of a Sea Fury plane after it had crashed on the flight deck of the carrier. Two of the rescue party were commended by the Royal Navy for their bravery in saving the pilot from the flames. The crash happened last May 25, but this picture was just released by the British Admiralty. (AP Wirephoto)

**AT GOLD-SEEKING FISHWHEEL**

**Residents of Tent Village Give Cross Section of North**

Fishwheel, Alaska, Oct. 27 (AP)—Residents of this gold-seeking tent village represent a fairly accurate cross-section of Alaskan natives, old-timers, cheechakos (tenderfeet), and business men.

The old-timers are a quiet group—going about their business with the calm efficiency born of many years' experience in the north. Their entire equipment for a month's stay in the treacherous wilderness is carried in a large pack. A tent, a collapsible stove, a few pounds of dehydrated vegetables and dried meat, an axe and a gun are all these redoubtable characters require.

But the cheechakos—arrive like motion-picture stars on an ocean voyage. Huge bundles of clothing, canned food, fancy lanterns, heavy stoves and many small comfort items are piled on the river bank in hurried disorder.

They arrive by plane and the pilot, after helping them carry belongings to the river bank, attempts to impress each passenger with the dangers of the country.

When the plane leaves, the "drugstore prospectors" look bewilderedly around, finally attaching themselves to an old-timer whom they ply with questions.

"Where is unstaked ground?" "Where is a good place to pan for a few nuggets?" "How will the weather be this week?"

"Where do we go from here?" All this the old sourdough will answer with kindly patience and the cheechakos grow more bewildered and perplexed.

When they learn that the most chop stakes and gather firewood, dig a hole in frozen ground and undergo possible 60-degree-below-zero weather, a number of them catch the next plane back to Fairbanks.

Many of them stay a few days until they get tired of trying to cut a straight line through nearly impenetrable brush. Then they decide "there's probably no gold here anyhow" and return home.

**Ching Delays Trip**  
Seattle, Oct. 28 (AP)—Cyrus S. Ching, director of the U.S. mediation and conciliation service, will delay his previously scheduled trip to the northwest because of business pressure from the steel and coal strikes, Harry H. Lewis, regional director, said today.

**Deanna Durbin Seeks Divorce**

Los Angeles, Oct. 28 (AP)—Singing Star Deanna Durbin today divorced her second husband, Movie Director Felix Jackson.

She testified that Jackson simply walked out on her. However, she tossed in a few instances of mental cruelty to support her petition for an interlocutory decree. The couple was married in Las Vegas, Nev., June 13, 1945, and Miss Durbin, who was the 47-year-old Jackson's fourth wife, said they had been separated since Jan. 6, 1947.

The 26-year-old singer, who recently has grown slightly plumpish, was married once before, but divorced in 1943 from Vaughn Paul, also a film executive.

**Jersey Cow Tested Dam**

An Oregon registered Jersey cow has been rated as a tested dam by the American Jersey Cattle club. The distinction was awarded Elsa's Spotted Sweetheart for having three offspring with official production records. She is owned by Mrs. John E. Lindow, of Independence.

The cow's defendants averaged 10,515 pounds of milk and 551 pounds of butterfat on twice daily milking, mature equivalent basis. The tests were checked by Oregon State college and the American Jersey Cattle club.

The production testing work carried on by Lindow are part of a program offered by the American Jersey Cattle club, to make possible the continuous improvement of the Jersey breed. The club's national headquarters is in Columbus, Ohio.

**Students Attend Idaho Conference**

Willamette university is being represented at the northwest conference of the International Relations club in Moscow, Idaho, by four students. They are Russell Gochnour of New Cumberland, Pa., president of the Willamette group; Mary Ellen Wilcox of Albuquerque, N.M.; Leopold Pospisil, recently from Czechoslovakia.

The conference, being held on the University of Moscow campus is expected to attract 150 delegates who will be addressed by Dr. O. M. Nelson, dean of the college of arts and science at the University of Utah.

**Wage-Hour Law Unclear in Many Cases; 75 Cents Is Low**

By JAMES MARLOW

Washington, Oct. 28 (AP)—You're an employer. There's a new minimum wage-hour law. You want to know right now precisely what each item in it means and how it affects you, your business, your employees.

At this moment no one can give an answer saying what the law means in every possible case. Generally, this much is true:

Most employees, employers and businesses covered by the old law, which was passed in 1938, are covered by the new law. But the new law has removed some people from coverage and has made some other changes as well.

The outstanding change: every employee covered by the law now must be paid a minimum of 75 cents an hour. Under the old law the minimum was 40 cents.

But there were other changes, some of them stated in such clear language by congress that no one can misunderstand them. For example:

A public telephone exchange, and its operators, are exempt from the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the law if—that exchange services less than 750 stations.

A number of other businesses and their employees are also exempt, clearly, under the new law.

But the law's effect on other businesses and their employees is far less clear. It's so unclear, in fact, that it probably will take years before court decisions

hour administration experts, who interpret the law and lay down the rules, can't at this time give opinions covering every possible case.

So, if you have any doubts as to how this new law affects you, your business or your workers, do one of two things:

1. Ask the wage-hour administration for a ruling in your case.
2. Ask your lawyer.

A female eel frequently produces 10 million eggs.

**MEN'S TOPCOATS**  
**\$20<sup>00</sup> TO \$40<sup>00</sup>**  
See Our Complete Selection of All Virgin Wool Gabardine & Covert Coats  
**Thos. Kay Woolen Mill Co.**  
260 SOUTH 12TH STREET

**★ DDT BOMB ★**  
Here is the Genuine Stuff for Killing Flies, Moths, Spiders, Ants, etc.  
GUARANTEED RESULTS  
**1.49**  
● Easy to Use  
● Foolproof  
● One Bomb Will Last for Months  
● Non-Toxic to Humans  
Why be bothered with insects... a turn of the knob kills them.  
It's a sensational value... and typical of your War Surplus Store!  
**CASCADE MERCANTILE CO.**  
FAIRGROUND RD. & CHURCH ST.  
Open 'til 9 P.M.

**MODERN AUTO BODY REPAIRS**  
Don't apologize for the looks of your car—let us bring it back to its former fine state by our expert metal work and repairs. We have best facilities and long experience.  
**LODER BROS.**  
SERVICE  
465 Center St. Ph. 34119

at **HEWITT'S** for a few days only!  
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY  
*The Time Is Short*  
**Sale**  
—OF—  
Damico . . Society Brand . . Hyde Park . . Downs of Hollywood  
Famous brand suits from our regular stock substantially reduced for this great sale!  
**45<sup>00</sup> SUITS Sale Price 29<sup>00</sup>**  
**50<sup>00</sup> SUITS Sale Price 39<sup>00</sup>**  
**60<sup>00</sup> SUITS Sale Price 49<sup>00</sup>**  
Other Fine Custom Tailored Suits Proportionately Reduced!  
Here's an opportunity to save real money on fine quality men's clothing. These are bona fide values!  
**All Wool Gabardine TOPCOATS**  
A savings-smash from our regular stock — Weatherproofed all wool gabardine. Regulars-Long-Shorts.  
Reg. 39.50 **\$29**  
**\$45 to \$50 All Wool TOPCOATS Gabardine, Covert, Cravenette. Water Repellent \$39**  
**\$19.50 Beverly Corduroy SPORT COATS 12.95**  
**\$25.00 All Wool Gabardine LEISURE COATS 15.95**  
**\$12.95 to All wool Gabardine and Glen SLACKS 9.95**  
**\$20 All Wool SPORT COATS Odd lot 11.95**  
**10.95 One group—all wool & to 15.95 water repellent Jackets 6.95**  
**3.95 to All wool Pullover Sweaters 2.95**  
**Bostonian Shoes JOGS and CRUISERS 4.95**  
**13.95—14.95 Fine Calf 9.95**  
**KNOX HATS Two Special Groups \$10 .....\$6.95 \$15 .....\$9.95**  
**Money Saving Prices on Men's Quality Furnishings**  
**2.50 to Wilson Bros. FANCY T-SHIRTS 1.79 2 for 3.50**  
**3.65 Famous Brands 3.95 DRESS SHIRTS. Broken sizes 1.65**  
**55c to SPORT SOCKS 85c Solid colors and fancies 39c**  
**4.95 to Rayon Gabardine SPORT SHIRTS 2.95**  
**1.00 to Fine Rayon NECKTIES 55c 2 for 51**  
**8.95 to All wool and fine wool and rayon SPORT SHIRTS 5.95**  
**Hewitt's**  
Distinctive Men's Wear  
High at Court Senator Hotel Building

*Announcing . . .*  
**The Opening of the Park'n Market RICHFIELD SERVICE STATION**  
N.W. Corner Park and Market St.  
  
A brand new station featuring the famous Richfield products operated by N. L. "Pappy" Cruzen, well known in the Service Station business in Salem.  
  
N. L. "Pappy" Cruzen  
"Pappy" will continue his alert, congenial personal service at his new location, Northwest Corner of Park & Market St.  
IN ADDITION to Richfield gasoline, the Park'n Market will feature Goodyear Tires, Goodyear Batteries and other accessories.  
**FREE!** Potted Plants For the Ladies  
*Gifts for the Kiddies and for the Men Too!*  
Guess the number of gallons of Richfield Gas We Will Sell the Opening Day  
Winner will receive 6 months auto lubrication.  
Name ..... Ph. ....  
Address .....