

Southwestern Oregon Mining News

Edited by Southwestern Oregon Mining Bureau

THE ANCIENT RIVER MINE

But a short distance east of the town of Rogue River, is the placer known as the Ancient River. This mine is unique in that it is the most conspicuous attempt to follow what is generally regarded as good practice—the location of an ancient river bed, and mining down to bed rock therein. Some five years ago, Mr. J. S. Taylor on a trip from Australia to this side of the Pacific, met on shipboard a miner from this district who so interested him in the placers of Josephine and Jackson counties, that he made a special trip here to examine them. Curiosity led to interest, that to deduction, and as a result Mr. Taylor spent one summer in running test holes to determine the course of the Rogue below the mouth of Fooths creek, the records of which show an unusually large gold recovery. Having determined the course of the old channel, he next organized a corporation composed of his British friends who depended on his judgment and of American friends most of whom lived in the vicinity of Mason City, Iowa. Funds were raised for the purchase outright of the greater part of the old channel, the gravel of which was covered with an overburden of very good farming soil. Another year was spent in the working out of a system for recovery, which resulted in the installation of electric power, and high lift centrifugal pumps for washing off the overburden and exposing the gravel.

of a Sauerman drag line, with a half yard bucket, and a 90-foot mast, a hopper with grizzly, two Neill jigs, a Seda pan amalgamator and a Wilfley table for the final separation. From the grizzly to the jigs were Hungarian riffles, in which the coarser gold was caught, the jigs threw out some of the lighter sands, the pan amalgamator caught the free fines and the Wilfley saved what otherwise would have escaped. After a trial run of some six or eight weeks, the jigs and the pan amalgamator were thrown out, and the recovery was made by the riffles, which had been increased to some two hundred feet in length, and partially equipped with screens and burlap, and the table. Still later, the officials of the Southern Pacific, on a search for ballast to take the place of the granite theretofore used, were attracted by the piles of clean river gravel, the tailings pile, and solved one of the trying problems of any placer, by offering to purchase the gravel, if crushed to a size which they could utilize. This necessitated the installation of still more equipment, in the shape of a large Tel-smith crusher, gravel bins, Trommel screens and conveyors, together with motors and various smaller accessories. The first conveyor was an ore car, which has been superseded by a conveyor belt, in the interest of efficiency and economy. The plant has been running for some time in two and three shifts, and the sight of two all night plants between Gold Hill and Grants

Pass has provoked much comment from the passing tourist.

For some time after the erection of the gravel bunkers, the gold recovery was incidental to the production of gravel. The bed, after removal of the overburden, proved, as was expected, to be irregular in depth, running from eight to eighteen feet. Further, a false bed rock was encountered, a cemented gravel, peculiar to the Rogue, which had to be blown in many cases before it was possible to get down to the real position of the heaviest gold deposits. A visitor is struck with the fact that a great deal of the excavation is even now covered with water, and that these water-covered cuts are doubtless very rich in concentrates.

From four to seven carloads of railroad ballast are produced daily, and while the recovery varies according to the irregularities of the old river bed, so far as the writer has been able to observe the values were always satisfactory. At the time of his last visit about 300 yards had been run over the grizzly, and there appeared to be about six ounces then in the riffles. While this would be unusually high recovery from an ordinary placer mine, where thousands of yards of gravel are moved daily by the use of plants, here where every pound of gravel must be elevated, conveyed and crushed, the yardage is so small, that the recovery is still subordinate to the ballast production. With the large acreage, there are several decades of work ahead for a plant like the one at present installed.

Some difficulty was experienced in disposing of the overburden, which being light silt threatened during low water to interfere with the sport of fishing in the river. However that has been overcome, and the removal of the tailings entirely as ballast provides plenty of room for the deposit of waste in the future. Lately the gold has run much coarser though it was never particularly fine, and carries a considerable amount of quartz, justifying the theory of the original conclusion, that the deposits from flood waters in Fooths creek would be found in the old channel of the Rogue. While the Rogue valley is a narrow one, the course of the stream has changed materially in the not too distant past, and there are doubtless many other stretches of the old channel which will in the future be mined to the profit of those who are bold enough to take a chance. No man can say what was the extent of the primary erosions here, but what ver they were the deposit of metal was large, and all virgin spots are almost

uniformly rich. In the Illinois, the old channels are often found hundreds of feet on the mountain sides, but in the Rogue the basins are so narrow that the old channels are usually found crossing and recrossing the present one. It may eventually be said of Grants Pass, as it is now of Jacksonville, that there is more money beneath the surface, than above it.

Both in the overburden and in the gravel, relics are found of the Indian occupancy of the valley. Bullets, household utensils, bits of weapons and even bones preserved in the damp sand are encountered. Agates, bits of jasper, calcite, rose quartz and many other unnamed and unnamed geologic curiosities are picked up. It seems hardly possible that all this is within a half hour's ride on a perfect road at any time of the year, from the City of Grants Pass. The manager, Mr. Reed, the superintendent, Mr. Dull, and the representative of the English interests, Mr. Alastair Erskine, are always courteous and obliging to visitors, and the mine, both in its history and its present development well repay any time spent on a trip there.

Note.—The Little Journey to the Llano del Oro, at Waldo, has been postponed by the request of Mr. Esterly the proprietor, as there has been an installation of new machinery there since the writer had the pleasure of enjoying his hospitality. It is hoped that we will be able to print it next week.

MEETING OF MINING BUREAU

The December meeting of the Mining Bureau held last Saturday, was fairly well attended, by members from Jackson and Josephine counties. The question of affiliating with the newly organized Pacific Coast Chamber of Mines and Minerals, which includes all territory along the coast from Alaska to Mexico, was discussed and decision reached that such action was advisable.

The matter of reconciliation of differences in assay reports of ores from this section between outside and local assayers was thoroughly discussed, and Ira Foreman was appointed a committee of one to take charge of the movement to attempt to solve the question by bringing Mr. Beverstock of Beverstock & Paine, of Los Angeles, to Southern Oregon to work with E. Derwent of Gold Hill in connection with the matter.

LOCAL MINING NEWS

W. H. Giles, of Greens creek, is in town today.

Officials of the Metals Extraction Company, of Salt Lake City, Utah, a concern manufacturing a machine to save gold and other values from the black sands and ores by the centrifugal process, are in the city this week in the interest of their process.

Mr. Hegburg, of Idaho, is in Southern Oregon investigating the mining situation.

Mr. Hobson just returned from the Happy Camp District and reports greater activity in that district than there has been for years.

J. R. Farleigh, of the Coyote Creek District, visited Grants Pass this week, and reported that Dean Newton, with a body of students from the O. A. C., visited his property recently and sampled same.

Paul Wright is in town from the Applegate district where he is developing a property.

Officials of the Silver King mine near Riddle visited Grants Pass this week in connection with their mine.

Austin Wilson of the Layton placer in the Applegate district was in town the fore part of the week.

With all the placer mines of Southern Oregon in operation, and with several quartz mines now producing with prospects of several others being placed in commission after the first of the year, the mining situation in this district is more active than it has been for several years.

MARKET QUOTATIONS

New York Market, December 6th, 1924, by the E. & M. J. Press.

Silver, ounce	.....\$0.69
Copper, pound	......1387
Tin, pound	......5452
Lead, pound	......0866
Zinc, pound	......0705
Cobalt, pound	.....\$2.50 to \$3.00
Bismuth, pound	.....\$1.50 to \$1.55
Antimony, pound	......17
Platinum, ounce	.....\$117.00
Palladium, ounce	.....\$79 to \$83
Quicksilver, 75-lb. flask	.....\$68 to \$70

Land of Cockaigne

Cockaigne was a fabled land invented as a satire on Avalon. It was a place of joy and luxury. The houses were built of things to eat, the rivers ran wine, roasted geese paraded the streets.

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 + AMUSEMENTS +
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 Border Legion is Show at Rivoli Theater Tonight

"The Border Legion," a Para-

Mine and Mill Supplies

Machinery and Heavy Hardware

P. S. Woodin

Phone 42


511 H Street

Your Choice—

"Say, have you ever been out on a trip and had a jolly good time, and start home and get about half way there, and have the old car go dead?" "Ain't it fun though, especially if it is raining like the dickens and cold, (Oh! Boy), and have two or three of your friends along cussing you for not having her looked over by a first class mechanic before starting out." "Then have to walk in four or five miles to phone in for a service car, and go back to the bunch where they are trying to build a fire out of wet wood to keep from freezing?" "Sure is fun, isn't it?" "Of course if you don't enjoy this kind of sport, we can prevent it for you by giving the old wagon the once over and doing whatever repairs are necessary, but we also have a service car, as we do night and day towing."

We suggest though, that it might be best to have your cylinders rebored or something of the sort. Reboring cylinders, or honing to a gun barrel finish is also one of our many specialties. Anyway just phone—Day 113-J, night 252-R.

Ament's Auto Repair Shop



The Useful Gift for Christmas

Nothing can be more appropriate than a photograph for a Christmas present. Something to always remember you with. The ordinary gift is stored away and soon forgotten, your picture is kept and treasured for years after.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS VALUES

Look at these prices, decide for yourself.

Our Vilna Special, size 4x6 at **\$6.00**
 Excello Seminole Easle Style, size 5x7 at **\$10.00**
 Excello Seminole Easle Style, size 6x8 at **\$18.00**

WE DO PICTURE FRAMING
 Do Not Wait Too Long

Artcraft Studio
 (Opposite Rivoli Theatre)

mount picturization of Zone Grey's immensely popular novel with Antonio Moreno and Helen Chadwick in the principal roles, is the feature at the Rivoli theater all this week. The story was adapted to the screen by George Hull. William Howard

directed the production, his first for Paramount. The story is the second of Paramount's widely-advertised "Famous 40" by this author to reach the screen. The other was the natural color picture, "Wanderer of the

Wasteland," shown at the Rivoli some time ago. By taking "Wanderer" as a standard of comparison, one would think that "The Border Legion" would suffer. To the contrary, it's better, if anything.

Useful Gifts at THE WINCHESTER STORE

People who have that enviable ability to choose appropriate gifts, usually select something useful. Useful gifts are sure to please. The Christmas merchandise now on display in our store offers early shoppers an unusual selection for useful, sensible gifts, appropriate for every member of the family.



Keen Kutter Scissors and Shears

Every woman who sews prizes a good pair of Scissors or Shears. Keen Kutter Shears are famous for smooth, even cutting.

\$1.35 to \$1.75



Winchester Roller Skates

A gift that will bring real Christmas happiness to boys and girls. Strongly built. Easy running.

\$2.50 — \$2.75



Fishing Tackle

A fine bamboo rod or reel will please the man whose hobby is fishing. We have a complete line of Fishing Tackle.

GIFT SUGGESTIONS



Winchester Pocket Knives

Just the thing to give a man or boy. Several styles of attractive handles and blade combinations. Made to give long service.

25c to \$3.00



A Winchester Flashlight

Makes an acceptable gift for men and women. Several attractive styles from which to select.

\$1.00 to \$4.00

Weaver Aluminum Ware **\$1.00 to \$4.00**

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