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HIGGINS MINE IS BIGGEST STRIKE

BIDS FAIR TO BE GREATEST IN OREGON HISTORY

ALREADY GET THOUSANDS

Serpentine Overflows a Wide Area; Values Come in Quartz-Porphry

Editor Courier: Your correspondent, in company with Messrs. R. C. and F. C. Robertson, of Parish, N. Y., left Grants Pass by private conveyance for the Higgins gold strike on Wednesday at 2 p. m., and arrived at Selma four hours later. After spending the night at the Jack Casey hotel we took the old Copper trail early on Thursday morning, and following the same down the north side of Deer creek five miles we reached "inspiration point" on Illinois river in a region of rare scenic beauty. At every turn of the trail could be seen towering cliffs, snow-capped peaks, deep gorges, greenly clad hills and rapidly flowing streams forming a most wonderful panorama not soon to be forgotten.

As we had learned that no feed for our horses could be had for love or money, either en route or at the mine, we left them at Selma and undertook the trip on foot. Ten miles from Selma we left the main trail and crossed the river in a boat, taking a trail on the south side of the river and climbed a rugged hill two miles, reaching an altitude of 2600 feet above sea level in a two hour's walk.

After we had visited some friends and looked over several mining prospects we retraced our steps to the river, where we resumed our journey by taking a dim and uncertain trail. Soon we found ourselves on the top of a lofty mountain, with the river no where to be seen. We paused a moment to consult our compass and take our bearings, and then discovered that the trail was leading in the opposite direction to the one that we thought we were going. We then descended the steep hill and passed down Falls creek near the Brown & Wheeler copper mines, and as we got a glimpse through the rocky gorge we could see in the distance a farm house and blooming orchards, with sleek cows grazing in a luxuriant pasture. Being tired, footsore and hungry, the tinkling of the bells that was heard from the busy cows in the green field was more fascinating to us than any entrancing tones ever produced by Paderewski on "keys of ivory and strings of gold." By seven o'clock we reached the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Anderson on Illinois river at the mouth of Kancherie creek, where we enjoyed as good accommodations as could be afforded by the best hotels in Oregon.

Early Friday morning we took the Gold Basin trail that leads up the north bank of Rancharie and at nine o'clock the summit was reached at an elevation of 2400 feet above the river and 3500 feet above the level of the sea. Here, at the gateway of "the garden of gold," we paused to view one of the grandest landscape scenes that ever met the rapturous gaze of man. In every direction could be seen a vast expanse of lofty mountains, green and glorious in the morning sunlight, resembling huge piles of silken velvet garnished with whitest applique of ivory and gold. Ten minutes walk brought us to the "Higgins treasure vault." The geological conditions here are unique and most interesting. No primary rocks are anywhere to be found, but vast fields of serpentine and great domes of andesite are in evidence everywhere and on all sides. The serpentine overflows the entire district in a confused mass, but the andesite takes a true course north and south, and along its contact with the serpentine is where values are being discovered. The famous treas-

CEMENT COMPANY PLANT SOON READY FOR WORK

H. H. Burns, machinery expert for the Besser Manufacturing company, of Alpena, Mich., arrived in this city last evening from Houston, Tex., Burns comes to install the new machinery purchased from his company by the Cement Products Manufacturing company (McKinstry, Courtney & Evans).

The machinery is the most modern and efficient made for the manufacture of cement pipe. The company has been greatly delayed in starting the operation of this department by slow delivery of machinery and failure of the manufacturers to send an expert promptly on its arrival here. However, they will soon be in a position to rapidly fill several large orders already received and put in a large stock of different sizes of cement pipe, ranging in size from four inches to four feet.

The company's building at Eighth and F streets, opposite the Southern Pacific station is completed and the cement brick and block machinery also will be installed there in a few days, the plant to be operated by electricity.

Elmo Throckmorton came in from Applegate Wednesday to attend to business affairs. He returned in the evening.

James Gibson went to Williams creek today to visit the branch store in that district.

ure vault is near the head of Slide creek, which flows from the summit westerly and which is one of the largest tributaries of Chetco river.

The strike was made in a decomposed lense of quartz-porphry that occupies a space in the contact between serpentine and andesite. That this lense is the source of the gold there can be no doubt. At its south end it is narrow and widens very rapidly as it is traced northerly, till it reaches a width of 20 feet, at a point 150 feet from its discovery it turns sharply east and still grows wider for a distance of 200 feet, where it merges into the andesite and loses its identity. The strike and course of the lense describes a semi-circle and measures a total length of 350 feet, every inch of which produces metallic gold ranging from pannings worth only a few cents up to one hundred dollars each. Nature's ponderous muller has beaten and crushed the top of the lense to a pulp ready for a concentrating plant, thus making it an easy task to recover the gold by ground sluicing and similar methods employed in placer mining. No powder and drills are used. Long sluice boxes with Hungarian riffles and undercurrents are employed with great success. About eleven tons of gold concentrates are now stored in the bins on the mine and are estimated to carry ten thousand dollars per ton.

The top of the lense is exposed by being mined to a depth of 20 feet, and with depth it holds its values steadily, and if the cross-cut tunnel now being driven to strike the rich pay shoot 200 feet below its outcrop proves up the continuity of the values found in the present workings, then the Higgins strike at once becomes the greatest gold find of the century.

No living man can prophesy with any degree of certainty as to the results of deeper exploration, but the people of Oregon may yet have the pleasure of claiming that this state is the home of the greatest gold mine in the world.

Many prospectors are coming in, and beyond any kind of question other important strikes will be made in the Higgins district. Both Kerby and Selma are towns from which the district is easily reached by half a day's walk, but people going in had better take with them all necessary supplies, as there are none for sale in the district.

The mine is shut down at present, pending a sale of the property to people who hold an option on it till May 12. Much gold is in sight and a strong guard, armed with Winchester and Colts revolvers, is on duty night and day.

Ten hours travel from the mine brought us back to Grants Pass at 8 o'clock Saturday night.

C. L. MANGUM.
Grants Pass, Ore., May 2, 1911.

ALMEDA SMELTER BLOWN IN TUESDAY

HUNDRED TON PLANT IS NOW IN OPERATION

HAUL COKE FROM MERLIN

Crowning Event of Ten Years of Development Work in Gallice District

Tuesday was a gala day at Almeda mine from early in the morning, and everybody was up to take part in the one great event in the history of mining in the Gallice district, which was the blowing-in of the 100-ton smelter at 7 o'clock. There was much enthusiasm and abundant loud cheering. At 9 o'clock the first tap was made and the molten liquid was an encouraging evidence that the work of reduction and transformation of the rich ore into bright shining metal was a practical operation. The demonstration was made before the eyes of a large gathering of the neighboring miners and visitors, as well as the employees of the company.

The smelter was built last year and it is so constructed that with little difficulty it can be increased from 100 tons capacity to 400 tons, and this will be done as soon as the auto-truck road, now under construction from Leland to the mine, can be completed. The necessary coke and other material needed has, with considerable trouble and great expense, been hauled in by wagon from Merlin, but when the Leland road is finished and the auto-trucks put on there will be no trouble in transporting supplies as fast as they are needed at less than one-half the present expense.

The successful inauguration of this smelter plant is the crowning event of more than ten years of development work and the expenditure of more than \$250,000.

SCHOOL OPERETTA WELL RENDERED TO BIG HOUSE

The opera house was packed to the doors Monday to hear the school operetta, which was most pleasingly rendered.

Rounds of applause greeted the young hopefuls as, bedecked in all the flowery embellishments of spring, or in winter's garb of snow and frost, they proclaimed in harmonious chorus, solo or duet the claims of the four seasons of the year, the cantata being named "The Whole Year Round," given under the direction of Miss Ethel Chapman, musical instructor of the schools.

The performance showed Miss Chapman's ability as a painstaking and able director.

The children, always popular, appeared unusually attractive in gardens of roses, autumn leaves, etc., while a dozen or more chubby little ones in red and brown, picturing Jack Frost, entered into the antics of "leap frog" and pelted the audience with cotton snow balls, having more fun than anybody—though everyone was having lots of amusement.

Altogether, the operetta was a big success and proved the latent musical ability of the pupils.

The first appearance of the high school glee club and orchestra did the school much credit.

All seats were sold thirty minutes before the program began and it is estimated that the gross receipts will reach around \$225.

REMODELING OF FIRST NATIONAL TO COST \$15,000

The First National bank has filed with Judge Opycke, as city recorder, facts and figures regarding the remodeling of the bank building, and the plans call for an expenditure of \$15,000.

When finished this bank building will be modern and attractive and will add much to the architectural features on the north side.

JACKSON AND JOSEPHINE HORSEHOERS ASSEMBLE

The District Master Horseshoers' National Protective association met in convention here today in the Commercial club rooms with 45 delegates present from the local organization at Central Point, Ashland, Jacksonville, Talent, Phoenix, Eagle Point, Merlin, Provoit, Medford and Kerby.

The convention was full of life and interest to the members of the horseshoeing craft, as well as outsiders. National President William E. Murphy, of Philadelphia, the guest of honor at the convention, is a genial gentleman and a fluent speaker, well versed in matters that interest blacksmiths. In an interview he said:

"I want to take my hat off to Grants Pass. It is an up-to-date little city. The local conditions are better than in a great many parts of this state. You are progressive. I can understand now how you are able to induce eastern money and labor to come west. I believe that through publicity you could illustrate that this is a city of bright future and fortune for the progressive laborer or business man."

In his address before the convention Mr. Murphy first laid stress upon the fact that the association was not a union, being purely a business man's association. He said his trip through the northwest was for the purpose of conferring with the horseshoers and blacksmiths in order that they might get closer together on conditions that affect their business throughout the country. He continued:

"The most essential thing to be considered here in Oregon and in Grants Pass is the cost of material and other commodities used in our business. The National Horseshoers' association is established in 627 cities over the country. This naturally brings the association in direct contact with manufacturers and heavy hardware men who act as the middlemen between the manufacturer and the horseshoers and blacksmiths, it being essential that we have the cooperation of the hardware men.

"We ask our members to reciprocate in a material way for the protection that is accorded them by having the hardware men distribute the material used in our shops to only such persons as are recognized as legitimate members of the trade. We find that in rural portions of the state of Oregon that hardware men are selling horseshoes and other supplies to farmers and others, which is against the interests and progress of our people in these rural communities, and that even reaches further.

"It is well known that in order to become proficient in horseshoeing and blacksmith work a man must spend from four to five years of the best part of his life in order to qualify as a legitimate mechanic. We feel that it is not any fairer to suggest to our people that they invest their profit elsewhere than to ask hardware men not sell horseshoeing supplies to outsiders.

"We at all times exert every effort to educate the horseshoer and blacksmith to work for the advancement and welfare of his particular community, and in return ask that he be given an opportunity to earn a livelihood. In this state there are six cities that are working for the elevation of our craft, imbued with the justice which recognizes that we give to our trade value for value received."

Do you know the city is laying water mains in Lawridge Heights—Better look around. P. I. C. Phone 347.

V. Moore, of Selma, was visiting Grants Pass friends and looking after business matters Wednesday.

F. O. Taylor, of Kerby, was here Wednesday to look after business.

Open Factory June 1—

I. A. Roble, manager of the California Pine Door & Lumber company in the western part of town, expects to open up the factory for the summer's run about the first of June. Two large sheds are now in course of construction, which are being built to store the building lumber from the rain storms. The sheds are expected to be completed in about ten days.

MOUNTAINS RIBBED WITH GOLD LEDGES

HIGGINS STRIKE WILL MEAN GREAT DEVELOPMENT

TO ATTRACT PROSPECTORS

Wide and Rich Mineral Region in Josephine County Awaits the Pick

M. J. Anderson, former supervisor of the Siskiyou forest reserve, is one of the best posted men regarding the coast range and that locality near the Higgins mine. He talked interestingly this morning of that country and The Courier reproduces in part the story as he related it regarding that region and its great wealth in mineral.

Mr. Anderson says the recent strike by Higgins and other rich discoveries between the Illinois and Chetco rivers in southwestern Josephine county have at last excited more than passing notice to the mineral wealth of that region. He says it will be well to remove the impression that these deposits are simply rich spots or pockets that have been overlooked by prospectors in an old, worked-out mining region, and continued:

"It is true that this last extraordinary find would be, if surveyed, in the same township as the discoveries of May, 1852, which, with the 'Sailor Diggins' at Waldo, first brought a swarm of miners into Oregon; and it is also true that the placers of the Illinois and along all the little creeks and gulches heading on the east slope of this range have been profitably worked for over half a century. It is only within two or three years, however, that any real attention has been given to the quartz veins, and what work has been done in this line has been richly rewarded, for several valuable properties have been opened on Canyon creek. Fiddlers gulch, Days gulch and other small streams which head on the opposite side of the range from the Higgins property, which lays on the Chetco slope.

"The Illinois slope of this great mineral region is much the easiest of access; but even this territory shows little evidence of the prospector except on the gulches named, while on the west side one may travel for days in a highly mineralized formation showing old placer workings on the streams (reported to have been rich, and undoubtedly were so) without the slightest sign of any prospecting for the source of the gold deposits.

"Of course there have been prospectors through this region, but it is so large a territory that their marks are not easily found. The wild, rough, uninhabited region along this range and in the Chetco basin include about 17 townships, or over 600 square miles, while the portion worked on the small streams mentioned are all practically within one township. The higher elevations are about 400 feet and standing on some of these high points one can see in all directions the same deep red mineral soil that marks the immediate vicinity of the Higgins strike, and also marks most, if not all, the great mining camps of the west.

"This is a hard country to travel in. Forest fires have long ago destroyed most of the valuable timber, brush has taken its place and is almost impassable in many places. There is only one passable trail through the country, and this in some places extremely uninviting to the mounted tenderfoot.

"While, as I have said, this vast area is practically unprospected, rich deposits of copper and coarse gold have been found in various places throughout the whole territory, and last season a rich discovery of coarse gold was made high on Mount Emah, between the Chetco and Winchuck rivers on the southwest edge of this region. Mineral hill, between the

WORK ON GAS PLANT BEGINS THIS WEEK

In less than 90 days, if all goes well, Grants Pass will be able to boast of one of the most modern gas plants in the west. Actual construction will begin this week.

By a deal closed yesterday, A. W. Butler, who secured a gas franchise here some weeks ago, purchased for spot cash from C. E. Phillips and George Barrows a site for the plant, paying at the rate of \$1700 an acre for ground that the owners bought one year ago at the rate of \$300 an acre, making this the record advance for Grants Pass realty. The site is located in the southeast portion of the city at the east end of J street, and lying on the Grants Pass and Rogue River railroad. A side track to the site is already under construction and about half finished.

The gas holder to be constructed will have a capacity of 50,000 cubic feet, sufficient for a population of 30,000. The generators will have a capacity of 200,000 cubic feet daily.

Crude oil will be the material from which gas will be generated, and Mr. Butler states that the plant will be odorless and that the grounds will be parked and otherwise made attractive.

Sixteen carloads of material are now en route to Grants Pass for the plant, including 16 miles of pipe, both main and lateral, and a carload of cement is already on the ground.

The plant and other property will cost \$60,000 and its construction will give employment to many men during the summer, both at the plant and in placing pipe over the city. Mr. Butler states that he hopes to have the plant in running order in 90 days or less, the time depending on arrival of material. The material was ordered from the east three weeks ago and the first instalment is on the way. Mr. Butler will probably have charge of the construction of the plant.

COLONIAL WILL BE MADE TRUE TO ITS NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lister have the plans drawn and perfected for the remodeling of their property, known as the Colonial, on E street and work will be begun immediately. The building is to be made into an up-to-date rooming house, and when completed as planned it will be one of the most modern in the city. The building is to be remodeled to conform to its name, "Colonial," and will be fitted with a handsome new front of the colonial style, besides various other additions which will make it about 28 by 60 feet, two stories. Every room will be fitted with bath and other modern conveniences, and Mr. and Mrs. Lister hope to have the house ready for occupancy by the first of July.

BANKER COMES WITH FAMILY TO LIVE HERE

Mr. and Mrs. Weston Arnold and son, Charles, and daughter, Miss Florence, arrived here Wednesday from Peoria, Ill., and will make Grants Pass their home.

Mr. Arnold spent three weeks in southern Oregon last November and at that time made a complete tour of investigation of the towns and localities between Ashland and Grants Pass and decided on this city as the ideal spot for his residence.

Mr. Arnold is a retired banker, he having spent many years in that business in his old home town. He has purchased three acres of land and a residence on East A street from Ed Van Dyke. He hopes that the mild climate of southern Oregon will be beneficial to Mrs. Arnold.

Chetco and Pistol rivers, so far as formation goes, is identical with the red mountain, about and south of the Higgins deposits, though twenty miles west.

"This is not a patch of worked-over ground, but a vast virgin field that will attract fortune hunters from Nevada and other western states and from Alaska."