

Copper, Lime, and Chrome

Partial Review of Mineral Resources of Southwestern Oregon
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From the Grants Pass Courier
In reviewing the mineral resources of southwestern Oregon we find that the principal minerals are gold, with copper and Chromite occupying about equal proportions as to magnitude.

The non-metallic minerals such as lime, marble, silica, etc., are more or less abundant, particularly the lime.

Southwestern Oregon is prominently known as a gold-producing area where many gold strikes have been made. Evidence of many profitable finds has caused an influx of miners over the years (seeking gold) from all the parts of the country. Whenever a large gold strike is made anywhere on the face of this old globe of ours the announcement of the place of discovery has always drawn hundreds of fortune hunters. This was true in the California forties when thousands of men traversed the great mountain and plains, crossed the Rockies before transcontinental transportation was made possible, enduring untold hardships. The same was true of the discovery of gold in the Klondyke. This has always been true. Gold will always be man's greatest lure.

Nature has chosen to deposit her treasure of gold in out-of-the-way places, many times down deep in some mountain mass or in beds of abandoned water courses filled with loam and gravels forced down by glacial or erosive action from the mountain reaches, many many ages ago. The mining of gold ore (quartz), is comparatively new but washing gold from the earth's beds and from banks of streams is as ancient as biblical history, which portrays the fact that the gold in Solomon's temple was recovered from placer gold deposits.

First, therefore, let us consider what constitutes placer mines and as to what would be a favorable situation in this respect.

Placer mines are the places where gold is obtained by washing an alluvial or glacial deposit of sand or gravel containing particles of gold or other minerals. A placer claim is a mining claim located upon gravel or ground whose mineral contents are extracted or mined by use of hydraulic sluicing or sluicing of the gravels. The deposits consist of gravel, sand or similar materials resulting from the crumbling or erosion of country rock, vein materials, etc, which may contain particles of gold of a size and value that may be garnered by the use of hydraulic equipment property installed. The mining of same is that form of mining in which the superficial detritus is washed to obtain the gold or other valuable minerals.

BOOSTERS

Here is a Caveman's version of the Pacific West, which he says is also the recreational and industrial empire of the world:

With its weather neither hot nor cold,
Wealth of its timber, its silver, its gold,
Gardens and fruits, hay in the mow,
Berries in cream from a good Jersey cow.

THAT is the Pacific West—what more need a person ask.
An Oregon Caveman.

BOOSTERS FOR THE WEST.
By Flamewatcher L. A. Ringette.



She—Can you guess what I want most for my birthday?
He—That's easy. It's probably me.

THE LAST OF THE CHINESE HERE

The Man with the Inquiring Mind has a fondness for the Chinese and asking questions as is his wont he came upon stories of their coming to the Illinois Valley and mining gold and living acceptably, and leaving behind them at their going such remembrances of their stay as sets the soul singing.

There is a store a rancher tells of the rose bush they planted in another man's yard—a bush that bore roses of almost extravagant luxuriance and beauty—a bush that an unknowing man cut down when he thought he was merely trimming it that it might bear more roses. If we only knew the variety of that beautiful rose it would be a capital idea to secure specimens of it for the State Park which is to be formed out of the former site at Waldo.

And once again these Chinese did a good turn by giving a man a cork elm—and it is living still. That might be transplanted or a shoot secured for the environs of the Waldo Miners' Historical Museum.

But the best stories of all are the stories a daughter of the Valley pioneers told the man with the inquiring mind as he sat at twilight the other day and heard her tell of the little girl with the two large dogs—her constant companions—and how these great dogs would bark at the passing Chinese going and coming from their most productive mine—known as The Leonard mine up Althouse creek, and the little girl so lived with her dogs that she barked just like them; and would join in with them as the barked friendly like at the Chinese. And the passing Chinese would smile at both the dogs and the little girl—for they knew neither meant any harm. And the Chinese too passed away with the shifting of the mining to other wheres and with the draining of the golden treasure from the silt settled in the creek bottoms and washed down from the hills—and the Chinese were all gone—then one day in the later years when the little girl was grown into young womanhood a Chinese miner returned for a day to the scenes of his earlier diggings and as he walked along the road he saw a young woman approaching and he saw in her the little girl grown big and recognizing her and remembering her childish exploit he barked like a dog—and she recalled her childhood and the Chinese; and they met and smilingly renewed the recollections of great days. He was the last of the Chinese seen in what was Sailors' Diggings.

The last of the Chinese passed away smiling.

by and finally to Grants Pass completed the unsettling of the neighborhood about Waldo, together with the falling off of the production of gold.

Even so there is something to see at Waldo.

There is the McElwain store erected in 1863 and next year will be the Diamond Jubilee of that event. It is planned to have a most fitting recognition of that achievement and to memorialize in a permanent form the spirit of the prospecting pioneers.

The character of the Waldo store building and the nature of the doors and windows tell a story that must be known by future generations. While it served the purpose of a general store and vast sums of gold passed through its portals yet the structure was builded really to withstand a siege; and in the basement there was a room prepared to sustain the people who then lived under the possible attack by Indians who resented the coming of the white men.

MUTUALITY

Bill saw Miss Sue at church one eve, she was pretty as could be, but Sue was awful bashful and so was Bill, you see. Bill wanted much to see her home, but his courage ran so low that he hadn't

hardly spunk enough to up and tell her so; but when she had left the church and gone a dozen rods or ten, Bill's spirits rose and up he goes and asks her there and then. They walked along in silence, not a word from either pate, and they arrived in course of time up to her father's gate. Then Sue spoke in trembling voice that reached Bill thru the gloam, "Say, Billie, don't you ever tell anyone as how you saw me home." Bill was much relieved and straightway says, "Now look a here, Miss Sue, don't you go for to worry none, for I'm as 'shamed of it as you."

PHIL SNORT

Waldo Is Still Its Right Name

A tourist was all packed up and ready to take his departure from an Auto Court for one of the truly historic spots in southern Oregon when the man with the inquiring mind overheard the manager say "there is nothing there now"—and the 1935 golden jubilee edition of an afternoon paper in a near town reported the same thing—"there is nothing there now but a ghost town."

And the ghost town this particular tourist was inquiring about is Waldo where gold was first discovered in Oregon, as the legend tells in the picturesque phrasings of the remembering men among the former generation of miners.

The tourist should have been informed that there is something well worth while at Waldo for the man with the seeing eye and the discerning spirit. And when the vision which is capturing a growing group of the descendants of the early Illinois Valley Oregon pioneers is finally carried out there will be ever so much more to see at the site of Sailor's Diggings.

Waldo was the first county seat of Josephine County and the first session of court was held in 1856. It was a flourishing town in the most prosperous years of the early mining of gold. From 1855 to 1860 the town maintained an even population, although many miners left to stake their future in the Frazer development—their places being taken by the Chinese.

The name Waldo was given the community in honor of a prominent Californian politician—the first settlers in the vicinity wrongly thinking the town site was in California rather than in Oregon. Moving the county seat to Ker-

by and finally to Grants Pass completed the unsettling of the neighborhood about Waldo, together with the falling off of the production of gold.

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