

# Dead Man's Luck

By DONALD CHAMBERLIN

When I was a young man I practiced mining engineering. I was sent out to report on some property with a view to forming a company to develop it and found that it was an extension of a mine called Dead Man's Luck. This name was so singular and so suggestive that I asked a miner who was an old inhabitant of the region what it meant.

"Didn't you ever hear the yarn about Dead Man's Luck?" he asked. "Well, I'll tell you. It was when this yere country was mighty new. The Dead Man's Luck mine was the first gold that was discovered about here, and there's never been such payin' dirt found here since. What's more, the deeper the company went down the richer the vein."

"There was a feller named Simmonds come here—Andy Simmonds, prospector. Just why he prospected in this location I don't know, for at that time there hadn't any gold been found here, though there'd been purty good washin' up the creek. Andy reasoned that where there was washin' there was liable to be somepin better, and he put in his pick most anywhere.

"People are like cattle—let one feller start off anywhere and the rest will follow. When they saw Andy diggin' they thought there must be some show for gold, and they began to dig themselves. Some of 'em found gold in quantities that they thought would pay, and about that time there was plenty of people ready to form a company on any hole in the ground that any prospector had to sell. Companies sprang up like mushrooms, but none of 'em made good. The certificates of stock was floatin' about like Confederate money in wartimes. I remember I had 1,500 shares of the Happy Family and couldn't buy a meal of vittles with it.

"But some of the shares was worth something. I suppose if there had been a stock exchange in the region the public would have gambled for the shares that way; but, seein' there wasn't, a lot of men used to git together in the Alhambra saloon and play poker for fun.

"Andy Simmonds, who had started the whole thing, was the wust rundown feller in the lot. He was a gambler in diggin', and when the diggin' was over and the stock of the dead companies was the only thing left to gamble with he played that for all it was worth. The shares of all the mines was counted the same on the paper board, for they was all considered equally worthless. And they played with certificates instead of chips.

"As I was tellin' you about Andy Simmonds, he got terribly run down. He had a wife and a couple o' kids, and since he couldn't give 'em anything to wear or to eat they was in a mighty bad fix. But there's no tellin' if they was in a worse fix than Andy himself, for it's mighty hard on a man to see his family sufferin' and not be able to do anything for 'em.

"But in one thing Andy laid over everybody. He had the most marvelous luck at poker. They said at one time if the certificates of mine stocks he had won was worth their face he'd be worth millions. But what was the use of ownin' a lot of paper that you couldn't buy anything with? If he could have got a calico dress for his wife or put somethin' in the stomachs o' his children with 'em there'd 'a' been some comfort in it. But he couldn't have bought a pair o' shoestrings with the whole three or four millions of stock.

"Andy was usually ahead in the game, and there was one time when he happened to get a lot of shares in one defunct company into his hands. He wasn't lookin' very well. Some said he was worryin' because his wife and children were hungry and hadn't decent clothes to cover 'em. The truth is Andy was startin' himself. Why he stuck to gamblin' for worthless shares nobody knew, but he must have had some kind o' hope about something or other or he wouldn't have done it.

"Well, as I was startin' in to tell you, there was one night when the boys was playin' poker for dead mining shares, when Andy was rakkin' in shares without lookin' at 'em, and once when there was a big lot on the table somebody called, and the hands, all except Andy's, was turned over on the table. Andy was sittin' with his head down on his chest, lookin' played out. His hat was down on his face, so they couldn't see it. When he failed to turn over his cards some one did it for him, and it was a winner.

"Somebody lifted Andy's hat. Every man at the table started. His face was as white as chalk, and his eyes was glazed and startin'.

"That was the last game of poker played in these parts for mine shares. Simmonds' winnin' was turned over to his widder, and it was said she tried to sell the lot for money enough to get back home. But nobody wanted 'em.

"Somebody had bought up some

shares or one of the mines called the Lone Pine from a tree growin' near it. One day it got out that these parties had struck a bonanza. They was tryin' to buy up the shares, but couldn't find who owned 'em. Andy Simmonds' widder heard of the strike and looked over the certificates her husband had won when he was a-dyin'. She found she owned the biggest half of Lone Pine stock.

"Of course she wouldn't sell now for any price. The company was reorganized under the name of Dead Man's Luck. And what do ye think? Andy's darter is now the Princess Gobleliol!"

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Cloverdale, Ore

Notice for Publication.  
[PUBLISHER] 03298  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U. S. LAND OFFICE at Portland, Oregon, September 4, 1917.

NOTICE is hereby given that Aley F. Ball, of Oretown, Oregon, who, on December 11, 1911, made Homestead Entry No. 03298, for the s e 1/4 s w 1/4 Section 17, and n e 1/4 n w 1/4, n s 1/4 n e 1/4 Section 20, Township 5 South, Range 10 West, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to claim five-year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before the Register and Receiver of the United States Land Office at Portland, Oregon, on the 24th day of October, 1917.

Claimant names as witnesses:  
Thomas H. Foster, of Meda, Oregon;  
Darius J. Dunn, of Meda, Oregon; Harry D. Beckwith, of Meda, Oregon; Ole B. Redberg, of Oretown, Oregon.  
N. Campbell, Register.

Proof made according to law under which entry was made.

## Notice of Sheriff's Sale.

Notice is hereby given, that by virtue of an execution and order of sale issued out of the circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for Tillamook County, on the 31st day of August, 1917, and to me directed, in a suit wherein E. J. Clausen was plaintiff and Thos. Coates, administrator of the estate of Wm. J. West, deceased, was defendant, and in which the plaintiff recovered judgment against the defendant for the sum of \$1,100.00 together with interest thereon at the rate of ten per cent. per annum from the 20th day of February, 1915, and for \$150.00 attorneys fees and \$16.20 costs and disbursements, and a decree foreclosing a mortgage upon the real property hereinafter described, and ordering and directing that the same be sold to satisfy the said judgment, and commanding me as sheriff of said County, to sell the said property as by law provided, to satisfy the said judgment, attorneys fee, costs and accruing costs;


Now therefore, by virtue thereof, I will on Saturday, the 13th day of October, 1917, at 10 o'clock a. m., of said day, at the Court House door of said County, expose for sale, and sell to the highest bidder, for cash in hand, all of the right, title and interest of the said defendant, and of the deceased, of, in and to, all of the following described real property, situate in Tillamook County, Oregon, to wit: The southeast quarter of Section Twenty-two in T. 2 S. R. 8 W. Will. Mer., in Oregon, containing 100 acres according to government survey, to satisfy said judgment, attorney fee, costs and accruing costs.  
Dated at Tillamook, Oregon, August 31st, 1917.

W. L. Campbell,  
Sheriff of Tillamook County,  
State of Oregon.

## Notice to Contractors.

Notice is hereby given that the County Court of Tillamook County, Oregon, will until 10 o'clock, a. m., on September 14, 1917, receive sealed proposals for constructing a concrete viaduct over Beaver Creek in the town of Beaver, according to plans and specifications on file in the office of the County Clerk of Tillamook County. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a certified check, cash or bidder's bond made payable to Erwin Harrison, County Clerk, equal in amount to 5 per cent of the total amount of bid. All proposals must be made on the form furnished by the County Clerk.

The County Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.  
Erwin Harrison,  
County Clerk.  
First publication August 30, 1917.  
Last publication September 13, 1917.



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