

**CRACKER CREEK MINES**

**RECENT DEVELOPMENT WORK  
EXPLODES AN OLD THEORY.**

**Big Central Lode Does Not Rob Parallel Veins—Half Dozen Ledges Carry Good Values on the Surface—District Embraces a Half Dozen Miles Square.**

The town of Bourne is the capital of Cracker Creek, and promises to be the "Denver" of the surrounding section of country. Although it has not advanced with rapid strides the past year, owing to local causes, it is still alive, and will put on metropolitan airs next season, if all signs do not fail. Real estate has not boomed lately, though there are shrewd men of means picking up snags in that line, who expect big returns from their investments ere long. There are two stage lines terminating here, two hotels, two stores, three saloons and a healthy and moderately prosperous population. While residents are not given to booming their town, they do have the most implicit faith in the mines and the mining outlook of the district. The rapid strides of Sumpter in growth and progress just paralyzes the oldest inhabitant here, and he does not hesitate to assert that in a few years he will be a near neighbor to a thriving, bustling city at Sumpter.

Cracker Creek district and its surroundings will, in a few years have mines and population sufficient to support a city of ten thousand inhabitants here and at Sumpter, if present indications and this season's developments are any indication. The outside world knows something about the developed mines hereabouts, but they have no conception of the possibilities of the future. The North Pole, the E. & E., the Columbia and the Goldconda are practically only prospects as yet. They have only reached prospect depths, but every foot downward shows improvement, both in size of ledge and quality of ore. Shafts are now being extended deeper on three of them. It is impossible to tell what a thousand feet will show. At all events, owners and managers see a bright future in store. The mines have been operated by owners for legitimate development and not for speculation, and being private corporations, they have quietly pursued development work and kept results to themselves. Hence the district has not been advertised and nothing approaching a boom has been apparent. Development in other parts of the district this season, however, has laid the foundation for great activity in the near future.

There has been a current belief for years that all values hereabouts are confined to what is known as the E. & E. lode. It was asserted, and by many believed, that the big central lode robbed all parallel veins of their values, and in consequence prospecting on numerous other veins has been carried on only in a desultory manner; locators after a little work, allowing their claims to lapse for want of assessment work.

This season's work has exploded the theory. The rock found in several claims on what is known as the "Ohio," a parallel vein, some thousand or fifteen hundred feet north of the central lode, has proven that rich rock is not confined to the ledge upon which the big developed mines are located. The Free Coinage, or Hard Scrabble group, is yielding high grade ore. The Ohio has also shown first-class prospects, and so has the Fox, or Summit claims. In the Climax, on the same lead, very rich rock has been known to exist for some time.

South of the E. & E. mine, a distance of 2000 feet, more or less, is another large

lode, on which two claims have been partially opened this summer, that are showing up handsomely. They are the Little Cracker and Ellis and Tape mines. Good judges affirm that they bid fair to make very valuable mines. That makes two ledges, one on each side of the central ledge, that have not been "robbed," and they are in close proximity to the "robber."

Still further north there has been quite extensive prospecting done on large ledges, the rock from the surface of which assays as well as from the surface of the big mines.

These instances and others that might be mentioned have established a confidence in the district at large that has never before existed, and presages an activity in the development work next season hitherto unknown. By reference to Philbrick's map of this immediate section, it will be observed that these parallel veins are continuous for miles, and do not merge into each other. They plough their way independently through mountain and canyon and are diverged by no obstacle.

Toward the south side of the district is a ledge varying from ten to eight feet in width, which can be traced by the crop-pings for miles, which has scarcely been chafed with pick or shovel the whole distance, notwithstanding the rock is of a lively character and assays prove it carries low values. North of it runs the Little Cracker ledge, then the E. & E. ledge, then the Ohio system, and still further north are two other leads of great width, all being comparatively about the same distance between each other. They run parallel and are separate and distinct.

As it has been proven that these outside ledges carry values on the surface as good as the central lode, and as they extend from northeast to southwest for miles, it can be seen what a field there is opened for the operation of capital in development.

The peculiarity of the district as shown by development, is that the main ledges are large, are low grade on the surface and improve with depth. The average assays from the best on the surface show from two to four dollars per ton, rarely exceeding five dollars. As there must be numerous smaller ledges scattered between the larger ones, and which are blind on account of the depth of the soil, it can readily be conjectured what such a field, embracing a territory from four to five miles in width and as many in length, may bring forth in time to come.

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