

# THE SUMPTER MINER

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## SUMPTERITES STRIKE OIL.

### ARE IN ON A BIG BONANZA IN COLORADO.

Story of the Find Sounds Like the "Lost Cabin" Mine Chestnut—Mayor Robbins Returns From the Spot and Talks Conservatively—Two Companies Organized to Develop the Property—One in Portland and the Other in Pendleton.

Mayor J. H. Robbins returned yesterday from a trip to Colorado and California, after an absence of about a month. When he left here it was known to a few citizens of Sumpter that the object of his trip was to look at some lands supposed to be oil bearing, in the first named state. He was accompanied by F. O. Bucknum, of this city, and Colonel J. H. Raley, a prominent attorney of Pendleton.

An interesting story is found in the bare, unadorned facts relating to the way in which Sumpter citizens "got on to" this oil proposition away down in Colorado. It is one of those fairy-like tales that have become chestnuts when related in connection with the "Lost Cabin" mine of song and legend. To cut a long story short, twenty years ago Mr. Bucknum, while engaged on a government survey in that section, learned of the existence of an oil spring, the product of which the few hay ranchers for many miles around used to lubricate their wagons, mowers and other farm machinery. He has kept the field notes taken then, among which there was indicated the location of this spring.

Last summer, the local real estate market having become quiet and hearing many gaudy reports of fortunes being made in the oil fields of California, he was reminded of the oil spring he had seen in Colorado twenty years ago.

He spoke of the matter to W. H. Mosby, E. Sanderson Smith, Dan Yerger and C. H. Fenner, encouraged him to look into the matter further. He found the field notes, who drew maps of the country and, accompanied by Mr. Mosby, started out several months ago to find the spring. Having been gone several weeks, he returned, bringing with him several gallons of crude oil.

They had experienced no difficulty whatever in finding the spring. The ranchers were still using the oil to grease their wagons. They bonded all the land they could get hold of. Mr. Mosby remained there to secure more options. Mr. Bucknum returned home to finance the deal, which he has succeeded in doing. The whole business has been kept as secret as possible until the present time, when secrecy is no longer desirable. Mr. Robbins talks freely on the subject. Of course, everyone hereabouts knows that his long suit is conservatism, and that his inclination is to under estimate rather than to exaggerate the possibilities of any proposition.

He says he and Colonel Raley found the conditions there exactly as represented by Mr. Bucknum. The spring is still flowing its five or six gallons of oil a day; all geological formations and conditions indicate the existence of large reservoirs of oil in that vicinity. Nothing definite can be known until wells are bored, work on which will begin at an early day.

Two companies have been organized to operate there, one consisting of Portland

capitalists, headed by J. H. Hawley, who is also interested in Alamo, and the other a syndicate of leading business men of Pendleton, represented by Colonel J. H. Raley. Mr. Robbins is connected with both companies, being president of the former. They have secured all the available lands, mostly by actual purchase, hold some under bond and have required considerable by mineral location. The two companies are acting in harmony and will work together for the purpose of developing the oil resources and building up a good town. The location of these fields are not made public yet, for the reason that all of Colorado is evidently on the eve of a great oil excitement, and some plans should be perfected before the trouble begins in that district. The seepages on the property are large, and the samples analyzed indicate that it contains about 58 per cent of illuminating oil, 15 of naphtha, and about 25 of asphaltum and residues.

The citizens of Sumpter whose names are mentioned above, and perhaps one or two others, are interested in this proposition, which bears a striking resemblance to a gigantic bonanza.

### "HE HIS OWN QUIETUS MAKES."

#### Mining Man Loses Money and Puts a Ball Through his Heart.

S. N. Farris, jr., who owned an interest in the Quebec mine, lost \$1700 in a Baker City gambling house last week, and committed suicide in consequence, shooting himself through the heart. It is generally thought that the loss of this amount of money did not seriously embarrass either the company or himself and all his acquaintances were much surprised to learn of his action.

James A. Howard, one of the owners of the Concord, in talking to an East Oregonian reporter about the case, made these interesting comments. In making the trip from Sumpter to the Red Boy a week ago, Mr. Howard had as a companion, S. N. Farris, jr., who committed suicide at Baker City Thursday morning. Mr. Howard states that Mr. Farris was a bright young man, wealthy and of good family, and one of the last persons he would have suspected would commit suicide. His one mania was gambling. His father had died only three weeks ago at Los Angeles, Calif., and to him he had given promises that he would gamble no more. He had lost \$1700 gambling within the past week.

Mr. Howard says it was not the loss of the money that led him to commit the rash deed, but the brooding over the fact that his gambling sin seemed to have such a hold upon him that he could not overcome it, and that he had been false to the promise to his father. The Farris syndicate has spent \$40,000 in the district within the past three months, principally upon the Quebec and Ashley ground, two miles from the Concord.

They were reported to be doing more good for the country in the way of development than any other company in the district, outside of the Red Boy. They have a 20-stamp mill on the Quebec ground ready for putting up, at a cost of between \$20,000 and \$25,000. The Quebec cost Farris and Carr \$40,000. They were also to have put up a 10-stamp mill on the Ashley ground soon. What effect the death of Farris, senior and junior, will have upon the continuation of the work, is unknown.

#### Private Table Board.

I will furnish private board to a few desiring such, at my residence on North street, near Center. Mrs. C. E. Duckworth.

## THAT CONCORD STRIKE

### Large Body of Ore that Averages \$41.24.

There has been much discussion of late regarding a reported rich strike in the Concord. Questioned about the matter this forenoon, Mayor J. H. Robbins, one of the owners, said that there is more or less truth in the report. He took from his pocket a certificate of nine assays, which averaged \$41.24. The lowest one was better than \$17 and the highest went \$195.

Mr. Robbins said that he had learned from his associates that the body of ore is of large dimensions and that there is therefore no further doubt but what the Concord is a valuable mine.

In another column of the MINER today is published a story regarding the strike, from the Lawton Standard, which gives the details of this remarkably rich ore body.

Mr. Robbins expects to go out to the mine in a few days, possibly tomorrow. He is not demanding the Missouri proof of the existence of this wealth, but wants to look at it for the good it will do his eyes.

Though Mr. Robbins did not say so, it is safe to state that a mill will be erected on the Concord this summer.

#### Spring Has Positively Arrived This Time.

About a month ago THE MINER announced the arrival of spring in the Blue mountains. That was a typographical error, or something of that kind. It looked like spring and felt like spring, but it was merely a better than ordinary imitation. The paper had hardly gone to press before snow began to fall, and it continued to descend at frequent intervals for about three weeks, until last Sunday evening. Monday morning, however, the sun rose bright and clear and shown radiently all day long, melting the foot of snow in all exposed places in a remarkably short time. Yesterday and today this good work has been continued and very little of the pestiferous stuff is left on the southern slopes of the mountains. It can be confidently stated now that the genuine, only original spring has finally arrived. Mrs. Richen, who has kept an account of the snow fall for the entire winter, says it has amounted to 160 inches. The roads are in an almost impassable condition and much freight billed to the mines has accumulated in the warehouses here.

#### Secured Money on Forged Paper.

J. W. Scott, who has on several occasions been tried here on petty larceny charges and who has, apparently, a chronic habit of acquiring other people's property without asking or bargaining for it, was brought up again yesterday before Judge Felix, charged by W. S. Winter with obtaining \$17.50 in money under false pretense; or in other words on a forged paper. When brought into court, Scott either pretended to be, or was too drunk to have a hearing, and was consequently locked up by Chief Rand until sober enough to do business with the judge, who will doubtless put him where he will not trouble this section for a while, at least.

#### Sumpter K. of P. Lodge No. 48.

A Knight of Pythias lodge, designated as No. 48, was established in Sumpter Saturday night, with thirty charter members, and a number of other applications on the list. Large delegations of visiting

brothers were present from Lawton and Baker City. All night was consumed in the "work," with an hour for refreshments at the Capital hotel at midnight. The following officers were elected and installed: Past Chancellors, Brig Ballantyne, R. L. Neill, Neil J. Sorenson, D. P. Bradley; chancellor commander, Seymour H. Bell; vice-chancellor, R. L. Neill; prelate, Frank Orchild; master of work, Brig Ballantyne; master at arms, Otto Herlocker; keeper of record and seals, Will Davidson; master of exchequer, H. S. Durgan; master of finance, C. C. Basche; inner guard, Geo. Baker; outer guard, Percy Jackson; delegates to the Grand lodge, Brig Ballantyne and R. L. Neill.

#### WILL MOVE TO SAN FRANCISCO.

##### Manager Poindexter of the Liberty Bell Will Have Headquarters There.

Paul E. Poindexter, who left here ten days ago for San Francisco, will return this week for a temporary stay, after having accomplished the organization of a large development and exploration company among the San Francisco capitalists.

It is definitely stated that the object of this company, as is usual with such projects, is to bond, buy, lease or develop mines in any district it may chose, regardless of state or section, and that the first proposition it will take up, will be the Liberty Bell Consolidated Mines company's property, in the district situated at Alamo.

President C. C. Basche stated last evening that the office of the Liberty Bell company would at once be moved to San Francisco, from which point the official affairs of the company will be supervised. Mr. Poindexter will also be located there as the probable manager of the new enterprise; the name of which will be something like the California and Oregon Exploration and Development company.

#### John McGuigan Seriously Injured.

Last Friday evening John G. McGuigan, who owns the controlling interest in the Alamo mine, fell from a fourth story window in the Imperial hotel at Portland, striking a glass skylight and fracturing his skull. First reports were to the effect that he could not recover, but Sunday night it was stated that he was then resting quietly and that he had about an even chance for his life. No details of the accident have been received here, further than that he had been doing business with a party of gentlemen and as they left his room, he sat in the window and a few moments later fell. It was supposed that he was overcome by dizziness. Mr. McGuigan has many friends here who were pained to hear of the accident and who sincerely hope for his recovery.

#### Oculist's Notice.

Dr. J. W. Vogel announces that he will be in Sumpter Monday, April 22, to meet his patrons whose eyes need attention. See him *him* at the Capital hotel.

Strout, assayer, 361 Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek, established in Colorado in 1876, gold (crucible assay), 50c; gold and silver, 75c; gold, silver, copper, \$1.50; forty years practice.

Miss Richardson, the milliner, announces that from the latter part of this week she will be constantly receiving new pattern hats every few days throughout the season.

The large and commodious club rooms of Dunphy & Gertridg are headquarters for mining and commercial men.