

BAKER CITY WOMAN FIRST FOUND GOLD

The East Oregonian relates an interesting chapter in the history of the discovery of gold in California. It is told by that most indefatigable historian, George H. Himes, who returned this morning from Baker City, where he interviewed Mrs. Miriam Bonney Hibler, the first discoverer of gold in modern times in California. This story has never hitherto been published, but as to its authority there is no question.

In 1845 Mrs. Hibler, then Miss Miriam Bonney was one of a party of immigrants from Missouri who came overland, headed originally for Oregon. At Fort Hall, Idaho, the party fell under the influence of a man named Hastings, an emissary of a movement to boom California, and he persuaded many members of the party to deflect at that point and go to California. Among those influenced by Hastings was Miss Bonney's father, Truman Bonney. Miss Bonney was then twelve years of age.

The Bonney party went down into California by the Lassen trail, and made their temporary headquarters near the old Sutter ranch and fort on Feather river.

Only a short time after reaching Fort Sutter Miriam Bonney found in the gravel of Feather river yellow particles which attracted her attention, among them a piece as large as a pea. The young girl was intelligent and informed enough to have more than a passing and idle interest in the yellow bits, and brought them to her father and others. Among those who saw and became interested was

General Fremont, who at once and without hesitation counseled great secretiveness, and through his influence the news of discovery of what those informed all believed to be gold was hushed up.

On the further advice of Fremont, one, Dr. Gildea, was entrusted with the care of the yellow metal and sent to Monterey to obtain an assay which would determine its real value. Gildea started on his journey, but disappeared, and it is believed that he was murdered, but that the murder had nothing to do with his mission to Monterey. The matter then rested until January 24, '48 when Captain Sutter made the find which has made his name a household word the world over.

The motive of Fremont in suppressing the news of the discovery should be appreciated at its full value and for its effects. Fremont knew perfectly well that if full publicity was given to the discovery, all his long-laid and careful plans for the annexation of California might be completely upset by the desperation with which the Spanish and Mexican influence would probably resist the movement, which at that time showed signs of being consummated.

The Bonneys in the spring of 1846 came to Oregon and lived for two years in Marion county. They then went to California for a year and engaged in mining, but without any particular success, and then returned to Oregon. Mrs. Hibler is a widow and has lived nearly all her life in Oregon, and is now seventy-one years of age.

QUEBEC CHANGES ITS MANAGEMENT

The Quebec mine has changed ownership and management and this well known property in the Alamo district is now being put in shape for the winter.

At a meeting of the stockholders held at Alamo last Thursday C. E. Jennings, of Paducah, Kentucky, and his friends purchased the J. W. and E. E. Carr interest in the Quebec, thus acquiring a control of the property. A new board of directors was elected, including Messrs. Howard, Calder, Brown and Davidson, of Sumpter, and Mr. Jennings and two associates of Kentucky. The old officers were re-elected with the exception that W. C. Calder was elected secretary and manager of the company and has taken charge of the property.

Mr. Jennings and party passed through Baker City Saturday night on their return east. Manager Calder, who promoted the deal, says that the only work that will be done on the property this season will be to repair it and put it in good shape to go through the winter, and make surveys for the purpose of obtaining patents to the ground.

The Quebec in the past has produced a large quantity of ore which was milled at a profit, and there has been done altogether about 5,000 feet of development work in the mine. It is expected to operate the mine again next year, although the plans of the company have not yet been formulated.—Democrat.

GOLDEN CHARIOT CASE GETTING A TRIFLE HOT

Mayor McColloch and his client, Wait Wade; J. B. Fryer and Roy H. Miller, witnesses, and Dr. Brock defendant, in the case involving an interest in the Golden Chariot mine, a couple of miles south of town, went to Baker City this afternoon, on business pertaining to the trial of the case.

The testimony of Messrs. Fryer and Miller will be taken at this time, before a referee, as that of other witnesses has been taken. This will probably close the evidence, unless the plaintiff puts J. W. Scriber on the stand, as has been reported would be done. The case will not go before a jury, but will be argued in chambers before Judge Egan, the evidence being submitted in typewriting.

It is being stubbornly fought and considerable bitterness has been

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engendered, some of the testimony being directly conflicting. Wade & Camp claim to own a two-thirds interest in the property, through a verbal understanding with the defendant, who claims that there never was such an agreement; that the Camp bond expired months before he secured an option, that he had no interest in their bond nor they in his. C. A. Johns represents Dr. Brock and Attorneys McColloch and William Smith the plaintiff, W. W. Wade.

The mine was sold to Philadelphia parties by L. V. Swiggett, who is managing its development, for \$30,000, about \$5,000 of which has been paid. Their title or possession is not involved. A decision will probably be reached some time in December.

TELLURIDE FOUND IN NEW ELDORADO

Thomas Lee, who has been busying himself during the past spring and summer in driving a 600-foot tunnel on the properties which he and co-owners have faith will bring into prominence the mineral wealth of the section of which Thomas's ranch in Grant county, is the pivotal point, is in Baker City, the home of himself and family.

The work thus far accomplished has demonstrated their judgment to have been superior to the divining rod. Through the length of the tunnel as far as completed they have encountered veins carrying values which encourage the belief that when they have touched the ledge matter which carries the big veins indicated near the apex of the hill, they will have an ore supply far in excess of anything which has been proven in the Susaeville district, a little further on.

Dr. Lee is not now inclined to go in details with reference to projected plans and says that he will leave the optimistic exuberance concerning that section to Captain Kemp and others, who vow that the hills thereabouts are lousy with such tellurides as will some day shade the revelations made some years ago in Cripple Creek. In passing it may be noted that these conclusions were some years ago made by the late Tom McEwen.

In what is known as the New Eldorado district, a short ways from Thomas's ranch, Manager Fuller, of the Sumpter smelter, has acquired several claims within the past few days and it is understood has sent men out there to open them at once,

and within a short time expects to commence shipping a high grade ore.—Herald.

Work on Constellation Road.

L. V. Swiggett came in last evening from the Cable Cove district, where he is personally superintending the construction of the wagon road from the Overland to the Constellation mine. He came down after men and took seven back with him. Fifteen were already employed on the work. He says the route has been slashed and the work will be entirely completed in ten days.

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