

# THE JACKSONVILLE MINER

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## The EDITOR SPEAKING

Believe it or not—happy new year!

And if this is a happy new year we've been laughing ever since joining the unemployed.

If the recent rains continue, miners will soon be able to trace the course of Jackson creek.

These Jacksonville bedrock miners have to go to a lot of work to get to the bottom so they can work it up.

Now that a new year is here we can all watch a lot of resolutions go to the same place Hoover's popularity went.

The depression will be over the minute we can get money to circulate as fast as the numbers turn on an electric meter.

It is said we can always be sure of death and taxes. But death doesn't get more painful every year or harder to accomplish.

Whether this back-yard gold mining has been uniformly successful or not is problematical, but it has reduced a lot of waistlines, and that's something.

Gold mining and politics aren't so very different—both get a lot of panning. But around J'ville there's usually a little color left in the bottom when the worthless material is sifted out.

Necessity may be the mother of invention, but we haven't noticed so many new patents this winter. Nor a new doodad that will remove hard times.

And this sales tax Hoover is proposing. We suggest, as a counter measure to raise the necessary funds, that we put a tax on presidents putting a tax on us.

And if we could only place a revenue on wealthy people telling us how prosperity is just around the corner we'd develop a national surplus instead of a deficit.

About the only nuggets this writer ever came across were in the dentist's office—and now whenever he laughs openly his observers usually grin at each other and say "there's gold in them thar mountings." Which is correct.

Which reminds us of the oil struck in a mine shaft up Applegate highway. It seems one of our residents decided to sink a shaft and do a little panning on his own. After digging down several feet he found the soil saturated with crude oil, which of course wrecked any hopes of sifting out the yellow metal. Investigation revealed that several years before while oiling the Applegate road the contractor had stored crude above this shaft and that much of it had seeped into the ground. Our informant added that people drinking from the wells below his place had to endure an oily flavor and enjoyed (?) all the benefits of Lithia water.

## GRANGE ORGANIZES TO FIGHT SALES TAXATION

Granges of the valley have called a special meeting for next Tuesday night in the basement of the Hotel Medford at that city at 7:30 o'clock for the purpose of organizing a group to discuss proposed sales tax and to point out the evils of such a taxation scheme to voters of this district.

Officials of the granges invited organizers and all bodies interested to meet them next Tuesday evening in opposition to the new measure.

## START WORK SOON ON WATER SYSTEM

As soon as bonds are printed and sold that were voted by Jacksonville for water improvement, work will begin on new water mains and tunnel.

Six thousand five hundred dollars were allotted for the new pipe line to be installed and \$3500 set aside for construction of a tunnel through the pyrite dike that is said to be withholding water from Jacksonville's reservoir. The total bond issue of \$10,000 was passed with a good majority of votes recently and assures this city an ample supply of water during the dry summer months.

It has been estimated the bonds will be disposed of and active construction work begun by February 1. About 12 men will be steadily employed until completion of the project.

## 'GOOSE EGG' MINES FIND PAY GRAVEL

The "Goose Egg" mining company, as Whitney, Carson and Wittingham term their digging clan, have abandoned their well-paying hole in back of the old depot not because of lack of color, as they were hoisting out as much as a dollar's worth of gold with every bucket of gravel, but because their picks struck a hard property line that couldn't be pierced. The shaft was started near the fence and, as the pay drifted toward the neighbor's place on the south, they soon reached the surveyor's limits.

Being still industrious and having already spent their earnings on Christmas, they started a new shaft on their back porch and are down about 15 feet. At this location bedrock is reached at a depth of 17 feet, so they are not far from putting their new diggings on a paying basis.

### Nuggets for the Taking

Messrs. Whitney, Carson and Wittingham have become so accustomed to handling the yellow metal that the other day, while deepening through gravel, they ran out some of the dirt in their sluice box. After washing the box down a dozen or so nuggets as large as pinheads, or larger, glared up at them. But as they had run out as much as \$47 worth a day in their other venture they were not at all excited and let the gold lay there, unprotected, overnight. They plan to give all their nuggets larger than goose eggs to charity, hence the name.

Taylor and Muriel, after casting about for a diving bell without luck, gave up temporarily their operations over on the south side of Jacksonville and have moved their pump back to their first love, where they are getting color enough pay to keep them working hard. This said first love is in the group back of the depot and down by the railroad tracks.

### Strike Boil Hump

And just across these same tracks George Campbell and Cleve Neathamer struck a boil hump, or high point in the bedrock, and have started a new well (at least that's how it looked during the big rain) and are down on the way to pay dirt. Their boil hump showed color but they moved operations in order to hit the old channel more direct.

After your correspondent watched these successful prospectors get milk and honey out of their back yards he decided that when the weather is warm and he feels like he'll dig up his own back yard. And maybe sooner if times get much harder.

### NEW STRIKE REPORTED

A new quartz strike has been reported on Bishop creek. It is said the ore is very rich, but it is not known the exact amount of gold found. The mine is located six miles from Jacksonville.

## JACKSONVILLE BIDDING FOR CUSTOM GOLD MILL

A representative of parties interested in erecting a custom mill for obtaining gold from quartz spent some time in Jacksonville the earlier part of the week looking over prospects and possible building sites.

This promoter is the same who put over the Blue Ledge mine and shows encouraging enthusiasm towards operation of the mill and feels that, if enough ore could be guaranteed the company he represents, success of the venture would be certain. However no definite information could be obtained as to the progress of negotiations between city officials and the interested parties.

Jacksonville has long been needing such a custom mill as it would offer a ready method of converting the hundreds of quartz prospects in the hills back of town into paying mines. At present, although these ledges have profitable rock, it is necessary to ship to Spokane for milling, with freight rates absorbing the bulk of the income from them. Such a mill here would spell the difference between success and failure for the hundreds of prospectors the depression has sent to the mountains.

### Interests Want Guarantee

If it can be determined how much ore could be assured a custom mill and that enough is available, Jacksonville will be supplied with a new and healthful industry that is bound to build the district.

Meanwhile, the city of Jacksonville has guaranteed the buyers of the Old Town mine, George Shump's former property, site for a quartz mill. It is reported that as soon as the abstract has been cleared the buyers, a Seattle syndicate, will be ready to go ahead with development of the property. It is the same shaft from which Shump took several rich pockets of gold in the past year.

### Opp Mine Developed

Work on the Opp mine is progressing steadily with a crew of about six men retimbering the hole and cleaning out the shafts. Mr. Price, local representative of the company which took an option on the property, states the crew has been active for the past three weeks and it is expected the old quartz mill will be remodeled and new equipment installed. They plan, he said, to start operations by February 1 if possible.

## SERVICE STATION MINES PRODUCING GOOD COLOR

The three mines grouped around the Jacksonville service station are producing gold in moderate quantities and show indications of good pay from the bedrock in that neighborhood.

Hodges, Bartlett and Severance are operating their mine in Severance's back yard and have about 50 feet of drift on the solid rock. The past week has seen much pumping but production continues with color in dependable proportions. Severance has been prospecting in his back yard for the past year.

Perry and Moore, east of the station, were the last of the trio to get started, but have been taking out gold since reaching bedrock about two weeks ago. Up to date they have lost little time due to water seeping in.

Burdeil and Farley, of the "Gopher" mining company, are working in about 18 feet of drift and have found the precious metal in paying quantities with regularity. Two men are kept busy in the shaft and they are washing a quantity of dirt every day. Their mine has been paying rich dividends in publicity for recently photographs were taken and a story written by Dick Chappel to be published in the Oregon Journal.

## NEW PROCESS MEN HERE LOOKING FOR DRY SITES

The past week has seen several new developments in Jacksonville's gold mining industry, prominent among which was the presence here of two men interested in locating good property where no water is available.

They are reported to have a new gold saving process which reclaims the metal from mines where sufficient water is not available for operation. Their identity was not learned.

## ANCIENT CHARCOAL GIVEN TO MUSEUM

A block of charcoal, estimated by George Little, caretaker of the Southern Oregon museum, to be no less than 20,000 years old, was added to the interesting collection of relics of older days by the donation of J. S. Armstrong.

Mr. Armstrong stated this tree carbon was found under 35 feet of lava by the construction crew of the California Oregon Power company working at Prospect. The charcoal, measuring about 12 by 12 inches, is in perfect condition despite its great age and shows the annual rings of the tree that formed it and appears to have been burned out but a few days ago.

Mr. Little explained that this oddity undoubtedly was formed by lava from one of the first eruptions of the ancient Mt. Mazama thousands of years ago. When the molten rock reached the tree it instantly converted the trunk into charcoal, one of the most stable forms of carbon. Being protected from erosion by its covering of cooled lava, the action of the years left the chunk unchanged.

### Biblical Type Lamp Added

Also Mr. Little is displaying to visitors at the museum a lamp of the sort used in biblical times described in the Bible. It is of brass, of queer design, with an open vessel for carrying oil and a tongue to lay the wick in. It has a long, upright handle and ring for either carrying in the hand as the Good Book mentions, or for fastening to the ceiling or wall.

It is welded entirely of brass and, as near as can be determined, is of a design not manufactured for several hundreds of years. Mr. O. A. Manning of Talent contributed this interesting curio.

Mr. Little reports the museum is growing in popularity and that often he spends hours describing its contents to interested visitors from all over the world.

## MEDFORD MAN FINED

In a short session of court held here Wednesday at which Ray Coleman, justice of the peace president, Homer Stevenson, Medford, was handed a hundred dollar fine and 30-day jail sentence. Stevenson pleaded guilty to a charge of possession of liquor. He is serving out both the sentence and fine in the county jail.

Two other cases which were scheduled for action Wednesday were postponed. Ernest Stevenson, also up on a liquor charge, obtained delay of his case until arrangements are made for an attorney. W. H. Spaur, also from Medford, was scheduled to appear before Justice Coleman to face charges of non-support. This case was postponed until Justice of the Peace Taylor, Medford, returns from his holiday vacation.