

THE JACKSONVILLE MINER

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TO PLACER MINE IN CITY

The EDITOR SPEAKING

Well, the old sock not only is empty but has a hole in it too.

And when we get down in the mouth we're usually up a tree.

One miner is getting so awkward he's even dropping his h's.

And this sliding scale for wages seems to have put the skids under prosperity too.

At least there was one advantage to the old time saloon. It always displayed a sign.

This depression has caused a lot of us to attempt to penetrate the torn sleeve linings of our old overcoats.

Radios have their faults and have become an endless source of needless talk, but at least they don't lean over the back fence to do it.

If we could ask business what ailed it and it could answer us back we imagine something like this would be the reply: "Oh, my operation!"

With so much faking of complexions that just ain't, it's a wonder some enterprising young lady doesn't paint a little sweat on her brow to fool the boss.

One miner, after spending several months in the hills, got in a dice game. After shaking the little cubes for all he was worth he absent mindedly looked for colors and saw spots before his eyes.

If one can believe all one reads, Jacksonville's four hundred may be supplanted with Medford's outcast five hundred. And it's a good thing we're not all like Will Rogers and know only what we see in the papers.

JACKSONVILLE MAN MAKING LABORATORY MILL TESTS

William Blair, local resident, has installed a ball mill and full equipment for making accurate mill run tests of free ore in the old Judge Roe office building.

The mill used to grind ore to any degree of fineness is of the regular type but is a 500-pound capacity laboratory size, run by a two-horsepower engine. Accessories to the mill include an amalgamated copper plate which separates gold from rock and waste material, retorts and furnaces. As Blair explains it, ore first is ground, then washed with water over the copper plate which has been coated with a layer of quicksilver, or mercury, called the amalgum. Gold, having a tendency to adhere to the quicksilver, forms an amalgamated paste which is removed with a rubber scraper and the quicksilver portion evaporated in a special retort.

The first ore run through by Mr. Blair tested \$17.50 per ton, this indicating the amount of gold that can be recovered in actual practice and not the higher content as usually shown in an assay. For example, if an ore assayed \$20 a ton it may contain that amount of gold, but in the milling of this at the smelter only the greater part could be saved. Blair's equipment will indicate the actual recovery and not the theoretical content of the metal.

GOLD SALES INCREASE

Deliveries of small quantities of gold in the Applegate section have been on the increase the past few months, according to John W. Pernoll, gold buyer and merchant of that district.

Metal from the river and surrounding hills is exceptionally clean and rather fine. Prospectors form the backbone of producers this season and, due to general business conditions, are increasing in number. Pernoll states he has purchased several hundreds of dollars worth of gold this winter and adds December was the heaviest month in many seasons.

MINING MEN IN PASS

Mining men have been gathering in Grants Pass lately and much interest is being displayed in this district, according to word received from W. L. McDonald of that city. He believes southern Oregon is due for a great revival of mining activity.

REELECT LITTELL, SEAT NEW MAYOR

In a rather long, drawn out meeting of the city council Tuesday evening called for the purpose of swearing in Wesley Hartman as mayor, Ray Coleman recorder, C. C. Chitwood treasurer, Cantrall and Dunnington councilmen, all but the mayor having served the previous term, J. A. Littell was reappointed marshal and water supervisor for 1932.

O. M. Knox, retiring mayor, was voted an expression of thanks and appreciation from the councilmen for his efforts in behalf of the city for the past term. An interpretation of the budget law passed by the last legislature by City Attorney Hanna was explained to indicate the city must remain within the budget as approved.

A suggestion to split the office of marshal and water master, salary to be divided equally, was voted down. C. A. Smith was authorized by the body to survey the water development area and prepare angle and profile maps. Members held a lengthy discussion on purchase of pipe for the new water system which was recommended and explained by a cast iron pipe company representative. Definite action was not taken until the exact amount of material needed is ascertained and some disposition of special water improvement bonds has been made. Other less important matters were tabled by the council.

CASE THROWN OUT OF COURT

Ray Coleman, justice of the peace, at a session of court held here Wednesday forenoon, dismissed charges against H. N. Wilkinson and Miss L. M. Johnson of possession of liquor. Search warrant used several weeks ago in the raid on the two was found to be defective and district attorney failed to appear to press state's charges.

SELL FOUR ACRES

A Medford buyer took over the four acres held by Mrs. Amy Nelson this week and has had the ground surveyed. The land, comprising a block of gravel tailings and some virgin mining locations, lies above the old depot in the creek bed. At one time this acreage was planted to orchard but high water and gravel refuse destroyed the trees and rendered the land useless except for mining. It is not known whether the new owner plans to work the property or lease his holdings.

Hydraulic Operations to Start Newest Phase of Local Industry

The latest development of the most thrilling and spectacular form of gold mining is scheduled to begin in the heart of Jacksonville in the near future. Hydraulic operations heretofore have been confined to the outlying districts amid the hills but soon huge streams of water used to move tons of earth will furnish fascinating scenes for local residents and the ever-increasing number of visitors to this city.

W. J. Canady, Klamath Falls, recently purchased the block of land on Third street a few blocks west of California from R. H. Toft of Medford. He is installing pumps and equipment to placer mine the property and plans to work the soil in a thorough manner when preparations are complete.

This is the same location that was worked last winter and spring by Arthur McIntosh, who recovered as high as an ounce of gold a day, finding a number of nuggets running from \$10 to \$13 each.

SHUMP STILL UNABLE TO WALK

George Shump, local mine owner, has been confined to his home suffering from complications resulting from continued breaking of one leg above the knee. Shump was unaware of the fractures until after having x-ray pictures taken of the limb. His many friends expect him to be on his feet again in a few weeks.

GOOSE EGG MINERS HAVE CAVE-IN FROM OLD SHAFT

Goose Egg mining company, Whitney, Carlsen and Winingham operators, are in blue gravel of the old channel and report bedrock to be pitching, which is interpreted as a very favorable indication. Their mine is in the group back of the old depot.

Several old bottles from an abandoned well the men dug into furnished interest and made it necessary to timber through the opening. Their claim to have dug up a horse and buggy is doubted, however, by local experts.

The first of the week they sank another shaft near the fence to bedrock and panned out some mighty fine gravel. But when they began to work the hole one wall caved in from water pressure in an old tunnel they had just missed. As soon as they are able to pump the water out they will investigate the shaft that probably was made 75 years ago.

Gold in their main shaft is running a moderate average, but they look forward to an increase in production from the blue dirt.

WE APOLOGIZE

In our last issue we muffed our figures a bit. The leading front page story informed our readers the local gold buyer, Mr. Godward, had received \$1000 worth of the metal in small amounts the past year. Correct data shows that sum for December alone and nearly \$10,000 for the entire 12 months just completed. Godward estimated he receives less than one-third the gold produced by small prospectors in this vicinity, which would indicate quite a large sum placed in circulation here last year from gold alone. Well, what's a small sum of \$9000 to a printer anyway?

USE PUMP ON RAY MINE

Snider and Ross, mining on the Ray Realty company ground south of this city, have been using water from storage dams erected last fall with the aid of a hydraulic pump. Their equipment is so arranged that all water is salvaged and run back into reservoirs. They have a vast amount of ground, testing from \$1 to \$2.05 per yard, that can be run no other way.

The dry season had been spent running dirt through a rotary screen to remove all large rock to facilitate rapid handling during the months when water is to be had. Their holdings are on the side of the mountains where moisture is at a premium. With the present rains the two expect a valuable cleanup from material being sluiced.

James Winingham, local miner, prospected the first of the week on A. T. Norris' property on Jacksonville hill and had quite a pan of gold to show the grocer at the end of the day.

THREE MINERALS FOUND IN COUNTY

George Little, of the Southern Oregon museum, has prepared information on several less known important minerals found in profitable quantities in this region. Although gold and copper are the more prominent and better understood of the metals, cinnabar, graphite and stibnite exist in huge quantities and promise to contribute much toward the future growth and development of southern Oregon.

The first of these, cinnabar, is a sulphide of mercury, from which quicksilver is obtained. The ore mined near Jacksonville contains 86.3 per cent quicksilver and 13.7 per cent sulphur, the highest proportions of mercury to be found in any combination. Recovery of the liquid metal is a very simple process, requiring only heating of the ore to 680 degrees temperature, when quicksilver will vaporize as water changes to steam, and precipitation of this vapor in condensing chambers into the pure liquid metal just as steam reverts to water. Cinnabar is widely distributed throughout Jackson county and it is interesting to note that early miners recovered enough cinnabar in their sluice boxes in Steamboat, Squaw creek, French gulch, Evans creek and Little Butte districts for their mining purposes. All alluvial soils produce this ore and there are several well developed cinnabar prospects in the Evans and Squaw creek country.

Graphite, second of the three, commonly called black lead, is pure carbon, same substance of which diamonds are composed. Its chief use is in manufacture of pencils, stove polish, as a base for paint and lubricating oils and also is used on heated journals in machinery. Immense deposits of this raw substance lie within 20 miles of Jacksonville in the Applegate country.

Stibnite, or antimonial sulphide, is a chemical composition of sulphur and antimony. Local ore contains 71.5 per cent antimony and 28.5 per cent sulphur, several deposits of which have been found in the Applegate hills.

Excellent samples of these and all characteristic ores of Jackson county may be seen at the local museum at any time.

FORREST CREEK SENDS IN GOLD

More than \$200 worth of gold has been brought in the last few days from Forrest creek district, six miles out, to G. W. Godward, local gold buyer.