

## HOSPITAL CARE PLAN AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUALS

The Blue Cross Plan for hospital care is now open to individuals under the newly adopted direct enrollment program of the Northwest Hospital Service Plan. The new service applies to individuals formerly ineligible for membership because they could not qualify for group enrollment. More than 50,000 persons are already signed up for hospital service benefits through the group enrollment plan launched three years ago by the Oregon participating hospitals. These people — single persons, husbands, wives and children — are assured of paid-in-advance hospital service up to a maximum of 21 days full benefits plus an additional 90 days of 50 per cent benefits, in the event of sickness or injury, by the participating hospitals of the plan, which include: Portland; Coffey Memorial; Emanuel; Good Samaritan; Providence and St. Vincent's; Medford; Sacred Heart.

**Group Plan In Effect**

The basic group enrollment plan through employers of five or more persons or professional or agricultural associations remains in effect.

Now, for the first time, individuals who cannot qualify for group enrollment through their employer or because they are in business for themselves can apply for hospitalization benefits

directly to the Service Plan office, 1200 S. W. Morrison street, Portland, Oregon, or their local participating hospital. It is the intention to open direct enrollment on October 1, January 1, April 1 and July 1 of each year. Applications may be submitted before these dates and, if accepted, protection becomes effective one month later, for conditions which did not exist at or before the effective date. The applicant and family members must be under the age of 65 and in good health to qualify.

### Nursing Included

Blue Cross bed-patient service in participating hospitals includes the following: Bed and board and general nursing service in award accommodations; operating and delivery room service; anesthesia, when administered by a hospital employee; dressings and plaster casts; drugs laboratory examinations; X-ray; basal metabolism tests; and electrocardiograms. Maternity care is provided up to 10 days after 10 months continuous family membership under group enrollment and after 24 months family membership under direct enrollment. Emergency room care is covered in accident cases within 24 hours of the accident.

Fixed payments are made by the Service Plan toward hospital bills incurred by members who become sick or are injured while traveling anywhere in the United States and Canada.

Here is what each type of membership costs: Under group enrollment: one person, \$ .90 monthly; two persons, \$1.80 monthly; family \$2.40 monthly. Under direct enrollment: one person, \$6 semi-annually; two persons, \$12 semi-annually. Family, \$16 semi-annually.

### Enrollment Fee \$1

There is an initial enrollment fee of \$1 required for each application for direct enrollment. As a result of the cooperative efforts of leaders of industry, labor, agriculture and hospitals, over 3,500 hospitals in the United States and Canada participate in the 87 Blue Cross Plans which are approved and coordinated through the American Hospital Association. National enrollment has now reached 19,000,000 and is increasing at the rate of almost 17,000 per working day.

The non-profit Blue Cross Plan is a community service to enable the individual to budget against the unexpected and unpredictable expense of hospitalization. The hospitals themselves sponsor the plan and guarantee the service under the membership certificate.

Alaska is governed conjointly by its own legislative assembly and by Congress, which reserved the right to legislate on certain subjects when the territorial government was approved in 1912.

## Mining Offers Medford Area Potential Wealth, Employment

By Russell A. Mitchell

Now that the war is over we should look at our particular section of the country to see whether we have any potential industry capable of development and employment of surplus labor and capital. In my opinion mining offers a greater opportunity for employment of both men and money than any new industry we can start.

As yet it is only a potential source of new wealth. It is a question of whether it can be developed with a minimum of outside help. As it now stands, comparatively few laborers can expect to find permanent jobs at living wages. Undoubtedly if depression comes, a great many men can eke out a living but such a condition is not desirable. It is better for us as well as the whole nation that labor be employed at good wages. We need a sound, permanent industry such as mining can be in southern Oregon.

### Gold Main Metal

The future of all metals except gold is insecure. Fortunately for our part of the country gold is more widely distributed and shows better prospects for profitable mining than any other mineral. The market for gold is reliable and secure. We have the gold. What we need is money to develop it and machinery to mine it.

So far not much has been done except by the prospectors. They have done their part by exposing the outcrops on the surface. That is all prospectors are able to do anywhere. Exploration at depth requires money, machinery and miners. Of the three requirements money is by far the most important and the most difficult to obtain. After exploration is done and ore is blocked out any amount of money can be obtained. The difficulty lies in getting the first few hundred feet underground.

This difficulty seems more exaggerated in southern Oregon than anywhere the writer has ever been. I believe there are real reasons for such conditions and I have endeavored to find

out why more exploration has not been done.

### Geology Different

In the first place the geology is different. The Siskiyou are older mountains than either the Cascades or the Rockies. The volcanic rocks are highly mineralized and break down to form a thick overburden, thus hiding outcrops. Veins as a rule are not continuous for great distances. These mountains have been broken and moved several times and veins are, as a result, fragmentary. This is no real excuse for not mining them. The truth is that the more broken a country is the more likely it is to turn out large amounts of high grade ore.

In the second place the climate is different. Being extremely dry in summer and extremely wet in winter causes or helps to cause deeper weathering of veins. Quite often veins at the surface do not show more than a trace of gold. Sometimes the quartz practically disappears.

There is nearly always a barren zone between the summer water level and the winter water level. Even when a pocket is left in the vein at the surface, the barren zone causes pocket hunters to conclude that "it don't go down". Unless a vein pays all the way down a poor man cannot follow to any depth. But to abandon a claim because it will not pan out a living is pure nonsense.

We should expect to have to use machinery and to make a profit on fairly low grade ore. No extremely rich shoot of gold can last forever, but lowgrade bodies can be mined for many, many years. The pockets at the surface are compensation for deep weathering and heavy overburden. They are as sure a sign of pay dirt as can be found anywhere. When the chemistry of gold veins in southern Oregon is better known to the reputable engineers and geologists I believe they will be willing "to stick out their necks" and advise money being spent for exploration.

The third great hindrance to

a mining industry in Oregon is lack of roads. The writer observed small mines operating all over Boulder County, Colorado, and wondered how in the world they could build those roads over such steep, hard country. Upon inquiry, I learned they did not. The county builds the roads. Mining is an important means of livelihood for the people in Colorado and the people build the roads. It would not be too great a burden for Jackson County to bulldoze a road up to a miner when he had out his first carload of pay ore. Nothing the people could do would accomplish more toward encouraging and promoting the industry to the good of the whole county. As it is, the miner feels there is no use in digging out, say, \$20 ore when there is no possible way to get it to market.

A fourth very important point is the lack of milling facilities near at hand. Colorado has the Golden Cycle mill that before the war ground a half million tons of ore per year. Most of this ore was shipped from small operators and its average value was less than \$15 per ton. We have no such milling facilities in southern Oregon, and if every miner must erect a mill to extract his particular ore, the industry is doomed.

I realize that simply to rush out and build a mill without any source of mill rock would be foolish. I am also sure that it will take years of development before a half-million tons can be produced per year in southern Oregon and northern California. But if local money is interested, enough ore can be found to in-

## MILK MARKETING ORDER WILL BE AIDED THURSDAY

A public hearing to provide a basis for revision of the milk marketing order for Jackson County marketing areas No. 2 and No. 3 and Camp White marketing area is scheduled to be held at the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce on September 13, at 1:30 p.m., according to notices sent out by the Milk Control Section, State Department of Agriculture.

The hearing will deal mainly with details incidental to revision of the milk market order issued by the former Oregon Milk Control Board in order to bring local milk market regulations up to date, within limitations imposed by the various federal price and production orders. Some changes in the order will be proposed by the Department of Agriculture to comply with general policies of the department in the administration of the Oregon Milk Control Act. The hearing will have no connection with laws passed at the

last session of the legislature, it is pointed out. Although matters to be discussed will be primarily of interest to milk producers, distributors and dealers, the hearing is open to consumers and others interested in fluid milk marketing. E. L. Peterson, director of the

State Department of Agriculture, will be represented by an examiner from the Portland office of the Milk Control Section of the department. E. Eugene Chadwick, Eugene, district representative for the department in Southern Oregon, is in charge of arrangements for the hearing.

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