

Applegate Valley Was Famous Mining Area



STERLING MINE - This picture of work at the famous Sterling mine, one of the most productive in the Applegate area during the gold mining period at the turn of the century, was taken about 1900. The Applegate valley area spotted with mines which no longer are productive.

Gold Discovery In 1851 Sparked Rush to County

By MAUDE ZIEGLER
Mail Tribune Correspondent

The Applegate valley a century ago was known as "the famous mining country west of Jacksonville."

Agriculture had not been developed along the "Applegate Creek," discovered by Lindsay and Jesse Applegate and party who pushed southward from the Willamette through the wilderness of southern Oregon and on to Ft. Hall, Idaho, in 1846 to make a wagon road for others coming from the states.

With discovery of gold in Jacksonville and in West Josephine county in 1851, soon the Applegate hills were deluged with Willamette valley emigrants who left their farms to share in Oregon's bonanza, and with streams of gold seekers from the California camps.

First discovery of gold on the Applegate was at the site of the Robert Cameron ranch, now the Miller and Gerwick ranch.

With rocker and pan, miners swarmed every stream and gulch of the valley. The long-tom and Hungarian sluice also were devices of the first Oregon gold diggers.

The long-tom consisted of a piece of "tom" iron extended from the lower end of a sluice box, and so perforated as to permit the gold, when the gravel was stirred with a shovel, to drop through the interstices. The Hungarian sluice had riffles running parallel to the water instead of crosswise.

Continuous Snow
In the winter of 1853, a continuous snow fell over southern Oregon, and the country was frozen up for two months. Supplies from the Willamette and Yreka were snowbound, and food was not to be bought.

That was when flour was \$75 a sack, and salt was exchanged for its weight in gold. Soon after this hardship, came the Indian outbreaks and bloodshed in southern Oregon, which lasted until the Indian surrender in July, 1856.

The days of gold continued throughout the 50s, and by that time the surface diggings in creek beds and low bars were pretty well skimmed over.

Many of the nervous gold hunters moved on to new gold strikes in Idaho and in the Frazier river country of British Columbia. Chinese camps sprung up at Sterling, Forest Creek, Palmer Creek, and at Uniontown, where Gin Lin, the aristocrat of his people, was in charge of Chinese mining operations, and was the first to use a dump giant to stack tailings. The high banks and deep old channels that were out of reach of the early miner and his crude devices were worked profitably by the Chinamen who used pipe and gate.

Quartz Mining
The Sterling mine, the biggest placer producer in the state in the late 90s, with one seasonal output of \$90,000, was discovered in 1854 by Aaron Davis and James Sterling, and the resulting mining town was one of seething activity for the next five years. Succeeding early day owners were Theodore Cameron, E. S. Hayden, D. P. Thompson, M. S. Burrell, Levi Ankeny, and other members of the Ankeny family.

Forest Creek, called Jackass Creek in the A. J. Walling history, was famous for its rich gravel beds and quartz ledges, and in 1868 there were 2,000 white men and 400 Chinese working on the stream. A company of six Chinese took out \$23,000 in one season.

The Al Sturgis mine was one of the best known in southern Oregon, and in the early 1900s became the S. A. Vance Hydraulic company. The mine operated night and day, and a derrick with a 60 foot mast and a 74 foot boom was used for handling the larger boulders.

Water rights from both forks of Forest Creek insured slush-water until April or May, and midsummer work continued by use of reservoir heads.

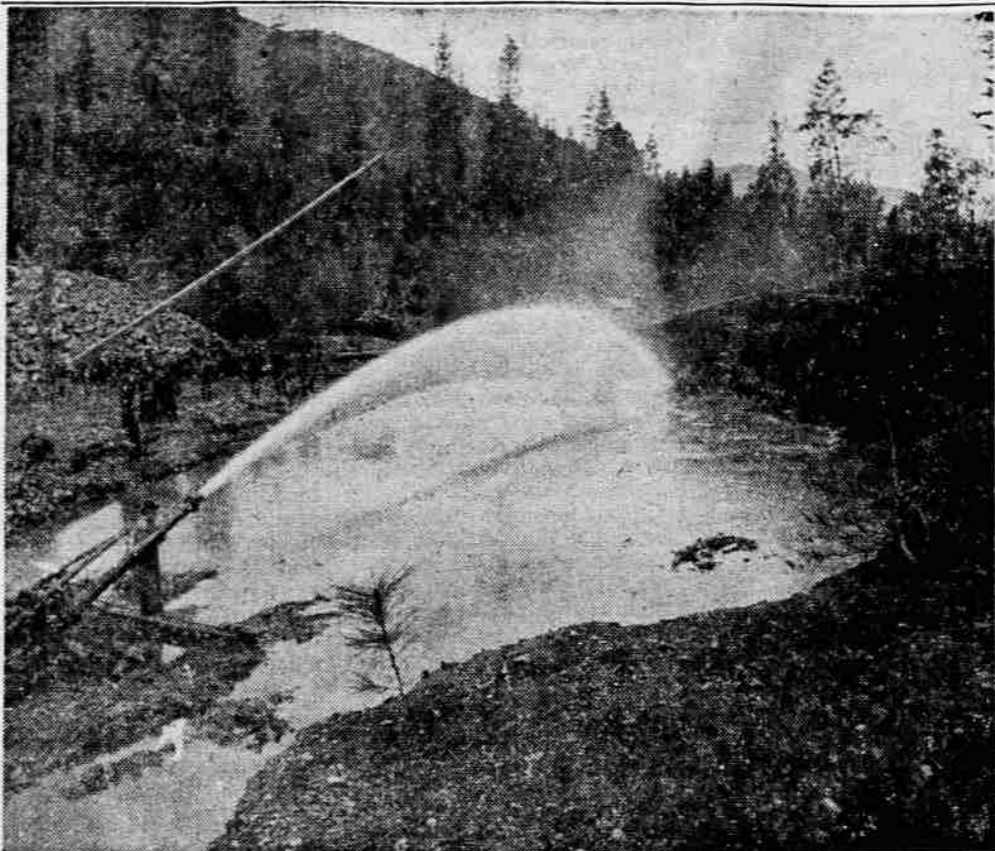
Good Placer Holding
Another good placer holding on Forest Creek was the Cook and Howland, later bought by the Tacoma company, managed by E. A. Spaulding. The San Antonio mine in the same area was comprised of more than 300 acres, formerly the Carter and Peter Black ranch, and purchased by James B. Dugan of San Francisco. Another well known placer mine was owned by J. D. S. (Doc) Pearce and sons on Poor Man's creek. A great deal of coarse gold was taken out, including one piece weighing \$55 and another weighing \$23.

Among other prominent holdings in the lower valley was that of J. T. Layton, who purchased and consolidated the Bolt, Kubli, Hudson, and Caldwell interests on Ferris Gulch in 1868.

Water for this project was brought in a 17-mile ditch from Williams creek, and later a higher ditch was dug, using 600 feet of siphon over the Williams creek divide, and introducing the first siphon in the country. In later years Layton's son, Lester, operated the mine.

In another area, the Grand Applegate ditch extended for six miles below Elliott creek, designed for mining three or four thousand acres of ground. The Squaw Creek Mining company worked on 160 acres of ground below Squaw lake, including Divident Bar, and used Squaw lake, covering 125 acres of ground as a reservoir for piping. John Bolt operated on Humbug creek, and B. E. Haney owned and managed claims on Star Gulch; Carter and Garvin also had holdings on Little Applegate.

Quartz mining began to develop on the Applegate, and "pockets" were found on every tributary of the river. It was near the head of Car-



PEARCE MINE - This early-day mining scene is along Poor Man's creek in the Applegate valley showing work in the Pearce Mine. The location is along the present Jacksonville-Ruch highway. The boom at left was used to lift larger boulders from the wash area.

bury that the famous "Steamboat" pocket of \$250 or more, was found in 1869.

Another well-known quartz mine was the "Oregon Belle" on Forest creek, discovered in the 90s by Broad, Reid and Throckmorton, and was one of few properties in southern Oregon to pay for itself as it went along.

Valuable Mine
Another Forest Creek quartz prospect, called "The Sunset," was discovered in 1899 by Mark W. Wingham and Mace Van Gorder, who took out \$6,000 or \$7,000 worth the following three years from only 200 tons of ore. McIntyre and Orme sold their "Yellow Jacket" mine to George Dyson. The Reid and Fletcher prospect on Bishop creek and east branch of Forest Creek yielded about \$5,000 around 1890.

In the Upper Applegate area, quartz ledges other than the "Steamboat" were found. One of these was owned by William Hacker and Albert Collings on a tributary to Middle Fork. This was the "Ruby," and \$6,000 was taken from a depth of less than 30 feet.

Squaw Creek yielded some copper claims owned by E. Spencer, Bruce Buck, and George Neuber.

An adult American uses about 19 pounds of coffee a year.

On the E. J. Langley homestead of early days valuable ledges were found, and Langley formed a partnership with James Terry. They installed a small three-stamp mill which still exists.

Placer Properties
A number of placer properties were located on Humbug creek, including that of White and Brown and Ben Thurston. Star Gulch and Palmer Creek also had several placer mines.

Some copper mines have existed in the Upper Applegate region; the largest of these was the Blue Ledge, four miles over the state line in California, from which ore was hauled to Medford with wagons and six horse teams over the Big Applegate road.

Among those who had smaller claims were Andrew Jeldness, Cook and Green, Eric Anderson, E. C. Fawcett, E. T. Lungren and Frank Edwards.

Improve your fireplace! CALL NOW! SP 27166

SMITH-DYNGE LBR. CO. 8th St. at Fir

Interest High For Kennedy Talk

Interest in hearing Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, speaker for this year's Roosevelt Memorial dinner March 6 at McLoughlin Junior High school closely approaches that expressed in Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who spoke here for the 1956 event, according to General Chairman James A. Redden.

"Calls for tickets began coming with the first announcement of his acceptance of our invitation," Redden said. "Now that tickets are out they are disappearing fast." He predicted a full house, in spite of the date having been moved forward a full month to accommodate Kennedy's heavy senate schedule.

McLoughlin Junior High school can seat 750 if necessary, school authorities said. Among others named so far on the dinner committee by Democratic County Chairman Frank Christian are Mrs. Edward C. Kelly, permanent chairman; Jerry Scannell, ticket chairman; Mrs. W. D. Werner, foods chairman; Mrs. Albert Straus, serving chairman; Mrs. Dee Newton, head table arrangements; Larry Sheehan, gift selection; Mark Norton and Clyde Fichtner, reception cochairmen; Mrs.

Marvin Madden, decorations chairman, and Clarence Edmond and Frank Christian, hall arrangements.

SCIENCE USES CANS
Mobile, Ala.—(UP)—The common garbage can has gone to work in an effort to improve telephone service. The cans were placed atop telephone poles here and connected to a mass of wires and instruments which stored interference from electrical storms.

YUMMY
Boston—(UP)—Delicacies featured at this year's Boston food show include fried grasshoppers, fried silk worms, fried bumblebees and roasted caterpillars.

ATTENTION
New Comers to Medford
Don't Pass Up This Nearly New
3-BEDROOM
CUSTOM BUILT HOME
SACRIFICE \$17,000
in Medford's Best Location.
No Real Estate Dealers,
please. Phone SP 3-5118
after 6:30 p.m.

Three Steps Are Given Veterans

Three new steps to help disabled veterans make a smoother and quicker comeback to productive employment have been announced by S. T. Brannock, contact representative, VA Domiciliary, Camp White.

One step gives disabled veterans "head start" toward rehabilitation by allowing them to begin vocational training under VA's program for the disabled while they still are patients in VA hospitals.

"They must be well enough along in their hospital treatment to be able to leave the hospital part of the day to attend school or a training establishment, Brannock said.

A second step now allows veterans to start vocational rehabilitation training even if they cannot complete it by the termination date for training established by the law.

However, arrangements must be made for some agency other than the VA, such as a state rehabilitation agency, to pick up where VA has to leave off.

The third new step now permits VA to give job-finding assistance as well as personal counseling to disabled veterans after they have completed their vocational training if they cannot find employment or if there is some personality difficulty standing in their way of getting and holding a job.

There are about 6,900 hospitals in service in the U.S.

SALES - RENTALS
EVEREST & JENNINGS
Folding
WHEEL
CHAIRS
Open Sundays and Holidays
10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

HUDSON'S PHARMACY
613 E. Main—Ph. SP 3-5345
1 Block East Hawthorne Park

Look Article on Hospital Practices Rapped by Officials

Chicago—The director of the American Hospital association and the executive vice-president of the American Medical association Friday took issue with an article on practices in hospitals in the current issue of Look magazine.

Dr. Edwin L. Crosby is director of the American Hospital Medical association. Dr. F. J. L. Blasingame is executive vice-president of the American Medical association. They commented on an article by Roland H. Berg, Look medical editor.

Dr. Crosby said, "One needn't believe that everything is perfect in our hospitals—as it is not in other public service programs—to conclude that the handling of an admittedly difficult problem by Berg and Look was most unfortunate."

Statement Rapped
Dr. Crosby termed the article's opening sentence—"A hospital is not a fit place in which to be sick"—as "an outrageous misstatement." He said "This statement is disproved by an abundance of evidence; the growing acceptance by the public of the hospital as the place to get well; the direct relationship between the drop in maternal mortality rates and the increasing frequency with which hospitalization is sought for childbirth."

Dr. Crosby told the Look publisher that although "Berg devotes much space to patient dissatisfaction . . . the very study he quotes is at odds with his findings." The study on five hospitals in California was sponsored by the California Medical association. Dr. Crosby said 95 and 94 per cent of the patients in the two hospitals studied in greatest detail were generally satisfied with their care and treatment.

The AHA director pointed out that hospitals have, for the last decade been continuously

striving "to keep abreast of the explosive growth in medical science and to bring those advantages to the American people."

He observed, "It is difficult to keep pace, to meet the demands of the patients and physicians for even better and ever more complex care and at the same time solve the subtle human relations problem in a hospital."

"I am fearful that you may have unwittingly intensified a problem already difficult enough," Dr. Crosby wrote. He added, ". . . hospital administrators face the continuous problem of fitting inadequate amounts of money to increasing great needs. It is understandable that they trim in the area of scientific needs, only as a last resort. We believe that there is a major national problem in the under-financing of hospital care; a tremendous service deficit in our hospitals. The budgets are balanced somehow. We suspect that this balance is at the expense of the kind of hospital care we believe that a properly educated public could finance."

Dr. Blasingame, speaking for the American Medical association, said, "By taking isolated examples from a limited survey and drawing general inferences from them, Look not only has done a grave injustice to the medical profession and to hospitals but to the readers of the magazine."

Condemnation Deplorable
"The blanket condemnation of all hospitals, based on a survey of five hospitals out of 5,640 is deplorable. Actually, the survey reported a tremendous degree of patient satisfaction, the lowest cited figure being 94 per cent. This was not mentioned in the Look magazine."

"While the article purportedly calls for better physician-patient relationships, it actually harms the patient's confidence in the care he will receive from his physician and in the hospital so essential for the best in medical care. The article cannot help but increase the natural insecurity of the afflicted and the suffering."

"The article also violates the basic concepts of sound reporting. Matters such as these cannot be considered adequately or accurately covered until both sides of the question are reported with fidelity and without distortion."

"The medical and hospital professions have been sincere in devoting their efforts to a continuing program of self-improvement designed to benefit our patients. We welcome constructive suggestions to help us do even better. For the sake of our patients, we must object to those we believe will be harmful."

Water rights from both forks

A Tribute . . . Our American Legion

VALOR, said one of the great philosophers, is something lightly remembered. Is that true here in this town? We don't think so. We remember. We remember the faces and figures of our boys who marched away for World War I . . . and our lads who donned uniforms for World War II. The American Legion is a fraternity of these men who, when the occasion arose, took up arms in OUR defense. Do THEY remember? Most certainly. They remember everything they and their buddies went through; and now with their regular meetings at the Post, they glory in the fact that they constitute one of the greatest, most influential forces for good in our nation. All hail our heroes who proudly wore the Blue and the Khaki!

Medford Pharmacy
101 North Central, Corner 6th • Ph. SP 2-6253
Open today - 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Week days: 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

We Salute Our Town!

FIR SLABS
SELECT GREEN
ESTABLISHED 1896
GREEN STAMPS

● Big Loads—Summer Prices
● Buy Now—Prompt Delivery
MEDFORD FUEL CO.
Phone SP 2-2111 Court and McAndrews

Pre-Inventory Sale! ENDS WED., FEB. 18th

BARGAINS GALORE Throughout The STORE!!

Lamps Phonographs
Pictures Records
Clocks Dinnerwear
Stationery Glasswear

And Hundreds of Other Items

Swem's BOOKS - GIFTS - RECORDS
217 E. Main Medford

You can play a real musical instrument in minutes... without lessons or experience



with the **MAGNUS** ELECTRIC CHORD ORGAN

If you can read numbers, you can play any kind of music from classical to jazz—tonight, in your own home.

You simply match the numbers in the Song Books with the numbered keys of the Magnus Electric Chord Organ keyboard. You needn't know one note from another, though they're there for those who do. You play full, resonant chord accompaniment, too. You, yes you press a key—and out comes MUSIC! Real music, full timbered, rich, mellow, and wide of range . . . vibrant with the authentic "breathing" of organ tones and overtones, because Magnus uses the same principle of passing air over reeds as you find in the mightiest church organs.

Truly, Magnus is unmatched at its price for workmanship, cabinetry, and tonal quality.

Available in blonde mahogany or traditional walnut **only \$129⁹⁵**

Matching Table Optional
\$12.95 Down - \$10.81 Per Month

Come In! See It! Prove to Yourself You Can Play It in Minutes!

. . . or mail the coupon below for a **FREE Home Trial** without obligation

Yes, I would like to have a MAGNUS Electric Chord Organ in my home for a free trial.
Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____ City _____ State _____

LIVE with Music
PURUCKER Music House
Phone SP 2-5702
111 North Central • Medford