

Al Sarena Mining Claims Sold to Wilson

No Minerals Are Taken from Mines Since Patented

Portland Reporters Visit Claim Scene

(Reprinted by permission) (Copyright, 1960, by The Portland Reporter) By ROBERT McBRIDE and DANIEL L. GOLDY

The Al Sarena mining claims, symbol of Democratic and Republican conflict over management and conservation of the nation's natural resources, have been sold to an Oregon lumberman.

The Portland Reporter also has learned that some 6,017,000 board feet of timber has been cut from the 23 claims, located in the Rogue River National Forest of southern Oregon, but not one spoonful of mineral has been removed from the land since patents were issued Feb. 11, 1954.

The amount of Al Sarena timber logged through August of this year is based on ocular slash estimates by the U.S. forest service. The estimated value of these logs, based on a conservative stumpage price of about \$30 per thousand, is \$198,510.

The Al Sarena company of Trail, Oregon, and Mobile, Ala., paid the federal government \$2,375 for the property. The statutory price for mining claim land is \$5 an acre. Each of the 23 claims consists of almost exactly 20 acres.

The Oregon lumber firm to which Al Sarena Mines, Inc., sold its claims, the Steve O. Wilson Co. of Medford, said it paid "less than \$100,000" for the land and remaining timber, plus an undisclosed amount of mining stock.

There is no record of the sale in the Jackson county courthouse in Medford, but Wilson told The Reporter the transaction took place in the spring and said, "I consider myself the owner."

Wilson added that he has had trouble getting title insurance for the property, but he was at a loss to explain why there is no record of the sale in the courthouse.

The Reporter heard a rumor of the transfer of the Al Sarena property several weeks ago, but delayed printing the story until it could confirm the details of the transaction with Wilson and view the property first hand.

Wilson said he already has taken about 2,000,000 board feet off the claims since they came into his possession. He said he did not cut the timber himself, but contracted with a small logger to do the job.

No evidence exists of recent mining on the claims. The old mine tunnel, processing plant and other buildings and equipment on the site of the claims on Elk creek road some 45 miles north and east of Medford look as if they have not been in use for at least a decade.

A model "T" Ford stands on flat tires astraddle of the ore cart tracks into the tunnel. The ancient automobile has obviously been immobile a long, long time. The rails from the mine to the ore processing plant are useless. The rail trestle is falling in decay. Grass grows in the doorway of the shed at the mouth of the mine tunnel. A few rusty tools are strewn about the property. A constant stream of yellowish water runs from the dark mouth of the mine.

Evidence of Logging
Evidences of logging are all about the area. A few hundred feet from the mine, entire hillsides have been stripped of their timber.

Forest service estimates of the cut year by year are as follows: 1954 - 800,000 feet; 1955 - 1,820,000; 1956 - none, but some timber sold to Steve O. Wilson; 1957 - 341,000; 1958 - 1,156,000; 1959 - none; 1960 - 2,500,000 feet.

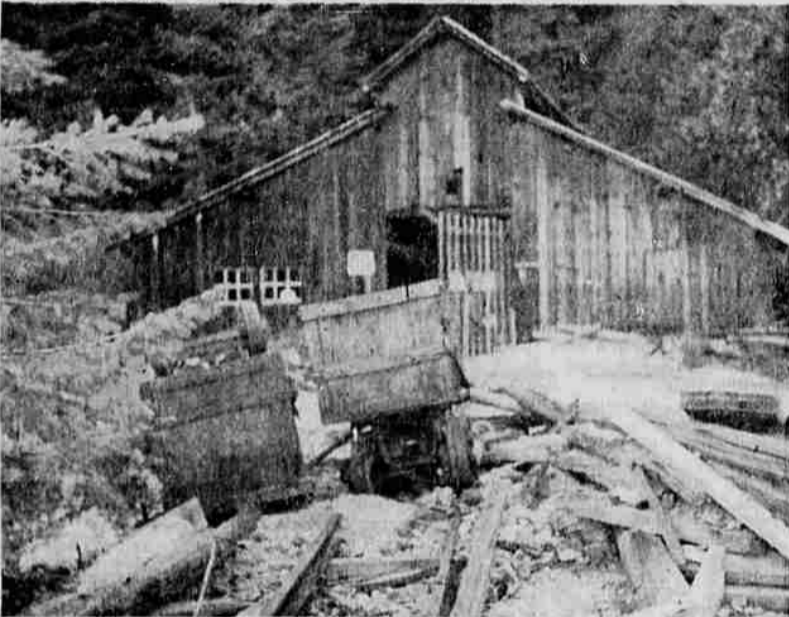
The forest service once estimated that 20,000,000 board feet of timber stood on the Al Sarena claims, but Wilson said "not more than 2,000,000 are still there."

The Al Sarena claims were the subject of lengthy, bitter and inconclusive congressional hearings in 1955 and 1956. A mass of testimony and documentary evidence was collected during the investigation in both Oregon and Washington, D.C., but no agreement ever was reached on the point at issue.

Status of Claims
That point was whether the claims were legitimate, whether the land contained gold, silver or other minerals in commercial quantities, or whether Al Sarena Mines, Inc., had sought and obtained patents in order to cut mil-



STRIPPED OF TIMBER - Mountain sides at the Al Sarena mining claims are stripped of their timber, a familiar sight on the claims, which are located in the Rogue River National Forest about 45 miles north of their timber, a familiar sight on the



MINE IN DECAY - The Al Sarena mine is in decay. Not one ounce of mineral has been removed from the land since mining claims were patented Feb. 11, 1954. The company was awarded patents on the premise that valuable ore deposits were present.

ions of board feet of valuable national forest timber. Democrats such as Richard L. Neuberger charged the Republican administration of the interior department under the late Sec. Douglas McKay, a former governor of Oregon, with permitting a "timber grab" in the Rogue River National Forest.

Neuberger's opponent in the 1954 senatorial campaign, incumbent Sen. Guy M. Cordon, replied vehemently that Al Sarena was a "phony" issue. In 1956, Rep. Charles Porter's opponent in the 4th district, incumbent Rep. Harris Ellsworth, asserted that patents to the claims were legally issued under the mining laws of 1872.

Oregon newspapers divided sharply on the issue. Some agreed with Neuberger, Porter and other Democrats. Some newspapers agreed with Cordon and Ellsworth and supported the administration.

Issue Lives On
But the issue lived on despite disagreement along what seemed to be strictly partisan lines. The Al Sarena case became, in fact, a symbol of what the Democrats hold to be the Eisenhower administration's "retreat from responsibility" in the field of resource management and conservation. It is mentioned in this context in the 1960 Democratic national platform.

The majority members of the House committee on government operations asserted in a report June 20, 1956, that "to grant patent to the claims of Al Sarena Mines, Inc., in the Rogue River National Forest, the department of the interior invented a procedure without precedent in the administration of our public lands and contrary to the principles of the Administrative Procedures Act. Al Sarena Mines, Inc., had been unsuccessful in obtaining patents under the normal procedures applicable, then as now, to all other mining claims."

The company applied for patents Oct. 4, 1948. On April 13, 1950, the forest service filed protests on 15 of the 23 claims, charging inadequate mineralization. The forest service based its protests on three separate assays by independent assayers in Oregon and California.

Hearing Held
A hearing was held in Portland, Sept. 13, 1950, at which representatives of the company walked out without presenting a single piece of evidence. In due course, the 15 disputed claims were denied by the bureau of land management. The company was offered another opportunity

to present its case under regular BLM procedures, but turned the opportunity down. The company's refusal to submit its evidence during the hearings later led to charges

that the BLM had somehow withheld information that would have been favorable to the company, and that records were missing.

In 1953, when McKay took office as secretary of the interior and Clarence A. Davis as solicitor of that department, Davis worked out with Rep. Ellsworth of Oregon a novel procedure for reappraisal of the claims outside the record previously made.

Davis asked a representative of the bureau of mines to accompany the Al Sarena company's mining engineer to take new samples from the 15 disputed claims. Under his instruction, these samples were to be assayed by a firm acceptable to the company as well as the bureau of mines.

Reject Assays
After rejecting three western assayers, the government representative and the company engineer sent the 13 new samples to an assayer with which Al Sarena had done business in the past—the A.W. Williams Inspection Co. of Mobile, Ala., where the company had its home office.

No provision was made for any notice to the contestant forest service, nor did the forest service receive any notice of these special proceedings. It had no opportunity to examine the new evidence, submit-examine witnesses, or submit evidence in rebuttal.

On Christmas Eve, 1953, a messenger from Rep. Ellsworth delivered to Solicitor Davis the report of assays in Alabama, which reported mineral values on the Al Sarena claims far in excess of those found in the three prior assays. When the accuracy of this assay report was challenged, the ore samples could not be produced. It was alleged that they had been thrown away.

On Jan. 6, 1954, Davis ordered patents granted to the company, and on Feb. 11, this was done.

Oregon Escapee Nabbed in Idaho
Salem - UPI - Oregon penitentiary officials were advised Tuesday of the capture in Sandpoint, Idaho, of Warren Eldridge Keller, an inmate who escaped Aug. 12. Keller, 33, Pendleton, is serving five years for a burglary in Umatilla county.

He fled the prison annex with Richard Arnold Miller, 30, serving two years from Wasco county for breaking and entering. Miller is still being sought.

The railroad said the accident occurred near the town of Otisville when the train was about 85 miles from Hoboken, its originating point. The railroad was going to run a shuttle train to the scene of the derailment to take passengers off the train. It was reported 12 cars of the 14-car train left the track.

Quotes From the News

BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Hollywood—Actress Arline Judge, discussing plans to divorce her seventh husband: "I thought this marriage would be lucky seven, but maybe I should try for 11—that's supposed to be luckier."

New York—Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev when asked what he was going to do at the United Nations: "We Russians are working, not spending our time in drinking as you probably think."

New York—Police Commissioner Stephen P. Kennedy, on Khrushchev's complaint of police interference and Kennedy's counter-charge of interference by Khrushchev's bodyguards: "Mr. Khrushchev is not putting us on notice. I am putting him on notice through our government that this kind of conduct will not be tolerated."

San Francisco—The International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union in rejecting both Kennedy and Nixon as presidential candidates: "A vote for either is a vote against a positive program for peace and progress. We reject both."

Khrushchev, Castro Display Boredom; Outbreaks Frequent

By JACK F. FOX

New York - UPI - Nikita Khrushchev stared at the ceiling and Fidel Castro nervously shuffled his feet.

Their bear hugging out of the way, the two premiers had settled down to the business at hand - heading the Soviet and Cuban delegations to the United Nations. Both men looked a trifle bored.

It was evident this pair of new-found friends, who embraced with gusto both at Castro's Harlem Hotel and before the first session of the U.N. General Assembly a short time later, became fed up with sitting in the audience the first day.

Khrushchev left after an hour of the droning night session. Castro didn't even show up.

The most dramatic display came at the opening afternoon session.

Ignore Each Other
Khrushchev ambled down one aisle of the assembly hall to personally cast the Soviet ballot for the new president.

Down another aisle came American U.N. Ambassador James Wadsworth. They reached the rostrum at the same time.

Neither made a move to recognize the other. Wadsworth stepped back and permitted Khrushchev to cast the

secret ballot. The premier turned on his heels and headed back to his seat.

Outside the great hall there were outbreaks of jeering pickets, scuffles, fist fights and flailing police clubs. Three persons were arrested, including one 19-year-old Ukrainian youth who was seized while setting fire to a Russian flag.

A long line of policemen, part of the force of 700 assigned to the U.N. building, stood almost shoulder to shoulder along First Ave., preventing crowds from gathering.

Numerous other incidents were reported around the living quarters of the Communist leaders. Eggs and vegetables pelted the car of chief Ukrainian U.N. delegate Nikolai V. Podgorny Tuesday night.

Search for Bomb
There was more than surly crowds to keep police busy. Castro's hotel was searched for a bomb after an anonymous phone call, one of several received since the Cuban angrily departed a midtown hotel and stormed up to Harlem, six miles from the U.N. building.

Khrushchev complained there were too many policemen around him. So Wladyslaw Gomułka, the Polish Communist leader, the husky 220-pound, 6-foot-3 Gen. Nikolai Zakharov, was collared by an equally burly New York police captain after the Russian started shoving the city policemen.

The policemen were trying to escort Khrushchev away from Castro's hotel following his surprise visit which caught police off guard.

Some of the residents in the area where Khrushchev, Tito and other Reds are staying became fed up with demonstrators, and dumped buckets of water on them from balconies and upper windows.

There were sporadic clashes with mounted policemen charging into the milling demonstrators. Bloody noses were not uncommon.

Why "Good-Time" Charlie Suffers Uneasy Bladder
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United Medford Crusade Supports Camp Fire Girls

One of the most worthwhile agencies that comes under the support of the United Medford Crusade is the Camp Fire girls.

Camp Fire includes girls in all parts of the United States, of all races, religions, who have joined together in the fun, friendship and high ideals of Camp Fire.

Camp Fire is a leisure-time program supplementing the training of home, church and school through a variety of activities which are enjoyable and character building.

Last year in Jackson county there were 814 members, ranging in ages from 7 to 18, under the guidance of 225 adult leaders, sponsors and volunteers.

Blue Birds are the "junior" members with their own program designed to meet the needs of seven to nine year olds. The emphasis is not on skills or competition so much as with experimenting with materials and ideas.

The Blue Birds become Camp Fire Girls at the age of 10 during a special "Flying

Up" ceremony. The Camp Fire girl receives honors, ranks and awards by exploring her special interest in the seven crafts: home, creative arts, outdoors, frontiers of science, business, sports and games, and citizenship.

Whole new worlds open up to Camp Fire Girls as they "learn by doing" together—skills in work and play, service to others, a sense of confidence and responsibility, and a sound idealism.

Activities of the Camp Fire Girls are varied with council-wide song fests, the annual candy sale, Mother-Daughter Tea, resident and day camping and the annual Grand Council Fires in May where girls are recognized for their achievements throughout the year.

Resident camp was held at the Methodist Church camp at Dead Indian Soda Springs for both Blue Birds and Camp Fire Girls. Here 56 girls enjoyed a varied program of swimming, hiking, archery, cook-outs, camp craft skills, and Indian Lore.

Horizon clubs are geared to the maturing tastes of the high school girls. Here she finds the same "fun and friendship" the younger girl enjoys in Blue Birds and Camp Fire, but the program emphasis is on her more grown up interests in co-ed activities, in personality development and social skills, in vocational exploration, and in personal service in the community.

Rogue Council give many hours of service by helping in the Camp Fire office, assisting with younger Camp Fire groups, and as junior counselors at resident and day camps.

Thornton Rules on Collection Certificate
Salem - UPI - Residence in the state of one year is not a requirement for a collection agency solicitor's certificate, Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton said Tuesday.

He added that it is beyond the authority of the Oregon Collection Agency Board to set such a qualification.



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