

## Road Agent Finds Real Depression In Idaho Gold Camp, Says Diary

Editor's Note: The Virginia City Chronicle, back in 1884, published the following article as a dispatch from Belknap, Idaho. It is really worth handing on to our readers today.

BELKNAP, Idaho, July 1.—The reports from Eagle City, in the Coeur d'Alene district, continues to be depressing. Only a few places are in operation, and nearly everybody who can sell out and get away is doing so. The severest blow yet dealt the collapsing gold boom comes from the eccentric individual who has been running a movable toll gate on the Thompson Creek trail. He has been doing a very extensive but no means profitable business, as appears from the documents he left when he quit the country. A party of men coming out to the railroad on foot found his archives pinned to a tree very conspicuously, and brought them out with them. On a sheet of brown wrapping paper was written the following:

This thing won't do for me. In going out of business on this trail, I have this to say: I've hunted for diamonds in Utah, I've mined for gold in the corn fields of Illinois, and I've endeavored to sell whiskey in a temperance town, but not one of my failures has been so complete as this. I've now been on this trail three months, and my entire receipts during that time would not purchase a decent free lunch. Now I am practically starved out, and I am going back to God's country. I leave to my successors a straight record of my operations, as I always do things in a business-like way. It has been my custom to enter up the day's transactions, but sometimes, when I have had to light out, this has not been convenient. I have done the best I could, however, and I hope any oversights that may be detected will be pardoned. I shall never come back here again as long as there is a man, woman or child to rob anywhere else, for I honestly believe that a more poverty-stricken lot of beggars and paupers never passed over a gold mine trail before. The record you'll find all straight.

This was signed "Toll Gate Keeper." With it were found a dozen or more rough and rugged pieces of paper of all hues and sizes on which he had kept his diary. Some of the entries were as follows:

April 15—Got here all O.K. and took bearings. Fine country, deep snow. Plenty of travel. Begin operations tomorrow.

April 16—Stopped two men. Poor. Little whiskey. Better luck next time.

April 17—Seventeen men over trail. Held up thirteen. Unlucky number. Four got away. Must have had all the money. Others poor.

April 20—Got up early. Stopped party of three. One fellow got on his knees and cried; \$2.70 in the crowd.

April 21—Somewhat encouraged. Anxious to make a big strike. Belted one man on the head and searched him. Tooth brush and 1 plug tobacco. Went off to woods to enjoy tobacco.

April 23—Made up my mind to throw life into the thing. Took trail myself and met a man. Fight. Got licked. Vacation.

April 24—Cautious. Let three big men go by. Stopped little man and got loaf of bread from him. No whiskey in several days.

April 26—Up early. Bound to kill first man that showed up. Found him. Little fellow, no overcoat. Shivering. No money. Give him drink and lent him dollar. Slugged a big fellow to make up for it. Brass watch; no works inside.

April 27—Changed location for luck. Struck it rich. Two men with big wads. Just got hands on them, when two others with Winchester came up. Took to woods.

April 30—Solid again. Men straggling along beautifully about a mile apart. Good place to be. Thirty-seven dollars and twelve cents. Whiskey. Tobacco.

During May the entries were in the same strain, recording various triumphs and failures, but showing for the most part a keen dis-

appointment at the general result. The last few entries were as follows:

June 1—Men coming out. Big crowds. Found one man. Hooted at him and he fainted away. Nothing in pockets.

June 2—Everybody on the skip. Big hurry. Tried to overtake some, but couldn't. Smashed one little fellow in the nose. Then felt sorry. Gave him dollar for his canteen. Nothing but water in it. Couldn't catch him.

June 9—Few more. One man with plug hat. Smashed hat and whipped man. One bowie knife, half pound navy plug, quart bottle (mixed), seventy cents, old watch, foot rule, linen collar.

June 11—Bold front. Nine men together. Not a shooting iron among them. Stopped all. Made throw up hands. Looked savage. Searched pockets. Nothing but deers in town lots. Booted them and let them go. Wouldn't take deers.

June 14—Still coming poor. Getting tired. No W. in several days. Batted one man in ear and got kicked in jaw. Even up. Can't stay forever.

June 15—So mighty poor that can't stop them. Eight or ten stop me and ask for a quarter. Give it up. Join caravan. Poor man myself.

There were some other notes, but they are so fragmentary that nothing can be made of them. The above contains a reasonably complete record of the only highwayman who has annoyed the gold hunters. Many complaints were made concerning him; but everybody was in so much haste either to get in or get out of the mines, that when once clear of him, nothing more was thought of the matter. It is evident that his season was not a profitable one.

### OBS GETS CONTRACT FOR \$167,000 TUNNEL

Orino, Birkemeier & Saremal, railroad relocation contractors at the dam, were awarded the contract for building the Arch Cape tunnel section of the Oregon coast highway south of Cannon Beach, when the state highway commission met in Portland Thursday.

Bid was \$166,904. Relocation of the coast highway south of Cannon Beach will shorten the road nine miles.

OBS, despite the fact that the partnership is only about six months old, is already known as one of the most enterprising construction firms in this section. OBS is expected to bid on the Tooth rock tunnel section of the Columbia river highway relocation job and on the UP's new railroad station at Bonneville.

### CONTRACTORS' MEET TO VIEW BONNEVILLE DAM

Bonneville dam will be the scene of an excursion by members of the Associated General Contractors' convention, meeting this week in Portland.

Hundreds of construction engineers from the Pacific coast are expected to tour the dam, major building job of today.

### At the Theatre

Featuring a death-dealing typhoon which sweeps the Indian ocean and wrecks a Chinese tramp schooner, and battles staged by men against wild beasts trapped with them on a jungle island as a result, "East of Java," starring Charles Bickford, will be seen at the Roosevelt theatre on the dam reservation Friday and Saturday.

Bickford was nearly killed in filming the picture when a real lion attacked him, stunning and lacerating him severely. The scene is included in the finished picture. Bickford plays the part of a gangster, flown to the South African port of Simba Sao because of G-men on his trail. He escapes from there by a rickety schooner when he learns a warrant for his arrest is on its way. Love interest is supplied by Elizabeth Young, to whom both Bickford and Frank Albertson are drawn.

The four most famous fighting men of fiction, who so gloriously maintained the honor of Queen Anne of France against the intrigues of Cardinal Richelieu have at last transferred their swashbuckles and swordplay from the pages of Dumas' "The Three Musketeers," to the sound screen in a rousing, realistic manner. The picture will be seen at the Roosevelt Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.

Brilliantly enacted, faithfully adapted and directed with spirit, the 17th century classic realizes the full romantic flavor of the well known novel. Performances are skillfully proportioned to emphasize the conflict of wit and blade, love and blandishment, that decides the issue between the queen of France and Cardinal Richelieu for dominance of the king, and the reckless devotion of the four fighting cavaliers who pledged their lives under the slogan, "All for one, one for all." The celebrated Broadway actor, Walter Abel, portrays d'Artagnan; Paul Lukas, Maroni Olsén, and Onslow Stevens are respectively the other three musketeers. Athos, Portos and Aramis. Other stars in the cast are Margot Grahame, Heather Angel, Rosamond Pinchof and Ian Keith.

"Devil Dogs of the Air," romance of the flying marines, is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, starring James Cagney, Pat O'Brien and Margaret Lindsay.

Based on the novel by John Monk Saunders, the picture is produced under special assistance from the United States navy and includes over 1,000 Marines playing extra parts. Jimmy Cagney is the fresh, conceited kid who doesn't know what discipline means. He makes love to his best friend's girl, gets himself in dutch at every chance, until there comes one day a thrilling accident that opens the young recruit's eyes to a true idea of what the service means.

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A FURIOUS DRAMA OF SEVEN DEBELICHS AND A WOMAN SHIPWRECKED OFF SIMBA SAO!

SUN., MON., TUES.—FEBRUARY 16-17-18  
WALTER ABEL—PAUL LUKAS  
MARGOT GRAHAME—HEATHER ANGEL  
AND AN ALL STAR CAST

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The Reckless Sons of the Flashing Blade!... "All For One and One For All!"... In the Grandest Romance Ever Seen. From the Fire-Dipped Pen of DUMAS!

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY—FEBRUARY 19-20  
JAMES CAGNEY—PAT O'BRIEN  
MARGARET LINDSAY—FRANK McHUGH

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