Deadwood Finds Gold In Them (Modern) Hills

DEADWOOD, S.D. (UPI) — A small shop on the main street of Deadwood, virtually in the shadow of America's only surviving large gold mine, has become the center for the manufacture of a unique form of jewelry—featuring gold, naturally.

The Black Hills Gold Jewelry business, founded in 1878, now turns out more than 100,000 items a year that are sold throughout the country.

Manager Charles Waters of the firm (Thorpe Jewelry Co.) feels that the unique finish imparted on gold items by his 16 employes—and those of a similar establishment in nearby Rapid City—can never be copied.

"The mass production jewelers in the East are trying it, but they just can't match our 'frosty' effect that gives Black Hills jewelry its characteristic appearance," Waters said.

When the gold rush to the Black Hills broke after the Civil War—it was here the expression "There's gold in them thar hills" originated — Deadwood became a bustling, bustling mining camp.

It was just across the street from the jewelry shop that Jack McCall shot Wild Bill Hickok in the back, Calamity Jane looking on, as Hickok sat with his hand of aces and eights.

The founder of the establishment, S. T. Butler, his son, George, and his grandson, F. L. Thorpe, got the pattern going and passed the secrets of the process on down to the next generation, represented by Thorpe's daughter, Mrs. Waters.

The basic design features grape clusters and leaves of red, green and yellow gold. The current line uses these designs in modern form — with the newly-popular "bolo tie" becoming the best seller for men. Most popular item for women remains ear rings.

The gold is mined at the Homestake Mine, high on the hill in Deadwood's twin city of Lead. Because of government regulations, the mine has to sell its gold to the mint in Denver and Waters in turn has to buy it back through a broker.

The natural gold is 24 karat—pure. But for strength and color, it has to be fashioned in alloy form. The alloys are made in an electric furnace right in the shop —with "beans" of silver added to form green gold, copper for red gold and a combination of copper and silver for yellow gold.

The jewelry is cast from a pattern made into wax, with the wax eventually melted out in a silica cast and replaced in a centrifuge by the gold.

The staff of craftsmen, mostly women, take the rough casts and through an intricate and careful process of polishing and buffing come up with the delicate jewelry.

The "frosty" effect that is the mark of the Black Hills product is obtained on an engraving machine, whose rapidly moving needle digs into the surface in a precisely controlled manner.

"We're expanding our operations all the time," Waters reported.

VILLAIN TO HERO

HOLLYWOOD (UPI)—The role of Gen. George Custer in "Tonka," is played by Britt Lomand, who last played Captain Monasterio, the villain in the "Zorro" TV series.

SALMON EGGS for the Brazilian experiment were carefully packed for shipment in these trays prior to being flown to their final destination. —Photo by Walsh

King Salmon Eggs Gathered In Shasta Area For Shipment To Brazilian Lake

By PEGGY WALSH

MOUNT SHASTA—The snows of Mt. Shasta threatened to disrupt a carefully timed and coordinated operation involving both state and federal agencies—the shipment of 250,000 king salmon eggs for planting in Brazilian waters.

Stormy weather in early February chilled the glacier-fed spring water that supplies the Mount Shasta Fish Hatchery but rising temperatures later brought the incubation stage of the eggs to the right point for shipment.

Carl Hill, hatchery manager; Jack Bell, assistant manager; and their staff spent a Sunday afternoon packing the eggs for their swift trip, planned months in advance. By Thursday the eggs were planted to resume their natural development in the gravels of the Rio Jacui River system in Brazil.

The eggs were packed in gauze lined trays, about 5,000 eggs per tray. The trays, carefully drained, were stacked in plastic sacks, 17 to a sack, and then packed in plastic covered cardboard cartons. A moss pack at the bottom of the stack and an ice filled tray at the top controlled moisture and temperature.

Arrangements were made to handle only four cases since they could not be placed in the regular freight holds of air liners. The plane navigator shared his limited space with the fish egg shipment to protect them from freezing temperatures at high altitudes.

The hatchery men were told to time their shipment to coordinate with the airline schedules on March 2 and 3 but Hill watching the incubating eggs said confirmation of these orders was strictly up to the eggs. The "eye" or indication that the spinal column of the unborn fish was developing did not appear on schedule. Salmon eggs cannot be disturbed safely before the "eye" appears. Warming weather brought the timing back to schedule.

This shipment of king salmon eggs is a mission of the state department of fish and game, working with the International Cooperation Administration of the United States State Department.

William E. Ripley, assistant chief of the California department's Marine Resources branch, supervised the planting of these eggs in the Rio Jacui River system in the Brazilian state of Rio Grane de Sol. The system is described as very much like California's Sacramento-San Joaquin system and even empties into a bay, Lagoa Dos Patos, which resembles San Francisco Bay.

Acquisition of the eggs was a responsibility delegated to the Coleman Hatchery, a federal agency, near Anderson in Shasta County. The eggs were stripped from wild salmon trapped at Keswick Dam north of Redding. This artificial spawning operation took place late in January and the eggs were brought at once to the Mount Shasta Hatchery, a state hatchery, for carefully controlled incubation.

Salmon egg planting in Brazil has heretofore been unsuccessful, Hill explained, because in crossing the equator the natural seasonal cycle of development is reversed. Salmon spawn naturally in the fall and thus only the very latecomers to the upper Sacramento River could be utilized in this experimental operation. March planting in Brazil will be comparative to September planting in Northern California.

Since salmon preservation and cultivation is of vital importance in the United States, hatcheries in Oregon and Washington are assisting the Coleman hatchery in replacing the eggs shipped to Brazil. All three states were to participate in this goodwill shipment but the eggs of the two northern states proved unsuitable for Brazil.

California sportsmen may profit from this mission. While in Brazil, William Ripley will investigate the possibility of importing two Brazilian fishes to California. One is a tasty marine catfish which lives in bays and in the ocean and grows to a length of about three feet and a weight of 35 to 40 pounds. The other is an atherinidae, called "Peixe rei" in Brazil. It means, literally, "king of the fishes" and is found below the "trout zone" in lakes, rivers, ponds and reservoirs. It reaches a length of about 18 inches and a weight of about one and one-half pounds.

Chemical Control Of Brush In Forest Lands Proves Success In Tests

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — Significant progress in chemical control of brush and weed trees on Willamette Valley foothill forest lands has been reported by the Oregon State College School of Forestry.

Brush and weed tree encroachment on forest lands is greatly reducing the amount of wood grown in Northwest forests, surveys show. It is estimated that brush has reduced the productivity of more than one-fourth of the forest land of Southwest Oregon.

In the OSC field tests, effective kills were achieved with 2(2,4,5-TP) on bigleaf maple, white oak, and thimbleberry, blackberry and and poison oak. Bigleaf maple and white oak are considered weed species although both produce useable wood. The market for them is limited and a considerably larger volume of coniferous wood can generally be produced on the same land.

Hobard B. Jones, now a forester with the Bureau of Land Management in Medford, worked on the project during the past two years while doing advanced study at OSC. Dr. George Barnes, assistant director of the forest research division at the college, is in charge of the chemical control research program.

Chemical brush control as a forest management tool is a comparatively recent development, but shows great promise with continued research on new chemicals, application and plant reactions, Jones and Barnes said. OSC is now running tests on minimum doses to hold control costs as low as possible.

Large bigleaf maple can be controlled with a spring basal application of 2(2,4,5-TP) with an oil carrier, tests showed. The chemical is used as a summer application with white oak. Among the more successful tests for white oak control are those in which the chemical is applied to axe frills or diagonal cuts into the bark. Undiluted 2,4-D in amine form, applied in the spring to axe frills, also gives good results.

Vine maple is a problem child still, tests show. Foliage reduction may be accomplished with aerial sprays of 2,4,5-T or 2(2,4,5-TP) but there is generally a re-sprouting at the base of the plant. The project is being conducted with the cooperation and aid of the Bureau of Land Management.

SELF SERVICE

BUFFALO, N.Y. (UPI)—It was a real money saving move when bartender Frank Berger coolly told a youth to "help yourself" to the money in the cash register. Berger was alone when the youth entered, brandishing a pair of pistols and ordering him to hand over the contents of the cash register. The casual response so unnerved the bandit that he fled empty-handed.

AUTOMATION

TOLEDO, O. (UPI) — Toledo's eight-foot main coal conveyor belt system, capable of handling 6,000 tons of coal an hour from railroad cars into vessels, is the widest for length ever used in the United States.