

Nez. Perces, Mining.

Bibliographical references.

"The Pioneer Stimulus of Gold," by Leslie M. Scott, Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. 18, Sept. 1917. ..good, long article.

Oregon Historical Society at Portland, might have extra copy.

Any Northwest library of consequence should have complete file.

Few excerpts only quoted:

....The first gold discovery, prior even to that of California, appears to have been made in the Malheur country in 1845 on the route of the Meek-cut-off party. The gold was not then recognized and subsequent efforts to locate the spot were futile.

...Scattering appearances of gold, in 1853-54 were announced from Burnt River in Eastern Oregon and from Yakima, Pend Oreille and Coeur d'Alene rivers but their significance was not realized.

(For gold discoveries of Burnt River see the Oregonian, July 15, 1854; July 21, 1855; July 18, September 23, 1861)

The Clearwater mines were discovered in 1860; Salmon River mines in 1861; those of Boise Basin in 1862 and Owyhee in 1863.

(Reminiscences of the Idaho Mines by Joaquin Miller appear in the Oregon, N.Y. 24, 1890; p. 7; history of the mines by Preston W. Gillett, June 14, 1899, p.9; July 17, 1899.)

..Authorities do not agree upon the first discoveries of the interior country but it is known that the real awakening came from the discoveries near Fort Colville in the spring of 1855 and on Kootenai river about the same time. Later in the year the John Day Valley in Oregon was favorably prospected.

...Farmers of the Willamette Valley and the Cowlitz and Puget Sound, carpenters and blacksmiths of the towns and villages..there were no cities then.. and workmen in all vocations dropped

their implements in 1861, secured pack horses for the journey beyond the Dalles, boarded the river steamers of the Oregon Steam Navigation company and hied them to the Idaho placer mines.

In the years 1861-64 the Oregon Steam Navigation company transported to the upper country 60,320 tons of which nearly 22,000 belonged to the year 1864. In this period the number of passengers up and down river was nearly 100,000; 36,000 in 1864. Careful estimates place the number of persons in the mining camps of Oregon, Washington and Idaho in 1862 at 30,000. The number greatly increased in the next three years. The boats from Portland, upriver, in 1862, often carried more than 200 passengers each. In April and May, 1862, the total revenue at The Dalles from passenger trips on three steamboats then plying the Upper River was more than \$50,000. One steamer took in more than \$18,000 for freight and passengers on one trip.

.....The main freight routes on land were the following:

From the Umatilla and Wallula on Columbia river across Blue Mountains along the Old Oregon Trail to Boise Basin, Owyhee and Salt Lake City (A new road was finished between LaGrande and Walla Walla in 1863) ...details of these routes are narrated in Hailey's History of Idaho, pp. 95-99, 123-26.