

Mining

Swauk Mines. Ellensburg, W.T. March 17 '85.

Editor Farmer-The Swauk mining district, 25 miles northward of Ellensburg, W.T. is on Swauk creek, ten miles from its confluence with the Yakima river.

The creek is 25 miles long and runs about southwest through the Wenatchee ridge.

The pay gravel of the placer mines lie on the first bench along the sides of the creek to the depth of three to six feet. Some of the side gulches have also been found to pay well where the bed-rock is fourteen and eighteen feet below the surface.

The gravel contains gold from one foot below the surface to the bedrock but most of the gold is found in streaks and spots lying on the bedrock. The gold is coarse and unwashed, chunks from the size of 25 cents to \$107 have been taken out of the claims.

About twenty five white men and fourteen Chinamen are now working in the district. A company of about 16 Chinamen remain constantly at work sluicing the gravel bars at the confluence of the creek with the Yakima.

These placers have been worked more or less for the last few years. Some of the miners are making preparations to work their claims by hydraulic power the coming season. Gold quartz ledges have also been discovered in the hills back from the stream. A short distance back in the hills about ¹⁰⁰⁰1000 feet above the bed of the creek is a regular quarry of quartz. Surface

rock from some parts of this huge ledge assays from four to eight dollars in gold. Several locations have been made on the ledge. Not long since a quartz ledge in the district, 15 feet wide, assaying ~~\$200 per ton~~ \$10 per ton was bonded by John A. Moudy, a merchant of Ellensburg, for \$25,000.

The Swauk district, like many others in the mining age of the northwest, were rushed over, pecked at by a few of the 10,000 men that passed through the country in 1861-62 to the Caribee, Smellkimeen and Frazer river gold mines and pronounced poor diggings; since that few but farmers and stockmen who know but little about mining and cared less have been in the country.

Occasionally a straggling, always busted miner would come along, make a stake out of the district, depart to some large city, go through his pile the first night and continue on his reaming happy way never thinking or caring for the Swauk district again/

Thus the mines have been but little worked or even properly prospected and until lately they are fast becoming known among mining men who seemingly begin to awake to the idea that in the Swauks, among the snowcapped jagged Wenatchee peaks, may lie a bonanza...B.C. The Washington Farmer, March 21, 1885.

Mining

What has become of that wonderful Menastache mining boom in Kittitas county about which all the daily papers contained boom dispatches for a long time? queried a Herald reporter of a prominent citizen of Ellensburg recently.

"O , that was a fake, pure and simple," was the reply.

Ellensburg derived some benefit from it as prospectors came from all parts of the northwest. It happened in this way.

Some good looking quartz was found along the Menastache creek and brought to Ellensburg just at the time a plausible speaking man who claimed to be all-wool, a yard wide, assayer, located there.

He was given some of the rock to assay and made fabulous returns as to its richness. More rock was brought in . Glowing reports were telegraphed in all directions. The country was on fire.

The whole country was staked off. Rock was sent abroad for assaying and the first returns damped the enthusiasm. It was all said to contain only a trace of the precious metals and was declared worthless for practical purposes.

The people smelled a huge conspiracy to bear the market. Determined to crush the intrigue they took a ton of the quartz and sent it to the Tacoma smelter but before they could get the returns which was destined to bust their bubble, the local assayer, who had all of this time put on a bold front, suddenly weakened and skipped for parts unknown, leaving an active and pushing community to mourn over its blasted hopes and extreme gullibility-
Yakima Herald, December 24, 1891.

Mining

Captain J.T. Simmons has just returned from the mountains where he has spent the past month prospecting . He exhibits very fine specimens of rock bearing ruby silver and an excellent quality of coal from a vein four feet thick and almost limitless in extent.

His companion in the mountain was Amos Hye and the two brought down about one hundred and fifty pounds of the silver bearing quartz which they will send to Tacoma by J.J. Tyler to be worked.

Captain Simmons says there should be no fears about water for irrigation in this valley as there is double the amount of snow in the mountains as there was a year ago and that at the head of the Nile it is twenty feet deep.

He visited the Fifes on Goose Prairie about sixty miles from here and says they have a splendid garden of corn and beans and potatoes, and that Joseph Fife, a brother of Tom Fife who is reported to be worth \$50,000 and who recently arrived from Wyoming, maintains that the climate up there is preferable to that of his old home and that he will at once send for his family to come out and settle on the timber culture and homestead he has taken up.

The Fifes have good mineral claims on Bumping river and at Gold Hill and they have now gone to the latter district to put in an arrastre to work the ores--Yakima Herald, June 11, 1891.

Mining

Okanogan, related by Fred Parker:

Ruby City, Conconully and Loomiston, three mining settlements in that county, are all astir on account of mining operations in the vicinity of each.

At Ruby, two mills and concentrators have been built at a cost of \$40,000 by an English syndicate; two mines of tunnel and shafting are opened and being worked.

Conconully shows signs of activity and 4,000 men are prospecting in the hills within a radius of 10 miles. At Loomiston a stamp mill is under construction.

I.F. and J. Lockwood have a shaft down 32 feet and were offered and refused \$40,000 for their mine.

The Rainbow mine was sold by Jacob Durr and associates for \$105,000.

The Black Bear has recently been purchased by the Everett Mining Co. at a cost of \$156,000. The shaft in this mine is down 190 feet and the yield varies between \$30 and \$4,000 per ton. This mine was originally owned by McGrady and Palmer and was sold by them for \$8,000.

The interests of the North Yakima men look well and offers running in the thousands have been made and refused.

Evidences of the Great Northern are numerous and chances are still good. The bridge contract across the Columbia has been recalled and engineers are again looking for a pass to avoid tunneling. The Moxee coulee will overcome that difficulty and it is to be hoped they will discover that fact--Yakima Herald, May 28, 1898.

Mines--Roslyn

P.Y. Heckman who directed the sinking of Shaft No. 1 of the Roslyn Fuel Co. mine while its superintendent some years ago returned to North Yakima Tuesday after visiting the scene of the terrific explosion and fire on Sunday bringing back the report that the fire had been stopped and that the mine owners would start to clear away the debris immediately/

The Roslyn mine will be worked again, it is not as badly damaged as might be expected after such a terrific explosion of fire damp said the North Yakima man. The newspaper reports relative to the disaster are about accurate, ten were killed and one badly injured. No others were in the mine.

The shaft is choked up with debris from the burning shaft house and from the explosion and it will take two months to clear things away. I believe that this work can be done in that time and the mine will be shipping out coal again.

It was lucky the disaster occurred on Sunday when few miners were at work. --The Yakima Herald, Oct. 6, 1909.

Ellensburg, July 28-- A strike was made in the Swauk mining district yesterday according to Martin Meaghers who has just returned from that place.

"I was up to the Swauk country yesterday looking over some of my property and learned that John Robinson who recently purchased an old claim found a \$168 nugget. Mr. Robinson since purchasing the mine has worked consistently on the north end of the claim as the part was unworked. It was in this part of the mine that he found the nugget and incidentally a good pay streak."

The nugget which was found on the old Higbee claim was brought to Ellensburg this morning and is now ~~care~~ in care of C.W. Johnson at the Washington National bank. It is about three inches long and is almost flat in shape.

One month ago a similar nugget was unearthed in the same mine and this is also in possession of Mr. Johnson. The two pieces, although found at separate intervals and at a distance of over 20 feet apart, fit together as though they were broken apart only recently--Yakima Republic, August 5, 1910.

Mining

At a special meeting of the board of directors of the Aurora Mining and Tunnel-site Company held in North Yakima on Monday evening, October 23rd the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, whereas it is deemed for the best interests of the company to ~~proceed~~ prosecute vigorously the development work on ~~its~~ its claims during the coming winter and,

whereas the funds ~~abundant~~ in the treasury may not be sufficient to meet all expenditures, therefore

It is hereby resolved by the board of directors that additional shares of treasury stock of said company to the amount of ten thousand be placed upon the market at the price of 25 cents per share and that John H. Lynch be constituted and appointed the special agent of the company to dispose of as much of said shares as may be deemed advisable.

Anyone desiring to avail themselves of this offer may do so by calling at my office, rooms 1 and 2 of the Yakima National Bank building within a reasonable time. I do not guarantee that all of these shares will be for sale at the price named for any definite time as further favorable reports from the mines will change the plans of the company. Signed, John H. Lynch, agent..The Yakima Herald, Oct. 25, 1905.

Mining-Swauk

One of the richest gold strikes that has ever been made in Central Washington was made a few days ago by W.H. Taylor in the Swauk district.

The strike was made at the north line of the Swauk Mining Company's claims and is thought to be a continuation of that ledge.

The ledge as far as has been ascertained runs from four to six feet and is believed by those who have investigated it to be not less than 200 and possibly 500 feet in length.

John W. Thomas of 11 North Yakima avenue, who is heavily interested in the property where the strike was made said last night.:

"It is a find of astonishing richness. The specimen's brought down since Taylor made the strike are nearly half gold and they will assay not less than \$20,000 to the ton. #

The miners went up from Swauk camp to see the strike and they claim that it is by far the richest strike ever made in that district and that the ledge shows indications of being much longer and far richer than its discoverer thinks. . L.L. Thorp and A.E. Kinsey who are interested in the mine, left yesterday for the camp.

An extra force of men was put to work clearing away the ground and looking into the extent of the ledge. If it proves to be as long as it is anticipated and as rich as the specimens indicate, the amount of gold to be taken out will make all the stockholders rich.

Mr. Taylor has been prospecting in that vicinity for some time. Two years ago two California pocket hunters worked on the same hill but they worked to the north side instead of the south side where the mine was located. What led to its discovery was the placer gold that was found at the bottom of the gulch. Mr. Taylor traced it step by step until he came to the rich treasure that nature had concealed for ages.

Mining

It is reported new placer diggings have been discovered in the Swauk district. A large nugget was found last week in the gulch that runs to the left from the Meaghersville store and a number of claims have been located during the week by people from Cle Elum, Ellensburg and North Yakima.

A number of prospectors went in during the week and all seem to think good paying grounds will be opened up at once-Ele Elum Echo, April, 1905.

Gold mining

The Cascade Miner, published at Roslyn, Kittitas county, reports a recent assay of ore from the "Sure Thing" mine as yielding \$2.07 in gold, \$283.35 in silver and \$42 in lead, a total of \$327.42 to the ton.

Grants Pass, Ore. May 3- The placer mines of Southern Oregon are entering upon the annual harvest and making their cleanup for the season.

From this time on until late in July the various mines of the surrounding districts will be busy cleaning the gold from their sluices. More than 100 pounds of nuggets and dust have been brought in for exchange during the last few days and the harvest is yet but begun.

The season has been an excellent one for the surface miners. The rains have been long, heavy and there have been a good fall of snow in the mountains.

The output of gold from the hundred of more hydraulic placer mines of Southern Oregon clay fields will amount to \$1,500,000 for the past year. This is 30 per cent greater than it has ever been before.

The Osgood hydraulic mines of the Wadsworth district, owned by F.H. Osgood of Seattle, are yet busy. Their water supply is derived from the main branch of the Illinois river and they will not have their final cleanup till late in the summer--
The Yakima Herald, May 6, 1903.

Gold.Mines
Colville

Fort Spokane

(Sprague)

The Colville mines, which have come so prominently into notice during the last two years, lie due north of Sprague with which they are connected by a good wagon road by the way of Fort Spokane near the mouth of Spokane river.

Both of these points are nearer Sprague than Spokane Falls yet the mail routes have been established from the latter place. All the supplies for Fort Spokane are freighted from Sprague and if the Western mail were sent by the same route it would reach the fort a day earlier than by the present route. An effort is being made to have the postal authorities take proper action in this matter and establish a route from Sprague.

The same is true of the now famous mines of Salmon river in the Okanagan (sic) country north of the Columbia. The distance to these mines from Sprague is about thirty miles less than from Spokane Falls and a mail route should be established in that city. Much teaming to the new mines is being done from Sprague

West Shore, 1887, pp 665.

Gold-- Okanagan

The Salmon Creek mines are situated on a small stream known on the various maps of Washington Territory as Concomully river, about 12 miles above its confluence with the Okanagan river, and distant probably thirty miles from the Columbia river.

Little was known of these mines until the Columbia reservation was thrown open, May 5, 1886, when several locations were immediately made by parties to whom the existence was known for some time prior, but owing to the fact that they were covered by an Indian reservation and not open to location, the fact was kept a close secret from the outside world.

Immediately upon the opening of the reservation however, there was a rush made to the vicinity and some ten or twelve different district (sic) ledges were discovered and about one hundred and sixty locations made; but winter setting in early the heavy snow in the mountains put an end to prospecting and there remains a large tract of country, undoubtedly rich in mineral, not yet prospected.

Up to the present time little has been done in developing the discoveries already made, yet showing enough has been made to attract the attention of capital and two mines are now bonded, the "Lady of the Lake" for \$10,000 and the "First Thought" for \$40,000. While the owners of the Home Stake refused a bond of \$50,000. A cross cut in the shaft of the First Thought on the fifty foot level shows a ledge sixteen feet wide with good walls on either side while the other discoveries are ~~00~~ equally as large. - - Ellensburg New Era.

Mining

Our fellow townsman Jno. W. Shull has received from associates in the above named mines advices as to their great merit and also specimens of the ores '(Chewalah Mines)

A Spokane Falls paper says that the district is very extensive and that experienced quartz men pronounce the formation the very best. Owners of claims are offering to work all winter, offsetting their services against provisions furnished by merchants and are confident that the outcome will be immense.

But little capital has yet gone in and most of the locators are men of limited means. Mr. M ?? Embry, the discoverer of the first group discovered the mines at Helena and thinks Chewalah has a good lode as any in Montana. The district is in the Colville country, the oldest settled portion of Eastern Washington and the impetus given by the rush of miners has enabled a newspaper to start at the town of Embry--The Washington Farmer, Christmas Day, 1884.

Mining--Curios

North Yakima money and interests in the Swauk district will be greatly interested in a discovery made there and more particularly with the story which accompanies it of a landslide of comparatively recent date which covered gold claims.

There has been a great deal of interest here for a score of years, revived from time to time by the gold discoveries in the Swauk and a great deal of Yakima money and time, at one time and another, have gone into the district, the Record of Ellensburg says.

"A curious fashioned piece of iron, appearing much like an old-fashioned gun lock has been found by John Robinson on his claim in the Swauk, 90 feet under ground. He is operating the old Bigney claim and yesterday gave the piece of iron to W.B. Price who states that he will probably send the iron to either the Smithsonian institute or some institution of similar nature in an effort to unravel the mystery.

"The Indians have always stated that there was a landslide in the Swauk before the days of the white man and that this covered up the most valuable gold claims. The formation of the ground would indicate that this is true according to the miners.

"The discovery of the small piece of iron would indicate that it was after white men had penetrated the Pacific northwest or at least after a gun or some white man's tools or machinery had fallen into the hands of the Northwest Indians.

"The metal was found on bedrock 90 feet under ground. Sixty-five feet underground Mr. Robinson found a section of an alder tree with bark and limbs."

The Cougar Mining and Milling company has established a stamp mill on Williams creek, has 400,000 tons of ore on the

were waiting at the dock.

There were some extra men from the office to guard the treasures but the weight of the pouches , one of which two men could barely lift, made robbery almost an impossibility.

The gold after delivery at the post office will be forwarded to the mint through the assay office in this city.

Mining..Upper Columbia--Ferries..gold..Indians.

William S. Lewis, Spokane's oldest African American, died on March 23, 1930. Spokesman review.

I was born at Fort Colville July 17, 1847..

..In those days wthere were quite a number of "souapees" or white men employed about the trading post...

The trading post proper was a square inclosure. The store and warehouses were on the north side and Chief Trader

McDonald's house was on the east side. The married employes, like father, lived outside the inclosed post yard on the south and west sides

As early as I can remember white placer miners were mining gold along the Columbia river bars above and below the trading post. They traded principally with Marcus Oppenheimer, who opened a store in one of the old British boundary barracks buildings. The trade at the Hudson's Bay post was mostly with Indians.

A man named Squaw Brown had a little store on the site of the present town of Marcus some 300 to 400 yards from Marcus Oppenheimer's store. When the best part of the bars had been worked out some years later Chinamen replaced the white miners. I recall the Chinese mining camp at Chinabear some six miles above Marcus and another Chinese mining camp down the river near the present town of Peach.

I remember the old U.S. army post Fort Colville. The civilian town, Pinctney City was built right across the creek from the army post where four companies were usually stationed. Sam Oppenheimer had a store at Pinctney City. Other principal merchants I recall were Park Winans, Charles Montgomery and Spokane Jimmy Monahan. The army post and little town were about six miles from the present town of Colville.

I drove teams for a while about the army post in 1878-79

I also freighted goods to the post from Fort Walla Walla. We hauled groceries, food, dry goods and whisky. Among the army of ficers I recall a Lieutenant Rice and Captain Jackson.

In freighting to Fort Colville I used a heavy wagon and four horses, ~~be~~ pulling an average load of 4,000 pounds. It usually took about 22 days for us to make the round trip. In summer we got 3 cents a pound for freight; in the fall and winter 5 cents--say \$150 to \$200 for the trip. We earned it. There were lots of freight wagons on the road and we often traveled in company. Sometimes there would be seven or eight freight wagons traveling along and camping together.

In those days there was lots of travel going into the Stud Horse gold diggings in British Columbia and into the Big Bend gold mines at the upper bend of the Columbia, several hundred miles north of Fort Colville in British territory. Lots of pack trains came through carrying supplies to those mines.

The pack trail to the mines in the Big Bend went on up to the Columbia to the Little Dalles, then across the Columbia and up on the north side. Part of the freight was carried by a steamboat, the ~~Feo~~ Forty-nine which was built at Marcus. I knew Captain Pingston who was master of the boat.

Leaving Fort Colville light we usually made the Spokane river in two days or less, xamping on the north side of the river. Crossing at Monaghan's ferry our next camp was at Rock creek. The next day's camp was at Colville lake on Kirkman's point; then at Cow creek at Wastucna springs and on the north bank of the Snake river at Dan Lyon's ~~feoo~~ ferry at the mouth of the Palouse river. ~~Coos~~

Coming back from the Walla Walla country heavily loaded of course we did make nearly as good time. Going back we usually reached the Snake river in the afternoon and camped for the night on

the south side. Crossing by the ferry next morning we tried to reach Wastucna springs by night.

Our next camp was at an old Irishman's on Cow creek. The next night our camp was at Kamiaken springs at the foot of Rock lake ~~in~~ was then called Master's lake. The next night we tried to reach Rock creek.

Coming back we had a regular camping place at the Willow springs west of Medical lake; another at Coulee creek, right down in the coulee. Then we camped for the night on the north side of the Spokane river after crossing at Monaghan's ferry--usually pretty well up on the north hill.

The next camping place was at Jump Off Joe creek, this side of Sprindale. The following night we'd reach Shoup creek.

Another night would find us at the site of Chewelah. One more day would bring us to the old Pinctney city, or the army post. I never freighted into the present town of Colville which didn't exist in those days.

In the dead days I knew Antoine Planté who had his home on the north side of the Spokane river and operated a ferry at what is now called Trent..

Mines

Eleven cars, carrying 500 negro miners for the Roslyn mines passed through Yakima Wednesday night. They are from Illinois and are to supplant the striking white miners. This move of the coal company will probably settle the question and make Roslyn's a stable camp for all time to come--The Yakima Herald, North Yakima, W.T., February 14, 1889.