

RECEIVED
JUN 28 1938



STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

STATE OF OREGON

CORPORATION DEPARTMENT
SALEM

J. H. HAZLETT
Corporation Commissioner

June 27, 1938

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director,
State Department of Geology and
Mineral Industries,
704 Lewis Building,
Portland, Oregon

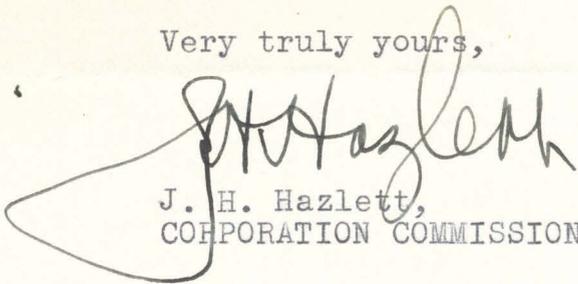
Re: Blue Bucket Mining Company,

Dear Mr. Nixon:

We have consulted our records regarding the above named subject, and find that three domestic corporations were organized under this name, the last of which was dissolved in 1910. None ever held or applied for permit to sell securities.

It further appears that no foreign corporation by this name has ever qualified to do business in Oregon, and likewise has ever been issued permit for the sale of securities or applied for the same. Unless otherwise exempt, it would therefore appear that the stock you mention in your letter was not qualified for sale under the Oregon laws.

Very truly yours,


J. H. Hazlett,
CORPORATION COMMISSIONER

EB.



June 25, 1938

Mr. J. H. Hazlett
Corporation Commissioner
State of Oregon
Salem, Oregon

Dear Mr. Hazlett:

I have just learned that a company, known as the Blue Bucket Mining Company, with offices in Spokane has been selling some stock in this State, or some of their stock has been sold in the State.

My informant bought 7500 shares through the E. A. Pierce Company, and I am trying to get further information to determine whether or not they are liable under the corporate law. I cannot find their name listed among those who have permits to sell stock and we would appreciate your checking on this. So far as I know this company is not in operation in this State, and it looks like a woozey promotion, which we would like to blot out and publicize.

Any information you can give me on this matter will be appreciated.

Thanking you, I am

Very truly yours,

EKN:vm

Director

June 15, 1940

Mr. John Hix
6362 Hollywood Blvd.
Hollywood, California

Dear Mr. Hix:

In reply to your letter of June 10, concerning the story of the Blue Bucket Mines, this legend has many variations, and the one given in your letter with the descriptions of gold nuggets being used as sinkers on fish lines is new to me.

The one most familiar to me is that the Emigrant Train on the Meek Cut-off stopped one night in a locality which may have been in the headwaters of the tributary of the John Day River. Here one of the party picked up a number of yellow "pebbles" which were taken along with them to the Willamette Valley. Several years later, after the discovery of gold in California, some miners from California saw these yellow pebbles and recognized them as gold nuggets. The miners questioned the people at whose house the pebbles were seen and were told that "we could have picked up enough to fill that blue bucket". This became the foundation for the search for the Blue Bucket Mine, which was never found.

Another variation is that Captain Tethero, while leading his wagon train on the Meek's Cut-off, found considerable placer gold in a steep and narrow gulch. He gathered them and kept them in a blue bucket. In crossing the Beschutes River the wagon carrying the blue bucket of nuggets was upset and lost. Neither the historic blue bucket nor the place at which the nuggets were originally found was ever discovered.

There are undoubtedly several other variations to the stories, and the subject is treated in various histories written about the Oregon Country.

Yours very truly

F. W. Libbey
Mining Engineer

FWL:hk

MINGTON WAS NOT BORN ON FEBRUARY 22 AND HE WAS NOT THE FIRST UNITED STATES PRESIDENT *WHITE MEN ARE COLORED *BLACK MEN ARE NOT *THE PRAIRIE DOG IS NOT A DOG *THE NIGHTHAWK IS NOT A HAWK AND IT DOES NOT FLY AT NIGHT *COMMON MADE OF TWO DEADLY POISONS *A QUART OF MILK CONTAINS 14 DIFFERENT METALS *THERE ARE ONLY 44 STATES IN THE UNITED STATES *YOU DO NOT SEE WITH YOUR EYES *THE EARTH IS NOT ROUND *SEA LEVEL IS NOT LEVEL *AL SINGER WON AND LOST THE SAME SHIP IN THREE MINUTES *BETHOVEN COULD NOT HEAR HIS OWN MUSIC *HAIR CAN BE GROWN ON A BILLIARD BALL *IT TAKES SEVEN CENTS TO SEND A ONE-CENT MONEY ORDER *CLARENCE KENNEDY BROKE A 90-YARD HURDLE RECORD WHILE RUNNING WITH A B *PRICE PAPER IS NOT MADE OF ICE *THE MOST MARRIED WOMAN IN THE WORLD WAS NEVER DIVORCED *THE MOST DIVORCED MAN WAS NEVER MARRIED *IT TAKES 30 MUSCLES TO FROWN BUT ONLY 13 TO SMILE *IT TAKES LONGER TO FLY AN AIRPLANE ACROSS HON *N FROM CANADA TO MEXICO *ADDITIONAL FLAVY CIRCUMNAVIGATED THE WORLD IN FIVE MINUTES *RUBBER IS MORE DURABLE THAN STEEL *STEEL IS MORE ELASTIC THAN RUBBER *ENGLISH DRINK MORE BEER THAN GERMAN *GERMANS DRINK MORE HALL LIQUOR THAN *THE SUN IS CLOSER TO THE EARTH IN WINTER THAN IN SUMMER *EYES CANNOT SEE IN THE DARK *ANY FOOT HAND IS FOUR TIMES AS BARE AS A TYPICAL FLUSH *MONEY AND APPLES TASTE BESTLY *A WINK KING *THE WIND WAS NOT A KING *THEIR MIN *FRANKED *YOUNGEST SON OF A YOUNGEST SON OF A YOUNGEST SON OF A YOUNGEST SON *BLACK IS NOT A COLOR *LANG IS NOT SLANG *WHEN MEN ARE NAMED MOHAMMED THAN JOHN OR WILLIAM *WHO DID NOT PLAY A HIDDLE WHILE SOME BURNED *THE LIGHT IS NO *OF THE JUNGLE *MOTHER GOOSE WAS A REAL PERSON *THE PIGSKIN IS MADE OF COWHIDE *PERSHING WAS NOT IN COMMAND OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY DURING THE WORLD WAR *NO TWO PEOPLE EVER SAW THE SAME RAINBOW *RING MORNO NABA OF MOST DE *ON HIS NEIGHBORS EVERY MORNING BEFORE BREAKFAST *ICE IS A LUXURY IN PARTS OF CHINA *THE CITY OF LONDON IS NOT THE CAPITAL OF ENGLAND *THE YALD RIVER IS 100 MILES LONG BUT HAS NO MOUTH *WOOD ARE TABLES LYING DOWN *THAN STANDI *AIN KISS WAS NOT HANGING *THE PIRACY *THESE ARE MORE ANTI-ATOMIC IN DRUG *THAN IN EVERY *ENGLISH FIGHTER AL BROWN WON A KNOW-OUT VICTORY WHILE UNCONSCIOUS *GRANGES ARE BEETS *THE HEAVY NOT *RICHIE'S WIFE AN *HEATER *CAR *AND WATER WILL MIX *A FULL GROWN FIGON IS NOT AS HEAVY AS A MONTH-OLD SQUAB *SHORT-HAND HAS BEEN USED FOR 1000 YEARS *LEFT-HANDIG SUGAR IS SWEETER *THAN RIGHT-HANDIG SUGAR *A BLUE FLAME IS HOTTER THAN A YELLOW FLAME *BY A *HE RADIATES MORE HEAT *GEORGE WALKER SUBMITTED HIS NOT ON \$10,000,000.00 WORTH OF GOLD *THE WORLD'S BIGGEST ANIMAL CANNOT WALK *THE WORLD'S BIGGEST BIRD CANNOT FLY *BEARS CAN DIGEST STEEL *THERE IS NO VACUUM IN A VACUUM CLEANER *THE *COLORLESS *RADIUM IS NOT LUMINOUS *SILVER *BILKIN WAS SEVERELY SAVED PARTLY AFTER HE WAS DEAD *LESS THAN ONE-HALF OF THE SILVER RECOVERED TODAY COMES FROM SILVER MINES *A 50-000-TON SHIP WHICH IS GOING EAST *TAKES IT DOES COME WITHI *ID OF A DROPPING PIN TRAVELS AS FAST AS A CANNON BALL *WILLIAM BIDDLE DID NOT DRINK WATER FOR 100 YEARS *SHARPE IT WAS CROWNED KING BEFORE HE WAS 10 *SNAKES NEVER CLOSE THEIR EYES *JONATHAN WILD *NOVORODUS *GANGSTER OF 300 YEAR *ENGLAND WAS HANGED FOR FAILING TO REPORT HIS INCOME *REV MORRILL PREACHED HIS OWN FUNERAL SERMON *UNITED STATES PRESIDENTS ARE NOT ELECTED IN NOVEMBER *THE AUTHOR OF "HOMER SWEET HOMER" WAS A WOMAN'S MAN *MOST OF AN AIRPLANE *E THE TOP OF THE WING *KING CAROL SUCCEEDED HIS SON TO THE THRON OF ROMANIA *WOOD WILL NOT BURN *PENNSYLVANIA WAS NOT NAMED FOR WILLIAM PENN *THE FOUNDER *THERE IS AN EARTHQUAKE SOMEWHERE EVERY 10 SECONDS *THE COLDEST PLACE I *IS JUST ABOVE THE EQUATOR *THE HIGHWAY AND THE LOWWAY *POINTS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE IN THE SAME COUNTY OF THE SAME STATE *THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL WAS NOT FOUGHT AT BUNKER HILL *THE MOON APPEARS LARGEST WHEN IT IS FARTHEST *BOATS TRAVEL FASTER THAN THE WIND THAT DRIVES THEM *THE NATIONAL ANTHIM OF FRANCE WAS DEDICATED TO A GERMAN *3000 DIFFERENT KINDS OF RICE ARE GROWN IN JAPAN *JOAN OF ARC WAS BURNED BY THE STAKE BECAUSE SHE WORE MEN'S CLOTHES *ST *SENT MARINOTR WAS NOT AS LARGE AS THE MODERN ELEPHANT *JULIET WAS ROMEO'S SECOND CHOICE *SHE SPENT 62 YEARS WRITING HIS IMMORTAL FAUST *FEALBOA TOOK POSSESSION OF TWO FRIENDS THE WORLD WITHOUT KNOWING IT *THE AMERICAN FLAG IS *ED TO HALF MAST *CHRISTIAN IX OF DENMARK IS THE FATHER OR GRANDFATHER OF EIGHT KINGS AND QUEENS *CATHERINE THE GREAT OF RUSSIA WAS NEITHER RUSSIAN NOR NAMED CATHERINE *A LONE SENTRY AT ST. PETERSBURG GUARDED A NON-EXISTANT FLOWER *DAY FOR SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS *THE MAN WHO FINANCED THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION WAS LATER JAILED FOR HIS DEBTS *CHARLES V RULED HALF THE KNOWN WORLD WHEN HE WAS 20 YEARS OLD *ICEBERGS ARE DRY *HMAN *EATS MORE GRASS THAN ANY OTHER

Syndicated by the

UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE NEW YORK

BY
JOHN HIX

On the Air Every Thursday

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM

June 10,
1940

RECEIVED
JUN 14 1940

STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL IND.

Oregon State Division of Mines,
Salem, Oregon

Gentlemen:

In doing research work for STRANGE AS IT SEEMS, my nationally syndicated newspaper feature, I have come across an interesting story concerning the Blue Bucket Mines. Here is the story as I have it:

The Blue Bucket Mines, said to be located on a swift central Oregon stream that is literally pebbled with gold nuggets, have been sought for 75 years. Emigrants, camping for the night on a hazardous section of Meek's Cut-off, fished in the stream. Yellow pebbles, taken from the stream bed, and hammered flat on wagon tires, served as sinkers in the swift current. Children filled a blue bucket with the stones, but all were tossed aside as the wagon train proceeded. Several years later, tales of the gold strikes in California renewed discussion of the yellow pebbles, and a wild rush to discover the Blue Bucket Mines ensued. THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN DISCOVERED.

If the above is correct, I would like to feature the idea in STRANGE AS IT SEEMS. Can you assist me to verify the facts?

Any courtesy you can extend in response to this request will be sincerely appreciated.

Cordially,

John Hix
e.f.

JH/LG

6362 Hollywood Blvd.,
Hollywood, California

Wide Open Space



LAKE COUNTY
EXAMINER

By LESLIE SHAW

May 5, 1960

THE NEW BLUE BUCKET STORY

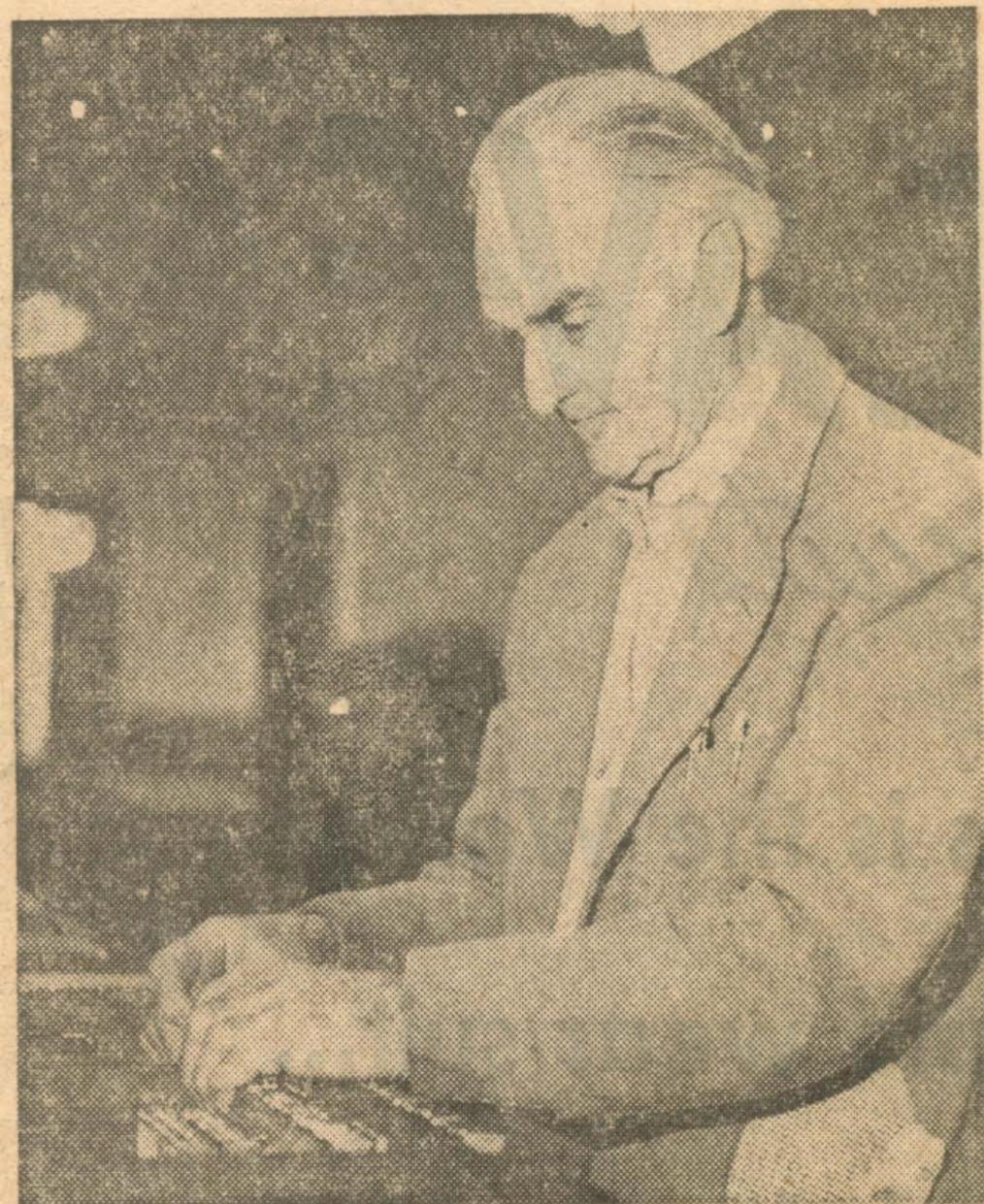
I guess most everyone in the Western World has heard about the Blue Bucket. I grew up on Blue Bucket yarns, and I wonder what kind of a scrapbook I'd have if I had kept notes on all the stories I've heard, clippings on those I've read. One thing is for sure, it would have been an interesting scrapbook.

NOW COMES a new one, and I go along with lots of people in wishing for the discoverers that "this is it." Not that they'll get rich on gold nuggets, if their set of details is correct, because the word they worked on held out no promise of great wealth. Their story held that some nuggets were found, but no great quantity. All over the world, prospectors know that one nugget does not a gold mine make, no more than one swallow makes a spring.

ANOTHER Blue Bucket story came up last weekend. Fred Colvin brought in his copy of the Diamond Anniversary edition (April 2, 1960) of the Grants Pass Courier. It contained an item about Mrs. Alta Hodges Merrill, of Grants Pass, whose mother crossed the plains by ox team, and often told Mrs. Merrill about a yellow shiny rock the children picked up at a camp spot. They played with it for several days then tossed it into a blue bucket that hung under the wagon seat. When the oxen grew tired and loads had to be lightened, grown-ups found that shiny rock and knew it was gold, but all the children could recall about finding it was a "camp where there were trees."

THE GROUP that believes it has found the Blue Bucket site in Lake County, knows full well that many stories exist about discovery of gold by a lost wagon train. They know also that announcement of their story will not stop the other stories, nor will it stop the search in many areas for a legendary, fabulously rich Blue Bucket. Proof of the wide variety of such stories, and the wide area they cover, is held by Wally Cagle who has been collecting Blue Bucket stories since

Prospector Ends Search For 'Blue Bucket' Gold



Charlie Shepherd, whose family has been associated with newspapers in most of the main towns of eastern Oregon at one time or another, can still use the makeup rule. Though mainly a newspaperman in various capacities from weekly owner to makeup man, Shepherd, 83, has been mostly concerned with mining around Hailey, Idaho, his present home, in recent years.

By **BRUCE WILKINSON**

Staff Correspondent, The Oregonian

After nearly 60 years of intermittent searching for the famed Blue Bucket gold nuggets Charlie Shepherd, 83, Hailey, Idaho, believes he's about given up.

Charlie, who was born in Baker, in 1877, the son of Stephen Shepherd, a partner with Jesse M. Shepherd in early-day newspaper ventures here, was first told of the Blue Bucket in 1901 by a man who got off the Ontario-Burns stage at Bully Creek. The man said he had come through that part of the country in 1845 as a boy with his parents in a wagon train headed west.

The man spent the summer day looking for more nuggets of the type he said he had found more than half a century earlier but failing to do so got on the evening stage for Burns and was never heard from again.

His story was related to Charlie by his wife Minnie, who was home alone at the ranch during the stranger's visit, and from that day to this he has spent many days combing Bully Creek and later Dixie Creek in Rye Valley on the trail of the fabled treasure.

2 Pages Founded



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2 Papers Founded

Charlie came to Baker County several weeks ago to look into the possibility of removing a small gold mill from Hailey to eastern Oregon and spent a day looking over the Sumpter country and other points but found nothing that looked much better than the vein he has in Idaho.

The still alert, forward looking prospector and member of the well-known Shepherd newspaper family of Baker, has found time in his life to launch some newspaper enterprises of his own, including the Kuna, Idaho, Herald, and the Meridian, Idaho, Times, both of which have been continued under other ownerships for many years.

Before leaving the city of his birth and first years Charlie said he thought it was about time for somebody else to carry on the tradition of looking for the Blue Bucket.

Group Believes Fabled Site Found in Lake Co.

By Leslie Shaw

One hundred and fifteen years ago this fall, a lost wagon train enroute to the Willamette Valley found gold in Eastern Oregon. Since that time there have been many searches for the "Blue Bucket Mine;" many legends, stories and tales have been told and written about it. This week, a group of Washington and local people report that they are confident they have found the Blue Bucket, and their location is in Lake County.

They have staked claims on the area, named them the Blue Bucket group, and their exploration so far has shown them a few colors of gold and one piece about the size of a match head. However, in accordance with a set of informa-

tion handed down by a member of the T'Vault wagon train, this group did not expect to find much gold, contrary to the many other stories and legends about the mine.

The group includes Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Pierce, of Hoodport, Wash.; Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Tomlin, of Westside; and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Weatherly, of Lakeview. Another man, Roy Couch, of Lakeview, also has staked claims.

LOCATION

The location is on the Hogback Road north of Plush

where a set of terrain and other natural aspects appear to bear out points they were told to look for by an ancestor of Mrs. Pierce. These points include: the only group of juniper trees for miles around; a stream running south, black rocks in the stream bed; three graves a day's travel apart (about 12 miles for ox teams) to the northwest of the site; a sandy place in the stream bed where the wagon party would have dug for water.

Since finding in March the site of what they believe to be the original Blue Bucket, the searchers have found what they believe to be the graves of three people, about 12 miles apart along what well could have been the lost wagon train's route north. Locations of these graves were kept confidential to prevent curious people from digging there. The search party has not dug into any

(Continued on Page 4)

Group Believes Fabled Site Found in Lake Co.

(Continued From Page 1)

of the grave sites, believing that if digging is done, it should be supervised by the Oregon Historical Society which would have a legitimate purpose in establishing the route of the lost train.

DATA SOURCE

Mrs. Pierce's story of the Blue Bucket discovery came down to her from her grandfather, James Miller Allen, who was the sergeant on the wagon train commanded by W. G. T'Vault. Allen's son, Cyprus Albert Allen, two years old at the time, also was on the train. In later years, Cyprus Albert Allen passed his father's story of the 1845 events along to his niece, Mrs. Pierce. The father of Mrs. Pierce, Elan Ethan Allen, was the youngest of 10 children born to James Miller Allen after the party arrived in the Willamette Valley.

According to Mrs. Pierce, the T'Vault wagon train left St. Joseph, Missouri in the spring of 1945, headed for Oregon. It consisted of 61 wagons, 300 persons and 1500 head of livestock. Organized as a military emigrant train, it had W. G. T'Vault as commander, John Waymier as lieutenant, and James Miller Allen as sergeant. Two other trains, headed by John Herrin and Lawrence McNary, followed the T'Vault wagons to Fort Boise, which was on the Snake River near the mouth of the Boise River.

SHORT CUT

There they were met by Dr. Elijah White and Joe Meek who vouched for the latter's brother, Stephen Meek, as a man who could guide them to The Dalles by a route 200 miles shorter than the usual trail. Of eight or more wagon trains at Fort Boise at the time, three agreed to follow Stephen Meek . . . T'Vault, Herrin and McNary, and they left together, heading up the Malheur River.

When they got to Crane Prairie in the Malheur country, dissention broke out over the guide, Meek, who confessed he was lost. The McNary and Herrin trains, with part of the T'Vault train,

broke off and headed north, leaving between 40 and 46 wagons in the T'Vault train. The T'Vault group continued with Meek, through a natural pass to a swamp area which the Weatherly-Tomlin-Pierce group believes to be Blue Joint.

Anger at the guide, Meek, caused him to leave the wagon train, and the party elected two guides, including Rufus Riggs, a brother-in-law of Mrs. Pierce's grandfather.

FIND GOLD

The party continued west one day's travel to a canyon where they found gold nuggets. However, Mrs. Pierce's uncle told her that no large amount of gold was found, only a few nuggets were picked up, and even had there been a large amount, the commander would not have let them remain to search for it, nor would he have let them haul it, because the wagon train was lost and the people and the oxen were weak with sickness and lack of good water.

All stories about the finding of the gold agree that the nuggets were placed in a "little blue bucket," giving name to the mine.

Her uncle told Mrs. Pierce that during the next three

day's travel a person died each day, a man, a woman and a little girl. These were buried at the three campsites and would be about 12 miles apart.

LAND MARKS

In leaving the gold site, he said, the wagons kept their route lined up with "two iron peaks" behind them and "Wagontire" mountain ahead of them. She and her group believe that the wagon party called Wagontire Mountain what is today called Big Juniper. If so, two iron peaks on the north edge of the Coyote Hills would line up with Big Juniper.

In a few days, the T'Vault wagons crossed the trail made by the larger party (Herrin and McNary) and shortly rejoined them.

Mrs. Pierce said that none of the T'Vault party ever returned to look for the gold, but members of the Herrin and McNary trains did later guide search parties. She said that in 1845, about 3000 people came west with various wagon parties by various routes; but by 1950 it had been estimated that a least one-third of the 3000 had claimed to have been in the party which discovered the Blue Bucket.

WIDE SEARCH

There have been searchers for the Blue Bucket for 115 years, mostly in the Malheur and Harney country and up toward Crooked River. But many stories have placed the mine in wider areas, including Nevada, California and Idaho. The present group of searchers is not the first to have looked in Lake County, contending that the lost wagon train swung farther south and west than has been usually conceded.

Nor do the Tomlin-Pierce-Weatherly group expect that their confidence in their location will stop either the search or the Blue Bucket stories because they have found no appreciable amount of gold; they are farther south than generally believed possible; they are not near the Iron Mountain of the Burns area nor the present-day Wagontire Mountain . . . points used as locale in many of the current Blue Bucket stories.

But according to the story Mrs. Pierce received from her ancestors, she was to look for certain things:

SIGNS TO LOOK FOR

A creek running south, con-

taining black rocks and the only stand of juniper trees for miles around; a sandy spot in the creek bed where the emigrants dug for water and found the few nuggets. The spot would be a day's trek west from a camp made in the swamp area (identified by this group as the vicinity of Blue Joint Lake). Along the trail north from the site would be three graves, each one day's travel apart. The Pierce group believes these things have been found. (Some of the junipers have been cut down, obviously many years ago.)

Along with the many stories and legends which would place the Blue Bucket in the Malheur, Crooked River and other areas is one which holds that the famous mine was re-discovered in 1862 when the John Day gold fields were found. Helen B. Rand, in an article "Gold and Oregon's Settlement," in the May, 1959, issue of the Ore.-Bin, publication of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, states:

JOHN DAY?

"A few romantics still look for the legendary Blue Bucket mine but many old timers were sure it had been found on Canyon Creek. The late George H. Himes, curator of the Oregon Historical Society for many years, quoted a statement made to him by William F. Helm who, with his father, mother, brothers and sisters, was a member of the Stephen Meek party that made the Blue Bucket discovery. Mr. Helm was on Canyon Creek in 1863 and always insisted that Canyon Creek or another tributary of the John Day was the site of the finding of the Blue Bucket gold. Support is given this by letters from pioneers writing to the Oregonian newspaper in the spring of 1919 who agreed that location of the fabled discovery was