

IT ALL STARTED IN 1904

In 1904, the port of Bandon on the southern Oregon coast was growing, the surrounding towns and waterways busy with trade and industry.

Coastal steamers made weekly runs to San Francisco with Bandon's exports—cheese, butter, canned salmon and lumber. Local industry was varied and included a shipyard, an iron foundry, a woolen mill and a match and broomstick factory.

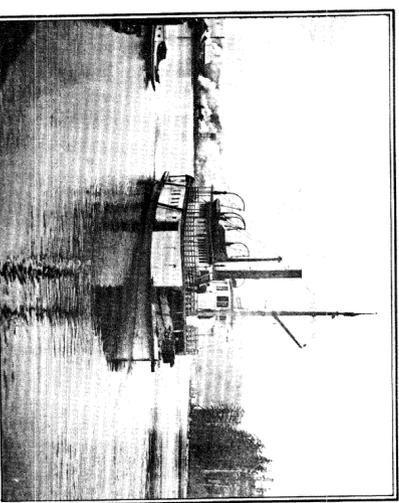
This was the year Western Bank was founded, as the Bank of Bandon, by six local men with \$7,600 total capital.

With the town's support, the bank gained strength and at the end of the first year, assets stood at \$52,195. A year later that figure had doubled.

Some difficult years followed. The widespread hardship caused by two world wars, the Depression, and fires in 1914 and 1936 that devastated most of Bandon, also challenged the survival of the bank.

But in 1954, fifty years after its founding, the first branch was established in Empire, outside Coos Bay. In 1960, the head office was moved to Coos Bay, and the Bank of Bandon became Western Bank.

This is our 75th year. Today there are thirty-five branches serving customers in communities all over Oregon. We're proud of our growth, and happy that Western's brand of banking is an accepted part of so many Oregon families.



Steamboats hauled lumber, produce, miners, and equipment along the rivers.

LONG TOMS & ROCKERS BOXERS

Cold Fever, that familiar theme in Old West lore, had its Oregon versions too.

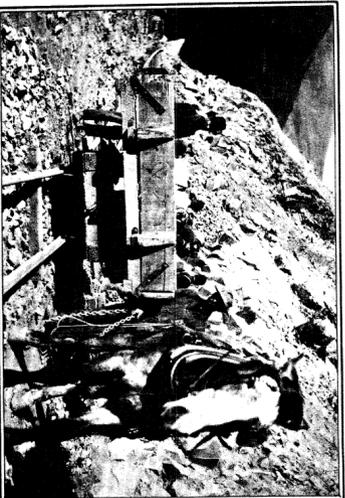
It's said that the Chinese people alone took two million dollars in gold out of the mines in the Jacksonville-Applegate area in Jackson County.

On Whiskey Run Beach north of Bandon, forty-miners heading to the California gold fields discovered gold-laden black sand. Driftwood shanties sprang up and became the town of Randolph. A few years later, a freak series of winter storms and high tides swept the rich sand out to sea. (Information courtesy of Reg. Pullen, Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay, Oregon.)

Cold Beach and Gold Hill in the southwest corner of the state are both names the miners left behind.

And in eastern Oregon, Cormacopia and Eldorado, boom towns that were quick building and quick declining, are ghost towns today.

Weekend prospectors of this century can still find a little "color" in their gold pans with some persistence, and local legends of lost gold mines abound to tug at the imagination.

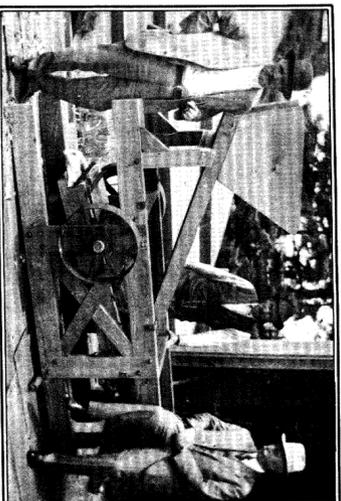


Much of the early ore tramming was done by horsepower.

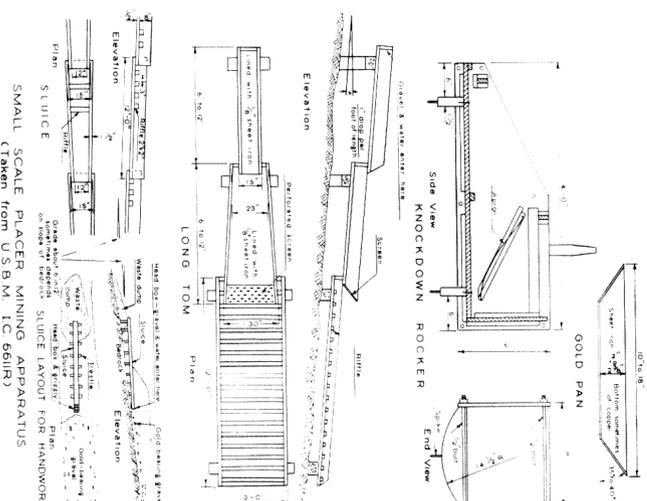
MILLICAN OREGON. ELEVATION 4057-POPULATION 1



For many years, Millican was the only "town" in Oregon that had a population of one person. (Courtesy East of the Cascades)



Long tom—used for washing gold-laden black sand near Bandon. (Courtesy Bandon Historical Society)

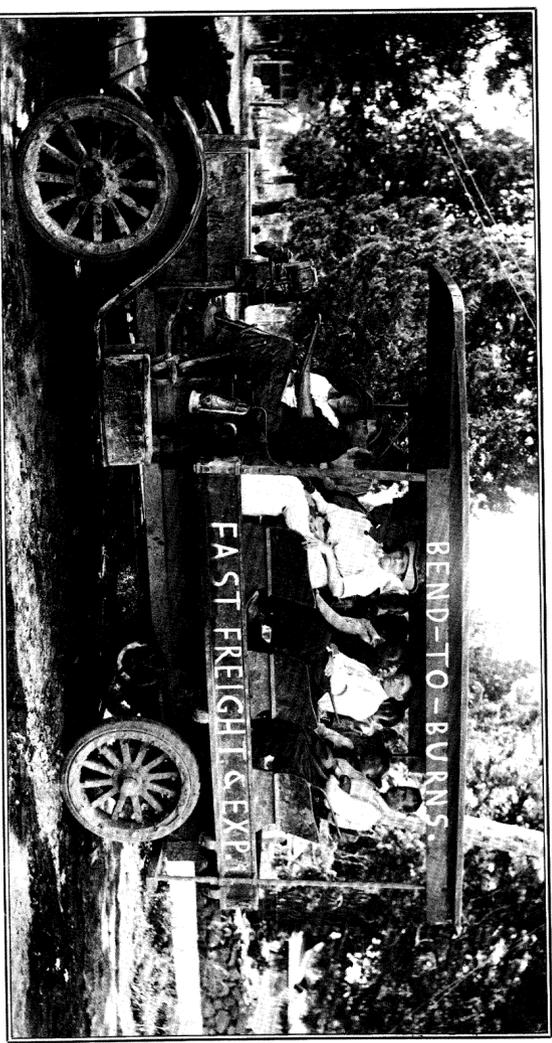


There are two types of gold mining operations—placer mines and lode mines. Lode mines are pick and shovel mines. The gold occurs as veins in concentrated masses in various types of bedrock.

On the other hand, in placer operations, the gold appears as grains mixed with sand or gravel. This gold can be retrieved by simple washing, screening and concentrating processes. Like in the old days, the tools used can be gold pans, slushboxes, long toms, and rockers (see diagram). Each owes its effectiveness to the principle that gold is heavier than the accompanying sand and gravel, and suspended in water, the gold will sink to the bottom while the sand is washed away.

Pool's gold can look like the real thing, but there's no need to be taken in. A few simple tests will reveal if the sample is genuine. Gold is a heavy metal and will "hang back" in the gold pan. Gold is very soft and can be easily flattened with a knife. Rubbed over a streak plate, it will leave a gold streak. Gold cannot be dissolved in nitric acid. Placer gold is usually rough surfaced because of constant abrasion in the stream bed, and rarely shines like refined gold. It comes in rolled, curved or flattened grains, in angular pieces, plates, scales and tiny specks called "flour gold." Coarse gold may be sponge-like, or masses of tiny intertwined wires.

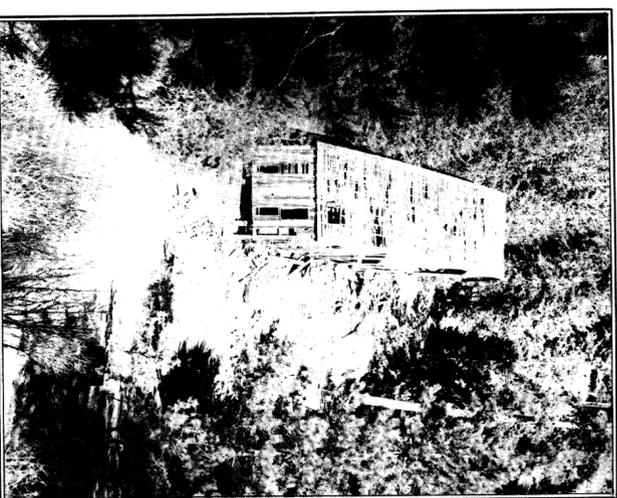
Whatever the form, to find it is to know something of the gold fever that brought so many excited adventurers west.



Here the freight is ready to start over the High Desert, with detours around junipers and love mounds. (Courtesy East of the Cascades)



George Palmer Putnam, early owner of the Bend Bulletin. Married Amelia Earhart, aviator, who later disappeared on a trans-world flight. (Courtesy Bend in Central Oregon)



Remains of an abandoned mine. (Courtesy Crille County Cook Book)

STRICKER IT RICHER

The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, distributes free copies of "Staking a Mining Claim on Federal Lands" and "Patenting a Mining Claim on Federal Lands." Both can be obtained from most district offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

The State of Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries can also furnish machine copies of the State Mining Code for a small service charge.

At Western Bank, we can give you a few tips on safeguarding your resources, too. At every branch of Western Bank, you'll discover friendly people ready to help.



WESTERN BANK
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