

Sunday Journal July 9, 1939

### **Bureau Bulletin Describes Mines**

More than 500 mines and prospects, located in 17 mining areas of Baker, Union and Wallowa counties, are described in bulletin No. 14-A, just issued by the Oregon state department of geology and mineral industries.

Each mining area has a generalized statement of geography, geology and history, which is followed by the property descriptions arranged alphabetically.

Besides an index map of the state, the publication has a large map, forest service base, which outlines mining area boundaries and other features.

The title is "Oregon Metal Mines Handbook: Northeastern Oregon, East Half." The cost is 50 cents. It is available at the department office, 329 S. W. Oak street, Portland; state assay laboratory, Baker, and state assay laboratory, Grants Pass.

SINCE  1888

*Allen's*  
**PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU**

PORTLAND, ORE.

★ SAN FRANCISCO ★

LOS ANGELES

BURNS, ORE., AMERICAN

MAY 5 1920

*Source*

**Life Magazine Photographer  
Here For Local Pictures**

Richard Neuberger, Portland author, and Alfred Eisenstaedt, staff photographer for Life Magazine, accompanied by E. J. Conway of Portland, who acted as guide spent Tuesday night in Burns. Early Wednesday morning they visited the Island ranch and later departed for Boise.

Following the publication by Mr. Neuberger of his book, "Promised Land" which concerns the vast Columbia Basin, Life magazine detailed several photographers to obtain pictures depicting the Columbia basin. Mr. Eisenstaedt, who is covering this section of the country, has an international reputation as a photographer. One of his outstanding assignments was for Associated Press in Etheopia just before the Italian invasion.

Mr. Conway, whose hobby is geology, has made frequent trips into Harney county and was asked to act as a guide for the party because of his thorough acquaintance with the entire state.

: A :

# Against Hell's Canyon Park

To the Editor: The name Hells Canyon for the majestic gorge of Snake river has no historic background, and is singularly inappropriate. My knowledge of hell at present is not based on personal experience, but I certainly do not think there is anything hellish about Snake River canyon. In fact, the contrary is true. This name Hells Canyon is distinctly a modern notion which sounds as though it had been dug up by some college sophomore searching for angle-worms. The name does not appear on any government maps that I have ever seen, and it is not looked upon with favor by residents of northeast Oregon and west Idaho.

The writer went through most of the canyon in July, 1922, in company with one man at least who was thoroughly familiar with this great gorge. I never heard the name Hells Canyon during the entire trip, and I have never run across the name since then, except in print in articles by people who have never been through the canyon itself.

The words "hell" and "devil" were formerly used with the idea that they would throw a scare, but they have become so common they are stereotyped. "Hell" is such a poor expletive that hearty swearers now look upon it with scorn. Incidentally, this word and the word "devil" are still being employed geographically by people who ought to know better, and we have a lot of foolish names, such as Devils Washboard, Devils Cabbage Patch, Hells Cauldron, Hells Half Acre, etc., ad nauseum.

Devils lake in Lincoln county is a little different. This name comes because of the Indian belief that the vicinity of the lake was inhabited by "skookums" or wood devils. Skookum lakes just south of Newberg are in the same category.

The name Hells Canyon violates one of the first principles of good advertising. It does not tell where the place is. Snake River canyon or Grand Canyon of Snake river as used by the Oregon state highway department at least have the advantage of letting people know the general locality of this great natural wonder.

Incidentally, if the national park service succeeds in turning this area into a national park it will not be able to add to its scenic grandeur in any way whatsoever. Hell's bells!

LEWIS A. McARTHUR,  
Public Service Bldg.

To the Editor: The Oregonian's editorial about Hells Canyon on the Snake river seems to the writer to be a shot in the dark. In it you

assume that there must be a choice between use of the area recreationally or industrially. Nothing could be farther from the truth. It is true that this Hells Canyon and its hinterland the Wallowa mountains, which are in the Wallowa and Whitman national forests, must be considered as an indivisible unit.

Should these areas be made into a park a great many people would needlessly suffer. Primarily the state would lose a potential timber yield of 3½ billion feet of merchantable timber and between 150,000 and 200,000 head of sheep and cattle would lose their summer range. The resultant loss by way of lost labor and taxes would be a severe blow to this section and the state as a whole.

Contrary to popular belief pine logging operations as practiced in our national forests remove only about one-half of the timber—that half which is mature and would be a loss economically unless removed and become a fire hazard if left to blow down. Grazing is also strictly controlled and is gradually being reduced to comply with the demands of the game animals and the camper and tourists.

Creation of this park embracing these areas would automatically create a game preserve for the 34,000 mule deer. The problem of their unmolested increase would quickly create a feeding problem as serious as the Murderers creek area, to say nothing of the squawk of the sportsmen thus deprived of one of the state's finest hunting areas. The state would lose jurisdiction of all game animals and fish within the park and the revenues derived from the hunting and fishing licenses would be lost.

The whole point is that the forest service has proved it is capable of efficiently administering our public lands. Under their "multiple use" policy the greatest number of people derive a maximum good from these areas. Conservation of our natural resources is nothing more or less than the "greatest use with the least depletion."

After all no one can run away with a public canyon of such dimension; and we cannot get the greatest use of the area by excluding from it all except about three months of tourist travel. The forest service is in a position to give everyone reasonable use of our public lands; and those who have the best interests of our state at heart will insist on maintaining the status quo of Hells Canyon, and vicinity.

PONDOSA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB,  
R. W. Foote, President,  
Pondosa, Or.

W. H. H. H. H.  
Source

## MAGAZINE CITES RICHES OF BAKER

### Flagstaff and John Day Praised for Gold Possibilities

In the July issue of the Pacific Northwest Outdoor magazine Baker county received a boost for its mining industry.

An article says some of the richest ground in Oregon for the panning of gold is to be found in the Flagstaff and John Day country. The article states that in many cases valuable stones are to be found in this area. (Mining and geology classes under the direction of B. F. Pulis of the WPA adult education program are being held regularly in Baker and are valuable in ascertaining the quality of stones). Garnets, topaz and zircons are said to be plentiful in this part of Oregon. Several stones of unusual quality have been found here.

## MINING PROPERTY LISTED IN BOOK

### 17 Areas in Baker, Union, Wallowa Counties Covered

More than 500 mines and prospects, located in 17 mining areas of Baker, Union and Wallowa counties are described in bulletin No. 14-A, recently issued by the Oregon state department of geology and mineral industries.

Each mining area has a generalized statement of geography, geology and history, which is followed by the property descriptions arranged alphabetically. Ownership, location, area, history, geology, mineralization, development and equipment of each mine are discussed where such data is available. An index is arranged for convenience in locating any mining property.

The introduction contains a discussion of the general geologic features of Oregon, mineral production and a resume of the various metals. Besides an index map of the state, the publication has a large map, which outlines mining area boundaries and other features.

This is the first of a series of five bulletins, each of which will cover a different portion of the state. It will replace the mines handbook of the old Oregon bureau issued in 1916 and long out of print.

The bulletin is available at the state assay office at Second and Court streets at a nominal cost.

## 500 Mines Listed State Bulletin

Over 500 mines and prospects located in 17 mining areas of Baker, Union, and Wallowa counties, are described in Bulletin No. 14-A, just announced by the Oregon State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

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The introduction contains a discussion of the general geologic features of Oregon, mineral production, and a resume of the various metals. Besides an index map of the state, the publication has a large map ( $\frac{1}{4}$  inch to 1 mile scale, Forest Service base) which outlines mining area boundaries and other features.

The title is "Oregon Metal Mines Handbook: Northeastern Oregon, East Half;" the cost is 50c; and it is available at the head office of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, 329 S. W. Oak Street, Portland, Oregon; State Assay Laboratory, Baker, Oregon; and State Assay Laboratory, Grants Pass, Oregon.

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## CLAIMS IN SNAKE SECTION PROBED

### Some Samples on Three Claims Run High, Others Low

An investigation of the mining claims of Gus Darland, John Mullins and W. R. Bullock in the Snake river canyon near Hat Point, was made by D. K. Mackay of the state department of geology and mineral industries.

The claims are located in Secs. 10-15, 16 and 22, R. 50 E., T. 1 S., in a greenstone series near a small granodiorite intrusion. The greenstones, which are largely altered lavas and tuffs, are believed to be of triassic age. They are tilted and much fractured, being highly altered and silicified along fissures. Twenty-four representative samples taken over the claims were assayed by Leslie Motz, state assayer for this region. Most of these showed small values in gold but a few ran high in copper and gold.

While the results of the tests on the samples were, on the whole, disappointing, Mr. Darland stated that the partners would develop the property further by open cuts and tunnels in the hope of uncovering a promising ore body.

Mr. Mackay stated he enjoyed the hospitality of the partners not only at their camp on the Snake river but on the trip in the vicinity of Pittsburgh landing, where a coal deposit was reported. Investigation disclosed only a thin lens (about 18 inches thick) of impure bituminous coal lying within a formation composed largely of conglomerates. The deposit is not considered to have commercial significance.

Messrs. Darland and Bullock reported having recently acquired an interest from John Mullins in what is known as the Soda Creek dike, located in Sec. 18, R. 45 E., T. 11 S., and are planning development of the property.

Mr. Mackay stated that he is assembling data to bring the last catalogue of mines and mining claims in eastern Oregon up to date and Mr. Motz reported that the number of samples submitted for assay averages more than 10 per day. A small supply of copies of the mining law will be available at the state assay office for distribution to the public at 10 cents apiece, this charge being made to cover cost of printing.

## GEOLOGIST ON SNAKE RIVER EXAMINATION

Darland Claims Near Hat  
Point Visited by D. K.  
Mackay

### SMALL COAL SHOWING PITTSBURGH LANDING

Assembling Data to Cata-  
logue All Mining Claims  
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## Wallowa Mine Strike Not Bonanza But Has Possibilities, Claim

Geologist Visits, Samples  
Wallowa Property on River

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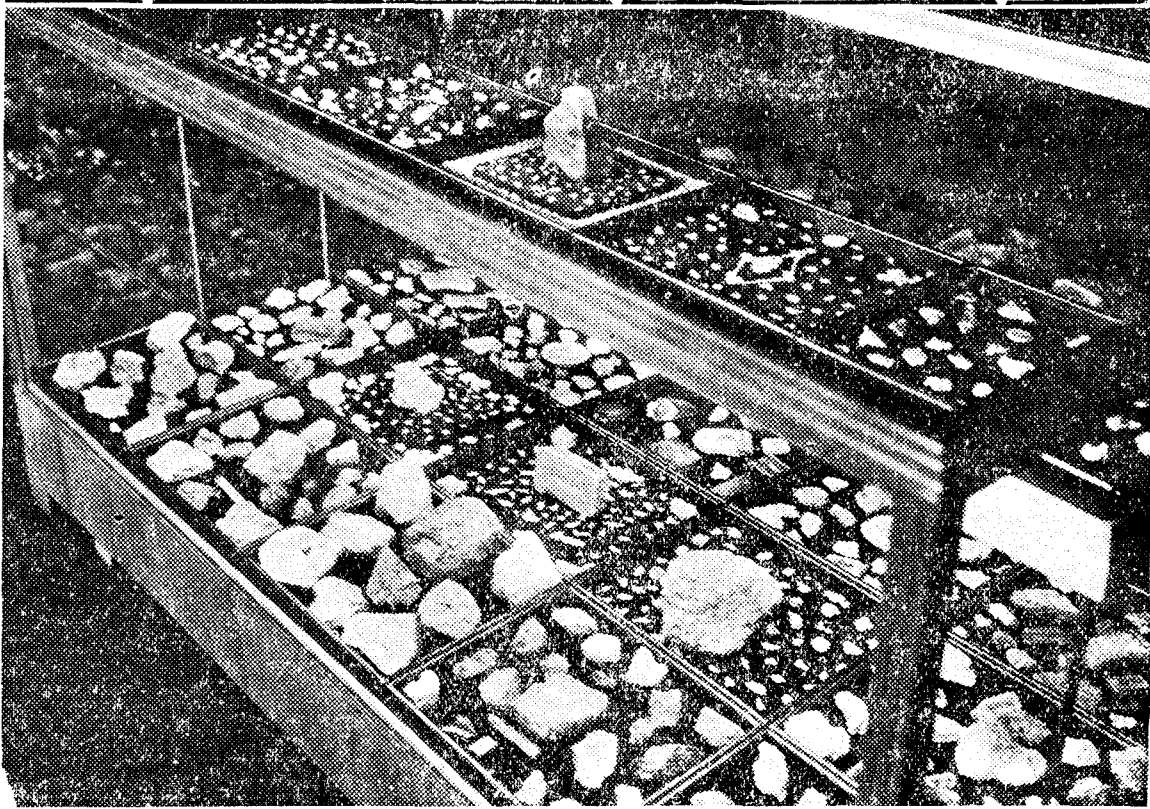
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## RARE COLLECTION OF GOLD ORE ON DISPLAY HERE



Specimens valued at approximately \$25,000 and collected from various mines of Baker county over a period of years are on display at the First National bank in Baker. The display is probably the rarest ever assembled in Oregon and has attracted wide attention.



## Predicts Shipment, Telocaset Mineral

### Diatomaceous Earth Loaded Last Week

North Powder — (Special) — Twelve tons of diatomaceous earth were shipped by truck last week from the mine located on the T. E. Miller farm about one and one-fourth miles south of Telocaset to the Walla Walla Insulating company, reports manager Jack Pennington.

Mr. Pennington explained that there are only three other mines of this type in the Western states. Pending further analysis by a Seattle laboratory only small shipments will be made, but contracts have been awarded for car-load lots, which may begin daily within a month should the laboratory report be favorable. There are 245 known uses for diatomaceous earth, said Pennington, such as in insulation material, calamine, cement, polishing material, filters, etc.

A. V. Schlarbacin of Pilot Rock, James Haskin of Stanfield and Ralph Anderson of Seattle are the principle owners of the Telocaset mine.

Eastern Oregon News, Baker  
Sept. 9 1938

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For months there have been numbers of mining men visiting Baker and inspecting mining properties through Eastern Oregon. This shows an increasing interest in mining in this section. Many of these are seeking dredging and others placer mining ground, and others have investigated quartz properties. In some cases negotiations are being carried on for properties which when consummated will give employment to large crews and once put into operation will further increase the mining activity of Baker county.

# LOCAL MAGAZINE REPORTS BAKER MINING ACTIVE

## Diving Suit to Be Used in Gold Ex- traction

Considerable new mining development is underway in the Baker territory, according to stories appearing in the Oregon Mining Review, published in Baker by H. E. Hendryx.

Work of installing a modern flotation mill to treat 70 tons of ore a day is progressing rapidly at the Cougar-Independence mine near Granite, in Grant county. The Cougar-Independence, a consolidation of the Cougar and Independence mines, is paying for the mill from returns on ore shipped to the smelter at Taccma. The entire production was in crude or shipped directly to the smelter.

Approximately 60 men are employed at the mine. Most of them are working on construction and outside projects in preparation for winter operations.

P. A. Rokne is in charge of the work as superintendent. William Miller will be superintendent of the mill when it is completed. Electric power for the plant will be furnished by the Eastern Oregon Light and Power company.

All of the present production of the company has been from the Cougar property, but production at the Independence is expected to be started soon. H. C. Purdy, formerly of Cornucopia, has taken a lease on a section of ground in the Independence.

In the Snake river section, J. A. Magney and R. V. Magney of Spokane are re-opening the Bay Horse mine. A trust fund created for reorganizing the U. S. Metals company, which formerly operated the mine, has been formed with two men as administrators.

Preliminary work has been started at the mine, which consists of one patented and three unpatented mining claims. The re-opening of the mine has been made possible by the stabilization of the price of silver at 71.11 cents an ounce. The principal metal in the ore is silver.

W. H. Cullers and associates of Portland have taken contracts on approximately 1200 acres of gold dredge land on the middle fork of the John Day river between the DeWitt ranch and the land dredged by the Timms Gold Dredging company at Galena. The territory to be dredged is 7½ miles long.

Mr. Cullers and associates, who are interested in the Sumpter Valley Dredging company, will start a systematic testing of the ground immediately.

The Reagan mine located on Pedro mountain in the Rye Valley area has been purchased from Clarence Smith by E. G. Bennett and N. R. Bard of Stanfield and Pendleton. Raleigh Chadwell of the Gold Bug mine at Auburn, who was instrumental in making the sale, will assist the new owners in placing the property in operation.

Billy Robbins and Howard Elmer of Pine valley have built a 20-foot boat with a five-foot team, from which they hope to extract gold from Snake river through the use of a diving suit. They plan to work on the bottom of the river bed and use the suction of the pump to bring up gravel and sand into the washing plant to recover the placer gold. They expect to work under water from 10 to 15 feet deep.

Clayton Robbins, mining engineer of Homestead, has taken a lease and option to purchase the Del Monte mine in the Sparta mining district. The last work at the Del Monte, owned by the E. H. Eddy estate of Boston, was done in 1903 by George A. Packard, a mining engineer of Boston.

The mine has been filled with water since work was stopped so that the first work will be to pump the water from the shaft. Plans for development will then be completed.

Walter Graven and Jay Dixon of Baker have installed a small mill at the Minnie Marie mine on Powder river 35 miles from Baker. The values are in free gold.

Operators of the Gem Mines, Inc., are making a test run of ore at the Gem mine near Sparta. C. L. Ander-

son, who is in charge of the operations, decided to mill a quantity of the ore to determine the values to be expected from actual milling.

The pneumatic gold recovery machine invented by Lyle McLean is in operation on Washington gulch west of Baker. Mr. McLean has secured a bulldozer which he is using to carry the gravel to the machine.

# Local Mines Production May Be \$2,000,000 During 1939

## Payroll of \$65,000 Monthly Shown In Summary of Current Producers

### Looks Like Increase in Baker County Gold Output Over \$1,300,000 Figure Mined in 1938

Mining for gold and other minerals in the Northeastern Oregon mineral belt surrounding Baker is reaching a new high point this summer with increased activity in the steady mining regions and renewed production by new properties in 1939.

Observers acquainted with the industry place a conservative estimate on the monthly payroll to persons employed in the mining industry at \$65,000, or an annual payroll of about \$700,000. Leading the list are the Cornucopia payroll of \$22,000 monthly and the payroll of the Oregon Portland Cement company at Lime with \$10,000 monthly.

Two huge gold dredges, five large "doodlebug" dredges, a half-dozen smaller hydraulic operations and probably ten other lode producers are included in the list of active properties in or immediately adjacent to Baker county.

#### PRODUCE \$1,300,000 IN 1938

Although the 1938 figures are slightly under the 1939 prediction, bureau of mines reports show that the county produced \$1,300,000 in gold, alone, last year, in addition to production from mines in adjacent counties. Oregon mineral production totalled \$2,900,000 in 1938. It is predicted that if current operations maintain until the end of the year the total may be over two millions for 1939.

Attention is directed at the present time to the district about Sumpter where placering with dredge equipment is at its height. In addition to the 8000 yards daily being handled by the Sumpter Valley dredge at the unprecedented low cost of between 5 and 6 cents per yard, the new four-foot Porter & Company all steel elected dredge has been running steadily since September on Bull Run creek above Granite. The company has about 2774 acres in the area and has invested \$350,000 in dredge and land.

Also at Granite is the S. K. Atkinson dragline operation and in the near future the Silbaugh land dredge will also get under way on Granite creek. West of Sumpter the Harmon hydraulic operation is washing ground. Up Cracker creek, the Campbell-Oregon company is making progress with its electric "doodle bug." Below Sumpter the Little-Wolfinger and Harris "doodle bug" and the Nutting plant are handling considerable ground, the former with a 1 1/2-yard shovel.

#### NEW LODE PRODUCER

The current bidder for second place among the district's lode mines is the Cougar-Independence property, of the Cougar-Independence Leasee, where construction work was started June 25 on a new 50-ton mill.

This follows six months of shipping ore of considerable value direct to the smelter. The property is located three miles north of Granite and has recently been placed in charge of P. A. Rockne, formerly of Cornucopia.

Cougar mine shipped 12 cars of ore during May and shipment is at present running 30 tons per day with values running about one ounce of gold per ton. The mill will be built on the present Independence sight, utilizing some of the 100,000 feet of timber to be taken out of the old Cougar mill, using some of the present machinery, and installing new Denver equipment which in tests recovered 92 percent of the ore values. The mill will be ready for use in about two months, Mr. Rockne stated early this week.

Ed Garvin of Baker is foreman of the construction crew.

#### ORE SHOOT LARGE

The Independence and Cougar mines ore will be mixed 40 to 60 in the new mill and it is anticipated mill heads will run a half ounce in gold. Little crushing is needed and a ball mill will be utilized in reduction. It is believed about 50,000 tons of ore are blocked out. A lengthy continuous ore shoot running most of the 1900-foot drift is being developed.

About 300 feet has already been driven on a new addit from the mill, which is expected to cut the one vein at 1100 feet and the other

at 2300, giving 350 feet of added depth on 15th. Although only two men are employed in the crosscut it is hoped to press the work along with current development.

Altogether 25 men, with eight on the development and 10 in outside construction, are employed.

#### BUFFALO SHIPPING

The Buffalo mine several miles beyond the Independence began milling ore last week, with first concentrates being trucked to Sumpter Sunday along with high-grade crude ore from the Constitution claim on the property. This property, belonging to Bruce Dennis of Portland, boasts a revamped mill, set up by W. F. Allen Jr., well-known mining man, for the particular ore encountered.

Other properties showing activity are the Bi-Metallic and the Snow creek in charge of M. C. Carson and Wm. Cooper, respectively.

#### TESTING CONTINUES

In the Bourne vicinity H. C. Wilmot, new owner of half-interest along with the Parkers in the Argonaut mine, is going ahead with work after completing a new road. A 100-ton mill is contemplated.

The Campbell-Oregon company which took an option on the entire Bourne holdings, including the E. and E., North Pole, Columbia, and other claims is at present making extensive diamond drill testings after sampling the old E and E. mine down to water level.

Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries 6-20-39

According to Mr. Chestnut who has been in charge since the work got under way last fall, the Sullivan Machinery company, contractors, has the first hole in 1400 feet.

The rig is located just above Bourne and the hole is being driven into the footwall of the vein at 58 degrees which should strike the vein 100 feet below the old Columbia mine, our informer explained.

Two other holes were planned. However, the extremely hard drilling has caused considerable grief in the first try. The first hole is expected to reach its destination momentarily, Mr. Chestnut stated

early this week, although failure of it to "flatten" has necessitated a little further distance than was contemplated.

Should the testing prove the property satisfactory, a major operation would result, it is said.

#### **OTHER MINOR PROPERTIES**

On Virtue flat the Friday mine which has produced some shipping ore the past year is now managed by W. R. Christensen with prospects that a small mill equipment taken to the property may be set up. Nearby is the Hidden Treasure mine, also a shipper. Macy Mine near Richland is under lease from George V. Whittle to Sam and Lloyd Anderson. It has been running for over a year.

Scouting for prospects has been an active pastime in practically every district. Unusual activity has been noted in the Bridgeport section. Two placer operations are running on Pine creek below Cornucopia, one being a hydraulic. In the Chicken creek section M. P. Gifford of the Gold Cluster, A. V. Lovejoy of the Gleason and La-Fran brothers at the Little Hill mine all have been producers of gold on a small scale.

Considerable research has been done on Homestead ore the past six months, as with the Dixie Meadows mine near Prairie City, although work has not been concluded.

This current week, the testing of dredge ground on North Powder river in the Muddy Creek section by Sumpter Valley Dredging company engineers is under way. Al Razor, representing Boise interests has been brought here by Otto Simons to sample the Oregon Chief mine of the Cable Cove section.

Word from Mormon Basin indicates additional development work will be done on the Sunday Hill mine.

Down in the Malheur section E. H. Seaver and J. L. Danziger of Los Angeles are testing extensive placer ground. They have been encourage enough that additional, modern sampling equipment is being added to that in use the past three weeks.