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## ONCE FAMOUS NOME NOW BUT A MEMORY

Panned Dry of Its Beach Gold, People Are Now Fast Leaving.

(M. J. Brown)  
 "God goes out on the last boat and he doesn't come back until spring," is the saying in Nome. And I judged that pretty nearly everyone went outside with him this year.

In 1910 Nome had 3,000 people. This winter 400 white men and 300 dogs will put in the long winter and wait for God and the first boat to come in from Seattle next spring.

I was out of my stateroom at 4 in the morning to get a first glimpse of gold-famous Nome. Our ship was anchored about two miles out, and passengers are lightered in—that is, when the weather permits. But the ocean was as glassy as a duck pond this summer morning and everybody could land—everybody that would come down with \$2.50.

It was a pretty sight from the steamer to see the little gold town spread along the beach. Like all other Alaskan towns it was long and narrow—like a pile of cord wood—one string of business places along the shore, with residences further back.

I landed and started on a hike down the beach, toward the Eskimo village to start things off. A little way out I met five young fellows and I didn't need to see any saloon signs to tell me Nome was as yet an irrigated town. They halted me and ordered me to sit by the roadside. Then one of them, with much ceremony, proceeded to pluck six reed stems of different lengths. These he placed in his hand and ordered me to draw. I drew. Then he went the rounds, and one of the bunch was declared "it"—having drawn the longest straw. I was then enlightened I had had a perfectly good cocktail wished onto me and to "fall in."

I was too near the Eskimo town to turn back, so I refused to drill, telling the one who was called "Parson" to leave me one coming, and when I bolted down the beach he threw a half dollar at me. "If you won't drink, spend the four bits for a bath," he said.

Nome is the reverse of any mining town in Alaska, barring possibly Juneau, for its mining is all done in the summer time instead of winter. The placer mining that made this north town a familiar name all over the world has played out. No longer do gold-crazed men wash out great fortunes from the sand beach. Those days have ticked by. Today the dredges and hydraulic outfits take care of what gold is left around Nome, and they can only operate in the summer—when there is water.

The placer diggin's have been panned out, worked clean, "gone bust." A few yet rock and cradle back on the second beach but the gold is practically exhausted.

When the big rush was on at Nome there were no 20-acre claims staked—they were 20 feet. The beach was no man's land, hence there could not be any regular registered claims, but there was an unwritten law that a claim was 20 feet front on the ocean, and ropes were the divisions. And a man who would not recognize these regulations didn't have time to let his family know how he died.

Nome was a great old camp in those days. There was no postoffice there and mail was mushed in from Valdez, 1500 miles, to St. Michael, 110 miles from Nome, and Indians would bring the letters from St. Michael at \$5 apiece.

I was talking with an old-timer and told him I was from Oregon. "Oregon! Why this town used to be full of the webfooters. Did you ever know Ben Olecott? I hear he is some big gun down there now. I knew him in '94 when he mushed from Nome to Fairbanks, over a thousand miles." And when I told him Olecott was secretary of state in Oregon he remarked: "He had sense enough to go out before his dough soured."

There is not a dollar's worth of fire insurance in Nome. No company will take any. Too big risks. There is not a wooden building that is level—even the Masonic temple is not strictly level or on the square. This summer the water will run out of the kitchen sink all right, and next summer it won't, and the few bath tubs in the city have to be jacked up or down, depending on which end of the house the frost did the most heaving.

Sixteen cans of water for one dollar and Alaska going dry January 1. Do you wonder the people are leaving Alaska? Soft coal was \$25 a ton and going up a little higher every time the Nugget printed a dispatch that a submarine had sunk another boat. The average cost of heating a house at this price was \$50 a month. Party line phones were \$10 a month and electric lights \$5 a piece per month. The Pioneer Mining Company brings its water 70 miles through pipes. Some of the smaller concerns, which have rich ground but no water, build fences to catch snow, which melts in the summer and can be used for sluicing. But a fellow might have to wait four or five years

for the fickle winds to blow the snow into his particular trap.

"Where did this beach gold come from?" I asked a miner. "Washed down from the hills" he replied. The same question to another miner got this answer: "Washed in by the ocean." Now you guess.

There are three beaches at Nome, the present water front, one a mile or two back, and one four or five miles back, from which it is plainly evident that in the ages past glacial and volcanic actions have crowded the ocean back. Rich ground was found on all these beaches.

In 1913 a great storm or tidal wave ruined the present beach by washing out or burying the gold-bearing sand, and since that time Nome has steadily gone down. The hydraulics and dredges will operate for years to come yet, but they do not employ much help and their season of operation is so short that there are not enough assets to keep Nome a live one. This mining town is following Dawson—it will soon be a dead one, a once-waser.

The life of the greater population of Nome during the long winter is sleeping days and reading nights, and the one great sport is dog racing.

For the first time on the trip of about 2,200 miles down the Yukon I found my old friends, nickels and dimes, at Nome, and I went into a hip pocket depository and fished out a handful that were demonitized at Skagway. Practically "outside" prices prevail in Nome, with the exception of the "hash houses." A steak costs a dollar there.

Moving pictures are the main source of entertainment in the north city and considering how the town is cut off from the world for eight or nine months the shows are good. The reels must be ordered and delivered nine months ahead.

There may be a few horses on the job around the mining outfits, but I did not see them. The market price of hay was \$100 a ton in August and oats \$90. The price of horse board was \$1.50 a day, so you may be sure there were not many saddle ponies on the streets.

When winter sets in in Nome, in October, the "Radiator Club" is reorganized. The big hotel reduces its room rates much faster than Hoover does bread prices, in fact they go down with a jar. The hotel must stay open and the management figures that it might better have the rooms putting \$10 a month each in the cash register than to have them empty, so those who have to stay in for the winter get heated rooms at this bargain day rate and they are then members of the "Radiator Club," with full privilege to sit in the big lobby with their feet on the radiator at ten bucks per until the first ocean steamer whistles in the spring and then the rates take a jump that would make the shoe trust get off the trail.

Raffles are a big graft in all the Alaska towns, and the tourists fall for them. Handsome furs, carved ivory and many other things are worked to a finish. The trouble is the drawings do not take place until the tourists have left, and as the numbers are only sold to the visitors the chances are they never take place. I have a perfectly good lottery number that I will sell at greatly reduced rates.

And now I will close with a little blue music. Some of these days a big fire will wipe out Nome, and then about all that will be rebuilt will be the postoffice. Like all Alaska towns, she is on the mat, waiting for the count.

Always trade in your nome town

**FIRE! FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!**

See E. E. Quick, St. Helens, and insure your property in the Oregon Fire Relief Association of McMinnville, Oregon. Don't put it off. **McH6tf W. L. WARREN, Agent.**

## ST. HELENS-PORTLAND AUTO LINE

FRANK SHEPARD, Prop.  
 SCHEDULE

	A. M.	P. M.
Lv. St. Helens	7:30	1:30
Warren	7:45	1:45
Scappoose	8:00	2:00
Ar. Portland	9:20	3:20
Lv. Portland	10:00	4:00
Ar. St. Helens	11:50	6:50

Saturdays and Sundays  
 Special trip leaving St. Helens 6 p. m.  
 Leave Portland 11 p. m.  
**RELIABLE SERVICE**

## ST. HELENS ROUTE

via Willamette Slough  
**THE PEOPLES BOAT**

**STR. AMERICA**  
 Leaves Portland daily - 2:30 p. m.  
 (Sunday 1:30 p. m.)  
 Arrives St. Helens - 6:00 p. m.  
 (Sunday 3:30 p. m.)  
 Leaves St. Helens - 6:15 a. m.  
 Arrives Portland - 10:15 a. m.

H. HOLMAN, Agent  
 Makes all way landings. Wharf foot Alder street. Phones: Main 8323, A-4204.  
 FRANK WILKINS, St. Helens Agent.

## Str. IRALDA

Rates between St. Helens and Portland, 50 cents one way, 75 cents for the round trip.  
 Tickets good until used.  
 Boat leaves St. Helens 7:55 a. m.  
 Returning leaves Portland 2:30 p. m.  
 Arrive at St. Helens 4:45 p. m.  
**C. I. HOOGHKIRK**

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## St. Helens Steam Laundry

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**A HOME INDUSTRY**

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Are now arriving. Better make your selection now. Pay a small deposit on the article and we will hold it for you until Christmas.

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Own your own lot and build your own home.

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Prices range from \$75 to \$250

These lots are sold on easy terms; \$10.00 down and \$5.00 to \$10.00 per month.

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 St. Helens, Oregon

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 Expert Machinist. Bring your auto troubles to me. Marine work a specialty. Shop at St. Helens garage.  
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**PRICES ALWAYS REASONABLE**

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**HAIR CUTS, SHAVES, SHAMPOOS**  
 Everything in the Barber Line done up in Style  
 Our shop is Strictly Clean and Sanitary  
 Come in and See us  
**ST. HELENS**

**Hotel Barber Shop**  
 HEWITT BLDG.  
 H. T. BENNETT, Prop.  
**MOST SANITARY SHOP IN ST. HELENS**  
**A REAL SHOE SHINE**  
**CHILDREN'S HAIR CUTTING**  
**A Specialty**

**George's Market**  
**ST. HELENS**  
**FRESH AND SALT MEATS**  
**PHONE 48 Prompt Service**

## CALLING THE ROLL



for breakfast every morning is a favorite task for the children. There is nothing nicer than sweet, fresh Rolls crisp from the oven. If we supply you with your breadstuffs you will never have cause for complaint, but rather for congratulation. Our Bread, Rolls, and Biscuits are pure, wholesome, nourishing and very appetizing to young and old. If you are not buying bread here now, favor us with a trial and you will then become a steady customer.

**St. Helens Bakery**  
 J. E. Ramsey Phone 95

## NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of an execution and order of sale duly issued by the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the County of Columbia, State of Oregon, dated the 6th day of November, 1917, in a certain action in the Circuit Court for said County and State, wherein William J. Holpa, as plaintiff, recovered judgment against Lea Korpela for the sum of Fifty-six and 35-100 Dollars, and costs and disbursements taxed at Forty (\$40.00) Dollars, on the 24th day of July, 1917.

Notice is hereby given that I will on the 8th day of December, 1917, at the front door of the courthouse in St. Helens, in said County, at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, the following described property, to-wit:

N $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 35, Tp. 5 N., R. 2 W. of the Will. Mer. in Columbia County, Oregon. Excepting therefrom a strip of land 20 feet in width commencing at the northwest corner of said NW $\frac{1}{4}$  thence running east 20 feet; thence south and parallel with the west line of said section 40 rods; thence west 20 feet; thence north 40 rods to the place of beginning, heretofore attached or as much thereof as may be necessary to satisfy the said judgment in favor of William J. Holpa and against said Lea Korpela, together with all costs and disbursements that have or may accrue.  
 E. C. STANWOOD, Sheriff.

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon, this 7th day of November, 1917.  
 First publication Nov. 9, 1917.  
 Last publication Dec. 7, 1917.

## NOTICE OF DISTRICT ROAD MEETING

ROAD DISTRICT NO. 10, COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON.

Notice is hereby given, that in pursuance of a petition duly signed by 4 freeholders and legal voters of Road District No. 10, Columbia County, Oregon, and presented to the County Court of Columbia County, Oregon, a District Road Meeting of the legal voters of said Road District No. 10 will be held in the Spitzenberg School House on the 24th day of November, 1917, at the hour of 1 o'clock P. M. of said day, said meeting to be for the purpose of voting a Special Road Tax in said District on not to exceed 10 Mills on the dollar of all taxable property in said road district.

Dated this 8th day of November, 1917.  
 R. S. HATTAN, County Judge.

## EDDIE'S PLACE

CIGARS  
 TOBACCO  
 CONFECTIONS  
 E. B. Woods, Prop.  
 Phone 96

## M. HOVEN

Steamer RUTH  
**SAFE, SPEEDY SERVICE**  
**TOWING, JOBBING**  
 Passenger accommodations for 100  
 Landing at City Dock

All Buses Call at Hotel  
 Courteous Treatment

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 Chicken Dinner Sunday, 35c  
**RATES \$1.00 PER DAY AND UP**  
 Special Rates to Regular Boarders

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 For Good Work, always the cheapest.

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PLUMBING, STEAM HEATING and SHEET METAL WORKS  
 Stationary Wash Tubs and Bath Room supplies.  
 St. Helens, Oregon

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 Weekly sailings from St. Helens

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