

RENEWED GOLD RUSH REVIVES OLD CAMPS

Ghosts Chased From Long-Deserted Towns As Prospectors Come

Huge Dredges Vie With Humble Pick And Shovel Workers In Search For Gold In Old Montana Bonanza Camps

The ghosts are being chased from many a long deserted mining camp in Montana. Doors that have swung only with the wind for years are being bolted now. Dust is being shaken from neglected machinery. Rocky gulches where the voices and labor of eager gold seekers have not been heard for half a century are echoing to new operations.

Camp Caroline, German gulch,

Pony, the Royal Gold properties, Radersburg, the Little Rockies—new life is being brought to these and many other camps by the advance guard of what promises to be a record army of prospectors.

Last year thousands of amateur gold hunters brushed elbows with veteran quartz miners and placer workers. Many old claims were invaded for the first time in decades. But the novice gold hunters deployed over wide areas, and moved about rapidly. Few were successful in the work, their average earnings being but 75 cents to \$1 per day.

This year more determined operations are starting up on old sites. Huge dredges are being assembled to handle low-grade ores.

At Pony, where not more than 25 men lived two years ago, the present population is about 250 persons, according to Arthur V. Carry, Butte mining engineer. In 1890 Pony was a town of 1,500 population.

Marysville, site of the famed Drumlummon mine, now has about 200 residents, compared to a few families two years ago.

Pioneer, near Gold Creek is preparing for a large-scale dredging operation after years of abandonment. In its prime 2,000 raced to take gold from its ore deposits.

In the Rochester district, near Melrose, the first patented mine in Montana is being worked. Known as the Waseca claim plans now are being made for its intensive development after 73 years' operation.

Up in Highland City, where the graces of two ladies of easy virtue are practically the last evidence of a once bustling town, prospectors again are in evidence.

Two of the most typical ghost towns in the state—Sunrise and Granite, near Phillipsburg—soon may hear the clatter of machinery and scrape of picks again.

COPPER PRICE AGAIN CLIMBS

The price of copper reached a new high for the year during the week, when price of the red metal went to eight cents a pound.

Both camps apparently were deserted almost overnight. In Sunrise furniture still remains in some of the cabins. Papers and engineering charts are scattered about the floor of a long mess-hall, outside which a huge dinner bell hangs. Machinery worth thousands of dollars rests under inches of dirt and dust in a mill.

Near the outskirts of the camp is a monument, on which is a warning the ground it not to be ploughed within 60 feet of the marker. Six Chinamen who were hanged are buried in that radius, the warning explains.

A group of mining men now plan to install a cyanide mill in this picturesque camp, according to Butte reports.

Jardine, where some 100 persons now live compared to nine five years ago; Henderson Gulch, where a Seattle concern is erecting a dredge; the Superior district in Mineral county; the Garnet and Top O'Deep properties near Bearmouth; Norwegian gulch; the Hudson mine near Silver Star—all are stirring.

Millions in gold have been taken from all these properties. Stage coach robberies, saloon shootings, the battles of the road agents and vigilantes cling in memory to virtually all the ghost towns and their glittering production records. But those memories are being relegated to history books alone, and present indications are that 1933 will witness the laying of the last 'ghosts' in a majority of camps.



Another Unit of Great Falls Zinc Plant Resumes Work

GOLD DISCOVERY AT ALDER CELEBRATED

VIRGINIA CITY — The 70th anniversary of the discovery of gold at Alder gulch was celebrated here this week.

Opening of the fabulously rich gold mining district is credited to six men—Bill Fairweather, Henry Edgar, Tom Cover, Michael Sweeney, Barney Hughes and Harry Rogers.

Assigned to join Capt. James Stuart and his Yellowstone exploration party, the six had been halted near Clark's Fork by a party of Crow Indians. The Indians had ordered them to return to their own land. One of the men of the original party, Louis Simmons, was held by the Indians as a pledge the white men would halt their invasion of the Crow territory.

Edgar and Fairweather, posted as camp guards, noted a section of rim rock near Alder creek. They panned some of the gravel and found a rich showing of gold—\$4.80 worth in their first assay! From another pan, they obtained nearly \$8 in gold.

The next day the pair obtained some \$150 from their work. Soon news of their discovery spread. A stampede resulted and by the summer of the next year, 1864, an estimated 11,000 men were working 14 miles of claims in the gulch. Within three years an estimated \$30,000,000 in gold had been taken from this district.

Evidence of renewed activity in the metal market was furnished during the week when officials of the Anaconda Copper Mining company announced that another unit of the zinc plant of the company here would be placed in immediate operation, promising employment for about 50 additional men. The company is now employing 900 men in the local plant.

Announcement of the opening of the additional unit follows announcement of company officials in Butte that the Orphan Girl mine, noted zinc producer, would be reopened immediately.

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PRESIDENT SIGNS ASSESSMENT BILL

President Roosevelt has signed the bill waiving assessment work on mining claims for the year July 1, 1932, to July 1, 1933. It is therefore, unnecessary to do assessment work, providing the requirements of the law are followed.

The provisions of this act do not apply in the case of any claimant not entitled to exemption from the payment of a federal income tax for the taxable year 1932. It is also provided that every claimant of any such mining claim, in order to obtain the benefits of this act, shall file or cause to be filed in the office where the location notice or certificate is recorded, on or before 12 o'clock meridian, July 1, 1933, a notice of his desire to hold said mining claim under this act, which notice shall state that the claimant or claimants were entitled to exemption from the payment of federal income tax for the taxable year 1932.

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