

THE ELK MOUNTAIN PILOT.

IRWIN, GUNNISON CO., COLORADO.

THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1880.

Freights are coming in very rapidly. Bill-heads, letter-heads and envelopes printed at the Pilot office.

A great many bear and deer have been seen near the camp the past week.

The number of documents filed for record, at the county clerk's office, during last week, was 175.

The stars and stripes were hurled to the breeze, over the new hotel, on Ninth St., last Saturday.

The rain of last week washed away the little patches of snow that have remained on the mountain sides since last winter.

Harding Brothers, hardware dealers, have put down a hewed log sidewalk in front of their store on Ninth street, the first sidewalk in camp.

The lovers of piscatorial sport have been jerking the festive mountain trout out of our neighboring streams since the water has grown low.

Ten years ago the census of Colorado showed a population of less than 50,000. The present census, it is believed, will make it foot up over 200,000.

Elder Warren, of Rosita, is in the camp for the purpose of organizing a Methodist church. All followers of John Wesley are requested to come forward.

The terrific blasts from our mines resound and echo in our mountains and valleys like the voice of artillery on the field of battle. Its one continual rolling b-o-o-m! night and day.

W. H. Haynes, largely interested in sheep raising in El Paso county, has interested himself in our camp and is now building two large business houses on Ninth St., above the postoffice.

The material used in printing the Pilot was purchased of that old reliable printers' warehouse of S. P. Rounds & Co. The appearance of our paper is 'evidence' enough as to the quality of type manufactured by the above mentioned house.

Campers in this vicinity should be careful about building large fires as well as leaving them burning while away from camp. Our forest is of dense growth and the pines very combustible. If a fire once gets started in our forest it will be almost impossible to stop its ravages until fall.

The ELK MOUNTAIN PILOT, published at Irwin, (Ruby district) by Lacey & Phillips, made its first appearance Wednesday evening. The boys had a severe experience in getting into that camp, and encountered many difficulties in getting out their first issue, but despite all, they have issued a handsome and spicy paper, which was duly appreciated by the wide-awake people of the camp. The first six copies were sold at auction, bringing \$158, the first \$55, and the others smaller sums, making a handsome purse for the enterprising, plucky publishers.—Gunnison Review.

IMPORTANT MINING DECISIONS.

The following recent decisions of the General Land Office, received by the local office at Lake City, are published for the information of the public:

MILL SITES—Land contiguous only to the surface ground of a load claim is not within the prohibition of section 2337 revised statutes, and this ordinarily occurs when the mill site is contiguous to the side lines of the load claim. When the mill site abuts against the end lines of the load claim, it is not subject to entry.

EXPENDITURE—Annual expenditures upon load claims are necessary to the date of payment and entry; and the fact that proceedings in court under an adverse claim have been pending for four years, does not waive this requirement.

\$500 expenditures, essential to authorize entry, improvements made by former locators who had abandoned their claim, cannot be included.

RELOCATION—The claim is not subject to relocation as abandoned ground until the expiration of the year next succeeding that for which the annual expenditure has been made.

FACTS ABOUT IRWIN.

What it Costs to Live—The Disadvantages of the Past, in the Matter of Building, Overcome, Etc., Etc.

It may be very interesting to our readers at a distance to know something about how we live in Irwin, what it costs to live, etc. Of course, everybody read the articles that were published in Denver and elsewhere, about the enormous cost of living and poor accommodations during the winter and early spring; but since the camp has been accessible by teams, and the roads in comparative good condition, accommodations, board and everything pertaining to one's comforts are not more expensive than any other place the same distance from railroad transportation—seventy-five miles.

Provisions are reasonable enough, considering the wages that are paid miners and mechanics. Flour can be bought at \$10 a hundred, and bacon at from \$18 to \$20. There are about ten restaurants or eating houses where a man can get a good meal at seventy-five cents, also restaurants on the European plan, where persons can get what they call for, served up in good style. There are also numerous lodging places, where a tired traveler can enjoy a night of sweet repose for the small sum of fifty cents. You don't have to lay on the soft side of a plank with a rock for a pillow, either, but you will receive kind and polite attention at the hands of attendants, who will furnish you with a good single bed that has nice, clean sheets and pillow slips, and after you get locked in the arms of old "Morph," you wouldn't know any difference but what you were sleeping in a Fifth Avenue hotel.

The disadvantage in not obtaining lumber until the present, has been an obstacle to enterprise that could not have been avoided; nevertheless most of our merchants have erected hewed log houses, while some have resorted to the use of large tents, only for temporary use. The first steam whistle that ever turned itself loose in this camp was heard from Eckerly's saw mill last Friday, and the resounding shrill seemed to have quite a stimulating effect upon business, and contracts for log buildings seemed to decline at least fifty per cent from that time on. The aforesaid mill is now running night and day to its utmost capacity.

Following close upon this mill there are no less than half a dozen others that have fallen in line, and will soon be producing lumber with equal capacity. The question may be asked, "What use will be made of all the lumber that will be cut by so many mills? then again it will be so cheap—being sold now at \$25 and \$30—that the market will be glutted, and then I will build." The man who contemplates building, need not expect lumber to be much lower this season, for you must take into consideration that there are no less than fifteen large business houses to be erected, and from four to six hotels to accommodate the public, besides buildings for saloons, restaurants, bakeries, meat markets, and various other buildings that go to make an enterprising town, and also dwellings to accommodate at least two thousand working miners.

The question may be asked again by the stranger who may anticipate doing business here, "What have you in the camp to support such a population as spoken of above?" and the answer is emphatically,

RICH PAYING MINES.

There are no less than a dozen mines working forces from ten men up to forty, while there are hundreds of prospect holes that are being worked by smaller forces. These mines are all sacking ore ready for shipment, and it is a fact beyond doubt that there is not another mining camp in the State, or perhaps in the country, that can produce as many high grade ore mines as are found in this camp, and it is no uncommon thing for mines here to sack ore, carrying ruby and brittle silver that will give mill returns all the way from 500 to 1,000 ounces. And it is proof conclusive that all the rich leads have not yet been found from the strikes that are being made almost daily, as for instance the Mount Diabola lode that was struck two weeks ago is evidence that there are rich leads still existing here, waiting only for the persevering prospector to uncover them.

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