

TO TRY TO MINE GOLD AT ROGERS

Smelter Will Be Placed in Operation in East End of City.

Special to the Gazette.
Rogers, Jan. 27.—A five-ton smelter will be unloaded this week at the Wright & Palm gold mining plant in the east limits of Rogers. Already a crusher, two pairs of rolls, a dryer and other machinery are on the ground and in working order. The owners say that a pound and three

quarters of matrix sent to a Denver assayer came back 44-13-100 ounces gold and 309-0-109 ounces silver to the ton.

The company has several leases in that part of town. The plant is on the Monte Ne road and the laboratory is in an old house. A sum said to be around \$25,000 has been spent in development work, leases and machinery. Mr. Wright, manager, says that three times that sum will be spent if the results justify. Wright is an old miner from Oklahoma and his partner is a business man of Stuttgart. The leases were obtained and work begun about three months ago.

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pie be large, coarse crushing at first and frequent cutting down, with successive grinding will be allowable. The fine product may finally be panned in the manner familiar to gold hunters. If you do not understand that process well, adopt one of the following methods:

"Wet the fine ore in a convenient receptacle, and add quicksilver enough to make a paste. Shake well and stir diligently for a long time; then carefully wash away the slime, leaving the quicksilver in the basin. If you cannot detect gold by the appearance of the amalgam, place the latter in an iron dish and heat carefully until the quicksilver has been driven off. Do not in-

hale the poisonous vapors. If there be any gold it will be in the bottom of the dish.

"Another method: Procure some strong nitric acid and some strong muriatic acid. Mix these in the proportion of one part of nitric to three or four parts of muriatic. Pour the mixture over the finely divided ore in a glass vessel, and heat it carefully to boiling. Filter or allow the mixture to settle until the liquid becomes clear. To the liquid in a separate vessel add a solution of green copperas. If there is any gold present it will be precipitated."

Report Gold Found in Benton County Clay

Democrat 1-17-28
St. Joe, Jan. 19.—(Special.)—Gold excitement in a mild degree is being experienced in Benton county. The United Metals Company of Rogers is putting down several test holes on the J. J. Britt farm east of Bentonville. The test holes range in depth from 40 to 60 feet. The gold is in the red clay and it is claimed that a great deal of the red clay in the section will assay from \$5 to \$16.50 a ton. The company has a process, it is said, that will extract the fine particles of gold from the clay at a cost of \$4.50 a ton.

Gold, Silver Reported in Ozark Region

Formation of Northwest Arkansas Company Is Announced.

Democrat 11-15-29
Fayetteville, Nov. 15.—(Special.)—Gold assaying \$20 to the ton and silver assaying \$105 to the ton have been discovered in northwest Arkansas on the Walter Agnew mining lease at War Eagle, it was announced here today by Tulsa capitalists, who plan, they state, to organize at once a closed development company to be capitalized at from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000.

The concern will be financed by present members of the company who have nothing for sale, according to Mrs. E. F. Lady of Rogers, head chemist. Besides Mrs. Lady, others interested in the mining project include George S. Emery, Tulsa capitalist, and his associates, W. H. Lyon of Rogers, G. T. Gooch of Monett, Mo., and C. E. Wright of Rogers.

Mrs. Lady, who has been testing ore from the mine at a Rogers smelter for the past 10 years, together with two other members of the company, Mr. Gooch and Mr. Emery, just returned from Denver, Colo., where the three went with a 2,000 shipment of the ore which they report was tested out by the Mace Smelting Company, she said this morning.

First news of the find was brought to Fayetteville yesterday by H. R. Snyder of Parkersburg, Va., representing the Chicago Service Research Bureau, which has been interested in various research in the Ozark region for a number of years. His report of the strike of gold in paying quantities led to an interview with Mrs. Lady, who admitted that a mining company is being formed.

"We plan to have a 200-ton smelter on the War Eagle site within 60 days and to go on a big scale into the mining of all paying ores found," she said today.

"We have been slow making any announcement of our find and probably would have said nothing had information not leaked out through visitors to the War Eagle section. Personally, I have been at work testing the various soils of the northwest Arkansas area for the past 10 years and mining experts long have suspected gold in the Arkansas Ozarks, which are the oldest on the American continent. Steps now will be taken to incorporate and we hope to have some real news for the area in the near future."

Arkansas Once Had Feverish Gold Rush

Special 6-25-30
"Thar's gold in them thar hills." At least, that was the once popular belief concerning Arkansas, a belief to which veteran gold-hunters and general prospectors clung tenaciously.

This belief became so strong in 1885 and 1886, that it resulted in a gold rush, which was a replica, on a somewhat smaller scale, of the many stampedes to California and other Western states.

In those days the Ouachita and Ozark mountains included large areas of unsettled territory, most of which was government land. Schoolcraft, an English geologist, and a few other pioneers were the only ones who had penetrated the region and but little was known of its geology. Prospectors reported gold in paying quantities in some sections and a stampede resulted. The mining activities centered in Saline, Garland, Hot Spring, Montgomery, Polk, Pike, Howard, Sevier, Franklin and Pulaski counties.

The annual report of the Geographical Survey of Arkansas, for 1888, says: "For many years there has been a vague but persistent belief in the existence of gold in paying quantities in Arkansas. From time to time reported discoveries of this metal have caused much excitement in different localities. One by one the successive 'finds' have proven barren when thoroughly tested.

"The little known portions of the mountainous country have always been regarded curiously, and the reported discoveries in those regions have received more ready credence, perhaps, because of the supposed existence there of granitic rocks. Nowhere in the state, at any period of mining activity, has so much energy been shown, or so much real faith in the value of discoveries, as in Montgomery county within the past three years. Large expenditures in the erection of mills, and in the opening of shafts by men claiming to be competent judges, have been regarded by many as adequate evidence of the permanency of this district as a gold mining area. There can be no question of the honesty of these opinions, supported as they have been in some instances, by the investment of all their available capital on the part of those who held them."

This activity continued to increase until the state Geological Survey investigated the field and found it barren of the yellow metal. And the report which was published, covering the survey, was probably one of the most disheartening of any ever published by that body before or after.

The field work for this survey was executed by Dr. T. B. Comstock, who was then assistant state geologist under Dr. John C. Branner. His work took him into 10 counties, and he examined hundreds of prospects and took samples from them for analysis. In all 188 samples were assayed. Three of the samples showed .08, .04 and .06 ounces to the ton. A number of other samples showed a trace, but the majority showed nothing.

Quartz, associated with the shales, is present over thousands of square miles in the counties in which the mining activities centered, and it was not unnatural that mining men should be

misled. Some of the men connected with these operations, and who had worked in quartz mines in the West, fell into the error of supposing these rocks to be valuable because the material was quartz. It was difficult to convince many who had obtained gold from similar rocks in Colorado, Nevada and California that they couldn't obtain it from the same rocks in Arkansas. The reason was that these rocks in Arkansas lay in blanket formation. The same rock that produces gold in the Western states lies perpendicular, giving it access to the deep seated gold bearing rocks below.

That part of Dr. Comstock's report dwelling on silver might lead one to believe that at some time silver would be found in paying quantities in the state, but he held out no definite hopes for it. If it is, it will probably be found running with galena (lead ore). Out of the 188 samples a number of good returns were made on silver. Many of these samples carried values from a few ounces to the ton up to 1,112 ounces to the ton. Most of the silver values were associated with lead or zinc ores.

In the north central and northwestern parts of the state it is not uncommon to have some prospector report finding gold, but when samples are handed to a cold-hearted chemist for analysis they generally show no values. Such true gold values as have been found in these sections of the state are generally associated with iron pyrites and run very low. No gold has ever been found associated with the base metal ores (lead, zinc or manganese), which are present in large commercial bodies.

It would be far-fetched to say that gold in commercial quantities will never be found in Arkansas, for there is still much to learn about the geology of the state. And—gold is where you find it. If you are determined to prospect for gold in Arkansas, Dr. Comstock's "Instructions to Prospectors," from the report of 1888, still holds good today:

"Although there is but little reason to believe that any working deposits of gold occur in Arkansas, it will be useless to convince all who are not geologists that such is the truth. It may, therefore, serve a useful purpose to offer a few suggestions concerning the means of detecting the presence or the absence of the metal.

"Gold is not apt to occur in bedded deposits of any kind.

"Black shale, earthy deposits, and the so-called muds are particularly unfavorable.

"Quartz and quartzite, though more favorable, are not likely to produce gold when they are not in decided veins.

"If after applying the foregoing tests, you have actually struck gold, first be sure you have the rock in place; then procure a sample of a number of pounds; break this into small pieces, mix thoroughly and divide into four equal portions. Now take two of the portions diagonally opposite and mix them together, discarding the other two portions. Crush the mixed rock again, and cut down as before. If the sam-

(Continued on Page 14.)

Miners Working Shaft Among Ozark Hills, Said to Be Finding "Pay Dirt"

Democrat
Eureka Springs, Feb. 7.—Arkansas as a gold producing state has never made any great record but if the hopes of two expert mining men of Denver, Col., are realized, the state may yet be ranked as a gold producing state.

G. L. McDonough and R. M. Coyle, both experienced mining engineers, have been busy for the past few months working a ledge claim in the southeastern portion of Benton county midway between Rogers and Eureka Springs. This claim is only 50 feet off the old highway between these two northwestern Arkansas towns. The mine shaft now shows a depth of 50 feet from the surface, the excavation being some six feet high and 15 feet wide at the mouth of the shaft. At first glance one thinks of it being just one of the numerous caves that attract the tourists for the strange formations of stalagmites and other strange phenomena of Ozark caverns. Excavating here through solid stone and shale by these men has resulted in an accumulation of what to the layman looks like ordinary crushed granite.

However, through the inventive genius of McDonough, a graduate of Dartmouth, mining machinery has been installed in these Ozark hills that abstracts, it is stated, gold ore ranging in value from \$18 to \$36 per ton from this rock shale. By recently purchasing another mining property, the old Page copper mine which is situated about a half mile from the gold mine, rock crushing machinery and other apparatus has kept pace with the excavating of the shale ore. The gold in this shale is not discernable to the naked eye but through the electrolysis process used by these two men, a good paying amount is realized. McDonough's special built machinery for working out the ore from the crushed rock is of his own design and patent rights have been applied for already. The process of extracting the gold ore has proven so thorough that he expects to lease similar machines to mining companies instead of the usual custom of selling equipment outright.

McDonough's father, J. S. McDon-

ough, is a well known mining man in Colorado.

During the month that Coyle and McDonough have been busy equipping their plant with mining machinery and the period of preparation, no attempt has been made by them to noise abroad their efforts in search of gold and it was merely by chance that their mine was discovered by the writer only recently.

In Isolated Section.

The road near where the mine is located will not average one motor car traveling on it a month; in fact it is in the mountain fastness of the Ozarks where most of the traveling is by horseback and where the hardy Ozark hillmen go about their daily tasks without much thought of the outside world. The families living just over the hill, within a radius of a half mile or so away do not feel concerned over the prospect of gold at their elbows. They say the mine is just up the road apiece and let it go at that. Over the other ridge a mile eastward is the little community of Pleasant Valley; so close but still separated by the high ridge that shuts the people of Pleasant Valley away from the outside world.

This attempt at gold mining is not the first in the state for in 1887 and 1888, a gold rush took place in Montgomery county. Two flourishing towns sprang up as central points of activity. The presence of gold and silver in paying quantities was shown to be a false claim by Dr. John C. Branner, state geologist, in 1888, and the rush was at an end and the towns and mining camps passed into oblivion. Prior to this, silver, gold and copper ores were taken from the Kellogg mines a few miles north of Little Rock in 1856-58.

See 1st article under "Gravel"

Ore Near Berryville Shows Considerable Silver.

Democrat 11-22-31
Special to the Gazette.
Berryville, Nov. 21.—Tom Littrell, who lives 10 miles southwest of Berryville on Piney creek, recently sent samples of ore from his farm and geologists reported it contained a considerable per cent of silver. Littrell has been prospecting on his place for several years, and believes he has found something that can be produced in paying quantities. Mining engineers from Fayetteville and Oklahoma City have visited the place with a view of obtaining leases.

Discovery of State's One Gold Mine, Now Idle, Due To Buried Treasure Search

By ERWIN L. McDONALD.
London, Sept. 16.—(Special.)—A search for hidden treasure in the foothills of the Ozark mountains, four miles northeast of Russellville, in 1922, led to the discovery of gold and the opening of what is believed to be the first and only gold mine in Arkansas.

According to tradition, there is today hidden away in the foothills of the Ozark mountains a vast fortune of gold bullion which was mined by early Spanish explorers. This tradition was fanned into flame in 1922 by a picturesque half-breed Indian-Spaniard who came from Oklahoma to Pope county on the trail of the buried fortune. The mere appearance of the treasure-hunter, who called himself Charles Gongalles, was enough to arouse curiosity, and, in some way, the purpose of his visit was soon known.

Once his mission was known, Gongalles talked freely about his plans and encouraged several men to organize and aid him in his search, promising them a share in the treasure that might be found. Six or eight townsmen of Russellville joined in the search which was carried on at the R. B. Wilson farm at Cagle Rock, four miles northeast of Russellville, for this was, Gongalles insisted, the immediate locality of the secreted gold.

Aided by the vivid imagination of Gongalles, which was stimulated by mysterious signs and characters found painted on the cliffs in that vicinity, the little party looked into every nook and crook for any clue that might lead them to the object of their search. No one knows who painted the mysterious signs and hieroglyphics, nor when. The oldest settlers recall noticing them when they were mere tots, and it is a common belief that they were painted there by Indians. One of the paintings pictures a ladder with 11 rungs. On the top rung is a character that looks as if it might represent a man on his hands and knees.

Another sign, which created by far the most excitement, was:

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The treasure-seekers took this to be the value of the hidden treasure.

The gold for which he searched was mined from the hills of the Ozarks by early Spaniards who were murdered and robbed by the Indians, who buried the bullion near the mine. Gongalles told the little party of searchers. But the only clues uncovered were particles of slag which gave evidence of crude smelting done by some one in the past, and a complete human skeleton which was uncovered in the search for hidden gold.

The search for gold bullion was fruitless, but it led to the discovery of ore containing gold and the opening of a gold mine.

A shaft was sunk 14 feet and revealed a vein of ore two feet wide. A hole 36 feet deep was drilled in the vein and samples of the ore were taken from the bottom of the hole and sent to Denver for analysis. According to the report made by the expert who analyzed the ore, it would yield gold valued at \$56 and silver valued at \$2.60 from every ton of ore. The metal was also found to be "free milling," which simply means that the metal can be separated from the stone by purely mechanical processes.

The vein drilled into is just a tributary vein, the main vein running parallel with the mountain, east and west, according to M. L. Winn. The main vein is crossed by a wagon road and the grinding of the wagon wheels down through the years has laid bare a vein of ore six inches wide at the surface.

On each side of the vein of ore are layers of sandstone. Between the layers of sandstone were found coatings of a blood-red substance an eighth of an inch thick—evidence supporting the belief that the hieroglyphics found on the cliffs were painted by Indians, for this proved to be the same as the substance used to paint the characters.

Excitement was caused by the announcement of the Denver mineralogist, and several experienced prospectors appeared on the scene. Among them was a veteran miner from Ontario, Canada, who expressed himself as being well pleased with the outlook for a successful gold mine. But when he was offered a large share in the

proceeds in turn for a capital investment he declined, explaining that he had already invested heavily in a project in Canada. The Arkansas state mineralogist was also among the visitors, and he, too, assured the prospectors that they had made a good find.

Had not plans of the group of prospectors to organize and develop the mine been frustrated early in the game by certain restrictions in the "Blue Sky" laws of the state, Arkansas might today boast a real "live" gold mine, according to M. L. Winn.

Mr. Winn said that he was forced by the "Blue Sky" laws to return several hundred dollars to would-have-been stockholders before he could secure the required capital to mine the

ore on a large scale. Thoroughly convinced that there is gold to be mined in paying quantities, Mr. Winn and his fellow prospectors have not yet been able to secure sufficient capital to finance the project. They still hope, however, that they will some day be in a position to reopen the mine.

Since the failure of the party to operate the mine, the colorful Gongalles, the starter of it all, has paid several mysterious visits to the site of the mine, and it is believed that he was the one who destroyed a number of the characters on the cliffs and filled the shaft with rocks and soil.

Arkansas' Silver City Awakens Under New Program of U. S.

"Ghost" Town Will Hum Once Again With Activity in Search for Silver

By The Associated Press

SILVER CITY, Ark., March 11.—Arkansas' "Ghost City" is throwing off its mantle of dust and disuse, and awakening under the influence of President Roosevelt's silver program.

Where the shock of mining blasts and the clank of hand pumps once broadcast their challenge to mining interests of the west now is heard voices of newcomers wrangling with the few remaining settlers for leases.

Scene of "Bonanza" Strikes

Soon, say the old timers, the rumble of wagonloads of material and mining machinery will echo over the mountain passes.

Silver City—scene of "bonanza" strikes—40 years ago mushroomed almost overnight into a mining camp of 2,500 population. Discovery of rich silver ore, perhaps the only paying ore found in this section of the southwest, led to one of the biggest single "stampedes" in the state.

Silver City maintained its hectic and feverish existence for some time. Then, just as it had grown, it faded suddenly into a "ghost city."

Now, 49 years later in the new deal age, improved and modern machinery together with the prom-

ise of better financial returns, are leading to renewed activity in this Ouachita community.

Of the old timers who remained here and whose faith in the future of Silver City never waned, E. J. Wingfield, veteran mine operator and hills prospector, is one of the most prominent.

"The time is coming back and coming fast," he opines. "The old mining camp won't begin to look like the new one that has started."

Gold, Silver and Copper

"This is going to be one of the richest spots in the southwest one of these days. All of the ore taken from here runs gold, silver, lead, copper and zinc."

Wingfield owns two of the old bonanzas, "The Minery Creamery" and the "Elnora." He explains that the Elnora has produced the best ore thus far.

"Ore out of the Elnora ran about \$600 to \$800 in the old days," he says.

Officials assays of silver ore from the vicinity lists as much as 36 ounces per ton, the assays having been made after the mines were flooded with seepage water.

"The new camp will never die away," states Wingfield. "There is too much silver in these old hills to be left alone."

Formula for Obtaining Minerals From Sea Water Reported Found

Method Highly Successful in Commercial Bromine Plant—Scientists Predict Extraction of Gold and Other Metals in Paying Quantities.

St. Petersburg, Fla., March 26.—(AP)—A chemical argosy which outdoes the dream of Jason and promises to tap profitably some of the \$3,000,000,000,000,000 worth of gold in the sea was announced to the American Chemical Society here today.

This promise not only of gold, but silver, radium, tin, iron, nickel, lead, vanadium, mercury and nearly a score of other minerals, was made in the first report of a dazzling commercial success for a new kind of chemical plant that opened two months ago near Wilmington, N. C.

The plant takes bromine from Atlantic ocean tidewater. To the chemists it was described as the "wildest and boldest" American commercial venture in a decade. Already, from a flow of 25,000 gallons of seawater a minute, it is taking \$1,000,000 worth of bromine a year.

It is the first big break into the mineral treasures of the ocean. Chemists describe it as the beginning of a new industrial era. Ten years was set as the probable time needed to perfect extraction of the metal which will follow bromine.

The story of bromine showed how it is likely to be done. The Wilmington bromine plant was erected by the Ethyl-Dow Chemical Company. This company was formed jointly by the Dow Chemical Company and the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation. Its process, including new gold discoveries, was described by Willard H. Dow, of the Dow company, Thomas Midgley Jr., vice president of the Ethyl Gasoline Company and other chemists.

The American automobile, they said, really built this seawater plant. Demand for anti-knock fuels required more bromine than was in sight 10 years ago in the land source, certain rare "bitter water" wells.

At the start the only seawater process suggested was to pump some of the Pa-

cific ocean over the Rocky mountains into an artificial lake in a desert, there to let it evaporate into "bitter water." The whole project was regarded as an utter impossibility.

But the gold from anti-knock fuels kept the scientists at work. In the end they hit on a sea bromine extraction formula as simple as a high school chemistry lesson.

In the Wilmington plant they discovered that the bromine process was "ionizing" the gold in the Atlantic seawater. It was giving the almost infinitely minute dissolved gold particles an electrical charge by which they may be attracted to stick to filters.

Spectroscopes revealed several pounds of ionized gold in the 25,000 gallons a minute flow; twice as much ionized silver, and considerable ionized mercury.

Ordinarily, said the scientists, the mere expense of pumping 25,000 gallons a minute would make it hopeless to take out the gold at a profit, even after the filter formula should be discovered.

But with bromine paying the pumping bill, and a good profit besides, gold becomes a prospective by-product. The same applies to all the other sea minerals.

A confidential seawater gold survey just completed gives the Atlantic ocean content and probably the average world sea gold as about \$6,500,000 worth per cubic mile at the old price. But its value rose to about \$10,000,000 a cubic mile when the United States raised the price.

In the whole world there are about 300,000,000 cubic miles of seawater. At the American gold price this is \$3,000,000,000,000 worth in the sea.

Chemists discussing possible effects of sea gold mining on gold standards, thought it would tend toward ultimate stabilization of the price of the yellow metal. For ocean gold would be taken at uniform rates and costs, which might act as a governor on world price fluctuations.

Ark. Gazette, Sept. 24, 1933.

\$80 per Ton Gold Mined Near Ash Flat

Marshall, Setp. 25.—An analysis of ore being mined near Big Flat assayed \$80 in gold per ton. G. H. Treat is president of the company developing the claim.

"There's Gold in Them Hills"

By

Frank Harrel

April 5-1931

Spanish gold worth countless millions—coins and bullion—perhaps a golden Madonna and Child, literally bushels of precious stones and costly lots of gold filigreed jewelry—these are some of the objectives of a treasure hunt that has been taking place in the wilds of Franklin county, Arkansas, for more than three generations. Up at the head of Mulberry Creek, in a cliff side that overhangs the water, a tunnel many feet deep has been blasted in a solid limestone rock in this search for buried treasure, and now a corporation has been formed to raise capital enough to pay for blasting off the side of the hundred foot high pinnacle, so that the musty gold may be brought to light.

For 40 years the residents of the little town of Ozark on the north side of the Arkansas river have seen parties of grim-visaged treasure seekers set out up Mulberry Creek to try their luck at unearthing the vast riches, only to watch them return a few weeks later with a depleted larder, their hopes blasted. But still the quest goes on. Each time they have reported the quest a little nearer the finish, and each return has brought reiteration of the belief that "there's gold in them hills."

In the hill country of northern Arkansas and southern Missouri legends of buried treasure are numerous. Sometimes it is rustlers' loot that has been cached and neglected, and again it is a miser's hoardings, but usually it is a shipload of Spanish gold which can be had only for the finding. In almost every backwoods community there are several individuals who have devoted their lives to the quest for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Stern and silent are these old mountaineers who believe that they have solved the riddle of the hills, and extra cautious, lest they give their inquisitors some hint of the buried lodes which they are so sure of unearthing. They poke around in dark, damp caves in which the region abounds, hoping that some day their keen eyes will light on the rusty lock of a stout oaken chest where golden contents will put an end to their poverty.

The buried Spanish gold legends for the most part agree in their major details. There are rich merchant ships pursued by Gulf pirates and forced to seek refuge at New Orleans; news of rich mines to the north; a setting out overland with their cargo of gold to the diggings; the finding of Indians working silver mines; the enslavement of the Indians; the fear of an uprising of the savage tribes near by; the burial of the treasure and the flight to Mexico.

In the main, the legend of the Lost Louisiana Mine for which the Franklin county treasure hunters are seeking agrees with the prevalent stories. But a peculiar series of circumstances has been interpreted by the romantic treasure seekers as corroboration of their hopes, and has given the story a basis in fact—at least to those who believe with fervor that the mine actually exists and can be found. So firm has been this belief that the family of the late Dr. L. G. Hill, a country physician, of Mulberry, Ark., has spent more than \$100,000, the savings of the doctor's lifetime, in efforts to bring the lost lode to light. It is the son of this physician who now carries on the search for the Lost Louisiana Mine. Young George Hill is determined to ascertain once and for all the truth of the legend that has claimed the individual attention of his father and grandfather before him.

The site of the mining operations to be carried on by the corporation was determined years ago. On the face of the cliff on the upper Mulberry there are hieroglyphics, a bow and arrow, stars, crosses, squares and circles, all supposed to have been chiseled out many years ago by those who hid the treasure. It is near these that the new search will be made. It is the plan of the corporation to blast off the side of this cliff to a distance of several hun-

dred yards from the stream. Steam shovels and motor trucks will haul away the debris after it has been carefully searched for evidences of the hidden treasure. The hunters have placed all of their faith in the hieroglyphics, for they form the most important part of the series of circumstances which lend a vestige of truth to the story of the lost mine.

The Hill family first heard the legend of the Lost Louisiana Mine about 40 years ago. "Uncle Buddy" Hill, the father of the late physician, was the first to encounter it. A wandering Mexican approached the old gentleman one day in the early '90s and asked his aid in searching for the treasure. It was a marvelous tale that "Antonio" related in his broken English to the credulous old man of the hills. And, when the tale had been concluded, Antonio offered "Uncle Buddy" Hill no less than \$10,000,000 if he would help him hunt for the treasure.

Antonio claimed to have the first-hand story of the Lost Louisiana Mine. He hailed from Mexico City, he said, where, with his own eyes, he had seen the record of the lost treasure made by the sole survivor of the party which had buried it. With appropriate Latin gestures he related the story as he had read it in this record.

Two Spanish galleons, bearing the treasures of the New World to Spain, had set out in the latter part of the Eighteenth century for the mother country. For a few days the voyage went well. Then a Jolly Roger loomed on the horizon. Fearful that shot from the pirate ship might send his cargo to the bottom of the ocean, the captain of the flagship altered the course of the two galleons and fled for the safety of anchorage at New Orleans. Finally the pursuing buccaneers gave up the chase and the Spanish vessels sped up the Mississippi to safety.

At New Orleans the sailors heard the usual tales of the river-front, stories of Indians working fabulously rich mines to the north. They were already well off their course and late enough with their delivery to be classed as pirates themselves, so they decided to have a look at these treasures of Eldorado. River boats were loaded with the most valuable part of their cargo—gold bullion, chests of jewels and gold statuary, intended for Spanish churches, and the gold jewelry, supposedly taken from the savages of Mex-

ico. They sailed up the Mississippi and into the Arkansas. Arriving at a place near the present site of Ozark, they heard of a mining region to the north, the first definite word they had had of the Eldorado they sought. Boats were beached and their golden loot was transported across country toward the mines. Arrived at the mines, they found a tribe of Indians taking silver from a cave. The Indians who survived the attack that ensued were enslaved and forced to work in the shafts for their Spanish conquerors.

For a few months there was peace and quiet. The tired voyagers surveyed their findings and reckoned their earnings. Before long, however, there came news of an Indian uprising. Scouts reported strange goings-on among the savages. They measured their war strength and found it slim. Something must be done, and that quickly. One night, while the Indians slept, the Spaniards murdered them. The next day the treasure was placed at the bottom of the mining shaft, the bodies of the Indians were thrown on top and the hole sealed carefully, so that it could not be found without a map. After marking the signs on the face of the cliff, the party started southward. Hostile Indians and the fevers of the swamplands took their toll. Only one of the party finally arrived at Mexico City—the one who had written the record that Antonio had read.

"Uncle Buddy" Hill listened to Antonio's strange story with wide-open eyes. One hundred million dollars! More money than he had ever heard tell of. After pondering the yarn for a bit, he took the old Mexican to his son, Dr. L. G. Hill. Antonio retold his story, and made it even better in the re-telling. The young doctor agreed to finance the search for the lost mine. Antonio was to conduct it and "Uncle Buddy" was to go along to keep tab on him.

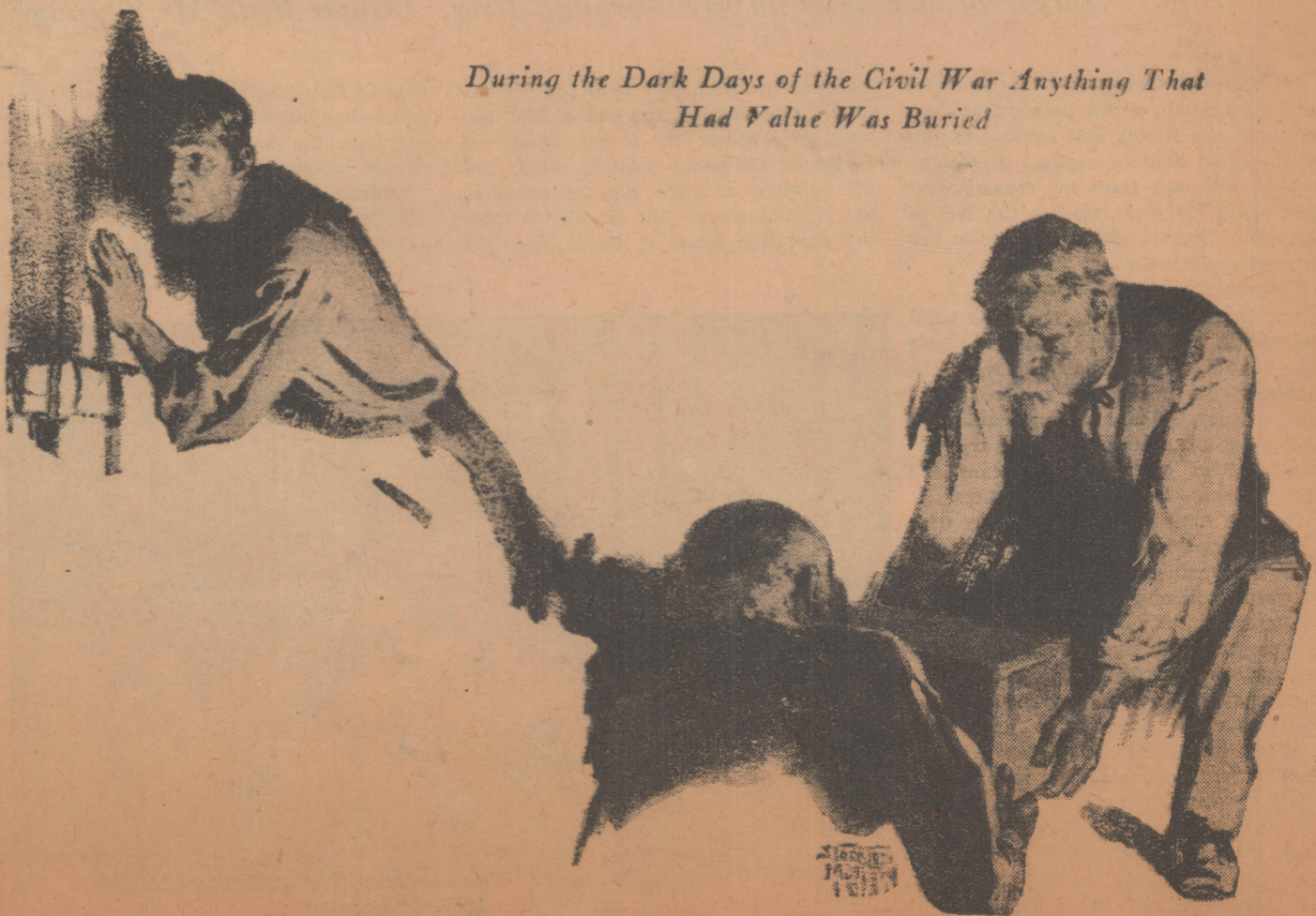
Antonio's first move was to go to a marked rock which jutted out in the middle of the North Canadian river at a point almost directly west of Fort Smith, Ark. This spot, he claimed, corresponded with a key point on the map in his possession. Taking his bearings, he then started out across country to the eastward. "Uncle Buddy" followed along the best he could with the supply wagon. The trail led over limestone ledges of the Ozark mountains and through the thick swamps of the Arkansas river bottoms. The progress was

slow, for Antonio was measuring his distances. The two were something like three weeks covering the 70 or so miles. Finally they arrived at the cliff on Mulberry creek. Antonio told "Uncle Buddy" that the treasure was near by. But to be sure, he drew "sights" on the location from other directions. He visited other points named on the map, found the signs right and struck off his lines. All of them converged at the foot of the cliff.

Part of the bluff was covered with debris from miniature landslides. "Uncle Buddy" and Antonio started to clear this away. As they dug deeper and deeper, they uncovered one after another of the hieroglyphics. The old Mexican was frenzied with joy. This indeed was the place where the Lost Louisiana Mine was buried. Dr. Hill was summoned from Mulberry, and he and his father began to work feverishly under the direction of old Antonio. To prove that this was where the treasure was buried, Antonio instructed the doctor and "Uncle Buddy" to go to a square opening in the cliff a few feet distant and search for a flint dagger and a stone fashioned in the shape of a key. If these were discovered, there could be no doubt of the correctness of his survey. A search of the opening revealed the objects, just as the Mexican had said.

A conference between the three followed. Without a doubt, Antonio said, they were near the treasure. But first, it would be necessary for him to consult his records in order to translate the hieroglyphics which held the secret of the buried lode. The doctor and "Uncle Buddy" sat around impatiently while Antonio scratched his head and looked at the pointing arrows and other signs on the face of the cliff. Presently he made up his mind about the location of the treasure. He worked for a few days making more surveys and finally located the spot. The hard rocky soil gave way grudgingly to the blows from the picks. As all three were anxious to get the treasure, it was decided that "Uncle Buddy" should go to town to get aid in the form of pick and shovel workers.

But Antonio, who was quite old, was already pretty well spent by the labors of the past month. He complained to the doctor about feeling unwell. One night, shortly before the laborers arrived from town to put his treasure hunting ability to a test, he died in his sleep. The next day the doctor searched the old man's posses-



During the Dark Days of the Civil War Anything That Had Value Was Buried

sions for the map which he had heard him mention so often, and the key to the hieroglyphics by which he had located the place for the excavation. He found neither. Antonio's body was taken to Mulberry, and the party returned to the work of excavation. After digging for several feet into the solid rock which lay at the bottom of the scant subsoil, they gave up all hope of striking the lost mine, at least in this location.

Although discouraged by finding bedrock instead of an iron-bound chest, Dr. Hill and "Uncle Buddy" did not give up the search. It was carried on industriously for the next few years. The evidence of buried treasure in the neighborhood was plain. There was first the marked rock in the Canadian river, then the marvelous discovery of the hieroglyphics on the cliff, the flint dagger and the stone shaped like a key. Evidence enough, even for a scientific man. He never once suspected the honesty of old Antonio. Never during his lifetime did he give up the search for the treasure. As he made money in the practice of his profession, it went, virtually all of it, into the search for the Lost Louisiana Mine.

Several years later, Dr. Hill took several of his townspeople into his confidence and, together, they organized a search for the lost lode. Thinking that perhaps the limestone cliff contained hidden passages, they started digging a test tunnel into it. While they were blasting away at this, Charley Gonzales, another Mexican, appeared on the scene. He conferred with Dr. Hill and told him that he also had intimate knowledge of the location of the Lost Louisiana Mine. His knowledge was available for a price and a part of the treasure. He would show a quicker and easier way than blasting to get at the bushels of diamonds and the pile upon pile of gold bullion.

He was hired by the syndicate and immediately set to work. Gonzales was smart enough to go through the same maneuvers as old Antonio. His job with the treasure hunting company consisted mainly of sitting on a rock and thinking. Finally, the members of the company spurred Gonzales to action. They warned him that he had been employed to tell them where to dig. Charley Gonzales came out of his trance and got busy. After skirmishing around in the woods for several days he selected a spot for excavation. This digging was not without its fruits. As the diggers removed layer after layer of dirt they uncovered occasionally a piece of rusted iron that looked as if it might be a chest handle, and one time a piece of steel which Dr. Hill diagnosed as a sword hilt was taken from the excavation. Excitement ran high. Perhaps the lost lode was about to be found. A little further down human bones were thrown up to the watchers at the top of the pit! There was feverish interest among the workers. Old Antonio's story about the bodies of Indians being thrown into the excavation by the Spaniards had been corroborated. But the excitement was short-lived. A little bit lower down the diggers came again to bedrock.

For some time small articles and pieces of clothing had been disappearing from the camp of the treasure hunters and they began to suspect that Gonzales was hunting treasure of a different kind. As a matter of fact, he might be taking the treasure hunters for a bunch of suckers. His actions were carefully watched and it was soon discovered that the Mexican was stealing things from the camp and hiding them in the woods, preparatory to making away with them. Their faith in their guide well-nigh depleted, they dragged him before a justice of the peace and charged him with larceny. He pleaded guilty and the kind-hearted justice gave him the famous backwoods sentence, "Get out of this country and don't ever come back!" So far as is known around Mulberry, Charley Gonzales lived out the sentence to the letter, for he has never been heard of since.

Despite these handicaps and disappointments, the search for the Lost Louisiana Mine went on unabated, but without any decided progress, until the death of Dr. Hill a few years ago. Then it languished for a time. The treasure hunting inclination, however, has evidently been trans-



They Transported Their Loot Across Country to the Mine

mitted from father to son. For now young George Hill has taken it up. He has enlisted the aid of a Fort Smith workman named George Martin, and the two of them spend Sunday and holidays in the woods of the upper Mulberry in an effort to find new excavation sites. When these have finally been located, the new corporation—the second corporate enterprise to take up the search—will begin its operations. There has been no lack of interest-

ed stock holders, for the Ozark country, like every other part of the world, abounds in those who would make their fortunes without any expenditure of effort.

But treasure legends and treasure hunting are not confined to Franklin county, Arkansas. Throughout the Ozarks they abound, and in almost every crossroads store there can be found hill men who believe in these tales and spend a great deal of their time trying to justify their beliefs. Outside of the legend of the Lost Louisiana Mine, these treasure legends divide themselves into three classes—the stories of hidden and abandoned rustlers' loot, the tales of family fortunes buried when Union or guerilla enemies threatened, and the stories of misers' savings lying undisturbed underneath hearthstones and bean poles.

Horse "running" or rustling was a profitable business in the hill country less than a century ago. Horses stolen in Missouri were ridden to Texas to be sold. Along the way their riders stopped at horse runners' rendezvous, places secluded in the hills. There the mount was given rest and food for a night, and the next day another rider rode him away to the market

farther south. These hiding places became well established as the business flourished, and presently the rustlers, so the legends say, used them as places to cache their ill-gotten gold. A cave near by, perhaps, or a large oak with a decayed cavity, afforded a snug hiding place for money that could not be spent.

Horse running is ended in the hills, but the tales of rustlers' hidden wealth linger on, around the open fires of the hill men's homesteads, or around the porches of the backcountry stores. And so do the rustlers' hidings, too, perhaps, for none of them seems to have been brought to light.

The traveler through the Arkansas hills occasionally comes across the remains of a fine old "before the war" mansion. These places for the most part are deserted, their

erstwhile fine gardens overgrown with weeds, their flowering shrubs and myrtles replaced by mountain sumac, and their once gleaming white Georgian pillars standing like gray ghosts guarding the dark and forbidding entrance halls. Each of these old mansions usually is the center of a local legend of buried treasure, tales having to do with the burial of silver and household valuables, hordes of gold coins hidden to keep them from a band of hill men that terrorized the hills during the '60s. Usually the legends recite how the household treasure was found by the bandits, carried off and buried in caves, there to be left for posterity, along with a romantic yarn of its seclusion. During the Civil war the hill country was a much fought over section. It was a wise homesteader who knew his own enemies. Men of Southern allegiance left their places in

charge of the women folk and hurried to join the Southern armies forming at Little Rock and Washington in Hempstead county. Hardly had they left when their homes fell prey to the legendary "Lincoln's men." Anything that had value was buried. Following the war there were times of even greater strife when reconstruction with its attendant horrors came. Bandits and thieves flourished, and might was right. What wealth was left was taken away never to return. It is for these caches of silver and jewelry, gold and precious stones that the hill man still hunts today.

But there are tales of money hidden and money found. These are more scarce, to be sure, than the legends of buried treasure which never has been located. Banks have been distrusted in the hill country for years, and they still are to a great extent. Those who had money, rather than take it to the larger centers and exchange it for a piece of paper, kept it at home. More than often death came to these hill men suddenly, before they had time to tell of hidden hordes. A typical case is that of

the War Eagle treasure, unearthed not long ago on an old homestead near Huntsville in Madison county, Arkansas.

A young farmer, recently married, took over a farm left him by his aunt, who in turn had inherited it from the boy's grandfather, a back-country miller, distiller and farmer. The grandfather had come to Arkansas more than a century ago. He acquired three valley farms and manned them with slave labor. His farming ventures successful, the pioneer put up a water mill on War Eagle creek and began to grind his neighbors' corn. Presently he

went into the distilling business, and by the time of the Civil war was an affluent country gentleman. During the war he gave liberally of his worldly goods to both sides and somehow escaped the plundering of the mountain ruffians. Finally Old Jim died a peaceful death and left his farm and mill to his daughter. This daughter died recently and her nephew took over the old homestead. Before he moved in, however, there was mending to be done to the old house—the roof leaked and the fireplace needed fixing.

The neighbors, gathered to help, began lifting the hearthstones, to replace them and fit them more tightly together. The heavy stones gave way to gentle prying and, instead of uncovering gravel, they uncovered a strongbox. Excitement reigned. A chisel was hurriedly brought and the lid pried off. There was \$11,000, not to mention jewelry that the old distiller had taken in payment for his potent brandies and cordials. This was not all. Still more gold was forthcoming. The frenzied seekers were rewarded by finding gold under the front steps, in the garden, now overgrown with weeds, and in the barn. Altogether there was \$19,000, enough to set up the youngster and his bride comfortably in their old homestead.

But the War Eagle treasure strike is only one in a hundred. These finds are (Continued on Page 13.)

not nearly so prevalent as the number of treasure seekers would lead one to believe. Still the hill men go about, prying into caves mucky with mud of centuries, poking into hollow tree trunks used only as a cache for nuts by the scampering squirrels of the Ozark forests, hoping that some

day their search will be rewarded. In that tomorrow they devoutly hope to be rewarded with an iron-bound oaken chest that will contain the pile of doubloons that will release them from their poverty.

The hill country is a dreamer's paradise and the hill man is a creature of fertile imaginings. Time is free for the asking.

A little work will suffice to keep the families in necessities, so the hill man goes about, clothing his hills in mystery, attributing to their mist-clad loveliness the things which he believes will make him happy. Then, like a mountain man, he sets out to deliver up for himself the things that the hills hold for him. But the hills keep their mysteries closely to themselves and send back to the hill man's assertion that "There's gold in them hills" the answer, "But where?"

Veteran Prospector Reports Minor Gold Strike West of Little Rock

Nov 17, 1934 Democrat

Gold!
Once again the word that started an empire's expansion westward attracts attention to the West.

This time, however, the elusive metal is reported in the hills west of Little Rock, near Paron, where an optimistic prospector, Charlie Emerick, has paused in his wanderings long enough to start a "diggin'."

Whispers of a gold strike near Little Rock reached the ears of this adventuresome reporter. A rise in temperature and a lust for adventure (inspired, undoubtedly, by a recent wild west novel) . . . and off to the "gold fields" went your newsgatherer in a bright and shiny new automobile.

The first 10 miles offered no hardships! Smooth, hard-surfaced highway and autumn woods on either side made the first part of the journey in search of gold a pleasure. Then the trouble began!

Once off the main-traveled highway the rocks and gulleys, made doubly bothersome by recent rains, gave your amateur prospector a taste of pioneer travel. Imagine fording a half dozen swollen creeks in a 1935 streamline automobile! But despite a mud-spattered, jolting . . . very damp trip, the "diggins" was finally reached.

Just 29 miles west of Little Rock, on one of those hills where only goats seem to thrive, Charlie Emerick has found gold with his primitive mill and washer. And there on the hillside he has set up his little split-pine hut in which he lives with his wife.

About the hut are scattered the tools of his trade . . . a variety of picks and shovels, a wheelbarrow, an ax and woodpile, and many pans with seivelike bottoms. The whole picture might have been transplanted in its entirety from the banks of Sutter's creek.

"I came through these parts about 12 years ago," Emerick drawled, "on my way west to Montana. A feller by the name of Trickett at the Missouri Pacific station in Little Rock got me to come out here. I took a couple of samples of the dirt and traveled on out to Montana. I had an assay taken out there and was surprised that it assayed about \$30 a ton."

Since that time Emerick has pros-



—Democrat Photo.

These two seek the elusive yellow metal—gold. C. J. (Charlie) Emerick, 61-year-old prospector (right) is digging for gold on the 80-acre tract of J. W. Fairchild, 57, farmer of near Paron. They're atop the diggin's.

pected all over the West. Last November he came back to Little Rock. Obtaining the backing of three Little Rock men he started digging a shaft to mine the gold from a vein discovered on an 80-acre tract belonging to J. W. Fairchild, a farmer.

"Assays develop that this vein will average around \$25 a ton," Emerick explained. "But my backers ran out of confidence and money about the same time and I'm just settin' here waitin'. If I could get a good mill in here I could make some good money . . . but people just ain't interested."

The Salaski Mining and Milling Company is the imposing title of the little group now in control of the ancient equipment hovering over the 35-foot shaft dug in the side of the hill there . . . but now filled with a greenish water. And until Farmer Fairchild gets some satisfaction from the courts where litigation is now pending over lease of the 80-acre "gold field" . . . "thar'll be no more diggin'."

No gold. No adventure. No fun. Boss says use a burro next trip instead of his car.

These gold rushes have been over-rated.

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**Tale of Spanish Gold Mine
Near Benton Causes Local
Man to Get Mineral Lease**

Shades of Spanish seadogs!
Visions of galleons, of mule-trains laden with treasure-trove, and of American gold mines worked by Indians flash through a person's mind when he listened to the story of W. B. Holland, 600 Cypress street, North Little Rock, and the tale about the old Spanish gold mine in Saline county on which he has just filed a lease.

Mr. Holland has taken a mineral lease on the Lewis-Thomas estate, which is located 18 miles from Benton, about a quarter of a mile off the Benton-Paron road.

The story of an ancient Spanish mine located on this place is told by Mr. Holland:

"About 35 years ago an old Indian came to the Thomas place and stayed two weeks, searching for the old mine. He is said to have told Mr. Thomas that the vein was a rich one, and that much gold metal was piled in the bottom of the shaft. The Indian was unsuccessful in his search. He left, and was never heard of again.

"Mr. Thomas and a cousin out hunting one day 10 years later, were riding a mule, which they drove near the base of a huge virgin pine tree. Their mule suddenly sank down to his belly on what seemed to be firm ground. The two men could hear gravel falling into water beneath them. They extricated their mule, and the next day went back to the scene of the accident. They found that they could put a pole down into the cavity and touch water.

"Two years later a windstorm uprooted the big pine and disclosed the

old mine. It was cribbed over with logs and covered with about two feet of dirt. Measuring the shaft with a plowline, the men found it to be approximately 80 feet deep.

"They made an agreement with a Mr. McAdams, a miner, to excavate the mine on a partnership basis. This company of men installed a pump, by the means of which the water was taken from the mine. A mining engineer was engaged to go down into the shaft and pass judgment on it.

"The engineer and his wife stayed down in the mine for nearly two hours. When they came out, they brought along some samples, but wouldn't talk about what they had seen.

"Mr. McAdams and the engineer went off with the samples to have an assay made. McAdams returned alone, and offered the other two partners \$4,000 cash for the mine. They refused. He raised the ante to \$5,000 and still higher, but they insisted on the mine being operated on a partnership basis.

"When they persisted in refusing his offer, McAdams, who had installed the pump, took up his machinery and allowed the mine to fill with water.

"Now McAdams is dead, and no one knows where to find the engineer, if he is still living.

"The mine now stands in water to above seven feet below the surface of the ground, and has about 20 feet of dirt, logs and even the old pine stump of the marker tree in it, as well as the small engine with which first efforts to pump the water had been made."

Mr. Holland expects to start operations on the abandoned mine, which was first operated, according to legend, by the Indians, driven by Spanish conquistadors.

Ex-Representative Says He Has Discovered Gold.

Newport, Ark., Aug. 14 (AP).—H. A. Grant, former representative from Jackson county, said today that gold had been found on four farms north of Newport.

He said the farms were owned by H. S., G. L. and Lowery Grant and Richard Lowery.

Reports of gold finds have been numerous in Arkansas for many years but the state Department of Geology records reveal no discovery of any practical value.

The state at one time made an extensive survey for gold throughout the state, the records show, but found no deposits worth mining.

Boost in Gold to \$35 an Ounce Sends Arkansans on Feverish Searches for Old Jewelry; Revives Legends of Many "Strikes"

By KATHRYN COE CORDELL.

With the decision of the Supreme Court upholding \$25-an-ounce gold there began a new gold rush within the nation, and Arkansas has not escaped being stirred by the triple stimuli of price, production and profit to an extent such as has seldom been witnessed since the days of Midas and Croesus. Feverish have been the searches made in Arkansas homes the past year or more for bits of scrap gold to be sold to dealers licensed by the federal and city governments to buy the metal, now that gold is no longer held down to its former gold-standard value of \$20.67 an ounce. In Little Rock while only six concerns have purchased city licenses as gold agencies, each of them is allowed to employ a number of buyers. Nor have Arkansas treasure-seekers failed to learn lessons in comparative gold values, for where grandfather's old gold watch and chain discovered while ardently rummaging through old trunks in the attic may have brought \$50, a much cherished "gold" wrist-watch may have been worth but 50 cents in the hands of one of the countless dealers in gold.

Whereas the quest for odd bits of scrap gold has seemed the most conspicuous part of the new gold rush, by far the most consistent search for gold has been made recently throughout the nation by amateur mechanics and old-time miners. Mining camps have sprung up overnight, for new gold mines are being developed, old mines are being reworked, and traditional mines, of which Arkansas has a great number, are being sought for.

Arkansas's wealth beneath its earth surface has been described as unlimited. Oil has been discovered in abundance; more than ninety per cent of all bauxite produced in the United States is mined in Arkansas; at Murfreesborough in Pike county were found the first and only diamonds that have ever been discovered in North America.

Search in Arkansas.
But the search for gold and silver deposits in Arkansas has gone on for centuries. According to tradition the Spanish operated a number of gold and silver mines in what is now Arkansas. The Southwest, and most especially the Mexican border, is credited with the greatest lost mines in the world. Operated by rich Spaniards as family possessions, these mines were worked only when there was felt the need for cash. With the overthrow of the families to whom they belonged, the secret locations of the mines were lost, and prospectors have been searching for (and not infrequently finding) them ever since.

Legendary or real, the amusing story has been told of a Spanish prospector who arrived in Russellville several years ago. With the aid of two local negro men and an ancient chart the adventurer succeeded in locating an old grave several miles out from town. Working at night by lantern light and in extreme secrecy the men at last hit with their picks and shovels and uncovered a treasure, whether of Spanish money or gold or silver ore. Swearing the two gullible negroes to secrecy, the wary Spaniard warned them to wait until his return. He then departed with the treasure, ostensibly to consult the "owner of the chart" who might wish them to dig still farther. The negroes were to share equally in the treasure. They waited, but the Spaniard did not return.

Ponce de Leon Legend.
An old legend has it that around 100 followers of Ponce de Leon, discouraged in their search for the Fountain of Youth, set out alone upon a second expedition into the wil-

derness. From New Orleans they followed the Mississippi until they reached the Red river. The American Indians living in that region acquainted the Spaniards with a vast field of silver, from which the explorers mined untold amounts and slipped off down the Mississippi, finally shipping to Spain with their treasure.

There is no doubt, from the ancient utensils and ornaments made of the precious metals since discovered, that the Aztec Indians operated a number of gold and silver mines in Arkansas territory, and most especially in remote parts of the Ozark Mountains. It is said that numerous Spanish explorers, after having extracted wealths of gold or silver ore from their mines, habitually concealed them with great rocks marked with secret ciphers. Thus during their return to Mexico or to Spain with their treasures the mines would not be molested, and they might at leisure return for more.

Ever hopeful, Arkansas diggers have not infrequently taken out and cleaned ancient Indian or Spanish shafts in searching for ore, for as one oldtimer puts it, "With \$35 gold the stuff that was country rock before is now ore."

The Trammell Discovery.

It was in 1809 that a man by the name of Trammell, a hunter living on the north side of the Arkansas river about 15 miles above Little Rock, found at the foot of Crystal Hill a large quartz crystal containing lumps of ore resembling gold. At Arkansas Post one day Trammell showed the specimen to a Colonel Notrebe who, recognizing it to be gold, bought it from the hunter and sent it to New Orleans to be assayed. The ore was indeed gold, and even at that time the small amount of the precious metal Trammell had found was worth \$100. When the news of the discovery of gold in Arkansas spread there was great excitement among the settlers. But it remained for an adventurous group from New Orleans to transform aspiration into action, and the expedition was soon plying up the Mississippi in barges and keel boats loaded with tools as well as various goods which they hoped incidentally to barter with the Indians.

Following the long and unpleasant journey up the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers, the men under the command of a Frenchman named Captain Hillare reached the present site of Little Rock. A mining camp was soon established at the foot of what is now Spring street, and the water necessary to the miners was found in a spring existing near the present Pulaski county jail. The history of this spring itself extends far beyond the history of Little Rock. In times past the spring was known far and wide among the Indians of the territory, who often came to remain weeks and benefit from its medical values.

While the men prospected for gold, a number of their expedition fell ill and died. They were subsequently buried on the exact spot where later was built the old State Capitol, now known as the War Memorial building. Discouraged at finding no evidence of gold in that vicinity, the men moved farther up the river to a point four miles distant, where a shaft was sunk. This time traces of gold were found, but the ore did not appear to the men to be abundant enough to warrant mining at that time. Meanwhile Trammell had been located and had consented to show the expedition the exact spot where he had found the original quartz crystal containing gold. The expedition was off immediately for Crystal Hill.

Crystal Hill Failure.
According to Pope's Early Days in

Arkansas there was at the time a low bottom about a half-mile wide between the foot of Crystal Hill and the Arkansas river, which has since disappeared beneath the encroaching river.

When the men arrived at Crystal Hill they sank several shafts into the earth at the foot of the hill, and soon discovered a great amount of gold. So encouraging were the prospects of obtaining gold in great quantities that the miners proceeded to erect a smelter higher up on Crystal Hill. But their efforts were doomed to failure, not because the gold was not there, but because as immediately as their shafts were sunk the water began to rise in them so rapidly that it was impossible to continue the mining operations. At that time no machinery was available which could be used for pumping the water from the shafts, and the expedition was obliged to suspend its operations in the midst of the most encouraging prospects they had yet found. Today the spot where the expedition sank its shafts is in the Arkansas river.

Arriving near the present site of Dardanelle the expedition began trading with the Indians of the region who had, they found, a great deal of gold ore which they said came from the Caddo region (now in Montgomery county). The men immediately dispatched a group of scouts to prospect in the Caddo district. The scouts established their camp and sank a shaft at the foot of one of the mountains in the region and again began to extract rich gold ore. But soon a group of hostile Indians, the Lipans, discovering the presence of the miners, attacked and drove them from their work. Retreating down the Arkansas river the men were completely discouraged in their search for gold and were happy to return to New Orleans.

Kept Mine Secret.

Thirty years later a search was made for the New Orleans expedition's gold mine by two men, one of whom had obtained the exact location of the place near the Caddo river from a survivor of the first expedition. These two men, by the names of Stewart and Whitmore, made several trips to the mine in Montgomery county, each time returning to Little Rock with quantities of the gold ore, but steadfastly refusing to divulge the location of the mine.

It has been demonstrated that the forty-miners in California overlooked a great deal of valuable ore for several reasons: They were looking for gold in simple forms and had not the aids of modern science; at that time with the price of gold at low ebb the cost of transportation was too great to make the mining of low-grade ore commercially worthwhile. It should be recalled that during the past years wind and rain have helped wash the dirt out of old mines, leaving the gold behind, and ore that may have been disdained in previous centuries could well be worth mining today. The search for gold in Arkansas may not prove to be in vain. Frequent floods have redeposited layers of earth from hills to lowlands, and since gold is known to have been mined in Arkansas within the past two centuries, it is not inconceivable that much of the state's underground wealth has not yet been touched.

There is the authentic story of old Frank Shore who took 175 ounces of gold from a single pocket in the side of an old drift in the southwest that had missed the deposit by only six inches. Another adventurer, aimlessly driving his pick into the blank end of an abandoned tunnel, discovered a twenty-four ounce nugget (worth \$840 to-

day). It was in Nevada recently that a small-scale miner dug a foot into the earth whose surface had been tested by many miners and found small streaks of gold running as high as \$1,000 a ton. He immediately set up his mill and began operations in a shaft which had been worked and abandoned time and again.

A century ago gold was being mined in Arkansas. It remains to be seen if the present stimulus of \$35-an-ounce gold will result in more rigorous explorations into Arkansas's underground wealth.

"DOODLE BUGS" AND SUCKERS.

The federal Securities Commission has outlawed the "solar plexus" or "doodle bug" method of detecting the presence of gold ore. *Democrat Oct. 16, 1935*

One Philip Haas was represented to have made "researches" in Mexico upon which the La Luz Mining Corp. was seeking to issue 100,000 shares of preference stock.

The commission called upon Haas to demonstrate his method of finding gold. Five cardboard boxes were set upside down, and a piece of gold ore was placed under one. Haas passed his "doodle bug," attached to a piece of leather, over the boxes and declared the ore was under Box 3. It was a tough break, or a bad guess by the "doodle bug" for the ore was under Box 5.

Haas' explanation of the mysterious powers of the "bug" was that it was filled with a "gold affinity." When it failed to work, he said, his solar plexus did its part in directing him to shallow veins of gold.

The commission made this pertinent comment: "This function of the solar plexus, described by Haas, will be something of a surprise to both geologists and anatomists. Science and common sense combine to tell us that gold cannot be located by the use of 'doodle bugs'. It would be well for the investing and speculating public's pocketbook if the lesson could be thoroughly learned."

Indeed it would be well, but when wielders of "doodle bugs" go forth in search of suckers they are too wise to seek folks with scientific knowledge or common sense—which explains why they have such a wide field in which to operate.

**Dog Finds Gold But
Dr. Branner Still
Far From Convinced**

The goose that laid the golden eggs had nothing on a dog which could smell out gold and which gave a practical demonstration for the benefit of Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist. But Dr. Branner still is far from convinced.

It came about when a man dropped into Dr. Branner's office the other day to borrow a sample of gold ore. He had a dog, he said, with a sense of smell for gold. There was some discussion but Dr. Branner finally let the man have a sample of Colorado ore and later was given a demonstration of the dog's ability.

The ore was hidden beneath a pillow in the house. The dog was admitted, sniffed a few times and discovered the hiding place of the ore-bearing rock.

Again the sample was hidden in a pile of rocks in the yard. The dog was called and after a swift search singled out the rock pile, nosed about for a moment and came forth with the piece of ore.

Since gold ore in paying quantities is rare in Arkansas and since the ore at its best provides no aroma akin to hamburger, Dr. Branner is skeptical. But he does vouch for the fact that the hound singled out the Colorado sample.

**Gold Prospectors Lease
Land in Three Counties**

Fayetteville—Minneapolis capitalists are in Fayetteville prospecting for gold and other metals and have spent about \$25,000 in having assays and other tests made. They have leased thousands of acres of land in Madison, Benton and Washington counties.

L. C. Johnson is said to represent Canadian capital. C. L. Bauman represents Minnesota interests. Both men have moved here after spending the past two years in activities upon which they refuse to make an announcement. Gold, silver, lead, zinc, platinum and other minerals have been found in the Ozarks.

3-4-37
Fifty Years Ago.
(Arkansas Gazette, March 4, 1887.)

Professor Thomas, geologist of the Iron Mountain Railway Company, yesterday displayed a vial containing flakes of gold which he had washed out himself from the newly discovered field in Independence county. The field, he said, is about four miles west of Olyphant and was accidentally discovered by a farmer named Rozelle who was out deer hunting and found flakes of the metal in a stream where he had stopped to drink. The Capital City Mining Company, of which Col. J. H. McCarthy is president, is now undertaking development. No machinery will be installed until the field is proven, but 25 to 30 pick and shovel men are at work. Other members of the company are Messrs. Kerrigan, James Joyce, Charles F. Penzel, J. M. Moore, Thomas Essex, Frizzell and Dr. Orto. Professor Thomas expressed the opinion that the gold will be found in paying quantities.