

**REPORTED RICH STRIKE  
OF GOLD AND SILVER IN  
MINE EAST OF GILLHAM**  
The Dierks Banner  
Mine Located Half Mile West of  
Cossatot River, Sevier-  
Howard Boundry  
7-1-37

Gillham, Ark., June 29.—A strike of gold and silver-bearing ore, assaying as high as \$30.40 a ton in gold and \$12 a ton in silver, has been made at the Sevier Mining and Smelting Company, four and one-half miles east of Gillham, according to W. T. Harrell, mining engineer and prospector of 26 years experience.

Operation of the mine with a crew of four men was begun a week ago and 18 tons of the ore, consisting of genese and ordinary burr quartz, had been removed Monday. Although the showing of gold has been good from the start, with only a trace of silver, Harrell said the silver showing improves as the vein is penetrated.

Negotiations for outside capital to install equipment for milling the ore at the mine are now pending and expected to be successfully completed within a short time, according to Harrell and other members of the Co.

Much work has been done at the mine and considerable machinery installed. A 7x9-foot shaft has been sunk to a depth of 17 feet to the vein which, according to Harrell, is 9 feet 3 inches wide and extends to the Cossatot river a half mile west of the mine and westward three miles. How deep it is there is no way to determine except by penetration.

Machinery includes two air drills and a 4,000-gallon centrifugal pump. A Chevrolet engine provides the power. The ore is dynamited and taken from the mine via a huge bucket, then transported in a dump car over a high track which has been constructed to a point approximately 100 yards from the shaft, where it is dumped. Water for use at the mine is piped in from a never-ending natural source above the mine.

Harrell said he located the gold vein while prospecting in the area in October, 1912. A year ago he returned, with his son, J. E. Harrell, began preparations for mining the ore. He has bought the 40 acres on which the mine is located and lives on it with his son. Young Harrell was seriously injured by a premature explosion and came near losing his eyesight. This delayed development plans and resulted in withdrawal of parties interested with them. They continued work after the son's recovery, however, De Queen men became interested in their work, and after investigating Harrell's claim of a rich gold strike and his record as a prospector and miner, the company was formed. It has nothing to sell, according to the stockholders. Its sole interest and purpose is to develop the mine and add Sevier county and Arkansas to the list of gold and silver-producing sections.

Evidence that the vein had been discovered years ago, probably by Spaniards or Indians, has been found since excavation were started. A number of stone hammers and picks, and a stone mortar in which crude milling of the ore probably was accomplished, have been unearthed.

—De Queen Daily Citizen.

**Company Is Developing Reported  
Rich Strike of Gold and Silver  
in Its Mine East of Gillham**

De Queen Bee 7-1-37

Gillham, Ark., June 29 (Special)

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Assisting the Harrells in working the mine are Tom Arms and Virgil Overturf.

Assays made for the Sevier county company by the Colorado Assaying Company, Denver, Col., show

a per ton gold content ranging in value from \$2.06 in ore found within three and one-half feet of the surface to \$30.40 in ore taken from the main vein, according to Harrell. Ore containing as low as \$1 worth of gold to the ton can be mined profitably, he said.

The company filed articles of incorporation with the secretary of state last week. Two thousand shares of no par value stock were held by C. A. Archer, C. C. Hanchey, W. T. Harrell, J. E. Harrell and Leonard Lee.

**Geologist Finds**

**Old Silver Mine**

Ozark—Numerous tales have been told of hidden silver mines in the Ozarks, but C. E. Austin of near Cass has discovered what he believes to be a mine that is said to have been worked by a Jim Simpson, who resided on Barron Fork of Big Mulberry creek, three miles southeast of Cass, about 50 years ago. The mine discovered by Austin is near the old Simpson homestead.

Old settlers tell of Simpson's mining activities, saying that bands of Indians and Mexicans visited him at intervals of a few months, taking away loads of what was believed to be silver ore, or bullion, on burros.

With Simpson's leaving this part of the country nothing further was known of his mining.

Mr. Austin states that he may make some effort to learn the content of the mine shaft. Austin, who is a geologist, came here from Chicago, in 1910, and helped to organize the Lonquill Mining Company at Fort Smith for the purpose of working the Lost Louisiana or Tobe Hill mine, on Big Mulberry creek. The site of this mine has long been thought to be the hiding place of a large amount of silver bullion said to have been buried by De Soto, the Spanish explorer, and his followers when they crossed this part of the state in 1541.

Austin says that rock formations indicate a large amount of silver. Since coming here he has used his time prospecting.

**Gold Prospectors**

**Again Search**

**North Carolina**

**Where Nuggets**

**Once Were Found**

**by the Pound**

Raleigh, N. C. (UP)—After almost a century of quiescence, gold prospectors once more are probing North Carolina creekbeds and draining long-forgotten shafts. Today six large gold mines in the state each are producing around \$200,000 worth of gold annually.

As a result of present prospecting, additional mines are expected to be opened by spring, said H. J. Bryson, state geologist and chief of the mineral resources division of the department of conservation and development.

The most recent gold mine to go into full production is the Capps mine, Mecklenburg county, owned by a Toronto, Canada, syndicate. This company completed a new 100-ton cyanide reduction mill a few weeks ago and started production the last week in November. It has blocked out approximately 25,000 tons of ore expected to yield about \$12 a ton in addition to some 65,000 tons of \$10 ore previously blocked out. All of this ore is above the 350-foot level. Another large ore vein also has been opened, the extent of which has not yet been determined, according to Bryson.

The Haille gold mine in Union county completed a new 100-ton cyanide ore reduction plant and began production last summer. Owned by a North Carolina syndicate, the mine is of the open pit type, the ore being scooped up with steam shovels. The ore has been running from \$5 to \$7 a ton and has been yielding about \$10,000 worth of gold a month, according to reports received by Bryson.

The Rudisil gold mine, located within the city limits of Charlotte, largest city in North Carolina, has produced some \$200,000 worth of gold in the past two years. The mine has veins where the gold content runs as high as \$75 a ton.

The old Howie mine in Union county recently acquired by a Canadian syndicate, has been cleared of water and considerable core drilling has been accomplished. Reports by engineers show approximately 70,000 tons of ore averaging \$15 a ton. The Conrad Hill gold mine in Davidson county, four miles east of Lexington, also has been taken over by a Canadian company which has cleaned out the shaft and done further prospecting. The Gibson-Hill mine, near Burlington, is producing about 60 tons of ore a day. Several other small mines are in active operation.

Gold was mined in North Carolina before the Revolutionary War, and some historians contend that the Spanish explorers with De Soto mined gold in what is now Cherokee county in western North Carolina some 300 years ago.

Earliest notable discovery of gold in the state was 1799 when Conrad Reed, son of John Reed, found a 17-pound nugget on his father's plantation in Cabarrus county. Neither Conrad Reed nor his father knew that the nugget was gold until 1803, when the elder Reed sold it to a jeweler in Fayetteville for \$3.50 because he knew nothing of its value. Between 1803 and 1897 a total of 153 pounds in nuggets alone were found on the Reed plantation, the largest ever found on the property, to a pound.

After John Reed learned gold was far more valuable than he had at first believed, he went into partnership with some neighbors. They started a mine and took out nuggets of gold ranging up to 16 pounds in weight, in addition to gold-bearing ore and gravel. Until 1849, when gold was discovered in California, the yield of the North Carolina gold mines was estimated at not less than \$500,000 a year.

As a result of the western gold rush, all but the more prosperous North Carolina gold mines were abandoned as experienced gold miners went to California. The few mines that remained in operation closed completely when the Civil War started and remained closed until after 1865. In fact, it was not until 1882 that there was any great revival in gold mining in North Carolina and this revival lasted only for about nine years, subsiding again in 1891. It was revived again from 1902 to 1906 and again from 1912 to 1915. The latest revival in gold mining was in 1933 when prices went up to \$35 an ounce.

**Report Of  
Gold Received  
With Reserve**

12-22-39

Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist, expressed surprise yesterday when he was shown a dispatch from Harrison saying that gold, in commercial quantities, had been discovered near Limestone, Newton county, yesterday.

"Nature doesn't usually make deposits of minerals in one particular spot," he said. "Instead, it mineralizes an area sometimes extending over 100 square miles.

"During all the prospecting for lead, zinc and other minerals in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri (the Ozark area) no gold in commercial quantities has been found.

"That doesn't necessarily mean gold is not there, or that it won't be found there. Attention should be paid to all encouraging showings."

1888 Report Unfavorable.  
Dr. T. B. Comstock, who made a silver and gold survey in western Arkansas in 1888 for the Arkansas Geological Survey, said:

"It is improbable that gold will be found in Arkansas in commercial quantities, for the following reasons:

"The proper mechanical, physical and chemical conditions have often been present (as found during the survey), yet gold is absent from those situations in which all these conditions have been most favorable to its retention.

"One more reason \* \* \* is the inevitable absence of gold in the 'float' and the sands and gravel as well as in the large number of secondary deposits, which have resulted from decomposition and degradations of the original accumulations. In some of these, at least, the chances for deposition should be most favorable, but in none of them has gold been found in workable quantities."

Small Quantities Found.  
Dr. Branner's book, "Outlines of Arkansas Resources," published in 1927, mentioned assays of shales from the vicinity of Booneville and Magazine mountain that showed gold content equivalent to a value of \$2.50 a ton. The highest value reported was \$3 a ton.

**Booms of Eighties Recalled.**

Dr. J. C. Branner, former state geologist and father of the present geologist, described the gold mining boom in Arkansas between 1865 and 1868 in a letter dated August 8, 1888, to former Governor Hughes.

"There has long been a popular belief that gold and silver existed in paying quantities in Arkansas," he wrote. "During the last few years, a great many people have become excited upon the subject of the occurrence of the precious metals about Hot Springs and the country west of there. This excitement culminated in 1887-88.

"In some portions of the state it reached such a pitch that almost every man abandoned his usual occupation to stake off claims and turn miner. Every unfamiliar rock was regarded as a valuable ore or an 'indication' of something, and these delusions have been kept alive by assayers.

"These same assayers \* \* \* have been so successful that they induced capitalists and business men, both in and out of the state, and especially the visitors to Hot Springs, to believe in the value of the region for mining purposes to such an extent that, during the last 2 1-2 years (1886-88), companies have been incorporated under the laws of Arkansas with a total capital stock of more than \$111,000,000 for the purpose of working the supposed gold and silver mines and ores of the state."

The elder Dr. Branner reported that Dr. Comstock, his assistant, examined 300 samples of ore and found no gold in large enough deposits to pay for its treatment.

**Harrison Receives Report Of  
Strike in Newton County.**

Special to the Gazette, 12-22-39

Harrison, Dec. 23.—Roy Casey and Vernie Reeves reported here today that a promising vein of gold ore has been discovered near Limestone, Newton county, by Dr. W. A. Hamilton of Clarksville and a group of miners associated with him. Mr. Casey and Mr. Reeves exhibited several specimens of ore. Mr. Casey and Mr. Reeves said that assays indicate that some specimens of the ore run as high as \$11,000 to the ton.

Dr. Hamilton and associates have been operating near Limestone for several months.

Revival of zinc and lead mining industry in Newton and adjoining counties has stimulated prospecting for other metals. In past years some copper has been mined in the north Arkansas fields. However, no substantial finds of gold and silver ore had been reported in this section, although extensive operations had been conducted.

**Legendary Mine Long Sought.**

Richard Crane, a road overseer in Harrison township for nearly 30 years, has conducted searches for a legendary silver mine on what is known as Silver Hill near Buffalo river bridge on Highway 65 in Searcy county. Many have prospected for the Silver Hill mine for 40 years without success. Old-timers here say that more than 50 years ago, Mark Boyd of Little Rock was guided through the silver mine blindfolded by an old Indian guide, known as Woodard. Boyd was said to have spent more than 10 years in hunting for the lost Spanish silver mine in this area, and finally gave up the futile search and moved to Texas. The Indian guide, living in Oklahoma, was reported to have returned to the area about 12 years ago and declared the old mine existed but because of an Indian tribe pledge, he could not reveal the location.

**'Thar's Gold in Them Thar  
Hills' May Be True of the  
Arkansas Ozarks, 'Tis Said**

12-31-39 Democrat

Harrison—Gold, real "yaller" gold that assays \$11,000 to the ton, has been found in the Newton county hills in the neighborhood of Limestone, 30 miles southwest of Jasper, according to the story of Roy Casey and Vernie Reeves, who exhibited several good sized chunks sparkling with yellow crystals and told their story in Harrison recently.

Their acquaintances here, who know them as men of responsibility, examined the specimens and listened to their story with interest. They state that Dr. W. A. Hamilton of Clarksville, with a force of miners, has been conducting prospecting operations near Limestone for several months and has at last been rewarded by uncovering a good size vein of the ore which an assay shows to be very rich, some specimens running \$11,000 to the ton.

The revival of the zinc and lead mining industry in Newton and adjoining counties has stimulated prospecting for other metals, as some copper has been mined in the north Arkansas field in past years. Although there has been much prospecting for gold and silver ore and hidden treasure, no substantial finds have ever been reported. Recently Dick Crane, for 29 years

a road overseer in Harrison township, has been interested in locating the legendary silver mine on what is known as Silver Hill at the south end of the Buffalo river bridge on Highway 65 in Searcy county. Fifty years ago, Mark Boyd came to that section from Little Rock, and was guided by a local character known as Indian Woodard into a great cavern which Boyd says appeared to be literally lined with silver.

Woodard blindfolded Boyd in taking him in and leading him out and Boyd always believed he had seen the legendary Spanish silver mine. He spent a fortune in a 10-year hunt for the mine and finally moved to Texas and died a disappointed man.

Woodward removed to Oklahoma, but about 12 years ago returned to visit in the Silver Hill neighborhood. In conversation with this reported Indian Woodard declared that the old mine really existed, that Boyd had seen it, but that he, Woodard, could not reveal its exact location as he was a member of an Indian tribe pledged upon penalty of death to keep the location secret. Many have fruitlessly prospected for the Silver Hill mine for the past 40 years without success.

# SEARCH PLANNED FOR 'LOST' SILVER MINE

1-28-40

Special to the Gazette.

Harrison, Jan. 27.—A mineral lease covering 160 acres south of St. Joe, in Searcy county, part in lower Calf creek and part in the Silver Hill section which includes the fabled "lost" silver mine, has been obtained by Rex Killebrew, Leslie merchant; H. F. Derjksen, truck line operator; M. L. Gibbs of Searcy county, and W. F. Clark, Oklahoma prospector. The land is owned by Siff and Vergie Turney.

Clark says that he is a cousin of the late "Indian" Woodward of the Cherokee tribe, who knew the location of the mine, but would not reveal it because of a tribal oath. Clark, part Cherokee Indian, says he brought the map showing the exact location, and after he and his associates had been satisfied as to the exact location, he burned the map at Leslie so that the information it contained would not be acquired by others. Clark says that zinc and other minerals are located in the Silver Hill area, and he also will prospect for these ores.

## SILVER MINE LAND SOLD.

St. Joe, Feb. 24.—Two land sales in the fabled Silver Mine area in Searcy county have been made by Hugh Barnett to Ben E. Stetson of Kansas City and Lemuel Hawkins of St. Joe. The land sales are in the area of the "bachelor district." Mr. Barnett sold acreage to nine bachelors within a two-year period, all in an area where no other people were living. Now, however, two of the bachelors have sold out and married men with families have moved in.

## FAMOUS SILVER MINE, BELIEVED LOCATED, LOST FOR 75 YEARS

Special to the Gazette. 9-25-40

Harrison, Aug. 24.—If B. G. Lewallen and P. M. Reves, Marshall residents, succeed in their new quest to find the long lost Indian silver mine on Silver Hill, five miles south of St. Joe, they will achieve a feat on which prospectors from several states have wasted 75 years of labor and much money.

Mr. Lewallen, agent at Marshall for the M. & A. Railway and Western Union operator there 15 years, believes he has located the entrance to the mine, closed since before the Civil war, and will begin excavation tomorrow. Following rediscovery of the opening two months ago, Mr. Lewallen and Mr. Reves obtained easements on approximately 1,000 acres in the vicinity.

An incessant hunt for the two fabled silver mines in this area has been made for the past 75 years. One of the fabled mines is known as the Indian Woodard mine on Silver Hill, which is located on the divide between Buaffalo river and now crossed by Highway 65. The other mine is the old Tabor mine in the section cut through by the Buffalo river, 10 miles below the highway bridge, and seven miles east of St. Joe.

More than 10 square miles of the Silver Hill's surface has been prospected by home prospectors as well as prospectors from Oklahoma and Western states, who alleged they received the maps as gift from Indians whose ancestors knew of the silver mine.

## Little Rock Resident Spent Fortune in Quest.

Mark Boyd of Little Rock is said to have spent a small fortune about 45 years ago trying to locate the mine. Legend says an Indian named Woodard, living here then, blindfolded Boyd and took him at night into the mine, where it was alleged there was an immense ledge of silver ore. The Indian said that a tribal pledge prevented him from revealing the exact location of the mine. Mr. Boyd spent 10 years seeking the mine and finally gave up and moved to Texas, where he died several years ago. The land was owned by Jack Dowdle and another early settler named Carl. Their holdings have passed to their heirs who have refused to sell any of the land.

Legends also say that the mine was reached by a shaft in a sheer drop of 50 feet and then through

As soon as the weather permits, Mr. Clark said operations toward opening of the mine will be started. Many prospectors have sought the "lost" mine, supposed to be located about 10 miles down the Buffalo river. The Silver hill is crossed by Highway 65 just south of the Buffalo river. Zinc, copper and other mineral ores have been uncovered in the area.

**Many Legends Concerning Mine.**  
Stories of the mine have persisted for more than a century. One story is that the mine was worked by early Spanish explorers who were killed by

Indians. The Indians alone retained knowledge of the location, and treasured a tribal secret. Another story is that the Indians knew of the mine many years before the early Spanish explorers came, and closed the entrance when white settlers came.

During the Civil war a man named Tabor was said to have discovered the mine, but was killed by bushwhackers because he would not reveal the location.

a long subterranean passageway to a lake in a cave 200 feet across. The silver ledge is beyond the lake, legend says. Mr. Reves believes he found the entrance to the Indian mine as told in legends and as the Indian said he would.

Mr. Lewallen is known among railroad employes as "Bert" and formerly lived in Harrison. Mr. Reves is the grandson of Dr. J. S. Reves, who lives east of Witt Springs and still is practicing actively in the mountain regions.

## To Drain Lake In Quest of Silver

Special to the Gazette. 1-26-41

Harrison, Jan. 25.—Bert Lewallen of Marshall and P. Reves of Oklahoma, who have leased more than 1,000 acres of the Dowdle land on Silver Hill, and are searching for the legendary Indian Woodard silver mine, have had a crew of men working for several weeks at a shaft on the west slope. Old "waybills" to the "lost" mine say that first a great subterranean lake will be encountered, and that at the far side, under the waters, will be found the ledge of silver.

Workers reported that they have encountered the lake, which is of considerable depth. A tunnel is being dug up the hillside to the lake to drain it toward Calf creek. Workers hope that after the lake is drained, they will find the ledge of silver.