Arkansas Once Had Feverish Gold Rush

"That's gold in them thar hills." At least, that was the once popular exclamation concerning Arkansas, a belief which veteran gold-hunters and general prospectors held tenaciously. This belief became so strong in 1885 and 1886 that it resulted in a gold rush which was a veritable stampede of a smaller scale, of the many stampedes to California and the Western states.

In those days the Ouachita and Ozark mountain areas were a thinly settled territory, most of which was government land. Innsbrook, an English fisherman, and a few other prospectors were the only ones who had prospected the region and but little was known of the minerals. Prospectors reported finding gold in quantities in some sections and stamps resulted. The mining activities centered in Saline, Garland, Hot Spring, Montgomery, Polk, Pike, Howard, Benton and Ouachita counties.

The annual report of the Geographical Survey of Arkansas, for 1889, says: "For many years there has been a vague and 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 "Rocks" have proven barren when thoroughly tested."

"The little-known parishes of the mountain counties have always been regarded curiously, and the reported discoveries have resulted only in the supposed existence of granite rocks. Nowhere in the state, any perhaps in the country, has so much energy been shown, or so much faith placed in the results, as in Montgomery county within the past three years. Large expenditures for the erection of mills, and in the operation of stamping by men claiming to be competent judges, have been made by many, and so adequate evidence of the permanence of this district as a gold mining area. There can be no question of the honesty of these opinions, supported as they have been by some instances, by the investment of all the available capital on the part of those investing."

This activity continued to increase as the State Geological Survey investigated the field and found it barren of productive gold. The report, which was published, covered the survey and mentioned the use of the usual machinery as the most practical method of mining:

The field work for this survey was executed by Dr. T. B. Comstock, who was then assistant state geologist, Dr. John C. Brammer. His work took him into Polk, and he examined hundreds of prospects and took samples from them for analysis. All reports were made to the Ton. A number of other samples were received, but the majority showed nothing.

Quartz, associated with the state, present over thousands of square miles in the counties in which the mining activities centered, and it was inhabited by gold present in it will be precipitated.

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

Mr. J. S. McDouglas, a well-known mining man in California, said in a interview: During the month that Copeland and McDouglas have been busy exploring their plant with mining machinery and the period of preparation, no attempt has been made to induce them to make their efforts in search of pay dirt, and it was merely by chance that their mine was discovered by the writer only recently.

In Isolated Section.

The road near where the mill is located will not average one mile per hour along a small road. In the mountain forest of the Ozarks where most of the travelling is by horseback and where the hard Ozark hillsides go about their daily tasks without much thought of the outside world. The families live in tiny hill houses, within a radius of a half mile or so away from the prospector's camp.

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 mining towns sprang up on a central point," the writer is informed. McDouglas, a resident of California, is said to have been engaged by a man who is a native of the state, and has been shown several of the southern states in person.

The writer is informed that the mill is working on a heavy machine and has been in operation for a number of years. By this time it is expected that the mill will be in full operation.

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

By The Associated Press

SILVER CITY, Ark., March 11.—Arkansas’ “Ghost” City is this morning pouring off its mantle of dust and desert use, and awakening under the influence of President Roosevelt’s silver program.

The news of the effects of mining blasts and the crack of hand pumps once more brought their challenge to mining interests of the west and the heavy cloud of newcomers wriggling through the few remaining settlers for old claims.

Scene of “Bonanza” Strikes

Soon, the old timers, a number of wave-tongued miners of old and mining machines, will grind over the dilapidated pails. In the heart of what was once the largest silver mining camp, a city sustained by the largest single “stamper” in the world.

Silver City maintained its hectic activity for some years, but as it had grown, it flitted suddenly into a ghost city. Within a few years in the new deal age, improved and modern machinery together with the promise of better financial returns, is leading to renewed activity in this once-booming center.

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

“This time the coming is back, and coming fast,” he opines. “The old mining camp won’t begin to lose its ghost look until the new camp has produced the best ore to date.”

“The ore of the Elkins, about 400 to 500 in the old days, has increased in size. The new camp will never die,” states Wingfield. “The ore 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.—A chemical agency which obtains the dream of Japan and promises to tap profitably some of the $3,000,000,000 worth of gold in the sea was announced at the American Chemical Society last night.

The promise not only of gold, but silver, sodium, tin, iron, nickel, lead, sodium, 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 tidewaters. To the chemists it was described as “united and hidden.” American commercial venture in a decade. Already, from a flow of 10,000,000 gallons of seawater a minute, it is taking $1,000,000 worth of bromine.

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 plant was erected by the Ethyl-Dow Chemical Company. The company was formed jointly by the Dow Chemical Company and the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation. Its process, involving new gold discoveries, was described by William 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 fuel required more bromine than was in盐湖 10 years ago and the latter source, certain rare “salt water” wells.

At the start the only seawater process suggested was to pump some of the Pa-
Spanish gold worth countless millions—coins and bullion—perhaps a golden Macbeth?—was literally buried in piles. The tiny boulders of precious stones and costly lots of gold filigreed jewelry—these are none of the obesity that has been taking place in the winds of Franklin county, Arkansas, for more than three generations. The main trail to Mulberry Creek, a cliff side that overhangs the water, a tunnel for feet deep has been blasted out to a solid rock for mining rock in the search. For buried treasure, and now a corporation has been formed to raise capital needed to pay for mining off the side of the hundred foot high pinnacle, so that the money gold may be sought so light.

For Antonio, the son of the little town of Ozark on the north side of the Arkansas river have been parties of grinning of the diggers are 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 collapsed lader, their hopes blasted. But still the quest goes on. Each time they have reported the quest a little nearer the Emerald, and each return has brought realization of the belief that "there's gold in them there hills.

In the hill country of northern Arkansas and southern Missouri legends of buried treasure are numerous. Sometimes it is a robber's loot that has been cached and neglected, and again it is a miner's hoard. Frequently it is a shipload of Spanish gold which can be had only for the finding. In almost every backwoods cove there are several individuals who have devoted their lives to the quest for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, and all are aware that these old mountain men believe that they have solved the riddle of the hills, and extra-erusts, but they keep their inklusions some kind of the buried lodes which 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 up on the rosy lout of a stolen cauldron where golden contents will put an end to their poverty.

The buried Spanish gold legends for the most part are their black details. There are rich merchant ships pursued by Gulf pirates and forced to sea refuge at Black Rock, news of rich mines to the North, setting out to overlook their cargoes of gold to the diggings; the finding of Indians working silver mines; the emigration 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 Mexico, 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 coincidences has been interpreted by the romantic treasure seeker as a corroboration of the treasure, 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. No firm has been this belief that the family of the late Dr. L. O. Hill, a country physician in Mulberry, Ark., has spent more than $100,000, the savings of the doctor's lifetime, in efforts to bring the lost lode to light. In the course of this physician's life, he has made and carried on the search for the Lost Louisiana Mine. Young George Hill is deeply interested in the search and all for 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 this same ridge 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-

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"During the Dark Days of the Civil War Anything That Had Value Was Buried" by Frank Harrel April 5, 1912
They Transported Their Lost Across Country to the Mine

A little work will suffice to keep the fam-

lies in necessities, but the hill man goes

about, clothing his hills in mystery, at-

tributing to their mystic glamour the

things which he believes will make him

happy. There, like a mountain man, he se-

its out to deliver up for himself the

things that the hills hold for him. But the

hills keep their mysteries close to them-

selves and send back to the world the

suggestion that 'There's gold in them hills' the

'But where?'


cents of fine gardens overrun with

weeds, their flowering shrubs and myriads

replaced by mountain sumac, and their

beauty was carried into the bush.

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 decayed, their

charge of the women folk and hurried to

join the Southern armies forming at Lit-

tle Rock and Washington in Hempstead

county. Hardy had they left when their

homes fell prey to the legendary 'Lin-

coln'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 to-

day.

But there are tales of money hidden and

money found. These are more scarce, to

be sure, than the legends of buried treas-

ure which never has been located. Banks

have been deserted in the hill country

for years, and they still are at a great ex-

tent. Those who had money, rather than

take it to the larger cities 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 hoards. A typical case is that of

the War Eagle treasure, unearthed not

long ago on an old homestead near Hunts-

ville in Madison county, Arkansas.

A young farmer, recently married, took

over a farm left him by his aunt, who

in turn inherited it from the boy's grand-

father, a back-country siller, distiller and

farmer. The grandfather had come to Ar-

kansas more than a century ago. He ac-

quired three valley farms and manned

them with slave labor. His farming ven-

tures successful, the pioneer put up a

water mill on War Eagle creek and began
to grind his neighbors' corn. Presently he

wished a farm in the beautiful

country between the

Arkansas and White Rivers,

where he might have a

home of his own, where

he could raise his own

food, where he might

find the peace of mind

which he had become

accustomed to in his

home in Missouri. He

bought a farm near

Cusseta where he

lived for a time. But

the country was not

as he had expected.

The climate was hot

and humid, the food

hard to procure, and

the people were

strange. He decided

to return to Mis-

souri and there

he died.
Veteran Prospector Reports Minor
Gold Strike West of Little Rock

Gold! Once again the word that started an empire is coming westward at last from the West.

This time, however, the elusive metal is reported to be just west of Little Rock, near Paris, where an optimistic prospector, Charles Emerick, has long been wandering about in search of the "diggins." Whispers of a gold strike at the Rock reached the ears of the ad- venturer, probably, by the scent of a new "gold" mine. Then off to the "diggins" went your newspaper in a bright and shiny new automobile.

The first 10 miles offered no hardship. Smooth, hard-surfaced highway made the first part of the trip simple as child's play in search of gold. Then the trouble began.

Once off the sun-traveled highway, the rocks and gullies, made doubly bothersome by recent rains, gave your amateur prospector a taste of primitive travel. Imagine the outing in a 1927 streamline automobile! But this is a prospecting job. Jolting and very damp trips, the "diggins" was finally reached.

Just 5 miles west of Little Rock, on one of these hills where only goats seem to thrive, Charlie Emerick found gold with his primitive mill and washer. And then the hillside he has set up to be a little gold mine in which to live with his gold.

About the hat are scattered the tools of his trade: a variety of pick and shovel, a wheelbarrow, an ax and woodpile, and some horse and mule gear. The whole picture might have been transplanted in 1850. The only thing missing is the shack of the prospector.

"I came through these parts about 13 years ago," Emerick is reported to have said, "and blue-skyed on my way west to Montana. A letter by the Missouri-Pacific station in Little Rock got me to come back here. I took a sample of the ore and through the years I have been working on the same problem and have surprised all with a large yield."

Since that time Emerick has pros- pected all over the West. Last No- vember 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.

"Away down in the old shaft," Emerick is reported to have said, "the vein is a foot wide and 40 feet long. It runs up the hillside and I'm just getting here. If I can get a good mill in here I could make some good money."

"The Siskiyou Milling and Mining Company is the imposing title of the little group now in control of the property. They have been spending large sums in the shaft. The mill is being erected under the supervision of an expert engineer."

"The ores are being shipped to the mill. The company is in the perfect position to make a fortune."

"I'm in for it all the way. It will be a good thing for the town."

"No gold. No adventure. No fun. I'm just in for a good time."

These gold stories have been over-
Boost in Gold to $35 an Ounce Sends Arkansans on Feverish Searches for Old Mines, Revives Legends of Many ‘Strikes’

By KATHIE C. COE CORDELL

With the decision of the Supreme Court upholding $35-an-ounce gold there began a new gold rush within the nation, and Arkansas has not been left out. As the result of the change in gold price, the state has become the scene of a gold rush, with hundreds of prospectors pouring into the state to seek their fortune. The rush has been so great that the state is now trying to handle the situation.

From New Orleans, they followed the Mississippi River and then took the Santa Fe Trail. At the end of the journey, they were found to be in the Arkansas gold fields.

There is no doubt that the recent gold rush has brought with it a new spirit of adventure and discovery. As a result, many new mines have been opened and old ones have been worked over.

When the men arrived at Crystal Hill, they found that the mine was abandoned. However, they continued their search and eventually found a new deposit of gold.

The Arkansans who have been working the mines are now in a fever of excitement, and many of them are making money. The rush has also brought with it a new spirit of cooperation, and many prospectors are working together to find the gold.

The rush has also brought about some problems, however. With so many people searching for gold, there has been a shortage of supplies. As a result, prices have risen sharply, and many prospectors are finding it difficult to make a living.

The rush has also brought about some controversy. Some people are concerned about the possible environmental impact of mining, and there have been protests against the mining operations.

Despite these problems, however, the rush has brought about a new spirit of hope and adventure. Many people are now searching for gold, and many others are watching the situation with interest.

It is likely that the rush will continue for some time. As long as the price of gold remains high, many people will be drawn to the Arkansas gold fields to seek their fortune. However, it is also likely that the rush will eventually taper off, as the gold fields are worked out and the price of gold begins to decline.