

East Mojave Mining 1887 - 1903
in the
Redlands Citrograph

Aug 6, 1887 (Ivanpah)

The Ivanpah silver mines in the northern part of the county are coming to the front again after a long sleep. There's lots of bullion out there and we hope to see operations largely extended.

July 20, 1889 (Mining in San Bernardino county.)

From the June number of the *Mining Review* we clip what is said of mining in this county:

Of the annual silver product of California, amounting now to about \$3,000,000, seventy per cent. comes from this county, the most of it from Calico district. Owing to the destruction by fire of several large mills in Calico and neighboring districts, the output of bullion has been much less in that region of late than it otherwise would have been. The low price of silver, coupled with some impoverishment of the ores in the calico country having meantime tended to further restrict production. There are running in San Bernardino about 10 mills all told, carrying a total of 200 stamps. About 150 of these stamps are operated on silver bearing and the balance on auriferous ores, or ores carrying both gold and silver. The principle mining districts in the county are the Calico, Needles, Ivanpah and Providence Mountain, these being all on the Mojave desert, the Needles stretching along the west bank of the Colorado river. Further to the south are the Bear Valley, White River and Morango districts, the ores here being mostly gold bearing. Many mineral discoveries of both the precious and some of the useful metals are reported to have been made of late in San Bernardino, and there is little doubt but mining and prospecting operations will continue active in this county for a long time to come.

March 11, 1893 (Rail Road) (The Nevada Southern)

In a private letter received here from Goff's station, regarding the new Nevada Southern railway, it is stated that the road is graded to within nine miles of Vanderbilt, a town of 35 miles north of Goff'. The letter states that work is progressing rapidly. The mining interests that the new road will develop are just now beginning to attract the attention due them. In a letter to A. J. Friend of this city a mining man of that section says that the mining interest is looking up wonderfully. The Gold Bronze mine has been sold to millionaires Flood and Mackay of San Francisco, and to Wm. Lysle, a Los Angeles capitalist, for \$40,000. Rich developments are expected, now that the new road is being pushed through a very rich mining country.—*Riverside Enterprise*.

April 1, 1893 (Vanderbilt Mining District) (Mining Development.)

The valuable developments in Vanderbilt district will add largely to the prosperity of San Bernardino county. The discoveries have been so promising that capital is now at work and the future of the district does not depend upon an unbroken record of paying mines. So much has been found that money will be cheerfully expended in future search. Nor is the hope of future discovery to be confined to Vanderbilt; other districts will come within the range of profitable workings as the railroad advances.

Mines that now owing to cost of transportation are practically without value will take a place in the ranks of paying properties and other claims will be found by prospectors who, with increased facilities for obtaining provisions, will swarm to a fresh field of adventure.

April 8, 1893 (NEEDLES REDUCTION WORKS)

The new Needles reduction works started up last week on ore from the Ibex mines. The first run has demonstrated the capacity of the works to be about forty tons a day. They have one of the new Dodge crushers, and it is said to be a first-class machine.

Times Index.

June 11, 1893 (VANDERBILT.)

The new mining camp in the northeastern part of this county—Vanderbilt—is growing right along. It now boasts four saloons, three restaurants, four general merchandise stores, a lumber yard, lodging house, drug store, butcher shop, postoffice, two doctor shops and over 400 population. Will A. Nash runs a justice shop besides. Verily, Vanderbilt cometh up in a night, and its greatness all who runneth may read.

November 4, 1893 (The Vanderbilt Mines.)

Lately the San Francisco *Chronicle* had a violent attack upon the Vanderbilt mines. The *Needles Eye*, which is the nearest paper to the mines, comes back thuswise:

The editor of the *Eye* paid a visit to the Vanderbilt camp on Thursday on a tour of investigation to ascertain the foundation of the recent damaging reflections upon the camp made by the San Francisco *Chronicle*. As a result of this trip he is firmly of the conviction that the future of the camp is most bright, that there are many hundreds of thousands of dollar's worth of ore buried in the hills of that locality, and he shares in the general opinion that the article in the *Chronicle* was part of a smooth freeze-out game being worked by several parties unnecessary to name, but who are known in the country over. But the trick is an old one and we do not think that it will work this time. Vanderbilt is all right, and we warrant the assertion that in a year it will be the biggest camp on the Pacific coast.

January 13, 1894 (Vanderbilt Mines.) (A Great Strike.)

A special to the Los Angeles Herald from Vanderbilt says:

Friday night a blast on the fifty-foot level of the Gold Bronze mine opened up a big cave of white crystallized quartz, assays of which show that it runs \$1200 per ton free gold. Everything indicates its permanency. This mine is owned by the Vanderbilt Mining and Milling company, and is very rich throughout and well developed. This is without a doubt the greatest strike ever made in the southwest.

January 20, 1894 (Vanderbilt Mines.) (Mines of this County.)

The past week has been one in which greater progress has been made than in any other three weeks since the first location was made here, reports the Vanderbilt *Shaft*. There have been perhaps periods of more feverish excitement over finds, and more people could be seen on the streets. Such periods have not benefited the place. The reaction that has always followed has been hurtful to Vanderbilt in the extreme. In the past week, however, much has been accomplished.

Immediately upon the arrival of his mill and upon the arrival of Mr. Stanley and Mr. Rich, A. G. Campbell began work in earnest on the preparations for the erection of his mill. A large crew of men were put to work grading for the mill, in consequence of which this work is all done, and the foundations for the battery and engine will soon be completed. The machinery and lumber are nearly all on the ground. As soon as possible, the mill will be erected and in working order. The water for the mill will be supplied by three wells, and will flow through a half inch hydraulic mining pipe into a sump below the mill, from which it will be pumped as needed.

This will necessitate the laying of 5,000 feet of pipe.

At the Boomerang, the new steam hoist will soon be in running order. The ore now being taken from this mine looks remarkably well. And altogether matters are as satisfactory at Campbells' as they could well be.

Things are assuming a very cheerful aspect about the property of the Vanderbilt Mining and Milling company, also. On Monday morning the force was increased, the new men commencing the grading for the mill, which will, without doubt, arrive here by February 1. The mill will be fitted for twenty stamps, although only ten stamps will be put in at first. The Monday morning train brought in Mr. A. Smith, of Denver, who is an alder mill man. He will have charge of the erection of the mill.

This week has not been without excitement. Friday night about ten o'clock a blast in the east drift, on the fifty-foot level of the Gold Bronze, opened up a cave of crystallized quartz bearing free gold. It being remarkably rich in appearance, Mr. Saurbrey, the foreman, called Mr. Taggart down. Latter Mr. Patton went also, and as a result of the blast, the richest ore ever found here was taken out. It showed so much free gold that an excitement was raised immediately. The next morning everyone looked at the rock, said it was rich, and the estimates of its value ranged from one hundred and fifty to a thousand dollars. Therefore, the most sanguine almost fainted away when an assay of an average sample showed that the ore would run twelve hundred dollars to the ton. It was a remarkable find.

The cave has not yet been wholly opened, so nothing definite can be said of its size.

February 24, 1894 (Vanderbilt Mines)

The Vanderbilt *Shaft* says: "In October, A. G. Campbell paid out about \$500. In January he paid out about \$4,500. The Mining and Milling company paid out in October about \$300. Their January payroll was about \$7,000. And Mr. Campbell's payroll would have been greater in January but for the fact that he did not get fairly to work until about January 10. These figures do not include any part of the purchase price of either of the mills now going up.

March 24, 1894 (Vanderbilt Mines) (Mining Notes.)

The Vanderbilt ledge, it seems was discovered by an Indian, named Bob Black, and he had the usual experience of great discoverers and inventors, as no one wanted to go with him to see the prospect. At last he succeeded, however, and Vanderbilt is the result.

There is good prospect of a smelter being built at Needles, which would be of immense advantage to the mines of the county, as it would save about \$80 per car load of ore in freight, and some mines are shipping as high as two cars per day.

Colonel Henry Reid, a well known newspaper man from Arizona, is now established as a citizen of Vanderbilt.

Campbell's ten-stamp mill at Vanderbilt is now in operation.

Returns from Goldstone indicate good prospect of that becoming a prominent field of development.

The editor visited Vanderbilt Monday and was particularly and pleasantly struck with the appearance of things. Vanderbilt is booming, and those who maintained faith in the camp and stuck to it when it was decried are reaping the benefit of their exercise of good judgment. The mines are demonstrating that their riches have never been overestimated. While we were there an offer of \$200,000 cash was made by outside parties for the Gold bronze mine and declined. The owners are justified in refusing to sell, for the mine gets richer as they go down. At the lowest point reached in this mine the ore runs \$300 per ton. In the Boomerang, owned by A. G. Campbell, a rich ledge over three feet in width has been struck 260 feet below the surface. The camp is full of chloriders, and every hole opened in the ground

Reveals rich outcroppings.—*Needles Eye*.

May 12, 1894 (With the Miners.)

The Vanderbilt *Shaft* says the main shaft of the Boomerang mine is down 350 feet and three shifts are sinking it a rate of 20 feet per week. The shaft is in ore the whole distance.

May 19, 1894 (With the Miners.)

Denver capital is becoming interested in the Vanderbilt mines.

A contract has been made to sink the shaft on the Chappie mine at Vanderbilt eighty feet, giving it a depth of 150 feet.

Work to the amount of \$4,000 will be done in two months on the Queen of the Night mine at Vanderbilt.

In the Bronze mine at Vanderbilt the vein is five feet wide at the lowest point reached.

The shaft in the Boomerang mine at Vanderbilt is down 350 feet in good ore.

The mill at the Morongo King mine is billed to begin work today.

Several deeds for mining property in the Shadow Mountain district have recently been filed for record.

May 26, 1894 (With the Miners.)

Manvell is the scene of a number of recent rich finds.

June 2, 1894 (With the Miners.)

The prediction made in the *Shaft* several months ago that Vanderbilt would become a thrifty chloriding camp, is on the eve of verification, says the *Vanderbilt Shaft*. For some months the chloriders have battled against the adverse circumstances and conditions of depleted purses, limited credit and lack of opportunity to market their product, but happily those are things of the past. The Vanderbilt Mining and Milling company began the reduction of chlorider's ore last week, and will devote five stamps, or half the mill capacity, for that purpose as long as there is any chlorider's ore in sight. This means the dawn of a new era and the beginning of prosperous times for Vanderbilt. Several thousands of dollars which have been locked up in unworked ore, will be released, debtors will settle with their creditors, the hills will be ransacked for pay streaks and the chloriding industry receive an impetus, which will be alike beneficial to the chloride, the merchant, the mill owners, and last but not least, Vanderbilt.

The force of men in the Boomerang mine at Vanderbilt has been increased.

The mining expert of our daily contemporary has already figured out that the

June 9, 1894 (With the Miners.)

The Boomerang mine at Vanderbilt has struck a flow of water at a depth of 375 feet. Water was badly needed, and the strike is as highly prized as though it was gold.

"The Mid Hills" is a new mining district, twenty-two miles west of Vanderbilt.

Major Wimberly is anxious to return to the east and has disposed of his mine across the gulch from the Redlands company's property to members of that company, which gives to them a controlling interest in water rights as well as a rich prospect.

June 23, 1894 (Among the Miners.)

C. O. Barker has made a good strike in his gold mine at Sommerville, near Salton.

At Vanderbilt work on the various mines is progressing favorably, and every day the showing of rich ore is increasing in magnitude.

June 30, 1894 (Among the Miners.)

Dell Beebe has sold his one-third interest in the Golden eagle mine.

Pat Flynn has seven men at work on his mine, the Queen of the Night.

--Times Index.

September 15, 1894 (Mining Notes.)

The Gold bronze mine at Vanderbilt has twenty-five men at work taking out ore which ranges from \$10 to \$100 per ton.

The Boomerang mine at Vanderbilt has reached a depth of 480 feet in the main shaft, and three eight hour shifts are crowding it down through good ore.

September 15, 1894 (Mining Notes.)

The Gold Bronze mine at Vanderbilt is still increasing its showing of richness, and it is stated another hundred feet will give it rank as a "veritable bonanza."

The Boomerang mine at Vanderbilt is now down 500 feet, and the development of water has been so good that the mill can now be run all the time.

February 9, 1895 (Mining Notes.)

John Taylor has been appointed to supersede J. P. Taggart as superintendent of the Gold Bronze mine, of the Vanderbilt company.

August 22, 1896

The Brick Consolidated Company of Vanderbilt, owner of the Brick, Boomerang, and other mines, has ordered heavy hoisting machinery, pumps, air compressor, etc., and will sink the Boomerang shaft from its present depth (530 feet) to 1000 feet. At that depth the mine will be thoroughly exploited. The sinking of a deep shaft will be a great thing for the Vanderbilt mines, as it will clearly demonstrate what may be expected away below water level. We hope the company will be well paid for their faith in the district and their cash outlay returned a thousand-fold.

October 3, 1896 (Mining Notes.)

Messrs. Robinson and Greenwald were in Needles last week, negotiating for the abandoned Needles Reduction Works for the purpose of erecting a concentrator to treat ores by an electric amalgamating process, of which Mr. Robinson is the inventor. This process was adopted at the Rose mine recently, with the result that an indebtedness of \$20,000 was paid off in six weeks.

October 31, 1896

At the county clerk's office articles of incorporation were filed for the San Pedro Gold Mining company last Tuesday. The principal place of business is Vanderbilt, a town in the northeast part of this county. The capital stock is \$1,000,000 subscribed for by David McNamara, \$250,000, C. K. Campbell, \$500,000, J. D. Meyers, \$249,950, F. G. Janney \$25 and F. Williams \$25.

August 14, 1897 (Water in Demand.)

Many locations of water have of late been filed on springs in the desert region.

The Rock Springs Land and Cattle company claims 10 inches at Twin Springs, five miles from Government Holes.

J. D. Cuddleback claims 10 inches from Stray Horse spring, nine miles north from Rock Spring, and 10 inches from Spalding spring, six miles north from Rock spring, both being in Goff mining district.

April 22, 1899 (A Rich Copper Mine.)

San Bernardino Free Press: V. C. Reche, superintendent of the Ivanpah Smelting Company of Rosalie mine, Clark mountain, came down this morning. Mr. Reche brings good reports from the new mine. He says it is the richest mine of its kind in this part of the state. At present it employs 85 men and works 140 animals. The company has a car of copper bullion to ship for New York today. This bullion runs at \$480 a ton. Mr. Reche is going to Los Angeles to get more machinery for the mine. The machinery they now have was put in new last January and is doing good work but the company expects to go into the business on a larger scale which will necessitate larger machinery. A 100 pound stack will be put in. The one now in use is supposed to be 50 but only runs about 26. With these improvements the mine is expected to net \$75,000 a month. The Rosalie mine is in San Bernardino county and near the Nevada line.

March 1, 1902 (Red Hematite Iron Ore.)

Mining Review: At the Los Angeles chamber of commerce there is about one-half ton of samples of red hematite iron ore from the property of the Providence Mountain Mining company, in Providence mountains, in San Bernardino county, Southern California. This ore is of the same character that from which Bessemer steel is made. It is as rich in iron as any yet discovered in any part of the world, analysis of it showing 64.20 per cent iron (pure is 70 per cent.) contains no phosphorus and only the merest trace of sulphur.

This deposit of ore is only 205 miles distant from Los Angeles and only a short distance (less than two miles) from the survey of the Los Angeles-Salt Lake railway, now being constructed by Senator W. A. Clark and his associates.

An examination of and report on it states that the ledge is from sixty to eighty feet in width with a 50-foot breast, making it equal in dimensions, and as rich in iron, as the great Sunrise mine in Wyoming, belonging to the Colorado Fuel and Iron company. This company is shipping from the Sunrise an average of 1000 tons of ore a day to its works at Pueblo, Colo., 375 miles distant from the mine.

Sunrise ore contains 62.8 iron, while, as stated above, the analysis of the ore of the Providence Mountain Mining company contains 64.20 iron ore, showing it to be, with other attendant conditions, a superior ore to that of the Sunrise mine.

August 5, 1902 (Providence Range Mines.)

A gentleman just returned from a trip to the mines over in the Providence mountains, this county, gives to the Los Angeles Mining Review some notes concerning the mines of that district.

At the Giant Ledge properties in the New York district of the Providence mountains, work is proceeding day and night on the pay seam of ore in the vein and they are taking out ore. It has been demonstrated that the shipping ore extends for 1000 feet in length near the footwall of the Giant Ledge vein on the Morning Star and Athens claims. Upon the latter an important discovery has been made. It has been found that the sheet of oxide ore, which is about 600 feet in length, is in contact with gold quartz ore four feet in thickness. On the Athens claim work is progressing in ore along the footwall side of the Giant Ledge croppings, where the oxides come up vertically, 500 feet of work having been laid out to be prosecuted, all in ore. As room is made the working force will be increased.

Mr. Gregory, president of the Giant Ledge company, and R. W. Kenney, treasurer of the company, recently visited the property. The latter paid a visit also to the Copper World mine at Ivanpah, which is some 35 miles northwest of Manvel. Mr. Seibert, general manager of the California Eastern railroad, reports very satisfactory business being done by that road from the increased mining developments throughout this section, and has let a contract for a further extension of the line, it evidently being his plan to haul the material for a section to be built of the Oregon Short line at the point where it intersects their line a few miles northwest of Manvel. It seems that the route of the Oregon Shortline will be upon the western base of the New York and Providence mountains.

May 3, 1902 (ANOTHER BIG GOLD STRIKE.)

In township eleven north and range eleven east, a gold strike has been made that looks to be one of the richest ever found on the coast. The finder is Robert Yantzey, an old and well known desert prospector. The location is just south of, and only a very short distance from, the old Mormon trail from Salt Lake to San Bernardino, a trail that has been traveled for fifty years by thousands of people. It is about eighteen or nineteen miles west of Marl Springs, and about twenty-two miles east of Soda Lake. It will not be more than twelve to twenty miles from the proposed Salt Lake City railroad.

At the time our informant left the scene, there had been over thirty locations made, but prospectors were headed that way by the score. A big wagon load of specimens had been taken to Fenner for shipment to the Selby smelter works at San Francisco for working assays. Fenner was selected as the shipping point because of the fact that road and water were better. The road from Black Buttes goes east to Marl Springs, further east to Government Holes, and thence south to Fenner, on the Santa Fe.

The ore is found in wide ledges, and is and is a decomposing quartz, all free milling, with the gold very fine. The walls are granite and porphyry. The ore mills easily. The assays from the locations range \$120, the lowest, to a trifle over \$800, the highest.

This new strike once more emphasizes what we have been saying, and writing, and printing, for more than a quarter of a century: That San Bernardino county is one of the richest mineral fields in the state; and that it has never been even prospected yet. This find, in sight of a well worn and much traveled trail

for fifty years, proves this. The mineral output of this county, in a few years more, bids fair to outstrip the fruit industry, large as the latter is at present.

August 16, 1902 (MINING REGISTER.)

From Lewis E. Aubury, state mineralogist, we have received a copy of the most valuable publication ever issued for the mining interests of this county. There is a register of mines, which occupies forty pages. This register gives the name of the mine, the nearest town or postoffice, the location section, township and range, the map number, whether patented or not, the elevation above sea level, the number of veins and the width, the strike, dip and character of the ore, the hanging and foot walls, the amount and character of the developments, the mill and power, company or owner and postoffice address. Accompanying this register is a map of the county on a scale of two miles to the inch. Every mine in the county is located on the map, and has a map number by which its character may be found in the register.

There is also a map of the mountains of the Mojave desert and one of the desert fissure springs. Also a table of elevations of over 200 points in the county and a descriptive page.

The register gives the name and location of 224 gold mines in the county, 77 copper mines, 13 iron mines, 18 mines received too late for classification, being gold, copper, silver, lead and iron, 9 "dry wash" gold mines, 14 mills, and 71 miscellaneous mines of minerals, including asbestos, borax, cobalt, corundum, fire clay, granite, graphite, kaolin, lime, macadam, marble, niter, nickel, opal, rubble, salt and turquoise.

This publication will be of inestimable advantage to San Bernardino county, and prove a startling surprise to those who only know this county from a horticultural standpoint.

August 16, 1902 (Mohave Miner:)

The old mines at Vanderbilt, California, are being rejuvenated by reason of the good work that is going on around them and it will be but a short time until they are again working a large force of men. The mines are all right, but the old owners did not appear to have the confidence necessary to make them producers. Many mines are made, not found, and the sooner this proposition is realized the better it will be for the mining interests. A mining claim that would be an utter failure as a \$100,000 proposition may be the greatest producer in the world as a million dollar proposition. And thus it goes. A big mine of low grade ore must make it in quantity what it lacks in quality, and to do this big labor saving machines must be put in. These labor saving devices cost money.

January 3, 1903

Sheriff Rouse returned from the desert last Saturday, where he went to attach the property of the Columbia Mining and Milling company, to satisfy a claim of \$3700. The property is located in the Gold Belt mining district, about thirty miles west of Manvel, in this county, and the sheriff drove from the latter place to the mines and return, through two inches of snow. The property will be sold January 12.

April 25, 1903

The main shaft of the Keystone mine, in the Vanderbilt district in the northeast part of this county, is now down 300 feet and is in a wide vein of \$40 gold ore. The company is now paying out \$10,000 per month in wages, and expects to keep on sinking until the shaft is down at least 1000 feet. The Keystone promises to be one of the famous mines of America.

June 20, 1903 (Not a Mine—A Mint.)

Searchlight: One-man mines are few and far between; they are often more imaginative than real. But near Valley Wells, forty-odd miles west of Manvel, (San Bernardino county,) there is such a mine. It is a horn silver proposition, and Frank Riggs is the owner.

Riggs has had the property for many years and during all those years he has preserved the greatest secrecy. No living man today knows just what Riggs has. Parties who have been at his place have seen a shaft, and down this shaft there is a drift fitted by a heavy massive door. What lies behind this door is a mystery. But what comes from within can be judged from the Periodical shipments made by the owner.

The vein, or what is more probable, the stringer of ore, leads silver that only lacks the eagle to pass as currency. It is worked only when funds are needed. In other words it is a veritable mint for its owner.

Some idea of the richness of the ore can be had from the fact that Riggs invariably makes all his shipments by express, paying \$135 a ton charges. Before the California Eastern railroad was built he used to bring his ore down to Daggett, and ship it from there by express. This was full twelve years ago.

Riggs and his wife live at the mine. Together they do all the work. Their shipments are prepared with great care. After the ore has been mined it is carefully broken and sorted. That which is shipped is practically pure silver and will run over \$4000 to the ton.

Riggs and his wife lead a dual existence. About half the year they work their property, Mrs. Riggs working side by side with her husband. Then, after they have made a few shipments they travel. To paraphrase, object is no money to them. They can enjoy their outings secure in the knowledge that there is more where the present comes from.