

## Articles from the *San Francisco Evening Bulletin*:

“Progress of Mining, etc., in Esmeralda,” *San Francisco Evening Bulletin*, September 23, 1861, 2:2 (*Silver Age*, September 17):

In Aurora district, 12 quartz mills are ready on the ground, two are on the road, and seven others will be shipped immediately.

Of these, two mills, owned by Clayton & Co., will be operated according to a new principle, which is the invention of [Joshua E.] Clayton and which he has spent the past year in perfecting. The *Age* has been told that this plan will save within 5% to 7% of all metal in the ore. Several of the mills are intended to reduce silver ore, but they will operate according to the conventional methods. The arrival of these mills and other “favorable symptoms” has greatly revived business there.

[Robert] Howland has resigned as public administrator for Mono County; Dr. [Francis] Chorpenning succeeds him.

“The Indians at Owen Lake—Trouble Anticipated,” *San Francisco Evening Bulletin*, September 23, 1861, 2:2 (*Silver Age*, N. T., September 17):

“Analysis of a New Mining Town,” *San Francisco Evening Bulletin*, September 25, 1861, 2:4 (*Columbia Courier*, *Tuolumne County*, September 21):

...

Lumber costs from \$75 to \$100 a thousand board feet.

Board and lodging cost about \$22 a week.

Flour costs from \$9 to \$12 cwt. All other groceries cost about 25% more than those of Monoville.

The citizens are about to organize a military company, which will be drilled according to the rifle drill.

They are about to organize a hook-and-ladder fire company; they are negotiating for the purchase of Old Mutual Hook and Ladder Truck No. 1 of Sacramento.

They are also about to start a newspaper and job-printing office; W. C. Phillips, who is with the *Silver Age*, in Carson City, will control it.

[More to come.]

W. S. L., “Letter From Mono County,” *San Francisco Evening Bulletin*, October 11, 1861, 2:2 (*Aurora*, Mono County, October 1, 1861):

...

Construction of all kinds is underway. A fine brick store has already been completed and occupied, and two other stores are under construction. Dwellings are being built on all sides; some of them are “tasty, and creditable alike to owners and the town.”

The only drawback in Aurora is “the uncertain and dilatory mode of correspondence.” The stage line fails to regularly deliver express and mail. Last Saturday, by “the gross negligence of the driver,” the express matter was not transferred from one stage to the other, and matter that had been shipped on Thursday was returned.

But Aurora had an express agent “up to the time.” A “Pony” messenger began running to Genoa with the express; the rider returned on Tuesday, bringing all the letters and newspapers. Last night, the stage failed to arrive, without any explanation.

...

The correspondent has just heard that Low [Dow], Childs & Butler [Butters] have bought a mill site. They will build a 10-stamp mill, which is now on its way to Aurora. That will become the ninth mill in the district.

...

The most important local topic is the scarcity of change. Probably, \$10,000 in twenties is in circulation but not \$500 in small coin. The “fortunate possessors” of small coin charge 5%. A laboring man is distressed to sell a \$20 piece for \$19.

During the past week, the “town folk” have been entertained by the “Fakir of Siva,” a “poor adopter of Anderson’s and Jacob’s wizard tricks.” He succeeded, at all events, in enchanting almost \$1,000 into his magical box. Beyond this, we have had no stirring event. Socially we move along quietly.”

Gamma, “Something More about the Coso Mines,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, October 17, 1861, 3:5:

The Tuesday issue of the *Bulletin* contained an article entitled, “Something about the Coso Mines,” which the Stockton *Independent* had published. The article “abounds in errors,” which the correspondent would like to correct.

Silver-bearing quartz was discovered there on April 18, 1860. Since then, the mines have had “a more substantial form than merely upon paper. “. . . It is true there are some parties who have secured some mining interests in that section, who have done little else during the past year than drift to and fro between this city and Coso, and parade themselves before the public, in every newspaper which could be induced to chronicle their arrival and departure, as the leading spirits in the development of the mines of Coso and adjacent districts . . . . [W]hile these ‘fancy’ miners have been floating over the country, bumming on Montgomery street, and courting newspaper notoriety, others, more earnest and enterprising, have been hard at work prospecting the mines, and developing the actual resources of the country.”

Several companies have been organized in Coso and adjacent districts. The Coso, Owen Lake, Rough and Ready, Union, and other companies have been sinking shafts. Summer & Co., Searles Bros. & Co., Hill & Co., Dr. W. B. Lilley, Dr. S. G. George, Capt. Wilson, A. O. Thoms, C. E. Moss, Dr. W. L. Lockett, Stephen Kidd, and others have been driving tunnels.

The Coso Silver Mining Co. is the pioneer company of this section. It has been “quietly but effectively prospecting” its 7 lodes. The company has arranged to build a 35-horsepower, 12-stamp quartz mill, the first in the district. The plant has arrived on the eastern slope.

Also, the company has built a road from Haiwee Meadow to Coso Springs, 20 miles away; it can also serve as a good stage road.

Summer & Co. has 2 or 3 arastras successfully operating, though the firm probably is not recovering more than 50% of the gold.

An express from Keyville to Coso began running several months ago, was suspended for a few weeks, and then resumed business. Jacob Nash, the superintendent of the Coso company, is responsible for having established the express.

Transportation by land is less through Los Angeles than through Visalia; freighting also costs 25% less via the route from Los Angeles.

A map, recently published by M. H. Farley and W. Holt, shows the correct location of the mines, including the distances from San Francisco and Los Angeles.

“From Mono,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, October 21, 1861, 3:5 (*Tulare Post*):

Within the last week, several parties have arrived [in Visalia] from Mono. According to them, many are leaving for the valleys.

Aurora is “going ahead of anything in that vicinity. . . .” Many mills are under construction there.

Coal has been found near town. Coal will be a great advantage in running the mills.

“The Esmeralda Mines,” Number I, San Francisco Evening Bulletin, October 22, 1861, 2:3:

The wealth of Esmeralda is not fictitious.

One September [August] evening last year, “a party of weary miners,” who had been unsuccessful at Mono, headed back to California. They prospected while traveling. They pitched camp near a clear spring, about 25 miles north of Mono Lake. On one side of their camp was a small mountain, and on the other was “a pleasant vale.” While two members of the party were busy in camp, the third member took his gun and passed over the ridge, searching for game. He noticed a reef of rocks in front of him, examined it, and soon discovered a ledge of abundant silver-bearing quartz. Further examination proved satisfactory. Braley [Braly], Cory, and Hicks were “the lucky discoverers” of the Esmeralda lead.

The Esmeralda district was then established; it encompassed 10 miles square. Laws were also made; the laws allowed claims to be held until June 1, 1861. Meanwhile, leads were being rapidly discovered, “and the whole country, for a circuit of three miles, seemed to abound in quartz. North and south, east and west, northeast and southwest, in fact, from every point of the compass, leads appeared to run, and many of the most prominent were immediately recorded. The hill on which the Esmeralda lead lay was denominated Silver Hill; that on the right as one descended the gully was named Middle Hill, while a further hill towards the northeast received the name of Last Chance Hill.”

Aurora was located and surveyed at the junction of Esmeralda Ravine and Willow Gulch (a gully formed by Middle and Last Chance Hills. The few residents who wished to hold their property against later arrivals, passed laws, by which four posts placed at the corner of a lot, with no improvements required, was declared enough to hold the lot until June of 1861. “. . . A great many of the leads having been taken up, most of the lots located, and matters prepared for the reception of strangers, the Esmeralda District was next proclaimed to the world.”

Upon seeing the ore, getting in touch with their friends, and after listening to the reports of experts, strangers decided to try their luck. By January 1, 1861, 600 people were living in Esmeralda, and the population increased each day. “. . . But the incomers wanted lots, while the post-holders wanted money for their lots. Strangers were surprised to behold a wilderness staked with posts, and thought that those who came to brave the winter and open the country had a better right to a lot than those who stuck four posts in a barren waste and left again for California. . . .” Forced either to take the staked-out lots or build on the hills, the newcomers called a miners’ meeting, at which it was enacted that any lots without \$30 worth of improvements would be ‘jumpable’ after a specified day. Houses, fences, and other structures were rapidly erected and by the spring of 1861, Aurora contained nearly 1,000 residents.

Since then, a county has been organized, and officers have been appointed. And although it’s in doubt if Aurora stands inside [Nevada] Territory, California laws are enforced. As Aurora has grown, the transportation of supplies has also increased. Business buildings have been built, and

express and assay offices have been established. “. . . This increase has taken place without any fictitious excitement, but solely on its own merits and the richness of its mineral wealth.”

G. Kustel, ‘Washoe Mining Machinery—Expenses and Losses of Barrel Amalgamation,’ San Francisco Evening Bulletin, October 24, 1861, 2:3 (Carson River, October 15, 1861):

“The Esmeralda Mines,” Number II, San Francisco Evening Bulletin, October 24, 1861, 2:2:

In his last letter, the correspondent had given a history of the Esmeralda district up to the spring of 1861. As soon as June 1 arrived, many of the unworked leads were relocated. Soon afterward, at a meeting of the miners, it was enacted that \$40 worth of work performed on each 200-foot claim would be enough to hold the claim until November 1, 1861.

The first lead to be discovered was the Esmeralda, which is really a ledge, for it crops out. North and south extensions were claimed, too. At first, the location claim was worked from the top. A tunnel was later begun, but the great expense forced the owners to return to extracting ore from the top, a measure that paid its way as the work progressed. The owners of the north and south extensions began driving tunnels below the line of the discovery tunnel, so that these tunnels will strike the ledge deeper. The work on the tunnels was carried on throughout the winter, with a company of whom [...] Kuez, of Grass Valley, is one.

“Washoe Items[:] From Esmeralda,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, October 24, 1861, 2:4 (*Territorial Enterprise*, October 19):

According to P. [Pat] Hickey, who has just returned from Esmeralda, the area is “improving rapidly.” Four mills are running, and six more are under construction. The value of the ore has ranged from \$150 to \$400 a ton, all of it easily extracted.

Twenty-five leads have been opened.

Since machinery and goods still have to be paid for and few returns have been made, money is scarce. Yet the growth of Aurora is “remarkable.” Several fireproof stores are under construction. A fine church is about to be put up. The “moral condition of the inhabitants seems to command some attention, as well as the mere desire for money-making. . . .” The California laws continue to be enforced, although Esmeralda has sent members to the Nevada [Territorial] legislature.

“Progress of Aurora,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, October 24, 1861, 3:5 (*Silver Age*):

J. E. Clayton and Captain [ ] Barclay laid out Aurora only one year ago. During the last week in October, 1860, Aurora contained one canvas house, one log house, and five houses under construction.

Now, Aurora contains at least 300 buildings of different sizes, varying in cost from \$50 to \$5,000. Among the buildings are 11 stores, 10 saloons, 11 blacksmith shops, 5 hotels and restaurants, 4 quartz mills, and several carpenters’ shops, bakeries, brick yards, and other structures. The population is about 1,000, 50 of whom are women.

“The Esmeralda Mines,” Number III, San Francisco Evening Bulletin, October 28, 1861, 2:3:

“About the beginning of July last, the people of Aurora witnessed with delight the arrival of the first quartz mill,” which they expected to test their ledges “practically.” The mill consisted of one Howland battery and two amalgamators. In 6 weeks, the mill, owned by Green & Culver, began crushing ore. Because of the “effective arrangements” to save gold—more gold was found in the tailings than was obtained from the mill—the first crushing paid little.

During the next few weeks, the problem was fixed. The pans were converted into arrastras, two arrastras were added, two Varney pans were attached, and, at the next crushing, the ore was crushed wet. “A great change took place,” and the mill is now considered excellent for saving gold. This was the pioneer mill.

The next mill was the Union, which Johnston, Smith, French & Millsap built. It stands on the continuation of Esmeralda Gulch, a little below Aurora. It contains two Bryant [Bryan] batteries, of 4 stamps each; six arrastras, 6 feet in diameter; and a 20-horsepower steam engine. The Union was designed to crush 10 tons a day, but because of a lack of water, it could not be continuously run. The first ore crushed consisted of about 70 tons of builders gathered from Silver Hill, below the Antelope. The boulders belonged to the mill owners, who ran them through to fill up crevices and make a profit at the same time. Since the mill began doing custom work, “it gives satisfaction.”

The next mill to start up belongs to Avery & Co. It stands about 2 miles below the Union, in the same ravine. It consists of two straight batteries, of 4 stamps each, placed in wood; seven Varney pans; and an engine of about 30 horsepower. Since it stands in a lower part of Esmeralda Gulch, it receives an abundance of water; it also has facilities to obtain wood, which some of the other mills don’t have.

The first ore crushed was from the Empire, which yielded, according to the most reliable accounts, about \$80 a ton. Some believe that this yield was the result of using the Varney pans, which are the only amalgamators used. Those who have used them hold the Varney pans “in high estimation.”

The Esmeralda Mill, standing near the Esmeralda lead, is small but in operation.

The four mills in use are able to produce from \$1,000 to \$1,500 a day.

Other mills, meanwhile, are under construction:

Young’s Mill, below the Union, consists of “a peculiar crushing apparatus” never tried in California. The holders expect the apparatus to prove successful, “but until tested the result is doubtful.”

Below Young’s and Avery’s mills is Brady & Story’s mill. This plant will consist of stamps, amalgamators, and a silver-recovery process; so far, none of the silver is saved.

Clayton’s mill is being built on the northeastern side of Martinez Hill, on Clayton’s ranch. Clayton’s, too, will have a silver-recovery process attached.

Milling in the area offers many advantages. Mill owners crush ore for \$25 a ton but can get wood for \$5 a cord.

The miners, too, have “a vast opportunity” to make money. All the leads that have been crushed yield from \$50 to \$80 a ton. It costs \$5 a ton to extract and ship the ore to a mill. Thus, a lead yielding, say, \$50 a ton leaves a profit of \$20 a ton.

Because of the richness of the mines, about 1,500 people live in Aurora. A “town of considerable dimensions has risen up in the wilderness. . . .” At first, Aurora “consisted chiefly of canvass [canvas] houses, with wooden houses interspersed at intervals; now, however, brick stores are being built, and merchants are establishing themselves as for permanent location. . . .” Among the permanent improvements is the brick store of Chauffman [Kaufman] & Fleishman, and that

of Chapin & Schoonmaker,” at Pine and Esmeralda streets. Harris & Co. has an assay office. Other business buildings are rapidly being built.

Also, Wells, Fargo & Co. has an agency in Aurora. Wells, Fargo charges 25¢ to carry letters from Aurora while it charges only 10¢ to deliver to other places in California, a practice that has led to some dissatisfaction.

Mono County has other places of interest.

Monoville is about 25 miles from Aurora, near Mono Lake. It has 800 residents, most of whom work in the surrounding placer mines.

Big Meadows, about 25 miles due west of Aurora, at the base of the Sierra Nevada, has about 100 residents; most of them work in sawmills and in agriculture.

At Walker River, about 25 miles from Aurora, on the road from there to Carson City, several mills are under construction. They will be water powered. The mills will crush local quartz and ore from Aurora. A railroad from Aurora to Walker River, to carry ore to the mills, has been talked of. But it will take several years before this project can be built.

[More to come.]

“Letter From Los Angeles,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, October 29, 1861, 2:2 (Los Angeles, October 26, 1861):

Last evening, the governor of California sent the first congratulatory message upon the completion of the “great Continental Telegraph” to the president. “. . . It almost makes one’s head dizzy to think that we are in instant communication with our far-distant eastern neighbors—that the Atlantic and Pacific are joined by lightning! Los Angeles to Halifax in instant communication! Surely, the telegraph is one of the wonders of the world.

“A subscription of \$100 per month has been raised by our citizens, for which we are to receive *daily dispatches* from the East.”

. . .

According to an announcement, the Starks will appear in the theater in Los Angeles soon. Hussey’s Minstrels and “Martin the Wizard” have been doing only indifferently.

“Births,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, October 30, 1861, 3:2:

In Visalia, Tulare County, on October 22, a daughter was born to the wife of John A. Keys.

“Brutality and Suicide,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, November 1, 1861, 1:3 (correspondent for the *Visalia Post*):

John A. Kerman was found dead a while ago near Keysville, Mariposa [Tulare] County. He had left the “hay camp” in Kelso Cañon on the morning of October 2, hauling a load of hay on his wagon, pulled by four mules, two of his own and two belonging to William Marsh & Company, of Keysville. When Kerman had gone about 5 miles, it appears that while [raising] a bank, his team stalled. It’s believed that Kerman became enraged at the animals and, taking out his sheath knife, stuck the throats of two of the mules, as if killing a hog. Kerman then turned the other two mules loose, took his blankets, got on the load of hay, and killed himself with a five-shooter, which was found lying near his hand.

“Fatal Accident at Mono,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, November 1, 1861, 1:4 (*Mariposa Gazette*):

At Mono, on October 8, an old man named Hughes was killed by the accidental discharge of a pistol in the hands of Cal. McCarty, formerly of Mariposa County.

Hughes had quarreled with a man who, after uttering some words, drew a pistol. Hughes wrested the pistol from the man but finally handed it back to him, when the fellow again tried to shoot him.

McCarty, a friend of Hughes, then drew his own pistol, to defend Hughes. Probably wishing to prevent bloodshed, Hughes struck McCarty’s pistol out of his hand. The blow caused the pistol to discharge, and the ball entered one of Hughes’s knees. Nobody considered the wound dangerous, but “alarming symptoms” soon appeared, and Hughes died on October 10. “. . . No blame can be attached to McCarty, and no one can regret the sad affairs more bitterly than he does.”

“From the Esmeralda Mines,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, November 1, 1861, 3:7 (correspondent, Aurora, October 21, to *Silver Age*):

“Our town has been very lively of late, teams and pack animals filling the streets constantly unloading foods for the various merchants. . . .” Fleishman & Co. has moved into its new, fireproof brick store, which carries “a splendid stock of articles needed most in such a camp as this. . . .” The firm of Drayfuss [Dryfus] & Coblenz has finished its fireproof store and is constantly receiving clothing and other goods. Cheap John will soon have his stone fireproof store finished; he has already moved part of his stock into the building. [ ] Shief[?] has almost finished his brick store and will stock it with dry goods. Another brick store will be completed in 10 days. Chapin & Schoonmaker are working on their brick saloon and lodging rooms.

The mills are very busy. The firm of Green & Jackson is building a stone millhouse. The Averill Mill Company, Captain [ ] Peck’s Mill Company, and the Brodie Mill Company have fine, large frame buildings for their machinery. The Napa Mill Company, Land [Lamb?] & Co., and Dow & Co. are doing well with their mills.

. . .

As the result of Judge [ ] Hardy’s decision about unfenced and unimproved town lots, “our country is nearly fenced in.”

The laws of the Esmeralda district make all claims that have not had a certain amount of work done on them by November 1 open to relocation. Many strangers are in Aurora, waiting “to get a claim or two without much labor. But, as a general thing, the companies have been quite steadily at work, and the hills echo with blasts and drills without cessation.”

Many of the miners have been building cabins, “nice little stone and adobe houses to make themselves comfortable through the winter. . . .” The correspondent has heard that the last winter in Aurora was not as cold and unpleasant as it is in Carson [City]. Aurora does not have the disagreeable wind that prevails in Virginia City.

Rish [Raish] Phillips has received the contract to build a county jail. But he won’t rush ahead with the work until conditions are settled.

“[Add title],” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, November 11, 1861, 1:4 (correspondent, Kern River, November 4, to *Visalia Post*):

All the mills in the Petersburg district are running; they have enough ore to keep them busy until Christmas eve. The mills are working ore that's worth from \$50 to \$150 a ton.

The Keysville district also has enough ore to supply some of the mills for the next 6 months. The value of the ore is not as great as in the Petersburg district, but it's profitable enough to mill.

Several companies are placer-mining on the Kern River. Wallace & Co. began work 2 weeks ago, and during the first week, the firm's claim yielded \$20 a day per hand and during the second week yielded \$40 a day per hand. Also, some Chinese are at work. Judging by the amount of their labor, they must be doing well.

The gulches have no water, but the dirt is being thrown up so that it can be quickly worked when the rainy season begins.

"Many good and substantial cabins" are being built in several places, in preparation for winter and near the claims, which can be worked successfully only in the cold season.

The town of Keysville is "improving considerably," for many buildings have been erected recently. Among the buildings is a large 2-story hotel "of elegant proportions and beautiful architecture. Its style is of the Gothic order, and adds much to the appearance of this delightful mountain village."

About 150 white men and 50 Chinese are mining, besides a half-dozen "bummers," who wish everybody well except themselves, judging by their easy style of 'elegant leisure,' and the interest they manifest in everybody's business except their own," and a few small rancheros, traders, and newcomers with families, who will "probably swell the entire population of the Kern river mines to about 500 persons."

During the past week, persons have been arriving from Mono, Coso, and Bear Valley. Those from Coso have good leads, both gold and silver. The correspondent, who is somewhat familiar with gold-bearing quartz, examined and tested the quartz from Coso and believes that Coso "is destined to become one of the richest mineral districts in the State. . . ." The arrivals from Mono and Bear Valley, however, plan to remain in the Kern River country, believing that their prospects are better there.

The "mountain population" there holds no bitter partisan feelings, "yet every man you meet is firm in his political opinions, free to discuss them, and courteous and respectful in his style of expression. The anti-coercion party is largely in the majority, as demonstrated by the late election, still you never hear remarks from them towards their opponents to wound the feelings or create sectional prejudice. Nearly every mining camp contains both parties, and they get along like 'sister's children.' "

"Esmeralda Contract for Gold Quartz," San Francisco Evening Bulletin, November 11, 1861, 1:4 (*Silver Age*):

According to Col. [ ] Vibbard, of Aurora, that the Real del Monte Company has contracted 500 tons of its ore for \$10,000—or \$20 a ton—at the lode. The lode is reported to be very rich, but since it is immense, the company "will only have the trouble of blasting it out" and can afford to sell the ore for \$20 a ton. The company plans to build a quartz mill as soon as it's able.

"Roads and Travel to Washoe," San Francisco Evening Bulletin, November 12, 1861, 1:4 (*Silver Age*, Carson City, N. T.):

On one day last week, 606 teams were counted coming and going on the leg of the road between Van Sickles' [station] and Strawberry Valley. Many of the teams consist of 6 or 8 "powerful" mules, which can haul between 4 and 5 tons.

"It is just twenty-seven months since we crossed the Sierra with two loads of goods intended for the emigrant trade. These goods came *via* Placerville and the old Carson Cañon road, and never shall we forget the trials and tribulations of the teamster, who brought them in. Between turning over and breaking down, a full month was consumed in making the journey from Sacramento to Chinatown [Dayton]; while what with breakage, stealage, and leakage, the inconsiderable adventure with which we set out, came to hand sadly damaged and reduced. In those days, a journey to Carson Valley with a wagon was an achievement to be talked of with something of self-complacency. There was first the getting down upon the South Fork by the narrow dug-way, filled with boulders and barely wide enough for a wagon to pass. Then came the crossing of Brocklis's Bridge, not the fine substantial structure that now spans the stream at that place, but a narrow, rickety thing, that swayed and cracked beneath the superincumbent weight, threatening to precipitate the driver and his team into the dark waters of the American [River], foaming and dashing but a few feet below. The passage of this frail structure safely made, came the business of getting up the mountain on this [eastern] side, a formidable job, and one that required a day at least for its performance, as teams had to be doubled, or one half the load taken up at a time. This ascent overcome, the teamster got along tolerably well till he reached Slippery Ford, where the difficulties at the bridge were more than doubled. A terrible hill was this at Slippery Ford [in] those days; nor was it much better getting out of Lake Valley, while the old Carson cañon, as every body knows, had a villainous fame for smashing up every manner of vehicle that ever attempted its passage. Many a stout wagon, after passing over thousands of miles of desert and mountain, has here broken down to the dismay of the weary immigrant, who, after its holding out so long, had confidently counted on its carrying him and his helpless family to the end of his journey.

"But Washoe, and everything pertaining thereto, has changed mightily since the days whereof we speak; and in nothing is this change more manifest than in the matter of roads leading thither from California. It is difficult for one traveling over the fine roads since built across the mountains to realize the toil and hardship that attended the journey but so short a time since . . . ."

"Washoe Items[:] Esmeralda District," San Francisco Evening Bulletin, November 16, 1861, 1:2 (*Territorial Enterprise*, Virginia City, N. T.):

. . .

According to a man who has just arrived from Esmeralda, the mills of Taylor & Co., Johnson, and the Pioneer Co. are in operation. Each of the mills contains 8 stamps. They are crushing rich ore. The machinery for six more mills is on the ground, and several others are on the way.

Three of the mills have the silver-saving process.

Aurora boasts of eight fireproof buildings, besides "innumerable" frame and canvas structures.

"Items from Washoe," San Francisco Evening Bulletin, November 19, 1861, 2:3 (*Territorial Enterprise*, Virginia City, N. T.):

. . .

RESUSCITATED.—The *Silver Age*, [Carson City,] which has not been issued for several days past, made its appearance again yesterday. It will be published in future by an association of printers.—*Enterprise*, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

“TERRITORIAL Directory.—J. W. Kelly was about to canvass the Territory for names for a general Directory which he was about to publish.”

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“A Visit to Mariposa County,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, November 20, 1861, 2:4 (*Union Democrat*, Sonora, Tuolumne County):

“Road over the Sierra Nevada by the Sonora Pass,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, November 20, 1861, 2:1:

“Theatricals in Nevada Territory,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, December 2, 1861, 2:1 (correspondent, Carson City, *Sacramento Union*, November 25):

[James] Stark and his theatrical company are playing to full houses in “a very primitive sort of theatre, the back of the New Orleans bar-room. He has a good little company of performers, who manage to please the public despite all the disadvantages under which they labor, including a drop-curtain that looks like a petrified nightmare. They have been dodging here and there about the [Nevada] Territory for some weeks, and expect to keep it up all winter if they can make it pay. One thing that rather tells against the company here is its employment of an orchestra from Virginia City which is very much given to *Dixie*, but seems to have no stomach at all for *Yankee Doodle*.”

“Items from Nevada Territory[:] Brutal Assault at Aurora,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, December 11, 1861, 2:2 (*Silver Age*):

Johnny Burton, one of the early settlers of Aurora, was recently attacked by “a ruffian known as ‘Shorty,’ who, after knocking him down, kicked him with such violence as to break his back, inflicting what must almost necessarily prove a fatal injury. The poor fellow was on the verge of death at last accounts, and suffering great agony. The dislocation of the vertebrae has caused insensibility in all the lower limbs and portions of the body, the contraction of the muscular system causing a singular rigidity of all those parts. The assault is said to have been wholly unprovoked.”

“New Mining District on Walker River,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, December 12, 1861, 1:4 (*Silver Age*):

Two mining districts have been laid out in the country beyond and adjacent to the East Fork of Walker River. Laws have been adopted in each district, and a recorder has been elected.

One district is the Pacific Coal [Mining] District. Some coal or lignite has been found, and the geologic formation suggests the existence of a vein or bed there. Some pieces burn readily.

The other place is the Walker River Mining District, which contains gold and silver. The center of it lies about 30 miles north of Aurora. Several paying quartz ledges have been struck; altogether, the ores yield from \$25 to \$100 a ton. Several of the ledges have been opened up. As a result of these discoveries, mills are being built along the river. Since the parties are "of small means," with one exception, the mills are small, designed more to test the ore than work it.

The first mill on the river below Elbow Ranch and the point where the Aurora road passes is that of [Charles] Wolland [Worland]. It stands 25 miles below Elbow. The frame is up and the work underway.

The next mill is Welburn & Van Horn's, 1 mile farther down. It consists of only three water-driven arastras.

A little farther downriver is a horse-powered Chile mill, consisting of two wheels. Captain [ ] Moore owns the plant, which is in operation.

Still farther down is the mill of the S. F. Trust and Mining Company, which is under construction. Superintending it is the Reverend Henry Durand [Durant], the principal and founder of the Oakland College. The trustees of the college had given him a 1-year leave to recover his health; Durand [Durant] decided to devote all his time to outdoor activities. Hearing a great deal about the mines in the Mono country, he visited them. Durand [Durant] liked the Walker River district and decided to put up a mill and mine quartz there. ". . . He is the pioneer in the business in that region and deserves to succeed . . ." His mill, which is first class, will be ready to start up in about a month. He intends to devote the proceeds of his work to build up the college, which is "one of the best literary institutions on the Pacific."

His mill, which is driven by water, uses Howland batteries. Durand [Durant] also has claimed several nearby veins, some of which are known to be valuable. His "enterprise can hardly fail to turn out paying ore."

The residents of the district have laid out a town on the river; they call it Granite City. ". . . Of course, people abroad would fail to duly appreciate the place without the city addition. . . ." Several frame houses and several cabins made of willows, mud, stone, and other materials are already up. Tules are used for covering. The lumber for the houses and mills is brought from timberlands 30 miles higher up on the Walker River. Some willows and plenty of nut pine grow in the mountains, 5 or 6 miles away.

All the land lying along the river, between Granite City and Elbow Ranch, has been claimed. Most of the available waterpower, much of which is valuable, has been taken up, too. Some of the land is worth a good deal for pasture or tillage. Many places, if irrigated, produce fine vegetables; enough have been raised this season for home consumption. Potatoes, turnips, cabbages, tomatoes, and other vegetables do well. Enough hay has been raised to satisfy the demand there. The only snow that has fallen in the district this winter has been in the mountains. According to the Indians, no more than 6 or 8 inches falls in any season; stock need no feed, even in the winter.

Many Indians are there, but they are "civil and industrious," always behave well, and are willing to work at anything they can do.

To reach the district from Carson [City], a traveler leaves the Mono road at Jack Wright's bridge, and, bearing to the left, through the valley of the West Walker River, passes through a low place in the hills, on the east side of the river. 50 miles from the bridge is Granite City, the main mining camp in the district. ". . . Thus it is that new mines are discovered and new towns spring up in these remote and out of the way places, of which we hear little or nothing, until we stumble by accident upon some friend or wayfarer who volunteers to tell us the story of their value and growth."

“Men Frozen in Esmeralda,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, December 17, 1861, 3:4:

Four residents of Esmeralda recently started for California to spend the winter there. When they reached the summit of the Sierra, a severe snowstorm overtook them. Two members of the party—James Winter and Dan Riley—froze to death. The other two members, P. Bedford and [ ] French, were nearly dead when found. They were taken back to Esmeralda. It’s believed that Bedford cannot recover.

Also brought in were two men who had been severely injured when snow crushed a house. They are [ ] Sherman and [ ] and Ryatt. It’s believed that they will recover.

“Items from Esmeralda,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, December 18, 1861, 3:4 (*Silver Age*, December 12):

The firm of Teall & Harris has found “a splendid” salt mine, which contains just enough soda to make it superior for extracting silver. They intend to furnish it to the mills in Esmeralda for 12½¢ a pound. It is “very valuable in a camp where silver predominates in all the ledges. . . .” It takes about 50 pounds of salt in the Veach [Veatch] process to work a ton of ore. The mill companies will be able to buy the salt for less than it can be freighted from below.

Fine specimens of anthracite coal have been obtained from the Bodie district, 7 miles west of Esmeralda.

Captain [ ] Johnston has found some rich gray cinnabar in a very large lode near Mono.

While prospecting, A. D. Allen found several pieces of copper ore, pure alum, and white chalk, which were obtained from separate natural beds.

Soda and arsenic are as common as rich veins of auriferous and argentiferous quartz lodes there.

The average yield of the ore is \$47.50 in gold alone. On the average, the ore contains five times more silver than gold.

Eight mills are running, day and night, driving about 70 stamps. They crush, altogether, from 60 to 70 tons per day; all the mills are of limited capacity. All of them are steam powered. Except for Clayton’s, all the mills contain circular batteries. Five other mills are under construction; several of them will soon be completed.

At \$20 per ton for crushing and working ore, the owners of mines and mills could enjoy “a good business.” Wood, of the best quality, costs only \$5 a cord, delivered at the mills.

Several ledges yield far more than the average. The ore from the Juniata, Garibaldi, Wide West, Young Winnemucca, Silver Hill, Antelope, Utah, Esmeralda, Senator, La Plata, and many others yields several hundred dollars a ton and even thousands of dollars a ton.

The Live Yankee lead, which came into notice after most of the other mines, is small but very rich

The Carmelo lies on a separate hill from the three main hills. Its discovery opened another section of the district.

The Hope lead is full of gold.

The Young Winnemucca has taken the lead of all the high-hill claims. A deep shaft has been sunk, from which 100 tons of the richest ore of any one claim has been raised. It contains both gold and, mainly, silver.

The Bear Flag, one Middle Hill, is best known for its strange white quartz; gold of the highest purity appears in great blotches, which can be easily broken from the ore.

The La Plata is famous for being the third claim located in the district. Brady [Braly], Cory, and Hicks discovered it.

The health of the country is good.

The markets are well supplied. Most goods sell at reasonable prices. Hay costs \$100 a ton, barley 15¢ a pound, and flour 12¢ a pound.

Any man capable of mining can get constant work at good wages.

Teams do a good business by hauling quartz, wood, and other materials.

Building “goes on apace.” The prices of real estate “tend upward, and everybody is in good spirits and hopes soon to realize a fortune in Esmeralda.”

“Aurora Enterprises,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, December 30, 1861, 1:4 (*Silver Age*, December 24):

According to Captain [ ] Johnson, the Union Incorporated Tunnel Company plans to drive a tunnel about 1,000 feet into the east side of Silver Hill; the tunnel will strike the Frankfort, Rosebud, St. Louis, and Winnemucca lodes; it will reach the Winnemucca about 800 feet below the surface. The capital stock is put at \$400,000, divided into 8 shares.

The Middle Hill Tunnel Co., on the east side, will drive a tunnel about 1,000 feet. The tunnel already extends 200 feet. It will strike the Atlantic lode, about 300 feet deep.

The Aurora Incorporated Tunnel Company began work on the north end of Last Chance Hill and will run its tunnel 1,800 feet; it will strike the Sam Patch, Garibaldi, Empire, Aurora, Last Chance, Congress, and Lady Demerest; each lode is from 150 to 200 feet deep. The capital stock is put at \$200,000, divided into 10 shares.

The Martinez Hill Incorporated Tunnel Company will drive a tunnel 1,500 feet; the tunnel is already in 60 feet. The tunnel will cross the Blue Jacket, Storm Cloud, and Juniata. The Juniata is 300 feet deep. The capital stock is \$100,000, divided into 10 shares.

These companies will claim any “blind ledges or spurs” that they make strike.

Captain Johnson has specimens from all the above ledges, from the Pauline and Lord Byron, and from about 40 others.

The Juniata Company has contracted to have 600 tons of its ore crushed.

Brodie & Company’s mill began running on Friday week. The firm buys the Winnemucca’s ore and takes it from the shaft. Attached to the mill is a silver-recovery process.

The Union mill is crushing ore for \$10 a ton.

A week or two ago, Governor [James] Nye and others bought the remaining interests of Colonel Vibbard, for \$25,000.

“The Mono Mining Region,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, January 2, 1862, 3:5 (*Aurora*, Mono County, December 25, 1861):

#### **A Fickle Climate.**

The weather here began to grow cold in early October, when it began to freeze at nights. A month later, a slight shower fell; it ended the dry season, which had begun in May. About mid-November, snow fell, and the cold weather became severe. About a foot or more deep, the snow provided good sleighing for a couple of weeks, until a warm rain fell; it left the ground bare. Since then, snow fell again; rain followed again and left the ground bare. Warm, spring-like weather followed. The climate in Aurora is “fickle”: some winters will bring 2 or 3 months of steady cold and snow, whereas others are mild. “. . . Thus far, having had a full share of cold and storm, we

feel entitled to a little relaxation of the rigors of winter, though hardly counting on this indulgence.”

#### **Deep Snows near the Mountains.**

Meanwhile, “a perfect avalanche of snow,” at least 4 feet deep, covered up Monoville. As was the custom during the winter, the residents had suspended all mining and vacated the town; the snow broke down several houses. Standing at a high elevation, Mono lies immediately under the highest peaks of the Sierra—“hence the terrible storms that overwhelm and render it untenable for three or four months every year.”

At the Big Meadows, on the West Walker River, 4 feet of snow fell, too. In some spots, the drifts have closed the road to the sawmills there. By cutting off Aurora’s timber supplies, the winter has forced a temporary halt to construction and improvements, and business is somewhat dull.

#### **Fuel at hand—Firewood—Indications of Coal.**

Esmeralda contains plenty of scrubby pine, which furnishes excellent fuel. The trunk is no more than 20 or 30 feet high and rarely more than a foot at the butt, but its many branches provide a great deal of bulk. The wood is full of pitch, which burns hot and long. It can be delivered in Aurora for \$5 a cord, less than half the price at Virginia City and Gold Hill.

A few miles to the southeast, the forests are large and thick. To the north and west, the woods are less dense and finally end in the districts along the Walker River. But encouraging signs of coal have been found there. Some of the coal has been found to burn well. Prospecting parties are about to leave for the district.

#### **Monopolists of Government Forest Lands.**

Recently, some people have been enclosing large tracts of forest with brush fences and other improvements and claiming them. This “objectionable practice” will prevent people from obtaining convenient fuel.

During the summer, hundred of cords were cut in the hills next to Aurora; since the wood is now partly seasoned, it is lighter and more combustible than in its green condition.

Considering the difficulty in getting lumber and other building materials, Aurora “has made respectable progress since it was founded,” a little more than 2 years ago. “. . . Then it was composed entirely of canvas shanties, and huts composed in about equal parts of stones, logs and mud. These have been superceded in a great measure by good, substantial buildings, mostly made of lumber, though a good many are of stone, adobe and brick, the latter large and thoroughly fire-proof. Of this class of edifices there are ten or twelve tenanted, with half as many more under way.”

Seven quartz mills are running, and four more are under construction. Those in operation crush from 5 to 10 tons of ore a day, yielding altogether about \$4,000 a day. The ore yields from \$35 to \$150 a ton. Three of the mills work the ore to recover its silver and so bring about great savings. All the mills are profitable.

#### **Miscellaneous Items.**

“. . . Quiet and good order prevails, disputes and difficulties generally being referred to the Courts for decision.”

The health of the residents is good.

The Methodists and Presbyterians have preaching every Sunday.

Aurora also has a good school, in which 20 “scholars” attend.

The Odd Fellows and Masons have established branches of their orders.

Aurora also has a boxing school, which meets nightly.

A ball is held only occasionally, “owing to the lack of female material.”

Politics and office-seeking are “quiescent, but are expected to rage again” if the California legislature puts Aurora in Nevada Territory; that action would require that another county be

organized. Otherwise, nothing is likely to “excite the dormant passion” until the elections in the spring.

D., “Letter from the Esmeralda Mines,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, January 8, 1862, 1:6 (Aurora, December 29, 1861):

During the past week or so, the prospects have been looking good.

One hundred tons of ore from the St. Louis lode, worked in the Union mill, owned by Johnson & Co., yielded \$35 a ton after hauling and milling. The yield would have been greater, but three sacks of very rich ore were held back to be crushed by hand.

Green & Co., the owners of the Pioneer mill, has been crushing ore from the Aetna lode.

[ ] Fleming, of Taylor & Company’s mill, told the correspondent yesterday that his firm had been crushing boulders, which yielded \$40 a ton. The boulders are “the *debris* of the many leads that crop out on Silver Hill.”

During the past 3 weeks, ore from the Utah, Empire, Antelope, Garibaldi, and other lodes has been crushed. The yield averaged \$35 or \$40 a ton; since the mills contain no silver-recovery process, they could extract only the gold.

No mill containing silver-recovery equipment operates in Esmeralda.

Peck & Clayton’s mill, the correspondent has heard, will begin crushing ore from the Real del Monte next week. The mill has a silver-recovery process.

The correspondent has heard of another mill that will start up soon.

Brodie, Story & Heath’s mill, on Pine Creek, and the Napa company’s mill will start up early next week.

In the Pride of Utah, [ ] Potter has struck the richest ore so far. The ore is being hauled to the Union mill.

“During the last week Christmas with its cheer has come and gone, and is now among the things that were. Many of our citizens enjoyed it ‘hugely.’ Our band discoursed excellent music during the day,” and several saloons were open, dispensing egg nog. In the evening, the residents enjoyed “a fine ball,” at which “all passed off merrily.”

The day before yesterday, on St. John’s Day, the Masons held a program. The Reverend C. Yager delivered an oration at the courthouse. Governor [James] Nye, who was in Aurora, briefly spoke “in his usual happy style.” The group then had dinner at [ ] Ross’s house, where James Stark gave several recitations. In the evening, the Masons gave a party and dance, which lasted past midnight. Though it storm, “it was nevertheless a pleasant day.”

For a while, Aurora has experienced “some of the most fearfully cold snow storms that it has been my fortune to witness. . . .” Two members of a party of four died of the cold while trying to cross the mountains from Mono. Another member of the party, [ ] Bedford, died last Monday, of injuries suffered from the cold. [ ] French is the only survivor. Yesterday, a party went in search of a man named Burfee, who had started from Big Meadows but was caught in the storm. No houses are on the road, and unless he had some matches with him, “the chances are against him.”

Politics in Aurora is “unusually quiet and news of the ‘outside world’ very scarce; because of the storm, the stage has not arrived yet.

P. S. Durfee has come in, “all safe.” The search party had found him in a cave 12 miles from Aurora.

Governor [James W.] Nye has bought the property of Col. [ ] Vibbard, which contains many of the best leads. In the spring, the correspondent has heard, Nye and Stark intend to put up a very large mill—the largest in Aurora.

“Mines of the Eastern Slope,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, January 11, 1862, 2:2:

The development and discovery of gold and silver ledges on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada “proceeded steadily and rapidly” during 1861.

...

The [territorial] census of last August counted 16,374 persons, from 12 districts; the enumeration was “hastily made” and therefore incomplete.

It’s said that 4,000 wagons are transporting freight in and to Washoe. Thirty million board feet of lumber was sold at Virginia City; the price ranged from \$30 to \$125 per thousand board feet. Forty lumber mills are running.

The main operations are in the central Washoe, Esmeralda, Humboldt River, and Colorado River regions.

In the Esmeralda district, a large town, named Aurora, “has sprung up.” It contains about 300 buildings. In October of 1861, its population was about 1,200, including 84 families.

Four quartz mills were operating then; they could work 40 or 50 tons a day, and nine others were expected to start up this winter. The charge for crushing is \$25 a ton. The ores yielded from \$50 to \$80 a ton—only in gold, for the silver was not saved. The charge for hauling the ore is said to be \$5 a ton.

The charge to freight milling equipment from Sacramento is 8¢ a pound. Laborers received \$4 a day, and mechanics received from \$5 to \$6 a day. The price of lumber wanted from \$75 to \$100 a thousand board feet. Flour costs from \$9 to \$12 a hundredweight. Wood hauled to the mills sold for \$5 a cord.

Rich ore bodies are found throughout the district, although none of them are as rich as the best ledges in Washoe. It has been said that from 20 to 50 tons of ore have been taken out of 23 ledges to be tested. The ore has yielded from \$40 to \$80 a ton, all of it in gold, for none of the silver was recovered. Many of the companies are unwilling to lose their silver and thus are holding back their ore. A silver-recovery process, however, will be installed in one mill.

About 2,000 companies have taken up and recorded 14,000 ledges, representing 250,000 feet. Work was underway on 40 tunnels—some of them driven several hundred feet—and from 80 to 100 shafts. On Last Chance Hill, the Aurora company is driving an 1,800-foot tunnel, which is intended to strike 250 ledges; the company has located 15 ‘blind ledges,’ claiming 2,200 [?] feet of each. Other companies are doing similar work. It’s reported that the Real del Monte company has contracted to sell 500 tons of ore to one mill, for \$20 [?] a ton; the only expense will be blasting it out. Several claims have been mentioned from time to time as proving especially rich; among them are the Wide West, Young Winnemucca, Silver Hill, Antelope, Utah, Esmeralda, Senator, Laplata [La Plata], and others.

At Coso, several arrastras were paying running and well.

“Mining Interests of California---1861,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, January 9, 1862, 1:1-5: [Columns 2-3:]

In the Kern River region, quartz mining seems to have been successful. It’s reported that at Dutch Flat, the leads were yielding from \$25 [?] to \$40 a ton. In June, 12 tons from the Mayflower lead, which were worked in Kennedy’s mill, yielded \$8,413. In August, the leads in the Petersburg district were paying, it’s said, from \$80 to \$135 [?] a ton. Four abandoned leads near Greenhorn Gulch were reopened, and mining was successfully resumed. Other mines in the area yielded the following results: 6 tons from Valgreen & Company’s lead \$810; 7 tons from the Mayflower lead

yielded \$366 [?]. Quartz taken from a depth of 144 feet was worth an estimated \$100 a ton. It was reported that the Hudnut vein was yielding \$80, and the Caldwell claim, it was said, yielded from \$30 to \$40. In November, the mills in the Petersburg district were reported to be receiving ore worth from \$50 to \$150, enough to last for 6 months. In the Keysville district, the mills were working ore less valuable than that in the Petersburg district, yet it was “very profitably worked.”

“From the Mono Mining Region,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, January 17, 1862 (correspondent, Aurora, December 27, to the *Mountain Messenger*, La Porte, Sierra Co.):

“This is a dull town, both socially and financially. Men talk and brag but little, for there is scarcely a dollar in circulation to boast of; yet all are sanguine in the belief that spring will bring more prosperous time. It is here as it was in Gold Hill and Virginia [City] a year ago. Quartz mills are erected on borrowed capital, and nearly all the bullion shipped for coinage remains on your side [of] the mountains. Barely enough comes back to pay the laborers. Change is so scarce that a double eagle will bring but \$19. These boarding houses have suspended ‘grub’ payment. Cause, empty pockets. Sales of mining ground are frequent, but bids are few, small and far between. There is a general depression in business of all kinds. In the saloons men gave with a melancholy wistfulness at the bar, but turn at last to the contemplation of their finances, and weaken. A man with capital might do well here at the present time, and would [would] numerous friends—provided he were liberal.”

[Article from Aurora, *Sacramento Union*, January 1:]

“Later from Mono and Esmeralda,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, February 1, 1862, 2:3:

Information as recently as January 17 has reached the Bulletin. The storms at Mono and Esmeralda have been “quite severe.” Before January 11, the rain fell steadily for 80 hours, on snow from 1 to 5 feet deep. The resulting snowmelt damaged buildings, roads, bridges, and other improvements.

At Monoville, the weight of the snow crushed several houses, among them Hale & Hugh’s saloon; [ ] Meyers, [ ] Sherman, and [ ] Louden were injured; Louden suffered severe injuries.

In Aurora, nearly all the stone and brick buildings were damaged; some of them were wrecked. The water had undermined the foundations of the brick buildings; washed out the mud laid in the walls of the many stone buildings, including miners’ cabins and dwellings; and dissolved the mud of the many adobe houses.

Some hay and barley were destroyed, too. Since feed has been scarce, the loss will be a great inconvenience.

The loss in Aurora will amount to between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

The storm interrupted the operations of the mills, but work soon resumed; considerable bullion is waiting shipment to San Francisco, until the roads can be repaired.

Much of the toll road leading down the ravine to Carson was washed away.

Marshe’s [Marsh’s] House, at the crossing of the East Walker River; O’Niel’s, downriver; and the tollhouse at Elbow Ranch were swept away.

[ ] Osborn, a constable at Aurora, drowned in the river.

Few of the many cattle near the river were lost.

It’s not known if any of the mills, below Elbow Ranch, were damaged. Dervant’s [Durant’s] mill and Wilburn’s arrastras, driven by water, 30 miles north of Aurora, had been doing well before the storm. They had been working ore from nearby ledges.

Several hundred tons of ore from the *Pride of Utah* had yielded \$72 a ton. An additional 3 tons yielded 175 ounces, worth \$12.17 an ounce.

The construction of the mill at Aurora is going ahead vigorously. Three mills will start running soon, and four other mills will start up in a few weeks.

Captain [ ] Hawkins has received a contract to crush 600 tons from the *Juniatta* [Juniata].

At the Antelope ledge, 250 tons taken from the west side of its shaft yielded \$150 a ton.

The Silver Hill and St. Louis have sold 100 tons of their outcroppings, for \$80 a ton.

Captain [ ] Peck has bought 1,000 tons of ore from the *Real Del Monte*; 56 or 60 tons of selected ore will pay \$1,000 a ton, and 400 tons will yield from \$100 to \$150. The rest of the ore is poorer, but it's rich enough to pay for milling.

M., "Letter from San Bernardino," *San Francisco Evening Bulletin*, February 10, 1862, 1:4 (San Bernardino, January 29, 1862:)

...

#### The Local Newspaper Defunct.

"The *Patriot* has fizzled. . . ." [Edwin A.] Sherman, the former editor and part owner of the press, has boxed it up and will move it to some place where he will be more appreciated. [U. B.] Frenner, who has been editing the paper since Sherman went to San Francisco, is trying to organize a prospecting expedition to the Colorado River. ". . . We are sorry to lose the paper, as it had become, under Mr. Frenner's management, quite a good country paper, but we would rather have none than have Sherman, who every one thinks a little flighty, to conduct it."

...

C. H. D., "From the Esmeralda Mining Region," *San Francisco Evening Bulletin*, February 12, 1861 (Aurora, Mono County, January 30, 1862):

Since the correspondent's last letter to the *Bulletin*, everyone in Aurora has suffered considerably by the storm. The storm began on the morning of January 9. It blew almost as much as a gale; the snowdrifts reached as high as 15 or 20 feet.

In many places at Esmeralda camp, as much as 30 feet of snow piled up in 48 hours.

The storm reached its peak on January 12. By then, all the roads were blocked. Teams had to stop wherever the storm overtook them, on January 14, 15, and 16. After the snow stopped, "buckets" of rain fell. The torrent instantly melted the snow; Pine and Esmeralda streets became rivers. Meanwhile, the storekeepers built bulkheads to keep the water out of their businesses, but most of them failed. Fine streams ran through the stores of Calder & Co., J. Ross, and several others.

The damage was far greater in Willow Gulch, where at least 35 substantial adobes stood. The beating rain soon melted away the walls of many adobe houses, where many families lived. No more than 8 or 9 of them remain.

In Esmeralda Gulch, several houses crashed down; the occupants had little time to escape.

The stone buildings suffered worse damage than the adobes. J. Summers's building, on Pine Street, occupied as a dwelling, "came down with an awful noise." The rubble covered up all the family's trunks and much of its furniture. [ ] Clark's stone building and others fell. Streams running down the hillside flooded all the houses on the north side of Pine Street. The stream cut ditches through the houses and stores. At the end of the street, water also left gullies from 10 to 12 feet deep; now, the street is nearly impassable for teams.

The mills on Mill Creek suffered comparatively little. The Napa mill had a narrow escape. Hearing that the mills were in danger, 18 or 20 residents carrying shovels soon made an outlet for the waters of the swollen creek. At the Taylor & Co. mill, a large gang dug ditches nearly all night to keep out the waters. Johnson & Co. put 15 men to work at the Union mill to keep out the water; they "had a narrow escape." Their buildings are made of stone, "and it required all their tact and energy to save the mill."

Boda Creek swelled into a river. The [quartz] road of the Dow & Co. mill was washed away. Heath, Brodie & Story's mill suffered only a little.

Two men, Delos Osborn and [ ] Campton, drowned at Elbow Ranch, on the Walker River, 15 miles from Aurora. While they and a man they called Hank were sitting in the house, on the riverbank, a sudden rise of the river carried away the house and set it down on the opposite bank. It seems that the three men then made a ranch from the wreckage of the house and tried to cross. But the raft overturned. Only Hank escaped. The bodies of Osborn and Campton were found and brought to Aurora for burial. Since Osborn was a Mason, the members of the lodge buried.

Most of the ranches along the Walker River were destroyed. Marsh's ranch was washed away; the house floated about 8 miles downriver. The flood washed away all the hay that had been stacked up in the river bottom.

The weather has since cleared up. The mills have resumed work. The Union has crushed about 30 tons of ore from the Juniata, with good results. The Union also has crushed some ore from the Pride of Utah. The gold in the batteries and arastras shows up well, but no cleanup has been made.

The county treasurer, [...] Frost, was tried on two counts of misdemeanors. The grand jury had handed down five bills of indictment. But the district attorney, [ ] Phelps, decided to drop three of the charges: buying county warrants, failing to make the [report] for December, and defaulting on \$1,307.68 of county funds. Frost was then tried for buying scrip or county warrants and for receiving 5% of the county taxes and appropriating the money for his own use. After 3 weeks, the Court of Sessions adjourned, on Friday, January 24.

[ ] Warfield has just arrived from the salt fields. About 20 miles from Aurora, he said, he has piled up 200 tons of pure salt. His feet had frozen badly on his return trip.

Since the weather has cleared up, the residents are expecting an express "hourly." The last news available was about the meeting of the [territorial] legislature. The most recent date is January 9.

P. S. William M. McCurdy left Mono on December 28. He was seen at Mackey, 15 miles from Aurora, on December 29. He has not been heard from since then; he is undoubtedly lost, probably frozen to death.

"Damage by the Flood in Tulare Valley," San Francisco Evening Bulletin, February 19, 1862, 2:2:

Senator [ ] Merritt, of Mariposa and Tulare, brought news from Reinstein, of Reinstein & Hockel [Hocket], merchants of Visalia. According to Reinstein, who left Visalia on Wednesday, February 12, the flood damage in the Tulare Valley has been exaggerated. The water in the town and valley was from 15 inches to 3 feet deep. All of the adobe houses in town—about 30 of them—fell. No brick house was seriously damaged. Little livestock was lost. Reinstein estimated the maximum loss of houses, stock, and fence at \$50,000.

“The Flood in the Southeastern Counties,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, February 13, 1862, 1:4 (*Mariposa Gazette*, February 4):

A. G. Barrett arrived in Princeton last Wednesday, partly by land but mostly by water. According to him, the flood water was at least 4 feet deep on Main Street, in Visalia; horses had to swim across the street. [More to come.]

“From the Esmeralda Mining Country,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, March 23, 1862, 2:3 (*Silver Age*, Carson City, N. T., February 16):

[...] Hunt and [ ] Foster arrived from Esmeralda yesterday, bringing three teams. They will leave Carson City today, loaded with flour. The roads are in very tolerable condition and are being rapidly improved.

Dr. Gibbons’s, Taylor & Company’s, Brodie & Story’s, Dow & Butler’s, the Union, the Napa, and Green’s mills are in full operation.

Green’s mill has recently started up; it uses the Clayton process to recover silver. The mill first crushed boulders from the Del Monte claim; the cleanup yielded \$85 in specie and \$15 in gold.

Clayton’s new 12-stamp mill has just begun running; it, too, is equipped with the Clayton process.

The Taylor & Company mill worked ore from the Aetna; it contained mostly silver. The cleanup yielded \$58 a ton. The tailings were saved for reworking.

The Mountain Flower, a lode of gold-bearing ore, was discovered recently.

The weather is fine, and business is improving. The residents are delighted with their prospects.

“By Magnetic Telegraph[:] Despatch to the Bulletin[:] General Shooting Match on Sacramento Levee—One Man Killed: others Wounded,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, March 23, 1862, 3:5 (Sacramento, March 22, 2 p.m.):

A “desperate shooting affray” has just taken place between two parties of steamboat runners on the Sacramento levee. Ned Lloyd, *alias* “Limerick,” George Lloyd, and Patsey Callahan work for the opposition line, and Joe McGee, formerly of Marysville, a man named Smith, and Tom Coleman work for the combination.

It’s reported that Ned Lloyd had provoked the fight by slapping Coleman in the face and then drawing his revolver. Coleman immediately drew his pistol and shot Lloyd in the abdomen. By then, the shooting became general; a dozen or more shots were fired. Shot four or five times, Ned Lloyd died at once. George Lloyd was shot in the left shoulder. All the parties have been arrested.

“To-day’s Legislative Summary,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, March 24, 1862, 2:1:

[Excerpt:]

The Committee on Counties and County Boundaries, in the state senate, reported unfavorably on bills creating Coso and Chico counties.

C. H. D., "Matters at Esmeralda," San Francisco Evening Bulletin, March 28, 1862, p. 1 (Aurora, Mono County, March 15, 1862):

Aurora has done as well as the freezing weather permitted. Some shafts are being sunk, and some tunnels are being driven. The "merry ring of the pick and shovel is being heard through all our hill[s]. . . ."

The coldest day was about March 1, when it was 14 degrees below zero at about 7 a.m.

The cold weather, however, has produced some benefits.

When the storms of January ended, not a sack of flour could be found in town. But since the cold had frozen the swollen rivers, muddy roads, and morasses, merchants could easily obtain flour and from Carson City. This had been the condition throughout the winter, until the arrival of the storms. But severity of the weather seems to have been "unparalleled" throughout the State."

Flour costs \$24 per cwt., coffee 75¢ a pound, sugar 45¢ a pound, and bacon 50¢ a pound. About 200 tons of freight for Aurora has been stopped in the mountains; as soon as the roads open, the prices will fall.

A silver-recovery process, called Clayton's, has been in use for about 3 weeks, processing ore from the Esmeralda lode. The process has proved "eminently successful." At the first cleanup, the ore yielded \$280. But Clayton remained unsatisfied, reworked the tailings, and increased the yield to \$310.

The introduction of the silver-recovery process has greatly changed the plans for amalgamation in other mills. The correspondent has heard that the Union and other mills have ordered a silver-recovery process. [...] Flemming, of Taylor & Company's mill, said that the last crushing from the Aetna lode, the ore yielded \$52.37 a ton. Under [ ] the direction of Van Wyck, the Aetna has been penetrated more than any other mine in the district. The deeper the company has gone, the richer and larger the lode has become. A 100-foot shaft has been sunk.

On other lodes, shafts have been sunk to 80 feet.

The Taylor mill is working 100 tons from the Juniata lode.

Johnson & Co., the owner of the Union mill, has bought the Warrington mine. A recent crushing yielded \$35 a ton.

Using the silver-recovery process, Clayton is working ore from the Antelope, one of the best lodes. Clayton is also using a new quartz-crushing apparatus devised by P. P. Moses, the owner of its patent.

Residents seem satisfied with the Esmeralda district. The correspondent knows of only two residents of Aurora who have left for the Nez Perce and Cariboo mines. A specimen of ore from the Antelope is on display at the Wells, Fargo & Co., office. [ ] Allen had taken out the ore. The specimen is as rich as the ore from the "far-famed" Allison lode, in Grass Valley.

Last Sunday, [ ] Cheek shot J. [Joe] Melvin, just as the express arrived from Carson City; the shooting endangered many residents. The shooting resulted from a domestic dispute. Cheek had filed a paper in court, alleging that Melvin and his wife "were too intimate." Upon examination, Cheek was released on \$500 in bail.

The other day, D. B. Blainy's wife gave birth to a son—the first birth in Aurora. ". . . The flag was hoisted and other more noisy demonstrations were indulged in . . ."

Amusements are scarce. If it were not for the amateur band, the Athenaeum Hall probably would "exhibit the same signs of desolation as the town houses of Mono do at present. . . ."

Recently, "the boys," aided by the church choir, gave the Reverend [Charles] Yager a benefit to assist the church.

". . . And last night they again enlivened the town by another performance, in which good humor made up for the lack of dramatic talent.

When news from the battlefield reached Aurora, the fife and drum were played, those who had flags hoisted them, and "let their stripes and stars feel the vigor of an aurora gale," which was

blowing. “. . . Our citizens were hugely patriotic on the occasion, and their ardor unquenchable to carry on the way to a successful termination.”

“Life at Esmeralda,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, April 2, 1862, 2:1 (correspondent, Aurora, March 10, to Tuolumne Courier):

On March 9, a married man named [ ] Cheeks shot and wounded Joe Melvin. The two had quarreled that morning, when Cheek had tried to shoot Melvin, but his wife “heroically threw her self between them and dared her husband to fire. . . .” Later in the day, Cheeks armed himself with a dragoon six-shooter and fired twice at Melvin on the street. The shots hit Melvin in his left hip, but the wounds were not serious. Cheeks was arrested and became the first occupant of the newly built jail.

G. H. M., [George H. Munroe], “The Coso, Mono and Esmeralda Mines,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, April 2, 1862, p. 2:

The Owens River rises in the Sierra Nevada, runs east and southerly for 60 miles, through a fertile valley, and empties into Owens Lake. The lake is 25 miles long, north and south, and 12 miles wide. It is about 75 miles south of Aurora.

The valley is about 8 miles wide; the river runs through the center of it.

The land is “exceedingly rich.” An abundance of beautiful feed grass grows 4 or 5 feet high. The climate is good; no snow ever lies in the valley.

During late February, from 30 to 40 settlers were living along the river; most of them were on Pine Creek, a heavily timbered area about 30 miles north of the lake.

About 1,500 head of cattle, belonging to [Samuel A.] Bishop, of Tejon; [ ] McGee, of Tulare; and Esmeralda teamsters, were ranging on the river from Owens Lake to Pine Creek. The valley contained from 8 to 10 houses, buildings for the Union Gold and Silver Mining Company and other camps in the hills near the river, and 1 store, kept by [ ] Stout.

[More to come.]

The Coso mines begin at the south end of Owens Lake; the district is 30 miles square. It contains many rich gold and silver veins.

Among the largest and richest leads are the Pioneer and Mammoth lodes, which belong to the Coso Silver Mining Company, of San Francisco. The company has a 125-foot tunnel on the Pioneer lead. The company has struck the vein 300 feet below the outcroppings and has taken out between 100 and 200 tons of selected ore, assaying thousands of dollars a ton. Also, the company has a large steam-powered mill at the site, ready for construction.

Six miles away, at Willow Springs, Hitchens & Munroe has just completed the first steam-powered quartz mill in the district. The firm crushes its own ore, from the Winoshick lead, just for the gold. From a few tons of selected ore, the company has taken out \$400 a ton.

In the Josephine lead, 2½ miles from Hitchens & Munroe, Sumner & Co. has been operating two horse-powered arastras all winter. The firm has taken out much of the finest gold, which sells for from \$16.50 to \$17 an ounce.

J. W. Wadleigh, of San Francisco, has sent a mill to be built on a lead of which he is a part owner.

The Union company, of San Francisco, has sent a large steam-powered quartz mill that will be built at its works. The company owns several rich claims, of which the Eclipse is the richest.

The other rich lodes at Coso include the Great Eastern, Tennessee, New England, Apollo, and Rough-and-Ready, all of which will be worked this summer. By July 1, then, five steam-powered quartz mills will be running.

Also, the Argus company, in the Argus district, which adjoins Coso, has sent a mill, which will soon arrive.

The best route to reach Coso passes through Los Angeles; this is the route for the mills. Coso is 189 miles from Los Angeles. The road is level all the way, except for the section over San Fernando Hill. The road could have been traveled all winter, as far as Esmeralda. From the north, the road follows the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada and comes out on the Tahatchape road, in the Mohave Desert. So far, no houses stand for 95 miles, but public houses soon will be built for the entire distance.

Esmeralda is 120 miles past Coso. That section passes Owens Lake and runs along the Owens River.

From San Francisco, travelers can take a steamer to Los Angeles; the cabin fare is \$10. From Los Angeles, travelers can go by horse or mule to the hotel at Mission San Fernando, 25 miles away; then to Clayton's hotel, at the head of San Francisquito Cañon, 33 miles; to Willow Springs, on the Tahatchape road, 24 miles; to Red Rock Cañon, 40 miles; to Walker's Pass, 20 miles; and to the hotel at Little Lake, 30 miles.

At Little Lake, the route branches off the main road, to Willow Springs, the center of the Coso district, 20 miles away.

From Little Lake, the main road continues. It reaches Owens Lake, where a house stands, 30 miles from Little Lake; McGee's house, on the river, 32 miles away; Stout's store on Pine Creek, 22 miles away; and thence to Esmeralda, about 65 miles away.

Plenty of teams are available at Los Angeles. Freighting to Coso costs from 5 to 6¢ a pound; the rate to Esmeralda is 9¢ a pound.

"From the Eastern Slope," San Francisco Evening Bulletin, April 25, 1862, 1:3-4 (*Territorial Enterprise*, Virginia City, and *Silver Age*, Carson City):

"Items from Esmeralda." (*Silver Age*.)

It appears that after Copeland and his partner discovered the fabulous richness of their claims, Gephart and several others decided to jump the claims. Gephart walked up to the shaft, as if intending to cast a stone upon the head of Copeland's partner, who was at work, upon which Copeland shot Gephart. On Monday, Gephart was not expected to live through the day. Copeland remains in jail, refusing to post bail.

Six mills are running day and night. The Clayton is running day and night, 7 days a week. Like other mills in the territory, they keep the product of bullion secret.

The Esmeralda market is stocked with enough flour and other provisions to meet all demands.

At its last trip, Brown & Company's stage [from Aurora] brought in four passengers, including one woman. This morning, he takes five passengers [to Aurora]. The road are good and travel is brisk.

"From the Eastern Slope," San Francisco Evening Bulletin, April 30, 1862, 3:5-6 (*Silver Age*, Carson City, and *Territorial Enterprise*, Virginia City, N. T.):

"From Esmeralda," *Silver Age*, cols. 5-6:

According to [ ] Bagley, of Brown & Company's stage, which left Aurora on April 22, the soldiers and volunteers under Captain [ ] Kellogg arrived there on April 20. They brought as many head of cattle as they could find to the Adobe Meadows. Van Sickle, Van Fleet, and Klauber each have lost about one-third of their stock. It's understood that Lieutenant [Herman] Noble and his company will remain at Aurora until further orders. They probably will be reinforced and return "to the scene of their former disaster." The reported loss of nine men is confirmed.

In Aurora, five mills are running successfully. Green's mill is working ore from the Aetna. Clayton started his mill on April 21; his silver-recovery process is attached. The Union and Bodie Creek mills are processing ore for prospectors.

Considerable bullion is being taken out.

Few shares of mining stock have sold. Stockholders are preparing to more fully test their property.

"The streets of Aurora are enlivened by the appearance of many strangers, and business is generally improving. The stock of provisions is moderate but large enough to remove any fears of shortages. The "almost daily arrival of pack trains precludes the possibility of suffering."

The citizens expect the establishment of a newspaper soon. The press and materials are on the road from Visalia.

"Letter from Esmeralda," San Francisco Evening Bulletin, May 6, 1862, 2:4 (Aurora, Mono County, April 28, 1862):

The end of the "wretched and disgraceful" warfare against the Indians has left 9 whites dead, the Indians "emboldened," and all communications with the Tulare country cut off just when they're most needed.

Four thousand or 5,000 head of livestock has been moved out of the Owens Valley; an estimated 1/5 of the stock has been lost.

Lieutenant [Herman] Nobles [Noble] is camped near Aurora. Colonel [George] Evans has returned with his force to Los Angeles. The citizen-soldiers have disbanded. And the Indians have been left with their lands and houses, "which never should have been invaded. But it would have been too much for a heroic people to allow two seasons to pass in succession without having a scrimmage with these miserable Diggers, and showing them a specimen of the white man's prowess. . . ." Since the troops withdrew, it's probable that the Indians have left their "mountain fastnesses" and returned to their homes, "pretty badly scared, but not much hurt." It's hoped that this "pitiful business" will end."

#### **A Hard Winter and High Prices.**

"The winter has been fearful, and though Aurora has enjoyed nearly a month of warm weather, the snow on the hills remains deep. Not even the Indians can remember such a severe winter.

But spring has arrived early; the growth of grass is especially early. This is good for livestock, for the hay is all gone and little barley is available.

Provisions, too, are scarce. No butter, sugar, rice, coffee, syrup, pork, or bacon is available. Only the coarser staples, such as flour, beans, and beef, are for sale. Barley is selling for 16¢ a pound. The price of flour, which is exhausted, has risen to 26¢ a pound. Fresh beef, the only food that sells for a reasonable price, costs from 15¢ to 18¢ a pound.

Wood sells for \$5 a cord, and lumber sells for \$120 a thousand board feet.

The population has grown little since last fall, and few people are arriving. Business, including mining, is dull. The supply of money "is out of the question."

#### **The Mills and the Mines.**

Only four mills are operating, of which only one or two “are giving satisfaction.” The complaint is that they don’t save the gold and silver. The mill operators deny that the problem is in the ore. The ore certainly is not yielding as expected. Large lots from the best leads have yielded only \$16 or \$18 a ton. The yield from a lot taken from the Pride of Utah, considered one of the best ledges, ranged from only \$7 to \$62; it averaged hardly \$30. Since such returns barely cover expenses, the mine owners refuse to ship any more ore until other mills are built or the present ones made more efficient. Clayton’s is the only mill that processes the ore to recover silver; since silver is the main metal in many ledges, its loss may account for the low average yields. Since much of the ore is rich with free, visible gold, the miners expect the ore to yield heavily when it’s milled. Within the past few days, the residents have heard of the discoveries of rich leads, only to be disappointed by the poor yields. Also, the failure to find rich ore in the original Esmeralda ledge has tended to depress the sales of unprospected claims.

#### **Miscellaneous Items.**

Gephart, who was shot by Copeland last week, died today. Judge [ ] Moutrie has allowed Copeland to post bail; Copeland is now free. Though public opinion is divided, many persons believe that the shooting was unjustified.

Aurora has not grown much since last fall, and business is “extremely dull.” Labor is in little demand, and, because of the scarcity of money, those who work find it difficult to get paid. Those who plan to move from California should wait until additional mills are built or until other signs of prosperity appear.

Monoville is now active. The gulch diggings are good, and water is abundant. The extent of the mines is limited, and the prices of good claims are high.

Because of the high cost of transportation, few passengers or goods are arriving. Freight from Placerville costs 18¢ a pound, and even at that rate, animals are difficult to find.

D. S. L., “From the Esmeralda Region,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, May 21, 1862, 3:6 (Aurora, Mono County, May 14, 1862):

After a hard winter, a “bright and pleasant spring” has arrived. Residents “wear a more cheerful aspect.”

The scarcity of money and provisions, which are very expensive, has tended to “retard work.”

#### **Mining Operations and Prospects.**

Mining has rapidly resumed. Notices of contracts to let have been posted throughout town.

A few days ago, the Aetna company struck an “immense rich streak” of decomposed quartz at the bottom of its main shaft, about 180 feet deep. Work has been suspended for a few days, to allow the erection of machinery.

Superintended by J. J. Kyle, the Discovery Esmeralda Company has resumed removing ore.

The first North Extension of the Esmeralda is installing a track in its tunnel, in preparation to run through its ledge. Its operations are looked at anxiously, for it was the second company to begin and continue large-scale work. Kyle & Co., contractors, had started driving the tunnel in November of 1860; during the next 10 months, he drove the tunnel 500 feet, through granite, quartz, and other solid rock. He suspended work in October of 1861, when the tunnel struck the outer casing of the ledge. Afterward, the company neglected to continue work until now.

Recently, the Bright Star cleaned up as much as \$110 a ton at the Clayton mill. The Flyaway, a minor claim, cleaned up \$40 a ton at the Napa mill last week. These yields included only free gold, not silver or “more subtle portions of the gold.”

. . . Whereas the mine owners require the best machinery for milling, “perfect in all its details, . . . we are inflicted with the poorest. . . .” It seems as if the mill owners in Esmeralda wish to

experiment instead of using the approved methods, which are successfully at Virginia [City], Gold Hill, and Silver City. The poor milling equipment has led to partial—in one case complete—failure. An experiment in the silver-recovery process, under [ ] Eaton, of San Francisco, was carried out last week in the Pioneer mill.

[More to come: Indians.]

#### **Odds and Ends.**

“The long-expected and anxiously looked-for printing press has arrived. Speculation is rife as to what will be the political or constitutional sentiments of the expected journal. Some say that it will be neutral on the Union question. If so, the owners had better burn their type, and save the waste of good paper, as neutrality on that subject will not go down in this camp.”

. . .

Except for a social hop now and then, Aurora had no amusements during the winter. The correspondent has heard some talk of building an assembly hall, for balls and plays, this summer. About 30 women live in town, and many others are planning to arrive this summer. Since the arrival of children was probable, a committee was appointed at the May Day party to find a site and build a schoolhouse. Subscriptions already have been circulated; the bachelors have been readily generous.

The town has only one complaint: “our wretched postal and express facilities—without any regular mail, and only a weekly express, and that at an exorbitant tariff. . . .”

B. A. L., From the Esmeralda Mining Region,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, May 29, 1862, 3:4 (Aurora, Mono County, May 23, 1862):

#### **Aspect of Aurora.**

The correspondent left San Francisco a month ago.

Aurora stands at the junction of Esmeralda and Willow Spring gulches. It is neatly laid out; the streets are usually 60 feet wide and are at right angles with each other. A few brick and stone buildings stand, but most of them are made of wood. [More to come.]

The town has two banks, one kept by Harris & Co., and the other by Howard & Sanchez.

#### **Lack of Provisions.**

Several stores are supposed to furnish “the weary miners” with provisions, but so far, they have failed to do so. The supplies of provisions won’t last even 10 days. If the merchants order supplies, they say, the approaching warm weather might lead to a surplus, and they would lose money. The correspondent has heard, however, that the Owens River Valley contains abundant supplies, which are waiting for a military escort to bring them to Aurora.

Not even a pound of flour is for sale. Many residents in the area are living on only two meals a day, without even any bread. Coffee is scarce, but a pound or two can be bought for 50¢ a pound. Three pounds of beans sell for \$1. The price of beans is reasonable: 15¢ a pound.

#### **Mining Matters.**

The recorder reports that more than 3,000 ledges have been recorded.

#### **The Esmeralda Mine.**

The Esmeralda lode was one of the first located and is one of the leading ledges in the district. A tunnel taps the ledge, about 60 feet below the surface. It also has a 30-foot [?] shaft, which is supposed to connect with the tunnel. Recently, some of the ore from this shaft, worked by the Veatch & Clayton process, yielded about \$100 a ton. The ledge is very large and prospects from 10 to 30 feet above the surface.

The company has recently let contracts to remove the ore. Three contracts allow the contractors, within certain limits, to take out 3,000 tons of selected ore, for which they will pay

the Esmeralda company \$40 a ton. Any surplus ore that's worth more than \$100 a ton will be divided between the Esmeralda company and the contractor. The fourth contract covers the shaft. The contractor will pay \$50 a ton for selected and milled ore, but any surplus worth more than \$100 a ton shall not be divided with the company. Most of the contractors are at work.

#### The Antelope.

This claim is excellent. Three hundred tons of ore are piled up at the mine. Some estimate the value at \$200 a ton, though the correspondent thinks that value is too high. The shaft from which the ore was taken is about 50 feet deep. The company has let a contract to sink an additional 100 feet; the contractors will be paid from the proceeds of the milling. Since the company considers the mills "imperfect," none of the ore has been worked. The shares of the company are expensive.

#### The Wide West.

This claim has a 50-foot and a 75-foot shaft. The correspondent believes that 50 tons of ore have been crushed; the ore yields from \$40 to \$50 a ton. "Since contracts are all the rage here," the company has let a contract to take out 1,000 tons of ore. The contractors will give the company \$6 a ton for all ore yielding up to \$36 a ton, half the amount for all ore yielding between \$36 and \$44 a ton, and all the amount for ore worth more than \$44. The ore is being taken out from both shafts. The contractors "are quite jubilant over their bargain . . ." The company has not yet milled any of its ore.

#### The Utah.

The ore contains mostly silver. Still, the owners have taken out some of the ore and extracted its gold. The ore yielded only about \$20 a ton. The company has contracted with Clayton & Co. to work a load of ore to extract its silver. The ledge is full and shows much metal. The correspondent believes that the company is down about 40 feet.

#### The Aetna.

The Aetna has been worked extensively for gold, but none of the ore has been milled for its silver. The company is down 140 feet; it's erecting a whim to raise the ore. The ores have yielded from \$24 to \$52 a ton in gold.

#### Other leads and claims.

The other prominent leads are the St. Louis, Real del Monte, Winnemucca, Empire, Garibaldi, Lord Byron, Live Yankee, Emperor, North Esmeralda, Fly Away, Locomotion, and hundreds of others. The ore from many of those claims has been worked for gold, yielding from \$25 to \$40 a ton.

Only one mill is adapted to work the type of ores in the district. This is the Belden mill, to which the Veatch & Clayton process is attached.

The gold is poor, and the silver is held in sulfides, closely combined with the silica. Mills, then, cannot save the metal unless they break up the combined silica and sulfides. That's the reason for using a silver-recovery process. ". . . It is all folly for parties to erect mills here on any other principle, and I believe those interested are beginning to so think. The claimants have no confidence in the capacity of the mills to save the metal, and do in consequence exert themselves in extracting as much ore as they otherwise would do. . . ." The correspondent has heard that the above-mentioned parties intend to use only the silver-recovery process.

"The East Walker Mines," San Francisco Evening Bulletin, May 30, 1862, 3:4 (Sierra [sic] [Silver] Age, Carson City, May 24):

Little has been written about the mines on the east Walker River; they are 30 miles from Aurora and 60 miles from Carson City. From Carson City, three routes lead to the mines.

The shortest route, 60 miles from Carson City, goes by way of a trail that crosses the Carson River, at Cook's ranch, 5 miles from town, then to the Hot Springs; Wheeler's ranch, 4 miles above the junction of the East and West Walker rivers; and finally 15 miles to the mines.

Two good wagon roads lead there, 75 miles from Carson City; first-rate feed and water are abundant. One route goes through Fort Churchill, Mason's, and Wheeler's. The other route follows the Esmeralda road to Wright's bridge and then down the river 15 miles to Smith's ranch, from where the mines are 20 miles to the east. The distances are about the same.

Because of the lack of mills, little mining has been carried out so far. The district has only about 40 miners, though it contains about 75 or 100 ledges; nearly every ledge contains much free gold. In fact, the miners have no district in silver. The ledges are from 1 to 4 feet wide, show gold from the outcroppings down, and grow richer with depth. The deepest shaft is only 40 feet. The ledges claimed extend 6 or 7 miles along the river and 3 miles away from it; many good millsites, safe from floods, can be found in that area. Pine and timber for firewood are abundant within 4 miles; timber for all purposes can be found within 12 miles.

"From the Coso Mining District," San Francisco Evening Bulletin, June 12, 1862, 2:3:

Dr. [J. B.] Warfield and J. W. Wadleigh arrived in San Francisco last evening from Coso, *via* Visalia and Stockton. They had left the Coso district on June 4. They reported that the Indians were quiet and that miners were arriving rapidly. They met several miners at Walker's Pass and saw the 12-stamp mill belonging to the Union company, of the Russ district.

Hitchens and Monroe's [Munroe's] mill at Willow Springs is running; their lead is proving to be very rich.

Wadleigh's mill is at the Josephine ledge. J. W. Sumner has been working the ledge with arastras very successfully.

The road from Los Angeles, they reported, is the best route over which to haul heavy machinery; the road has no mountains or river to cross, and grass and water are abundant all the way.

Workers are in great demand in and around Granite Springs, where Sumner has been at work. Warfield and Wadleigh have bought Sumner's interest in the Josephine lead and continue to use arastras until Wadleigh's mill is completed.

"Fatal Shooting Affair at Mono," San Francisco Evening Bulletin, August 11, 1862, 2:3 (correspondent, Mono, to Sonora [*American*] *Flag*):

On Wednesday evening, July 23, Louis Sammon and Bartholomew Lynch got into "a serious affray" at Mono. Each man shot twice. Lynch apparently missed. One of Sammon's shots hit Lynch in his left breast and came out through his back; the other shot entered his left arm, below the shoulder, broke the arm, and lodged in the body. Lynch survived for about 2 hours, never speaking.

It's said that Lynch was from New York City and has a brother in Plumas County, who works for the *Standard*. He was about 35. Sammon is from Germany and once lived at Big Oak Flat. Sammons was arrested on a charge of manslaughter and posted \$1,000 in bail.

"Mysterious Murder in Mono County," San Francisco Evening Bulletin, August 13, 1862, 2:4:

On July 24, the body of a man was found in the East Walker River. Several heavy stones had been tied up in a coat and blanket and attached to the body. The head had a bullet wound. It has been learned that the man was W. T. Smith, formerly of Stockton. No clue to the murderers has been obtained.

Cosoite, Progress of the Coso Mining Region," San Francisco Evening Bulletin, August 14, 1862, 3:4 (Coso, August 6, 1862):

So much has been said of Washoe that little has been said about Coso.

Coso lies south of Esmeralda and 90 miles due east of Visalia, in Tulare County.

The first and largest incorporated company in the Coso district. The company owns 7 leads, most of them silver. Six of them are on Silver Mountain, within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of each other. The leads are from 2 to 5 feet thick.

A party of 13 practical miners, most of them from Butte County, discovered the leads. After locating their claims, they went San Francisco and organized the company; the company has a capital of \$2,000,000; seven feet make up a share, with a par value of \$600.

Selected specimens of ore assayed from \$1,000 to \$2,000 a ton.

After allowing the mines to remain undeveloped for a long time, the company has driven a tunnel and sunk a shaft on each lead and has taken out from 200 to 300 tons of quartz, ready for milling. The company also has contracted with parties in San Francisco to build a 24-stamp mill, which will contain the latest improvements to recover silver from the ore. The mill is now on the road and will be completed by the end of November. The correspondent has heard that the mill and works will be finished without assessing the stock; the contractors will be paid as "the money comes out of the ore." This practice will eliminate the 'freezing-out' game.

The Ida is the next important mill. It stands along the Owens River, near the lake. Its owner is John H. Bosworth, "an old Front street merchant" and "a regular go-ahead fellow." The Ida contains 12 stamps and pans to recover silver. Bosworth owns the entire plant. He has contracted with the Ida company to work its ore. He expects to start up the mill by October.

Next is the [Union] Gold and Silver Mining Company's mill, on Owens River, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of the Ida. The mill would have started up by now but troubles with the Indians last spring forced the owners, their workers, teams, and machinery to camp at Walker's Pass for 2 months, waiting for the arrival of soldiers, under Colonel [George] Evans, to escort them. The mill contains 8 stamps and amalgamators to recover both gold and silver. The plant will start running in a few days, working ore from the Eclipse lead, which the company owns.

J. W. Wadleigh and [L. F.] Ireland, of San Francisco, own the next mill. It is named the Lotta, after "a handsome young lady of San Francisco." It stands at Mineral Springs,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Willow Springs and 9 miles from the Coso Silver Mining Company's works. The mill contains 8 stamps and has five 10-foot arastras. It will start up within 20 days. The mill will crush ore from the Empire, Eureka, and Josephine leads, of which Wadleigh is the main owner and the head of the company. The leads are rich in gold.

The Pioneer mill stands 5 miles east of the Coso company's works. The firm of Hitchens & Munroe, the owners, brought the first machinery to the district and built the first road. Though the mill has only a capacity of 6 tons, it was costly to complete. First, the firm had to build more than 30 miles of road to transport the machinery to Willow Springs. The company had all of it on the site by last December 25. By the middle of March [1862], the mill was running. The mill operated only a few days, when the Indians from Owens River attacked. Saving only their horses and mules, the workers abandoned the plant for 2 months. After Colonel [George] Evans's company of cavalry began protecting the workers, they returned. The Indians had stolen or

destroyed everything except the mill, which they were apparently afraid of. They cut the leather of the blacksmith's bellows; cut the grindstone in two with a sharp ax; cut up four sets of double harness; shot arrows into and broke six lanterns and a mirror; tipped over a barrel of machine oil and a flask of mercury; scattered two chests of tea on the ground; threw boxes of yeast powders at a stone quarry, opposite the house; [tore the roofs off two belonging to the mill]; took all the tools, cooking utensils, and provisions; and carried off a large canvas covering, covering 1,500 yards, for use as the roof of the mill. It is said that all of the Indian men on Owens River are wearing white canvas uniforms. Hutchinson [Hitchens] and Munroe were "quite pleased" to find their mill safe.

The same Indians also raided the premises of the Coso company and stole about \$500 worth of tools and provisions.

They visited Sumner's house and stole about 40 chickens.

Nobody else at Coso suffered any damage. Since peace has been made with them and since Evans has 200 cavalymen station in their midst, on Owens River, the workers are building roads, tunnels, shafts, and other improvements.

If any many "capitalists or speculators" regret not having put money into the Ophir, Gould & Curry, or Wide West, they should invest in the Coso mines. After all, a good road runs to Los Angeles, 190 miles away. The road has no mountains or rivers to cross; the route is pleasant all winter and is free of snow and mud.

Only 90 miles due west, across the mountains, is Visalia, "the garden spot of California" and the seat of Tulare County. They sell barley for 75¢ a hundredweight and wheat for between 1½¢ and 2¢ a pound. Flour costs \$7 a barrel. The farmers "almost give away" their fruit and potatoes. Bacon costs 12½¢ a pound. Home-manufactured syrup sells for \$1 a gallon. Butter, cheese, and honey are cheaper than in San Francisco. The choicest tobacco, which is abundant, costs \$1 a pound. Wine, made by the Persian family, sells for \$1.50 a gallon.

Yet the residents don't have the initiative or the money to build a road across the mountains; only a trail passes through the "beautiful country," which is well watered and timbered and covered with excellent grass.

Some "city-builders" have laid out a town at the foot of Owens Lake, and 30 houses already have been built. Dr. [W. B.] Lilly and others own the townsite, which they call Lake City. Also, ranches have been taken up in all the available places.

Passengers can take the stage from Stockton to Visalia, where, A. O. Thomas [Thoms], the owner of the main hotel, will rent horses for only \$1 a day.

"From Los Angeles to Visalia," San Francisco Evening Bulletin, August 15, 1862, 1:1-2 (Visalia, July 19, 1862):

The correspondent traveled from San Bernardino to the ranch of José Juan, at Elizabeth Lake. A little farther, the road joins the one from Los Angeles. This was abandoned route of the Overland Mail Company. ". . . Here, also, for the first time, I came in sight of the telegraph, which keeps along or near the stage road throughout its whole length from Stockton to Los Angeles. As a sentinel on this outpost of civilization I hailed it with pleasure, yet could not help thinking its advent, like that of the stage, a little premature into a country so sparsely settled, and so barren of enterprise, as in this whole Southern country."

. . .

The road passes by Lake Elizabeth, about 2 miles in circumference. It then descends several hundred feet, to the edge of the Mojave Desert. There, the desert is more than 30 miles across.

Two miles from the lake, the roads fork: one branch heads north, to the Coso district and the Owens Valley, and the other branch turns northward and continues over “rolling prairies” and through alluvial valleys, well suited to farming and ranching.

Five miles from Jose Juan’s, the correspondent arrived at Mud Springs, a former station of the Overland Mail company. The place had abundant water and a large frame house with stables, which had “fallen into decay.”

“. . . Greatly do the inhabitants all through this region deplore the discontinuance of the line, since, though of little public benefit, it was everything to them. Then they had a demand for some portion of their grain and other surplus products, newspapers were received regularly, and they were in constant communication with the outside world, and knew something of what was going on. They had had contracts, and handled money, and could ride to and fro without much cost, since the coaches were seldom overburdened with passengers. Now this is all changed, and the people, shut out from intercourse with their fellow men, bewail their sad fate, denouncing the Government that has thus wantonly isolated them from the world and brought them to grief.”

Twenty miles west of Mud Springs is another stage station, known as the Lievre Ranch. Several adobe houses and other buildings stand there, also in ruins. It’s said to be an old Spanish land grant, covering about 10,000 or 12,000 acres. Like José Juan, it’s the property of Lieutenant [Edward] Beale.

Three miles farther, the road reaches “a very extensive and handsome establishment, where everything has been planned and executed on a baronial scale. Here are enclosed and cultivated fields, with a spacious mansion, huge barns and every manner of outhouse that taste could suggest or convenience require. Here, too, are the remains of a government saw mill, and divers other implements and appliances that seem to carry a sort of ‘color of nationality’ about them. Riding up and inquiring of a smart looking colored boy, having the appearance of a major domo, who was the owner of this goodly establishment, he informed me that it was the property of one Lieut. Beale, who owned the land as far around as we could see. . . .”

#### **Fort Tejon.**

The correspondent reached Fort Tejon, 20 miles away.

“For a description of Fort Tejon I recommend those interested to a reading of Goldsmith’s *Deserted Village*. This is one of the most lovely spots to be found even in California. Nothing can exceed it in picturesque and rural beauty. Huge old oaks cast their solemn shadows over the green sward and the waters dance along under the billowy foliage of the great vines that drape the Cañada de las Uvas. The hills on each side lift themselves up 1,000 feet over the place, screening it from the winds on every hand, and rendering it a very Tale of Tempe. Had the features of a charming landscape been essential, no fitter site than this could have been selected for a fort. But there is no fort here, as in truth there never was any need for one. There are immense quarters for officers, shops, store houses, stables, and some barracks for soldiers. They are all built of adobe, are substantial and spacious, and have cost the Government a good deal of money; but like Fort Churchill, if their building has ever subserved any other purpose than to secure fat contracts to a favored few, it will have yet to be discovered.”

No more than a dozen people live there, not even a government official. By decree, the government has given the property to [Samuel] Bishop, a former partner of Beale.

“New Mining Company,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, August 15, 1862, 3:5:

Today, the Josephine Mining Company filed articles of incorporation in the county clerk’s office. Its purpose is to mine for gold and silver in the Josephine lead, Tulare County.

The capital stock is listed as \$240,000, divided into 2,400 shares of \$100 each.

The first board of trustees is composed of J. B. Warfield, John Middleton, S. E. Holcomb, J. F. Miller, R. S. Mesick, Samuel Knight, D. F. Belknap, R. Guy McLellan, and Leander W. Ransom.

“Fatal Mining Accident,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, August 20, 1862, 2:3:

At Mono, on August 9, James Hogue was killed by the cave-in of a bank in a mining claim. He was from Albany, New York. He was about 25.

“Visalia and the Four-Creeks Country,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, August 27, 1862, p. 1 (Visalia, Tulare County, August 15, 1862):

**Visalia—Its History and its Growth.**

“Seven years have elapsed since I last passed through this place. It was then in its infancy, consisting of scarcely more than a half dozen buildings, among which was the little wood-built inn, still standing, and a long hut-like structure, with the jail in one end and the court-house in the other. Besides these were a few settlers’ cabins scattered about amongst the great oaks that cover the whole of this Four-Creek country. . . .”

The county seat had just been moved from Woodville, a hamlet 10 miles to the north, another “site of great beauty.” Woodville had been settled as early as 1851 or 1852, when Indians killed most of the first settlers, composed of about 20 men. The residents of Woodville had “stoutly resisted” the removal of the county seat, but since most of the fertile land lay near Visalia, the population there naturally grew. Tulare County scarcely had 200 residents then.

Soon, the movement to the Kern River turned Visalia into a large town and made it the business center of the Tulare Valley. Since then, its progress has been “steady and healthful.” Visalia now contains about 1,200 residents, including many women and children. Nearly every family owns a homestead, often of several acres, which contains a garden and orchard. Nearly every variety of fruit grows in the orchards.

Visalia stands on one of the streams that divide the Kawea [Kaweah] River, a “bold stream” flowing from the Sierra Nevada. Just above Woodville, the river separates into four branches. Two of the creeks flow through Visalia, where they provide water for machinery, irrigation, and other activities. Opposite the town, the four branches separate into a dozen large streams, which spread over rich alluvial soil, more than 20 miles wide. The streams follow a tortuous course, much of which gets flooded during seasons of high water, and finally empty into vast swamps that border Tulare Lake.

Visalia is regularly laid out and has wide streets and spacious places set aside for parks and other public uses. Most of the better buildings are made of brick, though adobe was once heavily used. During the winter, the rains had softened the foundations of several buildings, both brick and adobe, including several stores on the main street, and the structures collapsed. Since lumber has had to be hauled from the mountains, 30 miles away, it is very expensive and is little used in construction. Oak trees are abundant in the Four Creeks, though it is used only for fuel and fencing.

The destruction of the sawmills during the floods of last winter have made lumber scarce. According to [-] Thomas, who, with his brother, lost two mills, the water rose to 70 feet, and immense pines that had been uprooted and ground up littered the plain like sawdust. A boiler from one mill was carried many miles and most of the massive iron works haven’t been seen since then.

The public buildings consist of a large brick courthouse, with a jail underneath; “a handsome” and large female seminary, also made of brick; two churches, whose style of architecture is not “the work of an Angelo or Wren”; and a spacious schoolhouse, “swarming with juvenile life, auguring happily for the perpetuation of the race and indicating a lively interest in the cause of elementary learning. . . .” Two gristmills, one driven by water and the other by steam, busily turn the large harvests of wheat into flour. The main hotel is the Exchange, which is “well kept and comfortable.”

“. . . The jail, like that at San Bernardino, is a loathsome dungeon, a slander on the age, and a disgrace to the people who tolerate it. If a human being is to be stifled with the cloak-damp of the grave, it would only be merciful to first pound the life out of his body. A sepulcher is fit enough receptacle for the dead, but a very improper place for a living man.”

The Female Seminary has many students and is flourishing.

The two churches are moderately well attended. The Methodist church “has by far the most adherents. . . .”

The various benevolent orders have branches there.

#### **The Local Press.**

“The enlightenment of the people is effected through the *Delta*, a sound Union journal, which, under the conduct of H. G. McLean[,] is, amidst the fell spirit of secession here rampant, truly ‘a light in a dark place.’ The *Post*, organ of the anti-American sentiment, committed the act of *felo de se*[?] a few weeks since, by self-suppression. The paper, though a sorry concern in other respects, possessed the merit of originality, most of its news being flaming accounts of Southern victories, the coinage of the editor’s brain, got up to dupe his credulous patrons. Poor man! he ran his machine nearly a year before finding out that most of his compatriots were unable to read. [More to come.]

#### **Products of the Country.**

As a place to grow cereal, grass, and fruit, the Four Creek “probably surpasses any other portion of California. . . .” Accompanied by J. M. Epperson, the correspondent toured the garden and nursery of [ ] Coddington. Here is every variety of fruit tree commonly found in the state, including almond, orange, cactus, and other plants usually seen only in southern California. Nearly all the trees are loaded with fruit, so much that they need to be propped up, and ripening 2 or 3 weeks earlier than those near San Francisco. Grapes and berries form “a perfect wilderness.” Also growing are tobacco, cotton, sugar cane, coffee, and other tropical crops and apple, cherry, plum, walnut, and other “hardy fruits of the North.” Nearly as much syrup as was needed for local consumption was produced last year, besides a little sugar. Little attention has been paid to tobacco; the correspondent saw a few “strong and healthy” stalks, which had been cured last year. Sweet potatoes and Indian corn grow well there; the stalks of the corn grow to 15 or 20 feet and often yield 75 bushels an acre, without irrigation, In fact, good crops of barley, wheat, and oats can be raised without irrigation. Several varieties of grass abound and remain green through the year.

“A Washoe Newspaper,” San Francisco Evening Bulletin, October 21, 1862, 2:3:

The office of the *Silver Age*, at Carson City, N. T., is being moved to Virginia City, where it will resume publishing in a few days. It’s stated that Dr. De Groot, the compiler of the new map of Nevada Territory, will be the editor.

Cosoite, "From the Coso Mines," San Francisco Evening Bulletin, November 3, 1862, 2:3 (JOSEPHINE CITY, Coso District, October 11, 1862):

"EDITOR BULLETIN.—This portion of the country is destined to rival Washoe. Thus far the only veins which have been worked to any extent are the Josephine, Winnoshiek and Hiovee—the latter but slightly. [Check:] The hills abound in lodes which are undoubtedly as rich as those just named. Among the veins that only need development to prove their value are the Empire, Trinity, Watab, Great Western, Wisconsin, Republic, Patagonia and San Francisco. The extension of the Josephine has also been clearly traced, and work commenced. The Empire from its close proximity to the Lotta Mill (being within a few hundred yards,) will be very valuable, as the rock is good and shows gold plainly [to] the eye. It is the intention of the owners of this and the extension of the Josephine to work them this fall. The gold here is exceedingly fine, and is requisite that the rock should be ground very minutely in order to extract the metal properly. The sulphurets also contain large quantities of gold, and require careful treatment.

"The mills here are yet but two, that of Hitchens & Co., at Willow Springs, and the Lotta Mills. The proprietors of the latter seem to have spared no expense in perfecting their mill. They have an 8-stamp battery in full and successful operation. They have on the way an additional Bryant [Bryan] battery, with several of the Goddard tubs, and Varney's amalgamators. All of which, together with five arastras, (two of them are running now) will be going inside of 30 days. It is in contemplation to add all the recent improvements, and otherwise enlarge the Willow Spring mill, and Mr. Hitchens is now in San Francisco for this purpose. This mill has been engaged almost solely in working the Winnoshiek, which I understand will be very remunerative to the owners, or there is no value in rich quartz.

[Note: the *Bulletin* added the word *rich*.] "We have now the means necessary to work the quartz properly, and a fortune appears to me to be certainly in store for the mill owners and the holders of [rich] feet. Many of the latter, who would until recently have taken almost any offer that might have been made them, now hold at big prices, and some will not sell at all, preferring to develop their own claims. The writer, although he has never passed a winter there, is assured by those who have done so, that the climate is agreeable, and in fact, that winter is *the* season. There are now no fears about the scarcity of water. It was supposed at one time that this would be an obstacle to the erection of mills.

"COSOITE."

"San Francisco Mining Companies," San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, January 6, 1863, p. 3:

The *Bulletin* publishes a complete list of the San Francisco-based mining companies that have filed their incorporation papers in San Francisco, updated to December 31, 1862:

...

"Esmeralda District is in Mono county, California and Nevada Territory, being a little north of a direct line east from the city of Stockton. The town of Aurora is in this district.

"Van Horn District is in Nevada Territory, east-northeast of Esmeralda District.

"Russ District is in Mono and Tulare counties, Cal., southeast of Esmeralda District.

"Coso District is in Tulare Buena Vista, and San Bernardino counties, Cal., and South of the Russ District.

"Slate Range District, is in San Bernardino county, Cal., southeast of Coso District and about east from Walker's Pass.

"Silver Mountain District is in the extreme eastern portion of El Dorado county, Cal."

...

Name of Company	Location	Cap. Stock	Par Val.	Incorp. Date
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...

**Gold and Silver.**

...

Albany Gold and Silver Mining Co. Slate Range District. \$315,000 \$150 Nov. 6, 1862

...

Armagosa Gold and Silver Mining Co. Tulare County \$1,200,000 1,000 July 11, 1861

...

Banner Gold and Silver Mining Co. Esmeralda District 800,000 400 Sept. 24, 1862

...

Bullion Gold and Silver Mining Co. Russ District. 405,000 50 July 25, 1861

Bullion Gold and Silver Mining Co. Van Horn District 966,000 100 Aug. 24, 1861

...

Bright Star Gold and Silver Mining Co. Esmeralda District 100,000 100 Aug. 24, 1861

...

Carrie Bell Gold and Silver Mining Co. Esmeralda District 140,000 100 Sept. 30, 1862

...

Cataraugus Gold and Silver Mining Co. Slate Range District 315,000 150 Nov. 6, 1862

...

Combination Gold &amp; Silver Mining Co. Tulare County 990,000 50 July 25, 1861

...

Crescent Gold and Silver Mining Co. Van Horn District 600,000 100 May 8, 1862

Esmeralda Consolidated G. &amp; S. M. Co. Esmeralda District 600,000 200 Dec. 24, 1860

...

Empire Gold and Silver Mining Co. Esmeralda District 400,000 250 Oct. 28, 1862

...

Fall of Clyde Cons'dation G. &amp; S. M. Co. Esmeralda District 600,000 100 March 16, 1861

...

Federal Union Gold &amp; Silver Mining Co. Esmeralda District 240,000 600 Sept. 30, 1862

First North Extension Esmeralda M. Co. Esmeralda District 900,000 500 March 6, 1861

...

Gazelle Gold and Silver Mining Co. Esmeralda District 700,000 500 Sept. 30, 1862

...

General Grant Gold &amp; Silver Mining Co. Esmeralda District 250,000 250 Oct. 29, 1862

...

Great Republic Gold &amp; Silver Mining Co. Esmeralda District 800,000 500 Jan. 9, 1860

Great Western Mining Company Tulare County 180,000 100 Oct. 21, 1862

...

Hyovvee Mining Company Tulare County 240,000 100 Aug. 19, 1862

...

Ida Gold and Silver Mining Company Russ District 510,000 200 Nov. 17, 1862

...

Jack Hayes Gold and Silver Mining Co. Esmeralda District 60,000 50 Nov. 28, 1862

Johnson and Pride of Utah Mining Co. Esmeralda Dist. 1,400,000 250 Sept. 30, 1862

Josephine Gold and Silver Mining Co. (2) Coso District 240,000 100 Aug. 15, 1862

...

Keokuk Gold and Silver Mining Co. Esmeralda District 140,000 100 Dec. 27, 1862

Kohler Gold and Silver Mining Co. Esmeralda District 60,000 100 Oct. 27, 1862

Livingston Gold and Silver Mining Co. Esmeralda District 60,000 100 Oct. 16, 1862

...

Matthews Gold and Silver Mining Co. Esmeralda District 400,000 400 Dec. 10, 1862

...

Mayflower Gold and Silver Mining Co. Esmeralda District 180,000 100 Feb. 9, 1861

...

Nevada Mining Company	Esmeralda District	300,000	250	Nov. 21, 1862
New York Gold and Silver Mining Co.	Slate Range Dist.	315,000	150	Nov. 6, 1862
...				
Philadelphia Gold & Silver Mining Co.	Slate Range Dist.	315,000	150	Nov. 6, 1862
...				
Polar Star Gold and Silver Mining Co.	Esmeralda District	140,000	200	Dec. 15, 1862
Real del Monte G. & Silver Mining Co. (3)	Esmeralda D.	1,760,000	400	Nov. 24, 1860
...				
Red, White and Blue G. & S. Mining Co.	Esmeralda D.	120,000	100	Oct. 18, 1862
Rochester Gold and Silver Mining Co.	Slate Range Dist.	315,000	150	Nov. 6, 1862
...				
Sam Wright Gold and Silver Mining Co.	Esmeralda Dist.	700,000	500	Sept. 27, 1862
...				
San Francisco G. and Silver Mining Co.	Esmerald District	50,000	50	Dec. 10, 1862
Slate Range Gold and Silver Mining Co.	Esmeralda Dist.	1,050,000	500	Nov. 6, 1862
Sol Lewis Gold and Silver Mining Co.	Esmeralda Dist.	700,000	500	Nov. 18, 1862
Soledad Gold, Silver and Copper M. Co. L.A. & S. Barb. Cos.		780,000	100	June 10, 1862
South Utah Gold and Silver Mining Co.	Esmeralda Dist.	400,000	1,000	Nov. 26, 1862
Tennessee Gold and Silver Mining Co.	Esmeralda Dist.	5,000	50	Dec. 10, 1862
...				
Union Gold and Silver Mining Co.	Russ District	1,620,000	100	July 22, 1861
...				
Wide West Mining Company (6)	Esmeralda Dist.	600,000	250	Jan. 16, 1861
...				
Willow Springs G. and S. Mining Co.	Tulare Co.	270,000	100	Sept. 26, 1862
...				
<b>Silver</b>				
Antelope Silver Mining Company	Esmeralda Dist.	600,000	500	Jan. 30, 1861
...				
Bailey Silver Mining Company	Tulare County	180,000	200	April 12, 1861
...				
Comet Silver Mining Company	Tulare Co.	800,000	500	July 6, 1861
...				
Consolidated Silver Hill Mining Co. (8)	Esmeralda Dist.	1,500,000	500	Nov. 3, 1860
Coso Silver Mining Company (7)	Coso District	1,950,000	500	Aug. 3, 1860
...				
Esmeralda Silver Mining Company	Esmeralda D.	1,500,000	1,000	Nov. 12, 1860
Eureka Silver Mining Company	Tulare Co.	1,200,000	1,000	July 9, 1861
...				
<b>Gold and Silver Smelting and Reducing Companies.</b>				
Coso Gold and Silver Reducing Co. California		20,000	100	Nov. 19, 1860
...				
<b>Tin.</b>				
American Tin Mining Company	San Bernardino Co.	100,000	400	Aug. 1, 1860
<b>Copper.</b>				
...				
Copper Hill Mining Company	L.A. & S. Barb. Cos.	12,000	75	Dec. 29, 1862
...				
<b>Borax.</b>				
The California Borax Company	California	300,000	100	Dec. 31, 1862

“The Brokers’ Mining Stock Circular,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, January 18, 1864, 2:2 (*Weekly Stock Circular*):

[Excerpts:]

“From the Weekly Stock Circular of the Stock and Exchange Board, dated Saturday evening last, we extract as follows:

“An unusual degree of activity has pervaded the Share Market during the week, and in a number of prominent stocks very heavy operations were made, creating an excitement never before experienced in the Board. The aggregate sales for the week amount to \$1,034,714.15[?].

...

Josephine (Coso) sold during the week as low as \$1 per foot. The affairs of the company are in a very unsatisfactory condition. Their liabilities amount to \$40,000, and one creditor has attached all the property of the company for a debt of \$26,000, being a balance due on account of the purchase of the Lotta mills. Everything being mortgaged to this creditor, other parties are likely to get nothing. It is said that about \$6,000 is due from delinquent shareholders.

...

“Wide West rose from \$51 to \$65, but has since declined to \$52 bid, \$56 asked”Real del Monte has been a conspicuous feature of the market during the week, and 1,363 feet have changed hands—opening at \$360, declining to \$260 [250?], then advancing to \$300, and falling to about \$265 and \$270, (at which figures 750 feet were sold,) and still further declining yesterday to \$230, rallying at the close to \$300, buyer 60, and \$272 50 r. w. We have endeavored to obtain full details touching the recent compromises with the Pond and Ural, and other Companies, and were promised them, together with a full exhibit of the present status and prospects of the Real del Monte Company, but this information has failed to reach us this evening.”

“Bloodshed at Aurora, N. T.,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 4, 1864, 1:3:

“The Big Tree Road across the Sierra Nevada,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 4, 1864, 5:6 (*Stockton Independent*):

Vidocq, “From the White Mountain Mining District Mono County,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 8, 1864, 3:5 (White Mountain Mining District, Roachville, January 25, 1863):

B. Matters in the Southern Counties,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 10, 1864, (Los Angeles, February 4, 1864):

“Assassinations the Word!—Particulars of the Late Dreadful Murder in Aurora,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 10, 1864, 1:3 (*Aurora Times*, February 3 and February 6 and a telegram from Aurora, dated February 9, in “the morning papers”):

“Items from Tulare County,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 10, 1864, 5:4 (*Visalia Delta*, February 4):

“Stock Review,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 12, 1864, 1:3:

[Excerpts:]

“The mining share market has been exceedingly depressed the past few days and with scarce an exception all stocks have materially declined. At the close a slight reaction was observable in some shares.

...

“Real del Monte has been exciting feature of the market and the decline has been so serious as to embarrass a number of operators in this stock. Accounts from the mine are conflicting, and it is difficult to obtain reliable information as to its actual condition. Barren white quartz ha, it is said, made its appearance in both of the main shafts; and the indebtedness of the Company is thought to be larger than was represented. It is also rumored that efforts will be made by parties largely interested to invalidate certain proceedings of the old organization on the ground of illegality. The stock has steadily fallen to about \$70, advancing at the close to \$85@90—decline of some \$250 per foot within the past thirty days.

...

“Josephine (Coso) continues neglected. It is said that favorable developments were made recently in the mine at the depth of 400 feet from the surface, and that a promising vein of ore is now disclosed—stimulating the Company to take some steps in recusitating [resuscitating] their affairs[.] Their mill is said to be in good order.”

“The Mining Roll Continued,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 12, 1864, 5:4:  
[No companies in Aurora.]

“An Account of the Recent Murder at Aurora,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 15, 1864, 1:3 (correspondent, Carson City, to Virginia City *Union*, February 10):

“Hand-Book Almanac for the Pacific States for 1864,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 17, 1864, 5:4:

“The Behavior of the Aurora Desperadoes on the Scaffold,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 18, 1864, 1:2 (*Aurora Times*, February 10):

“A Lesson under the Gallows,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 18, 1864, 1:2 (*Esmeralda Star*, Aurora, February 13):

“The Esmeralda (*Aurora Star*) of 13<sup>th</sup> February says:

“John Daly, just before he was hung, flung several half dollars among the crowd, and dropped one under the scaffold. Mr. Hanson of this place came up while the criminals were hanging, leading his little boy of about seven years by the hand. Seeing the half dollar lying on the ground under Daly’s feet, he said, ‘Sonny, go and get that half dollar and put it in your pocket, and don’t you ever spend it, but keep it as long as you live; and whenever you are tempted to do wrong or go to playing cards or drink whisky, just take it out of your pocket and look at it and remember where you got it.’ The little fellow went and picked it up and promised faithfully to do as his father told him.”

“A Stir among the Real del Monte Stockholders—An Enquiry Ordered,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 20, 1864, 5:3:

“A meeting of dissatisfied stockholders of the Real del Monte Mining Company—who stock, lately quoted at from \$400 to \$500 a share, is now fluctuating in the market between \$70 and \$80—was held last night at Blumenberg’s Hall, Pine street, about 200 persons, representing 2,435 shares, a majority of the whole stock, were present. Judge Heydenfeldt was appointed Chairman. After a few preliminary remarks by him concerning the mystery which had so long wrapped up the affairs of the Company. J. J. Robbins offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

“Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to examine the books and affairs of the Real del Monte Mining Company, extending back for twelve months past, and to report to a meeting of the stockholders, to be called at some day to be fixed by the chairman, to the following propositions:

“1. The amount of bullion produced by and received from the mine.

“2. The amount and objects of the expenditures for the same time.

“3. The amount of the debt of the corporation, and for what, and under what circumstances it was created, and to whom it is owing.

“4. The character and history of the settlement made with the Pond Company and with other Companies.

“Resolved, That said Committee be entrusted with power:

“1. To employ an agent to ascertain the exact condition of the mine and mills belonging to the Company, and report upon the same.

“2. To employ counsel to bring any necessary suit against parties who have dealt unfairly with the Corporation and the stockholders, or to set aside any illegal contracts which have been made by the Trustees, or to enjoin any assessment upon the stock of the Company which may be levied by them, with full power to move for and agree to the appointment of a Receiver to take charge of and manage the affairs of the Corporation, or for the removal of the present Trustees, and, if necessary, for the dissolution of the Corporation.

“3. To call on all the stockholders for contributions, in proportion to the amount of stock held by each, for the purpose of carrying out the powers granted herein to the said Committee.

“Mr. Warfield, William Buckley, James T. Robbins and Judge Heydenfeldt were appointed a committee under the foregoing resolutions:

“W. M. Lent, one of the new Board of Trustees, stated that, so far as he could learn, the present indebtedness of the company is about \$400,000. During the last two months about \$150,000 of bullion had been produced from the mine. R. E. Brewster, the new President of the company, was now at Esmeralda, making a personal examination of the mine and works. Till he returned and made his report, it was impossible to tell whether any assessment on the shareholders would be necessary. Mr. Lent remarked that he saw nothing very encouraging about the mine. Yet his information was chiefly from second-hand; and he hoped for better things in the future. Meanwhile, it would be judicious for the shareholders to abide the action of the committee before disposing of their stock.

“We learn from other sources that a telegraph was received here yesterday afternoon from Aurora, saying that the Superintendent had just shipped \$28,000 in bullion, being the proceeds of one week’s run, without working the mills at night. The company have received over \$86,000 during the present month. The stock consists of 4,400 shares, each share representing one foot of the mine.”

“Condition of the Mining Share Market,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 22, 1864, 5:4 (Associated Brokers, Weekly Stock Circular):

[Excerpts:]

“[From the Weekly Stock Circular of Associated Brokers.]

“SAN FRANCISCO, Saturday Evening, Feb. 20, 1864.

“A feature of the past week has been the meeting of shareholders of the Real del Monte Mining Company, for the purpose of inaugurating measures to ascertain the condition of its affairs, concerning which the community is filled with conflicting rumors. A committee was appointed for that purpose, and a series of excellent resolutions adopted, which might with great propriety be adopted by other companies besides the Real del Monte; and we learn with pleasure that others are already commencing a similar movement. The shareholders of the Josephine (Coso) Company, whose affairs have fallen into a chaotic stage, contemplate similar proceedings.

“The most surprising fact in connection with these companies is, that those who ought to know, don’t know anything about their past management or present condition, except that the market value of their shares has, for some occult cause, deteriorated rapidly; and their expectations of large profits have been suddenly and totally eclipsed. Heavy losses are now staring them in the face, and they seem at last conscious of the folly and insecurity of thus blindly entrusting their affairs to the hands of others, whose incapacity, dishonesty or imprudence, unwatched and unguarded against, has been unquestionably, a radical defect in this business somewhere, and we may take it for granted that any board of trustees or directors that shun the light of full and free investigation, and refuse to parties interested such disclosures as are necessary to a correct and proper understanding of the affairs of the corporation whose servants they are, deserve no confidence, are actuated by sinister motives, and design in some way to swindle their constituents. It is of great importance that our mining companies, which have become so numerous, and are absorbing so large a portion of the wealth of our citizens, and are likewise seeking and sharing the patronage of foreign capital, should be conducted honorably and honestly; and that every guard and check which enlightened prudence and experience call for, should be thrown around those who are entrusted with their management. The public security demands this, and it should be insisted upon hencefore. \* \* \*

“The mining share market has exhibited but slight animation this week, and transactions have been rather limited as compared with precious weeks. Some speculative stocks have been largely dealt in at fluctuating rates. The recorded sales for the week amount in the aggregate to \$743,305.”

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“Particulars of a Grand Fight among the Settlers on the Truckee River—A Man Surviving 250 Pistol Shots Fired at Him,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 23, 1864, 2:1 (*Territorial Enterprise*, February 19):

“Affairs on the Eastern Slope,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 23, 1864, 2:2 (Carson City, N. T. February 20, 1864):

“Revelations from Aurora,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 24, 1864, 2:5 (*Esmeralda Star*, February 17):

“On the Hunt for a Murderer,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 25, 1864, 3:1-2 (*Esmeralda Star*, February 13):

“More Trouble to the Real del Monte,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 27, 1864, 2:1 (*Aurora Times*, February 19):

“Messrs. Mesick and Van Vorhees, of this place, have commenced suit against the Real del Monte Company, for counsel fees. The[y] sue for \$40,000, and have attached \$28,000 in bullion and the mill property belonging to the companyt.”

R. S. Whigham, San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 27, 1864, 5:4 (Sacramento, February 24, 1864):

“Weekly Mining Stock Circular,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 29, 1864, 5:4-5:

“Letter from Sacramento,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 29, 1864, 5:5-6.

One of the Hercules Mining Company, “The Owens River Canal Company and the Hercules Mining Company,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, March 1, 1864, 2:3:

“Movement of Troops from Los Angeles County to Arizona—Cattle Dying in the South—Growl against the Overland Stage Company,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, March 2, 1864, 2:3 (Wilmington, Los Angeles Co., February 23, 1864):

“Matters at Aurora,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, March 2, 1864, 5:6 (correspondent, Aurora, February 25, to Sacramento *Union*):

San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*,

“Perils of the Mines,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, April 25, 1864, 5:5 (*Aurora Times*):

“The *Aurora Times* remarks:

“Last week we were called upon to chronicle the death of an estimable young man—full of life, strength and hope—who lost his life by the premature explosion of a blast while at work in a shaft

of the Del Monte Company. Yesterday another said case of a similar kind was recorded, and the remains of the unfortunate man were to-day laid in their last earthly resting place—the grave. In this instance the caving of a bank of earth and rock, in the Antelope mine, suddenly took from our midst an old and highly respected citizen. So have passed away many before them, while engaged in the same hazardous occupation. It is not alone of Aurora or Nevada Territory that we speak; for such things have been of rare occurrence with us, considering the number of men engaged in bringing forth the hidden treasures of the earth. Accidents like those which have recently stricken down two of our best citizens are common to all mines and mining countries. Those who delve after the rich deposits of the precious metals—gold, silver and copper—whether in placer diggings or working of shafts and tunnels—the black-faced coal miner, the laborer of the lead and tin mines—all are alike subject to numerous accidents. They are compelled to drift under high banks, work under ground, sink deep shafts, run fear-reaching tunnels and use large quantities of powder for blasting purposes. The work is of course dangerous. Sometimes the timbers give way, and a huge mass of rock and stone tumble in and bury the miner underneath. At others, the mouth of the tunnel is suddenly closed by some unforeseen accident, or water bursts in sweeping all before it, or the cars get off the track, the bucket falls from the hands of the mine at the windlass on the heads of the poor fellows below, or premature explosions, while blasting, tear limbs asunder, put out the eyes, and destroy the lives of the workers. We have seen many a good man stretched in the cold embrace of death from some of these causes; many a one with his arm or leg broken; many doomed to walk in darkness the balance of their days. Mining enterprises are all attended with considerable personal danger. In almost every pursuit of life there is more or less risk to run, but the perils of the miner exceed those of any other class. Every State and country, whose chief interest is mining, should have provision made for the care and support of the poor unfortunates who have been injured by following this dangerous vocation. We have known sober and industrious miners reduced to want from unavoidable accidents, and their sufferings added to by the humiliating necessity of begging like the lazaroni of Italy, from door to door for the means to sustain life, or sufficient to take them where friends and relatives would give relief and support. Miners themselves[,] especially those who are not Masons or Odd Fellows, ought to band together, as those orders have done, and in time of health prepare to help each other when the heavy hand of misfortune falls upon them. By such precaution, years of pain and misery might be avoided in the future.”

“The Ups and Downs of the Real del Monte,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, April 26, 1864, 3:5 (*Aurora Times*, April 21):

San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*,

San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*,

“The Mining Roll Continued,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, April 29, 1864, 5:4:

“The following company filed its certification of incorporation on Wednesday:

“Eclipse Gold and Silver Mining Company, Russ District, Tulare county. Capital stock \$648,000, in 3,240 shares of \$200. Trustees—Justin Caire [?], Joseph Haine, D[.] T. B. Henarie [?], Horace Morrison, S. Sweet, James Phelan and H. D. Ellerhorst.”

Henry G. Hanks, “An Undeveloped Region,” San Francisco *Evening Bulletin*, February 10, 1869, 1:1-2:

[C. 1:] Henry Hanks delivered a paper to the California Academy of Sciences on Monday (February 8):

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The altitude at San Carlos was found to be 4,767 feet, based upon the boiling point of distilled water.

One mass of granite in the Inyo Mountains, known as the Indian Monument, marks the boundary between the Inyo and Russ districts.

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E. D. French, of San José, provided the following details:

In 1850, a party of 14 men came to his ranch, near Fort Tejon, and camped for the night. The party told him that it was going over the mountains to look for a silver mine which a party of emigrants had discovered. That evening, while seated at the campfire, [ ] Turner said: 'I don't know certainly that we can get around Given's Mountain. I know we cannot get over it with animals, for we could hardly climb the steep cliffs on the other side on foot. But if we can get around it I can take you to a rich silver mine. I was the one who found it. I have handled it, and know that it is native silver. For I cut it with a knife, and Martin brought some of it away and made a gun-sight of it at Mariposa mines.' Turner's party left Tejon the next day, but it was unable to find the mine. The party "suffered many hardships." Half the party was sent back, and the other half took all the water that it could. But the members were unable to find the mine and had to return.

Four members of the party, Judge [ ] Ricard and Randall, Miller, and De Quine, came by Fort Tejon to recruit. They obtained all the information that they could from Turner and Toan about the country beyond Owens Mountain and near the mine. On September 10, 1850, those men, accompanied by Dr. French and a trusty Indian, Ignacio, started out again. They took three 10-gallon kegs in which to carry water and provisions for 2 months. That first night, they camped in what is now called Walker's Basin. They next camped at the forks of the Kern River, where they hired an Indian as a translator. They also hired an old Indian who claimed to know the country. Their Indian guide took them over the mountains east of Little Lake. It "required some fortitude to follow some strange Indian into an explored country at that early date. . . ." The nearest settlement was Los Angeles, 250 miles away. At what is now Wall Springs, they found an Indian who said he saw the emigrants when they came through the mountains; he agreed to show them the pass. The first camp from Wall Street was where the Josephine mill now stands, in Coso. They crossed Panamint Valley and went down Darwin Cañon. At the foot of the cañon, where the Indian told them that there was no more need of water, they agreed that Judge Ricard and Dr. French should first make the attempt, taking with them the last-found Indian. They left camp at 2 p. m. They discovered the tracks of cattle and signs of campfires. They traveled [c. 2] as fast as they could until after dark, when they tied up their mules to a sagebrush, without grass or water, and spent the night. They hunted all the next day, giving the mules a little water from their kegs. They secured their mules and hunted in the gulches of the low mountain. They became weary, and the mules nearly died from lack of water; finally, they returned to the party, and others were sent out. Their search lasted nearly as long as their provisions held out. After making the greatest efforts, they returned to the settlements.

When Turner heard of this failure, [he?] left Mariposa and returned to the Tejon, eager to make another attempt. But early snowfalls soon blocked his search.

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"Prospecting in the Inyo Country."

The discovery of silver at the Comstock Lode, in June, 1859, revived the interest in the tales of lost mines.

In the winter of 1859, [ ] Hills party entered Owens Valley. While some of the members remained at Lone Pine, to prospect, others crossed over the Inyo Mountains and struck the Potosi district. They located several claims and returned to Owens Valley, where they found the Iowa and several other ledges in Mazouka Cañon.

In March of 1860, French organized a party to search for the Gunsight again. His party left Sacramento on March 24. They traveled south, to a point below Visalia, where they entered the mountains at Rosa [Poso] Flat. Joining them was [Minard] H. Farley, of Oroville, and [Robert] Bailey and [ ] Isaacs, both of Sacramento. East of Little Like, known as Hell's Half Acre, Farley's horse broke through a crust into a soft formation; the horse extricated himself with difficulty. The place is now known as the Mud Volcanoes, where intense solfataric action is now going on. The party made its first discovery, the Pioneer Coso.

“Mining Organizations and Exploring Parties.”

On May 21, 1860, the Argus district was organized. S. D. Hassey was chairman and M. Valentine was secretary.

On December 25, 1860, Dr. S. G. George, Dr. W. Lillie, Stephen Gregg, Moses Thayer, H. O'Harra, and W. T. Henderson located the first lead in the Telescope district; this was the Christmas Gift.

The New World Exploring and Mining Company left San Francisco on March 4, 1861, under H. P. Russ. This party, too, took the southern route and entered the mountains behind Visalia. [The expeditions of Dr. George and Russ met at Walker's Pass and combined.] The company passed through Walker's Pass and prospected east of Little Lake. The party divided: one group, [led by Dr. George], prospected east and south, and the others, [led by Russ], went north. [The groups rejoined] and located the Union and Eclipse veins [in the Owens Valley]. The Russ district was organized on April 29, 1861; H. P. Russ was the chairman, and S. G. George was secretary. The Union Mill did not arrive until July 4, 1862. Dr. George named the Inyo Mountains.

The San Carlos Exploring and Mining Company left San Francisco on September 24, 1862. They passed through the Yosemite Valley, traveled over Mono Trail, descended Bloody Cañon, crossed Adobe Meadows, and traveled down Owens Valley. The party arrived at the site of San Carlos on October 28, 1862. The group located the Hooper, Romelia, and Fleta veins. While camped at Lake Tenaya, the company named Cathedral Peak, which is now “a celebrated mountain.”

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“Mineral Resources of the Country.”

Hanks has selected specimens of minerals from the area that he was lecturing on. The minerals vary with the locality. At Esmeralda, the blue rock contains sulphurets of gold and silver. At Montgomery, argentiferous galena is found. It contains from 100 to 2,000 ounces of silver per ton; tetrahedrite and antimonial ores abound, but no gold. At Blind Spring, the ores contain partzite, galena, and antimonial ores and a complex mixture containing free silver. In the mountains behind Owensville, tetrahedrite and galena occur. With copper glance and gold-bearing quartz. In Inyo and Russ districts are found galena, chrysocolla, cerusite, wulfenite, malachite, zinc blende, and gold-bearing quartz. At Cerro Gordo are found brown carbonates of lead, associated with galena, zinc blende, calc spar, and dolomite. At Alabama, the ores are worked only for free gold.

All the copper ores carry a high percentage of gold. Some interesting combinations are found. Keragyrite, or silver chloride, is found. The main ore is [ ]. The rich ores of Montgomery, Kearsarge, Blind Springs, and Slate Range greatly resemble those of White Pine. Silver chloride and native silver are common.

Hanks is also showing several gold specimens. The metal is “quite abundant,” but unfortunately, is seldom free. Therefore, few of the ores can be treated by “the common

amalgamating process." Several "remarkably good mill runs" have been made on the decomposed surface ores, but there is little hope of successfully using those methods.

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