

SUMMIT DIST: claim jumpers/1894

Bak. Daily Cal, April 21, 1894, p 4:

A jury found \_\_\_\_\_ Van Slyke and others .  
guilty of claim-jumping in Summit district, although  
the jury recommended mercy. The defendants had been  
charged with forcing out \_\_\_\_\_ Perham and others from  
the Trix Mine.

Judge \_\_\_\_\_ Mahon sentenced each of the 5  
defendants to a fine of \$10 or 10 days in jail.

Red Rock/Summit/Koehn: 1896  
"On The Desert," Bak D Cal, June 3, 1896, p 1.

Many people in Red Rock and Summit dists; "fair amount" of placer gold being taken out.

In Red Rock, several quartz mines have been opened; "Promising indications."

Mill at Koehn Springs to furnish means for milling ore.

Summit: 96

"From The Mining Camps," Bak D Cal, July 14, 1896, p 2.  
Hornspoon, Garlock, July 6.

Corresp<sup>nd, cont</sup> in Garlock saw nuggets from Summit as  
plentiful as marbles; ranged from \$3 to \$20. Many  
of these came from new diggings at Summit, 10 mi E.  
Destined "to become a lively camp."

Bedrock only 3 to 10 ft from surface.

goler & summit: 1896

"The Randsburg District," Bak D Cal, Aug 7, 1896, p 2.  
(SB T-Index)

Sheriff \_\_\_\_\_ Holcomb visited Rand dist. Many people  
from San Bern.

Goler not doing as well as Rand. Only about 15 men  
in camp. Two men working placers with good success;  
one of them, Henry Lander, was recovering from accident.  
Had fallen <sup>r</sup> 40 ft, not injured intern<sup>ally</sup> and suffered no  
broken bones, though was scratched and bruised very  
badly.

Summit, about 10 mi from Garlock and Rand, has 15 to  
20 mines.

GOLER: 1893  
RED ROCK?:1893  
KANE SPRINGS/1893



Bak. D Cal, Oct 18, 1893, p 3:

"Generally in a mining excitement the news all runs one way. We are constantly hearing of big strike, and now a word about the failures. And this brings on vain delusions ending in disappointment in many."

Letter rec'd from Bak. man at Goler:

" 'This camp is not what it has been cracked up to be. I am going to work on a claim with another mine as soon as our machine [for dry washing] comes. We may make small wages, and may not make grub. Only three or four claims are paying. Others are making small wages and others only grub.'"

"There is then no pressing need for anyone to go to Gohler with undue haste. It might be well to stay away entirely."

===

Bak. D. Cal, Nov 9, 1893, p 1: Expositor:

I.N. Chapman, ex-US surveyor, returned to diggings. No water in area; drinking water must be brought in barrels.

Said that many claims paying \$200 to \$300/day.

Mines are in same township at "town" of Kane Springs.

Most working in Goler Creek, where J.S. Reed found 56-oz nugget, and in Jawbone Canyon. Nugget worth over \$1,000

---

BDC, Nov 15, 1893, p 3:

Two men came into Mojave with \$180 in nuggets, "some as large as the end of one's thumb." They bought dry-washer and 'grub" and started back.

"What's the matter with some of the 'unemployed' trying their hand at making a stake there?"

RED ROCK/1893  
SLATE RANGE  
SUMMIT  
GOLER  
LAST CHANCE CANYON  
KANE SPRINGS

Bak D Cal, Dec 14, 1893, p 3. LA Herald:

At Red Rock, found 20 tents in various places on both sides of the main gulch, "and all seemingly very active."

25 mi NE of Raymond's sta is Slate Range. Wilson bros. of Mojave have probably some of finest mines in range; Water abundant; have 5-stamp mill run by 10-hp gas. engine. vein is rich, averaging \$26/ton in gold. Mills & Stiles

are putting in 5-stamp mill a few mi N of Wilson bros.

Found old tunnels of El Paso pass. 4 mi E are placers recently disc. by Van Slyke bros 10 days ago. Not as large as Goler field but very rich.

Goler producing coarse gold; about 50 men at work. Met 18 outfits in wagons and 3 burro caravans bound for Goler

Last Chance Gulch about 30 mi NE of Mojave, 3 mi from Kane Springs. Has best supply of water and most adv. for mining of all places visited. Much coarse gold has been "coyoted out of this gulch" without using water. Gulch owned by poor men using dry washers--much fine gold lost.

Kane Springs about 26 mi from Mojave; owned by Charles Cohen; has supplies of groceries, hay, and grain; "has not the gall so common among settlers on the desert to charge travelers for water."

RED ROCK/1893  
KOEHN PO  
SUMMIT

Bak D Cal, Dec 16, 1893, p 2. Lancaster Gazette:

Frank Budd and U. Zimmerman ret'd to Lan. Are  
"highly elated with the prospects."

Budd saw "whole sacks of gold nuggets so rich and  
shining that they made his eyes water and grow dim. . . ."

A post office called Koehn <sup>and</sup> are 2 stores are there.

". . . The boys say that it looks tempting to  
see them running the dry washers and at the clean-up  
pick up the yellow nuggets and drop them in the great  
glass jars right there before their eyes. . . ."

The men in Red Rock are taking out \$100 worth of  
nuggets per man each day.

---

Bak D Cal, Dec 16, 1893, p 3. San Bern., Dec 14:

Henry Morse ret'd from Summit dist. with several  
large nuggets and consid. dust. Miners making as much as  
\$20/day; 2 San Bern. men have taken out \$17,000 in last  
5 months.

A \$4 nugget taken out of Nugget gulch.

Bak D Cal, Dec 18, 1893, p 2. Charles Mulholland, L.A. Herald

Two mi from forks of road, the Mojave-Inyo rd enters a narrow canyon. About 3/4 mi up canyon is another opening to north; gold diggings lie 1-2 mi up that ravine.

UP the main canyon, beyond ravine, ia a station of Mojave-Keeler stage line. In main canyon, stream flows at all season: very small in summer but a torrent in winter.

Many miners working at "the new camp, and more are hastening there every day. It is the old experience over again--where miners find money easily they spend it lavishly, and the camps at Bedrock[Red Rock] begin to show some features of extravagance that were very familiar in old times. . . ."

Four men took our 15 oz with dry washer in one day; gold worth \$18; all course. Many pieces worth \$2 to \$8 each. One piece of quartz and gold was as big as hen's egg.

At Goler, miners turning out good deal of gold.

--

Bak D Cal, Dec 19, 1893, p 3:

Californian rec'd that morning from C.E. Sherman, Cal corresp at gold fields, "a magnificent nugget of solid yellow gold," weighing at least 3½ oz. Worth at least \$65.

"The nugget is a beauty. . . ." Put on display at Kern Valley Bank. ". . . A sight of it is enough to set the blood of any man tingling . . . ."

GOLER/1893

RED ROCK

SUMMIT

Bak D Cal, Dec 20, 1893, p 1. LA Herald:

Goler disc. 8 or 9 months ago. Over \$25,000 has been taken from Goler. A

At Bald Eagle No. 1, owned by Gus Hagg and A. Johnson, San Bern, \$2,000 in nuggets taken. 35-ft shaft sunk.

Benson bros. claim, shallow diggings, "panning out well. A nugget from this claim worth \$280.

Miners are being paid \$2.50/day and board. Only good miners employed. Meals are 35¢ "and other necessaries in proportion." all prospectors bring own outfits, inc. food and bedding. WEather there is cool. Feed for horses, such as grain, is scarce; burros don't suffer "owing to their peculiar taste for vegetation that the horse cannot touch."

Red Rock is "a flourishing camp."

Red Rock turning out consid. gold. Dist. opened 6 weeks ago. One miner claims that at least oz of gold being taken out daily by each man. Gold is coarse, some nuggets weighing \$8 to \$10. 3 men took out 15 oz (nearly \$300) in day, but this was "luckiest day."

Mostly dry washers used.

While traveling to Summit, the prospectors get water from Mesquite Springs, where water "unusually good." Water can also be obtained at last station on road to borax works in DEath Valley.

Bak D Cal, Dec 20, 1893, p 3:

Many men from Bak rushing to new districts.

They usually first "spy out the land, so to speak."  
if good, they stake out a claim and record it in Bak.

"Enthusiastic young men who have no knowledge of the  
discomforts of travel and life on the desert should give  
the new camps a wide berth, unless they are prepared to  
undergo without a murmur all sorts of hardships."#

---

Bak D Cal, Dec 23, 1893, p 1. LA Times:

". . . There is gold in that part of the country, and plenty of it, but it is no place for a poor man. A man prepared to stay there six months may get something for his time and trouble, providing he can buy a location, as the whole country is located, from Red Rock Canyon to Summit . . . . You can almost walk on monuments all the way . . . . some men have located as many as forty claims. They use all their relations' names to hold the locations. There are only a few claims being worked. All the rest of the miners are off locating. As soon as a new discovery is made, they all rush off and locate from three to forty claims apiece, and then sit around waiting to sell to some greenhorn."

At Red Rock, saw \$50 taken out in 2 hours.

At Goler, Benson bros claim has paid \$20,000.

At Summit, only one claim being worked; each man making \$10/day.

Water is scarce; has to be hauled 4-7 mi. At Summit, there is some bunch grass.

At Kane Springs, 25 mi from Summit, is a store; sells grain, hay, and provisions at reasonable prices. Hay costs 1½¢/lb, grain \$1.50/sack, fresh meat, 8-11¢/lb.

The chance of making money there is about even, but I would advise . . . a poor man, who can make a living at home, and knows nothing of mining, to stay away. . . . a few men claim the whole country. They do nothing but rush from one camp to another new one, simply to locate, and the first man there gets the cream, and, of course, the rest of them get left. The climate is fine, and it is a good place for a many with lung or liver trouble. It is a cold, dry atmosphere.

"Out of 500 men, only fifty are taking out any gold. The other 450 are busy locating. . . . The curse of the country is the land-grabbing locators."

RED ROCK/1893  
GOLER  
SUMMIT  
KANE SPRINGS

Bak D Cal, Dec 26, 1893, p 1. M.E. Sherman, SF Chronicle:

Halfway bet. Red Rock and Goler is Koehne p.o., established "for the convenience of the Golerites by the side of a somewhat brackish spring, infinitely better than none, however. Charles Koehne is Postmaster, storekeeper, boniface, mail-carrier and very much of an accommodation in general."

Weather at this time of year is "cool and bracing, and desert travel has little of the discomfort and none of the danger that characterizes it during the summer months."

Left forks of road to head for Red Rock, 2 mi through mtns, where gulch opens to right. 1½ mi up gulch are placers.

35 men in camp, called Red Rock.

In Goler gulch, little mining going on in main canyon. 3 or 4 mi up from mouth is a small stream, where 3 or 4 Mexicans are making small wages with a rocker. The dry placers are in 2 gulches to south of Goler Canyon.

By conserv. est., \$30,000 in gold has been taken out of Benson and Read gulches during past year.

No longer any room for prospectors at Goler.

"The whole country for miles around is covered with location notices. Corner and center monuments and the like are as plenty as greasewood bushes, or almost so. Every one who has been upon the ground, after recording it for himself, seems to have built a lot of monuments in memory of his wife's relations, and in this wise the whole country has been 'gobbled up.' . . ."

At a miners' meeting held Tues., was ordered that only 1 claim could be located by any 1 man. since some men have located up to 40 claims, nobody allowed to locate for friend unless friend was in dist.

Bak D Cal, Jan 5, 1894, 3:2:

Edmunds & Co reported that consid. snow has fallen in area, enough to prevent any more dry washing.

Holman & Nugent are using water from melted snow to operate their rocker, but the trickle down the canyon doesn't last long.

As many people arriving in winter as in fall, but they "quickly conclude that they have had enough, when away they go. . . ."

Black & Sullivan will soon build a barn for their own stock but also intend to sell hay, which will be hauled from Tehachapi.

At Bonanza Gulch, "everything is practically laid up for the winter."

--

Bak D Cal, Jan 6, 1894, 3:2:

51 sacks have been sent to Mojave to be filled with gold-bearing gravel from Red Rock. Several companies have agreed to supply the gravel, and W.K. Miller, owner of Mojave-Keeler stage, "has kindly volunteered" to bring it to the r.r. The gravel will be displayed as an exhibit of pay dirt at Midwinter Fair. A Freeman dry washer will work the gravel at the fair.

--

Bak D Cal, Jan 12, 1894, p 1:

At Summit station, Searles & Co. have piped in water from springs in mtns  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mi away. water "of excellent quality," and water not used by mule teams is used to irrigate piece of land near the stables; "astonishing results" have been obtained. The land lies at 3,000 ft.

Yet there is 5-year-old vineyard "of luxuriant growth." are many varieties of grapes, "all of delicious flavor." The vines and apricot, peach, pear, plum, and fig trees are very healthy, free of pests; trees have clean bark. any kind of vegetables grow in profusion; beets, 14' long and 6' in diam, now growing.

The garden is surrounded by rabbit-proof fence, "else every green thing would speedily be nibbled away. . . ." The stationkeeper has installed a pair of cage-like traps on one side of garden.

Bak D Cal, Jan 17, 1894, 1:1:

"People who now go out upon the Mojave desert expecting to dwell in tents will experience discomfort in wholesale quantity. The first time they put up their tent it won't stay up. A desert zephyr will meander around in an enticing way and take the tent along with it. Then Mr. Prospector will take an early start, and after a few days hunting will gather up all his belongings that can be found within a few square miles or so. . . ."

Even if he anchors the tents with extra pegs and rocks and dirt, it will blow down after a few days.

If he has any sense, he'll build a "desert shack": a a cellar dug in the side of "some convenient side hill." He can "listen heedlessly to the commotion in the outside world and laugh at the eddying winds. He is not always sure of having a fire, for at time the smoke hole must be shut against the too inquisitive winds, unless grown up men want to sit around in the smoke and weep like children. But with a proper shack, cooked grub always on hand and gravel that will pay whenever the elements allow a chance to work it, a life far and away over average can be lived, even out on the Mojave desert." #

GOLER: 1894

Bak D Cal, Jan 23, 1894, 1:1:

A little dry washing is being done at Goler. Ground to damp in open cuts, but underground work possible.

One extracted 20 oz of gold in 4 days.

First sale of important claim on desert made when prop in Bonanza G. sold for \$6,000 "spot cash."

Bak D Cal, Jan 30, 1894, p 1:

J.P. Joblin returned from Red Rock. He said the weather in warmer there than in Bak, and "not a cloud is to be seen."

The gold-bearing gravel has been so dampened by rain and snow that it can be dry washed until it's thoroughly dry. So the miners strip the gravel to bedrock and spread it out in the sun to dry.

Black & Sullivan have a 30-ft shaft in the gravel at one claim. Gravel at bottom is dry. At bottom, plan to drive drifts to find the channel.

The new owners of the Bonzanza claim have reportedly taken out \$4,000 from a 250x6-ft strip.

But they overloaded their dry washers so much that a party which leased their tailings are taking out up to 2 oz /day.

There are two stores at Red Rock; supplies can be had "at very reasonable prices."

There are about 60 permanent residents who have claims and are working them. ". . . There is also a constant income and outgo of 'desert rats'--men who wander, staying a day in a place. These rolling stones gather no desert moss and are of no good to themselves or any other. . . ."

Bak D Cal, Jan 31, 1894, p 3:

R.R.P. Fox returned from Red Rock. The weather is "perfectly lovely. There are no clouds to be seen, the air is warm and balmy and there is not a breath of wind stirring. . . ."

About 40 camps in Red Rock.

Black & Sullivan "generously supply" drinking water, but there isn't enough for daily panning of concentrates after dry washing. So it's been proposed that all miners join to sink a well in the canyon proper; enough water can be supplied for panning, although it is probably too brackish to drink. The lack of water serves as a natural limit to the number of miners who can work the claims.

". . . The whole country is covered with mining locations, in places two and three deep, but most of them are carelessly made and will be found not to comply with the requirements of mining law. . . ."

Bak D Cal, Jan 31, 1894, 1:1:

In 1872, after working the mines in Slate Range, <sup>[Dennis]</sup> John W. Searles, and his brother and later partner, E.M. Skillings, began experimenting with ways to extract borax from Borax Lake. Their efforts led to the estab. of the "extensive and successful works of the San Bernardino Borax Mining Company."

At the home station, at Borax Lake, is a plant capable of producing 100 tons of refined borax a month.

By capillary attraction, like that of alkali efflorescences, borax comes from below and is then raked into windrows, carted to the works, and then put through several processes of refining until ready for market. The method was developed by "years of careful patient study and experiment in which the owners of these works may truthfully be said to be the pioneers."

Yet the enterprise is "idle--as dead as a door nail," the direct result of "tariff tinkering." This "disaster" has taken place "all because an inscrutable Providence has seen fit to put a theory and not a condition into the brain of a President and Congress of the United States." #

Bak D Cal, Jan 31, 1894, 1:1:

The San Bern. Borax Mining Company has built and maintains a good road from Mojave to its headquarters at Borax Lake, 76 miles away. Making a round trip in 8 ~~in 2 wagons.~~ days, a team of 20 mules, ~~carrying~~ <sup>carries</sup> 30,000 lbs of freight in two wagons. They haul refined borax to Mojave and return with supplies and crude oil to make steam.

The company has established four stations:

Forks station, 6 mi from Mojave.

Mesquite, 23 mi from Forks.

Summit, 21 mi from Mesquite.

Salt Canyon, 17 mi from Summit.

Home station at Borax Lake, 9 mi.

All but two stations are supplied with good water piped in from springs in the nearby mtns. Water is hauled to Mesquite and Salt Canyon in 500-gallon water carts.

The stables at each station accommodate 40 head of stock; since winds are strong, the stables are "so firmly bolted together as to defy all ordinary blasts."

Everything around the stations and home place is "conducted with military precision and order--things which are absolutely necessary, when one considers a little. It is no slight task to set out across the desert with one team of twenty mules, one driver, one assistant called a 'swamper' and fifteen tons of freight, and that the system has been reduced to military regularity, accounts for the success of the past."

RED ROCK: 1894  
GOLER  
RED ROCK: FAIR

Bak D Cal, Feb 1, 1894, p 1. L.A. Herald:

A single nugget, on exhibit at midwinter fair, weighs 56 oz and is worth \$1,000. Nuggets worth \$20 or more are common, but since pay dirt has to be treated by dry washers, much of fine gold is lost.

P.W. Campbell, pres of Goler Consolidated Placer and Hydraulic Mining Company, said his co. is arranging to bring water to placers. His co. has bought and consolidated about 200 claims. Planned to have pipeline laid at once.

At <sup>Red</sup> ~~Red~~ Rock, Campbell found "everything in a flourishing condition, and the whole camp as prosperous and as happy as can be. . . ."

Was "astonished" to see \$10 to \$20 taken out from sack of pay dirt weighing 75 to 80 lbs. This came from Bonanza Gulch.

The owners, Hay & Canfield, have to have "this attractive gulch" patrolled and guarded to prevent theft. The area is nearly all pay dirt, so shallow that <sup>it</sup> ~~is~~ can be easily scraped away by thieves.

". . . The camp is naturally very lively, and everybody is displaying nuggets. Once in a while some of the 'boys' go to Mojave station . . . and have a nice time. Not long ago, some of them created a great sensation at Mojave by throwing handfuls of nuggets into the street to see the people scramble for the treasure." #

RED ROCK: 1894

GOLER

SUMMIT

Bak D Cal, Feb 6, 1894, p 2. L.A. Herald:

A party of 3 prospectors at Red Rock sold claims recently for \$6,000. The buyers were then offered \$6,000 for 1/3 interest but they refused.

At Goler are Benson brothers, 3 young men from San Bern. Located claims a few months ago. Reported that bros have taken out \$20,00.

Good reports coming from Summit. Van Slyke working there with 2 or 3 partners. Van Slyke reported that miners are taking avg of \$10 day per man.

Bak D Cal, Feb 8, 1894, p 1. L.A. Herald:

\_\_\_\_\_ Willard returned from Goler, bringing \$1,000 in gold; had been taken out in a week.

Willard is recorder of Goler dist. and a stockholder in Goler Mining Co.

At mouth of Benson Gulch, "this party" sank a 100-ft shaft. At bottom, dirt was tested and found very rich.

Goler co. has contracted with a company building a canal from Owen's River; canal co. to supply 3,000 inches to min co.

Bak D Cal, Feb 8, 1894, p 3:

2,840 pounds of gold-bearing gravel have been shipped to the MidWinter Fair; Kern Co to be given credit in the mining exhibit.

Black & Sullivan furnished and sacked the gravel. W.K. Miller hauled sacks to Mojave on his Keeler-Mojave stage. James B. Freeman, L.A., sent a machine that he made to exhibit, where it will work the gravel. will show "eastern people and others" how gold is extracted.

RED ROCK: dist. meeting/1894

Bak D Cal, Feb 14, 1894, 1:1:

"There were exciting times at Red rock canyon on Saturday. . . ." Several claims have been sold to L.A. parties.

An election was called for Saturday, when a recorder is to be chosen. Also, effort to be made to change dist laws, especially to prohibit one person from claiming "an indefinite number of claims..

J.T. Davis was elected recorder by majority of 40 votes. The proposed amendments were defeated.

". . . Times were exciting and talk ran high, but there was no blood shed."

SUMMIT DIST  
MESQUITE SPGS/1894

Bak. Daily Californian, Feb 15, 1894, p 3:

T.R. Davis, in hotel business in Tehachipa, has  
opened a store at Summit dist.

Two Lancaster men have opened a store at Mesquite  
Springs.

GOLER: 1894

SUMMIT

Bak. D. Cal, Feb 24, 1894, p 2:

News from desert continues to be "very encouraging."

At Goler, nugget worth about \$700 was taken out of  
Reed Gulch, near where the \$1,000 nugget was found.

At Summit, Van Slyke & Co. cleaned up \$1,000 in 5 days;  
the largest nugged worth about \$6.

GOLER: claim jumping/1894

Bak D Cal, April 21, 1894, p 4:

A jury in Judge \_\_\_\_\_ Mahon's court found Van Slyke and others guilty of forcing out \_\_\_\_\_ Perham and others from the Trix Mine, Summit dist. Jury also recommended mercy. Mahon sentenced each one of the 5 defendants to a \$10 fine or 10 in jail.

RED ROCK: 1894

~~BLACK HILLS~~

Bak D Cal, April 23, 1894, p 3:

Canfield and assoc., who had bought Bonanza claim and have been buying adjoining props., have a lot of heavy pumping machinery at Mojave. The plan is to pump water from Kane Springs over the mountains--a rise of at least 1,200 feet--for sluicing or possibly hydraulicking at Red Rock.

---

Bak D Cal, May 3, 1894, p 3. LA Times:

L.R. Harrison said that with primitive dry washers, men can make good wages, better wages if water can be obtained.

BLACK HILLS: 1894

Bak D Calif, May 24, 1894, p 3:

"The liveliest placer camp of all is what is called the 'Black Hills.'" The gold from this district is of a little better value than that which comes from any other camp, averaging \$18 per ounce. There is more real mining life and excitement at this camp than at all of the others put together and the output at present seems to be an end that justifies the means. . . . .  
. . . The desert is going to be a good 'p or man's country' for many years to come."#

RED ROCK: 1894  
GOLER  
SUMMIT  
~~BLAKE HILLS~~

Bak D Cal, May 24, 1894, p 3:

"The first excitement is on the wane and the eager ones who rushed in with a hurry and ran all over the country, have most of them rushed out again, leaving behind as their only remembrance a liberal assortment of corner posts, stone monuments and location notices. . . ."

Most of claims will lapse by fail because required work not done. Careful prospectors can then make careful tests, "and they will be able to go where they like without molestation. . . ."

The volume of traffic has fallen off by about 2/3; dists have settled down to steady basis.

In Red Rock, the L.A. parties are carrying out plan of pumping in water so that they can use sluices instead of dry washers; lot of machinery has been unloaded at Mojave.

At Red Rock, no more than 20 men using dry washers; output has fallen a lot.

In Goler, Benson bros claims and 3 others being worked.

In Reed gulch, adjoining, only 2 companies dry washing.

At Goler proper, perhaps dozen Mexicans and half dozen anglos; some using creek water with rockers, and 2 dry washers operating.

At Summit, little being done. Van Slyke & Co have 2 dry washers but are recovering little gold.

RED ROCK: 1894

Bak D Cal, June 26, 1894, p 1:

Mojave, June 26: several valuable nuggets found at Red Rock. Nugget from claim of Billy Reveria weighed 22 oz. Unlimited amt of water found at Bonanza M, "and a great boom is in sight."

Bonanza water plant now under const.

\$170 obtained in one day by one man dry washing.

--

RED ROCK: 1894  
GOLER  
SUMMIT  
BLACK MOUNTAIN

Bak D Cal, June 29, 1894, p 2:

County treasurer T.A. Baker returned from trip to desert. Within past few days, at least half the miners have left, intending to return during fall.

At Red Rock, only about 40 men left.

At mouth of canyon, parties have sunk a shaft and found supposedly "inexhaustible supply" of water. Have sent for engine and powerful centrifugal pump, with which they propose to water water about 800 ft in one or two lifts and send it to gold-bearing gravels.

Reeves, of Sullivan & Reeves, found nugget weighing 20 3/4 oz. and worth \$370.

The old Black & Sullivan claims still being worked. their 2 claims producing est. \$500/wk.

The Bonanza co. claims still lying idle; won't be worked until pumping plant completed and furnishing water.

Goler is very quiet; only activity is at Benson bros claims.

At Summit, Van Slyke & Co. are in bonanza and taking out at least \$50/day. Camp nearly died out "and everybody was expecting to be buried, but the ground opened into bonanza again, so that the camp has a new lease on life."

At Black Mountain, about 10 or 12 men are at work and getting fair pay.

RED ROCK/1893  
GOLER  
SUMMIT  
KANE SPRINGS

Bak D Cal, Dec 26, 1893, p 1. M.E. Sherman, SF Chronicle:

Halfway bet. Red Rock and Goler is Koehne p.o., established "for the convenience of the Golerites by the side of a somewhat brackish spring, infinitely better than none, however. Charles Koehne is Postmaster, storekeeper, boniface, mail-carrier and very much of an accommodation in general."

Weather at this time of year is "cool and bracing, and desert travel has little of the discomfort and none of the danger that characterizes it during the summer months."

Left forks of road to head for Red Rock, 2 mi through mtns, where gulch opens to right. 1½ mi up gulch are placers.

35 men in camp, called Red Rock.

In Goler gulch, little mining going on in main canyon. 3 or 4 mi up from mouth is a small stream, where 3 or 4 Mexicans are making small wages with a rocker. The dry placers are in 2 gulches to south of Goler Canyon.

By conserv. est., \$30,000 in gold has been taken out of Benson and Read gulches during past year.

No longer any room for prospectors at Goler.

"The whole country for miles around is covered with location notices. Corner and center monuments and the like are as plenty as greasewood bushes, or almost so. Every one who has been upon the ground, after recording it for himself, seems to have built a lot of monuments in memory of his wife's relations, and in this wise the whole country has been 'gobbled up.' . . ."

At a miners' meeting held Tues., was ordered that only 1 claim could be located by any 1 man. since some men have located up to 40 claims, nobody allowed to locate for friend unless friend was in dist.

RED ROCK/1893  
SLATE RANGE  
SUMMIT  
GOLER  
LAST CHANCE CANYON  
KANE SPRINGS

Bak D Cal, Dec 14, 1893, p 3. LA Herald:

At Red Rock, found 20 tents in various places on both sides of the main gulch, "and all seemingly very active."

25 mi NE of Raymond's sta is Slate Range. Wilson bros. of Mojave have probably some of finest mines in range; Water abundant; have 5-stamp mill run by 10-hp gas. engine. vein is rich, averaging \$26/ton in gold. Mills & Stiles

are putting in 5-stamp mill a few mi N of Wilson bros.

Found old tunnels of El Paso pass. 4 mi E are placers recently disc. by Van Slyke bros 10 days ago. Not as large as Goler field but very rich.

Goler producing coarse gold; about 50 men at work. Met 18 outfits in wagons and 3 burro caravans bound for Goler

Last Chance Gulch about 30 mi NE of Mojave, 3 mi from Kane Springs. Has best supply of water and most adv. for mining of all places visited. Much coarse gold has been "coyoted out of this gulch" without using water. Gulch owned by poor men using dry washers--much fine gold lost.

Kane Springs about 26 mi from Mojave; owned by Charles Cohen; has supplies of groceries, hay, and grain; "has not the gall so common among settlers on the desert to charge travelers for water."

RED ROCK/1893  
KOEHN PO  
SUMMIT

Bak D Cal, Dec 16, 1893, p 2. Lancaster Gazette:

Frank Budd and U. Zimmerman ret'd to Lan. Are  
"highly elated with the prospects."

Budd saw "whole sacks of gold nuggets so rich and  
shining that they made his eyes water and grow dim. . . ."

A post office called Koehn <sup>and</sup> ~~are~~ 2 stores are there.

". . . The boys say that it looks tempting to  
see them running the dry washers and at the clean-up  
pick up the yellow nuggets and drop them in the great  
glass jars right there before their eyes. . . ."

The men in Red Rock are taking out \$100 worth of  
nuggets per man each day.

---

Bak D Cal, Dec 16, 1893, p 3. San Bern., Dec 14:

Henry Morse ret'd from Summit dist. with several  
large nuggets and consid. dust. Miners making as much as  
\$20/day; 2 San Bern. men have taken out \$17,000 in last  
5 months.

A \$4 nugget taken out of Nugget gulch.

GOLER/1893  
RED ROCK  
SUMMIT

Bak D Cal, Dec 20, 1893, p 1. LA Herald:

Goler disc. 8 or 9 months ago. Over \$25,000 has been taken from Goler. A

At Bald Eagle No. 1, owned by Gus Hagg and A. Johnson, San Bern, \$2,000 in nuggets taken. 35-ft shaft sunk.

Benson bros. claim, shallow diggings, "panning out well. A nugget from this claim worth \$280.

Miners are being paid \$2.50/day and board. Only good miners employed. Meals are 35¢ "and other necessaries in proportion." all prospectors bring own outfits, inc. food and bedding. WEather there is cool. Feed for horses, such as grain, is scarce; burros don't suffer "owing to their peculiar taste for vegetation that the horse cannot touch."

Red Rock is "a flourishing camp."

Red Rock turning out consid. gold. Dist. opened 6 weeks ago. One miner claims that at least oz of gold being taken out daily by each man. Gold is coarse, some nuggets weighing \$8 to \$10. 3 men took out 15 oz (nearly \$300) in day, but this was "luckiest day."

Mostly dry washers used.

While traveling to Summit, the prospectors get water from Mesquite Springs, where water "unusually good." Water can also be obtained at last station on road to borax works in DEath Valley.

RED ROCK: 1894

GOLER

SUMMIT

Bak D Cal, Feb 6, 1894, p 2. L.A. Herald:

A party of 3 prospectors at Red Rock sold claims recently for \$6,000. The buyers were then offered \$6,000 for 1/3 interest but they refused.

At Goler are Benson brothers, 3 young men from San Bern. Located claims a few months ago. Reported that bros have taken out \$20,00.

Good reports coming from Summit. Van Slyke working there with 2 or 3 partners. Van Slyke reported that miners are taking avg of \$10 day per man.

SUMMIT DIST  
MESQUITE SPGS/1894

Bak. Daily Californian, Feb 15, 1894, p 3:

T.R. Davis, in hotel business in Tehachipa, has opened a store at Summit dist.

Two Lancaster men have opened a store at Mesquite Springs.

GOLER: 1894

SUMMIT

Bak. D. Cal, Feb 24, 1894, p 2:

News from desert continues to be "very encouraging."

At Goler, nugget worth about \$700 was taken out of  
Reed Gulch, near where the \$1,000 nugget was found.

At Summit, Van Slyke & Co. cleaned up \$1,000 in 5 days;  
the largest nugged<sup>+</sup> worth about \$6.

RED ROCK: 1894  
GOLER  
SUMMIT  
~~BLAKE HILLS~~

Bak D Cal, May 24, 1894, p 3:

"The first excitement is on the wane and the eager ones who rushed in with a hurry and ran all over the country, have most of them rushed out again, leaving behind as their only remembrance a liberal assortment of corner posts, stone monuments and location notices. . . ."

Most of claims will lapse by fail because required work not done. Careful prospectors can then make careful tests, "and they will be able to go where they like without molestation. . . ."

The volume of traffic has fallen off by about 2/3; dists have settled down to steady basis.

In Red Rock, the L.A. parties are carrying out plan of pumping in water so that they can use sluices instead of dry washers; lot of machinery has been unloaded at Mojave.

At Red Rock, no more than 20 men using dry washers; output has fallen a lot.

In Goler, Benson bros claims and 3 others being worked.

In Reed gulch, adjoining, only 2 companies dry washing.

At Goler proper, perhaps dozen Mexicans and half dozen anglos; some using creek water with rockers, and 2 dry washers operating.

At Summit, little being done. Van Slyke & Co have 2 dry washers but are recovering little gold.

RED ROCK: 1894  
GOLER  
SUMMIT  
BLACK MOUNTAIN

Bak D Cal, June 29, 1894, p 2:

County treasurer T.A. Baker returned from trip to desert. Within past few days, at least half the miners have left, intending to return during fall.

At Red Rock, only about 40 men left.

At mouth of canyon, parties have sunk a shaft and found supposedly "inexhaustible supply" of water. Have sent for engine and powerful centrifugal pump, with which they propose to water water about 800 ft in one or two lifts and send it to gold-bearing gravels.

Reeves, of Sullivan & Reeves, found nugget weighing 20 3/4 oz. and worth \$370.

The old Black & Sullivan claims still being worked. their 2 claims producing est. \$500/wk.

The Bonanza co. claims still lying idle; won't be worked until pumping plant completed and furnishing water.

Goler is very quiet; only activity is at Benson bros claims.

At Summit, Van Slyke & Co. are in bonanza and taking out at least \$50/day. Camp nearly died out "and everybody was expecting to be buried, but the ground opened into bonanza again, so that the camp has a new lease on life."

At Black Mountain, about 10 or 12 men are at work and getting fair pay.

SALTDALE

~~GARLOCK~~

William A Myers, Iron Men and Copper Wires: A Centennial  
History of the Southern California Edison Company,  
Glendale: Trans-Anglo Books, 2nd ed., 1986.

p 256:

GARLOCK: c 1947. Calif Electric Power Co.

p 259:

*Service  
established in*

SALTDALE: 1919 S: Southern Sierras Power Co.  
service abandoned 1981.\*

*substation*

SALTDALÉ:

KC: "School Districts: Formation/Change of Boundaries: Garlock." File 19-14. clk of bd. <sup>school district</sup> <sup>clerk of board of</sup> <sup>from county supervisors</sup>

Pet<sup>ition</sup> for annex<sup>ation</sup> of Saltdale S/D to Garlock S/D. Signed by 13 parents of 21 ch<sup>ildren</sup> aged 5-17 and 4 ch under 5. Parents included several Latinos.

Note: Chenoweth backed annex. merged Aug 1, 1921.

Pet to annex part of Red Rock S/D to Garlock. Since several Red Rock pupils would have to travel 12 mi to R/R school, compared to 5-6 mi to Garlock, some parents favored annex. Signed by 10 parents of 7 ch. Leo B Hart, Jan 27, 1940, urged bd to grant pet.

--

KC: "School Districts: Garlock." File 19-4. clk of bd. <sup>clerk of board</sup>

1. At election July 18, 1950, voters had approved increase in max tax rate from 80¢ to 1.50.

2. Pet to annex part of Garlock S/D to Red Rock dist Nov 14, 1950. Since attendance at Garlock had fallen to fewer than 5 pupils, dist would have to be lapsed or susp at end of 1950-51 sch yr. Pupils could be educated more conven. at Red Rock than at Randsburg.

3. Jesse D Stockton put up notice to ch bounds of Garlock S.D. Hearing set for Jan 15. Map showed Garlock sch at Salt. Dist. would be divided bet RR and Rand. <sup>DISTRICT</sup>

4. Notices posted at Ricardo Cafe, Red Rock Sch, Desert Wagon Wheel (phone booth), Garlock sch, Saltdale Service Station, and main office of Long Beach Salt Co.

5. Letter fr<sup>om</sup> Jesse D Stockton, Dec 18, 1950: Stockton rec,. that part of Garlock dist be trans. to R.R. Reasons: Garlock sch had closed in Sept 1950 for lack of attendance; R.R. was closer to most residents (living near Salt.); after July 1, 1951, rest of dist to be annexed to Rand.

abbreviations: s/d = school district

annex. = annexation

ch = children

sch = school

pet. = petition

fr. = from

ch = change

trans. = transported

Salt. = Saltdale

"Another Method Used At Saltdale," Randsburg Times, July 25, 1924, 1:5.

Times editor visited Saltdale, 12-15 mi s. of Rand.

Operation differs from other salt-mines. Brine is first pumped into large vats and allowed to evaporate until salt at least 6" thick. Then salt is loaded on small cars and hauled over special railroad, at least 1 mi long., to mill. At mill, salt is ground into various finenesses required by trade, sacked, and shipped.

Although some rock salt exists, most is "pure white" and needs only grinding to be ready for market. So pure and strong that co. advertises not to use too much; it will make food too salty.

Plant operated by Consolidated Salt Company of L.A. Six men working in mill, besides others working on train and at pumping plant. Plant running with small crews because of shortage of water and power; even then, crews still have to work at night, when supply most limited.

Times editor inspected mill: "everything as neat as a lady's kitchen about the mill."

About 6 to 10 tons/day ground and sacked with <sup>2</sup>size crew.

saltdale: 1925

"Little Live Local Lights," Randsburg Times, Sept 4, 1925, 3:1

According to H.C. Topp, "the rustling superintendent of the salt works at Saltdale," this has been best season for salt. Now making last clean-up of salt beds, a 60-day interim before next harvest.

saltdale/1927

<sup>copy</sup>  
Rand: Times, Dec 8, 1927, p 1.

Jack Byfield, county director of child accountancy, health, and physical education, visited the desert schools; noted "the wonderful rise" in A.D.A. <sup>avg daily attendance</sup> of some schools.

For past 3 years, Garlock, at Saltdale salt works, was one of poorest in county. In 1927, under Mrs. Rogers, teacher, and H.C. Topp, clerk of dist, "the school is making one of the best records of the county in the matter of a low absence record."

The small building, formerly little more than a shack, has been painted and "despite its humble construction is very attractive and well lighted. . . ." According to Byfield, "a fine piece of Americanization work is being done with the children of foreign born parents in this district through the use of play activities demanding the use of the English language and the finer points of good sportsmanship and cooperation."

saltdale/1927

Rand. Times, Dec 29, 1927, p 3.

The Fremont Salt Co has sold 111 claims on its prop. at Kane Springs to Long Beach Salt Co. Dr George Buchner is pres. of Fremont Salt.

--

Rand. Times, Dec <sup>29</sup>~~27~~, 1927, p. 3.

The women of Cantil were invited to a doll-dressing party at Mrs. Ruby Rogers of Saltdale school and Mrs. Bryan of Cantil. Will have joint Christmas tree at Cantil; "everybody is looking forward to the event."

--

saltdale/1928

Rand. Times 1-26-28, p 2:

A porch has been added to Red Rock School; it adds "much to the comfort and appearance of the school."

The Garlock school has been repaired, a cloak room has been added, and the interior has been painted. Trustees are Mrs Jennie Koehn, A.B. McKinney, and H.C. Topp.

--

Rand. Times, 3-9-28, p 2:

The Saltdale store was robbed on Sunday night. Thieves took all candy gum guessers and punch board. [games] ". . . It was quite a loss to the company. . . ." Topp, the genial gen mgr, "feels sure it was strangers and we feel sure no one around here would commit a felony."

A Bakersfield couple has lease<sup>d</sup> some claims; have put their 2 sons in Saltdale school.

--

Rand. Times 4-13-28, p 2.

H.C. Topp, gen supt at Saltdale, has built "a nice house on his homestead across from the plant. . . ." Plans to move in right away.

--

Rand. Times, 5-4-28, p 1:

The schoolchildren of Garlock and Red Rock went to Mrs. McIvers at Dove Springs Sat. Had picnic lunch "and a very good time in general."

--

Rand. Times, 5-11-28:

The employees at Saltdale gave a dance Sat. night.

~~saltdale/1928~~  
~~gypsite/1928~~

Rand. Times, 5-11-28:

The employees at Saltdale gave a dance Sat. night. Residents from all over valley attended; everyone "had a very good time."

--

July 13, 1928:

George Abel, owner of deposit at Gypsite, spent several days in So Cal. Said farmers were well pleased with results obtained by placing gyp on fruit trees, etc, and fruit is larger and more productive. Abel received orders for 1,500 tons of gypsum while gone; said entire output of mill is contracted for the year.

--

Rand. Times, Aug 12, 1928, p 1:

\_\_\_ Ward, of Long Beach Salt Co, looked over operation at Saltdale. Has been shortage of rain and "consequently the salt is about played out."

--

Rand. Times, Aug 31, 1928, p 1:

Jack Kelley, of Gypsite, became ill with ptomaine poisoning and was taken to Rand. hospital; has been very ill since then. //8-31-28, p 1: Mrs. A Soto gave some friends at Saltdale "a splendid enchilada dinner" in honor of her husband's birthday, Aug. 28. --

Rand. Times, Sept 7, 1928, p 1:

Carlos Felix, Rand, spent Labor Day learning how salt is made at Salt. "and feels well versed in such matters. The boys even went swimming in the 20 per cent brine-solution ditch, and claimed that they liked it. Felipe Hernandez made an eager second for the impromptu swimming party."

Sept 14, 1928:

Mrs Rogers is teaching again at Saltdale. ". . . It is quite a pleasure to have such dependable teachers in our schools."

--

Sept 14, 1928:

Mr and Mrs E.H. Ward left with son Wilbert for Long Beach. Wilbert had been working at Consolidated Salt co. since June and was hoping to return.

--

Rand. Times, 9-28-28, p 4:

Since St. Mary's parish, with churches at Mojave and Rand., was so large, parishioners bought priest a Ford sedan. Workers in Rand, Saltdale, Gypsite, Cudahy, etc. attend services. *camp (El Paso mtns)*

--

Rand. Times, 10-19-28, p 2:

On Friday, children of Red Rock school went to Saltdale and played game of "dare base." Although very cold, many people watched game; won by Cantil.

--

Rand. Times, 12-28-28:

Children at Garlock school put on "a wonderful program" for Christmas; they "deserve a great deal of credit." Mrs Rogers, the teacher, was "surely well repaid for her work and time she spent in preparing the children. . . ."

"Cantil News," Mojave-Randsburg Record Times, Sept 25, 1929,  
p. 4.

A flood swept through Cantil Friday; did considerable damage to property. Water in Red Rock Canyon was 7 ft deep. In Last Chance Canyon, [H. M.] Ling, supt of the Cudahy<sup>h</sup> company, who had come to pick up his daughter, Marie, from and several other children from school at Saltdale.

They got out a car and ran it up a hill. Cars from Saltdale brought them down to the salt plant, where they had to spend the night. The road is badly washed out.

All workers for Southern Pacific R.R. were out watching the rails.

--

"Cantil Items," Mojave-Rand. Rec-Times, Dec 25, 1929, p 2.

Friday evening, the Saltdale school put on a program: "a little play which was very well rendered and brought forth much applause from the crowd. Cake and sandwiches, and some delicious enchiladas made by our Spanish American ladies, were served."

Miss Edith Ray is the teacher.

Meanwhile, the Tehachapi Hay and Grain truck picked up a load of salt from Saltdale last week; had brought a load of lumber for a mining operation.

saltdale, gypsite/1930

Mrs. J.S. Bishop, "Cantil, Saltdale, Red Rock,"  
Mojave-Randsburg Record-Times, Oct 1 1930, p 4.

George Able has returned to Gypsite after a business  
trip through S. Cal. His crew is again hauling out gypsite.

--

Mrs. J.S. Bishop, "Cantil, Saltdale, Red Rock,"  
Moj-Rand Rec-Times, Oct 8, 1930, p 4.

The Ladies' Aid Society will meet at the home of Mrs.  
Scott Swanger at Saltdale on Sat. Everyone welcome.

--

Mrs. J.S. Bishop, "Cantil, Saltdale, Red Rock," M-Rand  
Rec-Times, Oct 15, 1930, p 4.

Mrs. Scott Swanger entertained Ladies' Aid Society  
at her home in Saltdale. Several women had come from Rand.  
". . . A good time was had by all and refreshments were  
served at the close of the meeting."

The Ladies' Aid Society will meet at the home of the  
Saltdale teacher, Mrs. Larsen.

Mrs. Larson has started a Spanish class at Saltdale.  
". . . Quite a number are interested in it."

--

Mrs. J.S. Bishop, "Cantil, Saltdale, Red Rock," Moj-Rand  
Rec-Times, Oct 1930, p. 4.

The Ladies Aid Society of Cantil church will meet at the  
home of Mrs. Larson in Saltdale. Work is progressing on  
rapidly on hand-made articles to be sold at a bazaar to  
be held in early December. Refreshments included delightful  
Boston cream cake and coffee, served by two women from Red  
Mountain.

Mrs. J.S. Bishop, "Cantil, Saltdale, Red Rock,"  
Moj-Rand Rec-Times, Oct 22, 1930, p. 4.

The Ladies' Aid Soc. will meet Oct 25 at house of Mrs  
Larson, Saltdale. Two women will be hostesses.

--

Mrs. J.S. Bishop, "Cantil, Saltdale, Red Rock,"  
Mojave-Rand Rec-Times, Oct 29, 1930, p 4.

The Ladies' Aid Society of Cantil church will meet  
at the home of Mrs. Larson in Saltdale. Work is progressing  
rapidly to create hand-made articles to be sold at a bazaar  
in early December. Delightful refreshments included  
Boston cream cake and coffee.

Mrs. Larson "deserves a great deal of credit" for her  
work during and after school . Every Wed. evening, she  
conducts a Spanish class for English-speaking people  
and on Thursday evening teaches an English class for  
Spanish-speaking people. The classes "are well attended and  
should be very beneficial to everyone attending."

---

Miss M.E. Dean, "Cantil, Saltdale, Red Rock," Mojave-  
Rand. Record-Times, Nov 26, 1930, p 4.

The Spanish class conducted by Caroline M. Larson at  
Saltdale "is getting along fine and everyone is enjoying  
the work. . . ." The class meets every Wed. at Saltdale.  
Mrs. Larson also conducts an Americanization class on  
Thursday evening "for those wishing to speak better English.  
Visitors are welcome."

0252  
Saltdale: 1931

"Ships Holly Cleanser," Mojave-Rand. Rec.-Times, Nov 18, 1931  
4:4.

(part of larger article:)

The Southern Pacific R.R. loading station at Saltdale is of "late pattern," handling shipments of pumice (Holly Chemical Co., Last Chance Canyon), gypsite, and salt.

#

Mrs. J.S. Bishop, "Cantil, Saltdale, Red Rock," Mojave-Randsburg Record-Times, Nov 25, 1931, 4:3.

All post offices in area furnished with lithos of George Washington and Mt. Vernon home, reproduced from original paintings. Done in honor of 200th anniv of Wash. birth.

#

Mrs. J.S. Bishop, "Cantil, Saltdale, Red Rock,"  
Dec 2, 1931, 4:3-~~4~~.

A baby <sup>boy</sup> was born to Mr. and Mrs. Soto at Saltdale. The baby daughter of Mr and Mrs Joe Sapolis died; buried at Randsburg.

4:4 (no title): at least 10 mi of grading carried out on prop county's oiled road between Red Rock Canyon <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ Randsburg via Saltdale. Completion will be great benefit to mining interests.

#

Mrs J.S. Bishop, "CANTIL, Saltdale, Red Rock,"  
Moj-Rand Rec-Times, Dec 9, 1931, 3:6.

Two boys, grandchildren of Mrs and Mrs Earl Brown, <sup>have</sup> ~~were~~ entered Saltdale school.

#

saltdale (garlock)-cantil

"Movement to Consolidate Schools," Mojave-Randsburg  
Record-Times, Sept 23, 1931, 2:3.

Movement under way to merge Garlock and Red Rock  
school districts. It was said that money would become  
available to build a good building with an auditorium;  
communities seemed to favor the idea.

Paper <sup>said</sup> ~~called~~ const. of modern school "would probably  
be the best improvement that could be suggested.

"With real school facilities, community life centers  
at the school house."

saltdale: 1931

Ad for Pearl Oil kerosene, Moj-Rand <sup>ave</sup> Record-Times, <sup>sbury</sup>  
Dec 23, 1931, 346. ~~22~~ 213

Mrs. E.M. Conner, Garlock, selling brand.

Also listed: C.W. Platte, Atolia.

[Platt]

GYPSITE:

Several minerals of the desert were too humble to attract much attention. Gypsum was one of those minerals.

Large gypsum-mining companies tended to seek out massive, high-grade deposits. But smaller operators were content to mine gypsite, a mixture of gypsum and clay. The purest grades could be turned into plaster, whereas lower grades were valued by farmers as fertilizer.

Charlie Koehn, a pioneer rancher, found an unusually large and pure deposit in late 1909 on the dry bed of Koehn Lake, near the new Southern Pacific branch from Mojave to Owens Valley. Even though gypsite was selling for only \$10 a ton, the California Crown Plaster & Gypsite Company of Los Angeles began leasing Koehn's claim and put up buildings and a calcining (roasting) plant near Kane Springs in early 1911. Twenty men worked at the mill. A post office operated from June, 1911, to March, 1912.

The demand proved overwhelming. <sup>was</sup> Running the mill <sup>day</sup> and night in the summer of 1912, 12 men <sup>produced</sup> 30 tons of plaster a day.

Crown Plaster was <sup>during</sup> reorganized as the California Gypsum Hollow Tile Company, <sup>were</sup> the next summer and enlarged and modernized the operation. The new concern built a three-mile narrow-gauge railroad onto the lake bed, where tests had revealed a 14-foot deposit of very pure gypsite. At the mill, the gypsite was dried out in three huge oil-fired kettles, mixed with fiber and retarder to give it firmness, and pulverized to make plaster of "very good quality." The company was also putting up a depot, a hotel, houses, and a post office (which never reopened). ~~since it expected to double its crew soon.~~

*Expecting to double its crew soon*

For reasons that are not clear, the operation failed. Koehn, who held a mortgage on the mill, took it over in early 1915 and threatened to ship out gypsite himself if the plant were not redeemed. But the company never returned. Several fairly successful revivals, however, took place until the mid-1950s.#

1926-1932

"Koehn Clay Mill Renovated," Rand. Times, Sept 10, 1926, p 1.  
from Bak Echo.

Spending \$20,000, Consolidated Clay Co of SF has nearly finished install. of huge dryer on Charles Koehn prop, SW of Rand. The co. will also install a mill, costing \$40,000, to grind the clay, "found in great deposits." Clay being shipped to L.A.; 80 <sup>tons</sup> /day ground. Product used to refine oil; Koehn, ~~g~~ said he had closed deal by which California Products Co of L.A. will install 2nd mill.

The two mills will have cap of 200 <sup>tons</sup> /day; some of material for milling to be done on gypsite, for conversion into plaster.

23 men employed; force to be increased to 50 when both mills completed.

The Cal Products Co to begin work next month.

Rand. Times, 7-13-28:

George Abel, owner of deposit at Gypsite, spent several days in So. Cal. Said farmers were well pleased with results obtained by placing gyp on fruit trees, etc., and fruit is larger and more productive. Abel received order for 1,500 tons of gypsum while gone; said entire output of mill is contracted for the year.

--

Rand. Times, Aug 31, 1928, p 1:

Jack <sup>Kelley</sup> Kelley of Gypsite, became ill with ptomaine poisoning and was taken to Rand. hospital; has been very ill since then.

Rand. Times, 9-28-28, p 4:

Chas A Koehn was found guilty Tues night on counts of attempted murder and malicious use of explosives. Jury had deliberated only few hours; recommended leniency.

The self styled desert rat "amazed courtroom attaches by his adeptness as an attorney in defending himself."