

# The Entrancing Story of the Great Camp's Discovery

NEARLY every mining camp in the west has had a hard luck story behind its discovery, and Goldfield is no exception to the rule. It is well known how Tonopah started on a capital of \$25, divided between Jim Butler, T. L. Oddie and W. B. Broun, and how Oddie and Broun got their fortunes merely by assaying the rock which Butler had broken from the Mizpah ledge but could not stand the expense of ascertaining its value. The discoverers of Goldfield, Harry C. Stimler and W. A. Marsh, were not even as well fixed as the lucky neighbors at Tonopah. Harry Stimler, with his sister, Mrs. J. E. Stimler, came to Tonopah from Belmont, Nev., where Harry Stimler commenced the first shortly after the Mizpah and with considerable money they had accumulated while working on the Mizpah. They were started a boarding house. They were not so many more hungry men, and as the latch string was always out, the combination soon made way with the little stake and the boarding house was closed.

## Worked for "Grub Stake."

Stimler worked around the camp and finally about the first of December, 1902, persuaded Jim Butler and Tom Kendall to grub stake him and Billy Marsh for a prospecting trip. The boys had no particular place in view so Butler and Kendall did not have much faith in the enterprise, and fitted them out with a dilapidated old buckboard, to which was harnessed a little mule and a smaller horse, and a commissary of a bale of hay and "grub" enough for a few days. With such an outfit it took them until midnight of the second day to reach Rabbit Springs, about two miles south of the present town of Goldfield, and 30 miles from Tonopah. The next day, Dec. 4, 1902, they located Rabbit Springs and started out to prospect the most likely looking place in the vicinity, a high mountain to the north, called Columbia mountain, and on that day and a few days following located 19 claims, which included the Sandstorm, Kendall, May Queen, Nevada Boy and others, all of which have since formed the basis of big incorporations, and are active, operating properties. They took samples and returned to Tonopah and while they were waiting to hear the results of the assay, it was agreed that they would do the location work and hold the claims. The boys returned with the same old outfit and for a long time hauled their water in a wagon, and held together with baling wire. While at this work, Stimler and Marsh were all alone in the country and had hopes enough in their discoveries to designate the district with a name, so called it Grandpa district for the reason that they wanted to be in style. Tonopah was all right, Hannipah and Westpah were coming to the front, and they promised well enough to be the grand pa of all of them.

## Sandstorm Riches.

In January they discovered some rich ore on the Sandstorm, but it was kept quiet. But little stock was taken in their operations by their friends and others in Tonopah and they were laughed at for continuing work where every one was certain nothing would be found. Their discovery finally leaked out and in May, 1903, Tonopah commenced a stampede to the Grandpa district.

Among the first to arrive was C. D. Taylor, now probably the wealthiest man in Goldfield, president of the Jumbo and Redtop companies. He had been managed to get over the 30 miles from Tonopah on the old crowbar of a horse that he had as a mystery to Stimler and Marsh, but the horse brought him and a barley sack party, and with "grub." He camped in the gulch below the Sandstorm and the next day, May 19, located the Jumbo and Florence claims, about the same time A. D. Myers arrived in camp and commenced looking for extensions of the Stimler and Marsh locations.

## Boys Showed Him.

The boys showed him where their lines ran and told him where they could locate some good looking ground. Before this Stimler and Marsh had located all the ground now embraced in the Jumbo, Florence and Combination properties, but Kendall and Butler thought they had enough, and as only 12 assays could be secured from the surface as far as it had been prospected, they did not consider the claims valuable enough to complete the locations, and as Stimler and Marsh had already been compelled to give up portions of their interest in the first locations which they considered the most valuable, to keep up their end in developing, and felt too poor to do the work themselves, they told Myers to kick down their money and make like the ground, which he lost no time in doing. He called the claim the Combination and afterward sold it for \$75,000 and the story of its development and wonderful output is told in another column.

## The Jumbo Ground.

The Jumbo ground, secured by Charles Taylor, had been located by Stimler for himself and George Schmidt, of Smoky valley, and the latter came down to see it at Stimler's request. When he was ready to return, Stimler broke off about 30 pounds of the crappings and threw them into Schmidt's wagon

for him to have assayed at Tonopah. He thought so little of the rock and the claim that he threw the samples out at his camping place that night and they are there today, a silent monument pointing the way out of the country to the man with "cold feet," the man without nerve. There were others who had little faith in the claims of Grandpa district at this time besides Schmidt. Tom Ramsey and Ben Crook owned the Red Top and three other adjoining claims, and they were glad to get rid of them to Charley Taylor at \$35 apiece. Today the Red Top has a market value of \$700,000, and has \$2,000,000 of ore in sight. Tom Kendall let go of an eighth interest in the Sandstorm and Kendall claims to Geo. Wingfield for \$1,200, but has since realized at least \$100,000 out of the remaining eight interest.

## Marsh Got \$70,000.

The discoveries on the Jumbo, Combination and other claims soon followed. Marsh parted with his interests for \$70,000 and settled down as a cattle raiser near Belmont. Jim Butler, without ever coming to see the ground, got \$35,000 for the interest the boy located for him, which has not cost him to exceed \$150. Oddie and Gardner received \$65,000 from one shipment of 14 tons from a lease they had on the Kendall and Mayne. Loftus and Sherman had their bank account swelled to the extent of \$40,000 by what came out of a 10 by 10 by 20 foot hole in the Sandstorm, not to speak of the other thousands of dollars that have been extracted and the \$10,000 ore that the Kendall has lately been taking out and piling in the bank vaults of Goldfield for safe keeping, all direct results from the discoveries of Stimler and Marsh. With a bank account of his own, Stimler commenced operations for himself. He acquired a half interest in and laid out the townsite of Columbia and brought water through a pipe line from Rabbit Springs to furnish the town, which he still makes his home. He has continued to operate in mines and has been very conservative in his undertakings, and with him are associated some of the strong financial men of the state. Two of his pet projects are the Goldfield and Goldreed mines and the Death Valley & Palmetto Gold Mining company, and he is general manager of both. D. A. Bender of the State Bank & Trust company is president of the Goldfield-Gold Reed company; H. G. Duddy, a banker of San Francisco, is vice president, and J. P. Hopkins, manager of the Hayward estate, San Francisco, is secretary and treasurer.

## Considered Good Property.

The company's ground lies just north of the Kendall and is considered one of the best groups in the camp. A cross-cut tunnel has cut 100 feet of \$8 ore and several shafts have disclosed many strings of very rich ore. Six men are kept constantly at work on the claims. The Death Valley & Palmetto company has three claims in Death valley and three at Palmetto, about seven miles west of Ida. The Death valley claims have an immense ledge, 300 feet wide, a 100-pound sample from which recently gave \$7.90 in gold, while the Palmetto group has several veins from 6 inches to 2 feet wide, running from \$10 to \$200. Henry Jaggard of Lida, George Bartlett of Tonopah, and Bert Smith, a prominent banker of Elko, Eureka and Reno, are associated with Mr. Stimler in this property. Both the companies are pushing work on the properties and will continue the development until they are on a dividend basis, "Broke or on Easy Street" Harry Stimler is always the same, and the acquisition of wealth has not necessarily altered the use of a barrel hoop for a hat band. When the truth is told in the story of Goldfield, the names of Harry Stimler and Billy Marsh will be given as the first men to break rock in the camp, first to discover the ledges, first to make locations, and like Jim Butler at Tonopah, paved the way, and a golden way at that, for those who followed them.

The name Grandpa district was changed to Goldfield district nearly a year after the first discoveries of Stimler and Marsh, and today is the most widely known mining camp in the world—unequaled in its production of yellow metal for the term of its existence and with a future full of promises of greater things.

## The Great January Mine.

When the rush to Goldfield from Tonopah first started, R. L. Johns, a practicing attorney of Tonopah, was in the crowd. He had never made a location but wanted to try his luck. He was a tenderfoot as far as prospecting was concerned and if there is anything in the proverbial tenderfoot's luck he had it for he located the January mine, stayed with it and is today the president of the Goldfield Mining company of Nevada, which owns the mine besides several other claims including the February, October, September, Henry Clay, St. Paul and Cracker Jack. H. T. Hargrove and A. C. Elson had the location work done on the January and secured a one-third interest and with Mr. Johns are still in control of the company. The January claims the Combination on the south and has proved to be one of the sensational mines of the camp, having a record of \$180,000 of shipping ore sent out by the leasers, \$287,000 of milling ore piled up on the dumps and 6,432 sacks valued at \$75,000, now sacked ready for shipment, a total production of \$500,000.

## "Deep Down" Values.

The work in the lower levels has demonstrated that the values continue



WILLIAM A. MARSH.

HARRY C. STIMLER.

The Two Original Discoverers of Goldfield, Both of Whom Have Made Fortunes Out of the District.

## Pretty Good Record.

While this is a pretty good record for less than two years' work it is not in proportion to the output of the other mines, due mainly to conditions which have retarded active development. The leases expired in January last and the company took possession with the intention of following a systematic plan of development. A pump was ordered but on account of the congested condition of traffic was delayed for a long time and work was practically at a standstill. A big cave in the mine in May required the full force for nearly a month in catching it up. The troubles were overcome though and about 1,800 feet of work has been performed during the year. The shaft has been sunk to a depth of 300 feet and levels laid out into the ore bodies at 100, 200 and 300 feet, besides the extending of these run by the leasers at 50 feet, 85 feet and 100 feet. No attempt has been made to extract ore by stoping, yet an amount more than sufficient to pay all operating expenses has been taken from the work of pushing the drifts. Two shipments have been made during the year and there are now over 6,000 sacks on the dump ready to be disposed of. Some of the biggest slopes in the camp are found in the January. Many of them averaging 15 feet in width. These were made by the leasers, Patrick, Rielly, Jones and Kendall. They extracted \$476,000 from a block of ground 150 feet long and 100 feet deep.

## Some Shipment Figures.

To show the values of ores shipped by the leasers of Goldfield, the following figures taken from the sheets of the smelter returns of shipments of the January leasers, are interesting. They are a few of the shipments that show the range from the lowest to the highest values with the amounts shipped and value in gold:

Amount of shipment, pounds.	Ounces of gold.
12,152	4.38
61,406	6.35
47,851	6.64
24,584	7.63
24,743	7.94
21,664	10.63
24,684	15.91
42,680	17.40
37,630	24.14
45,279	25.35
27,636	25.20

Careful sampling and measurements of the dumps of milling ore extracted by the leasers, show 2,500 tons of \$35 ore, 360 tons of \$61 ore and 4,000 tons of \$40 ore.

## "Deep Down" Values.

The work in the lower levels has demonstrated that the values continue

tion claim, it was called "Curtis' Well" and "Curtis' Folly," but he went out and made a mine of it, and is considered one of the safe men to tie in mining investments.

He is president of the Crystal Water company, a director in the Nye and Ormsby County bank, and a heavy stockholder in the big companies of the camp. With Curtis behind him, Ridge located a number of claims, and in June, 1904, secured one of the leases on the Jumbo, which proved one of the big things of the camp. The firm has continued to do business and no other two men in Goldfield have greater faith in its future or are more ready to back their faith with their money. They are operating several first class properties, the corporations being close and their claims worked for the purpose of making mines out of them.

## The Goldfield Ore.

The Goldfield Ore Mining company is one of their companies working 25 acres on the east slope of Columbia mountain within a stone throw of the Red Top. The Nevada-Klondike Mines company is another, and it has a promising group of 11 claims at the Klondike district half way between Tonopah and Goldfield. This is silver proposition, carrying from 20 ounces to 2,000 ounces and hundreds of tons of this grade of ore covers the surface of the claims. Prospecting work is now being carried on in the contact of lime and porphyry that runs through the group to determine the extent of the vein. But the property which is promising the quickest return for the money invested, and is at present giving them the greatest hope is the Gold Crater, incorporated into the

## Nevada-Gold Crater.

This property is 24 miles southeast of Goldfield and was discovered in September, 1904, by prospectors grubstaked by Curtis and Ridge. There are six claims and a fraction in the group, and so situated that they have the different ledges embraced in the group for a long distance on the strike. The country is identical with Goldfield in formation, the porphyries and gauge of the veins being the same. They have spent \$10,000 in developing the property and now have it where something can be realized from it. At present two ledges, east and west, are being worked, 40 feet apart. One shaft has been sunk 30 feet in the ore, and at 40 feet it proved to be 15 feet wide and a sample across the entire distance went \$64 in gold, and the fines of the whole 15 feet will go over \$100, which is shipping ore. From a stop and a winze on this level, 200 sacks have been recently taken out for shipment, all of which goes better than \$100. Four hundred feet south of the shaft just mentioned, another shaft is down 80 feet, but out of the vein. From the 100-foot level a crosscut will be run to the vein and the shaft extended to greater depth. A 15-horsepower gasoline hoist has been recently installed and no money will be spared to open up this vein, for the owners believe in its value and permanency. Another ledge which is 15 feet wide goes an average of \$39 in gold. This will also be developed at depth. With a sufficient amount of water only two miles away for all milling purposes and an abundance of wood within six miles, it will be possible to handle the big bodies of low grade ore very economically. Ridge and Curtis believe the property will repeat the performance of the Jumbo lease, for them, and will continue the work during the coming year vigorously.

## Blue Bell.

S. T. Pearson, an old Salt Lake, is president and manager of the Goldfield Blue Bell Mining company which owns two claims lying in the heart of the Goldfield district. One shaft is 140 feet deep, another 100 feet and a third 40. The veins are from two to eight feet wide and carry values as high as \$65. The control of the company is held by New York people.



H. B. LIND.

The above is the portrait of H. B. Lind, Goldfield's first and most successful attorney and one of the leading mining men of the camp. He is the promoter and owner of the Jumbo Extension, a mine that is taking rank among the best of the camp and has large and valuable interests in nearly all of southern Nevada's great mining camps. Mr. Lind has always taken a marked interest in everything that has advanced the welfare of Goldfield and was the founder of the Montezuma club, Nevada's most exclusive social organization.



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