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For Individuals: I/We do solemnly swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that the statements contained in the foregoing document are true and correct.

Signature of Claimant(s):

Date:

5-22-19

Date:

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For Organizations: I do solemnly swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that I am

_____ of _____
Title Organization

that I have signed the foregoing document in the space below as

_____ of _____
Title Organization

and that the statements contained in the foregoing document are true and correct.

Signature of Authorized Agent _____ Date _____

Title and Organization _____

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IDWR / NORTH

Claim # 87-10393

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By A. H. KOSCHMANN and M. H. BERGENDAHL - USGS 1968

[Click here for the Principle Gold Producing Districts of the United States Index](#)

Early settlers who were attracted to Latah County by visions of mineral wealth soon found that lumbering, cattle raising, and agriculture were far more rewarding. Gold placers that were found in the Hoodoo district in 1860 produced more than 10,000 ounces of gold and were the chief sources of mineral production in the county; gold and copper lodes were also worked on a small scale (Hubbard, 1957, p. 10).

Across the northern part of the county, Precambrian metasedimentary rocks of the Belt Series are exposed in a 6- to 12-mile-wide zone; on the east edge of the county they crop out in another zone 4 to 8 miles wide. The central part of the county is underlain by granodiorite of the Idaho batholith which intrudes the Belt rocks. About one-third of the county is underlain by upper Tertiary Columbia River Basalt and younger lavas interlayered with lacustrine deposits composing the Latah Formation. Auriferous quartz veins with variable amounts of copper sulfides occur in both the granodiorite and the metasedimentary rocks near stocks of the granodiorite or near diorite bodies (Hubbard, 1957, p. 4-5,9-14).

Though placer gold mining began in 1860, production figures are available only since 1904. Hubbard (1957, p. 7) listed annual production of Latah County from 1904 through 1955 which totaled 17,165 ounces of placer gold and 76 ounces of lode gold. In 1956 the county produced only 4 ounces of gold, and during 1957, none.

HOODOO DISTRICT

The Hoodoo district, about 28 square miles in T. 42 N., Rs. 1 and 2 W., in the Hoodoo Mountains in northeastern Latah County, has been the chief gold producer in the county. Most of the gold came from placers along the Palouse River and Poorman Creek.

Gold was first found in the district in 1860 in Hoodoo Gulch, along the South Fork of the Palouse River (Hubbard, 1957, p. 10). These placers were quickly exhausted, but Chinese reworked the deposits in the 1870's. The district then declined and was dormant until the mid-1930's when a dredge was installed on the North Fork of the river (Hubbard, 1957, p. 10-11). Production was curtailed during World War II. Attempts were made in 1950 to revive the placers, and small quantities of gold were produced for a few years; however, in 1959 the district was again inactive.

It may come as a surprise to some that during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, hundreds of men, some with their families in tow, were lured to Latah County by the promise of gold hidden in stream beds or just below the surface. Mining was an important — if short-lived — industry in the northern half of the county, with an estimated \$1 million worth of metals extracted in just the 1860s from the headwaters of the Palouse River. While the resources unearthed in our neck of the woods certainly never rivaled the deposits found in the Silver Valley, mining left an indelible mark on Latah County.

Gold was first discovered in Idaho by Elias D. Pierce in 1860. In just a year's time, a settlement bearing his name was formed by prospectors from the Walla Walla area who caught wind of the opportunity. The fact that they were illegally trespassing on the Nez Perce Reservation was of little concern to the miners, but it would lead to a new controversial treaty with the tribe and ultimately the formation of Idaho Territory in 1863. In short order, other towns, such as Orofino and Lewiston, sprung up along the mining supply route.

Most ventures relied almost exclusively on placer mining during this era. The traditional pan that many of us picture when we think of frontier miners was used to find gold, and then tools such as rockers, sluice boxes and dredges were used to mine the deposits. As the "easy pickings" became more elusive, some miners turned their attention north toward Gold Hill near present-day Potlatch, the Hoodoo Mountains and elsewhere in today's Latah County.

As early as 1862 or 1863, individual miners were reporting small discoveries of gold in the Hoodoo district. Miners had to travel great distances, however, in order to purchase supplies and cash in their findings in towns like Lewiston or Walla Walla, which detracted from the profitability of their efforts. It was not until the 1880s and the settlement of communities such as Moscow and Palouse that placer mining truly caught on in Latah County.

Source website on last page 3

Gold and silver were mined from the headwaters of the Palouse and Potlatch rivers. Gold was milled from lodes on Moscow Mountain for a time, and small copper plays were discovered near Troy and in the Hoodoos as well. While most operations were small, there were a few entrepreneurs who invested significant capital into projects, like sinking mine shafts and constructing stamp mills.

One of the most interesting of all the mining ventures in Latah County was the opal mine located just northwest from Moscow. In 1890, while digging a well on the William Leasure farm, opals were discovered. For a handful of years, miners worked the area to recover the precious but fragile stones. The quality of the opals were compared to those found in Australia, and, in fact, gems from Latah County were exhibited at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Locally sourced opals and garnets were also used to decorate the beautiful silver and gold book that resides in the University of Idaho president's office. By the early 1900s, opal mining had played out in the county and little of the "Gem City" that had sprung up around Leasure's farm can be found today.

Life-long Latah County resident Jeanette Talbott recalled many years ago how she and her friends would spend time at the old opal mine looking for their own treasures. The following reminiscence was published by the Whitman County Historical Society's spring 1979 Bunchgrass Historian:

"A sunny spring weekend afternoon would be a favorite time for a small group of neighborhood teenagers to try their luck at the Moscow Opal Mines. Armed with hammers or small mallets we would walk to the rock strewn site. There were no longer any tunnels or excavations apparent — only some unpromising looking grey basalt rock.

"A sharp blow with a hammer might expose the milky sheen of a creamy looking surface or sometimes a glassy, bubbly deposit in a small void in the rock.

“Occasionally a cry of discovery would send us all running to see the flashing color of some one’s lucky find. That cry might also mean that one of the girls had turned over a rock and found a sleepy garter snake.

“A find of some kind happened often enough so that we usually kept at our search for three or four hours. Who knew when Lady Luck would be with us? As far as I remember no one found opals of a size to mount in jewelry, but the memories of companionship, of high anticipation and of seeing those vivid bits of greens, blues and pinks are as treasured as a jewel.”

Dulce Kersting-Lark is executive director of the Latah County Historical Society.

http://dnews.com/local/nearby-history-a-history-of-mining-in-latah-county/article_b0fcf40d-b48c-5485-9886-ad395aba3751.html

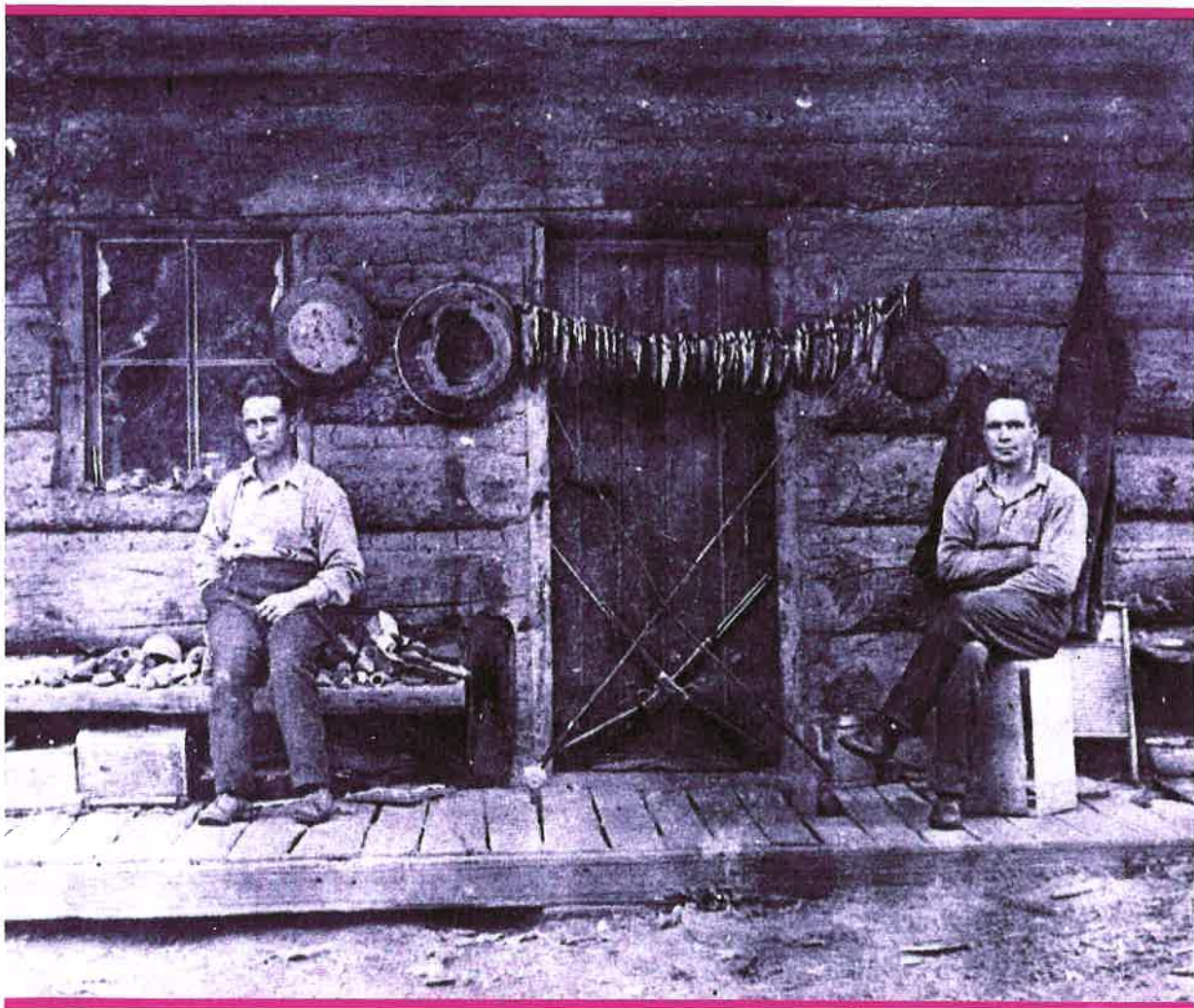
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G^{the} GRUBSTAKING PALOUSE

Gold Mining in the Hoodoo Mountains
of North Idaho, 1860-1950

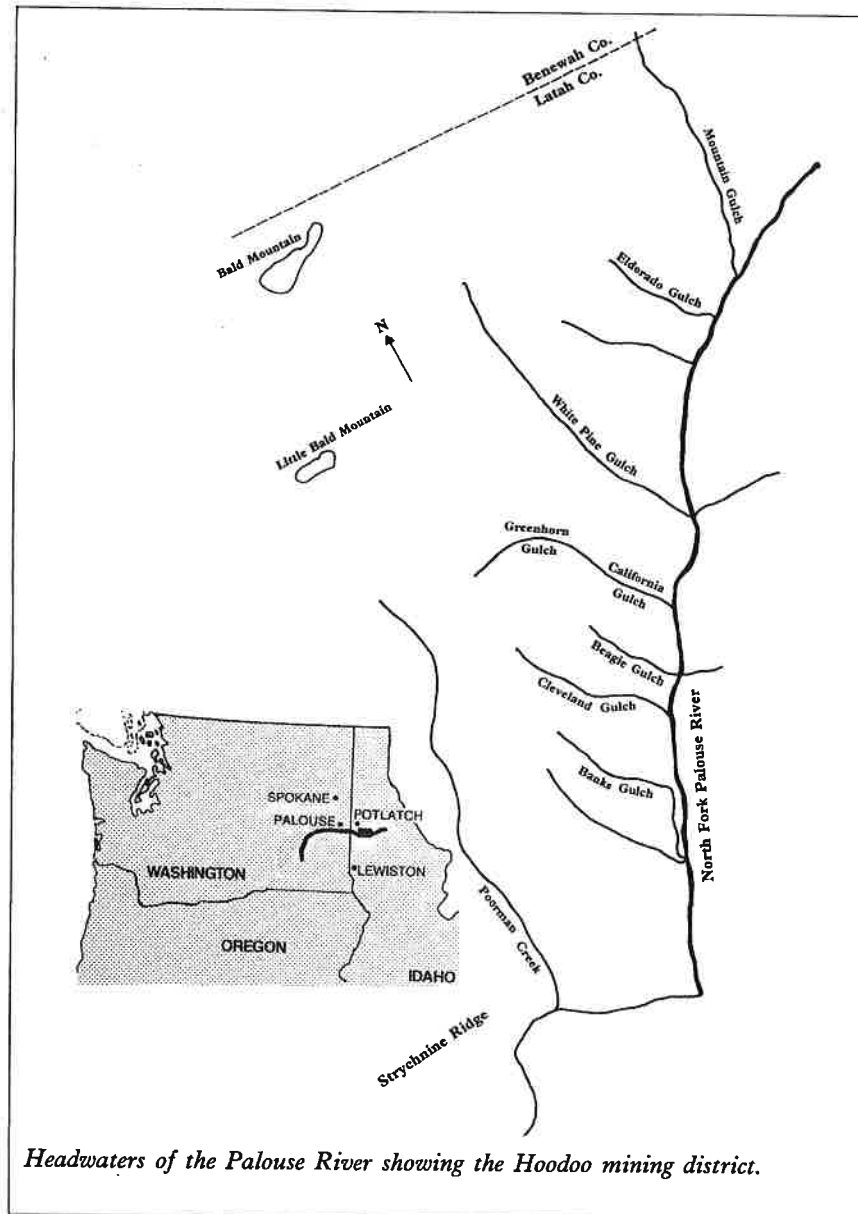


by Richard C. Waldbauer

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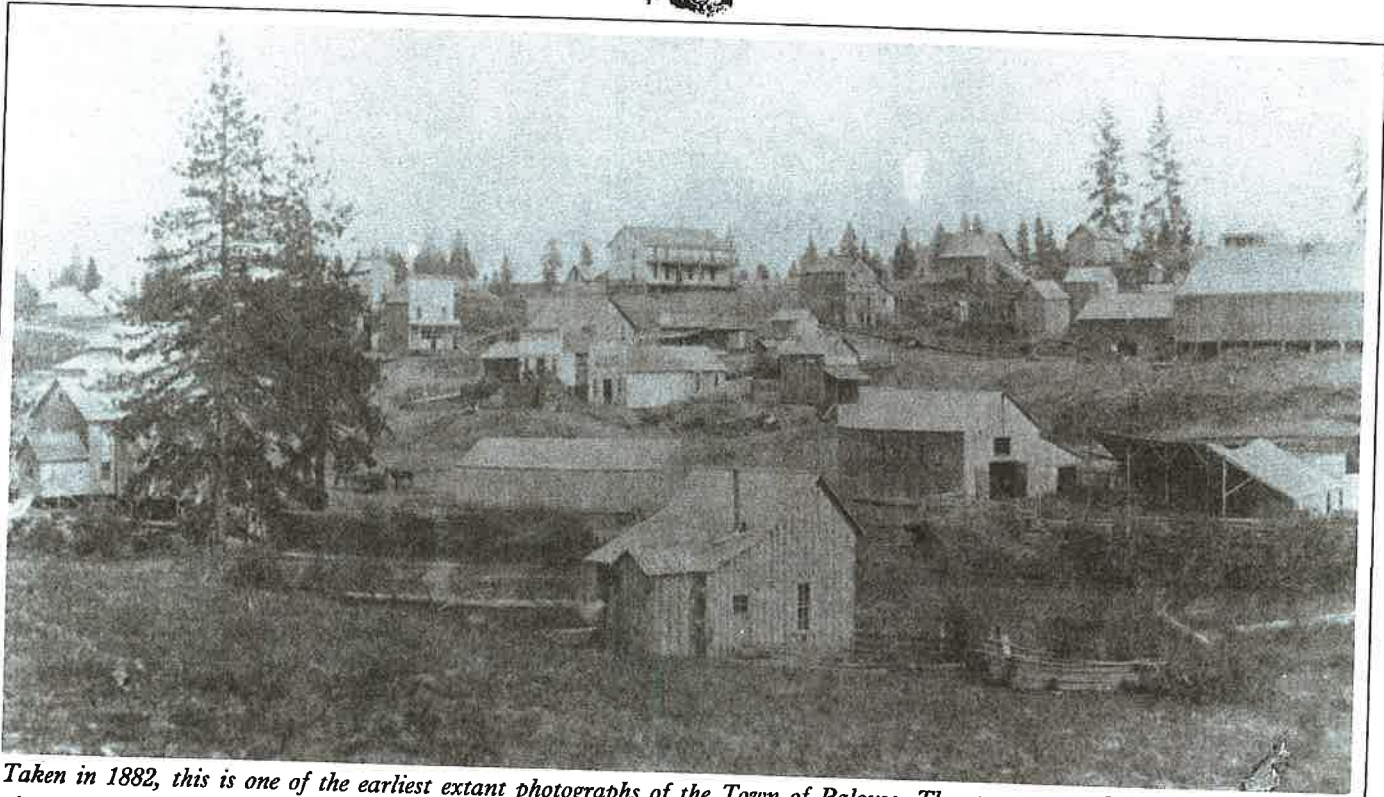
Gold!

Where They Found It



Headwaters of the Palouse River showing the Hoodoo mining district.

Gold rushes often provided the impetus to mass settlement by whites in the Mountain West. The legendary life of the gold fields played an important role in the development of San Francisco, Seattle, Denver, and Portland. But there



Taken in 1882, this is one of the earliest extant photographs of the Town of Palouse. The structure to the far left (behind the pine tree) is William Breeding's flour mill; the large two-story building at the top of the hill is O. E. Clough's hotel; the dwelling in the foreground was probably a house of prostitution. (Whitman County Historical Society, Paul Bockmier Collection)

were also numerous, smaller and less significant gold discoveries with limited national impact. The Hoodoo Mining District in northwestern Latah County, Idaho was one of these. Though it is only rarely mentioned in histories of the Pacific Northwest, the permanent settlement of the upper Palouse River Valley owed much to the success or failure of the Hoodoo miners.

This history covers the period from the mid-1850s, when the upper Palouse River Valley was first mentioned in documentary sources, to the early 1950s, when the last major effort to placer mine the Hoodoos took place. During that time, several gold strikes were made, and a significant amount of mineral wealth was recovered. Initially, the Hoodoo Mining District was a focus for the development of settlement

because of its very nature as an organized community. The gold nuggets that miners exchanged for foodstuffs and supplies helped establish a flow of currency among farmers and entrepreneurs in the area. The wealth that was distributed, however, could have meaning only to people determined to build communities of farms and towns. Therefore, the history that follows is less about the gold that was discovered and more about the lives of people who made use of it.

The Hoodoo Mining District is located on the headwaters of the Palouse River where it flows out of the Hoodoo Mountains in northwestern Latah County, Idaho. The specific location for the legal boundaries of the mining district have fluctuated, but it has always centered on four gulches that drain into the North Fork of the



*Miners pose in front of ore sacks at the Mizpah Mine in 1919.
(Latah County Historical Society, number 25-4-7)*

Palouse River: the Hoodoo, Greenhorn, California, and White Pine Gulches. These and all the important placer-mined drainages flow into the North Fork of the Palouse River from the north and west. Other important tributaries to these rivers are Mountain Gulch, Eldorado Gulch, Moscow Gulch, Cleveland Gulch, Banks Gulch, Poorman Creek, Strychnine Creek, and Excavation Gulch.¹ The only major hardrock mine is located just east of these drainages, across the Baby Grand Mountain divide on Mizpah Creek.

The Palouse River meanders westward from Latah County into Whitman County, Washington and eventually empties into the Snake River. In its upper reaches the river emerges from the Clearwater Mountains, of which the Hoodoo

Mountains are a part, and passes through a broad valley. The Hoodoo Mining District is located at the upper end of the valley. The present site of Laird Park, about four miles northeast of Harvard, Idaho, and Strychnine Ridge mark the end of the bottomland. From here the river passes through the towns of Harvard, Princeton, Hampton, and Potlatch. Its major tributaries in this section are four creeks known as Meadow, Jerome, Hatter, and Gold. On the north the valley is shadowed by Gold Hill, a 4,700 foot isolated promontory, and to the south it is bounded by the Palouse Range. Moscow Mountain, at about 5,000 feet, Bald Butte, Basalt Hill, Mt. Margaret, and Mica Mountain are the most significant points in that Range.