

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10-21-65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1895

BLAND'S COMING BOOM

.....

Mr. P.L. Tinen, formerly a railroad conductor in the east and now interested in real estate and mining property of Bland, came in from the metropolis of the Cochiti mining district last evening. He has proved his confidence in the district by putting up one of the best business houses in Bland and says he is perfectly satisfied with the outlook of the camp.

Mr. Frank Wynkoop, who has been employed at Bland and Allerton for about a year, came in with Mr. Tinen on his way to Denver. He also speaks most encouragingly of the present condition and future prospects of the camp. He reports that numerous improvements have been made in the Beckman mill since the trial run, and that it is now running night and day, chiefly on second grade ore from the Lone Star mine, with every prospect of a satisfactory clean up.

W.S. Trimble keeps eight large ore wagons constantly employed delivering fifty tons of high grade Crown Point ore at Thornton (formerly Wallace) weekly for shipment by rail to Pueblo for treatment. In addition to hauling Crown Point ore, Mr. Trimble has closed a contract to deliver 1,500 tons of first grade Lone Star ore in ~~Thornton~~ Thornton at the rate of one car load per day for shipment to Pueblo. Thus it will be perceived that these two mines alone are now shipping away nearly enough ore to ~~xxx~~ supply one 40-ton furnace of the projected smelter ~~x~~ in Cerrillos.

~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Owing to the financial troubles of Gen. Woodbury in Denver, the Cochiti Milling & Mining company, of which he is president, is doing nothing with the Iron King mine at present, but confidence is expressed that Gen. Woodbury will come out on top again before long and that he will then quickly resume the development of his valuable Cochiti properties.

It is reported that Geo. Ostrander has recently encountered a large body of \$100 rock in one of his properties in Peralta canon.

A rumor is afloat that Mr. Thomas H. Lowthian, one of the principal owners of the Lone Star, Albermarle and other fine properties in ~~this~~ the district, has finally decided upon a process for treating his ores and will soon begin putting up a mill, one report says at the Albermarle mine in Colla canon and another at the river.

Mr. Lowthian went over to Bland from Santa Fe yesterday for the purpose of re-examining the Beckman mill.

continued....

(Santa Fe Daily New Mexican, August 16, 1895, p.4, c.4)

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Survey

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10¹/₂21-65LOCALITY: ~~Atlatlan~~ Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1895

BECKMAN STAMP MILL

.....
 News comes from Bland that the new Beckman stamp mill at that place has made a most successful trial run on Black Girl ore and that all doubt seems to be removed as to the practicability of the method adopted by Manager Beckman for the treatment of Cochiti ores.

The run was made on ore taken from the full breast of the surface workings of the Black Girl and was crushed without sorting just as it came from the mine. The clean-up showed \$5 per ton all around and repeated tests of the tailings show that 98 per cent of the value was saved. As it was well known in advance that the ore run through was nearly all very low grade, the result was unexpectedly good and has naturally very much elated the miners of the camp.

No doubt is now entertained that the mill will hereafter run steadily night and day and that Manager Beckman will soon conclude to increase the size of the plant to sixty stamps--the number provided for in his original plan. Hundreds of tons of good milling ore, on the dumps of the Lone Star, Washington, Crown Point, Union, Good Hope, and other mines of the district, are at once available for treatment at the mill and unlimited quantities more can be rapidly and ~~cheap~~ cheaply taken out.

.....
 (Santa Fe Daily New Mexican, July 10, ~~189~~ 1895, p.4, c.3)

1895

NEW STAGE TO BLAND

Messrs. Geo. P. Meserole, of Pueblo, and Perley Wason, formerly of Durango, Colo., veteran Rocky mountain stage men, have taken the contract to carry the mail daily, except Sunday, between Thornton and Bland. Mr. Wason is personally on the ground and has already stocked the line with good horses and comfortable stages for carrying passengers as well as mail and express matter. He has located barns and offices at Thornton, Cochiti Pueblo, Allerton and Bland, and can be depended upon to keep the line up in such a way as to earn the confidence and respect of the public. He thoroughly understands his business. The business men of Santa Fe should lose no time in negotiating with him for a line into this city.

(Santa Fe Daily New Mexican, ~~Aug~~ August 10, 1895, p.4, c.4)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10-21-65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1895

continued...

Engineer William Garstin expects to complete the survey of the Santa Fe & Cochiti railroad, between Santa Fe and the river, in about two weeks. He has not only surveyed the line from the Crown Point mine to the mouth of White Rock canon on the river, but has made a large map and profile thereof, showing every cut, fill, bridge and calvert (sic) that will be required, from which contracts can be let.

(Santa Fe Daily New Mexican, August 16, 1895, p.4, c.4)

1895

FREE RIDES TO BLAND

XXXX

.....

Perley Wason and Andy Horne, who are running rival stage lines between Thornton and Bland, have engaged in a regular old fashioned game of freeze out.

As the situation is explained to the New Mexican, about a year ago the contract for carrying the mails daily between Thornton and Bland was awarded to George P. Meserole, the well known Colorado stage man, and he offered to turn the contract over to Andy Horne at \$900 per year. This proposition did not meet the views of Mr. Horn (sic), and it thus happened that a few weeks ago Perley Wason, a partner of Mr. Meserole, appeared at Thornton with a complete stage outfit and immediately began carrying passengers and express as well as mail between the railroad and the metropolis of the Cochiti mining district.

Up to that time Mr. Horne had charged \$3 one way and \$5 for the round trip. ~~W~~ Mr. Wason at once reduced the fare to ~~X~~ \$2; Mr. Horne met this cut; and now news comes from Bland that Mr. Wason is carrying passengers to and from that point for nothing.

Of course this sort of thing can not last. One or the other must yield sooner or later. Mr. Wason says he has ample backing and means to fight it out to a finish. Whether Mr. Horne will "see" this cut and throw in a chromo remains to be seen.

(Santa Fe Daily New Mexican, August 26, 1895, p.4, c.4)

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10-21-65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1895

THE JEMEZ SPRINGS ROAD

To the Editor of the New Mexican.

Bland, Sept. 6--Can anything be done in Santa Fe to help build the road from Bland to the Jemez country?

Our county board promises \$500 and the citizens of Bland have subscribed \$250 and if we can get \$200 more in Santa Fe we can go ahead.

Bond Bros., of Espanola, are building a road and if they have a road and none others have they will get all the trade which will not benefit your city in any manner or ~~shape~~ shape. With a road from here the trade will come this way and ~~xx~~ naturally part to Santa Fe. Much of the supplies used in the Jemez would be purchased in Bland if we had a road, and Bland merchants buy largely in Santa Fe.

Coddington & Finch

(Santa Fe Daily New Mexican, September 7, 1895, p.4, c.3)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10-21-65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1895

COCHITI GOLD MINES

.....
Mr. John J. Driscoll, of Bland, one of the most substantial and trustworthy men operating in the Cochiti mining district, was a welcome visitor at the New Mexican editorial room this morning....

....
About sixty miners, besides many prospectors, are now employed in the mines of the district, and, as development work proceeds, the number will doubtless be increased.

The Crown Point and Lone Star mines are each employing about twelve men, doing development work and taking out good ore. Both have shipped several hundred tons of ore to Pueblo for treatment during the past few weeks, and the fact that satisfactory returns have been received even on their so-called second grade product is ~~xxx~~ most encouraging to all interested in the camp.

Pending the completion of the new chute from the upper workings of the Lone ~~Star~~ Star mine to the wagon road in Pino canon, this great mine has ceased shipping ore. The chute will be completed by Contractor Owen this week. It is about 200 feet long and is substantially constructed.

Mr. Joseph E. Engle, one of the pioneers of the camp and one of the locators of the Iron King mine, has returned to Bland from Denver to take the management of that property. It is expected that his practical work will soon add that valuable property to the list of steady shippers. Mr. Engle is accompanied ~~xx~~ by his wife.

Development work is progressing on the Albermarle, the Mammoth, the Engle, the Black Girl, the Hopewell, the Little Mollie and the ~~Victor~~ Victor....

Messrs. J.C. Holt and B.J. Nichols have resumed work on the Bland tunnel under the direction of the company.

The Beckman mill has temporarily been shut down in order that needed repairs may be made. Mr. Driscoll says he is persuaded that the process adopted by Mr. Beckman will successfully treat the Cochiti ores, but thinks that some changes in the mill may be found necessary.

~~xxx~~

(Santa Fe Daily New Mexican, September 4, 1895, p.1, c.6)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10-22-65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1897

WHITNEY IN NEW MEXICO

.....
Joel P. Whitney, a capitalist of Boston and Denver, who for several years claimed nearly all of the Cochiti mining district under his purchase of the Canada de Cochiti land grant, but whose claim to any part of the mining district mentioned was rejected by both the United States court of private land claims and the United States supreme court, recently passed south to Silver City where he has large interests in lands and mining properties.

This reminds the New Mexican that the tract of land confirmed to Mr. Whitney as the Cochiti grant is quite extensive and valuable, extending westward from a point near Allerton to the Jemez sierra and southward three or four miles, and being clothed with much fine pine timber. It also contains a good deal of land that is valuable for pastoral purposes.

Besides the grant as confirmed embraces a most excellent site for a large reduction plant near Allerton, about ~~six~~ eight miles down the gulch from Bland, and it is whispered that Mr. Whitney thinks ~~seriously~~ seriously of utilizing the same at an early day. He knows enough about the ~~extent~~ extent and value of the great gold and silver bearing ledges in the Cochiti district to know that such a plant would pay handsome dividends.

(Santa Fe Daily New Mexican, December 6, 1897, p.4, c.5)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10 22 65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1897

THE ALBEMARLE GROUP

.
Messrs. Posey, ~~Mr~~ Merrill and Johnson, who are interested in the late transaction involving the Albemarle group of mines in Colla canon, arrived in Bland on Wednesday's stage for the purpose of starting work on the new road to the mine and operations on the big and valuable property, says the bright and vigilant Bland Herald of yesterday.

All deeds transferring the Albemarle group of mines to the party of gentlemen headed by Mr. Posey have been signed and placed in escrow in one of the Denver banks. The extent of option is nine months during which time \$75,000 is to be expended in the development and improvement of the property. The bond calls for a purchase price of \$150,000.

Extensive operations will begin within a very short time on the mine, giving employment to a large force of men. Work on the new road to the Albemarle began today and will be pushed to completion at a rapid rate, ~~a~~ in order to afford a means of easy transporting a large hoister and other heavy ~~washing~~ machinery and supplies to the mines. The construction of this road will be under the supervision of George Horheins, who has the reputation of being very practical and experienced in this line, and will consist of an eight foot wide roadbed, not to exceed a grade of 10 per cent. Ground was broken today at the Albemarle ~~x~~ end and when completed will connect Colla canon with Bland by as good a mountain road as is to be found in the country. The ~~new~~ route selected is down Colla canon, following the old road wherever practicable, to the Little Mollie mine. Thence through the lower gap to and crossing the Washington road at the Union min. From the Union it will drop along the side of the ~~hill~~ hill and come into Bland about one-fourth of a mile below the postoffice. This work will give employment to every available man in the district and leaves a demand for more.

.

(Santa Fe Daily New Mexican, December 18, 1897, p.4, c.6)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10- 22- 65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1897

STRIKES IN THE COCHITI

...
The Bland Herald brings the cheering news that a strike of very rich gold and silver ore has been made on the 90-foot strip lying between the North Star and Lone Star mines and claimed by the Washington Mining company. At about 100 feet under ground in the tunnel ~~was~~ begun on North Star ground and entering the strip mentioned a "blind" vein was encountered and the quartz is fairly plastered with native gold and silver. The discovery had been kept a secret for some time, but on Wednesday all the particulars of the matter leaked out and no little excitement is rife, especially among local owners of the Bland tunnel, which, when completed, will pass under the claims on which the rich strike has been made and which will ~~undoubtedly~~ undoubtedly cut the vein of rich ore at a depth sufficient to disclose a great interest in its richness.

The same paper says that two specimens of Albemarle ore were found during the week, one possessing a value of 40 ounces gold, 400 ounces silver; the other 20 ounces gold, 100 ounces silver. These specimens came from the last work at the bottom of the main shaft in the Albemarle where a body of the richest ore yet opened up in that mine was struck.

... The prospective purchasers of the Albemarle group are contemplating the construction of a wagon road down Colla canon near old Kent, and finally to connect with the main road to Thornton at Cochiti. This is the same route selected by S.P. Mahan, to whom the Albemarle was formerly under option, and will no doubt be chosen by the Posey party, as Mr. Cartan has gone over the ground and is favorably impressed therewith. The building of this road will involve the expenditure of a sum of money bordering upon \$4,000, and will be commenced at an early date.

(Santa Fe Daily New Mexican, December 7, 1897, p.1, c. 6-7)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10-22-65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1397
~~1307-1379~~

A PRODUCTIVE CAMP

.....

The Bland Herald of last Friday says:

"The following is a list of shipments made of ~~Cochiti~~ Cochiti ores up to date and is furnished by the several mine managers and owners of the district:

To Mills	To Smelters
Crown Point mine 100 tons	Crown Point Mine 600 tons
Lone Star mine 300 tons	Lone Star Mine 1,200 tons
Iron King mine 400 tons	Washington mine 800 tons
Little Casino mine 125 tons	Albamarle mine 60 tons
Black Girl mine 26 tons	Iron King mine 50 tons
Albamarle mine 40 tons	Other prospects 60 tons
Other Prospects 100 tons	Total 2,770 tons
Total to mills 1,991 tons	

Aggregate total 4,761 tons

"The foregoing does not include the amount of ore these properties ~~th~~ have produced and now have lying on the dumps awaiting mill treatment. It is estimated that the dump on the Lone Star ~~mine~~ contains 5,000 tons of ore of an average value of \$20 to the ton, the Crown Point dump consists of some 3,000 tons of \$18 ore, the Washington dump 4,000 tons of \$20 ore, the Albamarle 2,000 of ore averaging \$16 to the ton, and the Union, Little Mollie, Ellen L., Iron King, No Name, Black Girl, Good Hope and ~~th~~ a number of the less developed ~~properties~~ properties an aggregate amount of several thousand tons of ore that would pay to mill, and out of which a small percentage of shipping ore could be sorted."

The New Mexican has watched the development of the Cochiti mining district It now possesses information that the foregoing figures are exceedingly conservative.

The Herald might truthfully have added that, owing to the first cost of transporting the ores of the district by wagon to the Santa Fe railroad at Thornton, and thence by railroad to Pueblo, El Paso, and Silver City, it has not been prudent to ship ore that would average much less ~~and~~ than \$40 per ton in gold and silver and this has involved sorting expenses that have often exceeded the cost of mining. It ~~th~~ thus happens that there are probably 30,000 tons of from \$15 to \$20 ore on the dumps of the district and fully 100,000 tons of from \$10 to \$30 ore in sight in the stopes of the different mines.

All this ore and vast quantities more will be turned into money as soon as modern and suitable methods for treating low grade gold bearing (continued)

(Santa Fe Daily New Mexican, November 1, 1879, p.4, c.5)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10-22-65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1897

continued --

quartz are provided either at Bland or on the Rio Grande river a few miles below.

The ores of the camp are not seriously refractory and fully 90 per cent of them can be rendered free milling by roasting. Hence it is a safe proposition that those that run even as low as \$5 per ton will ultimately be mined and reduced at a profit.

The question is often asked by the uninformed, "Why, with such immense bodies of low grade ore in sight in the Cochiti ledges, ore that would long before this have made a booming camp in Colorado, have four years passed by without witnessing the erection of proper reduction plants in the district?" The answer is easy. Until the recent decision of the United States supreme court, sustaining the decree of the United States court of private land claims, the titles of the district have been under a land grant cloud, and it is needless to add that moneyed men are not much addicted to making investments where there is a shade of ~~and~~ uncertainty concerning titles

(Santa Fe Daily New Mexican, November 1, 1897, p.4, c.5)

1897

Messrs. C.P. Posey, William Bayly, Wallace Stevens and several other well known Colorado mining men left Thornton for Bland yesterday morning in one of Perley Wason's comfortable stages.

.
(Santa Fe Daily New Mexican, November 11, 1897, p.4, c.5)

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10-22-65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1897

COCHITI CULLINGS

K

The annual assessment work is being done on the Opal, an exceedingly valuable opal property in Colla canon belonging to J.G. Schumann and T.B. Ward. There are some 20 opal claims in the Cochiti district, of which about six are considered to be very rich, as from that number have been produced specimens of the precious stone that possess more than ordinary value. The ~~Opal~~ Opal was the first property of the kind located in the district and was discovered by T.B. Ward early in 1894. Since that time some fine stones have been produced, the best being valued at something over \$150 apiece. It is not infrequent that opals possessing a value of from \$20 to \$50 apiece are found. The present work on the ~~Opal~~ Opal consists of a shaft 20 feet in depth but forming a face some 50 feet in depth. At the bottom of this shaft is a tunnel some ten feet in, and 15 feet above this ~~is~~ a tunnel of 20 feet, all the work being in the opal deposit. The formation is a hard, easily fractured hydrated quartz, which forms the matrix of the precious stone. Thus far the difficulty in mining for the opals has been in preventing fracture in blasting and breaking the rock forming the matrix with hammers. The opal is very brittle and the force necessary to break the matrix usually fractures ~~the opal~~ and consequently ruins many of the finest stones. The opals of this particular property occur in fully 50 different forms and varieties of the greatest and most beautifully brilliancy. There are reds, blues and whites of the deepest colors and most delicate tints. The fire opals are of the most striking and brilliant kind, and occasionally are found royal opals of rare beauty. It ~~may~~ would interest and surprise a lapidary to visit and investigate the opal properties of this district, which have been much neglected in proportion to their commercial importance.--

Bland Herald

(Santa Fe Daily New Mexican, October 20, 1897, p.4, c.5)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10-22-65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1897

THE GOLDEN COCHITI

.
News comes to the New Mexican from Bland that greater activity and more cheering conditions prevail in the ~~San~~ Cochiti mining district than ever before in the five years' history of that phenomenal gold camp.

The hotels, restaurants and boarding houses in Bland are crowded with people from the outside, & everybody has plenty of work and business of all kinds is good. As a result of the materially improved conditions Arthur A. Henry, who closed his business place in November and went to Albuquerque for the winter, will return in a few days and reopen his house soon after the first of the new year. This pleases his many friends at the Cochiti metropolis.

The certainty that O.P. Posey and his associates have definitely decided to take the Albemarle group of mines in Colla canon and develop them for all they are worth; the sale of two-thirds of the Lone Star mine to H. McFarland and other Chicago ~~San~~ capitalists and the assurance that the Bland mill will be greatly enlarged to treat the ore ~~of~~ from this property; and the remarkable strikes in the Iron King and ~~many~~ numerous other properties of the district, together with many other encouraging circumstances, have all contributed toward the Christmas cheer of the camp.

Mr. Posey has gone to Los Angeles to spend the holidays with his family, but, before leaving, he made all needful arrangements for pushing work on the Albemarle wagon road as fast as possible, Mr. Merrill remaining on the ground to look after the work. Already 100 men are employed on the road and it is hoped that within 60 days it will be completed so that the heavy machinery from the mine and mill can be hauled over it. It is not yet known whether the road will go out through Colla canon or by way of Bland.

.

(Santa Fe Daily New Mexican, December 24, 1897, p.1, c.1.)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory
SITE NO.: LA
LOCALITY: Bland

PAGE:
DATE: 10 22 65
NAME: Ormsbee

1899

Theodore Uckerman, of Bland, has become demented through financial reverses, and has been removed for treatment to this city.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, January 3, 1899, p.2, c.4)

1899

BIG FIRE AT BLAND

.....

Wednesday morning a disastrous fire occurred at the Albemarle mine near Bland, which resulted in the entire destruction of the company's general merchandise establishment and the Albemarle hotel. The fire was undoubtedly caused by live coals rolling out of a stove in the ~~xxx~~ store, during the absence of the clerk, while at breakfast, and the flames spread so rapidly that it was impossible to save anything of the ~~se~~ stock in the store building. The fire was communicated to the hotel, and within 30 minutes after the blaze was discovered the store and hotel and contents were gone up in smoke.

It is not possible to ascertain the exact amount of the losses at this time, but whatever it is will be total as there was no insurance carried.

The burning of the hotel throws over 100 miners and other employes of the mining company out of a home, while Bletcher & Meyers, the proprietors, lose everything they possessed.

The store was owned by the Cochiti Gold Mining Company and Perley Wasson, the latter holding a half interest in the concern. A large stock of general merchandise was received by the company only a short time ago, all of which was consumed by the ~~x~~ flames.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, January 6, 1899, p.4, c.5)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10 22 65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1899

BLAND DISTRICT

The Union now shows a 30-foot vein of high grade ore.

Fine ore is being taken from the Lone Star mine.

A fine lead of quartz has been opened on the Empire claim.

Bert Ward is doing the assessment work on the Corner claim.

Mrs. John Martin is having a tunnel driven on the two claims owned by her in Colla Canon.

Martin Hart has completed the assessment work on the Mogul and Chief claims, two of his Colla canon properties.

The Albemarle people report that the lead is growing richer as depth is gained. The mill is now working on ore that is richer than ever before encountered.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, January 7, 1899, p.2, c.3)

1899

ALBERMARLE DEVELOPMENT

The capacity of the Albermarle plant in the Cochiti district, is to be doubled and run by electricity. President J.A. Coram, of the Cochiti Gold Mining Company, and a wealthy Lowell, Mass., capitalist and investor named White have been spending a number of days at the great camp, and gone east expressing themselves as highly ~~px~~ pleased ~~x~~ with the property. When the new buildings are erected and the additional machinery is in place, the Albermarle mill will have facilities for ~~greating~~ ~~2x~~ 250 tons of ore daily. The same company has in mind the erection of a large electric plant, either at Madrid where fuel is ~~cheap~~ cheap, or on the Rio Grande where water power can be used. This latter plant will ~~gx~~ generate power for transmission to Albermarle by wire, and there will be enough power for rental to other parties. The increasing cost of fuel is pushing the company to the use of electrical power more than ever.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, March 9, 1899, p.4, c.6)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10 - 22 - 65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1899

BLAND MINES

.
The ~~x~~ Albemarle mine at Bland, says the ~~K~~ Denver Republican, has developed with extraordinary rapidity. At the surface the ore body was 25 feet wide, and word was received here a few days ago that in the sixty level it had widened out to 57 feet, the entire mass carrying \$45 in gold to the ton. The ore is 96 per cent silica, with only 2 per cent sulphides, and ~~gk~~ the gold is so evenly distributed that it is one of the best cyanide propositions ever opened. J.A. Coram, O.P. ~~RM~~ Posey and others of the principal owners are to meet at the mine Sunday to take action regarding the ~~xxx~~ enlargement of the mill to double its capacity.

The mill now has a capacity of 125 tons per day, and after the enlargement has been completed will be able to treat 10,000 tons per month. The improvements include an electric plant, the power for which will be transmitted nearly thirty miles, and will not only operate the mill and mine, but will supply power for another mine in the vicinity. A portion of the machinery has already been shipped, and the rest is being manufactured. Work on the buildings necessary is to be commenced at once, and the enlarged plant will be in full operation from the start. The mine has paid handsomely ever since the mill was completed about a year ago, and the profits will be largely increased by the improvements now in progress.

The Herald says the Lone Star sale has not been completed. The same paper states that the contract which J.G. ~~Schum~~ Schumann let to T.B. Ward and son about a month ago to run a crosscut on the Tom Tucker claim will be completed next ~~x~~ week. ~~There~~ ~~x~~ There are three fine leads on this ~~j~~ property, and each will be tapped by a tunnel, which, when completed, will be in 80 feet.....

(Santa Fe New Mexican, June 27, 1899, p.3, c.4)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10 22 65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1899

COCHITI DISTRICT

Work has resumed at the Bland tunnel and a rich body of ore encountered.

Henry Lockhart and B.D. ~~Wilk~~ Wilson have leased the Crown Point, They will ship the ore of the mine to El Pasom.

George W. West has sold to Thomas F. Abbott for \$500 one-third interest in the John ~~Shaw~~ Shannon mining claim in Colla canon.

The Washington mine, which has been closed down for some time on account of litigations will resume operations this month. It is one of the richest mines at Bland.

The Canada de Cochiti grant survey is almost completed and a boom has set in at Peralta canon, for none of the valuable properties in that district are thought to be on the grant.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, May 3, 1899, p.1, c.4)

1899

MORE MINING PROPERTY BONDED

A.W. Tennant, of Santa Fe, who is at present at Chicago on mining business, has secured a bond on the Crown Point group of mines at Bland. The group includes the Crown Point, Grant and the Bull of the Woods. Mr. Tennant has let a contract to James May to ~~sink~~ sink fifty feet on the Grant. Fifty feet of cross cuts and drifts will be run after the shaft has been sunk, to ascertain the width and value of the ore on this property on which little development has been done so far. If the properties show up well a ~~mill~~ mill will be erected on the Crown Point claim.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, May 9, 1899, ~~ix~~ p.4, c.2)

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10/22/65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1899

.....The Albermarle has found a large body of ore in a lower level. Three crews of men are working in the Lone Star, and the Bland mill runs day and night. Ore is being taken from all the levels. The ~~xxx~~ Cochiti company has been selecting a site ~~xxxx~~ for an electric power plant, and will soon order machinery. A Surveyor White, of Santa Fe, has surveyed the Short Order claims and the Corner claim, as patents are to be ~~xx~~ obtained. Santa Fe people own the property. J.G. Schuman, of Santa Fe, has bought the Tom Tucker mine and put men to work under the direction of T.B. Ward.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, April 6, 1899, p.1, c.6)

1899

COCHITI MINING DISTRICT

☒ The Oranoka and other claims, near Albemarle, Cochiti district, are ~~xx~~ being developed by John Hoffman.

A tunnel is being driven at the Occidental, Media Dia canon, ☒ Cochiti district, to cut a vein of mineral-bearing quartz 20 feet wide and running the entire length of this claim, owned by Oliver Springer.

The 100-foot drive into the fifth level of the Lone Star mine at Bland has been completed. The entire distance of 100 feet was driven in a solid body of ore, of which there is enough in sight now to keep the mill running several years. Still, the contract to drive another 100 ~~xxx~~ feet will probably be let in the near future.

Some very rich ore has been found in the claims owned by Milo Hill of Santa Fe, in the Colla canon, ~~xx~~ Cochiti district. A force of men will be put to work on the claim.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, April 21, 1899, p.1, c.5)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10 22 65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1899

WAGON ROAD TO BLAND

The building of the new road westward from White Rock station into the timber toward Bland, by Mr. Buckman, has renewed the talk about direct connection between this city and the great mining camp. Mr. Buckman has, at an expense to himself of about \$7,000, build a fine bridge ~~of~~ over the river and road up into the timber from the railway station. The bridge is said to be 100 feet long or over, and the fact that it is a substantial structure is evident from the fact that it cost about \$3,000. The road is a most excellent wagon road, built with great care and intelligence, and ends some eight miles from the mining camp. Mr. Buckman, as well as many citizens of Santa Fe, and the ~~Denxx~~ Denver & Rio Grande road would be ~~glad~~ glad to see that eight miles of road built without delay, for it would mean a great deal to all of these parties.

It would mean much to the business men of Santa Fe in that trade from the growing camp would be turned directly into this city instead of to Thornton and the traffic would prove no ~~small~~ small thing for dealers in mining supplies and provisions, and would result in a daily freight train of big teams from the railroad station up the canon to Bland, and a good deal of teaming from this city. The building of the proposed wagon read would benefit Mr. Buckman in that he would be thus enabled to sell immense ~~x~~ quantities of mining timber from his mill. It would benefit the D.& R.G. road in that it would ship in great quantities of supplies of all kinds, particularly in the way of mining machinery; and as the Albermarle mill is preparing to duplicate its plant, and there is a steady influx of miners and settlers, it is claimed that it will not be a long time before the local population will aggregate 3,000 sould.

. . . .

(Santa Fe New Mexican, March 28, 1899, p.1, c.4)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10 22 65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1899

BEST IN NEW MEXICO

.
Expert W.C. Wynkoop (sic), of Denver, the well-known mining editor, speaks in the highest terms of the Cochiti mining district, from which he returned the other day, after giving the camp a good looking over....

The great trouble and cause of backwardness about the camp is the distance from the railroads, and the absence of a custom mill. The ores do not concentrate, consequently they cannot be shipped in that form, but mills with fair readiness. However, there has always been lacking the means ~~wfx~~ for taking care of all the ore that could be offered, and so there has not been the development that would otherwise have been carried on....The Albemarle ~~wi~~ mill people have more than enough to do in taking care of the production of their own mines, which have so increased in productiveness that a duplication of their milling plant is necessary, and there is no opportunity to do custom work. The ores of that district carry the precious metals in the ratio of \$40 gold to \$60 silver, and values run from \$15 to \$30 per ton. This is profitable ore to work with anything like convenient facilities to handle it, and this need is to be supplied by Mr. Wynkoop, who has associated with him one of Denver's most substantial citizens, General R.W. Woodbury, president of one of the city's banks, and representing a good deal of money; so that the project is a sure go. The cyanide process will be the method of treatment, and Mr. Wynkoop is confident that when means of treating all of the ore offered is established there will be such a development that the camp will speedily assume immense proportions, and in less than three years there will be so many people in Cochiti that the Denver and Rio Grande ~~x~~ will build a railroad in there. Mr. Wynkoop has invested quite extensively in Cochiti claims, and has the highest confidence in the growth of the place. Mr. Wynkoop says that if the Cochiti was only in Colorado it would create a great deal of excitement.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, April 5, 1899, p.4, c.6)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory
SITE NO.: LA
LOCALITY: Bland

PAGE:
DATE: 10 22 65
NAME: Ormsbee

1899

BLAND HAS A CHURCH AND A PAPER

Rev. G.S. Madden, of St. John's Methodist church, has organized a congregation with thirty members in Bland. The building in which the Herald office was situated has been bought by the congregation and is being remodeled into a church. Mr. Madden has bought a horse and buggy and will go to Bland once every two weeks to hold services, until conference makes a missionary appropriation and sends a minister.

The Bland Herald made its appearance yesterday the same as usual. Its valedictory had been a little previous for at the moment that the proprietor was about to turn his back upon it forever, there came a ~~xxx~~ message ~~fr~~ from the owners of the Albuquerque Citizen offering to buy the Herald. The offer was accepted and the Citizen will send a man to Bland to edit the paper, which will probably be published in a vacant school building.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, ~~xxx~~ April 22, 1899, p.4, c.7)

1899

BLAND NOTES

T.T. Springer has erected a new residence.

Mrs. J.B. Bolander, aged 52 years, died of Brights disease. She is survived by her husband and ~~xxx~~ five children.

Thomas Goodwin is erecting a pretty cottage of the fine quality of building stone to be found at Bland.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, April 25, 1899, p.4, c.6)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10 22 65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1899

NEW MEXICO MINES
Cochiti District

The Bland mill has received a new 600 pound rock crusher.

R.D. Wilson, of Bland, has leased the Crown Point mine.

A number of men will be placed at work on the Texas Girl, owned by T.B. Ward and J.G. Schumann, of Santa Fe. The claim is situated in Victor gulch and shows on the surface a rich lead of quartz.

Three fine leads have been discovered on the Tom Tucker, near the Albemarle. A tunnel will be driven into the hill. The claim is owned by J.G. Schumann, of Santa Fe.

H.E. Anderson has sold his interest in the Lobby to his partner, C.P.X Jones.

J.G. Schumann, of Santa Fe, has applied for a patent to the Corner mining claim.

W.C. Wynkoop and R.W. Woodbury will open the Iron King mine and will ~~xx~~ build a large mill at Allerton for treating the ore from that mine.

The Cochiti Gold Mining Company is building a new wagon road down Collan canon to ~~xx~~ connect with the Bland road.

)(Santa Fe New Mexican, April 27, 1899, p.1, c.5)

1899

P. Mason, manager of the Cochiti Store company has sold his interest in the Thornton hotel and removed with his family to the Albemarle mine.

A party of campers the other day failed to extinguish their fire, near Routledge's saw mill four miles from Bland. The fire burned an outhouse and destroyed that together with a fence. It was only by heroic effort that the mill was saved from destruction.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, * May 2, 1899, p.1, c.7)

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10 22 65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1899

ELECTRICITY FOR BLAND

A large electric power plant is to be erected at the Madrid coal mines, near Cerrillos, by the K Cochiti Gold Mining Company. Wires will be extended from Madrid to Bland. E.A. Powers will be superintendent. J.A. Coram is president of the company. The contract for the poles to construct the line will probably be awarded this week. The company is also laying a five-mile pipe line to extend its water system.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, May 22 26, 1899, p.4, c.5)

1899

THE BLAND RAILWAY

Several Santa Fe officials have arranged to meet two or three Santa Fe citizens of prominence and to go with them over the proposed railroad line from Thornton to Bland next week.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, June 5, 1899, p.4, c.4)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10 22 65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1899

TERRITORIAL TOPICS

.

Bland

Arve Minkers is erecting a neat little cottage in Colla Canyon. John Hart has the contract.

A fifty horse-power engine has been purchased from the placer~~x~~ company of Cerrillos by Joseph Routledge. The engine will be placed in the sawmill at Bland.

A new road is being constructed by Joseph Routledge from a point north of the Crown Point mine on the Sulphur Spring road to the Griffin ranch. The road will be over a mile in length.

A telephone line connecting Bland with the Albemarle ~~x~~ has been completed. G.W. Wheeler owns the line.

A brown bear measuring 6 feet from tip to tip and ~~w~~~~i~~ weighing 300 ~~x~~ pounds was killed six miles from Bland by Ignacio Gallegos.. It took three shots to kill Bruin, who, after the first shot, made a dive for Mr. Gallegos.

.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, June 23, 1899, p.1, c.4)

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10/22/65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1900

MINE CULLINGS

A ~~tele~~ telegram was received here Monday afternoon from Expert Carey Wright, representing a syndicate composed of a number of prominent members of the Union League Club of New ~~York~~ York, stating that his company had decided to take several of the properties which Mr. Wright had inspected during his two recent visits here, and asking that the necessary papers be forwarded at once to New York for the signatures of the proper officials. The properties selected comprise the Summit, Mattie G. Vicksburg, Iron Queen, Wanderer and Laura S. They are all located in the Pino canyon. This is a great bound in the right direction for the Cochiti district and especially Bland....This announcement coming as it does at a time when we are about to endure one of our periodical lapses into a state of discouragement, will do much toward injecting the elixir of confidence into our industrial and commercial arteries, and the rumors which have been rife all week will gradually assume a less hideous aspect

.

A New Process

W.S. Sandon, for a long time an employee in the assay department at the Bland mill has ~~per~~ perfected a process for successfully ~~treating~~ treating tufa which threatens to revolutionize this branch of the mining industry. Owing to some further experiments in minor details he is not yet ready to make the formula of his discoveries public

.

A New Building

Manager Graves of the Bland-Albemarle telephone exchange ~~contemplates~~ contemplates the erection of a modern business building, just across the street from the Herald. The structure will be entirely of stone and when finished it will be the handsomest and most expensive building in town.

.....

Vamoosed.

The St. Elmo saloon, conducted by Elmer Hayes, closed rather
(continued...)

(The Bland Herald, June 1, 1900, p.1, c.1-2)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory
SITE NO.: LA
LOCALITY: Bland

PAGE:

DATE: 10/22/65

NAME: Ormsbee

1900

continued --

suddenly and unceremoniously last Friday morning. The elder Hayes who has had charge of the place for a month past, has taken his departure, presumably for Colorado.

(Bland Herald, June 1, 1900, p.1)

C.W. GRAVES & CO.

Real Estate

Insurance Life,
Accident and
Fire

& Correspondence invited regarding mining properties.
Abstracts furnished at Albuquerque prices.
Lock Box, 15, office--South of drug store.
(ibid., p.2)

WXXW W.E. MYERS
FINE IMPORTED WINE LIQUORS AND CIGARS
First Class Short Order Restaurant in Connection
Bland -----New Mexico
(ibid.)

W.L. TRIMBLE & CO.
THORNTON-BLAND EXPRESS AND FREIGHT LINE
DAILY STAGE
Carrying U.S. Mail. Runs between Thornton and Bland

Leaves Thornton 10 a.m. Arrives Bland 2:00 p.m.
" Bland 1:30 p.m. " Thornton 5:30 p.m.

BETWEEN BLAND AND ALBUQUERQUE MINE
Leaves Bland 2 p.m., Returning Arrives Bland 5 p.m.

Freight and Express Given Careful and Prompt Attention
General Contractors for All Kind of Heavy Hauling
W.L. TRIMBLE, Manager,
Albuquerque, N.M.

M.H. ROSEBERRY, Agent,
Thornton, N.M.

(Bland Herald, June 1, 1900, p.3)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory
SITE NO.: LA
LOCALITY: Bland

PAGE:
DATE: 10/22/65
NAME: Ormsbee

1900

COCHITI DISTRICT

H.E. Anderson is erecting a new livery barn at Bland.

The road between Bland and Woodbury stands in need of repairs.

George W. and C.C. Green, formerly of Cerrillos, have opened a meat market at Bland.

.

Stevens & French have moved their blacksmith shop at Bland from the ~~Greenfield~~ Greenfield building to the Hayden house.

The express and freight office of W.L. Trimble & Co. has been moved from its old quarters at ~~Bland~~ Bland to the Bland Supply Company building.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, October 23, 1900, p.1, c.5)

Mr. and Mrs. A.S. Bundy have moved from South Bland to the residence of Mrs. Mary Finch at Bland.

James O'Connell, of Bland, is employed by the Navajo Gold Mining Company at present, and is working in the tunnel.

Robert Benham and Samuel Sayre, of Bland, who are employed at the Star tunnel, have gone to house-keeping, and the former's sister, Miss Alice Benham, is keeping house for them.

The prospects in the Cochiti district are very encouraging. The stage line between Thornton and Bland is doing a thriving business and more people are going into Bland than leaving that place.

E.T. Washburn, who has been superintendent of the Star mine at Bland for the ~~a~~ past six months, and who resigned his position the first of the ~~present~~ present month, left for his home in California last week.

.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, November 15, 1900, p.1, c.6)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

SITE NO.: LA

LOCALITY: Bland

PAGE:

DATE: 10/22/65

NAME: Ormsbee

1900

HAPPENINGS IN THE COCHITI

Mrs. Gooch of Missouri, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. L.B. Seiler of Bland.

FXXH Fowles has accepted a clerkship in J.G. Creager's general merchandise store at Bland.

J.P. Mabry has accepted a position as clerk in the Albemarle Mercantile Company's store at Albemarle.

Attorney Adolph Wycoff, of Albuquerque, is in Bland and expects to locate in the latter place for the winter.

Miss Viola Woods, of Bland, has accepted the position as assistant postmistress in the postoffice at that place, and entered upon her new duties last week. Miss Woods takes the place made vacant by the resignation of Mrs. L.B. Seiler.

John Boles is confined to his home in North Bland with typhoid fever. For several weeks his three children have been suffering with the same disease, but are now in a fair way to recovery. At the time Mr. Boles took sick he was employed in the Star mine, and every attention is shown him by his fellow miners.

Oliver Overhuls and John ~~Exx~~ Carpenter, two Bland school boys, encountered a large silver-tip bear while out hunting squirrels in Media Dia canon, last week. They had nothing but light loaded shells with them, but ~~thex~~ they peppered the bear with what they had at close range. They followed him for some distance, but soon lost track of him in the underbrush.

The Albemarle Stage Line Company has completed its new relay station midway between Thornton and Albemarle at the "Horseshoe" in Peralta canon. The dimensions of the building are 30x60 feet. William Van Horn has been placed in charge of the station.

...

(Santa Fe New Mexican, November 19, 1900, p.1, c.6)

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10/22/65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1900

A RAILROAD TO BLAND

.

They Pueblo Chieftain says that one of the many points in the Rocky mountains which are greatly in need of railroad facilities is the Cochiti district of New Mexico. Enormous quantities of gold ore are there awaiting treatment, and if it had a railroad outlet much of it would come to the Pueblo smelter, and there would be large quantities which could profitably be treated by cyanide mills. The town of Bland is about to be incorporated and a gold mill of capacity 350 tons a day, located near by, is about to start in operation. The town is contracting for the construction of water works. Persons familiar with the locality state that the greatest drawback to the district now is the lack of railway facilities. With a railroad into Bland a dozen mines would now be sending out ore down Pinon canon for treatment at the Allerton mill and other cyanide plants to be built in that locality where water and fuel are available. Besides the usual freight, at least ten carloads of ore would be sent down the canon toward the Rio Grande daily were there a railroad at Bland, and this traffic would in a short time reach 50 or 100 cars a day.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, December 6, 1900, p.2, c.3)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory
SITE NO.: LA
LOCALITY: Bladd

PAGE:
DATE: 10/22/65
NAME: Ormsbee

1901

THE COCHITI GOLD MINING-COMPANY

.

(Boston Journal)

The Cochiti Gold Mining Company, as illustrative of mining conditions generally in New Mexico, owns, as is well understood by many Boston people, four valuable claims formerly known as the Albemarle, the Pamlico, & the Huron and the Ontario.

These ~~xxxx~~ properties were brought to the attention of Boston people some three or four years ago as a ~~xxx~~ result of the investigations of O.P. Posey, who, at the present time, is the general manager of the property. Mr. Posey is an old Denver man, of large mining experience, well known throughout the west, and a man who has, in all his mining ventures, been remarkably successful. He, in association with Joseph A. Coram, the Lowell millionaire, and a man who has in the past been closely identified with many of the Bigelow properties of Montana, launched this corporation when its development was relatively primitive and the facilities for handling the ore extremely limited.

Pluck and Foresight Counted

Many men, upon going into the Colla canon, where are located the properties of this company, would, at first sight, have hesitated about making an investment at this point. The topography of the country is such and the distance from transportation facilities so great, that the successful extraction of ore would have seemed impracticable. But it was just at this point that the Yankee pluck and sagacity made itself felt. These men came into New Mexico, explored these mineral resources, found that the ore, although commonly termed "low grade," ranging ~~xx~~ as it did from \$7 to \$15 per ton, could be handled under certain conditions profitably.

And so it was that the organization of the Cochiti Gold Mining Company came about; that its stock was successfully floated; that the construction of a modern cyanide mill at an enormous cost followed; that roads were built; that an electric ~~x~~ plant, the like of which is not to be found elsewhere in the southwest, was established;

The proposition, therefore, stands today as a well-equipped plant, with a mine that has nearly eight miles of underground workings, well developed, with ore in abundance in sight, and

(continued)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

SITE NO.: LA

LOCALITY: Bland

PAGE:

DATE: 10/22/65

NAME: Ormsbee

1901

continued -

with enough taken out from day to day to enable its mill, with its enlarged capacity and operated by electricity, to treat about 300 tons daily.

....

Early Difficulties

One who visits the mining camp of Bland, and climbs over the road above there for a distance of ~~three~~ three miles or more to the mine, soon runs up against one of the difficulties that these people coming into this country were obliged to encounter. Here is a highway built into the district along cliffs and over peaks from one canon to another, and with grades in many places of at least 40 per cent. This road was one of the first essentials to the ~~securing~~ securing of supplies and construction material when it was decided to develop the property and build a mill. All materials for starting the Cochiti mine had to be packed on burros in the early days of the property. They were~~xx~~ brought from Bland over a summit a mile high and then down to the bottom of a branch of the Colla canon, and thence over another summit down to the mine itself. When the building of the new cyanide mill was undertaken, it was found to be imperative that a ~~g~~ wagon road should be cut across the mountain, and in order to do this, heavy expenditures of money and much time was required. All the heavy machinery came from Thornton, 18 miles ~~xx~~ across the desert, fording the Rio Grande river at the Indian town of Cochiti, through the old deserted mining town of Allerton--now known as Woodbury's--thence up through the canon to Bland, and from that point over the steep and seemingly dangerous ~~xx~~ road across the mountain and into the adjoining canon to the mine itself.

At this stage of development very many heavy pieces of machinery--some of them weighed as much as 10 tons--were brought over this road. Oftentimes it required 30 horses to ~~ox~~ one wagon for the work. Half the number pulling the team and half pushing it.

Overcoming Obstacles

The mining town of Bland is over 18 miles from the Atchison road, and the transportation charges from that point to the mine were extremely high, the rate being no less than 65 cents for every 100 pounds. In fact, when it is taken into account that

(continued)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10-25-65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1901

Continued -

thousands of tons of machinery and supplies were carried across from Thornton during the early days of the construction work, some idea of the expense to which the company was subjected can be gained.

In due time a steam plant was established in the mill and this required an average of 500 cords of wood per month. It did not take long at this rate to strip the surrounding ~~hills~~ hills of their timber and it soon became evident that other power must be obtained. Most of the streams in the immediate neighborhood were too ~~small~~ small for power purposes, and investigation showed that the nearest ~~practicable~~ practicable point for obtaining power was at Madrid, 34 miles from the mine. At this point are located extensive coal mines, and the cheap fuel that could be obtained there, together with the railroad facilities close at hand, made it a practicable and desirable place for the establishment of a plant which should generate electric power to be transferred to the mine so far away. By this course of procedure, power was obtained at a cost of only 30 cents per ton of rock. The engine in the plant at Madrid is of 800 horse power, directly connected with the generators, and the transmission of power was with a voltage of 20,000 of the three-phase system. This voltage was transferred to 600 volts for the ~~indirect~~ indirect motors used at the mine.

This plant has now been in actual operation for something over six months, although it was started up several months earlier than that. Annoyances and difficulties that were most exasperating were encountered at the start,

It was also found, when matters were shaping up for the operation of the property, that good labor was ~~extremely~~ extremely difficult to secure, as were also the necessary supplies, and only within a comparatively short time, or after three years of sifting out of poor material has the company at last been able to get a force that it can absolutely rely upon. At the present time it has about 160 men, 90 of whom are miners, while 70 are at work in the mill.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, May 29, 1901, p.2, c.3-4)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10/25/65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1901

QUIET WORK AT BLAND

.

Rev. S.G. Madden of Bland, who is in the city, says that while there is no boom at Bland, there is more work being done in that camp than ever before. On the Star mine, the Navajo company is keeping two air compressors going and an immense amount of development work is being done. Fully 1,500 feet of tunnelling has been completed and large bodies of ore have been blocked out. The railway from Thornton to Bland is certain to be built and the project to build on the Rio Grande a thousand ton custom mill with a possibility of increasing its capacity to ten thousand tons and laying out a townsite on the river, is on the point of assuming tangible shape. Mr. Madden deemed that it would be a paying investment to build an electric standard gauge car line from Santa Fe to the proposed mill and townsite on the Rio Grande and there connect with the proposed steam road to Thornton.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, April 16, 1901, p.1, c.3)

1901

The Cochiti District

W.C. Wynkoop of Bland, where he is operating a group of mines and a cyanide plant for a Denver company, was at Denver last week. "The boom is off in the Cochiti mining district," said Mr. Wynkoop to a Denver reporter, "but the camp is much better than ever before in its history. It is producing about \$2,000 per day in gold bullion and at a fair profit to miners and mill men." There are two treatment plants in Cochiti, with a total capacity of 300 tons of raw ores per day. The mills are fully supplied and the mines are more than returning in fresh ore bodies the cost of development.

(Santa Fe New Mexican, May 7, 1901, p.1, cl4)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory
SITE NO.: LA
LOCALITY: Bland

PAGE:
DATE: 10/25/65
NAME: Ormsbee

1900

"Canyons rich with gold and silver", was the exciting news that intrigued my husband into accepting a position with the Cochiti Gold and Silver Mining Company, located in northern New Mexico. Bland, a teeming mining town in 1900, was in a district of 3000 people, situated in the southern part of the Jemez Mountains in the center of a rich mining field.

Three canyons, running almost parallel with each other, were united a few miles below the town. In these canyong (sic) many promising claims were located, and thousands of dollars ~~worth~~ worth of ore shipped monthly. Gold bricks at the Albemarle Mine valued from \$3000 to \$3500 were cast every six days.

People were moving in from every direction.

I traveled to Santa Fe by train, and from there to Bland rode an Overland Coach pulled by six horses.

~~The~~ The descent of La Bajada Hill in the days before the modern highway was a thrilling adventure. Careening from side to side, with a constant jerking backward and forward, we thought the coach was wall named, "Jerky." With his hands fully occupied, and one foot on and off the brake, it was a marvel to us how the driver ~~kept~~ kept his seat.

X Eventually we made the foot of the hill in safety, much to our astonishment. There, a fresh relay of horses was waiting for us, and our puffing, heaving, sweat-drenched animals were led away to rest and food.

I was traveling with my Irish Setter, trying to keep him quiet in the coach.... That day, I ~~had~~ happened to be the only woman traveler, but the coach was overflowing with men, even to the top, where the baggage (Petherbridge. Bonanza at Bland, 22-23) was loaded. Judging by appearances, these were men of widely varied culture and background, but they were all interested in the same topic: mines, ores, processes, production, transportation, and market for gold and silver.

There was considerable travel, all headed in the same direction. There were good-looking men in good-looking conveyances, others with wagons and horses; some drove ~~some~~ burros packed with mining equipment; others rode mules, and still others walked with their camp outfits on their backs. We passes most of these people ~~in~~ along the dusty, white road. (ibid., 53)

After crossing the Rio Grande several times, we came to Pena Blanca, a one-street village. It was my first sight of a "string-town," where all the houses are on one street. Here, the men all tumbled out to get a drink. A native woman handed me a glass of Vine del pais, a home-made wine. The

(continued...)

(Petherbridge, Bonanza at Bland, 53-54)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10/25/65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1900

Continued -

The first discovery was made in Pino Canyon, often called Bland Canyon, by a man named John or Charles Pilkey, in the early 1890's.

In 1892, two men named ~~Sam~~ Smith and McCauley discovered another vein, very rich in gold, which they named the Crown Point. In the same canyon where the other veins were discovered, Norman Bletcher, Henry Woods, and Chester Greenwood found a big vein which they named the Lone Star. It became a wonderful producer, whipping \$2,000,000 worth of ore. In its early development this claim sold for \$100,000.

The Iron King was another rich claim discovered about this time. These mines shipped \$200,000 worth of ore by wagon and train to the smelter at Pueblo Colorado; the Crown Point alone produced \$75,000 worth.

Pilkey took in Otero, Lead, Sturgis, and others as partners and continued to work his rich Washington Claim, but Henry Lockhart, who had grubstaked Pilkey, in 1894 and 1895 instituted proceedings against the partners. After being in the courts twelve years, and once in the Supreme Court, the case was decided in Lockhart's favor. During that time the mine produced \$80,000 in gold and silver, which was awarded to Lockhart.

Henry Wood, Herman ~~R~~ Bletcher, and Henry Lockhart were the original locators of the Albemarle ~~Claim~~ Claim in the Colla Canon, which they developed into a mine and later sold to the Cochiti Gold and Silver Mining Company, which took over in January, 1898.

The Albemarle group consisted of 13 claims. The ore ran from \$6 to \$28 per ton. The sale of this group of claims stimulated new interest in the entire district; new capital poured into claims already working, and more prospectors arrived daily.

The Company put up iron and steel buildings at the mine, including a 250-ton mill. A road was built connecting Colla and Bland Canyons. This piece of road, only three miles in length, ascending 1500 feet in one mile, was blasted out of solid rock at the cost of \$50,000.

The canyon in which the Albemarle was located was only 60 feet in width, with towering rock walls on either side. In order to put up the mill, boarding house, and other necessary buildings, space for them had to be made by the blasting of these massive walls.

Moving heavy machinery to the mines required from ten to sixteen horses hitched to the heavy wagons, part of the teams pulling while other teams pushed. Two or three teams were hitched to a pole that extended from the rear of the wagon. A driver rode one horse and drove the other horses by means of a jerk line. When all was ready to go, the ~~driver~~ driver of the front
(continued...)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10/25/65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1900

Continued -

driver nodded his head to me in assurance, so smilingly I thanked the woman, gave her some change and drank the wine.

Again we crossed the river and ascended quite a hill, which led to the little Indian Pueblo of Cochiti, for which the Gold and Silver Mining Company of Bland was named. Here we stopped again for a little look-around.

We still had fifteen miles ahead of us before reaching our destination. The canyon became narrower, and the high, cliff-like walls towered 1200 ~~feet~~ feet above us on either side of the road. I began to think the road had come to an end in the face of a tall cliff, which seemed to have moved itself right out before us. Suddenly, our lead ~~team~~ team swung around a clump of young trees, and we found ourselves on the other ~~side~~ side of the wall.

.....
At Pena Blanca the driver had invited me to sit on the box with him. We took up the dog, too, for the waters of the creek carried the poisonous tailings of the Company's mill. Bodies of dogs, rabbits, squirrels, and birds which died after drinking this water were all along the banks of the creek.

We passed the Cochiti Reduction and Improvement Mill at Allerton, later known as Woodbury. There we had another change of horses. On the way up the narrow roadway, which was the main thoroughfare of the town, we came to the 250-ton stamp mill, pounding the refractory ores, night and day.

The little town of Bland sprawled along the narrow, precipitous road. Natives of this area, with their teams and wood wagons were ever stuck in the road, or headed in the wrong direction. At times, traffic was at a standstill, while the hombres in their effort to get out of the way of other traffic whipped their teams and swore in both Spanish and English. As a last resort, a man from some other conveyance would get down and coax the bewildered burros out of the way. All was well until other wood wagons were encountered.

At 1:00 we reached the center of the town, and stopped at the ~~Rxxx~~ Post Office. The men, hunting a place to quench their thirst, disappeared like leaves before a windstorm. I waved my hand to my husband, standing in a crowd of people who congregated to see the ~~x~~ arrival of the stage.

Rooms were very scarce. My husband had finally found one about a mile below town, near the mill. That night, I discovered the "Monster" of the Stamp Mill never slept, nor cared if anyone else did so. His stomping
(continued)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory

PAGE:

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 10/25/65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: Ormsbee

1900

Continued -

never ceased. The first night I got very little sleep; but the next night I was tired enough not to be bothered by the noise, or else its rhythmic beating seemed to create a recurring pattern that was quieting to the mind. After that I slept fairly well.

Bland, named for the free silver advocate, Richard P. Bland, of Missouri, consisted of the usual stores, eating places, Post Office, telegraph, and telephone station, and a plentiful supply of saloons. Houses happened along the winding roadway, tucked in wherever there was a place to put one. In one instance, the outdoor toilet was built in front of the house on the main thoroughfare, as there was no other place for it.

The little community was not without its diverting incidents. The women of the town organized both a school and a church. One of the first contributions to the latter project was an altar and a Bible, given by the widely known "Diamond Queen" of the red light district.

The first teacher of the school was a young lady. She found the boys unmanageable and soon departed. The next teacher, a little heavier ~~ix~~ weight, stayed ~~ax~~ while longer; but it took P. Carick Shannon to straighten out the roughnecks, at the same time enjoying his pipe during school hours.

An interesting character was Mrs. Bruce, wife of F.B. Bruce, a mining man. Mrs. Bruce was blind, but ~~ix~~ very remarkable in that she could do almost anything. She was a musician, playing both piano and violin, often playing for the dances. As a housekeeper, ~~ix~~ she was immaculate, and a fine cook, besides. By running her hand over a visitor's dress, she could describe it accurately, almost to the color of it. At night, she insisted upon carrying the lamp to the guest's room, for fear the guest might stumble and fall with it. Later, she came in to see if the lamp had been properly turned out.

Mrs. Bruce was a favorite with every one who ~~knew her~~ knew her.

Bland is at an elevation of 7400 feet, 48 miles northwest of Santa Fe and 65 miles north of Albuquerque. Prospectors visited this section as early as 1880, but production did not begin until 1894.

(continued...)

(Petherbridge, Bonanza at Bland, 54-55)

MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

Field Journal

PROJECT: Historic Sites Inventory
SITE NO.: LA
LOCALITY: Bland

PAGE:
DATE: 10/25/65
NAME: Ormsbee

1900

Continued -

teams gave a crack of the x whip, and the signal "Hup! Hup!" Then altogether the stout and steady animals, digging in with their iron-shod hoofs, pulled together, ~~and~~ ~~g~~ tugging and straining until the heavy wagon began rolling up the hill.

A proposed railroad, to be known as the Cochiti and Northwestern was much talked x of for more than a year, and without a doubt it would have become a reality had not the fall in the price of silver caused the close-down of the mining industry.

A ~~xxx~~ cyanide process used in the early days of mining, recovered only 40% of the ~~xx~~ valuable ore, while 60% went down the creek. Notwithstanding this, the Albemarle group produced \$1,000,000 in gold and silver bullion.

The silver depression caused by the demonitization of silver was a sad blow to the western mining industry.

There were a few mines working in 1912. Among them was the Lone Star in Bland Canyon, leased by the Cossack Company which operated the mine until Beginning of ~~xxxx~~ World War I.

In 1941 some little interest was revived when the Sandoval Gold Mining Company was organized with Dr. J.J. DuPraslin as president, and Reuben Perry, Chester T. French and Walter Roder as incorporators. DuPraslin obtained an option to purchase patented and unpatented claims of the Cochiti Gold and Silver Mining Company. The new Company began interesting people ~~ix~~ on the outside in their new venture. A group of Texas people was ready to start for New Mexico to investigate this mining property, when an unforeseen tragedy happened. Dr. Du Praslin, returning from California, was killed in an automobile accident. This unfortunate accident also "killed" the mining deal. World War II brought an end to any further activity.

....

(Petherbridge. Bonanza at Bland, 55-56)

PROJECT: Historic Sites Survey

PAGE: 1

SITE NO.: LA

DATE: 3/10/65

LOCALITY: Bland

NAME: J.K. Shishkin

BLAND

1901

"There are seven great gold districts in the world and Cochiti is one of them," said an expert the other day in speaking of this comparatively new camp, situated in a direct line 30 miles due west from Santa Fe. The mines are located 10 to 12 miles from the Rio Grande, on the eastern slope of the Jemez mountains at the elevation ranging from 7,500 to 8,000 feet, hence mining and milling operations can be advantageously prosecuted throughout the whole year. Bland, the commercial center of the district, located at the head of Pino Canon, is fifty miles north of Albuquerque, the county seat of Bernalillo county, and is comfortably reached by stage from Santa Fe in eight hours; also from Thornton station, on the Atcheson, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad, thence by daily stage covering 24 miles. The district has now a population of about 3,000. The hotel accommodations, both at Thornton and Bland are good. Bland is connected with the outside world by telegraph and with Albermarle mine by telephone. Good roads and trails lead to all the principal mines of the district.

The substantial history of the Cochiti mining district dates back to the closing months of 1893, when it was proved that several of its phenomenally large quartz ledges carried ore that could be profitably mined, sorted and transported for treatment, by wagons and cars to the Pueblo and El Paso smelters. But a land grant controversy frightened away capital, and thus seriously retarded development work for several years. A decree of the United States Court of Private Land Claims, subsequently affirmed by the United States Supreme Court, forever disposed of this controversy in favor of the mine claimants as against the grant claimants, and threw open the entire district to location and patent under federal mining laws. So that perfect titles are now readily procurable.

.....
The Albermarle mine, belonging to the Cochiti Gold Mining Company, is the best developed mine in the camp. It has reached a depth of little less than 700 feet, and is opened by seven levels extending and opening the vein for 1,000 feet.

[N.M. Bur. of Immigr. Mines & Minerals of N.M., 63-71]

..... The company has a cyanamide mill erected at the mine with a daily capacity of 300 tons. It is constructed entirely of steel and iron. The mine is equipped with an electric plant, both mill and hoisting works being operated by electric motors. The dynamos are located at the Madrid coal banks, in Santa Fe county, 35 miles distant.

The Lone Star, at Bland, is the next best developed mine in the district. It is opened by adit levels for about 1,000 feet, and to a depth of 800 feet below the highest outcrop. A crosscut tunnel 1,000 feet long has just been completed to the vein.

[Other mines described and named.]

But reduction and railway facilities constitute the present crying need of the Cochiti district. No doubt is entertained that all the above

Field Journal

PROJECT:

PAGE: 2

SITE NO.: LA

DATE:

LOCALITY: Bland (cont'd)

NAME:

named partially developed claims and scores of others would quickly become profitable producers were adequate reduction facilities provided and made conveniently accessible by the building of a railroad in Pino Canon. Such a line 27 miles long is projected from Thornton station, and also a line 33 miles in length to connect Bland with both the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe and the Denver and Rio Grande at the city of Santa Fe is now receiving serious attention at the hands of Colorado Springs capitalist. It has been estimated that the transportation charges in and out of Bland on all classes of freight, including merchandise, machinery, fuel, lumber, lime, ores, passenger and express business, now approximates \$150,000 a year and is constantly growing. It would seem, then, that in these piping times of prosperity the railway builders will not long permit the golden Cochiti country to go without ample transportation facilities.

The one other imperative present need of the district is a large cyanamide mill, like that at the Albemarle, for custom work. It is true that the Cochiti Development and Reduction Company is now building a 100-ton custom mill at Albemarle, five miles below Bland, where the company has secured a supply of water by means of a pipe line from Cochiti creek.

[E.M. Bur. of Immigr. Mines & Minerals of N.M. 63-74]

BLAND

The Cochiti or Bland district is situated in the northeastern part of Sábdoval County, about 9 miles northwest of the Rio Grande, about 30 miles almost due west from Santa Fe, and about 45 miles slightly east of north from Albuquerque. The town of Bland, the principal camp of the district, lies 25 miles northwest from Thornton, a water station on the Santa Fe Railway. A daily mail stage connecting these two points passes through the little plaza of ~~Bland~~ Peña Blanca, close to the ford across the Rio Grande, and on the west side of the river through the old Indian pueblo of Cochiti, from which the mining district is about 10 miles distant. From the broad river valley the road ascends to a mesa which borders on the southeast the outskirting elevations of the Valles Mountains. The mining district lies up in these hills, about 6 miles northwest of the locality where they join the mesa. Bland lies at an elevation of about 7,400 feet, in Pino Canyon, a steep-sided trench 700 to more than 1,000 feet deep, which heads 2 or 3 miles farther northwest. Colla Canyon, a similar and nearly parallel valley, lies $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the southwest, but turns and unites with Pino Canyon a couple of miles below Bland. Medio Dia Canyon, also similar in character and direction, lies on the northeast, separated from Pino Canyon by a sharp crest-like divide; it unites with the Pina-Colla trench a few miles below Bland. Most of the mines are situated along the walls of Pino and Colla Canyons.

Together with much of the mountainous portion of the Territory, this region received attention from the prospector in the seventies and eighties.

Field Journal

PROJECT:

PAGE: 3

SITE NO.: LA

DATE:

LOCALITY: Bland (cont'd)

NAME:

The opposition of Mexicans, who claimed possession under private grant, impeded development, and it was not till 1839 that prospecting began in earnest. In 1893 much activity was manifested in the district and many claims were located. Early in 1894 the Albermarle group was located. This proved to be the most important group in the district. In 1896 a mill, known as the Woodbury Mill, was built in the valley about 7 miles below Bland, for the purpose of treating the ores of the Iron King mine, but it was never a success. Late in 1899 the Albemarle cyanide mill was completed. This was closed in the spring of 1902 and was later dismantled.

[Lindgren, et al. Ore Deposits of N.M., 150]

In the eleven years from the opening of 1894, when production began, to the close of 1904 the district had produced slightly over one million dollars. The greatest production in any one year was \$359,135, in 1900. No production was reported in 1905. At present very little mining is being done in the district, and the prospects for the resumption of work in the immediate future are not bright. [ibid., 150]

[General Geology, ibid., 151-152] [Mineral deposits, General Features, 153-158]

It was stated to the writer by Mr. L.B. Smith, who was superintendent of the Albemarle mine, that paying ores seem to pinch out at depths of a few hundred feet; the experience at the Albemarle, Lone Star, and Washington mines was cited as evidence. The deepest ore known in the district was in the Albemarle mine, and gave out at a depth of about 600 feet below the outcrop.

Considerable development work has been done on the ore deposits of the Cochiti district. The workings range in importance from small prospect pits and assessment holes up to those of the Albemarle mine, which is the most highly developed mine in the district, with workings 750 feet below the outcrop. The Lone Star tunnels and the Navajo crosscut tunnel explore considerable ground. The Washington, Iron King, Crown Point, and Puzzle are among the claims on which several hundred feet of work has been done.

Extraction of the ores has never been successfully worked out. Three or four miles, including the Woodbury stamp and cyanide plant, have been built in or near the district, but have not been successful. . . . The absence of a plentiful supply of water in the district is a serious drawback in milling. High-grade sorted ore was hauled to the railroad and shipped to Pueblo or El Paso, but owing to high freight and treatment charges this was usually not profitable. [ibid., 158]

[Follow more detailed discussions of Albemarle Mine, Washington Mine, Lone Star Mine, Iron King Mine, Crown Point Mine, et al. [ibid., 158-162]

BLAND, NEW MEXICO
(COCHITI MINING DISTRICT)

Barbour, Percy E.

The Cochiti Mining District, New Mexico. In: Engineering and Mining Journal, vol. 86, p. 173-175; South-Western Mines, vol. 1, no. 6, p. 1-2, March 5, 1909.

Coan, Charles Flerus

A History of New Mexico. 2 volumes. Chicago, The American Historical Society, 1925, p. 84, 453

Finlay, J. R.

Report of Appraisal of Mining Properties of New Mexico, 1921-1922, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1922, p. 76-77.

Harrington, E. R.

Gold Camp. In: New Mexico Magazine, vol. 19, no. 3, March, 1941, p. 14-15, 34.

Jenks, William.

Golden Cochiti District. In: South-Western Mines, vol. 1, no. 1, p. 1-2, illus., Oct. 5, 1908.

Jones, Fayette Alexander.

New Mexico Mines and Minerals. Santa Fe, The New Mexican Printing Co., 1904, p. 185-187.

Kutnewsky, Fremont.

As Long as There's Gold. In: New Mexico Magazine, vol. 25, no. 6, June, 1947, p. 31-32, 39.

Lindgren, Waldemar and others.

The Ore Deposits of New Mexico. United States Geological Survey, Professional Paper, 68, 1910, p. 151-162.

Maxwell, Grant.

Cities of Hope. In: New Mexico Magazine, vol. 13, no. 4, April, 1935, p. 16-17.

Mines and Minerals of New Mexico.

Santa Fe, New Mexico, New Mexico Bureau of Immigration, 1901, p. 68-74

Petherbridge, Lillian R.

Donanza at Bland. In: New Mexico Magazine, vol. 24, no. 7, July, 1946, p. 22-23, 53-56.

Stats, B. A.

Geology of the Cochiti Mining District, New Mexico. In: Mining Science, vol. 66, p. 276-277, 1912.

Wynkoop, W. C.

The Cochiti District, New Mexico. In: Engineering and Mining Journal, vol. 70, p. 215-216, 1900.

BLAND, NEW MEXICO
(COCHITI MINING DISTRICT)

Newspaper Articles.

Santa Fe New Mexican Daily.

Rich Strike at Bland, June, 25, 1896, p.4, col.4

Road Building, December 21, 1897, p.4, col.3

1,500 Men are employed at Bland, March 15, 1900 p.1, col.5

Three saw mills busy, March, 26, 1900, p. 1, col.5

To be incorporated, July 2, 1900, p. 1, col. 5