

**Famous Gold Rush
County Booms Again**

**Montana Section Scene of
Mining Activity.**

VIRGINIA CITY, MONT.—Madison county, Montana, scene of one of the nation's greatest gold rushes at Alder gulch in the 1860s, is booming again.

Shipments of ore were made regularly during the winter by many of the 122 lode mining outfits which latest government figures show are operating in the district.

Twenty-seven lode mining concerns have headquarters at Norris and 17 at Virginia City. In addition, 16 placer mining companies are operating in the district, seven of them at Virginia City and two at Norris.

Many prospectors also are combing the hills for their share of the precious metal. One of the prospectors said there is "a prospector for every gopher hole."

Madison leads the 24 mining counties of the state in lode mining, and in 1938 produced \$1,762,000 worth of gold, more than any other county.

Gold first was discovered in the nameless creek that winds through Alder gulch in 1866. In the stampede that followed, claims were staked out over the surrounding hillsides and many rich ore bodies were uncovered. Some of the tunnels made by pioneer miners are in use today by prospectors still seeking to tap the mother lode.

Operators are taking out ore which is profitably smelted and sold at \$15 a ton—a price early-day miners would have scorned. For in the picturesque times when Montana's early history was written—and Virginia City and Alder gulch were the locale—there were no near-by smelters, and transportation and shipping costs were prohibitive.

Although combed three times by dry land dredges, Alder gulch again may be panned for gold. A Montana syndicate recently prospected the head of the gulch and reportedly may undertake operations this year.

Already the Virginia City district, principally Alder gulch, has yielded between \$50,000,000 and \$500,000,000 in gold, according to various estimates, since Bill Fairweather, Henry Edgar, Tom Cover, Michael Sweeney, Barney Hughes and Harry Rodgers rode in that day in May, 1866 and found "color."

Lights of New York
by L. L. STEVENSON

Reaction: He came to New York from a small town in Illinois. With him he brought a patent on a novelty that looked like sure-fire. But though only a few thousand dollars was needed to put it on the market, he found the going exceedingly tough. He did obtain several appointments but most of the time never got past secretaries. After some weeks of being given the run around, in order that he might live, he took a job as a stock clerk at \$18 a week. But he couldn't let his folks and friends back home, particularly one girl, know that he had failed. So he wrote glowing tales of the wonderful position that he was holding down and how a group of capitalists were only waiting to clear away minor details before going into production with his patent. Last week his uncle died. Believing the nephew didn't need it, he left his \$18,000 estate to his church.

B'way Zoo's Who: The sheepish look of the stage-door johnnies . . . The lion-hearted performance of Franchot Tone in "The Fifth Column" . . . The fox in Arthur Boran's mimicry . . . The feline in Vivian Vance's "Skylark" role . . . Lew Lehr's monkeyshines . . . The "wolf criers" with money in one pocket and a "down with the capitalists" pamphlet in the other . . . The crocodile tears of bookies . . . The kangaroo witticisms of Broadway Rose . . . The panther grace of Diosa Costello . . . The stag in Benny Baker . . . Milton Berle's greyhound savoir-faire . . . The kinkajou in Tommy Wonder's necromantic dancing . . . The porcupine quips of Jack White.

Futility: The father of a son who had been graduated from a well-known university four years ago and who had been unable to find a place for his talents, in desperation finally went to a friend who is a hotel owner. The father pleaded for any kind of a job for the boy, anything at all so he could get a start in the world. After some consideration, the hotel man, being kind-hearted, made a place for the son at a salary of \$25 a week. The over-joyed father, after thanking him warmly, sent the son around for a final interview. The young man listened carefully while his new duties were explained in detail. "Now tell me," he ordered when the hotel man had finished, "something I must know before I take this position. Has it any future?"

Gotham Glimpses: Oscar Serlin, who fathered "Life With Father," and Frankie Masters, who scattered "Scatterbrain," stopping on Broadway to recall days when they both worked in a Chicago theater . . . Kids peeping through the Winter Garden front doors at the "Hellzapoppin'" laundry department . . . More kids hanging around Radio City hoping for a peep at Charley McCarthy . . . Who finally comes out in Edgar Bergen's satchel . . . Ex-Mayor Jimmy Walker, still an idol of newsboys and cabbies, heading for his once-a-week theater stint for which he is paid \$1 . . . Andre Kostelanetz accurately naming the types of airplanes displayed in a toy shop window . . . A handsome coach dog riding high and proud as a fire truck screams by.

New York: This is one of the few cities in the United States where, if you feel like it, you can wear a beard and carry a cane without exciting comment. You can do even more. On a recent cold day, which every one hoped would be the last until next winter, when other males were bundled up in overcoats and scarfs, a hatless, shirt-sleeved man wearing shorts strolled nonchalantly down Fifth avenue. Nobody gave him a second look and no one had anything to say. Incidentally, he doesn't go around that way for a publicity stunt. He merely likes fresh air and doesn't feel cold.

End Piece: New Yorkers are blasé about skywriters but the other day one got more attention than usual. "It's something about war!" exclaimed an excitable individual. "See, it spells F-I-N—" But the notion that headlines were being smoked on the heavens was soon dissipated. Carrying on, the aviator made it "FINE FURS." (Ball Syndicate—WNU Service.)

Prophetic Gas Mask
LONDON.—More than a hundred years ago, before poison war gas was thought of, the gas mask was in existence. In 1825, a workman fashioned a leather hood, similar except in material to the modern mask, that completely enveloped the head.

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It is by no means fostering sectionalism or klannishness to urge employment preference for local labor. It seems to us the advice is based on economic wisdom. Local workmen are taxpayers in one way or the other, and a great deal of them are home owners. They make their money here and in turn return it to the channels of local commerce.

Of course, there frequently comes times when no employees are available in a particular field. This is understood and is economically wise as well as imperative that, under such circumstances, we seek elsewhere for a source of labor supply. But we cannot over-emphasize the necessity of first utilizing the home market. Choose union labor preferably, yes; but insist on home labor.

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