

Gold price \$  
to \$20.00 per oz.  
in this era

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MONUMENTAL MINE

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In the Spring of 1898 two prospectors, Baker and Fletcher by name, were grubstaked by a gentleman of Medford, Oregon, named Hamilton, were sent into the Oregon Mountain country on a prospecting trip and finally landed across the line in Del Norte County, Cal. on Falls Creek, a tributary of Shelly Creek and less than a half mile from the old Crescent City highway where the now named "Monumental" mine is located.

These men established their camp and started in to sink a shaft. They followed the ore body down which has a dip from the vertical of 18 degrees, or in other words the ore body dips East and stands at an angle of 72 degrees. They had reached a depth of 30 feet when Col. Draper of Takilma, Oregon, heard of the work being done, visited the property which resulted in a Lease and Bond being given him for \$30,000. covering a period of 90 days.

Col. Draper put two men at work at once in the incline shaft which these discoverers had under way and sunk ten feet deeper. Assays of the ore showed it to be more than anticipated and the price of \$30,000. was paid in cash. Because of the promising outlook he at once began the construction of a road up the Creek to the mine less than a half a mile. While this was being accomplished ten tons of ore was stoped from the 40 foot level for a Smelter test, was shipped to the Selby Smelter and the returns showed a gold value of \$80.00 per ton.

More men were put to work, a large bunkhouse and cookhouse was constructed for the augmented force as well as an assay office. After the report was received from the Smelter the incline shaft was sunk to the 100 foot level. A drift was run Westerly for 100 feet or more, following the ore body, then upraised 60 feet. No ore was stoped in this drift. Again a drift was run Easterly

from the 100 foot level for a distance of about 75 feet. For a distance of 40 feet in this drift the ore was stoped to the 40 foot level, shipped to the Smelter and averaged \$60.00 per ton. From the 40 foot level a drift was run Westerly for a distance of 30 feet and a winze was sunk to a depth of 16 feet. Samples of this ore taken from this drift and winze averaged five ounces of gold per ton. No ore has been removed from the mine below the 100 foot level. Total amount of ore shipped amounted to \$50,000.

It is well to state here that the ore was in evidence in the banks along the Creek into which several prospecting tunnels were driven. The ore body which was followed down in the incline shaft is in evidence in the tunnel but a few feet up the Creek. This tunnel shows ore at the portal, a ten pound sample of which was shipped to the Selby Smelter giving a return of 2.12 ounces gold. The same sample was shipped by the Selby Smelter to the Tacoma Smelter and the returns from there showed 2.22 ounces of gold per ton. This shipment was made October 1930.

At a short distance above this opening another tunnel was driven in on the ore body for a distance of 100 feet and the ore stoped to the surface and shipped to the Smelter. Smelter receipt showed an average value of \$32.00 per ton gold.

Prior to the driving of this tunnel which was just above water level, a six foot Huntington mill was ordered, mill building constructed and the mill installed, believing the ore could be concentrated. A test was made with ten tons of ore from the tunnel above mentioned and failure was the result, 80% of the values were carried away in the slimes. Not satisfied with their first attempt they took lean surface ore, ore from open cuts and hillsides and endeavored to make a shipping grade of concentrates, but as before no preparation was made to save the slimes and further milling was abandoned.

About this time a vertical shaft was contemplated and after the necessary preliminary work had been arranged the shaft was started 65 feet East of what was determined to be the hanging wall. This is a three compartment shaft, perfectly timbered and timbers in a fine state of preservation. At a depth of 70 feet the hanging wall was cut showing very highgrade ore. Original intention, when shaft was started, was to reach a depth of 1000 feet but work stopped at 240 feet as funds were dwindling, and, instead of going deeper, drifts were run.

The drift from the incline shaft intersects the vertical shaft immediately below the 100 foot level. At the 140 foot level a drift was run, another drift was run at an undetermined level and again at the 212 foot level. As no ore was ever removed from the vertical shaft it goes to prove the assertions of the men who worked in the drifts that " the ore was so hard that we drifted alongside". (Be it known here that the harder the ore the greater values are contained.)

Each day that work was carried on in the workings the foreman with the assayer drilled the ore body for assay samples. A map of the underground workings was in evidence and each drill hole with assay values was chronicled on the map. (This map has been destroyed.)

High grade ore was encountered when the 40 foot level was reached in the incline shaft ranging from \$40.00 to \$100.00 per ton. From this level downwards values steadily increased until results of drilling on the 212 foot level showed values from \$80.00 to \$200.00 per ton.

Work was carried on in a small way until May 1905 when a ten Stamp mill was asked for, funds not forthcoming, work ceased.

Soon thereafter a Lease and Bond was taken by a French Syndicate for \$1,250,000.. No work worthy of mention was accomplished except to keep the shaft unwatered. A two inch Cameron sinking pump

was operated every other day for four hours and was finally pulled in the summer of 1910, the French, losing their Chief Engineer on his way to America, forfeited their Lease and Bond. Thus the mine was closed.

The owner, Dr. J.O.B.Gunn, President of the Union Works of San Francisco, died, and the mine went to the heirs. During his life the Monumental Mine Company was organized and when death took him the entire stock was in the hands of the surviving heirs. They, knowing nothing of mines and mining and being engaged in other businesses refused to finance the project further. Application for patent was applied for while for while Dr. Gunn was alive but patent did not issue until 1916. The estate has kept the taxes paid and a care taker has looked after the property. As no funds for upkeep have ever been tendered the representative the buildings have become in such shape that repairs are badly needed.

The question is often asked why this mine is idle and why it ever should have reverted to this state and the answer is this-- Col. Draper, who had charge of the mine was an eccentric individual and without common knowledge of the ethics of the mining profession, he being a Civil Engineer. His blunders were numerous, the first serious mistake was the installation of the Huntington mill. When this failed a Stamp mill was requested. Again, he stocked the store building with supplies aggregating a value of ten thousand dollars, and a greater portion of this stock was farming implements when the nearest ranch was at a distance of 40 miles. Indiscriminate use of the funds supplied him from which no appreciable value was obtained was, in a measure, why failure resulted. Failure to keep the shafts free from water after the closing of the mine is the direct cause why the mine is now idle.