

LAND AROUND US

Cave Of Gold Reported Hidden In The Ivanpahs

By FRANK CANDELARIO

Before continuing with stories of "lost" gold and buried treasure, perhaps it would be well to issue a word of advice to those who's pulses quicken with the thought of prospecting for gold.

When planning a trip into the interior, one important item of equipment to be considered, besides food and water, is a compass. Then, if you should be fortunate enough to stumble on a "lost" gold mine, you will at least be able to plot your position on a map. This sage bit of advice will of course end the problem of "lost" mines and buried treasures.

Rich Pocket

Old Nicholas Canyon in the Santa Rosa mountains, south of

Palm Springs in the Borrego Desert, is the site of a rich pocket of gold discovered in 1901. Hopeful prospectors, using a mine detector, will probably get a reaction on the machine because of a pick and shovel buried over the pocket.

Southeast of Garlic Springs here is a gold mine, discovered by prospector Charles Alvord in 1860. The mine is said to contain gold in "wire" form, running well back into the mountain. According to legend, Alvord extracted a small fortune from the mine, left the area, then, deciding to return, was unable to locate the mine. He spent many years searching for it with no results. Today the mountain range bears the prospector's name, Alvord Mountains, located

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about eight miles northeast of Yermo, California.

Next, an interesting legend because of the possible connection between it, and a letter received January 12, 1965. First, the legend.

Lost Cave

Northeast of Nipton, just below Clark Peak, there is a lost cave wherein sea water rises and falls with the tide. Rich nugget bearing sand surrounds the interior sea basin.

It was discovered by an old prospector near the turn of the century. That's the legend. Now the letter, and its possible connection with the story. Only those parts of the letter pertaining to the subject will be printed. It begins with a description of two mountain peaks located south of Clark Peak.

"Kokoweif and Dawn Peak are a part of a submarine canyon-lost river-subterranean chasm combination. It probably contains placer gold at \$4,000 a ton,

and \$2 billion a mile. The wall rocks are easily worth \$8 billion a mile."

Dawn Peak

According to the author of the letter, whose name is being held in confidence, there is an underground river running under Dawn Peak. He indicates the river rises and falls with the tide, and is 300 feet wide at night tide.

"Constant flooding through the years caused the wall rocks to burst and be ground to powder. The gold, because of its weight, could not flow out to sea. When the flooding ceased the gold stayed in the subterranean cavern."

The peaks mentioned by the writer are located south of Clark Peak and can be reached by way of Highway 15 to Windmill Station near Mountain Pass, then south to the vicinity of the Ivanpah Mountains, where the peaks are located.

Extracting Gold

Much of the letter was devoted to the prospector's method of extracting gold from the sand, which lines the underground riv-

er. His method involves the use of at least two stoves with devices similar to the Knudsen Bowl to process a large quantity of gold. He "boils salt water and black sand combined to get about \$600 a day."

Analyzing the legend and the letter, both indicate there is an underground river of tremendous size in the area. Clark Peak is about 17 miles north of the area in question. Both sources tell of black gold bearing sand, and while this reporter has not visited the area, plans are being made with interested parties to search for the cave. Perhaps in a later report, this column will supply some first hand information.

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