

Alaska Weekly from the Fairbanks News-Miner says that "In 1903 Leslie Crim, Charles Randt and W. J. O'Brien staked discovery on Lost River.

It is possible that these three men were in our party. I remember having known Charles Randt and Leslie Crim up in that country, but, after 49 years I can't remember if they were with us. The next morning about daybreak one of those rip tail snorting storms, for which the Lost River country is famous, blew down our tent and we couldn't manage to get a camp fire going long enough to cook breakfast. There was nothing to do but pack up and get back to York in the raging wind and slushy snow storm. We ate raw bacon,

After I wrote my brother in Freemont, Nebraska that I was in Seattle he sent me money to come home, which I did, and got a job as a bookkeeper. During the winter of 1903-1904 Tex Rickard came to Omaha and bought my placer tin claim on Buck Creek for \$250—as I had completely recovered from all schemes to "get rich quick." I understood some money was made on Buck Creek and as I observe by the Alaska Weekly that "George and Bill Ramstad" are in Seattle from Buck Creek, I will send Ramstad Brothers a 1902 picture of placer mining on Buck Creek if they will send me their address.

I still have a half pound chunk of tin ore (cassiterite) that came from the Buck Creek claim that I sold "Tex" Rickard.

CLARENCE RECKMEYER,
Black Hawk, Colo.

The gold discovery never amounted to anything, but, after we had been there for perhaps a year or so, placer tin was discovered on Buck Creek on which I secured a claim. Among the residents of York was the late Barney F. Anderson of Houston, Minnesota. In September, 1903 Mr. Anderson told the few of us that were left there that he had discovered a tin lode on Lost River and offered to take a number of us out there to stake.

As I remember it now about six of us made up a party who started out one morning with a camp outfit. I can't recall who all was in the party besides myself and Barney Anderson, but among the residents of York were M. A. Domingo, Pat Cavanaugh, Dr. H. S. McDonald, John McNally, Harry Cole, "Kid" Martin, Lloyd Botts, Johnny Walker, Joe Horan, H. A. Ring and others.

We traveled in an easterly direction from York and struck Lost River a few miles from its mouth, perhaps in the vicinity of where Anderson Creek is now shown on the geological survey maps.

It was late in the day when we arrived and, after pitching camp, Mr. Anderson showed us the lode which contained blackish rock upon which Anderson said he had secured an assay showing six per cent tin. We concluded to do our staking the next day as we were tired and weary from the 15 mile tramp. The article written by Kay J. Kennedy and reproduced in the

and I concluded that I didn't want anymore prospecting at any price.

In about ten days, when I was again able to walk, I heard that the ex-Revenue Cutter Corwin was at Port Clarence, which was the last boat of the year for the outside. I put a pack on my back one morning and walked down to a woodchoppers cabin on the coast, going inland at Cape York to avoid the precipitate cliffs on the coast. After I got to the woodchoppers cabin, which was a place of shelter by common consent, a boat load of natives came along.

I told them I was only there for the night and we spent the night together. After supper two or three of the natives got drunk and tore things up in general, but never bothered me. The next morning my rheumatism had returned and I could not walk. The natives kindly took me down to where the Corwin was anchored, carried me on board and would not take a cent for it—which shows that folks who sometimes get drunk often have generous hearts.

Robert S. Norris, whom I had known at York, was on board, but I don't recollect whether he was along on the Lost River trip. His home was then at Brandon, Wisconsin.

When we arrived in Seattle, I worked for awhile helping Sam Taggart's father clear off York addition to Seattle, which he had come out from Odebolt, Iowa and purchased.



Letters TO THE EDITOR

Readers of the News-Miner are welcome to write letters to the editor, but because of limitations of space, it is requested that they be kept to 300 words or less.

Editor,
Fairbanks News-Miner.

As I lived in the now extinct town of York, Alaska from August 1899 to September 1903, the articles in the Alaska Weekly and the Fairbanks News-Miner in regard to the Lost River tin mines are most interesting. I went to what became York with Mr. Joe J. Brown, now a resident of Wichita, Kansas, who had a "tip" that a gold discovery had been made there. Mr. W. T. Lopp, then a missionary at Cape Prince of Wales, told us how a discovery had been made on the Anacovik river and we went down there and were all alone until the news leaked out and a stampede came up from Nome and the town of York was founded and I became the mining recorder.

dry rice and oat meal to satisfy our appetites before starting out. If Charlie Randt or Leslie Crim or any one else who may have been in that party reads this I would like to hear their version of this incident.

On the way to York I got separated from the rest of the party and found the Anacovik River so flooded by the slushy snow that I had to swim the icy water. Once on the westerly bank I poured the water out of my rubber boots, wrung the water out of my socks and started on to York. I had not gone over a half mile when I sprained an ankle so severely that I could not walk and crawled on my hands and knees three or four miles to York. When I awoke the next morning rheumatism added to the pain of the sprained ankle.

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