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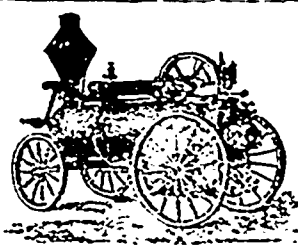
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MINING.

THE GROSH BROTHERS.—A MYSTERIOUS PAIR.

(Continued.)

Written for the Engineering and Mining Journal by Dan De Quille.

The Surveyor-General of Nevada, in his report for 1865, speaking of the Silver City mining district, says: "It is remarkable as the locality of the first operations for the discovery of silver in the State. In 1852 H. B. and E. A. Grosh, or Grosh, educated metallurgists, came to the then Territory, and the same or the following year engaged in placer mining in Gold Cañon, near the site of Silver City, and continued there until 1867, when, so far as I can learn, they first discovered silver ore which was found in a quartz vein (probably the one now owned by the Kossuth Gold and Silver Mining Company) on which the Grosh brothers had a location. Shortly after the discovery one of the brothers accidentally wounded himself with a pick, from the effects of which he soon died, and the other brother went to California, where he died early in 1858, which probably prevented the valuable nature of their discovery from becoming known. In the meantime placer mining was carried on to a considerable extent in various localities, principally in Gold Cañon."

The Kossuth mine here mentioned is on a large vein of quartz that crops out on Grizzly Hill. It shows no silver in the croppings and only small assays of gold are obtainable. The Kossuth Company collected \$430,000 in assessments and paid one dividend of six cents a share, aggregating \$10,800, when work was discontinued. There was nothing in or about the croppings that would have attracted the attention of a man in search of silver at the early day when the Grosh brothers were prospecting in the district.

A few rods west of the Kossuth croppings, in a sag on the side of Grizzly Hill, caused by an ancient slide, was an old shaft said to have been sunk by the Grosh boys. This probably gave rise to the story of their having discovered silver in the Kossuth. I was one of the locators (in 1860) of a mining claim that covered this old shaft. Therefore we called our property the "Lost Shaft." As the shaft appeared to have been sunk to prospect a quartz vein that cropped out on the hill above, we set to work to clean it out. The shaft appeared to be about 25 ft. in depth, but much surface dirt had caved into it.

A windlass was set up and men put to work at cleaning out the shaft. They had been at work only a few hours when one of them came up town and asked me to come out to the shaft at once, as they had "struck a dead thing" in it. This news being imparted to me in front of the express office, where was congregated a crowd of miners and idlers, several persons picked up their ears and "took in" what was said. I was but a few rods on my way when I saw a crowd following me. Like wildfire the news had spread that I had made a "big find" at the "Lost Shaft." Visions of immense wealth danced before my eyes and the vapors rising from my supposed bonanza entered my head and blew it up as though it had been a bladder. Looking back upon the crowd steaming after me I was pleased—it appeared that I had already acquired quite an imposing tail, though composed (as it appeared to me in my inflated state) very largely of the "vulgar herd."

Upon our arrival at the shaft my man pointed out to me a skeleton that had just been hoisted out of the shaft. Before me was the "dead thing" of which I had been told. There was a general laugh at my expense and by the time it had subsided my head had shrunk to its normal dimensions. The skeleton was that of a woman, as was shown by the calico dress, shoes and stockings and long hair. The body was wrapped in some pieces of patchwork quilt and a rabbit skin robe of Indian make. Noosed about the body was an inch rope over 30 ft. in length. This was thought to smack of murder. As the hair was of a reddish hue (bleached by the alkali in the soil), the body was thought to be that of a white woman. A doctor who examined the skull said it was that of a Spanish woman—"no Indian."

Then some of the old settlers recollected that a few years before there had been a Spanish woman on the cañon who had suddenly and mysteriously disappeared. At the time she was living with a miner, who was a rather tough customer. To those who heard the story it seemed that a mystery of some years' standing had just been cleared up. "Murder will out!" cried all hands. Next the thoughts of all turned to the supposed murderer, who was still in the camp, when the cry of "Hang him!" was raised. Luckily men were found who knew the body to be that of a lame old Pinto squaw who had died on the cañon a few years before. There were men who had seen the Indians packing the body up to the old shaft.

Nothing was found in the old shaft in the way of ore. It was cleaned out to depth of 40 ft., when men could no longer be found who would work in it. Three or four different crews of miners tried the shaft, but all gave it up. All complained that stones were constantly "jumping out of its sides" without the slightest cause or provocation. About this time, also, we discovered that the "Haunted Shaft," as it was now called, was sunk in 1851 by a party of miners who came up from the mouth of Gold Cañon. These men had mined about Placerville, and knowing that very rich diggings had been found in the sinks of such slides over in California, they expected to find in this one the source of all the gold strewn down along the cañon, whereas they did not find more than the "color" of gold.

At the time of the great excitement over the "big bonanza" in 1874-75 some of the relatives of the Grosh brothers came out here from the East for the purpose of trying to establish a claim to some part of the Comstock lode, but they could find no evidence that the boys had ever done any work on or taken out silver from any part of the vein. At that time there were