

## Town of Randsburg

The town started first on the Yellow Aster property where Cuffle had a store and Mrs. Freeman ran a boarding house. In 1895 Abram Staley and his son Homer opened a blacksmith shop on the flat, the first wooden building on the present townsite. Charles Keehn opened the first store in the town proper; Montgomery Brothers started a saloon, John Crawford started another, and after that the arrivals were too rapid and numerous to be remembered.

During the rush of 1896 Randsburg had its first experience of the disorder that belongs by tradition to new mining camps. "The Dirty Dozen," as the members of a gang of dry washers from an older camp chose to call themselves, conceived the pleasant pastime of visiting Randsburg of evenings, making a rough house in the different saloons and finally promenading the streets, firing their revolvers. As most of the houses in the camp had only canvas walls and as the members of the Dirty Dozen were careless in their aim there was a general protest which resulted in a mass meeting on the porch of the Cliff House (hotel) and the organization of the Citizens' committee. At first it was planned to make it a vigilante organization, but soberer discussion resulted in the agreement that the disorders were not grave enough for such means of repression, and "Ironsides" Raines was hired to act as town marshal at a salary of \$100 per month. A number of citizens were made deputy constables without pay. Personal notice was served on all the known members of the Dirty Dozen that their visits could be dispensed with, and a notice in the following words was posted in the streets:

The Citizens of Randsburg have organized to enforce the laws. Ten  
Deputy Constables have been appointed, and any riotous and  
threatening conduct will be punished,  
by order of the  
CITIZENS' COMMITTEE

There was no further disorder. At least there was no further general menace to life or limb, although for some time afterward the diversions of the miners that assembled in the desert camp differed somewhat from those of a Sunday-school picnic.

At the present time [1914] there is more genuine, profitable mining going on in the Randsburg district than at any other time since the camp was established. All the mines named heretofore are worked with profit, and in addition the King Solomon, Sunshine and Pierced are yielding good returns to their owners. Mooers of the Yellow Aster is dead, but his heirs and his original partners, Burcham and Singleton, still own the mine and are taking out about 600 tons of \$5.00 ore per day.