



Bill Hubbard's ranch at Cozy Dell,  
site of the lower Toll House.

across the canyon from the old highway, about half a mile above his home. In recent years, when the Southern Pacific built its new short cut from Mojave to the main line at Colton, the surveyors ran the tracks along the west side of Cajon Creek, and the builders made several cuts in the hillside through the edge of the coal deposit.

But coal is not the only fossil fuel found in Cajon Pass. Not long ago a Texas firm started drilling for gas near the site of former Camp Cajon about two miles up the road from Cozy Dell.

Oil has been known in that area for a number of years. And that's not all. Frank Moore was kind enough to send me a copy of a rather surprising item from the Redlands Facts of March 3, 1924.

OIL FOUND BY OIL DRILL

Strike Made at Depth of About 600 Feet in an Old Stream Bed

Gold has been discovered in the shaft being sunk in search of oil by the Arrowhead Development Company in Cajon Pass.

The drill of the company's rig, which is now down over 600 feet, has passed through the bed of a prehistoric mountain stream.

In bailing out the hole a quantity of gold nuggets the size of a pea and larger were discovered.

Enough nuggets to more than half fill a small bottle were recovered from the bailings of the well. All are of pure washed gold.

The fact that such a quantity of gold was found in a hole no larger than that of a well shaft, would, in the opinion of the oil company's executives, indicate a very rich field.

If the small sector pierced by the drill is a fair example of what lies 500 feet below the surface, one of the richest gold fields in California lies within 20 miles of San Bernardino.

There is a possibility, of course, that the drill struck a small isolated pocket of gold.

It will be recalled that both Lytle Creek and Cajon Creek have been the scene of numerous small nugget discoveries in the past. Geologists have attributed the presence of gold in the Cajon and Lytle basins to an early upheaval of the earth's crust at the time the main part of the San Bernardino mountains was formed.

The mountains on either side of Cajon Pass were not formed in one upheaval but are thought to be the result of several earth disturbances....

The way things are today, one wonders which would be more valuable, the oil or the gold.



County Museum Assn. Cajon facility, near former Camp Cajon; presently being drilled for gas. In the foreground is a remnant of Brown Road, that crossed the creek here and continued through Crowder Canyon, the pioneers' Upper Narrows.