

MINES NEARLY EXHAUSTED

India may bring back gold panning

NEW DELHI (Reuter) — With the price of gold soaring to record levels and its only gold mine nearing exhaustion, India may revive panning for the precious metal.

Gold panning was once practised in several states but has gone out of fashion in recent years. Now geologists are showing an interest in reviving panning by villagers on the banks and beds of alluvial rivers throughout the country.

Gold has been reaching record heights of more than \$340 U.S. an ounce recently as the markets turn to it for security because of fears over world-wide inflation.

At the country's only gold mine, the Kolar gold field in southern India, shafts have reached the maximum depth of 3,600 metres and the grade of ore has been steadily declining, says Dr. S. K. Day, a retired geologist of the Geological Survey of India.

Noting that panning is encouraged in the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand where old gold mining areas are being reinvestigated and new deposits discovered, Day suggests that the practice should be widely promoted in India.

He and Dr. P. Bhattacharya, water manage-

ment adviser in the West Bengal state government, say alluvial prospecting for gold by driving boreholes down to the bedrock is likely to be useful in India.

Pakistan carried out borehole sampling in the upper reaches of the Indus Valley several years ago, but India has yet to try this method.

The two geologists give this advice for would-be panners:

Examine the stream bank for gold between the high water mark and the water level. Material in narrow cracks and crevices should be removed and panned.

House chores performed by computer

CALGARY (CP) — It opens and locks the doors of Jim Taylor's house. It turns on lights around the property, pages people through the intercom and operates his stereo system. It's a computerized microprocessor, the "brain" of the system — a combination of several manufacturer's devices — capable of 1,000 computer functions.

Taylor's \$1-million home at Chestermere Lake, 10 kilometres east of Calgary, is only partially run by the computer at present. Programmed so far for about 100 functions, the device automatically operates the 40 sprinklers around the 1.3-acre property and performs other functions while he and his family are away.

"I'd like to put virtually everything on it," he says.

The computer system, including amplifying equipment, costs \$10,000. It comes with several control panels — each capable of being a master unit — equipped with telephone-style buttons.

The user "dials" each function. No. 15 lowers the wall-size movie screen; 27 turns on the swimming pool lights.

The pool, incidentally, is in Taylor's living room.

College teaching film animation

LONDON, Ont. (CP) — On makeshift walls in the back of a construction hut, tiny animal characters drawn in pencil and ink on small pieces of paper are waiting for their creators to put them on film and bring them to life.

The creators, four students of animated film from Sheridan College in Oakville, Ont., can be found huddled over drawing pads and bent over a camera on a tiny working table.

It's not a perfect studio setting by any means, but it is enough to give the students experience in making an animated film.

The students were hired by Bill Smith, owner of a small construction firm, to put together a 15-minute film. He invested \$25,000 into the venture because he has always been interested in animation, and he decided to become actively involved after seeing a group of animators discuss their art on a television show.

Smith went to Sheridan College where he recruited the four students. Two of them intend to work with Smith on a planned 30-minute animated Christmas special.

The success of that venture, however, will ultimately depend on the success of the

film now being produced in the back of the construction hut. He intends to approach the CBC with it.

One of the students, Mike Bannon, explains the basics of producing animated film:

Once the idea is formed a story board of rough sketches is made up. It is a visualization of the plot and is "one way of telling if the story is going to work." A second, more elaborate story board is constructed which maps out the film shot by shot.

The individual drawings are then photographed with a stopaction camera, putting one drawing on an individual frame of film. The result is a kind of rough draft of what the film will eventually look like.

A soundtrack and background are then added to the film, which is transferred on to clear sheets of acetate cells. Coloring is added to the cells which are sent away for a final filming.

Neither Smith nor his crew will divulge the contents of their project except to say it is a comedy.

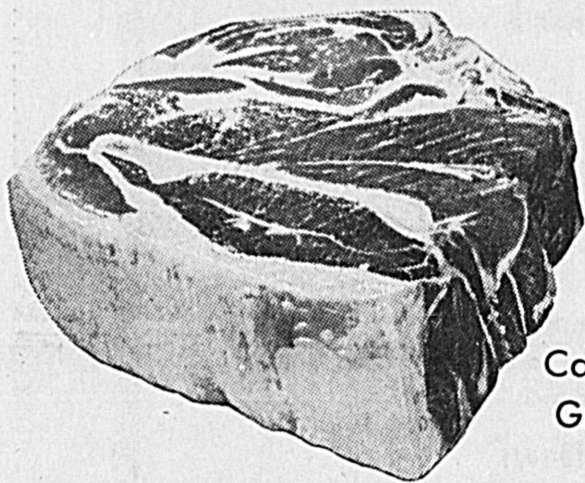
Besides the four Sheridan students, Smith has hired on contract a number of cell painters, bringing to 14 the number of persons working on the film.

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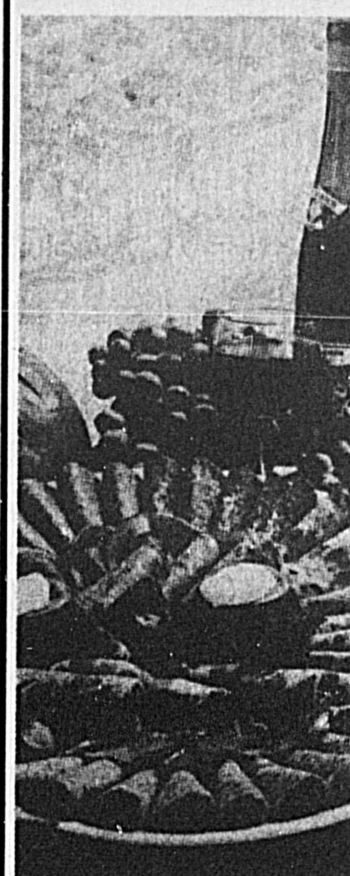
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