

\$2500 Worth of Diamonds Dug Up In Black Canyon

Diamond Drill Bit Containing 21 Carats Unearthed
After Ten Years Beneath Colorado River; Small
Cylinder Lost in 1922, Far Below River Bed.

Eight diamonds, worth \$2,500 or more, were "mined" at the dam site in Black Canyon recently!

After ten years of resting 130 feet below the bottom of the swirling Colorado river, the diamond drill bit lost more than ten years ago by Walker R. Young's drilling crew has been brought up out to the light of day.

A month ago, down there at the bottom of the excavation for the dam, workers started a five foot "well" going on down where a two inch hole had been drilled in 1922. For a distance of fifteen and one half feet below bed rock in the center gorge the men blasted out the rock, and at 2 a. m., June 9, they took out the tittle bit with eight stones of black carbon set in the edge of the cylindrical piece.

The bit, four and one half inches long and two inches in diameter, is made of steel one and five-eighths inches thick. It had been dented somewhat by a blast in extracting it, and it was partly coated with a dark crust, where

ten years ago it had been shiny from wearing against solid rock.

The stones themselves of course were undamaged and will be useable. The bit was sent to the Denver office of the Bureau of Reclamation, where the eight "diamonds" will be removed from the bit.

At the time the bit was lost it was worth about \$175 a carat, and there were 21.15 carats in all. Black carbon has deteriorated somewhat in value since that time.

On March 22, 1933, the Review-Journal published a "Nugget of Boulder Color," in the edition commemorating the second birthday of Boulder City. Under title "Diamonds In Black Canyon—A Prediction," the following story was published:

"—And there, in the bottom of Black Canyon, 'way below the river bed, we found eight diamonds—dug 'em right out of the bedrock."

"Tat was twenty years ago today, we found that "rich strike,"

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