BISBEE PARTY WILL
BRAVE THE UNKNOWN

Fifteen Brave Men Leave Oct. 15, to Explore Tiburon Island for Rich Mineral Deposits Believed to Exist There

Starting out to brave the dangers of an island practically unknown to civilization, fifteen Arizonans mostly Bisbeeites, will leave this city about October 15, for the isle of Tiburon, off the coast of Sonora in the Gulf of California.

Not only are there the dangers after the land is reached, but Tiburon is noted for being a particularly hard spot for navigators to approach on account of the fierce monsoons encountered in the Straits of Tiburon. This has kept many a vessel away.

Two previous expeditions have resulted in death and disaster. The first, in 1881, was headed by Lieutenant Robinson. The lieutenant and two companions left Phoenix, going down the Salt River by boat to Yuma, and to Tiburon via the Colorado. When the party landed, Robinson and one companion, leaving the other to watch their supplies, went inland a short distance and encountered a party of Seri Indians, a savage and ferocious tribe, and one of them asked to look at Robinson’s gun. Robinson complied and the Indian shot him dead, then killed his companion to death.

After many hardships the third member of the party reached Guaymas, where he told of the slaughter of his two companions.

Later Professor Tom Grindell of Douglas, attempted to reach the island. He and his party crossed Sonora by mules, then set out in a boat. But one member of that party, Jack Hoffman, returned alive to civilization. The rest are supposed to have been killed by the Indians.

The reason that so many are anxious to reach and develop the resources of this hitherto uncivilized isle is in the fact that it is supposed to abound in gold and other precious metals, and that the Seri Indians have large quantities of it in their possession. Immense pearl fisheries are also said to exist about Tiburon’s shores. The island is supposed to contain deposits of uranium and carnotite, or pitch-blend.

The Indians are what have proved the stumbling block to previous explorers. The idea can be circumvented in the straits, but the savages are one of the fiercest tribes known, and so far have been able to keep the island to themselves. It is also said that they practice cannibalism.

Most of these Indians have at one time or another been slaves to the Mexicans on the mainland. Whenever opportunity offered one of them would kill his master, steal his rifle and ammunition and escape to Tiburon, so that white men invading its precincts will be confronted with savages armed with their own weapons, and doubtless able to use them.

The party leaving Bisbee is nothing daunted by these reports. Every member is a crack shot, some of them rangers and cowboys, and every man will be armed with a Winchester 30-40 rifle and 200 rounds of ammunition, besides two revolvers and a knife apiece.

The personnel of the party is not yet complete, but to date will include Deputy Marshal Ed Stevens, Joe Deals, Chester Kilgour, Billy Olds, Billy Needham, Bill White (not Deputy Sheriff Bill), Ray Jones, J. V. Jones and Hor Hammond of Phoenix. The latter is an ex-guard at the Yuma prison. Dr. Jones of Prescott, will be surgeon of the expedition.

The party will proceed by train to Guaymas. There they will hire a boat to convey them to the island, where they will be landed with an outfit sufficient for three months’ stay. At the end of three months the boat will return to take them back to civilization.

“We haven’t yet completely made up our party,” said Ed Stevens yesterday. “We will, however, have the sufficient number gathered by the time we are ready to start.”

Among the others who will go, Johnson, “the original Tangle,” must not be forgotten. “Tangle” will supply the mining expert knowledge required on the expedition. He now has in his possession several specimens of uranium and carnotite, and also some valuable publications on these subjects, sent him by the Colorado School of Mines. President Allison of that institution, states that he will be pleased to make analysis of specimens the expedition may procure on Tiburon.
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Staring men to brave the danger and discover the secret whereabouts of the mineral deposits believed to exist on Tiburon Island, Bisbee men yesterday announced that they would sail for San Francisco in October to explore the island.

The men are led by the island's owner, W. H. DePalma, who also is leader of the big Bisbee party of explorers in the Bougainville Islands of the South Seas. The party will be made up of members of the Bisbee business community. The owners of property on and near the island will participate in the search for the mysterious mineral deposits that are believed to exist on the island.

DePalma will leave San Francisco Oct. 15 and will sail for Tiburon Island, 4,000 miles away, to explore the island for the minerals. The party will then return to San Francisco and thereafter will proceed to the Bougainville Islands. The party will then proceed to the Bougainville Islands to explore them for minerals.

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