Women in the Gold Rush

"I concluded to make some pies and see if I could sell them to the miners for their lunches, as there were about one hundred men on the creek, doing their own cooking - there were plenty of dried apples and dried pealed peaches from Chili, pressed in the shape of a cheese, to be had, so I bought fat salt pork and made lard, and my venture was a success. I sold fruit pies for one dollar and a quarter a piece, and mince pies for one

dollar and fifty cents. I sometimes made and sold, a hundred in a day, and not even a stove to bake them in, but had two small dutch ovens."



Running a boardinghouse was the most common money-maker for women. One woman earned \$189 a week after only three weeks of keeping boarders in the mines. She shared her success as she wrote her children back East:

"We have one small room about 14 feet square, and a little back room we use for a storeroom about as large as a piece of chalk. Then we have an open chamber... divided off by a cloth. The gentlemen occupy one end, Mrs. H and daughter, your father and myself, the other. We have a

curtain hung between our beds but we do not take pains to draw it, as it is of no use to be particular here."

-Mary Jane Caples

Read the to	uo primary sources above and answer the question, <u>"Other than gold,</u> why was traveling west an attractive option for women?"