

Reference: Parks & Swartley, 16:26-27 (quoted).

Report by: R.C.T., February 21, 1940.

BIRDSEYE CLAIM (gold)

Gold Hill area

Reported by "List of Mines in Oregon, 1939" as containing a small vein, east of Rogue River, and not active.

Informant: A.A. Walker, March 5, 1940.

BISHOP AND STURTEVANT DREDGE

Gold Hill area

Operated just prior to the Murphy-Murray dredge on Fooths Creek.

BLACK GOLD CHANNEL MINE (placer)

Gold Hill area

"The Black Gold Channel Mine (8 miles southwest of Gold Hill) is on the left fork of Fooths Creek in sec. 12, T. 37 S., R. 4 W. It is leased at the present time. In the bank is exposed about 15 feet of unstratified gravels, coarsest below, and containing boulders up to 18 inches in diameter. There is very little fine material; the boulders, which are almost all of greenstone, are subangular to fairly well rounded. The large boulders are handled by a derrick. Two giants are used under a head of several hundred feet. The gravels are forced upward for 15 feet over an elevator, but the sluice takes the material $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet above bed rock. The mine pit of the present workings has an area of $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres. A large area down the stream has already been worked over. The bed rock is slate cut by dikes of greenstone. The strike of the slates is N. 10° E.; distinct joints run about N. 70° W. Numerous small veins are present, and have a general northeast-southwest direction."

F. A. Bates, of Gold Hill, Oregon, and L. M. Curl, of Albany, Oregon, and associates are reported in the press of Oct. 15, 1938, to have sold the property to James B. Murray of Rogue River, Oregon, and associates. The mine is located on Fooths Creek six miles from Gold Hill. The new owners plan to install new equipment and conduct extensive operations. Test shafts are now being sunk. The property contains 950 acres. Portions of the placer were dredged by the Murphy-Murray company.

Reference: Diller & Kay, 09:65 (quoted).

BLANCHE OR MAY BELLE CLAIM (gold)

Gold Hill area

Location: sec. 24, T. 36 S., R. 3 W.

"The Blanche or May Belle Claim, 2 miles east of Gold Hill, adjoins the Schaffer. It is owned by Guy D. Kinney. An adit follows a quartz vein in tonalite N. 65° W. 250 feet, then N. 75° W. about 100 feet. The vein is narrow; it dips 85° S. and contains quartz with some pyrite and chalcopyrite."

This property, and the Schaffer Claim are reported to be part of the Millionaire group.

Reference: Parks & Swartley, 16:34 (quoted).

BLISS MINE (gold)

Gold Hill area

see Bill Nye Mine

Dredging has always been an important activity in the Gold Hill area. Minchell (14) reports that in 1908 an electric dredge was constructed on Kane Creek placer in the S.E. sec. 36, T. 36 S., R. 3 W. Power was obtained from the Gold Ray Dam and the dredge had capacity of 500 cubic yards per 10-hour shift. So far as can be learned, the dredge operated only during 1908. On the right fork of Foots Creek, the Champlin Dredging Company built a bucket-line dredge in 1903. In 1905 electric power was installed. In 1911 the dredge was accidentally sunk. Minchell (14:166) also reports that a dredge was installed near Tolo in 1898 but it operated a short time only.

In recent years dredging has been especially important until stopped in October, 1914 by the gold mine closing order. The Murphy Murray all-electric \$200,000-connected bucket type dredge worked on the left fork of Foots Creek and on Pleasant Creek near the old Mill placer. In 1941 this equipment was moved to Burnt River in eastern Oregon. The Rogue River Gold Company formerly operated a dredge on the left fork of Foots Creek below the Murphy Murray ground. The Gold Hill Placers worked dragline equipment on Sardine Creek. Several "dry-land dredges" were operated at various times. The Southern Oregon Mining Company worked on the old Lance placer in 1940. The Mansfield Mine had a washing plant on the side of Blackwell Hill. A small plant worked on Upper Grave Creek at Greens placer. The Saaman Bar on the Rogue River and the Bull Frog placer were operated for a short time.

Murphy-Murray dredge on Fooths Creek, Jackson County.
Capacity 4,000 cubic yards daily, electric powered, 67
buckets of 3½ foot capacity; dug 20 feet below water line.

Courtesy Oregon State Dept. Geology & Mineral Industries

