

Bourne's Population Now Forty

Prospect of Opening
New Projects Brings
More Families; in 1930
Only One Lived There

Baker, Or., Oct. 23.—At this date Bourne, Baker county ghost mining camp town, has a population of 40 persons, counting the men employed by the Campbell Oregon Gold Mining corporation and their families.

In 1900 the census of Bourne gave the population as close to 500. In addition, within a radius of two or three miles, 1000 men were employed in operating the mines.

In 1930 the census of Baker gave the population of Bourne as one person. Now there are a number of families living at Bourne with the prospect of the opening of the mines adjoining. Houses are being rented and owners of property are fitting up their places for occupancy.

The Old Raymond hotel, one of the popular hotels of the old days, is being remodeled and repaired for tenants.

Dave Profitt, mine foreman, has a crew repairing company buildings and getting things ready for winter. He is also cleaning out tunnels preparatory to sampling and prospecting during the winter.

Last week a 50-ton car of ore was shipped from the Cougar mine near Granite, to the smelter at Tacoma. B. T. Isgrig and associates are working the mine under lease. The ore is trucked from the mine to Sumpter and loaded on Sumpter Valley railroad cars.

Lease operations on the Cracker Creek Gold mines during the past year are stated to have averaged 10 carloads of gold ore monthly. The properties include the E. and E., Columbia, Tabor Fraction, and North Pole claims in the Bourne district west of Baker, Oregon. John Arthur of Baker holds the lease and subleases to a number of operators. Hal Bradley employs four men on his lease on the E. and E.; Harry Guyer has two men on his part of the Columbia; the Myer-Ingle lease, held by Ray Myer, Glen Ingle, Jerry A. Herdlick, Frank DeMerrit, Waldo Douglas, and Wes Bradley is on another section of the Columbia; and David Arthur and Billy Pierce operate a lease on the North Pole mine. Because there is no milling plant available, ore of sufficiently high grade is shipped to the Tacoma smelter for treatment.

*Cracker Creek Area
Baker Co.*

BOURNE MINES MAY BE OPENED

Claims Have Produced Big Part of Baker County's Gold

The latest and outstanding developments in mining in Baker county are the plans that are being made to start work on the famous group of mines in the Bourne district.

The district is the mother lode of all Baker mining grounds. The mines in this district were once the largest producers of gold in the Baker mining section. The North Pole, E. and E., Columbia, Tabor Fraction, Golconda and the scores of adjoining claims have produced a big part of Baker county's gold output since the first operations began in 1861.

If operations get underway as planned many believe that it will be the biggest thing that has happened to Baker county mining in a good many years.

The group that is going to conduct the work expects to run a drainage tunnel from Hanover to take care of the water that drains into the mines from the small creeks, especially from Silver creek.

They also plan to sink a shaft to the 200-foot level and then branch out to connect the other mines in the district.

The mines were forced to shut down 20 and 25 years ago because of various reasons. Law suits stopped work at some of the claims, and when the proceedings were over the activity at the mines was not started again.

One of the big reasons for stopping work on several of the mines was that the individual owners could not afford to sink shafts much beyond the 100-foot level. Now that the mines are consolidated into one group the owners will be able to sink shafts and tunnels to a greater level without the expense overbalancing the returns.

The advanced price of gold is a factor in the re-opening. The price of gold has gone up 70 per cent since the mines stopped operations. Ten dollar gold then would be worth \$17 now.

Flotation has come into use since the mines ceased operations. The old mills and the other processes that were in use then were not able to handle the base ore that was available. Flotation will allow operators to handle ore that they could not afford to handle then.

When the work begins it will employ several hundred men and if it progresses as is planned it will cause the ghost city of Bourne to be rebuilt.

The North Pole mine is the most northeasterly of the important mines. It is located on the mountain slope northeast of Cracker creek and ascends to a height of 2000 feet or more above that stream.

The North Pole claim was located in 1887 after a rich cropping of ore was found near the surface.

The E. and E. (Eureka and Excelsior) was bought as a prospect in 1888 and was worked intermittently until 1900. When it was in operation, the E. and E. possessed the record in production among the new mines in the Sumpter district. There was between 7000 and 8000 feet of development.

The Columbia mine, located on Fruit creek, at an elevation of about 5600 feet, is between the Golconda and the E. and E. It has more than 8000 feet of development. It was for some time the only steadily producing quartz mine in Oregon.

For 18 years of operations the company never delayed a pay day a single time.

The Golconda was located in 1887. In 1897 it was sold for \$24,000, there being at that time only 250 feet of development. In September, 1900 fifteen stamps were running and in 1901 2500 feet of development work had been done.

The Golconda, Tabor Fraction and E. and E. ceased operations in 1905. The North Pole stopped operations in 1908.

THE BOURNE MINES

The bringing about of the consolidation of the mines on the Mother Lode in the Bourne or Cracker creek district north of Sumpter has been a dream of mining men for 40 years. At one time more than 30 years ago there were five different mining companies operating along the lode, all of them successful and owned by different interests.

There has scarcely been a time since 1900 when some mining man or promoter has not had a plan for consolidating these properties, consisting of the North Pole, Eureka and Excelsior, Taber Fraction, Columbia and Golconda mines to bring them under one ownership and operate them as one.

It has only been recently that this could be accomplished. As announced last week all the properties, except the Golconda mine, with a number of other mining claims, have been transferred to the Cracker Creek Gold Mining company, thus bringing all these properties under one head so that they could be handled.

It is the Cracker Creek Gold Mining company which has entered into a contract with the Campbell Oregon Gold Mining corporation granting the latter company a 99 year lease on its holdings to be operated on a royalty basis. There is also a current report that the Campbell Oregon company has a contract to purchase the Golconda mine from the C. S. Jackson estate of Portland.

Thus has finally been brought about the great progressive dream of Eastern Oregon mining men. These mines when in their heyday of production were valued at \$10,000,000 and attempts were made in those days to bring about their consolidation under one company with a capitalization at that figure.

Estimates of the total production of these mines range from 12 million dollars to 17 or 18 million dollars. That they can be brought back as large producers is the confident belief of those conversant with the mines. With modern mining and milling methods, along with the higher price of gold today much lower grade ores can be mined and treated. Much of the ore in former operations was treated with a recovery of only about 60 per cent of the values, and some even lower, while there was but little, except direct smelting ore, from which more than 80 per cent of the value was recovered. Today with improved metallurgy a much higher recovery should be made.

In bringing about the plan for reopening the mines the local legal firm of Hallock, Donald and Banta acted for the various interests in forming the Cracker Creek Gold Mining company. The firm also owned a number of mining claims and properties which were deeded to the company. Frank C. McColloch, former Baker attorney, now a member of a legal firm of Portland, acted for the Campbell Oregon Gold Mining corporation in the lease contract with the owning company.

BOURNE MINES ARE LEASED TO C. O. COMP

Cracker Creek Gold M
Company Formed as
Holding Company

WORTHINGTON TO L
IN CHARGE OF WORK

Consolidation of Bourne
Properties Makes Possi-
ble Large Scale Oper-
tion.

The Campbell Oregon Gold Mining corporation, a Delaware corporation, is taking over the Bourne mines—North Pole, E. & E., Taber Fraction, and Columbia—under a 99-year lease and will have the operation of the properties, according to an announcement made yesterday by Harold Banta, of the law firm Hallock, Donald and Banta.

It has been known for several weeks that negotiations were being carried on looking to the reopening of these mines, but the first announcement was made yesterday.

The Campbell Oregon Gold Mining corporation, the company which operated the Ben Harrison mine west of Granite two years ago, will be the operating company and will carry on the work as a leasing company, while the title of the properties will be held by the Cracker Creek Gold Mining company. The latter company was formed to bring the various interests involved in the ownership of the many claims and properties so that they could be handled under one head.

M. T. Chestnut, an engineer representing the leasing company, is on the ground inspecting the holdings, and George W. Worthington, who will be the engineer in charge of operations, is expected to be here within the next day or two to take charge of the work.

No announcement has been made as yet of the plans for operating, other than that first there will probably be considerable cleaning up, repairing, sampling and prospecting before large work will be undertaken.

In addition to the properties mentioned above there are a large number of claims which have been deeded to the Cracker Creek Mining company. These close all gaps and place the holdings in a body. This gives the company nearly three miles in length on what is known as the "mother lode" of the Cracker Creek, or Bourne district.

The Cracker Creek Gold Mining company, a Delaware holding corporation, is headed by Paul C. Murphy, president of the Ladd Estate company of Portland. C. B. Rowe, secretary of the Ladd Estate company, is secretary of the new company, and A. A. Figen of Minneapolis, secretary of the Backus-Brooks company is treasurer.

The Columbia Gold Mining company transferred the Columbia, Taber Fraction, Homestake and Golden Gate. Ruth T. Backus, widow of Seymour W. Backus, Minneapolis capitalist, conveyed the North Pole. Stock in the new company was apportioned under mutual agreement.

The principal properties involved in the lease have been among the heaviest gold producers in Eastern Oregon, and the probability of the mines being re-opened after being idle for many years will arouse much interest in that section.

It is not expected, however, that heavy work will be undertaken until much preliminary work is completed.

For nearly 40 years consolidation of the "Big Five" mining properties of the Cracker Creek district north of Sumpter has been looked forward to by Eastern Oregon mining men as something that should make for great progress in mining in the Blue mountain area. Now that this consolidation is in a fair way to be accomplished more attention will be attracted to the mines of this section. It is a mining dream with every favorable indication of its becoming a fact.

DISCOVERY OF BOURNE MINES '87 RECALLED

Attention Turns to Bourne
With Prospect of Re-
opening Camp

JIM DUCKWORTH A PIONEER PROSPECTOR

Baker County Welcomes
Coming of Time for Re-
viving Once Famous
Mining District.

Prospects of renewed mining activity in the Bourne district brings to mind some of the early history of that section. Who were the early discoverers of the mines, and when were they located? So far as known, all these pioneers—hardy prospectors—have passed to their final rewards.

One of the last of these was J. W. Duckworth, Jim to his friends, who died in Sumpter four years ago. The writer recalls conversations with Jim many years ago in which he told of how he came to locate the North Pole mine.

It was in the spring and early summer of 1887. At that time there was no wagon road along Cracker creek to the site of Bourne as there is today. He was a young man with but limited experience as a prospector.

A prospector from Colorado, Frank Swan, had spent the winter in Baker and Sumpter, and the two men were employed by Clark Taber, pioneer merchant and mining man of Sumpter, to do some work on the property now later as the Cracker-Oregon at Bourne.

They went to the mine packing their provisions on their backs, over the snow in the spring. Up to that time prospectors in the district had been looking for free gold, and when they could not find the gold by panning they would pass on looking for another cropping. Croppings of the vein which in later years became known as the "Mother Lode" of the district, had failed to show gold in panning, and thus had been passed over by prospectors who had panned along the lode.

Swan, in Colorado, had become familiar with the sulphide ores, and soon after reaching their cabin at the Cracker-Oregon, he began exploring along Cracker creek. In the stream bed where the vein crosses the creek, he noted a large piece of quartz float which was freely sprinkled with black sulphides. Swan broke off pieces of the float which were taken to Cable Cove, where the Cable Brothers had located the California mine, and had an assay office. The assays showed the rock to contain \$80 gold per ton.

With this rich assay Swan's enthusiasm was aroused and the next thing was to start search for the vein from which the float had come. After several days investigating the two digging through a large drift of snow near the creek broke into the vein on the left side of the stream in what was located as the Eureka claim. The Excelsior claim was also located by Swan, the two claims joining end lines in the bottom of the creek.

Careful assaying of the first ore found under the snow showed it to go \$280 per ton. The same day that the Eureka and Excelsior locations were made, the Cable Brothers located the original claims of the Columbia mine on the south end of the Eureka claim. Duckworth located the North Pole claim on the north end of the Excelsior. Later after the locations were made a fractional claim was discovered as open ground between the Columbia and Eureka claims and Clark Taber became one of the original owners of this. All the locators of the properties profited from their finds, but it was the companies that developed and worked the mines over a period of years that gained the most, but that is another story.

It is said that within a year of their location the North Pole, E. and E. as the first discovery is known today, and Columbia were sold for a total of about \$100,000. Mills were built and the operations went on for years until the total output of the properties mounted to many millions of dollars in gold.

This was a bit of the first days of quartz mining in the Bourne district. The prospectors had their hardships, but they took

things as they came from day to day, and once a showing was found their enthusiasm carried them on, with the result that Bourne became a thriving community with hundreds of men employed, and then came the decline and shut down of the mines, and Bourne was a ghost camp as hundreds of others through the west.

Now there is a move looking to the reopening of these old mines. In the years to come there will probably be even more men employed in the district and the output of the mines will again be counted in the millions of dollars.

However, there is much to be done before that time, and it is not expected there will be employment for many men in the camp for several months. During the winter there will be a small force prospecting and sampling parts of the mines that can be reached through the tunnels, and establishing and rehabilitating the old time camp.

All Baker county gladly welcomes the coming of the time when this old time mining camp is once more known as a thriving community.

NEW COMPANY TO TAKE OVER BOURNE MINES

Cracker Creek Co.
Gives Lease to New
York Operators

ENGINEER IS DUE
IN BAKER SOON

Sampling Work to Be
Started With Crew at
Early Date

Reopening within several months of a group of Baker county mines near Bourne, which have produced gold ore worth millions of dollars over a long period of years, was indicated today when announcement was made in Baker that organization of the Cracker Creek Gold Mining company had been completed and that the new corporation had acquired title to the E. and E. mine, Columbia, Taber Fraction, North Pole, the Homestake and Golden Gate properties, and the Hanover claims of Hallock, Donald and Banta of Baker.

Announcement of completion of the deals was made by Harold Banta of the Baker law firm of Hallock, Donald and Banta, which has been engaged for several weeks in legal work preparatory to the transfers.

The Cracker Creek Gold Mining company, a Delaware holding corporation, is headed by Paul C. Murphy, president of the Ladd Estate company of Portland. C. B. Rowe, secretary of the Ladd Estate company, is secretary of the new company, and A. A. Figen of Minneapolis, secretary of the Backus-Brooks company is treasurer.

Formation of the new company was made possible by the conveyance of various mining properties, some of which have been high producers. The E. and E. mine was conveyed by the Mashell Coal and Coke company, a subsidiary of the Ladd Estate company.

The Columbia Gold Mining company transferred the Columbia, Taber Fraction, Homestake and Golden Gate. Ruth T. Backus, widow of Seymour W. Backus, Minneapolis capitalist, conveyed the North Pole. Stock in the new company was apportioned under mutual agreement.

The new company on September 8 executed a 99-year lease on a royalty basis to the Campbell Mining company, also a Delaware corporation, controlled by R. Potter Campbell of New York City. The Campbell company was formed as an operating corporation, which is to be known as the Campbell-Oregon Gold Mining corporation.

M. T. Chestnut, field representative, has been at Bourne and vicinity for the last three weeks inspecting the properties. George W. Worthington, engineer, is expected to arrive here within the next two or three days.

It is expected that sampling operations will be started with a crew of men at an early date. A great deal of preliminary work will be required prior to actual production operations.

The Campbell interests have had holdings in Baker county for some time in the Ben Harrison property. They are operating also at Grass Valley, Cal.

Consolidation of the Bourne properties is said to present favorable operating circumstances. Inasmuch as the E. and E. and North Pole mines are joined, single operation will prove beneficial, it was said.

The Bourne properties have been out of production for more than 20 years, having closed prior to 1913 when operating costs were high.

Company Takes Mines at Bourne

The following mining property was recorded in the deeds filed with the Baker county clerk this week. The property includes all of the claims of the central North Pole - Columbia lode near Bourne.

D Mashell Coal & Coke Co. to Cracker Creek Gold Mng. Co. \$10 8-22-38 E & E mine et al claims.

D Columbia Gold Mining Co. to Cracker Creek Gold Mng. Co. \$10 9-1-38 Hanover et al claims.

QCD Columbia Gold Mining Co. to Cracker Creek Gold Mng. Co. \$1 9-1-38 water of Fruit & Horse Creek.

D Columbia Gold Mng. Co. to Cracker Creek Gold Mng. Co. \$10 Columbia et al claims.

D Ruth T. Backus to Cracker Creek Gold Mng. Co. \$1 8-29-38 tract in Bourne

D M. A. Grant to Cracker Creek Gold Mng. Co. \$1 8-20-38 Hanover Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 claims

D Phyllis McCallum to Cracker Creek Gold Mng. Co. \$10 8-20-38 Hanover Nos. 6, 7, 8 & 10 claims.

D Ruth T. Backus to Cracker Creek Gold Mining Co. \$10 8-24-38 N Pole Mine et al claims.

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Bourne To Be on Map Again as Postoffice

Application has been made with the postal department to re-establish a postoffice at Bourne, the one time thriving mining town north of Sumpter, according to announcement of Postmaster Sanford Adler of Baker.

Mr. Adler stated yesterday two applications have been made for appointment as postmaster when the office is established, which he said should be within the next 60 days.

Bourne was a thriving community for many years when the mines were active in that vicinity. Bourne took its name in honor of Jonathan Bourne, Jr., at one time owner of the E. & E. mine, and a former United States senator from Oregon, and now living at Washington, D. C.

For many years it was one of the thriving communities of Baker county. With the closing of the mines near the town it went down until Bourne was listed in the census of 1930 as one of the two smallest towns in the United States with a population of 1.

Since the Campbell Gold Mining corporation started work on the Cracker creek mines last fall, Bourne is staging a comeback with the result that Uncle Sam will again be in business in the town with a postoffice.

Postoffice Asked For Mining Camp

Bourne Also Asks that Road Be Opened

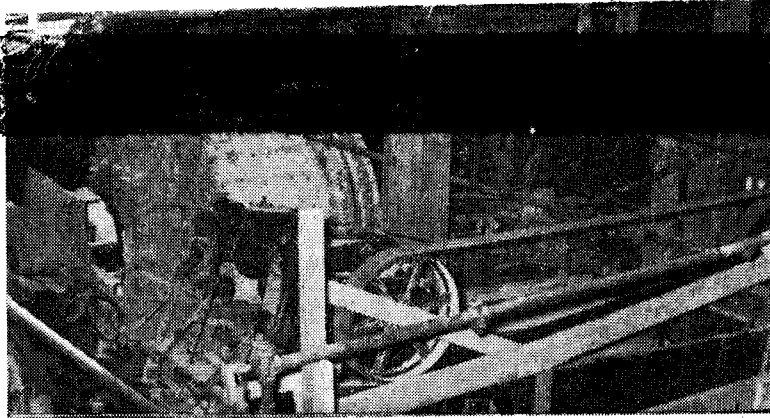
Within 60 or 90 days Bourne mining community in Baker county will have a postoffice. That is the report issued by Postmaster Sanford Adler of Baker late yesterday. The postoffice department has been working on the proposal which is backed by a good petition of representative names and interests of the Bourne section.

Mr. Adler indicated applications for the postmastership were being taken at present and the procedure was being pushed as rapidly as possible. The camp, deserted for about 15 years up until a few seasons ago and real active only last fall, has received mail through Sumpter at present.

County Judge Charles E. Baird, has received word that Bourne now has a population of 68 persons, although contemplated extensive reopening of one of the largest gold mining lodes of Eastern Oregon is not yet fully under way. Only a skeleton crew of workmen are renovating some of the shafts and tunnels of the old workings preparatory to sampling and development of the old Columbia and E. and E. mines by the Campbell Oregon Mining company.

The county court in answer to pleas of the Bourne community last night sent equipment up to dig the mountain camp out from under four feet of snow which fell and drifted the past few days. The large tractor and bulldozer will work night and day, Judge Baird indicated, until the road is reopened. The present team and sled arrangement is proving inadequate to supply the camp. It has been used, however, since the company discontinued its truck snow plow several weeks ago when heavy storms hit.

Mail by Stage



BOURNE MINING: Mining, milling and exploration activity at Bourne on the huge Columbia vein series currently has been given a further optimistic turn by appearance of an unusually rich gold-bearing occurrence in new ground on the No. 5 level of the old North Pole mine.

Record-Courier camera, upper views shows Bob McGill, George Dyke and Harold Culley, leasers of the upper levels and Lloyd Anderson and Byrl Fowler, Republic, Wash., who with Culley are leasing the former E and E mill, shipping concentrate to Trail, B. C.

Center shows Dyke and Culley cutting sample from vein where ore reminiscent of other older sections of Bourne mines was found last week. Highly brecciated vein on footwall side of the mammoth Columbia quartz system is proving rich.

Samples showed much free gold along with sulphides. Free gold was still showing up Monday, several rounds after original nugget-bearing samples were brought out by Dyke and McGill last week. Other leasing, drifting on No. 1 level beyond old E and E tunnel into North Pole ground is being done by Ed Sloan of Yuma, Mr. Ramsey and two Arizona men.

Lower view shows 120-ton ball mill in flotation plant where men are running old No. 3 Pole dump, extracting \$200 per ton concentrates, first load of which was shipped to Trail week ago with second load due out this week. Anderson, Culley and Fowler are making considerable improvements, including electrification, to shake down the plant for later runs on new ore.

New Optimism Felt At Bourne Mines

Sumpter and Bourne are optimistic. The mighty Columbia lode with its \$17 million past production "hasn't even been scratched" in the view of miners who last week came out of the North Pole No. 5 level with gold high grade from a new direction reminiscent of the \$1 million which Emil Melzer extracted from 1100 tons on the No. 3 and 4 levels a number of years ago.

Meanwhile leasing is also going on at the E and E or No. 1 level of the Pole property, the E and E mill, renovated to flotation about 1941 by Ellis Mining Co., is running again apparently recovering values to warrant operation on old mine dumps, where mineral wealth was sometimes wasted.

Owned by Franz Javene of Minneapolis and leased this year by Dave French, mining and drilling firm man from Wallace, and Franz Bros., of Ritzville, Wash., the property has been under lease the past few years by Ward Hill of Baker who is maintaining an in-

the Bourne Mines lease to the new operators.

The activity is currently aided by the lease of upper North Pole mine by a trio of Sumpter men, Harold Culley, George Dyke and Bob McGill, leasing the E and E and Pole No. 1 level to Ed Sloan of Yuma, Frank Ramsey and two Arizona men, and leasing of the E and E mill to Culley, Lloyd Anderson and Byrl Fowler, the latter of Republic, Wash.

High Values Found

Culley, who has been at the Bourne area since 1934, leasing and mining high grade is confident the recent discovery of an extremely rich vein by McGill and Dyke, co-leasers with him, is opening another ore body as potentially rich as that which yielded Emil Melzer \$1 million in a year back in the days when gold was worth \$20 and which was just below.

He is also confident that enrichment goes with the dikes and that the fabulous ore bodies only sweeten the big lode which he is confident will in itself from its

Save Work...
 e-Sage
 Easy Pa
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 SPORTING GOODS S
 BESIDES THESE FA
 N Spoe

Arizona Mining
Journal

April 29, 1942

Oregon

According to reports, the **Golconda** mine located near Sumpter in Baker County, Oregon, was leased recently by Dewey and Ruben Ricks of Republic, Washington. The mine has not been worked since 1937.

Bourne Mine Tests Enter Final Stage

Diamond Drilling Now In Progress at Old Camp

Sumpter — (Special) — A diamond drill testing crew recently began work in one of the mines at Bourne under lease and option by Campbell-Oregon Mining company from Cracker Creek Gold Mining company.

It is estimated that from one to four months will be required before results of the large-scale testing will be known definitely.

Al. but six of the men have been laid off at Bourne for the present. Several families are moving, but many are remaining in camp to await developments.

Albert Olson and C. D. Vivian are operators of the drilling equipment. Mr. McKinstry, from the East, is supervising the work.

The company went into the Bourne area last October, following consolidation of mining claims along the Columbia lode. Extensive renovation of old workings was prosecuted during the winter preparatory to the present testing.

Bahr Rec. - Cont
13 June 1940

After extracting shipping grade ore by lease from mines at Bourne the past several months by hand methods several operators are installing small compressor units. There are workmen getting out small tonnages of ore at the E and E, the North Pole and the Columbia mines, probably totalling four carloads a week.

Cracker Creek
Bahr

Arizona Mining Journal
July 15 - 1942

Condit
Baker

Oregon

The Ellis Mining Company is reported to be rebuilding the old Eureka and Excelsior mill at its property in the Bourne district west of Baker, Oregon. The company was organized recently to operate the Eureka and Excelsior, North Pole, Taber Fraction, and Columbia claims which the company holds under lease from the Cracker Creek Gold Mining Company. Rex Ellis of Pendleton, Oregon, is president of the Ellis concern, and John Arthur of Baker, who formerly leased the ground and subleased to a number of operators, is general manager. Ben Olcott, 2610 Overton Street, Portland, is secretary.

*Central
Baker*

Oregon

The Ellis Mining Company recently was organized to operate the Eureka and Excelsior, North Pole, Taber Fraction, and Columbia claims in the Bourne district west of Baker, Oregon. The property is being leased from the Cracker Creek Gold Mining Company. Ten men are employed at present to clean up the mine. Rex Ellis, Pendleton, Oregon, is president of the Ellis Mining Company. John Arthur of Baker, who formerly leased the ground and subleased to a number of operators, is general manager. Ben W. Olcott, 2610 Overton Street, Portland, is secretary.

Oregon

While the **Ellis Mining Company** is continuing construction of a 100-ton milling plant at its property in the Bourne district near Baker, Oregon, daily production of 15 tons of fluxing silica is being maintained. C. C. Curl of Pendleton is president of the company, which holds a number of old gold producers under lease from the Cracker Creek Gold Mining Company. John Arthur, Box 207, Baker, who is general manager, states that while the labor shortage is keenly felt in the district, the Ellis company hopes to continue work on a small scale until after the war when gold mining can be resumed on a normal basis.

Operation of its newly completed 100-ton milling plant has been started by the **Ellis Mining Company**. Present mill feed is being supplied from old mine dumps, but the company expects to treat newly mined ore when the dump material is exhausted. The gold-bearing ore is highly siliceous and therefore is in demand at the smelters. The company, C. C. Curl of Pendleton, president, holds a number of old gold producers under lease from the Cracker Creek Gold Mining Company, including the Eureka and Excelsior, North Pole, Taber Fraction, Columbia, and others. John Arthur, Box 207, Baker, is general manager. Despite the present labor shortage, the company is trying to continue work on a small scale until after the war when normal operations can be resumed.

The road from Sumpter to the **Ellis Mining Company's** property in the Bourne district west of Baker, Oregon, has been opened and work has been resumed. Mill construction, started last fall, will be completed. Holdings are the Eureka and Excelsior, North Pole, Taber Fraction, Columbia, and other gold mines. John Arthur of Baker is manager.

Mining Journal
Phoenix, Arizona
October 16, 1943

Mining Journal
Phoenix, Arizona - 42

It is believed that the highly siliceous quality of the ore of the **Ellis Mining Company** will enable that concern to continue operations in spite of the closing of many of the gold properties. The company holds the Eureka and Excelsior, North Pole, Taber Fraction, Columbia, and other gold mines in the Bourne district west of Baker, Oregon, and is rebuilding the Eureka and Excelsior mill to handle company ore. Regular shipments have been made to the Tacoma smelter. Ben Olcott, 2610 Overton Street, Portland, is secretary and John Arthur of Baker is manager.

Gold mining and milling on full scale will be resumed this spring by the **Ellis Mining Co.**, which holds a number of mines in the Cracker Creek district near Bourne. A limited amount of work was carried on during the war because of the siliceous nature of the ores. C.C. Curl of Pendleton is president and John Arthur, Box 207, Baker, is general manager.

Mining Journal
Phoenix, Arizona - 42

As soon as snow conditions permit, the **Ellis Mining Company** will resume the production of gold ore. The company holds the Cracker Creek Gold property, including the Eureka and Excelsior, North Pole, Taber Fraction, and Columbia mines in the Bourne district west of Baker, Oregon. John Arthur of Baker is manager. Production was maintained in 1942 until the weather became too severe, the company having been allowed to continue taking out gold ore because of its value to the smelter as siliceous flux.

Mining Journal
Phoenix, Arizona,
Spring 43

Three Mines Will Be Surveyed Down To Water at Bourne

**May Take All Winter;
Other Activity Includes
Private Construction**

The announcement of the consolidated ownership of the North Pole-Columbia ~~Gold~~ ~~mines~~ near Bourne under the Cracker Creek Gold Mining company last week caused considerable optimism relative to possible reopening of the mines.

The consolidation was followed immediately by the announcement that a 99-year lease on a royalty basis was in negotiation to the Campbell-Oregon Gold Mining corporation and it is this company which is in the field at the present time.

Rumors as to the work to be done are numerous and much private activity at Bourne is confused with company operations. As near as your reporter can determine the new concern has not yet made plans for extensive operations immediately but will follow a cautious program of sampling on which to prove its lease and possibly map future development.

To Explore Three Mines

Probably a half-dozen men are on the job under the direction of M. T. Chestnut, field engineer, and their job for the present and probably all winter, we are informed, is the repairing of the Columbia, E. and E. and North Pole mines sufficiently for examination of all workings down to the water line. Although the Columbia was worked as late as about war time the other properties were shut down in 1908 and earlier and the mine openings rapidly depreciated. Government reports indicate some ore reserves blocked out for mining in each of the mines without further development.

Asked whether immediate plans called for un-watering the former eight-million dollar producers, Mr. Chestnut said he believed work above water would be sufficient for their determinations. The old workings were running 500 to 600 gallons of water a minute prior to the shut-down and drainage is one of the things that should prove more efficient under the consolidated set-up.

George W. Worthington, company engineer is expected to take charge of the local preliminary work although Mr. Chestnut will probably remain the greater part of the time. Mr. Worthington is delayed in California at present.

Work Under Way

A visit to the reviving mining camp of Bourne last Saturday revealed considerable activity on its main and only street. Workmen were busy "fixing up" several houses most of which are owned by J. S. Dyke and his father of Baker, who despite the disappointment of a few years ago when the camp shut down have been and are optimistic as to the development of this group of mines in a big way. Renters appeared for places faster than houses were ready. Dyke has piped spring water to the residences.

School children have increased until the car to Sumpter was unable to accommodate them, and it is believed that school may be opened shortly at Bourne.

Dave Proffitt returned to his native camp last Friday after working at Grass Valley and he will be foreman for the new concern at Bourne. George Doyle of Sumpter has charge of a crew of carpenters who are at work renovating the mine boarding house and office building.

Democrat Herald

Democrat-Herald, Baker, Ore., Thursday, Sept. 18, 1969

Omega Mines trying to sell its Bourne mining claims

Omega Mines Ltd. has decided to sell its mining claim in the Bourne area. Tests show that there isn't enough gold and silver to pay for the costs of mining it.

From June 1 to July 21, a resampling program to test the grade of gold and silver mineralization of the "Mother Lode" vein in the 5,600 level drift of the North Pole area was undertaken.

This was the word received today in a letter dated Sept. 15, and sent to all shareholders by Omega's head office in Vancouver, British Columbia.

From this resampling program the following discoveries and conclusions were made by Chapman, Wood and Griswold, Ltd., Omega's consulting firm.

The total strike length of the portion of the vein sampled — 1,357 feet with an average width of 17.5 feet — produced an overall weighted average grade of channel samples of .086 ounce of gold per ton and .3 ounces of silver per ton. The overall weighted average grade of composite samples is .073 oz. of gold per ton and .4 oz. of silver per ton.

— The combined average grades of zones A, B and C over a continuous strike length of 791 feet and an average width of 16.7 feet is .134 oz. gold per ton and .4 oz. of silver per ton. These zones represent approximately 58 per cent of the total length of the vein that was sampled.

— Better grades of gold and silver mineralization occur in the vein between crosscut No. 13 and sample station No. 32. This zone of mineralization averages 2.6 feet in width and is almost continuous on strike for a distance of approximately 790 feet. Average grade of mineralization is .652 oz. of gold per ton and 1.6 oz. of silver per ton.

— Based on assay results of said resam-

pling as reported by Union Assay Office, Inc. and Crest Laboratories, Ltd., it is our opinion that the overall grade of gold and silver mineralization within the entire portion of the vein that was sampled is too low to permit profitable extraction under present day operating costs and metal market conditions.

— "It is also our opinion that, under these present day operating costs and metal markets, the cost of selectively mining higher grade portions within the vein walls in the North Pole area of the 'Mother Lode' structure would be prohibitive.

— "Underground diamond core drilling from the 5,600 level has confirmed the down dip extension of the 'Mother Lode' structure to at least 200 feet below the 5,600 level and it is reasonable to assume that this structure extends further in depth. Core recovery was very poor and assay results, though below economic grade, are inconclusive.

— "Core assay results from vein intersections in four surface diamond drill holes in the Golconda area indicate the grade of gold and silver mineralization is not economic under present operating and metal market conditions.

— "The 'Mother Lode' structure of the Cracker Creek district extends for some 18,000 feet of strike distance on contiguous claims held by Omega Mines Ltd. A relatively small portion of the entire vein has been explored during the present program and reports of past mining operations are largely vague and inconclusive as to the grade of gold and silver extracted.

— "In our opinion substantial tonnage of mineralized vein material ranging in grade from .1 to .15 oz. of gold per ton and .3 oz. to .4 oz. of silver per ton might be

outlined by continued exploration.

Although mineralization in this grade range is not considered high enough under present day metal market conditions to amortize capital costs and provide sufficient operating profit, a substantial increase in the price of gold would materially affect the value of the deposit.

Under present conditions with gold at \$40 U. S. per oz. and silver at \$1.80 U.S. per oz. the company would be losing about \$1 per ton.

— "To adequately test the 18,000 foot length of the 'Mother Lode' structure to depth would require considerable diamond drilling augmented by further underground exploration.

"It would require a phased program, the initial phase being a series of surface diamond drill holes at approximately 1,000 foot intervals along the strike. This would require some 25,000 to 30,000 feet of diamond drilling at an estimated cost of \$25 per foot or \$625,000 to \$750,000.

"The cost of a further phase is difficult to estimate at present. However, encouraging results from Phase I would suggest that drilling be continued and some 50,000 to 75,000 feet of diamond drilling be completed at a cost ranging from \$1,250,000 to \$2 million.

"Assuming these programs are successful further underground exploration would be warranted in selected areas. The cost would range from \$2 million to \$5 million.

— "In our opinion an exploration program to assess the mineral potential of the 'Mother Lode' vein structure must be classed as a very high risk exploration venture and should only be undertaken by a group with adequate financial resources and willingness to assume such a risk."