

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

BUCK GULCH PLACERS
(Shamrock Claims)---Au

SUMPTER DISTRICT

BAKER COUNTY

Operators:

C. F. Hawkins, V. H. Perrin, and F. F. Murphy on a partnership basis. Hawkins and Perrin address is Box 848, Baker, Oregon. Murphy's address is Sumpter, Oregon.

Owner:

Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Murphy, Sumpter, Oregon

Location:

T. 9 S; R. 36 E. Sec 26. This is on Buck Gulch just a few hundred yards from the Sumpter-Granite road.

Area:

Two unpatented placer claims called the Shamrock No. 1 and 2. These were taken in 1944 and 1946 respectively. These claims were taken in conformity with legal subdivisions, but in adjoining 10 acre tracts.

History:

Buck Gulch was worked extensively during the early days of Oregon placer mining. In addition to Buck Gulch proper, a Tertiary channel exposed in the headwaters has also been worked. This Tertiary channel is believed to extend from the headwaters of Three Cent Creek in the Burnt River drainage where it has long been worked by Messers. Cory and Meadows to the Griffiths placers in the Granite district. In the headwaters of Buck Gulch this channel is exposed and was worked by hydraulic methods at what is known as the old Weaver Mine (Parks and Swartley, page 233). It was also worked to a limited extent by the

Buck Gulch Placer Company just prior to World War I (Buck Gulch Mine, Parks and Swartley, page 45). This company did extensive drifting with reportedly encouraging results and electric power was taken to the property and worked commenced on the installation of large-scale washing set-up. It is understood that this set-up never was fully completed because of adverse mining conditions caused by the war, and that actual production consisted of that from the development of a small section of the ~~channel~~ ^{the Weaver Mine} exposed on Three Cent Creek. Davidheizer has worked ~~other claims of unestablished identity~~ in the headwaters of Buck Gulch, operating regularly for many years up till about 1942 or 1943. All of the current, or relatively recent work mentioned has been two or three man operations on a seasonal basis of but a couple months duration.

Development:

The present operator plan to sink several pits to bed rock and do small scale piping with a 1 1/2" pump. If the ground proves out as anticipated, gravity water for hydraulicking purposes can be made available. Only superficial prospecting by the owner has been done to date during recent years. The first of the systematic prospect pits was just nicely underway at the time of this examination.

Geology:

The Shamrock claims include both tailings from the Tertiary channel operations at the headwaters of Buck Gulch, and also a supposedly unworked section of Buck Gulch itself.

The tailings of the old channel operations are considered to be of value in that it is understood that difficulties in recovery were experienced in these operations both because of cemented conditions of some of the gravel worked,

and also because much of the gold was "rusty" and wouldn't amalgamate satisfactorily. In this connection, the limited amount of development work accomplished to date by the operators has revealed the tailings to contain very encouraging values. The gold is fine, flat, and bright, having been cleaned during its transportation with the tails. Very commonly however, one side or corner of a given piece of this gold will be found to be amalgam. This amalgam is presumed by the operators to be indicative of gold lost by the early operations. That gold was lost during these operations is without doubt so, but the presents of amalgam doesn't necessarily prove the point as Swartley mentions the presence of gold amalgam in his discussions of both the Weaver and the Griffiths mines.

The original placers of Buck Gulch itself reportedly contained coarse nugget gold. Although the first test hole has only been sunk to a depth of about 5 feet to date, the channel gold in the tailings appears to occur only in a surface blanket about two feet thick at the site of that particular hole. This surface layer includes numerous large boulders. Below the two foot level there is a clayey gravel containing neither the boulders nor the amalgam gold. Whether or not this is virgin ground cannot be definitely established at this time although the lack of amalgam gold and a tendency towards increasing roundness and coarseness of the gold therein is to be noted and does suggest the possibility.

In his discussions of the Griffiths Mine, Swartley mentions an abundance of black sands and refers to an analysis showing a high platinum content (1 1/2 oz./ton). An additional gold content exists. Platinum is also mentioned in the Weaver Mine. The operators are having spectographic and chemical analysis made of a black sand concentrate from the tailings on these claims. This analysis is Dogami Sample HP-93, the results of which are not available at this time.

Department of Geology and Mineral Resources
General Information:

(78 days)

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Water for mining purposes will be limited to the Spring months. Such water is available both from Buck Gulch itself, and from Grays Creek, which latter can readily be brought to Buck Gulch by the construction of a short ditch. This latter water would be under good head for hydraulicking use. (250')

For the fine tailings there is no apparent disposal problem, but for the larger boulders it will be necessary to resort to stacking, and for this space is limited as the gulch is steep and narrow. The elevation at the lower reaches of the claims is 4400 feet.

Economics:

The indication of values appears to be good but the prospecting program has not been conducted extensively enough to establish the grade as yet. Although the property may prove to be good and well worth working, it will never constitute a large operation.

Report by:

N. S. Wagner

Informants:

F. F. Murphy

References:

Parks and Swartley, Mineral Resources of Oregon, Vol. 2, No. 4, 1916

Date of Examination:

May 20, 1947

Date of Report:

May 22, 1947

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**Back Gulch Placers
(Shamrock Claims)**

Am

NAME OLD NAMES PRINCIPAL ORE MINOR MINERALS

9 S 36 E 26
T R S

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

Parks & Swartley, Mineral Resources of Ore., Vol. 2, No. 4, 1916

. Balar..... COUNTY
. Sumpter..... AREA
4400 feet..... ELEVATION
Just off Sumpter-Granite road... ROAD OR HIGHWAY
..... DISTANCE TO SHIPPING POINT

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S) *Mr. & Mrs. F. F. Murphy*.....

Address ... *Sumpter, Oregon*.....

OPERATOR *F. F. Murphy*
C. J. Hawkins, V. H. Perrin.....

.....
Sumpter, Oregon
.....
Box 848, Balar, Oregon.....

Name of claims Area Pat. Unpat.

Name of claims Area Pat. Unpat.

Shamrock No. 1..... **X**

" " *2*..... **X**

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY

Buck Gulch Mine (placer)

Gold

NAME

OLD NAMES

PRINCIPAL ORE

MINOR MINERALS

9 S

36 E

26

T

R

S

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

Parks & Swartley 16:45

Baker

COUNTY

Sumpter

AREA

5300

ELEVATION

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

ROAD OR HIGHWAY

DISTANCE TO
SHIPPING POINT

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S) .. E. W. Davidhizer

Address .. Mosier, Oregon

OPERATOR

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY

BUCK GULCH MINE (Placer)

Sumpter District

"This mine is owned by Fred Gowing, A. I. Snyder and associates, of Oakland, California, and located in Buck gulch, a small tributary which drains into McCully fork, a branch of Powder river, about 4 miles by road from Sumpter. The property is located in sec. 26, T. 9 S., R. 36 E., at an elevation of about 5,300 feet.

"This placer deposit is an old buried stream channel extending southwest beneath the low range which separates the Powder river drainage from that of the North fork of Burnt river. It is supposed to extend underneath this ridge for about three miles and its maximum depth below the apex of the ridge is about 600 feet. One end of this three-mile remnant of the ancient river system is exposed in Buck Gulch and the owners of this mine have driven a 900-foot tunnel through the rim to bed-rock to enable them to prospect the gravels thoroughly. Enough of this work has been done in a series of drifts and raises to prove the existence of sufficient yardage of high grade gravel to warrant the bringing of water to the property and the equipping of a good sized plant to wash the gravels. Electric power for the washing plant is being brought from the Sumpter Water and Light Company's plant at Sumpter and a dam is being built across the gulch above the mine to create a reservoir, which will be filled by a 7-mile ditch with water taken from McCully fork."

Press reports (May, 1938) state that the property is now owned by E. W. Davidhizer, Mosier, Oregon, and has operated the mine each season for several years. *Pg 95-14 A*

Ref. Parks & Swartley, 16:45 (quoted)