

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland, Oregon

Sumpter Valley Placers: The Brockton-Nevada Mining Syndicates Operation

Sumpter District  
Baker County

This report is supplement # 3 to a report under the above title by NSW, 9/14/48.

General: The operation described in supplemental report number 1 continued until late summer (August) 1949, but was characterized by operational hitches due largely to incompetent management. The wind-up came through pressure exerted by Harris, owner of part of the land under lease by the company, and also owner of the washing plant. Harris brought suit for damages to the boat because of misuse and abuse as a result Ramsey was replaced by a young engineer by the name of Foreman, who, whether he was experienced or not, was fundamentally sound, careful and conscientious in his efforts. Operations were terminated within a few weeks after Foreman took over, said termination probably representing a decision on the part of the eastern capital to cease financing the project.

The First National Bank reports that nine shipment receipts, covering a reported 60,500 yards of ground moved, averaged 40.28 1/3 yards in 1000 fine gold. This recovery is far lower than the supposed grade of the gravel as reportedly indicated by the early Davis and Harris test results.

The general contention by those closely associated with, and otherwise familiar with the operation is that recovery was poor due to operational mal-practices. At any rate, the figures compare to those reported by Attorneys Dunn and Jackson as figured out for them by Foreman. This contrasts with \$0.77 per yard recovery as claimed by Ramsey, the idea being that Ramsey figured low on the yardage handled so as to make the recovery appear high.

The foregoing recovery figures may be used by us should we ever care to use them, but it is the Banks request that we do not credit them as our source of information. In other words, the shipment figures are just something that I picked up somewhere. The fact that they originated from the bank's records is STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

Although the attorney's report that the company has not legally liquidated as yet, various of the lease requirements have lapsed so that for all practical purposes the company can be considered as defunct.

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Report by: N. S. Wagner  
Date of report: March 10, 1950

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland 5, Oregon

**SUMPTER VALLEY PLACERS: The Brockton-Nevada Mining Syndicate's Operation (Au)**

Sumpter District  
Baker County

**Operator-lessees:** The Brockton-Nevada Mining Syndicate, Brockton, Mass., and H. D. Ramsey, Sumpter, Oregon, are lessees. Operation is by the Brockton-Nevada Company with management on a joint-venture basis by Ramsey and W. N. Withington, company field executive.

**Owners:** The present holdings include three tracts of land as follows:

Tract 1. L. R. Harris

Tract 2. J. E. Little (Northwest Development Co.,)

Tract 3. Sumpter Valley Railroad. Baker, Oregon

**Location & Area:** The various tracts are situated in T 9 S, R 37 E, sections 31 & 32 and T 10 S, R 37 E, Section 4.

Individual tracts include acreage as follows:

Tract 1. 75 to 80 acres

Tract 2. 30 acres more or less

Tract 3. 150 acres more or less in a strip 60 to 1000 feet in width and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length.

These tracts adjoin the Baker Sumpter highway and are but two miles distant from Sumpter. The railroad right-of-way hitherto unavailable for mining purposes served to break up, or isolate tracts of dredgeable land in the past.

**History and Development:**

Prior to World War II active operations were conducted on both the Harris and Little properties. Some of these

operations worked the land to and along the railroad right-of-way, which land is now held under lease by the present company (tract 3 above).

Thus the gold bearing potentialities of much of the present consolidation of holdings has been proven by actual operations on several sides, the records of which operations show recoveries of substantial proportions. An extensive prospect testing program done by the former operators augments the actual operation and is reported to have demonstrated the worth of the unmined ground. The former operations were conducted during the years just prior to the war.

Geology:

The property covers a portion of the valley fill alluvium and terrace gravels of Pliocene to recent age such as have been worked extensively in the Sumpter Valley for many years, notably by the Sumpter Valley Dredging Company. On the holdings under consideration here the gravel is known to vary from 8 to 21 feet in depth -- with an average or usual digging depth of 14 feet.

Equipment:

The company has taken over the old Harris boat and has acquired a new Bucyruc-Erie with a 55 foot boom and a 1½ yard bucket. Separate electric generators are installed on the boat and shovel.

Economics:

The former operation records and test results reportedly indicate the existence of a long, narrow channel carrying exceptionally high values. Otherwise information at hand indicates the remainder of the property to carry good substantial, but less spectacular values more in line with those encountered in conservative dredging

operations. Mineable ground will require a full three year operation on a 24 hour per day basis with the equipment capacity. A possibility exists of obtaining additional acreage adjacent to that already held.

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Report by: N. S. Wagner

Date of Exam: Sept. 10, 1948

Date of Report: Sept. 14, 1948

Informants: H. D. Ramsey & W. N. Withington

Published References: Dogami 14-A — Little, Harris & Wolflinger Dredge, page 96  
" " — Nutting (K. R.) Dredging Co., — " 97  
Press reports at Baker office on Northwest Development Co.,

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland 5, Oregon

## SUMPTER VALLEY PLACERS: The Brockton Nevada Mining Syndicate's Operation

Sumpter District  
Baker County

This report is supplemental to a report under the same title; September 14, 1948

**General:** The operation described in the original report never did pass the digging-in stage. In fact, operations were suspended a few days after said report was written due both to financial difficulties and to the fact that the second-hand replacement shovel proved to be a mechanical dud. During the period they operated this shovel was used in the digging of several test holes before starting the final dig in for operational purposes. The company is now re-organized and has purchased the Bucyrus Erie 37 B dragline formerly used by the Placeretas Mining Company or the Colt Placers of Mormon Basin. This shovel has been completely rebuilt and has been in operation for a month. Two reportedly very satisfactory clean-ups have been made despite the fact that digging has been across a reef. A total of 10 men are employed in a two - 10 hour shift basis. The company is essentially the same as originally but Mr. Ramsey is now in full charge of operations.

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Report by: N.S. Wagner  
Date of: May 5, 1949  
Informant: H. D. Ramsey

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

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Portland 5, Oregon

Sumpter District  
Baker County

Sumpter Valley Placers: The Brockton-Nevada Mining Syndicate's Operation

This report is supplement # 2 to a report under the above title by NSW, 9/14/48.

General: The operation described in the original report and in Supplemental Report number 1, continued until late summer (August) 1949, but was characterized by operational hitches of various sorts. Termination of operations was brought about largely because of suit by Harris for damages to the washing plant, Harris being owner of said plant and also owner of a portion of the land held under lease by the company. As the principal operators have left the county the time has lapsed for various of the lease stipulations, the company is presumably to be classified as defunct.

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Report by: W. S. Wagner  
Date of report: March 10, 1950

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

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1069 State Office Building  
Portland 1, Oregon

Sumpter District  
Baker County

## SUMPTER AREA PLACERS (Consuelo Oregon Mines operation)

General: The Consuelo Oregon Mines operation, headed by Max Hoffman, Baker, Oregon, was actively engaged in dragline placer operations in the Sumpter area beginning during the spring of 1938 through June 17, 1942.

From early 1938 through July 1940 the company operated a dragline on Cracker Creek, north of Sumpter. The equipment was then moved to a location on McCully's Fork two miles northwest of Sumpter and was active on this location during 1941 and till June 17, 1942.

Concurrent with the foregoing operations the company also tested placer ground on Three Cent Creek bordering the Whitney Valley west of Sumpter and on Deer Creek southeast of Sumpter. A short term operation was conducted on the Three Cent Creek location when water was available during the spring of 1940, and possibly also during the spring of 1941.

The following table represents a record of recovery at the McCully Fork location between mid-March and June 17, 1942 as summarized from reports made by John Arzeno who witnessed the clean-ups, amalgamation and retorting as observer for the law firm of Hallock, Donald & Banta, Baker, Oregon. The reports certify clean-up and retorting procedures, the sealing of the resulting sponges into various types of containers, and sponge weights in all instances

excepting for the first two clean-ups for which it was stated that the sealed cans were taken to Baker by Mr. Hoffman for weighing presumably witnessed by someone else.

Clean-up date

March 29, 1942; retort sponge described as sealed in a two-pound coffee can for transport to Baker for weighing.

April 11, 1942; retort sponge described as sealed into two two-pound coffee cans each about 2/3 (two thirds) full for transport to Baker for weighing.

April 20, 1942; gold sponge weighed in troy ounces by A. H. Woodwell, Sumpter.

----- 262.37

April 30, 1942; as above

----- 293.00

May 12, 1942; as above

----- 215.00

plus 7 3/8 troy ounces of retort scrapings.

May 22, 1942; as above

----- 234.37

June 1, 1942; weighed in avoir-dupois at the Sumpter IGA Store, 239 ounces. Estimated troy weight.

----- 215.00

June 17, 1942; weighed in troy ounces at A. H. Woodwell's, Sumpter.

----- 248.65

1,468.39 troy ounces

The June 17 report carried the notation that it represented the final clean-up, that the operation had been terminated and the employees paid off.