

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

COTTONWOOD & PINE CREEK PLACERS UPPER BURNT RIVER DISTRICT **BAKER COUNTY**
(The McCorkle Ranch & Chadwell Group of claims)

Operator-leasee:

Progress Mining Company, Inc.
Bridgeport, Oregon
H. C. Holley, President

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STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

Owners:

The McCorkle Ranch (A-6 ranch) is owned by Mr. A. J. McCorkle, Bridgeport.

The Chadwell Placers are owned as follows:

Robert Chadwell)	
Le Roy Chadwell)	
Ralieggh Chadwell)	Baker, Oregon
Bill White)	
Morton C. Sells)	

Location & Area:

McCorkle Ranch includes a homestead and deeded ranch land on Cottonwood Creek in:

T 12 S; R 41 E; S 25-36
T 12 S; R 42 E; S 31-32
T 13, S; R 42 E; S 5-6-7

The Chadwell Group includes the Moonshine No. 1, 2 & 3; Smith Placer; Crescent; and Clementine claims which are situated mostly in Pine Creek, which is a tributary to Cottonwood. Location by township not available.

Cottonwood Creek is a tributary to Clarks Creek near its headwaters, and incidentally it is erroneously labelled as Clarks Creek on Metsker Maps. The campsite at the lower reaches of the placer is 12 miles from State Highway No. 7 by fair to good road, the bulk of which is gravelled. Bridgeport, about 7 miles from the camp, is the nearest source of supplies.

History:

Small scale work has been done on both the McCorkle and Chadwell tracts, but more significant is the large scale dredging done in Clarks Creek a short distance below these claims.

Development:

A flash flood covered the good soil along Cottonwood creek on the McCorkle ranch with about 5 feet of wash some years ago. The Progress Mining Co. sank a couple pits and made several larger cuts by way of checking the ground on this tract. Little work was done in the Chadwell group as shafts and drifts were open for sampling purposes.

Geology:

The placer is ostensibly of the gulch type, but gold-bearing gravels of Tertiary age occur in the vicinity, and the significance of their relationships and bearings on these properties is not clear.

No accurate estimate of the placerable yardage available here is to had but the operators figure that the grounds sampled will require $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 years to work out. In addition, there is a reserve of potential, but unprospected ground to be tested.

Channel widths vary appreciably and there is a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile stretch of relatively narrow and shallow channel separating the main portions of the McCorkle and Chadwell tracts. True width of channel is further obscured by talus accumulations on the flanks.

On the lower reaches of the McCorkle ground where the present set-up is being made, pits indicate a depth of between 13 and 16 feet and a width of perhaps 800'. Bedrock is reported as being a "soft blue shale". In this respect it may be noted that much of the bedrock on the nearby Clark's Creek placers was a tuff. According to the operators the test work done indicates a likely bank run of gravel of which 60% is minus $\frac{3}{8}$ ". Six to eight inch

boulders constitute an estimated 10 % of the gravel. Larger boulders, up to 3 feet, exist, but are not abundant. No assays have been made of the gold, but fineness is regarded as being around 900. The gold rates as coarse. Both fine (flour) gold and black sand were found to occur in but very limited amounts. Values appear to be confined to bedrock.

Equipment:

Main items of equipment include: Bucyrus Erie 37 D shovel with a 57' boom and a $1\frac{1}{2}$ yard bucket. Pontoon boat with a $4\frac{1}{2}$ ' x 24' trommel (16' of perforations from $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$); standard Hungarian type riffles; 60' stacker. Light plant; D 8 Caterpillar; 4 wheel drive army truck fitted with a power winch on front and a Hobart-Wheeler ore welding unit on back.

General:

Moderately rugged sage-brush country with an elevation of about 4000' at the lower reaches of the property. Snowfall is very variable with depths of 6 & 7 feet occurring some seasons and only a foot or so other times. Water is a variable quantity accordingly and generally quite limited during the summers although the creeks are spring fed. No timber occurs on the property and there is but a minimum of willow and cottonwood brush to clear.

Economics:

The company is possessed of good, servicable equipment of a capacity that should handle the ground efficiently. Water will likely prove to be one of the major obstacles to successful operation, especially this year, and care and forethought will necessarily have to be spent in its use and conservation. There will be no tailings or muddy water problem as the tails flow through the old Clarks Creek diggings downstream. During the summer the creek follows a subterranean course through these diggings and should filter

thoroughly accordingly. The narrow, shallow channel separating the McCorkle and Chadwell placers is a factor which can not properly be reckoned with until operations have proceeded to it and disclosed the prevailing conditions. The operators are undecided at this time as to whether or not they will try to work through it or dismantle and set up again.

The gravels in the vicinity of Clark's Creek and Bridgeport have been and are quite rich. The lack of water there constitutes the chief restraint to the conduct of large-scale operations. While these gravels are largely of the Tertiary Channel type, it is quite probable that operations will disclose the Cottonwood and Pine Creek properties to be, in part, at least, Tertiary material, or reconcentrations thereof, too, rather than pure gulch placer in the common sense of the word. Given reasonable luck and good management with the water situation, there would appear to be no reason why operations here should not prove successful.

Report by:

N. S. Wagner

Informant:

H. C. Holley

Published Reference:

Annual Report No. 22, U.S.G.S. 1901, Lindgren (Clarks Creek)

Date of Exam:

April 25, 1947

Date of Report:

April 28, 1947

Cottonwood & Pine Creek Placers
(McCorkle Ranch & Chadwell Group)

Au

NAME OLD NAMES PRINCIPAL ORE MINOR MINERALS

12 & 13 41 & 42
T R S

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

U.S.G.S. Annual Report, 22---(Clarks Creek)

.. Baker..... COUNTY
.. Upper Burnt River..... AREA
.. 4000'..... ELEVATION
.. 7 miles to Bridgeport..... ROAD OR HIGHWAY
..... DISTANCE TO SHIPPING POINT

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S) A. J. McCorkle
Raleigh Chadwell

Address Bridgeport, Oregon
Baker, Oregon

OPERATOR Progress Mining Company

Bridgeport

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.
McCorkle Ranch			
Chadwell Group			
Moonshine 1,2,3	20		x
Smith Placers	20		x

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.
Chadwell Group (Cont.)			
Crescent	20		x
Clementine	20		x

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY 1 1/2 Bucyrus Erie Shovel---Doodle bug washer and necessary units

NAME OLD NAMES PRINCIPAL ORE MINOR MINERALS

T R S

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

..... COUNTY
 AREA
 ELEVATION
 ROAD OR HIGHWAY
 DISTANCE TO SHIPPING POINT

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S)

Address

OPERATOR

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY