

## Largest Nugget Of Local History To Baker Today

### Wyants Bring 14-Ounce Triangular Chunk From Pine Creek Mine

Just in time to be part of the Mining Jubilee, the biggest gold nugget to our knowledge ever found in the immediate district made its appearance in Baker this afternoon, being brought in from Pine creek by Mr. and Mrs. John Wyant.

The gold, weighing 14 ounces and 4 pennyweight, is worth about \$400, according to Mrs. Wyant, who shared with her husband the thrill of locating the nugget not more than 25 feet from their home at the Tom placer mine during ground sluicing.

This nugget is less in total weight and size than the large specimen located by the Wyants earlier this year; but it is all gold and its 14 ounces exceeds by quite a bit the gold value in the 17-ounce quartz and gold specimen, a picture of which is shown elsewhere in this issue.

The new nugget was found at the Tom mine while the other was found on an upper claim one and one-half miles up Pine creek. Last season a 10-ounce nugget was included in the collection of the operators, being found midway between the upper and lower claims.

The Wyants are at present utilizing water and doing assessment work on their claims.

Mrs. Wyant indicated the new nugget would be left in Baker to be seen at the gold exhibit at the bank over the holidays.

## Big 17 Ounce Gold Nugget Mined at Wyant Property

Size of Medium Potato  
And Contains 8.92 Oz.

One of the largest gold nuggets ever found in this section and perhaps the largest located since the famous 80-ounce Armstrong nugget found near Susanville in 1913 was mined out at John Wyant's Pine creek "gold farm" in recent days.

The large piece is what is called a quartz nugget and weighs 17 ounces, containing 8.92 ounces of gold, which would indicate that it is an estimated \$265 or \$270 worth of yellow metal.

In size the piece is said to be about four inches in length and in shape resembling a medium size elbow-shaped potato. The raw nugget displays white quartz with about half the surface being a dark washed gold.

Our Hereford reporter writes that Mrs. Wyant found a ten-oz. nugget first, then Mr. Hurst located the larger specimen.

During the same week George Elliott of Baker took a 23 ounce nugget of much purer gold from his property several miles below the Wyant place.

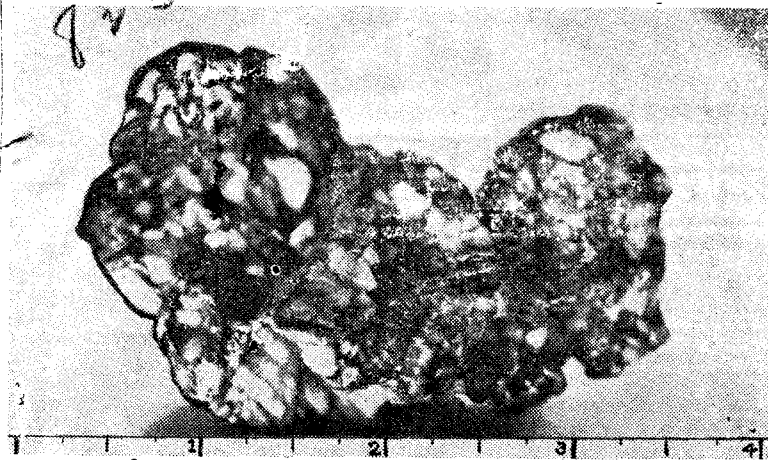
These two men have worked placers on Pine creek, near Hereford, for many, many years utilizing meagre water supplies in the early spring and summer, reserving it the remainder of the season for mining part time, and drifting when surface washing is not possible.

Mr. Wyant has taken much coarse gold from his claims with many valuable quartz specimens. He and many others during their many years of working have spent a good deal of the time searching for the lode from which the yellow metal of their creek comes but in his words "all we know is that the nuggets are there: where they come from we don't know."

At the mouth of Pine creek is the site of the L. B. Jackson shovel and washing plant operation.

A larger nugget, valued at near \$1000, was brought to Baker of recent months but this was taken from a large lode mine vein and was not found as nugget in the true sense of the word.

# Baker County's Largest Gold Nugget



The \$270 Wyant gold nugget, as reported several weeks ago in these columns, is shown in picture above. The inch scale gives some evidence of the size of the chunk of gold which was found on the John Wyant property on Pine creek during March. The few pure white spots on

the nugget are quartz, the balance, grey and dark, is pure metallic gold. The nugget has been given a prominent and permanent place in the famous First National Bank gold display after its purchase by the bank. It may be seen during banking hours in the case on the lobby floor.

*Baker Co. Ore. April 15, 1934  
Record Courier*

## Minerals of Pacific Coast Get Space in Ford Building

The story of how a Pacific coast mineral more rare than gold is today used to manufacture spark plugs is being told in the elaborate Ford building at the Golden Gate International exposition in the display of the Champion Spark Plug company, a co-exhibitor with the Ford Motor company.

Because this mineral, sillimanite, is an exclusive contribution of the west to the automobile industry the

display is attracting more than ordinary interest.

A quantity of the sillimanite ore is displayed in the Champion exhibit, and the lecturer tells how it is blasted from the cliff sides of the White mountains in huge slabs, broken up into smaller sizes for transport down the mountain trails by burro and then shipped to the Champion porcelain plant in Detroit for grinding and processing.

Convincing demonstrations per-

formed at the exhibit show the remarkable physical properties of spark-plug insulators made of sillimanite. In one test, the insulators are subjected to continuous, repeated applications of heat and cold. In another test, round balls of the mineral are dropped repeatedly and continuously on the end of the insulators, a severe test, which indicates dependability.

Already the Ford building on Treasure island is attracting a high percentage of repeat visitors because of the fascination of its graphic and unusual exhibits.

*Portland  
Oregonian  
April 10, 1934*

# WYANTS LOCATE LARGE NUGGET

## Gold Valued at \$400 Found By Mining Man on Pine Creek

One of the largest gold nuggets ever to be found in this region and believed by many to be the largest, weighing 14 ounces and 4 pennyweight, was brought to Baker yesterday afternoon by Mr. and Mrs. John Wyant from their holdings on Pine creek.

Valued at about \$400, the nugget is practically all gold and eclipses in total value the 17-ounce nugget recently found by the Wyants and which was believed to have been the most valuable found.

The precious bit of metal was found not more than 25 feet from their home at the Tom placer mine.

The Wyants have found three of the finest specimens ever taken from this region. The 17-ounce nugget was valued about \$100 less than the one found yesterday. The Wyants also have found a 10-ounce piece of gold.

The mining man and his wife indicated the nugget will be left here to be included in the gold display of the First National bank during the Baker Mining Jubilee and Rodeo. The display will be on exhibit Monday between the hours of 10:30 a. m. and 3 p. m.

*Baker, Ore.  
Mineral Herald  
June 30, 1934*

*W. J. ... would best serve ...  
623.*

### \$450 Nugget Found

HALFWAY, July 4.—John Wyant brought in from his Pine Creek claim near Hereford a gold nugget worth about \$450. It weighed 14.7 ounces. A similar nugget was brought in from the same property last March by Wyant which weighed 7 ounces in gold, the quartz bringing the weight up to 17 ounces.

*Portland, Ore.  
Oregonian  
July 4, 1934*

**FINDS HEAVY NUGGET  
IN PLACER AT HEREFORD**

John Wyant who mines on Pine creek near Hereford had a lucky day recently when he cleaned up his ground washing and found a gold nugget worth \$280. Mr. Wyant finds much of this course gold but it is not every day that it runs that large. High water had forced him to move from his present work and he located the nugget at a place where he was working by necessity awaiting more favorable water.

Arizona Mining Journal  
September 10, 1941.

About 750 yards of material are being handled daily by the Goldflour Mining Company, which is operating the Wyant placers on Pine Creek 10 miles southeast of Hereford in Baker County, Oregon. The property, which includes the Tom-Tom and Bulldog Consolidated claims, is owned by John Wyant of Hereford. For the past year the Goldflour company has been operating the ground, using a Caterpillar-powered portable trommel washer and other equipment, designed by L. A. Hoalst, Hereford, president and general manager of the concern, and B. C. Hoalst, engineer of Nampa, Idaho, his brother. Overburden averages 12 feet in depth. Work is carried on in three shifts. R. M. Davidson of Boise is vice-president of the company, which formerly worked in Owyhee County, Idaho. W. A. Thurber, 1312 North Twenty-third Street, Boise, is secretary-treasurer. Company headquarters are at 711 Idaho Street, Boise.

Upper Barrett River Area  
Baker Co.

## JOHN WYANT PLACERS

Upper Burnt River Area

Owner: John Wyant, Hereford, Oregon.

Location: 3 1/2 miles above highway in Pine creek in secs. 10, 3, 2, T. 12 S., R. 39 E., sec 35, T. 11 S.

Area: 12,000 feet along Pine creek.

History: Yardage moved unknown but \$20,000 produced since 1908.

Equipment: No equipment except sluice boxes, small inclined shaft with rails and small pump and windlass. One "splash" dam. *Pg 102-14A*

Geology: Elevation at house 4,325 feet. Gulch operation entirely. Bedrock varies from "shaly" basalt to conglomerate and rhyolitic beds. Boulders 10 per cent to 20 per cent, maximum size 2 feet in diameter. 75 per cent of gold in nuggets, fineness 838-846. In a nugget with quartz, the quartz shows a high degree of minute fracturing and shearing, partly iron stained. Argillite belt reported to cut through canyon above, and all gulches reported to head in shale and argillites so that probable source of coarse gold is pocket type with the less coarse gold being washed down from old high channels.

Water: Scarce. Watershed small with little snow storage. Uses rain runoff as it comes. Bedrock drifting in wintertime using bedrock water which flows all year round. "Splash" dam used for ground sluicing in spring which begins about 1st of March and ends July 15th to 30th. Operation handicapped by flat bedrock grade and lack of ample water.

Development: Tested ground gives estimate of 1,000,000 yards averaging \$1 per yard, including overburden. Depth to bedrock average 16 1/2 feet. Pay gravel best in first yard above bedrock. Bedrock yardage \$5 or more per yard.

Informant: A. V. Q. *Pg 102-14A*

## Gets Another Big Nugget

*OMR July 1939*  
One of the famous nugget creeks of Baker county is Pine Creek, a tributary of Burnt river, southwest of Baker. The May Issue of Oregon Mining Review told of Johnny Wyant bringing in a nugget containing 9.32 ounces of gold of a value of \$270.

Mr. Wyant seems to have acquired the habit of finding large pieces of gold, anyway he delivered to the First National Bank in Baker, June 29th another piece of gold that weighed slightly more than 14 ounces. The first had considerable quartz with it, while the last find is pure gold.

Mr. Wyant works his property by drifting on bedrock, and the fact that he has been working it in this manner for more than 30 years is evidence that his claims are proving a pretty good bank with its gold reserve on tap at all times.

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R. M. Davidson of Boise is vice-president of the company, which formerly worked in Owyhee County, Idaho. W. A. Thurber, 1312 North Twenty-third Street, Boise, is secretary-treasurer. Company headquarters are at 711 Idaho Street, Boise.

## MINING FIRM MOVES MACHINERY TO PINE CREEK

*MS 12/12/40*  
Malheur — (Special) — The Hoalst Bros. Mining company who were mining near Malheur moved some of their machinery to pine creek where they expect to mine.

*Gold Flour Mining Co has closed down indefinitely according to G.A. Shenahan, sec. oct, 1941*

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