

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

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STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Report by: N. S. W.
Date: 4/22/46

Wyant Placers of Pine Creek (Gold)

Upper Burnt River District
Baker, Oregon

Lessee: L. A. Hoalst Grand View, Idaho

R. M. Davidson Warm Springs Ave., Boise, Idaho

Fred Bower Boise, Idaho

These men are working under a partnership agreement at the present time

but steps are being taken to incorporate in Idaho as the Pine Creek Placer Company.

Owner: John Wyant, Hereford, Oregon

Location & Area: T 12S, R 39E, Sections 2, 3, & 10 with a small acreage extending into T 11S,

R 39E, Section 35 with all claims extending along the creek as follows:

Tom-Tom Claims, 40 acres in Section 10--(a 200 foot fraction owned by Mr. Darr separates the foregoing from the succeeding groups.)

Bonhart & New Moon Group, 40 acres in Section 10 & 3.

Bulldog Group, 160 acres of which 80 is mineable gravel in Section 2 and the adjoining 35.

History: These claims have been acquired by Mr. Wyant over a period of years beginning in 1900 and they have been worked regularly and successfully by him ever since. Excepting for a hydraulic set-up on the Bulldog Group, operations have been on a small scale, handwork basis. An exceptional bundance of nuggets weighing from one half to one ounce are received regularly and two fourteen ounce nuggets together with several six and eight ounce ones have been found. One of these fourteen ounce nuggets is on display in the First National Bank in Baker, Oregon.

Geology: The property consists of 15 to 18 feet of coarse gravel in the narrow gulch of Pine Creek. Large boulders are common. Basaltic dikes, rhyolitic

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Wyant Placers of Pine Creek

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lavas and a hard, coarse "conglomerate" constitute the bedrock.

The gold is coarse, 840 fine, and not infrequently large nuggets contain finely fractured white quartz. During the period of hydraulic operations, Mr. Wyant has realized returns of 75¢ yard, bank run, as determined by several measured runs, and he estimates the property contains in excess of 1,000,000 yards of mineable gravel.

As mapped by Gilluly, (U.S.G.S. Bull. 879) the flanks of the upper portion of Pine Creek are Dooley schist breccias. The Paleozoic Burnt River Schist series occur at the headwaters where it forms the bulk of Dooley Mt. Small limestones, greenstone, and serpentine lenses are included in this schist series and one small metagabbro-serpentine area lies at the extreme head end to the west of Pine Creek. While some white quartz veins have been found in the schist series, the lack of significant discoveries of lodevalues is conspicuous in view of the abundance of rough, quartz bearing nuggets recovered from the placer. The presumption has been made that the source of the placer gold has been scattered pockets which have been concentrated into the placers by erosion.

Mining: Mr. Wyant is continuing sluicing operations. The present lessees do not plan to commence operations until 1947.

General: Available water varies from season to season, but is usually to be had between March and July. Sites reportedly exist in which a reservoir of sufficient capacity to prolong the operating season by six weeks or so could be built.

WYANT AND MEEKER PLACERS Upper Burnt River Baker County

Equipment installations have been completed and production resumed at the Wyant and Meeker placers on upper Burnt River in Baker County about 10 miles northeast of Hereford, Oregon. The Wyant ground, which includes the Tom-Tom and Bulldog Consolidated claims owned by John Wyant of Hereford, was operated before the war by the Gold Flour Mining Company.

Some of the same principals are included in the present operating partnership. R.M. Davidson, Warm Springs Avenue, Boise, Idaho, is one of the partners, working with Fred Bowen of Boise, and L.A. Doalst of Grandview, Idaho.

John Wyant Placers

Mountain Brown

Baker County

Owner: John Wyant, Hereford, Oregon

Location: $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles above highway in Pine Creek in Secs. 10, 3, 2, T12S, R39E, Sec. 35, T11S.

Area: 12,000' 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.

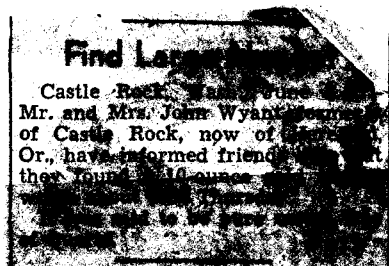
Geology: Elevation at house 4325'. Gulch operation entirely. Bedrock varies from "shaly" basalt to conglomerate and rhyolitic beds. Boulders 10% to 20%, maximum size 2'. Diameter 75% of gold in nuggets, fineness 838-846. In a nugget with quartz, the quartz shows a high degree of minute fracturing and shearing, partly iron stain. 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: Uses water as it comes. Bedrock drifting in wintertime using bedrock water which flows all year around. "Splash" dam used for ground sluicing in spring which begins about first of March and ends July 15 to 30.

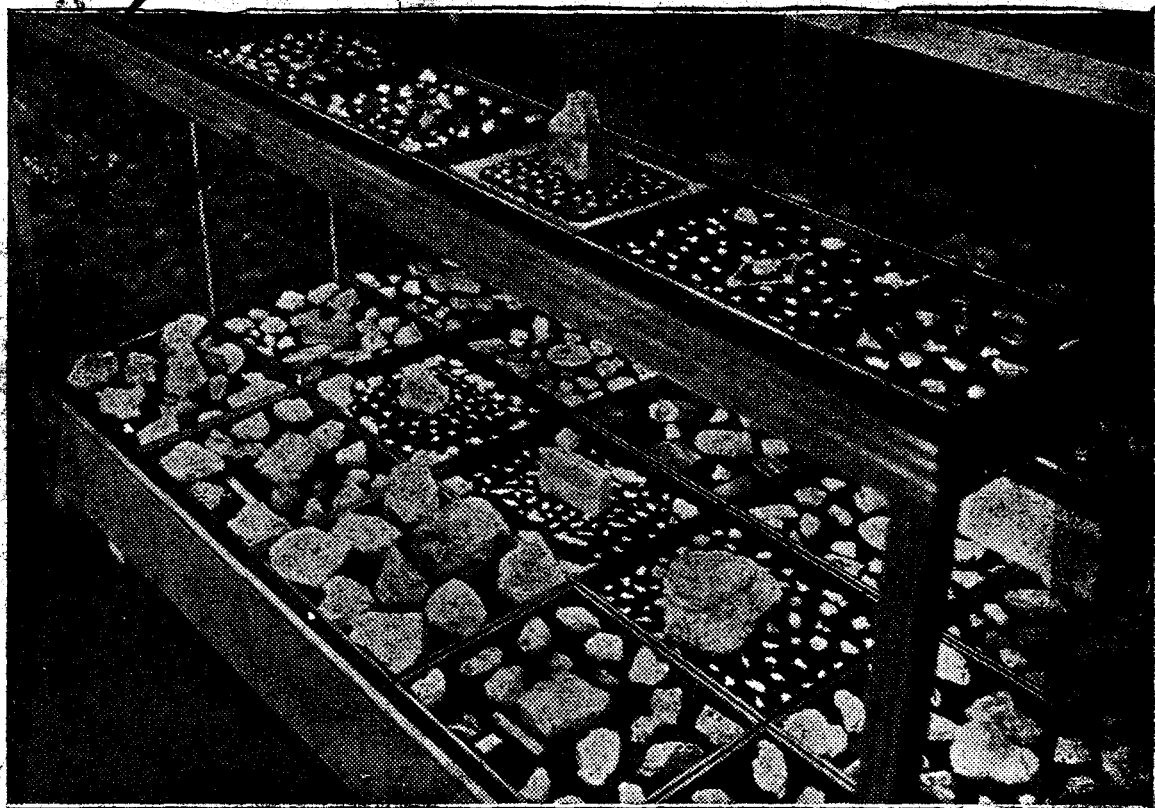
Development: Tested ground gives estimate of 1,000,000 yards averaging \$1 per yard, including overburden. Depth to bedrock average 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ '. Pay gravel best in first yard above bedrock. Bedrock yardage \$5 or more per yard.

Remarks: Owner has been making living on this property and developing it at the same time. If his statements are correct and averages as above, this should be a shovel operation, providing water can be secured. Owner will sell for \$20,000 with down payment of \$1500 and 10% royalty with \$500 per month minimum to apply on purchase price.

Informant: A. V. Quine
4/7/38



822 GOLD DISPLAY IS JUBILEE FEATURE



ABOVE—The First National Bank gold display as it is seen in the lobby of the Bank in Baker. The large piece in the upper center is the Armstrong nugget, valued at \$2500. The large pieces in the lower trays are gold-bearing quartz.

LEFT — The Wyant nugget, valued at \$270, was added to the collection this spring. The piece consists of quartz and gold, and was found on Pine creek near Hereford.



*Baker, Oregon
Record Courier
June 29, 1939*

Nugget Breaks Eastern Oregon Record



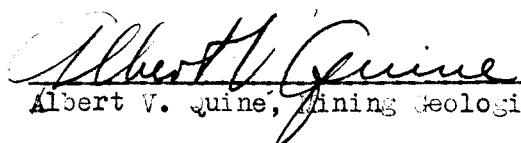
*La Grande, Ore
Advertiser
Apr. 28, 1939*

Shown above—full size—is the nugget found by John Wyant on his 160-acre claim near Baker, Ore., which is the second biggest find in nearly 75 years of gold mining in the Baker section. It weighs 17 ounces and contains 8.92 ounces of gold worth \$270. It is the largest placer specimen since the 80-ounce, \$2400 Armstrong nugget was washed up on the John Day river in 1913.

4/7/38

PLACER SUMMARY

1. **Present name of property** John Wyant Placers
Operating company (or individual) John Wyant
Address Hereford **County** Baker
Location $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles above highway in Pine Creek
Area of holdings
12,000' feet along Pine Creek in T12S, R39E, Secs. 10,3,2,35 (T11S)
2. **History of property - past and recent:**
Worked since 1908; not as a working property but more for the purpose of developing and opening up the ground. Reported to have been tested thoroughly.
3. **History of production - yardage moved and bullion shipped:**
Yardage unknown but \$20,000 produced since 1908.
4. **Development - acres mined, exploration of drilling, shafts, cuts:**
Tested ground gives estimate of 1,000,000 yards averaging \$1.00 per yard, including overburden. Depth to bedrock averages 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ '. Pay gravel best in first yard above bedrock, which averages \$5.00 or better per yard.
5. **Water rights - number of ditches, length, priorities, water allowed by law, amount actually used (average), length of mining season, av. date begin mining in Fall, av. date mining ends in Spring, etc.:**
Not sure of water right. Uses water as it comes (not often). Bedrock drifting in wintertime using bedrock water which flows all year around. "Splash" dam used for ground sluicing in spring which begins about first of March and ends July 15 to July 30.
6. **Geology and General Description: - Elevation above sea, gulch or flat operation, topography, character of bedrock, kinds of country rock, nature of gravel, nature of gold, amount of clay, and boulders, nature of gold, source of gold, winter snow conditions, etc.:** Elevation at house 4325'. Gulch operation entirely. Bedrock varies from shaly basalt to conglomerate and rhyolitic beds. Boulders 10% to 20%, none over 2'. 75% of the gold is in nuggets 838-846 fine. In a nugget with quartz examined by myself, the quartz shows a high degree of minute fracturing and shearing partially iron-stained--gold is 838 in fineness. Argillite belt reported to cut through canyon above and all gulches containing placer gold reported to head in shale and argillites so that probable source of coarse gold is pocket type with the less coarse material being washed down from old high channels.
7. **Equipment - pipe, giants, etc.**
No equipment except sluice boxes, small inclined shaft with rails and small pump and windlass. One "splash" dam.
8. **Remarks - economics: High or low cost, principal drawbacks, reasons for success or failure, apparent life of operation based on quantity of gravel, etc.**
John Wyant has been making his living on this property, developing it at the same time. If his claims are correct and averages "o.k.", this should be a shovel proposition, providing sufficient water can be secured.
Mr. Wyant's terms are as follows:
Purchase price \$20,000.00
Down Payment \$ 1,500.00
\$500.00 per month or 10% royalty with royalty applied on purchase price.


Albert V. Quine, Mining Geologist

A. BARHEART PLACER

UPPER BURNT RIVER DISTRICT:

On Pine Creek, 31 miles southwest, on the John Day Highway, from shipping point, Baker, on the Union Pacific and Old Oregon Trail. Located 17 years ago and includes 3 placer claims recorded in Baker county. There has been gold taken out of the gravel each year since owned by J. B. Wyant, Hereford, Oregon. (Prescott---6/1/37).

TOM PLACER

UPPER BURNT RIVER DISTRICT:

On Pine Creek, 32 miles southwest on the John Day Highway from shipping point, Baker, Oregon, on the Union Pacific and Old Oregon Trail. Located 14 years ago, and consists of 40 acres of placer ground, recorded in Baker county. Has been producing each year since owned by John R. Wyant, Hereford, Ore. (Prescott--6/1/37).

Wyant, John, Placers

Tom Tom Placer

Gold

NAME

OLD NAMES

PRINCIPAL ORE

MINOR MINERALS

12 S

39 E

2, 3, & 10

T

R

S

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

Dogami 14-A
Mining World, Aug 1941 "Gold Flour Mining "Old
Tom Tom Placer"

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

..... Baker COUNTY

..... Upper Burnt River AREA

..... ELEVATION

..... ROAD OR HIGHWAY

..... DISTANCE TO
SHIPPING POINT

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S) John Wyant

Address Hereford, Oregon

OPERATOR John Wyant

Hereford, Oregon

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.
Tom Tom Group	40 acres		x
Bonhart Claim	20 acres		x
New Moon Claim	20 acres		x
Bulldog Group	160 acres		x

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY

Tom Tom Place see John Wyant Place

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NAME

OLD NAMES

PRINCIPAL ORE

MINOR MINERALS

12S

39E

35

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R

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PUBLISHED REFERENCES

*Oregon 1417
Mining World Aug 1941 'Gold Flou Mining Old Tom-Tom Place'*

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

..... *Baker* COUNTY

..... *Upper Burnt River* AREA

..... ELEVATION

..... ROAD OR HIGHWAY

..... DISTANCE TO SHIPPING POINT

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S) *John Wyant*

Address *Hanford, Oregon*

OPERATOR

Name of claims Area Pat. Unpat.

Name of claims Area Pat. Unpat.

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY