

CURRY COUNTY

CHETCO AREA

Geography:

The Chetco area includes all of ~~the~~ southern Curry County drained by the Chetco, Winchuck and Smith rivers and their tributaries, and the coastal streams as far north as Colgrove butte and Seal point (two miles south of Carpenterville). This area includes the China Diggings, Gold Basin, Mount Emily, Smith River, and Tincup Creek mining districts.

Brookings and Harbor on the coast are the only towns. The district is heavily forested. The climate is mild, usual summer temperatures being 60° to 80°. Temperatures in winter are above freezing along the coast and fairly severe inland. Annual rainfall is 60 to 70 inches. In the lower altitudes, snow rarely stays on the ground long, but in higher elevations, it may accumulate to considerable depths and stay on for several months.

Transportation:

The paved Coast Highway passes through the district from north to south and a forest road with two branches extends into the district from Brookings; short roads extend from California into the district from the south. The rest of this large area is accessible only by rough trails.

Geology:

Sedimentary rocks are predominantly shales, slates, and fine-grained sandstones into which, in the neighborhood of Mt. Emily, rhyolites have been intruded. There are several varieties of greenstone and a great deal of serpentine and related rocks, which extend in wide north-south bands. A small granitic intrusion appears in the extreme southeastern corner on Diamond creek.

Gold and platinum are found in placers, and gold ores are usually found in greenstone near or along serpentine contacts. Chromite occurs in serpentine. Occurrences of molybdenite, together with cobalt and nickel minerals have been noted.

BALD FACE MINE (chromite)

Chetco District

*Located in SW¹ sec. 36, T. 40 S., R. 11 W., at end of spur from Wimer road, 2 miles north of Sourdough guard station on Baldface creek, Curry county.

*The country rock is a dunite, tending to be massive near the zone in which the orebodies lie. There is no green talcy serpentine present (as in other Curry county deposits), and the ore lies in solid and rather coarsely jointed rather than in finely-broken rock. The deposits are banded rather than kidney-like, the bodies being very long and narrow, and are offset several times, lying en echelon in the zone. The zone appears to be bounded on the west by an especially resistant ridge of peridotite-dunite which stands up in cliffs and pinnacles.

*The ore-bearing zone has been developed by pits, cuts, and adits along a horizontal distance of about 1300 feet, and extends another 700 feet southeast to the bed of Baldface creek and may go farther. The ends of the observed zone are

2000 feet apart, and the difference in their elevation is 300 feet. The zone and the rock structures strike northwest (on an average) and dip 45-50° to the northeast.

"The orebodies vary in width from narrow seams up to over 8 feet, the average width as disclosed in the larger cuts being 5 feet. Of this width, perhaps 3 feet is of medium-grade ore and 2 feet of higher-grade ore, the latter occurring in bands up to 1 foot wide within the former.

"Figures supplied on tonnage shipped in 1918 give 700 tons of unsorted (40-42 per cent chromic oxide) ore; and a small amount of hand-picked (49 per cent chromic oxide) ore. Ore-piles at present total 75-100 tons of unsorted ore.

"The Sourdough forest road from the old wimer road extends to the deposit. If the bridge over the north fork of Smith river is completed, ore could be trucked to the town of Smith River over a forest road (32 miles) and to Brookings (45 miles). At present the ore can be trucked 33 miles to the Redwood highway at Waldo Junction, and 40 miles to Grants Pass." (Ref.: Allen, 38:35; U.S.G.S. 725A-35 quoted).

BLACK BEAR PROSPECT (manganese)

Chatco District

Owner: Thomas Cronin, Crescent City, California

Location: N $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 14, T. 41 S., R. 11 W., about one mile S of Sourdough Camp.

Area: Three claims, hold by location, recorded at Gold Beach, Oregon.

History: Known as the Black Beauty during the World War, at which time some ore was shipped from this property.

Development: 20 feet of adit and numerous cuts, done during the 1918 activity. Assessment work only since then; there is a road to the property.

Geology: Dothan slates. Ore is reported to assay from 20% - 70% manganese oxide. The operators plan to install a mill during the summer of 1940.

Informant: Thomas Cronin 3/27/40

"This is located on the east side of the north fork of Smith river, at an elevation of 1400 feet; it lies in southeastern Curry county about one mile north of the State line. It was located in 1918 by John Taggart, James Keaton, and Reeves Costello and relocated in 1924. Its present ownership is in doubt. The deposit appears to be a replacement body along a brecciated zone in Dothan chert and jasper.

"The surface out crop on the slope of the hill is 65-70 feet in width and runs 150 ft. or more in a direction N. 35° W. The ore minerals are pyrolusite and manganese. The oxidized zone extending to the depth of exploration (15 feet) has considerable wad. The gangue consists of suspended chert fragments and prrous silica. The ore is reported to be of high grade, namely 72% manganese dioxide, but so far as may be seen from the exploration such high-grade ore occurs only in small masses; with depth, however, the chances for high-grade ore appears good. The development is small and consists of a cut and tunnel extending 30 feet to the east from the face of the hill; one short cross-cut extends to the north of the open cut. Observation indicates that the orebody dips about 60° southwest. A Cabin has been built south of the workings."

Note: This brief report was written many years ago by John H. Maxson, geologist, at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena. The present owners are G.T.Lewis, 5935 N.E. 16th Ave., Portland, Oregon, and associates.

Geology: Gold occurs in talcose minerals along a serpentine-greenstone contact.

Informant: J. E. Morrison, 38

Reference: Parks and Swartley, 16:120 quoted.

GOLDEN EAGLE CLAIM (gold)

Chetco (China Diggings) District

Owner: Mrs. F. O. McClanahan, Selma, Oregon

Location: Sec. 24, T. 38 S., R. 10 W., one-quarter mile north of Web Foot Group, five and one-half miles from McCaleb ranch, which is 12 miles west of Selma, Oregon.

General Information: One claim held by location. Elevation 3500 ft.; maximum snow 12 ft.; plenty of timber and water for mining purposes. At present stripping along the contact is being done with a fire hose under about 80 ft. head.

History: Located July 1936, and worked continuously in a small way to date.

Geology: Country rock is altered greenstone to a depth of about 40 feet. At this horizon, a flat-lying gouge separates this upper altered greenstone from a lower, harder material, possibly dacite. Quartz stringers cut the altered greenstone and values are found in the quartz as well as the gouge below.

Mining and Development: Present method of mining is to remove the upper material and then run the gouge material. The quartz stringers are also mined separately. During the last season a pit, about 150 ft. by 200 ft. and 40 ft. deep, was made. This spring the upper side of the pit caved in and at present it covers the larger part of the bottom of the excavation.

Equipment: About 150 ft. of 2 inch galvanized pipe (rain pipe), 100 ft. of 4 inch firehose, and miscellaneous hand equipment.

Informant: J. E. Morrison, 38

HAMAKER (Paul) GROUPS (gold, manganese, chrome)

Chetco Districts

Owner: Paul Hamaker, Oregon Hotel, Grants Pass, Oregon

Location: On the headwaters of Babyfoot creek, a branch of the Chetco river, in sec. 31, T. 38 S., R. 9 W.

Deposits of rhodonite containing manganese oxides are reported. It is stated that a cross-cut has cut these oxides for 85 feet without reaching a wall. Disseminated chromite with bunches of shipping grade is said to be exposed.

Informant: Paul Hamaker

HILLTOP MINE (gold)

Chetco District

Owners: Paul and Lloyd Hamaker, Kerby, Oregon

Location: On ridge between Babyfoot and Carter creek about one-half mile west of Babyfoot Lake, in sec. 36, T. 38 S., R. 10 W. Estimated to be 5 miles to road on Josephine creek and about 12 miles west of Kerby.

Area: Three claims held by location, 60 acres.

History: Paul Hamaker located Hilltop claim April 10, 1934. Hilltop No. 2 was located August 6, 1937 (Grubstake claim). No record of No. 3 claim in recorder's office.

Geology: Greenstone country rock. No veins were seen at time of visit. Two