

LOBSTER CREEK AREA

The Lobster Creek area includes the drainage of Lobster and Muchre Creeks, lying north of the 8th standard parallel (T. 36 S.), south of T. 33 S., and in the southern half west of R. 12 W. It includes all of T. 34 and 35 S., R. 13 and 14 W., and the west half of T. 34 S., R. 12 W. It includes the Ophir Mountain district.

This area is bounded on the north by the Sixes River area, on the east by the Agness area, on the south by the Gold Beach area, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean. It is 12 miles north and south by 15 miles east and west. Its eastern part is drained by Lobster and Siver creeks which drain into the Rogue River, and the western part by Muchre and other creeks which drain into the Pacific Ocean.

The main road is the Coast Highway; short roads extend up the main streams. The southern part can be reached by boat on the Rogue River. The eastern part of the area is accessible only by trails. The rocks are largely schists, shales sandstones and conglomerates into which have been intruded basic igneous rocks sometimes altered to serpentine. Other intrusives such as basalt and dacite, are present.

There has been much prospecting both in placer and quartz mining.

BONANZA BASIN PLACER

Lobster Creek Area

Owner: Francis ("Pete") Parker, Powers, Oregon; Dan Rowlan, Powers, Oregon; and Carl Smedberg, Gold Beach, Oregon.

Location: Just below the Bonanza Placer mine and includes Bonanza Basin. It consists of two groups, the Grizzly Bear and Big Four. The basin or meadow is about 3000 ft. long by 500 ft. wide maximum, with an average of about 250 ft. and is heavily timbered. It is about 500 ft. lower than the Bonanza; a very steeply sloping gorge separates the two properties. There is a similar gorge at the lower end of the property. The upper one permits high pressure for hydraulic mining and the lower one for tailing disposal. There is a hard reef across the lower end which should be trenched through to get bedrock drainage. It is thought that a maximum depth of 15 feet at the upper end of the trench will drain bedrock. This trench will be about 400 ft. long. There is a high percentage of boulders but not many large ones.

Development: A trench starting at level of the reef has been dug up stream for about 400 ft. in an attempt to get to bedrock. The upper end of this trench is about 14 feet deep but did not reach bedrock. The trench is timbered and lagged but is too flat for sluicing. Several pits and shafts were dug but water prevented reaching bedrock.

But little knowledge is available as to values in the Bonanza Basin because redrock has never been reached. It is thought that because Bonanza and Parker mines above this property were rich and placers on lower Boulder Creek were of good grade that this basin in between is worth systematic exploration.

Informant: A. M. Swartley, 39.

"A tunnel has been driven directly beneath the open pit just described. It runs S. 45° E. for 20 feet, then gradually curves to the southward for 55 feet so as to bring the breast directly below the pit and at a depth of no more than 10 or 15 feet beneath the material there exposed. Near the mouth this tunnel cuts a copper-stained sheared zone from which considerable ore has been taken. A conical pile of this material, 4 feet high and 12 feet in diameter, was sampled and proved to contain 1.04 percent copper and no gold. It is but fair to state, however, that this ore gave evidence of considerable leaching and it is not unlikely that the grade was considerably higher when it was mined. This material as well as one or more copper-stained shear-zones, is exposed in a trench 250 feet long north of the tunnel and open pit.

"The open pit and tunnel described in the preceding paragraph are of especial interest as here we seem to have pretty conclusive proof of the boulder-like nature of the deposit of copper ore. No one can doubt for a moment that the material is in place, and yet, within a depth of a few feet, an ore running better than 5 percent copper gives place to fresh, unstained serpentine.

"About 100 feet east of south of the big pit is an open cut in which some slightly oxidized magnetite is exposed. This material is of the lodestone variety. That is, it is itself a magnet and will pick up small particles of iron or steel. Analysis proves it to be the highest grade iron ore found on the trip, since it contains 60.13 percent iron, .36 percent phosphorus, and no sulphur, arsenic, or titanium.

"Numerous other openings exist on this property, and several others were visited, but they appeared so similar to those already described that they were not sampled. Enough time was spent in examining the deposits to prove their essential similarity to those in the Collier Creek region, both the boulder and shear-zone types being represented. The principal points of difference are the relative scarcity of magnetite, and a substitution of chalcopyrite and pyrrhotite for chalcocite, cuprite and native copper. It may be that the scarcity of magnetite is due to differences in climatic conditions, since the greater rainfall in the vicinity of the McKinley group may have hastened the decomposition of any magnetite that once existed there."
(Ref: Parks and Swartley, 16:211 quoted)

WEDDERBURN TRADING CO. (Beach placers - chromite)

Gold Beach Area

"This trading company has many sections of land on both sides of the Rogue River and along the coast north and south of Gold Beach. It is reported that certain parts of these holdings may be leased under proper safeguards.

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

1069 State Office Building
Portland 1, Oregon

BONANZA PLACER MINE (Gold)

Lobster Creek Area

Old name: Curry Mine.

Owner: Mrs. Tom Wallace, Agness, Oregon.

Location: On Boulder Creek, 8 miles northwest of Illahe via trail, in secs. 4 and 5, T. 34 S., R. 12 W.

Area: Four placer claims with a total of 80 acres.

History: Discovered and worked by George Curry and Bill Coy 1874 to 1876. 1876 to 1927 worked intermittently and changed ownership several times. Dan Rowlan owned it in 1927 and sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace. With the exception of two years, it has been worked since 1927. According to Mr. ~~Mr~~Coy, it has produced \$150,000. Two acres have been mined.

Geology: The source of the gold is from pockets along a serpentine and porphyry contact. Gold fairly coarse, with many 25¢ to 50¢ pieces; 7 ounces largest nugget found.

Miscellaneous Information: No water right; plenty of water. One mile is estimated length of ditch to be built to deliver water to property from Boulder Creek and tributaries. No equipment. November to June is the mining season.

Development: Ten cuts. The largest is 75 x 600 x 6 ft. deep. Most of the work has been done along Boulder Creek.

Informant: J. E. Morrison, 38.

BOULDER CREEK MINING CO. (Star Mine)

Lobster Creek Area

"At the junction of Boulder Creek and the south fork of Lobster Creek in sec. 25, T. 34 S., R. 13 W., is an extensive bar known as Old Diggings, consisting of 80 acres and 160 acres, under the name of Star mining claims. This company intended to work this property extensively with giants during the winter (1915-16), and, with this in view, had ordered 1000 feet of piping to connect with a long ditch constructed by A. W. Wilheit. It is reported they have the following improvements: 4800 feet completed ditch, 1 dam 74 x 12 x 8 feet, 1 dam 60 x 3 feet, sawmill plant with water power, 800 foot pipe giant, blacksmith shop, tools, 3 cabins. \$4800 worth of improvements the past year." (Ref: Parks and Swartley, 16:40 quoted).

PARKER PLACER MINE

Lobster Creek Area

This placer mine owned by Francis Parker joins the Bonanza placer mine on the upstream side and includes all of the drainage above it. Most of the ground on Boulder Creek, which is quite small, has been worked out and the source of the gold has been traced to a contact between serpentine and porphyry where rich pockets occasionally are found. Work is being done upon the contact. Coarse gold was produced and the placer here is the same as upon the Bonanza mine just below. Informant: J. E. Morrison, 38.

Placer 19. Ink and Barr property. When this investigation was made, L. G. Ink and Will Barr were working the Old Bonanza claim, now called the Gold Slug, which they purchased from George Curry. They also located on March 10, 1915, three other claims along Boulder creek below the Gold Slug, which they called Iron Mountain, Nugget Bar, and Lilly, making their total holdings a mile in length. \$1500 worth of gold is said to have been taken from the Gold Slug claim before the present owners purchased it.

The present owners began work in April, and at the time of the examination were sluicing the loose surface soil on the south side of the creek, in which they were finding gold from grass roots to a depth of about a yard. This gold was coarse, the pieces averaging 25 to 50 cents each and including nuggets worth \$6 to \$10 each, and often larger, although the largest they had on hand at the time of the examination was worth something over \$2.00. They state that Curry secured one nugget worth \$65 from this claim, and that they found another weighing 4 ounces, 9 pennyweights for which the Mint paid them \$93.60. Most of the gold is decidedly worn, but some is so jagged that it could not have come any considerable distance.

One or more old terraces exist on the southern hillside above the present workings, and it seems likely that the gold has slid down from these, although they do not appear to be as rich as is the loose material now being sluiced, of which 250 cubic yards are said to have yielded \$100 in gold. The bedrock beneath the present workings is serpentine, but the contact between this material and Myrtle sandstone crosses the Gold Slug claim.

Below the Gold Slug the stream widens and a decided flat has developed. That gold is present here seems well established, but the nature of the ground is such that it must be worked, if at all, on an extensive scale by means of giants. At the time of the examination two men were prospecting on the lower end of the Lilly claim, but had not done sufficient work to indicate the value of the deposit.

Above the Gold Slug claim is the Blue Bell placer owned by D. Chapin and H. Rowlan; while above this is the Big Nugget claim located by John R. Hurst during the rush to this district occasioned by the Smith discoveries on Rock creek. Practically no work has been done on these claims, and no further data concerning them were obtainable.

Placer 20. Schulz and Ainsworth claims. At the time of the investigation, R. Schulz and C. Ainsworth were prospecting on the Great Falls and Tender Foot claims below the Lilly. They were doing the work under an option from Dan Rowlan, the owner.

In the lower end of this property the bedrock is smooth serpentine, and runs down to a V, so that little gold has been caught there, and they had saved almost nothing during the month while they had been at work. A short distance above their present location, however, there is a flat toward which they were working, and where they expected to find gold.

Placer 21. Boulder Creek Mining Company. At the junction of boulder creek and the south fork of Lobster creek is an extensive bar known as ~~the~~ Old Diggings. The Boulder Creek Mining Company intended to work this property extensively with giants during the winter, and, with this end in view, had ordered 1000 feet of piping to communicate with a long ditch constructed by A. W. Wilheit. This property was not visited, and no information concerning the success of the undertaking could be secured.

Properties in Curry County

Mr. Ernest Divelbiss of Bandon, Oregon, a man of 60 years of age, who has spent all of his life on the Sixes gave the following information: The page references given below are from Mineral Resources of Oregon, Vol. 2, No. 4, December, 1916.

Blanco or Madden Mine, pp. 34. The old building still stands and is about 100 yards east of 101 highway. Nothing has been done on the property for about 30 years.

Corbin Property, pp. 73. On left bank instead of the right. Mr. N. C. Divelbiss worked the property across the river from the old Corbin property. Said to have produced \$5000 per acre.

Crawford and Fay Claims, pp. 83. Unknown to him.

Guerin Claim, pp. 115. Guerin Brothers continued up Butcher Gulch for about amile. The ground has been abandoned since then.

Harrison Claims, pp. 117. Mr. Harrison took out a pocket of about \$3000 around 1920. Otherwise no change. The property is thought to be open at present.

Hydro Sixes Mines Company, pp. 126. Now owned by Oregon Engineering Company, Gilbert E. Gable, Port Orford, Oregon. They plan to dredge the river.

Sixes Mining Company, pp. 205. Due to legal difficulties nothing has ever been done with the property.

Smith and Robinson Claims, pp. 206. Rusty Creek paid well to work, but the bars on the Sixes would not pay. No change since last report.

Wagner Claim, pp. 230. Searle was last to operate it. It has been relocated a number of times, but no one ever did any work.

Wallace and Hadley Claims, pp. 231. Tom L. Wallace was the last one to do any work on the property. It is now claimed by a Mr. Brow.

Byers & Hollebeck claims - no record

Ed & Earnest Divelbliss have 3 claims above Butcher Gulch. Qt. ledge 2' wide $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ Porphyry and slate on south side of So Fork.

Ed & Earnoy Helma 2 claims Big Ben 1 & 2 mi. Rusty Gulch about 2 miles by trail 150 ft. tunnel (No.) Qt ledge & sp. $\frac{1}{4}$ ft. wide wall rock mixed with ledge mater. #10 & #170 assays.