WHITE ELEPHANT GROUP (placer & Lode)  

Owner: Caroline Wallace, Agness, Oregon. (see also George Dickinson, Gold Beach, Oregon)  

Location: SW¼ NW¼ sec. 4, and east center sec. 5, T. 34 S., R. 12 W. headwaters of Boulder Creek and west of Î Ophir Mtn.  

Area: Four placer claims.  

History: Worked about 1870, and since then, as a placer. Reported to have produced about $70,000.  

Geology: The White Elephant claim is the most southwesterly, and the west portion of Boulder Creek on this claim has a falls about 200 feet high. Immediately upstream of the falls for a distance of about 1000 feet was the good placer ground. The remaining claims cover the headwaters of Boulder Creek, so the placer gold must have come out of this watershed.  

Overburden is shallow, from 0 to 5 feet and the gold is concentrated on bedrock. The overburden is subangular fit and probably is slum, and creep material.  

There are several quartz seams that "pan" some gold. One seam has a serpentine gouge wall that "pans" well.  

Development: The principal work has been on the one placer claim. There has been no particular testing of placer ground upstream of this point. A small amount of work has been done on a couple of the quartz seams.  

Informant: George Dickinson, Gold Beach, 12/18/40  
Report by: RCT 12/20/40
OWNER: Dale Prow; Grants Pass, Oregon

Location: Sec. 23, R.5W., T.36 S.; 4 miles east of Grants Pass.

History: Construction of the mill was completed about the 1st of June, 1940. The mill was constructed by Mr. Prow for the purpose of making mill tests on ores from different mines in southwestern Oregon. The construction of the mill is such that the capacity may be increased by replacing the present machinery with larger size equipment. Approximately 60 tons of ore from several different mines was treated between June 1st, 1940 and December 20, 1940.

Equipment: The milling equipment is listed on the accompanying flow sheet. Power is supplied by 3 engines that burn kerosene; 1 1½ h.p., 1 3 h.p. Fairbanks; and 1 15 h.p. A 750 gallon tank is used for storing the fuel oil. Fresh water from a deep well is stored in a 1200 gallon tank (located high up in the mill building).

Informant: Albert A. Lewis

Report by: Albert A. Lewis

Date: December 20, 1940
FLOW SHEET OF PROW'S MILL

Trucks
  ↓
1½" Grizzly 4'x8'
  ↓
Oversize    Undersize
  ↓
6"x9" Jaw crusher (Joshua Hendy)
  ↓
Pan feeder
  ↓
Bucket elevator
  ↓
9/16" Trommel screen, 22"x48"
  ↓
Oversize    Undersize
  ↓
50 ton bin  50 ton bin
  ↓
Pan feeder
  ↓
Drag
Dewaterer
  ↓
Marcy type ball mill, 30"x30"
  ↓
50-mesh screen (attached to mill)
  ↓
Oversize    Undersize
  ↓
30"x66" amalgamating plate
  ↓
5'x12' Economy table (Wilfley type)
  ↓
Concentrate
  ↓
Tailing
  ↓
Settling vat
  ↓
waste
WHITE ELEPHANT GROUP (placer & lode)  

Owner: Mrs. Caroline Wallace, Agness, Oregon. (Mrs. Tom Wallace)

Location: SW¼ NW¼ sec. 4, and east-center sec. 5, T. 34 S., R. 12 W., headwaters of Boulder Creek and west of Ophir Mtn., 8 mi. northwest of Iliaha via trail.

Area: Four placer claims with a total of 80 acres, held by location.

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. Tom Wallace. With the exception of two years, it has been worked since 1927. According to Mr. Coy, it has produced $150,000. Another report claims $70,000. Two acres have been mined.

Other names are: Curry Mine; Bonanza Placer Mine (see 1940 ed. Bull. 14-C, vol. 1, State Dept. G. & M. I.)

Development: Ten cuts, the largest being 75 ft. by 600 ft. by 6 ft. deep. Most of the work has been done along Boulder Cr. Practically all of the work has been done on the White Elephant claim. A small amount of work has been done on some of the quartz ledges.

Geology: Topography is mountainous. At the west end of the White Elephant claim is a 200 ft. fall, and immediately upstream for 1000 feet was the good placer ground. The source of the gold is reported to be from pockets along a serpentine-porphyry contact. The gold is fairly coarse, with many 25¢ to 50¢ pieces; seven ounces is the largest nugget.

Overburden is shallow, from 0 to 6 ft. and the gold is concentrated on bedrock. The overburden material is subangular and probably is slump and creep material.

There are several quartz seams that "pan" some gold. One of them has a serpentine gouge wall that "pans" well.

Mining Conditions: No water right but 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.

Informant: J.E. Morrison, '38; George Dickinson (Gold Beach) 12/18/40

Report by: RCT 12/20/40
White Elephant Group (placer + lode)  Lobster Creek Area
(see also Curry Mine; Bonanza Placer)

Geology: According to the Port Orford folio, an area of Cretaceous (?) sediments is intruded by gabbro as a small body of gabbro. The west contact of the intrusive causes a 200 ft. fall in the stream. The gabbro appears to be more like the ultrabasite of the Illinois River country. It is sparred, and considerable serpentine has developed, and the east contact with sediments

* prospect cut, 6' down gold, no quartz, no sulfides visible

* cabin 1470.
Geology:

The Post Oak Ford shows the area as underlain by serpentine in which a small gabbro body has been intruded. The lower (west end) of the placer is bounded by a 200' falls of Boulder Creek. Upstream, placers have exposed ultrabasic rock that is serpentinized, in part. A "vein" of highly sulfidized rock that appears to be a meta-porphyry cuts across the upper end. The upper (east) end is bounded by a contact of serpentine and sandstone (?), perhaps Myrtle farm.

The source of the placer gold is reported to be from pockets of gold in the general area. The gold is fairly coarse, with many nuggets averaging 25-50 oz.; 70 oz. is the largest nugget. Overburden is shallow, from 0-6 ft. & the gold is concentrated on bedrock. The placer channel is not over 100 feet wide. It is reported that the placer has been very rich. Each year someone works it and "does right well" in a series of small "hot spots."

The east end contact is represented by an 18" shear zone that is exposed by the creek. Assaying by a "special method" are said to run 150. No work had been done on this seam. Up the hill to the northeast, a large cut exposes another shear zone that is reported to carry gold. Some of these exposures had the appearance of offering promise.