

CURRY COUNTY
MULE CREEK DISTRICT

Geography:

"Mule Creek district is located in the extreme east central portion of Curry county, and occupies the area drained by Mule creek and its tributaries, which flow into the Rogue river at a point about 40 miles above its mouth. The district is bounded on the north by Coos and Douglas counties, on the southeast by Josephine county, and on the southwest by the Rogue river.

"The elevation varies from a few hundred feet at Rogue river to more than 3500 feet at the highest points. The climate is mild, the daytime temperatures in the summer varying from 60 to 80 degrees, and in the winter from above freezing to 10 degrees above zero. The annual rainfall is about 50 inches. In the lower altitudes snow rarely accumulates to any great depth in the winter, while in the higher altitudes it may reach 3 or 4 feet and stay on for a few weeks."

There is only one road into the district, a forest road from Glendale to the mouth of Mule on the Rogue river a distance of about 40 miles. Other transportation is by trails up the river from Agness or down the Rogue River from the Golin district in Josephine county.

Geology:

The principal formations are the Dothan and Myrtle sediments and greenstone effusives and intrusives. The trend of these formations are NE.-SW., with the Dothan on the southeast, the greenstone in the middle, and the Myrtle on the northwest side of the district. The largest area is Dothan and the smallest is Myrtle formation.

The greenstone is a complex formation and is considered to be largely an intrusion and the chief source of the ore deposits found in the district. The ore minerals are gold and silver with some copper.

BATTLE BAR PLACER

Mule Creek District

"Diller describes this property as follows:

"At Battle Bar, on the left bank of Rogue river a little above the mouth of Ditch creek a terrace 20 to 25 feet above the river is capped by gravel that has been tested by a small placer and said to yield good values. I saw it only across the river; but the deposit appears to be similar to that of Winkle Bar a mile farther down the river."

Ref.: Parks & Swartley, 16:25 (quoted)

*Charley Crougle
Marial*

CARDWELL CLAIM (placer)

Mule Creek District

"W. W. Cardwell, of Roseburg, owns a placer claim on the west fork of the west fork of Mule creek. It can be operated only when water conditions are favorable, as the gold is being recovered from the gravel in the present creek bed. It is reported that it has been quite profitable."

Ref.: Parks & Swartley, 16:51 (quoted)

Hansford

Marial

LUCKY BOY (Tina H.) MINE (gold)

Mule Creek District

"This property of 2 claims is 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles from mouth of Mule creek in north-central part of T. 33 S., R. 10 W., on the west side of the west fork of Mule creek, at elevation of 1000 feet. It is owned by Chas. Tucker.

"Developed by 2 tunnels (drifts) and raises. The vein varies from a few inches to 3 feet. The strike is N. E.-S. W. and dip 50 to 70° N. W. The ore minerals are free gold and a little chalcopryrite. Production has been about \$50,000. Equipped with 2-stamp mill and cyanide plant, operated by water power."

Ref.: Parks & Swartley, 16:144 (quoted)

MULE MOUNTAIN MINE (gold)

Mule Creek District

"Property consists of 1 placer and 11 lode claims. Owned by G. W. Billings and situated on both sides of Rogue river about 3 miles below the mouth of Mule creek. There are 3 principal veins, Mule mountain, Big Devils Stairs creek, and Keystone veins. The country rock of all the veins is greenstone.

"The Mule mountain vein is developed by a 25-foot open cut 12 feet wide, an 86-foot shaft and several smaller cuts. The strike of vein is N. 60° E. and dip 60° SE. The vein is made up of about 1 foot of nearly solid quartz and about 2 feet of vein material heavily impregnated with iron. The 3 feet of quartz and iron bearing material is mined and milled in the 2-stamp mill and cyanide plant on the property. This 3 feet of ore is reported to average by sampling about \$7.25.

"The Big Devils Stairs creek vein is 500 to 600 feet northwest of Mule mountain vein. This Big Devils Stairs creek vein is from 1 to 4 feet wide in the lower workings which splits up in the upper workings to several veins over a width of 4 feet and still higher up they fan out to 15 feet wide with several 1-foot veins and many smaller ones in between. These are quartz iron-stained veins with some pyrite and chalcopyrite. Separate mill runs recovered \$26.80 and \$18.00. Vein samples over 7 feet 4 inches assayed \$13.37; another one over 9 feet 2 inches assayed \$13.67, according to reports.

"The Keystone vein is a shear zone mineralized from a few feet wide to a maximum width of 20 feet or more. It is similar to Big Devils Stairs creek vein as shown in open cuts and tunnels. Assay values reported to be from \$2.50 up to about \$100.00."

Ref.: Parks & Swartley, 16:159

PARADISE MINE (gold)

Mule Creek District

"Owned by G. W. Billings and others. It is near line between T. 32 and 33 S., in R. 10 W., on west side of the southern peak of Saddle mountain near the top and about 6 miles by trail from the mouth of Mule creek at Rogue river. Elevation 3200 feet.

"Property developed by drifts about 300 feet long on a broken faulted vein in greenstone which strikes N. 85° W. and dips 60 to 70° southwest and is from a few inches to 4 or 5 feet wide consisting of much quartz and vein material with some cross-faulting of vein. Values stated as averaging \$10 per ton in gold with some high grade bunches." Ref.: Parks & Swartley, 16:177-178 (quoted)

RED RIVER GOLD MINING & MILLING COMPANY

Mule Creek District

"Office: Indianapolis, Indiana. Albert Izor, Pres.; Thos. F. Harrington, sec.; Chas Lilly, Treas., all of Indianapolis, Ind.; Jonathan Brown, Agent, Marial, Oregon. Capital stock, \$1,000,000; par value \$1.00; \$933,800 subscribed, issued and paid up. (1910 report).

"This property is reported to be in the possession of Geo. M. Cheney, of Indianapolis, Indiana, and W. H. Corwin, of Marial, Oregon, the sole active bondholders. The former owns most of the bonds and the latter has an option upon the property and is developing it. There are 10 quartz and 10 placer claims. The quartz claims are on Mule Mountain north of Rogue river and west of Mule creek and the placers are on these streams nearby.

"There is about 250 feet of tunnels besides open cuts upon the quartz claims on a shear zone in greenstone consisting of many small quartz stringers over a width varying from 10 to 50 feet and averaging 20 feet wide. The value for the full width is said to be about \$3 in gold. The placer claims are on both banks of Rogue river as well as on lower Mule creek. The bedrock is slate and is about 20 feet above the river.

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RED RIVER GOLD MINING & MILLING COMPANY (continued)

The deposit consists of about 30 feet of fairly coarse gravel covered over with 35 feet of fine material. Water is brought to the penstock by a 4-foot flume $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long which cost \$80,000. From 4 to 8 6-inch giants are used accord... to season and are operated under 180 feet head. It is said that the gravel averages about 9 cents per cu. yard."

Ref.: Parks & Swartley, 16:192 (quoted)

ROGUE RIVER MINES

Mammoth

Mule Creek District

This property is located on a branch of the Rogue River three miles from the post office of Marial, Oregon. The property is reached by road to Grants Pass or Glendale which are stations on the Southern Pacific Railroad. The end of the present constructed road is five miles from the property. The surveys for next year's construction come within one mile of the property. This will make transportation from the mine to the railway by road a distance of forty-five miles. This road will afford cheap transportation for supplies and mine products and with the favorable climatic conditions, operations can be conducted throughout the year.

There are three lode locations in the group. The property has been worked by the present owners during the past ²² ~~twenty-five~~ years. The annual work has been recorded. The title is clear and there are no conflicts with other claimants.

There are no improvements, with the exception of one arrastra, and one small cabin. The development consists of several surface cuts along the outcrop of the vein, with one level driven approximately one hundred feet along the strike of the vein and fifty feet below the outcrop.

The general rock formation consists of a series of schists, slates, and quartzites intruded with numerous porphyry dikes. The strike of the formation is approximately north and south, with a nearly vertical dip.

Tuckers

*11/18 Mammoth
Benton Boggs
about 1914*

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ROGUE RIVER MINES (continued)

The vein is a quartz filled fissure cutting the rock formations. The outcrop can be traced for approximately three hundred feet, where it becomes covered with rock slides. The strike is north 23° east with a dip nearly vertical. The width of the vein over 200 feet of the exposed outcrop is thirty inches, the remainder of the distance is approximately 18 inches. The hanging wall is a hard silicified slate, while the footwall is the same but much fissured and brecciated.

• The quartz is frequently banded structure with some oxidation but seldom indicating over one percent of sulphides. The value is gold, the higher percentage being free. The concentrates carry high gold values. Milling tests made on this ore gave a very satisfactory recovery by amalgamation and concentration. It is probable that flotation will also give very satisfactory results.

The character of the ore and wall rock permits cheap mining of clean ore where the vein is small, the footwall can be mined by stripping the ore, which can then be taken out afterward. The waste material could be left in the stope as filling.

The outcrop, open cuts and level drift indicate there are two separate oreshoots. The one exposed on the south drift is approximately fifty feet in length with the ore showing in the heading. The ore is of excellent grade. Between this level and the outcrop the samples indicate there should be not less than 300 tons of ore that will average more than \$50 per ton. The vein and ore continues in the bottom of the drift as well as the heading. The outcrop above this heading is covered by slide. From this oreshoot northward along the drift as well as the heading the samples indicate rather low grade ore. However, along the outcrop of the vein, northward from a point directly above this

ROGUE RIVER MINES (continued)

heading, there are several open cuts which show the vein to be of good width and very satisfactory grade. From the first open cut the sample over 18 inches in width gave more than one hundred dollars per ton. This extends for approximately 20 feet where it becomes covered with slide rock. Beyond this slide rock the cuts expose the vein averaging 30 inches in width and giving very good grade milling values.

West Fork ^{of Mill} Creek crosses the property, affording satisfactory mill site and an abundance of water for all purposes. There is a water power site and an abundance of water for all purposes. There is a water power site on the property and several in the vicinity. From the present level to the mill site is a distance of fifteen hundred feet. A surface or two bucket aerial tram would prove satisfactory for transporting the ore from the mine to mill.

The general operating conditions are favorable. The low altitude is assurance of a very equable climate. A few inches of snow is quite unusual and freezing weather is uncommon. The serious transportation problem is being eliminated and within a short time fuel oil, gas and other supplies will be on the same basis as in other southern Oregon districts. There is an abundance of timber for all purposes, with an ample supply of water at all times of the year. There is no electric power available, however, there are several very favorable water power sites and for smaller plants, the cost of Diesel Oil or Butane can be purchased at the terminus of the road as in other southern Oregon points.

The general geological conditions are favorable. The development work is quite limited, consisting of one hundred feet of drifting on the vein on the 50 foot level. The southern ore shoot is but partly developed and the north heading has not been advanced to the north ore-shoot. The character of the vein and oreshoot on this level indicate

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ROGUE RIVER MINES (continued)

permanency. The property will not develop into a large operation but should be productive of a considerable tonnage of very profitable ore.

The tests that have been made on the ore give ample assurance that a very satisfactory recovery of the gold values can be secured by simple milling methods. The total cost of mining and milling of the ore should not exceed \$5.00 per ton.

The method of development should be the sinking of a shaft near the south end of the present level. This will determine the permanency and value of the oreshoot exposed on this level, to the depth of the shaft. This shaft should not exceed seventy-five feet in depth. A new level can then be driven, which will require 200 feet of crosscut to give 100 feet below the present level. This new level will give 150 feet of backs on the south oreshoot and 250 feet of backs on the north oreshoot. With the development of the two oreshoots on this new level, the installation of a milling plant with minimum capacity of 30 tons per day would be fully warranted.

This project has real merit. The capital to complete the development is quite modest, and there is every assurance of very profitable returns for several years of operation.

Informant: John M. Price.

WINKLE BAR (placer)

Mule Creek District

"Diller describes this property as follows:

"Nearly a mile below the mouth of Ditch creek and 26 miles below Galice, on the right bank of Rogue river, is a large terrace known as Winkle bar. It contains perhaps 30 acres. The slate bed-rock terrace rises about fifteen feet above low water in the river, and is capped by 20 to 30 feet of gravel which is generally coarse, half of it consisting of boulders over 5 inches in diameter. A small placer operated here some

WINKLE BAR (placer) (continued)

years ago and a test shaft encourages the Winkle Bar Developing Company to plan for larger operations. Ditch creek, with a few miles of ditch, will supply water with a head of 120 feet. The gold is fine and will require special precaution for its recovery."

Ref.: Parks & Swartley, 16:237,238

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