

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland 5, Oregon

**BIG BEN CLAIMS (Au)**

Sixes River District  
Curry County

**Old name:** These claims are sometimes referred to as Divelbiss' Rusty Butte properties. At one time they were owned by Bob and Bert Harrison.

**Owners:** Ed Divelbiss  
Sixes, Oregon

A. C. MacDonald  
Port Orford, Oregon

**Area:** Three adjoining claims, all held by location.

The claim owned by Mr. MacDonald adjoins and lies west of the southernmost claim of two owned by Mr. Divelbiss.

**Location:** In the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of sec. 23, T. 32 S., R. 13 W. Near the head of Rusty Creek, a tributary of the South Fork of the Sixes River.

Access to the area is by graveled road up the Sixes River to just below the Avery Ranch and then by Steep mountain trail for approximately 5 miles. The elevation near the Avery Ranch is around 360' and on the ridge between the Sixes River and the South Fork it varies from 1,850' to 2,200'. Approximately 2 miles of the trail follows a narrow ridge.

**Topography:** The main workings of these claims are on both sides and just above a small creek that joins Rusty Creek from the north. Near the junction of the streams is a small flat on which a cabin was built; otherwise the area is one of steep slopes.

Average relief in the surrounding area is on the order of 1,500-2,000'. According to the topographic map of the Port Orford quadrangle, the higher peaks are about 2,400'-3,000' and the ridges are from 1,800'-2,000'. Elevation at the claims, according to the topographic map, is about 1,300'.

The topography indicates that this area is in the early maturity or late youthful stage of dissection.

**Geology:** According to the Port Orford folio (U. S. Geol. Survey Geologic Atlas 89) these claims are in sediments of the Myrtle formation near a contact with gabbro. The gabbro is intrusive into the Myrtle formation and both are considered to be Cretaceous in age.

Mineralization is in shear zones in argillite. Ore minerals are gold, silver, galena, pyrite, and chalcopyrite. Gangue minerals are quartz and calcite.

The workings on MacDonald's claim and the southernmost claim of Divelbiss' are within a few hundred feet of each other and are either on the same shear or within a general zone of shearing. The exposure in the cut above the caved

tunnel on MacDonald's property shows a zone of shearing about 12' wide. The footwall at this point strikes N. 60° E. and dips 65° N.W.

The drift on Divelbiss' claim which is approximately 50' lower and 100'-150' northwest of the exposure on MacDonald's claim trends N. 75° E. into the hill. Across the creek to the west of these exposures is another drift that has well defined walls about 3'-4' apart. The strike of the shear zone here is S. 75° W. and the dip is vertical.

White massive calcite with sulphides is found in 2"-8" veins in the shear zone on MacDonald's property. Calcite is also prominent in the 40', S. 75° W. drift on Divelbiss' claim. Small quartz veins and quartz intergrown with calcite are also common in both of these exposures.

Development: There is a drift whose portal is caved near the center of the west end line on MacDonald's property. It was reported that this drift trends N. 45° E. and is approximately 125' long. Above the caved portal is a cut 15'-20' wide and the same high.

Divelbiss has a drift on his property a short distance below and to the northwest of the above drift. This drift is 80' long and trends N. 75° E. At the end of the drift is a 28' crosscut to the left. Across the creek to the west and a short distance below this drift is a small cut in sheared argillite that is 6' wide, 6' high and 4' deep. About 30' above and 100' to the west of this small cut is a 40' drift that trends S. 75° W. The first 10'-20' of this drift has been stepped to the surface and at the portal there is a 15'-20' trench several feet deep that follows the mineralized zone down the hill. It was reported that a few thousand dollars in gold had been taken from this trench-drift.

Just below all these workings and in the small creek that runs through Divelbiss' property is a shed that has a small Gibson elliptical roll mill. The capacity of this mill is reported to be around 1200 #s in 8 hours.

Samples: At the time of the inspection seven samples were taken. Samples 1 through 3 are from MacDonald's property and Samples 4 through 7 are from Divelbiss' property. Below are the results of the assays.

<u>Sample #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Results</u>
1 (P-9890)	From a 6" calcite vein on the right wall in the cut over the caved portal. Sample length - 1'.	Au - 2.30 oz. Ag - 0.30 oz.
2 (P-9891)	On the right side of the shear zone exposed over the caved portal. Sample in brecciated argillite cemented with quartz and calcite. Sulphides, dominantly pyrite, prominent. Sample length - 3'.	Au - 0.32 Ag - Trace
3 (P-9892)	Continuation of Sample #2 across the shear zone. Sample in sheared argillite containing pyrite and occasional quartz and calcite veinlets. Sample length - 5'.	Au - 0.08 Ag - Trace

<u>Sample #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Results</u>
4 (P-9893)	Across the right wall of the 28' crosscut at the end of the 80' drift. Sample in sheared, badly fractured argillite. Sample length - 30'.	Au - Nil Ag - Nil
5 (P-9894)	From the face of the small cut on the west side of the creek. Sample in sheared argillite; included in the sample was a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam of pyrite. Sample length - 4'.	Au - Trace Ag - Trace
6 (P-9895)	From the bottom and on the right side of the small open cut. Chip sample from 8" wide streak containing abundant pyrite. Seam cuts across open cut S. 75° W. Sample length - 1'.	Au - 0.10 oz. Ag - Trace
7 (P-9896)	From face of 40' drift above and to the west of open cut. Sample in sheared argillite cemented by quartz and calcite. Sulphides prominent. Sample length - 4'.	Au - 0.14 oz. Ag - Trace

Report by: H. M. Dole

Date of visit: May 20, 1950

Date of report: June 1, 1950

Visited by: F. W. Libbey, H. D. Wolfe, H. M. Dole

Infermant: J. Arlie McLeod

References: U.S. Geol. Survey Geologic Atlas 89, Port Orford folio, by J. S. Diller

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Supplementary Report on the Big Ben Claims, Sixes River District, Curry County

Note:

Mr. Ed Divelbiss has informed the Department (Oct. 1950) that the mine report of June 1, 1950 on the Big Ben claims does not cover all the major development work that has been done. It appears that the guide who took the Department investigators in was not familiar with the whole property. As a result only part of the workings were found. Because of this, it is thought that the June 1, 1950 report should be considered as an incomplete report on the property.

H. M. Dole

RECORD IDENTIFICATION

RECORD NO..... M061368  
RECORD TYPE..... X1M  
COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION. USGS  
DEPOSIT NO..... ODGM1 93-109  
MAP CODE NO. OF REC..

REPORTER

NAME..... JOHNSON, MAUREEN G.  
UPDATED..... 81 02  
BY..... FERNS, MARK L. (BROOKS, HOWARD C.)

NAME AND LOCATION

DEPOSIT NAME..... BIG BEN  
SYNONYM NAME..... RUSTY BUTTE, HARRISON

MINING DISTRICT/AREA/SUBDIST. SIXES RIVER

COUNTRY CODE..... US  
COUNTRY NAME: UNITED STATES

STATE CODE..... OR  
STATE NAME: OREGON

COUNTY..... CURRY  
DRAINAGE AREA..... 17100306 PACIFIC NORTHWEST  
PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROV..... 13 KLAMATH MOUNTAINS  
LAND CLASSIFICATION..... 41

QUAD SCALE            QUAD NO OR NAME  
1: 62500            POWERS

LATITUDE            LONGITUDE  
42-46-16N            124-12-14W

UTM NORTHING        UTM EASTING        UTM ZONE NO  
4735900.0            401500.0            +10

TWP..... 32S  
RANGE..... 13W  
SECTION.. 23  
MERIDIAN. WILLAMETTE

COMMODITY INFORMATION

COMMODITIES PRESENT..... AU    AG    PB    CU    AS    AS

PRODUCER(PAST OR PRESENT):  
MAJOR PRODUCTS.. AJ

ORE MATERIALS (MINERALS, ROCKS, ETC.):

GOLD, SILVER, SALENA, PYRITE, CHALCOPYRITE, ARSENOPIRYTE

ANALYTICAL DATA (GENERAL)

VEIN SAMPLE ASSAYED 2.30 OZ/TON AU; 0.30 OZ/TON AG

EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

STATUS OF EXPLOR. OR DEV. 8

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT

DEPOSIT TYPES:

VEIN/SHEAR ZONE

FORM/SHAPE OF DEPOSIT: SMALL VEINS

SIZE/DIRECTIONAL DATA

SIZE OF DEPOSIT..... SMALL

MAX WIDTH..... 12 FT

STRIKE OF OREBODY.... N60E

DIP OF OREBODY..... 65W

DESCRIPTION OF WORKINGS

SURFACE

PRODUCTION

YES

SMALL PRODUCTION

ANNUAL PRODUCTION (ORE, COMMOD., CONC., OVERBURD.)

PRODUCTION COMMENTS.... A FEW THOUSAND DOLLARS

GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY

AGE OF HOST ROCKS..... JUR

HOST ROCK TYPES..... ARGILLITE

PERTINENT MINERALOGY..... QUARTZ, CALCITE GANGUE

LOCAL GEOLOGY

NAMES/AGE OF FORMATIONS, UNITS, OR ROCK TYPES

1) NAME: GALICE

AGE: JUR