

John Day Placer - see Mansporth Placer

Fidd
PRINCIPAL ORE

MINOR MINERALS

6/46

SW13 or NW14 32 1/2 mile east Canyon City
T R S

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

Mant COUNTY

Canyon AREA

3000-4200 ELEVATION

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

..... ROAD OR HIGHWAY

..... DISTANCE TO SHIPPING POINT

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S)

Address

OPERATOR

Name of claims Area Pat. Unpat.

Name of claims Area Pat. Unpat.

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY

JOHN DAY (Placers)

4
Canyon Area
Canyon/District

Since 1933 name changed to Beckett and Hall, which see.

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STATE GEOLOGY
& MINERAL IND.

5/30/38

PLACER SUMMARY

1. Present name of property: John Day Placers (until 1934); now Beckett & Hall Placers
Operating company (or individual): C. W. Hall, Portland, Pres.; W. C. Beckett, Portland,
Mine mgr.

Address: Canyon City

County: Grant

Location: Area comprising old Marysville Placer including Long Gulch, Windlass Gulch,
Rich Gulch, and Quartz Gulch, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles E. of Canyon City.

Area of holdings: 1600 acres--840 under lease; 760 deeded property. Stock company of
5 shareholders--all Portland people.

2. History of property - past and recent:

Past history involved in Marysville heyday--in which thousands of yards of ground
moved with giants. Present activity involves the working of these old tailings as well
as virgin ground by means of giants and by the use of a washing plant with alleged capa-
city of 500 yards per day.

3. History of production - yardage moved and bullion shipped:

Past production unavailable. Present company has moved 75,000 yards during past two
years. Expenses of operation only return. Bullion returns not given.

4. Development - acres mined, exploration of drilling, shafts, cuts:

Alleged $1/3$ mined--ground has been greatly dissected by past operations leaving areas
of virgin ground surrounded by pits and sluice ways--probably low pay. Pit testing alleged
to prove 5,000,000 yards from 15¢ to \$1.90. They hope it will average 50¢-60¢--no actual
averages struck.

5. Water rights - number of ditches, length, priorities, water allowed by law,
amount actually used (average), length of mining season, av. date begin mining
in fall, av. date mining ends in Spring, etc.:

Purchase water from Hillas ditch (surplus), cost: \$100.00 cash, \$100.00 work on ditch
and 4% of gross returns from property on which water is used each year; (approx. 40"); have
two other ditches supplying 40" under lease and bond. Begin mining around April 15; water
gone about July 1--present plans call for a reservoir system to operate 6-8 months. In-
definite as yet. Water comes from Strawberry Range--snow conditions control at present.

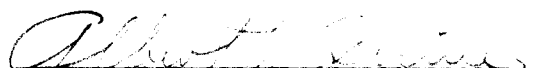
6. Geology and General Description: - Elevation above sea, gulch or flat operation, top-
ography, character of bedrock, kinds of country rock, nature of gravel, nature of
gold, amount of clay, and boulders, nature of gold, source of gold, winter snow con-
ditions, etc.: Elevation 4200' down to 3000'. Two gulch operations, one pit. Country
rock serpentine and altered gabbroid rocks. Gravel size of head and smaller. 2 to 6' of
overburden where ground is virgin. Medium sized gold grains to fine --some coarse--fine-
ness alleged to be 900. Gravel beds appear to have been formed in back eddy of Quartz
Gulch at its confluence with the ancient South Fork of the John Day. Quite likely all of
the gold came from the Canyon Mt. area through Quartz Gulch and its subsidiaries. Coarse
gold found in Marysville *p. 17*.

7. Equipment - pipe, giants, etc.:

3 giants--2 No. 1, 1 No. 2. 2000' of 7" to 15" pipe. Pressure head at pit--200#--
Long Gulch--80#--washing plant--45#.

8. Remarks - economics: High or low cost, principal drawbacks, reasons for success
or failure, apparent life of operation based on quantity of gravel, etc.:

Contracting all their dirt moving at 30¢/yd.--however, they feel they'll make a profit
on their washing plant as the dirt from Long Gulch is supposed to average \$1.37. However,
I feel their ground has not been properly tested. The races in the bottoms of Long and
Windlass Gulches should be profitable as unbiased reports state that the gravel tailings
run from 50¢ to 75¢/yd. If the gold was in the gravel there is sufficient yardage for
many years operation. Reservoir system must be constructed before a great deal of profit
is made.


Albert V. Quine, Mining Geologist

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

John Day Placers, Buffalo Gold Dredging Co. holdings

Canyon District
Grant County

Old Name: Western Gold Dredge Co. This company maintained an office in John Day. Prominent directors included Ben Eddleson, Portland, Oregon; Sanford Lonegart and E. C. Styskel, San Francisco, California.

Operator-Owner: Buffalo Gold Dredging Co., 582 Market Street, San Francisco, California and Mt. Vernon, Oregon, Box 56. Mr. E. E. Check, Mining Engineer, is president. Mr. Paul Clemmons is superintendent in charge of operations.

Location and Area:

The dredge is now in T 13 S., R 30 E., Sec 28. This is on the John Day River directly north of Mt. Vernon. Unworked placer ground owned or otherwise controlled by the company is situated in the sections traversed by the river channel as it progresses to the west from the above mentioned section. Out right ownership is claimed for about a 6 month reserve of workable ground. It is this land that is currently being worked. Mineral rights are owned for an estimated (and additional) two and a half year reserve. These mineral rights cover the river channel and rate increasingly doubtful in grade with progress to the west.

History: Several different placer operations have been conducted on the John Day River and in the tributaries there to. The latest of these was the present set-up under the ownership of the Western Dredging Co. This company was one of the few gold mining

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companies to resume operation in eastern Oregon after the late war. This operation terminated after but a short period of activity. It is generally understood that the operation was discontinued because of refusal of the county to permit the dredge to cross a county road and in deference to other difficulties attendant to the anti-dredging movement as then expressed by various groups. The circumstances under which the present operation was started are obscure and the writer was unable to obtain any clear or coherent statement on the subject from either company or county officials interviewed. At any rate, dredging was resumed on April 25th, 1949 and since has progressed across the county road.

Geology:

The placer channel is reported to average 300 feet in width. It follows the present river channel closely. The gravel contains occasional boulders in excess of a foot in diameter, but for the most part cobble size falls in the 5 to 6 inch bracket. Fines are mostly sands with a minimum of clay. Soil reportedly varies between 8 to 14 inches in thickness. Average depth to bedrock about 12 feet. Gold is fine in size.

Equipment:

The dredge is a bucket line unit which rates as a 6 foot boat. It is diesel-powered with sluices only for recovery purposes. Under present operating conditions the boat can handle about 4000 cubic yards / 24 hours.

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Economics: The tract of ground now being worked (that estimated as good for six months operation) averages \$0.28 per yard. The ground occurring on down-river averages around \$0.18. Present cost of operation with a 13 man crew is \$0.13 cents per yard. Pre-war cost of operation averaged \$0.09 cents. The company plans to work the higher grade ground with the present equipment, but they are currently sampling a property in Idaho with the intent of moving the dredge. The tentative plan is to work the remaining marginal ground with doodle-bug equipment should future economic conditions permit doing so.

Report by: N. S. Wagner
Date of Exam: May 16, 1949
Date of Report: May 23, 1949
Informant: Paul Clemmons

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PORTLAND, OREGON

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John Day Placers: Buffalo Gold Dredging Co.

Canyon District
Grant County

Old Name: Western Gold Dredge Company.

This report is supplement # 1 to a report under the above title by NSW, 5/23/49.

General: The operation referred to in the original report was discontinued in the late fall of 1949. This action was in line with a plan to work a proven tract of good value ground with the existent equipment, thereby retaining an acreage of lower ground in unspoiled condition for possible eventual operation with doodle-bug equipment.

The company has looked at several placers in Oregon and in other states as well. One of the Oregon areas reportedly under consideration was the Middle Fork of the John Day River in the vicinity of Susanville. The company's future plans are, however, unknown.

Report by: N.S. Wagner
Date of report: March 13, 1950

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