

Prairie Diggings

OLD NAMES

Gold
PRINCIPAL ORE

MINOR MINERALS

3 mi. E of Canyon

T _____ R _____ S _____

Grant..... COUNTY

Canyon..... AREA

ELEVATION

ROAD OR HIGHWAY

28 mi. Seneca..... DISTANCE TO
SHIPPING POINT

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

14B:34 Oregon Metal Mines handbook
Swartley 14:205
Northwest Mining Journal April 1935

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S)	Address
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

OPERATOR

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.
6 claims			X

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.
.....
.....
.....
.....

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY

PRARIE DIGGINGS

CANYON CIT
REGION
CANYON DIST

(See Canyon Gold Quartz Veins)

From: NORTHWEST MINING 4/35

PRAIRIE DIGGINGS quartz gold mine, four miles east of Canyon City, Oregon, is being examined by Kenneth E. Harms, Portland mining engineer, representing capital which is ready to install a mill if the examination gives sufficient encouragement. This mine has an interesting history, starting as a placer discovery in 1862 when it was worked by a party of Germans. Among them was the late F. C. Sels who later operated a brewery in Canyon City and amassed a fortune through his investments in eastern Oregon. Mr. Sels often told friends of the extreme richness of the placer mines. He said that for a period of some days their party of four averaged cleanups of several thousands of dollars a day operating only with ground sluice methods. This placer ground originated below an immense body of quartz material some five hundred feet in width and which has been uncovered for a distance of over half a mile in length. After the placer operators had worked out the best of the overburden a young fellow by the name of J. A. Laycock came in to the camp from Virginia City, Nevada, where he had assisted in building and operating mills on the old Comstock Lode. He discovered that the quartz at Prairie Diggings contained gold values that looked worth while. Accordingly in the year 1864 he organized a company and built a ten stamp mill. The first month's run of this mill netted the owners more than \$26,000.00 The partners then disagreed and the mill was closed down for several years. Again Mr. Laycock re-organized them and another run was made which showed good values. Again two of the partners engaged in a quarrel as to how the mine should be run and it was again closed and the ground divided.

(over)

6/11

Hines
Helmer | 5 Stamp Mill | 12⁰⁰ per ton

Concentrates 3750 - shaft 60 ft.

3 ft vein 6500

water ran them out

Frank Stivers - 20 Stamp mill

Hazlett
