

NEW DREDGE AT JOHN DAY TO BE RUNNING NOV. 15

Dredge Is Bucket Type
Designed To Dig
25 Feet Deep

**COST OF PLANT
ABOUT \$250,000**

Weldon, Former Sumpter
Dredge Man, Has Man-
agement for Western
Dredging Company.

Construction work on the new gold dredge being built at John Day for the Western Dredging company is being pushed rapidly and the boat will be completed ready for operation November 15 it is reported.

The new dredge is an all-steel structure, with the most modern dredging machinery. The hull is 42 by 86 feet. It is designed for digging to a depth of 25 feet. The buckets, of which there are 72 on the digging ladder have a capacity of 6 cubic feet each. Power is furnished by two Diesel engines. The approximate cost of the plant ready for operation is given at \$250,000.

A crew of 50 men has been employed in the construction work and in operation 20 men will be on the pay roll working in three shifts.

The boat will be under the management of G. A. Weldon, an experienced dredge operator who is at John Day, awaiting completion of construction and installation of the machinery. Mr. Weldon is well known in Baker and Sumpter, having been with the Powder river Gold Dredging company for several years when that company operated a gold dredge at Sumpter.

Mr. Weldon estimates the new boat has ground for four years' operation. It is being built at John Day and included in the land to be dug up by the boat is a portion of the Trowbridge ranch adjoining the John Day townsite.

*Eastern Ore. News Baker
11/5/37*

Completion of the all-steel, Diesel-powered, bucket-type dredge now under construction for the **Western Dredging Com-**

OREGON

pany is expected very soon. The dredge is said to have 72 six-cubic-foot buckets and a 25-foot depth capacity. G. A. Weldon and R. A. Drea are at John Day, Oregon, in charge of company interests. Operations will be on the John Day River in Grant County near John Day.

The Mining Journal Sept 15 1937

A new type of bucket dredge, Diesel-powered, is being built by the **Western Dredging Company** which is planning operations on the John Day River near John Day in Grant County, Oregon. R. A. Drea, John Day, is superintendent.

Arizona Mining Journal
- Sept. 13, 1941.

It is reported that the Western Dredging Company of John Day, Oregon, will move equipment from the Oliver property to the Mount Vernon district where placer property has been acquired from Leslie Holland and Henry Herburger. The company, S. Lowengart, 1400 Folsom Street, San Francisco, president, is equipped to handle 5,000 yards of material daily. E. C. Sty-skel, 1400 Folsom Street, San Francisco, is secretary-treasurer and general manager. A. W. Williams, John Day, is general superintendent.

Canyon Area
Grant Co

The **Western Gold Corporation** started regular production September 8 at its new dredging ground near Granite, Oregon. The company acquired about 400 acres at the confluence of Granite and Clear creeks, but carried on an ~~operation~~ near Golden, Idaho, before moving the dredge and other equipment to Oregon. A new steel hull was built to replace the wooden hull of the dredge and the operation will probably be electrified. S. K. Atkinson, Box 2120, Boise, is ~~president~~. Three shifts are employed.

Lawton, Ghost Town Is Now Being Dug up for Gold in Gravel

Once a townsite with visions of becoming a thriving city two miles west of Granite, at the junction of Clear and Granite creeks, the old townsite of Lawton, is now being dug up with a dragline dredge—in other words the old town is being "doodlebugged."

S. H. Atkinson of Idaho, has installed a dragline dredge and his plant is now working washing gold from the gravels which but for the turn of fate might have been lying under such streets as Spokane avenue, or the business houses of the town.

Well, the town never got any place, so it's better that the gold be taken from the gravel and the tailing piles left to mark the place of one of the ghost towns of the Blue Mountain Gold fields.

Record-Courier, Baker, June 9, 1938

**WESTERN GOLD STARTS
IDAHO DREDGING JOB**

Western Gold corporation of Boise has just started dredging on the south fork of the Clearwater river in Idaho between Santiam and Rabbit creeks with a 300-yard dragline dredge. The same company is acquiring dredge ground in Oregon and Montana also.

Mining & Contract. Review Jan. 25 1933

Grant County

The Western Gold Corp., Boise, Idaho, is acquiring 400 acres of dredge land on Granite Creek and Clear Creek in Grant County near Granite. S. K. Atkinson, Boise, is president.—Eastern Oregon News.

Baker

The Western Gold Corporation, Boise, Idaho, has filed intention to operate in Oregon with headquarters at Baker for dredging operations.

The **Western Gold Corporation** of Boise, Idaho, is reported to have leased property near Granite, Oregon, from Black Hanson.



Sidney Campbell of Granite is in charge of testing for the company which plans to install a dragline and other equipment in the spring. The claims cover about 400 acres at the confluence of Granite and Clear creeks. Earl W. Murphy of Boise is one of the officials of the company and S. K. Atkinson, Box 2120, Boise, is also said to be interested.

400 ACRES OF PLACER LANDS FOR DREDGING

Idaho Company Takes
Over Dredging Ground
Near Granite

**TESTING INDICATES
30c PER YARD VALUE**

Conditions Found Generally Favorable for Economical Operation, Says President.

The Western Gold corporation, an Idaho company of which S. K. Atkinson of Boise, is president, is completing a series of mining deals involving large acreages of mineral lands in Idaho, Montana and Oregon, according to a recent story in the Idaho Statesman.

The lands included in Oregon comprise 400 acres of patented dredge land in Grant county on Granite and Clear creeks. They cover the old Lawton townsite and the Milwaukee meadows, near Granite.

During November and December the company's prospecting crew tested out a portion of this property with good results reported. Preliminary prospecting indicates a total of approximately three million cubic yards of dredgeable material in this tract with average values of about 30 cents per yard.

"Conditions are generally favorable for an economical dredging operation," Atkinson said. "There is plenty of water in both creeks, even during the dry season; there are no boulders that would bother, the gravel is of even depth to soft bedrock, which can be easily cleaned, and a high tension power line runs across the property.

"About 16 miles of forest service and county road connects the property with Sumpter, and about 30 miles of graveled road connects Sumpter with Baker."

Gold was first discovered in that section on July 4, 1862, by a party of California placer miners enroute from California and southern Oregon to mining excitements at Florence, Idaho. They found gold on Granite creek near the junction of Bull Run creek and established a camp which they named Independence, as the find was made on the 14th of July. They never reached the Idaho mines.

Benches and bars were mined, but in many places the creek channels were not worked. It is the latter places the dredge company is planning to work.

*Eastern Ore. near Baker
11/21/38*

Mining & Contract. Review Dec. 21 1937

Grant Caswell

The Western Gold Dredge Corp., Granite, expects to be in full operation next spring, according to S. H. Atkinson, head of the company carrying on extensive testing in the district.

The boys doing the prospecting for the Western Gold Dredge corporation gave a party in honor of S. H. Atkinson and daughter. Mr. Atkinson is the head of the company. Dancing was the principal entertainment of the evening. Lunch and punch was served and a very enjoyable evening passed.

mining operations. The first speaker was J. W. Tabor, mayor of Granite, who introduced Mr. Atkinson and "presented him with the key of the city" in the most hospitable manner for which this old time mining camp is noted. Mr. Atkinson in his remarks gave us to understand that his tests so far have been very satisfactory and that he is of the opinion that his company will get into full operation next spring. He also stated that he inspected several buildings in the town with the view of securing living quarters and a place to store material of the company. Sealy Carson in his remarks stated he is confident that the Greenhorns will take on new life with the opening of the 1938 season. Mr. Pierce in a forcible manner made it plain that gold dredging along the creeks of this section of the country is sure to go ahead and will be profitable for the companies operating.

It appears that the Western Dredging company of Boise has turned over the Lawton and Milwaukee placers to a John Day company which has started prospecting the claims using a Keystone drilling machine. The crew left for the holiday vacation, with the exception of Carl Campbell. He remained for the Christmas doings here.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith have returned from a visit to their daughter in Washington.

Miss Neva O'Dair is home for the holidays from the St. Francis academy in Baker.

Quite a number of options have been given on Placer properties in the district to S. F. Campbell of John Day. Options were taken on Bull Run creek above Granite and Boulder creek owned by B. G. Austin, Jess Elliott and others and on Beaver creek owned by Liden, Allen, Chase and others.

Dec. 9, 1937

Says Granite Creek All Under Options

Sid Campbell was here this week from the old mining camp of Granite, once the metropolis of Grant county, and released the statement that dredging operations for gold will be the activity that will, in a big way, probably start the revival of mining in this old, historic camp, during next spring and summer.

Mr. Campbell has supervised the testing of the ground acquired, under lease, from Black Hanson, by the Western Gold Inc., of Boise. They have 400 acres in this option and the first thing in the spring as soon as weather conditions permit, a drag line will be assembled and additional units added to supplement the work, and it is within the plans to install, in addition to this, a standard-type dredge of the bucket design.

Mr. Campbell will continue the prospecting of the ground until winter closes in.

The ground held by the Western Gold, Inc., is about two miles below the old town of Granite at the confluence of Granite and Clear creeks. Granite creek is all under option and it is the belief of Mr. Campbell that it will be dredged and likewise the tributaries of the creek, and that this operation will stimulate the reopening of many of the hard rock mines of the district that made this one of the famous mining camps of the west 40 years ago.

Mr. Campbell is making his headquarters at Granite and he predicts that many of the streambeds, the short gulches and ravines will all come within the interest of mining men, because equipment is now available to work ground which otherwise was regarded as unprofitable. — Blue Mountain Eagle.

Production is being continued by the **Western Dredging Company** of Nevada, which operates at John Day, Oregon. Preliminary work ahead of the dredge is done with a Caterpillar D6 tractor, equipped with bulldozer and winch. The dredge has 72 buckets, 28 of which dump per minute. Edward C. Styskel, 1400 Folsom Street, San Francisco, is secretary.

For three weeks during September the **Western Dredging Company** at John Day, Oregon, suspended operations to permit the complete overhauling of their Diesel engines by the Atlas Imperial Diesel Engine Company. The engines had been in continuous operation for the past three years. Work was resumed September 24 on a 24-hour basis. S. Lowengart is president and E. C. Styskel is secretary-treasurer and general manager, both of 1400 Folsom Street, San Francisco. A. W. Williams, John Day, is general superintendent and Abbot A. Hanks, 624 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, is chief chemist. A crew of 18 men is employed and 5,000 yards of material handled daily.

It is reported that the **Western Dredging Company** of John Day, Oregon, will move equipment from the Oliver property to the Mount Vernon district where placer property has been acquired from Leslie Holland and Henry Herburger. The company, S. Lowengart, 1400 Folsom Street, San Francisco, president, is equipped to handle 5,000 yards of material daily. E. C. Styskel, 1400 Folsom Street, San Francisco, is secretary-treasurer and general manager. A. W. Williams, John Day, is general superintendent.

Western Dredging Will *M/W.* Move Down John Day *Sept 1941*

Reports from John Day, Ore., say that the Western Dredging Co., operating a Walter Johnson dredge, has completed digging in the immediate vicinity of the town, and that the dredge will be moved some miles downstream to additional ground near Mt. Vernon. Operation of this 6-cu. ft. dredge was described in some detail in the issue of this journal for April, 1940.

It is reported that the **Western Dredging Company** of John Day, Oregon, will move equipment from the Oliver property to the Mount Vernon district where placer property has been acquired from Leslie Holland and Henry Herburger. The company, S. Lowengart, 1400 Folsom Street, San Francisco, president, is equipped to handle 5,000 yards of material daily. E. C. Styskel, 1400 Folsom Street, San Francisco, is secretary-treasurer and general manager. A. W. Williams, John Day, is general superintendent.