

Paker Democrat Herald Sept. 26 1940

Oroplata Dredge  
Camp Carson Dist  
Union County

## Mining Company Starts Dredging

LA GRANDE, Or., Sept. 26.—(AP)  
—The Oroplata Mining company's  
big gold dredge began operation

on the Grand Rounde river near  
Mount Emily camp this week and  
workers predict it will turn out a  
gold brick about every two weeks.  
The dredge will operate 24 hours a  
day.

The Oroplata Mining Company, headed by S. K. Atkinson, Box 2120, Boise, Idaho, is reported to be moving its dragline dredge from Granite, Oregon, to property on the Grand Ronde River in the Camp Carson district of Union County. The company has worked the ground at Granite for the past two years and has recovered all available values. S. K. Atkinson, Jr., is mine superintendent and will move from Granite to La Grande. *MS - 9/30/40*

## OROPLATA MINING CO. UNION COUNTY

*OMR Oct 1940*

Union County now has a producing mine in the operation of the Oroplata Mining Company on the Grande Ronde River 46 miles from La Grande. It is a dragline dredge digging and washing about 3000 cubic yards of gravel per day.

The Oroplata plant operated for three years on Granite Creek below Granite in Grant County. After washing out the ground held in that section the company moved to the new setup during the summer, and has now been in operation several weeks.

S. K. Atkinson, Sr., of Boise, is head of the company and reports he is well pleased with the new location where he will have several years of operation.

One of the new improvements made is a water grade road made down the river from the camp to the highway, a distance of seven miles. This will give them a winter road, while from Baker the new camp is 44 miles on the road via Anthony Lake over a mountain divide.

A problem encountered in the new location has been the large proportion of sand in the gravel carrying fine gold. Mr. Atkinson states this has been largely overcome by putting copper plates along side the trommel where much of the fine gold is caught in amalgam. The plates are covered with expanded metal riffles.

In addition to the plates and usual riffles two "boil boxes" are used, which are giving good results.

A comfortable camp has been built with many modern conveniences, including electric lights, showers, baths and other luxuries not usually found in isolated mining camps.

A large Northwestern dragline shovel is used in digging the gravel with the washing plant of Bodinson type floating on pontoons.

S. K. Atkinson, Jr., is at the camp in charge of operations. Mail for the new camp is addressed to Oroplata Mining Company, Box 915, La Grande, Oregon.

At its former location the Oroplata Mining Company worked over about three miles of Granite and Clear Creeks starting about two miles from Granite. The old Lawton Townsite, one of the ghost towns of 1900 in that section, was worked over.

## Oroplata Doodlebug Moves to Grande Ronde

S. K. Atkinson, president and general manager of the Oroplata Mining Co., in September moved its equipment from Granite Creek, near Granite, Ore., to a location on the headwaters of the Grande Ronde River. The new ground is only 17 miles north of the Granite location, but the dragline and washing plant had to be hauled 150 miles to reach it.

Ground acquired on the Grande Ronde is said to be sufficient for from four to five years of operation. It was necessary for Oroplata to build five miles of road to get equipment on the ground. The placer is adjacent to the old Indiana mine, which once yielded heavily, and includes Muir Creek, where earlier placer operators found good diggings.

*mining World 10/140*

PROPERTIES IN ADDITION TO THOSE  
DESCRIBED

*Camp Carson District:*

Blue Channel  
Camp Carson Mining and Power Co.  
Muir  
Pay Boy  
Royal  
Indiana

*Medical Springs District:*

Puzzle

Ref. Lindgren, 01:676, 677

*Pg 113-14A*

The **Oroplata Mining Company** began dredging operations at the new location on September 23, 1940. Present operations are in Union County on the Grande Ronde River near La Grande, Oregon. About 3,500 cubic yards of material are being handled daily, work being on a three-shift basis seven days a week. It is estimated that there is sufficient gravel for operations at this rate for the next four or five years. The company recently moved from Granite and will make supply headquarters at La Grande. S. K. Atkinson, Box 2120, Boise, Idaho, is president and general manager and S. K. Atkinson, Jr., is dredge superintendent at La Grande. The recovery equipment includes an amalgamating plant.

*MS-10/20/40*

*Vertical  
Baker*

**Mine Firm Changes Name**

(D. J. of C.—April 28, 1939)  
Salem, Ore., April 27.—The U. S. Gold Company of Granite, on orders of the federal government, today changed its name to the Oroplata Mining Company. The government attorneys held that no one but the United States had the right to use U. S. in relation to gold.

*{ Granite  
Grant*

*Portland Journal of Commerce  
April 28, 1939*

*ing - (Baker District)*

## QUARTZ MINES TAKE ON LIFE NEAR GRANITE

Porter Gold Dredge Nears  
Completion and Soon  
Ready to Dig

### INSTALL MACHINERY AT THE MORRIS MINE

Gilliam Finds Good Showing at Old Cap Martin Claim, Install Machinery at Continental.

It has been many years since so much mining activity has been noted in the Granite district west of Sumpter.

In the first booms in the Granite district the start was made by placer mining. The placer miners were followed by the hard rock boys and quartz mining got under way with a number of discoveries that became well known through the country and piled up production records.

So it is at this time much interest is being shown in dredging ground. The Porter company has been constructing a bucket dredge on Bull Run creek two miles above the town of Granite. This is nearing completion and will be digging in a few days.

Attention is also being given to quartz properties. One of these is at the New York mine on Granite creek about four miles from Granite. Here Frank Hancock has a cyanide plant with which he has been making a good recovery of values and the mine is making a good showing.

At the Morris mine, which is west of Granite high in the Greenhorn mountains on the head of Clear creek, Herbert E. Sheseley and associates are making preparations for working during the fall and winter. The road to the mine has been put in good condition. New buildings are being built, and mining machinery consisting of engine, compressor and necessary tools are being installed.

At the Cap Martain, one of the well known claims on Granite creek near the old Monumental mine, the owner W. A. Gilliam, has been doing development during the summer, and recent developments have been most favorable. Mr. Gilliam was the discoverer of the Ben Harrison and other well known properties in the Greenhorn sections. He feels greatly encouraged over the recent showings at the Cap Martin.

A compressor and other equipment for mining was recently hauled into the Continental mine in the Crane creek section of the Granite district. The continental was opened up by tunnel and other development a number of years ago. At that time promising showings of ore were opened up and work done in recent years has added to this showing.

## Baker Men Lease 7,000 Acres Placer Land Near Whitney

The mineral rights of 7000 acres of potential placer ground have been leased from the Oregon Lumber Company by Bill Beckwith, landlord of the Geiser Grand of Baker, and Fred Banes, the former announces.

The acreage covered by the lease lies on Three Cent, Dry, Gimlet, Antelope and Camp creeks, near Whitney, forming a part of the Burnt river drainage area. The Oregon Lumber company in its operations, cut the timber off the land many years ago. Later the land was deeded back to the government and is now included in the Whitman National Forest. However, the company retained the mineral rights on returning the land to the government.

Beckwith and Banes will test the ground and investigate the possibility of developing water with which to carry on operations. The preliminary work will be confined largely to the Dry creek section, where they feel they will be able to get sufficient water from the bedrock flow for a dragline shovel dredge. They have secured an Erie Shovel and washing plant.

All the streams coming under their lease were worked more or less by the early day placer miners and are known to have produced considerable gold in those days. The shortage of water for hydraulic mining was a handicap at the time. Gimlet creek which is included in the lease was worked in the early seventies and it is from this stream that the largest gold nugget ever found in Eastern Oregon - valued at \$15,000 - is said to have been taken.

The Log Cabin Mining company, will probably be the name under which the operation will be carried on, Mr. Beckwith said.

## Oraplata Mines Co. Digging Near Granite

The Oraplata Mines Company operating a dragline dredge on Granite creek below Granite is now digging on the old Milwaukie placer property. The company of which S. K. Atkinson of Boise, Idaho, is the head, has been operating more than a year.

The start was made in 1938 on the old Lawton townsite. After digging over a large part of the townsite the dredge started working down Granite creek and now has moved more than a mile down the stream.

An electric shovel was installed during the summer with a 4-yard bucket, and with this improvement the work was speeded up considerably.

## Oraplata Mining Company Dragline Dredge Near Granite

*OMC Feb 1940*  
The Oraplata Mining Company operating on Granite Creek in Grant County operated continuously during 1939 and has started 1940 with an increased capacity over the fore part of 1939. A year ago the company was washing about 65,000 cubic yards of gravel per month and today the total is 100,000 yards a month. An additional investment in equipment of about \$55,000 was made to make the increased production possible.

A new Northwest model 95 dragline that swings a three-cubic yard ESCO bucket on a 60-foot boom, two new 160 horsepower Murphy diesel engines, one on the dragline and one on the dredge, and a new RD77 caterpillar and bulldozer.

The company has dredged out most of the old Lawton townsite on Clear creek at the junction of that stream with Granite Creek, and from there down Granite Creek and is now working on the old Milwaukee placer ground.

A crew of 17 men is employed in the operation. S. K. Atkinson, Sr., of Boise, Idaho, is president and manager of the company and S. K. Atkinson, Jr., is superintendent of the operation.

*2/10/40*  
The Oroplata Mining Company, S. K. Atkinson, Box 2120, Boise, Idaho, president, is reported to have made a recent test shipment of black sand concentrate to the Pacific Mineral Recovery Company plant at Happy Camp, California. S. K. Atkinson, Jr., is mine superintendent of the Oroplata concern which operates a dredge near Granite, Oregon.

*OMC July 39*  
*OMC Nov 1939*  
Oroplata Mining Company—The corporate name of the U. S. Gold, Inc., operating what is generally known as the "Atkinson dredge," near Granite, has been changed to the Oroplata Mining Company. The company is a subsidiary of the Western Gold Corporation of Boise, Idaho. The plant of the company is handling around 3000 cubic yards of gravel per day and employs around 18 men. The company has been operating since last fall. S. K. Atkinson, Jr., is superintendent at Granite, and S. K. Atkinson, Sr., Box 2120, Boise, Idaho, is president.

*OMC Nov 1939*  
Oroplata Mining Company—The progress of this Company in its operations along Granite creek below the mouth of Ten Cent Creek shows the plant in handling a large yardage of gravel. The new four-yard electric shovel installed during the summer is handling 3000 cubic yards a day. S. K. Atkinson,

### DRILLS and SERVICE

Jr., is superintendent of the operation and a crew of about 18 men is employed. The company's camp is located on the old Lawton townsite two miles from Granite. In the year's operation of the company the greater part of the townsite has been dug up and at present the plant is a mile and half below Lawton.