

*Idaho Mining Journal*  
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The **Murphy-Murray Company**, which recently dismantled its equipment at Footh Creek near Gold Hill, Oregon, will operate the Williams ground on Ditch Creek, tributary of Pleasant Creek, in Jackson County, Oregon. It is estimated that the company will have about five years work at the new location. H. B. Murphy of Boise, Idaho, is a company official and James B.

Murray of Rogue River is in charge of operations.

MURRAY - MURPHY Jackson Co. (gen.)  
(general)

Oregon Journal March 17 1940

# Gold Operations Hum in Oregon

## Activities Indicate Production Will Set New Mark This Year

MEDFORD, March 16.—The lure of yellow metal, gleaned in the past from prospect holes and sluice boxes throughout Southern Oregon, will result in a higher production figure this year than at any time during the last half century, is the prediction of mining observers here who have witnessed the varied parade of operations over a period of more than 50 years. While their figures have been based on unofficial reports and information leaking from the sources of production, their accuracy in the past has been noteworthy.

### High-Powered Dredges Replace Old Operations

Although a large number of prospectors, many taking advantage of Oregon's "grub stake" law which finances single ventures, are still tramping through the hills, sleek, modern and high-powered dredges have quietly replaced the old-time operations and are taking out hundreds of dollars weekly. Dredging maneuvers are being conducted on several different fronts where additional outfits are known to be testing parcels of ground.

Outside capital is providing the financial backing for the majority of the larger dredges. The operations provide employment for local residents but production returns for the most part are sent out.

### Returns Reported Good

Largest and newest of the dredges is operated by the Murray-Murphy company on Foot's creek, in the north end of Jackson county. This outfit was installed at a reported cost of \$150,000, but is located on what is considered some of the richest ground in this section. No report as to financial returns has been given out by officials, but unofficial sources indicate that they are producing in excess of \$2500 per week.

The dredge employs a total of 25 persons and is working on three eight-hour shifts. The company has sufficient ground to maintain operations for approximately seven years.

Other dredges are operating on Thompson creek, Graves creek, another on the other fork of Foot's creek, Forest creek and in the Aplegate section.

The Forest creek dredge has been quietly operating for more than four years and has reportedly removed more than \$350,000 in gold.

### Still Going Strong

Hydraulic mining, in full swing at the turn of the century, is still going strong in several Southern Oregon sections. Sterling mine, probably the oldest and best known in this field, is being operated regularly by a large crew and is still one of the best gold producers in the valley. Hydraulic operations are also being conducted on Humbug creek, southwest of here, and on Sardine creek, near Gold hill.

Observers report that it is difficult to secure adequate ground at present time as options on the more choice lots have already been taken. Testings are being made regularly and prospects of additional dredging operations are considered good.

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MURPHY-MURRAY COMPANY (dredge)

Upper Applegate Dist.

Jackson County

The **Murphy-Murray Company** is employing 25 men and installing dredging equipment on Footh Creek near Gold Hill, Oregon. A four-foot bucket type dredge will be used and completion of installation is expected soon. The dredge is new, built by the Washington Iron Works of Seattle. The ground was acquired and tested by James B. Murray of Rogue River, Oregon, who is associated with George E. and Harry B. Murphy in the present company. The Murphy brothers also operate two bucket-line dredges in southern Idaho. Operating headquarters for the Murphy-Murray Company are at Rogue River.

*Do not include*

April 1st, 1941.

The Murphy-Murray dredge is discontinued operations on middle fork of Fooths Creek and the dismantling of the dredge began about March 24th. They do not plan on dredging the ground along the left fork but will dispose of it to some "doodle-bug" outfit. (RCT)