

Arizona Mining Journal
Oct. 22, 1941

Upper Applegate
Jackson Co

The Hayfork Gold Dredging Company, which has been operating on Forest Creek, north of Ruch, Oregon, has moved to Applegate River because of an inadequate water supply. Equipment is all Diesel powered, and includes a 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -yard dragline dredge with a capacity rating of 2,500 yards daily. Charles C. Stearns is in charge of operations.

Hayfork Dredging Co.
Upper Applegate Dist

Training Journals Mar. 15, 1940

The floating washing plant formerly used by the Hayfork Dredging Company has been taken over by C. C. Stearns and H. W. Carlson, who are operating in the Applegate district near Medford, Oregon. Equipment includes a 1½-yard Lima drag-line.

March 4, 1941, the dredge is working up Forest Creek and is now on ground formerly worked by the B-H dredge. They are working ground which was not stripped by the B-H dredge along the margins of the channel. (RCT 3/4/41)

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August 8, 1941, the dredge has been moved to the Applegate River, upstream from the Crescent Pacific boat. It is understood that this move is temporary, pending return of water to Poorman Creek. Prior to this move, the boat (on Forest Creek) has dredged across the B-H tailings and had started up Poorman Creek a distance of about ¼ mile. (RCT 8/20/41)

HAYFORK

Modern Placering Where Oregon Mining Began

EVERY mining operation has its problems. Some are peculiar to the property; others are characteristic of the camp or district. Their successful solution may result in widespread development in a region—and this seems to be taking place in southwestern Oregon, where there is a notable increase in placer operations, particularly those predicated upon dragline shovels and floating washing plants.

Most of the new operators have come up from California. The problems they are meeting, and solving, in southwestern Oregon have to do essentially with scarcity of water during the summer months and early fall.

This was the situation faced by the Hayfork Gold Dredging Co. on Forest Creek near Jacksonville, Ore.

The company is working up Forest Creek, using a Lima dragline to dig and deliver gold-bearing gravel to the grizzly of the Bodinson floating washing plant, one of the early models. Last December the Hayfork company started operating in Oregon on Thomas creek, having recently moved from Trinity county, Calif., where



for three years it had carried on this same type of operation. Early in May of this year the outfit was moved to Forest Creek.

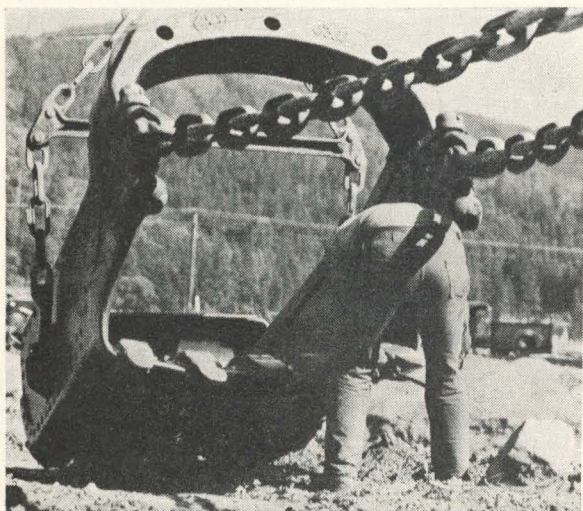
As the water supply diminished during the summer, it became more and more evident that something would need be done about a supplementary water supply, or the operation would have to shut down. The creek water finally became so low that a small dam was put in upstream from the dredge to hold the water as it collected. It was then run to the dredge by a gravity hose to save the water otherwise lost in the run-off from the bottom of the creek bed. A well was also drilled for supplying water for the duration of the dry period. Conveniently enough, a power

The Lima dragline, powered with a "Caterpillar" D13,000 diesel, which does the digging for the Hayfork Gold Dredging Co. It is equipped with Broderick & Bascom pre-formed "Yellow Strand" wire rope and swings a 1 1/2-cy. bucket from its 45' boom.

line is going in adjacent to Forest Creek where the well is situated. An order was placed for a Fairbanks-Morse electric deep-well pumping unit. This will have a minimum capacity of 200 gpm. and a maximum of 400 gpm. when pumping from the 125' well.

It is expected that the pumped water supply will be adequate to permit continuation of operations even though the creek should go dry. Of course the water supply is handled with care and is conveyed directly to the dredge pond by hose. The pond is confined on three sides by the newly dug bank as the operations progress up the stream bed and on the other side by the tailings dump, keeping the water available for floating the washing plant and providing a source of water for washing the gravel as it goes through the washer.

The power supply for the mining machinery has been standardized to give a maximum of efficiency at minimum maintenance and operating cost. A small investment in spare parts and supplies is carried in stock just in case of a breakdown—an im-



Changing a tooth on the heavy duty Esco bucket, made by the Electric Steel Foundry Co., used in the Hayfork Gold Dredging Co. operations. The bucket is of 1 1/2-cubic yards capacity and handles about 1,500 yards a day.



Hayfork's Bodinson washing plant, with the Esco bucket just discharging into the hopper. The washer is powered with a D8,800 "Caterpillar" diesel engine.

portant item when machinery is to be operated three shifts a day without allowing the engines to cool. Any time needed for repairing is taken directly from actual operating time.

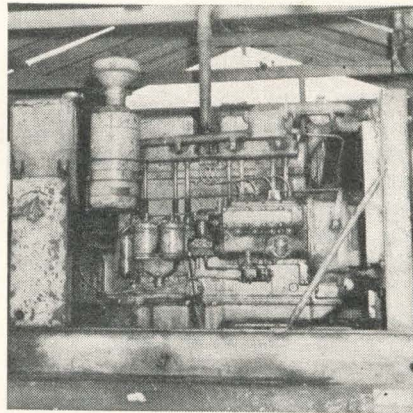
In standardizing power units the company has installed "Caterpillar" diesel engines. A D-8800 6-cylinder engine supplies power for the boat. A D-13,000 on the Lima shovel; and a diesel engine is used to operate the "Caterpillar" 75 tractor.

Gravel enters the Bodinson washing plant through a 9½ by 10' grizzly made of 8" encased "I" beams, and is washed into the trommel, which is 48" in diameter and 24' long. The holes in the trommel screen are ¾" diameter at the feed end, and increase in size and frequency to the discharge end where they are nugget slots—having been cut out with a torch. This is a 7-slucie washing plant with one boil box for each riffle. The tailings are conveyed out the 50' stacker frame on an endless rubber belt.

The washing plant is fed by a Lima dragline, using a 1½-yd. heavy duty Esco bucket. The boom is 45' long, being kept short because the gravel is rather shallow. Beneath the 2-5' of overburden there is 8-9' of gravel on bedrock. Some 1400-1500 c.y. of gravel per day are handled by the Lima-Bodinson combination.

This tractor, which is used in clearing ground, hauling and general "bull-cooking" around the Hayfork lay-out completes the all-"Caterpillar" powering of this operation. Dragline, washing plant and tractor all carry "Caterpillar" diesels.

Broderick & Bascom preformed "Yellow Strand" is used on the Lima



dragline. The machines are lubricated with Standard Oil Co. lubricants, and operated on Shell Oil Co. diesel fuel.

The "Caterpillar" 75 diesel tractor is equipped with a LeTourneau bulldozer especially suitable to clearing brush and trees from the land as well as removing the overburden.

Since the mine is located some distance from any city, equipment has been provided for making almost any repairs that might become necessary. A Roe electric welding machine has been mounted on a Ford truck chassis, model "A" vintage. This permits moving the equipment to whatever part of the operation is in need of repairs.

Charles Stearns is manager, treasurer, and secretary of the company. He says the Forest Creek site offers a possible three years of operations. The Jacksonville district is one of

The "Caterpillar" D8,800 diesel engine which furnished the power for the screen and pumps on the Hayfork Gold Dredging Co. washing plant, one of the early model Bodinsons.

the oldest placer camps in the west, discovery of gold having been made in the vicinity in 1849. It was not until 1851, however, that mining was actually started. This was on Jackson Creek, and the town of Jacksonville grew quickly. The diggings yielded richly for a time, then declined, but have been mined to some small degree more or less continuously ever since.

