



OREGON PLACER PROPERTY

Field of Operations.

Its field of operations includes the famous Applegate Mining District, Josephine County and Jackson County, Oregon. This district is recognized as among the safest and most assuring mining sections of the United States. Its location is 16 miles from Grant's Pass, the County Seat of Josephine County, Oregon, a city of 8,000 population on the Southern Pacific Railroad. This district is a continuation of the Northern California placer deposits and has the same geological condition. The first discovery of gold in Oregon was made in this locality, on Josephine Creek, western Josephine County, May 2, 1851, and it has been a large and constant producer of gold for more than sixty years.

The gold is of the highest grade mined, being nearly pure in its native state and won the Grand Prize at the Panama Pacific International Exposition at San Francisco in competition with the world's greatest mines.

Properties.

These properties consist of a consolidation of three placer mines, known as The Gold Nugget Placer Mine, the Fullion King Placer Mine and The Noonday Placer Mine, all adjoining and constituting one solid block of four hundred acres, a portion of which formerly was a part of The Layton Mine, having been owned and operated by the late J. F. Layton, founder of the Layton Estate, situated in Applegate Mining District.

Description of Mines.

A description of these properties is contained in the following reports:

From United States Geological Survey  
Bulletin 546, 1914.

On the Layton Mine the average thickness of the gravels is about 25 feet. In much of the material the pebbles are less than 6 inches in diameter and are generally subangular. The largest boulders are in the bottom of the deposit and in places are considerably decomposed. The gold in general is in small flakes, but nuggets are also found. The early miners had a small ditch with a head of 100 ft., but Mr. Layton put in two ditches, the upper of which is 21 miles long and the lower 18 miles. The water of both ditches comes from Williams Creek. Two giants are used under a head of about 300 feet. Five men are generally employed, and the amount mined off each year is somewhat more than 1 acre.

From Report of Adolph Maier, Mining Engineer.

The property is located 16 miles from Grant's Pass, Oregon, 2 1/2 miles from Applegate Post Office, with rural delivery mail and

Telephone on the property. It is easily reached by automobile, stage or other conveyance and is about three miles from the right-of-way of the Grant's Pass and Rogue River R.R. which is to build to the Josephine County Caves.

It has water-rights out of the east fork of Williams Creek, covering about 2000 miner's inches. This water-right could easily be used to irrigate two or three thousand acres of agricultural land during the summer season, for which the farmers will pay \$5.00 per acre per season; and dig their own laterals. There is plenty of water in the ditches just as they are, to irrigate two thousand acres and run two dredges at the same time; while with a few hundred dollars spent in development work on the water-rights enough water could be had to run one or two giants during the irrigating season.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES

This part of the state is very productive with a number of different resources. Water is abundant; the hills are covered with valuable timber and rich with gold, copper and other minerals, while the gulches are rich in placer gold and the valleys rich and well adapted to agriculture the winters are mild, there being no severe frost or freezing and conditions are ideal for the placer miner.

#### TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION

The gulch in which this property is located dips north to the Applegate River. The elevation at the river on the lower end of the property is 1220 feet; one mile south, the elevation is 1385 feet, and two and three quarters miles south the elevation is 2100 feet.

The country in the immediate vicinity is hilly and slopes easily toward the river, where opens up the beautiful and fertile Applegate Valley.

#### GEOLOGY

The country rock is granitoid and schist conglomerate with slate as bed-rock. In the immediate vicinity of this property are quartz mines; among the most prominent of which are the Strong Ledge, Mountain Lion, Bone of Contention, Exchequer and the H. H. H. Mines, all being gold producers.

#### WATER SUPPLY

The water supply comes from the entire north slope of the Gray Back Mountains; from the water-shed of the east fork of Williams Creek and its tributaries, which drain a vast area of country controlled by high and low line ditches that go with and are a part of this property.

#### DITCHES

There are two ditches; the high line ditch is twenty-three

...iles in length. It has its intake at the extreme western fork of the east fork of Williams Creek and it drains the entire north slope of Gray Back Mountain for a distance of four miles where it drains the entire north slope of Gray Back Mountain for a distance of four miles where it discharges into Pipe Gulch.

The combined waters of Pipe Gulch and the ditch are conveyed over Thompson Creek by a 36 inch pipe line 600 feet in length which discharges into an open ditch leading to the mine. This ditch is 3' x 2' x 4", with a carrying capacity of 600 miner inches.

The low line ditch is sixteen miles in length. Its intake is in Corral Creek in which empties all water having its source between this ditch and the high line ditch, which is of sufficient capacity to carry all available water; a part of which finds its way into the low line ditch.

The low line ditch has a capacity of 1000 miner inches, being 4' x 5' x 3'. Both ditches are constructed on the proper grade and are in fair condition.

#### BED ROCK

The Bed-rock is slate, highly decomposed, laying fairly level and very rough, standing on edge. In places it comes within five feet of the surface. Its character is such that it may be penetrated for five or six inches with a pick.

#### GRAVEL

There are no large boulders, rarely anything being found larger than 12 inches in diameter. The gravel lies in strata from six inches to several feet thick, sometimes divided by smaller strata of decomposed reddish granit.

#### SURFACE

The surface is rolling, gradually sloping into the gulch from both sides and toward the Applegate River. From the surface to bed-rock the gravel depth varies from five to forty feet.

#### RESERVOIRS

There are three reservoirs on the property having a combined total capacity of one million one hundred and twenty thousand feet.

#### GOLD

The gold is very evenly distributed throughout the gravel examined.

The ground tested in various places has shown uniform values which may be conservatively stated as 40 cents per cubic yard. The gold is rough and coarse and does not appear to have traveled far. The source of the same is undoubtedly the range of mountains to the

'south and west, from which the streams take their source and from the hills and mountains traversed by numerous ledges of free milling ore lying in the immediate vicinity.

Just before reaching bed-rock the heaviest gold is encountered. Nuggets ranging in value from a few cents up to \$125. are frequently deposited in the sluice boxes.

The 100 acre tract of dredging land is exceptionally rich in gold. Shallow shafts sunk to bed-rock have shown values of from \$7.00 to \$10.00 per cubic yard, the gold being worth \$18.50 per ounce.

#### EQUIPMENT

The equipment consists of blacksmith shop; riveting machine; one five room dwelling house; one, one-story and a half dwelling house; containing 5 rooms; usual outbuildings; one cabin; 4000 ft. Belgium iron pipe; 7 to 34 inches in diameter; 3 giants of various sizes; one tall race flume 870 feet long; one main sluice flume several hundred feet in length; 2 barns; 3 reservoirs; about 40 miles of ditches, all of which have cost about \$45,000.00.

#### SUGGESTIONS

I would recommend the following changes:

- (a) The building of suitable diversion dams at intake of ditches.
- (b) Enlargement of both ditches to capacity sufficient to carry all water belonging to water-rights;
- (c) The installation of small hydro-electric plant at mine for lighting.
- (d) Installation of electrolytic sluices for recovery of finer values in place of under-currents.
- (e) Installation of dredge of 2500 cubic yards capacity on low ground, to be selected at your descretion.

Respectfully submitted.

(Signed) Adolph Maier, M. E.

Or Lands  
ait Lands

Mines

Irrigated Lands  
City Property

W. R. NIPPER

603 G Street

Grants Pass, Oregon, July 7, 1915.

Mr. Austin Wilson,  
Grants Pass, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Allow me to congratulate you on having acquired such a valuable property as the Layton mine. You certainly deserve great credit in your selection of a mining property, and for the faithful work you have done while looking over our mineral resources. I have known this property for twenty five years and consider it one of the best mines in Southern Oregon. I consider the water and water rights together with the ditches, well worth \$50,000.00 to the farmers of Williams Creek.

There is plenty of water to run the mine night and day all the year. They have one thousand feet fall from the upper ditch, a splendid show to generate electricity to light the mine and buildings by using the same water that is used for mining.

I have been informed that the ditches would cover five thousand acres of tillable land that has no other means of irrigation other than water from these ditches. This land would be worth three times its present value if they had water for irrigation.

Mr. J. T. Hartley a prosperous farmer of Williams Creek asked me to try and buy the water from the Layton heirs for the farmers. He told me he would pay twenty five thousand dollars for the water, but at that time they were holding their price at forty five thousand dollars.

Grants Pass should own this water for the City, as it is the only available water from a pure mountain stream that can be had to reach the city. So I say I congratulate you on your judgment, and if you ever want to dispose of the water, let me know and I will take the matter up with the farmers or the City.

Hoping you will make the success you deserve

I remain,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) W. R. Nipper.

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### RICH PLACER MINE HAS BEEN SOLD

#### The Old Layton Mine is Transferred to Boston People

The famous Layton placer mines changed hands for the first time since the late J. T. Layton commenced to operate them, over forty years ago.

Attorney George W. Colvig, Administrator of the J. T. Layton estate, sold all of the Layton placer holdings, which amounted to over six hundred acres, to Austin Wilson, of Boston, Mass. Mr. Wilson now has a full crew of men working in the mine under the management of Lester Layton, who has had full charge of the mine since his father's death, working the same under the instructions of the Administrator. This sale is made subject to the confirmation of the Jackson County Court.

It is Mr. Wilson's purpose to consolidate this property with four hundred acres adjoining and belonging to the Pacific Placer Company of Boston, Mass. The ditches cover all of the Pacific Placer's holdings.

There are three separate mines on the Layton holdings, one on Bamboo gulch, one on Whiskey gulch, and the present operations on Ferris gulch. The Layton holdings and the Pacific Placer holdings control the whole of Ferris Gulch.

Nature has not always been careful to combine good ground and good water rights; she did, however, in the case of J. T. Layton's properties on the Applegate. To be sure the conditions even here supplied by nature required some revision, and it took a small fortune to do it, but it was done and the Layton water rights are known as numbering with the best three or four in southern Oregon, and therefore, the best three or four in the state.

Up to the time that Mr. Layton began to acquire his holdings by the purchase and consolidation of the Kubli, Bolt, Hudson, and Coldwell's interest in the Ferris gulch in 1868 and 1869, these properties had been worked by pick and shovel or ground sluiced. What is known today as the lower Layton ditch was at that time used to supply the noted Williamsburg diggings. This ditch (5x4x2 feet and a grade of three-eighths inches to the rod) was extended from Whiskey creek for three miles and a small giant started to working. This ditch is taken from the west fork of Williams creek and is eighteen miles in length.

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OREGON PLACER MINES, INC.

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Mr. Austin reports that he has operated this plant, successfully, in California, and that he has a second plant, similar to this one in operation down there. He hopes to bring it to Oregon in the near future. He also reports that he was sent to Oregon by the Glide Foundation when they were on Poorman Cr. and that he quit them as they did not permit him to run the job but wanted to run it for him.

The ground is being tested by means of test pits, and he has tested the full 4 mile length of the stream channel. At present, pits are being sunk to prove out actual working areas. He feels that the ground mined will average 35¢ per yard, and that his recovery costs will be about 12¢ a yard.

The plant is mounted on this truck chassis, and braced with heavy structural steel members. The entire plant is supposed to be as mobile as any large truck will be. He ~~plant~~ plans on moving the equipment, readily and freely; during the Galis Cr. water season he will move to the upper part of the stream, and save the lower end for mining during low water when water will be pumped from the Rogue River.

It seems to me that his bedrock will be quite rough. He states that it is soft and easily dug, and it may be. The "porphyry" is probably more like the meta-sediments of the Applegate series than a true igneous rock -- however there may be igneous rock in here. "Reefs" are numerous in the form of outcrops. If this mobile plants really functions, it is probable that he will be able to sneak in between reefs and clean-up. The pumping of water from the Rogue River is not an attractive feature.

The black sand he has saved from test pits is reported to average 2 lbs. per yard, and assays \$52 a ton in gold. I understand that his black sands will go to Gold Hill for processing. He will save them by means of an undercurrent on the plant.

Austin claims to have operated placer and dredge properties for a number of years. He also claims to be a 1904 graduate of University of Oregon.

Ray C. Treasher,  
October 1st, 1940.

March 4, 1941

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland, Oregon

OREGON PLACER MINES, INC.

GOLD HILL AREA

The Zimmerman's have taken over the Company and Austin is no longer connected with it. It was not Austin's money that started operations. They feel that Austin is not an operator but is a good "tester". They claim that the plant was rebuilt 5 times, from the rubber tired truck arrangement to its present set-up.

Note that the sluices are some distance from the plant. This is so the plant may be moved without disturbing the boxes. Water is still a problem, and when they begin pumping 2000 feet it will be an ~~ins~~ item.

I suggested settling ponds for settling muddy water and also for re-circulation of water for the washing plant. Gave them data on the muddy water situation.

They have quite a bit of black sand. Dines & Von Goerlich are going to play with their black sands, using a jig.

Ray C. Treasher,  
Field Geologist,  
March 4, 1941.

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