

State Department of **RECEIVED** Geology and Mineral Industries RS 11
MAR 28 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

STEARNS AND OWENS PLACER UPPER APPELATE JACKSON COUNTY
(Old name: Hayfork Gold Dredging Co.).

Operator and lessee:

Charles C. Stearns, and Douglas E. Owens, 522 West Fourth St.,
Medford, Oregon.

Owner of property:

Alaska of Oregon, Seattle, Washington

Location:

Secs. 11 and 14, T38S, R3W. The property is located on Poorman
Creek about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above its junction with Forest Creek. It is
just off of State Highway 238 approximately 3 miles north of Ruch
and 4 miles south of Jacksonville.

Area:

The area to be mined is approximately 200' x 2000'. All
on patented land.

History:

This is the continuation of the mining of this creek by dragline
which Stearns and Owens started before the war (see Bull. 14-C,
Vol. II, Sec. 2, pg. 164). The area has been worked for many years
by hand methods and probably covers some of the earliest worked
ground in Southern Oregon.

Development work:

The ground was tested by pits before the war.

-2-

Geology:

This is a gulch type placer.

Wells (DOGAMI map series #2 and 5) maps this area as meta-volcanics. A mass of metasediments is found approximately 1 mile to the east and the Chico formation is exposed at the summit of the ridge 1 mile to the north.

The bedrock here is of metavolcanics as are most of the boulders. In places it is quite difficult to dig and may offer some obstacles for successful dredging.

Gravel averages 10', with a maximum of 15' and a minimum of 4'. There is very little clay. Average size of boulder is 2'.

Overburden is practically nonexistent.

Gold is fine and runs around \$60 in fineness.

Mining:

Mining and recovery of gold is by conventional dragline-floating washing plant methods.

Gravel is dug at the rate of approximately 100 cu. yds. per hour, two 8½ hr. shifts, six days a week.

Each shift has four men. Other employees consist of a welder and a groundsman.

Equipment:

Dragline--Lima 702--1½ cu. yd./ Boom--60'.

Bucket--Esco Heavy Duty Mining, 1½ cu. yd.

Boat--size, 30' x 32'; 4 wooden and 2 steel pontoons. Trommel--4½' x 25' with 16' of punched and rolled perforations from ½" to ¾".

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Stacker--2' x 50'. Power plant--UD 18 International. Pump--8".

Accessory equipment includes a Lincoln welding rig, D8 Cat, Chev. pickup and shops.

General Information:

Water is sufficient for operation until June. However, it is to be noted that this is a very dry year.

Gradient of stream about 100' to the mile.

Commencement date--Feb. 14, 1947.

Economics:

Ground has averaged around 35¢/yd.

Because of the steep gradient of the creek difficulty has been had in keeping the pond for the boats.

If the ground warrants it, dredging will continue above the high water but because of a high bedrock at that place and necessity of building a bridge the outfit is considering pulling the dredge out when the "reef" is reached. If this is done the present ground will be worked out in another six weeks.

This has been a "tough luck" operation. They have experienced considerable difficulty with breakdowns in equipment and maintaining a full crew. They figure they will be doing good to make a fair profit on the operation.

Note:

Because of Mr. Stearn's objection to publicity this report has been written as confidential. However, within a few months this

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

-4-

classification can be dropped. In the meantime please don't make a liar out of me.

Informant:

Douglas E. Owens

Report by:

H. M. Dole, March 26, 1947.

#####

CONFIDENTIAL