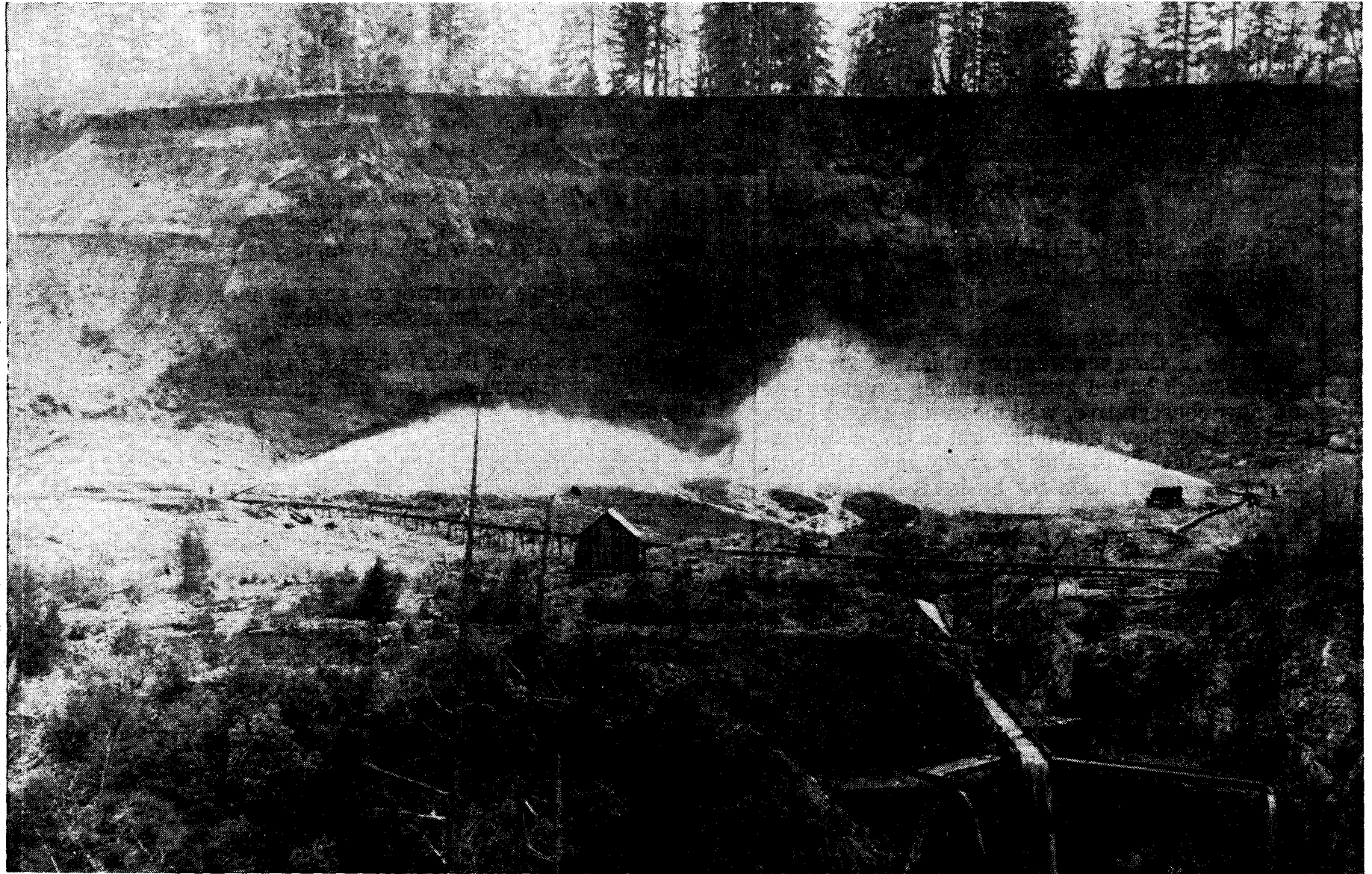


Old Channel Among Largest Hydraulic Mines



Showing operations at the Old Channel mine, with two "giants" trained on the base of the gravel bank. This breaks down the bank by undermining it below, allowing the material to wash into the sluce which may be seen in the right foreground. The "fines" are caught by the riffles and the coarse material passes on and down the fall. The elevated pipe line carrying the water to the "giants" may also be seen.

Two leases were recently let on the Old Channel placer ground on Galice Creek in Josephine County, Oregon. The property is controlled by A. R. McGuire of Galice who is in charge of operations. Curt Hudson holds one of the new leases and Vic Olson the other. Both are of Galice.

Handwritten note:
Hudson & Olson

Mining & Contract. Review Jan. 18 1938

According to A. R. McGuire, Galice, two more units of the Old Channel mine have been leased, one to Curt Hudson, the other to Vic Olson.

Old Channel Mine



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worked well

Old Channel Mine

Grants Pass Courier, January 27, 1937

OPERATION HIGH ABOVE RIVER BED

From the standpoint of ditch capacity, the pressure under which the water is used and the size of the deposit, the Old Channel mine in the Galice district, 500 feet above the Rogue river, probably ranks as one of the largest hydraulic operations in the United States. A. R. McGuire is the present operator. The mine was formerly owned and operated by J. R. Harvey who still retains an interest in it.

Rehabilitation work was started May 15, 1935, with a peak crew of about 75 men. The average number of men employed on the operating crew is 20. More than \$50,000 has been spent in new equipment and the mine is now ready for operation on a large scale. The property has been worked in a smaller way since 1853 when the first high-line ditch was built.

Past operations have removed gravel from some 60 acres of bedrock and from early times to the present from 10 to 30 men have been able to make a living by "sniping" on old bedrock. When Mr. McGuire took over the property 23 people were taking out small amounts of gold in this fashion.

The property, which covers some 760 acres, is from one-half to one mile wide and about four and one-half miles in length. It is bisected by the north fork of Galice creek. The rim of the bedrock of this ancient river channel was discovered in the early '60s.

In its present rehabilitated state the mine has some ten miles of completely cleaned and widened ditch with all new flumes. The ditch capacity is 125 second feet of water. At the end of the ditch, which is 510 feet above bedrock, are two reservoirs. Two pipe lines serve the three high-pressure, Hendy giants.

Past operations have proven the gravel to be from 400 to 2000 feet in width and from 70 to 225 feet in depth. Most geologists agree that the present deposit is just a remaining fraction of an ancient river channel which at one time extended north and south at least 400 miles and was not less than four miles in width.

From a physical standpoint the property has all the prerequisites of a low cost hydraulic operation. Erosion of later days has provided precipitous cross channels, 200 feet or more in depth, into which the gravel is dumped after the values have been extracted.

The first mining on the property was started about 1860 and not a quarter of it is worked out yet, ac-

ording to the opinion of various mining engineers.

A colorful history surrounds the early working of the mine. The first miners who ventured on the property worked with pick and shovel. This was followed by a

crude form of hydraulic operation with canvas hose, water being used under pressure for the first time. The first hydraulic plant was brought in by pack train from Crescent City over 125 miles of rough mountain trails. The man-

drel on which the pipe was riveted is still at the property embedded in an oak tree about 36 inches in diameter. The mandrel apparently was stuck into the tree when the big oak was but a sapling.

Indians interfered with operations in those early days and a fort was built nearby on what is known as Gamblers Bar. History and legend are interwoven into a colorful pattern of dramatic incidents dealing with Indian warfare, culminating in a peace effected through an Indian woman known as Indian Mary.

Indian Mary, who died only a few years ago, was the daughter of an old Indian guide, called Joe, who was friendly to the whites. She married a Warm Springs, California, Indian named Peco, who quarreled with Mary's father. The two fought a duel and the shots they exchanged resulted in the death of both. Indian Mary later married another Indian and lived peacefully among the whites until her death.