

FAMILY ASSISTS IN OPERATION AT FINLEY BEND SITE

Dragging the gold to the sluice is the plan on which southern Oregon's only Chinese miner is operating his property on the gravel bar just below Finley Bend on Rogue river, about nine miles west of Grants Pass.

Where once thousands of Orientals worked along the streams of this district in the gold boom days of half to three-quarters of a century ago, only the one family is now mining here. Until last March, when Wong You, former restaurant operator in Grants Pass, brought his family from California there had been no Chinese miners here for several decades.

Wong, assisted by his two boys, Benson and Frank, installed his "patch-work" drag line outfit in March of 1936 and until three months ago operated at a good profit. For the past three months the mine has been closed while repairs, alterations and improvements are being made.

An eight-cylinder automobile engine powers the huge winch that pulls the gravel from the bar 200 feet away. The gravel is dragged in a V-shaped bucket to the sluices. Pulled up a steep incline to a large hopper directly over the sluices, the gravel is dumped and the large rocks separated from it.

The rest of the gravel tumbles down into the sluice boxes and is washed in the usual manner, except that like nearly every other miner, Wong You has some ideas of his own in the sluices.

For the first 10 feet the gravel is washed over steel plates. Then for 25 feet there are six layers of different sized screen. The screens are laid over burlap, and under that is a canvas. Next are layers of steel grid.

At the end of the screen portion of the sluices there is a cut-out into another set of sluices built especially to receive and hold the fine gold and black sand. In this set is three layers of fine screen with layers of steel wool between.

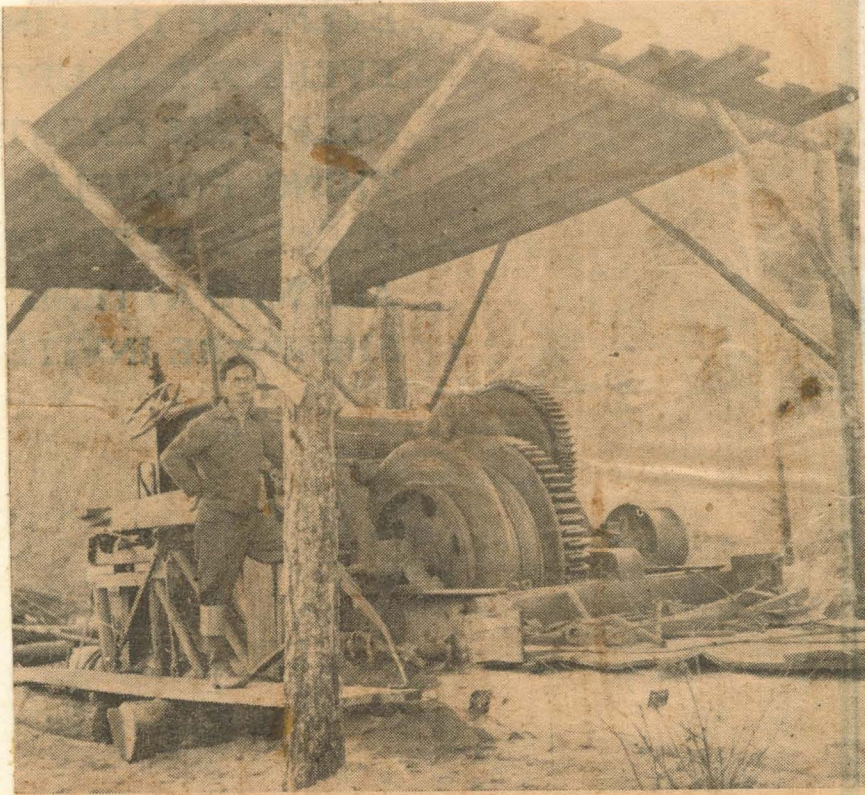
Water is supplied by a six-inch centrifugal pump, powered by a six-horse auto engine. This was set on a raft built at the river bank, but the danger of rising water threatening to wash the machinery down stream has caused Wong You to build a sump in the river bank. This is now being done.

When in operation, Wong employs about six men in addition to himself and his two boys. They move an average of about 200 yards per day, he said, and the gravel averages 25 to 30 cents per yard in gold dust.

At the plant, Wong has much necessary equipment such as a buzz saw, tools, forge, and a shop.

Wong himself and all his children were born in his country. One daughter was born in Grants Pass when he operated the Mocha restaurant on G street and the Panama restaurant on Sixth street. The children are Frank, Benson, Carl, Bert, Lilly, Margaret, and Frances. The younger children attend school at Dixie.

Wong's family were pioneer miners in the Yreka district. The company was the Kee Hong company. Wong himself mined there before coming to Grants Pass in 1918. Here he was in the restaurant business until 1925.



View of hoist and automobile engine which operates it at Wong You's mine. Wong's eldest son is shown beside the hoist which pulls the V-shaped bucket with its load of material to the hopper where it is washed, to be passed into the sluices and over the riffles.



Chinese mining operations may still be found in Josephine county. Wong You and his two sons are getting ready to resume operations on the Rogue river near Finley Bend. Photo shows hopper to which Wong hoists the material, the hoist being operated by an old Packard engine. A smaller engine pumps water from the river, the gravel is washed and passes into the sluice on other side of hopper where a series of different types of riffles extract the fines. Wong's eldest son is shown on top of the elevated hopper. Wong himself below.