

Greenback District
Josephine County

MAR 17 1939

Name: Gold Note (gold)

Owners: E. R. and E. O. Crouch, Route 1, Grants Pass, Oregon.

Location: About 25 miles N.W. of Rogue River in Sec. 25, T. 33 S., R. 5 W.

Area: 20 acres of patented ground in Josephine County and 3 unpatented mining claims in Sec. 30, T. 33 S., R. 4 W. Jackson County.

Geology: Mr. Crouch states that they are milling iron gossion. At depth it turns to pyritic ore. Ore runs from eight to thirteen dollars per ton.

Equipment: Cornish mill 6 x 6 ft and rolls, 25 ton leaching tank. They crush to 1/4 inch and fill leaching tank then treat with cyanide solution for one week. The 1937 year book states that they treated 350 tons by amalgamation. Mr. Crouch states that this is not the case. See Handbook, Page 109.

Informant: E. R. Crouch. 2/20/39.

July 20, 1942

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

GOLD NOTE (gold, copper)

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon
Greenback Area
Gold Hill Area

This is primarily a gold property, the gold being taken near the surface, and cyanided as a one-man operation. It has considerable possibilities as a larger scale operation. Sulphide ore was mined and smelted at the property during the last war, for copper. The size of the sulphide body suggests that the ore body might prove out as a workable property under proper concentrating conditions.

Owners: Edwin O. Crouch, Rogue River, Oregon.

Location: Sec. 25, T. 33 S., R. 4 W., in Greenback area, Josephine County; and sec. 30, T. 33 S., R. 3 W., in Gold Hill area, Jackson County. Reached either via Rogue River, Oregon, Evans Creek to Grave Creek and King Mt. road, or via Grave Creek to Greenback mine road and east on King Mt. road.

Area: Three claims in R. 4 W., mineral rights to 20 acres of deeded land in R. 3 W.

History: Parks & Swartley reported as follows:

"This mine is located on the Baker creek branch of Grave creek, 17 miles from the railway station at Leland and 9 miles east of Placer. It is owned by E. B. Crouch, of Grants Pass, and associates.

"Some 300 feet of development work has been done, exposing oxidized and sulphide ores, which it is claimed run between 4 and 5 percent copper, with some gold values. It is proposed to treat some of these ores by leaching processes."

Although operated principally for gold, some copper was mined during World War I and a small matt smelter was operated for a time. Since then all work has been on gold until 1942.

Development: There are 9 tunnels and one raise. In addition there are numerous cuts and trenches. The property is well opened and accessible.

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Geology: The country rock is slate, probably Jurassic Galice formation and some Cretaceous Chico formation. The sediments abutt greenstone, locally called "porphyry", which appears to be a metaigneous rock, probably diorite. The sediments strike generally east-west with a southward dip of 35° - 40° , but may vary to N. 60° E. They are softened and bleached to clayoid materials near the surface, and sometimes heavily iron stained. At depth, the slates are black, and sheared. Faulting is common. The faults are usually bedding faults. A well pronounced fault parallels the contact of the slates and greenstone.

The slate has been silicified to some extent. The "gold veins", as exposed are not true veins composed of material differing from the country rock. They represent "zones" in the slate that are identified by their gold content and seemingly there is no visual method of determining the "vein". About 10 feet below the surface of the bleached slate is a zone characterized by a heavy iron oxide cement. Below this zone, the ore "turns base" as a rule.

Little data on the attitude of the contact was found. It is reported that the contact is vertical, but at several places, the contact appeared to have a 45° dip to the south.

The surface rock, including the iron cemented zone has been worked for its gold content, and cyanided. The "veins", as previously stated are merely zones of gold bearing slate. Relationships suggest that gold bearing solutions came up along the contact and deposited the gold in such slate layers as were more easily penetrated. One such zone trends N. 65° E. and dips 40° S.E. and is underlain by the iron oxide stratum. Surface material is notably low in copper.

Lower adits cut a sulphide zone that is heavily metallized, and contains considerable copper. The zone has a minimum width of 2 feet and a maximum observed width of 4 feet with the footwall not exposed. It trends east-west and dips 35° to the south. The vein is offset some 50 feet by a strong vertical (?) fault that trends N. 60° W. These relationships are well shown in the two lowest adits. A characteristic of the copper vein is quartz on the hanging wall, from 4"-12" thick. The hanging wall is well defined and the ore is not frozen to it; the footwall is less well defined although there is some evidence of faulting parallel to it. The gangue appears to be greenstone.

All the sulphide minerals are not determined at this data. Pyrite, pyrrhotite (?), and chalcopyrite are prominent. Siliceous spots appear to be surrounded by an aureole of chalcopyrite that is quite noticeable in hand specimens.

Equipment: Mining is done by hand. Gold ore is wheeled to a chute that discharges either into an ore car, or into a fine-ore bin. The coarse ore is trammed to a small bunker that delivers the rock to a 20-ton pebble mill. (manufactured in Medford, Oregon). Hard stream pebbles are used for balls. The crushed ore is wheeled to a bin where the ore is stockpiled and the slimes are washed out and wasted. At intervals, the ore is wheeled to a 16 foot steel tank, 4 feet high where it is leached with cyanide. The solution goes to a locally made precipitator, the liquid to a 16 foot storage tank. The fine ore, previously mentioned is charged direct to a similar leaching tank with the solution following the same circuit as before.

The property has a large water storage tank that delivers water under a 300 foot head to operate a small Pelton wheel.

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Economics: Water supply seems ample. Surface workings require little timber and even the underground workings in slate hold up well. There is ample timber for mine use on the property. Maximum snowfall recorded is 8 feet. Usual snowfall is 2 feet and it remains on the ground for only short periods of time. The road out via Pleasant and Evans Creeks is virtually an all year road. A small amount of work could keep the road open all the time.

Informant: Ray C. Treasher, 7/2/42.

Reference: Parks & Swartley, 16:109.