

Elkhorn Mine Ready to Open on Large Scale

PREPARATION OF PROPERTY TOOK YEAR AND HALF

After a year and a half of preparation, another of Josephine county's old-time heavy producing placer mines is ready to be opened on a large scale program.

The Elkhorn mine on Briggs creek, near Ferren ranger station, has for 50 years yielded fortunes in gold. Now a group of Seattle mining men have taken a lease with contract to purchase the property and after 18 months of repairing ditches, pipelines, flumes, roads and other equipment and developments they have been awaiting a thaw to provide water for their work.

R. T. Davison, secretary-treasurer and general manager for the Seattle group said that when the mine opens it will put 20 men to work with a daily payroll of about \$75. Mr. Davison's closest associates are C. J. Sims, vice-president; and H. C. Payzant, general superintendent.

It was about 50 years ago that Abe Ferren discovered the Elkhorn property. After several years he sold to a man named Bain. Davison said it is reported both men took out sizeable fortunes.

The property was acquired about 10 years ago by E. E. Young. For the following nine years he operated on a small scale at a profit, then a all necessary hand tools.

During the past 18 months no mining has been done. The Seattle men have concentrated on preparing the mine for a large scale operation, and have spent about \$1500 on wages, with about \$11,000 on equipment, supplies, and payments on the lease.

There are now two ditches, one 3½ miles long with a capacity of 30 cubic feet per second, and one one-mile long ditch with a capacity of six second feet.

There are 3,000 feet of pipe on the property, with three monitors aimed at the gravel bank in which there is an estimated 5,000,000 cubic yards of "pay dirt".

Other equipment includes a saw-mill, a hydro-electric plant, bunk-houses, mess hall, dining room, and all necessary hand tools.

In preparing for the "run", it was necessary to build one-half mile of road, build and rebuild pipe-line bridges across creeks, improve the ditches, penstocks and flumes, repair and re-lay pipe lines. They have been waiting for water since the first of the year, when the last of their preparations were made.

When they begin operating, Davison figures, it will be possible to move 3,500 cubic yards of gravel a day. Prospects are based on a figure of 30 cents per yard, but on the property are pits from which the gravel averaged 86 cents per yard.

The snows have blocked the road to the mine, and to get to the property it is necessary to go by way of Selma to Oak Flat, then hike up Briggs creek.

Davison has had considerable experience in operating mines. Thirty



View of Elkhorn mine, old-time heavy producer, showing part of pipe-line laid through rugged Briggs Creek section of Josephine county. The mine is now ready to operate again after a year and a half of construction work, including new flumes, ditches, roads and pipe lines to carry water for hydraulicking.

Elkhorn Mine

Grants Pass Courier, January 27, 1937

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Davison has had considerable experience in operating mines. Thirty five years ago he was in the Salmon river country of Idaho. He has worked near Skykomish, Wash., and as a youth lived among the mines in the rich Burnt River district of Baker county, Oregon.