

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Norton Placer Illinois River area.

Owner: Reported leased to Phil Suetter.

Location: Sec. 25 & 36, T. 38S., R. 9W., on Days Gulch on the west side of Josephine Creek. It adjoins the Bear Placer on the south.

Area: Not known.

History: The upper and lower terraces were extensively placered many years ago. In 1938, Phil Suetter is reported to have taken over the property. The Mining Journal (Arizona), May 30, 1938, reported:

"Dragline equipment is being installed by the Suetter Placer Mines, Inc., of Kerby, Oregon. The Company has taken over the St. Johns Bosco property and will start active mining as soon as possible."

Little work was done at the property and it has been idle for several years. An old dipper power shovel, trommel, and miscellaneous equipment is scattered around. Apparently, the Company intended to work gravel near the stream level. Some small scale placer work is being done during the mining season, on the lower terrace.

Geology: The country rock is serpentine and serpentized peridotite. It weathers to a buff color and the surface has "knots" which are the unaltered pyroxenes. Fresh exposures in road cuts show rock that is slick and greenish, locally called "serpentite". Bedrock is very uneven and usually is quite hard.

Josephine Creek has been placered at the present stream level. About 50 feet above the creek level is the remnant

of an old terrace. Where this terrace has been placed, bedrock shows as a decided bench on both sides of the stream. Josephine Creek has cut a box-like canyon in this bench. Two hundred feet above the creek is another terrace that is covered with an "old gravel deposit". The gravel is well indurated, almost to cement gravel. In places it is thoroughly weathered so that the boulders and cobbles are "rotted". Principal rock is serpentine.

The floor of this upper terrace may descend toward the north, as similar gravel is found overlying the more recent lower terrace at the Independence Placer, at the mouth of Josephine Creek.

The upper terrace certainly appears to be a portion of the old Eocene high channel deposits, similar to those south of Waldo, and described by Shenon (33: Bull 846-B). It may be the northward extension of the Waldo high channel. No evidence has been found, to date, of a northward extension immediately beyond the mouth of Deer Creek. Similar old, decomposed, indurated, high channel gravel is found at the Big Four placer on Pickett Creek, and at the Old Channel placer near Culic.e

The channel at the Bear placer is reported by Foster to be 200 feet wide, 6000 feet long, and averages 100 feet deep. Gold is scattered through the deposit, as well as concentrated on bedrock. Bedrock nuggets may be watermelon seed size and shape. No Josephinite nuggets are not found here, although they are found in the lower terrace and in the present stream gravels.

The lower (50') channel appears to be more recent than the upper (200') channels. The gravel is not as well indurated

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and gold is more uniformly distributed through it. Bedrock concentration is not as heavy as in the upper channel.

Development: Both terraces have been hydraulicked and bedrock underlying the gravel and on the flanks of the terraces has been deeply cut for tailing races. Boulders up to 15 inches in diameter are common. Some red soil (characteristic of the high channel deposits) is found. Remnants of extensive ditch and flume lines are present; the water probably came from Fidler's Gulch and from Days Gulch on the west side of Josephine Creek. No estimate was made of the yardage removed but it must have been in the order of millions of yards.

There is no activity at present, except for small scale work and occasional sniping.

References: Shenon U. S. G. S. Bull. 846-B, 1933

O. S. D. G. & M. I., Mines Catalog

Informants: George C. Foster, 4/3/40

Ray C. Treasher 10/19/42