

RED DOG GOLD PLACERS

PERSONAL

A. M. SWARTLEY

The Associated Placer Claims on Briggs and Red Dog Creeks four Miles East of Oak Flat on the Illinois River, Josephine County Oregon, are the latest of early - day Gold Diggings to be reclaimed.

GOLD;- was first discovered in the Briggs Creek District at the Mouth of Red Dog Creek, in the Spring of 1868, by a party of Prospectors from Kerby, at this there was no roads down the Illinois River Canyon, which was too rough for even a Pack Trail and the only way to get through, the Country was by following high Ridges, the distance from Kerby, to Red Dog, at that time was about Twenty five miles.

P. W. Mc. GUIRE, later known as "Steamboat" was the Original discoverer of Gold at Red Dog, and to his son Len, -e, Guire we are indebted for principal fact of this review,

Mc. GUIRE, states that the first attempt at Mining at Red Dog Creek, was very crude, inasmuch as the Miners, were unable to secure any Lumber, for sluice Boxes, and were forced to confine their Operations to what is known as ground sluicing, in the Channel of the Creek.

The first Cleanup of this Mining reported a powder box full of nuggets, the Miners ignored the fine Gold, about \$12,000 at the price paid to Miners at the time, which was \$16,00 per ounce

Later on Lumber was whip sawed and sluice Boxes were used and the Channels of both Briggs and Red Dog Creeks, were worked at such Places as could be drained, The Miners not having any pumps were unable to work the Creek bed, only at the Higher Bars, about two-thirds of the Channel, of both Creeks has never been mined.

An estimate of \$100,000 in Gold was taken out of this district, This estimate was quoted by Bulletin No, 94. B. O. A. not Official, as no records were kept at that time other than the Bank at Jacksonville, Oregon.

After the Creek Channels were worked out, that is what could be drained, it was discovered that benches or terraces of ancient river Gravel were from ten' to thirty feet above the creek channel, and the depth of these gravel deposits were from eight feet to twenty feet, with Large Boulders, on the Bed Rock, the Gold was generally coarse, The Largest Nugget, recovered and reported Officially was \$812,60 taken from Mc. Dow Diggings, Briggs Creek.

In Order to mine these gravel deposits, ditches were built out of the creek, to convey water to a sufficient height to enable Miners to work these Bars, with sluice Boxes, this mode of Mining was not successful, as the Miners were unable to move with pick and shovel, enough ground to pay in the hard packed gravels, These Miners would not work ground at that time for less than an ounce of Gold per day to the Man.

About 20, per cent of these Gravel Deposits were Mined and today a conservative estimate of 200,000 yards remain to be Mined by Hydraulic Methods, and a low estimate from Prospecting the ground will go over 40¢ to the cubic yard, present prices of Gold.

The Associated Claims, Comprise three Groups of Placer Mining Claims, Location right on Briggs and Red Dog Creeks The Johnson Claims, 264 Acres: Whittig Claims, THE WHITTIG CLAIMS, of 80, Acres, are not included, but the Knight Claims of 40, Acres is included, Estimate Gravel yardage 200,000, cu. yds, 1,000 feet of 11 inch Hydraulic Pipe, and One No. 2, Giant.

One Ditch 480 rods in Length, 4 X 3 X 2, feet carrying water from Red Dog Creek to Bars on Briggs Creek, North side reaches an Elevation above Bar of 260 feet, will have to be partly rebuilt One other Ditch out of West Fork of Red Dog, 180 rods supplying water for the Knights Claims, head 160, feet very little repair.

There is sufficient water in Briggs and Red Dog Creeks to enable Hydraulic Mining about eight months out of the Season, during the Low water period in the Summer the Creek Channel Mining can be operated, At present there is no Ditch out of Briggs, Creek this can be secured, also the Water Rights.

There is sufficient Timber, Fir, Pine, and White Cedar on all Claims for all Mining Purposes.

At present there is a Road, one mile up Briggs, Creek from Red Dog, to the mouth of Swede Creek, This road connects with the Redwood Highway at Walters, Also a road is being built to the Dasher Place, at the Mouth of Soldier Creek, about one mile down Briggs Creek from Red Dog, This road will be three miles to Oak Flat, on the Illinois River, From this point a good truck road nineteen miles to Selma, on the Redwood Highway, then 22, miles to Grants Pass, Oregon.

The Gap of two miles between Soldier and Swede Creek will be completed this Summer, The Red Dog district has until the present time been so remote from Transportation, that its Mining possibilities have been overlooked.

At the Present time a Large Mining Company of Portland and Seattle Men, have secured Large Placer Holdings between Soldier Creek on the Main Briggs Creek and the Illinois River, They have expended considerable Money in Equipment, and are now ready to Operate on a Large Scale, also many Miners and Prospectors, are coming into the district and Locating all open Claims.

Respectfully Submitted,
Georg^e. D. Young, Mining Engineer.