

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland 5, Oregon

**UNITED COPPER-GOLD MINES COMPANY**

Illinois River Area  
Josephine County

**Location:** Sec. 4, T. 38 S., R. 9 W.

**History:** Parks and Swartley reported as follows:

"Office: Room 4 Murphy Block, Salem, Oregon. W. S. Low, Pres.; Daniel Webster, Sec.; C. H. Lebold, Treas.; all of Salem, Oregon. Capital stock, \$500,000; par value, \$1.00; \$219,654 subscribed, issued and paid up. (1916 report).

"This company owned property on Pickett Creek near Merlin which has been sold. It now owns 12 claims in Illinois District about 12 miles northwest of Selma, on Fall Creek, one-half mile above its junction with the Illinois, at an elevation of about 1400 feet.

"The copper ore of this locality has attracted attention many years. Early in the sixties of the last century a small smelting furnace was located at the mouth of Rancherie Creek. The matte was packed out about 30 miles across the mountains to the coast. Another small furnace was built on Fall Creek in 1894, but was not a commercial success, owing to the difficulties of transportation. In 1899, several hundred tons of ore was packed out to Selma, hauled to Grants Pass and shipped to Tacoma, where it is said to have been smelted at a profit. The mine has now been idle for several years.

"The geology is described by Miller as follows:

"The country rocks of the deposit are greenstone and serpentine. The greenstone is an ancient volcanic mass, a mixture of lava flows and tuffs of Mesozoic age that are greatly altered. Its fragmental character, though not a prominent feature, may be clearly seen on close examination of the clean exposure near the mouth of Fall Creek, where the rock is made up of many lapilli. The serpentine is an altered saxonite, evidently of later eruption than the greenstone with which it is in contact.

"The ore minerals are chalcopyrite and pyrrhotite, generally more or less intermingled, and either may be most abundant. Malachite is rare. In some places the pyrrhotite appears as small streaks in the chalcopyrite. The ore bodies removed were in the serpentine near its contact with the greenstone. It is possible that some ore occurred in the greenstone, but the greater portion, if not all of it, appears to belong to the serpentine. The ore bodies were comparatively small and were in irregular bunches, not in distinct veins. The pyrrhotite was tested for nickel by R. C. Wells in the chemical laboratory of the Geological Survey. A mere trace of nickel was found, possibly 0.001 per cent.'

"The following statement is made by the management: There is 1000 feet of development work, including a 500-foot tunnel, and a 200-foot crosscut,

*Department of Geology and Mineral Industries*

*Box 100, St. John's  
Newfoundland*

**exposing 1000 tons of ore. A dark gossan sometimes stained with copper is underlain at 15 feet in depth by ore carrying 18 per cent copper and 5 to 10 ounces silver and upwards of \$1.00 in gold"**

*Minerals Survey  
Newfoundland*

**Reference: Parks and Swartley, 16:226 (quoted)  
Diller, 14:84-85**

*History of the mine is reported as follows:  
The mine was discovered by J. H. Parks, Esq., in 1884, on the  
east side of the island of St. John's, Newfoundland, and  
was worked for a few years by the same party, and was  
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