

MEMORANDUM

TO: Messrs. S.J. Hatch (2 copies)
J.L. Stafford
R.L. Whitley

FROM: R.C. Parker

SUBJECT: Gold prospect in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 16, T 38 S, R 5 W, Josephine County, Oregon, aka **King Mine**

DATE: April 15, 1989

On April 8, a successful attempt was made to locate a long abandoned mine said to be situated somewhere in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 16, T 38 S, R 5 W, and about one quarter mile northwesterly from the Humdinger and Rising Star Mines (see map). I was told about the existence of an additional mine in this area by Mr. Syd J. King, of Grants Pass, who operated it for some period of time prior to World War II when he was forced to suspend operations along with countless other gold miners whose activities were not considered essential to the war effort. Mr. King is now 84 years old, and though I suspected that there might have been some development of the Humdinger vein system on the north side of the ridge (see my Oregon report, page 17), had it not been for his detailed recollections and personal familiarity with this steep, brushy, 40 acre tract, we might not have found the adit that he alone knew was there. At the present time, it is caved at the portal, the dump is overgrown with small trees and brush, and neither is visible until one has approached to within a few tens of feet of them.

Now that we have found the adit, it seems to me that it would be worthwhile to reopen it so that we can ascertain what kind of condition the workings are in beyond that point. This probably can be accomplished at little cost since only a few hours of equipment time will be involved in getting a John Deere 450 'dozer/backhoe combination to the portal and I doubt that more than an additional 3-4 hours of backhoe time will be required once it is there. Specifically, we will want to construct 2-300 feet of new road from D to E, where it will connect to an old flume grade (A-E-B-C) that was part of the Hale Ditch. The flume grade is already 5-6 feet wide and need only be widened an additional 3-4 feet to accommodate the eight foot blade of the JD 450. At point B on the flume grade, it intersects the upper end of a steep (30°+) skid trail that was constructed and used in the '50's in the course of logging the property. The skid road, in turn, leads directly to the adit (and beyond) after negotiating the single switchback shown on the map. Note that **all** of this access will be entirely on Champion's property. Point D, where the short interval of new road will originate, will be established just west of the BLM tag that marks the east boundary of the parcel. The west boundary is also well marked and point B is well to the east of it.

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If, after reopening it, we find that the adit (said to be 2 - 300 feet in length) is in good condition, we probably will want to put in a couple of portal sets to ensure that it will remain open. Thus preserved, the mapping and sampling of the mine that logically would follow can be deferred until it is convenient to do so.

Note that the King Mine, as this prospect probably should be known, is one of several in this area that have explored and developed northwesterly striking, northeasterly dipping gold quartz veins that apparently are persistent for considerable distances along strike, though nothing is known about them at depth. The Humdinger/Rising Star properties are owned by Dave Vallandigham, a Williams entrepreneur with some "hands on" mining and milling experience. In the opposite direction, the lower part of the north facing slope, just to the north of Champion's 40 acres, is owned by Boise Cascade which, like Champion, is actively investigating the mineral potential of its timberlands. Thus, I would consider that this entire area is in "friendly hands" if a joint venture were to be considered. With this in mind, it is possible that some relatively minor exploration work by Champion could provide just the catalyst needed to put one together.