ATLAS GOLD DREDGING CORPORATION (placer) WALDO DISTRICT

Owners: Property leased from R. S. Leonard by Atlas Gold Dredging Corporation of Los Angeles, California; Frank E. Ford, president; W. E. Moffett, Secretary-treasurer; Edison Building, Los Angeles, California. W. Youmans, dredge master; H. J. Ackley, general manager.

Location: sec. 4, 7, 8, 18, T. 40 S., R. 7 W., on Althouse Creek.

Area: 5,000,000 cubic yards sampled out with about 4,000,000 cubic yards yet to sample. Property extends along Althouse Creek for about 2½ miles.

History: Property inaludes the old Leonard Placer, with extensions.

Development: Plant construction began Jan. 20, 1940. Operation started about Feb. 7, 1940.

Equipment: Bodinson washing plant: Hull consists of four 10' x 36' x 3½' wooden pontoons and two 8' x 36' x 4' steel pontoons; hopper is 12' x 10'; trommel is 5' x 38', 26' of which is drilled section with 3/8 inch to 1/2 inch holes having 2 inch bridge at upper end to ½ inch bridge at lower end; riffles consist of six 31" x 12', - six 31" x 14', - eight 31" x 16' riffles with hungarian riffles, expanded metal cloth and cocoa matting. Power plant and pumps; main pump is a 60 h.p. ten-inch Byron-Jackson, capacity 5,000 gallons per minute; fire pump, 5 h.p. three-inch high pressure. Stacker motor is 10 h.p., trommel motor is 30 h.p. The stacker has a 36 inch belt and it is 70 feet long between centers.

A K-55 Link-Belt dragline, - a 3 yard outfit with a 2½ extra heavy mining bucket; a 70 foot boom; powered by a 250 h.p. G. E. motor. Other equipment includes an R.D. 7 diesel caterpillar tractor with bulldozer, two pick-ups, two large G. M. Trucks, one a four ton and the other fourteen ton capacity. There is a well-equipped welding and blacksmith shop to take care of all work, and a neatly arranged tool house or storage.

Geology: The mineable channel has a width of about 500 feet over a distance of 2½ miles along Althouse Creek. Bedrock is predominately soft, decomposed granite, with a few serpentine "reefs". The granite is normally decomposed so that the dragline can dig it to a depth of 18 inches. The surface is uneven, that is, rolling. The serpentine can be dug, normally a depth of 12 inches except in a few places such as the nose of a hill where the serpentine is quite hard. Overburden will average about six feet, mostly soil, practically barren. There is an increase in gold content to a point about six feet above bedrock. This last six-foot zone contains most of the gold. Practically no clay, - in fact the top soil is silty enough so that it does not clog the washing plant, when such material is run through it. "Large" boulders are 18 inches in diameter.

Informant: H. J. Ackley, general manager, 3/26/40

Report by RCT

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Mr. Ackley was very generous with his information, although I tried to steer clear of controversial questions such as values, etc. At present he is undecided whether to equip with another Link-Belt drag-line, similar to the one on the job, or to dispose of the one they have and install a "4-W" Monaghan like Ferris-Marshbank's. The reason for this is: there is 6' of soil overburden that runs about 2 cents per yard. He is figuring on stripping this, and piling it on the tailings piles and not running any of it thru the washing plant. Thus, he needs more dirt-moving machinery in order to keep the plant in efficient operation. I believe that he is leaning toward the second Link-Belt.

In regard to depth of ground and values, I gleaned this from conversation: about 6' soil overburden, 2 cents per yard; 12' of lean gravel running from 8-15 cents per yard; 6' of pay-gravel running from 25 cents average to as high as a dollar a yard. This information was "high-graded" while he was explaining their testing program - no notes were taken at the time for obvious reasons. They have thoroly tested 3,000,000 yards at the upstream portion of the property. In order to get operations under way and pay coming in, the remaining, lower, 4,000,000 yards has not been tested except that a couple test pits were sunk at the extreme lower end to give an indication of how values were holding up. They did.

Capacity of the plant per day, and length of operation data were not obtained.

Ray C. Treasher, 3/26/40