Josephine County
Waldo District

Name: Fry Placer Mine.
Leased to C. R. Stout, O'Brien, Oregon.

Location: One mile east of O'Brien, Oregon in Secs. 20, 28 and 29, T. 40 S., R. 8 W.

Area: 479 acres of patented land.

Geology: The present operations are in Sec. 28 where the gravel will average about six feet, but to the west nearer the river, the gravel is expected to be much deeper. No large boulders. Very little, if any, clay. Argillite bedrock.

Equipment: The property is operated with one giant and a hydraulic elevator. Water comes from the Illinois River and delivered to the property through the middle ditch.

Miscellaneous
Information: No development work. Elevation approximately 1400 feet. Maximum 2 feet of snow. Flat operation. Little shallow for dredge ground.

Informant: J. E. Morrison. 7/6/38.

FRY GULCH MINE (placer) Waldo area

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Location: One mile east of O'Brien, Oregon in secs. 20, 28 and 29, T. 40 S., R. 8 W. Elevation approximately 1400 feet.

Area: 479 acres of patented land.

Geology: The present operations are in sec. 28 where the gravel will average about six feet, but to the west nearer the river, the gravel is expected to be much deeper. There are no large boulders and very little clay. Bedrock is argillite.

Equipment: The property is operated with one giant and a hydraulic elevator. Water comes from the Illinois River and is delivered to the property through the middle ditch.

"Fry Gulch is in secs. 28 and 33, T. 40 S., R. 8 W. Much of the gravel in it was worked in the early days, but some unworked ground remains. Two northward-trending branches of Fry Gulch join near the quarter corner between secs. 28 and 33. Both branches, as well as the main gulch for about 1,500 feet below the junction, have been mined. The east branch heads at the High Gravel mine, and the gold in it was clearly derived from the Tertiary conglomerate. The west branch heads near a flat summit close to the quarter corner of secs. 32 and 33. The boulders in it are similar to those in the east branch, but the source of the gold is not known, although it probably came from a patch of the Tertiary conglomerate, now completely eroded. Like Sailor Gulch and other small gulches receiving the wash from the Tertiary conglomerate, Fry Gulch was undoubtedly a rich placer, but, because much of the mining was done in the early days, no records of production are available.

"In 1930 A. L. Bailey was working in a small cut near the mouth of the west branch. The gravel in the cut is composed of dark-red sand with pebbles of greenstone, serpentine, granitic rocks, sandstone, hematite, and chromite. The material is principally sand, and only a few of the boulders exceed 6 inches in diameter. Patches of unworked material of this sort extend up the west branch for about 2,500 feet. The bedrock in Bailey's cut is Cretaceous sandstone, but in the east branch and farther up the west branch the gravel rests upon serpentine. According to J. L. Eggers, the production from about 1,650 cubic yards of gravel in Bailey's upper cut was $1,000 or about 60 cents a cubic yard."

Informant: J.E.M. '38

Reference: Shenon 33b:189 (quoted)