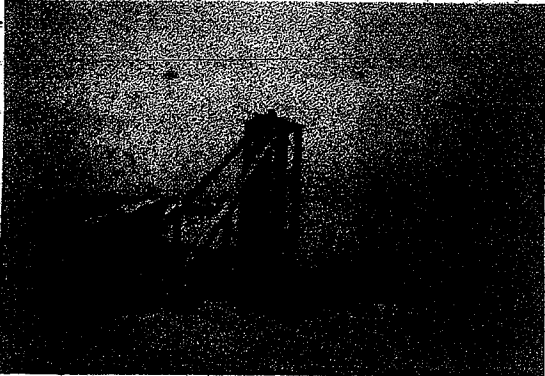


Idaho County Mining



THE SULTAN Gold Mine Operation is shown here.—Photo Courtesy Duffie Miller.



IN THE SHAFT, Duffie Miller is pictured here in the vertical shaft of the Sultan Gold Mine, near Elk City.

—Photo Courtesy Duffie Miller.

(Continued from previous page) one of the principal prospects in the Elk City district in which a large tonnage of ore has been developed.

The Clearwater Mining Co., located in Elk City and Orogrande Districts, operated 25 unpatented claims. It had had 1,000 feet of short open cuts and tunnels, prospecting for gold, "prospecting and development work was started in May and continued without interruption."

The Erickson Ridge Development Co., Inc. with 33 unpatented claims in Elk City District carried out a small amount of development work during the year employing three men.

The Panhandle Asbestos Co., with 1,040 acres leased and 400 acres held under lease from individuals owners, produced a small amount of tonnage during the year.

The Rainbow End Mining Co., leased property of McKinley Gold Mining Co., near Lucile and employed four men to develop the property.

The Unity Gold Mines Co., with 8 patented and 10 unpatented claims, in the Warren district, developed over 10,000 feet of underground workings, the principal of which is the Unit or Main Crosscut Tunnel, over 5,000 feet in length. The plant has a battery

locomotive hauler, one 300 cu. ft. and one 700 cu. ft. electrically driven compressor, complete mine equipment, a 10-stamp mill, a 50-horsepower plant at Elk Creek, employing 23 men. It was said to be actively mining throughout the greater part of the year with a number of bullion shipments made. It was called one of the most active gold mining companies in the state.

1926
The 1926 report says, "The gradual return to a more normal condition, under which gold mining is again becoming profitable, was reflected in this county during the year by a small though substantial increase in mining operations.

A total of 735.26 ounces of gold were mined at a value of \$15,197.82, and 239.96 ounces of silver, at a value of \$148.61, for a total of \$15,346.43.

"The Unity Gold Mine at Warren was idle throughout the year. The Holte Mining Co. in the Marshall Lake District performed its necessary annual labor; its mine was examined by two prominent companies who were favorably impressed with it. In past years these mines were recognized as important gold mining operations.

"Two companies operating in the Ten Mile district produced a small amount of bullion and expanded mining operations over those of the previous year. This district as a whole witnessed a substantial increase in new work by prospectors and in investigations by scouts enterprises.

"The Elk City district witnessed a large increase in mining operations prospecting and investigation in search of gold and antimony mines. A large number of new mining localions were filed, and operations were resumed at the American Eagle and Black Pine Mines, which had been idle during 1925. All companies which were active the previous year continued development work throughout 1926, and two reported encountering a good showing of new ore.

"The Dixie district was more active than at any time in the past six years. There was an increase in company operations and in number of prospectors and one new discovery of high grade gold ore was reported.

1927
"The year 1927 closed with the mining industry in Idaho witnessing a very prosperous year." the 1927 report says. Idaho County however, was down in production, showing 665.65

ounces of gold mine valued at \$13,758.99 and 225.98 ounces of silver mined for a total of \$127.38. Total for the two minerals were \$13,886.

Mines and companies holding unpatented claims in Elk City, Orogrande, Dixie and Buffalo Hump districts, voted to do their annual labor on roads, the report said.

"The gradual return to a more normal condition, under which gold mining is again becoming profitable, was reflected in this county during the year by a small though substantial increase in mining operations, investigation of the so-called dikes-low grade free-milling ore in the Elk City district by two large mining organizations. These investigations extended over a period of 60 days and it was reported that the properties examined were favorably recommended.

"The Empire Metals Co., owning 27 claims, built about four miles of road, constructed new cabins, installed a laboratory, and drove about 2,000 feet of open cuts and tunnels. Seven other companies that are holding large acreages on the dikes zones performed the necessary annual labor.

"Mining in the Ten Mile district witnessed a decided impetus during 1927 in anticipation of the completion of the Elk City highway to Huston's in 1928, which will give an outlet to the mines in this district. Four new companies were organized and commenced operations; a large number of new claims were located; more work was performed; and the influx of prospectors and others was sufficient to justify the re-establishment of the post office at Golden and the mail route into it.

The principal new companies and operations were: The Buffalo-Idaho Mining Co. at the Mackey group where a new gas-driven compressor was installed and active development work started; the Golden Mining and Power Co., whose property was optioned later in the year and work started; Miller and Sons, at the Yellow Pine group, who conducted work throughout the year which resulted in the development of some high-grade ore; and the optioning of the Pioneer Hill group at Newsoma, owned by Timin and Braig, to

Seattle, Washington, interests; A.S. Johnson at the Franklin Mine; F.O. Miller of Clarkston, Washington at the Lone Pine group; The Sphinx Gold Mine Co.; and William Humbley of Spokane, Washington at the New York Mine. These were active throughout the year; Humbley's activities included milling operations.

"Prospecting and development work in the Orogrande district exceeded that of 1926. Drilling operations to test the placer deposits on Crooked River were started, and one company conducted a small amount of hydraulic mining. Discovery of new veins containing high gold values was reported by Frank Peck, a prospector, and by the Una Mine Co.

"In the Dixie District the Mammoth Mine Corp. resumed operation with a small crew, Henry S. Hazlitt at the Pacific Group operated his mill for a few weeks; and a new discovery by George L. Esb and associates caused considerable attention to be directed toward the district.

"The American Eagle mine, owned by the Homestake Gold Mining Co. was operated for a few months by leases; and the discovery of lead-silver ore in Success Gulch was reported. Some work was done also at the Black Pine group. These properties are all in the Elk City District.

organization is unknown, and the Old Kentucky Mining and Milling Co., a new company, conducted prospecting operations during the summer months. The White Mining Co. performed a little maintenance work in addition to the annual labor requirements.

"Several placer mines in the Simpson district along the Salmon River, near Lucile and Riggins, were the scene of active operations and of small plant installations. The funds for this work were derived from active stock-selling campaigns. The Iris Placer Co. constructed a 200-horsepower hydroelectric plant and new camp buildings and installed power driven pumps for hydraulic mining; the Ruby Gold Development Co. constructed a small gas driven concentration mill, designed to recover the 'Black sands' contained in its gravel deposit."

1928
"For 1928, the report says, "During 1928 the mining industry of Idaho witnessed a more prosperous year than any period during the past eight years."

Idaho County's production of gold was up this year, to 1,615 ounces of gold, 18 producers, valued at \$33,894.66. Silver was at 861 ounces, for a value of \$501.27 for a total of \$33,895.

The report says that many of the millions produced during the early days were from placer deposits which occur in practically all the 17 mining districts within the county. Excepting the flat land and river bottoms, the report says practically all the placer mines were exhausted.

"A gradual return to more normal conditions, under which gold mining is again becoming profitable, affected this county during the year by a small-substantial increase in mining operations, investigations, new enterprises and increased production. The most important of these was the resumption of operations by the Unity Gold Mines Co., which remodeled its mill adding flotation cells and performed a large amount of new development work in addition to operating the mill throughout the greater part of the year. An important production from a new mine was that from the Lone Pine

group at Golden, Ten Mile district, which is owned by F.O. Miller and son; they remodeled their two stamp mill, constructed new camp buildings, performed a large amount of development work and marketed a substantial amount of bullion. A new enterprise of importance is the Golden Anchor mining Co. which purchased the Holte mine in the Marshall Lake district, constructed a small hydroelectric power plant, and commenced driving a long crosscut tunnel which will intersect the Holte vein at a substantial depth below the present workings.

"The Buffalo-Idaho Mining Co. at the Mackey group in the Ten-Mile district, the Garner Electric Range Co., developing a talc property near Pollock on the Little Salmon River and the Moose Creek Placers Co. at Elk City were active throughout the year. The principal development of importance in the Elk City district was that of George Henton, who was actively engaged in churn-drilling extensive placer ground in that vicinity. The results of this work were satisfactory, a company has been organized and an additional drill will be installed early in 1929, at that time all of the ground may be prospected at an early date, in anticipation of the construction of a large dredge. The Salmon River Development Co., whose enterprise is based on the recovery of black and from the bars of the Salmon River, commenced the construction of a large flume to convey the waters of Lake Creek to the ground it proposes to mine."

1929
For the next year, the general review in the Annual report of the mining industry of Idaho, says, "The year 1929 closed with the mining industry of Idaho witnessing a very prosperous year."

Idaho County's gold production was up with 2,218.24 ounces mines, for a total value of \$45,851.02 in 1929. Silver was over the thousand mark at 3,250.54 ounces, valued at \$1,722.56. Lead, 615 pounds, was valued at \$43.02, and copper, 120 pounds mined, valued at \$21.73.

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