

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

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Portland, Oregon

LAKE CREEK GOLD PROSPECT

Cracker Creek District
Baker County

Foreword: This confidential report records what I know of the "Lake Creek gold strike" which has been the cause of innumerable rumors in and around Baker during the past few months.

I spent about one hour on the property on September 11. The owners were not present although I had previously talked with them. Very little development work has been done and little could be seen. When the discovery is opened sufficiently to warrant, another visit will be made and a more formal report written.

Location: $N\frac{1}{2}$, $NE\frac{1}{4}$, $NE\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 19, T. 9 S., R. 38 E., high on the steep west facing slope of Lake Creek. This is a new discovery. No lode gold deposits of consequence have been developed in the immediate area to date.

Ownership,
History, &
Development:

Claims covering the prospect were located by Harold Cooley and Ernest Holcomb, both of Baker, on May 28, 1963. The owners are loggers who were working for Tony Brandenthaler at the time the discovery was made. Brandenthaler has had a hand in the development work and is rumored to hold some sort of interest in the claims. The vein was initially exposed by a new logging road cut. A bulldozer trench was later extended along the supposed course of the vein for about 300 feet.

To treat the ore Cooley and Robert Bowen have set up a small mill in the latter's back yard in Baker. The mill includes a Schwab ball mill and amalgamation plates. The set-up looks as if it might handle about a ton in 8 hours steady running.

Geology: The country rocks are dark grey to black argillite with thin interbeds of chert. Limestone is exposed a hundred feet or so to the north. The argillite strikes nearly east and dips 40° to 60° S. The gold deposit occurs in a broad zone of faulting and hydrothermal alteration. The argillite in the fault zone has been brecciated to a soft mealy consistency and is light grey to buff and sometimes nearly white in color in contrast to the dark grey to black of the enclosing unaltered argillite. Small fragments of relatively unaltered chert are scattered through the breccia. The fault zone appears to roughly parallel the bedding in the argillite but additional

work may prove this conclusion erroneous.

A quartz vein 8-inches to 14-inches wide cuts the altered breccia. Although the fault zone is probably several hundred feet long the vein is presently traceable for only about 40 feet. It strikes N 60° to 80° E. and dips 40° to 50° S. Whether the vein pinches out or is faulted can only be ascertained by further development work.

Type and
grade of
ore:

Prior to my visit to the property several specimens of "high grade" were shown me by the owner and other people who had visited the property. The gold, ranging up to match head size pieces, was free in quartz that otherwise appeared barren of metallic minerals except for a very little limonite in places.

I took two samples from the vein during my visit and later panned them. Neither showed any gold. However, I have no doubt that the specimens shown me earlier were authentic. The fact that I did not find any gold during my visit indicates that the vein is pockety. It is to be hoped that the pockets are large enough, rich enough, and close enough together to make a mine.

It would be interesting to know how much specimen material was pushed down the mountain side with the bulldozer.

Howard C. Brooks
September 17, 1963