MAMMOTH GROUP (Gold)
(Black Eagle Mine)
Malheur County—Mormon Basin District

Owners: Theodore S. Glenn, Baker; Ed Graves, Durkee; Lambert, Durkee; now under lease to Silva Corporation, Colonel William Braden, agent.

Location: Sections 19 and 20, T. 10 N., R. 41 E.; ½ mile northwest of town of Malheur.

History: A mill is said to have been built in 1905 by J. F. Meikel consisting of 20 stamps and amalgamation plates (this was bought by Vinson in 1910 and put up on the Inter-mountain property). The mine was under bond and lease to W. C. Bess in 1906-7. There has been no ore milled since 1907. The ground up to the mine was placered before 1905 by W. S. Boswell. The mill operated at 100 tons per day for 7 months according to Bodfish.

Geology: The country rock is a light colored porphyry granodiorite said to occur in a wide dike running northeast and southwest for about a mile. The mining was done in a highly altered limonite zone running north-south vertically for about 100 feet and varying from 10 feet to 20 feet in width. Two 35-foot shafts were sunk in this ore, which, as soon as they reached the unaltered porphyry, lost their values. The gold occurred in the thin iron veinlets or seams in the broken, soft, oxidized rock and is definitely a secondary enrichment. Fragments of fresh rock from the bottom of the shaft show fine disseminated sulphides. Two glory holes 75 feet apart were later tapped, and all the enriched ore was removed.

Economics: At the present time Braden, acting for the Silva Corporation, is engaged in extensive prospecting with caterpillar tractor. Apparently, the object is to determine whether the values in the unaltered portion are sufficient, and can be recovered so as to make the property a large low-grade mine.

Informant: George H. Bodfish, who was mill operator in 1905-7 and has lived in Malheur ever since, through J. E. A., 38.