

Idaho County Mining



FARM SCENE near Grangeville in 1909; John Vanderwall's operation and the whole crew posed for a picture.—Photo courtesy Marion Vanderwall.

menced active development work at both groups during the latter part of the year. The new highway, which the Forest Service is constructing between Burgdorf and this district, was extended over five miles. This road is of great assistance to the companies now operating and is an encouragement to the development of the district.

Press reports were to the effect that the War Eagle group in the Dixie district were operated through the year under lease and option by the Central Idaho Mining and Milling Co., and that this company constructed a considerable distance of trail and installed a small power plant and sawmill. The placer deposits in this district received some attention. There was a small increase in the amount of annual labor and development over that of the previous year.

The Bunker Hill and Sullivan Mining and Concentrating Co. and allied interests, which entered the green Mountain section in 1929, maintained active development work until November. The property held by this company is copper-silver deposit. Its development has been a material factor in stimulating interest in this district and its environs, particularly Elk City.

"Other than annual labor, the principal activity in the Harpster district was that of F. W. Watson at the Dewey group. A substantial amount of development work was performed, and a small tonnage was produced and

shipped for experimental purposes.

"The alleged presence of rare metals in the black graphite limestones in the Salmon River of Simpson district in the vicinity of Lucile continued to be used as a lure for the sale of stock and 'units.' No work of any consequence was done by those promoting these rare metal enterprises."

1931

In 1931, metal production topped the \$100,000 mark, at \$102,857.18. The 4,893.65 ounces of gold accounted for \$101,348.89. The 5,258.07 ounces of silver, accounted for \$1,508.29.

"In the Elk City District, the Cal-Idaho Mining Co. was the largest operator. This company acquired the Gold Hill placer. It finished rehabilitation of the 8-mile ditch installed complete hydraulic equipment and constructed a new tail race at a lower elevation. The company contemplates a large hydraulic placer mining enterprises. The Day Development Co., which acquired the Center Star group in October, 1930, completed the sinking of a 100-foot shaft and conducted active exploratory work until May, when all operations were suspended. Lessees at the Property of the French Creek Gold Mining and Milling Co. did a small amount of work during the early part of the year. Later the company cancelled the option and by the close of the year had completed arrangements for refinancing the property.

The Orogrande district witnessed a large amount of new activity. Lessees at the

Homestake group of the Homestake Gold Mining Co. conducted a large amount of mine work. According to press reports a large tonnage of gold ore was developed by contractors, by the close of the year, had installed a gas driven compressor and complete mining equipment. The Gnome Gold Mining Co., a new organization, which is operating the property of the International Mining Co. under lease and option, constructed new camp buildings and commenced extending the principal tunnel, which is a drift on the vein. The Ohadi Mines Corp. operated the Deadwood placers under lease and option, conducted a small amount of work for 30 days, and at the end of the year was making plans for the installation of a power shovel and washing equipment. The property of the Orogrande Gold Mining Co. was placed in receivership, and legal proceedings were completed under which the receiver can sell the property.

The largest expenditure made in this county during the years was that of the Idaho Gold Dredging Co., in the Warren District. This company acquired the Warren Meadows under lease and option, purchased a large steam driven dredge in Oregon, dismantled it, transported it to Warren by motor truck, reconstructed it, and put it into operation early in September. Press reports were to the effect that the gold recovered by the dredge proved that the ground had a high gold content. The Unity Gold Mines Co. was idle

throughout the year. Two sales under attachment proceedings were held against its property.

The Golden or Ten Mile district was one of the most active sections of this county throughout 1931. F. G. Miller and son, at the Lone Pine group, maintained development work without interruption, operated the mill for a short period, and installed a new 160 cubic-foot gas-driven compressor. This mine was one of the largest gold producers in the county. The development work greatly increased the known ore resources, and at the close of the year the owners were completing plans for the construction of a new mill. The success with which this enterprise is meeting has greatly increased the known ore resources, and at the close of the year the owners were completing plans for the construction of a new mill. The success with which this enterprise is meeting has greatly stimulated prospecting and promoting; and six companies holding nearby properties did a small amount of work and a large amount of solicitation in the sale of stock. The Buffalo-Idaho Mining Co. and the Central Idaho Gold Mines, Inc. were active throughout the larger part of the year. Each operated its mill for a short period and produced a small amount of bullion. The Moose Creek Placers Co. conducted work on its ditch and flume line and further repaired its hydraulic equipment.

In the Dixie district, the Central Idaho Mining and Milling Co. was active

throughout the year. This company completed the construction of a mill building and the installation of a 25-ton flotation concentrator and a small hydroelectric plant. In addition to building many miles of trail and conducting an active mine development campaign, a small tonnage of high-grade gold-lead concentrate was produced and marketed. Press reports were to the effect that the Mammoth Mining and Development Co., which is operating the property of the Mammoth Mine Corporation, under lease and option, installed a small steam-driven compressor and commenced construction of a small mill. J. R. Painter, whose property is on the Salmon River, south of Dixie, produced a small tonnage of gold ore, which was of such high grade that it warranted transportation by pack train from the mine to Dixie. The placer deposits near the town of Dixie received considerable attention. Press reports were to the effect that a new company had been organized to exploit one of these properties.

The Marshall Lake District was one of the most active sections in the county throughout the year. A substantial production was recorded, a large amount of development work done, and a large number of mine examinations were made. The Golden Anchor Mining Co., at the Holte Mine, in which there was one of the most important disclosures made in the state during 1930, conducted development work throughout the larger part of the year. This work further opened ore bodies and proved them to be of major importance. The Sherman Howe Mining Co. completed construction of additional new camp buildings, enlarged its mine plant and maintained production and development work without interruption until October. This company's production was one of the largest in the county. The Long Tom Mining Co., at the Cuban and West Goodenough groups was active throughout the year at both groups. The new highway which the Forest Service is constructing between the

Burgdorf and this district was extended an additional four miles. This road is of great assistance to the companies now operating and is a great encouragement to the development of the district.

In the Burgdorf district a small amount of work was done by the Davis Mining Co., on Rub Creek; the Golden Rule placer was operated for 30 days; and late in the year arrangements had been completed to prospect thoroughly a large tract of ground for its placer gold content.

The alleged presence of rare metals and gold in the black graphite lime shales and dike rock in the Salmon River or Simpson district, near Lucile continued to be used as a lure for the sale of stock. Those promoting

these enterprises profess having secret methods by which the rare metals and the gold are recovered. No work of any consequence was done by any of these companies.

The Idaho Bureau of Mines, in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey, commenced work on a new geological survey of that part of the county lying north of the Salmon River, including the Buffalo Hump, Dixie, Elk City, Ten Mile, and Orogrande districts. The bureau considers these districts to possess favorable possibilities for the discovery of new gold deposits.

"Fourteen new companies were incorporated and acquired gold properties in Idaho County during the year, and 448 new locations

were made. This is the largest number of new locations in any one year during the past 30 years."

1932
Gold production in 1932 soared to 12,943.79 ounces of gold, at a value of \$255,146, 9,348.32 ounces of silver at a value of \$2,607.43; and some lead and copper for a total value of \$258,088.90.

The report says, "The gold resources of the county as a whole, received more attention than for many years. More new companies were organized, more new development work was started, and more plants were constructed, the principal ones being the dredge of the Warren Creel Dredging Co., the Lone Pine mill of F. O. Miller and son the mill of the Gnome Gold Mining Co., and the new (Continued on following page)