

# Southern Oregon's first gold dredge: by Roger Brandt

## The Josephine

Part Two: The story of southern Oregon's first gold dredge

The first gold mining dredge in Oregon was set up in the fall of 1899 at a mining claim near the historic town of Waldo and despite the spectacular promise of success, this massive machine was only able to operate for one season before the owners became entangled in litigation. During the squabble that followed, the dredge lay idle and eventually capsized.

The dredge was about 100 feet long and probably 30 feet wide and used a chain of buckets to haul gravel into the hull of the boat where the gold was extracted. The assembly of buckets cut into the gravel beds much in the same way as a chainsaw into wood except the buckets lifted up rather than cut down. These were called bucket-ladder dredges.

Bucket-ladder dredges were first put to use in New Zealand in 1881 and were brought to California in 1896 where success probably played a role in the eventual interest in using them in Oregon.

The dredge at Waldo was made by the Hammond Manufacturing Company in Portland and shipped to Grants Pass by rail in September, 1899 where it was hauled, piece by piece over dirt roads by horse drawn wagons to Waldo, a distance of about 50 miles. The boat was assembled during the winter

months and began operating in early April, 1900. It was named the "Josephine".

The machine no doubt added a new array of sounds to the neighborhood to include the rhythmic chuffing of the 75 horsepower steam engine lifting loads of gravel into the dredge on a chain of buckets that no doubt permeated the air with an array of shrill squeaks. The gravel was deposited in a hopper seventeen feet above the deck where it fed into a 30 foot-long, rotating trommel, a hollow metal cylinder perforated with five to eight inch holes that separated the large boulders from smaller gravel. The clanging of rocks bouncing inside the cylinder must have sounded like a bell being hammered constantly day and night. The gravel from the trommel dropped into a device called a Hungarian riffle that separated the gold from the gravel and dropped the unwanted gravel into the pond behind the boat.

The dredge had a steam driven dynamo that generated electricity for lights and made it possible to operate at night. One can only imagine what the dredge might have looked like in the dark with the glow of light surrounded by a haze of smoke and steam from the wood-fired boiler and the constant drone of the steam engine, clattering rocks, and strident squeaks of the bucket chain that no doubt could be heard for miles in the calm of the Valley.

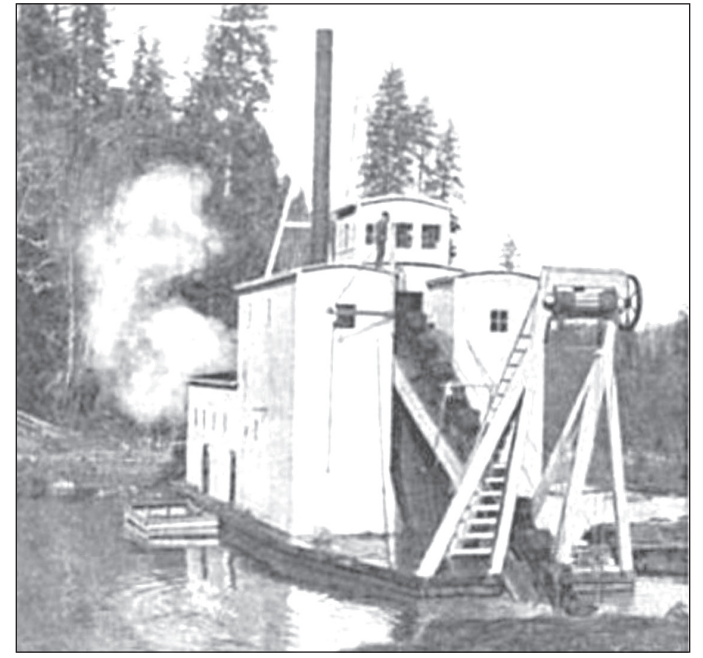
Almost immediately after beginning operations the dredge began to have problems. Breakdowns were common and it was difficult to get it to work for more than 48 hours without something breaking. Each breakdown often took several weeks of waiting for parts to be delivered so repair work could be done, with the discouraging prospect that the machine would likely breakdown again 48 hours later. Damage was often significant and included the lower shaft on the digging ladder breaking several times, twisting of the main shaft, and the end of the digging ladder breaking off causing a great deal of expense in delays.

In addition to breakdowns, maneuvering the dredge to where it could cut into gold bearing gravels was all but impossible. The water was pumped out of the pond using the 2880 gallon a minute pump on the dredge where it was discovered that the dredge was grounded on tailing piles from the Chinese operations that originally excavated the pit. This had to be dug away before the dredge could be turned and moved into position to begin excavation.

Despite the problems with the equipment, the operator was able to dig a canal some 400 feet wide and about 600 feet long. Most of this was in an area that had previously been mined and the objective of digging the canal was to get to an area where they

expected to cut into rich gold deposits. Just as they arrived at this location, the owners of the dredge and claim became entangled in a series of litigations that stalled operations to a standstill and spelled doom for the Josephine.

**A dredge (right) in operation may be the Josephine and was probably taken in the spring of 1900. Note the man standing on the roof. Photo copied from Janin, 1911.**



**A group of men stand in front of a dredge with a design similar to the Josephine. The equipment in the background and clean buckets hint that the dredge may have been under construction. Josephine County Historical Society collection.**

## Healthy U News: Values

By Nicole Rensenbrink

According to their literature, the Cow Creek people have lived in Southwest Oregon for at least 10,000 years. Through the process of "civilization," their numbers were reduced to just seven families. Now, with Seven Feathers Hotel and Casino Resort, the tribe donates six percent of its Nevada style gaming proceeds to local philanthropy, benefiting the descendants of those who all but wiped them out.

Why? Because the tribe believes that giving from abundance is what it takes to be good people. Now that's going far and beyond family values.

When I was young, television was dominated by shows like "Lassie," "The Wonder-

ful World of Disney" and in later years, "The Brady Bunch" and "Waltons." Typically, one of the kids, on whatever show it was, would get into some sort of trouble, try to keep it from the adults, the adults would find out, offer some slightly painful consequence along with a solution, and a lesson about right and wrong. The assumption was that we all a little confused about how to begin, but were supposed to grow up to be good people.

Fast forward to "The Simpsons" and "Family Guy." The adults are dumb and the kids are funny cynics who put them down. I admit I enjoy laughing too, but the underlying message, that contempt is cool, is rather alarming.

Though most of us think of ourselves as good people on the inside, it's up to us to re-

member that the world only sees what we offer on the outside. Though we may have highly social values like caring, generosity, kindness and responsibility; it's only through our actions that others believe it.

Our little nonprofit recently held its first Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. It felt great to acknowledge everyone who showed up and gave of themselves in service to others. It was wonderful to celebrate Diane Chirrick, our Volunteer of the Year, who uncomplainingly works hard to give her heart through her efforts and

consistent presence.

We Americans love to laugh with the cynics and cheer for the superstars on television, but when it comes to the real lives we live every day, it's people like Diane and the seven Cow Creek families who show us how to live. They put values into action and demonstrate their good.

The staff and volunteers of Healthy U present this column as part of their mission to promote health in the Illinois Valley.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE. Reference is made to that certain trust deed made by Ruby D. Huffman-Mosier, as grantor, to Paul S. Cosgrove, Esq., as trustee, in favor of Budget Finance Company, as beneficiary, dated November 11, 2009, recorded November 19, 2009, in the mortgage records of Josephine County, Oregon, as Instrument No. 2009-018342. Thereafter, partial assignments of the beneficial interest were recorded as follows: to Judith Feinstein, a married woman, as to an undivided 28.61% interest; to Richard Houghton and Donald Richard Houghton, father and son as joint tenants as to an undivided 39.73% interest; to Robert Masiello and Paulette Masiello, husband and wife as joint tenants as to an undivided 4.10% interest; to Ethel Haller, Trustee of the Ethel Haller Trust dated March 27, 2000, as to an undivided 4.81% interest; and to Elisa Urbina as to an undivided 2.64% interest, covering the following described real property situated in the above mentioned county and state, to wit: LOT 15, PINEWOOD PARK SUBDIVISION, JOSEPHINE COUNTY OREGON, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN VOLUME 7, PAGE 43, PLAT RECORDS. (The title company advises the property address is 600 Pinewood Way, Cave Junction, Oregon.) Both the beneficiary and the trustee have elected to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said trust deed and a Notice of Default has been recorded pursuant to Oregon Revised Statutes 86.735(3); the default for which the foreclosure is made is grantor's failure to pay when due the following sums: Monthly payments due May 1, 2012, through March 1, 2013, for a total of \$10,038.60, plus late charges of \$0.00, plus corporate advances of \$512.50, plus that portion of real property taxes now due for 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13. By reason of said default the beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligation secured by said trust deed immediately due and payable, said sums being the following, to wit: As of May 1, 2012, the principal sum of \$163,741.92 plus interest; plus any sums advanced by the beneficiary or beneficiary's successor in interest for the protection of the above described property, plus attorney and trustee's fees incurred

by reason of said default. WHEREFORE, notice hereby is given that the undersigned trustee will on August 9, 2013, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., in accord with the standard of time established by ORS 187.110, at main lobby of Josephine County Courthouse, 500 NW 6th and C Street, in the City of Grants Pass, County of Josephine, State of Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the interest in the said described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by grantor of the said trust deed, together with any interest which the grantor or grantor's successors in interest acquired after the execution of said trust deed, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee. Notice is further given that any person named in ORS 86.753 has the right, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for the sale, to have this foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the trust deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred) and by curing any other default complained of herein that is capable of being cured by tendering the performance required under the obligation or trust deed, and in addition to paying said sums or tendering the performance necessary to cure the default, by paying all costs and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the obligation and trust deed, together with trustee's and attorney's fees not exceeding the amounts provided by said ORS 86.753. In construing this notice, the singular includes the plural, the word "grantor" includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other person owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by said trust deed and the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. The Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act requires we state: This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. DATED March 26, 2013. /s/ Paul S. Cosgrove, Esq., Trustee, Lindsay Hart, LLP, 220 NW Skyline Blvd., Portland, OR 97210. Sale No. 66025-326. For additional information call (503) 956-8139. Publish 5.29,6.5,6.12,6.19

### PUBLIC NOTICE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF OREGON  
MEDFORD DIVISION  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, v.  
THE ESTATE OF TERRY MORRIS JACKSON;  
JEFFREY MORRIS JACKSON; GARY KEITH JACKSON; STATE OF OREGON DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES; and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST AND CLAIMANTS TO THE ESTATE OF TERRY MORRIS JACKSON, DECEASED, Defendants,  
Civil No. 1:13-cv-00445-CL  
ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION  
Upon Motion and Declaration of Plaintiff for an order directing the unknown heirs, devisees, successors in interest and claimants to The Estate of Terry Morris Jackson appear or plead in the above-entitled cause by a day certain to be fixed by the Court, it appearing to the Court that this civil action was brought to foreclose a real estate deed of trust on real property situated in Josephine County, State of Oregon, described as follows:  
The South 60 feet of the following described property to wit: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the Northeast quarter of the Southeast quarter of Section 21, Township 39 South, Range 8 West of the Willamette Meridian, Josephine County, Oregon; thence North 19104' East 1121.05 feet; thence North 89142' West 60 feet to the True Point of Beginning; thence South 240.66 feet; thence North 89142' West 135 feet; thence North 240.66 feet; thence South 89142' East 135 feet to the True Point of Beginning. Also: the North 20 feet of the South 80 feet of the following described property to wit: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the Northeast quarter of the Southeast quarter of Section 21, Township 39 South, Range 8 West of the Willamette Meridian, Josephine County, Oregon; thence North 19104' East 1121.05 feet; thence North 89142' West 60 feet to the True Point of Beginning; thence South 240.66 feet; thence North 89142' West 135 feet; thence North 240.66 feet; thence South 89142' East 135 feet to the True Point of Beginning. Tax Parcel Number R330020 and R330019. Commonly known as

236 South Caves Avenue, Cave Junction, Oregon that the unknown heirs, devisees, successors in interest and claimants to The Estate of Terry Morris Jackson cannot be found within the State of Oregon and have not voluntarily appeared in this action; that personal service upon them is not practicable because they are unknown and that this action is one in which an absent Defendant may lawfully be ordered to appear or plead within the meaning and purview of 28 U.S.C. § 1655.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. That the unknown heirs, devisees, successors in interest and claimants to The Estate of Terry Morris Jackson must appear or plead to the complaint of Plaintiff filed herein, on or before July 31, 2013, with service upon Plaintiff's attorney at the following address: Tim Simmons, Assistant United States Attorney, 405 E. 8th Ave., Suite 2400, Eugene, Oregon 97401-2708. A failure to answer shall constitute a default and the Court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this suit as if said Defendants have been served with process within the State of Oregon.
2. That this order be published in Illinois Valley News, a newspaper published at Cave Junction, Oregon, in Josephine County, Oregon, once a week for six consecutive weeks, the first publication to be not later than June 5, 2013; and
3. If any person is in possession or charge of said property, those individuals shall be served with certified copies of this Order and of Plaintiff's Complaint.

DATED this 23rd day of May, 2013.

MARK D. CLARKE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

PRESENTED BY:

S. AMANDA MARSHALL

United States Attorney

/s/ Tim Simmons

TIM SIMMONS

Oregon State Bar No. 92461

tim.simmons@usdoj.gov

Assistant United States Attorney

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