

3260 0041

# MOUNTAIN CITY DISTRICT

The Mountain City District, also known as the Cope District, is in the northeastern part of the Centennial Range on the north fork of the Owyhee River, about one and one-half miles east of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. Silver-gold deposits were discovered in the District in 1869 by Louis Cope and others, who were on their way from Silver City, Idaho, to the White Pine District, Nevada. Following the discovery of lode deposits, placer gold was found in the Owyhee River, but little attention was paid to it at the time. Compared with the lode deposits, the placers are relatively unimportant.

In the middle seventies, placer gold was discovered in Grasshopper Gulch, north of Sugar Loaf Peak. The gulch was profitably mined for half a mile. Many piles of tailings are evidence of the activity of the early placer miners. Stretch,

Vanderburg, W. O.

(71)

Dem 41

of Mountain operations h

The Van the north. V small stream the Owyhee gold was discovered. No placer gold sources it is Figure 21 is in 1894.

"Stretch, R. 1875-1876, p. 25

in the biennial report on the mining activity in the State in 1875-1876,<sup>14</sup> stated that the placer mines on both sides of the Owyhee River yielded well. From 1870 to 1890 much of the work was done by R. M. Woodward and Alley Harris and associates, who constructed a ditch from Mill Creek and hydraulicked part of the ground.

In recent years small-scale placer operations have been carried on intermittently in Hansen Gulch, which is a tributary to Grass-hopper Gulch, and along the Owyhee River several miles north

Np

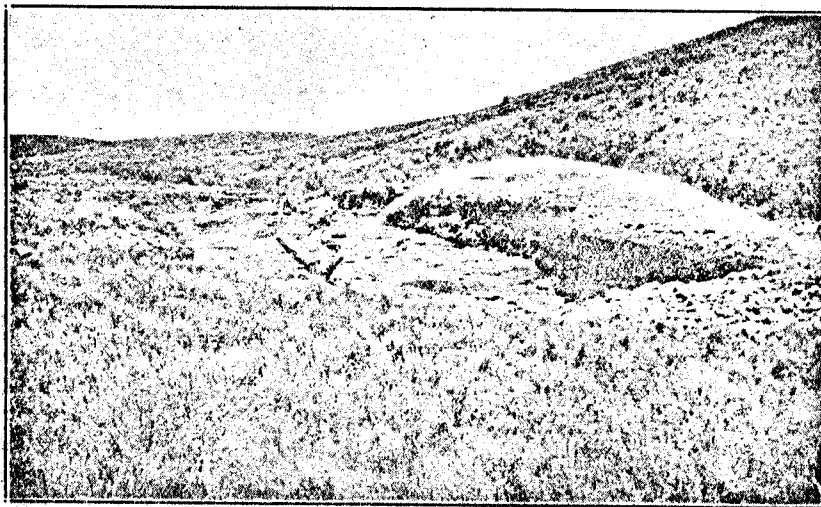


Figure 21. Hydraulic mining on Van Duzer Creek, Elko County, in 1894.

of Mountain City. The production of placer gold from these operations has been small.