

The Rabbit Hole district is 3 miles northeast of Rabbit Hole Springs and 8 miles northwest of Scossa. According to E. J. Quirk of Rosebud a placer location was made in the district in 1900, but no placer mining was done until 1916 when the Wogan brothers located several claims and took out \$3,000 in placer gold. Quirk worked several summers after 1916 and recovered \$600 by panning. In 1935 this was one of the most active placer areas in the State. In March 1936, 60 men were working in Coarse Gold, Red, and Long Gulches, tributary to Rosebud Canyon, and 40 dry washers were in use. The average returns from this work are said to net the operators wages.

The depth of the gravel worked ranges from 2 to 12 feet, averaging 4 feet. The pay gravel lies above a false bedrock of clay. Several shafts have been sunk below the stratum of clay, but little gold was found. The surface gravel is rough and angular and consists principally of minus-1-inch material. Few boulders are present. In places the gravel is slightly stratified and shows signs of water action. Most of the gold recovered is nuggety. It averages 900 fine. In 1935 the largest nugget found weighed 9 pennyweight and 6 grains. The distribution of the gold is very erratic; rich pockets have been found that average as much as \$50 per cubic yard. The concentrates contain considerable black sand.

In recent years several attempts have been made to work the placers on a large scale. In the fall of 1932 a company installed a washing plant at Rabbit Hole Springs. A graded road $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long was built from the placer ground to the washing plant. Five trucks conveyed the gravel to the plant. The gravel was screened, and the minus- $1/4$ -inch screen product was washed in two power-driven sluice boxes equipped with transverse riffles. This plant was commercially unsuccessful.

Another attempt was made to work the surface gravel with a power shovel and a battery of 10 washing machines connected to a single power unit. The trommel and dry-washing machine with auxiliary equipment were mounted on a portable truck. The gas shovel had a capacity of $3/8$ cubic yard. This plant operated only a short time.

The dry-washing machines are either the Mexican air jigs equipped with bellows or continuous-blower-type machines in which the air is circulated by a rotary fan. Some of the machines are hooked up to small power units. It was generally conceded that the power-driven washer was far superior to the hand-driven machine.

At Barrel Springs in the canyon of the same name, Otto Jancke and associates have operated a placer plant for several years. More than 3,000 acres of placer ground is held by Jancke and partner. The gravel is treated in a power-driven rocker at Barrel Springs. Gravel is hauled to the plant by automobile truck. In 1935 Jancke stated that in 3 months each of four men netted \$1,000. In 1934 each man earned \$2,200 in 8 months. The largest nugget found by Jancke had a value of \$17.50. In 1936 this ground was under lease and bond to Reno interests.

Near the mouth of Rosebud Canyon 2 miles from Rabbit Hole Springs is a deposit of bentonite clay owned by Charles F. Baker of Lovelock. Up to March 1936 several carloads of the clay had been shipped to California. The nearest railroad siding is 9 miles north at Sulphur. The deposit is flat and capped with a few inches to many feet of clay material. In an open-cut the deposit is 8 feet thick, and in all probability it extends deeper. Several test holes have been sunk in the bentonite at the base of the hill where it is exposed. Small crevices traversing the bentonite are filled with fibrous gypsum. A large tonnage of bentonite is indicated by surface workings.