

# Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



**Field Name: Roberts, 1983-1986, 1989-2002**

**Last Update: 21-Feb-2005**

**Status: Recent Producer 1978-present**

**Stream: Homestake Gulch: a tributary of Upper Bonanza**

**Map Sheet(s): 1150/14, 1150/16**

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## Operators

| Name            | From (Date) | To (Date)  | Comment |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|---------|
| Marlene Roberts | 1989/01/01  | 2002/12/31 |         |
| Alfred Roberts  | 1989/01/01  | 2002/12/31 |         |
| Lawrence Beyer  | 1984/01/01  | 1984/12/31 |         |
| Marlene Roberts | 1983/01/01  | 1986/12/31 |         |
| Alfred Roberts  | 1983/01/01  | 1986/12/31 |         |

## Owners

| Name            | From (Date) | To (Date)  | Comment |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|---------|
| Marlene Roberts | 1989/01/01  | 2003/12/31 |         |
| Alfred Roberts  | 1989/01/01  | 2003/12/31 |         |
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| Alfred Roberts  | 1989/01/01  | 2002/12/31 |         |
| Lawrence Beyer  | 1984/01/01  | 1984/12/31 |         |
| Marlene Roberts | 1983/01/01  | 1986/12/31 |         |
| Alfred Roberts  | 1983/01/01  | 1986/12/31 |         |

## General Location

The operation was located along Homestake Gulch, between 5,000 and 8,000 feet upstream from its confluence with Upper Bonanza Creek. In 1995, the operation was 2 miles from the confluence with Upper Bonanza. The bottom of Homestake Gulch was about 100 feet wide in this area, with very steep sides which got steeper toward the upstream end of the claims.

## Location Details

| Date:      | Latitude |     |     | Longitude |     |     | Elevation | Distance from Mouth |
|------------|----------|-----|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-----------|---------------------|
|            | Deg      | Min | Sec | Deg       | Min | Sec | (feet)    | (feet)              |
| 2003/01/01 | 63       | 56  | 16  | 139       | 13  | 47  |           |                     |
| 1998/01/01 | 63       | 56  | 0   | 139       | 16  | 0   |           |                     |
| 1995/01/01 | 63       | 56  | 0   | 139       | 16  | 0   |           |                     |
| 1993/01/01 | 63       | 55  | 48  | 139       | 16  | 12  | 2,000     | 5,000               |
| 1989/01/01 | 63       | 56  | 0   | 139       | 15  | 0   |           |                     |
| 1983/01/01 | 63       | 56  | 0   | 139       | 14  | 0   |           | 8,000               |

## Water Licence(s)

| Number   | Comments            |
|----------|---------------------|
| PM98-031 | Expires: 2005/04/30 |
| PM99-064 |                     |
| PM96-004 |                     |
| PM89-073 |                     |
| PM92-049 |                     |

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### **Work History**

1983- Mr. Roberts worked on the property. Work was done to construct a 4 inch diameter pipeline to supply water from a holding pond 1,500 feet upstream from the cut.

1984- Mr. Beyer came to the property to aid Mr. Roberts for the season. They stripped approximately 1,800 cubic yards of material and sluiced 1,600 cubic yards of material.

1985- A total of 1,324 cubic yards of material were sluiced from the 1984 stockpile. Material was sluiced at a rate of 15 cubic yards per hour, 3 hours per day.

1986- The operation continued upstream from the 1985 work area. Eighteen hundred cubic yards of overburden were stripped from an area approximately 210 feet along the valley direction by an average width of 35 feet. The lower portion had been stripped to a 5 foot depth. This work fell on the upper section of the "Marlene claim".

1989- The mining cut was about 200 feet long by 20 feet wide.

1990- The mining cut was 200 feet long and 15 feet wide.

1991- The cut was about 15 feet wide by 200 feet long.

1992- The same cut as in 91 was enlarged to about 30 feet wide by 200 feet long. Around 2500 cubic yards were processed this year.

1993-1994- About 1700 cubic yards per year were processed from one mining cut, averaging 30 feet wide by 250 feet long.

1995- This was a 2 person operation. All the cuts were in the valley bottom, about 30 feet wide. One cut 500 feet long yielded 5555 cubic yards.

1996- One cut about 200 feet long produced 4000 cubic yards.

1997- One cut 400 feet long yielded 3800 cubic yards.

1998-2002- In 1998 and 1999 overburden was stripped and pay gravel excavated from one cut up to 50 feet wide by 500 feet long, with about 1500 cubic yards sluiced in 1998 and 1200 cubic yards sluiced in 1999. In 2000 and 2001, the pay streak narrowed to about 20 feet wide and one cut was stripped and mined about 300 feet long.

About 2000 cubic yards were processed in 2000, and in 2001 about 1300 cubic yards were sluiced. By 2002, mining had been completed and Mr. Roberts spent the season performing reclamation work, dewatering settling ponds and recontouring valley sides with tailings and overburden. Mine shafts with old clothing, tin cans and tools, were found in the frozen overburden and gravel. An old drift with a wooden ore box on wooden tracks was opened along the left limit.

2003 - No activity occurred this season. Site was decommissioned and the Roberts moved their operation to Lindow Creek, a tributary of Bear Creek. Claim was transferred to the Mathias's.

### **Production**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Stripped</b>  | <b>Sluiced</b>   |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| 2001        | Unknown          | 1300 cubic yards |
| 2000        | Unknown          | 2000 cubic yards |
| 1999        | Unknown          | 1200 cubic yards |
| 1998        | Unknown          | 1500 cubic yards |
| 1997        | Unknown          | 3800 cubic yards |
| 1996        | Unknown          | 4000 cubic yards |
| 1995        | Unknown          | 5555 cubic yards |
| 1994        | Unknown          | 1700 cubic yards |
| 1993        | Unknown          | 1700 cubic yards |
| 1992        | Unknown          | 2500 cubic yards |
| 1986        | 1800 cubic yards | Unknown          |
| 1985        | Unknown          | 1324 cubic yards |
| 1984        | 1800 cubic yards | 1600 cubic yards |

**Production**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Stripped</b> | <b>Sluiced</b> |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|

**Equipment**

In 1983, an International 125C tracked loader was used to all work. Material mined was stockpiled, and the pit allowed to flood. Water in the pit was then pumped out by a 2 inch gasoline driven pump, and used for sluicing. The sluicing plant consisted of a dump box 4 1/2 feet wide and 7 feet long, and a single sluice run 12 inches wide and 12 feet long. Material was fed to the dump box from the stockpile by the loader. In 1984, material was sluiced at a rate of 30 cubic yards per hour.

In 1985 and IH 125C tracked loader was used to do all of the mining chores; stripping, feeding the sluice, moving tailings, etc. A new sluice plant replaced the one used the previous seasons. The new box consisted of a 4 1/2 by 12 foot dump lined with slick plate. The run, 18 inches by 20 feet, was lined with 2 inch riffles over rubber carpet, graded at 1.75 inches to the foot. Sluice water was delivered to the box from two sources. Recirculated water from the 1984 pit, pumped by a 4 inch Monarch trash pump, powered by a 16 hp Briggs engine, was delivered to a side manifold on the dump box. Also, gravity water from an upstream reservoir, via a 4 inch line, was delivered to the box. Tailings were stacked on the right limit.

In 1986, and Bucyrus 20B Dragline, equipped with a 2 cubic yard bucket was added. The dragline was used to feed the box then deposit tailings onto the left limit sidehill.

In 1989 the International 125C loader dug pay, fed the wash plant and removed tailings, while the Bucyrus dragline was used to strip overburden and muck ponds. The wash plant had a 3 by 6 foot shaker screen to minus 3/4 inch, with a single sluice run 18 inches wide by 20 feet long with 4 feet of expanded metal and 16 feet of standard angle iron riffles. A 4 by 4 inch trash pump powered by a 16 hp Briggs and Stratton gas engine supplied 400 igpm. About 10 to 12 cubic yards per hour were processed. Waste water was settled and recycled from two instream ponds immediately below the wash plant and was further settled in a third instream pond about 1500 feet downstream.

A Caterpillar D8H bulldozer with straight blade and no ripper was used to strip overburden and dig pay gravel. An International 125C bulldozer pushed pay gravel and fed the wash plant. A Bucyrus 20B dragline was also used to feed the wash plant and to clean out the recycle/settling ponds. A hopper fed a Parker wet shaker screen deck 5 feet wide by 10 feet long, which classified to 1 inch minus. This was followed by a single sluice run 24 inches wide by 20 feet long with all expanded metal riffles over Nomad mat, and sloped at 1 inch per foot. Approximately 24 cubic yards per hour were processed using 450 igpm of water supplied by a 4 inch Monarch pump, and recycled with a 3 inch Honda pump.

In 1995, one Caterpillar D8 bulldozer with angle blade and no ripper, was used for stripping overburden and digging pay gravel. One Bucyrus Erie 20B dragline was used to left pay gravel, feed the wash plant and to clean out settling ponds. A Kotman Athey wet shaker screen deck 5 by 10 feet classified to 1 inch. This was followed by a single sluice, 24 inches wide by 20 feet long, with expanded metal riffles for the first 12 feet and sloped at 1 1/2 inches per foot, followed by 8 feet of angle iron riffles sloped at 3 inches per foot. One Monarch pump, 4 inches by 4 inches, and one Honda pump, 3 by 3 inches, were used to deliver from 200 to 300 igpm. About 30 cubic yards per hour were processed. Water was pumped from an in-stream recycle pond and waste water was discharged into two small out-of-stream settling ponds prior to overflowing into the recycle pond. Out-of-stream settling ponds were rebuilt each season and in-stream ponds were cleaned out each spring with the dragline.

In 1998, the same equipment and wash plant as in previous years was used. Water was pumped from one instream recycle pond, 50 feet wide by 150 feet long. Sluice water was directed through two out of stream settling ponds before being recycled. Gold was cleaned up using a long tom and gold wheel.

**Environmental Work**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Reclamation Work</b>                                  |
|-------------|--|
| 2003        | All reclamation was completed for final decommissioning. |

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## **Landforms**

| <b>Landform</b> | <b>Comments</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Gulch           |                 |

## **Surficial Geology**

The creek valley is almost 200 feet wide, and has moderately sloping sidewalls, and a steep gradient. Deposits present in one cut were 10 to 12 feet thick, and consisted of 2 feet of brown organic muck with slide rock overlying 8 to 10 feet of fine, sandy gravel. Some of the gravel had bands of reddish stain. The deposits were thicker elsewhere. Tailings from early hand mining operations are present.

In 1989 and 1990 the section varied in thickness from 18 to 30 feet. The bottom layer of gravel was one of 4 feet thick under a layer of mixed rock, clay and ice 12 to 20 feet thick. This was capped by an organic layer up to 4 feet thick. Mammoth tusks and bones are found in the middle layer. The bottom gravel layer plus up to 2 feet of bedrock were sluiced.

In 1991 the section consisted of frozen black muck 16 to 20 feet deep which overlay 2 to 4 feet of pay gravel. Some mammoth tusks and bones were recovered.

The section in 1993 consisted of frozen black muck overburden was 16 - 20 ft deep on top of about 4 ft of gravel. Some slide bedrock was encountered within the frozen overburden. Gravel layers varied from 2-4 ft, and up to 3 ft of highly decomposed bedrock was also sluiced.

The section in 1995 had 10 to 15 feet of frozen black muck overburden on top of mixed gravel and slide rock from 2 to 4 feet deep. All gravels plus about 4 feet decomposed bedrock were processed.

In 1998-2001, frozen black muck overburden was 15 to 20 feet deep on top of 2 to 6 feet of pay gravel mixed with slide bedrock. All gravel plus 2 or 3 feet of decomposed and broken bedrock were sluiced.

## **Bedrock Geology**

Tan weathering muscovitic and/or chloritic quartzite and quartz-muscovite-chlorite schist within decomposing bedrock.

## **Gold Comments**

Gold was angular, chunky and assayed 664 fine. Approximately 30% was plus 12 mesh in size.

In 1995, the gold was dull coloured, chunky and angular with fineness around 663.

In 1998 to 2002, gold was dull coloured, chunky, angular gold, mostly larger than 10 mesh, and had fineness around 664.

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**Pictures**

**Title:** Roberts operation, Homestake Gulch, '98-'02

**Notes:**

Close-up view of Alf Roberts using a drag line with 1/2 yard bucket, to dig pay gravel and feed the wash plant.

