Sylvanite Mine  (gold, tungsten)  

Gold Hill area

Lessee: Property was leased July 1939 by Imperial Gold Mines, Inc., an Oregon corporation; J. D. McDonald, president; F. F. Stimson, vice-president; Donald McDonald, secretary-treasurer; J. K. Jackson, general manager; J. E. Morris, chief engineer; J. H. Coons, superintendent.

Location: sec. 2, T. 36 S., R. 3 W., 132 acres of patented ground; four full mining claims and two fractional claims secured by lease and bond.

History: Most of the history centers around ore on the footwall of a fracture that cuts the Cox-Lyman vein. The Imperial Gold Mines has photostatic records of some $700,000 of mint receipts and the ore shoot is reported to have paid $1000 per ton for a distance of 900 feet. Operation was discontinued in 1940.

Parks & Scuttley, 16, report:

"The Sylvanite mine is in Sec. 2, T. 36 S., R. 3 W., about 3 miles northeast of Gold Hill. It is owned by E. T. Simons. The vein strikes N. 22° E., and dips about 65° E. and the country rocks have the same attitude; they are argillite partly altered to chlorite and serpentine. The vein contains quartz carrying some pyrite. The workings, now badly caved, are reported to consist of a drift 1200 feet long at an elevation of 1360 feet by barometer and a crosscut to the vein at an elevation of 1650 feet, with a shaft to the lower level. According to W. A. Marvin, who was in charge of the mine at one time, the ore contained no telluride, but a little galena and much pyrite in quartz; the fault gouge contained about $3 worth of gold and silver per ton; high grade gold occurred in 'boulders' not in place at depths from 80 to 160 feet; sulphide ore began to appear at about 160 feet depth and was 5 feet wide at 225 feet depth; the hanging wall was a slate and the footwall a limestone.

"Considerable interest has been attached to this property since the discovery in March, 1916, of tungsten along with the gold ores in the form of scheelite. The mineral occurs in small stringers with quartz. Samples have been taken from these quartz ledges which run as high as 40 percent tungstic acid, but it is claimed by the management that the vein as a whole runs less than 2 percent. The veins carrying the best grade of tungsten have been developed to a small extent and the tungsten resources of the mine have not yet been determined.

"The property is under lease and bond to Stone and Aven, of Denver, Colorado, who are doing some further development work."

The record since 1916 is not complete, but it is known that in 1926, the Oregon-Pittsburgh Company worked the mine. In 1930, the Discon Mining Company, directed by A. D. Coulter, developed the high-grade ore shoot along the Cox-Lyman vein. Western United Gold Properties had the mine for a time, and from 1935 to 1937, the Sylvanite Mining Company worked it during the summer months. Imperial Gold Mines, Inc., was incorporated in July, 1939, and began the task of cleaning out the old workings, constructing a mill, and starting development preparatory to mining.

In the late spring of 1940, the No. 2 tunnel was open to the Sylvanite vein although the vein itself was relatively inaccessible. The No. 3 tunnel was open to the intersection of the Cox-Lyman vein and the Sylvanite vein but here again, little could be determined of the Sylvanite vein. The slope had been pumped out and some prospecting for extensions of the rich ore shoot was in progress.

Development: No. 3 tunnel, called the Oxley tunnel, is 250 feet long; No. 2 tunnel contains 600 feet of lateral work both drifts and crosscuts; No. 1 tunnel contains a crosscut 460 feet long, together with drifts totalling 650 lineal feet. In addition, a 45-degree incline shaft has been sunk 602 feet. A number of shallow shafts and tunnels, most of which are caved, have been opened from time to time by pocket hunters.

Geology: Country rocks are both meta-igneous and meta-sedimentary. An outcrop of granitoid rock occurs about a mile to the southeast of the mine. The structural trend of the mineralized zone is generally east of north.
Meta-igneous rocks which occur east of the Sylvanite vein or shear zone have been intensely sheared, faulted, and intruded by basic igneous dikes. Hydrous silicates resembling serpentine have developed in some shear zones. Meta-sedimentary rocks occur in the footwall of the Sylvanite shear zone and are presumed to extend westward.

Some shear zones have been mineralized with quartz, calcite, sulphide, and small amounts of gold. The shear zones are known locally as veins.

Ore deposits are related to complex shearing and faulting. The most persistent shear, as represented by the Sylvanite vein, trends slightly east of north and dips southward at about 45 degrees. Another zone of shearing trends at right angles to the Sylvanite shear zone and stands nearly vertical. The so-called Cox-Lyman shear zone is an example of this type. Evidence available shows no sequence of faulting between the two systems. Each has cut and displaced the other.

The Sylvanite vein is a wide zone occurring between meta-igneous and meta-sedimentary rock. Openings in sheared material are caved badly and close timbering is required. Therefore, sides and backs of these openings may not be easily examined at present. Estimates of the size of ore shoots are given as from 5 to 12 feet; they contain quartz and calcite carrying galena, chalcopyrite, and pyrite. Assays of the shoots are reported to average between $5 and $15.

The Cox-Lyman vein, which trends slightly south of east, is a shear zone in meta-igneous rock. Its average width is about 6 feet. A discontinuous seam of quartz about 2 feet wide has been formed in this zone. This seam is nearly barren of values, although in a few places, assays up to $2 to the ton have been obtained. Openings on the intersection of the Sylvanite and Cox-Lyman shear zone is now caved and relationships are obscured.

A fracture zone that is roughly parallel to the Sylvanite vein cuts the Cox-Lyman vein and displaces the east or hanging-wall portion about 15 feet to the north. An ore shoot was found on this hanging wall of the Sylvanite and its intersection with the Cox-Lyman. It is reported that $1000 per lineal foot of winze was produced from this shoot which dipped 45° southeast. The end of this shoot was about 600 feet below the surface but discontinuous pockets were found in the hanging wall for an additional 200 feet of depth. The slope winze in the ore shoot was sunk to a depth of 900 feet below the surface.

Equipment: In 1940, a mill having a capacity of about 100 tons per day was built. Knet flotation cells were installed.

Reference: Parks & Swartley, 16:219-220 (quoted)

Informant: J. K. Jackson, May 20, 1940.


SYLVANITE MINING COMPANY

Gold Hill area
a period of five years was about 25 cents per yard, at $20 per ounce.

Dredging: Dredging in the Waldo area has been limited to a few short-lived operations on lower Althouse Creek, Sucker Creek, and along the East Fork of the Illinois near Takilma. A shovel and washing plant owned by Von der Hellen Brothers worked the Leonard placer in sec. 4, T. 40 S., R. 7 W. on lower Althouse Creek from 1936 to 1938. This area and down stream a short distance was also dredged by the Atlas Gold Dredging Corp. during 1940 and early 1941, using a 5-yard dragline that could handle 6000 yards daily and was the largest dragline washing plant in southwestern Oregon. Their work disclosed that much of the area had been drift-mined in the early days by Chinese (W. J. Cannon, oral communication, 1968).

In 1945 and 1946 B. H. Oregon, Ltd., ran a 3-yard dragline and washing plant on Sucker Creek a short distance above Grayback Creek.

A dragline and washing plant was operated intermittently by the Takilma Mining Co. along East Fork Illinois River just north of Takilma during the period of 1947 to 1950. Another dragline and washing plant was active at the Bailey mine on Fry Gulch west of Waldo during the same period. Production of these properties is not reported.

Principal Lode Mines

Sylvanite mine: The main workings of the Sylvanite mine (map no. 10) are on 80 acres of patented land about 3 miles northeast of Gold Hill. The property is under sales contract (1966) to Daniel Jones from the owner, George Tulare of Gold Hill. Libbey (1963) describes the mine as follows:

"The discovery and early history of the mine are not of public record. Various published reports show that, beginning in 1916, owners and operators were, successively, E. T. Simons, with Stone and Avena, Denver, Colorado, lessees who found scheelite (tungsten ore) associated with the gold ore; Oregon-Pittsburg Co. in 1928; Discon Mining Co., A. D. Coulter, Manager, discoverer of the high-grade ore shoot along the Cox Lyman vein in 1930; Western United Gold Properties; Sylvanite Mining Co.; and finally Imperial Gold Mines, Inc., in 1939. This last company built a concentrating mill of 140 tons daily capacity and cleaned out underground workings to expose the openings where the rich ore shoot had been found.

"The Sylvanite vein or shear zone occurs between metaigneous and metasedimentary (largely argillite) rocks. It shows intense shearing and alteration and is intruded in places by basic igneous dikes. It trends just east of north and dips southeasterly at about 45°. The Cox-Lyman shear zone strikes at right angles to the Sylvanite vein and stands nearly vertical. No certain sequence of faulting in the two shear zones has been established. Ore shoots are said to be from 5 to 12 feet thick and have averaged from $5 to $15 a ton. They have a gangue of quartz and calcite and carry galena, chalcopyrite, and pyrite. A fracture zone roughly parallel to the Sylvanite vein cuts the Cox-Lyman vein and at the intersection a rich ore shoot was found on the hanging wall, producing $1,000 per lineal foot of winze in sinking 600 feet. Discontinuous pockets of ore were found in the hanging wall of the shoot for 200 additional feet of depth. The winze reached 900 feet below the surface. This ore shoot was reported to have yielded about $700,000.

"A total of more than 2,560 lineal feet of underground development work has been done. In addition, numerous surface pits and cuts, now caved, have been dug by pocket hunters.

"Seemingly little effort has been made to explore the scheelite possibilities, although it is known that the Imperial Gold Mines Co. had such plans. They ran into difficulties underground because of caving ground, and presumably war-time conditions finally forced them to close down."

Lucky Bart mine: Lucky Bart Group (map no. 6) is about 6 miles northwest of Gold Hill, west of the left fork of Sardine Creek. Workings are between 2080 and 2900 feet elevation. There were 11 claims, and at least one in NE 1 sec. 29 is patented. The mine was worked intermittently by various operators
Debenger Gap By Norman Gage

T.W. Daily, of Trail, spent part of the week in Medford, with his father who is quite ill.

Born on Friday, March 14, to Mr. and Mrs. Howard E. Rodgers, of Beagle, an eight pound girl. Mother and babe are getting along nicely.

D.B. Russel, of Beagle, went to Medford last Friday to meet his mother, Mrs. Kate Russel, of Roseburg, Ore., who will spend some time visiting with him.

Aaron Smith and Frank Stowell, of "Pitts View" ranch near Eagle Point, spent the day last Monday visiting with friends at the Debenger Gap ranch.

Mr. McLeod, owner and proprietor of the McLeod store and station on upper Rogue river was a business visitor at Eagle Point last Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Glass and sister Miss Mattie Gordon, of Beagle, spent Tuesday in Central Point visiting with their relatives, Mr. and Mrs. R. Murray.

Miss Dessie Stacy and brother, Roy, took their sister-in-law Mrs. Lillie Houston to Gold Hill last Sunday, where she took the train for her home near Chico, California.

J.B. Plymire, of the "Willow ranch" near Medford, last Sunday motorcycled up to Beagle, where he left the machine and "hiked" on afoot to the Debenger Gap ranch where he spent the day visiting relatives.

Galls Creek

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Shoemaker furnished the music for the dance at Savage Creek, last Saturday night.

Will Shoemaker and Ed Rhoten have received a fine report from the ore they recently had milled.

Ed Shoemaker and Gus Blackert have completed their contract of cutting fifty cords of wood.

Local News Notes

Mrs. Ida Blackert and son William are at present visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Jennings.

Mrs. S.T. Hodges spent Tuesday and Wednesday visiting her father, Judge C.C. Gall, and sister, Mrs. Wm. Meyer, at Ashland.

Miss Millie Hodges departed yesterday morning for Roseburg, where she will visit at the home of her aunt, Mrs. J. Wesley Newland.

Manager Chas. Stinebring was quite severely injured the fore part of the week, being struck by a belt while at work in the lime kiln. He consulted a physician and was informed that the injury was neither serious nor permanent.

H.D. Reed departed upon a business trip to Portland the latter part of last week, and was absent from the city the greater part of this, the present week. Affairs at the Bon Ton, however, forged smoothly ahead under the management of Charley Tyler, who qualified as engineer for the pop-corn machine before being entrusted with the management of the establishment during its proprietor's absence.

The Sylvanite mine, once the pride of promoters, and generally conceded by practical miners to be one of the best properties hereabouts, is gradually being shorn of its equipment. Manager R.H. Moore disposed of a hoist, part of the Sylvanite property, to contractor Perham for use in the construction work of the new Bybee bridge, one day this week. Meantime the old mine, tunnels caved,
cottages dismantled and machinery gone is awaiting the practical wizard who will some day restore it to a proper place in the front rank of big producers.

Letters received from J.E. Davidson, who is attending his little son at the Grants Pass hospital, contain the good news that his boy’s injury is not so serious as was supposed, and that he is getting along nicely. In all probability Master Burnell will be discharged from the hospital some time next week. His injuries were sustained from a kick administered by a yearling colt, the hoof striking across the right eye. It is anticipated that the eyesight will be in nowise impaired, and that the resulting scar will not be so large or noticeable as was at first predicted.

Carl Darling out of quarantine one week, and still weakened by the ravages of a severe attack of diphtheria, arrived on Monday evening last from Oakland, Calif., and will remain indefinitely with his parents in this city while recuperating. This is his first visit home in a year, during which time he has been employed in a responsible capacity by an electrical company, having charge of an Oakland sub-station. Toby Newton, another Gold Hill boy, is also employed in the same establishment, but, having escaped the malady which invalided his chum, remained upon the job.

March 29, 1913 Vol. 15 No. 47

Messner is Held as Lunatic by Police at Red Bluff

Information received by the city authorities from the chief of police at Red Bluff, California, is to the effect that Rapheal C. Messner, late of this city, is in custody as a lunatic at that city. The distraught coppers at Red Bluff sought the address of his mother, now in Portland, that they might be properly relieved of their charge.

In addition to appearing upon the streets of Red Bluff, on a warm spring day, clad in four heavy coats, Messner gave other and abundant evidence of his demented condition, and was gathered in. What disposition will be made of him is not known here, but it is highly probable that he will be subjected to an examination and taken to an asylum for treatment.

Raphael Messner, "better known as Roxy" fled his home in this city several months ago on the eve of an examination for sanity, before he had been taken in charge. At that time serious reports of irrational conduct were prevalent, and his apprehension demanded of the authorities. Following his flight from Gold Hill no news was received of him until he worried the citizens of Red Bluff by his irrational acts. He was thought to have been with his mother who is spending the winter in Portland. Mrs. Messner has been notified.

The Messner family have long been residents of this city where they once possessed much property. One other son, Colvis was detained in the state asylum some years ago, but was subsequently discharged as cured.

Milo P. Ward Dies at Residence in Portland

Milo P. Ward, one-time well known promoter of southern Oregon, died at his residence in Portland on Wednesday, March 26. Mr. Ward was 58 years of age, and is survived by his wife and two children, Mrs. Milola Fizzle, of Rickreall, Oregon, and Newman Ward, Portland.

Six or seven years ago Milo P. Ward was prominent in local development work, and possessed large mining interests in the locality. Among the most notable of his mining promotions may
January 30, 1934

We take pleasure in quoting:

**FLAKED SODIUM SULPHIDE**

400 lb. drums..........................@ $4.25 C
5 ton lots..............................@ 4.00 C

F.O.R. San Francisco.

This is Flaked Sodium Sulphide 60/62%.

We will appreciate your orders for this item as well as other which you may require.

Prices quoted are subject to change without notice, and will not be binding if quantities ordered differ materially from those quoted.

Yours very truly,
BRAUN-KNECHT-HEIMANN-CO.
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Informant: J. H. Jackson, May 28, 1940.


SYLVANITE MINING COMPANY
see Sylvanite Mine

Gold Hill area
SYLVANITE MINE (gold, tungsten)  Gold Hill area

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Geology: Country rocks are both metaigneous and meta-sedimentary. An outcrop of granitoid rock occurs about a mile to the southeast of the mine. The structural trend of the mineralized zone is generally east of north.
SYLVANITE MINE WORKINGS.

[Diagram showing mine workings with labels:
#1 shaft, #2 overy shaft, #3 going out tunnel, #4 a out tunnel and first level, #5 an second level, #6 and third level, #7 lower tunnel]
### GHHS Services

#### Photo Reprint (B&W only)

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Gold Mining

Arresta - A circular rock-lined pit in which broken ore is pulverized by stones dragged around the pit.

Monitor - The nozzle of a pipe used to convey water for hydraulic mining.

Stamp mill - three five hundred pound stamps mill to crush and mill the gold ore and free the gold.

Mine Cage - used to hoist ore from the mine and lower the men and ore cars into the mine shafts.

Sinking buckets - used with the shafts to dig down into the mines.

From J. Rue, Marion, Feb. 1987
#1: every shaft
#2: every shaft
#3: upper tunnel
#4: lower tunnel
#5: end first level
#6: end second level
#7: end third level
Sylvanite Mine Treasury note 1930