

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

1069 State Office Building
Portland 1, Oregon
Cable Cove Area
Baker County

MILE HIGH PROSPECT

GOLD

LOCATION & ACCESS:

Section 22, T. 8 S., R. 36 E. On the south wall of Cable Cove roughly 12.5 miles north and west of Sumpter via roads up Cracker and Silver Creeks. The last one-quarter mile to the adit portal is accessible only by Jeep in dry weather. The Cracker Creek and Silver Creek roads are ordinarily closed by heavy snows from November through May.

Cable Cove is a southeast facing amphitheatre shaped glacial cirque at the head of Silver Creek. At its widest part it is roughly $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles across, rim to rim, and 1000 feet deep. The interior slopes are precipitously steep and rocky. Second growth timber is abundant on the lower slopes of the Cove and on down Silver Creek.

OWNERS:

G. R. Sipp and Clayton Jackson, Baker, Oregon. The property comprises 8 lode claims known as the Mile High Group located in 1955 by Sipp.

DEVELOPMENT & HISTORY:

The principle development is an adit containing about 640 feet of drift, two short raises, and a small stope. In addition several opencuts and short adits are scattered about the property. The mine is equipped with air compressor, drilling tools, hand operated muck cars, and a small Oliver dozer. An old dilapidated cabin stands a few hundred feet below the adit portal.

Most of the work in the adit was probably done around 1900-1905 when mining activity in Cable Cove was at its peak. The mine was then known as the Gold Bug, mention of which was made in the September 29, 1900 issue of the Blue Mountain American and the January 29, 1901 issue of the Oregonian. According to the latter the principal claims were the Gold Bug, Hornstake, and Terminal. Additional work was done during 1934-1939. Local historians report that two or three 35-ton cars of ore were shipped each summer during this period.

GEOLOGY:

The mines of the Cable Cove district are all in granodiorite of the Bald Mountain batholith. Basalt dikes are present but not abundant. Shearing in a northeasterly direction followed by infusion of mineralizing solutions along many of the shears has developed a broad system of small faults, fractures, gouge zones, and quartz veins in the granodiorite. Most of the mines worked veins made up of brecciated and altered granodiorite interspersed with lenses and streaks of quartz, and calcite. The gold values were confined mainly to small pyrite and arsenopyrite rich shoots randomly scattered along the veins.

The Mile High adit drifts along such a vein that for about 400 feet varies from a few inches to two feet in width and contains little or no workable ore. At about the 400 foot point the vein splits as shown on the accompanying sketch. Just beyond the 500 foot point both veins are offset about 4 feet by a small crossfault. South of the crossfault the western vein is about 2 feet wide and contains many streaks and bunches of pyrite. Chalcopyrite, galena and sphalerite are also present in very small amount. Most of the ore shipped during the 1934-1939 period

was mined from the drift, two raises, and stope on this vein. Smelter receipts for two shipments of crude ore to U. S. Smelting, Refining and Mining Co., Midvale, Utah give the following information:

Received	Car No.	Tons(dw)	Oz/Ton		Percent					Gross Value/Ton
			Au	Ag	Cu	Insol	Fe	Zn	S	
11-21-36	UP15176	21.883	.91	1.7	1.0	50.5	21.9	.2	20.0	\$30.19
8-28-37	UP19572	16.087	.79	2.0	.7	46.6	23.6	.3	23.1	\$26.24

The shipments were made by Mike Huff and C. A. Tibbs.

Report by Howard C. Brooks
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