

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland, Oregon

Report by N.S.W.  
Date of Exam. 9/17/45

## Last Chance Claim

(Gold) Virtue District, Baker County

## Old name

Independence Mine

## Owner

Anna B. Rick, 1705 15th St., Baker, Oregon

## Location

T. 9S., R. 41E., Sec. 7-8. This is seven miles via the Gray Eagle road to Baker.

## Area

One full quartz claim called the Last Chance Claim and taken July 1, 1945.

## History

Old trenches and prospect workings and one vertical shaft do reflect past interest in this property, but essentially no reliable information is available at this time concerning the early operations here. The vertical shaft is reportedly 140 to 160 feet deep and reportedly also, a \$9000 pocket was taken out from its bottom. No drifting or more extensive development is known to have been done from this shaft.

## Development

Recent development consists of a 25 foot adit and a 12 foot winze on one of the early prospect sites. Here several stringers and cross structures occur and the recent adit parallels an old one from which it is separated by only a few feet. The old shaft is open although the collar <sup>as well as</sup> and 30 or so feet of the upper timbering is gone.

## Geology

The principle bedrock on the hillside on which this claim and the adjacent Rachel Mine occur is a highly altered

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-2- Last Chance Claim (gold)

and silicified gabbro. In this the vein strikes N. 16 E. and dips very steeply to the east. At the old shaft the vein is to be seen as a clean cut persistent vein of 4 to 6 inches of hard white quartz, frozen to hard silicified walls and dipping 79 degrees to the east. What appears to be the same quartz is to be seen in the face of the recent adit some 75 feet south west from the exposure at the vertical shaft, but here the nature of the country rock has changed from dense silicified rock to a friable one traversed with several cross structures, gouges, splits and incipient stringers to the point where the vein loses its clean-cutness. The nature of the vein material likewise changes from the solid white quartz fill in the face of the adit to a vein composed of broken bunches of quartz intermixed with gouge and altered wall rock.

Assays of samples taken by the owners and assayed by this department range between 0.245 and 0.84 ounces per ton in gold and panning has reportedly been likewise encouraging. Samples taken by this department in connection with this examination include samples of the main vein in the new adit and also samples of various of the cross structures and splits. The samples of the main vein assayed 0.11 ounces per ton gold for a width of 15 inches in the bottom of the winze and 0.15 for a width of 5 inches at the top of the same winze. An assay

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-3- Last Chance Claim (gold)

from a 15 inch cut on what appeared to be a split of the same vein near the top of the winze yielded but a trace in gold. In the first two of these samples quartz constituted an estimated one third of the bulk, the balance being formation and gouge. The third sample contained essentially no quartz. A sample from the quartz in the face of the adit assayed 0.035 ounces per ton gold for a 7 inch width. A limonitic stringer which occurs on the hanging wall side of the vein and which contacts it at approximately right angles, but does not cross through it to the footwall side assayed 0.01 ounces per ton. Other cross slips structure occur, but were not sampled.

## Equipment

There is no equipment other than a cabin and hand tools as the work done to date or contemplated for the immediate future does not require more elaborate equipment.

## Economics

The prospects of blocking out either shipping or milling ore by a modest amount of development are not encouraging considering the spotty and low assay values and the broken nature of the vein as it appears now. Pockets, however, have been taken from similar showings on adjacent claims, and to the extent that this is so, and with this view in mind, a moderate amount of additional exploration might be warranted to determine what significance and effect the various cross structures and stringers here might have in connection with the localization of such a pocket. Even

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-4- Last Chance Claim (gold)

with this goal, no great amount of continued development would appear to be justified unless a definitely more encouraging and persistent "lead" is encountered soon.

| Last Chance Claim |  | Independence | Gold          |                |
|-------------------|--|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| NAME              |  | OLD NAMES    | PRINCIPAL ORE | MINOR MINERALS |

| 9 | 41 | 7-8 |
|---|----|-----|
| T | R  | S   |

..... Baker..... COUNTY

..... Virtue District... AREA

..... ELEVATION

..... Gray Eagle..... ROAD OR HIGHWAY

..... 7 miles..... DISTANCE TO SHIPPING POINT

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S) .. Anna B. Rick .....

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.....

.....

Address .....1705 15th St., Baker, Oregon.....

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.....

.....

OPERATOR .....

| Name of claims | Area | Pat. | Unpat. |
|----------------|------|------|--------|
| Last Chance    |      |      |        |
|                |      |      |        |
|                |      |      |        |
|                |      |      |        |

| Name of claims | Area | Pat. | Unpat. |
|----------------|------|------|--------|
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|                |      |      |        |

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY

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REPORTS

Last Chance Claim

N.S.W. 9/17/45

X

X

X

SHIPMENT AND ASSAY RECORDS

see above report

MAPS

see above report

Last Chance Claim

Gold

NAME

OLD NAMES

PRINCIPAL ORE

MINOR MINERALS

TLOS

RALE

Sec. 2

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

T

R

S

Oregon Metal Mines Handbook 14A pg-107

Baker

COUNTY

Virtue

AREA

moderate

ELEVATION

ROAD OR HIGHWAY

3 1/2 mi. RR at Encina

DISTANCE TO SHIPPING POINT

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S) ..... Robert Palmer .....

Address ..... Baker, Ore. ....

..... Hugh Denhan .....

..... " " .....

OPERATOR .....

Name of claims                      Area    Pat.    Unpat.

Name of claims                      Area    Pat.    Unpat.

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY

DISSEMINATED RECORDS ON FILE IN

EQUIPMENT AND ASSAY RECORDS

Baker G.P. Baker

Owners: Robert Palmer and Hugh Denham, Baker.

Operator: Leased to W. M. Payton, Box 186, Route 2, Baker.

Location: In section 2, T 10 S, R 41 E, W. M. About  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles northeast of the station of Encina on the railroad and highway #30. At a point 7 miles southeast of Baker.

Area: the property is homestead land leased to Payton.

History: No previous production, although considerable prospecting work has been done in years gone by.

Equipment: One small cabin and hand winch.

Geology: The property lies on a rolling upland which is covered with water-worn boulders. At the mine the bedrock is a silicified and oxidized and almost unrecognizable argillite. It is highly crushed and faulted. The vein consists of about 6 to 10 inches of white quartz partly in place and partly scattered through a 4 foot zone of limonitic clay and gouge. Both footwall and hanging wall are distinct and clean, the former striking N 80° E and dipping 60° S, and the latter striking east and dipping 85° to the south. The quartz is nearest the hanging wall where the highest values are also said to lie. The ore is free milling and at the surface is said to have run 60¢, rising until at the present depth of 40 feet the last assay gave \$5.60. The ore chute, however, seems to be rather narrow, as values disappear in either direction along the vein when tested by short lateral drifts.

Development: There are two shafts located on the vein about 40' deep and 30' apart with short drifts from them at various levels. An old tunnel was dug from about 200' to the east (downhill) but never reached the chute.

Economics: The leaser is operating the property more as an avocation than anything else. Only two men are working. The old tunnel was not opened up and used because it would be harder to wheel the rock that distance than hoist it. The timbering is rather amateurish and probably will not survive the winter. The values must continue to increase before the property will pay. Although only 12 miles from Baker, the ore is not yet of high enough grade.

Recommendations: Geological indications seem to suggest that the property may have merit as a small operation. The oxidized (and probably enriched) zone may be quite deep, and the large amount of iron stain and limonite clay seems to suggest that there was considerable mineralization.

Informant: Mrs. W. M. Payton

June 20, 1938

John Eliot Allen  
Field Geologist