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 sep-
ated by only a few feet. The old shaft is open al-
though the collar and 30 or so feet of the upper timber-
ing is gone.

Geology
The principle bedrock on the hillside on which this claim
and the adjacent Rachel Mine occur is a highly altered
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
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 samp-
les 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 limon-
itic 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.

There is no equipment other than a cabin and hand tools
as the work done to date or contemplated for the immme-
diate future does not require more elaborate equipment.
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
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.
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<th>Gold</th>
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<td>41 R</td>
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**PUBLISHED REFERENCES**

**MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS**

**ELEVATION**

**DISTANCE TO SHIPPING POINT**

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

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

**OPERATOR**

**Name of claims** Area Pat. Unpat.

**Last Chance**

**Name of claims** Area Pat. Unpat.

**EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY**
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**PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S)**

Robert Palmer  
Bush Benham  

**OPERATOR**

**EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY**

**PUBLISHED REFERENCES**

Oregon Metal Mines Handbook 14A pg-107

**MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS**

**NAME of claims**  **Area**  **Pat.**  **Unpat.**

**Name of claims**  **Area**  **Pat.**  **Unpat.**
LAST CHANCE CLAIM


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

Location: In section 2, T 10 S, R 41 E, W. M. About 3½ miles northeast of the station of Encina on the railroad and highway #30. At a point 7 miles south-east 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 lessee 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