

Pvx Mine

Gold

NAME

OLD NAMES

PRINCIPAL ORE

MINOR MINERALS

6/44

T10S

R35E

Sec. 2

T

R

S

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

Oregon Metal Mines Handbook 14B:88
Hewett 31:20

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

.....Grant..... COUNTY

.....Greenhorn..... AREA

.....5500 to 6000..... ELEVATION

..... ROAD OR HIGHWAY

..... DISTANCE TO
SHIPPING POINT

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S) .. ~~Frank Stewart~~ ..

Address ... ~~Prater, Ore.~~ ..

AL. TRITCHER, TRUSTEE

WALLA WALLA, WASH.

(SEE PHOENIX MINE - SAME OWNERS)

OPERATOR

Name of claims Area Pat. Unpat.

6 claims

x

Name of claims Area Pat. Unpat.

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
<u>Pyx Mine</u>	Greenhorn	Grant

Frank Klein has a small crew sinking a shaft at the Pyx mine, in the Greenhorn district of Grant County. He is operating for Young and Edwards, of Baker, and expects to continue through the winter.

E. & M. J. , Feb. 1946

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Preliminary Report on

Pyx Mine (Gold)

Greenhorn District
Grant County

Report By: N. S. Wagner
Date: July 22, 1946

Foreword:

The following report is submitted by way of keeping Departmental records of active operations up-to-date. A complete report will be made after prospect development has advanced to a stage where something significant exists to report.

Operator:

The Sierra Talc Company, Spring Street, Los Angeles, Calif. This company has a sub-lease from Mr. Jess Edwards and Dr. Young of Baker, Oregon.

Owner:

Frank Stewart, Baker, Oregon.

Location:

Nine unpatented claims in T 10 S; R35 E; Section 1 (the foregoing subject to correction).

History:

This mine has been idle and caved for many years. No records covering early production are known, but reports by those who worked in the mine all claim exceptional richness.

Development:

The present operators are opening up the mine by a crosscut designed to penetrate the old workings to the south of and about 20 feet under the old workings. This crosscut is practically completed and should be finished with another 10 days or so. A Mr. Wright, M.E. or geologist has been engaged by the company and I have been promised a copy of the report and maps he is making.

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Pyx Mine (lode gold)

RECEIVED
JAN 28 1955

STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

Greenhorn District
Grant County

T. 10 S., R. 35 E.,
Sec. 1, 2.

The following comments are designed to accompany the green paper report prepared by N.S.Wagner, January 15, 1955.

I have visited this property several times and have been kept advised, or have managed to keep myself advised, concerning at least some phases of the activity that has transpired on the property during the course of three attempted operations which have occurred during the past ten years.

Whereas I have kept Fay informed as to the nature of these operations I have never before written an official file report for a combination of reasons. The principle reason for my holding back sprang from the stupendous level of richness generally credited to the early day recovery by a whole host of local informants who each claimed personal, first-hand knowledge, (2) contradictions between informants relative to various points of the property's early day history (3) the complete lack of any vestige of documentary evidence to support any phase of the reported early day production records, and (4) the fact that a local group of promoters who gained control of the property failed to give me promised copies of the maps and engineering reports and other pertinent data prepared during the course of the Sierra Talc and Joy McCartney lesseeships.

In other words I was reluctant to write up any file report in the past as any discounting of the property's reported history would only serve on one hand to offend several of the property's many boosters, yet mention of their stories would, on the other hand, be almost tantamount to giving a generous amount of Departmental blessing to the validity of their claims without having any real basis of fact on which to do so.

The ability to write the present green paper report for this property stems directly from the Ed Hendryx file of early day news clippings which now provide tangible reference to certain of the controversial phases of the property's early history and thus provide us with something tangible to fall back on with respect to names and dates and situations should any of the property's many aspiring boosters feel inspired to take issue with us over the lack of inclusion in the report of their sponsored version of the property's early history.

For the records I wish to point out here that all the various informant's versions of the amount, depth and even direction of the early workings, which were prevalent up to the time the Sierra Talc company reopened the mine, were disclosed by the Sierra Talc's development to be substantially erroneous

on almost every point. The informant's reports on the dates of various phases of early day operation likewise conflict with the information in Ed's clippings which also serve to halve the informants reported capacity of the old Geiser mill.

Regardless of how inaccurate most of the informants' reports have been demonstrated to be, there is one informant whose story of early Pyx history has consistently checked out in all essential particulars. This informant is Frank Klein, now deceased, who was mill man during most of the New Pyx operation. Because I personally know that many responsible people of Baker held Mr. Klein's complete honesty and sincerity in genuinely high esteem; because Mr. Klein always told his story in a simple, uneffected manner with never any attempt to present it in a high-pressure, sensational sort of a way; because Mr. Klein was the kind of a man who actively mined, milled and shipped ore to well past the age of eighty and did so mostly alone or with no more than one partner, and without fanfare; because I personally know that he tried to lease the property from Steward several times prior to the time that Jess Edwards finally succeeded in getting it; and because of the accuracy with which Klein's account at large has been bourn out by the information in Ed's records, I offer here Frank's comments on the New Pyx production. This is simply that he estimated the New Pyx production as being in the neighborhood of \$300,000. Also that mill runs of 10 tons a day which plated \$130 per ton were maintained for a period of several months without significant interruption and with 4 or 5 men working underground.

Knowing Mr. Klein as I did, and knowing also that the property is situated in rich pocket country, I am personally inclined to accept the above comments as being substantially true although I am otherwise clearing the file of all the voluminous notes covering the certified recollections of all other informants. For the record I might add however, that Klein also stated that the field superintendent, Mr. Charles Parker, systematically robbed owner Chapin at every turn, that when Chapin folded the mine he publicly denounced Parker to all the crew as the thief who had stolen everything and did so in Parker's presence; but that Chapin never did prosecute Parker and the circumstances seemed to indicate the reason was that Parker had something on him.

My act of cleaning the file of unreliable data applies also to the supply of so called technical data for the recent operations peddled to me verbally by Dr. Young who always promised to back up his tales of assay results, car sampling, etc., by giving me a copy Wright's report and assay map, which he never did do.

Dr. Young was always supposedly quoting Wright's report and his current findings when he told me the stuff he did but my skepticism concerning the validity of much of this constituted another reason why I never before tried to write any summary statement covering the technical phases of the recent development. The wisdom of being thus hesitant to precipitate into print any needlessly unfounded account of the property's

recent development was disclosed to me recently by Mr. Ingle who personally told me that he had been under official orders to not show me underground or otherwise supply me with various bits of technical data when he was superintendent of operations during the period of the Joy McCartney lesseeship. This restraint I have good reason to feel originated from the owners more so than it did from the operator, and represents Dr. Young's influence mostly as using his personal charm and affability to peddle a person a line of bull was one of the Doc's techniques when he wanted to spread a rumor which might be advantageous to the development of one of his deals to have spread. This is why the present report is limited almost solely to a chronological account of the history and sequence of operations with essentially no comment whatsoever on the technical phases of any of the recent work.

Report by: N.S. Wagner
Date: 1-26-55

PYX MINE (Gold)

Greenhorn District

Greenhorn Area

Owner: Frank Stewart, 2515 Valley Street, Baker, Oregon.

Location: Between forks of McWillis Gulch in sec.2, T.10 S., R.35 E.

Area: Six unpatented claims.

Development: All workings are caved. A drift on the old Pyx claim was driven 600 feet. A drift on the new Pyx claim is 150 feet in length. A shaft 150 feet in depth is full of water.

"Development consists of several tunnels and shaft, totaling 500 feet. Vein is argillite. Vein minerals are pyrite in quartz. No milling recorded; small production".

Reference: Hewett 31:20 (quoted).

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

1069 State Office Building
Portland 1, Oregon

PYX MINE (Lode gold)

**Greenhorn District
Grant County**

Foreword:

The following report has been prepared for the purpose of recording the random bit of existent information on the property's history in an organized manner. While the amount of available documentary data for doing this is meager there appears to be little reason for entertaining any continued hope of securing more in the foreseeable future especially so that for the major phases of early day operation. Scant as it therefore is when it comes to significant production figures, comprehensive description of the workings, etc, the history summarized in the following paragraphs represents the sum-total of what can now be offered as verified to a reasonable extent by available records of a reliable sort.

Location:

The approximate location, subject to future correction, is T. 10 S., R. 35 E., sections 1 and 2. This is a mile and a half to two miles northeast of the old townsite of Greenhorn and 54 miles from Baker via Whitney and Sumpter.

**Area and
Ownership:**

The property is reportedly comprised of 10 unpatented lode claims owned by Al Ritchie, Walla Walla, Washington, S.J. Chmidling, Baker, Dr. E.B. Young, Cornada, California and Don Kempher, Shoshone, Nevada.

History:

The Pyx is one of the older lode mines in the Greenhorn area. Official records of its earliest history are entirely lacking but it is generally known that the first operation of consequence was conducted by Al Geiser during the closing decades of the last century on what is now known as the "Old" Pyx. Geiser's principal operation

was conducted through a 250 foot shaft with 450 feet of levels and cross-cuts according to a news release appearing in the Evening Telegram for December 25, 1899. This article also stated that the Pyx was at that time inactive and that Geiser was engaged in the custom milling of ore from the Banzette Mine through the five-stamp Pyx mill.

Why Geiser ceased active operation of the Pyx isn't presently clear. Neither is it presently clear who his partners or the property's co-owners might have been, but another article in the Blue Mountain American for October 27th, 1900 states that "the Pyx has--been a good paying mine but is at present not worked on account of some trouble between the owners."

Other later news' items indicate that the property continued inactive until the next operation began in 1907 following purchase of the property by a Mr. Chapin of New York in 1905 or 1906. The story is that Chapin was already owner of the nearby Phoenix when he bought the Pyx, that his objective in purchasing the Pyx was to secure the mill, and that his first official act as owner of the Pyx was to move the mill to the Phoenix property. Subsequent discovery of a new lead on the Pyx ground led to the eventual development of what is now known as the "New" Pyx workings. This new discovery didn't materialize till after the mill had been moved however, and thus Chapin was left faced with the need of freighting Pyx ore to the Phoenix during the early stages of the New Pyx development.

At least partial verification of the foregoing account is contained in a news' article in the Blue Mountian American for November 30th, 1907. This article credits the management with a direct quote which stated amongst other things that there were "four teams on the road all the time hauling ore from the Pyx to the Phoenix mill" and that plans existed for the erection of a new mill on the Pyx early the following year.

Operation of the New Pyx is understood to have continued for the space of three or four years. There are again no authoritative records showing why the operation was terminated but a widely told story originating from individuals who were personally acquainted with the operation when it was active is that systematic

and large-scale "highgrading" by Chapin's field superintendent was a contributing factor of major importance. Also a labor lien brought about by the field superintendent's misappropriation of the payroll. Whatever the case may be the property eventually came under the control of Frank Steward of Baker who it is said was originally retained by Chapin as watchman and then later bought up the labor lien. The property remained in Steward's control, and inactive except for small scale work by Steward above until the spring of 1945, at which time an option to purchase was obtained by Jess Edwards of Baker.

Other handed down stories have served to surround the property with a local reputation of having produced sustained yields of mine run ore containing free gold values of fabulous proportions, especially so from the New Pyx operation conducted by Chapin. Whereas time has very probably served to enrich these recollections there is nevertheless every reason to believe that some exceptionally rich ore was undoubtedly encountered as the property is situated in an area noted for rich pockets. In any event there was no further large scale activity on the property till the summer of 1946 at which time Edwards and his associates made a deal with Mr. Dodds of the Sierra Talc Company of California to reopen the mine.

Lawrence Wright, ME, of San Francisco, was engaged by the company to make a geologic report on the property, and under the direction of J.B. Hammer, engineer for the Sierra Talc Company, a 300 foot cross-cut was run during the summer of 1946 to reveal the vein on the New Pyx between the 150 and the 100 foot levels. Eighty seven feet of new drift was also run on the vein. While a promised copy of the Wright report was never given to the Department it can be said that the assay results for samples taken from the newly exposed vein were reported to be very satisfactory. The Sierra Talc Company relinquished their interest in the property following the death of Mr. Dodds in 1946.

Another group of potential operators headed by a Mr. Joy McCartney of San Antonio, Texas, became interested in the property after the Sierra Talc Company relinquished their interest. A considerable amount of work is known to have

been done by this group during 1947 but here again no information of any kind was made available to the Department and all that can be said with certainty is that an underground shaft was sunk on the vein from a point in the Sierra Talc Company's drift and that a ventilation raise was put up to the 100 foot level of the old workings.

There was considerable litigation between the owners beginning during the period when the Sierra Talc was lessee and extending through the time of the McCartney lease. This litigation terminated with a settlement which left Mr. Edwards with ownership of the Phoenix property, but no longer associated with the Pyx.

Lessee:

The property is currently under lease to the Greenhorn Mountain Development Company, Box 908, Baker, Oregon. Mr. Ward L. Hill is general manager and Glenn Ingle of Baker is superintendent. This company commenced development and the construction of a 25 ton mill early in the spring of 1954. Most work was centered around the New Pyx workings but attention was given to development plans which might ultimately serve to connect the New Pyx and the Old Pyx workings. Some test milling was done during the summer and exploratory development was continued until the weather conditions became adverse. All activity was then suspended and the property is currently idle but it is ^{reported} that current plans call for a resumption of exploratory development work in the spring.

Informants: The Hendryx Mining News' files, Frank Klein, Ward Hill and assorted notes made on the advice of various of the owners active during the period of the Sierra Talc—Joy McCartney lesseeships.

Date: 1-15-55

Report by: N.S. Wagner