

Ashland, Oregon.
Jan. 19th., 1942

Mr. L. A. Levensaler.
1408 Hoge Bldg.,
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Lewis;

Your letter of December 16th., was duly received and, notwithstanding the poor prospect of business, I was glad to hear from you, and, to know that you had safely returned from your Alaska trip.

Aside from the "Ashland", I have something special that I had intended to take up with you at the proper time but I felt that other matters should be considered first and assuming that we would meet more often after getting together last summer I failed to put the matter before you when I probably should have done so.

I had never intended to write on the subject in any event because there is too much detail necessary to a full understanding of the subject. It has to do, however, with a property which, all things considered, is probably the most attractive proposition in this section of the country.

When I say all things considered I mean to cover; geology, character and type of the deposit, tenor of ore values, past production, present state of development, proven and potential factors, natural facilities, power, transportation and withal the small amount required to perfect title and return the property to productive operation.

From time to time we come across things that are nearly lacking in common hazards but usually such are likewise lacking in promise of sufficient reward. More often we encounter striking possibilities of great reward without anything substantial to warrant against loss. Therefore, I consider it a rare incident to have sufficient proven tonnage to warrant the investment and sufficient potential possibilities to warrant the undertaking at one and the same time.

With the reopening and study of the Ashland Mine certain features have been quite indisputably proven. These in particular are; (1) That the surface enrichments are of little consequence and no indication of conditions at depth. (2) That the oxidized zone is above an average depth of 200 feet while the ores of that zone are lower in grade and more erratic than with depth. (3) That there is a distinct barren or low grade zone between the oxidized ores and the primary ores at depth ranging from 200 to 300 feet. (4) That the primary ores coming in below the barren zone are more extensive, more uniform and much better in value than ores in the oxidized zone, with native gold more more abundant and coarser than in the oxidized ores.

(5) It is indicated that the ore deposits are inclined to occur on nearly horizontal planes and wherefore an entire level may traverse a low grade zone with good ore both above and below and in conclusion of these features it seems apparent that the ore bodies of the Ashland Mine are essentially deep seated with importance mostly below the 300 foot level.

Now, returning to the property under discussion. It lies in the same formations as the "Ashland". The vein, except for standing nearly vertical and somewhat larger, has such the same appearance while the ores are quite the same in character. If we apply what has been learned at the "Ashland" we find the property under discussion following along almost identical lines as far as it has gone.

Production from the oxidized zone compares with that had from the same zone in the "Ashland". The main working level at the property under discussion lies at practically the same depth as the main level at the "Ashland", in each instance being just in or below the oxidized zone. Upward from the main level in the property under discussion conditions were found such the same as in the oxidized zone of the "Ashland" while a winze started from the bottom of the main level immediately entered primary ore ranging up to more than \$70.00 per ton in value, character and conditions practically identical with the primary zone of the "Ashland".

Production from the oxidized zone in the "Ashland" was perhaps around \$300,000.00 while the primary zone immediately below has produced some \$1,200,000.00. The property under discussion has about the same production from the oxidized zone and now at about the same depth seems to be entering primary conditions identical with those found in the "Ashland".

I cannot be at all sure that you will get the picture from this rather sketchy description but I feel that if you could see this as I do it would be something that you would recommend your most intimate associate go into without hesitation, in fact, I surmise that it is the thing you might want for yourself.

To swing the proposition I will need only \$10,000. With what equipment I have this amount will be sufficient to clear the title and bring the property into productive operation, altho I would propose to confine production to development ores for at least one year. My proposal is to borrow the sum and give a first mortgage on the property inclusive of the improvements to be made with an option to run concurrently with the mortgage under the terms of which option the mortgage could be surrendered in exchange for one half interest in the property.

The only danger is that I may not be able to get around within the time required to clear the title but I would like very much to hear from you on the subject. I might go to Portland within a week and if justified we might then get together on the matter.

Awaiting your reply and with best regards to both yourself and to Mrs. Levensaler from both Mrs. Wickham and myself, I am,

Yours truly,

P. B. WICKHAM



October 18, 1938

Mr. Perry Wickham
c/o Ashland Hotel
Ashland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Wickham:

This is merely to thank you for your courtesy and kindness in taking me through the Ashland Mine and to express a desire to go over the property more thoroughly with you at some future time.

There were some sharp points and loose pieces of the large specimen, which you gave me, which we brought up from the No. 9 level which I turned over to our Assay Laboratory at Grants Pass for assay just as a matter of interest. The result is so amazing that I thought you would be interested. A copy of the assay report is attached. It certainly doesn't take very much of this \$525.00 ore to sweeten a vein tremendously.

When I get a chance to go underground with you again, I hope to take enough samples of the various types of material to give me a better picture of the history of the minerallisation.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

EKH:vm
encl.

Director

cc: Albert Lewis, Grants Pass.

December 30, 1938

Mr. William W. Elmer
2658 S. W. Corona Avenue
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Elmer:

At your request I am outlining below some of my impressions of the Ashland Mine located about 3 miles from Ashland, Oregon.

This is an old property and has been producing off and on for forty years or more. It is an underground quartz operation with the mineralization confined to a fracture zone lying at the contact of a granodiorite with a more basic rock type. This contact, I believe, has substantial continuity. The main haulage level is some two or three hundred feet below the crop of the vein, and the ninth level is the lowest level which is being worked at present. I understand from Mr. Wickham that about 85% of the gold is free even on the ninth level, although I believe that the percentage of sulphides is increasing somewhat with depth. The mineralization, in my opinion, is hydrothermal definitely and may be expected to go to depth.

Since 1932 the mine has run consistently, I understand, with a small tonnage of not to exceed 10 tons per day, which is treated in a 5-ton stamp mill with a shaker table following the plates. The tenor of ore mined and hoisted, I believe, runs of the order of $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce to 1 ounce in gold. The property needs further development which, I suspect, will demonstrate the feasibility of increasing the size of the mill. More water for milling may have to be developed, but I understood from Mr. Wickham that this could be done. The tailings situation in the gulch below the mill is somewhat critical, but I am of the opinion that this could be worked out. These tailings contain a few dollars in gold and may be susceptible of cyanidation.

On the whole, it is my impression that the property is worthy of careful consideration by someone who is prepared to give the mine what it needs.

Respectfully yours,

EKN:vm
encl.

Director

December 30, 1938

Mr. P. B. Wickham
c/o Ashland Hotel
Ashland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Wickham:

I think you probably know, or at least you know of, Mr. William Elmer who has been a consulting engineer and mine operator in and out of the state for many years. Mr. Elmer has just been in the office and made inquiries about properties which might have merit with competent management and adequate financing. I have taken the liberty of discussing with Mr. Elmer and his associate, with whom I am well acquainted, the situation at the Ashland Mine and have suggested that Mr. Elmer get in touch with you and go into the matter.

I have much confidence in Mr. Elmer and his associate and believe that it would be to your advantage to consider their possible negotiation for the Ashland if they become interested and if you have not already made other arrangements.

It is my belief that Mr. Elmer and his associate are looking for a property for their personal operation and not for promotional purposes.

Wishing you a prosperous 1939 and with my respects to your family, I am

Cordially yours,

EKN:vm

Director

cc: Mr. William W. Elmer

Ashland Mine,
Ashland, Oregon.
October 17th., 1941

RECEIVED
OCT 18 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
Oregon Emergency Coordinator of Mines,
702 Woodlark Bldg.,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon;

Replying to your letter of October 9th., with
reference to priority preference rating for mines.

Since no specific form of answer is suggested, it may be most
fitting to advise first, that the Ashland Mine has been
continuously active under present ownership since 1930 and in
production under present ownership since 1932.

Under normal conditions the average tonnage handled at the
mine and mill has been about 1,500 tons per year with an
average of about seven employes exclusive of contract work.

It should be noted, however, that operations are now under two
departments. The mine and mill continues to be the operation
of the undersigned while the leaching plant is owned and
operated by Flora Z. Wickham, wife of the undersigned.

Owing to labor conditions and demands with a payroll tax of
15.4%, the mine and mill are not in regular operation on the
date of this letter.

The leaching plant is in continuous operation, however, treating
an average of about 300 tons per month and employing from
one to three men.

Supplies required for this operation are, Cyanide 200-300
pounds per month. Lime 1 ton per month. Zinc Shavings 100-200
pounds per month.

Trusting that this information covers the subject and
thanking you for your attention in the matter, I am,

Yours truly,


P. B. Wickham

Ashland Mine

file

AR

April 27, 1963

Dr. F. W. Libbey
2269 N.W. Everett St.
Portland, Oregon

Dear Dr. Libbey;

This is the first opportunity I have had to write and answer your letter of March 21st. I was home for a short time but had to leave again and just returned this week.

I hope to explain to you the reason why I can only deal in generalities when writing about the Ashland Mine.

1. The companies involved in the past do not wish to be known by name so I can only state that they were a Nevada and an Oregon corporation.
2. The real reason why the property was dropped is involved but unless carefully worded it will give the impression that the property is no good. This would irritate the present owners with whom I may have to deal in the future.
3. If economic conditions were to change in the future I feel that the property has some merit for exploration. The information I did obtain would help the company I now work for but if published would also benefit any rival company with no possible return to us.
4. Some of the information on recent history is by oral communication from various people and I cannot vouch for it's accuracy.

I am enclosing a short resume' of activities since 1959 and hope that it will meet with your needs. You can edit out any material which you feel is not pertinent.

cc: R. L. Redmond
cc: Len Ramp
cc: File

Sincerely,

John H. Volgamore, Jr.

John H. Volgamore, Jr.
Geologist