



STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

702 WOODLARK BUILDING
PORTLAND 5, OREGON

August 2, 1948

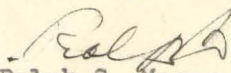
Mr. Harold Wolfe
State Assay Laboratory
Box 417
Grants Pass, Oregon

Dear Harold:

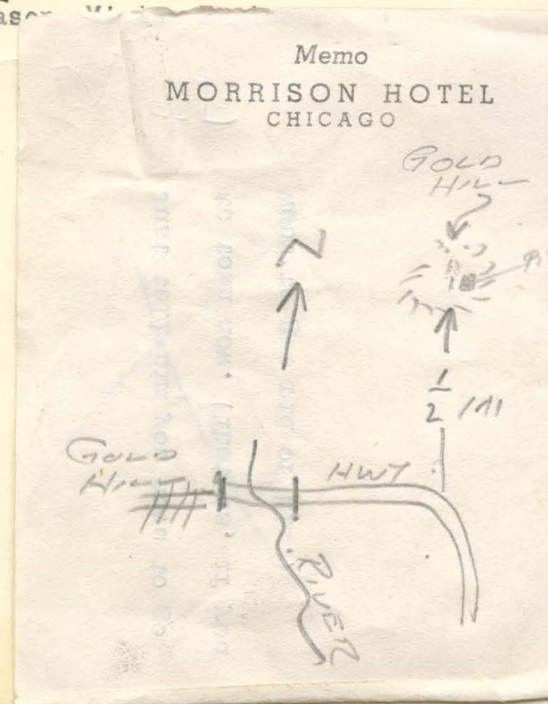
Regarding the exact location of the Gold Hill pocket, I had occasion to ascertain its whereabouts the other day. Frank Kolkow says that the pocket was found on top of the hill which lies due north of the bend in the highway a short distance east of the bridge at Gold Hill. When you stand at the curve where the highway turns south, looking directly north, the hill (called Gold Hill) is approximately one-half mile due north. The pit is right beside a tall tree standing at the summit.

The attached sketch might clarify the above description.

Sincerely,


Ralph S. Mason

RSM:de
Enc.





STATE OF OREGON

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: FILE

DATE: March 6, 1991

FROM: FRANK R. HLADKY

SUBJECT: GOLD HILL POCKET MINE

Introduction

On February 20, 1991, DOGAMI geologists Frank Hladky and Tom Wiley visited the Gold Hill Pocket mine accompanied by owner Elton Cunningham (1522 NE A Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526) and son Jim Cunningham.

Location

Sec. 14, T. 36 S., R. 3 W.; Gold Hill Mining District, Jackson County. Gold Hill 7½-minute quadrangle (1:24,000).

Property Position

40 acres of patented land straddling the Gold Hill Pocket vein, 40 acres of unpatented claims east of the pocket outcrop, and 120 acres of mineral rights to private (deeded) property west of the pocket. Mr. Cunningham has owned the property since 1975.

Current Status

Intermittent excavations, mostly by hand, of the vein in search of additional pockets. Jim Cunningham showed that most of the vein yields fine gold colors in the pan as do most of the tailings dumps and much of the colluvial cover in draws draining the hillside.

History

The rich surface pocket was discovered in 1857 (Brooks and Ramp, 1968). It is reported that more than \$700,000 (30,000 ounces) of gold was produced (Brooks and Ramp, 1968; Ferns and Huber, 1984). Parks and Swartley (1916) reported the pocket was so rich it could scarcely be broken up by sledgehammers.

Regional Geology

The Gold Hill pocket is ascribed to the Applegate Terrane by Sieberling and others (1987).

Local Geology

The country rock consists of coarse-grained (up to 2 cm) pyroxenite (metagabbro, Brooks and Ramp, 1968). Within 20 feet of the vein the pyroxenite becomes progressively more hematitic and argillaceous and is altered to serpentine and talc or brucite along fractures. Argillized, black mafic dikes up to 1 foot wide intrude the pyroxenite. The dikes are composed of magnetite, serpentine, talc or brucite, pyrite and hematite (in thin fissures) and zeolites.

Ore Bodies

Largely free gold with crystallized quartz, some pyrite, and calcite in a 5-foot, N20W 80E fissure vein which is cut by an east-west vertical gash vein. Molybdenite has been found in the vein at depth (Brooks and Ramp, 1968).

White to orange stained, slightly limonitic vein quartz (6 feet wide) striking N20-30W and dipping steeply to the northeast. The Gold Hill pocket was dug from the limonitic oxide portion of the quartz vein. The Cunninghams reported mining in the adits that passed to the lower levels of the vein. The portals are now caved. The deeper portions of the vein contain abundant sulfides. Inspection of the tailings dumps of these adits showed quartz veins with pyrite, chalcopyrite, and bornite in a country rock of pyroxenite. Sulfides were frequently oxidized to limonite or left molds in the quartz. Locally drusy quartz in euhedral crystals 3-7 mm long projected into cavities. Sulfides were still relatively unoxidized in the pyroxenite. These relationships lend credence to the idea that supergene enrichment played a role in concentrating gold in the pocket (Ferns and Huber, 1984).

Ore mineralogy: gold, malachite.

Gangue mineralogy: vein: quartz, limonite, manganese oxides; country rock: magnetite, serpentine, talc, zeolite, pyrite, manganese oxides.

Footwall slickensides: 320, 65 NE (lineation: 305, 35 S); 290, 85 NE; 340, 80 SW.

Dominant joint set on quartz vein of original Gold Hill pocket: 330, 67 NE.

Reserves

Unknown. Underground workings predate any maps of the area. Records of drilling are absent. Sampling data insufficient to estimate grade and tonnage.

Equipment

Equipment on site included one D-6 caterpillar and numerous hand tools.

Plan

Hand operations continue intermittently. The owners have yet to develop an active interest in leasing the property and seem to be content to work the property on a piecemeal basis.

References

- Brooks, H. C., and Ramp, Len, 1968, Gold and silver in Oregon: Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Bulletin 61, 337 p.
- Parks, H. M., and Swartlely, A. M., 1916, Handbook of the mining industry of Oregon: Oregon Bureau of Mines and Geology, Mineral Resources of Oregon, v. 2, no. 4, 306 p.
- Silberling, N.J., D.L. Jones, M.C. Blake, Jr., and D.G. Howell, 1987, Lithotectonic terrane map of the western conterminous United States: U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Field Studies Map MF-1874C, 1:2,500,000.

GOLDHLPK.DOC