

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

BLUE JAY ANTIMONY MINE

Upper Applegate Area-July 17, 1944

(Called Jay Bird Mine by owner, Merrick)

The Jay Bird Mine was visited on July 17, 1944, when the miners, Messrs. J. F. Marcus, foreman, and W. B. Harlow were there. The extent of the mining done to date has been added to a plane and profile sketch made by Treasurer and Bassett on March 18, 1943. Additional stoping amounts to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times that which they show. One new raise was driven between levels 1 and 2, and level No. 2 was extended 145 ft. The shear zone, which level 2 follows after the first 100 feet, (see sketch), was opened for 35 feet exposing considerable ore. The stopes are now mostly filled and could not be measured, but Marcus' estimate is assumed to be reliable since he has been responsible for almost all the mining since the beginning of operations, a little before January 1942.

Exclusive of drifts and raises, about 10,000 cu. ft. of ground was taken out up to March 1943, and about 15,000 cu. ft. additional up to the present. If the ore averaged 8 inches in width (a doubtful average), there has been some 300 tons taken out. Since January of this year there seems to have been only about 25 tons shipped. On this basis the actual production is less than the above estimate.

The ore is hauled from the portal of the lower adit (No. 2) down to the bunker (a half mile by road from the mine), on a two-wheel double-tired trailer drawn by a medium size caterpillar tractor. The mine is about 300 feet above the bunker at an elevation of about 2400 feet.

Equipment besides the tractor and trailer, or ore cart, includes a portable air compressor.

At the time of examination, a small amount of ore was being removed from the bottom of the drift midway between the raises. A rather rich pocket of ore was found in the mineralized shear zone about 35 feet south of the portal of the No. 2 level. A combination open cut and drift extends along the shear zone for 35 feet in the back of which small bunches of oxidized stibnite occur on the hanging wall. No ore was found in the face, but according to Marcus, the maximum width was 1 foot of solid ore. In a winze of shaft sunk in the bottom of the open cut the ore was stated to pinch to about 8 inches. Plans of the owner now are to drive a new drift below the No. 2, starting from the hanging wall side and entering at an acute angle to the strike of the shear zone. More ore probably occurs below the present workings, as well as along the strike westward into the hill side. On the surface some 200 feet westward beyond the ends of the present levels, float stibnite has been found by the miners. The tendency has been to follow the ore rather than to use up the profits by perhaps extensive drifting through barren ground in the search for other pockets of ore in the shear zone.

The owner, impressed by the distribution of the oxidized ore, is now entertaining the thought of installing a mill to recover the supposedly abundant oxidic antimonial minerals which are said to have been prevalent down to the No. 2 level. This venture can hardly be an exhibition of wisdom on the part of the owner.

January 30, 1942

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BLUE JAY ANTIMONY PROSPECT

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Upper Applegate Area.

The road, practically 4 miles, is being built for about \$2200 although additional money will have to be spent to make it an all weather road. Maximum grades are 20 percent. The road ends about 350 feet from the portal, from where ore will be sledded to the trucks over a 40 percent grade. Merrick plans on hauling 3 ton loads to the Applegate River, where he will consolidate loads for trucking to Medford.

Mining costs must be high, as it is all hand work. Rock is easy to drill or pick. Hand sorting is absolutely necessary.

The ore is stockpiled and there is about 75-100 tons of high grade awaiting shipment. I believe that an estimate of 100 tons in stopes above the adit is very conservative. The ore at the face is showing stronger in the floor than in the back. At times the ore pinches out completely so that it may be difficult to keep ore developed. Careful and intelligent development and prospecting should uncover a moderate amount of ore.

Merrick claims that he will get \$80 a ton for 50 percent ore, f.o.b. Medford, and he ships to Los Angeles. He plans to stope the ore above the adit as soon as he can get timbers in to the prospect, and then continue development.

I recommended that he get out his ore and direct his development by "following the ore", rather than dropping down the hill and starting a new adit regardless. I believe that there is a fair possibility of developing a moderate quantity of high grade ore; the low grade should be stockpiled against a time when there is sufficient to justify a small mill. I would class the ore reserves as:

Known (on the dump) -- 100 tons
Probable (ore above the adit) -- 100 tons
Possible (from what I could judge
at the time of examination) -- 500 tons

At \$80 a ton I believe that Merrick can "see" \$16,000 in his mine, with a possible expectation of perhaps \$40,000. I feel that he has a good prospect and should "do alright".

There is other antimony reported from the general area; Lowry's on Kanaka Gulch, a spot somewhere on the ridge between Kanoka and Grouse Creek, along Grouse Creek, and another one "somewhere" in the area.

Ray C. Treasher
Field Geologist
January 30, 1942

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BLUE JAY CLAIM

Elton A. Youngberg
August 10, 1945

Although Mr. Jackson reports a number of assays taken from the tunnel have averaged \$70 per ton, of the four samples taken by the Department, two in 1938 by Mr. Morrison and two by myself, three have only shown a trace and one .01 oz. This discrepancy seems out of order as a vein carrying two or more ounces of gold even spotty, would more than likely assay several dollars almost any place in the leaner part of the vein.

A heavy yellowish white mineral was noted in several pannings. Under a hand lense it appeared to be a white translucent mineral coated with iron oxide stains. A sample of the rock was taken to the office where it was found that the sample contained a number of small grains which flouresced a golden yellow typical of zircon found in some of the granite masses in the vicinity of Grants Pass.
