

Next To ALMEDA MINE

ORIOLE MINE

Jo

ROWLAND KING, E. M.
MINING ENGINEER & METALLURGIST
SYMONS BUILDING
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

September 30, 1940

Mr. R. D. Leisk, Manager
Sunshine Mining Company
Kellogg, Idaho

Dear Ross:

RE : ORIOLE MINE

Herewith a brief description of this property, taken from the meager data submitted. Also attached will be found letters from Mr. Herrick and copies of my replies.

Apparently they are willing to talk in terms of some deal other than the original one of \$100,000 cash or \$150,000 over a five year period with a \$30,000 down payment.

If it develops that they are willing to meet some terms proposed by us, I suggest that we have a look at the property in conjunction with an examination of the Almeda Mine submitted by Holdsworth. Apparently the two properties are close together.

While I am not very enthusiastic about that district, it is quite possible that we might find a considerable tonnage of milling ore, particularly if both properties are considered.

Will you give me your reactions to this matter?

Respectfully,

Rowland King

RK:CH

Dr. H. Y. Walker

March 4, 1926.

Mr. H. Y. Walker, Gen. Mgr.,
American Smelting & Refining Co.,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dear Sir:

General Report,
Southwestern Oregon.

This section of Oregon was the earliest prospected area of the state. In 1852 its rich placers were beginning to attract wide attention. Since that date Josephine and Jackson Counties have produced about twenty million dollars in gold and silver from lode and placer deposits. Extensive exploration and prospecting has, however, failed to develop any important or long life lode mines. The entire production has come from relatively shallow workings - placers, "pockets", and the upper areas of small veins. The exceptional mine in the district is the Greenback, now idle, although there has been some talk of re-opening the property during April of this year. Its deepest level is 1200 feet.

According to J. S. Diller, U. S. G. S.:

"The diverse stresses and subsequent earth movements involved in the development of the Klamath Mountains have

resulted in widespread crushing and shearing of the rocks but the fissuring was general instead of being concentrated in narrow belts. The final veining of the rocks and the accompanying ore deposition in general formed many small though commonly rich ore bodies instead of a few larger ones."

At present some development work is in progress in mines which have until recently been closed, as well as in mines that have been producers for some years. The district has many small mills, but only in a few instances are these mills in operating condition. Many of them are dependent on water for power, and either the flumes are down or the ditches out of repair. Where this condition exists, any ore rich enough to stand shipment will be sent to the Smelter. Such shipments will be small and erratic and carry in the neighborhood of 2 or 3 ounces of gold and 75% to 80% silica. Since the closing of the smelter at Kennett, siliceous ore shipments from Southwestern Oregon practically all go to Tacoma.

During my recent visit to this section little could be gained in a definite way as to what to expect from Southwestern Oregon for the next year or so, as it was during the rainy season and most of the roads to the mines were impassable.

However, there was more serious talk in Grants Pass

and Medford relative to the resumption of mining in this district than I have heard since 1921, and plans are being made to re-open a number of properties as soon as weather conditions will permit.

It will probably be advisable to visit this district again the early part of the summer to ascertain if it can be depended upon for a limited amount of siliceous ore. By that time work at a number of properties will be in progress.

The Oriole Mine near Galice and the Yellowhorn in the Greenback district were visited. Both of these properties made small shipments to Tacoma last year. Neither of them, however, are properties that would be of any interest to the Mining Department.

The Oriole is a large fault fissure containing short irregular shoots said to average \$18.00 per ton in gold. It has no important tonnage possibilities. Within the shoots are small bunches of quartz, extremely high grade. On the dump there are probably 100 tons of ore that samples from \$12.00 to \$15.00 per ton. From this dump there has been sorted 5 tons that sample \$100.00 per ton. The high grade will be shipped when a carload has accumulated. Three men are at present engaged in development. Shipments in the past have averaged about \$60.00 per ton. Neither the grade nor tonnage is to be depended upon. There is no tonnage sufficiently developed to measure.

The Yellowhorn, in the name of R. E. Reed, made a small shipment of concentrates to Tacoma last year, at a loss. At present the mine is idle. The workings show a vein developed by a tunnel that gains a depth of 200 feet. The ore that was milled was mined at intervals along a distance of 350 feet of the vein. The vein is 6 inches to 3 feet in width, and said to average \$8.00 per ton. This mine cannot be operated at a profit on \$8.00 ore.

The Yellowhorn is one mile south of the Greenback Mine and 8 miles east of Leland on the Southern Pacific Railway. No further shipments can be expected from this property.

Messrs. Lotz and Larson made a number of shipments from a property 23 miles northeast of Lyons, of copper sulphide concentrates containing good silver values and some gold, during the past year. These gentlemen operated the old Consolidated Copper property under a lease and bond, but the property has been closed during the past four months on account of a misunderstanding with the stockholders. Mr. Larson informed me that he expected to get their difficulties settled by spring and resume shipments this summer. In this event, I will visit the property and make a further report.

The property is equipped with a 50-ton mill. The ore deposit as described to me by Mr. Larson is a large shear zone, 12 feet of which he claims will sample 2½% copper with

good silver values and a little gold. This shear zone contains lenses of better grade ore running from a foot to 3 feet in width, and 30 to 40 feet in length. The separate lenses he claims will average 9% to 11% copper. The shear zone has been followed by a drift tunnel for 1400 feet, and a maximum depth gained of about 800 feet. The property may have some possibilities, and if it looks promising after examination I will refer it to Mr. Guess.

During the past year a small shipment of 6% copper ore was made by Mr. J. A. Currie of Medford. According to Mr. Currie the ore was mined off the surface from a cut about 40 feet square, and had not reached the boundaries of the ore. The work was done late in the fall and discontinued as soon as the rainy season set in. It is impossible to get to the mine earlier than the latter part of April. The discovery was made last summer on some of Mr. Currie's logged-off lands in the hills about half-way between Medford and Butte Falls. Mr. Currie operates a logging railroad through this country. Mr. Currie will keep me informed when he re-opens the camp so that I can make an examination of the mine.

In addition to the above work in this district, the Independent Mine, owned by Chas. C. Banfield of Portland, should be examined. The data submitted on his property indicates a fair-sized copper property of good grade.

There has also been submitted a prospect situated some distance off the railroad east of Roseburg. The ore

deposit is a rather complex lead and zinc sulphide of considerable size if the showings on the surface cuts are on the same body. It was described to me by a prospector I have known for many years who saw the property last summer. He, however, has no interest in it.

Recent attempts to revive mining in Southwestern Oregon have caused a group of local people to incorporate two companies - one, The Happy Thought Mining and Reduction Co. Its object is to build a 250-ton concentrator at Gold Hill. The other company is The Sunset Smelting Company. Its object is to build a 50-ton Mace Smelter at Gold Hill. Gold Hill is a small town on the Southern Pacific Railway half-way between Grants Pass and Medford. Some stock has been sold in both companies among small investors. The undertaking is both criminal and farcical.

A Mr. Meeker of Denver, Colo., and I believe interested with the Mace Smelter, has been scouting the district trying to get the different mines to contract their expectant output in the event a smelter becomes a reality.

Interest in the construction of the railroad from Grants Pass to Crescent City (that will benefit the Gray Eagle Mine) is at present dormant, awaiting the decision of the controversy between the Northern Lines and the Southern Pacific over the Klamath Falls territory. If a decision is rendered in favor of the Northern Lines, it is thought by many that they will extend their road beyond Klamath Falls,

eventually coming to Medford and down the Rogue River to Grants Pass and thence southwest to the Coast at Crescent City, California. Also, a decision in favor of the Northern Lines might cause the Southern Pacific to build from Grants Pass to Crescent City. Recently very substantial timber interests have been considering the purchase of the Hobbs, Wall and other redwood timber possessions (the largest commercial redwood timber tract in California) at Crescent City.

I believe that eventually this railroad will be built, and not the one that Mr. Sexton contemplated last fall. This railroad, however, will not benefit the Blue Ledge situation, as it will not pass any closer to the mine than the present Southern Pacific Line at Medford.

Very truly yours,



cc. R.F.B.
H.A.G.