

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

1069 State Office Building
Portland 1, Oregon

Preliminary Report

COPPER BELL MINE

Josephine County
Galice District

Owners: Fred A. Vargas and Tom Moloney, both of Grants Pass, Leased to Kindell B. Weir (1957).

Location: The tunnel is located on Panther Gulch in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 28, T. 35 S., R. 7 W., at about 1350 feet elevation. The mine is reached via the road up Pickett Creek. About 1.4 miles from Robertson Bridge a road branches to the right up the hill to a flat area and around on a contour to the west (left) leads to the mine which is a distance of 1.2 miles from the Pickett Creek road.

Area: 3 claims, unpatented -- Copper Bell 1, 2, & 4.

Workings: A 65-foot tunnel (The Reddy tunnel) trends S. 65° W. into the southwest bank of Panther Gulch. A 16-foot shaft about 30 feet in from the portal was filled with water and planked over at time of visit. An old caved shaft is located just across the creek and another short tunnel is located about 100 yards up the creek just under the placer ditch. An open cut and a caved tunnel are reported about 900 feet north of the main tunnel with good showings of copper. This is on the No. 1 claim and was not visited at this time.

Geology: The country rock is a partially recrystallized metavolcanic rock. It resembles a chlorite schist adjacent to the vein. Chalcocite is the only copper mineral recognized. It occurs disseminated in the quartz vein along with minor amounts of pyrite and pyrrhotite. Some portions of the vein are strongly magnetic. The vein appears to be a normal fissure vein with some evidence of replacement. It varies from less than 2 to about 6 feet in width in the length of the tunnel. The

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vein strikes about N. 45° E. and dips 60° SE. A 6½-foot chip-sample taken from the face of the tunnel (P-21127, RG-164) assayed 2.10 percent Cu; Au - Nil; and Ag - Nil.

About 30 tons of rock and low grade ore were stockpiled at the mine in preparation for shipping. Another outcropping of the vein is reported on the south side of the ridge about ¼ mile from the tunnel, but this was not visited due to lack of time.

The short tunnel located up stream contains minor indications of similar mineralization.

Visited: 4/23/57 P.M.

Report by: L. R. 5/9/57.

Informants: Ken Weir and owners. - Fred Vargas reported that Weir made a shipment of 20 tons of low grade material to the Tacoma Smelter the first week in May.

Reference: Geologic map of the Galice quadrangle by Wells, F. G., and others, 1953.

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