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Mineral County

Item 33

SYNOPSIS OF TRIP INTO ESMERALDA AND MINERAL COUNTIES

By V. E. Kral January 8-20, 1951

1/8/51

Leave Reno 10 a.m.  
Stopped at Broken Hills and looked at Morey Stroman's claims. He is mining some silver ore from a 150-foot shaft  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of Broken Hills. A rather large area south of here has had much prospecting done on several small lead stringers.

A9

1/9/51

Talked with Pat Willard about the Basic Refractories plant. Mechanical difficulty in the cooler has the plant temporarily shut down; plan to be going in a week. Met James H. Wren, the new mine superintendant, who took me thru the pits and explained his changes in drilling, sampling, and blasting techniques. All drill holes for blasting are now sampled and tied in by survey.

Talked with Harcourt who is in charge of the tungsten mill installation at Gabbs for Lee Dougan and the Gabbs Exploration Company. They will probably be ready to operate in a month. They have installed a Cedar Rapids impact crusher which will be used to reduce -12 inch mine run ore to  $-\frac{1}{4}$  inch. Grinding will be done with a 3' x 8' rod mill and concentration will be on Wilfley tables. Total capacity will be about 100 tons per day. Harcourt states that laboratory tests showed an extraction of over 90% by gravity methods.

W23

1/10/51

In Mina talked with L. B. Spencer; he may reopen his mercury property.  
Talked with Kenneth Dunham about the Gunmetal mine and mill, and made plans to later visit the operation.

H9

Visited the Lotti mine southwest of Luning. An attempt has been made to pick up the faulted segment of the vein. After studying the surface outcrops and placing them on a map of the underground workings, it was found that the workings should encounter the vein in the next few rounds.

1/11/51

Examined a copper prospect near the Lotti mine.

Cu

Headed south toward Goldfield. En route stopped at Tonopah and talked with Joe Grismer of Idaho who is sinking a shaft just off the highway a mile south of Tonopah. This work is done for the Trader Horn Mining Company and is based on an "affinity" geophysical survey. Talked with John Klaus and W. E. Hawkins who are working here but have mining properties elsewhere.

Snowed this afternoon and nite from Hawthorne south, the heaviest snow was south of Goldfield.



1/12/51

Went to Bonnie Claire but the folks there had moved to Hawthorne. Stopped at a new service station where the new road to Bonnie Claire and Death Valley Scotty's turns off. It appears that the only activity near here is in California.

Stopped at Gold Point and talked with E. C. O'Berg at the Ohio Mines Corp. property. "He and 2 miners are doing development work at the Dunphy shaft. Mill at Stateline operated by the San Francisco Engineering and Mining Corp. for few months is now shut down; several miners who shipped their ore have not been paid.

Went on to Lida and thence to Sierra Talc mine. Snow conditions at Gold Point and Lida were such that travel off the main roads was not advisable. Two men are working at the Lida Talc just out of Lida. TALC

Found Fred A. Bachich superintendant at the Sierra Talc. Bachich is well known in this State and in Northern California as an experienced mine operator who without formal education has become very capable in his field. They are producing 400-500 tons per month with about 10 men. All mining is being done by filled square set system; about 2/3 of the fill coming from the surface. Mg talc mining is extremely difficult as the ground looks good but will not stand in large openings. In advancing square sets, notches are often cut for the posts and girts before the ground is removed for the complete set. Ground in stopes is broken with spaders using moil points. Work now is all off the bottom level of the 150-foot steeply inclined shaft.

1/13/51

Fred Bachich took me thru the mine and showed what happens if the stoping is not handled cautiously. He estimates that 5 times as much ore has been lost as mined from this property. The value of white Mg talc is \$15-18 per ton at the mine. This company has its grinding plant at Keeler, California. TALC

Went on to the Blue Star talc mine. Careless mining here has lost a long adit thru which previous mining was done. Three men are now sinking a shaft into the remaining talc. The Blue Star company has a grinding plant near Big Pine, California and processes both Mg and Al talc. TALC

Went on to the O.F. Danuseur property where two lessees, Ed Meyer and R.L. Knight are intermittently mining Mg talc from a 145-foot shaft. TALC

The three Mg Talc properties above mentioned are on the same general E-W contact shear zone with a pegmatitic granite on the north and a dolomitic limestone on the south. The Sierra deposit is at the west end of this zone and the Danuseur property is at the east end.

Continued southeasterly up the main wash to J.E. King's property. The occurrence here is Al talc properly known as pyrophyllite but in this region referred to as Al talc. Without making some type of test it is not possible to differentiate between the two talcs. Generally, the Al talc is not as blacky as the Mg variety and the mining is much simpler; little or no timber is required. TALC



1/13/51  
continued

Two leases, each operated by one man, are working here. Russel Roper is mining from a true glory hole and A.A. Goehring is mining from an open cut with a skip loader. This material which is used by the paper industry and for insecticides is sold for \$8 per ton at the Blue Star mill near Big Pine. Hauling is \$4 per ton and royalty is \$1 per ton. Both lessees have been making a good living here for about 2 years.

Much information was obtained from Roper and King about the present and past activity in this area. Weather and present road conditions would not permit visiting other points of interest in the area at this time.

1/14/51

Headed north to look at the activity near Montgomery pass and get into the area of lighter snow.

Looked at a new tungsten find near the old Golden Gate mine west of Montgomery pass. Met Gerald Hartley and Howard and Al Stevens, of Bishop on the property and stayed to "lamp" it after dark; a fair looking prospect worthy of a road and bulldozer trenching.

1/15/51

Stopped at Neva-Lead mine northeast of Basalt. No one in, but appears that they have been chloriding galena and cerussite bunches from a 4-foot interbed shear zone in limestone. Property equipped and operating altho not on this particular day.

Stopped at the Black Horse tungsten property east of Basalt. Don Burgner has had a D-8 Caterpillar and small skip loader working here for about a week and has been shipping to U.S. Vanadium. He reports the ore to carry about as much  $\text{Mo as } \text{WO}_3$ , and that U.S.V. quoted him a price of \$13 per ton net for 0.5%  $\text{WO}_3$  ore at the mill. Other sources of information state that the price is \$10.13 net for 0.5%  $\text{WO}_3$  ore at the mill.

It appears that Burgner has a 15-to 30-foot width of ore several hundred feet long that will pay to shovel mine. Some selective mining will be necessary and there may be some areas that will have to be omitted but if what he says about the grade is correct, the property may have a high tonnage production. High velocity winds in late afternoon make examination in the vicinity of the freshly opened ground very difficult.

Went on to Tonopah and checked my original lamping of the Peg Leg tungsten property 7 miles out of Tonopah; a good prospect at these prices even though it is a long distance from Bishop.

Looked over maps of the Tonopah Divide. John Klaus who had been leasing there made tracings of all the company maps.

1/16/51

Talked to Terrell at the newspaper office. Talked with "Feliz" Traner, deputy mine inspector.

Stopped at Klondyke. Four Nesler brothers from Sonora are planning to build a 30 ton mill to concentrate the lead-silver ores of the camp; will use tables. They are purchasing the Harris interests.

Went out to Lone Mountain west of Tonopah. Three men are working at a well equipped turquoise mine.



1/17/51

Drove out to Gilbert: apparently this camp has had no interest in a long time.

Looked at the Alum mine near Silver Peak. In recent years large amounts of the old tailings pile have been shipped as a soil conditioner. At present Young is trucking the material to California. In 1948 it was being sacked and sold under the trade name Acidine. Alum

In Silver Peak talked with E. J. Shirley who with others plans to mine a lead-silver ore at the Mohawk mine in the Argentite district. They plan to be mining within a very short time. Pb-Ag

Also talked with Harry H. Hughes (County Surveyor) who wants information on marketing of monazite, which I will attempt to supply. He also gave some information on the Mc Namara lead mine southwest of Silver Peak. Pb

Went to Basalt and on to Montgomery to talk with R.D. Somerville (an Indian) who discovered the Black Horse tungsten and is well acquainted with the area. Obtained information about the old mines and more recent prospects south of the pass in the "White Mts." W03

Stopped at Mina and talked with Jean Perry about activity in that area. Perry found some antimony properties in Nye County, north of Stone Cabin that may be of interest. Sb

Booked at Boak's iron deposit 1 mile NE of old town of Columbus. Not of interest except for very small tonnage. Fe

Stopped at Candelaria and looked at part of Peterson's mine. This property has had a fairly steady production of silver ore for several years. Looked at that part of the mine operated by lessees who have shipped about a car per month for nearly a year. Ag

Talked with Herb Woodward at the Sodaville mill; he requests information on a dryer for his flotation concentrate which I will send.

John Sinkey told me about his interest in the Silver Dyke mine and requested that I look at it later when a particular shaft is accessible. He requested a copy of the Silver Dyke bulletin and loan of some information on usual flotation mill costs. ~~This~~ is on the way. The bulletin W03

Stopped in Mina and made arrangements with Don Burgner to look at the Desert Scheelite on which he is doing some trenching.

1/ 18/51

At Desert Scheelite Burgner is attempting to show continuity between two good showings about 300 feet apart but overburden is apparently too deep. Other tactite bodies, which may not contain as much tungsten, are traceable for several hundred feet and are 4 to 20 feet in width.



1/18/51  
continued

The Gunmetal mine, about a mile north of the Desert Scheelite, is operated by the Lindsay Mining Company. Kenneth Dunham is in charge of the operation and took me over their surface work and the underground work of previous operators. This company is now obtaining ore from open cut work on a 40 to 60-foot width of tactite. It appears that the ore is shallow but this should make no appreciable difference.

What they call the north deposit is made up of several flatly lying tactite beds partly mined along a granite contact. It appears that much ore of 1/2 to 1%  $W_2O_3$  content is left here. The beds are 6-8 feet thick and dip about  $20^\circ$ . Previous mining was by room and pillar method. The Gunmetal mill is 6 1/2 miles east of the mine at the edge of a dry lake. A 300-foot well the Lindsay Company had drilled furnishes ample water for the 100-ton mill. The mill is well constructed and planned. Grinding is by trunion discharge ball mill equipped with lifter bars which keep the pulp level very low. Grinding is in closed circuit with a 20-mesh screen. Concentration is by two primary tables and five secondary tables with classified feed. Power is diesel-electric. Dunham will give me the plans of the mill at a later date.

1/19/51

Stopped for a short time at the Lotti out of Luning and found that they had encountered a zone of quartz stringers in the face about 5 feet beyond the face on my visit of 1/10.

Basic refractories kiln was shut down again as mechanical difficulty with the speed regulator had made it difficult to properly control freezing on the side of the kiln. On this day they were cutting out the frozen clinker inside the kiln.

Talked to Marcourt at the tungsten mill and left with him information on a concentrate dryer and the name of the manufacturer. He had requested this from me on my last stop. Obtained from him the plans of the mill. WJ3

Drove out to the Phelps Stokes iron deposit which Standrad Slag is occasionally mining and selling to Basic Refractories.

Arrived Reno 8:30 p.m.

The three extra days (two Saturdays and one Sunday) spent in the field will be held until it is of mutual benefit to both the Bureau and I that I take them off.