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I. C. 6941Fluorspar

In 1914 George F. Thompson, of Mina, and Paul Kienappiel (deceased) discovered fluorspar 3 miles south of Mount Montgomery station. Five carloads were shipped from here in 1926. The deposit has been explored by several tunnels totaling 1,000 feet. Fluorite associated with considerable quartz is present in an andesite formation in veins from 1 inch to several feet in width. Four claims have been relocated recently on the deposit by Robert D. Somerville of Basalt.

ONEOTA DISTRICT*(Buena Vista)*

The Oneota district, also known as the Buena Vista district, is in Queen Canyon at the north end of the White Mountain Range 5 miles southeast of Queens, a station on the narrow-gage railroad that operates between Mina, Nev., and Keeler, Calif. Although part of the district is in Mineral County, the major part is in Esmeralda County, Nev.

The district was organized as early as 1862 by prospectors in search of gold in the White Mountains, but it was abandoned shortly after. In May 1870, some very rich float was found by an Indian, who showed it to William Wetherell. Wetherell returned with the Indian to the place where the float was discovered and located the Indian Queen mine, which became a small but prominent early-day producer. The ore was very rich, and in the early days some of it was hauled to Sacramento, Calif., by ox teams, a distance of several hundred miles. In 1882 a small stamp mill and White furnace were erected at the mouth of Queen Canyon to treat the ores from the Indian Queen mine. The ores were very base and required roasting.

The Poorman mine was discovered in this area in 1888, and in 1892 an apex suit was started between the Indian Queen and the Poorman Cos., which dragged on for 4 years. The animosity engendered by this suit reached such a point that actual battles took place. In 1896 the Indian Queen Co. won the suit and continued to operate until 1904. The district was idle until 1935, when the Ora Tahoma Mining Co., consisting of a group from the State of Washington, consolidated the principal holdings in the area, comprising 30 claims, two of which are patented. In 1936, the Ora Tahoma Mining Co. was driving several exploratory crosscuts in virgin ground. Six men were employed.

Complete statistics of production from the Oneota district are not available. Total production of the property has been in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000. According to Whitehill^{12/}

The Indian Queen Mine for the last three quarters of 1875 produced 896 1/2 tons of ore having a value of \$132,682.96, an average of \$148 per ton; and for the first half of 1876, 231 tons valued at \$36,346.32, an average of \$157.35 per ton.

^{12/} Whitehill, H. R., Biennial Report of the State Mineralogist: State of Nevada, 1875-76, p. 37.

The old mines were worked through tunnels. The Poorman tunnel is reported to have a length of 227 feet. The old workings were inaccessible at the time of writer's visit because they had caved.

The following extracts regarding the Indian Queen mine from early reports of the State Mineralogist are of interest.

The vein matter is covered with a few feet only of loose earth and has a slate formation underneath. It has been opened up sufficiently to show a body of ore 400 feet in length, by 200 feet in width. It varies in thickness from a streak of colored ore to 4 feet. The ore contains a large proportion of galena, copper, and iron, with a compound of sulphide of silver and antimony. 25 tons of selected ore from this mine yielded \$530 per ton.^{13/}

The loose body of ore found here upon the surface, has been traced up to and into a well-defined vein, which has been opened to a depth of 60 feet, showing a vein 2 feet in thickness, which works, without sorting, from \$200 to \$400 per ton. The ore is very base, containing silver in almost every combination known to science, and can only be worked profitably by persons skilled and experienced in working base ores. The vein is found between granite and slate formations, and pitches to the east at an angle of 40°. The course of the vein is north and south.

Three tons of ore are worked daily, which yield a profit of \$1,000. For a small mine, this is undoubtedly the most productive in the State.^{14/}

Several mine dumps reported to contain a total of 150,000 tons were sampled by the Ora Tahoma Mining Co. and are said to average \$3.26 per ton in gold and silver at current metal prices. A picked 10-pound sample of dump material taken by the writer assayed 29.2 ounces of silver and 0.07 ounce of gold. The sample showed quartz, galena, pyrite, and sphalerite. The tailings from the old mill at the mouth of the canyon have been scattered by cloudbursts.

PILOT MOUNTAINS DISTRICT

The Pilot Mountains or Sodaville district includes the southern part of the Pilot Mountains in southeast Mineral County. Mina, a town on the Southern Pacific R.R., is the supply center and nearest shipping point.

In 1913 cinnabar was discovered in the vicinity of Cinnabar Mountain by Thomas Pepper and Charles Keough while they were searching for stray steers. This discovery caused considerable excitement, and shortly afterward many

^{13/} Whitehill, H. R., Biennial Report of the State Mineralogist: State of Nevada, 1871-72, p. 38.

^{14/} Whitehill, H. R., Biennial Report of the State Mineralogist: State of Nevada, 1873-74, p. 19.