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I. C. 6941

(194) Item 6

MOUNT MONTGOMERY DISTRICT

(Buena Vista)

Mount Montgomery District is in southwestern Mineral County at the north end of the White Mountain Range. In this area gold, silver, quicksilver, and fluorspar ores have been taken from a number of small mines. When the district was visited in October 1936 there was very little mining activity.

Mount Montgomery Quicksilver Co.

The Mount Montgomery Quicksilver Co. comprises four unpatented claims owned by W. H. Kirkbride, 1067 Fifth Ave., New York City. This property is in the White Mountains 5 1/2 miles south of Mount Montgomery station. Cinnabar was discovered here by John C. Morris in 1916. The claims were sold to F. C. Beedle, of Reno, Nev., who produced \$16,000 in quicksilver during the war period. In 1936 the property was worked under lease for 4 months by Walter L. Lowe. Lowe produced only 1 flask of quicksilver.

Development includes two tunnels, respectively 300 and 400 feet long and other workings totaling about 1,500 feet. Mining has been done by hand methods. Two D-type retorts are on the ground.

Cinnabar is present in bunches in opalized rhyolite, which is considerably shattered.

Tip Top Mine

The Tip Top mine is about 10 miles south of Mount Montgomery station, which is on the narrow-gage railroad between Mina, Nev., and Keeler, Calif. This mine was worked from 1913 to 1915 by the Atkins-Kroll Co. of San Francisco, which equipped the property with a 10-stamp cyanide mill of 50-ton capacity. About \$100,000 in gold and silver is reported to have been produced.

Development comprises several tunnels and other workings that total about 1,000 feet.

The formations are said to be andesite and rhyolite. Two veins have been found on the property.

Golden Gate Mining Co.

The Golden Gate Mining Co. owns seven unpatented claims 4 miles east of Queens and about the same distance west of Mount Montgomery station. The principal owner is A. A. Isaacson. The property was located in 1915 by Al Stevens, of Bishop, and associates. In 1924 and 1925 some high-grade ore was mined and treated in a small mill at Queens. In 1936, two men were carrying on development work. Production, principally of gold, is said to have been about \$50,000.

Development consists of several tunnels, one about 1,000 feet long and other workings totaling about 3,500 feet.

Mining equipment includes a Curtis 1-drill compressor driven by a 4-cylinder Climax gasoline engine, rock drills, and a blacksmith shop.

The formations are principally limestone and granite. Gold-silver ore is present in a vein ranging in width from 2 to 7 feet and dipping about 60°. The vein is considerably faulted.

Other Properties

The Shang mine 4 miles west of Mount Montgomery station comprises six claims owned by Al Stevens of Bishop, who located the property about 1924. Development consists of several shallow shafts and tunnels, totaling in all about 1,000 feet. Formation is limestone and porphyry and values are in gold and silver. Small amounts of shipping ore have been produced.

The Silver Trail group, adjoining the Shang property on the south, is owned by Al Stevens, of Bishop, and associates. Development consists of about 1,000 feet of shallow shafts and tunnels. Formation is limestone and andesite. Values are in silver, lead, and a small amount of gold. At least 7 carloads of ore have been shipped.

The McElroy mine is near the Tip Top mine. This property is said to have been acquired recently by Dr. D. E. Mitchell and associates.

Mogoe Claims

In 1929 cinnabar was discovered by Joseph Mogoe 8 miles northwest of Basalt. Mogoe owns eight claims in this area. Four flasks of quicksilver were produced in 1930 and 1931.

Development consists of several shallow shafts, a tunnel 85 feet in length, and a number of open-cuts, totaling about 400 feet. Mining has been done by hand, and equipment includes a D-type retort.

Cinnabar is present in quartzite and limestone.

Bentonite

One mile west of Mount Montgomery station a clay deposit of bentonite type is covered by one unpatented claim owned by Robert D. Somerville, of Basalt. The highway between Coaldale, Nev., and Benton, Calif., passes over the deposit, and the Mina-Keeler narrow-gage railroad is within 1/2 mile. The only development is a tunnel 40 feet long. No production has been made.

The bentonite is traceable on the surface for about 1,000 feet. The width is approximately 100 feet. No physical tests have been made on the bentonite to determine its value for specific purposes.

Fluorspar

In 1914 George F. Thompson, of Mina, and Paul Kienapfiel (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

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.