

LA PLATA GROUP OF MINES

April 20, 1938

ELKO COUNTY, NEVADATYPE:

Silver and gold in quartz veins, and pockets in shear zones and dykes.

LOCATION:

Cornucopia mining district, Elko County, Nevada.

The mine is located 25 miles south of Mountain City and 7 miles off of the main highway.

OWNERSHIP:

*owned by  
Truitt - location*  
No data on the immediate owners of this group of claims. They were proposed to us by R. E. Tilden, Berkely, California, February 2, 1938, who has a working arrangement with the owners for the sale of the property. He refers us to a Mr. J. B. Truitt, Tuscarora, Nevada, who will show the mine. I would gather that Mr. Truitt is the large owner referred to in other parts of his letter. Development work was reported as having been done and recorded up to October 1935. The claims are held by mineral location.

PROPERTY:

19 mining claims. The data on this group of claims is more or less confusing, so we cannot tell definitely just what claims are included in this group. We take the following list of claims from a map prepared by Tilden in 1936: La Plata; La Plata No. 2; La Plata No. 3; La Plata No. 4; La Plata No. 5; La Plata No. 7; La Plata No. 8; Hidden Treasure No. 1; Hidden Treasure No. 6; Valley Queen; Mountain Queen; Lucky Lady; El Oro; El Oro No. 1; Winner; Raven; Raven No. 1; Wedge and Man. There is, closely associated with this group of claims, a Leopard claim, which is not owned by the same people as the 19 claims, but is included in Tilden's picture. There are numerous shafts and tunnels, but this work was done many years ago, so probably there is no equipment of any consequence on the property.

DEVELOPMENT:

Tilden states in his letter of February 2nd, that no work of any account has been done since 1878, and we assume that all of the development work was done previous to that time. He states that Mr. Truitt has been shipping from the dumps for the last 3 years.

LEOPARD CLAIM:

*yield*  
Shafts 900 ft. deep reported. Very little stoping below the 500 ft. level; a large vein 40 ft. wide at the 600 ft. level with pay streaks of \$200,00 and \$300,00 ore; 16,600 tons shipped from 1875 to 1879, with a rate of \$1,060,000. This would average \$64.00 a ton. There is no data on what percentage of these values were gold and which were silver. T. S. O'Brien examined the Cornucopia (La Plata) group of mines with the object of determining the value of a large outcrop of ore in the north end of the Leopard mine. He cites this to be a vein 40 ft. wide with a strike, north 20 degrees east, and a dip 65 degrees west. He places two points on the outcrop of the vein 300 ft. apart; point 'A' being 500 ft. south of the north end line, and point 'B'



300 ft. north of point 'A'. The outcrop, trenches, open cuts and shallow shafts are between these two points. He states that the whole mass of the dumps and the outcrops is of the same character. He took two grab samples, each covering 40 ft. wide by 150 ft. long, including dumps and outcrops. The average of these two samples was \$15.17 gold and silver. O'Brien states that Peacock sampled this same outcrop, covering a width 15 ft., sampling a more silicious part and got \$20 per ton. He estimates that in this area above the Leopard tunnel which is at an average of 150 ft below this outcrop, a block 30 ft. wide by 300 ft. long by 150 ft. deep, assumes 14 cubic ft. per ton, and gets 96,000 tons ~~if~~ available for glory hole mining methods. It will be necessary to extend the Leopard claim tunnel 400 ft. to get under the proposed block. He estimates a gross value of this block to be \$1,462,000, and mining and milling costs not to exceed over \$4.00 per ton and gets a net operating profit of \$980,000.

#### LA PLATA CLAIM:

*the* x The Clarence shaft is reported to be 500 ft deep, and is on the continuation of the Hussy-Ruby vein which was also developed in the Leopard shaft. There has been very little stoping and a vein is reported from 4 to 6 ft. wide with assays from \$30 to \$40 a ton, at the 200 ft. level. \$84,000 was produced from this shaft from 1876 to 1878. Leasors are reported to have produced an additional \$66,000.

#### LA PLATA NO. 2 CLAIM:

This claim is on the extension of the Leopard vein and is reported to have been worked by leasors, and produced some \$50,000 from shallow workings. The Leopard vein was also developed in the Leopard shaft. The print shows a 100 ft. shaft and a tunnel from the La Plata claim.

There are numerous other shafts and tunnels between the Leopard vein and a parallel vein about 1300 ft. to the east. There has been numerous changes of names and possibly restaking of claims, so that it is difficult to tie the reports into the workings. It would appear that these shallow workings were located on high grade pockets and veins. I would assume that probably in the oxidized zones. Tilden writes that Truitt says that they have enough ore developed to run a 50 ton mill.

#### EQUIPMENT:

None mentioned in the reports and probably none of any consequence, although Truitt must have some equipment if he has been working the dumps the last 3 years.

#### HISTORY:

(2) It would take a lot of study to coordinate the data and outline the history of this property. The submitted reports show that the discovery was originally made in July, 1873 by a Mr. Durfee. He located two claims, one of which was the Leopard. He got assays as high as \$17,000 per ton, with numerous assays of from \$5 to \$10 per ton. He mined a vein from 3 to 7 ft. wide, produced 1500 tons of ore at an average of \$100 per ton. They built a 10 stamp mill on Deep Creek  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the mine. Production records show as above over



\$1,000,000 produced from the Leopard up to 1879. W. B. Jenness, E.M., wrote a report on the property, July 1907. There is no data on whom he wrote the report for. T. S. O'Brien, M.E., wrote a report on the Cornucopia Group of Mines and the Leopard Patented Claim, addressed to Mr. A. R. T. Lackie, San Francisco, California in December 1924. Dr. J. Von Gal- Scale, Geologist, wrote a report on the La Plata Group of Mines, October 1935. Von Gal- Scale states that the present owners of the La Plata claims located in 1927 and 1928, the group of claims included in the Cornucopia group, changed the names and to some extent, the boundaries. The main change in the staking was to confirm to the Leopard claim which claim was staked in a NW and SE direction. The old claims had been in an east and west direction. It would appear from Tilden's letter that Truitt has been shipping from the dumps of the surface for the last 3 years. I gather that the titles have all been cleared quite recently, and now the owners wish to dispose of the property or at least to get the property developed so that they may profit by its production.

R. E. Tilden, California, brought it to our attention first, February 2nd, 1938. Mr. Adams and Mr. Tilden discussed this property in San Francisco, and Tilden wrote again April 4th, suggesting that we get in touch directly with Mr. J. B. Truitt.

#### DESCRIPTION:

GEOLOGY: Jenness writes, "This mining district is the continuation, southwesterly of the same mineral belt that starts at Mountain City on the North and extends entirely across the Northern portion of Elko County, and in which are situated the large productive mines of Mountain City, Maggie Gulch, Columbia, Blue-Jacket Canyon, Bull Runn, Edgemont, etc."

" With but few exceptions all of the rocks of this mineral belt and region might be classed under the head of andesites, as the most of the porphyries are only porphyritic quartz, bearing andesites. The Tuffs, too, and most of the basalts are andesitic."

" At Cornucopia these rocks are cut by dykes of quartz, porphyry and trachyte, the latter being of an older period, in my opinion, as there are two systems of mineral bearing veins (the easterly and westerly, and the Northerly and southerly) contacting with and cutting through the different formations. These conditions have created a most highly mineralized zone, from which there has been taken from \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 of gold and silver from the limited workings and crude explorations made when the property was worked about 30 to 35 years ago."

Dr W. H. Emmons. P.H.D., University of Minnesota, surveyed this area in 1908 for the U.S.G.S., and published a bulletin #408 # A Reconnaissance of some mining camps in Elko, Lander and Eureka Counties, Nevada" in 1910. He also included descriptions of this area in his "Principles of Economic Geology" published in 1918.

T. S. O'Brien describes a large outcrop in the north part of the Leopard mine. This is probably on the Hussy-Ruby vein and estimates a tonnage to be developed below this outcrop. This estimate is mentioned under DEVELOPEMENT.



Dr. J. Von Gal-Scale does not go into a description of the geology of the district, but confines his observations to the immediate area. He writes "The most striking feature of the territory, which strikes, must, even the casual observer, is that the territory is badly broken up, which resulted from the excessive disturbances, volcanic actions to which the whole North part of Nevada was subjected in the past geological ages. The result of these disturbances are two-fold. The first is that the territory is thoroughly mineralized to an unknown extent. 2nd, that the mineral deposits are, to some extent irregular."

.....  
 "The veins containing the mineral bearing ore, are, through continuous, interrupted by several minor faults."

.....  
 "The veins are compressed sheet shape. The values in the compressed sheets are in Andosites."

.....  
 "This ore when decomposed is extremely rich."

.....  
 "A very rich vein in andosite assayed 1907 ounces, silver, and 7 ounces of gold.-- just a stringer, "but it has the ear-marks of great possibilities."

.....  
 "By far the greater values are in, and will be found in quartz."

"The whole territory is proven. The only question is, the lower or higher values in the ores, but the values taken out of two claims, the Leopard mine and the Daisy (Hussy) claims, point to the conclusions that immense values are hidden in the La Plata group of claims. No estimates can be made regarding the expected tonnage; but it can be safely stated that it will run into millions of tons."

#### TOPOGRAPHY:

The surrounding area of low hills is capped by rhyolite and obsidian.

Jenness reported in 1917 that the camp was well watered by several living springs. Deep Creek is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles away;  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles away is the Owyhee River. Here a large flow of water can be had the whole year for milling purposes. Power: Question.

Transportation; Property is 7 miles off the state highway. Railroad at Elko 67 miles to the south. No data on the possibility of a railroad into Mountain City about 25 miles to the north.

Timber: Probably no local timber available as there is a note saying, "The hills in which these mines are found are bare of wood."

#### DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY:

OREBODY: The data submitted is not sufficient to permit any estimate of possible ore bodies or ore reserves. These mines were worked many years ago when only high grade and free milling ores could be handled. There are probably considerable ~~tons~~ <sup>tonnage</sup> of mill grade in the stopes.

Jenness notes that  $1,500,000$  to  $2,000,000$  <sup>tonnage</sup> taken from limited workings, and crude explorations. He notes on the old Clarence claim, now the La Plata claim, a vein 200 ft. below the surface and 46 ft. wide, assaying \$30 to \$40 the entire width. The Clarence shaft is 500 ft. deep. Some of these shafts have been worked by leasors who sold ore



to the Leopard mill. He notes on the Nevada claim (new name, ~~NE~~) several pits and shafts 10 to 50 ft. deep, showing well defined veins from 3-6ft wide and large dumps of second grade ore running from \$20 to \$35 per ton.

THE FLAG STAFF:

This shaft is 30 ft. deep, showing a vein fully 5 ft. wide, assaying from the dumps \$4.67 to \$21.05 per ton.

O'Brien notes the 96,000 tons on the Leopard claim. It is reported that Truitt has been shipping from the dumps for the last 3 or 4 years.

As far as mill and surface plant equipment is concerned, there is probably none whatever.

PROPOSITION OFFERED:

The La Plata group is held at \$100,000 with 4 years time to make all payments. 10% royalties on gross value of the ore to apply on purchase price, no down payments until the mill is built and running for one month. The price of the Leopard mine has not been set, but will be around \$65,000. No data on terms.

REMARKS:

*being*  
*new*  
*no*  
This is a very old property, and was idle for many years. It would seem now that the only activity would be the few shipments from the dumps. The reports are intriguing and they mention high assays and probably considerable mill ore in the old workings with possibilities of developing veins which were not profitable under conditions back in the '80's. It would appear that reports are more or less general and based on geological ideas and opinions, rather than an thorough examination and facts. For instance, O'Brien in his estimate of 96,000 tons which he takes as a uniform block from the surface down to the tunnel of 150 ft. based on two samples, made the comment that the reports of the former mine superintendent, and old timers well established the fact that the Leopard tunnel was the original opening on the property, and in driving this tunnel they struck a rich high grade ore, having an average width of 4 ft, and a length of 200ft. This ore did not extend far above the tunnel level, and it is very evident to me that the large number of trenches and open cuts and shafts on the vein outcrop between point 'A' and 'B' were made in search of this high grade ore. There is new evidence that most of the men who are making these reports were down in the old workings. The report by Von Gal-Scale would appear to be quite evidently a selling report. The reports tend to foster the idea that the assays were made largely on grab samples. The properties are large and if as reported, the price asked is very reasonable. The only way that this could ever be appraised would be by a very thorough field examination, and probably some re-openings of old workings. Examination of the surface including the dumps etc, would give some idea whether an examination of the underground workings was warranted. It is possible that these workings are practically in the oxidized zone, and the rich pockets were a result of secondary enrichment. If so, the amount of mill ore left in the old workings may be very small. Examination and preparing of this property and presented to an operating company will cost considerable money and take a long time, therefore only a blank-time option should be considered.

*long*



CONCLUSIONS: This property because of its history is worthy of further investigation to the extent of a preliminary examination of dumps, surface, etc., if a suitable option can be arranged.

end

CMP-BH