

*N. Nevada Field Trip (1932) -7-
A.M. Smith + C. Stoddard*

(III)

Item 25

Eureka, Continued.

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(334)

Silver Bell Mine (formerly Champion Mine)

At Eureka the following information was given concerning the old Champion Mine, by Albert T. Laird, one of the owners and the manager.

The property is located 17 miles east of Eureka, on the west side of Newark Valley. Of this distance 14 miles are over the Lincoln Highway and 2 miles over good country road. The ore contains silver, lead, copper and zinc; some of it is said to contain 12 per cent copper. Laird stated that recently ore had been found that contained \$4.00 per ton in gold, in addition to marchantable base metal content.

The formation is stratified limestone and quartzite of Paleozoic age, and the vein is interbedded as one of the strata, having the same strike and dip. The vein is probably a mineralized and partly replaced limestone stratum.

During pioneer days the mine was operated by Capt. Dan Foley of Eureka who is said to have taken \$75,000 from one glory-hole.

Laird stated that he and his partners have been developing the mine during the last 3 years, and have spent substantial sums, \$3500 in 1931. There are 10 claims in the group, none of which have been patented.

Windfall Mine

→ (III)

This property in Secret Canyon, south of Eureka, on which a large cyanide mill once operated, is now in the foreground of Eureka District as a result of an option taken on it by the well known Snyder interests of Pioche and Salt Lake.

The title is held by Mrs. Francis Sexton of Eureka. The mine has been operated by Louis Gilbillini of Eureka for the last few years, who has a lease and option on it, and who is now negotiating with Buchler, a prominent mining engineer representing the Snyders. Buchler is general manager of the extensive and valuable

Eureka, Windfall Mine, continued.

Jack Rabbit silver-lead-zinc mine near Pioche. Buchler last visited the property on May 22nd, two days before our arrival, and Gibillini stated that he expected to see the deal go through, and that Buchler had quietly been obtaining other options in the district. Gibillini holds under a \$10,000 option from Mrs. Sexton, and offers to sell for \$15,000, on terms, \$500. cash, and \$1500. in 30 days.

The vein consists of a series of irregular deposit of good grade gold-silver-lead carbonate ore along a contact between limestone and shale in Paleozoic sediments. The ore has been taken from one or two large surface glory holes which go down only 75 feet or so. Although there is a 500 foot shaft, there has been no development below the 300 foot level. On the 300 level a drift to the north cut three separate cross veins of substantial size assaying from \$10. to \$14. in gold. This drift is now caved, but the record is known, and at the time such ore was not merchantable.

During the winter of 1931-1932 Louis Gibillini mined and shipped to Salt Lake 15 tons of ore ranging in value from \$200 to \$300 per ton in gold. It is the high gold content that is attracting attention to the mine. The gold in Eureka lead-silver ores should eventually revive the camp; all the ore contains gold, and for many years the smelter reports show an average of \$33.00 in gold, in addition to very large amounts of silver, lead and iron.

At present much low grade gold-silver-lead ore in the camp awaits only an efficient metallurgical process. The fact that Eureka is essentially a gold district is responsible for present investigations at this time, when lead and silver have touched unheard of low prices.

Returning to the subject of the Windfall Mine: The property has sufficient water for operations. About $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south is a small spring owned by the Windfall Mine, which can be brought in by gravity flow. About 2000 feet from the

Eureka, Windfall Mine, continued.

mine is another spring, much larger. A third spring, south of the mine is owned by Anthony Paroni, from which a 2" pipe line extends to the mine. Paroni will sell this spring for \$1500. Water can also be obtained at a depth of 40 feet in the ravine below the mine.

Sufficient ore is blocked out near the surface to keep a mill running for some time, says Gibillini. There is much machinery on the ground, altho some of it is in poor condition. Included is the large cyanide mill and leaching plant, which contains 12 - 100 ton steel leaching vats, all well housed, several gas engines and much miscellaneous equipment, also various dwelling houses.

The tailings pile is said to contain 86,000 tons. It is cyanided tailing, consisting of very coarse sand, crushed by rolls. Samplings and assays by various persons indicate the tailing value to range from \$1.49 to \$3.70 per ton in gold, a high percentage of which can be recovered by re-grinding and recyaniding.

Osceola

Placer

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At Bald Mountain we met a group of 5 placer prospectors from Ely. They were miners who had been thrown out of employment by the closing of the copper mines. They stated that about 100 men were now placer mining at Osceola. Some are working on the west side, others on the east side of the mountain. Water is plentiful, and sluice boxes are used. Fairly good results are obtained, the men average from \$1.00 to \$5.00 per day in recovered gold. A royalty of as much as 50 per cent is said to be exacted by some of the claim owners, which probably deters more men from entering the district.