Old Silver Prospect

(89)

Item 3

Dec. 10, 1941

1860 0003

SILVER SPOT PROGRAM

F & L Property

Location: Center of Sect. 36, T 1 N, R 33 E, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian. As is shown on the California-Nevada White Mountain Quadrangle the property lies on the east slope of the White Mountains at an altitude of about 8000 ft. The nearest point on railroad is Coaldale, Nevada and the nearest town of any size is Mina, Nevada, 63 miles distant from the property. Property is reached by road leaving U. S. Highway 6 about 6 miles west of Coaldale, travel Fish Lake Valley road to south about ten miles and turn west at State Highway Maintenance Station, follow road signs to B & B mine and swing north for 2 miles after passing open cut of above mine.

Owners: John Polwick of Fish Lake Valley and J. F. Lavender of Mary Mine, Silver Peak.

Lessee: H. B. Chester.

Plant: One two pipe retort only one pipe of which is now in working order.

General Geology:
Acid tuff, flow breccia, and flows of andesite and rhyolite which are moderately folded. Strike of bedding in vicinity of workings is N 45 W. Locally favorable beds of tuff and breccia are opalized to white or cream-colored glassy rock. The extent of these opalized areas is shown on the accompanying map. The upper northern opalized area measures 60 ft. by 20 ft. in surface outcrop with a possible extension to the east in the vicinity of the longest open cut. The lower, southern opalized area measures 80 ft. by 100 ft. in surface outcrop. The lower limit of this body is only approximately known as float covers the surface of the hill to the south. To the northeast of the lower area some opalized rock is known to occur, but as no ore is known to occur in it, its boundaries were not determined.

Faulting: No faults other than those exposed in the shallow workings were detected. The major fracture direction, poorly developed and with probably small displacement along it, is N 15 W (magnetic) with very steep east dips. Besides this fracture direction numerous irregular fractures have reduced much of the opalized rock to rubble.

Ore: The only quicksilver mineral is cinnebar which occurs as micro-crystalline disseminations in opalized rock, to a lesser extent in opalized veins cutting opalized rock, and as the coloring medium for more or less horizontal layers of pink stained rock. The latter variety of cinnebar is very probably of supergene origin. The dominant gangue mineral is opal, but rare small crystals of quartz coating cinnebar also were found.

Localization of cinnebar:
Nearly all of the cinnebar occurs in the most opalized rock. The highest grade of ore appeared to occur in the deepest end of the longest open cut and in the #7 shaft. Some ore, as well as more completely silicified rock, bordered the fracture extending between

the latter shaft and the center north wall of the longest open cut. Scattered concentrations of cinnebar found in the lower opalized area are in part localized by fractures and small faults which are nearly parallel to the poorly defined bedding.

Grade of the Ore:

All of the outcrops of mineralized opal rock appear to have been prospected. The workings in the upper opalized area show more widespread mineralization than those in the lower opalized area. Most of the opalized rock is essentially barren and the average grade of each body is believed to be considerably less than 1 pound quicksilver per ton. Selected chunks of ore are possibly rich enough for profitable retort operation.

Future: The average grade of the ore nullifies the possibility of working either of the opalized bodies on a large scale. Selective mining and retort operation may possibly pay living wages for a few men.

Edgar H. Bailey
Junior Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

Signed

cc Mr. H. Y. Dougherty of U. S. Bureau of Mines
Mr. S. G. Lasky

Mina, Nevada, Dec. 12, 1941

PROJECT 407

F & L Quicksilver Property

Esmeralda County, Nevada

This report on sampling of this property supplements the attached report by Edgar H. Bailey of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Samples are listed and described on enclosed Form SM-19. Assays received from Reno Station are noted on the form. The accompanying map shows the positions of the samples.

Following is a summary of the sampling:

Working	Sample Numbers	Number & Type of Samples	Average Grade* (Arith.)
Adit No. 1	114-119;122-	10-Channels	.61
Winze in Adit No. 1	120-121 165-166	4-Channels	.76
Adit No. 2	126	1-Large Chip	.80
Open Cut No.3	127	1-Large Chip	.10**
Open Cut No.4	128	1-Large Chip	.70
Adit No. 3	129-132	4-Channels	1.35
Open Cut No.6	133-161	29-Channels	.50
Shaft No. 7	162-164	3-Channels	.80
Shaft No. 8	167-170	4-Channels	.29
Trench No.9	171	1-Channel	2.30

* Assays reported as less than .10 lbs mercury per ton are estimated as .05. All assays in lbs mercury per ton.
** Less than.

The sampling shows the general low-grade of excavated cinnebar-bearing zones. In a number of exposures the workings follow fissured-zones that are particularly favorable for cinnebar concentrations. Some high-grade pockets are in these favorable zones. However, their average grade is low. Since opalized rock outside of the favorable zones appear to contain only small amounts of cinnebar, Mr. Bailey's conclusion under "Future" seems quite justified.

Ellsworth Y. Dougherty /s/
Engineer in Charge, Project 407

cc; Mr Jackson, Mr Metzger.