

NEVADA
HUMBOLDT COUNTY

NATIONAL DISTRICT

On west slope of Santa Rosa Range, 18 miles from McDermitt. Mines in vicinity of Buckskin Peak, 3 miles SE of National are included in the district. Discovered by J.L. Workman and Lew Davis in June 1907, who located all of the property comprising 34 claims. Workman then purchased Davis's interests and divided the ground into base blocks, several hundred feet square. Leases were granted for one year periods, with a sliding system of royalty payments as follows:

\$50 per ton or less	10%
\$50 to \$150	15%
\$150 to \$250	20%
\$250 to \$1,000	25%
\$1,000 Or more	40%.

Richore was found in 1909 in the combination lease owned by the Stall Brothers. First ore shipped is reported to have averaged \$19.90 per pound. While lease was active an option on the property was obtained from Workman by Sam Gundaker and associates who organized the NATIONAL MINING COMPANY. A one year extension of the Stall lease contract had also been given by Workman to the Stall Brothers, and with the discovery of the rich ore, litigation followed over the validity of the extension of the lease. The litigation resulted in a compromise to May 1910, and the Stall Brothers resumed operations under the management of H.C. Cutler. In September of the same year the lease was sold to the National Mining Company. For a number of months prior to the time the lease was sold to National it is reported to have produced from \$250,000 to \$275,000 per month. The NATIONAL MINING CO. operated for a number of years, and the history of the district is largely the history of the one mine. Reputed is the following:

"The high grade ore, assaying over \$20 per pound, was taken out in sacks to the mill ----- the mill by hand methods and small equipment treated only 420 pounds per 24 hours. In a little less than three months this mill turned out about \$650,000.

Records indicate that the mine passed its peak about 1924; after that production was by leasing. In 1935 an increase in the price of gold stimulated a revival of activity.

Production (recoverable) from 1909 to 1936 totaled \$4,065,338, of which gold is \$3,774,215, silver \$289,836, and minor amounts for copper and lead. The average recoverable value for the 85,045 tons of production amounted to \$47.80.

BUCKSKIN NATIONAL GOLD MINING COMPANY consists of 2 patented and 9 unpatented mining claims on the northeast slope of Buckskin Peak.

(over)

Altitude at BUCKSKIN is 8,100 feet; it is 3 miles southeast of the NATIONAL camp. Incorporated in 1912 it had been working intermittently and through lessees at least until 1937. From 1935 it had been operated by the NEVADA LUCKY TIGER MINING COMPANY under a lease arrangement. In June 1937 50 men were employed in producing 50 tons of ore per day.

6500 feet of workings include three tunnels, the longest 1,250 feet and a 400 foot shaft from the 100 adit level; mill was a 50 ton cyanide mill. Ore occurs on a 4 foot vein striking N15W, with a dip of 76 degrees west. Values are in gold and silver in quartz. Formation is rhyolite and andesite. On the 100 foot level the vein had been opened up for a length of 3000 feet. Average grade of ore mined was \$16 per ton. Mining and milling in May 1937 totalled \$8.957 with stoping \$2.308, development \$3.310, milling \$2.916 marketing \$0.062 and general \$0.361. 1,511 tons were treated over this cost period. Development amounting to 448 feet for the same period was at \$10.405 per foot, divided into labor \$7.177, supplies \$3.060, general \$0.053 and Misc. \$0.115.

The NATIONAL MINE in 1937 comprised a group of eight patented claims owned by F.F. McNeil and associates of Los Angeles; it was acquired in 1928 through a foreclosure sale. Development amounted to 10 adits, three shafts, totaling about 6 miles. The main adit had a length of 1,950 feet; mine workings below this level were under water. In June 1937 a crew of 8 was employed. All work was hand work, and mining was confined to the search for high grade and small lots.

Formations consisted of Tertiary lavas, mostly rhyolite, andesite and basalt. There were two types of quartz veins, the one containing copper, lead and silver, and the other gold and silver.

General strike of vein was north and south with a steep east or west dip. The rich shoot of the National Vein contained electrum, an alloy of gold and silver. Width varied from 6 inches to 2 feet. Stibnite is the most characteristic sulphide in the vein.

The McCORMICK GROUP, 18 unpatented claims is on the summit of Buckskin Peak at 8,600 feet. Located first for Au-Ag, it was of little value until 1929 when cinnabar was found. It has produced to 1937 58 flasks; Workings total 600 feet, a tunnel 300 feet and two shafts 42 and 58 feet; cinnabar in a rhyolite altered by hot spring action; deposit about 1000 by 500 feet; croppings are rugged; rhyolite has become a gray chancedony with HgS in disseminations and seams. Owner was claiming that the average grade would be better than 5 pounds of Hg per ton.

SH. 45N-74E

Note: Clarence Hall and his BUCKSKIN QUICKSILVER CORP. in 1939-1940 did a lot of work, tried to turn it into Freeport and then gave up; Bull 41, Ne v. B. of Mines says "richest ore occurs in flat layers in bedding, fractions to several inches thick; much of the ore exposed underground is estimated to be 2 pounds over 5 feet of mineable width; hand sorting should yield material of 15 pounds to the ton."

CANYON CREEK PROSPECT IN S.13, 45N, 38E, is without promise from description; The STALL MERCURY PROSPECT in S31, 45N, 39E produced nothing but from description might be worth visiting. See Bull 41.