

HARRIS QUICKSILVER MINE.

The Harris quicksilver mine consisting of three claims known as the Tiptop, Tiptop No 1, and the Tiptop No 2 is located in the Pilot Mts at a distance of about 14 miles in an easterly direction from the town of Mina, Nev. ITEM 205 49

The property is reached over a good mountain road running off from the Simon road and following Cinnabar Canyon to its head and then running Southerly along the ridge to the property which is located at the end of the road. The claims practically join the Drew property on the south side, the Tiptop claim being the farthest south or about three fourths of a mile from the Drew mine. On the West side and only a short distance is the property of the Mina Mercury Co. and lying to the south is the Inman group of claims and the Messinger group.

The Drew mine and the Mina Mercury have been the two largest producers in the district. The combined production from these two mines has been in excess of half a million dollars. Neither one of these properties is worked out, but each one shows very favorable indications for development of more ore bodies. All the production has been from high grade ore.

The Harris mine is one of the newer discoveries in the district. Discovery of ore was made here in 1931 by J.R. Towner who was the original owner of the property and the initial development work was done by Mr Towner. He later took in as his partner Henry Ott and then sold out his share of the mine to Mr Ott who operated the property under the name of the Cardinal Group. Mr Ott retained ownership of the property until July 1st, 1937 when it was acquired by Mark Harris and Jack McCardle. The interest of Mr McCardle was then taken under option by Mr Harris and active work on the property has since then been carried on by Mr Harris.

The locations are made under the mineral laws of the State of Nevada and the United States and duly recorded at the town of Hawthorne, the County seat of Mineral County.

The total production to date has been 120 flasks and this recovery has all been made from selected high grade ore which has been sacked and hauled out for treatment at retorts located on other properties. One pocket of high grade ore was found by Mr Towner and from this pocket \$3200.00 was taken out in about twelve working hours. At the time this property was acquired there was very little of this high grade ore showing in place, but this was a natural condition to be looked for. Those doing the previous work could not be expected to leave any amount of high grade ore in sight. However from the amount of work done on the property and the production record from the ore recovered in doing this work, the opportunity presented for future ore development and a profitable production are very favorable to the trained mine operator.

The formations found here are steeply dipping beds of a light colored highly brecciated Chert. Wherever ore has been found, in the close vicinity are found areas of this chert impregnated thru-out with Hematite. These local impregnated areas stand out prominently against the lighter colored chert. Just what connection if any these iron stained bodies have with the ore bodies themselves, has not been determined, but I am of the opinion that future development and study of the ore bodies will show that there is a definite relationship existing. Some pieces of ore found show the cinnabar intimately associated with the iron and bring out the possibility of the ore bodies being

formed partly by replacement as well as deposition of the ore as a filling of well defined fractures. The ore so far mined has been found in a series of well defined fractures running in a N.E. and S.W. direction across the top of the ridge. High grade ore has been found in these fractures for a distance of more than two thousand feet along the crest of the ridge. In the main workings as opened by the lower tunnel there is a well defined fault with occasional blossoms of cinnabar found in the fault breccia. This main lower tunnel was driven in from the eastern slope of the hill and runs into the hill, cutting thru the chert beds, a distance of some 250 feet before encountering this faulted and fractured zone. Following the fault plane for about 25 feet a raise was put up to connect with the upper workings, from which a nice body of high grade ore produced 70 flasks. After connecting this raise thru with the upper workings, the work was stopped and no further development done here until we took the property over. This work may all be considered as dead work and was just getting into a faulted and fractured zone that is extremely favorable for the deposition of ore when operations ceased. Work done by myself later has disclosed in the small drift run off from the upper part of the raise to the S.W. a nice cross fracture coming into the main fracture zone that shows very high grade mineralization and every indication of a nice body of ore. This has just been discovered and has at this writing not been opened up. The ground here is badly broken and danger exists from caving. This part of the workings must be cleaned out and the ground caught up with timbers before going ahead with any mining operation to determine the value of this find. On the surface this is capped with the heavily iron impregnated chert. Going down on the western slope of the hill where no previous work of any kind had been done, we followed down the slope roughly along the strike of the main fracture a distance of about 150 feet. Here an open cut has disclosed a very nice fracture that evidently belongs to this same series of fracturing above in the main workings. A high grade seam of ore has been found along this fracture making a very favorable showing and presenting an ideal point to start operations for the exploration of this fault block.

The geologic features of the deposits appear to be favorable to the persistence of the ore in depth of the grade and character of that at the outcrop.

About 600 feet northerly along the ridge is another well defined fracture and from the work done here about 15 or 20 flasks have been taken out. This fracture runs in the same general direction as the one in the main workings. I have not done any work at this point but have found here a branching fracture, showing high grade ore and sufficient evidence that further work should result in the opening up of more ore. Now going further along the ridge in the same northerly direction, about 1300 feet and then down about 300 feet below the crest on the east slope is another workings. Here is the location of the high grade pocket mentioned before. Production at this point has been about 35 flasks, most of which came from this pocket. Work here consists of about 50 feet of tunnel and a small shaft down about 35 feet. This work was done looking for another pocket and was along a more or less horizontal breakover of the formation running approximately parallel with the crest of the hill. This work failed to open up any more high grade ore in commercial quantity. The point that impressed me here was, if there was more

ore to be found here, why it should lie in a counter direction to the ore already found at the other workings. After making a careful study of the area and the workings, my conclusion was that the ore was making in a series of parallel fractures that ran in the same general direction as those farther to the south. Picking a likely looking place in the shaft, the first shot opened up a nice showing of ore. This we followed in about fifteen feet and then dropped down the shaft a few feet and drove another short drift which also shows good ore. This ore is continuing in the face of both these small drifts, and presents very favorable indications of an ore body. In doing this amount of work we took out and recovered 323 lbs of quick-silver and more than a hundred pounds of high grade specimen ore. 76 lbs of these specimens were sent to Ward's at Rochester, N.Y. and the returns from this shipment netted \$1.00 per lb or \$76.00 for the lot. The market for fine specimens of cinnabar such as found here must not be overlooked. This can be developed into a good paying side-line.

About 100 feet farther to the north from this shaft, there has been found some very high grade float. Some trenching and pit work has been done but so far the ore has not been found in place. However from the location of this float there is beyond doubt another body of good ore to be found in the close vicinity. Going still farther north about 300 feet we have an open cut that shows some ore in place but not high grade. Above this open cut is running a strong fracture and the extension of this work to cut this fracture should show favorable results. The property as it now stands presents every favorable feature that should lead to opening up much more commercial ore bodies than have already been mined to date.

From the way this ore has been mined and the recovery made from selected high grade ore, the dumps that are left should by screening operations yield several hundred tons of ore that can be treated at a good profit in a retort plant properly located on the property itself. Test samples taken by going around the dumps half way down on their slope, digging in at the different points and getting an average grab, gave estimated results after screening thru a half inch mesh screen and panning all the way from 15 to 50 lbs.

For a profitable operation this property needs a small portable air compressor with a Jack-hammer and the accessory tools etc needed to operate. A good retort of the Rossi type, capable of treating about a ton a day should be installed at once and put in operation treating the ore recoverable from these dumps along with the ore taken from mining operations carried on at the same time. These retorts have proved very efficient in operation and additional units can be put in as the tonnage available justifies. By conducting operations in this manner the mine should carry its own overhead and make a profit almost from the start. The retort should be set up at the main workings for economical handling of the ore. From the end of the road to these workings along a good trail it is about 2500 feet. The first work done should be to widen this trail out into a road and for this work the County has offered to loan me their equipment if we pay for the gas, oil and the pay of the man to operate. The operator of the county bull-dozer estimated that he can put this road in for me at not more than a hundred dollars expense. Good camp buildings are already on the property and need only to have windows put in and the roof fixed to put them in good livable shape.

The ore as now opened up all lies above this trail or proposed road. With a portable compressor, work can be carried on at any point

and the ore mined can be taken down the hillside by gravity chutes, loaded on a truck and taken to the retort. About \$1500.00 should cover the cost of all the equipment needed. The type of retort mentioned is very economical on fuel and on the property itself there is an abundant supply of Juniper wood. This makes an excellent fuel and there is plenty for several years operation. Fuel oil cost 10 cents per gallon here at Mina and may be used to advantage later on as operations get underway on a larger scale. Wood cut on contract costs \$4.00 per cord piled up where it can be got to with a truck.

Water is obtained from a spring at the head of Cinnabar canyon, two miles from the mine but located along the road going in. This spring runs the year around and will furnish ample water for all camp and mine use.

Weather conditions are such that in normal seasons work can be carried on the year around. However at this elevation (8400ft) snow always falls during the winter months and provision would have to be made to keep the road open and provide for storm periods when it would be impossible to get in or out from the mine.

Under intelligent supervision, with good equipment and careful management to keep down over-head expence, this property should make a sunstantial return to the owners for the amount of capital needed to place it in production.

Signed:

Mark Harris
Mining Engineer.

Mina, Nevada.
May 18th, 1938

Mr Klaus Kemp
Santa Barbara, Calif.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter of Nov. 8, 1937 you mentioned that you and your associates were interested in quicksilver properties. I still have under option the property you wrote me about and believe that for the amount needed to prove this ore showing it is a very attractive prospect for development of a substantial tonnage of furnace grade ore. People with the capital needed to prove and then develop and equip this mine if the ore proves out should make a large return on their investment.

I am writing you to see if you would be interested in a small high grade property that a small investment will put into operation on a paying basis almost from the start and in which the element of chance that goes with any mining operation is much smaller than the above mentioned property. This property belongs to myself and it is only to get capital to go ahead that I am making this offer. I do not wish to sell the whole property and would only do so on a much larger price than I am asking for an interest. I know this little mine and prefer to take my chances on what the mine will produce for my real returns.

I am offering for sale a one third or a one half interest in this property and along with this will give assurance that who-ever goes in with me will have an equal say in the operation and work done on the property. I want to be fair and above board with everything and examination will prove that my statements are conservative. I feel safe in saying that here you can see at least 50 flasks waiting treatment and a showing and structure conditions that warrants development.

The price for a one third interest is \$2500.00 and on the same basis for a half interest it would be \$3750.00. For the one third interest I am asking cash and for the half interest will give six months time on the balance due above \$2500.00. On this basis I will put up my share of the cost of the equipment and expect to devote my time to the operation of the mine. For my own labor I will only charge up to the operation the regular wage scale, which is \$5.00 per day. You will find this is a good small high grade mine and one that has already produced more than I am asking for the sale of an interest. Not only that but I now have enough opened up and in sight so that you can see where you will get your money back on the investment.

If you or one of your associates would be interested in this proposition will you kindly advise me at once. If still interested in acquiring other properties that show merit I feel that it would be well worth your time to make the trip up here and look over this district with me. There are several good properties here that justify capital looking for mines to investigate. Thanking you, I am,

Respectfully yours,

Mark Harris

P.S. Report on property enclosed.