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Flowery Mine

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Item 48

Mining 5

Charles Yetter.

3/30/41

In the summer of 1939 the J. H. Marsman Co. of the Philippines were interested in the possibilities of developing some mining properties in the state of Nevada. One of these was the old "Flowery Mine" in 6 mile canyon near Virginia City. The engineer in charge was Mr. Walter E. Heinrichs of the Marsman Co. He was running a considerable portion of the old dump thru the old Sutro Mill at the mouth of the Sutro tunnel. About the last week in July I was hired by Mr. Heinrichs to take the day shift at this mill as representative of the Marsman Co.

The Sutro mill is a three battery stamp mill with amalgam plates after the stamps, then corduroy section and amalgam traps. These were followed by sand tables but during this running the tables were not used. My duties were, to keep the time records of all the men, take a head sample from the "Challenge" feeder every half hour, take a tailing sample every half hour and dry tailings. Previous night shift tailings had to be broken up and cut on a "Jones Splitter" for assay. Samples from each truckload of "ore" were sent to the assay office on the mill property every day. Part of my work was to grind and pulverize these samples for the assayer. At the end of the first week Mr. Heinrichs decided to stop running the dump thru the mill. All the sands from the sand traps were placed in a pan amalgamator with mercury and agitated for 36 hours. It was my duty to clean up this amalgamator. From the amalgamation and clean-up we had approximately 65 troy ounces of amalgam. The amalgam from the plates came to about 130 troy oz. From the weight records I found that about 4,000 tons had been run thru the batteries.

After the mill clean-up, Mr. Heinrichs decided to start trenching operations on the outcrop of the "Flowery". This is a very bold outcrop of silicified andesite with some small quartz stringers. The outcrop averages about 200' wide and nearly 3/4 mile long. It is deeply stained with iron oxide and manganese oxide.

For a week previously two men had been at work cutting trenches across the outcrop. Mr. Heinrichs showed me how he wanted the trenches sampled and then hired two men to do the sampling. I was put in charge of these four men with instructions to see that every inch of the trench was uniformly sampled. Sampling was done with moils and single-jacks, cutting a groove at least 2" wide and 1" deep, after the trench had been carefully swept clean of all loose material with heavy brooms and whisk-brooms. All cuttings were caught in a piece of heavy canvas. All trenches were sampled using the east end of each trench as the zero or starting point. Not more than 4.5' to 5' of trench could be placed in each sample sack. Samples averaged about 12# each.

On the first day Mr. Heinrichs and I made a reconnaissance over the property while he indicated, in a general manner, about where the trenches should go. For a week he made daily trips out to the property and soon had about sixty locations for trenches picked out. At the end of the week three more men were hired to do sampling as the magnitude of the work was greater than at first suspected. From then on Mr. Heinrichs made only two trips a week and gave me the responsibility of assigning the particular trenches to the individual men.

Since four of the men were from Virginia City and evinced considerable interest in the possibility of a large operation by the Marsman Co. I was instructed to watch all of the assay returns for any evidences of "salting". If any particularly high samples were reported I was to personally take a new sample, using new sample sacks, from the entire trench and especial care was

to be exercised in the footage where the high sample was reported. Strangely enough, although every man expressed the desire to see the sampling turn out favorable, not a single high sample was reported from the entire job.

Twice a day it became my duty to transport the samples cut during the morning and afternoon to the assay office at the Sutro mill. The Assayer was an employee of the Marsman Co. sent here to insure reliability. Carrying all the samples that five men and later seven men cut each day, down the hill to the car was a bit of a job in itself. Later when the farther end of the property was being sampled this really turned into a task. As I stated, five men were cutting and then seven. During the last ten days of the operation the men doing the trenching were assigned to cutting samples.

The accompanying map shows the general position of the trenches. These trenches are not drawn to scale nor accurately placed on the map. The contours are merely for the purpose of showing the general topography of the area and are not correct in elevation, but merely indicative. Each trench was carefully posted with stakes showing the number of each trench. As the work progressed it soon became clear that anyone unfamiliar with the operation would find considerable difficulty in locating the trenches. I undertook the making of this map for the purpose of enabling anyone following me to locate the work done. Evidently it had more value than I realized because Mr. Heinrichs had it photostated and gave me several copies.

Whem Mr. Heinrichs informed me that he intended to close down the operation when I returned to school, unless assays showed possibilities of further work, I decided that it would be impossible to sample every trench that had been cut. Therefore I allocated the sampling work in such a way that a representative cut of the entire outcrop could be gathered from the samples actually cut. The map also indicates the trenches that were sampled. Out of seventy trenches cut forty-three were completely sampled.

Several of the drifts, shown on the map were sampled taking samples across the tops of each drift at ten foot intervals.

The entire sampling job was a disappointment as far as indicating the possibilities of development into a large low-grade operation. The average of the samples was certainly low enough. Ethics do not permit me listing any of the results of the assays. During the course of the work it was found that a considerable portion of the material on the dump had been hauled in from the Con-Virginia dump. Strangely enough this material consistently assayed three to four times as much as anything else on the dump.

In order to finish this work up as completely as possible it was necessary for me to start school a week late but I consider this Months work to have been very valuable to me as it gave me considerable responsibility and also enabled me to use my own judgement to a considerable extent.

Charles Yetter.

Total time spent on this work?

Trenches Sampled
#1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 53, 8, 9, 13, 10,
12, 38, 11, 16, 18, 14, 19, 34, 40,
31, 59, 41, 68, 67, 20, 27, 28,
61, 62, 65, 66, 60, 47, 33, 52,
70, 50, 54, 57, 42, 43, 36, 58.

#66
#65
#63
#64
#61
#57
#60
#59
#58
#45
#44
#43
#29
#30
#31
ADIT #46
ADIT #47
#28
#48
#32
#41
#42
#35
#40
#34
ADIT #33
#39
#27
#49
#26
#25
#52
#24
#23
#22
#21
#38
West End
Post
SW. Corner
#6
#12
#20
#19
#18
#17
#16
#15
#14
#11
#13
Glory Hole
#9
#10
#8
#68
#67
#7
SHACK
ADIT
#54
Dump
#53
OLD Pump Foundation
Road
Dump
ADIT
#1
#2
#3
#4
#5
#37
#6
#70
#36
#69
ADIT

Sketch of Trenches on Exposed Vein Flowery Mine
J. H. Monsman Co.
Drawn by Charles Yetter
For Walter E. Henricks
8/20/39

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