

THE NEVADA WONDER MINE

PROPERTY AND OWNERSHIP:

The Wonder Mine is owned by Frank W. Lewis, 6904 Woodman Avenue, Van Nuys, California.

LOCATION:

The NEVADA WONDER MINE is located in the Wonder Mining District, Churchill County, Nevada. Wonder is 55 miles east of the town of Fallon, the county seat of Churchill County and the nearest railroad point. Forty of the fifty-five miles are over paved Highway 50, and for the remaining distance there is a dirt road. There is a gentle grade from the highway to the camp of Wonder, the rise being approximately two thousand feet in fifteen miles.

HISTORY:

The history of the WONDER MINE is well known in Nevada. Discovered in 1905 by Murray Scott, William Mays and others, the rich gold and silver ores caused a stampede to the camp. Prospectors, miners, promoters, merchants, saloon men and the usual array of camp followers flocked to the new strike, and it was not long before a camp of several thousand people was established. Values were found over a wide area, but no permanent ore bodies were opened up except in the ground that afterward became the Wonder Mine.

The property was taken over by a group of eastern capitalists and they began a development campaign. An immense tonnage of ore was blocked out and in 1913 a 200-ton cyanide plant was installed. Electric power was brought in from Bishop, California, and at the time of its installation this hydro-electric power plant held the distinction of being the longest transmission line in the world. The mine and mill were completely equipped with modern, up-to-date electrically driven machinery.

TOPOGRAPHY - ELEVATION - CLIMATE:

The surrounding country is mountainous but only moderately rugged. The hills form a part of the Clan Alpine range, an offshoot of the Sierra Nevadas. All working places at the mine are accessible by road.

The elevation at the main shaft is 6,080 feet. Wonder Peak, just back of the main working shaft, attains a height of 6,200 feet.

The climate is the same as prevails over western Nevada, there being no excessive heat in summer nor severe cold in winter. Operations were going on 365 days in the year, so far as weather was concerned, when the mine was running.

WATER:

The old company's requirements were supplied by a ten mile pipe line from Horse Creek, north of the camp. Water can be developed in the West Gate Wash some ten miles to the south and near Highway 50 where an abundance of water has been developed in wells. Dixie Valley a mile or two west of Wonder is a vast reservoir of water.

VEINS AND ORE ZONES:

There are two strong, well defined veins on the property from which former production came. These veins vary in width from four feet to forty feet.

As is shown on the production record, copper, gold, and silver with the copper being over 8½% were mined, probably from the sulphide zone, in 1940.

The sulphide zone offers an excellent target for sulphides; copper, silver, and gold ore, for the only mill on the property or in the area was a cyanide plant which could not use sulphide ores.

IMPROVEMENTS:

The development consisted of a main three-compartment working shaft from surface to the 1,300 foot level, and an auxiliary shaft 2,000 feet distant from the main shaft which was sunk to the 800 foot level, from which various sub-shafts and winzes continued on down to the 1,900 foot horizon. Numerous levels connect the two shafts and extend far beyond them on either end of the veins. Altogether there are in excess of eight miles of underground workings.

PRODUCTION OF NEVADA WONDER MINE

"Schedule A"

*Tons Produced	**Price Gold	**Price Silver	*Year Produced	*Yearly Production			Per Ton		
				Gold oz.	Silver oz.	Cu lbs.	Gold oz.	Silver oz.	Cu%
88 smelted	\$20	\$.65	1907	111.48	8,346		1.266	94.8	
59 smelted		.52	1908	112.63	3,783		1.90	64.11	
		.51	1909						
		.53	1910						
9,797 milled		.53	1911	2,476.00	171,900		.253	17.55	
28,376 milled		.60	1912	7,523.87	472,958		.265	16.83	
1 smelted		.60	1912	66.00	1,358		66.00	1358.0	
41,870 milled		.59	1913	9,534.00	699,163		.228	16.85	
50,115 milled		.54	1914	9,704.00	914,511		.194	18.24	
58,394 milled		.49	1915	9,779.00	1,175,839		.167	20.33	
58,131 milled		.65	1916	8,955.31	1,023,046		.154	17.60	
55,800 milled		.81	1917	7,512.74	816,852		.135	14.63	
49,710 milled		.96	1918	4,618.00)	557,924)		.098	12.34	
smelted		.96	1918	259.00)	43,741)				
40,570 milled		1.11	1919	5,612.00	462,294		.138	11.39	
8 smelted		1.00	1920	2.88	284		.360	35.50	
		.62	1921						
3 smelted		.67	1922	2.89	394		.963	131.33	
		.64	1923						
		.66	1924						
		.69	1925						
100 smelted		.62	1926	102.67	902		1.03	9.20	
		.56	1927						
		.58	1928						
		.52	1929						
		.38	1930						
83 milled		.28	1931	31.59	2,484		.380	29.93	
329 smelted		.28	1931	206.44	10,270		.627	31.52	
		.27	1932						
		.34	1933						
	35	.47	1934						
35 smelted		.64	1935	6.32	509		.181	14.54	
292 smelted		.45	1936	119.57	8,787		.409	30.10	
588 smelted		.44	1937	271.00	19,901		.461	33.84	
1,419 smelted		.43	1938	573.00	39,242		.404	27.66	
2,227 milled		.39	1939	388.00	29,852		.174	13.40	
3,378 smelted		.39	1939	1,237.00	84,678		.366	25.06	
4,871 milled		.34	1940	1,192.00	85,373		.245	17.52	
756 smelted		.34	1940	220.00	21,227	1284	.298	28.07	8½
4,388 milled		.34	1941	781.00	56,535		.178	12.88	
1,671 milled		.38	1942	199.00	14,793		.119	8.85	
<u>413,059</u>	Total Produced			<u>71,597.39</u>	<u>6,726,946</u>	Average	<u>1.23</u>	<u>16.28</u>	

2,852 28.22

Total Production in Dollars:

Gold @ \$35.00 \$ 2,505,908.65
Silver @ \$ 1.293 8,697,941.18

Total Values \$11,203,849.83

Mine closed
June 30, 1942.

*United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Mines
450 Golden Gate Avenue
Box 36012
San Francisco, California

**Historical Statistics of the United States
Prepared by Bureau of the Census

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ORE RESERVES:

During the Lessees' later prospecting and development work there was opened on the surface what appeared to be either a new vein or a faulted segment of the Badger vein, and this ore yielded good values. No doubt many additional unopened and undiscovered ore bodies can be found using modern exploration techniques in the Wonder area. The area remains unexplored in the modern sense of exploration. These ores and the main Wonder vein are excellent targets for Silver and Gold.

MILLING:

During the early period of production of the Nevada Wonder Mine, a 150-200 ton cyanide plant was kept in operation, employing the continuous current decantation process. The results were most gratifying, even during the period when the cyanide process had not been developed to the fine point it is today, for the 1919 report of the company showed an extraction of 93.99% for the year. It has thus been clearly proven through big scale demonstration that cyanide is an ideal process for the oxidized ores, and that the ore is amenable to treatment by that method.

The second period of production also used cyanide on a smaller scale with the mill set up at West Gate.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Current market conditions justify the reconsideration and prospecting of the mine.

For the purpose of ascertaining the best method of mining, treatment, extraction and installation, costs considered, an engineering study should be made.

Dependent upon the results of the engineering study, one envisions several possible modes of development:

1. Open trenching. (Open pitting.)
2. Traditional mining. Underground.
3. Large scale caving techniques.
4. Consideration and exploration of Copper, Lead, Silver, Gold, Sulphide ores at depth below the oxidized zone.

5. Geochemical and other appropriate exploration over the district for detection of hidden veins of similar character.

One important point in considering the possibilities of working this mine is that it was not worked out, but closed due to World War II.

CONCLUSION:

The WONDER MINE offers a rare opportunity for prospecting and probable production on a large scale.