

# REPORT ON MILLER MOUNTAIN MINING COMPANY'S PROPERTY

(By Wm. McClure Gotwaldt)

A most interesting and extensive ore deposition occurs at Miller Mountain, at the southern extremity of the Candelaria range in Esmeralda county, Nevada, about 70 miles from Tonopah in a westerly direction. The district has already produced over \$60,000,000, the predominant metal being silver. Miller Mountain, which I visited recently, is ten miles south of Candelaria, Esmeralda county, Nevada, and five miles from Basalt, a station on the Nevada & California railroad.

The mountain offers enticing opportunity for geological research. It is a monument to titanic eruptive forces, as well as to the patient efforts of the ascending solutions to bedeck with jewels the scarred and repelling form of nature as it came from the original matrix.

The waters in a measure have performed their task, but there is evidence, at least a well founded supposition, that the solvents are still being deposited a short distance beneath the surface. Proof of this is to be had in the exudations that cling to the surface of the porphyritic dikes that cut the crystalline limestone formations, like beads of perspiration to the brow. Beneath these drops or cubes of garnet is where the mineralization in the lime is the heaviest. These garnets, the terminus of a capillary flow, are almost absolute indices for the prospector.

Miller Mountain affords wonderful opportunity to study the world in the making, to pore over the genesis of ore deposition. Along its summit there is an upthrust of porphyry, disintegrated, recontaminated and metamorphosed in the throes of nature. Beneath this crown, following a clear line of demarcation, come the calcareous rocks, ranging from the ancient blue pines to the infant gypsiums. There are in the range of the two age limits calc spar, lime shales, dolomites and most prominent of all, the familiar laminated limes, the bedding planes of all dipping northward into the mountain at an angle approximating 45 degrees.

Below the limes are the basalts, a relatively recent formation. Black and repelling with their lava flows, the foothills strive to bar the treasure seeker from the ledges on the heights.

Less time was accorded the writer to study the formation at Miller Mountain than the subject deserves, for even an expert would have been alternately perplexed and pleased, in straggled and baffled, if he spent weeks or even months upon the ground.

What offers the greatest problem to the student of the geology of the region is the cross fissuring of the formation and the variance in the types of mineralization. On the general trend of the dikes, due east and west, the values are in sulphid form and occur uniformly distributed, in massive formation, while carbonates and chlorides occur, almost without any gangue except iron, in the small but numerous cross veins

The portion of Miller Mountain that gives best opportunity for study from a mineralogical point of view, because here the greatest amount of work has been done and by far the largest quantity of ore put into sight, is the property of the Miller Mountain Mining company. This is an estate of fifteen full claims, located three abreast on the trend of the formation. Of these the Pisano, Pisano No. 1 and Pisano No. 2 were purchased and the others are held by location.

The deepest working is a shaft on the Pisano No. 1, which is down 50 feet, the bottom showing better values than on the surface. A tunnel is being run from the footwall and is entering the ledge. An interesting feature of this working is that it traverses a considerable body of molybdenum sulphide. Owing to the present high price and great demand for this mineral, the deposit will later receive careful attention and an effort will be made to present a commercial body of this ore. It is proposed to make this tunnel the first working opening and install at its portal a 100-ton reduction plant. The method of ore treatment will be very simple, it consisting merely of wet concentration and oil flotation. The ore above the tunnel level will be glory-holed, making mining and milling very economically conducted.

General Manager Trimble's report gives the developed ore body a width of fifty feet, a depth of fifty feet and a length of 200 feet. This is wonderfully conservative, considering Mr. Trimble's interest in the property. The only indisputable feature in the report is the depth, as shown in the shaft. On the surface the vein is now exposed for a width of ninety feet, which would exceed his figures, even taking the measurement rectilinearly from one of the walls.

Since Mr. Trimble's report was prepared work has been done which has extended the known ore body to nearly 500 feet in length, more than

doubling the tonnage calculated from his estimate.

The crystallized lime gangue is spectacular in its mineralization, which is unflashing throughout, the sulphides occurring at regular spacings and of uniform size. Like bird-shot the galena spheres are scattered through the vein in its entirety. Associated with the lead sulphide is zinc sulphide in about equal proportions, there sometimes being a slight predominance of galena.

One interesting feature of the ore is that for each per cent of lead there are five ounces of silver. Gold is also carried in small quantities, but enough to make it a considerable asset in the concentrations.

While the main body of the ledge is uniformly mineralized, it is "sweetened" along the hanging wall and in small cross fissures to shipping grade. In fact, a small but profitable shipment was made from the shaft. The process of treating the ore is very simple and economical, as evidenced by tests. The gangue itself is light and the values, being in granular form, are easily saved in concentration, which can be carried to a very rich product. The problem of slimes is eliminated in this class of ore.

Facilities for operating the property are very advantageous. Nearby is the five-inch pipeline of the Esmeralda Water and Milling company. Three miles of lateral will deliver the water under pressure to any portion of the estate. A long term contract for a water right has been entered into and work on the line has been started.

The supply of mine timber and fuel for domestic purposes on the ground is ample. There is also a copious spring on the property. A road has been constructed to the camp and one nearly completed to the mill site.

The slope of the hillside is so great that from a canyon fork a tunnel 1000 feet in length, following the center of the ledge, would give additional backs of at least 350 feet. Such a tunnel will be started as soon as the hundred ton mill is in operation. It is the intention of the company to later install a larger mill at the mouth of the long tunnel, paying for it and the deep development work out of a sinking fund set aside from

the profits derived in reducing the surface ore.

If it were not for the overshadowing size and worth of the Pisano ledge, the company would feel exultant over its possession of the cross veins. These, however, will not be overlooked and will be developed as opportunity permits.

In order to augment the treasury, which now contains sufficient funds for preliminary work, the company will part with a portion of its treasury stock.

The Miller Mountain Mining company was incorporated under the laws of the state of Nevada for one million shares at a par value of \$1, fully paid and non-assessable. Four hundred thousand shares were placed in the treasury. The promotion stock is all held in pool. The officers of the company are: Herman Zadig, president; A. S. Haskell, vice president; Frank K. Pittman, secretary; J. J. Trimble, treasurer and general manager. I. C. Likins is an additional director. Tonopah is the principal place of business.

There are a number of other properties being developed in this district, but limitation of time compelled the writer to give them but casual inspection. One of these, adjoining the Miller Mountain Mining company's ground on the east, is the Sunnyvale, owned by C. McClain, Charles Kenefke and I. C. Likins. The owners are shipping in small lots. A parallel vein on the hanging wall side of the mineralized zone traverses the Nellie May claim, which is owned by I. C. Likins. He has a shaft down 200 feet and has already shipped 400 tons of silver-lead ore. A Salt Lake syndicate has opened several lenses of ore, from which shipments of high grade galena have been made.

Hitherto the district has suffered from lack of money for development purposes and the cost of marketing the ore. The plans of the Miller Mountain Mining company promise to bring the district into the limelight and put money into the pockets of investors.

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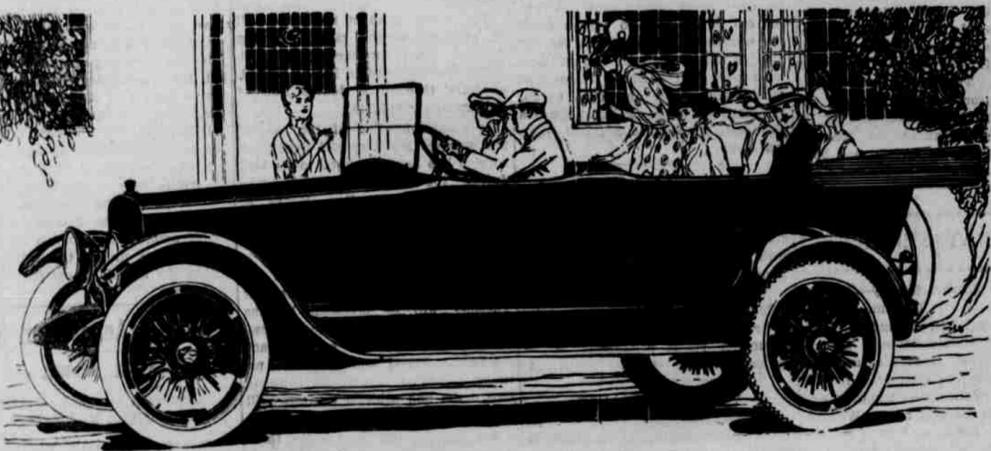
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