PE 85-5

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF GOLD MINT GROUP (DONAN MINES, INC.), LITTLE SUSITNA RIVER, WILLOW CREEK DISTRICT, ALASKA ~ Kx 85-75-August 3, 1938

Location and Accessibility:

The Gold Mint group of claims is located on the left limit of Little Susitna River 2 miles above the mouth of Archangel Creek. A spur road in good condition leads off the Fern mine road at Fishhook Inn and ends on the property, a distance of 4 miles.

Owners:

The group of seven claims, Gold Mint Nos. 1 to 7, inclusive, is held by the Donan Mines, Inc. Mr. J. J. Doyle, American Bank Building, Los Angeles, California, is president.

History:

The Gold Mint group was located by J. B. Hatcher in 1919 and since prior information is lacking regarding the discovery he is credited with at least a rediscovery, since no earlier work had been done. Two veins, an upper and lower vein, were found carrying gold values and considerable stripping was done. Other small vains were uncovered, but values were lacking in them. Following the stripping a short tunnel was started on the upper vein. Intermittent development followed and Mr. Doyle acquired the major interest and formed the Marion Twin Gold Mining Company. A 10-stamp mill was erected, and tram lines were erected to both the upper and lower veins. Most of the milling ore came from a small stope in No. 2 tunnel on the lower vain. The ore from this stope was reported as averaging from \$50 to \$100 per ton in gold. An occasional high grade pocket was encountered. The tonnage milled and the amount recovered is not known. The ore from the upper vein was reported of a lower tenor and since only a little stoping was done, apparently very little was milled from this vein. Since 1931 the property has been idle. with the exception of assessment work and attempts at leasing, until this year, when the property was leased to Fred Johnson and associates. Operations began on May 10 and the mill started on May 27. To date a total of 90 tons have been milled. This ore was reported as assaying \$80 per ton, however, a recovery of only \$50 per ton has been made. This ore was mined from pillars and the upward extension of the vein in No. 2 tunnel, lower vein.

Geology:

The geology of this district is well described in U. S. G. S. bulletin 607, "The Willow Creek District, Alaska" by S. R. Capps. A detail report of this property is contained in bulletin 849-C, "The Willow Creek Gold Lode District, Alaska" by James C. Ray, pp. 227-228.

The only formation noted in the vicinity of the workings consisted of a gneissoid quartz diorite. To the south of the property this formation is overlain with Tertiary sediments consisting of arkose, shale, sandstone and conglomerate, which previously covered this area. This altered quartz diorite has been subject to faulting and the veins are much the same character as the others in the Willow Creek district in the quartz diorite. The quartz diorite with its gneissic structure has been subject to greater alteration than the main massive diorite.

Showings:

Upper Vein: The surface exposures of the upper vein have been filled with slide rock and were not observed. The upper tunnel, elevation 3450 feet, was driven on the vein, and has a length of 530 feet. The vein shows considerable quartz along its exposed length ranging in average width from 2 to 3 feet. At a point 400 feet from the portal the vein has been cut by a large talc filled fault which strikes N. 62° W. and dips 68° N. The tunnel past this point is not accessible. Next to the fault the vein has been stoped to the surface and no doubt the best values were obtained here. Other short raises were driven above this level, but were filled and not accessible. Slight movement shows on the hanging wall. The vein strikes N. 35° W. and dips 40° SW.

The lower tunnel, elevation 3350 feet, has a length of 160 feet. This is a crosscut tunnel which intersects the vein and fault at the face, and a 30-foot drift was driven along the fault. A 100-foot raise was driven above the drift, but was inaccessible due to the lack of timber. Only soft gouge with broken pieces of quartz were encountered in the drift. The width of the fault zone is reported as in excess of 70 feet. The vein has not been found south of this fault.

Lower Vein: The lower vein which is located to the west of the upper vein between elevations of 3020 and 3300 feet is a parallel vein. It is contained in a faulted small block and small slip faults have badly broken up the vein. Three tunnels were driven on the vein and it is exposed on the surface in a few cuts. This vein strikes N. 350 W. and has various dips, due to faulting, to the southwest.

The lower or No. 1 tunnel (note sketch), elevation 3020 feet, has a total length of 400 feet including crosscuts. The vein was cut at a point 70 feet from the portal and followed for a distance of 92 feet where a small slip fault cuts it off and its extension has not been found. The quartz ranges in width from 6 inches to a foot. One small raise up 30 feet was driven on the vein. It was reported from recent assays by the lessors that the vein averaged \$15 per ton in gold.

No. 2 tunnel, elevation 3080 feet, was driven on the lower outcrop of the vein. At a point 128 feet from the portal the vein was cut off by a fault and displaced a distance of 55 feet measured along the fault, the extension being to the east. The vein segment between the portal and the fault has been stoped nearly to the surface and a few feet below the level. The ore extracted from this stope was reported as averaging \$80 per ton in gold. The total length of this tunnel, plus crosscut is 270 feet.

No. 3 tunnel is located above No. 2 at an elevation of 3240 feet. Its length is 81 feet and follows the vein over its entire length. The vein averages 9 inches in width and dips 62° southwest. At a point 55 feet from the portal a slip fault displaces the vein 7 feet. Channel samples at 5-foot intervals by the lessors across the vein gave results averaging \$40 per ton in gold.

Mineralization:

The metallic minerals noted in the upper vein were pyrite and its alteration products. In the lower vein along with pyrite minor amounts of galena and chalcopyrite were noted. Gold occurs both free and contained in the sulphides. The gangue minerals consist of milky white quartz, talc, sericite, ankerite, chlorite and various wall rock alterations.

Machinery:

The present mill machinery on the property is in fair condition and usable and consists of a Joshua Hendy crusher with lox12 inch jaws; two batteries of 5 stamps, 1050 pounds, one a Joshua Hendy and the other a Treadwell make; two sets of 4x6 foot battery plates and slime plates; and a standard Wilfley table. Power for the mill is furnished from a 54-inch pelton wheel and the water is furnished via ditch and 4,000 feet of hydraulic pipe, 21 inches down to 7 inches in size, from Lone Tree Gulch. A 12-inch pelton runs the Wilfley table. Additional power in the mill building is a 100 H. P. Fairbanks Morse semi-diesel. This is not in use. A 10x12 inch Sullivan single compressor furnishes air to the lower workings, and a 2 K. W. generator furnishes lights. Water power is available from June to October.

Three aerial trams, one 1800 feet in length to the upper vein tunnel consists of a double $1\frac{1}{2}$ " cable, one 1200 feet uses a double 3/4" cable to the station tower below No. 2 tunnel or the lower vein, and one from the tower 300 feet to No. 3 tunnel, lower vein, are in good repair and usable. Five hundred pound buckets are used.

The camp buildings, consisting of a bunk house, cook house, and other small buildings are in good repair.

Timber is lacking in this vicinity, but is obtainable within 10 miles.

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