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RICH STRIKE IN THE GEM MINE AT SPARTA

Al Geiser Opens a Magnificent Body of Free Gold Ore at the 500-Foot Level.

Al Geiser has struck it rich again—this time at the Gem mine, near Sparta. At the 500-foot level he has opened a shoot of ore shot full of free gold. A ten-stamp mill is pounding on it and a cleanup made last week resulted in a big gold bullion brick.

Geiser acquired fame as operator of the old Bonanza, which he developed seven years ago into a heavy producer and sold for half a million. Late he opened the Tabor Fraction, disclosing ore of fabulous value. Not long ago he took charge of the Gem, a property over in the Panhandle, which had presumably been "worked out." He had a theory about the mine and proved its correctness. As a result Al Geiser is again the bonanza mining king of eastern Oregon.

Ned Parker, secretary of the Geiser-Hendryx investment company, of Sumpter, went down to Baker City Saturday to meet the senior member of the firm upon the latter's return from the Gem. When they met, Geiser carried a candle box filled with quartz in which free gold shone like the rising sun. Secretary Parker returned to Sumpter yesterday morning and told The Miner about it. The tale is interesting.

It seems that the old manager for the old Gem Consolidated Mining company, of which L. G. Williams, ex assistant manager of the Bonanza, under the old Geiser regime, was superintendent, sank a 200-foot perpendicular shaft to intercept the dipping vein at that level. The ledge was cut all right, but it was found that an intrusive dyke had entered the ledge, creating a perfect fault. From the 200, the perpendicular shaft changed to an incline to follow the ore. Instead of sinking on the vein, however, the old management followed the barren dyke, to the 500-foot level, until hope gave out and the mine shut down.

Not long ago the Geiser-Hendryx company took charge on a lease and bond. Al Geiser had long ago evolved a theory and desired to work

it out. At the 200-foot level, where the old management lost the pay and struck the dyke, the vein, which strikes north-south and dips forty degrees east, is squarely cut off by a granite-porphry intrusive dyke, the dyke striking east-west and dipping fifty degrees south. The old management believed, as did Professor Waldemar Lindgren, of the United States Geological Survey, that the vein continued beyond the dyke. Consequently they sunk 300 feet on the dyke, expecting to pass through the fault and pick up the vein. They were disappointed, and were forced to adopt the expedient of crosscutting north from the dyke in a blind hope of finding the ledge. Only a short crosscut had been run when the old company's stockholders lost heart, funds failed to be forthcoming and the mine was forced to close. It was at this juncture that Al Geiser, acting for his company, leased the mine, with an option to purchase, and took personal charge.

It must be remembered that all these operations below the 200-foot level were carried on by a company in which the Geiser brothers—Al, Frank and Ed—were interested. Al was the advisor of Superintendent Williams, his old pal. When, at length, financial exigencies forced a suspension, Al retained a firm belief that he was correct, and upon recently securing control of the property, on behalf of the Geiser-Hendryx company, he undertook to demonstrate the truth of his theory.

His first work, after unwatering the rather crooked shaft to the 500-foot level, was to extend the north crosscut from that station. One day last week the miners broke through the porphyry-granite dyke into the main vein, disclosing sharply defined walls, from one to four feet apart, between which lay crushed granite and streaks of quartz, in some places two feet wide. The ore is normal coarse vein quartz, with free gold and a little pyrite and black zinc blend. A seam of quartz, varying in width from four to twelve inches, carries free gold in abundance. In fact, the

ore in this seam is shot full of the yellow stuff, and samples assay from \$10,000 to \$100,000 per ton. Such was the character of the specimens brought in to Baker Saturday night by Mr. Geiser. A portion of these specimens were brought to Sumpter by Secretary Parker and are on exhibition at the Geiser-Hendryx offices on Mill street and Granite street. They are certainly good for sore eyes.

Of course, the problem is not yet completely solved. It remains to be determined whether the vein found at the 500 extends to the 200; or whether the intervening space is barren; in other words, subsequent work must show whether the fault movement at the 200 was perpendicular or lateral—whether the dyke forced the vein down to the 500-foot level, or merely intruded at the 200.

Consulting Engineer J. N. Esselstyne is at the property, supervising the installation of a new skip for use in the shaft, which, as well be learned from a reading of the above description of the workings, is perpendicular for 200 feet, then dips fifty degrees toward the south for 300 feet. The shaft will be continued 200 feet deeper and connections made at two lower levels with the shoot at the 500.

E. E. Cleaver Home From Indiana.

Elmer E. Cleaver was in town today between trains, returning to Baker City this afternoon. He has been in Indiana most of the summer, financing the Indiana, a copper property east of Baker City, and expects to return at an early day. The Indiana has eight feet of high grade ore in the 200-foot level. He carries a sample around with him that goes twenty-five per cent copper. Mr. Cleaver saw H. S. McCallum down in a Indiana. He is promoting the construction of a sky scraping office building at Fort Wayne, and is meeting with a measure of success. He says he will return to eastern Oregon when he gets things in shape to open up the Grand Trunk, on Bald mountain about eight miles from Sumpter; but has not thus far been successful in financing that proposition.

Reorganization of the Alamo.

"Articles of incorporation were filed yesterday with the county auditor of the Amalgamated Alamo company, a mining corporation formed by John R. Cassin, N. E. Nuzum and W. R. Elstinsaur. The capital stock is \$2,500,000, divided into as many shares of the par value of \$1." The above is from the Spokesman-Review of Tuesday. It unquestionably refers to the well known Alamo mine, and is probably a reorganization of the company owning it. The Miner has been unable to secure further details at this writing.

MAXWELL'S NEW MILL NEARLY COMPLETED

J. A. Ward, secretary and general manager of the Elkhorn Consolidated Gold Mining company, owners of the Maxwell mine in the Rock Creek district, near Haines, was in town Thursday. Mr. Ward states that work on the new mill is progressing rapidly, and that it was expected that the machinery would be ready to be installed today. The site of the new mill is so situated that there is no danger of a repetition of last winter's disaster.

The Baker City Engineering Works have the contract for repairing and rebuilding the machinery, which was taken from the wreck of the old mill, destroyed by a snowslide last winter. This work is under the supervision of J. E. Gyllenberg. This firm also has the contract for the construction of an aerial tramway from tunnel No. 10 to the new mill. This tramway will be 2,850 feet in length and will be used to transfer the ore from the tunnel to the mill.

Mr. Ward states that the water supply at the mine at present is more abundant than heretofore at this season of the year, and that conditions are favorable to operations being continued nearly all winter. A large force of men will be put to work in a few days getting out ore. —Haines Record.

RICH ROCK FROM THE BADGER MINE

The Blue Mountain Eagle is in receipt of a sample of ore from the famous Badger mine of Susanville, taken from the 700-foot level. It is almost a solid piece of mineral and carries values that average \$800 per ton, and it is reported that the ledge of this grade of ore at this depth is eight feet in width. Ore from this level is taken out and sacked for shipment, not a pound of it going through the large Badger mill. The Badger property has been in continuous operation for several years. About a year ago their hoisting machinery was transferred from the surface to the 500 foot level and sinking on the property was continued, with the result that most valuable ore has been disclosed and in almost unlimited quantity. The depth at present attained on this property is fully 150 feet below the bed of Elk creek, and the class of ore opened up at that point should encourage all who are developing property in that mineral belt. Depth is all that is required to show up valuable ore in the Susanville country. —Blue Mountain Eagle.