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Washington, D. C.

January 18, 1919.

Mr. E. S. Smith, Assistant General Manager
Consolidated Arizona Smelting Company,
Humboldt, Arizona

Dear Sir:-

I regret that your letter to me of December 26, in reference to the Postmaster Mine of the Oriental Mining Company, should have been so long unanswered as to arouse suspicion that it has been neglected. Please understand that I am in Washington engaged in war work and so pressing have been the necessities of the last few months that none of us had any opportunity to even think of matters outside our official duties.

In reference to data concerning the property you mentioned, it is absolutely impossible for me to send you any reports, maps, or other printed information, since I have none in my possession at this time. Having left the West upon a few hours notice, you will understand that nothing in the nature of reports or unnecessary papers formed any part of my baggage, nor do I know where these reports may be obtained, although a considerable number of them exist in different forms. More than 50 shipments of ore were made from the Postmaster, mostly to the El Paso smelter of the A.S. & R. Company. Of these a complete file of smelter returns exist somewhere and can be found. There are also maps of the underground working in the property and a few property reports, probably the best of these being one made by H. E. Armitgae, E. M., for several years Consulting Engineer for the Oriental Mining Company.

All that I can give, however, is my own personal recollection of the work done and the results that came from this work. While these recollections are very clear in my mind, yet I recognize that from the mining standpoint they possess little standing and I offer them only because you have asked for this information.

The development of this property began in 1898. There was then a shaft 50 feet deep but filled up from caving. We cleaned out this shaft and sank it to a depth of 100 feet, subsequently adding 65 feet, at which level (165) it was connected with the surface

by cross-cut tunnel. At the mouth of this tunnel bins were erected and an air compressor installed, and a carefully surveyed road built to the Bradshaw Mountain Railroad at Block Siding, and also to the Company's mill just below the railroad. On this cross-cut tunnel level, 2000 feet of drifts were run. The figures given are not offered as exact, but merely approximate. The usual raises and other workings were put in. The ore found was so satisfactory that the shaft sinking was resumed until a depth of 465 feet from the surface was reached. From this shaft levels of varying lengths were run in each direction, that is, north and south. While this work was in progress the water increased to such an extent and other conditions arose which compelled the abandonment of the work. This was in the year 1905 and since that time development has at intervals been resumed but so far as I recall always by leasers and never under any comprehensive or definite plan.

As to the ore, its character, value, and width, I will explain briefly: in composition, the ore is an iron sulphide base; it carries usually little silica and concentrates approximately 5 into 1. Copper appears very slightly near the surface, the upper level ore showing the presence of this metal to the extent of 8/10ths of 1 per cent. The quantity of copper, however, increased as depth was reached, until the concentrates carried sufficient percentage to usually meet the cost of shipment, just what percentage I cannot recall. Lead appears somewhat in the upper levels but to a much greater extent in the ore from the lower levels. Here it became so abundant that we made a special grade of concentrate carrying from 40 to 60 per cent galena. When the shaft mentioned above was cleaned out and the ledge exposed at a depth of 50 feet the entire bottom of the shaft was in ore having a value of 5 oz. of gold.

On the 165 foot level, where the principal work was done, the ore shoot was about 400 feet long. It varied in width but I think the average width would be about 2 feet. While the ore appeared in lenses, some small and some large, its average value would exceed \$100 per ton. Its most noticeable characteristic was the presence of gold in the form of metallic flakes. So abundant would this be

in places that the values would run up into the thousands of dollars. We found difficulty in treating this ore because of its high value. The gold would not plate because of a film over these flakes which prevented the mercury from coating the gold. Amalgamating barrels and various devices were tried but the results were not very satisfactory. Our mill separated a large portion of these rich flakes into a special concentrate which during the first year had an average value, as returned by the smelter, of \$994 per ton. While we were struggling with the problem of how to best save the gold in the form I have mentioned, the problem was solved for us by the passing of the values into sulphides. It was then easy to save these sulphides which during the last of the three years, during which shipments were made, averaged so close to \$100 per ton that constant watchfulness was necessary to avoid passing this figure with a consequent increase of \$9 per ton in freight rates. During the last of these three years the average value of the rock put through the mill, which carried with the ore a very large proportion of ledge and wall rock, was \$20.51.

Passing below the 165 foot level, the ledge pinched, the ore was narrower, and the values markedly decreased. This refers to the conditions on the first level of 75 feet. In the second block of the 75 foot level the values and width began to return, and in the third section, which was never completed sufficiently to call for drifting, the ore had more than regained its former conditions.

Probably the best ore taken from the property came from in and near the bottom of the shaft. In the last year the ore taken had sampled from 125 to 175 in gold and silver. In the shaft below 165 foot level the first 150 foot is in bad condition and probably caved, the remaining 150 feet, or thereabouts, is finely timbered and in good shape.

I have referred only to the zone mentioned immediately adjoining the shaft. A large amount of other work has been done, some ore has been found and encouragement that other shoots of ore existed has been abundant. My own opinion is that there are other

and better shoots of ore than the one upon which the main development work was done. There is at present no ore available for extraction but in my opinion the property warrants further exploration and that such work may be done with excellent chances for success.

As to the accessibility of the various workings at the present time, it is impossible for me to speak from personal knowledge as I have not visited the property for several years. It is safe to say, however, that considerable work would be necessary to put the mine upon a producing basis. If you wish to examine the mine it would be well for you to be accompanied by some one who was familiar with the work done there in the earlier years. I know of but one such person and that is Mr. W. C. Russell of Prescott. I think it would be well for you to arrange an interview with Mr. Russell who can give you valuable and reliable information.

I am sure that satisfactory arrangements can be made with the owners of the property. In connection with anything of this nature, however, I will refer you to Mr. J. A. Rockwell of Warren, Pa., who I am sure will be pleased to consider in the most friendly and business-like way any negotiations that you may feel you can enter upon.

While at present possessing only a slight personal financial interest in the property, I wish with the utmost sincerity that some company like yours would take this mine and give it the intelligent development which I believe to be the only requisite to the making of a wonderful mining success. In the work so far done under the most difficult conditions and hampered in almost every way by existing conditions, I put the best years of my life and I express without any hesitation the conviction that extensive bodies of ore of unusual richness exist and can be opened. The data which can be made available for you by a little effort will confirm the facts well known to everyone familiar with the operations upon the property that ore as rich as was taken from the Postmaster has not been found elsewhere in the Big Bug District.

I shall be happy to assist in any way in my power any investigations you may wish to make but since I am obliged to remain in Washington, or in the East, I really cannot help you very much.

Thanking you for your inquiry, I am,

Very truly yours,

(signed) W. A. Kent

Note by G. M. Colvocoresses - October, 1937.

Our engineers frequently looked over the surface of this property and such workings as were accessible, but we always concluded that the cost of reopening the Mine was greater than warranted by the meagre data contained in this letter and the verbal statements of old-timers.

In 33 or 34. Hahn of Gold Lake took Russell to see the mine but Russell was a very old & ~~decrepit~~ feeble man & could tell him little if intended. They did no further work at that time.
1937.

344 Old Land Office Bldg

Washington
D.C.

Sold copy of this letter to Blake
for 10.00.

Oct 12. '38

Call from Percy of Mesa & his son who are associated with Blake & now digging two tunnels & reopen the old workings of the Postmaster Mine where they hope to find some of the high grade ore mentioned by Kent.

NOTE FOR POSTMASTER MINE FILE

6/19/44

Gerard of Tucson called to get information regarding the lead-zinc ore which was supposed to have been found in the copper levels of this mine, but I could not help him.

He said that during '41 and '42 about 2000 tons of good ore with value of some \$66,000 had been shipped when Lovelace was Engineer and Mock was Superintendent and that they had left some gold ore blocked out which they could not mine until the war restrictions should be lifted.

Other parties have told me that the operators sustained a loss by reason of very heavy exploration expense and Gerard said that the only lead zinc vein that they had found contained about 6% of those two metals combined and was less than 2' wide.

*Richard mentioned in Feb 44 that Gerard was planning to
reopen this mine*

POSTMASTER MINE

2/18/39

Ed Blake called and said that he needed some \$15,000 to complete program of development with proper equipment and reach the high grade ore which was supposed to have been left at end of the long tunnel that they have been reopening to the old shaft.

Said that he had obtained reports on this mine by Roy Griswold and Hahn and also had information from Russell the old miner (now dead) whom Hahn had taken to the mine.

At request of J. S. Douglas, H. F. Mills had looked over the mine with him and had written a very favorable letter.

Company now incorporated for 300,000 shares of stock @ \$1.00 par. Blake showed me a sample of the ore which he said was telluride (petzite) and promised to return soon and give me copies of the maps and some reports. Saw J. S. Douglas who seemed to have a good opinion of Blake and the Postmaster Mine and to be disposed to help Blake in securing financial help but doubt if he will go into it himself.

Up to Mch. 14th, Blake had not come around with the maps so he is probably trying to finance with others.

G.M.C.