

NAME OF PROPERTY

AURUM (ISLAND MOUNTAIN), MOSQUITO

OBJECT LOCATED - Main adit, east corner of Aurum claim (Lot 10517).

UNCERTAINTY IN METERS -100. Lat. 53°05'57" Long. 121°34'45"

Mining Division Cariboo District Cariboo

County Township or Parish

Lot Concession or Range

Sec Tp. R.

OWNER OR OPERATOR AND ADDRESS

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT

Island Mountain is underlain by the Snowshoe and Midas formations of the Cambrian and Later (?) Cariboo group. The Snowshoe formation is comprised mainly of lenticular beds of micaceous quartzite and phyllite, and minor limestone and limy phyllite. The underlying Midas formation consists of phyllite and argillite, either of which may be bleached. Three limestone beds have been recognized in the Snowshoe formation and designated the "Baker", "309", and "John's". All have relatively great continuity, but all pinch and swell in the direction of plunge and also have been thickened on crests and thinned on limbs during folding. The main fold structures consists of an anticline, overturned to the southwest; on the northeastern flank of this structure there is an attenuated isoclinal syncline; on the northeast limb of the syncline is the mine dragfold. The folds plunge northwestward at an average of see Card 2

Associated minerals or products of value - Silver.

HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Aurum property is located on the southeast slope of Island Mountain, extending from the town of Wells southwest-erly along the west shore of Jack of Clubs Lake. The prop-erty is adjoined to the north and east by the Mosquito and Cariboo groups (Cariboo Gold Quartz property).

Gold-bearing quartz veins were found on Island Mountain in the early 1870's, and in 1878 the Enterprise Company, a group of Barkerville miners, began exploration work on them. This company intended to haul ore to a 10-stamp mill in- stalled in the Kurtz and Lane shaft-house at the Meadows. The Island Mountain Quartz Mining and Milling Company, Limited Liability, was incorporated in 1887 to take over the ground. The mill was purchased and moved from the Meadows to the Aurum N.E. claim (Lot 10518) and, assisted by a loan of \$20,000 from the British Columbia Government, a new mill was built. Several hundred tons of ore, mainly from the Johns adit, was milled in 1890, and 15 to 20 tons of pyrite concentrates was shipped to the Government Reduction Works at Barkerville for treatment.

A satisfactory recovery of gold could not be made, and the property was forfeited to the Government for non-repay- ment of the loan. No further work was done until 1897, when the same company leased the property from the Government, in- stalled four vanners, and ran the mill for about a month, again unprofitably. In 1903 the late C.J. Seymour Baker tested ore from Island Mountain and cleaned out some old adits, but interest in the property again lapsed.

About 1,000 feet of underground work was done during early exploration. Although several hundred tons of ore was milled, there is no record of the amount of gold produced.

Surface workings for the most part are on the Aurum and Aurum West mineral claims. Attention was first drawn to these outcrops by early prospectors who were able to recover gold by rocker from the broken and weathered quartz outcrops.

In 1925 Baker acquired the five original Crown-granted mineral claims, later known as the Aurum group, from the Government and each year until 1932 employed a small crew clearing out the old workings. In 1932 he optioned the Aurum see Card 2

Mineral Resources Branch, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Ottawa.

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HISTORY OF PRODUCTION

Recorded production from the Island Mountain mine for the periods 1934-1953 and 1959-1967 totals 991,698 tons of ore. From this ore 479,419 ounces of gold and 73,406 ounces of silver were recovered. The combined production from the Island Mountain and Cariboo mines for the period 1954-1958 totals 447,800 tons. From this ore 194,453 ounces of gold and 19,703 ounces of silver were recovered. Between 1934 and 1954, there milled 1,245,295 tons from which were produced 569,528 ounces of gold and 81,658 ounces of silver. (B.C. Open File Report 1989-22, p. 32).

MAP REFERENCES

- Geological Map of the Antler Creek Area, Sc. 1"=1/2 mile - accomp. Bulletin 38, British Columbia Dept. of Mines, 1957.
- Map 2394, Barkerville Gold Belt, (Geol.), Sc. 1"=1,000 ft. - accomp. Memoir 181.
- *Map 93 H/4 E, Wells, (Topo.), Sc. 1:50,000.
- Aurum Property of Island Mountain Mines, Sc. 1"=900 ft. - Report of Minister of Mines, British Columbia, 1934, p. C-23.
- Map 2046, Barkerville Area, (Geol.), Sc. 1"=1 mile - accomp. Memoir 149.
- Map 336 A, Willow River Sheet, (Geol.), Sc. 1" = 1 mile, G.S.C. 1938.

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- Benedict, P.C.; Structure at Island Mountain Mine, Wells, B.C.; Transactions Vol. 48, pp. 755-770, Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, 1945.
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- Hanson, G.; Barkerville Gold Belt, Cariboo District, British Columbia; Memoir 181, pp. 19-22, Geol. Surv. of Canada, 1937.
- Guiguet, Marcel; Cariboo Gold Quartz; Western Miner and Oil Review; Vol. 34, No. 7, pp. 37-44, July 1961.
- Davis, N.G.F.; Preliminary Report on the Barkerville Gold Belt on Island Mountain, B.C.; Preliminary Paper 37-15, Geol. Surv. of Canada, 1937.
- Reports of Minister of Mines, British Columbia: 1886, p. 232; 1887, p. 257; 1890, p. 361; 1897, p. 475; 1902, p. 111; 1903, p. 66; 1925, p. 148; 1926, p. 173; 1927, p. 171; 1928, p. 195; 1933, p. 122; 1934, p. C-22; 1935, p. G-43; 1937, p. C-33; 1938, p. C-46; 1939, p. 70; 1940, p. 56; 1941, p. 56; 1943, p. 60; 1944, p. 54; 1945, p. 79; 1946, p. 90; 1947, p. 112; 1948, p. 86; 1949, p. 102; 1951, p. 120; 1952, p. 110; 1953, p. 96; 1954, p. 97; 1955, p. 31; 1956, p. 31; 1957, p. 14; 1958, p. 14; 1959, p. 22; 1960, p. 15; 1961, p. 19; 1962, p. 19; 1963, p. 38; 1964, p. 65; 1965, p. 193; 1966, p. 120; 1967, p. 121.
- Mineral Policy Sector; Corporation Files: "Island Mountain Mines Company, Limited"; "Cariboo Consolidated Gold Mines, Limited"; "Reward Mining Company, Limited"; "The Cariboo Gold Quartz Mining Company, Limited"; "Coseka Resources Limited"; "Wharf Resources Ltd." (con't reverse card 2)
- Island Mountain Mines - by The Staff; The Miner, August 1938, pp. 54-62.
- Mines Branch, Ottawa; Investigations in Ore Dressing and Metallurgy; 1934, Rept. No. 748, (Invest. No. 581), pp. 6-15.

see reverse Card 2

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NAME OF PROPERTY AURUM (ISLAND MOUNTAIN), MOSQUITO

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT (continued)

22 degrees. The dragfold has a wavelength of about 400 feet. Minor folds are very numerous. The major faults in the mine are the Aurum and Jack of Clubs. The Aurum fault where exposed strikes N20° to 30° west and dips about 40° northeast, except in the lower levels where the dip flattens. The Jack of Clubs fault as exposed in the lower levels strikes N25°E and dips steep northwesterly. The veins that have been mined are almost entirely diagonal veins that strike N60 to 80°E and dip steeply southward. The average ore-shoot in diagonal veins is 125 feet long, 5 feet wide, and 100 feet on dip. Vein mineralization is mainly pyrite in a gangue of quartz. The veins occur mainly in the micaceous quartzite. Replacement ore formed about 50% of the mine output. The main source was the limestone beds but some was mined in argillite. Nearly all the replacement bodies are pencil-shaped. The pencils are mostly localized in the crests of anticlines or, less commonly, in the troughs of synclines and plunge with the folds northwestward. The longest pencil-shaped orebody, 2,000 feet long, is in the anticlinal crest of the major dragfold. Its average cross-sectional area is not much greater than 100 square feet. A few tabular bodies occur in the planar limbs of folds. Replacement deposits consist almost entirely of relatively fine-grained pyrite with a minor amount of arsenopyrite.

HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

group of five claims to Reward Mining Company, Limited, who located eight adjoining claims to the west. This company bonded the whole property to Cariboo Consolidated Gold Mines, Limited, in 1933; a controlling interest in Cariboo Consolidated had been acquired earlier in the year by Newmont Mining Corporation of New York. Newmont in October 1933 incorporated Island Mountain Mines Company, Limited, to acquire and develop the property, which then consisted of 29 claims. In addition to the old Union Quartz Crown-grant (Lot 28) the property comprised the Aurum, Mohawk, and Paystreak groups, and other claims, including Lots 10517, 10518, 11066-11073, 11081-11095. These claims were Crown-granted to the company during the period 1935-1941. Production by Island Mountain Mines began in November 1934 with a 50-ton mill. The mill capacity was increased to 100 tons per day in 1935 and production was continuous until August 15, 1954, when the company sold the property, excluding the mill, to The Cariboo Gold Quartz Mining Company, Limited, for \$300,000.

Island Mountain Mines had developed the property from a main haulage adit, from which a 3 compartment internal shaft 1,450 feet deep was sunk; 11 levels were established from the Aurum shaft; the mine workings are extensive, totalling more than 20 miles.

The mine remained in production after its purchase by Cariboo Gold Quartz, the ore being hauled to the Cariboo mill some 700 yards to the east. The company's interest in the property was in part to provide access to the Mosquito group, adjoining to the northwest; the Mosquito (Lot 10355) and Mosquito Fraction (Lot 10359) had been Crown-granted to Cariboo Gold Quartz in 1936. A drift to the northwest on the 3,000 level was begun in 1958 to explore the Mosquito claims, some 2,000 to 4,000 feet northwest of the Aurum shaft. This work resulted in the discovery of a number of replacement orebodies which were developed on 3 levels (2,850, 3,000, and 3,125) during 1960 and 1961. Operations were continuous until the mine closed on March 31, 1967.

The Mosquito, Mosquito Fraction, and several adjacent claims (see 93 H/4, Au 4) were purchased in 1971 by The Mosquito Creek Gold Mining Company Limited for a 20% interest in that company. Cariboo Gold Quartz Mining
see reverse Card 2

REFERENCES (continued)

Galloway, John D.; Lode Gold Deposits of British Columbia; Bulletin 1, 1932, p. 62, British Columbia Dept. of Mines.

Johnston, W.A., and Uglow, W.L.; Placer and Vein Gold Deposits of Barkerville, Cariboo District, British Columbia; Memoir 149, p. 206, Geol. Surv. of Canada, 1926.

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Mineral Policy Sector; Corporation Files: "Peregrine Petroleum Ltd."; "Mosquito Consolidated Gold Mines Limited"; "Lyon Lake Mines Limited".

Schroeter, T.G.; Lund, C.; and Carter, G.; Gold Production and Reserves in British Columbia, British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Open File 1989-22, p. 32, p. 50, 1989.

HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Company, Limited, in June 1972 amalgamated with Coseka Resources Limited under the latter name. Coseka in February 1973 incorporated a wholly owned subsidiary, French Exploration Limited, to receive all its mineral property interests. In March 1973 French Exploration amalgamated with Wharf Resources Ltd. under the name Wharf Resources Ltd.; Coseka Resources Limited was allotted 80.4% of the issued shares of Wharf Resources. A program of diamond and percussion drilling in 1980-81 was carried out mainly on the adjacent Cariboo property.

By a February 1985 agreement with Wharf Resources, Mosquito Creek Gold Mining Company Limited acquired 100% interest in the property in exchange for shares of the company. In February 1986 Hecla Mining Company obtained from Mosquito an option to earn a 50% interest in the property but then dropped it. In 1987, Mosquito Creek changed its name to Mosquito Consolidated Gold Mines Limited. In 1988, Lyon Lake Mines Limited optioned the property and earned 50% interest after doing underground exploration. Ore drive from the Mosquito Mine property intersected old Island Mountain drift.