

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE WASHBURN-ELSER GROUP OF LODE MINING CLAIMS.

LA PLATA MINING DISTRICT, CHAFFEE COUNTY, COLORADO.

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SUMMARY.

This Preliminary Report is made for the purpose of showing and explaining conditions as found on the lode mining ground of E. Washburn and William Elser, hereinafter described,- the object of this examination, the advisability of raising money to thoroughly prospect this property to prove its value as a large low grade gold mining project.

As a result of this study, I recommend this undertaking as worthy of a thorough try out. It not only indicates a large low grade mineral deposit, but in addition, shows probability of developing high grade gold ore.

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This property is located on Middle Mountain, lying between the north and south forks of Clear Creek, a tributary of the Arkansas River. It is 15 miles southwest from Granite, which is the nearest railroad station on the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad, with which point it is connected by auto road.

The lower end of this ground is at an altitude of about 10,000 feet above sea level, the south or upper end being some 2000 to 3000 feet higher and above timberline. Climatic conditions are such that underground and milling work can be carried on continuously during the winter months by putting in supplies in the summer season.

The history of this district dates back 40 or more years. At that time the mines were developed principally for their silver values. The greater part of this work was high up in the mountain ranges, most of it above timberline. This was made necessary to a great extent owing to the fact that the vein croppings in the lower gulches were most of them covered in slide rock and wash from the high surrounding mountains, early day prospectors confining their work to visible outcrops. Good roads and trails were built,- now sadly in need of repair, but at small expense can be renewed. Mining camps in this vicinity, that flourished at that time, are now deserted and with exception of these indications of former activity, the region is to all intents virgin territory.

Middle Mountain, on which the Washburn-Elser property is located did not, to any great extent, share in the work of 40 years ago. The surface of the mountain appears to be formed of a material that was not attractive in earlier days, mining work being done mostly in the high ranges surrounding the Winfield district. It was claimed by old prospectors that no porphyry was to be found on Middle Mountain. How this could have been overlooked is unexplained as a casual journey over the mountains discloses three or more porphyry dikes. They are approximately located on accompanying map. Near these porphyry dikes we may look for values in excess of the averages on other parts of this ground.

It is the expressed intention of the owners of this property to develop if possible, ore having an average gold value of \$5.00 per ton, making of the whole mountain covered by their claims an immense low grade milling project. Development work alone will prove the correctness of this claim and based on showings they have obtained from assays taken from all parts of this ground the project appears entirely worthy of a complete exploitation.

Assays made for gold only, by Denver and Leadville assayers at various times, as shown by certificates submitted to me, now in possession of Mr. Washburn, warrant conclusion herein before made in regard to the development of this property. 16 assay certificates show values ranging from \$0.40 to \$1645.20 in gold. Samples assayed at Leadville on Sept. 24, 1932 taken from this ground are described by Mr. Washburn as follows. See Map herewith of claims.

Sample No. 1.

From point near location cut on W.E. No. 7 Lode, gold value  
\$8.00

Sample No. 2.

Near west end of W. E. Lode No. 6 Gold value, \$14.00

Sample No. 3.

Soft ore from near east center of W. E. Lode No. 5  
Gold value, \$12.00

Sample No. 4.

From east gulch near cent of W. E. No. 6 lode,  
Gold Value \$ 4.00

Sample No. 5.

Near discovery cut on W. E. No. 6 lode,  
Gold Value, \$ 6.40

Sample No. 6.

From specimens, no carefully selected, taken over entire  
ground embraced in 18 W. E. lode claims,  
Gold Value, \$ 6.00.

On Middle Mountain extensive showings of Molybdenum ore are very pronounced and should be investigated, but assay certificates submitted show only gold determinations.

The names and acreage claimed for the lode locations embraced in this property are as follows,

W. E. Lode No. 1	20.661	Acres.
W. E. Lode No. 2	20.661	"
W. E. Lode No. 3	20.661	"
W. E. Lode No. 4	20.661	"
W. E. Lode No. 5	20.661	"
W. E. Lode No. 6	20.661	"
W. E. Lode No. 7	20.661	"
W. E. Lode No. 8	20.661	"
W. E. Lode No. 9	20.661	"
W. E. Lode No.10	20.661	"
W. E. Lode No.11	20.661	"
W. E. Lode No.12	20.661	"
W. E. Lode No.13	20.661	"
W. E. Lode No.14	20.661	"
W. E. Lode No.15	20.661	"
W. E. Lode No.16	20.661	"
W. E. Lode No.17	20.661	"
W. E. Lode No.18	20.661	"
	<u>371.898</u>	"

These locations all claim an area of 600 X 1500 feet,- each containing 20.661 acres, their relative location being shown on map herewith the original of which was furnished by Messrs. Washburn and Elser.

This project, being all virgin territory, as far as practical work is concerned, requires new equipment throughout,- new buildings,- reconditioning of roads and trails. Excellent sites are available for camp buildings, mill and mining facilities. A general plan of equipment should be laid out by survey and all building and construction work coordinated, so that best arrangement can be determined in advance and all improvements planned to fit. By such planning water can be brought under pressure to each camp building. They can be conveniently located in relation to mill. Tunnels should bring ore to mill by gravity. Better all around working conditions can be had by advance planning and at no greater cost than if the usual haphazard, hit or miss plans are followed.

Water in abundance for mill requirements is flowing in the north fork of Clear Creek, which runs through the northwest end of the property, near which appears to be the best conditions for making a permanent camp.

Three days on the W. E. lode ground gave me a fairly good idea of the scope of this mining project, but not a detailed knowledge of its possibilities. I went on foot up the gulches shown on map on W. E. lodes Nos. 7, 6, 1, and 10, also was at or near Cor. No. 4, W. E. No. 7, Cor. No. 3 W. E. No. 9, Cor. No. 1 W. E. No. 15, Cor. No. 1, W. E. No. 18, also travelled down the gulch running through W. E. No. 16 to W. E. No. 4.

Seven photographs were taken of the Washburn-Elser property. The places from which they were taken are shown approximately on map herewith by small circles and arrows showing location of camera and direction of view points.

Photo No. 1.

This photo shows Middle Mountain on which the Washburn-Elser lodes are located. It was taken from a point looking south and about 1000 feet north of main or north Clear Creek. In the center of this picture near where the two gulches (shown by white lines) merge, Mr. Washburn reports ore samples running \$35.00 per ton. In this gulch, below junction of two small gulches, he says very rich float samples were found. Quartz porphyry appears to be the prevailing formation of this mountain. On lower right of photo is ground suitable for camp and mill buildings.

Photo No. 2.

Note tract of timber in bulch between peaks. This standing timber, which is both dry and green, is suitable and in sufficient quantity to supply for an indefinite time all timber needed for building and mining purposes. The right hand slope of the central peak is upturned granite, dipping to west on about same slope as shown on photo. Quartz veins and a porphyry dike cut this granite at varying angles. In and near small timber on right is ground suitable for a safe mining camp described in photo No. 1.

Photo No. 3.

This photo was taken from a point about 500 feet west of north fork of Clear Creek. Top of mountain, (shown in left center of photo No. 2) was cut off in picture, camera being too near base of mountain. It, however, shows to good advantage the valley of the north fork of Clear Creek. Washburn-Elser properties are on extreme left and W. E. lode No. 18 is in the vicinity of X. The lode claims are east of mountain shown in this photo.

Photo No. 4.

This picture shows on depressed ridge on extreme left, croppings of porphyry dikes. (shown by white places on ridge).

Photo No. 5.

From top of ridge, (see map) shows part of timber in gulch that runs through W. E. lodes Nos. 4 to 16.

Photos Nos. 6 and 7.

These photos, taken from the same place, form a continuous panorama from top of Middle Mountain from south east to south west. On lower right of No. 6 is south fork of Clear Creek. On lower left is main Clear Creek below junction of north and south forks. Note dump (white) of Bankers mine in lower right center. Note on extreme right, photo No. 7, valley of main Clear Creek. At X is location of Tasmania Co. mines.

A map of the Washburn-Elser lode mining claims forms a part of this report. It was copied from a map furnished by Messrs. Washburn and Elser, who also furnished assay certificates, and who gave me, and they are hereby so credited, a great amount of the information contained in this report.

My hasty examination of this property, necessarily limited, has convinced me it has great prospective merit and I recommend it to men of vision, financially capable of helping the owners of this ground to prove its value.

Sincerely,

(signed) John H. Marks

504 Bank Block  
Denver, Colorado  
September 29, 1932