

*Ma
rept*

north shaft was steeply inclined and contained an open stope that followed the gently dipping beds about 130 feet. In places the opening extended along the strike of the beds as much as 100 feet. Parts of the stope were more than 20 feet high, no doubt due to the caving of the soft beds above the ore. Much of the ore shipped by Eugene Bruell was mined in the stope from two or more lenses of ore that were followed along their strike and dip until they became too narrow to be mined profitably.

The opencuts surrounded the shafts and were as much as 100 feet long and 20 feet deep. Much of the ore shipped during the two World Wars was mined from the opencuts.

Manhattan and Pleasant View Claims

The Manhattan and Pleasant View are two contiguous patented claims in sec. 1, T. 18 S., R. 13 W., about one-half mile east of the town of Central. They can be reached on a short access road that branches south from the Hanover road at the Manhattan Motel about one-half mile east of Central.

The claims originally were located in the early days of the district and explored for lead-zinc ore. They were patented in 1903 and about 40 years later were purchased and developed further by the present owner, Luis Suchoff of Central. The total production of lead-zinc ore from the property is not known, however, the claim yielded several carloads each of high-grade lead carbonate and lead-zinc sulphide ore. The first recorded manganese ore was shipped during World War II to Metals Reserve Co. at Deming. Complete production records for that period were not available; but at least one carload, averaging about 16 percent manganese, was shipped during that period. This ore is said to have been sorted from the lead-zinc ore being mined at the time. Manganese production was resumed in 1953 and continued into 1954. During that period about 94 long tons of sorted ore, averaging 21.3 percent manganese, was shipped by Suchoff and lessees to the depot at Deming. No work was in progress when the claims were visited in April 1959.

Manganese oxides, in association with lead-zinc minerals, occur on the property along a fissure zone in quartz diorite porphyry. The fissure strikes N. 30° E. and dips very steeply southeast. It ranges from 3 to 6 feet in width and can be traced more or less continuously about 2,000 feet along its strike. At the time of the visit, the underground workings were inaccessible, and most of the opencuts along the outcrop were partly filled. From what could be observed on the surface, it appeared the best occurrences of manganese were localized in four disconnected areas or shoots along the north half of the fissure. These areas ranged from a few tens of feet to 100 feet or more in length and from 1 to 4 feet in width. The manganese minerals occurred in narrow stringers, in bands about 2 feet wide, and in small irregular bunches as much as a foot or more in their greater dimension. Most of the manganiferous occurrences were separated either by altered porphyry or by strands of lead-zinc minerals.

The workings consisted of two shafts and several shallow opencuts and pits scattered along the trend of the fissure. The northernmost shaft is

about 175 feet deep and contains two levels with stoped areas. The other shaft, about 400 feet to the south, is about 80 feet deep. Between the shafts and also farther south, the outcrop of the fissure had been explored in five or more shallow opencuts and pits.

The chief manganese minerals are pyrolusite, wad, and some psilomelane. The gangue consists of altered porphyry, calcite, and iron oxides.

Lost Treasure and Gold Quartz Group

The Lost Treasure and Gold Quartz group, formerly known as the Hodges-Dowell and later as Fierro Manganese, is about 3 miles by road northeast of the village of Fierro. The group, presently owned by J. B. Bolton and associates, consists of 12 claims covering parts of sec. 35, T. 16 S., R. 12 W., and parts of sec. 2, T. 17 S., R. 12 W. Two of the group, the Lost Treasure No. 2 and the Gold Quartz, are old patented claims; on these the principal manganese deposits are found. To reach the Lost Treasure workings go north from the Fierro post office by a graded dirt road 2.2 miles, turn on a right branch 0.2 mile to a road fork, and follow the right for 0.8 mile to the ore bin. To reach the Gold Quartz shaft about one-half mile southwest, go north from the Fierro post office on the graded dirt road 1.8 miles, turn right on a truck trail 0.5 mile to a left branch, and follow this branch 0.5 mile.

The first manganese ore from the property was shipped during World War I, about 250 tons. During World War II, Fierro Manganese Corp. resumed production and shipped 225 long tons of ore, containing from 22.2 to 25.9 percent manganese, to the Metals Reserve Co. in Deming. Most of that ore was mined from the vein on the Lost Treasure No. 2 claim. Work was resumed in the early 1950's, when lessees shipped 46.4 long tons of sorted ore from the Gold Quartz claim, averaging 18.9 percent manganese; and about 65 long tons from the Lost Treasure No. 2 vein, containing 20 percent manganese. That ore was shipped to the depot in Deming. The property was idle when visited in February 1959.

The ore was mined from lenticular ore shoots occurring in places along two veins that cut gently dipping beds of Carboniferous limestone. The vein on the Lost Treasure No. 2 claim strikes N. 55° E. and dips very steeply northwest. It ranges from 2 to 5 feet in width and can be traced by disconnected outcrops about 800 feet along its strike. The vein on the Gold Quartz claim strikes N. 60° E. and dips steeply northwest. It ranges from 2 to 6 feet in width and is traceable on the surface more than 2,000 feet. Similarity in the strike of the two fissures has led to the belief that the workings on the two claims were on the same vein. However, mapping in the area in 1942 by the Federal Geological Survey shows that the northeast end of the Gold Quartz vein is about 1,000 feet south of the southwest end of the vein on the Lost Treasure No. 2 claim.

Most of the ore produced from the Gold Quartz vein came from two ore bodies: One near the southwest end of its outcrop, and the other about 600 feet northeast. The southwest ore body had been exploited from a 45-foot vertical shaft and an opencut extending along the vein about 50 feet northeast

of
of
abo

ore
open
fol

wher

fac

8 f

the

fis

6 f

750

6 f

the

the

war

the

few

are

man

sou

Fie

ren

1.8

tite

has

and

irre

mass

beer

viur

app

sec