

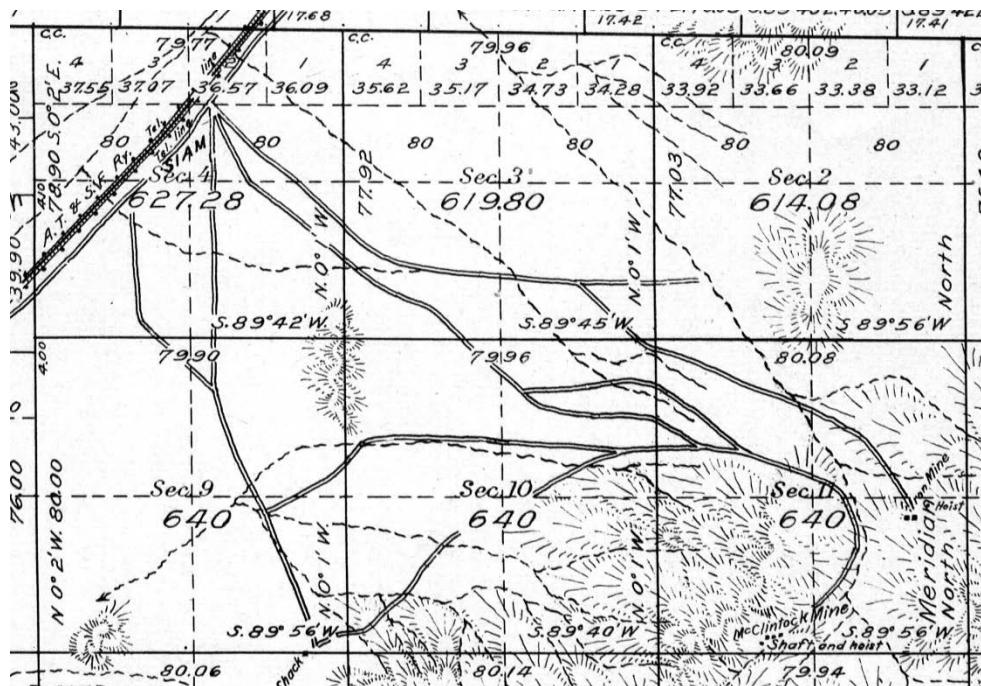
Mines of Ship Mountain
San Bernardino County, California

Larry M. Vredenburgh
February, 2014

The first published report of mining activity in Ship Mountain did not occur until 1901. In September of that year, the Los Angeles *Mining Review* noted that Walter L. Hastings, owner of the Vulcania, Black Warrior, Copper Carbonate, Ventura, Little Ida, and Imperial mining claims had sunk a 40 foot shaft on the Vulcania which assayed up to 1.5 ounces of gold across a 16 inch pay streak. J. A. McCarty leased the Little Ida claim and was sinking a shallow shaft that was showing rich values of copper and gold.

One month later, Hastings sold his claims to a Mr. Delane, who immediately began working a "force of men" mining and "sacking ore." In February 1902, a strike was reported from the Vulcania which reportedly yielded \$174 to the ton (nearly 9 ounces) across an 18 foot ledge. About this same time McCarty employed 4 men to drive an adit on the Iron Cap mine that assayed high values of gold.

In July 1902 a contract was let to Huff and Wolacott to sink a 100 foot shaft with drifts 100 feet each way along the vein on the Vulcania.



1923 General Land Office Survey of Northern Ship Mountain

P. H. McDermot, president and general manager of the Siam Mining Company, in June 1906 shipped 25 tons of gold ore to the Needles smelter, that yielded \$43 per ton in gold (gold was \$20 per ounce at that time). The mine by now had about 1,000 feet of underground workings. A July 1907 report by mining engineer D. L. Vandervoort extolled the virtues of the property as follows:

"The sight which greets the visitor upon arrival at the Siam property is most pleasing. In plain view are the necessary mine buildings, engine house, machine shops, assay office, cook house, bunk houses and

offices. Most impressive perhaps is the stately gallows frame which rests upon the collar of a perfectly constructed and timbered shaft 400 feet in depth."

When the General Land Office cadastral surveyors visited the site around 1920, the Vulcan mine is shown on their survey plat as "McClintock Mine." I can't help but think McClintock is really McDermot, but more research is obviously needed to straighten this out.

W. B. Tucker in 1943 stated that the property was,

"Located in 1898 by McClintock, the property has been worked off and on to date. From 1935 to 1937, it was under lease to Funk Brothers and H. J. Jackson, Ludlow, California. During this period the production was \$50,000 in gold, the ore being mined from the 100-foot level to surface. Ore shipped is reported to have averaged \$40 per ton in gold. From February 1941 to February 1942, the property was under lease to Rashly, Inc., William W. Dowsing, president, R. C. Aurand, secretary, Santa Monica, California. They shipped 1500 tons of ore to American Smelting & Refining Company's smelter, Hayden, Arizona."

The Ship Mountain iron deposit, located about a quarter mile northeast of the Vulcan mine, was first described by James Crossman in 1890. The property was examined in the early 1943 as part of a thorough examination of the iron deposits of California. At that time the mine was operated by Earl Paul of Upland California. It was developed by 4 short adits, and a 365 foot incline shaft with 830 feet of underground workings. Total reserves were estimated as 80,000 long tons.

On October 6, 1936 the United States issued a patent for 160 acres to Ira J. Coe for the Siam No. 1 Placer Mining claim. This property, also known as the Twin Buttes, is located in the southwest quarter of Section 9. T5N, R15E. The deposit was estimated to contain 8 million tons of dolomite. In 1947 the property was under lease to Charles I. Chubbuck.

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San Bernardino Sun 5 Jan 1907, Page 12

Siam No. 1 Placer Mining Claim. Patent No. 052395, CALA 0052395, 6 Oct 1936

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Ship Mountain lies in a southwesterly direction from Danby, distant eight miles. Its formation is granite on the west and porphyry on its easterly flank. Lying parallel and adjoining is a belt of dolomitic limestone from 50 to 250 feet in width in which and on its line of contact, a large bed of specular iron occurs.

LOS ANGELES MINING REVIEW 21 Sep 1901

Walter L. Hastings working Vulcania, 40 foot shaft 16 inch pay streak \$25 - \$30 free gold. Six claims: Vulcania, Black Warrior, Copper Carbonate, Ventura, Little Ida, Imperial

Black Warrior has a 50 ft. wide ledge of iron

Little Ida – worked under bond by J. A. McCarty. 40 foot shaft 8 – 20% copper with \$20 - \$30 gold.

LOS ANGELES MINING REVIEW 26 Oct 1901

Clipper Mountains

Walter Hastings, 2 copper claims

A. J. Wood = Big Bonanza \$14 gold

Ship Mountain

Messrs Delane & Co. purchased Hastings interests in Ship Mountain are sacking ore.

LOS ANGELES MINING REVIEW 16 Nov 1901

The new owners of the Ship Mountain property "a force of men" they expect to be shipping by the first of the year in carload lots.

Los Angeles Herald, Volume XXIX, Number 151, 1 March 1902

SAN BERNARDINO, Feb. 28.—Deputy Sheriff Shecombe returned this morning from a business trip to Danby and brings the news of a rich strike in the Vulcania mine near that place. The miners have struck an eighteen foot ledge which yields \$174 to the ton. The ore is of a lava formation but is free milling.

Redlands *Citrograph* 15 Mar 1902 – Quote of LA Mining Review *Engineering and Mining Journal*: 29 Mar 1902

Vulcania – a rich strike reported

LOS ANGELES MINING REVIEW 8 Mar 1902

J. A. McCarty's camp. 4 men driving tunnel on Iron Cap mine. 85 ft. adit pay streak \$200 - \$816 in gold
McCluskey, Eaten & Co = 3 men sinking shaft on iron cropping
Little Ida = two men at work

LOS ANGELES MINING REVIEW 5 Jul 1902

Vulcania Company let a contract to Huff and Wolacott to sink a 100 foot shaft with drifts 100 feet each way along the vein.

Engineering and Mining Journal: 26 Jul 1902

Vulcania – a contract has been let to sink shaft and drift

Engineering and Mining Journal: 28 Jun 1906 p.645

Siam General Manager P. H. McDermott recently marketed a shipment of twenty five tons of gold ore at the Needles smelter for which he received returns of \$43 per ton About 850 feet of development work has been done on this property this year resulting in the production of some good ore bodies

Los Angeles Herald, Volume 33, Number 274, 1 July 1906

SIAM INSTALLS NEW MILL

Property Is Near Danby, West of Needles, and Shows Improvement A new twenty-stamp mill Is to be installed by the Siam Mining company on the property near Danby on the Santa Fe railway, sixty-five miles west of Needles. Ore from the Siam mine which was shipped to the smelter at Needles recently ran \$48 to the ton, and the purpose is to put in the mill to get the gold from many thousand tons of ore now on the dump. The ore was excavated from 1000 feet of shaft drift and crosscuts. The third level has just been reached in high grade ore, while the drifts to the south also bear high grade ore. The ore is said to show steady Improvement as the drifts get farther into the mountain. The larger part of the stock of the company is held by Los Angeles people. The president and general manager of the company is P. H. McDermott.

Mining World 28 Jul 1906, p. 103

A lot of 24 ½ tons of ore was recently sold by the Siam mining company to the Arizona-Mexico smelter at Needles, the ore averaged \$43 per ton in gold. Superintendent P. H. McDermott has the shaft down 260 feet and values are increasing

Engineering and Mining Journal: 17 Nov 1906 p. 945

Bonanza Consolidated – This company has purchased from J. K. Bell and others 11 mining claims in Clipper Mountain district 5 miles from Danby, including the Tip Top claim.

Los Angeles Herald 3 Jan 1907

Incorporations

Siam Mining and Milling company. Directors: Arthur W. Fisher, H. C. Gilbert, H. W. Harrison, Telfair Creighton, George W. Price, P. H. McDermott, J. M. Kellerman. Capital stock \$1,000,000, of which \$7 has been subscribed.

The San Bernardino County Sun, 5 January 1907, Page 12

Another Big Mining Deal. Hugh C. Rhinn, of Searchlight, and W. G. McCrary, of Los Angeles, have sold to the Siam Mining company the Jasper Cap claims, one, two and three, and the North Star claims, for \$12,500. Of this amount Shinn gets \$7,500 and McCrary receives \$3,000. They located these four claims in the month of January, two years ago. The group is located in the Ship mountains, near Siam, a station

on the Santa Fe. Gibson Still Nibbling. A. It. Gibson evidently cannot keep his money from slipping away from him in looking over the Portland claims

Los Angeles *Herald*, Volume 35, Number 33, 4 November 1907.

SIAM MINING COMPANY WILL SOON HAVE MILL
Owns One of the Few Desert Properties Which Can Be Operated at Low Cost

Mr. P. McDermot, president and general manager of the Siam Mining company, has just returned to Los Angeles after an extended visit to the mine. He reports great activity in his district and tells of many rich finds in the Ship mountains and in the Clipper range.

The Bell-Wood mine near Danby, which attracted so much attention in the spring by the rich chimney of ore encountered in the workings, is to be rushed to a depth of 200 feet. Mr. Wood, one of the discoverers of the property, will have charge of the work this winter.

Mr. McDermot is most enthusiastic over the Siam's future. He says: "We have been delayed somewhat in our progress owing to the inability of the manufacturers to ship our mill, but we can see ahead now when the congestion of the dump will be relieved."

The mill upon arrival will be set up at once. Several thousand tons of ore are waiting for treatment which is all high grade and which will when milled make room for as much more, which has but to be hoisted to the surface.

The Siam is one of the few desert properties which can be operated at low cost. The flat below the mine can produce at low depth water sufficient for thousands of stamps and the accessibility to the railroad will make the fuel problem of secondary importance.

Los Angeles *Herald*, Volume 35, Number 68, 9 December 1907 p. 10

WEALTH AT OUR DOORS IS GREAT EASTERN COUNTIES AWAIT READY MONEY
THEIR RESOURCES ARE WELL KNOWN
By D. L. Vandervoort

Water is scarce, but can be developed in quantity in the Providence, Clipper and Ship mountains.

That the ore bodies of this section are in place and of giant size is shown by the accompanying pictures, taken at the Bell-Wood mine, five miles from Danby, on the Santa Fe railroad in San Bernardino county. This section of ledge is but a fraction of two miles of croppings on this property. At the point pictured it is sixty feet wide and over forty feet in height, and every pound of it is gold bearing.

While of low surface showing, this ledge on opening increased in value from \$1.80 to \$13.60 in forty feet. Numerous openings have been made along this giant reef and in every case show increasing values. That these deposits or ledges are common in this section is proved by the renewed activity and the display of interest by money people. The Bell-Wood is in the center of the zone and is attracting the attention and the admiration of geologists, engineers, miners and capitalists, and it seems reasonable to predict that in the near future Southern California mines will contribute to the world's wealth a bountiful supply of the precious metals and replace the state in its old coveted position as chief producer.

Los Angeles Herald, Volume 34, Number 294, 22 July 1907 D. L. Vandervoort

As an example illustrating the above let us take the Siam mine, which in the writer's opinion should rightfully be in the field as a sound investment.

This mine is located 248 miles east of Los Angeles and within three miles of Siam station on the Santa Fe railroad.

The Siam mine is admirably located in the low foothills of the Ship mountains and is easily accessible over an excellent road with an almost imperceptible grade. The Ship mountains lie opposite the Old Woman's mountains, and both are a part of the Clipper range, long renowned as among the richest mineral bearing sections of the southwest.

The sight which greets the visitor upon arrival at the Siam property is most pleasing. In plain view are the necessary mine buildings, engine house, machine shops, assay office, cook house, bunk houses and offices. Most impressive perhaps is the stately gallows frame which rests upon the collar of a perfectly constructed and timbered shaft 400 feet in depth. This shaft was sunk on a well defined ledge of free milling quartz and is plainly traceable the entire depth. The stations are established at each hundred feet, from which drifts run north and south which aggregate over 2000 feet, and all in ore—and such ore! Candle in hand, one can walk through these underground workings and taking samples indiscriminately it would be difficult to secure one from the ledge which will not yield free gold in panning, and in many cases gold can be plainly seen with the naked eyes.

At the top of the shaft is the great dump in which there is over 2000 tons of high-class milling ore. This dump does not, however, contain the total product, for shipments of the richest ore were made to assist in defraying the cost of development work. The reserve ore on the dump is far beyond average ore and it would be almost impossible to select a handful from this immense pile which would not "horn," and the writer carried away with him several fine specimens of "high grade," which are rich as well as beautiful. It would be difficult to appraise the value of the ore on this dump, but a fair judge would conservatively estimate it at \$20 per ton.

In the blocking out of ore for future reduction the master hand of the expert miner and superintendent is everywhere in evidence. In the sinking of the shafts (of which there are two), in the timbering, in the drifts and in the crosscuts, in the erection of the buildings, in the selection and establishment of the machinery there is everywhere substantial proof of economical management—not in the execution of poor work, but in indication of permanence and the elimination of all things shoddy and cheap.

Question of Permanence

As to the permanence of the mine: Well, let us consider that it has been proved to a depth of 400 feet, and the ledge is plainly traceable for several thousand feet on the surface, and even then its location is known to exist under the cropping of iron which continues as much farther. The formation of the district is lime, porphyry, quartzite and granite, and experts of renown declare that their presence indicates permanence and great depth. These engineers and geologists passed favorably upon the property before the present company executed any work whatever, and their advice has been followed throughout the entire development.

The management is in the hands of the president of the company, who is a large stockholder. He is an able miner and superintendent of many years' experience, and his work at the mine has demonstrated his capability. Beyond the ordinary office expenses, every dollar subscribed goes into development, and every expenditure must receive the sanction of the board of directors.

Barstow Printer January 10, 1913

Jack Hopkins is working on some claims at Siam

Bakersfield Morning Echo March 7, 1916

Battle Imminent Over Gold Claims In San Bernardino

San Bernardino march 6 ???of a ???clash of armed parties over the possession of gold mining claims on the San Bernardino county desert five miles northeast of Danby, a station of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railway, were brought? Here tonight by Douglas Shaw, one of the persons owning property involved in the alleged controversy

Shaw declared ??? a party of Los Angeles men who own claims adjoining lease in which he and other San Bernardino men were interested. Took possession of the cabin of the ??? group last night . Shaw says he and his assistance forced them to leave at the point of guns.

Wright et. al., CDMG, 1953 p.62

Vulcan (McClintock)

Northwest slope Ship Mts., southeast of Siam. Two parallel, steeply dipping veins. One, mined mostly for gold, cuts quartz diorite; other, mined mostly for copper, a long limestone - quartz diorite contact.

Developed by 2 shafts, 150 ft. apart. North shaft 500 ft. deep. Most development from south shaft, 175 ft. deep, with levels at 50,100,150 and 175 ft. Shafts connected on 50 and 150 - ft. levels. Considerable are stope on both veins from level workings which explore veins for length of 435 ft. Property located 1898. Principal activity 1935- 37 and 1941-42. Production nearly \$80,000. (Eric 48: 319; Tucker 43:137-138, 43 :465, pl. 7.)

Tucker 1943, p. 137

Vulcan Mine (McClintock). This gold-copper property comprises 6 claims situated on the northwest slope of Ship Mountains, in Sec. 11, T. 5 N., R. 15 E., S. B., 2J miles southeast of Siam, a station on the Santa Fe Railroad; elevation 1600 feet. Owner is Helen C. King, 1030 South Magnolia Street, Los Angeles. The mine is under lease to Vulcan Mining Company, Leon O. Compton and H. I. Schuyler, Cadiz, California.

Located in 1898 by McClintock, the property has been worked off and on to date. From 1935 to 1937, it was under lease to Funk Brothers and H. J. Jackson, Ludlow, California. During this period the production was \$50,000 in gold, the ore being mined from the 100-foot level to surface. Ore shipped is reported to have averaged \$40 per ton in gold. From February 1941 to February 1942, the property was under lease to Rashly, Inc., William W. Dowsing, president, R. C. Aurand, secretary, Santa Monica, California. They shipped 1500 tons of ore to American Smelting & Refining Company's smelter, Hayden, Arizona.

Shipments carried the following values: gold 0.345 ounces, silver 0.12 ounces, copper 0.21 percent, silica 70 percent, alumina 10 percent, iron 5.1 percent ; total value \$11.54 per ton. The gold vein occurs in quartz diorite ; strike N. 10° E., dip 80° E.; width 8 to 12 feet. In the hanging wall of the gold vein and parallel to it, is a copper vein which occurs on the contact of quartz diorite and limestone. Limestone is the hanging wall, quartz diorite the footwall. The copper vein has the same general strike as the gold vein and is from 6 to 12 feet in width. The copper vein carries from 2 to 3 percent copper and \$6 in gold.

Development consists of two vertical shafts. South shaft is 175 feet deep, and 150 feet north of this shaft, the north shaft has been sunk to a depth of 500 feet. The present mining and development work

is being done from the south shaft. On the 50-foot level, drift 150 feet north to north shaft and 125 feet south ; on the 100-foot level, drift 285 feet south, of which 100 feet was on the vein and 125 feet north on 150-foot level, drift north 150 feet to north shaft; on 175-foot level drift north 25 feet. From 100-foot level to surface, the gold vein has been stoped both north and south of shaft. Copper vein is stoped from the 150-foot level to 50-foot Mine equipment consists of 12-horsepower Thomas hoist, (12 by 12 inches); Ingersoll-Rand compressor; air drills; cars; and 3-ton truck. Six men are employed.