

NAME.....NOBEL FIVE.....

SUBJECT.....CLIPPINGS.....

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NOBEL FIVE

82FNW037-03

PROPERTY FILE

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J. M. Harris, Founder of Sandon, Pioneer of Mining Days, Dies 89

By SIDNEY NORMAN

NEW DENVER — John Morgan Harris, whose association with the Slocan District covers its entire history, died at Slocan Community Hospital here Sunday morning, at the age of 89, 61 years of which were spent at Sandon, the townsite he located on the Loudon mineral claim, soon after his arrival on April 7, 1892.

He will be buried at Marshall, Virginia, U.S.A. Mrs. Harris will accompany his body to Virginia.

Born at Vernon Mills, Virginia, 50 miles from Washington, D.C., January 26, 1864, the fourth of a family of five sons, four of whom preceded him in death, he struck out for the West in his early 20's, fired by the reports of great silver-lead discoveries in the Coeur d'Alene district of Idaho. At Wallace, then in the throes of its first boom, he entered the real estate business and laid out the sub-division of Harris.

News of the fabulously rich silver-lead discoveries in the Slocan district reached Wallace in the last winter of 191, backed up by a piece of typical galena from the discovery of Eli Carpenter on Payne Mountain. Carpenter had been grubstaked by A. W. McCune, who was already heavily interested in the Ainsworth camp on Lake Kootenay, and Scott McDonald, then running a livery stable at Wallace. The sight of that piece of galena was enough for Harris and he immediately set out for the new Eldorado of the north.

From Spokane, he took the first train out of the city on the Spokane Falls & Northern Railroad, then completed as far as Marcus; then the Columbia River boat of the C.P.R. under Captain Troup, landing at the mouth of the Kootenay River, across the Columbia from what is now the growing community of Castlegar. In the previous year, the short line from that point to Nelson had been completed to carry freight for the booming Ainsworth district on the lake. Harris and his partner, a man named Smith, outfitted at the embryonic capital of the Kootenays, returned by rail to the Slocan River crossing and from there, heavily-laden, fought their way up the river toward Slocan Lake.

A few miles from the lake, the partners found a canoe hidden in the bushes and Harris had no compunction in admitting that it was "borrowed" for the remainder of the trip up river and lake to the mouth of Carpenter Creek, where New Denver now stands. Perhaps as a deserved visitation for canoe-lifting, the partners experienced a very severe storm when nearing their destination and were nearly drowned. Much chastened, but safe, they struggled up the rough terrain of Carpenter Creek, past the coming townsite of Three Forks, up the south fork of Carpenter Creek and pitched camp at what is now Sandon.

LONG PARTNERSHIP

Among other early arrivals at that point was Fred T. Kelly, who became the life-long partner of Harris in his operations from Sandon, and who died at Boise, Idaho in April, 1949. Pooling their resources — which were by no means extensive — the new partnership bought, for \$2700, the Ruecau, New Denver, Clifton, Ephriam and Texas claims, just located by a prospector named Ruecau, on the southwest slope of what is now Reco Mountain, adjoining and partly surrounding the Noble Five group of five claims, staked in the first rush of 1891 by Frank Flint, Jack McGuigan, Bill and Jack Hennessey and Jack Seaton — the original "Noble Five."

The Ruecau group, rechristened Reco, was bonded in 1892 to Finch & Campbell, then the leading operators of Spokane, for a large sum. By that time, the big Slocan boom was on. Locations numbering 750 had been staked over a large area and newcomers were swarming in from Spokane on the south and Revelstoke on the north. Three Forks, at the junction of the north and south forks of Carpenter Creek, 3½ miles down stream from Sandon, became a bustling community of around 500 or 600 people, connected with Kaslo, on Kootenay Lake, by daily stage service and by trail and pack-train with Nakusp, where connection was made with C.P.R. boats and rail.

Then came the repeal of the Silver Purchase Act by United States Congress in 1893. Practically all pending deals for properties were cancelled or suspended and hundreds of "busted" pilgrims were taken out of the country at government expense, especially from Kaslo, which had grown rapidly to a community of over 5000, with many saloons, the Theatre Comique and one bank — the John M.



J. M. HARRIS
... IN 1947

Burke bank — which closed its doors. At the time the silver act was repealed, 16 mines were under serious development in the district and many more were getting ready for a start.

After a period of breath-catching, the district gained momentum once more and the next three years saw an era of frenzied railroad building. The Great Northern built the Beddington branch line from Bonners Ferry, Idaho to the foot of Lake Kootenay and a narrow-gauge line from Kaslo to Sandon; the CPR connected Nakusp with Rosebery and Sandon and the Spokane Falls and Northern road of D.C. Corbin was completed from Marcus to Nelson and Fort Sheppard railway from the International Line.

POPULATION 2300

Population of Sandon reached 2300 with 24 hotels and 23 saloons. Harris kept one hotel unlicensed so that his friendly visitors could get a little sleep now and then.

Meanwhile, Harris & Kelly had organized Reco Mining & Milling Co., after increasing their holdings to 18 claims and the Goodenough vein had been discovered on the adjoining Goodenough Fraction and followed into Reco ground. This proved to be the richest vein ever found in the Slocan district, yielding ore in quantity. Between 1894 and 1897, 1690 tons was rawhided down Reco Mountain and shipped to smelters across the international line, containing 404,035 ounces—16.8 tons—of silver and 598½ tons of lead, and \$187,500 had been distributed to shareholders as dividends, \$150,000 in 1897 alone.

The shipments averaged 239 ounces silver and 47.47% lead per ton. Total yield of the Reco vein system reached close to \$900,000, but it has not been operated for almost a quarter of a century, though recently several offers have been made for the property, as the property holds a key position in what is undoubtedly the richest area of known veins in the whole district.

These sensational shipments brought on the greatest boom in Sandon's long history. Deep down in the gulch, where the sun only touches during an hour or so daily in winter, the town became the pack-train and shipping centre of the busiest mining area and a Mecca for visitors from the world over. Harris' pride in his town was expressed by a modern Reco hotel, the Virginia business block and many other store buildings along the narrow street. Water was flumed in from a nearby mountain stream and an electric lighting system installed. The originally installed generator, a particular pride of Harris', is still doing duty for the abbreviated population.

TOWN BURNS DOWN

In May, 1900, the bustling town was wiped out by fire. Harris then borrowed a large sum from his bankers and set about the task of rebuilding. Carpenter Creek, which previously roared unconfined through the length of the town, was flumed and strongly boarded over, becoming the present main street. A big barn, used for Reco pack-train stock and equipment, which had escaped destruction, was converted into the present Reco hotel; another Virginia block was rebuilt on the new street, with a long line of business buildings as they stand today, largely deserted. At one time, prior to the Second World War, population had dwind-

led to 40. During the war, Sandon was commandeered by the government as an evacuation point for coast Japanese and over 1000 were domiciled there. After the Japanese left, population declined to as low as seven people in 1946, and is now about 100.

The Harris partnership was also the locator of the Rabbit Paw and Heber Fraction claims, adjoining the Slocan star group, which later became the crux of the most celebrated and longest-drawn-out apex case in the history of Canadian jurisprudence. Located in 1891, or early in 1892, the claims carried extralateral rights and Harris claimed that Slocan Star orebodies, then being extracted at great profit, apexed in the Rabbit Paw claim. The first trial resulted in defeat for Harris, but he carried it higher and was upheld by both the full court of British Columbia and the Supreme Court of Canada at Ottawa. The late Byron N. White, then president and managing director of Slocan Star Mining Co., carried an appeal to the Privy Council, where the claim of Harris was finally confirmed.

This litigation was started in 1901 and proceeded for nearly nine years, till the final decision in 1909, making it the most widely publicized and bitterly contended case of its kind ever fought, either in the district or in Canada. A reorganization of Slocan Star was later arranged under the name of Silversmith and Harris' established ownership, covered by an issue of shares.

In November, 1926, Mr. Harris married Miss Alma Lommatzsch, who, through good times and bad, was his devoted helpmeet to the end, meeting the duties of postmistress of Sandon and looking after the Reco Hotel and adjoining general store.

This imperfect tribute to a Southern gentleman and real pioneer is written by one whose close friendship with "Johnny" Harris dates back to the days when Three Forks boomed and Sandon was just beginning, about 57 years ago. Of indomitable courage, with an abiding faith in the Slocan district that never flagged, he represented the very best of pioneer spirit that has made this West. His memory will be cherished as long as men of his time live. He leaves a void that will not be filled.

claims near NOBLE FIVE 082FNV037
RECO 082FNV035
claims near SLOCAN STAR 082FNV033

GCNL #243 17-12-80 SILVEX RESOURCES CORPORATION

SLOCAN SILVER PROPERTY - Silvex Resources Corporation chairman Wm. I. Tyler has reported that PROGRAM UNDERWAY shares of the company were recently listed on the Vancouver Stock Exchange, symbol SXR.

The company has completed a financing of 400,000 shares at \$3.45 per share to net \$1,276,000. Programs for development of the mining properties are well underway as well as increased participation in oil and gas production in the U.S.A. Additional oil and gas properties are being acquired, some of which Silvex will have major control.

Silvex Resources holds claims on Reco Mountain in the Slocan area, B.C., where former production included 1,267,911 ounces silver, 6,882,340 pounds lead. Shipments averaged 239 ounces silver and 47% lead per ton. F

Recent development has been a topographical survey - surface and underground surveying, several miles of transit surveys on mining grids, geochemical sampling, 8 mine adits being re-opened and re-portalled. Over 1,200 feet of drifting was accomplished. A major part of the program was opening the main 4,000 foot access on No.18 level, Nobel Five mine.

A new contract with Canadian Mine Services has been signed and over \$400,000 to date expended under this agreement. The work includes a 150 foot crosscut to the main drift and de-watering of the mine by a 300 foot flume.

Work is continuing on drift and rehabilitation. Rehabilitation included retimbering through the old slopes and slashing the drift to an adequate size to accommodate present mining equipment. Installation of new rail, pipe, purchase of tramming equipment, and ventilation equipment is underway. From the present drift face it is planned to drift 500 feet to 800 feet into a favourable location on structure and an additional area to be developed to handle switch cars and diamond drilling stations. In this new zone approximately 6,000 ft. to 7,000 feet of diamond drilling is planned to intersect parallel lodes of former producers.

GCNL #78 24 APR 81 SILVEX RESOURCES CORPORATION 82F114E (082FNW037)

SILVER EXPLORATION PROGRAM - Wm. I. Tyler, president of Silvex Resources Corporation BUDGETTED AT \$500,000 IN 1981 reports that contracts have been signed for the continuation of the underground exploration on its 113-claim silver U.S. OIL & GAS PROJECTS REVIEWED F

lead zinc property at Sandon, B.C. Reopening of the underground workings at the No.18 level of the Nobel 5 mine will be followed by diamond drilling. Simultaneously, driving of 2 raises on the massive zinc horizon in the Chambers zone will start. During 1980, Silvex carried out rehabilitation, drilling and development on the properties at a cost of some \$1,120,000 consisting of rehabilitation of the Nobel 5 mine No.18 level and the portal of the No.8 level and 614 feet of drifting on the No.18 level. A total of 4,191 feet of diamond drilling was conducted to obtain geological information on four of the main structures. One intersection in DDH 80-7 verified the presence of a mineralized lode running 9.3% lead, 5.25% zinc and 10.95 oz/ton silver, over 2½ feet. This years program on the Nobel 5 mine No.18 level includes 4500 feet of diamond drilling with provision for drifting to potential targets. The entire program for 1981 is expected to cost \$500,000.

The Texas Stillwagon No.1 well, Burlson county, Texas in which Silvex has a 0.5% working interest, potentialled at 23,400,000 cu.ft. of gas p/day on absolute open flow from the Georgetown formation. The well is presently being completed in the Austin Chalk and Buda formations with testing not yet completed. Silvex has committed to a 3.125% working interest in acreage offsetting the Texas Stillwagon No.1 well.

The Paseur 1-A well, Fayette county, Texas, which Silvex has a 9.5% working interest in is presently drilling near target at 9,600 feet and offsets the Pasuer #1 well which has been on production since August 1980. The Pasuer No.1 well was completed on an open hole basis at 8900 feet producing up to 356 barrels of oil per day.

Silvex has acquired a 100% working interest in a 96-acre oil and gas lease in the Waelder prospect Gonzales county, Texas in the Austin Chalk trend. Silvex is presently seeking participation to drill a well. The company have also acquired a 100% working interest in a 378-acre oil and gas lease in the Waelder prospect, Wilson county, Texas-Austin Chalk trend and are attempting to obtain participation in the drilling of a test well.

GCNL #103 1 JUNE 81 SILVEX RESOURCES CORPORATION 82F114E 082FNW037

SLOCAN, B.C. PROPERTY - Silvex Resources Corporation president William I. Tyler has reported EXPLORATION UNDER WAY that the \$487,000 exploration program for 1981 on the silver property FOR 1981 SEASON at Sandon, B.C., is proceeding on schedule. The 5,000-foot underground diamond drilling program on the Noble 5 mine has been under way for 3 weeks and the preliminary portal preparation at the Chambers zone is well under way. An ore dump and waste dump have been constructed and the first raise into the massive zinc horizon, discovered in 1971, will commence 1Jun81. F

A private financing of \$100,000 at \$2 per share has been arranged subject to regulatory approval.

The Paseur 1A well in Fayette county, Texas, in which the company has a 9.5% working interest and which offsets the producing Paseur 1 well, has been drilled to target depth of 11,285 feet and is presently flowing back 75 barrels of "frac" fluid without stimulation and 100 pounds tubing pressure. The frac fluid is 70% oil. Further results will be available within a week to 10 days.