

Mr. Jerry MacMullen
1306 N. Harbor Drive
San Diego, Calif.

Ramona, Calif.
April 16, 1968

Dear Mr. MacMullen:

Your article, in last Sunday's Union, about the Oriflamme, both steamer and mine, was of great interest to me. It just so happens that in the mid 1920s I secured a lease and option on the mine to determine if it might be worth reopening. After much exploratory work I found that it had considerable merit, but its almost inaccessible location precluded reopening at that time. I also ran a close check on the history of the property and came up with some interesting facts, one of which thoroughly demolishes your interesting theory as to who named it.

In truth, the mine was named by one of the most prominent citizens of that day and age in San Diego, none other than Ephriam W. Morse. The property had first been located in 1869, making it one of the first gold discoveries in the Julian area, and consisted of two mining claims, named the Warpath and the Lincoln. In the early 1870s Mr. Morse bought the claims, added a mill-site and renamed the property Oriflamme. He installed a 10-stamp mill and other equipment and worked the mine for some years, later receiving a U. S. patent to the land. I doubt that he made much of a profit from the venture because the ore is complex in nature, containing sulphides and tellurides with the free gold. These were not recovered by his rather primitive milling equipment.

Mr. Morse apparently was quite interested in mining, for in the 1880s he acquired a gold prospect at Mesa Grande, named the Shenandoah, and developed it into a fairly respectable mine. The ore there was mostly free-milling, some of quite rich. I know this to be a fact, for in the early 1930s I took a lease on the property from Arthur Stone, who still owns it. The mine then was badly caved, full of water and an altogether hopeless-looking job. However, I did clean up the area where once the 10-stamp mill stood and made a good profit from the gold that had been spilled during operations.

It has always intrigued me as to just why Mr. Morse named that mine the Oriflamme, - undoubtedly from the steamer of the same name. Was it because he came to San Diego on her? Or what was the connection? Possibly you can supply the answer.

Sincerely,

L. B. Spaulding
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