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DMA Docket No. 3781

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Cys to USBM and USGS.

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To:	L. E. Johnson	Date	12-12-55
To:	Mr. Smell	Date	12-13-55
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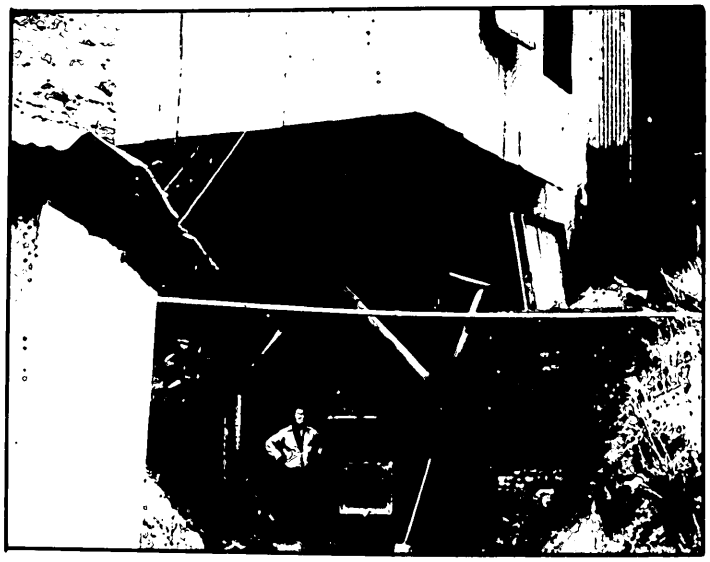

Photo No, 1. The burned rock bin under the furnace. Portal of No. 1. Tunnel to left of man.

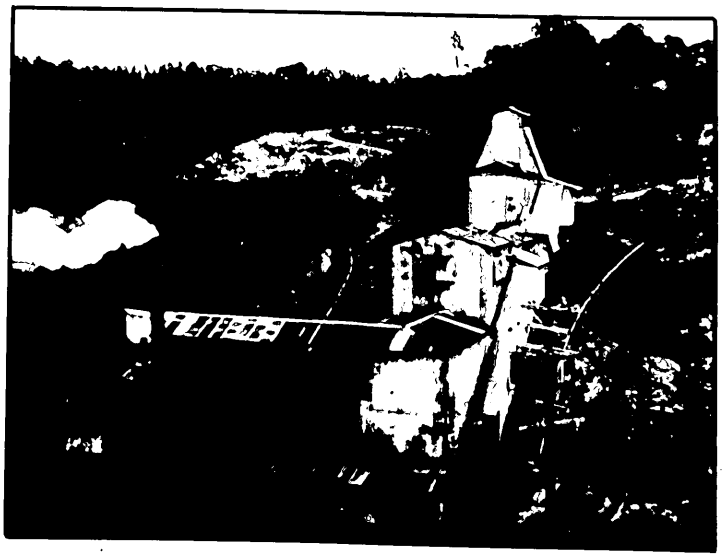

Photo No. 2. The furnace plant, showing condensers, wooden barrel and stack. Auxiliary water tank in center. P.G.& E. transformers on pole at lower right.

Note: Photographs from C.N. Schuette report. ~~-10-~~

FIGURE 4

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1605 Evans Avenue
Reno, Nevada

June 6, 1956

Mr. Harold J. Biaggini
Adelaida Road
Paso Robles, California

Re: Docket DMEA-3781 (Mercury)
Smith & Biaggini
Buena Vista Quicksilver Mine
San Luis Obispo County, Calif.

Dear Mr. Biaggini:

In accordance with our telephone conversation, I am enclosing seven copies of "Consent to Lien" forms, MF-203.

Five of these should be signed and returned to this office, the others are for your file.

Very truly yours,

Roscoe M. Smith
Acting Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region II

Encl.

RMSmith:gh
cc: Opr. Com., DMEA, Wash., D. C.
R. M. Smith
File

400

DOCKET
Surname:
McMahon
Martin
Guhon
Kilsgaard
Selfridge
K Johnson

DEC 13 1955

Messrs. Smith and Biaggini
Buena Vista Mine
Adelaida Road
Paso Robles, California

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3781 - Mercury
Buena Vista Mine
San Luis Obispo County, California

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the above-docketed application for exploration assistance, denied by letter of August 29, 1955, and to your letter of November 18, 1955, with the attached new lease, which was intended as a re-submission of your application for Government participation.

While the new lease appears in better form than the original, denial of your application was based on a carefully considered judgment that the maximum expectancy of production resulting from your proposed program is not commensurate with the cost of exploration and Government participation is, therefore, not justified.

Such denials of requests for exploration assistance by the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration are made, however, without prejudice to the property. Any significant results of new work thereon that might materially alter our conclusions could, of course, be furnished to this Administration at any time. Such information should refer to the present docket and be accompanied by a revised application on Form MP-103.

The lease form accompanying your letter is returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

[illegible] (Ag 257)
Administrator

Enclosure
cc: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Read. File
Oper. Committee

cc: T. Kiilsgaard, USGS
Helena Meyer, USBM
FT, Reg. 2

ADMcMahon/ls
12/9/55

R.C.S.

DMEA-3781 (Hq) 85434
Smith & Biaggini 1505
86,939
Buena Vista Quicksilver Mine (mahony)
San Luis Obispo County, Calif.

1. Application submitted 4/11/55 for an $86,039.00. ($86,939) notice F.T. 8 pt.

2. Field exam. requested by O.C. 5/3/55

3. Property examined 6/16/55 by B.H. Sheahan, BoM. and E.H. Bailey, Geol. Surv. - accompanied by Messrs. Smith & Biaggini.

4. C.N. Schmitt, consulting Mng. Eng for applicants, prepared report on property in Jan. 1955.

5. Examination report prepared 8/4/55 by B.H. Sheahan, BoM & E.H. Bailey, USGS. - recommends that the application be denied on the premises that the maximum expectancy of production is not commensurate with the cost of exploration and production.

However, they "believe better exploration can be accomplished at the same or less cost, and the same target area reached" by an alternative program, which was discussed with the applicant and meets with his approval. It is not understood whether this alternative program was proposal by the examining team or not. Estimated cost $80,000 yes.

Property has been down since 1968.

MH out 11/18 -

COM recalled talking to Schuette in Las Vegas - and adrising that more convincing info. was to be submitted for reconsideration of the application. Submission of a new lease ~~[illegible]~~ does not constitute the required info.

11/15/55

Mr. Martin:

Attached Nov. 12 letter indicates Smith & Biaggini want to reapply for loan under new lease. Our 400 file shows the denial of August 29, 1955, was made on lack of merit of the property, so apparently no reason to assign any new number to applicant's Nov. 12 letter. Maybe applicant didn't understand previous denial was based solely on his property just not being a good bet.

ADMrM Please talk to COM about this after you have had a chance to review the case

BUENA VISTA MINE

ADELAIDA ROAD
PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA

VIRGIL SMITH,
Box 265 - Phone 989-J
Atascadero, California

HAROLD J. BIAGGINI,
Adelaida Road - Phone 9F31
Paso Robles, California

HOME OFFICE:
Box 750,
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

Nov. 12,1955

RECEIVED
NOV 14 1955

U. S. Department of the Interior
Defense Minerals Exploration Administration
Washington, 25, D. C.

Mr. C. O. Mittendorf:

Through the new lease, which is enclosed, we are re-submitting our application for a D.M.E.A. Loan, in reference to Docket No. D.M.E.A. 3781-Mercury, Buena Vista Mine.

I beleive that you have the reports in your office, which were drawn up by Mr. C. N. Schuette.

If you desire any further information write to the above address and we will submit immediately.

Sincerely yours,

Harold J. Biaggini

Smith & Biaggini

400

DOCKET
SURNAME
Hoyt
Chapman
Kilsgaard
Yoho
Selfridge

AUG 2 9 1955

Smith & Biaggini
Buena Vista Mine
Adelaida Road
Paso Robles, California

Re: Docket No. DMMA 3721 - Mercury
Buena Vista Mine
San Luis Obispo County
California

Gentlemen:

Your application for aid for an exploration project and other data available to us in Washington concerning the above referenced property have been reviewed.

Projects approved by the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration must, in its judgment, show definite promise of yielding materials of acceptable grade in quantities that will significantly improve the mineral supply position for the National Defense Program.

Careful study of our information, although noting that mercury ore has been mined from the Buena Vista mine, indicates to us that the probability of disclosing minable mercury ore reserves by your proposed program is not sufficiently promising to justify Government participation. Under these circumstances, we regret to advise you that your application is denied.

We wish to thank you for your interest in the Defense Minerals Exploration Program and for bringing this property to our attention.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

SPHOLT/foc
8-24-55
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Read. File
Operating Comm.
FT. REG. II
H. M. Meyer, USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS

Copy to: Hon. Charles M. Teague
House of Representatives

R.S.S.

DOCKET
SURNAME
400 Holt
Chapman
Kiilsgaard
Yost
Selfridge

AUG 29 1955

Hon. Charles M. Teague
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Teague:

Reference is made to the inquiry by telephone from Mr. Slater of your office, concerning an application by Virgil Smith and Harold J Biaggini, Paso Robles, California, for exploration assistance, our Docket No. DMEA 3781 - Mercury, Buena Vista mine, Paso Robles, California.

As a result of a field examination of the referenced property and consideration of all available data, it has been determined that the probability of disclosing mineable ore reserves by the applicants' proposed program is not sufficiently promising to justify Government participation in an exploration project. This application, therefore, has been denied.

For your information, a copy of our letter of denial to Messrs. Smith and Biaggini is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

Enclosure

8/24/55
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Read. File
Operating Comm.
FT. REG. II
H. M. Meyer, USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS

SPHOLT/foc

R.C.S.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

August 24, 1955

MEMORANDUM

To: Administrator

From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division, DMEA

Subject: Denial of request for exploration assistance in the amount of $85,434.00
Docket No. DMEA 3781 - Mercury
Smith & Biaggini
Buena Vista Mine
San Luis Obispo County, California

The denial of the subject application is recommended by this Division based on the following information:

1. The applicants, Smith & Biaggini, Buena Vista Mine, Adelaida Road, Paso Robles, California, requested exploration assistance in the amount of $85,434 for 420 feet of shaft sinking, cutting a shaft station 20 feet long and 680 feet of drifting and crosscutting in the Buena Vista mine.

2. The applicants control by lease from K. R. Nutting, owner, the following patented mining claim.

Lot 37, Section 33, Township 26 South, Range 10 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, said lot containing 34.43 acres, situated in the Salinas Mining District, San Luis Obispo County, California.

3. The proposed program is by sinking 420 feet of shaft in the Buena Vista mine, cutting a shaft station, and 680 feet of drifting and crosscutting on the new 950 ft. level of that shaft.

4. In the area explored by the Buena Vista mine mercury ore mineralization occurs as stringers, disseminations, and blebs of cinnabar in a strongly kaolinized shale breccia. 2748 flasks of mercury have been produced from the mine area, and the exploration program proposed might result in the discovery of an equal amount of ore. But only part of that ore could be expected

to be found directly by the initial work, and the maximum expectancy of production is not commensurate with the high cost of exploration and production.

5. The Field Team concludes that there is little probability of making a significant discovery and recommends denial. The Commodity Divisions of the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines concur in this recommendation.

Thos. L. Chapman, Acting Chief
Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

DOCKET
SURNAME
Holt
Chapman

August 24, 1955

MEMORANDUM

To: Administrator

From: Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division, DMEA

Subject: Denial of request for exploration assistance in the amount of $85,434.00
Docket No. DMEA 3781 - Mercury
Smith & Biaggini
Buena Vista Mine
San Luis Obispo County, California

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Thos. L. Chapman, Acting Chief
Iron and Ferro-Alloys Division

SPHOLT/foc
8-24-55
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Read. File
Operating Comm.

Docket

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

August 23, 1955

Copy retained 400

Memorandum

To: W. S. Martin, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: James W. Pennington, Branch of Base Metals

Subject: Docket No. DMEA 3781 (mercury) Smith and Biaggini, Buena Vista Mine, San Luis Obispo County, California

The report by E. H. Bailey, Geological Survey, and B. H. Sheahan, Bureau of Mines, describing the Field Team examination of this property has been reviewed.

I concur with the recommendation of the report that application for exploration aid be denied.

James W. Pennington

James W. Pennington

Copy to: Division of Minerals
Branch of Base Metals
H. M. Meyer
F i l e s
Thor Kiilsgaard, U. S. G. S.

RECEIVED
AUG 2 1955

Docket

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

August 17, 1955

Re: DMEA 3781 - Mercury
Smith and Biaggini
Buena Vista Mine
San Luis Obispo Co., Calif.
$80,000 - Mercury

Copy retained 400

Memorandum

To: W. S. Martin, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: N. E. Nelson, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of Field Team Report.

The application asked for help in sinking a new shaft, 420 feet, cutting a station and driving 680 feet of drifts and crosscuts. The drifting and perhaps some crosscutting might be in the ore zone and thus somewhat productive, but much work would be necessary before regular production could be expected.

The analysis of the examiners with respect to the probable maximum production and the net proceeds, shows the margin would be small at the guaranteed price for mercury, and the probable production much less than needed for liquidation of the loan.

The points are well taken and the conclusions are adequately supported.

I concur with the denial recommendation of the Field Team.

N. E. Nelson

N. E. Nelson

RECEIVED
AUG 18 1955

RECEIVED
AUG 19 1955

August 19, 1955

MEMO for File

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3781 - Mercury
Smith and Biaggini
Buena Vista Mine
San Luis Obispo, California

Mr. Slater of Congressman Teague's office telephoned to ask status of application. He was advised that the Field Team's report had just been received and after review by commodity specialists of Geol. Survey, Bureau of Mines, and DMEA, both the applicant and the Congressman's office would be informed as to outcome.

L. Scott

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE ELECTRIC POWER ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

DMEA

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1605 Evans Avenue
Reno, Nevada

August 9, 1955

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA,
Interior Building, Washington, D. C.

From: Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region II

Subject: Docket No. DMEA 3781 - Mercury
Smith & Biaggini
Buena Vista Mine
San Luis Obispo County, California

Reference is made to your letter of May 13, 1955 requesting a field examination on above subject property.

Attached are four copies of a report by E. H. Bailey, Geological Survey, and B. H. Sheahan, Bureau of Mines, in which it is recommended that application for exploration aid be denied.

Roscoe Smith and I concur in the recommendation.

S. Ricker

Encls.

RECEIVED
AUG 11 1955

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
8-15-55
(date)

BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

AUG 11 9 51 AM '55

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DOUGLAS McKAY, SECRETARY

DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY FIELD TEAM
REGION II

APPLICATION REPORT

DMEA-3781 (Mercury)
Smith & Biaggini
Buena Vista Quicksilver Mine
San Luis Obispo County, California

RECEIVED
AUG 11 1955

by

B. H. Sheahan
Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

E. H. Bailey
Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

August 4, 1955

Reviewed by
DMEA OPERATING COMMITTEE
8-15-55
(date)

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1. Location Map

2. Buena Vista Quicksilver Mine, plan and section

3. Plat - Buena Vista Quicksilver Mine

4. Photographs

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Harold J. Biaggini, Adelaida Road, Paso Robles, California and his partner Virgil Smith, Route 1, Box 265, Atascadero, California applied for Government assistance April 11, 1955 on a proposed $86,039.00 program with the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration to explore for mercury at the old Buena Vista (Mahoney) mine, San Luis Obispo County, Calif.

A field examination was requested by the Operating Committee on May 13, 1955. The property was examined on June 16, 1955 by B. H. Sheahan of the Bureau of Mines and E. H. Bailey, Geological Survey; they were accompanied by Messrs. Smith and Biaggini.

The applicants retained Mr. C. N. Schuette, consulting mining engineer, to prepare a report on the property in January, 1955. A copy of the report was included with the docketed application and was of considerable aid to the field team in preparing the application report.

All underground workings are inaccessible, there are no geologic maps, and many of the old mine records have been lost. Consequently the examination was limited to inspection of the existing surface plant and facilities, and discussions with the applicants. Much of data presented in this report was obtained from Mr. Virgil Smith. Other sources of information included production data obtained from the Bureau of Mines, Div. of Mineral Industries, Region II, and from State and Geological Survey publications and literature.

A complete examination of the mine would require a considerable expenditure for mine rehabilitation.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The merits of the applicants' proposed exploration program and the revised program as suggested in this report can be based only on production records and similarity of the geology of the exploration area to the area from which the past production was made.

The proposed exploration might ultimately result in the discovery of as much quicksilver as has already been produced or 2,748 flasks, but only a part of this would be found directly by the initial work. Gross value of 2,748 flasks at the Government guaranteed price ($225 per flask) is $618,000. The cost of discovering, developing and mining the ore in this block is estimated to be about $540,000.

The maximum expectancy of production is not commensurate with the cost of exploration and production, and it is recommended that the application be denied.

LOCATION, ACCESSIBILITY, AND LOCAL RESOURCES

The mine is located in section 33, T. 26 S., R. 10 E., M.D.B.&M. in the Salinas Mining District, San Luis Obispo County, Calif. at an altitude of 1,300 feet.

To reach the mine from Paso Robles, California, travel westerly on the paved Adelaida road 16 miles to the property (fig. 1). The mine is accessible all year.

The topography of the area has a mature appearance with low rounded hills covered by a sparse growth of timber, brush and grass. The climate is temperate. Rainfall during winter and spring is moderately heavy. Drainage is to the northeast to Tablas Creek. The

water supply for the mine and plant comes by gravity from springs higher on the hillside.

Electric power is available at the mine from a Pacific Gas & Electric Co. transmission line. Paso Robles is the nearest town where supplies can be obtained. There are no housing facilities for workmen at the property. In the past, workmen lived in the vicinity of the mine or at Paso Robles, which is a 30 minute drive.

Skilled mine laborers, experienced with shaft sinking operations, are scarce in this part of California. The prevailing wage scale is $14.00 per day. Wage incentive bonuses for miners at other properties often increase this scale to the equivalent of $20.00 per day.

HISTORY AND PRODUCTION

The Buena Vista quicksilver mine was also formerly known as the Mahoney, Gould, or Gould and Mahoney mine. The mine was apparently discovered and developed in 1874. In that year, the Buena Vista claim was patented by Mr. Edward Mahoney. Mr. C. N. Schuette reports that the mine was operated from 1875 to 1876 and that 1,240 flasks of quicksilver were recovered in 1876 by means of a Knox-Osborne furnace. This production, however, is not officially recorded with any Government agency. According to Mr. Virgil Smith, this early production came from workings driven in the vicinity of coordinates 1900 North, 1900 East shown on attached map, fig. 2.

Immediately after the production in 1876, the mine was shut down owing to a drop in the price of mercury, and it remained inoperative until 1899 when lessees, under the direction of Mr. H. W.

Gould, recovered 203 flasks of quicksilver during the last half of 1899 and 1900. Small scale mining and retorting continued until 1903 at which time Forstner[1/] reports an ore body 10 to 15 feet wide and 30 feet high was exposed in the No. 1 tunnel at a location 400 feet from the portal.

Except for small scale lessee operation, the property remained idle from 1903 until 1939 when it was leased by Roy Wyatt who recovered about 100 flasks of quicksilver. From 1941 through 1946, Mr. Virgil Smith operated the mine. He drove most of the workings shown on the attached map (fig. 2), and during this time, 1,763 flasks of quicksilver were recovered by the operation of a 40-ton rotary furnace which was installed in 1941. No production was recorded in 1946, but in 1947 and 1948 a total of 500 flasks of quicksilver was produced. Since 1948, the property has been idle.

1/ Forstner, Wm., 1903, The Quicksilver Resources of California: Calif. State Div. of Mines Bull. 27, p. 162.

Summary of recorded production

Year	Ore furnaced short tons	%,Hg/T	Mercury produced 76-pound flasks
1900			39
1901			74
1902			75
1903			150
1929			5
1930			5
1932			2
1933			2
1935			4
1938			7
1939			15
1940			94
1941			27
1942	2,950	-	106
1943	8,606	0.21	479
1944	2,135	0.344	193
1944	500	0.783	103
1945	274*	-	58
1945	3,768	0.804	797
1947	2,044	0.7	425
1948	350	-	75
1953	-	-	7 (clean up)
1954	not given		4
1955	not given		2
Total	24,400*		2,748 flasks

1 240

*Estimated

Calculated grade 8.2 lbs. HG/ton.

The tailing dump from the furnace operations contains no more than 10,000 tons, however, much of the material may have been hauled away for road surfacing.

Mr. C. N. Schuette determined the total production at 4,178 flasks from the year 1876 to 1948 inclusive. For comparison, the nearby Oceanic mine, which is in 11th place on the list of California quicksilver mines, has yielded more than 41,000 flasks.

PROPERTY AND OWNERSHIP

The property consists of one patented mining claim which covers 34.43 acres. The dimensions of the claim are 1500 feet by 1000 feet (22.7275 chains by 15.16 chains). (See fig. 3.) This claim is recorded by Government patent at San Luis Obispo County in Book G, page 360 of Patents. The property is owned by K. R. Nutting, P. O. Box 750, Salinas, Calif. The applicants, Messrs. Smith and Biaggini are lessees.

Surface rights to the land have apparently been leased to the "Colwell Land and Cattle Company" as judged from a sign posted at the entrance gate. The land is ideal for cattle grazing purposes and has been put to that use.

The copy of a lease between the applicant and the owners of the property was apparently forwarded to Washington, D.C. with the original application and was not examined by the engineer.

Mr. Virgil Smith is an experienced quicksilver miner. He is past middle age but appears to be in good health. Mr. Harold J. Biaggini has had but little mining experience. He has lived in the region most of his life and has been employed as a cattle rancher.

Underground workings are inaccessible, and no attempt had been made by the applicants to open any of them. A bulldozer had recently been used to freshly grade the surface of the mine roads. There was no activity at the open cut trench above and to the east of the portal of the No. 4 Tunnel. Only traces of cinnabar were observed there.

The applicants' share of the loan which they requested would amount to $21,509.75. They proposed to furnish that amount by

contributing equipment which they value at approximately $5,000.00, but the annual depreciation would amount to only $1,000.00. They proposed to furnish the balance with money. This balance would amount to about $20,509.75 and is more capital than they are financially able to raise unless an exploration loan was first granted.

The proposed exploration work outlined by the applicants or any similar equivalent work is a difficult undertaking except by experienced operators. The proposed shaft and drift would require heavy timber for ground support. Most of the proposed work would be within a wet sheared and brecciated fault zone. Virgil Smith reported that some water was encountered in deeper portions of the old mine where the flow amounted to about 30 gallons per minute.

DEVELOPMENT

The mine was developed by a series of tunnels running southerly into the hillside (see fig. 2). Ore mined below the elevation of the No. 1 tunnel had to be handled several times, consequently, mining costs were unusually high, according to Virgil Smith. The present condition of the mine workings (all of which are inaccessible) was undetermined. The best available information was obtained from Virgil Smith who claimed that the incline winze from the No. 1 Tunnel to the No. 2 Tunnel was caved about half way down from the collar in 1948. All of the workings required timber for ground support. Most of the workings are believed to be caved at the present time.

The following facilities are on the property:

1. One quicksilver rotary furnace treatment plant. Capacity 32 to 38 tons per day. Reported recovery 92 percent. See fig. 4 - condition fair.

2. One timber framing shed, containing miscellaneous used tools, equipment, and junk. Condition poor.

3. One house trailer - poor condition.

4. One small galvanized shed - condition fair.

5. One air compressor, 285 c.f.m. with receiver and 440 volt induction motor and belt drive - condition poor.

6. One bulldozer, HD-10, Allis Chalmers - condition fair.

7. Ten used mine cars; one in good condition, nine in poor condition.

8. Miscellaneous scrap timber, pipe and rail, air and water pipe lines, oil and water storage tanks, and scrap. Poor to fair condition.

Mining costs at the property were undoubtedly high because of the nature of the deposit. When the market price of quicksilver dropped in 1948, the mine was forced to close.

GENERAL GEOLOGY

The entire Buena Vista property lies in a wide shear zone which traverses graywacke and shale of the Franciscan group, generally assigned a Jurassic age. East of the mine area the Franciscan rocks and the shear zone are overlain by light-colored shale and siltstone of Miocene age.

The shear zone, which is the dominant structure of the mine area, trends westerly for many miles from the Buena Vista mine, and it reaches its maximum width of about a half a mile in the mine area.

Locally, as for example at the Klau mine less than half a mile west of the Buena Vista mine, the shear zone includes lenses of serpentine; but neither serpentine, nor its derivative, silica-carbonate rock, was seen on the Buena Vista property. The rocks in the shear zone near the mine consist of altered, probably kaolinized, graywacke and black shale, with a few lenses of chert and altered basic volcanic rocks. These rocks are highly, but not uniformly, sheared with discontinuous blocks of the harder rocks engulfed in a matrix of sheared shale. The gross structure within the zone is somewhat similar to normal fault breccias in that the directions of most of the shears, and the residual bedding in the shale, tend to conform to the outlines of the more resistant blocks rather than being parallel to the walls of the zone. The resulting shear zone is, therefore, characterized by innumerable shear or fault surfaces which are discontinuous, arcuate, and without apparent pattern to their distribution or orientation.

ORE DEPOSITS

The ore in the Buena Vista mine consist of cinnabar that fills minute fractures in the harder rocks and pore spaces in the altered graywacke. The ore bodies that have been found ranged in size from mere pods to bodies containing as much as 10,000 tons. The grade of the ore mined varied between 5 and 15 pounds of quicksilver to the ton.

The features responsible for the localization of the ore bodies could not be determined as the mine was inaccessible, but some inferences may be drawn from knowledge of the local geology and the distribution of stopes as shown on the accompanying map, figure 2.

The ore bodies are distributed without definite pattern through a northerly trending zone about 200 feet wide. This doubtless reflects some sort of cross structure, probably a zone of distributed shearing, transverse to the westerly trend of the main shear zone. Within this northerly trending zone, the ore bodies have a fairly random orientation, but the larger stopes all pitch southeasterly. Because of the highly sheared character of the ground, it is doubtful if the ore bodies are localized by any single continuous fault, and it is likely that they cross from one local structure to another. In many respects the deposits of the Buena Vista mine are very similar to those of the nearby, highly productive Klau mine, which had large ore bodies controlled by minor fractures transverse to the trend of the wide shear zone.

ORE RESERVES

There are no known ore reserves of any kind in the Buena Vista mine, although cinnabar is reported to have been found in several exploratory drill holes.

Judging from the proportion of ore bodies thus far mined along the mineralized zone, it is inferred that additional ore bodies may be discovered down the dip and along the strike of the zone. The triangular block to be explored that is bounded by the proposed shaft and drift (fig. 2) is about the same size as the triangular block that was mined. If it is assumed that unexplored parts of the mineralized zone contain about the same relative proportion of ore and waste as the parts already mined, the inferred reserves are

about the same as the total ore produced, or 24,000 ± tons. It is expected that any new ore bodies discovered would be about the same grade as the ore that was mined, or 8 pounds per ton.

PROPOSED EXPLORATION

The applicant proposes to put down a 400-foot shaft with a collar at an altitude of 1,350 feet, and to follow this with 700 feet of drifting some 68 feet below the lowest level. We believe better exploration can be accomplished at the same or less cost, and the same target area reached, by a shaft located 100 feet lower in the place indicated on figure 2, followed by 600 feet of drifting and 500 feet of diamond drilling. The drift proposed by the applicant would test only for the continuation of ore bodies that pitch southeasterly. The revised proposal would explore not only this same area but other areas underlying the old workings. Further advantages of less access road and 100 feet less shaft are gained by the proposed new site for the shaft collar.

The revised alternative program has been discussed with the applicant and meets with his approval.

ESTIMATED EXPLORATION COSTS

The alternate exploration program would involve sinking a new, two compartment (4'6" x 8'6" clear of timber), vertical, 320 foot shaft; preparing a station on 300-foot level; driving 600 feet of drift (5' x 7' clear of timber), and 600 feet of underground diamond drilling. Time required to complete the project would amount to at least 64 weeks or 16 months. Estimated rate of advance: Shaft - 2 feet per day; drifts - 4 feet per day.

a. Independent contracts

(1) Grading for shaft site, access road, starting shaft and construction of reinforced concrete collar, power line to shaft site, headframe and hoist house . . . . . $ 3,400.00

(2) Core drilling - Note from C. N. Schuette estimate 600 feet diamond drilling at $6/foot - BX size 3,600.00

b. Labor

Consulting engineer	$250/mo.	
Superintendent	600/mo.	
1 hoistman - $2/hr.	360/mo.	
1 topman - $1.75/hr.	350/mo.	
3 miners - $2/hr.	1080/mo.	
16 months at	$2640/mo.	42,240.00

c. Operating Material and Supplies

Timber at $80/M 64 M	$5,120	
Air & water pipe, 2000 feet 2-inch	1,000	
Drill steel & bits	300	
Air & water hose	160	
Pump column	500	
Hanger rods	300	
Powder fuse, caps & carbide	2,700	
Power	2,500	
Miscellaneous supplies & tools	1,000	
1400 feet 12# mine rail	500	
Fish plates, bolts & spikes	200	
1000 feet 12-inch ventilation pipe	1,250	
		15,530.00

d. Operating equipment

Used	
Mine hoist, single drum, 50 - horsepower motor, reversible drum controller with grids	$2,500
Ventilation blower & motor	400
Safety cross head	400
Sinking buckets (2)	200
Hoist cable - 5/8 inch plow steel 6/19	200
2 Jackhammers, wet, 1-inch hex chuck	900

d. Operating equipment (Cont'd.)

Sump & station pump with motor and cable	$2,000	
4 Mine cars, 18-inch gage, 20 cu. ft.	600	
1 Cage	700	
Mine safety equipment, First Aid equipment and breathing masks	400	
Miscellaneous mine tools	400	
		$ 8,700.00

The operator owns equipment which he values at $5,000. Most of this equipment would be of some value to the project, but equipment and supplies needed are listed above.

e. Initial rehabilitation and repairs (Listed above with Independent contracts)	-
f. New Buildings (Listed above with Independent contracts)	-
g. Insurance, OAB, Taxes, and State Unemployment - 15% of $42,240	$ 6,336.00
Cost of Project	$79,806.00*

*Note: See the following summary on a unit cost basis.

Shaft sinking, 2-compartment, 4'6" x 8'6" in clear, 320 feet at $145/ft.	$46,400.00
Drifting (new 300 level, elev. 950), 5' x 7' in clear, 600 feet at $49/ft.	29,600.00
Core drilling, BX size, from drift 600 feet at $6/ft.	3,600.00
Total	$79,600 or $80,000
Applicant's share 25%	$20,000
Government share 75%	$60,000

ESTIMATED PRODUCTION COSTS

Total gross cost of production from the estimated possible production of 24,000 tons of ore would approximate $541,000 broken down as follows:

DMEA exploration costs	$ 80,000
Additional exploration and development costs $2/ton	48,000
Mining 24,000 tons $14 (square sets)	336,000
Furnacing 24,000 tons at $3	72,000
Maintenance (2 years)	5,000
	$541,000

Fig. 1 LOCATION MAP CALIFORNIA

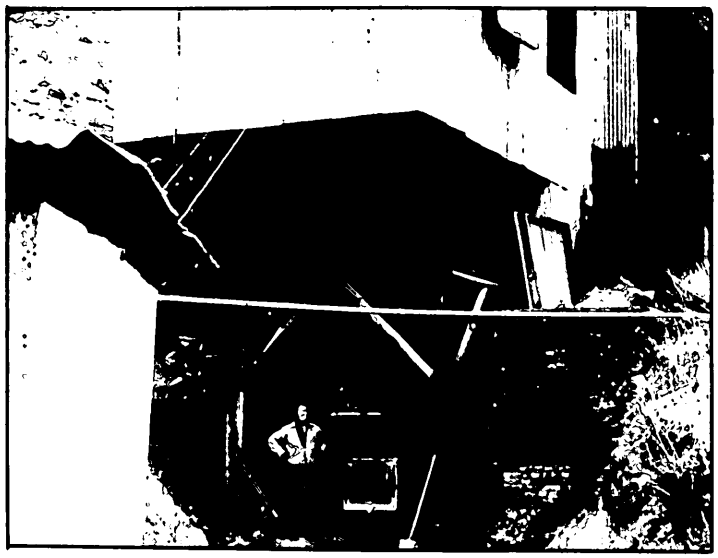


Photo No, 1. The burned rock bin under the furnace. Portal of No. 1. Tunnel to left of man.

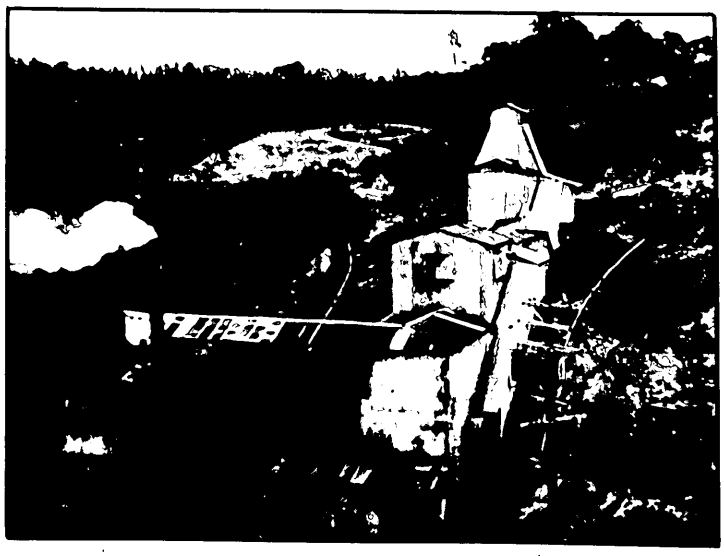
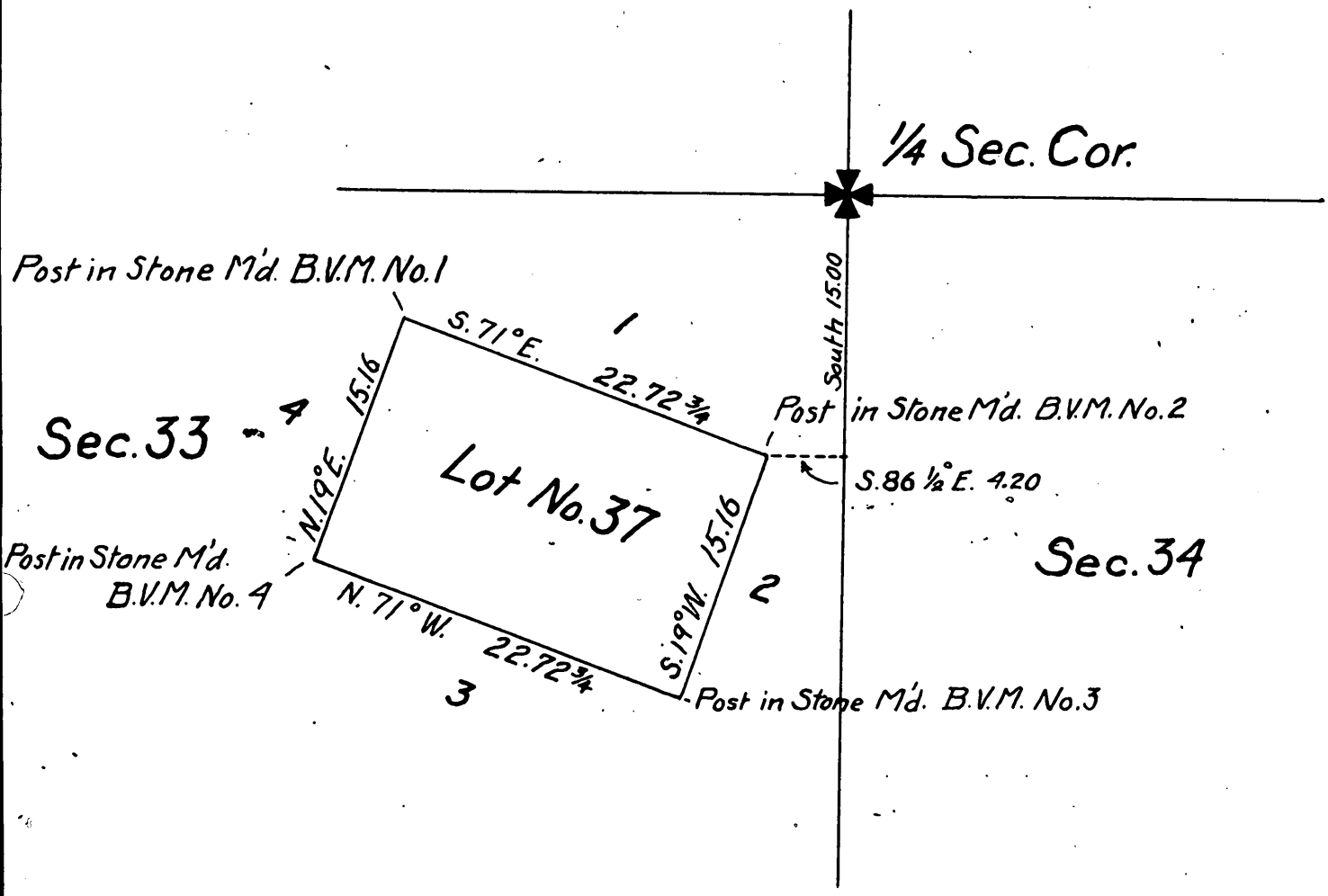


Photo No. 2. The furnace plant, showing condensers, wooden barrel and stack. Auxiliary water tank in center. P.G.& E. transformers on pole at lower right.

Note: Photographs from C.N. Schuette report. ~~15~~

FIGURE 4

Plat
of the claim of
Edward Mahoney
upon the
Buena Vista Quicksilver Mine
Salinas Mining District., S.L.O. County, Cal.,
containing 34-43/100 Acres. Scale - 10 chs. to 1 inch.
T. 26 S., R. 10 E., Mount Diablo Meridian. Var. 15-1/2° E.



This is a tracing taken from Patents, Book G, Page 363.

Patent Date: Oct. 22, 1874.

Recorded in the General Land Office, Vol. 12, Pages 339 to 345.

Recorded in San Luis Obispo, Feb. 6, 1901.

Note: From C.N. Schuette Report

Figure 3

C.N. Schuette

F.I.
Return to Report of Aug. 4, 1955
in Docket 3781

Map to go with F.T. report
dated 3781

DOCKET
SURNAME
Rutledge
400 Martin
Volin
Selfridge
Johnson

MAY 13 1955

Mr. Spangler Ricker, Executive Officer
DMEA Field Team, Region II
1685 Evans Avenue
Reno, Nevada

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3781 - Mercury
Smith & Biaggini
Buena Vista mine
San Luis Obispo County, California

Dear Mr. Ricker:

The above-docketed application for exploration assistance is being referred to your office for a field examination of the property.

Two copies of a relevant memorandum dated April 27, 1955, by E. L. Newcomb, Geological Survey, and of a memorandum dated May 12, 1955, by H. M. Meyer, Bureau of Mines, are enclosed for your information.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Selfridge

Chairman, Operating Committee (GCS)

Enclosure

APPROVED:

M. E. Volin for J. H. Hedges
Member, Bureau of Mines (GCS)

Thor H. Kiilsgaard
Member, Geological Survey (GCS)

FARutledge:foc
5-12-55
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Reading File
Operating Comm.
FT. REG. II
H. M. Meyer, USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS

R.C.S.

DOCKET
SURNAME

400 Rutledge
Martin
Kulsgaard
Valin
Selfridge
H. Johnson

MAY 13 1955

Smith & Biaggini
Buena Vista Mine
Adelaida Road
Paso Robles, California

Re: Docket No. DMEA 3781 - Mercury
Buena Vista mine
San Luis Obispo County, California

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the above-docketed application for exploration assistance which has been reviewed by the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration and referred to Mr. Spangler Ricker, Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region II, 1605 Evans Avenue, Reno, Nevada, for a field examination of the property.

Any assistance that you can give the members of the Field Team will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

C. O. Mittendorf

Administrator

FARutledge:foc
5-12-55
cc to: Docket
Code 400
Adm. Reading File
Operating Comm.
FT. REG. II
H. M. Meyer, USBM
T. H. Kiilsgaard, USGS

R.C.S.

This is one where
we might as well
have a recommendation
from Bureau of Mines

WSM
4/28/55

Docket

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Mer. rec. c.p.

May 12, 1955

Memorandum

To: William S. Martin, Chief, Iron & Ferro-Alloys Division

From: Helena M. Meyer, Assistant Chief, Branch of Base Metals

Subject: DMEA Docket 3781, Smith and Biaggini, Buena Vista mine, San Luis Obispo County, Calif., $85,434

The applicant proposes sinking a 420-foot shaft to a new level (at 950 feet) and drifting and crosscutting between 650 and 700 feet on that level.

There is no information in this office that would make possible an appraisal of the proposed work. U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 922-R contains, on page 559, a description on the Mahoney (Buena Vista) mine, and a statement that "Carefully planned drilling from the present workings toward the Klau mine would seem the best way to determine the future possibilities of the mine". The ground is heavy and in the long interval since the mine was last operated (1948), according to Schuette's report, the tunnels, inclined winzes and old square set stopes have caved. Schuette says that his experience in re-opening old workings would advise him against it.

Bureau of Mines records on production verify the data given in Schuette's report for years after 1903: individual mine figures for the Buena Vista mine for the earlier years given are not available in this office.

It is possible that there is adequate information in regional offices of the Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines on which to appraise this application, but barring that possibility I recommend that a Field Team examination be made.

Helena M. Meyer

Helena M. Meyer

Enclosure
Copy to: Division of Minerals
Branch of Base Metals
H. M. Meyer
F i l e s

Copy

Docket

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

April 27, 1955

Re: DMEA-3781
Smith & Biaggini
Buena Vista Mine
San Luis Obispo Co.,
California
$85,434 - Mercury

WSM

Memorandum

To: E. W. Ellis, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration

From: E. L. Newcomb, U. S. Geological Survey

Subject: Review of application

The operator has proposed a project which will consist of 420 feet of shaft sinking, and 700 feet of crosscutting and drifting on a new 950 foot level.

According to C. N. Schuette, past production through 1948 has totaled about 4,200 flasks of mercury.

A description of the Buena Vista (Mahoney) deposits is given in U.S.G.S. Bulletin 922-R, (1941) Quicksilver deposits in San Luis Obispo County and southwestern Monterey County, California.

"The Buena Vista ore shoots occur in a strongly kaolinized breccia of shale. Most of them have indefinite limits, but some are definitely bounded by northwest-trending shear planes. Cinnabar occurs as stringers and disseminations in the shale breccia or as blebs, intimately associated with pyrite, in masses of white to green clay. The mine contained at least four ore shoots that have been stoped out. These shoots appear to have been controlled by a series of nearly parallel minor shear planes, but the evidence is not conclusive. They are in general roughly lenticular and relatively small. More ore shoots may yet be discovered on the property. Carefully planned drilling from the present workings toward the Klau mine (one half mine southwest of the Buena Vista) would seem the best way to determine the future possibilities of the mine."

Although drilling from the lower workings has been done, the records of the results were destroyed by fire. As the old workings are inaccessible, some new drilling will be required before deep underground exploration can be justified.

I recommend the application be referred to the Field Team for their examination. A modified drilling project should be considered, if DMEA assistance is geologically justified.

E. L. Newcomb

E. L. Newcomb

April 20, 1955
Subject: DMEA 3781
Re: Exploration Assistance
Buena Vista Mine

Smith & Biaggini
Buena Vista Mine
Adelaida Road
Paso Robles, California

Gentlemen:

The receipt of your application dated April 11, 1955 for exploration assistance under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended, is hereby acknowledged.

Your application has been assigned Docket Number DMEA 3781 and referred to the Rare and Miscellaneous Metals Division.

Kindly identify all future correspondence relating to your application by this docket number.

Sincerely yours,

Robert E. Adams, Chief
Operations Control and
Statistics Division

April 20, 1955

Memorandum

To: Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region II

From: Chief, Operation's Control and Statistics Division

Subject: Assignment of Docket Number

There is listed below the assigned docket number to an application recently received from Region II.

DMEA-3781 Smith & Biaggini

Robert E. Adams,
Chief, Operation's Control
and Statistics Division

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1605 Evans Avenue
Reno, Nevada

April 14, 1955

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA, Interior Bldg., Washington 25, D. C.

From: Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region II

Subject: Loan Application (mercury)
Smith & Biaggini
Buena Vista Mine
San Luis Obispo County, California

Attached are three sets of MF-103, Application for Aid forms relative to above subject. The fourth set has been retained in our files.

S. Ricker

Encls.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1605 Evans Avenue
Reno, Nevada

April 14, 1955

Memorandum

To: Operating Committee, DMEA, Interior Bldg., Washington 25, D.C.

From: Executive Officer, DMEA Field Team, Region II

Subject: Loan Application (mercury)
Smith & Biaggini
Buena Vista Mine
San Luis Obispo County, California

Attached are three sets of MF-103, Application for Aid forms relative to above subject. The fourth set has been retained in our files.

S. Ricker

Encls.

SRicker:gh
cc: H. C. Miller
R. M. Smith
File

MF-103
(Revised April 1952)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION

Form Approved.
Budget Bureau No. 42-R1035.2.

APPLICATION FOR AID IN AN EXPLORATION PROJECT, PURSUANT TO DMEA ORDER 1, UNDER THE DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT OF 1950, AS AMENDED

Not to be filled in by applicant

Docket No. 3781
Metal or Mineral Mercury
Date Received 4/13/55 4-18-55
Estimated Cost $85,434
Participation (Government %)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. *Name of applicant.*—(*a*) State here your full legal name, in the form in which you will wish to contract, and your mailing address: Smith & Biaggini
Buena Vista Mine
Adelaida Road
Paso Robles, California

(*b*) If other than an individual, add to your name above whether a corporation, partnership, etc., and the name of the State in which incorporated or otherwise organized.

(*c*) If a corporation, add to above statement, titles, names and addresses of officers.

(*d*) If a partnership, add to the above statement the names and addresses of all partners.

2. *General.*—Read DMEA Order 1, "Government Aid in Defense Exploration Projects," before completing this application. Submit this application and all accompanying papers in quadruplicate (four copies), with your name and address on each sheet of the application and on all accompanying papers. Where sufficient space is not provided on the form for all required information, state it on an accompanying paper, with a reference in each case to the instruction to which it refers by number. Comply with all applicable instructions; or, if not applicable, so state. File the application with Defense Minerals Exploration Administration, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., or with the nearest field executive officer thereof.

3. *Applicant's property rights.*—(*a*) State the legal description of the land upon which you wish to explore, including all land which you possess or control that may be benefited by the exploration, and excluding any land or interest in land which is not to be included in the exploration project contract Lot 37 Section 33 T.26 S. R. 10 E. M.D.B.M.

(*b*) State any mine name by which the property is known. Buena Vista Mine

(*c*) State your interest in the land, whether owner, lessee, purchaser under contract, or otherwise Lessee

(*d*) If you are not the owner, submit with this application a copy of the lease, contract, or other document under which you control the property.

(*e*) If you own the land, describe any liens or encumbrances on it

(*f*) If the land consists of unpatented claims, add to the description above, the book and page numbers for each recorded location notice.

4. *Physical description.*—(*a*) Describe in detail any mining or exploration operations which have been or now are being conducted upon the land, including existing mine workings and production facilities. State your interest, if any, in such operations. Also describe accessibility of mine workings for examination purposes. Not accessible.

(*b*) State past and current production, and ore reserves, if any, giving quantities and grades. Past production - 4178 flasks quicksilve

(*c*) Describe the geologic features of the property, including mineralization, type of deposit (vein, bedded, etc.), and your reasons for wishing to explore. Illustrate with maps or sketches. Send with your application (but not necessarily as a part of it) any geologic or engineering report, assay maps, or other technologic information you may have, indicating on each whether you require its return to you. Orebodies in shear zones of Franciscan sandstones.

(*d*) State the facts with respect to the accessibility of the project: Access roads, distances to shipping, supply and residence points. 16 miles by paved road from Paso Robles.

(*e*) State the availability of manpower, materials, supplies, equipment, water, and power.

All available.

16—66551-1

5. *The exploration project.*—(*a*) State the mineral or minerals for which you wish to explore Quicksilver

(*b*) Describe fully the proposed work, including a map or sketch of the property showing a plan (and cross sections if needed) of any present mine workings, and the location of the proposed exploration work as related to such features as contacts, veins, ore-bearing beds, etc. See attached report.

(*c*) The work will start within 10 days and be completed within 11 months from the date of an exploration project contract.

(*d*) State the operating experience and background of the applicant with relation to the ability to carry out such exploration project, and also that of the person or persons who will supervise the operations. Experienced in quicksilver & chromite mining.

6. *Estimate of costs.*—Furnish a detailed estimate of the costs of the proposed work (you will have to use a separate sheet), under the following headings. Add the totals under all headings to give the estimated total cost of the project: See report.

(*a*) *Independent contracts.*—(Note.—If the applicant does not intend to let any of the work to contractors, write "none" after this item. To the extent that the work is to be contracted, do not repeat the cost of the contract-work in subsequent items.) State the cost of any proposed independent contracts for the performance of all or any part of the work, expressed in terms of units of work (such as per foot of drilling, per foot of drifting, per hour of bulldozer operations, per cubic yard of material moved, etc.). None

(*b*) *Labor, supervision, consultants.*—Include an itemized schedule of numbers, classes and rates of wages, salaries or fees for necessary labor, supervision and engineering and geological consultants. See report pages 11 and 13.

(*c*) *Operating materials and supplies.*—Furnish an itemized list, including items of equipment costing less than $50 each, and power, water and fuel. See report pages 10, 11, 13.

(*d*) *Operating equipment.*—Furnish an itemized list of any operating equipment to be rented, purchased, or which is owned and will be furnished by the Operator, with the estimated rental, purchase price, or suggested use-allowance based on present value, as the case may be. See report pages 11, and 13.

(*e*) *Rehabilitation and repairs.*—Furnish a detailed list showing the cost of any necessary initial rehabilitation or repairs of existing buildings, installations, fixtures, and movable operating equipment, now owned by the Operator and which will be devoted to the exploration project. See attached sheet 6 E.

(*f*) *New buildings, improvements, installations.*—Furnish a detailed list showing the cost of any necessary buildings, fixed improvements, or installations to be purchased, installed or constructed for the benefit of the exploration project. att sht 6 F.

(*g*) *Miscellaneous.*—Furnish a detailed list showing the cost of repairs to and maintenance of operating equipment (not including initial rehabilitation or repairs of the Operator's equipment), analytical work, accounting, workmen's compensation and employers' liability insurance, and payroll taxes. See report page 11.

(*h*) *Contingencies.*—Give an estimate of any necessary allowances for contingencies not included in the costs stated above.

NOTE.—No items of general overhead, corporate management, interest, taxes (other than payroll and sales taxes), or any other indirect costs, or work performed or costs incurred before the date of the contract, should be included in the estimate of costs.

7. (*a*) Are you prepared to furnish your share of the cost of the proposed project in accordance with the regulations on Government participation (Sec. 7, DMEA No. 1)? Yes.

(*b*) How do you propose to furnish your share of the costs? See attached sheet 7 B.

[X] Money [X] Use of equipment owned by you [ ] Other

Explain in detail on acompanying paper.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, whether as an individual, corporate officer, partner, or otherwise, both in his own behalf and acting for the applicant, certifies that the information set forth in this form and accompanying papers is correct and complete, to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Dated April 11, 1955

Smith & Biaggini
(Applicant)

By Wardell J. Biaggini

Title 18, U. S. Code (Crimes), Section 1001, makes it a criminal offense to make a willfully false statement or representation to any department or agency of the United States as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—66551-1

BUENA VISTA MINE

ADELAIDA ROAD
PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA

VIRGIL SMITH,
Box 265 - Phone 989-J
Atascadero, California

HAROLD J. BIAGGINI,
Adelaida Road - Phone 9F31
Paso Robles, California

HOME OFFICE:
Box 750,
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

6 E.	Moving fan and fan house to shaft site	$ 100.00
	Moving compressor to shaft site	60.00
		$ 160.00
6 F.	Compressor building - pipe and iron	$ 200.00
	Labor	200.00
	Timber and concrete etc.	125.00
		$ 525.00
	Timber shed and tool room & galv. iron	$ 320.00
	Lumber	150.00
	Bolts, nails, etc.	50.00
	Labor	400.00
		$ 920.00

All the above costs are in addition to the total of the final report.

7 B. Approximately $5000 to be furnished in equipment. The balance will be furnished in money.

Report on

The Buena Vista Quicksilver Mine

in San Luis Obispo County, California

by C. N. Schuette.

C. N. SCHUETTE
CONSULTING MINING ENGINEER
TELEPHONE SEBASTOPOL 6690
6390 BARNETT VALLEY ROAD
SEBASTOPOL, CALIFORNIA

February 1 1955.

Messrs. Smith and Biaggini,
Route 1, Box 265,
Atascadero, California.

Gentlemen,

Herewith I submit to you a report on an exploration program for the Buena Vista Quicksilver Mine in San Luis Obispo County, California. In this report I have endeavored to give all the information required by the forms that you will have to fill out for the Defense Minerals Exploration Administration.

This report is based on data gathered during a visit to the property in January 1955, on published and private data on the mine and on my general experience in quicksilver mining.

Cost estimates are based on recent quotations for machinery and supplies.

Maps and photographs to illustrate the subject matter are included in the report.

Briefly, I propose an exploration program to start with sinking a 400 foot shaft to reach the 950 foot level. This to be followed by drifting along the strike for some 500 feet and then crosscutting at various places for a total of 200 feet.

The cost of this exploration program is estimated at $35,434 and the time needed for its completion will be some 42 weeks. These estimates are based on current wages and on working 2 shifts per day on a 6 day week.

C. N. Schuette.

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Report on the Buena Vista Quicksilver Mine
in San Luis Obispo County, California.
by C. N. Schuette.

Location: The Buena Vista Quicksilver Mine is located in Section 33, T. 26 S., R. 10 E., M.D.B.M., in the Salinas Mining District of San Luis Obispo County, California. It is best reached by the Adelaida Road running from Paso Robles to Cambria on the coast. The distance from Paso Robles to the mine is 16 miles over a good road.

Property: The property consists of one patented mining claim, 1000 x 1500 feet in area. It covers some 34.43 acres. The end lines run S 19° W for 1000 feet and the side lines run S 71° E for 1500 feet. The claim is recorded by government patent in San Luis Obispo County in Book G, page 360 of Patents. The property is owned by K. R. Nutting, P.O. Box 750, Salinas, California.

Description of the Property: The general area around the mine is one of low rounded hills covered with a sparse growth of timber and brush. The elevation is between 1100 and 1500 feet. The county road runs along the western end line of the property, rising to the south. East of this road is a ravine draining to the north and east of this ravine is the hill in which lie the mine workings. The climate is temperate, tho there are hot days in summer and freezing days in winter. Rainfall in winter is moderately heavy.

The mine is developed by a series of tunnels running SW, S and SE into the hill. Deeper levels were developed by inclined winzes from these tunnel levels. The lowest tunnel is at elevation 1200 feet. Its portal is roughly 300 feet south of the NW corner of the property.

The reduction plant is located at the portal of this lowest tunnel which is called No. 1 Tunnel. The plant consists of a 20 ton coarse-ore bin, feeding a 12 x 8 inch crusher run by a 15 HP motor. The crushed ore passes to a 100 ton fine-ore bin.

From the fine-ore bin the ore is fed to a 3 x 42 foot rotary kiln with a Pacific Foundry reciprocating feeder. The burned rock bin is a steel bin shown in Photo No. 1. From it the spent rock is trammed to the dump. The kiln gases are cleaned in a 12" Sirocco Dust Collector and then go to the condenser. The condenser is a double line of 12" i.d. cast iron pipes, 20 feet high and 15 pipes in each row. These are followed by one wooden barrel with a wooden stack on top of it as shown in Photo No. 2. The gases are moved thru the condenser system by an exhauster set between the iron pipes and the wooden barrel. A 15 HP motor runs the exhauster. The furnace treats 32 to 38 tons of ore per day with a daily consumption of some 300 gallons of fuel oil.

The water supply for the camp and plant comes by gravity from springs higher on the hill. A 15,000 gallon tank provides storage together with a 4,000 gallon auxiliary tank set just above the plant.

No bunk house or boarding house is needed as some of the men live near the mine and many of them live in Paso Robles,

a 30 minute drive distant over a good road. Mine labor is available in fair supply, many of them being of Mexican extraction.

Power for the operation is furnished by the Pacific Gas & Electric Company.

History of the Mine: The Buena Vista Mine (also known as the Mahoney or the Gould and Mahoney Mine) was discovered in 1874 (the average price of quicksilver was $105.18 per flask in that year which stimulated prospecting), some 12 years after quicksilver ore was first discovered in this district in the neighboring Little Bonanza Mine.

The mine was first worked by some San Jose people in 1875 and 1876, who erected a Knox-Osborne coarse-ore furnace on the property. The ore was made into adobes for treatment in this furnace. Production in 1876 was 1240 flasks. By this time the price of quicksilver had dropped from $105 to $44 per flask and it dropped further in the following years, so operations were shut down and there was no further work done until 1899 when lessees began working the mine. H.W. Gould was in charge of this work for the last half of 1899 and for 1900 and 242 flasks were produced with a 12 pipe Johnson-McKay retort. Some of the old workings were reopened and a large tonnage of furnace ore was developed but there was no capital available to build a furnace plant. After a few years of intermittant retort operations a long period of idleness ensued.

From that time to World War II, small operations were carried on by Arata & Putman in 1916 by L.D. Purdy in 1931-34, by E.E. Lynch in 1935, by Houser of San Jose in 1938 and by Roy

Wyatt in 1939. If this record were complete the names of many other lessees would be added to those named above.

The recorded production for the mine, as nearly complete as I could determine it, is as follows:

Production Record of Buena Vista Mine

Year	Flasks produced	Average Annual Price	Value of Production
1876	1240	44.00	$ 54,560.00
1899	203	47.70	9,683.10
1900	39	44.94	1,752.66
1901	74	48.46	3,586.04
1902	75	43.20	3,240.00
1903	150	45.29	6,793.50
1929	5	122.15	610.75
1930	5	115.01	575.05
1932	2	57.93	115.86
1933	2	59.23	118.46
1935	4	71.99	287.96
1938	7	75.47	528.29
1939	15	103.94	1,559.10
1940	94	176.87	16,625.78
1941	27	185.02	4,995.54
1942	106	196.35	20,813.10
1943	479	195.21	93,505.59
1944	296	118.36	35,034.56
1945	855	134.89	115.330.95
1947	425	83.74	35,589.50
1948	75	76.49	5,736.75
	4,178		$ 411,042.54
	1443		
	2735		

At present prices this production would be worth one and one third million dollars.

The original production in 1876 was made with a furnace, then only retorts were used until the present furnace plant was built in 1941.

Today, the mine is owned by K. R. Nutting and is under lease to Virgil Smith and Harold I. Biaggini, both experienced miners doing business as Smith & Biaggini, Route 1, Box 265, Atascadero, California. At the time of my visit to the property in January 1955, the plant was on production with ore coming from an open cut, above and to the east of the portal of No. 4 Tunnel.

Geology of the Buena Vista Mine: The mine lies in a strongly faulted area of Franciscan sandstones and shales. The Las Tablas fault (See Plate 78 of U.S.G.S. Bulletin 922-R which describes the geology of the area and the mines), striking N 60°W, separates Tertiary rocks on the north from Franciscan rocks on the south side. It is not mineralized and forms the northern boundary of the mineralized area. South of Las Tablas fault, are older faults in the Franciscan strata and a great area between these older faults has been strongly sheared and brecciated. The Klau, Buena Vista and Capitola quicksilver mines all lie in this fault zone of kaolinized, brecciated shale. Silica-carbonate rock and serpentine are found west of the Klau mine (which in turn lies west of the Buena Vista) but they occur hardly at all in the mines mentioned.

The mineralization on the property of the Buena Vista mine is extensive as shown by numerous surface prospects. In early operations such surface showings were followed into the hill and other orebodies were found by accident or by blind prospecting underground. The more extensive work done in the decade starting with World War II has brought out the general pattern of the ore deposition.

From the mine map (in the pocket at the end of this report) it is apparent that the general strike of the ore shoots is S 15° E. The general dip of the ore occurrence can be seen on the E - W projection of the stopes (called North Elevation) on Wyatt's map in pocket at end of report. This shows the dip from the outcrop of the sandstone orebody, down thru No. 1 stope above No. 2 Level, then thru No. 2 Underhand Stope, thru No. 1 Stope on No. 3 Level and the winze below No. 4 Level, to be roughly 45° to the east.

The individual ore shoots are irregular in size and shape and are controlled by shearing in the rocks just like the ore shoots in the neighboring Klau and Libertad mines which I have also examined. Despite local irregularities the general pattern of the ore deposition is clearly apparent.

Present Condition of the Mine: As is to be expected in orebodies in a mineral-impregnated, kaolinized-shale, the ground is heavy and square sets must be used for mining, both because of the irregularity of the orebodies and the heaviness of the ground.

In the long interval since 1948 when mining stopped, the tunnels, and inclined winzes and the old square set stopes have caved. My own experience in re-opening old workings would make me advise against trying it.

On the mine map drawing, I have shown the position of diamond drill holes in dash and dot lines. This showing is not complete. In general, 5 holes were fanned out from each set up, pointing down, horizontally and up. The cores were assayed at the mine and the sludge was panned. The records of this drilling

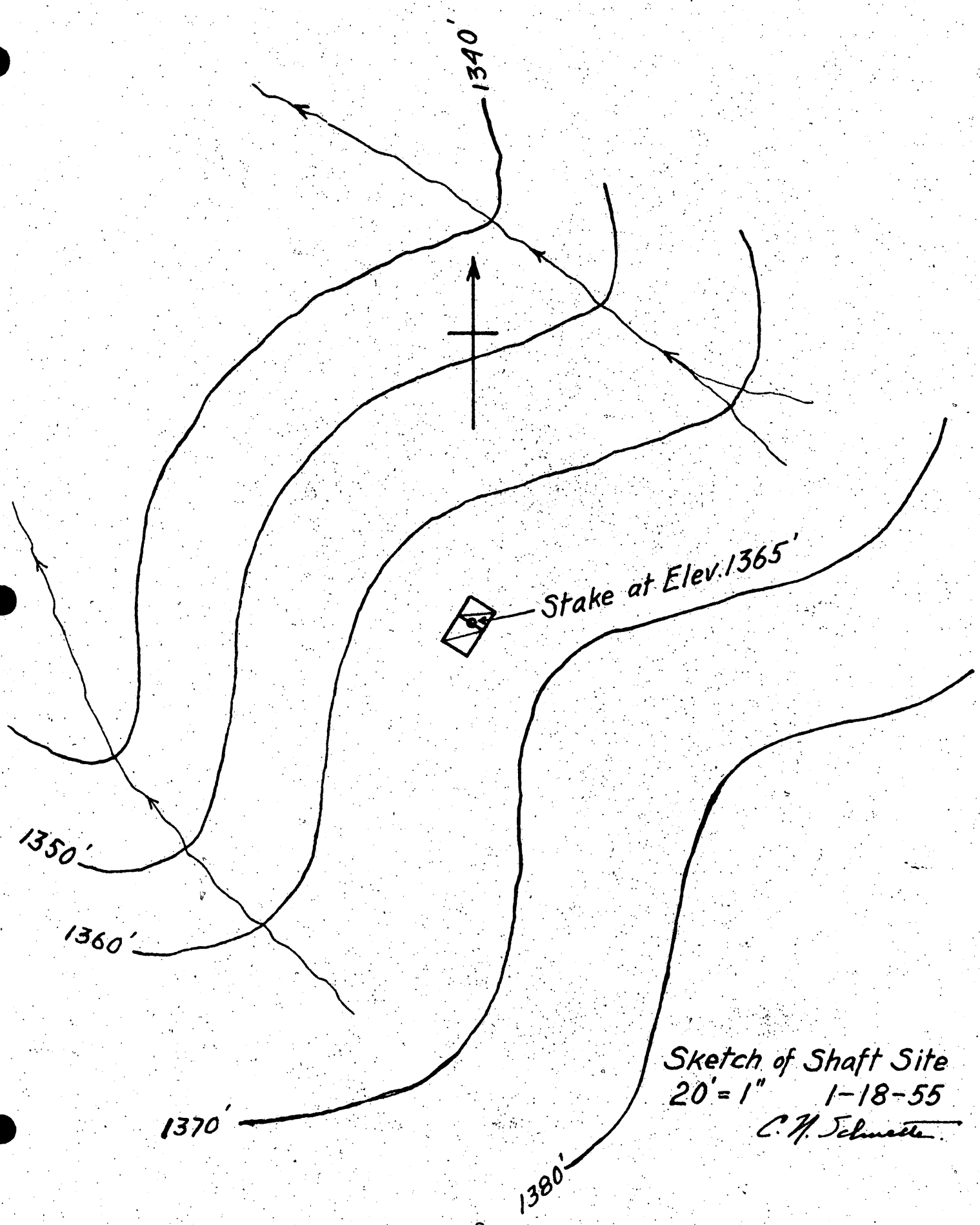
except for a partial record on one map (which I used in drawing the map) were destroyed in a fire of the mine office. However, Virgil Smith, who supervised the drilling and is one of the lessees, assures me that the down holes drilled from No. 4 Tunnel Level showed good ore running from 6 to as high as 15 lbs/ton.

Future Operation: We have these facts to go on: 1. There was ore left on the margins of the old stopes on several levels which can be mined by coming up from below. 2. Short hole, core drilling indicated the downward continuation of known ore-bodies along the general strike and dip of the ore occurrence.

What is needed is exploration in depth along the strike of the ore occurrence and below the present workings.

The topography of the ground is such that exploration by tunnel is not feasible. I examined the possibilities of gaining depth by inclined and vertical shafts. After due consideration I propose the sinking of a vertical shaft at the location shown on my mine map. A sketch contour map of the site is given on page 8. This shaft would go down in ground away from all old workings and would bottom in or near the ore zone. The collar elevation would be 1350 feet. The location is accessible, being near an existing road that leads to the plant and also to the county road.

Ample dump room and space for storing timber and other supplies will be available when the site has been leveled. A 400 foot shaft would take us to elevation 950, some 68 feet below the lowest present level. 500 feet of drifting would explore the strike of the ore occurrence and 200 feet of crosscutting should serve to explore the width of the ore zone at this level.



Sketch of Shaft Site
20' = 1" 1-18-55
C. H. Schmelle

Proposed Exploration Program:

1. Level shaft site to collar elevation 1350 with a bulldozer; make a second cut at about elevation 1360 for the hoisthouse some 30 to 40 feet back from the shaft; extend nearby road to shaft site.

2. Start shaft (8' deep) and concrete the collar for the first set, bolting 8 x 8 end and side plates to the concrete. Put in the first set of hanging rods before pouring concrete.

3. Run power line from transformers to shaft site. Make provision for connecting to hoist, compressor? and blower, and for installing transformer for 110 volt circuit for lights and power tools.

4. Erect headframe and hoist and hoist house (use pipe frame and galvanized iron for sheathing). Install safety cross-head, sinking bucket, swinging chute and bin. Install blower for ventilation.

5. Sink 420 feet (20 foot sump).

6. Cut station at 950 level.

7. Crosscut 50 feet to east to allow a 40 foot pillar around the shaft.

8. Drift to SE and NW on strike for 500 feet total.

9. Crosscut where indicated for a total length of 150 feet (probably 3 or 4 crosscuts will be needed.

Cost Estimate of the Exploration Program:

1. Grading for shaft site and road approach $250

2. Starting shaft and concreting collar 250

3. Run power line to shaft site and install transformer for 110 volt circuit 400

4. Headframe Erection.

4000 bd. ft. timber	$320	
Tie rods and iron work	300	
Labor	1200	
Miscellaneous material	180	
Sheave	100	2,000

Hoist House and base for hoist

Pipe and galv. iron	200	
Labor	200	
Welding gas, bolts, windows	100	500

5. Sinking.

Size of shaft, 4'-6" x 8'-6" in clear.
420 feet @ 6' centers = 70 sets needed.

Timber needed per set:

2 wall plates	8 x 8 x 9'-10" long)	
2 end plates	8 x 8 x 5'-10" long)	2 - 8 x 8 x 16' long
4 corner posts	8 x 8 x 5'- 6" long)	2 - 8 x 8 x 12' long
2 center posts	6 x 8 x 5'- 6" long)	
1 divider	6 x 8 x 4'- 8" long)	1 - 6 x 8 x 16' long
24 lagging	2 x 12 x 6'- 0" long)	12 - 2 x 12 x 12' long

Also skip guides to be 4 x 6 dressed.
ladder rails 2 x 4
ladder rungs 1 x 4

Total timber needed for shaft:

140 - 8 x 8 x 16' long =	11,947 bd. ft.	wall & end plates
140 - 8 x 8 x 12' long =	8,960 bd. ft.	corner posts
70 - 6 x 8 x 16' long =	4,480 bd. ft.	center post & div.
70 - 4 x 6 x 14' long =	1,960 bd. ft.	skip guides (dr)
70 - 2 x 4 x 16' long =	747 bd. ft.	ladder rails
44 - 1 x 4 x 16' long =	235 bd. ft.	ladder rungs
840 - 2 x 12 x 12' long =	20,160 bd. ft.	lagging
	48,489 bd. ft.	total

Equipment:	Used 50 HP Single Drum Mine Hoist, geared to 50 HP continuous duty motor, with reversible drum controller and resistance grids and depth indicator & extra brake	$2,100
	Used 12 x 10 Sullivan compressor, 360 cu. ft. with 50 HP G.E. Slip Ring 440 v. motor and control. Flat belt drive and idler	1,650
	Blower and motor	400
	Safety Cross Head	375
	Sinking buckets (2)	150
	Hoist rope, 750 feet, 5/8" Plow Steel cable 6/19 with safety hook, thimble spliced on	200
	2 C.D. #S-55 Jackhammers, wet, 1" hex chuck	800
	Sump & station pump	2,000
		$ 7,675
Supplies:	Timber, 48,489 bd. ft. @ $80/M	3,880
	400 ft. 2" black pipe (comp air)	150
	400 ft. 2" black pipe (water)	150
	400 ft. 10", 22 ga. g.i. vent pipe	400
	Drill steel and bits	190
	Air hose and water hose	110
	Pump column	500
	Hangrods, washers, etc.	300
	Powder, fuse, caps and carbide	1,000
	Power	1,000
	Miscellaneous	1,000
		$ 8,680

Labor:

Men needed per shift:		Cost per 6 day week:
1 hoistman @ $2/hr.		$ 104
1 top man) 3 miners)	4 @ $1.75/hr	364
1 foreman		175
		$ 643

Then with two shifts per day the labor cost for sinking would be $1286 per 6-day week. To this must be added 15.5% for OAB, UI and Comp. Ins., and this brings the total to $1486.

Two shifts should make an advance of 5' per day or 30 feet per week.

Summary of sinking cost per foot: (420')

Equipment	$ 18.27
Supplies	20.66
Labor	49.53
	$ 88.46 per foot.

6. Shaft Station

For a station on the 950 level, I figure a 14' station set, one extra set 14' high the width of the shaft and three sets more the full width of the shaft, top lagged with 4 x 12, side lagged with 2 x 12.

Timber needed:

6 - 8 x 8 - 14' long	= 448 bd. ft.	sta. set posts
5 - 8 x 8 - 10' long	= 267 bd. ft.	sta. set caps
40 - 4 x 12 - 5' long	= 800 bd. ft.	top lagging
8 - 8 x 8 - 8' long	= 341 bd. ft.	sta. posts
88 - 2 x 12 - 5' long	= 880 bd. ft.	side lagging
	2736 bd. ft.	

The station can be put in by two shifts in 1 week

Cost of Shaft Station:

Timber	$ 240
Labor	1486
Total	$1726

7. Crosscutting and Drifting

After cutting the station, there will be 680 feet of drifting and crosscutting left to do. This work can be advanced 5 feet per day of two shifts. Total time needed then will be 136 days or 23 weeks.

Drift sets of 8 x 8 posts, 7'-6" high under the cap, 4' clear width under the cap and 6' between posts at the bottom, spaced 5' on centers, full top lagging, requires 32 bd. ft. of timber per foot. Say that side lagging is needed for half the sets, then timber requirements would be 44 bd. ft. per foot.

Equipment needed for Drifting and Crosscutting:

4 - mine cars, 20 cu. ft. 18" gauge roller bearing	$ 580
1 - cage	700
	$1,280

Supplies needed for Drifting and Crosscutting:

1400' of 12# rail	500
Fish plates, bolts, spikes	100
700 feet, 10", 22 ga. g.i. vent. pipe	700
650 feet 2" black pipe (comp. air)	225
650 feet 2" black pipe (water)	225
4 x 6 ties for track	150
Steel and bits	200
Powder, fuse, caps and carbide	1700
Power	1500
Timber	2400
	$ 7,700

Labor needed for Crosscutting and Drifting:

23 weeks @ $1486 per week $34,178

Summary of Drifting and Crosscutting Cost (680')

Equipment	$ 1.88
Supplies	11.32
Labor	50.26
Total	$ 63.46 per foot

Summary of Cost of Exploration Program:

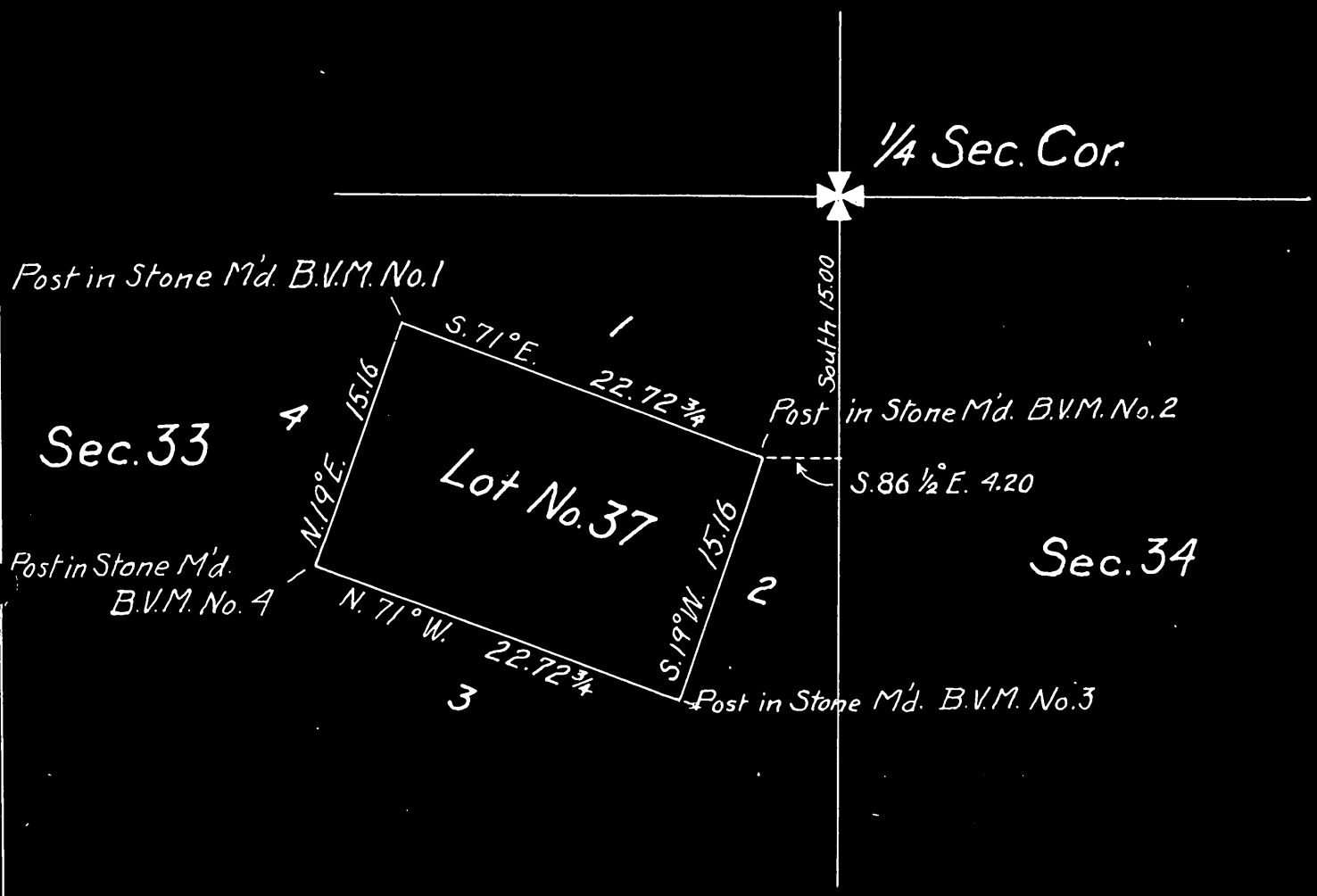
1. Grading for shaft site and road approach			$ 250
2. Starting shaft and concreting collar			250
3. Power line to shaft site, etc.			400
4. Headframe and hoist house erection			2,500
5. Sinking 420 feet,	Equipment	7675	
	Supplies	8680	
	Labor	20,795	37,150
6. Station at 950 Level			1,726
7. Crosscutting and Drifting,	Equipment	1280	
	Supplies	7700	
	Labor	34,178	43,158
Total cost of exploration program			$ 85,434

Time Schedule of Exploration Program

This schedulo is based on an operation of 2 shifts per day and a 6 day week.

Grading	1 week
Erecting Headframe, Starting Shaft, Installing Power Line and setting up hoist and building hoist house	3 weeks
Sinking 420 feet	14 weeks
Shaft Station	1 week
Crosscutting and Drifting	23 weeks
Total	42 weeks

Plat
of the claim of
Edward Mahoney
upon the
Buena Vista Quicksilver Mine
Salinas Mining District., S.L.O. County, Cal.,
containing 34-43/100 Acres. Scale - 10 chs. to 1 inch.
T. 26 S., R. 10 E., Mount Diablo Meridian. Var. 15-1/2° E.



This is a tracing taken from Patents, Book G, Page 363.

Patent Date: Oct. 22, 1874.

Recorded in the General Land Office, Vol. 12, Pages 339 to 340.

Recorded in San Luis Obispo, Feb. 6, 1901.

C. H. Schmitt

THIS LEASE AND AGREEMENT, made and entered into this 23rd day of MARCH, 1955, by and between K. R. NUTTING, of Salinas, California, hereinafter designated "Lessor", and VIRGIL SMITH and HAROLD J. BIAGGINI, hereinafter designated "Lessees",

W I T N E S S E T H :

1. Lessor leases and lets unto Lessees and Lessees hire and rent of and from the Lessor that certain quicksilver mine situated in the Paso Robles Mining District in the County of San Luis Obispo, California, commonly known as the Buena Vista or Mahoney Quicksilver Mine and more particularly described as follows:

> Lot No. 37, embracing a portion of the south half of Section 33 in Township 26 South, Range 10 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, in Salinas Mining District, in the County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, in the district of lands subject to sale at San Francisco, embracing 34.43 acres, more or less, and which said land is more particularly set forth and described in the patent issued therefor by the Government of the United States, and recorded in the office of the County Recorder of San Luis Obispo County, State of California, in Book G, Page 360, of Patents, and reference being had to said record of said patent, a fuller and more complete description of said lands will appear, and upon which property what is known as the Buena Vista or Mahoney Quicksilver Mine is located;

together with the buildings, structures and improvements and the machinery, appurtenances, equipment, tools and implements situated thereon and described in "Exhibit A", hereto attached and made a part hereof, for a term of ten (10) years, commencing on the 23rd day of March, 1955, and continuing to and including the 22nd day of March, 1965.

2. On the condition that Lessees shall faithfully keep and perform each and all of the terms and conditions hereof and as a condition precedent thereto, Lessor grants unto Lessees the right and option to extend the term of this lease for an additional period of ten (10) years commencing on the 23rd day of March, 1965, and ending on the 22nd day of March, 1975, which said option should be exercised by written notice given to Lessor not later than March 1, 1965.

3. As and for the rental of said premises Lessor shall be paid a royalty dependent upon the sale price of quicksilver produced from said premises as follows: Up to $225.00 per flask, twenty percent (20%) thereof; from $226.00 to $235.00 per flask, twenty-one percent (21%) thereof; from $236.00 to $245.00 per flask, twenty-two percent

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW
MONTEREY COUNTY BANK BLDG.
TELEPHONE 7628
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

(22%) thereof; from $246.00 to $255.00 per flask, twenty-three percent (23%) thereof; from $256.00 to $265.00 per flask, twenty-four percent (24%) thereof; and for all of $266.00 or over per flask, twenty-five percent (25%) thereof. All cinnibar mined on said premises and/or any and all quicksilver refined therefrom shall be sold in the name of Lessor and all proceeds of sale therefrom shall be sent directly to Lessor at Salinas, California, and Lessor shall deduct therefrom his share thereof as and for said rental and shall remit the balance thereof to Lessees. Lessees may also do custom milling of cinnibar on said leased premises provided that such custom milling shall not interfere with or delay the milling of ore mined from the leased premises, and provided further that Lessor shall be paid the sum of $1.50 per ton of all cinnibar so milled by Lessees for others on said leased premises.

4. During the term hereof, the Lessees shall, subject to the right of inspection hereinafter reserved to the Lessor, be entitled to sole and exclusive possession of the said mining property and may explore, develop, work, operate and mine the same and extract, mill, reduce and dispose of metals and minerals therefrom at their own cost and expense and for their own use and benefit; provided, however, that said work shall be done in a good and minerlike manner and shall cause no undue waste or injury to the said mining property.

5. Lessees shall during the term hereof cause to be performed on said mining property at least four (4) working shifts of labor for each working day, it being understood that one shift shall be construed to be the continuous labor of one man for eight hours per day; provided, however, that strikes, fire, unavoidable accident, failure of the supply of necessary labor, power or material, acts of God, or other causes beyond the control of Lessees shall excuse non-performance hereunder during such time as such causes, or any of them operate to prevent such performance.

6. All work done or material furnished for the said mining property during the term hereof shall be at the sole expense of Lessees, and the Lessor and the said mining property shall by Lessees be held free and harmless from any and all liens, encumbrances, charges or liability arising by reason of the operations of the Lessees.

7. All work done by Lessees upon the said mining property shall be done in a good and minerlike manner and in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations

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of the State of California or the United States of America which may be applicable. Lessees shall keep their employees engaged in the said work insured in compliance with the Workmen's Compensation Act of the State of California and shall pay promptly as the same become due any and all taxes including social security taxes owing to the state or federal governments accruing by reason of their operations hereunder.

8. Lessees shall make no change of the present physical set up of said mine without the written consent of Lessor first had and obtained.

9. During the term hereof Lessees shall maintain an adequate system of records and books of account, and the said records and books shall be open to the inspection of Lessor at all reasonable times. Lessor may enter upon the said mining property at all reasonable times for the purpose of inspecting the same and the operations of Lessees hereunder but shall not unwarrantly interfere with such operations.

10. The Lessees hereby admit the receipt by them of the said machinery, appurtenances, equipment, tools and implements mentioned in "Exhibit A" in good operating condition and repair and shall during the term hereof, at their own cost and expense, maintain the same in good operating condition and repair and replace any items thereof lost or damaged with new items of like kind and quality and on termination of this lease deliver the same to the Lessor in the same condition as received, damage by reasonable use and wear and the elements alone excepted. If Lessees shall add new machinery or equipment to said mine, same shall be the property of Lessor and remain on said premises upon the termination hereof. Any and all replacements of tools, machinery, and equipment shall be the property of Lessor and shall remain on the leased premises upon the termination hereof. Lessees shall also during the period hereof keep and maintain the existing insurance on the said machinery, appurtenances, equipment, tools and implements in full force and effect and pay to the Lessor, on demand, the premiums accruing thereon during the said period. Lessees shall immediately contract for and maintain for the duration of this lease landlord and tenant public liability insurance within limits of $50,000.00 and $100,000.00 for the benefit of the parties hereto in a company or companies satisfactory to Lessor and shall deliver said policies to Lessor. Lessees shall keep

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and save Lessor safe and harmless of and from any and all damages, liability, suits, judgments, liens, costs, expenses and attorney's fees resulting from or arising out of Lessees' operations upon or possession of said premises.

11. The Lessees shall not remove or permit to be removed from the said mining property during the period hereof any of the said machinery, appurtenances, equipment, tools and implements without the written consent of the Lessor first had and obtained.

12. The Lessor shall have the right to post and keep posted on the said mining property notices of non-responsibility for any of the acts and deeds of Lessees hereunder and any other notices which he shall deem necessary or convenient in the premises.

13. Lessees shall not assign this lease and agreement nor sublet the said mining property, or any part thereof, without the written consent of Lessor first had and obtained and the consent to any one assignment or subletting shall not be construed as a consent to any subsequent assignment or subletting.

14. Lessees acknowledge that they are familiar with the terms, covenants and conditions of the agreement between Lessor and the owner of certain of the lands adjoining the said mining property on which are situate the springs from which the water supply for said mining property is obtained, and Lessees shall during the term hereof keep and perform all the covenants and conditions of the said agreement performable by Lessor.

15. Notices herein provided for shall be in writing and shall be sent by registered mail addressed to the person for whom it is intended at the addresses listed below or such other addresses as the parties hereto may hereafter furnish to the other in writing:

K. R. NUTTING P.O. Box 750 Salinas, California	VIRGIL SMITH and HAROLD J. BIAGGINI Route 1, Box 265 Atascadero, California

16. The terms, covenants and conditions hereof shall subject to the restrictions on assignment hereinabove provided inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto, their respective heirs, executors, administrators and assigns.

17. If Lessees shall breach or violate or fail to perform any of the terms or conditions hereof and shall fail to correct such breach, violation, or failure to

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perform within ten (10) days after written notice by Lessor to Lessees by mail addressed to Lessees' last known address, Lessor may terminate this lease and/or pursue any other right or remedy available to him hereunder or in law or equity provided. If Lessor shall fail to so terminate or to pursue any such right or remedy for or upon any such breach, violation or failure to perform, such failure to so terminate or pursue shall not be a waiver of his right to so terminate or pursue for or upon any other or subsequent breach or violation.

18. Time is of the essence hereof.

19. Provided and on the condition that Lessees shall have faithfully kept and performed each and all of the terms and conditions hereof up to and including the time of exercise of the option hereinafter provided, Lessor grants unto Lessees the right and option to purchase the real property hereinabove described for the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars ($200,000.00), cash, with credit thereon for all royalties paid to Lessor pursuant to the terms hereof up to and including the date of the exercise of such option; said option shall be exercised by notice in writing delivered in person to or mailed to Lessor at his address aforesaid with postage thereon fully prepaid on or before March 23, 1958; said exercise of option shall be accompanied by deposit of said purchase price in cash with credit thereon for royalties as aforesaid in escrow with any title company in the City of Salinas, County of Monterey, State of California, subject only to deed from Lessor for said premises free and clear of all encumbrances except any and all deed restrictions and rights of way or easements of record, and excepting, further, any liens on said premises resulting from the acts of omission or commission of Lessees or either of them. Title insurance and revenue stamps to be furnished by Lessor and taxes to be prorated as of date of delivery of deed.

20. That certain lease and agreement dated the 15th day of July, 1954, between the Lessor above named as Lessor, and Virgil Smith above named as Lessee, leasing the above-described premises to said Virgil Smith for a period of three (3) years with options for extensions thereof, is hereby cancelled and terminated as of and on the 22nd day of March, 1955, providing that any and all obligations of said Lessee under the terms of said lease as to payment of royalties and rents for all ore mined from said premises

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TELEPHONE 7628
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

and accrued up to and including said 22nd day of March, 1955, are not hereby cancelled and continue in force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have hereunto affixed their signatures as of the day and year first hereinabove written.

P B Mullins
Lessor

Harold J Biaggini
Virgil Smith
Lessees

ROSENDALE, THOMAS & MULLER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
MONTEREY COUNTY BANK BLDG.
TELEPHONE 7628
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

EXHIBIT A

Mill Buildings, housing:
- Rock Crusher and Motor
- Rotary furnace
- Condensors system
- Fan and Motor
- Transformers

1 Tool Building
1 Building containing 1 - 215 C.F. Air Compressor
1 Small building
Fuel Oil storage tank
12 Ore cars
1 24" cut off saw
1 30' conveyer
1 10" crusher
1 10 H.P. Motor
1 Starter Box
1 6" Feeder
1 7½ H.P. Motor and Fan for Condincers
1 ½" oil pump
2 2500 gallon oil tanks
1 Diamond drill, complete except for bits. Core barrels
200' feet 1' drill pipe
4 I.S. #40 jack hammers - 2 I.S. J.35 Jack hammers
20' J.-H. Steel
150' air hose
100" water hose
20' - 2" suction hose
2 1 ton air hoists
1 3/4 ton air hoists
1 chain hoist
1 Suction fan - no number approx. size 10"
1 Small platform scales
1 #50 stoper
2 Old pressure pumps
10 Pulleys - assorted sizes
1 2" Electric pump - 7 H.P. Motor D.C.
25' New convayer belt 14" wide
10 Switch boxes, asstd. sizes
1 Small ore grinder
1 Small ore crusher
1 Drill bil grinder
1 2" sump pump - air motor
1 15 H.P. Electric motor
2 5 H.P. Electric motor
1 1 H.P. Electric motor - geared
1 14' Drill steel
1 Bundle short drill steel
2 Mercury pots
2 Buckets bolts - nuts - fittings

ROSENDALE, THOMAS & MULLER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
MONTEREY COUNTY BANK BLDG.
TELEPHONE 7628
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

L E A S E

K. R. NUTTING,

"Lessor",

-to-

VIRGIL SMITH and HAROLD J. BIAGGINI,

"Lessees."

ROSENDALE, THOMAS, MULLER & TALCOTT
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
MONTEREY COUNTY BANK BLDG.
SALINAS - - - CALIFORNIA

Photo No. 1. The burned rock bin under the furnace. Portal of No. 1. Tunnel to left of man.

Photo No. 2. The furnace plant, showing condensers, wooden barrel and stack. Auxiliary water tank in center. P.G.& E. transformers on pole at lower right.

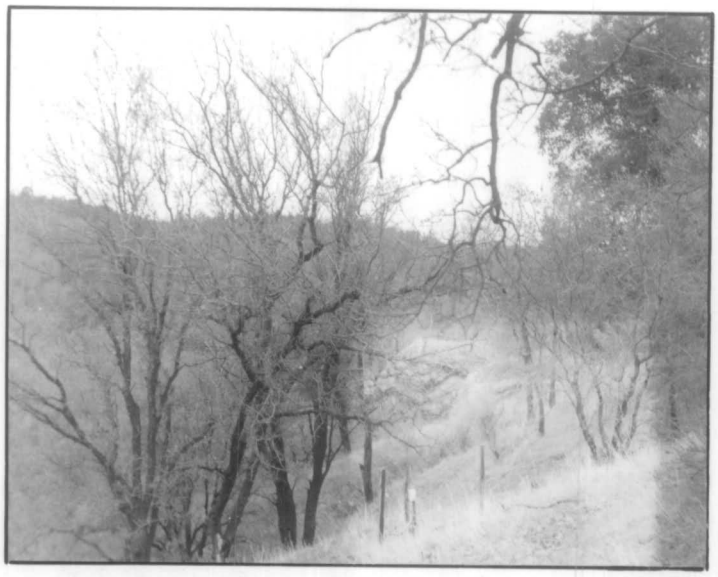


Photo No. 5. Shaft Site, at white topped stake in foreground. Looking north.

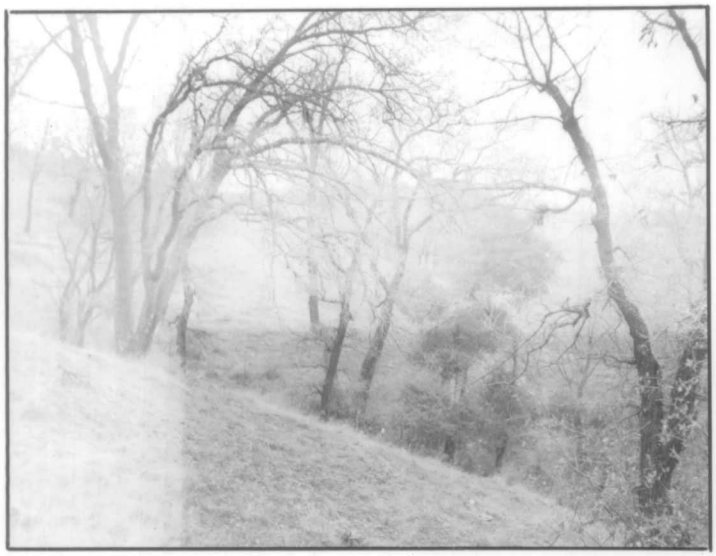


Photo No. 6. The Shaft Site looking south west. The road will come in from the right in the center of the photo.

Photo No. 7. Looking south east from a point on the county road about 100 feet above the oil tanks. The sandstone orebody at upper right.
Pit in right foreground is open cut where present supply of ore is being mined.

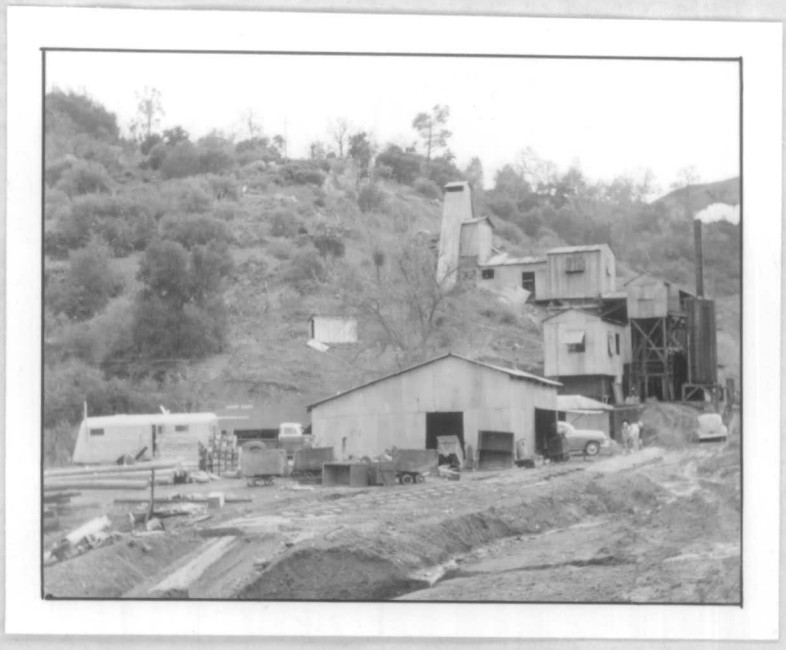


Photo No. 3. Plant at right, Timber shed in foreground. Buena Vista Mine.

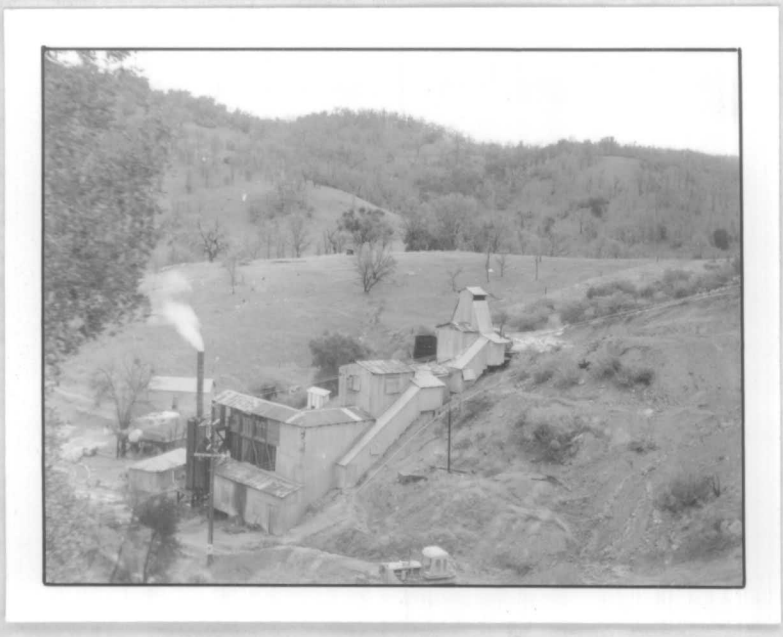


Photo No. 4. Looking down on plant from county road in a north east direction.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEFENSE MINERALS
EXPLORATION ADMINISTRATION
[redacted]

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

~~U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY~~
~~SOUTH 157 HOWARD ST.~~
~~SPOKANE 4, WASHINGTON~~

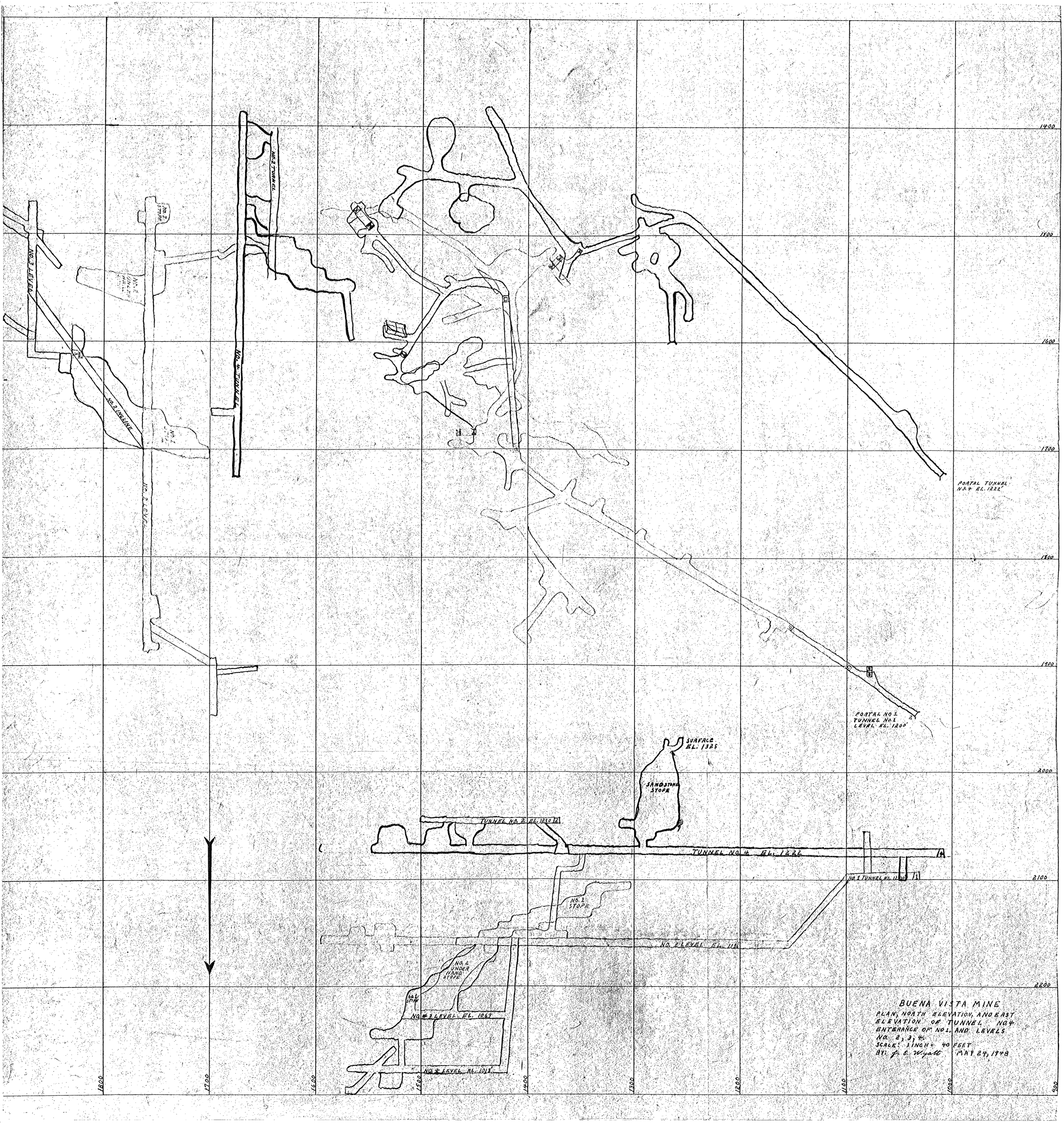
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300
(PMGC)

1955 1955 1955

SPOKANE WASH
APR 15 3 PM
1955

Photos + Maps

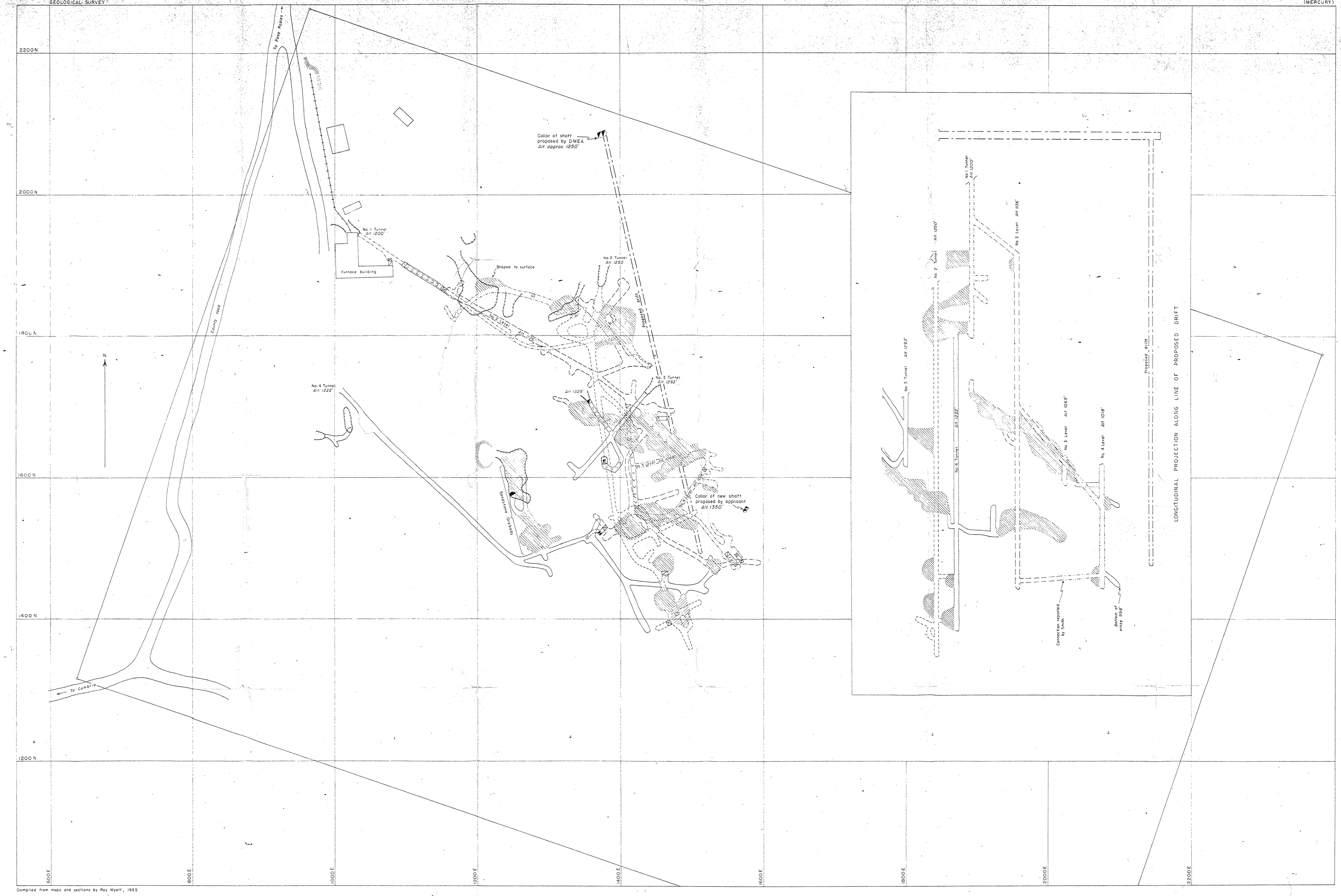
~~Mr. George C. Selfridge~~
~~Chairman, Operating Committee~~
Defense Minerals Explor. Admin.
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.



BUENA VISTA MINE
PLAN, NORTH ELEVATION, AND EAST ELEVATION OF TUNNEL NO. 4 ENTRANCE OF NO. 1, AND LEVELS NO. 2, 3, 4.
SCALE: 1 INCH = 40 FEET
BY: J. E. Wyatt MAY 24, 1948

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DMEA 3781
(MERCURY)

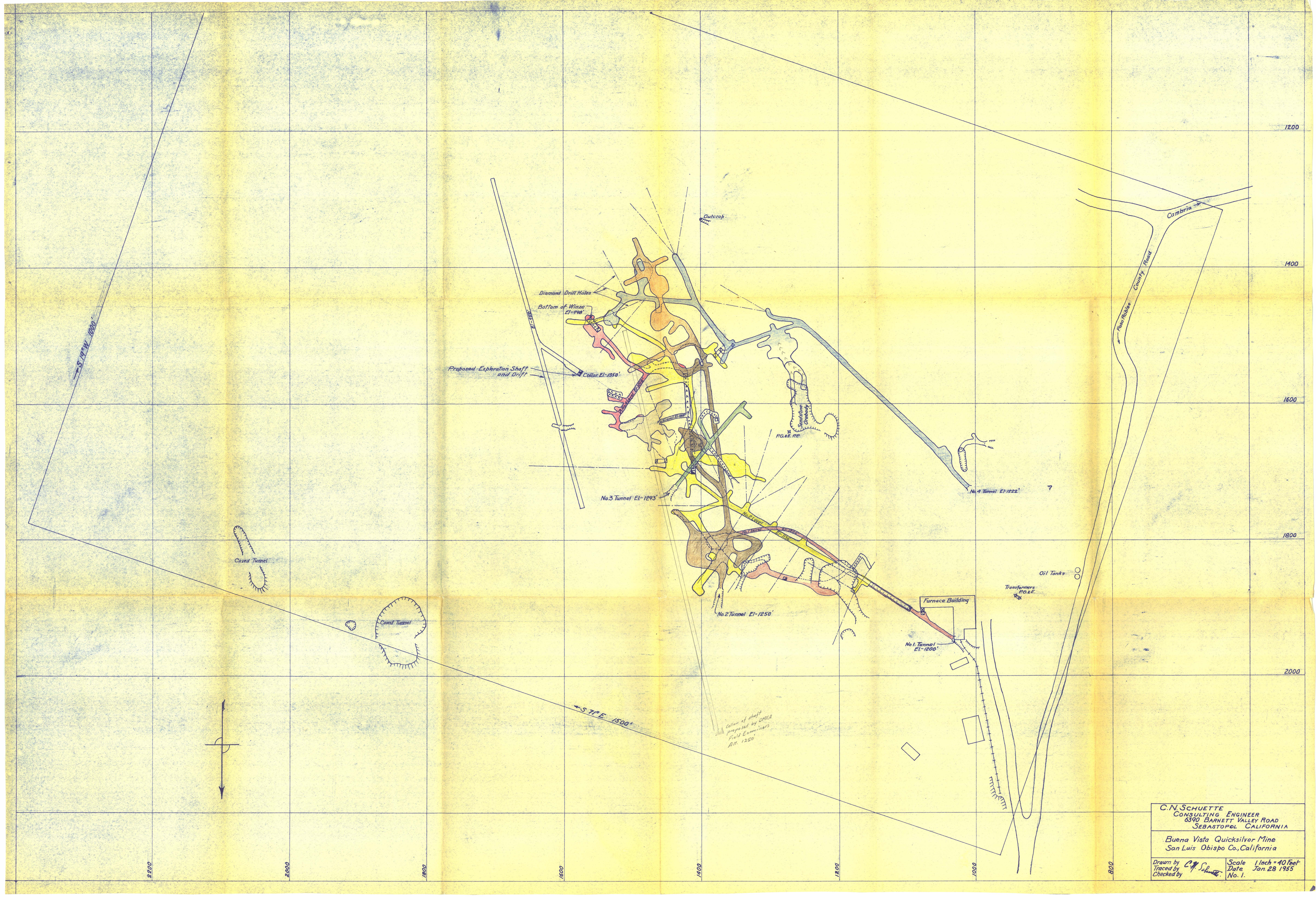


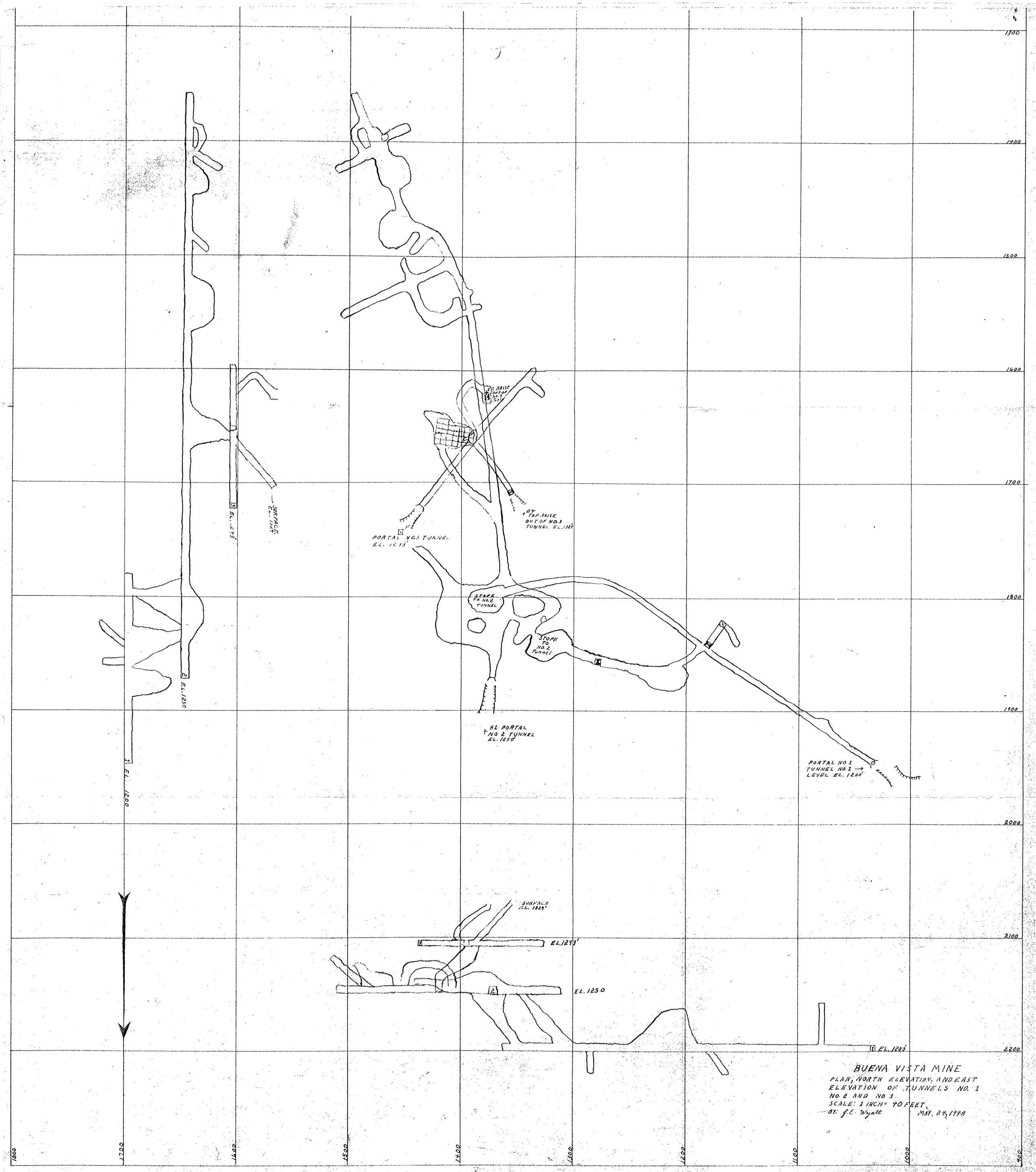
Compiled from maps and sections by Roy Wyatt, 1955

BUENA VISTA QUICKSILVER MINE, SAN LOUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

40 0 40 80 120 Feet

Figure 2


S 12°W 1000'
S 71°E 1500'
Outcrop
Diamond Drill Holes
Bottom of Winze El-998'
Proposed Exploration Shaft and Drift
Collar El-1350'
Collar of shaft proposed by OMEA Field Examiners Alt. 1250
No.3 Tunnel El-1293'
No.2 Tunnel El-1250'
No.1 Tunnel El-1200'
No.4 Tunnel El-1222'
Stockhouse Orebody
P.G.&E. R.R.
Furnace Building
Oil Tanks
Transformers P.G.&E.
Caved Tunnel
Caved Tunnel
Cambria
Rosa-Robles County Road
1200
1400
1600
1800
2000
2200
2000
1800
1600
1400
1200
1000
800
C.N. SCHUETTE
CONSULTING ENGINEER
6390 BARNETT VALLEY ROAD
SEBASTOPOL CALIFORNIA
Buena Vista Quicksilver Mine
San Luis Obispo Co., California
Drawn by
Traced by
Checked by
Scale 1 Inch = 40 Feet
Date Jan. 28 1955
No. 1.


1300
1400
1500
1600
1700
1800
1900
2000
2100
2200
1800
1700
1600
1500
1400
1300
1200
1100
1000
900
SURFACE EL. 1329'
EL. 1293'
EL. 1250
EL. 1200
PORTAL NO 3 TUNNEL EL. 1213'
TOP RAISE OUT OF NO 3 TUNNEL EL. 1329
STOPE TO NO 2 TUNNEL
STOPE TO NO 2 Tunnel
PORTAL NO 2 TUNNEL EL. 1250
PORTAL NO 1 TUNNEL NO 1 → LEVEL EL. 1200'
SURFACE EL. 1329'
EL. 1293'
EL. 1250
EL. 1200'
BUENA VISTA MINE
PLAN, NORTH ELEVATION, AND EAST ELEVATION OF TUNNELS NO. 1 NO. 2 AND NO. 3.
SCALE: 1 INCH = 40 FEET.
BY: J.C. Wyatt
MAY. 24, 1978

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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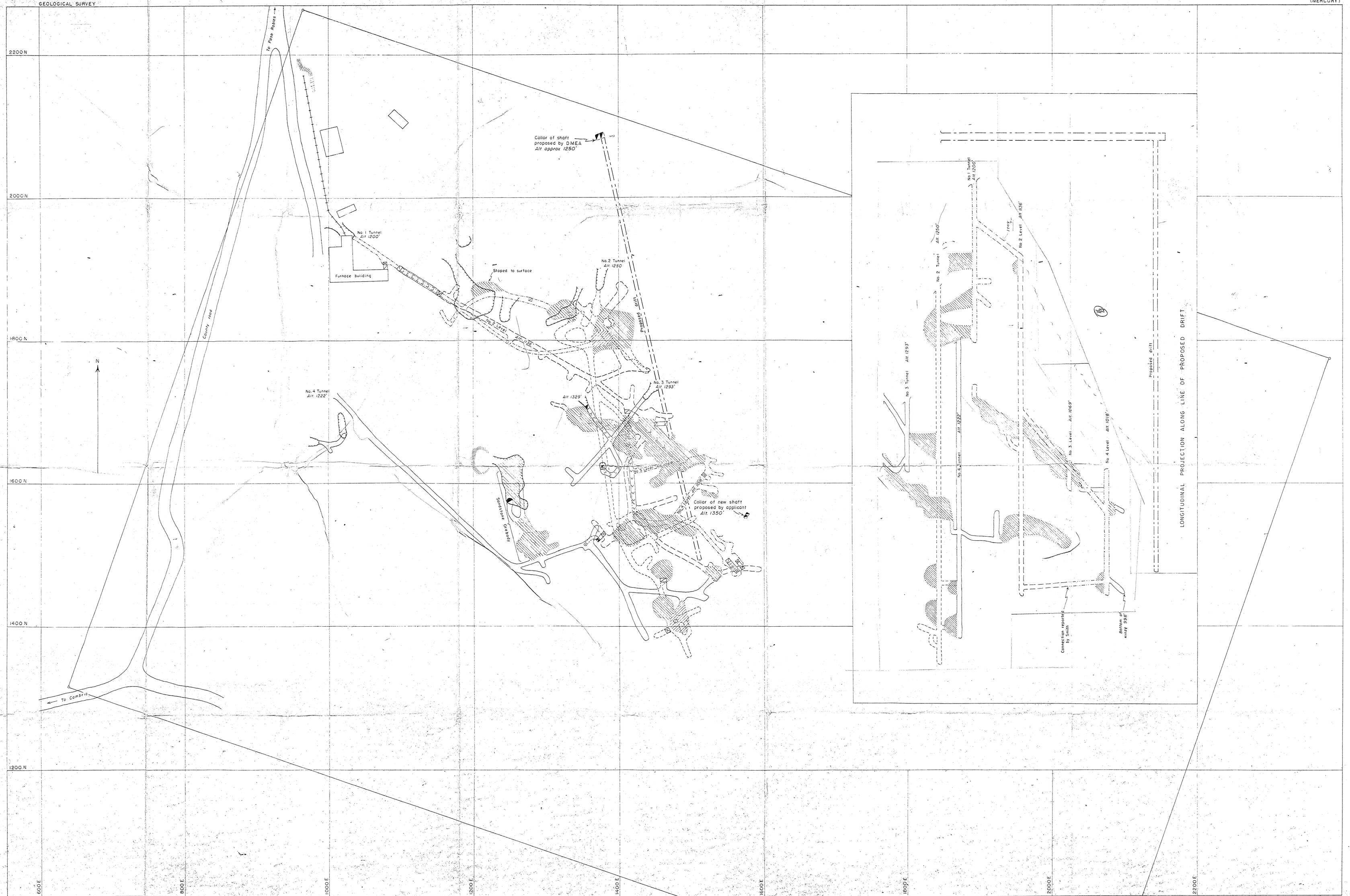

Compiled from maps and sections by Roy Wyatt, 1955

BUENA VISTA QUICKSILVER MINE, SAN LOUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

40 0 40 80 120 Feet

Figure 2